

1 A machine learning based approach to clinopyroxene thermobarometry: model
2 optimisation and distribution for use in Earth Sciences

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15 **Key Points:**

- 16 • Machine learning random forest
17 • Clinopyroxene thermobarometry
18 • Model optimization
19

20 **Abstract**

21 Thermobarometry is a fundamental tool to quantitatively interrogate magma plumbing systems and
22 broaden our appreciation of volcanic processes. Developments in random forest-based machine learning
23 lend themselves to a more data-driven approach to clinopyroxene thermobarometry. This can include
24 allowing users to access and filter large experimental datasets that can be tailored to individual
25 applications in Earth Sciences. Here we present a methodological assessment of random forest
26 thermobarometry, using the R freeware package "extraTrees", by investigating the model
27 performance, tuning hyperparameters, and evaluating different methods for calculating uncertainties.
28 We determine that deviating from the default hyperparameters used in the "extraTrees" package
29 results in little difference in overall model performance (<0.2 kbar and <3 °C difference in mean SEE).
30 However, accuracy is greatly affected by how the final pressure or temperature (PT) value from the
31 voting distribution of trees in the random forest is selected (mean, median or mode). This thus far has
32 been unapproached in machine learning thermobarometry. Using the mean value leads to a higher
33 residual between experimental and predicted PT, whereas using median values produces smaller
34 residuals. Additionally, this work provides two comprehensive R scripts for users to apply the random
35 forest methodology to natural datasets. The first script permits modification and filtering of the model
36 calibration dataset. The second script contains pre-made models in which users can rapidly input their
37 data to recover pressure and temperature estimates. These scripts are open source and can be accessed
38 at <https://github.com/corinjorgenson/RandomForest-cpx-thermobarometer>.

39 **Plain Language Summary**

40 Determining the structure of magmatic plumbing systems is an integral part of understanding the
41 processes preceding volcanic eruptions. Thermobarometry estimates the pressure and temperature of
42 crystallisation of minerals that crystallise from the magma using their chemical composition. This can
43 provide quantitative information on the depth and temperature of magma storage before eruption.
44 Clinopyroxene, a common phenocryst found in volcanic rocks, has been shown to be a reliable mineral
45 for thermobarometry. Classic thermobarometers use a single equation for a specific melt chemistry and
46 are often rigid in their usage. There exists an alternative methodology which utilizes a machine learning

47 algorithm called random forest. This algorithm creates hundreds of hierarchical flowcharts called
48 decision trees to generate predictive models which can be applied to natural data. Here we present a
49 study which focuses on optimization of these models and presents users with two versions which they
50 can access, modify, and use for their data. These two versions are available freely
51 at <https://github.com/corinjorgenson/RandomForest-cpx-thermobarometer> and can be easily used
52 within the freeware package R.

53 **1. Introduction**

54 Quantifying the pressure and temperature of mineral crystallization is an invaluable method to view
55 the magmatic plumbing system of volcanoes, and constrain fundamental processes within the Earth's
56 crust and mantle (Giacomoni et al., 2016; Ridolfi et al., 2008; Shane & Smith, 2013; Shaw, 2018; Smith,
57 2013). Clinopyroxene chemistry has been widely used for this endeavour by calibrating
58 thermobarometers (Masotta et al., 2013; Neave & Putirka, 2017; K. D. Putirka, 2008). Classically these
59 thermobarometers result in a single equation which links site-specific mineral chemistry (plus or minus
60 equilibrium liquid data) to the variation in pressure or temperature of crystallisation. However, these
61 formulas are often associated with large standard error estimates (SEE) and are only appropriate for
62 specific melt compositions (e.g. Neave & Putirka, 2017 for ultramafic to intermediate compositions;
63 Masotta et al., 2013 for alkaline magmas). Additionally, early thermobarometers are self-validated,
64 which means that data used to regress the model are also used to validate it. This typically leads to data
65 overfitting and an underestimated SEE (Nimis & Taylor, 2000; K. D. Putirka, 2008). Recent
66 developments in machine learning applications to petrology by Petrelli et al., 2020 and Higgins et al.,
67 2021 have resulted in a machine learning derived random forest approach to thermobarometry.

68 Random forest is a machine learning method that employs decision trees to populate an improved
69 prediction-based model, using the results from a distribution of hundreds of trees to generate an output
70 (Breiman, 2001, 2002; Ho, 1995). A decision tree is a hierarchical flowchart that determines an outcome
71 when given a set of input variables (Figure 1). Each tree is comprised of branches and leaves, where
72 the branches represent different pathways from the root to the desired outcome (the leaves). Branches
73 split at nodes, where at each node a branch may split either left or right in the simplest case. When a

74 branch can no longer split, a leaf is “grown”, and the desired output is reported. In our case the branches
75 and nodes are dictated by clinopyroxene geochemistry, and the leaves are pressure (P) or temperature
76 (T) of crystallization. However, the chemical element (or oxide) selected at each node greatly influences
77 the predictive outcome of the tree. Hence the random forest model is ultimately comprised of hundreds
78 of decision trees. Therefore, from these hundreds of decision trees, the output (predicted P or T) is the
79 mean value from all decision trees in the case of regressive models. To allow the model to construct
80 reasonable decision trees for prediction of natural data we input a dataset of experimentally derived
81 clinopyroxenes (e.g., Supplementary Figure. 1) with a known pressure and temperature of
82 crystallization, hereafter referred to as the calibration dataset. In principle the idea is very simple – the
83 algorithm uses the calibration dataset to create a predictive model, which we can apply to natural
84 samples. However, there are several parameters to consider when producing a model for reliable
85 prediction of natural data, in addition to several statistical metrics for selecting the best estimation from
86 the voting distribution of decision trees (e.g., mean, median, or mode).

87 Increasingly models and methodologies for Earth science applications have moved to powerful and
88 adaptable codes for programs such as R, python, and MATLAB as well as hosted on online servers such
89 as github (Georgeais et al., 2021; Ghiorso & Wolf, 2019; Iacovino et al., 2020; Lemenkova, 2019;
90 Lubbers et al., 2019). This allows for more user interaction and, in some cases, provides open-source
91 options to users regardless of their operating system or access to apps like excel. Thus, the twofold aim
92 of this work is to 1) build and test the performance of a thermobarometer model for clinopyroxenes and
93 2) provide a comprehensive explanation of how to apply our thermobarometer for applications to natural
94 data. Our regression strategy offers a generalised model that can be tailored for certain settings,
95 applications, or other suitable mineral phases (e.g., amphibole; Higgins et al., 2021).

96 **2. Methods**

97 2.1. Datasets and Preprocessing

98 The calibration dataset is comprised of experimentally grown clinopyroxenes and equilibrium
99 liquids compiled from the Library of Experimental Petrology Research database and additional works
100 not included in the LEPR database (Hirschmann et al., 2008; Supplementary Table 1). The unfiltered

101 calibration dataset features 1773 datapoints, including temperatures from 679 – 2180 °C, 0 - 160 kbar
102 and 6.5 – 78.18 wt.% SiO₂. All clinopyroxene data were first filtered for reasonable cations within a
103 range from 3.96 – 4.04 as suggested by Ziberna et al., (2016). The calibration dataset was further filtered
104 based on Kd_{Fe-Mg} (Klügel & Klein, 2006). Following Putirka (2008) we accepted a range of $Kd_{Fe-Mg} =$
105 0.04 – 0.68 (Figure 2A). Then the data was filtered to remove the high-pressure experiments (> 50 kbar)
106 which are not in great numbers. Finally, any data points with abnormally low SiO₂ liquid contents (<
107 35 wt. % SiO₂) were removed. This forms the final calibration dataset (Supplementary Table 1,
108 Supplementary Figure 1).

