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Experimental Simulations on Underplating Using Chaotic Mixing: the Paraná-Etendeka LIP-case for Major and Minor Elements

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The Paraná-Etendeka Magmatic Province (PEMP) is the second largest igneous province on the Earth (*approx.* 10⁶ km²; *approx.* 133 Ma old). Basaltic rocks (SiO₂ ≈ 50%) predominate over other chemically more evolved lithologies (dacites and rhyolites: SiO₂ > 63%). Low- and high-titanium groups are distinguished in PEMP and, apparently, followed different evolutionary paths. This work is a first attempt to experimentally reproduce one of the most accepted models for the high-Ti acidic member (Chapecó-type) generation, *i.e.*, the impact of underplating basaltic melt (high-Ti Pitanga-type of PEMP) into a pre-existing continental crust. Isotopic geochemistry supports such a formation/contamination mechanism and guided the contaminants selection. Our goal is to study the role of chaotic mixing dynamics in this process. Two experiments (Exp1 and Exp2) were performed at 1,350°C using independent and non-simultaneous movements of two cylinders (Journal Bearing System [1]): (i) two clockwise rotations of an outer cylinder (35 min); (ii) six anticlockwise rotations of an inner cylinder (18 min). The procedure was repeated twice (212 min in total) and a chaotic flow has been generated. Homogenized glasses were used as the starting end-member compositions before each experiment, *i.e.*, KS-700 basalt (20%; high-Ti Pitanga-type; η₁₃₅₀ = 8.78 Pa.s; ρ₁₃₅₀ = 2.469 g/cm³) and LMC-027 granite (80%; syenogranite from Capão Bonito Stock; η₁₃₅₀ = 1.22•10⁵ Pa.s; ρ₁₃₅₀ = 2.292 g/cm³) for Exp1. For Exp2 the contaminant was another granite (LMC-020; 20%; monzogranite from Cunhaporanga batholith; η₁₃₅₀ = 1.73•10⁴ Pa.s; ρ₁₃₅₀ = 2.317 g/cm³). The chaotic dynamics created vortex structures, filaments, stretched and folded arms involving regions of well-preserved end-member compositions and transitional intermediary areas. Representative sections of Exp1 were analysed using an electron microprobe. Major and minor oxide variations show diffusion patterns similar to those from previous experiments with melts from natural samples. Transects for the main oxides crossing the structures present two compositional plateaux: (i) one close (but not the same) to the original basaltic composition and; (ii) one corresponding to the rhyolitic glass. Exceptionally, the K₂O-plateau in the rhyolitic region is systematically lower than expected. Between the plateaux “S” shaped curves are observed, typical for diffusive patterns. SiO₂ and MgO show a smoother behaviour in comparison with TiO₂ and CaO, which represent inflection-changing points. Na₂O and Al₂O₃ contents are similar in both end-members, therefore the points are more disperse. Besides, some uphill diffusion (*i.e.*, opposite to the gradient) has been detected. The results confirm that basaltic areas change faster in composition (*e.g.* they are faster contaminated) than the rhyolitic ones. Further experiments varying the end-members are on their way. Laser ablation-ICP-MS investigations will be performed for the chemical behaviour of trace elements, which should be crosschecked by numerical simulations.

[1] Swanson & Ottino (1990), J. Fluid Mech., 213: 227-249.