

1 (Accepted version, post peer review and revisions)

2

3 **Quantifying brine assimilation by submarine magmas:**  
4 **examples from the Galápagos Spreading Centre and Lau**  
5 **Basin**

6

7

8 Mark A. Kendrick<sup>1\*</sup>, Richard Arculus<sup>2</sup>, Pete Burnard<sup>3</sup>, Masahiko Honda<sup>2</sup>

9

10

11 1- School of Earth Sciences, University of Melbourne, Victoria 3010, Australia

12 2- Research Schoo of Earth Sciences, Australian National University, ACT 0200,  
13 Australia.

14 3- CRPG, CNRS, Nancy, France.

15 \*Corresponding Author: [mark.kendrick@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:mark.kendrick@unimelb.edu.au) ;

16 Tel +61 3 8344 6933; Fax +61 3 8344 7761

17

18 *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta – revised 18<sup>th</sup> August 2013*

19 *Words = 6462*

20

21 **Abstract.** Volatiles are critically important in controlling the chemical and physical  
22 properties of the mantle. However, determining mantle volatile abundances via the preferred  
23 proxy of submarine volcanic glass can be hampered by seawater assimilation. This study  
24 shows how combined Cl, Br, I, K and H<sub>2</sub>O abundances can be used to unambiguously  
25 constrain the dominant mechanism by which melts assimilate seawater-derived components,  
26 and provide an improved method for determining mantle H<sub>2</sub>O and Cl abundances. We  
27 demonstrate that melts from the northwest part of the Lau Basin, the Galápagos Spreading  
28 Centre and melts from other locations previously shown to have anomalously high Cl  
29 contents, all assimilated excess Cl and H<sub>2</sub>O from ultra-saline brines with estimated salinities  
30 of  $55 \pm 15$  wt. % salts. Assimilation probably occurs at depths of  $\sim 3$ -6 km in the crust when  
31 seawater-derived fluids come into direct contact with deep magmas. In addition to their  
32 ultra-high salinity, the brines are characterised by K/Cl of  $< 0.2$ , I/Cl of close to the seawater  
33 value ( $\sim 3 \times 10^{-6}$ ) and distinctive Br/Cl ratios of  $3.7$ - $3.9 \times 10^{-3}$ , that are higher than both the  
34 seawater value of  $3.5 \times 10^{-3}$  and the range of Br/Cl in 43 pristine E-MORB and OIB glasses  
35 that are considered representative of diverse mantle reservoirs [ $\text{Br/Cl}_{\text{mantle}} = (2.8 \pm 0.6) \times 10^{-3}$   
36 and  $\text{I/Cl}_{\text{mantle}} = (60 \pm 30) \times 10^{-6}$  ( $2\sigma$ )]. The ultra-saline brines, with characteristically elevated  
37 Br/Cl ratios, are produced by a combination of fluid-rock reactions during crustal hydration  
38 and hydrothermal boiling. The relative importance of these processes is unknown; however,  
39 it is envisaged that a vapour phase will be boiled off when crustal fluids are heated to  
40 magmatic temperatures during assimilation. Furthermore, the ultra-high salinity of the  
41 residual brine that is assimilated may be partly determined by the relative solubilities of H<sub>2</sub>O  
42 and Cl in basaltic melts. The most contaminated glasses from the Galápagos Spreading  
43 Centre and Lau Basin have assimilated  $\sim 95$  % of their total Cl and 35-40 % of their total  
44 H<sub>2</sub>O, equivalent to the melts assimilating 1000-2000 ppm brine at an early stage of their  
45 evolution. Dacite glasses from Galapagos contain even higher concentrations of brine  
46 components (e.g. 12,000 ppm), but the H<sub>2</sub>O and Cl in these melts was probably concentrated  
47 by fractional crystallisation after assimilation. The Cl, Br, I and K data presented here  
48 confirm the proportion of seawater-derived volatiles assimilated by submarine magmas can  
49 vary from zero to nearly 100 %, and that assimilation is closely related to hydrothermal  
50 activity. Assimilation of seawater components has previously been recognised as a possible  
51 source of atmospheric noble gases in basalt glasses. However, hydrothermal brines have

52 metal and helium concentrations up to hundreds of times greater than seawater, and brine  
53 assimilation could also influence the helium isotope systematics of some submarine glasses.

54

## 55 **Introduction**

56           Magmatic volatile components that exsolve into supercritical fluids or gases include  
57 H<sub>2</sub>O, CO<sub>2</sub>, halogens, S, N and noble gases. The major volatiles exert important controls on  
58 the physical properties of mantle minerals, mantle solidus temperatures, melt viscosity and  
59 influence the style of volcanic eruptions (e.g. Carroll and Holloway, 1994; Filiberto and  
60 Treiman, 2009; Litasov et al., 2006). The trace volatiles, especially iodine and noble gases,  
61 are powerful markers that can potentially constrain the distribution of recycled versus  
62 primordial volatile components within the Earth's mantle (Deruelle et al., 1992; Graham,  
63 2002; Hilton and Porcelli, 2003; Kendrick et al., 2012a). The volatile contents of basaltic  
64 glasses from different tectonic settings (e.g. mid-ocean ridge, back arc and oceanic island) are  
65 therefore of great interest, but relating the measured concentrations of volatiles in basaltic  
66 glasses to mantle abundances is challenging.

67           The least soluble volatiles (CO<sub>2</sub> and noble gases) are degassed from erupting lavas  
68 and as a result only melt inclusions trapped within deep magma chambers record pre-eruptive  
69 CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations, and noble gases occur dominantly in CO<sub>2</sub> vesicles (Burnard et al., 2002;  
70 Graham, 2002; Saal et al., 2002). In contrast, H<sub>2</sub>O and halogens have much higher  
71 solubilities in basaltic melts, and halogens appear to be retained in melts erupted in water  
72 depths of greater than ~500 m (Straub and Layne, 2003; Unni and Schilling, 1978).  
73 Nonetheless seawater assimilation can be a potentially serious obstacle to determining the  
74 primary mantle source characteristic of halogens, H<sub>2</sub>O and any other volatile that has a high  
75 abundance in seawater and a comparatively low abundance in mantle-derived melt (e.g.  
76 Fisher, 1997; Graham, 2002; Kent et al., 1999ab; 2002; Michael and Cornell, 1998; Michael  
77 and Schilling, 1989; Patterson et al., 1990).

78           Numerous studies have demonstrated that atmospheric noble gases (Ne, Ar, Kr, Xe)  
79 are a distinctive and ubiquitous component within basalt glasses (e.g. Graham, 2002; Hilton

80 and Porcelli, 2003). It is likely that some fraction of these atmospheric noble gases are  
81 introduced by seawater assimilation processes (e.g. Patterson et al., 1990); however,  
82 atmospheric noble gases could also be introduced during sample preparation (Ballentine and  
83 Barfod, 2000), or they could be present as a recycled component within the mantle (Bach and  
84 Niedermann, 1998; Sarda, 2004).

85 In contrast to noble gases, assimilation of Cl is associated with seafloor hydrothermal  
86 activity and while it has been documented in Hawaii (Coombs et al., 2004; Kent et al.,  
87 1999ab) and some fast spreading centres (le Roux et al., 2006), it is uncommon in basalts  
88 generated at slow spreading centres (Michael and Cornell, 1998; Michael and Schilling,  
89 1989). Improving constraints on the spatially limited assimilation processes affecting Cl  
90 concentrations has implications for the origin of atmospheric noble gases in basalt glasses,  
91 and igneous petrology. Assimilation accelerates volatile saturation and triggers exsolution of  
92 fluid phases meaning it can cause rapid crystallisation of magmas and critically influence the  
93 way oceanic crust accretes (Coogan et al., 2003; Perfit et al., 2003; Soule et al., 2006).  
94 Furthermore, it has been proposed that partial melting of seawater-altered oceanic crust  
95 contributes to the petrogenesis of silicic mid-ocean ridge lavas such as dacites (Wanless et al.,  
96 2010; 2011).

97 The assimilated components proposed in previous Cl studies have poorly defined but  
98 high Cl/H<sub>2</sub>O ratios that preclude the direct involvement of seawater and favour a role for  
99 brines with salinities of ~10-50 wt % salts, or Cl-rich minerals formed by seawater alteration  
100 (Kent et al., 1999ab; 2002; le Roux et al., 2006; Michael and Schilling, 1989; Perfit et al.,  
101 1999; Wanless et al., 2010; 2011). This study extends the previous analyses to include Br  
102 and I in 19 glasses that have assimilated varying proportions of seawater-derived volatiles  
103 and sample different parts of the Earth's mantle. We show how multi-component  
104 correlations between Cl, Br, I, K and H<sub>2</sub>O can be used to rigorously test the nature of

105 seawater assimilation, and quantify the proportions of seawater-derived halogens and H<sub>2</sub>O in  
106 basalt glass. In addition, we refine previous estimates of mantle Br/Cl and I/Cl by re-  
107 examining standardisation (Kendrick et al., 2012ab) thereby providing improved agreement  
108 with earlier halogen studies (Jambon et al., 1995; Schilling et al., 1978; 1980), and  
109 demonstrating fairly limited variation of Br/Cl and I/Cl in the Earth's mantle.

110

## 111 1.1 Samples

112 Pristine basalt glasses were selected from a range of seafloor settings with varying  
113 exposure to assimilation processes. Enriched mid-ocean ridge basalt (E-MORB) glasses  
114 defined as having primitive mantle normalised (La/Sm)<sub>N</sub> of >1 were selected from the Mid-  
115 Atlantic Ridge at the Famous location (36° 50' N) and the popping rock area (13° 50' N)  
116 (Bryan et al., 1979; Bougault et al., 1988; Langmuir et al., 1977). These samples were  
117 expected to preserve pristine mantle halogen signatures because E-MORB have high  
118 concentrations of incompatible trace elements and assimilation of Cl is asserted to be a minor  
119 artefact for E-MORB formed at slow spreading ridges (Michael and Cornell, 1998).  
120 Furthermore, the popping rock sample 2πD43 is famous for its uniquely good preservation of  
121 mantle noble gas signatures (e.g. Moreira et al., 1998; Mukhopadhyay, 2012), which suggest  
122 it is very unlikely to have assimilated significant seawater-derived H<sub>2</sub>O or Cl during  
123 emplacement (cf. Ballentine and Barfod, 2000; Burnard et al., 1997; Moreira et al., 1998;  
124 Sarda, 2004; Staudacher et al., 1989; Trieloff et al., 2003).

125 Samples expected to show the effects of seawater contamination comprise: basalt and  
126 dacite glasses recovered from 0° 50' N from the Galápagos Spreading Centre during Alvin  
127 dive 1652, that investigated an area of crust exhibiting particularly extensive hydrothermal  
128 alteration (Embley et al., 1988); and N-MORB samples from the southern Juan de Fuca

129 Ridge where there is also significant hydrothermal activity (45-46° N; Smith et al., 1994).  
130 Additional N-MORB, which are defined as having  $(La/Sm)_N$  of  $<1$ , were available for  
131 locations on the East Pacific Rise (12° 46' N; Hekinian et al., 1983) and Mid-Atlantic Ridge  
132 (30-32° N; Bougault and Treuil, 1980). The Galápagos glasses recovered during Alvin dive  
133 1652 are pristine but have been shown to exhibit traces of seawater assimilation (Michael and  
134 Cornell, 1998; Perfit et al., 1999). N-MORB samples were selected from the other locations  
135 because their generally low Cl content renders them more susceptible to seawater  
136 assimilation than Cl-rich E-MORB (Michael and Cornell, 1998), although the high  $^{40}Ar/^{36}Ar$   
137 ratio of sample CH98-DR11 ( $>25,000$ ) suggests minimal assimilation in this case (Marty and  
138 Humbert, 1997).

139 As a contrast to the variably enriched MORB samples, five glasses were selected from  
140 the northwest Lau Basin (14-16° S; Lupton et al., 2009), primarily because of their high  
141  $^3He/^4He$  ratios of 12-28 Ra (where Ra is the atmospheric  $^3He/^4He$  ratio of  $1.4 \times 10^{-6}$ ) and neon  
142 isotope signatures that are typical of primitive mantle sampled by some ocean island basalts  
143 (OIB; Lupton et al., 2009; 2012). Despite the unusual  $^3He/^4He$  signatures, the trace element  
144 abundances of these glasses are fairly typical of MORB [ $(La/Sm)_N$  of 0.4-1.2], and they lack  
145 evidence for slab-derived subduction components (Lytle et al., 2012). These glasses were  
146 however of additional interest because the effects of seawater assimilation have been  
147 previously documented elsewhere in the Lau Basin (Kent et al., 2002).

148

## 149 **2. Methods and halogen standardisation**

150 The majority of samples included in this study were characterised using a range of  
151 techniques during the 1970's and 80's, and re-analysed at the University of Melbourne using  
152 a Cameca SX-50 electron microprobe for major elements and laser ablation system coupled

153 to an Agilent 7700x inductively-coupled plasma mass spectrometer (ICP-MS) for trace  
154 elements (supplementary information). In contrast, ICP-MS was used to analyse trace  
155 elements in solutions formed by dissolving 50 mg sized aliquots of the Famous samples.  
156 Chlorine measurements by electron microprobe had a detection limit of ~85 ppm and were  
157 standardised using Durango apatite (0.41 wt % Cl) and scapolite (1.43 wt % Cl;  
158 supplementary information).

159 Simultaneous Cl, Br, I and K measurements were achieved via the noble gas method  
160 (Kendrick, 2012). Samples of ~10-30 mg comprising pristine glass chips (0.2-1 mm in size)  
161 were wrapped in Al-foil, placed in an irradiation canister, and irradiated in position 5c of the  
162 McMaster Nuclear Reactor, Canada (irradiations UM#44: 42 hrs on 27/02/2011 received  $10^{19}$   
163 neutrons  $\text{cm}^{-2}$ ; thermal/fast = 2.7; and UM#48: 30 hrs on 15/12/2011 received  $8 \times 10^{18}$   
164 neutrons  $\text{cm}^{-2}$ ; thermal/fast = 2.7). Irradiation-produced noble gas proxy isotopes ( $^{38}\text{Ar}_{\text{Cl}}$ ,  
165  $^{80}\text{Kr}_{\text{Br}}$ ,  $^{128}\text{Xe}_{\text{I}}$  and  $^{39}\text{Ar}_{\text{K}}$ ) were then extracted from the samples by furnace heating and  
166 measured on the MAP-215 noble gas mass spectrometer at the University of Melbourne. It  
167 was found that gas released from 10 mg sized samples at 300 °C was at the blank level, and  
168 the majority of samples were therefore preheated to 300 °C before extraction of halogen-  
169 derived noble gas isotopes in a single 1500 °C step of 20 minutes duration. Small blank  
170 corrections amounted to <1% of the sample gas and the abundances of noble gas proxy  
171 isotopes ( $^{38}\text{Ar}_{\text{Cl}}$ ,  $^{80}\text{Kr}_{\text{Br}}$ ,  $^{128}\text{Xe}_{\text{I}}$  and  $^{39}\text{Ar}_{\text{K}}$ ), determined by comparison to an air standard, were  
172 converted to Cl, Br, I and K on the basis of production ratios monitored with Hb3Gr and  
173 scapolite halogen standards (Fig 1; Kendrick, 2012).

