

## **Shock and shock-ramp compression of iron-rich (Mg,Fe)O at Earth's core conditions**

Hannah J. Bausch<sup>1</sup>, Joshua P. Townsend<sup>2</sup>, Steven D. Jacobsen<sup>1</sup>, Alisha N. Clark<sup>3</sup>, Sakun Duwal<sup>2</sup>,

Chad A. McCoy<sup>2</sup>, Jean-Paul Davis<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, <sup>2</sup>Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, NM,

<sup>3</sup>University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, CO

Where Earth's iron core and silicate mantle meet is a region of the Earth's interior that is still poorly understood. Seismological results suggest the presence of ultra-low velocity zones (ULVZ's) sitting directly atop the core. One possible explanation for these features is that they are regions of highly iron-enriched ferropericlasite (Mg,Fe)O (Wicks et al. 2010), however the thermodynamic properties at near-core conditions are poorly constrained. Here we present the results of combined ab-initio calculations and shock measurements of (Mg,Fe)O containing 25 and 50 mol% Fe. The results are being used to design shock-ramp experiments on the Z machine at Sandia National Laboratories.

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Wicks, J. K., Jackson, J. M., & Sturhahn, W. (2010) Very low sound velocities in iron-rich (Mg, Fe) O: Implications for the core-mantle boundary region. *Geophysical Research Letters*, 37(15).