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## Crystal mush processes and crustal magmatism

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**Much of Earth's magma is stored in the form of extensive crystal mush systems, yet the prevalence of physical processes operating within mushes and their importance in volcanically active regions remain enigmatic. In this Review, we explore the physical properties and key processes of crystal mush systems and highlight how differences in the prevalence of these processes through space and time could be generated through the initiation, evolution and decline of volcanic systems, modulated by heat supply and loss. Disaggregation of mushes results in crystal mush material being mobilised or entrained into lavas and erupted, and presents opportunities to define the timescales and chemistry of some mush processes in volcanically active regions. The diversity of lengthscales on which mush systems can be observed presents difficulties in integrating data and interpretations across different fields. Advances in understanding will require improved integration of thermodynamics, textural analysis, geochemistry, modelling and experiments, as well as inputs from adjacent fields such as porous media dynamics,**

40 **engineering and metallurgy. Such advances will ultimately lead towards improved**  
41 **hazard evaluation at active and dormant volcanic systems.**

42

### 43 **Key points**

44 *1. All magmas transition through a mush stage during solidification, when there is an*  
45 *interconnected solid framework that can transmit stress, with an interconnected liquid in the*  
46 *pore spaces.*

47 *2. Long-lived crystal mushes are the site for enrichment, segregation and deposition of many*  
48 *mineral deposits, are important for productive geothermal systems. Mush instability is closely*  
49 *linked to volcanic eruption*

50 *2. Mush physical behaviour depends primarily on its porosity, melt viscosity, permeability, and*  
51 *crystal shape and size distribution. These properties may be highly heterogeneous across*  
52 *different lengthscales.*

53 *3. Cumulates represent the crystalline residue left over after segregation of crystals or*  
54 *extraction or migration of silicate melt during igneous differentiation. They are complementary*  
55 *to erupted magmas*

56 *4. Melt migration in crystal mushes can occur by grainscale porous flow or channelisation.*  
57 *Reactive melt migration can affect crystal mush porosity, permeability and composition, and*  
58 *may thus impact chemical evolution.*

59 *5. Crystal-melt segregation is enhanced in thermally mature crust. Increased migration,*  
60 *reaction and extraction of melt from the mush is expected in thermally mature volcanic systems,*  
61 *leading to mushy crystal cargo*

62 *6. Regional tectonics impact the balance of magma intrusion to buoyant ascent. Mushes in cool*  
63 *and wet settings involve have persistent residual melt and more effective melt segregation*

64

### 65 **Glossary terms:**

66 *Rheology* – the study of material deformation and flow; *force chain* – a network of linked  
67 particles that carry more than the average load in a mush; *igneous differentiation* – any process  
68 by which magmas can change their bulk composition; *diffusion chronometry* – the process of  
69 extracting time information about magmatic processes from diffusive changes in chemical  
70 gradients; *loosely packed mush* – a loose aggregate of solid particles that can be densified if the  
71 particles are rearranged; *maximum packing* - a dense packing of particles that cannot be  
72 densified without deformation of the particles; *Rayleigh number* – a dimensionless number that  
73 describes the ratio between thermal buoyancy and diffusion, and thus the likelihood of  
74 convection; *percolation threshold* – the porosity that marks the end of percolative flow through  
75 a porous medium; *primocryst* – a crystal formed in the early stages of fractionation that forms  
76 part of the crystal mush framework; *rejuvenation* – the process of mobilising mushy material  
77 by adding heat or changing porosity; *entrainment* – the process of incorporating mushy material

as crystal cargo in ascending magmas; *assimilation* – the process of incorporating surrounding crust into magma; *adcumulate rocks* – rocks dominated by unzoned, interstitial overgrowths of the primocryst phases with minimal amounts of trapped pore material.

## Introduction

Volcanic systems are the outward expression of plate tectonics and heat loss from the Earth, producing magma storage reservoirs and transport pathways that contain crystal mush: regions of molten rock containing with a crystal framework and varying amounts of melt and fluid<sup>1</sup>. Crystal mush processes (i.e., solidification, remelting or physical separation of crystals and silicate melt in mushes) govern igneous differentiation in all geological scenarios where partial melt is present, from deep mountain building environments, through subduction systems, to mid-ocean ridges and ocean islands. Geophysical information (such as seismic velocity, tomography, gravity or magnetic data) can be used detect the presence of silicate melt, however observations typically identify only relatively small quantities of melt within the crust [e.g.  $\leq 15\%^{2-4}$ ]. This has driven the paradigm of magma storage as mushes, with stress-bearing crystal frameworks and an interstitial melt network<sup>5-8</sup>; melt-rich bodies are ephemeral<sup>8</sup>. Crystal mush can be defined as a super-solidus rock with a largely interconnected melt phase within a continuous, crystal-rich framework<sup>7,9</sup> and variable fluid content (**Figure 1**). There are extreme changes in chemical and physical properties with crystal fraction<sup>1</sup>, such as temperature, melt composition, density, tensile strength, and seismic velocity (**Figure 1**), and the properties of the solid crystal framework control the overall rheology [**G**] of the mush<sup>7-9</sup>. Although part of a continuum from fully liquid to fully solid, magma can be defined as a melt with solid crystals ( $\pm$  fluids) in suspension where the magma rheology is largely controlled by the continuous melt phase<sup>7,9,10</sup>. Partial melting of the crust, through regional or contact metamorphism, also results in the formation of mushy rocks<sup>9</sup>, and the definition of crystal mush can be applied equally to crystallisation or partial melting<sup>9,11</sup>. Here, we focus more on crystallisation, but we do not intend to imply a one-directional process. Long-lived mush systems might undergo many iterations of crystallisation, resorption and recrystallisation<sup>12,13</sup>, and partial melting of the crust can be a crucial part of magma generation and differentiation<sup>9,11</sup>.

Mushes provide a window into multistage crustal magmatic processes that are not decipherable from melts alone. They reflect the heat and mass balance from mantle to crust and are intrinsically linked to geophysical data that can be inverted to image magma storage and transport zones. They give insights into the timescales and mechanisms of system change in the lead up to eruptions, and therefore represent a route towards anticipation of future eruptions.

In this Review, we examine mush processes in crustal magmatic systems across space and time as related to tectonic setting, the evolution of volcanic systems and the precursors to volcanic eruptions. We discuss the different strands of evidence that are used to constrain the occurrence of mush, and summarise the physical and chemical processes that operate during mush formation, rejuvenation and eruption. We evaluate the relative importance of these processes in the context of the evolving thermal maturity of volcanic systems and across different tectonic settings, and discuss how this links to the timescales obtained by radiometric dating or diffusion chronometry of erupted crystals. We conclude that advances in understanding mushes are likely



122 to arise by improving how we integrate evidence from petrology, geochemistry, geophysics,  
123 analogue experiments and dynamical numerical models, across diverse spatial scales.  
124

## 125 **Evidence and importance of crystal mushes**

126 In order to understand geodynamics, rates of magma transport, the extraction of partial melts  
127 from their source, or the timescales of volcanism and crust formation, we must understand how  
128 materials are formed and processed through crystal mushes. Because a cooling magma spends  
129 most of its lifetime as mush<sup>14</sup>, the timescales of magma generation and extraction are  
130 intrinsically linked to the physics and flow behaviour (rheology) of multi-phase systems.  
131 Igneous differentiation involves changes in melt chemistry as well as physical properties,  
132 therefore mush processes are also critical for generating the chemical enrichment required to  
133 form many kinds of mineral resources including deposits of chromite<sup>15</sup>, rare earth elements<sup>16</sup>,  
134 platinum group elements<sup>17</sup> and copper<sup>18</sup>. In terms of natural resources, active convection of melt  
135 within mushes is important for generating the high heat transport rate required for efficient  
136 geothermal systems<sup>19</sup>. Finally, the presence of silicate melt affects the strength, elastic properties  
137 and strain partitioning behaviour of the crust, so understanding the formation, behaviour and  
138 solidification of mush is key to linking surface geophysical observations to magmatic processes  
139 in the crust<sup>20</sup>.

140  
141 The presence of crystal mush in igneous bodies is an inevitable consequence of solidification or  
142 thermal equilibration of magma within the crust across all tectonic settings; magma solidifies  
143 by progressive crystallisation and must therefore pass through a mushy state. In addition to  
144 multi-parametric geophysical evidence<sup>21</sup> and numerical modelling of crustal thermal structure<sup>22</sup>,  
145 snapshots of crystal mush solidification are represented by melt-bearing nodules<sup>23–25</sup>, plutonic  
146 enclaves<sup>26–28</sup>, and crystal clots and glomerocrysts<sup>29</sup> that are brought to the surface by magma  
147 during eruptions from arc volcanoes<sup>30</sup> to mid ocean ridges<sup>31</sup>. In these and plutonic rock samples,  
148 grain-scale textures and geochemistry can be used to define crystallisation processes, estimate  
149 crystal fractions and infer the occurrence of melt convection, compaction or mush  
150 disaggregation within the crystal mush. For example, films of interstitial plagioclase in gabbro  
151 indicate the final stages of crystallisation and the formation of grain-boundary symplectites  
152 replacing primocrysts reflects localised reaction with migrating late-stage liquids<sup>32</sup>. In arc  
153 gabbro xenoliths, hornblende overgrowth on clinopyroxene primocrysts [G] is evidence of  
154 reactive melt percolation by evolved hydrous melts within the mush<sup>28</sup>.

155  
156 Mushes have also been sampled directly by drilling programmes in lava lakes<sup>33</sup> and during  
157 exploration for geothermal resources<sup>19</sup>, showing progressive changes in crystal content, melt  
158 chemistry, mineralogy and physical properties (**Figure 1**). These changes are reproduced by  
159 laboratory experiments seeking to generate mush by holding samples of basalt at super-solidus  
160 temperatures in a thermal gradient<sup>34</sup>.

