

Highlights:

- 4D quantification of growing clinopyroxene and plagioclase crystals
- Temperature and time control the nucleation of pyroxene and plagioclase in basalts
- Investigation of the crystal effect on the rheology and transport of basaltic lava
- Reproduction of the final solidification history of the 2001 Etna lavas
- Application of real-time synchrotron X-ray imaging to forecast lava flow hazards

1 ***In situ* quantification of crystallisation kinetics of plagioclase and**
2 **clinopyroxene in basaltic magma: implications for lava flow**

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20

21 **Abstract**

22 Crystallisation is a complex process that significantly affects the rheology of magma, and
23 thus the flow dynamics during a volcanic eruption. For example, the evolution of crystal
24 fraction, size and shape has a strong impact on the surface crust formation of a lava flow, and
25 accessing such information is essential for accurate modelling of lava flow dynamics. To
26 investigate the role of crystallisation kinetics on lava flow behaviour, we performed real-
27 time, *in situ* synchrotron X-ray microtomography, studying the influence of temperature-time
28 paths on the nucleation and growth of clinopyroxene and plagioclase in an oxidised,
29 nominally anhydrous basaltic magma. Crystallisation experiments were performed at
30 atmospheric pressure in air and temperatures from 1250 °C to 1100 °C, using a bespoke high-
31 temperature resistance furnace. Depending on the cooling regime (single step *versus*
32 continuous), two different crystal phases (either clinopyroxene or plagioclase) were
33 produced, and we quantified their growth from both global and individual 3D texture
34 analyses. The textural evolution of charges suggests that suppression of crystal nucleation is
35 due to changes in the melt composition with increasing undercooling and time. Using
36 existing viscosity models, we inferred the effect of crystals on the viscosity evolution of our
37 crystal-bearing samples to trace changes in rheological behaviour during lava emplacement.
38 We observe that under continuous cooling, both the onsets of the pāhoehoe-‘a‘ā transition
39 and of non-Newtonian behaviour occur within a shorter time frame. With varying both
40 temperature and time, we also either reproduced or approached the clinopyroxene and
41 plagioclase phenocryst abundances and compositions of the Etna lava used as starting
42 material, demonstrating that real-time synchrotron X-ray tomography is an ideal approach to
43 unravel the final solidification history of basaltic lavas. This imaging technology has indeed
44 the potential to provide input into lava flow models and hence our ability to forecast volcanic
45 hazards.

46

47 **Keywords**

48 X-ray microtomography, Basalt, Crystallisation, Lava flow

49

50 **1. Introduction**

51 Nucleation and growth of crystals are complex processes that dramatically affect the
52 evolution of textures in cooling magmas, and therefore the eruptive dynamics. These
53 processes have been extensively studied, but mainly *ex situ* using laboratory cooling and
54 decompression experiments (e.g. Mollo and Hammer, 2017, for a review; Giuliani et al.,
55 2020, and references therein) and through the textural analysis of both experimental and
56 eruptive products from two-dimensional (2D) and three-dimensional (3D) methods (e.g.
57 Baker et al., 2012, and references therein). Until very recently, there was a paucity of *in situ*
58 data (Ni et al., 2014; Schiavi et al., 2009). Thanks to the emerging developments of X-ray
59 synchrotron imaging techniques and *in situ* apparatus (e.g. Azeem et al., 2017; Drakopoulos
60 et al., 2015), we can now directly capture the progressive development of a crystal texture in
61 4D (Arzilli et al., 2019; Polacci et al., 2018; Tripoli et al., 2019), i.e. three spatial dimensions
62 plus time, which provides a deeper understanding of magma crystallisation and solidification
63 during flow emplacement.

64 Pāhoehoe and ‘a‘ā are the two most common surface morphologies in basaltic lava flows,
65 with smooth and rough textures, respectively (e.g. Wentworth and Macdonald, 1953;
66 Peterson and Tilling, 1980). Most lavas initially erupt as pāhoehoe and may evolve to ‘a‘ā
67 during the progress of the flow. This irreversible transition (e.g. Hon et al., 2003) occurs
68 dominantly in response to the increase in viscosity that, in turn, is controlled by the chemical

69 evolution of the residual melt, oxygen fugacity conditions and the increase in crystallinity
70 with distance from the vent (e.g. Cashman et al., 1999; Peterson and Tilling, 1980; Vona et
71 al., 2011). Thus, pāhoehoe lavas are typically less crystalline (<25–30 vol% vs >35 vol%)
72 and less viscous than ‘a‘ā lavas.

73 Here, we studied and quantified *in situ* the nucleation and growth kinetics of pyroxene and
74 plagioclase, the two most common phenocrysts in basaltic magmas. These phenocrysts were
75 produced during single-step and continuous cooling experiments, to evaluate the effect of
76 varying both temperature and time on crystal texture. Specifically, we monitored the
77 evolution of the volume fraction, size and shape of clinopyroxene and plagioclase
78 phenocrysts. We also determined the rheology of the crystal-bearing samples for an accurate
79 modelling of lava flow behaviour. Polacci et al. (2018) and Arzilli et al. (2019) partially
80 presented the single-step cooling experiments. Polacci et al. (2018) quantified the
81 disequilibrium crystallisation of clinopyroxene and titanomagnetite using an empirical model
82 accounting for the volume fraction of crystals, while Arzilli et al. (2019) show that rapid (in
83 minutes) crystallisation can trigger magma fragmentation in highly explosive basaltic
84 eruptions. In this work, we present new data that enables us to (1) quantify the 3D growth of
85 individual clinopyroxenes and plagioclases, (2) infer the evolving rheology of the crystal-
86 bearing samples, and (3) compare the crystallisation kinetics induced under different cooling
87 pathways. As such, this work contributes to a better understanding of the final solidification
88 history of lava flows at basaltic volcanoes.

89

90 **2. Material and Methods**

91 2.1. *Starting material*

92 A sample suite from the Lower Vents (LV, 2500 m and 2100 m vents) of the 2001 eruption
93 of Mt. Etna, Italy (ET01, Table 1), was used as the starting material for the *in situ* cooling
94 experiments. The erupted trachybasaltic lava (47.7 wt% SiO₂, 5.3 wt% Na₂O+K₂O, Corsaro
95 et al., 2007) contains phenocrysts of clinopyroxene (8–14 vol%), plagioclase (4–7 vol%),
96 olivine (1–3 vol%) and titanomagnetite (less than 1 vol%). Most of the clinopyroxene
97 crystals are subhedral and sub-millimeter in size; others range from 3 to 10 mm. Plagioclase
98 crystals are euhedral and sub-millimeter in size; millimeter crystals are rare (Corsaro et al.,
99 2007).

100 The rock sample was crushed, placed in a platinum (Pt) crucible and melted in a 1 atm
101 Nabertherm MoSi₂ box furnace at 1400 °C for 4 h in air. The process was repeated twice. The
102 melt was then quenched by pouring it onto a steel plate, before being cored into glass
103 cylinders measuring 2.8 mm in diameter × 4 mm in length. The composition of the anhydrous
104 starting glass was measured by Electron probe microanalysis (EPMA) (Table 1).

105

106 2.2. *Experimental approach*

107 Two types of cooling-driven crystallisation experiments were carried out, defined by either
108 (1) a large drop in temperature followed by a dwell time of 4 h at the target temperature
109 (*single-step cooling* SSC) or (2) a continuous temperature decrease at a constant rate
110 (*continuous cooling* CC). These experiments were performed at the I12 beamline of the
111 Diamond Light Source (DLS, Harwell campus, United Kingdom) using the Alice high
112 temperature (max 1460 °C) resistance furnace with controlled heating/cooling rate (max 24
113 °C/min; Azeem et al., 2017). The cylindrical samples were contained in alumina (Al₂O₃)
114 holders (inner diameter 3 mm, wall thickness 0.5 mm) that were fitted on top of an Al₂O₃ rod
115 attached to the rotation stage, as shown in the sketch in Fig. 1. During the experiments, the

116 temperature was monitored to ± 5 °C by two type R thermocouples placed close to the
117 sample holder.

118 All experiments were performed in air, at ambient pressure and a temperature ranging
119 between 1100 °C and 1250 °C to simulate lava flows at near-vent conditions. The
120 experimental procedure (Fig. 2, Table 2) consisted of an initial constant heating (at 24
121 °C/min) of the sample up to 1250 °C, which is above the liquidus temperature, and a 30 min
122 isothermal hold to ensure the sample was completely melted and homogeneous. The sample
123 was then either cooled as rapidly as possible (24 °C/min) to 1170 °C (experiment SSC1170)
124 or 1150 °C (experiment SSC1150) and held at constant temperature for 4 h, or cooled at a
125 controlled rate of 0.5 °C/min to 1100 °C (experiment CC0.5), before cooling down to room
126 temperature (at 24 °C/min). The choice of a cooling rate of 0.5 °C/min is within the range of
127 estimated rates at which basaltic lava flows cool (0.01–15 °C/min, Cashman et al., 1999;
128 Witter and Harris, 2007).

129 During cooling-induced crystallisation, synchrotron X-ray tomography was conducted in
130 phase-contrast mode with a detector-sample distance of 2300 mm, in order to visualise and
131 analyse in real-time the nucleation and growth of crystals. X-ray tomographic images were
132 acquired using a 53 keV monochromatic X-ray beam and a high-speed camera, providing a
133 field of view of 8×7 mm² and a pixel size of 3.2 μ m. In each scan dataset, a series of 1800
134 projections were acquired over a 180° rotation with an exposure time of 0.05 s per projection.
135 For each crystallisation experiment, up to 80 datasets were captured at a temporal resolution
136 of 3 min per scan, from before the end of sample melting/homogenisation at 1250 °C to the
137 final cooling down to room temperature.

138

139 *2.3. Analytical methods*

140 2.3.1. Textural analysis

141 Diamond Light Source in-house scripts derived from the Python-based framework TomoPy
142 (Gursoy et al., 2014) were used to reconstruct the tomographic datasets, including flat-field
143 correction, centre determination (Vo et al., 2014) and the removal of ring artefacts (Titarenko
144 et al., 2010) and blobs (Vo et al., 2018).

145 The reconstructed images were then processed using ImageJ (Abramoff et al., 2004, Fiji
146 Version 1.0) and Avizo (ThermoFisher Scientific, Version 9.4) software. ImageJ was first
147 used to reduce the size of the images to 8-bit, adjust brightness and contrast to highlight the
148 phenocrysts, and crop a Volume of Interest (VoI, $692 \times 726 \times 606$ – 814 voxels) that contains
149 either clinopyroxene or plagioclase crystals. The VoI was chosen to exclude the top air/melt
150 interface meniscus and the trapped air bubbles at the bottom and edges of the sample
151 container (Fig. A.1a). All subsequent analysis was performed in Avizo (Fig. A.2). Noise
152 reduction was achieved by successively applying bilateral and median filters in 3D, in order
153 to efficiently segment crystals.

