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# STRUCTURE AND CHEMICAL DURABILITY OF LEAD CRYSTAL GLASS

Frédéric ANGELI<sup>a</sup>, Patrick JOLLIVET<sup>a</sup>, Thibault CHARPENTIER<sup>b</sup>, Maxime FOURNIER<sup>a</sup>, Stéphane GIN<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>CEA, DEN, DTCD, SECM, F-30207 Bagnols-sur-Cèze, France

<sup>b</sup>NIMBE, CEA, CNRS, Université Paris-Saclay CEA Saclay 91191 Gif-sur-Yvette, France

## ABSTRACT

Silicate glasses containing lead, also called lead crystal glasses, are commonly used as food product containers, in particular for alcoholic beverages. Lead's health hazards require major attention, which can first be investigated through the understanding of Pb release mechanisms in solution. The behavior of a commercial glass containing 10 mol% of PbO (28 wt%) was studied in a reference solution of 4% acetic acid at 22, 40 and 70°C at early and advanced stages of reaction. For the first time, high-resolution <sup>17</sup>O solid-state NMR was used to probe Pb in the pristine and altered crystal glass. Inserted into the vitreous structure between the network formers as Si-O-Pb bonds, Pb does not form Pb-O-Pb clusters which are expected to be more easily leached. A part of K is located near Pb, forming Si-O-(Pb,K) mixing areas near the non-bridging oxygens. Pb is always released into the solution following a diffusion controlled process over various periods of time, at a rate between one and two orders of magnitude lower than the alkalis (K and Na). The preferential release of alkalis is followed by an *in situ* repolymerization of the silicate network. Pb is only depleted in the outermost part of the alteration layer. In the remaining part, it stays mainly surrounded by Si in a stable structural configuration similar to that of the pristine glass.

32

## 33 INTRODUCTION

34

35 For thousands of years, lead has been used in the preparation of silicate glasses, in particular  
36 because it enables the temperature range of the glass-forming ability to be extended. It was widely  
37 used in various archeological artifacts, such as enamels and glazes <sup>1</sup>, but also in applications for  
38 optics, electronics <sup>2</sup> or even in protection against irradiation <sup>3</sup>. Since the 17<sup>th</sup> century, lead oxide has  
39 been added to alkali silicate to form a material called lead crystal, giving a high clarity and a  
40 characteristic sonority. Lead crystal has been regulated since 1969 in order to guarantee the quality of  
41 the material, based on density, refraction index and lead content criteria. Lead oxide must be at least  
42 24 wt% to be designated as crystal.

43 Exposure to Pb is hazardous for the environment and for human health when it accumulates in  
44 the organism <sup>4, 5</sup>. It is therefore of primary importance to understand the behavior of this element in  
45 manufactured articles throughout their conditions of use, particularly if they contain liquids intended for  
46 human consumption.

47 Numerous empirical studies have been carried out to examine the Pb leaching from glass or  
48 from glass ceramic in reactive environments, particularly in contact with different actual beverages or  
49 simple synthetic solutions such as acetic acid or nitric acid <sup>6-20</sup>. In commercial lead crystal glasses, it  
50 has generally been observed that the release of alkalis and Pb ions exhibited a square root time  
51 dependence through a diffusion process <sup>11, 15, 17, 18</sup>. Their leaching kinetics usually increase with the  
52 temperature and with the acetic acid concentration <sup>17</sup>. During successive contacts, a decrease in the  
53 release of Pb has been observed with each additional solution contact <sup>16</sup>. However, there is a lack of  
54 mechanistic understanding able to account for and predict the Pb behavior, in relation with its  
55 structural evolution during leaching.

56 The structural arrangements coming from the incorporation of Pb into an alkali silicate network  
57 can significantly modify glass macroscopic properties, in particular its chemical durability <sup>10</sup>. For a low  
58 content, typically under 40 mol% of PbO, a major part of Pb may be assimilated to a modifier cation <sup>21</sup>,  
59 thus resembling an alkaline-earth type cation, forming ionic bonds with non-bridging oxygens (NBOs)  
60 <sup>22</sup>. When a large amount of Pb is added to reach an orthosilicate composition (Pb/Si = 2), oxygens are  
61 then linked to the metallic cations to form metal-bridging oxygen bonds Pb-O-Pb <sup>23</sup>. Pb is then  
62 associated in trigonal pyramids connected by their edges to form interlinked Pb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> units <sup>24</sup>. In this  
63 case, Pb mainly takes a network former configuration, forming more covalent bonds with the oxygens  
64 <sup>21, 25, 26</sup>. For contents greater than ~60 mol% of PbO, Pb forms its own vitreous network <sup>27</sup>. Pb has the  
65 special feature of having ability to form a glass in a very wide range of concentration <sup>28</sup>, up to more  
66 than 80 mol% of PbO for a rapidly-quenched glass <sup>23, 27</sup>. When Pb acts as a network former cation,

67 unlike most network formers, it does not provide to the glass a greater chemical durability: Pb clusters  
68 form extended lead-rich domains which are rapidly leached. There are percolation pathways between  
69 these domains, and the Pb release into solution strongly increases<sup>10</sup>. Generally, whatever the solution  
70 pH, the release of Pb seems to decrease when its content is lower<sup>10, 19, 29</sup>.

71 The mechanisms of aqueous alteration of lead crystal glasses compared to their structural  
72 evolution during leaching had not been approached prior to this study. In order to give new insights  
73 into the understanding of Pb leaching of industrial glasses, a structural approach for the glass as well  
74 as its alteration layer is applied, together with the evolution of the elemental alteration profiles.  
75 Combined with the solution analyses under various experimental conditions, it enables the  
76 mechanisms involved to be better defined.

77 This work is focused on a commercial lead crystal glass containing 10 mol% of PbO (28 wt%).  
78 Complementary experiments, which enabled various kinetics regimes to be reached, are conducted to  
79 simulate the short and long term behavior of the crystal glass. Hydrolysis mechanisms were  
80 investigated using dynamic experiments with high flow rate whereas interdiffusion mechanisms were  
81 highlighted from static experiments using saturated solutions with respect to amorphous silica (ion-  
82 exchange processes are not affected by solution saturation). The experiments were carried out in 4%  
83 (v/v) acetic acid solution, which is commonly used as a standard reference solution<sup>13, 17, 30</sup>. The local  
84 structure of pristine and altered materials was characterized by high-resolution solid-state Nuclear  
85 Magnetic Resonance (NMR) of silicon-29 and oxygen-17. Elemental depth profiling were monitored by  
86 Time-of-Flight Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry (ToF-SIMS).

87

## 88 **EXPERIMENTAL**

### 89 **Materials.**

90 Two glasses were used for this study, the first being a commercial glass with the molar  
91 composition  $77.1\text{SiO}_2 - 0.8\text{Na}_2\text{O} - 11.3\text{K}_2\text{O} - 10.6\text{PbO} - 0.2\text{Sb}_2\text{O}_3$ . A second glass was synthesized  
92 to be enriched in oxygen-17 (without Sb addition). 200 mg of glass was prepared by sol-gel from a  
93 mixture of alkoxides hydrolyzed by 90% enriched water in  $^{17}\text{O}$ <sup>31</sup>. After reaction, this mixture was  
94 maintained at 1270 °C for 30 minutes under argon atmosphere in a Pt/Au crucible. ICP-OES analysis  
95 after acidic dissolution (HCl+HNO<sub>3</sub>+HF) gave the molar composition:  $80.7\text{SiO}_2 - 0.7\text{Na}_2\text{O} - 10.8\text{K}_2\text{O} -$   
96  $7.9\text{PbO}$ .

97

### 98 **NMR.**

99 <sup>29</sup>Si MAS NMR data were collected on a Bruker 300WB Avance I spectrometer operating at a  
100 magnetic field of 7.02 T. ( $I = 1/2$ , Larmor frequency  $\nu_0 = 59.4$  MHz). A Bruker 4 mm (outer diameter of  
101 the rotor) CPMAS Probe was used at a spinning frequency of 10 kHz. Silicon spectra were acquired

102 using the CPMG sequence <sup>32</sup>, by typically accumulating 32 echoes with an echo delay of 4 ms  
103 between consecutive 180° pulses. The echoes were then summed up and Fourier transformed to  
104 obtain the spectra. A 20 s recycling time was used; checks were carried out that no spectral  
105 deformation was observed for longer recycling delays (up to 1200 s). The spectra were referenced to  
106 an external tetrakis(trimethylsilyl)silane (TKS) sample, for which the highest intensity peak was  
107 situated at -9.9 ppm from that of TMS.

