

1 **Mantle melting and intraplate volcanism due to self-buoyant**
2 **hydrous upwellings from the stagnant slab that are conveyed by small-**
3 **scale convection**

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12 Key points:

- 13 ● Intraplate volcanism above stagnant slabs is sustained by interaction of
14 hydrous upwellings and small-scale convection.
- 15 ● Hydrous upwellings intermittently stall at ~400 km depth before being picked
16 up by small-scale convection.
- 17 ● Moderate amounts of water in the transition zone (~0.4 wt.-%) are sufficient to
18 trigger volcanism within ~20 Myr.

19 **Abstract**

20 The mechanisms sustaining basaltic continental intraplate volcanism remain
21 controversial. Continental intraplate volcanism is often geographically associated with slab
22 stagnation in the mantle transition zone (MTZ), e.g., in eastern Asia, central Europe, and
23 western North America. Using 2D geodynamic models, we here explore the role of the
24 stagnation of a slab and an associated hydrous layer in the MTZ on the formation and
25 evolution of intraplate volcanism. Due to the intrinsic buoyancy of the hydrous layer atop
26 the stagnant slab, upwellings develop within a few million years and rise to ~410 km depth.
27 At these depths, they partly lose their intrinsic buoyancy due to dehydration, and stall
28 intermittently. However, they are readily entrained by sublithospheric small-scale
29 convection (SSC) to reach the base of lithosphere, sustaining mantle melting and intraplate
30 volcanism. Water contents of >0.3 wt.-% in a ≥ 60 km thick layer atop the slab are sufficient
31 for an early (< ~20 Myr) onset of melting to account for volcanism, e.g., in NE China. Thus,
32 significant amounts of hydrous materials are not expected to remain stable in the MTZ for
33 geological timescales, consistent with geophysical estimates. To explain the geochemical
34 signatures of the Cenozoic basaltic volcanism in northern China, a mixed composition of
35 the hydrous layer, including an EM-type and a hybrid DMM/HIMU-type component, is
36 required.

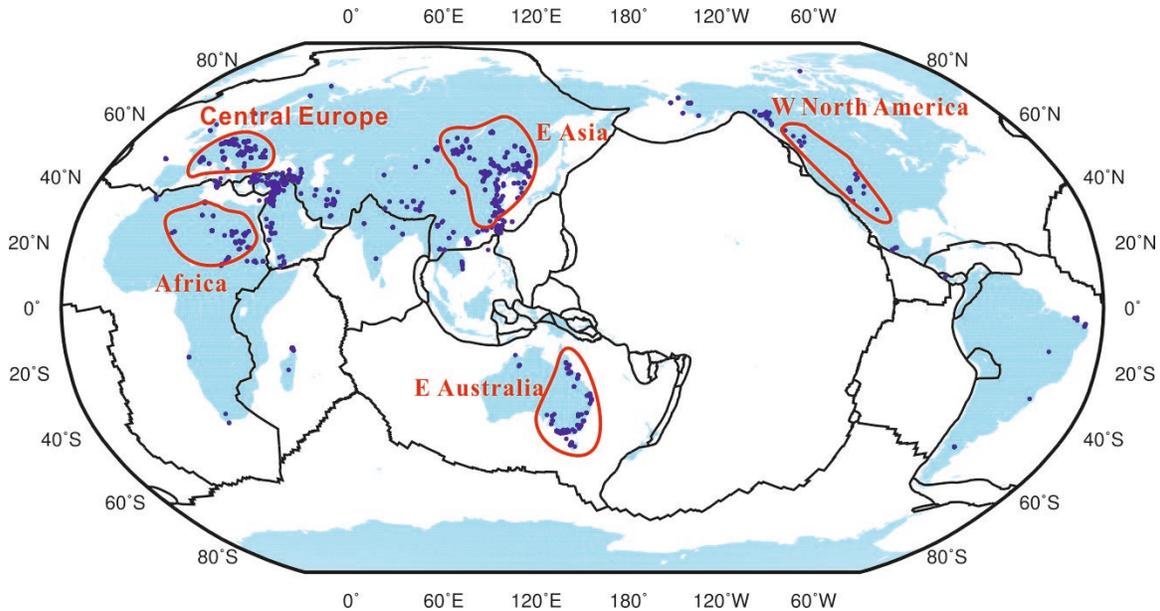
37

38 1. Introduction

39 Most of our planet's volcanism occurs near plate boundaries, well explained by plate
40 tectonic processes. In turn, intraplate volcanisms are not readily explained by plate
41 tectonics, but often resort to mantle processes ([Morgan, 1971](#); [Wilson, 1973](#); [Tan and](#)
42 [Gurnis, 2005](#); [Burke et al., 2008](#); [Ballmer et al., 2015a, 2016](#)). While the mantle plume
43 theory can explain some major volcano lineaments such as the Hawaii, Iceland and Walvis
44 ridges ([Wilson, 1965](#); [Morgan, 1971](#); [O'Connor and Duncan, 1990](#); [Courtillot et al., 2003](#)),
45 numerous exceptions or “non-hotspot volcanism” exist ([Batiza, 1982](#); [Okal and Batiza,](#)
46 [1987](#); [McNutt, 1998](#)). Non-hotspot intraplate volcanism is often characterized by (1) non-
47 linear spatial distributions ([Kim and Wessel, 2015](#)), (2) non-linear age progressions or
48 linear progressions not consistent with plate motion (e.g., ([Ballmer et al., 2009](#)), (3)
49 extended periods of volcanism at a single edifice ([Raddick et al., 2002](#); [Garcia et al., 2010](#);
50 [Balbas et al., 2016](#)), or (4) short-lived volcano chains ([Clouard and Bonneville, 2005](#)).

51 Widespread volcanism in the Pacific (e.g., French Polynesia, Darwin Rise) may be
52 related to diffuse mantle upwelling and/or anomalously warm mantle temperatures
53 ([McNutt and Fischer, 1987](#); [Staudigel et al., 1991](#); [Bemis and Smith, 1993](#); [Kim and Wessel,](#)
54 [2008](#); [Koppers et al., 2003](#)). Given an initial volcanic load, or distal plate stresses, the
55 lithosphere may crack to trigger new volcanism ([Gerbault et al., 1999](#); [Hieronymus and](#)
56 [Bercovici, 2000](#)). Rayleigh-Taylor instability in a layer near or at its solidus may induce
57 self-perpetuating decompression melting (Tackley and Stevenson, [1993](#)), which will
58 further fuel the instability ([Hernlund et al., 2008](#)) and form short-lived and non-linear
59 volcano chains ([Raddick et al., 2002](#)). Small-scale sublithospheric convection (SSC)
60 ([Parsons and McKenzie, 1978](#); [Afonso et al., 2008](#); [Dumoulin et al., 2008](#)), caused by the
61 thickening and densification of the thermal boundary layer, can sustain mantle melting and
62 account for seamount chains parallel to plate motion ([King and Anderson, 1995](#); [King and](#)
63 [Ritsema, 2000](#); [Huang, 2003](#); [Dumoulin et al., 2008](#)), but fails to explain volcanism on thin
64 oceanic plates younger than ~50 Myr ([Batiza, 1980](#); [Ballmer et al., 2007](#)). Shear-driven
65 upwelling, excited when horizontal asthenospheric flow interacts with steps in lithospheric
66 thickness ([Conrad et al., 2010](#); [Till et al., 2010](#)) or heterogeneities in mantle viscosity
67 ([Bianco et al., 2011](#)), can also account for intraplate volcanism in regions of strong mantle
68 flow or shearing ([Ballmer et al., 2013](#)).

69 Similarly, basaltic continental intraplate volcanism has commonly been related to
70 mantle upwelling and decompression melting ([Demidjuk et al., 2007](#); [Elkins-Tanton, 2007](#);
71 [Valentine and Hirano, 2010](#); [Conrad et al., 2011](#)), by the same physical mechanisms as
72 beneath oceanic plate described above ([Hernlund et al., 2008](#); [West et al., 2009](#);
73 [Kaislaniemi and van Hunen, 2014](#)).



74
75 **Figure 1.** Cenozoic basaltic continental intraplate volcanism (data from GeoRoc:
76 <http://georoc.mpch-mainz.gwdg.de/georoc/>; filters are “intraplate volcanism” OR
77 “complex settings”). Clusters of enhanced continental volcanism are marked by red closed
78 curves. See also Conrad et al. ([2011](#)).

79

80 The dominant mechanisms can be assessed by studying global distributions of
81 Cenozoic continental intraplate volcanism, mostly occurring in western North America,
82 central Europe, eastern Asia, eastern Australia and Africa (Figure 1). Except for the basaltic
83 intraplate continental volcanism on the stationary African Plate ([Burke et al., 2008](#)),
84 volcanism in other regions can be best explained by non-hotspot volcanism. Western North
85 America and eastern Australia are associated with a rapidly sheared asthenosphere ([Conrad
86 et al., 2011](#)). However, most of these regions are also underlain by slabs that stagnate in
87 the mantle transition zone (MTZ). Indeed, seismic tomography ([Piromallo and Morelli,
88 2003](#); [Lei and Zhao, 2005](#); [Zhao and Ohtani, 2009](#); [Schmandt and Lin, 2014](#)), the
89 distribution of seismicity ([Fukao et al., 2001](#); [Zhao and Ohtani, 2009](#)), and lava isotope
90 geochemistry ([Zou et al., 2008](#); [Kuritani et al., 2011](#)), link slab subduction, stagnation and

91 dehydration to mantle upwelling and intraplate volcanism. For example, Changbai volcano
92 in NE China is inferred to be related to mantle upwelling and melting due to the deep
93 dehydration of the stagnant Pacific slab ([Zhao, 2004](#); [Maruyama et al., 2009](#); [Zhao and](#)
94 [Ohtani, 2009](#)). The specific geodynamic mechanisms that drive mantle upwelling, however,
95 have not yet been established ([Tatsumi et al., 1990](#); [Zhao, 2004](#); [Zhao and Ohtani, 2009](#)).
96 Faccenna et al. (2010) predicted a significant component of poloidal flow around the slab
97 to support diffuse upwelling near the slab tip. However, subducted slabs are expected to
98 primarily induce horizontal toroidal flow ([Long and Silver, 2008](#); [Liu and Stegman, 2011](#);
99 [Chen et al., 2016](#)), i.e. with little or no passive upwelling, particularly for a significant
100 viscosity contrasts between the upper and lower mantle ([Rudolph et al., 2015](#)).

101 On the other hand, plume-like self-buoyant upwellings may sustain volcanism above
102 the stagnant slab. For example, the harzburgite layer underlying the basaltic crust of the
103 slab can rise actively through the MTZ, and then be entrained by upper-mantle convection
104 ([Motoki and Ballmer, 2015](#)). The initial instability is promoted by the density contrast
105 between the upper and lower part of the slab. Alternatively, the hydrous layer overlying the
106 stagnant slab may undergo convective instability to drive upwelling ([Richard and Bercovici,](#)
107 [2009](#)). Hydrous wadsleyite and ringwoodite are positively buoyant ([Inoue et al., 2004](#);
108 [Jacobsen et al., 2004](#); [van der Lee et al., 2008](#)), and may hence deliver water to the base of
109 the lithosphere. Such a scenario of continental intraplate volcanism due to hydrous
110 upwellings ([Richard and Bercovici, 2009](#); [Richard and Iwamori, 2010](#)) would be analogous
111 to the “cold plumes” proposed by Gerya and Yuen (2004) in mantle wedge. However,
112 previous studies have not addressed the fate of hydrous upwellings as they rise through the
113 mantle and reach the base of the lithosphere to undergo melting. They have also neglected
114 that the layer atop the slab should be already cooled before reaching the MTZ due to
115 thermal diffusion, and the trade-off between this cooling and hydration is expected to
116 control instability.

117 We here apply two-dimensional numerical models of mantle flow to explore the
118 dynamic mechanisms that sustain intraplate volcanism above a stagnant slab. We carefully
119 compute the initial thermal profile across the slab. In order to predict the spatio-temporal
120 patterns and geochemistry of volcanism, we couple the geodynamic simulations with a
121 melting model for a heterogeneous mantle source. Finally, we compare model predictions

Geochemistry, Geophysics, Geosystems

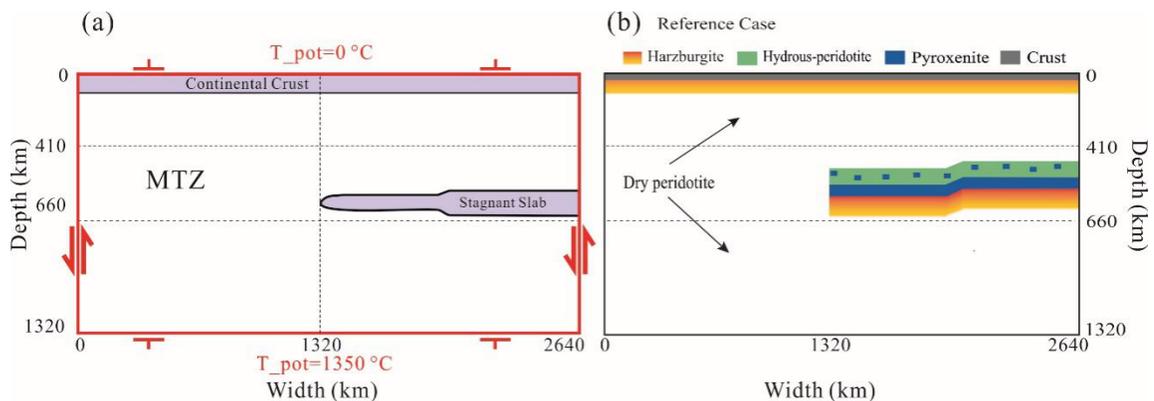
122 with observations to constrain the conditions for mantle upwelling and volcanism. We find
123 that an interaction between (bottom-up) self-buoyant upwelling of a hydrated MTZ and
124 (top-down) SSC is required for intraplate volcanism to occur soon after the slab reaches
125 the MTZ.

126 **2. Methods**

127 **2.1 Model setup**

128 In our two-dimensional geodynamic models, we numerically solve the conservation
 129 equations of mass, momentum and energy for an incompressible, infinite-Prandtl-number
 130 fluid using a Cartesian version of the finite-element code Citcom ([Moresi et al., 1996](#);
 131 [Zhong et al., 2000](#); [Ballmer et al., 2009](#)). We apply the extended Boussinesq
 132 approximations, but neglect shear heating, which has a negligible effect on convection at
 133 the given rheology ([Zlotnik et al., 2008](#)).