154 Crystals were segmented with interactive thresholding, and successively dilating, eroding
155 and/or opening the segmented volumes, as well as removing small particles (mainly oxides).
156 A large part of the oxides had to be removed manually due to the difficulty of automatically
157 identifying and separating them from the clinopyroxene and plagioclase phenocrysts. Three
158 scan datasets per experiment (9 in total) were selected, representing three different steps of
159 the crystallisation process at $t_1 = 60$ min, $t_2 = 160$ min and $t_3 = 200$ min after the start of the
160 dwell/cooling time (t_0).

161 In addition to quantify the mineral abundances (Table 2 and Fig. 3), a total of 10
162 clinopyroxenes in SSC1150 and 10 plagioclases in CC0.5 (Fig. A.3), located in various
163 places in the VoI, were isolated to measure their size (3D length L_{3D}) and volume (V), in

164 order to assess their growth rate in non-volumetric (Y_{L3D}) and volumetric (Y_V) terms (Figs. 4–
165 6, Tables 2, A.2 and A.3). Changes in crystal length/width aspect ratios (r_p) were also
166 quantified over time, with both the crystal length (Length3D) and width (Width3D)
167 automatically calculated as the longest and shortest Feret diameters, respectively. Most of the
168 segmented crystals were connected, corresponding to aggregates of single crystals (Polacci et
169 al., 2018), so no crystal number density is given.

170

171 2.3.2. Chemical analysis

172 Run products were analysed for their chemistry. Glass, titanomagnetite, clinopyroxene and
173 plagioclase crystals were analysed by EPMA using a Jeol JXA 8530F electron microprobe at
174 the University of Manchester, UK. Analyses were performed using a 15 kV accelerating
175 voltage, 10 nA beam current and beam size of 10 μ m. See Polacci et al. (2018) for more
176 details on the procedure.

177

178 3. Results

179 3.1. Mineral assemblages and crystal abundances

180 All experimental charges contain crystals of titanomagnetite (Table 2), confirming their
181 oxidised nature. They appeared visible in the melt after 12 and 6 min of the dwell time in the
182 SSC1170 and SSC1150 experiments (Polacci et al., 2018), respectively, and after 60 min of
183 continuous cooling in the CC0.5 experiment (although up to t_2 and reaching 1170 °C the
184 oxide volume fraction is near-zero). The two single-step cooled samples (SSC1170,
185 SSC1150) also contain clinopyroxene phenocrysts of augite composition (Table A.1), while
186 the continuously cooled sample (CC0.5) is characterised by the presence of plagioclase and

187 the absence of clinopyroxene. In both SSC1170 and SSC1150, plagioclase was not able to
188 form after 4 h at constant temperature. It started to grow only in the final cooling to room
189 temperature, at $T = 1131\text{--}1053\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ for SSC1170 and $T = 1112\text{--}1073\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ for SSC1150 (Arzilli
190 et al., 2019).

191 In SSC1170, the volume fraction of clinopyroxene is systematically very low (<0.002
192 vol%), with only three distinguishable crystals in the segmented VoI (Fig. 3a–c). They are
193 part of a small number of clinopyroxenes present at the bottom of the sample holder, which
194 appeared after 30 min of dwell time (Polacci et al., 2018) on the surface of an entrapped air
195 bubble and in close contact with alumina (Fig. A.1c). Since no other clinopyroxene crystals
196 nucleated in the rest of the charge within 4 h, the temperature of $1170\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ seems to be very
197 close to the liquidus temperature. Consequently, we defined the liquidus temperature of
198 clinopyroxene at $1170\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$.

199 In SSC1150, the nucleation of clinopyroxene crystals started within the first 12 min of the
200 dwell period (Polacci et al., 2018), preferentially at the air-melt interface and on alumina
201 walls (Fig. A.1b), i.e. heterogeneously. The clinopyroxene volume fraction increases with
202 time, from 1 vol% at $t_1 = 60\text{ min}$ up to 9 vol% at $t_3 = 200\text{ min}$ (Fig. 3d–f), as well as with
203 reducing temperature by $20\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$, from $1170\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ to $1150\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ (Fig. 3a–f).

204 In CC0.5, we did not observe any phenocryst crystallisation within the first hour of the
205 experiment. Plagioclase crystals started to nucleate and grow at $\sim 1205\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$, i.e. after 90 min
206 from the beginning of cooling. They formed on tiny air bubbles attached to the walls of the
207 container. Afterwards, the volume fraction of plagioclase increased with increasing time and
208 decreasing temperature, reaching 22 vol% at $t_3 = 200\text{ min}$ and $T = 1150\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ (Fig. 3g–i).
209 Clinopyroxene crystallisation did not occur during the continuous cooling at $0.5\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{min}$. A

210 few tiny crystals were observed in the final unquenched product, suggesting that they formed
211 somewhere during final cooling at 24 °C/min, at temperatures below 1100 °C.

212 In all three experiments, crystals nucleate mostly between t_1 and t_2 (Fig. 3) and then grow
213 with time and/or cooling, i.e. growth is dominant from t_2 onwards.

214

215 3.2. Crystal sizes and growth rates

216 Compared to previous studies, here we provide individual *in situ* 3D measurements of crystal
217 growth kinetics, contributing to a better understanding of crystallisation processes and, as a
218 consequence, of the solidification of basaltic lava flows.

219 Clinopyroxene size (L_{3D}) nearly triples with increasing the duration of the SSC1150
220 experiment, ranging from 90–320 μm at t_1 (60 min dwell) to 150–890 μm at t_2 (160 min
221 dwell) to 250–1090 μm at t_3 (200 min dwell, Fig. 4a, Tables 2 and A.2). Plagioclase L_{3D}
222 doubles with mutually increasing time and decreasing temperature in CC0.5, ranging from
223 270–520 μm at t_2 to 445–1160 μm at t_3 (Fig. 4b, Tables 2 and A.3). Both the clinopyroxene
224 and plagioclase volumes, averaged over 10 single crystals, increased fivefold from 0.3 to 1.6
225 $\times 10^{-6} \text{ cm}^3$ and from 0.8 to $3.8 \times 10^{-6} \text{ cm}^3$, respectively, during the 140 min hold/cooling
226 from t_1 to t_3 (Fig. 4, Tables 2, A.2 and A.3). The average clinopyroxene growth rate (Y_{L3D}) is
227 nearly constant with time, ranging between $6.9 \times 10^{-6} \text{ cm/s}$ (t_1) and $5.8 \times 10^{-6} \text{ cm/s}$ (t_3), while
228 the average clinopyroxene volumetric growth rate (Y_V) almost triples between 4.6×10^{-11}
229 cm^3/s (t_1) and $12 \times 10^{-11} \text{ cm}^3/\text{s}$ (t_3) (Fig. 5, Tables 2 and A.2). Both the average Y_{L3D} and Y_V
230 of plagioclase crystals are more impacted by time and temperature, with Y_{L3D} almost
231 quadrupling (3.7 to $16 \times 10^{-6} \text{ cm/s}$) during 40 min of cooling from t_2 to t_3 , and Y_V increasing
232 by a factor of 10 (4.1 to $55 \times 10^{-11} \text{ cm}^3/\text{s}$, Fig. 5, Tables 2 and A.3).

233

234 3.3. *Crystal morphologies*

235 In SSC1150, clinopyroxene crystals formed with a gradual transition from elongated
236 prismatic shapes to multi-branched crystals as growth proceeds (Fig. 4a; Polacci et al., 2018;
237 Arzilli et al., 2019). Spherulitic morphologies were also observed, corresponding to
238 heterogeneously nucleated crystal aggregates similar to that reported by Arzilli et al. (2015)
239 for alkali feldspars. Plagioclase crystals from the CC0.5 run product exhibit an elongate
240 bladed habit (Fig. 4b). No change in morphology was observed with increasing time and
241 decreasing temperature, although crystals become more elongated and branched. We
242 observed a morphological difference in the iron oxides that exhibit an equant shape under
243 single-step cooling (in SSC1150) and a skeletal form under continuous cooling (in CC0.5).

244

245 **4. Discussion**

246 *4.1. Single-step versus continuous cooling: differences in mineralogical assemblages and*
247 *kinetics*

248 *4.1.1. Mineralogical differences*

249 Depending on the type of cooling (single-step vs continuous), we noticed the presence or
250 absence of clinopyroxene and plagioclase. Clinopyroxene is present in both single-step
251 experiments, although in a very small amount in SSC1170, from near the beginning of the
252 dwell period (after 12 min dwell in SSC1150, Polacci et al., 2018), while plagioclase remains
253 absent until the final cooling stage (Arzilli et al., 2019), occurring as skeletal crystals. On the
254 contrary, only plagioclase crystallised from the melt on continuous cooling (CC0.5), with the
255 occurrence of minor clinopyroxenes (too small for analysis by EPMA) during the final

256 cooling to room temperature. For comparison, the equilibrium assemblage calculated by
257 MELTS software (Ghiorso and Sack, 1995; Asimow and Ghiorso, 1998), at ambient pressure
258 and fugacity (magnetite-hematite MH redox buffer), comprises both plagioclase ($T_{\text{liquidus}} =$
259 $1208\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$) and clinopyroxene ($T_{\text{liquidus}} = 1188\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$). As discussed above (section 3.1), the
260 texture of the SS1170 charge suggests that the liquidus temperature of clinopyroxene is closer
261 to $1170\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$. This enabled us to determine the nucleation undercooling ($\Delta T = T_{\text{liquidus}} -$
262 $T_{\text{experimental}}$) as a function of temperature: for clinopyroxene $\Delta T = 0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ at $1170\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ and $20\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$
263 at $1150\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$, for plagioclase $\Delta T = 0\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ at $1220\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$, $38\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ at $1170\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ and $58\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ at $1150\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$.
264 Both the SSC1170 and SSC1150 experiments were thus run below the predicted plagioclase
265 liquidus, meaning that plagioclase should have been present within the 4-h dwell. Similarly,
266 we performed part (80 min) of the CC0.5 experiment below the clinopyroxene liquidus
267 without nucleating clinopyroxene crystals. In each cooling regime, the nucleation of one
268 crystal phase is suppressed, attesting to disequilibrium crystallisation.

