

# Correlation of Aluminum Hole Centers with Hydrogen Radicals from $\gamma$ -Irradiated Quartz of Different Origins

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In all quartz samples having different origins, radiation-induced hydrogen radicals (atomic hydrogens) were observed in ESR measurement at 77K in addition to intense Al-centers. An obvious positive correlation was recognized between the hydrogen radical intensities and the reduction of the Al-centers after warming up to room temperature, although there was no clear relationship between hydrogen signals and initial Al-centers at 77K. In isochronal annealing treatments the hydrogen radicals were gradually decreased with increments of temperature and completely disappeared after warming up to room temperature. Similar behavior was shown in the Al-centers, but a few percentages of which were still remained at room temperature. The Al-centers remained gave a linear relation to the blue thermoluminescence (BTL) intensity. We concluded that the hydrogen radicals arising from radiolytic products of OH and molecular water impurities could operate as a “killer” of radiation-induced Al-centers related intimately to emission of BTL in natural quartz.

## 1. Introduction

Blue-thermoluminescence (BTL) around 470nm wavelength from natural quartz minerals exposed to ionizing radiation has been attributed to the recombination of Al-hole centers  $[\text{AlO}_4\text{h}^+]^0$  with electrons released from trapped sites.<sup>1</sup> However, negative or meaningless correlation between Al impurity contents and BTL intensities has been often met from a variety of natural quartz of different origins and even from different segments in a single rock crystal.<sup>2</sup> In the recent papers,<sup>3,4</sup> the aluminum distributions on the quartz slices, which were visualized by using an EPMA (electron probe micro-analyzer), have been found to offer somewhat negative correlation with both the BTL-stripe and the radiation-induced color center image (CCI) patterns. Some segments from the slice showed the obvious negative-correlation between the radiation-induced phenomena and both Al and OH (probably due to dangling bonds and molecular water) impurity concentrations, whereas Al-hole centers in the ESR-spectra gave a positive correlation with radiation-induced phenomena.<sup>5</sup>

Additionally, the formation of Al-hole centers has been also confirmed to be seldom in Brazilian hydrothermal quartz with a high content of OH and molecular water in the infrared absorption spectra.<sup>6,7</sup> The similar role of OH and molecular water impurities on radiation-induced phenomena was confirmed on a slice specimen from the Japanese twin quartz, which showed significantly different behavior between the core and outer parts; the latter contained large amounts of OH and molecular water impurities, giving less radiation-induced phenomena.<sup>4</sup>

On the basis of these experimental results, a quenching mechanism of the radiation-induced phenomena for quartz samples prepared from single Madagascar rock crystal has been proposed, in which the H<sup>0</sup>-atoms resulted from a radiolysis product from OH and molecular water impurities can operate as a killer of radiation-induced phenomena derived from the Al-hole centers.<sup>4,5</sup>

In this paper, the quenching model concerning H<sup>0</sup> radicals and Al-centers in electron spin resonance (ESR) spectra has

been further investigated using differently originated quartz specimens.

## 2. Experimental

In the present studies, eight kinds of quartz sample differently originated from Fukushima (Japan), India, Scotland, Madagascar, Keirin (China), Ottawa, two Brazilian, and Merck (a chemical reagent) were used. Most of the quartz samples were identified to have a hydrothermal origin and possess the blue-TL (BTL) property. The samples were sieved to adjust grain sizes ranging from 150 to 250  $\mu\text{m}$  in a diameter for the ESR measurements.

The Al-impurity contents in the differently originated quartz samples were nondestructively determined by an instrumental neutron activation analysis (INAA) using the purest thermal neutron field as described in the previous publications.<sup>8,9</sup> As mentioned previously,<sup>8</sup> the use of the purest thermal neutrons is essential to determine accurately trace amounts of Al by the INAA, because the detection criterion of Al in the quartz is significantly dependent on the interfering reaction of  $^{28}\text{Si}(n,p)^{28}\text{Al}$  owing to the concomitant fast neutrons and matrix nuclide  $^{28}\text{Si}$  (possessing 92.2% in abundance); even a complete pure synthetic quartz glass without Al-impurity has been evaluated to be over 200ppm pseudo Al contents when using a normal neutron field of reactor such as in Cd-ratios of 3–4.

The quartz samples of different origins were irradiated at 77K (in liquid nitrogen). The dose rate was about 15kGy/hr at the central position of  $^{60}\text{Co}$ -source in KURRI (Kyoto University Research Reactor Institute). The total dose applied at the center position of the source was fixed to 20kGy for the ESR-measurements. After  $\gamma$ -ray irradiation, the sample was stored in 77K. The irradiated quartz sample was transferred from the glass vial, bearing brown color centers, into a non-irradiated quartz capillary tube for subsequent ESR measurements.

