

# The origin of Zn isotope fractionation in sulfides

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5	The origin of Zn Isotope Fractionation in Sulfides
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#### **Abstract:**

Isotope fractionation of Zn between aqueous sulfide, chloride, and carbonate species  $(Zn^{2+}, Zn(HS)_2, Zn(HS)_3^-, Zn(HS)_4^{2-}, ZnS(HS)^-, ZnCl^+, ZnCl_2, ZnHCO_3^+, and ZnCO_3)$  was investigated using *ab initio* methods. Only little fractionation is found between the sulfide species, whereas carbonates are up to 1‰ heavier than the parent solution. At pH>3 and under atmospheric-like  $CO_2$  pressures, isotope fractionation of Zn sulfides precipitated from sulfidic solutions is affected by aqueous sulfide species and the  $\delta^{66}Zn$  of sulfides reflect these in the parent solutions. Under high  $P_{CO_2}$  conditions, carbonate species become abundant. In high  $P_{CO_2}$  conditions of hydrothermal solutions, Zn precipitated as sulfides is isotopically nearly unfractionated with respect to a low-pH parent fluid. In contrast, negative  $\delta^{66}Zn$  down to at least -0.6% can be expected in sulfides precipitated from solutions with pH>9. Zinc isotopes in sulfides and rocks therefore represent a potential indicator of mid to high pH in ancient hydrothermal fluids.

**Keywords:** Zinc, ligand, ocean, quantum chemical calculation, isotope fractionation

# 1. INTRODUCTION

40

41 Measurements of isotopic variations of Zn with a precision routinely better than 50 ppm 42 have been reported in natural samples (see Albarede, 2004; Cloquet, 2008 for reviews). 43 Presently, the interpretation of these isotopic variations is limited by our knowledge of 44 the fractionation involved during chemical reactions, especially for species relevant to 45 the present and ancient oceans, such as Zn chloride and Zn sulfides. Isotope 46 fractionations created in Zn(II)-Zn(II) ligand exchange reactions (Maréchal and Albarède, 2002; Fuiii et al., 2010) and in Zn(II)-Zn<sup>0</sup> redox reactions (Kavner et al., 47 48 2008; Fujii et al., 2009a) have been experimentally observed. Preliminary estimates of 49 Zn isotope fractionation were provided in abstract form by Schauble (2003), while 50 extensive calculations using ab initio techniques allowed Zn isotope fractionation to be assessed for aquo-, chloro-, sulfato-, and other dissolved Zn<sup>2+</sup> species (Black et al., 51 52 2011). 53 The role of sulfides is central to a broad range of prevalent geological scenarios 54 and in particular the status of sulfur in ancient oceans is an outstanding issue (Canfield, 55 1998). Thermodynamic calculations for Zn sulfides and hydrosulfides have been carried 56 out with the aim of assessing the chemistry of Proterozoic and Archean oceans (Saito et 57 al., 2003). Hydrothermal vent solutions discharging either at mid-ocean ridges (Edmond 58 et al., 1979) or along subduction zones (Mottl et al., 2004) comprise another 59 environment dominated by sulfides. The solubility of sphalerite (ZnS) and speciation in sulfide solutions have also been studied (Bourcier and Barnes, 1987; Hayashi et al., 60 1990; Daskalakis and Helz, 1993; Tagirov et al., 2007; Tagirov and Seward, 2010). 61 Tagirov et al. (2007) determined the stoichiometry and stability of Zn 62 sulfide/hydrosulfide complexes at 373 K and concluded that the major species are 63

Zn(HS)<sub>2</sub><sup>0</sup>, Zn(HS)<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, and ZnS(HS)<sup>-</sup>. Their Zn speciation model was consistent with that of Bourcier and Barnes (1987), but different from other models (Hayashi et al., 1990; Daskalakis and Helz, 1993), and was further expanded and strengthened in recent work (Tagirov and Seward, 2010). The present work takes on the task of evaluating Zn speciation and isotope fractionation among the different Zn sulfide species present in geological fluids between 298 and 573 K. It largely relies on the stability analysis of Tagirov et al. (2010) and complements the recent work by Black et al. (2011) on Zn isotope fractionation in solution.

# 2. COMPUTATIONAL METHODS

Orbital geometries and vibrational frequencies of aqueous Zn(II) species were computed using density functional theory (DFT) as implemented by the Gaussian03 code (Frisch et al., 2003). The DFT method employed here is a hybrid density functional consisting of Becke's three-parameter non-local hybrid exchange potential (B3) (Becke, 1993) with Lee-Yang and Parr (LYP) (Lee et al., 1988) non-local functionals. In a quantum chemical study, the convergence of the reaction energies of Zn(II) species is excellent in 6-311+G(d,p) or higher basis sets (Rulíšek and Havlas, 1999). Hence, the 6-311+G(d,p) basis set, which is an all-electron basis set, was chosen for H, C, O, S, and Zn. For the solvation effect, the CPCM continuum solvation method (CPCM: conductor-like polarizable continuum model) was used. The geometry optimization and intramolecular vibrational frequency analysis were performed for the hydrated Zn ion, hydrated Zn carbonates, and hydrated Zn sulfides. For hydrated Zn chlorides, the results were reproduced from our previous study (Fujii et al., 2010).

# 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

# 89 3.1 Basis for the isotope fractionation theory in systems at equilibrium

A chemical exchange reaction can be represented as two half-reactions,

91

88

$$AX + Y \rightleftharpoons AY + X, \tag{1}$$

92 or

$$A'X + Y \rightleftharpoons A'Y + X, \tag{2}$$

93

- 94 where A and A' are the heavy and light isotopes of the element A, and X and Y
- 95 represent ligands. The difference between half-reactions 1 and 2 corresponds to an
- 96 isotopic exchange reaction between AX and AY,

97

$$A'Y + AX \rightleftharpoons A'X + AY, \tag{3}$$

98

The isotope separation factor  $\alpha$  between AX and AY is defined as

100

$$\alpha = \frac{([A]/[A'])_{Y}}{([A]/[A'])_{X}}$$
(4)

- where  $([A]/[A'])_X$  and  $([A]/[A'])_Y$  are the isotopic ratios of A/A' measured in the
- 103 complexes AX (and A'X) and AY (and A'Y), respectively. The isotope enrichment
- factor is defined as  $\alpha_m 1$ . Since  $\alpha$  is close to 1,  $\alpha 1$  can be approximated as  $\ln \alpha$ .

Isotopic deviations in parts per 1000 are conventionally defined as

$$\delta = \left( \frac{([A]/[A'])_{\text{species}}}{([A]/[A'])_{\text{reference}}} - 1 \right) \times 1000$$
 (5)

106

If AX (and A'X) is the major component in the system,  $\Sigma[A]/\Sigma[A']$  is approximated to be  $([A]/[A'])_X$  such that an approximation expression  $\delta \approx 10^3 \ln \alpha$  works.

109 The standard theory of chemical isotope fractionation is based on 110 mass-dependent isotopic differences in vibrational energies of isotopologues (Urey, 111 1947; Bigeleisen and Mayer, 1947). The isotope enrichment factor is proportional to  $\left(\frac{1}{m'} - \frac{1}{m}\right)$  with m and m' the masses of two isotopes (prime represents the light 112 113 isotope). In a previous study on Zn isotope fractionation, we showed that the 114 contribution of other effects, such as the nuclear field shift effect (Bigeleisen, 1996; 115 Nomura et al., 1996; Fujii et al., 2009b) to  $\ln \alpha$  is <10% (Fujii et al., 2010). Therefore, 116 an adequate approximation of fractionation factors between different species may be 117 obtained by the conventional mass-dependent theory (Bigeleisen and Mayer, 1947). All the calculations were made for the <sup>66</sup>Zn/<sup>64</sup>Zn ratio which avoids odd even staggering 118 119 (King, 1984; Aufmuth et al., 1987; Fricke and Heilig, 2004; Fujii et al., 2009b).

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120

1947; Urey, 1947) defined as

123

$$\ln(s/s')f = \Sigma[\ln b(u_i') - \ln b(u_i)] \tag{6}$$

The isotope enrichment (ln  $\alpha$ ) due to the intramolecular vibrations can be

evaluated from the reduced partition function ratio (RPFR) (s/s')f (Bigeleisen and Mayer,

124 where

$$\ln b(u_i) = -\ln u_i + u_i/2 + \ln (1 - e^{-ui})$$
(7)

In this equation, v stands for vibrational frequency, s for the symmetry number of the molecule, and  $u_i = hv_i/kT$ . The subscript i stands for the ith molecular vibrational level with primed variables referring to the light isotopologue. The isotope enrichment factor due to the molecular vibration can be evaluated from the frequencies summed over all the different modes. The partition function ratio (s/s')f for isotopologues A'X and AX (A'Y and AY, respectively) is noted  $\beta_X$  ( $\beta_Y$ , respectively). In the isotopic exchange reaction 3, isotope fractionation can be estimated from the relation  $\ln \alpha \approx \ln \beta_Y - \ln \beta_X$ .