161  
162 Evidence for larger-scale dynamic mush processes such as differentiation, sedimentation,  
163 localised deformation or melt extraction can be found in meso-scale plutonic rock fabrics<sup>9</sup> and  
164 bulk and mineral chemistry, including individual intrusions as well as exhumed sections of arc  
165 or ocean crust. For example, in the Searchlight Pluton, Nevada, large-scale mapping,  
166 geochemistry and high-precision geochronology evidence the extraction of evolved residual  
167 liquid from crystal mush to feed overlying leucogranite sills and volcanic eruptions<sup>35</sup>. Syn-

168 magmatic mush faulting and slumping is exemplified in steep mushy sidewalls in the Skaergaard  
169 intrusion<sup>36</sup> and in the Sierra Nevada<sup>37</sup>.  
170

## 171 **Crystal mushes and cumulate formation**

172 Cumulates are the crystalline residue left over after segregation of crystals and extraction or  
173 migration of silicate melt during igneous differentiation and their compositions. Cumulates  
174 represent a record of geochemical differentiation that is complementary to erupted magmas and  
175 is present in exposed plutons, ophiolites, deep crustal transects and as enclaves in volcanic  
176 eruptions<sup>27,38,39</sup>. Mineralogically and chemically, cumulates do not represent a bulk melt or  
177 magma composition; the solid phase is over-represented relative to the liquid, either as a result  
178 of expulsion or (re)moval of interstitial mush liquid, or by differential movement of crystals<sup>40</sup>.  
179 We summarise below some of the general mechanisms for forming cumulate mushes and their  
180 signatures in natural rocks, before reviewing the geochemical and physical consequences of  
181 those processes.  
182

183 ***Crystal settling*** – Crystals can be separated from liquid by settling. For a single crystal, settling  
184 depends on size, the density contrast between solid and melt, and on viscous drag between melt  
185 and crystal (which depends on melt composition, crystal shape<sup>41</sup> and orientation). However, for  
186 abundant crystals, crystal-crystal interactions become important and tend to slow down the  
187 migration of crystals<sup>42–44</sup>. Crystal interactions during settling of dense suspensions can generate  
188 layers defined by crystal size and density<sup>45–47</sup>, can lead to internally differentiating mush packets  
189 linked to ore mineralisation<sup>17</sup> and may lead to density instabilities that result in crystal-laden  
190 plumes<sup>44,48,49</sup>. These complex interactions affect meso-scale properties of crystal mushes such  
191 as size distribution and phase abundance<sup>47</sup>, and are implicated in the formation of some metal-  
192 rich ore horizons<sup>50</sup>.  
193

194 ***Consolidation of the crystal mush*** – A loosely aggregated mush is not at its maximum packing  
195 [G] density, so melt can be segregated if crystals are consolidated (repacked) into a more  
196 efficient spatial arrangement (also termed ‘mechanical compaction’<sup>51–53</sup>) by being translated and  
197 rotated under gravity or during shear deformation (**Figure 2a, b**). In a loosely packed mush,  
198 melt segregation is dominated by frictional interactions between crystals<sup>54</sup>. These interactions  
199 can lead to the formation of force chains [G] between neighbour crystals that localize stress  
200 accumulations and deformation within the mush<sup>55</sup>. High-temperature and analogue  
201 experiments<sup>50,56,57</sup> and field and petrological studies on melt loss in shallow to mid-crustal  
202 intrusions<sup>58</sup> suggest that porosity [Box] can be reduced by up to tens of percent by mechanical  
203 consolidation, but this is limited to crystal fractions  $\leq 0.7$ <sup>53</sup>. This process is hard to discern in  
204 nature as it leaves little textural signature, except that a foliation should develop<sup>59</sup> (**Figure 2b**)  
205 with a strength dependent on crystal shape and the extent of melt loss as estimated by trace  
206 element mass balance<sup>38,53,60,61</sup>. Once the maximum packing has been reached, remaining melt  
207 can only be expelled by viscous compaction<sup>53</sup> (**Figure 2c**).  
208

209 ***Viscous compaction of the crystal mush*** – In densely packed mushes, further melt extraction  
210 occurs by pressure-solution (i.e. dissolution-reprecipitation) processes and by grain boundary  
211 diffusion creep<sup>53,62,63</sup>. These cause viscous deformation of the crystal framework, driven by local  
212 shear deformation and the density contrast between melt and crystal phases<sup>63–66</sup>. Resistance to

213 compaction is dominated by viscous drag between the expelled melt and the crystal framework,  
214 as well as by the high effective viscosity of the matrix<sup>64,65</sup>. Progressive textural equilibration  
215 between crystals and melt (**Box**) leads to an interconnected melt network<sup>67</sup>, which is essential  
216 for melt extraction<sup>62,63,68</sup>.

217  
218 The thickness of the deforming mush layer can be described using the compaction  
219 lengthscale<sup>48,64,65</sup> (**Figure 2d**), which is expected to range from meters to hundreds of meters,  
220 depending on melt composition (which affects its physical properties) and the processes  
221 controlling mush compaction<sup>48,65,69</sup>. When the mush is highly permeable (and/or the viscosity  
222 of the crystal framework is high), the compaction length can be large compared to the thickness  
223 of the mush layer, and in that scenario, compaction is limited only by the deformation rate of  
224 the crystal framework. This scenario is valid for thin mushes (metres to 10s of metres, depending  
225 on melt fraction and melt composition). In contrast, in thick mushes (100s to 1000s metres) the  
226 compaction length is significantly smaller than the mush layer thickness and compaction is  
227 controlled by both the deformation of the crystal framework and the mush permeability<sup>64,65,69</sup>.  
228 In general, compaction should be favoured in long-lived, thick mushes where the density  
229 contrast between crystals and melt is high (see **Mush processes and thermal maturity**).

230  
231 Whether melt can be segregated from a mush by repacking, or involves grain boundary diffusion  
232 processes, depends on the competition between compaction rate and cooling (crystallization)  
233 rate. Mid- to upper-crustal silicic intrusions show an upper bound for melt loss in their cumulate  
234 roots that corresponds roughly to their expected maximum packing, suggesting that  
235 consolidation (repacking) controls melt loss in these systems<sup>53,70</sup>. This inference is consistent  
236 with an experimentally inferred decrease in compaction rate of 3-5 orders of magnitude between  
237 consolidation and viscous deformation<sup>53,57</sup>. These processes merit further study, both because  
238 they represent the early stages in the extraction of a potentially eruptible melt that can feed  
239 surface volcanic activity, and because they affect the formation of economic resources such as  
240 chromitites<sup>50</sup>.

241  
242 Viscous compaction may be identifiable through textural signatures such as undulose extinction,  
243 low-angle grain boundaries and mechanical twins<sup>27,71</sup> (**Figure 2e**). These signatures arise from  
244 free dislocations that form in response to stress. Pressure-solution can result in truncation of  
245 grains, formation of sutured or lobate grain contacts, and compositionally distinct overgrowths  
246 on favourably oriented crystal faces<sup>27,71-73</sup>. Deformation textures are relatively common in large  
247 plagioclase- or olivine-rich cumulate bodies<sup>74-76</sup> and can be shown to have formed when melt  
248 remained present<sup>71,73</sup>. Evidence of melt-present deformation is also present in smaller, lower  
249 crustal and oceanic gabbros<sup>75,77</sup>. However, there remains disagreement over whether these  
250 features are unambiguously linked to compaction driven by the overlying crystal mush, or to  
251 external tectonic drivers<sup>71,75,78</sup>.

252  
253 ***Melt convective migration within the mush*** – Crystal settling, mechanical consolidation and  
254 viscous compaction are all processes that act on the mush framework, however the chemistry  
255 and differentiation of the mush system can also be affected by processes operating on the melt,  
256 including convective circulation. In most magmatic systems, melts are less dense than their  
257 surrounding crystal framework and evolve towards even lower melt densities. The buoyant  
258 interstitial melt can therefore be continuously expelled from the crystal mush through  
259 convective separation, and replaced in the pore space by circulating melt from the resident  
260 magma body<sup>79,80</sup>. This process, termed compositional convection because the density instability

arises from compositional changes, enables the interstitial melt to maintain a constant composition<sup>79,81</sup> and can lead to formation of crystal overgrowth rims of constant composition<sup>74</sup> (**Figure 2f**). Thermal or compositional convection of interstitial melt within the mush occurs when the Rayleigh number [G] for the mush exceeds a critical value (approx. 25-80<sup>80,82</sup>), depending on factors including the contrast in density between phases within the mush, the permeability and thickness of the mush and the melt viscosity<sup>79</sup>. Compositional convection within a crystal mush requires a mush thickness of 100s meters<sup>80</sup> and relatively high permeability, even for less viscous hydrous melts<sup>83</sup>. The textural signature of compositional convection in cumulates includes mesoscopic pipe structures, which may represent convective return flow<sup>83,84</sup> and adcumulate rocks (i.e., those dominated by unzoned, interstitial overgrowths of the primocryst phases with minimal amounts of trapped pore material<sup>74,85</sup>).

***Volatile percolation and filter pressing*** – In addition to convective melt migration, volatiles may also percolate within the mush pore spaces. The behaviour of volatiles in a crystal mush is important because they significantly impact buoyancy and can be significant carriers of metals<sup>86</sup>. As the mush solidifies, volatile exsolution is increasingly favoured because volatiles are typically incompatible and their concentration therefore increases with differentiation. Volatile exsolution is most likely near the top (lower pressure) or in the more evolved parts of mush systems<sup>87</sup>. Bubble nucleation and growth creates a volume change that acts as a pressure source and has been proposed as an efficient means to expel melt: this is termed gas filter pressing<sup>88-90</sup>. The large positive buoyancy of exsolved magmatic volatiles allows them to migrate through crystal mushes<sup>91,92</sup>. The efficiency of volatile transport increases with crystal fraction<sup>91,92</sup> and with the ratio of bubble size to crystal size<sup>89,93</sup>, and is expected to be more important in subduction systems with abundant volatiles. However, much volatile transport occurs in the form of viscous fingers<sup>94,95</sup>, which significantly limits the amount of melt that can be displaced. Hence, overall, gas filter pressing is not an effective way to facilitate melt loss and the formation of cumulates<sup>52</sup>, although it could be an important means of redistributing fluid-mobile elements towards regions of ore deposition<sup>86</sup>.

