

1 **The solubility of La hydroxide and stability of La<sup>3+</sup> and La**  
2 **hydroxyl complexes at acidic to mildly acidic pH from 25 to**  
3 **250 °C**

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21 **Abstract**

22 The mobility of rare earth elements (REE) in natural hydrothermal systems can be assessed using  
23 geochemical modeling, which requires reliable thermodynamic data of relevant aqueous species.  
24 In this study, we evaluate the controls of pH and temperature on La speciation and the role of  
25 hydroxyl complexes in REE transport at hydrothermal conditions. Batch-type hydrothermal  
26 solubility experiments were conducted using synthetic La hydroxide powders equilibrated in  
27 perchloric acid-based aqueous solutions at temperatures between 150 and 250 °C and starting pH  
28 of 2 to 5. The La hydroxide solubility is retrograde with temperature and displays a strong pH  
29 dependence with a decrease in La concentrations from acidic to mildly acidic pH spanning  
30 between 3 to 5 orders of magnitude (e.g. log La molality of -2.5 to -7.2 at 250 °C).  
31 Thermodynamic optimizations using GEMSFITS allow to retrieve the standard partial molal  
32 Gibbs energies for the La<sup>3+</sup> aqua ion and the formation constants for the La hydroxyl species (i.e.,  
33 LaOH<sup>2+</sup>, La(OH)<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>, La(OH)<sub>3</sub><sup>0</sup>) between 25 and 250 °C. A comparison between the experimentally  
34 derived thermodynamic properties with the calculated values from the Helgeson-Kirkham-  
35 Flowers equation of state parameters indicates an increased divergence with temperature.  
36 Discrepancies in standard partial molal Gibbs energies range between ~1–12 kJ/mol and result in  
37 a predicted La hydroxide solubility differing by up to 3 orders of magnitude at 250 °C.  
38 Speciation calculations indicate a higher stability of La<sup>3+</sup> and LaOH<sup>2+</sup> over the other La hydroxyl  
39 species in the studied pH range of 3.4 to 6. The optimized thermodynamic properties for La  
40 aqueous species have important implications for modeling the solubility of REE minerals such as  
41 monazite and the mobility of REE in hydrothermal systems.

42

## 43 1. INTRODUCTION

44 The rare earth elements (REE) are important strategic and critical metals used in a wide range of  
45 technologies (Hatch, 2012; Goodenough et al., 2018). In geologic systems, hydrothermal  
46 aqueous fluids play an important role in the formation of many REE mineral deposits as  
47 evidenced by the presence of hydrothermal veins containing REE minerals (Salvi and Williams-  
48 Jones, 1996, 2006; Williams-Jones et al., 2000; Smith et al., 2000, 2015; Cook et al., 2013;  
49 Moore et al., 2015; Gysi et al., 2016; Harlov et al., 2016; Vasyukova and Williams-Jones, 2019;  
50 Liu et al., 2020; Beland and Williams-Jones, 2021). Thermodynamic modeling and experimental  
51 studies have further constrained the importance of chloride, fluoride, and sulfate complexes in  
52 mobilizing REE in acidic fluids based on available thermodynamic properties for most of these  
53 species (Migdisov and Williams-Jones, 2008, 2014; Migdisov et al., 2009, 2016, 2019; Williams-  
54 Jones et al., 2012; Gysi and Williams-Jones, 2013). Other studies indicate the potential  
55 importance of REE hydroxyl and carbonate complexes in more alkaline fluids, but the  
56 thermodynamic properties for these species are not yet well constrained (Perry and Gysi, 2018;  
57 Gysi and Harlov, 2021; Louvel et al., 2022; Nisbet et al., 2022; Han and Gysi, 2024; Pan et al.,  
58 2024).

59 Thermodynamic data for calculating the stability of the REE<sup>3+</sup> aqua ions and aqueous  
60 REE hydroxyl complexes in hydrothermal fluids are largely based on the work by Wood (1990),  
61 Haas et al. (1995), Shock and Helgeson (1988), and Shock et al. (1997). The thermodynamic  
62 properties for these REE complexes are generally predicted at high temperature and pressure  
63 from the Helgeson-Kirkham-Flowers (HKF) equation of state parameters (Helgeson et al., 1981;  
64 Shock and Helgeson, 1988; Tanger and Helgeson, 1988; Shock et al., 1992), which are compiled

65 in the study by Haas et al. (1995) and Shock et al. (1997). These properties were derived several  
66 decades ago but are still widely used in many geochemical modeling programs, commonly also  
67 referred to as slop98.dat database, which was originally implemented in the program SUPCRT92  
68 (Johnson et al., 1992). However, the accuracy of this database needs to be improved because the  
69 formation constants for many REE aqueous complexes (Migdisov et al., 2009, 2016) and the  
70 solubility of REE phosphate (Pan et al., 2024) determined experimentally in more recent years  
71 indicate discrepancies that can reach over 2 orders of magnitude.

72 Experimental data for the REE hydroxyl complexes are scarce at high temperature.  
73 Monazite and xenotime solubility experiments conducted between 100 and 250 °C in pH 2  
74 solutions (Gysi et al., 2015, 2018; Van Hoozen et al., 2020; Gysi and Harlov, 2021) were used to  
75 derive a set of optimized thermodynamic properties for the  $\text{REE}^{3+}$  and  $\text{REEOH}^{2+}$  species (Pan et  
76 al., 2024). These indicate that the HKF parameters derived by Haas et al. (1995) do not  
77 accurately predict the experimental solubility data in this temperature range. Wood et al. (2002)  
78 conducted potentiometric experiments between 30 to 290 °C which indicate that the  
79 predominance of Nd hydroxyl complexes is overpredicted with respect to the stability of the  $\text{Nd}^{3+}$   
80 aqua ion. Deberdt et al. (1998) evaluate the hydrolysis of La and Gd hydroxyl complexes based  
81 on hydroxide solubility experiments conducted between 40 and 150 °C at pH from 5 to 9.5 and  
82 come to a similar conclusion for the  $\text{La}^{3+}$  and  $\text{Gd}^{3+}$  aqua ions. Despite these few experimental  
83 efforts, thermodynamic data for many REE hydroxyl complexes are still lacking and the stability  
84 for these species seems to remain ambiguous in hydrothermal aqueous fluids (Migdisov et al.,  
85 2016).

86 In this study, La hydroxide batch-type solubility experiments were conducted at acidic to  
87 mildly acidic pH and at temperatures between 150 and 250 °C. The solubility data are compared  
88 to available literature data and used to derive values for the standard partial molal Gibbs energy  
89 of formation for the  $\text{La}^{3+}$  and La hydroxyl aqueous species using the optimization program  
90 GEMSFITS (Miron et al., 2015). Moreover, a new set of equilibrium constants was retrieved for  
91 the solubility of La hydroxide and the hydrolysis of  $\text{La}^{3+}$  as a function of temperature between 25  
92 and 250 °C. This study is part of a series of experimental contributions aimed at building an  
93 internally consistent dataset that is integrated in the MINES thermodynamic database (Gysi et  
94 al., 2023) for more accurately modeling the nature and stability of REE aqueous species and  
95 assessing the mobility of REE in natural hydrothermal fluids.

96

## 97 **2. MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### 98 **2.1. Materials**

99 Lanthanum hydroxide powders were synthesized hydrothermally at 250 °C using a batch-type  
100 reactor (Parr 4744, Teflon-lined stainless steel) based on a method similar to Diakonov et al.  
101 (1998). The starting solution was prepared by mixing  $\text{La}_2\text{O}_3$  powder (Alfa Aesar, REacton grade,  
102 99.99% purity) with Milli-Q water (18 M $\Omega$ -cm). This solution was then transferred to the Teflon  
103 liner which was loaded in the reactor and purged using research grade nitrogen gas. The reactor  
104 was then placed into a preheated muffle furnace and allowed to equilibrate for three weeks. At  
105 the end of the synthesis procedure, the reactor was quenched in a water bath, and the mixture  
106 taken out of the reactor, filtered, and then oven dried at ~75 °C for at least 24 hours and stored in  
107 a desiccator. The solids were characterized using powder X-ray diffraction (XRD) analysis and

108 Rietveld refinement was carried out using the software MAUD (Lutterotti, 2000) adopting the  
109 hexagonal ( $P6_3/m$ ) crystal system determined by Beall et al. (1977). The modeled and  
110 experimental spectra (Fig. 1) match the reference pattern of Beall et al. (1977) and the refined  
111 unit cell parameters are in agreement with those reported in the literature (Table 1). The La  
112 hydroxide solids synthesized have a purity of ~99% or better, which was verified by modeling a  
113 mixture of La hydroxide with other potential La phases (Fig. S1).

114 The perchloric acid-based experimental solutions were prepared by titrating appropriate  
115 amounts of perchloric acid (Fisher Scientific, trace metal grade) to 500 ml of Milli-Q water in  
116 order to reach a measured starting pH from 2 to 5 at room temperature. The pH was determined  
117 using a Metrohm 913 pH meter (precision of  $\pm 0.003$  pH units and resolution of 0.001 pH units)  
118 which was previously calibrated using Fisher Scientific pH buffers of 1.68, 4.01, and 7.0  
119 (accuracy of 0.01). These pH values were then used to determine the starting molality of  
120 perchlorate ( $\text{ClO}_4^-$ ) in the experimental solutions.

121

## 122 **2.2. Experimental technique**

123 Solubility experiments were performed using pure synthetic La hydroxide and perchloric acid-  
124 based solutions in 45 ml Teflon-lined stainless-steel batch-type reactors (Parr 4744) at  
125 temperatures of 150, 200, and 250 °C and at saturated water vapor pressure. The experimental  
126 technique is similar to the one used in previous REE phosphate solubility experiments (Gysi et  
127 al., 2018; Gysi and Harlov, 2021). The perchloric acid-based starting solutions used in the  
128 experiments have pH values of 2 to 5 in 0.5 pH unit increments. Perchloric acid was used  
129 because it can be assumed to be entirely dissociated in the studied temperature range (Migdisov

130 and Williams-Jones, 2007, 2008), and  $\text{ClO}_4^-$  does not readily complex with the REE (Choppin et  
131 al., 1966). These solutions were equilibrated at temperature with the La hydroxide powders for  
132 up to 10–14 days, with kinetic test experiments conducted between 1–26 days. Replicate  
133 experiments were conducted to determine the experimental uncertainty.

134 A schematic of the experimental design is shown in Fig. 2. A typical experiment consists  
135 of first loading each of the self-made Teflon sample holders (virgin grade purity) with ~40-50 mg  
136 of La hydroxide powder. These holders were then covered with Teflon tape, which was  
137 perforated using a 31-gauge needle and used as a permeable membrane to allow the experimental  
138 solutions and solid to react in the experiments; this membrane also slows down any back reaction  
139 upon quenching. The loaded sample holders were each placed into the Teflon-lined reactors  
140 which were each subsequently filled with 25 g of the perchloric acid-based starting pH buffer  
141 solutions. The reactor head space was purged with research grade nitrogen gas for 5 minutes,  
142 then rapidly closed and placed into a preheated muffle furnace (Cole-Palmer box furnace and  
143 Lindberg Blue M Thermo Scientific). The temperature was measured using a K-type  
144 thermocouple located in the center of the furnace and recorded with an Omega® temperature  
145 logger. The temperature was periodically examined during the experiments and maintained  
146 within  $\pm 1$  °C.

147 At the end of an experiment, the reactors were quenched in a cold water bath in less than  
148 20 min and the solutions were extracted using a syringe and filtered using 0.22  $\mu\text{m}$  membrane  
149 filters. The filtered experimental solutions were then acidified with  $\text{HNO}_3$  (Fisher Scientific,  
150 trace metal grade) to avoid the formation of any precipitates. These acidified samples were  
151 further diluted and matrix matched with a 2%  $\text{HNO}_3$  blank matrix solution. The diluted samples

152 were then analyzed for total dissolved La concentrations using inductively coupled plasma  
153 optical emission spectroscopy (ICP-OES) and quadrupole ICP mass spectrometry (ICP-MS).

154           The Teflon liners and sample holders were cleaned between experiments by applying  
155 an overnight acid wash using a ~10% sulfuric acid (Sigma-Aldrich, ACS reagent grade) solution  
156 and then soaked overnight with Milli-Q water. The Teflon sample holders were further cleaned  
157 using a CPX2800 Fisherbrand ultrasonic bath for 15 min. The acid washing solutions from the  
158 reactor were subsequently diluted and analyzed for La to test for any possible precipitates upon  
159 quenching. These test solutions displayed no detectable La concentrations using ICP-MS, and  
160 therefore, do not indicate any evidence of back reaction and precipitation of La on the reactor  
161 walls upon quenching.

162

### 163 **2.3. Analytical method**

164 The synthetic La hydroxide powders were characterized using a PANalytical X'Pert Pro XRD  
165 instrument with a Cu-K $\alpha$  radiation source (1.541 Å wavelength) using 2 $\theta$  scanning values  
166 ranging between 5° and 70° in 0.01° steps. Randomly oriented sample powders were mounted on  
167 (zero background) highly crystalline silicon single crystal plates. The measured diffractograms  
168 were background subtracted, the peak fitted and matched to the relevant phase identified using  
169 the X'Pert HighScore Plus software package.

170           Dissolved La concentrations were measured in acidified (2% HNO<sub>3</sub> matrix) samples using  
171 an Agilent 5900 ICP-OES, and samples with concentrations between 5 to 30 ppb were further  
172 analyzed using an Agilent 7900 quadrupole ICP-MS at the Analytical Chemistry Laboratory in  
173 the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources, New Mexico Institute of Mining

174 and Technology. A series of diluted REE multi-standards (Inorganic Ventures, CMS-1,  $10 \pm 0.04$   
175 ppm) were prepared for external calibration. Samples were spiked in-line with indium (SCP  
176 Science, NIST traceable) as an internal standard for drift corrections. For ICP-MS analysis, an  
177 in-line helium gas collision cell was used to reduce REE oxide formation. Individual La, Ce, Nd,  
178 and Eu standards (Inorganic Ventures,  $1000 \pm 5$  ppm) were prepared, and if necessary, used to  
179 correct for REE oxide formation using the same method as described by Gysi et al. (2018) and  
180 Aries et al. (2000). The analytical precision for ICP-OES analyses based on repeated standard  
181 measurements is better than 3% for standards measured in the concentration range of 30 to 1000  
182 ppb La and the detection limit is 0.8 ppb La based on repeated analysis of the procedural blank  
183 ( $5\sigma$ ). The analytical precision for ICP-MS analyses based on repeated standard analysis is better  
184 than 3% for La concentrations above 0.5 ppb and the detection limit is 7 ppt La based on  $5\sigma$  of  
185 repeated blank analysis.

186

### 187 **3. DATA TREATMENT**

#### 188 **3.1. Aqueous speciation and pH calculations**

189 Aqueous speciation and pH calculations were carried out using the GEMS code package (Kulik  
190 et al., 2013) and the MINES thermodynamic database (Gysi et al., 2023). The aqueous species  
191 considered in the calculations and the sources of thermodynamic data are listed in Table 2. The  
192 thermodynamic properties for La include the  $\text{La}^{3+}$  aqua ion reported by Shock and Helgeson  
193 (1988) and Shock et al. (1997) and the La hydroxyl complexes reported by Haas et al. (1995).  
194 The HKF parameters for these aqueous species implemented in the MINES database are  
195 originally from the slop98.dat thermodynamic dataset built-in the program SUPCRT92 (Johnson

196 et al., 1992), referred to hereafter as the Supcrt92 database. The properties for the La hydroxide  
 197 solid are retrieved from the values reported by Diakonov et al. (1998) and Navrotsky et al.  
 198 (2015) and presented in Table 3. These thermodynamic data for La hydroxide include the heat  
 199 capacity function retrieved by Diakonov et al. (1998) based on calorimetric data from Chirico  
 200 and Westrum (1980). This function is used to calculate the properties of the solid at the  
 201 temperature of interest for initial equilibrium speciation and solubility calculations before  
 202 thermodynamic parameter optimization (Section 3.2).