Both hydrogen radicals and Al-centers produced by  $\gamma$ -ray irradiation of the quartz grains were measured at 77K with an ESR spectrometer (JEOL Ltd. JES-TE 200) at microwave power level of 0.03 $\mu\text{W}$  and 2mW, respectively. Under these conditions of the microwave power level, any saturation of the

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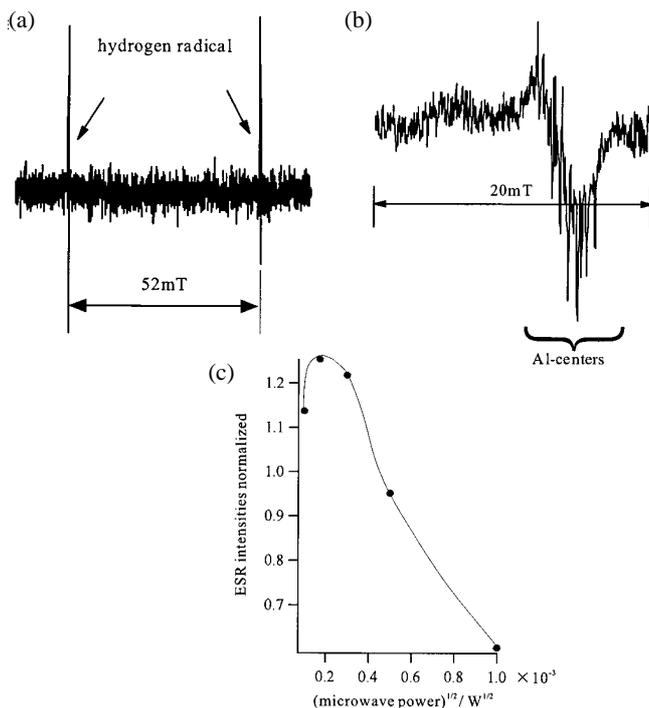
signals from all quartz samples was not observed. Results from the first ESR measurements are called hereafter an initial Al-center signal because of direct measurement after irradiation at 77K. Subsequently, the sample was warmed up to room temperature for a few hours and the ESR signals were measured again at 77K. Hereafter, this result is called second Al-center signal.

Isochronal annealing treatments for irradiated quartz samples were performed by blowing nitrogen gas and holding at constant temperatures from 77K up to the room temperature. The quartz grain sample was kept at each annealing temperature for 3 minutes and the ESR spectrometry was repeatedly conducted at 77K.

The BTL glow curve was measured with a conventional TL-measuring system by operating the heating rate of 1 °C/s.<sup>10</sup> The BTL intensities were estimated by integrating the higher temperature regions of 260–380°C in glow curve.

### 3. Results and Discussion

Before  $\gamma$ -ray irradiation, no ESR signal was observed in all natural quartz because of a simple annealing treatment for a few minutes at 400°C. Figure 1 shows typical two ESR spectra from the  $\gamma$ -irradiated quartz grains. Two ESR-magnetic field regions were employed for the hydrogen radical and respective Al-center (initial and second) measurements at 77K before and after warming up to room temperature after irradiation at 77K. In Figure 1-(a) for an initial spectrum, two typical lines with equal intensity caused by the hydrogen radical appear in a separation of about 52 mT due to the hyperfine splitting of nuclear magnetic spin ( $I=1/2$ ). This  $H^0$  signal in quartz was in good concordant with the previous papers.<sup>11,12</sup> Each line has a width at half maximum amplitude of  $\delta H \doteq 0.01$ mT by interpolating Al-hole centers, which could not be admitted in this figure owing to delaying saturation feature in comparison with quick power saturation of  $H^0$  signal. A power saturation curve of  $H^0$  signals is illustrated in Figure 1-(c), in which square root val-



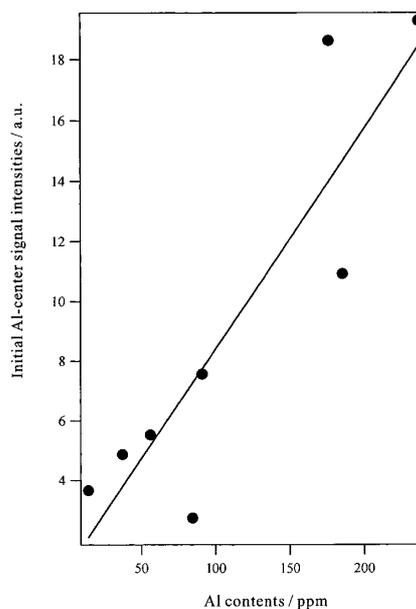
**Figure 1.** ESR spectra of hydrogen radicals (a) and Al-hole centers (b) and power saturation curve (c) of hydrogen radicals ( $H^0$ ) from quartz grains.

