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# Immobilization of $^{129}\text{I}$ in nuclear waste glass matrixes synthesized under high-pressure conditions: an experimental study

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30

## 31 **Abstract**

32 There is a major environmental concern in finding a sustainable solution to immobilize the  
33  $^{129}\text{I}$ , a by-product of nuclear industry. The use of aluminoborosilicate glasses represents a  
34 good compromise. However, this solution does not appear adequate for  $^{129}\text{I}$  owing to its  
35 volatility at high-temperature during the vitrification process. In the present work, we use a  
36 high-pressure (1.5 GPa) apparatus to synthesize I-rich aluminoborosilicate glasses.

37 We show that the use of high-pressure conditions enhances the I solubility in glasses by  
38 several orders of magnitude as compared to 1 bar synthesis: I solubility up to 5.7 mol.%. We  
39 observed that I is more solubilized in Na-rich as compared to Ca-rich glass. Investigation of  
40 the I speciation using XPS also reveals that I solubility in glasses is much higher as I  
41 dissolves as  $\text{I}^{5+}$  in comparison to  $\text{I}^-$ .

42 Our work shows that using high-pressure appears to be a reliable solution for dissolving a  
43 large quantity of I within the structure of aluminoborosilicate glasses for the conditioning of  
44 nuclear waste. We also demonstrate that oxidized I waste form should be employed to greatly  
45 increase I solubility in nuclear waste glasses. Therefore, it represents a potential pathway for  
46 solving the immobilization of  $^{129}\text{I}$  produced by anthropic nuclear activity.

47 Keywords: nuclear waste,  $^{129}\text{I}$  radioisotope immobilization, intensive conditions, densified  
48 glass

49

## 50 **1. Introduction**

51 The radioisotope  $^{129}\text{I}$  is a by-product of nuclear reactors and is considered as an intermediate  
52 activity nuclear waste owing to its radiotoxicity, its long half-life (15.7 My) and its high  
53 mobility in the environment.<sup>1-14</sup> For these reasons, the disposal in geological repository of  $^{129}\text{I}$

54 requires a chemically stable and durable matrix. There has been a great deal of effort in  
55 formulating matrixes able to accommodate a large quantity of iodine (I) in their structure;<sup>15-22</sup>  
56 which are stable through time and under natural environmental conditions (i.e. ground water  
57 circulation). In the list of potential matrixes, the use of borosilicate glasses is a general  
58 adopted solution for nuclear waste immobilization;<sup>23-29</sup> however, it cannot be applied to  
59 immobilize I. The standard process to synthesize borosilicate glasses involves melting at high-  
60 temperature and ambient pressure. Owing to its high volatility, the borosilicate glass matrix  
61 does not retain I sufficiently during the high-temperature process and I escapes in the  
62 atmosphere as I<sub>2</sub> gas. Previous studies reported an iodine solubility up to 0.7 mol.% in  
63 aluminoborosilicate glasses synthesized at or near ambient pressure.<sup>30-33</sup> More recently, there  
64 have been several experimental studies conducted under high-pressure conditions and  
65 investigating I solubility in glasses with different applications: either Earth sciences<sup>34,35</sup> or  
66 nuclear sciences.<sup>36</sup> Under high-pressure conditions, the I solubility is enhanced in  
67 aluminoborosilicate glasses. For instance, Jolivet et al.<sup>36,37</sup> studied the I solubility in the  
68 International Simple Glass (ISG)<sup>38</sup> and typical Low Activity Waste glass (LAW)<sup>32,33</sup>  
69 synthesized in the pressure range 0.5-2.0 GPa and temperature above 1300°C. They reached a  
70 I solubility up to 2.5 mol.% in the typical LAW glass; thus demonstrating that the use of  
71 pressure represents a potential adequate solution for immobilizing large quantities of <sup>129</sup>I in  
72 aluminoborosilicate glass matrixes, therefore reducing the volume of nuclear wastes at  
73 geological disposal.

74 Nonetheless, we have a limited knowledge of the solubility I behavior in aluminoborosilicate  
75 glasses because of the lack of available experimental data. The most recent experimental  
76 investigations showed that boron content and alkali content play an important role on I  
77 solubility: increasing the boron and alkali and alkaline-earth contents induce an increase in I  
78 solubility.<sup>36,39,40</sup> However, the effect that other cations in the glass composition induces on I

79 solubility is unknown in detail. By analogy, in the case of CO<sub>2</sub>, it has been demonstrated that  
80 CO<sub>2</sub> solubility in silicate glasses is affected by the nature of the charge compensating  
81 cation.<sup>41,42</sup> Whether I adopts a comparable behavior in aluminoborosilicate glasses is still  
82 unknown. Furthermore, the effect of mixed alkaline or alkaline-earth elements on I solubility  
83 (i.e. dissolution mechanism) is currently not deciphered. This aspect is crucial to determine  
84 because the mixed alkaline or alkaline-earth effect (MAE) is known to affect the glass  
85 properties in a complex non-linear behavior.<sup>43-49</sup>

86 Iodine has the particularity to present several redox states: -1 (I<sup>-</sup>, iodide), +5 (I<sup>5+</sup> as IO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, in  
87 iodate) and +7 (I<sup>7+</sup> as IO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>, in periodate). Up to now, previous works only studied the I  
88 solubility in aluminoborosilicate glasses when I is thought to be dissolved under its reduced  
89 form: I<sup>-</sup> species. Hence, the effect oxidation conditions induce on I solubility in  
90 aluminoborosilicate glasses are unknown. This gap in our understanding of I behavior needs  
91 to be fulfilled considering that redox conditions are known to dramatically influence the  
92 volatile solubility. For example, sulfur (S) is a volatile element implied in magmatic systems,  
93 which exhibits several oxidation states: S<sup>2-</sup> (sulfide) to S<sup>6+</sup> (sulfate).<sup>50,51</sup> Experimental data  
94 and thermodynamic models showed that S solubility was more important in silicate glasses  
95 when S dissolved as S<sup>6+</sup> (i.e. SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>) species.<sup>52-54</sup>

96 In the present work, we followed an experimental approach to investigate the change in I  
97 solubility in aluminoborosilicate glasses synthesized under intensive conditions: 1.5 GPa and  
98 1400°C. We focused on glass compositions having various XNa (Na/(Na+Ca)) values to  
99 determine if the nature of the charge compensating cation plays a role on I solubility.

100 Moreover, we investigated the influence of I redox state (I<sup>-</sup>, I<sup>5+</sup> and I<sup>7+</sup> redox state) on the I  
101 solubility. We used spectroscopic methods to determine the iodine speciation in the  
102 synthesized glasses. Based on these results, we proposed an I dissolution mechanism as a  
103 function of the observed I speciation in glasses. A discussion on the future direction to

104 formulate a borosilicate glass matrix that is specific for a sustainable immobilization of  $^{129}\text{I}$   
105 radioisotopes is also proposed.

## 106 **2. Materials and methods**

### 107 **2.1. Starting materials and high-pressure synthesis**

108 The investigated aluminoborosilicate glass compositions are reported in Table 1. The starting  
109 materials were prepared in the system  $\text{SiO}_2\text{-B}_2\text{O}_3\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3\text{-CaO-Na}_2\text{O}$  from a mixture of spec  
110 pure oxides ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ,  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{B}_2\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{CaO}$ ) and carbonates ( $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$ ). In order to determine the  
111 effect of varying network modifying cations on I solubility, we prepared the CN starting  
112 compositions with varying XNa ( $\text{Na}/\text{Na}+\text{Ca}$ ) values: C<sub>35</sub>, XNa = 0; C<sub>30</sub>, XNa = 0.25; C<sub>20</sub>,  
113 XNa = 0.6; C<sub>10</sub>, XNa = 0.8; C<sub>0</sub>, XNa = 1. It should be pointed out that in the synthesized  
114 compositions the exchange between Ca and Na is made based on the oxygen quantity (i.e. x  
115 mole  $\text{CaO}$  is replaced by x mole  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ ). Hence, the number of mole for Na is twice as much  
116 as the Ca mole in the exchange. From the electric charge point of view, the exchange between  
117  $\text{CaO}$  and  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$  keeps the positive charges unchanged. Starting powders were carefully  
118 grinded in an agate mortar under dry conditions. The adopted methodology involved a two-  
119 step synthesis: 1) synthesis of the base glass without iodine at ambient pressure and 2) high-  
120 pressure synthesis with iodine using the initial base glass. We prepared the ambient pressure  
121 glasses (CN-0 series) by melting and quenching in a platinum crucible the starting powders at  
122  $1200^\circ\text{C}$  in a box furnace under fully oxidizing conditions for two hours and quenching in cold  
123 water. The composition of the recovered clear glasses was determined prior to high-pressure  
124 experiments (see Table 1).

125 We used the recovered glass powders made at ambient pressure for the high-pressure  
126 experiments. Therefore, at a given composition, a comparison between samples of the  
127 different series is possible. Any strong departure from the CN-0 glass composition for high-  
128 pressure synthesized glass would indicate a possible heterogeneity or partial crystallization.

129 We synthesized three series of high-pressure I-bearing glasses. The CN-1 glass series is  
130 loaded with  $I_2$  as the source of I during the experiments. The CN-2 glass series is loaded with  
131  $I_2O_5$  as the source of I during the experiments. The CN-3 glass series is loaded with  $I_2O_5$  +  
132  $PtO_2$  providing an additional source of  $O_2$  during the experiment. The objective is to  
133 determine the impact of different I sources and various oxygen concentrations on the I  
134 solubility, speciation, and I dissolution mechanism in aluminoborosilicate glasses. The most  
135 prominent difference between the I starting source is the oxygen concentration that is higher  
136 in the CN-2 and even higher in CN-3 experimental series in which  $PtO_2$  has been added.  
137 During the high-pressure and high-temperature experiments,  $I_2O_5$  dissociates at  $\sim 350^\circ C$  into  
138  $I_2$  and  $O_2$ ; and in a similar manner,  $PtO_2$  decomposes at  $450^\circ C$  into Pt and  $O_2$ .

139 We used welded shut 5.4 mm outer diameter Pt capsules for the high-pressure high-  
140 temperature experiments. We loaded the I source (and  $PtO_2$ ) at the bottom of the capsule and  
141 the glass powder added on top of it. As shown in Table 1, we loaded approximately the same  
142 amount of I in every experiment:  $\sim 13$  mol.% I as  $I_2$  or  $I_2O_5$  calculated from the number of  
143 mole of added iodine divided by the total number of mole of oxides in the glass. This amount  
144 of I is supposed to be above the saturation,<sup>36</sup> consequently, during the experiments, there is a  
145 coexistence between a melt phase and an excess I-rich fluid phase. Considering that the initial  
146 amount of I is constant from one experiment to another, the measured I content in the  
147 recovered glass corresponds to the actual I solubility (i.e. the maximum I dissolved in the  
148 glass matrix at a given composition and given intensive conditions). The amount of added  $O_2$   
149 is reported in Table 1 and is calculated considering the complete dissociation of  $I_2O_5$  and  
150  $PtO_2$ . For the CN-2 experiments, the calculated  $O_2$  is  $\sim 16$  mol.%; for the CN-3 experiments,  
151 the calculated  $O_2$  is higher with  $\sim 20$  mol.%  $O_2$  added coming from the dissociation of both  
152  $I_2O_5$  and  $PtO_2$ .



