Geochemistry, Geophysics, Geosystems

RESEARCH ARTICLE
10.1029/2019GC008591

Mantle Melting and Intraplate Volcanism Due to Self-Buoyant Hydrous Upwellings From the Stagnant Slab That Are Conveyed by Small-Scale Convection

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Key Points:
- Intraplate volcanism above stagnant slabs is sustained by interaction of hydrous upwellings and small-scale convection
- Hydrous upwellings intermittently stall at ~400-km depth before being picked up by small-scale convection
- Moderate amounts of water in the transition zone (~0.4 wt.-%) are sufficient to trigger volcanism within ~20 Myr

Supporting Information:
- Supporting Information S1
- Table S1
- Table S2
- Figure S1
- Figure S2

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Citation:
Long, X., Ballmer, M. D., Córdoba, A. M.-C., & Li, C.-F. (2019). Mantle melting and intraplate volcanism due to self-buoyant hydrous upwellings from the stagnant slab that are conveyed by small-scale convection. *Geochemistry, Geophysics, Geosystems*, *20*, 4972–4997. https://doi.org/10.1029/2019GC008591

Received 25 JUL 2019
Accepted 10 OCT 2019
Accepted article online 22 OCT 2019
Published online 12 NOV 2019

This article is a companion to 2019GC008307R.

Abstract The mechanisms sustaining basaltic continental intraplate volcanism remain controversial. Continental intraplate volcanism is often geographically associated with slab stagnation in the mantle transition zone (MTZ), for example, in eastern Asia, central Europe, and western North America. Using 2-D geodynamic models, we here explore the role of the stagnation of a slab and an associated hydrous layer in the MTZ on the formation and evolution of intraplate volcanism. Due to the intrinsic buoyancy of the hydrous layer atop the stagnant slab, upwellings develop within a few million years and rise to ~410-km depth. At these depths, they partly lose their intrinsic buoyancy due to dehydration and stall intermittently. However, they are readily entrained by sublithospheric small-scale convection to reach the base of lithosphere, sustaining mantle melting and intraplate volcanism. Water contents of >0.3 wt.-% in a ≥ 60-km-thick layer atop the slab are sufficient for an early (<~20 Myr) onset of melting to account for volcanism, for example, in NE China. Thus, significant amounts of hydrous materials are not expected to remain stable in the MTZ for geological timescales, consistent with geophysical estimates. To explain the geochemical signatures of the Cenozoic basaltic volcanism in northern China, a mixed composition of the hydrous layer, including an enriched mantle-type and a hybrid depleted mid-ocean ridge basalts mantle/high μ-type component, is required.

1. Introduction

Most of our planet's volcanism occurs near plate boundaries, well explained by plate tectonic processes. In turn, intraplate volcanisms are not readily explained by plate tectonics, but often resort to mantle processes (Ballmer, van Keken, et al., 2015; Ballmer, et al., 2016; Burke et al., 2008; Morgan, 1971; Tan & Gurnis, 2005; Wilson, 1973). While the mantle plume theory can explain some major volcano lineaments such as the Hawaii, Iceland, and Walvis ridges (Courtillot et al., 2003; Morgan, 1971; O'Connor & Duncan, 1990; Wilson, 1965), numerous exceptions or "non–hot spot volcanism" exist (Batiza, 1982; McNutt, 1998; Okal & Batiza, 1987). Non–hot spot intraplate volcanism is often characterized by (1) nonlinear spatial distributions (Kim & Wessel, 2015), (2) nonlinear age progressions or linear progressions not consistent with plate motion (e.g., Ballmer et al., 2009), (3) extended periods of volcanism at a single edifice (Balbas et al., 2016; Garcia et al., 2010; Raddick et al., 2002), or (4) short-lived volcano chains (Clouard & Bonneville, 2005).

Widespread volcanism in the Pacific (e.g., French Polynesia and Darwin Rise) may be related to diffuse mantle upwelling and/or anomalously warm mantle temperatures (McNutt & Fischer, 1987; Staudigel et al., 1991; Bemis & Smith, 1993; Kim & Wessel, 2008; Koppers et al., 2003). Given an initial volcanic load, or distal plate stresses, the lithosphere may crack to trigger new volcanism (Gerbault et al., 1999; Hieronymus & Bercovici, 2000). Rayleigh-Taylor instability in a layer near or at its solidus may induce self-perpetuating decompression melting (Tackley & Stevenson, 1993), which will further fuel the instability (Hernlund et al., 2008) and form short-lived and nonlinear volcano chains (Raddick et al., 2002). Small-scale sublithospheric convection (SSC; Parsons & McKenzie, 1978; Afonso et al., 2008; Dumoulin et al., 2008), caused by the thickening and densification of the thermal boundary layer, can sustain mantle melting and account for seamount chains parallel to plate motion (Dumoulin et al., 2008; Huang, 2003; King & Anderson,

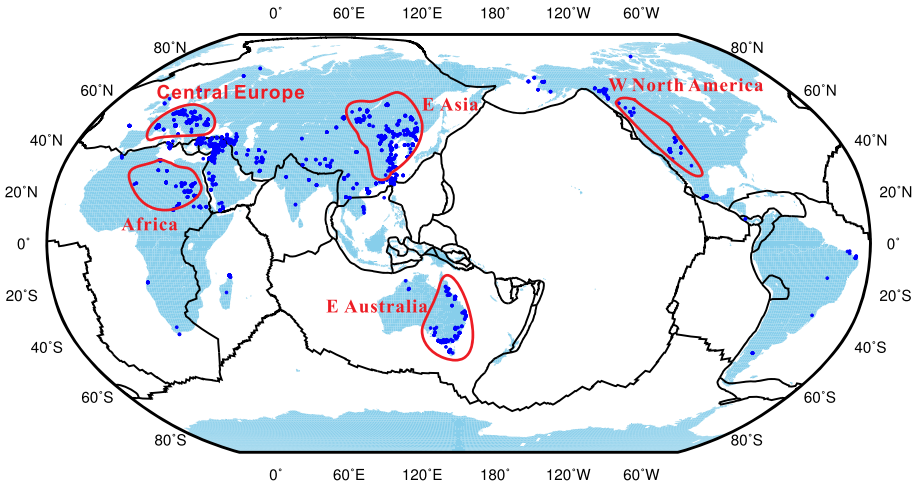

Figure 1. Cenozoic basaltic continental intraplate volcanism (data from GeoRoc: http://georoc.mpch-mainz.gwdg.de/georoc/; filters are "intraplate volcanism" or "complex settings"). Clusters of enhanced continental volcanism are marked by red closed curves. See also Conrad et al. (2011).

1995; King & Ritsema, 2000) but fails to explain volcanism on thin oceanic plates younger than ~50 Myr (Ballmer et al., 2007; Batiza, 1980). Shear-driven upwelling, excited when horizontal asthenospheric flow interacts with steps in lithospheric thickness (Conrad et al., 2010; Till et al., 2010) or heterogeneities in mantle viscosity (Bianco et al., 2011), can also account for intraplate volcanism in regions of strong mantle flow or shearing (Ballmer et al., 2013).

Similarly, basaltic continental intraplate volcanism has commonly been related to mantle upwelling and decompression melting (Conrad et al., 2011; Demidjuk et al., 2007; Elkins-Tanton, 2007; Valentine & Hirano, 2010), by the same physical mechanisms as beneath oceanic plate described above (Hernlund et al., 2008; Kaislaniemi & van Hunen, 2014; West et al., 2009).

The dominant mechanisms can be assessed by studying global distributions of Cenozoic continental intraplate volcanism, mostly occurring in western North America, central Europe, eastern Asia, eastern Australia, and Africa (Figure 1). Except for the basaltic intraplate continental volcanism on the stationary African Plate (Burke et al., 2008), volcanism in other regions can be best explained by non–hot spot volcanism. Western North America and eastern Australia are associated with a rapidly sheared asthenosphere (Conrad et al., 2011). However, most of these regions are also underlain by slabs that stagnate in the mantle transition zone (MTZ). Indeed, seismic tomography (Lei & Zhao, 2005; Piromallo & Morelli, 2003; Schmandt & Lin, 2014; Zhao & Ohtani, 2009), the distribution of seismicity (Fukao et al., 2001; Zhao & Ohtani, 2009), and lava isotope geochemistry (Kuritani et al., 2011; Zou et al., 2008), link slab subduction, stagnation, and dehydration to mantle upwelling and intraplate volcanism. For example, Changbai volcano in NE China is inferred to be related to mantle upwelling and melting due to the deep dehydration of the stagnant Pacific slab (Maruyama et al., 2009; Zhao, 2004; Zhao & Ohtani, 2009). The specific geodynamic mechanisms that drive mantle upwelling, however, have not yet been established (Tatsumi et al., 1990; Zhao, 2004; Zhao & Ohtani, 2009). Faccenna et al. (2010) predicted a significant component of poloidal flow around the slab to support diffuse upwelling near the slab tip. However, subducted slabs are expected to primarily induce horizontal toroidal flow (Chen et al., 2016; Liu & Stegman, 2011; Long & Silver, 2008), that is, with little or no passive upwelling, particularly, for a significant viscosity contrasts between the upper and lower mantle (Rudolph et al., 2015).

On the other hand, plume-like self-buoyant upwellings may sustain volcanism above the stagnant slab. For example, the harzburgite layer underlying the basaltic crust of the slab can rise actively through the MTZ, and then be entrained by upper-mantle convection (Motoki & Ballmer, 2015). The initial instability is promoted by the density contrast between the upper and lower part of the slab. Alternatively, the hydrous layer overlying the stagnant slab may undergo convective instability to drive upwelling (Richard & Bercovici, 2009). Hydrous wadsleyite and ringwoodite are positively buoyant (Inoue et al., 2004; Jacobsen et al.,

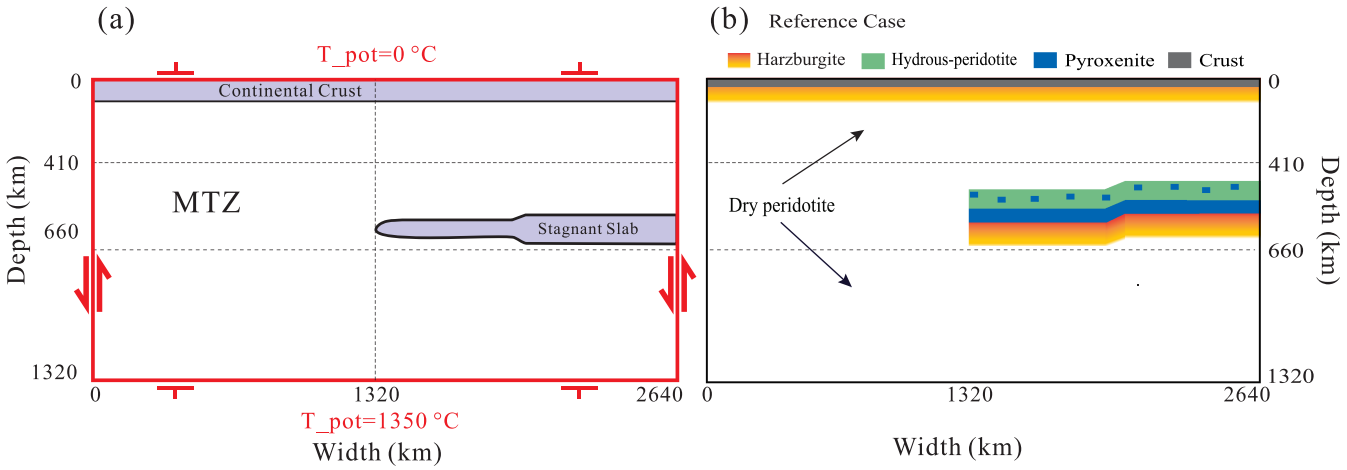

Figure 2. (a) Model setup and initial and boundary conditions. Free slip is applied to left and right boundaries, and no slip to the top and bottom. Potential temperatures are set to 0 °C at the top and 1350 °C at the bottom. (b) Initial composition of the reference case as schematic representation (not to scale). The top gray layer is continental crust (30 km thick). Blue and green colors conceptually show the initial distribution of mafic materials (pyroxenite/basalt) and hydrous peridotite, respectively. The thickness of the pyroxenitic layer near the top of the stagnant slab is 7 km. Small blobs of mafic material are uniformly distributed in the hydrous layer. The thickness of and the initial fraction of mafic materials in the hydrous layer are model parameters. Yellow-to-orange colors refer to layers of harzburgite (in the stagnant slab and lithosphere) with a progressive degree of depletion upwards (see text for details). White background colors refer to dry peridotite. MTZ = mantle transition zone.