203 The TSolMod library (Wagner et al., 2012) is used in GEMS for all the activity and  
 204 equation of state calculations. The thermodynamic properties of aqueous species are retrieved at  
 205 the temperature and pressure of interest using the revised HKF equation-of-state (Helgeson et al.,  
 206 1981; Shock and Helgeson, 1988; Tanger and Helgeson, 1988; Shock et al., 1992). The  
 207 properties of H<sub>2</sub>O are calculated from the IAPS-84 equation-of-state (Kestin et al., 1984). The  
 208 activity coefficients ( $\gamma_i$ ) of charged aqueous species are calculated using the extended Debye-  
 209 Hückel equation:

$$210 \quad \log \gamma_i = \frac{Az_i^2 \sqrt{I}}{I + \hat{a}_i B \sqrt{I}} + b_\gamma I \quad (1)$$

211 and the effective ionic strength ( $I$ ) given by

$$212 \quad I = 1/2 \sum m_i z_i^2 \quad (2)$$

213 where  $A$  and  $B$  are the Debye-Hückel parameters (Helgeson and Kirkham, 1974; Helgeson et al.,  
 214 1981) implemented in GEMS using the TSolMod library (Wagner et al., 2012);  $b_\gamma$  is the extended  
 215 term parameter, which is an empirical parameter that depends on the background electrolyte and  
 216 was determined previously to have a value of 0.21 for perchloric acid based solutions at  
 217 temperatures up to 250 °C (Migdisov and Williams-Jones, 2007);  $\hat{a}_i$  is the ion size parameter set

218 to a value of 4.5 Å for  $\text{ClO}_4^-$  (Migdisov and William-Jones, 2007) and values for other ions are  
219 taken from Kielland (1937);  $m_i$  is the molal concentration;  $z_i$  is the the charge of the  $i$ th aqueous  
220 species. The  $\gamma_i$  of neutral species was set to unity, and that of water was calculated from the  
221 osmotic coefficient (Helgeson et al., 1981).

222 The pH is calculated at the experimental temperature using the measured La  
223 concentrations in the quenched experimental solutions and the known  $\text{ClO}_4^-$  concentrations of the  
224 experimental starting solutions listed in Table 4. The pH of the experimental aqueous solutions  
225 depends on the solubility of La hydroxide and the hydrolysis of La expressed here as formation  
226 constants:



231 where  $K_{s0}$  is the solubility product and  $\beta_1$ - $\beta_3$  are the equilibrium constants for the formation of La  
232 hydroxyl complexes. The  $\text{REE(OH)}_4^-$  species was omitted in the speciation calculation because  
233 this species has not been identified at near-neutral to alkaline pH conditions as determined in the  
234 study by Wood et al. (2002) between 50 and 290 °C.

235 The predicted equilibrium pH is initially calculated using GEMS and the thermodynamic  
236 properties of La aqueous species from Supcrt92 (Table 2) to compare the predicted with the  
237 experimental La hydroxide solubility data. The final equilibrium pH of the experimental  
238 solutions is subsequently re-calculated at temperature during thermodynamic optimization of the  
239 La aqueous species using GEMSFITS (Fig. S2).

240

### 241 **3.2. Thermodynamic parameter optimization**

242 The program GEMSFITS (Miron et al., 2015) is used for thermodynamic parameter optimization  
243 and is coupled with the GEMS3K chemical speciation solver based on Gibbs energy  
244 minimization and the TSolMod library (Wagner et al., 2012) also implemented in GEMS (Kulik  
245 et al., 2013). GEMSFITS permits conducting simultaneous calculations of equilibrium solubility,  
246 speciation, and pH on a large number of experimental data and provides a robust method  
247 previously described by Miron et al. (2015). Similar optimizations were applied successfully in  
248 previous studies to optimize the hydrolysis constants of Al species and other major cations  
249 (Miron et al., 2016, 2017), and to optimize the properties of REE aqueous species (Gysi et al.,  
250 2018; Gysi and Harlov, 2021; Pan et al., 2024). Thermodynamic data, equations of state, and  
251 activity models used for equilibrium calculations are the same as described above for the GEMS  
252 code package.

253 The thermodynamic optimization procedure involves adjusting the standard partial molal  
254 Gibbs energy of formation at temperature  $T$  ( $\Delta_f G^\circ_T$ ) of selected La species until GEMSFITS  
255 converges. A flowchart showing the calculation sequence is shown in Figure S2. Convergence is  
256 achieved when the residuals between the input total dissolved La concentrations measured in the  
257 experiments and the calculated output La concentrations are minimized. The equilibrium  
258 speciation calculations consider the input La and  $\text{ClO}_4^-$  concentration of each experiment and  
259 equilibrium with La hydroxide solid. The program uses the  $\Delta_f G^\circ_T$  values from Tables 2 and 3 for  
260 initial speciation calculations at a given temperature, and adjusts the  $\Delta_f G^\circ_T$  values for selected La  
261 aqueous species and/or La hydroxide solid. This procedure allows minimizing the residuals

262 between input/output La concentrations (controlled by Eqs. 3-6), re-calculation of pH and full  
263 speciation, while maintaining internal thermodynamic consistency between optimized and un-  
264 optimized thermodynamic data used in the speciation calculations.

265 The program uses the bound optimization by quadratic approximation (Powell, 2009),  
266 with the sum of residuals as the target parameter that is trying to minimize in each loop until  
267 convergence is reached. Other key statistic features for the optimization results include the  
268 composite scaled sensitivities (CSS) and the correlation of parameters. The CSS indicates the  
269 sensitivity of a parameter to the experimental observations, whereas correlation coefficients  
270 calculated for pairs of parameters indicate whether these parameters are correlated to each other  
271 (Miron et al., 2015; Tiedeman and Hill, 2007). To allow a better convergence for the  
272 optimization of  $\text{La}^{3+}$  aqua ion, we included experimental data from the ThermoExp\_REE  
273 database (Pan et al., 2024) for the solubility of monazite ( $\text{LaPO}_4$ ) conducted at pH of 2 and at  
274 temperatures between 100 to 250 °C.

275 The aqueous La species considered in the optimizations include the species expected to  
276 be stable in acidic to mildly acidic pH. Speciation calculations conducted before any  
277 optimizations (Table S1) indicate that  $\text{La}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{LaOH}^{2+}$  and  $\text{La}(\text{OH})_2^+$  are the predominant species in  
278 the studied pH range and temperature. The  $\text{La}(\text{OH})_3^0$  species was reaction constrained according  
279 to the reaction:  $\text{La}(\text{OH})_2^+ + \text{OH}^- = \text{La}(\text{OH})_3^0$  because of its low calculated activities (Table S1).

280

## 281 **4. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS**

### 282 **4.1. Kinetic experiments**

283 A series of kinetic experiments was performed to determine the time required to reach steady-

284 state dissolved La concentrations in the aqueous solutions equilibrated with La hydroxide. These  
285 conditions are interpreted to represent approach to equilibrium conditions. The compositions of  
286 the quenched experimental solutions are listed in Table 4.

287 Figure 3 shows the results of the kinetic runs at 150 and 250 °C with varying starting pH  
288 values of 2, 2.5, and 3. All the experiments indicate approach to steady-state La concentrations  
289 within 10 to 14 days of reaction depending on the temperature of the experiments regardless of  
290 the initial experimental pH. At 150 °C, equilibrium is approached after 11–14 days of reaction,  
291 whereas at 250 °C, equilibrium is already approached after 10–12 days of reaction. Replicate  
292 experiments conducted for the same isotherm and varying starting pH result in an excellent  
293 reproducibility of the experimental data quenched after 11 days of reaction (Table 4). These  
294 experiments are therefore selected in this study to further retrieve and evaluate the  
295 thermodynamic constants for aqueous La species.

296

#### 297 **4.2. La hydroxide solubility as a function of temperature and starting pH**

298 The measured compositions of the quenched experimental solutions (equilibrium runs in Table 4)  
299 are used to determine the combined effects of temperature and starting pH on the solubility of La  
300 hydroxide. The solubility data are initially presented in Figure 4 as the logarithm molality of total  
301 dissolved La concentrations ( $\log(mLa)$ ) as a function of starting pH measured at room  
302 temperature ( $pH_{25^{\circ}C,initial}$ ) because the calculated equilibrium pH strongly depends on the  
303 hydrolysis of La (Eqs. 4 to 6).

304 The measured La solubility data display a strong dependence on the starting pH of the  
305 experimental solutions (Fig. 4). At initial pH values from 2 to 5, the measured La concentrations

306 decrease from  $\log(mLa)$  values of -2.5 to -5.4 at 150 °C, from -2.5 to -5.8 at 200 °C, and from -  
307 2.5 to -7.2 at 250 °C. The solubility data in the experiments conducted at 150 and 200 °C are  
308 comparable, whereas the La hydroxide solubility decreases more markedly with increased pH at  
309 250 °C. Further comparison of the experimental data with the predicted La hydroxide solubility  
310 shows an increased divergence for  $pH_{25^\circ C, initial}$  values above 3.5 to 5. These differences become  
311 more pronounced at elevated temperature, with discrepancies between predictions and  
312 experimental data reaching up to 3 orders of magnitude at 250 °C (Fig. 4c). These discrepancies  
313 are caused by inaccurate thermodynamic data for the La hydroxyl complexes, which start to  
314 prevail with increased pH and temperature (Table S1).

315 To further inspect these discrepancies, a series of speciation calculations was conducted  
316 using GEMS, the experimental solution compositions listed in Table 4, and the thermodynamic  
317 properties for La species from Suprt92 (Table 2). The resulting pH values calculated at the  
318 experimental temperatures are uncorrected (Table S1,  $pH_{T, uncorr}$ ) and are calculated *a priori* before  
319 any optimizations of the thermodynamic properties of La species. The element concentration  
320 versus pH solubility profile is generally expected to display a “U-shaped” curve with a decrease  
321 in slope with increased pH from acidic to mildly acid, followed by an increase in slope at more  
322 alkaline conditions, based on the stepwise hydrolysis of ions (Baes and Mesmer, 1976, 1981).  
323 This behavior is related to the stepwise reaction stoichiometry associated to the hydrolysis of La  
324 (Eqs. 4-6). Test calculations indicate that the trends observed in a  $\log(mLa)$  versus  $pH_{T, uncorr}$   
325 diagram (Fig. S3) results in erroneous slopes for these solubility profiles, which become  
326 pronounced at 250 °C. These significant discrepancies indicate inaccurate pH calculations and a  
327 need to re-evaluate the thermodynamic properties of the La aqueous species that control La

328 hydrolysis in the studied pH range.

329

## 330 5. THERMODYNAMIC OPTIMIZATIONS

### 331 5.1. Optimization of La aqueous species

332 Different optimization modes were tested that involve the adjustment of  $\Delta_r G^\circ_T$  values of only one  
333 aqueous species ( $\text{La}^{3+}$ ) or simultaneous optimization of two ( $\text{La}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{LaOH}^{2+}$ ) or three species ( $\text{La}^{3+}$ ,  
334  $\text{LaOH}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{La(OH)}_2^+$ ) as well as optimization of the La hydroxide solid. The thermodynamic  
335 properties of aqueous La species that do not improve significantly the fits for a given  
336 temperature are constrained by assuming their hydrolysis constants to be equal to those derived  
337 in the study by Haas et al. (1995). This method maintains internal consistency between the  
338 optimized La species and those species that are not optimized.

339 The results of the optimizations calculations are listed in Table 5. From 150 to 250 °C,  
340 simultaneous optimization of  $\Delta_r G^\circ_T$  values for the  $\text{La}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{LaOH}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{La(OH)}_2^+$  aqueous species and  
341 the La hydroxide solid retrieved the best fit to the experimental La hydroxide solubility data.  
342 Figure 5 shows the measured solubility data as a function of the optimized pH values ( $\text{pH}_{T,\text{opt}}$ ).  
343 The optimized solubility profiles are improved because the discrepancies between calculated and  
344 measured La concentrations are resolved with residuals generally better than 2.5%. The slopes of  
345 the curves in a  $\log(m\text{La})$  versus  $\text{pH}_{T,\text{opt}}$  diagram (Fig. 5) are consistent with the stoichiometry of  
346 the La hydroxide dissolution and the La hydrolysis reactions (Eqs. 3-5;  $K_{s0}$ ,  $\beta_1$  and  $\beta_2$ ), which are  
347 described by the following three equations:

$$348 \log a(\text{La}^{3+}) = \log K_{s0} - 3 \log a(\text{OH}^-) \quad (7)$$

$$349 \log a(\text{LaOH}^{2+}) = (\log \beta_1 + \log K_{s0}) - 2 \log a(\text{OH}^-) \quad (8)$$

350  $\log a(\text{La}(\text{OH})_2^+) = (\log \beta_2 + \log K_{s0}) - \log a(\text{OH}^-)$  (9)

351 where  $a$  is the activity of each species. Equation 7 indicates a slope of -3 for the  $\text{La}^{3+}$  aqua ion,  
352 Eq. 8 a slope of -2 for the  $\text{LaOH}^{2+}$  species, and Eq. 9 a slope of -1 for the  $\text{La}(\text{OH})_2^+$  species.

353 The experimental data can be subdivided into two major linear trends with different slopes  
354 (Fig. 5) controlled by  $\text{La}^{3+}$  and  $\text{LaOH}^{2+}$ . The effect of stepwise hydrolysis is reflected by a change  
355 in curve slope with increased pH. For example at 150 °C, the fitted slopes are -3.3 at  $\text{pH}_{T,\text{opt}}$   
356 values ranging from 5 to 5.3 and a slope of -2.4 at  $\text{pH}_{T,\text{opt}}$  values ranging from 5.3 to 6. At 200 °C,  
357 the fitted curves have slopes of -3.3 at  $\text{pH}_{T,\text{opt}}$  values from 4.1 to 4.5 and -2.1 at  $\text{pH}_{T,\text{opt}}$  values  
358 ranging from 4.5 to 5.2. At 250 °C, the data follow linear trends with slope values of -3.3 at  
359  $\text{pH}_{T,\text{opt}}$  from 3.4 to 4 and -2.4 at  $\text{pH}_{T,\text{opt}}$  from 4 to 5. These trends indicate that the two aqueous  
360 species  $\text{La}^{3+}$  and  $\text{LaOH}^{2+}$  mainly control the solubility of La hydroxides in these experiments, and  
361 hence have a higher certainty in these optimization calculations. Note the slight deviations  
362 between the slope values derived in Figure 5 and the theoretical slopes presented above. This  
363 apparent discrepancy results because the data shown in Figure 5 correspond to the logarithm of  
364 total dissolved molality of La and not the calculated activities for La species involved in Eqs. 7-9  
365 (see also Fig. S4).