269 The absence of either plagioclase or clinopyroxene in cooling-induced crystallisation
270 experiments, while it should be thermodynamically stable, was reported previously by some
271 authors (e.g. Corrigan, 1982; Gibb, 1974; Lofgren, 1983; Vetere et al., 2015). They mainly
272 attribute the failure of these phases to nucleate to the degree of undercooling (a large ΔT , or
273 high cooling rate, inhibiting the nucleation of plagioclase), a limited experimental duration
274 and a low number of heterogeneous nucleation sites. In our SSC1150 single-step experiment,
275 the nucleation of clinopyroxene followed a rapid ($24\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{min}$) temperature drop that drove a
276 rapid increase of undercooling to $20\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ for clinopyroxene and to $58\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ for plagioclase, and
277 brought the melt to sub-liquidus conditions where both phases can grow. However, although
278 the nucleation of clinopyroxene was activated after 12 min at constant temperature,
279 plagioclase was not able to crystallise within the 4 h dwell. This indicates first that time plays

280 a major role in the evolution of crystallisation, and second that clinopyroxene needs lower
281 activation energy to nucleate, associated with its lower number of tetrahedral units (Al–O and
282 Si–O bonds) and less polymerised structure in comparison to plagioclase, which in turn
283 translates into a shorter delay in nucleation (Iezzi et al., 2008). In addition, following these
284 relatively fast nucleation and growth, the residual melt became depleted in clinopyroxene
285 components (Ca, Mg, Fe, Table A.1), possibly delaying the stabilization of plagioclase
286 nuclei. In contrast, and despite its more complex structure, the slow cooling rate of 0.5
287 °C/min enabled the nucleation of plagioclase. This suggests that suppression of crystal
288 nucleation is not simply related to structural control alone, as previously suggested by
289 Corrigan (1982). Following the nucleation and growth of plagioclase crystals near the
290 liquidus temperature, the residual melt became depleted in plagioclase components
291 (anorthite: Ca and Na, Table A.1), creating a local disequilibrium that may have delayed the
292 formation of clinopyroxene. Nucleation sites for clinopyroxene may also be missing. They
293 may have been suppressed because of a longer time spent above their liquidus temperature
294 (122 min for CC0.5 instead of 3 min for SSC1150, from the end of melting/homogenisation)
295 or occupied by early-formed plagioclase crystals.

296 Our observations show that the cooling rate and the resulting increase of undercooling
297 through time are important factors controlling crystallisation. In this sense, Vetere et al.
298 (2015) documented that plagioclase is only able to crystallise at low to moderate cooling
299 rates (< 3 °C/min). However, Arzilli et al. (2019) observed the crystallisation of plagioclase
300 at a high cooling rate of 24 °C/min. The difference may be related to initial conditions, since
301 superheating, as applied by Vetere et al. (2015), can promote an efficient dissolution of pre-
302 existing nuclei (e.g. Arzilli et al., 2015), while a time-step at sub-liquidus conditions can
303 promote the formation of stable nuclei, which once subjected to a rapid thermal perturbation
304 of the system are able to grow rapidly. The effects of thermal history on the mineralogical

305 assemblage of cooling basalts appear to be not yet well understood, stressing that more
306 systematic real-time investigations should be performed.

307

308 4.1.2. *Crystal nucleation kinetics*

309 The experimental charges have higher crystal abundances at the gas-melt and container-melt
310 interfaces because of the lower surface free energy required for nucleation. At the container
311 walls, the heterogeneous nucleation of plagioclase and clinopyroxene crystals is associated
312 with the presence of tiny air bubbles and the early formation of Al–Mg oxides (Fig. A.4),
313 both acting as nucleation sites. The presence of pre-existing nuclei is an important
314 mechanism that contributes to the solidification of basaltic lava flows (e.g. Mollo et al.,
315 2015), emphasising that *in situ* observations can unravel the dynamics of heterogeneous
316 crystal nucleation and its important implications on the development of basaltic textures, and
317 so on conduit processes and eruptive dynamics.

318 In addition to being reduced by heterogeneous nucleation, the nucleation delay, i.e. the time
319 between when the melt is brought below its liquidus and the onset of nucleation (Rusiecka et
320 al., 2020), is reduced as a function of undercooling. As expected with increasing
321 undercooling and/or experimental duration (e.g. Rusiecka et al., 2020 and references therein;
322 Vona and Romano, 2013), the nucleation of clinopyroxene occurs faster and the volume
323 fraction of crystals increases (Fig. 3). The plagioclase-free texture of the SSC1150 sample,
324 during the 4-h dwell, is also consistent with the findings of Rusiecka et al. (2020).

325 In contrast to previous *in situ* research (Ni et al., 2014) that reports the nucleation of olivine
326 or clinopyroxene crystals only in a short event of a few minutes at the beginning of the
327 experiment, we observed multiple nucleation events up to t_2 (160 min dwell/cooling) and the

328 continuous growth of both clinopyroxene (SSC1150) and plagioclase crystals (CC0.5). These
329 multiple nucleation events, reported as two main nucleation/growth pulses in SSC1150 (at 60
330 and 150 min dwell) in Polacci et al. (2018), may be induced by changes in melt composition
331 with further effects on the liquidus temperature, following the nucleation and growth of first
332 crystals. Such multiple nucleation events have been recently reported by Giuliani et al. (2020)
333 to account for the formation of clinopyroxene in basaltic melt.

334

335 4.1.3. Crystal growth kinetics

336 In the time interval of our experiments, clinopyroxene and plagioclase crystals grew at rates
337 of 10^{-6} cm/s and 10^{-5} – 10^{-6} cm/s, respectively. A clinopyroxene growth rate of 10^{-6} cm/s is
338 similar to, or higher than, the one reported in previous works on anhydrous basaltic and
339 trachybasaltic melts (10^{-6} – 10^{-9} cm/s, Baker, 2008; Burkhard, 2005; Giuliani et al., 2020; Ni et
340 al., 2014; Orlando et al., 2008; Pontesilli et al., 2019). Lower growth rates of 10^{-7} – 10^{-9} cm/s
341 have been reported for plagioclase crystals (Arzilli et al., 2015; Giuliani et al., 2020; Orlando
342 et al., 2008). These differences are associated with the use of *in situ* data, since we measured
343 dynamic growth rates that are known to decrease with increasing dwell time (e.g. Pontesilli et
344 al., 2019), with impingement by surrounding crystals. *Ex situ*, growth rates are determined
345 for entire experimental periods and are thus averaged and possibly underestimated. In
346 addition, the use of 2D data provides less accurate shape information.

347 At constant undercooling ($\Delta T = 20$ °C), the clinopyroxene growth rate by size (Y_{L3D}) is
348 nearly constant through time, and the volumetric growth rate (Y_v) slightly increases (Fig. 5).
349 With increasing undercooling by 20 °C, from 38 °C to 58 °C, both the Y_{L3D} and Y_v
350 plagioclase growth rates quadruple (Fig. 5). Kirkpatrick (1975) also showed an increase of
351 the rate of crystal growth with increasing undercooling for a large temperature range.

352 Following Tamman (1899) and as predicted by the theory (Kirkpatrick, 1975), we can expect
353 the rate of crystal growth to be near-zero at the liquidus, increase to a maximum and then
354 decrease with increasing undercooling.

355 The initially individual clinopyroxene and plagioclase crystals grew along
356 thermodynamically favourable directions, i.e. perpendicular to the surface of heterogeneities
357 (Al-walls of the sample holder, air bubbles and first-nucleated crystals, including many
358 oxides), forming networks of agglomerated crystals (Fig. 3). Clinopyroxene crystals grew
359 radially from the top of the VoI and the edge walls of the alumina container, mainly by
360 branching and aggregation (Fig. 3d–f). Plagioclases also align along preferential directions,
361 perpendicular to the sample holder (Fig. 3g–i). The euhedral textures developed by both the
362 clinopyroxenes and titanomagnetites in SSC1150 result from interface-controlled growth
363 mechanisms, which are favoured by a small undercooling of 20 °C and a high temperature of
364 1150 °C that is close to the liquidus temperature of 1170 °C. In contrast, the plagioclase
365 blades observed in CC0.5 indicate some disequilibrium between the melt and crystals, linked
366 to larger undercoolings and departure from their liquidus temperature (1208 °C). The shape
367 of these rapidly growing crystals is controlled by diffusion, with a slow diffusivity of cations
368 in the melt (Mollo and Hammer, 2017). Attainment of equilibrium did not occur during the
369 course of the continuous cooling experiment (~5 h) for plagioclase. In that experiment, the
370 oxide crystals are skeletal, which also attests to their development under conditions of rapid
371 growth and high degrees of undercooling.

372 Aggregation of smaller and mutually touching crystals was reported to occur in Etnean
373 pāhoehoe and ‘a‘ā lavas at syn-eruptive conditions over the effect of undercooling (e.g.
374 Lanzafame et al., 2013). This underlines the close reproducibility of the near-surface
375 crystallisation of basaltic melts by our innovative *in situ* approach and thus its utility in lava
376 flow studies.

377

378 *4.1.3. Rheology of the crystal-bearing samples*

379 Growing crystals increase the viscosity of the suspending basaltic lava and introduce non-
380 Newtonian rheology (e.g. Giordano et al., 2008; Mueller et al., 2010; Vona et al., 2011),
381 which in turn affects its transport (e.g. Soldati et al., 2016). Assessing the rheological
382 evolution of crystallising basaltic melts is thus required for lava flow modelling, to predict
383 how the lava flow will evolve in time and space. Here, we infer the evolving rheology of our
384 SSC1150 and CC0.5 crystal-bearing samples from a Hershel-Bulkley model (Herschel and
385 Bulkley, 1926; Mader et al., 2013):

$$\tau = \tau_0 + K\dot{\gamma}^n, \quad \text{Eq. 1}$$

386 where τ is the shear stress, τ_0 is a yield stress, K is the consistency, $\dot{\gamma}$ is the strain-rate and n
387 is the flow index. The rheological impact of the crystal phase depends primarily on the ratio
388 of the crystal volume fraction ϕ to the maximum crystal packing fraction ϕ_m (ϕ/ϕ_m)
389 because τ_0 , K and n are all functions of ϕ/ϕ_m (Mader et al., 2013). ϕ_m can be calculated
390 from the aspect ratio of the crystals r_p (Mader et al., 2013; Mueller et al., 2010):

$$\phi_m = 0.55 \exp \left[-\frac{(\log_{10} r_p)^2}{2} \right]. \quad \text{Eq. 2}$$

391 Both ϕ and r_p are measured directly from our *in situ* data (Section 2.3.1). SSC1150 contains
392 clinopyroxene crystals with average aspect ratios of 4.07 (60 min dwell), 7.41 (160 min
393 dwell) and 7.35 (200 min dwell, Tables 2 and A.2), and CC0.5 contains plagioclase crystals
394 with average r_p of 4.24 (160 min cooling) and 5.76 (200 min cooling, Tables 2 and A.3).
395 Consistency and flow index are calculated following Mader et al. (2013):

$$K = \mu_0 \left(1 - \frac{\phi}{\phi_m}\right)^{-2}, \quad \text{Eq. 3}$$

$$n = 1 - 0.2r_p \left(\frac{\phi}{\phi_m}\right)^4, \quad \text{Eq. 4}$$

396 where μ_0 is the viscosity of the melt phase, which can be calculated as a function of
 397 composition and temperature (Giordano et al., 2008). At 1170 °C and 1150 °C, the viscosities
 398 of melt samples are respectively of 2.01 and 2.18 log Pa s. Computed values of ϕ_m , the ratio
 399 ϕ/ϕ_m , K and n are tabulated in Table 2.