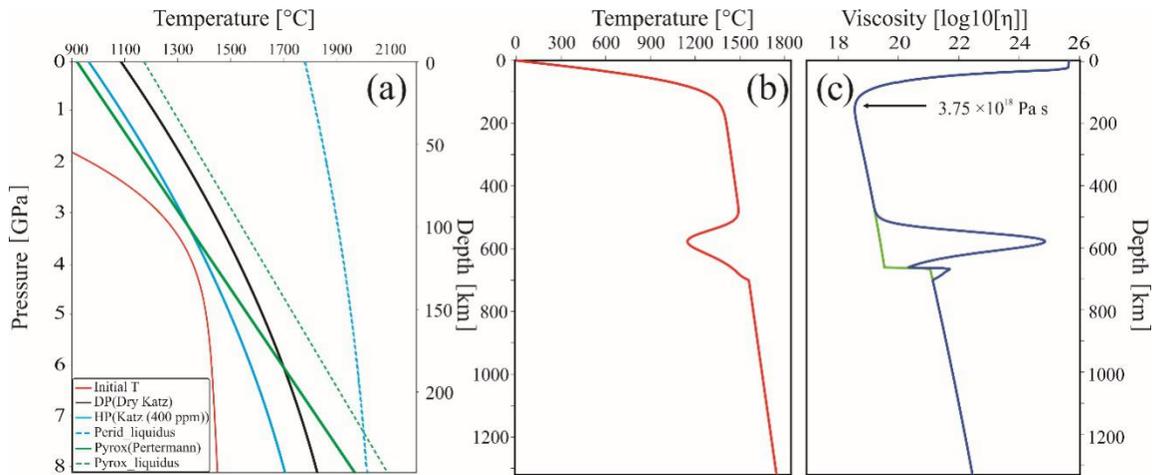
134 Our model setup is loosely based on Motoki and Ballmer ([2015](#)). The two-dimensional
 135 model domain is oriented parallel to the trench, just as theirs (see their Figure 1), and our
 136 boundary conditions are the same as theirs (Figure 2a). However, our domain is larger than
 137 theirs (see below). While our box is mostly bottom-heated with $T_0 = 1350\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ imposed at
 138 the bottom boundary, we also apply internal heating with radioactive heat production of Q_0
 139 in the mantle. According to our model setup, the initial condition corresponds to the time,
 140 at which the sinking slab just reaches the MTZ.



141

142 **Figure 2.** (a) Model setup and initial and boundary conditions. Free slip is applied to left
 143 and right boundaries, and no slip to the top and bottom. Potential temperatures are set to
 144 $0\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ at the top and $1350\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ at the bottom. (b) Initial composition of the reference case as
 145 schematic representation (not to scale). The top grey layer is continental crust (30 km thick).
 146 Blue and green colors conceptually show the initial distribution of mafic materials
 147 (pyroxenite/basalt) and hydrous peridotite, respectively. The thickness of the pyroxenitic
 148 layer near the top of the stagnant slab is 7 km. Small blobs of mafic material are uniformly
 149 distributed in the hydrous layer. The thickness of, and the initial fraction of mafic materials
 150 in the hydrous layer are model parameters. Yellow-to-orange colors refer to layers of

151 harzburgite (in the stagnant slab and lithosphere) with a progressive degree of depletion
 152 upwards (see text for details). White background colors refer to dry peridotite.



153

154 **Figure 3.** (a) The melting laws applied for depleted peridotite (black) and hydrous
 155 peridotite (solid blue line; bulk water content 400 ppm) are from Katz et al. (2003), and
 156 melting law for pyroxenite (solid green line) from Pertermann & Hirschmann (2003). Also
 157 shown are the liquidus of peridotite (dashed blue line) and pyroxenite (dashed green line),
 158 providing a sense for the productivity of each lithology, which is much lower for the former
 159 than for the latter lithology. (b) The initial vertical potential temperature profile of all
 160 models (i.e., excluding the adiabatic gradient). (c) The initial vertical viscosity profile for
 161 the reference case. Blue and green lines represent profiles with and without a slab, i.e. in
 162 the right and left parts of the box, respectively. The reference effective viscosity is pointed
 163 out by a black arrow.

164

165 Our computational domain is 2640 km wide and 1320 km deep (Figure 2). The model
 166 is discretized by 1281×481 finite elements in the horizontal and vertical directions,
 167 respectively. The grid is uniform horizontally, and a vertical grid refinement improves
 168 resolution near the base of the lithosphere and in the MTZ.

169 The initial condition of temperature involves a slab in the MTZ on top of a background
 170 mantle adiabat with a potential temperature of $T_0 = 1350$ °C. The position and geometry of
 171 the slab are shown in Figure 2. Horizontally, the slab is placed in the right half part of the
 172 box ($1320 \leq x \leq 2640$ km) and consists of two segments with different ages, in between
 173 of which a fracture zone is imposed. Vertically, it is placed at an initial position, for which
 174 its underbelly (i.e., at a potential temperature of just below 1350 °C) is located at a depth
 175 of ~700 km. In our reference case, the slab age is 70 Myr for $1320 \leq x < 1980$ km and 80
 176 Myr for $1980 \leq x \leq 2640$ km, but these slab ages on either side of the fracture zone are

177 free model parameters. The edge of the slab at $x=1320$ km is treated like a fracture zone
178 with two adjacent slabs, one of which has a slab age of 0 Myr (i.e., it is non-existent). The
179 initial vertical temperature profile across each slab segment is determined semi-analytically
180 as a function of slab age and slab residence time in the mantle (i.e., assumed to be 10 Myr)
181 according to Motoki and Ballmer (2015) (Figure 3b). At the fracture zones at $x=1320$ km
182 and $x=1980$ km, the initial thermal condition does not just include a simple step function,
183 instead, the transition between the two sides of the fracture is well smoothed linearly over
184 a lateral distance of 100 km (see Figure 2a). This is a good proxy for a (thermally healed)
185 fracture zone; for example a subducted fracture zone of age offset ~ 10 Myr is located in
186 the stagnant slab beneath eastern China (Liu et al., 2017). Finally, on top of the slab, we
187 impose a layer of hydrous material (Figure 2) with a thickness that varies as a free model
188 parameter (see Table 1), independent of the age of the slab.

189 To account for the overriding plate, we add a thermal profile at the top that corresponds
190 to that of a 50-Myr-old oceanic plate (i.e., according to the half-space cooling model,
191 Figure 3b). This initial thermal profile is a simplified condition for the continental
192 lithosphere, but note that the average thermal profile near the end of the calculations is
193 similar to this condition.

194 The initial condition of composition consists of three parts (Figure 2): (1) the
195 lithosphere near the top of the model consisting of a ~ 80 km thick layer of harzburgite,
196 overlain by a 30-km thick continental crust (see below), (2) the stagnant slab in the MTZ
197 consisting of layers of basalt (7 km thick) and harzburgite (~ 80 km thick) layers, overlain
198 by a hydrous layer of variable thickness, and (3) the ambient mantle consisting of dry
199 peridotite (Figure 2). Note that the hydrous layer contains small blobs of mafic
200 heterogeneity, which may be e.g. originating from the subduction of silicic sediments and
201 hybridization of related melts in the subduction channel (Gerya et al., 2004; Iwamori, 2007).
202 In turn, for the 7-km thick basaltic layer, we have MORB-like materials (and the relevant
203 high-pressure polymorphs) in mind. However, our model results do not depend on any
204 specific assumptions in terms of composition of these mafic lithologies, except for the
205 imposed melting behavior and density profiles (see sections 2.3-2.4). In fact, we consider
206 the same density profile and melting parameterization for both mafic/basaltic materials,
207 considering that both are “pyroxenites”; i.e. the keyword that we use for this lithology

208 hereinafter. We stress that considering any alternative fusible (i.e., high melt productivity)
209 and intrinsically dense lithologies instead of pyroxenites is expected to yield very similar
210 model results.

211 In turn, harzburgites are not modeled as an independent lithology, but rather as a
212 depleted peridotite. The degrees of depletion of depleted peridotite (DP) and hydrous
213 peridotite (HP), F_{DP} and F_{HP} , increase upwards in each layer ([Katz et al., 2003](#); [Ballmer et
214 al., 2009](#)). The explicit profiles of F_{DP} and F_{HP} in each harzburgite layer are pre-calculated
215 from residual profiles of mid-ocean ridge melting ([Ballmer et al., 2009](#)), which remains an
216 ad-hoc simplification for the sub-continental layer. Likewise, the continental crust is also
217 modeled as depleted peridotite (with $F_{DP} = F_{HP} = 0.2$ in the 30-km thick crustal layer) and
218 not as an independent lithology. Accordingly, the intrinsic buoyancy of the continental crust
219 is just $\sim 33 \text{ kg/m}^3$ (see eq. 2 below). While such a small anomaly remains a very
220 conservative choice, it is sufficient to guarantee stability of the crust (also because the
221 crustal layer is within the strongest part of the lithosphere). Along these lines, we really
222 just model a mix of three lithologies: dry (depleted) peridotite (DP), hydrous (enriched)
223 peridotite (HP), and pyroxenites (PX).

224 In the reference case, 2 wt.-% pyroxenites (Figure 2) are mixed into a 40 km thick
225 hydrous layer. The hydrous layer is meant to represent a layer in the transition zone that is
226 enriched in volatiles and pyroxenites through the long-term subduction (and accumulation)
227 of a hydrated mélangé (+silicic sediments) through a channel atop the slab ([Gerya et al.,
228 2004](#); [Iwamori, 2007](#); [Marschall and Schumacher, 2012](#)), or formed by the long-term
229 delivery of water that transported to the MTZ in the cool sinking slab (and continuous
230 dehydration in the MTZ) ([Frost, 2006](#)).

231

232 2.2 Rheology parameterization

233 In a conservative approach, we use a simplified Newtonian rheology to model mantle
234 flow:

$$235 \quad \eta = \lambda_i \eta_0 \exp\left(-\frac{E^* + pV^*}{RT} + \frac{E^*}{RT_0}\right), \quad (1)$$

236 with η viscosity, η_0 the reference viscosity calculated for zero pressure and $T = T_0$, λ_i a
237 depth-dependent viscosity pre-factor, E^* activation energy, V^* activation volume, R the
238 ideal gas constant, p pressure, T temperature, and T_0 the reference temperature. In the
239 resulting viscosity profile (Figure 3c), we define η_{eff} as the effective viscosity (i.e. the
240 minimum viscosity of the asthenosphere at time-step zero). We consider a relatively low
241 activation energy of $E^* = 200 \text{ kJ/mol}$ in order to mimic the composite effects of dislocation
242 and diffusion creep in a simplified Newtonian-rheology description ([Christensen, 1984](#);
243 [van Hunen et al., 2005](#)). Our simplified rheology is just temperature-dependent and depth-
244 dependent due to our choices of E^* , V^* and λ_i . We apply λ_i of 1 and 30 for above 660 km
245 and below 660 km, respectively. Accordingly, at 660 km depth, a viscosity jump of factor
246 30 is imposed (Figure 3c) ([King and Masters, 1992](#); [Peltier, 1996](#); [Mitrovica and Forte,](#)
247 [1997](#); [Kaufmann and Lambeck, 2000](#)).

Table 1: Governing Parameters

Parameter	Description	Value or Range
c_p	Specific heat capacity	1250 J/kg·K
E^*	Activation energy	200 kJ/mol
V^*	Activation volume	$4 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}^3/\text{mol}$
Q_0	Internal heating	$9.995 \times 10^{-12} \text{ W/m}^3$
g	Gravitational acceleration	9.8 m/s^2
L	Latent heat of melt	$5.6 \times 10^5 \text{ J/kg}$
T_0	Reference temperature	1350 °C
α	Thermal expansivity	^a
γ	Adiabatic gradient	0.3 K/km
Γ	Clausius-Clapeyron slope at 660 km	$-3 \times 10^6 \text{ MPa/K}$
$\Delta\rho_{depl}$	Density anomaly related to 100% depletion	-100 kg/m^3
$\Delta\rho_{melt}$	Density anomaly related to 100% melt	-500 kg/m^3
$\Delta\rho_{PX}$	Density anomaly related to 100% pyroxenite	91.15 kg/m^3
$\Delta\rho_{H_2O}$	Density anomaly related to 100 ppm water	-0.5 kg/m^3 ^b
η_{eff}	Effective mantle viscosity	$2.2 \times 10^{18} - 1.1 \times 10^{19} \text{ Pa}\cdot\text{s}$
κ	Thermal diffusivity	$1 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$
ρ_0	Reference mantle density	3300 kg/m^3
ρ_ϕ	Magma density	2800 kg/m^3
ϕ_c	Critical porosity	0.1 %
$C_{H_2O_DP}$	Water content of dry peridotite	400 wt.-ppm
$C_{H_2O_HP}$	Water content of hydrous peridotite	400-10000 wt.-ppm
D_{HP}	Thickness of the hydrous layer	20-135 km
χ_i	Mass fraction of a lithology ($i = [\text{DP}, \text{HP}, \text{PX}]$)	$\chi_{DP} + \chi_{HP} + \chi_{PX} = 1$

249 ^a Depth-dependent based on ([Tosi et al., 2013](#)); see text.

250 ^b From ([Inoue et al., 1998](#); [Angel et al., 2001](#); [Wang et al., 2003](#); [Panero, 2010](#)).

252 2.3 Melting parameterization

253 To model mantle melting, we consider three different components in the mantle source
254 (Figure 2): dry peridotite, hydrous peridotite and pyroxenite (again, harzburgite is not an
255 independent lithology; see above). We use a relatively simple model of melting, melt
256 migration and melt extraction to efficiently model magma generation in the upper mantle.
257 For example, we do not explicitly account for porous flow of magma, but rather consider
258 melt extraction based on the dynamic melting approximation ([McKenzie, 1985](#); [Elliott,
259 1997](#); [Schmeling, 2006](#)). Magma is immobile until the critical porosity ϕ_C is reached in the
260 peridotite mineral assemblage. Magma is instantaneously extracted to the surface once the
261 melt fraction exceeds ϕ_C , assuming that the timescale of melt migration and extraction is
262 much smaller than of mantle flow ([Kelemen et al., 1997](#)). We choose a critical porosity of
263 $\phi_C = 0.1\%$ ([Stracke et al., 2006](#)), at which (hydrous) melts form an interconnected network
264 ([Mei et al., 2002](#)), and are efficiently extracted, particularly in deformed aggregates
265 ([Holtzman et al., 2003](#)). Melting is treated as a semi-reversible process, in which refreezing
266 of any retained magma back to peridotite or pyroxenite occurs as soon as temperature
267 decreases or pressure increases. Latent heat of melt is consumed in the melting process and
268 released in the refreezing process.

269 We consider melting laws of Katz et al. ([2003](#)) and Pertermann & Hirschmann ([2003](#))
270 for the melting of peridotite and pyroxenite, respectively (Figure 3a). However, we restrict
271 any melting beyond a cutoff of 8.05 GPa (~ 250 km); the melting parameterizations are not
272 valid for any higher pressures, and we do not expect any melting there ([Andrault et al.,
273 2018](#)). In any case, as no melting in our models happens at pressures larger than ~ 4 GPa
274 (see results section), our results are not sensitive to our choice of the cutoff. The effects of
275 water on depressing the solidus of peridotite is self-consistently accounted for ([Ballmer et
276 al., 2009](#)).

