

Influence of Mg^{2+} , Fe^{2+} and Zn^{2+} Cations on ^{13}C - ^{18}O Bonds in Precipitated Aragonite, Calcite and Dolomite: An *ab Initio* Study

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Abstract

The influence of metal cations on ^{13}C - ^{18}O bonds in carbonates is still under debate. This paper used *ab initio* method to investigate this kind of influence of Mg^{2+} , Fe^{2+} and Zn^{2+} cations on ^{13}C - ^{18}O bonds in precipitated aragonite, calcite and dolomite. The polynomials of Δ_{47} and reduced partition function ratios (RPFs) for $^{13}/^{12}C$, $^{14}/^{12}C$ and $^{18}/^{16}O$ of these minerals were given within temperatures ranging from 260 to 1500 K. We found that these cations significantly decreased the Δ_{47} values at the level of 10^{-3} - 10^{-2} *per mil*, comparing with pure crystals; and that if the Δ_{47} values were used to reconstruct the temperatures T_s , the deviation of T was about $7.2^\circ C$ for, for instance, zinc-enriched aragonite, as discussed in our paper. It was suggested that due to such influence, researchers would better use a proper thermometer according to the main impurity metal cations in carbonates. We also found that according to the probability theory, the theoretical value of the influence of phosphoric acid on Δ_{47} of CO_2 degassed from different carbonates was zero.

Keywords

Metal Cation, ^{13}C - ^{18}O Bond, Δ_{47} , Phosphoric Acid, *Ab Initio* Calculation

1. Introduction

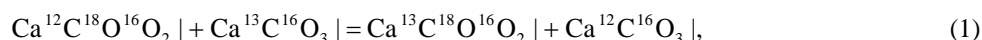
^{13}C - ^{18}O clumping effects [1]-[3] in carbonates play significant roles in reconstructing the temperatures in geological research [4]-[9]. The majority of data points of ^{13}C - ^{18}O signals of CO_2 extracted from carbonate minerals is explained by the equilibrium isotope reactions on the growth surfaces of crystals during their formation [10]. However, there still exist some measured data points which deviate from our predicted Δ_{47} polynomials of pure

aragonite and calcite [10]. And one hypothesis for solving this problem was that during the crystallization of minerals, the carbonates captured the metal cations (M^{2+}) from solutions and these cations influenced the ^{13}C - ^{18}O isotope signals in turn.

To prove our hypothesis, this paper studied the effects of Mg^{2+} , Fe^{2+} and Zn^{2+} cations on the ^{13}C - ^{18}O bonds in aragonite, calcite and dolomite. We gave the novel relationships of Δ_{47} with respect to temperatures for different M^{2+} -carbonate systems, and gave suggestions on the utilization of present results to understand the formation temperatures of carbonates in different geological systems. Finally, the theoretical value of the influence of phosphoric acid on Δ_{47} of CO_2 degassed from different carbonates was discussed.

2. Methodology

For ^{13}C - ^{18}O clumped effect on the surfaces of, for example, calcite and aragonite [10], we have isotope reaction



where “|” stands for the surface of minerals. The equilibrium constant $K_{3866|}$ (illustrating the doubly substituted isotopologues $^{13}\text{C}^{18}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}_2^{2-}$ in the reaction) for prior reaction is

$$K_{3866|} = \frac{[\text{Ca}^{13}\text{C}^{18}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}_2 |][\text{Ca}^{12}\text{C}^{16}\text{O}_3 |]}{[\text{Ca}^{12}\text{C}^{18}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}_2 |][\text{Ca}^{13}\text{C}^{16}\text{O}_3 |]}, \quad (2)$$

where the brackets indicate the concentrations of the isotopologues [4] [11]. And ^{13}C - ^{18}O clumped bonds in this reaction are kept in the body of calcite and aragonite [10], according to different crystal growth model (e.g. “growth entrapment model” [12]-[14] and “surface kinetic model” [15]).

The interfacial clusters of carbonate groups on calcite (0001) surface, aragonite (001) surface and dolomite (0001) surfaces (Figure 1) were built with *ab initio* technique in Yuan *et al.* (2014). All structures had 3 layers of atoms extracted from periodical crystals, which represent the surface of crystal, and six water molecules, which represent the solution. The atoms in the crystals were terminated with charge points (calcite, 0.333; aragonite, 0.222; dolomite, 0.333) [16] at 1 Å along the broken Ca (or Mg)-O bond [17]. Before optimized, the Ca, Mg, C and O positions were the same as those in corresponding lattices (Table 1). And the first metal atoms in

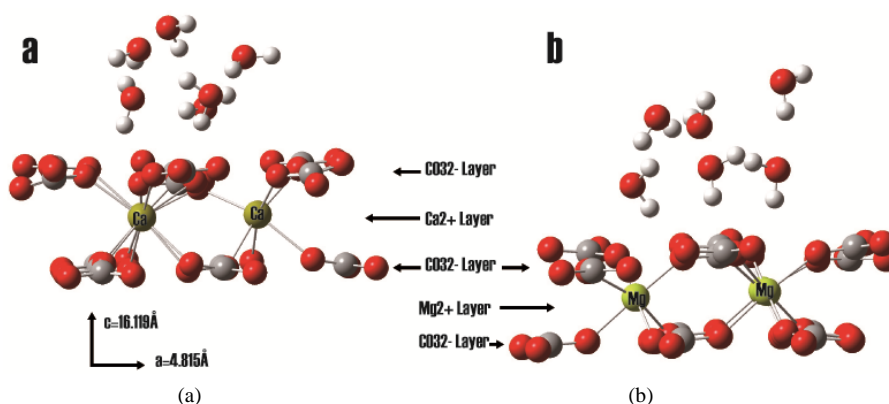


Figure 1. Optimized clusters of a) Ca^{2+} -layer and b) Mg^{2+} -layer dolomite (0001) surface at HF/6-31G*. Because dolomite has an alternating structural arrangement (shown in middle) of calcium and magnesium ions, their influence on carbonate group is considered by using simplified clusters of Ca^{2+} -layer and Mg^{2+} -layer dolomite respectively.

Table 1. Crystal structures of pure carbonate minerals used for building clusters.

Minerals	Space group	a(Å)	b(Å)	c(Å)	Ref.
Aragonite [CaCO_3]	$Pmcn$	4.96	7.97	5.74	[23]
Calcite [CaCO_3]	$R\bar{3}c$	4.99		17.06	[24]
Dolomite [$\text{CaMg}(\text{CO}_3)_2$]	$R\bar{3}$	4.82		16.12	[25]

each cluster were substituted by Fe^{2+} , Mg^{2+} or Zn^{2+} cations to study their influence on Δ_{47} , $\text{RPFR}^{(13/12\text{C})}$, $\text{RPFR}^{(14/12\text{C})}$ and $\text{RPFR}^{(18/16\text{O})}$; see Supplementary File for the orientations of atoms in different clusters. Please reference Yuan *et al.* (2014) for the structures of aragonite (001) and calcite (0001) surfaces.

