Phase diagram and thermoelastic property of iron oxyhydroxide across the spin crossover under extreme conditions

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Spin transition and its effect on the physical properties of iron-bearing minerals at high pressure-temperature (*P*-*T*) are of great importance for understanding the structural heterogeneity of Earth's mantle. Here, we investigate the phase diagram and thermoelastic properties of iron oxyhydroxide (FeOOH) across the spin crossover using dynamic high *P*-*T* experiments and theoretical simulations. The Hugoniot equation of state in FeOOH has been measured up to ~90 GPa and ~2100 K in a two-stage light-gas gun and exhibits a density discontinuity between 47 GPa (~950 K) and 61 GPa (~1150 K) due to the high-low spin transition of Fe³⁺, which is consistent with our first-principles calculations. The *P*-*T* phase diagram indicates that the shock-elevated temperature shifts the spin transition to a higher pressure and broadens the pressure range of mixed spins. The large volume collapse of FeOOH during its spin crossover leads to remarkable elastic anomalies, with ~60% softening of adiabatic bulk modulus and a negative Poisson's ratio (-0.1) of abnormal auxeticity in the mixed-spin phase. Our results suggest that FeOOH undergoes an unselective spin transition of ferric iron at the corresponding *P*-*T* conditions of the Earth's 1400–1800 km depth and exhibits drastic softening in sound velocities and elastic modulus which may be detected as seismic heterogeneities in subducting slabs of the lower mantle.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Iron (Fe) is the most abundant transition-metal element in Earth's mantle [1,2]. Its incorporation and imposed effects on the physical properties of the lower-mantle minerals at high *P*-*T* conditions are essential for understanding the evolution and structure of the Earth's mantle. Pressure-induced high-spin (HS) to low-spin (LS) transitions in iron-bearing lower-mantle minerals have been extensively studied using *in situ* synchrotron Mössbauer spectroscopy (SMS) [3], x-ray diffraction (XRD) [4,5], x-ray emission spectroscopy [6,7], and theoretical calculations [8,9]. Those pioneering works show that the spin transition of iron is usually accompanied by a volume collapse and remarkable changes in the geophysical and geochemical properties of the host mineral [10–18], which may further affect the dynamics and physicochemical state of Earth's lower mantle [1].

The valence state of an iron cation can be Fe^{2+} and/or Fe^{3+} in major mantle minerals, such as ferropericlase [(Mg, Fe²⁺)O] and bridgmanite [(Mg, Fe³⁺, Al)(Si, Fe³⁺, Al)O₃]. The spin transition of ferrous ions in ferropericlase occurs in the ~35–60 GPa range at room and high temperatures, where the HS and LS states coexist in a wide pressure range [4,7,19,20]. The situation of Fe³⁺-bearing bridgmanite is more complex due to its crystal chemistry and the possibility of the intracrystalline partitioning of iron [3,21–23]. In short, our understanding of the spin transition of Fe³⁺ in the lower mantle has been hampered by the lack of high *P*-*T* experimental data for Fe³⁺-bearing phases.

Ferric oxyhydroxide (Fe³⁺OOH) is abundant and widespread on Earth's surface as mineral goethite (α -FeOOH, space group *Pbnm*, Z = 4). Recent experiments and calculations show that goethite's high-pressure polymorph ε -FeOOH (space group $P2_1nm$, Pnnm, Z = 2) may carry water and/or hydrogen into the deep lower mantle and thus be an important Fe³⁺-bearing and water-bearing phase in Earth's mantle [24–30]. Meanwhile, the spin state of Fe^{3+} in FeOOH has attracted intensive interest. Density functional theory (DFT) calculations predicted that the HS to LS transitions of Fe³⁺ in α - and ε -FeOOH phases would take place at ~ 60 GPa [13,31–33]. However, single-crystal XRD, SMS, Raman spectroscopy, x-ray absorption spectroscopy, and resistivity measurements in a diamond anvil cell (DAC) at room temperature manifested that those spin transitions occurred at \sim 45 GPa with a small mixed-spin (MS) interval of \sim 2 GPa [5,13,31,34]. Several spin transition-induced anomalies in the physical properties of FeOOH were observed in these DAC experiments, such as a sudden volume collapse of $\sim 11\%$ [5,13], a sharp decrease of the resistance by five orders of magnitude [31], and altered optical properties [5].

The effects of temperature on the spin transition of Fe³⁺ in ε -FeOOH are relatively less investigated. The longitudinal

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sound velocity (V_P) measurements under shock compression exhibited an abnormal softening of ~20% between 46 and 60 GPa [12]. This pressure range is substantially wider than that observed in static compression experiments at room temperature [5,13], signifying the role of high temperature. Therefore, to understand the density and elastic properties of ε -FeOOH, it is urgent to conduct *in situ* experiments and simulations at the *P*-*T* conditions relevant to Earth's lower mantle.

Here, we report the equation of state, thermoelastic property, and phase diagram of FeOOH across its spin crossover up to ~90 GPa and ~2100 K by shock compression experiments and first-principles calculations. The present results indicate that the spin transition of Fe³⁺ in ε -FeOOH starts at 47 GPa (~950 K) and completes at 61 GPa (~1150 K) along the Hugoniot, resulting in significant softening in bulk sound velocity (V_B), adiabatic bulk modulus (K_S), and Poisson's ratio (ν), while there is slight stiffening of shear sound velocity (V_S) and shear modulus (μ). In this paper, we provide insight into the understanding of the spin-transition behavior and spin-transition-induced physical properties of Fe³⁺- and/or water-bearing phases under high *P*-*T* conditions of the lower mantle.

