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This manuscript is a pre-print and has been submitted for publication in *Journal of Structural Geology*. It has yet not undergone peer-review. If accepted, the final version of this manuscript will be available via the “Peer-reviewed Publication DOI” link on the right-hand side of this webpage. Please feel free to contact any of the authors directly. We welcome feedback!

Magnetic fabrics reveal three-dimensional flow processes within elongate magma fingers near the Shonkin Sag laccolith (MT, USA)

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15 **Abstract**

Unravelling magma flow in ancient sheet intrusions is critical to understanding how magma pathways develop and feed volcanic eruptions. Analyzing the shape preferred orientation of minerals in intrusive rocks can provide information on magma flow, because crystals may align parallel to the primary flow direction. Anisotropy of magnetic susceptibility (AMS) is an established method to quantify such shape preferred orientations in igneous sheet intrusions with weak or cryptic fabrics. However, use of AMS to characterize how magma flows within the individual building blocks of sheet intrusions (i.e., magma fingers and segments), hereafter referred to as elements, has received much less attention. Here we use a high spatial resolution sampling strategy to quantify the AMS of the Eocene Shonkin Sag laccolith (Montana, USA) and associated elongate magma fingers. Our results suggest that magnetic fabrics across the main

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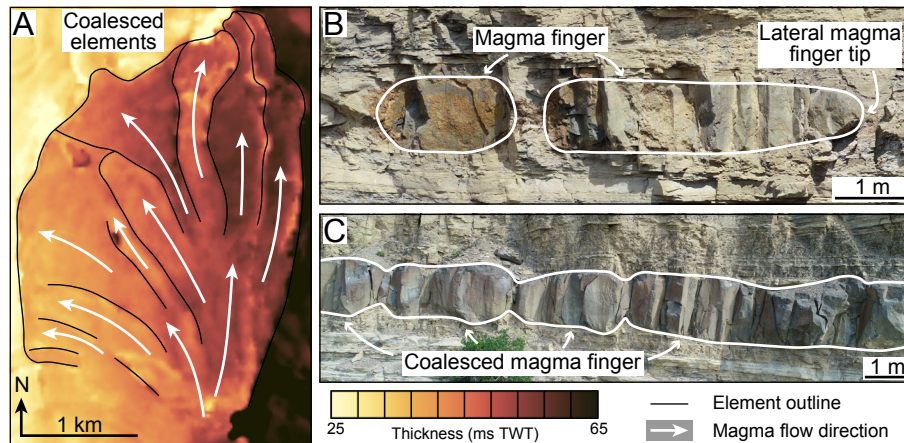
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laccolith reflect sub-horizontal magma flow, and inferred flow directions suggest an underlying NE-SW striking feeder dyke. We interpret systematic changes in magnetic fabric shape and orientation across the magma fingers to reflect the interaction between competing forces occurring during along-finger magma flow (i.e., simple shear) and horizontal and vertical inflation (i.e., pure shear flattening). Local crossflow of magma between coalesced fingers increases the complexity of magma flow kinematics and related fabrics. Despite these complexities, the AMS in coalesced magma fingers maintain their internal flow- and inflation-related fabrics, which suggests that magma flow within the fingers remains channelized after coalescence. Given that many sheet intrusions consist of amalgamated elements, our findings highlight the need to carefully consider element distribution and sample locations when interpreting magma flow from AMS measurements.

1. Introduction

Magma transport in the Earth's upper crust is facilitated by networks of interconnected sheet intrusions (i.e., sills and dykes) (e.g., Anderson, 1937, 1951; Elliot and Fleming, 2004; Leat, 2008; Muirhead et al., 2012; Magee et al., 2016a; Schofield et al., 2017; Eide et al., 2021). Sills and dykes often form due to the amalgamation of discrete elements, such as magma fingers and segments (Fig. 1) (e.g., Pollard et al., 1975; Rickwood, 1990; Horsman et al., 2005; Schofield et al., 2012b; Galland et al., 2019; Magee et al., 2019; Stephens et al., 2021; Köpping et al., 2022). Both magma fingers and segments are elongated parallel to their propagation direction, such that their long axes may be a proxy for the primary magma flow direction. Previous studies on elements have focused on their 3-D geometry and the host rock deformation mechanisms that accommodate their emplacement and growth (e.g., Pollard et al., 1975; Schofield et al., 2012a; Spacapan et al., 2017; Stephens et al., 2021; Köpping et al., 2022). However, few studies have considered or examined how the formation and coalescence of elements impacts internal magma flow kinematics (Horsman et al., 2005; Magee et al., 2013, 2016b). Yet deciphering how magma flows within elements, and whether it mixes or remains channelized when elements coalesce, is critical to understanding: (1) the formation and architecture of both sheet intrusions and upper-crustal magma plumbing systems (e.g., Muirhead et al., 2012; Magee et al., 2016a; Schofield et al., 2017); (2) the

subsurface distribution of magma and its impact on potential eruption locations and volcanic hazards (e.g., Sparks, 2003; Cashman and Sparks, 2013); and (3) the exploration for Ni-Cu-PGE sulfide deposits, which commonly accumulate in areas of high magma flux within restricted magma channels such as elongate intrusions (e.g., tubular chonoliths) (e.g., Barnes et al., 2016).



5 Figure 1: (A) Coalesced, elongate elements highlighted in 3-D seismic reflection data of a sill
located offshore NW Australia (Köpping et al., 2022). Thickness map shows distinct thickness
variations between adjacent elements. (B) Discrete magma fingers at the SE margin of the Shonkin
Sag laccolith, Montana, USA (Pollard et al., 1975). (C) Coalesced magma fingers form a
continuous sheet intrusion at the SE margin of the Shonkin Sag laccolith, Montana, USA (Pollard
10 et al., 1975).

Anisotropy of magnetic susceptibility (AMS) is widely used for quantifying the average magnetic
fabric of a rock sample, and numerous studies have shown that such magnetic fabrics can be related
to magma flow (e.g., Knight and Walker, 1988; Tarling and Hrouda, 1993; Philpotts and Asher,
15 1994; Cruden et al., 1999; Ferré et al., 2002; Tauxe, 2003; Poland et al., 2004; Horsman et al.,
2005; Morgan et al., 2008; McCarthy et al., 2015; Andersson et al., 2016; Magee et al., 2016b;
Martin et al., 2019). Magnetic fabrics and their equivalent petrofabrics can be modified and
overprinted by syn- and post-emplacement tectonic deformation, and by changing internal flow
and crystallization processes (e.g., during element coalescence), which may complicate how they
20 are interpreted (e.g., Riller et al., 1996; Andersson et al., 2016; Burton-Johnson et al., 2019; Martin
et al., 2019). Because parts of an intrusion (e.g., an element) may solidify and lock in fabrics with
different orientations at different times during emplacement, it is likely that a range of processes,

from initial propagation to inflation and potential late-stage backflow, will be recorded by fabrics within an intrusion (e.g., Philpotts and Philpotts, 2007). Given this potential variation in fabric orientation, a key limitation in previous magma flow studies, particularly of tabular intrusions, is that sample locations are commonly widely distributed along the intrusion plane and may record
5 different, unrelated processes. High-resolution sampling strategies are therefore necessary to unravel the flow history of sheet intrusions in cross-sectional outcrops (e.g., Cañón-Tapia and Herrero-Bervera, 2009; Magee et al., 2013, 2016b; Andersson et al., 2016; Martin et al., 2019). Although some AMS studies with high-resolution sampling strategies have been conducted in sheet intrusions that likely comprise coalesced elements, the internal flow kinematics within
10 elongate elements remain uncertain (Magee et al., 2016b; Hoyer and Watkeys, 2017; Martin et al., 2019).

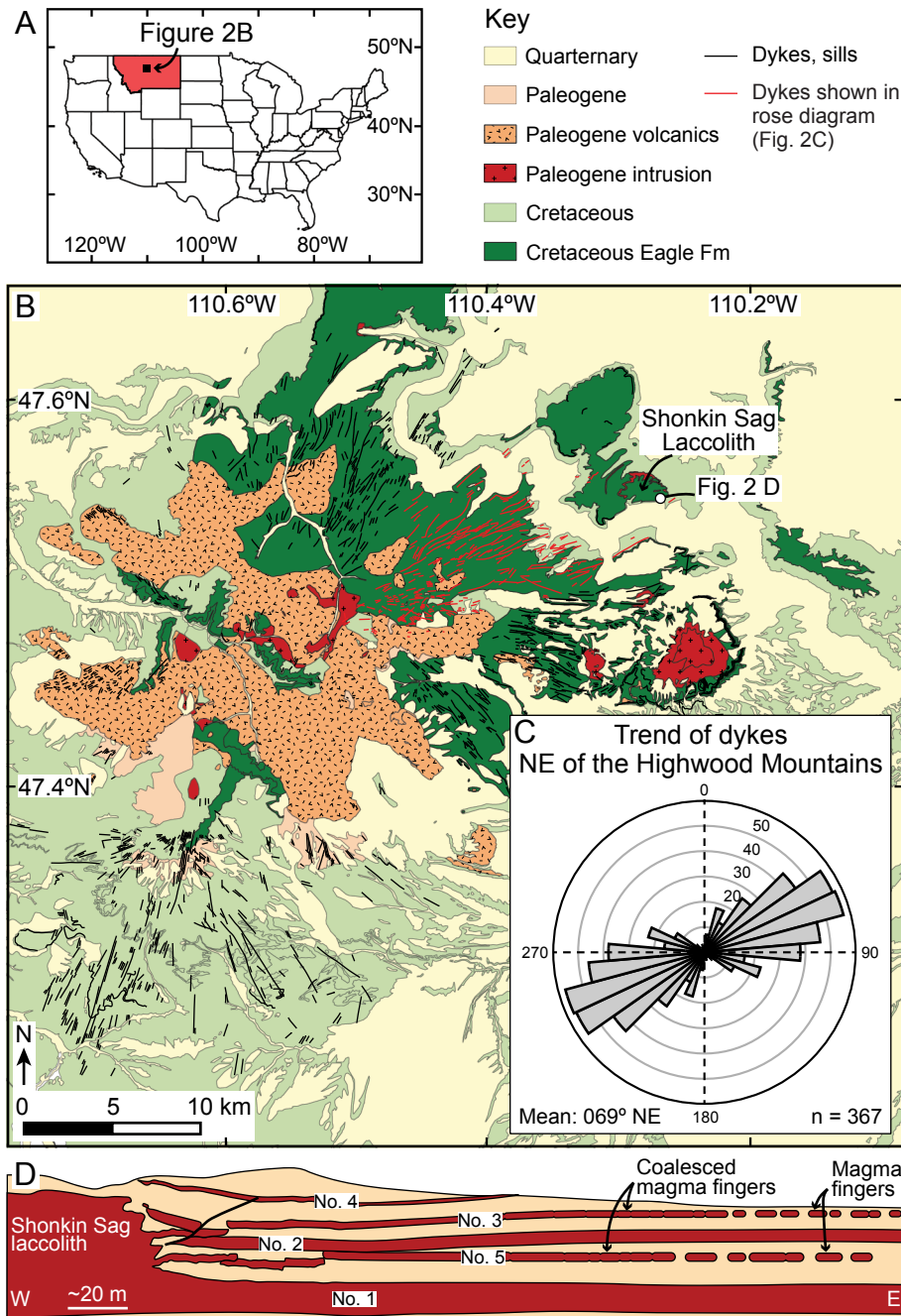
Here, we present AMS and petrofabric data from both the main Shonkin Sag laccolith, Montana, USA (e.g., Weed and Pirsson, 1895; Pirsson, 1905; Osborne and Roberts, 1931; Barksdale, 1937; Hurlbut Jr, 1939; Kendrick and Edmond, 1981; Ruggles et al., 2021), and discrete and coalesced,
15 well-exposed elongate magma fingers that emerge from the laccolith's southeast margin (Fig. 2) (Pollard et al., 1975). The southeast margin exposure represents an ideal study location because the magma fingers have a well-defined long axis, equivalent to the primary magma flow direction, and are easily accessed for high-resolution sampling (Pollard et al., 1975). By combining AMS and petrofabric analyses of samples collected from the Shonkin Sag laccolith and its marginal
20 magma fingers, this study aims to investigate: (1) potential emplacement and flow kinematics of the Shonkin Sag laccolith; (2) whether magnetic fabrics in both discrete and coalesced magma fingers reflect primary magma flow; (3) if flow in two coalesced fingers was sheet-like (i.e., magma mixed) and the coalesced fingers behaved as one body, or if flow remained localized within individual fingers; and (4) any potential differences and similarities between magnetic fabrics
25 within the Shonkin Sag laccolith and its marginal magma fingers.

Our data suggest that the Shonkin Sag laccolith was fed by an underlying NE-SW striking dyke and that fabrics recorded within both discrete and coalesced magma fingers reflect an interplay of along-finger magma flow and horizontal and vertical inflation. Local crossflow of magma may occur where fingers coalesce; however, fabrics observed in most areas of coalesced magma fingers
30 maintain their internal flow- and inflation-related fabrics, which suggests that magma flow within

the fingers remains channelized after coalescence. Understanding where magma flow channelizes in igneous sheet intrusions provides a better understanding of internal magma transport and intrusion growth processes, which is important for improving knowledge on the architecture of both sheet intrusions and trans-crustal magma plumbing systems. Channelized magma flow further locally increases the magma flux, which enhances the potential for thermal-mechanical erosion of surrounding host rocks and subsequent incorporation of host rock xenoliths into the magma (e.g., Barnes et al., 2016). This process contributes to making space for the intruding magma and increases its crustal sulfur content, leading to the formation of economically significant Ni-Cu-PGE deposits (e.g., Uitkomst Complex) (e.g., Gauert et al., 1996; Barnes et al., 2016). Identifying areas of channelized magma flow within sheet intrusions therefore has implications for Ni-Cu-PGE exploration.

2. Geological setting

Cenozoic felsic and mafic igneous intrusive and volcanic rocks of the Highwood Mountains are part of the Central Montana alkalic province (Figs. 2A–2B) (Weed and Pirsson, 1895; Pirsson, 1905; Barksdale, 1937; Hurlbut Jr, 1939; Buie, 1941; Burgess, 1941; Pollard et al., 1975; Kendrick and Edmond, 1981; Henderson et al., 2012). The early Eocene ($\sim 52 \pm 1$ Ma) formation of the Highwood Mountains occurred in two stages: (1) volcanic eruptions, which emplaced both quartz latite flows and silicic pyroclastic rocks; and (2) later volcanism with mafic phonolite flows (e.g., Hurlbut Jr, 1939; Burgess, 1941; Larsen, 1941; O'Brien et al., 1991). Mafic igneous intrusions linked to the second stage of volcanism include a radial dyke swarm surrounding the main volcanic complex, as well as sills, laccoliths, and chonoliths that have a range of magma compositions (e.g., shonkinite, syenite, biotite pyroxenite) (Figs. 2B–2C) (e.g., Hurlbut Jr, 1939; Buie, 1941; Burgess, 1941; Larsen, 1941; Nash and Wilkinson, 1970, 1971; O'Brien et al., 1991; Henderson et al., 2012).



5 Figure 2: Location maps of study area. (A) Overview map shows the location of the Highwood Mountains, Montana, USA. (B) Simplified geological map indicates sedimentary, volcanic, and igneous rocks of the Highwood Mountains (based on the Geological Map of the quadrangles 'Fort Benton' and 'Belt'; 1:100,000 scale; available from the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology (2021)). Field examples of magma fingers are shown in Figures 1B and 1C. (C) Rose diagram shows the trend of dykes that crop out NE of the Highwood Mountains (color-coded in red in Figure 2B). (D) Schematic diagram of a cliff face located at the southeast Shonkin Sag laccolith margin shows the transition of the laccolith into 5 emerging sills. Sills No. 3 and No. 5 show

evidence of both coalesced and discrete magma fingers. Note that magma fingers indicated in (D) are schematic and do not represent the accurate size or location. The cross section location is indicated in Figure 2B.

5 The samples used in this study were collected from the Shonkin Sag laccolith, a ~51 Ma old, ~70 m thick, sub-circular sheet intrusion with a diameter of ~2.3–3 km (Fig. 2B) (e.g., Barksdale, 1937; Marvin et al., 1980). Five sills (No 1–5) emerge from the southeast margin of the laccolith; at a distance of >266 m from the laccolith edge, three of these sills split into elongate magma fingers (Fig. 2D) (Pollard et al., 1975). The main Shonkin Sag laccolith is characterized by layering of
10 shonkinite and syenite. This layering has been the subject of a number of petrologic studies for over a century, with debate focusing on whether the igneous layering formed by differentiation of a single magma pulse or by injection of multiple magma pulses (e.g., Pirsson, 1905; Osborne and Roberts, 1931; Barksdale, 1937; Hurlbut Jr, 1939; Kendrick and Edmond, 1981; Ruggles et al., 2021). Based on magnetic fabric measurements, structural analysis and thermal modelling,
15 Ruggles et al. (2021) suggest that the Shonkin Sag laccolith was emplaced via at least seven discrete magma pulses over a period of ca. 3 years, while subsequent differentiation and solidification of the laccolith may have occurred over ca. 21 years. Most of the laccolith and all of the igneous sills that emerge from its southeast margin are made of porphyritic shonkinite with clinopyroxene, olivine, and (pseudo)leucite phenocrysts hosted in a fine-to-medium grained
20 groundmass of biotite, clinopyroxene, and olivine (e.g., Pirsson, 1905; Osborne and Roberts, 1931; Barksdale, 1937; Hurlbut Jr, 1939; Nash and Wilkinson, 1970; Kendrick and Edmond, 1981; Henderson et al., 2012; Ruggles et al., 2021). Ruggles et al. (2021) identified magnetite as the dominant magnetic mineral associated with magnetic fabrics at the margin of the laccolith and within the sills. Here we focus on magnetic fabrics and petrofabrics within elongate, SE trending
25 magma fingers, which emerge from the sills located at the SE laccolith margin (Fig. 2D) (Pollard et al., 1975). These meter-scale magma fingers have thickness-to-width aspect ratios of 0.1–0.83 and their lateral tip geometries are predominantly round to blunt (Pollard et al., 1975).

