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6 7	EXTRUSION DYNAMICS OF DEEP-WATER VOLCANOES
8	REVEALED BY 3D SEISMIC DATA
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24	Abstract
25	Submarine volcanism accounts for c. 75% of the Earth's volcanic activity. However, due to
26	difficulties with imaging their exteriors and interiors, deep-water volcanoes are poorly understood
27	in terms of their extrusion dynamics and growth. Here, we use high-resolution 3-D reflection 1

28 seismic data from the South China Sea to investigate the geometry, distribution, plumbing system, 29 and extrusion dynamics of several Late Miocene-Quaternary, deep-water volcanoes. We show 30 these volcanoes extruded lava flows feeding lobate lava fans, with the former associated with lava 31 tubes emplaced at shallow depths within wet, unconsolidated, near-seafloor sediments. Moreover, 32 we show that 50-97% of the erupted volume is preserved in these long run-out (>9 km) lava flows and not within the volcanic edifice itself. Estimates of erupted lava volumes, which are critical for 33 34 calculating melt generation and storage conditions, may therefore be erroneous if based solely on 35 edifice mapping, with 3D seismic reflection data allowing more accurate constraints to be placed 36 on the way in which eruption products are spatially partitioned.

37

38 Keywords

39 Volcanism, lava flow channel, lava fan, lava tube, sill, South China Sea

40

41 Introduction

42 The external morphology of volcanoes and their eruptive products reflects, and provides insight into, the processes controlling magma extrusion and volcano construction. By extracting 43 44 high-resolution, quantitative data on the morphology of volcanic edifcaes (and that of the 45 surrounding lava field) from airborne/shuttle radar topography (e.g. Somoza et al., 2017; Grosse 46 and Kervyn, 2018), and multibeam bathymetry (e.g. Cocchi et al., 2016; Allen et al., 2018), we can calculate melt volume and reconstruct volcano growth. More specifically, the volume of 47 48 material contained within a volcanic edifice is typically considered equivalent to the total erupted 49 volume, a parameter required to infer melt and storage conditions (e.g. Smith, 1988; Somoza et al., 50 2017; Grosse and Kervyn, 2018). Whilst these data types capture the external morphology of 51 volcanoes and lava flows, they do not however image their basal surface or internal architecture. 52 Without access to the full 3D structure of these extrusive systems, it is difficult or, in many cases, impossible to test volcano and lava flow growth models, or calculate the volume of erupted 53 54 mateiral. Several studies have, however, demonstrated that seismic reflection data can be used to 55 map the external morphology, internal architecture, and plumbing system of buried volcanoes in 56 3D (e.g. Planke et al., 2000; Calvès et al., 2011; Jackson, 2012; Magee et al., 2013; Reynolds et al., 57 2017). To date, the majority of these studies have focused on those formed in sub-aerial or
58 shallow-marine environments (e.g. Planke et al., 2000; Jackson, 2012; Magee et al., 2013;
59 Reynolds et al., 2018); deep-water volcanoes are still poorly documented and thus understood.

60 In this study, we use high-resolution 3D seismic reflection data to examine Late 61 Miocene-Quaternary submarine volcanoes emplaced in deep-water (>1.6 km) on highly stretched continental lithosphere in the northern South China Sea (Fig. 1). Based on interpretation of 62 63 volcano and lava flow structure, distribution, and scale, we discuss emplacement processes, 64 relating our findings to studies of deep-water volcanoes using bathymetry and ROV data. We 65 show that volcano and lava field morphology are are controlled by the nature of deep-water sedimentary setting (e.g. high hydrostatic pressure, unconsolidated seafloor sediments, and slope 66 67 dips), and that the volcano edifices themselves may comprise only a small part of the total erupted 68 magma volume.

