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August 29, 2021

High Pressure Research

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Toward an international practical pressure scale: A proposal for an IPPS ruby gauge (IPPS-Ruby2020)

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Abstract: At the 26th AIRAPT conference in 2017, a task group was formed to work on an International Practical Pressure Scale (IPPS). This report is a summary of recent activities of the task group toward an IPPS ruby gauge. We have selected three different approaches to establishing the relation between pressure (P) and ruby R1-line shift ($\Delta\lambda$) with three groups of optimal reference materials for applying these approaches: The first approach involves two metals (Mo, Cu) whose pressure-volume relations are constrained by dynamic data; the second approach is based on *in-situ* elasticity measurements on MgO, that uses Brillouin scattering to establish a relationship between the bulk modulus and the specific volume; (3) the third is based on knowledge of the equation of state of diamond and constraints on its elastic properties with the isothermal bulk modulus at ambient pressure (K_{T0}) constrained by experimental measurements and its pressure derivative (K'_{T0}) constrained by computation simulations. Using a polynomial form of the second order, the recommended ruby gauge can be expressed by: $P [GPa] = 1.87(\pm 0.01) \times 10^3 \left(\frac{\Delta\lambda}{\lambda_0} \right) \left[1 + 5.63(\pm 0.03) \left(\frac{\Delta\lambda}{\lambda_0} \right) \right]$, where λ_0 is the wavelength of the R1-emission line near 694.25 nm at ambient condition.

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1. Introduction

The first AIRAPT task group on the International Practical Pressure Scale (IPPS) was created at the 6th AIRAPT Conference in 1977. From 1982 to 1986, the group recommended a ruby pressure scale, the Decker equation of state for NaCl, and a set of pressure reference points for opaque presses be used as practical pressure reference standards [1, 2]. A decade later, the first international pressure calibration workshop was held in Japan in 1997, with a proposal of several reference points for pressure reference standards [3, 4]. Since then, several major developments have occurred in high-pressure technology. Static pressure has been expanded to the multi-Mbar (1 Mbar=100 GPa) range [5-7], demanding revision on existing pressure standards or new pressure scales. *In situ* X-ray probes allow for pressure determination from measured unit-cell volumes of materials based on the knowledge of their equations of state (EOSs) [8-10], providing crosschecks of the previously established pressure gauges. Techniques for *in-situ* elasticity measurements (e.g., Brillouin scattering and ultrasonic techniques) have emerged to yield pressure information based on measured bulk modulus as a function of unit-cell volume [11, 12]. Progress in shock compression experiments has led to improved precision on velocity measurements and constraints on Grüneisen parameters [13, 14]. Shockless compression (more commonly referred to as ramp compression) provides access to regimes of pressure–temperature space inaccessible by single shock wave experiments, resulting in colder, denser states of matter closer to the room temperature isotherms than shock experiments [15-18]. The ramp compression technique offers knowledge of the EOS of solid materials at multi-Mbar pressures. Lastly, theoretical calculations have become increasingly accurate tools for predicting the EOS of materials [19-22].

These developments call for a new IPPS. At the 26th AIRAPT conference in 2017, an IPPS task group was formed to work on a pressure scale that is (1) practical, so that an individual laboratory can use the scale to measure pressure without having access to large facilities such as synchrotron beamlines and can compare pressures derived from the new scale with those determined using other techniques; (2) amendable, so that the scale can be refined and improved with future developments; and (3) versatile, with various gauges covering different pressure ranges including low (<12 GPa), medium (12-150 GPa), and ultra-high (>150 GPa) pressure regions, and continuously applicable from low to high temperature.

One current focus of the task group is an IPPS ruby gauge at room temperature, covering a pressure range up to 150 GPa. A proposal for such a ruby gauge was presented at the 27th AIRAPT conference in 2019 and has been widely discussed among scientists worldwide. Even though there are on-going discussions regarding some of the details, a general consensus has emerged. The proposal presented here is a summary of our discussions on an IPPS ruby gauge.

2. Calibrating pressure against ruby fluorescence shift

The ruby fluorescence method has been widely used for decades for pressure measurement in the diamond anvil cell (DAC) and other optically transparent pressure cells [23-25]. A ruby

pressure gauge is a quantitative relation between applied pressure and wavelength shift (or frequency change) of R-line emission from stimulated ruby. The R-line emission of ruby involves two components (R1- and R2-lines) having similar responses to hydrostatic pressure but displaying different behavior under nonhydrostatic conditions [26]. Here we only consider the more intense R1-line in pressure calibration. At pressures below ~ 20 GPa, the shift of the R1-line may be approximated as linear [24]. At higher pressures, however, the R1-line shift becomes significantly nonlinear. This nonlinear behavior is the main concern in developing an accurate extended ruby gauge and has been extensively studied in recent years. Developments in high-pressure technology and integration with synchrotron radiation techniques have enabled diffraction measurements with intense, well-focused X-ray beams on small samples in helium-loaded DACs at pressures extending well beyond 100 GPa. Helium is widely held to be the most hydrostatic among available pressure medium choices [27]. Simultaneous loading of small ruby spheres in the same cells has led to high precision data on the relation between specific volume (V) of many materials and the ruby R-line shift ($\Delta\lambda$) at high pressure [8-10]. Based on recently obtained V - $\Delta\lambda$ relations, several ruby pressure gauges have been proposed [10, 16, 28-40]; discrepancies among these recent ruby gauges are typically within 3% for pressures up to 150 GPa. However, various approximations underlie each of these ruby gauges. So far, it appears that no single gauge has emerged as a dominant standard in the high-pressure community. A call for a “unified” ruby gauge was discussed at each of the last two AIRAPT conferences.