II. METHODS

A. Hugoniot data measurements in a two-stage light-gas gun

Natural goethite is a starting material that has been used in previous shock experiments [12]. The morphology and chemical composition of the used samples have been analyzed using XRD, an electron probe microanalyzer, and scanning electron microscopy, which can be found elsewhere [24]. The sample characterization shows that it is homogeneous and mainly composed of α -FeOOH (~95 wt. %), minor amounts of quartz (SiO₂, ~3 wt. %) impurities, and few microvoids with ~2 µm in diameter. We measured the initial density of each sample (~12 mm diameter, ~2 mm thick) using the Archimedean method. It ranged between 3.901 and 3.920 g/cm³ and was ~8% lower than the ideal density of 4.25 g/cm³ due to impurities and little porosity in the natural sample [24]. The sample was polished on both parallel surfaces to ensure precise shock velocity measurements.

Planar impact experiments were conducted using a twostage light-gas gun with a 25 mm bore tube at the Institute of Atomic and Molecular Physics, Sichuan University. We measured the impact velocity of the flyer (w) and shock wave velocity in the sample (U_S) to determine the Hugoniot states. Here, the values of the impact velocity and shock wave velocity of the sample were measured by an electromagnetic method and an electrical pin technique, respectively (Text S1 in the Supplemental Material [35]). Copper (Cu) and Fe were used as flyer and base plates. After obtaining the shock wave velocity of the FeOOH, the particle velocity $(u_{\rm P})$ was calculated using the impedance matching method based on the impact velocity and the known Hugoniot relations of Cu [36,37] and Fe [38] (Fig. S3 in the Supplemental Material [35]). Eleven forward impact experiments were performed, and the impact velocity ranged from 2.14 to 4.62 km/s (Table I). The Hugoniot data of FeOOH were obtained in the

pressure range of 35.2–88.4 GPa. We also analyzed the impact velocity and particle velocity at the FeOOH/lithium fluoride (LiF) interface measured in the previous reverse-impact experiments [12] to obtain the Hugoniot data of FeOOH at lower pressures of 25.3–31.5 GPa (Table I). We estimated the uncertainties of the measured Hugoniot data based on the analysis of error propagation [36], which are generally < 2%.

B. First-principles simulation for the spin crossover and equation of state

The spin fraction parameter $n_{\rm LS}$ of ε -FeOOH was investigated under high P-T conditions using first-principles simulation. We first calculated the free energies of ε -FeOOH at both HS and LS states, whose vibrational energies were approximated by the quasiharmonic model. The calculation was performed under the framework of DFT through the Vienna Ab initio Simulation Package (ver. 5.4.4) [40], in which we used the plane-wave augmented pseudopotentials. The configurations of valence electrons for each atom species were Fe, $3d^7 4s^1$; O, $2s^2 2p^4$; and H, $1s^1$. The electron-correlation energies were parameterized by Perdew, Burke, and Ernzerhof [41]. We set the cutoff energy of plane-wave basis as 800 eV. The Brillouin zone was sampled such that the smallest allowed spacing between k points was 0.2 Å^{-1} . We tested the convergence of results by varying the kinetic energy cutoff, and we are convinced our setup can produce robust results (Table SI in the Supplemental Material [35]). The geometric optimization at each pressure was achieved by converging forces to $0.005 \,\text{eV}/\text{\AA}$ on each atom. To describe the strongly correlated system, we employed a fixed Hubbard term U-J =5.3 eV, with J = 1.36 eV, which has previously described the spin transition of Fe^{3+} in ε -FeOOH [13] and was set according to the calculated atomic Slater integrals for ferric iron.

The thermodynamics during the spin transition of Fe³⁺ in ε -FeOOH is treated as an ideal solid solution of the HS and LS phases. This approximation has been used to successfully describe the MS state of ferropericlase [42] and the elastic wave softening of ε -FeOOH at the MS state [12]. These relations are

$$V(n_{\rm LS}, P, T) = n_{\rm LS} V_{\rm LS}(P, T) + (1 - n_{\rm LS}) V_{\rm HS}(P, T), \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{V(n_{\rm LS})}{K(n_{\rm LS})} = n_{\rm LS} \frac{V_{\rm LS}}{K_{\rm LS}} + (1 - n_{\rm LS}) \frac{V_{\rm HS}}{K_{\rm HS}} - (V_{\rm LS} - V_{\rm HS}) \frac{\partial n_{\rm LS}}{\partial P} \bigg|_{T},$$
(2)

where n_{LS} is the fraction of the LS state, and V_{LS} , V_{HS} , K_{LS} , and K_{HS} are the equilibrium volume and isothermal compressibility of pure LS and HS states, respectively. The above equations are the same ones used in Ref. [42], and the properties of the MS ε -FeOOH can be determined from those of the LS and HS states and the fraction of the LS state, all of which were computed individually.

The validity territory of using the quasiharmonic approximation is defined by the trend of its thermal expansivity (Fig. S4 in the Supplemental Material [35]). We shall note that the asymmetric hydrogen bond is well known to produce the double welling on the free energy surface and create

