

## DSC studies on the kinetics of decomposition of some Mg-containing borates under high pressures

Yuan Ximing, Sun Zuowei and Tang Yuanjun

*Department of Applied Chemistry, China University of Geosciences, Wuhan, Hubei 430074 (People's Republic of China)*

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### Abstract

The dehydration enthalpy  $\Delta H$  and the activation energy  $E_a$  of some Mg-containing borates, viz. macallisterite ( $\text{MgO} \cdot 3\text{B}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 7.5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ), inderite ( $2\text{MgO} \cdot 3\text{B}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 15\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) and kurnakovite ( $2\text{MgO} \cdot 3\text{B}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 15\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) under high pressures (1, 2 and 4 MPa) have been determined by using a DuPont DSC 9900 thermal analyzer. Kinetic parameters for these reactions are discussed and calculated using the Kissinger and simple Ozawa methods.

### INTRODUCTION

The Mg-containing borates ( $x\text{MgO} \cdot y\text{B}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot z\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) are important substances. The thermo-kinetic feature of some Mg-containing borates under normal pressure were determined in our earlier work. It is necessary to determine their thermal character under high pressure by the DSC method in order to predict their stability and transformation.

### SAMPLE PREPARATION

Macallisterite, inderite and kurnakovite were synthesized in our laboratory.

### EXPERIMENTAL

A Du Pont differential scanning calorimeter (DSC V2.2A Du Pont 9900) was used for the present kinetic study. The temperature and sensitivity were carefully calibrated under high pressure before the experiments. Heating rates were  $5^\circ$ ,  $10^\circ$ ,  $15^\circ$  and  $20^\circ \text{C min}^{-1}$ . In each run, a sample was placed in an aluminium pan over which a constant current of pure nitrogen gas ( $50 \text{ ml min}^{-1}$ ) was passed to remove gas evolved in the decomposition of the sample. The instrument's computer was used on line to collect and store the experimental data.

## DATA PROCESSING AND RESULTS

First, the heat flow-temperature curves were obtained after baseline correction (see Figs. 1, 2 and 3).

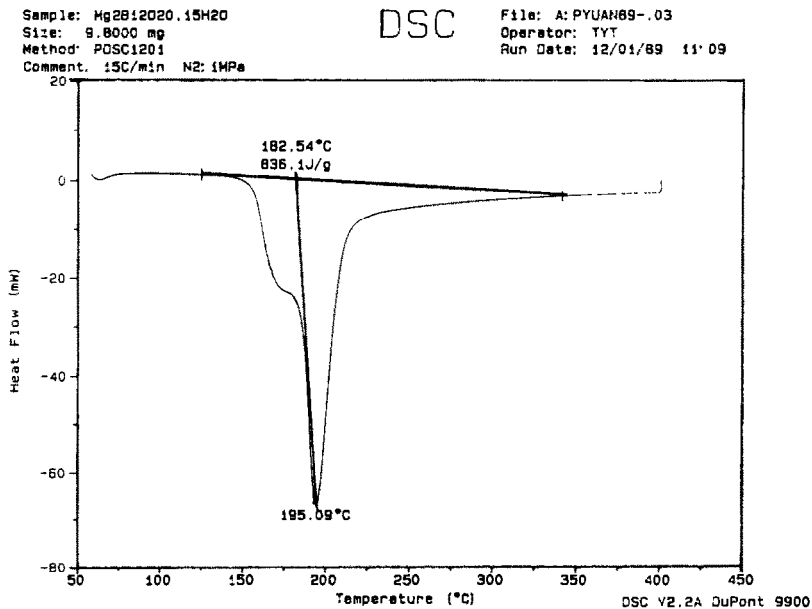


Fig. 1. Heat flow- $T$  curve of macallisterite.