153 The high-pressure experiments have been carried out in end-loaded piston-cylinder apparatus  
154 (LPG Nantes). We used  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch talc-Pyrex assembly with the Pt capsule placed inside the  
155 graphite furnace and surrounded by MgO-based ceramics for preventing contact between the  
156 capsule and the graphite furnace. It should be emphasized that oxygen fugacity conditions  
157 were not controlled during the experiments but are intrinsically fixed by the high-pressure  
158 talc-Pyrex assembly itself and are relatively oxidizing. We achieved the experimental  
159 conditions (1.5 GPa and 1400°C) using the protocol described in previous works.<sup>55</sup> We  
160 applied a pressure of 1 GPa followed by heating to 500°C and left for 5 min for high-pressure  
161 assembly relaxation. We then increased the pressure up to 1.5 GPa. We added a 10%  
162 correction on the pressure owing to the friction in the talc-Pyrex assembly.<sup>56</sup> At 1.5 GPa, the  
163 pressure is controlled automatically by a Stigma© needle pump preventing the pressure  
164 variation during the experiment. The temperature was increased automatically up to 1400°C  
165 at a rate of 50°C/min. During the experiment, the temperature was controlled by a B-type  
166 (PtRh<sub>6</sub>-PtRh<sub>30</sub>) thermocouple located at the top of the capsule and accurate to  $\pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ . The run  
167 duration was set to 4h for all the experiments to be reproducible. We stopped the experiment  
168 by cutting-off the power and quench rate is estimated at  $\sim 100^\circ\text{C}/\text{sec}$ . in the first 500°C. We  
169 performed an isobaric quench to avoid the presence of bubbles in the obtained glass. The  
170 recovered capsule was weighed for eliminating any possible leakage and I loss during the  
171 experiment. The collected sample consists in a glass tainted in brown and covered at the  
172 surroundings and along the experimental charge by a dark residue corresponding to the I  
173 excess present during the experiments. Under high-pressure and high-temperature conditions,  
174 I is in the fluid state but in a solid state at ambient conditions. The I residue is present across  
175 the whole length of the sample suggesting that under run conditions I is distributed throughout  
176 the melt. This residue was totally removed by washing in ethanol. Optical examination did not  
177 reveal the presence of crystalline phases in the glass; however, for one particular sample

178 (C<sub>0</sub>N<sub>35</sub>-2) we suspect the presence of NaI nanocrystals, however, these crystals are not  
179 observed during Scanning Electron Microscopy Energy Dispersive Spectroscopy analysis. A  
180 dark residue was present at the bottom of the capsule for CN-3 experiments, corresponding to  
181 the Pt coming from the dissociation of PtO<sub>2</sub>.

## 182 **2.2. Scanning Electron Microscopy Energy Dispersive Spectroscopy**

183 The major element and iodine concentrations were obtained with a JEOL JSM 5800LV  
184 Scanning Electron Microscope, equipped with a SDD SAMx dispersive spectrometer (SEM  
185 EDS, IMN Jean Rouxel Nantes). The analytical conditions were 15 kV for voltage and 0.5 nA  
186 for current. The current beam was regularly controlled during all analytical campaigns to  
187 ensure a reproducible electron flow. We mounted the CN glass chips in epoxy plugs and each  
188 plug includes an ISG glass chip considered as a standard glass to our SEM  
189 measurements.<sup>36,38,57</sup> The ISG standard glass was analyzed prior and after the CN glass chips  
190 analyses to check for possible instrumental drift. The acquisitions were conducted on a 20 μm  
191 spot size to avoid alkali (Na) loss under the electron beam. We performed 10 scans of 1 min.  
192 for each sample as a peak threshold criterion to reduce the minimum acceptable concentration  
193 for identification. We used internal standards for the elements quantification: LaB<sub>6</sub> for B<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>,  
194 corundum for Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, wollastonite for SiO<sub>2</sub> and CaO, NaCl for Na<sub>2</sub>O, and RbI for I. In most of  
195 the case, the B<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> is lower than the expected B<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (~30 mol.%, see Table 1). With all  
196 precautions during SEM EDS analyses, we obtain an uncertainty on element (including  
197 iodine) measurements that is typically ±0.2 mol.%.

## 198 **2.3. Laser Ablation-Inductively Coupled Plasma-Mass Spectrometry**

199 Glass I content was also determined using a Laser Ablation-Inductively Coupled Plasma-  
200 Mass Spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS, LPG Nantes) for providing more robust results on the I  
201 solubility. The spectrometer is an ArF excimer laser (193 nm, Analyte G2, Photon Machines)

202 that is coupled to a quadrupole ICP-MS (Varian Bruker 820-MS). The ablations were  
203 performed in a HelEx II 2-Volume Cell with He as carrier gas. We used a laser energy density  
204 of  $4.54 \text{ J.cm}^{-2}$  and with a repetition rate of 10 Hz. All the analyses were performed in a spot  
205 mode with circular spots size of  $110 \mu\text{m}$  in diameter. At least five acquisitions were collected  
206 on each I-bearing glass sample. Acquisition time was set to 30 s. with points collected every  
207  $\sim 0.25$  s. (total number of point per analysis =  $\sim 120$ ), preceded and followed by a 30 s. blank  
208 acquisition. The washout time of the ablation cell was approximately 50 s., due to the long  
209 remanence of iodine in the system. With this analytical setup, the pit size is estimated to  $\sim 20$   
210  $\mu\text{m}$  in depth.

211 The data were calibrated against several glass samples. The recorded isotopes were  $^{127}\text{I}$  and  
212  $^{27}\text{Al}$  and this latter one was used as an internal standard. We calibrated the I content with two  
213 high-pressure ISG glasses doped with I (1.29 and 1.34 mol.% I) and with known  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$   
214 content of 4.08 and 4.02 mol.%, respectively. Both I and  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  contents have been quantified  
215 using Electron Probe Micro-Analyses (EPMA, ISTO Orléans). The good agreement between  
216 EPMA and LA-ICP-MS collected data are provided in Suppl. Mat. and indicates that LA-ICP-  
217 MS is a reliable technique for the quantification of our elemental concentrations in I-bearing  
218 borosilicate glasses.

#### 219 **2.4. X-ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy**

220 We used X-Ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy (XPS) to determine the I speciation in our high-  
221 pressure borosilicate glasses. Several crystalline standards ( $\text{NaI}$ ,  $\text{NaIO}_3$  and  $\text{CaI}_2\text{O}_6$ ) were also  
222 analyzed for fingerprinting the I speciation in glasses.

223 We acquired the XPS spectra on Kratos Axis Ultra and Nova spectrometers (IMN Jean  
224 Rouxel) equipped with a monochromatic Al  $K\alpha$  radiation operating at 1486.6 eV and 300 W.  
225 The glass chips ( $\sim 3 \times 3 \text{ mm}^2$ ) showing a surface from the bulk of the experimental charge were

226 loaded into the sample chamber and at high vacuum ( $<8 \cdot 10^{-8}$  mbar). The beam size on the  
227 sample was  $300 \times 700 \mu\text{m}^2$ . We acquired the spectra with different pass energy: at 160 eV for  
228 the wide spectrum with a step of 0.5 eV and at 20 eV for high-resolution XPS spectra on  
229 elements with a step of 0.1 eV. We referenced the spectra against the adventitious C 1s  
230 transition at 284.8 eV.<sup>58,59</sup> We used cycling acquisitions (10 to 15 cycles) to determine if the  
231 sample spectra are changing under the X-ray beam. In the case that no change is observed  
232 between the cycles, the final spectrum is obtained by averaging the sum of spectra obtained.  
233 Currently, this was the case for CN-1 and CN-2 glass series. On the contrary, for CN-3 glass  
234 series we observed that after the first cycle the I XPS spectrum was strongly affected by the  
235 X-ray beam energy. We also performed XPS acquisitions on several glass chips for a given  
236 sample charge to assert the homogeneity of the I speciation.

237 For I species, the high resolution XPS spectra were acquired at the I 3d  $\sim 620$  eV core level.  
238 The spectral window was set between 608 and 643 eV to be sufficiently large for background  
239 subtraction. The obtained I 3d XPS spectra were treated with CasaXPS© software. We used a  
240 Tougaard function for background subtraction.<sup>60</sup> The I 3d spectra were fitted with asymmetric  
241 Gaussian-Lorentzian lines and only the I 3d<sub>5/2</sub> peak was considered. The I 3d<sub>5/2</sub> peak exhibits  
242 higher intensity than the one for the I 3d<sub>3/2</sub>.<sup>61</sup>

### 243 **3. Results**

#### 244 **3.1. I content and distribution in glasses from LA-ICP-MS and SEM EDS**

245 Figure 1 shows the I content determined by LA-ICP-MS as a function of the I content  
246 obtained by SEM EDS. From the general viewpoint, we observe that both I contents obtained  
247 with LA-ICP-MS and SEM EDS provide comparable and consistent results. However, it  
248 appears that LA-ICP-MS results are systematically higher than SEM EDS for the samples  
249 with the highest I content. As mentioned earlier, the error bar on the I content determined by  
250 SEM EDS is on the order of  $\pm 0.2$  mol.%. The error bars on the I content determined by LA-

251 ICP-MS determined from the standard deviation of replicated measurements and is within the  
252 point except for C<sub>0</sub>N<sub>35</sub>-2 ( $\pm 0.6$  mol.%).

253 For the remaining of the manuscript, we will preferentially refer to the I content determined  
254 by LA-ICP-MS. First, the error on the I content is much smaller from LA-ICP-MS than from  
255 SEM EDS. Second, the LA-ICP-MS analyzed glass volume ( $\sim 110 \times 20 \mu\text{m}^3$ ) is much more  
256 important than for SEM EDS ( $\sim 20 \times 1 \mu\text{m}^3$ ), therefore, we consider that the reported LA-ICP-  
257 MS I content is more representative of the I bulk content. Although, a slight deviation from  
258 the true I content in glasses is still possible using LA-ICP-MS results considering that the  
259 calibration curve is obtained with two standard glasses with 1.29 and 1.34 mol.% I that is  
260 lower than the I content measured in CN glasses (up to 5.7 mol.%). However, the possible  
261 deviation will be lower than the one associated with SEM EDS measurements for which RbI  
262 (50 mol.% I) is used as a standard.