In the present study, the optimized structures of hydrated  $Zn^{2+}$  and hydrated Zn sulfides were first analyzed for  $^{64}Zn$ . For each complex, intramolecular vibrational frequencies ( $v_i$ ) were analyzed. By substituting  $v_i$  into Eq. (7),  $\ln b(u_i)$  was determined. Using the same molecular structures,  $^{64}Zn$  was replaced by  $^{66}Zn$  and the vibrational frequency analysis was performed again to obtain  $\ln b(u_i)$ , from which  $\ln \beta$  was then determined.

#### 3.2. Assessment of *ab initio* calculations

The isotope fractionation between hydrated  $Zn^{2+}$  and aqueous Zn chlorides has been investigated experimentally and theoretically at 294 K (Fujii et al., 2010). Calculations carried out for  $Zn(H_2O)_6^{2+}$ ,  $Zn(H_2O)_{18}^{2+}$ ,  $ZnCl(H_2O)_5^{+}$ ,  $ZnCl_2(H_2O)_4$ ,  $ZnCl_3(H_2O)_3^{-}$ ,  $ZnCl_3(H_2O)_7^{-}$ ,  $ZnCl_4(H_2O)_2^{2-}$ , and  $ZnCl_4^{2-}$ , allow for a comparison with the work of Black et al. (2011). As intramolecular vibrational modes and their frequencies depend on the cluster model and interatomic distances, the stability of each compound must first be demonstrated. We first tested the effect of solvation of  $Zn^{2+}$  ions by comparing

the small cluster  $Zn(H_2O)_6^{2^+}$ , including only the first hydration shell (Fig. 1a and electronic annex, Fig. S1) with the large cluster  $Zn(H_2O)_{18}^{2^+}$ , in which the small cluster is surrounded by 12 H<sub>2</sub>O molecules in a second hydration shell (see figure 1b of Li et al., 1996). In the present study, the CPCM continuum solvation method was tested. For  $Zn(H_2O)_6^{2^+}$ , we used the dielectric constant of water  $\varepsilon$  = 78.3553. The results are shown in Table 1 and were found to be consistent with those of Fig. 9 in Black et al. (2011) (see electronic annex, Tables S1, S2, and S3). The presence of the second hydration shell shortens the Zn-O bond distance by 0.014 Å in the first coordination shell. Applying the CPCM method further shortens this distance by 0.012 Å. The CPCM solvation method provides bond distances satisfactorily close to those obtained experimentally (Dreier and Rabe, 1986; Matsubara and Waseda, 1989; Maeda et al., 1995).

The calculated  $v_1$  frequencies (totally symmetric vibration, see Fig. S1) of  $Zn(H_2O)_6^{2+}$  in this study and Fujii et al. (2010) are much smaller than the literature values obtained experimentally (Table 1). With the second hydration shell present, the calculated  $v_1$  frequency of  $Zn(H_2O)_{18}^{2+}$  agrees with the experimental value of 380 cm<sup>-1</sup> (Yamaguchi et al., 1989). This frequency was not reproduced very well when the CPCM method was applied to a model including only the inner hydration shell.

Since the conventional Bigeleisen-Mayer equation (Bigeleisen and Mayer, 1947) involves vibrational frequencies, an accurate evaluation of  $v_1$  is in order. Besides  $v_1$ , other vibrational modes, *e.g.*, asymmetric modes of  $v_3$  and so on (see Fig. S1), are also important to evaluate RPFR (see Eqs. 6 and 7 and Black et al., 2011). The  $v_2$  and  $v_3$  frequencies are shown in Table 1. As for  $v_1$ , adding the second hydration shell increases the  $v_2$  and  $v_3$  frequencies and brings them closer to experimental observations (Rudolph

and Pye, 1999; Mink et al., 2003). Addition of the second hydration shell is therefore more effective than resorting to the CPCM solvation method.

The ln  $\beta$  values at 273, 423, and 573K (25, 150, and 300°C, respectively) calculated by using Eqs. (6) and (7) are shown in Table 2. The accuracy in RPFRs estimated by *ab initio* method is discussed in Rustad et al. (2010). It is clear that applying the CPCM solvation method does not significantly affect the value of ln  $\beta$ , whereas adding a second hydration shell with 12 H<sub>2</sub>O molecules increases ln  $\beta$  by 0.3% at 298 K. A similar phenomenon was found in our previous study on Pd<sup>2+</sup> isotope fractionation (Fujii et al., in press).

# 3.3. β-factors of aqueous Zn sulfides

The structure of the Zn sulfides was calculated with small cluster models without additional shells.  $Zn^{2+}$  and Zn hydrogensulfides are related through the following stepwise reactions,

$$Zn^{2+} + HS^{-} \rightleftarrows ZnSH^{+} \tag{8}$$

$$ZnHS^{+} + HS^{-} \rightleftarrows Zn(HS)_{2}$$
(9)

$$Zn(HS)_2 + HS^- \rightleftarrows Zn(HS)_3^- \tag{10}$$

$$Zn(HS)_3^- + HS^- \rightleftharpoons Zn(HS)_4^{2-}$$
 (11)

191 Calculations for ZnSH<sup>+</sup>.

The formation of Zn mono-hydrogensulfide has been suggested on the basis of voltammetric data (Zhang and Millero, 1994), but was later questioned (Luther et al., 1996). Reaction 8 was disregarded by studies on sphalerite (ZnS) solubility in sulfide solutions (Bourcier and Barnes, 1987; Hayashi et al., 1990; Daskalakis and Helz, 1993; Tagirov et al., 2007; Tagirov and Seward, 2010). Though we tested the structural optimization of ZnHS(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>5</sub><sup>+</sup>, this model complex is unstable and deforms into ZnHS(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> with the 5th water molecule moving out of the inner coordination shell, which suggests that the stability constant of reaction 8 is very small. A hydroxide-hydrogensulfide species, Zn(OH)HS<sup>+</sup>, has been reported (Bourcier and Barnes, 1987; Hayashi et al., 1990), but its existence was not confirmed (Tagirov et al., 2007; Tagirov and Seward, 2010).

204 Calculations for  $Zn(HS)_2$ .

In a theoretical study on Zn sulfides (Tossell and Vaughan, 1993), a tetrahedral structure  $Zn(HS)_2(H_2O)_2$  has been reported as  $Zn(HS)_2$ . The structure of bis-hydrogensulfide for six-coordination transition metals is considered to be similar to that of trans-Mn(HS)<sub>2</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>4</sub> (Rickard and Luther, 2006). We calculated the optimized structure for the recommended structure  $Zn(HS)_2(H_2O)_4$  (Fig. 1b) and the bond lengths are shown in Table 1. The ln  $\beta$  value at 298 K is 2.72‰.

212 Calculations for  $Zn(HS)_3^-$ .

The calculations for the 6-coordinated Zn(HS)<sub>3</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> did not converge. HS<sup>-</sup> forms stronger bonds with Zn<sup>2+</sup> than H<sub>2</sub>O, and 3 HS<sup>-</sup> molecules tend to form a triangle, with Zn<sup>2+</sup> at the center (see figure 1 of Tossell and Vaughan, 1993). Tossell and Vaughan (1993) reported that Zn(HS)<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> and Zn(HS)<sub>3</sub>(OH)<sup>2-</sup> are the most stable of the tri-hydrogensulfide species. The hydrolyzed species Zn(HS)<sub>3</sub>(OH)<sup>2-</sup> has been considered in earlier solubility studies of sphalerites (Hayashi et al., 1990; Daskalakis et al., 1993), but its existence was later dismissed (Tagirov et al., 2007; Tagirov and Seward, 2010).

The existence of a species Zn(HS)<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> lacking direct Zn-water coordination is unlikely in aqueous solution. Tossell and Vaughan (1993) reported the presence of the mono-hydrated tri-hydrogensulfide species, Zn(HS)<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>O<sup>-</sup>, and our calculations reproduced this structure (see figure 1 of Tossell and Vaughan, 1993). Zn(HS)<sub>3</sub> keeps the triangular plane with one H<sub>2</sub>O molecule bound to the plane via a hydration bond (H<sub>2</sub>O-Zn<sup>2+</sup>) and OH<sub>2</sub>-SH hydrogen bonds. The hydrogen bond appears stronger than the hydration bond, which suggests that an extra H<sub>2</sub>O molecule may bind to the opposite side of the Zn(HS)<sub>3</sub> plane to form Zn(HS)<sub>3</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>. The structure after convergence is shown in Fig. 1c. However, even though the plane symmetric arrangement with two H<sub>2</sub>O molecules with respect to the Zn(HS)<sub>3</sub> plane is possible, the Gibbs free energy was 1.09 kJ/mol larger and this model complex is therefore not chosen.

The bond distances are shown in Table 3. The longer Zn-O bond distance suggests that the  $H_2O$  molecules possibly are bound to  $Zn(HS)_3$  via the hydrogen bonds of  $OH_2$ -SH. The  $ln\ \beta$  value at 298 K is 3.03% (Table 2).