69

70 Geological setting

71 The study area is located on the northern continental slope of the South China Sea (Fig. 1a) (e.g. 72 Briais et al., 1993). Rifting here occurred during the Cretaceous-Early Oligocene, and was 73 superceded by a period of post-rift thermal subsidence in the Late Oligocene-to-Early Miocene 74 (e.g. Ru and Pigott, 1986). Post-rift volcanoes were emplaced both onshore and offshore, with the 75 latter extruded onto continental slope sedimentary rocks in water depths of <300 m (Yan et al., 76 2006). Cores show these relatively shallow-water volcanoes are composed of basalt, dacite, and 77 rhyolitic tuff (Li and Liang, 1994). Here, we analyze several likely Late Miocene-Quaternary 78 volcanoes, located further basinward of the shallow-water volcanoes, close to the 79 Continent-Ocean Boundary (COB), in an area characterized by current water depths of 1970-2680 m and a mean, broadly southward dip of >1°. Data from nearby ODP sites 1145, 1146, and 1148 80 81 reveal that, since the Middle Miocene, sedimentation in the study area has likely been dominated by deposition of a deep-marine (>1.6 km water depth), nanofossil-bearing clay ('soft' seabed) 82 83 (Wang et al., 2000; Clift et al., 2001); these observations strongly suggest the Late Miocene-Quarternary volcanoes were emplaced in a deep-water setting. 84

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86 Data and Methods

We use a pre-stack time-migrated 3D seismic reflection survey covering ~350 km² (Fig. 1b). 87 Bin spacing is 25 m, and the seismic data have a dominant frequency in the interval of interest of 88 ~40 Hz. We calculate a vertical resolution (λ /4) of ~10 m for sedimentary rocks and 19-25 m for 89 volcanic materials, assuming seismic velocities of 1540 m/s for the sedimentary strata (based on 90 91 nearby ODP Site 1146 data; Fig. 1) (Sun et al., 2017) and 3000-4000 m/s for volcanic materials 92 (Text S1). The top and base of volcanic materials can be confidently identified or 'resolved' when 93 thicker than the vertical resolution (i.e. 19-25 m), but can be 'detected' if thicker than the estimated detection limit ($\lambda/8$, 10-13 m). We interpreted six seismic surfaces, correlated to ODP 94 Site 1146, which is located ~65 km west of the study area (Sun et al., 2017): T0 (~2.58 Ma); T1 95 96 (~5.3 Ma); TRa (~6.5 Ma); TRb (~8.2 Ma), and TM and BM, which correspond to the top and 97 base of erupted material, respectively.

98 **Observations**

99 We identify three conspicuous seismic facies: (1) conical-shaped features capped by a high-amplitude reflection, and, internally, only weakly to moderately reflective (Figs. 2a, 3c); (2) 100 ribbon-like, broadly strata-concordant, high-amplitude reflections, which emenate from the 101 102 conical anomalies (Figs. 2a-2b, 3c); and (3) saucer-shaped, strata-discordant, high-amplitude 103 reflections, which underlie the two anomaly types described above (Fig. S2a). Based on their geometry, seismic expression, and development next to the COB, we interpret these features as (1) 104 volcanic edifaces, (2) lava flows, and (3) sills (e.g. Planke et al., 2000; Thomson and Hutton, 2004; 105 106 Calvès et al., 2011; Jackson et al., 2012). Thirteen volcano edifices and four sill complexes are 107 observed in the 3D survey; for the purposes of this study, we focus on two volcano edifices (V1 108 and V2) that are large and particularly well-imaged, and considered representative of other 109 structures within the study area (Figs. 2-3).

110

111 Volcano edifice 1 (V1) and associated lava flows

112 V1 is a prominent conical structure covering \sim 7.2 km², with a volume of \sim 0.82±0.12 km³, and 113 an average flank dip of \sim 13.2±1.8° (Fig. 2; Table S1). Where continuous reflections occur within 114 V1, they lie sub-parallel to its flanks, and converge down-dip towards the surface BM, onto which