Here we recommend a ruby gauge (Ruby2020), with the following considerations:

- the Ruby2020 gauge is based on data without prior assumptions about pressure;
- it is easily traceable and amendable in the future as better data become available;
- it is calibrated against representative EOS data for ionic, covalent, and metallic materials; and
- it covers the pressure range up to 150 GPa at room temperature for which V - $\Delta\lambda$ data are available with helium as pressure medium.

Based on the above considerations, we have selected three different approaches to establishing the relation between pressure (P) and ruby R1-line shift ($\Delta\lambda$) with three groups of optimal reference materials for applying these approaches: (1) molybdenum (Mo), and copper (Cu), (2) periclase (MgO), and (3) diamond. The first approach involves metals whose P - V relations are constrained by dynamic data, where pressure and density are derived directly from the conservation equations. The MgO calibration is based on *in-situ* elasticity measurements that use Brillouin scattering to establish a relationship between the adiabatic bulk modulus (K_S) and the specific volume, from which pressure can be determined by integrating the isothermal bulk modulus (K_T) from the reference volume to the volume of interest. The diamond calibration is based on knowledge of the EOS and constraints on the elastic properties with K_T at ambient pressure (K_{T0}) constrained by experimental measurements and its pressure derivative (K_{T0}') constrained by computation simulations.

We use these P - V relations, without prior assumptions about pressure or dependence on other pressure scales, to establish P - $\Delta\lambda$ calibrations by converting V to $\Delta\lambda$ using the measured V - $\Delta\lambda$ relations from simultaneous ruby fluorescence and synchrotron-based diffraction results in helium-loaded DACs. The conversion procedure implies an assumption of negligible pressure differences between the sample and the nearby small ruby spheres within the DAC chambers. Therefore, we select the V - $\Delta\lambda$ data where well-focused small-spot synchrotron x-rays were used to determine volume with helium as the least non-hydrostatic and the most spatially homogeneous pressure medium [9, 12, 30].

2.1. Mo and Cu

To estimate isothermal equations of state from dynamic compression, we select two metals (Mo and Cu) as calibrants. The main arguments behind this selection include: (1) both Mo and Cu were originally used as primary calibrants in the widely used Mao-78 and Mao-86 ruby gauges [41, 42]; (2) there are a significant number of absolute, symmetric impact Hugoniot data up to more than 300 GPa for both Mo and Cu; (3) in reduced-shockwave-analysis, both Mo and Cu show relatively small thermal contributions up to 150 GPa (see Fig. S1 in the Supplemental Materials); and (4) a new study of ramp compression in Cu [43] provides an isentrope that, reduced to a 298K-isotherm, agrees with the reduced Hugoniot data [44-46] within 1% up to 150 GPa.

For Mo, four sources of room-temperature isotherms from Hugoniot data [46-49] are in mutual agreement within 1% up to 250 GPa. The 293K-isotherm from Al'tshuler et al [44] is slightly stiffer at pressures above 150 GPa (see Table S1, Fig. S2). Within the pressure range up to 150 GPa, the combined data from all five sources [44, 46-49] can be interpolated accurately by using an EOS. We use the EOS-AP2 form proposed by Holzapfel [50] to represent the consensus isotherm for Mo:

$$P(x) = 3K_{T0} \frac{1-x}{x^5} [1 + c_2 x(1-x)] \exp [c_0(1-x)], \quad (1)$$

where $x = (V/V_0)^{1/3}$, $c_0 = -\ln(3K_{T0}/P_{FG0})$, $c_2 = (3/2)(K_{T0}'-3)-c_0$, $P_{FG0} = 1003.6(Z/V_0)^{5/3}$ GPa, V_0 is the molar volume in cm³/mole, and Z is the total number of electrons per structural unit (for Mo, it is the atomic number). For Mo, the value of K_{T0} is constrained to be 260 GPa by the experimental data at ambient condition [51-53]. The best fit to the room-temperature isotherms gives K_{T0}' of 4.00(1), with a small root-mean-square (RMS) of 0.5 GPa up to 150 GPa (Fig. S2). The RMS value reflects the small errors from the selection of the EOS form (Eq. 1) and the scatter among data from the literature.

For Cu, reduced Hugoniot data from two experimental groups [47, 54] and two computational groups [38, 46] are in general agreement within 1% up to 150 GPa (Fig. S3). A study by ramp-compression [16] shows a slightly stiffer isotherm at 293 K than the reduced Hugoniot data at pressures up to 150 GPa. Very recently, a new ramp compression study [43] gives a 298K-isotherm that is consistent with the reduced Hugoniot data within 1% up to 150

GPa. We therefore use the newer ramp-compression data (Table 1 in [43]) for Cu in our analysis. The small temperature difference (293 K, 298 K) in representing room temperature is ignored.

The V - $\Delta\lambda$ data for Mo and Cu are from [30] and [29], respectively, where the specific volumes were measured using synchrotron radiation with adjacent samples and ruby spheres in helium environments. Conversion of the specific volumes to pressures using the dynamic compression-derived room temperature isotherms yields P - $\Delta\lambda$ relations for Mo and Cu, plotted in Fig. 1 and numerically tabulated in Table S2.

