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# Understanding volcanic systems and their dynamics combining

# field and physical volcanology with petrology studies

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#### **Abstract**

Hazard assessment and definition of the eruptive scenarios at active volcanoes are mostly based on the elaboration of a large set of information collected with different disciplines and multiple analytical approaches. We discuss here how the reconstruction of the main processes acting at a volcano during its life should be based on the direct knowledge of its activity and products, in the view that each volcano is characterized by its own «personality». Comparison with analogue volcanoes can add further important information on the expected variability of the different processes, but this should never substitute specific data collection at the volcano of interest. Field volcanology and petrology studies are the base for collecting large datasets on past, recent and on-going activity and products. Based on these data, intensive and extensive physical parameters which control the dynamics of the activity can then be derived through focused physical volcanology investigations. Experimental petrology on the products of well-characterized

eruptions finally returns a set of additional physical and compositional parameters that heavily contribute to enlarge our knowledge of the activity and evolution of a given volcano.

## Introduction

Volcanic activity is the result of a complex series of processes at different scales involving magma dynamics in the mantle-crust system. The type of erupted products, and the style of eruptive activity, are deeply controlled by the different processes of magma evolution in time and space. The different stages and the modalities of magma accumulation and transfer at shallow depths in the crust, heat and mass exchange with the surrounding host rocks or from the magma source, and consequent magma crystallization, evolution and eventually degassing, are crucial in controlling the variability of eruptive styles.

Understanding the main characteristics of volcanic activity in terms of style, timing, physical processes and evolution is the key for developing a comprehensive, quantitative assessment of volcanic hazards and for the definition of the range of expected eruptive scenarios at an active volcano. In order to get this complex picture, the volcanic system should be considered in its entireness as a complex system in which the processes controlling the different parts concur to regulate its general behavior. For this reason, various approaches should be combined in order to unravel the complex interplay among the zone of storage, the shallow plumbing system connecting a volcanic system to the surface, the volcanic edifice and the variability of the deposits emplaced during eruptions. The knowledge of location, internal geometry, and history of a volcanic system thus represents the basis for the interpretation of the modalities of magma eruption to the surface. Therefore, when dealing with these aspects, an exhaustive study of the whole volcano should be initially planned, with the goal of being largely representative of the different processes which

regulated its history. Field studies, physical characterization and petrological investigations on ongoing eruptions or on past volcanic products can be a powerful and effective tool to investigate the main features of the volcanic system and its variation in time and in space (Fig. 1). These data offer the frame for the interpretation of the geophysical and geochemical signals collected at selected volcanic areas, during quiescent periods, episodes of unrest or eruptions. They serve to define a reliable model for the interpretation of the modalities of reactivation and for the expected variability of eruption styles at active volcanoes.

When studying the products of the past activity of a volcano, collection of data of very different types (age, composition, sedimentological features of the deposits, etc.) can be generally carried out at two different scales:

- At the scale of the whole volcano history, by collecting data on the different products emplaced through time, in order to gain insights into the temporal evolution of the volcano and its deep and shallow plumbing systems;
- At the scale of single eruptions, by looking at the products of selected events to reconstruct in detail the evolution of magma reservoir(s), the processes of reactivation and the dynamics of the eruption.

In this chapter we will discuss the different types of approach suggested for defining the evolution of a volcanic system and its general eruptive behavior, using information derived from field volcanology, physical characterization of eruptions and petrology studies. We will discuss first the rationale for the two different scales of observations described above, and the set of field studies and physical data needed to collect different sets of information. This part will be preliminary to the presentation and discussion of the methods used in modern petrology aimed at enlarging our knowledge of volcanic system evolution and behavior. The main objective of this

chapter is to illustrate how the direct knowledge of a single volcanic system is fundamental for understanding its activity and evolution so as to reach a robust assessment of volcanic hazards. The use of data from "analogue" volcanoes worldwide can be useful to derive a first order range of expected styles of activity at a given volcano, but should never substitute specific, focussed research on the volcano of interest.

# Reconstructing the evolution of a volcanic system

The main processes which control the life and evolution of a volcanic system are well recorded in the physico-chemical features of the erupted products and in the sedimentological and volcanological characteristics of its erupted products. For this reason, the study of the deposits of past eruptions is a pre-requisite for gaining an in depth understanding of the internal structure of the volcanic system. Eruptive history can be reconstructed through collection of a complex set of information on the products of past eruptions, the time-progression of activity, and the phases of morphological and structural evolution of the volcanic edifice. The basic dataset is composed by geological, volcanological, geochemical and petrological data. The reconstruction of the tectonic setting also allows to frame the volcanic activity in a general picture explaining its evolution with time, the composition of involved magmas and the frequency and type of activity (Crisp, 1984; Wilson, 2007).

#### Geological mapping and stratigraphic studies

Geological mapping of a volcanic area gives the fundamental framework for interpreting the temporal evolution of the activity and the most important changes in the structure of a volcanic system (Groppelli and Viereck-Goette, 2010). This type of studies should be still considered as a forefront topic, although in the past decade very few resources (both human and economic) have

been dedicated to this activity. Moreover, although geological maps exist for various active, quiescent or inactive volcanoes, many of them have been traced in the past using mainly a petrological approach or old volcanological concepts (i.e. in many maps pyroclastic products are often described and grouped under the general, lithological term of 'tuffs', without further information useful to derive their genetic or depositional processes). A complete revision of these maps should be still considered as a priority. For this reason, the production of geological maps in volcanic areas should be addressed toward the compilation of real "volcanological" maps, in which deposits and products are presented and described under a volcanological perspective, with legends and stratigraphic or structural schemes which maximize information on the volcanic evolution. Introduction of unconformity bounded stratigraphic units (UBSU) derived from sequence stratigraphy has been for example proposed at Italian volcanoes by several authors to summarize the volcano evolution, although lithostratigraphic units remain the best way to report and describe the geology of a volcanic area (Groppelli and Viereck-Goette, 2010 and refs. therein). Structural geology data should always complement volcanological maps, as they represent an indispensable piece of information, especially at active volcanoes, to understand their past dynamics as well the expected behavior during future episodes of unrest (Acocella 2007, 2014; Azzaro et al., 2012; Cembrano and Lara, 2009; Tibaldi et al., 2003). Mapping of volcanic areas strongly relies on the reconstruction of a detailed reference stratigraphic sequence, which is a complex and timeconsuming task to achieve (Fig. 2; Marti et al., 2018, and refs. therein). This can be acquired only through an extended, detailed field survey of the entire pile of emplaced deposits. In large volcanic areas, with activity from different centers (at local or regional scale), the identification of clearly defined stratigraphic markers in the succession is a primary task, which can be used to correlate the activity of the different volcanic centers and to define the temporal evolution of the activity. In

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some cases, stratigraphic data can be integrated with those derived from distal and ultra-distal sites (both marine, lacustrine and terrestrial) where tephra beds are recollected, identified and dated (Pyle et al., 2006; Matthews et al., 2012; Engwell et al., 2014). Only in a few cases, such as at frequently erupting volcanoes in inhabited areas and with a long-lasting written tradition, eyewitnesses' accounts are useful to reconstruct the most recent period of activity and to fill in possible gaps in the stratigraphic sequence related to small-scale eruptions with scarce deposition and/or preservation. The preservation potential for the deposits of past eruptions in fact strongly varies as a function of the general dispersal, thickness and grain-size of the deposits of each eruption (roughly correlated to the intensity and magnitude; Pyle, 2015), and on climate, that may enhance rapid weathering and erosion also of very recent deposits. Moreover, a volcanic area is a highly dynamic morphological system in which short periods of deposition alternate with prolonged periods of erosion and landscape reshaping (Collins and Dunne, 1986; Nemeth and Cronin, 2007; Thouret, 1999). In many cases, the time for the latter is order of magnitudes longer than that during which eruptions occur and products accumulate. These discontinuous dynamics are also amplified by the large variability of frequency and magnitude (considered as proxies for the volume of erupted products) of the eruptions, with the largest, low-frequency events being generally best recorded in the stratigraphic sequence and preserved also in distal sequences with respect to the more frequent, smaller events, mostly dispersed in the proximal sectors of the volcano. All these factors may result in a partial, incomplete geological record of the past activity and need to be carefully evaluated when trying to reconstruct a detailed history of a volcanic system (Brown et al., 2014; Newhall and Self, 1982).

# Geochronological studies

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Radiometric dating of the deposits is an essential tool that should always accompany the stratigraphic reconstruction, giving an absolute measure of the timing for the different processes (e.g., eruptions, magma evolution, edifice building). A detailed, high resolution dataset (both in terms of precision of age determination and number of dated events) is vital, as it can reveal different trends in the activity, such as temporal clustering of eruptions, or variability of frequency with time (Fig. 3). Geochronological data are strongly unevenly distributed between the different volcanoes worldwide, and totally lacking at many important active volcanic systems, especially in remote areas (Simkin et al., 1981). In most cases, available absolute ages derive from inhomogeneous datasets obtained with different techniques and at different laboratories, often resulting in discordant results. In addition, many available geochronological datasets suffer from a lack of systematic sampling approach with respect to the eruptive history. Time-related reconstructions at the scale of the entire volcanic system should be planned together with geological mapping and stratigraphic investigations, in order to systematize data collection.

#### Physical characterization of eruptions

Physical characterization of volcanic eruptions should strongly rely on the basic geologic information at the scale of the volcano. These studies involve detailed stratigraphic reconstructions of the deposits of single eruptions, as well as their areal dispersal and the derivation of the main physical parameters which can help eruption classification and understanding of the main processes acting during eruptions (Bonadonna et al., 2015, 2016; Carey and Sparks, 1986; Mastin et al., 2009). At the scale of the whole volcanic system, deposit studies are fundamental to assess the variability of the eruption scenarios shown by the volcanic system in its history (Table 1; Cioni et al., 2008). Together with the information from absolute dating and the time evolution of the volcanic activity (both at short and long time-scales), these combined datasets represent the basic

source to prepare informed and reliable hazard maps and emergency plans. In the recent years, the definition of event trees for the expected evolution of the activity at a given volcano (Newhall and Hoblitt, 2002) has become a common practice in volcanology. This type of theoretical scheme, which summarizes the expected progression of events before a volcanic crisis, is more robust if elaborated with a case-by-case approach, using all the geological and volcanological information available at a given volcanic system (Neri et al., 2008; Marti et al., 2008).

