

Supplementary information

Junxing Chen, Xu Chu

1 Calculation method

1.1 Basic diffusion theory

To model diffusion in garnets, we utilized Fick's Second Law, as described by Fick (1855):

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(D \frac{\partial C}{\partial x} \right) \quad (1)$$

where D is the interdiffusion coefficient, C is the concentration of a component, t is time, x is distance. With Fick's second law, it is possible to anticipate how the concentration changes over time as a result of diffusion.

In a spherical coordinate (Crank, 1975):

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left(D r^2 \frac{\partial C}{\partial r} \right) \quad (2)$$

where r represents the distance to the spherical core.

If the diffusion coefficient exhibits little variation with r , then:

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial t} = D \left(\frac{\partial^2 C}{\partial r^2} + \frac{2}{r} \frac{\partial C}{\partial r} \right) \quad (3)$$

1.2 Inter-diffusion & Self-diffusion coefficients

In a multi-component system, the diffusion of these species is coupled. We utilized a hypothetical 4-component diffusion model (A, B, C, D) as an example. One component is treated as the dependent component (D in this example), while the other three are independent. Similarly, one component is dependent in a 3-component system. In a 4-component diffusion model, the diffusion coefficient matrix consists of 9 interdiffusion coefficients (D_{ij}), D_{AA} , D_{AB} , D_{AC} , D_{BA} , D_{BB} , D_{BC} , D_{CA} , D_{CB} , D_{CA} . These coefficients were calculated from the self-diffusion coefficient (D_i) using the formalism by Lasaga (1979), which assumes an ideal mineral solution model without activity coefficient gradients:

$$D_{ij} = D_i \delta_{ij} - \left[\frac{D_i z_i z_j X_i}{\sum_{k=1}^n z_k^2 X_k D_k} \right] (D_i - D_D) \quad (4)$$

where $\delta_{ij} = 0$, if $i \neq j$; $\delta_{ij} = 1$, if $i = j$. X_k represents the cation mole fraction, and z_k is the ion charge.

Self-diffusion coefficients D_i are dependent on various factors such as temperature, pressure, and oxygen fugacity (Chakraborty & Ganguly, 1991):

$$\ln D_i = \ln D_i^0 - \left(\frac{Q_i - P V_i}{RT} \right) + \ln \left(\frac{f_{O_2}}{f_{O_2}^{CCO}} \right)^{\frac{1}{6}} \quad (5)$$

where D_i^0 is the pre-exponential factor, k_i is the parameter for unit-cell dimension, Q_i is the activation energy, P is pressure, V_i is the activation volume, and R is the gas constant, f_{O_2} is oxygen fugacity, $f_{O_2}^{CCO}$ is the oxygen fugacity of the reference graphite–O₂ buffer.

In the compilation of garnet diffusion data, Carlson (2006) found and proposed that the self diffusion coefficients are positively correlated with the unit-cell dimension (a_0) of garnet. a_0 and a_{standard}^0 are the unit-cell dimension of sample and standard (e.g., for garnet divalent cation diffusion $a_{\text{alm}}^0 = 1.1525$ nm):

$$\ln D_i = \ln D_i^0 + k_i (a^0 - a_{\text{standard}}^0) - \left(\frac{Q_i - P V_i}{RT} \right) + \ln \left(\frac{f_{O_2}}{f_{O_2}^{CCO}} \right)^{\frac{1}{6}} \quad (6)$$

1.3 Multi-component diffusion equations

For a 4-component system, we expanded Equation 1 for 1D to a set of 3 equations for the independent species:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial C_A}{\partial t} \\ \frac{\partial C_B}{\partial t} \\ \frac{\partial C_C}{\partial t} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} D_{AA} & D_{AB} & D_{AC} \\ D_{BA} & D_{BB} & D_{BC} \\ D_{CA} & D_{CB} & D_{CC} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial^2 C_A}{\partial x^2} \\ \frac{\partial^2 C_B}{\partial x^2} \\ \frac{\partial^2 C_C}{\partial x^2} \end{bmatrix} \quad (7)$$

