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1 **Influence of high-pressure on the short-range structure of Ca or Na aluminoborosilicate**  
2 **glasses from <sup>11</sup>B and <sup>27</sup>Al solid-state NMR**

3

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20

## 21 **Abstract**

22 The present study investigates the boron and aluminium speciation of aluminoborosilicate  
23 glasses synthesized under ambient to high-pressure conditions (up to 2.0 GPa) using  $^{11}\text{B}$  and  
24  $^{27}\text{Al}$  Nuclear Magnetic Resonance. Four glass series were prepared in the  $\text{SiO}_2\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3\text{-B}_2\text{O}_3\text{-}$   
25  $\text{Na}_2\text{O/CaO}$  system, with either high or low  $R'$  values ( $R' = ([\text{Na}_2\text{O}] + [\text{CaO}]) / ([\text{B}_2\text{O}_3] + [\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3])$ ).  
26  $^{11}\text{B}$  NMR reveals a linear increase in four-coordinated boron ( $\text{BO}_4$ ) with pressure for Ca glasses  
27 and non-linear with a plateau between 0.5 and 1.5 GPa for Na glasses.  $^{27}\text{Al}$  NMR reveals  
28 minimal pressure impact on aluminium coordination in sodium glasses. Conversely, calcium  
29 glasses form higher-coordinated  $\text{AlO}_5$  and  $\text{AlO}_6$  units under pressure. The determination of non-  
30 bridging oxygen (NBO) variation witnesses the change in compensation mechanism for boron  
31 species. In low  $R'$  glasses, limited NBOs suggest  $\text{Na}^+/\text{Ca}^{2+}$  release from  $\text{AlO}_4$  as the primary  
32 compensation source. This work sheds light on pressure's influence on network connectivity in  
33 simple glasses, aiding the understanding of complex glass behaviour.

34

## 35 **1 Introduction**

36 Glass is a universal material that can be prepared and tailored to optimise its mechanical, optical  
37 or electrical properties. In particular, alkali and/or alkaline-earth aluminoborosilicate glasses  
38 are used in a wide range of technologies and are especially designed for the immobilization of  
39 radioactive wastes [1-5]. The knowledge of the glass structure is a prerequisite for determining  
40 how the radioisotopes are incorporated into the aluminoborosilicate glasses. In addition, how  
41 the radioisotope incorporates into the glass structure is of prime interest in order to discuss the  
42 glass chemical durability.

43 The structure of aluminoborosilicate glasses made under ambient pressure conditions has been  
44 widely investigated and is now fairly understood [6-15]. Boron and aluminium are typically

45 found in these glasses as  $\text{BO}_3$  planar triangle and  $\text{BO}_4$  tetrahedron units, and  $\text{AlO}_4$  tetrahedron,  
46 as well as  $\text{AlO}_5$  and  $\text{AlO}_6$  polyhedron. The tetrahedral coordination of these +3 charged  
47 elements carries an excess negative charge, which is compensated by alkali or alkaline-earth  
48 cations in the immediate surrounding [6,16-18]. The  $\text{AlO}_4$  and  $\text{BO}_4$  units act as regular network  
49 formers, connecting tetrahedra in a homogeneous 3D system. The  $\text{BO}_3$  units also act as network  
50 formers, however the planar triangle shape tends to create less connected regions in the glass  
51 structure at the nanometer scale in  $\text{BO}_3$ -rich regions. On the other hand, highly coordinated Al  
52 species have a more intricate role in glasses. Their presence originates from local charge-  
53 balance considerations, and their precise structural role still remain unclear (see ref. [19] for an  
54 extensive review on  $^{27}\text{Al}$  NMR and focus on the role and environment of each aluminium  
55 species).  $\text{AlO}_5$  and  $\text{AlO}_6$  are out of usual “network forming” group as they do not participate  
56 into the backbone network in the usual way [20-21] and are also out of the “network modifying”  
57 group as they present higher field strength and stronger bonding to their oxygen than usual  
58 modifiers. Moreover, known modifier cations (i.e. alkali and earth-alkali cations) are  
59 coordinating principally NBO [22-25] where  $\text{AlO}_5$  and  $\text{AlO}_6$  are mainly linked to bonding  
60 oxygens [23,25-26].

61 The distributions of the  $\text{AlO}_4$  and  $\text{BO}_4$  units have a significant impact on the macroscopic  
62 properties of the glass, as it is closely related to the glass polymerisation. A glass with a low  
63 polymerisation is characterised by a low bridging oxygen content (or high non-bridging oxygen,  
64 NBO). For example, it is commonly observed that density and viscosity decrease with boron  
65 addition to aluminosilicate glass network [27-31]. Those properties depend on the  $\text{BO}_4$  to  $\text{BO}_3$   
66 species distribution that is commonly expressed with the  $N_4$  value ( $N_4 = [\text{BO}_4]/([\text{BO}_4]+[\text{BO}_3])$ )  
67 [8,16-18]. The  $N_4$  value does not correlate linearly with the glass composition, which results in  
68 a non-linear evolution of the macroscopic properties for aluminoborosilicate glasses. Such  
69 behaviour is known as the “boron anomaly” [6-7,16-18]. Several studies have investigated this

70 “boron anomaly” by elucidating the relationship between the network former content, the  
71 network modifier content and the macroscopic properties through the  $N_4$  value determination.  
72 Early work by Dell and co-authors [17] and subsequently updated work by Du and Stebbins [8]  
73 established a direct link between the  $N_4$  value and the chemical composition using the  $R'$  and  
74  $K'$  ( $K' = [\text{SiO}_2]/([\text{B}_2\text{O}_3] + [\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3])$ ) parameters determined from the glass chemical composition.  
75 Previous investigation [16] demonstrated that there is a complex evolution of the  $N_4$  as a  
76 function of  $R'$  and  $K'$  determined by alkali and alkaline-earth cation roles within the glass  
77 structure.

78 There is a growing interest in using high-pressure syntheses for producing novel materials and  
79 especially glasses [29-36]. Recent works demonstrated that the use of high-pressure conditions  
80 during the aluminoborosilicate glass-making process successfully improves the solubility of Cl  
81 and I; therefore representing a potential industrial solution for the immobilisation of those  
82 halogen radioisotopes [37-341]. However, there is a lack of information on the effect that  
83 pressure induces on these complex glass structures. The Earth science community has long  
84 known the effect of pressure on the structure of aluminosilicate glass compositions [42-49];  
85 however, only a few studies addressed the effect of pressure on aluminoborosilicate glasses  
86 [32-36,50-51]. High-pressure conditions are known to induce major structural modifications  
87 impacting the glass macroscopic properties such as viscosity or density that are proxies to the  
88 glass durability. In order to propose a reliable protocol for the volatile nuclear waste  
89 immobilisation in high-pressure glass matrix, complementary information is required about the  
90 aluminoborosilicate structural modifications under such extreme conditions. With increasing  
91 pressure, the percentage of  $\text{BO}_4$  units increases [34-35,47,52-56]. This mechanism corresponds  
92 to an increase in the network connectivity considering that  $\text{BO}_4$  unit represents the most  
93 polymerized boron species. Such an increase in the network connectivity is an important issue

94 as it is a key parameter for glass durability and is therefore crucial for nuclear waste  
95 immobilisation.

96 Recently, Bista and co-authors [35] studied the effect of compression (up to 3.0 GPa) on Al, B  
97 and Si, with glass compositions in the  $15\text{CaO}-15\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3-x\text{B}_2\text{O}_3-(70-x)\text{SiO}_2$  system (i.e. relatively  
98 high-Al content). With increasing pressure, they observed a rapid increase in the proportion of  
99 highly coordinated Al species, resulting in an increase in the average Al coordination.  
100 Furthermore, they showed that Al coordination increases faster for glass compositions with  
101 higher  $\text{B}_2\text{O}_3$  and lower  $\text{SiO}_2$  content. They suggested that the stability of  $\text{AlO}_4$  species over  
102 pressure is lowered with increasing  $\text{BO}_4$  species, and that less Si-O-Al linkages are possible.  
103 Indeed, as  $\text{B}_2\text{O}_3$  increases, the  $N_4$  value increases causing a higher charge compensation  
104 requirement for  $\text{BO}_4$  species. Lee and co-authors [36] also observed the same behaviour for  
105 glass compositions in the system  $0.5\text{Na}_2\text{O}-0.25\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3-0.25\text{B}_2\text{O}_3-x\text{SiO}_2$  (12.5 mol.%  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  for  
106  $x = 1$ , and 6.3 mol.%  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  for  $x = 3$ ) with application to the isotopic fractionation of boron  
107 within the Earth interior (up to pressure of 9.2 GPa). In a similar manner, Wondraczek [32],  
108 Smedskjaer [33] and their co-authors investigated the change in the  $N_4$  value in Al-free glasses  
109 synthesised at pressure up to 0.6 GPa and also determined an increase in the  $N_4$  value with  
110 increasing pressure.

111 Although these studies constitute landmark works, there is still a lack of experimental data for  
112 determining the changes in the glass structure in the pressure range up to 2.0 GPa that is most  
113 relevant for nuclear waste immobilisation [57] and for a wider range of glass compositions.  
114 Furthermore, there is a lack of detailed investigations about the change in boron speciation.  
115 Actually, most of the previous studies only focused on the  $N_4$  value variation with pressure and  
116 no thorough information is available on the actual changes in speciation (i.e. type of  $\text{BO}_3$  units  
117 converting into  $\text{BO}_4$  units, and their relation to the NBO content). For instance, the sole  
118 distribution between  $\text{BO}_3$  and  $\text{BO}_4$  units is a simplified view of the boron speciation and that

119 each boron species is composed of several individual sub-unit with different geometrical  
120 configuration or various next nearest neighbours [52,58-60]. Whether each of them evolves  
121 linearly with pressure remains to be determined.

122 In the present work, we investigate the aluminoborosilicate glass structural changes synthesised  
123 between ambient and 2.0 GPa pressure and at high-temperature (1250°C). The studied  
124 compositions are either Ca- or Na-bearing aluminoborosilicate glasses. We use Solid-State  
125 Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) to investigate the  $^{11}\text{B}$ , and  $^{27}\text{Al}$  local environments in the  
126 synthesised samples. We attempt to discuss our result in term of glass physical properties for  
127 nuclear waste immobilisation and volatile dissolution capability.

## 128 **2 Material and methods**

### 129 2.1 Ambient-pressure glass

130 Several aluminoborosilicate glass compositions were studied under different pressure  
131 conditions up to 2.0 GPa. Two series of glasses were synthesized in the systems  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ - $\text{SiO}_2$ -  
132  $\text{B}_2\text{O}_3$ - $\text{Na}_2\text{O}/\text{CaO}$ : pure calcic with two different  $\text{B}_2\text{O}_3$  (18 and 11 mol.%) and CaO (21 and 33  
133 mol.%) contents (Ca21B18 and Ca33B11), and pure sodic with two different  $\text{B}_2\text{O}_3$  (23 and 7.5  
134 mol.%) and  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$  (22 and 35 mol.%) contents (Na22B23 and Na35B8). Those glass  
135 compositions are identical to the one investigated in Morizet et al. [61] in which they studied  
136 the iodine dissolution mechanisms as a function of the optical basicity. The  $K'$  and  $R'$  ratios  
137 defined as a representative compositional parameter for borosilicate and aluminoborosilicate  
138 glasses [8,17,62] for our samples vary from 1.7 to 3.9 and from 0.7 to 2.7, respectively (see  
139 Table 1).

