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Volatile composition of the phonolitic Laacher See magma (12,900 yr BP): implications for syn-eruptive degassing of S, F, Cl and H₂O

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Abstract A volatile-rich and chemically zoned phonolitic magma reservoir was tapped successively during the eruption of Laacher See volcano ca. 12,900 years BP and produced a tephra sequence consisting of phenocryst-poor, highly evolved phonolite at the base and phenocryst-rich, more mafic phonolite at the top. The stratospheric volatile loading was estimated by comparing pre- and post-eruptive S, F, Cl and H₂O contents of undegassed glass inclusions and partially degassed matrix glasses. Glass inclusions (150–1490 ppm S) and host matrix glasses (150–820 ppm S) both document a strong S decrease during progressive magmatic differentiation, which is interpreted to be partially caused by crystallization of hauyne. The S⁶⁺/S_{total} ratio of the pre-eruptive melt increased with differentiation from 8 to 71%, as indicated by S κ wavelength shift measurements in glass inclusions. Sulfate-rich, highly evolved phonolitic magma was erupted during Plinian and sulfide-rich, more mafic phonolitic magma during late phreatomagmatic phases. F and Cl became enriched during late stages of differentiation (glass inclusions: 690–4060 ppm F, 1770–4400 ppm Cl; matrix glasses: 680–3660 ppm F, 2130–4330 ppm Cl). The most differentiated melts (maximum 13 wt% Na₂O) occur only as matrix glass and are extremely F enriched (5080–8780 ppm) but Cl depleted (460–2820 ppm), suggesting that F was retained in the melt, whereas some Cl was lost during pre- and/or syn-eruptive degassing. The H₂O contents of glass inclusions increase irregularly with differentiation (2.5–5.7 wt%). Matrix glasses are H₂O

depleted (0.2–2.8 wt%) compared to most glass inclusions, showing that most H₂O was released to the atmosphere by explosive degassing. A mass balance calculation yields a syn-eruptive volatile release of 1.9 Tg S_{total}, 6.6 Tg Cl and 403 Tg H₂O from the melt. This is a minimum estimate, since S and Cl could have accumulated in a separate fluid phase as indicated by fluid inclusions in hauyne and pre-eruptive H₂O contents close to saturation level at the likely pressure-temperature conditions in the Laacher See magma reservoir. We estimate that at least ca. 20 Tg SO₂ were injected into the stratosphere causing a significant negative climate forcing as reflected by several paleoclimate proxies and as shown by recent modeling.

Introduction

Plinian eruptions of volatile-rich, highly evolved magmas are the most effective natural system for transporting volatiles from the Earth's interior to the stratosphere. Rapid injection of water, halogens, and sulfur can lead to formation of solid and liquid aerosols and significantly affect global climate and the stability of the global ozone layer (Brasseur and Granier 1992). For example, the negative radiative forcing following the 1991 eruption of Mt. Pinatubo, resulting from the worldwide distribution of sulfate aerosols, was estimated at –0.4 °C and remained significant through 1993 (McCormick et al. 1995). Large historic Plinian eruptions have repeatedly caused severe perturbations of the global atmosphere (e.g., the “year without summer” following the 1815 eruption of Tambora; Stothers 1984). The most useful approach to estimate volcanic volatile discharges, prior to use of remote sensing methods (e.g., TOMS satellite) and lacking ice core records, is to determine volatile contents in glass inclusions and matrix glasses coupled with determining volumes of tephra deposits. The eruption of Laacher See volcano has been assumed for some time to have affected the climate based on several proxies as discussed below. Based on

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earlier studies of the volcanic, mineralogical and chemical evolution of this strongly zoned phonolitic magma system (Bogaard and Schmincke 1984, 1985; Wörner and Schmincke 1984a,b) we have used volatile contents of glass inclusions (undegassed melt) and matrix glasses (partially degassed melt), together with a new estimate of the erupted magma volume, to infer the pre-eruptive volatile gradient established during magmatic differentiation and to estimate the minimum syn-eruptive degassing of S, F, Cl and H₂O from the melt during the Plinian eruption of Laacher See volcano.

Geologic background

A large volume of chemically zoned, phonolitic magma was erupted from Laacher See volcano 12,900 years BP, resulting in a tephra layer that is widely dispersed across central Europe (Bogaard and Schmincke 1984, 1985; Bogaard 1995; Schmincke et al. in press; Fig. 1). The proximal tephra sequence is subdivided into three major units: Lower Laacher See Tephra (LLST, first Plinian stage, dominantly fallout except for the proximal facies), Middle Laacher See Tephra (MLST A-C, second Plinian stage, dominantly pyroclastic flows in the lower and alternating fallout and flow in the upper part) and Upper Laacher See Tephra (ULST, phreatomagmatic stage with dominantly surge breccias, dunes and flows) (Fig. 2).

Three aspects of the eruption are especially relevant to estimate the volatile flux into the stratosphere: (1) eruption mechanisms; (2) height of the eruption column; (3) magma volume erupted. The

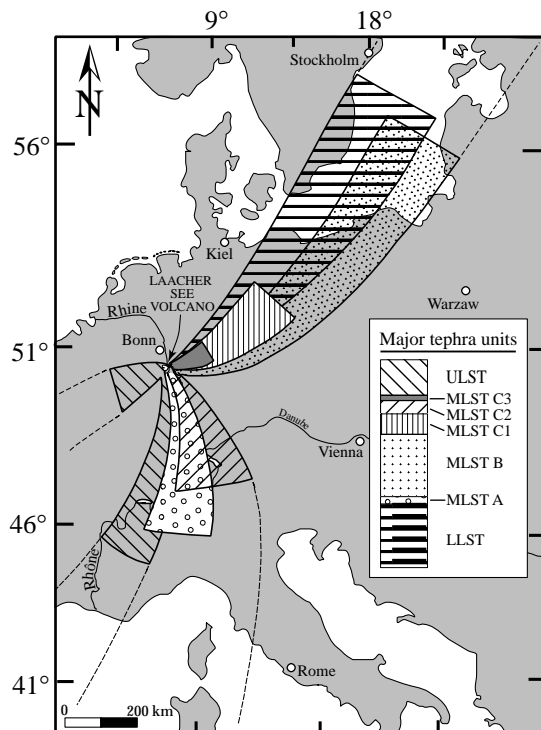


Fig. 1 Areal distribution of Laacher See Tephra (LST) in central Europe (Bogaard and Schmincke 1985). Stratigraphic section is normalized to relative magma volumes (dense rock equivalent) of major tephra units LLST, MLST A-C and ULST

Fig. 2 Stratigraphy of proximal Laacher See Tephra (Mendig and Krüfter Ofen facies; Schmincke et al. 1973; Bogaard and Schmincke 1985). Samples were collected from all major and most sub-units of the entire tephra sequence. Representative samples are shown at the *left* and *right* of both columns (see also Table 2). Entire sample suite is given in Harms (1998)

bulk of the magma was erupted pyroclastically, but part of the magma was erupted phreatomagmatically during the very beginning of the eruption, the early MLST and, most importantly, the entire ULST (Schmincke et al. 1973). The eruption column height was estimated by plotting maximum pumice and lithic clast sizes versus dispersal area, based on the model of Carey and Sparks (1986) which relates the maximum clast size dispersal to column height and wind strength. Our estimates are 13–21 km for Plinian LLST and 20–22 km for Plinian MLST B. The maximum height of the Plinian eruption column was estimated at 34–39 km, based on mass eruption rates of $3\text{--}5 \times 10^8 \text{ kg} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ (Bogaard and Schmincke 1985). A straight-line model based on plots of log thickness versus area^{1/2} (Pyle 1995; Fierstein and Nathenson 1992) using the thickness data reported in Bogaard (1983) yields a total volume of 6.3 km³ erupted magma (dense rock equivalent, DRE) which exceeds the volume previously estimated (5.15 km³, Bogaard and Schmincke 1985). The Plinian phases LLST to MLST B lasted for 6 to 10 hours, based on the high mass eruption rates and the duration of analogous Plinian eruptions (Bogaard and Schmincke 1985). Park and Schmincke (1997) considered a duration of several days more likely based on reconstruction of a large lake formed by damming of the Rhine River behind a large tephra dam and syn-eruptive collapse with post-collapse final eruptions possibly lasting several weeks. In assessing the total volatiles released during the eruption, it is also important to stress that the Laacher See eruption successively tapped a strongly compositionally zoned magma column from the top (nearly aphyric, highly differentiated phonolite represented in LLST) towards lower levels (crystal-rich mafic phonolite represented in ULST) (Wörner and Schmincke 1984a, b).

