

The Elastic Properties and Anisotropic Behavior of MgSiO₃ Akimotoite at Transition Zone Pressures

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Abstract

Seismic wave velocities in the Earth's transition zone, between 410 and 660 km depth, are poorly matched by mineralogical models. Mainly due to the presence of majoritic garnet, wave velocities calculated for a peridotite composition lithology are slower than seismic reference models, particularly towards the base of the transition zone. One possible resolution for this is if the MgSiO₃ polymorph akimotoite replaces majoritic garnet in some regions of the transition zone, which occurs in peridotitic material if temperatures are slightly lower than a typical geotherm or in harzburgitic composition material. Its presence might serve as an explanation not only for the discrepancy of seismic velocities at the base of the transition zone but also for observations of transition zone seismic anisotropy in regions of current subduction. In order to provide the data required to test this possibility, two high-quality single-crystals of MgSiO₃ akimotoite were studied using combined Brillouin spectroscopy and X-ray diffraction up to 24.86(3) GPa, i.e. to the limit of the akimotoite stability field. The resulting equation of state yields an adiabatic bulk modulus and first pressure derivative of $K_{S0} = 209(2)$ GPa and $K' = 4.4(1)$, respectively, and a shear modulus and first pressure derivative of $G_0 = 131(1)$ and $G' = 1.7(1)$. This is in overall agreement with several experimental and computational studies, however, the resulting aggregate velocities are slower than previously reported, especially at high pressures. The elastic anisotropy of akimotoite is found to decrease only slightly with pressure; akimotoite hence remains the most elastically anisotropic mineral in the transition zone and may therefore play a major role in explaining seismic anisotropy observations in the proximity of subducting slabs.

30 **Keywords:** Akimotoite, elasticity, anisotropy, Brillouin spectroscopy, high-pressure,
31 transition zone

32

33 **1 Introduction**

34 The Earth's transition zone between 410 and 660 km depth is of particular interest since
35 it marks a region of transitional seismic wave velocities that arises due to pressure induced
36 mineral phase transitions. Mineralogical models for a peridotitic bulk mantle composition are
37 not in good agreement with seismic reference models for transition zone seismic velocities
38 (Dziewonski and Anderson, 1981; Kennett et al., 1995), particularly at its base, since the elastic
39 parameters of the two main minerals stable at these conditions, ringwoodite and majoritic
40 garnet, give rise to slower compressional and shear wave velocities (Irifune et al., 2008; Pamato
41 et al., 2016). Several tomographic studies have reported the stagnation and accumulation of slab
42 material at the 660 km-discontinuity that could significantly lower the average temperature in
43 some areas relative to the mantle geotherm (e.g. Fukao et al., 2009, 2001; Fukao and Obayashi,
44 2013; Van Der Hilst et al., 1991). Lower temperatures would correspond to high wave velocities
45 in mineralogical models that may well produce a better fit to the global seismic reference
46 models. However, in this cooler environment, majoritic garnet may be partially replaced by
47 akimotoite (Gasparik, 1990; Hirose, 2002; Ishii et al., 2011; Kato, 1986; Ohtani et al., 1991;
48 Sawamoto, 1987), a MgSiO_3 polymorph that crystallizes in the trigonal system with space
49 group $R\bar{3}$ and which is stable between 18 and 25 GPa and 900 to 2200 K. An even greater
50 proportion of akimotoite would be formed within harzburgitic compositions that might result
51 from the accumulation of subducted lithospheric mantle at the base of the transition zone
52 (Irifune and Ringwood, 1987; Zhang et al., 2013; Ishii et al., 2019). Harzburgitic material may
53 also be present above subducting slabs as residues of sub arc melting are dragged into the
54 subduction zone.

55 In spite of the potential importance of this mineral, very few studies have been focused
56 on constraining its elastic behavior. Only one experimental study, to date, has examined the full
57 elastic tensor of MgSiO_3 akimotoite at room pressure and temperature (Weidner and Ito, 1985).
58 This previous Brillouin spectroscopy study is the only elasticity measurement performed on an
59 akimotoite single-crystal. Two studies have examined akimotoite compressibility using
60 polycrystalline samples; one at room temperature using a diamond anvil cell (DAC) up to 28
61 GPa, with H_2O as the pressure transmitting medium (Reynard et al., 1996), and the other using

62 a large volume press and synchrotron radiation up to 19 GPa and 1373 K (Wang et al., 2004).
63 Both of these studies, however, fixed the value of the akimotoite bulk modulus, K_{70} , to the value
64 reported by Weidner and Ito (1985) and fitted only the first pressure derivative of the bulk
65 modulus, K'_{70} . A more recent study (Zhou et al., 2014) successfully determined both bulk and
66 shear moduli of MgSiO₃ akimotoite by means of ultrasonic measurements performed in a
67 multianvil apparatus on a polycrystalline akimotoite sample up to the actual stability field of
68 akimotoite, 25.7 GPa and 1500 K. Some discrepancies exist, however, between the multianvil
69 experiments of Zhou et al. (2014) and previous compression, Brillouin and computational (Da
70 Silva et al., 1999; Hao et al., 2019) studies (Table 1). Computational and experimental studies
71 agree, however, that the wave velocities of akimotoite are faster than those expected for
72 majoritic garnet (Pamato et al., 2016) and ringwoodite (Schulze et al., 2018). The presence of
73 akimotoite might, therefore, bring mineralogical models for the seismic velocities of mantle
74 compositions at the base of the transition zone into agreement with the predictions of seismic
75 reference models, if the discrepancies in elastic properties observed between previous studies
76 can be resolved.

77 **Insert Table 1**

78 The potential presence of akimotoite in subducted lithospheric mantle may also be a
79 consideration when trying to explain observations of seismic anisotropy in the lower part of the
80 transition zone and upper part of the lower mantle. The base of the transition zone should be
81 nearly isotropic because the dominant minerals, ringwoodite and majoritic garnet, display little
82 to no elastic anisotropy (e.g. Mainprice, 2015). However, studies of normal modes and surface
83 waves (Montagner and Kennett, 1996; Trampert and Van Heijst, 2002; Yuan and Beghein,
84 2013) as well as of source-side wave splitting (Nowacki et al., 2015) show varying degrees of
85 anisotropy in the transition zone and upper lower mantle around subduction zones. Akimotoite
86 is a highly anisotropic mineral at room pressure (Weidner and Ito, 1985) and *ab initio*
87 simulations and molecular dynamics studies (Da Silva et al., 1999; Hao et al., 2019; Zhang et
88 al., 2005) show that this anisotropy is still pronounced at high-pressures and temperatures.
89 Zhang et al. (2005) incorporated the calculated anisotropy of akimotoite into a modelled phase
90 assemblage consisting of akimotoite, ringwoodite and Ca-perovskite and found that the overall
91 wave velocity anisotropy, albeit smaller, had the same anisotropic features of those reported for
92 akimotoite. Shiraishi et al. (2008) investigated the crystallographic preferred orientation (CPO)
93 of akimotoite recovered from deformation experiments at high pressures and temperatures.
94 They observed a change in CPO pattern with temperature at a given pressure, which may

95 explain the anisotropic features observed in the Northern and Southern segments of the Tonga
96 slab. However, their results are only qualitative, given that they used the elastic tensor of
97 akimotoite measured at room pressure (Weidner and Ito, 1985) to explain the akimotoite CPO.
98 In fact, no experimental constraints on the variation of the elastic tensor with pressure exist to
99 date. The discrepancy between aggregate wave velocities calculated from ab initio simulations
100 (Da Silva et al., 1999; Hao et al., 2019) and those obtained from ultrasonic measurements (Zhou
101 et al., 2014), means that some uncertainty remains as to the extent of anisotropy of akimotoite
102 at pressures of the transition zone.

103 In this study the full elastic tensor of MgSiO₃ akimotoite has been obtained up to ~25
104 GPa by means of Brillouin spectroscopy and single-crystal X-ray diffraction. The stiffness
105 coefficients have then been used to calculate both aggregate velocities and the anisotropy
106 behavior of akimotoite as a function of pressure. The use of a single-crystal under quasi-
107 hydrostatic conditions has the advantage of avoiding any preferred orientation, which may arise
108 in powdered samples, and thus provides strong constraints for the ultimate interpretation of
109 regions of the transition zone exhibiting seismic anisotropy. By performing measurements to
110 that determine elastic moduli and density simultaneously, absolute pressure determinations can
111 be made without the need for secondary pressure standards.

112

113 **2 Methods**

114 **2.1 Sample synthesis and characterization**

115 The starting material for synthesizing large MgSiO₃ akimotoite single-crystals was
116 produced by mixing two synthetic oxides MgO and SiO₂ in 1:1 proportion and grinding them
117 under ethanol for 1 h to obtain a homogeneous mixture. This mixture was then placed into a Pt
118 crucible and heated in a high-temperature furnace up to 1600 °C where it was kept for 3 h. The
119 starting material was then rapidly quenched in an icy water bath to obtain a glass. The glass
120 was ground again for 1h under ethanol and heated at 1200 °C for 2 h to crystallize enstatite.
121 The crystallized starting material was further mixed with 15 wt.% excess MgO to avoid the
122 growth of stishovite crystals when silicate is dissolving incongruently in the solvent material as
123 reported by Shatskiy et al. (2007). The starting mixture was filled into a 3.5 mm long Pt capsule
124 and a drop of H₂O was added as flux material to enhance crystal growth. The Pt capsule was
125 welded carefully with a Lampert PUK U3 welding device in micro mode (power: 7 %, time: 3-

126 5 ms) to prevent the leakage of the solvent or melt produced during the experiment. A 10/4
127 assembly was used consisting of a 10 mm edge-length MgO octahedron doped with Cr₂O₃
128 acting as pressure medium and 4 mm truncated WC anvils. The Pt capsule was placed into a
129 MgO sleeve to separate the sample from the LaCrO₃ furnace. In addition, a ZrO₂ sleeve was
130 placed between the LaCrO₃ heater and the octahedron acting as a thermal insulator. No
131 thermocouple was used due to the length of the Pt capsule; however, a reliable power-
132 temperature relationship was used from previously conducted experiments performed at exactly
133 the same *P-T* conditions. The synthesis experiment was performed at 22 GPa and ~1600 °C
134 (estimated from a power-temperature relationship) in the 1200t Sumitomo split-sphere multi-
135 anvil apparatus at the Bayerisches Geoinstitut, University of Bayreuth and was heated for 4 h,
136 followed by quenching and slow decompression. The recovered capsule was carefully opened
137 revealing a mixture of crystallized melt together with crystals up to 500 μm in size. The
138 akimotoite crystals were characterized using a LEO 1530 scanning electron microscope (SEM)
139 operated at 20 kV in order to observe the possible presence of stishovite inclusions inside the
140 crystals. Quantitative chemical analyses were performed on a JEOL JXA-8200 electron
141 microprobe (EMP) operating at 15 kV and 15 nA with a focused beam. Sample and background
142 were collected for 20 s and 10 s, respectively. Enstatite was used as a standard for both Mg and
143 Si. Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) measurements on one single-crystal
144 oriented parallel to the (100) plane and polished to a thickness of 59 μm were performed to
145 investigate its possible water content. The measurement was performed using a Bruker IFS 120
146 high-resolution FTIR Spectrometer coupled with a Bruker A490 IR microscope. A tungsten
147 light source was used in combination with a CaF₂ beam splitter coated with Si and a high-
148 sensitivity, narrow-band MCT detector. An aperture of 0.45 mm at 15x magnification produced
149 a spot size of 30 μm on the measured sample. The spectral range between 2500 to 5000 cm⁻¹
150 has been investigated with 1000 scans of 4 cm⁻¹ resolutions. One unpolarized and two polarized
151 FTIR spectra, one parallel to the *c*-axis and one perpendicular to the *c*-axis, were collected
152 (Figure S1). The true thickness of the polished crystal used for the measurements was measured
153 using the optical microscope calibrated with a metal foil reference. The collected absorbance
154 FTIR spectra were corrected using as baseline a spline fit through points outside the OH band
155 region. The hydroxyl concentration was then calculated by numerical integrating the baseline-
156 corrected absorbance bands using the calibration reported by Paterson (1982):

