The deep roots of volcanos: localization instabilities in a continuum model of magma dynamics

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Plate tectonics, volcanos and magma genesis



Chemical localization of magma

observations by Kelemen et al.



Mechanical localization of magma experiments by Holtzman et al.

PI-1020, olivine + chromite + 4% MQRB, γ = 3.5, P = 30-60 MPa



Olivine + chromite (4:1) + 4 vol% MORB, const. strain rate, $\gamma = 3.4$

Magma dynamics theory: key components



4-7 primary variables

with permeability $k_\phi \propto \phi^n$, shear viscosity η and bulk viscosity ζ .

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} + \boldsymbol{\nabla} \cdot \left(\phi \mathbf{v} \right) = 0$$

1. Conservation of mass: pore fluid

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(1-\phi) + \boldsymbol{\nabla} \cdot \left[(1-\phi)\boldsymbol{\mathsf{V}}\right] = 0$$

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- 3. Conservation of momentum: pore fluid (Darcy's law)

- $\boldsymbol{\nabla} P = \boldsymbol{\nabla} \cdot \boldsymbol{\eta} \left[(\boldsymbol{\nabla} \mathbf{V}) + (\boldsymbol{\nabla} \mathbf{V})^T \right]$ $+ \boldsymbol{\nabla} \left(\zeta \frac{2\eta}{3} \right) \boldsymbol{\nabla} \cdot \mathbf{V} + \bar{\rho} \mathbf{g}$
- 4. Conservation of momentum: matrix solid (Stokes eqn)

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- Parallel semi-Lagrangian advection in development for PETSc.

Part 1: Chemical localization

Past work by Aharonov, Spiegelman, Kelemen, Fang & others

-- volcanos

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Chemical Instability

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Chemical Instability

Verification of simulations

From Spiegelman, Kelemen & Aharonov, JGR 2001

What about subduction zones?

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What about subduction zones?

An unexpected result...

Part 2: Mechanical localization

Paintings by Ben Holtzman

Basic mechanics of shear bands, $\eta = \eta(\phi)$

Experiment and Computation

Linear Analysis

Verifying Simulation with Linear Analysis

Comparing simulations with experimental data

An emergent picture of magma dynamics

Painting by Ben Holtzman

The future: multi-scale subduction dynamics

Need robust, scalable multi-scale solvers. Multigrid? Adaptive grid refinement?

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Computational challenges

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- Localization problems are computationally demanding.
- Strong interaction of scales \rightarrow separation of length-scales probably not valid.

Thanks to:

