Grain Boundaries in olivine...and Dislocations

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two parts

- Backgound and motivation for microstructural investigations: seismic properties of the Earth's upper mantle
- 2. Dislocation density by conventional EBSD

Upper mantle does not behave purely elastically at seismic periods

DALTON ET AL.: GLOBAL UPPER-MANTLE ATTENUATION



energy loss due to 'intrinsic' attenuation

Seismic property experiments



National University

Experiments at

- temperatures to 1300°C
- periods 1 1000s
- 200 MPa confining pressure

Measure shear modulus G and dissipation/attenuation

Attenuation/dissipation (1/Q): energy loss per cycle

Ian Jackson and colleagues



Faul and Jackson, AREPS 2015

Intrinsic attenuation due to grain boundaries: deformation regimes as a function of time scale of the applied stress



Faul and Jackson, 2015 (Morris and coworkers, Raj and Ashby...)





Measured moduli can be extrapolated to upper mantle grain sizes. Calculated velocities match seismic data quite well.

Microstructure: melt-free polycrystalline olivine



Jackson et al., 2002



mean gs: 3 µm

mean gs: 19 µm



synthetic Febearing olivine, Tidoped encapsulated in Pt for a total of about 70 h at 1200°C, 200 MPa

sample 1515

slight Si oversaturation to buffer opx (Si) activity (~ 2 - 3% opx)



here opx grains act as pinning particles to moderate grain growth rates

sample 1515 (Cline et al. Nature, 2018)



~ log-normal grain size distribution: normal grain growth



microstructure due to grain growth: random distribution of grain boundary misorientations -> no special boundaries

High angle (general) grain boundaries in olivine: smooth (no evidence of steps or dislocation structures), structurally distinct, ~ 1nm wide, chemically enriched



Faul et al., 2004, Marquardt and Faul, 2018

Dislocations...complicated



One principal problem is to characterize / quantify dislocation densities



Dislocations in olivine: HR-EBSD





Table 1

Olivine slip systems used in dislocation density calculations.

Dislocation type	Slip system
Edge	(010)[100]
Edge	(001)[100]
Edge	(100)[001]
Edge	(010)[001]
Screw	[100]
Screw	[001]

Wallis, Hansen, Britton, Wilkinson, 2016, 2017, 2019...

Is is possible to extract dislocation densities for olivine from conventional EBSD maps?



test case: single crystals deformed to activate specific slip systems

compressive deformation at 1600°C to > 20% strain

dislocation structures investigated by oxidative decoration and TEM (Durham et al. 1977a, b)



EBSD map 1.2 x 1.2 mm, step size 1 µm color coding: misorientation axes from the mean orientation, red: rotation around [001]

denoising: half-quadratic filter, with F.alpha = 5 (Hielscher et al., 2019)

KAM map





Line parallel to [100]

Orientation change



orientation gradients ~ 0.1°

Misorientation axes





Individual axes: noise - scatter limit of angular fidelity of conventional EBSD.

Smoothed data shows strong concentration at the expected misorientation axis for [100](010) slip system

12

10

6

Dislocation densities



as expected and known from earlier light microscope and TEM imaging [100](010) is most active slip system



Correlation of dislocation density with orientation gradient



confirms [100](010) as most active slip system

Dislocation density as function of misorientation angle color coded by distance from first point



Conclusion:

 meaningful dislocation structures and densities can be extracted from conventional EBSD data



Problems: Certain 'singular' orientations



10¹⁴

10¹³

10¹²



