### Mid-course checkpoint

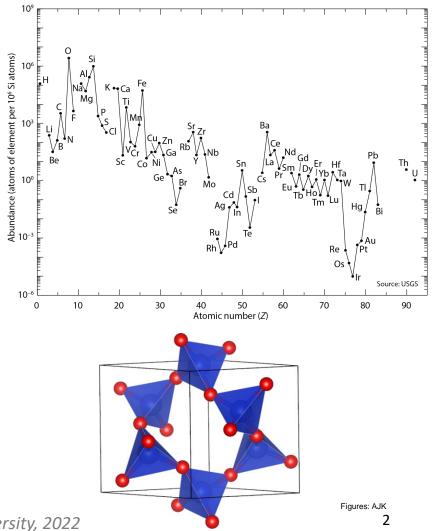
Week	Lect.	Date	Торіс					
Week 1	1	Wed 12.1.	Structure of crystalline materials. Symmetry.					
Structure	2	Thu 13.1.	Structural databases, visualization of crystal structures.					
Week 2	3	Wed 19.1.	Bonding in solids. Description of crystal structures.					
Bonding	4	Thu 20.1.	Band theory. Band structures.					
Week 3	5	Wed 26.1.	Phase diagrams, crystal growth.					
Synthesis	6	Thu 27.1.	Solid state synthesis.					
Week 4	7	Wed 2.2.	XRD, Miller indices. Powder XRD databases. Microscopies.					
Characterization	8	Thu 3.2.	Spectroscopies and thermal analysis.					
Week 5	9	Wed 9.2.	Abundance of elements, geochemistry, minerals.					
Main groups	10	Thu 10.2.	Main group compounds, allotropes, Zintl phases.					
Week 6	11	Wed 16.2.	d-block metals, ligand field theory, magnetism.					
d-block metals	12	Thu 17.2.	d-block metal oxides and other compounds.					
	Examination week for study period III (no lectures).							
Week 7	13	<b>Tue</b> 1.3.	At <b>12.30-14.00</b> . Defects, non-stoichiometric compounds.					
Defects and doping	14	Wed 2.3.	Semiconductors, doping, electrical properties.					

Final Wiki project deadline 21.3.

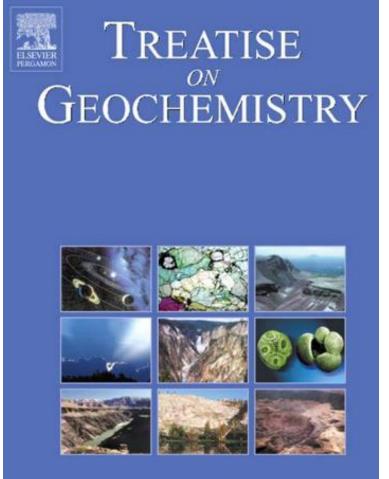
#### The first version of the Wiki project should be ready by 27.2.

## Lecture 9: Geochemistry, minerals

- Geochemistry
  - The origin and abundance of elements
  - Goldchmidt classification
  - Accessibility and supply of elements
- Minerals
  - Systematic classification
  - Silicates
  - Aluminosilicates
  - Hardness as an example of a physical property

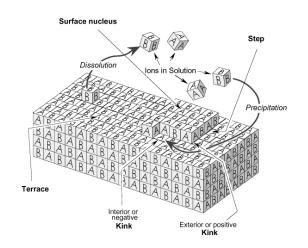


#### Literature



H.D. Holland Executive Editors K.K. Turekian

#### Some Fundamentals of Mineralogy and Geochemistry Link



©2006 by L. Bruce Railsback, Department of Geology, University of Georgia Athens, Georgia 30602-2501 U.SA. rlsbk@gly.uga.edu

A web-based document for public use available at www.gly.uga.edu/railsback/FundamentalsIndex.html

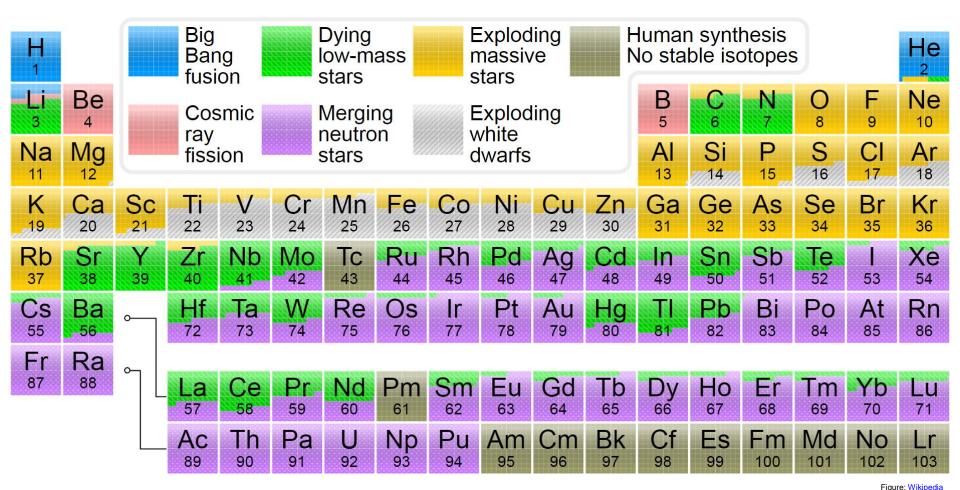
## The origin of chemical elements

- Big Bang nucleosynthesis (H, He, some Li)
- Stellar nucleosynthesis
  - Elements up to Ni are created by fusion reactions (see Table below)
- Elements heavier than Ni are created by neutron and proton capture processes
  - Supernova nucleosynthesis and merging neutron stars (ongoing research!)