	Sample									
Shot No.	$\overline{\rho_0(g/cm^3)}$	<i>d</i> (mm)	Flyer/base plate	w (km/s)	$U_{\rm int}~({\rm km/s})$	$P_{\rm H}({\rm GPa})$	$T_{\rm est.}(K)$	$u_{\rm P}({\rm km/s})$	$U_{\rm S}({\rm km/s})$	$\rho_{\rm H}({ m g/cm^3})$
				Fo	orward impact					
F1	3.919(5)	2.028(6)		2.142(10)	•	35.2(0.5)	680(102)	1.366(21)	6.569(89)	4.948(67)
F2	3.902(5)	2.040(6)		2.241(11)		36.8(0.9)	715(107)	1.437(35)	6.561(155)	4.996(118)
F3	3.906(5)	2.096(6)		2.392(12)		40.2(0.7)	790(119)	1.529(29)	6.722(120)	5.056(90)
F4	3.911(5)	2.041(6)		2.672(13)		46.3(0.2)	930(140)	1.705(15)	6.947(33)	5.183(25)
F5	3.902(5)	2.030(6)		2.799(14)		48.4(0.4)	967(145)	1.797(20)	6.907(58)	5.274(44)
F6	3.901(5)	2.005(6)	Cu/Cu	2.962(15)	_	51.4(0.4)	1007(151)	1.912(21)	6.897(56)	5.397(44)
F7	3.903(5)	1.941(5)		3.213(16)		56.2(0.8)	1072(161)	2.089(32)	6.898(95)	5.598(77)
F8	3.921(5)	2.045(6)		3.509(18)		62.5(0.9)	1182(177)	2.291(37)	6.958(101)	5.846(85)
F9	3.901(5)	1.962(5)		3.542(18)		62.9(0.9)	1197(180)	2.317(35)	6.959(94)	5.848(79)
F10	3.920(5)	2.054(6)		3.822(19)		70.3(1.4)	1432(215)	2.492(52)	7.192(140)	5.998(117)
F11	3.901(5)	2.089(6)	Fe/Fe	4.621(23)		88.4(1.0)	2069(310)	2.920(38)	7.763(84)	6.252(68)
				R	everse impact					
R1	3.935(5)	2.024(6)	Goethite/	2.432(12)	1.361(22)	25.3(0.8)	510(77)	1.071(25)	6.014(188)	4.787(124)
R2	3.921(5)	2.024(6)		2.879(14)	1.615(38)	31.5(1.3)	615(92)	1.264(40)	6.363(248)	4.895(154)

TABLE I. Impact conditions and Hugoniot results for the FeOOH^a.

^aNote: ρ_0 and *d* are the initial density and thickness of our samples, respectively; *w* is the measured impact velocity of the flyer; U_{int} is the measured particle velocity at the sample/LiF interface in the reverse impact experiments [12]; P_H is the Hugoniot pressure, which is calculated using the impedance matching method; $T_{est.}$ is the estimated Hugoniot temperature, which is calculated by a thermodynamic equation; u_P and U_S are the particle velocity and shock velocity in the shocked sample, respectively; ρ_H is the density at Hugoniot state. In the forward impact experiments, the flyer plate and base plate are of the same material, where Cu and Fe were used in shots No. F1-F10 and shot No. F11, respectively. In the reverse impact experiments, the goethite sample was used as the flyer to directly impact the LiF window. The experimental data of the forward impact (shots No. F1-F11, $P_H > 35$ GPa) and reverse impact (shots No. R1-R2, $P_H < 35$ GPa) are obtained in this paper and from the previous study [12], respectively. The Hugoniot parameters used in this paper are U_S (km/s) = 5.215(0.02) + 1.351(0.03)u_p with the initial density of 2.640 (0.002) g/cm³ for LiF [39], U_S (km/s) = 3.933(0.004) + 1.500(0.025)u_p with the initial density of 8.939 (0.005) g/cm³ for Cu [36,37], U_S (km/s) = 3.94(0.02) + 1.58(0.01)u_p with the initial density of 7.85 (0.03) g/cm³ for Fe [38]. Values in parentheses reflect uncertainties, which are given in parameters at 2σ level.

dynamic instability (Fig. S5 in the Supplemental Material [35]) [43,44]. From our phonon spectroscopy, the structure starts to be mechanically stable at >40 GPa. Since the spin-transition boundary starts at ~45 GPa, our treatment of the calculation should be valid at the sensitive pressure regime of this paper.

Here, the fraction $n_{\text{LS}} = n_{\text{LS}}(P, T)$ is obtained by minimizing the Gibbs free energy (G) with respect to n_{LS} by following the formula:

$$n_{\rm LS}(P,T) = \frac{1}{1 + m(2S+1)\exp\left[\frac{\Delta G_{\rm LS-HS}}{K_B T}\right]},$$
(3)

where *S* and *m* are the total spin quantum number and electronic configuration degeneracy, respectively, and $\Delta G_{\text{LS-HS}}$ is the difference between the free energy of the LS and HS states. This equation includes both static and vibrational contributions at different *P* and *T*. We approximated the vibrational energy by the integrals of phonons according to the quasiharmonic approximation, and it was performed by PHONOPY 2.4.2 [45]. Details of the methodology are also found in Ref. [46].

The pressure (P), volume (V), and internal energy (E) across a shock front can be determined based on the Rankine-Hugoniot equation given as [36]

$$\frac{1}{2}(P_{\rm H} + P_0)(V_0 - V_{\rm H}) = E_{\rm H} - E_0, \tag{4}$$

where subscripts H and 0 denote the states at Hugoniot pressure and the ambient conditions, respectively. The P-Vand P-T relations on the Hugoniot are then determined by first-principles molecular dynamics (FPMD) simulation. The kinetic energy cutoff was the same as structural optimization but only a γ -center k point was used for FPMD simulation. To fix spin, we assumed a paramagnetic configuration for the LS state and a ferromagnetic configuration for the HS state (fixed at $4.0 \,\mu_B$). This strategy has been used for similar iron-bearing systems [47], and we found this is probably the only way to produce robust energies on fixed volume and temperature without too much perturbation of magnetization. In comparison, if we initialize an antiferromagnetic state, the trajectory will feature the mixed LS, medium-spin, and HS states of iron. The system for MD simulation consists of 64 atoms (2×2×2 supercell, 16 Fe, 32 O, and 16 H). An NVT molecular dynamics simulation was run for each P-T point for 2000 timesteps, and the last 1000 steps of each were taken for calculating energy and pressure. For a given $V_{\rm H}$, the principal Hugoniot state was determined by interpolation of a series of equilibrium calculations at different temperatures so that Eq. (4) was satisfied [48-51]. Based on the experimental measurements [5], the HS and LS volumes of FeOOH at the initial pressure ($P_0 = 0$) are $V_{0, HS} = 0.225 \text{ cm}^3/\text{g}$ and $V_{0, LS} = 0.192 \,\mathrm{cm}^3/\mathrm{g}$, respectively. The initial internal energies of FeOOH at the HS and LS states are $E_{0, \text{HS}} = -25.551$ eV/fu and $E_{0, LS} = -25.811$ eV/fu, respectively, at a temperature of 300 K.