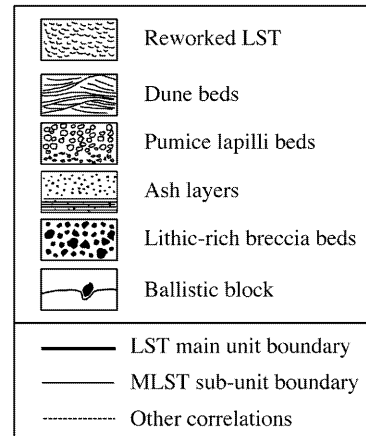
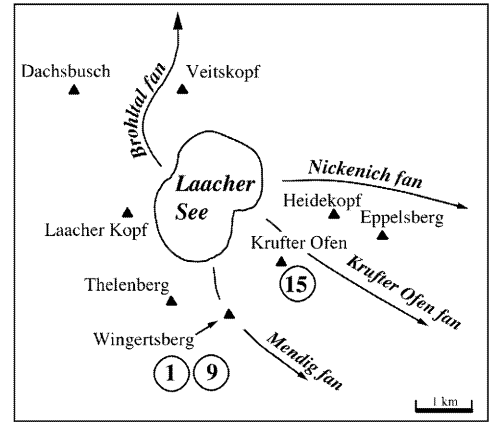
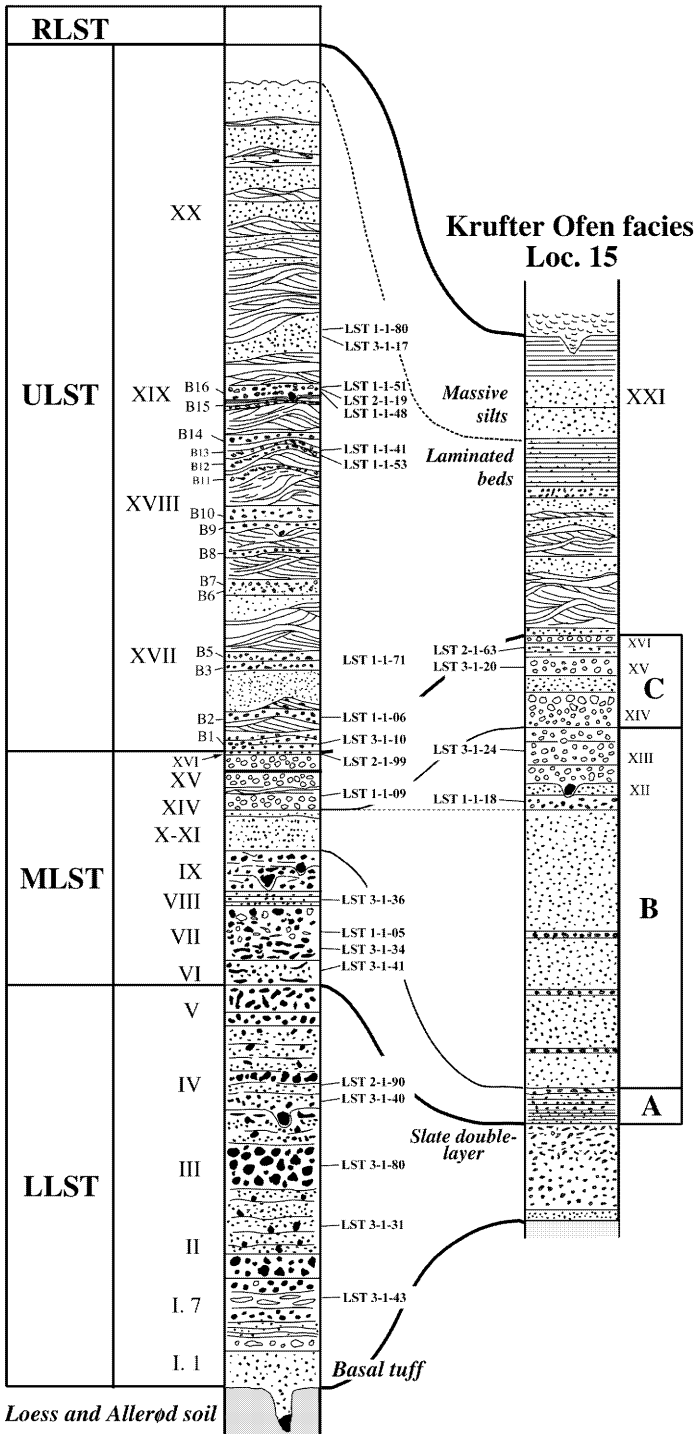
Sample collection and analytical methods

Fallout pumice lapilli and felsic cumulates were taken in several proximal tephra pits covering the entire Laacher See tephra sequence (Fig. 2). Single pumice clasts and cumulates were gently crushed and phenocrysts separated by handpicking under distilled water to identify glass inclusions. Phenocrysts and pumice chips were fixed in epoxy resin and polished to expose glass inclusions and matrix glass.

Major element analyses were carried out with a CAMECA SX50 wavelength dispersive electron microprobe at GEOMAR Research Center, Kiel. Analytical conditions were 15 kV accelerating voltage and a beam current of 6 nA. A rastering electron beam (15 µm in diameter) was used for glass analyses in order to minimize Na migration, which was among the first elements measured during an analysis. Glass inclusion analyses were corrected for Na migration and consequent Si and Al increase (e.g., Devine et al. 1995; Nielsen and Sigurdsson 1981). Major elements were measured for 20 s, F and Cl for 30 s and for S for 300 s to improve the detection limit (145 ppm) at the analytical conditions used. Oxide concentrations were calculated following the PAP method (Pouchou and Pichoir 1984). Relative analytical precision was <2% for Si and Al, <3% for Na and K, <4% for Ti, <6% for Fe, <12% for Mg, <7% for S, <3% for F and <6% for Cl, based on repeated analyses of reference glasses (CFA 47 2, KE 12, KN 18 and ALV 981 R23; Mètrich and Clacchiatti 1989) and minerals (SI-F-apatite, SI-scapolite, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.).

H⁺ was determined with a CAMECA IMS-4f ion microprobe at the Institute of Microelectronics at Yaroslavl (Russia). The

**Mendig facies
(Loc. 1 and 9)**



technique is described in detail in Sobolev and Batanova (1995). Briefly, samples were gold-coated and sputtered with an O⁻ primary beam of 20 μm size in diameter at 5–7 nA. An average value of five cycles was used to calculate the H⁺ content ratioed to ³⁰Si. The calibration curve for H⁺/³⁰Si was checked by using rhyolite reference material with 0.16–4.72 wt% H₂O (VNM50-15, 498, 508; Devine et al. 1995) and phonolite references (105, 117; Carroll and Blank 1997). The analytical error was < 10% for H⁺. Total H₂O

contents of glass inclusions and matrix glasses were also estimated by the difference between the total of an electron microprobe analysis and 100 wt% (so-called “difference method”, e.g., Devine et al. 1995). The analytical error, based on the standard deviation of the analysis total and glass references is ±0.4 wt%. It is assumed that the difference to 100 wt% is entirely attributed to total H₂O, since S, F, Cl and trace element contents (ca. 1500 ppm on average, based on SIMS (secondary ion mass spectrometry) anal-

ysis of glass inclusions and matrix glasses) are taken into account. The CO_2 contents of whole rocks determined by XRF are low (100–500 ppm; Wörner and Schmincke 1984a) and very probably do not contribute a significant error to the H_2O estimate. The H_2O contents determined by SIMS (1.5–5.5 wt%) agree well with H_2O contents estimated by the difference method (1.3–5.7 wt%). Oxygen isotopes show that matrix glasses from all tephra units were not secondarily altered or hydrated despite their high alkali contents (Wörner et al. 1987).

The relative proportion of $\text{S}^{6+}/\text{S}_{\text{total}}$ in the pre-eruptive melt was estimated by determining the shift of the $\text{S } K\alpha$ wavelength peak position in glass inclusions (Carroll and Rutherford 1988). It is assumed that the amount of the wavelength shift is linearly proportional to the sulfur fraction present as sulfate. If S^{6+} and S^{2-} are the only S-species present in the melt, then the apparent wavelength shift reflects the superposition of the S^{6+} and S^{2-} peaks and the growth of one peak at the expense of the other (Nilsson and Peach 1993). Barite and sphalerite were used as references for pure sulfate and sulfide peak positions, respectively. For each point in the step-scan, the analyzing crystals (PET) on two spectrometers were moved simultaneously in 0.00005 $\sin \theta$ steps over the $\sin \theta$ range of 0.61320 to 0.61480.