400 Mader et al. (2013) show that τ_0 is negligible for $\phi/\phi_m < 0.8$, which is the case for all of our
 401 tomographic reconstructions. In this case, Equation 1 reduces to a power law in which
 402 suspension viscosity η depends on strain rate:

$$\eta = K\dot{\gamma}^{n-1}. \quad \text{Eq. 5}$$

403 They further argue that shear thinning effects can be neglected for most strain rates of
 404 practical interest if $n \geq 0.9$, which is the case for most of our tomographic reconstructions. In
 405 this case, $\eta \equiv K$ and the Newtonian suspension viscosity can be calculated directly using
 406 Equation 3.

407 Results (Tables 2, A2 and A3) show that our samples exhibit a Newtonian behaviour during
 408 both the dwell and continuous cooling, with small ϕ/ϕ_m of 0.02 at t_1 to 0.24 at t_3 in SSC1150
 409 and of 0.20 at t_1 to 0.53 at t_3 in CC0.5, respectively. However, higher values of this ratio
 410 (0.64 in SSC1150 and 0.58 in CC0.5) are expected after more than the 200 min
 411 dwell/cooling, by considering a maximum ϕ of 0.24 as found in the LV magmas (Corsaro et
 412 al., 2007). With more time, our two samples produced under different temperature-time
 413 conditions, would thus evolve towards a non-Newtonian behaviour, with consequences for
 414 magma transport (see Section 4.2).

415 Magma viscosity is also dependent on shear rate, which facilitates the nucleation and growth
416 of crystals (Vona and Romano, 2013). During transport and emplacement, magmas and lavas
417 undergo a range of shear rates ($2.5\text{--}0.001\text{ s}^{-1}$, Kolzenburg et al., 2018 and references therein).
418 Although we did not investigate the effect of varying the deformation rate on the rheological
419 evolution of crystallising basaltic melts, previous experimental studies (Kolzenburg et al.,
420 2018; Tripoli et al., 2019; Vona et al., 2011; Vona and Romano, 2013) showed that shear
421 deformation accelerates crystallisation kinetics, resulting in shorter nucleation delays and
422 higher crystal fractions.

423 In more detail, Vona et al. (2011) performed *ex situ* isothermal crystallisation experiments
424 while capturing the temporal evolution of the viscosity of anhydrous Etna basalt of the 1991–
425 1993 eruption deformed under a low strain rate of 0.53 s^{-1} . In air, at 1157 °C and 1 atm,
426 crystallisation takes place within 29–45 h, associated with an increase in apparent viscosity to
427 a stable value of 3.07 log Pa s ($\phi = 0.16$). The final mineralogical assemblage is composed of
428 spinel (minor) and plagioclase, which differs from our SSC1150 experiment, where
429 clinopyroxene nucleated after a short 12-min delay. Their starting melt composition slightly
430 differs from ours, but not enough to justify such a difference in crystallisation time, as well as
431 in the order of nucleation of crystal phases. We suggest, instead, that these differences can be
432 explained by a longer time spent above the liquidus temperature (5h at 1400 °C in Vona et
433 al., 2011 vs 30 min at 1250 °C in our study), which allows a more complete dissolution of
434 pre-existing nuclei. These differences can also be explained by the use of a different
435 apparatus (concentric cylinder viscometer) equipped with a spindle that causes chemical
436 heterogeneities and mechanical perturbations in the melt (Vona et al., 2011). Recent findings
437 (e.g. Tripoli et al., 2019; Kolzenburg et al., 2020) demonstrated that in the absence of thermal
438 and/or mechanical fluctuations the nucleation of plagioclase is not favoured, as observed in
439 our single-step experiments.

440 Using the model of Vona et al. (2011), which considers the magma strain rate and both the
441 crystal fraction and crystal shape factors (Vona and Romano, 2013), we calculated the
442 relative viscosity of our SSC1150 suspensions (liquid + crystal, considering both
443 clinopyroxene and oxide phases). As expected (Vona et al., 2011 and references therein), the
444 relative viscosity increases with increasing crystal fraction ϕ , from 1.21 log Pa s at $\phi = 0.05$
445 (t_1 , Table 2) to 2.39 log Pa s at $\phi = 0.14$ (t_2 , Table 2) to 3.37 log Pa s at $\phi = 0.17$ (t_3 , Table 2).
446 According to Polacci et al. (2018), a stable clinopyroxene crystal content (~14 vol%) can be
447 reached after ~500–1500 min dwell (~8–25 h) in the SSC1150 sample, which translates to a
448 higher relative viscosity of 6.93 log Pa s at $\phi = 0.22$ (including a stable oxide content of 8
449 vol%, Arzilli et al., 2019).

450 Kolzenburg et al. (2018) were among the first to study the effect of shear rate at non-
451 isothermal conditions, which can be related to our CC0.5 continuous cooling experiment.
452 They observed that the onset temperature of crystallisation increases with increasing shear
453 rate, from 1101 °C (no shear) to 1164 °C and 1178 °C for shear rates of 1.16 and 4.64 s⁻¹,
454 respectively, at a cooling rate of 0.5 °C/min and using a trachybasalt from the 2013 eruption
455 of Etna. However, in CC0.5 crystallisation occurs at high temperatures (~1205 °C) without
456 introducing shear, suggesting that results can hardly be compared with each other. Here
457 again, differences can be due to the use of a concentric cylinder apparatus with a longer time
458 spent above the liquidus temperature (several hours at 1300 °C) and more reduced conditions,
459 and a slightly different starting melt composition. Kolzenburg et al. (2018) also showed that
460 increasing shear rate increases the cutoff temperature (T_{cutoff} , i.e. the point at which the
461 sample rheologically solidifies and flow stops), which implies shorter flow distances.
462 Although it is not relevant to our data, if deformation is taken into account, transitions
463 between different eruptive styles or flow mechanisms can occur in a shorter amount of time
464 (Vona and Romano, 2013).

465

466 *4.2. Implications for basaltic lava flows*

467 *4.2.1. Time evolution of magma crystallinity: the pāhoehoe-‘a‘ā transition*

468 As described above, our results can be used to investigate the effect of cooling and
469 crystallisation on the rheological properties of lava, and more specifically to retrieve the
470 conditions under which pāhoehoe lavas transform to ‘a‘ā. Such a transition is greatly
471 influenced by the viscosity of the lava, which is dependent on temperature and crystallinity,
472 and associated with the development of yield strength (Cashman et al., 1999). A critical
473 crystallinity range at which pāhoehoe transforms to ‘a‘ā has been identified between 0.18 and
474 0.35 (Hon et al., 2003; Soule et al., 2004), although some Etnean pāhoehoe lavas (termed
475 “cicirara”) can contain up to 40 vol% crystals (e.g. Lanzafame et al., 2013). We inferred such
476 parallel changes of crystallinity and rheological behaviour (onset of non-Newtonian
477 behaviour) after more than 200 min dwell/cooling at a comparable crystallinity of 0.24, as
478 found in the 2001 trachybasalts. In addition, a critical viscosity range for the pāhoehoe-‘a‘ā
479 transition has been calibrated from a combination of field observations and laboratory
480 experiments, from 4 log Pa s (no shear rate) to ~2.7 log Pa s with increasing shear rate (e.g.
481 Cashman and Mangan, 2014, and references therein; Sehlke et al., 2014; Soldati et al., 2017).
482 In line with this finding, such viscosities are approached in our single-step cooling conditions
483 (SSC1150) after 200 min and largely exceeded within 8 h. Under our given P - T - fO_2 -
484 composition conditions, the transition of basaltic lava from pāhoehoe to ‘a‘ā can thus be
485 crossed in ca. 4 h from emission under continuous cooling, or between 3 and 8 h under
486 single-step cooling.

487

488 4.2.2. *Crystallisation timescales in basaltic lava flows and the case study of the 2001*
489 *eruption of Mt. Etna*

490 Under single-step cooling (near-isothermal) conditions, our data coupled with the empirical
491 model of Polacci et al. (2018) indicate that 14 vol% of crystals (single-phase) can nucleate
492 and grow over a day. This amount alone is not enough to bring a major shift in rheological
493 behaviour, implying that lava can travel great distances with minimal cooling. Under
494 continuous cooling (non-isothermal) conditions, our results demonstrate that the growth of 22
495 vol% plagioclase crystals in just over 3 h would soon have a significant impact on flow
496 behaviour. According to Kolzenburg et al. (2020), the lava could solidify and stop flowing
497 after reaching 1128 °C, i.e. after 244 min (~4 h) of continuous cooling at 0.5 °C/min. During
498 flowage onto the surface, the behaviour of basaltic lavas appears to be greatly influenced by
499 both temperature and time, with crystal phases possibly nucleating and growing under
500 different cooling regimes, as explored below.

501 As a trachybasalt from the 2001 Etna eruption was used as the starting material for our
502 experimental simulations of lava flow emplacement, results can aid in the interpretation of
503 the final crystallisation history of the erupted LV lavas. According to Lanzafame et al. (2013)
504 who unravelled the solidification path of a pāhoehoe lava from Mt. Etna through petrographic
505 analysis, crystals with a size <1 mm (~75 vol%) crystallised during lava emplacement. Our
506 results agree well with this finding, since the SSC1150 single-step cooled sample crystallised
507 the amount of clinopyroxene phenocrysts found in the 2001 lavas (~9–14 vol%) within 200
508 to 500–1500 min of dwell (Polacci et al., 2018) at 1150 °C. After that time, a critical
509 crystallinity (of maximum 24 vol%) could be reached with the appearance of a second
510 phenocryst phase (6–7 vol% plagioclase) in the same proportions as in the 2001 LV products.
511 For comparison, in the CC0.5 sample, continuously cooled at a rate of 0.5 °C/min, 4 to 7
512 vol% plagioclase crystals appeared in less than 160 min at $T \geq 1170$ °C. However, 40 min

513 later ($T = 1150\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$) CC0.5 already contained 22 vol% plagioclase and no clinopyroxene,
514 which differs strongly from the LV products. In addition to reproduce the abundance of
515 clinopyroxene crystals in the SSC1150 experiment, we reproduced their composition with an
516 average Mg number (Mg#) of 72 vs of 73 in the LV products (Fig. 6). According to Mollo et
517 al. (2015), the Mg#₅₄₋₇₄ clinopyroxene population in Etna products formed within the range
518 of our experimental conditions, i.e. at 0.1–500 MPa and 1050–1175 °C. LV textures are thus
519 very well reproduced by our single-step experiment at 1150 °C, meaning first that the interior
520 of lava flows in the 2001 eruption may have cooled almost isothermally, and second that the
521 nucleation of clinopyroxene may have occurred in the shallowest portion of the Etnean
522 plumbing system and during lava transport at the surface. However, this excludes the few
523 larger (3–10 mm) clinopyroxene crystals present in the LV lavas, which cannot be
524 reproduced by our experiments, and that result from crystallisation at depth during storage
525 (Mollo et al., 2015 and references therein), as well as olivine crystals that nucleated and grew
526 under water-saturated conditions at high pressures and temperatures (Mollo et al., 2015). The
527 nucleation of plagioclase seems to have happened differently. According to La Spina et al.
528 (2016), the low plagioclase content in the 2001 LV products indicates a fast (<1 h) vertical
529 ascent from depth (9 km) to the surface. Plagioclase crystals might have nucleated and grew
530 during ascent under non-equilibrium conditions, and not during flow advance, driven by
531 magma degassing (Mollo et al., 2015). In accordance with it, both the lower range of
532 plagioclase core compositions and rim compositions (An₆₄, Corsaro et al., 2007) were
533 reproduced in the SSC1150 experiment (An₆₇, Fig. 6 and Table A.1), implying that
534 plagioclases in the LV trachybasalts did not nucleate outside of the conduit, although their
535 growth was affected by subaerial conditions. The interior of the 2001 lava flows could thus
536 result from a combination of pre-, syn- and post-eruptive crystallisation.