108 <sup>17</sup>O MAS NMR data were collected on a Bruker 500WB Avance II spectrometer operating at a  
109 magnetic field of 11.72 T ( $I = 5/2$ , Larmor frequency  $\nu_0 = 67.67$  MHz.). A Bruker 4 mm CPMAS probe  
110 was used at a spinning frequency of 12.5 kHz. MAS NMR spectra were acquired using a rotor  
111 synchronized Hahn echo pulse sequence to minimize the baseline distortion, with soft 90° and 180°  
112 pulses (selective on the central transition, RF field 25 kHz), an echo delay of one rotation period and a  
113 recycle delay of 1 s (no change in lineshape was observed for longer delay). The MQMAS spectra  
114 were acquired with 64  $t_1$  rotor-synchronized increments (of one rotation period) in the first dimension  
115 and a 1 s repetition time (4500 FIDs per  $t_1$  value were collected). The Z-filter pulse sequence <sup>33</sup> was  
116 used with first and second pulse durations of 5  $\mu$ s and 2  $\mu$ s, respectively (RF field 60 kHz), and a third  
117 90° soft pulse, selective on the central transition, of 3.5  $\mu$ s (RF field 25 kHz) <sup>34</sup>.

118 All data were processed and fitted using an in-house written software <sup>35</sup>.

119

## 120 **ToF-SIMS.**

121 Depth profiles were analyzed by ToF-SIMS IONTOF® TOF 5 using O<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> sputtering beams  
122 analyzing a surface area of 60 x 60  $\mu$ m<sup>2</sup>. Oxygen beam was tuned at 2 kV, 500 nA. Elemental profiles  
123 were normalized to that of Si to avoid matrix effects.

124

## 125 **Leaching experiments.**

126 After crushing and sieving, the selected size fractions (20-40 and 63-125  $\mu$ m) were washed by  
127 decantation in acetone and absolute ethanol to remove fine particles, according to Stokes' law. Then  
128 the specific surface areas of the glass powders were measured by krypton physical adsorption on the  
129 sample surface with the BET method on a Micromeritics ASAP 2020.

130 Forward dissolution rate  $r_0$  was measured using a single-pass flow-through test (SPFT) at 22,  
131 40 and 70 °C. About 100 mg of glass powder (63-125  $\mu$ m particle size fraction) were placed into a  
132 column made of PTFE tube, through which 4% (v/v) acetic acid was passed at a flow rate between 0.2  
133 and 0.6 mL/min to avoid any feedback effect on the rate by glass constituent elements released into  
134 solution. The temperature of the leaching solution was monitored continuously at the reactor inlet and  
135 a maximum variation of  $\pm 1$  °C was allowed. The leachate was regularly sampled and the Si  
136 concentration was determined photometrically with a Merck Spectroquant test and a Cary Varian UV-

137 visible spectrophotometer with a method analogous to ASTM D859-10. Taking into account the errors  
 138 on the glass surface area and the Si concentration, the uncertainty on  $r_0$  was about 10%. The  
 139 normalized mass losses,  $NL_i$  ( $\text{g}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$ ) were calculated with the equation (1):

140

$$NL_i(t) = \sum_{j=1}^{j=n} \frac{1}{x_i \times SSA \times m} \left[ \frac{(C(i)_j + C(i)_{j+1})}{2} \times Q \times (t_{j+1} - t_j) \right] \quad (1)$$

141 with  $j$  the sampling,  $C(i)_j$  the concentration of the element in the  $j^{\text{th}}$  sampling,  $Q$  the solution flow rate,  
 142  $SSA$  the specific surface area of powder sample,  $m$  the mass of glass,  $x_i$  the weight fraction of element  
 143  $i$  in the glass, and  $t_{j+1} - t_j$  the time between two samplings.

144

145 Alteration in static conditions was measured in perfluoroalkoxy reactors (PFA) at 22, 40 and  
 146 70 °C in 4% (v/v) acetic acid solution. The mass of glass powder (20-40  $\mu\text{m}$  and 63-125  $\mu\text{m}$  particle  
 147 size fractions) was adjusted to have the desired glass-surface-area-to-solution-volume ratios ( $SA/V$ ).  
 148 The solutions were ultrafiltered (cutoff 10 kDa) and analyzed by ICP-OES.

149

$$NL(i)_t = NL(i)_{t-1} + \frac{(C(i)_t - C(i)_{t-1}) \times V_t}{SSA \times m \times x_i} \quad (2)$$

150 with  $C(i)_t$  the concentration of the element  $i$  in solution at time  $t$ , and  $V_t$  the volume of solution  
 151 sampling at time  $t$ .

152 The equivalent thickness of altered glass is given by:

153

$$ETH(i) = \frac{NL(i)}{\rho} \quad (3)$$

154  $\rho$  is the glass density ( $3.028 \cdot 10^6 \text{ kg}\cdot\text{m}^{-3}$ ). The uncertainties for  $ETH(i)$  and the alteration rate  
 155  $r = dETH(i)/dt$  are of 10% and 30%, respectively.

156

## 157 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 158 Glass structure

#### 159 $^{29}\text{Si}$ MAS NMR.

160 Two contributions were observed at -94 ppm and -106 ppm on the  $^{29}\text{Si}$  MAS NMR spectra for  
 161 pristine glass (Figure 1a), which correspond respectively to the  $\text{Q}^3$  and  $\text{Q}^4$  entities, in agreement with  
 162 the data obtained on lead silica binary glasses <sup>36, 37</sup>. The simulation of the  $^{29}\text{Si}$  spectra gave a  
 163 proportion of 59% of  $\text{Q}^3$  and 41% of  $\text{Q}^4$  units (see supplementary information, Figure S1). The

164 resulting number of NBOs is then 25.7%. The calculation of the NBOs based on the glass  
165 composition, considering that two NBOs are formed from Na<sub>2</sub>O, K<sub>2</sub>O and PbO (without postulating free  
166 oxygen atoms) leads to a value of 25.6%, very close to the experimental value.

167

#### 168 <sup>17</sup>O MAS NMR.

169 The <sup>17</sup>O MAS spectrum of the pristine glass (Figure 1b) enables three contributions to be  
170 resolved. A wide line at the -20 to 50 ppm range with a characteristic second-order quadrupolar  
171 lineshape corresponds to the bridging oxygens Si-O-Si. Two narrower featureless peaks centered on  
172 70 and 110 ppm are related to the NBOs and may be attributed to Si-O-K and Si-O-(Pb,K),  
173 respectively (the latter corresponds to regions where Pb and K are mixed together but without forming  
174 Pb-O-Pb bonds). This attribution will be discussed hereafter from the MQMAS data.

175

#### 176 <sup>17</sup>O MQMAS NMR.

177 The three contributions related to Si, K and Pb are clearly separated on the experimental and  
178 simulated <sup>17</sup>O MQMAS spectra shown in Figure 2a. The simulated spectra, generated using a 3D  
179 distribution of the NMR parameters (taking into account the correlation effects between these  
180 parameters<sup>35</sup>), show very good agreement with the experimental spectra (Figure 2a). Figure 2b shows  
181 the two-dimensional projection of the distribution of the NMR parameters, the isotropic chemical shift  
182 ( $\delta_{iso}$ ) and the quadrupolar coupling constant ( $C_Q$ ) extracted from the MQMAS spectra. Lee and Kim<sup>38</sup>  
183 recently reported the structural evolution of binary lead silicate glasses from <sup>17</sup>O MQMAS NMR for  
184 high PbO contents close to the orthosilicate composition ranging from 60 mol% to 71 mol%. They  
185 clearly pointed out the presence Pb-O-Pb bonds which increased with Pb content at the expense of Si-  
186 O-Si bonds. They represented Pb and Si mixing sites in the form <sup>[n]</sup>Pb-<sup>[m]</sup>O-<sup>[4]</sup>Si, where  $n = 3,4$  and  
187  $m = 2,3,4$ . Under these conditions, the same oxygen atom could be involved in both Pb-O-Si and Pb-  
188 O-Pb bonds. The absence of Pb-O-Pb contribution (within the NMR detection limit) in our crystal glass  
189 suggests that Pb structural configuration may be fairly close to that of an alkaline-earth type network  
190 modifier.