Texture of glass inclusions

Glass inclusions are present in all major phenocrysts of the Laacher See phonolite (amphibole, clinopyroxene, hauyne, plagioclase, sanidine, magnetite and titanite; Fig. 3). In LLST and MLST A/B, however, most glass inclusions occur in amphibole and clinopyroxene, and are absent in sanidine and plagioclase. Their sizes vary between 10 and 230 μm in diameter, and most of them are 10–50 μm in diameter. Many hauyne crystals contain bands of up to several hundred extremely small glass inclusions ($< 1 \mu\text{m}$) outlining growth zones. Most inclusions are pale brown to brown, sub-round to round and contain undevitrified glass, indicating rapid quenching (Beddoe-Stephens et al. 1983; Dunbar and

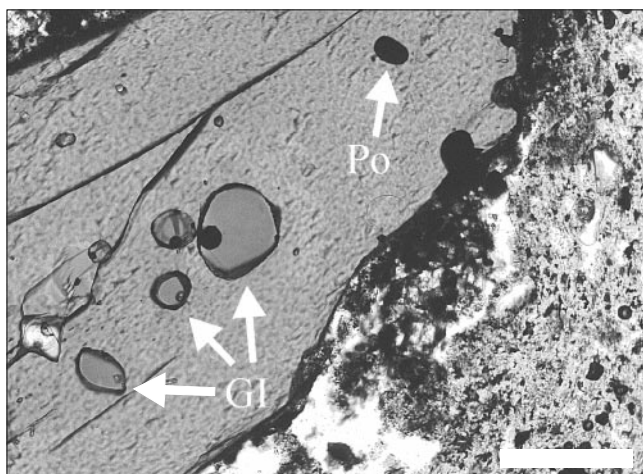


Fig. 3 Clinopyroxene with several glass inclusions (GI), surrounded by crystal-rich matrix glass. A black pyrrhotite globule (Po) at the upper right shows that an immiscible sulfide melt was trapped during growth of the host phase (sample LST 3-1-10, ULST-B1). Bar at lower right is 100 μm

Kyle 1992). The volumes of bubbles in glass inclusions span a wide range between 0 and 10%, most being $\leq 2\%$. Thus, bubble formation of many inclusions was probably caused by differential contraction of host phase and trapped melt during quenching upon eruption. Vesicle volumes $\geq 2\%$ indicate volatile-oversaturation during pressure release and exsolution of a H_2O -rich volatile phase until the glass transition temperature was reached. Fluid inclusions in hauyne further suggest the presence of a fluid phase during formation of the host crystal and heterogeneous trapping of silicate melt and fluid.

Many glass inclusions in all host phases are only partially decrepitated. Major element compositions do not vary systematically with size of the inclusions. Hence, the melt was not significantly modified during entrapment (“boundary layer buildup”, Lu et al. 1995). Potential host wall crystallization does not exceed 1–2%, because corrections for higher amounts of incremental host crystallization produced major element compositions that are neither present in whole rocks nor in glass inclusions and matrix glasses of the entire tephra sequence. This indicates that the glass inclusions studied closely approximate melt compositions at the time of entrapment.

Results

Chemical zonation of the Laacher See magma column

The Laacher See tephra sequence shows an inverted cross section through part of a zoned phonolitic magma reservoir. Highly differentiated phonolitic magma (represented in LLST, 10.4–11.7 wt% Na_2O , 0.7–1.1 wt% CaO , 1371–2614 ppm Zr) was erupted from the top levels during early Plinian phases, whereas mafic phonolitic magma (represented in ULST, 4.9–5.8 wt% Na_2O , 3.3 wt% CaO , 257–283 ppm Zr) was tapped during late phreatomagmatic phases of the eruption (Wörner and Schmincke 1984a). The chemical zonation is postulated to have been formed by fractional crystallization of the observed phenocryst assemblage (Wörner and Schmincke 1984b). The compositions of most glass inclusions and matrix glasses from the same tephra unit are identical within the analytical error and reflect a chemical gradient that is essentially identical to the bulk rock trend presented in Wörner and Schmincke (1984a) (Fig. 4). Several glass inclusions from MLST A/B and LLST are less differentiated, however, than the adjacent matrix glass. Some amphibole- and clinopyroxene-hosted glass inclusions from LLST IV even document almost the full chemical variation observed in the entire tephra sequence. This cannot be explained by in-situ fractionation, since the modal phenocryst content in LLST is $< 2 \text{ vol.}\%$. This indicates that several phenocrysts with mafic phonolitic glass inclusions were separated from their host melt fraction represented in ULST and MLST C and were redistributed within the

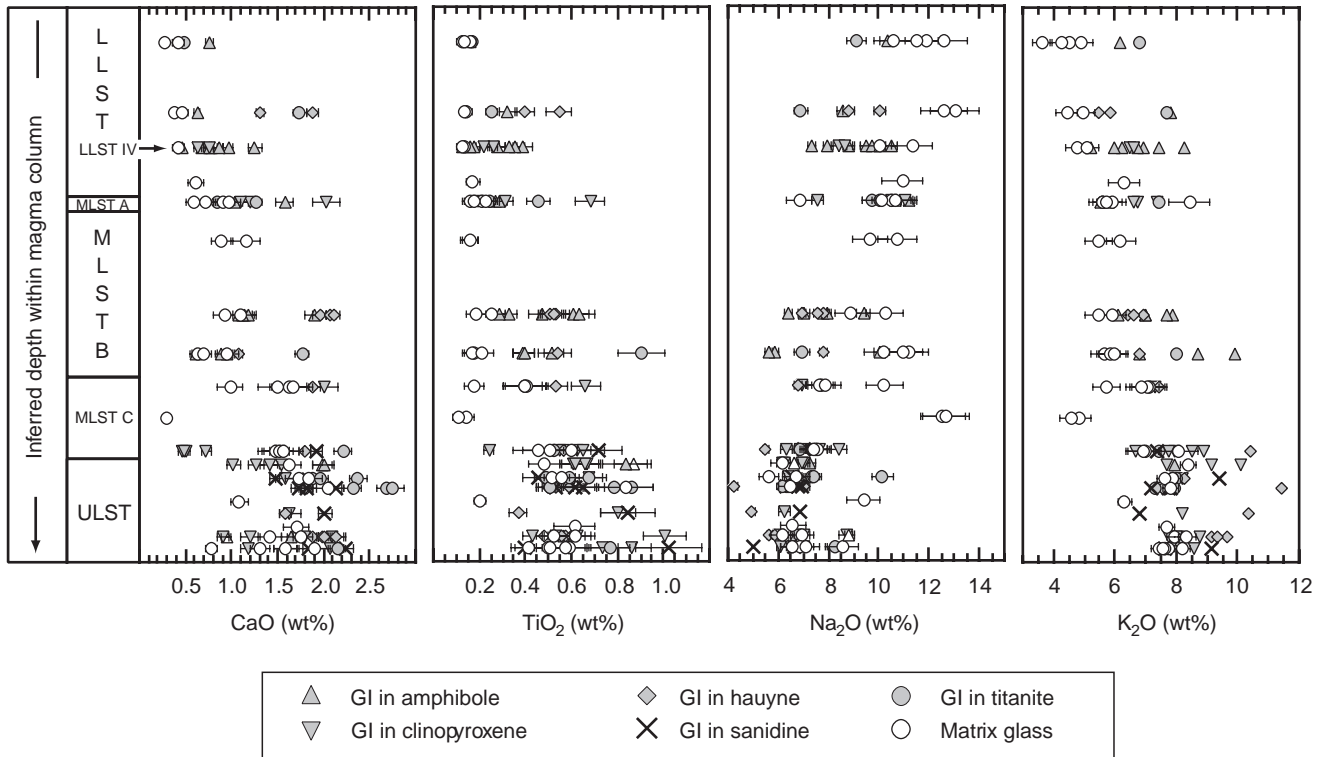


Fig. 4 CaO, TiO₂, Na₂O and K₂O of glass inclusions and matrix glasses, plotted versus the *inverted* section of the Laacher See tephra sequence. Section is normalized to relative magma volumes of LLST, MLST and ULST

chemically stratified magma column. The Na₂O and K₂O contents systematically change during magmatic differentiation. This helps to constrain the pre- and post-eruptive S, F, Cl and H₂O gradient from mafic to highly

differentiated phonolite (Fig. 5). Glass inclusions and matrix glasses with identical Na₂O/K₂O ratios are assumed to represent melt fractions from the same stage of differentiation. Hence, differential volatile concentrations of those inclusions and matrix glasses are attributed to syn-eruptive degassing of the melt.

Most strikingly, the least differentiated melt fractions (ca. 5.0–6.5 wt% Na₂O, 8.5–10 wt% K₂O) are only represented by glass inclusions, whereas highly differentiated melt fractions (ca. 11–13 wt% Na₂O, 3.5–5.0 wt% K₂O) are preserved only as matrix glasses (Fig. 5). In other words, the early volatile evolution prior to extensive fractional crystallization is documented, whereas the late pre-eruptive volatile evolution cannot be inferred, since glass inclusions from the last stages of differentiation are lacking.