**Table 1** Hydrostatic nuclear burning stages in massive stars. The table gives burning stages, main and secondary products (ashes), typical temperatures and burning timescales for a  $20M_{\odot}$  star, and the main nuclear reactions. An ellipsis (···) indicates more than one product of the double carbon and double oxygen reactions, and a chain of reactions leading to the buildup of iron group elements for silicon burning.

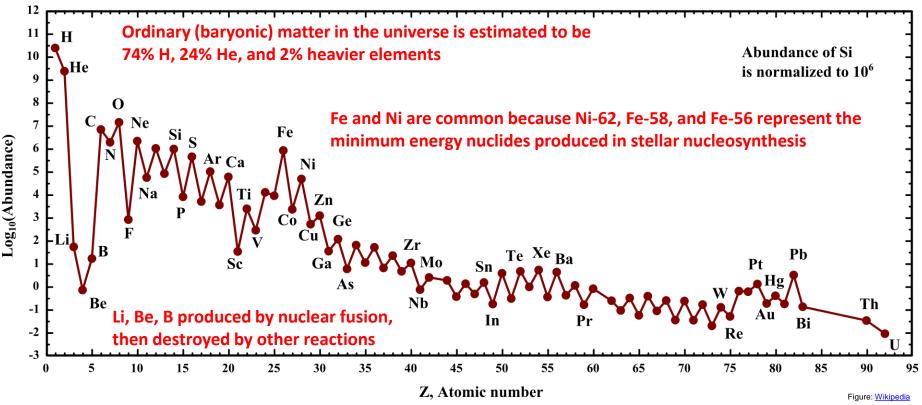
Fuel	Main products	Secondary products	$T (10^9 \text{ K})$	Duration (yr)	Main reaction
Н	Не	$^{14}$ N	0.037	$8.1 \times 10^{6}$	$4H \rightarrow {}^{4}He$ (CNO cycle)
He	O, C	$^{18}O, ^{22}Ne$	0.19	$1.2 \times 10^{6}$	$3^4 \text{He} \rightarrow {}^{12}\text{C}$
	,	s-Process			$^{12}C + {}^{4}He \rightarrow {}^{16}O$
С	Ne, Mg	Na	0.87	$9.8 \times 10^2$	$^{12}C + ^{12}C \rightarrow \cdots$
Ne	O, Mg	Al, P	1.6	0.60	$^{20}\text{Ne} \rightarrow {}^{16}\text{O} + {}^{4}\text{He}$
					$^{20}$ Ne + $^{4}$ He $\rightarrow ^{24}$ Mg
0	Si, S	Cl, Ar,	2.0	1.3	$^{16}O + {}^{16}O \rightarrow \cdots$
		K, Ca			
Si	Fe	Ti, V, Cr,	3.3	0.031	${}^{28}\text{Si} \rightarrow {}^{24}\text{Mg} + {}^{4}\text{He} \cdots$ ${}^{28}\text{Si} + {}^{4}\text{He} \rightarrow {}^{24}\text{Mg} \cdots$
		Mn, Co, Ni			$^{28}\text{Si} + {}^{4}\text{He} \rightarrow {}^{24}\text{Mg}\cdots$

## Main origin of chemical elements



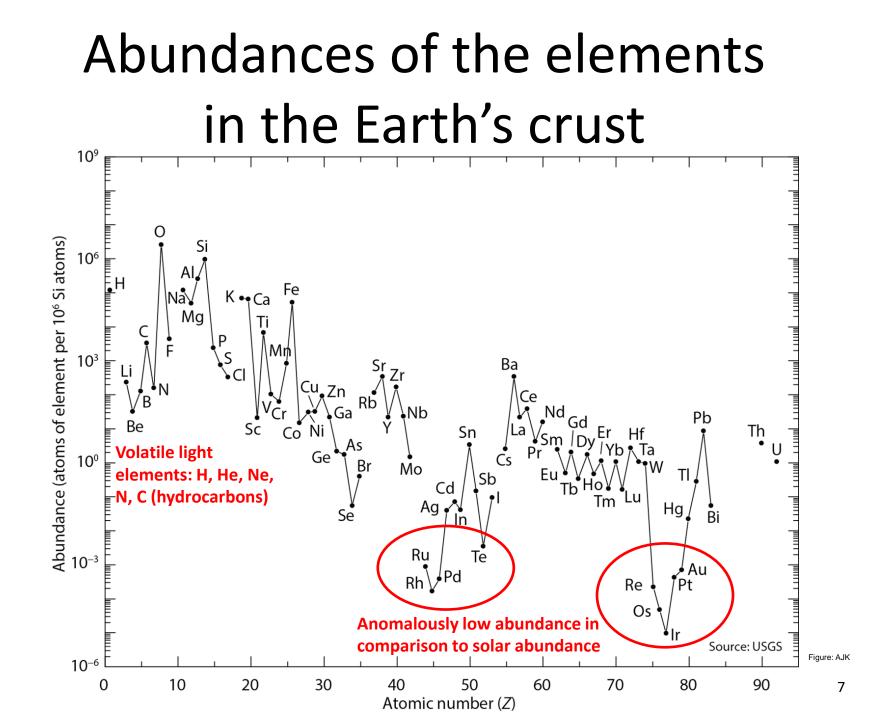
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stellar\_nucleosynthesis https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supernova\_nucleosynthesis http://blog.sdss.org/2017/01/09/origin-of-the-elements-in-the-solar-system/

## Abundances of the elements in the Solar system



#### Two general trends:

- 1. A decrease in abundance as elements become heavier
- 2. An alternation of abundance in elements as they have even or odd atomic numbers (the Oddo-Harkins rule, arises from the details of the helium burning process)