263 For C<sub>20</sub>N<sub>15</sub>-22, we have investigated the I concentration in detail using LA-ICP-MS. I  
264 concentration profiles were obtained through the entire Pt capsule length and width (see  
265 Figure 2). We acquired several transversal profiles using the laser ablation point mode and 48  
266 points were acquired (the entire set of data is provided in Suppl. Mat.). The results are shown  
267 in Figure 2 as a contour plot for I. The lines of equal contents have been drawn from linear  
268 extrapolation. We observe that the I concentration is almost entirely homogeneous throughout  
269 the sample charge. These measurements provide the typical error on the I solubility after high-  
270 pressure experiments. For this sample, the I content ranges from 4.5 to 4.8 mol.%. Based on  
271 the 48 points, we obtain an average value of 4.6 mol.% I with a standard deviation of 0.1  
272 mol.%. This error is taken as representative of the I solubility error for the whole set of  
273 samples.

### 274 **3.2. I solubility in glasses**

275 The measured I solubility in mol.% is reported in Table 1 along with the major element  
276 composition measured for each glass. We plotted the I solubility as a function of XNa  
277 (Na/Na+Ca in mol.%) in Figure 3. We fitted each I solubility glass series with a polynomial  
278 function. For the synthesized high-pressure glasses, the measured I solubility ranges from 0.5  
279 to 5.7 mol.%. Three striking features are observed in Figure 3: 1) the highest I solubility is  
280 observed for CN-2 glasses loaded with I<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> as the I initial source; 2) the I solubility change is  
281 non-linear with respect to the XNa change, regardless of the I source; and 3) the higher loaded  
282 O<sub>2</sub> does not lead to the highest I solubility (i.e. lower I solubility in CN-3 than in CN-2  
283 glasses).

284 In Figure 3, the higher I solubility in the CN-2 glasses as compared to CN-1 and CN-3 ones is  
285 clearly observed for all glass compositions except C<sub>35</sub>N<sub>0</sub>-2. In C<sub>30</sub>N<sub>5</sub>, the difference in I  
286 solubility is 1.5 mol.% (0.5 to 2.0 mol.% for C<sub>30</sub>N<sub>5</sub>-1 and C<sub>30</sub>N<sub>5</sub>-2, respectively). Such  
287 difference in I solubility is well above any possible error on the I measurement using LA-ICP-  
288 MS. For C<sub>20</sub>N<sub>15</sub>, the difference in I solubility is even larger: 4.3 mol.%. For the C<sub>35</sub>N<sub>0</sub> glass  
289 composition, the I solubility is comparable regardless of the initial I source or added O<sub>2</sub>: 1.2  
290 and 1.3 mol.% for C<sub>35</sub>N<sub>0</sub>-1 and C<sub>35</sub>N<sub>0</sub>-2, respectively. The Ca-free C<sub>0</sub>N<sub>35</sub> glasses exhibit the  
291 highest I solubility with 3.9 and 5.7 mol.% for C<sub>0</sub>N<sub>35</sub>-11 and C<sub>0</sub>N<sub>35</sub>-2, respectively. Globally,  
292 increasing the XNa in the glass composition induces an increase in I solubility. In fact, Ca-  
293 rich glasses are not as favorable for dissolving large quantities of I as Na-rich glasses. Based  
294 on X-ray Absorption Spectroscopic results, previous studies also suggested a strong affinity  
295 between iodine and sodium.<sup>31-33,62</sup>

296 For the CN-1 glasses, we observe in Figure 3 a clear parabolic evolution of the I solubility as  
297 a function of XNa. The I solubility is decreasing from 1.2 to 0.5 mol.% between C<sub>35</sub>N<sub>0</sub>-1 and  
298 C<sub>30</sub>N<sub>5</sub>-1 and C<sub>20</sub>N<sub>15</sub>-1, increases to 1.7 mol.% for C<sub>10</sub>N<sub>25</sub>-1 and further increases to more than  
299 3 mol.% I in C<sub>0</sub>N<sub>35</sub>. The non-linear change in I solubility in the CN-1 glasses as a function of

300 XNa is currently unexplained. We suspect that there is a strong intermixing between Na and  
301 Ca cations in the glass structure that could explain the I solubility behavior. It is comparable  
302 to the mixed alkali/alkaline-earth effect identified in glasses and inducing non-linear evolution  
303 of the glass physical properties.<sup>48,49,63,64</sup>

304 In CN-2, the I solubility behavior is not the same and does not show a parabolic evolution but  
305 a sub-linear trend is observed and shows an increasing I solubility from C<sub>35</sub>N<sub>0-2</sub> at 1.3 mol.%  
306 to C<sub>0</sub>N<sub>35-2</sub> at 5.7 mol.%. It should be stressed that both the non-linearity (for instance in CN-1  
307 glasses) of I solubility and the impact of the iodine source on the I solubility were not  
308 anticipated; demonstrating that I has a complex behavior in aluminoborosilicate matrix. On  
309 the contrary to CN-1 glasses, the Ca/Na intermixing does not seem to induce a negative effect  
310 on I solubility, which is interpreted as resulting from the increasing oxygen concentration  
311 within the glass in CN-2. The increase in oxygen concentration might induce a larger  
312 dispersion of positive cation charges for compensation and therefore allowing more space for  
313 I to be accommodated. Furthermore, Cormier and Cuello<sup>65</sup> showed that an increase in cation  
314 coordination (due to the increase in oxygen concentration in the case of CN-2 glass series) is  
315 accompanied by an increase in bond length; hence, facilitating the I accommodation in the  
316 glass. It also implies that the I local environments in CN-2 glass series is not affected by the  
317 Ca/Na intermixing and I environments are charge compensated by Ca and Na without  
318 distinction.

319 Except for C<sub>35</sub>N<sub>0</sub>, the solubility results for CN-3 glass series appear intermediate between I  
320 solubility for CN-1 and CN-2. For C<sub>35</sub>N<sub>0-33</sub>, the measured I solubility (1.3 mol.%) is on the  
321 same order as for C<sub>35</sub>N<sub>0-1</sub> and C<sub>35</sub>N<sub>0-2</sub>. It suggests that regardless of the I form the I solubility  
322 is not strongly affected in pure calcic glass composition; on the contrary to mixed Na-Ca glass  
323 compositions in which the nature of I source plays a major role on I solubility. The  
324 intermediate value for I solubility in CN-3 glass series was not expected (i.e. higher I

325 solubility was expected considering the higher O<sub>2</sub> concentration) and is currently not clearly  
326 explained and additional experimental work is required for investigating further this aspect.

### 327 **3.3. I speciation in glasses**

#### 328 **3.3.1. General case**

329 The Figure 4 shows several I 3d<sub>5/2</sub> XPS spectra obtained for C<sub>35</sub>N<sub>0</sub> and C<sub>0</sub>N<sub>35</sub> glass  
330 compositions and for the two initial source of iodine: either I<sub>2</sub> (Figure 4A and C) or I<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>  
331 (Figure 4B and D). The spectra are shown with the same range of energy between 610 and  
332 630 eV. The entire set of obtained XPS spectra along with the corresponding simulation is  
333 provided in the Suppl. Mat.. The spectra in Figure 4 are also presented with the subsequent  
334 deconvolution and the corresponding I speciation.

335 For C<sub>35</sub>N<sub>0</sub>, we observe two different I speciation depending on the initial I source in the  
336 starting material. In C<sub>35</sub>N<sub>0</sub>-1 (I<sub>2</sub> loaded, Figure 4A), we observe a peak at ~619 eV and a small  
337 shoulder at ~621 eV. In C<sub>35</sub>N<sub>0</sub>-2 (I<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> loaded, Figure 4B), the XPS spectrum exhibits two  
338 major contributions: one at ~619 eV and one at ~624.5 eV. The peak at 619 eV can be  
339 assigned to I<sup>-</sup> species,<sup>61,66,67</sup> the peak at 621 eV can be assigned to I<sup>0</sup> species,<sup>68</sup> and the peak at  
340 624.5 eV can be assigned to I<sup>5+</sup>.<sup>68,69</sup> In C<sub>35</sub>N<sub>0</sub>-1, when I<sub>2</sub> is loaded in the starting material,  
341 iodine is mostly dissolved as I<sup>-</sup> species (93.9%), and a small proportion of I<sup>0</sup> is also identified  
342 (6.1%). It implies that for a total of 1.2 mol.% I, I<sup>-</sup> represents 1.13 mol.% and I<sup>0</sup> represents  
343 0.07 mol.% (see Table 1). In C<sub>35</sub>N<sub>0</sub>-2, the deconvolution of the XPS spectrum is more  
344 complex as the peak at ~619 eV cannot be decomposed with a single asymmetric line and a  
345 small contribution at ~621 eV is requested to reproduce the entire spectrum of the I 3d<sub>5/2</sub>.  
346 Nevertheless, when I<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> is loaded in the starting material, iodine is mostly dissolved as I<sup>5+</sup>  
347 (58.6%) with a non-negligible contribution of I<sup>-</sup> (28.8%) and a small contribution of I<sup>0</sup>  
348 (12.7%). With a measured I solubility of 1.3 mol.%, I<sup>5+</sup> represents 0.76 mol.%, I<sup>-</sup> represents  
349 0.37 mol.% and I<sup>0</sup> represents 0.17 mol.%. As shown in Table 1, the other glass samples



350 exhibit the same behavior: when I<sub>2</sub> is loaded, the I speciation in the glass is mostly I<sup>-</sup> and  
351 accompanied by a small quantity of I<sup>0</sup>; when I<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> is loaded, the I speciation in the glass is a  
352 mixture of I<sup>5+</sup>, I<sup>0</sup> and I<sup>-</sup>. Combined with the I solubility results, we observe that the maximum  
353 I solubility is obtained when I is dissolved mostly as I<sup>5+</sup>.

354 The XPS results obtained on the C<sub>0</sub>N<sub>35</sub>-11 glass sample are comparable to the results obtained  
355 for C<sub>35</sub>N<sub>0</sub>-1 with I<sup>-</sup> as the dominant dissolved I species (Figure 4C): 96% I<sup>-</sup> and 4% I<sup>5+</sup>. For  
356 this sample, we obtain an I solubility of 3.9 mol.%. The XPS spectrum for C<sub>0</sub>N<sub>35</sub>-2 shows the  
357 predominance of I<sup>5+</sup> as the I dissolved species, hence comparable to the results obtained on  
358 the other glasses (see Table 1). For C<sub>0</sub>N<sub>35</sub>-2, the I solubility is 5.7 mol.%. For the whole glass  
359 compositions, we observe that I solubility is positively correlated to the increase in I<sup>5+</sup>.

