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Differentiating Fissure-Fed Lava Flow Types and Facies Using RADAR and LiDAR: An Example from the 2014–2015 Holuhraun Lava Flow-field

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1 Differentiating Fissure-Fed Lava Flow Types and Facies Using RADAR and
2 LiDAR: An Example from the 2014–2015 Holuhraun Lava Flow-field

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10

11 Abstract

12 Distinguishing between lava types and facies using remote sensing data is important for
13 interpreting the emplacement history of lava flow-fields on Earth and other planetary bodies.
14 Lava facies typically include a mixture of lava types and record the collective emplacement
15 history of material preserved at a particular location. We seek to determine if lava facies in the
16 2014–2015 Holuhraun lava flow-field are discernable using radar roughness analysis.
17 Furthermore, we also seek to distinguish between lava types using high resolution Light
18 Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data. We extracted circular polarization ratios (CPR) from the
19 Uninhabited Aerial Vehicle Synthetic Aperture Radar and cross-polarization (VH/VV) data from
20 the Sentinel-1 satellite to analyze the surface roughness of three previously mapped lava facies:
21 rubbly, spiny, and undifferentiated rubbly–spiny. Using the Kruskal-Wallis test, we reveal that
22 all but one pair of the facies are statistically separable. However, the populations overlap by 88–
23 89% for CPR and 64–67% for VH/VV. Therefore, owing to large sample populations ($n > 2 \times$
24 10^5), slight differences in radar data may be used to probabilistically infer the presence of a
25 particular facies, but not directly map them. We also calculated the root-mean-square slope and
26 Hurst exponents of five different lava types using LiDAR topography (5 cm/pixel). Our results
27 show minute differences between most of the lava types, with the exception of the rubbly
28 pāhoehoe, which is discernable at 1σ . In brief, the presence of “transitional” lava types (e.g.,
29 rubbly pāhoehoe) within fissure-fed lava flow-fields complicates remote sensing-based mapping.

30 Plain Language Summary

31

32 The characteristics of geologically recent lava flow-fields inform our understanding
33 magmatic and volcanic processes on Earth and other planetary bodies. Fissure-fed lava flow-
34 fields, like the 2014–2015 Holuhraun lava flow-field in Iceland, include “transitional” surface
35 textures formed from the disruption of solidified crusts. The resulting lava types form in multiple
36 stages, which modify and mix the surfaces, making them challenging to map. At reasonable
37 scales (e.g., 1:800), mappable units, or “facies”, include a mixture of lava types. Field
38 observations may be used to identify lava types within such facies, but in remote, inaccessible
39 locations on Earth, and on the surface of other planetary bodies, we can only rely on using data
40 collected from orbiting spacecraft. We seek to determine if lava facies and lava types can be
41 differentiated using radar and LiDAR data. We find we cannot differentiate the major lava facies
42 using radar data, and few lava types can be discerned using decimetre-scale LiDAR topography
43 data. The surface characteristics of the lava flow-field are therefore complex, and it is important
44 to recognize the limitations of automated techniques for mapping the distribution of materials
45 within fissure-fed lava flow fields on Earth and other planets using solely radar and LiDAR.

46 1 Introduction

47 The study of large fissure-fed lava flow-fields contributes to our understanding of the
48 emplacement mechanisms of flood lavas (1–100 km³ Dense Rock Equivalent (DRE)) and flood
49 basalts (>100 km³ DRE), which have modified the surface and global climate of Earth and other
50 planetary bodies (Duraiswami et al., 2008; Guilbaud et al., 2005; Keszthelyi et al., 2006; Self et
51 al., 2006; Thordarson & Larsen, 2007; Wilson & Head, 1994; Zimbelman, 1998). The 2014–
52 2015 Holuhraun lava flow-field in Iceland is important as an exceptional terrestrial analogue for
53 fissure-fed eruption products on other planetary bodies (Bonney et al., 2019; Bonny et al.,
54 2018; Dirscherl & Rossi, 2018; Hamilton, 2015; Kolzenburg et al., 2018; Kolzenburg et al.,
55 2017; Pedersen et al., 2017).

56 The 2014–2015 Holuhraun lava flow-field consists of eight different lava facies (Voigt et
57 al., 2021a). These lava facies were mapped at a scale of 1:800 based on their albedo, texture, and
58 morphology. However, ground-truthing revealed that the facies are composed of a mixture of
59 lava flow types. Lava flows are most commonly subdivided into pāhoehoe, ‘a‘ā, and block lava
60 types (MacDonald, 1953); however, there exist a broader range of “transitional” lava types
61 formed through episodic or continuous fragmentation of solidified lava crusts, such as rubbly
62 pāhoehoe, which are typically associated with fissure-fed eruptions (e.g., Hamilton, 2019; Harris
63 et al., 2017; Kilburn, 2000; Rowland & Walker, 1990; Solana et al., 2004; Thordarson & Larsen,
64 2007; Voigt et al., 2021a, 2021b). These transitional lava types commonly co-occur at a fine
65 scale (on the order of meters or less), which makes mapping the spatial distribution of these
66 materials challenging at a reasonable digitizing scale (e.g., 1:800). Consequently, we refer to
67 facies when attempting to subdivide lava flow-fields into geomorphological classes. For
68 simplicity, we name the facies after the dominant lava flow type they contain, but acknowledge

69 that these are typically mixed classes that also include a wider range of lava flow types. The
70 mixed nature of transitional lava facies greatly complicates automated mapping methods using
71 remote sensing data and poses challenges in terms of interpretation related to the geological
72 process. This is because transitional lava types (e.g., rubbly pāhoehoe and spiny pāhoehoe)
73 include materials formed at different times due to successive episodes of crustal formation,
74 disruption, and transport prior to their final emplacement. Ideally, we would map the spatial
75 distribution of unmixed lava types, but since this is not possible at reasonable mapping scales for
76 an entire flow-field we must instead map facies and acknowledge the complexities that arise
77 from mapping units that include a mixture of lava types.

78 We investigate whether the lava facies and lava types within the 2014–2015 Holuhraun
79 lava flow-field can be separated by analyzing their surface roughness using radar and LiDAR-
80 derived topography data. Surface roughness is defined as a measure of the variation in
81 topography at scales of a few metres or less, and has been quantified using a variety of field and
82 remote sensing techniques, including 1-D profile measurements (e.g., Campbell and Shepard,
83 1996; Shepard et al., 2001), synthetic aperture radar (e.g., Campbell and Shepard, 1996; Neish et
84 al., 2017; Tolometti et al., 2020), and high-resolution topography data (Fan et al., 2018; Morris et
85 al., 2008; Rodriguez Sanchez-Vahamonde & Neish, 2021; Voigt, et al., 2021c; Whelley et al.,
86 2017; Zanetti et al., 2018). We are interested in investigating surface roughness in this work
87 because it can be related to eruption and lava emplacement mechanisms (Duraiswami et al.,
88 2008, 2014; Griffiths & Fink, 1992; Guilbaud et al., 2005; Harris et al., 2017; Kilburn, 2000;
89 Rowland & Walker, 1990; Voigt et al., 2021b) and has important implications for remote sensing
90 studies of planetary surfaces, such as volcanic terrains on Venus and Mars.

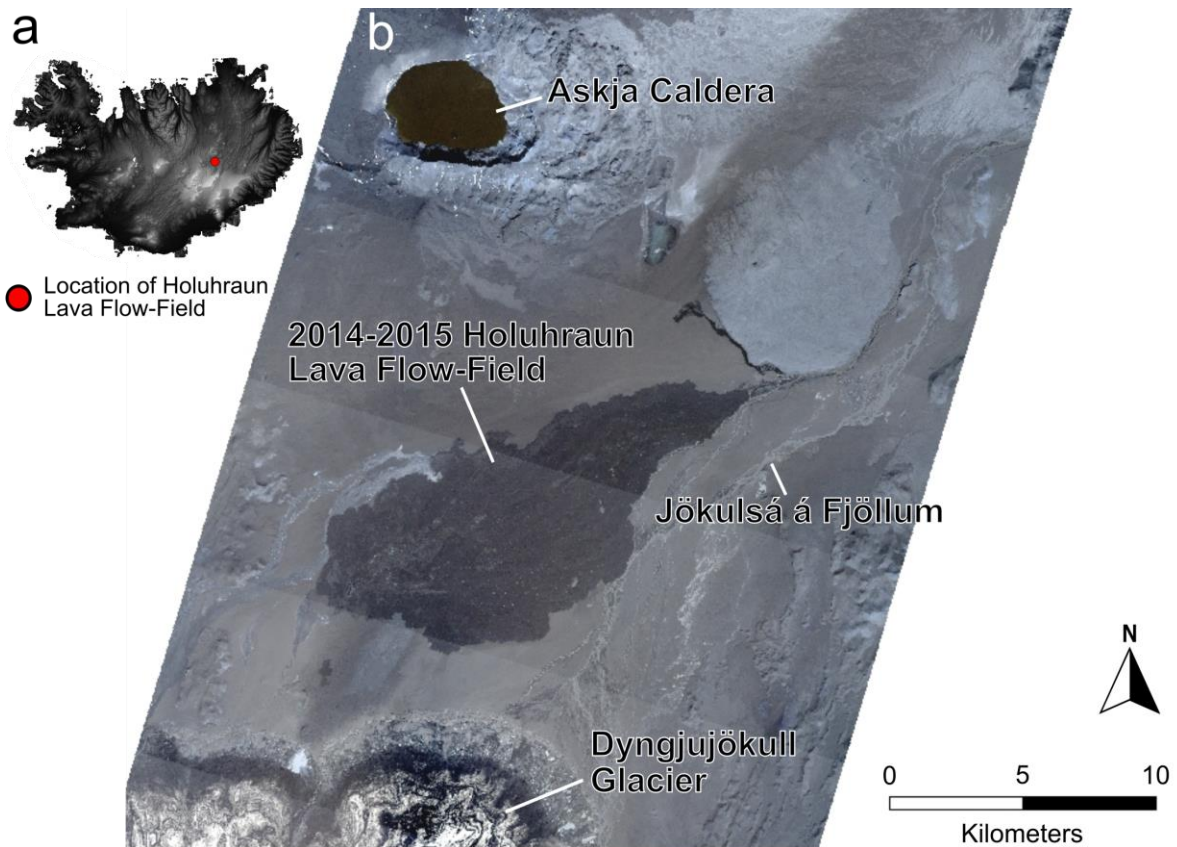
91 We utilize polarimetric radar remote sensing data in this work to determine if the
92 Holuhraun lava facies can be separated using their observed scattering characteristics (e.g.,
93 Carter et al., 2011; Neish et al., 2017; Neish & Carter, 2014). Quad-polarized Uninhabited Aerial
94 Vehicle Synthetic Aperture Radar (UAVSAR) L-band ($\lambda = 24$ cm) (Rosen et al., 2006) and dual-
95 polarized Sentinel-1 C-band ($\lambda = 5.6$ cm) (Torres et al., 2012) radar data are available for the
96 entire surface of the Holuhraun lava flow-field, providing the opportunity to analyze surface
97 roughness at two different wavelengths. To complement our radar analyses, we also seek to
98 determine if the lava types within a given lava facies can be differentiated using high-resolution
99 topography data. To discern between lava types, we calculate roughness statistics from
100 centimetre-scale digital elevation models (DEMs), converted from dense point clouds acquired
101 from a kinematic LiDAR system. These investigations help to explore the geomorphological
102 complexity of lava flow-fields and determine the limits of automated mapping methods for
103 fissure-fed lavas, which include transitional lava types.

104

105 1.1. Geologic Setting

106 The 2014–2015 Holuhraun lava flow-field (Figure 1) is situated within the northern part
107 of the Bárðarbunga–Veidivötn volcanic system and it was the largest effusive basaltic eruption in
108 Iceland since the 1783–1785 Laki eruption (Thordarson & Self, 1993). Volcanic unrest
109 associated with this eruption began on August 15th, 2014, when minor seismic swarm activity
110 was detected beneath the northeastern flank of the Bárðarbunga volcano (Bonney et al., 2019;
111 Coppola et al., 2017; Dirscherl & Rossi, 2018; Gudmundsson et al., 2016; Hjartardóttir et al.,
112 2016; Pedersen et al., 2017; Sigmundsson et al., 2015). The seismic swarm propagated 48 km
113 along a lineament to the northeast and terminated in a floodplain 8 km north of the Dyngjujökull

114 outlet glacier (Bonney et al., 2019; Gudmundsson et al., 2016). On August 29th, 2014, a small
115 fissure erupted for ~4 hours (Pedersen et al., 2017). Following a hiatus of two days the new
116 fissure opened further north, initiating an effusive basaltic eruption that extended from August
117 31st, 2014, to February 27th, 2015. By the end of the eruption, a total estimated dense rock
118 equivalent (DRE) volume (assuming mean bulk lava void space of 15 to 20%) of $1.2 \pm 0.1 \text{ km}^3$
119 (Bonny et al., 2018) had erupted onto the floodplain, covering an area of $\sim 83.82 \text{ km}^2$ (Voigt,
120 Hamilton, Scheidt, et al., 2021).



121
122 Figure 1. Location of the Holuhraun lava flow-field in central Iceland. (a) ArcticDEM hillshade
123 image of Iceland at 1 km/pixel scale shows the location of the lava flow-field (red point). The
124 ArcticDEM data was acquired from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA)–
125 National Science Foundations (NSF) Initiative. (b) Mosaic of six RGB images (3 m/pixel)

126 collected by the PlanetScope satellite constellation of the Holuhraun lava flow-field between the
127 Askja Caldera and the Dyngjufökull glacier. The Dover CubeSats in the PlanetScope
128 constellation are operated by Planet (Planet Team, 2017) and the RGB images were collected on
129 August 21st, 2020.

130

131 The Holuhraun lava flow-field includes eight facies, which were mapped using high-
132 resolution aerial images and field observations (Voigt et al., 2021a). These facies and their
133 percentage of the total flow-field area are as follows: rubbly (57.35%), spiny (25.96%),
134 undifferentiated rubbly–spiny (9.59%), shelly (5.58%), pāhoehoe (1.24%), flat-lying knobby
135 (0.58%), vent-proximal edifice (0.19%), and channel interior (0.16%). The name for each facies
136 refers to the dominant lava type or volcanic structure that is present within each domain. For
137 example, the dominant lava type in the rubbly facies is rubbly pāhoehoe, but the unit also
138 includes minor exposure of other related lava types.