3. Methods and background

3.1. Sample location and preparation

Samples were collected from twenty-three locations at varying elevation levels across the Shonkin Sag laccolith and from twenty-one locations within two discrete and two coalesced magma fingers at the SE laccolith margin (sample locations are given in Supplemental Material S1). Based on their clustered spatial location, samples collected from the interior of the laccolith were divided into four groups, located NNE, W, SW, and S of the geographic laccolith center (referred to as SSL-1, SSL-2, SSL-3, and SSL-4, respectively). The two coalesced magma fingers, named Hb and Hc, and the discrete magma fingers, named II and JJ, emerge from sill No. 5 and are located ~305 m and ~500 m east of the laccolith-sill-transition, respectively (Fig. 2D). Samples collected from magma fingers are labeled by the finger ID and a continuous number (e.g., II-1, II-2, II-3, etc...). In order to use magnetic fabrics and petrofabrics to assess potential magma flow kinematics within the magma fingers, we collected oriented sample cores from: (1) the intrusion centers; (2) close to the top and bottom intrusion margins; and (3) close to the lateral tips of each magma finger. For the two coalesced fingers Hb and Hc, additional samples were collected from the step that connects the vertically offset fingers. Samples were collected away from the quenched, mm- to cm-thick, highly-fractured, glassy margin that surrounds many of the magma fingers. All collected samples were cut into ~2.2 cm long cylinders resulting in 262 specimens and an average of eleven specimens per sample location across the main laccolith, and 127 specimens and an average of six specimens per sample location within the magma fingers.

3.2. Magnetic fabric analyses

The AMS fabrics of specimens collected from the interior of the Shonkin Sag laccolith were measured using an AGICO KLY-3S Kappabridge at the University of New Mexico, with a magnetic field of 423 m/A and a frequency of 875 Hz. Specimens collected from the magma fingers were analyzed using an AGICO KLY5 Kappabridge with an attached 3-D-rotator in the M³Ore Lab at the University of St. Andrews. Analyses were conducted using a magnetic field of 400 m/A and a frequency of 1220 Hz.

The magnetic susceptibility (K) of each analyzed specimen is described by a second-rank tensor, which is commonly visualized as a magnitude ellipsoid with the principal eigenvectors, or susceptibilities, K_1 , K_2 , and K_3 being the maximum, intermediate, and minimum axes of the ellipsoid, respectively (e.g., Khan, 1962; Hrouda, 1982). Where AMS ellipsoids have a prolate shape ($K_1 > K_2 \approx K_3$), K_1 may be interpreted to represent the magma flow or stretching direction, whereas oblate fabrics ($K_1 \approx K_2 > K_3$) may represent the magma flow or stretching/imbrication plane (K_1 - K_2 plane) (e.g., Knight and Walker, 1988; Cruden and Launeau, 1994; Tauxe et al., 1998). Notably, for imbricated fabrics, the imbrication closure has been interpreted to point in the direction of magma transport (Fig. 3A) (e.g., Knight and Walker, 1988; Philpotts and Philpotts, 2007). The mean, or bulk, susceptibility (K_m) of an AMS ellipsoid is defined as:

$$K_m = \frac{K_1 + K_2 + K_3}{3} \quad (1)$$

and is measured in SI units. Additional parameters that describe the AMS ellipsoid include the dimensionless corrected anisotropy degree (P_j) and the shape parameter (T) (Jelinek, 1981). The corrected anisotropy degree is:

$$P_j = \exp\sqrt{2[(\eta_1 - \eta_m)^2 + (\eta_2 - \eta_m)^2 + (\eta_3 - \eta_m)^2]}, \quad (2)$$

where $\eta_m = \frac{\eta_1 + \eta_2 + \eta_3}{3}$, $\eta_1 = \ln(K_1)$, $\eta_2 = \ln(K_2)$, and $\eta_3 = \ln(K_3)$. P_j ranges from 1–2, whereby 1 is an isotropic ellipsoid (i.e., a sphere), and $P_j > 1$ indicating the percentage anisotropy, such that $P_j = 1.3$ describes an ellipsoid with 30% anisotropy. The AMS ellipsoid shape is quantified by:

$$T = \frac{2\eta_2 - \eta_1 - \eta_3}{\eta_1 - \eta_3}, \quad (3)$$

whereby $T = 1$ describes a uniaxial oblate shape (i.e., planar magnetic fabric) and $T = -1$ describes a uniaxial prolate shape (i.e., linear magnetic fabric). Fabrics presented in this study are classified as weakly (0 – -0.33), moderately (-0.34 – -0.66), and strongly (-0.67 – -1) prolate, or as weakly

(0–0.33), moderately (0.34–0.66), and strongly (0.67–1) oblate. The scalar AMS ellipsoid parameters (i.e., K_m , P_j , T) and magnitude and orientation of the principal susceptibilities (K_1 , K_2 , K_3) were calculated using Anisoft5 (v. 5.1.03; AGICO 2019). The geographically corrected orientations of K_1 , K_2 , and K_3 for each sample location were plotted on equal-area, lower
5 hemisphere stereographic projections (a.k.a. stereonet) and the orientations of the mean principal susceptibilities and their 95% confidence ellipses were calculated using a tensor averaging routine (Jelinek, 1981). Magnetic foliation and lineation measurements are classified as gently (0–30°), moderately (31–60°), and steeply (61–90°) dipping or plunging, respectively. To identify the link
10 between magnetic fabrics and the magma finger geometry, we also quantified the angles between the magma finger long axis measured in the field and both the magnetic foliation strike (α) and the lineation (β), respectively (Fig. 3B).

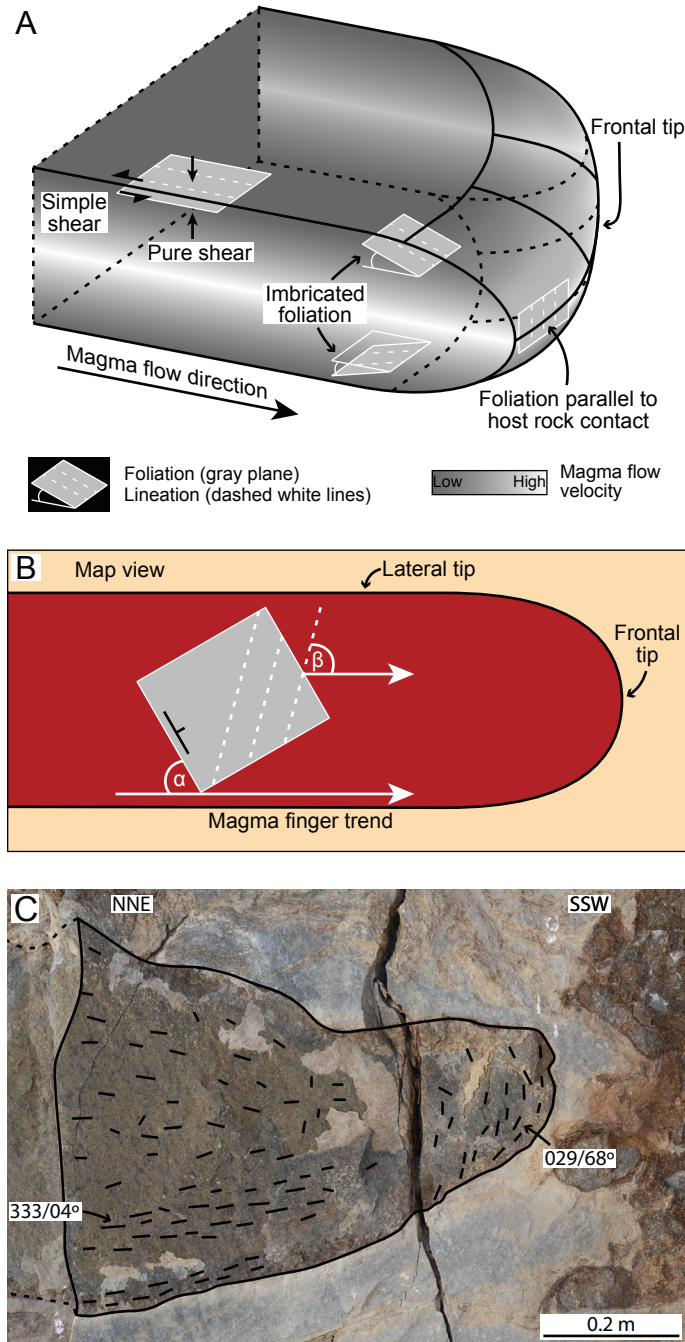


Figure 3: (A) Schematic diagram illustrates magma flow within igneous intrusions and highlights potential flow fabrics (modified after Magee et al., 2016). (B) Schematic diagram shows the angular relation between both the foliation and lineation and the trend of magma fingers; α defines the angle between the foliation strike and the magma finger trend, and β defines the angle between the lineation and the magma finger trend. (C) Field photograph of a lateral magma finger tip located at the SE margin of the Shonkin Sag laccolith (Montana, USA). Black lines indicate the shape preferred orientation of clinopyroxene phenocrysts and show the alignment of minerals sub-parallel to the intrusion-host rock contact.

3.3. *Magnetic mineralogy*

During magma flow, crystals can develop a shape-alignment that is parallel to the magma flow direction due to a combination of progressive pure and simple shear, such that the petrofabric foliation and lineation indicate the magma flow plane and axis, respectively (Fig. 3A) (e.g., 5 Ildefonse et al., 1992; Launeau and Cruden, 1998; Horsman et al., 2005). Crystals may also become imbricated due to high magma velocity gradients that can occur at intrusion margins, such that the closure of the imbrication fabric points in the magma flow direction (Fig. 3A) (e.g., Knight and Walker, 1988; Tauxe et al., 1998; Cañón-Tapia and Chávez-Álvarez, 2004; Poland et al., 2004; Philpotts and Philpotts, 2007). Pure shear flattening due to intrusion inflation and propagation may 10 also result in fabrics that parallel the closest host rock contact (Figs. 3A, 3C). Importantly, AMS fabrics can be affected by mineralogical controls of the dominating magnetic phases, increasing the complexity to link these fabrics to magma flow processes.

The magnetic fabric of ferrimagnetic (s.l.) minerals (e.g., magnetite) is influenced by their grain size, shape anisotropy, domain state, and/or grain distribution (Hrouda, 1982; Potter and 15 Stephenson, 1988; Tarling and Hrouda, 1993; Dunlop and Özdemir, 2001; Ferré, 2002). Previous combined petrofabric and magnetic fabric studies have shown that the distribution and shape of magnetite grains are commonly controlled by a framework of the volumetrically dominant silicate mineral phases (e.g., Cruden and Launeau, 1994; Launeau and Cruden, 1998; O'Driscoll et al., 2008). For example, in grains that are large enough to include multiple magnetic domains, referred 20 to as a multi-domain (MD) state, the minimum and maximum magnetic susceptibility coincide with the short- and long-dimension of the grains, respectively, and the magnetic lineation coincides with the SPO (Dunlop and Özdemir, 2001).

Although silicate and magnetic fabrics often correlate, there are instances where they differ (e.g., 25 Launeau and Cruden, 1998; Rochette et al., 1999; Mattsson et al., 2021). For example, where the magnetic fabric is carried by small single-domain (SD) grains, the minimum and maximum magnetic susceptibilities form parallel to the long- and short-dimension of the grain, respectively (Hrouda, 1982; Potter and Stephenson, 1988; Dunlop and Özdemir, 2001; Ferré, 2002). This “inversion” (an inverse fabric) is caused by a higher susceptibility to magnetization along the easy magnetization axis, which is perpendicular to the long-dimension of SD grains (Hrouda, 1982;

Potter and Stephenson, 1988; Dunlop and Özdemir, 2001). Magnetic rock fabrics that are purely formed by MD or SD magnetite therefore result in *normal* or *inverse* fabrics, respectively. In such cases, normal fabrics coincide with the magnetite petrofabric, and inverse fabrics form perpendicular to the magnetite petrofabric, where K_1 is perpendicular to the petrofabric foliation and K_3 is parallel to the lineation (Potter and Stephenson, 1988; Rochette and Fillion, 1988; Rochette et al., 1999; Ferré, 2002). Magnetic fabrics that cannot be classified as *normal* or *inverse* are termed *intermediate* and may form when the AMS is carried by a combination of MD and SD magnetite grains (Rochette et al., 1999; Ferré, 2002). Alternatively, where clusters of closely spaced magnetite grains form within a silicate framework, the magnetic responses of multiple grains may magnetically interact (Hargraves et al., 1991; Mattsson et al., 2021). In this case, the shape preferred orientation (SPO) of magnetite plays a secondary role and the AMS is dominated by the grain distribution (distribution anisotropy), which may result in non-coaxial silicate petrofabrics and the magnetic fabrics (Stacey, 1960; Hargraves et al., 1991; Mattsson et al., 2021).

The formation of normal, inverse, or intermediate magnetic fabrics and the potential occurrence of a distribution anisotropy make the interpretation of AMS data challenging. It is therefore important to understand the magnetic carriers and their controls on the AMS fabric. To determine the magnetic mineralogy of our samples, we measured the thermomagnetic properties of one specimen, as well as the isothermal remanent magnetization (IRM) and backfield isothermal remanent magnetization (BIRM) of thirteen specimens at the M³Ore Lab, University of St. Andrews. For these analyses, samples that may reflect inverse or intermediate fabrics and samples with a low-to-high bulk susceptibility were selected to get a representative range of mineralogy of the samples studied. A low-to-high temperature, low-field-susceptibility experiment was conducted by measuring the bulk magnetic susceptibility of a powdered rock specimen using a CS4 and CS-L heating and cooling attachment for the KLY-5 Kappabridge. The specimen was first cooled down to -194 °C and the bulk susceptibility was recorded during heating to room temperature and then up to 700 °C, before the temperature was reduced back to room temperature. This procedure provides susceptibility data from a continuous heating-cooling cycle from -194 °C to 700 °C. The arising data were collected and used to determine the Verwey transition and the Curie temperature to identify the main ferrimagnetic (s.l.) phase (Dunlop and Özdemir, 2001). Remanent magnetization experiments were conducted by using the following procedure: (1) whole core specimens were demagnetized using an LDA5 AF Demagnetizer in an alternating maximum

field of 200 mT, and a medium decrease rate; (2) the demagnetized specimens were inserted into a MMPM10 pulse magnetizer and exposed to a set field along a single axis direction; (3) the remanence of each sample was then measured in a JR6 spinner magnetometer; (4) steps 2 and 3 were repeated as the IRM field was progressively increased from 0.015 T to 1 T. BIRM measurements were subsequently performed by: (1) placing the same specimen upside down in the MMPM10 pulse magnetizer; (2) applying an IRM and then measuring the samples remanence in the JR6 magnetometer; (3) steps 1 and 2 were repeated until the magnetic remanence stopped decreasing and started to increase, usually around 0.1 T.

The petrography of thin sections prepared from representative specimens of the magma fingers was evaluated using a polarizing and reflected light microscope to determine the textural relationship between oxide and silicate mineral phases. Additional μm -scale images of the thin sections were collected with a scanning electron microscope (Quanta 600 MLA), operated with an acceleration voltage of 20 kV, and the chemical composition of these specimens was determined using energy dispersive X-ray analysis.

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3.4. Quantification of petrofabrics using high-resolution 3-D X-ray computed tomography

The petrofabric of silicate phases (i.e., pyroxene and olivine) in seven selected magma finger specimens was quantified using high-resolution, 3-D X-ray computed tomography (HRXRCT) images. These data were collected to test if silicate petrofabrics reflect the magnetic fabrics, which aids in identifying the physical significance of the AMS and in better understanding the interplay between AMS and petrofabrics. Samples were scanned using a Zeiss Versa XRM520 3-D X-ray microscope at the Australian Resources Research Centre (CSIRO Mineral Resources, Perth, Australia). Scans were conducted using a flat panel detector and an acceleration voltage of 120 kV and 10 W. A total of 1,601 projections of the stepwise rotating sample were recorded, which were then merged and stitched to create a 3-D volumetric grid with a voxel size of $\sim 12 \mu\text{m}$. We post-processed these grids in Avizo 2020.1 (ThermoFischer) to reduce noise and to separate individual phases, as per Godel (2013). We applied an edge preserving non-local mean filter and manually separated silicate mineral phases from the groundmass based on their grayscale intensity values. Where grayscale intensity values of silicate phases and the groundmass overlap, we calculated

variance volumes that were then used to separate the individual mineral phases. Avizo internal functions such as ‘Remove islands’ and ‘Fill holes’ were applied to the separated objects to reduce noise. Both pyroxene and olivine phenocrysts within the shonkinite samples analyzed are ~1–10 mm in size and are clearly visible in hand specimens (Fig. 4A). We therefore classify small separated objects with a volume $< 1 \text{ mm}^3$ as noise and extracted the long, intermediate, and short axis orientations of silicate mineral phases with volumes above this threshold value. The resulting geographic orientations of the mineral phase long and short axes are visualized in equal-area, lower hemisphere stereonet as orientation density distribution contours (modified Kamb method with exponential smoothing (Vollmer, 1995); mplstereonet Python package v.0.6.2). The average SPO is described by a fabric tensor with $V_1 > V_2 > V_3$ representing the long, intermediate, and short axis of the corresponding best fit ellipsoid, respectively, weighted by the axis length (Petri et al., 2020; Mattsson et al., 2021). We analyzed the fabric tensor of each sample using the TomoFab Matlab toolbox (v.1.3) (Petri et al., 2020).