2004; van der Lee et al., 2008) and may hence deliver water to the base of the lithosphere. Such a scenario of continental intraplate volcanism due to hydrous upwellings (Richard & Bercovici, 2009; Richard & Iwamori, 2010) would be analogous to the "cold plumes" proposed by Gerya et al. (2004) in mantle wedge. However, previous studies have not addressed the fate of hydrous upwellings as they rise through the mantle and reach the base of the lithosphere to undergo melting. They have also neglected that the layer atop the slab should be already cooled before reaching the MTZ due to thermal diffusion, and the trade-off between this cooling and hydration is expected to control instability.

We here apply two-dimensional numerical models of mantle flow to explore the dynamic mechanisms that sustain intraplate volcanism above a stagnant slab. We carefully compute the initial thermal profile across the slab. In order to predict the spatiotemporal patterns and geochemistry of volcanism, we couple the geodynamic simulations with a melting model for a heterogeneous mantle source. Finally, we compare model predictions with observations to constrain the conditions for mantle upwelling and volcanism. We find that an interaction between (bottom-up) self-buoyant upwelling of a hydrated MTZ and (top-down) SSC is required for intraplate volcanism to occur soon after the slab reaches the MTZ.

2. Methods

2.1. Model Setup

In our two-dimensional geodynamic models, we numerically solve the conservation equations of mass, momentum, and energy for an incompressible, infinite-Prandtl-number fluid using a Cartesian version of the finite-element code Citcom (Ballmer et al., 2009; Moresi et al., 1996; Zhong et al., 2000). We apply the extended Boussinesq approximations but neglect shear heating, which has a negligible effect on convection at the given rheology (Zlotnik et al., 2008).

Our model setup is loosely based on Motoki and Ballmer (2015). The two-dimensional model domain is oriented parallel to the trench, just as theirs (see their Figure 1), and our boundary conditions are the same as theirs (Figure 2a). However, our domain is larger than theirs (see below). While our box is mostly bottom heated with $T_0 = 1350$ °C imposed at the bottom boundary, we also apply internal heating with radioactive heat production of Q_0 in the mantle. According to our model setup, the initial condition corresponds to the time, at which the sinking slab just reaches the MTZ.

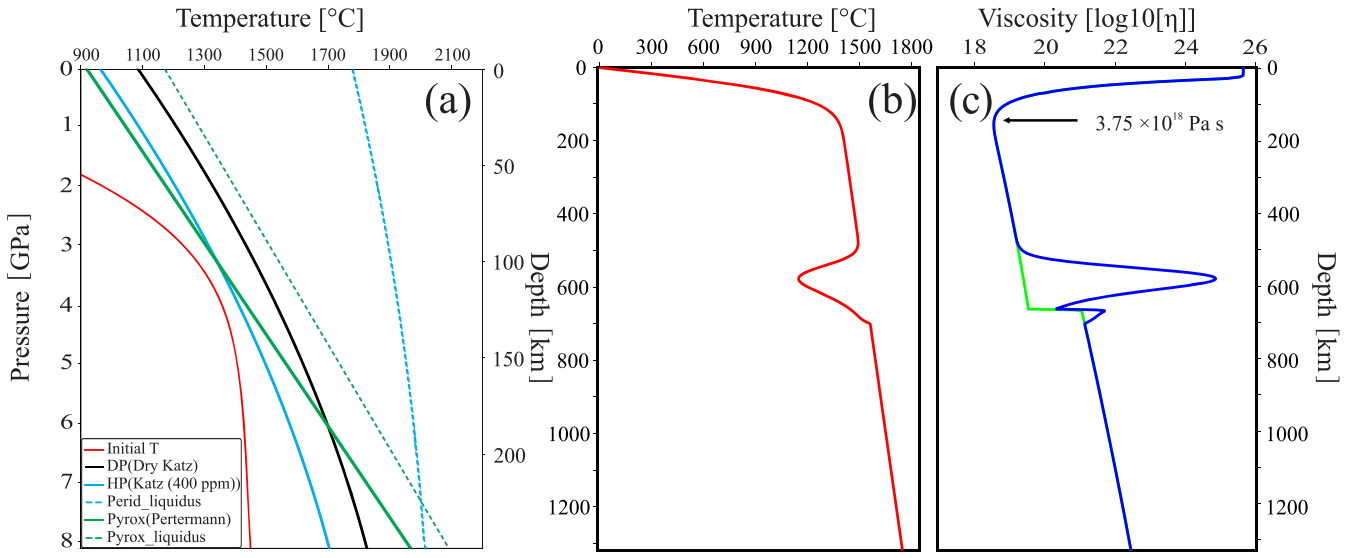

Figure 3. (a) The melting laws applied for depleted peridotite (black) and hydrous peridotite (solid blue line; bulk water content 400 ppm) are from Katz et al. (2003), and melting law for pyroxenite (solid green line) from Pertermann and Hirschmann (2003). Also shown are the liquidus of peridotite (dashed blue line) and pyroxenite (dashed green line), providing a sense for the productivity of each lithology, which is much lower for the former than for the latter lithology. (b) The initial vertical potential temperature profile of all models (i.e., excluding the adiabatic gradient). (c) The initial vertical viscosity profile for the reference case. Blue and green lines represent profiles with and without a slab, that is, in the right and left parts of the box, respectively. The reference effective viscosity is pointed out by a black arrow.

Our computational domain is 2,640 km wide and 1,320 km deep (Figure 2). The model is discretized by 1,281 × 481 finite elements in the horizontal and vertical directions, respectively. The grid is uniform horizontally, and a vertical grid refinement improves resolution near the base of the lithosphere and in the MTZ.

The initial condition of temperature involves a slab in the MTZ on top of a background mantle adiabat with a potential temperature of T_0 = 1350 °C. The position and geometry of the slab are shown in Figure 2. Horizontally, the slab is placed in the right half part of the box (1,320 ≤ x ≤ 2,640 km) and consists of two segments with different ages, in between of which a fracture zone is imposed. Vertically, it is placed at an initial position, for which its underbelly (i.e., at a potential temperature of just below 1350 °C) is located at a depth of ~700 km. In our reference case, the slab age is 70 Myr for 1,320 ≤ x < 1,980 km and 80 Myr for 1,980 ≤ x ≤ 2,640 km, but these slab ages on either side of the fracture zone are free model parameters. The edge of the slab at x = 1,320 km is treated like a fracture zone with two adjacent slabs, one of which has a slab age of 0 Myr (i.e., it is nonexistent). The initial vertical temperature profile across each slab segment is determined semianalytically as a function of slab age and slab residence time in the mantle (i.e., assumed to be 10 Myr) according to Motoki and Ballmer (2015); Figure 3b). At the fracture zones at x = 1,320 km and x = 1,980 km, the initial thermal condition does not just include a simple step function, instead, the transition between the two sides of the fracture is well smoothed linearly over a lateral distance of 100 km (see Figure 2a). This is a good proxy for a (thermally healed) fracture zone; for example, a subducted fracture zone of age offset ~10 Myr is located in the stagnant slab beneath eastern China (Liu et al., 2017). Finally, on top of the slab, we impose a layer of hydrous material (Figure 2) with a thickness that varies as a free model parameter (see Table 1), independent of the age of the slab.

To account for the overriding plate, we add a thermal profile at the top that corresponds to that of a 50-Myr-old oceanic plate (i.e., according to the half-space cooling model; Figure 3b). This initial thermal profile is a simplified condition for the continental lithosphere, but note that the average thermal profile near the end of the calculations is similar to this condition.

The initial condition of composition consists of three parts (Figure 2): (1) the lithosphere near the top of the model consisting of a ~80-km-thick layer of harzburgite, overlain by a 30-km-thick continental crust (see below), (2) the stagnant slab in the MTZ consisting of layers of basalt (7 km thick) and harzburgite (~80 km thick) layers, overlain by a hydrous layer of variable thickness, and (3) the ambient mantle consisting

Table 1
Governing Parameters

Parameter	Description	Value or range
c_{p_*}	Specific heat capacity	1,250 J/kg·K
E^*	Activation energy	200 kJ/mol
V^*	Activation volume	4×10^{-6} m^3/mol
Q_0	Internal heating	9.995×10^{-12} W/m3
g	Gravitational acceleration	9.8 m/s2
L	Latent heat of melt	5.6×10^5 J/kg
T_0	Reference temperature	1350 °C
α	Thermal expansivity	a
γ	Adiabatic gradient	0.3 K/km
Γ	Clausius-Clapeyron slope at 660 km	-3×10^6 MPa/K
$\Delta\rho_{\mathrm{depl}}$	Density anomaly related to 100% depletion	−100 kg/m3
$\Delta\rho_{\mathrm{melt}}$	Density anomaly related to 100% melt	−500 kg/m3
$\Delta\rho_{\mathrm{PX}}$	Density anomaly related to 100% pyroxenite	91.15 kg/m^3
$\Delta\rho_{\mathrm{H2O}}$	Density anomaly related to 100 ppm water	−0.5 kg/m^3[b]
η_{eff}	Effective mantle viscosity	2.2×10^{18} to 1.1×10^{19} Pa·s
κ	Thermal diffusivity	1×10^{-6} m^2/s
ρ_0	Reference mantle density	3,300 kg/m^3
ρ_ϕ	Magma density	2,800 kg/m^3
ϕ_c	Critical porosity	0.1%
$C_{\mathrm{H2O\_DP}}$	Water content of dry peridotite	400 wt.-ppm
$C_{\mathrm{H2O\_HP}}$	Water content of hydrous peridotite	400–10,000 wt.-ppm
D_{HP}	Thickness of the hydrous layer	20–135 km
χ_i	Mass fraction of a lithology (i = [DP,HP,PX])	$\chi_{\mathrm{DP}} + \chi_{\mathrm{HP}} + \chi_{\mathrm{PX}} = 1$

Note. DP = depleted peridotite; HP = hydrous peridotite.
[a]Depth-dependent based on Tosi et al. (2013); see text. [b]From Inoue et al. (1998), Angel et al. (2001), Wang et al. (2003), and Panero (2010).

of dry peridotite (Figure 2). Note that the hydrous layer contains small blobs of mafic heterogeneity, which may be, for example, originating from the subduction of silicic sediments and hybridization of related melts in the subduction channel (Gerya et al., 2004; Iwamori, 2007). In turn, for the 7-km-thick basaltic layer, we have mid-ocean ridge basalts (MORB)-like materials (and the relevant high-pressure polymorphs) in mind. However, our model results do not depend on any specific assumptions in terms of composition of these mafic lithologies, except for the imposed melting behavior and density profiles (see sections 2.3 and 2.4). In fact, we consider the same density profile and melting parameterization for both mafic/basaltic materials, considering that both are "pyroxenites"; that is, the keyword that we use for this lithology hereinafter. We stress that considering any alternative fusible (i.e., high melt productivity) and intrinsically dense lithologies instead of pyroxenites is expected to yield very similar model results.