139 In this study, we evaluate the hypothesis that polarimetric radar can differentiate the three
140 dominant facies units in the Holuhraun lava flow-field: rubbly, spiny, and undifferentiated
141 rubbly–spiny. Together, these three facies cover ~93% of the lava flow-field and, therefore, they
142 record most of the information about the lava flow-field’s emplacement history. The remainder
143 of the facies cover areas that are too small for the extraction of statistically reliable polarimetric
144 radar values.

145 Previous work by Voigt et al. (2021b) discussed the challenges in distinguishing between
146 lava facies using 0.05 to 0.5 m/pixel DEMs generated using stereo-photogrammetry. Their
147 approach involved quantifying the surface roughness of the lava facies using root-mean-square

148 (RMS) slope and Hurst exponent (H) to determine the statistical separability of the units. They
149 emphasized that it is challenging to characterize lava facies using these data because transitional
150 lava types (e.g., rubbly pāhoehoe and spiny pāhoehoe) are not uniquely resolvable in high-
151 resolution topographic data when examined at a practical mapping scale (i.e., 1:800). Here, we
152 consider the problem using radar measurements and LiDAR-derived DEMs to determine if
153 additional information can be gleaned by examining these alternative data sets.

154 **2 Materials and Methods**

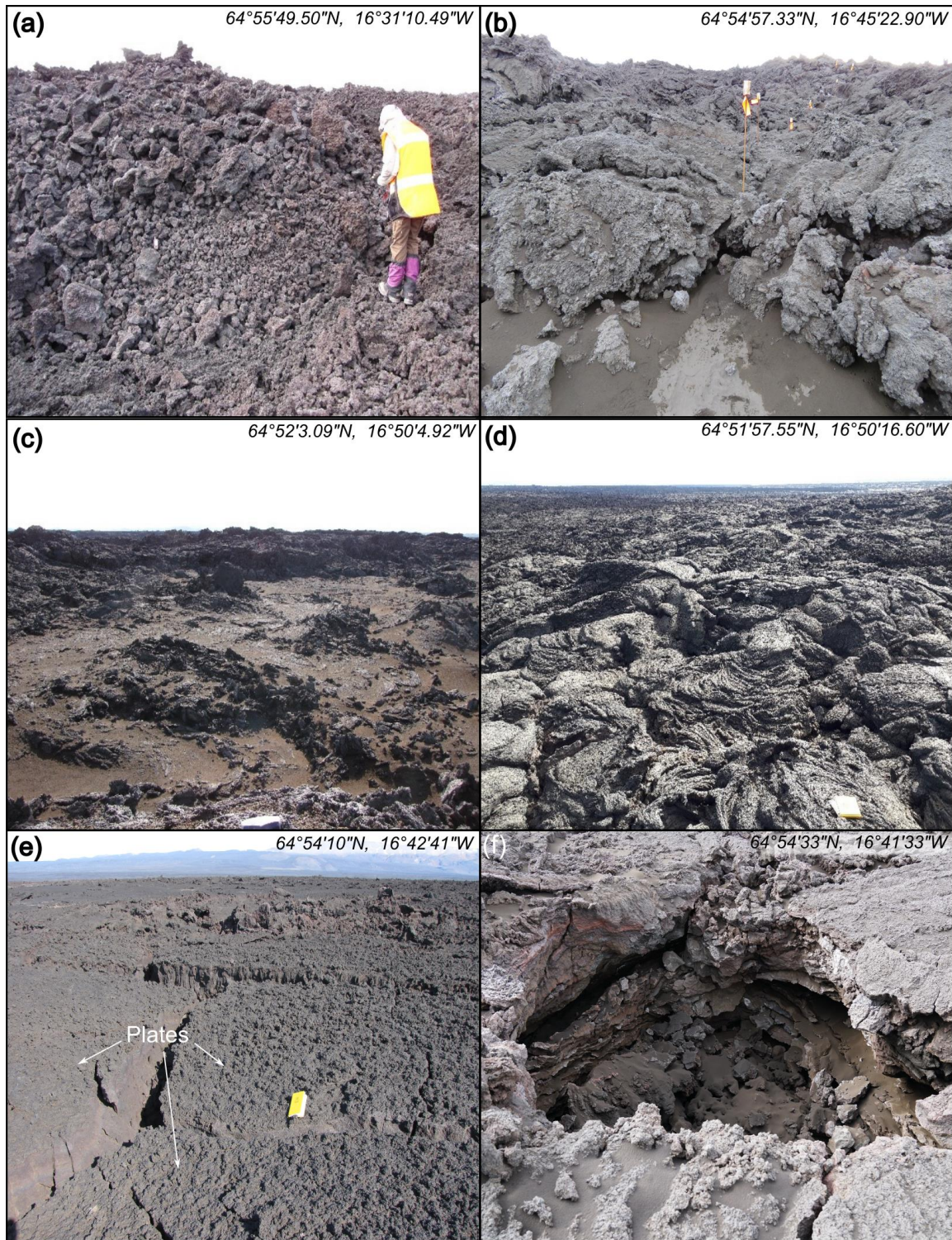
155 2.1. Field-based Approaches

156 Due to the difficulty of transporting heavy LiDAR systems over treacherous lava flow
157 surfaces, we focused on field-based investigations on four lava types: rubbly pāhoehoe, spiny
158 pāhoehoe, shelly pāhoehoe, and pāhoehoe (Figure 2a–d). We also examined the subtype of spiny
159 pāhoehoe, which includes polygonal plates (Figure 2e). Similar platy morphologies have been
160 identified in the 1960 Kaphoho eruption Hawai‘i (Rowland & Walker, 1987), the 1783–1784
161 Laki eruption in Iceland (Keszthelyi et al., 2000), and in association with platy-ridged lava flows
162 on Mars (Keszthelyi et al., 2004).

163 Rubbly pāhoehoe is a transitional lava type (Harris et al., 2017; Keszthelyi et al., 2004;
164 Tolometti et al., 2020) formed by the mechanical fracturing of a solidified crust, rather than the
165 viscous tearing of fluidal lava at high shear strain rates (Figure 2a). Spiny pāhoehoe is another
166 transitional lava type with surfaces that are rough at the millimetre and centimetre-scale with
167 elongate spines oriented parallel to the local flow direction. Along the margins of the lava flow-
168 field, spiny pāhoehoe units are expressed as a network of coalesced and inflated lobes and toes
169 (Figure 2b). The shelly pāhoehoe (Jones, 1943) lava type is associated with a partially drained
170 and deflated lava pond in the vent-proximal region and its surface texture is similar to that of the

171 spiny pāhoehoe (Figure 2c; Voigt et al., 2021a). However, beneath the thin (<10-cm-thick) crust,
172 shelly pāhoehoe includes void space formed by the evacuation of lava and/or gas from the flow
173 interior. The pāhoehoe lava type exhibits lobate to sheet-like morphologies with coherent surface
174 crusts that exhibit ropes, wrinkles, and billows (Figure 2d).

175 Lastly, we examined a subset of the spiny pāhoehoe lava type that exhibits a platy
176 surface. These units are typically associated with inflation plateaus with the plates exhibiting
177 wave-like structures formed by successive extrusions of viscous lava prior to disruption into
178 plates (Voigt et al., 2021a). The platy surfaces exhibit spinose textures, with spines oriented
179 perpendicular to the front of the lava waves. The plates are bounded by extensional fractures,
180 which commonly exhibit extrusions (i.e., squeeze-ups) of jagged and viscous lava as well
181 compressional ridges composed of disrupted and imbricated slabs of a once coherent spiny
182 pāhoehoe crust (Figure 2e). Within the inflation plateaus that exhibit a platy surface, we also
183 documented circular and elliptical lava-rise pits (Figure 2f). For simplicity, we distinguish spiny
184 pāhoehoe units with platy surfaces as platy lava, but these are effectively the same as the
185 “toothpaste” lava units described by Rowland & Walker (1987) and Harris et al. (2017).



186

187 Figure 2. The lava types and morphological subsets studied at Holuhraun. (a) Rubbly pāhoehoe
 188 lava type with centimetre to decimetre-scale fragments of a once coherent crust. Some fragments

189 exhibit block-shapes. For scale, the person in image is ~1.7-m-tall. (b) Spiny pāhoehoe lobe with
190 toes along its margins. For scale, the walking path marker is ~1-m-tall. (c) Shelly pāhoehoe with
191 a fragile spiny pāhoehoe-like crust near the eastern margin of the vent. For scale, the field
192 notebook is approximately 15 cm × 9 cm. (d) Pāhoehoe lava with a hummocky and lobate
193 morphology along the east and south margins of the vent. Field notebook appears for scale. (e)
194 Platy lava within the inflation plateaus in the medial of the spiny facies. Plates are separated by
195 extrusions of toothpaste lava squeeze-ups and ridges formed by compressional bucking of the
196 slabby pāhoehoe crust. The field notebook appears for scale. (f) A lava-rise pits located within
197 the platy spiny pāhoehoe unit.

198

199 2.2. Radar Processing

200 2.2.1. UAVSAR Quad-Polarized L-Band Radar

201 To analyze the surface roughness of the rubbly, spiny, and undifferentiated rubbly–spiny
202 facies, we calculated the circular polarization ratio (CPR) (Figure 3) from radar data acquired by
203 the quad-polarized L-band ($\lambda = 24$ cm) UAVSAR airborne platform operated by the Jet
204 Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) (Rosen et al., 2006). Orthorectified UAVSAR data products were
205 downloaded from the JPL UAVSAR site (<https://uavsar.jpl.nasa.gov>), and CPR was calculated
206 using methods outlined in Campbell (2002), Neish et al., (2017), and Zebker & Lou (1990) (see
207 Data Repository). Observations were obtained on May 30th, 2015, on flights 15083 DT 4 and DT
208 5. CPR is defined as the ratio of the same-sense circular (SC) polarization of the transmitted
209 radar signal to the opposite-sense circular (OC) polarization of the transmitted signal (Campbell,
210 2002). Smooth surfaces (e.g., lava ponds) typically return a greater OC than SC backscatter
211 because of their single-bounce, mirror-like reflections that flip the polarization of the transmitted

212 signals. This produces low CPR values (<0.5). Rough surfaces (e.g., 'a'ā clinker) scatter signals
213 in multiple directions, returning approximately equal SC and OC signals (diffuse scattering).
214 Rough surfaces typically produce CPR values that approach one (0.5–1.0). The CPR may exceed
215 unity when signals reflect off rock edges, cracks, or natural corner reflectors (e.g., polyhedral
216 blocks with smooth facets). This produces a double-bounce backscatter effect, which flips the
217 polarization twice and thus increases the SC backscatter (Campbell, 2012). We only used CPR
218 from the UAVSAR data because CPR is a strong parameter for representing surface roughness
219 and provides more information about radar scattering properties than same and opposite-sense
220 linear polarization data alone (e.g., Carter et al., 2011; Neish & Carter, 2014). The quality and
221 validity of UAVSAR radar data has been tested by numerous other workers, demonstrating that
222 the high signal-to-noise ratio is effective for studying the radar scattering properties of different
223 surfaces on Earth (Fore et al., 2015; Minchew et al., 2012).

224

225 2.2.2. Sentinel-1 Dual-Polarized C-Band Radar

226 In addition to L-band CPR data, we analyzed the lava facies surface roughness using C-
227 band ($\lambda = 5.6$ cm) dual-polarized radar data acquired by the European Space Agency (ESA)
228 Sentinel-1 satellite (Torres et al., 2012). To quantify the surface roughness of the lava facies, we
229 calculated the linear polarization ratio VH/VV (e.g., Campbell, 2002; Campbell and Shepard,
230 1996) as VH and VV backscatter datasets were available at the highest spatial resolution, 10
231 m/pixel. We processed Level-1 Ground Range Detected (GRD) Sentinel-1 data using the freely
232 available SeNtinel Application Program (SNAP) developed by ESA. The GRD products consist
233 of multi-looked SAR images that were projected to ground range using the Earth ellipsoid model
234 WGS84. We used SNAP radiometric calibration tools to convert the amplitude and phase of the

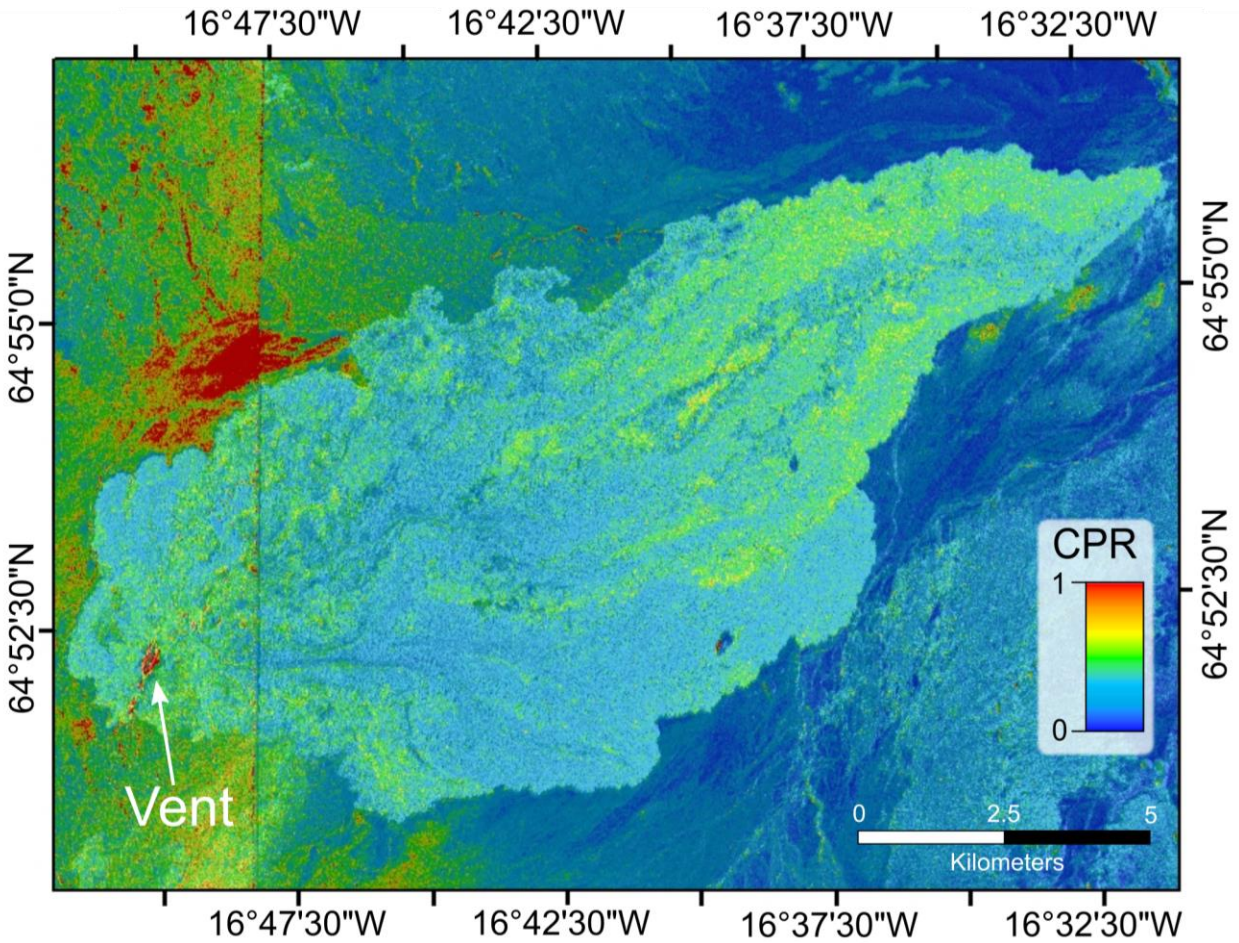
235 returned radar signals to VH and VV backscatter values (Figure 4a and b) and the VH/VV ratio
236 (Figure 4c).