Major sources of uncertainty in the reduced Hugoniot data include (1) precision in the Hugoniot measurements, (2) accuracy in accounting for thermal pressure contribution that requires a Grüneisen parameter model and specific heat estimate, and (3) materials' strength effects. The fit to the Mo Hugoniot data [46-49] in the U_s - U_p plane (where U_s is the shock velocity and U_p is the material velocity) typically yields deviations between the fit and the data of less than $\pm 1\%$ in pressure. The maximum uncertainty in the pressure on the room-temperature isotherm at 150 GPa from the thermal correction, primarily due to the uncertainty in Grüneisen parameter, is $\pm 0.7\%$ for Mo (Fig. S1). Nonhydrostatic stress during dynamic compression needs to be corrected for the material yield strength (Y) to obtain hydrostatic stress [55]. The yield strength increases with shock stress for Mo [56, 57] in the pressure range up to 150 GPa. Assuming a linear increase in Y with stress, a maximum pressure correction at 150 GPa is found to be about -2.3 GPa (or -1.5%) for Mo [49]. Convolving all the above uncertainties gives a total uncertainty in the pressure of $\pm 1.9\%$ on the room-temperature isotherm of Mo.

Major sources of uncertainty in the reduced isotherm from ramp compression are similar to reduced Hugoniot data. The corrections include (1) experimental precision in determining the Lagrangian sound velocity versus particle velocity and target metrology, (2) accuracy in the model that relates pressures on the ramp compression path and on the isotherm, which involves the high-pressure Grüneisen parameter and estimates of heating by plastic deformation, and (3) material's strength effects. Since both Hugoniot and ramp compression require similar corrections to reduce to the isotherm, authors in [43] applied an iterative procedure to self-consistently solve for the pressure along the isotherm using all available dynamic data including those from shock and ramp compression. In this way, the uncertainty in the Grüneisen parameter for Cu propagates to a $\pm 0.2\%$ uncertainty in the pressure along the isentrope [16, 43]. The uncertainties in pressure arising from the yield strength and heating due to plastic deformation are both less than $\pm 0.5\%$ in the concerned pressure range of interest [43]. Using the fitted upper and lower bounds, one arrives at a total uncertainty of $\pm 2\%$ in the pressure on the 298K-isotherm up to 150 GPa for Cu [43]. The 298K-isotherm combining shock and ramp compression is consistent with the reduced Hugoniot data [38, 44, 47, 58] within 1% up to 150 GPa. The uncertainty of the reduced Hugoniot data for Cu can be estimated, similar to that for Mo, by the precision in the dynamic measurements ($\pm 1\%$), the maximum uncertainty

at 150 GPa from the thermal correction ($\pm 1.7\%$) (Fig. S1), and the materials' strength effects (-1.5%) [41], yielding a total uncertainty of $\pm 2.5\%$ for Cu.

Turning to the V - $\Delta\lambda$ relations, errors in individual V and λ measurements are both negligibly small ($<0.1\%$). The main source of error is the nonhydrostaticity of helium medium above ~ 30 GPa [59]. Uniaxial differential stress can reach ~ 1 GPa at pressures above 100 GPa [59], which suggests potential differences of $\sim \pm 1\%$ between the sample (where V is measured) and the ruby spheres (where λ is measured). After considering the uncertainty in determining the V - $\Delta\lambda$ relations for Mo and Cu ($\pm 1\%$), the propagated uncertainty in pressure at a given $\Delta\lambda$ on the room-temperature isotherm is estimated to be $\pm 2.0\%$ for Mo and $\pm 2.7\%$ for Cu, respectively.

2.2. MgO

Zha et al [12] loaded an MgO single crystal into a DAC with helium as pressure medium and measured elastic wave velocities by Brillouin scattering, specific volume by x-ray diffraction, and ruby fluorescence shifts at pressures up to 55 GPa. After correction from the adiabatic to the isothermal bulk modulus, this set of data allows pressure values to be derived directly by integrating the bulk modulus data as a function of volume. The resultant pressure can then be used to calibrate a P - $\Delta\lambda$ relation for MgO with the R1-line shifts of ruby grains measured in the same sample chamber. The results are shown in Fig. 1, with numerical results tabulated in Table S2.

In principle, this approach is independent of any model assumptions. A claim of $\pm 1\%$ accuracy is reported for the P - $\Delta\lambda$ relation up to 55 GPa [12]. However, due to the limited experimental points in the covered pressure range, a presumed EOS was used to interpolate the bulk modulus and the volume data under compression. Because pressure is derived by integrating bulk modulus as a function of volume, the selection of EOS form may cause some uncertainties in the derived pressure. Other possible errors include assumptions about the values and functional forms of the thermal expansion and Grüneisen coefficients used to correct adiabatic to isothermal bulk moduli (a 2% total correction with uncertainty presumably much less than that), summation of errors during integration, and potential misalignment of the MgO crystal in the Brillouin measurements. Due to the lack of details in the reported data, it is difficult to estimate these systematic errors. Another issue is the limited pressure range (0-55 GPa) covered by this approach. To better constrain the nonlinear behavior of ruby shift up to 150 GPa, we should include other calibrants.