they downlap (Fig. 2a). V1 is onlapped by overlying reflections, with the oldest onlapping 115 reflection correlating to TRa (~6.5 Ma); this suggests V1 is latest Miocene-earliest Pliocene (Fig. 116 2d). A downward-tapering, sub-vertical zone of chaotic seismic reflections underlie V1 (Fig. 2d). 117 V1 is surrounded by an asymmetric apron of moderate-to-high amplitude reflections that extend 118 up to 1.5 km from the main edifice, and which are up to 202±29 m thick (Figs. 2c-d) (Table S3). A 119 package of moderate-to-very high-amplitude reflections extend another c. 1.5 km downdip of this 120 121 apron (Figs 1b, 2c). In detail, the latter package contains very high-amplitude, channel-like 122 geometries that terminate downdip into or are flanked at prominent bends by, moderate-amplitude, 123 fan-like geometries; we interpret these two features as lava flow channels (C1-C3) and fans (F1-F4), respectively (Fig. 2). The lava flow channels are sinuous, <340 m wide, and usually 124 bisect the lava fans (Figs 2c-d). Together, lava flow-related features (i.e. apron, channels, and fans) 125 emanating from V1 cover an area of $\sim 14 \text{ km}^2$ (Tables S2-S3), have an average thickness of 126 \sim 57.2 \pm 7.9 m, and thus have a volume of \sim 0.81 \pm 0.12 km³; this volume is \sim 99% of the volume of 127 V1 ($\sim 0.82\pm 0.12$ km³) and $\sim 50\%$ of the total erupted volume. 128

129

130 Volcano edifice 2 (V2) and associated lava flows

V2 is elliptical in plan-view, with a long and short axis of ~1.2 km and ~0.6 km, respectively 131 (Fig. 3a-b). Its flanks dip $26.4\pm3.3^{\circ}$ and it is smaller than V1, covering only ~0.44 km² (volume of 132 133 $0.02-0.03 \text{ km}^3$) (Fig. 3a; Table S1). Its top is of moderate amplitude and is irregular, with the 134 oldest onlapping reflections correlating to T1 (~5.3 Ma); this suggests V2, like V1, is latest 135 Miocene-earliest Pliocene. Reflections within V2 are chaotic, and, similar to V1, V2 is underlain by a vertical zone of disturbance (Fig. 4a). V2 lacks a lava apron, instead being directly flanked by 136 137 relatively straight, up to 9.2 km long lava flow channels on its south-eastern side (C4-C7) (Fig. 3a). 138 Lava flow C6 is unusual in that underlying strata are truncated at the base of the flow, defining 'ramps' that are up to \sim 56.8±7.9 m high and that dip at \sim 23.5±3.0° (Figs. 3d-e1). Beyond the main 139 ramp (Fig. 3b), the lava flows thickens to 226.7±32.1 m, where it is defined by stacked, 140 141 high-amplitude reflections that have a lobate geometry in plan-view (F5) (Figs. 3a, 3c, 3e-e1). At 142 its distal end, the pinchout of F5 is defined by abutment against another basal ramp (Figs. 3e-e1). F5 is then capped by a younger, sill-fed lava fan (F6) (Figs. 3e-e1, Text S2). The V2-sourced lava 143 flows (C4-C7 and F5) cover ~11.5 km² (~4.20 km² of lava flow channels and ~7.32 km² of lava 144

fan). Given the average thickness of the lava flow channels (\sim 52.5±7.5 m) and fans (\sim 94.5±13.5 m), we calculate the total volume of V2-sourced lava flows to be 0.92±0.13 km³; this value is \sim 37 times greater than the volume of the V2 volcano itself (0.025±0.005 km³), representing \sim 97% of the total erupted volume.

149

150 **Discussion**

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152 Volume balance of volcano edifice and lava flow

High-resolution 3D seismic data allow us to calculate the volumes of material contained within 153 154 volcano edifices and in flanking lava flows. We show that most (i.e. 50-97%) of the erupted 155 material is transported away from the imaged volcanoes, an observation comparable to that made 156 for subaerial fall deposits (Pyle, 1989), and silica-rich, deep-ocean volcanic eruptions (Carey et al., 157 2018). Importantly, we show that the flanking lava flows in particular do not have concordant 158 bases, but can instead erode into underlying sediment during extrusion (Fig. 3c); accurately 159 calculating their volume therefore requires an understanding of the basal morphology of the lava 160 flows, as well as flow thickness. Our results therefore suggest that erupted magma volume 161 estimates based solely on remote sensing of the seabed may be incorrect (e.g. Robinson and 162 Eakins, 2006). More specifically, we argue that, due to an inability to accurately map the thickness 163 and extent of the lava field using these data, we may underestimate the total erupted magma 164 volumes, thereby compromising our understanding of total melt volume and storage conditions, eruption rates, eruption durations, and associated risk assessments (e.g. Stevens et al., 1999; 165 166 Arnulf et al., 2014). Difficulties with mapping the near-vent volume of erupted material are 167 compounded by the fact that erupted material may be transported a long distance (i.e. >10 km) 168 from the source volcano (e.g. Gregg and Fornari, 1998).