236 Calculations for  $Zn(HS)_4^{2-}$ .

Solubility measurements of sphalerites in sulfide solutions (Bourcier and Barnes, 1987; Hayashi et al., 1990; Daskalakis and Helz, 1993) considered the presence of a tetra-hydrogensulfide species  $Zn(HS)_4^{2-}$ ; its mole fraction is expected to decrease with temperature (Tagirov and Seward, 2010). A possible tetrahedral structure (Fig. 1d) was suggested by Tossell and Vaughan (1993). The tetrahedral structure of  $Zn(HS)_4^{2-}$  is similar to a unit cell of Zn sulfide clusters (Luther et al., 1999; Luther and Rickard, 2005). Our results are shown in Tables 2 and 3. The  $\ln \beta$  value at 298 K shows the

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246 Calculations for ZnS(HS)<sup>-</sup>.

smallest value (2.19‰, Table 2) of all Zn sulfides.

A distinctive feature in the solubility trend of sphalerite calculated by Tagirov et al. (2007) and Tagirov and Seward (2010) is that ZnS(HS)<sup>-</sup> appears to be a prevalent sulfide species at pH>10 and temperatures <473 K. With increasing pH, complexation proceeds from Zn(HS)<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> to Zn(HS)<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> and ZnS(HS)<sup>-</sup> (Tagirov and Seward, 2010). Formation of ZnS(HS)<sup>-</sup> from Zn(HS)<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> with increasing pH results from the reaction

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$$Zn(HS)_4^{2-} + OH^- \rightleftarrows ZnS(HS)(H_2O)^- + 2HS^-$$
 (12)

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A few *ab initio* calculation studies on anhydrous Zn sulfides (Cini, 1999) or clusters of Zn sulfides (Luther et al., 1999; Luther and Rickard, 2005) have been reported. To the best of our knowledge, structural data of monomeric ZnS(HS)<sup>-</sup> in aqueous solutions are

not available. Spatially, water molecules may interact with Zn(II) in  $ZnS(HS)^-$  as  $ZnS(HS)(H_2O)_n^-$ . The coordination number of Zn(II) in the monomeric species  $ZnS(HS)(H_2O)^-$  is three, but this coordination number is too small if this species exists in aqueous solution. Since the aggregation of complexes increases the coordination probability,  $ZnS(HS)(H_2O)^-$  is considered to be a simplified formula of polymerized species  $n[ZnS(HS)(H_2O)^-]$ . Let us consider a dimer for n = 2.

Stereochemically, dimerization of  $ZnS(HS)^-$  from  $Zn(HS)_3(H_2O)_3^-$  may be natural (see Fig. 1c and 1e).

$$2Zn(HS)_3(H_2O)_2^- + 2OH^- \rightleftarrows Zn_2S_2(HS)_2(H_2O)_2^{2-} + 2SH^- + 4H_2O$$
 (13)

where  $Zn_2S_2(HS)_2(H_2O)_2^{2-}$  can be expressed as  $2[ZnS(HS)H_2O^-]$ . Zn(II) has a coordination number of 5 in this species. Since  $S^{2-}$  has the tetrahedral coordination property, two  $S^{2-}$  ions bridging to two  $Zn^{2+}$  ions may also bind to  $H_2O$  in the outer sphere. More  $H_2O$  molecules may be arranged on the triangular  $Zn(HS)_3$  plane.  $ZnS(HS)(H_2O)_n^-$  with  $n \ge 2$  may exist.

 $Zn(HS)_3^-$  and  $ZnS(HS)^-$  possess the trigonal planar of  $ZnS_3$  core, while  $Zn(HS)_4^{2-}$  is tetrahedral. Large entropic changes via structural changes in the reaction  $Zn(HS)_3^- \leftrightarrow Zn(HS)_4^{2-} \leftrightarrow ZnS(HS)^-$  are expected due to the existence of intermediate state  $Zn(HS)_4^{2-}$ . With the increase of temperature, the mole fraction of  $Zn(HS)_4^{2-}$  drastically decreases (Tagirov and Seward, 2010). This suggests a direct reaction pathway between  $Zn(HS)_3^-$  and  $ZnS(HS)^-$  at high temperatures. This reaction path of

reaction 13 would be entropically favorable. The bond distances of  $2[ZnS(HS)H_2O^-]$  are shown in Table 3. The ln  $\beta$  value at 298 K is 2.63‰ (Table 2).

# Calculations for Zn carbonates.

In the present work, we calculated the ln  $\beta$  values for Zn isotope fractionation (Table 2) for hydrated Zn carbonates, ZnHCO<sub>3</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>4</sub>, and ZnCO<sub>3</sub>(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>4</sub>, in which HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> and CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup> are treated as bidentate ligands (see Figs. 1f and 1g) using the same techniques as Fujii et al. (2011) for Ni. Zinc is isotopically heavy in carbonates relative to hydrated Zn<sup>2+</sup> and Zn sulfide species. The ln  $\beta$  values are larger than those of Zn(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>6</sub><sup>2+</sup>, Zn sulfides, and Zn chlorides. They compare with the ln  $\beta$  values reported by Black et al. (2011) on Zn sulfates. Upon reduction of sulfates to sulfides in the presence of carbonate ions, a strong fractionation of Zn isotopes may be expected in the sulfide-carbonate system.

# 3.4. Zn isotope systematics between aqueous sulfides and chlorides

Isotope fractionation relevant to  $Zn(H_2O)_6^{2+}$ ,  $Zn(HS)_2(H_2O)_4$ ,  $Zn(HS)_3(H_2O)_2^-$ ,  $Zn(HS)_4^{2-}$ ,  $2[ZnS(HS)H_2O^-]$ ,  $ZnCl(H_2O)_5^+$ ,  $ZnCl_2(H_2O)_4$ ,  $ZnHCO_3(H_2O)_4^+$ , and  $ZnCO_3(H_2O)_4$  will now be evaluated. The structure and  $\ln \beta$  of Zn chlorides were reproduced from our previous study (Fujii et al., 2010) with calculations extended to higher temperatures. The temperature dependence of  $\ln \beta$  can be estimated from the values compiled in Table 2. The total range of variation of  $\ln \beta$  at 298 K is ~2‰. We calculated the speciation and isotopic fractionation of Zn for a total concentration of sulfur  $\Sigma[S]$  of 0.1 M in the absence of  $Cl^-([Cl^-] = 0 \text{ M})$  and carbonates  $(\Sigma[C] = 0 \text{ M})$  at

298, 423, and 573 K as a function of pH. In our calculation, free Cl<sup>-</sup> concentration is just treated as a parameter without considering association/dissociation reactions of HCl and chlorides at various temperatures. In principle, activities should be used throughout rather than concentrations, but the precise compositions of hydrothermal solutions are rarely known, and uncertainties on isotope fractionation attached to the non-ideal character of electrolyte solutions are certainly negligible with respect to those resulting from the poorly constrained chemistry of hydrothermal systems. As a result, the activity coefficients were considered equal to unity. As a dilute system, molar concentrations are used instead of molal concentrations. All calculations were performed under an assumption that the molecular structures remain the same by increasing temperature.

The following chemical equilibrium reactions were investigated,

$$Zn^{2+} + 2HS^{-} \rightleftarrows Zn(HS)_{2}, \quad K_{Zn(HS)_{2}}$$
 (14)

$$Zn^{2+} + 3HS^- \rightleftharpoons Zn(HS)_3^-, K_{Zn(HS)_5^-}$$
 (15)

$$Zn^{2+} + 4HS^{-} \rightleftharpoons Zn(HS)_{4}^{2-}, \quad K_{Zn(HS)_{4}^{2-}}$$
 (16)

$$Zn^{2+} + 2HS^- \rightleftharpoons ZnS(HS)^- + H^+, K_{ZnS(HS)^-}$$
 (17)

317 It should be noted that, in the present study, we use K for cumulative formation constant

318  $\beta$  in order to avoid confusion about  $\ln \beta$  of isotope fractionation.

319 Under reducing conditions with negligible sulfate formation, the total concentration of

sulfur ( $\Sigma[S] = 0.1 \text{ M}$ ) is controlled by the following dissociation reaction,

321

$$H_2S \rightleftharpoons HS^- + H^+ \tag{18}$$

322

where we used the relation,

$$\log \frac{[HS^-]}{[H_2S]} = -pK_a + pH \tag{19}$$

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325 The stability constants and acid dissociation constants (p $K_a$ ) at 298, 423, and 573 K

used are listed in Table 4. Since  $pK_a$  was determined under the existence of Na<sup>+</sup>, strictly,

it includes an effect of NaHS dissociation.