Or in a spherical coordinate:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial C_A}{\partial t} \\ \frac{\partial C_B}{\partial t} \\ \frac{\partial C_C}{\partial t} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} D_{AA} & D_{AB} & D_{AC} \\ D_{BA} & D_{BB} & D_{BC} \\ D_{CA} & D_{CB} & D_{CC} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial C_A}{\partial r^2} + \frac{2\partial C_A}{r\partial r} \\ \frac{\partial C_B}{\partial r^2} + \frac{2\partial C_B}{r\partial r} \\ \frac{\partial C_C}{\partial r^2} + \frac{2\partial C_C}{r\partial r} \end{bmatrix} \quad (8)$$

1.4 Crank–Nicolson method

The Crank–Nicolson method (Crank & Nicolson, 1947) is a finite difference method used for numerically solving parabolic partial differential equations. The method is implicit in time and numerically stable. The discretization scheme for 1D and spherical coordinates are:

$$\frac{C_l^{n+1} - C_l^n}{\Delta t} = \frac{1}{2} \left[F_l^{n+1} \left(C, x, t, \frac{\partial C}{\partial x^2} \right) + F_l^n \left(C, x, t, \frac{\partial C}{\partial x^2} \right) \right] \quad (9)$$

$$\frac{C_l^{n+1} - C_l^n}{\Delta t} = \frac{1}{2} \left[F_l^{n+1} \left(C, r, t, \frac{\partial C}{\partial r}, \frac{\partial C}{\partial r^2} \right) + F_l^n \left(C, r, t, \frac{\partial C}{\partial r}, \frac{\partial C}{\partial r^2} \right) \right] \quad (10)$$

Here, $F_l^n \left(C, x, t, \frac{\partial C}{\partial x^2} \right)$ and $F_l^n \left(C, r, t, \frac{\partial C}{\partial r}, \frac{\partial C}{\partial r^2} \right)$ are expressions of the diffusion equations, n represents the time nodes ($n = 1, 2, \dots, N$), and l represents the spatial nodes ($l = 1, 2, \dots, L$). Accordingly, equations 1 and 3 are discretized as:

$$\frac{C_l^{n+1} - C_l^n}{\Delta t} = - \frac{D (C_{l+1}^n \Delta x_1 - C_l^n \Delta x_1 - C_l^n \Delta x_2 + C_{l-1}^n \Delta x_2 + C_{l+1}^{n+1} \Delta x_1 - C_l^{n+1} \Delta x_1 - C_l^{n+1} \Delta x_2 + C_{l-1}^{n+1} \Delta x_2)}{\Delta x_1 \Delta x_2 (\Delta x_1 + \Delta x_2)} \quad (11)$$

$$\frac{C_l^{n+1} - C_l^n}{\Delta t} = - \frac{D (C_{l+1}^n \Delta r_1 - C_l^n \Delta r_1 - C_l^n \Delta r_2 + C_{l-1}^n \Delta r_2 + C_{l+1}^{n+1} \Delta r_1 - C_l^{n+1} \Delta r_1 - C_l^{n+1} \Delta r_2 + C_{l-1}^{n+1} \Delta r_2)}{\Delta r_1 \Delta r_2 (\Delta r_1 + \Delta r_2)}$$

$$- \frac{D (C_{l+1}^n (\Delta r_1)^2 - C_l^n (\Delta r_1)^2 + C_l^n (\Delta r_2)^2 - C_{l-1}^n (\Delta r_2)^2 + C_{l+1}^{n+1} (\Delta r_1)^2 - C_l^{n+1} (\Delta r_1)^2 + C_l^{n+1} (\Delta r_2)^2 - C_{l-1}^{n+1} (\Delta r_2)^2)}{r \Delta r_1 \Delta r_2 (\Delta r_1 + \Delta r_2)} \quad (12)$$

where $\Delta x_1, \Delta x_2$ are spatial steps to the left and right of each specific spatial node, and Δt is the time step length. Similarly, Δr_1 and Δr_2 are spatial steps to the left and right of each specific spatial node for spherical diffusion.