174 The noble gas method has significant advantages over radiochemical neutron  
175 activation analyses used in previous Br and I studies of basalt glass (Deruelle et al., 1992;  
176 Jambon et al., 1995; Schilling et al., 1978; Schilling et al., 1980): 1.) chemical separation of  
177 halogens is not required which avoids the possibility of fractionating halogen abundance



178 ratios during extraction; 2.) very high sensitivity and low detection limits mean it can be  
179 applied to small samples and it is therefore easier to obtain high purity glass separates; and  
180 3.) it has very high internal precision of ~2-4% ( $2\sigma$ ), compared to ~20-40% ( $2\sigma$ ) in previous  
181 studies (Deruelle et al., 1992; Jambon et al., 1995; Schilling et al., 1978; 1980; Unni and  
182 Schilling, 1977). Nonetheless, the external precision (or accuracy) of the method is dependent  
183 on the availability of well characterised halogen standards and some refinements to the Br  
184 and I abundances in the scapolite standards used by Kendrick et al. (2012ab) have proven  
185 necessary (Kendrick et al., 2013).

186         The Br/Cl and I/Cl ratios now recommended for the standards (Fig 1) are considered  
187 superior to the original values (Kendrick, 2012) because they are independent of the Bjurbole  
188 meteorite standard, and they provide improved agreement with other techniques (Table S5;  
189 supplementary information; Hammerli et al., 2013). Adoption of the new standard values  
190 (Fig 1) means revising previously reported Br and I abundances (Kendrick et al., 2012ab)  
191 downwards by 20 % for Br and 25 % for I. This change enables a fairer comparison of Br/Cl  
192 ratios for basalt glasses obtained by the noble gas method and reported by Jambon et al.  
193 (1995) and Schilling et al. (1978, 1980) (see below). However, it does not alter the  
194 conclusions of the earlier studies that were based on internally consistent data sets (Kendrick  
195 et al., 2012ab). A full description of the monitor re-calibration is available in the electronic  
196 supplement.

197

### 198         **3. Results**

199         The electron microprobe and noble gas method gave similar K and Cl concentrations (Fig  
200 2). The basalt glasses contain 32-1560 ppm Cl, 0.1-5.9 ppm Br and 1.6-41 ppb I, compared  
201 to maxima of 3,900 ppm Cl, 14 ppm Br and 28 ppb I in the dacite glasses from the Galápagos

202 Spreading Centre (Table 1). As in previous studies, halogens have higher concentrations in  
203 the more evolved samples, but each sample group has constant Br/Cl, I/Cl and K/Cl ratios  
204 over a range of MgO (Table 1; Fig 3).

205 The E-MORB samples from the Mid-Atlantic Ridge (2πD43 and Famous locations) yield  
206 Br/Cl of  $(2.6 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-3}$  that are indistinguishable from the revised value obtained for  
207 Macquarie Island E-MORB (Fig 4; Table 1; Kendrick et al., 2012b). The Atlantic E-MORB  
208 have I/Cl of  $(50 \pm 10) \times 10^{-6}$  that are slightly less variable than those obtained for Pacific E-  
209 MORB from Macquarie Island ( $(60 \pm 30) \times 10^{-6}$ ; Fig 4). In contrast, K/Cl varies from values  
210 of 10-12 for the Famous and Macquarie E-MORB to a distinctly higher value of  $18 \pm 1$  for  
211 2πD43 (Fig 4 and Table 1;  $2\sigma$  uncertainties).

212 In comparison to the E-MORB glasses, the N-MORB glasses exhibit much greater scatter  
213 in K/Cl, Br/Cl and I/Cl (Fig 4). The five glasses from the northwest part of the Lau Basin,  
214 with high  $^3\text{He}/^4\text{He}$  ratios of 12-28 Ra (Lupton et al., 2009), define a linear array in the Br/Cl  
215 versus I/Cl, and Br/Cl versus K/Cl plots (Fig 4) but these parameters are not correlated with  
216  $^3\text{He}/^4\text{He}$  (Table 1). One end-member has a composition very similar to E-MORB and the  
217 second end-member has a composition similar to glasses from the Galápagos Spreading  
218 Centre that are enriched in Br/Cl relative to seawater and have very low K/Cl of  $\sim 1$  (Fig 4).

219

## 220 **4. Discussion**

### 221 *4.1 Inter-laboratory comparison*

222 The K and Cl concentrations of basalt glasses determined using the noble gas method  
223 and electron microprobe are in good agreement with the majority of data scattering within  
224 10% of the 1:1 line (Fig 2). The K and Cl concentrations determined here are also similar to  
225 those reported for glasses with the same dredge numbers in previous studies, although

226 discrepancies of 10-20% exist in some cases (cf. Jambon et al., 1995; Michael and Cornell,  
227 1998; Perfit et al., 1999).

228 The Br/Cl ratios reported for the 19 MORB glasses in this study (Table 1), and the  
229 revised values for Macquarie Island MORB (Kendrick et al., 2012b), and Society and Pitcairn  
230 glasses (Kendrick et al., 2012a), overlap the ranges of Br/Cl reported by Schilling et al.  
231 (1978; 1980) and Jambon et al. (1995) (Fig 5). Sample CL-DR01 yielded a Br/Cl ratio of  
232  $(3.3 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-3}$  in this study, that is approximately half the outlying value of  $6.3 \times 10^{-3}$   
233 reported by Jambon et al. (1995). Furthermore, sample CH98-DR11 yielded a Br/Cl ratio of  
234  $(3.0 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-3}$  in this study (Table 1) that is indistinguishable from the ratio of  $3.2 \times 10^{-3}$  in  
235 Jambon et al. (1995), suggesting the data from these laboratories are broadly comparable at  
236 the quoted levels of uncertainty (Fig 5).

237 The 19 MORB glasses in this study (Table 1), and the revised values for 36 glasses  
238 from Pitcairn, Society and Macquarie Island (excluding 3 outliers; Fig 4) have a mean I/Cl  
239 ratio of  $(60 \pm 30) \times 10^{-6}$  ( $2\sigma$ ; Kendrick et al., 2012ab). In comparison, the I/Cl ratios obtained  
240 by combining the 14 MORB glasses analysed by Deruelle et al. (1992) and Jambon et al.  
241 (1995) extend from  $20 \times 10^{-6}$  to a much higher value of  $\sim 10^{-4}$  (Fig 5b). The highest values are  
242 similar to the outlying values obtained for the Macquarie Island samples, which are attributed  
243 to palagonite contamination (Fig 5b; Kendrick et al., 2012b), and iodine could have been  
244 over-estimated in some of the MORB samples analysed by Deruelle et al. (1992) if the large  
245 samples required for radiochemical neutron activation analysis included palagonite  
246 contaminants. Very minor palagonite contamination is a potentially serious artefact in iodine  
247 analyses because based on the maximum reported concentration of  $\sim 1$  wt % organic C in  
248 palagonite (Kruber et al., 2008; McLoughlin et al., 2011), and typical I/C ratios of organic  
249 matter (Kennedy and Elderfield, 1987), palagonite could contain up to a  $\sim 1000$  times more I  
250 than pristine MORB glass (Table 1).

251

252 *4.2 The Br/Cl, I/Cl and K/Cl of uncontaminated mantle melts*

253 The E-MORB glasses from Macquarie Island in the SW Pacific (excluding 3 outliers;  
254 Fig 4) and the samples from the Famous and popping rock locations on the Mid Atlantic  
255 Ridge all have very similar Br/Cl and I/Cl ratios that define clusters rather than mixing trends  
256 in Fig 4 and tight groups in Fig 5. The lack of visible mixing trends in these data implies the  
257 halogens were sourced from mantle reservoirs with similar Br/Cl and I/Cl ratios (e.g. the grey  
258 box in Fig 4a), and the melts did not assimilate seawater-derived halogens. The mantle origin  
259 of halogens in the Macquarie Island and Famous melts is further supported by correlations  
260 between the concentration of Cl and other trace elements (e.g. La, U, Ba and Nb) that have  
261 low concentrations in seawater (e.g. Kamenetsky and Eggins, 2012; Kendrick et al., 2012b;  
262 Michael and Cornell, 1998).

263 There are still insufficient data to define realistic ranges of Br/Cl and I/Cl in basalt  
264 glasses that have not been contaminated by seawater-derived components. The E-MORB  
265 glasses from Macquarie Island, Famous and Popping Rock locations all have very similar  
266 Br/Cl of  $(2.7 \pm 0.2) \times 10^{-3}$  (Fig 4). However, if we include ocean island basalt (OIB) glasses  
267 from the Pitcairn and Society seamounts, which also appear to be free of seawater  
268 contaminants (Kendrick et al., 2012a), we define typical ‘mantle’ values of  $(2.8 \pm 0.6) \times 10^{-3}$   
269 for Br/Cl and  $(60 \pm 30) \times 10^{-6}$  for I/Cl (Fig 5). These data show the halogen abundance ratios  
270 are surprisingly uniform with  $2\sigma$  variations of only ~20 % for Br/Cl and ~50 % for I/Cl in a  
271 number of MORB and OIB reservoirs. In comparison, this limited sample set has K/Cl  
272 varying from 10 to 40, with a mean of  $18 \pm 19$ , demonstrating mantle Br/Cl and I/Cl are  
273 much less variable than mantle K/Cl.

274           If the entire mantle has been processed to some degree, the relative degrees variation  
275 in mantle Br/Cl (~20 %), I/Cl (~50 %) and K/Cl (>100 %) could reflect the geochemical  
276 similarities of these elements during subduction recycling (e.g. John et al., 2011; Kendrick et  
277 al., 2011; 2012a; 2013; Stroncik and Haase, 2004). Previous studies have shown Cl, Br, I and  
278 K all have similar compatibilities in silicate melts with MgO of ~1-27 wt %, suggesting their  
279 relative abundance ratios are fairly conservative during normal degrees of partial melting and  
280 fractional crystallisation (Fig 3; Kendrick et al., 2012ab; Schilling et al., 1980).

281

#### 282 *4.3 Assimilation of seawater-derived brines*

283           In contrast to uncontaminated MORB samples that form clusters in Figure 4, the 5  
284 glasses selected from the northwest part of the Lau Basin define binary mixing arrays  
285 between Br/Cl, I/Cl, K/Cl and H<sub>2</sub>O/Cl (Figs 4 and 6; SIMS H<sub>2</sub>O data are from Lytle et al.  
286 (2012)). These mixing arrays have correlation coefficients of ~0.99, and low MSWD values  
287 that demonstrate very high qualities of fit (Fig 6), and similar mixing trends are obtained for a  
288 much larger data set of previously published K/Cl, F/Cl and H<sub>2</sub>O/Cl data (Fig 7ab; Lytle et  
289 al., 2012). The mixing lines in Figures 6 and 7 are interpreted to extend from a mantle end-  
290 member with K/Cl of  $20 \pm 10$  (Fig 7a) and Br/Cl and I/Cl very similar to E-MORB (Fig 6) to  
291 a second assimilated end-member that has Br/Cl, I/Cl, K/Cl and H<sub>2</sub>O/Cl very similar to the  
292 Galápagos glasses (Fig 6).

293           The high Br/Cl ratios of the assimilated components identified from the mixing trends  
294 in Figs 6a and 6b are most easily explained if the melts from the Lau Basin, as well as the  
295 Galápagos Spreading Centre, assimilated high salinity brines, and these data do not favour  
296 alternative mechanisms of assimilating seawater-derived components (Fig 6). Assimilation of  
297 alteration minerals such as amphibole (or salt) is not favoured because these minerals are

308 characterised by low Br/Cl ratios of  $<0.4 \times 10^{-3}$  (Fontes and Matray, 1993; Holser, 1979;  
309 Kendrick, 2012). As in previous studies, the H<sub>2</sub>O/Cl ratio of the assimilated components are  
310 much lower than seawater or any possible low salinity vapour-phase (Figs 6d and 7ab; Kent  
311 et al., 1999ab; 2002; Michael and Schilling, 1989; Le Roux et al., 2006; Perfit et al., 1999;  
312 Wanless et al., 2011). Three of the glasses have measured H<sub>2</sub>O/Cl of 2.0-2.5 (Lytle et al.,  
313 2012) and the H<sub>2</sub>O/Cl intercepts obtained from the various regressions in Figures 6d, 7a and  
314 7b are all 1.6 or lower. These data can be reasonably interpreted to indicate a brine salinity  
315 of more than 40 wt. % salts (Table 2), and a salinity of  $55 \pm 15$  wt % salts is adopted for the  
316 calculations in section 4.4.

317 Plotting H<sub>2</sub>O, K and Cl data from previous studies in which assimilation of seawater  
318 components has been investigated (Coombs et al., 2004; Le Roux et al., 2006; Kent et al.,  
319 1999ab; 2002; Wanless et al., 2011), yields mixing trends that are very similar to those in  
320 Figures 6d and 7a (Fig 8). These data distributions strongly suggest that brines are the  
321 dominant assimilant in all the oceanic settings investigated, and furthermore that in these  
322 settings the brines have a very restricted range of ultra-high salinities (e.g.  $55 \pm 15$  wt. % salts;  
323 Fig 8). The low H<sub>2</sub>O/Cl ratios of the assimilated components are shown very clearly in our  
324 three element plots that use Cl as the denominator, because the data converge on the  
325 assimilant (e.g. Figs 6, 7 and 8). In contrast, variability in mantle Cl/K, H<sub>2</sub>O/K or H<sub>2</sub>O/Nb  
326 ratios mean the uniform nature of the assimilant is masked in plots that use K or Nb as the  
327 denominator (e.g. Le Roux et al., 2006; Kent et al., 1999ab; 2002; Wanless et al., 2011).

318

#### 319 *4.4 Quantity and depth of brine assimilation*

320 The proportion of halogens assimilated by the melts included in this study can be  
321 precisely quantified using the binary mixing models presented in Figures 6 and 7. The

322 proportion of assimilated Cl can be estimated from any X/Cl ratio that has characteristic  
323 values in the mantle and brine (equation 1).

$$324 \quad \% \text{ assimilated Cl} = \frac{[X/Cl_{\text{brine}} - X/Cl_{\text{glass}}]}{[X/Cl_{\text{brine}} - X/Cl_{\text{mantle}}]} \times 100 \quad \text{equation 1.}$$

325 The proportion of assimilated Cl can then be converted to a Cl concentration, and because the  
326 brine salinity is constrained as  $55 \pm 15$  wt. % (Table 2), the concentration of H<sub>2</sub>O assimilated  
327 can also be calculated (e.g. Table 3).