237

238 2.3. Extracting and Analyzing Radar Data

239 Following the steps to produce CPR (Figure 3) and VH/VV images (Figure 3c), we
240 reduced the radar speckle noise using a 3×3 low-pass filter, increasing the number of looks per
241 pixel from 9 to 81 (Tolometti et al., 2020). After the low-pass filter was applied, we extracted the
242 mean CPR and VH/VV of the rubbly, spiny, and undifferentiated rubbly–spiny facies using
243 polygons delimited by Voigt et al. (2021a). These polygons are freely accessible as an ArcGIS
244 geodatabase from the University of Arizona Campus Repository (Voigt & Hamilton, 2021).

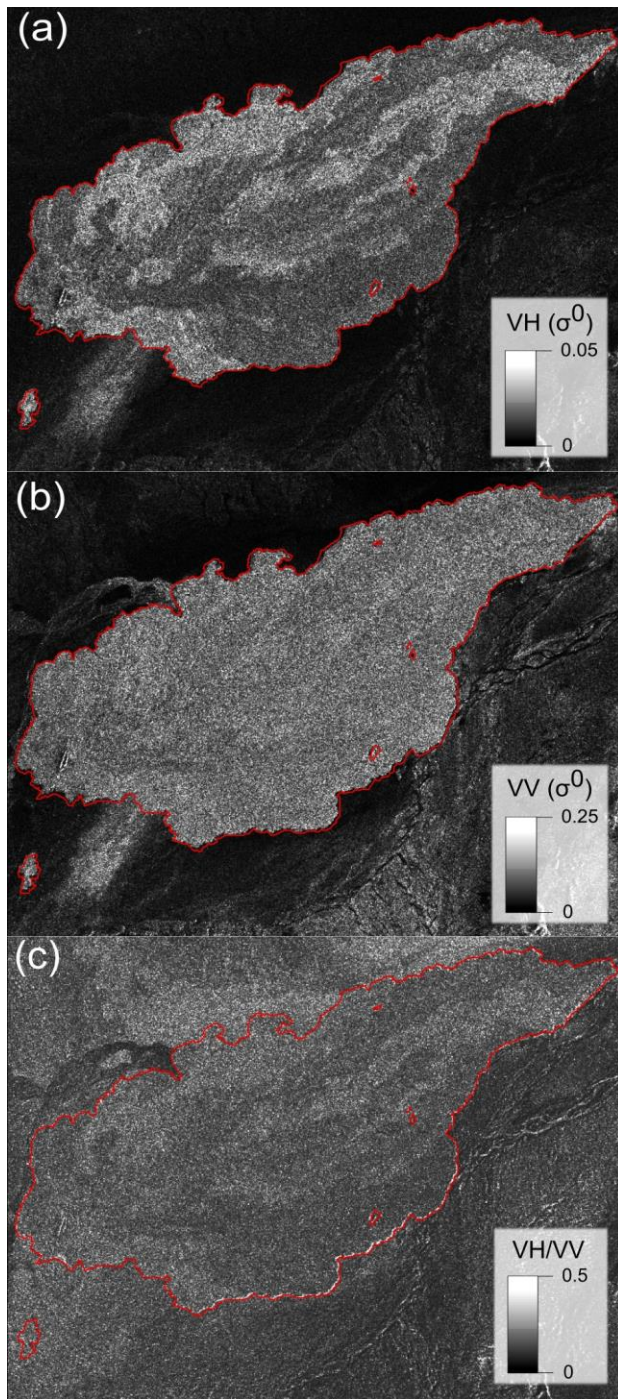
245 We excluded all CPR data extracted from the westernmost part of the UAVSAR data set
246 (Flight 15083 D5) (i.e., west of the image seam in Figure 3) because it has an incidence angle
247 $>65^\circ$. This is approximately 10° greater than the maximum incidence angle in the easternmost
248 part of the UAVSAR data set (Flight 15083 DT 4), which covers the majority of the lava flow-
249 field. CPR increases with increasing incidence angle (Campbell, 2002; Carter et al., 2004); and,
250 therefore, these CPR are not comparable to the CPR in the other part of the UAVSAR
251 observation. The Sentinel-1 radar data are not influenced by significant differences in incidence
252 angle because of the greater altitude of the orbiter compared to the low-altitude flying UAVSAR
253 platform. We therefore restricted our analysis to the rubbly, spiny, and undifferentiated rubbly–
254 spiny facies in the main body of the lava flow-field (medial and distal), east of the image seam in
255 Figure 3 to facilitate the comparison between the dual and quad-polarized radar results.



256

257 Figure 3. A circular polarization ratio (CPR) image (5 m/pixel) overlaid on a total backscatter
 258 image of the Holuhraun lava flow-field calculated from polarimetric radar data acquired by the
 259 UAVSAR airbourne platform. The CPR image is a mosaic of two UAVSAR flight swaths
 260 collected in May 2015 (ID: PolSAR: Flight 15083 (2015-05-30), DT 4, v1 (main body of lava
 261 flow-field) and PolSAR: Flight 15083 (2015-05-30), DT 5, v1 (vent of lava flow-field). The
 262 speckle noise was reduced in the image by applying a low-pass filter, increasing the number of
 263 looks from 9 to 81. Note that the image on the left is east-looking, and the image on the right is
 264 west-looking. As a result, the highest incidence angles are near the image seam (N–S oriented
 265 line east of the vent).

266



267

268 Figure 4. Dual-polarization Sentinel-1 C-band radar image of the Holuhraun lava flow-field
269 (outlined in red). The Sentinel-1 data was acquired on August 6th, 2019, and was processed by

270 ESA (ID

271 S1B_IW_GRDH_1SDV_20190806T073250_20190806T073315_017462_020D76_0DA9) on

272 August 31st, 2019 (Copernicus Sentinel data 2015). The data were downloaded as Ground Range
273 Detection products and were calibrated using ESA's SNAP software. Image is set to a
274 WGS84/UTM Zone 28 projection, centered at 65°12'14"N; 17°56'45"W, and has a 10 m/pixel
275 resolution. (a) Image of the σ_{VH}^0 polarization data. (b) Image of the σ_{VV}^0 polarization data. (c)
276 VH/VV ($\sigma_{VH}^0/\sigma_{VV}^0$) ratio image.

277

278 In addition to quantifying CPR and VH/VV of the rubbly, spiny, and undifferentiated
279 rubbly–spiny facies, we produced two polarimetric radar threshold maps comprising different
280 data ranges. The threshold maps were created to see if the lava facies could be distinguished
281 qualitatively. We subdivided the CPR and VH/VV data into five ranges (0–0.2, 0.2–0.4, 0.4–0.6,
282 0.6–0.8, and 0.8 to >1.0). The low-pass filter was insufficient to remove enough speckle noise
283 for data thresholding, and so to further reduce the speckle noise in the SAR data, we applied an
284 Enhanced Lee filter using the Image Analysis Speckle Function tool in ESRI ArcGIS before
285 setting the above thresholds. The Enhanced Lee Filter reduces speckle noise while minimizing
286 the loss of radiometric and textural characteristics in the radar images (Lee & Pottier, 2018). We
287 set the filter size to 9×9 pixels because it marks the point at which the reduction in speckle
288 noise with increasing pixel averaging levels out. If we increased the number of looks beyond
289 this, speckle noise would not have reduced significantly, and we would begin to lose radiometric
290 and textural characteristics in the data (Lee & Pottier, 2018; López-Martínez & Fàbregas, 2008).

291

292 2.4. Topographic Data

293 High-resolution 3D topographic LiDAR data was collected using the AKHKA-R4DW
294 kinematic dual-wavelength laser scanning system (Kukko et al., 2020). The kinematic LiDAR
295 system collected dense point clouds from $\sim 50 \text{ m} \times \sim 50 \text{ m}$ areas covering the surfaces of different
296 lava types. Surfaces were scanned using Riegl VUX-1HA that illuminates a target with a laser at
297 1017 kHz pulse frequency and 250 lines/second, measuring ground range values with an
298 accuracy of 5 mm. The scanner operates at a wavelength of 1550 nm. A second laser scanner, a
299 Riegl miniVUX-1UAV, was used in conjunction with the primary scanner, operating at a
300 wavelength of 905 nm and providing 100 kHz pulse frequency and 100 lines/second. Both laser
301 scanners have a 360° Field of View (FoV) and were used to map surrounding areas in cross-track
302 scanning with a 30-degree angle between the two scan planes. A Labybug5+ panoramic camera
303 (FLIR systems, Inc., USA) synchronously captured image data. NovAtel Pwrpak7 Global
304 Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) receiver and antenna attached to the instrument provided
305 absolute global positioning in the field based on Global Positioning System (GPS) and a space-
306 based GLObal NAVigation Satellite System (GLONASS) constellation satellites aided with a
307 stationary Trimble R10 base station for differential processing. Sensor orientation and short-term
308 dynamics are captured with ISA-100C near navigation grade inertial measurement unit, data of
309 which is fused in tightly coupled processing of the system trajectory (Waypoint Inertial Explorer,
310 NovAtel Inc., Canada). Point cloud spatial resolution within 20 m of the scanner is on the order
311 of 5 mm (depending on distance from the scanner), with vertical accuracy $< 2 \text{ cm}$ and absolute
312 global position $< 10 \text{ cm}$. After raw data calibration and processing using Riegl RiProcess and
313 RiPrecision software modules (RIEGL Laser Measurement Systems GmbH, Austria), the point
314 clouds were converted into digital elevation models (DEM) using ESRI ArcGIS. The maximum

315 resolution set for the DEMs in this work was set to 5 cm/pixel, equal to the maximum resolution
316 of the stereo-derived DTMs used by Voigt et al. (2021b) to analyze the topographic roughness of
317 the Holuhraun lava facies. The high precision and accuracy of the kinematic LiDAR system (see
318 Kukko et al., (2020) for details) and high spatial resolution of the point clouds will reduce
319 uncertainties in our roughness statistic calculations.

320 Metre-scale topography for the lava facies also includes ArcticDEM topography data.
321 ArcticDEM data was acquired from a National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA)–National
322 Science Foundations (NSF) initiative and constructed from in-track and cross-track high-
323 resolution (0.5 m/pixel) images acquired from the DigitalGlobe constellation satellites
324 (WorldView-1, WorldView-2, WorldView-3, and GeoEye-1 optical imaging satellites). Vertical
325 accuracy of ArcticDEM data, calculated from ICESat point clouds, is –1 cm to 7 cm (Candela et
326 al., 2017). We downloaded a 2 m/pixel (4 m accuracy in horizontal and vertical planes)
327 topography data tile that covers the entire Holuhraun lava flow-field from the NGA ArcticDEM
328 Web Map database (<https://www.pgc.umn.edu/data/arcticdem/>), produced on July 22nd, 2018
329 (ID: 16_54_2m_reg_dem).

330

331 2.4.1. Topographic Roughness Statistics

332 To extract topographic roughness statistics from the LiDAR and ArcticDEM topography
333 data, we calculated the RMS slope and the Hurst exponent (H), which are parameters
334 recommended by Shepard et al. (2001) for surface roughness characterization. The RMS slope is
335 described as the standard deviation of slopes about a mean along a set profile (Shepard et al.,
336 2001). The H value describes how roughness changes with increasing scale, and ranges from 0 to
337 1. When H approaches 0, it indicates that the surface roughness changes as the scale increases,

338 becoming either smoother or rougher. If H approaches 1, it indicates that the surface roughness
339 remains unchanged with an increase in scale. A H of 0.5 is termed Brownian since Brownian
340 motion will produce this type of surface (Shepard et al., 2001).

341 We calculated the RMS slope using the Allan variance (v^2) (Equation 1), which samples
342 the topographic profile (z_i) at every interval step (Δx).