537 As demonstrated with our study, working *in situ* enables the solidification of a basaltic lava
538 flow to be directly observed, and so reproduced with varying both time and temperature. This
539 opens new perspectives to unravel the solidification path of basaltic lavas, especially as only
540 a small amount of phenocrysts could equilibrate at depth, with most of the crystallisation
541 happening during magma ascent in the conduit and emplacement to the surface (Lanzafame
542 et al., 2013; Giuliani et al., 2020), which are conditions that we can simulate with our *in situ*
543 equipment.

544

545 **5. Conclusions**

546 Our results from single-step *versus* continuous cooling experiments show that cooling rate
547 and undercooling have a strong influence on the nucleation of clinopyroxene and plagioclase,
548 with implications for the behaviour of basaltic lavas. According to our 3D time-dependent
549 observations combined with published rheological data, the interior of the 2001 lava flows of
550 Etna may have crystallised up to 14 vol% clinopyroxene phenocrysts almost isothermally
551 over a day. Such a nucleation and growth of crystals during lava flow emplacement
552 accompanies changes in rheological behaviour, which affect lava flow length and hazard
553 severity.

554

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568

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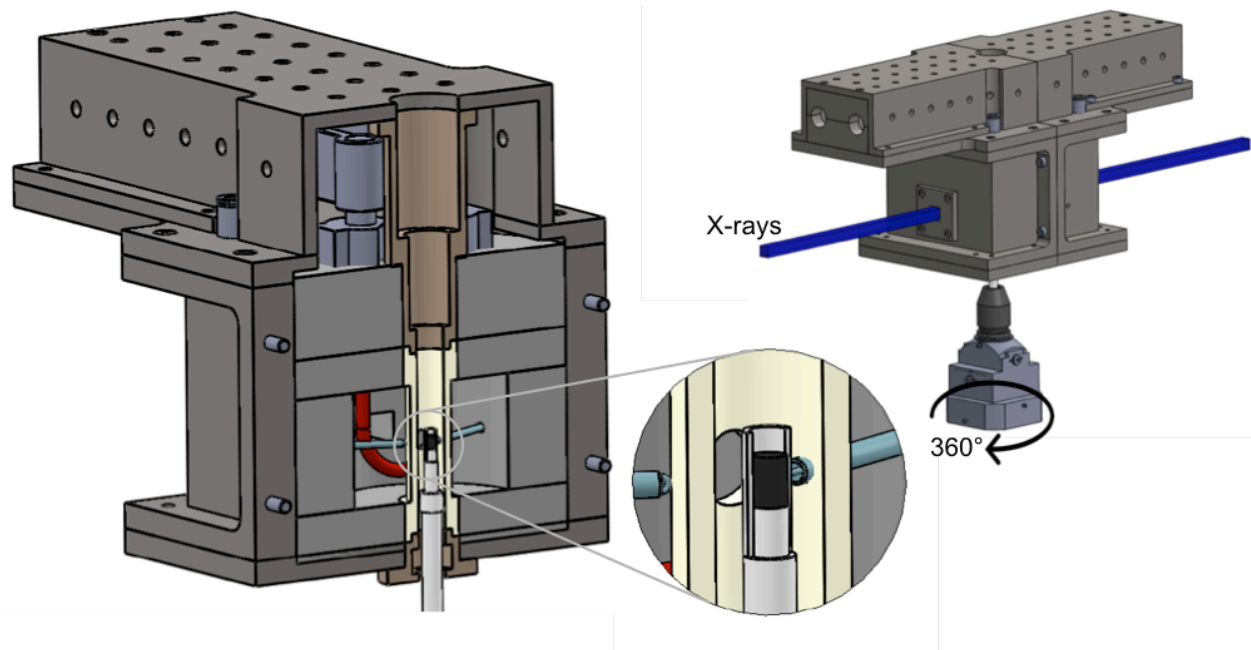
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Figure 1. Sketch of the experimental setup and *in situ* resistance furnace



Water-cooled stainless steel enclosure

Heating connections

Porous ceramic ($\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{SiO}_2$)

Sample isolator (pyrophyllite)

Sample isolator (Al_2O_3)

Rotating sample holder (Al_2O_3)

Heating element

Thermocouples

Magma sample

Figure 2. Temperature-time paths followed by the three charges (SSC1170, SSC1150, CC0.5) of this study. t_0 : start of the dwell time/cooling, $t_1 = 60$ min dwell/cooling, $t_2 = 160$ min dwell/cooling and $t_3 = 200$ min dwell/cooling. The small (± 5 – 10 °C) temperature fluctuations are due to sample rotation during image acquisition.

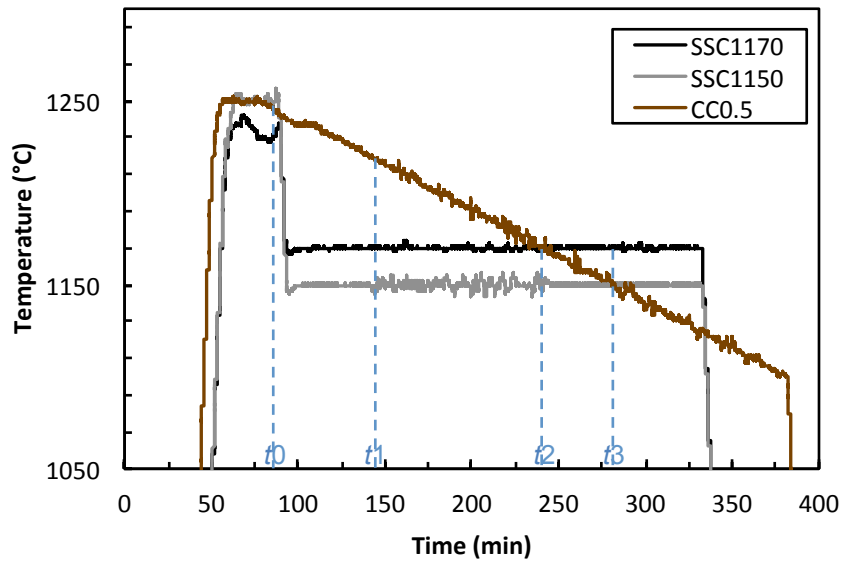


Figure 3. 3D volume renderings of charges SSC1170 (a–c), SSC1150 (d–f) and CC0.5 (g–i) through time, at $t_1 = 60$ min (a, d, g), $t_2 = 160$ min (b, e, h) and $t_3 = 200$ min (c, f, i) after the start of the dwell/cooling time (t_0). In each volume rendering, an orthoslice of the unsegmented dataset is shown in addition to segmented clinopyroxene (Cpx, in light blue) and plagioclase (Plg, in yellow) crystals. The volume fraction of crystals is given in %. Ox: Fe–Ti oxides.

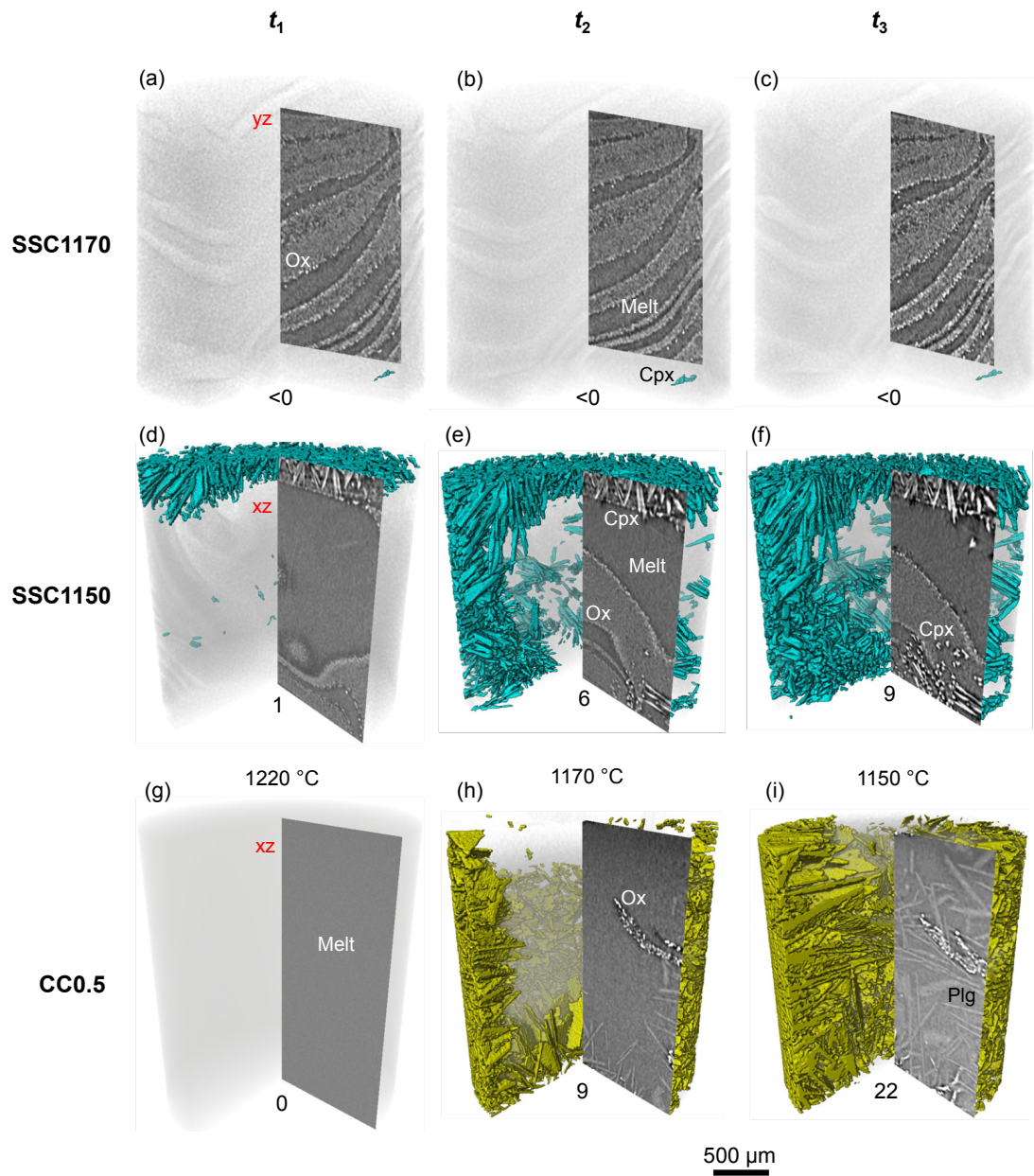


Figure 4. Evolution of (a) clinopyroxene and (b) plagioclase sizes (3D crystal length L_{3D} and volume V) as a function of time and temperature in charges SSC1150 and CC0.5, respectively; $t_1, t_2, t_3 = 60, 160,$ and 200 min dwell/cooling time, respectively. Error bars correspond to the standard deviation of the 3D crystal length/volume of the 10 crystals measured in each sample.