109 Typically, classic thermobarometers are calibrated and tested in the following way. Firstly, a large
110 (>80 % of total experiments) training dataset is selected from the total calibration dataset of
111 experiments. This dataset is used to calibrate with the chosen regression strategy (e.g., linear regression,
112 multivariate linear regression). The remaining data are placed into a test dataset which is used to assess
113 the performance of the model. This is commonly achieved by running each composition in the test
114 dataset through the regressed model and calculating the standard error estimate or distribution of
115 residual values to the known experimental values (K. D. Putirka, 2008; Ridolfi et al., 2008).

116 The pressure-temperature distribution of the calibration dataset is not uniform – experiments are
117 preferentially run at low pressures. Thus, randomly extracting from the calibration dataset unevenly
118 weights the test set to have low pressure experiments, resulting in a poor representation of the SEE. To
119 circumvent this issue our test dataset was uniformly extracted from the calibration dataset on a gridded
120 basis (Supplementary Figure 1b). Sampling from a gridded distribution offers additional biases as in
121 oversampling PT grid spaces that may have a small distribution of data – thus the grid spacing was
122 randomized for each 200 runs and samples were not extracted if the grid space did not have at least two
123 datapoints. This results in each test dataset sampling approximately a tenth of the total calibration
124 dataset. Once the respective test and train data sets are extracted then the model is run for each set (200
125 times). By generating multiple random splits of test and train datasets we can evaluate the full effect of
126 sampling on the SEE (and other model performance metrics). This effect is not considered in
127 conventional calibration methods (e.g. Ridolfi et al., 2010; Ridolfi & Renzulli, 2012).

128 2.2. Components of a random forest

129 We chose to use the R package "extraTrees" developed by Simm et al., (2014) although the
130 "randomForest" package by Breiman (2002) produces comparable results at greater computational
131 expense (Petrelli et al., 2020). Within the "extraTrees" package exist several parameters that can
132 affect model performance. Firstly, `ntree` (default = 500) determines the number of individual decision
133 trees which are used for prediction. A sufficiently high number of trees must be used to provide stability
134 of the variable importance. Generally speaking more trees give better results at the cost of processing
135 time, although this is dependent on the dataset used (Breiman, 2001; Probst et al., 2019; Probst &
136 Boulesteix, 2018). Secondly, `mtry`, dictates how many variables (in our case, the major element
137 chemical constituents of clinopyroxene) are considered at each node. The `mtry` is more influential on
138 the overall performance of the model and default `mtry` for "extraTrees" is the total number of
139 variables divided by three (Probst et al., 2019; Simm et al., 2014). For each node in a decision tree, a
140 random subset of variables equal to `mtry` are selected from which the best performing variable is
141 eventually chosen. In "extraTrees" each node is split at a random value, as described Simm et al.,
142 (2014). To choose which of the selected variables is used for the next node, a score is calculated for
143 each variable for regressive models. This score is calculated considering a proportional negative
144 variance for each split (denoted by L for left and R for right).

$$145 \quad score = n_L * var_L + n_R * var_R \quad (1)$$

$$146 \quad var = -\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - mean(y))^2 \quad (2)$$

147 Where n_L and n_R are the number of datapoints assigned to each left or right branch, and var is the
148 negative variance of the data on the left (or right) side of the split for the y variables (Simm et al., 2014).
149 The tested variable with the highest score is chosen for the node.

150 The "extraTrees" package provides an additional variable for modification which is the
151 number of random cuts (`numRandomCuts`). The package "extraTrees" may provide more than
152 two splits to allow for non-binary splitting. This can be envisioned in real life by a tree splitting a branch

153 in three sections instead of two. As noted in the "extraTrees" vignette, optimization may occur
154 when using numRandomCuts between 3 – 5.

155 Each tree generates a single output value and thus a forest with 300 trees generates 300 pressure or
156 temperature estimates. In order to choose the best estimate, the random forest takes the mean or modal
157 value for regression or classification models respectively. Though our models are regressive, and thus
158 the default is to use a mean estimation, we additionally calculate the median and modal estimates to
159 evaluate the model performance. The median is calculated by taking the middle value from a sorted set
160 of values. Thus, to avoid the rare case where there is an even number of trees, and the two center points
161 are drastically different, we have decided to use an odd number of trees to average the two values.

162 2.3. Error assessment

163 Before continuing, we must consider the argument of accuracy versus precision. Random forest is
164 effective at generating precise values, but a reliable thermobarometer needs to be accurate as well as
165 precise. As such, the evaluation of the uncertainty of an individual model will be led by the R^2 values
166 (equation 3, where RSS is the residual sum of squares and TSS is the total sum of squares) and the
167 residual values (absolute difference between the experimental temperature or pressure and the
168 temperature or pressure output from the model), in addition to the standard error estimate (SEE) and
169 the interquartile range (IQR) of the voting distribution.

$$170 R^2 = 1 - \frac{RSS}{TSS} \quad (3)$$

171 To avoid self-validation and overfitting, the test dataset must not be used in the training dataset
172 which trains the model. Varying the test dataset is one the largest sources of variation in the SEE and
173 so we have decided to extract the test dataset and running of the model 200 times. Then the average
174 SEE is taken from the distribution of errors for all 200 dataset splits. The final model uses the modal
175 SEE but includes all data in the calibration dataset which, as it has more data, should result in a more
176 accurate model. Two hundred runs were chosen as this is the minimum number of runs where the SEE
177 range does not significantly increase, thus preserving computational cost while maintaining a
178 representative assessment. Natural data may vary from the calibration dataset and might not be

179 represented by an individual experiment. Therefore, we also use the IQR to calculate a confidence
180 interval of the estimated value. We recommend users to use the and IQR double to the models SEE as
181 a post-model filtering to remove poor estimates.

182 3. Results

183 3.1. Hyperparameter tuning

184 Hyperparameter tuning can help to achieve the best performing model possible (Breiman, 2002;
185 Probst & Boulesteix, 2018). To systematically test the effect of hyperparameter variability, we ran
186 16,200 simulations which encompasses 81 combinations ranging from 1-9 `mtry` and 101-901 `ntrees`
187 where each permutation is run 200 times with the respective test and train datasets to determine the
188 average SEE and R^2 , calculated using the ideal median pressures and temperatures.

189 The mean SEE varies with the number of trees (Figure 2) where the smaller number of trees
190 performs marginally better than the larger number of trees (Figure 2b; for example, `mtry` = 2 the mean
191 SEE for `ntree` varies from 4.63 to 4.59 kbar and 77.6 to 77.0 °C from `ntree` 101 to 901). We suggest
192 this is due to a plateau effect, as seen in other studies focused on hyperparameter tuning of random
193 forests (Oshiro et al., 2012; Probst et al., 2019). Figure 2 (b, e) show a slight negative trend in both the
194 pressure and temperature between 101 and 201 trees, but we stress that the difference is marginal.
195 Clearly, we can see that the `mtry` has a larger control on the performance of the model, as expected
196 from results in previous studies (Probst et al., 2019; Simm et al., 2014). As seen in Figure 2 (a, d), the
197 larger `mtry` performs better (e.g., at `ntree` =201 an `mtry` of 6 gives a mean SEE of 4.37 kbar and
198 72.6 °C) than the smaller `mtry` (e.g., at `ntree` =201 `mtry` of 1 give a mean SEE of 5.06 kbar and
199 84.5 °C) for both the mean SEE and residuals. At `mtry` greater than 6, any difference is minor (± 0.01
200 kbar), and so to limit computational cost an `mtry` of 6 should be used. This is counter to the package
201 default which is one third the number of total variables. A similar trend is observed in the calculated
202 IQR. However, when considering data with the inclusion of liquid – crystal pairs, the new maximum
203 `mtry` is 18 and hence a new `mtry` needs to be considered. We performed further testing on the model
204 with the increased `mtry` and found that though the computational intensity increased the model follow

205 the same pattern as the models without liquid where the `ntree` is relatively invariable on the
206 performance metrics and the `mtry` is optimized at about two thirds of the total variables
207 (Supplementary Figure 2). As such, we suggest users select a `ntree` of 201 and an `mtry` equal to two
208 thirds of the total variables for thermobarometry.