169

Deep-water eruption dynamics

We show that volcanoes are typically either flanked by an asymmetric lava apron, which is broader on their downslope (SE) side, or lava flow channels that flowed south-eastwards (Figs. 2a, **c-d**, 3a). These observations suggest local slope, of only a few degrees (c. 1°), controls the 174 direction of lava flow, with those fed by particularly voluminous eruptions able to flow several tens of kilometres (e.g. C5 and C6; Figs. 2c, 3a). Similar to subaerial volcanoes, high eruption 175 176 rates and low magma viscosities may generate long run-out flows (e.g. Cashman et al., 1999). 177 However, long run-out lava flows are rarer in submarine environments due to relatively rapid 178 cooling and hardening of magma upon contact with seawater (e.g. Holcomb et al., 1988). We propose that, in addition to eruption onto a slope, the formation of lava tubes ("the conduit beneath 179 180 the surface of solidified lava through which molten lava flows"; Greeley, (1987)) was a 181 fundamental control on lava run-out distance. We suggest lava tubes would have formed as 182 magma flowed downslope, with hardening of its surface and formation of a solidified crust 183 preventing further heat loss within the tube core. Moreover, the crystallization of magma would 184 release latent heat, which could, to some extent, compensate for the heat lost via surficial cooling 185 (Miles and Cartwright, 2010).

Extrusion into relatively deep water (i.e. a few kilometres) may also have played a role in driving the formation of long run-out lava flows. At these depths, the high hydrostatic pressure (>16 Mpa) would have inhibited degassing and fragmentation, causing the lava to maintain its low viscosity and to flow further (Gregg and Fornari, 1998). Lava flow run-out may also have been facilitated by the gravitational force of lava flow itself, and sustained pressure from newly erupting lava emanating from the source volcano.

192 Lava flow eventually ceased in distal areas due to gradual cooling and crystallization of the 193 erupted melt (Cashman et al., 1999). We suggest that, in the case of the straight lava flows (C5 194 and 6), lava transported from within the axial tube would temporarily accumulate at the transient 195 end of the flow, possibly forming a magma pool (Greeley, 1987). Lava entering the tube from the 196 ongoing volcanic eruption would cause an increase in pressure, with the cooled and crytallised 197 material at the flow toe forming a transient impermeable barrier. Eventually, pressure buildup 198 would be sufficient to rupture this frontal barrier, leading to emplacement of a fan downdip of the 199 frontmost base-lava ramp (F5; Fig. 3a, c-d1) (Griffiths, 2000). However, in the case of fans (e.g. 200 F1-4) fed by sinuous channels (Figs. 2c-d), we suggest these were emplaced in a process similar to 201 that documented by Miles and Cartwright (2010), with lobate lava flow fed and bisected by a 'lava 202 tube' through magma inflation. At the end of sinuous lava flow channels (e.g. C1), the main 203 channel bifurcated to form a lobate fan (F3, Figs. 2c-d), which was also probably caused by flow

branching triggered by magma cooling (Griffiths, 2000).

Finally, the overall geometry and internal architecture of the imaged lava flows indicate substrate rheology was a key control on emplacement dynamics. For example, the base-lava ramps suggest these flows were able to eroded down into the seabed, likely because the pre-eruption substrate was cold, wet, and unconsolidated. We suggest that, by being denser, the lava flow was able to sink down into or 'dredge' the soft sediments (Duffield et al., 1986), with the high temperatures also permitting thermal erosion of substrate by intra-flow turbulance (Griffiths, 2000).