277

278 2.4 Density parameterization

279 Flow in the model is driven by mantle buoyancy, which is affected by thermal and
280 compositional density anomalies. Density ρ is a function of temperature T and composition

281 modified by melting and refreezing processes, depth and water content:

282

$$\begin{aligned}
 283 \quad \rho = & \rho_0[1 - \alpha(T - T_0)] - \Delta\rho_{melt}(\chi_{DP}\varphi_{DP} + \chi_{HP}\varphi_{HP} + \chi_{PX}\varphi_{PX}) + \beta\Delta\rho_{PX}\chi_{PX} \\
 284 \quad & -\beta\Delta\rho_{depl}(\chi_{DP}F_{DP} + \chi_{HP}F_{HP}) - \Delta\rho_{H_2O}(\chi_{DP}C_{H_2O_DP} + \chi_{HP}C_{H_2O_HP}), \quad (2)
 \end{aligned}$$

285 where ρ_0 is the reference density, T and T_0 are the temperature and reference temperature,
 286 respectively. α is the thermal expansivity, $\Delta\rho_{melt}$ and $\Delta\rho_{depl}$ are the density changes due to
 287 melt and depletion, respectively. χ_i and φ_i are the mass fractions and porosities (i.e., magma
 288 fractions), respectively, of a given lithology i ($i = [DP, HP, PX]$). $\Delta\rho_{PX}$ is the excess density
 289 of pyroxenites, $\Delta\rho_{H_2O}$ is the density change due to the presence of water in nominally
 290 anhydrous minerals, and $C_{H_2O_DP}$ and $C_{H_2O_HP}$ are the water contents in dry and hydrous
 291 peridotite, respectively. α is depth-dependent based on (Tosi et al., 2013), varies linearly
 292 from $4.5 \times 10^{-5} K^{-1}$ at the surface to $2.1 \times 10^{-5} K^{-1}$ at 660 km depth, and fixed at $2.2 \times 10^{-5} K^{-1}$
 293 below 660 km depth. $\Delta\rho_{depl}$ and $\Delta\rho_{PX}$ vary with depth, and β is the depth-dependent pre-
 294 factor that we use to parameterize this behavior (Hirose et al., 1999; Aoki and Takahashi,
 295 [2004](#); [Xu et al., 2008](#)):

296

$$297 \quad \beta = \begin{cases} 1.65, & \text{if } 0 \ll z < 300 \text{ km} \\ 2.30, & \text{if } 300 \ll z < 410 \text{ km} \\ 1.00, & \text{if } 410 \ll z < 660 \text{ km} \\ -1.75, & \text{if } 660 \ll z < 730 \text{ km} \\ 1.16, & \text{if } 730 \ll z \ll 1320 \text{ km} \end{cases}$$

298

299 Finally, we consider the effect of phase change at 660 km depth on buoyancy
 300 according to Ballmer et al. ([2015](#)), using a Clausius-Clapeyron slope of $\Gamma = -3.0 \text{ MPa/K}$
 301 ([Ito and Takahashi, 1989](#)).

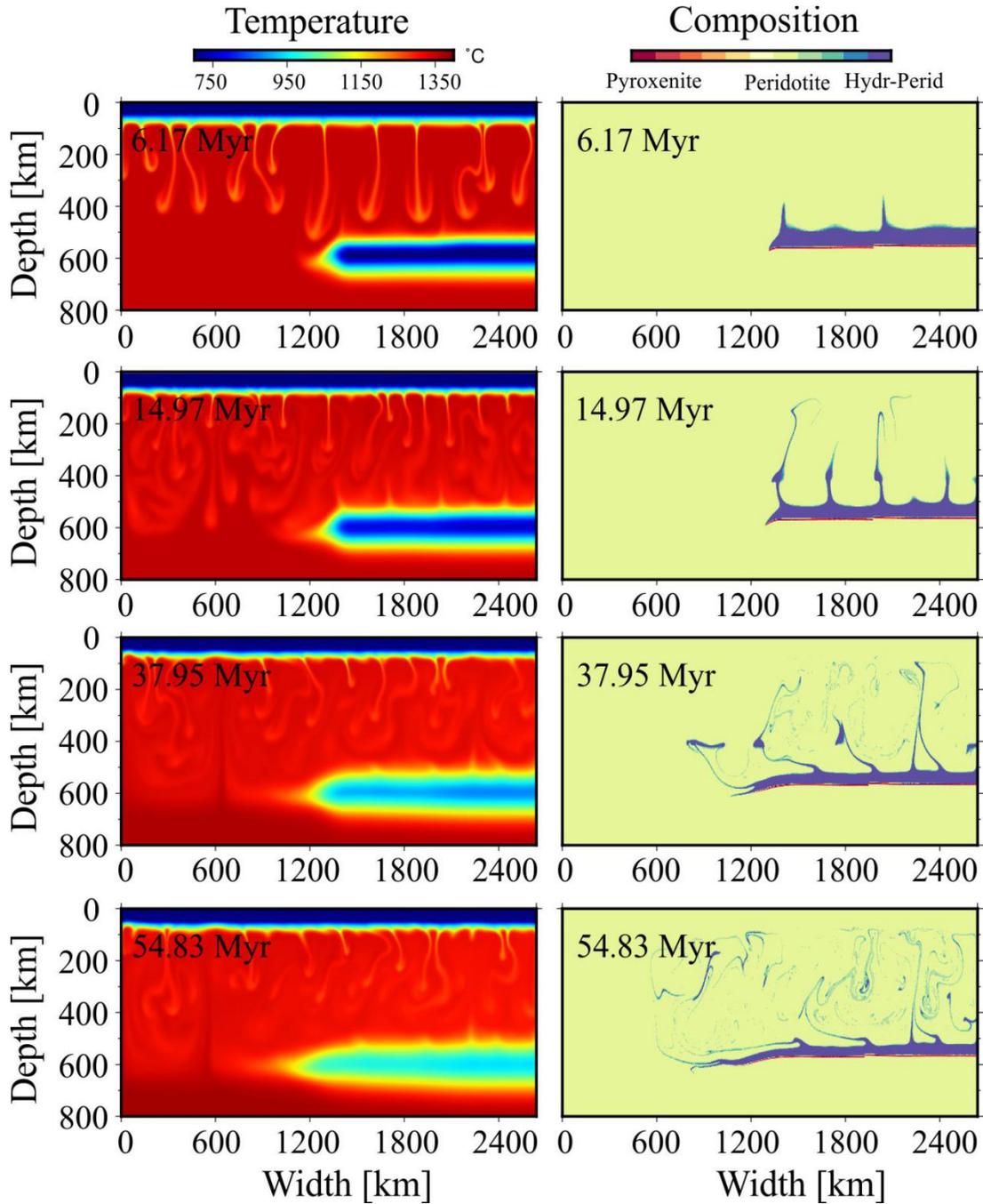
302 **2.5 Dehydration of hydrous peridotite at the 410 km discontinuity**

303 In our model, the initial water content of hydrous peridotite in a hydrous layer on top
 304 of the slab (Figure 2) is taken to vary between 400 and 10000 wt.-ppm (or 0.04 to 1 wt.-%).
 305 These are conservative bounds considering the high water solubility of ringwoodite and

306 wadsleyite ([Ohtani et al., 2004](#); [Pearson et al., 2014](#)), and the different ways of water
307 transport to the MTZ ([Faccenda et al., 2009](#); [van Keken et al., 2011](#); [Nishi et al., 2014](#);
308 [Ohira et al., 2014](#)) (see section 4.4). In contrast, the water content above 410 km depth is
309 limited to 400 wt.-ppm ([Férot and Bolfan-Casanova, 2012](#)). In order to take into account
310 the dehydration of any excessive water in the upwelling mantle at 410 km depth due to the
311 stabilization of a supercritical-fluid layer ([Bercovici and Karato, 2003](#)), we use a crude ad-
312 hoc approach of removing the excessive water from the model. We assume that the water
313 remains in the gravitationally-stable supercritical-fluid layer instead of diffusing into
314 uppermost mantle (for further discussion, see below).

315 3. Results

316 3.1 General model predictions: the reference case



317

318 **Figure 4.** Time series with snapshots of temperature (left) and composition (right) for the
 319 reference case.

320

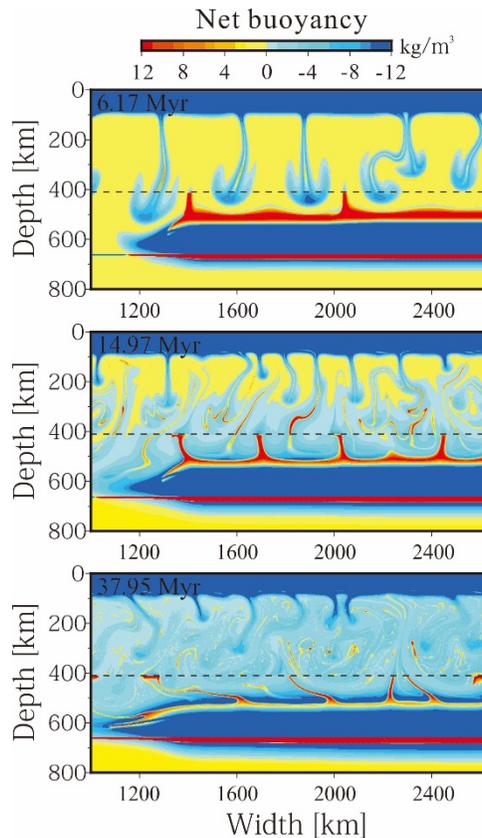
321 In our suite of numerical models, we find a typical evolution of thermochemical
322 convection and related mantle melting for a wide range of parameters. We first establish
323 this robust behavior by describing in detail the model predictions of our reference case.
324 The governing parameters of this reference case are $\eta_{eff} = 3.75 \times 10^{18} Pa \cdot s$, $C_{H_2O_HP} = 4000$
325 wt.-ppm and $D_{HP} = 60$ km (for additional parameters, which mostly remain fixed across
326 model suite, see Table 1) (for initial model setup see Figure 2).

327 Figure 4 shows the temporal evolution of temperature (left) and composition (right) of
328 the reference case. The related density variations that drive the flow are shown in Figure 5;
329 associated mantle melting and volcanism are presented in Figure 6. In Figures 4-5 and 6,
330 only the upper 800 km and upper 150 km, respectively, of a model box with vertical extent
331 of 1320 km, are shown.

332 The initial model setup represents the beginning of the stagnation phase of the slab, i.e.
333 just after the end of slab sinking through much of the upper mantle. In the very beginning
334 of the simulation, the slab still sinks a bit until it settles at a depth of 600~700 km (within
335 a couple of Myr of model time), floating at the 660 km discontinuity due to the downward
336 deflection of the related phase transition and related buoyancy force (Figure 5, the positive
337 buoyant (red) part of the slab). At the same time, the very first self-buoyant upwellings
338 develop at the slab tip and near the imposed fracture zone from a hydrous layer atop the
339 slab. The hydrous layer in the reference case contains 2% of mafic materials (or pyroxenites)
340 in addition to hydrous peridotite. These self-buoyant upwellings are driven by a density
341 inversion of hydrated peridotite (Figure 5), and triggered early in the simulation due to the
342 lateral heterogeneity provided by the fracture zone, or at the slab tip ([Huang et al., 2003](#);
343 [Dumoulin et al., 2004](#)).

344 During the onset of upwellings, SSC develops at the base of the continental lithosphere,
345 and reaches ~410 km depth at ~5 Myr. Active hydrous upwellings reach these depths soon
346 after that. Meanwhile, the slab is heated by the ambient mantle, which further promotes
347 convective instability. As a result, upwellings begin to develop not only at the slab tip or
348 fracture zone but also between them at ~10 Myr.

349



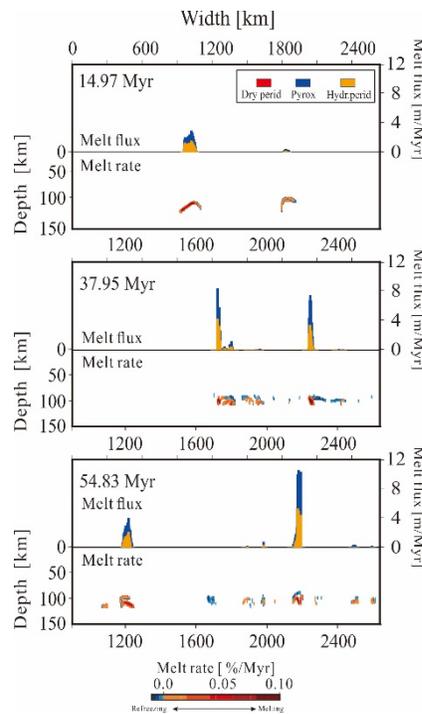
350

351 **Figure 5.** Map of densities ρ (see eq. 2) of the reference case for three snapshots (as
 352 labeled). Colors represent total (i.e., thermal plus compositional) density anomalies, or
 353 “net buoyancy” (warm colors: positive buoyancy or negative total density anomaly; cold
 354 colors: negative buoyancy or positive total density anomaly). The 410 km discontinuity,
 355 where much of the buoyancy related to hydration of peridotite is lost, is marked by a
 356 black dashed line. The ages of the slab when subducted at the trench are 70 Myr on the
 357 left and 80 Myr on the right side of the fracture zone, respectively.

358

359 As the self-buoyant upwellings ascend through the upper mantle, they encounter the
 360 phase transition at 410 km depth, where minerals are dehydrated, and partly lose their
 361 intrinsic buoyancy. Figure 5 shows the net buoyancy, which includes thermal and
 362 compositional buoyancy, of the model at three time steps corresponding to the first three
 363 panels of Figure 4. The first panel clearly shows that the buoyancy of the upwellings mostly
 364 comes from the material in the core of the upwelling (red part), which is hydrous peridotite.
 365 Because the water content of hydrous peridotite in the reference case (4000 wt.-ppm) is

366 higher than the capacity of the mantle above 410 km depth (400 wt.-ppm according to our
 367 parameterization), much of the water within the upwellings is lost (or left behind) in this
 368 case (and most other cases modeled), e.g. to stabilize a melt layer (see discussion below).
 369 Since the water in anhydrous minerals provides most of the buoyancy for the otherwise
 370 negatively buoyant (cool) upwellings, upwellings tend to stall near 410 km depth (Figures
 371 4 and 5) forming a layer of mostly hydrous material (Figure 4). This stagnant layer is
 372 ultimately passively entrained by SSC cells. In other words, self-buoyant upwellings from
 373 bottom-up driven instability of the hydrous layer intermittently stall just above the MTZ
 374 due to loss of H₂O, but are readily passively entrained by top-down driven convective
 375 instability.



376
 377 **Figure 6.** Snapshots of melt flux and melting rate. In the bottom inset of each panel,
 378 melting rate in the uppermost mantle is shown (colors). The vertical scale is inflated for
 379 visibility. In the top of each panel, the resulting cumulative melt flux is shown with colors
 380 representing source lithology. The melt flux is calculated from the cumulated extracted
 381 melt volume (i.e., the melt fraction that exceeds the critical porosity) from the underlying
 382 column of mantle rocks.

