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## Analysis of Atmosphere Effect on Silicon Oxycarbide Synthesis with Controlled Chemical Compositions

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5 **Analysis of Atmosphere Effect on Silicon Oxycarbide Synthesis with Controlled**  
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7 **Chemical Compositions**  
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**Abstract**

Densely cross-linked silicone resin particles with an averaged diameter of 2  $\mu\text{m}$  were pyrolyzed in various atmospheres, such as hydrogen, argon and carbon dioxide in the temperature range of 700–1100  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  to obtain silicon oxycarbides. Residual masses of samples after pyrolysis were remained almost a constant at 700  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  notwithstanding that apparent colors were distinctly varied. The sample obtained in the  $\text{H}_2$  atmosphere was white and that obtained in the  $\text{CO}_2$  atmosphere was dark brown. Color of Ar sample at 700  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  was dark yellow. Beyond the pyrolysis temperature of 800  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ , Si–O–Si network evolution with free carbon segregation proceeded in the  $\text{CO}_2$  atmosphere, whereas Si–C bond incorporation in main network was accelerated in the  $\text{H}_2$  atmosphere. In the Ar atmosphere, both free carbon segregation and Si–C bond incorporation in the network occurred. In the samples obtained in the  $\text{H}_2$  atmosphere, spin concentrations were in the range of  $10^{16}$ – $10^{17}$   $\text{g}^{-1}$ , whereas those in the  $\text{CO}_2$  and Ar were in the range of  $10^{18}$ – $10^{19}$   $\text{g}^{-1}$ . Hydrogen capping of dangling bond formed during pyrolysis process was suggested.

## I. Introduction

Silicon oxycarbides (Si–O–C) are amorphous materials in X-ray diffraction which are known to consist of  $\text{SiO}_x\text{C}_{4-x}$  ( $x=0-4$ ) tetrahedral network usually including free carbon. For the synthesis, pyrolysis of polysiloxanes with suitable cross-linked structures is usually conducted.<sup>1-4</sup> Pyrolysis of condensates of Si alkoxide is also available, which is believed to be effective to control chemical compositions and nanostructures of the resulting materials.<sup>5,6</sup>

In classic works, main application of the silicon oxycarbides was components of ceramic base composites or binders of ceramics for high temperature uses.<sup>7-9</sup> In series of early works, porous Si–O–C ceramics with controlled foam morphology were successfully synthesized.<sup>10,11</sup>

On the other hand, various functional properties of Si–O–C ceramics begin to attract attentions in recent years. The polymer-derived Si–O–C anodes were found to offer a high reversible lithium storage capacity up to  $920 \text{ mAh g}^{-1}$ , whereas the theoretical capacity of conventional graphite anode is limited to  $372 \text{ mAh g}^{-1}$ .<sup>12</sup> Riedel et al. found piezoresistivity of hot pressed Si–O–C and proposed the application as pressure sensors available in severe environments.<sup>13</sup> Karakuscu et al. found that electric resistivity of porous Si–O–C were sensitively changed by partial pressures of gaseous species, such as  $\text{NO}_2$ , in environment.<sup>14</sup>

In addition, our group in Osaka Prefecture University succeeded in synthesis of Si–O–C(–H) ceramics with reduced carbon contents by using hydrogen for the pyrolysis process of silicone resin particles.<sup>15</sup> Transparent appearance of the obtained Si–O–C(–H) ceramics is highly attractive for optical uses, which could not be available in classic black Si–O–C ceramics. As expected from previous studies, these

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5 Si–O–C(–H) ceramics exhibited even photoluminescence (PL) under excitation of UV  
6 light (350–370 nm).<sup>16–20</sup> The ceramics also possess unique oxidation resistance, which  
7  
8 highly depends on the surface chemical nature.<sup>21</sup>  
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11  
12 In the polymer precursor method for ceramic synthesis, control of starting molecular  
13 structures by organochemical technique has been a hot issue, and various polymers and  
14 resulting ceramic materials have been produced. They are now playing important roles  
15 in industry.<sup>21–25</sup> Effect of pyrolysis atmosphere on the resulting ceramic structures is,  
16 however, not clearly defined even at present. Using of hydrogen is known to diminish  
17 excess carbon in the resulting ceramics effectively.<sup>15,26</sup> Active filler method is known to  
18 be based on reaction of metal fillers with gaseous species in ambient atmosphere, and  
19 such reactions often yield dense ceramic composites with adopting suitable heat  
20 treatment conditions.<sup>27</sup> Changes in molecular structures and network evolution in the  
21 precursor during pyrolysis under influence of atmosphere, however, have not been  
22 sufficiently analyzed and discussed in previous studies. We selected commercialized  
23 silicon resin particles for the aimed study, although the molecular structure of the resin  
24 particles, mainly consisting of (CH<sub>3</sub>)SiO<sub>3</sub> units, may be too simple as compared with  
25 most of the precursor polymers now developed and commercialized. Chemical  
26 composition, molecular structure, and particle size are, however, well controlled at the  
27 stage of the precursor synthesis. They can be regarded as standard for analyzing the  
28 atmosphere effect on resulting nature of the obtained Si–O–C or Si–O–C(–H) ceramics.  
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## 51 52 **II. Experimental Procedure**