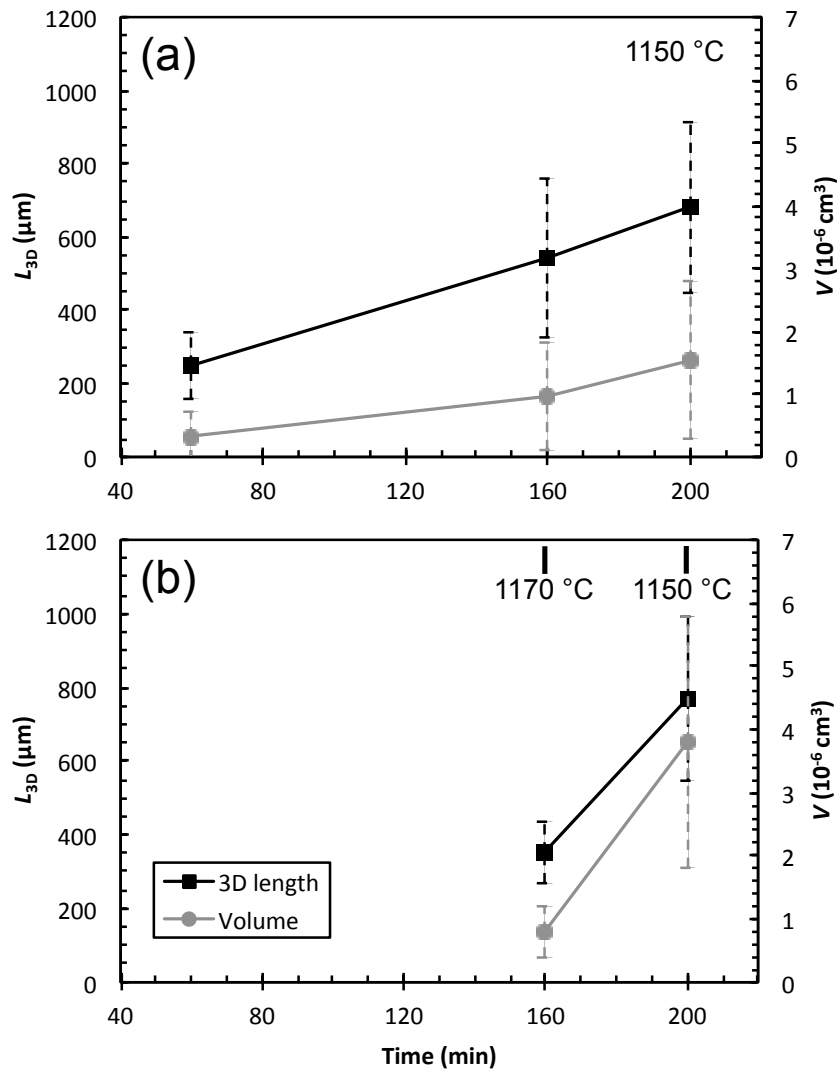


Figure 5. Evolution of crystal growth rates (Y_{L3D} and Y_V) as a function of time and undercooling (ΔT); t_1 , t_2 , $t_3 = 60, 160$, and 200 min dwell/cooling time, respectively. Cpx: clinopyroxene crystals in SSC1150; Plg: plagioclase crystals in CC0.5. Error bars represent the standard deviation of the 10 crystals measured in each charge at t_1 , t_2 and t_3 .

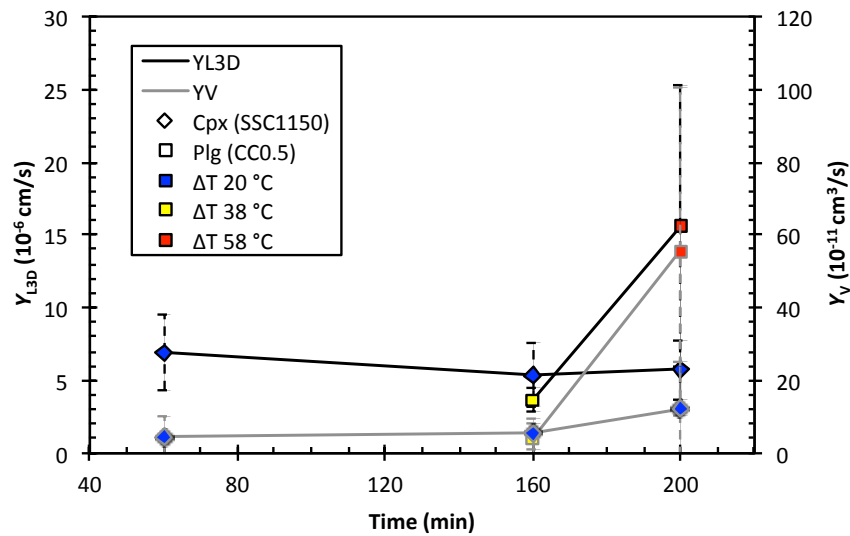


Figure 6. Experimental vs. natural crystal compositions. Data from experiments SSC1170, SSC1150 and CC0.5. Natural data from Corsaro et al. (2007). Mg# (atomic Mg / (Mg + Fe²⁺)) in clinopyroxene crystals; Anorthite content (100 × atomic Ca / (Ca + Na)) in plagioclase crystals.

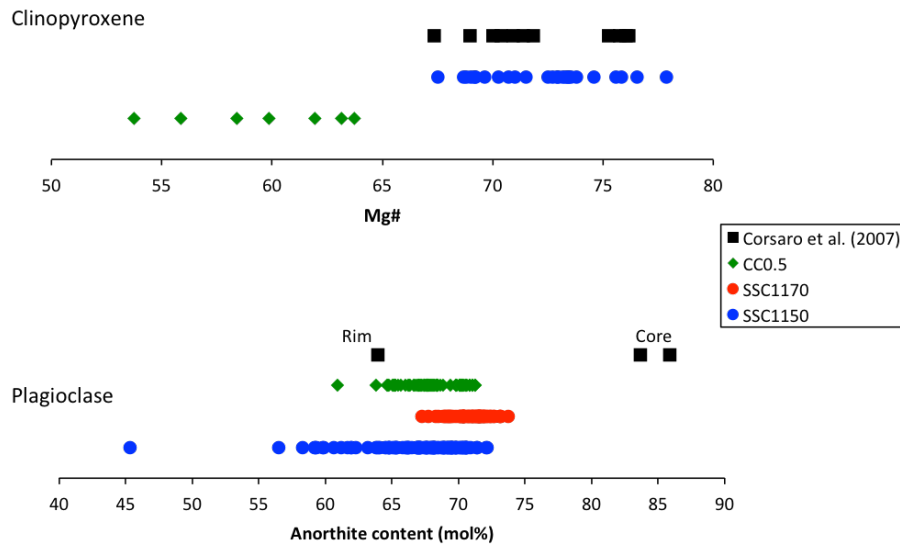


Table 1. Composition of ET01 Lower Vents (LV) volcanics and starting glass, and of phenocrysts

Label	ET01 ^a (<i>n</i> = 6)	Glass ^b (<i>n</i> = 23)	Cpx ^c (<i>n</i> = 4)	Plg ^c (<i>n</i> = 3)
SiO ₂	47.7 (3) ^d	48.4 (2)	48.7 (17)	48.5 (34)
TiO ₂	1.64 (2)	1.79 (7)	1.36 (48)	0.09
Al ₂ O ₃	16.7 (1)	16.2 (5)	4.87 (119)	33.3 (22)
Fe ₂ O ₃	1.77 (2)	nd	nd	nd
FeO	8.84 (11)	10.7 (3)	8.57 (35)	0.62 (15)
MnO	0.17 (0)	0.20 (3)	0.24 (5)	0.02
MgO	6.35 (16)	6.20 (32)	13.2 (11)	0.06 (1)
CaO	11.0 (1)	10.7 (2)	22.0 (7)	15.6 (26)
Na ₂ O	3.37 (6)	3.41 (20)	0.48 (9)	2.45 (1.30)
K ₂ O	1.89 (5)	1.90 (7)	nd	0.15 (19)
P ₂ O ₅	0.48 (1)	0.54 (4)	nd	nd
Total	99.2	99.85	99.2	100.8

^aWhole-rock composition (averaged and normalized to 100% anhydrous) of 2001 Lower Vents (LV) lava flow products, from Corsaro et al. (2007).

^bElectron microprobe analysis (normalized to 100% anhydrous) of ET01 starting glass, from Arzilli et al. (2019). All Fe reported as FeO.

^cElectron microprobe analyses of clinopyroxene (Cpx) and plagioclase (Plg) phenocrysts in 2001 LV volcanics, from Corsaro et al. (2007). All Fe reported as FeO.

^dOne standard deviation in terms of last digit unit cited.

n: number of analyses.

nd: not determined.

Oxides are in wt%.