328 Brine assimilation is quantified for five selected samples in Table 3. In each case, we  
329 assume the brine has K/Cl of 0.02-0.2 which is a reasonable estimate for a complex solution  
330 comprising Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, Ca<sup>++</sup>, Mg<sup>++</sup> and Fe<sup>++</sup> salts (e.g. Vanko, 1988). The Br/Cl ratio of the  
331 brine is within uncertainty of the intercepts in Figures 6a and 6b, and appears to be slightly  
332 higher for the Lau Basin samples ( $(3.9 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-3}$ ) than the Galápagos Spreading Centre  
333 ( $(3.7 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-3}$ ) or Juan de Fuca samples ( $(3.6 \pm 0.2) \times 10^{-3}$ ). The Lau Basin glasses show  
334 significant spread in all chemical parameters meaning the mantle end-member can be  
335 reasonably estimated to have K/Cl of  $20 \pm 10$  (Fig 7a) and Br/Cl similar to E-MORB ( $(2.7 \pm$   
336  $0.2) \times 10^{-3}$ ; Figs 6a and b). In contrast, the Galapagos samples all have very low K/Cl (Fig  
337 6d; Michael and Cornell; 1998; Perfit et al., 1999) and in this case we use two conservative  
338 estimates for mantle K/Cl ( $12 \pm 10$  and  $30 \pm 20$ ) and Br/Cl of  $(2.8 \pm 0.6) \times 10^{-3}$  which is  
339 based on a wide selection of uncontaminated MORB and OIB samples (section 4.2; Table 3).  
340 The different methods of calculation adopted in Table 3 give an indication of the  
341 uncertainties: each method gives statistically indistinguishable results for the degree of brine  
342 assimilation but the levels of precision vary (Table 3). Brine assimilation in the Juan de Fuca  
343 samples is poorly resolved (Table 3), but the most contaminated samples from the Lau Basin  
344 and all of the Galapagos Spreading Centre samples are indicated to have assimilated ~95 %  
345 of their total Cl and 35-40 % of their total H<sub>2</sub>O (Table 3). Future studies can use calculations

346 analogous to these to make reliable corrections for assimilated H<sub>2</sub>O and Cl with quantifiable  
347 uncertainty.

348 The Galápagos Spreading Centre samples with MgO of 1.6 to 6.9 wt % all have  
349 indistinguishable Br/Cl (Fig 3) and I/Cl (Table 1), indicating they have assimilated similar  
350 proportions of their total Cl (Fig 6). If brine assimilation occurred at an early stage of melt  
351 evolution, when the melts had MgO concentrations >6.9 wt %, the maximum concentration  
352 of ~12,000 ppm brine components calculated for dacite 1652-5 (Table 3) could result from  
353 fractional crystallisation (Fig 3). In contrast, melts with ~7wt. % MgO from both Lau and  
354 Galápagos (NLD 49-1 and 1652-10) are estimated to have assimilated 1000 to 2000 ppm of  
355 brine (Table 3), which based on densities of ~1.4 g cm<sup>-3</sup> for the brine and 2.9 g cm<sup>-3</sup> for the  
356 melt, would be equivalent to ~2-4 cm<sup>3</sup> of brine being assimilated per litre of melt. Note that  
357 the amount of brine assimilated would be less if assimilation occurred at an even earlier stage  
358 of melt evolution when the melts had >7 wt. % MgO.

359 A final constraint relevant to the interpreted assimilation mechanisms is the depth at  
360 which assimilation occurs. Carbon dioxide and H<sub>2</sub>O concentrations reported for melts from  
361 the northwest part of the Lau Basin range from 2 to 240 ppm CO<sub>2</sub> and 0.2 to 1.3 wt % H<sub>2</sub>O,  
362 indicating CO<sub>2</sub> + H<sub>2</sub>O saturation pressures of ~150 to 600 bars (Lytle et al., 2012). In  
363 comparison, most of the samples were dredged from depths of only 1800 to 2400 m  
364 equivalent to a pressure of <250 bars (Fig 7c; Lytle et al., 2012). These data indicate some of  
365 the Lau samples with low K/Cl ratios, that assimilated up to 2000 ppm brine, were over-  
366 saturated with respect to volatiles on the seafloor (Fig 7c), suggesting that brine assimilation  
367 must have occurred at a higher pressure in the subsurface. If the melt assimilated the brine  
368 under hydrostatic conditions, the implied depth of assimilation is more 3 km beneath the  
369 seafloor (Fig 7c). Similar depths of assimilation, of up to 5 km beneath the seafloor, are



370 indicated by CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O concentration data for glasses from the East Pacific Rise (le Roux  
371 et al., 2006) and Hawaii (Coombs et al., 2004).

372

#### 373 *4.5 Brine generation and assimilation mechanisms*

374 Seafloor hydrothermal vents commonly expel seawater-derived fluids with  
375 temperatures of ~250-420 °C and salinities ranging from ~0.1 to 8 wt. % salts (e.g. Campbell  
376 and Edmond, 1989; Coumou et al., 2009; Fontaine et al., 2007; You et al., 1994); however,  
377 fluid inclusions with much higher salinities of 30-50 wt % salts are common in deeper parts  
378 of the hydrothermal system (e.g. Kelley et al., 1992; 1993; Lécuyer et al., 1999; Nehlig,  
379 1991; Vanko, 1988; Vanko et al. 2004). The available data suggest a portion of these brines  
380 is sometimes assimilated by deep seated magmas intruding layers 2b and 3 of the crust (Figs  
381 6 to 8; sections 4.3-4.4). In this section, we briefly outline how crustal brines with high Br/Cl  
382 ratios (Fig 6) might be generated and why the assimilated brines have a very limited range of  
383 salinity (e.g.  $55 \pm 15$  wt. % salts; Figs 7 and 8).

384 Firstly, the average salinity of seawater-derived fluids in the oceanic crust is increased  
385 by preferential incorporation of OH<sup>-</sup>, relative to Cl<sup>-</sup>, into hydrous alteration minerals such as  
386 clays, chlorite, talc, epidote, mica, amphiboles (e.g. Ito and Anderson, 1983; Palmer, 1992;  
387 Vanko, 1986). At suitably low water-rock ratios this mechanism (alone) can produce ultra-  
388 saline brines and Cl-rich amphiboles with 1-4 wt. % Cl (e.g. Markl and Bucher, 1998; Vanko,  
389 1986; 1988). Given the size of the amphibole anion site limits the ability of Cl<sup>-</sup> to substitute  
390 for OH<sup>-</sup> (Volfinger et al., 1985), and because Br<sup>-</sup> is larger than Cl<sup>-</sup>, it is likely that amphiboles  
391 have lower Br/Cl ratios than coexisting brines (e.g. Svensen et al., 2001); however, the  
392 magnitude of the Br/Cl fractionation between brine and amphibole at the relevant pressure  
393 and temperature conditions is unknown. Therefore it is possible that fluid-rock interactions

394 and hydration of the oceanic crust (alone) could generate fluids with the salinity ( $55 \pm 15$  wt.  
395 % salts) and Br/Cl ratio of the assimilated brine (Figs 6 and 7). Alternatively, much higher  
396 Br/Cl ratios ranging from  $\sim 4 \times 10^{-3}$  up to  $30 \times 10^{-3}$  in eclogite fluid inclusions with salinities of  
397 22-40 wt. % salt have previously been ascribed to this mechanism (Svensen et al., 2001).

398         Seawater-derived fluids can undergo phase separation (or hydrothermal boiling) at  
399 multiple levels within the oceanic crust (Bischoff and Pitzer, 1985; Bischoff and Rosenbauer,  
400 1989; Coumou et al., 2009). Adiabatic decompression produces low salinity vapours and  
401 conjugate brines with up to 8 wt % salts close to the seafloor (e.g. Bischoff and Pitzer, 1985;  
402 Coumou et al., 2009; Lécuyer et al., 1999). However, phase separation could occur at deeper  
403 crustal levels in response to switches from lithostatic to hydrostatic pressure or heating (e.g.  
404 Lécuyer et al., 1999; Vanko, 1988; Vanko et al., 2004). Brines infiltrating the cracking front  
405 surrounding magma chambers in layer 3 of the crust, and brines that come into direct contact  
406 with deep-seated magmas via deeply penetrating faults, will be rapidly heated to magmatic  
407 temperatures (e.g. 1100-1200 °C; Bischoff and Rosenbauer, 1989). The resulting  
408 superheated fluids will boil, with the vapour phase lost to the upper part of the hydrothermal  
409 system and dense residual brines potentially retained in a lower layer of the crust (Fig 9;  
410 Bischoff and Rosenbauer, 1989; Fontaine and Wilcock, 2006) and/or assimilated by the  
411 magma (e.g. Figs 6, 7 and 8). It is possible that in this situation, the relative solubilities of  
412 H<sub>2</sub>O, Cl and Br in basaltic melts could limit the salinity (and Br/Cl) of the brine that can be  
413 assimilated; e.g. the melt may become saturated with respect to H<sub>2</sub>O but remain under-  
414 saturated with respect to Cl (cf. Dixon et al., 1995; Webster et al., 1999).

415         The relative behaviour of Br and Cl during phase separation is not well constrained  
416 and may vary depending on pressure and temperature conditions (e.g. Berndt and Seyfried,  
417 1990; 1997; Liebscher et al., 2006; Foustoukos and Seyfried, 2007). In many cases vent  
418 fluids with variable salinity preserve seawater Br/Cl ratios (Campbell and Edmond, 1989;

419 You et al., 1994), consistent with experimental data that indicate no significant fractionation  
420 of Br/Cl between brines and vapours (e.g. Berndt and Seyfried, 1990; 1997). In this case, or if  
421 Br is preferentially partitioned into the vapour (e.g. Foustoukos and Seyfried, 2007),  
422 fractionation of Br/Cl during crustal hydration combined with phase separation could explain  
423 the high Br/Cl ratios of the assimilated brines (Fig 6). However, low salinity vapours from 9-  
424 10° N on the East Pacific Rise have lower than seawater Br/Cl ratios (Oosting and Von  
425 Damm, 1996), which is consistent with experimental data that favour preferential partitioning  
426 of Br, relative to Cl, into dense brines (Liebscher et al., 2006). Therefore it is also possible  
427 that under the relevant pressure-temperature conditions, boiling off a low Br/Cl vapour phase  
428 in an open system, could account for the inferred high salinity and high Br/Cl ratio of the  
429 assimilated brine (Figs 6 and 7).

430 Finally, it has been suggested that further fractionation of vent fluid Br/Cl ratios could  
431 result from precipitation of halite (e.g. Berndt and Seyfried, 1997; Foustoukos and Seyfried,  
432 2007). This mechanism is unlikely to contribute to the Br/Cl signature of brines assimilated  
433 at >400 bars (Figs 6 and 7) however, because at this pressure precipitation of halite is only  
434 possible during cooling (e.g. Bodnar and Vityk, 1994). In contrast, brines at depths of >3km  
435 would be heated from amphibolite facies temperatures of 500-700 °C (e.g. Vanko, 1988) to  
436 magmatic temperatures of ~1100-1200 °C during assimilation (Fig 9).

437

#### 438 *4.6 Implications for petrology and geochemistry*

439 The Br/Cl ratios of brines assimilated in the northwest part of the Lau Basin, and the  
440 Galápagos Spreading Centre, are well defined by the binary mixing model in Figure 6.  
441 Although a small number of samples have been analysed for Br (5 from Lau and 3 from  
442 Galápagos; Fig 6), these data suggest the assimilated brines had fairly uniform Br/Cl ratios

443 that were slightly different in the two locations (Fig 6). The implied uniformity of the brines  
444 Br/Cl (Fig 6), and the fairly uniform H<sub>2</sub>O/Cl ratios of assimilated components elsewhere  
445 (Figs 6, 7 and 8), strongly suggest that brines are efficiently segregated from OH- and Cl-  
446 bearing alteration minerals before assimilation. Assimilation of OH- and Cl-bearing  
447 alteration minerals together with brines cannot explain the mixing arrays in Figures 6, 7 and  
448 8, because brines mixed together with alteration minerals would have very variable Br/Cl,  
449 I/Cl, K/Cl and H<sub>2</sub>O/Cl ratios. Nonetheless the wall rocks adjacent to active magma chambers  
450 at temperatures of 1100-1200 °C will have been efficiently dehydrated and are likely to have  
451 very low H<sub>2</sub>O and Cl contents. It is therefore plausible that some dehydrated wall-rock is  
452 assimilated together with the brines, and this may help reconcile the halogen data that require  
453 brine assimilation (and no significant assimilation of altered oceanic crust) with previously  
454 reported O-isotope data that are more easily explained by wall rock assimilation (e.g. Perfit et  
455 al., 1999; Wanless et al., 2011).

456 Hydrothermal brines can have ppm concentrations of elements such as Ba, Sr, Cu and  
457 Pb (Coombs et al., 2004; Hardardottir et al., 2009; Schmidt et al., 2007). However, these  
458 elements usually have equivalent or higher concentrations in mantle melts (e.g. Lytle et al.,  
459 2012), meaning assimilation of a few hundred ppm of brine (e.g. Table 3) is unlikely to  
460 perturb the mantle signatures of these elements in magmatic glasses. Similarly, it seems  
461 unlikely that assimilation of a few hundred ppm of brine would greatly influence the O-  
462 isotope signature of a mantle melt, unless dehydrated wall rock is assimilated with the brine  
463 (above). In contrast, brine assimilation could potentially alter the mantle signatures of H-  
464 isotopes, B and noble gases which all have relatively high concentrations in seawater  
465 compared to the mantle (Kent et al., 1999ab). The noble gases are particularly interesting  
466 because they are expected to be strongly partitioned into the vapour phase during phase  
467 separation (Kennedy, 1988), and the extent to which brine assimilation influences noble gases

468 may therefore depend strongly on the role of phase separation in generating the brine (section  
469 4.5).