In turn, harzburgites are not modeled as an independent lithology, but rather as a depleted peridotite (DP). The degrees of depletion of DP and hydrous peridotite (HP), F_{DP} and F_{HP}, increase upward in each layer (Ballmer et al., 2009; Katz et al., 2003). The explicit profiles of F_{DP} and F_{HP} in each harzburgite layer are pre-calculated from residual profiles of mid-ocean ridge melting (Ballmer et al., 2009), which remains an ad hoc simplification for the subcontinental layer. Likewise, the continental crust is also modeled as DP (with $F_{\mathrm{DP}} = F_{\mathrm{HP}} = 0.2$ in the 30-km-thick crustal layer) and not as an independent lithology. Accordingly, the intrinsic buoyancy of the continental crust is just ~33 kg/m^3 (see equation (2) below). While such a small anomaly remains a very conservative choice, it is sufficient to guarantee stability of the crust (also because the crustal layer is within the strongest part of the lithosphere). Along these lines, we really just model a mix of three lithologies: dry (depleted) peridotite (DP), hydrous (enriched) peridotite (HP), and pyroxenites (PX).

In the reference case, 2 wt.-% pyroxenites (Figure 2) are mixed into a 40-km-thick hydrous layer. The hydrous layer is meant to represent a layer in the transition zone that is enriched in volatiles and pyroxenites through the long-term subduction (and accumulation) of a hydrated mélange (+silicic sediments) through a channel atop the slab (Gerya et al., 2004; Iwamori, 2007; Marschall & Schumacher, 2012), or formed by the long-term delivery of water that transported to the MTZ in the cool sinking slab (and continuous dehydration in the MTZ; Frost, 2006).

2.2. Rheology Parameterization

In a conservative approach, we use a simplified Newtonian rheology to model mantle flow:

$$\eta = \lambda_i \eta_0 \exp\left(-\frac{E^* + pV^*}{RT} + \frac{E^*}{RT_0}\right), \tag{1}$$

with η viscosity, η_0 the reference viscosity calculated for zero pressure and $T = T_0$, λ_i a depth-dependent viscosity prefactor, E^* activation energy, V^* activation volume, R the ideal gas constant, p pressure, T temperature, and T_0 the reference temperature. In the resulting viscosity profile (Figure 3c), we define η_{eff} as the effective viscosity (i.e., the minimum viscosity of the asthenosphere at time step zero). We consider a relatively low activation energy of $E^* = 200$ kJ/mol in order to mimic the composite effects of dislocation and diffusion creep in a simplified Newtonian-rheology description (Christensen, 1984; van Hunen et al., 2005). Our simplified rheology is just temperature-dependent and depth-dependent due to our choices of E^*, V^*, and λ_i. We apply λ_i of 1 and 30 for above 660 km and below 660 km, respectively. Accordingly, at 660-km depth, a viscosity jump of factor 30 is imposed (Figure 3c; King & Masters, 1992; Peltier, 1996; Mitrovica & Forte, 1997; Kaufmann & Lambeck, 2000).

2.3. Melting Parameterization

To model mantle melting, we consider three different components in the mantle source (Figure 2): dry peridotite, HP, and pyroxenite (again, harzburgite is not an independent lithology; see above). We use a relatively simple model of melting, melt migration and melt extraction to efficiently model magma generation in the upper mantle. For example, we do not explicitly account for porous flow of magma but rather consider melt extraction based on the dynamic melting approximation (Elliott, 1997; McKenzie, 1985; Schmeling, 2006). Magma is immobile until the critical porosity φ_C is reached in the peridotite mineral assemblage. Magma is instantaneously extracted to the surface once the melt fraction exceeds φ_C, assuming that the timescale of melt migration and extraction is much smaller than of mantle flow (Kelemen et al., 1997). We choose a critical porosity of $\varphi_C = 0.1\%$ (Stracke et al., 2006), at which (hydrous) melts form an interconnected network (Mei et al., 2002) and are efficiently extracted, particularly in deformed aggregates (Holtzman et al., 2003). Melting is treated as a semireversible process, in which refreezing of any retained magma back to peridotite or pyroxenite occurs as soon as temperature decreases or pressure increases. Latent heat of melt is consumed in the melting process and released in the refreezing process.

We consider melting laws of Katz et al. (2003) and Pertermann and Hirschmann (2003) for the melting of peridotite and pyroxenite, respectively (Figure 3a). However, we restrict any melting beyond a cutoff of 8.05 GPa (~250 km); the melting parameterizations are not valid for any higher pressures, and we do not expect any melting there (Andrault et al., 2018). In any case, as no melting in our models happens at pressures larger than ~4 GPa (see results section), our results are not sensitive to our choice of the cutoff. The effects of water on depressing the solidus of peridotite are self-consistently accounted for (Ballmer et al., 2009).

2.4. Density Parameterization

Flow in the model is driven by mantle buoyancy, which is affected by thermal and compositional density anomalies. Density ρ is a function of temperature T and composition modified by melting and refreezing processes, depth and water content:

$$\begin{aligned}\rho = \rho_0[1-\alpha(T-T_0)] - \Delta\rho_{\text{melt}}(\chi_{\text{DP}}\varphi_{\text{DP}} + \chi_{\text{HP}}\varphi_{\text{HP}} + \chi_{\text{PX}}\varphi_{\text{PX}}) + \beta\Delta\rho_{\text{PX}}\chi_{\text{PX}} \\ -\beta\Delta\rho_{\text{depl}}(\chi_{\text{DP}}F_{\text{DP}} + \chi_{\text{HP}}F_{\text{HP}}) - \Delta\rho_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}(\chi_{\text{DP}}C_{\text{H}_2\text{O}_{\text{DP}}} + \chi_{\text{HP}}C_{\text{H}_2\text{O}_{\text{HP}}}),\end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

where ρ_0 is the reference density, T and T_0 are the temperature and reference temperature, respectively; α is the thermal expansivity, $\Delta\rho_{\text{melt}}$ and $\Delta\rho_{\text{depl}}$ are the density changes due to melt and depletion, respectively. χ_i and φ_i are the mass fractions and porosities (i.e., magma fractions), respectively, of a given lithology i (i = [DP, HP, PX]). $\Delta\rho_{\text{PX}}$ is the excess density of pyroxenites, $\Delta\rho_{\text{H2O}}$ is the density change due to the presence of water in nominally anhydrous minerals, and $C_{\text{H2O\_DP}}$ and $C_{\text{H2O\_HP}}$ are the water contents in DP and HP, respectively; α is depth-dependent based on (Tosi et al., 2013), varies linearly from 4.5×10^{-5} K^{-1} at the surface to 2.1×10^{-5} K^{-1} at 660-km depth, and fixed at 2.2×10^{-5} K^{-1} below 660-km depth. $\Delta\rho_{\text{depl}}$

and $\Delta\rho_{PX}$ vary with depth, and β is the depth-dependent prefactor that we use to parameterize this behavior (Aoki & Takahashi, 2004; Hirose et al., 1999; Xu et al., 2008):

$$\beta = \begin{cases} 1.65, & \text{if } \quad 0 \ll z < 300 \text{ km} \\ 2.30, & \text{if } 300 \ll z < 410 \text{ km} \\ 1.00, & \text{if } 410 \ll z < 660 \text{ km} \\ -1.75, & \text{if } 660 \ll z < 730 \text{ km} \\ 1.16, & \text{if } 730 \ll z \ll 1320 \text{ km} \end{cases}$$

Finally, we consider the effect of phase change at 660-km depth on buoyancy according to Ballmer, Schemerr, et al. (2015), using a Clausius-Clapeyron slope of $\Gamma = -3.0$ MPa/K (Ito & Takahashi, 1989).

2.5. Dehydration of HP at the 410-km Discontinuity

In our model, the initial water content of HP in a hydrous layer on top of the slab (Figure 2) is taken to vary between 400 and 10,000 wt.-ppm (or 0.04 to 1 wt.-%). These are conservative bounds considering the high water solubility of ringwoodite and wadsleyite (Ohtani et al., 2004; Pearson et al., 2014), and the different ways of water transport to the MTZ (Faccenda et al., 2009; van Keken et al., 2011; Nishi et al., 2014; Ohira et al., 2014; see section 4.4). In contrast, the water content above 410-km depth is limited to 400 wt.-ppm (Férot & Bolfan-Casanova, 2012). In order to take into account the dehydration of any excessive water in the upwelling mantle at 410-km depth due to the stabilization of a supercritical-fluid layer (Bercovici & Karato, 2003), we use a crude ad hoc approach of removing the excessive water from the model. We assume that the water remains in the gravitationally stable supercritical-fluid layer instead of diffusing into uppermost mantle (for further discussion, see below).

3. Results

3.1. General Model Predictions: The Reference Case

In our suite of numerical models, we find a typical evolution of thermochemical convection and related mantle melting for a wide range of parameters. We first establish this robust behavior by describing in detail the model predictions of our reference case. The governing parameters of this reference case are $\eta_{eff} = 3.75 \times 10^{18}$ Pa·s, $C_{H2O\_HP} = 4000$ wt.-ppm, and $D_{HP} = 60$ km (for additional parameters, which mostly remain fixed across model suite, see Table 1; for initial model setup see Figure 2).

Figure 4 shows the temporal evolution of temperature (left) and composition (right) of the reference case. The related density variations that drive the flow are shown in Figure 5; associated mantle melting and volcanism are presented in Figure 6. In Figures 4 and 5, and 6, only the upper 800 km and upper 150 km, respectively, of a model box with vertical extent of 1,320 km, are shown.

The initial model setup represents the beginning of the stagnation phase of the slab, that is, just after the end of slab sinking through much of the upper mantle. In the very beginning of the simulation, the slab still sinks a bit until it settles at a depth of 600–700 km (within a couple of million years of model time), floating at the 660-km discontinuity due to the downward deflection of the related phase transition and related buoyancy force (Figure 5, the positive buoyant [red] part of the slab). At the same time, the very first self-buoyant upwellings develop at the slab tip and near the imposed fracture zone from a hydrous layer atop the slab. The hydrous layer in the reference case contains 2% of mafic materials (or pyroxenites) in addition to HP. These self-buoyant upwellings are driven by a density inversion of hydrated peridotite (Figure 5) and triggered early in the simulation due to the lateral heterogeneity provided by the fracture zone, or at the slab tip (Dumoulin et al., 2004; Huang et al., 2003).

During the onset of upwellings, SSC develops at the base of the continental lithosphere and reaches ~410-km depth at ~5 Myr. Active hydrous upwellings reach these depths soon after that. Meanwhile, the slab is heated by the ambient mantle, which further promotes convective instability. As a result, upwellings begin to develop not only at the slab tip or fracture zone but also between them at ~10 Myr.