To summarise, cumulates are formed when melt and crystals are segregated from each other or when differentiation occurs through physical processes that act within the mush. Crystal-melt segregation results in igneous differentiation and spatial redistribution of incompatible or fluid-mobile elements, and can yield eruptible melt. This leads to generation of evolved magmas and may give rise to ore mineralisation.

## **Consequences of melt migration**

The convective circulation of interstitial melts relative to their crystal framework (above) has been relatively well studied, particularly for layered cumulates in dry tholeiitic mush systems. However, migration of melt through a mush framework need not be locally convective. Non-convective migration is thought to be a key driver of differentiation and crystal-melt segregation across chemically diverse mush systems<sup>96,97</sup>. In this section, we review the physical nature of

301 melt migration, explore some of its chemical consequences, and cover feedbacks between melt  
302 migration and mush porosity.

303 **Pervasive vs channelised melt migration** - The rate of porous melt migration depends on mush  
304 permeability, melt density and viscosity, and on the pressure gradient driving flow. Crystal  
305 mushes are expected to show variations in porosity and permeability [Box] and composition on  
306 a range of scales ( $10^{-3}$ - $10^3$  m), based on the combination of small-scale compositional changes  
307 (or ‘layering’ *sensu lato*) and cm- to km-scale variations seen in many plutonic rocks<sup>74,98,99</sup>.  
308 Variations in mineralogy, texture and crystal packing characteristics [Box] can create variations  
309 in melt fraction on a range of lengthscales, giving rise to variable permeability. The variation of  
310 melt fraction with temperature also depends on bulk composition, pressure and volatile (H<sub>2</sub>O)  
311 contents<sup>100</sup>, which leads to further spatial variability. As a result, the style of melt migration is  
312 expected to vary.

313 Many porous systems have two scales (modes) of porous flow, with pervasive, grain-scale  
314 porous flow and larger-scale, higher porosity features such as channels. Channelised flow is  
315 typical of industrial packed beds as well as natural systems such as the partially molten mantle,  
316 where structures such as narrow channels and variable melt compositions can spontaneously  
317 develop<sup>9,101</sup> (**Figure 3**). Similar channel features also form in crystal mushes, for example,  
318 during melt-solid reaction<sup>102–104</sup>, compositional convection<sup>84</sup> or fluid infiltration<sup>91</sup>.  
319 Channelisation can also develop dynamically during flow through the porous mush, and this  
320 generally requires either reactive flow (see below, i.e, partial dissolution leading to reactive  
321 infiltration instabilities<sup>101,105,106</sup> or multiphase (immiscible) flow leading to viscous or capillary  
322 fingering<sup>95,107</sup> (**Figure 3**). The scale of channelised features is commonly intermediate between  
323 the thin section and the outcrop scale, which may hamper the textural recognition of its effects,  
324 and consequently cause difficulties in understanding the extent of channelization and  
325 application of modelling interpretations.

326 Buoyancy-driven melt migration may lead to instabilities in the form of melt-rich lenses<sup>108,109</sup>,  
327 which can travel through the mush as porosity waves<sup>48,96,108,110</sup>. Such melt-rich lenses could be  
328 linked to rapid melt transport through, extraction from, or even creation of, magma  
329 reservoirs<sup>48,96,97,111</sup>. Hence, slow (grain-scale) and fast (channelised) transport mechanisms may  
330 be physically linked, and together control melt distribution and extraction. This provides a  
331 potential mechanism to understand magma formation timescales by drawing together  
332 chronological constraints and physics (*see Mush Disaggregation and Eruption*).

333 **The impact of deformation** - In regions of active tectonism, deformation can significantly  
334 enhance melt flow and segregation<sup>112</sup>. Key to this is dilation of the mush, which occurs when  
335 closely packed mush framework grains are forced apart in order to move past each other,  
336 resulting in dilation (volume increase) of the pore spaces<sup>55,111–113</sup>. This locally reduces the  
337 pressure in the interstitial melt and can suck in melt from surrounding areas<sup>112,114,115</sup>. This effect  
338 can lead to migration of melt away from grain boundaries normal to the maximum compressive  
339 stress, and into films or channels parallel to maximum compressive stress<sup>55,114,116</sup>. This  
340 migration is consistent with results from modelling, which show that tectonic extension favours  
341 vertical melt extraction<sup>22,117</sup>. This is reflected in short timescales for melt transfer in extensional  
342 settings<sup>112,118–120</sup> and may also explain the more differentiated chemistry of magmas associated  
343 with upper crustal compression than those associated with upper crustal extension<sup>120</sup>. Thus,

344 shear deformation can lead to local crystal-liquid segregation<sup>114,121</sup> and larger-scale  
345 differentiation in both mafic and felsic<sup>9,38</sup> systems.

346 Regardless of the mechanism for porous melt migration, the degree of textural equilibration  
347 between crystals and melt<sup>67</sup> is important, as this affects the solid-melt dihedral angles and  
348 therefore controls the connectivity of the melt phase and the melt transfer rate. This is explored  
349 later in **Mush processes and crustal thermal maturity**.

350 **Reactive melt percolation** - Much recent work has focused on the crystal-melt reactions that  
351 can accompany porous flow, because these might have significant implications for melt  
352 evolution<sup>96,111,123,124</sup>. These reactions might occur either when a more evolved mush is  
353 replenished by more primitive melt<sup>39,125,126</sup> or during the migration of more evolved interstitial  
354 melt into a more primitive crystal mush<sup>103,123</sup>.

355 If a replenishing melt is undersaturated in a phase present in the mush, this triggers partial  
356 dissolution and results in melting and increased mush porosity<sup>111,127–129</sup> (**Figure 3a**). For  
357 example, pyroxene-saturated basaltic melts migrating through olivine-bearing mush<sup>102,130</sup>, or  
358 amphibole-saturated melts migrating through anhydrous assemblages<sup>28,131</sup> both result in partial  
359 dissolution. Even if the migrating melt is saturated in the same phases present in the mush, the  
360 incoming melt is unlikely to be in chemical equilibrium with these phases (e.g., anorthite content  
361 in plagioclase, Mg# in ferromagnesian phases), resulting in changes in major, trace element and  
362 isotopic composition of relict cores and new phases<sup>103,126,129,131–134</sup> through dissolution-  
363 reprecipitation.

364 Diffusive exchange is effective for fast-diffusing elements (e.g. Fe-Mg), and has been called  
365 upon to explain compositional trends recorded in plutonic rocks<sup>102</sup>. Given sufficient time, the  
366 crystal mush may buffer the composition of the melt for fast-diffusing elements, but not for  
367 slower-diffusing elements, leading to compositions trends that are inconsistent with fractional  
368 crystallisation<sup>102,125</sup> (**Figure 3b**). Recrystallisation can occur in experiments with run times of 6  
369 hours<sup>135</sup>, indicating that these reactions can proceed quickly, at least on the small lengthscales/  
370 grainsizes of experimental charges. If buffering goes to completion for major elements, then  
371 this mineral-melt equilibrium may be used for geobarometry and so constrain the depths of  
372 mushy reservoirs<sup>136</sup>.

373 Textural evidence for reactive flow typically includes the presence of relict cores and new rim  
374 compositions, however, this can be difficult to distinguish from some peritectic reactions, which  
375 occur in a closed system<sup>137,138</sup>. For example, amphibole appears during the differentiation of wet  
376 arc melts via reaction with clinopyroxene and olivine<sup>103,137,139,140</sup>. More work is needed to define  
377 how melt-mush reactions locally alter melt composition, porosity and permeability.

378 Crystal-melt reactions during porous flow also affect the porosity of crystal mush, and thus have  
379 implications for melt transport and accumulation as well as mush stability. Thermodynamically-  
380 constrained models for mafic systems show that, generally, recharge with primitive melt leads  
381 to net dissolution of mush phases and hence an increase in porosity<sup>125,134</sup>. For many scenarios  
382 of reactive flow of already-differentiated, relatively low-temperature interstitial melts in mafic  
383 crystal mush, modelling suggests that the ratio of assimilation to crystallisation is close to unity,  
384 indicating that porosity is maintained<sup>134</sup>. However, where plagioclase forms a large proportion  
385 of the reacted assemblage, porosity might decrease during the migration of evolved melts,  
386 depending on temperature<sup>134</sup>. Nonetheless, the rock record preserves evidence of reactive melt



387 percolation from the micron scale in the Rum Layered Intrusion, Scotland<sup>141</sup> to at least the meter  
388 scale in the deep arc and oceanic crust<sup>103,142</sup>. Reactive flow can affect much porosity without  
389 significant changes in temperature<sup>96,129</sup>, resulting in the formation of melt-rich lenses and  
390 potentially leading to mush destabilisation and eruption. Overall, the porosity and permeability  
391 evolution of mush systems represents an intersection of numerous complex physical and  
392 chemical factors, and an integrated observational, experimental and modelling approach is  
393 required to understand it more fully.

394

## 395 **Crystal mush disaggregation and eruption**

396 Volcanic eruptions occur when the internal pressure of the magma reservoir exceeds the external  
397 lithostatic pressure or the tensile strength of the host rock<sup>143</sup>, and when the viscosity of the stored  
398 magma is low enough to allow flow, which typically has been assumed to require a melt-  
399 dominated magma<sup>14</sup>. Evidence from geochronology and mechanical understanding of mush  
400 behaviour suggests that crystal mushes remain in a largely non-eruptible state for most of their  
401 lifetime<sup>144–146</sup>. This rheologically locked crystal framework, with interstitial melt, is not  
402 eruptible until the mush is rejuvenated or reactivated, which permits the wholesale eruption of  
403 crystal-rich mush or extraction of melt-rich magma from mush reservoirs.