#### Petrology and geochemistry of erupted products

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Petrology and geochemistry of erupted products represent other important aspects to be explored in order to get a complete view of a volcanic system and of its evolution. To depict exhaustively magmatic evolution with time, these data should derive from a systematic collection deeply based on the volcanological and geochronological framework built for that system. This is not the case for data currently available at many volcanoes worldwide, that often suffer problems of underrating of specific phases of activity. Petrological and geochemical studies, coupled with experimental constraints (see sections below), give first order information about the depth of the different parts of the magma storage system and its possible migration with time (e.g., Gardner et al., 1995; Scaillet et al., 2008). They can also allow to define the conditions of magma stalling, crystallization and evolution at depth, or they can inform about the modalities of pre- and syneruptive magma ascent to surface (Blundy and Cashman, 2008; Rutherford, 2008). The reconstruction of the evolution of a volcanic system gives the possibility to understand the overall compositional variability shown by the products and to frame their temporal progression. In many cases, it is possible to define cycles of volcano evolution associated to differences in the composition of the erupted magma (Fig. 4). Important information on the depth of the different portions of the volcanic system and on the interaction between magma and host rocks can also be

derived from the petro-mineralogical study of lithic fragments ejected during the different explosive events (Di Rocco et al., 2012; Fulignati et al., 2004). Similarly, deep-derived nodules are often found in lavas or pyroclastics, opening a window onto source mechanisms of magma generation, migration and fragmentation at a specific volcano. All these aspects will be discussed in detail in a following section.

Important data on eruption processes and eruptive dynamics can be extracted from the

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## **Studying single-eruption sequences**

detailed study of the products erupted during single eruptions. In this case, the indispensable dataset is represented by the accurate description of the sequence of eruptive products, acquired through detailed stratigraphic, sedimentological and laboratory analyses of the deposits. Different problematics arise in the study of the products of effusive vs. explosive eruptions. Effusive eruptions are generally characterized by the occurrence, often contemporaneous, of lava emission and small-scale explosive activity. Unless in the presence of direct observations of the eruption, the stratigraphic relationships between the products of these two types of activity are often not simple to resolve in the field, due to different dispersal and, often, to the multi-vent character of these eruptions. Sample collection from lava flows, lava flow fields or lava domes is generally less problematic with respect to pyroclastic material due to the generally narrower, more regular dispersal. However, while in pyroclastic products it is generally straightforward to recognize directly in the field the sequence of deposition (and hence eruption) of the deposits, this can be very difficult in complex, long-lasting, often multi-vent past effusive eruptions. Beside this, samples representative of the entire course of the effusive activity can be very difficult to obtain, as magma erupted during the first phases of an effusion can become rapidly inaccessible, unless

they are preserved (and still recognizable) at specific locations in the flow, such as at the front or along the lateral levees.

Explosive eruptions often result in a complex sequence of deposits, in terms of type (tephra fall, pyroclastic density currents, etc.), dispersal and stratigraphic relationships. Detailed stratigraphy is the first step to trace time and space evolutions of the different deposits, These studies are also the base for the preparation of tephra dispersal maps (isopach, isopleth maps) for the different deposits that can be used to define several extensive (e.g., volume and mass of erupted magma, amount of xenolithic material) and intensive parameters (e.g., plume height, mass flow rate, clast ejection velocity, velocity and dynamic pressure of pyroclastic density currents) of the eruption (Carey and Sigurdsson, 1986; Cioni et al., 2000; Pistolesi et al., 2015, 2017; Todde et al., 2017). The knowledge of all these parameters enables a parameterization of the different types of eruptions which occurred during the life of a volcanic system, thus allowing to relate eruption dynamics with the general features of the volcanic system (magma composition and rheology, rates of magma feeding and evolution, depth and size of magma reservoirs). For an active volcano, this dataset can be successfully used to the assess a range of representative eruption scenarios, to understand its general style of activity (and time evolution) and to build an effective hazard assessment framework (Tab. 1; Cioni et al., 2008).

#### Sampling strategies for pyroclastic deposits

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The collection of a large set of representative samples for different types of explosive eruptions commonly needs a combination of preparatory studies to be carried out (e.g., selection of the outcrops, sampling strategy). The choice of sampling strategy should always be preceded by a preliminary characterization of the stratigraphy, dispersal, thickness variation and volume of the eruption (e.g., Fisher and Schmincke, 1984; Cas and Wright, 1987; Thordarson et al., 2009;

Gurioli et al., 2015). Volcanic plumes which form during explosive eruptions are in fact complex systems and their properties do not vary linearly with the main eruption parameters. The external variables such as wind direction and velocity add further complexity to the tephra sedimentation (i.e. clast-type distribution). Particularly when dealing with recent or ongoing eruptions, sampling should be preceded by an accurate field analysis of the deposits. On this basis, the strategy should consider deposit variability and key locations which synthesize the whole eruptive sequence. Once defined the suitable outcrop(s), an inspection of the base-to-top variability is needed to assess syneruptive wind direction or eruption intensity changes. In case of important lithologic and sedimentologic vertical variability (e.g., grain-size, color, density/vesicularity, general morphology, vesicle shape and crystallinity) at the outcrop scale, the identification of different layers is needed prior to collection, eventually sampling each tephra layer at different equivalent locations rather than collecting all samples at a single outcrop (Fig. 5). This is because sedimentation from volcanic plumes is affected by clast size, shape and density (Bonadonna et al., 1998; Pfeiffer et al., 2005; Barsotti et al., 2008; Eychenne et al., 2013), and thus single exposure sampling may affect relative proportions within the deposit of the sampled material which can vary with distance from the vent. While the textural and sedimentological clast variability can be studied at a single outcrop, the relative proportions between the different components of the deposit should be investigated across the whole deposit dispersal by integrating outcrops and sampling at different distances from the vent. Variability of juvenile clasts can be related to inhomogeneous magmatic sources (mixing/mingling processes) or to different syn-eruptive conditions of degassing and crystallization. Sampling is thus particularly crucial when dealing with petrological investigations, which should ensure the representativeness of the collected juvenile fractions for analytical studies

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as well as low to absent alteration degree. In the presence of a large variability of juvenile clasts, sampling should be followed by componentry analysis of the clasts population in order to obtain homogenous sub-sets of samples before further analyses (e.g., sample grinding for powders, thin sections). The accurate analysis of proximal deposits can reveal the presence of important, although thin and often poorly dispersed, deposits related to the opening phases of the eruption. The sampling and study of the products of these phases can give important insights into the mechanisms triggering the eruption and accompanying the onset of magma ascent to the surface (Cioni et al., 2000; Sulpizio et al., 2010), as well as the complex processes of magma-rock interaction during the final upward migration of the feeder dyke (Pistolesi et al., 2015).

#### Componentry of pyroclastic deposits

Pyroclastic deposits are characterized by the presence of clasts derived from the fragmentation of a range of products of different sources, which are distinguished as juvenile and accessory, xenolithic material (Fisher and Schmincke, 1984). Juvenile material represents the magma actively driving the eruption, and most of the petrologic studies are obviously performed on this type of material. The detailed examination of the different types of clasts present in the products of a pyroclastic eruptions can be an incredibly prolific source of information on the different processes affecting magma during an eruption. Microanalytical and textural studies of the fragments are useful to identify the final processes of magma ascent and have been largely used also to indirectly derive the rates of magma ascent, degassing and crystallization (Cashman, 1992; Cashman and Blundy, 2000). Identification of juvenile clasts with different composition in a same eruption, even at a same stratigraphic level or within a single clast, are fundamental to characterize pre-eruptive states of the magma, the existence of compositional gradients in the magma reservoir and the temporal sequence of magma extraction during an eruption.

During eruption, or under pre-eruption conditions, changes in the final composition of the melt phase can be induced by complex processes such as crystallization, assimilation of country rocks, or mixing among different magmatic melts. Magma mixing is often suggested as one of the most common triggers of eruptive activity (Sparks et al., 1978).

If juvenile material is the main, direct source of data about the state of the magma before an eruption, accessory material (accidental or cognate clasts; Fisher and Schmincke, 1984) brings precious information about rocks hosting the volcanic system (contact portions of the reservoir, conduit, crater area) and all kinds of interaction between magma and the host rocks (metasomatic and thermo-metamorphic rocks from the magma reservoir/host rock shell, different kinds of magma cumulates). In case of large eruptions, the combined study of stratigraphy and componentry of the deposits is also used to estimate the dimension of the eruptive magma conduit/crater system and the timing for caldera collapse that may eventually occur.

#### Internal variability in the products of an effusive eruption

Differently from pyroclastic deposits, the products of effusive activity are almost completely dominated by juvenile magma; mafic lavas are generally strongly homogeneous, mainly due to the low viscosity (also after near complete degassing of the magma) that favors a rapid hybridization of different melts in mixed systems or the rapid disappearance of internal compositional gradients. In such cases, information of the interaction of the magma with different melts is only preserved in the phenocryst population, that can give first-hand information on the physical and chemical conditions of magma evolution. In particular cases, the low viscosity of mafic magmas can result in high ascent rates to the surface, and the ensuing lava flows are characterized by the presence of high-density, crystal-rich, mafic nodules of different size (from mm- up to dm-sized) that may give information both on deep-seated crystallization processes or even on the mantle source.

Effusive activity of silicic magmas, forming lava domes or poorly mobile flows (coulées, tholoids, obsidian flows, etc.), often results in more heterogeneous products, as the high viscosity of the melt-crystal system tends to preserve traces of any interaction of the magma with other melts or rocks, and to show physical mingling instead of chemical hybridization between different magmatic melts with contrasting rheological features. In this case, it is very common to observe a variety of enclaves (Bacon, 1986) that reveal, with their composition and texture, the origin and dynamics of mixing at depth.

## Petrological constraints to magma genesis and evolution

The journey of magmas from the mantle source to the surface can be very complex owing to the heterogeneity of the lithosphere and the variability of tectonic regime (Cashman et al., 2017; Scandone et al., 2007). Direct evidence of the geometry and extension of volcanic plumbing systems are mainly derived from geological investigations carried out on ancient dissected volcanic centers or exhumed crustal sections. High resolution seismic profiles or crustal tomography can also provide a variably detailed picture of the extension and complexities of the plumbing system. These methods in most cases provide only a static representation of the spatial complexity of the plumbing system and notwithstanding recent advances on 4D seismic tomography, quite often fail in detailing the physico-chemical parameters at work. More generally, geophysical information is restricted to eruptions that have occurred in the last decades (i.e. accompanying the deployment of geophysical networks). Conversely, a basic assumption of petrological investigations is that compositional and textural variability revealed by petrological methods reflects changes in physical (e.g., pressure, temperature) and chemical (e.g. fO<sub>2</sub>) parameters during magma ascent, storage and eruption.

Information on the pre-or syn-eruptive evolution of magmas is generally preserved in their compositional and textural features. For example, crystals and melts provide information about cooling, crystallization, contamination and mixing history, vesicles and melts on volatile content and degassing dynamics.

Whatever the research approach used (at the scale of the entire volcano, or restricted to single eruption sequences), petrological studies should be applied to the products in order to extract information on the main processes that controlled magma genesis and evolution, as well as to define the main compositional differences of the erupted products.

In general, key information about the magmatic system that petrology can provide include:

- The nature and the composition of the magma source;
- The physical and chemical conditions of magmatic processes;
- The dynamics of magmatic processes;

- The timescales for magma crystallization and degassing.

To obtain the above information, volcanologists collect petrological and textural data on natural rocks and their components and interpret these data on the basis of experiments and thermodynamic/physical models.