191 Furthermore, the nature of the alkali cation at the origin of the NBO formation may modify the  
192 position of the <sup>17</sup>O line; a sodium disilicate decreases the NBO  $\delta_{iso}$  by about 40 ppm compared to a  
193 potassium disilicate<sup>39</sup>. The position of the NBO site at around 75 ppm can be attributed here to Si-O-  
194 K, Si-O-Na being expected at around 40 ppm<sup>35</sup>. Given the low Na content in the glass (below one  
195 percent) and the sensitivity of the MQMAS experiment, it remains challenging to observe Si-O-Na  
196 contribution on the <sup>17</sup>O MQMAS spectra.

197 A previous work carried out on a binary sodium silicate glass with a 77 mol% SiO<sub>2</sub> content  
198 close to that studied here reported <sup>17</sup>O NMR parameters for the Si-O-Si site similar to those obtained

199 for our lead glass<sup>35</sup>. Under these conditions, the addition of Pb to the glass does not seem to have a  
200 major effect on the Si-O-Si site geometry, either for the angular distributions (which influence the  
201 quadrupolar parameters<sup>40-42</sup>) or the Si-O bond distances (which influence the isotropic chemical shift  
202<sup>43, 44</sup>). In the binary lead silicate glasses studied by Lee and Kim<sup>38</sup>, the Si-O-Pb  $\delta_{iso}$  was located  
203 around 151 ppm and it slightly increased with Pb content. For our glass composition, the contribution  
204 related to Pb is close to 119 ppm (see Table 1). The quantification of the three oxygen contributions  
205 enables the origin of this difference to be discussed.

206 By first assuming that the three <sup>17</sup>O sites revealed by the NMR spectra can be attributed to the  
207 contributions of Si-O-Si, Si-O-Pb and Si-O-K, Table 1 compares their proportions calculated from the  
208 crystal glass chemical composition and those obtained from the NMR data. It clearly appears that the  
209 quantity of Si-O-Pb (14%) is considerably greater than expected from the composition (8.7%), unlike  
210 for Si-O-K where the quantity is lower (8% experimentally instead of the expected 12.7%). This  
211 observation indicates that Si-O-Pb contribution does not only contain Pb and Si cations, but rather a  
212 mixing of Pb and K, noted Si-O-(Pb,K), as had been previously observed for other types of cations  
213 having fairly close ionic radii<sup>45, 46</sup>. Under these conditions, Si-O-(Pb,K) site would consist of 38% of K  
214 and 62% of Pb. This effect thus explains the lower <sup>17</sup>O  $\delta_{iso}$  of the Si-O-Pb site in the glasses studied  
215 here compared to the binary glasses<sup>38</sup>; Si-O-(Pb,K) site at 119 ppm is situated between Si-O-K at 75  
216 ppm and Si-O-Pb at 151 ppm. Finally, it should be noted that the wider distribution of <sup>17</sup>O  $\delta_{iso}$  for Si-O-  
217 (Pb,K) is probably the result of a greater structural and/or chemical disorder for this mixing site.

218 It is worth noting that by taking into account the difference in chemical shift between Si-O-Pb  
219 at 151 ppm and Si-O-K at 75 ppm, weighting of the value obtained for Si-O-(Pb,K) at 119 ppm would  
220 give a K quantity of 42%, very close to the value directly deduced from the quantification of the  
221 MQMAS spectrum (38%). It would therefore appear that <sup>17</sup>O  $\delta_{iso}$  of Si-O-(Pb,K) could provide  
222 information regarding the proportion of K mixing with Pb in the NBO environment.

223

#### 224 **GLASS LEACHING.**

225 For the first set of experiments, the most favorable conditions for accessing silicate network  
226 hydrolysis mechanisms were chosen, based on a high renewal rate of a 4% (v/v) acetic acid solution.  
227 Figures 3(a,b,c) show the equivalent alteration thicknesses of Na, K, Pb and Si at 22, 40 and 70 °C  
228 calculated from their normalized mass losses (Eq. (3)). The leaching of Sb (not shown) is very close to  
229 the Si. An activation energy for hydrolysis mechanisms in the forward dissolution rate regime, based  
230 on an Arrhenius law, is given from the Si release (Figure 3d). The linearity between the three  
231 temperatures shows the good agreement of the data, resulting in an activation energy of  $38.7 \pm 1.7$   
232 kJ.mol<sup>-1</sup>. Within the temperature range studied (22-70°C), the release of Si leading to the hydrolysis of  
233 the silicate network would thus seem to be controlled by the same mechanisms. It should be noted

234 that the dissolution was significantly non-congruent; while the release of Pb and Sb were fairly close to  
235 the Si network former, K and Na were released much more rapidly. It is tricky to calculate unique  
236 activation energy for Pb, K and Na as the non-linearity observed between the three temperatures  
237 strongly suggest that the leaching of these elements could not only resulted from network hydrolysis  
238 but also interdiffusion. At low temperature, the interdiffusion mechanism may probably favored  
239 whereas at higher temperature hydrolysis may be prevalent.

240 For the second set of experiments, a solution initially saturated with respect to amorphous  
241 silica<sup>47</sup> was used in order to specifically focus on the interdiffusion mechanisms. It has recently been  
242 showed that there was no hydrolysis of Si under these conditions<sup>47</sup>. Figure 4(a,b,c) compares the  
243 normalized mass losses for K and Pb at 22, 40 and 70 °C as a function of the square root of time. The  
244 very low concentration of Na in the glass (0.2 mol%) made its measuring in solution only possible at  
245 70°C. It was then observed that it behaved like K. Analogous behavior of Na and K is therefore  
246 probable at lower temperatures.

247 The resulting linear behavior suggests that the different cations are released in solution by a  
248 diffusive mechanism. The leaching of Pb was much lower than K. The Pb behavior thus seems to be  
249 assimilated with multivalent elements, like the alkaline earths or the rare earth elements, which are  
250 leached much more slowly than the alkalis<sup>46</sup>. Fick's second law was used to derive the apparent  
251 diffusion coefficients at the interface between the glass and the solution by fitting the curves in Figures  
252 4(a,b,c). The concentration in solution is then given by<sup>48</sup>:

$$C(i) = 2 \frac{SSA \times m}{V} x_i \left( \frac{D_i \times t}{\pi} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (4)$$

253 where  $C(i)$  is the concentration of element  $i$  ( $i = K$  or  $Pb$ ) in solution,  $x_i$  is the concentration of  $Pb$  or  $K$   
254 in the glass,  $V$  the volume of the solution and  $D_i$  the diffusion coefficient for  $Pb$  or  $K$ .

255

256 Figure 4d shows the evolution of the diffusion coefficients as a function of the temperature for  
257  $Pb$  and  $K$ . The resulting activation energies highlight a temperature dependence which is much lower  
258 for  $Pb$  than for  $K$ , with values of  $37.2 \pm 6.5 \text{ kJ.mol}^{-1}$  and  $72.2 \pm 7.6 \text{ KJ.mol}^{-1}$ , respectively. At 22 °C, a  
259 low diffusion coefficient of  $(3.1 \pm 0.6) \cdot 10^{-22} \text{ m}^2 \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$  is determined for  $Pb$ . Depending on the temperature,  
260  $Pb$  release into solution is between one and two orders of magnitude slower than the alkalis.

261 For higher  $Pb$  contents, from 25 to 70 mol%, diffusion coefficients of more than four orders of  
262 magnitude higher were obtained in glasses altered in 0.1 N or 0.5 N  $\text{HNO}_3$  solutions<sup>8,10</sup>. A percolation  
263 mechanism through the plumbate sub-network was observed. Binary lead silicate glasses with  $\text{PbO}$   
264 starting from an approximately 33 mol% content, had a diffusion coefficient increasing by about one  
265 order of magnitude when  $\text{PbO}$  content increased by 5%<sup>10</sup>. One single composition was studied at a

266 lower Pb content (25%) below the percolation threshold; it showed less pronounced diffusion  
267 coefficient variations, of about  $10^{-17} \text{ m}^2.\text{s}^{-1}$  suggesting a plateau. If this latter value is not taken into  
268 account, so if the data located within the percolation regime are extrapolated from our glass  
269 composition containing 10 mol% of PbO, a similar value ( $10^{-22} \text{ m}^2.\text{s}^{-1}$ ) compared to that found in our  
270 study ( $10^{-21} \text{ m}^2.\text{s}^{-1}$ ) is obtained. This value is far away from the plateau which was observed at  
271 approximately  $10^{-17} \text{ m}^2.\text{s}^{-1}$  for 25 mol% of PbO (see supplementary information, Figure S2). Then, the  
272 sharp drop in the diffusion coefficient could be due to a second percolation threshold, which would  
273 explain the high difference between 10 and 25 mol% of PbO. The formation of Pb-O-Pb bonds with  
274 the increase in the Pb concentration, even if they do not yet constituted a plumbate sub-network, could  
275 lead to this first percolation threshold beyond which an increase in Pb release kinetics would occur.

