

1 Revision 3

2 Low pressure crystallization of a volatile-rich lunar basalt: a means for producing local  
3 anorthosites? Nicholas J. DiFrancesco<sup>1,\*</sup>, Hanna Nekvasil<sup>1</sup>, Donald H. Lindsey<sup>1</sup>, and G.

4 Ustunisik<sup>2</sup>

5 <sup>1</sup>Stony Brook University, Department of Geosciences, Earth and Space Science Building, Stony  
6 Brook, NY 11794.

7 <sup>2</sup>American Museum of Natural History, Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, New York,  
8 NY 10024.

9 \*Present Address: Department of Geosciences, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY  
10 11794. E-mail: [Nicholas.Difrancesco@stonybrook.edu](mailto:Nicholas.Difrancesco@stonybrook.edu).

11 **Abstract**

12 The presence of anorthosite in the lunar highlands containing plagioclase that is compositionally  
13 less calcic than plagioclase in the ferroan anorthosites cannot be readily explained by the current  
14 lunar paradigm in which lunar anorthosite was produced as a floatation cumulate in the lunar  
15 magma ocean. Phase equilibrium experiments were conducted to investigate whether such  
16 anorthosite could arise locally from crystallization of aluminous magma at shallow levels within  
17 the lunar crust. The experiments were conducted on a synthetic analog of Cl-, F-, and S-bearing  
18 aluminous highland basalt 14053 at pressures of approximately 1 bar and  $f_{O_2}$  at ~QIF. Pyroxene  
19 and plagioclase (An<sub>93-89</sub>) saturation occurs early, and with continued crystallization, the residual  
20 liquid evolves to a silica-poor, halogen-, Fe-, and Ti-rich melt with a computed density of >3.1  
21 g/cc. This liquid remains higher in density than the plagioclase over the crystallization interval,  
22 providing the possibility of plagioclase/melt separation by liquid draining.

23 A model is proposed in which “alkali” anorthosite, consisting of sodic anorthite or bytownite,  
24 coupled with underlying pyroxenite (or harzburgite) is produced locally during crystallization of  
25 plagioclase from “Al-rich” magmas at or within roughly a kilometer of the lunar surface. In this  
26 model, segregation of plagioclase would be attained by settling of ferromagnesian minerals to the  
27 bottom of a shallow magma chamber, and draining of low viscosity low silica, Fe-Ti-K-REE-P-  
28 enriched residual basaltic melt to deeper regions of the crust, or into topographic lows. Such  
29 residual melt may be represented by magma compositions similar to some of the intermediate to  
30 high Ti mare basalts. This model would provide a mechanism that can account for the more  
31 “alkali” anorthosite identified in widespread isolated locales on the Moon and allow for variable  
32 ages for such anorthosite that may extend to ages of the mare basalts.

33 Keywords: lunar Highlands, anorthosite, experimental petrology, fractional crystallization

34

## Introduction

35 Ferroan anorthosite (FAN) has long been considered the dominant rock type of the  
36 primary lunar highlands crust. The lunar magma ocean (LMO) has been called upon as the  
37 means of generating the anorthositic crust of the highlands (e.g., Wood et al. 1970; Taylor and  
38 Jakes 1974). Current models of the LMO differ in depth and cooling rate (Warren 1985; Hess  
39 and Parmentier 1995; Elkins-Tanton, et al. 2002, 2012, and references therein); however, it is  
40 generally accepted that plagioclase flotation in the LMO eventually formed a cumulate lid at the  
41 surface of the Moon, and this primordial lunar crust is evidenced today as the FANs. In these  
42 models, all other lunar lithologies should post-date the anorthosites. Yet, recently collected  
43 geochronologic evidence suggests that FANs crystallized over an extended period of time,  
44 lasting more than 200 million years (Nyquist et al. 1995; Borg et al. 1999; 2011; Gaffney and  
45 Borg 2013). Lunar rock classes such as the Mg-suite and alkali suite, purportedly formed only

46 after almost complete solidification of the LMO and total crystallization of the FAN (James and  
47 Flohr 1983, Snyder et al. 1995). Compositions of classic FAN sampled from the lunar surface,  
48 and analyzed during the Apollo era consisted largely of anorthitic plagioclase ( $>An_{95}$ ). The  
49 plagioclase grains in FAN are further characterized by almost invariant An contents in spite of a  
50 range in Mg number (e.g., Shearer and Papike 2005) of the host anorthosite. However, less  
51 calcic anorthosite that contains plagioclase more sodic than any found in the FAN samples has  
52 also been found (e.g., LG Y86032 anorthosite breccia clast, Nyquist et al. 2006; 116B Y86032  
53 anorthosite breccia clast, Yamaguchi et al. 2010; 76504 F 18 anorthosite clast, Warren and  
54 Kallemeyn 1985; 14305,400 alkali anorthosite, Shervais et al. 1984; and a variety of other  
55 Apollo 14 alkali anorthosites analyzed by Warren in Lindstrom 1984). Taking for demonstration  
56 purposes two examples of these, plagioclase in Apollo sample 76504 has a typical An content of  
57 91.3 +/- 0.7 (Warren and Kallemeyn 1985), with a range in composition from 89.9 to 93.3  
58 (Warren et al. 1986). Although, Warren et al. (1986) describes it as an “evolved ferroan  
59 anorthosite,” it does not have the highly anorthitic plagioclase of even the highly evolved  
60 hyperferroan anorthosites (Goodrich et al. 1984). Yamato-86032 is a breccia that contains  
61 multiple anorthosite fragments with plagioclase compositions ranging from 88.1 to 94.9  
62 (Yamaguchi et al. 2010), placing them outside of the traditional FAN compositional range.  
63 Orbital data also show evidence for regions containing more albitic anorthosite than FAN.  
64 Ohtake et al. (2009) identified 69 individual regions on the lunar surface containing what they  
65 describe as pure anorthosite (areas containing  $>98\%$  feldspar). These areas are limited in size,  
66 but have a broad range across the lunar surface. Greenhagen et al. (2010) collected Diviner  
67 spectral data, and measured the Christiansen Feature (CF) value of these terrains, which is useful  
68 for determining mineralogic composition of rocks at the surface. Of the analyzed areas, 15

69 contained what was termed as “intermediate composition” plagioclase, likely of  
70 labradorite/bytownite compositional range.

71 The nearly compositionally invariant character of plagioclase in FAN indicates that the  
72 less calcic plagioclase of alkali anorthosite with its Ab-enrichment with dropping temperature (as  
73 indicated by normal zoning) could not have directly evolved along the fractionation path that  
74 produced the characteristic plagioclase of FAN. Post-LMO magmatism in general appears to  
75 have been able to produce plagioclase less calcic than that of FAN with normal compositional  
76 evolution, as evidenced by plagioclase in the Mg- and alkali suite rocks and similar rock types as  
77 well as in mare basalts, with compositions ranging to An<sub>74</sub> and lower (e.g., Shervais et al. 1984).  
78 These lithologies are not anorthosite, however, and the question arises whether plagioclase could  
79 float and accumulate in post-LMO magma bodies at or near the lunar surface to make them  
80 accessible for meteorite gardening and orbiter identification. This would require that the magma  
81 be saturated early with plagioclase at low pressure and that residual liquids become sufficiently  
82 dense to allow for crystal-melt separation by draining, leaving a plagioclase cumulate. Certainly  
83 impact melting of pre-existing FAN could produce secondary anorthosite, but this is unlikely to  
84 produce alkali anorthosite.

85 It is the goal of this study to experimentally assess whether lunar highlands basalt  
86 crystallizing at low pressure would produce the density conditions that would permit the  
87 formation of alkali anorthosite. Although this work uses a single “magma” composition, it is  
88 suggested that this process may have occurred in other post-LMO lunar magmas and that this  
89 process contributed to compositionally diversifying the lunar surface.