We used the same HRXRCT workflow to separate oxide grains within the same specimens. Object volumes $< 10^6 \mu\text{m}^3$ were removed to limit noise effects. To identify a potential influence of the spatial distribution of oxide phases on the magnetic fabric, we calculated the distribution anisotropy (DA) tensor for oxides using the TomoFab Matlab toolbox (v.1.3) as per Mattsson *et al.* (2021). The DA tensor is defined by the DA eigenvectors $\lambda_1 > \lambda_2 > \lambda_3$ representing the long, intermediate, and short axis of the DA ellipsoid, respectively. Relatively low values of the corrected degree of anisotropy (P_j) indicate a random grain distribution, whereas relatively high P_j values indicate that grains are spatially distributed along planes ($T > 0$) or lines ($T < 0$) (Mattsson et al., 2021).

4. Results

Here we present: (1) petrographic descriptions of shonkinite samples; (2) results of the rock magnetic experiments; and (3) field observations and magnetic- and petro-fabrics measured in samples collected from the main Shonkin Sag laccolith and the four magma fingers. Orientation measurements are given as strike/dip and trend/plunge for planar and linear features, respectively. Average petrofabric and magnetic fabric measurements of sample sites are presented in Table 1

and 2, respectively; measurements of individual specimens are presented in the Supplemental Material S2 and S3.

4.1. Petrography

5 The magma fingers are entirely porphyritic shonkinite with a medium-grained groundmass of clinopyroxene, olivine, leucite, minor biotite, and opaque oxides such as magnetite (Fig. 4). Phenocrysts of clinopyroxene, olivine, and leucite are of mm-to-cm size, visible in hand
specimens, and float in the groundmass (Figs. 4A–4B). HRXRCT measurements indicate 25–35
vol. % of phenocrysts and 65–75 vol. % groundmass (Supplemental Material S4). Up to ~1 cm
10 long, euhedral clinopyroxene phenocrysts have a shape preferred orientation, and locally form star-shaped clusters (Figs. 4A–4D; cf. Hurlbut 1939). Olivine phenocrysts are of mm size, have a euhedral shape, and are occasionally zoned (Fig. 4E). Leucite phenocrysts are euhedral and their diameter ranges from < 1 mm up to ~4 mm (Fig. 4F). Magnetite was identified in both reflected-light and scanning-electron microscopy as the dominant oxide phase (Figs. 4G–4I). Magnetite
15 grains are commonly unweathered and are widely distributed in the shonkinite groundmass, and reflect an interstitial phase (Fig. 4G–4H). Clusters of magnetite were not identified in petrographic analyses, which is supported by a relatively low degree of distribution anisotropy ($P_j = 1.034$ – 1.241 ; Table 1). The petrography of the magma fingers is similar to the main Shonkin Sag laccolith documented in numerous studies (e.g., Pirsson, 1905; Barksdale, 1937; Hurlbut Jr, 1939; Nash and
20 Wilkinson, 1970; Ruggles et al., 2021).

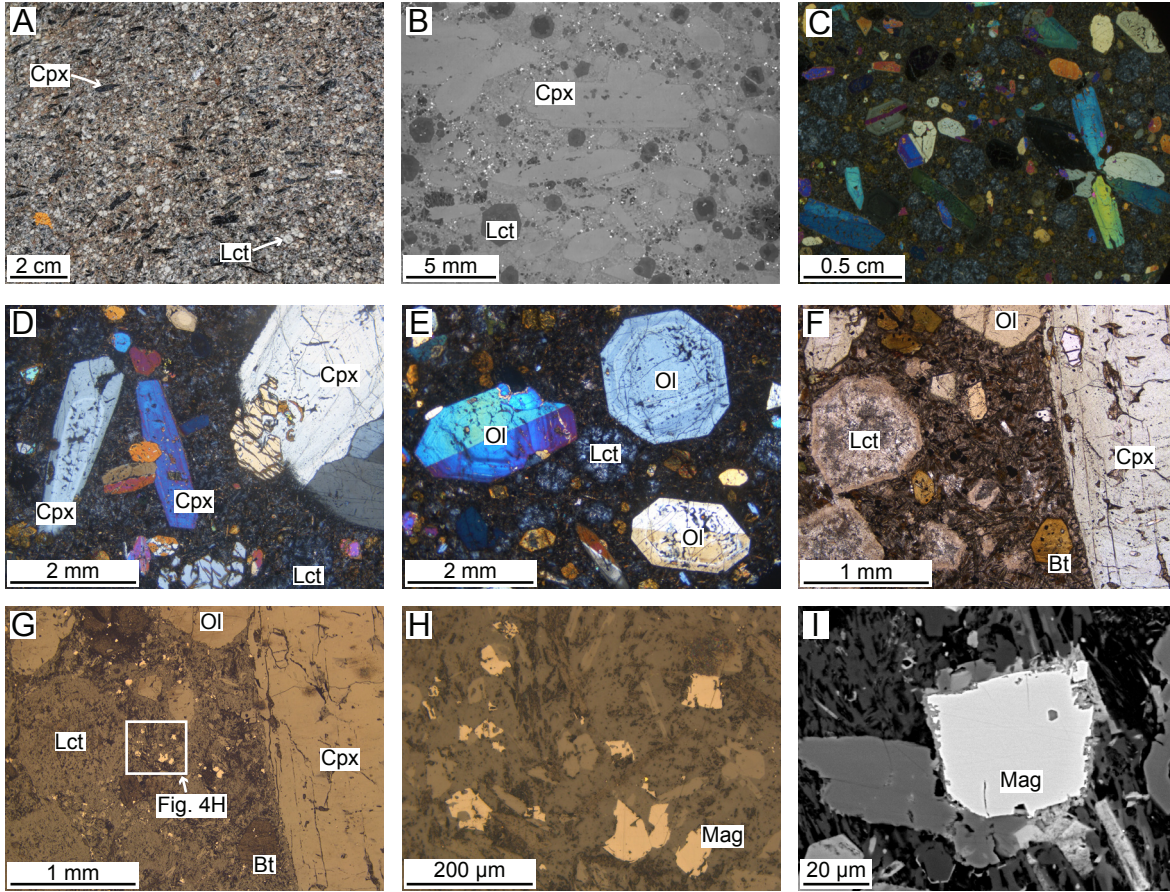
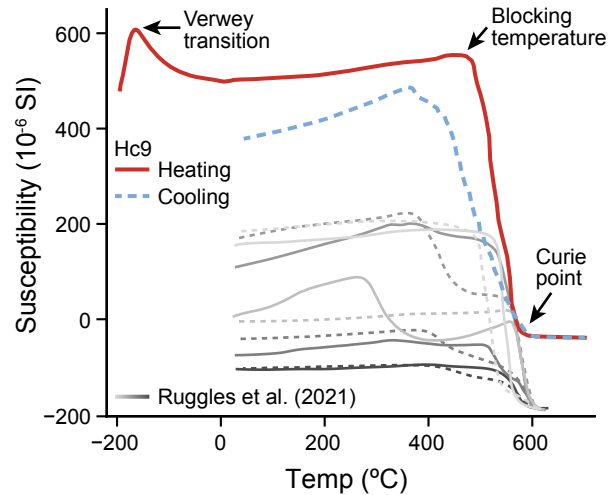


Figure 4: (A) Field photograph and (B) HRXRCT scan of shonkinite from magma fingers at the SE Shonkin Sag laccolith margin. Note the shape preferred orientation of Cpx. Cpx–clinopyroxene; Lct–leucite. (C–H) Photomicrographs of shonkinite under (C–E) crossed-polarized light, (F) plane-polarized light, and (G, H) reflected light. Ol–olivine; Bt–biotite; Mag–magnetite. (I) Backscattered electron image of a magnetite grain. Note that two images with different brightness-level were merged to visualize the internal magnetite structure and the groundmass. Raw-images are shown in the Supplemental Material S5.

4.2. Magnetic mineralogy

10 The results of rock magnetic experiments permit a further determination of the principal magnetic phase that carries the AMS. A low-to-high temperature, low-field-susceptibility experiment determined the Verwey transition and Curie point for sample Hc9 (Fig. 5). The measurements show a steep initial increase in K_m between $-197\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ and the Verwey transition at $-165\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ followed by a decrease to $5.6\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$, after which K_m values increase slowly to a well-defined blocking

temperature of 483 °C, which is followed by a rapid decrease in K_m as temperatures increase to > 600 °C (Fig. 5). The well-defined Curie point occurs at 570 °C (Fig. 5). During cooling, the K_m measurements show a steep increase between 600 °C and 358 °C followed by a moderate decrease to 48 °C (Fig. 5).



5 Figure 5: Low-to-high temperature, low-field susceptibility experiment of sample Hc9. Arrows indicate the Verwey transition (-165 °C), blocking temperature (483 °C), and the Curie point (570 °C). Gray lines show data from samples collected from the Shonkin Sag laccolith and emerging sills as presented by Ruggles et al. (2021). Continuous and dashed lines indicate heating and cooling curves, respectively.

10

IRM and BIRM measurements are useful for characterizing magnetic mineralogy and to estimate magnetic grain size (Dunlop and Özdemir, 2001). IRM experiments show a rapid increase in remanence over a range of low inducing fields and 95% of saturation is achieved by 48 to 78 mT for most of the thirteen specimens analyzed (Fig. 6). The saturation isothermal magnetization (SIRM) for these specimens always is reached below 210 mT with no significant variation observed above this threshold. By extrapolating BIRM curves, we determined the coercivity of remanence (H_{CR}) which ranges from 10 to 15 mT (Fig. 6). Three specimens (Hb1, Hb3, JJ-4) have a higher coercivity. The IRM curves of these specimens rapidly increase within low inducing fields, however, 95% of saturation is reached by 97, 87, and 200 mT, respectively (Figs. 6A, 6C).
15
20 SIRM occurs below 210 mT for Hb1 and Hb3, and by 1000 mT for JJ-4. H_{CR} measurements based

on extrapolated BIRM curves for these samples indicate relatively high coercivity of remanence values of 22 to 29 mT (Fig. 6).

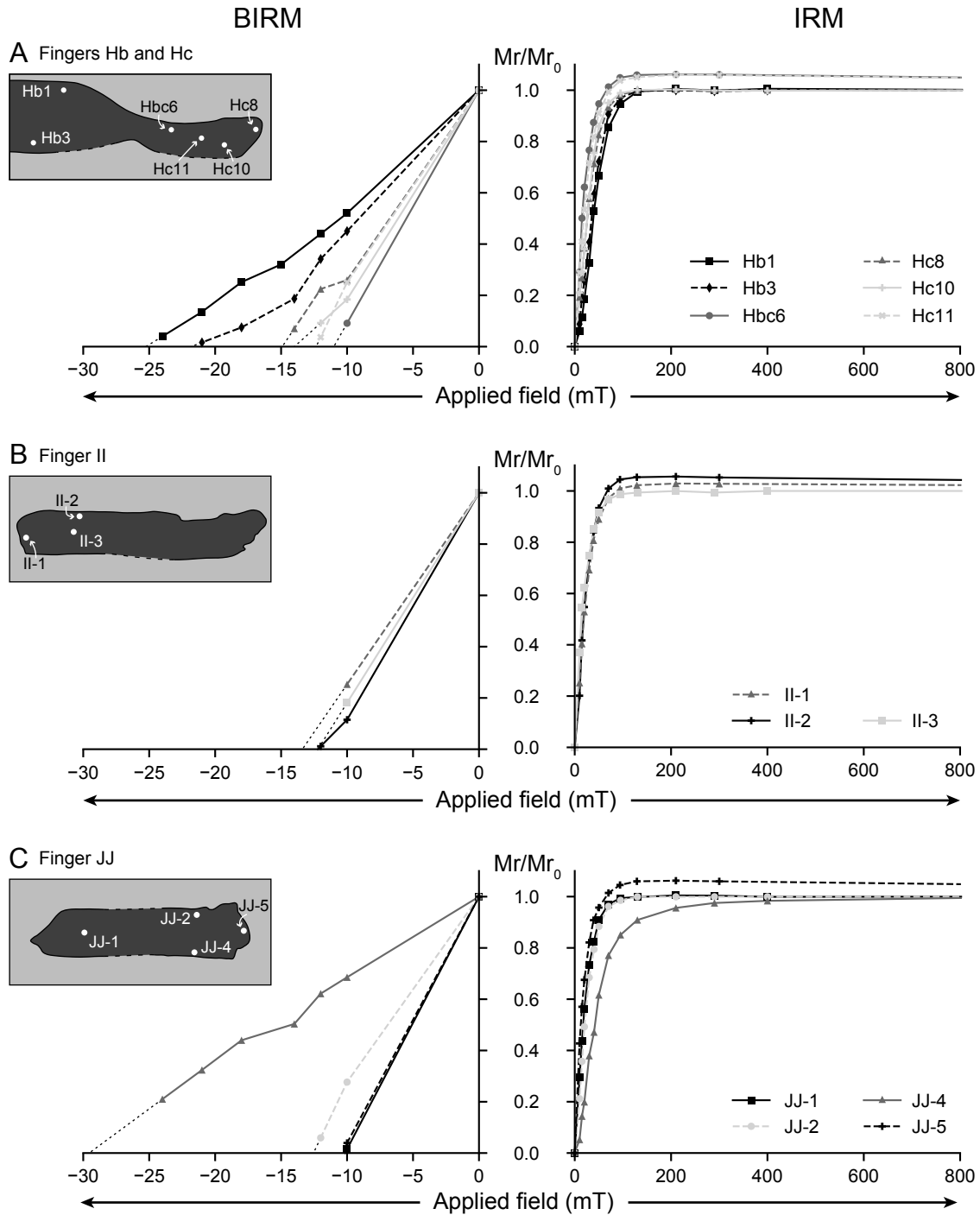


Figure 6: Results of isothermal remanent magnetization (IRM) and back-field IRM (BIRM) demagnetization experiments for samples in (A) fingers Hb and Hc, (B) finger II, and (C) finger JJ. Black dashed lines in BIRM plots are extrapolated BIRM curves which are used to estimate the

coercivity of remanence (H_{CR}). Schematic diagrams of magma fingers indicate the sample location (white dots).

4.3. AMS and petrofabric analyses

5 Here we describe: (1) magnetic fabrics of samples collected from the interior of the Shonkin Sag laccolith; and (2) field observations, magnetic fabrics, and petrofabrics of samples collected from magma fingers at the SE laccolith margin. Samples from the main laccolith are presented in merged groups based on their spatial sample location. Magnetic- and petro-fabrics observed within magma
10 characteristics of each fabric type are described below.

Table 1: Petrofabric analyses results

SPO: Cpx and OI		V_1			V_2			V_3			Foliation			P_j			T			Contact to host rock			α			β						
		Dec. (°)	Pl. (°)	n	Dec. (°)	Pl. (°)	n	Dec. (°)	Pl. (°)	n	Strike (°)	Dip (°)	dir.	Strike (°)	Dip (°)	dir.	Strike (°)	Dip (°)	dir.	Strike (°)	Dip (°)	dir.	Strike (°)	Dip (°)	dir.	Strike (°)	Dip (°)	dir.	Strike (°)	Dip (°)	dir.	Strike (°)
JJ-2	073	04	77	163	04	296	84	026	06	SE	2.657	0.38	138	03	NE	71	62	Fabric 1														
Hbc6	219	28	154	115	24	351	52	081	38	S	2.047	0.45	-	-	-	37	79	Fabric 2B														
Hc7	337	21	125	069	06	174	68	084	22	N	2.228	0.58	079	01	NNW	34	39	Fabric 1														
Hc8	046	02	150	295	83	136	06	046	84	NW	2.669	0.52	118	72	SW	72	72	Fabric 2D														
Hc9	115	10	113	346	74	207	12	117	78	NE	3.209	0.39	-	-	-	1	3	Fabric 2B														
Hc10	105	13	162	008	29	217	58	127	32	NE	2.603	0.78	-	-	-	9	13	Fabric 1														
Hc11	098	15	128	349	50	199	36	109	54	NNE	1.900	0.10	-	-	-	9	20	Fabric 2A														

DA: oxides		λ_1			λ_2			λ_3			Foliation			P_j			T		
		Dec. (°)	Pl. (°)	n	Dec. (°)	Pl. (°)	n	Dec. (°)	Pl. (°)	n	Strike (°)	Dip (°)	dir.	Strike (°)	Dip (°)	dir.	Strike (°)	Dip (°)	dir.
JJ-2	036	18	8746	300	16	171	66	081	24	N	1.112	-0.63							
Hbc6	051	36	2271	222	54	318	04	048	86	SE	1.122	0.04							
Hc7	158	68	2660	039	11	305	19	035	71	SE	1.151	-0.27							
Hc8	312	88	8980	049	00	139	02	049	88	NW	1.034	0.22							
Hc9	300	02	4241	046	81	209	09	119	81	NE	1.089	-0.06							
Hc10	015	15	2843	107	06	218	73	128	17	NE	1.124	-0.04							
Hc11	041	47	364	164	27	272	31	002	59	E	1.240	0.06							

Note: SPO-shape preferred orientation; DA-distribution anisotropy; n-number of analyzed grains; Dec.-declination; Pl.-plunge; Dip dir.-dip direction; P_j -corrected degree of anisotropy; T-shape parameter. Measurements are collected from one representative specimen of each sample.