140 Each ambient-pressure glass was prepared from spec pure oxides ( $\text{CaO}$ ,  $\text{B}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{SiO}_2$  and  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ )  
141 and carbonates ( $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$ ) that were carefully ground in an agate mortar. Sample powder was  
142 melted in a Pt crucible at 1200°C in a box furnace for 1h. The ambient pressure sample quench  
143 was done by dropping the Pt crucible in water ( $\sim 150^\circ\text{C}/\text{s}$  for the quench rate). We checked

144 optically the recovered glasses for the presence of crystalline phase. The ambient pressure  
145 glasses have been analysed for chemical composition as reported in Table 1.

146

## 147 2.2 High-pressure experimental syntheses

148 The high-pressure experiments were conducted using an end-loaded piston-cylinder apparatus  
149 at the Laboratoire de Planétologie et Géosciences Nantes (LPG). Parent glass (ambient-pressure  
150 glass) powders were loaded into 2.9 mm outer diameter and 10 mm long Pt capsules. The Pt  
151 capsules were welded shut at both ends by arc-welding. During each experiment, two capsules  
152 are collated together into the  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch talc-Pyrex high-pressure assembly. In the present study,  
153 we investigated several pressure conditions: 1 atm., 0.5, 1.0, 1.5 and 2.0 GPa. For clarity in the  
154 manuscript, we have adopted the following nomenclature for samples: the name of the  
155 composition followed by the pressure synthesis value. For instance, the sample Ca21B18-0 and  
156 Na35B8-1.5 stand for Ca21B18 and Na35B8 glasses synthesised at 0.0001 and 1.5 GPa,  
157 respectively.

158 The protocol for reaching the experimental conditions is described in previous works [38-39].  
159 The talc-Pyrex assembly is first pressurized to 1.0 GPa and temperature is increased to 550°C  
160 and is kept constant for 10 minutes in order to stabilise the temperature and to relax the high-  
161 pressure assembly. Pressure is then increased to the final pressure if needed, and temperature is  
162 raised to 1250°C. For 0.5 GPa conditions, the temperature increase is accompanied by a  
163 decrease in pressure, and the 0.5 GPa final pressure is reached once the final temperature is  
164 attained (1250°C). During the experiment, the pressure is automatically controlled by a  
165 Stigma© needle pump, preventing from pressure variation and the temperature is monitored by  
166 a Eurotherm© controller with a B-type (PtRh<sub>6</sub>-PtRh<sub>30</sub>) thermocouple wire located at the top of  
167 the capsules. Pressure and temperature are accurate within 10% in relative to the value and 1°C,  
168 respectively. The run duration was set to 2h for all the experiments to be reproducible. We

169 performed an isobaric quench at the end of the experiment by cutting-off the power. The cooling  
170 rate is estimated at  $\sim 100^\circ\text{C}$  in the first  $500^\circ\text{C}$ . The isobaric quench has the advantage to prevent  
171 from a lower fictive pressure structure to be recorded by the glass during the quench [63-64].  
172 Therefore, the glass structure frozen-in after quenching is the structure recorded by the glass  
173 under high-pressure conditions.

174 Recovered samples are optically checked for the presence of crystals. Most of the obtained  
175 glasses were clear and transparent; however, several high-pressure samples exhibited  
176 blackening coloration indicating the presence of graphite. This is a currently known  
177 phenomenon during high-pressure piston-cylinder experiments [65-68]. The unavoidable  
178 presence of carbon in the sample prior to the experiment (i.e. capsule walls, glass chips or  
179 atmosphere) will reduce to graphite owing to the conditions that are not fully oxidising during  
180 high-pressure talc-Pyrex experiment [69-71]. Nonetheless, the presence of graphite is suggested  
181 not to affect the present results as C atoms are incorporated as free clusters in the glass voids.

### 182 2.3 Scanning Electron Microscopy with Energy Dispersive X-ray Spectroscopy and Laser 183 Ablation Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry

184 Major elements quantification was performed on a Scanning Electron Microscope JEOL JSM  
185 5800LV equipped with an SDD SAMx dispersive spectrometer (SEM-EDS, Institut des  
186 Matériaux de Nantes Jean Rouxel, IMN). Analytical conditions were 15 kV for voltage and 0.5  
187 nA for current. Acquisition were conducted on a  $20\ \mu\text{m}$  spot size in order to avoid Na loss under  
188 the electron beam. We acquired five to ten scans of 60 s on each 1 atm. glass samples pre-  
189 embedded in epoxy resin plug. The standards used for the different oxides are corundum for  
190  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , wollastonite for  $\text{SiO}_2$  and  $\text{CaO}$ , and  $\text{NaCl}$  for  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ .

191 The glass  $\text{B}_2\text{O}_3$  content was determined using Laser Ablation Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass  
192 Spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS, LPG) for providing more robust results than with the shortfall

193 obtained from SEM-EDS measurements. The spectrometer is an ArF excimer laser (193 nm,  
194 Analyte G2, Photon Machines) that is coupled to a quadrupole ICP-MS (Varian Bruker 820-  
195 MS). The ablations were performed in a HelEx II 2-Volume Cell with He as a carrier gas. We  
196 used a laser energy density of  $4.54 \text{ J.cm}^{-2}$  with a repetition rate of 10 Hz. All the analyses were  
197 performed in a spot mode with a circular spot size of 110  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter. At least five  
198 acquisitions were performed on each glass sample. Acquisition time was set to 30 s with points  
199 collected every  $\sim 0.25$  s (total number of points per analysis  $\sim 120$ ), preceded and followed by a  
200 30 s blank acquisition. We used the glasses investigated in Jolivet et al. [62] to calibrate the  
201 LA-ICP-MS signal: ISG, NH, LJ3 and LJ4 with 16.5, 15.1, 34.9 and 30.7 mol.%  $\text{B}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  
202 respectively.

#### 203 2.4 $^{11}\text{B}$ and $^{27}\text{Al}$ Solid State Nuclear Magnetic Resonance spectroscopy

204  $^{11}\text{B}$  and  $^{27}\text{Al}$  Solid State NMR was performed on a Bruker Avance III 500 MHz spectrometer  
205 (IMN) using a 2.5 mm Magic Angle Spinning (MAS) probe at the Larmor frequency of 160.46  
206 and 130.32 MHz, respectively. The  $^{11}\text{B}$  and  $^{27}\text{Al}$  spectra are referenced against  $\text{H}_3\text{BO}_3$  solution  
207 at 19.6 ppm and  $\text{Al}(\text{NO}_3)_3$  solution at 0 ppm, respectively. The glass powders were loaded into  
208  $\text{ZrO}_2$  rotors with Teflon caps. The MAS frequency was set to 20 kHz for  $^{11}\text{B}$  and 20 or 26 kHz  
209 for  $^{27}\text{Al}$  depending on the presence of high-coordinated Al species. The recycle delay was set  
210 to 5 s for  $^{11}\text{B}$  and 1 s for  $^{27}\text{Al}$ . All MAS spectra were acquired with a radio frequency field  
211 strength of 20 kHz, and single pulse excitation of  $\pi/12$  for both  $^{11}\text{B}$  and  $^{27}\text{Al}$ . Up to 512 and  
212 2048 scans were collected for  $^{11}\text{B}$  and  $^{27}\text{Al}$  respectively. All  $^{11}\text{B}$  spectra were processed prior  
213 to deconvolution for determining the  $N_4$  parameter: first, the probe  $^{11}\text{B}$  background signal is  
214 removed by subtracting an experimental spectrum of an empty rotor acquired at identical  
215 experimental conditions, and then the contribution of satellite transitions is removed from the  
216 central band, in accordance with the procedure described in Angeli et al. [2]. The  $^{11}\text{B}$  3Q-MAS  
217 spectra were acquired at a MAS frequency of 20 kHz and a recycle delay of 1 s. We used a 4

218 pulses sequence including Z filter. The 3Q excitation pulse length was 3.9  $\mu\text{s}$  for a r.f. field of  
219 140 kHz. For 3Q reconversion, we used a 12.5  $\mu\text{s}$  (1/4 of the MAS period) divergent DFS  
220 (Double Frequency Sweep) pulse from 100 kHz to 1.5 MHz using a r.f. field strength of 130  
221 kHz [72]. The  $^{11}\text{B}$  SQ-DQ (Single Quantum - Double Quantum) homonuclear correlation  
222 spectra were acquired using the BR2 $^{1/2}$  pulse scheme for dipolar recoupling [73]. The MAS  
223 frequency was set to 20 kHz and the recycle delay to 3 s. During recoupling we used  $\pi$ -pulse  
224 length of 50  $\mu\text{s}$  corresponding to r.f. field of 10 kHz (i.e. half of the MAS frequency), as required  
225 for the BR2 $^{1/2}$  scheme. The transmitter frequency (offset) was optimized to -6.7 ppm. We used  
226 a short excitation/reconversion time of 400  $\mu\text{s}$ . Prior to DQ (t1) evolution, we used a  $\pi$  selective  
227 pulse of 8  $\mu\text{s}$  sandwiched by two  $\tau$  intervals of 21  $\mu\text{s}$  in order to eliminate DQ coherences  
228 involving a single nucleus.  $\tau$  (calculated according to ref. [74]) ensures rotor synchronization  
229 (the delay between the end of the excitation and the start of the conversion of DQ coherences  
230 is a multiple of the MAS period). Between 40 and 64 slices were acquired in the indirect  
231 dimension for which 128 or 192 scans were co-added, depending on the samples.

## 232 2.5 $^{11}\text{B}$ MAS NMR fitting protocol

233 Fitting the  $^{11}\text{B}$  MAS NMR spectrum requires the combined knowledge of 1) the glass structure  
234 and 2) the interactions between nuclei. It is crucial to select the appropriate functions to  
235 accurately reproduce each boron environment. In other words, the shape of the fitting functions  
236 should be carefully chosen and optimized while considering all possible boron arrangements.  
237 This later point is still debated and there is only little agreement on  $^{11}\text{B}$  MAS NMR spectrum  
238 fitting through the literature. For instance, it is difficult to find a well-described methodology  
239 for  $^{11}\text{B}$  MAS NMR spectrum fitting as most authors do not go into too much details on this  
240 aspect. In the present study, we decided to follow the method presented in Angeli et al. [75]  
241 with minor adjustments to account for the differences in the chemical composition of the  
242 glasses.