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54 The Si–O–C (or Si–O–C(–H)) ceramics for the study were synthesized from  
55 Tospearl 120 (Momentive Performance Materials Japan), which consisted of silicone  
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5 resin microspheres with an average diameter of 2  $\mu\text{m}$  and with a chemical composition  
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7 of  $\text{SiO}_{1.66}\text{C}_{1.00}\text{H}_{3.36}$ . Molecular structures and impurities in the precursor were analyzed  
8  
9 in detail in previous studies.<sup>15,20,21</sup> 0.5–1.0 g of the precursor was placed on an alumina  
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11 boat and heat-treated in an alumina tube at appointed temperatures of 700–1100  $^{\circ}\text{C}$   
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13 under a flow of hydrogen ( $\text{H}_2$ ), argon (Ar) and carbon dioxide ( $\text{CO}_2$ ). The heating rate  
14  
15 up to the appointed temperatures was 200  $^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{h}$  and the holding time was 1h. Each gases  
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17 were at an industrial grade (>99.9%). A  $\text{H}_2$  flow rate was 1000 ml/min, whereas Ar and  
18  
19  $\text{CO}_2$  gas flow rates were 300 ml/min. A 40 mm SSA alumina tube contained in a SiC  
20  
21 heater furnace was used for pyrolysis, giving a flow rate of 800 and 240 mm/min,  
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23 respectively.  
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27 FTIR spectra of pyrolysis products were obtained by Spectrum GX (PerkinElmer  
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29 Japan Co., Ltd., Tokyo, Japan) with KBr pellet method. 32 scans were recorded for each  
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31 sample and the background was subtracted. Residual spin concentrations in the  
32  
33 pyrolyzed samples were estimated from signals obtained by EPR spectrometer of  
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35 EMX8/2.7 (Bruker, Germany) using  $\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$  as standard.  
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39 Elemental analysis were performed by ICP-AES analysis on Si by SPS 3529 UV  
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41 (Hitachi High-Tech Science Corporation) and IR analysis on decomposition gas on C, O  
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43 and H by TCH 600 and IR-412 (LECO corporation). Specific gravities of the pyrolyzed  
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45 samples were measured by a glass pycnometer (5 ml) using pure water as medium.  
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47 Thermogravimetric – differential thermal analysis (TG-DTA) was performed on each  
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49 samples (10-20 mg) in dry air flow up to 1400  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  with a heating rate of 10  $^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{min}$  by  
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51 using TG-DTA 320 system (Seiko instruments Inc.). SEM images of the each pyrolysis  
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53 products were obtained by S-4500 (Hitachi).  
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56 Thermodynamic calculation of Si–O–C–H system was carried out by using the  
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5 software package CaTCalc\_ver 1A pro (Materials Design Technology Co. Ltd. Tokyo,  
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7 Japan).  
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### 10 11 12 **III. Results and Discussion**