Crushed Madagascar quartz grains were irradiated by  $\gamma$ -ray of 20 kGy at 77K and ESR measurements were carried out at 77K. (a) and (b) were measured with the power level of 0.03mW and 2mW, respectively, after storage for a few hours at 77K. The applied power to the hydrogen radicals was determined from power saturation curve (c).

ues of microwave power are plotted against  $H^0$  signal. From this result the power of 0.03  $\mu$ W was employed to give a maximum  $H^0$  signal.

On the other hand, Figure 1-(b) shows a well-known Al-center signal due to  $\{[AlO_4h^+]\}$ , which is consisting in the hyperfine (hf) structure arising from the interaction of unpaired hole-like spin with the nuclear spin  $I=5/2$  of the  $^{27}Al$  ion. From the previous experiment,<sup>5</sup> the applied power for Al-signal measurements was fixed to be 2mW during the present measurements. Compared with different ESR-saturation behavior between  $H^0$  and Al-center signals, the  $H^0$  atoms are considered to exist in an isolated site, presumably interstitial position, because  $H^0$ -property of non-interaction with the surrounding lattices might cause more rapid power saturation than Al-center signals arising from the substitutional Al.

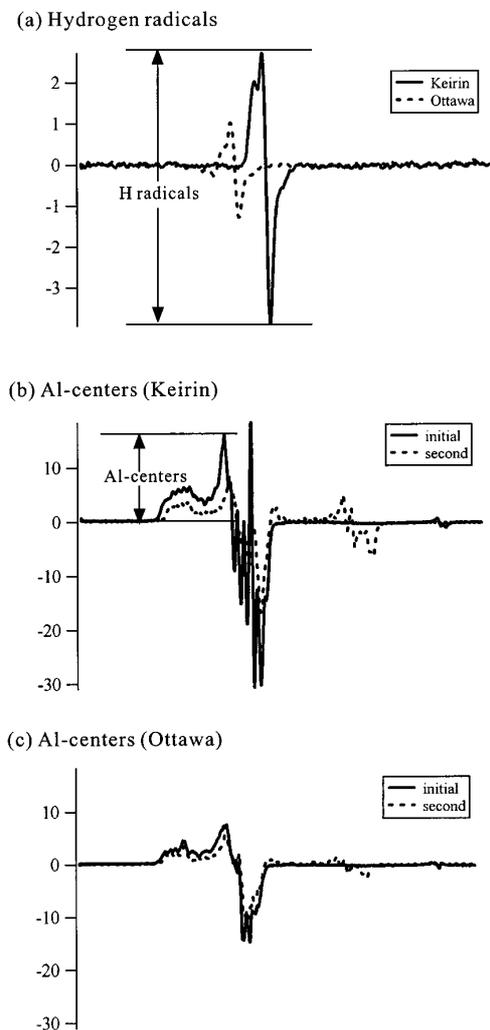
Initial Al center intensities are plotted against the Al-contents up to 300ppm as presented in Figure 2. There exist approximately linear relationships with a correlation factor of 0.89. This result should be explained that the Al-center formation at 77K occurs mainly around the substituted Al impurity sites, of which one bond presumably is consisting of charge compensator of H ions. If alkaline ions serve for the main charge compensators, the formation of Al-centers would be retarded at 77K because of immobilization of alkaline ions as clarified by Hallibuton et al.<sup>13</sup> This result means that the present natural quartz of hydrothermal origin contain prominently hydrogen charge compensator instead of alkaline ions.<sup>14</sup> In fact, ESR-signal intensities of the hydrogen radicals showed fairly well proportional relation to that of the initial Al-centers.



**Figure 2.** Dependence of initial Al-hole center signals on the Al-impurity contents.

The changes of  $H^0$  and Al-center signals are presented in Figure 3, in which Keirin and Ottawa quartz samples were selected as two examples in respect of hydrogen radical intensities. Two hydrogen peaks appear in somewhat different position estimated about 0.007mT regarding the applied magnetic field. Among 7 kinds of BTL quartz, maximum peak difference was 0.027mT. This shift might be attributed to the difference of the Pauli exclusion force causing the increase of the splitting width between two hydrogen radical peaks.<sup>11,15</sup> In the preliminary experiments, the splitting width in some feldspars has been broadened to 4mT in comparison with that of the quartz. These results suggest that the splitting width presumably contains unknown information related to geologically different origins of quartz.