366

## 367 **5.2. Optimized standard partial molal Gibbs energy of formation as a function of** 368 **temperature**

369 Figure 6 shows the optimized  $\Delta_f G^\circ_T$  values for the La aqueous species as a function of  
370 temperature with the regressed parameters listed in Table 6. The optimized  $\Delta_f G^\circ_T$  values display a  
371 close to linear trend with temperature and show significant differences in comparison to the

372 values predicted from Supcrt92. This is especially pronounced above 150 °C, with differences  
373 between ~10 and 12 kJ/mol depending on the La species optimized. From 150 to 250 °C, the  
374 optimized  $\Delta_f G^\circ_T$  values for  $\text{La}^{3+}$  are ~1 to 6 kJ/mol more negative than the values predicted from  
375 Supcrt92. In contrast, the optimized  $\Delta_f G^\circ_T$  values for  $\text{LaOH}^{2+}$  are ~6 to 11 kJ/mol more positive  
376 than the predictions, whereas the adjusted  $\Delta_f G^\circ_T$  values for  $\text{La}(\text{OH})_2^+$  are ~10 to 12 kJ/mol more  
377 positive than the predictions. These discrepancies in  $\Delta_f G^\circ_T$  values for  $\text{La}(\text{OH})_2^+$  in turn affect the  
378 properties of the  $\text{La}(\text{OH})_3^0$  species which was reaction constrained (Table 5).

379       The optimized  $\Delta_f G^\circ_T$  values for La hydroxide at 150 °C are -2.9 kJ/mol more negative than  
380 predicted based on the data by Diakonov et al. (1998) in Table 3. These differences become  
381 significant at high temperature with differences of -11 kJ/mol at 200 °C and -19 kJ/mol at 250 °C  
382 (Table 5). Note that the heat capacity derived by Diakonov et al. (1998) displays some  
383 uncertainty above 350 K. This is caused by the heat capacity function derived in their study,  
384 which is based on calorimetric data by Chirico and Westrum (1980) measured only in the  
385 temperature range of 10 to 350 K, whereas at higher temperature a “3Rn” equation is derived  
386 based on measurements above 200 K. Therefore, a new temperature dependent heat capacity of  
387 reaction ( $\Delta_f C_p^\circ$ ) function is derived here (Table 3) by integration of the fitted La hydroxide  
388 solubility product vs temperature function, which is derived in Section 6.2.

389

## 390 **6. DISCUSSION**

### 391 **6.1. Implications of the optimizations for La speciation as a function of pH**

392 Aqueous speciation was calculated at the experimental conditions using the measured  
393 compositions of the quenched experimental solutions (Table 4) and the optimized  $\Delta_f G^\circ_T$

394 parameters for La aqueous species aqueous retrieved in this study (Table 5). Figure 7 shows a  
395 comparison between these speciation calculations and the predictions from Supcrt92 between  
396 150 and 250 °C.

397 The optimized speciation calculations indicate an overall increase in the predominance of  
398 the La hydroxyl complexes over the  $\text{La}^{3+}$  ion with an increase in pH and temperature (Fig. 7a-c).  
399 At 150 °C, the  $\text{La}^{3+}$  aqua ion controls solubility at pH below  $\sim 5.3$ , whereas  $\text{LaOH}^{2+}$  predominates  
400 at pH  $> 5.3$  to 6 (Fig. 7a). At 200 °C, there is a shift in predominance of the  $\text{LaOH}^{2+}$  over the  $\text{La}^{3+}$   
401 species occurring at pH above  $\sim 4.5$  (Figure 7b). At 250 °C, the  $\text{La}^{3+}$  aqua is the predominant  
402 species at pH below  $\sim 4.1$ , whereas  $\text{LaOH}^{2+}$  controls solubility at pH of  $\sim 4.2$ - $4.8$ , and  $\text{La(OH)}_2^+$   
403 starts to predominate at higher pH values (Figure 7c).

404 Overall, the calculated speciation is in line with the curve slopes presented in Figure 5 and  
405 the reaction stoichiometry from Eqs. 7 and 8, indicating that the  $\text{La}^{3+}$  aqua ion and the  $\text{LaOH}^{2+}$   
406 complex are the major species controlling the solubility of La hydroxide in the experiments. The  
407  $\text{La(OH)}_2^+$  species is expected to become important at pH values above 5.3-6 and at temperatures  
408 of 150 and 200 °C, whereas at 250 °C this species becomes predominant at pH close to 5. The  
409  $\text{La(OH)}_3^0$  species has a minor contribution in controlling La hydroxide solubility at pH below 5-6  
410 in the studied temperature range (Fig. 7a-c).

411 The aqueous speciation calculated using the thermodynamic data from Supcrt92 (Fig. 7d-f)  
412 displays significant differences in comparison to the optimized calculations. Firstly, the total La  
413 solubility is generally higher than measured in the experiments. Secondly, the calculated  
414 equilibrium pH values are significantly higher (between  $\sim 0.2$  and 1 pH unit) than those  
415 calculated from the optimized La species. This results in a solubility limit for La hydroxide that

416 is at pH values above ~4.2 to 5.2 depending on temperature. In contrast, those pH solubility  
417 limits are much lower in the optimized speciation calculations with values of ~3.4 to 5.

418 The optimized pH values derived in our study are comparable to the measured *in situ* pH  
419 values from the Nd hydroxide solubility study by Wood et al. (2002) (Fig. 8). The lower pH  
420 values (between ~0.1 and 0.5 pH units) calculated for some of the experimental data are due to  
421 the higher amount of acid used for the pH buffers in our experiments. These results give  
422 confidence in the optimized thermodynamic properties for La aqueous species derived in our  
423 study, whereas the properties from Supcrt92 result in systematically higher calculated pH values  
424 in comparison to other experimental studies (Fig. 8).

425

## 426 **6.2. Derivation of the solubility product of La hydroxide and formation constants of La** 427 **hydroxyl complexes and comparison to literature values**

428 The optimized standard Gibbs energy of formation of the La aqueous species and La hydroxide  
429 (Table 5) were used to retrieve the standard Gibbs energy of reaction ( $\Delta_r G^\circ$ ) for Eqs. 3-6 and the  
430 equilibrium constants from the relation  $\log K = -\Delta_r G^\circ / (RT \ln 10)$ , where  $R$  is the ideal gas constant  
431 and  $T$  is temperature in Kelvin. The regressed parameters  $A_0$  to  $A_4$  for the  $\log K$  equations as a  
432 function of temperature from 25 to 250 °C are listed in Table 7. A comparison between the  
433 optimized equilibrium constants and literature values is shown in Figures 9 and 10.

434 The retrieved solubility products from our study are compared to those by Deberdt et al.  
435 (1998) in Figure 9. The latter is to our knowledge the only study that measured the solubility of  
436 La hydroxide at elevated temperature. Deberdt et al. (1998) reports solubility data for  
437 experiments conducted in  $\text{NH}_4\text{OH}/\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$  or  $\text{NaOH}/\text{NaCl}$ -based aqueous solutions at 40 to 150

438 °C and pH from 5 to 9.5. The  $\log K_{s0}$  value derived by Deberdt et al. (1998) at 150 °C is ~1.5  
439 orders of magnitude higher than our experimental data. In their speciation calculations, Deberdt  
440 et al. (1998) assumes that  $\text{La}^{3+}$  is the only predominant species despite the high pH values  
441 reported in those experiments. However, the La aqueous species predicted to control solubility at  
442 pH >5.5 to more alkaline pH include  $\text{LaOH}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{La}(\text{OH})_2^+$  and  $\text{La}(\text{OH})_3^0$  (Fig. 7). Considering these  
443 species, would result in lower calculated  $\text{La}^{3+}$  activity and hence shift their calculated  $\log K_{s0}$   
444 values closer to our experimental data.

445 Solubility data for La hydroxide at 25 °C reported in the literature (Table S3) are mainly  
446 sourced from the compilation by Baes and Mesmer (1976) and the critical review by Diakonov et  
447 al. (1998). Reported solubility products for REE hydroxides display some variations due to  
448 crystallinity and aging of the solids used in the experiments (Diakonov et al., 1998). Values for  
449  $\log K_{s0}$  of -21.8 and -22.3 are reported by Diakonov et al. (1998) for La hydroxide (aged and  
450 crystalline solids). The first value is calculated from mineral thermochemical data, whereas the  
451 second one is the calculated average from previously reported solubility data values of -21.7  
452 (Akselrud and Spivakovskii, 1960; Akselrud, 1963; Baes and Mesmer, 1976), -22.8 (Moisa and  
453 Spivakovskii, 1970), and -22.4 (Deberdt et al., 1998). The  $\log K_{s0}$  value of -22.2 used to fit our  
454 experimental data at 25 °C (Table 7) is calculated using the  $\Delta_f G^\circ_{T_r, P_r}$  value for La hydroxide from  
455 Diakonov et al. (1998) (Table 3),  $\text{OH}^-$  from Supcrt92 (Table 2) and the fitted parameters for  $\text{La}^{3+}$   
456 derived in this study (Table 6). The latter  $\log K_{s0}$  value falls between the range of literature  
457 solubility data at reference temperature (Fig. 9).

458 Experimental data for the hydrolysis of La and other REE at 25 °C are commonly sourced  
459 from the extensive reviews by Baes and Mesmer (1976, 1981) and Lee and Byrne (1992). In the

460 former studies, the reported average  $\log\beta_1$  value for La hydrolysis is 5.5, whereas in the study of  
461 Lee and Byrne (1992) the calculated  $\log\beta_1$ ,  $\log\beta_2$ , and  $\log\beta_3$  values are 5.3, 9.9 and 14.1,  
462 respectively (Table S4). The La hydrolysis constants reported by Haas et al. (1995) and used in  
463 Supcrt92 are based on the 25 °C data by Lee and Byrne (1992), which were also used to  
464 constrain the fits to our experimental data in Figure 10. Klungness and Byrne (2000) conducted  
465 potentiometric experiments between 25 and 55 °C and reported a function for the temperature  
466 dependence of the first hydrolysis constant of La, with calculated  $\log\beta_1$  values of 5.2 at 25 °C and  
467 5.1 at 55 °C, respectively. These values are 0.2 to 0.8 log units lower than our experimental fits  
468 and those predicted using Supcrt92 and do not show an expected increase with temperature.  
469 Stepanchikova et al. (2014) measured the stepwise stability constants for La hydroxyl complexes  
470 at 25 °C, with retrieved  $\beta_1$ - $\beta_3$  values up to 3 log units higher than those derived from previous  
471 work and this study (Table S4). Figure 10 shows that the predicted  $\beta_1$ - $\beta_3$  at elevated temperatures  
472 based on data from Supcrt92 closely approach the fits to our experimental data at temperatures  
473 below 75 °C. In contrast, the predicted formation constants are higher than experiments at  
474 temperatures above 75 °C. This divergence becomes increasingly significant with temperature  
475 and reaches up to ~2 orders of magnitude at 250 °C.

476

### 477 **6.3. Comparison to other hydrothermal REE speciation studies**

478 The study by Wood et al. (2002) is to our knowledge the only other experimental study that  
479 reports the formation constants for the hydrolysis of REE at temperatures above 100 °C. Their  
480 study reports the Nd hydrolysis formation constants  $\beta_1$  at 250 and 290 °C and  $\beta_2$ - $\beta_3$  at 290 °C. A  
481 comparison of these Nd hydrolysis constants for  $\text{NdOH}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Nd(OH)}_2^+$  and  $\text{Nd(OH)}_3^0$  with those

482 calculated from the HKF parameters derived by Haas et al. (1995) indicates an overestimation of  
483 the stability of  $\text{NdOH}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Nd}(\text{OH})_2^+$  over the  $\text{Nd}^{3+}$  species at 290 °C and acidic pH (Migdisov  
484 et al., 2016). Furthermore, these experiments indicate a predominance of the  $\text{Nd}^{3+}$  ion over the  
485  $\text{NdOH}^{2+}$  species at pH between 2 to  $\sim 3.2$ , whereas  $\text{NdOH}^{2+}$  predominates at pH of  $\sim 3.2$ -5 (Fig.  
486 S5). These observations are in line with the speciation of La optimized in our study (Fig. 7c),  
487 which shows a predominance of  $\text{La}^{3+}$  over  $\text{LaOH}^{2+}$  at pH values  $>2$  to  $\sim 4$  at 250 °C. Moreover,  
488 the discrepancies between the experimental values for  $\beta_1$ - $\beta_3$  for Nd hydrolysis from Wood et al.  
489 (2002) and those predicted (Haas et al., 1995) at 250 to 290 °C range between 1.8 to 3.4 orders  
490 of magnitude. These discrepancies are comparable to those determined in our study at 250 °C  
491 and further extrapolation to 290 °C (Fig. 10, Table 8).

492 Other studies that report the stability of the  $\text{REE}^{3+}$  aqua ions and the  $\text{REEOH}^{2+}$  species at  
493 hydrothermal conditions are based on REE phosphate solubility experiments (Gysi et al., 2015,  
494 2018; Van Hoozen et al., 2020; Gysi and Harlov, 2021). Van Hoozen et al. (2020) conducted  
495 synthetic  $\text{LaPO}_4$  monazite solubility experiments from 100 to 250 °C in perchloric acid-based  
496 buffer solutions with pH of 2. These experimental data are internally consistent with our study  
497 because they were used in the optimization of the  $\text{La}^{3+}$  aqua ion listed in Table 5. Pan et al.  
498 (2024) performed similar optimization calculations of a large compilation of hydrothermal  
499 monazite solubility experiments, including the data by Van Hoozen et al. (2020). However, a  
500 major difference with our study is that the standard partial molal Gibbs energies of the  $\text{La}^{3+}$  aqua  
501 ions and the  $\text{LaOH}^{2+}$  species were only optimized at at reference temperature and pressure to  
502 keep internal consistency with the HKF parameters listed in Haas et al. (1995). However, in the  
503 present study, we demonstrate the need for optimizing the temperature functions for the La

504 aqueous species (Fig. 6), which is now possible because our solubility experiments were  
505 conducted as a function of both pH and temperature.

506

#### 507 **6.4. Implications on predicted monazite solubility and aqueous speciation in hydrothermal** 508 **fluids**

509 The solubility of monazite ( $\text{LaPO}_4$ ) was modeled in NaCl-bearing fluids as a function of pH and  
510 salinity at 250 °C to evaluate the controls of chloride vs hydroxyl complexes on the mobility of  
511 La in hydrothermal fluids (Fig. 11). Overall, the solubility of monazite strongly depends on pH  
512 and indicates that the mobility of La in acidic and alkaline fluids is significantly higher than that  
513 in mildly acidic to near neutral fluids. Moreover, this mobility increases with increased salinity.

514 The calculated aqueous speciation indicates that the  $\text{La}^{3+}$  ion and the chloride complexes  
515 ( $\text{LaCl}^{2+}$  and  $\text{LaCl}_2^+$ ) have a predominant role in controlling  $\text{LaPO}_4$  solubility over the La  
516 hydroxyl complexes at acidic to mildly acidic pH, whereas the La hydroxyl complexes  
517 predominate at higher pH. Increasing salinity to 0.1 M NaCl results in an overall increased total  
518 dissolved  $\log(m\text{La})$  by  $\sim 0.3$  to 0.6 units and expands the predominance field of the La chloride  
519 complexes to a pH up to  $\sim 5.5$  (Fig. 11b). These calculations support results from previous  
520 experimental and modeling studies that have demonstrated the importance of chloride-bearing  
521 species for REE transport in NaCl-bearing fluids (Migdisov et al., 2009, 2016; Gysi and  
522 Williams-Jones, 2013; Migdisov and Williams-Jones, 2014; Perry and Gysi, 2018).

523 The La hydroxyl complexes control the solubility of  $\text{LaPO}_4$  at pH higher than  $\sim 4.5$ - $5.5$ ,  
524 depending on salinity of the model (Fig. 11). The  $\text{La}(\text{OH})_3^0$  species predominates with increased  
525 pH but the accuracy of these calculations is currently unknown and warrants future experiments

526 for determining the stability of this species in alkaline solutions.