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14 Figure 1 shows residual mass of the precursor after pyrolysis at each temperature in  
15 various atmospheres. There is no difference in residual masses at 700 °C, which is  
16 94–95%. In the H<sub>2</sub> gas flow, residual mass decreases rapidly at 700–900 °C and keeps  
17 steady values of 78–79 % at 900–1100 °C. In the Ar gas flow, the residual mass  
18 decreases at the same temperature region, and keeps steady values of 85–86 % at  
19 900–1100 °C. The absolute residual masses of the H<sub>2</sub> samples are apparently lower than  
20 those of the Ar samples. On the other hand, a residual mass of the CO<sub>2</sub> sample shows a  
21 small gain at 700–800 °C, and turns to decrease beyond 800 °C. This suggests moderate  
22 oxidation of the precursor in a CO<sub>2</sub> gas flow. At low temperature region, Si atoms in the  
23 polymer network selectively capture oxygen, whereas methyl groups are not completely  
24 decomposed to CO. At high temperature region, carbonaceous domains derived from  
25 methyl groups begin to be oxidized to form CO. A double circle in Fig. 1 indicates the  
26 sample which heat-treated at 800 °C in a CO<sub>2</sub> gas flow and secondly heat-treated at  
27 1100 °C in an Ar gas flow. Since carbonaceous domains are maintained, the residual  
28 mass keeps a high value as compared with that merely heat-treated in a CO<sub>2</sub> gas flow up  
29 to 1100 °C.  
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49 Effect of atmosphere on ceramization process appears not only in mass loss behavior  
50 but also in obvious color of the pyrolyzed samples. Figure 2 (a) and (b) show photo  
51 images of the pyrolyzed samples under visible light and UV light. Color of the H<sub>2</sub>  
52 samples keeps white appearance, whereas colors of the Ar and CO<sub>2</sub> samples are  
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5 intrinsically black at 800 and 1100 °C. On the other hand, color of Ar 700 is dark  
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7 yellow and that of the CO<sub>2</sub> 700 is brown.  
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10 Under the UV light, H<sub>2</sub> 800 and H<sub>2</sub> 1100 exhibit strong PL, as described in previous  
11 studies.<sup>15,20</sup> On the other hand, the Ar and CO<sub>2</sub> samples exhibit no PL at 800 and  
12  
13 1100 °C. H<sub>2</sub> 700 and Ar 700 seem to exhibit very weak PL. In previous studies, such  
14  
15 weak PL observed at an early stage of ceramization was suggested to have relationship  
16  
17 with oxygen vacancies and mixed bond structures on tetrahedral Si atoms in Si–O–C  
18  
19 network.<sup>19,28–30</sup> In CO<sub>2</sub> 700, however, there is no indication of the PL possibly because  
20  
21 of relatively high oxygen partial pressure of the CO<sub>2</sub> atmosphere.  
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25 FTIR spectra of the pyrolyzed samples were obtained, and peak positions of Si–O–Si  
26  
27 (or Si–O–C) stretching vibration are plotted against pyrolysis temperatures (Figure  
28  
29 3).<sup>31,32</sup> As the pyrolysis temperature increases, the peak position shifts to larger  
30  
31 wavenumbers. The peak positions of the CO<sub>2</sub> samples are always larger than those of  
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33 the Ar and a H<sub>2</sub> gas flow at the same pyrolysis temperature. The peak wavenumbers of  
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35 the H<sub>2</sub> samples are a little smaller than those of the Ar samples in a temperature range of  
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37 700–900 °C. At 1000 and 1100 °C, however, the peak wavenumber of the H<sub>2</sub> sample  
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39 exceeds that of the Ar sample.  
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43 The results shown in Fig.2 and 3 suggest that the pyrolysis atmosphere has influenced  
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45 on molecular structure of pyrolyzed samples even at an early stage of the ceramization,  
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47 although there is no substantial difference in the residual mass. Figure 4 (a) and (b)  
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49 show FTIR spectra of the samples obtained at 700 °C. As expected, each spectrum  
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51 feature is apparently various. In the FTIR spectrum of the H<sub>2</sub> 700, sharp peaks assigned  
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53 to Si–CH<sub>3</sub> groups (1250 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 780 cm<sup>-1</sup>) appear. Formation of Si–CH<sub>2</sub>–Si bridges is  
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55 also suggested from existence of shoulder at 840 cm<sup>-1</sup>, which overlaps on the band of  
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5 Si–O–Si bending vibration ( $800\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ).<sup>31</sup> The main Si–O–Si (Si–O–C) stretching  
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7 vibration band seem to have a peak at  $1050\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and a shoulder at  $1150\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . Perhaps,  
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9 silsesquioxane cage structure is maintained in the  $\text{H}_2$  atmosphere.<sup>33</sup> The spectrum feature  
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11 of the Ar and  $\text{CO}_2$  samples are similar to that of amorphous silica besides a very small  
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13 spike assigned to Si– $\text{CH}_3$  group ( $1250\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ). In the Ar and  $\text{CO}_2$  samples, cage  
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15 structure seems to be deconstructed. Apparent peak width of the  $\text{CO}_2$  700 is, however,  
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17 sharp as compared with that of the Ar 700.  
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21 Figure 5 (a) and (b) shows FTIR spectra of the samples obtained at  $800\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ . The peaks  
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23 assigned to Si– $\text{CH}_3$  groups almost disappear. Main bands in the spectra are assigned to  
24  
25 the Si–O–Si stretching vibration (peak:  $1100\text{--}1040\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), the Si–O–Si bending vibration  
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27 (peak:  $800\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) and the Si–O–Si rocking (peak:  $450\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), which are generally  
28  
29 observed in FTIR spectra of amorphous silica.<sup>31</sup> The peak width of the stretching  
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31 vibration band is wide in  $\text{H}_2$  800 and is narrow in  $\text{CO}_2$  800. In Fig. 5 (b), the spectrum  
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33 of  $\text{H}_2$  800 exhibits an apparent shoulder at  $880\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , which can be assigned to inorganic  
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35 Si–C bonds incorporated in Si–O–C network.<sup>34,35</sup> This shoulder, however, does not  
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37 appear in the spectra of Ar 800 and  $\text{CO}_2$  800.  
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41 Table 1 shows elemental compositions and specific gravities of the Si–O–C(–H)  
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43 ceramics after pyrolysis. Elemental compositions of the  $\text{H}_2$  samples and the Ar samples  
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45 were picked up from the data of our previous study, ref. 15. Therefore, hydrogen  
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47 contents of  $\text{H}_2$  1100 and Ar 1100 may be a little underestimated, because holding time  
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49 of 3h was adopted in the previous study for the pyrolysis at  $1100\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ . The Si, O and C  
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51 molar ratios are, however, considered to be same.  
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55 At  $800\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ , hydrogen contents of the samples are high, and the materials hold organic  
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57 nature partly. At  $1100\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ , hydrogen contents are reduced and dense ceramics are  
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5 obtained. H<sub>2</sub> 1100 possesses near stoichiometric SiO<sub>2</sub>-xSiC composition with no excess  
6 carbon or silicon. On the other hand, CO<sub>2</sub> 1100 and CO<sub>2</sub> 800-Ar 1100 possess near  
7 stoichiometric SiO<sub>2</sub>-xC composition with no silicon carbide phase. Ar 1100 possesses  
8 phase combination of SiO<sub>2</sub>-xSiC-yC. Specific gravity of H<sub>2</sub> 1100 and Ar 1100 exceeds  
9 2.2. Relatively high specific gravities of these materials probably correspond to Si-C  
10 bond incorporation in amorphous network. On the other hand, specific gravities of CO<sub>2</sub>  
11 1100 and CO<sub>2</sub> 800-Ar 1100 are below 2.2. These measured values are acceptable  
12 because possible component phases in the samples are considered to be amorphous  
13 silica (specific gravity of 2.2) and carbon (specific gravity of 1.8-2.1).  
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25 Figure 6 (a) shows ESR signals of the H<sub>2</sub> 1100 and CO<sub>2</sub> 1100. The g-factor and  
26 linewidth of and ESR signal for H<sub>2</sub> 1100 are estimated to be 2.0021 and 0.11 mT,  
27 whereas those of CO<sub>2</sub> 1100 are 2.0024 and 0.35 mT. It is plausible that these spins exist  
28 on carbon atoms in the synthesized materials, because the estimated g-factors are  
29 consistent with those of the carbon dangling bonds in silicon carbides or carbonaceous  
30 materials.<sup>36-39</sup> The signal intensity and linewidth of the CO<sub>2</sub> 1100 are far larger than  
31 those of H<sub>2</sub> 1100. The large linewidth of the CO<sub>2</sub> 1100 is probably controlled by  
32 spin-spin interaction in the system. On the other hand, Fig. 6 (b) shows spin  
33 concentrations of the samples pyrolyzed in H<sub>2</sub>, Ar and CO<sub>2</sub>. The spin concentrations of  
34 the H<sub>2</sub> samples are always 2-4 order magnitudes lower than those of the Ar or the CO<sub>2</sub>  
35 samples. The Ar samples and the CO<sub>2</sub> samples give an order of 10<sup>19</sup> g<sup>-1</sup> in a temperature  