360 For C<sub>35</sub>N<sub>0</sub>-2 sample, several XPS spectra were recorded on different glass chips collected  
361 from the experimental charge with the objective to determine if the I speciation is  
362 homogeneous within the experimental charge. Four glass chips from C<sub>35</sub>N<sub>0</sub>-2 were collected  
363 along the experimental charge (from top to bottom) and analyzed by XPS for investigating the  
364 homogeneity of the I speciation. The results are shown in Figure 5 with an estimated error bar  
365 of 10% in relative to the data. The I speciation is slightly heterogeneous: I<sup>-</sup> ranges from 20 to  
366 32%; I<sup>5+</sup> ranges from 58 to 74%; I<sup>0</sup> is roughly constant from 5 to 9%. We obtain the following  
367 average values and standard deviation: I<sup>-</sup> = 26.1±8.4%, I<sup>5+</sup> = 66.5±8.0, and I<sup>0</sup> = 7.4±2.9%.

368 Therefore, we suggest that the I speciation in CN-2 glasses is accurate to only ±10% in  
369 absolute value. This problem does not apply to CN-1 glass series as I<sup>5+</sup> species are not  
370 observed (although 4% I<sup>5+</sup> is determined for C<sub>0</sub>N<sub>35</sub>-11) from XPS measurements (see Table  
371 1). We explain the strong difference in I speciation between the CN-1 and CN-2 glasses by  
372 the different experimental conditions: I<sub>2</sub> loaded in CN-1 and I<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> loaded in CN-2.

373 **3.3.2. Higher oxidation case: C<sub>35</sub>N<sub>0</sub>-33 glass**

374 The CN-3 glass series represent a peculiar approach aimed to increase the oxidation  
375 conditions prevailing during high-pressure experiments. We choose to increase  $fO_2$  conditions  
376 by doping the sample with  $PtO_2$  that decomposes into Pt and  $O_2$  at high-temperature. The  
377 expected result was an increase in I solubility, however, as shown in Figure 3 we do not  
378 observe such an increase: I solubility slightly decreases in CN-3 glasses. During XPS  
379 analyses, we have observed that I speciation was highly unstable under X-ray beam. We show  
380 in Figure 6 XPS spectra obtained on  $C_{35}N_0-33$ . Spectra are shown for several successive  
381 cycles (Cycle 1, 4 and 9 out of 15) obtained on this glass sample. For the first time, we clearly  
382 demonstrate the presence of periodate species with +7 oxidation state with a peak located at  
383  $\sim 626$  eV.<sup>68,70</sup> The  $I^{7+}$  is present along with  $I^{5+}$ ,  $I^0$  and  $I^-$  in this glass sample. This result  
384 provides the first evidence for the presence of  $I^{7+}$  dissolved in aluminoborosilicate glasses  
385 synthesized under high-pressure conditions.

386 The simulation of the XPS spectrum for  $C_{35}N_0-33$  suggests that  $I^{7+}$  is present in non-  
387 negligible quantity. In Cycle 1,  $I^{7+}$  species represent almost one third of the I dissolved  
388 species. However, it appears that such highly oxidized species is not stable under the X-ray  
389 beam during the successive XPS cycles. As shown in Figure 6,  $I^{7+}$  decreases significantly in  
390 Cycle 4 and becomes negligible in Cycle 9. The change in the I species proportions for this  
391 sample are reported in Figure 7 (data are provided in Suppl. Mat.). We clearly see that  $I^{7+}$   
392 quickly destabilizes after 4 analysis cycles and after 15 cycles the  $I^{7+}$  totally disappears. On  
393 the contrary, we see that the proportion of  $I^{5+}$  increases conjointly with the decrease in  $I^{7+}$  ( $I^0$   
394 and  $I^-$  remain constant) suggesting that there is a conversion of  $I^{7+}$  to  $I^{5+}$  resulting from the  
395 energy of the X-ray beam. We do not observe any increase in the  $I^0$  and  $I^-$ . Although, the  
396 statistic is not ideal (i.e. proportions obtained on each cycle), we suggest that the I speciation  
397 measured at the first cycle represents the true I speciation prevailing in the  $C_{35}N_0-33$  glass and  
398 derived proportions after Cycle 1 are reported in Table 1. For the  $C_{20}N_{15}-3$  and  $C_{10}N_{25}-3$ , the

399 periodate species is not observed (see Table 1); however, we cannot exclude its presence  
400 during the experiment under high-temperature and high-pressure conditions.

401 Above the fact that periodate species appear highly unstable during analytical characterization  
402 by XPS, our results also imply that iodate species are probably the most stable oxidized iodine  
403 species (see Figure 7). Therefore, a protocol that focuses on increasing further the oxidation  
404 conditions might not be efficient in 1) dissolving more iodine and 2) dissolving iodine in its  
405 most stable form.

## 406 4. Discussion

### 407 4.1. Iodine speciation and dissolution mechanisms: the influence of the redox state

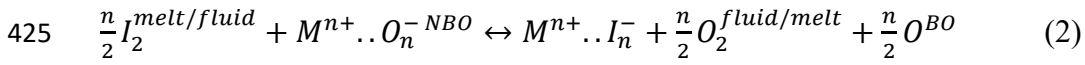
408 In Figure 3, we show that the I loaded form has a dramatic impact on the I solubility and we  
409 demonstrate that the change in I solubility is related to the change in I speciation as measured  
410 by XPS (see Figure 4). As  $I^{5+}$  increases into the glass, there is an increase in I solubility. We  
411 have plotted in Figure 8 the change in I solubility as a function of the Overall I Redox State  
412 (ORS) calculated from the I speciation in Table 1 with the following equation:

$$413 \quad -1 \times XI^- + 5 \times XI^{5+} + 7 \times XI^{7+} = \text{Overall I redox state (ORS)} \quad (1)$$

414 In Figure 8, we can observe that there is a positive correlation between I solubility and ORS.  
415 This positive correlation is clear for most of the glass compositions. For  $C_{20}N_{15}$  the trend is  
416 less clear whether the increase is linear or not. For  $C_{35}N_0$  glass composition, I solubility does  
417 not vary with increasing ORS.

418 The present work represents the first evidence showing that, at constant glass composition and  
419 constant intensive conditions, the I solubility depends on the I speciation. At high-pressure  
420 and high-temperature,  $I_2$  is under supercritical conditions, which implies that the  
421 thermodynamic activity of the  $I_2^{\text{fluid}}$  equals the thermodynamic activity of the  $I_2^{\text{melt}}$ . Within the  
422 melt iodine atoms ionizes in the surroundings of sodium or calcium to form  $Na..I$  or  $Ca..I$

423 linkages. In the case iodide is only present (i.e. CN-1), we propose the following general  
424 chemical reaction for iodide dissolution mechanism:

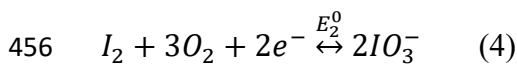
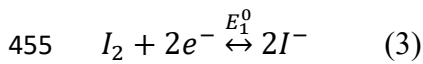


426 In Eq. 2,  $M^{n+}$  is a charge compensating cation for  $I^-$  species either  $Na^+$  or  $Ca^{2+}$  forming  $Na..I$   
427 and  $Ca..I$  species.<sup>36,62</sup> In Eq. 2 the I dissolution is accompanied by a rearrangement of the  
428 glass network: a Non-Bridging Oxygen (NBO) is transformed into a Bridging Oxygen (BO)  
429 implying that I dissolution has a polymerizing effect on the glass structure. However, it is  
430 probably a little more complicated than currently mentioned, as the oxygens involved in Eq. 2  
431 might indeed be NBOs from the boron or silicate units. For instance, Jolivet et al.<sup>36</sup> showed  
432 that the proportion of  $BO_4$  units (i.e. N4) in the glass is affected by the I dissolution.  $BO_4$   
433 concentration can increase or decrease depending on the glass chemical composition. In Eq. 2,  
434 accompanying the polymerization of the network is the production of  $1/2O_2$  that is released in  
435 the fluid phase. By analogy to the I dissolution as  $IO_3^-$  that is enhanced in the case an excess  
436  $O_2$  is present (i.e. CN-2 and CN-3), the release of  $O_2$  in the fluid should induce the dissolution  
437 of a limited proportion of  $IO_3^-$ . Clearly, it is not the case as the I speciation is mostly  $I^-$  (only  
438  $C_0N_{35-11}$  exhibits the presence of  $IO_3^-$ , see Table 1).

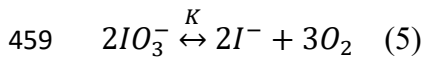
439 Under intensive conditions, the oxygen activity is expressed by the oxygen fugacity ( $fO_2$ ).  
440 During the high-pressure experiments, using talc-Pyrex assemblies, the  $fO_2$  has been  
441 estimated to be close to QFM+1 in relative to the solid oxygen buffer Quartz-Fayalite-  
442 Magnetite.<sup>71,72</sup> These conditions are relatively oxidizing. For instance, in C- and S-bearing  
443 high-pressure systems, the oxidized  $CO_2$  and  $SO_2$  (or  $SO_3$ ) are the dominant species in both  
444 the fluid phase and the melt phase.<sup>55,73</sup> However, in the I-bearing system currently studied,  $I_2$   
445 is the dominant species in the fluid phase and Eq. 2 is also controlled by I fugacity ( $fI_2$ ). To  
446 our knowledge, there is currently no available Equation-Of-State for  $I_2$  in the fluid phase

447 under temperature and pressure conditions preventing from calculating the I<sub>2</sub> thermodynamic  
448 activity in the fluid phase under intensive conditions.