As the self-buoyant upwellings ascend through the upper mantle, they encounter the phase transition at 410-km depth, where minerals are dehydrated and partly lose their intrinsic buoyancy. Figure 5 shows the net buoyancy, which includes thermal and compositional buoyancy, of the model at three time steps

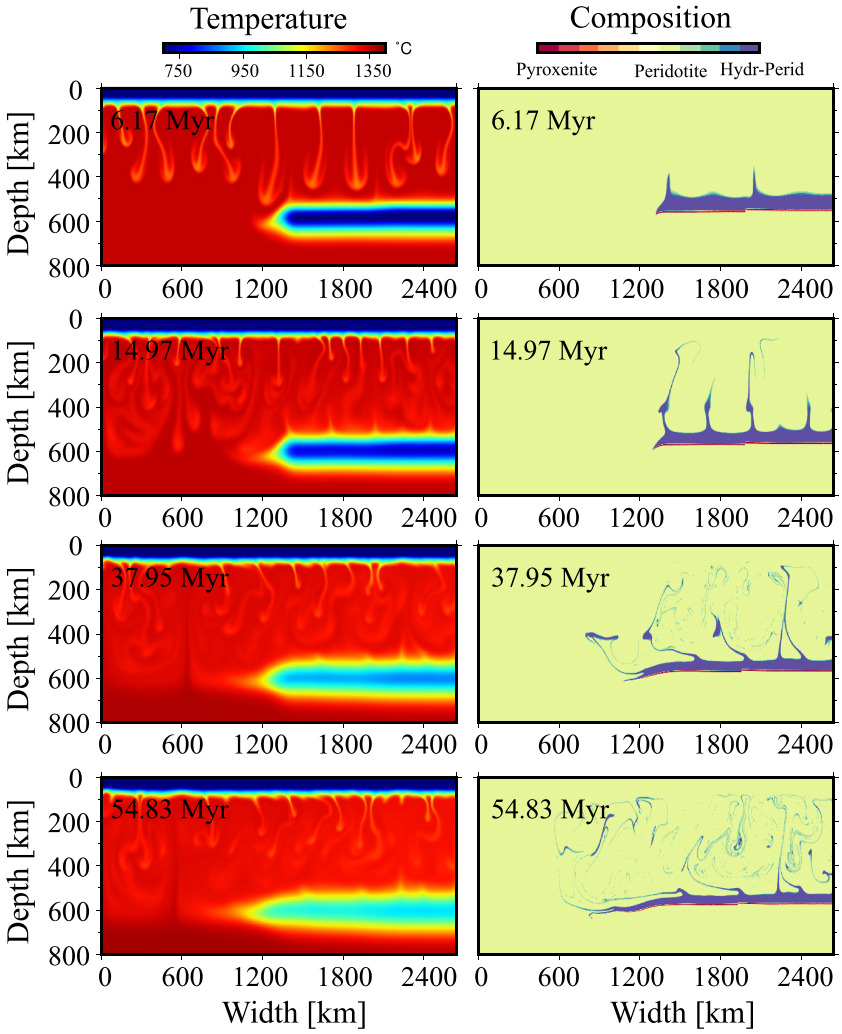

Figure 4. Time series with snapshots of temperature (left column) and composition (right column) for the reference case.

corresponding to the first three panels of Figure 4. The first panel clearly shows that the buoyancy of the upwellings mostly comes from the material in the core of the upwelling (red part), which is HP. Because the water content of HP in the reference case (4,000 wt.-ppm) is higher than the capacity of the mantle above 410 km depth (400 wt.-ppm according to our parameterization), much of the water within the upwellings is lost (or left behind) in this case (and most other cases modeled), for example, to stabilize a melt layer (see discussion below). Since the water in anhydrous minerals provides most of the buoyancy for the otherwise negatively buoyant (cool) upwellings, upwellings tend to stall near 410-km depth (Figures 4 and 5), forming a layer of mostly hydrous material (Figure 4). This stagnant layer is ultimately passively entrained by SSC cells. In other words, self-buoyant upwellings from bottom-up-driven instability of the hydrous layer intermittently stall just above the MTZ due to loss of H_2O but are readily passively entrained by top-down-driven convective instability.

As being passively entrained and carried by the SSC cells, hydrous material eventually reaches the base of the lithosphere. The presence of volatiles in the hydrous material significantly reduces the solidus temperature to allow (partial) decompression melting within the entrained hydrous blobs. The small fraction of fertile pyroxenites in the hydrous material contributes significantly to mantle melting. First melting occurs at ~11.8-Myr model time (not shown in Figures, see supporting information Table S1) and increases in vigor through the next few million years as more and more hydrous material reaches the base of the lithosphere. Partial melting takes place at ~100-km depth, and primarily in a region directly above the slab. Melting further increases in vigor as the accumulation of hydrous material near 410-km depth is progressively

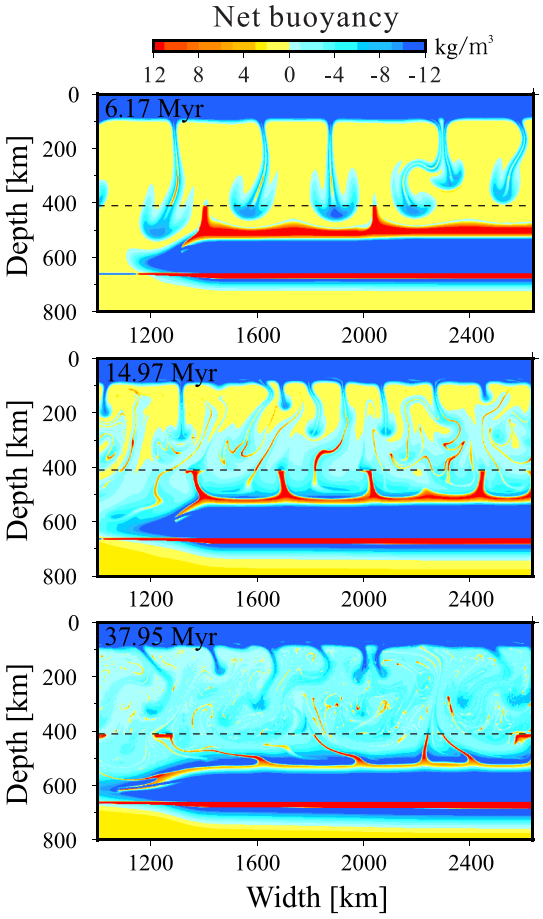

Figure 5. Map of densities ρ (see equation (2)) of the reference case for three snapshots (as labeled). Colors represent total (i.e., thermal plus compositional) density anomalies, or "net buoyancy" (warm colors: positive buoyancy or negative total density anomaly; cold colors: negative buoyancy or positive total density anomaly). The 410-km discontinuity, where much of the buoyancy related to hydration of peridotite is lost, is marked by a black dashed line. The ages of the slab when subducted at the trench are 70 Myr on the left and 80 Myr on the right side of the fracture zone, respectively.

entrained by the SSC (Figure 4). Degrees of melting in HP and pyroxenites reach ~5.0% and 38%, respectively. Any melt fractions exceeding the critical porosity of 0.1% are extracted and assumed to contribute to volcanism. Extracted magmas are sourced by mantle melting of HP and of pyroxenites to about equal parts (~55:45). The temperature of the upper (most) mantle decreases continuously as more and more cool hydrous materials are delivered by SSC. Additionally, melting also consumes latent heat and contributes to the cooling of the upper mantle, eventually hampering any further melting.

3.2. Parameter Study

In order to further explore the origin of the spatial and temporal patterns of intraplate volcanism above the stagnant slab, key model parameters are varied to investigate their effects on the onset time of upwelling (τ_u), onset time of melting (τ_m), "pyroxenite contribution" (or fraction of pyroxenite-derived magmas in volcanism), and cumulative extracted melt volumes within 70 Myr (Figure 7). The τ_u is defined as the time when the first upwelling from the slab reaches 450-km depth; τ_m is the time when partial melting first occurs at the base of the lithosphere. The model parameters that we explore include the viscosity of the asthenosphere (η_{eff}), water content ($C_{\mathrm{H2O\_HP}}$), thickness of the hydrous layer (D_{HP}), initial pyroxenites fraction in the hydrous layer (χ_{PX}), and the plate ages at trench on both sides of the slab.

3.2.1. Effective Viscosity

In our models, the timing and dynamics of self-buoyant upwellings from the top of the slab strongly depends on η_{eff}. The hydrous layer at the top of the slab, from which the upwellings rise, is somewhat warmer and less strong that the core of the slab. The relevant local viscosity is 10–100 times higher than, but directly coupled to, η_{eff}. The same holds true for the viscous layer at the base of the lithosphere, out of which SSC instabilities develop (e.g., Liao et al., 2017). Both Rayleigh-Taylor instability in the hydrous layer and SSC instability at the base of the lithosphere is controlled by the local viscosity. Thus, τ_u and ultimately τ_m are expected to be controlled by η_{eff}.

In our study, we vary η_{eff} from 2.2×10^{18} to 1.1×10^{19} Pa·s. As expected, the dominant effect of increasing η_{eff} is to delay convective instability and related melting (Figures 7a and 7d). Also, for higher η_{eff}, convection and melting are less vigorous (Figure 7j). In turn, pyroxenite contribution remains mostly robust as long as $\eta_{\mathrm{eff}} \leq 8.8 \times 10^{18}$ Pa·s (Figure 7g). Small $\eta_{\mathrm{eff}} \leq 6.25 \times 10^{18}$ Pa·s are associated with $\tau_m < 20$ Myr (Figure 7d). For these cases, the compositional fingerprint of related lavas also remains robust, as measured by pyroxenite contributions of ~50%. That said, cases with $\eta_{\mathrm{eff}} \leq 2.2 \times 10^{18}$ Pa·s display minor contributions (up to ~12%) of DP melting.

3.2.2. Bulk Water Content

Increasing the bulk water content $C_{\mathrm{H2O\_HP}}$ decreases the intrinsic density of the HP layer. In other words, the presence of water provides buoyancy to hydrous materials, thus promoting upwellings from the slab. Accordingly, we expect that increasing $C_{\mathrm{H2O\_HP}}$ tends to advance both upwelling and melting.

Indeed, our models predict that τ_u systematically decreases with increasing $C_{\mathrm{H2O\_HP}}$ (Figure 7b). In general, τ_m decrease with increasing $C_{\mathrm{H2O\_HP}}$ as long as $C_{\mathrm{H2O\_HP}} < 4{,}000$ wt.-ppm. However, for $C_{\mathrm{H2O\_HP}} \geq 4000$ wt.-ppm, τ_m and total volumes of melting remain virtually constant. This prediction is mostly explained by the upper limit of 400 wt.-ppm water in olivine. Even though upwellings are develop rather early for these cases, it still takes ~10 Myr for hydrous materials to travel from top of the MTZ to the base of lithosphere. Besides, pyroxenite contribution to volcanism is virtually independent of $C_{\mathrm{H2O\_HP}}$, demonstrating that 2% pyroxenite in the hydrous layer is able to give rise to a nearly 50-50 mixed source of volcanism for a wide parameter range.