527

## 528 7. CONCLUSIONS

529 The solubility of La hydroxide was determined between 150 and 250 °C and at acidic to mildly  
530 acidic pH. Thermodynamic optimizations of these new solubility data and existing literature data  
531 permit deriving the equilibrium constants ( $K_{s0}$  and  $\beta_1$ - $\beta_3$ ) for the stability of  $\text{La}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{LaOH}^{2+}$ ,  
532  $\text{La(OH)}_2^+$ , and  $\text{La(OH)}_3^0$  aqueous species between 25 and 250 °C (Table 7). The three major La  
533 species controlling solubility in the experimental pH and temperature range studied include  $\text{La}^{3+}$ ,  
534  $\text{LaOH}^{2+}$ , and  $\text{La(OH)}_2^+$ . Updates of the thermodynamic properties for La aqueous species results  
535 in a higher stability of the  $\text{La}^{3+}$  aqua ion over the La hydroxyl complexes in comparison to  
536 previous predictions using thermodynamic data reported by Haas et al. (1995) or Supcrt92. The  
537  $\text{La}^{3+}$  aqua ion is predominant up to pH of ~5.3 at 150 °C, pH of 4.5 at 200 °C, and pH of 4 at 250  
538 °C, whereas at higher pH, the speciation becomes controlled by  $\text{LaOH}^{2+}$ . The experimentally  
539 derived formation constants for the La hydroxyl species from 150 to 250 °C further indicate that  
540 the La hydroxyl complexes become stable towards more acidic pH values with increased  
541 temperature, and therefore, these species are expected to start playing an important role for REE  
542 mobilization in high temperature and more alkaline fluids.

543

## 544 CREDIT AUTHOR STATEMENT

545 **Kevin Padilla:** Conceptualization, Methodology, Formal analysis, Investigation, Data curation,  
546 Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing. **Alexander P. Gysi:** Conceptualization,

547 Methodology, Formal analysis, Data curation, Writing – review & editing, Supervision, Project  
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549

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561

## 562 **APPENDIX A. SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL**

563 Supplementary materials include comparison of measured and modeled XRD spectra with  
564 reference patterns (Fig. S1), flowchart for the thermodynamic optimization process (Fig. S2),  
565 solubility profiles showing the measured La concentrations vs calculated pH before  
566 optimizations (Fig. S3), comparison of log molality and log activity vs pH solubility profiles  
567 (Fig. S4), comparison of La speciation model with previous experimental study on Nd speciation  
568 (Fig. S5). Also included, the calculated speciation of experimental solutions using La species  
569 from Sucprt92 (Table S1) and the optimized La species in this study (Table S2). Optimized  $K_{s0}$

570 and  $\beta_1$ - $\beta_3$  values from this study calculated at different temperatures are compared to literature  
571 values in Tables S3 to S4. The simulated speciation data for the solubility of monazite is listed in  
572 Table S5.

573

#### 574 **DATA AVAILABILITY**

575 Data are available through Mendeley Data at <https://doi.org/10.17632/smjc94j5sw.1>

576

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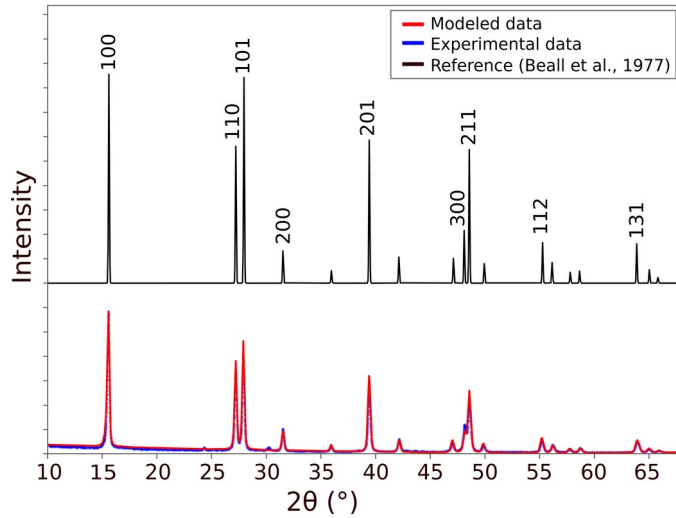
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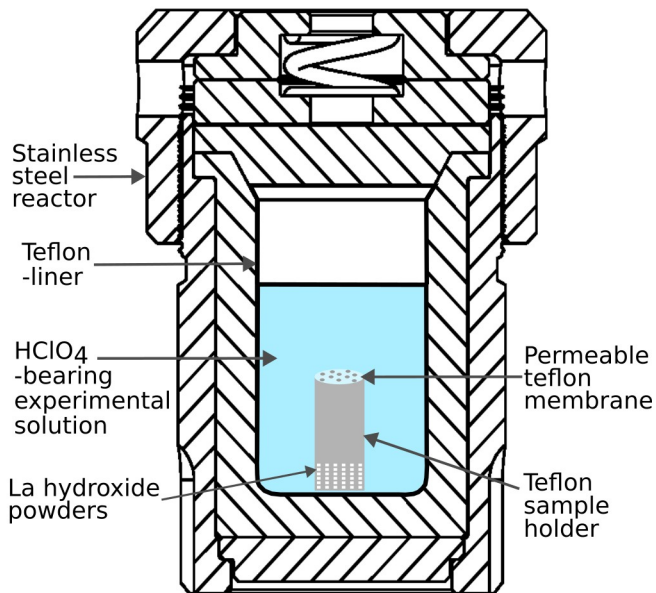
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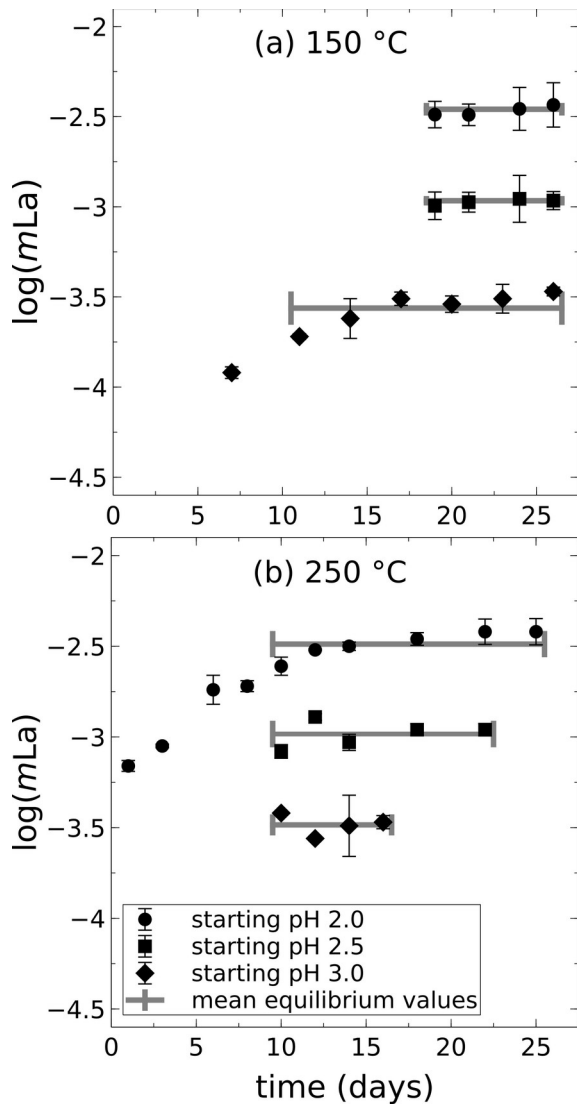
782 FIGURES  
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784  
785 **Fig. 1.** X-ray diffractograms of La hydroxide powders synthesized hydrothermally at 250 °C and  
786 used in this study, showing the measured and modeled (Rietveld refinement) spectra. The spectra  
787 match the La hydroxide reference spectrum by Beall et al. (1977) with the hexagonal ( $P6_3/m$ )  
788 crystal structure with numbers indicating Bragg indices for major reflections.  
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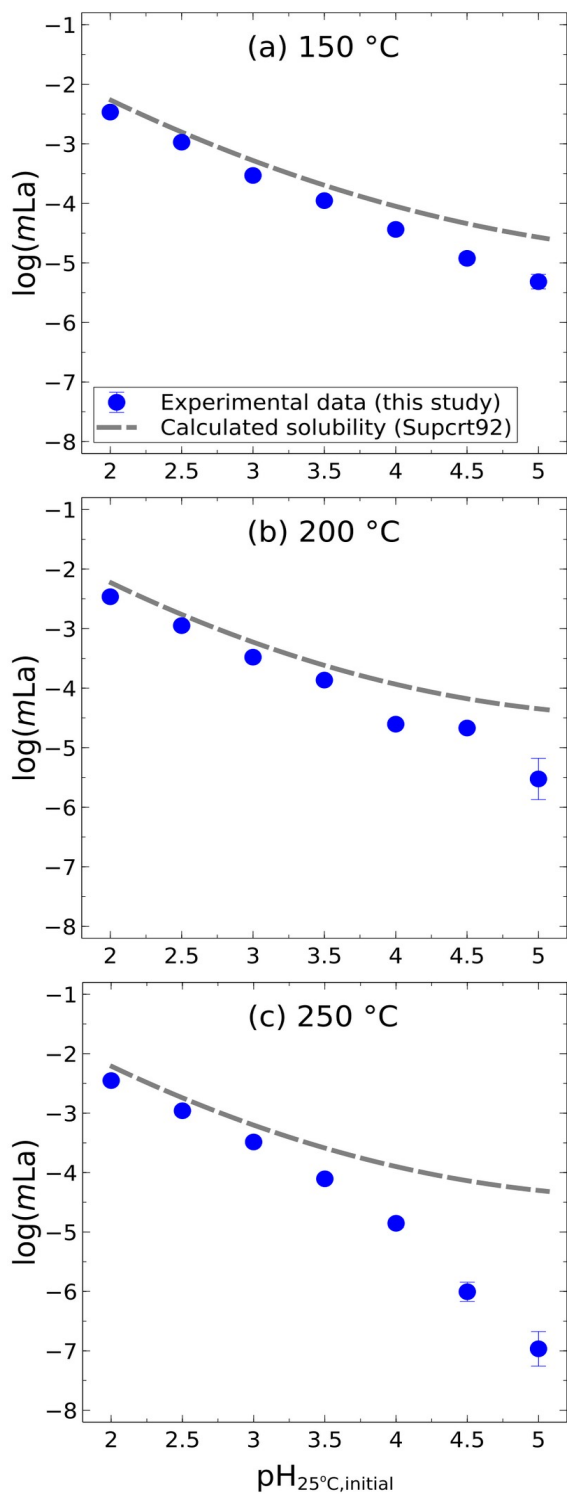


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792 **Fig. 2.** Schematic of the experimental design showing a batch-type Teflon-lined stainless steel  
793 batch-type reactor and sample holder used to measure the solubility of La hydroxide in  
794 perchloric acid-based solutions.



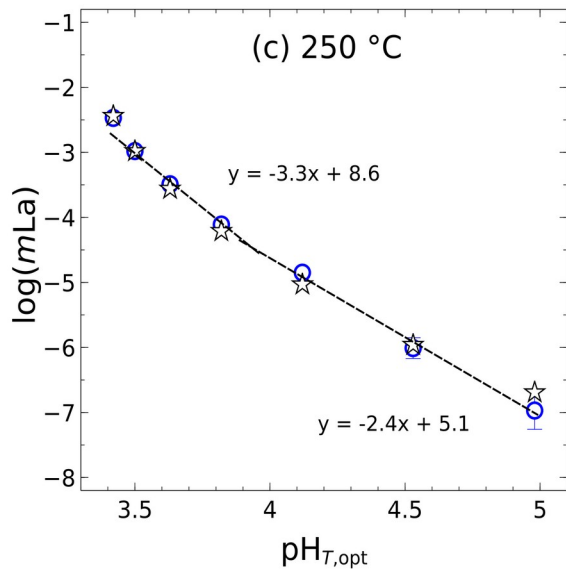
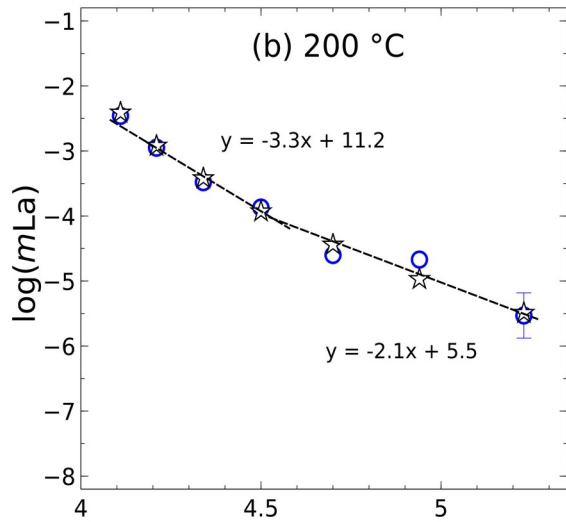
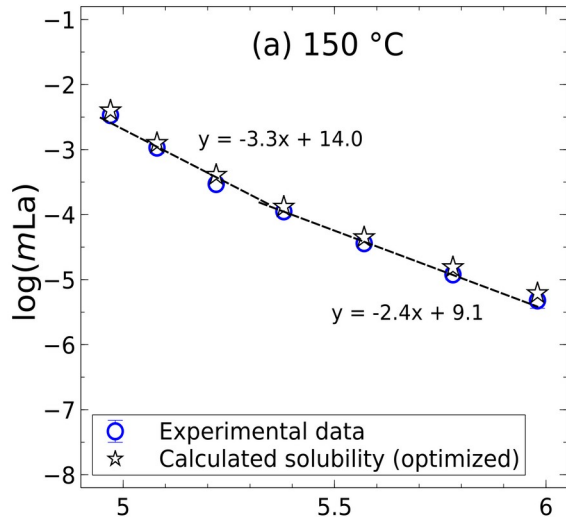
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**Fig. 3.** Logarithm molality of La (mol/kg) measured in the quenched experimental solutions as a function of time (days) showing kinetic plots at (a) 150 °C and (b) 250 °C and different starting pH values of 2 to 3. Grey lines represent the mean values for experimental data conducted over 11 days of reaction and end bars represent their standard deviations ( $1\sigma$ ). Experimental data are listed in Table 4.