Table 2. Experimental conditions and results

Charge	T_{init} (°C)	T_{exp} (°C)	R (°C/min)	dwelt time (min)	ΔT (°C)	Phase assemblage ^a	L_{3D} (cm)	V (cm ³)	Y_{L3D} (cm/s)	Y_V (cm ³ /s)
<i>Single-step cooling (SSC)</i>										
SSC1170	1250	1170	24	240	0	gl(92)+ox(8)+cpx(<0.1)	–	–	–	–
SSC1150	1250	1150	24	240	20	gl(83)+ox(8)+cpx(9)	6.8E–02 (2)	1.6E–06 (1) ^b	5.8E–06 (2)	1.2E–10 (1)
<i>Continuous cooling (CC)</i>										
CC0.5	1250	1100	0.5	–	≤108	gl(77)+plg(22)+ox(0.8)	7.7E–02 (2)	3.8E–06 (2)	1.6E–05 (1)	5.5E–10 (5)

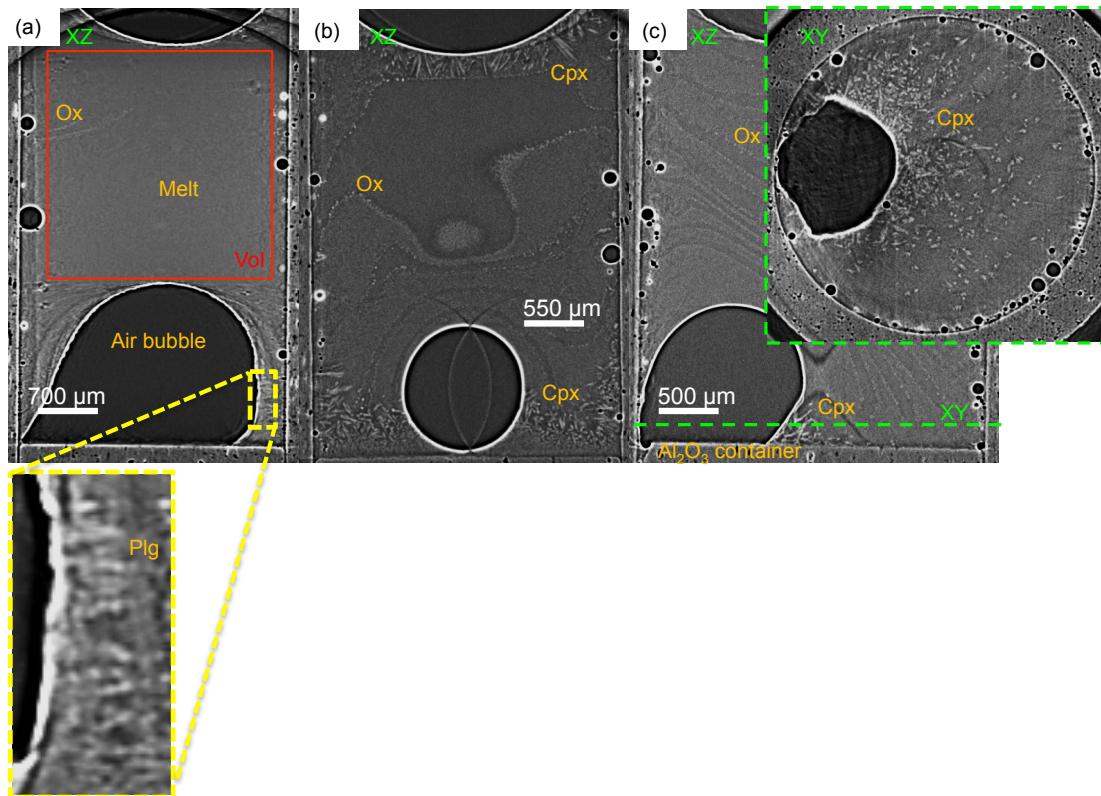
Note: T_{init} = initial (or melting) temperature; T_{exp} = experimental (or final) temperature; R = cooling rate; ΔT = undercooling degree, $T_{\text{liquidus}} - T_{\text{experimental}}$ with $T_{\text{liquidus}} = 1208$ °C for plagioclase and $T_{\text{liquidus}} = 1170$ °C for clinopyroxene; L_{3D} = crystal length; V = crystal volume; Y_{L3D} = crystal growth rate = L_{3D}/t_{exp} with t_{exp} the experimental duration (in s, [Arzilli et al., 2015](#)); Y_V = volumetric growth rate = $(V \times 0.5)/t_{\text{exp}}$ ([Arzilli et al., 2015](#)); r_p = crystal length/width aspect ratio; ϕ_m = maximum crystal packing fraction; ϕ/ϕ_m = ratio of the crystal volume fraction to the maximum crystal packing fraction, κ = consistency; n = flow index. All textural parameters are averaged over 10 selected crystals at t_3 (after 200 min of dwelt/cooling).

^aPhase proportions calculated by 3D image analysis at t_3 ; gl, glass; cpx, clinopyroxene; plg, plagioclase; ox, Fe–Ti oxide. In SSC1150, the oxide contents were calculated to be 4 vol% and 8 vol% at t_1 and t_2 , respectively.

^bStandard deviation of the mean value.

Charge	r_p	ϕ_m	ϕ/ϕ_m	κ	n
<i>Single-step cooling (SSC)</i>					
SSC1170	–	–	–	–	–
SSC1150	7.35 (3)	0.38	0.24	1.72	1
<i>Continuous cooling (CC)</i>					
CC0.5	5.76 (2)	0.41	0.53	4.60	0.91

Fig. A.1. Longitudinal (XZ) slices through the 3D volume renderings of charges (a) CC0.5, (b) SSC1150 and (c) SSC1170 showing the heterogeneous nucleation of crystals (Plg: plagioclase, Cpx: clinopyroxene) after 60 min of cooling/dwell (t_1). Ox: oxide. The volume of interest (VoI, red inset) selected for quantitative image analysis is depicted in (a). In (c) a transverse (XY) slice of the SSC1170 charge is also depicted.



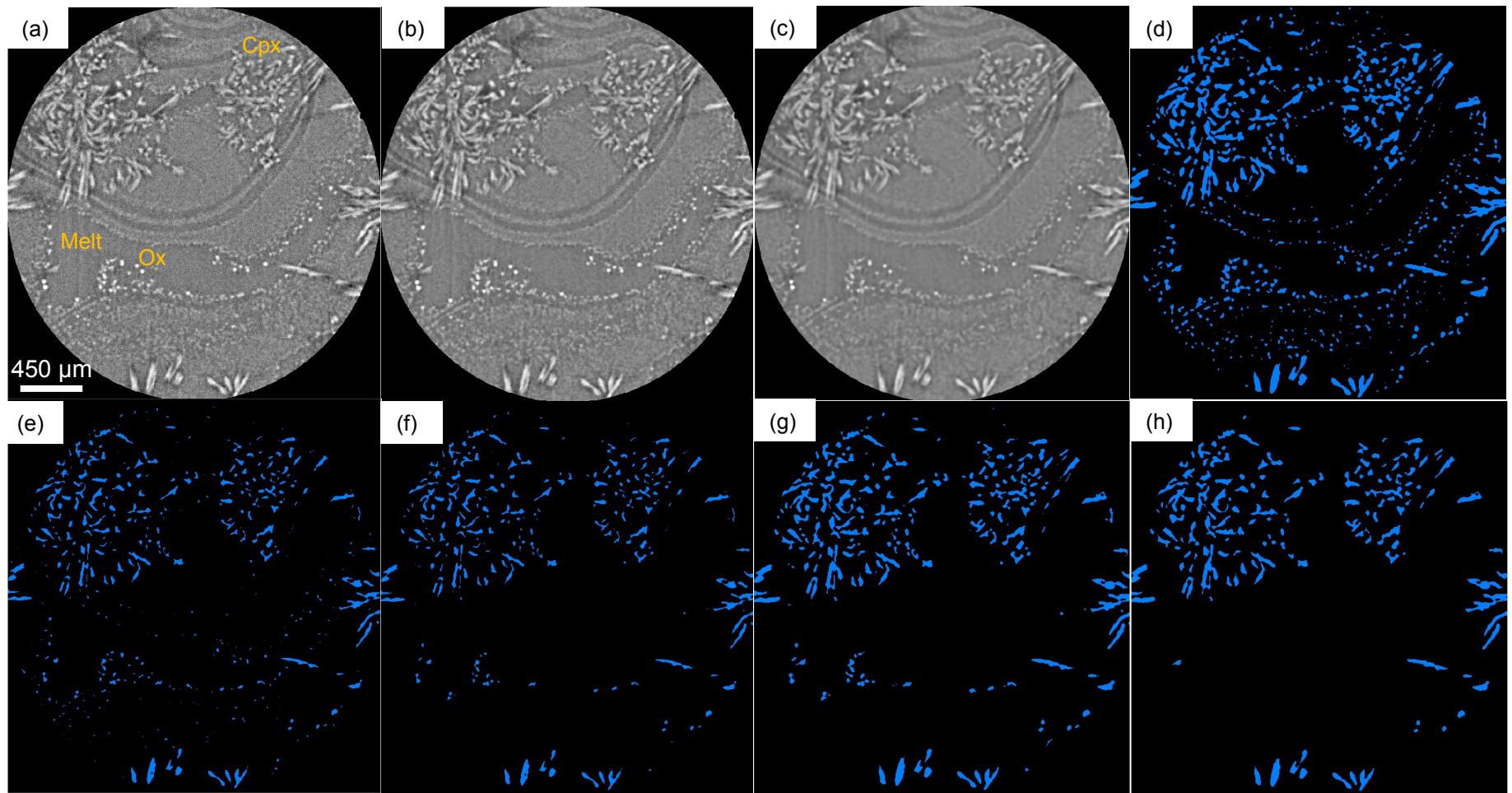


Fig. A.2. Overview of the image analysis procedure using Avizo. A transverse (XY) slice through the 3D volume rendering of the SSC1150 charge after 160 min of dwell (t_2) is shown for illustration. (a) Initial stage, after pre-processing with ImageJ; (b) After bilateral filtering; (c) After median filtering; (d) After interactive thresholding; (e) After erosion; (f) After removing small spots; (g) After dilation; (h) Final stage, after manual correction. Cpx: clinopyroxene; Ox: oxide.

Fig. A.3. Selected clinopyroxene (a) and plagioclase (b) crystals in samples SC1150 and CC0.5, respectively. Scale bars: 200 μm .

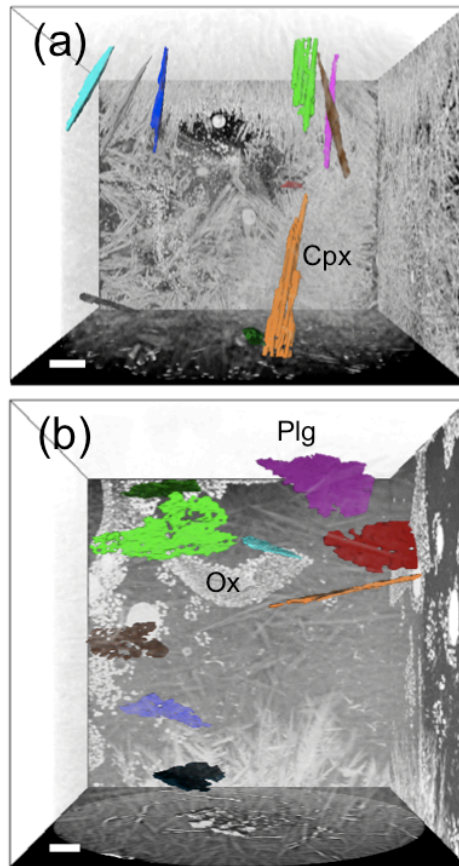


Fig. A.4. (a) SEM image of a test sample showing the formation of an oxide layer on the edge of an alumina container. The sample is a basalt from the Mt. Etna eruption of 2001 that has been left 5 hours in air, at 1 atm and 1190 °C before being air-quenched. (b) ESD analyses demonstrating that the oxides are made of Al and Mg. Ox: oxide; plg: plagioclase; cpx: clinopyroxene.