276 Finally, in order to reach more advanced reaction progress, a third set of experiments were  
277 carried out in static conditions at different SA/V ratios, varying from  $10 \text{ m}^{-1}$  to  $10000 \text{ m}^{-1}$ . These long  
278 term experiments were conducted at  $22 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  in 4% acetic acid solution, without Si in the initial solution,  
279 for one year of leaching. Although there were four orders of magnitude between the surface ratios,  
280 Figure 5 reports small variations in the leaching of Pb and K, showing that their releases remain  
281 controlled by interdiffusion at  $22 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ . As expected from our previous experiments, Pb leaching is much  
282 lower than K. The calculation of the retention factor for Pb compared to K ( $RF_{r(\text{Pb})}=1-ETH(\text{Pb})/ETH(\text{K})$ )  
283 gave similar values, with an average retention of 77% of Pb in the alteration layer. It may be noted that  
284 Pb concentrations in solution always remain much lower (by at least three orders of magnitude) than  
285 the solubility of lead acetate<sup>49</sup>. This confirms that the release of Pb is not controlled by its solubility  
286 limit, but rather by diffusion mechanisms.

287

## 288 ALTERATION LAYER CHARACTERIZATION

### 289 ToF-SIMS.

290 Figure 6 displays the elemental profiles obtained by ToF-SIMS on the glass altered at  $70 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  in  
291 an acetic acid solution saturated with respect to amorphous silica after 1, 7 and 53 days. The progress  
292 of the alteration front on the glass surface is clearly visible over time. At the interface between the  
293 pristine glass and the alteration layer, the hydration front can be seen progressing, with a greater  
294 penetration of hydrogen compared to the alkalis depletion. The profiles for Na and K are very similar,  
295 in agreement with the concentrations measured in solution (Figure 4c). Pb was clearly released to a  
296 lesser extent than the alkalis, and is only depleted on a thin external surface of the alteration layer.  
297 After 53 days, the depth of Pb depletion was fifteen times less than the total thickness of the alteration  
298 layer. The equivalent thicknesses for the different elements are in quite good agreement with the  
299 depths obtained from the ToF-SIMS profiles. The small differences which remained between the two  
300 methods could be explained because (i) calculation of *ETH* using the SSA of glass powder measured

301 by BET underestimates  $ETH^{50}$  (ii) a part of K (~20-30%) is retained in the alteration layer and  
302 therefore not released in solution and (iii) it may exist variations in the abrasion rate of ToF-SIMS  
303 between the alteration layer external surface and the pristine glass, because of potentially different  
304 densities.

305 The elemental profiles obtained after one year of alteration at various SA/V ratios at 22 °C  
306 were very similar than the profiles obtained at 70 °C for shorter periods. In particular, the three areas  
307 remain still observed: the hydration front, the alkalis depletion and the Pb-depleted external surface  
308 which is still maintained for long term experiments (see supplementary information, Figure S3).

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### 310 **MAS NMR.**

311 Small glass powders of a few microns were entirely altered under static conditions at 70°C in a  
312 4% acetic acid solution containing oxygen-17 enriched water, in order to specifically probe the  
313 alteration layer by  $^{17}O$  NMR. An experiment in oxygen-16 carried out in parallel and under the same  
314 SA/V ratio conditions (but with a greater volume of solution), enabled the concentrations of elements in  
315 solution to be measured. This allowed the experiment to be stopped when all the glass had been  
316 altered, based on the release of Na in solution, and to estimate the alteration layer molar composition  
317 deduced from the solution analysis:  $88.7SiO_2 - 2.5K_2O - 7.9PbO - 1.0Sb_2O_3$ .

318 Figure 1a compares the  $^{29}Si$  MAS spectra for pristine glass and for glass altered in oxygen-17.  
319 An obvious reorganization within the alteration layer through a silicate network polymerization is  
320 clearly highlighted. Centered on the  $Q^2-Q^3$  species in the pristine glass, a majority of the Si forms  $Q^4$   
321 units in the alteration layer. Quantification of the NBOs was carried out based on the  $^{17}O$  NMR data of  
322 Figure 1b (reported in Table 1). The  $^{17}O$  MAS spectrum clearly confirms that most of K had been  
323 released in solution whereas a significant part of Pb remained in the alteration layer. The line  
324 corresponding to the Si-O-(Pb,K) contribution, shifted towards the higher chemical shifts, becomes  
325 closer to the Si-O-Pb contribution observed in binary lead silicate glasses<sup>38</sup>, indicating a lower level of  
326 mixing between Pb and K. This shows that in the Si-O-(Pb,K) site, K is preferentially extracted  
327 compared to Pb.

328 Simulation of the  $^{17}O$  MAS spectrum for altered glass was used to estimate the composition of  
329 the alteration layer from the various contributions. The following molar proportions were obtained:  
330  $93SiO_2 - 1K_2O - 6PbO$  (there was no Sb in this glass), in quite good agreement with the mass  
331 balance found from the solution analysis ( $88.7SiO_2 - 2.5K_2O - 7.9PbO - 1.0Sb_2O_3$ ). It should however  
332 be noted that the NMR indicates a higher  $SiO_2$  content (93% instead of 89%). This is related to the  
333 presence of Si-OH sites which overlay the Si-O-Si contribution on the spectrum<sup>51</sup>. These sites were  
334 revealed from 2D heteronuclear correlations maps ( $^1H \rightarrow ^{17}O$  HETCOR) (see supplementary  
335 information, Figure S4a). The NMR parameters considered for this site (Table 1) come from the work

336 of Brunet et al.<sup>51</sup>. Simulation of the <sup>17</sup>O MAS spectrum gave 4% of Si-OH sites (see supplementary  
337 information, Figure S4b). The total number of NBOs of 11% is quite comparable to the number of  
338 NBOs deduced from the alteration layer composition (10.9%). The repolymerization led to a decrease  
339 in the NBOs, dropping from 22% in the glass to 11% in the alteration layer (Table 1). A significant  
340 decrease can be noted for the widths of the NMR parameters distribution for the Si-O-Si site (related  
341 to higher Si-O-Si mean bond angles), as well as an increase in the quadrupolar coupling constant,  
342 closer to that in vitreous silicon<sup>52</sup>. These findings highlight the reorganization of the polymerized  
343 silicate network (Q<sup>4</sup>).

344 The behavior of Pb is closely related to the structural configuration it adopts, as much in the  
345 pristine glass as in the alteration layer. Homogeneously dispersed within the silicate network, the  
346 leaching of Pb is less favorable, and its release into solution is lower than the alkalis. When present at  
347 higher concentration than in the glass studied here, Pb may form clusters, and its leaching increases,  
348 probably as soon as it forms Pb-O-Pb bonds. For 45 wt% of PbO in a glass containing Na and K, it  
349 has been reported that the alkalis and the lead were released at the same rate<sup>11</sup>. At higher  
350 concentration, there is a percolation of the Pb sub-network, which is preferentially highly released into  
351 solution. These high Pb contents seem to give rise to a surface enrichment in Pb<sup>11, 12</sup>. No such  
352 enrichment was observed for our 28 wt% PbO glass; conversely, Pb is depleted in the outermost part  
353 of the alteration layer. In the remaining part, it stays surrounded by Si in a stable structural  
354 configuration similar to that of the pristine glass.

355 The data obtained from this work could enable parameters to be set for a simple predictive  
356 mechanistic model for lead leaching from commercial lead crystal glass.