1.5 Diffusion modeling Matrix

At every time node:

$$\mathbf{A}^n \mathbf{C}^{n+1} = \mathbf{B}^n \mathbf{C}^n \quad (13)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A}_{AA}^n & \mathbf{A}_{AB}^n & \mathbf{A}_{AC}^n \\ \mathbf{A}_{BA}^n & \mathbf{A}_{BB}^n & \mathbf{A}_{BC}^n \\ \mathbf{A}_{CA}^n & \mathbf{A}_{CB}^n & \mathbf{A}_{CC}^n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{C}_A^{n+1} \\ \mathbf{C}_B^{n+1} \\ \mathbf{C}_C^{n+1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{B}_{AA}^n & \mathbf{B}_{AB}^n & \mathbf{B}_{AC}^n \\ \mathbf{B}_{BA}^n & \mathbf{B}_{BB}^n & \mathbf{B}_{BC}^n \\ \mathbf{B}_{CA}^n & \mathbf{B}_{CB}^n & \mathbf{B}_{CC}^n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{C}_A^n \\ \mathbf{C}_B^n \\ \mathbf{C}_C^n \end{bmatrix}$$

$\mathbf{A}_{AA}^n, \mathbf{A}_{AB}^n, \dots, \mathbf{B}_{AA}^n, \mathbf{B}_{AB}^n, \mathbf{C}_A^n, \dots$, and $\mathbf{C}_A^{n+1}, \mathbf{C}_B^n, \dots$ are vectors or sub-matrices.

For 4-component diffusion (A,B,C independent), the vectors \mathbf{C}_i^n consist of the contents of element i at every spatial node:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{C}_A^n \\ \mathbf{C}_B^n \\ \mathbf{C}_C^n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} C_{A,1}^n \\ C_{A,2}^n \\ \dots \\ C_{A,L}^n \\ C_{B,1}^n \\ C_{B,2}^n \\ \dots \\ C_{B,L}^n \\ C_{B,1}^n \\ C_{B,2}^n \\ \dots \\ C_{B,L}^n \end{bmatrix} \quad (14)$$

Sub-matrices \mathbf{A}^n and \mathbf{B}^n at every time node can be calculated from equations 7, 8, using the Crank-Nicolson method:
For 1D diffusion,

$$\mathbf{A}_{ii}^n = \begin{bmatrix} a_{\mathbf{A},ii}^n & b_{\mathbf{A},ii}^n & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ -\frac{D_{ii,2}^n \Delta t}{\Delta x_1 (\Delta x_1 + \Delta x_2)} & 1 + \frac{D_{ii,2}^n \Delta t}{\Delta x_1 \Delta x_2} & -\frac{D_{ii,2}^n \Delta t}{\Delta x_2 (\Delta x_1 + \Delta x_2)} & 0 & \vdots \\ 0 & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & 0 & -\frac{D_{ii,L-1}^n \Delta t}{\Delta x_1 (\Delta x_1 + \Delta x_2)} & 1 + \frac{D_{ii,L-1}^n \Delta t}{\Delta x_1 \Delta x_2} & -\frac{D_{ii,L-1}^n \Delta t}{\Delta x_2 (\Delta x_1 + \Delta x_2)} \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & c_{\mathbf{A},ii}^n & d_{\mathbf{A},ii}^n \end{bmatrix} \quad (15)$$

$$\mathbf{A}_{ij}^n = \begin{bmatrix} a_{\mathbf{A},ij}^n & b_{\mathbf{A},ij}^n & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ -\frac{D_{ij,2}^n \Delta t}{\Delta x_1 (\Delta x_1 + \Delta x_2)} & \frac{D_{ij,2}^n \Delta t}{\Delta x_1 \Delta x_2} & -\frac{D_{ij,2}^n \Delta t}{\Delta x_2 (\Delta x_1 + \Delta x_2)} & 0 & \vdots \\ 0 & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & 0 & -\frac{D_{ij,L-1}^n \Delta t}{\Delta x_1 (\Delta x_1 + \Delta x_2)} & \frac{D_{ij,L-1}^n \Delta t}{\Delta x_1 \Delta x_2} & -\frac{D_{ij,L-1}^n \Delta t}{\Delta x_2 (\Delta x_1 + \Delta x_2)} \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & c_{\mathbf{A},ij}^n & d_{\mathbf{A},ij}^n \end{bmatrix} \quad (16)$$