#### The nature and composition of the magma source

Nature and composition of the magma source are mainly investigated via isotope geochemistry on primitive melts and/or on deep-seated xenoliths entrained upward by the magma. Texture and mineral assemblage of xenoliths, once modifications occurring during ascent are filtered out, bear evidence of the nature of the source (Armienti et al., 2013, Corsaro et al., 2009b, Pichavant et al., 2009, Wright & Klein, 2006). By definition, primitive melts are close to the composition of melts in equilibrium with the mantle mineralogy. Criteria for recognizing the

attainment of the equilibrium are based on the  $K_d$  of melt-olivine equilibria, assuming that olivine with Fo<sub>90</sub> is the fundamental component of a residual peridotite. Primitive melts are rare and recognizable as melt inclusions (MIs) trapped in mafic minerals as olivine or pyroxene (Grove et al., 2002; O'Hara & Herzberg, 2002; Pichavant et al., 2002, 2011; Schiano, 2003; Asimow et al., 2004; Green et al., 2004; Smith & Leeman, 2005; Streck et al., 2007).

In most central volcanoes, primitive melts reach the surface only if the characteristic time of transport/ascent through the crust is short enough (highly buoyant magmas) that stopover, cooling or crystallization in the crust are reduced and interaction or mixing with shallow residing magmas is limited (Corsaro & Pompilio 2004a; Coltelli et al. 2005; Kamenetsky et al. 2007).

At some volcanoes (e.g., Etna, Teide or Pantelleria) these conditions are more easily met during flank eruptions, when feeder dykes bypass the central plumbing system. Radiogenic isotopic ratios (Sr, Nd and Pb systematics) and ratios between stable isotopes of noble elements (e.g. Helium) carry information on the geochemical evolution and modification of the source (e.g. metasomatism) since these ratios are not modified during melting, crystallization or degassing (Tonarini et al., 2001; Francalanci et al., 2004, 2007; Tommasini et al., 2007; Pietruszka et al., 2015; Corsaro & Métrich, 2016; Di Renzo et al., 2018). The knowledge of the composition of primitive magmas that feed crustal reservoirs and of their variability in time is crucial for determining the compositional evolution of crustal reservoirs.

## Defining physical and chemical parameters of magmatic processes

At almost every stage of magma migration through the crust, cooling and crystallization can take place to some extent. If crystals are preserved in the erupted magma, the whole history can be deciphered and physical and chemical parameters relevant to magmatic processes estimated (Jerram et al., 2018). In the scientific literature of the last 40 years, thermodynamic modeling of

phase equilibria between liquid, gas and solid phases has been largely employed to estimate pressure and temperature at which magmatic processes occur (Ghiorso & Sack, 1995; Ghiorso & Gualda, 2015; Gualda et al., 2012). This important advancement has been possible thanks to the large improvement of microanalytical techniques, that allowed the accurate compositional and textural analysis of single phases at a spatial resolution of few microns, and to a wealth of new experiments on natural and synthetic materials allowing a fine tuning of general models, and their application to the knowledge of the plumbing system of a single volcano. A huge number of case-histories appearing in the scientific literature can be cited, however the best and more accurate results are those derived from the study of the products of volcanoes that erupted frequently or during long periods in the last decades (e.g., Etna, Kilauea, Stromboli, Piton de la Fournaise, Mt. Saint Helens, Monserrat) or those for which detailed field studies allowed to reconstruct with a good approximation single key eruptions (e.g., Vesuvius, Santorini) or a large part of the eruptive history (Putirka, 1997; Corsaro & Pompilio, 2004b; Del Carlo & Pompilio, 2004; Corsaro et al., 2007, 2009a, 2012, 2014; Peltier et al., 2009; Mollo et al., 2015; Giacomoni et al., 2016, Perinelli et al., 2016; Di Renzo et al., 2018). Pressure and temperature of magma evolution often derive from accurate studies of fluid and MI, as testified by a huge literature starting from the seminal work of Roedder (1979) up to the recent reviews of Kent (2008), Métrich and Wallace (2008) and Moore (2008). In particular, MIs trapped in crystals in equilibrium with the magma driving the eruption can preserve their history of crystallization, recording the temporal variation of the composition and volatile content of magma and giving also the possibility to measure the trapping temperature (Roedder, 1979; Lowenstern, 2001). Volatile content of MI has been often used for estimating the minimum pressure of crystallization, assuming volatile saturation in the melt, so allowing to reconstruct the possible geometry of a plumbing system (e.g.,

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Pamucku et al., 2015; Métrich et al., 2010; Fig. 6). MI studies must be always accompanied by detailed petrological investigations in order to shed light on the significance of the different hosting phases, and on the possible post-entrapment changes of the melt by host crystallization, MI maturation and degassing, or melt-crystal diffusion (Nielsen et al, 1998).

Once assessed where the magma is stored within the crust, it is essential to understand what

#### Dynamics of magmatic processes

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happens within these stable or short-lived magmatic reservoirs, if some interaction occurs with the host rocks, if and in which proportion magmas mix together or with assimilated crustal material, and if liquid, solid or gas phases separate or accumulate. Classical methods embrace compositional investigations on bulk rocks or on single phases, using information derived from radiogenic isotopes and trace elements. Some examples include recent eruptions or eruptive periods of well-known volcanoes (Pompilio et al., 2011; Meletlidis et al., 2012; Troll et al., 2012; Marti et al., 2013; Longpré et al., 2014; Del Moro et al., 2015, Meletlidis et al., 2015, Di Renzo et al., 2018). Textural analyses including both descriptive (e.g., habitus, shape) and quantitative information derived from crystal or vesicle size distributions have been also largely employed, in most of active volcanoes, thanks to the tremendous recent development of image analysis techniques. A combined textural and compositional analysis of fine-grained pyroclasts (ash and lapilli) can give clues on magmatic processes within the plumbing system, such as crystallization and degassing (Hammer et al., 1999, 2000; Blundy and Cashman, 2001; Taddeucci et al., 2004; Schiavi et al., 2006, 2010; D'Oriano et al., 2011; Pompilio et al., 2017). A new original and promising approach at the scale of single crystals is the system analysis (Fig. 7) introduced by Kahl et al. (2011). The basic assumption is that the growth of a sector of a

crystal records the crystallization process within a given magmatic environment. A magmatic

environment (ME) can be generally defined as a portion of the magmatic plumbing system (not only restricted to the magma reservoir) characterized by a distinctive set of intensive thermodynamic variables (e.g., temperature, pressure, melt composition, water content, and oxygen fugacity). Considering that crystal growth occurs sequentially from core to rim, it can be assumed that the compositions at the rim record the latest magmatic environment while the inner sectors record progressively older environments. Thus, the chemical stratigraphy recorded in the compositional zoning patterns can be used to track the evolution of different magma batches through distinct magmatic environments. However, the interpretation of the patterns of zoning within crystals of the same eruption is not simple, but a system analysis plot (Fig. 7) can clarify the relationships between diverse magmatic environments.

#### Timescales for magma crystallization and degassing

Most of intensive thermodynamic variables (e.g., pressure, temperature, volatile content and composition) pertaining to magmatic environments are derived assuming equilibrium conditions and ignoring the kinetics of the processes. In this way, the temporal information that can work as "sync-signal" between petrology and other geophysical signals, is missing. Only in the last two decades, the "re-discovery" of the kinetics of magmatic processes has allowed to obtain robust and precise estimation of timescales, allowing correlation between different signals. Such new petrological techniques include crystal and vesicle size distributions, multi-element diffusion chronometry, and measurements of short-lived isotopes (Hawkesworth et al., 2004; Cooper and Kent, 2014; Petrone et al., 2014).

Information on the kinetics of the crystallization or degassing derived by crystal or bubble size distributions have been largely employed to obtain the timescales of storage and ascent of magmas.

After the precursory work of Marsh (1988), these techniques have been applied to several

volcanoes with different compositions and mineral assemblages (Cashman and Marsh, 1988; Mangan, 1990; Cashman, 1992; Hammer et al., 1999; Zieg & Marsh, 2002; Taddeucci et al., 2004; Zellemer et al., 2005; Higgins, 1996; 2006; Armienti, 2008; Salisbury et al., 2008; Higgins & Roberge, 2007; Morgan et al., 2007a; Proussevitch et al., 2007; Fornaciai et al., 2015; Jerram et al., 2018). In order to recover accurate temporal information from a quantitative textural analysis it is necessary to have a robust estimate of kinetic parameters such as growth and nucleation rates and their relationships with pressure, temperature, undercooling and composition (Armienti, 2008). Similarly, the modeling of the diffusive modification of zoning profiles in mineral provides information on the timescale of melt transfer through the plumbing system. For this reason, diffusion modeling is being increasingly used to obtain timescales of individual magmatic processes or sequences of processes. Early applications include the study of eruption of Vesuvius, Santorini, Etna, Mount St. Helens, and most of them include correlation with geophysical signals useful for volcano hazard monitoring (Zellmer et al., 1999, 2003, 2005; Morgan et al., 2007b; Kahl et al., 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017; Charlier et al., 2012; Druitt et al., 2012; Marti et al., 2013; Chamberlain et al., 2014; Albert et al., 2015, 2016).

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# Experimental constraints on volcano evolution and eruption dynamics

As explained above, the petrological study of erupted products can give invaluable information about processes occurring at depth and about the nature of magmas involved in the eruptive mechanisms. In order to correlate such an information with physical inferences made from the study of volcanic deposits it is essential, however, that the petrological information is placed into a robust and quantitative pressure-temperature framework. This is the reason for carrying out experiments in the laboratory, whose prime aim is the replication of essential petrological

attributes which are preserved by juvenile material ejected during the eruption, under carefully controlled intensive parameters (P, T, volatiles etc.). It is therefore vital that experimental efforts come only when an in-depth field and petrological knowledge is available, so that the laboratory work is performed on relevant and representative rock types and under naturally constrained physical conditions.

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Experiments that can be done are of various sort: (1) phase equilibria, (2) volatile solubilities, (3) mixing/interaction experiments, (4) decompression experiments, and (5) measurements of physical properties of rocks and magmas. All these experiments are done for durations which can be very short compared to the timescales attending the construction of volcanic edifices: typically, a stratovolcano building may last several 100 kyrs, a period mirroring that of the reservoir lying below, while experiments are carried for durations varying between minutes/hours at high temperature (>1000°C) up to several weeks in the low end of the terrestrial temperature silicate magmas spectrum (ca 600°C). Yet, fortunately for that matter, pre-eruptive or syn-eruptive phenomena often occur on short time scales, i.e. they can, for the most part, be directly simulated by laboratory experiments under the right P-T conditions and using the natural magma as starting material. Asides from the selection of starting material, in order to be relevant to the natural context, experiments need to be carried out in the correct order: first, phase equilibria which set in the general scene, in particular the broad P-T field of magma storage and evolution, and then the dynamic experiments simulating the (i.e., decompression, mixing, process assimilation/contamination/interaction).