157

158

$$c_{OH} = \frac{X_i}{150\zeta} \int \frac{K(\tilde{\nu})}{(3780 - \tilde{\nu})} d\tilde{\nu}$$

159

160 where $X_i = 2361$ ppm wt H₂O is the density factor for MgSiO₃-akimotoite (Bolfan-Casanova et
 161 al., 2000), ζ is an orientation factor and $K(\tilde{\nu})$ is the absorption coefficient for a given
 162 wavenumber $\tilde{\nu}$. For uniaxial minerals the orientation factor ζ is equivalent to $c_{OH} = 2c_{\omega} + c_{\varepsilon}$
 163 where c_{ω} and c_{ε} are the concentrations measured perpendicular and parallel to the c -axis of
 164 akimotoite (see for details Bolfan-Casanova et al. 2000). The FTIR measurements resulted in a
 165 hydroxyl content of 281 ppm wt. H₂O. This fairly negligible amount of water is in agreement
 166 with the results reported by Bolfan-Casanova et al. (2000) who measured between 351(25) ppm
 167 and 425 ppm wt. H₂O in akimotoite single-crystals synthesized in water saturated environments
 168 at temperatures between 1573 and 1873 K and pressures between 19 and 24 GPa.

169

170

2.2 Sample preparation for high-pressure experiments

171

172 Three large (~100-200 μ m) single-crystals of akimotoite (X1, X2 and X3) were selected
 173 based on their sharp diffraction profiles (full width at half maximum in omega scans less than
 174 0.08°) using an Oxford Diffraction Xcalibur diffractometer equipped with MoK α radiation (λ
 175 = 0.70937 Å) operated at 50 kV and 40 mA, a graphite monochromator and a Sapphire 2 CCD
 176 area detector and a Huber four-circle Eulerian cradle diffractometer equipped with an
 177 unmonochromated Mo radiation source operated at 50 kV and 40 mA and a point detector. The
 178 crystals were oriented on three different planes, i.e. (0.43 -3.28 8.91) for X1, (-3.08 4.60 -2.36)
 179 for X2 and (0 0 1) for X3 and double-sided polished to a thickness of 15(1) μ m. The polished
 180 crystals were then cut into half circles of 88 - 90 μ m in diameter using a Focused Ion Beam
 181 machine FEI Scios DualBeam equipped with a Ga⁺ ion beam at 20 kV and 0.80 nA. Crystals
 182 X1 and X2 were loaded together (inset in Figure 1) into a BX90 style diamond anvil cell (DAC)
 183 (Kantor et al., 2012) using diamonds with 400 μ m culet size glued into Böhler-Almax seats
 184 having an opening angle of 90°. A Re gasket was pre-indented to a thickness of ~ 60 μ m and a
 185 hole with a diameter of 230 μ m was laser-cut into the center of the indentation. A small ruby
 186 sphere was placed next to the crystals for use as a pressure marker during the experiment, for
 187 which the ruby fluorescence pressure calibration reported by Dewaele et al. (2004) was used.
 188 Neon was gas-loaded as a quasi-hydrostatic pressure transmitting medium (Kurnosov et al.,
 2008). After each pressure increase the DAC was left to stabilize for at least one day to avoid

189 any pressure changes during the XRD and Brillouin measurements. In addition, the ruby
190 fluorescence was measured before and after each XRD and Brillouin measurement using a
191 Raman micro-spectrometer equipped with a He-Ne-laser ($\lambda = 632.8$ nm) with 20 mW laser
192 power. Crystal X3 was measured by means of Brillouin spectroscopy only at room conditions.

193

194 2.3 High-pressure experiments

195 Simultaneous high-pressure single-crystal X-ray diffraction and Brillouin spectroscopy
196 measurements were performed using an in-house BGI facility. This consists of a Huber four-
197 circle Eulerian cradle diffractometer with a point detector coupled with a MoK α rotating anode
198 Rigaku X-ray source equipped with a VaryMax focusing optic (Trots et al., 2011) and a
199 Brillouin system comprising a 532 nm solid-state laser, a multi-pass tandem Fabry-Pérot
200 interferometer and a Hamamatsu single photon counting module H11202-050 (Trots et al.,
201 2013). Nine individual Bragg reflections were collected for each crystal using the eight-position
202 centering method (King and Finger, 1979) implemented in the SINGLE software (Angel and
203 Finger, 2011). The unit-cell lattice parameters (Table 2) were obtained at 13 pressure points up
204 to 12.1(1) GPa in a first experiment (DAC1). The experiment was then interrupted due to
205 broadening of the Bragg reflections of crystal X2. In a second experiment (DAC2), the unit-
206 cell lattice parameters were measured at 14 pressure points up to 24.9(1) GPa (Table 2). A slight
207 broadening of the Bragg reflections was observed for both crystals above 14 GPa, therefore the
208 DAC was placed on a heating plate at 200 °C for 30 minutes. The pressure inside the DAC
209 dropped to ~11 GPa, and the reflections became sharper again and remained sharp until the
210 maximum pressure was reached.

211 **Insert Table 2**

212 Brillouin spectra for crystals X1 and X2 were collected at eleven pressure points up to 24.9(1)
213 GPa, whereas at room conditions Brillouin spectra were collected separately for crystals X1
214 and X3. Twenty different chi orientations were measured at each pressure point and for each
215 sample. A Brillouin spectrum collected at 4 GPa for crystal X2 is shown in Figure 1 as an
216 example. Note that the signals from the neon pressure transmitting medium are also present
217 together with the longitudinal, v_P and two shear, v_{S1} and v_{S2} , acoustic wave velocities of the
218 akimotoite crystal. With increasing pressure, the longitudinal signal of akimotoite approached
219 the large secondary signal of the diamond, thus, an aperture mask (width: 5 mm) was used to

220 filter out the tails of the diamond peaks to allow the observation of the sample signals at higher
 221 pressures. Each spectrum was collected for at least 30 min and up to 12 hours, depending on
 222 the orientation of the sample and the signal to noise ratio. The measured frequency shifts were
 223 directly converted into acoustic wave velocities using the calibration obtained at ambient
 224 conditions from the measurement of a fused silica standard. The Brillouin signals were analyzed
 225 using the program Brillouin Win1024 version 2.6.3 written by S. Sinogeikin. The seven
 226 independent stiffness coefficients of akimotoite expressed in Voigt notation, c_{11} , c_{33} , c_{44} , c_{12} ,
 227 c_{13} , c_{14} , c_{25} , were obtained by fitting the variation with azimuthal chi angle of the three acoustic
 228 velocities at each pressure point using the Christoffel equation $|c_{ijkl}q_jq_l - \rho v^2 \delta_{ik}| = 0$ with
 229 c_{ijkl} being the elastic coefficients, $q_{j,l}$ the crystallographic orientation of each single-crystals, ρ
 230 the density obtained by means of X-ray diffraction and δ_{ik} the Kronecker delta. The absolute
 231 pressure could be calculated since density and the adiabatic bulk modulus are determined
 232 simultaneously by X-ray diffraction and Brillouin spectroscopy, respectively, without having
 233 to rely on the pressure determined from a secondary pressure gauge, as the ruby sphere used in
 234 this study. The absolute pressure was calculated according to:

$$P_{abs} = - \int_{V_0}^V \frac{K_T(V)}{V} dV = 3K_{T0}f(1 + 2f)^{\frac{5}{2}}(1 + \frac{3}{2}(K'_{T0} - 4)f)$$

237 with

$$f = \frac{1}{2} \left[\left(\frac{V_0}{V_P} \right)^{\frac{2}{3}} - 1 \right]$$

239 and transforming the adiabatic bulk modulus obtained from Brillouin spectroscopy to
 240 isothermal according to the $K_{S0} = K_{T0} * (1 + \alpha\gamma T)$ with $\alpha = 2.44 \times 10^{-5}$ 1/K (Ashida et al.,
 241 1988), $\gamma = 1.18$ (Stixrude and Lithgow-Bertelloni, 2005) and $T = 298$ K. A comparison between
 242 the absolute pressure and the pressures determined from the ruby fluorescence shift using the
 243 calibration reported by Dewaele et al. (2004) is plotted in Figure S2. The two pressures are in
 244 agreement within 2.5 % uncertainty of the ruby pressure scale up to 25 GPa. The fitting
 245 procedure is implemented into an Origin 2018 program as described in details by Buchen
 246 (2018). The elastic tensor of akimotoite (Table 3) was then used in the software package Anis2k
 247 (Mainprice, 1990) to calculate the distribution of the velocity anisotropies for P and S-waves
 248 up to pressures of the Earth's transition zone.

249 **Insert Figure 1 and Table 3**

250

251 **3 Results and Discussion**

252 3.1 Compressibility of MgSiO₃ akimotoite

253 The variation with pressure of the unit-cell lattice parameters and volumes (Table 2)
254 normalized with respect to their measured room pressure values are reported for both crystals
255 investigated in this study in Figures 2a and b. MgSiO₃ akimotoite is much more compressible
256 along the *c*-axis giving rise to a very anisotropic axial compressibility. A Birch-Murnaghan
257 third-order equation of state (BM3 EoS) has been used to fit the *P*-*V* data of both crystals using
258 the EoSFit7GUI program (Angel et al., 2014). The resulting EoS parameters are, $V_0 =$
259 $262.43(2) \text{ \AA}^3$, $K_{T0} = 205(1) \text{ GPa}$ and $K' = 4.9(2)$ (Table 1). Linearized BM3 EoS have been used
260 to fit the variation of the *a*- and *c*-axes with pressure and the resulting EoS parameters are: $a_0 =$
261 $4.7277(2) \text{ \AA}$, $M_{0a} = 728(6) \text{ GPa}$, $M_{0a}' = 16.0(7)$ and $c_0 = 13.5580(3) \text{ \AA}$, $M_{0c} = 470(2) \text{ GPa}$,
262 $M_{0c}' = 12.6(3)$. As expected, the axial modulus for the *a*-axis is much larger than that obtained
263 for the *c*-axis, however, the anisotropy in axial compressibility decreases slightly with pressure
264 (Figure S3), in agreement with the elastic anisotropy, as discussed later.