Pre- and post-eruptive volatile zonation

Sulfur

The S content in mafic phonolitic glass inclusions increases irregularly from 150 to 1490 ppm, parallel to a slight increase of the Na₂O/K₂O ratio (0.3–1.2; Fig. 6). Host matrix glasses from ULST and MLST C show nearly the same trend and overlap with many glass inclusions (150–940 ppm S). Highly differentiated glass inclusions (Na₂O/K₂O = 1.5–1.9) are uniformly S poor (160–310 ppm S), similar to matrix glasses from MLST A/B and LLST (Na₂O/K₂O = 1.5–3.2; 145–390 ppm S). The S contents of interstitial glasses in cumulate rocks, believed to represent the crystallizing boundary

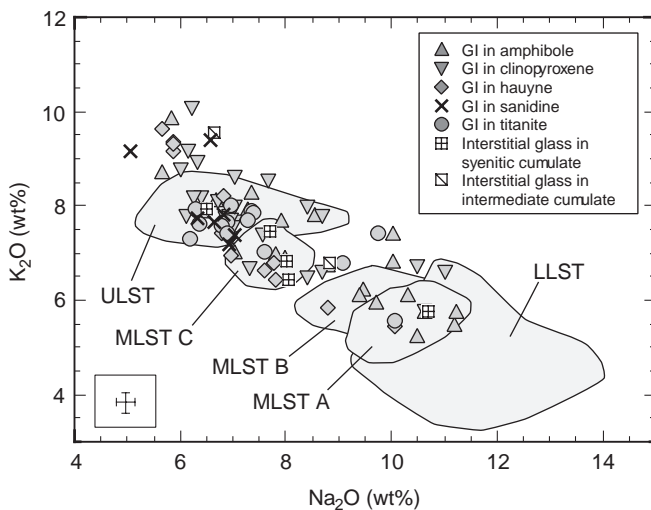


Fig. 5 Na₂O versus K₂O in glass inclusions, matrix glasses and interstitial glasses in cumulates. Shaded areas cover the Na₂O and K₂O variation in matrix glasses from LLST to ULST including standard deviation ($\pm 1\sigma$). Error bars in the inset at lower left refer to the average standard deviation ($\pm 1\sigma$) in glass inclusions and interstitial glasses in cumulates

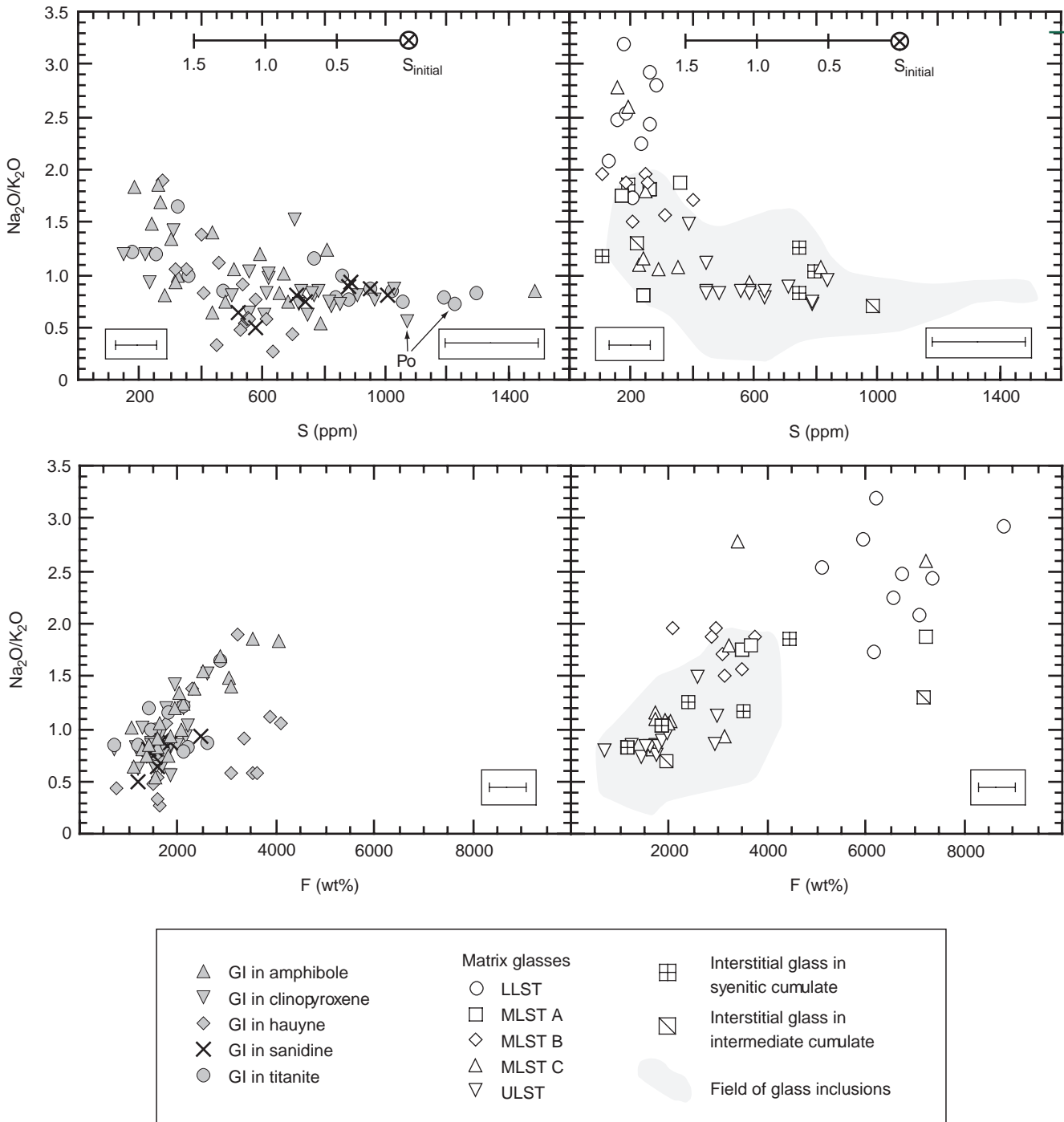


Fig. 6 S and F contents versus $\text{Na}_2\text{O}/\text{K}_2\text{O}$ ratio in glass inclusions (GI; left diagram) and matrix glasses (right diagram). The average standard deviations ($\pm 1\sigma$) for lower (ca. 150–400 ppm S) and high S contents (>400 ppm S) are shown in the insets at lower left and right. S depletion of the mafic phonolite melt was calculated for 0.5–1.5 vol.% hauyne crystallization. S_{initial} refers to the maximum S content at the postulated onset of hauyne formation (1070 ppm). (Po glass inclusion with pyrrhotite globule). See text for discussion

and at the margin of the Laacher See magma body (Fig. 6). The covariance of strongly varying S contents of glass inclusions and matrix glasses from the same stages of differentiation demonstrates that the S contents were zoned prior to eruption and S was lost from the melt prior to eruption.

layer of the chamber margin (Tait 1988; Tait et al. 1989), decrease with increasing magmatic differentiation ($\text{Na}_2\text{O}/\text{K}_2\text{O} = 0.7\text{--}1.8$; <145–940 ppm S). Thus, a strong S-zonation had developed both in the interior

Fluorine

The F contents of all mafic phonolitic glass inclusions with a low $\text{Na}_2\text{O}/\text{K}_2\text{O}$ ratio vary between 690 and

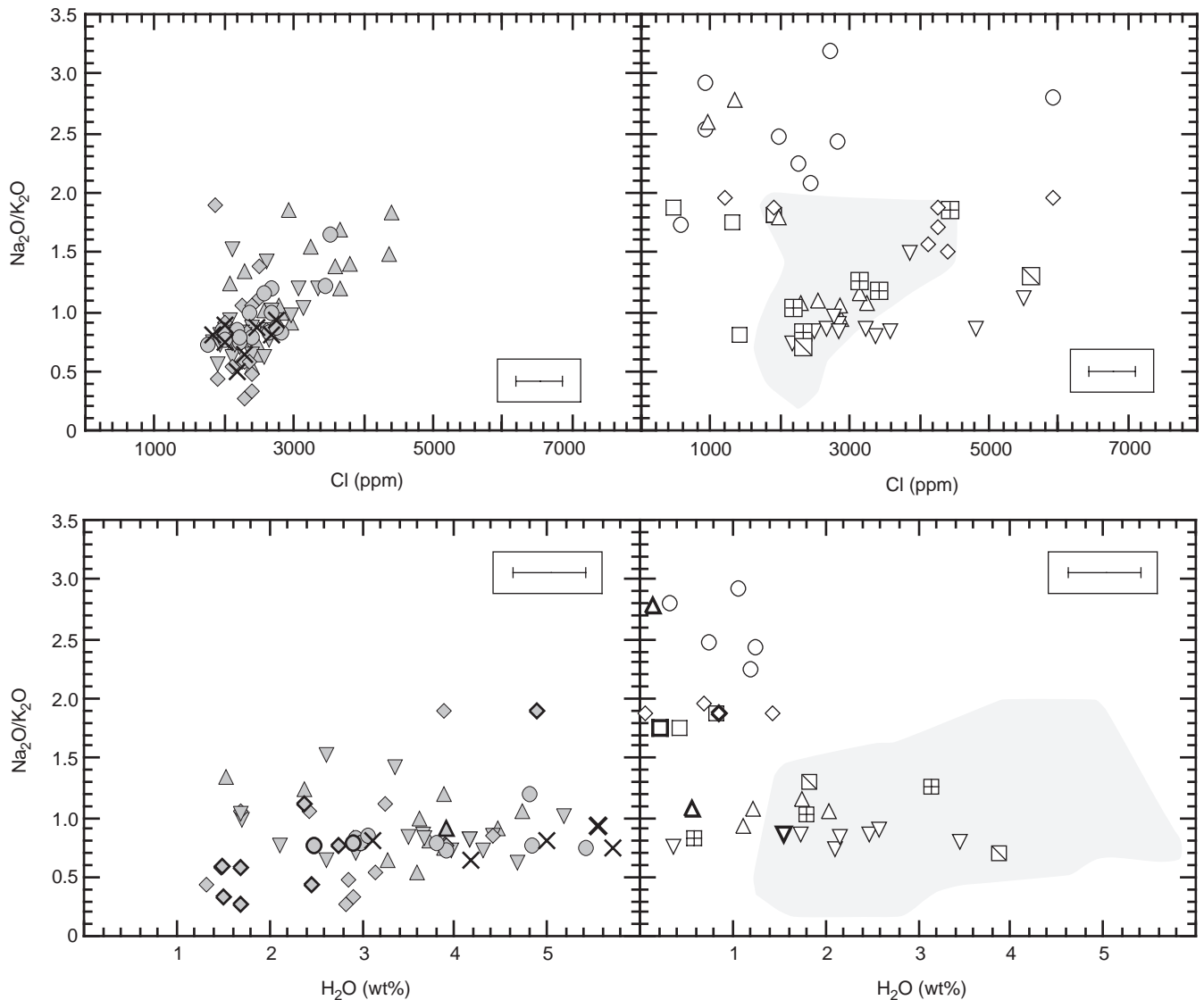
2580 ppm and completely overlap with host matrix glasses (680–2910 ppm). Only some hauyne-hosted glass inclusions are F enriched (3070–4120 ppm) (Fig. 6). A distinct F increase is recorded in highly differentiated glass inclusions in amphibole (2530–4060 ppm) and host matrix glasses (2010–3660 ppm). Highly differentiated matrix glasses, mostly from LLST, are extremely F enriched (5080–8780 ppm) compared to less differentiated inclusions and matrix glasses (Fig. 6). Fluorine is also strongly concentrated in interstitial glasses in cumulate rocks (1150–7090 ppm). The high F contents in the most evolved matrix glasses indicate that F was further enriched after formation of the highly differentiated melt