383

384 As being passively entrained and carried by the SSC cells, hydrous material eventually
 385 reaches the base of the lithosphere. The presence of volatiles in the hydrous material

386 significantly reduces the solidus temperature to allow (partial) decompression melting
387 within the entrained hydrous blobs. The small fraction of fertile pyroxenites in the hydrous
388 material contributes significantly to mantle melting. First melting occurs at ~11.8 Myr
389 model time (not shown in Figures, see supplemental Table S1), and increases in vigor
390 through the next few Myr as more and more hydrous material reaches the base of the
391 lithosphere. Partial melting takes place at ~100 km depth, and primarily in a region directly
392 above the slab. Melting further increases in vigor as the accumulation of hydrous material
393 near 410 km depth is progressively entrained by the SSC (Figure 4). Degrees of melting in
394 hydrous peridotite and pyroxenites reach ~5.0% and 38%, respectively. Any melt fractions
395 exceeding the critical porosity of 0.1% are extracted and assumed to contribute to
396 volcanism. Extracted magmas are sourced by mantle melting of hydrous peridotite and of
397 pyroxenites to about equal parts (~55:45). The temperature of the upper (most) mantle
398 decreases continuously as more and more cool hydrous materials are delivered by SSC.
399 Additionally, melting also consumes latent heat and contributes to the cooling of the upper
400 mantle, eventually hampering any further melting.

401

402 **3.2 Parameter study**

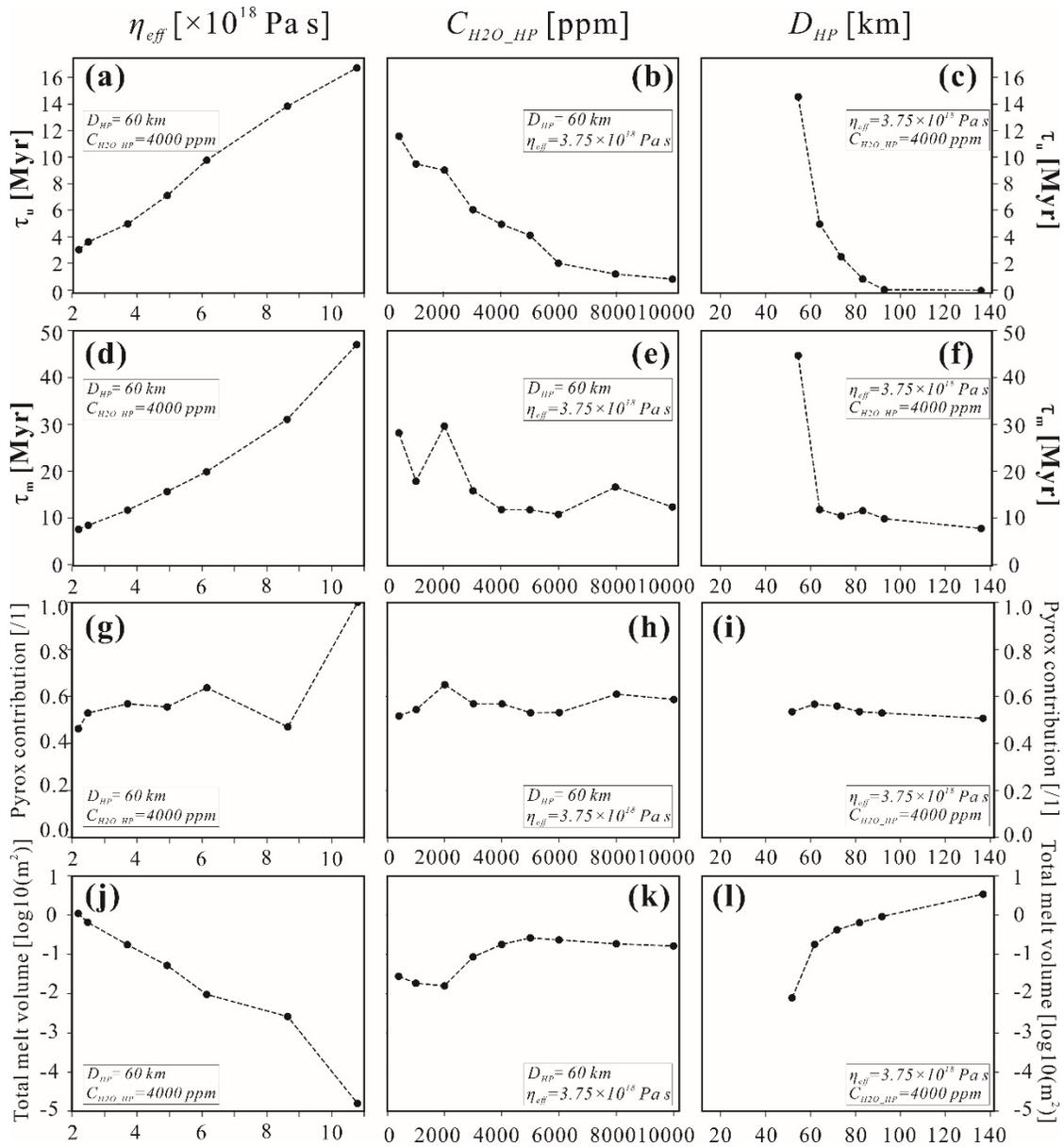
403 In order to further explore the origin of the spatial and temporal patterns of intraplate
404 volcanism above the stagnant slab, key model parameters are varied to investigate their
405 effects on the onset time of upwelling (τ_u), onset time of melting (τ_m), “pyroxenite
406 contribution” (or fraction of pyroxenite-derived magmas in volcanism), and cumulative
407 extracted melt volumes within 70 Myr (Figure 7). τ_u is defined as the time when the first
408 upwelling from the slab reaches 450 km depth; τ_m is the time when partial melting first
409 occurs at the base of the lithosphere. The model parameters that we explore include the
410 viscosity of the asthenosphere (η_{eff}), water content ($C_{H_2O_HP}$), thickness of the hydrous layer
411 (D_{HP}), initial pyroxenites fraction in the hydrous layer (χ_{PX}), and the plate ages at trench
412 on both sides of the slab.

413 **3.2.1 Effective viscosity**

414 In our models, the timing and dynamics of self-buoyant upwellings from the top of the

415 slab strongly depends on η_{eff} . The hydrous layer at the top of the slab, from which the
416 upwellings rise, is somewhat warmer and less strong than the core of the slab. The relevant
417 local viscosity is 10~100 times higher than, but directly coupled to, η_{eff} . The same holds
418 true for the viscous layer at the base of the lithosphere, out of which SSC instabilities
419 develop (e.g., ([Liao et al., 2017](#))). Both Rayleigh-Taylor instability in the hydrous layer,
420 and SSC instability at the base of the lithosphere is controlled by the local viscosity. Thus,
421 τ_u and ultimately τ_m are expected to be controlled by η_{eff} .

422 In our study, we vary η_{eff} from 2.2×10^{18} to 1.1×10^{19} Pa·s. As expected, the dominant
423 effect of increasing η_{eff} is to delay convective instability and related melting (Figure 7a and
424 d). Also, for higher η_{eff} , convection and melting are less vigorous (Figure 7j). In turn,
425 pyroxenite contribution remains mostly robust as long as $\eta_{eff} \leq 8.8 \times 10^{18}$ Pa·s (Figure 7g).
426 Small $\eta_{eff} \leq 6.25 \times 10^{18}$ Pa·s are associated with $\tau_m < 20$ Myr (Figure 7d). For these cases,
427 the compositional fingerprint of related lavas also remains robust, as measured by
428 pyroxenite contributions of ~50%. That said, cases with $\eta_{eff} \leq 2.2 \times 10^{18}$ Pa·s display minor
429 contributions (up to ~12%) of DP-melting.



430

431 **Figure 7.** The effects of model parameters η_{eff} , C_{H2O_HP} and D_{HP} (as labeled) on the onset
 432 time of upwelling (a-c), onset time of melting (d-f), pyroxenite contribution to volcanism
 433 (g-i) and total melt volume extracted (j-l). Melt volumes are cumulative extracted volumes
 434 over model times ≤ 70 Myr. The other two key model parameters are provided in the insets.
 435 If no circle and related line(s) are plotted in panels (c), (f), (i) and (l), no upwelling or
 436 melting occurs in the corresponding model, respectively (Supplemental Table S1).

437

438 3.2.2 Bulk water content

439 Increasing the bulk water content C_{H2O_HP} decreases the intrinsic density of the

440 hydrous peridotite layer. In other words, the presence of water provides buoyancy to
441 hydrous materials, thus promoting upwellings from the slab. Accordingly, we expect that
442 increasing $C_{H_2O_HP}$ tends to advance both upwelling and melting.

443 Indeed, our models predict that τ_u systematically decreases with increasing $C_{H_2O_HP}$
444 (Figure 7b). In general, τ_m decrease with increasing $C_{H_2O_HP}$ as long as $C_{H_2O_HP} < 4000$ wt.-
445 ppm. However, for $C_{H_2O_HP} \geq 4000$ wt.-ppm, τ_m and total volumes of melting remain
446 virtually constant. This prediction is mostly explained by the upper limit of 400 wt.-ppm
447 water in olivine. Even though upwellings are develop rather early for these cases, it still
448 takes ~ 10 Myr for hydrous materials to travel from top of the MTZ to the base of
449 lithosphere. Besides, pyroxenite contribution to volcanism is virtually independent of
450 $C_{H_2O_HP}$, demonstrating that 2% pyroxenite in the hydrous layer is able to give rise to a
451 nearly 50-50 mixed source of volcanism for a wide parameter range.

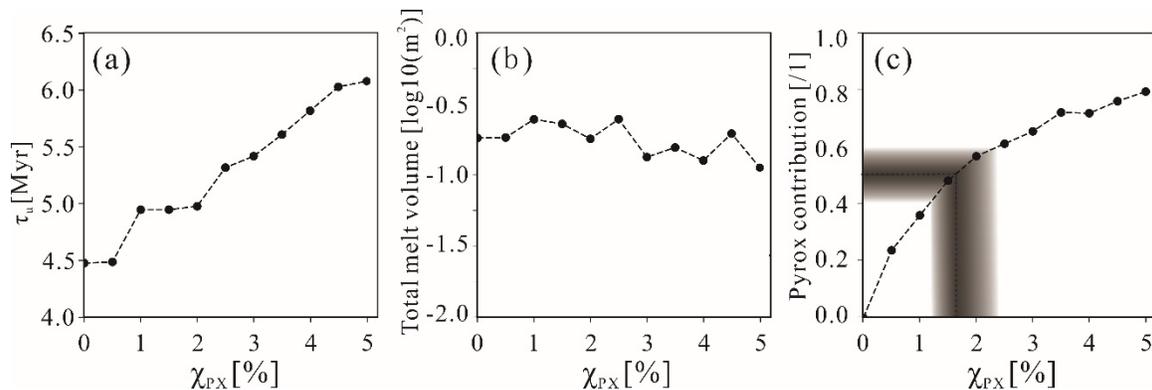
452 3.2.3 Thickness of hydrous peridotite

453 The thickness of the hydrous-peridotite layer is one of the key parameters to control
454 the rise of hydrous upwellings from the slab, and related volcanism. Its primary effect on
455 τ_u and τ_m is similar to that of $C_{H_2O_HP}$. τ_u and τ_m generally decreases with increasing
456 thickness of the hydrous layer, well understood from a Rayleigh-Taylor stability analysis.
457 As shown in Figure 7c and f, the results can be divided into three regimes. For $D_{HP} \leq 40$
458 km, there is no upwelling and hence no melting within 70 Myr (not shown in Figure 7 (c),
459 (f), (i) and (l)). For $40 < D_{HP} < 90$ km, upwelling and related melting are systematically
460 advanced as D_{HP} increases. This effect is explained by an increase in positive buoyancy
461 related to hydration in the layer above the slab. Finally, for $D_{HP} \geq 90$ km, the effect of D_{HP}
462 on τ_u and τ_m is negligible.

463 3.2.4 Initial pyroxenite fraction in the hydrous layer

464 To explore the effects of the initial fraction of pyroxenite (χ_{PX}) in the hydrous (HP)
465 layer, we vary this fraction between 0.0% and 5.0%. χ_{PX} has a strong influence on
466 pyroxenite contribution to volcanism, and can also affect τ_u through its direct effect on the
467 buoyancy of the hydrous layer. As pyroxenite is intrinsically dense, this buoyancy should
468 decrease with increasing χ_{PX} . Accordingly, τ_u is expected to increase with increasing χ_{PX} .

469 Figure 8 shows the effects of χ_{PX} on τ_u , total melt volume and pyroxenite contribution.
 470 τ_u only increases from 4.5 to 6 Myr as χ_{PX} increases from 0.0% to 5.0%. As expected,
 471 pyroxenite contribution is strongly sensitive to χ_{PX} , increasing systematically from 0% to
 472 about 80% as χ_{PX} increases from 0.0% to 5.0%. Accordingly, geochemical signatures of
 473 related magmas may be used to constrain the initial pyroxenite content in the hydrous layer
 474 above the slab (Figure 8). In turn, the effects of χ_{PX} on total melt volumes remain small,
 475 because increasing χ_{PX} not only promotes melting, but also decreases the vigor of
 476 upwelling and makes hydrous material more difficult to be entrained by SSC. Because of
 477 this same trade-off, τ_m remains mostly robust at ~ 12 Myr with increasing χ_{PX} (not shown
 478 in Figure 8, see supplemental Table S1).



479

480 **Figure 8.** The onset time of upwelling τ_u (a), total melt volume (b) and pyroxenite
 481 contribution (c) versus initial fraction of pyroxenite within the hydrous layer (χ_{PX}). Shadow
 482 in (c) marks the range of pyroxenite contributions between 0.4 and 0.6, which are most
 483 consistent with the geochemical signatures of Cenozoic intraplate volcanism in eastern
 484 China, and the corresponding constraints on parameter χ_{PX} .

485

486 3.2.5 Heterogeneity within stagnant slab

487 In all our models, first upwellings rise from the slab tip, and near the fracture zone
 488 within the slab (Figure 4). These predictions imply that lateral heterogeneity can trigger
 489 the ascent of hydrous plumes, analogous to the well-understood advancement of SSC by
 490 lateral heterogeneity (King and Ritsema, 2000; Huang et al., 2003; Dumoulin et al., 2004).
 491 In all the cases discussed so far, the imposed age jump at the fracture zone is fixed at 10

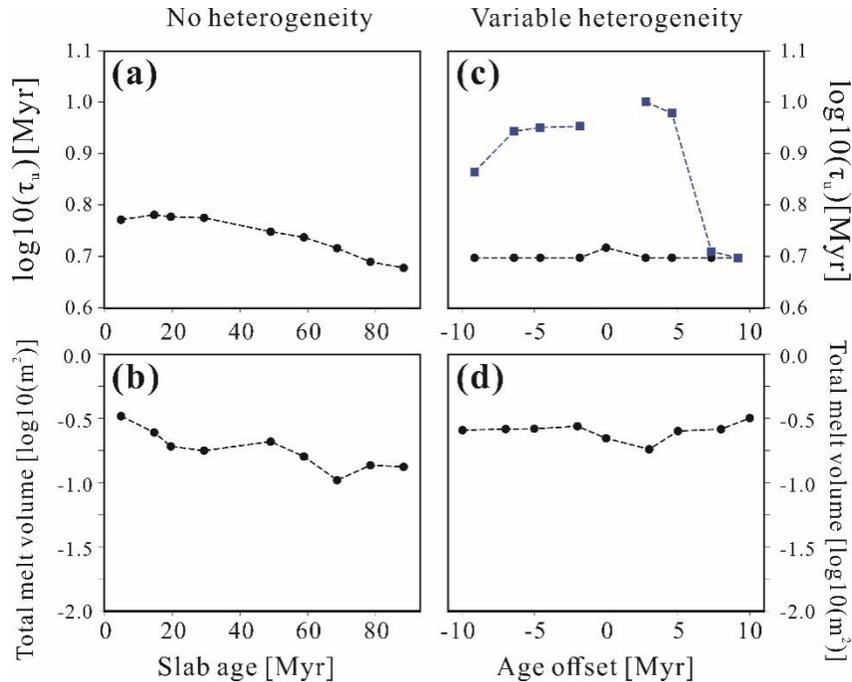
492 Myr; the age at trench of the left section ($1320 < x < 1980$ km) of the slab is 70 Myr, and
493 that of the right section ($1980 < x < 2640$ km) is 80 Myr. To explore the effects of the age
494 of the subducted slab and of the imposed age jump, two groups of cases with different
495 configurations are investigated.