265 **Insert Figure 2a and b**

266 The unit-cell lattice parameters reported by Reynard et al. (1996), Wang et al. (2004)
267 and Zhou et al. (2014) normalized with respect to their corresponding room pressure values are
268 compared to the single-crystal akimotoite data obtained in the present study in Figure 2. The
269 compressibilities of the *a*-axis reported by Reynard et al. (1996) and Wang et al. (2004) are
270 stiffer than the compressibility found in this study (Figure 2a). The *c*-axis reported by Wang et
271 al. (2004) is, however, more compressible than the one found in this study leading to a
272 comparable compressibility of the volume data (Figure 2b). The compressibility of the *c*-axis
273 reported by Reynard et al. (1996) instead is comparable to that described in this study, which,
274 combined with the stiffer *a*-axis, leads to an overall stiffer volume compressibility (Figure 2b).
275 It is likely that non-hydrostatic stresses were developed inside the DAC experiment of Reynard
276 et al. (1996) due to the use of H₂O as pressure transmitting medium, which transforms to ice
277 VII above 2.5 GPa and may, therefore, produce non-hydrostatic conditions above this pressure
278 (Angel et al., 2005). The *P*-*V* data reported by Reynard et al. (1996) and Wang et al. (2004) can
279 be refitted using a 2nd-order Birch-Murnaghan (BM2) EoS, with K' fixed to 4, using the

280 EoSfitGUI software (Angel et al., 2014), to account for the fact that in these two studies K_{70}
281 had been fixed to the value reported by Weidner and Ito (1985). Fixing the bulk modulus values
282 in this way will strongly bias the value of K' determined due to the large correlations between
283 these two parameters. Due to the data scatter, it was not possible to fit a BM3 to the literature
284 data, further suggesting that the values of K' cannot be constrained from these experiments. The
285 refitted $K_{70} = 212(15)$ GPa, (Table 1), for the data of Wang et al. (2004) is slightly larger than
286 the value obtained in this study whereas the refitted value for the data of Reynard et al. (1996)
287 is the largest, $K_{70} = 228(8)$ GPa, as expected due to the stiffer behavior observed. The volume
288 data reported by Zhou et al. (2014) are in good agreement with the data collected in this study,
289 although a larger value of K_{50} and a smaller K' (Table 1) are found, arising from the relatively
290 high values of v_P collected in their ultrasonic experiments (see next section).

291

292 3.2 Wave velocities of MgSiO₃ akimotoite

293 The c_{ij} coefficients (Table 3) obtained at ambient pressure are in good agreement with
294 the c_{ij} determined by Weidner and Ito (1985) (Figure S4), although the values of c_{11} , c_{33} and c_{12}
295 are between 3% and 9% larger than the values obtained in this study. Note, moreover, that the
296 c_{14} reported in this study is positive whereas that reported by Weidner and Ito (1985) is negative.
297 This is most likely due to a different setting used for the transformation from the trigonal system
298 of akimotoite to the orthogonal system used to describe the acoustic wave velocity directions.
299 Weidner and Ito (1985) do not report which setting they have used, but from the analysis of the
300 velocity anisotropy (see next section), it is very likely that these authors have chosen the
301 crystallographic a -axis to be parallel the orthogonal X-axis, whereas in this study we have
302 chosen the a^* to be parallel to X. Most of the stiffness coefficients increase monotonously with
303 increasing density (Figure S4), except for c_{14} and c_{25} , which decrease with pressure.

304 Knowledge of the compliance tensor s_{ij} 's, obtained through inverting the elastic tensor,
305 allows the calculation of the axial compressibility β according $\beta_1 = s_{11} + s_{12} + s_{13}$ and
306 $\beta_3 = s_{31} + s_{32} + s_{33}$ where β_1 and β_3 are the axial compressibility for the a - and c -axis,
307 respectively. This can be directly compared to the linear compressibility obtained by X-ray
308 diffraction (see section 3.1) following $\beta = \frac{1}{M}$. The compressibility for both the a - and c -axes
309 determined independently from the two different methods are shown in Figure S3 and are in
310 excellent agreement.

311 The Reuss and Voigt bounds (Nye, 1985) of the bulk and shear moduli were calculated
312 using the c_{ij} 's and the compliance coefficients s_{ij} 's are shown in Figure 3 as a function of
313 density. As proposed by (Watt et al., 1976), the arithmetic average has been used to calculate
314 the Reuss-Voigt-Hill average (Hill, 1952), which represents the aggregate bulk and shear
315 moduli of a composite material. These values are also indicated in Figure 3 (black symbols).
316 The adiabatic bulk modulus of 208(1) GPa obtained from Brillouin spectroscopy is in excellent
317 agreement with the adiabatic bulk modulus calculated from the isothermal bulk modulus
318 obtained from fitting the P - V data (see Table 1 for details).

319 **Insert Figure 3**

320 The aggregate compressional and shear wave velocities, were calculated following the
321 Adams-Williamson relations $v_P = \sqrt{\frac{K+4/3G}{\rho}}$ and $v_S = \sqrt{\frac{G}{\rho}}$, respectively, by using the elastic
322 moduli determined with the Reuss-Voigt-Hill average and density measured using single-
323 crystal X-ray diffraction on the same crystals (Figure 4). The difference between the Reuss and
324 Voigt bounds for both the longitudinal and shear wave velocities are ~ 0.3 km/s and decrease
325 slightly with increasing pressure indicating a decrease in anisotropy (Figure 4). The values
326 obtained by Weidner and Ito (1985) (blue triangles in Figure 4) are slightly faster than the RVH
327 average velocities determined in this study as expected from the larger values for their c_{11} , c_{33}
328 and c_{12} coefficients (Figure S4). The shear wave velocities (green circles in Figure 4) obtained
329 by Zhou et al. (2014) by means of ultrasonic measurements are in agreement with those reported
330 in this study at pressures below 17 GPa, but become faster at higher pressure due to their larger
331 pressure derivative. Moreover, the v_P reported in this previous study have not only a steeper
332 slope but are faster at all pressures and even exceed the Voigt bound determined in this study
333 (Figure 4). The discrepancy could be due to the presence of preferential orientation in the
334 polycrystalline sample of Zhou et al. (2014), evolved either during synthesis or during the high-
335 pressure heating cycles as ultrasonic measurements were performed. This would require the
336 akimotoite crystals to be preferentially aligned with the a -axis along the wave propagation
337 direction, since v_P would then be faster but the summation of v_{S1} and v_{S2} in the basal plane would
338 lead to very little effect on the aggregate v_S (see Figure S5). Note that this would actually be
339 consistent with crystal preferred orientation study of Shiraishi et al. (2008) who report that
340 akimotoite crystals deformed at temperatures below 1273 K indeed have the c -axis oriented
341 perpendicular to the compression direction. Da Silva et al. (1999) conducted a computational
342 study on MgSiO_3 akimotoite using the ab initio pseudo-potential method and obtained

343 longitudinal and shear wave velocities (purple lines in Figure 4) which lie very close to the
 344 Voigt bound of the current study. Their pressure dependence is not as steep as that shown in
 345 the current study, moreover, the room pressure bulk and shear moduli reported by Da Silva et
 346 al. (1999) are much larger (Table 1), likely due to the fact that the study has been performed at
 347 0 K. A very recent study (Hao et al., 2019) (pink lines in Figure 4) used density functional
 348 theory to compute the elastic parameters of akimotoite up to 30 GPa and 2000 K and reported
 349 a $K_{T0} = 202$ GPa and $G_0 = 126$ GPa at 298 K (Table 1) resulting in v_P and v_S that are slower
 350 than those experimentally determined in this study and close to the Reuss bound at pressures
 351 consistent with akimotoite stability.

352 **Insert Figure 4**

353

354 3.3 Anisotropic behavior of MgSiO₃ akimotoite at transition zone pressures

355 The velocity distributions along the different propagation directions for akimotoite at
 356 room pressure and at 24.9(1) GPa are shown in Figures S3 and S4. In comparison to the velocity
 357 distribution determined in this study, the ones obtained using the elastic coefficients by Weidner
 358 and Ito (1985) are rotated clockwise by 30° as expected given the different crystallographic
 359 setting used (Figure S5, right) as described above. The fastest velocities do not travel along the
 360 crystallographic axes, in fact they lie inclined relative to the (001) and (100) planes. Among
 361 the slowest velocities, only v_{S2} travels along the crystallographic c -axis. In the (001) plane
 362 perpendicular to the c -axis, the v_P velocities vary very little at room pressure, whereas in the
 363 same plane the $A_{v_{SP}}$ is very large. These results are in agreement with a molecular dynamics
 364 study of Zhang et al. (2005) and with the ab-initio study of Da Silva et al. (1999). With
 365 increasing pressure to 25 GPa, the difference between the maximum and minimum velocities
 366 decrease gradually, however, the overall distribution of the fastest and slowest velocities as well
 367 as the anisotropies remains the same (Figures S3 and S4). This in excellent agreement with the
 368 results presented by Zhang et al. (2005) calculated at 1300 K and 25 GPa.

369 From the velocity distribution along different propagation directions (Figure S5 and S6), the v_P
 370 and v_S anisotropy, $A_{v_P}, A_{v_S}(\%) = 200 \left(\frac{v_{max} - v_{min}}{v_{max} + v_{min}} \right)$ as well as the S-wave polarization
 371 anisotropy, $A_{v_{SP}}(\%) = \left(\frac{v_{S1} - v_{S2}}{v_{S1} + v_{S2}} \right)$, have been calculated using the Anis2k program (Mainprice,
 372 1990) and plotted against pressure in Figure 5. $A_{v_{SP}}$ is roughly 1.5 times larger than A_{v_P} ,

373 moreover, both anisotropies smoothly decrease with increasing pressure from 32 to 26 % and
374 from 19 to 13 %, respectively. At pressures of the akimotoite stability field, between
375 approximately 21 and 24 GPa, however, the degree of anisotropy is still significant and greater
376 than any other transition zone mineral, implying that akimotoite could still be the source of
377 anisotropy in the lower transition zone noted in some seismic studies. The A_{VP} and A_{VSP}
378 anisotropies at room pressure calculated from the elastic tensor by Weidner and Ito (1985) are
379 slightly larger (21 and 35 %) than the anisotropies determined in this study (19 and 32 %). The
380 computational study by Zhang et al. (2005) reports a A_{VSP} ~2 % larger at room pressure (green
381 lines in Figure 5) but with a more pronounced decrease with pressure, whereas A_{VP} which is 3
382 % smaller, decreases with pressure, but above 15 GPa starts to increase again. Da Silva et al.
383 (1999) (purple lines in Figure 5) report smaller A_{VP} and A_{VSP} by ~3 and 5 %, respectively,
384 however, their data show a similar behavior with pressure as reported in this study. Quite good
385 agreement is found with the computational study of Hao et al. (2019) (pink in Figure 5). Both
386 A_{VP} and A_{VSP} of Hao et al. (2019) calculated at 300 K are less than 1.5 % different from those
387 obtained in this study and have a similar trend as a function of pressure. The high temperature
388 computations of Zhang et al. (2005) and Hao et al. (2019) indicate an increase in A_{VP} and A_{VSP}
389 at room pressure.

390 **Insert Figure 5**

391 By a pressure of 21-24 GPa, however, where akimotoite is stable, the results of Hao et al. (2019)
392 indicate that A_{VP} is essentially independent of temperature, at least up to 2000 K at 25 GPa,
393 whereas at the same pressures A_{VSP} decreases by ~5 % at 2000 K (from ~25 % to ~20 %). Given
394 the relatively small predicted effect of temperature, akimotoite will remain the mineral with the
395 potential to display the highest seismic anisotropy near the base of the transition zone, as clearly
396 visible in Figure 6, where a comparison is made with wadsleyite (Buchen et al., 2018),
397 ringwoodite and Fe-bearing ringwoodite with 1.71 wt.% water (Schulze et al., 2018) and
398 bridgmanite (Criniti et al., in revision).

399 **Insert Figure 6**

400 Deformation experiments on akimotoite have reported a temperature dependent fabric
401 transition at approximately 1100 °C (Shiraishi et al., 2008). The CPO pattern reported at 1000
402 °C shows alignment of the c -axis perpendicular to the compression direction, whereas at 1300
403 °C it becomes subparallel (Shiraishi et al., 2008). This will give rise to a significant change in
404 the P-wave velocity since its value is faster in the basal plane and much slower along the c -axis

405 (Figure S5, S6). The temperature-dependent CPO pattern of akimotoite may, therefore, be a
406 plausible cause for the spatial variation of seismic anisotropy within the Tonga subducting slab
407 (Shiraishi et al., 2008), for example, without the need of invoking other factors such as
408 preferential orientation of inhomogeneities within the slab (Vavryčuk, 2006). On the other
409 hand, it has been questioned whether the relatively low strains expected in the interiors of
410 subducting slabs would be sufficient to produce suitably strong CPO in akimotoite-bearing
411 rocks to cause detectible seismic anisotropy (Faccenda et al., 2014).