## P-T conditions of magma evolution: phase equilibrium studies

The most common as well as standard approach of experimental petrology studies includes the elaboration of phase relationships at various pressure, temperature and volatile contents. This approach defines the stability fields of the major and minor mineral phases as a function of P, T and melt volatile content (Fig. 8). These data are fundamentally aimed at testing to what extent crystal-liquid equilibria were prevailing in the reservoir prior to eruption, and they allow setting the so-called pre-eruptive conditions. When such an approach is successful, i.e. when experiments can define a range of P-T-volatiles conditions under which the nature, proportion and composition of main phases (including liquid/glass) are reproduced, then it is reasonable to conclude that before eruption the reservoir was at or near equilibrium. Conversely, inability to reproduce the phenocrysts assemblage under a "reasonable" set of P-T-volatiles conditions likely points to disequilibrium, whose cause could be occurrence of magma mixing or coexistence of various phenocrysts having precipitated at different conditions (generally depth/pressure, or temperature) before eruption.

Application of the above approach on well selected eruptions (and samples) produced by a single volcano allows one to infer the time evolution of magma storage conditions (Fig. 8). This is crucial since geophysical surveys can only probe the present-day state of the plumbing system, which is the integrated result of all events having occurred so far. The working out of the pre-eruptive conditions of the last event is likely to inform about the state of the reservoir most closely approaching that of present-day conditions, except if the repose time since that event is very long. Not all magmas erupted allow robust estimates via phase equilibrium data to be extracted however, since that method depends on the variance (number of different phases) of the system under consideration. An extreme case is provided by an aphyric lava or obsidian in which the lack of phenocrysts prevents the simple test of crystal-liquid equilibrium. Also, some compositions are saturated with the same phase assemblage over a large range of P-T-volatiles conditions, making such an approach relatively imprecise. In such a case, the search for melt-inclusions trapped in

phenocrysts provides a powerful assist to the definition of pre-eruption conditions, as explained below. In general, however, the phase equilibrium approach has proved to be very useful in providing first order P-T-volatile conditions on a number of reference volcanoes as Mt. St. Helens (Rutherford et al., 1985; Gardner et al., 1995), Mt Pelée (Martel et al., 1998; Pichavant et al., 2002), Vesuvius (Scaillet et al., 2008; Pichavant et al., 2014), Santorini (Cottrell et al., 1999, Cadoux et al., 2015; Andujar et al., 2015, 2016), Tungurahua (Andujar et al., 2017), Pinatubo (Scaillet and Evans, 1999).

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Phase equilibria provide not only a consistent picture of the stability of different phases but they also furnish fundamental data on crystal-crystal or crystal-melt equilibrium partitioning for some key elements (Fe, Mg, Cl, F etc.). Firstly, these allow to evaluate for each crystal pair or isolated individual the equilibrium status with respect to its immediate surrounding. Secondly, combined with thermodynamic principles, these data allow derivation of a variety of hygro-oxythermo-barometers which allow to further refine the determination of intensive parameters. The Fe-Ti oxide oxythermometer is certainly one of the most popular and accurate crystal-crystal equilibrium (e.g., Andersen and Lindsley, 1993; Ghiorso and Evans, 2008; Evans et al., 2016) which calculates temperature to perhaps better than 20-30°C and fO<sub>2</sub> to within 0.3 log units. Another similarly powerful and accurate assemblage is the two-feldspars thermometer (e.g., Fuhrman and Lindsley, 1988). The plagioclase-liquid hygrometer has been shown to be of great assist for inferring dissolved water content of pre- to syn-eruptive melt (Waters and Lange, 2015). Amphibole composition also varies widely as a function of phase assemblage, melt composition and P-T-fO<sub>2</sub>-fH<sub>2</sub>O conditions, which has led to many empirical parametrizations (e.g., Johnson and Rutherford, 1989; Ridolfi et al., 2010; Putirka, 2016). Apatite, which is a ubiquitous accessory mineral in magmas, is being increasingly used as a monitor of melt volatile contents, the focus being on halogens and sulfur species (e.g., Parat and Holtz, 2005; Webster and Piccoli, 2015). Whenever possible, combination of phase relationships with crystal-crystal and crystal-liquid partitioning, as well as with MI data, should be the strategy of choice to provide robust constraints on the conditions of magma evolution and storage.

#### Constraints to magma degassing: volatile solubilities

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This part represents an important strand of the experimental approach, owing to the strong pressure dependence of volatiles concentration in silicate melts with pressure, and the important role that volatiles play in driving volcanic eruptions. Since the early developments of experimental petrology, determining the solubilities of H<sub>2</sub>O and CO<sub>2</sub>, the two most abundant species of magmatic gases, has been a priority for the community (e.g., Blank et al 1993; Dixon et al., 1995; Lesne et al., 2011; Shiskhina et al., 2014). These works have largely shown that water solubility is much greater than that of CO<sub>2</sub> (Fig. 9a), hence the exsolution of the two species varies widely with pressure and the bulk of water is exsolved from the silicate liquid at much lower pressure than that of CO<sub>2</sub>. While the compositional control on volatile solubilities is demonstrable, it remains relatively small for water but appreciable for CO<sub>2</sub>. Experimental data gathered over the last three decades have allowed the development of multicomponent solubility models (e.g., Newman and Lowenstern, 2002; Papale et al., 2006; Burgisser et al., 2015) whose prime use is the determination of the pressure of magma-gas saturation as a function of dissolved H<sub>2</sub>O and CO<sub>2</sub> contents (Anderson et al., 1989). Application of these models to MIs enables one to calculate minimum pressures for those melt aliquots, which can be compared with pressures inferred from phase equilibrium considerations or geophysical constraints. Refinement of this method includes the incorporation of other volatile species, in particular SO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>S (e.g., Moretti et al., 2003; Clemente et al., 2004; Lesne et al., 2015) or halogens (Alletti et al., 2012). In general, however,

the partial pressures of H<sub>2</sub>O and CO<sub>2</sub> represent more than 90% of the total pressure. An important output of volatile solubilities, in particular of the so-called minor species (S-bearing species and halogens), is that they impose limits on absolute quantities of volatile species that a given silicate melt may dissolve. Knowing such a limit allows for the determination of the magma volume implied at depth to sustain gas emissions measured during an eruptive period, either effusive or explosive. This is, however, possible only when there is no excess gas phase (bubble) in the reservoir. Bubbles may indeed store a dominant part of some volatile species (C- and S-bearing): the use of S or C fluxes measured at the surface in terms of magma mass stored at depth would require knowing the amount of bubbles in the reservoir, a quantity notoriously difficult to estimate (e.g., Wallace et al., 1995, Papale, 2005).

The determination of volatile solubilities allows also for the calculation of gas composition at equilibrium with the magma either in the reservoir (Scaillet and Pichavant, 2003) or during its upraise toward the surface (Burgisser and Scaillet, 2007). This application offers potentially a powerful tool for the interpretation of volcanic gas compositions measured at the surface in active volcanic areas (Fig. 9b). It is indeed well documented that fluctuations in gas compositions occur prior or during eruptions (e.g., Allard et al., 2005; Burton et al., 2007; Aiuppa et al., 2010; Oppenheimer et al., 2011; Burgisser et al., 2012), but the interpretation in terms of processes still remains elusive. Changes in gas composition with eruptive style are apparent in many cases, yet the real challenge is the detection of precursor gas signals related to unrest phases. A quantitative as well as predictive use of such an approach, requires the modelling of gas-melt equilibria but also gas-melt-crystal equilibria as crystals can hold a significant amount of volatile species (sulfides, sulfates, brines). It also requires integrating the effect of aquifers which can scrub out soluble species from the uprising gas (SO<sub>2</sub> in particular, or HCl), therefore altering the surface

signal (Symonds et al., 2001). This field is one of very active research, owing to the many parameters intervening, their coupled character as well as feedback effects (Chiodini et al., 2016).

#### Experimental constraints to magma mixing/interaction

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As stated previously, it has been long recognized that mixing is a common process occurring in magmatic reservoirs (Sparks et al., 1978). Mixing can take place between magmas differing widely in composition (and rheological properties) or between compositionally similar endmembers. Regardless, one of the key-controlling factors of mixing efficiency appears to be the viscosity contrast between juxtaposed magmas, mixing being promoted when both end-members share the same viscosity. Another important parameter is density, particularly when magma blending produces density inversion, since this can lead to chamber-wide convection and eruption. Experiments have tackled mixing using a variety of approaches. Firstly, by juxtaposing magmas with contrasted compositions under static conditions and measuring diffusion exchange at their interface for different run durations (Wyllie et al., 1989). This gives insight into the time scales necessary to generate diffusion profiles sometimes observed in quenched mixtures. Secondly, torsion experiments, done mostly at one bar (i.e. under dry conditions), have allowed to explore the role of shear rate across the interface (e.g., Kouchi and Sunagawa et al., 1985; Campos et al., 2011), showing that high shear rates, such as in volcanic conduits, facilitate mixing, even with high viscosity contrast. The geochemical patterns obtained in such high temperature experiments have been also used to infer the contact time between mixed magmas in volcanic products (e.g., Perugini et al., 2008; Rossi et al., 2017). More recently, torsion experiments at high pressure (i.e. with hydrous magmas) have demonstrated that mixing between felsic and mafic magmas in reservoirs (i.e., at low strain rates as compared to that in volcanic conduits) occurs only when the viscosity contrast is null (Fig. 10; Laumonier et al., 2014). These experiments provide constraints on the relative amounts between invading and resident magmas needed to achieve homogeneous mixtures at the hand scale (Fig. 11): the experiments and ensuing calculations show that true hybrids require in general equal amounts of mafic and felsic magmas, a too small amount preventing the production of intermediate magmas in any significant volume. At a somewhat smaller scale, experiments have also investigated the rate of diffusive equilibration of crystals exposed to changing P-T or chemical conditions. As stated above, the preservation of chemical zoning in many phenocrysts (olivine, feldspars, pyroxenes, oxides), and their interpretation in terms of relaxation time scale, offer a powerful tool for gauging the residence times of crystals in magmas. This approach most often concludes to relatively short time scales of attending magmatic processes (i.e. magma recharge) occurring before eruption, from hours to months to decades (e.g., Costa et al., 2003; Druitt et al., 2012).