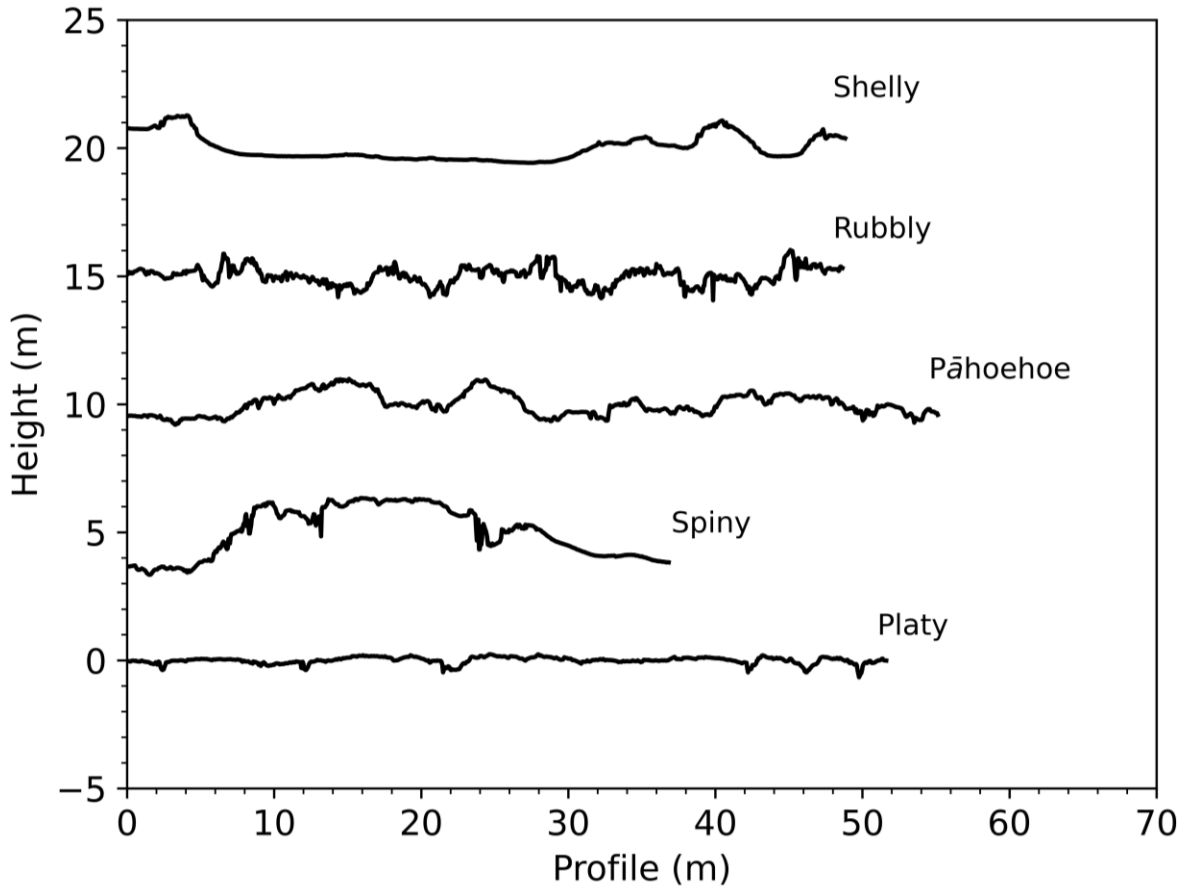
$$343 \quad v^2(\Delta x) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n [z(x_i) - z(x_i + \Delta x)]^2 \quad \text{Equation 1}$$

344 The variable n represents the number of sample points in the topographic profile
345 (examples are shown in Figure 5), and $z(x_i)$ is the height of the surface at point x_i . Using values
346 from Equation 1, we calculate RMS slope using Equation 2,

$$347 \quad RMS_{slope} = \frac{v(\Delta x)}{\Delta x} \quad \text{Equation 2}$$

348 We calculated H using Equation 3 where Δx_0 is the horizontal reference scale (Figure 6).
349 For some surfaces, one H value is not enough to describe roughness. Breakpoints can occur
350 when the roughness transitions from one H value to another (Figure 6), assumed to represent
351 different processes that either produced or modified the surface (Shepard et al., 2001).

$$352 \quad v(\Delta x) = RMS_{slope} \left(\frac{\Delta x}{\Delta x_0} \right)^H \quad \text{Equation 3}$$

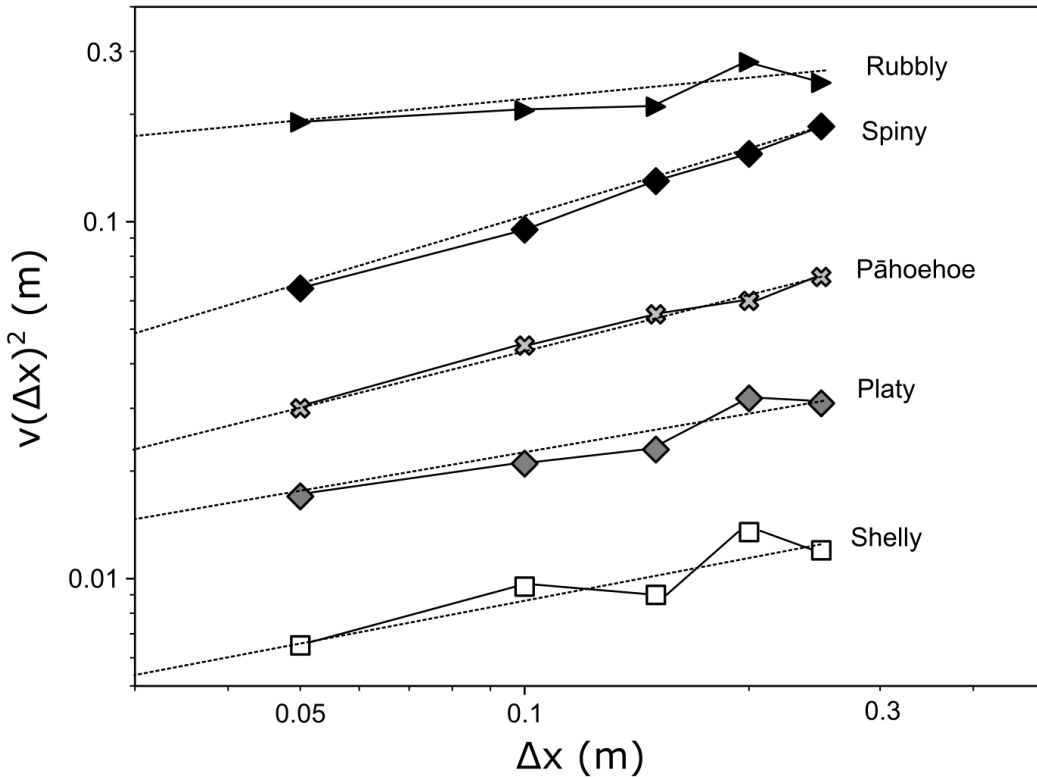


353

354 Figure 5. Example topographic profiles of the four Holuhraun lava types and a platy subset of the
 355 spiny pāhoehoe lava type, which exhibits a plate-ridged surface with extensional zones and
 356 toothpaste-like lava squeeze-ups. The profiles were extracted from LiDAR derived DEMs with a
 357 horizontal resolution of 5 cm/pixel. A best-fit line was removed from the profile, to correct for
 358 any regional slope. Each profile is offset by 5 m to prevent data overlap. The topographic
 359 profiles were extracted from the following LiDAR Data (see Table 2 in Section 3.2):

360 20190801_1_c (Shelly), 20190803_1_a (Rubbly), 20190805_1_a (Pāhoehoe), 20190729_2_d
 361 (Spiny), and 20190803_1_c (Platy).

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Figure 6. Example variograms of the four Holuhraun lava types and a platy subset of spiny pāhoehoe are plotted using data from the topographic profiles shown in Figure 5. Points are plotted every 5 cm between 5 cm and 25 cm. H is the slope of the line and the RMS slope is related to the y-intercept of the variogram. The dashed lines represent the calculated best fit line for each lava flow type variogram example. Outlier data point in the rubbly example not connected to line of best fit.

Three profile lengths were selected to incorporate a range of surface roughness measurements at different scales (centimetre-scale, decimetre-scale, and metre-scale). The first profile length was set at 2.5 m to obtain roughness statistics over a 0.05 m to 0.25 m reference

374 scale with step intervals of 0.05 m. The second profile length was set at 20 m to obtain roughness
375 statistics over a 0.25 m to 2 m reference scale with step intervals of 0.25 m. The third profile
376 length, which was only applied to the metre-scale ArcticDEM data, was set at 100 m to obtain
377 roughness statistics over a 2 m to 12 m reference scale with step intervals of 2 m. We adhered to
378 the recommendations by Shepard et al. (2001) that the profile length should be approximately 10
379 times the size of the largest value in the set reference scale. Both the second and third reference
380 scales have been used by other workers to study the surface roughness and topography of lava
381 flows and impact melt flows on terrestrial planetary bodies (e.g., Campbell and Shepard, 1996;
382 Neish et al., 2017; Rodriguez Sanchez-Vahamonde and Neish, 2021; Shepard et al., 2001).

383 We extracted 2.5 m long profiles (for centimetre-scale roughness) and 20 m long profiles
384 (for decimetre-scale roughness) along the lava surfaces in the LiDAR DEMs, and 100 m long
385 profiles (for metre-scale roughness) along the lava facies in the ArcticDEM data in 2-D
386 perpendicular directions (across and along flow). We detrended each profile by removing the
387 best-fit linear function from the data, calculated the Allan variance, and derived the RMS slope
388 and H . This process was repeated with the starting point on the DEM increasing by one pixel
389 until we reached the edge of the region. In this way, each pixel along a row become the center of
390 a profile and was assigned the derived RMS slope and H value. We extracted the mean and
391 standard deviation of the RMS slope and H distributions are each lava type using the zonal
392 statistics tool in ESRI ArcGIS.

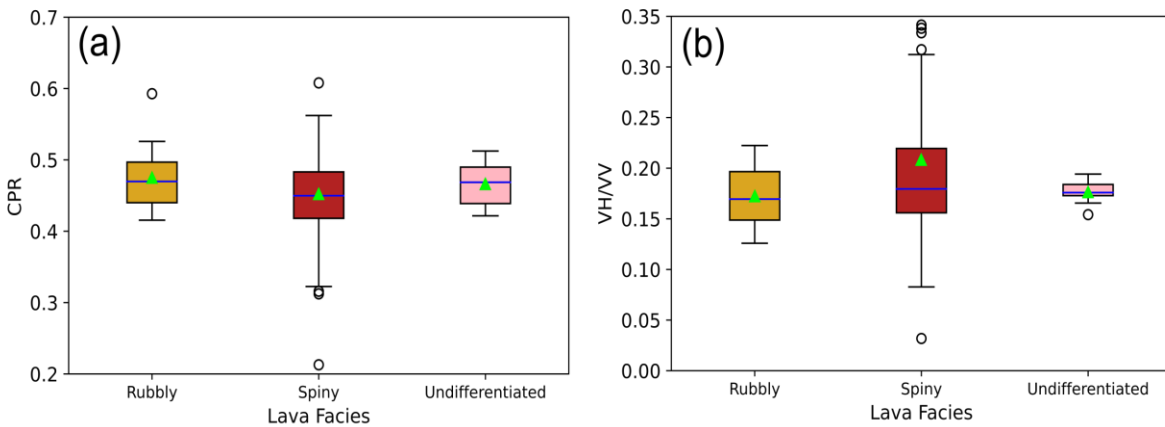
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394

395 **3 Results**

396 3.1. Surface Roughness Inferred from Radar Backscatter

397 We obtained the mean and standard deviation of CPR and $\frac{\sigma^{0VH}}{\sigma^{0VV}}$ from each lava
398 facies using traced polygons, except for the polygons proximal to the vent, where radar incidence
399 angles are too high for broad comparisons across the lava flow-field. The results (Figure 7a)
400 show that all three facies return moderate CPR values, with the spiny facies returning the lowest
401 mean CPR overall . The spiny facies returned a CPR value of 0.45 ± 0.08 at 1 standard deviation
402 (σ), the rubbly facies a CPR value of 0.47 ± 0.1 at 1 σ , and the undifferentiated rubbly-spiny
403 facies a CPR value of 0.47 ± 0.09 at 1 σ . From the Sentinel-1 C-band VH/VV data (Figure 7b),
404 the rubbly and undifferentiated rubbly–spiny facies returned similar values (Figure 7b). The
405 rubbly facies have a mean VH/VV of 0.17 ± 0.11 at 1 σ , the undifferentiated rubbly–spiny facies
406 are characterized by a mean VH/VV of 0.18 ± 0.13 at 1 σ , and the spiny facies have a mean
407 VH/VV of 0.21 ± 0.11 at 1 σ .



408
409 Figure 7. Statistical distribution of radar data means extracted from each discrete polygon
410 representing rubbly (n = 15), spiny (n = 68), and undifferentiated rubbly–spiny (n = 7) facies .

411 The boxplots show the mean (green triangle), median (dark blue line), interquartile range (IRQ),
412 which spans 50% of data (coloured box showing the lower and upper quartile at the base and
413 top), maximum (upper quartile + $1.5 \times \text{IRQ}$) and minimum (lower quartile - $1.5 \times \text{IRQ}$) values
414 (whisker lines), and outliers above and below the ± 62.5 percentile, respectively (white circles).
415 (a) L-band CPR mean value from each lava facies polygon. (b) C-band VH/VV mean value from
416 each lava facies polygon.

417

418 To further test whether there is a statistical significance between radar values associated
419 with the three facies, we examined all data values extracted from the lava facies polygons
420 (Figure 8a and b): rubbly ($n = 1,048,575$), spiny ($n = 551,598$), and undifferentiated rubbly–
421 spiny ($n = 225,676$). All three populations are not normally distributed and so we applied the
422 Kruskal–Wallis test to determine if the medians of two or more Non-Gaussian groups are
423 separable. Kruskal–Wallis test results (Table 1) show that only the undifferentiated rubbly–spiny
424 and spiny facies under VH/VV data are not statistically separable from one another. However,
425 despite the test revealing all lava facies are statistically separable under CPR and almost all
426 under VH/VV, their frequency distributions significantly overlap (Figure 8c and d). For
427 instance, all CPR populations overlap by $>88\%$ and all VH/VV data distributions overlap by
428 $>64\%$ (Figure 8e and f). In other words, given large sample sizes ($n > 2 \times 10^5$), subtle differences
429 in the frequency distribution of radar values may be used to probabilistically infer the occurrence
430 of a facies based on slight differences between population medians. However, the value of any
431 given sample cannot be used to reliably determine its facies identity because the radar data
432 populations are too overlapping to provide a unique mapping between a sample and the correct
433 facies. Thus, while the Kruskal–Wallis test shows that most transitional lava facies are

434 statistically separable given a large enough sample size, the strongly overlapping radar data
 435 populations prohibit deterministic facies assignments from individual samples, or observations,
 436 thereby complicating direct mapping of the spatial distribution of lava facies within a lava flow-
 437 field using radar data alone.