We also calculated the speciation and isotopic fractionation of Zn isotologues

under typical hydrothermal conditions, with  $\Sigma[S] = 5$  mM (Von Damm, 1990) and  $[Cl^-]$ 

= 0.55 M (Macleod et al., 1994) at 298, 423, and 573 K and for variable pH. We set

 $P_{CO_2}$  at 50 bar (log  $P_{CO_2} = 1.6$ ), which corresponds to a water (total) pressure of  $10^5$ 

Pa (1 kbar) and a mole fraction of CO<sub>2</sub> of 5 percent (Rose et al., 1996). Such values

conveniently describe the conditions at about 3 km below the sea floor. The following

chemical equilibrium reactions also were investigated,

$$Zn^{2+} + Cl^- \rightleftarrows ZnCl^+, \quad K_{ZnCl^+}$$
(20)

$$Zn^{2+} + 2Cl^{-} \rightleftarrows ZnCl_{2}, \quad K_{ZnCl_{2}}$$
(21)

$$Zn^{2+} + HCO_3^- \rightleftarrows ZnHCO_3^+, \quad K_{ZnHCO_3^+}$$
 (22)

$$\operatorname{Zn}^{2+} + \operatorname{CO}_3^{2-} \rightleftarrows \operatorname{ZnCO}_3, \ K_{ZnCO_3}$$
 (23)

For carbonates, the following gas-liquid equilibrium reactions were considered.

$$CO_2 + H_2O \rightleftharpoons HCO_3^- + H^+, K_{HCO_5^-}$$
 (24)

$$CO_2 + H_2O \rightleftharpoons CO_3^{2-} + 2H^+, K_{CO_2^{2-}}$$
 (25)

The ionization of carbonic acid at elevated temperatures has been studied by Read (1975) and Patterson et al. (1982, 1984). The acid dissociation constant between the hydrogen carbonate ion ( $\mathrm{HCO_3}^-$ ) and the carbonate ion ( $\mathrm{CO_3}^{2-}$ ) is the ratio of  $K_{HCO_3^-}$  and  $K_{CO_3^{2-}}$ . These values at 298, 423, and 573 K (Smith et al., 1986), in which the original data are taken from (Patterson et al., 1982; 1984), are shown in Table 4.

Because of the broad relevance of carbon dioxide to geological environments, we first investigated the effect of  $P_{CO_2}$  on Zn isotope variability of Zn in sulfidic hydrothermal environments. As a reference, speciation and isotope fractionation are first investigated for hydrothermal solutions placed under the low  $P_{CO_2}$  typical of equilibration with the modern atmosphere. Then, the discussion is extended to conditions of high  $P_{CO_2}$  in order to constrain Zn isotope fractionation in solutions equilibrated with a high- $P_{CO_2}$  atmosphere or circulating in deep-seated hydrothermal systems.

The results are shown in Figs. 3, 4, and 5. Figs 3a, 4a, and 5a show quite good agreement with the reported mole fractions of aqueous Zn sulfide species estimated from stability constants of reactions 14-17 and solubility products of ZnS(crystal) (Tagirov and Seward, 2010). In the present study,  $K_{ZnHCO_3^+}$  and  $K_{ZnCO_3}$  at the standard temperature 298 K (Zirino and Yamamoto, 1972) were used for 423 and 573 K due to lack of reliable data of aqueous Zn carbonates at high temperature. Even if a tenfold larger  $K_{ZnHCO_3^+}$  were used for 573 K (Fig 5b), the mole fraction of ZnHCO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> would not visibly increase. Variations of  $K_{ZnCO_3}$  mainly changes the mole fractions of ZnCO<sub>3</sub> and ZnS(HS)<sup>-</sup> but have little effect on the concentrations of other species. Increasing log  $K_{ZnCO_3}$  by one unit increases the mole fraction of ZnCO<sub>3</sub> and decreases that of ZnS(HS)<sup>-</sup> by ~25% (see electronic annex, Fig. S2).

Isotope fractionation of Zn observed as  $\delta^{66}$ Zn was estimated as shown in Figs. 3c, 3d, 4c, 4d, 5c, and 5d. The  $\delta^{66}$ Zn value was calculated as follows. The bulk 370  $^{66}$ Zn/ $^{64}$ Zn ratio is

$$\frac{\Sigma[^{66}Zn]}{\Sigma[^{64}Zn]} = \frac{[^{66}Zn^{2^{+}}] + [^{66}Zn(HS)_{2}] + [^{66}Zn(HS)_{3}^{-}] + [^{66}Zn(HS)_{4}^{2^{-}}] + [^{66}ZnS(HS)^{-}] + [^{66}ZnCl^{+}] + [^{66}ZnCl_{2}] + [^{66}ZnCl_{2}] + [^{66}ZnCl_{3}]}{[^{64}Zn^{2^{+}}] + [^{64}Zn(HS)_{2}] + [^{64}Zn(HS)_{3}^{-}] + [^{64}Zn(HS)_{4}^{2^{-}}] + [^{64}ZnS(HS)^{-}] + [^{64}ZnCl_{2}]}}$$

$$(26)$$

Stability constants were calculated from ln β values. For example,

$$\ln \frac{K_{Zn(HS)_{2}}(^{66}Zn)}{K_{Zn(HS)_{2}}(^{64}Zn)} = \ln \frac{[^{66}Zn(HS)_{2}]/[^{64}Zn(HS)_{2}]}{[^{66}Zn^{2+}]/[^{64}Zn^{2+}]}$$

$$= \ln \beta_{Zn(HS)_{2}} - \ln \beta_{Zn^{2+}} \tag{27}$$

The value  $\Sigma[Zn] = 10^{-6.1}$  M (Tagirov and Seward, 2010) was used, but is inconsequential for the speciation calculation. The effect of ionic strength was neglected and activity coefficients of all species were set to be unity in a diluted system, which would be of no practical importance for isotope ratios.

- 3.5 Zn isotope variability in solutions at low to intermediate temperatures
- 383 Low  $P_{CO_2}$  conditions.
  - Isotope fractionation between natural fluids and precipitates occurs when Zn distributes itself between sphalerite, the prevalent Zn ore, and the parent fluid. Figures 3-5 indicate that, as expected from the order of ln  $\beta$  (Figure 2), the various aqueous Zn sulfide complexes are all isotopically lighter than Zn<sup>2+</sup> and Zn chlorides. Zinc isotope fractionation in sulfide-rich solutions is controlled by the respective mole fractions of hydrated Zn<sup>2+</sup> and aqueous sulfides and therefore is predicted to be pH-dependent. At

pH<3, Zn is largely present as Zn<sup>2+</sup> in fresh water and as Zn chlorides at seawater chlorinities. High chlorine contents change the charge balance and therefore shift the dependence of speciation with pH, but, overall, affect isotope fractionation patterns only slightly (see electronic, Figs. S3, S4, and S5). Under conditions typical of equilibration with the atmosphere, carbonate complexes can safely be neglected (Zirino and Yamamoto, 1972). Sulfides precipitating from hydrothermal solutions should be isotopically lighter than the solution, but the extent of isotope fractionation decreases with temperature. Zn isotope fractionation between the plausible precursor species of sphalerite, Zn(HS)<sub>2</sub> at low pH and Zn(HS)<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> and/or ZnS(HS)<sup>-</sup> at high pH, is very small. At pH>3, the dominant Zn species are aqueous sulfides (Tagirov and Seward, 2010). Under the assumption that the isotopic composition of sphalerite is inherited from the precursor species, little isotope fractionation between sphalerite and the fluid is therefore expected (< 0.25‰) at 423 K and even less at higher temperatures.

In sulfide-free oxic seawater and fresh water equilibrated with the atmosphere, metallic ion, chloride, hydroxide, and carbonate complexes dominate zinc speciation, while Zn sulfate is a minor species (Zirino and Yamamoto, 1972; Turner et al., 1981; Stanley and Byrne, 1990; Black et al., 2011). Zn in marine carbonates is about 1‰ heavier (Pichat et al., 2003) than seawater (δ<sup>66</sup>Zn~0‰) (Bermin et al., 2006), which is consistent with Zn isotope fractionation observed at ~298 K between aqueous carbonate species and the metallic ion or its chloride (see electronic annex, Fig. S6). Zn-O bonds, as in zincite (ZnO) (Schauble et al. 2003), zinc sulfates (Black et al., 2011), and presumably other oxo-anions tend to concentrate heavy Zn. An enrichment of Zn heavy isotopes is therefore expected for zinc carbonates. Here we further assume that Zn

- isotope fractionation between solid carbonates and the dissolved species ZnCO<sub>3</sub> can be neglected.
- 415 High  $P_{CO_2}$  conditions.

433

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416 Carbonate, which is usually a minor species in surface waters, becomes a major player in hydrothermal solutions when  $P_{co}$  rises at depth. Figs. 3b, 3d, 4b, 4d, 5b, and 5d 417 show that the presence of carbonate ions brings about a stark contrast between regions 418 419 of low pH (<8) and high pH (>9). We will restrict the discussion to sphalerite 420 precipitation when smithsonite (ZnCO<sub>3</sub>) does not reach saturation. At low pH (pH <  $pK_{HCO_{5}}$ ), the abundance of the aqueous ZnCO<sub>3</sub> species is very low and sphalerite 421 precipitates with nearly the same  $\delta^{66}$ Zn as the original fluid, i.e., with very little 422 fractionation. In contrast, at pH>9, most Zn is in aqueous carbonate form. ZnS is 423 considered to be formed from major sulfides ZnS(HS)<sup>-</sup> and/or Zn(HS)<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> via 424 polymerization and dehydration. If isotope fractionation upon precipitation can be 425 neglected, the values of  $\delta^{66}$ Zn for ZnS(HS)<sup>-</sup> and Zn(HS)<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> are representative of those 426 eventually found in ZnS. Sphalerite is therefore expected to possess negative  $\delta^{66}$ Zn 427 428 values. Zinc is isotopically more negative in sphalerite with respect to the fluid, by ~1.5% at 298 K, ~0.8% at 423 K, and ~0.4% at 573 K (see  $\delta^{66}$ Zn of ZnS(HS)<sup>-</sup> and/or 429  $Zn(HS)_4^{2-}$  at pH >9). Strongly negative  $\delta^{66}Zn$  in sphalerite therefore represents a 430 431 potential indicator of high pH in low- to high-temperature hydrothermal fluids.