404 ***Possible mush rejuvenation mechanisms*** - Mush rejuvenation could occur through  
405 mechanisms that are either internal or external to the reservoir<sup>96,97</sup>. In the case of rejuvenation  
406 by external recharge, a hotter magma is intruded at the base of (or within) a mush and reactivates  
407 and weakens the crystal framework through partial melting<sup>127,147,148</sup>. Rejuvenation is limited by  
408 the inefficiency of heat transfer<sup>149,150</sup> and is strongly dependent on mush and magma  
409 composition, including volatile content<sup>148</sup>. Nonetheless, there are many examples where mineral  
410 chemistry and thermometry indicate that heating has taken place shortly before eruption, which  
411 is commonly inferred to have been caused (or immediately preceded) by replenishment and  
412 wholesale mush disaggregation<sup>151–153</sup>. Heterogeneous mushes may contain melt-rich layers as a  
413 result of intrusion<sup>128</sup> or due to buoyancy-driven porous flow instabilities (see ***Pervasive vs***  
414 ***channelised melt migration***). In these cases, mush disaggregation could occur through  
415 Rayleigh-Taylor instabilities involving descent of crystal-laden plumes (see ***Crystal Settling***)  
416 into the melt<sup>49,154</sup> (**Figure 4a**). Percolation of exsolved hot volatiles through the crystal mush  
417 has been suggested to enhance both heat transfer and buoyancy instabilities<sup>91,110,149,155</sup>.

418 Mush rejuvenation through internal mechanisms could include nucleation of bubbles within the  
419 crystal framework due to second boiling<sup>87</sup> or destabilisation of a mush with volatile-rich  
420 layers<sup>91,150,153,156</sup>. Migration through the mush of melt-rich porosity wave instabilities could  
421 result in locally increased melt fraction (i.e. mush disaggregation) without requiring any  
422 external forcing<sup>96,97</sup>. In wet felsic systems, reactive melt flow could also increase mush porosity,  
423 to the point where the crystal mush might unlock and allow eruption<sup>157,129</sup>. Even in systems  
424 where the mush is not significantly disaggregated, melt extraction through dyke generation is  
425 efficient in reservoirs within a crystallinity window of ~50–70 vol.%, which could lead to mush  
426 derived crystal-poor samples. Any of these events leading to destabilization and disaggregation

427 of the crystal mush could be a trigger for eruptions, with remnants of parental mushes entrained  
428 into erupted magmas (**Figure 4b**).

429 **The crystal cargo** - The impact of mush reactivation is to incorporate crystals, potentially from  
430 different locations within a mushy reservoir with different origins and histories, into erupted  
431 magma as crystal ‘cargo’<sup>158</sup>. Whole-rock compositions mask geochemical indicators of mush  
432 disaggregation as they represent a mixture of diverse crystal cargoes and melt(s). However, the  
433 recognition of the diversity of crystals in erupted magmas has provided petrological evidence  
434 for the paradigm shift towards mushy storage systems. Firstly, plutonic or cumulate  
435 assemblages either brought to the surface as xenoliths and glomerocrysts or present in exposed  
436 crustal sections, show that crystal-rich mush zones are present within magmatic systems<sup>24–27,159–</sup>  
437 <sup>162</sup>. Within many magmas, disequilibrium mineral textures, such as sieve textured cores and  
438 strongly reversed zoning in crystal rims<sup>29,31,35,163</sup>, and evidence for peritectic reactions or  
439 metastable phases<sup>164,165</sup>, have been used to infer that the crystals originated in a mush that was  
440 subject to thermo-chemical rejuvenation and incorporation into an eruptible magma (**Figure**  
441 **4b**). These crystals are termed ‘antecrysts’ as they spent most of their life within the mush  
442 system and did not originate from the final erupted magma. Elemental and isotopic variations  
443 within crystals also demonstrate influx of new melt or transfer of solids into new environments.  
444 Evidence for such processes in the crystal cargo includes reverse zoning, trace element zoning  
445 that is inconsistent with major-element partitioning, and crystal-scale isotopic disequilibrium  
446 between crystals and host melt (e.g. Pb isotopic compositions of sanidine<sup>166</sup>; in situ Sr isotopes  
447 in interstitial plagioclase<sup>141</sup>; and Hf and O isotopic and trace elemental compositions of  
448 zircon<sup>35,167</sup> also demonstrate influx of new melt or transfer of solids into new environments,  
449 during crystallisation).

450 The crystal cargo represents a toolbox to calculate the timescales of storage, rejuvenation, or  
451 disruption of the mush and release of free crystals into an eruptible magma. Radiometric ages  
452 of minerals date crystallization times, and typical pre-eruptive residence of crystals in volcanic  
453 rocks are thousands of years (major phases) to tens of thousands of years (zircon)<sup>168</sup>. In contrast,  
454 methods to quantify rejuvenation times include Ar/Ar dating of feldspar<sup>169</sup>, computational  
455 modelling<sup>148</sup> and diffusion chronometry. The latter provides a means to investigate a range of  
456 timescales: from years to hundreds of thousands of years (using quartz<sup>170</sup> or plagioclase<sup>171</sup>);  
457 hundreds to thousands of years using sanidine<sup>172</sup>; years to thousands of years using  
458 clinopyroxene<sup>173</sup> or orthopyroxene<sup>119,169</sup>; minutes to months using Fe-Ti oxides<sup>174</sup>, although the  
459 application of diffusion chronometry typically relies on there having been enough sufficient  
460 time between rejuvenation and eruption to permit mineral rim growth. What is apparent using  
461 these techniques is that the estimated timescales of rejuvenation can be rapid (order of days in  
462 many mafic systems or tens of years to thousands of years in more silicic systems). The rapid  
463 timescales deduced from diffusion chronometry are commonly at odds to the protracted  
464 timescales estimated for the establishment of the whole magmatic system<sup>144–146</sup>. This contrast  
465 between long storage timescales and short rejuvenation timescales recorded in the crystal record  
466 has been ascribed to cold mush storage<sup>144,145</sup> with little interstitial melt. However, some systems  
467 may be characterised by larger melt fractions, as has been argued on the basis of combined  
468 zircon thermometry and geochronology<sup>175</sup>. Alternatively, the application of diffusion  
469 chronometry relies on experimentally constrained diffusion coefficients; current lack of  
470 agreement between experimental studies means that diffusion timescales could reflect magma  
471 reservoir build up rather than eruption-related processes<sup>176,177</sup>. Otherwise, the apparent disparity  
472 in timescales may point towards an additional external mechanism for melt extraction, such as

the regional stress field and/or pre-existing tectonic structures in active regions such as New Zealand<sup>119,170,178</sup> and the Southern Volcanic Zone of the Andes<sup>120,179</sup>. Improving quantitative constraints on both temperature and timescales, for example through modelling approaches, will help to define the storage conditions of the crust and magmatic reservoirs throughout their lifetimes, and can help provide an integrated perspective on all steps involved in mush rejuvenation<sup>148</sup>.

479

## 480 **Crystal mush processes and crustal thermal maturity**

Motivated by the need to understand the future eruptive behaviour of volcanoes, we need to understand more about volcanic system lifetimes, patterns of intrusion and eruption, and the timescales and lengthscales of melt and crystal residence in the crust. The rejuvenation processes outlined above are crucial for allowing the mush system to evolve chemically. Key factors affecting the prevalence and effectiveness of mush processes include the thermal state of the crust, tectonic setting, and the mass and thermal balance of magma addition through intrusion into the crust. Both the textural character of the mush framework (**Box**) and the composition of the mush melt(s) respond to crustal thermal state and can also themselves limit mush processes. Below we review how these controls affect mushes across the lifetime of a crustal volcanic system, before considering the impact of regional tectonic environment.

**The thermal state of the crust** - The thermal state of the crust, and thus the cooling rate and crystal content of igneous intrusions, is controlled by the balance of heat inputs (from intrusion of mantle-derived melts, release of latent heat<sup>125,129,180</sup> or redistribution of partial melt throughout the upper and lower crust<sup>22,181</sup>) and outputs (including conductive cooling away from the magma and hydrothermal circulation<sup>180,182</sup>). The thermal state of the crust therefore primarily depends on crustal thickness<sup>183</sup>, mantle-derived melt fluxes and regional tectonics<sup>22</sup>, and the distribution of radiogenic heat-producing species throughout the crust<sup>184</sup>. The thermal environment controls the cooling rate of intrusions and therefore the amount of time available for mush processes, such as viscous compaction, melt extraction or porous melt migration, to take place. For example, early mafic to intermediate magmatism can thermally prime the crust, extending thermal equilibration times enough to allow segregation of evolved melt that generates silicic plutons<sup>185</sup>. The thermal environment also affects the amount of energy available for assimilation of surrounding crust or remobilisation of older, colder mushes. The crust in volcanically active areas will change in thermal maturity over the lifetime of the whole volcanic system<sup>22,96,97,186,187</sup> (**Figure 5**), so we should expect to see differences in the efficiency of mush processes over those lifetimes, dependent on the thermal state of the crustal reservoir.

The textural maturity of the mush is also affected by its thermal state and will progress diffusively towards increasing connectivity of the melt phase<sup>27</sup> (**Box**). Long-lived (mature) mush systems (from 100 kyr to 1-10 Ma<sup>145,146,188</sup>) are expected to tend towards more mature crystal textures and melt geometries (lower dihedral angles<sup>67</sup>). Repeated episodes of heating, resorption and recrystallisation that occur in long-lived mush systems<sup>91,145,146,186</sup> also impact the shapes of crystals in mushes, which evolve towards more equant character, closer to equilibrium (Wulff) crystal shapes<sup>13</sup>.

**Thermally immature systems** - In thermally immature (maturing) systems (**Figure 5a**), each intrusion cools quickly<sup>96,97,186</sup>. Individual events generate packets of crystal mush that are short-

lived, and produce only limited amounts of extracted evolved melt<sup>111</sup>, together with only limited local melting and assimilation of the crust<sup>96,187</sup>. The short lifetime of these mushes, less equilibrated textures, and lower overall ambient temperatures in thermally immature crust, together lead to limited opportunity for viscous compaction, mechanical arrangement or porous melt migration in the early stages of a volcanic system (the ‘incubation stage’ of ref [<sup>96</sup>]). Immature or young systems are unlikely to sustain large upper crustal magma chambers<sup>22,181</sup>.