## 90 **Sample Background**

91           Only a limited number of non-mare rocks have been returned to Earth from the Moon  
92 that are both pristine and texturally suggest fast cooling and thus may be representative of a post  
93 LMO lunar highlands magma composition. Among these, the Apollo sample 14053 is  
94 particularly well studied. The specimen was found as a clast within a large brecciated boulder. It  
95 has a fine-grained texture typical of basalts, with crystals largely between 0.5 and 2 mm in  
96 length, although some pyroxenes exist up to 5 mm. Its bulk composition is similar to common  
97 terrestrial tholeiite (but with lower Na<sub>2</sub>O content), and contains a mineral assemblage consistent  
98 with the experimental low-pressure phase assemblage (e.g., DiFrancesco et al.2013) as should be  
99 the case if it represents a liquid composition). Patchen and Taylor (2004) calculated modal  
100 abundances of minerals for this rock: 48% pyroxene, 42% plagioclase, 2.4% silica, 2.3%  
101 ilmenite, 1.6% olivine, >1% fayalite and Fe metal. Pyroxene and plagioclase show ophitic  
102 textures, with much of the plagioclase intergrown with the pyroxene, as noted by Kushiro et al.  
103 (1972). Plagioclase compositions from 14053,16 range from ~An<sub>80</sub> (supplementary material) to  
104 An<sub>93</sub> (Kushiro et al. 1972). Bence and Papike (1972) noted highly zoned pyroxene with  
105 compositions ranging from pigeonite to hedenbergite. A small amount of olivine is also present  
106 in the sample, with an analyzed composition of Fo<sub>66</sub> (supplementary material). Kushiro (1972)  
107 also identified olivine grains present in the mesostasis, associated with cristobalite and metallic  
108 iron with a composition of Fo<sub>13-14</sub>. Other crystalline phases include minor amounts of K-  
109 feldspar, apatite, ulvospinel, ilmenite and chromite. Patches of light brown glass also exist,  
110 which are associated with pyroxferroite. Reported glass compositions are potassic and rhyolitic  
111 (Kushiro et al. 1972).

112           Sample 14053 has been variously characterized as a low-Ti basalt (Papike et al. 1976), an  
113 aluminous mare basalt (Irving 1975), a mare-like basalt (Hubbard et al. 1972), and a pristine,

114 high Al basalt or diabase/microgabbro (Taylor et al. 2004; Hui et al. 2011; El Goresy et al.  
115 1972). Chemically, it is distinct from mare basalts and KREEP basalts, having characteristically  
116 “high” Al, more similar to terrestrial basalt, yet the typical low alkalis of basaltic lunar  
117 lithologies (Hubbard et al. 1972). It shows a slight negative Eu anomaly (Hubbard et al. 1972)  
118 and is thus unlikely to have been formed after the removal of plagioclase or having attained its  
119 “high” Al characteristics by plagioclase accumulation. (Note: Further information on lunar  
120 basalt geochemistry can be found in Papike et al. 1998).

121 A well-recognized characteristic of sample 14053 is the occasional localized reduction of  
122 ferrous Fe in fayalite (Taylor et al. 2004; Patchen and Taylor 2004). However, the low  $fO_2$   
123 indicated by this reduction is likely not reflective of the magmatic source region; rather, it is  
124 considered to have occurred by hydrogenation from solar wind (Greenwood et al. 2010; Huss et  
125 al. 2012) during a heating event that occurred after crystallization, likely under subsolidus  
126 conditions (Taylor et al. 2004). As this process is unlikely to have affected the igneous  
127 mineralogy, it remains a good sample for this study of general post-LMO igneous processes.

128 Besides the major rock forming oxides, other constituents of a melt are important to  
129 consider, as they can affect the mineralogy and liquid evolution during crystallization. Evidence  
130 of volatiles in lunar magmas has been mounting; several workers have identified Cl and S in  
131 apatite grains from sample 14053 (e.g., Boyce et al. 2010) as well as in lunar basaltic glass  
132 inclusions (Saal et al. 2008), suggesting that volatiles can be retained after a magma has been  
133 erupted on the lunar surface. Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry (SIMS) studies of apatite grains  
134 in 14053 indicate the presence of fluorapatite with significant OH content as well as F  
135 (McCubbin et al. 2010). While these apatite compositions are proof of dissolved volatiles in the  
136 melt during crystallization, the possibility of magmatic degassing (Nekvasil et al. 2010;

137 Ustunisik et al. 2011; Saal et al. 2008) and degassing during post-crystallization impact reheating  
138 makes any amounts present in residual glass highly unreliable. This uncertainty in magmatic  
139 volatile content made the choice of volatile abundances for the experiments a bit arbitrary;  
140 however, based on the discussions of McCubbin et al. (2011) and Boyce et al. (2010) we  
141 concluded that  $\text{SO}_2=0.2$  wt%,  $\text{Cl}=0.5$ ,  $\text{F}=0.5$ wt% would not be unreasonable.  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  was omitted  
142 as an experimental component based on the results of Saal et al. (2008) and Ustunisik et al.  
143 (2011) who suggested rapid and effective degassing of OH at low pressure.

#### 144 **Experimental Design and Details**

145 Experiments were designed to determine the compositional evolution of the residual melt  
146 and mineral phases of a magma having a composition approximately that of sample 14053 in  
147 equilibrium with metallic Fe undergoing equilibrium crystallization at low pressure. All  
148 experiments were crystallization experiments, in which the sample was melted above the  
149 liquidus temperature, cooled, and then allowed to equilibrate at a desired final temperature.

150 A synthetic mix approximating the bulk composition of 14053 (Table 1) was prepared  
151 using oxides, silicates, and  $\text{Fe}^\circ$ sponge. The slight compositional differences between the  
152 synthetic mix and the published rock composition is not considered significant to this study of  
153 process rather than history of 14053. Cr was omitted from the synthetic mix to mitigate  
154 metastable chromite formation misrepresentative of natural processes.  $\text{MgCl}_2$ ,  $\text{MgF}_2$ , and  $\text{CaSO}_4$   
155 provided the target values of 0.5 wt.% for Cl and F, and 0.3 wt.% for S. All major oxides were  
156 combined and ground with ethanol in an automatic mortar for two hours.  $\text{MgF}_2$  and  $\text{MgCl}_2$  were  
157 added towards the end of the mixing process in order to minimize dissolution and re-  
158 precipitation. Finally,  $\text{Fe}^\circ$  was added with minimal ethanol in order to limit the amount of

159 settling and oxidation. The completed mix was ground for an additional 30 minutes, and dried in  
160 air.

161 High purity Fe capsules measuring approximately 4mm (outer diameter) by 15mm long  
162 were prepared with lids. Fe was chosen as a capsule material primarily to help constrain  $fO_2$  near  
163 the quartz-iron-fayalite buffer, as is typical of the lunar crust (Taylor et al. 2004). Capsules were  
164 cleaned ultrasonically in acetone to remove any machining residue and reduced in  $H_2$  at 800 °C.  
165 For each experiment, a small amount of the powdered mix (~50 milligrams) was loaded into  
166 each capsule and tamped down with a piston in order to pack the powder as densely as possible  
167 and minimize pore space. Capsules were weighed and placed into a silica glass tube sealed at  
168 one end. Just above the capsule, the open tube was then heated and stretched to form a small  
169 capillary. A small chunk of  $Fe^0$  as an “oxygen getter” was placed at the top of the capillary and  
170 the tube was then evacuated for 15 minutes to remove as much air as possible. The entire  
171 assembly was then lowered into a pot furnace, placing the sample near the hotspot at 800°C, and  
172 the  $Fe^0$  getter above it at ~600°C. The sample was dried for an additional 15 minutes to remove  
173 any remaining moisture. The “getter” served to absorb any remaining oxygen in the tube to  
174 prevent oxidation of the sample during heating. After the drying, a torch was used to sever and  
175 seal the capillary just below the getter, preserving a vacuum in the silica glass ampoule. The  
176 melted capillary was then formed into a hook for suspension.