The narrow range of Zn isotope fractionation, mostly 0.0 to 0.6‰ in natural sphalerite from continental environments (Albarede, 2004; Kelley et al., 2009) and in most serpentines (Pons et al., 2010), together with the lack of strong isotope

fractionation between ZnS and hydrothermal vent fluid from mid-ocean ridges at temperatures >523 K (John et al., 2008) can be explained by the predominance of chloride complexes and aquated  $Zn^{2+}$  ion in solutions at pH<7. These observations concur with limited computational evidence that sphalerite is not fractionated with respect to tetrahedral  $[ZnCl_4]^{2-}$  (Schauble et al., 2003). Sphalerite precipitation therefore seems to take place by disproportionation of an aqueous sulfide species, most likely  $Zn(HS)_2(H_2O)_4$  and  $ZnS(HS)H_2O^-$ . Occasionally high  $\delta^{66}Zn$  in hydrothermal fluids (John et al., 2008) may reflect the prevalence of Zn leached out of carbonate and FeMn-hydroxides ( $\delta^{66}Zn > 0.6 \%$ ) (Maréchal et al., 2000; Pichat et al., 2003) and not from a basaltic source ( $\delta^{66}Zn \sim 0.3 \%$ ).

In contrast, the negative  $\delta^{66}$ Zn observed by Pons et al. (2010) in the mud serpentine volcanoes of the Mariana associated with high-pH (10-12) interstitial fluids (down to -0.2%) (Mottl et al. 2004; Hulme et al., 2010), and by Mason et al. (2005) in island arc-type base-metal deposits from the Urals (down to -0.4%) carry the signature of fractionation by sulfides in island arc hydrothermal solutions dominated by sulfate and carbonates. Zinc-sulfate complexes are weak and much less abundant than chloride and hydroxide complexes, even with the rather high sulfate contents typical of seawater (Stanley and Byrne, 1990; Mottl et al. 2004; Black et al., 2011). The negative  $\delta^{66}$ Zn values of sulfides precipitated from hydrothermal fluids therefore signal the stability of Zn carbonates and hence pH in excess of the second p $K_a$  of carbonic acid. Zinc isotope compositions in sulfides and rocks are potentially helpful in distinguishing low-pH from high-pH hydrothermal solution.

# CONCLUSIONS

Isotope fractionation of Zn in aqueous sulfidic solutions was found to be controlled by aqueous zinc sulfide species, and for high  $P_{CO_2}$  conditions, by zinc carbonate species. In solutions equilibrated with the atmosphere, Zn is isotopically unfractionated in sulfides and isotopically heavy in carbonates. Under the high  $P_{CO_2}$  conditions of hydrothermal solutions, Zn precipitated as sulfides is isotopically nearly unfractionated with respect to a low-pH parent fluid. Negative  $\delta^{66}$ Zn down to 0.6% can be expected in sulfides precipitated from solutions with high  $P_{CO_2}$  and a pH > 9. Zn isotopes in sulfides and rocks therefore represent a potential indicator of mid to high pH in ancient hydrothermal fluids.

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Table 1 Zn-O bond distances and  $v_1$  frequencies determined for hydrated  $Zn^{2+}$ .

Species	Method <sup>a</sup>	Zn-O (Å)	ν <sub>1</sub> (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	ν <sub>2</sub> (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	ν <sub>3</sub> (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Reference
Zn(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>6</sub> <sup>2+</sup>	DFT	2.128	333	-	-	Fujii et al. (2010)
$Zn(H_2O)_6^{2+}$	$\mathrm{DFT}^b$	2.128	333	219	294	This study
$Zn(H_2O)_6^{2+}$	$\mathrm{DFT}^c$	2.102	353	227	317	This study
Zn(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>18</sub> <sup>2+</sup>	$\mathrm{DFT}^d$	2.114	380	-	-	Fujii et al. (2010)
$Zn(H_2O)_{18}^{2+}$	$\mathrm{DFT}^d$	2.114	380	298	362	This study
-	XRD	2.08	-	-	-	Tossel (1991)
-	XRD	2.15	-	-	-	Maeda et al. (1995)
-	AXN	2.10-2.15	-	-	-	Matsubara and Waseda (1989)
_	EXAFS	2.05-2.07	-	-	-	Dreier and Rabe (1986)
-	Raman	-	390±10	-	-	Irish et al. (1963)
-	Raman	-	379±5	-	-	Yamaguchi et al. (1989)
-	Raman	-	385	-	-	Maeda et al. (1995)
-	Raman, IR	-	390±2	270±5	365±5	Rudolph and Pye (1999)
-	Raman, IR	-	389	360	386	Mink et al. (2003)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> DFT (density functional theory), XRD (x-ray diffraction), AXN (anomalous x-ray scattering), EXAFS (extended x-ray absorption fine structure), IR (infrared). 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup> DFT calculation results with various basis sets are given in electronic annex, Tables S1 and 

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>c</sup> CPCM continuum solvation method was applied.
 <sup>d</sup> 12 H<sub>2</sub>O molecules were arranged around Zn(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>6</sub><sup>2+</sup>. 

Table 2 Logarithm of the reduced partition function,  $\ln \beta$ , for isotope pair  $^{66}$ Zn/ $^{64}$ Zn.

Sanciar	1		
Species	ln β at 298K	ln β at 423K	In $\beta$ at 573K
	(‰)	(‰)	(‰)
7 (II (X) 2+ a	3.263	1.659	0.915
$\operatorname{Zn}(H_2O)_6^{2+a}$	$3.280^{b}$	$1.660^{b}$	$0.913^{b}$
$Zn(H_2O)_{18}^{2+a}$	3.576	1.819	1.004
Zn(HS) <sub>2</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>4</sub>	2.717	1.384	0.764
$Zn(HS)_3(H_2O)_2^-$	3.028	1.535	0.845
Zn(HS) <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	2.190	1.101	0.604
ZnS(HS)H <sub>2</sub> O <sup>-</sup>	2.628	1.326	0.728
ZnCl (H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>5</sub> <sup>+ a</sup>	3.142	1.599	0.882
$ZnCl_2(H_2O)_4^a$	2.956	1.495	0.822
ZnHCO <sub>3</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup>	3.439	1.754	0.969
$ZnCO_3(H_2O)_4$	3.990	2.050	1.137

<sup>684 &</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Calculated structures (Fujii et al., 2010) were reproduced.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup>Applying the CPCM continuum solvation method.

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Table 3 Bond distances calculated for Zn sulfides.

Species	Bond <sup>a</sup> , Zn-O	Bond <sup>a</sup> , Zn-S
	(Å)	(Å)
Zn(HS) <sub>2</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>4</sub>	2.434(2) 2.514(2)	2.295(2)
Zn(HS) <sub>3</sub> (H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>2</sub>	3.536(2)	2.300(2) 2.324(1)
Zn(HS) <sub>4</sub>	-	2.450(4)
ZnS(HS)H <sub>2</sub> O <sup>-</sup>	3.412(2) <sup>b</sup>	2.331(2) <sup>b</sup> 2.365(1)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Numbers of bonds are shown in parentheses.
<sup>b</sup> Shared with another Zn<sup>2+</sup>.

Table 4 Stability constants of Zn sulfide and chloride systems.