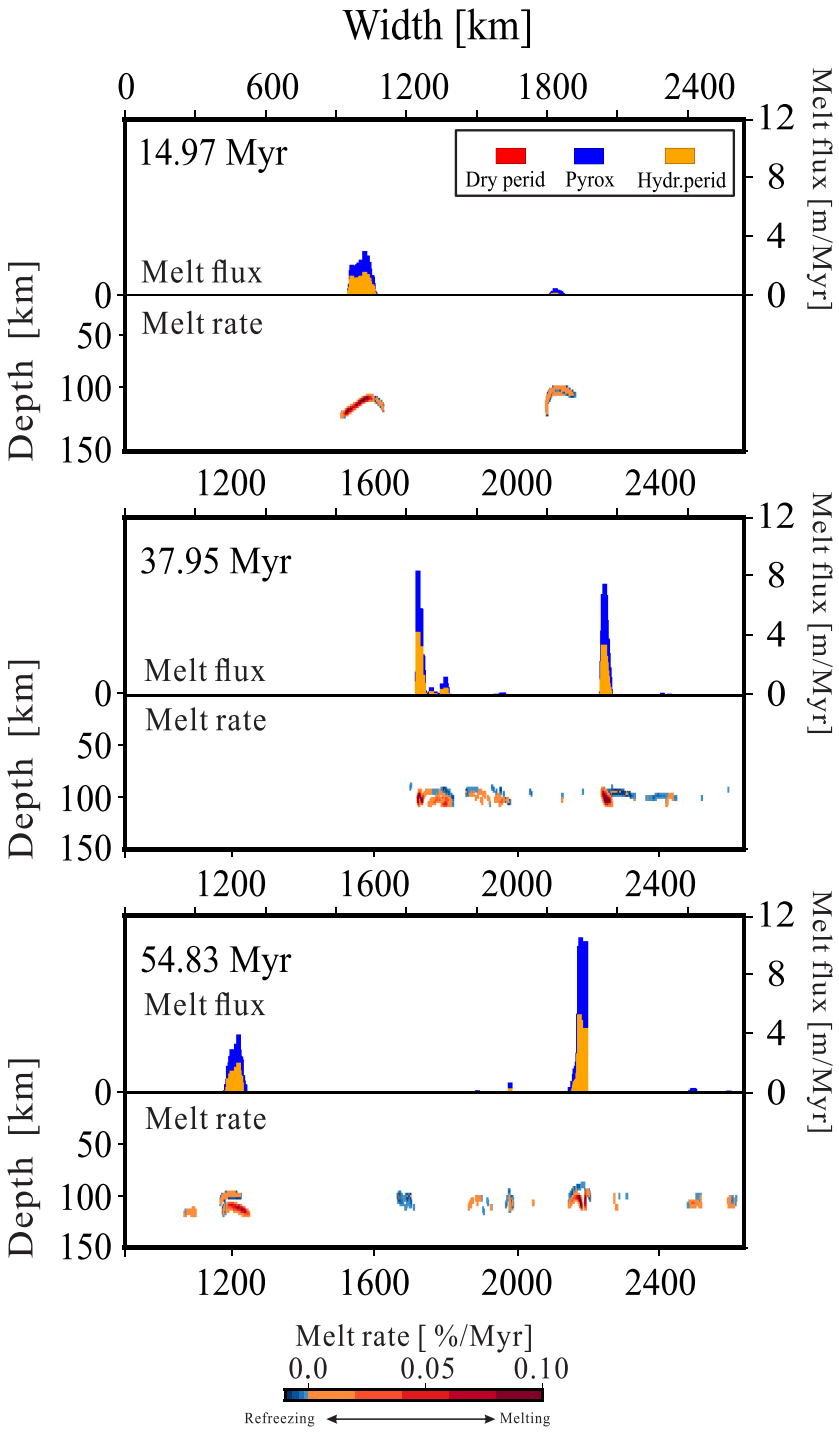

Figure 6. Snapshots of melt flux and melting rate. In the bottom inset of each panel, melting rate in the uppermost mantle is shown (colors). The vertical scale is inflated for visibility. In the top of each panel, the resulting cumulative melt flux is shown with colors representing source lithology. The melt flux is calculated from the cumulated extracted melt volume (i.e., the melt fraction that exceeds the critical porosity) from the underlying column of mantle rocks.

3.2.3. Thickness of HP

The thickness of the hydrous-peridotite layer is one of the key parameters to control the rise of hydrous upwellings from the slab, and related volcanism. Its primary effect on τ_u and τ_m is similar to that of $C_{\mathrm{H2O\_HP}}$. The τ_u and τ_m generally decreases with increasing thickness of the hydrous layer, well

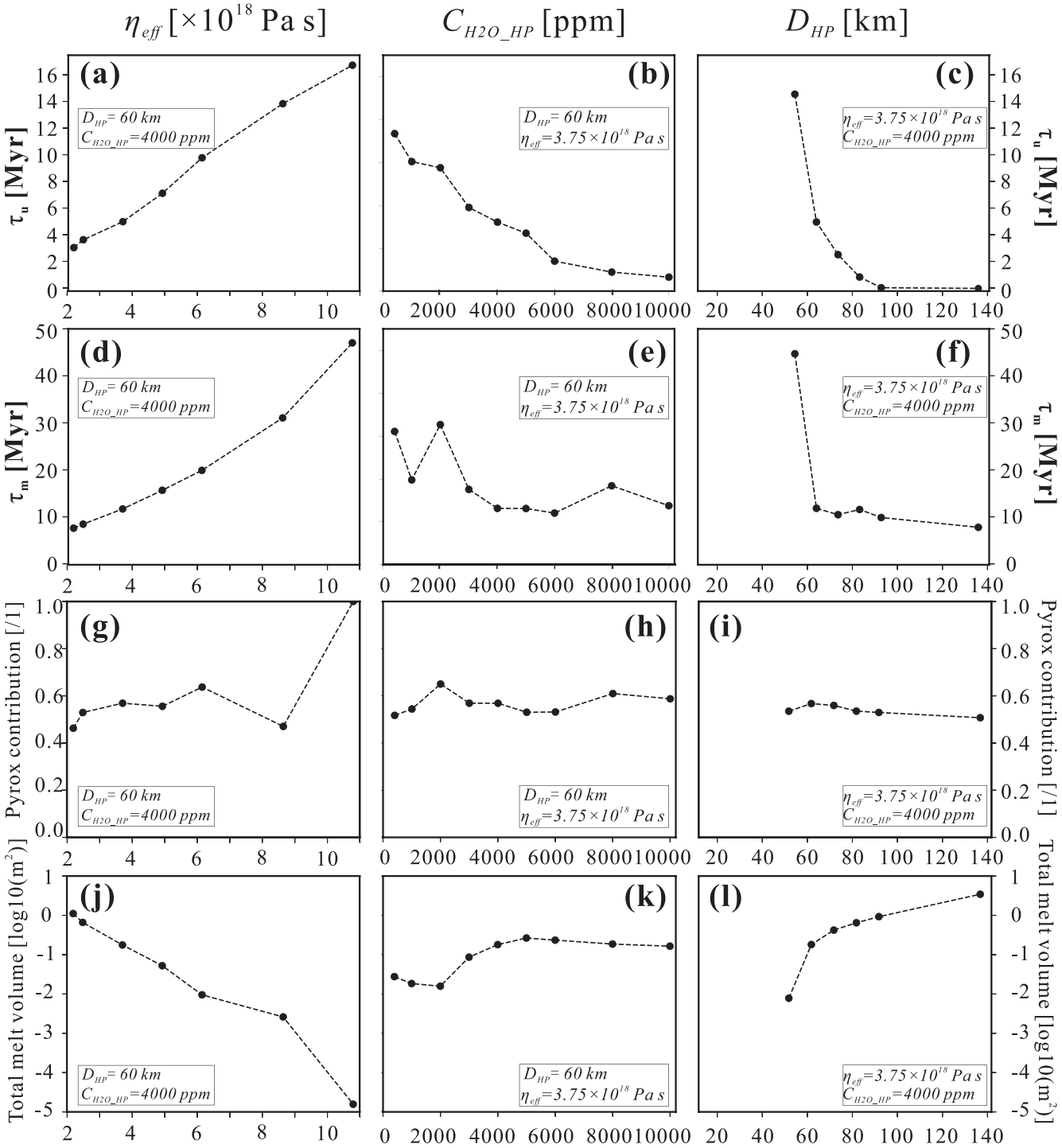

Figure 7. The effects of model parameters η_{eff}, C_{H2O_HP}, and D_{HP} (as labeled) on the onset time of upwelling (a–c), onset time of melting (d–f), pyroxenite contribution to volcanism (g–i), and total melt volume extracted (j–l). Melt volumes are cumulative extracted volumes over model times ≤70 Myr. The other two key model parameters are provided in the insets. If no circle and related line(s) are plotted in panels (c), (f), (i), and (l), no upwelling or melting occurs in the corresponding model, respectively (supporting information Table S1).

understood from a Rayleigh-Taylor stability analysis. As shown in Figures 7c and 7f, the results can be divided into three regimes. For $D_{HP} \leq 40$ km, there is no upwelling and hence no melting within 70 Myr (not shown in Figures 7c, 7f, 7i, and 7l). For $40 < D_{HP} < 90$ km, upwelling and related melting are

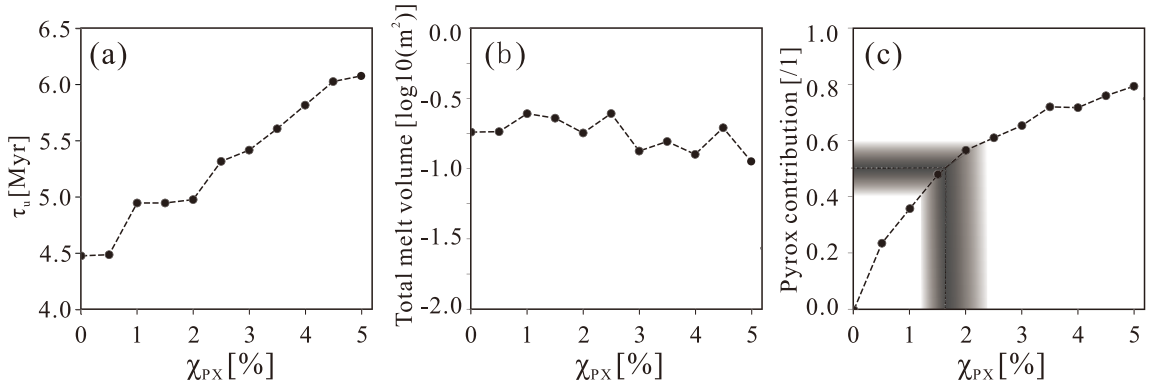

Figure 8. The onset time of upwelling τ_u (a), total melt volume (b), and pyroxenite contribution (c) versus initial fraction of pyroxenite within the hydrous layer (χ_{PX}). Shadow in (c) marks the range of pyroxenite contributions between 0.4 and 0.6, which are most consistent with the geochemical signatures of Cenozoic intraplate volcanism in eastern China, and the corresponding constraints on parameter χ_{PX}.

systematically advanced as D_{HP} increases. This effect is explained by an increase in positive buoyancy related to hydration in the layer above the slab. Finally, for $D_{HP} \geq 90$ km, the effect of D_{HP} on τ_u and τ_m is negligible.

3.2.4. Initial Pyroxenite Fraction in the Hydrous Layer

To explore the effects of the initial fraction of pyroxenite (χ_{PX}) in the hydrous (HP) layer, we vary this fraction between 0.0% and 5.0%. χ_{PX} has a strong influence on pyroxenite contribution to volcanism and can also affect τ_u through its direct effect on the buoyancy of the hydrous layer. As pyroxenite is intrinsically dense, this buoyancy should decrease with increasing χ_{PX}. Accordingly, τ_u is expected to increase with increasing χ_{PX}.

Figure 8 shows the effects of χ_{PX} on τ_u, total melt volume and pyroxenite contribution; τ_u only increases from 4.5 to 6 Myr as χ_{PX} increases from 0.0% to 5.0%. As expected, pyroxenite contribution is strongly sensitive to χ_{PX}, increasing systematically from 0% to about 80% as χ_{PX} increases from 0.0% to 5.0%. Accordingly, geochemical signatures of related magmas may be used to constrain the initial pyroxenite content in the hydrous layer above the slab (Figure 8). In turn, the effects of χ_{PX} on total melt volumes remain small, because increasing χ_{PX} not only promotes melting but also decreases the vigor of upwelling and makes hydrous material more difficult to be entrained by SSC. Because of this same trade-off, τ_m remains mostly robust at ~12 Myr with increasing χ_{PX} (not shown in Figure 8; see supporting information Table S1).