2.3. Diamond

When the change of volume of a solid due to compression is small ($\Delta V/V_0 < 15\%$), any appropriate EOS form (such as the commonly used the third-order Birch-Murnaghan, Vinet, or Holzapfel-AP2 forms) can reasonably represent its P - V relation, with insignificant difference in the result due to choice of EOS form. Hence, it is possible to assume an EOS form, with parameters (K_{T0} , K'_{T0}) constrained by ultrasonic and Brillouin measurements at ambient and low

pressures and/or by theoretical simulations, to describe the compression behavior of an incompressible solid without suffering from large uncertainties in pressure. As diamond has the highest known bulk modulus, its volume change upon compression is smaller than any other material one might choose. This makes diamond an ideal material to use in applying EOS forms to represent the P - V relation up to 150 GPa, a range for which the ratio of pressure over the bulk modulus of diamond $[P/K_T(P)]$ is <0.15 . For example, when the three aforementioned EOS forms are applied, the differences in pressure are less than 1 GPa at ~ 150 GPa (or $<0.7\%$), and less than 2 GPa at ~ 200 GPa (or $<1\%$).

The adiabatic bulk modulus of diamond at ambient pressure (K_{S0}) has been measured using ultrasonic and Brillouin scattering techniques [60-62]. The K_{S0} values range from 442 GPa to 444.8 GPa, with a median and interquartile range of 443.4 ± 1.4 GPa. Using the available data of Grüneisen parameter [9] and thermal expansion coefficient [39] for diamond, the correction from K_{S0} to K_{T0} is small, yielding a K_{T0} of 443.3 ± 1.4 GPa.

The pressure derivative of adiabatic bulk modulus (K_{S0}') for diamond has been experimentally determined to be 4.0 ± 0.7 from ultrasonic measurements up to 0.12 GPa [61]. The reported uncertainty, estimated from “measured slopes in error by 10%”, can lead to an uncertainty of $\sim 10\%$ in pressure at 150 GPa, which is too large for calibrating a pressure gauge. On the other hand, due to its simple and highly symmetric structure and simple electronic configuration, diamond is an ideal candidate for performing quantum mechanical calculations. Typically, calculated volume, pressure, and bulk modulus depend on the approximation used for the exchange-correlation term in density functional theory. However, as a volume dependent parameter, K_{T0}' for diamond is found to be insensitive to theoretical approximations [19, 63, 64], with its values falling in a narrow range of 3.6 – 3.8, with a median value and interquartile range of 3.7 ± 0.1 . If we take this ± 0.1 range as the uncertainty in K_{T0}' , it corresponds to a maximum uncertainty of $\pm 1.1\%$ in pressure up to 150 GPa.

Among the EOS forms of the third-order Birch-Murnaghan, Vinet, Holzapfel-AP2, we find that, at a given compression ratio V/V_0 for diamond, the pressure value obtained from the EOS-AP2 lies in between those from the third order Birch-Murnaghan EOS and from the Vinet EOS up to 150 GPa. Hence, we use Holzapfel’s AP2 form [50] (Eq. 1) to represent the P - V relation of diamond. Applying K_{T0} of 443.3 GPa and K_{T0}' of 3.7, we have $c_0 = 0.6583$, and $c_2 = 0.3917$ for the parameters in Eq. (1). Combining the P - V relation with the experimentally determined V - $\Delta\lambda$ data for diamond [9], we obtain a calibration of the P - $\Delta\lambda$ relation for diamond, plotted in Fig. 1 and tabulated in Table S2.

Major sources of error in the P - V relation of diamond include the selection of EOS form ($\pm 0.7\%$), scatter of the K_{T0} estimates ($\pm 0.3\%$), and the uncertainty in K_{T0}' ($\pm 1\%$). Even though individual computational model results typically constrain K_{T0}' within ± 0.05 [19, 63, 64], we double the range and use $K_{T0}' = 3.7 \pm 0.1$ to cover the differences in fitted values among published studies. Convolution of these three sources of error, the uncertainty in pressure in the

EOS of diamond is estimated to be $\pm 1.3\%$. Considering the uncertainty of $\pm 1\%$ in the $V\text{-}\Delta\lambda$ relation, the overall uncertainty in pressure in the $P\text{-}\Delta\lambda$ calibration is $\pm 1.6\%$. A precise experimental K_{T0}' value for diamond is urgently needed to validate the theoretically calculated value adopted here. Such experiments can be performed over a modest pressure range in a hydrostatic helium medium below its solidification pressure (<12 GPa).

3. An IPPS ruby gauge - Ruby2020

The above $P\text{-}\Delta\lambda$ relations -- from two metals (Mo and Cu), MgO, and diamond -- represent three approaches with different sources of data and different underlying approximations. Yet, it is shown that their $P\text{-}\Delta\lambda$ plots converge to a single nonlinear relation (Fig. 1). We use a polynomial form of the second order to fit the nonlinear behavior.

$$P = A \left(\frac{\Delta\lambda}{\lambda_0} \right) \left[1 + B \left(\frac{\Delta\lambda}{\lambda_0} \right) \right] \quad (2)$$

where P is the pressure in GPa, λ_0 is the wavelength of the R1 emission line of ruby observed near 694.25 nm at ambient condition, $\Delta\lambda (= \lambda_p - \lambda_0)$ is the shift in wavelength at $P(\lambda_p)$ relative to λ_0 , the parameter A is the initial slope at 1 bar, and the parameter B represents the nonlinear term in the polynomial form.