243 In consistency with the literature data [2,75], we conducted the spectral decomposition with  
244 three or four components, using the DMfit software [76]. The effect of the EFG (Electric Field  
245 Gradient) distribution is well known and makes the line shape of quadrupolar nuclei  
246 asymmetrical. However, given the high symmetry of the boron environment in BO<sub>4</sub> units, the  
247 quadrupolar coupling constant ( $C_q$ , related to the EFG) is low [2,52,77], which induces that the  
248 line shape is almost symmetrical. Therefore, we used Gaussian line shape to reproduce the BO<sub>4</sub>  
249 environments that has been a commonly used solution for BO<sub>4</sub> fitting in previous works  
250 [41,62,78-81]. The BO<sub>4</sub> environment is a composition of several individual components for  
251 aluminoborosilicate glass compositions: BO<sub>4</sub>-SiO<sub>4</sub> and BO<sub>4</sub>-BO<sub>3</sub> bonding units [15,52,79,82].  
252 It should be emphasised that BO<sub>4</sub>-BO<sub>4</sub> and BO<sub>4</sub>-AlO<sub>4</sub> bonds as well as NBO on BO<sub>4</sub> units are  
253 not energetically favoured [2,15,30,83-87]. The proportion of BO<sub>4</sub>-SiO<sub>4</sub> and BO<sub>4</sub>-BO<sub>3</sub> bonding  
254 units depends on the K' value. With high K' value, all BO<sub>4</sub> units should be surrounded by four  
255 SiO<sub>4</sub> units, and the corresponding signal should appear around -1 ppm in the <sup>11</sup>B MAS NMR  
256 spectra. The replacement of a SiO<sub>4</sub> unit by a BO<sub>3</sub> unit induces a shift to higher values in  
257 chemical shift of the BO<sub>4</sub> signal in the <sup>11</sup>B MAS NMR spectra [52,60,88-89]. A reliable way to  
258 determine the presence of BO<sub>4</sub>-BO<sub>3</sub> bonding units is by performing <sup>11</sup>B SQ-DQ NMR  
259 acquisition that allows homonuclear correlations through a specific pulse sequence [74,82,90-  
260 91]. The obtained <sup>11</sup>B SQ-DQ spectra are provided in the Suppl. Mat. in Figure S1. The  
261 chemical shift ( $\delta_{iso}$ ) and the peak width (FWHM) corresponding to BO<sub>4</sub>(3Si,1B) bonding units  
262 can be obtained from a fit of the projection of the 2D spectra selected slices on the 1Q dimension  
263 [52,92] (F2 axis, see Suppl. Mat. Figures S1 to S3). It should be pointed out that the presence  
264 of BO<sub>4</sub>(2Si,2B) bonding unit is believed to be highly improbable given the relatively high K'  
265 values of the investigated glass compositions. The derived  $\delta_{iso}$  and FWHM parameters obtained  
266 from fitting the 1Q projection are then used (and fixed) to fit the 1D spectra with a first Gaussian  
267 line. The presence of another contribution at lower  $\delta_{iso}$  is then attributed to BO<sub>4</sub>(4Si,0B)

268 bonding units that is reproduced with another Gaussian line. For Ca21B18-0, the decomposition  
269 protocol with Gaussian lines to account for the presence of several BO<sub>4</sub> units ended up with an  
270 unreliable fit due to the low intensity of the BO<sub>4</sub>(4Si,0B) line. Therefore, we reproduced the  
271 BO<sub>4</sub> signal of Ca21B18-0 with a single Gaussian line. The parameter of this line turned out to  
272 be very close to the parameters of the BO<sub>4</sub>(3Si,1B) component obtained from the <sup>11</sup>B DQ-SQ  
273 spectrum. Thus, almost all of the BO<sub>4</sub> units are BO<sub>4</sub>(3Si,1B) units; although a low amount of  
274 BO<sub>4</sub>(4Si,0B) should still be present in the glass structure. The BO<sub>3</sub> region is a combination of  
275 two components historically associated with BO<sub>3</sub> in ring and in non-ring configuration [52,58-  
276 59]. However, an increasing number of studies [14-15,93] investigating the interconnection  
277 between boron species through homonuclear correlations suggested that the denomination  
278 “BO<sub>3</sub> ring” and “BO<sub>3</sub> non-ring” appears not fully adapted. Therefore, we have chosen to use  
279 the terms “BO<sub>3</sub>-1” and “BO<sub>3</sub>-2” to represent the two BO<sub>3</sub> environments. This terminology is  
280 preferred since it is evident that there are multiple BO<sub>3</sub> environments; however, the exact  
281 geometrical configuration of each BO<sub>3</sub> environment remains unclear. The shape of these BO<sub>3</sub>  
282 is also a source of discussion. Various studies are fitted the BO<sub>3</sub> region with function simulating  
283 a distribution of the crystalline environment using a Gaussian distribution for each of the  
284 parameters  $\delta_{iso}$ , C<sub>q</sub> and  $\eta_q$  (the asymmetry parameter), which has proven effective in modelling  
285 this region, despite the lack of a true physical meaning [52,75,94]. As actually no better line  
286 shape has been established, we decided to use the Gaussian distribution of parameters. This is  
287 implemented as ‘amorphous’ line shape in the DMfit program [76]. This may not be the most  
288 accurate function but with appropriate fitting protocol, one can achieve to have comparable fits  
289 along the study. For that, the 1D spectra have been fitted in parallel to the 2D (3QMAS) spectra  
290 to ensure that the used parameters are consistent in both cases. The fitting of the 2D <sup>11</sup>B 3QMAS  
291 spectra obtained on the ambient pressure samples are presented in Figure S4 of the Suppl. Mat..  
292 The  $\eta_q$  parameter has shown a limited influence on the fit results and was fixed to 0.2 for BO<sub>3</sub>-

293 1 and 0 for  $\text{BO}_3$ -2, without distribution. Error on  $^{11}\text{B}$  NMR fitting have been calculated using  
294 the Monte-Carlo method implemented in the DMfit program [76].

## 295 2.6 $^{27}\text{Al}$ MAS NMR fitting

296 The  $^{27}\text{Al}$  NMR spectra have been fitted with up to three components corresponding to  $\text{AlO}_4$ ,  
297  $\text{AlO}_5$  and  $\text{AlO}_6$  species, around 60, 30 and 0 ppm, respectively. Precisely, Ca-bearing glass  
298 spectra have been fitted with 3 components, and Na-bearing glass spectra with only two as no  
299  $\text{AlO}_6$  was found in these samples. In order to take into account the EFG distribution for Al  
300 nuclei, we used Czjzek line shape [95-96] implemented (as the ‘Cz simple’ model) in the DMfit  
301 program [76]. The complete fitting protocol will not be presented here as extensive work have  
302 been performed previously on  $^{27}\text{Al}$  solid-state NMR on amorphous solid [19,97-100].

## 303 **3 Results**

### 304 3.1 Ambient pressure $^{11}\text{B}$ MAS NMR spectra

305  $^{11}\text{B}$  MAS NMR spectra for the four pristine (i.e. ambient pressure synthesis, -0) glasses are  
306 presented along with the fitted components (and the residual from the fit) in Figure 1, subtracted  
307 from the stator and first satellite transition signals [2,75-76]. The  $^{11}\text{B}$  NMR spectra acquired at  
308 a 11.7 T magnetic field are characterised by a quasi-symmetric component centred around 0  
309 ppm in chemical shift, corresponding to the tetrahedral  $\text{BO}_4$  units that is partly overlapping with  
310 the asymmetric broad components corresponding to the planar triangles  $\text{BO}_3$  units between ~-  
311 5 and 20 ppm. At first sight, the two sets of spectra for Na-bearing glasses (Figure 1A and 1C)  
312 show an intense  $\text{BO}_4$  component as compared to the  $\text{BO}_3$  signal; where the intensities are more  
313 balanced between  $\text{BO}_3$  and  $\text{BO}_4$  in the sets of spectra for Ca-bearing glasses (Figure 1B and  
314 1D). This suggests that the proportion of  $\text{BO}_4$  is higher in sodic compositions, as compared to  
315 calcic compositions, as was previously observed in the literature for similar glass systems  
316 [9,101]. We can also observe clear differences in the shape of the spectra, and more precisely

317 the line shape of the  $\text{BO}_3$  region, varying as a function of the type and the content of modifier  
318 cation in the glass, as was previously observed in the literature [91,101-103]. Considering the  
319 variability in the  $\text{BO}_3$  line shape as a function of glass composition, it appears difficult to  
320 compare the line shape without relevant simulation of the  $\text{BO}_3$  frequency region. However, it  
321 seems at first sight that the proportion and line shape of the different  $\text{BO}_3$  species signal are  
322 also affected by the change in glass compositions, owing to the clear differences in the full  $\text{BO}_3$   
323 line shape frequency region.

### 324 3.2 $^{11}\text{B}$ MAS NMR spectra for samples synthesised under different pressure conditions

325 The  $^{11}\text{B}$  MAS NMR spectra obtained from the glass synthesised at different pressures are  
326 plotted in Figure 2. The spectra are normalised with respect to the area in the displayed figure  
327 window. Therefore, the change in spectrum area in Figure 2 is directly related to the species  
328 proportion change and therefore the  $N_4$  value (see Table 2). We clearly observe in Figure 2 that  
329 the  $\text{BO}_4$  peak area increases and the  $\text{BO}_3$  peak area decreases with pressure increase. It implies  
330 that the  $N_4$  increases with increasing pressure. This observation is in agreement with previously  
331 observed changes in the glass structure with pressure [34-35,47,51,54-55]. However, it seems  
332 that the change in spectrum area for Na22B23 is slower than for other samples. In Figure 2, we  
333 also observe a different behaviour as a function of the type of modifier cation. For instance, in  
334 Ca-bearing glass compositions (Figures 2B and 2D), the spectrum area change appears linear  
335 with increasing pressure. Conversely, we do not observe the same behaviour for Na-bearing  
336 compositions (Figures 2A and 2C). Whereas there is a clear difference in between the ambient  
337 and the 2.0 GPa pressure spectra, the intermediate sample spectra (from 0.5 to 1.5 GPa) seem  
338 to have nearly superimposable spectra suggesting the presence of a plateau in the boron  
339 coordination for Na-bearing glass compositions. We observe this unexplained behaviour for  
340 both Na22B23 and Na35B8 glass compositions suggesting that it is beyond any possible  
341 analytical error.

## 342 4 Discussion

### 343 4.1 Rationale for boron speciation at ambient pressure: Comparison with available models.

344 The parameters derived from the fitted spectra in Figure 1 are provided in Table 2. The first  
345 striking feature is the similarity in the line shape of the BO<sub>3</sub>-1 component for samples with the  
346 same modifier cation. In other words, the BO<sub>3</sub>-1 for the Na22B23-0 sample (Figure 1A) is very  
347 similar to the BO<sub>3</sub>-1 of the Na35B8-0 sample (Figure 1C); the BO<sub>3</sub>-1 of the Ca21B18-0 sample  
348 (Figure 1B) is very similar to the BO<sub>3</sub>-1 of the Ca33B11-0 sample (Figure 1D). In Table 2, we  
349 observe that the  $\delta_{\text{iso}}$  values are comparable for a given modifying cation (Na or Ca) and are not  
350 affected by the changes in R' value: with 17.4 ppm for both Ca21B18-0 and Ca33B11-0, and  
351 about 18.5 ppm for both Na22B23-0 and Na35B8-0. This latter point appears to suggest that  
352 BO<sub>3</sub>-1 local environment is more affected by the type of modifier cation present in the glass  
353 than by the change in R' value. On the other hand, the line shape of the BO<sub>3</sub>-2 environment  
354 seems to be less affected by the type of modifying cation than by the change in R' value. The  
355 BO<sub>3</sub>-1 is likely to be present in more depolymerized region of the glass (i.e. near modifier  
356 cations), whereas the BO<sub>3</sub>-2 is possibly located in mixed regions with less contact with Na<sup>+</sup> and  
357 Ca<sup>2+</sup> cations. However, we can observe a larger C<sub>q</sub> and higher  $\delta_{\text{iso}}$  for Na-bearing samples  
358 (>2700 kHz) than for Ca-bearing samples (~2600 kHz). The FWHM CS and FWHM C<sub>q</sub> appear  
359 to vary more with R' than with the cation type. For instance, the FWHM C<sub>q</sub> value changes from  
360 350 to 900 kHz in between the Na22B23-0 (R' = 0.7) and Na35B8-0 (R' = 2.7).

361 As observed from the data in Table 2, the BO<sub>4</sub> derived parameters (i.e. position and width) are  
362 not affected neither by the change in modifier cation nor by the R' values. On the contrary, the  
363 proportion of BO<sub>4</sub> over total boron changes strongly as a function of the modifier cation. We  
364 explained this difference by the fact that BO<sub>4</sub> units require charge compensation with either Na<sup>+</sup>  
365 or Ca<sup>2+</sup> in their close surrounding. Several studies have demonstrated that the proportion of BO<sub>4</sub>  
366 is maximized for Na-bearing glass compositions, and that the N<sub>4</sub> generally decreases with the

367 replacement of Na by another alkali or alkaline-earth cation [2,102-103]. A comparable  
368 behaviour is observed in the present study. For samples with near R' values (Na22B23-0 vs  
369 Ca21B18-0 and Na35B8-0 vs Ca33B11-0), the percentage of BO<sub>4</sub> in Ca-bearing glasses is  
370 roughly half the BO<sub>4</sub> percentage for Na-bearing glasses: 18% vs 41% for samples with low R';  
371 23% vs 47% for samples with high R'. A second information is the small change in the N<sub>4</sub> value  
372 when R' increases: from 41% to 47% for the Na-bearing samples; from 18% to 23% for the Ca-  
373 bearing ones. This was already observed for a large range of compositions [16,18,92] and was  
374 predicted by different structural models [8,17]. For comparison, the N<sub>4</sub> values obtained with  
375 two models [8,104] are provided in Table 3 along with the corresponding measured N<sub>4</sub>. The Du  
376 and Stebbins [8] model is based on the Dell model [17], and on multiple observations in the  
377 SiO<sub>2</sub>-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-B<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-K<sub>2</sub>O/CaO system and does not take into consideration the effectiveness of  
378 the charge compensation cations. Therefore, the model is not fully adapted to predict the N<sub>4</sub> for  
379 the Ca21B18-0 and Ca33B11-0 samples: 64% predicted versus 18% measured and 56%  
380 predicted versus 23% measured; respectively. For Na-bearing glass compositions, the  
381 calculated N<sub>4</sub> is in better agreement with the measured N<sub>4</sub> by <sup>11</sup>B MAS NMR: 61% predicted  
382 against 41% measured for Na22B23-0, and 54% predicted and 47% measured for Na35B8-0.

383 On the other hand, the study from Lu and co-authors [104] is based on analytical modelling  
384 over a large range of glass compositions. This led to the development of several models to  
385 interpret the glass structure from the glass major element composition. The model is based on  
386 R' and K' values with modified coefficients to consider: 1- Priority for charge compensation of  
387 the network former units; and 2- Capacity of charge compensation of the modifier alkali and  
388 alkaline-earth. It results in a better prediction of the N<sub>4</sub> values as observed in Table 3. The N<sub>4</sub>  
389 value prediction for low R' is close to the measured value: 24% predicted against 18% measured  
390 for Ca21B18-0, 45% predicted against 41% measured for Na22B23-0; however, the model fails  
391 to reproduce the measured N<sub>4</sub> values for high R' glasses: 46% predicted against 23% measured

392 for Ca33B11-0, 59% predicted against 47% measured for Na35B8-0. The results reveal notable  
393 differences between current models and the observed behaviour of boron speciation in these  
394 simple glass systems. Therefore, further development is required to make precise predictions  
395 of tetrahedral boron content, even for relatively simplistic compositions.

#### 396 4.2 Effect of pressure conditions on $^{11}\text{B}$ NMR spectra and boron coordination

397 Pressure increase does not drastically change the line shape of the spectra suggesting a small  
398 variation in the fit parameters. Nevertheless, a closer look at Figure 2B and 2C suggests that  
399 pressure is not affecting both  $\text{BO}_3\text{-1}$  and  $\text{BO}_3\text{-2}$  the same way. The effect of pressure in the  $\text{BO}_4$   
400 region is somehow as subtle as for the  $\text{BO}_3$ . We observe a small shift of the maximum toward  
401 lower chemical shift for all samples. This shift has already been documented and has been  
402 attributed to an increase in the proportion of  $\text{BO}_4(4\text{Si})$  with increasing pressure [56,105]. This  
403 behaviour is induced by the decrease in the proportion of  $\text{BO}_3$  and the avoidance between  $\text{BO}_4$   
404 tetrahedra [2,15,30], which makes  $\text{SiO}_4$  the available unit to link with.

405 We propagated the obtained fits for ambient pressure sample spectra to the spectra obtained for  
406 the high-pressure samples. The parameters were fixed for all components except for  $\text{BO}_4(4\text{Si})$   
407 species. During the fitting, only the peak intensities were allowed to vary. The results are shown  
408 in Figure 3 for the 2.0 GPa samples (the results for the fitting of the 3QMAS spectra are  
409 available in Suppl. Mat. in Figure S4 and S5). The derived parameters are provided in Table 2.  
410 As seen in Figure 3, the fit parameters reproduce adequately the spectra at 2.0 GPa with only  
411 little imperfections.

412 The  $N_4$  for all samples is calculated from results shown in Table 2 and plotted in Figure 4 as a  
413 function of pressure. The first evident feature in Figure 4 is the higher  $N_4$  values for Na-bearing  
414 samples as compared to Ca-bearing ones, regardless of the pressure conditions. This reflects  
415 the higher capacity for  $\text{Na}^+$  cations to compensate the excess negative charge on  $\text{BO}_4$  units

416 [2,102-103]. As observed for the ambient pressure glasses, the samples with high  $R'$  values  
417 exhibit higher  $N_4$  value as compared to samples with low  $R'$  values, again regardless of the  
418 pressure conditions. Whereas both types of glass compositions (Na- and Ca-bearing) have  
419 similar evolution with respect to the  $N_4$ , we observe a clear difference in the evolution of the  
420  $N_4$  with pressure as function of the type of the modifier cation. For Ca-bearing samples, the  $N_4$   
421 evolution is almost linear with pressure and is consistent with the spectrum line shape evolution  
422 shown in Figure 2. The  $N_4$  value at 2 GPa is almost twice the  $N_4$  value determined for ambient  
423 pressure glasses, regardless of  $R'$  value. The difference in the  $N_4$  values for low  $R'$  glasses and  
424 the high  $R'$  glasses is very small: 18% against 23% for Ca<sub>21</sub>B<sub>18</sub> and Ca<sub>33</sub>B<sub>11</sub> respectively for  
425 ambient pressure samples; and is almost constant with pressure increase: 37% against 44%,  
426 respectively at 2 GPa.

427 On the other hand, for Na-bearing samples, we observe a clear step with almost constant  $N_4$  for  
428 samples recovered from 0.5, 1, and 1.5 GPa, regardless of  $R'$  value. This was suspected from  
429 the spectrum comparison in Figure 2. Looking at the literature, there is no study that showed  
430 this behaviour. However, Smedskjaer and co-authors [33], who studied the evolution of the  $N_4$   
431 in mixed alkali-alkaline-earth borate glasses ( $\text{Na}_2\text{O}-\text{CaO}-\text{B}_2\text{O}_3$ ), reported a linear evolution of  
432 the  $N_4$  from ambient to 0.5 GPa, and a slowdown of the trend at 0.6 GPa. Several phenomena  
433 could be at the origin of the plateau observed for Na<sub>22</sub>B<sub>23</sub> and Na<sub>35</sub>B<sub>8</sub>, from a “simple”  
434 resistance of the glass to pressure ranging from 0.5 to 1.5 GPa, to a more complex structural  
435 adaptation to pressure without modification of the  $\text{BO}_4$  proportion. On the contrary to Ca-  
436 bearing samples, we observe a strong difference in the  $N_4$  behaviour for Na-bearing samples  
437 depending on  $R'$ . Between ambient pressure and 2.0 GPa, the  $N_4$  value ranges from 41% to  
438 48% for glasses with low  $R'$  value (Na<sub>22</sub>B<sub>23</sub>) and ranges from 47% to 71% for glasses with  
439 high  $R'$  values (Na<sub>35</sub>B<sub>8</sub>). As shown below, the glass structure is highly polymerised for low  
440  $R'$  Na-bearing samples (i.e. not enough  $\text{Na}^+$  cations for forming NBOs) and does not favour the

441 conversion of  $\text{BO}_3$  to  $\text{BO}_4$ . The  $\text{Na}_{35}\text{B}_8$  glass samples have initially much more  $\text{Na}^+$  cations  
442 that are available for the conversion of  $\text{BO}_3$  into  $\text{BO}_4$  units. With further pressure increase  
443 (above 2 GPa), it has been shown that the  $N_4$  value continues to increase [35,51,53]. However,  
444 as we showed for the  $\text{Na}_{22}\text{B}_{23}$  series, the pressure effect will be modulated by the capacity of  
445 the structure (i.e. the available  $\text{NBO}\dots\text{Na}^+$  that could be broken to charge compensate the  $\text{BO}_3$   
446 to  $\text{BO}_4$  transformation).