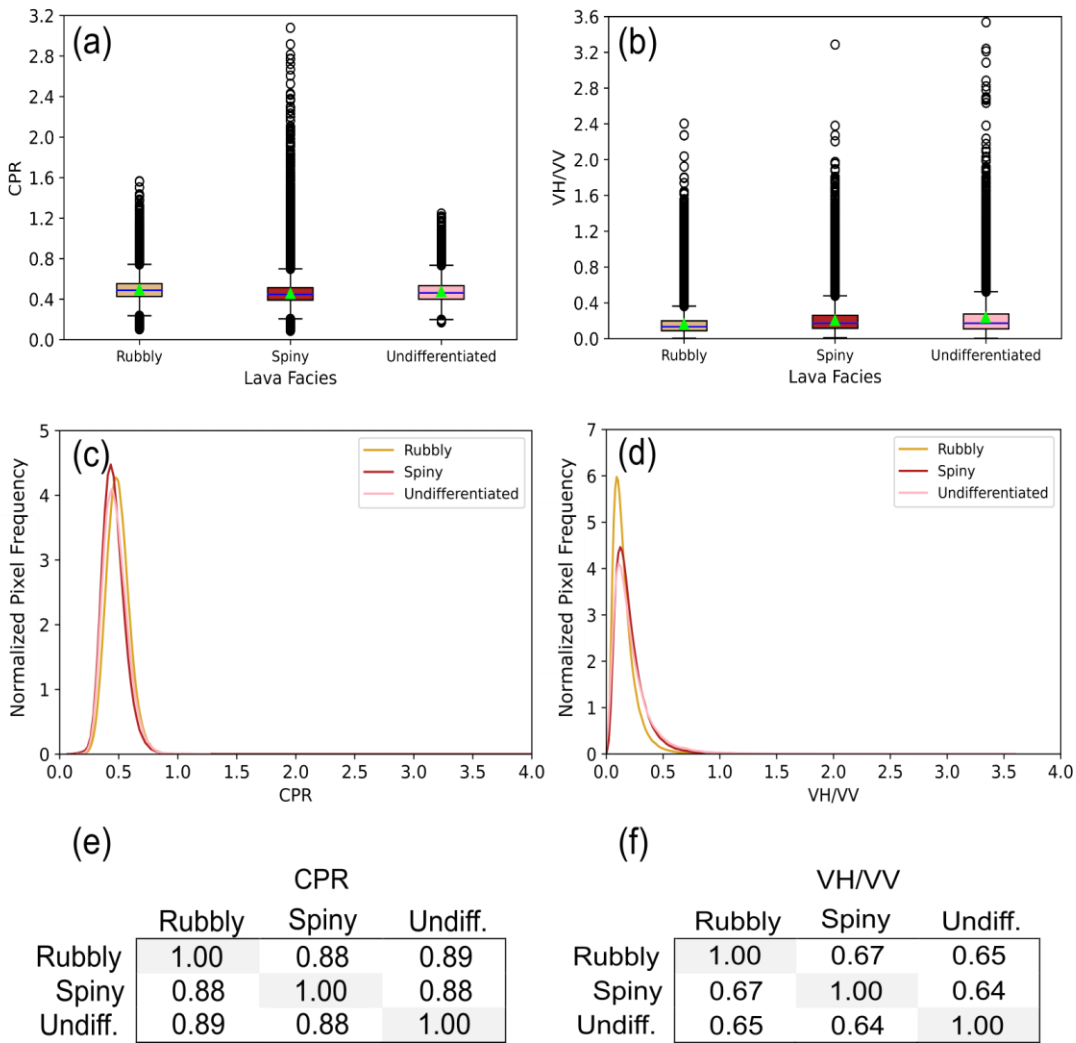
438

439 Table 1

440 *Summary of Kruskal Wallis test. Lava facies are statistically separable if returned p-value is*
 441 *<0.05. Y – Yes, statistically separable. N – not statistically separable.*

Lava Facies Comparison	CPR		Separable	VH/VV		Separable
	H-Stat	p		H-Stat	p	
Rubbly vs. Spiny	49368.31	~0	Y	23426.62	~0	Y
Rubbly vs. Undiff.	10368.67	~0	Y	7998.37	~0	Y
Spiny vs. Undiff.	3374.75	~0	Y	2.92	0.09	N

442



443

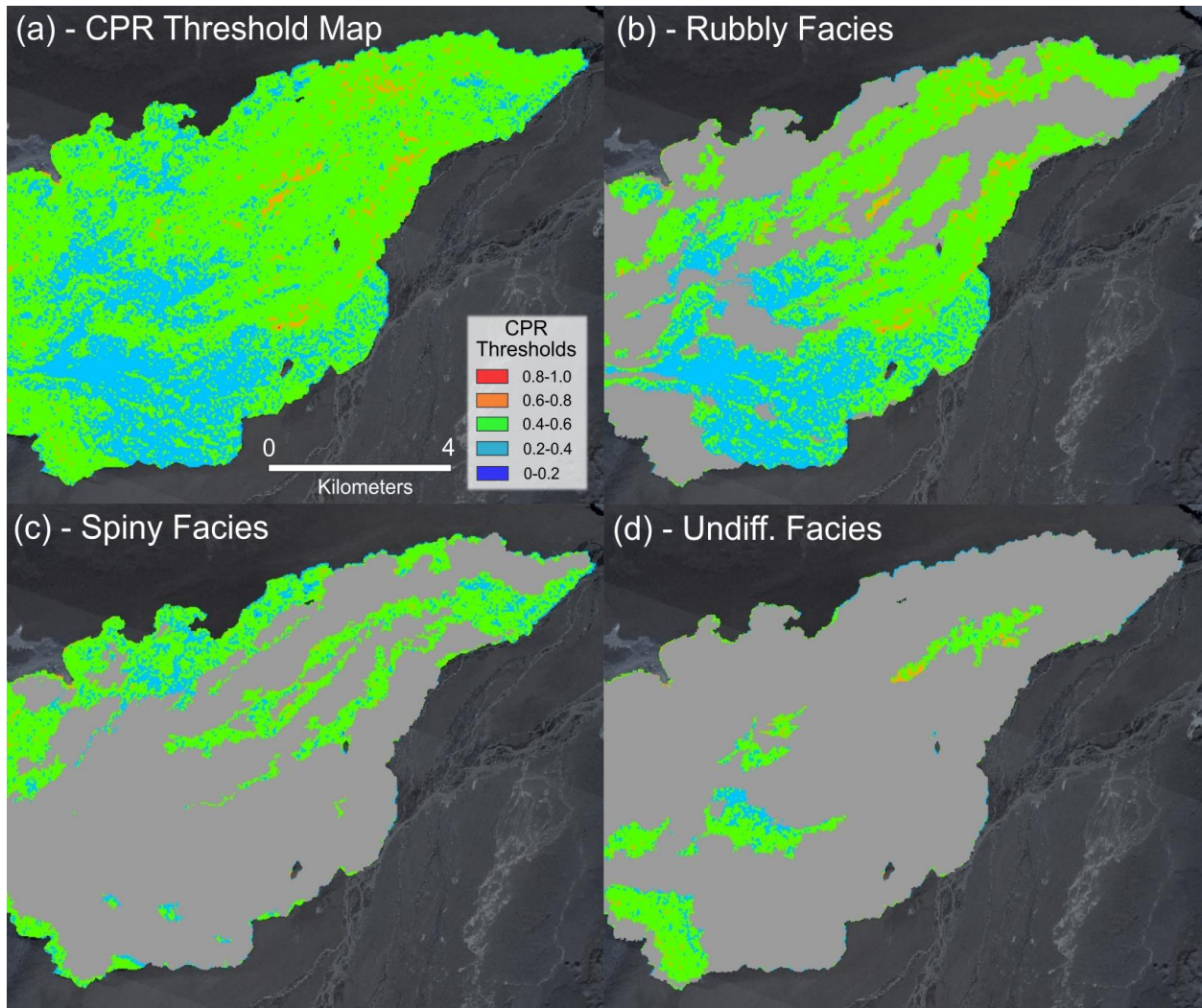
444 Figure 8. Statistical analysis of 2014–2015 Holuhraun lava facies L-band CPR and C-band
 445 VH/VV data. Boxplots (a – CPR, b – VH/VV) show the distribution of radar data within each
 446 traced lava facies polygon. The boxplots show the mean (green triangle), median (dark blue
 447 line), interquartile range (IRQ), which spans 50% of data (coloured box showing the lower and
 448 upper quartile at the base and top), maximum (upper quartile + $1.5 \times \text{IQR}$) and minimum (lower
 449 quartile – $1.5 \times \text{IQR}$) values (whisker lines), and outliers above and below the ± 62.5 percentile,
 450 respectively (white circles). Normalized frequency distributions of the total population of (c)
 451 CPR and (d) VH/VV data extracted from all lava facies polygons. The frequency distributions of

452 CPR and VH/VV data revealing Non-Gaussian distributions for the rubbly (n = 1048575), spiny
453 (n = 551598), and undifferentiated rubbly–spiny (n = 225676) facies populations; and
454 Comparison between the fraction of population overlap (in %) between the three facies using the
455 (e) CPR and (f) VH/VV data.

456

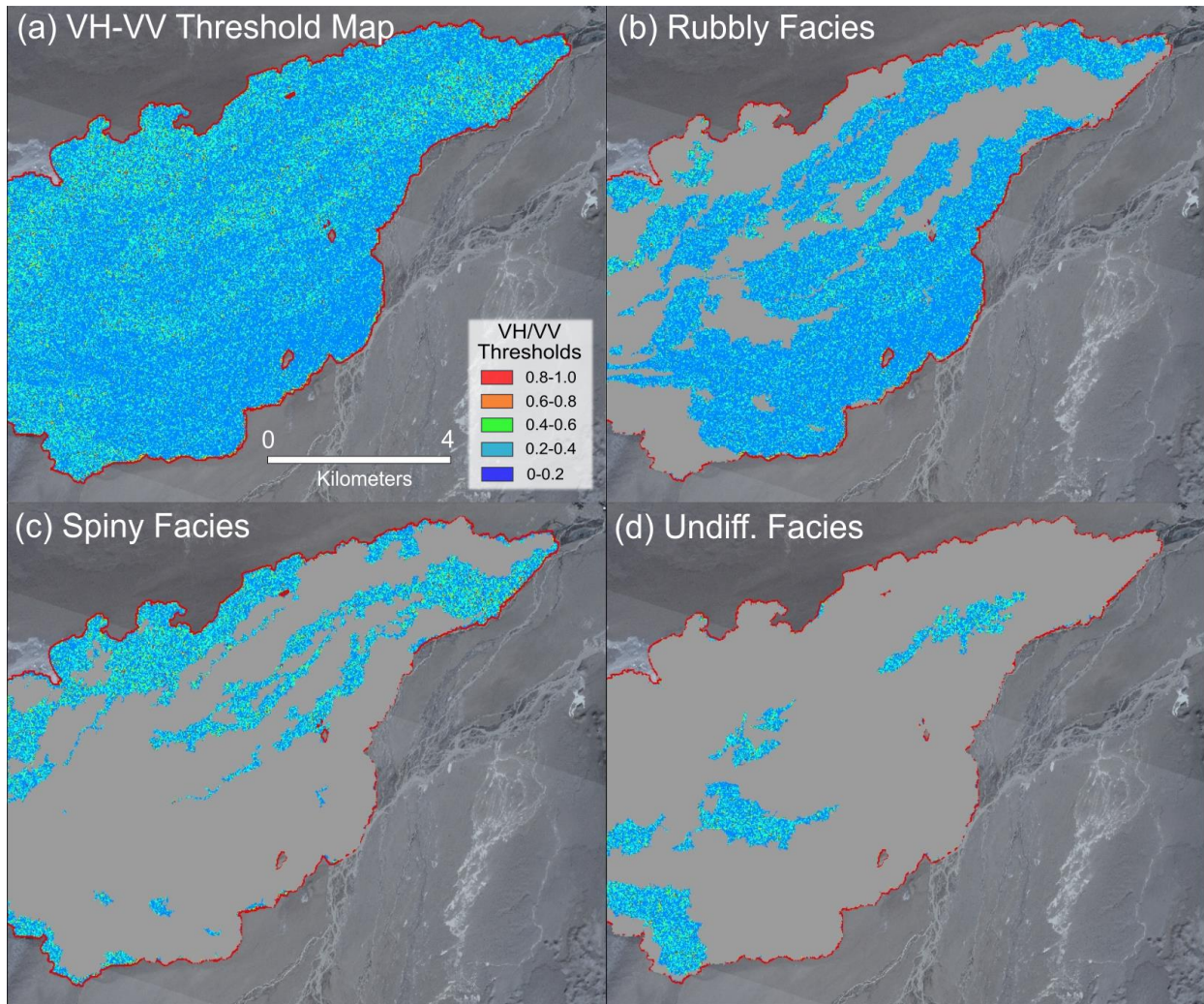
457 In the CPR threshold map (Figure 9a), we observe subtle differences between CPR values
458 in the rubbly and spiny facies. In the northeastern and northwestern regions of the lava flow -
459 field, the rubbly facies have a marginally greater CPR (Figure 9b), standing out from the spiny
460 facies that also covers a large portion of these regions (Figure 9c). The rubbly facies locally
461 exhibit areas with CPR ranging from 0.6–0.8, whereas the spiny facies CPR are consistently less
462 than 0.6. In the central and southern regions, however, the rubbly facies have a lower CPR than
463 the spiny facies (Figure 9c). The undifferentiated rubbly–spiny facies are more challenging to
464 discern since it returns CPR similar to the rubbly facies (Figure 9d). The VH/VV threshold map
465 (Figure 10a) shows remarkably similar patterns, with the rubbly and spiny facies showing slight
466 differences (Figures 10b–c). A major difference is that the undifferentiated rubbly–spiny facies
467 are more comparable to the spiny facies than the rubbly facies (see Figures 10c–d).

468



469

470 Figure 9. A threshold map of the UAVSAR CPR data overlaid with the lava facies polygons
 471 from Voigt and Hamilton (2021). In (b–d), each of the three main facies are highlighted to
 472 reveal their CPR values (coloured at 0.2 intervals), while the other facies are grayed out. (a)
 473 CPR threshold map of the 2014–2015 Holuhraun lava flow-field produced by applying a 9×9
 474 Enhanced Lee filter to the CPR data. Vent region is not included in this image due to the greater
 475 incidence angles of the UAVSAR observation. (b) Rubbly facies in the CPR threshold map. (c)
 476 Spiny facies in the CPR threshold map. (d) Undifferentiated rubbly–spiny facies in the CPR
 477 threshold map.



478

479 Figure 10. A threshold map of VH/VV calculated from Sentinel-1 $\sigma^{\circ}_{\text{VH}}$ and $\sigma^{\circ}_{\text{VV}}$ data overlaid
 480 with the lava facies polygons from Voigt and Hamilton (2021). In (b–d), each of the three main
 481 facies are highlighted to reveal their VH/VV values (colourized at 0.2 intervals), while the other
 482 facies are grayed out. (a) VH/VV threshold map of the 2014–2015 Holuhraun lava flow-field
 483 produced by applying a 9×9 Enhanced Lee filter to the VH/VV data. Vent region is not
 484 included to make the comparison with the UAVASAR CPR threshold map. (b) Rubbly facies in
 485 the VH/VV threshold map. (c) Spiny facies in the VH/VV threshold map. (d) Undifferentiated
 486 rubbly–spiny facies in the VH/VV threshold map.

487

488 3.2. Topographic Surface Roughness

489 To further characterize the surface topography and roughness of lava types that comprise
490 the 1:800-scale facies map units, we collected a total of twenty-five LiDAR scans in the field,
491 sixteen of which were located within the spiny facies, including thirteen examples of platy lava
492 and three examples of spiny pāhoehoe; three were located in the pāhoehoe facies; two were
493 located in the shelly facies, and four were located in the rubbly facies. Using LiDAR to enable
494 fine-scale mapping, we were able to identify specific locations within each of these facies that
495 included unmixed lava types.