All these clusters were optimized in the Gaussian09 code [16]. The theoretical method was HF [18], and the basis set was 6-31G* [19] [20], which are suitable for C, Ca, Fe, Mg, O and Zn elements. The theoretical equilibrium constant of reaction (1) was calculated by

$$K_{3866} = \frac{\text{RPFR}(\text{Ca}^{13/12}\text{C}^{18}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}_2)}{\text{RPFR}(\text{Ca}^{13/12}\text{C}^{16}\text{O}_3)} \quad (3)$$

of which RPFR (short for reduced partition function ratio) [21] [22] is given by

$$\text{RPFR}[X^{h/l}E_K] = \prod_i^{3N-6} \frac{u_i(XE_K^h) \exp[-u_i(XE_K^h)/2] \{1 - \exp[-u_i(XE_K^l)]\}}{u_i(XE_K^l) \exp[-u_i(XE_K^l)/2] \{1 - \exp[-u_i(XE_K^h)]\}} \quad (4)$$

where XE_K stands for the molecule, h and l represent heavy (^{13}C , ^{18}O) and light (^{12}C , ^{16}O) isotopes of element E, $u = hv_i/kT$, h is the Planck constant, v_i is the i th frequency of our clusters given by Gaussian09 [16], k is the Boltzmann constant, and T is the temperature from 260 to 1500 K [4] [5] [10]. When calculating RPFRs, scaling factor SF = 1.0613 for HF/6-31G* level was used, which is suggested by Yuan *et al.* (2014) for research on isotope effect on interfaces of carbonates.

Specifically, as shown in Table 2, one aragonite and four dolomite clusters had few imaginary vibrational frequencies; and in such case we used the reduced partition function ratio in the frequency complex plane (RPFR_C) to predict the isotope fractionation factor in these clusters [26].

Present theoretical Δ_{47} and Δ_{63} were calculated by

$$\Delta_{47} = \Delta_{63} \cong 1000 \times (K_{3866} - 1), \quad (5)$$

which is within accuracy of 94% [4]-[7] [10]. All Δ_{63} values of the carbonates were given by averaging those of three different oxygen sites (O_1 , O_2 and O_3) [10]. See reasons for $\Delta_{47} = \Delta_{63}$ in next section.

3. Results and Discussion

The calculated structures of dolomite are shown in Figure 1. The polynomials of Δ_{47} and RPFRs ($^{13/12}\text{C}$, $^{14/12}\text{C}$ [27] and $^{18/16}\text{O}$) in pure and metal-cations-influenced aragonite, calcite and dolomite, and their corresponding values at 25°C are listed in Table 3 and Table 4, respectively; plots of these polynomials are in Figure 2. The comparison of Δ_{47} of dolomite between different theoretical works is illustrated in Figure 3.

3.1. Effect of Metal Cations on Different Isotope Systems

The metal cations in precipitated carbonates cause the decrease of Δ_{47} values (at 25°C) from pure carbonates. For impurity aragonite, Δ_{47} values are 0.036 (Mg^{2+}), 0.030 (Fe^{2+}) and 0.042 (Zn^{2+}) lower than that of pure crystal. For impurity calcite, Δ_{47} values are 0.032 (Mg^{2+}), 0.035 (Fe^{2+}) and 0.022 (Zn^{2+}) lower than that of pure crystal. For

Table 2. Summary of imaginary frequencies of dolomite clusters at HF/6-31G* level (Yuan, 2014). n is the number of imaginary frequency. The minimal and maximal frequencies are shown.

Cluster	n	Minimal*	Maximal*
Fe^{2+} -Aragonite	1	-26.7666	-26.7666
Pure-Dolomite (Ca^{2+} -layer)	1	-177.475	-177.475
Fe^{2+} -Dolomite (Ca^{2+} -layer)	1	-88.0780	-88.0780
Zn^{2+} -Dolomite (Ca^{2+} -layer)	2	-83.2690	-27.5030
Pure-Dolomite (Mg^{2+} -layer)	3	-134.690	-50.3736

*The frequencies correspond to molecules with $\text{M}^{2+}^{12}\text{C}^{16}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}^{16}\text{O}^{2-}$.