36 range of 800-1100 °C. This spin concentration is almost the same as the values  
37 observed in previous studies of Si-C or Si-C-O samples derived from polycarbosilane  
38 in an Ar gas flow.<sup>40,41</sup> It means that the spin concentration mainly depends on the  
39 pyrolysis atmosphere, whereas the effect of structure and composition of precursor is  
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5 relatively minor. In the H<sub>2</sub> samples flow, spin concentration increase at 700–800 °C.  
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7 Relatively high spin concentrations (10<sup>17</sup> g<sup>-1</sup>) are maintained at 800 and 900 °C. It,  
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9 however, turns to decrease at 1000 °C.  
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11 Figures 7 (a)–(c) show SEM images of the pyrolysis products at 800 °C. Each particle  
12 holds independent shape and there is no apparent differences caused by pyrolysis  
13 atmosphere. The average diameters of the particles derived from the SEM images are  
14 1.92±0.21 μm for H<sub>2</sub> 800, 1.86±0.29 μm for Ar 800 and 2.06±0.25 μm for CO<sub>2</sub> 800.  
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16 Relatively large diameter of CO<sub>2</sub> may correspond to the highest residual mass after  
17 pyrolysis. The standard deviations of the analyzed values are large for further  
18 speculation.  
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27 Figure 8 (a) and (b) show results of TG-DTA analysis of the samples pyrolyzed at  
28 1100 °C in various atmosphere. H<sub>2</sub> 1100 exhibits mass gain under air flow beyond  
29 800 °C, whereas CO<sub>2</sub> 1100 exhibits mass loss beyond 1000 °C. CO<sub>2</sub> 800–Ar 1100 also  
30 exhibits mass loss in an air flow. The starting point of the mass loss, however, shifts to  
31 lower temperature and absolute mass loss rate becomes large.  
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38 The observed mass gain of H<sub>2</sub> 1100 can be assigned to oxidation of Si–C bonds, in  
39 which carbon exits as sp<sup>3</sup> carbon.<sup>21</sup> Although white Si–O–C(–H) is intrinsically  
40 amorphous, oxidation is defined in terms of the chemical reaction, SiC + 2O<sub>2</sub> → SiO<sub>2</sub> +  
41 CO<sub>2</sub>, in this case. From the chemical composition of H<sub>2</sub> 1100 (SiO<sub>1.54</sub>C<sub>0.26</sub>H<sub>0.12</sub>), we can  
42 expect a theoretical mass gain of 7.4% after the complete oxidation.  
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49 On the other hand, mass losses of CO<sub>2</sub> 1100 and CO<sub>2</sub> 800–Ar 1100 can be assigned to  
50 oxidation of sp<sup>2</sup> carbon domains trapped in amorphous silica. From chemical  
51 compositions of CO<sub>2</sub> 1100 (SiO<sub>2.02</sub>C<sub>0.18</sub>) and CO<sub>2</sub> 800–Ar1100 (SiO<sub>1.97</sub>C<sub>0.54</sub>H<sub>0.07</sub>), we  
52 can expect mass losses of –4.0% for CO<sub>2</sub> 1100 and –9.2% for CO<sub>2</sub> 800–Ar 1100. These  
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5 expected values are well consistent with the observed TG curves. On the other hand, Ar  
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7 1100 does not show any mass change in appearance. It is, however, not probable that Ar  
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9 1100 has extremely high oxidation resistance. Perhaps, mass gain caused by  $sp^3$  carbon  
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11 oxidation is compensated by mass loss caused by  $sp^2$  carbon oxidation.<sup>6</sup> In DTA curves  
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13 (Fig. 8 (b)), all the samples exhibit exothermic reaction beyond 800 °C, reaction heat is  
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15 largest in CO<sub>2</sub> 800–Ar1 100 and that is smallest in H<sub>2</sub> 1100.  
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19 From the experimental results of FTIR spectra, elemental analysis and TG-DTA  
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21 curves, it can be almost confirmed that hydrogen removes excess carbon effectively  
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23 during pyrolysis whereas Si–C bond is incorporated in the formed network.  
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26 Figure 9 (a) and (b) show results of thermodynamic calculation of stable solid phases  
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28 in precursor  $(SiO_{1.66}C_{1.00}H_{3.36}) - xH_2$  combination systems under 1 bar pressure. If there  
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30 is no additional hydrogen in the system (Fig. 9 (a)), stable phase combination is  
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32 SiO<sub>2</sub>–SiC–C in whole temperature range. The content of excess carbon depends on  
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34 temperature that the system reaches equilibrium. At higher temperature, phase  
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36 combination becomes to contain a larger amount of excess carbon. If 25H<sub>2</sub> is introduced  
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38 in the system (Fig. 9 (b)), SiO<sub>2</sub>–SiC phase combination is stable up to 820 °C, whereas  
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40 SiO<sub>2</sub>–SiC–C combination becomes stable beyond 820 °C. It means that a large amount  
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42 of hydrogen is necessary for decarbonization and decarbonization process must be  
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44 finished at relatively low temperature.  
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48 Such thermodynamic calculations were, however, performed by assuming known  
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50 stable crystalline phases in the Si, O and C systems. Nonetheless, Gibbs energy  
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52 differences between condensed phases are generally small at the same elemental  
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54 compositions, whereas gaseous phase gives large influence on Gibbs energy. In our  
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56 consideration, it is appropriate to analyze the decarbonization process of the organic  
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5 Si–O–C–H system in terms of thermodynamic calculations by assuming well known  
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7 crystalline phases as the starting components. Moreover, it is possible that amorphous  
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9 Si–O–C–(H) ceramics is easily formed in given conditions as compared with mixture of  
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11 the solid phases. Navrotsky et al. have estimated thermodynamic stabilities of white  
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13 Si–O–C–(H) ceramics and found that the ceramics have negative enthalpies of formation  
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15 compared to crystalline equivalents containing a mixture of phases, such as SiO<sub>2</sub>  
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17 (cristobalite), SiC and C (graphite).<sup>42,43</sup>  
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20  
21 On the other hand, Fig. 10 shows the case of 1 CO<sub>2</sub> introduction in the precursor. In  
22  
23 this case, stable phase combination is SiO<sub>2</sub>–C, and SiC phase does not exist in the  
24  
25 calculated stable phases. As the temperature increases, the excess carbon content  
26  
27 decreases. This means that a small amount of CO<sub>2</sub> introduction is suitable to achieve  
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29 SiO<sub>2</sub>–C composition. At high temperature, excess carbon phase, once formed, should be  
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31 removed by oxidation in terms of the chemical reaction of CO<sub>2</sub> + C → 2CO.  
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34 In addition, these thermodynamic calculations do not cover information of  
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36 elemental chemical reactions how organic silicone resin starts to react with H<sub>2</sub> or CO<sub>2</sub>  
37  
38 during the ceramization. In a previous study of an early stage of decarbonization  
39  
40 (750–850 °C) using H<sub>2</sub>, we observed formation of many Si–CH<sub>2</sub>–Si bridges and  
41  
42 evidence of oxygen vacancies with neighborhood lone pair on Si atoms (ODC II).<sup>30</sup>  
43  
44 Perhaps, such oxygen vacancies and the Si–CH<sub>2</sub>–Si bridges accelerated Si–C bond  
45  
46 incorporation process. On the other hand, spins in organic materials often play an  
47  
48 important role in condensation reaction of organic species as cross-linker or  
49  
50 polymerization initiator. Absence of the spins in the H<sub>2</sub> samples may contribute the  
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52 rapid decarbonization process by inhibiting condensation reactions of organic species  
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54 derived from methyl groups.  
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5 In the CO<sub>2</sub> samples, elemental chemical reaction is supposed to be CO<sub>2</sub> attack on  
6 organic polysiloxane network, which form rigid Si–O–Si bridges, whereas methyl  
7 groups are effectively converted to carbonaceous domains. A relatively high spin  
8 concentration in the CO<sub>2</sub> samples as well as the Ar samples may indicate role of spin in  
9 formation of carbonaceous domains composed of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.  
10 This issue of elemental reaction between CO<sub>2</sub> and polysiloxane, however, needs further  
11 analysis at present.  
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20 In the Ar samples, formation of Si–CH<sub>2</sub>–Si bridges is not apparent at 800 °C. High  
21 specific gravity of Ar 1100 and existence of SiC solid phase in the chemical  
22 composition analysis suggest that Si–C bonds are incorporated in formed network not  
23 only in the H<sub>2</sub> samples but also in the Ar samples. Perhaps, system under an Ar gas  
24 needs high temperature for Si–C bond incorporation. Since the spin concentration is  
25 high and hydrogen partial pressure is low, the excess carbon precipitation process is not  
26 inhibited in the Ar samples. The partial pressures of oxygen and hydrogen in the system  
27 are, however, almost randomly changed during the pyrolysis. The ceramization process  
28 of the precursor in an Ar gas flow contains complicated factors to be analyzed in spite  
29 of the simplicity at a glance.  
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## 45 VI. Conclusion