FIG. 1. Hugoniot equation of state for the natural goethite under shock compression. (a) The relation between the shock velocity and particle velocity $(U_s - u_p)$. (b) The relation between the Hugoniot pressure and specific volume (*P-V*). The red circles and blue diamonds are experimental data determined by forward and reverse impacts in this paper and reanalyzed from the previous data [12], respectively; the orange and green lines are fitted (or calculated) results for the high- and low-spin states, respectively; the light-shaded area represents the spin crossover region with the mixed-spin state; the dashed violet line is to guide the eye.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Hugoniot equation of state of ε-FeOOH under dynamic compression

A total of 13 sets of Hugoniot data were collected for FeOOH in the pressure range of 25.3–88.4 GPa, as shown in Table I and Fig. 1. It has been shown that α -FeOOH undergoes a first-order phase transition to form the high-pressure ε -FeOOH phase at ~6–10 GPa [52–56]. The pressure range in this study is substantially larger than the phase boundary between α -FeOOH and ε -FeOOH. Therefore, it is expected that the starting α -FeOOH would transform into ε -FeOOH at ~6–10 GPa along the Hugoniot. Further shock compression experiments are required to measure the Hugoniot data and sound velocity of FeOOH to accurately determine its α - ε phase transition along the Hugoniot. In Fig. 1, the shock wave velocity–particle velocity ($U_{\rm s} - u_{\rm p}$) relation [pressure-specific volume (*P*-*V*) relation] shows significant changes around $u_{\rm p} = 1.72$ km/s ($P_{\rm H} = 47$ GPa) and $u_{\rm p} = 2.25$ km/s ($P_{\rm H} = 61$ GPa). Based on recent theoretical and experimental studies [5,13], three different regimes, namely, HS behavior <47 GPa, LS behavior >61 GPa, and a spin crossover region between 47 and 61 GPa, were identified and in good agreement with the previous measurements of longitudinal sound velocity under shock compression [12]. The quasilinear correlations between shock wave velocity ($U_{\rm s}$) and particle velocity ($u_{\rm p}$) are shown as follows:

$$U_{\rm s} = C_0 + \lambda u_{\rm p} = \begin{cases} 4.49(\pm 0.16) + 1.46(\pm 0.10)u_{\rm p}, & (u_{\rm p} < 1.72, \text{HS state}) \\ 6.92(\pm 0.12), & (1.72 \leqslant u_{\rm p} \leqslant 2.25, \text{MS state}) \\ 3.75(\pm 0.33) + 1.39(\pm 0.14)u_{\rm p}, & (u_{\rm p} > 2.25, \text{LS state}), \end{cases}$$
(5)

where λ is a constant; U_s , u_p , and C_0 are in km/s; and values in parentheses are uncertainties, which are given at 2σ level. Within the spin crossover region, the U_s remains almost constant with the increase of the u_p . This result indicates that the propagation of the shock wave in the shocked ε -FeOOH is hindered by the electronic spin crossover of Fe³⁺ because part of the energy carried by the shock wave is used for spin pairing. The U_s plateau with increasing u_p also appears in other iron oxides, such as Fe₂O₃ [57], which undergoes a site-selective HS-to-LS transition at 46–50 GPa [58–61].

Based on the determined U_s and u_p , the density at the Hugoniot state (ρ_H) can be calculated using the Rankine-Hugoniot conservation equations [36]:

$$\frac{V_0}{V_{\rm H}} = \frac{\rho_{\rm H}}{\rho_0} = \frac{U_{\rm s} - u_0}{U_{\rm s} - u_{\rm p}},\tag{6}$$

where $V = 1/\rho$. Our measured density under shock compression is slightly lower than the densities from XRD experiments (300 K) [5,13] and our DFT calculations by 2–7% and 0–3% (Fig. 2), respectively, which is most likely caused by the impurities and few porosities in the initial samples (Fig. S6 in the Supplemental Material [35]). We also obtained the pressure-density (*P*- ρ) Hugoniot relations of ε -FeOOH in the HS and LS states by the following formula:

$$P_{\rm H} = \frac{\rho_0 C_0 \eta}{\left(1 - \lambda \eta\right)^2},\tag{7}$$

where $\eta = 1 - V_{\rm H}/V_0$. The Hugoniot relation shows a continuous volume reduction of the MS ε -FeOOH along the Hugoniot, and the volume was reduced by $\sim 12.5\%$ across the spin crossover (47–61 GPa). The volume collapse across the electronic spin crossover varies in many iron-bearing phases, such as ferropericlase (1–4%) [1,9,42,62], Fe³⁺-bearing



FIG. 2. Equation of state of FeOOH across the spin crossover at high pressure-temperature. (a) The density of FeOOH under static and shock compression. (b) Hugoniot temperature of FeOOH under shock compression. The solid red circles are Hugoniot density determined by using natural goethite in this paper; the open violet triangles [5] and blue inverted triangles [13] are densities determined by in situ x-ray diffraction (XRD) at high pressures and 300 K; the solid red line is the pressure-density $(P-\rho)$ Hugoniot relation of the natural goethite; the red dashed and dotted dashed lines are Hugoniot densities of the high-spin (HS) and low-spin (LS) states from our density functional theory (DFT) calculations, respectively; the blue dashed and dotted dashed lines are isothermal pressuredensity relations of the HS and LS states from DFT calculations by Ref. [13], respectively; the carmine line and solid black line (circles) are shock temperatures determined from our DFT calculations and the thermodynamic equation, respectively.

bridgmanite [22,63–65], magnesiosiderite [(Mg, Fe²⁺)CO₃] (6–10%) [14,66–71], and the new hexagonal aluminous (NAL) phase (1%) [72]. The volume reduction of ε -FeOOH is notably greater than those of the aforementioned phases, which verifies the strong dependence between the volume collapse and the iron content.