412

413 **4 Conclusions**

414 1) For the first time, the equation of state of the MgSiO_3 akimotoite end-member has been
415 determined using a high-quality single-crystal of akimotoite up to pressures compatible with
416 the base of the transition zone, i.e. to the pressure of the akimotoite stability. Both bulk and
417 axial compressibility have been investigated and compared to literature data. The refined
418 isothermal bulk modulus, K_T , of 205(1) GPa is smaller than those determined in
419 compression studies on polycrystalline samples. The anisotropy in axial compressibility of
420 akimotoite decreases slightly with pressure, in agreement with the elastic anisotropy.

421

422 2) The full elastic tensor of MgSiO_3 akimotoite has been experimentally determined using a
423 combination of Brillouin spectroscopy and single-crystal X-ray diffraction in a diamond
424 anvil cell up to 25 GPa. The room pressure data are in good agreement with the results
425 presented by Weidner and Ito (1985). Compressional and shear wave velocities were
426 compared to literature data and were found to be slower than wave velocities determined
427 using ultrasonic interferometry in the multi-anvil press, particularly in v_P . Compared to
428 computational studies, the aggregate velocities were slightly faster (Da Silva et al., 1999)
429 or slower (Hao et al., 2019) but still within the Reuss and Voigt bounds obtained in this
430 study. The axial compressibilities calculated from s_{ij} 's from the Brillouin data are in
431 excellent agreement with respect to X-ray diffraction data both determined in this study.

432

433 3) The determined stiffness coefficients allow the elastic anisotropy behavior of akimotoite to
434 be calculated up to pressures of its stability field. Pressure decreases only slightly the elastic
435 anisotropy, leaving MgSiO_3 akimotoite to be the most elastically anisotropic mineral in the
436 transition zone. It may, therefore, play a prominent role in causing seismic anisotropy
437 in and around subducting slabs at the base of the transition zone.

438

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614 **Tables**

615 **Table 1.** Elastic moduli obtained in this study from X-ray diffraction (XRD) and Brillouin spectroscopy (BS). For comparison, the parameters
616 determined using XRD by Weidner and Ito (1985), Reynard et al. (1996), Wang et al. (2004) and Zhou et al. (2014) as well as the refitted parameters
617 using a BM3 EoS are listed. Furthermore, the elastic moduli determined from three computational studies (Da Silva et al., 1999; Zhang et al., 2005;
618 Hao et al., 2019) are reported.

	V_0 (Å ³)	K_{T0} (GPa)	K_{S0} (GPa)	K'	G_0 (GPa)	G'
This study - XRD	262.43(2)	205(1)	207 ^a	4.9(2)		
This study – BS			209(2)	4.4(1)	131(1)	1.7(1)
Weidner and Ito (1985)	263.56		212	-	132	-
Reynard et al. (1996)	262.17(49)	212 ^b		5.6(10)		
Reynard et al. (1996) refitted	262.0(3)	228(8)		4		
Wang et al. (2004)	263.9(2)	210 ^b		5.6(8)		
Wang et al. (2004) refitted	264.4(9)	212(15)		4		
Zhou et al. (2014)	262.53(5)		219.4(7)	4.62(3)	132.1(7)	1.63(4)
Da Silva et al. (1999) ^c		222		4.5	144	1.6
Zhang et al. (2005)		221	226	3.85	136	1.04
Hao et al. (2019) - EoS	261.83	211		4.37		
Hao et al. (2019) – DFT			202		126	

619 Note: the refitted parameters have been obtained from the reported P - V data using the EoSFit program

620 ^a value recalculated using $K_{S0} = K_{T0} * (1 + \alpha\gamma T)$ with $\alpha = 2.44 \times 10^{-5}$ 1/K (Ashida et al., 1988), $\gamma = 1.18$ (Stixrude & Lithgow-Bertelloni, 2005), $T = 298$ K

621 ^b Reynard et al. (1996) and Wang et al. (2004) fixed the value of K_{T0} using the value of K_{S0} from Weidner and Ito (1985)

622 ^c Data from Da Silva et al. (1999) are at 0 K and 0 GPa

623 **Table 2.** Unit-cell lattice parameters of crystals X1 and X2 measured in the two DAC
624 experiments up to 24.9(1) GPa. The pressure reported was calculated using the ruby
625 fluorescence lines following Dewaele et al. (2004).

P _{ruby} (GPa)	X1			X2		
	<i>a</i> (Å)	<i>c</i> (Å)	<i>V</i> (Å ³)	<i>a</i> (Å)	<i>c</i> (Å)	<i>V</i> (Å ³)
<i>DAC1</i>						
0.0001(1)	4.7275(5)	13.5578(12)	262.41(6)	4.7274(3)	13.5577(2)	262.40(3)
0.60(5)	4.7238(3)	13.5391(8)	261.64(4)	4.7236(3)	13.5414(2)	261.66(3)
1.10(1)	4.7210(4)	13.5257(10)	261.07(4)	4.7206(3)	13.5274(2)	261.06(3)
2.07(11)	4.7142(2)	13.4981(5)	259.79(2)	4.7142(3)	13.4998(3)	259.82(3)
3.93(1)	4.7031(2)	13.4488(4)	257.62(2)	4.7032(3)	13.4507(2)	257.67(3)
4.07(1)	4.7030(3)	13.4476(6)	257.59(3)	4.7030(3)	13.4489(2)	257.61(3)
6.20(6)	4.6899(3)	13.3900(7)	255.06(3)	4.6897(6)	13.3928(6)	255.09(6)
6.48(6)	4.6880(3)	13.3835(6)	254.73(3)	4.6878(2)	13.3850(3)	254.74(3)
7.88(3)	4.6805(2)	13.3509(4)	253.30(2)	4.6800(3)	13.3528(3)	253.27(3)
8.00(20)	4.6803(2)	13.3498(5)	253.25(2)	4.6798(3)	13.3513(4)	253.23(3)
9.45(14)	4.6726(3)	13.3141(8)	251.75(3)	4.6722(3)	13.3169(4)	251.75(3)
10.68(3)	4.6657(4)	13.2826(11)	250.40(5)	4.6649(3)	13.2890(4)	250.44(3)
12.14(6)	4.6582(5)	13.2500(11)	248.99(5)	4.6579(6)	13.2518(8)	248.99(6)
<i>DAC2</i>						
0.0001(1)	4.7279(5)	13.5534(14)	262.37(5)	4.7275(4)	13.5582(4)	262.42(5)
0.23(3)	4.7266(4)	13.5470(12)	262.10(5)	4.7263(2)	13.5513(2)	262.15(2)
7.37(3)	4.6849(7)	13.3674(20)	254.09(7)	4.6849(9)	13.3702(10)	254.14(10)
13.88(5)	4.6520(11)	13.2090(31)	247.56(11)	4.6487(14)	13.2234(12)	247.48(15)
14.07(38)	4.6507(14)	13.2007(40)	247.27(14)	4.6466(10)	13.2157(9)	247.11(11)
16.37(1)	4.6379(11)	13.1610(32)	245.17(11)	4.6361(11)	13.1714(9)	245.17(11)
16.37(1)	4.6394(12)	13.1696(38)	245.48(11)	4.6387(8)	13.1657(10)	245.34(8)
17.40(2)	4.6358(15)	13.1495(43)	244.73(15)	4.6351(10)	13.1516(14)	244.69(10)
17.72(10)	4.6340(10)	13.1486(10)	244.53(11)	4.6340(10)	13.1486(10)	244.53(11)
17.44(9)	4.6327(6)	13.1481(16)	244.37(5)	4.6328(7)	13.1508(9)	244.44(8)
19.91(21)	4.6205(5)	13.0986(13)	242.18(5)	4.6213(8)	13.1035(9)	242.36(9)
22.05(12)	4.6115(5)	13.0617(14)	240.55(5)	4.6111(4)	13.0658(5)	240.59(4)
24.86(3)	4.5996(7)	13.0143(19)	238.44(7)	4.5986(6)	13.0162(7)	238.38(7)
7.79(28)	4.6796(4)	13.3505(13)	253.19(4)	4.6788(9)	13.3523(10)	253.13(9)

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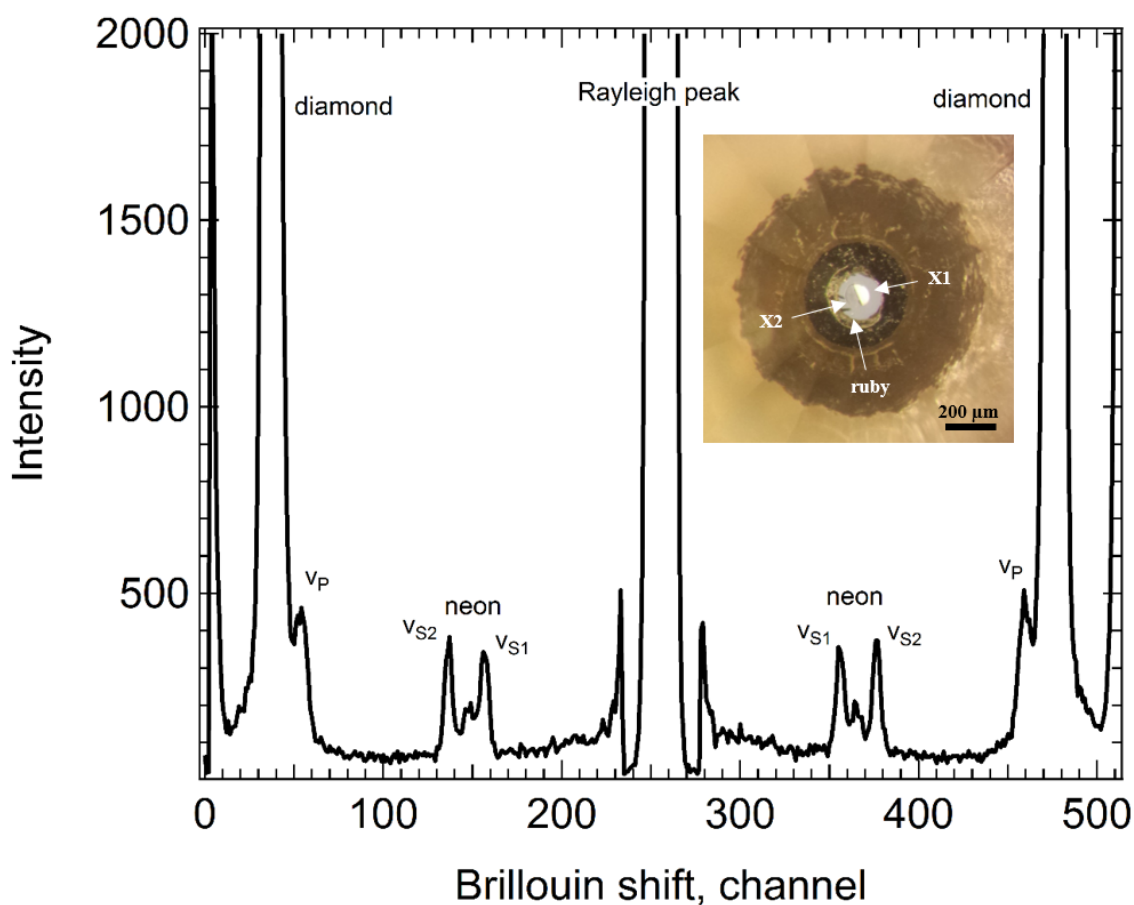
629 **Table 3.** Single-crystal stiffness coefficients c_{ij} 's, absolute pressure (P_{abs}), pressure calculated using the ruby calibration reported by Dewaele et al.
630 (2004) and density measured by single-crystal X-ray diffraction. The RVH average bulk (isothermal K_T and adiabatic K_S) and shear moduli are
631 reported, as well as the aggregate velocities v_P and v_S . K_T was calculated using the relation: $K_S = K_T * (1 + \alpha\gamma T)$ with $\alpha = 2.44 \times 10^{-5}$ 1/K (Ashida et al.,
632 1988), $\gamma = 1.18$ (Stixrude and Lithgow-Bertelloni, 2005) and $T = 298$ K.