212

213 **Conclusions**

214 High-resolution 3-D seismic data allow us to image and map the internal structure, and to better 215 understand the extrusion dynamics of, and to calculate the total amount of material erupted from, a 216 suite of deep-water volcanoes; such insights cannot readily be gained from analysis of remote 217 sensing data. High hydrostatic pressure, an inclined seabed, and low-strength, very fine-grained, 218 near-seabed sediments, combined with formation of lava tubes and extrusion of low-viscocity 219 magmas, are likely responsible for anomalously long-distance lava run-out in this deep-water 220 environment. Moreover, we show that a large amount (as high as $\sim 97\%$) of the erupted materials 221 are transported away from the volcano edifices, suggesting that volume of deep-water volcanic 222 edifices may not faithfully archive eruption size or magma production. Considering the 223 deep-water conditions (e.g. inclined slope and unconsolidated sediments) in the study area are 224 common elsewhere, the conclusions derived from this study can be probably used in other 225 deep-water sedimentary basins and some mid-ocean ridges.

226

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234

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 Publications, Tianjin.
- 318
- 319 Figure Captions
- 320
- 321 Figure 1: Geological setting of the study area. (a) Bottom left: regional setting of the South China

Sea that is bounded by the Red River Strike-slip faults (RRFs) to the west and by the subduction trench (Manila Trench) to the east. The study area (marked with red square) is located to the south of Dongsha Islands. ODP sites 1145, 1146 and 1148 are labeled. The base map is modified from Yang et al. (2015); (b) Seabed morphologies of the study area. Distributions of volcano edifices (red), sills (blue), lava flows (green) and locations of Figures 2c and 3a are labeled. The contour lines are in 100 ms (twt).

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Figure 2: Seismic characteristics of deep-water volcano (V1) and associated lava flow channels/fans. (a) Seismic profile crosscuts the volcano edifice and associated lava flow; (b) Seismic profile crosscuts the lava flow (enhanced seismic anomalies); (c) and (d) RMS amplitude map (\pm 30 ms along the surface BM) and its interpretations. Volcanic apron, lava flow channels/fans are labeled. See Figure S1 for the un-interpreted version of this profile.

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Figure 3: Seismic characteristics of lava flow channels/fans fed by V2) and S1/S2. (a) and (b) Variance slice (extracted from the surface BM) and its interpretations; (c) Seismic profile crosscuts V2 and along lava flow channel (C6) and Lava fans (F5 and F6). The V2 has a sharp boundary to the upslope. See Figure S1 for the un-interpreted version of this profile; (d) and (d1) Enlargement of the end of lava flow channel (ramp structure) and its line drawings; (e) and (e1) Enlargement and its line drawings of the lava fans (F5 and F6).



Figure 2

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Supplementary materials

Supplementary Text

Text S1: Seismic velocities of volcanic materials

Seismic velocities of offshore volcanoes and mafic sills have been demonstrated by a few studies and they are greatly variable. These volcanoes and sills intersected by boreholes offshore western India and offshore Norway show that the seismic velocities range from 3300 to 5500 m/s (Calvès et al., 2011) and 4500 to 7400 m/s (Berndt et al., 2000), respectively. From the 'pull-up' seismic reflections, Magee et al. (2013) indicated that the seismic velocities of volcanoes offshore southern Australia were from 2365 to 6739 m/s with an average velocity of 4000 m/s. While Reynolds et al. (2018) shown that the seismic velocities of submarine volcanoes were between 2200 and 4025 m/s in the Bass Basin. Recent studies suggested that the submarine volcano eruptions consisted of a lot of pumices (Carey et al., 2018; Manga et al., 2018) which probably have lower seismic velocities than the denser deep-seated sills. Besides, layered structures within the volcano edifices like those documented by Magee et al. (2013) and Reynolds et al. (2018) are observed in this study. Therefore, we infer that the seismic velocities in this study are probably similar to the referred two cases above and their average velocities of 3000-4000 m/s are used in this study.