177 A vertical tube, Pt-wound quench furnace was used for each experiment. The silica tube  
178 was suspended by a thin Pt wire running through the hook at the top of the ampoule such that the  
179 capsule was positioned at the experimentally determined hotspot of the furnace. A  $Pt_{90}-Rh_{10}$   
180 thermocouple, calibrated against the melting point of Au, was used to monitor the temperature of  
181 the sample; it was positioned such that its tip was directly adjacent to the capsule. The capsule



182 and thermocouple were gradually lowered into the furnace in order to minimize thermal shock to  
183 the furnace. For each experiment, the sample was held at 1180°C for 1 hour after which the  
184 temperature was lowered to a crystallization temperature between 1140°C and 1015°C (that is,  
185 between the experimentally-determined liquidus and solidus temperatures for this system),  
186 cooling at approximately 15-20 degrees per minute (as necessitated by the furnace). The sample  
187 was kept at the crystallization temperature for between 2 and 150 hours. The duration of each  
188 experiment was dictated by attainment of homogeneous pyroxene compositions; the shortest-  
189 length experiments that produced homogenous (or near-homogenous) pyroxenes were used to  
190 maximize repeatability and minimize the chances for contamination or run failure. At the end of  
191 each experiment, a current was passed through the Pt wire supporting the sample, vaporizing it,  
192 and allowing the sample to fall into a beaker of cold water, thus, effectively quenching the  
193 capsule instantaneously (<5 sec) below the glass transition temperature. Temperatures above  
194 1140°C yielded few (if any) crystalline phases, and temperatures below 1015°C were too  
195 crystalline to analyze easily and contained glass pockets that were no longer homogenous.

196       After quench, and before each silica glass tube was opened, it was checked to ensure a  
197 vacuum was maintained after quench. Then the Fe capsule was weighed to determine weight  
198 loss (if any), sawn open, and affixed to a glass slide to make a thin section. In some cases,  
199 shards of sample were removed from the capsule, placed in brass tubes, and encased in epoxy.  
200 These “slugs” were more conveniently analyzed by microprobe by allowing many samples in a  
201 single holder. We feel this allowed for more internally consistent analyses, since several samples  
202 could be analyzed in a single sample exchange/ standardization of the microprobe. Samples for  
203 microprobe analysis were carbon coated, and all phases resolvable by electron beam were  
204 analyzed using the Cameca SX100 electron microprobe at the American Museum of Natural

205 History, NY. An example backscatter electron image of an experiment taken during a  
206 microprobe session is available in the supplementary material. Most elements were analyzed  
207 using a 15kV accelerating voltage, 20nA beam current, a 5 micron beam diameter and  
208 measurement times of 20-40s per element. Na, K and F analyses were carried out using a  
209 defocused beam, a 2nA beam current, for 10-20s per element. Some phases were too small to  
210 analyze with a 5 um beam without overlapping onto glass. Fluorine analyses of glasses had the  
211 greatest (and unquantified) uncertainty due to the Fe-bearing nature of the glass. The following  
212 standards were used for most major element analyses: MgF<sub>2</sub>, F; McKee Jadeite, Na; Potassium  
213 Feldspar, K; San Carlos Olivine, Mg; Wakefield Plagioclase, Si and Ca; Berlinite, P; Barite, S;  
214 Scapolite, Cl; Rutile, Ti; MgCr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, Cr; Rhodonite, Mn; Fayalite, Fe. Mass balance calculations  
215 (MIX program of the IgPet software package, Carr 2002) were conducted using the microprobe  
216 data in order to ascertain that no phases had been overlooked, to ensure internal consistency of  
217 phase compositions, and to obtain modal abundances of phases.

## 218 **Results**

219 All experiments yielded either glass or glass + crystals. Figure 1 shows the mode of each  
220 experiment computed by mass balance; Table 2 shows the average composition for each  
221 analyzed phase. Ilmenite, silica, and Fe<sup>0</sup> minerals were observed in EDS, but were too small to  
222 be easily analyzed by the microprobe. Therefore, ideal stoichiometric compositions of these  
223 were used in place of actual analyses for mass balance. The lowest temperature experiment  
224 (1015°C) was so fine-grained that many analyses reflected overlap of small mineral grains;  
225 therefore, for the purposes of the least squares regression, the average liquid analyzed from that  
226 experiment was used together with plagioclase and pyroxene compositions taken from the next  
227 highest temperature (1055°C).

228           The dominant phases in both sets of experiments were pyroxene and plagioclase – in  
229 agreement with the mineralogic mode of 14053. Although olivine crystallized early in the  
230 experiments, it reacted out as pyroxene began to form. It was noted that pyroxene compositions  
231 were highly variable in experiments that had not attained equilibrium (unpublished data);  
232 therefore, pyroxene was used as a proxy for measuring the degree of disequilibrium in each  
233 experiment. For this purpose we used the QUILF 95 software (Andersen et al. 1993) to project  
234 pyroxene and olivine compositions. Runs that did not attain equilibrium (i.e., had highly  
235 variable pyroxene compositions) were rejected and the experiments repeated for a longer  
236 duration. Pyroxenes in our experiments generally increased in Fs and Wo components with  
237 decreasing temperature (Fig. 2).

238           Plagioclase begins to crystallize at 1100°C, a lower temperature than pyroxene, yet while  
239 there is still more than 60% liquid remaining. Plagioclase compositions were computed based on  
240 the molar quantities of Ca, Na, and K (Fig. 3). Slight modification of silica and alumina contents  
241 within microprobe uncertainty was required to obtain stoichiometric compositions. Plagioclase  
242 composition varied from An<sub>93</sub> to An<sub>89</sub>, but it was difficult to evaluate the trend with decreasing  
243 temperature since the relatively slow cooling to the equilibration temperature may have caused  
244 earlier formed plagioclase to be retained as suggested by the range and overlap of the plagioclase  
245 compositions for the temperatures at which plagioclase was stable. The observation that the  
246 lower temperature (1055°C) experiment had more anorthitic plagioclase than the 1100°C  
247 experiment we attribute to the fine-grained nature of the lower temperature experiment, and the  
248 resulting difficulty in analyzing the last formed plagioclase, that is, the lowest temperature  
249 plagioclase composition of the outermost zone of the zoned crystals. Importantly, the feldspars  
250 show that the earliest formed plagioclase is more albitic than the FAN (even within the 2% probe

251 error), and the plagioclase is produced with compositions that extend to bytownite. Finally, due  
252 to known Na-loss issues during analysis with EMPA, it is possible that the actual Ab contents of  
253 the plagioclase are slightly higher than the averaged reported values. Therefore, since the  
254 compositional range of the plagioclase analyzed here does not overlap the FAN field, we are  
255 confident that this process can produce plagioclase of a composition unique from that of the  
256 ferroan anorthosites, and similar to that of the alkali anorthosite suite.