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527 **Table caption**

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	Site	<sup>17</sup> O NMR Parameters		Proportion from composition	Proportion from <sup>17</sup> O NMR
Pristine glass	Si-O-Si		52.5 (7.3)	78 %	78 %
		$C_Q(MHz) - (\sigma_{C_Q})$	4.8 (0.3)		
		$\eta_Q - (\sigma_{\eta_Q})$	0.3 (0.1)		
	Si-O-(Pb,K)	$\delta_{iso}(ppm) - (\sigma_{\delta_{iso}})$	118.7 (10.8)	9 % (Si-O-Pb)	14 %
		$C_Q(MHz) - (\sigma_{C_Q})$	3.1 (0.5)		
		$\eta_Q - (\sigma_{\eta_Q})$	0.6 (0.2)		
Si-O-K	$\delta_{iso}(ppm) - (\sigma_{\delta_{iso}})$	74.8 (9.2)	13 %	8 %	
	$C_Q(MHz) - (\sigma_{C_Q})$	2.2 (0.5)			
	$\eta_Q - (\sigma_{\eta_Q})$	0.6 (0.2)			
Altered glass	Si-O-Si	$\delta_{iso}(ppm) - (\sigma_{\delta_{iso}})$	42.0 (5.0)	89 %	89 %
		$C_Q(MHz) - (\sigma_{C_Q})$	5.2 (0.2)		
		$\eta_Q - (\sigma_{\eta_Q})$	0.2 (0.1)		
	Si-O-(Pb,K)	$\delta_{iso}(ppm) - (\sigma_{\delta_{iso}})$	130.0 (12.0)	8 % (Si-O-Pb)	6 %
		$C_Q(MHz) - (\sigma_{C_Q})$	3.1 (0.5)		
		$\eta_Q - (\sigma_{\eta_Q})$	0.6 (0.2)		
	Si-O-K	$\delta_{iso}(ppm) - (\sigma_{\delta_{iso}})$	74.8 (9.2)	3 %	1 %
		$C_Q(MHz) - (\sigma_{C_Q})$	2.2 (0.5)		
$\eta_Q - (\sigma_{\eta_Q})$		0.6 (0.2)			
Si-O-H	$\delta_{iso}(ppm) - (\sigma_{\delta_{iso}})$	130.0 (12.0)	-	4 %	
	$C_Q(MHz) - (\sigma_{C_Q})$	3.1 (0.5)			
	$\eta_Q - (\sigma_{\eta_Q})$	0.6 (0.2)			

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530 **Table 1.** <sup>17</sup>O NMR parameters obtained by fitting the <sup>17</sup>O MAS NMR data of pristine and altered glass  
531 (standard deviations, depending on the distribution of each parameter, are indicated in parentheses)  
532 using as constraints the parameters extracted from the MQMAS data. The  $C_Q$  precision is 0.25 MHz  
533 and  $\delta_{iso}$  precision is 2 ppm. The site proportions, calculated from pristine and altered glass  
534 compositions, and from the <sup>17</sup>O MAS NMR data, are reported.

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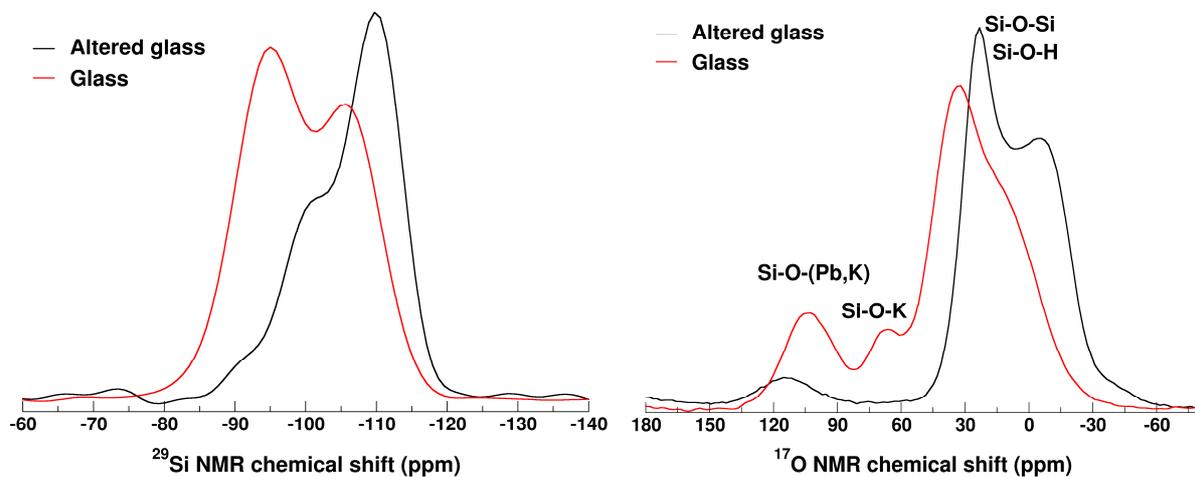
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542 **Figure caption**

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544 (a)

(b)



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546 **Figure 1.** (a)  $^{29}\text{Si}$  MAS NMR and (b)  $^{17}\text{O}$  MAS NMR spectra of pristine and altered glass after 35 days

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at 70°C in acetic acid solution with oxygen-17 enriched water.

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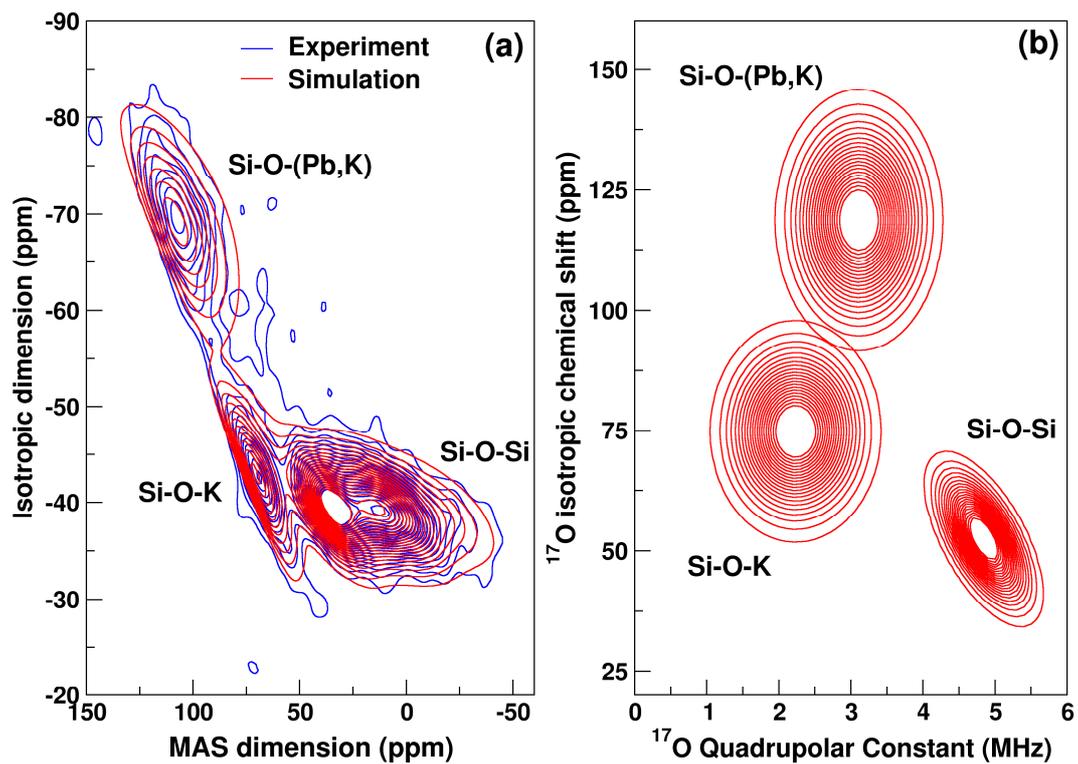
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557 **Figure 2.** (a) Contour plots of the experimental and simulated  $^{17}\text{O}$  MQMAS spectra and (b) the two-

558 dimensional projection of the extracted  $^{17}\text{O}$  NMR parameter distributions  $\delta_{\text{iso}}$  and  $C_Q$ .