Static compression studies indicated that ε -FeOOH undergoes a sharp spin transition of Fe³⁺ by a large volume reduction of ~11% within a narrow pressure interval of ~2 GPa at room temperature (Fig. 2) [5,13]. Our shock experiments feature a higher onset pressure of the spin transition (47 GPa vs 45 GPa) and a broader pressure range of the spin crossover (14 GPa vs 2 GPa) than those results by DAC at room temperature. Previous studies have shown that shock wave measurements may broaden the pressure intervals of first-order phase transitions compared with static compression experiments due to the partial phase transition of the sample

within the time scale of the shock experiment [73-75]. The transformation rates of second-order phase transitions (e.g., electronic spin transitions) should be much faster than that of the first-order phase transitions [73,76]. Additionally, the $V_{\rm P}$ measurements under shock compression determine the velocity of the rarefaction wave in a shock-compressed sample, which is more sensitive to phase transitions than Hugoniot data measurements. Our determined pressure interval is in good agreement with the $V_{\rm P}$ results [12], indicating that it may not be broadened by the limited time interval during the shock. Therefore, this difference could be caused by the shock-elevated temperature in ε -FeOOH, which has been found in other iron-bearing minerals, such as ferropericlase and bridgmanite [8,9,42,77-80]. The elevated temperature of the shocked ε -FeOOH can be estimated based on the measured Hugoniot equation of state by using a thermodynamic equation [Table I and Fig. 2(b)] [81]:

$$dT = -T\left(\frac{\gamma}{V}\right)dV + \left(\frac{1}{2C_{\rm v}}\right)[(V_0 - V)dP + (P - P_0)dV],$$
(8)

where γ and C_v are the Grüneisen parameter and specific heat capacity, respectively. The volume dependence of γ for the shocked FeOOH can be modeled by a common functional form as $\gamma = \gamma_0(\rho_0/\rho)$. Here, γ_0 and C_v of α -FeOOH were determined to be $0.91 (\pm 0.07)$ [52] and 0.837 J/(Kg)[82], respectively. The uncertainty of the calculated shock temperature could be estimated from the uncertainties of the measured Hugoniot equation of state, γ , and C_v of FeOOH. If we consider a large uncertainty in the γ and C_v parameters (30-50%) under shock compression, it will change the shock temperature by 10–20% at the pressure range of 30–90 GPa. As a result, the calculated shock temperature of FeOOH has an overall uncertainty of 15% at the investigated shock pressure and is slightly lower than the temperature determined from our DFT calculations. The shock temperature in ε -FeOOH increased from \sim 950 to \sim 1150 K between 47 and 61 GPa across its spin crossover. The temperature in ε -FeOOH under single shock compression is much lower than that of shock recovery experiments [24]. Thus, the present results can be used to further constrain the phase boundary and decomposition of ε -FeOOH at high *P*-*T* (Text S2 and Fig. S7 in the Supplemental Material [35]).

B. High *P*-*T* phase diagram of ε-FeOOH across the spin crossover of Fe³⁺

To further understand the effects of temperature on the spin-transition behavior of Fe³⁺ in ε -FeOOH, we constructed the high *P*-*T* phase diagram of the spin state of Fe³⁺ in ε -FeOOH up to 75 GPa and 2000 K using first-principles calculations (Fig. 3). The phase diagram shows that the electronic spin-pairing transition of Fe³⁺ in ε -FeOOH starts at ~43 GPa and completes at ~46 GPa at 300 K, in good agreement with the results of static compression experiments at room temperature [5,13]. The crystal field theory shows that, at a constant temperature, the spin state of iron is determined by the energy difference between two energy levels of the crystal-field splitting energy (Δ_C) and the spin-pairing energy (Λ) [85]. It is energetically favorable for the spin pairing of



FIG. 3. Phase diagram of the spin crossover of Fe³⁺ in ε -FeOOH at high pressure-temperature. The gray circles (this paper), diamonds [5], and triangles [13] represent the high-spin state; the black circles (this paper), diamonds [5], and triangles [13] represent the low-spin (LS) state; the carmine circles are ε -FeOOH in the mixed-spin state observed by this paper. Colors in the horizontal column on the bottom right represent fractions of the LS Fe³⁺, n_{LS} (%), in ε -FeOOH. The area surrounded by the black dotted line in (a) is enlarged into (b), which shows that the onset of the spin transition of Fe³⁺ observed in our shock experiments is in good agreement with our first-principles calculations. The double dots and dotted dashed lines represent the proposed mantle [83] and subducting slab geotherms [84], respectively.

the 3*d* electrons from the higher-energy e_g orbitals to the lower-energy t_{2g} orbitals once the crystal-field splitting energy is larger than the spin-pairing energy at high pressures [1]. Our theoretical results confirm that the crystal-field splitting energy increases with respect to the spin-pairing energy at 300 K as the pressure increases to ~43 GPa.