**Thermally mature systems** - Thermal maturity (**Figure 5b**) is attained for geologically reasonable melt fluxes within  $\sim 1$  Ma<sup>96,111,117,189</sup>. High ambient temperature and high melt flux means that magmatic systems can easily be maintained above the solidus for extended periods of times, perhaps exceeding  $10^5$  yr<sup>182,190,191</sup>. The smoothly curving grain boundaries and continuous grain boundary melt films of texturally mature mush [**Box**] facilitate effective porous melt migration even at low melt fractions<sup>68,192</sup> and lead to mass transfer and melt differentiation and reactive flow<sup>96,129,174</sup>, as recognised in the geological record in deep seated crustal systems<sup>102,103,125</sup>. Thermal maturation leads to increasing extents of crustal assimilation, as seen through modelling<sup>96,111,117</sup> and through isotopic analysis combined with geochronology of mid-upper crustal plutons<sup>193,194</sup>.

Many middle to upper crustal reservoirs receive magmatic inputs directly from lower crustal mushes<sup>181,195,196</sup> (**Figure 5b**), and themselves represent long-lived silicic mush systems (e.g. the Altiplano Puna Magma Body<sup>4</sup>). Some upper crustal reservoirs beneath composite volcanoes generate evolved products directly from primitive melt through a long-lived crystal mush<sup>195,197</sup>.

**Thermally waning systems** - The waning stages of magmatic systems (**Figure 5c**) are under-represented in the literature; existing studies suggest these systems experience an overall decrease in heat input, lower mass eruption rates and decreasing magmatic temperatures<sup>188,193,197</sup> and might be associated with a return to more mafic volcanism<sup>111,193,198</sup>. Waning systems may also see relatively more recycling (assimilation) of lower crustal cumulates and residual mushes compared with recharge<sup>199,200</sup>. The temporal progression of magmatic systems is challenging to investigate because in plutonic rocks, preserved magmatic structures could be dominated by the most voluminous or later stages of magmatism; the magmatic record of melt chemistry may also be progressively overprinted and masked by later activity<sup>187</sup>.

**Extensional vs compressional environments** – Coupled with the thermal structure of the crust, regional tectonics play an important role in controlling crystal mush development. For example, extensional tectonics imparts a shear stress on the crust which has been inferred as the driver for rapid vertical melt extraction in extensional settings<sup>112,114,118–120</sup> (see **The impact of deformation**). Extension also perturbs the geotherm, which increases the extent of melting and allows magma to be advected into the upper crust<sup>22</sup>. Conversely, compressional tectonics inhibit buoyant magma ascent through dyking and therefore enhance magma intrusion<sup>201</sup>. Crustal thickness is closely linked to thermal maturity because ambient temperatures are higher in thick crust<sup>97</sup> and this will lead to enhanced melt-solid differentiation in both deeply stored crystal mushes and in thick crust<sup>183</sup>.

**Tectonic setting** – There are some key differences expected in cool and wet (arc) settings compared with hot and dry (extensional or hotspot) settings. In particular, the relationship between temperature and crystallinity changes strongly for different melt compositions and water contents, and this determines how long residual melt can persist in the system<sup>22</sup> (**Figure 6**). For example, a dry tholeiitic melt could crystallise fully over a temperature interval of  $<100$  °C, whereas a wet andesitic melt could still contain melt after 450 °C of cooling (**Figure 6**).

561 This means that crystal mush in deep arc crust may persist for longer than crystal mush in a  
562 shallow oceanic crust, allowing crystal-melt segregation and viscous compaction and extensive  
563 entrainment of older mush material. A water-rich melt is also more easily segregated at a given  
564 mush crystal fraction due to its lower viscosity and is more likely to form isolated melt-rich  
565 lenses<sup>202</sup>. Finally, the relationship between volatile content and crystal content in a crystal mush  
566 impacts whether volatile transport involves isolated inter-crystalline pathways or affects the  
567 buoyancy of the bulk mush<sup>91</sup>. This impacts the efficiency of outgassing and therefore potential  
568 explosivity of resulting volcanic activity.

569

## 570 **Summary and future directions**

571 Crystal mushes are a ubiquitous feature of all crystallising magma bodies, which makes  
572 understanding their properties and behaviour an important focus for research into volcanic and  
573 magmatic systems. The physical properties of crystal mushes are defined by their pore-scale to  
574 metre-scale characteristics, including crystal fraction, size and shape distribution, permeability,  
575 and the degree of textural equilibration between crystals and melt (which is intrinsically linked  
576 to permeability). Their behaviour is highly complex and involves non-linear feedbacks: mushes  
577 are characterised by the flow of heat, momentum and chemical species on a number of  
578 simultaneous spatial and temporal scales. To date, theoretical work has typically focused on  
579 simple, monodisperse grain shapes, maximally dense grain packings, and frictionless systems.  
580 In order to understand the timescales and lengthscales of melt extraction and infiltration  
581 processes, and to robustly link field and textural evidence with physics and chemical reactivity,  
582 the rheology of natural crystal packings needs to be more completely characterised. Further  
583 research focusing on more realistic grain shapes and size dispersions would enable more direct  
584 comparisons to natural mush textures, using X-ray tomography or 2D trace elemental  
585 geochemical mapping to characterise directly how porosity and permeability evolve as natural  
586 mushes crystallise. Improvements to understanding of crystal mush behaviour may also come  
587 from engaging with researchers in associated fields such as engineering and metallurgy, where  
588 processes such as slurry flow and hot tearing in crystallising alloys are applicable to natural  
589 silicate mushes.

590 Cumulates form where physical processes, such as hindered settling, mechanical consolidation,  
591 viscous compaction, compositional convection or gas flow (as opposed to simple *in situ*  
592 crystallisation) have caused melt and crystals to segregate. Geochemically, cumulate mushes  
593 cannot represent a magma composition. The nature of mush compaction is an area that remains  
594 poorly understood but is highly relevant to cumulate formation, mush evolution and melt  
595 extraction to form upper crustal volcanic systems. Improving understanding of mush  
596 compaction needs a wide-ranging investigation of varied natural plutonic settings. An important  
597 goal would be to link chemistry and deformation on length scales from grain-scale to intrusion-  
598 scale, with 3D orientation of any zoning or dislocation creep. The onset, spatial extent, and  
599 orientation of the compaction likely depends on size, shape and orientations of the crystals in  
600 the mush, as well as the temperature and longevity of each system. The relative importance and  
601 timescales of compaction, consolidation and melt extraction could be investigated using

602 numerical modelling combined with novel petrographic and textural analyses of mush structure  
603 and crystal defects, for example using Electron Backscatter Diffraction.

604 An emerging research focus is on the impacts of melt migration through crystal mushes. Here,  
605 petrological work demonstrates the incidence of *in situ* reactions involving dissolution and  
606 reprecipitation, which is most convincingly demonstrated using changes to the textures and trace  
607 element geochemistry of the minerals involved in the reactions. In contrast, modelling studies  
608 and rheology work emphasise the importance of larger-scale features such as porosity waves  
609 and channelisation that are challenging to capture through petrological analysis. Understanding  
610 of reactive melt migration is in its infancy, and many open questions remain. Arguably, the most  
611 important question pertains to the timing of reactive flow relative to melt extraction: is reactive  
612 flow a fundamental component of melt transport and accumulation, or does it occur  
613 predominantly in mush reservoirs as porosity is decreasing and the system is freezing? Similarly,  
614 the mechanisms, time scales and chemical effects of reactive flow need to be better constrained.  
615 Both aspects are fundamentally important to understanding of the compositional evolution of  
616 melts. In order to make progress on these issues, an integrated experimental and theoretical  
617 (modelling) framework is required for reactive flow, which can then be benchmarked against  
618 natural observations. From a modelling perspective, this requires advances in numerical  
619 methods for coupling reaction and transport, and for methods that capture full phase equilibria  
620 of natural systems.

621 The scale of the models is also important: reservoir-scale models should be complemented by  
622 grain-scale to meso-scale modelling to capture the full range of complexity in governing  
623 processes. Numerical schemes that can incorporate the macro and microphysics will be  
624 required, and the outputs need to be integrated with field based observations and petrology.  
625 Experimental studies will constrain mechanisms and rates of crystal-melt reactions, providing  
626 critical input to models, but advances in thermodynamic treatment will be required to match  
627 models and *in situ* geochemistry. Case studies of plutonic and volcanic systems, combining  
628 spatially constrained elemental and isotopic data, can help reconstruct the evolution of porosity  
629 and permeability as a function of composition and temperature, and constrain the length scale  
630 and time scale of porous flow. Similar advances in adjacent fields, such as aqueous reactive  
631 flow in hydrothermal systems, may be adaptable to high-temperature magmatic systems.

632 Crystal mushes are sampled partly through being disaggregated during later intrusive (i.e.,  
633 magmatic recharge) events and incorporated into volcanic products. The mechanisms of  
634 disaggregation have not been extensively studied but could include a combination of larger-  
635 scale fluid dynamical instabilities and local grain-scale remelting/ reaction and infiltration by  
636 new melts. Many grain-scale processes will be enhanced by relatively mature, equilibrated  
637 textures. The mush-derived crystal cargo can be used to explore the timescales of mush storage,  
638 rejuvenation and disruption.

639 Crystal mushes, mush processes and cumulates can occur, and can be sampled, at a range of  
640 lengthscales from tens km (through continuum scale numerical modelling, geophysical  
641 observations, geological mapping and bulk rock geochemistry), to  $\mu\text{m}$  (using crystal-scale  
642 textures, geochemistry and pore-scale numerical modelling). However, the diversity in the scale  
643 and nature of the observations also poses fundamental difficulties in trying to integrate  
644 information from different techniques, because different kinds of information are derived from  
645 different scales and at different stages of development of crystal mush systems. Volcanic



646 systems involve multiple interacting timescales reflecting competing processes across different  
647 spatial scales. The effect of varying the thermal maturity of the crust, over long timescales  
648 representative of whole volcanic systems, is not well explored, and could help to understand the  
649 prevalence of particular mush processes as a function of system life cycle, as well as improve  
650 the linkages among petrology, geochemistry, advanced geophysics techniques such as full  
651 waveform inversion, dynamics of multi-phase flow, and numerical modelling.