$$\mathbf{B}_{ii}^n = \begin{bmatrix} a_{\mathbf{B},ii}^n & b_{\mathbf{B},ii}^n & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \frac{D_{ii,2}^n \Delta t}{\Delta x_1 (\Delta x_1 + \Delta x_2)} & 1 - \frac{D_{ii,2}^n \Delta t}{\Delta x_1 \Delta x_2} & \frac{D_{ii,2}^n \Delta t}{\Delta x_2 (\Delta x_1 + \Delta x_2)} & 0 & \vdots \\ 0 & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & 0 & \frac{D_{ii,L-1}^n \Delta t}{\Delta x_1 (\Delta x_1 + \Delta x_2)} & 1 - \frac{D_{ii,L-1}^n \Delta t}{\Delta x_1 \Delta x_2} & \frac{D_{ii,L-1}^n \Delta t}{\Delta x_2 (\Delta x_1 + \Delta x_2)} \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & c_{\mathbf{B},ii}^n & d_{\mathbf{B},ii}^n \end{bmatrix} \quad (17)$$

$$\mathbf{B}_{ij}^n = \begin{bmatrix} a_{\mathbf{B},ij}^n & b_{\mathbf{B},ij}^n & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \frac{D_{ij,2}^n \Delta t}{\Delta x_1 (\Delta x_1 + \Delta x_2)} & -\frac{D_{ij,2}^n \Delta t}{\Delta x_1 \Delta x_2} & \frac{D_{ij,2}^n \Delta t}{\Delta x_2 (\Delta x_1 + \Delta x_2)} & 0 & \vdots \\ 0 & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & 0 & \frac{D_{ij,L-1}^n \Delta t}{\Delta x_1 (\Delta x_1 + \Delta x_2)} & -\frac{D_{ij,L-1}^n \Delta t}{\Delta x_1 \Delta x_2} & \frac{D_{ij,L-1}^n \Delta t}{\Delta x_2 (\Delta x_1 + \Delta x_2)} \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & c_{\mathbf{B},ij}^n & d_{\mathbf{B},ij}^n \end{bmatrix} \quad (18)$$

For diffusion in a spherical coordinate:

$$\mathbf{A}_{ii}^n = \begin{bmatrix} a_{\mathbf{A},ii}^n & b_{\mathbf{A},ii}^n & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \frac{D_{ii,2}^n \Delta t (\Delta r_2 - r)}{r \Delta r_1 (\Delta r_1 + \Delta r_2)} & 1 + \frac{D_{ii,2}^n \Delta t (r + \Delta r_1 - \Delta r_2)}{r \Delta r_1 \Delta r_2} & \frac{D_{ii,2}^n \Delta t (-\Delta r_1 - r)}{r \Delta r_2 (\Delta r_1 + \Delta r_2)} & 0 & \vdots \\ 0 & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & 0 & \frac{D_{ii,L-1}^n \Delta t (\Delta r_2 - r)}{r \Delta r_1 (\Delta r_1 + \Delta r_2)} & 1 + \frac{D_{ii,L-1}^n \Delta t (r + \Delta r_1 - \Delta r_2)}{r \Delta r_1 \Delta r_2} & \frac{D_{ii,L-1}^n \Delta t (-\Delta r_1 - r)}{r \Delta r_2 (\Delta r_1 + \Delta r_2)} \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & c_{\mathbf{A},ii}^n & d_{\mathbf{A},ii}^n \end{bmatrix} \quad (19)$$