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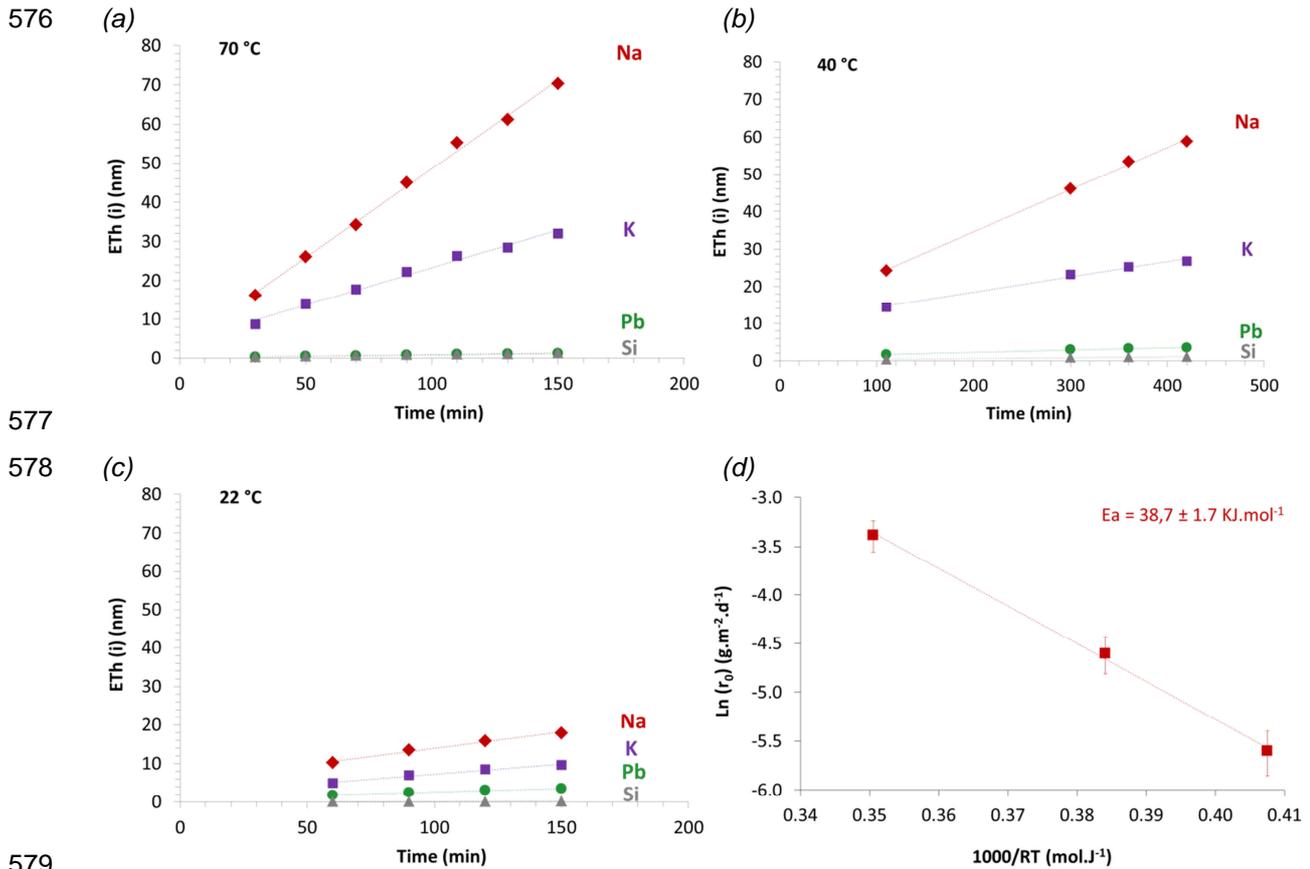
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580 **Figure 3.** Equivalent thickness of altered glass calculated from the release of Si at 22 °C (a), 40 °C (b)

581 and 70 °C (c) in acetic acid, in forward dissolution rate regime. (d) Determination of the apparent

582 activation energy for the alteration mechanisms in forward dissolution rate regime. Broken lines are

583 simple visual aids.

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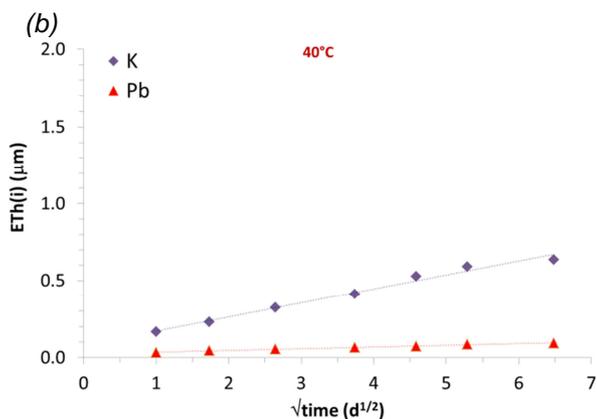
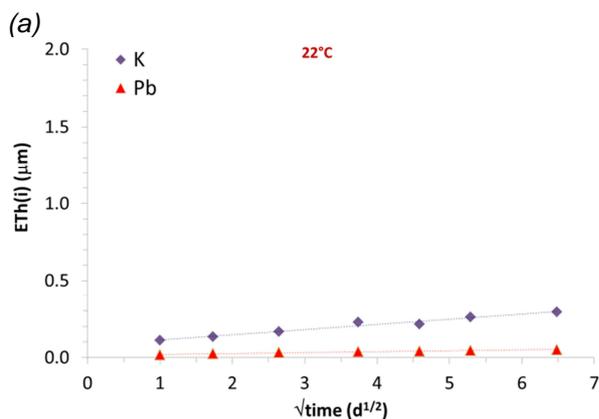
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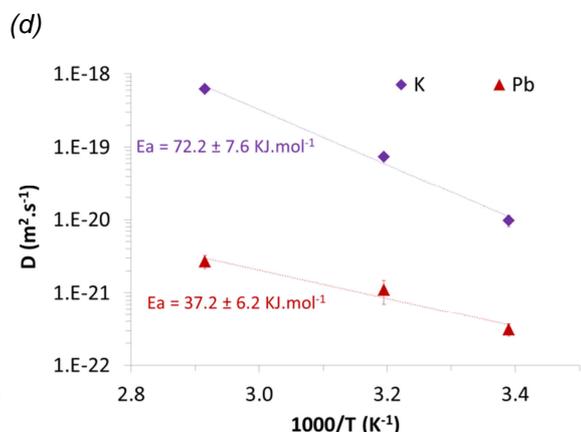
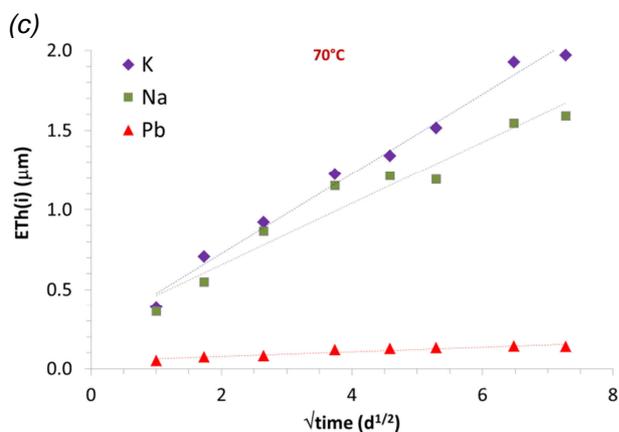
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604 **Figure 4.** Equivalent thickness of altered glass calculated from the leaching of Pb and of K at 22°C

605 (a), 40°C (b) and 70°C (c) in acetic acid solution, in a solution initially saturated with respect to

606 amorphous silica. (d) Representation of the diffusion coefficients depending on the temperature. The

607 activation energy ( $E_a$ ) is given by the slope of the line. Broken lines are simple visual aids.