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47 By using the same precursor, rather different amorphous ceramics can be synthesized  
48 by controlling partial pressure of hydrogen, oxygen or carbon in an ambient atmosphere  
49 during pyrolysis. Morphology of the obtained ceramics particles is almost the same, but  
50 the chemical composition is fairly different. In a H<sub>2</sub> atmosphere, excess carbon removal  
51 and inorganic Si–C bond incorporation are accelerated. These behaviors are well  
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5 consistent with phase equilibrium in a low temperature range thermodynamically  
6 calculated. On the other hand, close relationship with residual spins and excess carbon  
7 formation process is suggested. Low residual spin concentrations of the H<sub>2</sub> samples  
8 suggest that polymerization of organic species which would be converted to  
9 carbonaceous domains during pyrolysis is prevented in a hydrogen rich environment. In  
10 an Ar atmosphere, absence of sufficient hydrogen in the system yields excess carbon.  
11 Si–C bond incorporation in the main network is suggested to proceed at relatively high  
12 temperatures beyond 800 °C. Residual spin concentration is high which possibly has  
13 relationship with carbonaceous domain formation in the obtained ceramics. In a CO<sub>2</sub>  
14 atmosphere, Si atoms in the precursor are subjected to partial oxidation even at 700 °C.  
15 Since CO<sub>2</sub> 700 exhibits dark color, even embryo of carbonaceous domains has already  
16 formed at 700 °C. Residual mass after pyrolysis is extremely high at 800 °C. The  
17 obtained ceramics beyond 800 °C, however, does not hold any Si–C bonds in the  
18 system.  
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40 School of Engineering, Osaka Prefecture University. This work is partly supported by  
41 Collaborative Research Project of Materials and Structures Laboratory, Tokyo Institute  
42 of Technology.  
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**Figure Captions**

