

# OBSERVATIONAL CONSTRAINTS FOR LAVA FLOW MODELS

Einat Lev, LDEO  
IAVCEI Benchmarking Workshop  
Kagoshima, 2013

# WILL DISCUSS CONSTRAINTS FROM:

**Natural  
Flows**

**Analogue  
Experiments**

**Basaltic  
Experiments**

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**Natural  
Flows**

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**Basaltic  
Experiments**

# FIELD OBSERVATIONS – VELOCITY



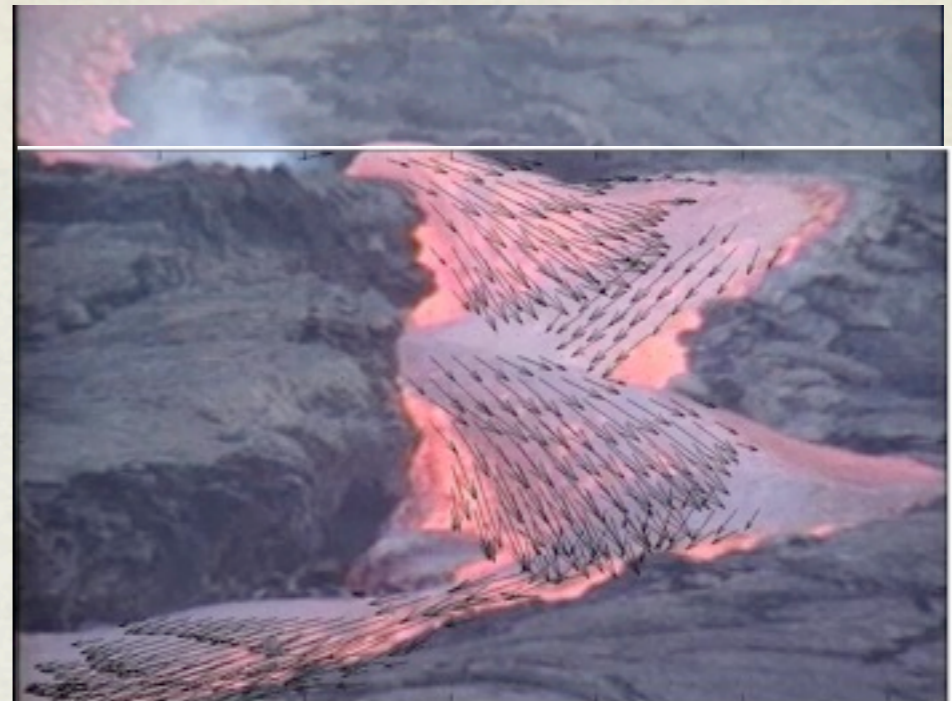
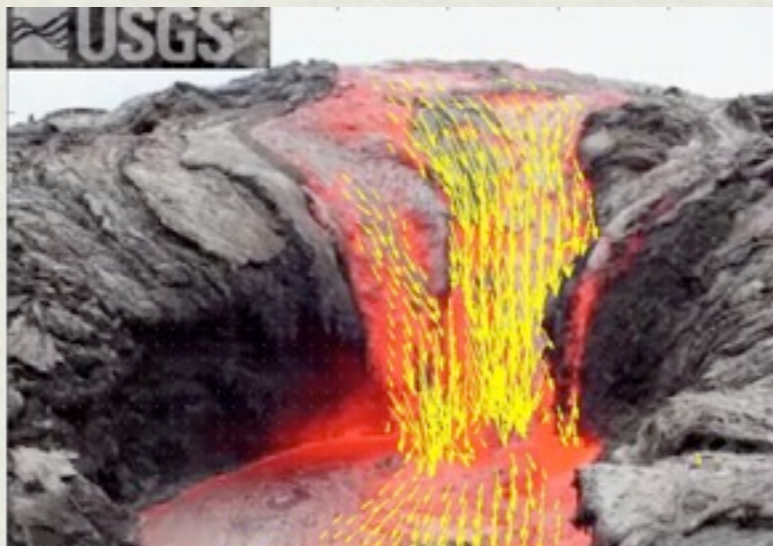
Lev et al., 2012