209 The package “`extraTrees`” also provides the option to vary the number of cuts at each node.
210 This is easy to conceptualize in a classification model for grouping people on the basis of hair colour:
211 instead of discriminating between black or blonde hair (binary choice), brown hair and red hair can also
212 be considered as additional options (4 cuts). Whilst the default is 1 cut (binary), increasing the number
213 of cuts to 3 – 5 may yield performance improvements (Simm & Magrans de Abril, 2013). Upon further
214 testing we found that the additional number of cuts does minorly improve the model. However, the
215 minor improvements to the SEE are less than 0.02 kbar and 0.5 °C and so are not worth the significant
216 increases in computational cost. Therefore, we continue to use the default of 1.

217 3.2. Mean, mode and median estimates

218 As discussed previously, the random forest is comprised of several hundred decision trees, as
219 defined by the user via the function argument `ntree`. For each inputted sample `ntree` estimates for
220 pressure and temperature are generated (Supplementary figure 3), and the final value is chosen from
221 this distribution. The default option of the R package “`extraTrees`” in regression is for the forest
222 to choose the mean of all decision tree outputs as the pressure or temperature (Simm et al., 2014).
223 However, the distribution of the decision trees may not be a perfect gaussian distribution and thus we
224 have also considered the median and modal estimates of the pressure and temperature voting
225 distributions in addition to the mean (Figure 3).

226 To evaluate the performance of the mean, median, and modal estimates, we create pressure and
227 temperature models using the entire calibration dataset for clinopyroxene, with no additional pressure
228 filtering. The entire dataset is used instead of the 200 splits as a model with the full dataset included
229 should perform the best and thus give the best estimates. Figure 3 shows estimated pressure plotted with
230 respect to the true pressures for all 200 test datasets, using the mean, median, and modal method. The

231 residuals, the difference between the estimated and true pressure and temperature estimates, show the
232 widest distribution of residuals for the mean and extend out to ± 5 kbar. This means that many of the
233 pressure estimates are incorrect by 5 kbar, indicating a poorly performing model. When we consider
234 the SEE the median outcompetes both the mean and mode (median SEE = 3.27 kbar, mean SEE = 3.30
235 kbar, and mode SEE = 3.70 kbar). R^2 shows best performance from the mean ($R^2 = 0.889$) where the
236 median ($R^2 = 0.888$) is slightly worse and the modal R^2 is also slightly worse ($R^2 = 0.858$).

237 3.3. Inclusion of equilibrium liquids

238 The elements that can be added to the structure of the clinopyroxene crystal is not just pressure and
239 temperature dependent but also dependent to a certain degree on chemical availability in the residual
240 liquid (melt). Thus, it is clear there needs to be two models – one with clinopyroxene data, as we have
241 presented thus far, and one which also includes liquid data in equilibrium with the clinopyroxene.
242 Performance testing of the two models (Figure 4) reveals that, as expected, the model performs more
243 favourably when liquid data is included. Figure 4 shows that liquid model curves have a higher point
244 density at 0 for the residuals, and IQR ranges closer to 0. For pressure, the SEE decreases by over 1
245 kbar and the R^2 changes from 0.80 to 0.89. For temperature, the difference is even more striking where
246 the SEE decreases by almost half from 76.0 °C to 47.6 °C and the R^2 improves from 0.85 to 0.94.
247 Performance of the 200 splits of the test and train dataset can be seen in the supplementary materials
248 and shows that the liquid estimates have a slight tendency to estimate higher pressures relative to the
249 liquid free model.

250 4. Discussion

251 4.1. Mean, mode, and median: which to use?

252 Fundamentally, if the distribution of decision trees produces a perfect gaussian distribution, then
253 using the mean is appropriate. However, the distribution is often not a perfect gaussian curve. Some
254 voting distributions may be uniform in which the model has a low degree of certainty. Other voting
255 distributions show sharp peaks at a given value followed by small, wide tails to low and/or high
256 pressure. Such tails initiate on poorly behaving trees, leading to overestimates of pressure or
257 temperature due to unfair weighting by the mean of the distribution. Poorly behaving trees can result

258 from elements being selected for decision tree nodes which do not have a strong relationship with the
259 variation of clinopyroxene unit cell parameters: these features ultimately govern the relationship
260 between pressure, temperature, and mineral chemistry (Nimis & Ulmer, 1998).

261 Mean, median and modal models all perform well, although clearly the residuals from the modal
262 and median model are preferable to the mean (Figure 3D). Considering the R^2 of modal versus median
263 model estimates, modal estimates (0.858) are lower than that of the median (0.888). Despite the modal
264 model showing a marginally tighter distribution of residuals, it has a fundamental flaw which is shown
265 in Figure 5. Here, 10% of the calibration dataset was randomly extracted and a pressure gap between 5
266 and 15 kbar was forced into the training dataset. When the testing set is run in this pressure gapped
267 model it is clear that the mode cannot interpolate any points in this pressure gap. Conversely, the median
268 and mean models can close this gap by averaging values. Of course, this is an exaggerated example but
269 it will indeed happen on smaller scales as experiments are often lacking in intermediate values
270 (Hirschmann et al., 2008). In nature mineral chemistry typically shows a mixture of punctuated and
271 continuous variability (Armienti et al., 2007; Conticelli et al., 2010). Thus, we suggest that all users
272 adopt a median value for the PT estimates.

273 4.2. Evaluating the estimation uncertainty

274 Throughout the course of this work, we have optimized each model to give the best representation
275 of the true (experimental) pressure and temperature. Though we have tested and optimized each model,
276 there remains datapoints with high residuals, giving a poor estimate relative to the true experimental
277 value (e.g., Figure 3). With natural samples the true pressure or temperature value is unknown and, if
278 they exist in natural datasets, these anomalous samples cannot be identified. Thus far, we have assessed
279 the overall performance of the calibrated models by using a mean SEE for each model (Figure 2).
280 However, this averaged SEE characterises the model's ability to predict an entire test dataset and so
281 does not provide a unique representation of the uncertainty of any specific sample. To permit closer
282 assessment of uncertainty, we use the interquartile range (IQR) of the voting distribution (Figure 5) to
283 assign the confidence interval of individual natural samples. The premise is that, although certain
284 individual trees may perform poorly (see Methods above), a model that performs well overall will result

285 in a high number of trees predicting a pressure or temperature close to the true value. This will manifest
286 in a voting distribution that is tight, indicating that the model has a high degree of certainty in its
287 prediction.

288 To understand why some samples yield high IQRs and some low we will once again turn to our test
289 and train datasets to look at some examples of variations in IQR. In Figure 6 we see three examples of
290 the pressure estimates provided by the 201 trees represented by a density curve. The solid black vertical
291 line is the estimated pressure using the median method, the solid red vertical line is the true pressure,
292 and the two black vertical dashed lines represent the IQR. In Figure 6a we see a standard IQR value,
293 where the true (2.0 kbar) and estimated (1.7 kbar) pressures are relatively close and the IQR is a
294 reasonable value (2.4 kbar). Figure 6b shows the ideal case where the IQR is too small to see on the
295 plot, and the estimated and true pressures are identical (10.0 kbar). Figure 6c shows a sample with a
296 large IQR (12.3 kbar) and different true (16.0 kbar) and estimated (19.1 kbar) pressure. In this last case
297 we see that the true pressure is still plotting within the IQR, however we recommend users treat any
298 data with an IQR higher than half the overall model SEE with a healthy amount of caution.

