SPECIAL COLLECTION: APATITE: A COMMON MINERAL, UNCOMMONLY VERSATILE

Thermal expansion of F-Cl apatite crystalline solutions† ♦

GUY HOVIS1,*, TONY ABRAHAM2, WILLIAM HUDACEK3, SARAH WILDERMUTH4, BRIAN SCOTT1, CAITLIN ALTMARE5, AARON MEDFORD6, MARICATE CONLON7, MATTHEW MORRIS4, AMANDA LEAMAN1, CHRISTINE ALMER1, CHRISTINE ALMER1, GARY TOMAINO8 AND DANIEL HARLOV9

1Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences, Lafayette College, Easton, Pennsylvania 18042, U.S.A.
2Department of Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge, 10 Downing Street, Cambridge CB2 3EQ, U.K.
3MAT Program, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, New York 10024, U.S.A.
4Department of Geology, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045, U.S.A.
5Weiss School of Natural Sciences, Rice University, Houston 77251, Texas, U.S.A.
6School of Earth and Climate Sciences and Climate Change Institute, University of Maine, Orono, Maine 04469, U.S.A.
7ENVIRON, 214 Carnegie Center, Princeton, New Jersey 08540, U.S.A.
8Specialty Minerals Inc., 640 North Thirteenth Street, Easton, Pennsylvania 18042, U.S.A.
9Deutsches GeoForschungsZentrum Potsdam, Telegrafenberg, D-14473 Potsdam, Germany

ABSTRACT

We have studied the thermal expansion of 15 synthetic and two natural F-Cl apatite solid solutions through the calculation of unit-cell dimensions at elevated temperatures based on X-ray powder diffraction data collected from room temperature to ~900 °C at 50 to 100 °C intervals. Coefficients of thermal expansion for the a and c unit-cell axes show sensitivity to composition, with αa increasing by about 50% and αc decreasing by a third from fluorapatite to chlorapatite. Despite the relationships observed for a and c, the thermal expansion coefficient for unit-cell volume shows little sensitivity to composition, which can be explained only by a mutually compensating structural adjustment along the latter axes as temperature rises. Results of this study also imply that the thermodynamically ideal volumes of mixing for F-Cl apatite solid solutions observed at ambient conditions continue to at least 900 °C.

Keywords: Fluorapatite, chlorapatite, thermal expansion, thermodynamic properties

INTRODUCTION

Apatite, Ca5(XO4)3Z, is a common mineral that occurs in igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rocks. Additionally, it is an important component of planetary materials (Piccoli and Candela 2002; Spear and Pyle 2002; Knudsen and Gunter 2002; Patiño Douce and Roden 2006; Jones et al. 2014), having been used to estimate H2O abundances in the interiors of the Moon and Mars (McCubbin et al. 2010a, 2010b, 2011, 2012; Gross et al. 2013). Apatite is the main hard part of the human anatomy, the source of phosphorous in fertilizer, and an important potential material for the storage of nuclear waste (Ewing and Wang 2002). Understanding fundamental properties of the apatite mineral group is of significant interest, therefore, to the fields of geology, biology, medicine, planetary science, and materials science.

Numerous chemical substitutions occur in this complex mineral system. Although the primary occupants of the A and X sites are Ca2+ and P5+, respectively, natural specimens can display substitutions of REE3+, Sr2+, and Na+ in A; Si4+, Si6+, and C4+ in X; and F-, Cl-, (OH)2, O2-, (CO3)2-, and S2- in Z (Pan and Fleet 2002; Hovis and Harlov 2010; Boyce et al. 2010; Gross and Berndt 2002).

Despite the importance of apatite as an Earth material, basic thermodynamic data are nonexistent for much of the system, especially for compositions between end-members. In our initial studies of apatite thermodynamics, the goal has been to investigate behavior of the main anion substitutions in Ca(PO3)2Z apatite, namely F, Cl, and OH, noting that fluorapatite is the most commonly occurring member of this mineral group in rocks. In this regard, Hovis and Harlov (2010) reported on the enthalpy-of-mixing behavior for F-Cl binary apatites. This was followed by investigation of F-OH apatite enthalpies and volumes of mixing (Hovis et al. 2014a). The third contribution to this work concerned thermal expansion data for the F-OH apatite system (Hovis et al. 2014b). In the current paper, we report on thermal expansion properties of the synthetic F-Cl apatite specimens studied by Hovis and Harlov (2010), as well as natural samples of the F, Cl, and OH end-members.