Order of		Weight %	Molar %	Volume %	Si <sup>4+</sup> = 40 pm
abundance	Element	in crust	in crust	in crust	Typical natural form at Earth surface
1	Oxygen	46.3	60.2	94.2	$O^{2-}$ in minerals and H <sub>2</sub> O; small amount as elemental O <sub>2</sub> in atmosphere
2	Silicon	28.2	20.8	0.8	Almost all as Si <sup>4+</sup> in silicate minerals; some as H <sub>4</sub> SiO <sub>4</sub> in seawater
3	Aluminum	8.1	6.2	0.4	Almost all as Al <sup>3+</sup> in minerals
4	Hydrogen	0.1	2.9	-	Almost all as $H^+$ in $H_2O$ , $OH^-$ in minerals, and $HCO_3^-$
5	Sodium	2.4	2.2	1.1	All as Na <sup>+</sup> , largely in minerals but also in seawater
6	Calcium	4.1	2.1	1.2	All as Ca <sup>2+</sup> , largely in minerals but also in seawater
7	Iron	5.4	2.0	0.4	Mostly as $Fe^{2+}$ and $Fe^{3+}$ in minerals
8	Magnesium	2.3	2.0	0.3	All as Mg <sup>2+</sup> , largely in minerals but also in seawater
9	Potassium	2.1	1.1	1.5	All as K <sup>+</sup> , largely in minerals but also in seawater
10	Titanium	0.5	0.2	0.04	Almost all as Ti <sup>4+</sup> in minerals
11	Phosphorous	0.1	0.1	0.002	Mostly as $P^{5+}$ in phosphate (PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>3-</sup> )
12	Fluorine	0.06	0.07	0.1	All as F <sup>-</sup> , largely in minerals but also in seawater
13	Carbon	0.02	0.04	0.0003	Range of valence states from 4- to 4+
14	Manganese	0.1	0.04	0.007	Mostly as Mn <sup>2+</sup> , Mn <sup>3+</sup> , and Mn <sup>4+</sup> in minerals
15	Sulfur	0.03	0.02	0.004	Almost all as $S^{6+}$ in sulfate (SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> ) or S <sup>2-</sup> in sulfides
≥73	Gold	0.0000003	0.00000003	-	As $Au^0$ and $Au^+$

#### Abundance and form of the most abundant elements in Earth's continental crust.

Percentages are calculated from data for average continental crust in Appendix III of Krauskopf (1979). For a more recent but less complete compilation, see Taylor and McLennan (1985) The abundances of the first fifteen elements listed add up to 99.77 molar % of average crust. Gold is included solely to allow comparison of these 15 most abundant elements to a very scarce element. Volume percent for oxygen in boldface illustrates the paraphrase by Mason (1958) of the words of Viktor Goldschmidt that "the lithosphere may well be called the oxysphere".

Some Fundamentals of Mineralogy and Geochemistry, L. Bruce Railsback, http://railsback.org/FundamentalsIndex.html

Shannon ionic radii:

 $O^{2-} = 140 \text{ pm}$ 

### Goldschmidt classification (1)

						_		_	•										10
	1	2		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Group	$\rightarrow$																		
↓ Perio	d																		
1	1																		2
	Н																		He
2	3	4												5	6	7	8	9	10
2	Li	Be		Some	elem	ents k	nave n	nore	than o	ne af	finity	1		В	С	Ν	0	F	Ne
3	11	12										•		13	14	15	16	17	18
3	Na	Mg		Uniy t	ne m	aiii di	mity	is giv	en in	ine ta	inie.			AI	Si	Р	S	CI	Ar
4	19	20		21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
4	K	Ca		Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Со	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr
5	37	38		39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54
5	Rb	Sr		Y	Zr	Nb	Мо	Тс	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Те	1	Xe
6	55	56		71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86
0	Cs	Ba	*	Lu	Hf	Та	W	Re	Os	lr	Pt	Au	Hg	TI	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn
7	87	88	*	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118
	Fr	Ra	*	Lr	Rf	Db	Sg	Bh	Hs	Mt	Ds	Rg	Cn	Nh	FI	Мс	Lv	Ts	Og
	,																	,	
				57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70		
			*	La	Се	Pr	Nd	Pm	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Ho	Er	Tm	Yb		
			*	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102		
			*	Ac	Th	Pa	U	Np	Pu	Am	Cm	Bk	Cf	Es	Fm	Md	No		
	Goldschmidt classification: Lithophile Siderophile Chalcophile Atmophile Trace/Synthetic																		

Figure: Wikipedia

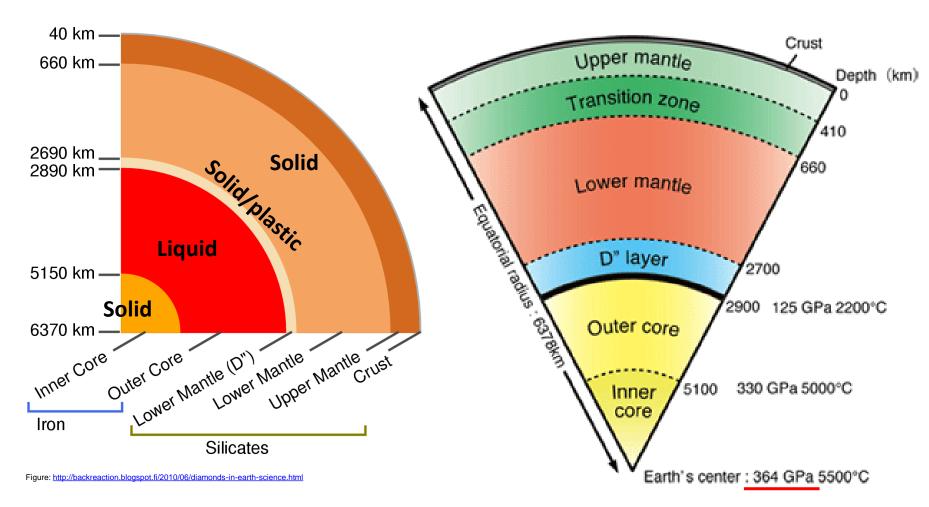
# Goldschmidt classification (2)