470 Recently published data for melts from the northwest part of the Lau Basin (Hahm et  
471 al., 2012; Lupton et al., 2012; Lytle et al., 2012), show that melts best preserving high  
472 mantle-like H<sub>2</sub>O/Cl ratios, appear to exhibit slightly more variation in <sup>3</sup>He/<sup>4</sup>He than the melts  
473 most influenced by brine assimilation (Fig 10a), and the melts with high mantle-like H<sub>2</sub>O/Cl  
474 ratios also preserve the highest most mantle-like <sup>20</sup>Ne/<sup>22</sup>Ne ratios (Fig 10b). These data allow  
475 the possibility that brine assimilation has influenced both the <sup>3</sup>He/<sup>4</sup>He ratio and <sup>20</sup>Ne/<sup>22</sup>Ne  
476 ratio of the Lau Basin melts. We briefly explore the feasibility of this suggestion and explore  
477 its significance to demonstrate how noble gases might be combined with H<sub>2</sub>O and halogen  
478 data in future studies.

479 Brine assimilation could potentially influence the He isotope systematics of the melts  
480 because even after phase separation, hydrothermal brines with negligible atmospheric helium  
481 are enriched in mantle-derived ( $\pm$  radiogenic) helium sourced from oceanic crust by hundreds  
482 of times relative to seawater helium concentrations (Kennedy, 1988). Correlations between  
483 <sup>4</sup>He/<sup>40</sup>Ar\* and <sup>36</sup>Ar/<sup>40</sup>Ar\* in some basalt glasses have previously been interpreted as  
484 indicating some helium is assimilated together with atmospheric contaminants (Fisher, 1997).  
485 Brines circulated through very young oceanic crust will acquire helium with a <sup>3</sup>He/<sup>4</sup>He ratio  
486 of close to the mantle average, whereas brines circulated through older crust will be relatively  
487 enriched in radiogenic <sup>4</sup>He. As a result, brine assimilation could have a subtle effect on the  
488 <sup>3</sup>He/<sup>4</sup>He ratios of basalt glasses, by either shifting melt <sup>3</sup>He/<sup>4</sup>He ratios toward the crustal  
489 average (e.g. Fig 10a), or perturbing the <sup>3</sup>He/<sup>4</sup>He ratios to lower values (Graham, 2002).

490 In contrast to He, seawater has relatively high concentrations of atmospheric Ne, Ar,  
491 Kr and Xe compared to the mantle (Ozima and Podosek, 2002), and seawater-derived brines

492 as well as altered oceanic lithosphere are dominated by atmospheric Ne, Ar, Kr and Xe  
493 isotope signatures (Kennedy, 1988; Kendrick et al., 2011; 2013; Staudacher and Allegre,  
494 1988). If the proposed mixing trends in Fig 10b are ascribed to brine assimilation alone (and  
495 not late stage air contamination; e.g. Ballentine and Barfod, 2000), the convex shape of the  
496 trends suggests that the mantle signatures of heavy noble gases (Ne, Ar, Kr, Xe) are  
497 overprinted by brine assimilation more easily than mantle H<sub>2</sub>O/Cl (or halogen) signatures.  
498 Furthermore, based on the Ne and Cl concentrations of the glasses investigated (Hahm et al.,  
499 2012; Lytle et al., 2012; Lupton et al., 2012), the curvature of the proposed mixing trends  
500 (Fig 10b) suggests the brines had Ne/Cl ratios broadly similar to seawater (within a factor of  
501 5-10) and higher than the mantle. This would be possible if: atmospheric noble gases were  
502 acquired from lithological reservoirs in the sub-surface; or phase separation was a minor  
503 process in generating the brines' salinity (cf. section 4.5).

504         Collection of further noble gas data combined with H<sub>2</sub>O and Cl are required to better  
505 evaluate the extent to which noble gas isotope ratios are correlated with variations in H<sub>2</sub>O/Cl  
506 (cf. Fig 10). This is important because noble gas versus H<sub>2</sub>O/Cl plots can be used to provide  
507 new inferences on the sources of atmospheric noble gases and address long standing  
508 uncertainties in the origin of atmospheric noble gases in pristine glasses (e.g. Patterson et al.,  
509 1990; Ballentine and Barfod, 2000). If the correlations proposed in Figure 10 are  
510 substantiated, and modern air contamination during sample preparation is shown to be a  
511 minor artefact (cf. Ballentine and Barfod, 2000), the noble gas data would provide powerful  
512 constraints on the alternative brine generation and assimilation mechanisms outlined in  
513 section 4.5.

514

## 515         **5. Summary and Conclusions**

516 Submarine lavas exhibit limited variation in Br/Cl and I/Cl with average and 2  
517 standard deviation values of  $[(2.8 \pm 0.6) \times 10^{-3}]$  and  $[(60 \pm 30) \times 10^{-6}]$ , respectively, in 43  
518 MORB and OIB samples shown to be free of significant seawater contamination (based on  
519 correlations between Cl and other trace elements or isotopes). These ratios are invariant with  
520 respect to MgO and considered representative of the mantle sources.

521 Assuming the entire mantle has been processed to some degree, the relative degrees of  
522 variation in MORB and OIB Br/Cl (~20 %), I/Cl (~50 %) and K/Cl (>100 %), could reflect  
523 the behaviour of these elements during subduction. These elements do not appear to be  
524 fractionated during the degrees of partial melting and fractional crystallisation required to  
525 generate silicate melts with MgO of 1-27 wt %.

526 Assimilation of seawater-derived halogens can be recognised from mixing lines  
527 generated in Br/Cl, I/Cl, F/Cl, K/Cl and H<sub>2</sub>O/Cl plots (Figs 6, 7 and 8). The H<sub>2</sub>O/Cl and  
528 Br/Cl data do not favour the direct involvement of seawater, low salinity vapour phases or  
529 crustal alteration minerals in the assimilation process. Rather they demonstrate melts from  
530 the Lau Basin, Galápagos Spreading Centre and all other locations with anomalously Cl-rich  
531 glasses previously investigated, assimilated brines with salinities of  $55 \pm 15$  wt. % salts (Figs  
532 7 and 8).

533 The high salinity and elevated Br/Cl signature of the brines are generated by a  
534 combination of fluid-rock interaction, with preferential incorporation of OH<sup>-</sup>>Cl<sup>-</sup>>Br<sup>-</sup> into  
535 hydrous minerals, and phase separation. The relative importance of these processes is  
536 unknown, but open system boiling of hydrothermal fluids during, or immediately prior to,  
537 assimilation is likely to generate extremely saline brines, and the relative solubilities of Cl, Br  
538 and H<sub>2</sub>O in basalt melts may further limit the salinity and Br/Cl ratios of the brines that can  
539 be assimilated.

540           Mixing models allow the proportion of seawater-derived H<sub>2</sub>O and Cl introduced by  
541 brine assimilation to be precisely quantified. The melts from the Lau Basin and Galápagos  
542 Spreading Centre assimilated up to 35-40 % of their total H<sub>2</sub>O and 95 % of their total Cl.  
543 Similar calculations can be used to reliably correct measured H<sub>2</sub>O and Cl abundances for  
544 assimilation enabling improved estimates of mantle H<sub>2</sub>O and Cl.

545           The widespread assimilation of seawater-derived brines, rather than seawater, implies  
546 assimilation could potentially influence the helium isotope systematics of some mantle melts.  
547 Plotting elemental or isotopic ratios, such as <sup>3</sup>He/<sup>4</sup>He, as a function of H<sub>2</sub>O/Cl is an effective  
548 method for assessing the extent to which the ratio is influenced by brine assimilation (e.g. Fig  
549 10).

550

## 551 **Acknowledgements**

552 Stanislav Szczepanski is thanked for technical assistance in the University of Melbourne  
553 noble gas laboratory. Dr Mark Kendrick was the recipient of an Australian Research Council  
554 QEII Fellowship (project number DP 0879451). Some of the samples analysed here were  
555 provided to RJA by Charles Langmuir and Michael Perfit, 35 years ago, some came from  
556 CRPG core shed, others were collected during the SS07/07 voyage of Australia's Marine  
557 National Facility (RV *Southern Surveyor*): the Facility's staff, captain and crew, are thanked  
558 for their efficient operation of that voyage. I am indebted to Dr John Bennett and Attila  
559 Stopic (ANSTO) for undertaking neutron activation analyses and answering numerous  
560 queries about neutron fluences and K<sub>0</sub> standardisation (supplementary information). Michael  
561 Perfit, Michelle Coombs and an anonymous reviewer are gratefully acknowledged for  
562 constructive comments that improved this manuscript.

563



564 **References**

- 565 Bach, W. and Niedermann, S., 1998. Atmospheric noble gases in volcanic glasses from the  
566 southern Lau Basin: origin from the subducting slab? *Earth and Planetary Science*  
567 *Letters* **160**, 297-309.
- 568 Ballentine, C. J. and Barfod, D. N., 2000. The origin of air-like noble gases in MORB and  
569 OIB. *Earth and Planetary Science Letters* **180**, 39-48.
- 570 Berndt, M. E. and Seyfried, W. E., 1990. Boron, Bromine and Other Trace-Elements as Clues  
571 to the Fate of Chlorine in Midocean Ridge Vent Fluids. *Geochimica et Cosmochimica*  
572 *Acta* **54**, 2235-2245.
- 573 Berndt, M.E., Seyfried, W.E., 1997. Calibration of Br/Cl fractionation during subcritical  
574 phase separation of seawater: Possible halite at 9 to 10 degrees N East Pacific Rise.  
575 *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta*, 61(14): 2849-2854.
- 576 Bischoff, J. L. and Rosenbauer, R. J., 1989. Salinity variations in submarine hydrothermal  
577 systems by layered double-diffusive convection. *Journal of Geology* **97**, 613-623.
- 578 Bischoff, J.L., Pitzer, K.S., 1985. Phase relations and adiabats in boiling seafloor geothermal  
579 systems. *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*, 75(4): 327-338.
- 580 Bodnar, R.J., Vityk, M.O., 1994. Interpretation of Microthermometric Data for H<sub>2</sub>O-NaCl  
581 Fluid Inclusions. In: De Vivo, B., Frezzotti, M.L. (Eds.), *Fluid Inclusions in Minerals;*  
582 *Methods and Applications*. Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, pp. 117-130.
- 583 Bougault, H., Dmitriev, L., Schilling, J. G., Sobolev, A., Joron, J. L., and Needham, H. D.,  
584 1988. Mantle heterogeneity from trace elements: MAR triple junction near 14°N.  
585 *Earth and Planetary Science Letters* **88**, 27-36.
- 586 Bougault, H. and Treuil, M., 1980. Mid-Atlantic Ridge: zero-age geochemical variations  
587 between Azores and 22°N. *Nature* **286**, 209-212.

588 Bryan, W.B., Thompson, G., Michael, P.J., 1979. Compositional variation in a steady-state  
589 zoned magma chamber: Mid-Atlantic Ridge at 36°50'N. *Tectonophysics* **55**, 63-85.

590 Burnard, P., Graham, D., and Turner, G., 1997. Vesicle-specific noble gas analyses of  
591 "popping rock"; implications for primordial noble gases in the Earth. *Science* **276**,  
592 568-571.

593 Burnard, P. G., Graham, D. W., and Farley, K. A., 2002. Mechanisms of magmatic gas loss  
594 along the Southeast Indian Ridge and the Amsterdam -St. Paul Plateau. *Earth and*  
595 *Planetary Science Letters* **203**, 131-148.

596 Campbell, A.C., Edmond, J.M., 1989. Halide systematics of submarine hydrothermal vents.  
597 *Nature*, **342** (6246): 168-170.

598 Carroll, M. R. and Holloway, J. R., 1994. Volatiles in Magmas. In: Ribbe, P. H.  
599 (Ed.),Reviews in Mineralogy. Mineralogical Society of America, Washington DC.

600 Coogan, L. A., Mitchell, N. C., and O'Hara, M. J., 2003. Roof assimilation at fast spreading  
601 ridges: An investigation combining geophysical, geochemical, and field evidence. *J.*  
602 *Geophys. Res.-Solid Earth* **108**.

603 Coombs, M. L., Sisson, T. W., and Kimura, J. I., 2004. Ultra-high chlorine in submarine  
604 Kilauea glasses: evidence for direct assimilation of brine by magma. *Earth and*  
605 *Planetary Science Letters* **217**, 297-313.

606 Coumou, D., Driesner, T., Weis, P., and Heinrich, C. A., 2009. Phase separation, brine  
607 formation, and salinity variation at Black Smoker hydrothermal systems. *J. Geophys.*  
608 *Res.-Solid Earth* **114**.

609 Deruelle, B., Dreibus, G., and Jambon, A., 1992. Iodine abundances in oceanic basalts:  
610 implications for Earth dynamics. *Earth and Planetary Science Letters* **108**, 217-227.

611 Dixon, J.E., Stolper, E.M., Holloway, J.R., 1995. An experimental study of water and carbon  
612 dioxide solubilities in mid ocean ridge basaltic liquids .1. Calibration and solubility  
613 models. *Journal of Petrology*, 36(6): 1607-1631.

614 Embley, R. W., Jonasson, I. R., Perfit, M. R., Franklin, J. M., Tivey, M. A., Malahoff, A.,  
615 Smith, M. F., and Francis, T. J. G., 1988. Submersible Investigation of an Extinct  
616 Hydrothermal System on the Galapagos Ridge - Sulfide Mounds, Stockwork Zone,  
617 and Differentiated Lavas. *Canadian Mineralogist* **26**, 517-539.

618 Filiberto, J. and Treiman, A. H., 2009. The effect of chlorine on the liquidus of basalt: First  
619 results and implications for basalt genesis on Mars and Earth. *Chemical Geology* **263**,  
620 60-68.

621 Fisher, D. E., 1997. Helium, argon, and xenon in crushed and melted MORB. *Geochimica et*  
622 *Cosmochimica Acta* **61**, 3003-3012.

623 Fontaine, F. J. and Wilcock, W. S. D., 2006. Dynamics and storage of brine in mid-ocean  
624 ridge hydrothermal systems. *J. Geophys. Res.-Solid Earth* **111**.

625 Fontaine, F.J., Wilcock, W.S.D., Butterfield, D.A., 2007. Physical controls on the salinity of  
626 mid-ocean ridge hydrothermal vent fluids. *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*,  
627 **257**(1-2): 132-145.

628 Fontes, J. C. and Matray, J. M., 1993. Geochemistry and origin of formation brines from the  
629 Paris Basin, France 1. Brines associated with Triassic salts. *Chemical Geology* **109**,  
630 149-175.

631 Foustoukos, D.I., Seyfried, W.E., 2007. Trace element partitioning between vapor, brine and  
632 halite under extreme phase separation conditions. *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta*,  
633 **71**(8): 2056-2071.

634 Graham, D. W., 2002. Noble Gas Isotope Geochemistry of Mid-Ocean Ridge and Ocean  
635 Island Basalts: Characterisation of Mantle Source Reservoirs. In: Porcelli, D.,

636 Ballentine, C. J., and Wieler, R. Eds.), Noble Gases in Geochemistry and  
637 Cosmochemistry.

638 Hahm, D., Hilton, D. R., Castillo, P. R., Hawkins, J. W., Hanan, B. B., and Hauri, E. H.,  
639 2012. An overview of the volatile systematics of the Lau Basin – Resolving the  
640 effects of source variation, magmatic degassing and crustal contamination.  
641 *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* **85**, 88-113.