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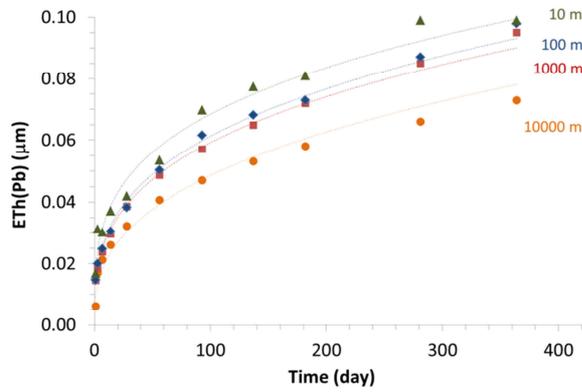
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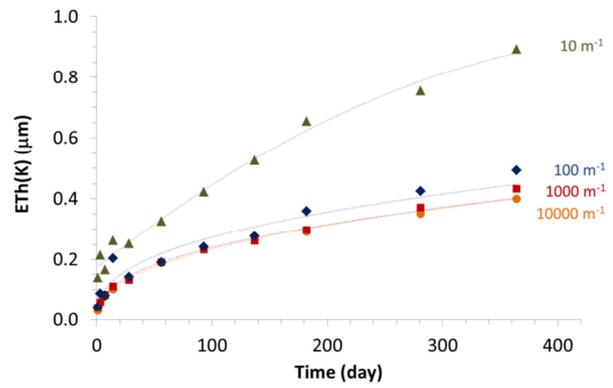
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622 (a)

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(b)



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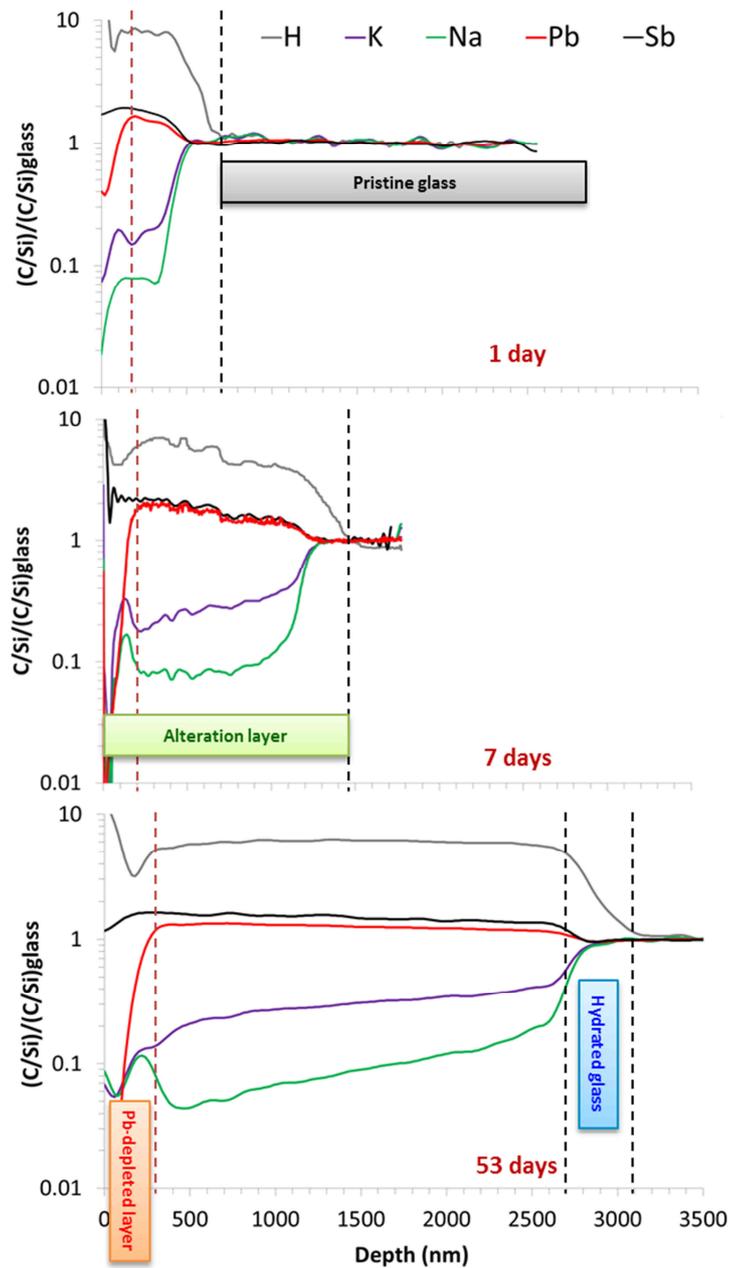
626 **Figure 5.** Equivalent thickness of altered glass calculated from the release of (a) Pb and (b) K at 22°C

627 in acetic acid solution for different SA/V ratios (10, 100, 1000 and 10000 m<sup>-1</sup>). Broken lines are simple

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visual aids.

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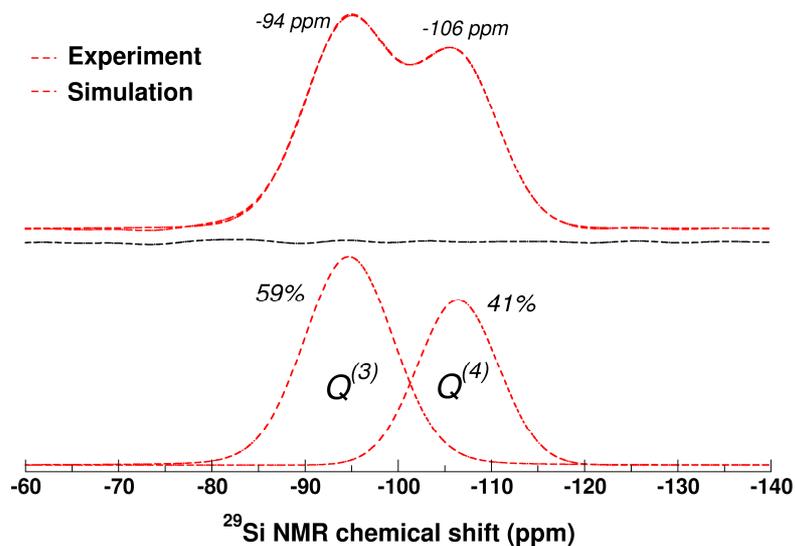
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**Figure 6.** Elemental profiles obtained by ToF-SIMS on the glass altered at 70°C for 1, 7 and 53 days in acetic acid solution saturated with respect to amorphous silica. Data have been normalized compared to Si, which is the least soluble element. All the elements are thus normalized to 1 in the pristine glass; data lower than 1 indicate a depletion of the element, whereas data higher than 1 indicate an enrichment

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### Supplementary information

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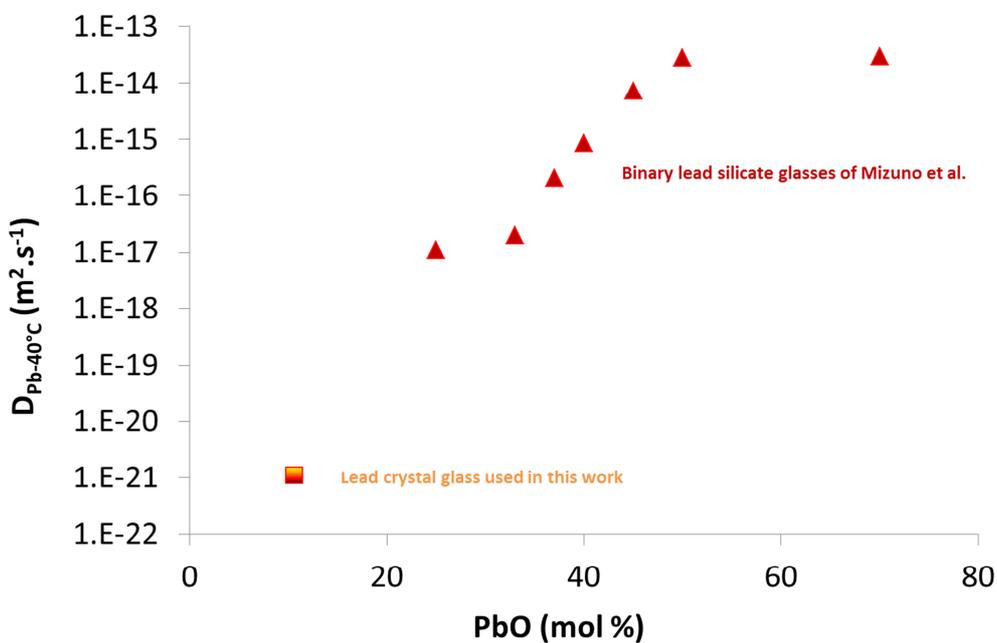
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646 **Figure S1.**  $^{29}\text{Si}$  MAS NMR spectra of pristine glass (solid line) and simulated spectra (dotted lines)