In Fig. 3, it is obvious that the spin transition of Fe^{3+} in ε -FeOOH becomes slower under high temperatures, consistent with experiments. Our numerical analyses suggest that the onset and ending pressures of the spin transition of Fe^{3+} in ε -FeOOH increase at rates of ~8 and ~18 MPa/K, respectively, while the resultant pressure interval of the MS state broadens at a rate of ~10 MPa/K. Such a positive correlation between spin-transition pressure and temperature has also been observed in Fe²⁺-bearing phases. The temperature derivatives of the spin-transition pressure of ferropericlase and magnesiosiderite containing 25–65 mol.% Fe^{2+} are 12– 14 MPa/K [8,66], which is 50-75% steeper than that of ε -FeOOH. We speculate that the spin-transition behavior of Fe²⁺-bearing phases is more sensitive to variations in temperature than that of Fe^{3+} -bearing phases. At constant P and T, the difference between the free energy of the LS and HS states $(\Delta G_{\text{LS-HS}})$ can be calculated by the following equation:

$$\Delta G_{\rm LS-HS} = \Delta U_{\rm LS-HS} - T \Delta S_{\rm LS-HS} + P \Delta V_{\rm LS-HS}, \quad (9)$$

where $\Delta U_{\text{LS-HS}}$, $\Delta S_{\text{LS-HS}}$, and $\Delta V_{\text{LS-HS}}$ represent the changes in internal energy, entropy, and volume across the spin crossover, respectively. It can be found that the contribution to the Gibbs free energy from the entropy term will become more substantial with increasing temperature, and consequently, the contribution of vibrational entropy (S_{vib}) to the $\Delta S_{\text{LS-HS}}$ is more viable [8,80]. Because of the occupation

of both e_g and t_{2g} orbitals, the HS iron ions are reported to feature a higher diffusion rate than the LS iron ions in the temperature range we investigated in this study [8]. Therefore, the vibrational entropy in the HS iron ions is greater than that of the LS iron ions [8,86]. With stronger vibrational, an increased amount of enthalpy is needed to overcome the increase of $\Delta G_{\text{LS-HS}}$ through the entropy term [8,80]. Moreover, the magnetic term (S_{mag}) is also an important component of the $\Delta S_{\text{LS-HS}}$ [9] and can be expressed as follows [85]:

$$S_{\text{mag}} = k_{\text{B}} \ln [m(2S+1)],$$
 (10)

where $k_{\rm B}$ is the Boltzmann constant. Here, $S_{\rm mag}$ decreases from $k_{\rm B} \ln(15)$ to 0 across the HS-LS transition of Fe²⁺ (S = 2and m = 3 for the HS Fe²⁺; S = 0 and m = 1 for the LS Fe²⁺). While, $S_{\rm mag}$ does not change across the HS-LS transition for Fe³⁺ and is equal to $k_{\rm B} \ln(6)$ ($S = \frac{5}{2}$ and m = 1 for the HS Fe³⁺; $S = \frac{1}{2}$ and m = 3 for the LS Fe³⁺). Therefore, due to the additional effect of the magnetic entropy, the onset pressure of the spin transition of ferrous ions in Fe²⁺-bearing phases exhibits a larger temperature derivative than that of ferric ions in Fe³⁺-bearing phases, even at lower content of iron ions.

In the spin crossover region, the configuration entropy (S_{conf}) of the MS state is defined as follows [9]:

$$S_{\rm conf} = -k_{\rm B}[n_{\rm LS}\ln n_{\rm LS} + (1 - n_{\rm LS})\ln (1 - n_{\rm LS})].$$
(11)

A recent first-principles study indicates that the configuration entropy increased with the increase in temperature because of the relaxation of short-range order within the iron sites in the MS state [8]. Thus, increasing temperature favors the MS state due to the decrease of the free energy from the $S_{\rm conf}$ term, which explains the widening of the spin crossover pressure range of Fe³⁺ in ε -FeOOH with increasing temperature.

C. Thermoelastic properties of ε -FeOOH across the spin crossover of Fe³⁺

In terms of the determined Hugoniot equation of state, the bulk sound velocity (V_B) of ε -FeOOH in the HS and LS states can be calculated by the following equation along the Hugoniot pressure [Fig. 4(a)] [81]:

$$V_{\rm B}^{2} = -V_{\rm H}^{2} \frac{dP_{\rm H}}{dV_{\rm H}} \bigg[1 - \bigg(\frac{\gamma}{V_{\rm H}}\bigg) \frac{(V_{0} - V_{\rm H})}{2} \bigg] + V_{\rm H}^{2} \bigg(\frac{\gamma}{V_{\rm H}}\bigg) \frac{P_{\rm H}}{2}.$$
(12)

The estimated $V_{\rm B}$ in the spin crossover region shows a significant softening and is like the measured $V_{\rm P}$ under shock compression [12]. The uncertainty of the calculated $V_{\rm B}$ is ~2% based on the measured Hugoniot equation of state and estimated γ at the pressure range of 20–70 GPa. According to the measured $V_{\rm P}$ and calculated $V_{\rm B}$, the shear sound velocity $V_{\rm S}$ of ε -FeOOH along the Hugoniot pressure can be determined using the following relationship [Fig. 4(a)]:

$$V_{\rm S}^2 = \frac{3}{4} \left(V_{\rm P}^2 - V_{\rm B}^2 \right). \tag{13}$$

Extrapolating the derived $V_{\rm S}$ down to ~20 GPa, the present result is consistent with the measured $V_{\rm S}$ using an ultrasonic pulse-echo-overlap method by Ref. [30]. Unlike the softening of $V_{\rm P}$ and $V_{\rm B}$ in the spin crossover region, $V_{\rm S}$ increases monotonically over the whole pressure range and stiffens slightly across the spin crossover of Fe³⁺. We calculated the adiabatic bulk modulus $K_{\rm S}$ and shear modulus μ of ε -FeOOH from its sound velocities ($V_{\rm S}$ and $V_{\rm P}$) along the Hugoniot pressure using the following equations [Fig. 4(b)] [88]:

$$K_{\rm S} = \rho_{\rm H} \bigg(V_{\rm P}^2 - \frac{4}{3} V_{\rm S}^2 \bigg), \tag{14}$$

$$\mu = \rho_{\rm H} V_{\rm S}^2. \tag{15}$$

The adiabatic bulk modulus of ε -FeOOH exhibits a remarkable softening by ~60%, whereas the shear modulus stiffens slightly across the spin crossover of Fe³⁺. Softening of adiabatic bulk modulus and stiffening of shear modulus have also been observed in Fe-bearing bridgmanite, ferropericlase, and magnesiosiderite [11,19,20,42,46,80,89,90]. Thus, our observed anomalous softening of the adiabatic bulk modulus and stiffening of the shear modulus can be attributed to the anomalous softening of elastic constants C_{11} , C_{12} , C_{13} , C_{22} , C_{23} , and C_{33} , and the stiffening of C_{44} , C_{55} , and C_{66} of the MS ε -FeOOH, respectively (Text S3 in the Supplemental Material [35]).

Poisson's ratio (ν) describes the mechanical properties of minerals, which can be expressed in terms of sound velocities using the following equation [91]:

$$\nu = \frac{[(V_{\rm P}/V_{\rm S})^2 - 2]}{2[(V_{\rm P}/V_{\rm S})^2 - 1]}.$$
(16)

We calculate Poisson's ratio of ε -FeOOH along the Hugoniot pressure [Fig. 4(c)]. The result shows that Poisson's ratio of



FIG. 4. (a) Sound velocities, (b) elastic parameters, and (c) Poisson's ratio of ε -FeOOH as a function of pressure. The solid red squares are longitudinal sound velocity $(V_{\rm P})$ measured using a reverse impact method under shock compression [12]; the solid blue squares and circles are $V_{\rm P}$ and shear sound velocity ($V_{\rm S}$) measured using an ultrasonic pulse-echo-overlap method at high pressures and 300 K [30]; the solid wine lines are bulk sound velocity ($V_{\rm B}$) of the high- and low-spin ε -FeOOH calculated using the Hugoniot equation of state in this paper; the wine dashed line is $V_{\rm B}$ of the mixedspin (MS) ε -FeOOH estimated using the Hugoniot data in the spin crossover region; the open red circles are the $V_{\rm S}$ calculated based on a combination of our determined $V_{\rm B}$ and the $V_{\rm P}$ from Ref. [12]; the open green triangles, blue inverted triangles, and orange diamonds are adiabatic bulk modulus ($K_{\rm S}$), shear modulus (μ), and Poisson's ratio (v) obtained in this paper, respectively; the solid gray line represents the $V_{\rm P}$ of seismic observations from the preliminary reference Earth model (PREM) [87]; the light-shaded area (47-61 GPa) is the spin crossover region with the MS state; all dotted dashed lines are guides to the eye. The uncertainties in the $V_{\rm S}$, $K_{\rm S}$, μ , and ν are estimated from the errors in $\rho_{\rm H}$, $V_{\rm P}$, and $V_{\rm B}$ by using error propagation.

 ε -FeOOH remains a nearly constant of ~0.18 in the regions of both HS and LS states; however, it is depressed to a negative value of -0.11 at ~51 GPa in the spin crossover region. This means that the spin transition of Fe³⁺ in ε -FeOOH results in an abnormal auxeticity, and such a similar phenomenon has also been found in the α - β structural transition of quartz [92], the β - γ structural transition of indium-tin (In-Sn) alloys [93], the cubic-tetragonal structural transition of barium titanate (BaTiO₃) [94], and the HS-LS transition of magnesiosiderite [89]. The Landau theory of phase transitions indicates that elastic anomalies will occur upon approaching the phase boundary [95], leading to remarkable structural instability. Consequently, a phase transition is usually accompanied by a dramatic increase in compressibility, resulting in the softening of Poisson's ratio where it decreases to a negative value in the case of the spin transition of Fe³⁺ in ε -FeOOH.

D. Effects of hydroxyl groups and temperature on the spin transition of Fe³⁺

The present results of ε -FeOOH also provide insight into the general spin-transition behavior and elastic wave-velocity anomalies of complex Fe³⁺-bearing compounds that commonly exist in the lower mantle. Fe-bearing bridgmanite is the dominant mineral (\sim 75% in volume) in Earth's lower mantle, which contains both Fe^{2+} and Fe^{3+} , whereas Fe^{3+} may appear in both dodecahedral A and octahedral B sites [1]. Recent experiments suggested that, if Fe^{3+} occupies the B site of bridgmanite, it will undergo the HS-LS transition at \sim 35–45 GPa and 300 K with a \sim 10–15 GPa pressure interval of HS-LS mixing state [11,21,65]. Meanwhile, Fe²⁺ and Fe³⁺ in the A site of bridgmanite remain in the HS state up to a pressure of the core-mantle boundary (\sim 136 GPa) [3,21–23,96,97]. Similar spin-transition behavior is observed in the Fe-bearing NAL phase, which remains stable at high P-T conditions relevant to the lower mantle [72,98,99]. Experimental studies showed that Fe³⁺ in the octahedral site of the NAL phase underwent the HS-LS transition at \sim 30–40 GPa and 300 K with a \sim 15 GPa spin crossover pressure interval, but Fe³⁺ and Fe²⁺ in the trigonal-prismatic site remained in the HS state at least up to 80 GPa [72,100]. In short, only Fe³⁺ in the octahedral site undergoes the HS-LS transition in these phases. We should note that the spin transition of Fe^{3+} in bridgmanite and the NAL phase with lower Fe³⁺ content (~10–15 GPa) is much more sluggish than that of ε -FeOOH $(\sim 2 \text{ GPa})$ at 300 K, which may stem from the hydroxyl groups in ε -FeOOH. The symmetrization of hydrogen bonds was reported to drive the spin transition of Fe^{3+} in ε -FeOOH [13], while based on the measured lattice parameter ratios [5] and sound velocity at lower pressures (<24 GPa) [30], the hydrogen-bond symmetrization occurred at a lower pressure of ~ 18 GPa and was unlikely to drive the spin transition of Fe^{3+} [5], but it may accelerate the spin transition by creating a close energy state that is more favorable for compressing the FeO₆ octahedral chains [13].