652

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668

## 669 **Competing interests**

670 The authors declare no competing interests

## 671 **Author contributions**

672 All authors contributed to discussion of the content; and to writing, review and editing of the  
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674

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1320

## 1321 Display items

### 1322 Box 1. Physical properties of crystal mushes

1323 **Porosity and crystal content** – In crystal mushes, the solids form an interconnected  
 1324 framework and melt can percolate through the framework until the percolation threshold [G]  
 1325 is reached. The initial solid fraction of a mush depends on many factors including crystal size  
 1326 and shape (i.e. aspect ratio). Structural analysis of natural crystal mush frameworks typically  
 1327 suggests relatively low initial crystal fraction ( $\phi$ ), down to  $\phi = 0.2$  (ref. <sup>203</sup>). This is consistent  
 1328 with high-temperature basalt partial melting experiments where rock strength is maintained by  
 1329 chains of interconnected plagioclase crystals, until a crystal fraction of  $\sim 0.3$ <sup>204</sup>. Analogue  
 1330 experiments to create random, loosely packed mushes show that solid fraction decreases with  
 1331 increasing friction and particle aspect ratio<sup>55,205</sup>. Numerically simulated mushes of anisotropic  
 1332 cuboids (approximating plagioclase shapes) can also have very low solid fraction, down to  
 1333  $< 0.2$  depending on crystal shape<sup>59,206</sup>. The crystal fraction of a natural crystal mush can  
 1334 therefore be locally heterogeneous and will increase with increasing crystal size  
 1335 variability<sup>207,208</sup>. These complexities have important rheological impacts. In particular, crystal  
 1336 mush behaviour is commonly described relative to a rheologically locked or ‘jammed’ state,  
 1337 but there is clearly no fixed crystal fraction at which this occurs: it depends strongly on crystal  
 1338 shape and size distribution.

1339

1340 **Permeability** – Interstitial liquid can move through the connected pore space of a crystal mush.  
 1341 The rate of melt flow depends on the pressure gradient that drives it (which may arise from  
 1342 buoyancy or external stresses), the melt viscosity, and the geometry of the pore space. These  
 1343 characteristics are captured by the permeability, which is typically described using Darcy’s law.

Flow velocity increases with decreasing melt viscosity, increased pressure gradient, and increased permeability<sup>209</sup>. For a mush of spherical particles, the permeability is controlled by the crystal fraction and grainsize<sup>69,209,210</sup>, but this can be generalised by instead considering the specific surface areas of the solid crystal framework<sup>211,212</sup>, which describes mushes with a significant size distribution or varied shapes<sup>212–215</sup>. Importantly, for natural crystal mushes, permeability will be anisotropic (**Figure 2a**) if there is a crystal fabric, substantial modal layering, or active deformation<sup>118,213,216</sup>.

**Crystal shape and textural equilibration** - Crystals that are growing freely from a melt at low undercooling typically have a compact, euhedral crystal shape. However, that euhedral growth shape is not *texturally* equilibrated with adjacent crystals in a mush, or with the interstitial melt<sup>24,67,217</sup>. Textural equilibration (sometimes described as maturation) in the presence of melt creates smoothly curving melt films on two- and three-grain boundaries<sup>68,192,218</sup> and eventually leads to the formation of equilibrium solid-melt dihedral angles<sup>24,51</sup>. The textural equilibration process is largely diffusive<sup>219</sup> and therefore depends on mush temperature and the composition of both melt and crystals. Prolonged crystal mush storage permits textural equilibration to progress through coarsening and diffusive readjustment of crystal boundaries. Textural equilibration can substantially modify both the texture and physical properties of the mush, most importantly the permeability and percolation threshold<sup>68</sup>.

## Figures

**Figure 1. Schematic mush cross-section.** Schematic mush cross-section for a cooling intrusion, drawing on direct observations of crystal mush sampled by drilling (Makaopuhi lava lake<sup>33</sup>) but not intended to be prescriptive of a particular system. Left, the distribution of crystals within a mush as a function of depth. Right, the crystal fraction, temperature and melt composition of a mush. Insets show illustrative mush textures with tabular primocrysts (brown), a space-filling, interstitial phase (pale grey) and melt (darker grey). The dashed line schematically indicates the transition from magma to mush. Depth scale is also schematic and could be a few tens of metres from top to bottom, but more broadly is determined by the heat balance across the mush (including country rock and intrusion temperature, extent of hydrothermal cooling, as well as the relationship between temperature and melt fraction for the melt of interest).

**Figure 2. Mush compaction.** (a, b) 3D visualisation of porosity reduction through mechanical mush consolidation in the form of translation and rotation (thin black arrows) of individual crystals within an initially loosely packed mush, in response to applied stress (thick black arrows). This results in shape preferred alignment (as shown) in the case of anisotropic crystals. (c) Schematic representation of composite mush rheology (orange line) including contributions from mechanical consolidation (dashed line) and viscous compaction (solid line), after Ref. 53.  $\phi_m$  = maximum packing fraction. Compaction occurs primarily by mechanical consolidation at higher melt fractions  $> \phi_m$  and by viscous compaction at low melt fractions  $< \phi_m$ . (d) Continuous model for liquid-solid compaction length for two-phase flow from porous flow regime (accommodated by viscous compaction at melt fractions  $< \phi_m$  and by melt localisation between  $\phi_m$  and  $\phi_{dis}$ , the porosity at which mush disaggregates) to suspension flow (crystal settling), after Ref. 48. (e) Cross-polarised photomicrograph showing textural

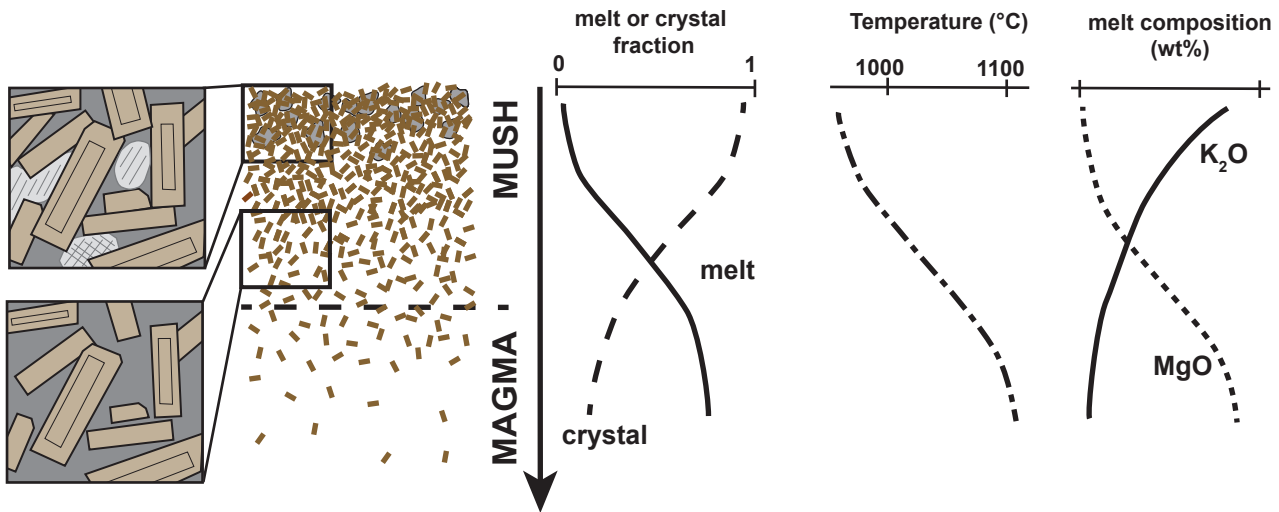
evidence used to infer viscous compaction, including deformation twinning and mechanical bending (asterisks). Pl, plagioclase; cpx, clinopyroxene; ol, olivine. (f) Cross-polarised photomicrograph showing textural evidence used to infer melt convection, in the form of constant composition rim growth (arrows; after ref. 74).

**Figure 3. Reactive melt infiltration.** (a) Schematic illustration of grain-scale reaction-infiltration of melt into a matrix of A+B (after Ref. 130). Melt (yellow) undersaturated in phase A (dark blue) infiltrates the mush (red arrows) and reacts with the solid matrix, causing dissolution of A and reprecipitation of B with a new composition. Reactive infiltration takes on a channelised form (white dashed lines). (b) Chondrite-normalised (N) trace element compositions of clinopyroxene from global mid-ocean ridges are largely inconsistent with fractional crystallisation (grey solid arrow) but can be reproduced through reactive melt flow (blue dashed arrow, with a solid modal assemblage of 7.5% olivine (ol) + 43.5% plagioclase (pl) + 49% clinopyroxene (cpx); black dotted arrow, with a solid modal assemblage of 80% cpx + 20% pl, updated after Ref. 102). Circles are data from the East Pacific Rise; triangles, Mid-Atlantic Ridge; squares, South West Indian Ridge.

**Figure 4. Mush disaggregation at different scales.** (a) Macro-scale Rayleigh-Taylor instabilities may cause plumes of crystal-rich material to descend from mush (red) intruded or underplated by new magma (yellow). (b) Grain-scale disaggregation of mush adjacent to new melt-rich layer (yellow) results in generation of antecrystic crystal cargo in extracted magma. The glomerocryst represents a disaggregated fragment of the mush and shows evidence of dissolution at internal boundaries (arrows) and overgrowth rims that are common to all grains. Hbl, hornblende; pl, plagioclase.

**Figure 5. Thermal maturity and crustal magmatic systems.** The lifetime of a crustal magmatic system. Temperature is shown on the axis next to each panel. Curving blue arrows indicate hydrothermal circulation. Inset schematic illustrates possible textural features for a new mush developed at each stage. (a) Thermally maturing systems see only localised heat and partial melting and little crustal assimilation. Individual intrusions cool quickly with unequilibrated textures. (b) Thermally mature systems show generally warm crustal temperatures leading to wide-spread mush and significant assimilation and a complex crystal cargo. Textures are more equilibrated and equant following repeated intrusion, resorption, rejuvenation and recrystallisation. Evolved magma is emplaced at mid- to upper-crustal levels. (c) Waning systems retain some of the complex crystal cargo but revert to more localised heat distribution and lower overall ambient temperatures.