(glass) inclusions studied and not removed from the melt by crystallization of amphibole (1670–4060 ppm F) and apatite (1.23–1.45 wt% F). We infer that F did not degas significantly during eruption.

Chlorine

The Cl contents of mafic phonolitic glass inclusions cluster between 1770 and 2950 ppm and overlap with those of the host matrix glasses (2130–3540 ppm Cl). Several host matrix glasses from ULST are, however, Cl enriched compared to the inclusions (3150–5350 ppm Cl). Most glass inclusions in amphibole document a distinct Cl increase (2200–4400 ppm) with progressive differentiation (8–10.5 wt% Na₂O) that is also recorded in host matrix glasses (2130–4330 ppm Cl) (Fig. 7). Some highly differentiated glass inclusions are, however, Cl depleted (1880–2920 ppm), similar to most host matrix glasses (460–2820 ppm). This suggests that the Laacher See melt lost some Cl during late magmatic

Fig. 7 Cl and H₂O versus Na₂O/K₂O ratio in glass inclusions (*left diagram*) and matrix glasses (*right diagram*). *Bold symbols* refer to H₂O determined by SIMS, all other symbols to H₂O estimated by difference method. Error bars in the H₂O versus Na₂O/K₂O diagram show the standard deviation of the microprobe total (± 0.4 wt%). The error of the H₂O contents determined by SIMS is $\pm 10\%$. See Fig. 6 for symbol description



differentiation and probably also upon eruption. The Cl contents of interstitial glasses in cumulate rocks correlate positively with the $\text{Na}_2\text{O}/\text{K}_2\text{O}$ ratio (2130–5540 ppm), indicating that the magma column was zoned with respect to Cl at the crystallizing chamber margin, similar to S and F. Amphibole is incompatible for Cl in the Laacher See magma (220–730 ppm Cl). Apatites are found only in traces (Wörner and Schmincke 1984a) and therefore also did not contribute to a Cl depletion.

H_2O

The H_2O contents of glass inclusions vary between 1.5 and 5.5 wt%, as determined by SIMS, which corresponds well with the H_2O contents estimated by the difference method (1.3–5.7 wt%) (Fig. 7). Such a large variation could reflect a local heterogeneous H_2O distribution in the melt (Dunbar and Hervig 1992; Stix and Layne 1996). Most glass inclusions in amphibole, clinopyroxene, hauyne and sanidine are, however, partially decrepitated, which probably indicates partial loss of water through microfractures during eruption (Tait 1992). Hence, these glass inclusions have not preserved their original water contents and the strong variation likely reflects variable decrepitation.

The H_2O contents of matrix glasses from MLST C and ULST vary strongly between 0.4 and 2.7 wt%, which is probably due to incomplete degassing, because the magma was quenched by groundwater during phreatomagmatic phases. In contrast, matrix glasses from LLST and MLST A/B contain 0.2–1.5 wt% H_2O , indicating strong H_2O degassing during Plinian phases.

Evidence for an increase of oxygen fugacity during magmatic differentiation

Sulfur occurs as both sulfate (S^{6+}) and sulfide (S^{2-}) in silicate melts (e.g. Fincham and Richardson 1954; Puchelt and Hubberten 1980; Ueda and Sakai 1984; Carroll and Rutherford 1988; Wallace and Carmichael 1994). Estimates of the $\text{S}^{6+}/\text{S}_{\text{total}}$ ratio is of particular interest, since a quantification of sulfur released during explosive eruptions requires constraints on the S speciation in the melt prior to eruption (Carroll 1997).

Measurements of the $\text{Sk}\alpha$ wavelength shift in Laacher See glass inclusions suggest that the $\text{S}^{6+}/\text{S}_{\text{total}}$ ratio increased during magmatic differentiation from 8 to 30% (mafic phonolite, $\text{Na}_2\text{O}/\text{K}_2\text{O} = 0.55\text{--}0.85$) to 46 to 71% (highly differentiated phonolite, $\text{Na}_2\text{O}/\text{K}_2\text{O} = 1.15$ and 1.8; Fig. 8). Additional lines of evidence for an increase of the sulfate content include sulfide phases and the occurrence of hauyne in the crystal assemblage. Many amphibole, clinopyroxene, plagioclase and titanite crystals from ULST to MLST B contain numerous pyrrhotite globules (Fe_{1-x}S , <5–10 μm in diameter) representing a quenched immiscible sulfide melt (Fig. 3).

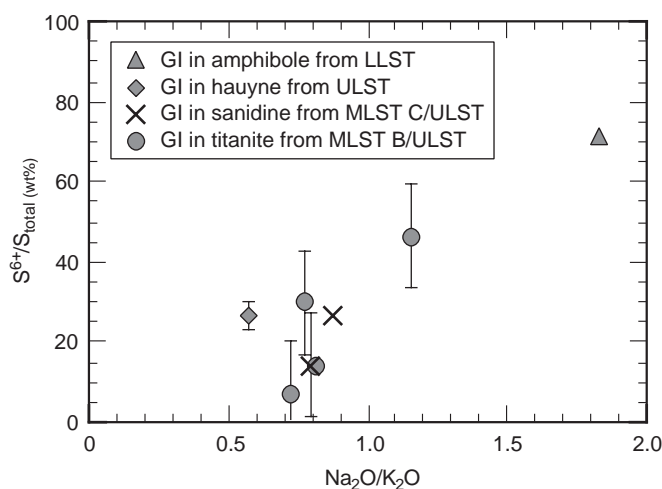


Fig. 8 Variation of $\text{S}^{6+}/\text{S}_{\text{total}}$ (%) versus $\text{Na}_2\text{O}/\text{K}_2\text{O}$ in glass inclusions (GI) from ULST, MLST B/C and LLST. Error bars refer to the uncertainty of the S^{6+} and S^{2-} peak positions measured on PET crystals on two spectrometers simultaneously. The errors for two inclusions in amphibole and titanite are unknown, because the scan data of only one spectrometer could be used for fitting the data via a Gaussian curve

Moreover, pyrrhotite is trapped in mafic phonolite glass inclusions, demonstrating that the Laacher See melt was FeS-saturated during early stages of differentiation. Most strikingly, Laacher See hauyne never contains pyrrhotite and is not found as inclusions in other crystals, indicating that hauyne crystallized sometime after formation of pyrrhotite-bearing phenocrysts. The occurrence of pyrrhotite-free hauyne in the crystal assemblage might reflect the transition from a sulfide-saturated to a sulfide-undersaturated melt during differentiation of the mafic phonolite. Pyrrhotite does not occur in matrix glasses, including the least differentiated mafic phonolite glasses. This shows that the crystallized sulfide had been resorbed during early stages of melt evolution. The generally lower S contents in glass inclusions in hauyne compared to those in co-existing clinopyroxene, titanite and sanidine further suggest that much of the hauyne could have crystallized later than OH-free phases (Fig. 6).

Pre-eruption H_2O enrichment in the Laacher See magma

Two mafic phonolitic glass inclusions in titanite from the ULST contain 2.5 and 2.9 wt% H_2O as determined by SIMS (Fig. 7). We assume that these inclusions record the H_2O content of the Laacher See magma during early fractionation stages, since they are vesicle-free, glassy, and lack microfractures. The ULST magma was probably held at a pressure of 120–140 MPa (Harms and Gardner in prep.). This implies a dissolved water content of 5.4–6.0 wt%, based on the solubility of water in phonolitic melts (Carroll and Blank 1997). Hence, the Laacher See magma was water-undersaturated during

early stages of differentiation. The high water contents of several mafic phonolitic glass inclusions in sanidine and titanite ($5.5\text{--}5.7 \pm 0.4$ wt%) indicate, however, that the water content increased during melt evolution and the melt was close to water saturation. The unsystematic variation of Cl observed in less differentiated glass inclusions (ca. 5–8 wt% Na₂O, Fig. 7) further suggests that the Laacher See melt could have been water-saturated during progressive stages of differentiation. Hauyne ($D_{\text{Cl}} = 1.01\text{--}1.52$) and apatite ($D_{\text{Cl}} = 0.91\text{--}1.37$) are the only phenocrysts slightly compatible for Cl (Harms 1998). It is, however, unlikely that they buffered the Cl content of the magma, since the modal content of hauyne (0.5–1.5 vol.%) and apatite ($\ll 1$ vol.%) is low. More likely, the Cl contents of mafic phonolitic glass inclusions were buffered by fractionation between melt and a H₂O-rich fluid phase.