$$\mathbf{A}_{ij}^n = \begin{bmatrix} a_{\mathbf{A},ij}^n & b_{\mathbf{A},ij}^n & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \frac{D_{ij,2}^n \Delta t (\Delta r_2 - r)}{r \Delta r_1 (\Delta r_1 + \Delta r_2)} & \frac{D_{ij,2}^n \Delta t (r + \Delta r_1 - \Delta r_2)}{r \Delta r_1 \Delta r_2} & \frac{D_{ij,2}^n \Delta t (-\Delta r_1 - r)}{r \Delta r_2 (\Delta r_1 + \Delta r_2)} & 0 & \vdots \\ 0 & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & 0 & \frac{D_{ij,L-1}^n \Delta t (\Delta r_2 - r)}{r \Delta r_1 (\Delta r_1 + \Delta r_2)} & \frac{D_{ij,L-1}^n \Delta t (r + \Delta r_1 - \Delta r_2)}{r \Delta r_1 \Delta r_2} & \frac{D_{ij,L-1}^n \Delta t (-\Delta r_1 - r)}{r \Delta r_2 (\Delta r_1 + \Delta r_2)} \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & c_{\mathbf{A},ij}^n & d_{\mathbf{A},ij}^n \end{bmatrix} \quad (20)$$

$$\mathbf{B}_{ii}^n = \begin{bmatrix} a_{\mathbf{B},ii}^n & b_{\mathbf{B},ii}^n & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ -\frac{D_{ii,2}^n \Delta t (\Delta r_2 - r)}{r \Delta r_1 (\Delta r_1 + \Delta r_2)} & 1 - \frac{D_{ii,2}^n \Delta t (r + \Delta r_1 - \Delta r_2)}{r \Delta r_1 \Delta r_2} & -\frac{D_{ii,2}^n \Delta t (-\Delta r_1 - r)}{r \Delta r_2 (\Delta r_1 + \Delta r_2)} & 0 & \vdots \\ 0 & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & 0 & -\frac{D_{ii,L-1}^n \Delta t (\Delta r_2 - r)}{r \Delta r_1 (\Delta r_1 + \Delta r_2)} & 1 - \frac{D_{ii,L-1}^n \Delta t (r + \Delta r_1 - \Delta r_2)}{r \Delta r_1 \Delta r_2} & -\frac{D_{ii,L-1}^n \Delta t (-\Delta r_1 - r)}{r \Delta r_2 (\Delta r_1 + \Delta r_2)} \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & c_{\mathbf{B},ii}^n & d_{\mathbf{B},ii}^n \end{bmatrix} \quad (21)$$

$$\mathbf{B}_{ij}^n = \begin{bmatrix} a_{\mathbf{B},ij}^n & b_{\mathbf{B},ij}^n & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ -\frac{D_{ij,2}^n \Delta t (\Delta r_2 - r)}{r \Delta r_1 (\Delta r_1 + \Delta r_2)} & -\frac{D_{ij,2}^n \Delta t (r + \Delta r_1 - \Delta r_2)}{r \Delta r_1 \Delta r_2} & -\frac{D_{ij,2}^n \Delta t (-\Delta r_1 - r)}{r \Delta r_2 (\Delta r_1 + \Delta r_2)} & 0 & \vdots \\ 0 & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & 0 & -\frac{D_{ij,L-1}^n \Delta t (\Delta r_2 - r)}{r \Delta r_1 (\Delta r_1 + \Delta r_2)} & -\frac{D_{ij,L-1}^n \Delta t (r + \Delta r_1 - \Delta r_2)}{r \Delta r_1 \Delta r_2} & -\frac{D_{ij,L-1}^n \Delta t (-\Delta r_1 - r)}{r \Delta r_2 (\Delta r_1 + \Delta r_2)} \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & c_{\mathbf{B},ij}^n & d_{\mathbf{B},ij}^n \end{bmatrix} \quad (22)$$

The initial profile is denoted by \mathbf{C}^1 . At each time step (n), the \mathbf{A}^n and \mathbf{B}^n matrices are constructed, with the elements $a_{\mathbf{A/B},ii/ij}^n$, $b_{\mathbf{A/B},ii/ij}^n$, $c_{\mathbf{A/B},ii/ij}^n$, $d_{\mathbf{A/B},ii/ij}^n$, adjust according to the boundary conditions discussed below. The compositional profiles at the next time step ($n + 1$) are solved from Equation 13. The same method applies to 2-component and 3-component diffusion problems.