Table 2: Anisotropy of magnetic susceptibility results

Group & Sample ID	n	K_1			K_2			K_3			Magnetic foliation			K_m 10 ⁻² SI	P_j	T	Contact to host rock			α (°)	β (°)	Fabric	
		Dec. (°)	Pl. (°)	PL. (°)	Dec. (°)	Pl. (°)	PL. (°)	Dec. (°)	Pl. (°)	PL. (°)	Dip dir.	Strike (°)	Dip (°)				Dip dir.						
SSL-01	88	229	07	139	03	026	82	116	08	SSW	2.78	1.016	0.25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Fabric 1
SSL-02	94	173	04	263	02	019	86	109	04	SSW	4.31	1.023	0.39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Fabric 1
SSL-03	20	309	01	219	02	065	87	155	03	SW	3.86	1.023	0.52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Fabric 1
SSL-04	60	314	02	224	14	052	75	142	15	SW	2.84	1.014	0.34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Fabric 1
II-1	6	142	72	325	18	235	01	145	89	NE	3.63	1.029	0.35	145	80	SW	0	3	SW	0	3	SW	Fabric 2B
II-2	6	342	39	192	47	085	16	175	74	WSW	4.10	1.019	-0.49	114	01	NE	30	17	NE	30	17	NE	Fabric 2A
II-3	6	157	81	023	06	292	06	022	84	E	3.68	1.027	0.20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Fabric 2D
II-4	6	350	09	090	48	253	41	163	49	E	3.03	1.030	-0.31	121	02	NE	18	25	NE	18	25	NE	Fabric 2A
II-5	6	316	28	191	47	063	30	153	60	SW	3.73	1.018	-0.16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Fabric 2A
JJ-1	7	207	12	080	70	300	15	030	75	SE	3.32	1.025	-0.11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Fabric 2D
JJ-2	6	327	03	057	02	176	86	086	04	N	3.80	1.012	-0.06	138	03	NE	49	12	NE	49	12	NE	Fabric 1
JJ-3	6	133	05	026	72	225	17	135	73	NE	4.30	1.020	-0.21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Fabric 2A
JJ-4	7	117	03	207	05	356	85	086	05	S	0.04	1.011	0.39	126	02	NE	49	18	NE	49	18	NE	Fabric 1
JJ-5	6	248	83	131	03	041	07	131	83	SW	1.94	1.027	0.13	135	80	NE	4	67	NE	4	67	NE	Fabric 2B
Hb1	5	050	20	148	22	283	60	013	30	E	2.76	1.024	0.08	104	02	NNE	75	68	NNE	75	68	NNE	Fabric 1
Hb2	5	129	37	342	48	233	17	143	73	NE	3.87	1.010	-0.45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Fabric 2A
Hb3	6	251	18	156	16	027	65	117	25	SW	3.06	1.015	-0.41	108	02	NNE	1	47	NNE	1	47	NNE	Fabric 1
Hb4	5	261	85	033	04	124	04	034	86	NE	3.54	1.021	0.05	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Fabric 2D
Hb5	4	162	51	044	21	301	32	031	58	SE	2.35	1.014	-0.15	143	18	NE	87	44	NE	87	44	NE	Fabric 2D
Hb6	6	194	70	085	07	352	19	082	71	S	2.23	1.015	0.41	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Fabric 2B
Hc7	5	211	60	320	11	055	27	145	63	SW	2.78	1.014	0.44	079	01	NNW	27	87	NNW	27	87	NNW	Fabric 2B
Hc8	8	194	70	032	19	300	06	030	84	SE	2.88	1.025	0.03	118	72	SW	88	76	SW	88	76	SW	Fabric 2D
Hc9	8	019	79	127	03	218	10	128	80	NE	2.10	1.022	0.20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Fabric 2B
Hc10	5	013	71	154	15	247	11	157	79	NE	2.65	1.016	-0.31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Fabric 2C
Hc11	8	345	86	116	03	206	03	116	87	NE	2.51	1.015	-0.25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Fabric 2C

Note: AMS-anisotropy of magnetic susceptibility; n-number of analyzed specimens; Dec.-declination; Pl.-plunge; Dip dir.-dip direction; K_m -average magnetic susceptibility; P_j -corrected degree of anisotropy; T-shape parameter. Presented measurements are group/sample mean data.

4.3.1. *Shonkin Sag laccolith*

Magnetic fabrics were analyzed in four sample groups located to the north-northeast, west, southwest, and south of the geographic center of the Shonkin Sag laccolith (SSL-1, SSL-2, SSL-3, and SSL-4; Fig. 7A). All groups have similar bulk magnetic susceptibilities (K_m) and corrected degree of anisotropy (P_j) values, and their AMS ellipsoids are of similar shape (T) (Table 1). K_m of individual specimens ranges from 0.565×10^{-2} – 11.12×10^{-2} SI, with an average of 3.43×10^{-2} SI (Fig. 7B). The specimens have relatively low P_j values, which increase slightly from 1.0038 to 1.0732 with increasing K_m (Fig. 7B). AMS ellipsoids of specimens have moderately prolate to strongly oblate shapes ($T = -0.65$ – -0.97) (Fig. 7C).

10 The magnetic foliation of rocks collected in all sample groups is sub-horizontal and parallel to the inferred upper and lower contacts of the laccolith. Magnetic lineations in SSL-1 are oriented NE-SW ($229/07^\circ$), which approximately coincides with the overall trend of dykes (069° NE) that crop out NE of the Highwood Mountains (Figs. 7C; indicated by red lines in the stereonet). Magnetic lineations for SSL-2 ($173/04^\circ$) and both SSL-3 ($309/01^\circ$) and SSL-4 ($314/02^\circ$) are oriented N-S and NW-SE, respectively, at a high angle ($\sim 75^\circ$) to the aforementioned NE-SW trending dykes (Figs. 7C). We note that the K_1 and K_2 axes of specimens in SSL-1, SSL-2, and, to a minor extent also in SSL-4, are scattered, which causes the 95% confidence ellipses to locally overlap (Fig. 7C).

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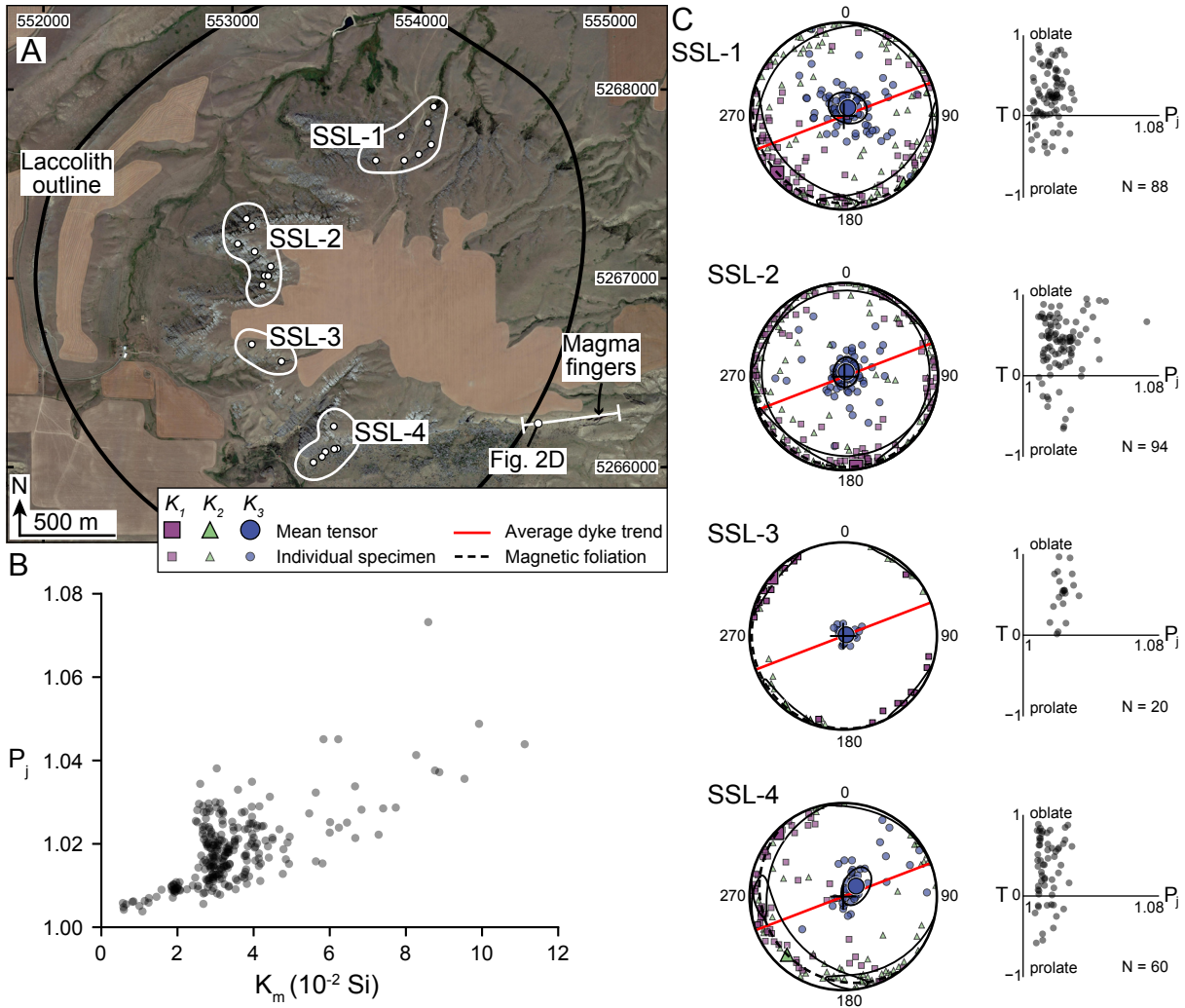


Figure 7: (A) Satellite image (GoogleEarth) of the Shonkin Sag laccolith shows the sample locations of sample group SSL-1–SSL-4 (white dots) and the location of magma fingers at the SE laccolith margin; laccolith outline after Hurlbut Jr. (1939). (B) Plot of the mean magnetic susceptibility (K_m) against the corrected degree of anisotropy (P_j) for all specimens. (C) Equal-area lower hemisphere stereonet plots of the anisotropy of magnetic susceptibility (AMS) for the four sample groups. 95% confidence ellipses are plotted for the average principal susceptibility axes. Red lines indicate the average trend (069° NE) of dykes NE of the Highwood Mountains, as is shown in Fig. 2C. P_j is plotted against the shape parameter (T) for each sample group.

5

4.3.2. Magma fingers

4.3.2.1. Field observations

Finger II is approximately 1.75 m wide and 0.3 m thick, with upper and lower contacts concordant with bedding in the Eagle Sandstone formation, which dips $\sim 1\text{--}3^\circ$ NE (Fig. 8A). The lateral tips of Finger II are blunt to rectangular, and the exposed part of the eastern contact is oriented $145/80^\circ$ SW (Fig. 8A). Host rock deformation in the vicinity of the lateral tips cannot be determined due to erosion and scree cover. Finger JJ is approximately 2.1 m wide and 0.45 m thick and has strata-concordant flat top and bottom contacts (Fig. 9A). The lateral tips of Finger JJ are asymmetric sharp, blunt, and the NE contact is oriented $135/80^\circ$ NE (Fig. 9A). Host rock bedding at the lateral tips of Finger JJ is deflected upwards (Fig. 9A).

Coalesced magma fingers Hb and Hc are approximately 6.7 m and 1.9 m wide, 1.2 m and at least 0.7 m thick, respectively, with sub-horizontal, strata-concordant upper and lower contacts (Fig. 10A). The thickness of Finger Hc cannot be determined because the lower host rock contact is covered by scree. The NE lateral tip of Finger Hc has a blunt to rectangular geometry and forms a steeply dipping ($118/72^\circ$ SW) crosscutting contact with the host rock (Fig. 10A). Host rock deformation at the lateral tip remains undefined due to erosion. The upper contacts of Fingers Hb and Hc are vertically offset with Finger Hb being ~ 0.65 m higher than the top contact of Hc. A ~ 0.75 m wide and ~ 0.4 m thick, NE-dipping step connects Fingers Hb and Hc, and it has a shallowly dipping ($143/18^\circ$ NE), strata-discordant upper contact with host rock bedding (Fig. 10A).

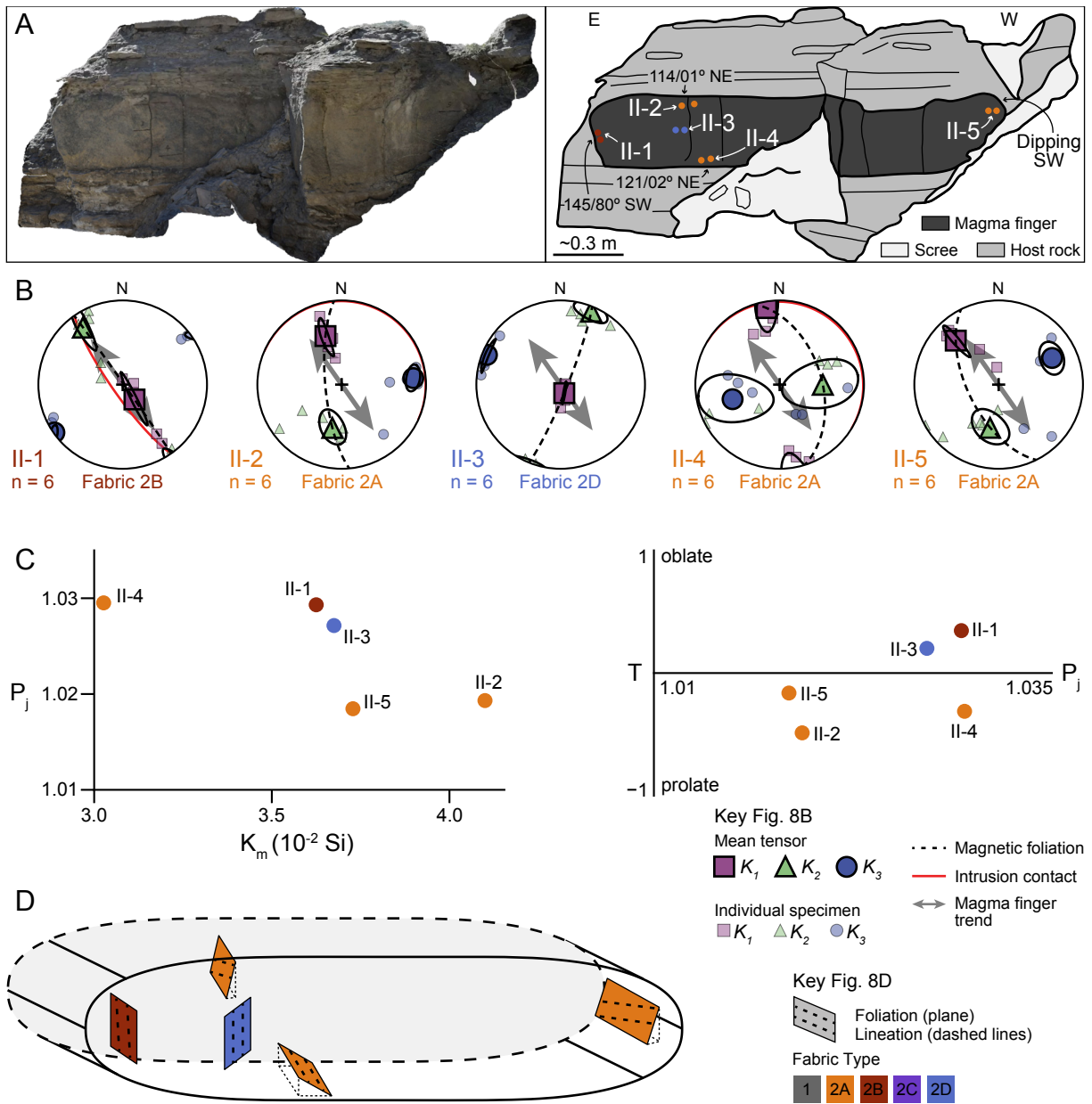


Figure 8: (A) Photomosaic and interpreted sketch for magma finger II. Dots are color-coded for the fabric type and highlight the individual sample locations, and structural measurements (strike/dip) indicate the intrusion-host rock contact. (B) Equal-area, lower hemisphere stereonet plots of the anisotropy of magnetic susceptibility (AMS) for the five sample locations (II-1–II-5) shown in (A). 95% confidence ellipses are plotted for the average principal susceptibility axes. The magma finger trend (145° SE; gray arrow) is inferred from the intrusion-host rock contact at the lateral E finger tip (145/80° SW). (C) Plots for the corrected degree of anisotropy (P_j) against both the mean magnetic susceptibility (K_m) and the shape factor (T). Note that the plotted measurements are mean values for each sample location in finger II. (D) Schematic diagram shows the magnetic fabric orientation at the approximate sample location within magma finger II.