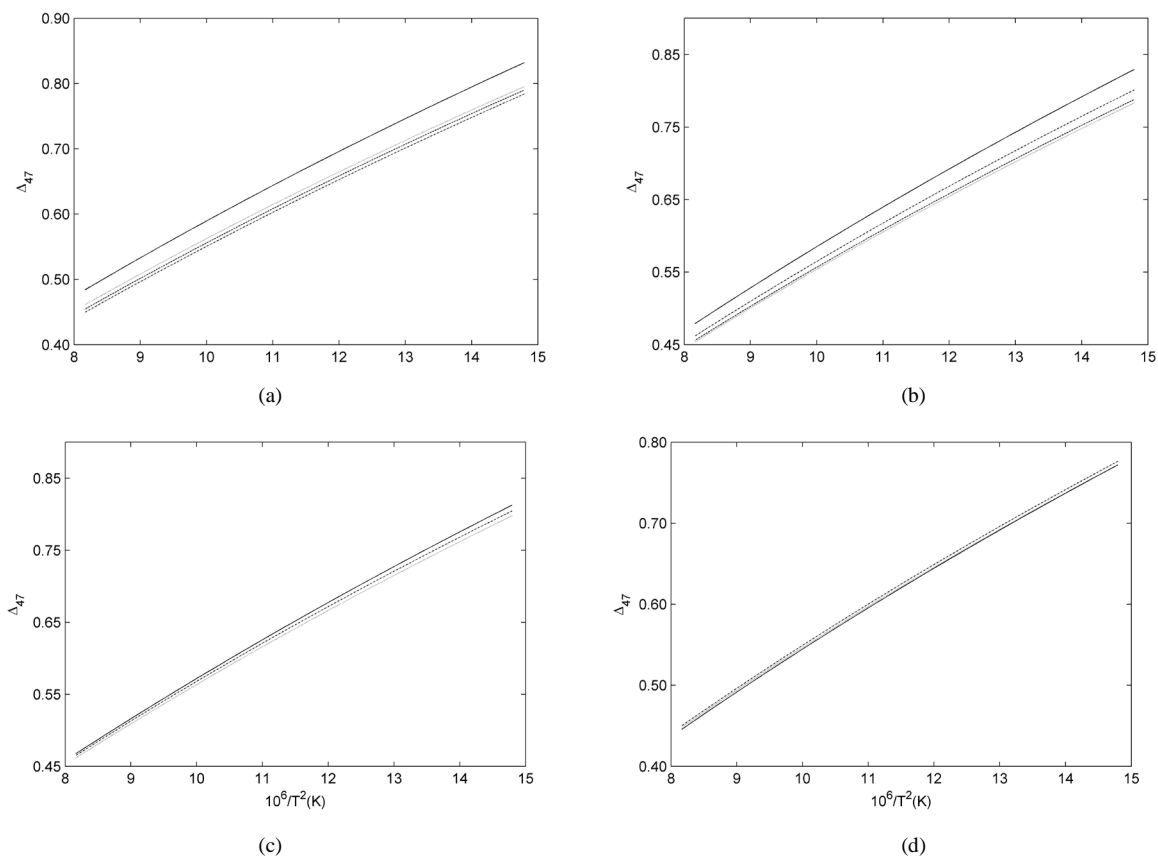


Figure 2. Influence of Mg^{2+} (dashed), Fe^{2+} (dotted) and Zn^{2+} (dash-dotted) ions on Δ_{47} values in (a) aragonite; (b) calcite and (c) Ca^{2+} -layer dolomite and (d) Mg^{2+} -layer dolomite. For comparison, Δ_{47} values in pure minerals are shown in solid lines. Temperatures range from 260 to 350 K.

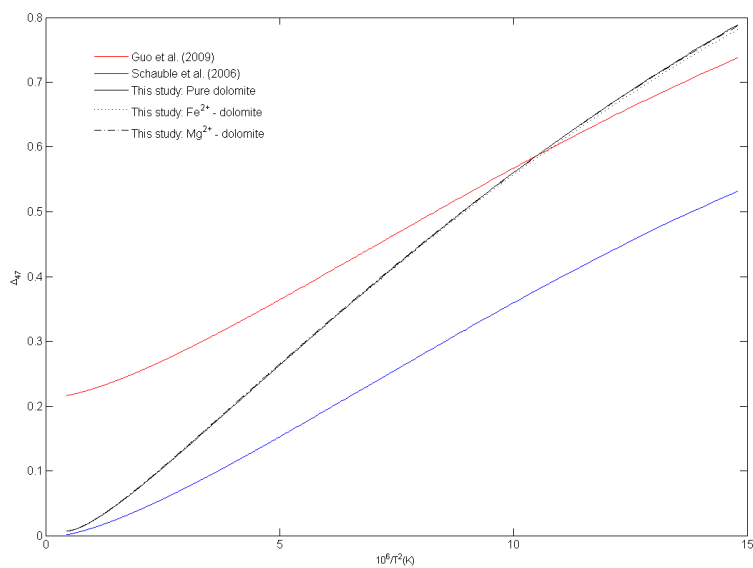


Figure 3. Comparison of Δ_{47} values of dolomite between different theoretical works: Schauble *et al.* (2006), blue solid; Guo *et al.* (2009), red solid; This work: pure dolomite, black solid; Fe^{2+} -dolomite, black dotted; Zn^{2+} -dolomite, black dash-dotted. Temperatures range from 260 to 1500 K.

Table 3. Parameters of fitted polynomials of Δ_{47} , $\text{RPFR}^{(13/12)\text{C}}$, $\text{RPFR}^{(14/12)\text{C}}$ $\text{RPFR}^{(18/16)\text{O}}$ for aragonite, calcite and dolomite.

Minerals	Metal Cation	Items*	A	B	C	D	E	Error**
Aragonite	Mg^{2+}	Δ_{47}	-1.04823E+09	-6.34189E+06	1.28767E+05	-1.50928E+02	5.22169E-02	0.025588
		$\text{RPFR}^{(13/12)\text{C}}$	6.59513E+08	-7.98499E+06	4.43257E+04	-2.95208	1.00028	0.000971
		$\text{RPFR}^{(14/12)\text{C}}$	1.09916E+09	-1.22585E+07	8.07321E+04	-5.72922	1.00086	0.001297
		$\text{RPFR}^{(18/16)\text{O}}$	2.05776E+08	-2.92886E+06	1.99938E+04	-2.04600	1.00046	0.000129
	Fe^{2+}	Δ_{47}	-7.91119E+08	-9.18801E+06	1.38333E+05	-1.59586E+02	5.48161E-02	0.025974
		$\text{RPFR}^{(13/12)\text{C}}$	6.72557E+08	-8.09753E+06	4.47485E+04	-2.71504	1.00019	0.001034
		$\text{RPFR}^{(14/12)\text{C}}$	1.12550E+09	-1.24567E+07	8.16035E+04	-5.39957	1.00072	0.001397
		$\text{RPFR}^{(18/16)\text{O}}$	2.15376E+08	-3.02739E+06	2.05065E+04	-2.01891	1.00044	0.000151
	Zn^{2+}	Δ_{47}	-1.16339E+09	-5.10126E+06	1.24375E+05	-1.47117E+02	5.10630E-02	0.025410
		$\text{RPFR}^{(13/12)\text{C}}$	6.50322E+08	-7.90122E+06	4.40135E+04	-3.09137	1.00034	0.000931
		$\text{RPFR}^{(14/12)\text{C}}$	1.08164E+09	-1.21147E+07	8.00991E+04	-5.91487	1.00094	0.001235
		$\text{RPFR}^{(18/16)\text{O}}$	2.00842E+08	-2.86872E+06	1.97261E+04	-2.03180	1.00046	0.000123
Calcite	Mg^{2+}	Δ_{47}	-7.76602E+08	-9.02892E+06	1.36577E+05	-1.57698E+02	5.42061E-02	0.025746
		$\text{RPFR}^{(13/12)\text{C}}$	6.69044E+08	-8.06860E+06	4.46748E+04	-2.77108	1.00021	0.001020
		$\text{RPFR}^{(14/12)\text{C}}$	1.11826E+09	-1.23973E+07	8.14323E+04	-5.46645	1.00075	0.001376
		$\text{RPFR}^{(18/16)\text{O}}$	2.15909E+08	-3.03256E+06	2.03398E+04	-2.01788	1.00044	0.000154
	Fe^{2+}	Δ_{47}	-7.56772E+08	-9.26436E+06	1.36975E+05	-1.58160E+02	5.43133E-02	0.025704
		$\text{RPFR}^{(13/12)\text{C}}$	6.68928E+08	-8.06351E+06	4.46644E+04	-2.74379	1.00020	0.001023
		$\text{RPFR}^{(14/12)\text{C}}$	1.11897E+09	-1.23905E+07	8.14193E+04	-5.42064	1.00073	0.001382
		$\text{RPFR}^{(18/16)\text{O}}$	2.16575E+08	-3.04422E+06	2.05701E+04	-2.03322	1.00044	0.000152
	Zn^{2+}	Δ_{47}	-9.35476E+08	-7.74939E+06	1.34750E+05	-1.57121E+02	5.41471E-02	0.026023
		$\text{RPFR}^{(13/12)\text{C}}$	6.71475E+08	-8.09220E+06	4.46908E+04	-2.79787	1.00022	0.001022
		$\text{RPFR}^{(14/12)\text{C}}$	1.12223E+09	-1.24513E+07	8.14887E+04	-5.54266	1.00077	0.001374
		$\text{RPFR}^{(18/16)\text{O}}$	2.08364E+08	-2.95897E+06	2.01945E+04	-2.01893	1.00044	0.000137
Dolomite: Ca ²⁺ Layer	Pure	Δ_{47}	-1.00183E+09	-7.29348E+06	1.35024E+05	-1.58331E+02	5.46361E-02	0.026382
		$\text{RPFR}^{(13/12)\text{C}}$	6.80247E+08	-8.18193E+06	4.49968E+04	-2.84015	1.00022	0.001041
		$\text{RPFR}^{(14/12)\text{C}}$	1.13701E+09	-1.26061E+07	8.20891E+04	-5.67425	1.00080	0.001397
		$\text{RPFR}^{(18/16)\text{O}}$	2.05630E+08	-2.92663E+06	2.00567E+04	-2.01773	1.00045	0.000131
	Fe^{2+}	Δ_{47}	-8.63868E+08	-8.45111E+06	1.36372E+05	-1.57956E+02	5.43307E-02	0.025868
		$\text{RPFR}^{(13/12)\text{C}}$	6.75687E+08	-8.12957E+06	4.48533E+04	-2.72920	1.00019	0.001040
		$\text{RPFR}^{(14/12)\text{C}}$	1.13075E+09	-1.25128E+07	8.18125E+04	-5.44681	1.00073	0.001403
		$\text{RPFR}^{(18/16)\text{O}}$	2.08778E+08	-2.95887E+06	2.03216E+04	-2.00660	1.00044	0.000138
	Zn^{2+}	Δ_{47}	-8.51760E+08	-8.61298E+06	1.37582E+05	-1.59285E+02	5.47580E-02	0.025958