Figure 1. Residual mass of the samples pyrolyzed in various atmospheres.

Figure 2. Photo images of the samples pyrolyzed in various atmospheres; (a) under visible light, (b) under UV light.

Figure 3. Peak positions of Si–O–Si stretching vibration in FTIR spectra.

Figure 4. FTIR spectra of the pyrolyzed samples; (a) H<sub>2</sub> 700, Ar 700 and CO<sub>2</sub> 700 (2500–450 cm<sup>-1</sup>), (b) H<sub>2</sub> 700, Ar 700 and CO<sub>2</sub> 700 (expanded, 1000–600 cm<sup>-1</sup>).

Figure 5. FTIR spectra of the pyrolyzed samples; (a) H<sub>2</sub> 800, Ar 800 and CO<sub>2</sub> 800 (2500–450 cm<sup>-1</sup>), (b) H<sub>2</sub> 800, Ar 800 and CO<sub>2</sub> 800 (expanded, 1000–600 cm<sup>-1</sup>).

Figure 6. (a) ESR signals of H<sub>2</sub> 1100 (×10) and CO<sub>2</sub> 1100, (b) Estimated spin concentrations of the samples pyrolyzed in various atmospheres.

Figure 7. SEM images of pyrolyzed samples, (a) H<sub>2</sub> 800, (b) Ar 800. (c) CO<sub>2</sub> 800.

Figure 8. TG-DTA curves of the samples pyrolyzed in various atmospheres; (a) TG curves. (b) DTA curves.

Figure 9. Thermodynamic calculation on stable solid phases in a temperature range of

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5 400–1000 °C at a total pressure of 1 bar; (a)  $\text{SiO}_{1.66}\text{C}_{1.00}\text{H}_{3.36}$  system, (b)  
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7  $\text{SiO}_{1.66}\text{C}_{1.00}\text{H}_{3.36}$ –25  $\text{H}_2$  system.  
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12 Figure 10. Thermodynamic calculation on stable solid phases in a temperature range of  
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14 400–1000 °C at a total pressure of 1 bar with  $\text{SiO}_{1.66}\text{C}_{1.00}\text{H}_{3.36}$ – $\text{CO}_2$  system.  
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Table 1 Chemical compositions of samples pyrolyzed in various atmospheres (The compositions of H<sub>2</sub> 800, 1100 and Ar 800, 1100 are picked up from ref. 15).

Sample	Elemental Composition	Stable Phase Composition	Specific gravity
H <sub>2</sub> 800	$SiO_{1.68\pm0.02}C_{0.48\pm0.01}H_{1.66\pm0.03}$	$(SiO_2)-0.19(SiC)-0.38(C)$ $-1.98(H)$	×
Ar 800	$SiO_{1.73\pm0.02}C_{0.65\pm0.01}H_{0.78\pm0.03}$	$(SiO_2)-0.16(SiC)-0.60(C)$ $-0.90(H)$	2.02
CO <sub>2</sub> 800	$SiO_{2.06\pm0.02}C_{0.63\pm0.01}H_{0.62\pm0.03}$	$(SiO_2)-0.63(C)-0.06(OH)$ $-0.56(H)$	2.09
H <sub>2</sub> 1100	$SiO_{1.54\pm0.02}C_{0.26\pm0.01}H_{0.12\pm0.03}$	$(SiO_2)-0.30(SiC)-0.04(C)$ $-0.16(H)$	2.36
Ar 1100	$SiO_{1.87\pm0.02}C_{0.37\pm0.01}H_{0.03\pm0.03}$	$(SiO_2)-0.07(SiC)-0.33(C)$ $-0.03(H)$	2.28
CO <sub>2</sub> 1100	$SiO_{2.02\pm0.02}C_{0.18\pm0.01}H_{<0.03}$	$(SiO_2)-0.18(C)-0.02(OH)$	2.12
CO <sub>2</sub> 800-Ar 1100	$SiO_{1.97\pm0.02}C_{0.54\pm0.01}H_{0.07\pm0.03}$	$(SiO_2)-0.02(SiC)-0.53(C)$ $-0.07(H)$	2.10

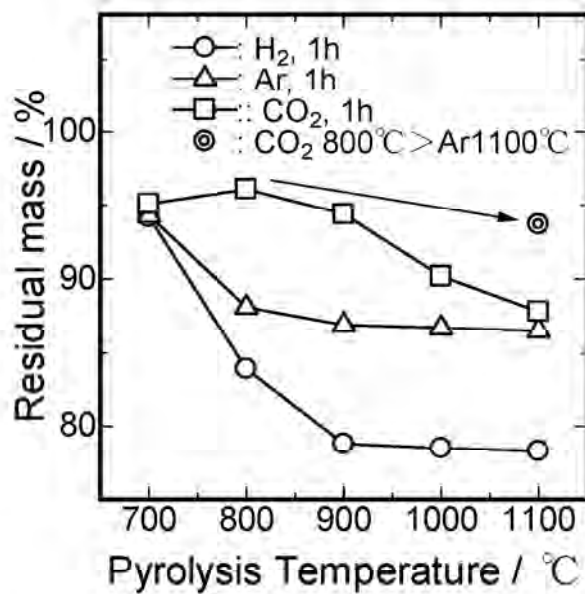


Figure 1. Residual mass of the samples pyrolyzed in various atmospheres.