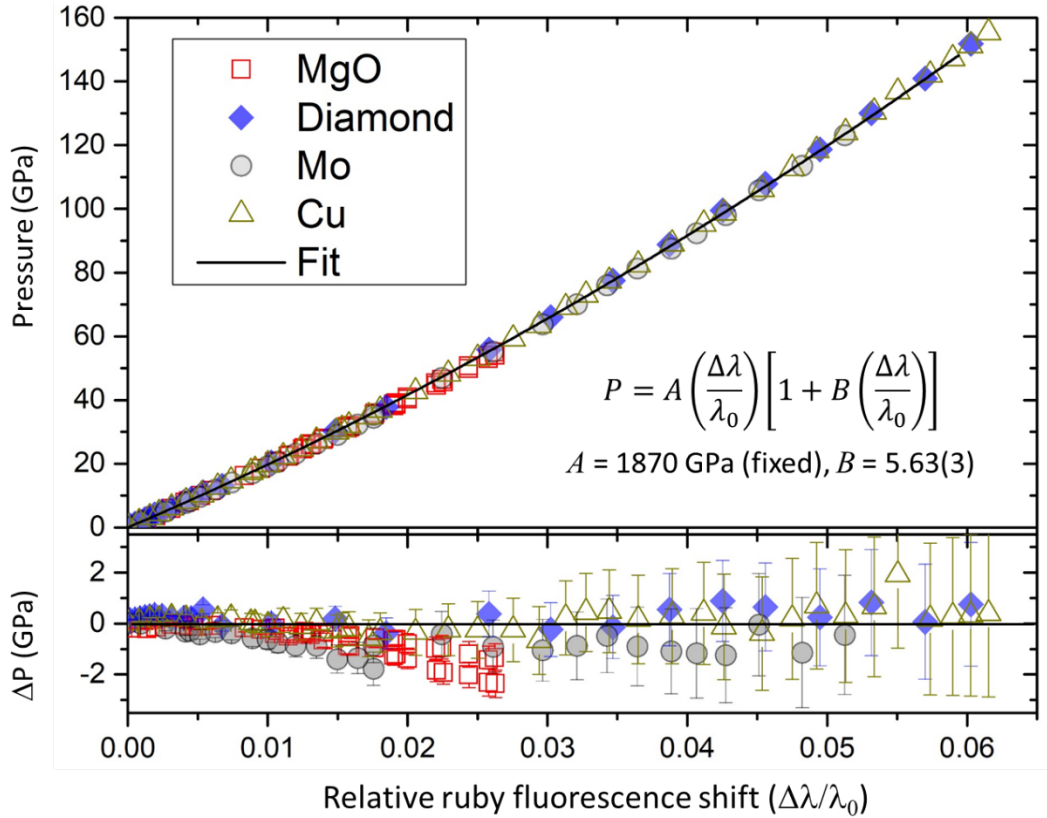


Figure 1. The relation of pressure versus ruby R1-line shift for two metals (Mo and Cu), MgO, and diamond. For Mo and Cu, the $V\text{-}\Delta\lambda$ data are from [30] and [29], respectively. For MgO, the $P\text{-}\Delta\lambda$ data

are directly from [12]. For diamond, the $V\text{-}\Delta\lambda$ data are from [9]. The line is the fit in the form of $A(\Delta\lambda/\lambda_0)[1+B(\Delta\lambda/\lambda_0)]$ with $A=1870$ GPa (fixed) and $B=5.63(3)$. The fit gives a root-mean-square value of 0.7 GPa in the pressure range up to 150 GPa.

We first constrain the initial slope (A) from the low-pressure data by back-extrapolating the $P\text{-}\Delta\lambda$ data points to 1 bar using Eq. (2). Note that, because of nonlinearity, if the A -values are obtained from a linear approximation over a large pressure range, they can be overestimated. Here, we select a pressure range of 0-12 GPa, where the pressure medium (helium) remains liquid. A back-extrapolation of all the data (Mo, Cu, MgO, diamond) below 12 GPa according to Eq. (2) gives $A = 1.87(1)\times 10^3$ GPa, with the B value fixed at 5.5. Changing B by ± 0.5 has negligible effect on the resultant A values (within ± 2 GPa). The obtained A -value may be compared with those estimated by using the low-pressure data of the ruby fluorescence shifts against specific volumes of NaCl [8, 24]. By converting the $V\text{-}\Delta\lambda$ data to $P\text{-}\Delta\lambda$ relations using the EOS of NaCl [21, 22, 65], we obtain $A = 1890(5)$ GPa from Brown's EOS for NaCl [21], $A = 1848(6)$ GPa from Marcondes and Wentzcovitch's EOS [22], and $A = 1833(4)$ GPa from Decker's EOS [65], all with B fixed at 5.5 and a similar pressure range of 0-12 GPa. Our constrained A -value, $1.87(1)\times 10^3$ GPa, is generally consistent with those from NaCl data within the uncertainties in the EOS from different sources.