It was noteworthy that any hydrogen radical signals produced by irradiation at 77K completely disappeared in every



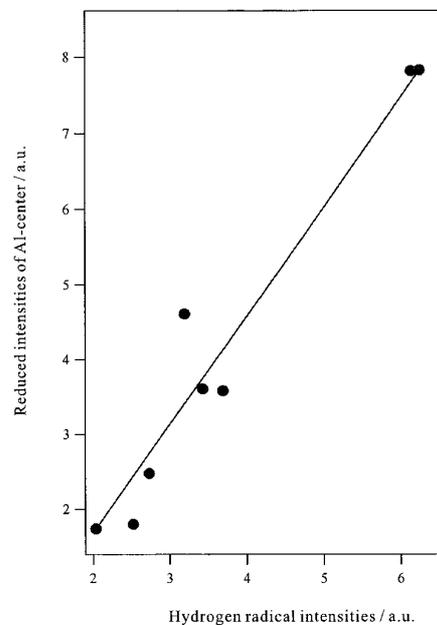
**Figure 3.** Two typical hydrogen signals in low magnetic field side (a) and changes of Al-hole center spectra before (b) and after (c) warming up to room temperature.

The samples were obtained from Keirin and Ottawa quartz and the ESR-measurements were carried out in the same way as described in Figure 1, except for warming treatment up to room temperature. Each signal intensity is estimated as indicated in the present figures. The hydrogen radicals from all  $\gamma$ -irradiated natural quartz were completely disappeared after warming procedure.

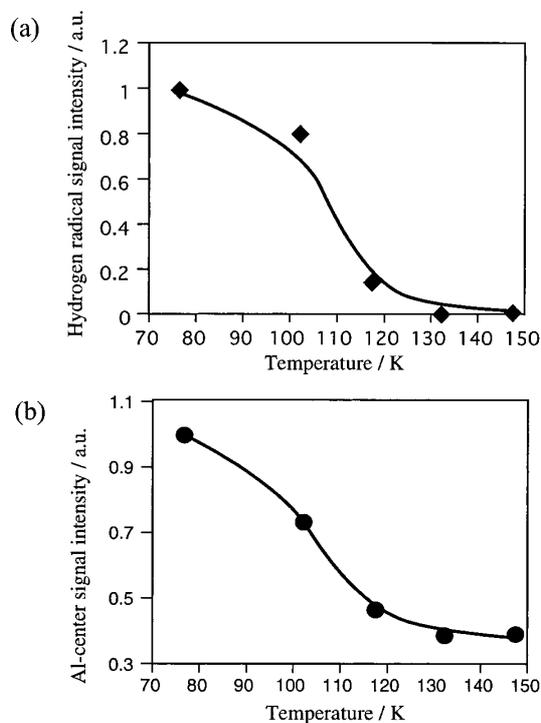
sample when the irradiated natural quartz was warmed once up to room temperature as described in our previous papers.<sup>5,16</sup> Similar results from synthetic quartz and glasses have been already confirmed with incorporation of water component.<sup>17,18</sup>

On the other hand, the Al center signals maintain more or less characteristic patterns between initial spectrum without temperature elevation and second spectra after warming once up to room temperature, as seen in Figures 3-(b) and (c). Both ESR-intensities due to  $H^0$  and Al-centers were indicated in this figure. We found meaningless correlation between hydrogen signals and initial Al-centers for natural quartz used in this study. However, when the difference between initial and second Al signals are taken into account by comparison with the hydrogen signals, it appears meaningful relationships from sample to sample.

With these ESR spectrum changes, the reducing intensities of Al-centers between initial and second measurements were examined as a function of the  $H^0$  intensities. The result is illustrated in Figure 4, in which there certainly exists the positive correlation between them. This result strongly supports that mobile hydrogen radicals could react easily with the initial Al-centers during the elevation of temperature to cause the corresponding elimination of Al-centers. This mechanism considered hydrogen radical as a killer of Al-center has been proposed.<sup>4,5</sup>



**Figure 4.** Correlation of the reducing intensities of Al-centers and hydrogen radicals from quartz samples of different origins. The difference between initial and second Al-intensities after warming treatment is corresponding to the reducing intensities of Al-centers.