METHODOLOGY

Sample synthesis

Synthesis of F-Cl apatite crystalline solutions took place at the GeoForschungsZentrum-Potsdam (GFZ) using the slow-cooled, molten flux method described by Cherniak (2000) and Prener (1967). As described by Hovis and Harlov (2010) and Schettler et al. (2011), the flux consisted of molar amounts of thoroughly mixed, fine powders of CaF2 and CaCl2 in variable proportions such...
that they summed to 0.1 mol × CaF₂ + (1 – x)CaCl₂ or about 10 to 11 g total. A fine Ca₃(PO₄)₂ powder (0.03 mol or 9.305 g) was then mechanically dry mixed into the flux. Because F strongly partitions into apatite, for all intermediate compositions the flux consisted principally of CaCl₂ with minor amounts of CaF₂. Either pure CaCl₂ or CaF₂ was utilized as a flux for end-member chlorapatite or fluorapatite, respectively. The dry mix was packed into a 30 mL volume Pt crucible and pressed down using the pestle. The Pt crucible, with a loose fitting Pt cover, was then placed in a programmable high-temperature oven and the temperature ramped to 1375 °C over a period of 4 h. The melt was allowed to equilibrate or “soak” at 1375 °C for 15 h, then slowly cooled to 1220 °C at a rate of 3 °C/h during which fluor-chlorapatite crystals nucleated and grew in the melt. After 1 to 20 h at 1220 °C, the crucible was removed from the oven and quenched in air for about 30 min until it was cool enough to extract the flux-crystal mass as a solid lump. The fluor-chlorapatite crystals were separated from the flux by boiling the quenched product in distilled water in a 2 L beaker. If the flux contained more than a few percent by weight CaF₂, the flux + crystals were boiled in an aqueous 20% solution of Al(NO₃)₃·9H₂O to dissolve the residual CaF₂. The resulting transparent, inclusion-free, light blue-green, euhedral–semi-euhedral fluor-chlorapatite crystals ranged in length from 100 μm up to 6–7 mm in length and from 20 μm to 3–4 mm in diameter.

The compositions of each of the fluor-chlorapatite samples synthesized for the original study were carefully determined by wet chemical means as discussed in detail by Schetttler et al. (2011). In general, the principal differences in composition among the various apatite samples are their F/C ratios. However, compositions for the CI-rich third of the compositional range contain nontrivial amounts of oxyapatite [Ca₆(PO₄)₂Oₓ] (ibid). Indeed, natural F–CI apatites containing an oxyapatite component have been described by Young and Munson (1966).

In addition to the samples synthesized at GFZ-Potsdam, thermal expansion measurements have been made on three natural apatite samples: chlorapatite, American Museum of Natural History specimen AMNH 23101 from Kragerø, Norway; fluorapatite, National Museum of Natural History specimen NMNH 144954–3, from Durango, Mexico; and hydroxylapatite, National Museum of Natural History specimen NMNH R9498, from Holly Springs, Georgia, U.S.A.

The chlorapatite composition, (Ca₁₄.₈₈Fe₀.₀₁Na₀.₀₈Ce₀.₀₁)(P₃.₀₁O₁₂)(F₀.₀₉Cl₀.₉₁), given by Hughes et al. (1989) is based on electron microprobe and INAA analyses. The fluorapatite analysis, (Ca₁₄.₈₈Na₀.₀₂Ca₀.₀₂)(P₃.₀₁O₁₂)(F₀.₀₉Cl₀.₉₁), was performed by Francis McCubbin at the University of New Mexico using continuous flow mass spectrometry for H₂O determination and specialized electron-probe microanalysis for fluorine, as described in Hovis et al. (2014a). [Also see the composition of Young et al. (1969) on a different (but related) sample of Durango fluorapatite.] That for NMNH R9498, [Ca₁₄.₈₈Na₀.₀₂Cl₀.₀₂(F₀.₀₉Cl₀.₁OH₀.₀₈)], also analyzed by McCubbin, is given in Table 1 of Hovis et al. (2014b).

Thermal expansion data for the natural fluorapatite and hydroxylapatite samples were measured previously in Hovis et al. (2014b), but those for chlorapatite AMNH 23101 are given here for the first time.