257 Figure 4 shows the change in major oxide concentrations of experimental residual liquids  
258 (glasses) with decreasing temperature. The silica content does not increase, even after 80%  
259 crystallization, but rather remains almost constant before decreasing in late stages. The alumina  
260 content of the melt shows the expected variation that is, increasing until plagioclase saturation  
261 and then decreasing due to plagioclase precipitation.  $\text{FeO}_T$  initially shows a slight decrease, but  
262 generally increases in the melt. Titania increases in concentration until ilmenite appears, at  
263 which point  $\text{TiO}_2$  is drawn out of the melt. Importantly, there is strong enrichment of F and Cl in  
264 the liquid with decreasing temperature (Fig. 5), rather than the losses observed by Ustunisik et al.  
265 (2011).

266

## Discussion

267 Pyroxene and plagioclase are the dominant minerals in the crystallizing assemblage. The  
268 plagioclase is not the extremely calcic plagioclase of FAN, but rather ranges from more sodic  
269 anorthite to bytownite in composition, typical of Mg-suite norites which have plagioclase  
270 compositions ranging from  $\text{An}_{93}$  to  $\text{An}_{88}$  (James and Flohr 1983). Of particular importance is the  
271 increase in Fe and Ti of the residual liquids, which also correlates to an increase in Cl content of  
272 the residual melts with decreasing temperature. These results are consistent with the work of  
273 Webster and DeVivo (2002) that showed an increased solubility of Cl in low silica, Fe-rich

274 melts, perhaps due to Fe-Cl complexing in the melt; such complexing may have contributed to  
275 the strong Fe-enrichment of the melt during crystallization. It is possible that halogens also  
276 facilitate Ti buildup in the melt through the formation of  $\text{TiF}_4$  and  $\text{TiCl}_4$  complexes, both of  
277 which would allow Ti to build up in the melt beyond the point where armalcolite or ilmenite  
278 (+rutile) would normally be stable.

279         The buildup of Cl and F in the melt appears contradictory to the results of Ustunisik et al.  
280 (2011) who detected continuous loss of F and Cl during degassing under similar experimental  
281 conditions. However, this loss may have been facilitated by the presence of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  in their  
282 experiments and hence, loss of HCl and HF, in addition to the lack of mineralogically-driven Fe  
283 enrichment of the melt that would retain Cl, since their experiments were superliquidus. Another  
284 major driver of this increase in F and Cl is the absence of apatite in the mineral assemblage;  
285 however, there is no indication that this is an experimental problem. The highest residual liquid  
286  $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$  concentration attained is 0.42 wt.% (Table 2); this is below the concentration necessary to  
287 stabilize apatite in a magma with this silica content (Watson 1979). Also, the CIPW norm  
288 calculation (supplementary material) for this liquid composition contains less than 1 wt.%  
289 apatite; thus, its absence cannot account for more than a fraction of this increase in halogens in  
290 the residual melt. These results suggest that lunar magmas would be able to retain substantial  
291 amounts of volatiles, even near the surface before completely crystallizing.

292         An important result of the Fe- and Ti-enrichment of residual liquids is a general increase  
293 in density of the liquid. Figure 6 shows liquid densities computed using the techniques of Lange  
294 and Carmichael (1987) assuming that both F and Cl in the melt have the partial molar volume of  
295 water (with the goal of computing a minimum density) at each temperature. The concentration  
296 of these elements in the melt, coupled with the “stagnation” of the silica content helps to keep the

297 liquid density high, reaching a peak of 3.23 g/cc at 1055°C. This contrasts with the lower  
298 densities of anorthite (2.76 g/cc) and pigeonite (3.38 g/cc) (Klein et al. 2002). Importantly, there  
299 is no spike in density; rather, the density remains relatively uniform, allowing a significant  
300 period of crystallization over which plagioclase and pyroxene could separate through density  
301 stratification.

302 In the case of a magma chamber close to the lunar surface, plagioclase flotation is  
303 probably not a relevant process. Instead, liquid draining is a more likely method to induce  
304 plagioclase separation, particularly in the anorthositic highlands crust. Liquid draining has been  
305 postulated in terrestrial layered intrusions such as the Bushveld complex in South Africa (Scoon  
306 and Mitchell 1994). Importantly, with a lower layer of pyroxene cumulates more dense than the  
307 liquid, the residual liquid would not necessarily have drained to deeper levels of the crust, but  
308 perhaps flowed laterally into topographic lows (much as groundwater flows laterally, pressurized  
309 by a hydraulic head) and solidified at the lunar surface, forming sheets of Fe- and Ti-basaltic  
310 rock that would show K, REE, and P enrichment and a strong negative Eu anomaly. Loss of this  
311 liquid would leave behind bimodal lithologies of overlying anorthosite and underlying  
312 pyroxenite (or dunite if from a less evolved starting magma than 14053). Since such a process is  
313 not restricted in time, could the mobilized liquid be represented by some mare basalts?

314 It has been suggested that the source material for the aluminous basalts, including 14053,  
315 is very similar to the areas of the mantle which have given rise to the mare basalts (Ridley 1975);  
316 indicating the recognition of geochemical similarities. The high Ti, and Fe nature of some of the  
317 Apollo 12 mare (ilmenite) basalts is strikingly similar to the residual liquids produced during  
318 crystallization of 14053. For example, Apollo samples 12054, and 12047, mare basalts collected  
319 from the Ocean of Storms during Apollo 12 are nearly identical (within analytical error) in

320 composition to the residual liquid at 1055°C (Rhodes et al. 1977). Apollo 15 sample 15388 is  
321 chemically similar to these same liquids as well, although there is a large discrepancy in Mg  
322 content (Ryder et al. 1988). (These samples are presented to facilitate comparison in Table 3.)  
323 Interestingly, both Apollo 12 samples appear to contain slight negative Eu anomalies  
324 characteristic of magmas that have seen plagioclase removal, which is permissive of residual  
325 liquids leftover from anorthosite formation. It should be stressed again that we are not supposing  
326 that Apollo basalt 14053 is parental to any of these specific samples, rather that crystal  
327 fractionation of a typical lunar high-Al basalt at low pressure is able to produce a variety of rock  
328 compositions observed at the lunar surface. Nyquist and Shih (1992) provide evidence  
329 demonstrating that aluminous basalts were being produced over a long period of time on the  
330 Moon (4.3-3.1 Ga), a period that brackets the age of many Ti-basalts (3.9-3.5 Ga) and alkali  
331 anorthosites (4.3-4.0 Ga, Snyder et al. 1995). If this aluminous basalt volcanism was not limited  
332 to Fra Mauro, it is possible that the magmas could have experienced conditions similar to what  
333 we have modeled here, and produced pockets of sodic anorthosites and/or basalts with  
334 compositions comparable to the ilmenite basalts of Apollo 12 and 15. We must concede  
335 however, that there is no direct observational evidence supporting this, but because of current  
336 remote-sensing limitations and the extremely brecciated nature of the lunar crust, it would be  
337 very difficult to observe spatial relationships between these rock suites in situ.

338

### **Implications**

339 The experiments conducted show the potential for Cl- and F-bearing aluminous basalts  
340 from the lunar highlands to produce anorthosite independent of the LMO, thereby providing a  
341 mechanism that could explain the existence of isolated areas of alkali anorthosite, allow such  
342 anorthosite to be less calcic than FAN, and explain variable absolute ages as well as relative ages

343 with respect to other lunar lithologies. The observed buildup of halogens in the melt and  
344 concomitant Fe- and Ti- enrichment makes it possible for the residual liquid to drain from the  
345 overlying plagioclase and pond as a silica-poor Fe- and Ti-rich basalt with K-REE-P enrichment  
346 and negative Eu anomaly. However, it is important to note the role of F and Cl in this process is  
347 not fully understood.

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509 Table Captions

510 Table 1: Comparison of bulk rock analysis of Apollo sample 14053 (Willis et al. 1972) to the  
511 composition of the prepared synthetic starting material (VOL).