Experiments can also explore how a magma, once intruded in the crust to build a shallow reservoir, interacts with its surroundings. Of particular interest in the context of volcanic processes is the ingestion by the magma of volatile-rich country rocks. Contamination of the magma by evaporites, carbonates or coal-rich sediments has the potential to liberate a variety of S- and C-species which will add to the initial content of those elements of the magma. Recognition of such a process is important since it affects the interpretation of gas fluxes measured at the surface (e.g., Di Rocco et al., 2012). Whenever this happens, the mass of volatiles expelled cannot be used to make inferences about the amount of the magma source of these emissions, unless isotopic discrimination between magma and host rock volatiles is possible. The contamination process not only affects the volatile budget of the magma but also its redox state which in turn affects gas speciation, with these interactions being progressively able to affect the magma chemical evolution (Iacono-Marziano et al., 2008, 2012). Such an evolution can be in turn correlated to a change of

the plumbing system (nature of the host rock with depth). If good inferences can be made about the host rock (generally by looking at xenoliths carried by the magmas), interaction experiments can thus provide important constraints on the plumbing system and the way it affects magma evolution and its surface manifestations (i.e. gas composition). Fluxing of externally generated volatiles through a magma reservoir can also induce important variations in the volatile solubility of the magma, changing the composition (and partial pressure) of the coexisting fluids (Spilliaert et al., 2005; Dallai et al., 2011).

#### Constraints to the rates of magma ascent: decompression experiments

This category of experiments is obviously the one more closely simulating magma ascent in a conduit. The fundamental parameter that those experiments strive to constrain is the magma ascent rate and its potential variation during the eruptive sequence. Textural features that experiments aim at replicating are crystal and bubble size distributions. Compositional features are primarily microlite compositions and glass volatile contents. For the latter, the contrasted kinetics of volatile species diffusion afford potentially a powerful speedometer. However, given the difficulty in quantitatively analyzing dissolved volatiles in quenched experimental run products, efforts have focused mostly on reproducing bubble (e.g., Mangan and Sisson, 2000; Mourtada-Bonnefoi and Laporte, 2004; Gardner and Ketcham, 2011; Martel and Iacono-Marziano, 2015; Le Gall and Pichavant, 2016) and microlite (e.g., Hammer et al., 1999; Martel, 2012) characteristics. This category of experiments show that it is possible to simulate accurately the texture of volcanic rocks, giving strong confidence on the reliability of the constrained parameter. Ascent rates inferred from such an approach show that the transit time between magma reservoir and the subsurface varies from hours to days, depending on eruptive dynamics and magma composition.

Decompression experiments have the potential to unravel in considerable detail the behavior of volatiles during magma ascent (e.g., Fiege et al., 2015; Le Gall and Pichavant, 2016). This is important because such a knowledge helps to understand not only the physical effects associated to volatile exsolution (i.e. when bubbles nucleate and how they grow) but also the associated chemical effects: the latter arise because of the differing kinetics of volatile species diffusion in silicate melts (Watson, 1994; Baker et al., 2005), slower diffusing species (CO<sub>2</sub>, S-bearing) lagging behind (i.e. remaining within the melt) species with high mobility (H<sub>2</sub>O, H<sub>2</sub>). This diffusive fractionation of volatile species will in turn affect gas composition, that will necessarily differ from the one which can be calculated under the equilibrium assumption, using known solubility laws (Fig. 12). Essentially, gas produced during fast magma ascent will be richer in H<sub>2</sub>O than predicted by equilibrium (Pichavant et al., 2013), though the details of chemical effects associated to decompression still remain largely unexplored. This comparatively new field of research, made possible by the improved performances of laboratory experiments and microanalytical tools (ion probe or infra-red spectroscopy), will expand in the next coming years.

#### Measuring physical properties of rocks and magmas

This is also a rapidly expanding field that aims at defining the physical properties of rocks and magmas under their natural conditions. A master property that has fuelled numerous laboratory studies is magma viscosity. Thanks to a wealth of experimental data, acquired on either dry or hydrous systems, there are now efficient models for calculating melt viscosities under a large range of T-volatiles conditions (e.g., Giordano et al., 2008). The effects of crystals and bubbles (e.g., Bagdassarov and Dingwell, 1992; Rust and Manga, 2002) have been also extensively explored, these efforts enabling the elaboration of various accurate models of magma rheology (e.g., Costa, 2005; Mader et al., 2013). The role of strain rate on magma rheology has been also explored at

high pressure (e.g., Caricchi et al., 2011). These data primarily serve to inform numerical simulations of magma flow (within reservoirs or conduits) whose performances heavily depend on the robustness of the constitutive laws used for describing material properties, and their evolution with intensive parameters (e.g., Costa et al., 2011). The conditions leading to magma or host rock fracture, and the measurement of associated signals, is evidently an important field of research (e.g., Benson et al., 2012; Heap et al., 2015; Vasseur et al., 2018), although still in its infancy owing to the variety of lithologies and conditions involved in nature.

Laboratory experiments also helps to interpret the geophysical signals measured at the surface (seismicity, conductivity, gravimetry, etc.) which are used to image magma bodies beneath volcanoes. Although technically challenging, the attenuation of the velocity of seismic waves with fraction of melt/fluid has been studied at high pressure and high temperature, but the difference in frequency between natural and laboratory waves is a complicating factor for data application (Caricchi et al., 2008). In-situ measurements allow now to measure directly the density of hydrous melts at high pressure (Malfait et al., 2014), which should be of considerable help for interpreting gravimetric anomalies in volcanic areas. Finally, it is now possible to measure with great precision the variation of the electrical conductivity of melts with their composition, including their volatile contents (Gaillard, 2004; Pommier et al., 2010). These data help illuminate the volcanological significance of magnetotelluric signals detected in active volcanic areas (Pommier et al., 2008). As knowledge is gained in the next coming years, the combination of the above data along with joint inversion of surface signals should considerably improve our ability to detect not only magma bodies, even those small, but also the precursor signals associated to magma upraise or recharge associated to unrest phases.

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### **Discussion and Conclusions**

In the last few decades, disciplines such as physical volcanology and petrology have moved from qualitative and descriptive approaches towards a more quantitative approach for the understanding of magmatic and volcanic processes. This advancement produced a huge amount of new data on volcanic deposits, mineral and melt components of volcanic rocks, and generated new ideas and perspectives on laboratory experiments and physical models. By merging these data with those produced by other disciplines (e.g. geophysics), new conceptual models on how volcanoes work have arisen and more precise information on the size and internal dynamics of volcanic systems have been obtained. The most important advancements in this framework have been established at volcanoes with persistent activity or with high eruptive frequency, where hypotheses and conceptual models can be continuously elaborated, tested and refined.

A holistic, multidisciplinary view of volcanic systems through the study of their different portions and products is the only way to reach a robust understanding of the large set of processes which control their activity. A real step forward in the general understanding of a volcanic system can only be obtained starting from the detailed, basic knowledge of its structure and deposits derived from volcanological investigations in the field (geological and structural mapping, geochronology, stratigraphy and sedimentology of the deposits), passing through the physical volcanological characterization of products and eruptions, up to the most accurate, refined petrological studies of the main single processes controlling the volcanic system.

Field volcanology studies represent always the main door to the knowledge of a volcanic system. The under consideration of the geological evolution of a volcanic system can in fact result in a strongly biased reconstruction of the complex set of processes governing and modulating its life. Planning of stratigraphic and mapping work should be always implemented when assessing

volcanic hazards or defining the spectrum of eruption scenarios at a volcano. Additionally, data already available for the volcanoes of interest should be always critically revised in the light of new views on volcanic activity and products, instead of accepting them uncritically. Studies of ongoing activity are generally strongly preferred in order to understand the dynamics of volcanic activity, but the study of the deposits of past eruptions still remains a unique tool to define the range of possible eruption scenarios at a given volcano.

Eruptive activity is strictly related to the physico-chemical conditions of the magma driving the eruption. At the same time, the temporal evolution of a magmatic system is strictly controlled by changes in the magma source or in the physical conditions of magma evolution. For these reasons, the petrological characterization of the erupted products and of their temporal variations can provide important data to derive direct indications on the significance of these processes. Based on all this knowledge, experimental petrology can be used to reproduce effectively in the lab the conditions of magma evolution, ascent and eruption to the surface, adding new, quantitative estimations of the main parameters which control all these processes.

Hazard assessment and eruption scenario definition for a volcano should be always based on the deep, direct knowledge of the range of parameters which control its activity and evolution, in the view that each volcano is characterized by its own "personality".

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## Figure captions

Fig. 1 Idealized view of a magmatic system of a volcano. Right side shows the main methodologies usually employed for the study of the different portions of the plumbing system and associated limits (dotted line).

Fig. 2 Reconstructing the stratigraphy of the deposits at the scale of an entire volcanic edifice is a basilar step to understand the evolution of that volcano and to start a detailed mapping of the area. A) On the southern sector of Cotopaxi volcano, the main steep gullies (barrancas) show the whole stratigraphic sequence of deposits emplaced during the last 5 ka consisting of an alternation of tephra and lava deposits. B) The merging of multiple sections, on the other hand, allowed a detailed reconstruction of the last 800 years of activity at Cotopaxi (Pistolesi et al., 2011). A synthetic stratigraphic log highlights the complexity and the large variability of the

eruptive dynamics which led to the emplacement of lapilli and ash layers intercalated to scoriaflow deposits.

Fig. 3 In order to reconstruct the compositional variability of the erupted products, it is always important to discuss both the variability at the scale of a single eruption (or eruptive cycle) and the time-related changes in magma composition. The last 22 ka of activity at Somma-Vesuvius show a clear trend of increasing alkalinity with time, and large compositional variability of the magma erupted during single eruptions or during short eruptive cycles. The data can be discussed in terms of source-related changes in the magma feeding the shallow reservoirs, and of different processes and physico-chemical conditions of crystallization, refilling and assimilation/fluid exchange in these reservoirs (data from Santacroce et al., 2008).

Fig. 4 Detailed geochronological reconstructions of the activity of a volcano reveal the temporal trends of volcanic activity and are important to define the expected time scale for volcanic reactivation. A) The schematic chronogram of Cotopaxi activity during the last 2000 yr B.P. clearly shows the presence of eruption clusters (with no obvious intervening soils) separated by long periods during which only a few large eruptions occur (Barberi et al., 1995; Pistolesi et al., 2011). These two contrasting behaviors of the volcano over the past 2000 yrs were also observed in the eruption pattern of the past 800 yrs of activity. During the period A.D. 1150–1742, the average magma eruption rate was low, and activity consisted of isolated explosive eruptions, while during the period A.D. 1742–1880, the average magma eruption rate was higher, and activity was dominated by numerous explosive events separated by eruptive pauses that lasted from a few years to a few decades (eruption cluster). The eighteenth- to nineteenth-century cluster started with

Plinian outbursts (A.D. 1742–1744), followed by very high intensity and magnitude Plinian bursts (A.D. 1766–1768). These large events were eventually followed by a period of long-lasting, moderate-intensity magma degassing mixed with staggered, low-intensity and low-magnitude explosive bursts, each dominated by a short-lived sub Plinian/violent Strombolian phase followed by boiling-over activity and associated scoria flows. B). The chronogram of the last 22 ka of activity Mt. Somma-Vesuvius volcano shows a different behavior with respect to Cotopaxi. Activity is characterized by a number of large eruptions (Plinian and subplinian) separated by repose times whose duration varies with age. In fact, while the activity between 22 and 4 ka ago was mainly characterized by episodic events of large intensity (and magnitude; Cioni et al., 2008) separated by progressively decreasing repose times, in the last 4000 years the activity became more and more frequent. The increase in frequency of the eruptions coincided with a general decrease of their intensity (and magnitude). These changes are clearly associated with changes in magma composition. Accurate geological reconstructions suggest that the observed lower frequency in the oldest activity is real and not related to an incomplete geological record, although the problem of incompleteness in the geological record should always be discussed in detail.