449 In the case of CN-2 glass series, we observe the coexistence between I<sup>-</sup> and I<sup>5+</sup> species, which  
450 means that another oxidation/reduction mechanism has to be proposed for constraining the  
451 *f*O<sub>2</sub> conditions. The fact that I<sup>5+</sup> is observed in the glass implies necessarily that there is an  
452 increase in the *f*O<sub>2</sub> (*f*O<sub>2</sub> > QFM+1). We used the following chemical reactions for explaining  
453 the oxidation/reduction mechanisms and the coexistence of both I<sup>-</sup> and I<sup>5+</sup> species in the CN-2  
454 glasses:



457 The standard potentials for these two reactions are E<sup>0</sup><sub>1</sub> = +0.54 V and E<sup>0</sup><sub>2</sub> = +1.8 V. It follows  
458 the global equilibrium reaction:



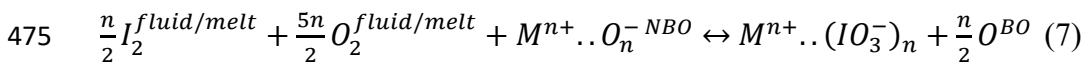
460 With:

$$461 \quad K = \frac{[I^-]^2 \times f_{O_2}^3}{[IO_3^-]^2} \quad (6)$$

462 We combined the Nernst and the Gibbs-Duhem equations to determine the K value at  
463 1400°C: 2.56x10<sup>-8</sup>. Using the I<sup>-</sup> and IO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> concentrations determined for CN-2 glasses in Table  
464 1, we were able to estimate the *f*O<sub>2</sub> conditions prevailing during the oxidized experiments  
465 with I<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>. We obtain a *f*O<sub>2</sub> on the order QFM+3 (the detailed calculation is provided in Suppl.  
466 Mat.), which is consistent with the higher oxidizing conditions imposed by the dissociation of  
467 I<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> into I<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub> during the experiment. The QFM+3 only represents an estimate of the *f*O<sub>2</sub>

468 condition; a more convenient approach would require the use of solid oxygen buffers during  
469 the experiments.

470 With regards to the actual I dissolution mechanisms within the glass structure, the global  
471 equation proposed by Riley et al.<sup>32</sup> involves the coexistence of I<sup>-</sup> and I<sup>5+</sup> species to the  
472 proportions of 5:1; however, it cannot apply to our study as the proportion of I<sup>5+</sup> in CN-2  
473 glasses is well above this ratio (see Table 1). We propose the following equation (Eq. 7)  
474 describing the dissolution of I<sup>5+</sup> species:

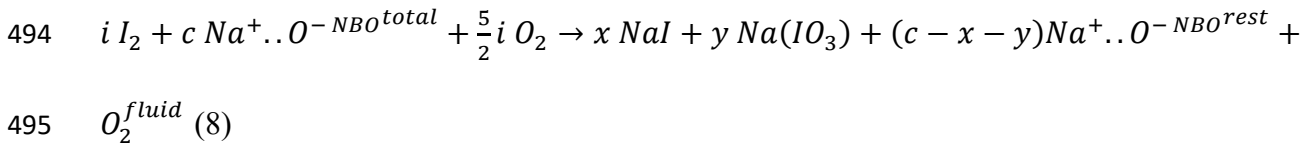


476 In Eq. 7, O<sub>2</sub> from the fluid phase (from the dissociation of I<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>) and oxygen from the melt (O<sup>-</sup>  
477 <sup>NBO</sup>) are used to form iodate species (IO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>) with surrounding charge compensating cation M<sup>n+</sup>  
478 either Na<sup>+</sup> or Ca<sup>2+</sup> forming Na<sup>+</sup>(IO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>) or Ca<sup>2+</sup>(IO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>)<sub>2</sub> units dissolved in the glass. Eq. 7 also  
479 implies that the dissolution of I as IO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> is favored by an increase in *f*O<sub>2</sub> during the experiment.  
480 This implication is only true to a certain extent considering that we do not observe an increase  
481 in the proportion of the IO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> proportion in the CN-3 glass series. In a similar way to Eq. 2, the  
482 I dissolution as IO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> induces a rearrangement of the glass network by consumption of NBOs  
483 that change to BOs as a result of the charge compensation by the cation, either Na<sup>+</sup> or Ca<sup>2+</sup>.

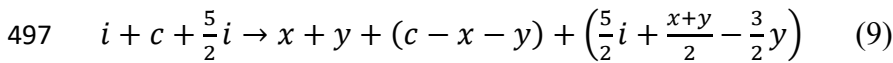
#### 484 **4.2. Consistency between measured I speciation and dissolution mechanisms**

485 Although I dissolved as I<sup>-</sup> in glasses equilibrated with pure I<sub>2</sub> is consistent with previous  
486 works,<sup>36</sup> it is surprising not to observe IO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> coexisting with I<sup>-</sup> considering that O<sub>2</sub> is produced  
487 during I dissolution (see Eq. 2). Similarly, the mixed IO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>/I<sup>-</sup> speciation in glasses equilibrated  
488 with pure I<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> is questioning, as the quantity of oxygen brought by the dissociation of I<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>  
489 should be enough to promote the I dissolution as IO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> only (see Eq. 7). We have done the  
490 mass balance on oxygen consumed and produced during I dissolution as I<sup>-</sup> and IO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> as  
491 observed in the CN-2 and CN-3 glass series. For the sake of clarity, we have considered that

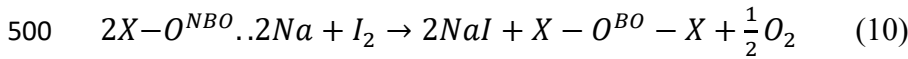
492 sodium is the charge balancing cation (i.e. considering calcium as balance element gives the  
 493 same results).



496 With the following number of mole:



498 In Eq. 9, the  $\frac{x+y}{2}$  on the right-hand side for  $O_2^{fluid}$  corresponds to the number of mole produced  
 499 by the transformation of  $O^{NBO}$  to  $O^{BO}$  for example with the following equation:



501 In which  $X$  stands for a network former cation such as Si or B. The  $x + y$  is also equal to the  
 502 dissolved iodine number of mole,  $2i$ . In Eq. 9, the  $\frac{5}{2} i$  quantity corresponds to the number of  
 503 mole coming from the  $I_2O_5$  dissociation, and the  $-\frac{3}{2} y$  quantity corresponds to the  
 504 consumption of  $O_2^{fluid}$  to form iodate. Therefore, the net proportion of  $O_2$  produced in the  
 505 fluid on the right-hand side of Eq. 9 is  $\left( \frac{7}{2} i - \frac{3y}{2} \right)$ . The I dissolution implies necessarily that  
 506  $\left( \frac{7}{2} i - \frac{3y}{2} \right)$  is either equal to 0 or positive. It follows that  $3y \leq 7i$ . Therefore, we can extract  
 507 the proportion of iodate formed  $\frac{y}{2i} \leq \frac{7}{6}$ . Assuming this mass balance on the oxygen, it implies  
 508 that the upper limit for  $IO_3^-$  concentration is 100% in the case  $I_2O_5$  is added to the system. The  
 509 same calculation can be conducted for the  $I_2$  loaded during the experiment. In such case, the  
 510  $\frac{5}{2} i$  is removed from the calculation and the upper limit to the proportion of iodate becomes  
 511  $\frac{y}{2i} \leq \frac{1}{3}$ , which corresponds to 33% of  $IO_3^-$  formed.

512 As shown in Table 1, under no circumstances those upper limits are achieved: there is no  $\text{IO}_3^-$   
513 in the CN-1 glass series and  $\text{IO}_3^-$  reaches a maximum of 85% in  $\text{C}_{30}\text{N}_5-2$ . Consequently, the  
514 oxygen availability appears not to be the limiting factor for the formation of  $\text{IO}_3^-$  species and  
515 other controlling parameters (e.g. thermodynamic) are involved in the equilibrated speciation  
516 that we actually measure.

#### 517 **4.3. Exploring leads for future $^{129}\text{I}$ immobilization in aluminoborosilicate glasses**

518  $^{129}\text{I}$  radioisotope represents a serious environmental problem that requires specific matrixes  
519 for immobilization. One goal to our approach is to provide highlights for guiding future  
520 research in the elaboration of matrixes for the geological disposal of  $^{129}\text{I}$ . However, we are  
521 perfectly aware that the synthesized glasses in the present work are essentially designed to  
522 obtain the fundamental understanding of the role of Ca and Na on the iodine dissolution in  
523 glasses. For instance, the investigated pressure (1.5 GPa) is high in comparison to an  
524 industrial process using Hot-Isostatic Press<sup>19,39,40</sup> and the chemical durability of the presently  
525 investigated glass compositions remains to be asserted.<sup>74</sup> Considering the lack of experimental  
526 data on I solubility, it appears presumptuous to build a reliable model that can be used for  
527 predicting I solubility for a wide range of aluminoborosilicate glass compositions.  
528 Nonetheless, we can provide a series of preconisation for a future permanent immobilization  
529 of  $^{129}\text{I}$  radioisotopes.

530 In Figures 3 and 8, we show that  $\text{C}_0\text{N}_{35}$  glass composition represents the best candidate to  
531 dissolve efficiently  $^{129}\text{I}$  nuclear waste providing that high oxidation state is imposed during  
532 the experiments and I is dissolved in the glass as iodates species. It should be emphasized that  
533 the iodate species are the most advantageous form of I with respect to environment as its  
534 mobility in clays is lower than the iodide species.<sup>75,76</sup> We suggest that the increase in I  
535 solubility with increasing I oxidation state is resulting from the availability of oxygen atoms  
536 within the melt to form  $\text{IO}_3^-$  units. Interestingly, increasing strongly the oxygen concentration



537 tends to promote the formation of periodate; however, as shown in Figure 7, this species lacks  
538 stability within the glass under the XPS beam. This lower stability is likely due to the higher  
539 oxygen coordination environment around  $I^{7+}$ .<sup>77</sup> Although the periodate stability under natural  
540 environmental conditions should be investigated, we suggest that exceedingly high oxidative  
541 conditions should be avoided to prevent the formation of periodate species. Meanwhile,  
542 sufficiently high oxidation conditions should be maintained to maximize the I solubility. Solid  
543 sorbents such as crystalline  $NaIO_3$  could be used to ensure high I load and high oxidation  
544 conditions during the vitrification process. Moreover, this methodology would increase the Na  
545 content in the matrix composition and consequently increasing I solubility due to the higher I  
546 affinity for Na-rich glass compositions.

547 Further experimental work has to be conducted in order to decipher the I solubility change in  
548 aluminoborosilicate glasses considering the large range of chemical compositions for nuclear  
549 waste glasses.<sup>25,78</sup> For instance, the rationale for I solubility as a function of the nature of the  
550 charge compensating cations is not clearly determined. In the present work, we clearly show  
551 that I dissolution is favored in Na-rich compositions as compared to Ca-rich compositions.  
552 Both cations are close in size but with different charges and different roles within the glass  
553 structure.  $Na^+$  is known to act as a charge compensating cation to  $BO_4$  units and  $AlO_4$  units;<sup>79-</sup>  
554 <sup>83</sup> whereas  $Ca^{2+}$  acts as a network modifying cation inducing the depolymerization of the glass  
555 network.<sup>84-85</sup> As a result,  $Na^+$  is located in the surroundings of weakly charged oxygen atoms  
556 (i.e. bridging oxygen, BO), whereas  $Ca^{2+}$  is surrounded by highly charged oxygen atoms (i.e.  
557 non-bridging oxygen, NBO). However, the nature of oxygen atoms surrounding  $Na^+$  and  $Ca^{2+}$   
558 is mitigated considering the mixed alkali effect.<sup>45</sup>  $Na^+$  has more affinity with  $I^-$  or  $IO_3^-$  species  
559 than  $Ca^{2+}$ , which can be explained by the weaker nature of the  $Na-O^{BO}$  bonds in the structure  
560 compared to  $Ca-O^{NBO}$  bonds. In the case of pure Ca glass composition,  $Ca^{2+}$  adopt both roles:  
561 charge compensating and network modifying; and I dissolution in that case is still possible (I

562 solubility different from 0) but to a limited extent. As a result, it could be pertinent to  
563 investigate the change in I solubility as a function of the size and charge of the non-network  
564 forming cations (i.e.  $\text{Li}^+$ ,  $\text{K}^+$ ,  $\text{Rb}^+$ ,  $\text{Sr}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Ba}^{2+}$ ).