299 The user may either present their natural data with the IQR or use the IQR as a metric for post-
300 estimate filtering. Figure 7 shows a single split of the test and train dataset. In (a) the data is shown with
301 the IQR plotted as pseudo error bars in which almost all of the points within their IQR ranges lie on the
302 1:1 line. In (b) there is an example of the same dataset but filtered to remove datapoints with an IQR
303 larger than 5 kbar. We observe that points qualitatively identified as outliers are removed, and the points
304 which remain plot closer to the 1:1 line. The same principle can be applied to temperature estimates.
305 This approach encourages users to carefully consider their own data, and how it may contribute to their
306 individual geological story: points with a low IQR may be considered more robust and interpretations
307 can be based on these points with greater confidence.

308 4.3. Pressure filtering

309 Experiments which are performed under pressurized conditions require complex machinery and
310 sometimes large time commitments (Holloway & Wood, 2012; Kägi et al., 2005; Leinenweber et al.,
311 2012). Thus, the suite of data in the calibration dataset is heavily skewed towards experiments

312 performed at lower pressures (≤ 2 kbar). This is especially true for experiments performed at 1 atm,
313 which comprise 23% of the filtered calibration dataset. We had concerns that this might unevenly skew
314 the barometer estimates to lower pressures. To test this, we ran several models: the base model (or
315 “mantle model”; $P \leq 50$ kbar) and the “crustal model” ($P \leq 15$ kbar), as chosen for the crustal range on
316 the basis of the average crustal thickness (Kopp et al., 2011; MacKenzie et al., 2008; Tewari et al.,
317 2018). Finally, we ran these two models with 1 atm experiments included and excluded.

318 As seen in Figure 8 there is not a strong effect on the residuals for the four models in pressure or
319 temperature space. However, there is a slight effect on the IQR, with the density curves of crustal
320 models for both pressure and temperature showing a higher density of low IQR values than the mantle
321 model (Figure 8). Considering this quantitatively, we can turn to the average R^2 and SEE values over
322 the 200 test and train dataset splits. For the “mantle-1 atm” in model the SEE is 4.4 kbar and 72.6 °C,
323 and R^2 of 0.80 for pressure and 0.85 for temperature, whereas the “crustal-1 atm in” model gives a lower
324 SEE of 4.1 kbar and 69.4 °C and an R^2 of 0.81 for the pressure model and 0.87 for the temperature
325 model. When we consider the 1 atm excluded models, the “mantle-1 atm out” model gives an SEE of
326 3.4 and 70.8 °C and a R^2 of 0.73 for pressure and 0.79 for temperature and the crustal model shows a
327 similar trend of a lower SEE 3.1 kbar and 65.4 °C and R^2 of 0.72 for pressure and 0.83 for temperature.

328 Given this information we must also consider one of the most striking limitations of a random forest
329 algorithm – that it cannot extrapolate data. Thus, even though the crustal model has shown slight
330 advantages with respect to IQR, and average SEE if a user inputs natural data, that may include
331 clinopyroxenes that have crystallized in the mantle, into a crustal model low-pressure estimates might
332 be generated. As such, we suggest that users employ the mantle model with the 1 atm experiments
333 included. This is even more critical for compositions where experimental data is less dense.
334 Alternatively, the distribution code contains instructions for tailoring models to user requirements such
335 as changing bounds of pressure for application to areas with thicker (continental) crust (Bloch et al.,
336 2017).

337 4.4. Adding liquid data to the model

338 As demonstrated in Figure 4, adding equilibrium liquid data improves the model (SEE is lower by >1
339 kbar and >30 °C), and so quantitatively it seems favourable to use liquid data if it is available to users.
340 In nature, however, opportunities for reliable coexisting melt measurement may be rare. Melt inclusions
341 have been shown to suffer from post-entrapment crystallization which alters the composition of the melt
342 inclusion (Bucholz et al., 2013; Danyushevsky et al., 2002; Steele-macinnis et al., 2011) or
343 precipitation of daughter minerals of the edges of the melt inclusions (Moore et al., 2018; Venugopal
344 et al., 2020). Additionally, melt inclusions may be absent in crystals or overrepresented in core or rim
345 domains due to favourable growth along cracked surfaces (Faure & Schiano, 2005) or during heating,
346 dissolution, and reprecipitation (Cashman & Blundy, 2013; Edmonds et al., 2016; Nakamura &
347 Shimakita, 1998). Measuring matrix glass as the mineral - liquid pair is the most common metric for
348 clinopyroxene- liquid thermobarometry. This may generate a bias in P-T estimates towards the final
349 equilibration conditions of the upper part of the magmatic system, which may explain the questionable
350 consensus that magma chambers form dominantly at ~2 kbar (Higgins et al., 2021). By using single-
351 phase thermobarometers the entire protracted history of the crystal can be measured, which can recover
352 the full extent of crystallisation P-T in trans crustal magmatic systems (Annen et al., 2006; Christopher
353 et al., 2015; Sparks et al., 2019). Regardless, the performance of the liquid model is clearly superior to
354 the crystal only melt, so we suggest that users of the liquid model keep a detailed petrological record of
355 melt inclusions including distribution in the crystal and occurrence of mineral precipitation at melt
356 inclusion margins.

357 **5. Code distribution and Usage**

358 We believe that our methodology can be widely implemented within the volcanology and petrology
359 community. With this in mind, we have created two versions of the models which we are fondly calling
360 “Choose your own adventure” and the “Plug and play” model. Both versions are available on github as
361 a comprehensive R script for download at [https://github.com/corinjorgenson/RandomForest-cpx-](https://github.com/corinjorgenson/RandomForest-cpx-thermobarometer)
362 [thermobarometer](https://github.com/corinjorgenson/RandomForest-cpx-thermobarometer) and archived on Zenodo at <https://zenodo.org/record/5179981#.YROqtYgzaUI>
363 (Jorgenson et al., 2021). In this section we will describe how to use each of the respective scripts. Users
364 who are not familiar with R are directed to “YaRrr! The Pirate’s Guide to R”, where Chapter 2 has

365 instructions for installation (<https://bookdown.org/ndphillips/YaRrr/installing-base-r-and-rstudio.html>,
366 Phillips, 2017).

367 5.1. Data collection recommendations

368 The “Plug and Play” models are created using a defined set of major oxides which a user must have
369 in their data to use the model. The elements are SiO₂, TiO₂, Al₂O₃, Cr₂O₃, FeO, MgO, MnO, CaO,
370 and Na₂O for the clinopyroxene analysis and SiO₂, TiO₂, Al₂O₃, FeO, MgO, MnO, CaO, Na₂O and
371 K₂O for the liquid analysis. If users do not have these elements, then they must use the “Choose
372 your own adventure” and adjust what elements are used to make the model. Liquid analysis should
373 be in equilibrium with the clinopyroxene host and this the two measurements should be taken
374 relatively close together. We recommend users input their data into the .csv file “InputData” and
375 replace the data there with their own, while keeping the column headers. If a user does not have
376 liquid data then they can leave it blank or put zeros in place.

377 5.2. Choose your own adventure

378 This folder comprises seven separate R scripts which should be run in order. The folder also includes
379 the initial calibration dataset as a .csv file, an example natural dataset, and an R data file with oxide
380 weights titled `cpx_dat`, `YOUR_DATA`, and `OxiWeight.Rdata` respectively. A brief explanation of
381 usage can be found in a .txt file titled README. Here we will sequentially discuss the code for each
382 file. We recommend between running each script, the user clears the environment and reloads the
383 necessary files to preserve computer memory. Whilst running this code, users should keep a keen eye
384 on the console in case of any errors. If there are any errors we advise clearing the environment and re-
385 running the code.