Continued

			RPFR(¹³ 12C)	6.78268E+08	-8.15043E+06	4.48767E+04	-2.67332	1.00017	0.001056
			RPFR(¹⁴ 12C)	1.13581E+09	-1.25603E+07	8.18894E+04	-5.37669	1.00070	0.001429
			RPFR(¹⁸ 16O)	2.08127E+08	-2.95288E+06	2.02734E+04	-1.98940	1.00043	0.000138
Dolomite: Mg ²⁺ Layer	Pure	Δ_{47}		-1.03324E+09	-6.52344E+06	1.27815E+05	-1.50058E+02	5.19586E-02	0.025629
			RPFR(¹³ 12C)	6.64267E+08	-8.04237E+06	4.46862E+04	-3.09732	1.00033	0.000961
			RPFR(¹⁴ 12C)	1.10669E+09	-1.23236E+07	8.13566E+04	-5.98283	1.00094	0.001269
			RPFR(¹⁸ 16O)	2.07005E+08	-2.93561E+06	2.02598E+04	-2.06050	1.00046	0.000131
	Fe ²⁺	Δ_{47}		-8.86768E+08	-8.16381E+06	1.33099E+05	-1.54806E+02	5.33692E-02	0.025810
			RPFR(¹³ 12C)	6.73343E+08	-8.12003E+06	4.49981E+04	-2.91796	1.00026	0.001005
			RPFR(¹⁴ 12C)	1.12531E+09	-1.24573E+07	8.19949E+04	-5.72788	1.00084	0.001338
			RPFR(¹⁸ 16O)	2.12319E+08	-2.99620E+06	2.07317E+04	-2.05617	1.00045	0.000140
	Zn ²⁺	Δ_{47}		-8.85943E+08	-8.14695E+06	1.33368E+05	-1.55041E+02	5.34493E-02	0.025816
			RPFR(¹³ 12C)	6.73842E+08	-8.12314E+06	4.49739E+04	-2.89586	1.00025	0.001011
			RPFR(¹⁴ 12C)	1.12627E+09	-1.24698E+07	8.19650E+04	-5.69849	1.00083	0.001348
			RPFR(¹⁸ 16O)	2.12267E+08	-2.99350E+06	2.06000E+04	-2.04615	1.00045	0.000142
Dolomite: Mean ^{***}	Pure	Δ_{47}		-1.01754E+09	-6.90846E+06	1.31419E+05	-1.54194E+02	5.32973E-02	0.026006
			RPFR(¹³ 12C)	6.72257E+08	-8.11215E+06	4.48415E+04	-2.96874	1.00028	0.001001
			RPFR(¹⁴ 12C)	1.12185E+09	-1.24649E+07	8.17229E+04	-5.82854	1.00087	0.001333
			RPFR(¹⁸ 16O)	2.06317E+08	-2.93112E+06	2.01583E+04	-2.03912	1.00045	0.000131
	Fe ²⁺	Δ_{47}		-8.75318E+08	-8.30746E+06	1.34735E+05	-1.56381E+02	5.38499E-02	0.025839
			RPFR(¹³ 12C)	6.74515E+08	-8.12480E+06	4.49257E+04	-2.82358	1.00023	0.001023
			RPFR(¹⁴ 12C)	1.12803E+09	-1.24851E+07	8.19037E+04	-5.58734	1.00078	0.001370
			RPFR(¹⁸ 16O)	2.10549E+08	-2.97754E+06	2.05266E+04	-2.03139	1.00045	0.000139
	Zn ²⁺	Δ_{47}		-8.68852E+08	-8.37996E+06	1.35475E+05	-1.57163E+02	5.41036E-02	0.025887
			RPFR(¹³ 12C)	6.76055E+08	-8.13678E+06	4.49253E+04	-2.78459	1.00021	0.001033
			RPFR(¹⁴ 12C)	1.13104E+09	-1.25151E+07	8.19272E+04	-5.53759	1.00076	0.001389
			RPFR(¹⁸ 16O)	2.10197E+08	-2.97319E+06	2.04367E+04	-2.01777	1.00044	0.000140

*The form of each fit is $f(T) = A/T^4 + B/T^3 + C/T^2 + D/T + E$. **The errors stand for the values within which these polynomials reproduce the equilibrium constants from 260 to 1500 K. ***The polynomials of different dolomites are given by averaging those of Ca²⁺-layer dolomite and Mg²⁺-layer dolomite.

impurity dolomite, Δ_{47} value is 0.004 (Fe²⁺) lower than that of pure crystal.