## 565 **5. Conclusions**

566 Better understanding of the I behavior in borosilicate glasses is a prerequisite for the  
567 formulation of future matrixes able to immobilize  $^{129}\text{I}$  in geological repositories. In the present  
568 work, we have investigated the change in I solubility in a series of borosilicate glass 1) held  
569 under high-pressure conditions (1.5 GPa), 2) with varying Ca/Na ratios, and 3) with different  
570 sources of I and oxygen to study the effect of redox conditions.

571 We have demonstrated that I solubility is strongly enhanced when the iodine source is  $\text{I}_2\text{O}_5$   
572 instead of  $\text{I}_2$ . Under highly oxidizing conditions, XPS measurements revealed that iodine is  
573 essentially dissolved as  $\text{I}^{5+}$  species. Increasing further the oxidizing conditions is  
574 counterproductive as it implies the presence of the unstable  $\text{I}^{7+}$  species and does not lead to an  
575 increase in I solubility.

576 Regardless of the I speciation, we have shown that there is a non-linear behavior of I  
577 solubility as a function of XNa value. Globally, we show I solubility is favored in Na-rich  
578 glass compositions, in agreement with previous experimental investigations.

579

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588

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726

727 **Figure caption**

728 Figure 1: I concentration measured by LA-ICP-MS as a function of I concentration measured  
729 by SEM EDS. The 1:1 line is reported. The provided error is calculated from the standard  
730 deviation of the replicated measurements: at least 5 spots by LA-ICP-MS, 10 scans by SEM  
731 EDS.

732 Figure 2: I concentration determined by LA-ICP-MS for C<sub>20</sub>N<sub>15</sub>-22 glass sample. The I  
733 content was measured along and across the Pt capsule to determine the homogeneity with  
734 respect to I content. 48 spots were acquired through the entire experimental charge. The  
735 average I concentration is 4.6 mol.% and the standard deviation is ±0.1 mol.%.

736 Figure 3: Change in I solubility as a function of XNa = Na/(Na+Ca) for the investigated  
737 glasses. The I solubility for the three experimental series is represented: CN-I<sub>2</sub> (CN-1), CN-  
738 I<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> (CN-2) and CN-I<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>+PtO<sub>2</sub> (CN-3). I solubility can reach up to 5.7 mol.% and is  
739 maximised for CN-2 glass series in which I is dissolved as I<sup>5+</sup>.

740 Figure 4: XPS spectra obtained for C<sub>35</sub>N<sub>0</sub> and C<sub>0</sub>N<sub>35</sub> glasses showing I dissolved mainly as I<sup>-</sup>  
741 (CN-1) or I<sup>5+</sup> (CN-2). The spectrum simulations are also reported along with the quantified  
742 species. We show that I dissolves as several species in the glasses: I<sup>-</sup> (~610 eV) and I<sup>0</sup> (~621  
743 eV) for the less oxidized ones (CN-1); I<sup>5+</sup> (~624 eV), I<sup>-</sup> and I<sup>0</sup> for the most oxidized ones  
744 (CN-2).

745 Figure 5: Distribution of I speciation as measured by XPS on four glass chips for C<sub>35</sub>N<sub>0</sub>-2  
746 glass. The I speciation appears relatively homogeneous in C<sub>35</sub>N<sub>0</sub>-2 glass (±10%).

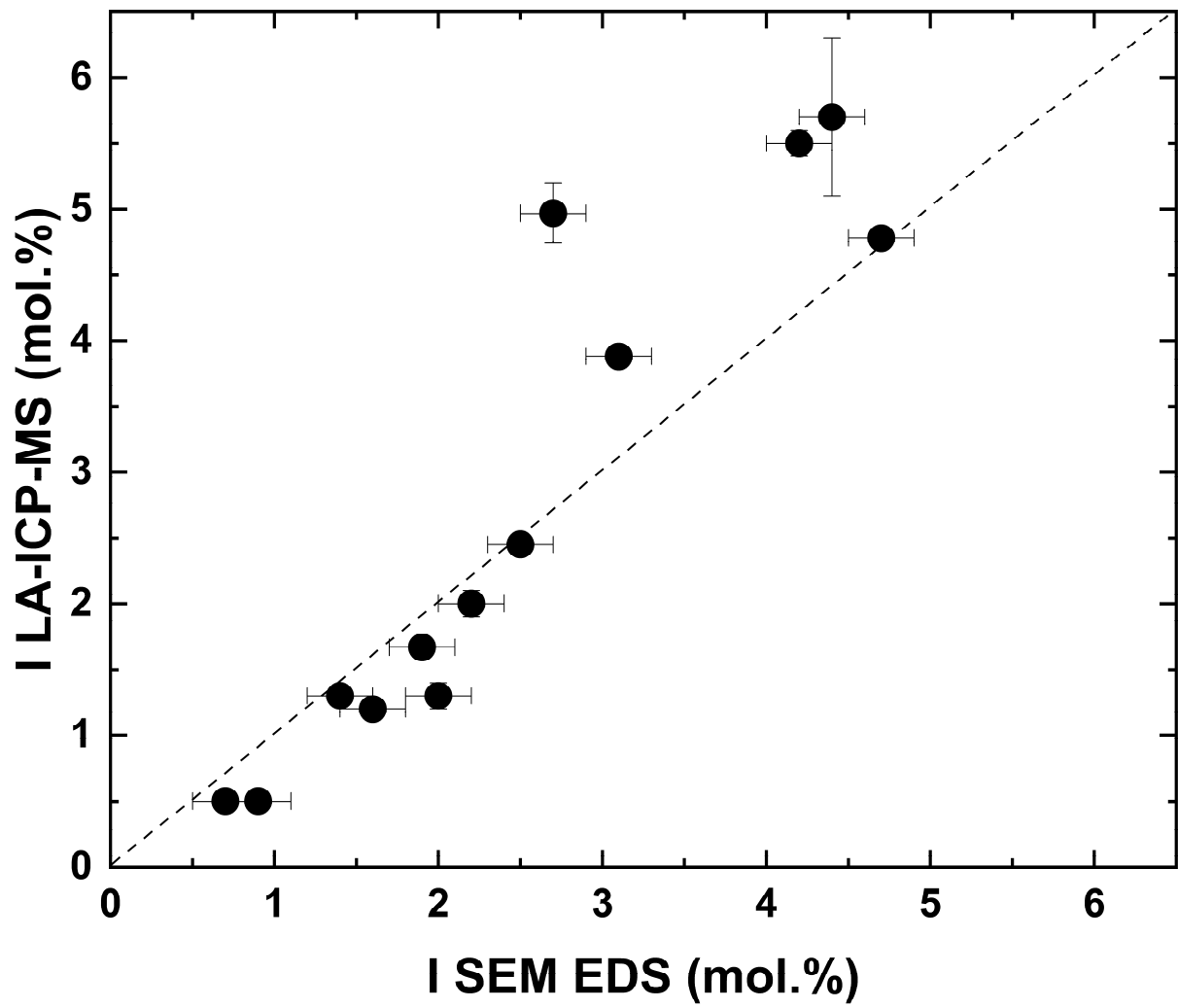
747 Figure 6: XPS spectra obtained on C<sub>35</sub>N<sub>0</sub>-33 showing the presence of I<sup>7+</sup> species (~626 eV)  
748 along with I<sup>5+</sup>, I<sup>-</sup> and I<sup>0</sup> species dissolved in the glass. Spectra are shown for several cycles of  
749 acquisitions. There is a gradual decrease in the I<sup>7+</sup> concentration from 30.3 to 3.8% between  
750 Cycles 1 and 9, respectively; demonstrating the weak stability of I<sup>7+</sup> within the glass under the  
751 X-ray beam. The entire set of data is provided in the Suppl. Mat..

752 Figure 7: Change in the I species concentrations (I<sup>7+</sup>, I<sup>5+</sup>, I<sup>-</sup>, I<sup>0</sup>) as a function of the XPS cycle  
753 for C<sub>35</sub>N<sub>0</sub>-33. Periodate I<sup>7+</sup> is gradually converted to iodate I<sup>5+</sup>; and I<sup>7+</sup> concentration is close  
754 to 0 after 10 XPS cycles.

755 Figure 8: I solubility as a function of the I Overall Redox State (ORS). The ORS is calculated  
756 from Eq. 1 and using the I speciation obtained from XPS spectrum simulations. An estimate  
757 of the  $fO_2$  conditions is provided: QFM+1 in CN-1 series and QFM+3 in CN-2 series. The I  
758 solubility is positively correlated to the increase in oxidizing conditions for Na-bearing glass  
759 compositions (i.e. from  $C_{30}N_5$  to  $C_0N_{35}$ ) but seems unaffected for Ca-bearing glass (i.e.  
760  $C_{35}N_0$ ).