It is known that applying high temperatures in Fe-bearing systems with spin transitions can provide higher vibrational entropy (and/or magnetic entropy) and configuration entropy to stabilize the HS and MS states, respectively. High *P-T* theoretical calculation predicted a temperature derivative of \sim 7 MPa/K of the spin transition of ferric ions in bridgmanite at high pressure by using density functional perturbation theory augmented by Hubbard type correction [101], which is in good agreement with our observation in ε -Fe³⁺OOH



FIG. 5. Comparisons of (a) longitudinal sound velocity and (b) adiabatic bulk modulus between typical hydrous phases and other lower-mantle minerals at the conditions relevant to the lower mantle. Data sources: ε -FeOOH (solid red squares), this study, and Ref. [12]; δ -AlOOH (green curves), Ref. [104]; Phase H (cyan curves), Ref. [105]; NaAlSiO₄ (blue curves) and MgAl₂O₄ (carmine curves), Ref. [107]; CaSiO₃ (orange curves), Ref. [106]; solid black curves are preliminary reference Earth model (PREM) values [87]. The dotted dashed lines are used to guide the eye, and the light-shaded area shows the spin crossover region of Fe³⁺ in ε -FeOOH.

(~8 MPa/K). The calculation [101] also showed that the broadening rate of the spin crossover range of Fe³⁺-bearing bridgmanite is fast as ~20 MPa/K, which is much larger than an earlier theoretical calculation of ~3.5 MPa/K [102]. The difference between these two theoretical results may be related to the values of Hubbard *U* and the technique for vibrational density of states calculations [101]. Compared with ε -FeOOH, the Fe³⁺-bearing bridgmanite is absent of such hydroxyl groups, which is expected to have a faster broadening rate of spin crossover range. Thus, our results support the recent work [101], where the values of *U* were calculated self-consistently. We further estimate the spin transition of ferric

ions in Fe³⁺-bearing bridgmanite will occur between ~ 600 and ~ 1000 km on the basis of previous works [21,64,101].

E. Spin transition of Fe^{3+} in ε -FeOOH in Earth's lower mantle

As determined from our experiments and first-principles calculations (Fig. 3), the HS-LS transition of Fe^{3+} in ε -FeOOH spans over ~ 20 GPa at the P-T conditions relevant to the subducting slabs, indicating the spin transition to continuously occur from a depth of 1400-1800 km of the lower mantle [83,84]. As FeOOH is abundant and widespread in sediments and ore deposits at the Earth's surface, it may form a solid solution with isostructural δ -AlOOH and the phase H (MgSiO₄H₂) in the subducting slabs and remain thermodynamically stable down to the deep lower mantle [5,24–27,103]. The longitudinal sound velocity and adiabatic bulk modulus of ε -FeOOH are lower than the average values of the preliminary reference Earth model (PREM) [87], those of δ -AlOOH and the phase H [104,105], as well as some lower-mantle minerals, such as davemaoite (CaSiO₃) [106], NaAlSiO₄, and MgAl₂O₄ [107], as shown in Fig. 5. Therefore, due to the spin crossover of Fe^{3+} in ε -FeOOH, the hydrous FeOOH-AlOOH-MgSiO4H2 solid solutions are expected to exhibit abnormally low longitudinal sound velocity and adiabatic bulk modulus in the subducting slabs of the lower mantle, which may be detected as heterogeneities by seismology.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

We have studied the spin-transition behavior and the thermoelastic properties of ε -FeOOH through shock compression and first-principles simulation. The Hugoniot equation of state in FeOOH has been directly measured up to ~90 GPa and ~2100 K in a two-stage light-gas gun. The observed changes in the Hugoniot relations ($U_{\rm s} - u_{\rm p}$ and *P-V*) identify a HS-to-

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LS transition of Fe³⁺ in ε -FeOOH between 47 and 61 GPa along the Hugoniot pressure. The high *P*-*T* phase diagram of ε -FeOOH across its spin crossover was established by using first-principles calculations, which is in good agreement with our experiments. Combining the obtained Hugoniot equation of state with the previously measured longitudinal sound velocity, we further investigated the bulk and shear sound velocities, as well as the adiabatic bulk modulus, shear modulus, and Poisson's ratio of ε -FeOOH at high *P*-*T*. These results show that the spin transition in ε -FeOOH softens the bulk sound velocity and adiabatic bulk modulus but slightly hardens the shear sound velocity and shear modulus. A negative Poisson's ratio of auxeticity is derived in the MS state.

Comparing the spin transition behavior of Fe^{3+} in ε -FeOOH with those in Fe^{3+} -bearing bridgmanite and the NAL phase, we found that the hydroxyl groups (or hydrogen) have a profound effect on the spin transition of Fe^{3+} , for example, accelerating the spin transition of Fe^{3+} . The spin transition of Fe^{3+} in ε -FeOOH occurs in the lower mantle at a depth of 1400–1800 km along the geotherms of the subducting slabs, providing a possible source of seismic heterogeneities in the subducting slabs of the lower mantle.

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