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Fig. 5 The detailed, multiparametric reconstruction of a complex eruptive sequence is the key to the definition of the main eruptive processes which controlled past eruption, and can be used to define the range of eruption scenarios characterizing a given volcano. The Baia–Fondi di Baia eruption (9525–9696 BP) is one of the sporadic events that have occurred in the western sector of the Campi Flegrei caldera and opened Epoch 2 of the caldera activity after a 1000-year-long period of quiescence. Although relatively small in terms of erupted volume with respect to most of the events of the past 15 ka, the Baia–Fondi di Baia eruption was characterized by a

complex series of events, which were reconstructed based on a detailed stratigraphic study (Pistolesi et al., 2017). The idealized composite stratigraphy of the different phases of the eruption shows how sedimentological data (grains-size and componentry) concur in identifying different eruptive locations and emplacement dynamics (on-land vs. shallow water vent, fall-out vs. PDC deposits). Bulk density (gcm<sup>-3</sup>), vesicularity (vol.%), Vesicle Number Density (cm<sup>-3</sup>), and decompression rate (MPas<sup>-1</sup>) data linked to variations in SiO<sub>2</sub>, CaO, and K<sub>2</sub>O (wt.%) contents further indicate different types of juvenile material (e.g. variable conditions during ascent in the conduit) as well as variable magma sources involved in the eruption.

Fig. 6 Simplified interpretative model of the plumbing system of Stromboli (modified by Métrich et al, 2011) based on (1) the melt compositions and melt saturation pressures recorded by sealed melt inclusions and unsealed embayments trapped during olivine crystallization, (2) the crystal textures and (3) the chemistry of Stromboli pumice and scoria samples. LP and HP refer to low- and high-porphyritic magmas, respectively, according to Francalanci et al. (2004).

Fig. 7 (a) Example of a simplified system analysis of the zoning patterns recorded in olivine crystals of 1991-1993 Etna eruption. Each box represents a magmatic reservoir of different composition identified by the overall core plateau compositions and zoning patterns. M0, M1 and M2 represent end member reservoirs whereas mm1 is a reservoir of mixing. The colored lines represent the zoning patterns recorded in single olivine crystals. The arrows indicate the direction of the zonings from core to rim (see details in the original paper). (b) Information distilled from (a) to highlight the three main magma pathways M0–M1–mm1 (light gray bar) M1–mm1 (dark gray bar) and M2– mm1 (black bar). (c) An example of a physical plumbing system that is

consistent with (a) and (b). Black dotted lines mark the preferred path followed by many crystals. Various timescales ( $\Delta t1$ ,  $\Delta t2$  and  $\Delta t3$ ) that can be extracted from kinetic modeling relate to duration of residence of melts in different segments of the plumbing system, as shown here. From Kahl et al. (2011).

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Fig. 8 Phase equilibria of Vesuvius phonolites (Scaillet et al., 2008) showing pre-eruptive conditions inferred for the AD 79 Pompei and AD 472 Pollena events. The top panels show the isobaric-polythermal phase relationships at 200 MPa (2 kbar) for the two compositions as a function of temperature and fluid composition, here expressed as the mole fraction of water (XH<sub>2</sub>Ofluid). The bottom panels show the polybaric-isothermal sections as a function also of XH<sub>2</sub>Ofluid. For the isobaric sections, the correspondence with dissolved melt water content (H<sub>2</sub>Omelt) is given on the horizontal axis. All sections have been established at an  $fO_2$  one log unit above the Ni-NiO transition (NNO+1). Black squares represent experimental charges. The stability fields of the main phases are labelled with mineral acronyms lying inside the corresponding stability field. The dashed line represents the volume proportion of crystals at 10%. The infered pre-eruptive conditions are indicated by the red filled box and corresponds to the T-XH<sub>2</sub>Ofluid locus where the phenocryst assemblage observed in the pumices is experimentally reproduced. The green rectangle gives the melt water content inferred from the analyses of melt inclusions in phenocrysts (Cioni, 2000). For the Pompeii eruption, it is possible to reproduce the phenocrysts proportion and assemblage at 200 MPa, whereas for the Pollena event this is possible only at 100 MPa. This shows that the level of magma accumulation beneath Vesuvius shifted from 200 MPa up to 100 MPa, or about 3 km depth less, in less than 400 years. Acronyms for phases are as

follows: Feld: feldspar, Leuc: leucite; Scap: scapolite; Neph: nepheline; Cpx: clinopyroxene; Gt: garnet; Amph: amphibole, Sod: sodalite.

Fig. 9. a) The contrasted solubilities of H<sub>2</sub>O and CO<sub>2</sub> in shoshonite melts from Campi Flegrei volcano (Vetere et al. 2011). The solid lines represent isobars. The dashed lines are isopleths of constant fluid composition for the melts saturated with H<sub>2</sub>O–CO<sub>2</sub>-bearing flluids. The various symbols indicate the pressure (in MPa) at which the solubility experiments (symbols with attached errors) were done with either pure H<sub>2</sub>O (horizontal axis) or mixed H<sub>2</sub>O–CO<sub>2</sub> fluids. Note the contrasted solubilities of water (wt%) and CO<sub>2</sub> (ppm). b) Simulation of gas composition during the ascent of a rhyolitic magma (Burgisser and Scaillet, 2007). This type of simulation uses the solubility laws for the volatile species present in the system, in the example shown H<sub>2</sub>O, H<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>S, S<sub>2</sub>. The simulations show the variation of H<sub>2</sub>S/SO<sub>2</sub> ratio in the gas phase of an ascending rhyolitic magmas (initially lying at 2000 bar) for various starting conditions in terms of redox state (here expressed as dNNO) and amount of fluid phase initially presents in the reservoir. The vertical black rectangle indicates the measured H<sub>2</sub>O/SO<sub>2</sub> ratio of actual volcanic gases at silicic volcanoes, showing that the simulation broadly captures the first order chemical patterns expressed by volcanic gases.

Fig. 10 Image of experimentally mixed magmas under either dry or hydrous conditions (Laumonier et al., 2014). All experiments were performed at 300 MPa but at different temperatures depending on the dry or hydrous character of the system, as indicated on the figure. In both dry and hydrous conditions, the transition between no mixing (left panels) and onset of mixing (right panels) occurs over a very short temperature interval (about 10-15°C) and is related to the slight

change in crystal proportion that controls the viscosity of the mafic end-member (basalt composition, always lying at the bottom). The overlying felsic end member is a crystal-free dacite melt. Note that prior to the onset of mixing the boundary between the two end-members remains sharp and straight, while when mixing starts a crenulate interface develops with production of enclaves (right down panel) that may in turn disaggregate as deformation proceeds (top right panel). For each run, the amount of finite deformation applied to the sample is given ( $\gamma$ ). Run durations are on the order of a few hours each.

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Fig. 11 The conditions favoring magma mixing at 200 MPa. The different panels show the evolution of the viscosities of the mafic-felsic magmas being juxtaposed depending on fraction of mafic magma injected into the felsic reservoir (Laumonier et al., 2014). The starting temperature of each magma is given (figures color-coded with viscosity trends). Felsic magmas are all water saturated while the basalt may be either dry (1145°C) or H<sub>2</sub>O-saturated (980°C). In each panel, optimum mixing conditions are reached when the two viscosity curves cross-over. The vertical thick grey lines give the proportion of the mafic magma needed to achieve conditions favorable to mixing as well as the temperature of the homogeneous mixture so produced. The SiO2 content of that mixture is given on the horizontal top axis of each panel. Numbers labelling each curves give the crystal fraction in each end-member (the r parameter is the average axial ratio of crystals, which controls the bulk viscosity, see Laumonier et al. (2014)). In every case, the proportion of crystals increases in the mafic component, while it decreases in the felsic one, the latter ending almost always crystal-free by the time mixing is possible (vertical grey lines). For instance, the production of a homogeneous andesitic magma by mixing a hydrous basalt at 980°C with a rhyolite at 780°C (panel F), requires the injection of 76 wt% basalt into the rhyolitic reservoir. This ends-up

producing an andesite mixture with 57 wt% SiO<sub>2</sub> at a temperature of 934°C. In general, when the composition of two end-members mixed strongly differ from each other (ie basalt with rhyolite), the proportion of mafic magma is about 70 wt% (to achieve equal viscosities).