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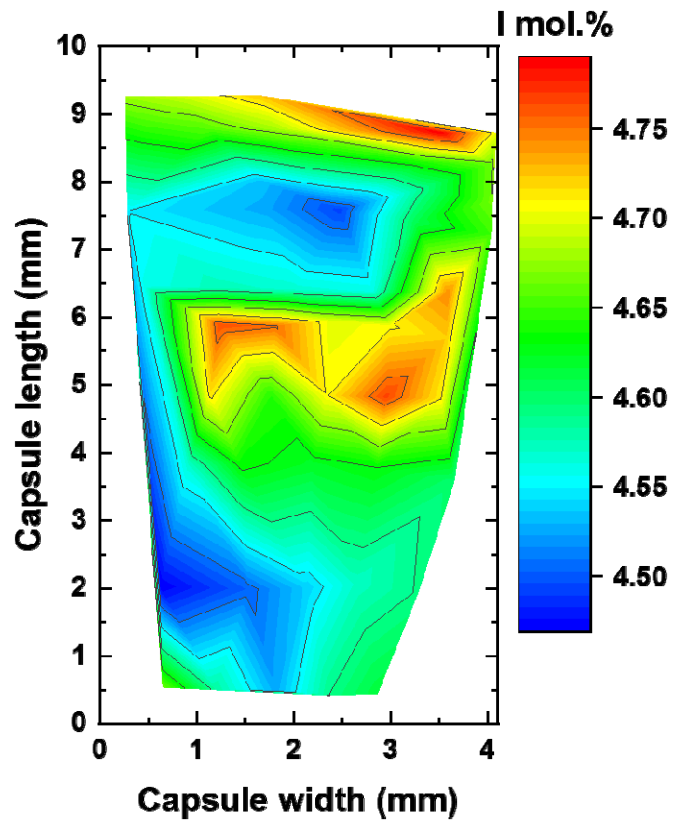
764 Figure 1

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766



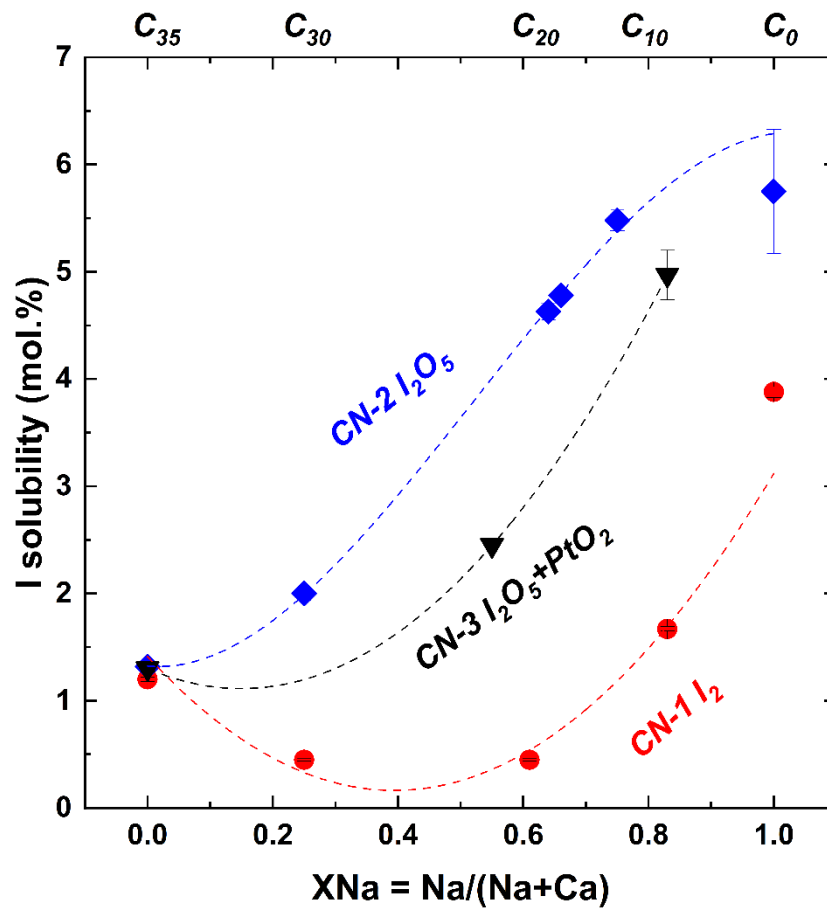
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768 Figure 2

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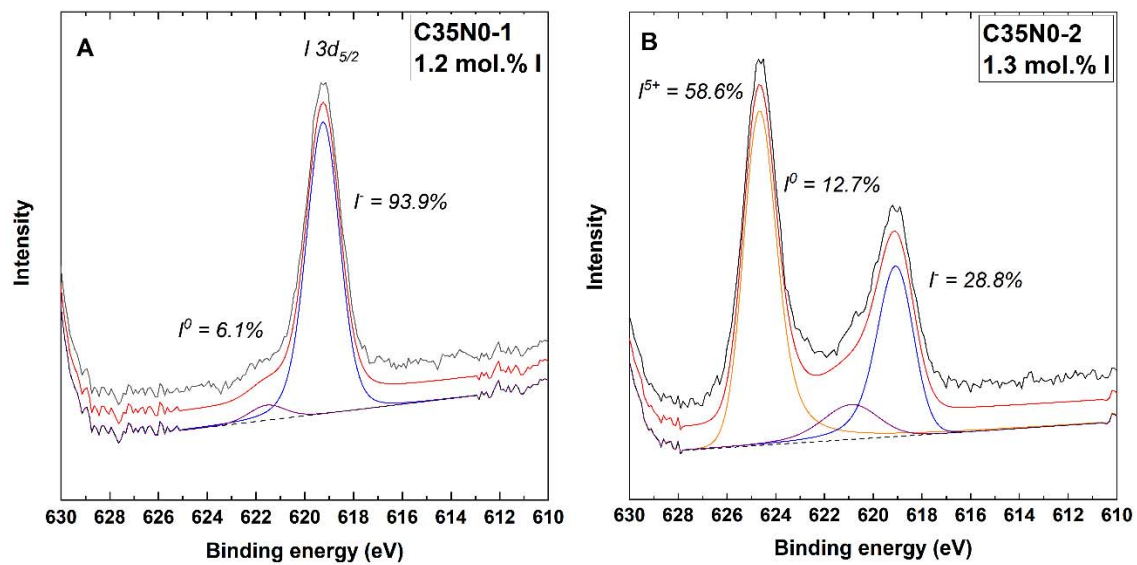


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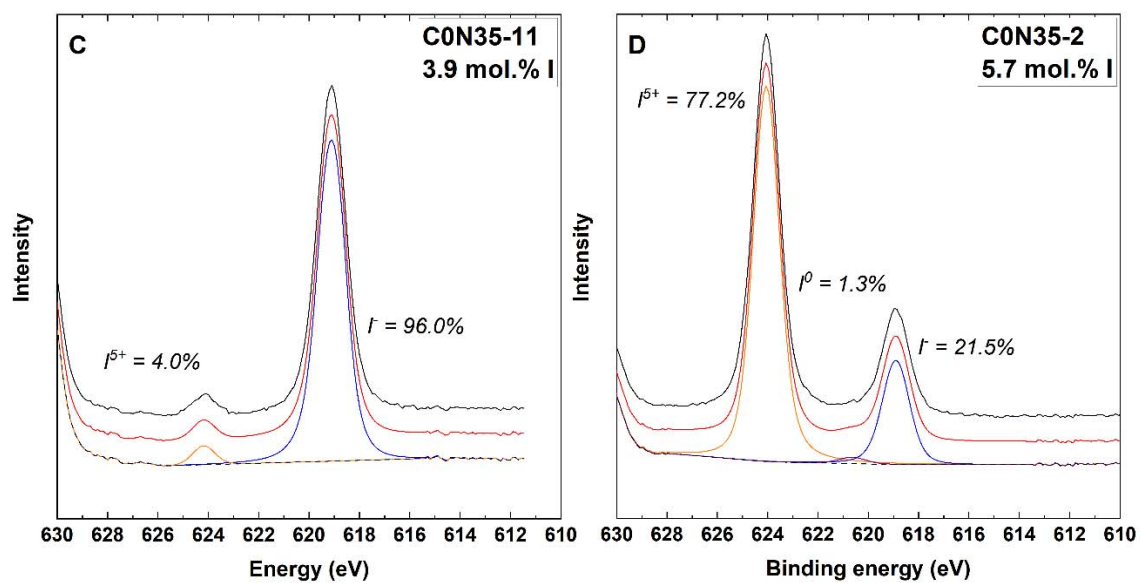
772 Figure 3

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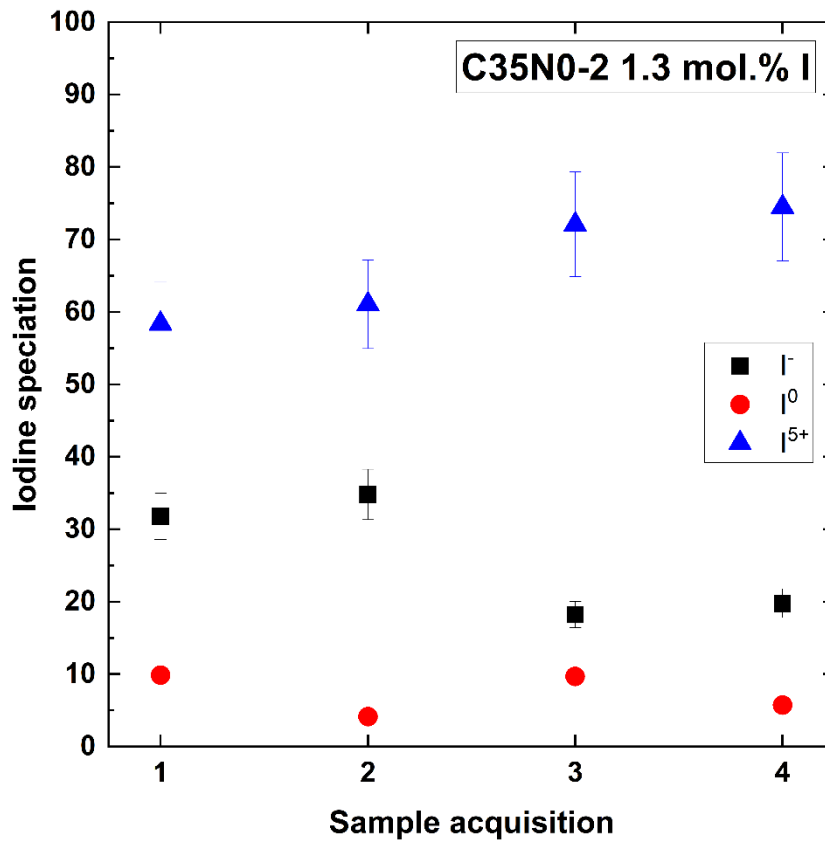


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777 Figure 4

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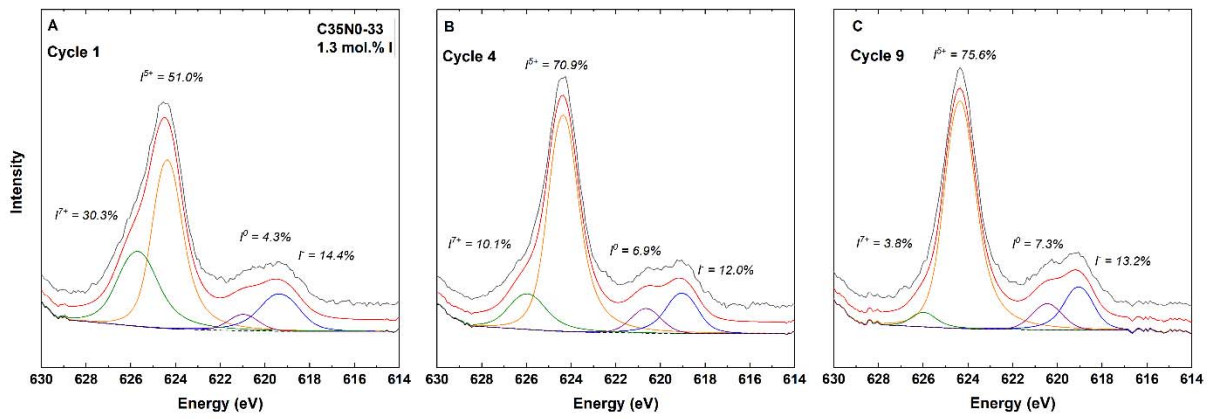
780