- **Lithophile** = rock-loving elements
  - Remain on or close to the surface because they combine readily with oxygen, forming compounds that do not sink into the core
  - The strong affinity for oxygen causes them to associate very strongly with silica, forming relatively low-density minerals that thus float to the crust
  - Many lithophile metals are of considerable value as structural metals (magnesium, aluminium, titanium, vanadium), but the process of smelting these metals is *extremely energy-intensive*
- **Siderophile** = iron-loving elements
  - High-density transition metals which tend to sink into the core because they dissolve readily in iron either as solid solutions or in the molten state
  - Many siderophile elements have very small affinity for oxygen (*e.g.* gold)
  - Form stronger bonds with carbon or sulfur, but even these are not strong enough to separate out with the chalcophile elements
  - Include *technologically highly important* precious metals

## Goldschmidt classification (3)

- **Chalcophile** = chalcogen-loving / ore-loving elements
  - Remain on or close to the surface because they combine readily with sulfur and/or some other chalcogen other than oxygen, forming compounds which do not sink into the core
  - Sulfides are much denser than the silicate minerals formed by lithophile elements and chalcophile elements separated below the lithophiles at the time of the first crystallisation of the Earth's crust
  - Because the minerals they form are nonmetallic, this depletion has not reached the levels found with siderophile elements
  - Chalcophiles can be easily extracted by reduction with coke
- **Atmophile** = gas-loving (volatile) elements
  - Remain mostly on or above the surface because they are, or occur in, liquids and/or gases at temperatures and pressures found on the surface
  - Strongly depleted on earth as a whole relative to their solar abundances owing to losses from the atmosphere during the formation of the Earth
  - Carbon: CO, CO<sub>2</sub>, hydrocarbons

#### Structure of Earth



Example: graphite-diamond phase transition occurs at ~130 km depth for *T* = 800°C

Figure: http://www.spring8.or.jp/en/news\_publications/research\_highlights/no\_57/

## **Geophysical exploration**

- Seismic methods
  - Example: Reflection seismology
  - When a seismic wave travelling through the Earth encounters an interface between two materials with different acoustic impedances, some of the wave energy will **reflect** off the interface and some will **refract** through the interface
  - Seismic source: dynamite, seismic vibrator ("thumper truck")
- Geodesy and gravity techniques
- Magnetic techniques (e.g. aeromagnetic surveys)
- Electrical and electromagnetic techniques
  - Magnetotellurics
  - Electrical resistivity tomography
  - Ground-penetrating radar
- The brute-force approach: drill a hole and explore what comes out (next slide)

## Kola Superdeep Borehole

- Drilling began in 1970, reached 12 262 meters in 1989
  - Abandoned in 2006
  - Mariana Trench: 10 994 m
- Site of fascinating geophysical discoveries, but actually reached only 1/3 of the estimated thickness of the Baltic continental crust (35 km)



The borehole, welded shut



Ref: <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kola\_Superdeep\_Borehole</u>

#### Accessibility and supply of elements (1)

1 <b>H</b> 1.00794				until de known	ning yea pletion reserve	of es		5-50	year	S an an an				_			2 <b>He</b> 4.002602
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Li	Be				) years			50-10	U yea	irs		В	С	N	0	F	Ne
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						_	1	.00-50	JU ye	ars		13					
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22.98977 19	24.3050 20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	26.98153 31	28.0855	39.97376 33	32.066 34	35.4527	39.948 36
ĸ		Sc	Ti	v	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr
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	and so get and			Nb	Mo		Ru	Rh		Ag	Cd	l In	e de la companya de l		Те		Xe
85.4678	87.62	88.9085	91.224	92.906		(98)	101.07	102.9055		107.8682	80	114.818	118.760 82	121.760	127.60 84	126.9044	131.29
55	56	57	72 1947 -	73	74 1997 -	75	76	77 (1997) 1997 - 1997 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1	. <b>78</b>			81		<b>83</b>		85	86
Cs	Ba	La *	Hf	Та	W	Re	Os		Pt	Au	Hg	TI	Pb	Bi	Ро	At	Rn
132.9054	137.327	138.9055	178.49	180.947		186.207	190.23	192.217	195.078	196.9665	200.59	204.3833	270.2	208.9804	(209)	(210)	(222)
87	88	89	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118
Fr	Ra	Ac‡	Rf	Db	Sg	Bh	Hs	Mt	Ds	Rq	Uub	Uut	Uuq	Uup	Lv	Uus	Uuo
(223)	226.025	(227)	(257)	(260)	(263)	(262)	(265)	(266)	(271)	(272)	(285)	(284)	(289)	(288)	(292)		
			[	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71
	10	nthanid	loc *	Ce	Pr	Nd	Pm	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Но	Er	Tm	Yb	Lu
	Ld	intinarint		140.9077	144.24	(145)	150.36	151.964	157.25	158.9253	158.9253	162.50	164.9303	167.26	168.9342	173.04	174.967

Bk

(247)

Cm

(247)

Am

(243)

Cf

(251)

Es

(252)

Fm

(257)

Md

(258)

No

(259)

Np

(237)

Pu

(244)

Actinides ‡

Pa

231.0289

Th

232.0381

U

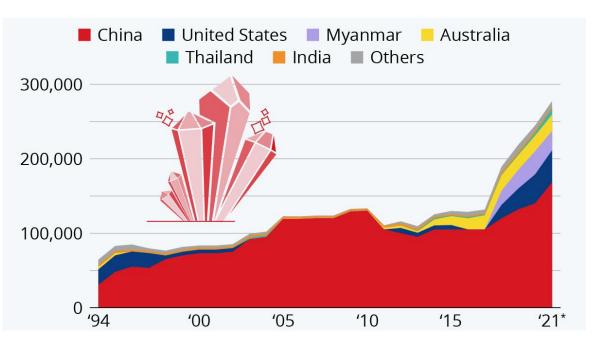
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(262)

#### Accessibility and supply of elements (2)

- The crustal abundance of elements is not equal to their accessibility
  - Elements are not equally distributed throughout the Earth
- Some elements have been declared to be <u>Critical Raw Materials</u> (CRM) by EU
- For example, Rare Earth Elements (REE) are often discussed as critical in supply
  - For REE, it is actually a question of supply and demand
  - In 2011, there was a steep increase in prices
  - New mining operations have been opened around the world after that
- So far, new supply of elements has emerged when the price has been right



Global mine production of rare earth elements (<u>statista.com</u>). Documented production only.