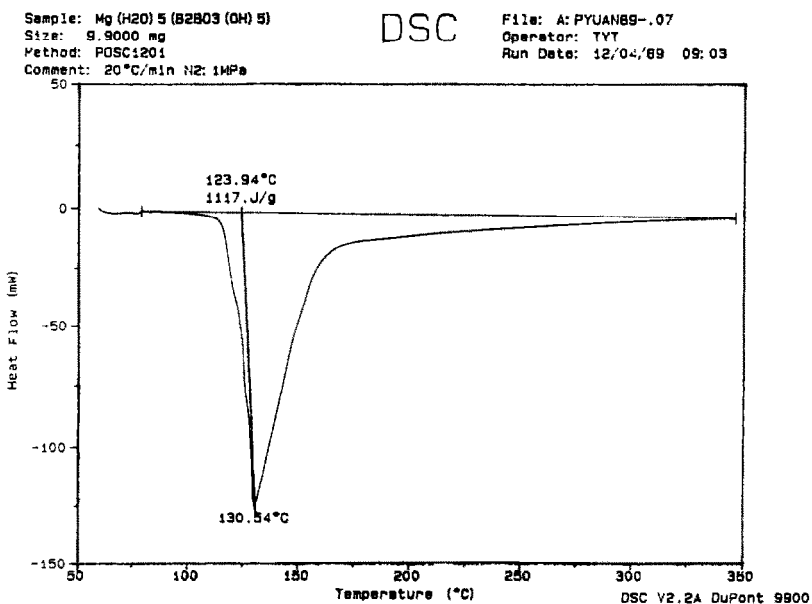


Fig. 2. Heat flow- $T$  curve of inderite.

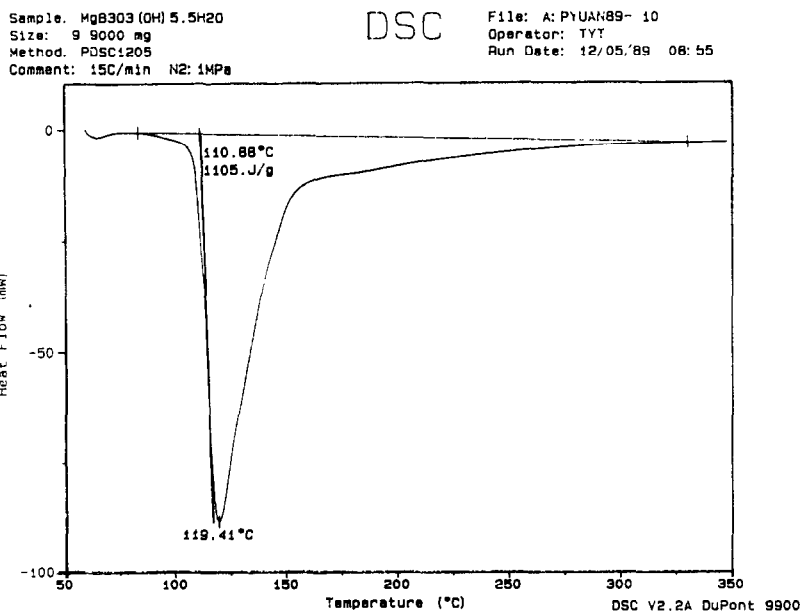


Fig. 3. Heat flow– $T$  curve of kurnakovite.

The dehydration enthalpies,  $\Delta H$ , of the samples under high pressure were estimated (see Table 1).

Then, the heat flow–temperature curves of the samples under different heating rates ( $5^\circ$ ,  $10^\circ$ ,  $15^\circ$  and  $20^\circ \text{C min}^{-1}$ ) were recorded (see Figs. 4 and

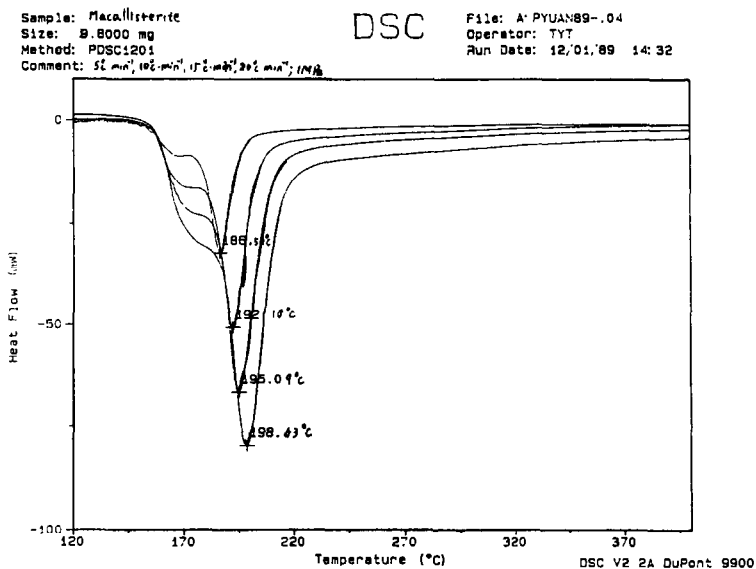


Fig. 4. DSC curves of macallisterite under different heating rates.