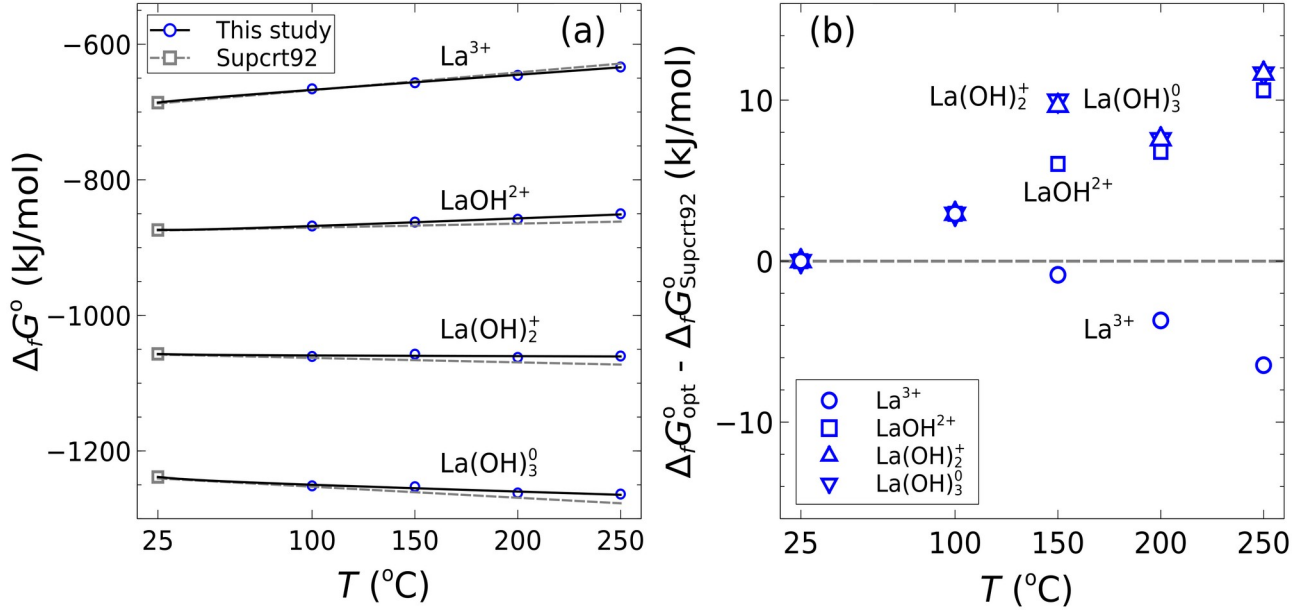


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 803 **Fig. 4.** Logarithm molality of La (mol/kg) measured in the quenched experimental solutions at  
 804 (a) 150, (b) 200 and (c) 250 °C as a function of starting pH of the experimental buffer solutions  
 805 at room temperature. The calculated La hydroxide solubility is determined from the  
 806 thermodynamic properties of the La<sup>3+</sup> aqua ion and La hydroxyl species compiled in Supcrt92

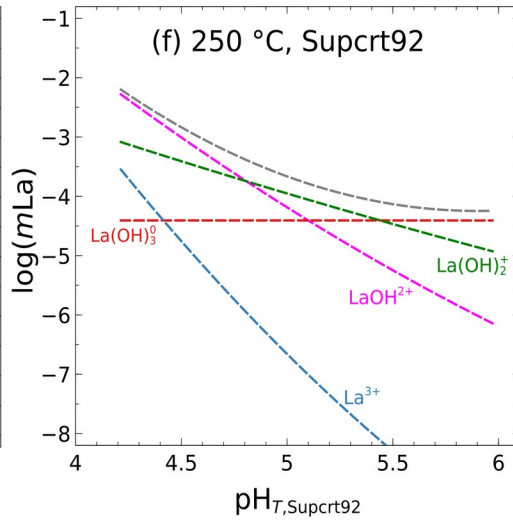
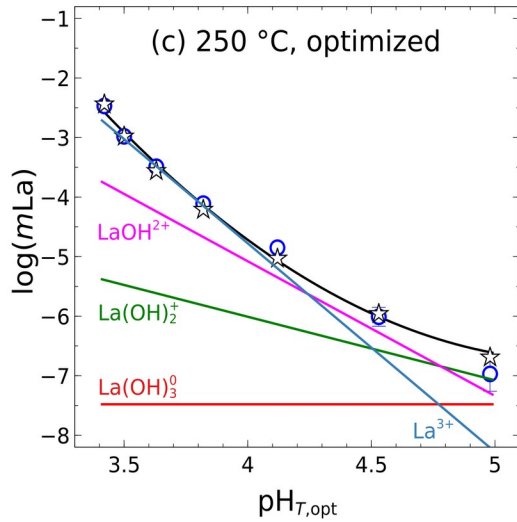
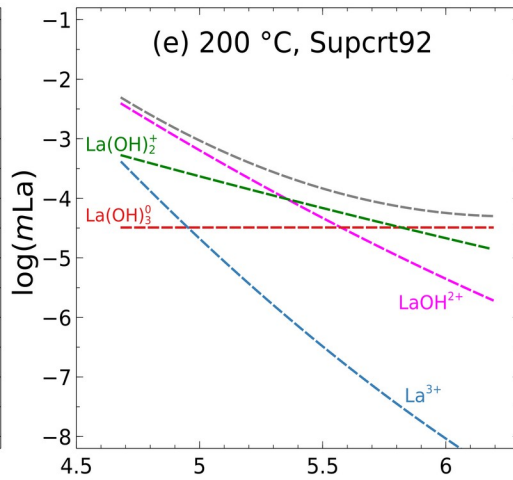
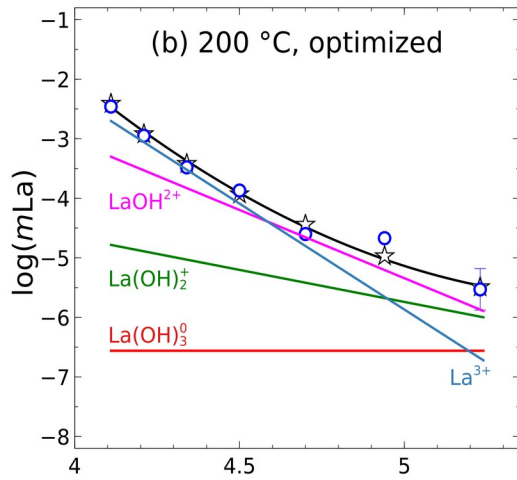
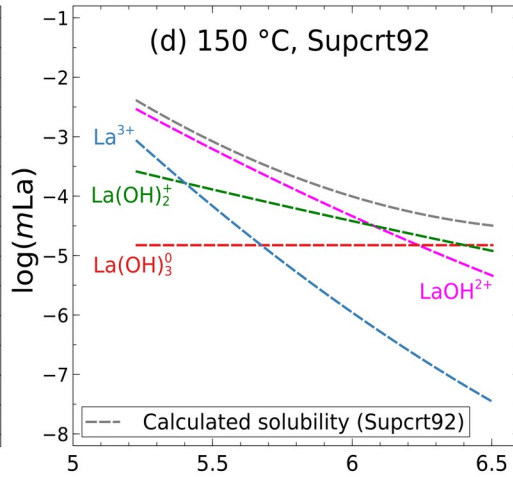
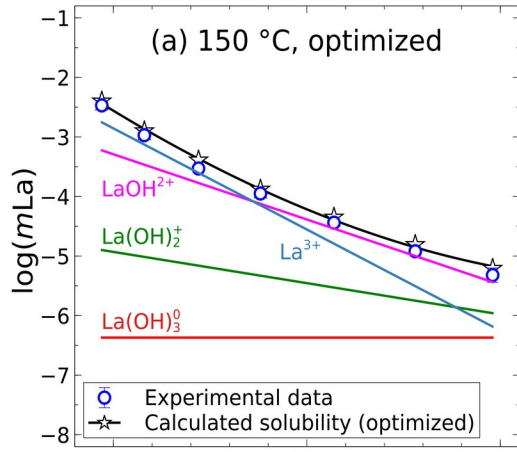
807 (Table 2) combined with the La hydroxide properties from Table 3. The error bars or symbol  
808 sizes represent the standard deviation ( $1\sigma$ ) values from replicate experiments with the  
809 experimental data listed in Table 4.  
810



812 **Fig. 5.** Logarithm molality of La (mol/kg) measured in the quenched experimental solutions as a  
 813 function of pH at (a) 150, (b) 200 and (c) 250 °C at saturated water vapor pressure. The slopes of  
 814 the curves are related to  $\text{La}^{3+}$  and to  $\text{LaOH}^{2+}$  controlling solubility (Eqs. 7-8, slopes of -3 and -2).  
 815 The calculated optimized pH values ( $\text{pH}_{T,\text{opt}}$ ) and La solubility are listed in Table S2.  
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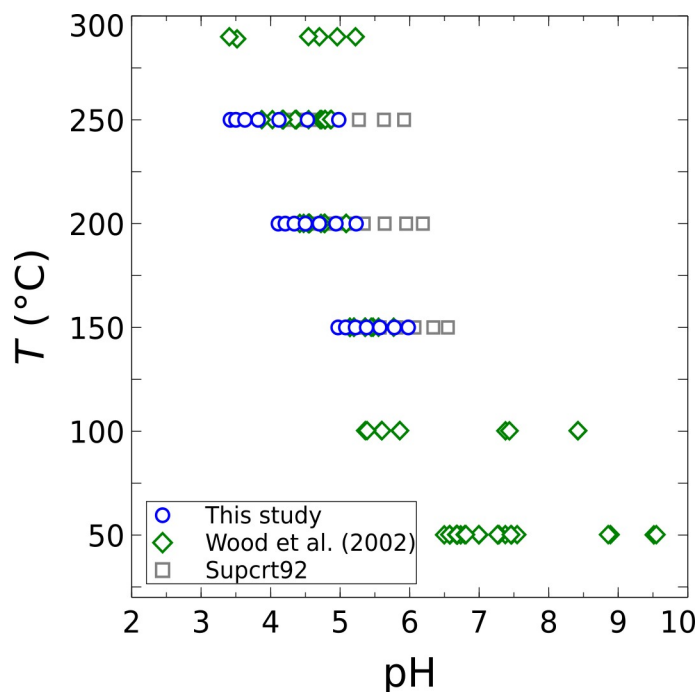


817 **Fig. 6.** (a) Optimized standard partial molal Gibbs energy ( $\Delta_f G^\circ$ ) of La aqueous species retrieved  
 818 from La hydroxide and monazite-(La) solubility experiments as a function of temperature (°C),  
 819 and comparison to predicted values from Supcrt92. (b) Calculated residuals between  
 820 experimental and predicted Gibbs energy values ( $\Delta_f G_{\text{opt}}^\circ - \Delta_f G_{\text{Supcrt92}}^\circ$ ). The regressed parameters  
 821 for the fits in (a) are listed in Table 6. Data at 25 °C are from Supcrt92 and the optimized values  
 822 at 100 °C are based on monazite solubility data from Van Hoozen et al. (2020).  
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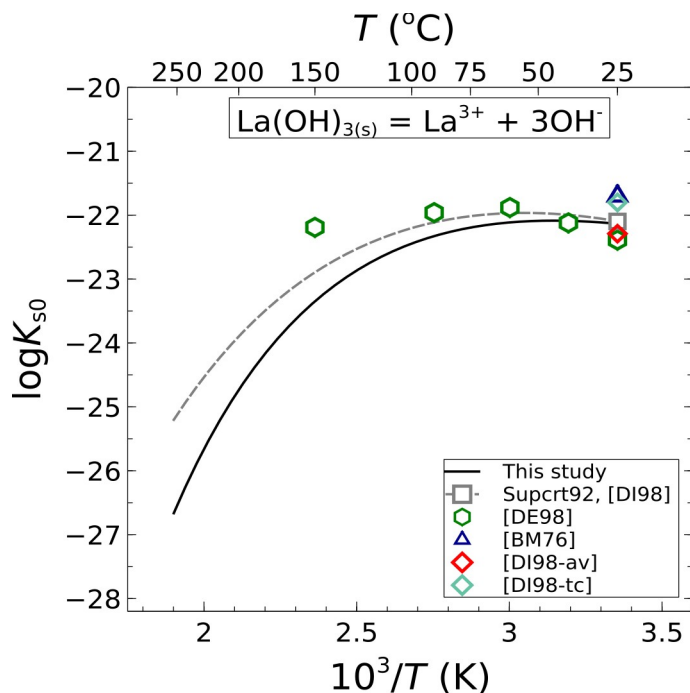


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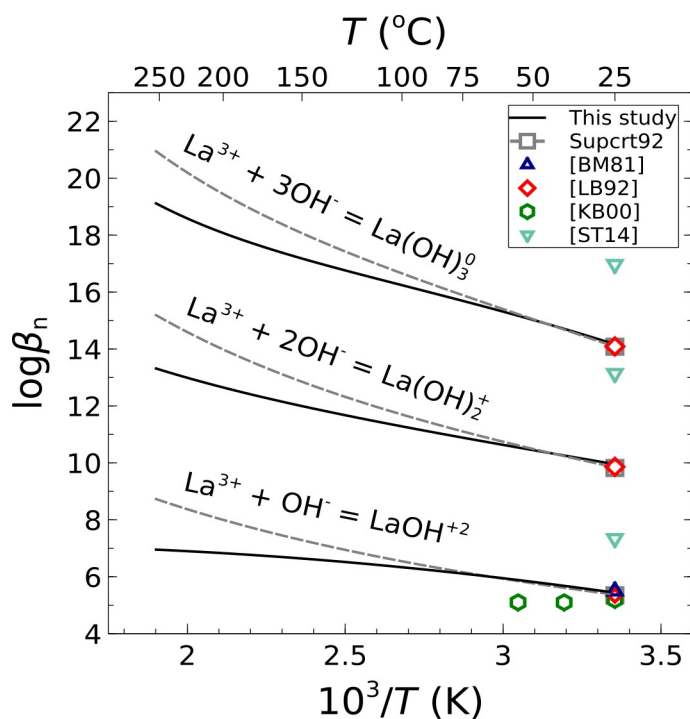
826 **Fig. 7.** Measured and calculated logarithm molality (in mol/kg) of total dissolved La  
 827 concentrations and stability of La aqueous species ( $\text{La}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{LaOH}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{La}(\text{OH})_2^+$  and  $\text{La}(\text{OH})_3^0$ ) as a  
 828 function of pH at 150, 200 and 250 °C. The calculations are based on (a-c) the optimized  
 829 thermodynamic data for La species (Table 5), and (d-f) Supcrt92 predictions. The calculated  
 830 optimized pH values ( $\text{pH}_{T,\text{opt}}$ ), La species molalities and La solubilities are listed in Table S2.  
 831



832 **Fig. 8.** Comparison of calculated pH as a function of temperature for the solubility of La  
 833 hydroxide, showing that the optimized pH values are lower than predicted using Supcrt92. For  
 834 comparison, the solubility data with in situ measured pH values are shown for Nd hydroxide  
 835 from the study by Wood et al. (2002).  
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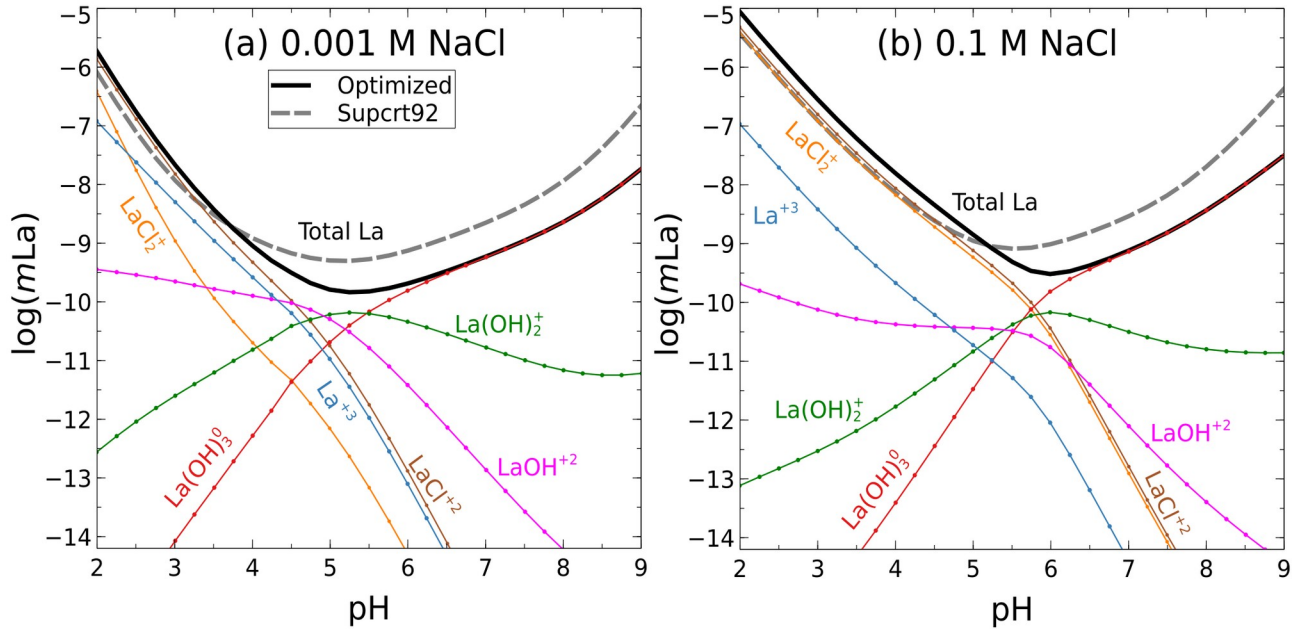