386 1. Preprocessing – cpx thermobaro

387 This script is used for pre-processing of the calibration dataset (Supplementary Table 1). All mineral
388 data are recalculated according to their respective structural formula following the methodology of Deer
389 et al. (1997). This is output as a file called `raw.Rdata`. You do not need to change anything in this
390 sheet unless you change the calibration dataset (e.g., to add new experimental data from the scientific

391 literature). If the user decides to add new experiments to the calibration dataset it is imperative that they
392 format the new data the same way that the calibration dataset is currently formatted.

393 2. Filtering – cpx thermobar

394 This script is used for filtering of the calibration dataset, choices for filtration limits can be found in
395 section 2.1. The user does not need to change anything in this script unless they desire alternative
396 filtrations (i.e., specific compositional or pressure filters).

397 Data outputted from script 1 (called `raw`) should be reloaded into the environment. This file is renamed
398 to `dat`, and an extra column called `Rm` is added to the data frame which will have wither a Y or N,
399 which dictates if data should be filtered (Y) or not (N).

400 First, the sum of cations is calculated and samples with cations above 4.04 or below 3.96 should be
401 filtered out. Next, we calculate a value `Kd` which is added to the data frame. As outlined in section 2.1
402 the `Kd` represents the whether the clinopyroxene and liquid are in equilibrium on the basis on the Fe/Mg
403 ratio. The third filtration is to remove samples from the calibration dataset above 50 kbars, as there is
404 not sufficient data accurately estimate pressure at these pressures. Lastly, we filter for extremely low
405 liquid SiO_2 contents, which we have set as 35 wt.% SiO_2 .

406 The data is filtered so the samples which were assigned Y to the `Rm` column are removed. Then the
407 calibration dataset is mixed to avoid bias in organization of the data. This filtered data frame is then
408 called `input` and saved as an Rdata file.

409 3. Distribute Grid Search

410 This script and the next one (Determine SEE) are used to determine the SEE for the final models by
411 extracting 200 test and training datasets and then running the model 200 times and calculating the SEE
412 based on that. Section 2.3 explains further the idea behind extracting 200 splits. The user does not need
413 to change anything in this script unless they want to change how many test/train splits there are.

414 In this script the calibration dataset is loaded in as `input.Rdata`. First, we decide of how many
415 test/train datasets, which is controlled by the variable `r`. Then we extract the index places of the 200

416 testing datasets. The test dataset is ~10% depending on how many points are in the calibration dataset
417 (input). In the `for` loop (which runs `r = 200`) times a grid system is defined where `P/T.upper/`
418 `lower` are the bounds for each grid square. `perms` gives all the possible combinations for the lower P
419 and T bounds, and then has the upper bounds added to it. `sam` is the actual grid, which is sampled in
420 `samp`. `samp` sampled one sample from each of the grid squared and adds it to `perms`. From `perms`,
421 we determine the number of points in each of the grid squares and the grid squares with less than two
422 points are removed from the sampled point (`no.perms`). Finally, the samples from each of the grid
423 squares (`perms`) are called `test.ids`. This is just the test data set, so the identities of the training
424 dataset are determined as well and called `train.ids`. Both the `test.ids` and `train.ids` are
425 saved as `.Rdata` files.

426 4. Determine SEE – cpx thermobaro

427 This code determines the average SEE for the P and T models. In this script the user can decide on
428 whether they want to use liquid data or not. It is imperative that whatever conditions you use for this
429 script are the same as script #5. We strongly recommend you clear the environment before using this
430 script.

431 The calibration dataset is loaded into the environment as `input.Rdata` and the test and train ids
432 are loaded as `testids.Rdata` and `trainids.Rdata`. Next, users can decide if they want to
433 include liquid data in the model (`liq <- c("Liquid")`) or not (`liq <- c("NoLiquid")`).
434 Next, elements that will go into the model are chosen, the order of these elements must be the same in
435 this script as in script #5 or the model will read the wrong elements and return a very poor predictor.
436 Elements for the clinopyroxene are defined in `ox` and for the liquid phase is in `liqox`. Next the `r` value
437 (200, as in script #3) and hyperparameters are defined, we direct the reader to section 3.1 for further
438 information on these. Lastly, if you wish to filter any pressure you can here (1 atm experiments included
439 or excluded). The calibration dataset at this stage is renamed `dat` for the rest of the script.

440 Objects `id.test` and `id.train` are used determine the ids of the test/train sets in the `dat`
441 (calibration dataset) data frame. A set of empty lists are made for the data to be filled into. The `for`

442 loop is run r (200) times. For each run, the training set is used to create the model and the test set is
443 inputted into the model and pressures are estimated using the median pressure determination. From this
444 estimated pressure the residuals, R^2 and SEE are calculated. This is done for both pressure and
445 temperature and loaded into output, which is reduced and saved as `final.Rdata`. From these 200
446 run the average SEE can be determined by calculating the average SEE. This code is the longest
447 computational time, while it is running you should see `j` printed in the console twice (up to 200 times,
448 once for pressure and once for temperature) to keep you updated on where you are in the model.

449 This calculates the mean, median, and modal pressures, as discussed above we suggest that users
450 use the median estimates moving forward, but as this version is choose you own adventure we leave
451 this option up to the user. If you choose to rone this script several times you may notice minor
452 differences in the SEE (~ 0.2 kbar and ~ 10 °C). These variations are a fundamental part of the random
453 forest, that it is random!

454

455 5. Final Model Training – cpx thermobaro

456 This script has the SEE as calculated in script #4 and thus any changes made in script #4 must be made
457 in this script as well, the options are the same as script #4. This script makes the actual model. Once
458 you have made and saved this model you can continue to use this model in script 6 for any datasets you
459 desire without needing to re-run scripts 1-5 for the calibration dataset. The models are called `P_C` and
460 `T_C` for the pressure and temperature models respectively and saved as .Rdata files.

461 6. Filter user data – cpx thermobaro

462 This script is essentially the same as script #1 and #2 with some adjustments to avoid overwriting the
463 calibration dataset or your data. User's will need to change the code `userdat <-`
464 `read.delim("InputData.txt")` to reflect the title of their data or copy and paste your data into
465 the `InputData.csv` file (and remove the data we have there) so the formatting is correct. Else, make sure
466 your cations are properly suffixed (`.cpx` for clinopyroxene and `.liq` for the liquid data).

467 7. Run the model – cpx thermobaro

468 This script this the final step, where you can input your data and get pressure and temperature estimates!
469 You inputted data should be filtered as in script #6. The models are loaded in as `P_C.Rdata` and
470 `T_C.Rdata` and outputted as `predP` and `predT` respectively. Your data is loaded in and subsetted
471 for the elements used to make the model. Once again it is imperative that the element order is the same
472 or the outputs will be wrong.

473 The code then takes the `pred P` and `predT` and calculates the respective mean, median, mode, and
474 IQR estimates using the `apply` function. After the colon of each line the data is saved the `OUTPUTDATA`
475 dataframe. This `OutputData.csv` is the final file with your estimated values!

476 5.3. Plug and play

477 This script and corresponding .Rdata files allow the user to use a pre-determined model with a pre-set
478 SEE for either liquid or no liquid data. These models are run with `ntree =201`, `mtry =6`,
479 `numcuts =1`, pressures input from 0-50 kbar (with 1 atm included). The SEE for the liquid model is
480 3.2 kbar, 47.6 °C and for the no liquid models SEE of 4.4 kbar and 76.0 ° C.

481 This model assumes that the user has already filtered their data for poor totals. Users are requested to
482 copy and paste their data into the example excel file `InputdData.csv` and leave the column headers so
483 the suffixes are saved. Clinopyroxene major oxides should be the same as in the model and need to
484 be suffixed with `.cpx` even if using a no liquid model and liquid/melt analysis should be suffixed with
485 `.liq`. Examples and lists of the major oxides needed are in the script itself.

486 To use the script users will need to first open R studio and comment (add a #) and uncomment
487 (remove #) to be reflective if they have liquid data or not. For example if you aren't using liquid data
488 then the code should look like:

489 `liq <- "NoLiquid"`

490 `# liq <- "Liquid"`

491 And if you do have liquid data the # will be in front of the first line and not in front of the second line.
492 After this step the user should be able to select all the code and press run. Your data is saved as a csv
493 called `OutputData.csv`. The end of the script features some basic plots you can use with your
494 data, though we encourage user to delve into the wonderful world of plotting in R for themselves.

495 **6. Conclusions**

496 We have shown that machine learning is a powerful and versatile approach to thermobarometry, in
497 agreement with other studies (Higgins et al., 2021; Petrelli et al., 2020). Through detailed testing we
498 have determined that our models have accuracy and precision comparable to the leading clinopyroxene
499 thermobarometers (Masotta et al., 2013; Neave & Putirka, 2017; K. D. Putirka, 2008). This
500 thermobarometer can be applied to a wider range of compositions with a similar performance as existing
501 models. Additionally, this model as has the added benefit of error estimates on individual estimates,
502 where users can discard poorly performing estimates if they desire. Hyperparameters generally make
503 little difference to the performance of the thermobarometer. The largest effect is the value of `mtry`
504 which, at low values (1 or 2), creates a more poorly performing model (Figure 2). Instead, the largest
505 effect on model performance is the method of output determination i.e., whether the mean, median, or
506 mode of the voting distribution is used to recover pressure and temperature. Here we reveal that,
507 although the mean can provide reasonable pressure and temperature estimates, cases where there are
508 poorly performing trees may yield anomalously high-pressure predictions for low-pressure
509 experiments. The mode, on the other hand, seems to give values with the lowest residuals but struggles
510 to reproduce data reliably in significant pressure and temperature gaps (Figure 5a). Thus, we
511 recommend a semi-automated approach where users filter their data using the interquartile range of the
512 voting distribution but rely on the median value of the predicted pressure and temperature. This allows
513 for consistently lower residual values when predicting experimental data.

514 Two sets of codes have been created, with detailed comments and instructions, for the Earth sciences
515 community to rapidly predict intensive parameters for natural data, or create more tailored models. The
516 purpose of this paper is to provide a framework for use of machine learning thermobarometry in Earth
517 Sciences for users of widely differing computing experience. We believe that our model, given the right

518 considerations, can result in a high-resolution study of crustal magmatic systems. Future work will
519 focus on testing the model with chemically independent pressure and temperature estimates and show
520 examples of how this model can be utilized for different melt compositions.

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528 Version 1.0 of the software Random Forest cpx-thermobarometer is preserved at
529 DOI:10.5281/zenodo.5179981, <https://zenodo.org/record/5179981#.YRPif4gzY2w> and is available
530 via creative commons attribution. Subsequent versions of the code are available at
531 <https://github.com/corinjorgenson/RandomForest-cpx-thermobarometer>.

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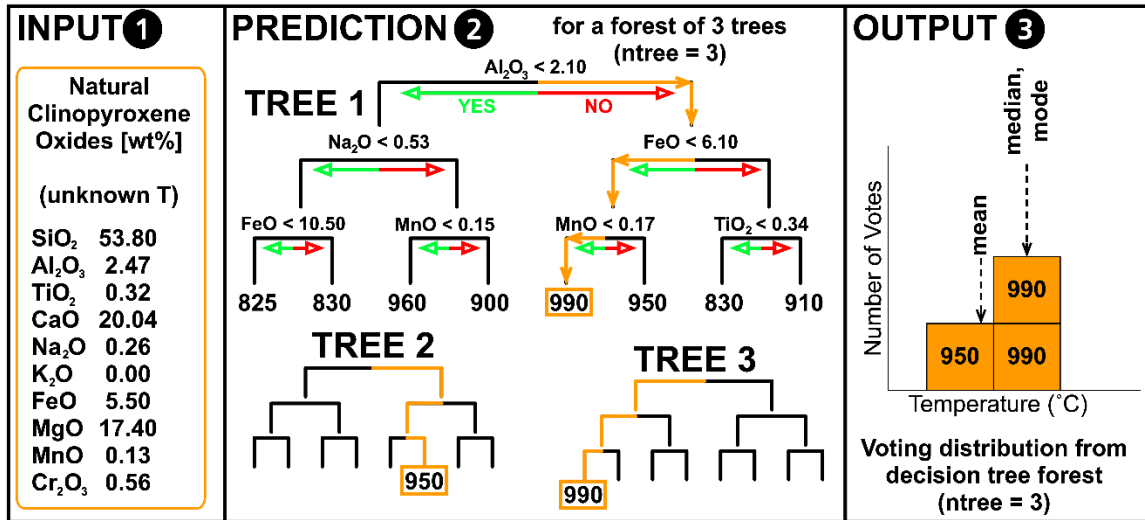
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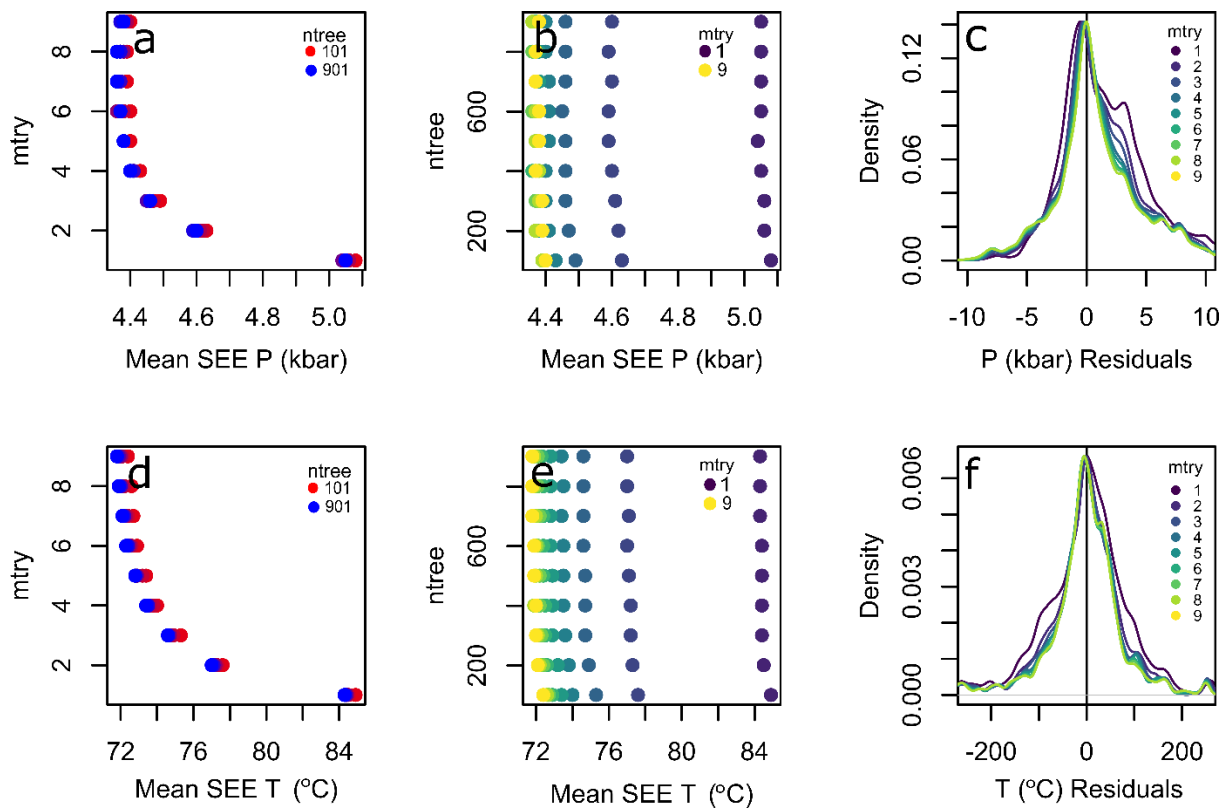
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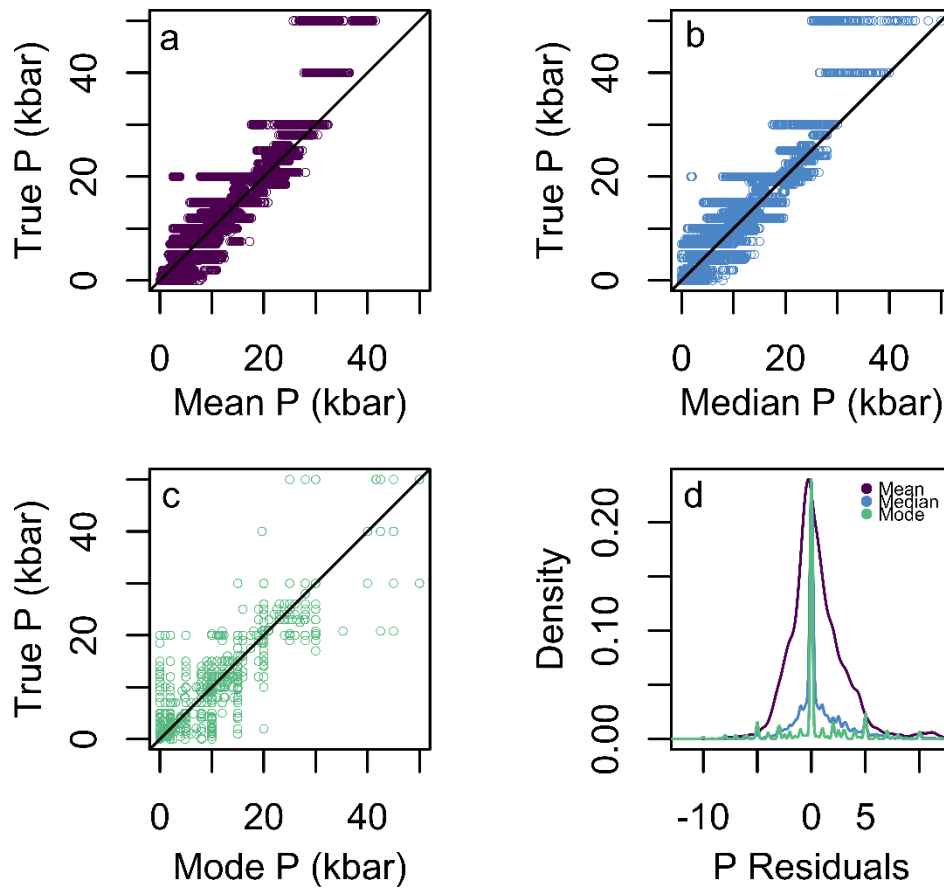
703