447 We plot in Figure 5 the variation in the percentage of each structural unit as a function of  
448 pressure. For each series, the four identified components are plotted along with the  
449 corresponding  $N_4$  values, except for the  $\text{Ca}_{21}\text{B}_{18}$  series where the  $N_4$  is directly extracted from  
450 the unique  $\text{BO}_4$  component. In Figure 5, we show that 1) the percentage of the  $\text{BO}_3$ -1 component  
451 is always decreasing and 2) the percentage of the  $\text{BO}_4$ (4Si) component is always increasing  
452 regardless of the glass composition ( $\text{Ca}_{21}\text{B}_{18}$  seems to make an exception). As mentioned  
453 previously, this increase in  $\text{BO}_4$ (4Si) component is likely to result from the general increase of  
454 the  $\text{BO}_4$  and decrease of the  $\text{BO}_3$  percentages. It would imply that globally less  $\text{BO}_4$ - $\text{BO}_3$  bonds  
455 are probable with increasing pressure and by extension less  $\text{BO}_4$ (3Si,1B). If we compare how  
456 the  $\text{BO}_4$  components are increasing at the expense of the  $\text{BO}_3$  with sodium or calcium, we  
457 observe two distinct behaviours. For Ca-bearing samples, we observe a systematic increase in  
458 the  $\text{BO}_4$ (3Si,1B) percentage with a balanced consumption of  $\text{BO}_3$ -1 and  $\text{BO}_3$ -2 for low-R'  
459 series, and a major decrease in the  $\text{BO}_3$ -1 percentage for high-R' series. For Na-bearing  
460 samples, the  $N_4$  increase seems to be related to the increase in the  $\text{BO}_4$ (4Si) percentage  
461 accompanied by a decrease in the  $\text{BO}_3$ -1 unit. We observe that  $\text{BO}_3$ -2 species remain almost  
462 constant at pressure  $\geq 0.5$  GPa. Except for  $\text{Na}_{35}\text{B}_8$  samples, the SQ-DQ spectra did not reveal  
463 the presence of  $\text{BO}_4$ - $\text{BO}_4$  correlations (see Suppl. Mat. Figure S1). The spectrum comparison  
464 between the  $\text{Na}_{35}\text{B}_8$  glasses at ambient pressure and 2.0 GPa showed the presence of  $\text{BO}_4$ - $\text{BO}_4$   
465 correlations at the expense of  $\text{BO}_3$ - $\text{BO}_3$  units, which is not seen in any other glass series.

### 466 4.3 Effect of pressure: Evolution of the aluminium environment

467 The general behaviour of cations under compression is an increase in their coordination number,  
468 and aluminium does not make exception [42-48]. Many studies focussed on the change in the  
469 aluminium environment in glass under extreme conditions (i.e. pressure), and revealed that  
470  $\text{AlO}_4$  network former units are reorganised into  $\text{AlO}_5$  and  $\text{AlO}_6$  units [8,45,47,55,106-107].  
471 From the literature, two interesting features are noteworthy for our study. First of all, the role  
472 of  $\text{AlO}_5$  and  $\text{AlO}_6$  is very debated, molecular dynamics simulations suggest that they are even  
473 less prone to coordinate NBO than  $\text{AlO}_4$  [22-24]. As those species most likely require less  
474 charge-compensation by the electropositive network modifiers [23,108-109], the  $\text{Na}^+$  and  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$   
475 present on the  $\text{AlO}_4$  are then liberated conjointly with the Al coordination number increase.  
476 Secondly, as mentioned before for boron, in Na-rich glasses,  $\text{AlO}_4$  is very stable and the  
477 evolution of the average Al coordination number with pressure is much slower than in alkaline-  
478 earth glasses [6-7,45,49,108,110-111].

479 The calculated average coordination number calculated from  $^{27}\text{Al}$  fit is displayed in Table 3,  
480 along with the calculated fraction of  $\text{AlO}_4$  in the glass ( $[\text{AlO}_4] = {}^4\text{Al} \times 2 \times [\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3]$  where  ${}^4\text{Al}$  is  
481 the proportion of  $\text{AlO}_4$  obtained from fit). A fit for ambient pressure glass samples is shown in  
482 Figure S6, and a synthetic table of the fitting parameters is presented in Table S7 both in the  
483 Suppl. Mat.. We observe that the average coordination number ( $\text{Al}_{\text{CN}}$ ) is greater for Ca-bearing  
484 than for Na-bearing sample both for ambient pressure and high-pressure. In details, it appears  
485 that high R' glasses (i.e. Na35B8 and Ca33B11) have a faster increase in the average  $\text{Al}_{\text{CN}}$  with  
486 pressure, although the increase is limited for Na-bearing glass compositions. This behaviour  
487 was expected as sodium tends to stabilize tetrahedral units.

### 488 4.4 Changes in the glass polymerisation as a function of pressure

489 The measured  $BO_4$  and  $AlO_4$  units in glasses are the only species requiring charge compensation  
490 by available  $Na^+$  or  $Ca^{2+}$  cations. The excess modifier cations ( $Na^+$  and  $Ca^{2+}$ ) disrupts the glass  
491 structure to form NBOs and thus decreases the glass polymerisation. The NBO per formula unit  
492 formed with these excess cations is calculated with the following equation:

$$493 \quad [NBO] = 2 \times ([Na_2O] + [CaO]) - [AlO_4] - [BO_4] \quad (1)$$

494 The results are provided in Table 3. We plot in Figure 6 the calculated NBO per formula unit  
495 as a function of mol.%  $BO_4$  corresponding to the network forming unit requiring charge  
496 compensation. We identified two cases: either there is only conversion from  $BO_3$  to  $BO_4$  unit,  
497  $Na^+$  or  $Ca^{2+}$  are scavenged from NBO sites (in the vicinity of  $BO_3$  species) and the trend slope  
498 will be close to -1; or part of the charge compensating cations involved in the conversion from  
499  $BO_3$  to  $BO_4$  unit are also coming from the conversion of  $AlO_4$  to  $AlO_5$  unit implying the release  
500 of  $Na^+$  or  $Ca^{2+}$  cation and the trend slope will be higher than -1.

501 In Figure 6, the glass compositions with high  $R'$  value (Na35B8 and Ca33B11) are lying on the  
502 upper part of the plot (i.e. high NBO concentration) whereas the glass compositions with low  
503  $R'$  value (Na22B23 and Ca21B18) are on the bottom part of the plot (i.e. low NBO  
504 concentration). The Na22B23 glass series exhibits a very small dispersion on the mol.%  $BO_4$   
505 and a slope of -0.95. This glass composition is the most polymerised with high  $N_4$  value at  
506 ambient pressure and only a few NBO available; explaining its position at the bottom right of  
507 Figure 6. However, as mentioned earlier, the  $N_4$  increase for this series is limited (from 41% to  
508 48% between ambient and 2.0 GPa pressure). As observed from Table 3, the change in the  $Al_{CN}$   
509 is very low with increasing pressure for Na-bearing glass compositions. It implies that almost  
510 no charge compensator is released from the  $AlO_4$  to  $AlO_5$  transformation and  $Na^+$  cations stay  
511 as charge compensators for  $AlO_4$  units with increasing pressure. From those considerations, the

512 increase in the  $N_4$  value with increasing pressure is only due to the scavenging of  $\text{Na}^+$  cations  
513 associated to NBOs.

514 By opposition, for Ca33B11 glass series (slope near -0.5) there is a release of charge  
515 compensators from  $\text{AlO}_4$  units that convert into  $\text{AlO}_5$  units. The  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  release partly compensates  
516 the conversion from  $\text{BO}_3$  to  $\text{BO}_4$  units. In addition, it also points out that half of the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  used  
517 for the charge compensation of the newly formed  $\text{BO}_4$  units is coming from NBO sites. The  
518 second half is released from  $\text{AlO}_4$  units converted into  $\text{AlO}_5$  units.. As described before, the  
519  $\text{AlO}_4$  compensation by alkaline-earth cations is not very efficient and a non-negligible  
520 proportion of  $\text{AlO}_5$  (to a lesser extent  $\text{AlO}_6$ ) is identified in the ambient pressure glass. The  
521 pressure increase will further favour the  $\text{AlO}_4$  to  $\text{AlO}_5$  and  $\text{AlO}_6$  promotion for Ca33B11  
522 glasses. Surprisingly, this mechanism does not seem to apply for the Ca21B18 glass series  
523 showing a slope of -0.87. It indicates that more NBOs are used to compensate for the formation  
524 of  $\text{BO}_4$  from  $\text{BO}_3$  species. Thus, the conversion from  $\text{AlO}_4$  to  $\text{AlO}_5$  and the accompanied  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$   
525 release does not seem to be efficient. This behaviour is somewhat unexpected given that the  
526 Ca21B18 glass series has fewer NBOs available than the Ca33B11 series.

527 The method used to represent the evolution of  $\text{BO}_4$  content as a function of the NBO content  
528 when pressure is increased is similar to that proposed by Bista and co-authors [34-35], who  
529 plotted the proportion of  $\text{AlO}_4$  against the proportion of  $\text{BO}_4$ . In their representation, a -1 slope  
530 indicates that the cations released by the transformation of  $\text{AlO}_4$  to  $\text{AlO}_5$  with pressure are  
531 completely compensating for the formation of  $\text{BO}_4$ . The slope becomes steeper when the  
532 formation of  $\text{BO}_4$  is slower than the decrease of the  $\text{AlO}_4$  content. This indicates that the  
533 released cations are available to form NBOs. However, representing a species against the NBO  
534 content makes it more general. This approach can be applied to other cationic species, such as  
535  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Zr}^{4+}$ , or  $\text{Fe}^{2+/3+}$ , which may also undergo significant modifications under pressure [112-  
536 115].

#### 537 4.5 Implications for aluminoborosilicate glass properties

538 The results presented here display a global decrease of the NBO per formula unit, pointing  
539 towards an increase in the glass polymerization with increasing pressure. This behaviour is  
540 explained by the conversion of  $\text{BO}_3$  into  $\text{BO}_4$  species being faster than the  $\text{AlO}_4$  to  $\text{AlO}_5$  and  
541  $\text{AlO}_6$  conversion. Indeed, as the first phenomena is “consuming” NBO (for charge  
542 compensation), and the second is releasing modifying cations, the extent of one over the other  
543 is the main driver for polymerisation or depolymerisation upon pressure. The observed increase  
544 in  $N_4$  value with increasing pressure has been shown by previous studies [34-38,47,51-53,55].  
545 For the purpose of nuclear matrix durability, the increase in  $N_4$  is beneficial as it corresponds  
546 to a decrease in the NBO proportion and thus to an increase in the glass polymerisation [36,53].  
547 However, we show that the behaviour is not the same depending on the type of cation involved.  
548 For instance, in the case of Ca-bearing glasses we show that the  $N_4$  increase is compensated by  
549 Ca coming from the NBO sites. It is thus possible to define a precise starting chemical  
550 composition in order to obtain specific properties after synthesis at high-pressure. Structural  
551 properties tuning with pressure can be of great interest in the case of nuclear waste  
552 immobilisation in glasses.

553 Most of the studies we have conducted recently focused on the incorporation of halogens and  
554 merely addressed the combined effect of pressure and volatile dissolution in the glass [40-41].  
555 In fact, both parameters are affecting the glass structure. Morizet and co-authors [39,57]  
556 demonstrated that there is gradual decrease in the NBO concentration with the incorporation of  
557 iodine at constant pressure. Therefore, the combined effect: pressure increase and volatile  
558 incorporation; could induce an even better durability for aluminoborosilicate glass. It remains  
559 to be determined whether both effects will combine or one will dominate. Nevertheless, the  
560 present study provides a strong basis for future work on the volatile dissolution mechanisms  
561 and impact on glass structure, as it extends the range of acceptable glass compositions for

562 nuclear waste incorporation (actually limited to:  $B_2O_3 < 15$  mol.%,  $SiO_2 \sim 50$  mol.%,  $Al_2O_3 \sim 5$ -  
563 10 mol.%,  $Na_2O+CaO \sim 30$  mol.%).