Source: United States Geological Survey License: CC-BY-ND

#### Accessibility and supply of elements (3)

- The key question is, should we really push to find more elements at any cost?
  - Environmental problems become more severe as previously inaccessible resources are being utilized
  - Minerals are one of the most important reasons to human conflicts (for example, Democratic Republic of the Congo)
  - It is not sensible to use easily accessible resources for non-recyclable use-oncethrow-away consumer goods and leave no reserves for the future
- Possible remedies:
  - 1. Plan the use of resources in a better way
  - 2. Improve recycling/re-use
  - 3. Substitute Critical Raw Materials with new functional materials
- All these solutions require chemists and materials scientists!

### Minerals

## Minerals

- 1995 definition of a **mineral** from The International Association of Minerals (IMA):
  - "A mineral is an element or chemical compound that is normally crystalline and that has been formed as a result of geological processes"
- More detailed (and controversial) definition (Tasa 2007):
  - 1. Naturally occurring
  - 2. Stable at room temperature
  - 3. Represented by a chemical formula (note: many are solid solutions!)
  - 4. Usually abiogenic (not resulting from the activity of living organisms)
  - 5. Ordered atomic arrangement
- IMA has approved over 5500 minerals (2020)



### Mineral-related databases

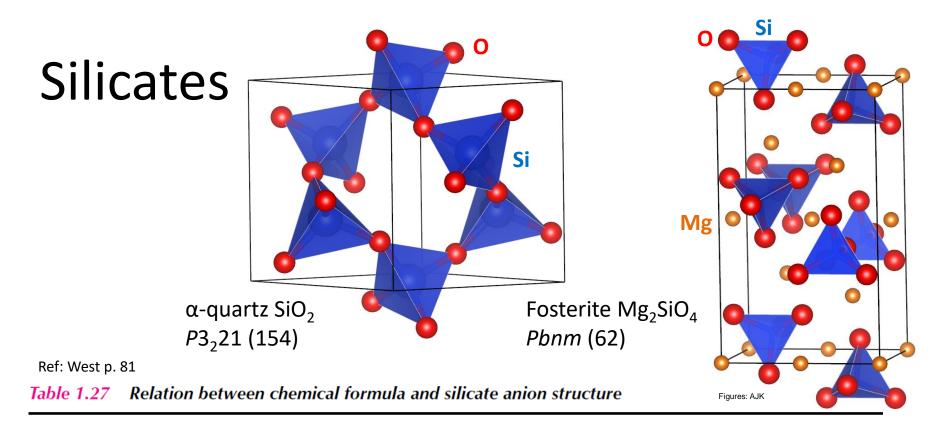
- IMA Database of Mineral Properties: <u>http://rruff.info/ima/</u>
  - For instructions, see MyCourses -> Databases -> IMA documentation
- The RRUFF<sup>™</sup> Project: <u>http://rruff.info</u>
  - Integrated database of Raman spectra, X-ray diffraction and chemistry data for minerals (> 20 000 Raman spectra)
  - For instructions, see MyCourses -> Databases -> RRUFF documentation
- American Mineralogist Crystal Structure Database (AMSCSD)
  - Over 4000 crystal structures
  - Shortcut to all structures: <u>http://rruff.geo.arizona.edu/AMS/all\_minerals.php</u>
- Minerals are a popular topic and hence Wikipedia is also an excellent resource
  - <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Minerals\_by\_crystal\_system</u>

Minorale consisting	•	A table of sys	tematic mine	ralogy I: basic categories				
Minerals consisting of uncharged atoms (i.e., in elemental state)	Minerals cons bonded to	sisting of cations single anions os or complex ions)	Minerals consisting of cations bonded to negatively-charged radical groups (i.e., to complex ions like CO <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup> or AsS <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup> )					
		Fluorides Fluorite (CaF <sub>2</sub> )	Fluosalts:	Fluoborates Ferruccite (NaBF <sub>4</sub> )   Fluosilicates Hieratite (K <sub>2</sub> SiF <sub>6</sub> )   es form 90% of the Earth's crust Image: Starth and the starthand the starth and the starthand the starth an				
	Halides	Chlorides Halite (NaCl)		e char comes				
	("Group VII -ides") (and thus minerals with 1- anions)	Bromides Bromargyrite (AgBr) Iodides Iodargyrite (AgI)	Silicates form 90% of the Earth's crust					
Native elements		Oxides Hematite (Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> )	Oxysalts:	Silicates Vanadates Arsenates Sulfites   Borates Chromates Selenates Arsenites   Carbonates Niobates Antimonates Selenites   Nitrates Molybdates Tellurates Antimonites Selenites   Phosphates Tantalates Tellurates Antimonites Tellurites   Sulfates Tungstates Calcite (CaCO <sub>3</sub> ) Sulfarsenates Sulfarsenites   Sulfarsenates Sulfarsenites Sulfarsenites Pyrargyrite Ag <sub>3</sub> SbS <sub>3</sub> )   Seleniobismuthites Permingeatite (Cu <sub>3</sub> SbSe <sub>4</sub> ) Sulfarsenites   Telluribismuthites Volynskite Volynskite Sulfarsenites				
Sulfur (S) Diamond (C) Copper (Cu)	"Group VI -ides" (and thus minerals with 2- anions)	Sulfides Galena (PbS)	Sulfosalts:	Sulfarsenates Sulfogermanates Sulfantimonates Sulfostannates Sulfobismuthites				
		Selenides Achavalite (FeSe)	Seleniosalts:	Selenioantimonates Permingeatite Seleniobismuthites (Cu <sub>3</sub> SbSe <sub>4</sub> )				
		Tellurides Altaite (PbTe)	Tellurisalts:	Telluribismuthites				
	"Group V -ides" (and thus minerals with 3- anions) Antimonides "Group IV -ides" (and thus minerals with 4- anions)	Nitrides Osbornite (TiN) Phosphides Barringerite (Fe,Ni) <sub>2</sub> P Arsenides Löllingite (FeAs <sub>2</sub> ) s & Bismuthides Sobolevskite (PdBi) Carbides Moissanite (SiC) Silicides Gupeiite(Fe <sub>3</sub> Si)	Groups containing relatively abundant minerals are highlighted; examples of minerals for various groups are in gray. A bit of the IV V VI VII He B C N O F Ne Al Si P S CI Ar Ge As Se Br Kr Sn Sb Te I Xe Pb Bi PoAt Ra					