The decrease of Δ_{47} caused by metal cations would increase the formation temperatures of minerals, when geochemists reconstruct temperatures with the fitted polynomials, e.g. $\Delta_{47} = 0.0592 \times 10^6 / T^2 - 0.02$ in Ghosh *et al.* (2006) (and calibrated ones in later works [9] [28]), from experimental data. For instance, if we got $\Delta_{47} = 0.615$ in a zinc-enriched (~33% in content) aragonite, then we get temperature $T = 32.2^\circ\text{C}$ from the polynomials in Ghosh *et al.* (2006). However, the exact temperature is 25°C (Table 4), 7.2°C ($= 32.2^\circ\text{C} - 25^\circ\text{C}$) lower than the predicted value. Thus, aiming to get formation temperatures with high accuracy, we suggest that a researcher would better measure the main metal impurities in carbonates before choosing a reasonable ¹³C-¹⁸O clumped thermometer (as shown in Table 3).

Table 4. Values of Δ_{47} , RPF $R(^{13/12}\text{C})$, RPF $R(^{14/12}\text{C})$ and RPF $R(^{18/16}\text{O})$ for carbonates at 25°C.

Minerals	Metal Ion	Δ_{47}	RPF $R(^{13/12}\text{C})$	RPF $R(^{14/12}\text{C})$	RPF $R(^{18/16}\text{O})$
Aragonite	Pure	0.657	1.2785	1.5832	1.1394
	Mg ²⁺	0.621	1.2713	1.5665	1.1341
	Fe ²⁺	0.627	1.2742	1.5732	1.1374
	Zn ²⁺	0.615	1.2694	1.5621	1.1327
Calcite	Pure	0.653	1.2761	1.5777	1.1355
	Mg ²⁺	0.621	1.2738	1.5724	1.1354
	Fe ²⁺	0.618	1.2739	1.5727	1.1376
	Zn ²⁺	0.631	1.2733	1.5712	1.1356
Dolomite: Ca ²⁺ Layer	Pure	0.639	1.2743	1.5736	1.1349
	Fe ²⁺	0.629	1.2745	1.5739	1.1371
	Zn ²⁺	0.634	1.2744	1.5738	1.1368
Dolomite: Mg ²⁺ Layer	Pure	0.608	1.2733	1.5713	1.1369
	Fe ²⁺	0.610	1.2756	1.5765	1.1406
	Zn ²⁺	0.613	1.2753	1.5759	1.1393
Dolomite: Mean	Pure	0.623	1.2738	1.5724	1.1359
	Fe ²⁺	0.619	1.2750	1.5752	1.1389
	Zn ²⁺	0.623	1.2749	1.5749	1.1380

These metal cations also significantly influence on the fractionations of $^{13/12}\text{C}$, $^{14/12}\text{C}$ and $^{18/16}\text{O}$ isotope systems. The isotope fractionation factor (at 25°C) between the impurity mineral and corresponding pure one is defined as $\Delta_{\text{metal ion-pure}}$ (in *per mil* or ‰) = $1000 * \ln(\text{RPF}R_{\text{Metal ion}}/\text{RPF}R_{\text{pure}})$. For aragonite, $\Delta(^{13/12}\text{C})$ s are -5.7 (Mg²⁺), -3.4 (Fe²⁺) and -7.2 (Zn²⁺); $\Delta(^{14/12}\text{C})$ s are -10.6 (Mg²⁺), -6.4 (Fe²⁺) and -13.4 (Zn²⁺); and $\Delta(^{18/16}\text{O})$ s are -4.7 (Mg²⁺), -1.8 (Fe²⁺) and -5.9 (Zn²⁺). For calcite, $\Delta(^{13/12}\text{C})$ s are -1.8 (Mg²⁺), -1.7 (Fe²⁺) and -2.2 (Zn²⁺); $\Delta(^{14/12}\text{C})$ s are -3.4 (Mg²⁺), -3.2 (Fe²⁺) and -4.1 (Zn²⁺); $\Delta(^{18/16}\text{O})$ s are -0.1 (Mg²⁺), -1.8 (Fe²⁺) and 0.1 (Zn²⁺). For dolomite, $\Delta(^{13/12}\text{C})$ s are -0.9 (Fe²⁺) and -0.8 (Zn²⁺); $\Delta(^{14/12}\text{C})$ s are 1.8 (Fe²⁺) and 1.6 (Zn²⁺); and $\Delta(^{18/16}\text{O})$ s are 2.6 (Fe²⁺) and 1.8 (Zn²⁺). Obviously, most of the magnitudes of these three metal ions on the $^{13/12}\text{C}$, $^{14/12}\text{C}$ and $^{18/16}\text{O}$ fractionations are at the level of 1 *per mil*, and few 10 *per mils*. Such magnitudes might be observed in laboratories.

Our above finding is different from that given by Schauble *et al.* (2006) (Figure 3), which concluded that M²⁺-cations have little influence on isotopic fractionations between carbonate minerals. The reasons behind the difference were: 1) the ^{13}C - ^{18}O clumped effect on growing surfaces of minerals was studied here, while this effect in the inner body of crystals were predicted with lattice dynamics in their paper; and 2) the force constants for, for example, Fe²⁺-calcite differ from those for Mg²⁺-calcite in this work, while these values for $^{40}\text{BaCO}_3$ and $^{40}\text{MgCO}_3$ are identical in their lattice-dynamical models.

3.2. Theoretical Value γ of Influence of Phosphoric Acid on ^{13}C - ^{18}O Bonds in Carbonates

In ^{13}C - ^{18}O clumped isotope research, anyone cannot avoid the influence of phosphoric acid in experiments [4]-[6] [29] [30]; and now we give the theoretical value γ_{theory} of its influence on the Δ_{47} values of CO_2 extracted from carbonates, by studying the equilibrium reaction $2\text{H}^+ + \text{CO}_3^{2-} = \text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{CO}_2 \uparrow$ in this process (Figure 4). Let