## 564 **5 Conclusion**

565 Two series of aluminoborosilicate glass containing either Ca or Na were synthesized under  
566 variable pressure conditions (ambient to 2.0 GPa) and characterized by  $^{11}B$  and  $^{27}Al$  solid-state  
567 NMR. The effects of pressure and modifier cation (Ca or Na) as well as changes in  $R'$  value  
568 were investigated. We modelled  $^{11}B$  spectra using up to four components corresponding to  $BO_3$ -  
569 1,  $BO_3$ -2,  $BO_4(1B,3Si)$ , and  $BO_4(4Si)$ , and we successfully propagated the fit from the ambient  
570 pressure to the high-pressure samples. The calculated  $N_4$  higher in Na-bearing than Ca-bearing  
571 samples suggests that  $Na^+$  is a better cation than  $Ca^{2+}$  for compensating the negative charge on  
572  $BO_4$  units, regardless of the pressure. The proportion of  $BO_4$  in Ca-bearing glasses increases  
573 linearly with pressure, reaching twice the amount at 2 GPa compared to atmospheric pressure.  
574 In Na-bearing glasses, a not-yet explained plateau of  $N_4$  values is observed between 0.5 and 1.5  
575 GPa, probably induced by a resistance of the glass for reorganisation at such pressure range.  
576 For glasses with similar modifier cations, it was observed that samples with high  $R'$  values had  
577 a higher  $N_4$  compared to samples with low  $R'$  values, regardless of the pressure. The percentage  
578 of  $BO_4(4Si)$  always increases with pressure, which is consistent with previous studies. The  
579 evolution of the components suggests that pressure is affecting  $BO_3$ -1 and  $BO_3$ -2 differently.  
580  $BO_3$ -1 may be present in more depolymerized regions near modifier cations, while  $BO_3$ -2 may  
581 be present in mixed regions, possibly less in the direct environment of  $Na^+$  and  $Ca^{2+}$  cations.  
582 The  $^{27}Al$  NMR analysis revealed that Na greatly stabilises  $AlO_4$ , and that the average  
583 coordination number remains relatively constant with pressure in these glasses. However, Ca-  
584 bearing samples exhibit a higher proportion of highly coordinated  $Al^{3+}$  cations, and the average  
585 coordination number increases more significantly in Ca-bearing glasses. These findings are  
586 discussed in terms of the proportion of NBO per formula unit, which decreases as pressure

587 increases. This is of significant interest in the production of durable materials such as nuclear  
588 waste glasses.

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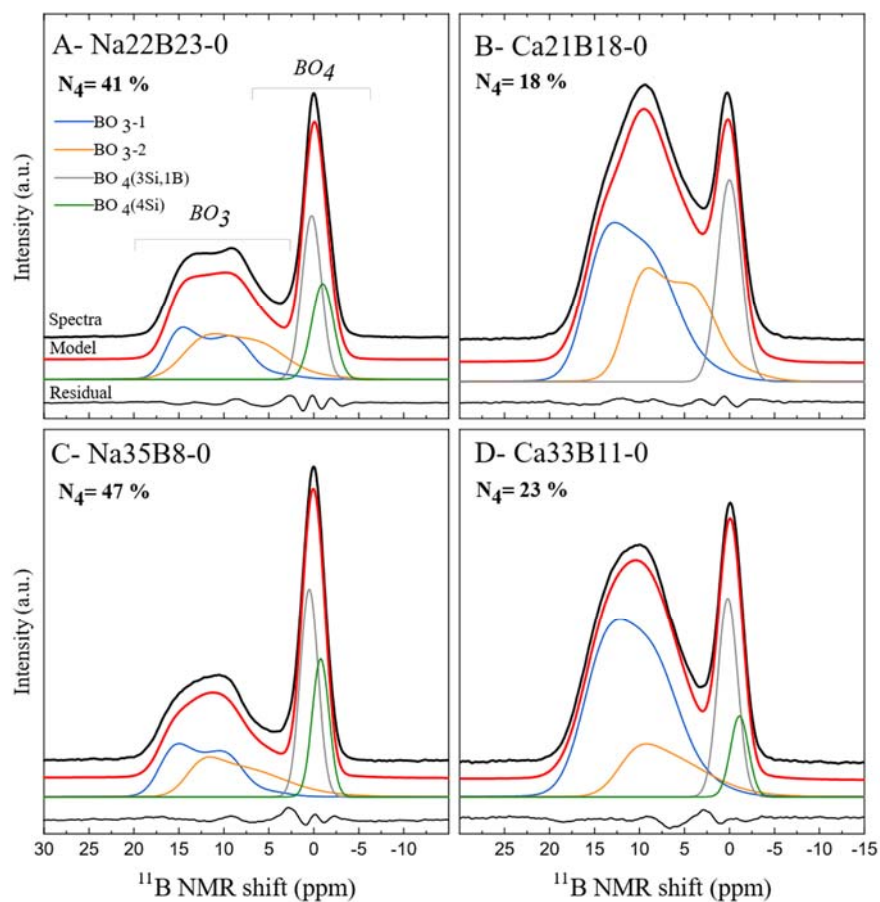
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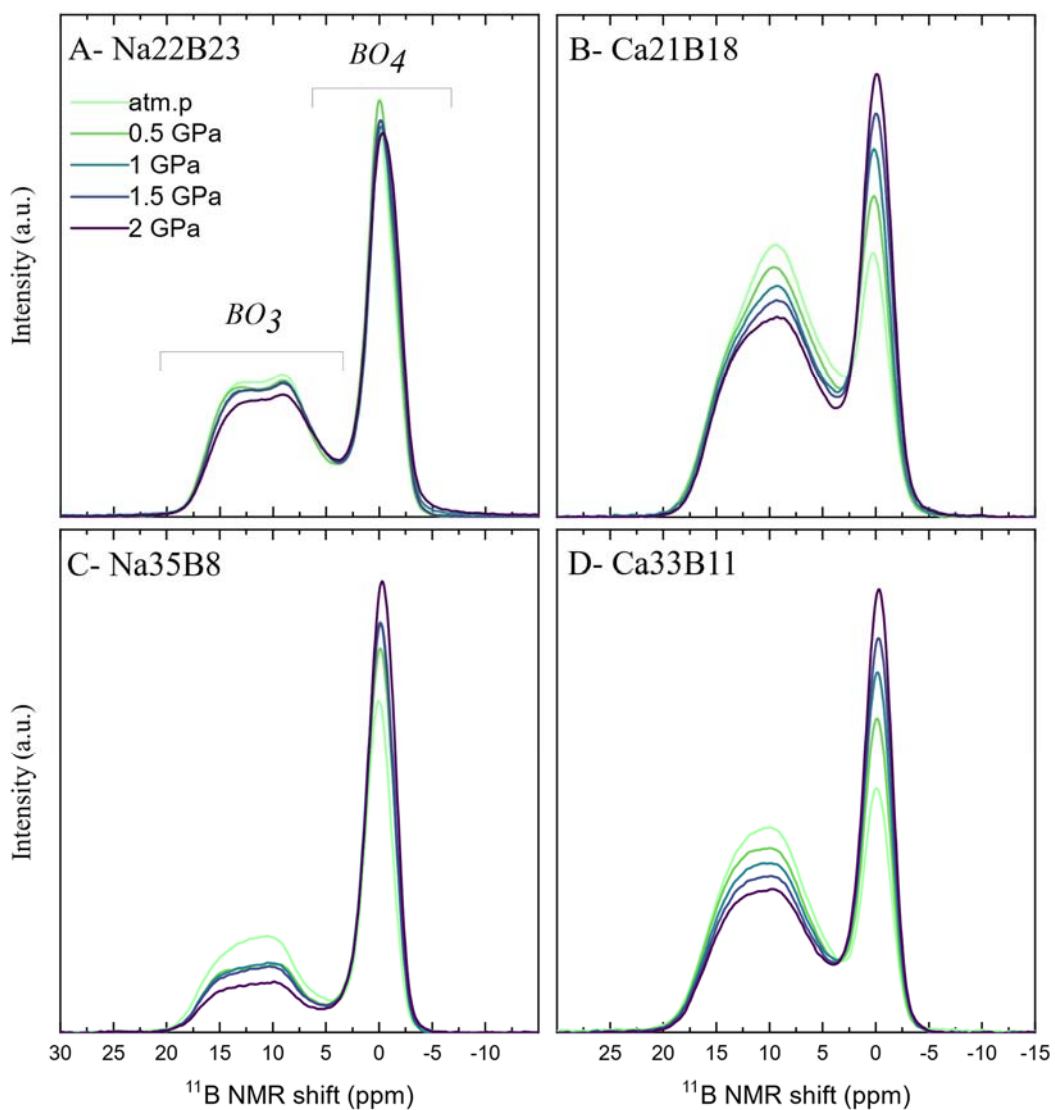
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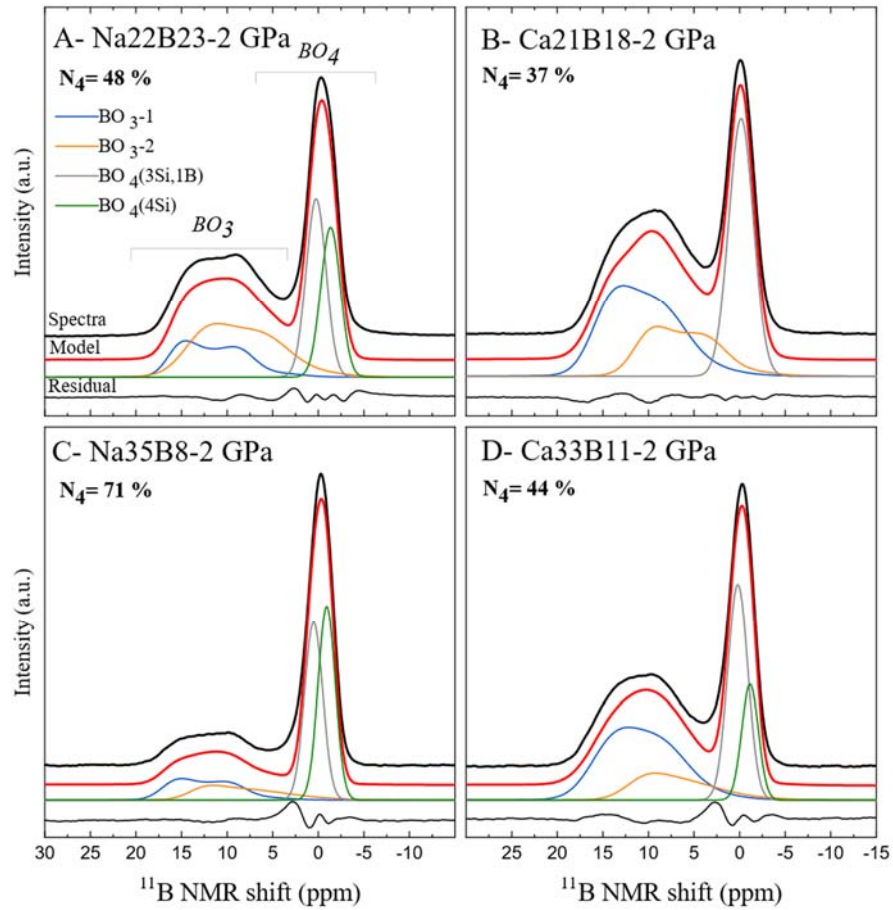
932

933 Figure 1:  $^{11}\text{B}$  MAS NMR fitting results for samples recovered from atmospheric pressure  
 934 experiments. Fits are made with 4 components accounting for  $\text{BO}_{3-1}$ ,  $\text{BO}_{3-2}$ ,  $\text{BO}_4(1\text{B},3\text{Si})$ ,  
 935  $\text{BO}_4(4\text{Si})$ , except for Ca<sub>21</sub>B<sub>18</sub>. Result values are presented in Table 2.