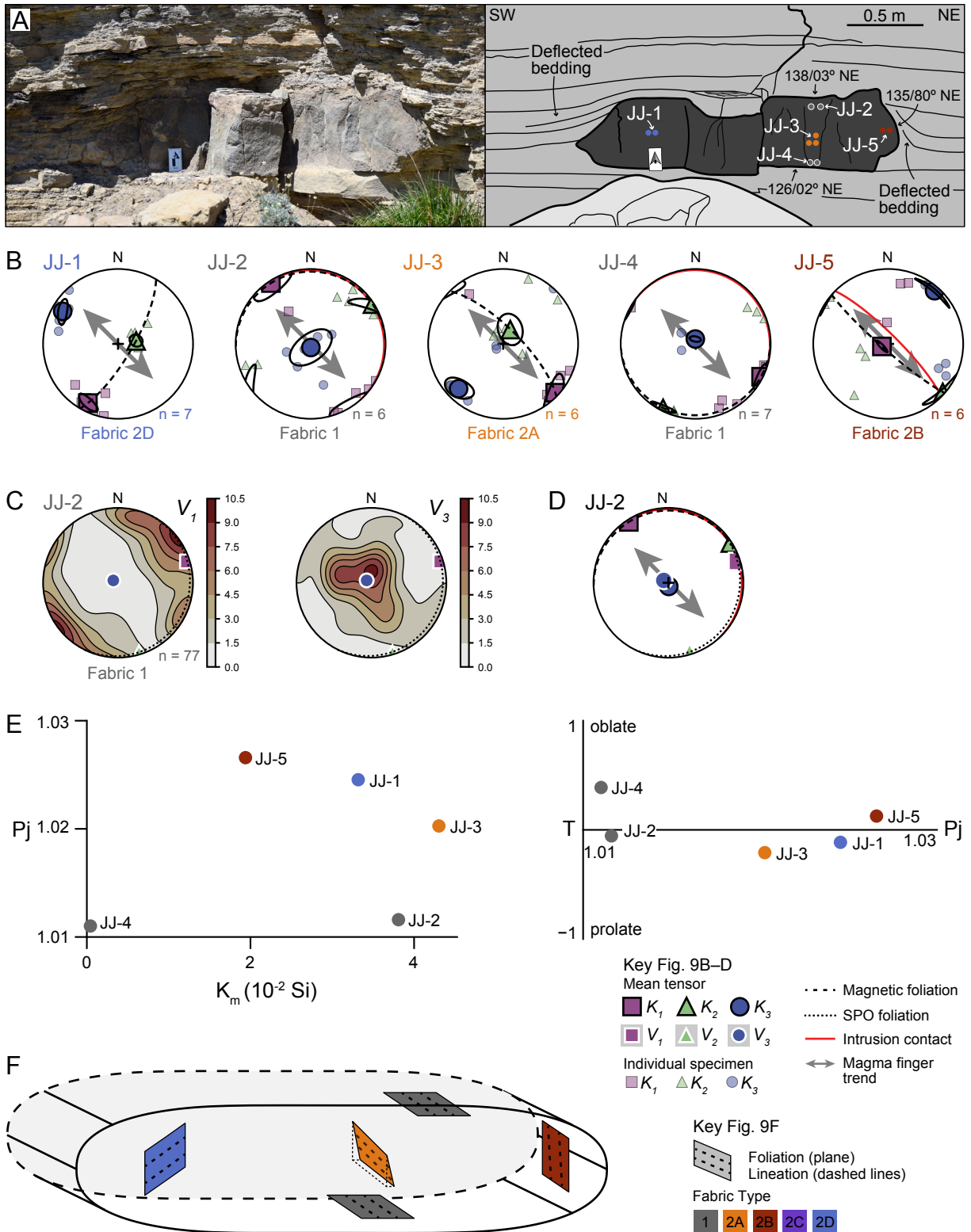


Figure 9: (A) Photograph and interpreted sketch for magma finger JJ. Dots are color-coded for the fabric type and highlight the individual sample locations, and structural measurements (strike/dip) indicate the intrusion-host rock contact. (B) Equal-area, lower hemisphere stereonet plots of the

anisotropy of magnetic susceptibility (AMS) for the five sample locations (JJ-1–JJ-5) shown in (A). 95% confidence ellipses are plotted for the average principal susceptibility axes. The magma finger trend (135° SE; gray arrow) is inferred from the intrusion-host rock contact at the lateral NE finger tip (135/80° NE). (C) Equal-area, lower hemisphere stereonet plots show the orientation density distribution of long axes (V_1) and short axes (V_3) orientations of clinopyroxene and olivine crystals in JJ-2; average fabric tensor axes orientations (V_1 , V_2 , V_3) are indicated. (D) Equal-area, lower hemisphere stereonet plot shows the comparison of AMS (K_1 , K_2 , K_3) and fabric tensor (V_1 , V_2 , V_3) axes orientations. (E) Plots for the corrected degree of anisotropy (P_j) against both the mean magnetic susceptibility (K_m) and the shape factor (T). Note that the plotted measurements are mean values for each sample location in finger JJ. (F) Schematic diagram shows the magnetic fabric orientation at the approximate sample location within magma finger JJ.

4.3.2.2. Magnetic fabrics and bulk susceptibility

Most specimens of the magma fingers have high K_m values on the order of 10^{-2} SI and only one (JJ-4) out of twenty-one samples has specimens with lower K_m values of $\sim 10^{-4}$ SI (Table 2). The corrected degree of anisotropy (P_j) values of individual specimens range from 1.010 to 1.030 (Table 2).

We have characterized the AMS of the samples into two groups of distinct magnetic fabrics that either have a gentle to sub-horizontal magnetic foliation (*Fabric Type 1*) or a steep to sub-vertical magnetic foliation (*Fabric Type 2*). *Fabric Type 2* is further subdivided into four groups based on fabric orientation and magnetic ellipsoid shape.

4.3.2.2.1. Fabric Type 1

Four samples (JJ-2, JJ-4, Hb1, Hb3) are characterized by sub-horizontal to gently inclined magnetic foliations and lineations, which we refer to as *Fabric Type 1*. This fabric is only observed in samples collected within 3–19 cm of the upper and lower margins of Fingers JJ and Hb (Figs. 9, 10; Table 2); although samples <8 cm from the upper and lower margins were collected from Finger II (II-2, II-4) and Hc (Hc-7), they do not display the characteristics of *Fabric Type 1* (Figs. 8 and 10). The magnetic foliations of JJ-2 (086/04° N) and JJ-4 (086/05° S) are sub-parallel to the sub-horizontal intrusion-host rock contact (138/03° NE, 126/02° NE) and the shallow plunging K_1

(327/03°, 117/03°) trends approximately parallel to the magma finger long axis (135° SE) ($\beta = 12\text{--}18^\circ$). In both JJ-2 and JJ-4, the mean principal susceptibility directions are well-defined and have tight 95% confidence ellipses (Fig. 9B). The fabric shape and K_m are different in both samples: JJ-2 has a weakly prolate shape ($T = -0.06$) and $K_m = 3.8 \times 10^{-2}$ SI, whereas JJ-4 is moderately oblate ($T = 0.39$) and $K_m = 0.04 \times 10^{-2}$ SI. The P_j values of JJ-2 and JJ-4 are 1.012 and 1.011, respectively (Fig. 9E; Table 2). In Finger Hb, the magnetic foliations of samples Hb1 (013/30° ESE) and Hb3 (117/25° SW) dip gently toward and away from the adjacent intrusive step to the east, respectively (Fig. 10B). The NE-SW trend of K_1 in both Hb1 (050/20°) and Hb3 (251/18°) points toward the adjacent WNW-ESE striking intrusive step with a high β angle of 47–68° to the magma finger long axis (118° SE) (Fig. 10B). Although K_1 and K_2 directions of individual specimens in Hb1 and Hb3 are slightly dispersed within the magnetic foliation plane, their 95% confidence ellipses are tight, whereas K_3 is well-defined (Fig. 10B). The fabric shape in Hb1 and Hb3 is weakly oblate ($T = 0.08$) and moderately prolate ($T = -0.41$), $P_j = 1.024$ and 1.015, and $K_m = 2.76 \times 10^{-2}$ SI and 3.06×10^{-2} SI, respectively (Fig. 10C, Table 2).

15

4.3.2.2.2. Fabric Type 2A

Five samples (II-2, II-4, II-5, JJ-3, Hb2) are characterized by a steep to moderate magnetic foliation, a gently to moderately plunging magnetic lineation, and a weakly to moderately prolate fabric shape ($T = -0.49 \text{--} -0.16$), which we refer to as *Fabric Type 2A* (Figs. 8, 9, and 10; Table 2). The magnetic foliation close to the upper and lower host rock contact in Finger II (II-2 = 175/74° W, II-4 = 163/49° ENE) strikes at an α angle of up to 30° to the magma finger long axis (145° SE), whereas the magnetic foliation close to the eastern lateral tip (II-5 = 153/60° SW) strikes at a minor α angle of 8° to the finger long axis. Samples located in the magma finger core (JJ-3, Hb2) have magnetic foliations that strike parallel (JJ-3 = 135/73° NE) and at an α angle of 25° (Hb2 = 143/73° NE) to the finger long axes (JJ = 135° SE, Hb = 118° SE). K_m values of samples classified as *Fabric Type 2A* range from 3.03×10^{-2} SI to 4.3×10^{-2} SI and $P_j = 1.010\text{--}1.030$ (Table 2).

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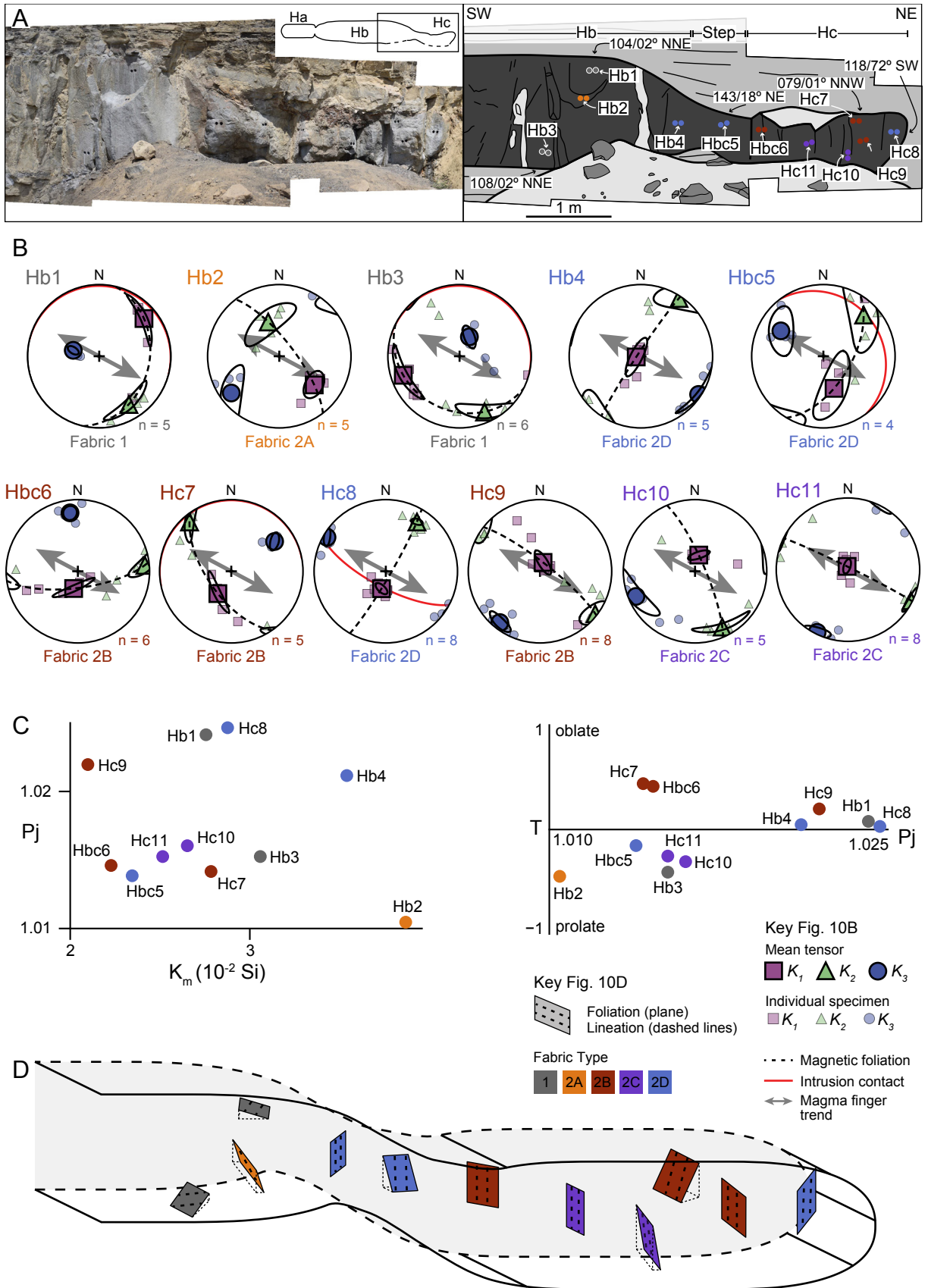


Figure 10: (A) Photomosaic and interpreted sketch for magma fingers Hb and Hc. Dots are color-

5 coded for the fabric type and highlight the individual sample locations, and structural
measurements (strike/dip) indicate the intrusion-host rock contact. (B) Equal-area, lower
hemisphere stereonet plots of the anisotropy of magnetic susceptibility (AMS) for the eleven
sample locations (Hb1–Hc11) shown in (A). 95% confidence ellipses are plotted for the average
principal susceptibility axes. The magma finger trend (118° SE; gray arrow) is inferred from the
intrusion-host rock contact at the lateral NE finger tip of Hc (118/72° SW). (C) Plots for the
corrected degree of anisotropy (P_j) against both the mean magnetic susceptibility (K_m) and the
shape factor (T). Note that the plotted measurements are mean values for each sample location in
fingers Hb and Hc. (D) Schematic diagram shows the magnetic fabric orientation at the
10 approximate sample location within the coalesced magma fingers Hb and Hc.

4.3.2.2.3. Fabric Type 2B

Five samples (II-1, JJ-5, Hbc6, Hc7, Hc9) have a steep to sub-vertical magnetic foliation and
lineation and a weakly to moderately oblate fabric shape ($T = 0.13\text{--}0.44$), which we refer to as
15 *Fabric Type 2B*. (Figs. 8, 9, and 10; Table 2). In samples close to lateral tips, the magnetic foliation
(II-1 = 145/89° NE, JJ-5 = 131/83° SE) parallels the host rock contact (II-1 = 145/80°, JJ-5 =
135/80° NE) and therefore the finger long axis (II-1 = 145° SE, JJ-5 = 135° SE) (Figs. 8B, 9B;
Table 2). Similarly, in samples located close to the upper host rock contact (Hc7) and in the core
of Finger Hc (Hc9) the magnetic foliation (Hc7 = 145/63° SW, Hc9 = 128/80° NE) strikes
20 approximately parallel to the finger long axis (118° SE) (Fig. 10B, Table 2). The α angle for II-1,
JJ-5, Hc7, and Hc9 varies between 0° and 27°. The magnetic foliation of sample Hbc6 (082/71° S),
which is located within the intrusive step, strikes approximately E-W and thus slightly oblique to
the 118° trending finger long axis ($\alpha = 36^\circ$) (Fig. 10B). The K_1 and K_2 directions of specimens from
samples II-1, Hbc6, Hc7, and Hc9 are distributed along the magnetic foliation planes, whereas K_3
25 is well defined (Figs. 8B, 10B). The specimen K_1 , K_2 , and K_3 directions in sample JJ-5 are slightly
dispersed (Fig. 9B). K_m values for *Fabric Type 2B* fabrics range from 1.94×10^{-2} SI to 3.63×10^{-2}
SI and P_j varies between 1.014 and 1.029 (Table 2).

4.3.2.2.4. Fabric Type 2C

30 Two samples (Hc10, Hc11) have a steep to sub-vertical magnetic foliation and lineation and
weakly prolate shapes ($T = -0.31\text{--}-0.25$), which we refer to as *Fabric Type 2C* (Figs. 10B–10C).