3.2.5. Heterogeneity Within Stagnant Slab

In all our models, first upwellings rise from the slab tip, and near the fracture zone within the slab (Figure 4). These predictions imply that lateral heterogeneity can trigger the ascent of hydrous plumes, analogous to the well-understood advancement of SSC by lateral heterogeneity (Dumoulin et al., 2004; Huang et al., 2003; King & Ritsema, 2000). In all the cases discussed so far, the imposed age jump at the fracture zone is fixed at 10 Myr; the age at trench of the left section ($1320 < x < 1980$ km) of the slab is 70 Myr and that of the right section ($1980 < x < 2640$ km) is 80 Myr. To explore the effects of the age of the subducted slab and of the imposed age jump, two groups of cases with different configurations are investigated.

In the first group (Figures 9a and 9b), no age jump is imposed, but the age of the slab at trench (i.e., when the plate was subducted at 10 Myr before the start of the model) is systematically varied. In all these cases, the first upwelling appears at the slab tip. For small slab ages, τ_u first slightly increases with slab age and then remains nearly constant. For large slab ages, τ_u systematically decreases from ~6 to ~4.8 Myr. In contrast, the total volumes of melting decrease systematically with slab age. The predicted trends for small slab ages (<30 Ma) are well explained by the decrease of available net buoyancy within the hydrous layer that drives Rayleigh-Taylor instability with increasing slab age. Higher slab ages imply lower temperatures of the slab and the overlying hydrous layer, which leads to a later onset of upwellings, a smaller portion of the hydrous layer to become convectively unstable, and eventually less melting at the base of the lithosphere. However, higher slab ages also lead to shorter distance between hydrous layer and 450-km depth, where τ_u is measured. Moreover, as slab ages increase, the heterogeneity at the slab tip also becomes stronger, driving

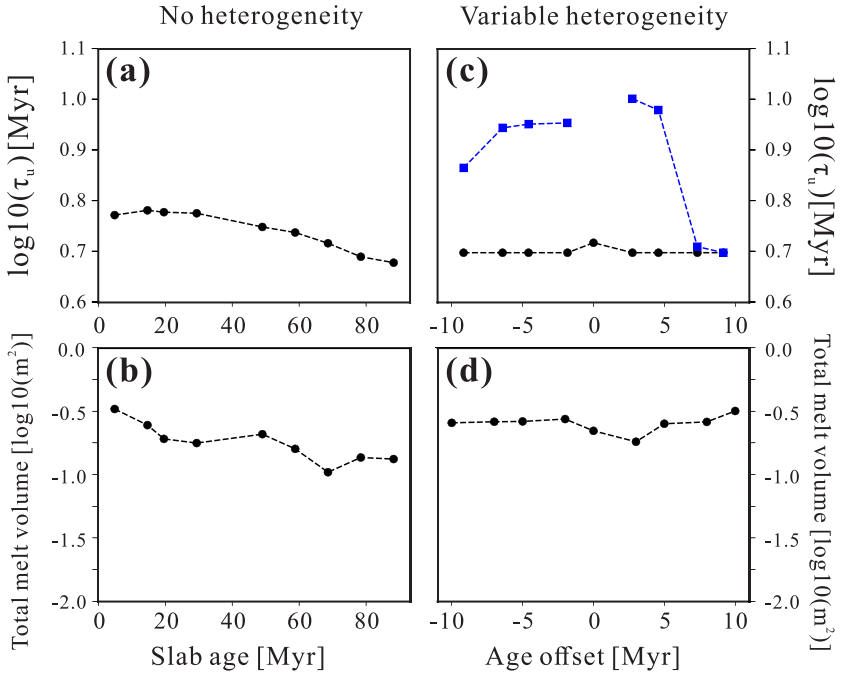

Figure 9. The effects of "slab ages" (i.e., plate ages at trench) on both sides of the fracture zone on model results in terms of τ_u (a, c) and total melt volumes (b, d). No fracture zone is imposed within the slab in (a) and (b). A fracture zone with a variable age offset (as labeled) is imposed in (c) and (d). The age of the left side of the slab is fixed at 70 Myr. The blue line denotes the onset age of instability from near the fracture zone, which is delayed compared to upwelling from the slab tip (black line) in (c).

earlier instability. These two effects trade-off with the above buoyancy effect in terms of τ_u, eventually resulting in earlier upwellings but smaller melt volumes as slab ages increase.

In the second group (Figures 9c and 9d), we investigate the effects of the age jump at the heterogeneity within the slab. We fix the slab age of the left section at 70 Myr and vary the slab age of the right section between 60 and 80 Myr. Hence, we implicitly vary the age jump across the modeled subducted fracture zone. The flat curve in Figure 9c (black line) implies that early upwelling (τ_u = ~5 Myr) develops at the slab tip regardless of the fracture zone age jump and allows significant mantle melting. Thus, our results are mostly robust and virtually independent of the age jump. We note, however, that the onset age of instability that rises from near the heterogeneity does indeed depend on the age jump, and big age jumps promote local upwelling (see blue line in Figure 9c). Thereby, the location of upwelling instability and related distribution of magmatism depends on heterogeneity in the MTZ. Also, the total volume of volcanism increases as a larger portion of hydrous material rises sufficiently early, for example, near the fracture zone.

Heterogeneity within subducted slabs (e.g., slab tears or slab window) are widely detected (Cao et al., 2014; Dickinson & Snyder, 1979; Miller et al., 2006; Rosenbaum et al., 2008; Thorkelson, 1996; Windley & Xiao, 2018). Specifically, a subducted fracture zone of age offset ~10 Myr is located on the subducted Pacific slab beneath eastern China (Liu et al., 2017). Note that slab tears or slab windows may even have a larger effect on the onset of instability than fracture zones with an offset of ~10 Myrs such as modeled here.

3.2.6. Initial Distribution of Pyroxenite

To better understand the effects of the initial distribution of pyroxenite through the mantle, three different initial conditions are explored here. In Group A (made up by all models discussed above; see cartoon in Figure 2b), a minor fraction of pyroxenite (0.0–5.0 wt.-%) is initially distributed through the hydrous layer, but not through the ambient mantle. In Group B (cartoon: supporting information Figure S1a), pyroxenite is initially neither distributed through the ambient mantle nor through the hydrous layer. In Group C (cartoon: supporting information Figure S1b), a minor fraction of pyroxenite (0.1% or 1.0 wt.-%) is initially distributed through the ambient mantle, but not the hydrous layer; the ambient mantle is further assumed

to contain 2.5 wt.-% HP. As in Group A, we also explore the same parameter space but with larger steps for Groups B and C. Indeed, the distribution of mafic lithologies (e.g., MORB and pyroexnites) remains poorly understood (Ballmer, van Keken, & Ito, 2015; Brandenburg & Keken, 2007; Nakagawa & Buffett, 2005). Over geologic time, subducted MORB and other flavors of pyroxenites have been stirred through the mantle (Weaver, 1991; Hanyu & Kaneoka, 1997; Kogiso, Tatsumi, Shimoda, et al., 1997).

In Group B, hydrous materials are also transported by upwelling from the MTZ to the base of the lithosphere and sustain magmatism there. However, the produced melt only originates from hydrous-preidotite melting. Except for that, results of Group B are very similar to Group A.

In Group C, volcanism is instead mainly sourced by pyrosenite (PX) melting (mostly ≥90%), even if the initial fraction of PX is very small ($\chi_{PX} = 1\%$). Magmatism occurs everywhere in the asthenosphere and not just above the stagnant slab. Thus, if volcanism is indeed focused in regions that are underlain by a stagnant slab, enriched pyroxenitic/mafic heterogeneity needs to be located in a buoyant hydrous layer atop the slab (i.e., as in Group A), and not just in the MORB layer (Group B) and not everywhere (Group C).

Model predictions in terms of pyroxenite contribution to magmatism strongly vary between groups, thus being sensitive to the initial condition. In Group A, pyroxenite contributions are around 50% for all cases with $\eta_{eff} \leq 8.8 \times 10^{18}$ Pa·s (Figure 7). In Group B, pyroxenite contributions are nearly 0. In other words, pyroxenite from the 7-km-thick pyroxenitic layer of the recently subducted stagnant slab does not get entrained by the hydrous plumes to rise to the base of the lithosphere in this group (and all of our models). In Group C, pyroxenite contributions are strongly sensitive to χ_{PX}. Because of high melt productivity of pyroxenite (Figure 3a), only $\chi_{PX} = 0.1$ wt.-% in the ambient mantle are able to yield pyroxenite contributions of ~64%. Maybe a lower χ_{PX} can result in a pyroxenite contribution 50%, consistent with geochemical signatures of Cenozoic intraplate volcanism in eastern China as discussion below. However, these low χ_{PX} are smaller than those estimated from the inversion of MORB melting (Hirschmann & Stolper, 1996). In any case, the extents of melting of mafic materials (pyroxenite), and thus the specific numbers predicted here for χ_{PX}, depend on the melting law chosen (e.g., Pertermann & Hirschmann, 2003, vs. Lambart et al., 2016).

The general trends of model predictions in total melt volumes as a function of parameters are similar for Groups A and B. For Group C, the melting is generally more vigorous and virtually independent of C_{H2O_HP} and D_{HP}. According to Group C, no connection between the subducted slab and intraplate volcanism is required. Melting is immediately caused by SSC (Ballmer et al., 2007; Ballmer et al., 2010; West et al., 2009), as soon as convective instability develops. Similarly, if much of the MTZ were hydrated (Bercovici & Karato, 2003; Nakagawa, 2017) and not just a layer above the stagnant slab, the locations of volcanism would be poorly related to those of the slab stagnation. However, according to the good spatial correlation between these two (Figure 1), we do not favor Group C (or a homogenous distribution of hydrated material in the MTZ). In summary, Group A can better explain the distribution (compared to Group C) and geochemical signature (compared to Group B) of pyroxenitic intraplate volcanism beneath continental lithosphere. However, we do not rule out that SSC alone can give rise to intraplate volcanism locally, for example, due to regional enhancement of mafic materials (or other enriched lithologies) in the ambient mantle.

4. Discussion

According to our analysis, the timing of upwelling and magmatism, τ_u and τ_m, is mostly controlled by parameters that affect the local Rayleigh number, such as η_{eff} (or other rheological parameters not modeled here), and by parameters that affect the buoyancy of the hydrous material, such as C_{H2O_HP}. The amount of melting behaves generally consistently with τ_u and τ_m; early τ_u usually result in early τ_m and higher total melt volumes.