TABLE I  
Results for  $\Delta H$  under different pressures

| Macallisterite |         |             |                                              |                                  |                                     | Inderite |         |             |                                              |                                  |                                     | Kurnakovite |         |             |                                              |                                  |                                     |
|----------------|---------|-------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|---------|-------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|---------|-------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| No.            | P (MPa) | Weight (mg) | Heating rate ( $^{\circ}\text{C min}^{-1}$ ) | $\Delta H$ ( $\text{J g}^{-1}$ ) | $\Delta H$ ( $\text{kJ mol}^{-1}$ ) | No.      | P (MPa) | Weight (mg) | Heating rate ( $^{\circ}\text{C min}^{-1}$ ) | $\Delta H$ ( $\text{J g}^{-1}$ ) | $\Delta H$ ( $\text{kJ mol}^{-1}$ ) | No.         | P (MPa) | Weight (mg) | Heating rate ( $^{\circ}\text{C min}^{-1}$ ) | $\Delta H$ ( $\text{J g}^{-1}$ ) | $\Delta H$ ( $\text{kJ mol}^{-1}$ ) |
| 1              | 1       | 9.70        | 5                                            | 839.9                            | 836.7                               | 13       | 1       | 9.60        | 5                                            | 1158.0                           | 1137.8                              | 25          | 1       | 10.00       | 5                                            | 1120.0                           | 1111                                |
| 2              | 1       | 9.90        | 10                                           | 834.3                            |                                     | 14       | 1       | 9.60        | 10                                           | 1152.0                           |                                     | 26          | 1       | 9.80        | 10                                           | 1119.0                           |                                     |
| 3              | 1       | 9.80        | 15                                           | 836.1                            |                                     | 15       | 1       | 9.90        | 15                                           | 1124.0                           |                                     | 27          | 1       | 9.90        | 15                                           | 1105.0                           |                                     |
| 4              | 1       | 9.80        | 20                                           | 836.4                            |                                     | 16       | 1       | 9.90        | 20                                           | 1117.0                           |                                     | 28          | 1       | 9.80        | 20                                           | 1100.0                           |                                     |
| 5              | 2       | 9.90        | 5                                            | 774.3                            | 729.1                               | 17       | 2       | 10.00       | 5                                            | 948.2                            | 930.9                               | 29          | 2       | 10.00       | 5                                            | 905.9                            | 896.9                               |
| 6              | 2       | 10.00       | 10                                           | 725.9                            |                                     | 18       | 2       | 10.00       | 10                                           | 946.0                            |                                     | 30          | 2       | 10.10       | 10                                           | 901.1                            |                                     |
| 7              | 2       | 10.00       | 15                                           | 687.0                            |                                     | 19       | 2       | 9.90        | 15                                           | 915.9                            |                                     | 31          | 2       | 10.00       | 15                                           | 892.9                            |                                     |
| 8              | 2       | 10.10       | 20                                           | 752.2                            |                                     | 20       | 2       | 10.00       | 20                                           | 913.4                            |                                     | 32          | 2       | 10.10       | 20                                           | 890.4                            |                                     |
| 9              | 4       | 10.00       | 5                                            | 730.1                            | 662.0                               | 21       | 4       | 10.00       | 5                                            | 794.0                            | 791.8                               | 33          | 4       | 10.10       | 5                                            | 830.1                            | 818.7                               |
| 10             | 4       | 10.00       | 10                                           | 667.4                            |                                     | 22       | 4       | 10.00       | 10                                           | 792.9                            |                                     | 34          | 4       | 10.00       | 10                                           | 818.2                            |                                     |
| 11             | 4       | 10.00       | 15                                           | 625.7                            |                                     | 23       | 4       | 10.10       | 15                                           | 790.7                            |                                     | 35          | 4       | 10.10       | 15                                           | 814.0                            |                                     |
| 12             | 4       | 10.10       | 20                                           | 624.9                            |                                     | 24       | 4       | 10.20       | 20                                           | 789.7                            |                                     | 36          | 4       | 10.10       | 20                                           | 812.3                            |                                     |