We then use the high-pressure data to constrain the nonlinearity (i.e. B) in the $P\text{-}\Delta\lambda$ relation by fixing the A -value at 1870 GPa. Fitting all the $P\text{-}\Delta\lambda$ data points for the two metals (Mo and Cu), MgO, and diamond to Eq. (2) results in $B = 5.63(3)$ with a RMS value of 0.7 GPa in the pressure range up to 150 GPa. In the fitting procedure, the data from the three methods we have applied are equally weighted, i.e., 1/3 is weighted to the two metals' data points (1/6 for Mo, 1/6 for Cu), 1/3 to MgO data points, and 1/3 to diamond data points, respectively.

In summary, the $P\text{-}\Delta\lambda$ calibrations derived from analysis of two metals (Mo and Cu), MgO, and diamond can be represented by Eq. (2) as

$$P [\text{GPa}] = 1.87(\pm 0.01) \times 10^3 \left(\frac{\Delta\lambda}{\lambda_0} \right) \left[1 + 5.63(\pm 0.03) \left(\frac{\Delta\lambda}{\lambda_0} \right) \right] \quad (3)$$

with a RMS value of 0.7 GPa. A maximum uncertainty in pressure in the pressure range up to 150 GPa is estimated to be $\pm 2.5\%$. This is our recommended Ruby2020 gauge.

4. A few notes on the Ruby2020 gauge

4.1. Comparison with published ruby gauges

At pressures up to 50 GPa, Ruby2020 is in general agreement with all the published gauges within the gauge uncertainty of 2.5% (Fig. 2). At higher pressures, Ruby2020 tends to be in agreement with more recently published gauges. It is consistent with the gauges of Dewaele et al. (2008) [30], Dorogokepts and Oganov (2007) [66], and Chijioke et al. (2005) [38] within an uncertainty range of 1%. If the uncertainty range extends to 2.5%, more published gauges (Kunc et al. (2004) [35], Jacobsen et al. (2008) [10], Syassen (2008) [37], Sokolova et al. (2013) [40], and Holzapfel (2005) [39]) are within the

range. However, we note that Ruby2020 lies toward the lower bound of the recently published gauges (Fig. 2). This may be viewed as a coincidence, because calibrating a gauge can be affected by many factors, including the selection of calibrants, the data sources used, the approaches to calibration, and even the analytical form such as Eq. 2 to represent the nonlinear behavior. We include a summary of published ruby gauges in the Supplemental Materials (Table S3).

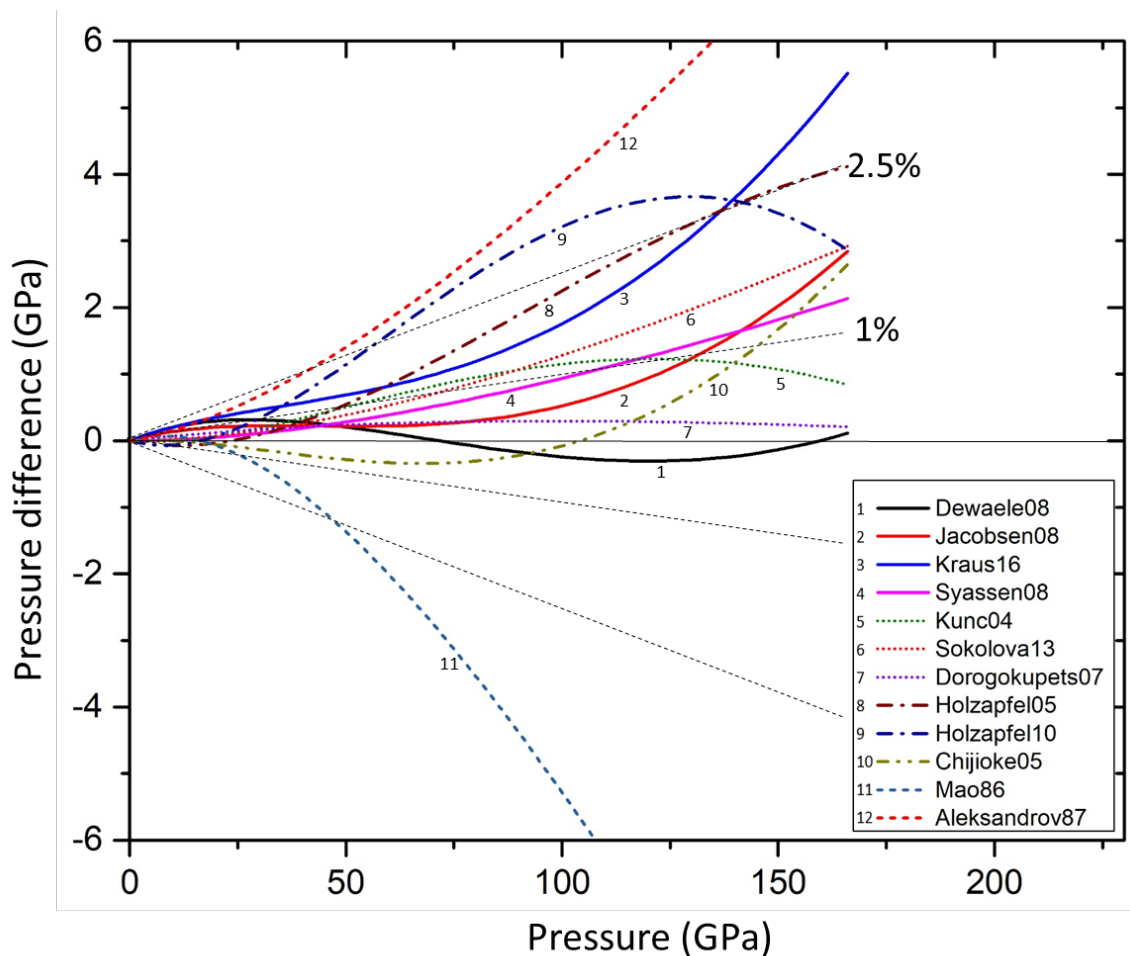


Figure 2. The pressure difference of recently published ruby gauges relative to the Ruby2020 gauge. The listed gauges are summarized in Table S3.