496 We collected more examples of platy and spiny lava because these lava types were easier
497 to access and traverse in the field. Examples of the lava flow type DEMs and roughness statistic
498 raster's generated from the LiDAR data are presented in Figure 11 (a–e). The roughness data
499 collected from the LiDAR scans were calculated at 0.05–0.25 m (profile length, 2.5 m and Δx ,
500 0.05 m) and 0.25–2 m reference scales (profile length, 20 m and Δx , 0.25 m) (Table 2). We were
501 only able to extract RMS slopes and H values from one rubbly pāhoehoe surface at the
502 decimetre-scale because three of the four LiDAR scans had dimensions less than double the
503 profile length (20 m). This lava type is unstable and difficult to traverse on foot, especially with
504 the kinematic LiDAR system.

505 At the centimetre-scale (0.05–0.25 m), the lava types have RMS slope values from 4.78°
506 to 16.70° and H from 0.13 to 0.6 (Figure 12). The three pāhoehoe examples were moderately
507 rough, with RMS slope values from $10.29^\circ \pm 2.04^\circ$ to $10.70^\circ \pm 1.83^\circ$ and H from 0.38 to 0.49
508 (Figure 12). The high RMS slope values for the pāhoehoe was likely a result of the centimetre-

509 scale surface features such as the ropy billows, wrinkles, and sharp spinose textures. The two
510 shelly pāhoehoe examples have lower RMS slope values compared to the pāhoehoe lava type,
511 $5.27^\circ \pm 0.95^\circ$ and $6.35^\circ \pm 1.25^\circ$, and both exhibit H of 0.44 (Figure 12). The rubbly pāhoehoe
512 lava type has the greatest RMS slope, $16.70^\circ \pm 3.67^\circ$, owing to the size of the fragments on its
513 disrupted crustal surface. It also returned the greatest variation in H , 0.29 to 0.6 (Figure 12). The
514 platy lava has the greatest variation in RMS slope values and the smoothest surface at the
515 centimetre-scale (RMS slope, $4.78^\circ \pm 1.05^\circ$ to $11.56^\circ \pm 3.88^\circ$ and H , 0.13 to 0.39) (Figure 12).
516 The three spiny pāhoehoe lava types with lobe and toe features (Figure 12) along the western
517 margin of the lava flow-field have RMS slopes ranging from $7.90^\circ \pm 1.51^\circ$ to $11.52^\circ \pm 2.86^\circ$, and
518 H values from 0.2 to 0.36. In general, it is difficult to discriminate between the lava types using
519 the RMS slope and H values. However, the rubbly pāhoehoe does stand out as having the highest
520 values of RMS slope and H at a reference scale of 0.05–0.25 m.

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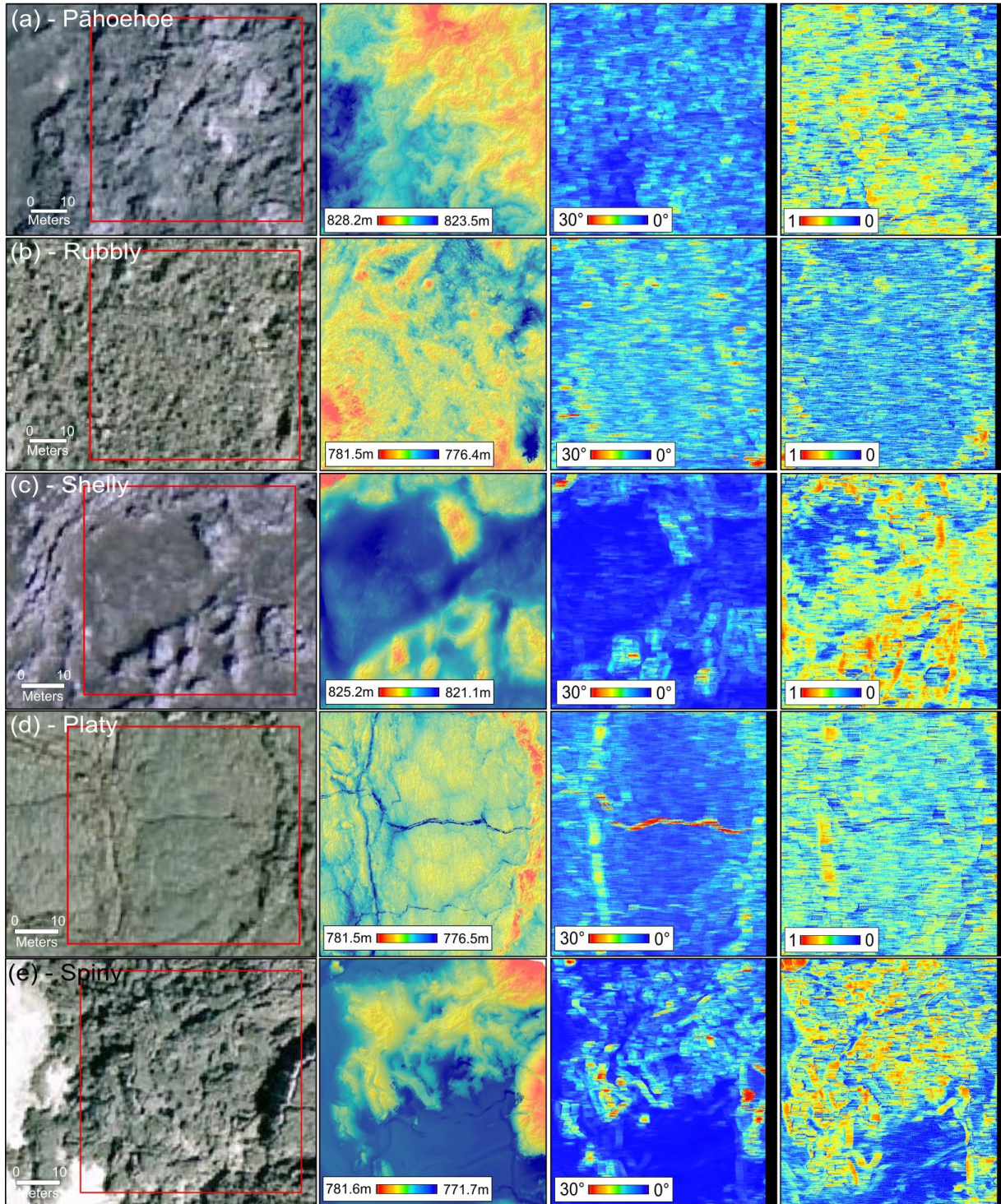
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Aerial Photography

LiDAR DEM

RMS Slope

Hurst Exponent



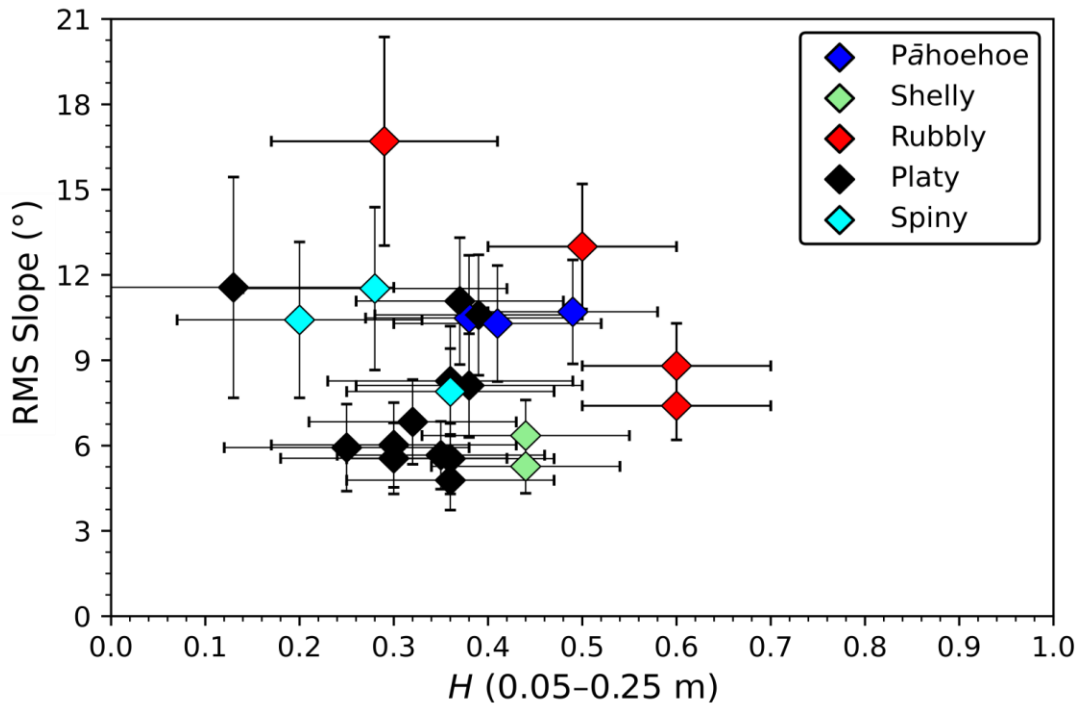
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525

526 Figure 11. Topography and roughness data of each lava type presented in this study. The first
527 column contains Loftmyndir.ehf aerial photography images of the lava flows, the second column
528 shows an example of the colourized LiDAR DEMs overlying an elevation hillshade, and the
529 third and fourth columns are the RMS slope and H raster's (0.05–0.25 m reference scale, 2.5 m
530 profile) produced from the DEMs. The images represent a (a) pāhoehoe, (b) rubbly, (c) shelly,
531 (d) platy, and (e) spiny lava type. The resolution of the DEMs are 5 cm/pixel, which allows us to
532 view their centimetre-scale surface roughness, including pāhoehoe ropy textures, lava waves, and
533 spiny toes. The red boxes show the boundaries of the DEMs over the Loftmyndir.ehf aerial
534 images. The black region in the RMS slope and H raster's represent the last 2.5 m of the row;
535 each pixel represents the parameters extracted from one 2.5 m profile, so we cannot obtain
536 values for this region.

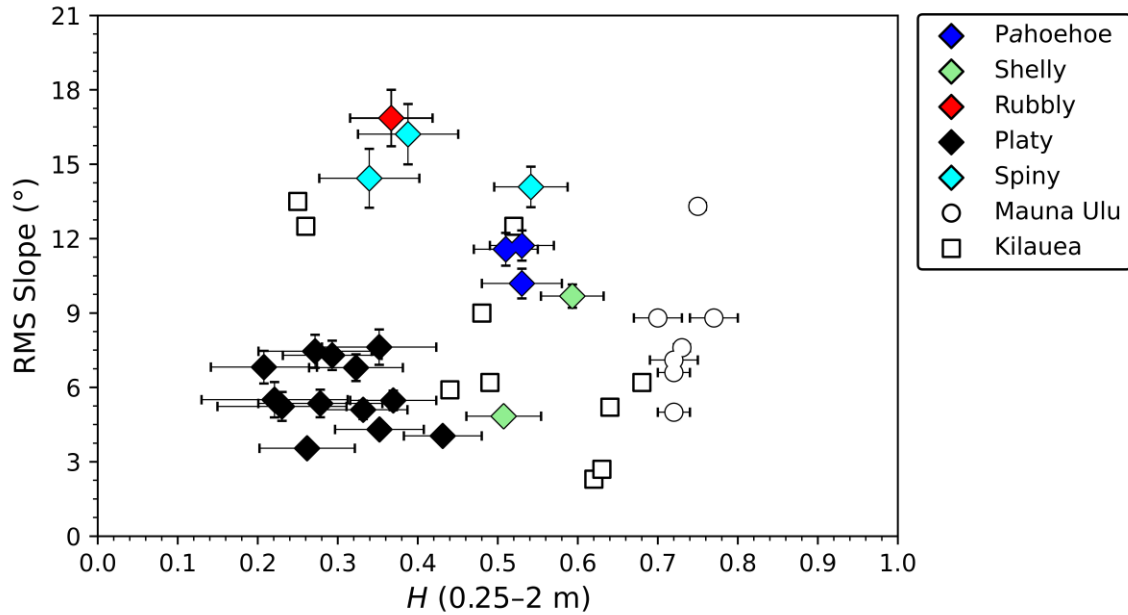
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538 The second reference scale used for this study was 0.25–2 m (Figure 13). Compared to
539 the centimetre-scale topographic roughness data, these surfaces have similar H values, from 0.2
540 to 0.6, and only marginally greater RMS slope values, up to 16.9° . The platy lava returned a
541 range of RMS slope values, from $3.5^\circ \pm 0.31^\circ$ to $7.6^\circ \pm 0.71^\circ$, with most RMS slope results
542 overlapping the shelly pāhoehoe and pāhoehoe flow types. The spiny pāhoehoe and the rubbly
543 pāhoehoe are the roughest lava surfaces at this scale ($16.2^\circ \pm 1.22^\circ$ and $16.9^\circ \pm 1.14^\circ$).



544

545 Figure 12. Centimetre-scale roughness of the studied Holuhraun lava types and subsets of the
 546 spiny pāhoehoe lava type, derived from the analysis of LiDAR DEMs with 5 cm/pixel horizontal
 547 resolution. Profile length was set to 2.5 m with a step interval of 0.05 m and a reference scale set
 548 at 0.05–0.25 m.



549

550 Figure 13. Decimetre-scale roughness of the studied Holuhraun lava types and subsets of the
 551 spiny pāhoehoe lava type, derived from the analysis of LiDAR DEMs with 5 cm/pixel horizontal
 552 resolution. Profile length was set to 20 m with a step interval of 25 cm and a reference scale set
 553 to 0.25–2 m. Mauna Ulu data here are reported in Neish et al. (2017) and the Kīlauea data are
 554 reported in Campbell (2002).