512 Table 2: Electron microprobe analysis showing average compositions of phases (minerals and  
513 glass) from each experiment. Abbreviations used: pyroxene (Px); plagioclase (Pl); olivine (Ol);  
514 glass/liquid (Gl). Numbers in parenthesis indicate the number of averaged points. “Other  
515 Phases” include a natural ilmenite analysis (Ilm), as well as nominal compositions for iron metal  
516 and amorphous silica. The abundance (wt. %) of each phase (and sums of the squares of the  
517 residuals, *ssr*) were calculated by mass balance (Carr 2002). Molar An# = An/(An+Ab), molar  
518 Mg# = MgO/(MgO+FeO).

519 Table 3: Comparison of residual liquid composition from 1055°C with compositions of ilmenite  
520 basalts recovered from Apollo 12 (Rhodes et al. 1977) and Apollo 15 (Ryder et al. 1988).

521 Table S1: Electron microprobe analysis of phases present in Apollo sample 14053.

522

523 Figure Captions

524 Figure 1: Phase-abundance diagram illustrating the amount of crystals and liquid for each  
525 experiment as computed by mass balance (Carr 2002).

526 Figure 2: A pyroxene quadrilateral showing the compositions of experimental pyroxenes from  
527 experiments at various temperatures. The grouping of pyroxenes at 1140°C is connected by tie-  
528 line to the coexisting olivine at that temperature. Arrow illustrates compositional trend with  
529 decreasing temperature.

530 Figure 3: A truncated feldspar ternary diagram showing analyzed plagioclase compositions  
531 (high and low An) for experiments at each temperature. Ellipses around markers delineate the  
532 range of plagioclase compositions for each experiment- solid ellipse - 1100°C, dashed ellipse-



533 1055°C. Markers are sized to estimate the analytical uncertainty. Approximate boundaries are  
534 drawn to show the extent of the FAN (upper shaded ellipse) and Mg- suites (large ellipse).

535 Figure 4: Concentrations (weight percent) of select oxides in residual liquids for each  
536 experiment. Error bars for silica represent a 2% absolute variation. All other uncertainties are  
537 approximately similar in size to, or smaller than markers used.

538 Figure 5: Concentrations of volatiles in residual liquids determined for each experiment.

539 Figure 6: Calculated density (Lange and Carmichael 1987) of residual liquids from each  
540 experiment. Density of pyroxene (pigeonite) and plagioclase (anorthite) are also shown (Klein et  
541 al. 2002).

542 Figure S1: Backscattered electron image of an experiment at 1100°C showing all phases present-  
543 pyroxene, plagioclase and glass, as well as the Fe capsule wall.