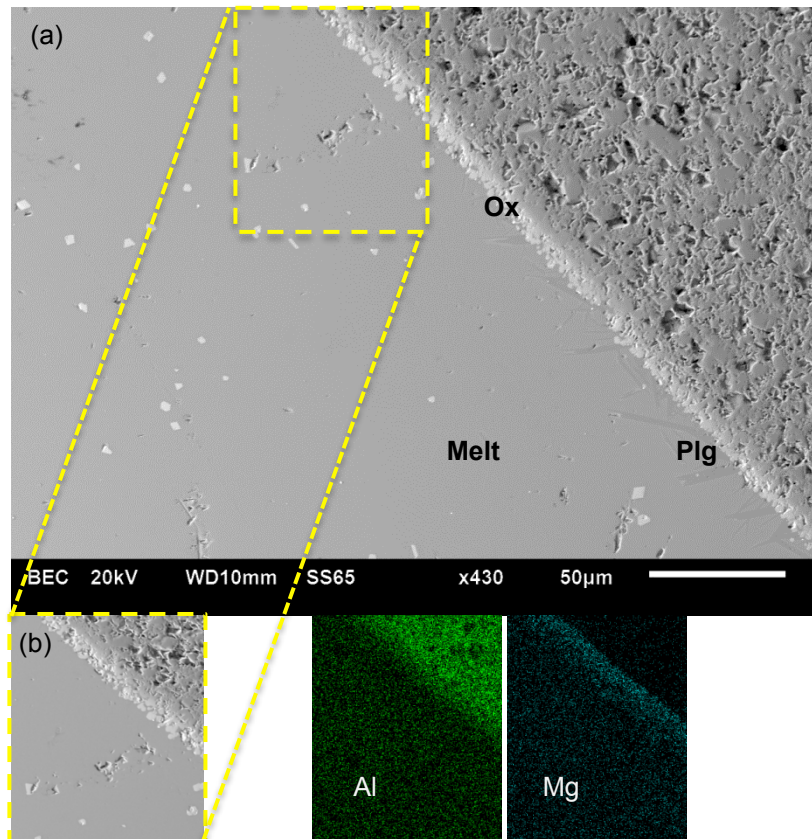


Table A.1. Experimental compositions

Charge	Phase	SiO ₂	TiO ₂	Al ₂ O ₃	FeO	MnO	MgO	CaO	Na ₂ O	K ₂ O	P ₂ O ₅	Cr ₂ O ₃	NiO	Total	Mol%
SSC1170	gl ^a (3) ^b	50.6(4) ^c	1.85(6)	15.8(1)	8.52(11)	0.22(4)	6.25(1)	11.3(2)	3.41(9)	1.50(16)	0.52(7)	0.03(1)	0.03(1)	98.0	
SSC1150	gl(10)	53.4(4)	1.73(3)	18.1(2)	5.90(16)	0.18(1)	4.77(16)	7.97(24)	4.91(7)	2.84(10)	nd	0.01(0)	0.01(0)	96.2	
	cpx(26)	42.7(12)	1.88(29)	7.97(86)	9.21(69)	0.17(2)	13.3(8)	21.0(3)	0.47(3)	0.01(1)	nd	0.01(1)	0.01(1)	96.8	En ₄₅ Wo ₄₀
CC0.5	gl(8)	53.8(12)	2.11(20)	14.9(7)	7.13(88)	0.24(8)	5.37(56)	7.57(67)	4.49(58)	3.53(40)	0.85(17)	0.02(1)	0.02(0)	98.2	
	plg(69)	51.1(8)	0.14(4)	27.6(6)	2.99(28)	0.03(2)	0.22(10)	13.4(4)	3.49(24)	0.41(7)	0.05(5)	0.02(1)	0.02(1)	99.3	An ₆₈ Or ₇

^aGlass analyses normalized to 100% anhydrous, with all Fe as FeO.

^bNumber of microprobe analyses.

^cOne standard deviation in terms of last digit unit cited.

n: number of analyses.

nd: not determined.

gl, glass; cpx, clinopyroxene; plg, plagioclase. Enstatite En = 100 × at. Mg / (Mg + Fe + Ca); Wollastonite Wo = 100 × at. Ca / (Mg + Fe + Ca) in pyroxene, calculated with Fe = FeO; Anorthite An = 100 × at. Ca / (Ca + Na); Orthoclase Or = 100 × at. K / (K + Na) in plagioclase.

Table A.2. 3D clinopyroxene crystal measurements

Crystal	Time	L_{3D} (cm)	Y_{L3D} (cm/s)	V (cm ³)	Y_V (cm ³ /s)	r_p
cpx-01	t_1	0.032	9.0E-06	1.0E-06	1.4E-10	2.22
	t_2	0.063	5.1E-06	2.7E-06	1.4E-10	3.58
	t_3	0.069	2.4E-06	2.9E-06	3.0E-11	3.61
cpx-02	t_1	0.032	8.8E-06	2.4E-07	3.4E-11	5.31
	t_2	0.074	7.0E-06	9.5E-07	5.9E-11	12.6
	t_3	0.087	5.4E-06	1.5E-06	1.1E-10	11.1
cpx-03	t_1	0.026	7.2E-06	2.5E-07	3.5E-11	5.69
	t_2	0.049	3.8E-06	6.3E-07	3.1E-11	7.08
	t_3	0.071	9.2E-06	9.7E-07	7.2E-11	7.89
cpx-04	t_1	0.026	7.1E-06	1.2E-07	1.6E-11	–
	t_2	0.068	7.1E-06	6.4E-07	4.4E-11	14
	t_3	0.079	4.4E-06	9.7E-07	6.9E-11	12.4
cpx-05	t_1	0.009	2.5E-06	4.1E-08	5.8E-12	3.05
	t_2	0.036	4.4E-06	5.2E-07	4.0E-11	4.26
	t_3	0.05	6.1E-06	1.0E-06	1.1E-10	4.99
cpx-06	t_1	–	–	–	–	–
	t_2	0.089	9.2E-06	2.3E-06	1.2E-10	5.54
	t_3	0.109	8.4E-06	4.6E-06	4.9E-10	6.03
cpx-07	t_1	–	–	–	–	–
	t_2	0.062	6.5E-06	6.4E-07	3.3E-11	10.1
	t_3	0.079	6.9E-06	1.1E-06	1.1E-10	11
cpx-08	t_1	–	–	–	–	–
	t_2	0.055	5.7E-06	8.9E-07	4.7E-11	7.19
	t_3	0.064	4.0E-06	1.2E-06	7.3E-11	7.36
cpx-09	t_1	–	–	–	–	–
	t_2	0.032	3.3E-06	2.7E-07	1.4E-11	5.75
	t_3	0.047	6.3E-06	7.7E-07	1.0E-10	5.88
cpx-10	t_1	–	–	–	–	–
	t_2	0.015	1.5E-06	9.5E-08	5.0E-12	3.97
	t_3	0.025	4.4E-06	4.3E-07	7.0E-11	3.24

cpx, clinopyroxene; L_{3D} = 3D crystal length; Y_{L3D} = crystal growth rate; V = crystal volume; Y_V = volumetric crystal growth rate; r_p = crystal aspect ratio (= length/width ratio). t_1 , t_2 , t_3 = 60, 160, and 200 min dwell, respectively.

Note that at t_2 growth rates are calculated for the time interval between t_1 and t_2 and at t_3 the rates are calculated for the t_2 – t_3 time interval.

These single measurements are assumed to contain an error of 10% because of variation in the segmentation threshold.

Table A.3. 3D plagioclase crystal measurements

Crystal	Time	L_{3D} (cm)	Y_{L3D} (cm/s)	V (cm ³)	Y_V (cm ³ /s)	r_p
plg-01	t_2	0.052	5.4E-06	1.3E-06	6.7E-11	4.40
	t_3	0.101	2.0E-05	6.2E-06	1.0E-09	4.36
plg-02	t_2	0.045	4.7E-06	1.6E-06	8.2E-11	4.90
	t_3	0.058	5.5E-06	2.8E-06	2.6E-10	6.21
plg-03	t_2	0.038	4.0E-06	1.0E-06	5.2E-11	3.71
	t_3	0.070	1.3E-05	2.9E-06	4.0E-10	4.20
plg-04	t_2	0.035	3.7E-06	6.0E-07	3.1E-11	3.98
	t_3	0.065	1.2E-05	2.5E-06	3.9E-10	4.64
plg-05	t_2	0.034	3.6E-06	9.6E-07	5.0E-11	4.17
	t_3	0.059	1.0E-05	2.3E-06	2.8E-10	5.10
plg-06	t_2	0.031	3.2E-06	3.4E-07	1.8E-11	6.08
	t_3	0.090	2.5E-05	3.9E-06	7.5E-10	9.63
plg-07	t_2	0.028	2.9E-06	5.8E-07	3.0E-11	3.90
	t_3	0.045	6.9E-06	1.5E-06	1.9E-10	3.87
plg-08	t_2	0.028	2.9E-06	4.1E-07	2.1E-11	3.49
	t_3	0.116	3.7E-05	8.1E-06	1.6E-09	6.45
plg-09	t_2	0.027	2.8E-06	4.0E-07	2.1E-11	3.49
	t_3	0.072	1.9E-05	2.6E-06	4.5E-10	9.11
plg-10	t_2	–	–	–	–	–
	t_3	0.095	8.0E-06	4.9E-06	2.0E-10	3.98

plg, plagioclase; L_{3D} = 3D crystal length; Y_{L3D} = crystal growth rate; V = crystal volume; Y_V = volumetric crystal growth rate; r_p = crystal aspect ratio (= length/width ratio). t_1 , t_2 , t_3 = 60, 160, and 200 min cooling time, respectively.

Note that at t_2 growth rates are calculated for the time interval between t_1 and t_2 and at t_3 the rates are calculated for the t_2 – t_3 time interval.

These single measurements are assumed to contain an error of 10% because of variation in the segmentation threshold.

Credit Author Statement

M.P., M.R.B., F.A. and P.D.L. conceived the research project. All authors, N.L.G., F.A., G.L.S., M.P., B.C., M.E.H., N.T.V., R.C.A., D.D.G., S.N., E.W.L., M.R.B. and P.D.L. contributed to the beamline experiments. F.A. collected the volcanic rocks for the starting material. D.D.G. prepared the starting material. F.A., M.P., G.L.S. and N.T.V. performed image reconstruction. N.L.G. performed image processing with help from F.A. and M.P. N.L.G. performed the image segmentation and analysis. F.A. and M.E.H. performed chemical analysis. N.L.G. wrote the manuscript, with contributions from all other authors.