642 Hammerli, J., Rusk, B., Spandler, C., Emsbo, P., and Oliver, N. H. S., 2013. In situ  
643 quantification of Br and Cl in minerals and fluid inclusions by LA-ICP-MS: A  
644 powerful tool to identify fluid sources. *Chemical Geology* **337–338**, 75-87.

645 Hardardottir, V., Brown, K. L., Fridriksson, T., Hedenquist, J. W., Hannington, M. D., and  
646 Thorhallsson, S., 2009. Metals in deep liquid of the Reykjanes geothermal system,  
647 southwest Iceland: Implications for the composition of seafloor black smoker fluids.  
648 *Geology* **37**, 1103-1106.

649 Hekinian, R., Fevrier, M., Avedik, F., Cambon, P., Charlou, J. L., Needham, H. D., Raillard,  
650 J., Boulegue, J., Merlivat, L., Moinet, A., Manganini, S., and Lange, J., 1983. East  
651 Pacific Rise Near 13-Degrees-N - Geology of New Hydrothermal Fields. *Science* **219**,  
652 1321-1324.

653 Hilton, D. R. and Porcelli, D., 2003. Noble Gases as Mantle Tracers. In: Carlson, R. L. (Ed.),  
654 The Mantle and Core - Treatise of Geochemistry. Elsevier, Oxford.

655 Hofmann, A. W., 2003. Sampling Mantle Heterogeneity through Oceanic Basalts: Isotopes  
656 and Trace Elements. In: Carlson, R. L. (Ed.), Treatise of Geochemistry Volume 2:  
657 The Core and Mantle. Elsevier Ltd.

658 Holser, W. T., 1979. Trace elements and isotopes in evaporites. In: Burns, R. G. (Ed.),  
659 Marine minerals: Mineralogical Society of America Short Course Notes.

660 Ito, E., Anderson, A.T., Jr., 1983. Submarine metamorphism of gabbros from the Mid-  
661 Cayman Rise: Petrographic and mineralogic constraints on hydrothermal processes at  
662 slow-spreading ridges. *Contributions to Mineralogy and Petrology*, 82(4): 371-388.

663 Ito, E., Harris, D. M., and Anderson, A. T., 1983. Alteration of Oceanic-Crust and Geologic  
664 Cycling of Chlorine and Water. *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* **47**, 1613-1624.

665 Jambon, A., Deruelle, B., Dreibus, G., and Pineau, F., 1995. Chlorine and bromine abundance  
666 in MORB: The contrasting behaviour of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge and East Pacific Rise  
667 and implications for chlorine geodynamic cycle. *Chemical Geology* **126**, 101-117.

668 John, T., Scambelluri, M., Frische, M., Barnes, J.D., Bach, W., 2011. Dehydration of  
669 subducting serpentinite: Implications for halogen mobility in subduction zones and  
670 the deep halogen cycle. *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*, 308(1-2): 65-76.

671 Kamenetsky, V. S. and Eggins, S. M., 2012. Systematics of metals, metalloids, and volatiles  
672 in MORB melts: Effects of partial melting, crystal fractionation and degassing (a case  
673 study of Macquarie Island glasses). *Chemical Geology* **302**, 76-86.

674 Kelley, D. S., Gillis, K. M., and Thompson, G., 1993. Fluid evolution in submarine magma-  
675 hydrothermal systems at the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. *J. Geophys. Res.-Solid Earth* **98**,  
676 19579-19596.

677 Kelley, D. S., Robinson, P. T., and Malpas, J. G., 1992. Processes of brine generation and  
678 circulation in the oceanic-crust – Fluid inclusion evidence from the Troodos  
679 Ophiolite, Cyprus. *J. Geophys. Res.-Solid Earth* **97**, 9307-9322.

680 Kendrick, M. A., 2012. High precision Cl, Br and I determination in mineral standards using  
681 the noble gas method. *Chemical Geology* **292-293**, 116-126.

682 Kendrick, M. A., Honda, M., Pettke, T., Scambelluri, M., Phillips, D., and Giuliani, A., 2013.  
683 Subduction zone fluxes of halogens and noble gases in seafloor and forearc  
684 serpentinites. *Earth and Planetary Science Letters* **365**, 86-96.

685 Kendrick, M. A., Kamenetsky, V. S., Phillips, D., and Honda, M., 2012a. Halogen (Cl, Br, I)  
686 systematics of mid-ocean ridge basalts: a Macquarie Island case study. *Geochimica et*  
687 *Cosmochimica Acta* **81**, 82-93.

688 Kendrick, M. A., Scambelluri, M., Honda, M., and Phillips, D., 2011. High abundances of  
689 noble gas and chlorine delivered to the mantle by serpentinite subduction. *Nat.*  
690 *Geosci.* **4**, 807-812.

691 Kendrick, M. A., Woodhead, J. D., and Kamenetsky, V. S., 2012b. Tracking halogens  
692 through the subduction cycle. *Geology* **40**, 1075-1078.

693 Kennedy, B. M., 1988. Noble gases in vent water from the Juan de Fuca Ridge. *Geochimica*  
694 *et Cosmochimica Acta* **52**, 1929-1935.

695 Kennedy, H. A. and Elderfield, H., 1987. Iodine diagenesis in pelagic deep sea sediments.  
696 *Geochemica et Cosmochemica Acta* **51**, 2489-2504.

697 Kent, A. J. R., Clague, D. A., Honda, M., Stolper, E. M., Hutcheon, I. D., and Norman, M.  
698 D., 1999a. Widespread assimilation of a seawater-derived component at Loihi  
699 Seamount, Hawaii. *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* **63**, 2749-2761.

700 Kent, A. J. R., Norman, M. D., Hutcheon, I. D., and Stolper, E. M., 1999b. Assimilation of  
701 seawater-derived components in an oceanic volcano: evidence from matrix glasses  
702 and glass inclusions from Loihi seamount, Hawaii. *Chemical Geology* **156**, 299-319.

703 Kent, A. J. R., Peate, D. W., Newman, S., Stolper, E. M., and Pearce, J. A., 2002. Chlorine in  
704 submarine glasses from the Lau Basin: seawater contamination and constraints on the  
705 composition of slab-derived fluids. *Earth and Planetary Science Letters* **202**, 361-  
706 377.

707 Kruber, C., Thorseth, I. H., and Pedersen, R. B., 2008. Seafloor alteration of basaltic glass:  
708 Textures, geochemistry, and endolithic microorganisms. *Geochem. Geophys. Geosyst.*  
709 **9**.

710 Langmuir, C. H., Bender, J. F., Bence, A. E., and Hanson, G. N., 1977. Petrogenesis of  
711 Basalts from the FAMOUS Area: Mid-Atlantic Ridge. *Earth and Planetary Science*  
712 *Letters* **36**, 133-156.

713 Langmuir, C. H., Vocke Jr, R. D., Hanson, G. N., and Hart, S. R., 1978. A general mixing  
714 equation with applications to Icelandic basalts. *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*  
715 **37**, 380-392.

716 le Roux, P. J., Shirey, S. B., Hauri, E. H., Perfit, M. R., and Bender, J. F., 2006. The effects  
717 of variable sources, processes and contaminants on the composition of northern EPR  
718 MORB (8-10 degrees N and 12-14 degrees N): Evidence from volatiles (H<sub>2</sub>O, CO<sub>2</sub>, S)  
719 and halogens (F, Cl). *Earth and Planetary Science Letters* **251**, 209-231.

720 Lécuyer, C. et al., 1999. Phase separation and fluid mixing in subseafloor back arc  
721 hydrothermal systems: A microthermometric and oxygen isotope study of fluid  
722 inclusions in the barite-sulfide chimneys of the Lau Basin. *Journal of Geophysical*  
723 *Research: Solid Earth*, 104(B8): 17911-17927.

724 Liebscher, A., Luders, V., Heinrich, W., and Schettler, G., 2006. Br/Cl signature of  
725 hydrothermal fluids: liquid-vapour fractionation of bromine revisited. *Geofluids* **6**,  
726 113-121.

727 Litasov, K. D., Ohtani, E., and Sano, A., 2006. Influence of Water on Major Phase  
728 Transitions in the Earth's Mantle. In: Jacobsen, S. B. and Lee, S. v. d. Eds.), *Earth's*  
729 *Deep Water Cycle*. American Geophysical Union.

730 Ludwig, K. R., 2009. User's manual for Isoplot 3.7. Berkeley Geochronology Center Special  
731 Publication No. 4.

732 Lupton, J. E., Arculus, R. J., Evans, L. J., and Graham, D. W., 2012. Mantle hotspot neon in  
733 basalts from the Northwest Lau Back-arc Basin. *Geophysical Research Letters* **39**.

734 Lupton, J. E., Arculus, R. J., Greene, R. R., Evans, L. J., and Goddard, C. I., 2009. Helium  
735 isotope variations in seafloor basalts from the Northwest Lau Backarc Basin:  
736 Mapping the influence of the Samoan hotspot. *Geophysical Research Letters* **36**.  
737 Lytle, M. L., Kelley, K. A., Hauri, E. H., Gill, J. B., Papia, D., and Arculus, R. J., 2012.  
738 Tracing mantle sources and Samoan influence in the northwestern Lau back-arc basin.  
739 *Geochemistry, Geophysics, Geosystems* **13**, n/a-n/a.

740 Markl, G., Bucher, K., 1998. Composition of fluids in the lower crust inferred from  
741 metamorphic salt in lower crustal rocks. *Nature*, 391(6669): 781-783.

742 Marty, B. and Humbert, F., 1997. Nitrogen and argon isotopes in oceanic basalts. *Earth and*  
743 *Planetary Science Letters* **152**, 101-112.

744 Marty, B. and Zimmermann, L., 1999. Volatiles (He, C, N, Ar) in mid-ocean ridge basalts:  
745 assesment of shallow-level fractionation and characterization of source composition.  
746 *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* **63**, 3619-3633.

747 McLoughlin, N., Wacey, D., Kruber, C., Kilburn, M. R., Thorseth, I. H., and Pedersen, R. B.,  
748 2011. A combined TEM and NanoSIMS study of endolithic microfossils in altered  
749 seafloor basalt. *Chemical Geology* **289**, 154-162.

750 Michael, P. J. and Cornell, W. C., 1998. Influence of spreading rate and magma supply on  
751 crystallization and assimilation beneath mid-ocean ridges: Evidence from chlorine  
752 and major element chemistry of mid-ocean ridge basalts. *J. Geophys. Res.-Solid Earth*  
753 **103**, 18325-18356.

754 Michael, P. J. and Schilling, J.-G., 1989. Chlorine in mid-ocean ridge magmas: Evidence for  
755 assimilation of seawater-influenced components. *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta*  
756 **53**, 3131-3143.

757 Moreira, M., Kunz, J., and Allegre, C., 1998. Rare gas systematics in popping rock: Isotopic  
758 and elemental compositions in the upper mantle. *Science* **279**, 1178-1181.



759 Mukhopadhyay, S., 2012. Early differentiation and volatile accretion recorded in deep-mantle  
760 neon and xenon. *Nature* **486**, 101-104.

761 Nehlig, P., 1991. Salinity of oceanic hydrothermal fluids: a fluid inclusion study. *Earth and*  
762 *Planetary Science Letters* **102**, 310-325.

763 Newman, S., Lowenstern, J.B., 2002. VOLATILECALC: a silicate melt-H<sub>2</sub>O-CO<sub>2</sub> solution  
764 model written in Visual Basic for excel. *Computers & Geosciences*, 28(5): 597-604.

765 Nishio, Y., Sasaki, S., Gamo, T., Hiyagon, H., and Sano, Y., 1998. Carbon and helium  
766 isotope systematics of North Fiji Basin basalt glasses: carbon geochemical cycle in  
767 the subduction zone. *Earth and Planetary Science Letters* **154**, 127-138.

768 Oosting, S.E., Von Damm, K.L., 1996. Bromide/chloride fractionation in seafloor  
769 hydrothermal fluids from 9–10°N East Pacific Rise. *Earth and Planetary Science*  
770 *Letters*, 144(1–2): 133-145.

771 Ozima, M., Podosek, F.A., 2002. Noble Gas Geochemistry. Cambridge University Press.

772 Palmer, M. R., 1992. Controls over the chloride concentration of submarine hydrothermal  
773 vent fluids: evidence from Sr/Ca and <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr ratios. *Earth and Planetary Science*  
774 *Letters* **109**, 37-46.

775 Patterson, D. B., Honda, M., and McDougall, I., 1990. Atmospheric Contamination: A  
776 Possible Source for Heavy Noble Gases in Basalts from Loihi Seamount, Hawaii.  
777 *Geophysical Research Letters* **17**, 705-708.

778 Perfit, M. R., Cann, J. R., Fornari, D. J., Engels, J., Smith, D. K., Ian Ridley, W., and  
779 Edwards, M. H., 2003. Interaction of sea water and lava during submarine eruptions at  
780 mid-ocean ridges. *Nature* **426**, 62-65.

781 Perfit, M.R., Ridley, W.I., Jonasson, I.R., 1999. Geologic, petrologic and geochemical  
782 relationships between magmatism and massive sulfide mineralization along the  
783 eastern Galapagos Spreading Center. In: C.T., B., Hannington, M.D. (Editors),

784 Volcanic Associated Massive Sulfide Deposits: Processes and Examples in Modern  
785 and Ancient Settings. *Reviews in Economic Geology*. The Society of Economic  
786 Geologists, pp. 75-99.

787 Saal, A. E., Hauri, E. H., Langmuir, C. H., and Perfit, M. R., 2002. Vapour undersaturation in  
788 primitive mid-ocean-ridge basalt and the volatile content of Earth's upper mantle.  
789 *Nature* **419**, 451-455.

790 Sano, T., Miyoshi, M., Ingle, S., Banerjee, N.R., Ishimoto, M., Fukuoka, T., 2008. Boron and  
791 chlorine contents of upper oceanic crust: Basement samples from IODP Hole 1256D.  
792 *Geochemistry, Geophysics, Geosystems* **9**, Q12O15.

793 Sarda, P., 2004. Surface noble gas recycling to the terrestrial mantle. *Earth and Planetary  
794 Science Letters* **228**, 49-63.

795 Scambelluri, M., Piccardo, G. B., Philippot, P., Robbiano, A., and Negretti, L., 1997. High  
796 salinity fluid inclusions formed from recycled seawater in deeply subducted alpine  
797 serpentinite. *Earth and Planetary Science Letters* **148**, 485-499.