1.6 Boundary condition options

1.6.1 Dirichlet (fixed-value) boundary condition

In both the diffusions in 1D and spherical coordinates:

For inner boundary ($l = 1$):

$$\begin{aligned} a_{\mathbf{A},ii}^n &= 1, b_{\mathbf{A},ii}^n = 0; \\ a_{\mathbf{A},ij}^n &= 0, b_{\mathbf{A},ij}^n = 0; \\ a_{\mathbf{B},ii}^n &= 1, b_{\mathbf{B},ii}^n = 0; \\ a_{\mathbf{B},ij}^n &= 0, b_{\mathbf{B},ij}^n = 0; \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

Similarly, for outer boundary ($l = L$):

$$\begin{aligned} c_{\mathbf{A},ii}^n &= 0, d_{\mathbf{A},ij}^n = 1; \\ c_{\mathbf{A},ij}^n &= 0, d_{\mathbf{A},ij}^n = 0; \\ c_{\mathbf{B},ii}^n &= 0, d_{\mathbf{B},ii}^n = 1; \\ c_{\mathbf{B},ij}^n &= 0, d_{\mathbf{B},ij}^n = 0; \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

1.6.2 No-net-flux boundary condition

This is a special case of Neumann boundary condition, with $\frac{\partial C}{\partial x} = 0$ or $\frac{\partial C}{\partial r} = 0$. For the inner boundary ($r \neq 0$):

$$\begin{aligned} a_{\mathbf{A},ii}^n &= 1 + \frac{D_{ii,1}^n \Delta t}{(\Delta r)^2}, b_{\mathbf{A},ii}^n = -\frac{D_{ii,1}^n \Delta t}{(\Delta r)^2}; \\ a_{\mathbf{A},ij}^n &= \frac{D_{ij,1}^n \Delta t}{(\Delta r)^2}, b_{\mathbf{A},ij}^n = -\frac{D_{ij,1}^n \Delta t}{(\Delta r)^2}; \\ a_{\mathbf{B},ii}^n &= 1 - \frac{D_{ii,1}^n \Delta t}{(\Delta r)^2}, b_{\mathbf{B},ii}^n = \frac{D_{ii,1}^n \Delta t}{(\Delta r)^2}; \\ a_{\mathbf{B},ij}^n &= -\frac{D_{ij,1}^n \Delta t}{(\Delta r)^2}, b_{\mathbf{B},ij}^n = \frac{D_{ij,1}^n \Delta t}{(\Delta r)^2}; \end{aligned} \quad (25)$$

Similarly, for outer boundary:

$$\begin{aligned} c_{\mathbf{A},ii}^n &= -\frac{D_{ii,L}^n \Delta t}{(\Delta r)^2}, d_{\mathbf{A},ij}^n = 1 + \frac{D_{ii,L}^n \Delta t}{(\Delta r)^2}; \\ c_{\mathbf{A},ij}^n &= -\frac{D_{ij,L}^n \Delta t}{(\Delta r)^2}, d_{\mathbf{A},ij}^n = \frac{D_{ij,L}^n \Delta t}{(\Delta r)^2}; \\ c_{\mathbf{B},ii}^n &= \frac{D_{ii,L}^n \Delta t}{(\Delta r)^2}, d_{\mathbf{B},ii}^n = 1 - \frac{D_{ii,L}^n \Delta t}{(\Delta r)^2}; \\ c_{\mathbf{B},ij}^n &= \frac{D_{ij,L}^n \Delta t}{(\Delta r)^2}, d_{\mathbf{B},ij}^n = -\frac{D_{ij,L}^n \Delta t}{(\Delta r)^2}; \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