**High-temperature X-ray powder diffraction measurements**

The thermal expansion research involved subjecting powdered apatite samples to CuKα X-radiation at a series of temperatures, then using the diffraction data to calculate unit-cell dimensions of the samples at each temperature. The research extended over a several-year period. Initial measurements were made during several short-term visits to the University of Cambridge, U.K., on a Bruker D8 0–8 system having high-temperature capability; digital data were brought back to Lafayette College for analysis using IGOR spectral-analysis software. More recent work on natural chlorapatite, fluorapatite, and hydroxyapatite specimens were made at Lafayette College on a newly-acquired PANalytical Empyrean 0–8 X-ray diffractometer equipped with a PIXEL 3D detector and an Anton Parr HTK 1200N furnace. In the transitional year between the Cambridge- and Lafayette-based work, high-temperature measurements were made at Specialty Minerals Inc. (Easton, Pennsylvania) on a Rigaku Ultima θ–θ system having high-temperature capability; digital data were brought back to Lafayette College for analysis using IGOR software and did not require IGOR analysis. Note that the measurement site and XRD unit utilized for each sample are included in Tables 1 and 2.

For a general comparison of samples in terms of the degree to which they expand, it is useful to compare either the slopes of linear least-squares fits to the data on the various graphs or the coefficients of thermal expansion, which are calculated for volume as follows:

\[
\begin{align*}
\alpha_V &= \frac{1}{V} \frac{dV}{dT} \\
\alpha_a &= \frac{1}{a} \frac{da}{dT} \\
\alpha_c &= \frac{1}{c} \frac{dc}{dT}
\end{align*}
\]

where \(V\), \(a\), and \(c\) are the volume, unit-cell length along the a-axis, and unit-cell length along the c-axis, respectively, of the apatite at temperature \(T\). For a general comparison of samples in terms of the degree to which they expand, it is useful to compare either the slopes of linear least-squares fits to the data on the various graphs or the coefficients of thermal expansion, which are calculated for volume as follows:

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For the Rigaku-based measurements made at Specialty Minerals Inc., sample temperatures were checked through a set of experiments that utilized reversible phase transformations for KNO₃, KClO₄, K₂SO₄, K₂Cr₂O₇, BaCO₃, and SrCO₃, collectively resulting in temperature calibration from −115 to 930 °C. Based on the latter, it is estimated that the set-point temperatures for the Rigaku-based XRD measurements are correct to ±15 °C.

X-ray measurements made at Lafayette College with the PANalytical system were calibrated for temperature utilizing the same methodology as for the Rigaku system using KNO₃, KClO₄, K₂SO₄, and BaCO₃, resulting in calibration measurements taken between −115 and 800 °C. Based on the latter, it was determined that actual temperatures were approximately 25 to 30 °C higher than the set-point values; results in the data tables and figures of this paper reflect the corrected temperatures.

Apatite peak positions were corrected through use of National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) sample SRM 640a silicon (with a stated unit-cell dimension of 4.30825Å), which was mixed with each sample. High-temperature Si peak positions were based on the Si thermal expansion data of Parrish (1953). Unit-cell dimension calculations for all data utilized the software of Holland and Redfern (1997). The indexing of apatite peaks at elevated temperatures simply involved tracking known peaks at room temperature to higher temperatures utilizing data for both F and Cl apatite end-members.

**RESULTS**

Unit-cell results for all samples are reported in Table 1. This table also records the X-ray unit on which each data set was collected (Cambridge University/Bruker D8, Specialty Minerals/Rigaku Ultima, Lafayette College/PANalytical Empyrean). Note that duplicate experiments were conducted on samples APS21, APS25, APS26, APS27, and APS36 to check early Cambridge-based unit-cell parameters against later results based on temperature calibrations that were more thorough. Figure 1 demonstrates good internal consistency among the data.

For the most part, apatite-group minerals display hexagonal symmetry. However, the powder diffraction methods used here did not allow distinction between hexagonal and monoclinic symmetry for CI-rich samples (e.g., Mackie et al. 1972). Even when present, monoclinic symmetry for the latter is reflected by only a minute departure (≤0.06°) from a y interaxial angle of 120° (e.g., note the data of Hounslo and Chao 1970).

Figures 2 to 4 show plots of unit-cell volume (V), a, and c, respectively, against temperature. For the sake of clarity, we have chosen not to plot all data that were collected, but rather representative data for 10 (of the 15 different) series at more-or-less regular compositional intervals. The parameters for both linear and quadratic fits to V, a, and c as a function of temperature, along with R² for each, are given for all series in Table 2. It is evident that quadratic fits to V, a, and c as a function of temperature are statistically justified in many cases. Nevertheless, the linear fits for V and a shown in Figures 2 and 3 do well in fitting the data. Relationships for the c dimension (Fig. 4), on the other hand, are generally more curved and better fit by quadratic relationships.