781 Figure 5

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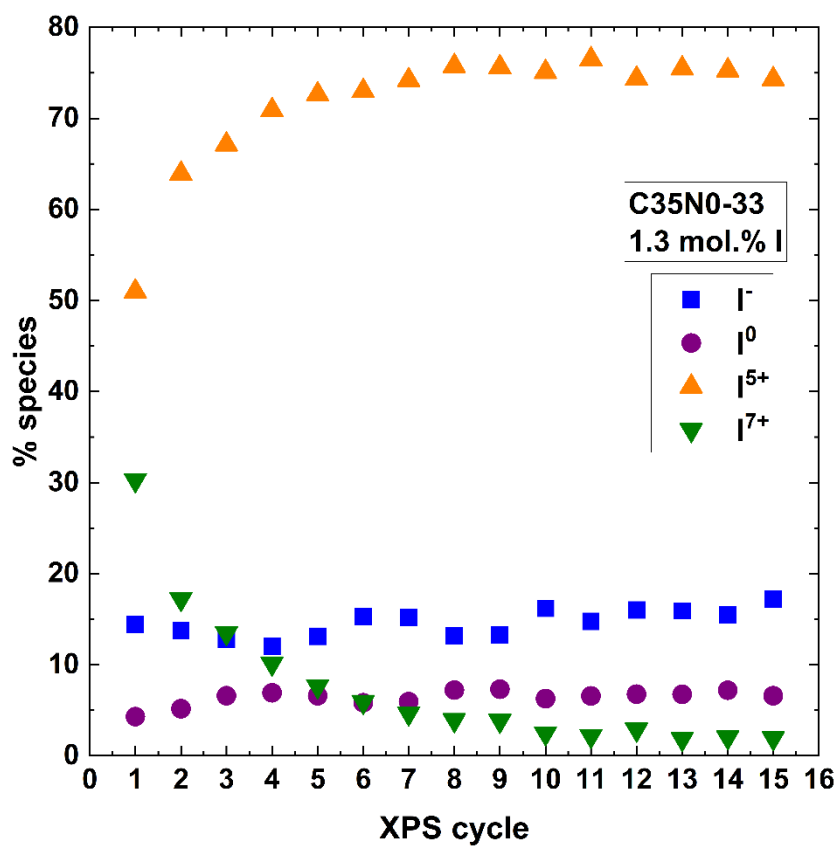


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785 Figure 6

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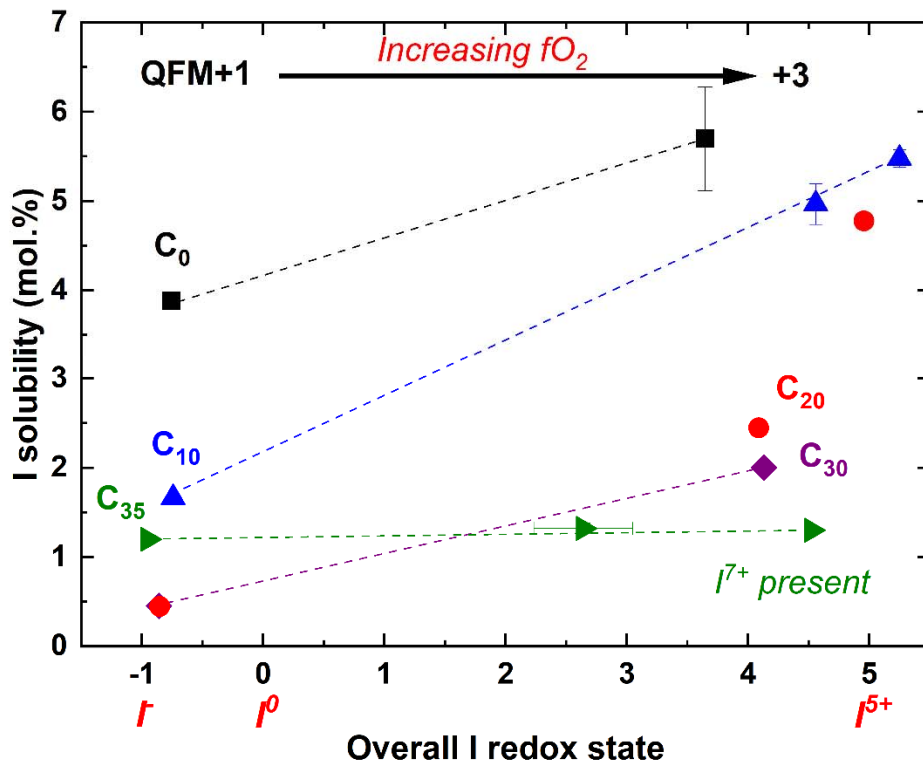


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789 Figure 7

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793 Figure 8

Table 1: Major elements, I solubility and speciation for CN glass series loaded with I<sub>2</sub> (CN-1), I<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> (CN-2) and I<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>+PtO<sub>2</sub> (CN-3).

Sample	I loaded (mol.%)	Added O <sub>2</sub> (mol.%)	Major elements (mol.%) <sup>a</sup>						I speciation <sup>b</sup>					I solubility (mol.%) <sup>d</sup>	
			SiO <sub>2</sub>	B <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	CaO	Na <sub>2</sub> O	XNa	I <sup>-</sup>	I <sup>0</sup>	I <sup>5+</sup>	I <sup>7+</sup>	I Overall Redox State (ORS) <sup>c</sup>	I SEM EDS	I LA ICP MS
<b>CN-0 I-free 0.0001 GPa 1200°C</b>															
C <sub>35</sub> N <sub>0</sub> -0	0	0	32.4	29.1	4.9	33.6	0	0							
C <sub>30</sub> N <sub>5</sub> -0	0	0	31.7	29.7	5.2	28.4	5.0	0.26							
C <sub>20</sub> N <sub>15</sub> -0	0	0	33.9	29.0	5.0	17.9	14.3	0.62							
C <sub>10</sub> N <sub>25</sub> -0	0	0	32.9	29.6	4.9	8.9	23.6	0.84							
C <sub>0</sub> N <sub>35</sub> -0	0	0	31.5	30.7	5.3	0	32.5	1							
<b>CN-1 I<sub>2</sub> loaded 1.5 GPa 1400°C 4h</b>															
C <sub>35</sub> N <sub>0</sub> -1	13.4	0	31.8	29.2	4.9	32.5	0	0	93.9	6.1	0		-0.94	1.6	1.2
C <sub>30</sub> N <sub>5</sub> -1	13.3	0	32.1	29.9	5.0	27.7	4.7	0.25	86.4	13.6	0		-0.86	0.7	0.5
C <sub>20</sub> N <sub>15</sub> -1	12.9	0	33.5	30.0	4.8	17.4	13.4	0.61	94.1	5.9	0		-0.94	0.9	0.5
C <sub>10</sub> N <sub>25</sub> -1	13.5	0	31.6	31.1	5.1	8.8	21.5	0.83	85.2	14.8	0		-0.85	1.9	1.7
C <sub>0</sub> N <sub>35</sub> -11	12.4	0	31.5	29.2	5.3	0	31.0	1	96.0	0	4.0		-0.76	3.1	3.9
<b>CN-2 I<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> loaded 1.5 GPa 1400°C 4h</b>															
C <sub>35</sub> N <sub>0</sub> -2	12.6	15.7	32.0	23.8	5.2	36.9	0	0	28.8	12.7	58.6		2.64	2.0	1.3
C <sub>30</sub> N <sub>5</sub> -2	13.1	16.4	31.2	27.3	5.2	29.3	4.8	0.25	14.5	0	85.5		4.13	2.2	2.0
C <sub>20</sub> N <sub>15</sub> -2	12.6	15.8	31.6	26.9	5.1	15.3	14.9	0.66	9.2	8.2	82.5		4.03	4.7	4.8
C <sub>20</sub> N <sub>15</sub> -22 <sup>e</sup>	12.1	16.2	32.0	28.6	4.8	16.1	14.1	0.64	nd	nd	nd		nd	4.4	4.6
C <sub>10</sub> N <sub>25</sub> -2	12.9	16.7	31.6	28.4	5.4	11.5	17.5	0.75	9.9	2.4	87.7		4.29	4.2	5.5
C <sub>0</sub> N <sub>35</sub> -2	13.4	15.1	31.6	29.9	5.3	0	28.9	1	21.5	1.3	77.2		3.65	4.4	5.7
<b>CN-3 I<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> + PtO<sub>2</sub> loaded 1.5 GPa 1400°C 4h</b>															
C <sub>35</sub> N <sub>0</sub> -33	12.0	18.8	33.0	29.8	5.6	30.3	0	0	14.5	4.3	51.0	30.3	4.53	1.4	1.3
C <sub>20</sub> N <sub>15</sub> -3	13.1	20.4	34.8	29.5	5.8	17.0	10.5	0.55	28.5	0	71.5		3.29	2.5	2.5
C <sub>10</sub> N <sub>25</sub> -3	13.6	21.6	33.0	29.8	5.7	8.3	20.9	0.83	21.8	0	78.2		3.69	2.7	5.0

<sup>a</sup>The major element concentrations are determined by SEM EDS, the ISG (Gin et al. 2013) was used as a chemical reference.

<sup>b</sup>The I speciation is determined from the simulation of the XPS spectra acquired in the I 3d spectral region (610-640 eV). The error on each species concentration is estimated to be better than 10% in relative to the value.

<sup>c</sup>The I Overall Redox State represents an empirical value corresponding to the balance between the different oxidation states (I<sup>-</sup>, I<sup>0</sup>, I<sup>5+</sup>) determined through the XPS analysis.

<sup>d</sup>The I content is measured in the bulk glass. The error bar obtained on each value is obtained on the replicated analyses. Typical error on the SEM EDS measurement is ±0.2 mol.% and the typical error on the LA ICP MS measurement is better than 0.1 mol.%.

<sup>e</sup>The C20N15-22 is a solid copy of the C20N15-2, to assess the reproducibility of the method. The I solubility has been measured by LA ICP MS with the acquisition of 48 analytical points.