Figure 1

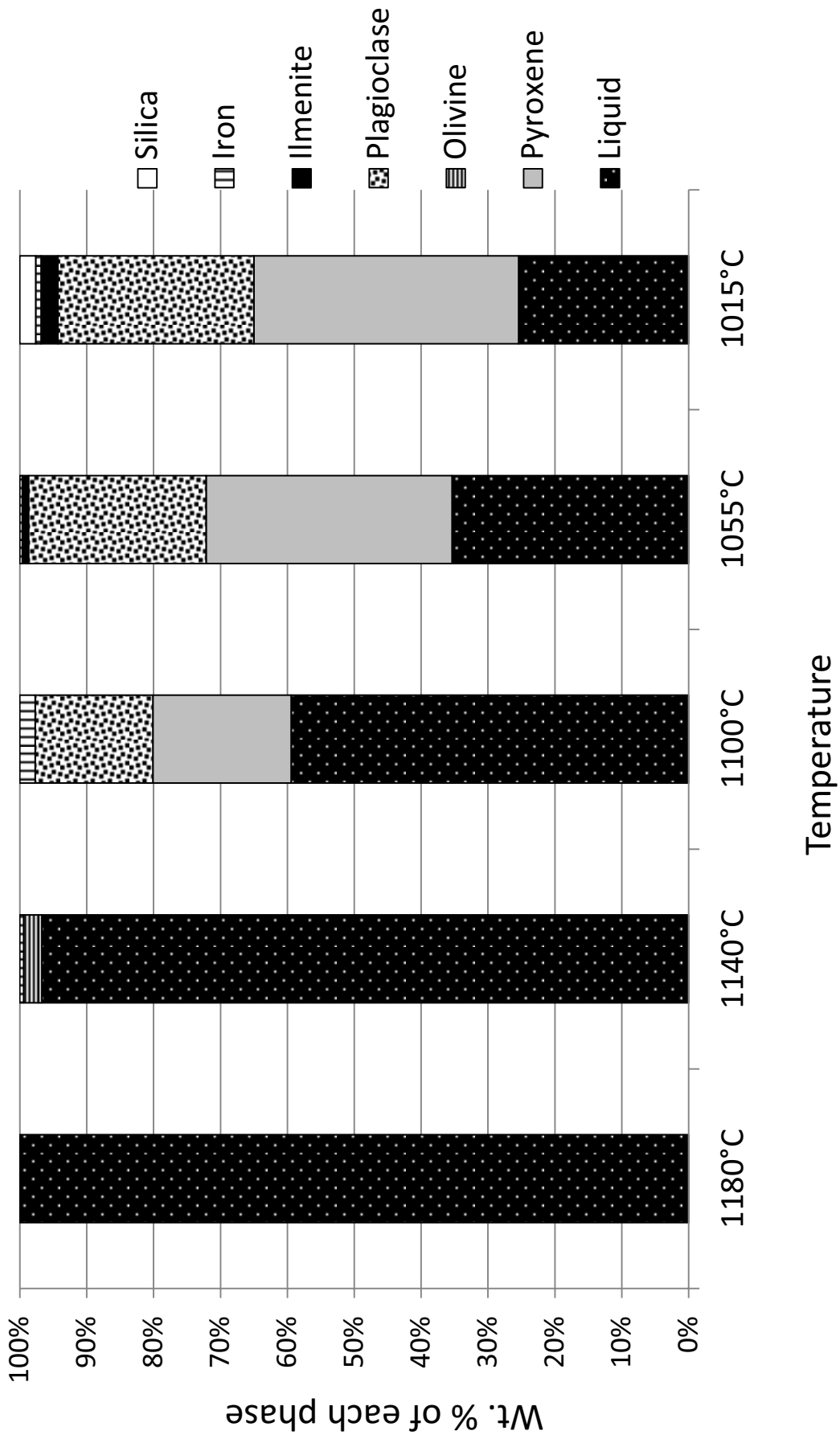


Figure 2  
Experimental Pyroxene Compositions

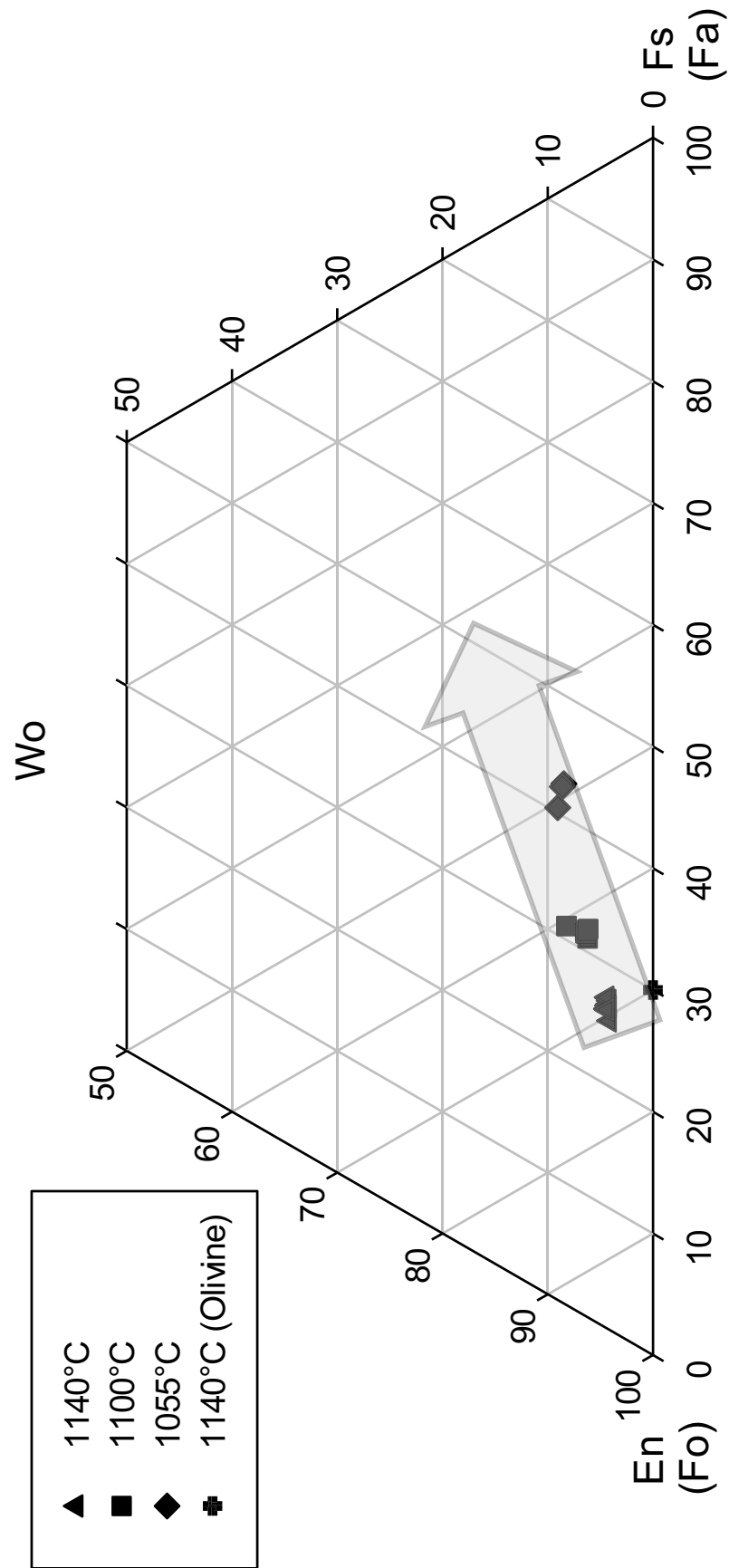
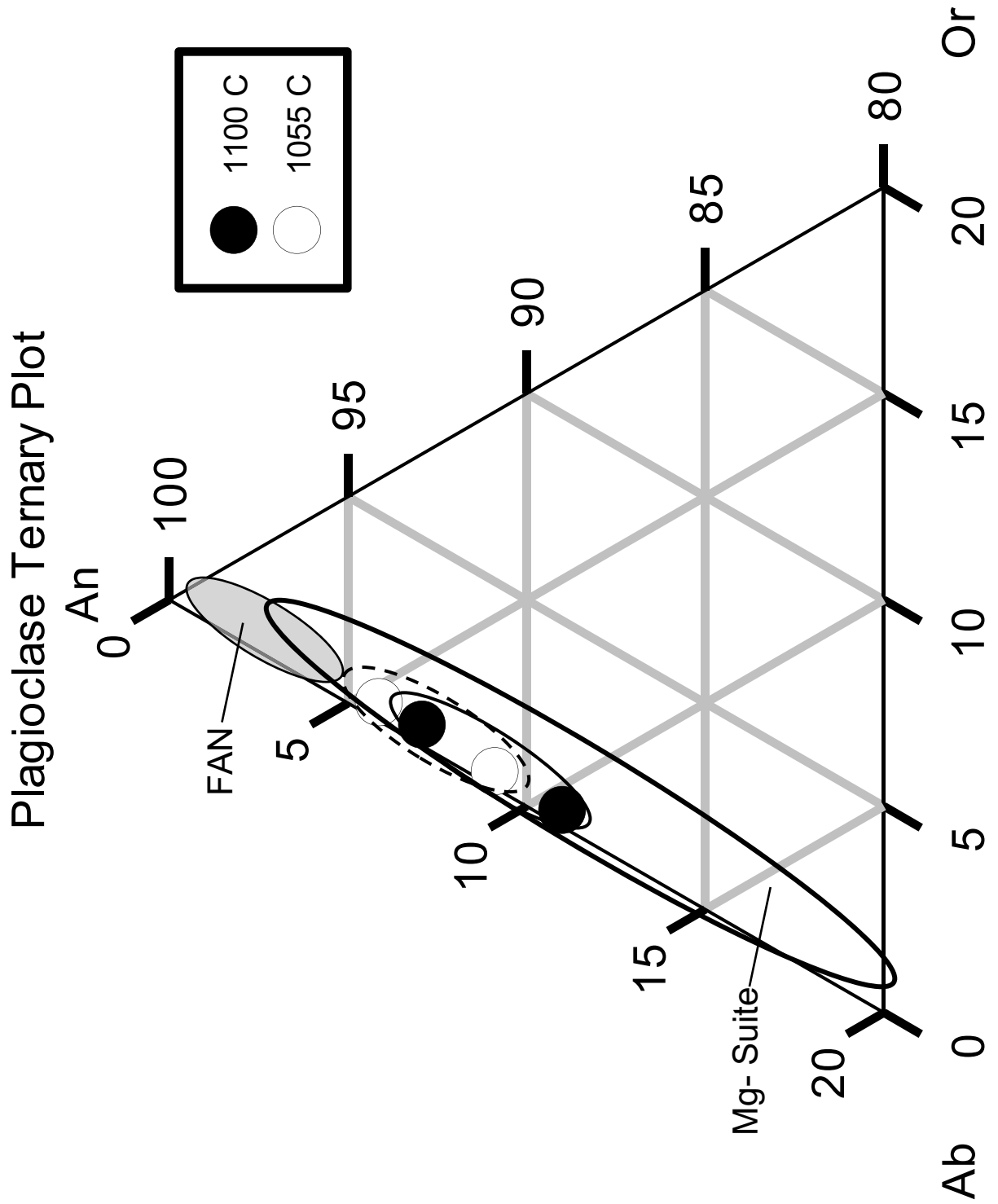




Figure 3



	14053	VOL
SiO <sub>2</sub>	46.08	45.94
TiO <sub>2</sub>	2.91	2.83
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	12.54	12.66
FeO	16.97	17.83
MnO	0.26	0.23
MgO	8.97	7.66
CaO	11.07	10.21
Na <sub>2</sub> O	0.44	0.49
K <sub>2</sub> O	0.1	0.13
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	0.11	0.07
Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	0.28	-
SO <sub>2</sub>	0.13	0.21
Cl	-	0.45
F	-	0.51