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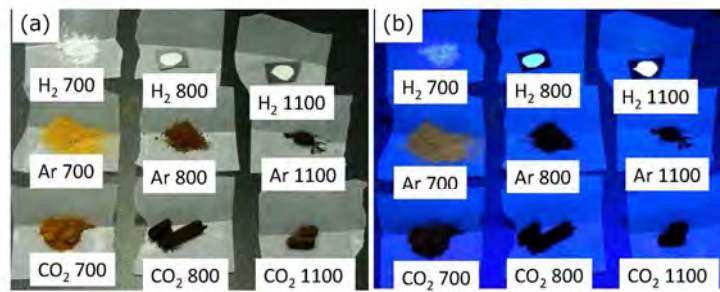


Figure 2. Photo images of the samples pyrolyzed in various atmospheres; (a) under visible light, (b) under UV light.

209x297mm (300 x 300 DPI)

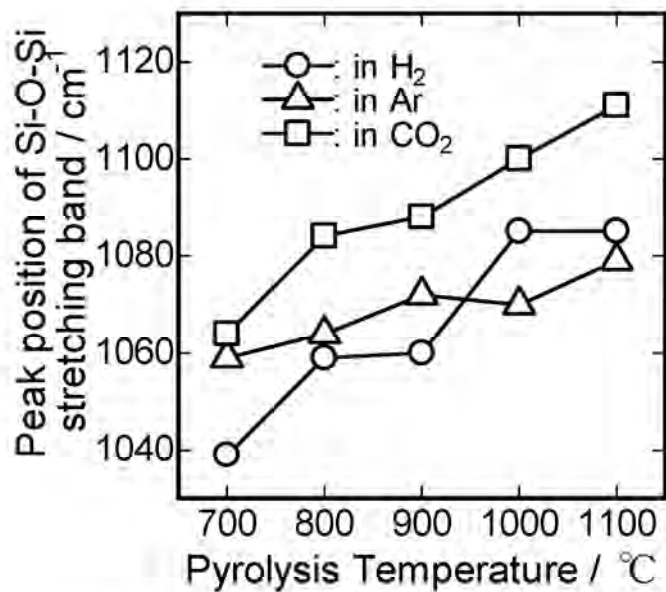


Figure 3. Peak positions of Si-O-Si stretching vibration in FTIR spectra.

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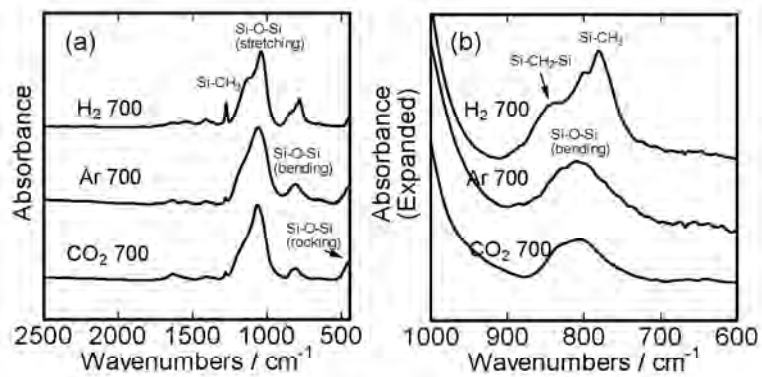


Figure 4. FTIR spectra of the pyrolyzed samples; (a) H<sub>2</sub> 700, Ar 700 and CO<sub>2</sub> 700 (2500–450  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ), (b) H<sub>2</sub> 700, Ar 700 and CO<sub>2</sub> 700 (expanded, 1000–600  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )

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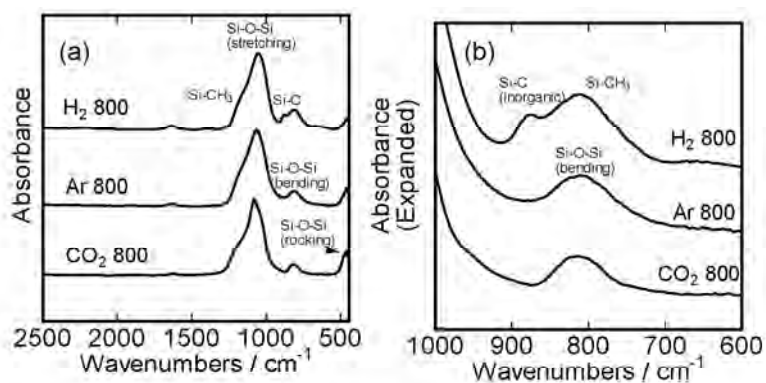


Figure 5. FTIR spectra of the pyrolyzed samples; (a) H<sub>2</sub> 800, Ar 800 and CO<sub>2</sub> 800 (2500–450 cm<sup>-1</sup>), (b) H<sub>2</sub> 800, Ar 800 and CO<sub>2</sub> 800 (expanded, 1000–600 cm<sup>-1</sup>)

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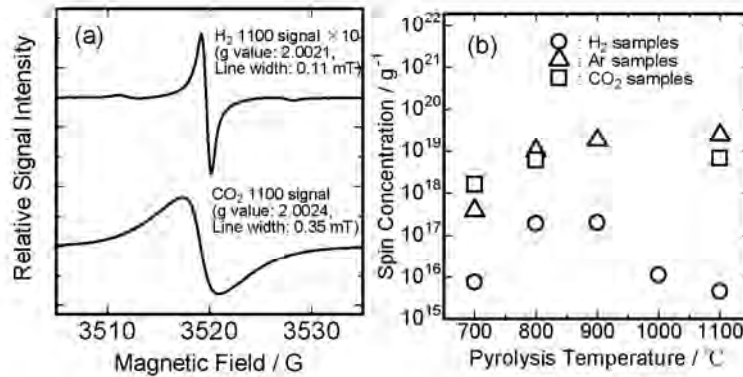


Figure 6. (a) ESR signals of H<sub>2</sub> 1100 ( $\times 10$ ) and CO<sub>2</sub> 1100, (b) Estimated spin concentrations of the samples pyrolyzed in various atmospheres.