Atmospheric volatile loading during the eruption of Laacher See volcano

In order to calculate the mass of magmatic volatiles released during explosive volcanic eruptions, volatile contents of non-degassed glass inclusions (pre-eruptive volatile content) and partially degassed host matrix glasses (post-eruptive volatile content) are compared. Differences in volatile contents, scaled to the erupted magma volume (DRE), allow us to estimate the volatile release from the melt upon eruption (petrologic method; e.g. Devine et al. 1984; Gerlach et al. 1994; Westrich and Gerlach 1992) using the following equation:

$$\text{Total volatile loss} = \Delta_{\text{volatile}} \times \rho_{\text{melt}} \times \phi_{\text{melt}} \times V_{\text{melt}} \quad (1)$$

with Δ_{volatile} = melt volatile loss, differential volatile concentrations in glass inclusions and matrix glasses, on average; $\rho_{\text{melt}} = 2.3 \times 10^{12}$ kg/km³, melt density, assuming 3.5 wt% melt-H₂O at 860 °C (Tait et al. 1989); ϕ_{melt} = melt fraction, 0.97 and 0.74, based on average phenocryst contents of 3 vol.% in LLST and MLST A/B and 26 vol.% in MLST C and ULST (Bogaard and Schmincke 1985); V_{melt} = erupted magma volume, vesicle-free, 4.04 km³ (LLST and MLST A/B), 2.26 km³ (MLST C and ULST).

This approach is based on the fundamental assumption that volatiles released upon eruption are derived from the volume of the erupted melt. Hence, the petrologic method yields only a minimum amount of the total volatile mass which was syn-eruptively degassed when excess gas is present.

Glass inclusions and matrix glasses selected for the volatile mass balance are representative melt fractions from the same stage of magmatic differentiation as indicated by similar Na₂O and K₂O contents (Fig. 5). The comparison between glass inclusions and host matrix glasses shows (Fig. 9):

1. The S contents of glass inclusions are only slightly higher than those of host matrix glasses from LLST and MLST A/B (50 ppm, on average), except in a single

glass inclusion in clinopyroxene (710 ppm S). This suggests minor syn-eruptive S-degassing of the highly differentiated phonolitic magma during the initial and major Plinian phases.

2. Most mafic phonolitic glass inclusions from MLST C and ULST contain, on average, 400 ppm more S than host matrix glasses, indicating that S was predominantly released during late phases of the eruption.

3. The F contents of glass inclusions and host matrix glasses from ULST to LLST do not differ significantly. Matrix glasses from LLST and MLST A/B appear to be F enriched compared to glass inclusions, implying that the melt retained its F content during magmatic differentiation and eruption.

4. The Cl contents of most matrix glasses are identical to those of glass inclusions. Some matrix glasses contain more Cl than glass inclusions from the same stage of differentiation. Only some highly differentiated matrix glasses from MLST A and LLST are depleted in Cl compared to glass inclusions. This indicates that Cl was released during Plinian phases, whereas Cl was retained during late phases of the eruption.

5. The H₂O concentrations in glass inclusions from LLST to ULST are generally higher than in host matrix glasses, implying that the melt lost most of its H₂O during eruption.

Mass balance calculations yield a magmatic volatile release of 1.9 Tg S_{total} (0.45 Tg during Plinian and 1.45 Tg during late phases), 6.6 Tg Cl (Plinian phases only) and 403 Tg H₂O (307 Tg during Plinian and 96 Tg during late phases, Table 1). The molecular form of S degassing during the eruption of Laacher See volcano is uncertain. Most likely, sulfates were also degassed together with the major S-compound SO₂, particularly during Plinian phases when sulfate-rich melt was tapped from the upper levels of the reservoir. This is indicated by the high proportion of S⁶⁺ (up to 71%, Fig. 8) in highly differentiated glass inclusions.

Sulfur mass balance

Studies of recent eruptions (e.g., El Chichón 1982; Mt. Redoubt 1989/90; Mt. Pinatubo 1991) have demonstrated that the petrologic method for estimating volcanic volatile yields may severely underestimate the amount of sulfur released to the atmosphere and, therefore, the potential climatic impact of explosively degassing H₂O-rich magmas. Various mechanisms of the “excess sulfur” have been invoked (e.g., Carroll and Rutherford 1987; Andres et al. 1991; Matthews et al. 1992; Hattori 1993; Wallace and Gerlach 1994; Gerlach et al. 1994, 1996; Oppenheimer 1996; Rutherford and Devine 1996; Kress 1997). Most likely, additional sulfur was accumulated in a vapor phase within the magma body prior to eruption (e.g., Gerlach et al. 1996; Kress 1997).

In the case of Laacher See volcano, three major processes could have led to a S-loss from the melt prior to eruption: (1) sulfide and hauyne formation; (2) loss to a

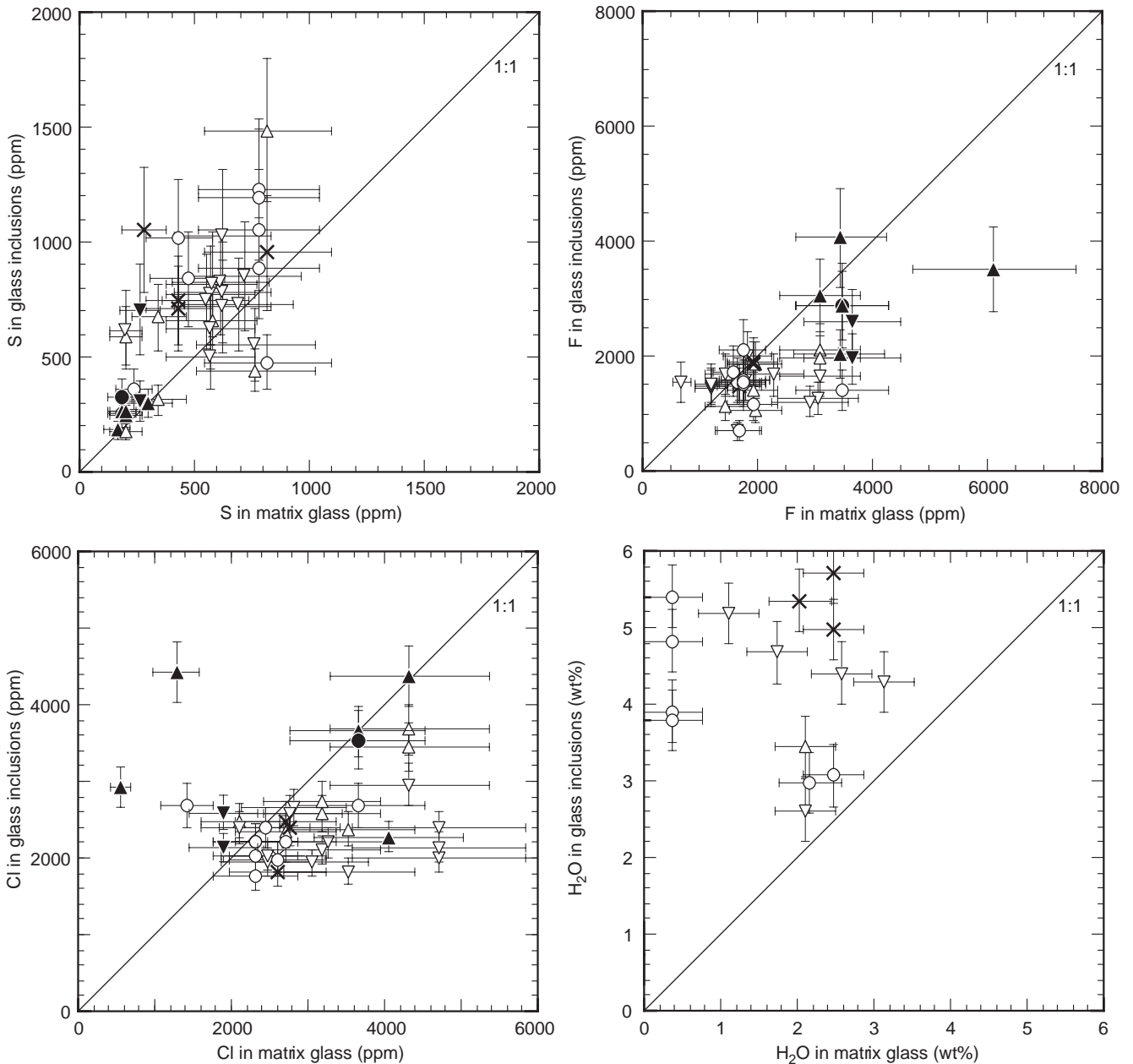


Fig. 9 S, F, Cl and H₂O contents of glass inclusions versus matrix glasses selected for the mass balance of the syn-eruptive volatile release. *Black symbols* refer to highly differentiated and *open symbols* to mafic phonolite melt fractions

fluid phase; (3) loss to wall rocks. Apparently, the mafic phonolitic magma lost some sulfur by pyrrhotite formation prior to crystallization of hauyne. Sulfur is, however, incorporated predominantly in hauyne (4.6 ± 0.2 wt%), whereas only minor amounts of S are fractionated in amphibole (120–530 ppm S) and apatite (1700–4070 ppm S). A mass balance calculation indicates that 230–690 ppm S could have been removed from the mafic phonolitic melt assuming a modal content of 0.5–1.5 wt% hauyne based on the estimate by Bogaard and Schmincke (1985) (Fig. 6). The S content in the Laacher