The magnetic foliation of Hc10 (157/79° ENE) and Hc11 (116/87° NNE) strikes oblique or sub-parallel to the magma finger long axis (118° SE), defining α angles of 39° and 2°, respectively (Fig. 10B, Table 2). K_2 and K_3 directions of specimens are slightly scattered, whereas K_1 is tightly clustered and well defined. These samples were collected approximately in the core of Finger Hc
5 (Fig. 10A). $K_m = 2.65 \times 10^{-2}$ SI and 2.51×10^{-2} SI, and $P_j = 1.016$ and 1.015 for Hc10 and Hc11, respectively (Fig. 10C; Table 2).

4.3.2.2.5. *Fabric Type 2D*

Five samples (II-3, JJ-1, Hb4, Hbc5, Hc8) have *Fabric Type 2D* fabrics, which are characterized
10 by a steep to sub-vertical (II-3, JJ-1, Hb4, Hc8) to moderately dipping (Hbc5) magnetic foliation that strikes oblique to sub-perpendicular ($\alpha = 57^\circ\text{--}88^\circ$) to the magma finger long dimension (Figs. 8B, 9B, and 10B; Table 2). The shape of *Fabric Type 2D* ellipsoids ranges from weakly prolate to weakly oblate ($T = -0.15 - 0.20$). Mean K_1 axes are either gently to moderately plunging (JJ-1 = 207/12°, Hbc5 = 162/51°), or steep to sub-vertical (II-3 = 157/81°, Hb4 = 261/85°, Hc8 = 194/70°).
15 Most of these samples are located along the approximate center line of the magma fingers and have well-defined K_1 , K_2 , and K_3 axes, except for sample Hbc5 which was collected within the intrusive step (Figs. 8, 9, and 10). The K_1 and K_2 directions of specimens from sample Hbc5 are slightly scattered along the foliation plane (031/58° SE), which dips moderately SE toward the magma finger long dimension (118° SE) (Fig. 10B). K_m values of these samples range from 2.35
20 $\times 10^{-2}$ SI to 3.68×10^{-2} SI and P_j varies between 1.014–1.027 (Table 2).

4.3.2.3. *Petrofabrics of dominant silicate phases*

Petrofabric analyses of the main silicate phases (i.e., pyroxene and olivine) were conducted for one representative specimen of each seven sample locations (JJ-2, Hbc6, Hc7, Hc8, Hc9, Hc10,
25 Hc11) (Table 1). To characterize the resulting petrofabrics, we adopt the same two fabric type groups that we used above to describe the magnetic fabrics. Consequently, specimens with a gentle to sub-horizontal foliation are characterized as *Fabric Type 1*, whereas specimens with steep to sub-vertical foliation are considered to be *Fabric Type 2*. In most specimens, the silicate

5 petrofabric orientation is approximately coaxial to the corresponding magnetic fabric. However, the petrofabric ellipsoid shape in most specimens is moderately to strongly oblate ($T = 0.38\text{--}0.78$; JJ-2, Hbc6, Hc7, Hc8, Hc9, Hc10) except for Hc11, which is weakly prolate ($T = -0.10$). Similarities and differences between the AMS and petrofabrics of specimens are discussed in more detail below.

4.3.2.3.1. *Fabric Type 1*

10 Three specimens (JJ-2, Hc7, Hc10) have *Fabric Type 1* fabrics (Figs. 9C–9D, and 11). The moderately oblate petrofabric in specimen JJ-2 ($T = 0.38$) has a gently dipping foliation ($026/06^\circ$ SE) sub-parallel to the sub-horizontal intrusion host rock contact ($138/03^\circ$ NE), which is very similar to the magnetic fabric ($086/04^\circ$ N) (Figs. 9C–9D; Tables 1, 2). However, the ENE trending sub-horizontal V_1 ($073/04^\circ$) forms a high angle of $\sim 74^\circ$ with K_1 ($327/03^\circ$). In contrast to specimen JJ-2, petrofabrics in specimens Hc7 and Hc10 are different from their magnetic fabric counterparts (Fig. 11). For example, the gently north-dipping petrofabric foliation ($084/22^\circ$ N) of the moderately
15 oblate specimen Hc7 ($T = 0.58$) forms a minor angle of $\sim 20^\circ$ to the upper intrusion host rock contact ($079/01^\circ$ N), which contrasts with the steeply dipping magnetic foliation ($145/63^\circ$ SW) defined as *Fabric Type 2A* (Fig. 11B; Tables 1, 2). The petrofabric foliation in specimen Hc10, located in the core of Finger Hc, dips moderately NE ($127/32^\circ$ NE). This fabric orientation and the strongly oblate fabric shape ($T = 0.78$) are markedly different to the corresponding sub-vertical
20 magnetic foliation ($157/79^\circ$ NE) and moderately prolate AMS ellipsoid defined as *Fabric Type 2C* (Fig. 11B; Tables 1, 2).

4.3.2.3.2. *Fabric Type 2A*

25 Specimen Hc11 has a *Fabric Type 2A* fabric with a foliation ($109/54^\circ$ NE) that is approximately parallel to the corresponding magnetic foliation ($116/87^\circ$ NE), and both slightly prolate ellipsoids also strike subparallel to the magma finger long axis (118° SE) (Fig. 11B; Table 1, 2). However, the gently ESE plunging V_1 direction ($098/15^\circ$) is also approximately parallel to the magma finger

long dimension, which contrasts with the sub-vertical K_I (345/86°) of the magnetic fabric (Fig. 11B).

4.3.2.3.3. *Fabric Type 2B*

5 Specimens Hbc6 and Hc9 have *Fabric Type 2B* fabrics. The petrofabric of both samples is similar to the steep magnetic foliation of the corresponding magnetic fabric of both samples, and they strike slightly obliquely to the magma finger long axis (Fig. 11B). Minor deviations between both fabric types include the moderately south dipping petrofabric foliation in specimen Hbc6 (081/38° S), which contrasts with the steeply south dipping magnetic foliation (082/71° S) (Fig. 11B, Tables
10 1, 2). In specimen Hc9, petrofabric long axis (V_I) measurements define two moderately NW and SE plunging clusters (Fig. 11A). The average V_I plunges gently SE (115/10°), sub-parallel to the magma finger long axis (118° SE), which contrasts the steep orientation of K_I (019/79°) (Fig. 11B). Both specimens Hbc6 and Hc9 have moderately oblate shapes ($T = 0.45$, $T = 0.39$, respectively).

15 4.3.2.3.4. *Fabric Type 2D*

Specimen Hc8 has a *Fabric Type 2D* fabric with a foliation (046/84° NE) that is approximately parallel to the sub-vertical magnetic foliation (030/84° SE) (Fig. 11B). V_I measurements define a NE-SW trending girdle and the average V_I orientation (046/02°) is sub-horizontal, trending NE (Fig. 11A). The sub-horizontal V_I orientation contrasts with the steep K_I (194/70°) (Fig. 11B).
20 However, the moderately oblate petrofabric shape ($T = 0.52$) indicates that V_I may not be appropriate to interpret as flow or stretching direction.

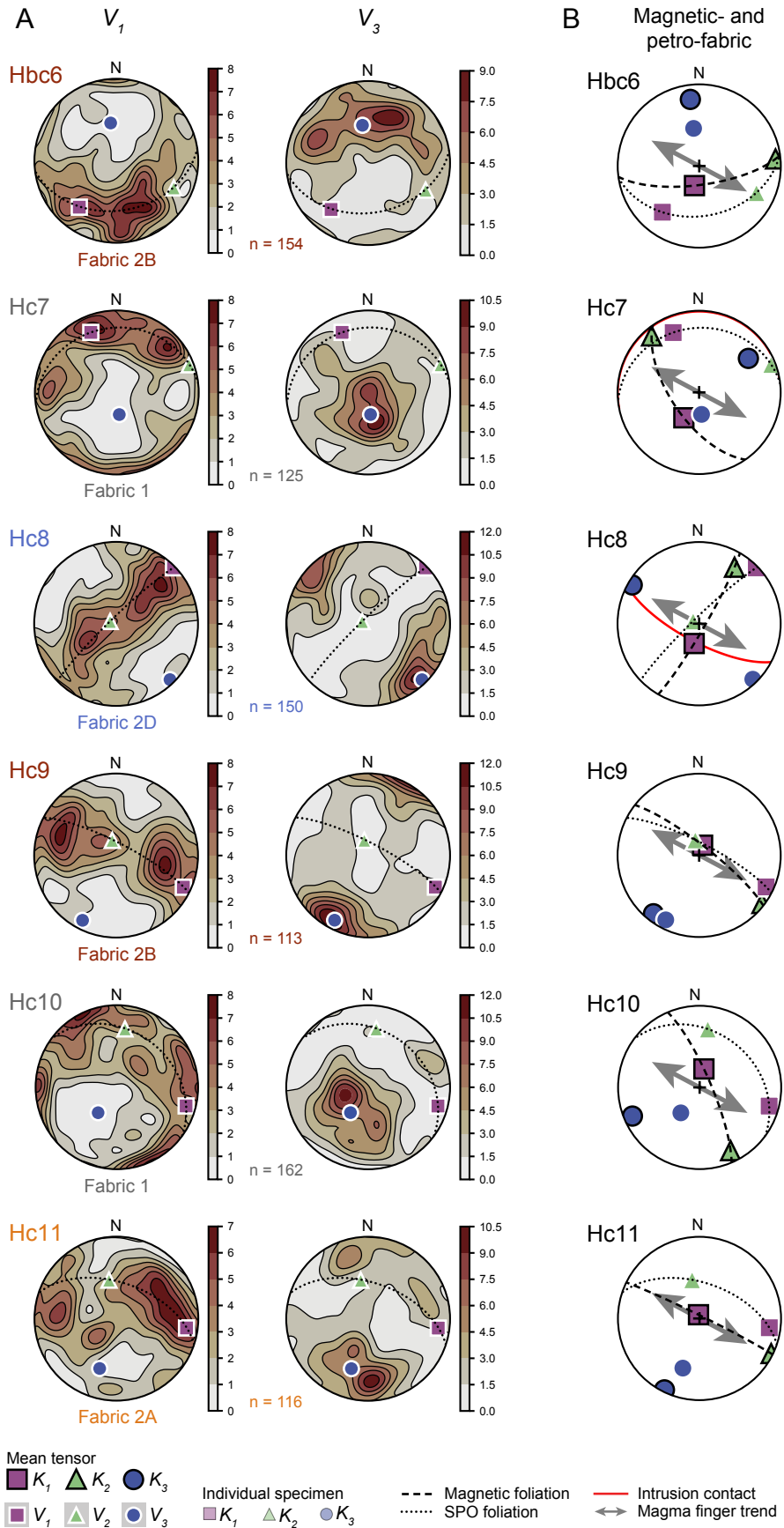


Figure 11: (A) Equal-area, lower hemisphere stereonet plots show the orientation density distribution of long axes (V_1) and short axes (V_3) orientations of clinopyroxene and olivine crystals for one sample in the intrusive step (Hbc6) and for finger Hc (Hc7–Hc11); average petrofabric tensor axes orientations (V_1 , V_2 , V_3) are indicated. (B) Equal-area, lower hemisphere stereonet plots show the comparison of AMS (K_1 , K_2 , K_3) and petrofabric tensor (V_1 , V_2 , V_3) axes orientations.

5. Discussion

5.1. Characterization of the magnetic mineralogy and the significance of AMS

5.1.1. Magnetic mineralogy

Based on rock magnetic experiments and petrographic observations, Ruggles et al. (2021) suggested that both magnetite and titanomagnetite with a pseudo-single domain (PSD) state and multidomain (MD) state are the dominant magnetic phases in the rocks exposed at the margin of the Shonkin Sag laccolith and its peripheral sills. Our observations support the dominance of titanomagnetite as the magnetic carrier within the magma fingers based on: (1) a relatively high K_m of $> \sim 10^{-2}$ SI (Tarling and Hrouda, 1993); (2) rapidly increasing K_m followed by a slightly temperature dependent flat plateau in low-temperature regimes between -197 – 5 °C (Fig. 5) (Dunlop and Özdemir, 2001); and (3) a Curie point estimate of 570 °C (Fig. 5) (Dunlop and Özdemir, 2001). The Curie Point of pure magnetite occurs at 580 °C; however, this temperature decreases for titanomagnetite with increasing Ti content (Akimoto, 1962). The Curie point estimate of 570 °C suggests that titanomagnetite with a low Ti content of ~ 1 – 2 % is the dominant ferrimagnetic phase in the samples studied (Akimoto, 1962).

IRM and BIRM measurements also indicate that the AMS of all samples is dominated by a relatively low coercivity phase such as titanomagnetite. IRM curves and the magnetic field strength required to completely saturate a sample (SIRM) can be used to estimate the magnetic grain size (cf. Dunlop and Özdemir, 2001). MD magnetite will completely saturate by ~ 80 – 200 mT, fine grained SD magnetite will completely saturate by ~ 300 mT, and SIRM values just above ~ 200 mT indicate the presence of PSD grains (Dunlop and Özdemir, 2001). The relatively low SIRM of < 210 mT for twelve out of thirteen samples indicate a PSD to MD state (Fig. 6) (Dunlop and Özdemir, 2001). IRM and BIRM measurements combined with low-to-high temperature

susceptibility data suggest that PSD to MD titanomagnetite are the dominant phases responsible for the AMS in the marginal sills and comprising magma fingers, and by comparison to related studies, the main Shonkin Sag laccolith (Ruggles et al., 2021). Samples with higher coercivities (Hb1, Hb3, JJ-4) are located near the upper or lower margin of magma fingers (Fig. 6). We suggest that weathering or alteration caused by interaction between the intruding magma and the pore water-saturated host rock may have altered titanomagnetite to relatively high coercivity minerals close to the host rock contact (Dunlop and Özdemir, 2001). Potential effects of these high coercivity minerals on the AMS fabrics have been considered during fabric interpretation.

5.1.2. *Origin of the magnetic fabrics*

Ruggles et al. (2021) found that MD and PSD magnetite are the dominant magnetic phases in shonkinite rocks at the margin of the laccolith, and where the rocks are undeformed and fresh they considered magnetic fabrics in their samples to be normal primary magma flow fabrics. However, a range of processes can modify and should be considered when interpreting magnetic fabrics. For example, magnetic foliation planes and/or magnetic lineations at a high-angle to the plane of a magma finger (i.e., *Fabric Type 2D*) (Figs. 8B, 9B, and 10B) may possibly be interpreted as intermediate or inverse fabrics due to the presence of SD magnetite (Potter and Stephenson, 1988; Rochette and Fillion, 1988; Rochette et al., 1999). We can discount *Fabric Type 2D* being related to the presence of SD magnetite populations as our IRM analyses indicate no detectable SD magnetite, so we consider that sub-vertical magnetic lineations and foliations that strike sub-perpendicular to the magma finger long axis are unlikely to be caused by mineralogical affects. Alternatively, when magnetite grains are closely spaced or occur in clusters, adjacent grains can interact magnetically to alter magnetic fabrics (Hargraves et al., 1991; Mattsson et al., 2021). Because our petrographic analyses found no magnetite clusters, together with the generally low degree of distribution anisotropy (Table 1), distribution anisotropy of magnetite probably can be ruled out as contributing to the AMS of our samples.

Syn- and post-emplacement deformation can modify or completely overprint magma emplacement-related magnetic fabrics, which can add further complexity to the interpretation of AMS data. However, the Highwood Mountains of Montana are tectonically undeformed (e.g.,

Pollard et al., 1975), making it an ideal location to study magma emplacement processes and flow kinematics within intrusions. During tectonic overprinting, uniform fabrics representing the strain associated with tectonism should affect all sample locations (e.g., Burton-Johnson et al., 2019). Although uniform sub-horizontal magnetic foliations have been documented within the main
5 Shonkin Sag laccolith, considerable variations in magnetic fabrics within the marginal magma fingers are interpreted to indicate that no tectonic overprinting occurred. Relatively rapid cooling rates should characterize the magma fingers due to their small size (0.3–1.2 m thick; 1.75–6.7 m wide), suggesting that convective magma flow is unlikely to have occurred within them (e.g., Gibb and Henderson, 1992; Holness et al., 2017). The lack of evidence for post-emplacement
10 overprinting or convective flow, together with the coincidence between the magnetic foliation strike and lineation trend with magma finger long axes in many samples (Figs. 8B, 9B, and 10B), suggest that the AMS data from our samples can be interpreted to reflect primary syn-emplacement processes (e.g., magma flow and/or intrusion inflation).

15 5.2. *Shonkin Sag laccolith – A potential laccolith feeder geometry*

Samples from sites established in all four arbitrary areas of the Shonkin Sag laccolith (SSL-1, SSL-2, SSL-3, SSL-4) yield a sub-horizontal magnetic foliation and a predominantly oblate fabric shape, regardless of their location (Fig. 7). These observations are consistent with measurements at the laccolith margin in areas of no to little deformation and/or alteration (Ruggles et al., 2021).
20 The shape and orientation of magnetic fabrics observed across the Shonkin Sag laccolith may reflect sub-horizontal magma flow and/or vertical shortening, likely related to initial emplacement processes and, possibly, the subsequent inflation and/or deflation of the laccolith soon after emplacement. In primary magma flow within sheet-like intrusions, we expect the magnetic foliation to form parallel to the magma flow plane and K_1 principal axes will be aligned in the flow
25 direction (Fig. 3A). The alignment of K_1 occurs due to progressive simple shear flow and results in monoclinic fabrics with plane strain ellipsoids ($T \approx 0$) (e.g., Cruden and Launeau, 1994; Ferré et al., 2002; Poland et al., 2004; Horsman et al., 2005). Alternatively, during vertical inflation of igneous sheet intrusions due to the continued throughput of magma, magnetic fabrics will record vertical shortening caused by pure shear flattening strain, which results in biaxial, oblate fabrics

($T \approx 1$) (Fig. 2A) (e.g., Roni et al., 2014). During inflation the fabric shape at the intrusion margin will become progressively more oblate and the foliation will align with the orientation of the closest host rock contact (e.g., Roni et al., 2014).

