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Title	ESR spectra of Fe^<3+> Ions in lead silicate slags
Author(s)	Iwamoto, Nobuya; Makino, Yukio; Mikami, Hirosuke
Citation	Transactions of JWRI. 1982, 11(2), p. 165-166
Version Type	VoR
URL	https://doi.org/10.18910/10398
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Technical Note

ESR spectra of Fe^{3+} Ions in lead silicate slags†

Nobuya IWAMOTO*, Yukio MAKINO** and Hirosuke MIKAMI***

KEY WORDS (Electron Spin Resonance) (Lead Silicate) (State Analysis) (Fe^{3+} Ion)

Lead silicate glass has been widely investigated by various spectroscopic methods[1)–3)] in order to elucidate the structure of silicate glass and its melt. On the other hand, the clarification of state of iron in slags is very important in iron- and steel-making and in some welding processes using fluxes[4)–6)]. In this study, state of ferric ions in lead silicate glasses was investigated by electron spin resonance (ESR) spectroscopy.

Reagent grade SiO_2, PbO and Fe_2O_3 were used for preparing glass specimens. The mixtures of these reagents were melted in platinum crucibles at the temperatures 100°C higher than their liquidus temperatures in an electric furnace. Fe_2O_3 addition was fixed to be 0.5mol% in every glass. After being held for 1 hr in air, they were cooled. ESR spectra were measured with X-band method using a spectrometer of Varian E-109 type. Relative quantity of Fe^{3+} ions related to each resonance was approximately estimated by $I(\Delta H)^2$, where I and ΔH are the peak-to-peak height and width of the resonance.

ESR spectra of Fe^{3+} ions in lead silicate glasses are shown in Fig. 1. Two resonances are observed near g=2.0 (H=3400 G) and g=4.3 (H=1600 G), respectively. A shoulder is observed near g=6.0 (H=1050 G). According to the previous papers[7)–10)], the g=4.3 and g=6.0 resonances arise from Fe^{3+} ions in a rhombic and axial crystal fields, respectively. The g=2.0 resonance can arise from two sorts of origins, that is, from dipole-dipole interacted Fe^{3+} ions and Fe^{3+} ions in an axial crystal field. Further, it is indicated that the g=2.0 resonance due to dipole-dipole interaction between Fe^{3+} ions begins to be observed at the content of Fe_2O_3 more than 1 mol%. As shown in Fig.1, the intensity of the shoulder near g=6.0 has a tendency to increase with increasing the intensity of the g=2.0 resonance. Accordingly, it is reasonanble to assign the g=2.0 resonance not to dipole-dipole interacted Fe^{3+} ions but to Fe^{3+} ions in an axial crystal field. Figure 2 shows the composition dependence of the relative quantities of Fe^{3+} ions related to the g=2.0 and g=4.3 resonances. The relative quantity of Fe^{3+} ions related to the g=4.3 resonance, $r_{g=4.3}$, is nearly constant at the content less than about 50mol% and it increases with increasing PbO content when PbO content is over 50 mol%. This shows that Fe^{3+} ions have a tendency to prefer rhombic crystal field to axial one with increasing PbO content. The observa-

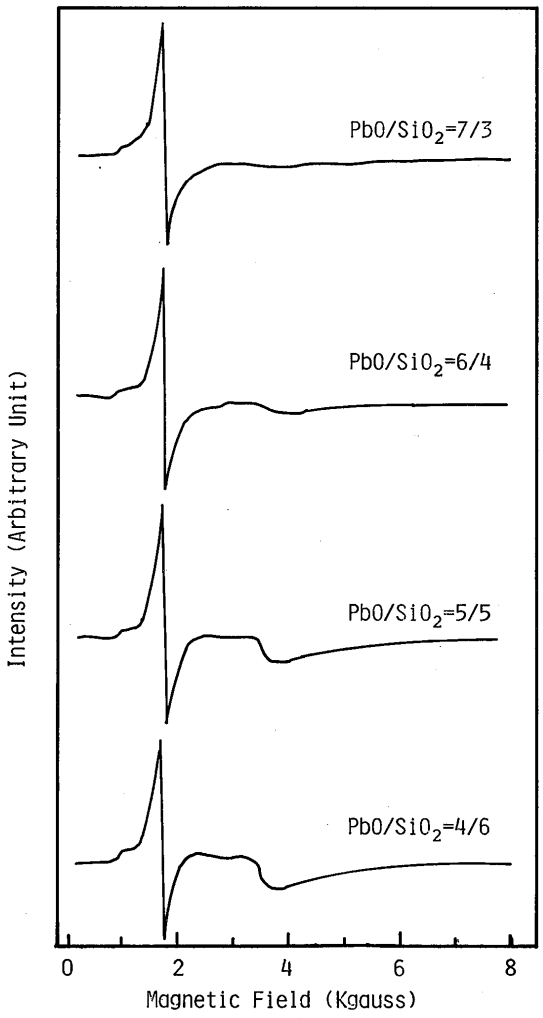

Fig. 1 ESR spectra of Fe^{3+} ions in lead silicate glasses

† Received on September 30, 1982
* Professor
** Instructor
*** Graduate Student

Transactions of JWRI is published by Welding Research Institute of Osaka University, Ibaraki, Osaka, Japan

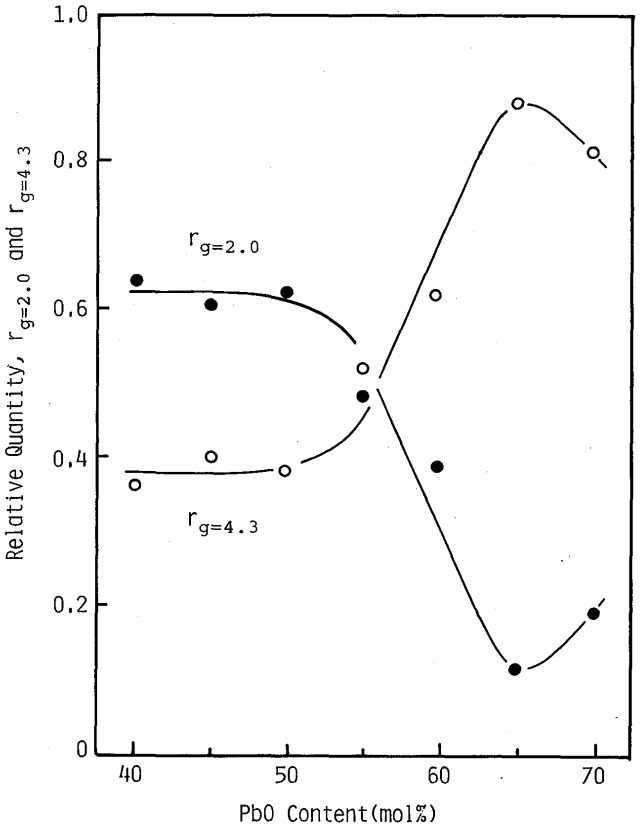

Fig. 2 Dependences of relative quantities, $r_{g=2.0}$ and $r_{g=4.3}$ upon PbO content.

tion of the tendency at the PbO content more than 50 mol% suggests that the increase of Fe^{3+} ions in a rhombic crystal field is closely related to the change of network structure to linear chain structure in lead silicate glass. The relation between state of Fe^{3+} ion and silicate structure will be investigated in near future.

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