

Lithium disilicate glass under high pressure: structure and physical properties

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Lithium disilicate glass ($\text{Li}_2\text{O} \cdot 2\text{SiO}_2$) is a very interesting vitreous material due to the large difference between T_g and T_c , besides several technological applications. In this work it will be presented the effect of high pressure on mechanical, thermal and optical properties of lithium disilicate glass ($\text{Li}_2\text{O} \cdot 2\text{SiO}_2$). It will also be discussed the structural changes induced by pressure on the amorphous phase. The experimental results were obtained using a toroidal type high-pressure chambers up to 7.7 GPa in controlled temperature. X-ray diffraction data using synchrotron radiation allowed the investigation of the effect of high pressure on the radial distribution function (RDF). Mechanical properties were investigated by instrumented indentation test and thermal properties were evaluated by differential thermal analysis. The densification increased the hardness and elastic modulus and, also, the refractive index of the glass. Distinct phases were observed after the glass was processed under high pressure and high temperature: crystalline lithium disilicate, lithium metasilicate, coesite and quartz, depending on the pressure.

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