Additionally, in the spherical coordinate, if the inner boundary of the diffusion is the spherical core (Evans, 2010) ($r = 0$):

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial t} = 3D \frac{\partial^2 C}{\partial r^2} \quad (27)$$

Equation 7 can be modified to:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial C_{\mathbf{A}}}{\partial t} \\ \frac{\partial C_{\mathbf{B}}}{\partial t} \\ \frac{\partial C_{\mathbf{C}}}{\partial t} \end{bmatrix} = 3 \begin{bmatrix} D_{\mathbf{AA}} & D_{\mathbf{AB}} & D_{\mathbf{AC}} \\ D_{\mathbf{BA}} & D_{\mathbf{BB}} & D_{\mathbf{BC}} \\ D_{\mathbf{CA}} & D_{\mathbf{CB}} & D_{\mathbf{CC}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial^2 C_{\mathbf{A}}}{\partial r^2} \\ \frac{\partial^2 C_{\mathbf{B}}}{\partial r^2} \\ \frac{\partial^2 C_{\mathbf{C}}}{\partial r^2} \end{bmatrix} \quad (28)$$

Thus, in this case, the Bd elements in the sub-matrices are:

$$\begin{aligned} a_{\mathbf{A},ii}^n &= 1 + 3 \frac{D_{ii,1}^n \Delta t}{(\Delta r)^2}, b_{\mathbf{A},ii}^n = -3 \frac{D_{ii,1}^n \Delta t}{(\Delta r)^2}; \\ a_{\mathbf{A},ij}^n &= 3 \frac{D_{ij,1}^n \Delta t}{(\Delta r)^2}, b_{\mathbf{A},ij}^n = -3 \frac{D_{ij,1}^n \Delta t}{(\Delta r)^2}; \\ a_{\mathbf{B},ii}^n &= 1 - 3 \frac{D_{ii,1}^n \Delta t}{(\Delta r)^2}, b_{\mathbf{B},ii}^n = 3 \frac{D_{ii,1}^n \Delta t}{(\Delta r)^2}; \\ a_{\mathbf{B},ij}^n &= -3 \frac{D_{ij,1}^n \Delta t}{(\Delta r)^2}, b_{\mathbf{B},ij}^n = 3 \frac{D_{ij,1}^n \Delta t}{(\Delta r)^2}; \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

1.7 Convolution effect

The spatial averaging effect by the finite resolution of an analytical method gives rise to artificial smoothing of the measured profile. If the excitation volume has a Gaussian intensity distribution, the measured concentration (C') at a specific locality (x) follows (Ganguly et al., 1988):

$$C'(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \varphi(x' - x) \cdot C(x') dx' \quad (30)$$

where the density function $\varphi(x) = \frac{1}{\varepsilon\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp[-\frac{1}{2}(\frac{x}{\varepsilon})^2]$, and the standard deviation ε is the convolution factor. The value of ε has been estimated experimentally for garnet by comparing EPMA profiles with profiles obtained by instrument of much

higher resolution (e.g., analytical TEM, Ganguly et al., 1998). The relationship between the characteristic diffusion length scales of the convoluted profile ($\sqrt{2D_c t}$) and the actual profile ($\sqrt{2Dt}$) is (Ganguly et al., 1988):

$$2D_c t = 2Dt + \varepsilon^2 \quad (31)$$

The convolution effect can significantly affect the apparent diffusivity and the shape of the diffusion profile. The extent to which the convolution effect needs to be considered depends on the ratio between the measured diffusion scale ($\sqrt{2D_c t}$) and the convolution parameter (ε). If the measured diffusion scale ($\sqrt{2D_c t}$) is more than ten times larger than ε (Ganguly et al., 1988), the convolution effect can be neglected. However, if the measured diffusion scale ($\sqrt{2D_c t}$) is of the same order of magnitude as ε , the convolution effect needs to be taken into account in diffusion modeling.

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