# FIELD OBSERVATIONS – VELOCITY



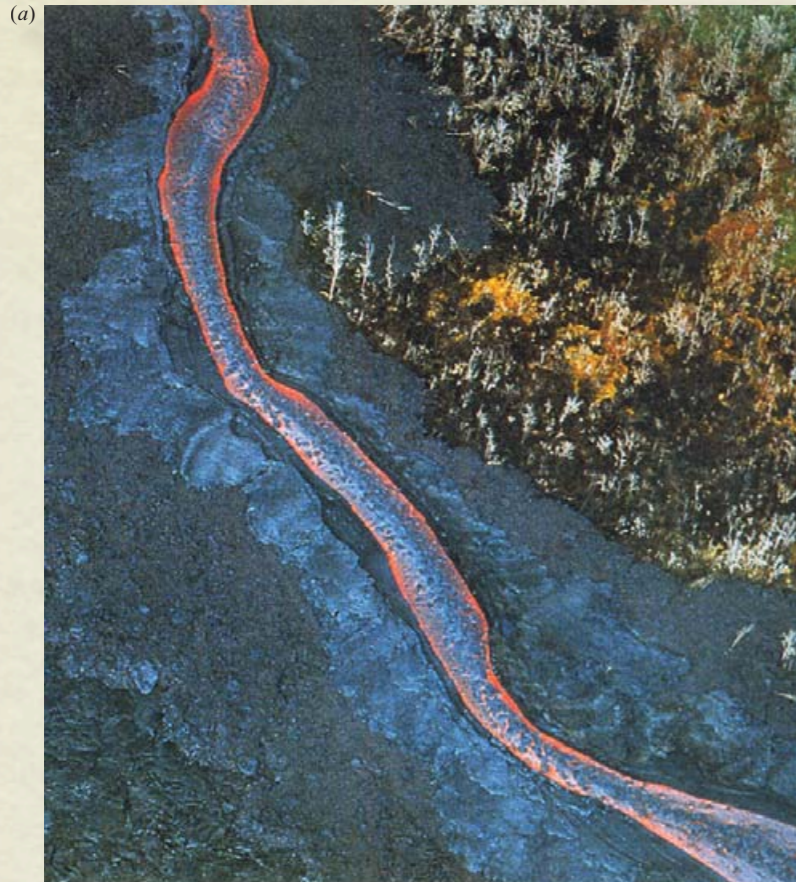
Lev et al., 2012

# FIELD OBSERVATIONS – VELOCITY



Lev et al., 2012

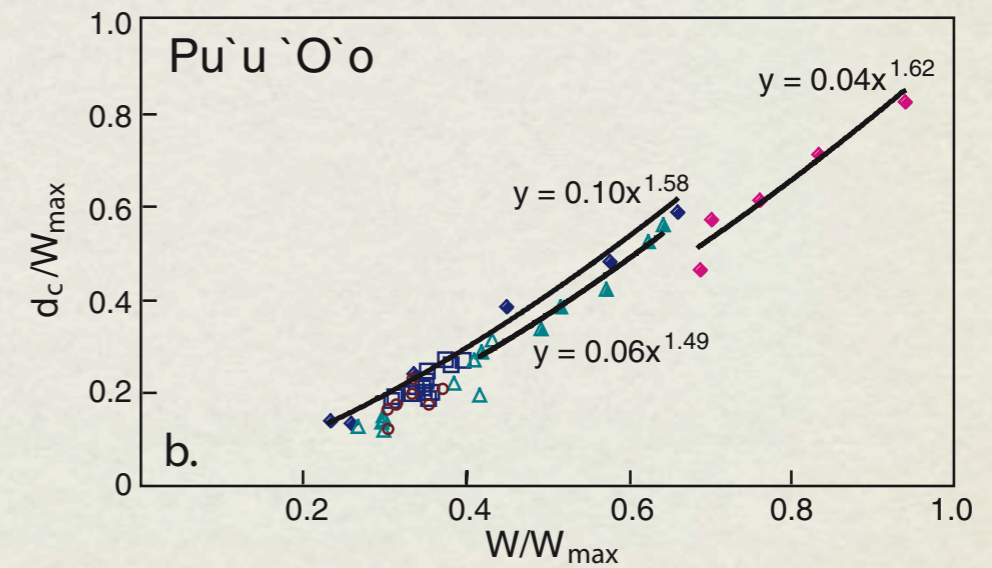
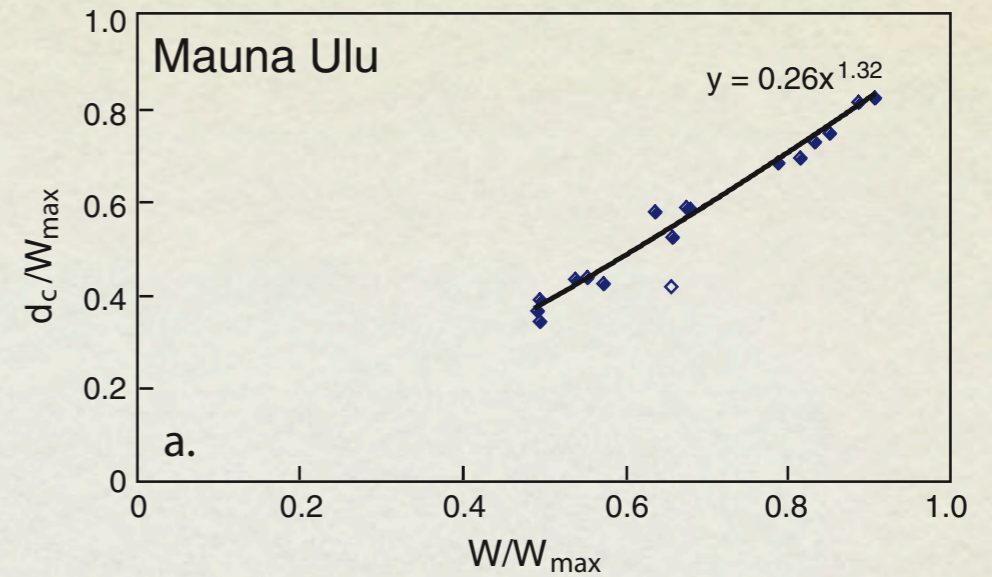
# FIELD OBSERVATIONS – CRUST COVER