P_{abs} (GPa)	P_{ruby} (GPa)	density (g/cm ³)	c_{11} (GPa)	c_{33} (GPa)	c_{44} (GPa)	c_{12} (GPa)	c_{13} (GPa)	c_{14} (GPa)	c_{25} (GPa)	K_T (GPa)	K_S (GPa)	G (GPa)	v_P (km/s)	v_S (km/s)
0.00	0.0001(1)	3.8117(5)	457(2)	368(2)	104(1)	153(3)	78(2)	23(1)	-21(2)	206(1)	208(1)	130(1)	10.01(2)	5.84(1)
3.95	3.93(1)	3.8822(2)	482(2)	390(4)	115(1)	171(3)	99(2)	12(1)	-32(1)	227(1)	229(1)	137(1)	10.30(2)	5.93(2)
8.04	7.79(3)	3.9509(8)	495(2)	410(2)	121(1)	172(3)	106(2)	13(1)	-32(1)	236(2)	238(1)	144(1)	10.44(2)	6.03(1)
10.74	10.68(3)	3.9941(8)	531(2)	430(2)	128(1)	198(3)	120(1)	11(1)	-32(1)	258(1)	260(1)	149(1)	10.72(2)	6.11(1)
12.22	12.14(6)	4.0171(5)	528(2)	435(2)	131(1)	190(3)	124(1)	12(1)	-36(1)	258(1)	260(1)	150(1)	10.71(1)	6.12(1)
14.14	14.07(38)	4.0464(7)	543(2)	447(2)	135(1)	198(3)	129(2)	15(1)	-35(1)	267(1)	269(1)	154(1)	10.84(1)	6.17(1)
16.10	16.37(1)	4.0757(14)	555(2)	463(2)	140(1)	206(3)	141(2)	14(1)	-36(1)	278(1)	281(1)	158(1)	10.98(2)	6.22(1)
17.25	17.44(10)	4.0925(11)	565(4)	459(6)	143(2)	210(6)	155(4)	15(2)	-37(2)	287(3)	289(3)	158(1)	11.06(4)	6.22(3)
19.76	19.91(21)	4.1286(8)	579(2)	477(3)	147(1)	224(3)	151(2)	13(1)	-37(1)	293(1)	296(1)	163(1)	11.14(2)	6.28(1)
21.84	22.05(12)	4.1577(8)	576(2)	486(2)	150(1)	217(3)	162(2)	14(1)	-38(1)	298(1)	300(1)	164(1)	11.17(1)	6.28(1)
24.61	24.86(3)	4.1954(5)	595(2)	502(2)	155(1)	233(3)	170(2)	11(1)	-39(1)	310(1)	313(1)	168(1)	11.31(1)	6.32(1)

633 Note $c_{66} = 0.5 (c_{11} - c_{12})$

634 **Figures**

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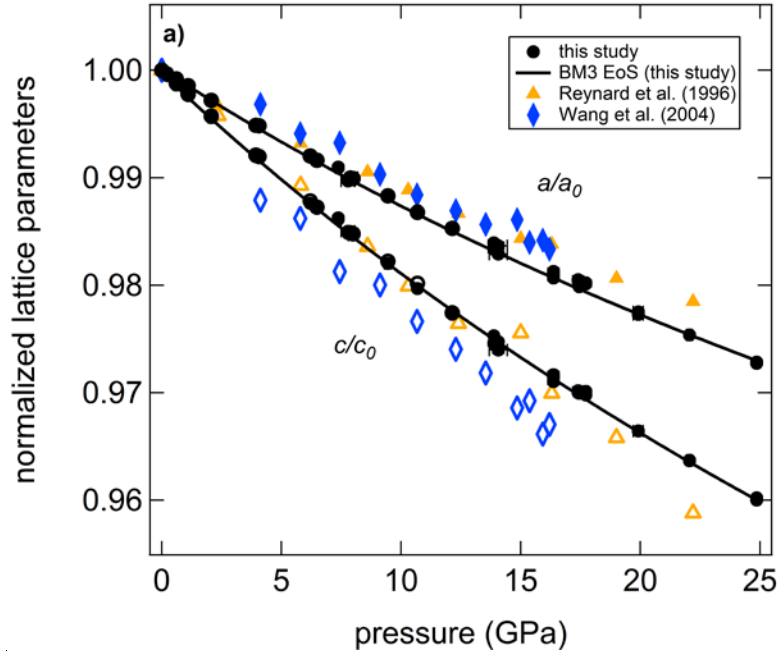


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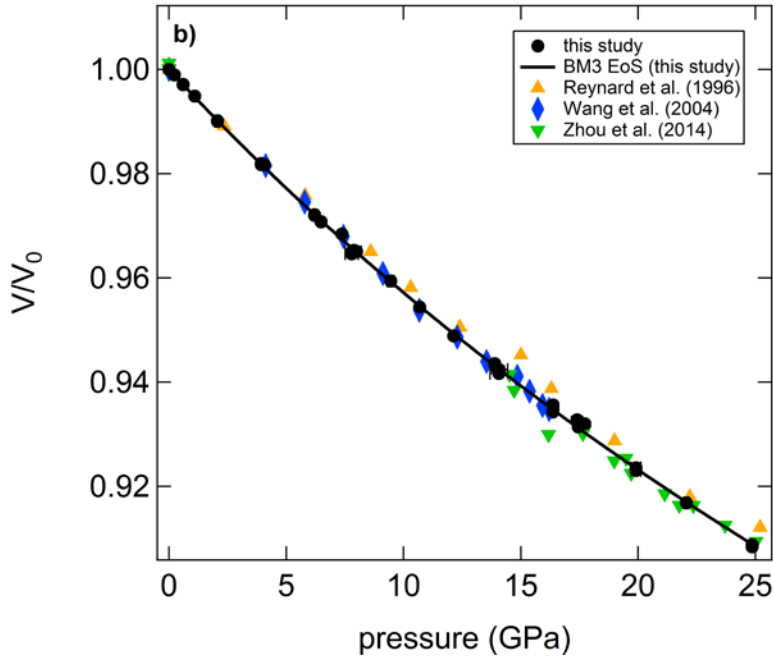
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638 **Figure 1.** Representative Brillouin spectrum collected for the X2 single-crystal at 4 GPa. The
639 Rayleigh peak corresponding to the elastic scattering can be seen at the center, whereas two
640 broad and intense signals due to the diamond anvils can be seen at the border of the Brillouin
641 spectrum. Three signals from akimotoite, v_P , v_{S1} and v_{S2} are visible. A signal due to the Ne
642 pressure medium is visible between the v_{S1} and v_{S2} signals. All peaks shift to higher velocities
643 with increasing pressure. The inset shows an optical image of a loaded diamond anvil cell
644 sample chamber at a pressure of 3.93(1) GPa. The two half-circles X1 and X2 have different
645 orientations as shown by the different extinction colors. The small ruby sphere used for in-situ
646 pressure determination is visible close to the gasket.

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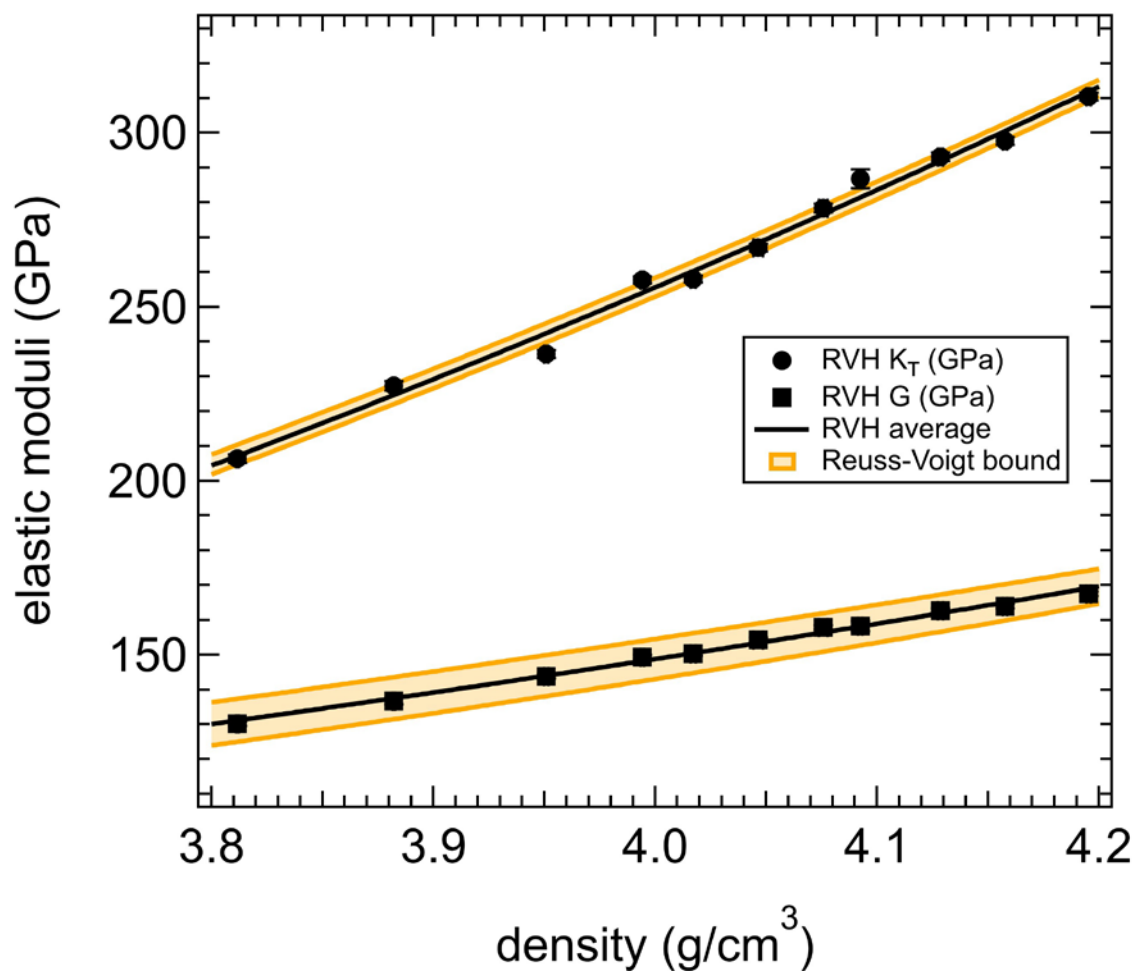