1 Deposit item AM-15-55176, Table 1. Deposit items are stored on the MSA web site and available via the American Mineralogist Table of Contents. Find the article in the table of contents at GSW (ammin.geoscienceworld.org) or MSA (www.minsocam.org), and then click on the deposit link.
where $\Delta V/\Delta T$ is the slope of the fit and $V_{c0}$ is the intercept of the same fit at 0 °C. The latter are included in Table 2.

It is instructive to plot the thermal expansion coefficients for $V_a, a$, and $c$ (the latter two calculated in a manner comparable to that for $V$) against composition (Figs. 5 through 7). Figure 5 demonstrates that the thermal expansion coefficient for volume is affected little, if at all, by F:Cl ratio; this is reflected as well by the parallelism of $V-T$ data for the various samples on Figure 2. Figures 6 and 7, on the other hand, show clearly that thermal expansion coefficients for the individual unit-cell axes $a$ and $c$ are a function of composition, $a_c$ increasing and $a_t$ decreasing as fluorine content rises. The systematic behavior of $\Delta c/\Delta T$ relations with composition also is readily evident from relationships in Figure 4, where values of $c$ among all series display greater convergence at high than at low temperature. Thus, volume, which is itself a function of the $a$ and $c$ unit-cell lengths, behaves differently than the axes themselves.

In Figures 5 to 7, we have included data for the thermal expansion coefficients of F-OH apatite solid solutions based on the recent results of Hovis et al. (2014b). Note that although values of $\alpha_t$ for F-OH apatites may generally fall slightly below those of F-Cl solutions (Fig. 5), there is general overlap and a
lack of compositional variability among data for both the F-Cl and F-OH series. The same is not true, however, for the thermal expansion coefficients related to $a$ and $c$ (Figs. 6 and 7), at least for F-Cl apatite solutions.

**DISCUSSION**

Generally, Figure 5 demonstrates that there is little sensitivity of volume expansion to composition shown by F, Cl, and OH apatite end-members, nor by intermediate members of the F-Cl and F-OH apatite series. This means that the ideal thermodynamic mixing behavior related to volume for F-Cl (Fig. 8) and F-OH (Hovis et al. 2014b, their Fig. 3) apatite series extends from room temperature to at least 900 °C, although admittedly there is some uncertainty in interpretation of F-Cl apatite volumes due to the presence of an oxyapatite component in Cl-rich samples.

One can surmise that the insensitivity of volume expansion to F:Cl:OH ratio is related to the seemingly insignificant role of the anion in the apatite structure, as the latter constitutes just one of six ions that coordinate the so-designated Ca(2) position in the structure (Hughes et al. 1989; also see Hughes and Rakovan 2002, for multiple additional references), the remaining five being O$^2$-

From Figures 6 and 7, however, it is clear that the anion does indeed make a difference to expansion along the individual unit-cell axes, where $a$, increases by about 50% from the Cl- to

![Figure 1](image1.png)

**FIGURE 1.** Unit-cell volume vs. temperature (°C) for five synthetic F-Cl apatite specimens studied at the University of Cambridge (open symbols) and also at Specialty Minerals Inc. (solid symbols) to check data consistency between XRD systems. Plotted temperatures reflect temperature calibrations discussed in the text. Widths of the symbols equate to about 0.8 Å, several times larger than standard errors given in Table 1.

![Figure 2](image2.png)

**FIGURE 2.** Unit-cell volume (Å$^3$) vs. temperature (°C) for 10 of the chlor-fluorapatite specimens studied during this investigation, seven measured in Cambridge, two (APS-27 and APS-25) at Specialty Minerals Inc., and one (AMNH-23101) at Lafayette College. Data for these and other specimens are given in Table 1. Plotted temperatures reflect temperature calibrations discussed in the text. Widths of the symbols equate to about 0.8 Å, several times larger than standard errors given in Table 1. Equations for the fitted lines are given in Table 2.
the F-end of the apatite series as \( \alpha_a \) decreases by about a third over the same range.