4.2. Calibration at low pressures (<12 GPa)

As shown in Fig. 3 for pressures below 12 GPa, Ruby2020 provides a calibration consistent with all the published gauges within a relative uncertainty of $\pm 2.5\%$. Calibration at low pressures is largely affected by the initial slope A in Eq. 2. We note that, in publications where A -values were fixed and constrained from the linear coefficient averaged over a given pressure range, the initial slopes may be over-estimated and require a correction using the back-extrapolation procedure to 1 bar.

The precision in pressure using a ruby gauge can be 0.01 GPa [37, 67], estimated from the precision in ruby fluorescence measurements. With such a precision, we should be able to better constrain the initial slope A . The question is how we can assign a pressure at a given compression condition. As

suggested by the previous AIRAPT IPPS task group [2], at pressures below 1.4 GPa, the melting curve of mercury, absolutely calibrated by primary standard piston gauges, may be used for pressure calibration. Other reference points with their pressures calibrated by primary piston gauges, such as the melting of H₂O [67] and the I-II transition of Bi [20], may be used as well. Precisely constraining the initial slope A from pressure calibrations based on piston gauges will be an important step to improve the accuracy of a ruby gauge, particularly at low pressures.

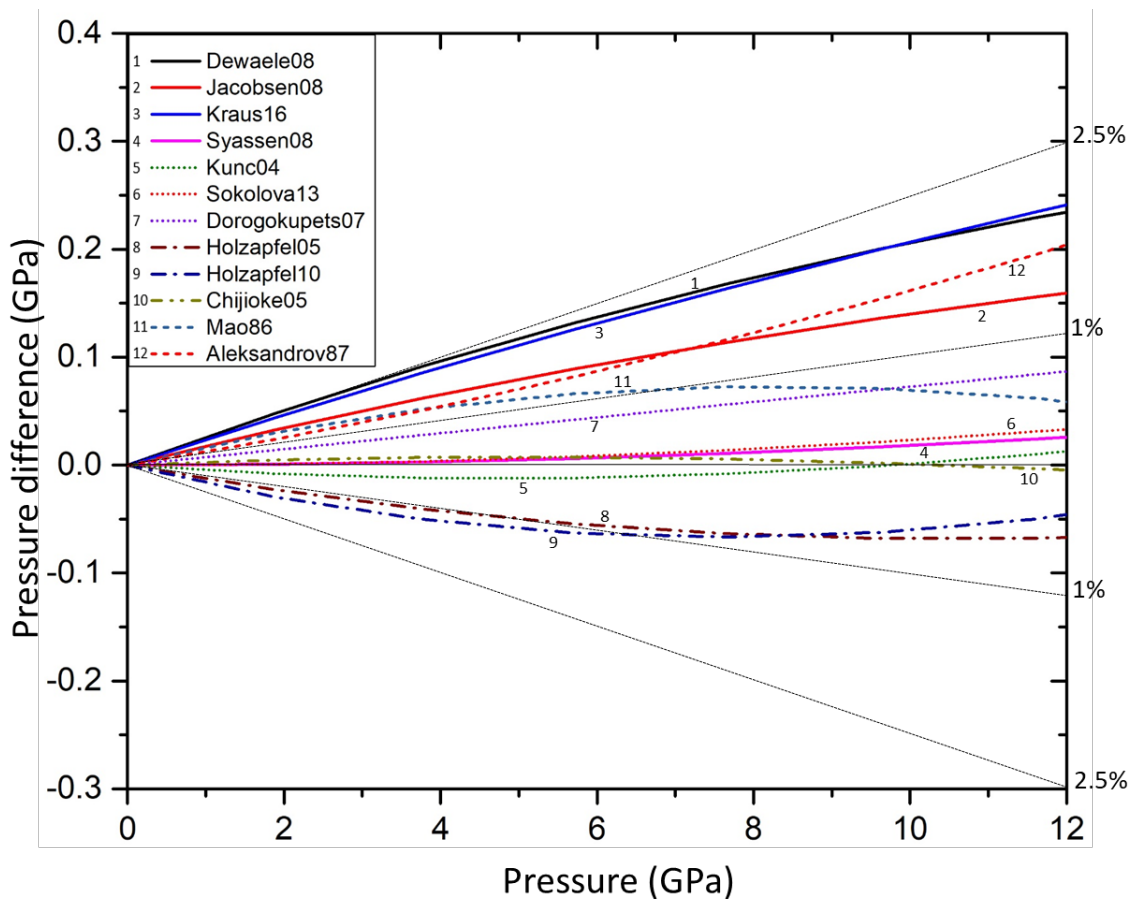


Figure 3. The pressure difference of recently published ruby gauges relative to the Ruby2020 gauge at pressures below 12 GPa. The listed gauges are summarized in Table S3.