See melt just prior to hauyne crystallization cannot be determined exactly, since the sulfate content in the melt required for hauyne formation is uncertain. Experimental studies show, however, that sulfate and probably also sulfate-bearing silicates such as hauyne can only coexist over a narrow range of oxygen fugacity (Carroll and Rutherford 1987). Hence, the maximum S content in the melt at the onset of hauyne crystallization was most likely not higher than 1070–1230 ppm, since these S contents are present in pyrrhotite-bearing glass inclusions in clinopyroxene and titanite. The modeled S depletion via hauyne formation covers the strong S variation observed in both mafic phonolitic glass inclusions and host matrix glasses from MLST C and ULST (Fig. 6).

The S contents of hauyne-hosted glass inclusions indicate that 270–700 ppm S are required to crystallize

Table 1 Atmospheric S, Cl and H₂O release during the Plinian and phreatomagmatic phases of the Laacher See eruption, estimated by comparing glass inclusions and matrix glasses. The calculation for the volatile loss is based on 41 glass inclusions (2–20 point analyses per inclusion) and 25 host matrix glasses (2–57 point analyses per matrix glass)

	S _{total} (ppm)	F (ppm)	Cl (ppm)	H ₂ O (wt%)
LLST and MLST A/B (S-poor highly differentiated phonolite magma)				
Glass inclusions (<i>n</i> = 8)	270 ± 48	2910 ± 751	3394 ± 835	3.61
Matrix glasses (<i>n</i> = 6)	219 ± 49	3798 ± 956	2665 ± 1421	0.20
Average volatile difference	51	–	729	3.41
Magmatic volatile release (Tg)	0.45	?	6.60	307
MLST C and ULST (S-rich mafic phonolite magma)				
Glass inclusions (<i>n</i> = 33)	886 ± 112	1683 ± 161	2090 ± 254	4.04
Matrix glasses (<i>n</i> = 19)	535 ± 226	1873 ± 713	2951 ± 983	1.73
Average volatile difference	351	–	–	2.31
Magmatic volatile release (Tg)	1.45	?	?	96
S _{total} , F, Cl, H ₂ O release (Tg)	1.90	?	6.60	403

0.9 vol.% hauyne at most. Two glass inclusions in clinopyroxene and titanite that also contain pyrrhotite globules clearly show that the Laacher See melt was sulfide-saturated at S contents of between 1070 and 1230 ppm. Moreover, two bubble-free glass inclusions in titanite with 2.5–2.9 wt% H₂O indicate that the pre-eruptive Laacher See melt was H₂O-undersaturated at S contents between 880–1190 ppm. If the melt saturated in water at about 880 ppm S and hauyne began crystallizing at 700 ppm (highest S content in hauyne-hosted glass inclusions), then 180 ppm S could have partitioned into a fluid. If only 0.5 wt% hauyne (minimum modal content in MLST C and ULST) crystallized, then at most 660 ppm S could have been lost to a fluid phase. This corresponds to 2.3–8.6 Tg S_{total} accumulated in the fluid, based on 6.3 km³ erupted magma volume, 10% average crystal content and a melt density of 2.3 × 10¹² kg/km³. This is only a rough estimate, since the relative timing of fluid saturation and hauyne formation is uncertain.

Olivine-bearing basanites in the ULST indicate mixing of basanitic and mafic phonolitic melt and crystal overgrowth in clinopyroxenes and amphiboles suggests rapid crystallization rates for several hours prior to eruption (Wörner and Wright 1984). This suggests, that additional SO₂ could have been released by magma mixing between a reduced and an oxidized melt just prior to eruption as postulated by Kress (1997) for the Pinatubo dacite.

Potential volatile input during the eruption of Laacher See volcano and its climate impact

A negative climate forcing caused by Plinian eruptions depends strongly on whether the eruption column height is sufficient to inject volatiles into the stratosphere. The Laacher See tephra is usually found between the “winter layer” and “summer layer” in lacustrine sediments in southern Germany (Merkt 1991). This and other lines of evidence summarized in Schmincke et al. (in press) indicate that the Laacher See volcano erupted sometime between late winter (early spring) and early summer. The tropopause level during that time ranged between ca. 11 km (January) and ca. 13 km (July), assuming that the atmospheric distribution of zonal mean temperatures

has not changed significantly since the late Pleistocene (Warneck 1988). As shown by Bogaard and Schmincke (1985) and our data, the Laacher See Plinian eruption plume clearly entered the stratosphere.

Earlier speculations that the Laacher See eruption was responsible for the Younger Dryas cold spell are no longer maintained because an age difference of at least 750 years occurs between the Laacher See eruption and the beginning of the Younger Dryas (12,150 years BP; Kaiser 1993). Nevertheless, a number of proxies have been documented for some time showing a likely strong negative climate forcing of the Laacher See eruption. Tree-rings from the late glacial Dättnau pines (Switzerland) show marked disturbances in the Alleröd pine chronology (Kaiser 1993), the age of the ca. 6 bands of reduced tree-ring growth being close to that of the Laacher See eruption. Merkt (1991) and others have demonstrated that sedimentation in lakes in Central Germany was strongly disturbed for up to 20 years following deposition of the Laacher See tephra layer. The disturbance may have been due to a period of heavy rains following the climatic impact after the Laacher See eruption (Schmincke et al. in press). Timmreck and Graf (1999) suggest an extremely strong negative anomaly as high as –6 W/m² for at least 4 years. In comparison, the effect of the Pinatubo eruption was much smaller (–2.4 W/m², McCormick et al. 1995). Satellite data for the eruptions of El Chichon (1982), Redoubt (1989) and Pinatubo (1991) do indicate a factor of up to 435 for the very low petrologically estimated sulfur emissions compared to those registered by TOMS. In analogy, we estimate that at least 20 Tg were emitted by Laacher See volcano into the stratosphere assuming only a factor of 10. The actual amount may have been appreciably higher considering the drastic negative forcing shown by the modeling results of Timmreck and Graf (1999).

Conclusions

1. Glass inclusions and matrix glasses record the development of volatile zonations in the Laacher See magma body. The S contents decreased during early stages, whereas F was enriched in the melt during late stages of differentiation in the upper portions of the

Table 2 Major element and volatile contents of representative glass inclusions and matrix glasses from the entire Laacher See tephra sequence. Glass analyses are normalized to 100 wt% (anhydrous basis) [BD below detection limit, FeO^* total iron as FeO , n number of analyses, nS number of S analyses above detection limit (145 ppm), SD standard deviation ($\pm 1s$) for ≥ 3 analyses per sample, *Amph* amphibole, *Cpx* clinopyroxene, *Hau* hauyne, *Sam* samidine, *Tit* titanite, *LST 3-1-34(*)* crystal-poor, highly differentiated phonolite matrix glass, *LST 3-1-34(**)* crystal-rich, mafic phonolite globule within highly differentiated phonolite matrix glass, *LST 3-1-31(')*, *LST 1-1-80(')* interstitial glass in syenitic cumulate, *LST 3-1-10(')* interstitial glass in intermediate cumulate]