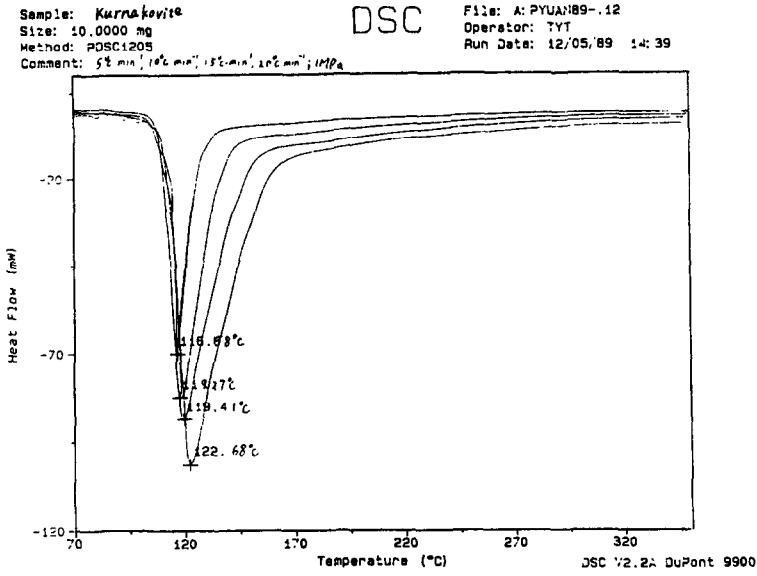


Fig. 5. DSC curves of kurnakovite under different heating rates.

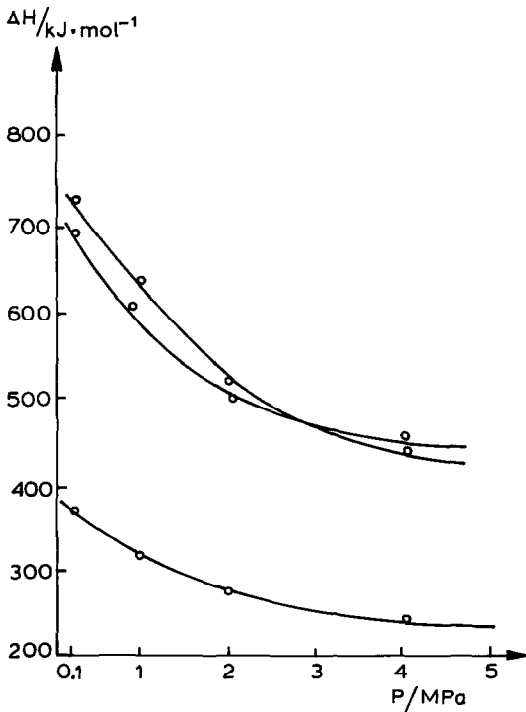


Fig. 6.  $\Delta H$ - $P$  curves.