798 Schilling, J. C., Unni, C. K., and Bender, M. L., 1978. Origin of Chlorine and Bromine in the  
799 oceans. *Nature* **273**, 631-636.

800 Schilling, J. G., Bergeron, M. B., and Evans, R., 1980. Halogens in the mantle beneath the  
801 North Atlantic. *Philos. Trans. R. Soc. Lond. Ser. A-Math. Phys. Eng. Sci.* **297**, 147-  
802 178.

803 Schmidt, K., Koschinsky, A., Garbe-Schönberg, D., de Carvalho, L. M., and Seifert, R.,  
804 2007. Geochemistry of hydrothermal fluids from the ultramafic-hosted Logatchev  
805 hydrothermal field, 15°N on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge: Temporal and spatial  
806 investigation. *Chemical Geology* **242**, 1-21.

807 Seyfried, W. E., Jr., Seewald, J. S., Berndt, M. E., Ding, K., and Foustoukos, D. I., 2003.  
808 Chemistry of hydrothermal vent fluids from the Main Endeavour Field, northern Juan

809 de Fuca Ridge: Geochemical controls in the aftermath of June 1999 seismic events. *J.*  
810 *Geophys. Res.* **108**, 2429.

811 Smith, M. C., Perfit, M. R., and Jonasson, I. R., 1994. Petrology and Geochemistry of Basalts  
812 from the Southern Juan De Fuca Ridge - Controls on the Spatial and Temporal  
813 Evolution of Mid-Ocean Ridge Basalt. *J. Geophys. Res.-Solid Earth* **99**, 4787-4812.

814 Soule, S. A., Fornari, D. J., Perfit, M. R., Ridley, W. I., Reed, M. H., and Cann, J. R., 2006.  
815 Incorporation of seawater into mid-ocean ridge lava flows during emplacement. *Earth*  
816 *and Planetary Science Letters* **252**, 289-307.

817 Staudacher, T. and Allègre, C. J., 1988. Recycling of oceanic crust and sediments: the noble  
818 gas subduction barrier. *Earth and Planetary Science Letters* **89**, 173-183.

819 Staudacher, T., Sarda, P., Richardson, S. H., Allegre, C. J., Sagna, I., and Dmitriev, L. V.,  
820 1989. Noble-Gases in Basalt Glasses from a Mid-Atlantic Ridge Topographic High at  
821 14 degrees-N - Geodynamic Consequences. *Earth and Planetary Science Letters* **96**,  
822 119-133.

823 Straub, S.M., Layne, G.D., 2003. The systematics of chlorine, fluorine, and water in Izu arc  
824 front volcanic rocks: Implications for volatile recycling in subduction zones.  
825 *Geochimica Et Cosmochimica Acta*, 67(21): 4179-4203.

826 Stroncik, N.A., Haase, K.M., 2004. Chlorine in oceanic intraplate basalts: Constraints on  
827 mantle sources and recycling processes. *Geology*, 32(11): 945-948.

828 Svensen, H., Banks, D. A., and Austreim, H., 2001. Halogen contents of eclogite facies fluid  
829 inclusions and minerals: Caledonides, western Norway. *Journal of Metamorphic*  
830 *Geology* **19**, 165-178.

831 Trieloff, M., Falter, M., and Jessberger, E. K., 2003. The distribution of mantle and  
832 atmospheric argon in oceanic basalt glasses. *Geochimica Et Cosmochimica Acta* **67**,  
833 1229-1245.

834 Unni, C. K. and Schilling, J. G., 1977. Determination of Bromine in Silicate Rocks by  
835 epithermal Neutron-Activation Analysis. *Analytical Chemistry* **49**, 1998-2000.

836 Unni, C. K. and Schilling, J. G., 1978. Cl and Br Degassing by Volcanism Along Reykjanes  
837 Ridge and Iceland. *Nature* **272**, 19-23.

838 Vanko, D. A., 1986. High-chlorine amphiboles from oceanic rocks: product of highly-saline  
839 hydrothermal fluids? *Am. Miner.* **71**, 51-59.

840 Vanko, D.A., 1988. Temperature, pressure, and composition of hydrothermal fluids, with  
841 their bearing on the magnitude of tectonic uplift at mid-ocean ridges, inferred from  
842 fluid inclusions in oceanic layer 3 rocks. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Solid*  
843 *Earth*, 93(B5): 4595-4611.

844 Vanko, D.A., Bach, W., Roberts, S., Yeats, C.J., Scott, S.D., 2004. Fluid inclusion evidence  
845 for subsurface phase separation and variable fluid mixing regimes beneath the deep-  
846 sea PACMANUS hydrothermal field, Manus Basin back arc rift, Papua New Guinea.  
847 *Journal of Geophysical Research-Solid Earth*, 109(B3).

848 Volfinger, M., Robert, J.L., Vielzeuf, D., Neiva, A.M.R., 1985. Structural control of the  
849 chlorine content of OH-bearing silicates (micas and amphiboles). *Geochimica et*  
850 *Cosmochimica Acta*, 49(1): 37-48.

851 Wanless, V. D., Perfit, M. R., Ridley, W. I., and Klein, E., 2010. Dacite Petrogenesis on Mid-  
852 Ocean Ridges: Evidence for Oceanic Crustal Melting and Assimilation. *J. Petrol.* **51**,  
853 2377-2410.

854 Wanless, V.D. et al., 2011. Volatile abundances and oxygen isotopes in basaltic to dacitic  
855 lavas on mid-ocean ridges: The role of assimilation at spreading centers. *Chemical*  
856 *Geology*, 287(1-2): 54-65.

857 Webster, J.D., Kinzler, R.J., Mathez, E.A., 1999. Chloride and water solubility in basalt and  
858 andesite melts and implications for magmatic degassing. *Geochimica Et*  
859 *Cosmochimica Acta*, 63(5): 729-738.

860 You, C.F. et al., 1994. Boron and halide systematics in submarine hydrothermal systems:  
861 Effects of phase separation and sedimentary contributions. *Earth and Planetary*  
862 *Science Letters*, 123(1-3): 227-238.

863

**Table 1. Basalt Glass total fusion halogen data (2 $\sigma$  analytical uncertainty)**

Sample name	MgO Wt.%	(La/Sm) <sub>N</sub>	<sup>3</sup> He/ <sup>4</sup> He R/Ra	Mass (mg)	Cl ppm	Br ppb	I ppb	K wt.%	Br/Cl (wt.) ×10 <sup>-3</sup>	I/Cl (wt.) ×10 <sup>-6</sup>	K/Cl (wt.)
<i>Mid-Atlantic Ridge Famous area (36° 50'N)</i>											
Alv 529-4	9.1	1.0		19.4	111	300	4.5	0.11	2.69 ± 0.08	40 ± 6	10.3 ± 0.7
Alv 523-1	8.5	1.5		9.3	135	350	7.2	0.17	2.59 ± 0.08	53 ± 20	12.3 ± 0.8
Alv 526-5	7.9	1.4		23.3	167	446	8.2	0.18	2.7 ± 0.1	49 ± 2	10.7 ± 0.7
Alv 525-5-2	9.9	1.2		8.0	81	215	3.2	0.08	2.65 ± 0.09	39 ± 9	10.2 ± 0.7
Alv 527-1-1	9.7	1.0		9.3	39	95	1.6	0.05	2.46 ± 0.09	40 ± 15	11.6 ± 0.8
<i>Mid-Atlantic Ridge MAPCO (30-32°N)</i>											
CH98-DR08g3	6.7	1.4		30.0	630	1,900	20	0.10	3.0 ± 0.1	32 ± 2	1.6 ± 0.1
CH98-DR11	8.4	0.5	8.2	27.2	32	97	2.0	0.03	3.01 ± 0.07	63 ± 3	10.0 ± 0.8
<i>Mid-Atlantic Ridge popping rock (13° 50'N)</i>											
2πD43-1	7.7	1.9	8.2-8.5	14.9	282	730	14	0.52	2.6 ± 0.1	49 ± 3	18 ± 1
2πD43-2	7.7	1.9	8.2-8.5	11.6	285	740	15	0.52	2.6 ± 0.1	52 ± 4	18 ± 1
2πD43-3	7.7	1.9	8.2-8.5	14.7	265	689	12	0.48	2.60 ± 0.08	44 ± 2	18 ± 1
2πD43-4	7.7	1.9	8.2-8.5	7.2	290	757	15	0.52	2.61 ± 0.06	53 ± 4	18 ± 1
<i>Juan de Fuca (45 - 46°N)</i>											
Alv 2262-8	7.7	0.7		15.3	86	256	2.5	0.10	3.0 ± 0.1	29 ± 4	11.9 ± 0.8
Alv 2269-2	7.1	0.7		14.8	154	488	2.9	0.12	3.2 ± 0.1	19 ± 1	7.6 ± 0.5
<i>Galápagos spreading centre (0-1°N)</i>											
Alv 1652-3	1.5	0.7		13.2	3,790	13,600	27	0.31	3.6 ± 0.1	7.0 ± 0.4	0.8 ± 0.1
Alv 1652-10	6.9	0.5		12.0	340	1,230	2.4	0.05	3.6 ± 0.1	7.2 ± 2.7	1.6 ± 0.1
Alv 1652-5	1.6	0.7		19.0	3,870	13,900	28	0.31	3.6 ± 0.1	7.4 ± 0.4	0.81 ± 0.05
<i>East Pacific Rise Clipperton (12° 50'N)</i>											
CL-DR01	7.9	0.8	8.1 ± 0.2	28.9	92	309	3.7	0.10	3.34 ± 0.09	40 ± 2	10.9 ± 0.8
<i>North west Lau Basin (14-16 S°)</i>											
NLD 20-1	9.1	1.2	18.6	24.0	163	549	4.2	0.11	3.36 ± 0.09	26 ± 2	6.6 ± 0.4
NLD 39-1			12.0	18.1	1,560	5,900	15	0.23	3.79 ± 0.07	9.4 ± 0.4	1.5 ± 0.1
NLD 49-1	7.0	0.5	20.8	16.5	635	2,420	5.1	0.06	3.81 ± 0.07	8.0 ± 1.0	0.9 ± 0.1
NLD 13-1	8.6	0.7	28.1	14.0	67	210	2.4	0.07	3.12 ± 0.07	36 ± 3	10.2 ± 0.7
NLD 48-1	8.4	0.4	15.9	15.9	340	1,290	4.0	0.03	3.78 ± 0.09	12 ± 1	1.0 ± 0.1
Mac. Is. E-MORB	5.9-8.8	0.9-4.9	7.1-8.3						2.67 ± 0.05	65 ± 7	11.1 ± 0.5
Seawater					19,400	65,877	58	0.038	3.5	3.1	0.02

*Additional major and trace element data are available in the electronic supplement. Italicised values for MgO, La/Sm and <sup>3</sup>He/<sup>4</sup>He are published values (Langmuir et al., 1977; Lupton et al., 2009; Lytle et al., 2012; Marty and Zimmermann, 1999; Moreira et al., 1998; Nishio et al., 1998). Macquarie Island data are revised according the revised Br/Cl and I/Cl ratios of the scapolite standards (Fig 1; Kendrick et al., 2013). Note that <sup>3</sup>He/<sup>4</sup>He ratios are reported as R/Ra where Ra is the atmospheric <sup>3</sup>He/<sup>4</sup>He ratio of 1.39 × 10<sup>-6</sup>. E-MORB form a continuum with N-MORB are defined here as having primitive mantle normalised La/Sm [(La/Sm)<sub>N</sub>] of > 1 (Hofmann, 2003).*

**Table 2. Estimated brine salinity**

H <sub>2</sub> O/Cl	Wt. % Salts <sup>1</sup>	Wt.% NaCl eq.	comments
<i>Northwest part of the Lau Basin</i>			
<2.5	>42	>37	Min. meas. H <sub>2</sub> O/Cl (Lytle et al., 2012)
<2.0	>48	>42	
0.7 ± 0.5	60-90	55-90	Fig 6d
0.6 <sup>+1.6</sup> <sub>-1.3</sub>	>45	>40	Fig 7a; NWL data
1.6 <sup>+1.4</sup> <sub>-1.0</sub>	38-75	33-70	Fig 7a; all data
-0.0 <sup>+0.8</sup> <sub>-1.0</sub>	>70	>64	Fig 7b; NWL data
-1.0 <sup>+0.8</sup> <sub>-0.8</sub>			Fig 7b; all data

*1 – wt. % salts calculated assuming the composition of seawater salt with a Cl weight fraction of 0.55.*

**Table 3. Quantification of brine assimilation in selected samples (2 $\sigma$  uncertainties)**

Sample	Measured		Assim. Cl %	Calculated			Basis of calculation <sup>1</sup>
	Cl ppm	H <sub>2</sub> O wt. % <sup>2</sup>		Assim Cl ppm	Assim. brine ppm	Assim. H <sub>2</sub> O %	
<i>Lau Basin</i>							
NLD 49-1	635	0.25	96 ± 2	610 ± 10	2000 ± 600	36 ± 8	K-1
			92 ± 12	580 ± 80	1900 ± 600	35 ± 15	Br-1
NLD 13-1	67	0.25	49 ± 26	33 ± 17	110 ± 60	2 ± 1	K-1
			33 ± 17	22 ± 11	70 ± 40	1.7 ± 0.4	Br-1
<i>Galápagos Spreading Centre</i>							
Alv 1652-10	340	0.26	87 ± 11	300 ± 40	980 ± 290	17 ± 4	K-2
			95 ± 3	320 ± 10	1100 ± 300	18 ± 4	K-3
			89 ± 17	300 ± 60	1000 ± 300	18 ± 8	Br-2
Alv 1652-5	3,870	1.38	94 ± 5	3600 ± 200	12000 ± 3000	39 ± 8	K-2
			89 ± 17	3400 ± 700	11000 ± 4000	37 ± 16	Br-2
<i>Juan de Fuca</i>							
Alv 2269-2	154		40 ± 50	60 ± 80	190 ± 280		K-2
			50 ± 50	80 ± 80	260 ± 260		Br-2

- 1- Sample K/Cl and Br/Cl are given in Table 1. All brines are assumed to have K/Cl of  $0.1 \pm 0.09$  and  $55 \pm 15$  wt. % salts (comprising 0.55 Cl by mass). Brine Br/Cl (estimated from Fig 6a) are  $(3.9 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-3}$  for Lau;  $(3.7 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{-3}$  for Galápagos; and  $(3.6 \pm 0.2) \times 10^{-3}$  for Juan de Fuca. Mantle K/Cl values are:  $20 \pm 10$  (K-1);  $12 \pm 10$  (K-2); or  $30 \pm 20$  (K-3). Mantle Br/Cl values are:  $(2.7 \pm 0.2) \times 10^{-3}$  (Br-1) or  $(2.8 \pm 0.6) \times 10^{-3}$  (Br-2).
- 2- Water concentrations from Lytle et al. (2012) and Perfit et al. (1999).