704 *Figure 1. Process of determining temperature from a natural (unknown T) clinopyroxene using machine*
 705 *learning thermobarometry. The input to the model (1) is the chemistry of the natural clinopyroxene.*
 706 *The chemical composition is cascaded through each decision tree in turn (2; orange path), arriving at*
 707 *the temperature at the base of each tree. The voting distribution (3; output) is used to determine the*
 708 *temperature. This temperature can be selected based on the mean, median or mode of the voting*
 709 *distribution (see text for details)*



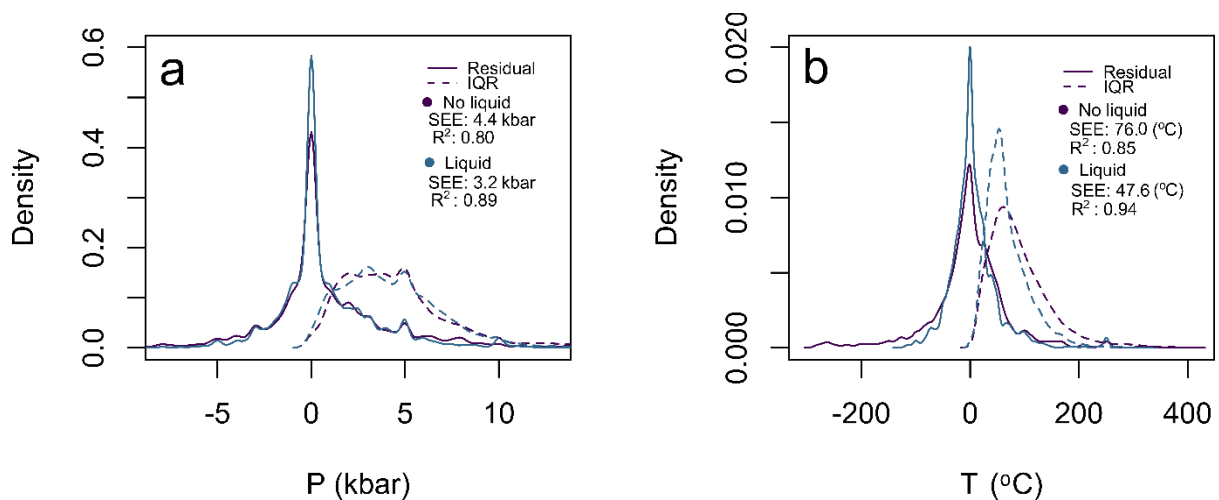
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711 *Figure 2. Distribution of the mtry (a and d), ntree (b and e), and residuals (c and f) for both*
 712 *pressure and temperatures calculated using the modal method. Each point represents the average SEE*
 713 *for each of the 200 runs for each mtry and ntree combination. The residual plots are density plots*
 714 *of the residuals from the 200 run for mtry values from 1 to 9, at a constant ntree of 201*



715

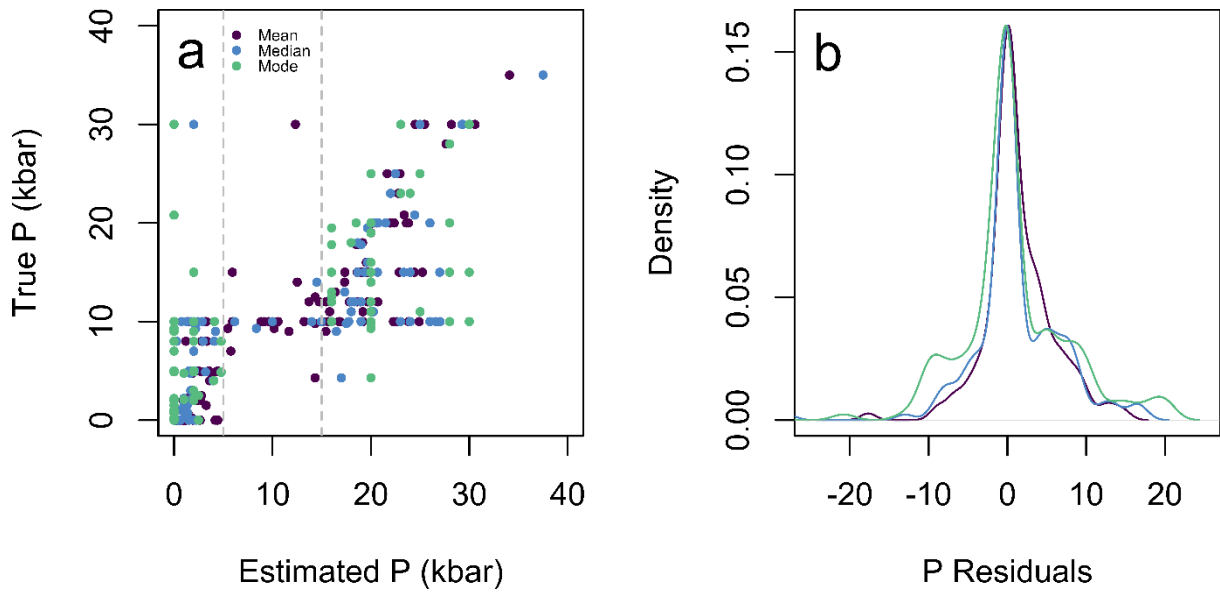
716 *Figure 3. Mean (SEE = 3.3 kbar, $R^2 = 0.889$) (a), median (SEE = 3.3 kbar, $R^2 = 0.888$) (b), and modal*
 717 *(SEE = 3.7 kbar, $R^2 = 0.858$) (c) pressure determinations for the 200 test datasets versus their true*
 718 *pressure. d) Density plots of the residuals for the mean, median, and mode.*