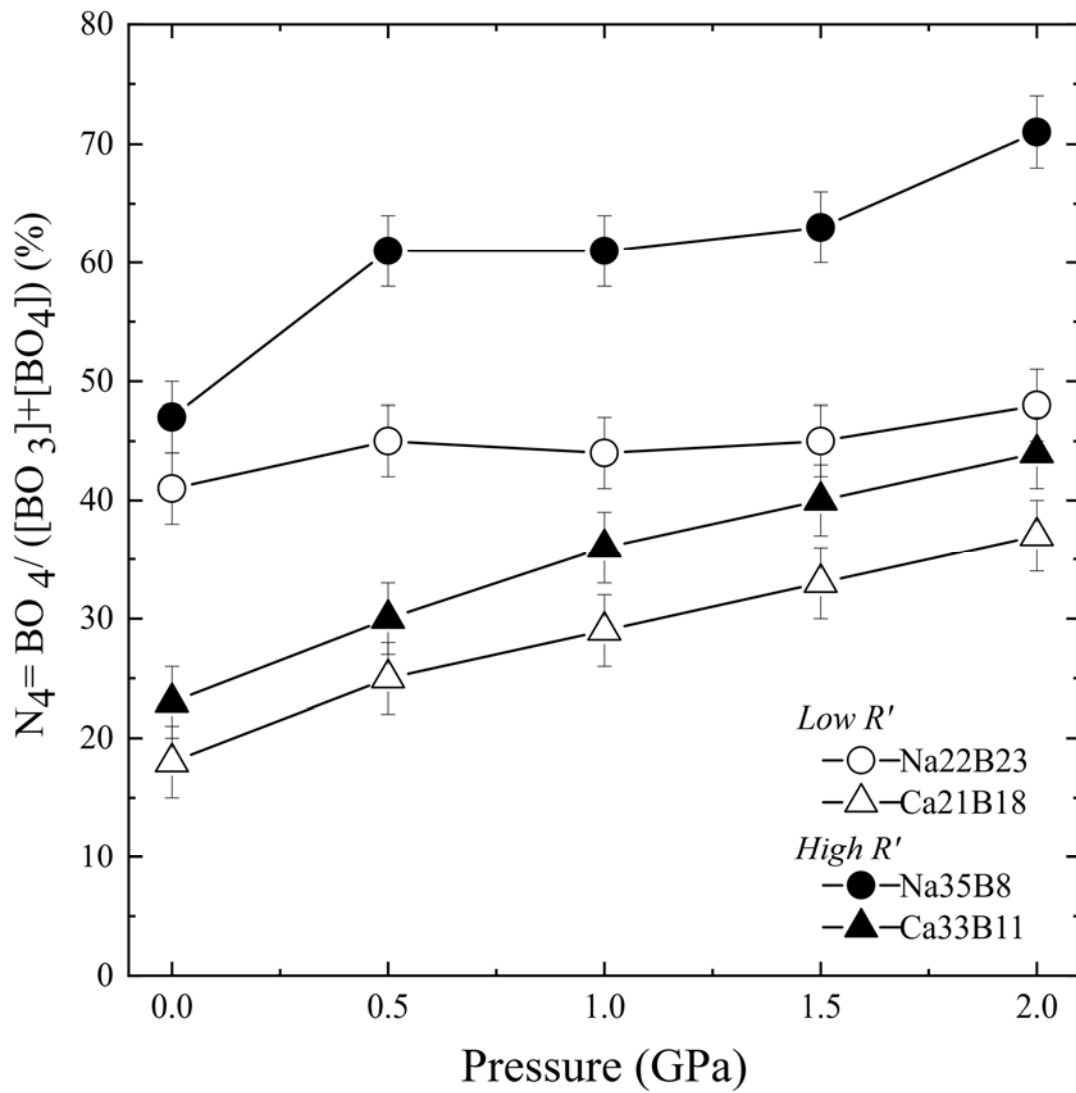
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937 Figure 2: Superposition of the (area-normalized)  $^{11}\text{B}$  MAS NMR spectra. The atmospheric  
 938 pressure samples have higher  $\text{BO}_3$  and lower  $\text{BO}_4$  than samples recovered from 2 GPa.



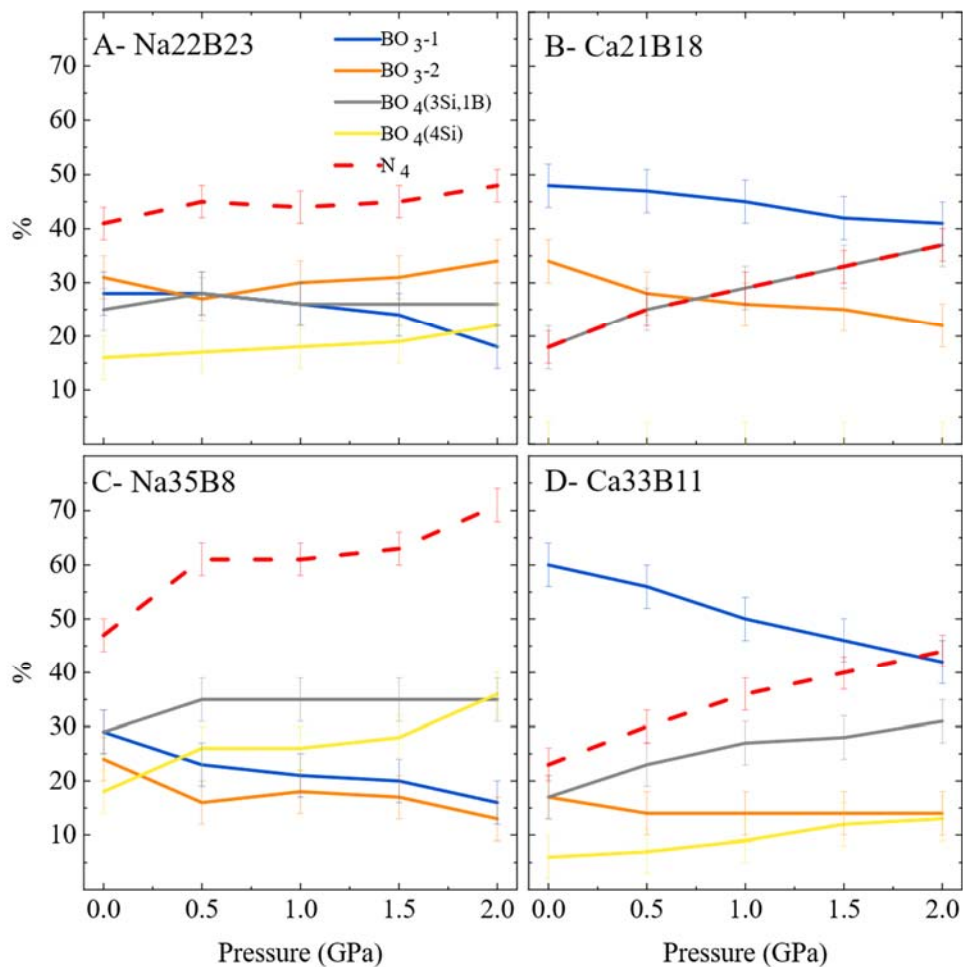
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940 Figure 3:  $^{11}\text{B}$  MAS NMR fitting results for samples recovered from 2 GPa. Fits are made with  
 941 4 components accounting for  $\text{BO}_{3-1}$ ,  $\text{BO}_{3-2}$ ,  $\text{BO}_4(1\text{B},3\text{Si})$ ,  $\text{BO}_4(4\text{Si})$ , except for Ca<sub>21</sub>B<sub>18</sub>.  
 942 Result values are presented in Table 2.