This table does not show hybrid categories that would include minerals like brenkite  $(Ca_2CO_3F_2)$  or kermesite  $(Sb_2S_2O)$ . It also does not show H<sup>+</sup>-bearing minerals; their inclusion would best be shown with a third dimension leading to hydroxides, bicarbonates, bisulfates, etc.

LBR SystematicMinTable10, 11/2007

Some Fundamentals of Mineralogy and Geochemistry, L. Bruce Railsback, http://railsback.org/FundamentalsIndex.html



	Number o	f oxygens per Si		
Si:O ratio	Bridging Non-bridging		Type of silicate anion	Examples
1:4	0	4	Isolated SiO <sub>4</sub> <sup>4–</sup>	Mg <sub>2</sub> SiO <sub>4</sub> olivine, Li <sub>4</sub> SiO <sub>4</sub>
1:3.5	1	3	Dimer Si <sub>2</sub> O <sub>7</sub> <sup>6–</sup>	Ca <sub>3</sub> Si <sub>2</sub> O <sub>7</sub> rankinite, Sc <sub>2</sub> Si <sub>2</sub> O <sub>7</sub> thortveite
1:3	2	2	Chains $(SiO_3)_n^{2n-1}$	Na <sub>2</sub> SiO <sub>3</sub> , MgSiO <sub>3</sub> pyroxene
			Rings, e.g. Si <sub>3</sub> O <sub>9</sub> <sup>6–</sup>	CaSiO <sub>3</sub> ª, BaTiSi <sub>3</sub> O <sub>9</sub> benitoite
			$Si_6O_{18}^{12-}$	Be <sub>3</sub> Al <sub>2</sub> Si <sub>6</sub> O <sub>18</sub> beryl
1:2.5	3	1	Sheets $(Si_2O_5)_n^{2n-1}$	$Na_2Si_2O_5$ "Tectosilicates", Quartz family +
1:2	4	0	3D framework	$SiO_2^{\ b}$ aluminosilicates: 75% of the crust

<sup>*a*</sup>CaSiO<sub>3</sub> is dimorphic. One polymorph has Si<sub>3</sub>O<sub>9</sub><sup>6-</sup> rings and the other has infinite  $(SiO_3)_n^{2n-}$  chains.

<sup>b</sup>The three main polymorphs of silica, quartz, tridymite and cristobalite, each have a different kind of 3D framework structure.

### Aluminosilicates: Feldspars

• By far the most abundant group of minerals in the earth's crust, forming about 60% of terrestrial rocks

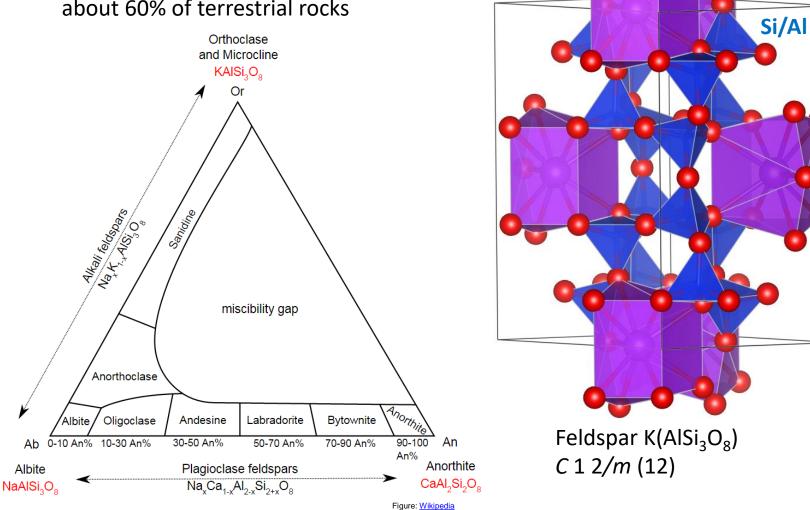
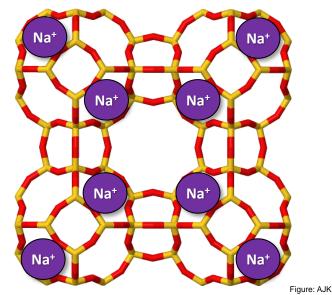