719

720 *Figure 4. Residuals (solid) and IQR (dashed) density plots for liquid and no liquid models, plots are*
 721 *for pressure (a) and temperature (b)*

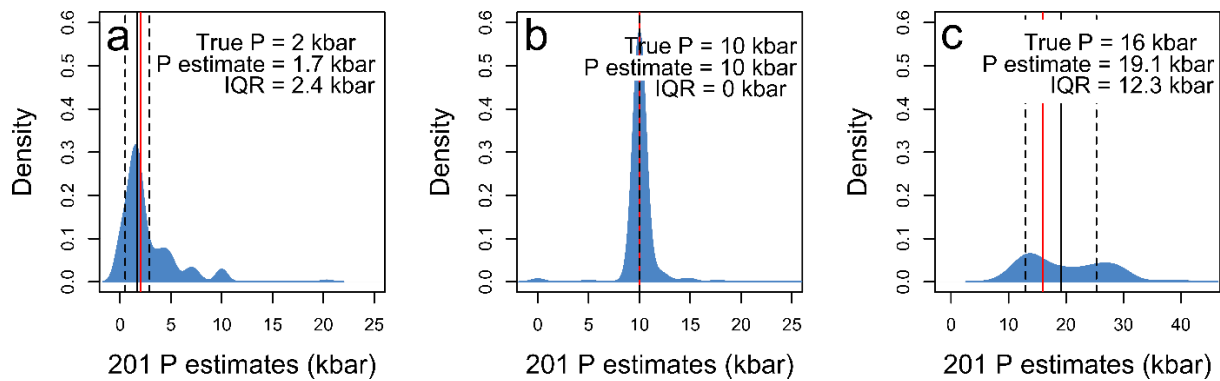
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723

724 *Figure 5. Results from a model with a pressure gap from 5 to 15 kbar forced into the calibration dataset*

725 *(grey dashed lines). Clearly seen in a and b is the poor performance of the modal estimates*



726

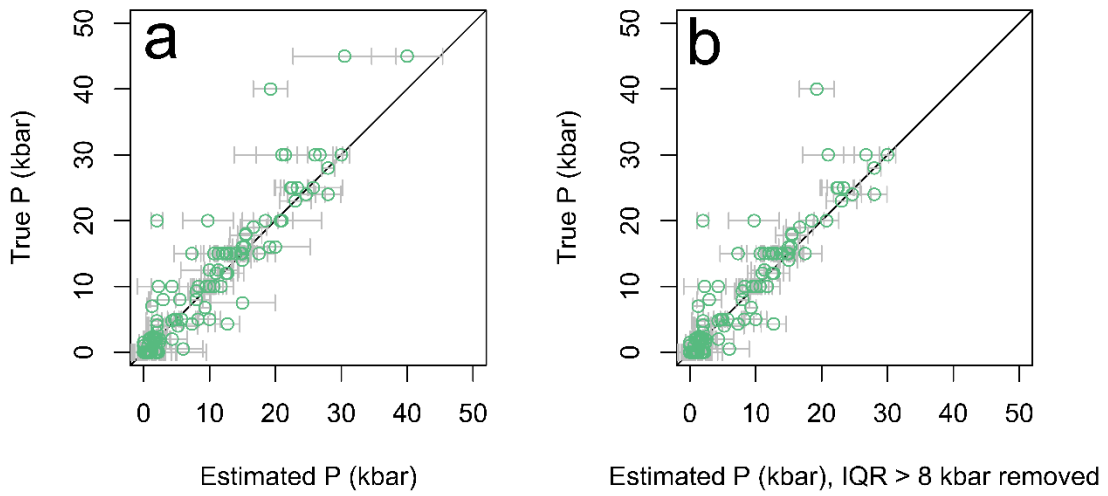
727 *Figure 6. Figure explaining the components of the IQR and showing examples of samples which have*

728 *generated a high (c) and low (b) IQR. Samples plotted here are the 201 estimates given from one forest*

729 *for one sample. The solid black vertical line is the estimated pressure using the median method, the*

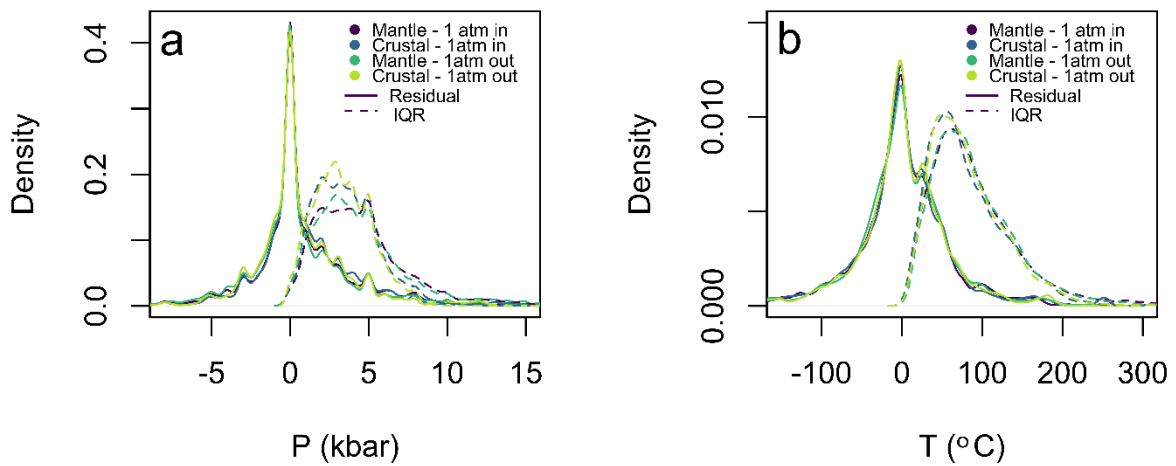
730 *solid red vertical line is the true pressure, and the two black vertical dashed lines represent the IQR.*

731 *Text on the plot shows the true pressure, estimated pressure and interquartile range, all in kbar.*



732

733 *Figure 7. a) Single split of the test/train dataset plotted with the IQR as one would with error bars in*
 734 *grey. b) the same dataset but filtered to remove IQR larger than 8 kbar*



735

736 *Figure 8. Residuals (solid) and IQR (dashed) density plots for the pressure filtered models mantle (0-*
 737 *70 kbar), crustal (0-15 kbar) with and without the 1 atm experiments. Plots are for pressure (a) and*
 738 *temperature (b)*

739