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 839 **Fig. 9.** Comparison of optimized La hydroxide solubility products ( $\log K_{s0}$ ) derived in this study  
 840 (Table 7) with data derived from the literature. The grey dashed line was calculated using the  
 841 thermodynamic properties of  $\text{La}^{3+}$  aqua ion from Supcrt92 and La hydroxide solid from  
 842 Diakonov et al. (1998). Literature data: [DE98] Deberdt et al. (1998); [BM76] Baes and Mesmer  
 843 (1976); [DI98] Diakonov et al. (1998), (av) averaged from the literature, (tc) based on  
 844 thermochemical data. Literature data are listed in Table S3.  
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847 **Fig. 10.** Comparison of optimized formation constants for La hydroxyl complexes ( $\log\beta_n$ ,  $n = 1$   
 848 to 3) derived in this study (Table 7) with data derived from the literature. The grey dashed lines  
 849 are calculated using the thermodynamic properties of La aqueous species from Supcrt92.  
 850 Literature data at 25 °C: [BM81] Baes and Mesmer (1981); [LB92] Lee and Byrne (1992);  
 851 [KB00] Klungness and Byrne (2000); [ST14] Stepanchikova et al. (2014). Literature data are  
 852 listed in Table S4.  
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854 **Fig. 11.** Modeled monazite ( $\text{LaPO}_4$ ) solubility and aqueous speciation as a function of pH and  
 855 salinity at 250 °C using the thermodynamic properties of La aqueous species derived in this  
 856 study. Total La concentrations calculated using Supcrt92 are shown for comparison. The model  
 857 assumes the equilibration of  $\text{LaPO}_4$  monazite with aqueous solutions containing 0.001 M NaCl  
 858 (a) and 0.1 M NaCl (b); the pH was varied by adding HCl/NaOH. Thermodynamic properties for  
 859 REE chloride complexes are from Migdisov et al. (2009) and were adjusted based on the  
 860 properties of  $\text{La}^{3+}$  aqua ion derived in this study. Thermodynamic data for  $\text{LaPO}_4$  are from Van  
 861 Hoozen et al. (2020). Calculations were performed using GEMS (Kulik et al., 2013) and the  
 862 MINES thermodynamic database (Gysi et al., 2023). The simulated speciation data are listed in  
 863 Table S5.  
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875 TABLES

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877 **Table 1.** Refined crystal unit cell parameters with the hexagonal structure (P6<sub>3</sub>/m) for La  
878 hydroxide powders synthesized hydrothermally in this study and comparison with those reported  
879 in the literature.

<i>a</i> (Å)	<i>c</i> (Å)	Volume (Å <sup>3</sup> )	Reference
6.542	3.862	143.136	This study
6.547	3.854	143.063	Beall et al. (1977)
6.520	3.844		Dordevic et al. (2014)
6.523	3.855		Roy and McKinstry (1953)

880

881 **Table 2.** Sources of thermodynamic data for La aqueous species and La hydroxide solid used for  
882 initial equilibrium calculations. The data for other species were not updated in this study.

Species	References
<i>La- aqueous species</i>	
La <sup>3+</sup>	1, 2
LaOH <sup>2+</sup>	3
La(OH) <sub>2</sub> <sup>+</sup>	3
La(OH) <sub>3</sub> <sup>0</sup>	3
La(OH) <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup>	3
<i>Other species</i>	
O <sub>2</sub> <sup>0</sup> , H <sub>2</sub> <sup>0</sup>	4
OH <sup>-</sup> , H <sup>+</sup>	1, 2
ClO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup>	1, 2
<i>La hydroxide solid</i>	
La(OH) <sub>3(s)</sub>	5, 6

883 <sup>1</sup>Shock et al. (1997); <sup>2</sup>Shock and Helgeson (1988); <sup>3</sup>Haas et al. (1995); <sup>4</sup>Shock et al. (1989); <sup>5</sup>Diakonov et  
884 al. (1998); <sup>6</sup>Navrotsky et al. (2015).

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898 **Table 3.** Thermodynamic data for La hydroxide solid used for initial equilibrium calculations.  
 899 The heat capacity function is described by:  $C_p^\circ = a + bT + c/T^2 + d/T$ , where  $T$  is the temperature  
 900 in Kelvin.

Variable	Units	Values	References
$\Delta_f G^\circ_{T_r, P_r}$	$\text{kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$	$-1284.2\pm 1.3$	1, 2
$\Delta_f H^\circ_{T_r, P_r}$	$\text{kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$	$-1416.1^4$	1, 2
$S^\circ_{T_r}$	$\text{J}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$	$117.81^5$	1, 2
$C_p^\circ$	$\text{J}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$	$117.38^5$	1
$a$		$174.60^5$	1
$b$		$0.011336^5$	1
$c$		$796395.62^5$	1
$d$		$-20746.01^5$	1
$\Delta a$		$8403.3$	3
$\Delta b$		$-17.184$	3
$\Delta c \times 10^{-5}$		$-3754.05$	3

901 <sup>1</sup>Diakonov et al. (1998); <sup>2</sup>Navrotsky et al. (2015); <sup>3</sup>this study, where  $\Delta a - \Delta c$  indicate the heat capacity  
 902 coefficients for the La hydroxide dissolution reaction,  $\text{La}(\text{OH})_3(\text{s}) = \text{La}^{3+} + 3\text{OH}^-$ , derived from our  
 903 solubility data and integration of the fitted solubility products using the the Van't Hoff relation  $\partial \ln K / \partial T$   
 904  $= \Delta H^\circ_T / (RT)^2$  and Kirschhoff's equation  $[\partial \Delta H / \partial T]_p = \Delta C_p$ ; <sup>4</sup>based on enthalpy of solution for Ln  
 905 (metal) and  $\text{La}(\text{OH})_{3(\text{s})}$ , average of the data of Cordfunke et al. (1990) and Merli et al. (1997); <sup>5</sup>based on  
 906 adiabatic calorimetry data from Chirico and Westrum (1980).

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932 **Table 4.** Starting pH, reaction times, and compositions (logarithm molality, mol/kg) of the  
 933 quenched experimental solutions after equilibration with La hydroxide solids at temperatures of  
 934 150, 200, and 250 °C at saturated water vapor pressure.

Time (days)	Type <sup>1</sup>	T (°C)	pH <sub>25°C,initial</sub> <sup>2</sup>	log(mClO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup> ) (mol/kg)	log(mLa) (mol/kg)
19	e	150	2.0	-1.95	-2.49
21	e	150	2.0	-1.95	-2.49
24	e	150	2.0	-1.95	-2.46
26	e	150	2.0	-1.95	-2.44
19	e	150	2.5	-2.47	-3.00
21	e	150	2.5	-2.47	-2.97
24	e	150	2.5	-2.47	-2.95
26	e	150	2.5	-2.47	-2.97
7	k	150	3.0	-2.98	-3.92
11	k	150	3.0	-2.98	-3.72
14	e	150	3.0	-2.98	-3.62
17	e	150	3.0	-2.98	-3.51
20	e	150	3.0	-2.98	-3.54
23	e	150	3.0	-2.98	-3.51
26	e	150	3.0	-2.98	-3.47
23	e	150	3.5	-3.49	-3.98
26	e	150	3.5	-3.49	-3.93
17	e	150	4.0	-4.00	-4.46
17	e	150	4.0	-4.00	-4.41
17	e	150	4.5	-4.50	-4.98
17	e	150	4.5	-4.50	-4.87
17	e	150	5.0	-5.00	-5.40
19	e	150	5.0	-5.00	-5.23
17	e	200	2.0	-1.95	-2.44
17	e	200	2.0	-1.95	-2.49
17	e	200	2.5	-2.47	-2.99
17	e	200	2.5	-2.47	-2.91
17	e	200	3.0	-2.98	-3.48
17	e	200	3.0	-2.98	-3.48
17	e	200	3.5	-3.49	-3.86
17	e	200	3.5	-3.49	-3.87
17	e	200	4.0	-4.00	-4.59
17	e	200	4.0	-4.00	-4.62
17	e	200	4.5	-4.50	-4.67
17	e	200	5.0	-5.00	-5.28
17	e	200	5.0	-5.00	-5.77
1	k	250	2.0	-1.95	-3.16
3	k	250	2.0	-1.95	-3.05
6	k	250	2.0	-1.95	-2.74
8	k	250	2.0	-1.95	-2.72
10	k	250	2.0	-1.95	-2.61

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936 **Table 4.** (Continued)

Time (days)	Type <sup>1</sup>	<i>T</i> (°C)	pH <sub>25°C,initial</sub> <sup>2</sup>	log( <i>m</i> ClO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup> ) (mol/kg)	log( <i>m</i> La) (mol/kg)
12	e	250	2.0	-1.95	-2.52
14	e	250	2.0	-1.95	-2.50
18	e	250	2.0	-1.95	-2.46
22	e	250	2.0	-1.95	-2.42
25	e	250	2.0	-1.95	-2.42
10	e	250	2.5	-2.47	-3.08
12	e	250	2.5	-2.47	-2.89
14	e	250	2.5	-2.47	-3.03
18	e	250	2.5	-2.47	-2.96
22	e	250	2.5	-2.47	-2.96
10	e	250	3.0	-2.98	-3.42
12	e	250	3.0	-2.98	-3.56
14	e	250	3.0	-2.98	-3.49
16	e	250	3.0	-2.98	-3.47
10	e	250	3.5	-3.49	-4.10
12	e	250	3.5	-3.49	-4.15
14	e	250	3.5	-3.49	-4.07
11	e	250	4.0	-4.00	-4.92
13	e	250	4.0	-4.00	-4.72
16	e	250	4.0	-4.00	-4.82
19	e	250	4.0	-4.00	-4.90
16	e	250	4.0	-4.00	-4.86
19	e	250	4.0	-4.00	-4.91
11	e	250	4.5	-4.50	-6.17
13	e	250	4.5	-4.50	-6.05
14	e	250	4.5	-4.50	-6.09
16	e	250	4.5	-4.50	-5.79
14	e	250	4.5	-4.50	-6.11
16	e	250	4.5	-4.50	-5.82
14	e	250	5.0	-5.00	-6.76
19	e	250	5.0	-5.00	-7.17

937 <sup>1</sup>Kinetic runs are identified by a “k” and equilibrium experiments by an “e”, respectively.938 <sup>2</sup>Starting pH of the perchloric acid-based experimental buffer solutions at 25 °C and 1 bar before reaction  
939 with La hydroxide.

940 **Table 5.** Optimized standard partial molal Gibbs energy of formation at temperature  $T$  ( $\Delta_f G^\circ_T$ ) for La aqueous species and La hydroxide solid based on  
 941 thermodynamic parameter optimizations using GEMSFITS and the solubility data from Table 4. The  $\Delta_f G^\circ_T$  values from Supcrt92 are also listed with  
 942 references listed in Table 2.

Species	$T=25\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$		$T=100\text{ }^\circ\text{C}^3$			$T=150\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$				$T=200\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$				$T=250\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$			
	$\Delta_f G^\circ_T$	$\Delta_f G^\circ_T$	$\Delta_f G^\circ_T$	$\Delta^1$	Op <sup>2</sup>	$\Delta_f G^\circ_T$	$\Delta_f G^\circ_T$	$\Delta^1$	Op <sup>2</sup>	$\Delta_f G^\circ_T$	$\Delta_f G^\circ_T$	$\Delta^1$	Op <sup>2</sup>	$\Delta_f G^\circ_T$	$\Delta_f G^\circ_T$	$\Delta^1$	Op <sup>2</sup>
	(Supcrt92)	(Supcrt92)	(this study)			(Supcrt92)	(this study)			(Supcrt92)	(this study)			(Supcrt92)	(this study)		
	$\text{kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$	$\text{kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$	$\text{kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$	$\text{kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$		$\text{kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$	$\text{kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$	$\text{kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$		$\text{kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$	$\text{kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$	$\text{kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$		$\text{kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$	$\text{kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$	$\text{kJ}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$	
La <sup>3+</sup>	-686.17	-668.73	-665.79	2.94	O	-655.99	-656.83	-0.85	O	-642.23	-645.91	-3.68	O	-627.17	-633.63	-6.46	O
LaOH <sup>2+</sup>	-874.04	-871.11	-868.16	2.94	R	-868.37	-862.33	6.04	O	-864.97	-858.19	6.79	O	-860.74	-850.13	10.61	O
La(OH) <sub>2</sub> <sup>+</sup>	-1056.83	-1063.51	-1060.57	2.94	R	-1066.87	-1057.23	9.65	O	-1069.56	-1061.99	7.57	O	-1071.57	-1059.93	11.65	O
La(OH) <sub>3</sub> <sup>0</sup>	-1238.42	-1254.41	-1251.47	2.94	R	-1262.68	-1252.71	9.97	R	-1269.54	-1261.97	7.57	R	-1275.20	-1263.56	11.65	R
La(OH) <sub>3(s)</sub>	-1284.20	-	-	-	-	-1301.77	-1304.68	-2.90	O	-1310.22	-1321.39	-11.18	O	-1319.34	-1338.51	-19.16	O

943 Op: Optimization; O: Optimized; R: Reaction constrained.

944 <sup>1</sup>Difference  $\Delta_f G^\circ_T$ (this study) -  $\Delta_f G^\circ_T$ (Supcrt92).

945 <sup>2</sup>Selected species that were poorly constrained in the studied experimental pH range were reaction constrained using the equilibrium constants listed by Haas et al.  
 946 (1995) according to Eqs. 4-6.

947 <sup>3</sup>Optimizations based on the LaPO<sub>4</sub> solubility data at pH 2 by Van Hoozen et al. (2020).

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965 **Table 6.** Regressed coefficients and  $R^2$  for fits of the temperature dependence (between 25 and 250  
 966 °C) of the standard partial molal Gibbs energy of formation ( $\Delta_f G_T^\circ$  in J/mol) of aqueous La species  
 967 optimized in this study (Table 5). The fits are described by  $\Delta_f G_T^\circ = a + bT + c/T$ , with  $T$  in Kelvin.