496 In the first group (Figure 9 (a) and (b)), no age jump is imposed, but the age of the slab
497 at trench (i.e. when the plate was subducted at 10 Myr before the start of the model) is
498 systematically varied. In all these cases, the first upwelling appears at the slab tip. For small
499 slab ages, τ_u first slightly increases with slab age and then remains nearly constant. For
500 large slab ages, τ_u systematically decreases from ~ 6 to ~ 4.8 Myr. In contrast, the total
501 volumes of melting decrease systematically with slab age. The predicted trends for small
502 slab ages (< 30 Ma) are well explained by the decrease of available net buoyancy within
503 the hydrous layer that drives Rayleigh-Taylor instability with increasing slab age. Higher
504 slab ages imply lower temperatures of the slab and the overlying hydrous layer, which leads
505 to a later onset of upwellings, a smaller portion of the hydrous layer to become convectively
506 unstable, and eventually less melting at the base of the lithosphere. However, higher slab
507 ages also lead to shorter distance between hydrous layer and 450 km depth, where τ_u is
508 measured. Moreover, as slab ages increase, the heterogeneity at the slab tip also becomes
509 stronger, driving earlier instability. These two effects trade off with the above buoyancy
510 effect in terms of τ_u , eventually resulting in earlier upwellings but smaller melt volumes as
511 slab ages increase.

512 In the second group (Figure 9(c) and (d)), we investigate the effects of the age jump at
513 the heterogeneity within the slab. We fix the slab age of the left section at 70 Myr, and vary
514 the slab age of the right section between 60 and 80 Myr. Hence, we implicitly vary the age
515 jump across the modeled subducted fracture zone. The flat curve in Figure 9c (black line)
516 implies that early upwelling ($\tau_u = \sim 5$ Myr) develops at the slab tip regardless of the fracture-
517 zone age jump, and allows significant mantle melting. Thus, our results are mostly robust
518 and virtually independent of the age jump. We note, however, that the onset age of
519 instability that rises from near the heterogeneity does indeed depend on the age jump, and
520 big age jumps promote local upwelling (see blue line in Fig. 9c). Thereby, the location of
521 upwelling instability and related distribution of magmatism depends on heterogeneity in
522 the MTZ. Also, the total volume of volcanism increases as a larger portion of hydrous

523 material rises sufficiently early, e.g. near the fracture zone.

524



525

526 **Figure 9.** The effects of “slab ages” (i.e. plate ages at trench) on both sides of the fracture
 527 zone on model results in terms of τ_u ((a),(c)) and total melt volumes ((b),(d)). No fracture
 528 zone is imposed within the slab in (a) and (b). A fracture zone with a variable age offset (as
 529 labeled) is imposed in (c) and (d). The age of the left side of the slab is fixed at 70 Myr.
 530 The blue line denotes the onset age of instability from near the fracture zone, which is
 531 delayed compared to upwelling from the slab tip (black line) in (c).

532

533 Heterogeneity within subducted slabs (e.g., slab tears or slab window) are widely
 534 detected ([Dickinson and Snyder, 1979](#); [Thorkelson, 1996](#); [Miller et al., 2006](#); [Rosenbaum](#)
 535 [et al., 2008](#); [Cao et al., 2014](#); [Windley and Xiao, 2018](#)). Specifically, a subducted fracture
 536 zone of age offset ~ 10 Myr is located on the subducted Pacific slab beneath eastern China
 537 ([Liu et al., 2017](#)). Note that slab tears or slab windows may even have a larger effect on the
 538 onset of instability than fracture zones with an offset of ~ 10 Myrs such as modeled here.

539

540 3.2.6 Initial distribution of pyroxenite

541 To better understand the effects of the initial distribution of pyroxenite through the
542 mantle, three different initial conditions are explored here. In group A (made up by all
543 models discussed above; see cartoon in Figure 2b), a minor fraction of pyroxenite (0.0-5.0
544 wt.-%) is initially distributed through the hydrous layer, but not through the ambient mantle.
545 In group B (cartoon: Suppl. Fig.1a), pyroxenite is initially neither distributed through the
546 ambient mantle nor through the hydrous layer. In group C (cartoon: Suppl. Fig.1b), a minor
547 fraction of pyroxenite (0.1 % or 1.0 wt.-%) is initially distributed through the ambient
548 mantle, but not the hydrous layer; the ambient mantle is further assumed to contain 2.5
549 wt.-% hydrous peridotite. As in group A, we also explore the same parameter space but
550 with larger steps for groups B and C. Indeed, the distribution of mafic lithologies (e.g.,
551 MORB and pyroxenites) remains poorly understood ([Nakagawa and Buffett, 2005](#);
552 [Brandenburg and Keken, 2007](#); [Ballmer et al., 2015a](#)). Over geologic time, subducted
553 MORB and other flavors of pyroxenites have been stirred through the mantle ([Weaver,](#)
554 [1991](#); [Hanyu and Kaneoka, 1997](#); [Kogiso et al., 1997](#)).

555 In group B, hydrous materials are also transported by upwelling from the MTZ to the
556 base of the lithosphere, and sustain magmatism there. However, the produced melt only
557 originates from hydrous-peridotite melting. Except for that, results of group B are very
558 similar to group A.

559 In group C, volcanism is instead mainly sourced by pyroxenite (PX)-melting (mostly
560 $\geq 90\%$), even if the initial fraction of PX is very small ($\chi_{PX} = 1\%$). Magmatism occurs
561 everywhere in the asthenosphere and not just above the stagnant slab. Thus, if volcanism
562 is indeed focused in regions that are underlain by a stagnant slab, enriched
563 pyroxenitic/mafic heterogeneity needs to be located in a buoyant hydrous layer atop the
564 slab (i.e., as in group A), and not just in the MORB layer (group B) and not everywhere
565 (group C).

566 Model predictions in terms of pyroxenite contribution to magmatism strongly vary
567 between groups, thus being sensitive to the initial condition. In group A, pyroxenite
568 contributions are around 50% for all cases with $\eta_{eff} \leq 8.8 \times 10^{18}$ Pa·s (Figure 7). In group B,
569 pyroxenite contributions are nearly zero. In other words, pyroxenite from the 7 km thick
570 pyroxenitic layer of the recently subducted stagnant slab does not get entrained by the

571 hydrous plumes to rise to the base of the lithosphere in this group (and all of our models).
572 In group C, pyroxenite contributions are strongly sensitive to χ_{PX} . Because of high melt
573 productivity of pyroxenite (Figure 3a), only $\chi_{PX} = 0.1$ wt.-% in the ambient mantle are able
574 to yield pyroxenite contributions of ~64%. Maybe a lower χ_{PX} can result in a pyroxenite
575 contribution 50%, consistent with geochemical signatures of Cenozoic intraplate
576 volcanism in eastern China as discussion below. However, these low χ_{PX} are smaller than
577 those estimated from the inversion of MORB melting ([Hirschmann and Stolper, 1996](#)). In
578 any case, the extents of melting of mafic materials (pyroxenite), and thus the specific
579 numbers predicted here for χ_{PX} , depend on the melting law chosen (e.g., [Pertermann and](#)
580 [Hirschmann \(2003\)](#) vs. [Lambart et al. \(2016\)](#)).

581 The general trends of model predictions in total melt volumes as a function of
582 parameters are similar for groups A and B. For group C, the melting is generally more
583 vigorous and virtually independent of $C_{H_2O_HP}$ and D_{HP} . According to group C, no
584 connection between the subducted slab and intraplate volcanism is required. Melting is
585 immediately caused by SSC ([Ballmer et al., 2007](#); [West et al., 2009](#); [Ballmer et al., 2010](#)),
586 as soon as convective instability develops. Similarly, if much of the MTZ were hydrated
587 ([Bercovici and Karato, 2003](#); [Nakagawa, 2017](#)) and not just a layer above the stagnant slab,
588 the locations of volcanism would be poorly related to those of the slab stagnation. However,
589 according to the good spatial correlation between these two (Figure 1), we do not favor
590 group C (or a homogenous distribution of hydrated material in the MTZ). In summary,
591 group A can better explain the distribution (compared to group C) and geochemical
592 signature (compared to group B) of pyroxenitic intraplate volcanism beneath continental
593 lithosphere. However, we do not rule out that SSC alone can give rise to intraplate
594 volcanism locally, e.g. due to regional enhancement of mafic materials (or other enriched
595 lithologies) in the ambient mantle.

596

597 4. Discussion

598 According to our analysis, the timing of upwelling and magmatism, τ_u and τ_m , are

599 mostly controlled by parameters that affect the local Rayleigh number, such as η_{eff} (or other
600 rheological parameters not modeled here), and by parameters that affect the buoyancy of
601 the hydrous material, such as $C_{H_2O_HP}$. The amount of melting behaves generally
602 consistently with τ_u and τ_m ; early τ_u usually result in early τ_m and higher total melt volumes.

603 The parameter range, over which this robust behavior occurs, is realistic. 4000 wt.-
604 ppm water in a 60 km thick hydrous layer are sufficient to promote intraplate volcanism
605 soon after the slab arrives in the MTZ, e.g. in E China. Based on a few additional models
606 (not shown), we find that there is a trade-off between critical water contents and layer
607 thicknesses. At higher water contents (e.g. 6000 wt.-ppm) smaller layer thicknesses (~40
608 km) are required to obtain similar model behavior. Depending on the characteristics of the
609 slab and the composition of the hydrated wedge, the total water flux transported to the
610 transition zone may be sufficient to sustain these requirements, or even higher than that
611 ([Inoue et al., 1998](#)). The water content in the MTZ has been estimated to be higher than 0.4
612 wt.-% (see section 4.4) ([Pearson et al., 2014](#); [Houser, 2016](#)). Depending on the mechanisms
613 of water delivery, the thickness of the hydrous layer above the slab may also be higher than
614 the required 60 km, particularly if the whole MTZ is hydrated. Strong heterogeneity, such
615 as a fracture zone with a large offset or a slab window, is not required to trigger early
616 upwellings from the slab. An early onset on mantle melting requires effective viscosities \leq
617 6.25×10^{18} Pa·s in the asthenosphere (see Fig. 7), consistent with independent estimates by
618 Freed et al., ([2006](#); [2017](#)) and Bills et al., ([2007](#)). Even though poorly constrained (e.g.,
619 ([Rudolph et al., 2015](#)), relatively low viscosities on the order of $10^{19} \sim 10^{20}$ Pa·s such as
620 required for early upwelling may be realistic for the MTZ ([Bills et al., 1994](#); [James et al.,](#)
621 [2000](#); [Pollitz et al., 2001](#)) at least for the hydrous layer and the hydrous upwellings. As we
622 do not explicitly take into account the effects of water on reducing mantle viscosity ([Fei et](#)
623 [al., 2017](#)), these constrained effective viscosities remain lower bounds. We expect that at a
624 given η_{eff} , hydrous instability develops sooner and upwellings rise faster if water-dependent
625 rheology were considered, even though the mostly dry matrix also has to be deformed. To
626 get a rough idea how water dependent rheology would affect our results, several additional
627 cases are tested. In these cases, the hydrous material (with water contents as in the reference
628 case) is 20 times weaker than the ambient mantle. This weakening is only applied in the
629 MTZ to keep results comparable to those of the reference case. Due to the imposed

630 weakening, the onset of upwelling (τ_u) is advanced, but that of melting (τ_m) remains nearly
631 unchanged. It takes ~ 10 Myr for hydrous materials to be conveyed from ~ 410 km depth to
632 the base of the lithosphere regardless of τ_u . Nevertheless, the volume of melting is increased
633 as more hydrous material goes unstable. Consequently, lower water contents and/or thinner
634 hydrous layers (e.g. ~ 40 km) are required to obtain similar results as in the reference case
635 without water-dependent rheology. Additional work is required to quantify the effects of
636 hydrogen impurities on the viscosity of wadsleyite and ringwoodite for water contents that
637 are significantly below saturation. In addition, the viscosity of the subducted slab may be
638 depressed due to grain-size reduction during the crossing of the 410 km phase transition,
639 and poor recovery afterwards ([Riedel and Karato, 1997](#); [Karato et al., 2001](#)). Future
640 modeling efforts are needed to explore the effects of a more realistic rheology on hydrous-
641 upwelling dynamics and melting.

642

643 4.1 Distribution of volcanism in eastern Asia

644 Our model predictions of intraplate volcanism occurring directly above the stagnant
645 slab is consistent with the distribution of intraplate volcanism in E Asia ([Huang and Zheng,
646 2017](#); [Yu et al., 2018](#)) and globally (Figure 1). Specifically, our results imply that volcanism
647 occurs in a belt between the slab tip and the hinge (i.e., where the slab first reaches the
648 MTZ), or starts at a given distance from the hinge that is related to the timescale τ_m . In any
649 case, large-scale poloidal (or toroidal) flow as imposed by slab sinking and roll-back may
650 pull upwellings towards the trench. In E China, the slab has been subducting and stagnating
651 in the MTZ for more than 30 Myr and spreads ~ 3000 km away from the trench ([Liu et al.,
652 2017](#)), and so does most of the observed intraplate volcanism ([Liu et al., 2001](#); [Ren et al.,
653 2002](#)).