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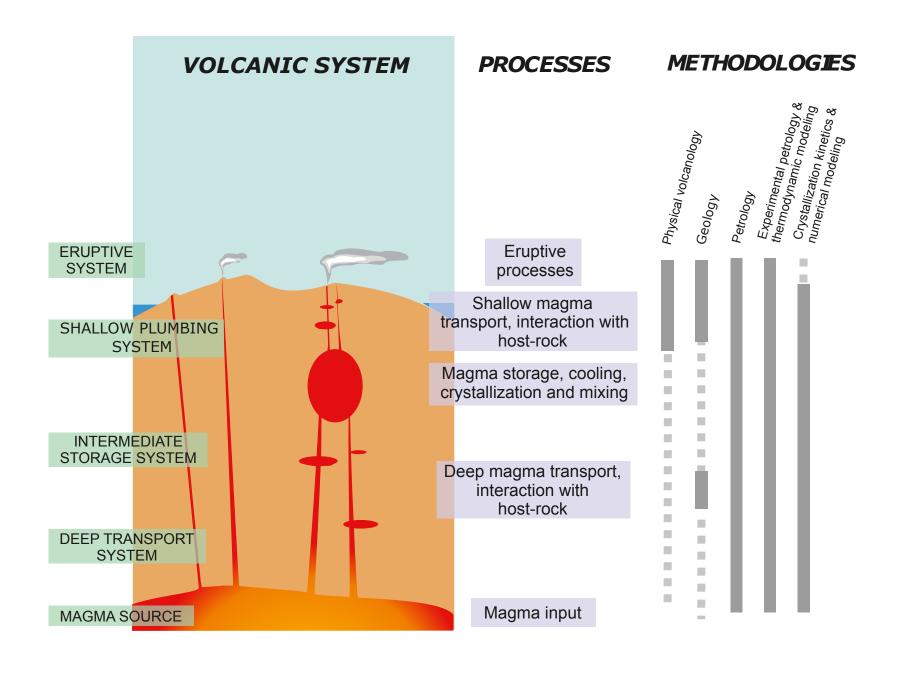
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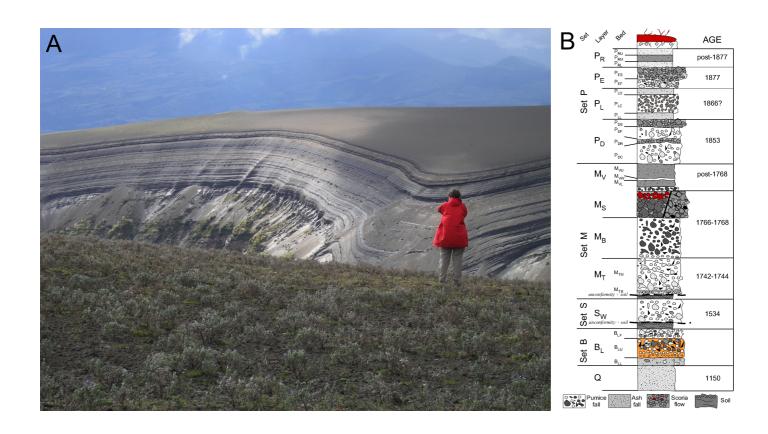
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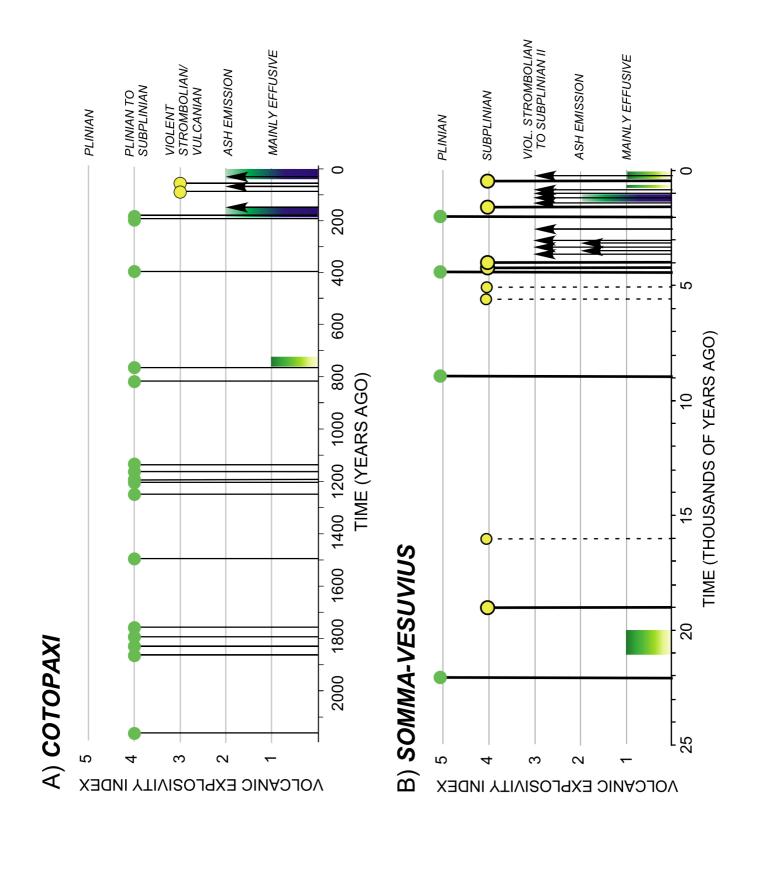
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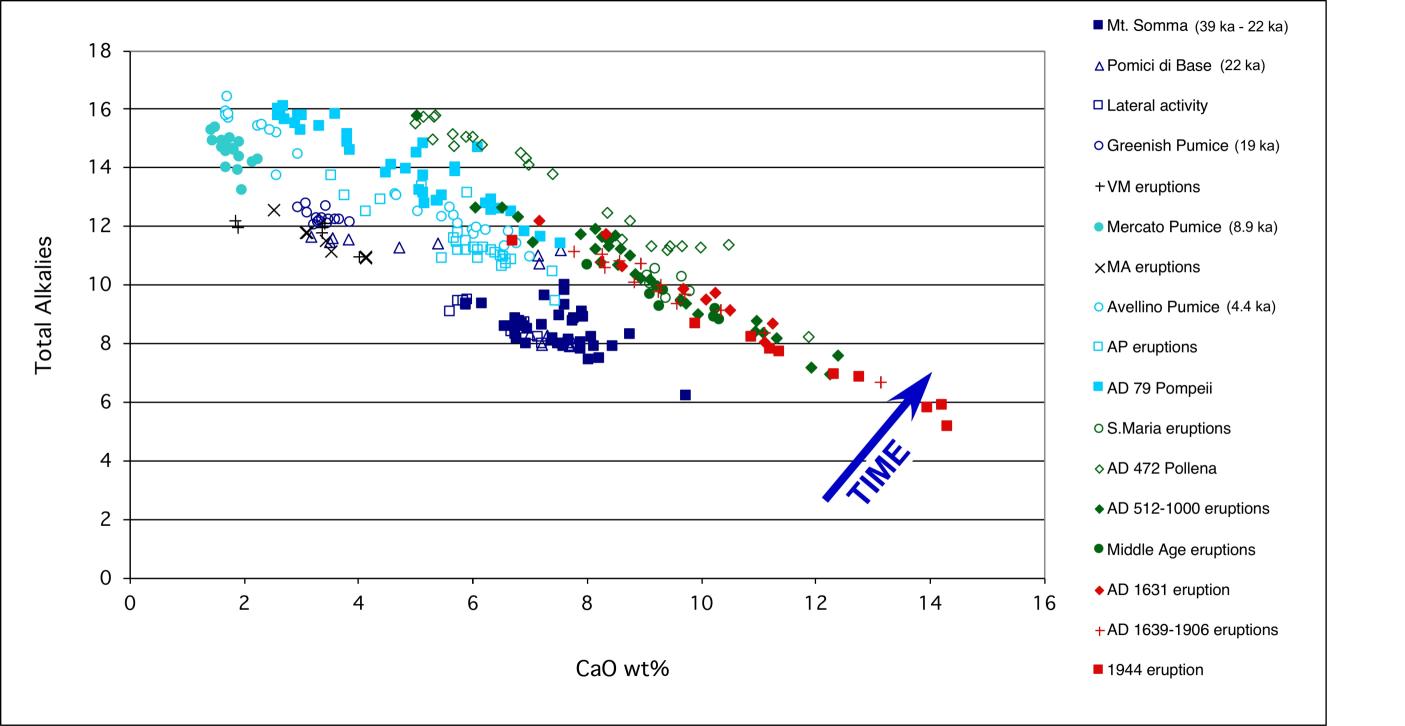
Fig. 12 The effect of decompression on the volatile contents of silicate melts. The figure shows the measured H<sub>2</sub>O and CO<sub>2</sub> contents of basaltic glasses (using a basalt from Stromboli as starting material) obtained in decompression experiments simulating magma ascent at Stromboli (Pichavant et al., 2013). The circles represent the starting conditions of each experiment in terms of volatile content. The oblique thin continuous lines are the isobaric H<sub>2</sub>O-CO<sub>2</sub> contents, calculated using the model of Papale et al. (2006). Squares show the volatile contents of glasses measured after decompression and quenching at a final pressure of 45-50 MPa at different ascent rates (0.25 to 1.5 m/s). Losange symbols are experiments quenched at 25 MPa final pressure. The correspondence between starting and final conditions is color coded (i.e. grey circles correspond to grey squares). The arrowed thin dashed lines are the equilibrium melt volatile contents calculated for each starting composition, using Papale et al. (2006)'s model. Such calculated paths are typically near vertical for the high-pressure part of the decompression interval, reflecting the preferential loss of CO<sub>2</sub>, owing to its much lower solubility compared to H<sub>2</sub>O, the latter remaining dissolved for the most part. It is only close to the surface that H<sub>2</sub>O is lost. The experiments show, however, that in out-of equilibrium experiments, quenched glasses preserve a high pressure signature of CO<sub>2</sub>, whose intensity depends on the ascent rate. Supersaturation in CO<sub>2</sub> arising from decompression may thus give rise to patterns resembling those produced by CO<sub>2</sub>-gas fluxing at depth.

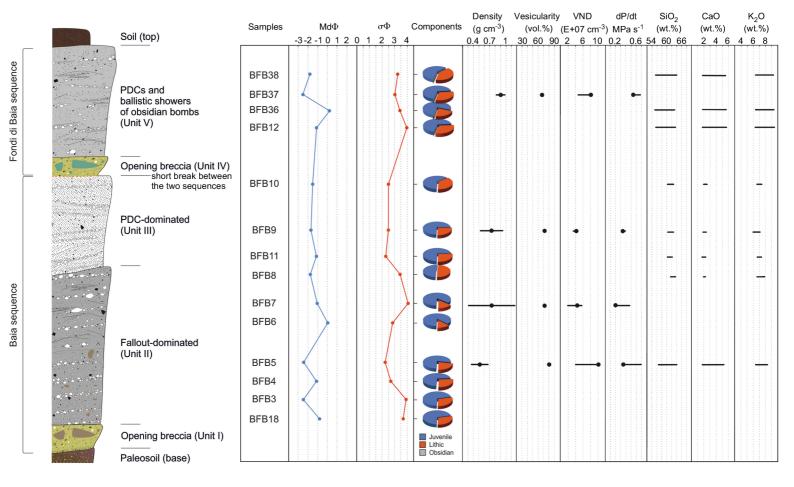
Table 1 The detailed study of the deposits of the different eruptions at a volcano represents the basis for the reconstruction of the reference eruption scenarios. The table shows the range of compositional and physical parameters which characterized the explosive activity at Somma-Vesuvius and that have been used to characterize six different eruptive styles which represent the reference eruption scenarios for hazard assessment and emergency planning.

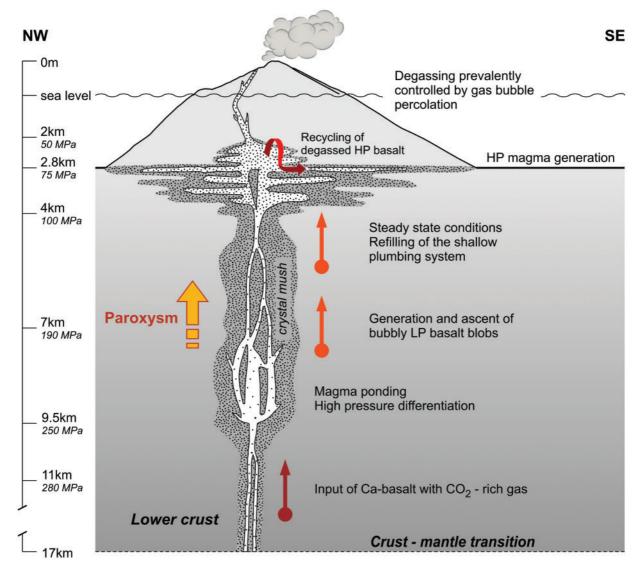












**Fig. 10.** Interpretative model of the plumbing system of Stromboli based on (1) the melt compositions and melt saturation pressures recorded by sealed melt inclusions and unsealed embayments trapped during olivine crystallization, (2) the crystal textures and (3) the chemistry of Stromboli pumice and scoria samples. The fluid saturation pressures are calculated using Papale *et al.* (2006) and the corresponding lithostatic depth assuming an average density of the surrounding rocks of 2700 kg/m<sup>3</sup>. The geometry of the conduits within the uppermost 1km—imaged as two complex dike systems underlying the summit craters with a sharp change in fracture dip at 80 and 280 m, respectively, below sea level (Chouet *et al.*, 2008)—is oversimplified. LP and HP basalts refer to low- and high-porphyritic magmas, respectively, according to Francalanci *et al.* (2004).