$N_{\text{CO}_3^{2-}}^{13\text{C-}^{18}\text{O}}$, $N_{\text{CO}_3^{2-}}^{12\text{C-}^{18}\text{O}}$, $N_{\text{CO}_3^{2-}}^{13\text{C-}^{16}\text{O}}$ and $N_{\text{CO}_3^{2-}}^{12\text{C-}^{16}\text{O}}$ respectively denote the number of $^{13}\text{C-}^{18}\text{O}$, $^{12}\text{C-}^{18}\text{O}$, $^{13}\text{C-}^{16}\text{O}$ and $^{12}\text{C-}^{16}\text{O}$ bonds in carbonate minerals. Then from Equation (5), we have

$$\Delta_{63} = 1000 \times \left(\frac{\frac{N_{\text{CO}_3^{2-}}^{13\text{C-}^{18}\text{O}}}{N_{\text{CO}_3^{2-}}^{12\text{C-}^{18}\text{O}}}{\frac{N_{\text{CO}_3^{2-}}^{13\text{C-}^{16}\text{O}}}{N_{\text{CO}_3^{2-}}^{12\text{C-}^{16}\text{O}}} - 1}{\frac{N_{\text{CO}_3^{2-}}^{13\text{C-}^{18}\text{O}}}{N_{\text{CO}_3^{2-}}^{12\text{C-}^{18}\text{O}}}} - 1 \right) \quad (6)$$

Let $N_{\text{CO}_2}^{13\text{C-}^{18}\text{O}}$, $N_{\text{CO}_2}^{12\text{C-}^{18}\text{O}}$, $N_{\text{CO}_2}^{13\text{C-}^{16}\text{O}}$ and $N_{\text{CO}_2}^{12\text{C-}^{16}\text{O}}$ respectively denote the number of $^{13}\text{C-}^{18}\text{O}$, $^{12}\text{C-}^{18}\text{O}$, $^{13}\text{C-}^{16}\text{O}$ and $^{12}\text{C-}^{16}\text{O}$ bonds in CO_2 degassed from carbonate minerals with phosphoric acid. Then similar to prior equation [1] [31], the corresponding Δ_{47} is given by

$$\Delta_{47} = 1000 \times \left(\frac{\frac{N_{\text{CO}_2}^{13\text{C-}^{18}\text{O}}}{N_{\text{CO}_2}^{12\text{C-}^{18}\text{O}}}{\frac{N_{\text{CO}_2}^{13\text{C-}^{16}\text{O}}}{N_{\text{CO}_2}^{12\text{C-}^{16}\text{O}}} - 1}{\frac{N_{\text{CO}_2}^{13\text{C-}^{18}\text{O}}}{N_{\text{CO}_2}^{12\text{C-}^{18}\text{O}}}} - 1 \right) \quad (7)$$

The relationship between Δ_{47} and Δ_{63} are given according to the probability theory [32]. Firstly, the probability of the occupation of one $^{13}\text{C-}^{18}\text{O}$ bond on each of three different carbon-oxygen (C-O1, C-O2 or C-O3) bonds in $^x\text{C}^x\text{O}^{16}\text{O}_2^{2-}$ is 1/3 (Figure 4); secondly, the probability of one oxygen site (O1, O2, or O3) connecting with two H⁺s is also 1/3. After the water molecule, for example, $\text{H}_2\text{O1}$ formed, one-third of $^{13}\text{C-}^{18}\text{O}$ bonds are removed from $^x\text{C}^x\text{O}^{16}\text{O}_2^{2-}$, leaving other two-thirds of such bonds in $^x\text{C}^x\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$; that is, the number of $^{13}\text{C-}^{18}\text{O}$ bonds decrease one-third from $^x\text{C}^x\text{O}^{16}\text{O}_2^{2-}$ to $^x\text{C}^x\text{O}^{16}\text{O}$ during the reaction. Similarly to $^{13}\text{C-}^{18}\text{O}$ bond, the same probability 1/3 is true for $^{12}\text{C-}^{18}\text{O}$, $^{13}\text{C-}^{16}\text{O}$ and $^{12}\text{C-}^{16}\text{O}$ bonds during the reaction. Finally, we theoretically have

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_{47} &= 1000 \times \left(\frac{\frac{N_{\text{CO}_2}^{13\text{C-}^{18}\text{O}}}{N_{\text{CO}_2}^{12\text{C-}^{18}\text{O}}}{\frac{N_{\text{CO}_2}^{13\text{C-}^{16}\text{O}}}{N_{\text{CO}_2}^{12\text{C-}^{16}\text{O}}} - 1}{\frac{N_{\text{CO}_2}^{13\text{C-}^{18}\text{O}}}{N_{\text{CO}_2}^{12\text{C-}^{18}\text{O}}}} - 1 \right) = 1000 \times \left(\frac{\frac{N_{\text{CO}_3^{2-}}^{13\text{C-}^{18}\text{O}} - \frac{1}{3}N_{\text{CO}_3^{2-}}^{13\text{C-}^{18}\text{O}}}{N_{\text{CO}_3^{2-}}^{12\text{C-}^{18}\text{O}} - \frac{1}{3}N_{\text{CO}_3^{2-}}^{12\text{C-}^{18}\text{O}}}{\frac{N_{\text{CO}_3^{2-}}^{13\text{C-}^{16}\text{O}} - \frac{1}{3}N_{\text{CO}_3^{2-}}^{13\text{C-}^{16}\text{O}}}{N_{\text{CO}_3^{2-}}^{12\text{C-}^{16}\text{O}} - \frac{1}{3}N_{\text{CO}_3^{2-}}^{12\text{C-}^{16}\text{O}}} - 1}{\frac{N_{\text{CO}_3^{2-}}^{13\text{C-}^{18}\text{O}}}{N_{\text{CO}_3^{2-}}^{12\text{C-}^{18}\text{O}}}} - 1 \right) \\ &= 1000 \times \left(\frac{\frac{\frac{2}{3}N_{\text{CO}_3^{2-}}^{13\text{C-}^{18}\text{O}}}{\frac{2}{3}N_{\text{CO}_3^{2-}}^{12\text{C-}^{18}\text{O}}}{\frac{2}{3}N_{\text{CO}_3^{2-}}^{13\text{C-}^{16}\text{O}}}{\frac{2}{3}N_{\text{CO}_3^{2-}}^{12\text{C-}^{16}\text{O}}} - 1}{\frac{2}{3}N_{\text{CO}_3^{2-}}^{13\text{C-}^{18}\text{O}}}{\frac{2}{3}N_{\text{CO}_3^{2-}}^{12\text{C-}^{18}\text{O}}}} - 1 \right) = 1000 \times \left(\frac{\frac{N_{\text{CO}_3^{2-}}^{13\text{C-}^{18}\text{O}}}{N_{\text{CO}_3^{2-}}^{12\text{C-}^{18}\text{O}}}{\frac{N_{\text{CO}_3^{2-}}^{13\text{C-}^{16}\text{O}}}{N_{\text{CO}_3^{2-}}^{12\text{C-}^{16}\text{O}}} - 1}{\frac{N_{\text{CO}_3^{2-}}^{13\text{C-}^{18}\text{O}}}{N_{\text{CO}_3^{2-}}^{12\text{C-}^{18}\text{O}}}} - 1 \right) = \Delta_{63}, \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

which shows that the Δ_{63} value kept in carbonate is identical to the Δ_{47} value in CO_2 degassed from the carbonate with phosphoric acid.

Then the theoretical value $y_{\text{theory}} = \Delta_{47} - \Delta_{63}$ [7] [10] = 0 is given here, and is suggested to be used in theoretical predictions, such as first-principle calculations in present paper.

The relationship between y_{theory} and $y_{\text{exp.}}$ is addressed as following. For experimental geochemists in the laboratories, the value of $y_{\text{exp.}}$ obeys the rule of counting statistics, and is proportional to $1/\sqrt{N}$ where N is the number of times they analyzed one sample (See [6] [33] for more information). Obviously, if N is large enough,

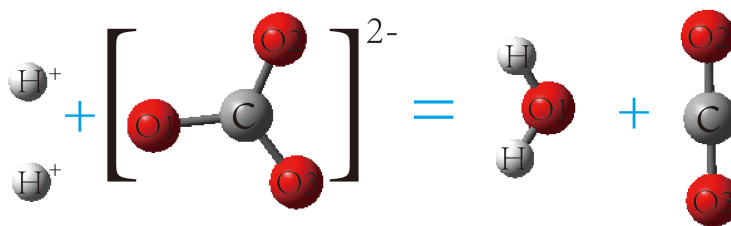


Figure 4. Illustration of equilibrium reaction $2\text{H}^+ + \text{CO}_3^{2-} = \text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{CO}_2 \uparrow$ during the process of extracting CO_2 from carbonates with phosphoric acid (H_3PO_4). The hydrogen ion H^+ is ionized from phosphoric acid; the carbonate group CO_3^{2-} comes from carbonate minerals. Three different oxygen sites of the carbonate group are labeled as O1, O2, and O3. Other chemical reactions (e.g. $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4 = 3\text{H}^+ + \text{PO}_4^{3-}$ and $3\text{Ca}^{2+} + 2\text{PO}_4^{3-} = \text{Ca}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2$ etc.) in this process (McCrea, 1950; Swart *et al.*, 1991) are omitted since they do not significantly contribute to ^{13}C - ^{18}O clumped isotope research.

then

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} y_{\text{exp}} \propto \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} = 0 = y_{\text{theory}}. \quad (9)$$

Present $y_{\text{theory}} = 0$ differs from that (e.g. $0.232\text{‰} \pm 0.015\text{‰}$ for calcite) given by Guo *et al.* (2009) (Figure 3). The main difference between their and present works came from the following fact: when studying the phosphoric acid digestion, they investigated the possible kinetic isotope effect caused by the transition state of dissociation of H_2CO_3 intermediate in non-equilibrium reaction $\text{H}_2\text{CO}_3 \rightarrow (2\text{H}^+ \cdot \text{O}^{2-}) \cdot \text{CO}_2$ (the transition state) $\rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{CO}_2 \uparrow$, while present paper focused on the equilibrium isotope effect caused by deoxidizing the carbonate group (CO_3^{2-}) in equilibrium reaction $2\text{H}^+ + \text{CO}_3^{2-} = \text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{CO}_2 \uparrow$. Here, we suggest that if the duration of the phosphoric acid digestion is long enough (e.g. 16 h in Ghosh *et al.* (2006) and 24 h in Guo *et al.* (2009)), then the digestion reaction was an equilibrium one [34].

4. Conclusions

The influence of Mg^{2+} , Fe^{2+} and Zn^{2+} cations on ^{13}C - ^{18}O bonds in aragonite, calcite and dolomite was studied using *ab initio* quantum calculations. And we can draw the following conclusions:

1) The metal ions significantly influenced the ^{13}C - ^{18}O clumping bonds (as well as $^{13}/^{12}\text{C}$, $^{14}/^{12}\text{C}$ and $^{18}/^{16}\text{O}$ isotope information) in the process of precipitation of and finally the body of aragonite, calcite and dolomite. Due to this influence, we suggested that when using the polynomials of ^{13}C - ^{18}O clumping bonds in these minerals to predict temperatures, it would be better for a researcher to firstly determine the chemical composition of metal cations in carbonates, and secondly choose a reasonable thermometer according to the main metal impurities in the minerals.

2) Based on the probability theory, the value of the influence of phosphoric acid on ^{13}C - ^{18}O clumping bonds during the extracting process of CO_2 from carbonates was zero for theoretical research, e.g. first-principle calculations in this study. And the magnitude of this value in the experiments is proportional to the counting statistics.

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Supplementary File

Optimized Geometries of Clusters in the Text

This file contains the optimized orientations of atoms in pure Ca^{2+} - and Mg^{2+} -dolomite clusters, shown in Figure 1; see geometries of pure aragonite and calcite in Yuan Jie, Zhang Zhigang, and Zhang Yigang (2014).

1. Ca-dolomite

C	-7.5733400	-23.8397780	-12.4229890
O	-7.4228400	-24.6390750	-11.4578180
O	-8.6174280	-23.9048960	-13.1449810
O	-6.6282910	-23.0460140	-12.7362840
C	-1.7264230	-25.2056520	-10.7438680
C	-3.6414910	-21.2804940	-11.4990970
C	-4.3212200	-24.2328130	-14.6843240
C	-4.9431820	-24.6966200	-8.2031210
C	-5.9471600	-27.4582630	-11.4057240
C	-6.1561990	-20.3564350	-15.7243240
C	-6.9657810	-23.2626220	-18.6000230
C	-8.6226660	-26.4099680	-15.3692490
C	-9.5033720	-26.6650300	-8.8632540
C	-10.2297630	-29.5680790	-12.0703700
C	-10.5070710	-22.5416530	-16.0910860
C	-12.1790360	-25.9898050	-12.8937390
Ca	-4.9463600	-24.4090490	-11.4976160
Ca	-7.4013510	-23.3752350	-15.2082180
Ca	-8.9627020	-26.3811510	-12.1443530
O	-2.5298720	-20.7670240	-11.1672930
O	-4.1617190	-22.1788170	-10.7869430
O	-4.0543810	-23.8480350	-7.8761820
O	-1.1418760	-24.4256970	-11.5645050
O	-1.0918260	-25.6194470	-9.7274760
O	-2.9129110	-25.5630840	-10.9158060
O	-5.0657210	-25.6773190	-7.4110340
O	-4.9455340	-20.0130350	-15.8456260
O	-6.5487940	-21.1583260	-14.8497140
O	-4.2210580	-20.8723250	-12.5518890
O	-3.7353440	-23.4706660	-15.5199430
O	-3.7898220	-24.4261290	-13.5610240
O	-5.4276670	-24.7545070	-14.9814890
O	-5.6030050	-24.6170930	-9.2578540
O	-8.4091200	-26.1439850	-8.5164880
O	-5.3653060	-26.6878140	-12.2139000
O	-5.3315470	-27.8638010	-10.3671370
O	-7.1392280	-27.8224920	-11.5928840
O	-10.1031180	-27.4508950	-8.0631770
O	-6.9450740	-19.8771800	-16.5944150
O	-9.3407390	-22.1348030	-15.8504520
O	-6.3799010	-22.5216940	-19.4461160
O	-6.4716060	-23.3904490	-17.4540480
O	-8.0428030	-23.8482430	-18.9387610
O	-11.0940700	-23.3419960	-15.3061210
O	-11.0634900	-25.4299110	-12.7994790
O	-8.2069500	-25.4531850	-16.0751420
O	-8.0212430	-26.7502040	-14.3171290
O	-9.6838260	-27.0210230	-15.7174690