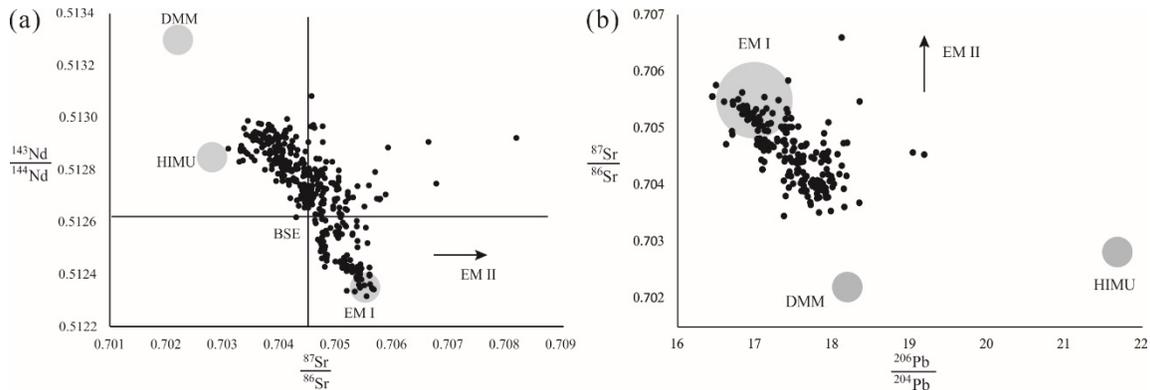
654 Changbai volcano, located just over the hinge of the subducted slab ([Zhao, 2004](#);
655 [Fukao and Obayashi, 2013](#); [Liu et al., 2017](#)), may be a special case. If we assume that it
656 takes 10 Myr for the slab to sink through the upper mantle and reach the MTZ ([Goes et al.,
657 2011](#)), Changbai volcano ([Guo et al., 2016](#)) may require a very early τ_m of < 5 Myr. As our
658 model does not include the stage of the slab sinking through the upper mantle, our τ_m are

659 generally conservative estimates. Upwellings may indeed already start forming before the
660 slab reaches the MTZ and begins to stagnate. In this case, the whole process may be
661 advanced compared to our model predictions (or the constraint on η_{eff} relaxed).
662 Alternatively, Kameyama & Nishioka (2012) propose that a strong local circulation near
663 the hinge of the slab, above which Changbai volcano is located, is induced by the retreating
664 and subduction of the Pacific slab. Tang et al. (2014) argue that a slab window (gap) in the
665 subducted Pacific slab is located just beneath Changbai volcano. Note that in E Asia, the
666 Pacific slab (and even earlier: the Izanagi slab) has been subducted for much more than 30
667 Myr and stagnated for at least 20 Myr (Liu et al., 2017). Hence, upwellings developing
668 from that slab with $\tau_m < 20$ Myr are well sufficient to account for late Cenozoic volcanism
669 in eastern China. Moreover, considering the heterogeneous nature of water distribution in
670 the MTZ, our predicted τ_m should be upper bounds and melt volumes lower bounds.

671 The thickness and structure of the overlying lithosphere also controls the distribution
672 of volcanism above the stagnant slab. For example, lithosphere farther away from the
673 trench in central and western China is thicker than in the northeastern part, allowing less
674 decompression melting and volcanism (Chen et al., 2008; Guo et al., 2018). This
675 lithospheric structure of China may be an alternative explanation for the poor correlation
676 between predictions in group C with observations. Sublithospheric structure may also
677 control the distribution of volcanism through the geometry of SSC cells, (e.g., King and
678 Anderson, 1995; King and Ritsema, 2000). In this case of “edge-driven convection”,
679 increased volcanism at a given distance from a step of lithospheric thickness would focus
680 on the thin-lithosphere side. However, in China, volcanism commonly occurs on both sides
681 of the step in lithospheric thickness, or both in- and outside of the basins (e.g. (Wang et al.,
682 2006; Wang et al., 2017)).

683

684 4.2 Geochemical signatures of intraplate volcanism in NE China



685

686 **Figure 10:** (a) $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ vs $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ and (b) $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ vs $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ of Cenozoic basalts
 687 in NE China showing the linear trend between two end-members. Data with higher Sr ratios
 688 are from the Bohai Bay Basin (Dong et al., 2010) and are consistent with sea-water
 689 alteration (Elderfield, 1986; Veizer, 1989). Data are from “GeoRoc” database
 690 (<http://georoc.mpch-mainz.gwdg.de/georoc/>; see Ext. Data Table). BSE is the assumed
 691 composition of the (primitive) Bulk Silicate Earth (McDonough and Sun, 1995). Isotopic
 692 ratios for mantle end-members are from Faure and Mensing (2005) except for the EMI
 693 end-member in (b), which is from Zindler and Hart (1986).

694

695 In order to compare our models to geochemical observations, we evaluate the isotopic
 696 record of intraplate volcanism in NE China, which have been interpreted in the context of
 697 the underlying stagnant slab (e.g., Zhao and Ohtani (2009) (Figure 10). The data can largely
 698 be explained by a mixture of two geochemical end-members, which are similar to DMM
 699 (or between HIMU and DMM), i.e. similar to the source of “enriched” Indian-style MORB)
 700 and EM1. Thus, a reasonable interpretation is that two mantle components contribute to
 701 mantle melting in the example study area. This two-components interpretation is consistent
 702 with previous studies of Cenozoic basalts in North and northeastern China (Zhang et al.,
 703 1995; Yan and Zhao, 2008; Zeng et al., 2011; Kuritani et al., 2013; Liu et al., 2015; Li et
 704 al., 2016; Chen et al., 2017). Although some authors have argued for a third component on
 705 the basis of Pb isotopes (Kuritani et al., 2011), this component is related to ancient – instead
 706 of recent – hydration of the MTZ, and would be indistinguishable from the hydrous
 707 material in our thermo-mechanical model. While the origin of mantle end-members
 708 remains controversial, we consider that the apparent DMM-HIMU-like end-member
 709 (Figure 10), is volatile-rich peridotite, e.g. related to fluid-mediated metasomatism

710 ([Kepler, 1996](#); [Kogiso et al., 1997](#); [Castro and Gerya, 2008](#)) and the EM1 component is
711 related to pyroxenite that may be formed in the mantle wedge due to melting of silicic
712 sediments ([Bodinier and Godard, 2003](#); [Castro and Gerya, 2008](#); [Prelević et al., 2008](#)).
713 These are assumed to be the two magmatic components (hydrous peridotite and pyroxenite)
714 in our model.

715 Our models and conclusions, however, are not dependent on this specific interpretation.
716 Our conclusions remain robust as long as two components with geochemical signatures
717 similar to EM1 and DMM-HIMU are located in the hydrous layer. Moreover, we require
718 that the melting behavior of the lithological components that carry the EM1 and DMM-
719 HIMU end-members as evident in NE China volcanism are adequately described by that
720 of pyroxenite, and volatile-rich peridotite, respectively. In which proportions they would
721 have to be present in the MTZ depends on their relevant melting temperatures (and thus
722 specific major-element compositions). In other words, these proportions would shift as
723 different melting laws (e.g., [McKenzie and Bickle, 1990](#)) than used here ([Katz et al., 2003](#);
724 [Pertermann and Hirschmann, 2003](#)) were considered (see Figure 3a).

725 Figure 10 does neither display a dominant contribution of HIMU nor of EM1.
726 Accordingly, we estimate that the relative contributions of pyroxenite and HP to
727 magmatism should be similar to each other. This constraint limits the range of initial
728 pyroxenite fractions in the hydrous layer to about 1.2%~2.3% given our melting laws
729 (Figure 8). Due to the high melt productivity of pyroxenite in the melting model applied
730 (Figure 3a), these initial pyroxenite fractions in the hydrous layer are lower bounds.

731

732 **4.3 Intraplate volcanism in central Europe, western United States, and NE Australia**

733 Intraplate volcanism across the Cenozoic Central European Volcanic Province (CEVP)
734 and Cenozoic intraplate volcanism in the western US (www.navdat.org) also remain poorly
735 understood. In our opinion, intraplate volcanism in central Europe and the western US may
736 be associated with hydrous upwellings from the underlying stagnant slab, similar to the
737 situation in NE China. As these two areas are underlain by a stagnant slab in the MTZ
738 ([Piromallo and Morelli, 2003](#); [Faccenna and Becker, 2010](#); [Schmandt and Lin, 2014](#)), any

739 associated hydrous materials in the MTZ are expected to trigger self-buoyant upwellings
740 and sustain volcanism. Focused vertical upwellings are imaged by high-resolution seismic
741 tomography, and are proposed to account for intraplate magmatism in the western US
742 ([Sigloch et al., 2008](#); [West et al., 2009](#)) and central Europe ([Ritter et al., 2001](#)). In particular,
743 intraplate volcanism in central Europe predominantly occurs above the edge of the slab
744 that stagnates in the MTZ ([Faccenna et al., 2010](#)), i.e. where our models predict the first
745 upwellings to occur.

746 Intraplate magmatism is low in volume but widespread across Europe from the early
747 Tertiary to present ([Wilson and Downes, 2006](#)), characterized by oceanic island basalt (OIB)
748 geochemical signatures with a significant contribution of the HIMU end-member ([Jung
749 and Masberg, 1998](#); [Wedepohl and Baumann, 1999](#); [Lustrino and Wilson, 2007](#); [Faccenna
750 et al., 2010](#)). Mantle upwelling and continental rifting in this area has been proposed to be
751 related to return flow due to plate subduction and slab detachment during the Alpine
752 collision ([Merle and Michon, 2001](#); [Wilson and Downes, 2005](#); [Faccenna et al., 2010](#)).
753 However, as mentioned above, subducted slabs are expected to primarily induce horizontal
754 toroidal flow ([Billen and Gurnis, 2001](#); [Long and Silver, 2008](#); [Liu and Stegman, 2011](#);
755 [Chen et al., 2016](#)). We identify hydrous upwellings from the edge of the underlying
756 stagnant slab as a viable alternative hypothesis.

757 Magmatism in western US is widely distributed and large in volume compared to the
758 CEVP. This magmatism includes the Columbia River Basalts province and the
759 Yellowstone-Snake River Plain hotspot track, which have been related to focused mantle
760 upwelling through a slab window ([Madsen et al., 2006](#); [Liu and Stegman, 2012](#)) or a deep-
761 seated plume ([Morgan, 1972](#); [Pierce et al., 1992](#); [Takahashi et al., 1998](#); [Hooper et al.,
762 2002](#); [Camp et al., 2003](#); [Nelson and Grand, 2018](#)). However, several volcanic fields in the
763 western US remain poorly understood. For example, intraplate alkalic volcanism in Leucite
764 Hills has been attributed to fluid-mediated metasomatism of the upper mantle ([Vollmer et
765 al., 1984](#)) or mantle upwellings facilitated by slab tearing ([Dudás, 1991](#); [Duke et al., 2014](#)).
766 In addition, western US intraplate volcanos have also been attributed to continental
767 extension and rifting (e.g., [Christiansen and Lipman, 1972](#); [Fitton et al., 1991](#); [Lipman and
768 Glazner, 1991](#); [Cosca et al., 2014](#)), shear-driven upwelling ([Conrad et al., 2011](#)) or edge-
769 driven convection ([Ballmer et al., 2015](#); [Rudzitis et al., 2016](#)). We suggest that the process

770 proposed in our model may be an alternative explanation. Models are not mutually
771 exclusive; for instance, hydrated upwellings could be focused along the edges of the slab
772 to generate the lineation found by Duke et al. ([2014](#)), or be entrained by SSC/edge-driven
773 flow to sustain melting along the edges of the Colorado Plateau ([Afonso et al., 2016](#)).

774 Finally, magmatic activity in Australia may also be (at least partially) related to an
775 underlying slab. The NE corner of the Australian continent, with abundant Cenozoic
776 intraplate volcanism ([Wellman and McDougall, 1974](#)); Figure 1), is underlain by (the edge
777 of) a fossil slab ([Hall and Spakman, 2002](#)). Volcanism due to hydrous upwellings from the
778 fossil slab (edge) cannot be ruled out by geochemical observations ([Zhang et al., 2001](#)).
779 While alternative mechanisms have been proposed (e.g., [Davies et al., 2015](#)), our models
780 imply that hydrous upwellings can support sublithospheric melting over long timescales
781 ([Motoki and Ballmer, 2015](#)), and thus may be relevant even above fossil slabs in the MTZ.

782 We note that direct comparison between the predictions of our simplified models and
783 the exact locations, volumes and chemistry of intraplate volcanism remains challenging.
784 First, the ratio of intrusive and extrusive magmatism, and the interaction of ascending
785 magmas with the continental crust is poorly constrained. Second, our 2D models do not
786 account for trench-perpendicular flow and sublithospheric topography, which would both
787 affect the patterns of conveyance and lead to different patterns of volcanism. Indeed, there
788 is a long and complex history of subduction, particularly in the western US ([Bunge and
789 Grand, 2000](#)) and Europe ([Faccenna et al., 2001](#)). Nevertheless, comparison on a first-order
790 level (see sections 4.1-4.3), also in terms of the global distribution of continental intraplate
791 volcanism (Fig. 1), lends credibility to the importance of hydrous upwellings from the
792 subducted slab.

793

794 **4.4 Water in the mantle**

795 The water storage capacity of the mantle is suggested to be on the order of three, or
796 even up to ten, ocean masses ([Ringwood, 1975](#); [Ahrens, 1989](#); [Ohtani, 2005](#); [Cowan and
797 Abbot, 2014](#)). An important reservoir involves the MTZ, which can host up to 3 wt.-%, or
798 ~30,000 wt.-ppm, H₂O ([Ohtani et al., 1995](#); [Kohlstedt et al., 1996](#); [Bolfan-Casanova et al.,](#)

799 [2000](#); [Murakami et al., 2002](#); [Ohtani et al., 2004](#)). Based on diamond inclusions, Pearson
800 et al. ([2014](#)) found direct evidence that the water content in at least some regions of the
801 MTZ is ~1 wt.-%, or ~10,000 wt.-ppm. However, seismic constraints indicate that the
802 average water content over vast regions of the MTZ may be quite a bit lower than saturation,
803 i.e. 1000~5000 wt.-ppm ([Angel et al., 2001](#); [Huang et al., 2005](#); [Wang et al., 2006](#); [Houser,](#)
804 [2016](#); [Matsuno et al., 2017](#)). According to our predictions, instability of hydrous material
805 that is sufficiently swift to support sublithospheric magmatism just requires ~4000 wt.-ppm
806 H₂O in a 60-km thick layer.

807 While our model predictions are largely independent of the specific origin of the water,
808 it remains an important question. As the mantle is steadily outgassing water due to
809 volcanism, there has to be significant supplement of water of a similar order. Considering
810 that water can most efficiently be transported from the surface and through the upper
811 mantle along cool geotherms ([Frost, 2006](#); [Komabayashi, 2006](#); [Nishi et al., 2014](#); [Ohira](#)
812 [et al., 2014](#)), subduction of hydrous sediments and the hydrated slab itself is perhaps the
813 best candidate for water delivery to the MTZ (e.g. ([Inoue et al., 1995](#); [Ohtani et al., 2004](#);
814 [Faccenda et al., 2009](#); [van Keken et al., 2011](#))). At least an old and fast subducting plate
815 (such as in E Asia) is able to transport water to the MTZ efficiently ([Iwamori, 2004](#)). While
816 significant dehydration occurs at shallow depths ([Jarrard, 2003](#)), nominally anhydrous
817 minerals in the oceanic crust and the overlying mantle wedge can carry significant amounts
818 of water across the “choke point”, i.e. across the water solubility trough at 6 GPa ([Frost,](#)
819 [2006](#); [Komabayashi, 2006](#); [Iwamori, 2007](#); [Nishi et al., 2014](#); [Ohira et al., 2014](#)).
820 Alternatively, water may be transported in the core of the slab (serpentinized lithosphere;
821 ([Faccenda et al., 2008](#))), from which it would be slowly released in the MTZ. Accordingly,
822 the hydrous-peridotite layer in our model would not necessarily be directly related to the
823 recently subducted slab; instead, hydrous material may have progressively accumulated in
824 the MTZ, thus being related to variably ancient subduction ([Hofmann, 1997](#); [Kuritani et](#)
825 [al., 2011](#)).