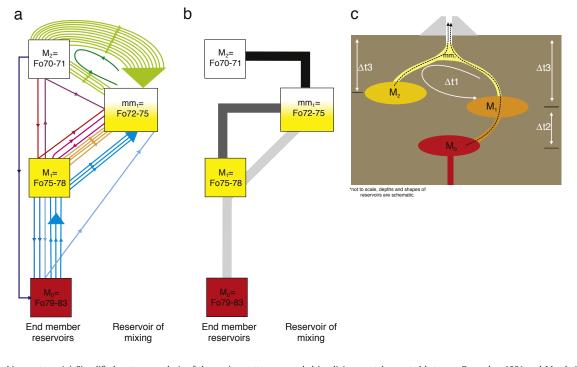


Fig. 4. The plumbing system: (a) Simplified systems analysis of the zoning patterns recorded in olivine crystals erupted between December 1991 and March 1992. Each box represents a magmatic reservoir of different composition identified by the overall core plateau compositions and zoning patterns.  $M_0$ ,  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  represent end member reservoirs ( $M_0$  = Fo79-83,  $M_1$  = Fo75-78 and  $M_2$  = Fo70-71), whereas mm<sub>1</sub> is a reservoir of mixing. The colored lines represent the zoning patterns recorded in single olivine crystals. The arrows indicate the direction of the zonings from core to rim. All reservoirs are connected with each other. The density of the connection lines can be used to infer the dominant passageways of magma transport. (b) Information distilled from (a) to highlight the three main magma pathways  $M_0$ - $M_1$ -mm<sub>1</sub> (light gray bar)  $M_1$ -mm<sub>1</sub> (dark gray bar) and  $M_2$ -mm<sub>1</sub> (black bar). (c) An example of a physical plumbing system that is consistent with (a) and (b). Other possibilities exist. Locations and connectivity of reservoirs are time integrated, at any given time one or more of these may not have existed. Black dotted lines mark the preferred path followed by many crystals. Various timescales ( $\Delta t_1$ ,  $\Delta t_2$  and  $\Delta t_3$ ) that can be extracted from kinetic modeling relate to duration of residence of melts in different segments of the plumbing system, as shown here.

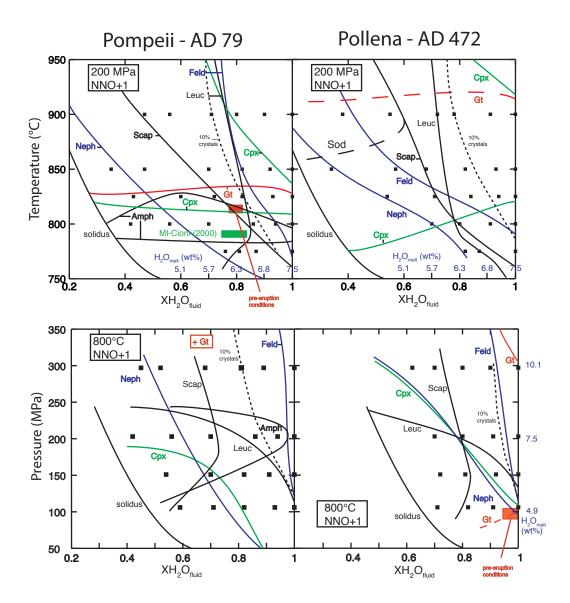
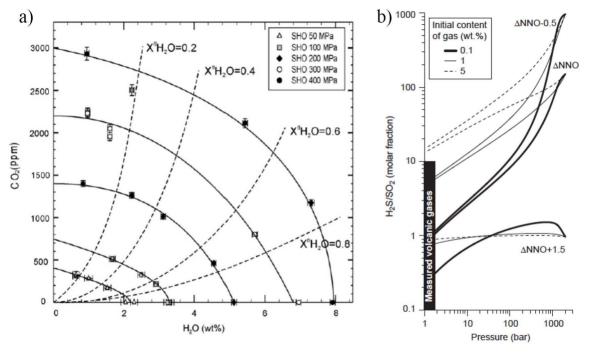
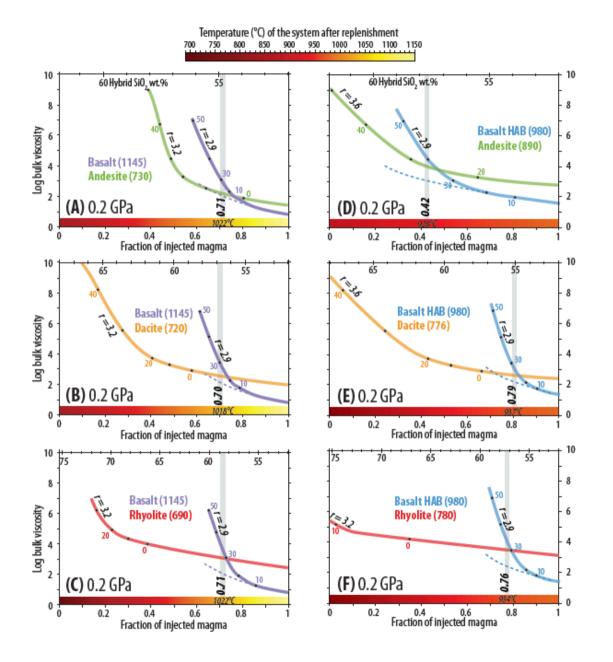
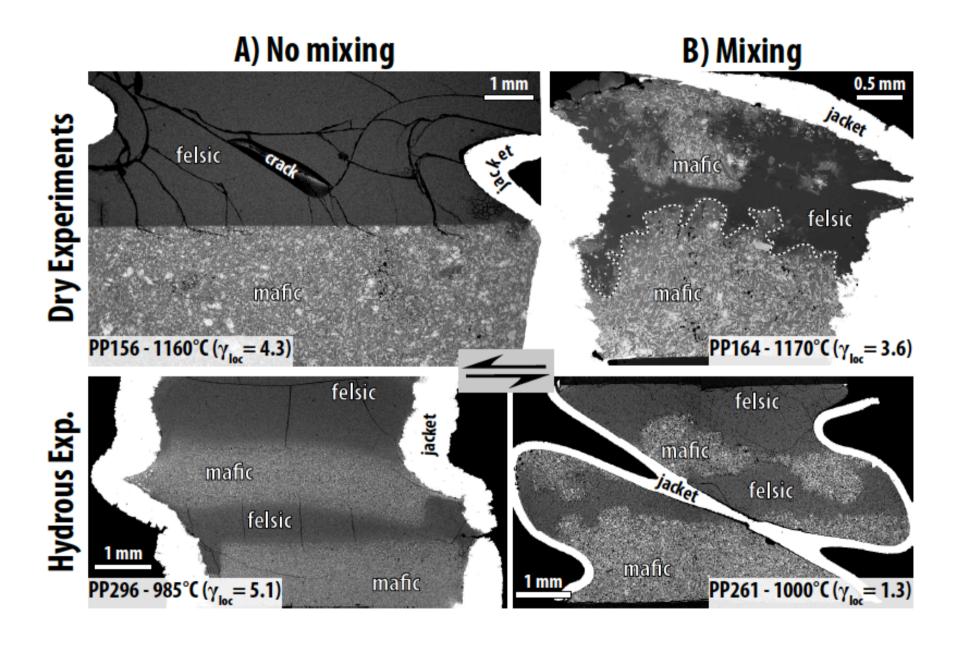
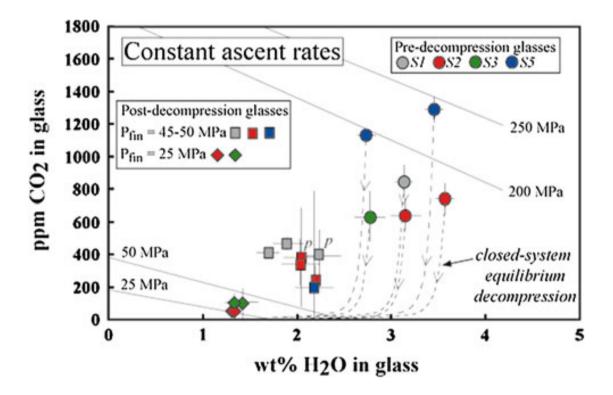


Figure 7.









Eruption style	Repose	Volume	Peak MDR	Plume height	PDC	Composition	SiO <sub>2</sub>	Alkali	H2O	CO2
Li apaon style	years	Km³	Kg s⁻¹	Km			wt%	wt%	wt%	ррт
Plinian	10 <sup>2</sup> - 10 <sup>3</sup>	10 <sup>0</sup> - 10 <sup>1</sup>	10 <sup>7</sup> - 10 <sup>8</sup>	> 20	Yes	(Trachyte)	54 – 61	8 – 12.5	// /	
AD 79, 4400 BP						Phonolite to TephPhonolite	54 – 62	11 - 16	5-6 (4400 BP) 6 (AD 79)	0-2000 bdl
Sub-Plinian I AD 472, 1631	10 <sup>2</sup>	10 <sup>-1</sup> - 10 <sup>0</sup>	10 <sup>7</sup>	15 - 20	Yes	(Trachyte) TephPhonolite to P-Tephrite	58 - 60 48 - 52	11 – 16 (8 – 12 AD1631)	2.5 (salic) <5 (mafic)	0 – 200 2000
Sub-Plinian II AP1, AP2, AD 512	10 <sup>2</sup>	10 <sup>-2</sup> – 10 <sup>-1</sup>	10 <sup>6</sup> - 10 <sup>7</sup>	10 - 15	Minor	Teph- Phonolite to PhonTephrite	48 - 54	8 - 11	No data	No data
Viol. Strombolian	10¹ - 10²	10 <sup>-3</sup> – 10 <sup>-1</sup>	10 <sup>5</sup> - 10 <sup>6</sup>	5 - 10	Minor Avalanching	Tephrite to Phon Tephrite	48 - 52	6 - 12	2 - 4	0 - 2000
Ash emission events  AD 79 – 472 period,	10¹ - 10²	Up to 10 <sup>-2</sup> (cumulativ e)	10 <sup>5</sup> (Viol Stromb. Phases) 10 <sup>3</sup> (Average)	< 5	No	Teph-Phonolite to PhonTephrite	49 - 51	9 - 12	1 – 2	0 – 1000
Mild strombolian  Post 1631 period,	10º - 10¹	10 <sup>-3</sup>		No convective plume	No	Tephrite to Phon Tephrite	47 – 49	7 - 11	No data	No data