O	-12.7454750	-26.5523390	-11.9086590
O	-10.0106400	-26.4181360	-9.9906040
O	-9.8253590	-28.5923470	-12.7455960
O	-9.5998160	-29.9807600	-11.0445210
O	-11.2987220	-30.1609060	-12.4107820
O	-11.1031000	-22.1483490	-17.1413710
O	-12.7981400	-26.0950880	-13.9909140
O	-8.0522490	-23.1692160	-8.8474230
H	-8.9972600	-23.2340710	-8.7361220
H	-7.9597070	-22.6611450	-9.6463110
O	-7.3970110	-20.9334450	-10.7796960
H	-6.7366670	-21.4383370	-11.2427130
H	-7.0275540	-20.6363540	-9.9567440
O	-10.5714600	-22.0281150	-11.8777110
H	-10.3692450	-21.1047270	-12.0180460
H	-9.8639180	-22.5219310	-12.2827200
O	-9.5822110	-19.3100100	-11.7796700
H	-8.8498170	-19.7039800	-11.3097930
H	-9.1991060	-18.9273880	-12.5573870
O	-10.7909510	-22.3280240	-9.0814780
H	-10.7484240	-22.2110280	-10.0357180
H	-11.5619410	-22.8571190	-8.9285410
O	-8.5634340	-20.3079460	-8.0208860
H	-8.2273200	-21.1794000	-7.8435990
H	-9.4472280	-20.4771460	-8.3287230

2. Mg-dolomite

C	-7.6831990	-23.6286080	-12.3084500
O	-6.5985900	-22.9719120	-12.2668830
O	-8.4771140	-23.4934310	-13.2914400
O	-7.9793170	-24.4340290	-11.3738420
C	-5.0902760	-18.1037580	-12.7607900
C	-3.6345210	-21.2513710	-11.4931930
C	-6.6481970	-21.3144450	-9.5053430
C	-5.0004180	-24.7876210	-8.4554780
C	-8.2133780	-24.4535900	-6.1969590
C	-6.0590060	-20.6701160	-15.6601180
C	-9.2854610	-20.4253940	-13.4646460
C	-10.8694380	-23.5857400	-10.1159490
C	-9.2576800	-26.9936510	-9.0555940
C	-10.3610700	-22.9147740	-16.2918270
C	-13.5699700	-22.5597650	-14.0045180
C	-12.1135680	-25.6617460	-12.8333890
Mg	-6.3525950	-20.9741170	-12.5283720
Mg	-7.9444080	-24.1481000	-9.3880910
Mg	-10.5009900	-23.1841460	-13.1719360
O	-2.5149180	-20.7336170	-11.1846840
O	-4.1506450	-22.0921190	-10.7225150
O	-3.9521490	-24.1053060	-8.6481660
O	-5.0378150	-25.5928040	-7.4733360
O	-4.9820680	-20.0389300	-15.8924580
O	-5.0357330	-17.3311520	-13.7677380
O	-4.2060830	-18.0071630	-11.8574310
O	-6.0621750	-18.8822320	-12.6460140

O	-6.2328610	-21.3112760	-14.5982740
O	-4.2445850	-20.8940000	-12.5363630
O	-6.5609520	-20.5575800	-10.5014950
O	-5.8058710	-21.2086240	-8.5566870
O	-7.6347120	-22.0935710	-9.3994170
O	-5.9431440	-24.7178330	-9.2723880
O	-8.3180350	-26.1733490	-9.1118030
O	-7.9923260	-23.8558270	-7.2698390
O	-7.3686160	-24.3624760	-5.2536890
O	-9.2921570	-25.0900750	-5.9840100
O	-9.3051720	-27.8098650	-8.0832420
O	-6.9350990	-20.7109520	-16.5657340
O	-9.3147300	-22.2480170	-16.4914200
O	-9.2506310	-19.5600920	-14.3985690
O	-8.3857390	-20.4584670	-12.5909750
O	-10.2862500	-21.1771270	-13.3900890
O	-10.5545820	-23.5430700	-15.2204970
O	-10.9950750	-25.1322470	-12.6331450
O	-10.7444450	-22.8289180	-11.1105600
O	-9.9476770	-23.7093910	-9.2707270
O	-11.9764180	-24.1693070	-9.8856970
O	-12.6288020	-26.4761990	-12.0112390
O	-10.1332080	-27.0788460	-9.9688910
O	-11.2104110	-23.0163300	-17.2336820
O	-13.5235790	-21.7712750	-15.0051850
O	-12.6189910	-22.6234150	-13.1951490
O	-14.6380480	-23.2114160	-13.7891740
O	-12.7393670	-25.3793820	-13.8890490
O	-7.5264090	-25.1710230	-15.5013500
H	-7.8168010	-24.5696730	-14.8125000
H	-7.7709490	-26.0316500	-15.1869280
O	-7.1543270	-27.0978550	-12.0890710
H	-7.5779490	-26.3003260	-11.7742460
H	-6.2243280	-26.8875640	-12.0987070
O	-4.0515690	-23.8667690	-13.3608440
H	-4.9145670	-23.6072470	-13.0364350
H	-3.8979640	-24.7425180	-13.0182810
O	-6.3427200	-29.2530280	-13.7899360
H	-6.7480060	-28.6007190	-13.2219990
H	-7.0634620	-29.7022110	-14.2075540
O	-4.3446350	-26.7704320	-12.9999840
H	-4.5807710	-26.6414720	-13.9238680
H	-3.8837310	-27.5981420	-12.9714400
O	-4.6802200	-25.6608210	-15.5456550
H	-4.4786800	-24.8612340	-15.0627610
H	-5.5919550	-25.5511680	-15.8036420