Figure: AJK

Κ

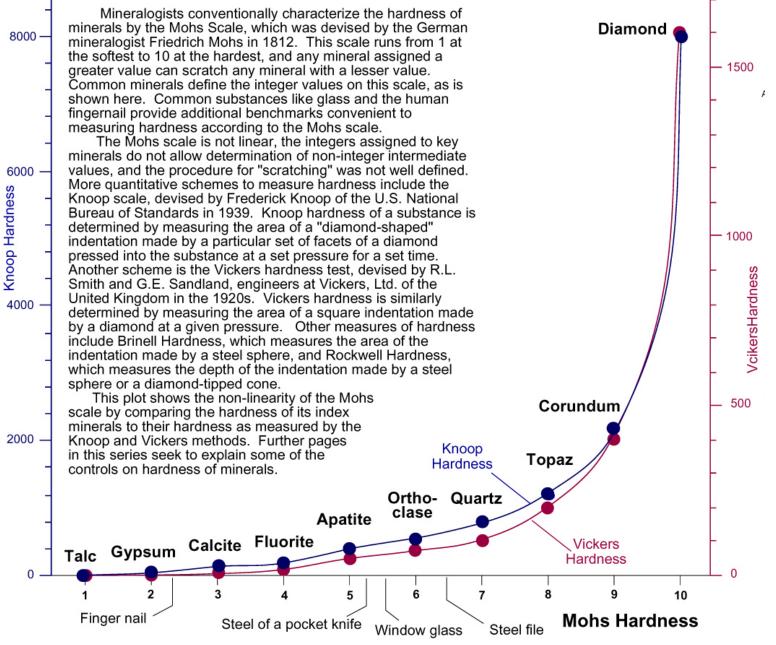
## Aluminosilicates: Zeolites

- Microporous aluminosilicate minerals
  - Cronstedt 1756: heating *stilbite*, NaCa<sub>4</sub>(Si<sub>27</sub>Al<sub>9</sub>)O<sub>72</sub>·28(H<sub>2</sub>O), produced steam
  - Zéō -> to boil
  - Líthos -> rock
- Can be considered as molecular sieves, with actual industrial applications in:
  - Ion-exhange (e.g. water purification and softening)
  - Catalysis (e.g. In petrochemical industry)
- <a href="http://www.iza-structure.org/databases/">http://www.iza-structure.org/databases/</a>
- <u>http://www.hypotheticalzeolites.net/</u>



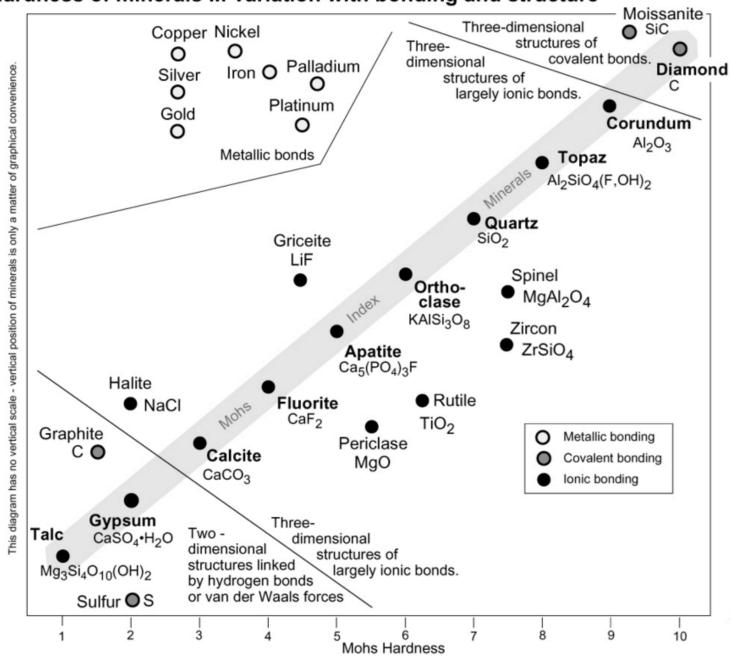
LTA zeolite (*Pm*-3*m*)  $[Na_{12}(H_2O)_{27}]_8[Al_{12}Si_{12}O_{48}]_8$  Hardness of minerals as an example of physical property trends

#### Hardness of minerals I: the Mohs scale



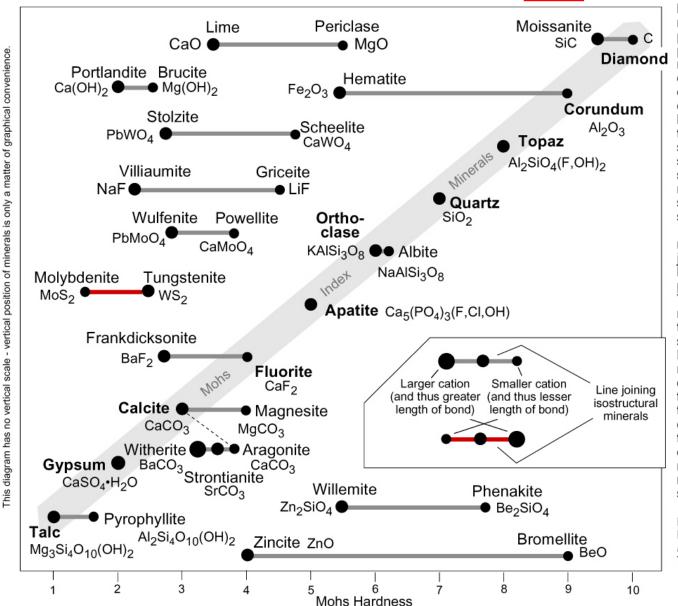
Some Fundamentals of Mineralogy and Geochemistry, L. Bruce Railsback, http://railsback.org/FundamentalsIndex.html

ΑK



#### Hardness of minerals II: variation with bonding and structure

Some Fundamentals of Mineralogy and Geochemistry, L. Bruce Railsback, http://railsback.org/FundamentalsIndex.html