Fig 1 (Kendrick et al., 2013)

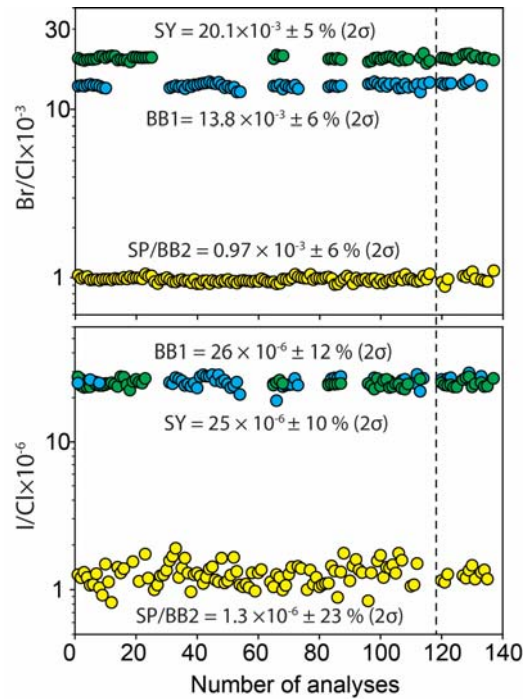


Fig 1. Scapolite standards used to monitor the production of  $^{38}\text{Ar}_{\text{Cl}}$ ,  $^{80}\text{Kr}_{\text{Br}}$  and  $^{128}\text{Xe}_{\text{I}}$  in 7 irradiations have good reproducibility (Kendrick, 2012). The absolute Br/Cl and I/Cl ratios recommended for the monitors have been revised using a combination of techniques described in the supplementary information (Kendrick et al., 2013). Analyses 1-119 were undertaken by laser microanalysis (Kendrick, 2012), but the more recent analyses have been undertaken by fusing scapolites in a resistance furnace, enabling improved measurement of iodine in samples SP/BB2 (supplementary information).

Fig 2 (Kendrick et al., 2013)

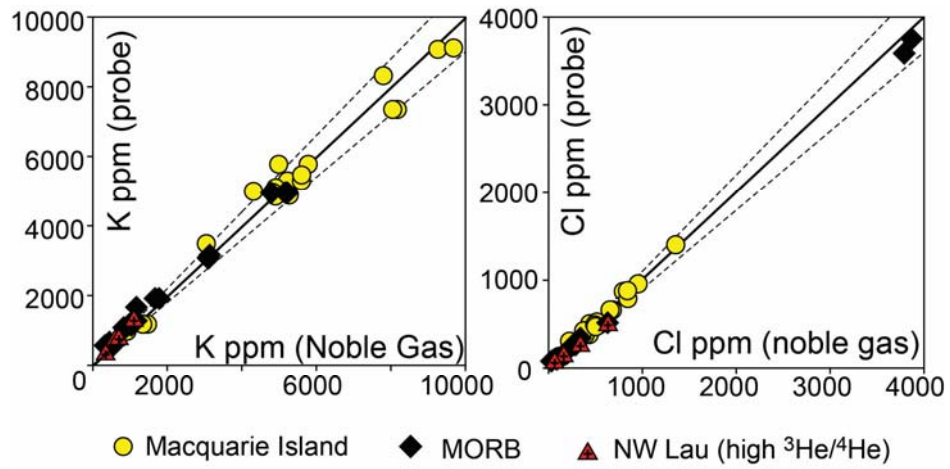


Fig 2. K and Cl concentrations of glasses determined from irradiation produced  $^{39}\text{Ar}_K$  and  $^{38}\text{Ar}_{Cl}$  using the noble gas method and electron microprobe data show good agreement. The 1:1 reference line and a 10% envelope are shown for reference.

Fig 3 (Kendrick et al., 2013)

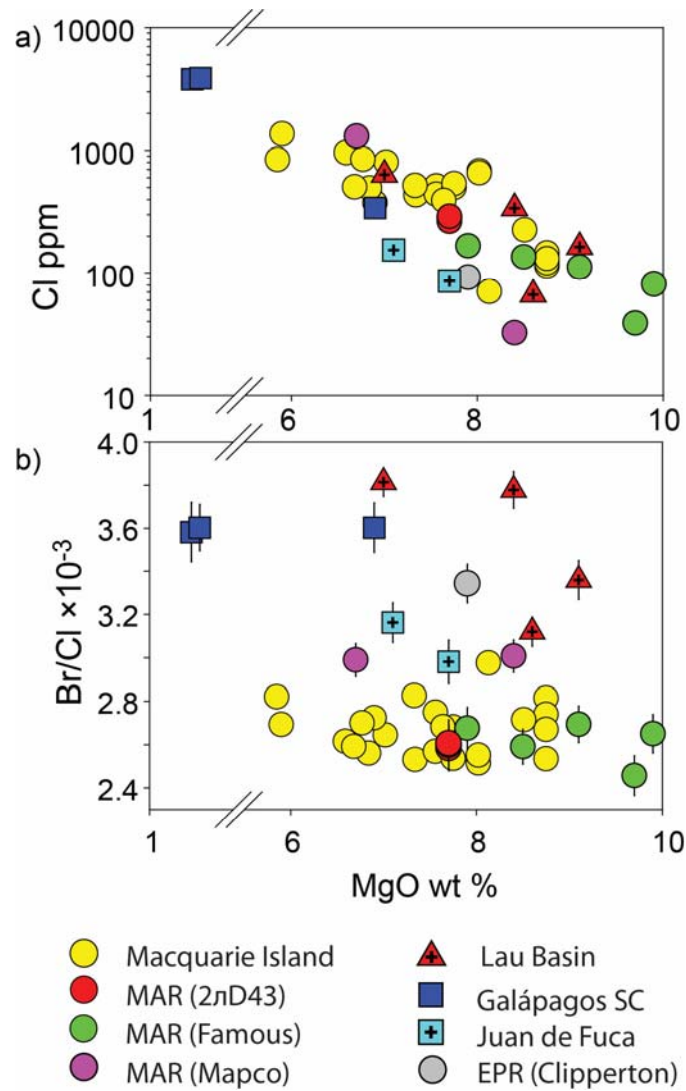


Fig 3. The Cl concentration and Br/Cl of magmatic glasses versus MgO (note the break in scale on the x-axis). The most evolved glasses have the highest Cl concentrations but the constancy of Br/Cl within any sample group over a range of MgO indicates Br/Cl is not fractionated as a function of partial melting or fractional crystallisation (see also (Kendrick et al., 2012a)).

Fig 4 (Kendrick et al., 2013)

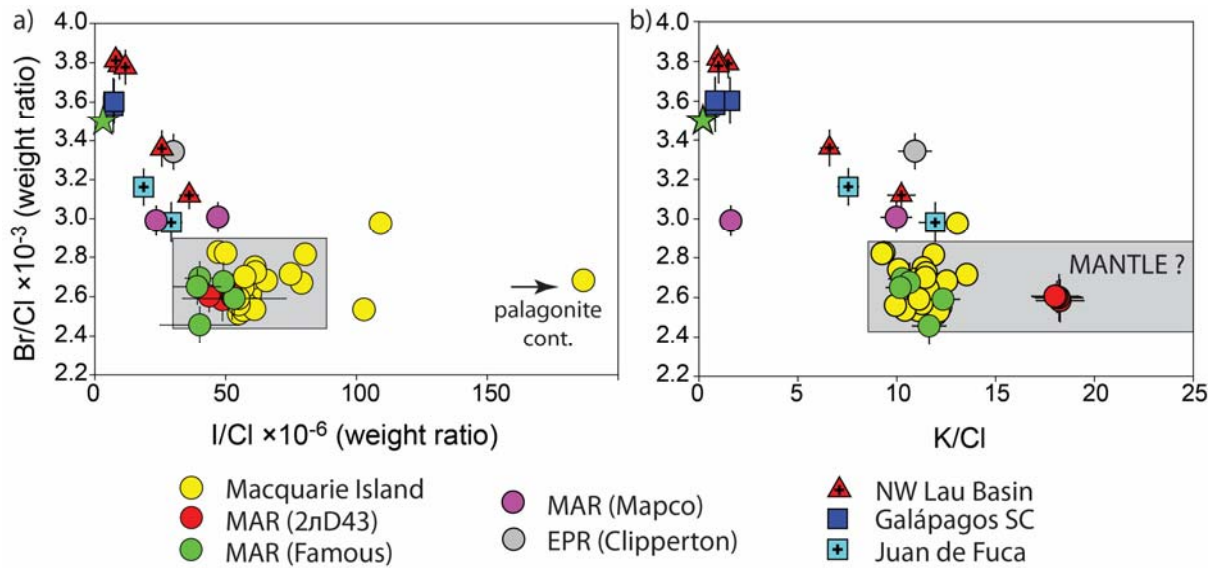


Fig 4. Halogen and K three element plots for the samples in this study: a) Br/Cl versus I/Cl, and b) Br/Cl versus K/Cl. The composition of seawater is shown as a star in both panels. The grey box in 'a' highlights the mean and 2 standard deviation values of Br/Cl and I/Cl ratios measured in E-MORB from Macquarie Island, Famous and popping rock locations. These samples are free of seawater contaminants (text) but the outlying I/Cl ratios are ascribed to palagonite contamination (see Fig 5b). The range of mantle K/Cl is poorly defined and the grey box is 'open' to higher K/Cl in part 'b'.

Fig 5 (Kendrick et al., 2013)

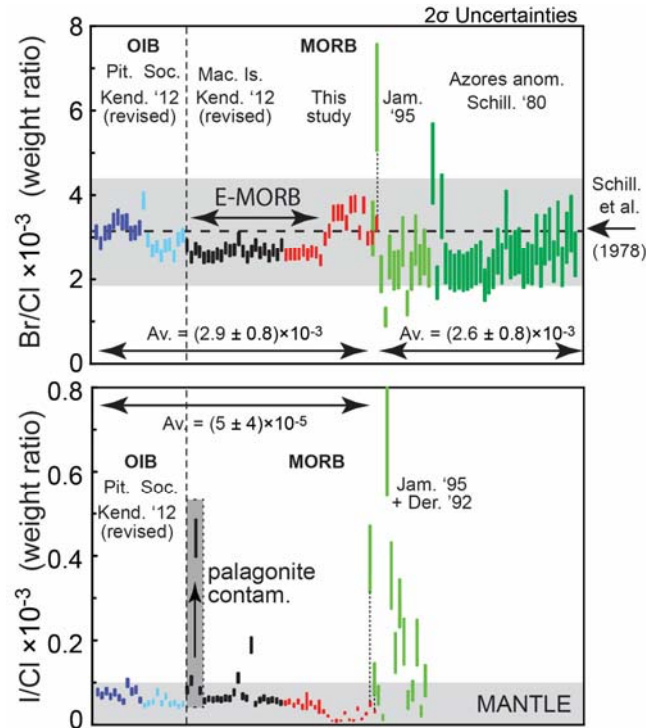


Fig 5. *Br/Cl* and *I/Cl* data obtained for basalt glasses using the noble gas method (this study; Kendrick et al., 2012a; Kendrick et al., 2012b) and radiochemical neutron activation analyses in previous studies (Deruelle et al., 1992; Jambon et al., 1995; Schilling et al., 1978; Schilling et al., 1980). The noble gas data are assigned  $2\sigma$  uncertainties of 5% for *Br/Cl* and 10 % for *I/Cl* that reflect the reproducibility of these parameters in the most uniform standard (Fig 1). The RNAA *Br/Cl* data is assigned a  $2\sigma$  uncertainty of 20% (Unni and Schilling, 1977), but uncertainties of 10-40%, based on the *I* measurement are shown for *I/Cl* (Deruelle et al., 1992). E-MORB has strikingly uniform *Br/Cl* and *I/Cl*; the highest *I/Cl* ratios are attributed to palagonite contamination that affect different aliquots of a single sample (47979; highlighted in dark grey box) to different extents (see text).

Fig 6 (Kendrick et al., 2013)

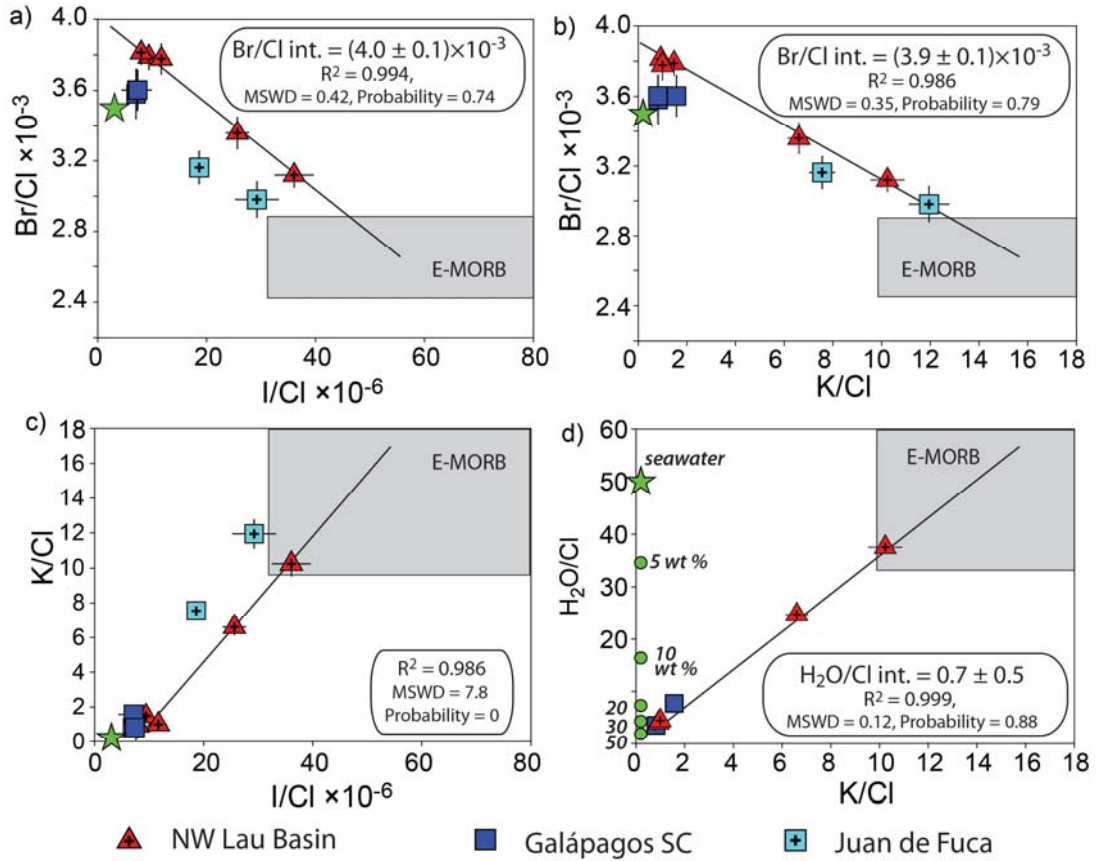


Fig 6. Halogen, H<sub>2</sub>O and K systematics of samples contaminated by seawater-derived components (H<sub>2</sub>O data are from Perfit et al. (1999) and Lytle et al. (2012)). The composition of seawater is shown as a star in each panel. An interpreted mixing line is shown through samples from the northwest part of the Lau Basin (NW Lau Spreading Centre and Rochambeau Rifts) with statistics defining the quality of fit (statistical regressions were performed using Microsoft Excel and the Isoplot program (Ludwig, 2009)). Note that brine salinities are shown in italicised bold labels on the H<sub>2</sub>O/Cl axis in part d. The H<sub>2</sub>O/Cl of the brine (e.g. salinity) depends on the K/Cl of the brine and is estimated as  $55 \pm 15$  wt. % salts (see text and Table 2).