4.3. Calibration at pressures over 150 GPa

Ruby2020 is for a pressure range up to 150 GPa at room temperature. Extrapolation to higher pressures may involve larger uncertainties in pressure determination. Furthermore, because ruby is structurally metastable at pressures above 80-100 GPa [68, 69], with its fluorescence intensity becoming weaker at higher pressures, alternative pressure gauges, such as Raman-based sensors of diamond [70, 71] and cBN [72, 73], may be used for pressure determinations above 150 GPa.

The key to proper pressure calibration above 150 GPa is still accurate P - V data. Considering the three approaches applied in developing Ruby2020, direct pressure determination from elastic wave velocities using Brillouin scattering and other acoustic techniques will become increasingly difficult at pressures above 150 GPa and uncertainty from integration over a large pressure range may yield large

accumulated errors. In the approach using an EOS to extrapolate compression behavior, an essential requirement is small relative volume change. At very high pressures, however, such extrapolation necessarily leads to increasing uncertainties in the P - V relation. Therefore, at very high pressures (>150 GPa), EOS data from direct measurements in dynamic compression may become the sole available source of experimental data, in particular ramp compression data that probe cool condensed materials, a method that is now routinely extended to the TPa range [18, 43]. Finally, the increasing accuracy of computational simulations continues to support a paradigm shift in which computed EOS data may be treated as a primary source of information where experimental results are unavailable or unreliable.

4.4. Deviatoric stress and pressure gradient

Helium, with the highest freezing pressure of ~ 12 GPa at room temperature among the rare gases, is widely used as pressure-transmitting medium in DAC experiments. Solid helium is generally viewed as quasi-hydrostatic above 12 GPa [28, 59]. The deviatoric stress, due to the uniaxial loading geometry in a DAC and the strength of solid helium, becomes detectable above 30 GPa [59], but is found to be small (< 1 GPa) even at pressures of 100-150 GPa [27, 28, 59] when a sample remains embedded in helium-medium. Pressure gradients, which are limited by the strength of the pressure medium, are also small.

Note, however, that many factors can contribute to the stress distribution in DAC, such as sample preparation (initial size and shape of the sample chamber, particle size and dimension of the sample, amount of the pressure medium relative to the chamber size, etc), plastic deformation of the gasket, and stress conditions of the small samples at very high pressures. Such details of experimental conditions are specific to individual experiments, potentially having different degrees of uncertainty in stress conditions. Therefore, when Ruby2020 is applied for pressure determination, the stress condition of each individual experiment needs to be taken into account.

Deviatoric stress can be estimated by diffraction experiments, such as the obtained Γ -plots used in [28, 59]. The ruby fluorescence technique is also applicable for evaluating non-hydrostaticity. The width of either R1- or R2-emission line is a measure of the stress inhomogeneity, while the R1–R2 splitting measures the deviatoric stress component. If a ruby sphere is under a uniform uniaxial stress condition, the R1- and R2-lines can remain sharp [26]. Thus, peak width alone cannot be used to address hydrostaticity in a DAC. Rather, a change in R1–R2 splitting may be an indication for the presence of deviatoric stress [26, 74].

Without pressure medium, or when pressure media other than helium are used, there may be significantly large deviatoric stresses and pressure gradients in DACs, resulting in large errors in pressure determination, no matter how accurate the pressure scale is. In such cases, one may use high-temperature annealing (both the sample and ruby) to reduce effects of uniaxial stress and pressure gradient.

4.5. Some technical notes on ruby fluorescence measurement

Ruby (Cr doped α - Al_2O_3) samples should be carefully chosen for reliable pressure measurements. A low Cr concentration ($< 0.5\%$ -Cr) ruby is most suitable. Both the intensity and the full width at half maximum (FWHM) of the R1 fluorescence line of ruby display a small increase with Cr concentration [75, 76]. A level of 0.3%-Cr is found to be a good compromise between line width and intensity for the use of ruby as pressure marker [75]. Note that the use of annealed ruby spheres with released internal strain [75] is of considerable practical value, in particular for low pressure determinations.

The power of the excitation source should be kept low (<10 mW), in order to avoid local heating and broadening of the R1 fluorescence line. It is reported [75] that the effect of local heating is not significant when the power remains lower than 100 mW, while the FWHM of the R1 line starts to increase with power above 10 mW.

A spectrometer with a pixel separation corresponding to a wavelength interval of ~ 0.05 nm generally corresponds to a precision of ~ 0.05 GPa in pressure. For better precision in pressure measurement, a spectrometer with higher wavelength resolution is needed. However, precision is ultimately limited by the natural width of the R1 line at room temperature (~ 0.6 nm) [76] and aiming to achieve precision that greatly exceeds the accuracy of the calibration is probably a poor use of resources.

Since the pressure is calibrated against the shift of the R1 line relative to the position at ambient pressure, it is important to have a reference ruby sample held at ambient pressure but otherwise under conditions similar to the compressed ruby sample under study. For example, the reference ruby can be loaded in an empty space (no pressure) in a DAC, so that a similar level of power of the excitation source can be applied to the reference ruby and to the compressed ruby. The reference and pressure marker rubies should be selected from the same batch, so that their conditions (Cr concentration, residual stress, etc.) are similar.

Acknowledgment: We thank the AIRAPT Executive Committee for the support of the IPPS task force activities. We also thank Drs. Steven Jacobsen and Thomas Duffy for useful discussions.

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