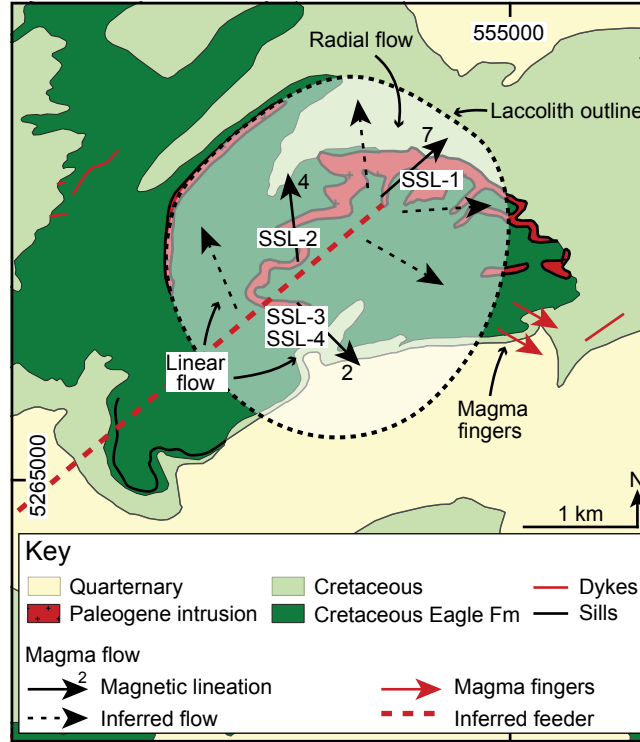


Figure 12: Simplified geological map of the Shonkin Sag laccolith shows the potential feeder-dyke location, magnetic lineation orientations, and inferred magma flow pathways. The plunge of magnetic lineations is indicated at the tip of solid black arrows. The geological map is based on the quadrangle ‘Fort Benton’ (1:100,000 scale) available from the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology (2021); laccolith outline after Hurlbut Jr. (1939).

5 We interpret sub-horizontal, oblate magnetic fabrics within the main Shonkin Sag laccolith to record a combination of sub-horizontal magma flow and vertical intrusion inflation. Assuming that K_I indicates the primary magma flow direction, we suggest that the AMS within the laccolith indicates: (1) NE-SW oriented magma flow NNE of the intrusion center (SSL-1; $K_I = 229/07^\circ$); (2) NNW-SSE oriented magma flow W of the intrusion center (SSL-2; $K_I = 173/04^\circ$); and (3) NW-SE oriented magma flow SW and S of the intrusion center (SSL-3 and SSL-4; $K_I = 309/01^\circ$ and $314/02^\circ$, respectively) (Fig. 12). We note that samples across the main laccolith were collected from varying elevation levels (Supplemental Material S1), such that they may reflect fabrics of

10

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multiple magma pulses. However, magnetic fabrics of sample groups SSL-1, SSL-2, SSL-3, and SSL-4 are internally consistent, which we interpret to indicate the primary magma flow direction (Figs. 7 and 12).

5 Feeders of sills and laccoliths are commonly described to be either linear, such as dykes and inclined sheets, or point-like conduits, from which magma flows linearly or radially, respectively (e.g., Cruden et al., 1999; Ferré et al., 2002; Galerne et al., 2011). If the Shonkin Sag laccolith was fed via a point source, we would expect the feeder to be located approximately in the intrusion center, which would be the origin of a radial magma flow pattern. However, this scenario is not supported by the NNW-SSE to NW-SE trending magnetic lineation at sample groups SSL-2, SSL-10 3, and SSL-4 (Fig. 12). We suggest that the Shonkin Sag laccolith was fed via a NE-SW striking dyke that terminated in the NE quadrant of the laccolith, close to sample group SSL-1 (Fig. 12). NW-SE directed flow of magma sub-perpendicular to the strike of the feeder is consistent with K_1 orientations in sample groups SSL-2, SSL-3, SSL-4 (Figs. 7C, 12). The NE-SW trending K_1 direction in sample group SSL-1 is sub-parallel to the strike of the potential feeder-dyke. We therefore hypothesize that the dyke terminated S to SW of sample group SSL-1, which may have 15 resulted in a fanning magma flow pattern near the dyke tip (Fig. 12).

Although Pollard et al. (1975) assumed radial magma flow from the laccolith center to explain the NW-SE trend of magma fingers at the SE laccolith margin, similar magma finger trends are also consistent with magma being supplied via a NE-SW striking dyke (Fig. 12). In this scenario, linear 20 magma flow sub-perpendicular to the feeder dyke coincides with the long-dimension of magma fingers (Fig. 12). Numerous NE-SW striking dykes are located SW of the laccolith, and they are part of the radial dyke swarm that surrounds the main volcanic complex of the Highwood Mountains (Figs. 2B–2C). These observations suggest NE directed magma transport from the main volcanic complex toward the Shonkin Sag laccolith, which supports our proposed feeder model. 25 Additional magnetic fabric analyses of samples from the eastern part of the laccolith could help to test the proposed model and to better constrain both the feeder type and location.

5.3. *Tying magnetic fabrics to magma finger emplacement and growth*

Below, we use magnetic fabric data, petrofabric analyses and field observations to interpret the emplacement of magma fingers located at the margin of the Shonkin Sag laccolith. Critically, we interpret the primary magma flow direction to parallel the SE trend of the magma fingers, which point away from their feeding sills and the main Shonkin Sag laccolith (Pollard et al., 1975). This allows us to focus on interpreting internal 3-D flow within the elongate magma fingers and to tie magnetic fabrics to intrusion emplacement and growth.

5.3.1. *Fabric Type 1 – Primary magma flow and vertical intrusion inflation*

The sub-horizontal to gently dipping fabrics classified as *Fabric Type 1* are comparable to fabrics observed within the Shonkin Sag laccolith. As above, we interpret *Fabric Type 1* to have formed during sub-horizontal magma flow and/or vertical shortening (Fig. 13A). Because vertical intrusion inflation commonly occurs simultaneously with horizontal magma flow, we consider it likely that *Fabric Type 1*, as observed in upper and lower magma finger margins (JJ-2, JJ-4, Hb1, Hb3) and within the Shonkin Sag laccolith (SSL-1, SSL-2, SSL-3, SSL-4), represents a hybrid of both processes, where the relative effect of each process may vary between locations (Fig. 13A). The sub-horizontal foliation in samples JJ-2 and JJ-4 is sub-parallel to the closest upper or lower intrusion-host rock contact and K_1 trends sub-parallel to the finger long axis (Fig. 9B). In combination with the weakly prolate to moderately oblate fabric shape, these orientations suggest that progressive simple shear during magma flow may be the dominant process recorded by the AMS, superimposed by pure shear flattening due to minor vertical shortening (Fig. 13A). Considering the sample locations and assuming that magma solidification occurs first at the intrusion margins, we interpret the magnetic fabrics in samples JJ-2 and JJ-4 to represent primary magma flow during a relatively early emplacement stage (Figs. 13A–13B).

A similar interpretation may account for the magnetic fabrics in samples Hb1 and Hb3 that are located close to the upper and lower margins of Finger Hb (Fig. 10A). In contrast to the sub-horizontal foliation in samples JJ-2 and JJ-4, the magnetic foliation in samples Hb1 and Hb3 dips gently in the direction of the magma finger long axis or away from the intrusive step that connects

Fingers Hb and Hc (Fig. 10). These gently dipping foliations in rocks located close to the sub-horizontal intrusion-host rock contact, combined with their weakly oblate to moderately prolate AMS ellipsoids may indicate a relatively low degree of vertical flattening. We could also interpret the gently dipping foliations to be imbricated fabrics. That is, sample Hb1 records primary magma flow towards the SE and sample Hb3 indicates a foliation inclined toward either the former lateral tip of Finger Hb or to the intrusive step that connects Fingers Hb and Hc (Figs. 10, 13C) (e.g., Magee et al., 2016b). Given the weakly oblate to moderately prolate AMS ellipsoids in these samples, we interpret K_I to be a primary magma flow indicator. Therefore, their NE-SW trending K_I directions may indicate flow oblique to the finger long axis, possibly related to local flow of magma between Fingers Hb and Hc after they had coalesced (Fig. 13C), or magma flow toward a solidified step (Fig. 13C). Because primary magma flow within sheet intrusions is commonly described to form oblate fabrics parallel to the flow plane with K_I aligned in flow direction, similar to *Fabric 1*, we propose that *Fabric 1* could be the starting point for all fabrics classified as *Fabric 2*, which we interpret below (Figs. 13A, 13D).

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5.3.2. Fabric Type 2A, 2B – Horizontal shortening caused by intrusion widening

We interpret the moderate to steep magnetic foliations of samples with *Type 2A* fabrics (II-2, II-4, II-5, JJ-3, Hb2) to represent magma emplacement processes because they strike slightly oblique to the magma finger long axis ($\alpha = 0\text{--}30^\circ$) and the magnetic lineation is gently to moderately plunging (Table 2). *Type 2A* fabrics may result from the superimposition of a sub-horizontal, oblate *Type 1* fabric, by a sub-horizontal NE-SW shortening strain, approximately perpendicular to the magma finger long dimension (Figs. 13A, 13D). Previous field studies have shown that space for magma fingers can be partly accommodated by host rock shortening when magma pushes against the host rock ahead of both the frontal and lateral intrusion tips (e.g., Pollard et al., 1975; Wilson et al., 2016; Spacapan et al., 2017; Galland et al., 2019). This process may result in compaction, folding, and shear failure of host rock layers and is commonly associated with blunt to rectangular intrusion tips as is observed in Fingers II and Hc (Figs. 8A, 10A) (Wilson et al., 2016; Spacapan et al., 2017; Galland et al., 2019; Stephens et al., 2021; Walker et al., 2021). We suggest that when magma fingers widen, magma or magma mush near the host rock walls gets squeezed, resulting in

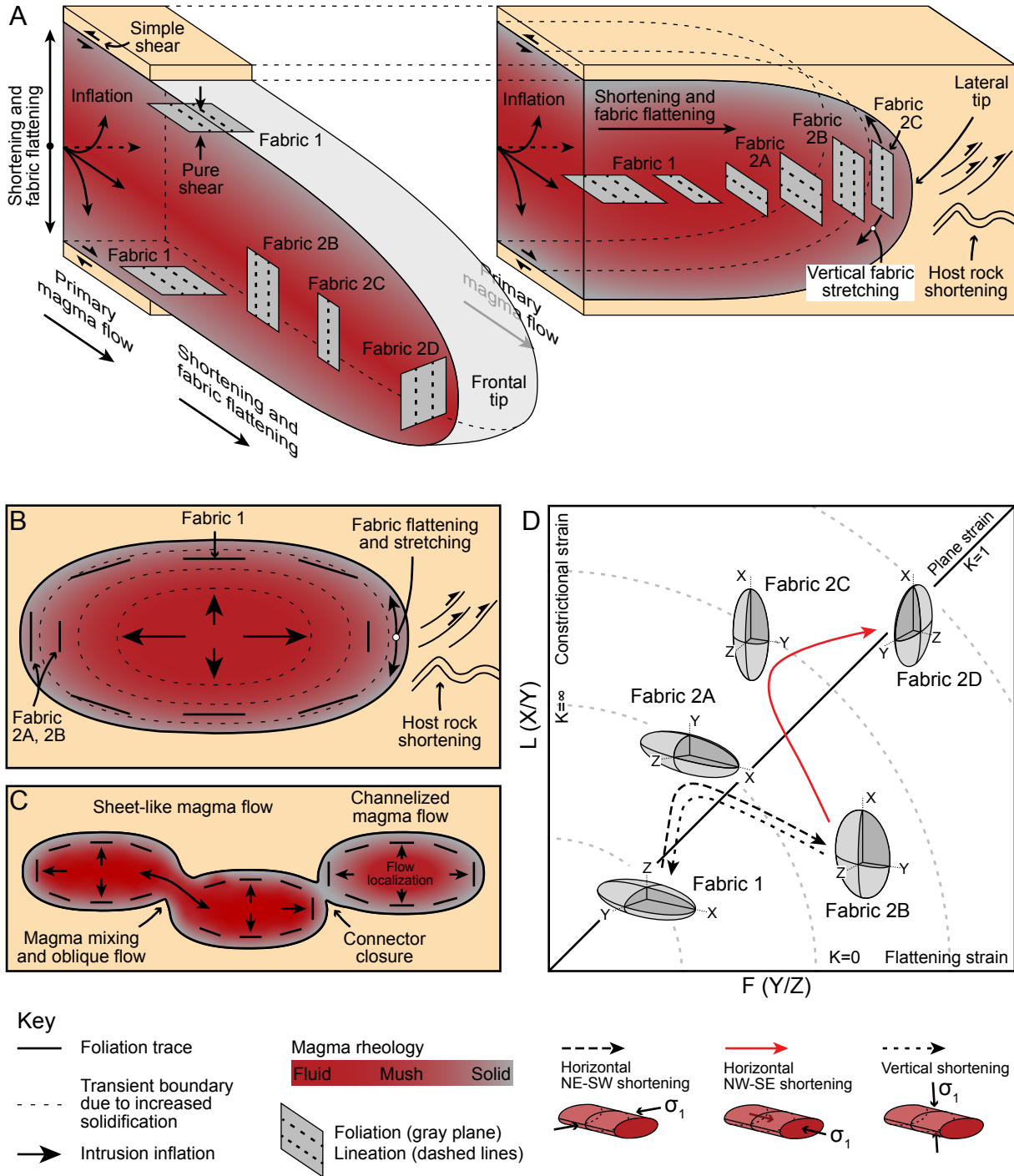
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horizontal fabric shortening sub-perpendicular to the lateral margins and in vertical fabric stretching, which is reflected in the development of a new or overprinting fabric (Figs. 13A, 13D). This NE-SW shortening caused pure shear flattening of magnetic fabrics against lateral intrusion-host rock contacts (II-5), resulting in steep foliations sub-parallel to the host rock contact (Figs. 5 13A, 13D). Similar horizontal shortening may explain the occurrence of *Fabric Type 2A* at locations further inward from lateral finger tips (e.g., II-2, II-4, JJ-3, Hb2). In this scenario, however, the amount of shortening is expected to be less due to the distance to the rigid host rock contact, which may be reflected by a more prolate AMS ellipsoid compared to sample II-5 (Fig. 13A).

10 Alternatively, *Fabric Type 2A* may result from magma flow adjacent to a steeply inclined transient boundary, such as an inwardly migrating crystallization front within a cooling magma finger (Fig. 13B). Magnetic fabrics located close to the transient boundary would be comparable to those observed at lateral finger tips (Figs. 13A–13B). NE-SW shortening of *Fabric Type 1* against steep magma-transient boundary contacts may therefore have resulted in steep magnetic foliations with 15 gently to moderately plunging magnetic lineations remaining sub-parallel to the magma finger long axis flow direction (JJ-3, Hb2) (Figs. 13A–13B, and 13D). Based on the available data, we cannot verify which of these two models resulted in *Fabric Type 2A*, although it is likely that both processes occurred during the initial flow and subsequent inflation and solidification of the magma fingers.

20 The magnetic foliation in *Fabric Type 2B* is slightly oblique to the magma finger long axis ($\alpha = 0\text{--}36^\circ$) and the samples that exhibit this fabric type are located close to (II-1, JJ-5) and farther away from (Hbc6, Hc7, Hc9) lateral finger tips, which suggests that they record similar magma emplacement processes as described for *Fabric Type 2A* (i.e., horizontal NE-SW intrusion inflation). However, in contrast to *Fabric Type 2A* where K_1 plunges gently to moderately along 25 the magma finger, K_1 of *Fabric Type 2B* is steeply inclined (Figs. 13A, 13D; Table 2). As in *Fabric Type 2A*, horizontal intrusion inflation may have led to NE-SW pure shear flattening as well as fabric stretching at lateral intrusion tips, which resulted in the formation of *Type 2B* fabrics (Figs. 13A and 13D). The weakly to moderately oblate AMS ellipsoids suggest a higher degree of NE-SW pure shear flattening compared to *Fabric Type 2A* (Fig. 13D). *Fabric Type 2B* may therefore 30 reflect a more advanced stage of magma finger widening compared to *Fabric Type 2A*. The *Type*

2B fabric in sample Hbc6 is associated with the step that connects Fingers Hb and Hc. Here, the magnetic foliation strikes E-W, which indicates potential local crossflow of magma between the coalesced magma fingers (Fig. 13C).