Table 1

Temperature	1140 C					1100 C						1055 C						1015 C		Other Phases		
Phases	Px (11)	1 $\sigma$	Ol (1)	Gl (13)	1 $\sigma$	Px (6)	1 $\sigma$	Pl (9)	1 $\sigma$	Gl (10)	1 $\sigma$	Px (3)	1 $\sigma$	Pl (4)	1 $\sigma$	Gl (18)	1 $\sigma$	Gl (3)	1 $\sigma$	Ilm	Iron	Silica
SiO <sub>2</sub>	52.43	0.55	37.02	46.22	1.08	51.76	0.66	47.11	0.46	45.92	0.72	48.57	1.82	45.99	0.30	45.39	0.32	43.27	1.17	0.11	0	100
TiO <sub>2</sub>	0.68	0.07	0.05	2.91	0.09	0.98	0.10	0.08	0.03	4.32	0.07	1.22	0.18	0.19	0.15	5.30	0.09	4.04	0.10	48.9	0	0
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	1.95	0.09	0.01	13.30	0.33	2.11	0.25	33.33	0.44	10.85	0.14	1.84	0.18	33.23	1.16	9.34	0.22	8.99	0.45	0.54	0	0
FeO	17.17	0.16	27.78	17.20	0.21	19.82	0.31	0.58	0.05	19.26	0.41	25.60	0.84	1.42	0.56	20.48	0.25	20.36	0.53	48	100	0
MnO	0.32	0.03	0.24	0.25	0.02	0.44	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.35	0.02	0.39	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.26	0.03	0.30	0.02	0	0	0
MgO	25.18	0.08	35.98	7.14	0.75	21.81	0.26	0.32	0.04	5.30	0.05	16.97	0.28	0.29	0.09	3.92	0.07	3.41	0.02	0.35	0	0
CaO	2.19	0.10	0.22	10.67	0.09	3.24	0.39	17.64	0.30	10.86	0.08	4.15	0.13	18.00	0.29	11.28	0.13	12.86	0.10	0.56	0	0
Na <sub>2</sub> O	0.05	0.08	0.04	0.40	0.07	0.02	0.04	0.97	0.14	0.38	0.04	0.04	0.06	0.81	0.18	0.43	0.07	0.59	0.06	0.65	0	0
K <sub>2</sub> O	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.11	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.03	0.15	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.07	0.02	0.21	0.04	0.32	0.05	0	0	0
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	0.01	0.01	0.05	0.10	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.11	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.24	0.02	0.42	0.02	0	0	0
SO <sub>2</sub>	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.11	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.21	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.25	0.09	0.21	0.10	0	0	0
Cl	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.47	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.70	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.03	0.94	0.01	2.23	0.07	0	0	0
F	0.07	0.14	0.12	0.48	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.54	0.08	0.22	0.33	0.06	0.08	1.04	0.23	1.97	0.42	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.06</b>		<b>101.52</b>	<b>99.35</b>		<b>100.19</b>		<b>100.12</b>		<b>98.94</b>		<b>99.04</b>		<b>100.13</b>		<b>99.09</b>		<b>98.97</b>		<b>99.1</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Wt. % Phase</b>	<b>0.5</b>		<b>2.2</b>	<b>96.7</b>		<b>20.7</b>		<b>17.6</b>		<b>59.4</b>		<b>36.8</b>		<b>26.6</b>		<b>35.4</b>		<b>25.4</b>				
<b>Residual Sum</b>	<b>0.055</b>					<b>0.018</b>						<b>0.016</b>						<b>0.009</b>				
<b>An# or Mg#</b>	<b>72</b>		<b>70(XFo)</b>	<b>-</b>		<b>62</b>		<b>91</b>		<b>-</b>		<b>52</b>		<b>93</b>		<b>-</b>		<b>-</b>				