TABLE 2  
Data at the different heating rates

| Macallisterite |         |                                      |                     |                         |                          |        |     |         |                                      | Kurnakovite         |                         |                          |        |     |             |                                      |                     |                         |                          |        |
|----------------|---------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------|-----|---------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------|-----|-------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------|
| Macallisterite |         |                                      |                     |                         | Inderite                 |        |     |         |                                      | Kurnakovite         |                         |                          |        |     | Kurnakovite |                                      |                     |                         |                          |        |
| No.            | P (MPa) | Heating rate (°C min <sup>-1</sup> ) | T <sub>m</sub> (°C) | 1/T <sub>m</sub> × 1000 | ln( $\frac{\phi}{T_m}$ ) | log φ  | No. | P (MPa) | Heating rate (°C min <sup>-1</sup> ) | T <sub>m</sub> (°C) | 1/T <sub>m</sub> × 1000 | ln( $\frac{\phi}{T_m}$ ) | log φ  | No. | P (MPa)     | Heating rate (°C min <sup>-1</sup> ) | T <sub>m</sub> (°C) | 1/T <sub>m</sub> × 1000 | ln( $\frac{\phi}{T_m}$ ) | log φ  |
| 37             | 1       | 5                                    | 186.51              | 2.1755                  | -10.6515                 | 0.6990 | 49  | 1       | 5                                    | 136.02              | 2.4440                  | -10.4188                 | 0.6990 | 61  | 1           | 5                                    | 116.68              | 2.5652                  | -10.3220                 | 0.6990 |
| 38             | 1       | 10                                   | 192.10              | 2.1494                  | -9.9825                  | 1.0000 | 50  | 1       | 10                                   | 133.47              | 2.4593                  | -9.7132                  | 1.0000 | 62  | 1           | 10                                   | 119.27              | 2.5483                  | -9.6421                  | 1.0000 |
| 39             | 1       | 15                                   | 195.09              | 2.1357                  | -9.5899                  | 1.1761 | 51  | 1       | 15                                   | 131.50              | 2.4713                  | -9.2980                  | 1.1761 | 63  | 1           | 15                                   | 119.41              | 2.5474                  | -9.2373                  | 1.1761 |
| 40             | 1       | 20                                   | 198.63              | 2.1196                  | -9.3173                  | 1.3010 | 52  | 1       | 20                                   | 130.54              | 2.4771                  | -9.0056                  | 1.3010 | 64  | 1           | 20                                   | 122.68              | 2.5263                  | -8.9662                  | 1.3010 |
| 41             | 2       | 5                                    | 185.64              | 2.1796                  | -10.6477                 | 0.6990 | 53  | 2       | 5                                    | 124.76              | 2.5131                  | -10.3630                 | 0.6990 | 65  | 2           | 5                                    | 113.34              | 2.5874                  | -10.3048                 | 0.6990 |
| 42             | 2       | 10                                   | 191.21              | 2.1535                  | -9.9787                  | 1.0000 | 54  | 2       | 10                                   | 125.38              | 2.5092                  | -9.6730                  | 1.0000 | 66  | 2           | 10                                   | 114.64              | 2.5787                  | -9.6183                  | 1.0000 |
| 43             | 2       | 15                                   | 194.78              | 2.1371                  | -9.5886                  | 1.1761 | 55  | 2       | 15                                   | 127.28              | 2.4973                  | -9.2770                  | 1.1761 | 67  | 2           | 15                                   | 118.27              | 2.5548                  | -9.2315                  | 1.1761 |
| 44             | 2       | 20                                   | 199.02              | 2.1179                  | -9.3189                  | 1.3010 | 56  | 2       | 20                                   | 129.02              | 2.4865                  | -8.9980                  | 1.3010 | 68  | 2           | 20                                   | 119.06              | 2.5497                  | -8.9479                  | 1.3010 |
| 45             | 4       | 5                                    | 184.86              | 2.1834                  | -10.6443                 | 0.6990 | 57  | 4       | 5                                    | 119.70              | 2.5455                  | -10.3374                 | 0.6990 | 69  | 4           | 5                                    | 111.00              | 2.6031                  | -10.2926                 | 0.6990 |
| 46             | 4       | 10                                   | 191.30              | 2.1531                  | -9.9791                  | 1.0000 | 58  | 4       | 10                                   | 122.50              | 2.5275                  | -9.6585                  | 1.0000 | 70  | 4           | 10                                   | 113.18              | 2.5885                  | -9.6108                  | 1.0000 |
| 47             | 4       | 15                                   | 195.85              | 2.1322                  | -9.5932                  | 1.1761 | 59  | 4       | 15                                   | 124.63              | 2.5140                  | -9.2637                  | 1.1761 | 71  | 4           | 15                                   | 116.99              | 2.5632                  | -9.2250                  | 1.1761 |
| 48             | 4       | 20                                   | 197.59              | 2.1243                  | -9.3129                  | 1.3010 | 60  | 4       | 20                                   | 125.29              | 2.5098                  | -8.9794                  | 1.3010 | 72  | 4           | 20                                   | 118.86              | 2.5510                  | -8.9468                  | 1.3010 |