**Figure 6. Temperature vs melt fraction for different melts.** Temperature vs melt fraction trends calculated for wet (dashed lines) and dry (solid lines) melts using the thermodynamic Gibbs free energy minimization package MAGEMin<sup>220</sup> with the Thermocalc igneous thermodynamic database<sup>221</sup>. We assume that wet melts contain 2 wt.% H<sub>2</sub>O at their liquidus temperature. Fractional crystallization is simulated under QFM (quartz-fayalite-magnetite equilibrium) oxygen fugacity conditions at a pressure of 0.5 GPa, using 5 °C temperature increments and taking the residue as the new bulk composition for the next step. The andesite starting composition is from Ref. <sup>222</sup>, the tholeiite starting composition is from Ref. <sup>223</sup> and the arc basalt starting composition is from Ref. <sup>224</sup>. Experimental constraints for tholeiite and arc basalt are also shown for comparison<sup>225–227</sup>.

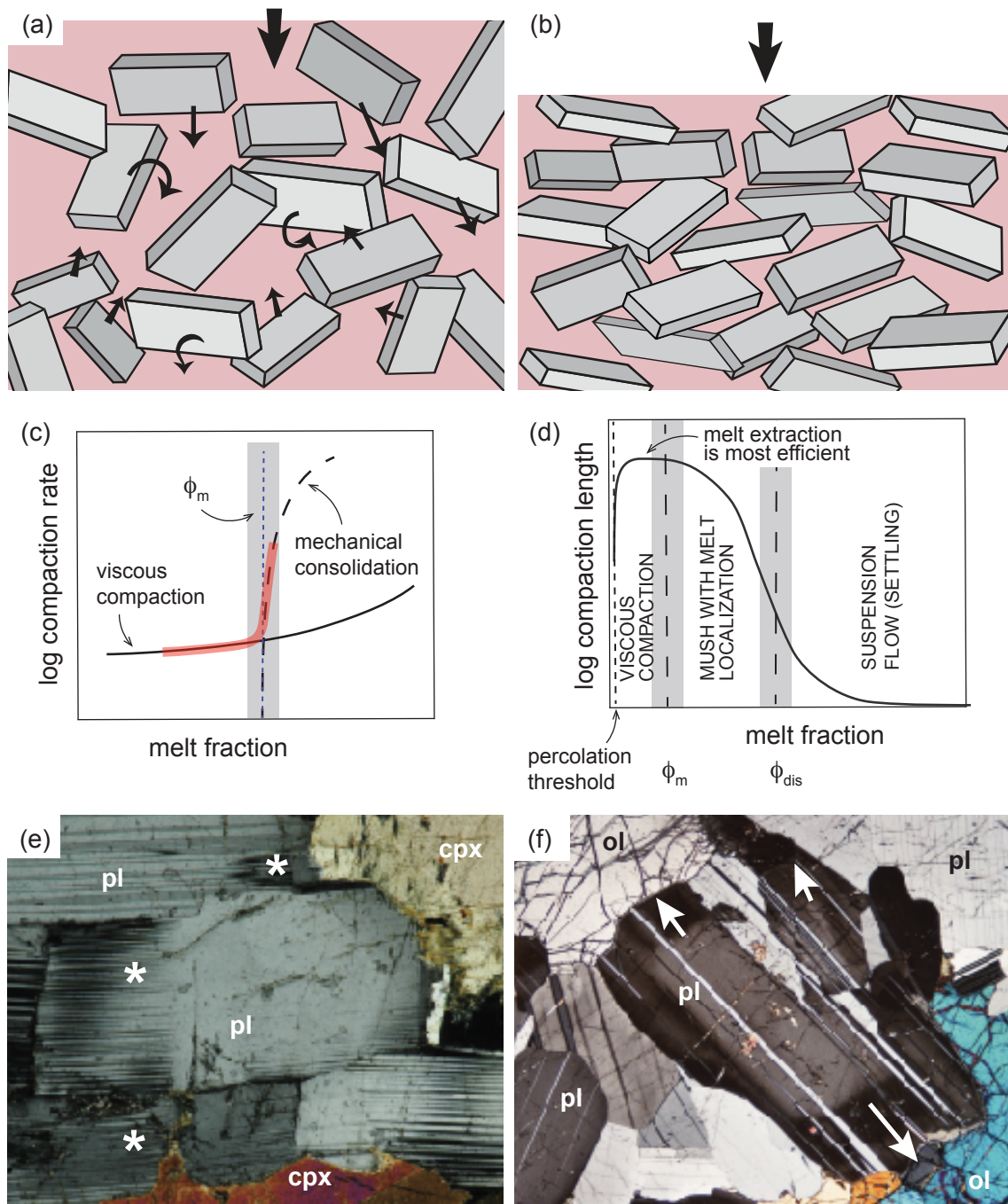


**Figure 1. Schematic mush cross-section**

Schematic mush cross-section for a cooling intrusion, drawing on direct observations of crystal mush sampled by drilling (Makaopuhi lava lake [Helz 1980]) but not intended to be prescriptive of a particular system.

Depth scale is also schematic and could be a few tens of metres [Helz 1980] but more broadly is determined by the heat balance across the mush (including country rock and intrusion temperature, extent of hydrothermal cooling, as well as the relationship between temperature and melt fraction for the melt of interest).





**Figure 2. Mush compaction**

(a, b) 3D visualisation of porosity reduction through mechanical mush consolidation in the form of translation and rotation (thin black arrows) of individual crystals within an initially loosely packed mush. Shape preferred alignment results in the case of anisotropic crystals. (c) Cross-polarised photomicrograph showing textural evidence used to infer viscous compaction, including deformation twinning and mechanical bending (stars). (d) Cross-polarised photomicrograph showing textural evidence used to infer melt convection, in the form of constant composition rim growth (arrows, after Ref. 74). (e) Porosity reduction occurs by mechanical consolidation at higher melt fractions and by viscous compaction at low melt fractions, after Ref. 53. (f) Continuous model for liquid-solid compaction length for two-phase flow from porous flow regime (accommodated by viscous compaction) to suspension flow (crystal settling), after Ref. 48.  $\phi_m$  = maximum packing fraction,  $\phi_{dis}$  = porosity at which mush disaggregates.