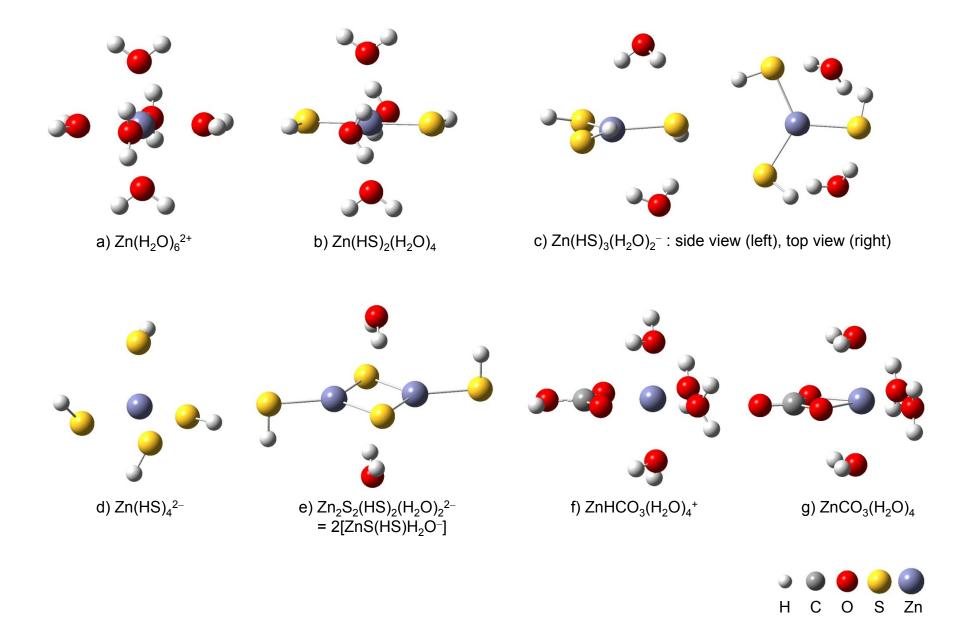
	298K	423K	573K	Reference
$\log K_{Zn(HS)_2}$	9.40	9.82	12.56 <sup>a</sup>	Tagirov and Seward (2010)
$\log K_{Zn(HS)_3^-}$	13.06 <sup>a</sup>	12.39 <sup>b</sup>	14.41 <sup>a</sup>	Tagirov and Seward (2010)
$\log K_{Zn(HS)_4^{2-}}$	14.47	12.02	11.80	Tagirov and Seward (2010)
$\log K_{ZnS(HS)^-}$	3.41	2.69	2.47 <sup>a</sup>	Tagirov and Seward (2010)
$\log K_{ZnCl^+}$	$-0.03^{c}$	2.89	6.53 <sup>c</sup>	Ruaya and Seward (1986)
$\log K_{ZnCl_2}$	0.13 <sup>c</sup>	2.96	7.51 <sup>c</sup>	Ruaya and Seward (1986)
$\log K_{ZnHCO_3^+}$	2.1	$2.1^d$	$2.1^d$	Zirino and Yamamoto (1972)
$\log K_{ZnCO_3}$	5.3	$5.3^d$	$5.3^d$	Zirino and Yamamoto (1972)
$\log K_{HCO_3^-}$	-6.35	-6.74	-8.50	Smith et al. (1986)
$\log K_{CO_3^{2-}}$	-16.69	-16.98	-19.82	Smith et al. (1986)
$pK_a$	6.99	6.49	7.89	Suleimenov and Seward (1997)

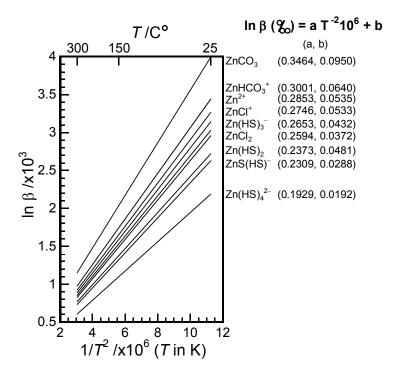
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>c</sup> Values are shown in Appendix C in Tagirov and Seward (2010).

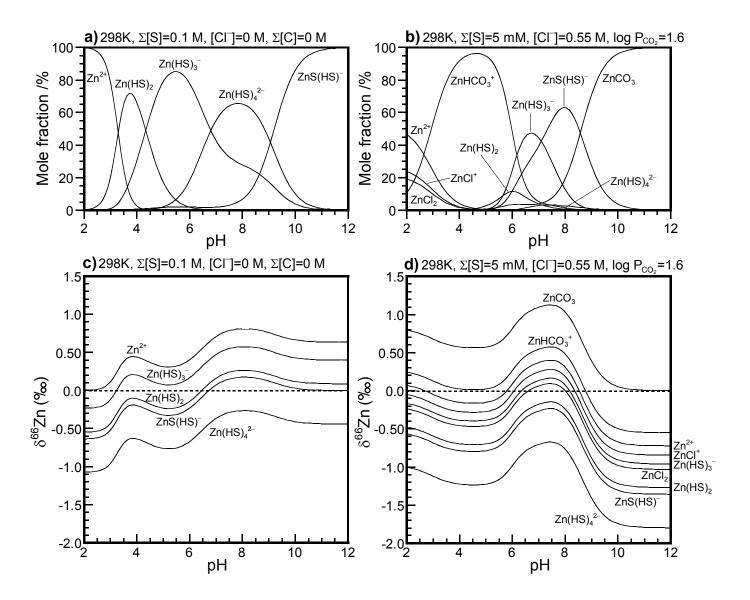
b Value for 373K was used. The value for 423K did not reproduce the speciation calculation of Tagirov and Seward (2010).
c Calculated from equation 23 in Ruaya and Seward (1986).
d Stability constants at 298 K.

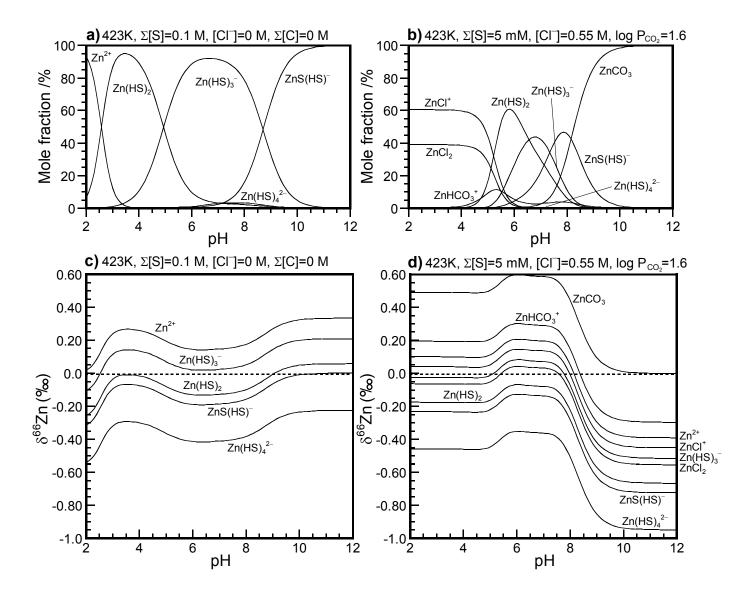
- 726 Figure captions
- 727 Figure 1 Molecular structures of hydrated Zn<sup>2+</sup> and aqueous Zn sulfides. Structures
- are drawn by using GaussView3.0 (Gaussian Inc.). a)  $Zn(H_2O)_6^{2+}$ , b)  $Zn(HS)_2(H_2O)_4$ , c)
- $Zn(HS)_3(H_2O)_2^-, \ d) \ Zn(HS)_4^{2-}, \ e) \ Zn_2S_2(HS)_2(H_2O)_2^{2-} \ = \ 2[ZnS(HS)(H_2O)^-], \ f)$
- 730  $ZnHCO_3(H_2O)_4^+$  and g)  $ZnCO_3(H_2O)_4$ .
- 731 **Figure 2 Temperature dependence of ln \beta.** The ln  $\beta$  values shown in Table 2 are fitted
- 732 by linear functions of  $T^{-2}$ .
- 733 Figure 3 Mole fractions of Zn species and Zn isotopic variations as functions of pH
- at 298 K. a) Mole fractions of Zn species in Cl<sup>-</sup> and carbonate free hydrous fluid under
- 735  $\Sigma[S]=0.1 \text{ M}$ , b) Mole fractions of Zn species with  $\Sigma[S]=5 \text{ mM}$  and  $[Cl^-]=0.55 \text{ M}$  under
- 736  $P_{CO_2} = 50$  bar, c) Species  $\delta^{66}$ Zn relative to the bulk solution in Cl<sup>-</sup> and carbonate free
- hydrous fluid, and d)  $\delta^{66}$ Zn under the hydrothermal condition of b). Dotted lines at 0%
- 738 in c) and d) show  $\delta^{66}$ Zn of bulk solution (averaged  $\delta^{66}$ Zn in the whole solution).  $\Sigma$ [Zn]
- 739 was set to be  $10^{-6.1}$  M (Tagirov and Seward, 2010).
- 740 Figure 4 Mole fractions of Zn species and Zn isotopic variations as functions of pH
- at 423 K. Panels a-d: see caption of Fig. 3. Mole fraction of Zn<sup>2+</sup> in Fig. 4b is 0.14%
- at pH=2 and smaller than that at pH>2. The maximum value of  $Zn(HS)_4^{2-}$  mole fraction
- 743 is 0.06% at pH=7.1 (Fig. 4b). Dotted lines in c) and d) mean  $\delta^{66}$ Zn of bulk solution
- (averaged  $\delta^{66}$ Zn in the whole solution).  $\Sigma$ [Zn] was set to be  $10^{-6.1}$  M (Tagirov and
- 745 Seward, 2010).
- 746 Figure 5 Mole fractions of Zn species and Zn isotopic variations as functions of pH
- at 573 K. Panels a-d: see caption of Fig. 3. Mole fraction of Zn<sup>2+</sup> in Fig. 5b is smaller
- 748 than 0.001%. The maximum value of  $Zn(HS)_4^{2-}$  mole fraction is 0.02% (Fig. 5a) or