TABLE 3

Results for  $E_a$  of the samples by different methods

| Macallisterite                |                  |        |        |                     |        |        |
|-------------------------------|------------------|--------|--------|---------------------|--------|--------|
|                               | Kissinger method |        |        | Simple Ozawa method |        |        |
| $P$ (MPa)                     | 1                | 2      | 4      | 1                   | 2      | 4      |
| $E_a$ (kJ mol <sup>-1</sup> ) | 202.6            | 181.84 | 181.27 | 199.9               | 180.2  | 179.6  |
| $r$                           | 0.9962           | 0.9920 | 0.9970 | 0.9965              | 0.9926 | 0.9972 |
| $a$                           | -24.37           | -21.87 | -21.80 | -10.99              | -9.903 | -9.872 |
| $b$                           | 42.39            | 37.08  | 37.00  | 24.62               | 22.31  | 22.25  |
| Inderite                      |                  |        |        |                     |        |        |
|                               | Kissinger method |        |        | Simple Ozawa method |        |        |
| $P$ (MPa)                     | 1                | 2      | 4      | 1                   | 2      | 4      |
| $E_a$ (kJ mol <sup>-1</sup> ) | 347.2            | 376.9  | 302.6  | 324.9               | 364.6  | 293.8  |
| $r$                           | 0.9982           | 0.9241 | 0.9954 | 0.9985              | 0.9264 | 0.9956 |
| $a$                           | 41.76            | -45.34 | -36.40 | 17.86               | -20.04 | -16.15 |
| $b$                           | -112.5           | 103.8  | 82.31  | -42.94              | 51.17  | 41.81  |
| Kurnakovite                   |                  |        |        |                     |        |        |
|                               | Kissinger method |        |        | Simple Ozawa method |        |        |
| $P$ (MPa)                     | 1                | 2      | 4      | 1                   | 2      | 4      |
| $E_a$ (kJ mol <sup>-1</sup> ) | 285.5            | 254.0  | 198.8  | 277.6               | 247.5  | 195.1  |
| $r$                           | 0.9276           | 0.9497 | 0.9710 | 0.9305              | 0.9520 | 0.9727 |
| $a$                           | -34.34           | -30.55 | -23.91 | -15.26              | -13.61 | -10.72 |
| $b$                           | 77.93            | 68.92  | 52.09  | 39.90               | 35.98  | 28.67  |

Note:  $a$  is the slope,  $r$  is the linear correlation coefficient.

5). The activation energies of decomposition of the samples were estimated by the methods of Kissinger [4] and the simple Ozawa [2,3] methods (Tables 2 and 3).

Formula of Kissinger

$$\ln(\phi/T_m^2) = \ln(AR/E_a) - E_a/R(1/T_m)$$

Simple formula of Ozawa

$$\log \phi = -0.457E_a/(RT_m) + C$$

In the formula,  $\phi$  is the heating rate and  $T_m$  is the peak temperature.

## CONCLUSIONS

1. Our experiments show that the  $\Delta H$  values of the three borates decrease with increasing pressure (see Fig. 6).

2. The activation energies  $E_a$  increase to maxima and then decrease again as the pressure increases (see Fig. 7).

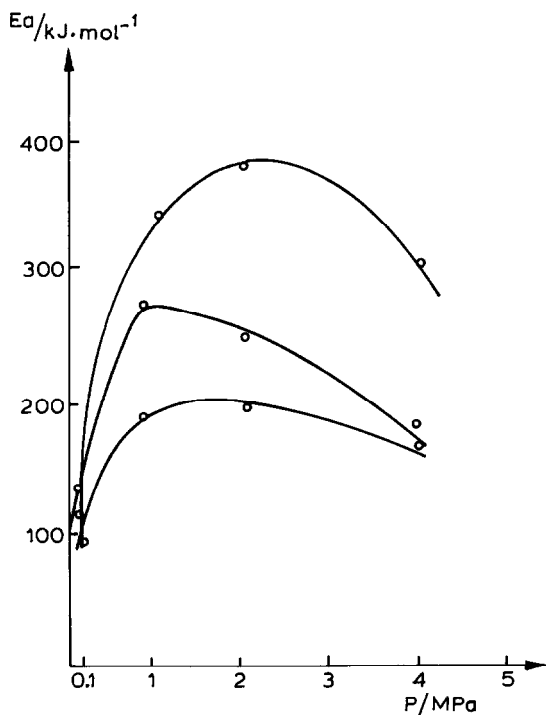


Fig. 7.  $E_a$  -  $P$  curves.

3. At 1 MPa and 2 MPa pressure:  $\Delta H(\text{inderite}) > \Delta H(\text{kurnakovite}) > \Delta H(\text{macallisterite})$ ; at 4 MPa pressure:  $\Delta H(\text{kurnakovite}) > \Delta H(\text{inderite}) > \Delta H(\text{macallisterite})$ .

4. At high pressure (1, 2 and 4 MPa):  $E_a(\text{inderite}) > E_a(\text{kurnakovite}) > E_a(\text{macallisterite})$ .

Note:  $\Delta H$  and  $E_a$  values at normal pressure are results from our previous work.

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