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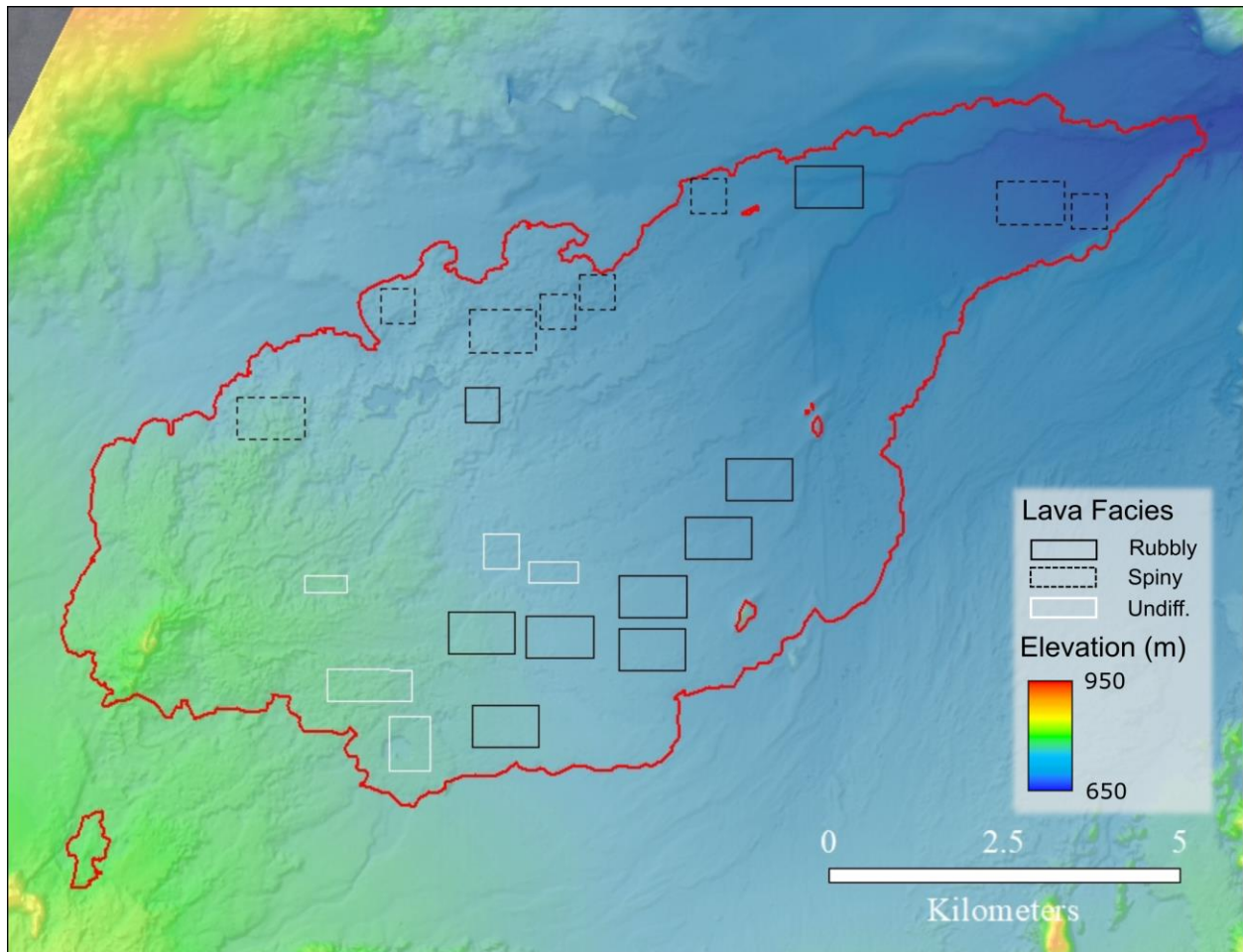
LiDAR Dataset	Surface Roughness	RMS Slope (°) ^a	RMS Slope Std (°) ^a	H ^a	Herr ^a	RMS Slope (°) ^b	RMS Slope Std (°) ^b	H ^b	Herr ^b
20190805_1_a	Pāhoehoe	10.29	2.04	0.41	0.11	11.6	0.66	0.50	0.04
20190805_1_b	Pāhoehoe	10.48	2.21	0.38	0.11	10.2	0.60	0.50	0.05
20190805_1_c	Pāhoehoe	10.70	1.83	0.49	0.09	11.7	0.61	0.50	0.04
20190803_1_a	Rubbly	16.70	3.67	0.29	0.12	16.9	1.14	0.40	0.05
hotsprings_a_1	Rubbly	7.40	1.20	0.60	0.10	–	–	–	–
hotsprings_a_2	Rubbly	8.80	1.50	0.60	0.10	–	–	–	–
hotsprings_a_3	Rubbly	13.00	2.20	0.50	0.10	–	–	–	–
20190801_1_b	Shelly	5.27	0.95	0.44	0.10	4.84	0.24	0.50	0.05
20190801_1_c	Shelly	6.35	1.25	0.44	0.11	9.68	0.47	0.60	0.04
20190729_2_a	Platy	11.08	2.23	0.37	0.11	6.82	0.66	0.20	0.07
20190729_2_b	Platy	10.59	2.12	0.39	0.11	7.29	0.59	0.30	0.06
20190729_2_c	Platy	4.78	1.05	0.36	0.11	3.55	0.31	0.30	0.06
20190729_2_d	Platy	5.54	1.24	0.36	0.11	4.04	0.26	0.40	0.05
20190729_2_e	Platy	5.66	1.19	0.35	0.11	5.47	0.40	0.40	0.05
20190729_3_a	Platy	6.47	1.87	0.23	0.15	5.50	0.71	0.20	0.09
20190729_3_b	Platy	5.93	1.53	0.25	0.13	5.23	0.58	0.20	0.08
20190802_1_e	Platy	11.56	3.88	0.13	0.17	7.46	0.67	0.30	0.07
20190804_1_a	Platy	6.02	1.49	0.30	0.13	7.62	0.71	0.40	0.07
20190804_1_b	Platy	6.83	1.49	0.32	0.11	5.09	0.38	0.30	0.06
20190804_1_c	Platy	8.11	1.82	0.38	0.12	6.79	0.54	0.30	0.06
20190804_2_a	Platy	5.55	1.25	0.30	0.12	4.30	0.31	0.40	0.06
20190804_3_a	Platy	8.27	1.93	0.36	0.13	5.35	0.56	0.30	0.08
20190802_1_d	Spiny	10.42	2.74	0.20	0.13	14.4	1.19	0.30	0.06
20190803_1_b	Spiny	11.52	2.86	0.28	0.14	16.2	1.22	0.40	0.06
20190803_1_c	Spiny	7.90	1.51	0.36	0.11	14.1	0.82	0.50	0.05

563 *Note: RMS slope and H values were calculated from the LiDAR DEM data sets at 0.05–0.25 m^a*
564 *and 0.25–2 m^b scales. Table includes RMS slope (°), Hurst Exponent (H), RMS slope standard*
565 *deviation (std) (°), and Hurst exponent standard deviation (H_{std}).*

567 In addition to the LiDAR data, we analyzed the metre-scale roughness of the three lava
568 facies using a DEM (2 m/pixel) (Figure 14) acquired by the ArcticDEM project (Polar
569 Geospatial Center, 2017). It has greater coverage than the LiDAR data used in this study, and
570 although its resolution is coarser, it is more comparable to DEM data sets produced from stereo-
571 pairs of high-resolution images of other worlds (Sutton et al., 2022), such as those taken by the
572 Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) High Resolution Imaging Science Experiment (HiRISE)
573 camera (McEwen et al., 2007) and the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) Narrow-Angle
574 Camera (NAC) (Chin et al., 2007). From the ArcticDEM data, we were able to extract RMS
575 slope and H values at a scale of 2–12 m (Table 3). This scale has been used by other workers to
576 study the metre-scale roughness of terrestrial lava flows (e.g., Campbell et al., 2003), lunar
577 impact melt flows (e.g., Neish et al., 2017), and Martian lava flows (e.g., Rodriguez-Sanchez-
578 Vahamonde and Neish, 2021). We set the profile length to 100 m and found that the rubbly,
579 spiny, and undifferentiated rubbly–spiny facies have RMS slope values lower than the lowest
580 value extracted from the centimetre- and decimetre-scale data sets (Figure 15). The H values are
581 also significantly greater, >0.75 , implying that surface roughness will be maintained as the scale
582 increases. RMS slope is dependent on the step size of the profile, therefore as step size increases
583 RMS slope tends to decrease (Shepard et al., 2001). This could be one explanation as to why we
584 observe lower RMS slope values from the 100 m profiles. Compared to other lava flows
585 measured at the metre-scale, the 2014–2015 Holuhraun lava flow-field lava facies are
586 considerably smoother (Figure 15, Mauna Ulu data points).

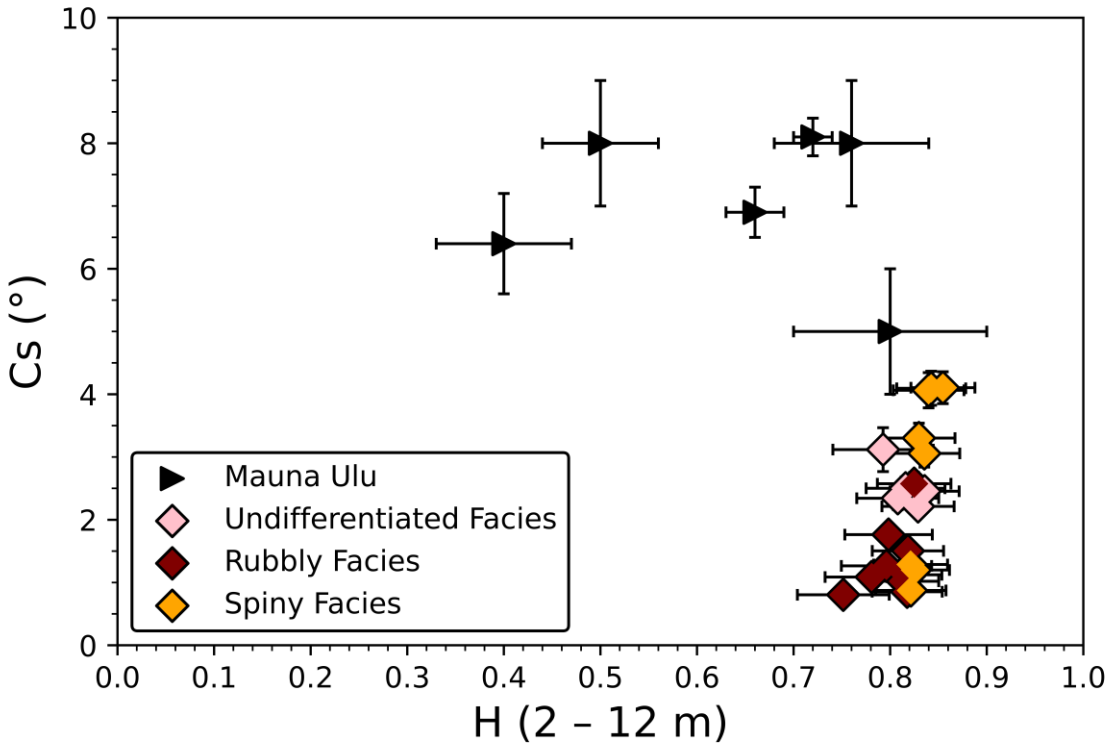
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589

590 Figure 14. ArcticDEM topography data (2 m/pixel) overlaid on a colourized DEM hillshade (30°
 591 illumination angle). The black polygons represent the locations where topography data was
 592 extracted for metre-scale roughness calculations. The red polygon marks the margins of the
 593 Holuhraun lava flow-field.



594

595 Figure 15. Metre-scale roughness of the three dominant lava facies in the 2014–2015 Holuhraun
 596 lava flow-field. The Mauna Ulu data presented here are from Hawaiian lavas reported in
 597 Campbell (2002) (Kīleaua), measured at 2–12 m reference scale and 1 m step sizes. The RMS
 598 slope and H were calculated from ArcticDEM data with a spatial resolution of 2 m/pixel. All of
 599 the lava facies are smooth at the metre-scale, but the rubbly facies are the smoothest (RMS slope
 600 $<2.6^\circ$) out of all three. Lava facies metre-scale roughness data is summarized in Table 3.

601

602

603

604

605 Table 3

606 *RMS Slope and Hurst Exponent Measurements Extracted from ArcticDEM Topography Data.*

Lava Facies	RMS Slope (°)	RMS Slope Std. (°)	<i>H</i>	<i>H_{std}</i>
Rubbly	0.81	0.08	0.75	0.05
Rubbly	1.27	0.12	0.80	0.05
Rubbly	1.76	0.15	0.80	0.05
Rubbly	1.02	0.07	0.81	0.04
Rubbly	1.12	0.08	0.82	0.04
Rubbly	1.09	0.10	0.78	0.05
Rubbly	1.50	0.10	0.82	0.04
Rubbly	0.85	0.06	0.82	0.04
Rubbly	2.57	0.18	0.82	0.04
Spiny	12.95	2.55	0.73	0.07
Spiny	4.06	0.28	0.84	0.04
Spiny	3.30	0.24	0.83	0.04
Spiny	4.10	0.27	0.84	0.04
Spiny	4.10	0.25	0.85	0.03
Spiny	3.06	0.22	0.84	0.04
Spiny	1.20	0.08	0.83	0.04
Spiny	0.87	0.06	0.82	0.04
Undiff.	1.29	0.09	0.82	0.04
Undiff.	2.50	0.18	0.82	0.04
Undiff.	2.34	0.18	0.81	0.04
Undiff.	2.21	0.16	0.83	0.04
Undiff.	2.46	0.16	0.84	0.04

607 *Note: RMS slope and H values were calculated from the ArcticDEM data set*

608 *(16_54_1_2_2m_v3.0) at 2 m to 12 m. Table includes RMS slope (°), H, RMS slope std (°), and*

609 *H_{std}. The data are plotted in Figure 14.*

610

611

612

613 4 Discussion

614 4.1. Differentiation of Lava Facies Using Radar

615 Visual inspection of the CPR and VH/VV maps (Figures 9a and 10a) suggest variations
616 over surface of the 2014–2015 Holuhraun lava flow-field that could enable automated mapping
617 of lava facies using radar data. However, the eye is prone to finding patterns within noisy data.
618 Examination of the CPR and VH/VV within each of the dominant facies (Figures 9b–e and 10b–
619 2) similarly reveals some structure, but also wide variability. To determine if CPR and VH/VV
620 values within each facies are separable in a meaningful way, first applied a Kruskal–Wallis test
621 to determine, which, if any, facies have distinguishable radar data populations; and then we
622 examined what proportion of each population overlap.

623 The Kruskal–Wallis test shows that all of the facies have medians that are distinguished
624 from one another using CPR data and all, but the undifferentiated rubbly–spiny and spiny facies,
625 are statistically separable using VH/VV data. However, high confidence in statistical separability
626 of the population medians results in large part to the large samples sizes, which range from over
627 2×10^5 for the undifferentiated rubbly–spiny facies to over 1.0×10^6 for the rubbly facies. If one
628 were instead to draw a single observation, or sample, it would not be possible to reliably
629 determine the associated facies because facies populations have large overlapping radar values
630 (Figure 8c and d). For instance, CPR values for the three main facies overlap by 88–89% and
631 their VH/VV values overlap by 64–67% for VH/VV (Figure 8e and f). Caution is therefore urged
632 in terms of mapping lava facies using radar or other topographic roughness data.