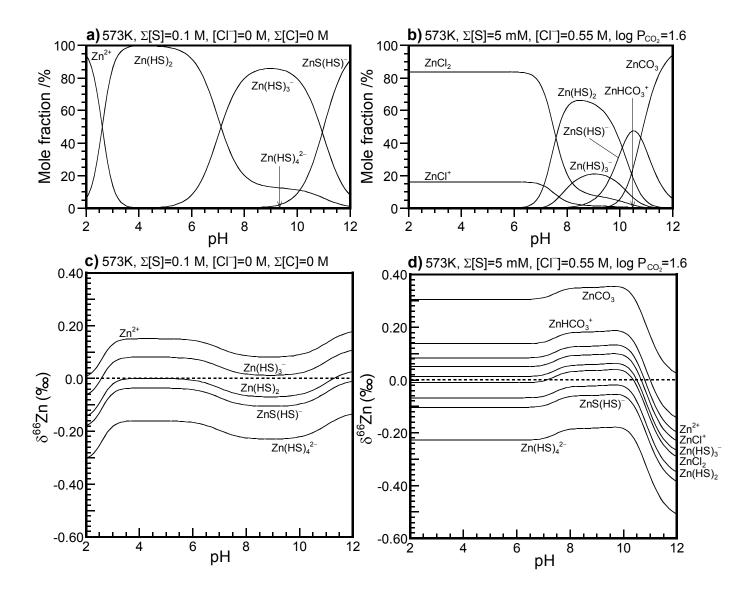
749 0.0002% (Fig. 5b) at pH=9.3. The maximum value of ZnHCO $_3^+$  mole fraction is 0.1% at pH= 10.5 (Fig. 5b). Dotted lines in c) and d) mean  $\delta^{66}$ Zn of bulk solution (averaged  $\delta^{66}$ Zn in the whole solution).  $\Sigma$ [Zn] was set to be  $10^{-6.1}$  M (Tagirov and Seward, 2010). 752 753 754











## **Supplementary material**

## The origin of Zn Isotope Fractionation in Sulfides

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## In order of appearance:

Figure S1:  $Zn(H_2O)_6^{2+}$  with  $T_h$  symmetry and its vibrational modes,  $v_1$ ,  $v_2$ , and  $v_3$ 

Table S1: Zn-O and O-H bond lengths and ∠HOH angles

Table S2:  $v_1$ ,  $v_2$ , and  $v_3$  frequencies

Table S3: ln β's at 298 K

Figure S2: Mole fractions of Zn species and Zn isotopic variations as functions of pH at 573 K (for stronger complexation of Zn carbonates).

Figure S3: Mole fractions of Zn species and Zn isotopic variations as functions of pH at 298 K ( $\Sigma[S] = 0.1 \text{ M}$ ,  $[Cl^-] = 0.55 \text{ M}$ , and  $\Sigma[C] = 0 \text{ M}$ ).

Figure S4: Mole fractions of Zn species and Zn isotopic variations as functions of pH at  $423 \text{ K} (\Sigma[S] = 0.1 \text{ M}, [\text{Cl}^{-}] = 0.55 \text{ M}, \text{ and } \Sigma[\text{C}] = 0 \text{ M}).$ 

Figure S5: Mole fractions of Zn species and Zn isotopic variations as functions of pH at 573 K ( $\Sigma[S] = 0.1$  M,  $[Cl^-] = 0.55$  M, and  $\Sigma[C] = 0$  M).

Figure S6: Mole fractions of Zn species and Zn isotopic variations as functions of pH at 298 K ( $\Sigma[S] = 10 \,\mu\text{M}$ ,  $[Cl^-] = 0.55 \,\text{M}$ , and  $\log P_{\text{CO2}} = -3.4$ ).

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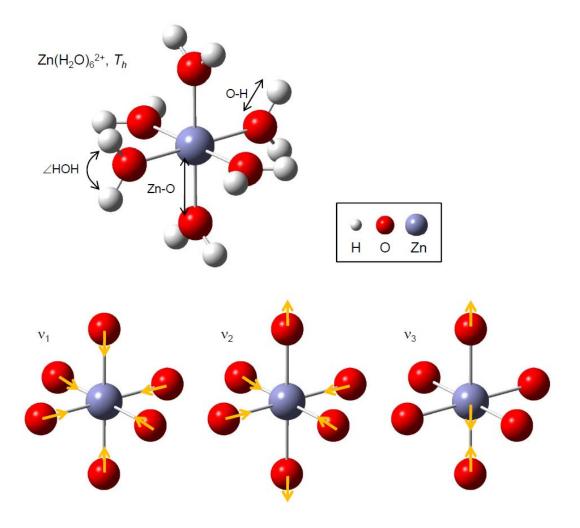


Fig. S1  $Zn(H_2O)_6^{2+}$  with  $T_h$  symmetry and its vibrational modes,  $v_1$ ,  $v_2$ , and  $v_3$ . Structures are drawn by using GaussView3.0 (Gaussian Inc.).

Table S1
Zn-O and O-H bond lengths and ∠HOH angles

Theory/Basis sets <sup>a</sup>	Zn-O	О-Н	∠HOH
	(Å)	(Å)	(°)
B3LYP			
6-31G(d)	2.094	0.973	107.2
6-31G(d,p)	2.092	0.969	107.4
6-31+G(d)	2.124	0.974	107.4
6-31+G(d,p)	2.125	0.970	107.6
6-31++G(d,p)	2.125	0.970	107.6
6-311G(d)	2.095	0.965	108.4
6-311G(d,p)	2.097	0.966	107.3
6-311+G(d)	2.118	0.966	108.2
6-311+G(d,p)	2.128	0.967	107.4
6-311++G(d,p)	2.128	0.967	107.4
LanL2DZ & 6-31G(d)	2.131	0.973	107.1
LanL2DZ & 6-31G(d,p)	2.131	0.968	107.1
LanL2DZ & 6-31+G(d)	2.143	0.974	107.1
LanL2DZ & 6-31+G(d,p)	2.145	0.970	107.3
LanL2DZ & $6-31++G(d,p)$	2.146	0.970	107.3
LanL2DZ & 6-311G(d)	2.131	0.965	108.3
LanL2DZ & 6-311G(d,p)	2.138	0.966	107.1
LanL2DZ & 6-311+G(d)	2.135	0.966	108.0
LanL2DZ & 6-311+G(d,p)	2.146	0.967	107.1
LanL2DZ & 6-311++G(d,p)	2.146	0.967	107.1
UHF			
LanL2DZ & 6-31G(d)	2.142	0.954	107.3
0.01111	. 1 C		(TT) ·

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Orbital geometries and vibrational frequencies of aqueous Zn(II) species were computed using density functional theory (DFT) as implemented by the Gaussian03 code (Frisch et al., 2003). The DFT method employed here is a hybrid density functional consisting of Becke's three-parameter non-local hybrid exchange potential (B3) (Becke, 1993) with Lee-Yang and Parr (LYP) (Lee et al., 1988) non-local functionals. 6-31G and 6-311G basis set, which are all-electron basis sets, were chosen for H, O, and Zn. For comparison, an effective-core potential (ECP) basis set, LanL2DZ (Hay and Wadt, 1985a, b; Wadt and Hay, 1985), was tested for Zn. Unrestricted Hartree-Fock (UHF) theory was also tested.

Table S2  $v_1$ ,  $v_2$ , and  $v_3$  frequencies

v <sub>1</sub> , v <sub>2</sub> , and v <sub>3</sub> frequencies			
Theory/Basis sets	$(cm^{-1})$	$(cm^{-1})$	$(cm^{-1})$
B3LYP	(*****)	( )	(0.00)
6-31G(d)	361	236	295
6-31G(d,p)	361	235	300
6-31+G(d)	336	217	290
6-31+G(d,p)	334	215	289
6-31++G(d,p)	335	216	289
6-311G(d)	372	246	339
6-311G(d,p)	371	244	334
6-311+G(d)	340	228	308
6-311+G(d,p)	333	219	294
6-311++G(d,p)	333	219	294
LanL2DZ & 6-31G(d)	338	243	301
LanL2DZ & 6-31G(d,p)	338	243	309
LanL2DZ & 6-31+G(d)	327	234	306
LanL2DZ & 6-31+G(d,p)	325	231	304
LanL2DZ & 6-31++G(d,p)	325	231	304
LanL2DZ & 6-311G(d)	342	250	329
LanL2DZ & 6-311G(d,p)	337	245	319
LanL2DZ & 6-311+G(d)	335	244	323
LanL2DZ & 6-311+G(d,p)	328	236	311
LanL2DZ & 6-311++G(d,p)	328	236	311
UHF			
LanL2DZ & 6-31G(d)	336	234	309

Table S3: ln β's at 298 K

111 p 3 at 270 1X	
Theory/Basis sets	ln β (‰)
B3LYP	(700)
6-31G(d)	3.427
6-31G(d,p)	3.405
6-31+G(d)	3.274
6-31+G(d,p)	3.215
6-31++G(d,p)	3.214
6-311G(d)	4.190
6-311G(d,p)	4.044
6-311+G(d)	3.501
6-311+G(d,p)	3.250
6-311++G(d,p)	3.239
LanL2DZ & 6-31G(d)	$3.753 (3.74^{a})$
LanL2DZ & 6-31G(d,p)	3.732
LanL2DZ & 6-31+G(d)	3.520
LanL2DZ & $6-31+G(d,p)$	3.465
LanL2DZ & $6-31++G(d,p)$	3.474
LanL2DZ & 6-311G(d)	4.085
LanL2DZ & 6-311G(d,p)	3.838
LanL2DZ & 6-311+G(d)	3.859
LanL2DZ & 6-311+G(d,p)	3.600
LanL2DZ & 6-311++G(d,p)	3.598
UHF	
LanL2DZ & 6-31G(d)	3.594 (3.58 <sup>a</sup> )