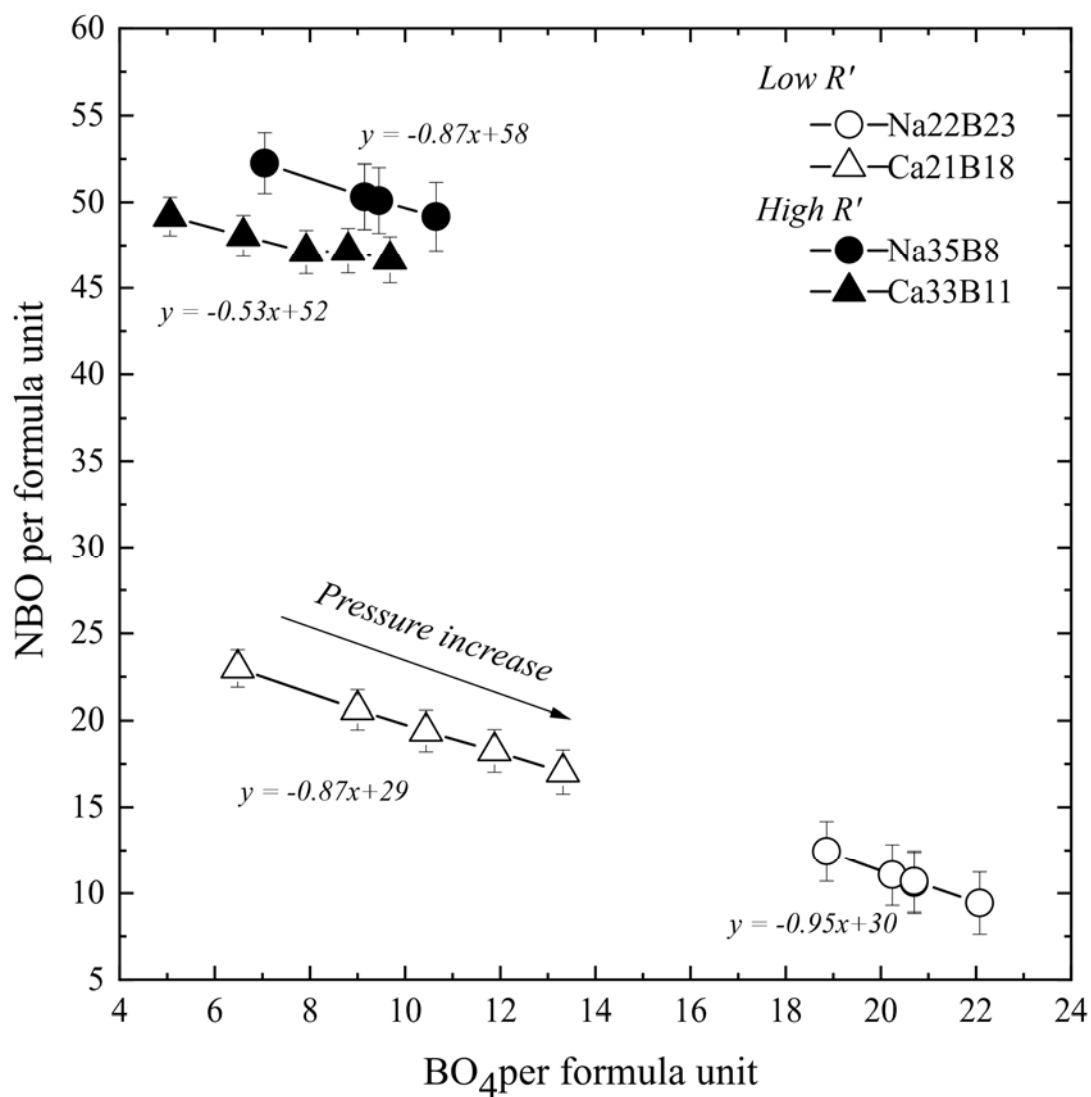
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944 Figure 4: The fraction of four-coordinated boron ( $N_4$ ) plotted against the pressure. Open  
 945 symbols stands for the low- $R'$  samples, full symbols for high- $R'$  samples. Na-bearing samples  
 946 are plotted with circle and Ca-bearing samples with triangles. Error on  $N_4$  measurement is  
 947 estimated to  $\pm 3$  in %, see Table 2.



948

949 Figure 5: Results from fits plotted as the proportion of components ( $\text{BO}_3\text{-1}$ ,  $\text{BO}_3\text{-2}$ ,  $\text{BO}_4(1\text{B},3\text{Si})$   
 950 and  $\text{BO}_4(4\text{Si})$ ) against the pressure. The calculated  $\text{N}_4$  is plotted in bold dashed line. Values are  
 951 presented in Table 2. Error on  $\text{N}_4$  measurement and the component proportion is estimated to  $\pm$   
 952 3 in % and to  $\pm 2$  in %, respectively, see Table 2.



953

954 Figure 6: The calculated proportion of non-bridging oxygen (NBO) plotted against the fraction  
 955 of four-coordinated boron ( $N_4$ ). Open symbols stands for the low- $R'$  samples, full symbols for  
 956 high- $R'$  samples. Na-bearing samples are plotted with circle and Ca-bearing samples with  
 957 triangles. Error on values have been calculated from errors on  $N_4$ ,  $Al_{CN}$  and composition. Error  
 958 bars for the  $BO_4$  are within the symbol size.

959

960

961 **TABLES**

962

963 Table 1: Major element compositions and experimental conditions for aluminoborosilicate  
 964 glasses.

Sample	Major elements in mol.% <sup>a</sup>					R' <sup>b</sup>	K' <sup>b</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		
Na22B23- 0	49.0(2)	23.0(1)	6.2(1)		21.7(3)	0.7	1.7
Ca21B18- 0	55.0(4)	18.0(7)	6.3(1)	20.7(2)		0.9	2.3
Na35B8-0	51.4(2)	7.5(9)	5.8(1)		35.3(4)	2.7	3.9
Ca33B11- 0	50.1(3)	11.0(5)	6.1(1)	32.8(1)		1.9	2.9

965

966 a The major element concentrations have been determined for the glasses obtained at ambient pressure and are  
 967 reported in ref. [61]. The SiO<sub>2</sub>, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and Na<sub>2</sub>O/CaO have been determined by SEM EDS measurements and the  
 968 B<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> has been measured using LA ICP MS. The error is reported between brackets and corresponds to the  
 969 standard deviation derived on several measurements. The details of the analytical conditions can be found in ref.  
 970 [61].

971 b The R' is determined as follow  $[Na_2O]+[CaO]/[B_2O_3]+[Al_2O_3]$ ; the K' corresponds to the  
 972  $[SiO_2]/[B_2O_3]+[Al_2O_3]$  ratio.

973

974 Table 2: <sup>11</sup>B MAS NMR fitting results

Sample	Pres sure (GP a)	BO <sub>3</sub> -1 <sup>a</sup>					BO <sub>3</sub> -2 <sup>a</sup>					BO <sub>4</sub> (3Si,1B) <sup>b</sup>			BO <sub>4</sub> (4Si) <sup>b</sup>			N <sub>4</sub>	
		δ <sub>iso</sub> (pp m)	FWH M CS (ppm )	C q (k H z)	FWH M Cq (kHz )	%	δ <sub>iso</sub> °	FW HM CS	C q	FWH M Cq	%	δ <sub>iso</sub>	Wid th (pp m)	%	δ <sub>iso</sub>	Wi dth	%		
Na <sub>2</sub> 2B2 3	-	0.00				2				3			2					1	4
	0	01				8				1			5	-1	2.8			6	1
	-	0.5				2				2			2					1	4
	1		18.			8	1		2	7			8	-1.1	2.7			7	5
	-	1	2	2.5	26	250	2	5.	5.1	7	350	3	0.2	2.6				1	4
	2					6	9		4	4		0			-1.2	2.8		8	4
	-	1.5				2			1	3		3						1	4
3					4				1		1			-1.2	2.6		9	5	
-	2				1				3		2						2	4	
4					8				4		4			-1.4	2.5		2	8	
Ca <sub>2</sub> 1B1 8	-	0.00				4						3						1	4
	0	01				8						4	0.0	3.1				8	8
	-	0.5				4						2						2	2
	1		17.			7	1		2	8		8	0.0	3.1				5	5
	-	1	4	4.1	26	444	4	3.	4.0	6	270	2	0.0	3.1				2	2
	2					5	0		2	2		6						9	9
	-	1.5				4			3	3		2						3	3
3					2				5		5	-0.1	3.2				3	3	
-	2				4				2		2						3	3	
4					1				2		2	-0.2	3.2				7	7	
Na <sub>3</sub> 5B8	-	0.00				2						2						1	4
	0	01				9						4						8	7
	-	0.5				2						1						3	6
	1		18.			3	1		2	6		6						5	1
	-	1	7	3.0	25	200	2	5.	3.5	7	900	1	0.5	2.4				3	6
	2					1	7		5	5		8						5	1
	-	1.5				2			0	1		1						3	6
3					0				7		7						5	3	
-	2				1				1		3						3	7	
4					6				3		3						5	1	
Ca <sub>3</sub> 3B1 1	-	0.00				6						1						1	4
	0	01				0						7						7	3
	-	0.5				5						1						2	3
	1		17.			6	1		2	4		4						3	0
	-	1	4	5.0	26	300	5	3.	4.4	5	900	1	0.2	2.6				2	3
	2					0	4		6	6		4						7	6
	-	1.5				4				1		1						2	4
3					6				4		4						8	0	
-	2				4				1		1						3	4	
4					2				4		4						1	4	

975 a The asymmetry parameter (ηq) were set to 0.2 and 0.0 for BO<sub>3</sub>-1 and BO<sub>3</sub>-2 lines, respectively. In both cases,  
976 no distribution of ηq was considered.

977 b Quadrupolar coupling constants (Cq) were only determined for the BO<sub>3</sub>. The Cq for the tetrahedral BO<sub>4</sub> units  
978 are very small, therefore we used Gaussian peak to simulate the line shape.

979 Estimated uncertainty: ±0.5ppm for δ<sub>iso</sub> and FWHM CS, ±200 kHz for Cq, ±100 kHz for FWHM Cq  
980 (except for FWHM Cq = 900 kHz where the error bar estimated is ±300 kHz), and ±0.3 ppm for the  
981 width. While these uncertainties provide a general sense of the data spread based on the adopted fitting  
982 protocol, further investigation may be required for a more rigorous error analysis. Errors on each  
983 component value is calculated less than ±2 in %, and error on N<sub>4</sub> is calculated less than ±3 in %, both  
984 from the Monte Carlo error analysis in the DMfit software [76].  
985

986

987 Table 3: Comparison of the measured N<sub>4</sub> with calculation from models, proportions of AlO<sub>4</sub>,  
 988 BO<sub>4</sub> and NBO

Sample	Pressure (GPa)	N <sub>4</sub> model <i>Du and Stebbins, 2005a</i>	N <sub>4</sub> model <i>Lu et al., 2021</i>	Measured N <sub>4</sub>	BO <sub>4</sub> <sup>a</sup> mol.%	Al <sub>CN</sub> <sup>b</sup>	AlO <sub>4</sub> <sup>a</sup> mol.%	Calculated NBO per formula unit <sup>c</sup>
Na22B23	0	61	45	41	18.9	4.02	12.1	12.4
	1			45	20.7	4.02	12.1	10.6
	2			44	20.2	4.02	11.9	11.3
	3			45	20.7	4.03	12.0	10.7
	4			48	22.1	4.04	11.9	9.4
Ca21B18	0	64	24	18	6.5	4.06	11.9	23.0
	1			25	9	4.08	11.8	20.6
	2			29	10.4	4.10	11.6	19.4
	3			33	11.9	4.14	11.3	18.3
	4			37	13.3	4.16	11.0	17.0
Na35B8	0	54	59	47	7.1	4.03	11.3	52.3
	1			61	9.2	4.04	11.1	50.3
	2			61	9.2	4.04	11.1	50.3
	3			63	9.5	4.05	11.1	50.1
	4			71	10.7	4.08	10.8	49.2
Ca33B11	0	56	46	23	5.1	4.08	11.4	49.2
	1			30	6.6	4.11	11.0	48.0
	2			36	7.9	4.15	10.6	47.1
	3			40	8.8	4.25	9.6	47.2
	4			44	9.7	4.29	9.3	46.7

989 a AlO<sub>4</sub> % =  $4Al_2O_3$  with associated error better than ±0.6; BO<sub>4</sub> % =  $N_4 \cdot 2[B_2O_3]$  with associated error  
 990 better than ±0.8.

991 b Average aluminium coordination number Al<sub>CN</sub> =  $4.[^4Al] + 5.[^5Al] + 6.[^6Al]$  with associated error better than  
 992 ±0.05.

993 c Calculated NBO content per formula unit:  $NBO = 2 \cdot [Na_2O + CaO] - [AlO_4 + BO_4]$  with associated error better  
 994 than ±2 in %.

995

996