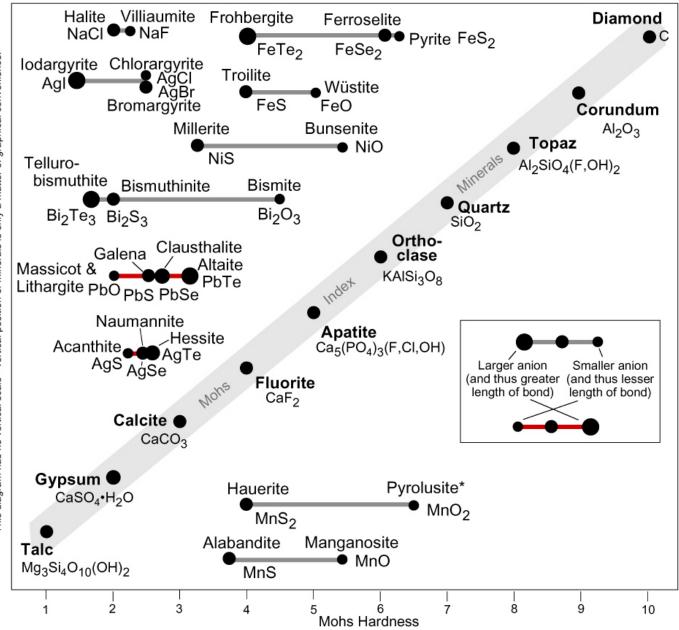
#### Hardness of minerals IVa: variation with bond length and <u>cation</u> size

One control on hardness of a mineral is the length of bonds within that mineral. To illustrate this point, this diagram shows pairs or sets of isostructural minerals. In almost all of the examples shown on this diagram, minerals with larger cations, and thus greater bond lengths, are softer than their counterparts with smaller cations and thus shorter bonds. Much the same point can be made with regard to anion size, as is shown in Part IVb of this series.

One pair of isostructural minerals shown here, the one ioined by a red line, has hardnesses opposite the pattern described above. Those minerals are molybdenite and tungstenite, the sulfides of the relatively soft cations Mo4+ and W4+. Bonding in these two minerals may be sufficiently covalent, and bonding in tungstenite more covalent, that the more covalent bond causes greater hardness of tungstenite. The same sort of trend can be seen with regard to Ag<sup>+</sup> and Pb<sup>2+</sup> minerals in Part IVb of this series.

Hardness data are from Nickel, E.H., and Nichols, M.C., 1991, *Mineral Reference Manual:* New York, Van Nostrand Reinhold, 250 p.

#### Hardness of minerals IVb: variation with bond length and anion size



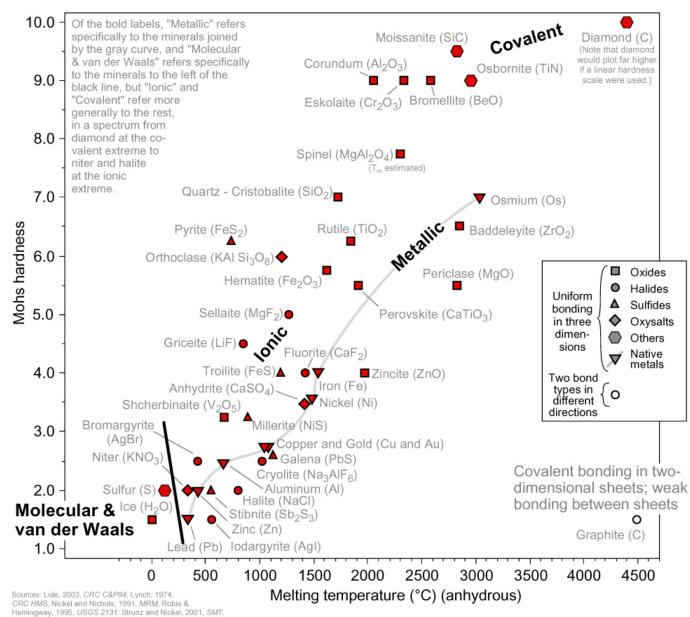
One control on the hardness of a mineral is the length of bonds within that mineral. To illustrate this point, this diagram shows pairs of chemically analogous minerals that differ only in their anions. In most of the examples shown on this diagram (the ones joined by light gray lines), minerals with larger anions, and thus greater bond lengths, are softer than their counterparts with smaller anions and thus shorter bonds.

However, in two cases shown here (the ones joined by red lines), larger anions lead to harder minerals. These are the examples where soft cations,Ag<sup>+</sup> and Pb<sup>2+</sup>, bond to 2- anions. In these cases, the bonds of soft cations to increasingly large and thus increasingly soft anions may lead to sufficiently covalent bonds to cause greater hardness of minerals.

Hardness data are from Nickel, E.H., and Nichols, M.C., 1991, *Mineral Reference Manual:* New York, Van Nostrand Reinhold, 250 p.

\* The hardness of pyrolusite is commonly listed as 2, but that is the value for earthy masses of minute crystals. The hardness of a single crystal of pyrolusite is 6.5 (Gaines et al., 1997, *Dana's New Mineralogy:* New York, John Wiley & Sons, 1819 p.).

#### Melting temperature and hardness of minerals



The plot at left shows that there is a general correlation between melting temperature of minerals and their hardness. This relationship is most striking for the native metals, which are connected by a curve here. However, the correlation holds for all the minerals shown with filled symbols ( $r^2 = 0.733$ ).

The reason for this relationship is that both melting temperature (a measure of susceptibility to thermal destruction) and hardness (a measure of susceptibility to mechanical destruction) depend on bond strength. Minerals with three-dimensional frameworks of covalent bonds have great hardness and high melting temperatures: diamond is the ultimate example. At the other extreme, minerals of molecules held together by weak bonds like van der Waals forces (for sulfur) and hydrogen bonds (the molecular bond for ice) have low hardness and melting temperature.

Graphite falls off this trend, for good reason. Its strong covalent bonds in two dimensions preclude disintegration and melting except at extremely high temperature, but the weak bonds between sheets (i.e., in the third dimension) allow mechanical deformation that we recognize as a low hardness.

LBR HardnessMeltingPlot06 2/2008