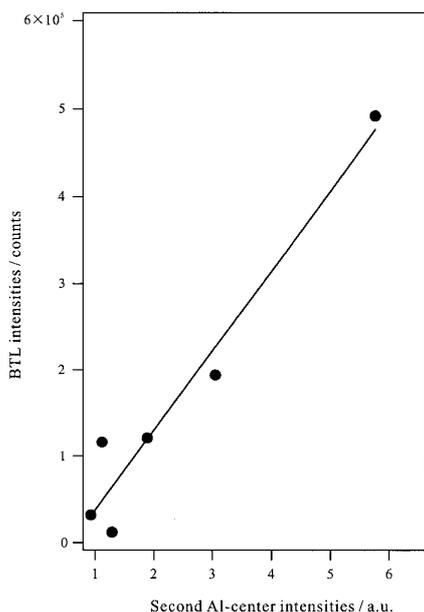
**Figure 5.** Isochronal annealing curves of the hydrogen radical (a) and Al-center intensities (b) from Madagascar quartz. The former signal is completely disappeared over 130K, whereas the Al-center signal remains beyond 140K.

To confirm the present elimination mechanism of Al-centers, an isochronal annealing behavior was studied between hydrogen radicals and Al-centers. The results are indicated in Figure 5. Both curves tend to the similar decreasing trend with increments of temperature. Prominent decrease of both ESR signals occurs around 100K, of which temperature agrees well with the results by Week and Abraham.<sup>17</sup>

The similar behavior of both signals with annealing implies that some portions of Al-centers were disappeared by reacting with hydrogen radical to form  $[Al^{3+}]---H^+-OSi$  or Al-OH, resulting in ESR insensitive sites as described in preceding publications.<sup>5,13</sup> The activation energies were approximately evaluated as 7.5kJ/mol and 8.5kJ/mol for hydrogen radicals

and Al-centers, respectively, from the Arrhenius analysis of temperature-dependent curves. This result supports that the hydrogen radicals and the Al-centers could cooperate to decrease the radiation-induced phenomena, such as color center formation, thermoluminescence, optically stimulated luminescence, ESR radical absorption and so on. Since the hydrothermal quartz is known to contain high quantity of water molecules, the radiolysis of such water should certainly contribute the formation of hydrogen radicals. In addition to this reduction process, some OH radicals as a counter part of  $H^0$  from radiolysis of  $H_2O$  could be also moved to the interstitial site adjacent to  $Al^{3+}$  to form ESR-insensitive Al-OH as proposed by Iwasaki and Iwasaki.<sup>6</sup>

Finally the second Al-hole center intensities, corresponding to the remained Al-centers, are plotted as a function of BTL, as seen in Figure 6. As expected, there exists excellently positive correlation between BTL and the second Al-centers even in a variety of differently originated quartz except for two kinds of quartz (Keirin and Ottawa). As mentioned just above, the Keirin quartz should contain large amounts of molecular water, followed to much formation of hydrogen radicals to react the Al-centers (cf., Figure 1-(a)). On the other hand, the Ottawa sample contains extremely small amount -OH and molecular water, presumably owing to the quartz formation with extremely slow cooling rate. These radiation-induced mechanisms associated with the important role of hydrogen radicals could be explained well regarding the changeable radiation-induced phenomena showing striped patterns of color center, presumably dependent on the crystal formation conditions within single crystal rock which have been reported in our laboratory.<sup>5</sup> From these results, it is again emphasized that the OH and water contents in quartz play important roles on the reliable geochronological or archaeological dating using ESR methods and luminescence techniques, involving TL and optically stimulated luminescence (OSL), because the naturally accumulated Al-centers are greatly influenced by the quantity of hydrogen radicals formed with radiation.



**Figure 6.** Dependence of BTL intensities on second Al-center signals. On the basis of the present results, both ESR and luminescence including BTL and OSL, have been proved to be available to the geochronology of white minerals, since the second Al-centers should be correlated closely with the naturally accumulated doses.

#### 4. Conclusions

All of the differently originated quartz showed both the hydrogen radical and the aluminum hole centers in ESR-spectra after irradiation at 77K. The disappearance of hydrogen signals was coincident with the elimination of Al-centers after elevation of temperature above about 100K. The hydrogen radical signals were positively correlated to the reducing amounts of Al-center after the temperature elevation up to room temperature for differently originated quartz. The hydrogen radical formation greatly depends on the amounts of OH and molecular water in quartz, so that the quartz of different origins will offer various radiation-induced phenomena influenced by their different OH and water impurity contents.

On the basis of these results, it was concluded that hydrogen radicals from the OH impurities operates as a main "killer" of all radiation-induced phenomena in natural quartz, such as Al-centers, color centers, luminescence phenomena like radioluminescence (RL), BTL and OSL.

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