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

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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 reasonable 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 depend-

ence 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-

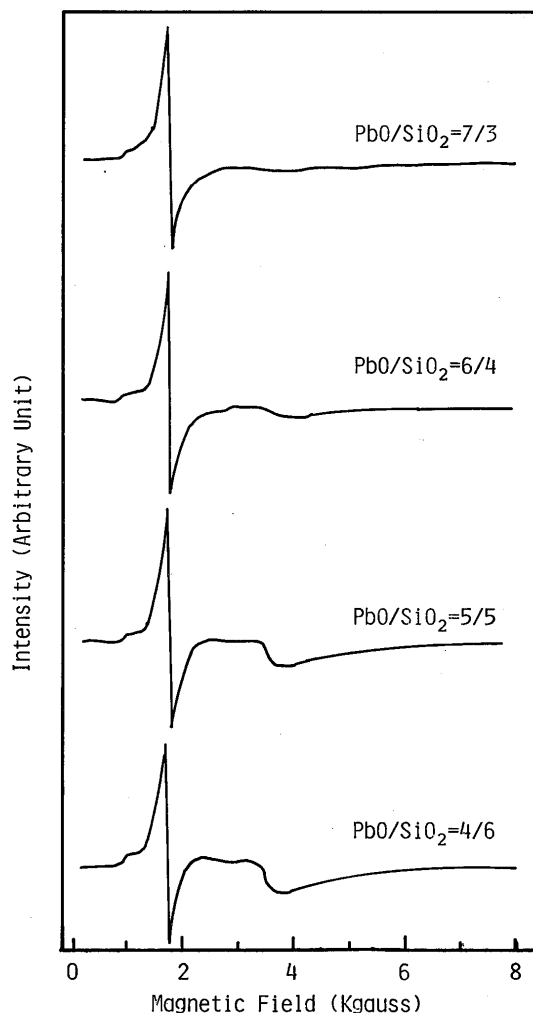


Fig. 1 ESR spectra of Fe^{3+} ions in lead silicate glasses

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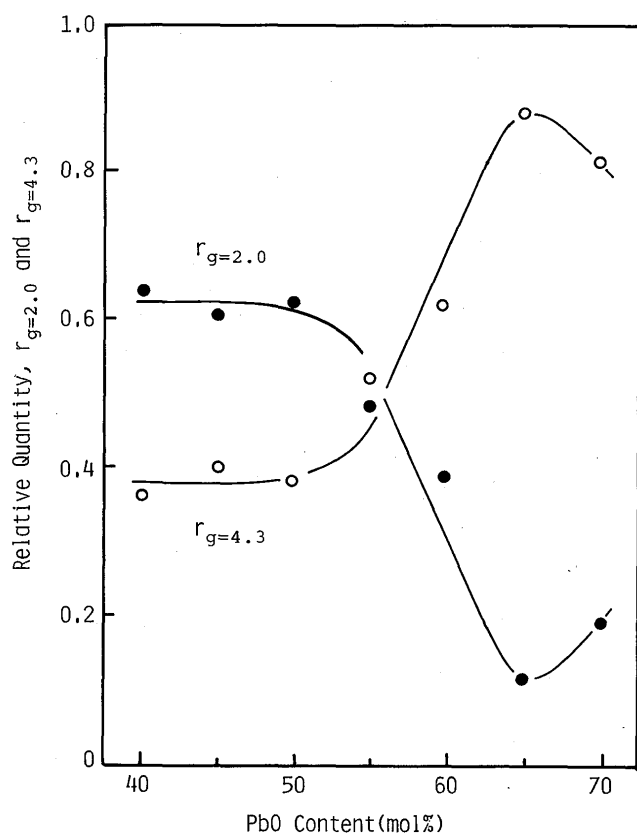


Fig. 2 Dependences of relative quantities, $r_{g=2.0}$ and $r_{g=4.3}$ upon PbO content.

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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