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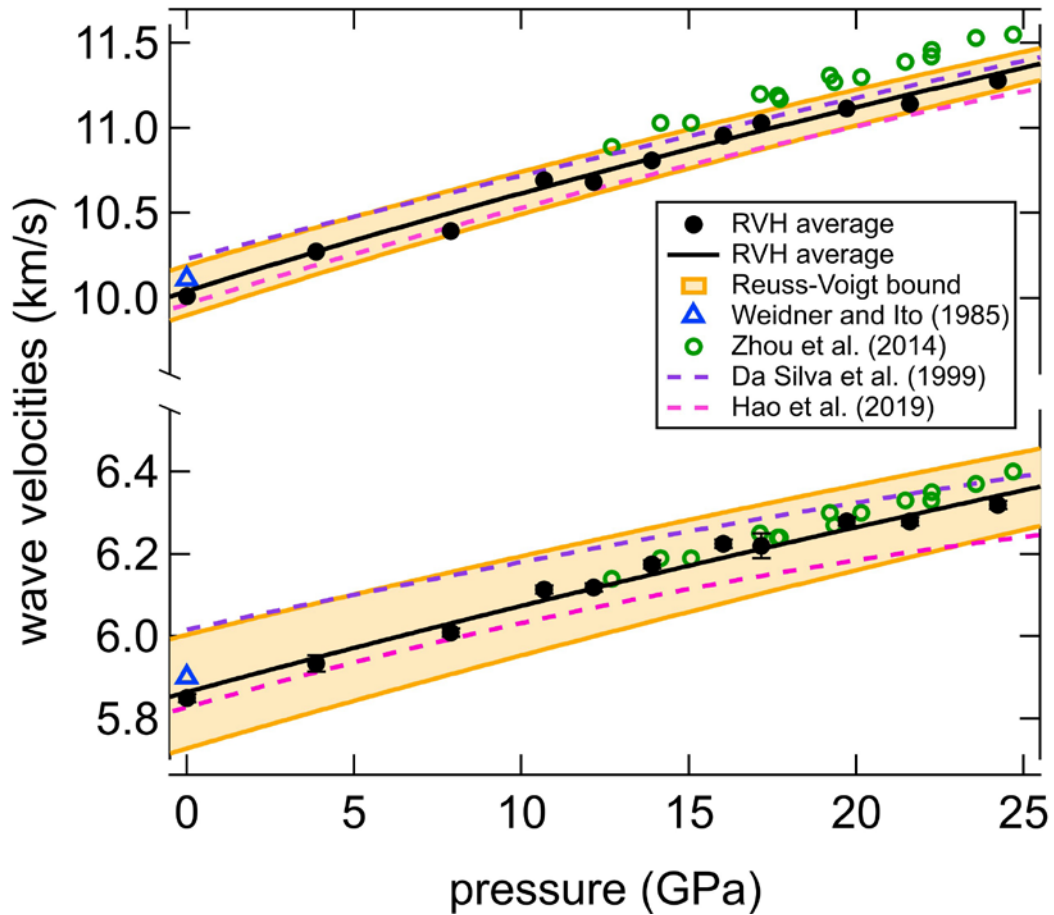
651 **Figure 2.** Variation with pressure of the unit-cell lattice parameters normalized with respect to
 652 the room pressure values. (a) a/a_0 and c/c_0 and (b) unit-cell volumes. The solid lines represent
 653 BM3 EoS fits to the data obtained in this study. The normalized volumes from Wang et al.
 654 (2004) (blue diamonds) and Zhou et al. (2014) (green triangles) are in agreement with this
 655 study, especially at pressures below 15 GPa, however the axial anisotropy reported by Wang et
 656 al. (2004) is more accentuated than that measured in this study. The volume data reported by
 657 Reynard et al. (1996) are stiffer than those obtained in this study likely due to their stiffer a -
 658 axis.

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Figure 3. Elastic moduli K_T and G versus density. The black circles represent the aggregate isothermal bulk and shear moduli of akimotoite calculated according to the Reuss-Voigt-Hill (RVH) average of the Voigt and Reuss bounds determined from the experimental elastic stiffness and compliance coefficients. The solid lines represent BM3 EoS fits through the RVH average. The shaded orange areas represent the Reuss-Voigt bounds. The uncertainties are smaller than the symbol size.

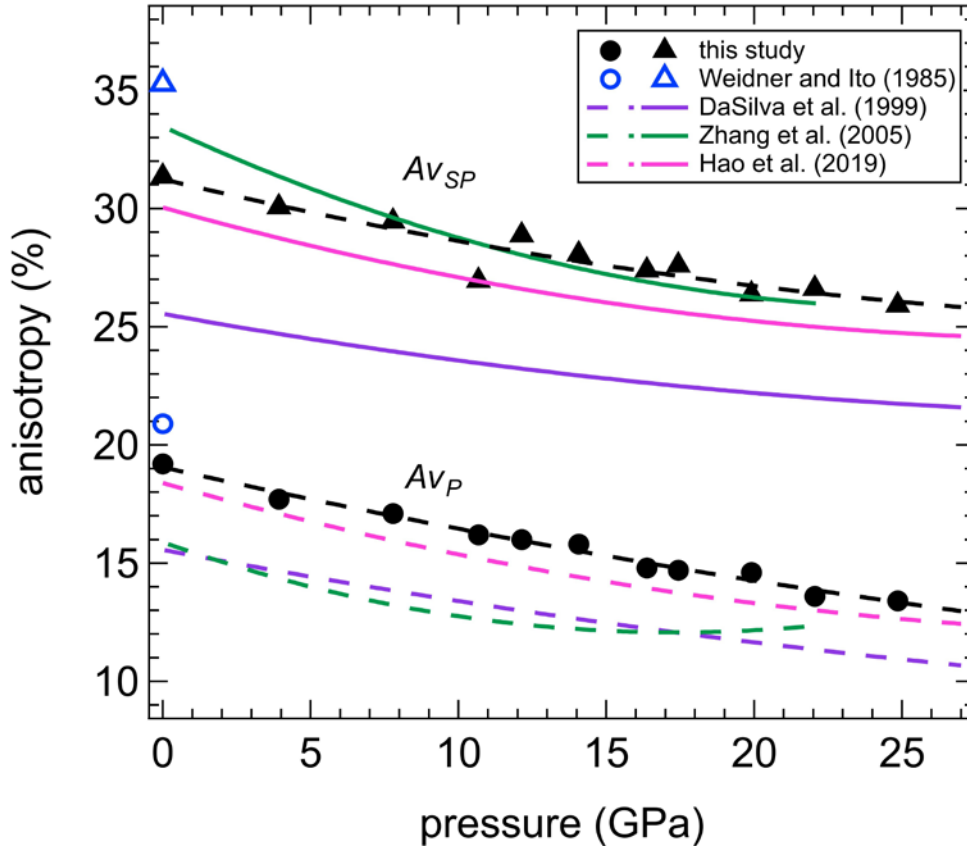


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671 **Figure 4.** Variation with pressure of the aggregate longitudinal and shear wave velocities of
 672 MgSiO_3 akimotoite. The shaded orange areas represent the Reuss-Voigt bounds. The
 673 uncertainties are smaller than the symbol size. For comparison, the aggregate velocities reported
 674 by Weidner and Ito (1985) at room pressure and by Zhou et al. (2014) at high-pressures, as well
 675 as the results from two computational studies (Da Silva et al., 1999; Hao et al., 2019) are
 676 reported.

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680 **Figure 5.** P-wave anisotropy (A_{VP}) and S-wave polarization anisotropy (A_{VSP}) of $MgSiO_3$
 681 akimotoite with increasing pressure. The uncertainties are smaller than the symbol size. For
 682 comparison, the anisotropies calculated using the elastic tensor at room pressure by Weidner
 683 and Ito (1985) and those from three computational studies (Da Silva et al., 1999; Zhang et al.,
 684 2005; Hao et al., 2019) also are reported.