Fig 7 (Kendrick et al., 2013)

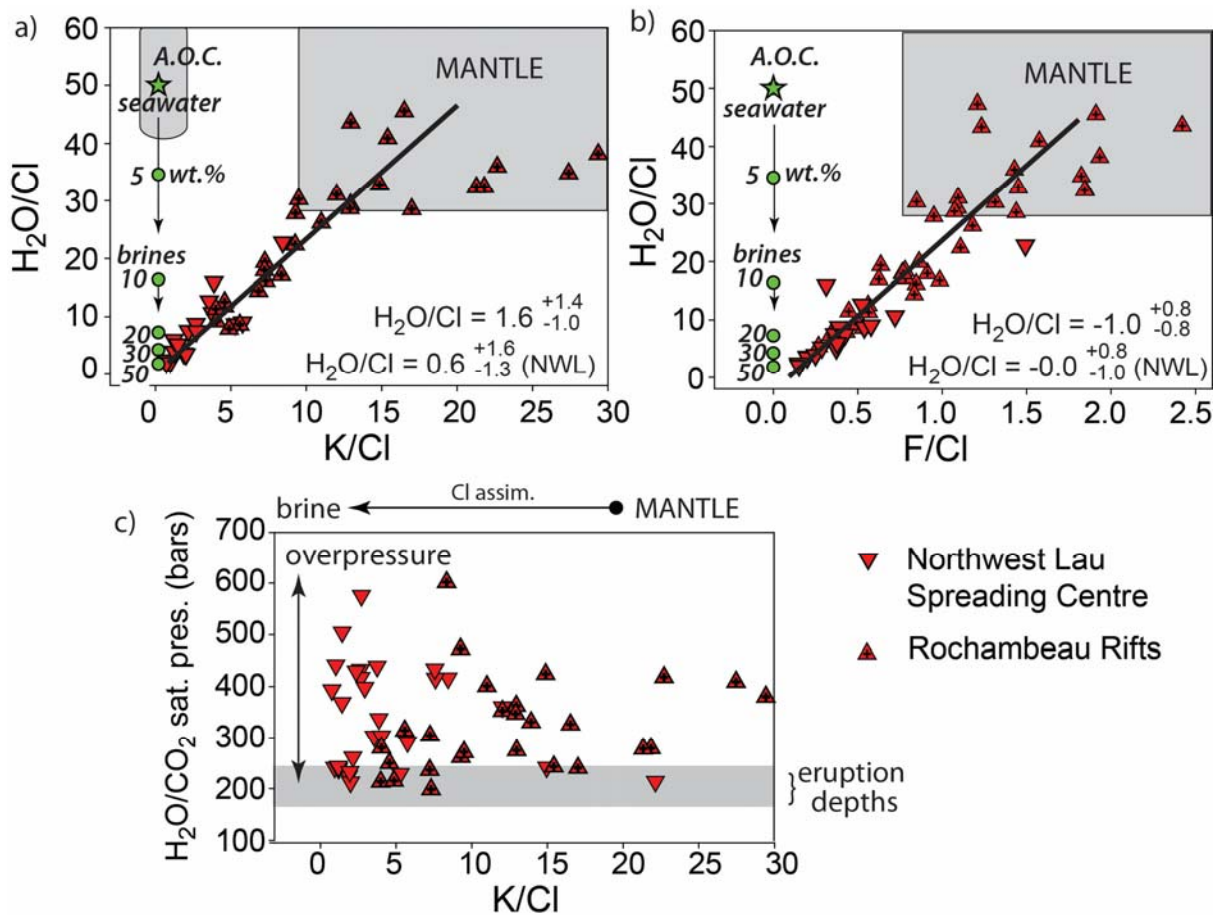


Fig 7. Recently published ion-microprobe data for melts from the northwest part of the Lau Basin (Lytle et al., 2012):  $H_2O/Cl$  versus a)  $K/Cl$  and b)  $F/Cl$  showing the trends identified in Fig 6 are regionally significant. The regression uncertainties are  $2\sigma$  and were obtained using 'robust regressions' in the Isoplot program (Ludwig, 2003). In each case regressions are shown for all data and data from the North West Lau Spreading Centre (NWL) only. Note that Altered Ocean Crust (A.O.C.) has higher  $H_2O/Cl$  than unaltered rocks and low  $K/Cl$  (Ito et al., 1983; Sano et al., 2008). c) saturation pressure calculated from  $H_2O$  and  $CO_2$  concentrations reported in Lytle et al (2012) using the VolatileCalc program (Newman and Lowenstern, 2002).



Fig 8 (Kendrick et al., 2013)

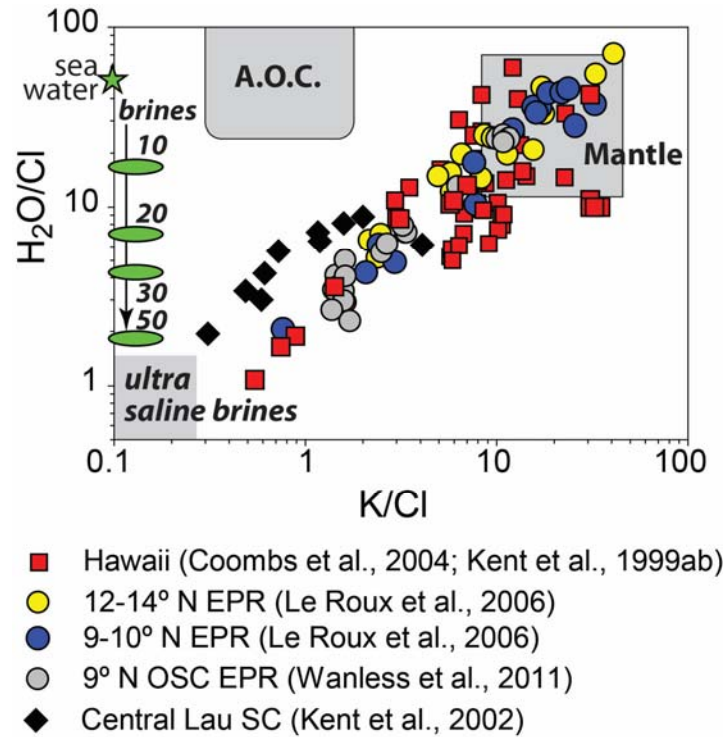


Fig 8. Chlorine,  $H_2O$  and  $K$  data for samples investigated in previous studies (log scale; Coombs et al., 2004; Kent et al., 1999ab; 2002; Le Roux et al., 2006; Wanless et al., 2011). Altered ocean crust (AOC) has variable composition but is estimated to have higher  $H_2O/Cl$  than unaltered rocks (and in most cases seawater) and  $K/Cl$  of 0.3-2 (Ito et al. 1983; Sano et al., 2009); seawater and brines with salinities of 5, 10, 20, 30 and 50 wt % salts are shown for reference. The data are all interpreted as lying on mixing lines between mantle reservoirs with  $K/Cl$  of ~7-30 and  $H_2O/Cl$  of 10-60; and an ultra-saline brine with  $H_2O/Cl$  of <1.6. As originally identified by Michael and Schilling (1989), assimilation of altered ocean crust cannot explain  $Cl$  over enrichment.



Fig 9 (Kendrick et al., 2013)

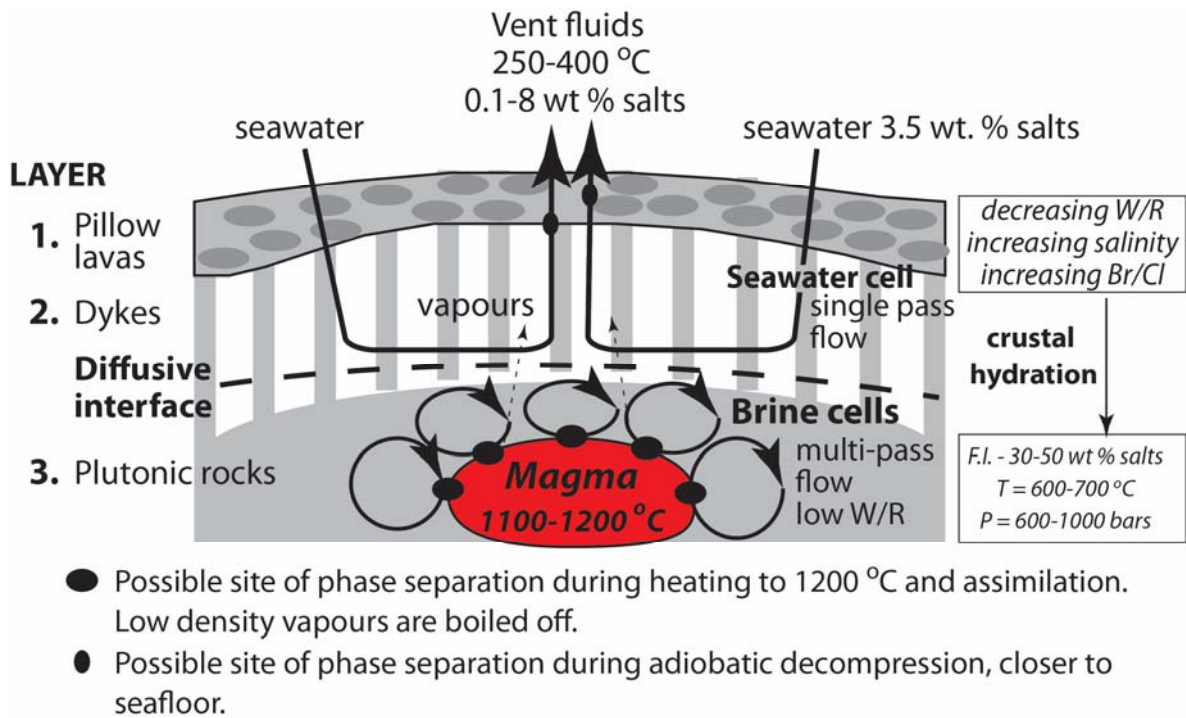


Fig 9. Conceptual model for brine circulation at a spreading centre modified after Bischoff and Rosenbauer (1989). Seawater is drawn into the crust where it begins to hydrate the crust and is heated. Preferential incorporation of  $\text{OH} > \text{Cl} > \text{Br}$  into hydrous minerals increases the salinity and  $\text{Br}/\text{Cl}$  of the fluids. Fluids coming into direct contact with magmas via a 'cracking front' or deeply penetrating faults are super-heated with vapours boiled off and brines either retained in the deep crust or assimilated by the magma. Long term trapping of brine is demonstrated by the prevalence of low salinity vent fluids (e.g. Endeavour Field, Juan de Fuca Ridge; Seyfried et al., 2003), and the high  $\text{Br}/\text{Cl}$  of brine-contaminated melts (Figs 4 and 6). Fluid inclusions (F.I.) in quartz veins associated with  $\text{Cl}$ -rich amphibole in greenschist and amphibolite facies gabbros have salinities of ~50 wt % salt and trapping temperatures of 600-700 °C (Vanko, 1986; 1988). W/R denotes water/rock.

Fig 10 (Kendrick et al., 2013)

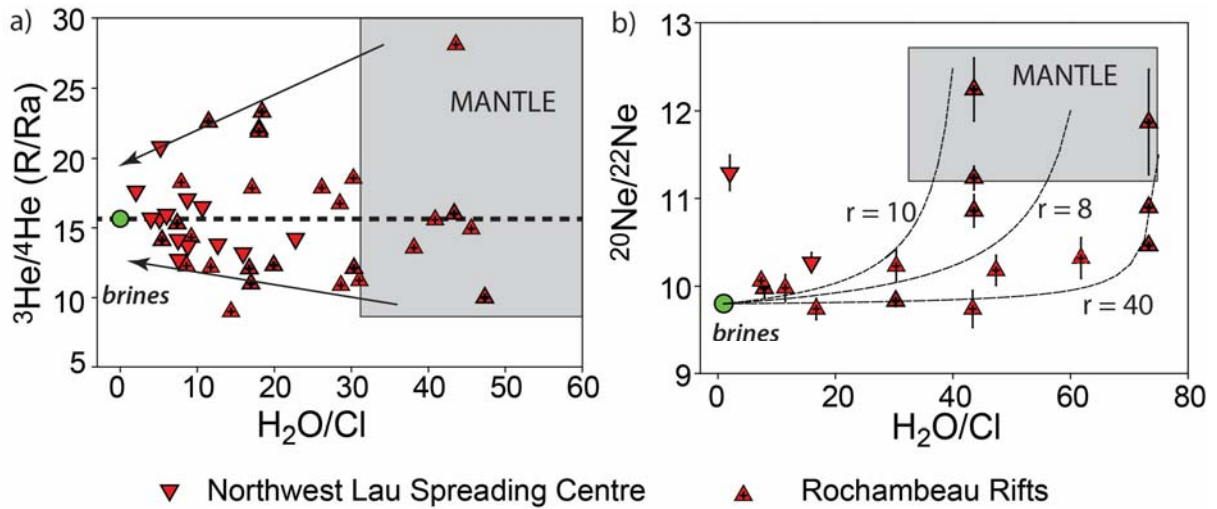


Fig 10. Noble gas versus  $H_2O/Cl$  plots used to assess the possible role of brine assimilation in altering noble gas signatures. The mean  $^3He/^4He$  ratio of 15.4 R/Ra is shown as a dashed line in part a. The  $r$ -values in part b define the curvature of the proposed mixing trends where  $r = (^{22}Ne/Cl)_{brine}/(^{22}Ne/Cl)_{mantle}$  (Langmuir et al., 1978).