826 Continuous upwellings of hydrous materials may account for the geophysically
827 constrained relatively low water content in the MTZ ([Huang et al., 2005](#); [Houser, 2016](#)).
828 Subducted slabs have transported water from the surface to the MTZ over very long
829 timescales, at least since the onset of modern-style plate tectonics at ~2 Ga ([Davies, 1992](#);

830 [Smithies et al., 2003](#)). Accordingly, it appears difficult to explain that the MTZ is still far
831 away from saturation. Our forward models offer a simple explanation. Whenever there is
832 a sufficiently thick hydrous layer in the MTZ (i.e., even without the presence of a stagnant
833 slab), upwellings instabilities should soon develop and rise at least to 410 km depth. In
834 other words, hydrated (>3000 ppm water) layers >60 km thick are not expected to survive
835 for geological timescales, corresponding to a total mass of ~0.1 oceans in the MTZ, i.e.
836 well below previous estimates ([Ringwood, 1975](#); [Ahrens, 1989](#); [Ohtani, 2005](#); [Cowan and](#)
837 [Abbot, 2014](#); [Grayver et al., 2017](#)). Related mantle melting should occur wherever
838 significant hydrous material has accumulated in the MTZ, and is entrained by SSC. While
839 SSC should be well-developed beneath the old continents, the onset of SSC may take up
840 to ~70 Myr beneath oceanic lithosphere ([Solomatov and Moresi, 2000](#); [Ballmer et al.,](#)
841 [2009](#)). A potential example of oceanic volcanism that is related to recycling of a volatile-
842 rich reservoir in the MTZ involves the Bermuda Islands ([Mazza et al., 2019](#)).

843 As the hydrous plumes cross the phase transition at 410 km depth, most of the water may
844 be left behind in the MTZ due to the small water capacity in the upper mantle, e.g. due to
845 the “transition-zone water filter” effect described by [Bercovici and Karato \(2003\)](#). As a
846 crude simplification, we assume that any water exceeding a threshold of 400 ppm simply
847 disappears from the system (i.e., the convecting solid matrix) by stabilizing a
848 gravitationally-stable volatile-rich melt layer just above 410 km depth. This assumption
849 may lead to an underestimation of the volume of the hydrous materials that ascend into the
850 upper mantle, because the stabilization of such a layer should lead to a redistribution of
851 volatiles, and widespread saturation of mantle rocks just beneath the 410 discontinuity.
852 Evidence for the stabilization of a melt layer comes from seismic observations ([Revenaugh](#)
853 [and Sipkin, 1994](#); [Song et al., 2004](#); [Jasbinsek and Dueker, 2007](#); [Tauzin et al., 2010](#)). As
854 this layer would be gravitationally-stable ([Ohtani et al., 1995](#); [Ohtani and Maeda, 2001](#))
855 and should only extend laterally, it will not significantly affect the driving forces of the
856 mantle upwellings. The melt layer has been invoked to have important implications for the
857 geochemical evolution of mantle reservoirs, partially separating the upper-mantle reservoir
858 from the rest of the mantle like a “filter” ([Bercovici and Karato, 2003](#)). Future studies
859 should take into account the explicit effects of the presence of such a melt layer on the
860 distribution of hydrous rocks in the MTZ explicitly. Lateral re-distribution of volatiles

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861 through the melt layer may lead to widespread H₂O-saturation in the uppermost MTZ due
862 to buoyancy-driven mantle flow. For example, downwellings may be hydrated as they dive
863 into the MTZ, potentially diminishing the vigor of upwellings ([Leahy and Bercovici, 2007](#)).
864 Along these lines, hydrous upwellings, at least partially bypassing the “transition-zone
865 water filter”, may play an important role for material transport, and mantle evolution.

866

867 5. Conclusion

868 (1) Upwellings rise from the buoyant hydrous layer atop a stagnant slab within a few
869 Myr after the slab arrives in the MTZ. They rise to ~410 km depth, where they
870 intermittently stall, and are ultimately entrained by sublithospheric small-scale
871 convection (SSC).

872 (2) Partial melting takes place at the base of the lithosphere after the arrival of hydrous
873 materials that are conveyed by SSC cells.

874 (3) >0.3 wt.-% water in a 60 km thick hydrous layer atop the slab, or slightly less as
875 water-dependent rheology is considered, is required to produce early upwelling of
876 hydrated material and early melting beneath the lithosphere in order to account for
877 patterns of volcanism in e.g. NE China. Relatively low asthenospheric viscosities
878 of smaller than $\sim 7 \cdot 10^{18}$ Pa·s are also needed. Higher water contents, a thicker
879 hydrous layer, as well as lower viscosities tend to advance and boost melting.

880 (4) An initial condition with moderate amounts of hydrous materials as well as small
881 amounts (~2%) of mafic material in a layer above the slab can account for the
882 geochemical observations in northeastern China, as well as the spatial association
883 of volcanism to the underlying stagnant slab.

884 (5) Intraplate continental volcanism above the stagnant slab can be explained by the
885 interaction of (bottom-up) self-buoyant instability of hydrous material and top-
886 down driven SSC.

887

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897

898

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Geochemistry, Geophysics, Geosystems

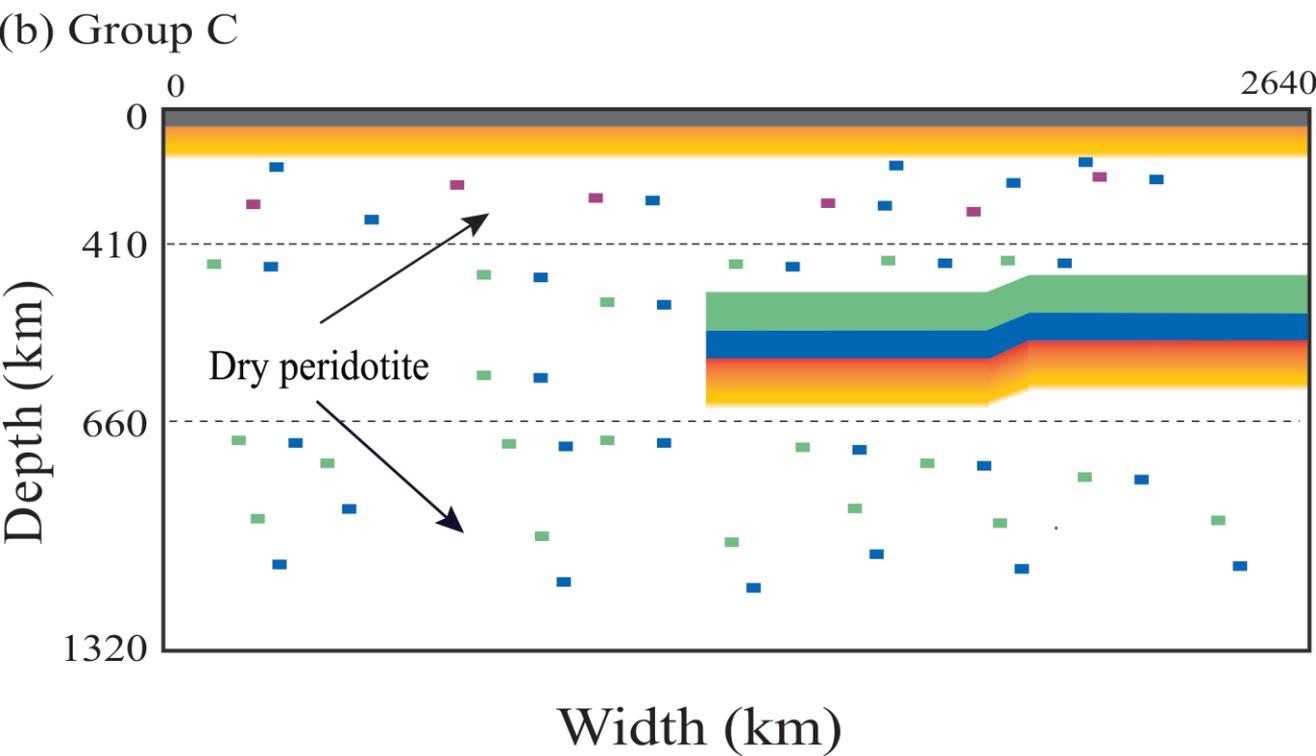
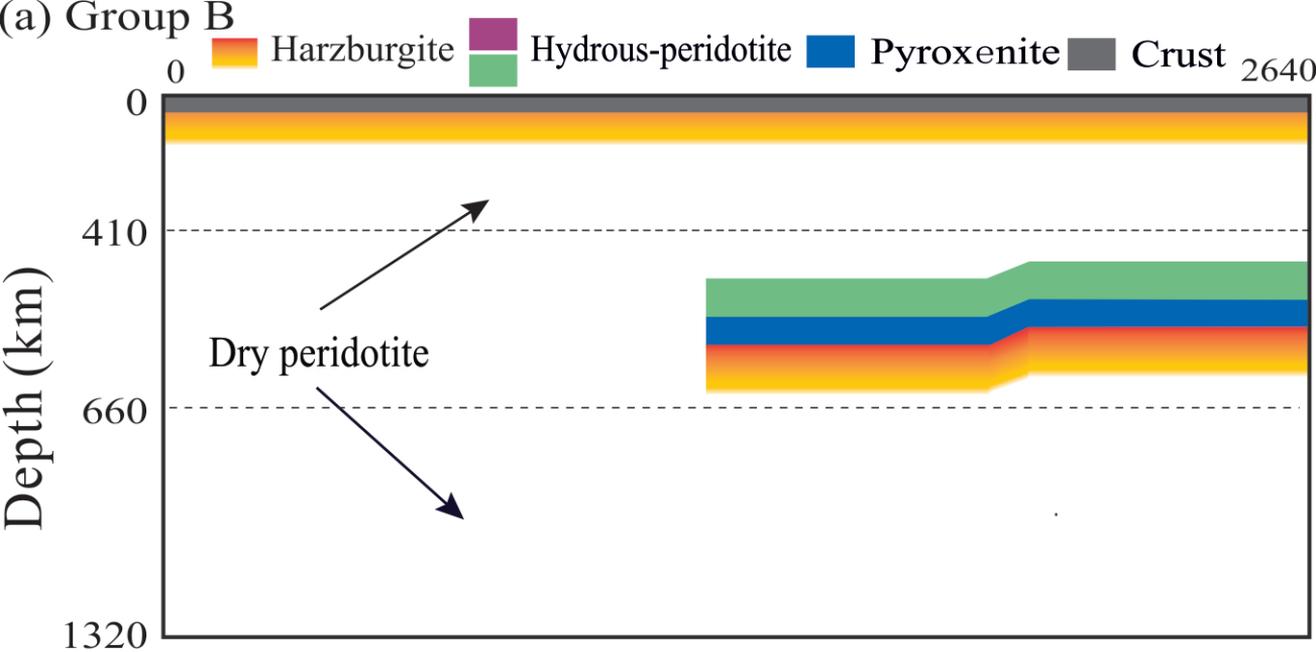
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Viscosity (\log_{10})