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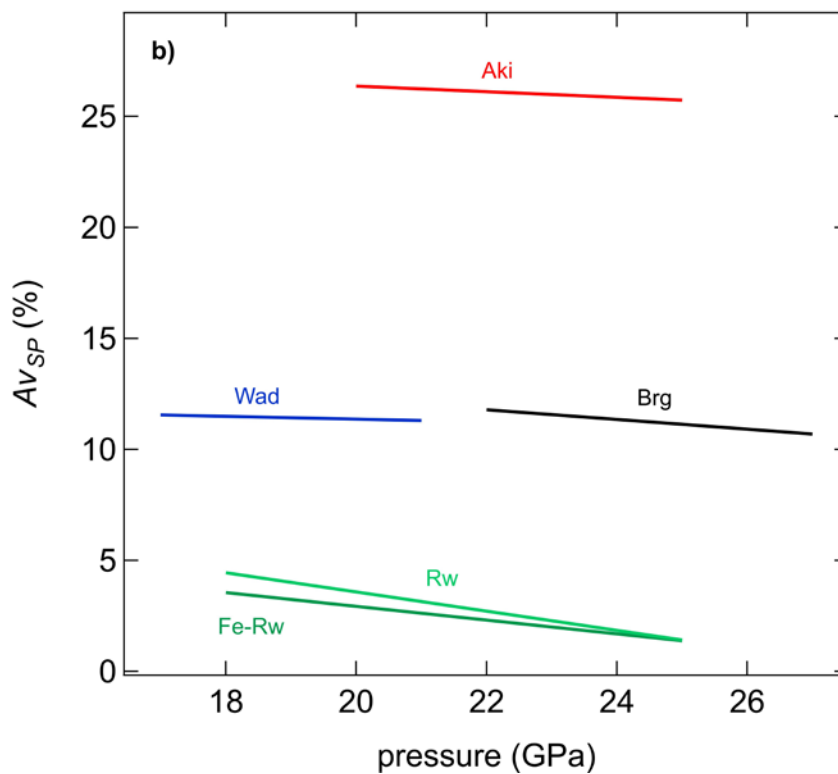
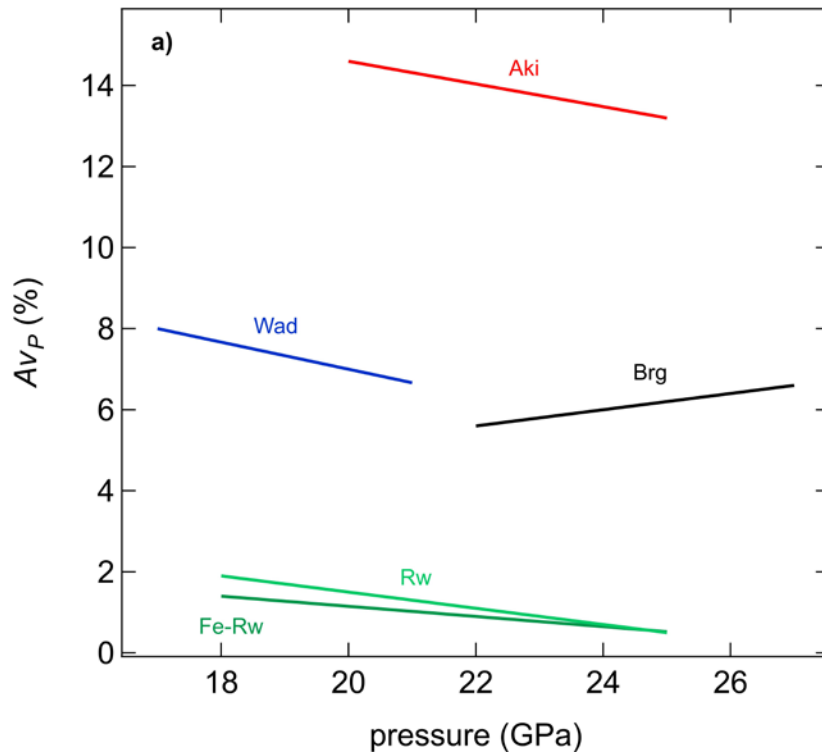
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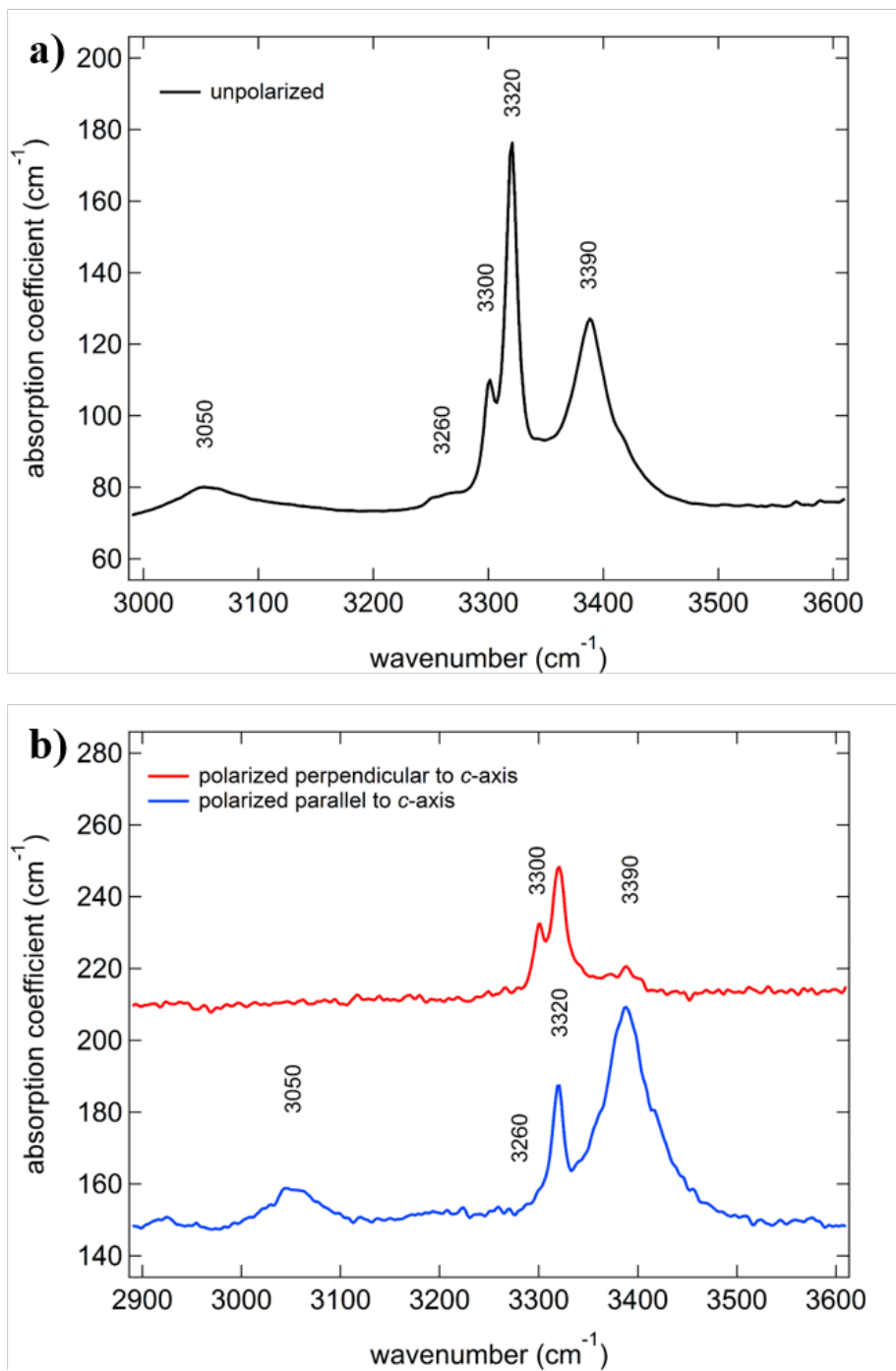
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698 **Figure 6.** a) P-wave anisotropy (A_{VP}) and b) S-wave polarisation anisotropy (A_{VSP}) calculated
 699 for different minerals at pressures of the Earth's transition zone; Akimotoite (Aki, this study),
 700 wadsleyite (Wad) (Buchen et al., 2018), ringwoodite and Fe-bearing ringwoodite (Fe-Rw) with
 701 1.71 wt% water (Schulze et al., 2018) and bridgmanite (Brg) (Criniti et al., in revision).

702 **Supplementary material**

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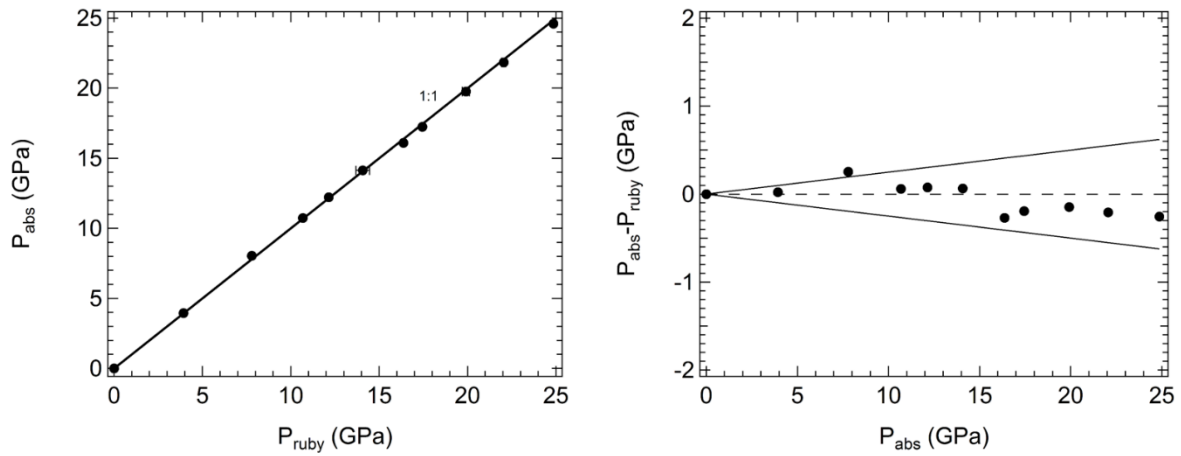


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706 **Figure S1.** a) Unpolarized and b) polarized FTIR spectra of akimotoite perpendicular (red) and
707 parallel (blue) to the *c*-axis collected on a crystal that was oriented parallel to the (100) plane.

708 Fitting of these FTIR spectra yielded a H₂O content of ~ 280 ppm.



709

710 **Figure S2.** Comparison of the absolute pressure with the pressure calculated using the ruby
 711 fluorescence calibration reported by Dewaele et al. (2004). The solid lines in the plot on the
 712 right represent the uncertainty (2.5 %) of the ruby pressure scale.

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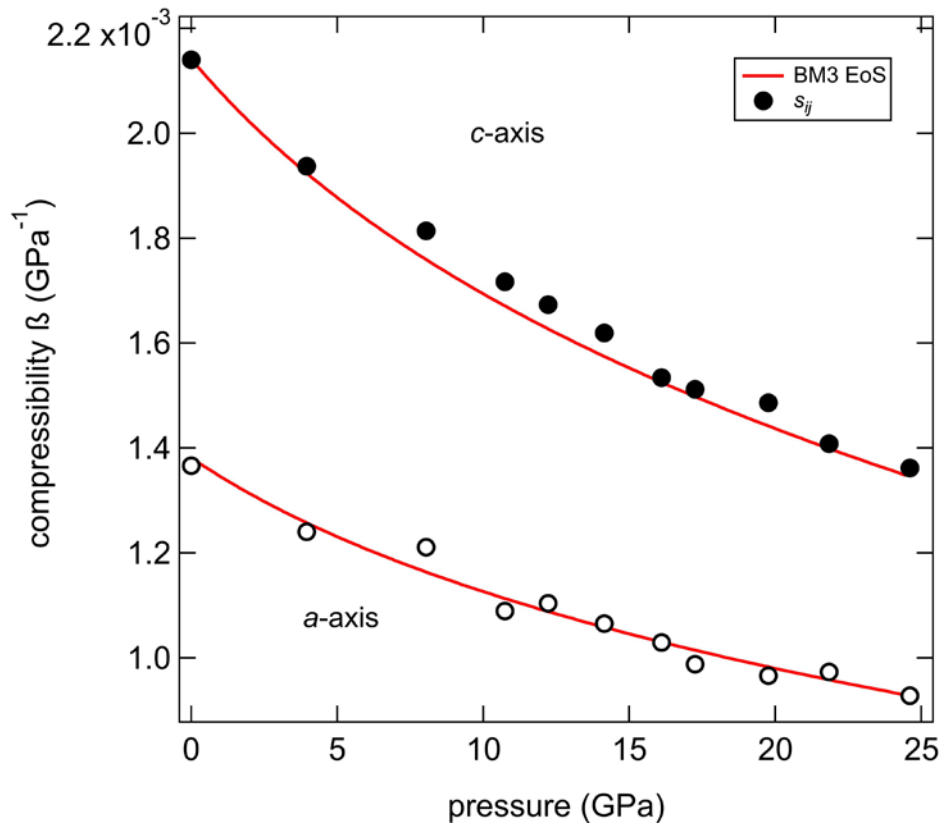
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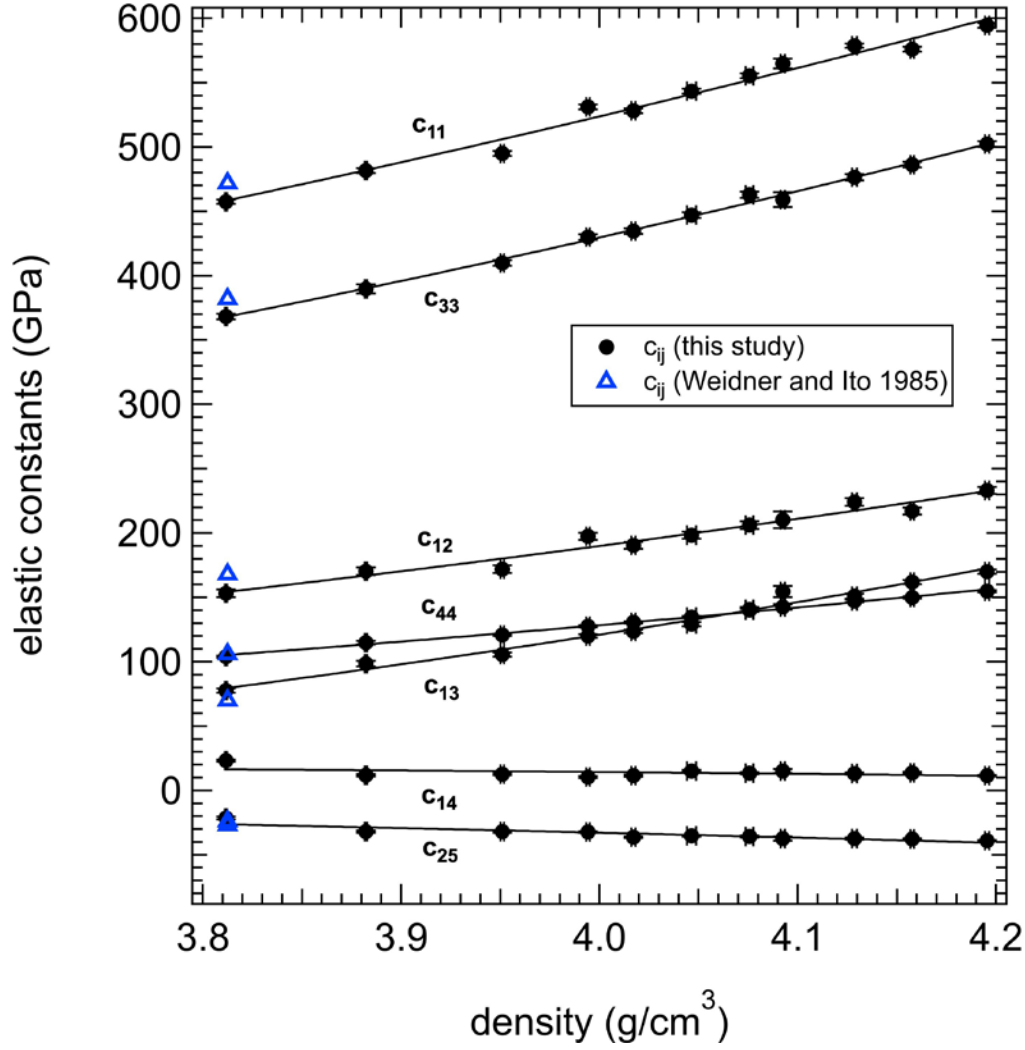


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723 **Figure S3.** Change in compressibility β of the a - and c -axes with increasing pressure
 724 determined from X-ray diffraction (red) and the compliance tensor s_{ij} obtained with Brillouin
 725 spectroscopy (black). Results from both methods are in very good agreement with one another
 726 for the stiffer a -axis, however, for the c -axis the X-ray data suggest a slightly more compressible
 727 behavior than the Brillouin data.