Species	$a \times 10^{-3}$	$b$	$c \times 10^{-4}$	$R^2$
La <sup>3+</sup>	-716.4	182.8	-712.1	0.997
LaOH <sup>2+</sup>	-960.2	171.0	1049.9	0.994
La(OH) <sub>2</sub> <sup>+</sup>	-1079.0	17.3	499.9	0.375
La(OH) <sub>3</sub> <sup>0</sup>	-1281.6	-19.5	1453.1	0.965

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 969 **Table 7.** Regressed coefficients for the function expressing the logarithm of the solubility product  
 970 ( $\log K_{s0}$ ) of La hydroxide (Eq. 3) and the hydrolysis constants ( $\log \beta_{1-3}$ ) for La hydroxyl species (Eq.  
 971 4-6) as a function of temperature from 25 to 250 °C. These regressions are generated using the  
 972 optimized thermodynamic properties for La aqueous species and La hydroxide derived in this study  
 973 (Table 5), and the properties of OH<sup>-</sup> from Shock et al. (1997) and Shock and Helgeson (1988). The  
 974 logarithm of the equilibrium constants ( $\log K$ , where  $\log K$  stands for  $\log K_{s0}$  and  $\log \beta_{1-3}$ ) are  
 975 expressed as a function of temperature:  $\log K = A_0 + A_1T + A_2/T + A_3 \ln T + A_4/T^2$ , with  $T$  in Kelvin.

Reactions	$\log K$ (25 °C, 1 bar)	$A_0$	$A_1$	$A_2 \times 10^{-3}$	$A_3$	$A_4 \times 10^{-4}$
La(OH) <sub>3(s)</sub> = La <sup>3+</sup> + 3OH <sup>-</sup> ( $K_{s0}$ )	-22.2	-2801	-0.449	155.8	438.9	-980.4
La <sup>3+</sup> + OH <sup>-</sup> = LaOH <sup>2+</sup> ( $\beta_1$ )	5.4	937	0.137	-49.8	-146.3	247.2
La <sup>3+</sup> + 2OH <sup>-</sup> = La(OH) <sub>2</sub> <sup>+</sup> ( $\beta_2$ )	9.9	1882	0.274	-106.1	-292.6	615.1
La <sup>3+</sup> + 3OH <sup>-</sup> = La(OH) <sub>3</sub> <sup>0</sup> ( $\beta_3$ )	14.2	2821	0.411	-158.1	-438.9	904.5

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 977 **Table 8.** Comparison between predicted (Haas et al., 1995) and experimentally derived formation  
 978 constants for La hydrolysis (this study, Table 7) and for Nd hydrolysis (Wood et al., 2002).

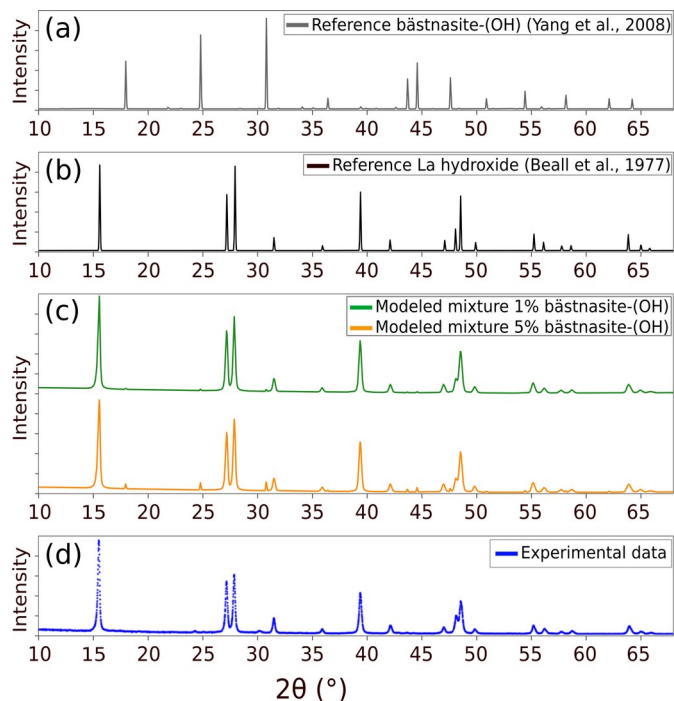
$T$ (°C)	La hydrolysis		Nd hydrolysis	
	<sup>1</sup> This study	<sup>2</sup> Supcrt92	<sup>3</sup> Wood et al. (2002)	<sup>4</sup> Supcrt92
	$\log \beta_1$ : REE <sup>3+</sup> + OH <sup>-</sup> = REEOH <sup>2+</sup>			
250	7.0	8.7	7.4	9.2
290	7.2	9.4	8.0	9.8
	$\log \beta_2$ : REE <sup>3+</sup> + 2OH <sup>-</sup> = REE(OH) <sub>2</sub> <sup>+</sup>			
250	13.3	15.2		
290	14.0	16.3	14.1	17.1
	$\log \beta_3$ : REE <sup>3+</sup> + 3OH <sup>-</sup> = REE(OH) <sub>3</sub> <sup>0</sup>			
250	19.1	20.9		
290	20.1	22.3	19.9	23.2

979 <sup>1</sup>Experimental values for La; <sup>2</sup>predicted values for La; <sup>3</sup>experimental values for Nd; <sup>4</sup>predicted  
 980 values for Nd.

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## 992 SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

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995 **Fig S1.** Comparison of X-ray diffractograms for (a) reference pattern of bastnäsite-(OH) with the  
996 structural formula  $\text{Ce}_{0.50}\text{Nd}_{0.24}\text{La}_{0.23}\text{Y}_{0.03}\text{CO}_3[(\text{OH})_{0.65}\text{F}_{0.35}]$  (Yang et al., 2008), (b) reference pattern of  
997 La hydroxide (Beall et al., 1977), (c) modeled mixtures containing 1% bastnäsite-(OH) + 99% La  
998 hydroxide (green), or 5% bastnäsite-(OH) + 95% La hydroxide (orange), and (d) La hydroxide  
999 powders synthesized in this study. The experimental spectra is comparable to that of the 1%  
1000 bastnäsite-(OH) model, whereas the 5% bastnäsite-(OH) model shows peaks at ~18, 24.5 and 31  
1001 degrees 2θ with significantly higher intensities.

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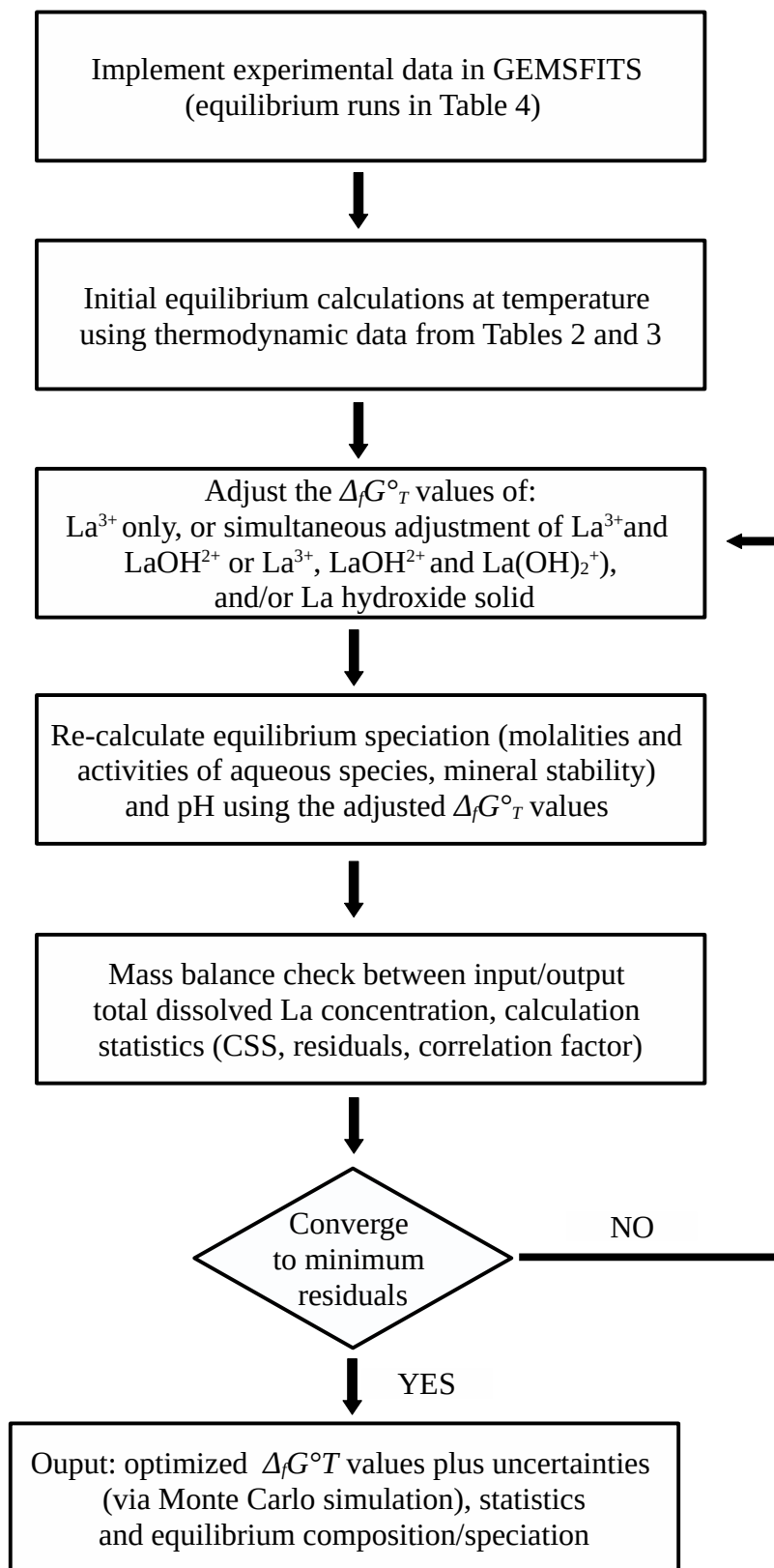
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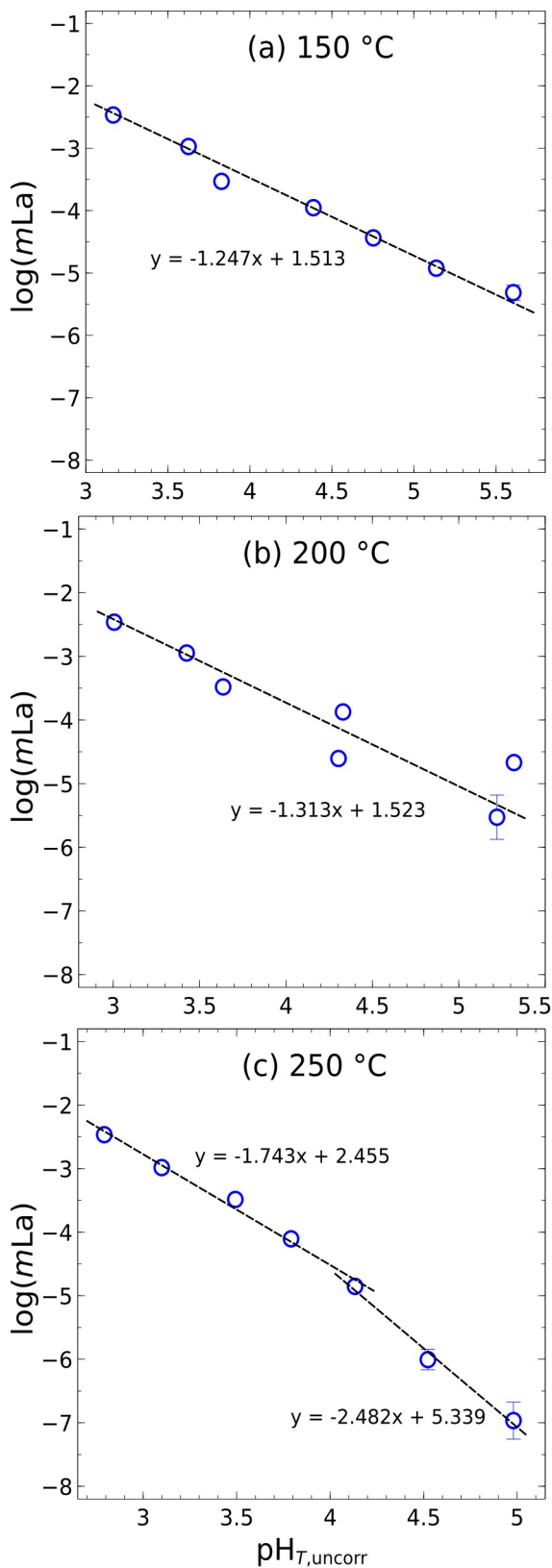
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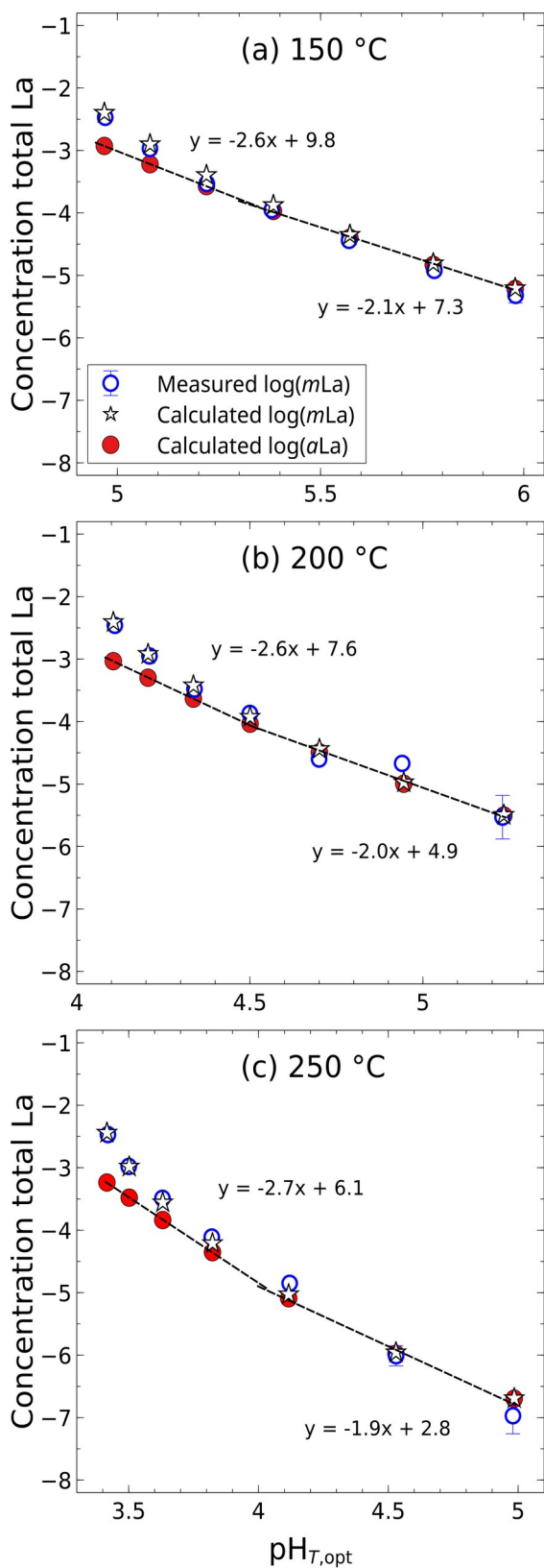


**Fig. S2.** Workflow chart of the parameter optimization using the GEMSFACTS code package (Miron et al., 2015) coupled with GEMS3K chemical equilibrium solver (Kulik et al., 2013).



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 1082 **Fig. S3.** Logarithm molality (mol/kg) of total dissolved La concentrations measured in the  
 1083 quenched experimental solutions as a function of pH, uncorrected and calculated *a priori* at the  
 1084 experimental temperature (pH<sub>T,uncorr</sub>) at (a) 150, (b) 200 and (c) 250 °C using the thermodynamic  
 1085 properties for La aqueous species from Supcrt92 (Table 2). The solubility-pH<sub>T,uncorr</sub> profiles display  
 1086 slopes that are inconsistent with the stoichiometry of La hydroxide dissolution and La hydrolysis  
 1087 reactions (Eqs. 3-6). The calculated pH data are listed in Table S1.