One is tempted to ascribe the observed sensitivity of \( \alpha_a \), seen mainly in the Cl-rich third of the compositional range (Fig. 6), to the oxyapatite substitution described by Schettler et al. (2011) for Cl-rich samples. We reject such interpretation, however, for...
composition is plotted twice, both as $X_F$ and $X_F + X_{OH}$. The solid line, $V = 545.06 - 20.867 X_F$ ($R^2 = 0.9922$), is based only on data for oxyapatite-free samples, College, plotted against mole fraction fluorine for the same specimens $X_F$ ($R^2 = 0.9934$), is $V$. For comparison, data also are shown for synthetic $F$-$OH$ specimens, as well as natural fluorapatite (NMNH 144954-3) and hydroxylapatite (NMNH R9498) as given in Hovis et al. (2014b). For natural fluorapatite (which contains little $OH$) composition is plotted as $X_F + X_{OH}$, but for natural hydroxylapatite composition is plotted twice, both as $X_F$ and $X_F + X_{OH}$.

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**Figure 7.** Thermal expansion coefficients for the $c$ unit-cell dimension (Table 2) plotted against mole fraction fluorine for all synthetic $F$-$Cl$apatite specimens (Hovis and Harlov 2010) and chlorapatite AMNH-23101 studied during the present investigation. Compositions for the synthetic apatites are from Schettler et al. (2011). For comparison, data also are shown for synthetic $F$-$OH$ specimens, as well as nat

**Figure 8.** Room-temperature unit-cell volumes for the synthetic $Cl$-$F$apatite specimens of Hovis and Harlov (2010), as measured at Lafayette College, plotted against mole fraction fluorine for the same specimens from Schettler et al. (2011). The solid line, $V (\text{Å}^3) = 545.06 - 20.867 X_F$ ($R^2 = 0.9922$), is based only on data for oxyapatite-free samples, whereas the dashed line, $V (\text{Å}^3) = 543.78 - 19.169 X_F$ ($R^2 = 0.9934$), is based on data for all specimens; as given, either relationship reflects ideal thermodynamic $Cl$-$F$ mixing. If the presence of an oxyapatite component has no effect on volume, then nonideal volumes of mixing for the series would be implied, but there is no information upon which to base such a judgment.

several reasons. One is that the amount of oxyapatite substitution varies considerably among $Cl$-rich samples (ibid), whereas related variability in $a_\alpha$ data is not evident. Another is that data for natural chlorapatite AMNH 23101 and hydroxyapatite NMNH R9498 fit well with those of synthetic $Cl$-rich and $OH$-rich samples, respectively. And, finally, compositional variability for $\alpha_c$, is seen over the entire compositional range (Fig. 7), not just for $Cl$-rich samples. It seems clear, then, that thermal expansion along $a$ and $c$ must involve a cooperative and inverse structural relationship that depends mainly upon $F$-$Cl$ ratio.

Hughes et al. (2014) recently have discussed in detail the anion arrangements of $F$ and $Cl$ in fluor-chlorapatite solid solutions. Based on structure, it seems that there are at least two possible explanations for the cooperative relationship between $a$ and $c$ during thermal expansion. One is that thermal ellipsoids of the anions, and perhaps other ions as well, change with heating. A second possibility is that the positioning (and/or arrangement) of anions in the apatite anion column changes with temperature. Unfortunately, however, we know of no single-crystal work on apatite-group minerals at elevated temperatures that might help clarify the observed relationships.

Finally, one can ask why the $F$-$Cl$-dependent relationship between $a_\alpha$ and $a_\alpha$ for the $F$-$Cl$-chlorapatite system is not observed as much, or at all, in $F$-$OH$apatite solid solutions. It seems likely that this is related to anion size differences, where $OH$ and $F$ are approximately the same size, but $Cl$ is considerably larger than either of the latter. On the other hand, size arguments relative to anions in the apatite structure can be misleading, as $Cl$-bearing chlorapatite displays a smaller $c$ dimension than $F$-bearing fluorapatite (Fig. 4), despite parallelism of the anion column to the $c$ axis.

**Implications**

It is our hope that full thermodynamic characterization of apatite-group minerals will lead to the successful use of these minerals as petrogenetic indicators. Further work, however, remains on the thermodynamic characterization of solid solutions in this complex system. Hopefully, binary $Cl$-$OH$ and ternary $F$-$Cl$-$OH$apatite solid solutions can be synthesized so as to allow completion of work relative to the primary monovalent anion substitutions. Our laboratory is anxious to contribute to this endeavor when such samples become available.

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