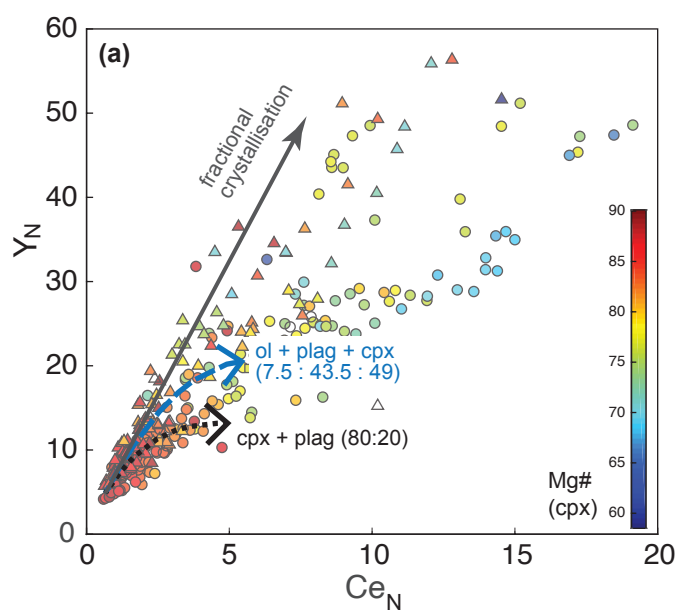
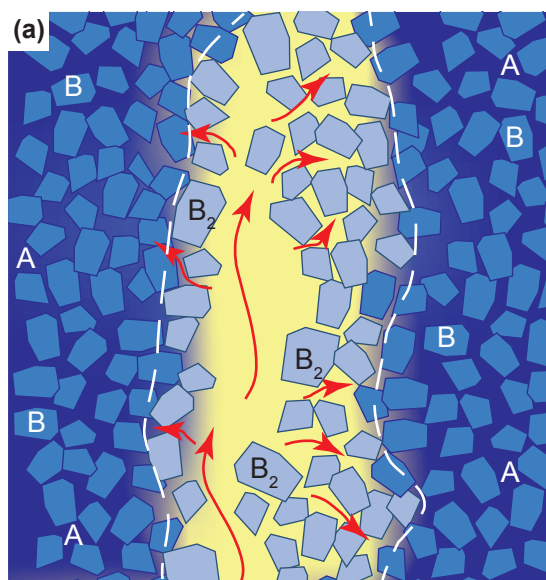
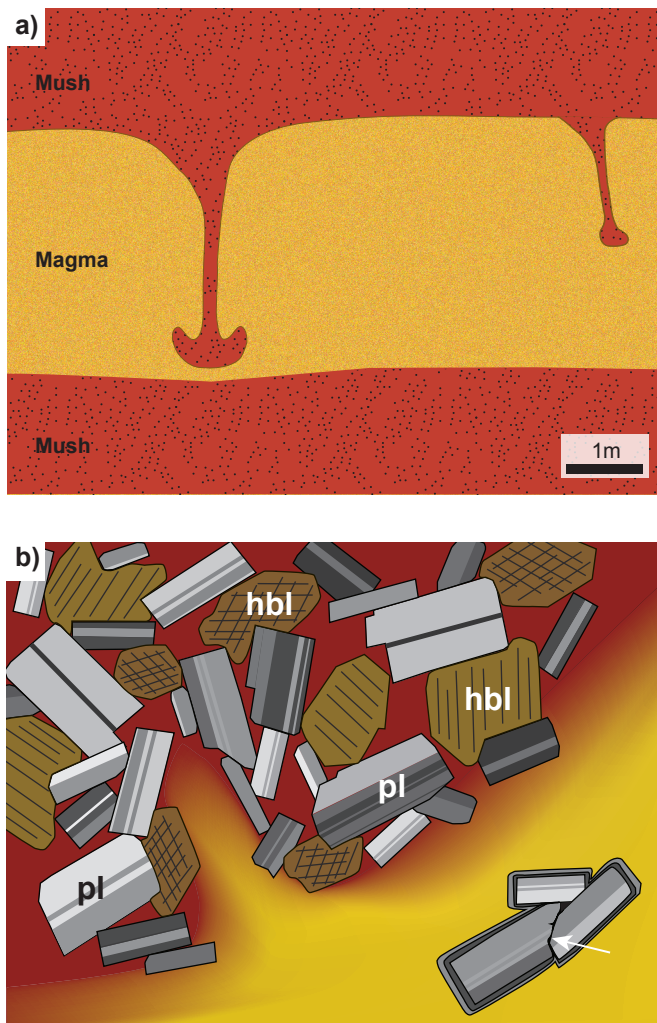
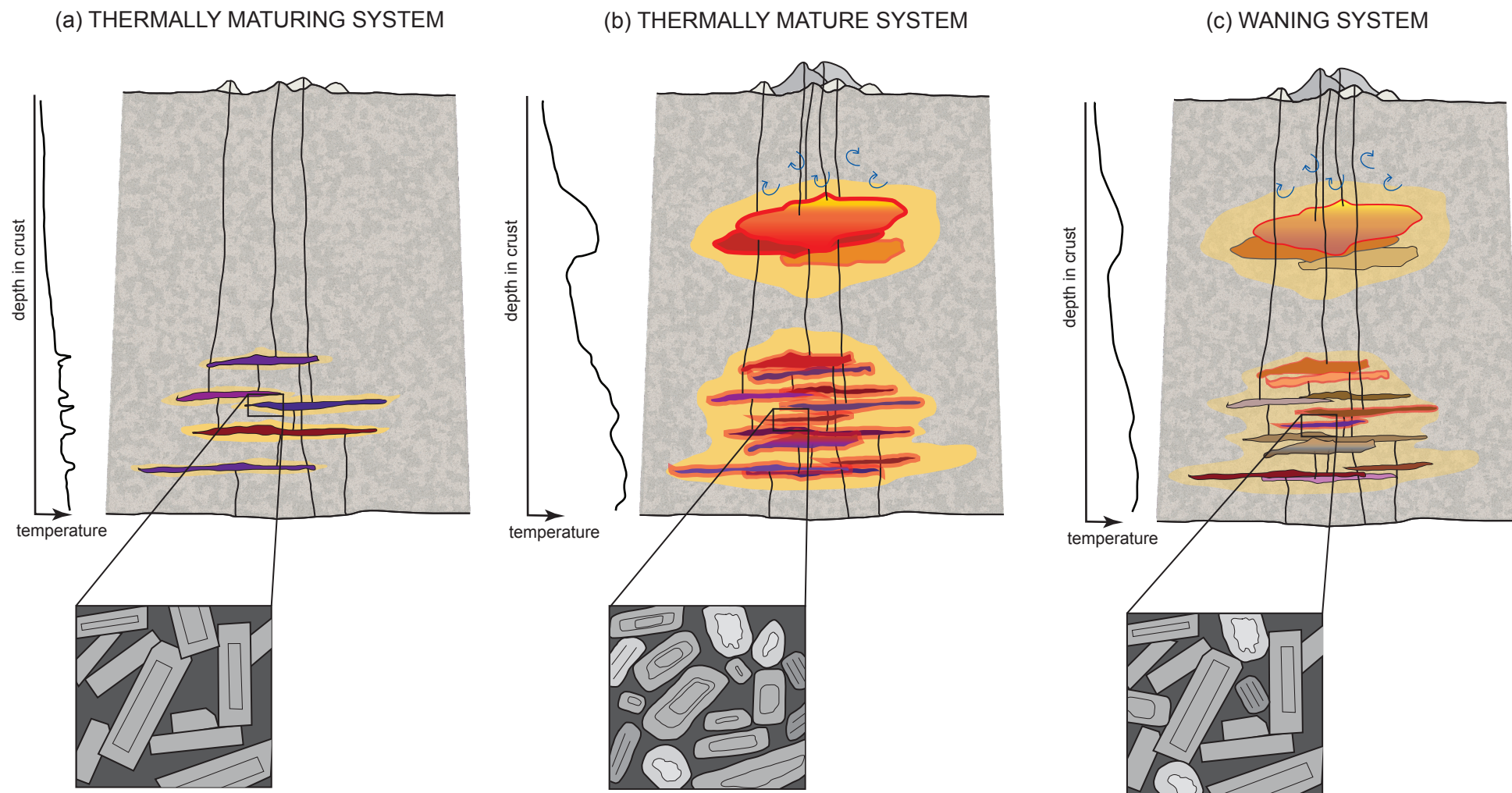


Figure 3. Reactive melt infiltration.



**Figure 4. Mush disaggregation at different scales.**

(a) Macro-scale Rayleigh-Taylor instabilities from mush intruded or underplated by new magma. (b) Disaggregation at the grainscale adjacent to new melt (yellow) results in generation of glomerocrysts crystal cargo in erupted magmas. Glomerocrysts commonly show evidence of dissolution at internal boundaries (arrows) and common overgrowth rims.



**Figure 6. Thermal maturity and crustal magmatic systems**

The lifetime of a crustal magmatic system. Temperature is shown on the axis next to each panel. Curving blue arrows indicate hydrothermal circulation. Inset schematic illustrates possible textural features for a new mush developed at each stage. (a) Thermally maturing systems see only localised heat and partial melting and little crustal assimilation. Individual intrusions cool quickly with unequilibrated textures. (b) Thermally mature systems show generally warm crustal temperatures leading to wide-spread mush and significant assimilation and a complex crystal cargo. Textures are more equilibrated and equant following repeated intrusion, resorption, rejuvenation and recrystallisation. Evolved magma is emplaced at mid- to upper-crustal levels. (c) Waning systems retain some of the complex crystal cargo but revert to more localised heat distribution and lower overall ambient temperatures.



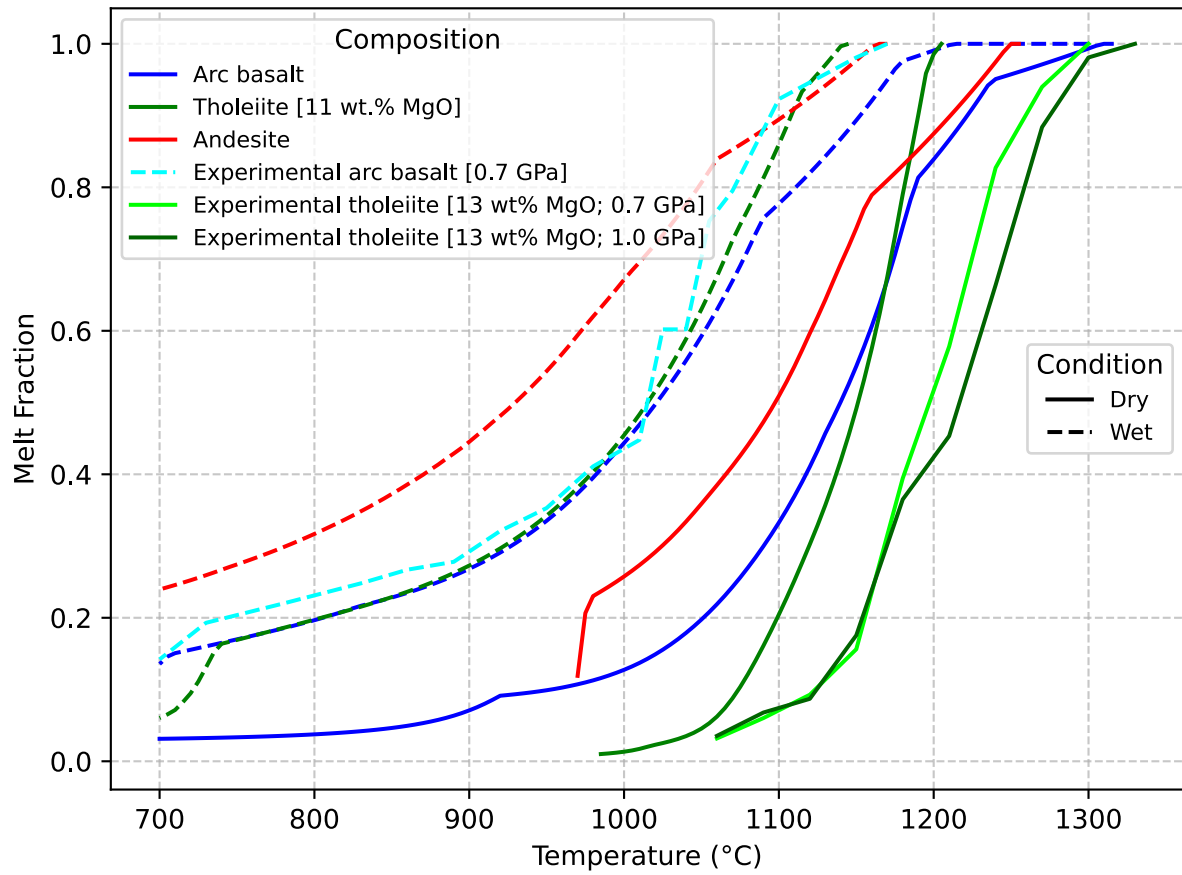


Figure 6. Temperature vs melt fraction for different melts. Temperature vs melt fraction trends calculated for different melts using the thermodynamic Gibbs free energy minimization package MAGEMin<sup>216</sup> with the Thermocalc igneous thermodynamic database<sup>217</sup>. We assume that wet melts contain 2 wt.% H<sub>2</sub>O at their liquidus temperature and simulate equilibrium crystallization under QFM (quartz-fayalite-magnetite equilibrium) oxygen fugacity conditions at a pressure of 0.5 GPa. The andesite composition is from [218], the tholeiite composition is from [219] and the arc basalt composition is from [220].