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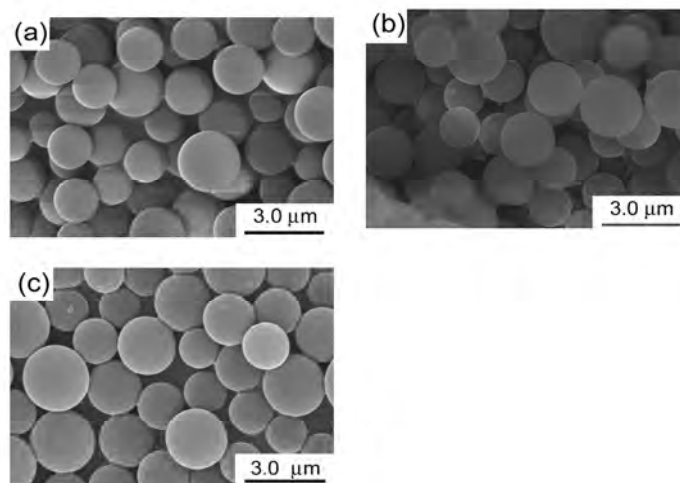


Figure 7. SEM images of pyrolyzed samples, (a) H<sub>2</sub> 800, (b) Ar 800. (c) CO<sub>2</sub> 800.

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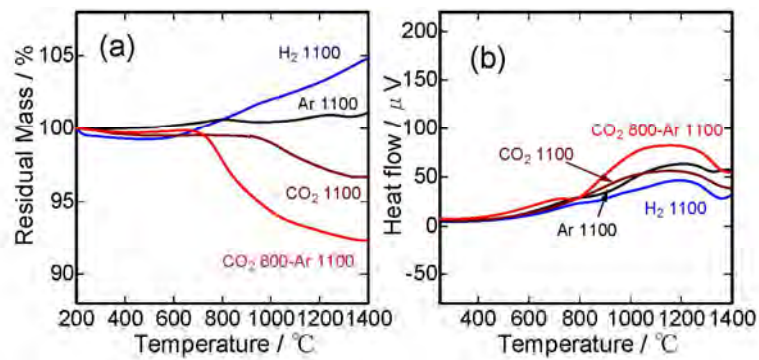


Figure 8. TG-DTA curves of the samples pyrolyzed in various atmospheres: (a) TG curves, (b) DTA curves.

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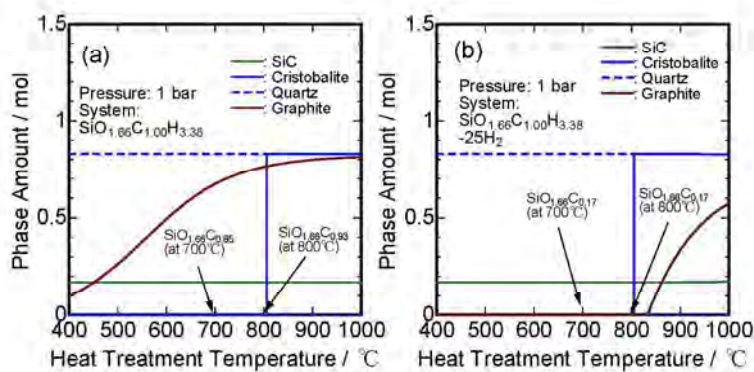


Figure 9. Thermodynamic calculation on stable solid phases in a temperature range of 400–1000 °C, (a)  $\text{SiO}_{1.66}\text{C}_{1.00}\text{H}_{3.36}$  system, (b)  $\text{SiO}_{1.66}\text{C}_{1.00}\text{H}_{3.36}-25\text{H}_2$  system.

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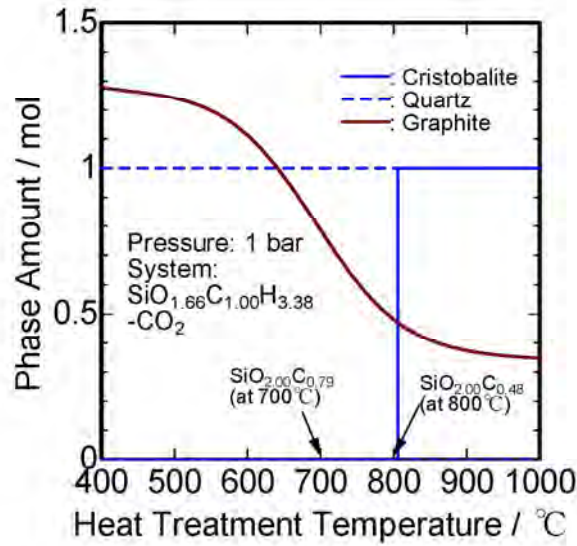


Figure 10. Thermodynamic calculation on stable solid phases in a temperature range of 400–1000 ° C in  $\text{SiO}_{1.66}\text{C}_{1.00}\text{H}_{3.38} - \text{CO}_2$  system.

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