Tephra unit	Sample	Host	n	nS	P_2O_5	SiO_2	TiO_2	Al_2O_3	MgO	CaO	MnO	FeO^*	Na_2O	K_2O	S	F	Cl	Total
Glass inclusions	LST 3-1-43	Amph	1	1	0.05	58.56	0.16	21.58	0.08	0.77	0.26	1.50	10.32	6.14	BD	0.253	0.325	97.55
	LST 3-1-80	Amph	4	2	0.07	59.60	0.32	21.21	0.00	0.62	0.14	1.08	8.56	7.84	0.033	0.209	0.281	95.93
LLST I	LST 3-1-80	Hau	2	2	0.03	57.01	0.40	23.51	0.07	1.31	0.26	1.35	10.07	5.45	0.027	0.320	0.188	95.35
	LST 3-1-40	Amph	7	7	0.04	60.99	0.39	20.45	0.02	0.97	0.13	1.61	7.97	6.91	0.051	0.162	0.280	94.78
LLST III	LST 3-1-40	Amph	4	4	0.02	1.00	0.06	0.10	0.02	0.05	0.04	0.09	0.25	0.11	0.022	0.039	0.039	0.95
	LST 3-1-40	Amph	4	4	0.02	56.17	0.16	23.43	0.02	0.79	0.46	2.27	10.50	5.24	0.018	0.406	0.441	92.88
LLST IV	LST 2-1-90	Amph	1	1	0.11	58.91	0.57	22.00	0.05	1.73	0.02	0.79	7.05	8.37	0.063	0.113	0.197	96.24
	LST 1-1-05	Tit	5	2	0.02	61.01	0.21	21.26	0.02	1.00	0.15	1.24	7.59	7.01	0.036	0.156	0.269	94.88
MLST-A VII	LST 1-1-05	Tit	3	3	0.04	58.73	0.25	20.43	0.05	1.28	0.18	1.38	9.75	7.44	0.025	0.139	0.269	94.93
	LST 3-1-34	Amph	2	2	0.01	0.37	0.05	0.13	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.09	0.34	0.12	0.028	0.056	0.049	0.16
MLST-A VII	LST 3-1-34	Cpx	4	3	0.02	56.98	0.32	21.75	0.07	1.20	0.09	1.82	10.50	6.73	0.031	0.196	0.259	95.34
	LST 3-1-34	Cpx	4	4	0.00	0.37	0.04	0.25	0.04	0.44	0.07	0.09	0.17	0.13	0.005	0.036	0.027	0.70
MLST-A VII	LST 3-1-36	Amph	4	3	0.01	56.86	0.19	21.73	0.04	1.10	0.15	1.76	11.02	6.59	0.071	0.260	0.213	97.27
	LST 3-1-36	Amph	4	4	0.01	0.21	0.04	0.11	0.02	0.03	0.05	0.20	0.07	0.10	0.008	0.018	0.012	0.16
MLST-A VIII	LST 3-1-36	Cpx	3	2	0.00	0.28	0.03	0.12	0.03	1.03	0.33	2.49	10.64	5.78	0.027	0.288	0.366	99.20
	LST 3-1-36	Cpx	4	3	0.01	59.66	0.38	22.78	0.05	1.01	0.09	1.01	6.92	7.77	0.010	0.055	0.026	0.32
MLST-B XII	LST 1-1-18	Amph	4	3	0.01	60.02	0.28	20.84	0.01	1.12	0.16	1.41	7.92	7.71	0.032	0.186	0.275	95.41
	LST 1-1-18	Hau	12	11	0.04	0.34	0.05	0.19	0.01	0.04	0.01	0.07	0.08	0.07	0.010	0.027	0.017	0.59
MLST-B XII	LST 1-1-18	Tit	7	7	0.02	0.47	0.06	0.25	0.04	0.09	0.05	0.08	0.13	0.15	0.017	0.067	0.028	0.84
	LST 3-1-24	Amph	7	7	0.05	60.05	0.51	20.98	0.01	0.95	0.08	1.17	5.83	9.88	0.032	0.053	0.028	0.17
MLST-B XIII	LST 3-1-24	Amph	6	3	0.04	58.51	0.39	21.50	0.07	0.61	0.10	1.44	10.04	6.83	0.030	0.204	0.228	98.15
	LST 1-1-09	Hau	38	38	0.06	59.38	0.53	20.71	0.25	1.89	0.21	2.32	6.77	7.42	0.041	0.164	0.232	94.93
MLST-C XVI	LST 2-1-63	Cpx	10	10	0.03	0.44	0.04	0.27	0.02	0.07	0.06	0.11	0.69	0.16	0.014	0.050	0.023	0.56
	LST 2-1-63	Tit	7	7	0.06	59.98	0.24	21.19	0.01	0.46	0.11	1.04	8.42	7.96	0.062	0.167	0.296	97.05
MLST-C XVI	LST 2-1-99	Cpx	8	8	0.03	0.21	0.06	0.13	0.01	0.06	0.03	0.14	0.07	0.07	0.026	0.062	0.027	0.37
	LST 3-1-10	Amph	4	4	0.09	59.47	0.65	20.89	0.10	1.52	0.15	2.08	6.86	7.73	0.077	0.152	0.203	95.14
ULST XVII-B1	LST 3-1-10	Amph	1	1	0.03	0.35	0.07	0.18	0.02	0.07	0.04	0.14	0.27	0.14	0.013	0.022	0.018	0.31
	LST 3-1-10	Cpx	8	8	0.04	0.72	0.04	0.15	0.03	2.00	0.20	2.74	7.27	7.94	0.149	0.142	0.234	95.78
ULST XVIII-B2	LST 1-1-06	Hau	8	8	0.17	56.75	0.62	22.32	0.17	1.41	0.01	1.72	6.24	10.08	0.107	0.187	0.190	97.05
	LST 1-1-06	Hau	8	8	0.06	59.54	0.56	19.85	0.26	1.77	0.22	2.21	6.82	8.23	0.058	0.168	0.237	95.89
					0.02	0.23	0.08	0.32	0.02	0.09	0.04	0.09	0.15	0.12	0.009	0.038	0.023	0.20

Table 2 (continued)

Tephra unit	Sample	Host	n	nS	P ₂ O ₅	SiO ₂	TiO ₂	Al ₂ O ₃	MgO	CaO	MnO	FeO*	Na ₂ O	K ₂ O	S	F	Cl	Total
ULST XVII-B2	LST 1-1-06		5	5	0.07	60.57	0.56	20.51	0.25	1.84	0.19	2.26	5.62	7.65	0.078	0.175	0.231	99.02
					0.01	0.57	0.20	0.11	0.02	0.12	0.04	0.08	0.73	0.19	0.034	0.065	0.040	0.41
ULST XVII-B3/5	LST 1-1-71		20	20	0.05	59.36	0.83	20.07	0.33	2.04	0.20	2.26	6.50	7.80	0.047	0.158	0.244	98.02
					0.02	0.35	0.07	0.15	0.03	0.09	0.05	0.12	0.17	0.20	0.017	0.036	0.029	0.53
ULST XVIII-B13	LST 1-1-41		54	52	0.06	59.98	0.61	20.22	0.15	1.70	0.18	2.31	6.59	7.71	0.043	0.168	0.261	97.45
					0.03	0.47	0.06	0.24	0.05	0.17	0.04	0.16	0.25	0.21	0.021	0.055	0.034	0.62
ULST XIX-B16	LST 1-1-48		10	10	0.03	59.10	0.21	20.25	0.11	0.95	0.31	2.11	8.83	6.81	0.022	0.709	0.554	99.21
					0.01	0.66	0.10	0.39	0.06	0.13	0.08	0.44	0.18	0.20	0.005	0.064	0.085	0.62
ULST XIX-B16	LST 2-1-19		6	6	0.05	59.20	0.62	19.95	0.28	1.42	0.15	2.47	6.91	8.35	0.058	0.179	0.354	98.53
					0.02	0.39	0.09	0.11	0.03	0.18	0.04	0.14	0.20	0.22	0.028	0.026	0.052	0.40
ULST XX-D8	LST 1-1-80		5	5	0.08	59.77	0.58	20.78	0.08	1.90	0.14	1.84	6.54	7.64	0.062	0.121	0.472	98.22
					0.03	1.29	0.16	0.17	0.03	0.44	0.05	0.66	0.48	0.45	0.016	0.086	0.063	1.21
ULST XX-D8	LST 1-1-80(*)		20	20	0.10	60.53	0.89	17.98	0.37	1.39	0.39	3.23	8.06	6.44	0.072	0.229	0.306	97.58
					0.02	0.41	0.16	0.16	0.03	0.13	0.05	0.17	0.29	0.14	0.028	0.066	0.038	0.39
ULST XX-D8	LST 3-1-17		10	10	0.03	59.94	0.51	20.17	0.25	1.59	0.20	2.07	7.11	7.57	0.082	0.192	0.272	98.08
					0.02	0.26	0.05	0.09	0.02	0.06	0.07	0.05	0.08	0.09	0.01	0.03	0.02	0.31

chemically zoned magma column. Highly evolved matrix glasses are Cl depleted compared to glass inclusions from the same stages of differentiation and also in relation to less differentiated glass inclusions and matrix glasses. This indicates that Cl was mainly lost during the Plinian eruption phases represented by LLST and MLST A/B.

2. Pyrrhotite globules trapped in phenocrysts other than hauyne demonstrate that the mafic phonolitic melt was sulfide-saturated during early stages of differentiation. The S^{6+}/S_{total} ratio increased, however, during differentiation from 8 to 71%, as indicated by the S $\kappa\alpha$ wavelength shift in glass inclusions. We assume that sulfate-rich magma was tapped during Plinian phases and sulfide-rich magma during late phreatomagmatic phases.

3. A comparison between glass inclusions and host matrix glasses indicates that 1.9 Tg S_{total} , 6.6 Tg Cl and 403 Tg H_2O were released from the melt during the eruption of Laacher See volcano. Strongly Cl and H_2O depleted matrix glasses from MLST A and LLST suggest that larger amounts of Cl and H_2O were released from the melt during Plinian phases. Both Cl- and H_2O -degassing were subordinate during late phases of the eruption.

4. The total amount of sulfur released to the atmosphere was probably much higher (>20 Tg), in view of abundant proxies and modeling results all indicating drastic negative climate forcing. This assumes that sulfur was not entirely consumed by pyrrhotite and hauyne and partially stored in a fluid phase prior to eruption.

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