The parameter range, over which this robust behavior occurs, is realistic. The 4,000 wt.-ppm water in a 60-km-thick hydrous layer is sufficient to promote intraplate volcanism soon after the slab arrives in the MTZ, for example, in eastern China. Based on a few additional models (not shown), we find that there is a trade-off between critical water contents and layer thicknesses. At higher water contents (e.g., 6000 wt.-ppm) smaller layer thicknesses (~40 km) are required to obtain similar model behavior. Depending on the characteristics of the slab and the composition of the hydrated wedge, the total water flux transported to the transition zone may be sufficient to sustain these requirements, or even higher than that (Inoue et al., 1998). The water

content in the MTZ has been estimated to be higher than 0.4 wt.-% (see section 4.4; Pearson et al., 2014; Houser, 2016). Depending on the mechanisms of water delivery, the thickness of the hydrous layer above the slab may also be higher than the required 60 km, particularly if the whole MTZ is hydrated. Strong heterogeneity, such as a fracture zone with a large offset or a slab window, is not required to trigger early upwellings from the slab. An early onset on mantle melting requires effective viscosities $\leq 6.25 \times 10^{18}$ Pa·s in the asthenosphere (see Figure 7), consistent with independent estimates by Freed et al. (2006, 2017) and Bills et al. (2007). Even though poorly constrained (e.g., Rudolph et al., 2015), relatively low viscosities on the order of 10^{19}–10^{20} Pa·s such as required for early upwelling may be realistic for the MTZ (Bills et al., 1994; James et al., 2000; Pollitz et al., 2001) at least for the hydrous layer and the hydrous upwellings. As we do not explicitly take into account the effects of water on reducing mantle viscosity (Fei et al., 2017), these constrained effective viscosities remain lower bounds. We expect that at a given η_{eff}, hydrous instability develops sooner and upwellings rise faster if water-dependent rheology were considered, even though the mostly dry matrix also has to be deformed. To get a rough idea how water dependent rheology would affect our results, several additional cases are tested. In these cases, the hydrous material (with water contents as in the reference case) is 20 times weaker than the ambient mantle. This weakening is only applied in the MTZ to keep results comparable to those of the reference case. Due to the imposed weakening, the onset of upwelling (τ_u) is advanced, but that of melting (τ_m) remains nearly unchanged. It takes ~10 Myr for hydrous materials to be conveyed from ~410-km depth to the base of the lithosphere regardless of τ_u. Nevertheless, the volume of melting is increased as more hydrous material goes unstable. Consequently, lower water contents and/or thinner hydrous layers (e.g., ~40 km) are required to obtain similar results as in the reference case without water-dependent rheology. Additional work is required to quantify the effects of hydrogen impurities on the viscosity of wadsleyite and ringwoodite for water contents that are significantly below saturation. In addition, the viscosity of the subducted slab may be depressed due to grain size reduction during the crossing of the 410-km phase transition, and poor recovery afterward (Karato et al., 2001; Riedel & Karato, 1997). Future modeling efforts are needed to explore the effects of a more realistic rheology on hydrous-upwelling dynamics and melting.

4.1. Distribution of Volcanism in Eastern Asia

Our model predictions of intraplate volcanism occurring directly above the stagnant slab is consistent with the distribution of intraplate volcanism in eastern Asia (Huang & Zheng, 2017; Yu et al., 2018) and globally (Figure 1). Specifically, our results imply that volcanism occurs in a belt between the slab tip and the hinge (i.e., where the slab first reaches the MTZ) or starts at a given distance from the hinge that is related to the timescale τ_m. In any case, large-scale poloidal (or toroidal) flow as imposed by slab sinking and roll-bock may pull upwellings toward the trench. In eastern China, the slab has been subducting and stagnating in the MTZ for more than 30 Myr and spreads ~3,000 km away from the trench (Liu et al., 2017), and so does most of the observed intraplate volcanism (Liu et al., 2001; Ren et al., 2002).

Changbai volcano, located just over the hinge of the subducted slab (Fukao & Obayashi, 2013; Liu et al., 2017; Zhao, 2004), may be a special case. If we assume that it takes 10 Myr for the slab to sink through the upper mantle and reach the MTZ (Goes et al., 2011), Changbai volcano (Guo et al., 2016) may require a very early τ_m of <5 Myr. As our model does not include the stage of the slab sinking trough the upper mantle, our τ_m are generally conservative estimates. Upwellings may indeed already start forming before the slab reaches the MTZ and begins to stagnate. In this case, the whole process may be advanced compared to our model predictions (or the constraint on η_{eff} relaxed). Alternatively, Kameyama and Nishioka (2012) propose that a strong local circulation near the hinge of the slab, above which Changbai volcano is located, is induced by the retreating and subduction of the Pacific slab. Tang et al. (2014) argue that a slab window (gap) in the subducted Pacific slab is located just beneath Changbai volcano. Note that in eastern Asia, the Pacific slab (and even earlier: the Izanagi slab) has been subducted for much more than 30 Myr and stagnated for at least 20 Myr (Liu et al., 2017). Hence, upwellings developing from that slab with $\tau_m < 20$ Myr are well sufficient to account for late Cenozoic volcanism in eastern China. Moreover, considering the heterogeneous nature of water distribution in the MTZ, our predicted τ_m should be upper bounds and melt volumes lower bounds.

The thickness and structure of the overlying lithosphere also controls the distribution of volcanism above the stagnant slab. For example, lithosphere farther away from the trench in central and western China is thicker than in the northeastern part, allowing less decompression melting and volcanism (Chen et al., 2008; Guo

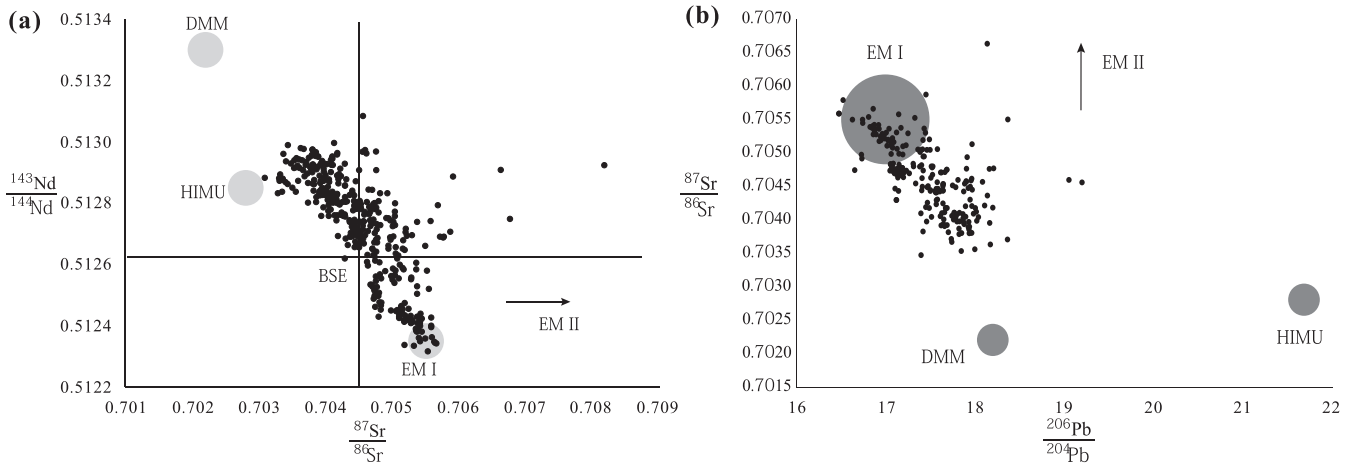

Figure 10. (a) $^{143}Nd/^{144}Nd$ versus $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ and (b) $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ versus $^{206}Pb/^{204}Pb$ of Cenozoic basalts in NE China showing the linear trend between two end-members. Data with higher Sr ratios are from the Bohai Bay Basin (Dong et al., 2010) and are consistent with seawater alteration (Elderfield, 1986; Veizer, 1989). Data are from "GeoRoc" database (http://georoc.mpch-mainz.gwdg.de/georoc/). BSE is the assumed composition of the (primitive) Bulk Silicate Earth (McDonough & Sun, 1995). Isotopic ratios for mantle end-members are from Faure and Mensing (2005) except for the enriched mantle 1 (EM1) end-member in (b), which is from Zindler and Hart (1986).

et al., 2018). This lithospheric structure of China may be an alternative explanation for the poor correlation between predictions in Group C with observations. Sublithospheric structure may also control the distribution of volcanism through the geometry of SSC cells, (e.g., King & Anderson, 1995; King & Ritsema, 2000). In this case of "edge-driven convection," increased volcanism at a given distance from a step of lithospheric thickness would focus on the thin-lithosphere side. However, in China, volcanism commonly occurs on both sides of the step in lithospheric thickness, or both inside and outside of the basins (e.g., Wang et al., 2006; Wang et al., 2017).

4.2. Geochemical Signatures of Intraplate Volcanism in NE China

In order to compare our models to geochemical observations, we evaluate the isotopic record of intraplate volcanos in NE China, which have been interpreted in the context of the underlying stagnant slab (e.g., Zhao & Ohtani, 2009, Figure 10). The data can largely be explained by a mixture of two geochemical end-members, which are similar to depleted mid-ocean ridge basalts mantle (DMM; or between high μ [HIMU] and DMM), that is, similar to the source of "enriched" Indian-style MORB and EM1. Thus, a reasonable interpretation is that two mantle components contribute to mantle melting in the example study area. This two-component interpretation is consistent with previous studies of Cenozoic basalts in North and northeastern China (Chen et al., 2017; Kuritani et al., 2013; Li et al., 2016; Liu et al., 2015; Yan & Zhao, 2008; Zeng et al., 2011; Zhang et al., 1995). Although some authors have argued for a third component on the basis of Pb isotopes (Kuritani et al., 2011), this component is related to ancient—instead of recent—hydration of the MTZ and would be indistinguishable from the hydrous material in our thermomechanical model. While the origin of mantle end-members remains controversial, we consider that the apparent DMM-HIMU-like end-member (Figure 10), is volatile-rich peridotite, e.g., related to fluid-mediated metasomatism (Keppler, 1996; Kogiso, Tatsumi & Nakano, 1997; Castro & Gerya, 2008) and the EM1 component is related to pyroxenite that may be formed in the mantle wedge due to melting of silicic sediments (Bodinier & Godard, 2003; Castro & Gerya, 2008; Prelević et al., 2008). These are assumed to be the two magmatic components (HP and pyroxenite) in our model.

Our models and conclusions, however, are not dependent on this specific interpretation. Our conclusions remain robust as long as two components with geochemical signatures similar to EM1 and DMM-HIMU are located in the hydrous layer. Moreover, we require that the melting behavior of the lithological components that carry the EM1 and DMM-HIMU end-members as evident in NE China volcanism are adequately described by that of pyroxenite, and volatile-rich peridotite, respectively. In which proportions they would have to be present in the MTZ depends on their relevant melting temperatures (and thus specific major-element compositions). In other words, these proportions would shift as different melting laws (e.g.,

McKenzie & Bickle, 1990) than used here (Katz et al., 2003; Pertermann & Hirschmann, 2003) were considered (see Figure 3a).

Figure 10 does display a dominant contribution neither of HIMU nor of EM1. Accordingly, we estimate that the relative contributions of pyroxenite and HP to magmatism should be similar to each other. This constraint limits the range of initial pyroxenite fractions in the hydrous layer to about 1.2–2.3% given our melting laws (Figure 8). Due to the high melt productivity of pyroxenite in the melting model applied (Figure 3a), these initial pyroxenite fractions in the hydrous layer are lower bounds.

4.3. Intraplate Volcanism in Central Europe, Western United States, and NE Australia

Intraplate volcanism across the Cenozoic Central European Volcanic Province and Cenozoic intraplate volcanism in the western United States (www.navdat.org) also remain poorly understood. In our opinion, intraplate volcanism in central Europe and the western United States may be associated with hydrous upwellings from the underlying stagnant slab, similar to the situation in NE China. As these two areas are underlain by a stagnant slab in the MTZ (Faccenna & Becker, 2010; Piromallo & Morelli, 2003; Schmandt & Lin, 2014), any associated hydrous materials in the MTZ are expected to trigger self-buoyant upwellings and sustain volcanism. Focused vertical upwellings are imaged by high-resolution seismic tomography, and are proposed to account for intraplate magmatism in the western United States (Sigloch et al., 2008; West et al., 2009) and central Europe (Ritter et al., 2001). In particular, intraplate volcanism in central Europe predominantly occurs above the edge of the slab that stagnates in the MTZ (Faccenna et al., 2010), that is, where our models predict the first upwellings to occur.