Text S2: Shallow sills and sheeted lava flows

South of V2, we map two areally extensive, partly merged lava flows emanating from the upper tips of inclined sheets fringing saucer-shaped sills (i.e. S1 and S2). Moreover, a few linear structures rooting from the joints of sills and feeding the lava fan (F6) are also observed (Fig. S2a). F6 is directly onlapped by surface T0 and underlain by F5 (Figs. 3c, 3e-e1). A narrow, vertical seismic chaotic/blanking zone directly occurred underneath the saucer-shaped sills (Fig. S2a). Similar to other lava fans, F6 is also characterized by a single positive high-amplitude seismic event (Fig. S2a). It extends beyond the seismic coverage and it is much bigger than other lava fans in the study area (Fig. S2a; Table S3). Unlike the volcano edifices which usually had only one main vent, the sills probably had many pathways to transport igneous materials to the paleo-seabed (Fig. S2a). This fissure-like eruption maybe lead to the larger covering area and quite constant thickness of lava fan 6 (F6) (Fig. 3c, S2a).

Supplementary tables

Table S1: Dimensions of volcano edifices. ^adiameter and dip are average values.

Volcano edifice	^a Diameter/m	Height/m	Area/km ²	Volume/km ³	^a Dip/ ^o
Volcano edifice 1 (V1)	3018	353.5±50.5	7.15	0.820±0.120	13.2±1.8
Volcano edifice 1 (V2)	714	177.5±25.5	0.44	0.025 ± 0.005	26.4±3.3

Table S2: Dimensions of lava flow channels (C). Please not that all the lengths of lava flow channels are measured along their axes. ^amaximum lengths (including the inferred part of lava flow channels); ^bminimum length (C3 extends beyond the 3D survey); ^cthicknesses cannot be

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Lava flow channels		Length/km	Width/m	Thickness/m	Area/km ²	Volume/km ³	
Valaria difiara	C1	2.86 ^a	55-273	unknown ^c	0.31 ^a	unknown ^c	
voicano edifices	C2	3.66 ^a	94-340	unknown ^c	0.56 ^a	unknown ^c	
1-related	C3	4.60 ^b	163-340	46.0±6.0	0.84 ^a	$0.039 {\pm} 0.005$	
	C4	2.80	172-229	52.5±7.5	0.54	0.028 ± 0.004	
Volcano edifices	C5	9.15 ^a	185-267	56.0±8.0	1.52 ^d	$0.085{\pm}0.012^{d}$	
2-related	C6	6.39	203-285	54.0±6.0	1.47	0.079 ± 0.009	
	C7	1.93	236-427	49.5±6.5	0.67	0.033 ± 0.004	

measured, because of lava flow channels (C1 and C2) are only identified on the plan-view map (RMS and variance slice map); ^darea and volume don't include the inferred part of C5.

Table S3: Dimensions of lava flow fans and lava flow apron. ^aDiameter is calculated from the area as a circle. ^bMinimum areas and volumes, because of limited data coverage. C = Lava flow channel; S = Sill; V = Volcano edifice.

Lava flow fans	Diameter/m	Area/km ²	Thickness/m	Volume/km ³	Feeder	Shape
Lava flow fan 1	944 ^a	0.70	34.5±5.5	0.024 ± 0.004	C1	Lobate
(F1)						
Lava flow fan 2	1050 ^a	0.87	34.5±5.5	0.030 ± 0.005	C1	Lobate
(F2)						
Lava flow fan 3	997ª	0.78^{b}	34.5±5.5	$0.027{\pm}0.004^{b}$	C1	Lobate
(F3)						
Lava flow fan 4	2171 ^a	3.70 ^b	34.5±5.5	0.128 ± 0.020^{b}	C2	Lobate
(F4)						
Lava flow fan 5	3054 ^a	7.32	94.5±13.5	0.692 ± 0.099	C5/C6	Lobate
(F5)						
Lava flow fan 6	7906 ^a	49.07 ^b	47.5±6.5	2.331 ± 0.319^{b}	S1/S2	Lobate
(F6)						
Lava flow apron	3182 ^a	7.95	70.0±10.0	0.557±0.080	V1	Ring

Supplementary figures



Figure S1: (a) Un-interpreted version of Figure 2a; (b) Un-interpreted version of Figure 3c. The figures are zero-phase and displayed with the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG) normal polarity, whereby a downward increase in acoustic impedance corresponds to a positive (red) reflection.



Figure S2: Seismic characteristics of lava flow fan (F6) fed by S1 and S2. (a) and (b) Variance slice (extracted from the surface BM) and its interpretations; (c) Seismic profile shows magma pluming system from deep-seated sill, shallow sills and lava fan. S = sill.

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