633 One reason for the large overlap among the radar populations is that the CPR and VH/VV
634 radar data reached a saturation for ‘rough’ surface characteristics (Campbell, 2009; Campbell et
635 al., 2003). The greater return in cross-polarized product VH in the C-band Sentinel-1 data, and

636 moderate CPR in the L-band UAVSAR data implies that the lava facies surfaces predominantly
637 favour diffuse (i.e., volume) scattering mechanism (Campbell, 2002; Campbell & Shepard, 1996;
638 Carter et al., 2011; Neish & Carter, 2014). A saturation in radar data would explain why the
639 mean CPR and VH/VV and threshold maps tend to homogenize around a narrow value range.
640 Alternatively, the surfaces may lack features, such as smooth-facets and natural corner reflectors,
641 which promote double-bounce scattering, which lead to increase returns in SC polarization and
642 like-polarized data products (i.e., VV).

643 In the northeastern and northwestern regions of the lava flow-field (see Figure 8), the
644 rubbly facies show a higher CPR compared to the spiny facies. However, the rubbly facies'
645 lower CPR in the central and southern regions made it more challenging to differentiate them
646 from the spiny facies. It is not clear why the CPR of the rubbly facies is lower in this region. For
647 a decrease in CPR to occur, the rubbly facies in the central and southern regions must either
648 exhibit surfaces that are more favourable for quasi-specular reflection (i.e., single-bounce;
649 mirror-like reflection) (Neish & Carter, 2014), which is inconsistent with the scattering
650 mechanisms typically associated with rubbly surfaces, or the size of the surface scatterers are not
651 detectable by the UAVSAR L-band wavelength. However, the majority of the central and
652 southern region of the lava flow-field was mapped using aerial images (Voigt et al., 2021a), and
653 so no ground-truth data is available to differentiate between these two hypotheses.

654 From the VH/VV threshold map, the VH/VV data of the rubbly facies are the lower
655 compared to the spiny facies (see Figure 9), implying that their surfaces are smoother at the
656 centimetre-scale. This is true across the entire lava flow-field, unlike the CPR data that shows
657 regional differences. This implies that at the centimetre-scale, the surface roughness of the
658 rubbly facies is more consistent and shows little to no change from the vent to the end of the lava

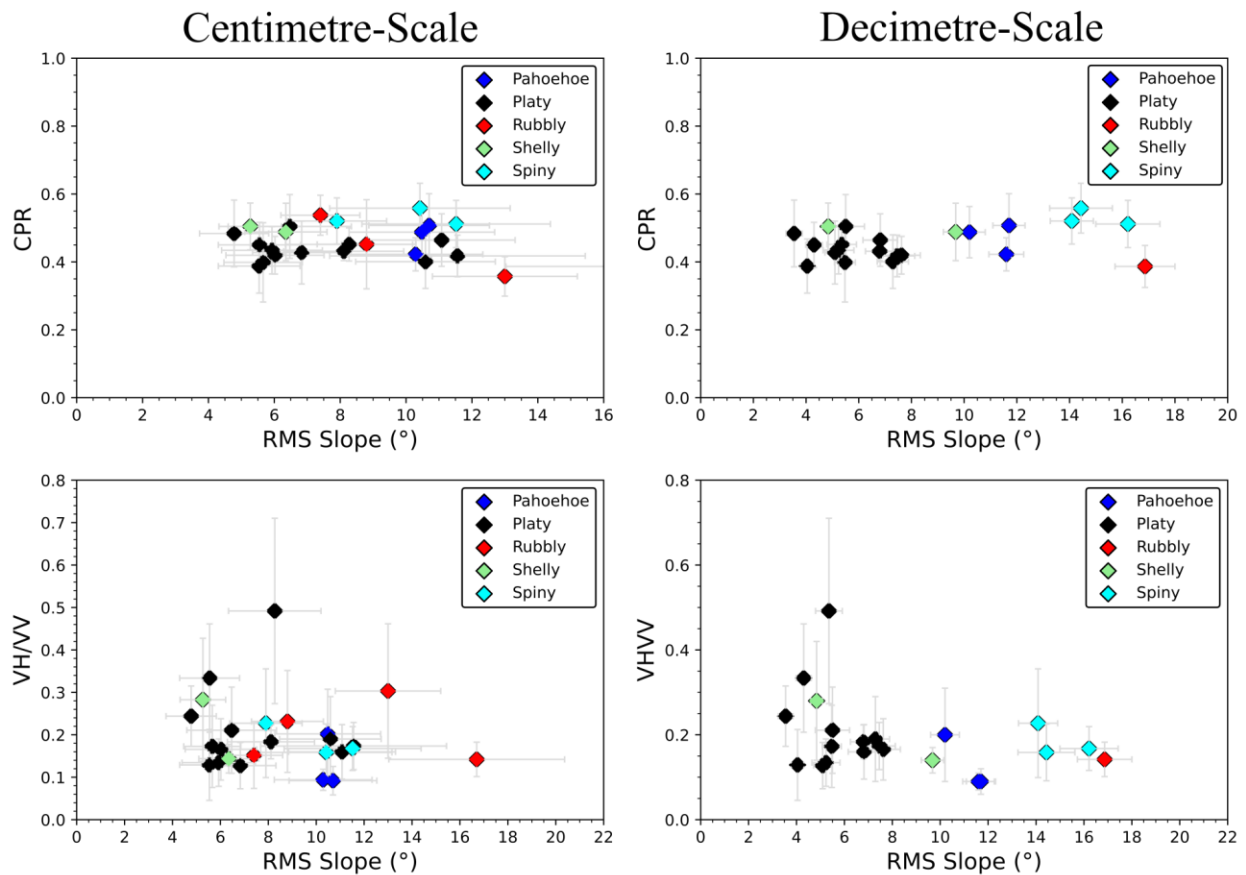
659 flow-field in the northeast. The variable CPR of the rubbly facies across the lava flow-field is
660 connected to transitions in lava transport processes that occurred during the Holuhraun eruption.
661 A change in a lava flow's surface roughness is typically connected to the emplacement style and
662 evolution of the lava flow-fields eruption dynamics (e.g., Guilbaud et al., 2005; Harris et al.,
663 2017; Rowland and Walker, 1990; Tolometti et al., 2020). If centimetre-scale roughness remains
664 constant, and decimetre-scale roughness increases moving further from the vent, then it is likely
665 that changes in lava emplacement produced more decimetre- to metre-sized surface scatterers in
666 the northeastern and northwestern regions of the flow field.

667 4.2. Centimetre- to Metre-Scale Roughness of Lava Types

668 Our results show that with a reference scale of 0.05 m to 0.25 m and a set profile length
669 of 2.5 m, it is difficult to separate the lava types inside the Holuhraun lava facies at the
670 centimetre-scale. The spiny pāhoehoe, platy lava, shelly pāhoehoe, and pāhoehoe lava types all
671 exhibit similar RMS slopes, making it challenging to identify them from topographic roughness
672 alone. This is consistent with field observations of these lava types. All share similar volcanic
673 surface characteristics such as spines, ropes, folds, which would contribute to the centimetre
674 roughness, therefore the RMS slope. The rubbly pāhoehoe lava type has the greatest RMS slope
675 (16.7°) and H overall, but exhibits significant statistical overlap with the platy, spiny pāhoehoe,
676 and shelly pāhoehoe lava types. When we increased the reference scale (0.25 m – 2 m) and
677 profile length (20 m), we immediately noticed a change in the distribution of RMS slope and H .
678 The rubbly pāhoehoe and the spiny pāhoehoe are the roughest lava types at this scale, and unlike
679 at the centimetre-scale, we do not observe significant data overlap with other lava types. From
680 the L-band CPR and C-band VH/VV data, the lava types show no clear distinctions between
681 each other (Figure 16). Compared with the RMS slope at both scales, the CPR and VH/VV

682 results plateau, with the exception of some platy lava types with low RMS slope ($<6^\circ$) returning
 683 higher VH/VV values creating a slightly skewed appearance. It appears that at L-band and C-
 684 band wavelengths the lava types become challenging to resolve at mappable scales. Only from
 685 the decimetre-scale LiDAR topography data do we observe differences between the lava types.

686



687

688 Figure 16. Comparison of Holuhraun lava type decimetre- and centimetre-scale RMS slope and
 689 L-band CPR and C-band VH/VV data. Rubbly and spiny lava types can be distinguished using
 690 RMS slope at the decimetre-scale, and quantified radar data (CPR and VH/VV) shows no clear
 691 distinctions between the lava types with the exception of VH/VV data of the platy lava type.

692

693 Overall, we find that centimetre-scale topographic roughness and radar data is not
694 effective at discriminating different lava types and their morphological subsets, while with
695 decimetre-scale topographic roughness we are able to separate the rubbly pāhoehoe and spiny
696 pāhoehoe lava from the other lava types. The lack of separation is partly due to the lava facies
697 and lava types being within the high end of the lava flow roughness spectrum, where topographic
698 and radar backscatter signals can appear similar for different surface textures (Campbell &
699 Shepard, 1996; Kilburn, 2000). Separation could be improved if we had access to additional
700 radar observations acquired at different incidence angles and larger wavelengths (e.g., P-band, λ
701 = 68 cm) (Campbell et al., 2003; Campbell & Shepard, 1996; Shepard et al., 2001); however,
702 this was not possible for this study.

703 Comparing the RMS slope values of the lava types to their corresponding lava facies, we
704 notice that the roughest lava types at the decimetre-scale (rubbly pāhoehoe and spiny pāhoehoe)
705 are found within all three of the dominant lava facies. This could explain why we observe some
706 similarities in the lava facies L-band CPR and C-band VH/VV results, particularly between the
707 rubbly facies and the undifferentiated rubbly-spiny facies. The platy lava types are primarily
708 found in the spiny facies, and their low RMS slope values at both roughness scales could be the
709 contributing factor to the lower CPR values in the spiny facies.

710

711 **5 Conclusion**

712 Fissure-fed eruptions have highly variable effusion rates and can develop unstable lava
713 pathways that are prone to blockages and collapses. Sudden changes in local lava fluxes can
714 trigger the disruption and remobilization of previously solidified crust above active lava

715 pathways, resulting in “transitional” lava types (e.g., platy, slabby, rubbly, spiny pāhoehoe). In
716 contrast to relatively smooth pāhoehoe and rough ‘a‘ā lava type end-members, “transitional” lava
717 types can exhibit a wider range of surface morphologies because their formation mechanisms
718 commonly involve multiple stages of emplacement. A single flow may therefore include a
719 mixture of surface materials that have been modified and partially overprinted at different times.
720 At reasonable mapping scales (e.g., 1:800), surfaces may exhibit a mixture of lava types than
721 cannot be resolved. Therefore, rather than directly mapping lava types, Voigt et al. (2021a)
722 advocate for mapping facies units, which exhibit similar albedo, texture, and morphology. Facies
723 units may be dominantly composed of a particular lava type—for instance, rubbly facies will
724 primarily include the rubbly pāhoehoe; or the spiny facies will primarily include the spiny
725 pāhoehoe), but there is an inherent recognition that most facies will also include minor
726 exposures of other lava types.

727 Manual facies mapping efforts are time-intensive and subjective and so we performed an
728 analysis to determine if the lava facies in the 2014–2015 Holuhraun lava flow-field, can be
729 differentiated using radar and topographic measurements. First, we examined UAVSAR L-band
730 CPR data and Sentinel-1 C-band VH/VV data for the three dominant facies mapped by Voigt et
731 al. (2021) and then we examined surfaces at a finer scale using LiDAR to determine if
732 topographic roughness could be further used to separate lava facies into constituent lava types.

733 If we consider the entire lava flow-field, the distribution of CPR and VH/VV values
734 within each of the three major facies, they are generally all distinguishable from one another
735 (with the exception of the VH/VV undifferentiated rubbly–spiny and VH/VV spiny facies) based
736 on statistical separation of their population medians using the Kruskal–Wallis test. However, on
737 a practical level, CPR values overlap by 88–89% and VH/VV values overlap by 66–67%. We

738 therefore conclude that with a large enough sample size one could estimate the likelihood that a
739 flow-field includes a particular facies, but not robustly determine the facies identity of any given
740 sample.

741 Topographic roughness analysis of individual lava types that comprise the lava facies
742 revealed that the rubbly pāhoehoe and spiny pāhoehoe lava types are the roughest at the
743 decimetre-scale. At the centimetre-scale, we observed no clear differences between any of the
744 lava types, especially between the platy lava and the spiny pāhoehoe lava type in the spiny
745 facies. Comparing the LiDAR results to the radar data shows that all of the lava types seem to
746 saturate around a relatively short range of CPR (~0.4 to ~0.6) but show slightly more variability
747 in the VH/VV data. We conclude that the use of the L-band and C-band to distinguish the lava
748 types within the rough Holuhraun lava facies is challenging, as we observe no noticeable
749 differences that can strongly support separating them using the radar data.

750 Our investigation of lava types and facies using radar data has broader implications and
751 relevance to future planetary mission concepts hosting a SAR instrument. The International Mars
752 Ice Mapper mission concept (Davis, 2021), for example, includes an L-band SAR instrument that
753 would be capable of measuring the surface roughness of volcanic terrains at wavelengths
754 analogous to the UAVSAR L-band data and other terrestrial SAR platforms (e.g., ALOS
755 PALSAR). The Mars Ice Mapper mission concept would gather vital radar backscatter and
756 polarization data that could be used to investigate the emplacement of lava flow-fields, flood
757 lavas, and flood basalts on Mars. In addition to Mars, the newly selected NASA Venus
758 Emissivity, Radio Science, InSAR, Topography, And Spectroscopy (VERITAS) mission (Hensley
759 et al., 2012) and the ESA EnVision missions (Ghail et al., 2012) to Venus both have a SAR
760 instrument. The EnVision mission will incorporate a dual-polarimetric S-band ($\lambda = 9.4$ cm) SAR

761 instrument known as the Venus Synthetic Aperture Radar (VenSAR), which is capable of
762 quantifying surface roughness at the decimetre-scale. New data from VenSAR will provide
763 opportunities for comparative studies with S-band terrestrial radar data of lava flows, such as that
764 from the NASA-ISRO SAR Mission (NISAR), which is expected to launch towards the end of
765 2022 (Rosen & Kumar, 2021). Based on our findings, we urge caution in trying to directly map
766 lava facies using radar data with wavelengths between C- and L-Band because lava flows within
767 the high roughness spectrum can exhibit morphological similarities even though they may form
768 by different processes.

769

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780

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