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Black et al. (2011)

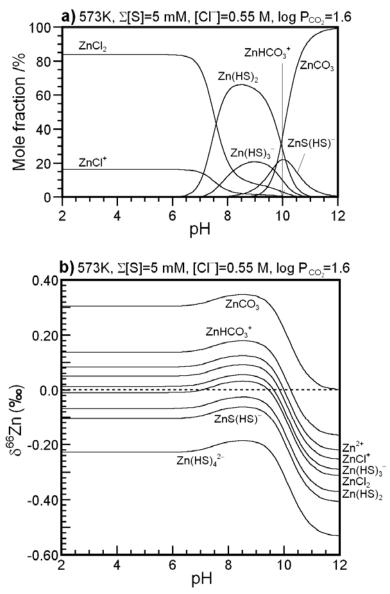


Fig. S2. Mole fractions of Zn species and Zn isotopic variations as functions of pH at 573 K (for stronger complexation of Zn carbonates). a) Mole fractions of Zn species with  $\Sigma[S]=5$  mM and  $[CI^-]=0.55$  M under  $P_{CO2}=50$  bar, b)  $\delta^{66}$ Zn under the hydrothermal condition. Under an assumption that formations of ZnHCO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> and ZnCO<sub>3</sub> are enhanced by increasing temperature,  $K_{ZnHCO_3^+}$  and  $K_{ZnCO_3}$  were multiplied by 10 (as an example) and log  $K_{ZnHCO_3^+}=3.1$  and log  $K_{ZnCO_3}=6.3$  were used. Mole fraction of Zn<sup>2+</sup> in Fig. S2b is smaller than 0.001%. The maximum value of Zn(HS)<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> mole fraction is 0.0002% at pH=9.3. The maximum value of ZnHCO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> mole fraction is 0.5% at pH= 10.0. Dotted line in b) means  $\delta^{66}$ Zn of bulk solution (averaged  $\delta^{66}$ Zn in the whole solution).  $\Sigma[Zn]$  was set to be  $10^{-6.1}$  M (Tagirov and Seward, 2010).

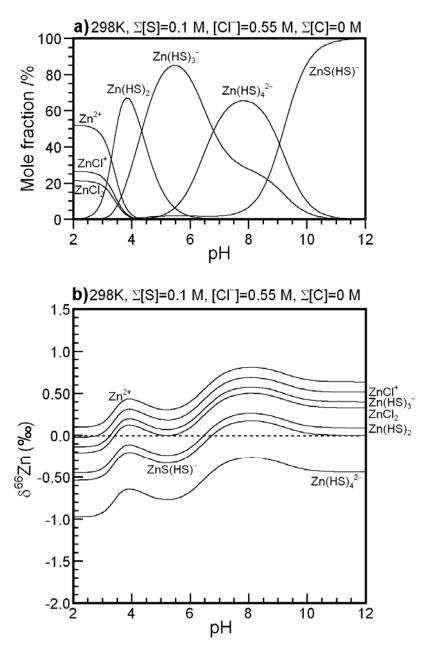


Fig. S3 Mole fractions of Zn species and Zn isotopic variations as functions of pH at 298 K ( $\Sigma[S] = 0.1$  M, [Cl] = 0.55 M, and  $\Sigma[C] = 0$  M). a) Mole fractions of Zn species in carbonate free hydrous fluid under  $\Sigma[S]$ =0.1 M and [Cl] = 0.55 M, b)  $\delta^{66}$ Zn in carbonate free hydrous fluid. Dotted line in b) means  $\delta^{66}$ Zn of bulk solution (averaged  $\delta^{66}$ Zn in the whole solution).  $\Sigma[Zn]$  was set to be  $10^{-6.1}$  M (Tagirov and Seward, 2010).

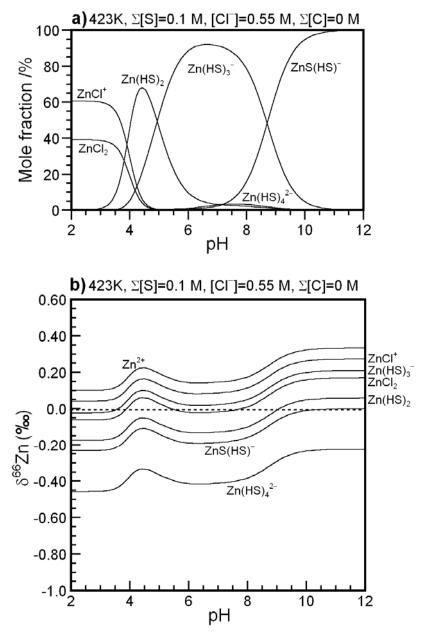


Fig. S4 Mole fractions of Zn species and Zn isotopic variations as functions of pH at 423 K ( $\Sigma[S] = 0.1$  M, [Cl] = 0.55 M, and  $\Sigma[C] = 0$  M). a) Mole fractions of Zn species in carbonate free hydrous fluid under  $\Sigma[S]$ =0.1 M and [Cl] = 0.55 M, b)  $\delta^{66}$ Zn in carbonate free hydrous fluid. Mole fraction of Zn<sup>2+</sup> is 0.14% at pH=2 and smaller than that at pH>2. Dotted line in b) means  $\delta^{66}$ Zn of bulk solution (averaged  $\delta^{66}$ Zn in the whole solution).  $\Sigma[Zn]$  was set to be  $10^{-6.1}$  M (Tagirov and Seward, 2010).

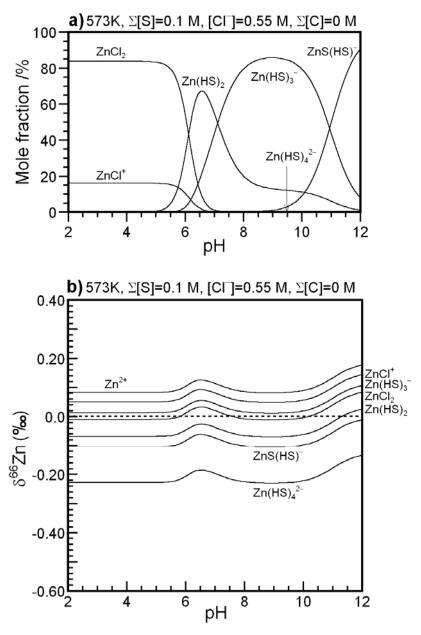


Fig. S5 Mole fractions of Zn species and Zn isotopic variations as functions of pH at 573 K ( $\Sigma[S] = 0.1$  M, [Cl] = 0.55 M, and  $\Sigma[C] = 0$  M). a) Mole fractions of Zn species in carbonate free hydrous fluid under  $\Sigma[S]$ =0.1 M and [Cl] = 0.55 M, b)  $\delta^{66}$ Zn in carbonate free hydrous fluid. Mole fraction of Zn<sup>2+</sup> is smaller than 0.001%. The maximum value of Zn(HS)<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> mole fraction is 0.02% at pH=9.5. Dotted line in b) means  $\delta^{66}$ Zn of bulk solution (averaged  $\delta^{66}$ Zn in the whole solution).  $\Sigma[Zn]$  was set to be  $10^{-6.1}$  M (Tagirov and Seward, 2010).

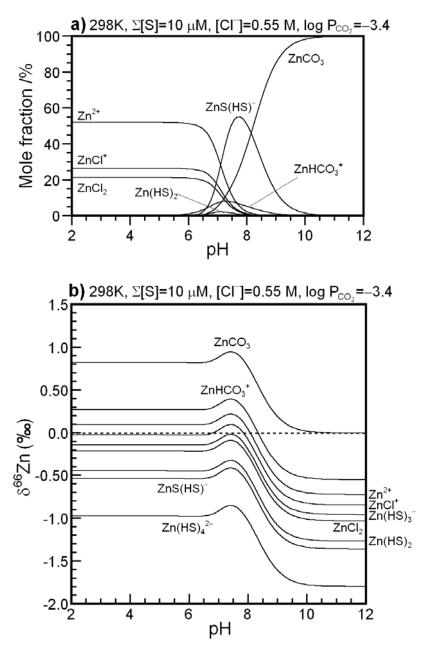


Fig. S6 Mole fractions of Zn species and Zn isotopic variations as functions of pH at 298 K ( $\Sigma[S] = 10 \,\mu\text{M}$ , [Cl] = 0.55 M, and log  $P_{\text{CO2}} = -3.4$ ). a) Mole fractions of Zn species in hydrous fluid under low  $\Sigma[S]$  and  $P_{\text{CO2}}$  condition, b)  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  in the hydrous fluid.  $\Sigma[S]$  and  $P_{\text{CO2}}$  were set much smaller than those of Figs. 3a and 3c. The maximum value of  $\text{Zn}(\text{HS})_3^-$  mole fraction is 0.06% at pH=7.3. The maximum value of  $\text{Zn}(\text{HS})_4^{2-}$  mole fraction is 0.00001% at pH=7.4. Dotted line in b) means  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  of bulk solution (averaged  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  in the whole solution).  $\Sigma[\text{Zn}]$  was set to be  $10^{-6.1}$  M (Tagirov and Seward, 2010).

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