Intraplate magmatism is low in volume but widespread across Europe from the early Tertiary to present (Wilson & Downes, 2006), characterized by oceanic island basalt geochemical signatures with a significant contribution of the HIMU end-member (Faccenna et al., 2010; Jung & Masberg, 1998; Lustrino & Wilson, 2007; Wedepohl & Baumann, 1999). Mantle upwelling and continental rifting in this area has been proposed to be related to return flow due to plate subduction and slab detachment during the Alpine collision (Faccenna et al., 2010; Merle & Michon, 2001; Wilson & Downes, 2005). However, as mentioned above, subducted slabs are expected to primarily induce horizontal toroidal flow (Billen & Gurnis, 2001; Chen et al., 2016; Liu & Stegman, 2011; Long & Silver, 2008). We identify hydrous upwellings from the edge of the underlying stagnant slab as a viable alternative hypothesis.

Magmatism in western United States is widely distributed and large in volume compared to the Cenozoic Central European Volcanic Province. This magmatism includes the Columbia River Basalts province and the Yellowstone-Snake River Plain hotspot track, which have been related to focused mantle upwelling through a slab window (Liu & Stegman, 2012; Madsen et al., 2006) or a deep-seated plume (Camp et al., 2003; Hooper et al., 2002; Morgan, 1972; Nelson & Grand, 2018; Pierce et al., 1992; Takahahshi et al., 1998). However, several volcanic fields in the western United States remain poorly understood. For example, intraplate alkalic volcanism in Leucite Hills has been attributed to fluid-mediated metasomatism of the upper mantle (Vollmer et al., 1984) or mantle upwellings facilitated by slab tearing (Dudás, 1991; Duke et al., 2014). In addition, western United States intraplate volcanos have also been attributed to continental extension and rifting (e.g., Christiansen & Lipman, 1972; Cosca et al., 2014; Fitton et al., 1991; Lipman & Glazner, 1991), shear-driven upwelling (Conrad et al., 2011), or edge-driven convection (Ballmer, Conrad, et al., 2015; Rudzitis et al., 2016). We suggest that the process proposed in our model may be an alternative explanation. Models are not mutually exclusive; for instance, hydrated upwellings could be focused along the edges of the slab to generate the lineation found by Duke et al. (2014), or be entrained by SSC/edge-driven flow to sustain melting along the edges of the Colorado Plateau (Afonso et al., 2016).

Finally, magmatic activity in Australia may also be (at least partially) related to an underlying slab. The NE corner of the Australian continent, with abundant Cenozoic intraplate volcanism (Wellman & McDougall, 1974; Figure 1), is underlain by (the edge of) a fossil slab (Hall & Spakman, 2002). Volcanism due to hydrous upwellings from the fossil slab (edge) cannot be ruled out by geochemical observations (Zhang et al., 2001). While alternative mechanisms have been proposed (e.g., Davies et al., 2015), our models imply that hydrous upwellings can support sublithospheric melting over long timescales (Motoki & Ballmer, 2015), and thus may be relevant even above fossil slabs in the MTZ.

We note that direct comparison between the predictions of our simplified models and the exact locations, volumes, and chemistry of intraplate volcanism remains challenging. First, the ratio of intrusive and extrusive magmatism, and the interaction of ascending magmas with the continental crust is poorly constrained. Second, our 2-D models do not account for trench-perpendicular flow and sublithospheric topography, which would both affect the patterns of conveyance and lead to different patterns of volcanism. Indeed, there is a long and complex history of subduction, particularly in the western United States (Bunge & Grand, 2000) and Europe (Faccenna et al., 2001). Nevertheless, comparison on a first-order level (see sections 4.1–4.3), also in terms of the global distribution of continental intraplate volcanism (Figure 1), lends credibility to the importance of hydrous upwellings from the subducted slab.

4.4. Water in the Mantle

The water storage capacity of the mantle is suggested to be on the order of 3, or even up to 10, ocean masses (Ahrens, 1989; Cowan & Abbot, 2014; Ohtani, 2005; Ringwood, 1975). An important reservoir involves the MTZ, which can host up to 3 wt.-%, or ~30,000 wt.-ppm, H_2O (Bolfan-Casanova et al., 2000; Kohlstedt et al., 1996; Murakami et al., 2002; Ohtani et al., 1995; Ohtani et al., 2004). Based on diamond inclusions, Pearson et al. (2014) found direct evidence that the water content in at least some regions of the MTZ is ~1 wt.-%, or ~10,000 wt.-ppm. However, seismic constraints indicate that the average water content over vast regions of the MTZ may be quite a bit lower than saturation, that is, 1,000–5,000 wt.-ppm (Angel et al., 2001; Huang et al., 2005; Wang et al., 2006; Houser, 2016; Matsuno et al., 2017). According to our predictions, instability of hydrous material that is sufficiently swift to support sublithospheric magmatism just requires ~4,000 wt.-ppm H_2O in a 60-km-thick layer.

While our model predictions are largely independent of the specific origin of the water, it remains an important question. As the mantle is steadily outgassing water due to volcanism, there has to be significant supplement of water of a similar order. Considering that water can most efficiently be transported from the surface and through the upper mantle along cool geotherms (Frost, 2006; Komabayashi, 2006; Nishi et al., 2014; Ohira et al., 2014), subduction of hydrous sediments and the hydrated slab itself is perhaps the best candidate for water delivery to the MTZ (e.g., Faccenda et al., 2009; Inoue et al., 1995; Ohtani et al., 2004; van Keken et al., 2011). At least an old and fast subducting plate (such as in eastern Asia) is able to transport water to the MTZ efficiently (Iwamori, 2004). While significant dehydration occurs at shallow depths (Jarrard, 2003), nominally anhydrous minerals in the oceanic crust and the overlying mantle wedge can carry significant amounts of water across the "choke point," that is, across the water solubility trough at 6 GPa (Frost, 2006; Iwamori, 2007; Komabayashi, 2006; Nishi et al., 2014; Ohira et al., 2014). Alternatively, water may be transported in the core of the slab (serpentinized lithosphere; Faccenda et al., 2008), from which it would be slowly released in the MTZ. Accordingly, the hydrous-peridotite layer in our model would not necessarily be directly related to the recently subducted slab; instead, hydrous material may have progressively accumulated in the MTZ, thus being related to variably ancient subduction (Hofmann, 1997; Kuritani et al., 2011).

Continuous upwellings of hydrous materials may account for the geophysically constrained relatively low water content in the MTZ (Houser, 2016; Huang et al., 2005). Subducted slabs have transported water from the surface to the MTZ over very long timescales, at least since the onset of modern-style plate tectonics at ~2 Ga (Davies, 1992; Smithies et al., 2003). Accordingly, it appears difficult to explain that the MTZ is still far away from saturation. Our forward models offer a simple explanation. Whenever there is a sufficiently thick hydrous layer in the MTZ (i.e., even without the presence of a stagnant slab), upwellings instabilities should soon develop and rise at least to 410-km depth. In other words, hydrated (>3,000-ppm water) layers >60 km thick are not expected to survive for geological timescales, corresponding to a total mass of ~0.1 oceans in the MTZ, that is, well below previous estimates (Ahrens, 1989; Cowan & Abbot, 2014; Grayver et al., 2017; Ohtani, 2005; Ringwood, 1975). Related mantle melting should occur wherever significant hydrous material has accumulated in the MTZ and is entrained by SSC. While SSC should be well developed beneath the old continents, the onset of SSC may take up to ~70 Myr beneath oceanic lithosphere (Ballmer et al., 2009; Solomatov & Moresi, 2000). A potential example of oceanic volcanism that is related to recycling of a volatile-rich reservoir in the MTZ involves the Bermuda Islands (Mazza et al., 2019).

As the hydrous plumes cross the phase transition at 410-km depth, most of the water may be left behind in the MTZ due to the small water capacity in the upper mantle, for example, due to the "transition-zone water filter" effect described by Bercovici and Karato (2003). As a crude simplification, we assume that any water

exceeding a threshold of 400 ppm simply disappears from the system (i.e., the convecting solid matrix) by stabilizing a gravitationally stable volatile-rich melt layer just above 410-km depth. This assumption may lead to an underestimation of the volume of the hydrous materials that ascend into the upper mantle, because the stabilization of such a layer should lead to a redistribution of volatiles, and widespread saturation of mantle rocks just beneath the 410 discontinuity. Evidence for the stabilization of a melt layer comes from seismic observations (Jasbinsek & Dueker, 2007; Revenaugh & Sipkin, 1994; Song et al., 2004; Tauzin et al., 2010). As this layer would be gravitationally stable (Ohtani et al., 1995; Ohtani & Maeda, 2001) and should only extend laterally, it will not significantly affect the driving forces of the mantle upwellings. The melt layer has been invoked to have important implications for the geochemical evolution of mantle reservoirs, partially separating the upper-mantle reservoir from the rest of the mantle like a "filter" (Bercovici & Karato, 2003). Future studies should take into account the explicit effects of the presence of such a melt layer on the distribution of hydrous rocks in the MTZ explicitly. Lateral re-distribution of volatiles through the melt layer may lead to widespread H_2O-saturation in the uppermost MTZ due to buoyancy-driven mantle flow. For example, downwellings may be hydrated as they dive into the MTZ, potentially diminishing the vigor of upwellings (Leahy & Bercovici, 2007). Along these lines, hydrous upwellings, at least partially bypassing the transition-zone water filter, may play an important role for material transport, and mantle evolution.

5. Conclusion

1. Upwellings rise from the buoyant hydrous layer atop a stagnant slab within a few million years after the slab arrives in the MTZ. They rise to ~410-km depth, where they intermittently stall, and are ultimately entrained by sublithospheric small-scale convection (SSC).
2. Partial melting takes place at the base of the lithosphere after the arrival of hydrous materials that are conveyed by SSC cells.
3. The >0.3 wt.-% water in a 60-km-thick hydrous layer atop the slab, or slightly less as water-dependent rheology is considered, is required to produce early upwelling of hydrated material and early melting beneath the lithosphere in order to account for patterns of volcanism in, for example, NE China. Relatively low asthenospheric viscosities of smaller than $\sim 7 \cdot 10^{18}$ Pa·s are also needed. Higher water contents, a thicker hydrous layer, as well as lower viscosities tend to advance and boost melting.
4. An initial condition with moderate amounts of hydrous materials as well as small amounts (~2%) of mafic material in a layer above the slab can account for the geochemical observations in northeastern China, as well as the spatial association of volcanism to the underlying stagnant slab.
5. Intraplate continental volcanism above the stagnant slab can be explained by the interaction of (bottom-up) self-buoyant instability of hydrous material and top-down driven SSC.

Acknowledgments
We wish to thank Kosuke Ueda, Lara Kalnins, and Sebastien Pilet for significant comments and suggestions during earlier stages of this work. We also thank M. Kameyama, G. Richard, and two anonymous reviewers for their helpful comments, and T. Becker for thoughtful editorial handling. This work has been supported by the China Scholarship Council, Natural Science Foundation of China (Grants 41776057 and 91858213), and the Swiss National Science Foundation (Grant 200021_165682/1). Data used in Figures 1 and 10 are from http://georoc.mpch-mainz.gwdg.de/georoc/ and http://georoc.mpch-mainz.gwdg.de/georoc/ websites, respectively.

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