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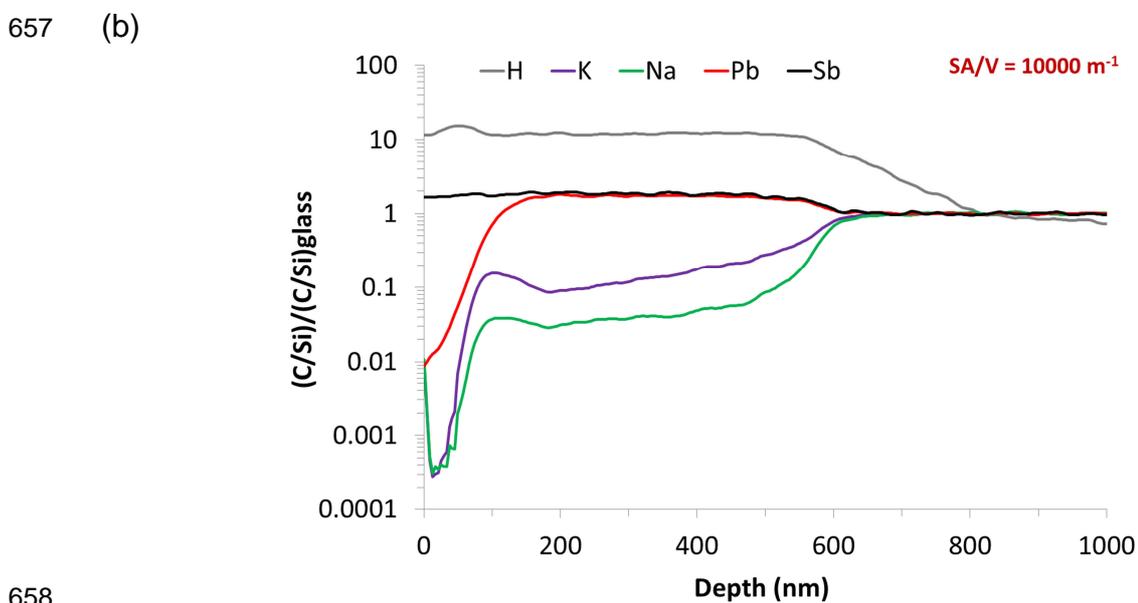
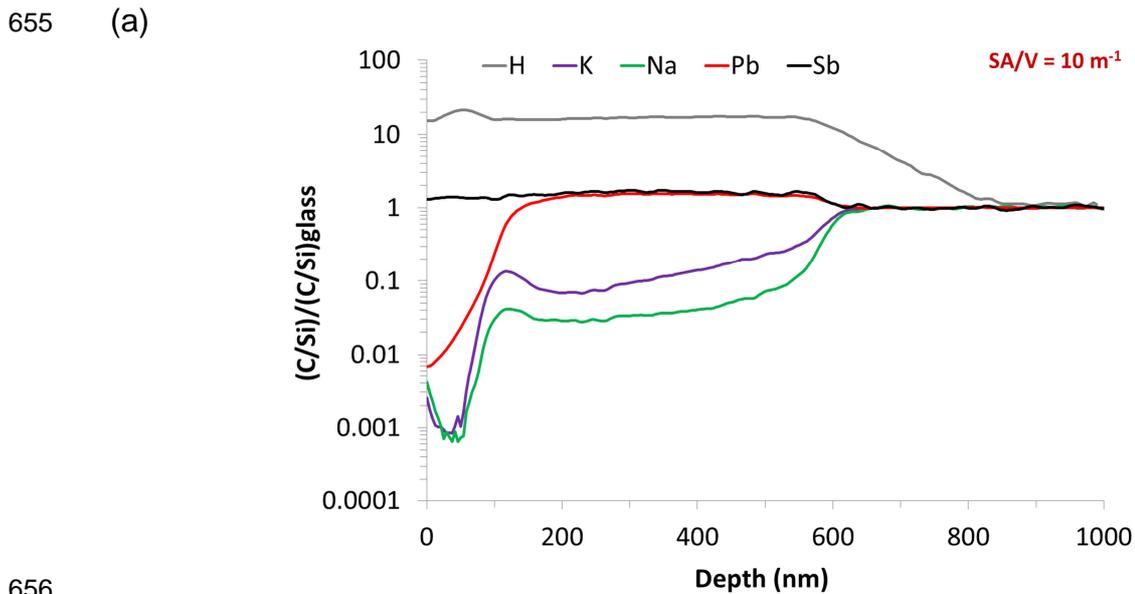


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651 **Figure S2.** Comparison of diffusion coefficients measured at 40°C in the lead crystal glass used in this  
652 work and in binary lead silicate glasses of Mizuno et al. <sup>10</sup>.

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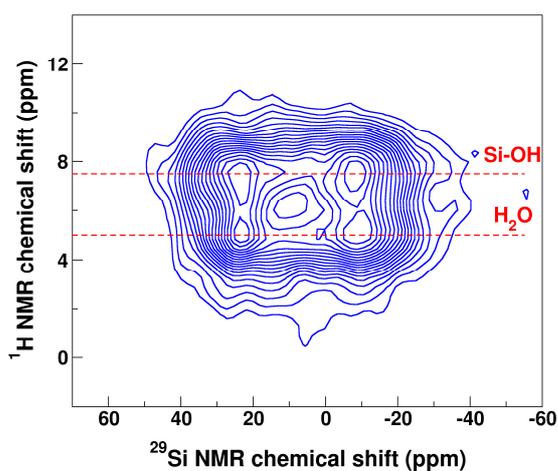


660 **Figure S3.** Elemental profiles obtained by ToF-SIMS on the glass altered at 22°C for 1 year in acetic  
 661 acid solution with  $SA/V = 10 \text{ m}^{-1}$  (a) and  $SA/V = 10000 \text{ m}^{-1}$  (b). Data have been normalized compared  
 662 to Si, which is the least soluble element. All the elements are thus normalized to 1 in the pristine glass;  
 663 data lower than 1 indicate a depletion of the element, whereas data higher than 1 indicate an  
 664 enrichment.

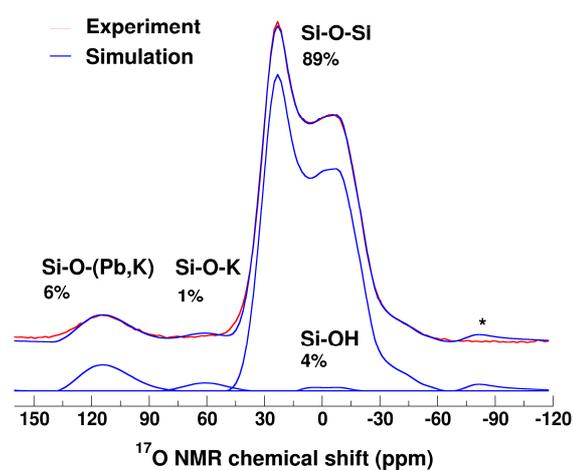
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(a)



(b)



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673 **Figure S4.** (a)  $^1\text{H} \rightarrow ^{17}\text{O}$  HETCOR spectra with 2 ms polarization time of altered glass.

674 (b) Simulation of the  $^{17}\text{O}$  MAS NMR spectra of altered glass

675 (35 days at 70°C in acetic acid solution with oxygen n-17 enriched water).

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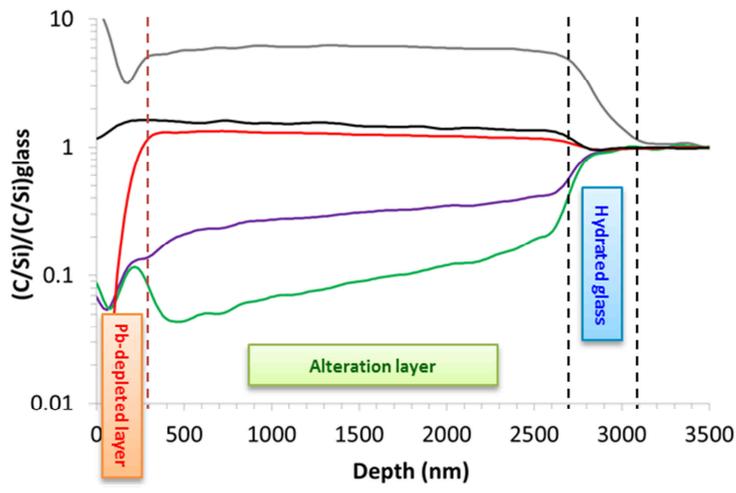
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