18 20 22 24 Pa s

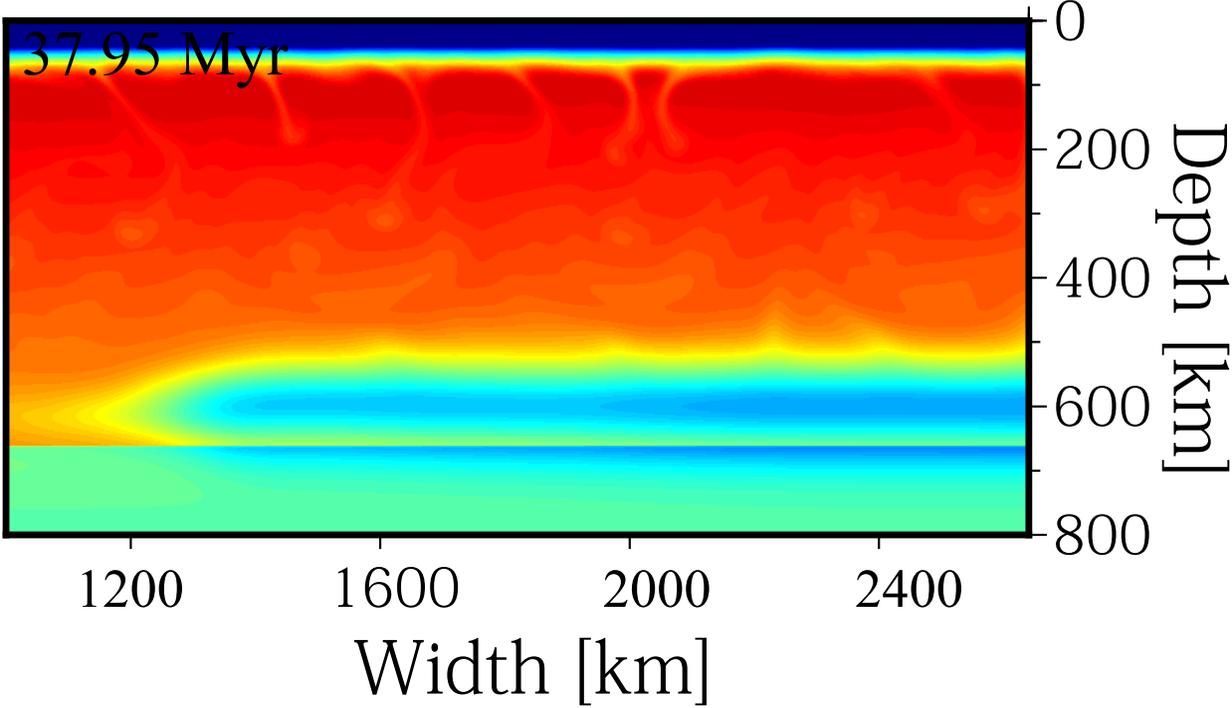
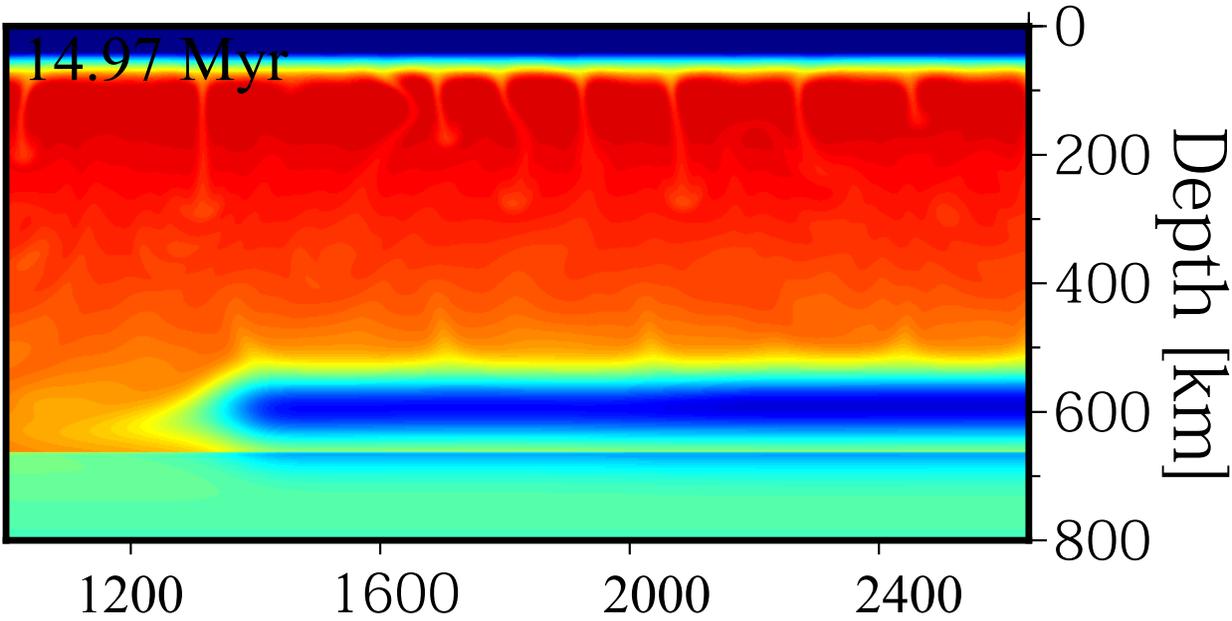
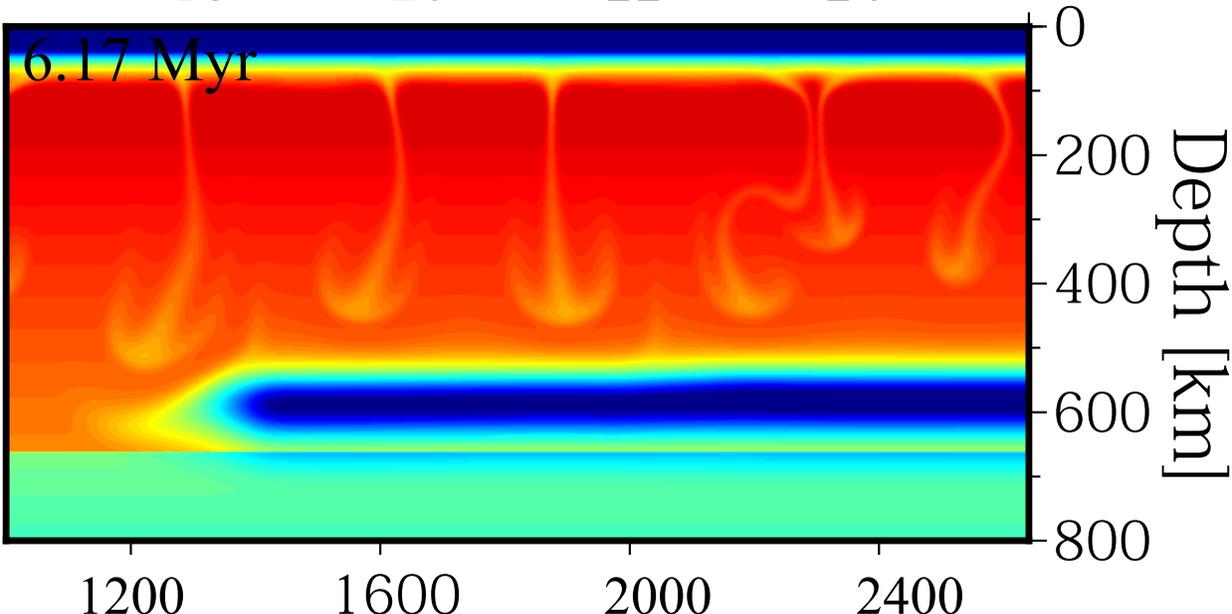


Table S2. Summary of the results of Group B and C

Case	Model Parameters						Model Predictions			
	η_{eff} ($\times 10^{18}$ Pa s)	$C_{\text{H}_2\text{O}_{\text{HP}}}$ (ppm)	D_{HP} (km)	χ_{PX} (ambient mantle)	Slab age		τ_u (Myr)	τ_m (Myr)	V_{melt} (m^2)	Pyroxenite Contribution
					Left (Myr)	Right (Myr)				
B11	2.2	4000	60	0.0	70	80	2.64	7.39	2.3483	0.0000
B12	6.25	4000	60	0.0	70	80	7.27	18.71	0.0219	0.0000
B13	11.0	4000	60	0.0	70	80	11.83	32.84	0.0001	0.0000
B21	3.75	400	60	0.0	70	80	8.89	26.81	0.0117	0.0000
B22	3.75	2000	60	0.0	70	80	7.07	17.95	0.0610	0.0000
B23	3.75	6000	60	0.0	70	80	4.48	11.70	0.1826	0.0000
B24	3.75	8000	60	0.0	70	80	1.83	10.10	0.2396	0.0000
B25	3.75	10000	60	0.0	70	80	0.93	14.13	0.2871	0.0000
B31	3.75	4000	10	0.0	70	80	/	/	/	/
B32	3.75	4000	30	0.0	70	80	/	/	/	/
B33	3.75	4000	50	0.0	70	80	9.18	20.92	0.0140	0.0000
B34	3.75	4000	80	0.0	70	80	0.03	7.36	1.1387	0.0000
B35	3.75	4000	135	0.0	70	80	0.00	5.20	3.1768	0.0000
B41	3.75	4000	60	0.0	5	5	11.83	32.84	0.0001	0.0000
B42	3.75	4000	60	0.0	20	20	5.33	11.25	0.0794	0.0000
B43	3.75	4000	60	0.0	50	50	5.54	12.08	0.2450	0.0001
B44	3.75	4000	60	0.0	70	70	4.98	11.48	0.0690	0.0000
B45	3.75	4000	60	0.0	90	90	4.50	12.06	0.1334	0.0000
B51	3.75	4000	60	0.0	5	15	4.25	12.01	0.1076	0.0000
B52	3.75	4000	60	0.0	20	30	7.01	9.42	0.4400	0.0017
B53	3.75	4000	60	0.0	50	60	5.62	11.80	0.2277	0.0004
B54	3.75	4000	60	0.0	80	90	4.93	12.06	0.2309	0.0000
B61	3.75	4000	60	0.0	70	60	4.36	11.99	0.1454	0.0000
B62	3.75	4000	60	0.0	70	65	4.50	11.31	0.2860	0.0000
B63	3.75	4000	60	0.0	70	68	4.50	11.30	0.1369	0.0003
B64	3.75	4000	60	0.0	70	73	4.50	12.12	0.0599	0.0000
B65	3.75	4000	60	0.0	70	75	4.50	11.59	0.2379	0.0000
C11	2.2	4000	60	0.01	70	80	2.64	2.44	32.7001	0.9273
C12	6.25	4000	60	0.01	70	80	7.27	7.40	3.7330	0.9470
C13	11.0	4000	60	0.01	70	80	11.85	10.68	1.1717	0.9566
C21	3.75	400	60	0.01	70	80	8.71	4.32	14.9916	0.9541
C22	3.75	2000	60	0.01	70	80	6.22	4.25	14.5092	0.9497
C23	3.75	6000	60	0.01	70	80	4.47	4.31	14.2920	0.9413
C24	3.75	8000	60	0.01	70	80	1.73	4.20	13.7842	0.9296
C25	3.75	10000	60	0.01	70	80	0.82	4.01	15.1212	0.9427
C26	3.75	4000	60	0.001	70	80	4.49	4.32	2.2744	0.6352
C31	3.75	4000	10	0.01	70	80	/	4.32	14.2036	0.9568
C32	3.75	4000	30	0.01	70	80	/	4.34	14.5843	0.9561

C33	3.75	4000	50	0.01	70	80	8.85	4.23	14.6201	0.9537
C34	3.75	4000	80	0.01	70	80	0.12	3.76	15.08	0.8829
C35	3.75	4000	135	0.01	70	80	0	2.89	18.1007	0.7328
C41	3.75	4000	60	0.01	5	5	5.35	4.04	17.9563	0.8902
C42	3.75	4000	60	0.01	20	20	5.42	4.20	16.4362	0.9355
C43	3.75	4000	60	0.01	50	50	4.76	4.25	15.5509	0.9418
C44	3.75	4000	60	0.01	70	70	4.49	4.35	14.9027	0.9496
C45	3.75	4000	60	0.01	90	90	4.25	4.19	14.9844	0.9487
C51	3.75	4000	60	0.01	5	15	4.57	4.19	16.7789	0.9164
C52	3.75	4000	60	0.01	20	30	5.12	4.23	16.0238	0.9368
C53	3.75	4000	60	0.01	50	60	4.73	4.27	15.3602	0.9327
C54	3.75	4000	60	0.01	80	90	4.36	4.28	14.3129	0.9396
C61	3.75	4000	60	0.01	70	60	4.49	4.37	14.2553	0.9304
C62	3.75	4000	60	0.01	70	65	4.49	4.37	13.9875	0.9443
C63	3.75	4000	60	0.01	70	68	4.49	4.37	14.3242	0.9493
C64	3.75	4000	60	0.01	70	73	4.49	4.35	14.3135	0.9320
C65	3.75	4000	60	0.01	70	75	4.49	4.36	14.8259	0.9457

/No data acquired within 70 Myr

Table S1. Summary of the results of Group A (case 13 is the reference case)

Case	Model Parameters						Model Predictions			
	η_{eff} ($\times 10^{18}$ Pa s)	$C_{\text{H}_2\text{O}_{\text{HP}}}$ (ppm)	D_{HP} (km)	χ_{PX} (HP layer)	Slab age		τ_u (Myr)	τ_m (Myr)	V_{melt} (m^2)	PX Contri- bution
					left (Myr)	right (Myr)				
11	2.2	4000	60	0.02	70	80	3.03	7.70	1.1328	0.4622
12	2.5	4000	60	0.02	70	80	3.62	8.55	0.6745	0.5289
13	3.75	4000	60	0.02	70	80	4.98	11.80	0.1802	0.5682
14	5.0	4000	60	0.02	70	80	7.11	15.76	0.0534	0.5552
15	6.25	4000	60	0.02	70	80	9.77	20.00	0.0097	0.6366
16	8.8	4000	60	0.02	70	80	13.83	31.16	0.0027	0.4698
17	11.0	4000	60	0.02	70	80	16.72	47.14	0.0000	1.0000
21	3.75	400	60	0.02	70	80	11.62	28.17	0.0276	0.5168
22	3.75	1000	60	0.02	70	80	9.52	17.86	0.0184	0.5438
23	3.75	2000	60	0.02	70	80	9.06	29.63	0.0158	0.6497
24	3.75	3000	60	0.02	70	80	6.08	15.84	0.0863	0.5685
25	3.75	5000	60	0.02	70	80	4.15	11.77	0.2650	0.5300
26	3.75	6000	60	0.02	70	80	2.05	10.80	0.2343	0.5312
27	3.75	8000	60	0.02	70	80	1.23	16.61	0.1861	0.6093
28	3.75	10000	60	0.02	70	80	0.85	12.37	0.1644	0.5870
31	3.75	4000	20	0.02	70	80	/	/	/	/
32	3.75	4000	40	0.02	70	80	/	/	/	/
33	3.75	4000	50	0.02	70	80	14.57	44.69	0.0078	0.5360
34	3.75	4000	70	0.02	70	80	2.53	10.44	0.4207	0.5604
35	3.75	4000	80	0.02	70	80	0.85	11.54	0.6451	0.5363
36	3.75	4000	90	0.02	70	80	0.05	9.84	0.9223	0.5306
37	3.75	4000	135	0.02	70	80	0.00	7.76	3.4309	0.5083
41	3.75	4000	60	0.00	70	80	4.48	11.70	0.1826	0.0000
42	3.75	4000	60	0.005	70	80	4.49	11.84	0.1840	0.2373
43	3.75	4000	60	0.01	70	80	4.95	12.17	0.2472	0.3605
44	3.75	4000	60	0.015	70	80	4.95	11.92	0.2296	0.4824
45	3.75	4000	60	0.03	70	80	5.32	11.93	0.2477	0.6124
46	3.75	4000	60	0.03	70	80	5.42	12.15	0.1339	0.6559
47	3.75	4000	60	0.035	70	80	5.61	12.39	0.1566	0.7224
48	3.75	4000	60	0.04	70	80	5.82	12.60	0.1269	0.7197
49	3.75	4000	60	0.045	70	80	6.03	12.83	0.1962	0.7619
410	3.75	4000	60	0.05	70	80	6.08	16.43	0.1131	0.7958
51	3.75	4000	60	0.02	5	5	5.92	14.50	0.3307	0.5380
52	3.75	4000	60	0.02	15	15	6.05	18.12	0.2468	0.6264
53	3.75	4000	60	0.02	20	20	6.00	13.33	0.1922	0.5309
54	3.75	4000	60	0.02	30	30	5.97	13.55	0.1781	0.5584
55	3.75	4000	60	0.02	50	50	5.61	15.41	0.2093	0.5384
56	3.75	4000	60	0.02	60	60	5.47	19.85	0.1603	0.6002

57	3.75	4000	60	0.02	70	70	5.21		13.63	0.1049	0.5880
58	3.75	4000	60	0.02	80	80	4.90		16.49	0.1370	0.5590
59	3.75	4000	60	0.02	90	90	4.77		12.18	0.1332	0.5521
61	3.75	4000	60	0.02	5	15	5.64	4.87*	11.45	0.3879	0.5545
62	3.75	4000	60	0.02	15	25	5.83	5.33*	16.05	0.3136	0.5331
63	3.75	4000	60	0.02	20	30	5.85	5.55*	17.22	0.2078	0.5639
64	3.75	4000	60	0.02	30	40	5.83	5.51*	12.26	0.3723	0.5265
65	3.75	4000	60	0.02	50	60	5.72	5.23*	13.14	0.2077	0.5856
66	3.75	4000	60	0.02	60	70	5.25	5.09*	12.44	0.2799	0.5334
67	3.75	4000	60	0.02	80	90	4.87	4.70*	12.05	0.2468	0.5253
71	3.75	4000	60	0.02	70	60	4.98	7.32*	12.53	0.1304	0.6193
72	3.75	4000	60	0.02	70	63	4.98	8.78*	12.84	0.1344	0.5679
73	3.75	4000	60	0.02	70	65	4.98	8.93*	17.91	0.1355	0.5699
74	3.75	4000	60	0.02	70	68	4.98	8.98*	17.21	0.1446	0.5796
75	3.75	4000	60	0.02	70	73	4.98	10.02*	13.39	0.0779	0.5848
76	3.75	4000	60	0.02	70	75	4.98	9.52*	12.55	0.1272	0.5318
77	3.75	4000	60	0.02	70	78	4.98	5.12*	12.49	0.1338	0.5501

/ No data acquired within 70 Myr

*Onset time of upwellings from near fracture zone.