5 Figure 13: (A) Schematic 3-D diagram shows all fabric types as observed in the magma fingers studied, their spatial occurrence, and how they may develop over time. Magma flow processes

such as primary flow, inflation, and fabric stretching/flattening are indicated. (B, C) Schematic cross-section diagrams of (B) a discrete magma finger and (C) coalesced magma fingers; cross sections are oriented perpendicular to both the magma finger long axis and the primary magma flow direction. Black solid lines indicate a range of rock fabric orientations, which may develop due to various processes such as primary magma flow, and/or intrusion inflation. Dashed ellipses in (B) indicate a transient boundary that can form due to increased magma solidification, which moves the more rigid boundary from the intrusion-host rock contact toward the magma finger core. (C) When adjacent magma fingers coalesce, local oblique flow can cause magma mixing between the individual fingers, or magma flow can be channelized due to a potential connector closure which results in flow localization within the individual magma fingers. (D) Schematic Flinn diagram shows interpreted strain paths and fabric overprinting due to primary magma flow and both horizontal and vertical inflation.

5.3.3. Fabric Type 2C, 2D – Horizontal shortening caused by intrusion lengthening

Similar AMS ellipsoid axes orientations in both *Type 2B* and *2C* fabrics suggest a formation of *Fabric Type 2C* due to the sequence of magma emplacement processes as described above (cf. *Fabric Type 2A* and *2B*) (Figs. 13A, 13D). However, in contrast to the weakly to moderately oblate *Type 2B* fabrics, the AMS ellipsoid of *Fabric Type 2C* is weakly to moderately prolate with a steep to sub-vertical K_1 direction (Figs. 10, 13D). Assuming that *Fabric Type 2C* formed by progressive deformation of *Fabric Type 2B*, two scenarios may be considered: (1) vertical stretching during NE-SW magma finger widening (Fig. 13A); or (2) horizontal NW-SE shortening at an arrested frontal finger tip due to continued magma supply (Figs. 13A, 13D). When magma fingers widen and magma pushes against the host rock or against a transient solidification boundary (cf. *Fabric 2A, 2B*), vertical flow along the boundary may result in stretching fabrics (Fig. 13A). Field observations of clinopyroxene crystals oriented sub-parallel to the intrusion-host rock contact at lateral finger tips are consistent with this hypothesis (Fig. 3C). However, the effect of vertical stretching in samples Hc10 and Hc11 should be minor because they are located approximately in the core of Finger Hc. This is also reflected in the silicate mineral lineation, which plunges gently in the finger long axis direction, contrasting with the sub-vertical magnetic fabrics (Fig. 11B). Alternatively, sub-horizontal shortening parallel to the NW-SE finger long axis may have overprinted a sub-vertical, NW-SE striking, weakly to moderately oblate *Fabric Type 2B* foliation, resulting in steep, weakly prolate magnetic fabrics (Hc10, Hc11; Figs. 13A, 13D). As noted above,

NW-SE shortening is likely to occur at frontal magma finger tips (e.g., Cruden and Launeau, 1994; Magee et al., 2016b) and may also occur away from an arrested intrusion tip if magma supply continues (Figs. 13A, 13D) (Cruden and Launeau, 1994).

5 With increasing horizontal shortening and pure shear flattening strain parallel to the magma finger long axis, *Type 2C* fabrics may result in steep to sub-vertical, weakly prolate to weakly oblate fabrics, which strike sub-perpendicular to the finger long axis (i.e., *Fabric Type 2D*) (Figs. 13A, 13D). Alternatively, a sub-vertical foliation may form due to free grain rotation of minerals, which then get trapped with their long and intermediate SPO axes perpendicular to the flow direction (e.g., Cañón-Tapia and Chávez-Álvarez, 2004). If this rotation occurs within a crystallizing, 10 horizontally flowing magma, the growing framework of silicate phases may prevent further rotation of grains toward the magma flow plane, resulting in sub-vertical magnetic fabrics (Launeau and Cruden, 1998). However, free grain rotation in a simple shear magma flow occurs periodically and is therefore not predictable (Launeau and Cruden, 1998). We thus consider it unlikely that *Fabric Type 2D* in the core of both discrete and coalesced magma fingers (II-3, JJ-1, 15 Hb4, Hc8) reflects a similar timestep in the grain rotation cycle.

Sub-vertical magnetic foliations that are perpendicular to the magma finger long axis have been also observed in a previous study of a sill in the Karoo Igneous Province that is composed of multiple elongate elements (Hoyer and Watkeys, 2017). Hoyer and Watkeys (2017) interpreted these fabrics to reflect magma flow between coalesced elements, perpendicular to the intrusion 20 long dimension. However, because *Type 2D* fabrics are also observed within discrete magma fingers (II-3, JJ-1) and due to the similarity in sample locations, we hypothesize that horizontal shortening parallel to the magma finger long axis due to the final intrusion tip arrest may have caused the formation of *Fabric Type 2D* (Figs. 13A, 13D). Critically, the magma rheology has to enable viscous flow such that grains can rotate and overprint previously formed fabrics (e.g., 25 Launeau and Cruden, 1998; Cañón-Tapia and Chávez-Álvarez, 2004). Crystallization and local solidification may therefore limit fabric overprinting to areas of localized magma flow. This could explain the occurrence of *Type 2C* and *2D* fabrics in the intrusion core and along the center line, which are plausible locations for localized magma flow during a late stage of magma emplacement (Figs. 13A–13C).

The moderately SE dipping foliation in sample Hbc5 is located close to the upper contact of the step that connects Fingers Hb and Hc (Fig. 10A). Here the magnetic foliation dips toward the frontal finger tip and may indicate imbrication of grains against the intrusion roof (e.g., Knight and Walker, 1988; Philpotts and Philpotts, 2007). In this case, Hbc5 records primary magma flow and the magnetic lineation oriented obliquely to the magma finger long axis may indicate local crossflow of magma between Fingers Hb and Hc (Fig. 13C).

5.3.4. Comparison of magnetic- and silicate petro-fabrics

The magnetic and silicate mineral foliations in samples Hbc6, Hc8, Hc9, Hc10, and Hc11 are broadly coincident (Fig. 11B). However, the maximum SPO direction of the silicate phases (V_1) plunges gently (2–28°) in these samples, which contrasts with the steep to sub-vertical orientation of K_1 (Fig. 11B; Tables 1 and 2). This difference may be caused by the presence of multiple silicate mineral sub-fabrics, which are averaged in the fabric tensor. For example, the orientation density distribution plots of samples Hc8 and Hc9 show girdles of long axes orientations with two distinct clusters (Fig. 11A). These clusters may reflect individual sub-fabrics and thus influence the average V_1 and V_2 fabric tensor orientations.

An alternative explanation for the different K_1 and V_1 orientations is the so-called “logjam” effect (Launeau and Cruden, 1998). This occurs when crystallizing silicate phases form a mineral framework in which individual grains start to interact during magma flow, preventing large grains from rotating and locking up or jamming the silicate petrofabric (Launeau and Cruden, 1998). At this stage, only smaller grains such as magnetite are able to rotate in response to continuing flow of the magma mush, although their degree of rotation will be limited by adjacent silicate grains (Launeau and Cruden, 1998). A relatively high degree of crystallization and a low volume percentage of melt (between ~30 and 50 %) are required to cause grain interaction and limit the rotation of silicate phases (Launeau and Cruden, 1998). Although the moderate modal concentration of silicate phenocrysts (~25–35 vol.%; Supplemental Material S4; Nash and Wilkinson, 1970) in our samples indicates a melt volume percentage of greater than 65 %, we suggest that the logjam model may explain some of the variations between magnetic and silicate

petrofabrics, if the fabric overprinting occurred during a late stage of emplacement when the groundmass started to crystallize.

If the amount of late stage crystallization was high enough to cause interaction between individual grains, the logjam model may explain the $\sim 74^\circ$ discrepancy between K_I and V_I in sample JJ-2 (Fig. 9D). Sample JJ-2 is located close to the upper margin of Finger JJ, where both the magnetic and silicate petrofabric foliations are sub-parallel to the host rock contact (Fig. 9D). We therefore interpret the foliations in sample JJ-2 to reflect the primary magma flow plane (e.g., Féménias et al., 2004). Given that the overall SE magma flow direction is constrained from field observations (Pollard et al., 1975), we interpret the NW-SE orientation of K_I as primary flow indicator. The $\sim 62^\circ$ difference between V_I and the finger long axis may indicate: (1) oblique flow of magma toward the lateral finger tip, which is suggested above to occur during intrusion widening (Figs. 3C, 13A); or (2) a stable orientation of silicate phases in a plane of constant magma velocity with V_I oblique to the magma flow direction (e.g., Jeffery, 1922). We suggest that increased crystallization at the intrusion margins locked up the silicate petrofabrics that reflects either intrusion widening or stable grain orientations oblique to the magma flow, whereas magnetite grains remained mobile and re-aligned according to potential changes in magma flow kinematics.

5.4. The complexity of magma flow in finger-like intrusions

When magma flows in relatively thin sheets (<5 m), the resulting magnetic fabrics are more uniform than in thicker sheets, which can be due to: (1) magnetic fabrics in a larger part of the chilled margin in thinner sheets may record primary magma flow (e.g., Philpotts and Philpotts, 2007; Magee et al., 2016b); (2) thicker sheets have the potential to undergo thermal convection, which will overprint emplacement-related laminar flow fabrics (e.g., Holness et al., 2017); and (3) thicker sheets may comprise multiple magma pulses, with each pulse having its own magnetic fabric characteristics (e.g., Magee et al., 2016b). Although the magma fingers described here are relatively thin (~ 0.3 – 1.2 m), their magnetic fabrics show a range of fairly defined patterns and are not uniform (Fig. 13A). If magma flow in elongate elements is comparable to laminar fluid flow in a pipe, velocity profiles are expected to be axisymmetric with shapes that will vary depending on the fluid rheology (e.g., Pinho and Whitelaw, 1990). In such cases, imbricate fabrics are

expected to form along the intrusion margin. However, cyclic particle rotation, a stable orientation of particles in a plane of constant magma velocity, or consecutive flow processes (i.e., primary magma flow and horizontal/vertical intrusion inflation) can overprint fabrics caused by laminar flow and may explain irregular fabrics in elements (e.g., Jeffery, 1922; Cañón-Tapia and Chávez-
5 Álvarez, 2004). Due to the five distinct fabric patterns which are observed in similar sample locations in both individual and coalesced magma fingers, we consider it unlikely that these fabrics represent a similar stage of cyclic particle rotation. Instead, the distinct patterns in magnetic fabrics observed in the magma fingers suggest that: (1) magma flow in elongate elements is more complex than in planar sheet intrusions; and (2) magnetic fabrics record other syn-emplacement processes
10 such as intrusion inflation rather than primary magma flow as discussed above (Fig. 13).

5.5. Is flow in coalesced magma fingers sheet-like or localized?

Our data suggest that distinct emplacement processes operated during the intrusion of the Shonkin Sag magma fingers, associated with varying flow kinematics within coalesced magma fingers.
15 These findings highlight the importance of sample locations and densities when interpreting magnetic- and petro-fabrics, especially within elongate elements and/or sheet intrusions comprising coalesced elements. We compared the fabric types observed in discrete (II and JJ) and coalesced (Hb and Hc) magma fingers and found that they reflect similar magma emplacement processes such as along-finger primary magma flow and both horizontal and/or vertical inflation.
20 However, magnetic fabrics oriented oblique to the long axis of magma fingers Hb and Hc (Hb1, Hb3, Hbc5, Hbc6) suggest more complex and locally varying magma flow where magma fingers coalesce (Fig. 10B). Such complex flow patterns may result from: (1) oblique flow between adjacent magma fingers (Fig. 13C) (Hoyer and Watkeys, 2017; Martin et al., 2019); (2) locally turbulent flow due to the intrusion and connector geometry (Andersson et al., 2016); (3) flow
25 localization due to closure of a connector caused by increased crystallinity (Holness and Humphreys, 2003; Magee et al., 2016b) (Fig. 13C); or (4) varying magma rheology, temperature, or velocity between the adjacent magma fingers (Magee et al., 2013, 2016b). Based on the data presented here, both sheet-like and localized magma flow in coalesced magma fingers is likely to have occurred. However, although samples within (Hbc5, Hbc6) and in the vicinity (Hb1, Hb3) to

the step between Fingers Hb and Hc may be affected by local oblique magma flow between fingers, most of the fabrics observed in coalesced fingers are comparable to those in discrete examples. This suggests that along-magma finger flow and intrusion inflation within a coalesced finger remained considerably isolated and may imply a potential localized flow regime (Fig. 13C).

- 5 Identifying areas of sheet-like or localized magma flow within coalesced elements has implications for the emplacement of, and related magma flow pathways within sheet intrusions, which contributes to knowledge on sheet intrusion architecture and trans-crustal magma plumbing systems. These findings can be applied to the exploration of economic sulfide (Ni-Cu-Co-PGE) ore deposits, which are often linked to areas of both localized magma flow and high magma flux
- 10 (e.g., Barnes et al., 2016). Localized, high magma flux can cause mechanical erosion and subsequent incorporation of the surrounding host rock into the magma, and as such, this process can contribute to accommodating the intruding magma and to increasing the crustal sulfur content (e.g., Gauert et al., 1996; Barnes et al., 2016). Understanding if and where in sheet intrusions magma flow may localize can therefore help to improve strategies for Ni-Cu-Co-PGE exploration.
- 15 On a crustal-scale, identifying flow kinematics within both individual and coalesced elements contributes to unravelling magma transport within large magma plumbing systems. For example, inclined to sub-vertical elements can act as feeders within interconnected sill networks, contributing to vertical magma transport (Guo et al., 2013; Magee et al., 2014). At shallow levels, this localized magma flow within elements and sheet intrusions may further result in horizontally
- 20 distributed fissure eruptions at the Earth's surface. Understanding where in sheet intrusions magma flow can localize therefore is important for characterizing the architecture of and the internal magma transport within both individual and interconnected sheet intrusions.

6. Conclusions

- 25 We analyzed the AMS in four sample groups from the Shonkin Sag laccolith (Highwood Mountains, Montana, USA) and from samples from two isolated and two coalesced magma fingers that emerge from the laccolith's SE margin. The results suggest that the Shonkin Sag laccolith was fed by a NE-SW striking dyke, which is part of the swarm that radiates from the Highwood

Mountains. The SE trending magma fingers at the SE margin of the laccolith are close to perpendicular to the inferred feeder-dyke. The AMS of samples from the magma fingers indicate magnetic fabrics that vary over short distances (i.e., less than 20 cm) that we interpret to reflect: (1) primary magma flow, which is mainly recorded in the upper and lower intrusion margins; and (2) syn-magmatic emplacement processes such as horizontal and/or vertical intrusion inflation, which is mainly observed at the lateral tips and cores of the fingers. We classified five distinct fabric patterns, which we ascribe to fabric overprinting during different stages of magma finger emplacement, namely along-finger primary magma flow and intrusion inflation. Silicate petrofabrics obtained from high-resolution 3-D X-ray computed tomography data are similar to the magnetic fabrics determined for the magma fingers. Differences between magnetic fabric and petrofabric orientations may result from increased crystallization, which results in grain interaction and jams up individual grains of the silicate framework, whereas small magnetite grains remain mobile and re-align according to magma emplacement processes. Within the connector between two coalesced magma fingers, magnetic lineation and foliation are oblique to the finger long axis, which suggests potential local crossflow between magma fingers once they are coalesced. Despite this local crossflow between coalesced fingers, magnetic fabrics suggest that magma flow may localize in each particular coalesced finger. The range of rock fabrics obtained from the magma fingers highlights the importance of sample locations when using AMS data to interpret primary magma flow. This is particularly important for elongate elements and sheet intrusions that comprise amalgamated elements, and has important implications for understanding their internal flow kinematics. The occurrence of distinct fabric types and fabric overprinting within a small area of a magma finger, as discussed in this contribution, may also imply that uniform data from larger sheet intrusions only reflect part of the intrusion emplacement history. This raises the question regarding at what point during intrusion emplacement the more complex fabric pattern are overprinted and become erased from the strain record? Our magnetic- and petro-fabric data reveal the interplay between competing forces during magma emplacement (i.e., along-finger flow and finger inflation), and imply processes that have been previously unrecognized. These magma emplacement processes and the overprinting of earlier magma flow kinematics should be considered when interpreting data from large-scale sheet intrusions.

Supplemental Material

Supplemental Material are available on the figshare repository,
<https://doi.org/10.26180/17108447.v1> (“Supplemental Material 3”).

S1: Table with coordinates of sample locations

5 S2: Table with AMS measurements of all individual specimens

S3: Table with SPO measurements of all individual grains

S4: Volume measurements of individual phases based on HRXRCT scans

S5: Raw BSE images of magnetite grain shown in Figure 4 I

10 **Acknowledgments**

We are grateful to the landowners Robert W. Ebeling, Holly Ebeling, and Jo Alice Juedeman for permitting access to the stunning cliff faces of the Shonkin Sag laccolith. We thank David Lageson for providing the portable drill used to collect rock samples. All drill holes in magma fingers produced during this study were subsequently infilled following the code of conduct for rock
15 coring. We are grateful to Belinda Godel and Anja Slim for help with processing and analyzing HRXRCT data, Barbara Etschman for SEM analyses, and Uchitha Nissanka Arachchige for field assistance. JK acknowledges a Monash Graduate Scholarship and a Graduate Research Completion Award. ARC and CM acknowledge support from ARC Discovery Grant DP 190102422.

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