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731 **Figure S4.** Variation with pressure of the stiffness coefficients c_{ij} of akimotoite. For comparison
 732 the data at room pressure from Weidner and Ito (1985) also are reported. The black solid lines
 733 represent third-order finite strain expressions of the individual elastic moduli following
 734 Stixrude and Lithgow-Bertelloni (2005):

$$c_{ijkl} = (1 + 2f)^{5/2} \left\{ c_{ijkl0} + (3K_0 c'_{ijkl0} - 5c_{ijkl0})f \right. \\ \left. + \left[6K_0 c'_{ijkl0} - 14c_{ijkl0} - \frac{3}{2} K_0 \delta_{kl}^{ij} (3K'_0 - 16) \right] f^2 \right\}$$

737

738 with $f = \frac{1}{2} \left[\left(\frac{\rho}{\rho_0} \right)^{2/3} - 1 \right]$ and $\delta_{kl}^{ij} = -\delta_{ij} \delta_{kl} - \delta_{il} \delta_{jk} - \delta_{jl} \delta_{ik}$ where δ_{ij} is the Kronecker

739 delta. ρ_0 , K_0 and K'_0 were fixed to the values reported in Table 1 and 3. The resulting
 740 parameters for c_{ij} and c'_{ij} are reported in Table S1.

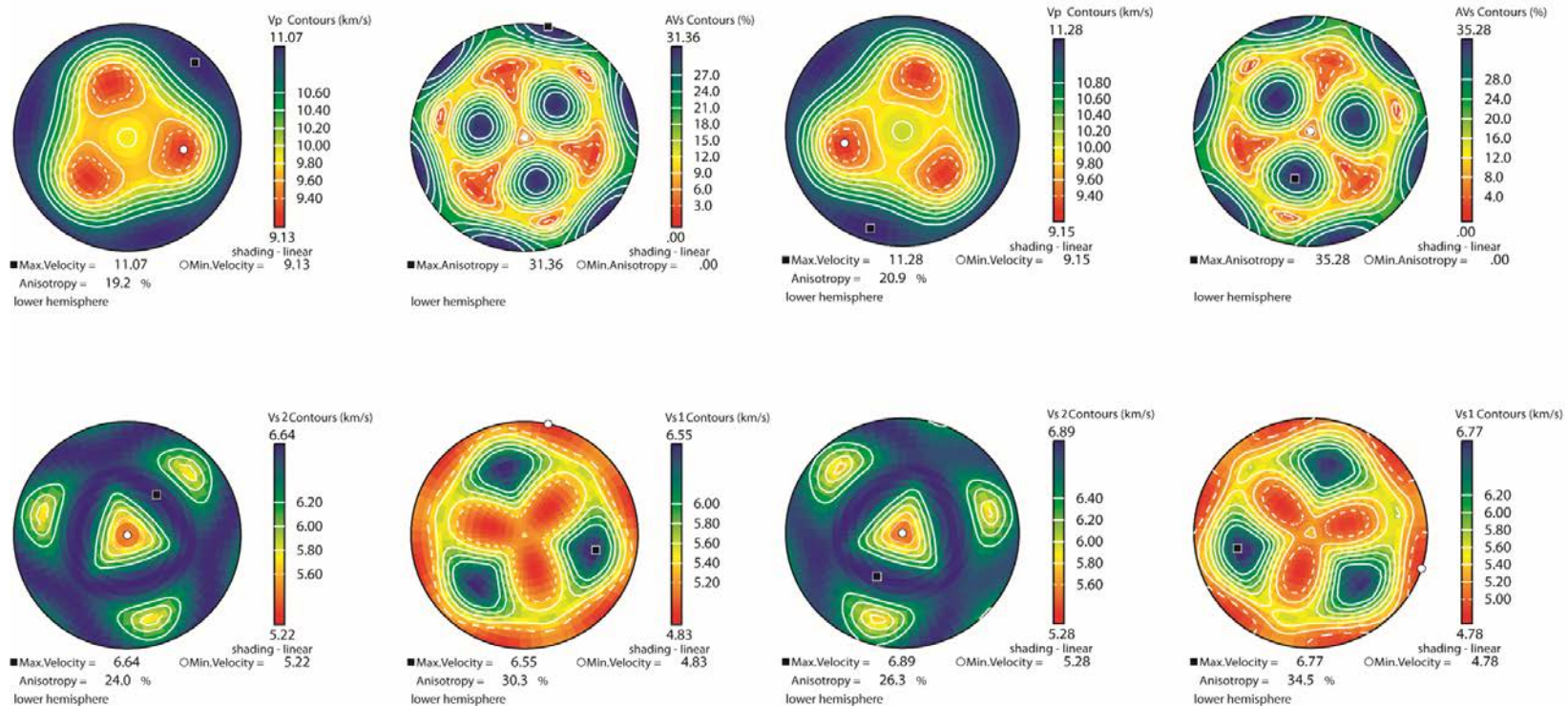
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742 **Table S1.** Resulting fit parameters for c_{ij} and c_{ij}' shown in Figure S4.

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	c_{ij} (GPa)	c_{ij}'
c_{11}	458(4)	6.1(3)
c_{33}	368(2)	5.7(1)
c_{44}	105(1)	2.1(1)
c_{12}	154(3)	3.3(2)
c_{13}	80(3)	3.7(2)
c_{14}	16(2)	-0.2(1)
c_{25}	-26(1)	-0.6(1)

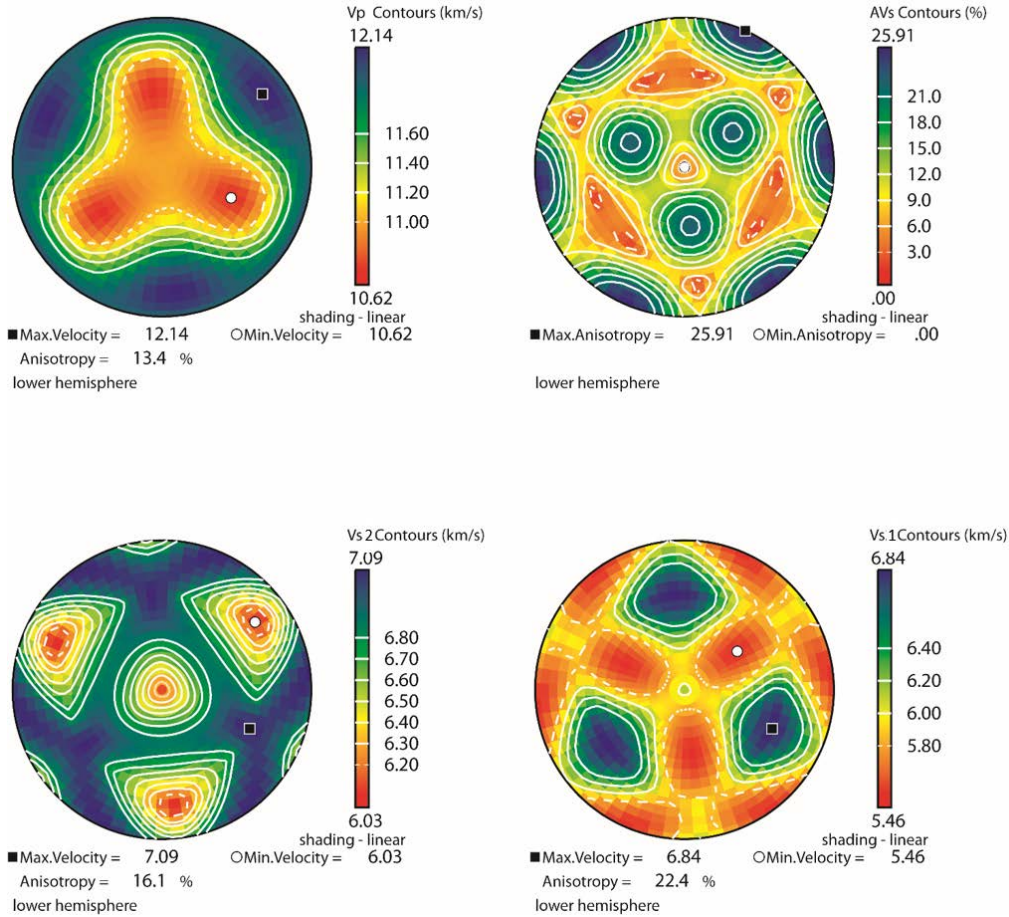
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747 **Figure S5.** Velocity distributions of MgSiO₃ akimotoite at room pressure obtained using the program Anis2k written by Mainprice (1990) using the
 748 elastic coefficients determined in this study (left) and Weidner and Ito (1985) (right) and represented in the lower hemisphere. In the lower
 749 hemispheres, calculated from the c_{ij} obtained in this study, the crystallographic a -axis points towards east (90°) and the c -axis points towards the
 750 reader. v_P anisotropies (upper left), v_{S1} and v_{S2} anisotropies (lower right and left, respectively), S-wave polarization anisotropy AV_{SP} (upper right). Blue
 751 and red colors correspond to the fastest and slowest wave velocities, respectively. The distribution of propagation directions of the P- and S-wave
 752 velocities between this study and Weidner and Ito (1985), appears identical except for a rotation of 30° due to a different crystallographic setting used
 753 in the mentioned paper.

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757 **Figure S6.** Velocity distributions of MgSiO₃ akimotoite at 25 GPa obtained using the program
 758 Anis2k written by Mainprice (1990) for the elastic coefficients determined in this study and
 759 represented in the lower hemisphere using the same setting as reported in Figure S5. v_P anisotropies
 760 (upper left), v_{S1} and v_{S2} anisotropies (lower right and left, respectively), S-wave polarization
 761 anisotropy A_{VSP} (upper right). Blue and red colors correspond to the fastest and slowest wave
 762 velocities, respectively. With increasing pressure, the P- and S- wave anisotropies decrease;
 763 however, the overall velocity distribution remains the same.

764