

SHOCKED CALCITE - DYNAMIC COMPRESSION, AND ADIABATIC DECOMPRESSION EXPERIMENTS, MODELING, AND OBSERVATIONS IN NATURE

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Impact-induced CO₂ release from CaCO₃ may have significantly contributed to the K/T mass extinction as the Chicxulub bolide impacted an anhydrite-rich carbonate platform. Quantification of the suddenly released CO₂ is hampered by (i) contrasting results of various shock experiments, and thermodynamical modeling, and (ii) lack of clear criteria to identify shocked carbonates at terrestrial impact sites. In order to better constrain shock metamorphism of calcite, we simulate dynamic compression (high-explosive experiments, up to 100 GPa), and fast unloading (multi-anvil apparatus, quenching to ambient pT from 25 GPa at 2400° C in 3 sec), and we construct an updated EOS for calcite to analyze the experimental data and to simulate numerically the experiments. Amongst other effects, we have observed textures indicative for melting and degassing, as well as seemingly recondensed calcite in a 73 GPa experiment using a newly designed sample container. The microstructures of the recovered material are investigated with FE-SEM, X ray, RAMAN, and ATEM techniques, including EELS. At a first glance, we conclude from our data that the quantity of CO₂ release in impact processes is often overestimated.