Figure 4

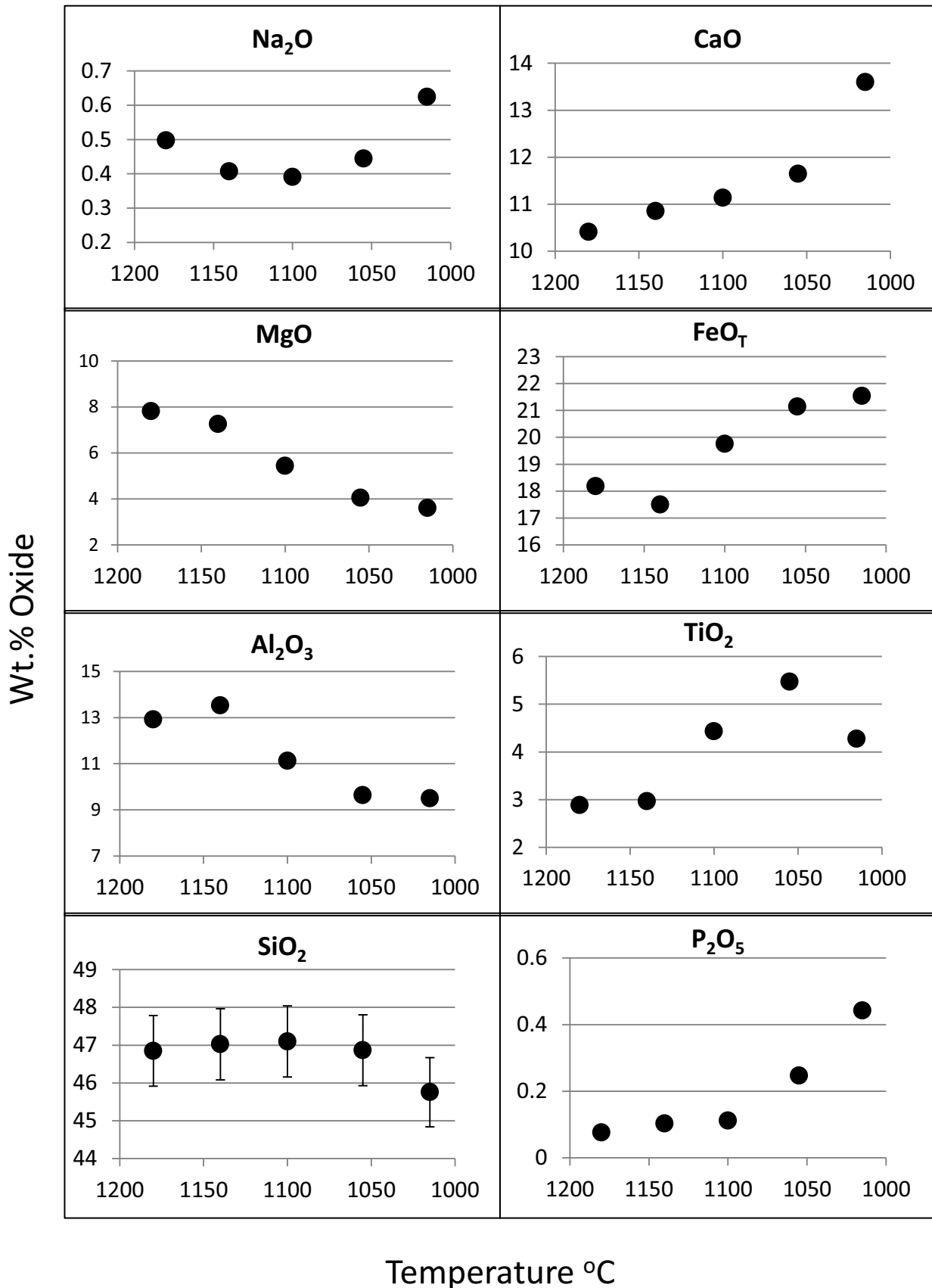




Figure 5

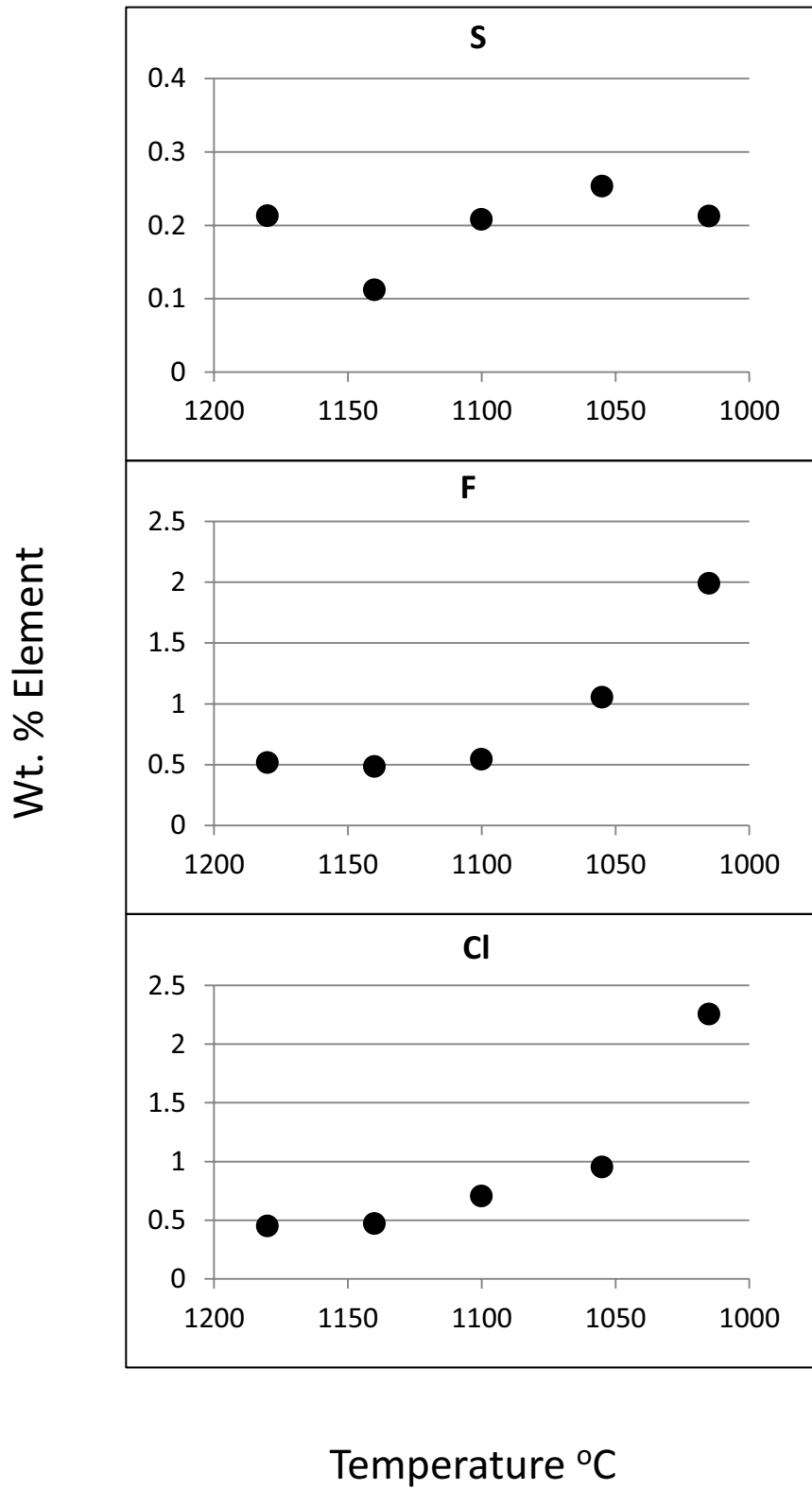
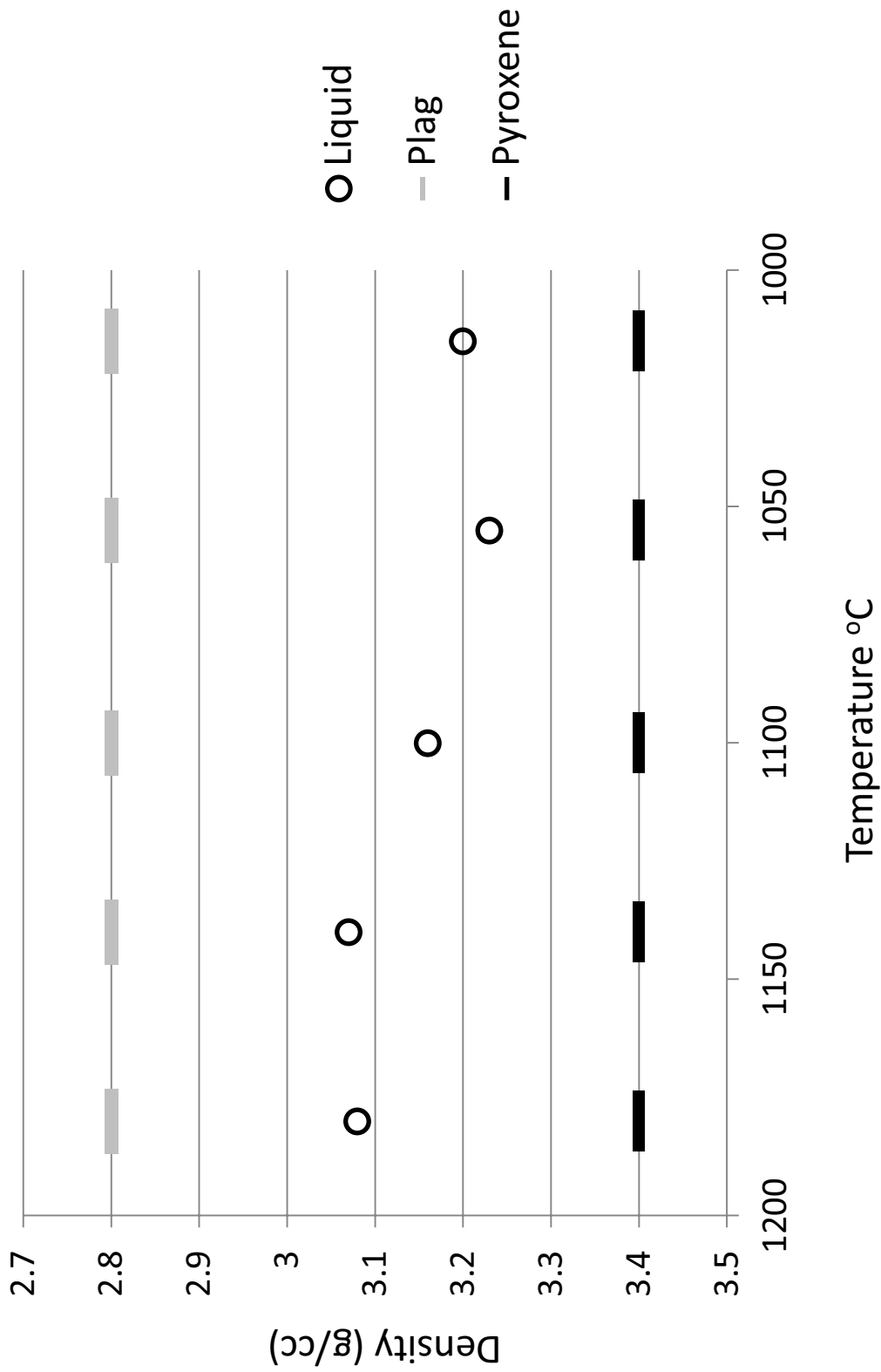


Figure 6



Sample	1055°C	15388	12054	12047
SiO <sub>2</sub>	46.86	44.20	45.86	45.30
TiO <sub>2</sub>	5.47	5.91	4.63	5.20
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	9.64	11.10	10.47	10.10
FeO	21.15	19.10	19.50	20.50
MnO	0.27	0.35	0.29	0.29
MgO	4.05	8.00	6.67	6.59
CaO	11.65	10.20	11.93	11.32
Na <sub>2</sub> O	0.44	0.32	0.31	0.31
K <sub>2</sub> O	0.22	-	0.07	0.08
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	0.25	0.06	0.06	0.08

Table 3