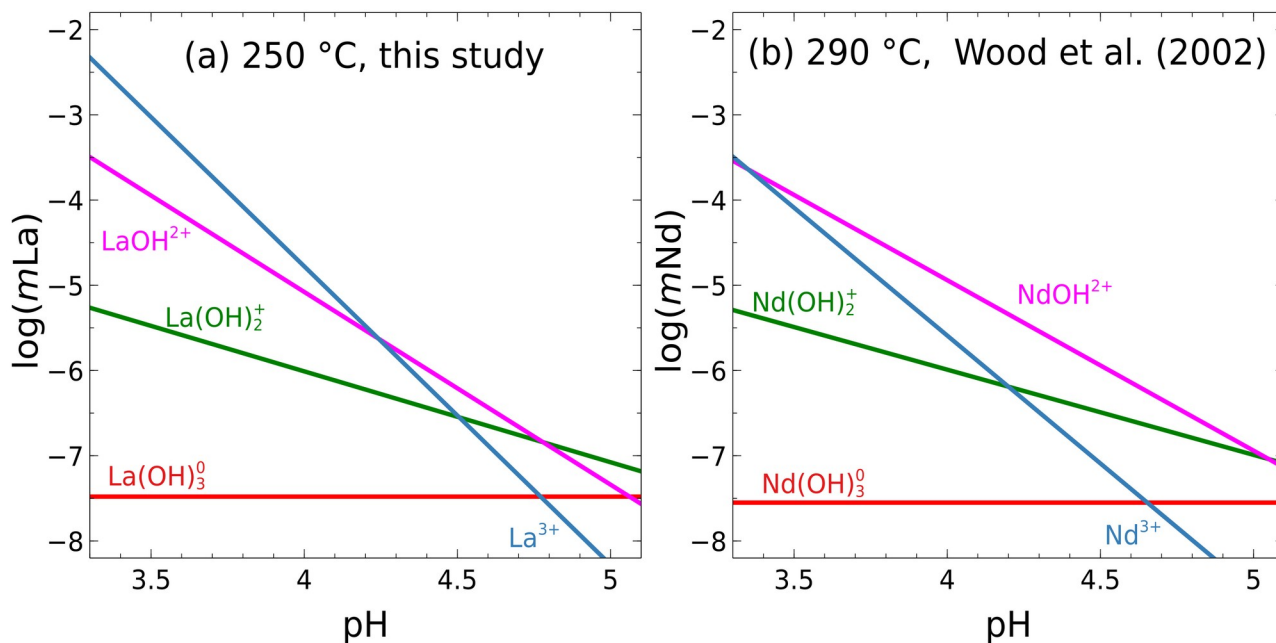
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 1091 **Fig. S4.** Logarithm molality (mol/kg) and logarithm activity of total dissolved La in the quenched  
 1092 experimental solutions as a function of pH at (a) 150, (b) 200 and (c) 250 °C. The log activity of  
 1093 total La is calculated as the sum of activities of all dissolved La aqueous species and fitted to linear  
 1094 curves. The slopes of the curves have values that are different compared to those obtained when  
 1095 plotting  $\log m$  of total La (Fig. 5) due to the effect of the activity coefficients, however, these slope  
 1096 values can be approximated to the theoretical values of -3 and -2, which are related to the  $\text{La}^{3+}$  and  
 1097  $\text{LaOH}^{2+}$ , respectively. The theoretical slopes can be retrieved by using calculated aqueous La  
 1098 species activities. A slope of -2.7 to -2.6 indicates the presence of mainly  $\text{La}^{3+}$  and lesser  $\text{LaOH}^{2+}$ . A

1099 slope of -1.9 to -2.1 indicates the presence of mainly  $\text{LaOH}^{2+}$ .

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1102 **Fig S5.** Calculated logarithm molality (in mol/kg) of (a) total dissolved La concentrations and La  
1103 aqueous species ( $\text{La}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{LaOH}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{La(OH)}_2^+$  and  $\text{La(OH)}_3^0$ ) as a function of pH at 250 °C from this  
1104 study and (b) total dissolved Nd concentrations and Nd aqueous species ( $\text{Nd}^{3+}$ ,  $\text{NdOH}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Nd(OH)}_2^+$   
1105 and  $\text{Nd(OH)}_3^0$ ) as a function of pH at 290 °C (modified from Wood et al., 2002). Both experimental  
1106 speciation models indicate that the  $\text{REE}^{3+}$  aqua ion predominates over the hydroxyl complexes at  
1107 acidic pH below  $\sim 3.3$ , whereas at pH higher than 4.5 the  $\text{REEOH}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{REE(OH)}_2^+$  complexes  
1108 predominates over the  $\text{REE}^{3+}$  aqua ion.

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1135 **Table S1.** Equilibrium speciation of experimental solutions equilibrated with La hydroxide solids at  
 1136 temperatures of 150 to 250 °C calculated using GEMS (Kulik et al., 2013) and the thermodynamic  
 1137 properties of La aqueous species compiled in Supcrt92 (Table 2). The calculated and uncorrected  
 1138 equilibrium pH values ( $\text{pH}_{T,\text{uncorr}}$ ) result in solubility- $\text{pH}_{T,\text{uncorr}}$  profiles inconsistent with the stepwise  
 1139 hydrolysis of ions with pH (Fig. S3) due to inaccurate estimations of the stability of La aqueous  
 1140 species using Supcrt92.

$T$ (°C)	$\text{pH}_{T,\text{uncorr}}$	$\log(m\text{La})$ measured	$\log m\text{La}^{3+}$	$\log m\text{LaOH}^{2+}$	$\log m\text{La}(\text{OH})_2^+$	$\log m\text{La}(\text{OH})_3^0$	$\log m\text{La}(\text{OH})_4^-$
150	3.2	-2.5	-2.5	-4.1	-7.2	-10.6	-16.9
150	3.6	-3.0	-3.0	-4.0	-6.6	-9.4	-15.3
150	3.8	-3.5	-3.6	-4.3	-6.7	-9.4	-15.2
150	4.4	-4.0	-4.2	-4.3	-6.0	-8.0	-13.2
150	4.8	-4.4	-5.0	-4.6	-6.0	-7.6	-12.4
150	5.1	-4.9	-5.8	-5.0	-6.0	-7.3	-11.7
150	5.6	-5.3	-6.7	-5.5	-6.0	-6.8	-10.7
200	3.0	-2.5	-2.5	-3.3	-5.9	-8.8	-14.4
200	3.4	-3.0	-3.2	-3.3	-5.4	-7.8	-13.1
200	3.6	-3.5	-3.9	-3.7	-5.5	-7.7	-12.8
200	4.3	-3.9	-4.9	-4.0	-5.0	-6.5	-10.9
200	4.3	-4.6	-5.6	-4.7	-5.7	-7.2	-11.7
200	5.3	-4.7	-7.0	-5.0	-5.0	-5.5	-9.0
200	5.2	-5.5	-7.7	-5.8	-5.9	-6.5	-10.0
250	2.8	-2.5	-2.7	-2.9	-5.2	-7.9	-13.1
250	3.1	-3.0	-3.5	-3.2	-5.0	-7.4	-12.3
250	3.5	-3.5	-4.4	-3.6	-4.9	-6.9	-11.4
250	3.8	-4.1	-5.4	-4.2	-5.2	-6.8	-11.1
250	4.1	-4.9	-6.6	-5.0	-5.6	-6.9	-10.8
250	4.5	-6.0	-8.3	-6.2	-6.5	-7.4	-10.9
250	5.0	-7.0	-10.0	-7.5	-7.2	-7.7	-10.8

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1170 **Table S2.** Aqueous speciation calculations using GEMS and the optimized La species properties  
 1171 from Table 5. Listed are the optimized pH values ( $\text{pH}_{T,\text{opt}}$ ), the total dissolved La molalities ( $m\text{La}$ )  
 1172 and aqueous La species molalities for experimental solutions equilibrated with La hydroxide solids  
 1173 at temperatures of 150, 200, and 250 °C at saturated water vapor pressure.

$T$ (°C)	$\text{pH}_{T,\text{opt}}$	$\log(m\text{La})^1$ measured	$\sigma^1$	$\log(m\text{La})$ calculated	$\log m\text{La}^{3+}$	$\log m\text{LaOH}^{2+}$	$\log m\text{La}(\text{OH})_2^+$	$\log m\text{La}(\text{OH})_3^0$
150	5.0	-2.5	0.03	-2.4	-2.5	-3.1	-4.9	-6.4
150	5.1	-3.0	0.02	-2.9	-3.1	-3.4	-5.0	-6.4
150	5.2	-3.5	0.05	-3.4	-3.6	-3.8	-5.2	-6.4
150	5.4	-4.0	0.04	-3.9	-4.2	-4.2	-5.3	-6.4
150	5.6	-4.4	0.04	-4.4	-4.9	-4.6	-5.5	-6.4
150	5.8	-4.9	0.08	-4.8	-5.5	-5.0	-5.7	-6.4
150	6.0	-5.3	0.12	-5.2	-6.1	-5.4	-5.9	-6.4
200	4.1	-2.5	0.04	-2.4	-2.5	-3.2	-4.8	-6.6
200	4.2	-2.9	0.06	-2.9	-3.0	-3.5	-4.9	-6.6
200	4.3	-3.5	0.00	-3.4	-3.6	-3.9	-5.0	-6.6
200	4.5	-3.9	0.01	-3.9	-4.2	-4.3	-5.2	-6.6
200	4.7	-4.6	0.02	-4.4	-4.9	-4.7	-5.4	-6.6
200	4.9	-4.7	0.00	-5.0	-5.7	-5.2	-5.7	-6.6
200	5.2	-5.5	0.35	-5.5	-6.6	-5.8	-6.0	-6.6
250	3.4	-2.5	0.04	-2.4	-2.5	-3.6	-5.3	-7.5
250	3.5	-3.0	0.07	-3.0	-3.0	-4.0	-5.5	-7.5
250	3.6	-3.5	0.06	-3.6	-3.6	-4.3	-5.6	-7.5
250	3.8	-4.1	0.04	-4.2	-4.4	-4.8	-5.8	-7.5
250	4.1	-4.9	0.07	-5.0	-5.3	-5.4	-6.1	-7.5
250	4.5	-6.0	0.16	-6.0	-6.6	-6.3	-6.6	-7.5
250	5.0	-7.0	0.29	-6.7	-8.0	-7.2	-7.0	-7.5

1174 <sup>1</sup>Mean values and the standard deviation ( $\sigma$ ) of the mean are calculated from replicate experimental data in  
 1175 Table 4.

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 1177 **Table S3.** Optimized La hydroxide solubility products ( $\log K_{s0}$ ) calculated using the regressed  
 1178 coefficients in Table 7 and comparison with literature data.

$T$ (°C)	$\log K_{s0}: \text{La}(\text{OH})_{3(s)} = \text{La}^{3+} + 3\text{OH}^-$					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
25	-22.2	-22.1	-22.4	-21.7	-22.3	-21.8
40	-22.1	-22.0	-22.1			
60	-22.1	-22.0	-21.9			
90	-22.3	-22.1	-22.0			
150	-23.4	-22.9	-22.2			
200	-24.7	-23.9				
250	-26.6	-25.3				

1179 <sup>1</sup>This study; <sup>2</sup>Supcrt92 and La hydroxide solid from Diakonov et al. (1998); <sup>3</sup>Deberdt et al. (1998); <sup>4</sup>Baes and  
 1180 Mesmer (1976); <sup>5</sup>Diakonov et al. (1998), averaged from the literature; <sup>6</sup>Diakonov et al. (1998), based on  
 1181 thermochemical data.

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1190 **Table S4.** Optimized formation constants for La hydroxyl complexes ( $\log\beta_{1-3}$ ) calculated using the  
 1191 regressed coefficients in Table 7 and comparison with literature data.

<i>T</i> (°C)	References					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
$\log\beta_1: \text{La}^{3+} + \text{OH}^- = \text{LaOH}^{2+}$						
25	5.4	5.4	5.2	5.3	7.3	5.5
40	5.7	5.6	5.1			
55	5.9	5.9	5.1			
150	6.6	7.3				
200	6.8	8.0				
250	7.0	8.7				
$\log\beta_2: \text{La}^{3+} + 2\text{OH}^- = \text{La(OH)}_2^+$						
25	9.9	9.8		9.9	13.1	
150	12.0	12.8				
200	12.6	14.0				
250	13.3	15.2				
$\log\beta_3: \text{La}^{3+} + 3\text{OH}^- = \text{La(OH)}_3^0$						
25	14.2	14.1		14.1	17.0	
150	17.2	18.1				
200	18.1	19.4				
250	19.1	20.9				

1192 <sup>1</sup>This study; <sup>2</sup>Supcrt92; <sup>3</sup>Klungness and Byrne (2000); <sup>4</sup>Lee and Byrne (1992); <sup>5</sup>Stepanchikova et al. (2014);  
 1193 <sup>6</sup>Baes and Mesmer (1981).

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1195 **Table S5.** Calculated logarithm molality ( $\log m$ ) of total dissolved La and aqueous species in  
 1196 aqueous hydrothermal solutions with salinity of 0.01 and 0.1 M NaCl and pH of 2-9 in equilibrium  
 1197 with monazite ( $\text{LaPO}_4$ ) at 250 °C. The calculations were performed using the thermodynamic  
 1198 properties of La aqueous species derived in this study (Table 5). Thermodynamic data for REE  
 1199 chloride complexes are from Migdisov et al. (2009), which were adjusted based on  $\text{La}^{3+}$  from this  
 1200 study, and those of  $\text{LaPO}_4$  are from Van Hoozen et al. (2020). Calculated values below -14.0 are  
 1201 omitted.

Salinity M NaCl	pH	Total La $\log m$	$\text{La}^{+3}$ $\log m$	$\text{LaOH}^{+2}$ $\log m$	$\text{La(OH)}_2^+$ $\log m$	$\text{La(OH)}_3^0$ $\log m$	$\text{LaCl}^{+2}$ $\log m$	$\text{LaCl}_2^+$ $\log m$
0.001	2.0	-5.7	-6.9	-9.4	-12.6	-	-5.9	-6.4
	3.0	-7.7	-8.3	-9.7	-11.6	-	-7.8	-9.0
	4.0	-9.0	-9.6	-9.9	-10.8	-12.3	-9.3	-10.7
	5.0	-9.8	-11	-10.3	-10.2	-10.7	-10.7	-12.2
	6.0	-9.7	-13.1	-11.4	-10.3	-9.8	-12.9	-
	7.0	-9.2	-	-12.9	-10.8	-9.2	-	-
	8.0	-8.6	-	-	-11.2	-8.6	-	-
	9.0	-7.7	-	-	-11.2	-7.7	-	-
	0.1	2.0	-5.1	-7.0	-9.7	-13.1	-	-5.3
3.0		-6.5	-8.4	-10.1	-12.5	-	-6.8	-6.9
4.0		-7.8	-9.7	-10.4	-11.8	-13.4	-8.1	-8.2
5.0		-8.8	-10.7	-10.4	-10.8	-11.5	-9.1	-9.2
6.0		-9.5	-12.0	-10.8	-10.2	-9.8	-10.4	-10.5
7.0		-9.1	-	-12.1	-10.5	-9.1	-12.8	-12.9
8.0		-8.4	-	-13.4	-10.8	-8.4	-	-
9.0		-7.5	-	-	-10.9	-7.5	-	-

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