from:  
Tilling et al. 1987

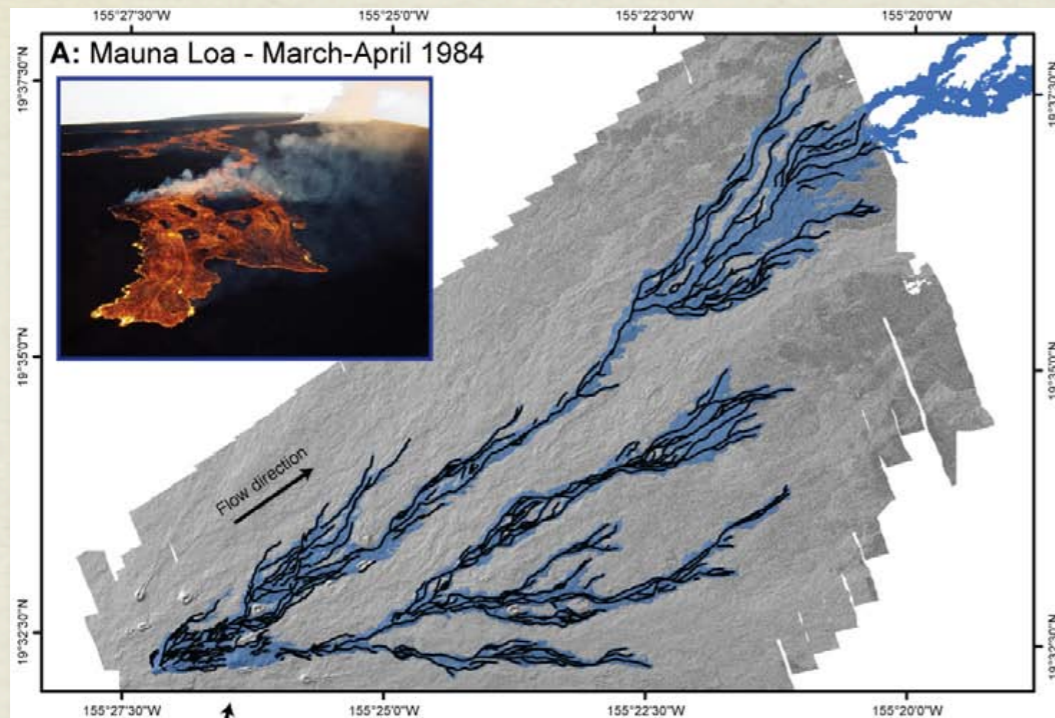


from:  
Italy's Volcanoes:  
The Cradle of  
Volcanology



Cashman et al., 2006

# FIELD OBSERVATIONS – CHANNELS



Bifurcation on many levels

Observables include:

- ▶ Flow morphology
- ▶ Channel morphology
- ▶ Crust cover



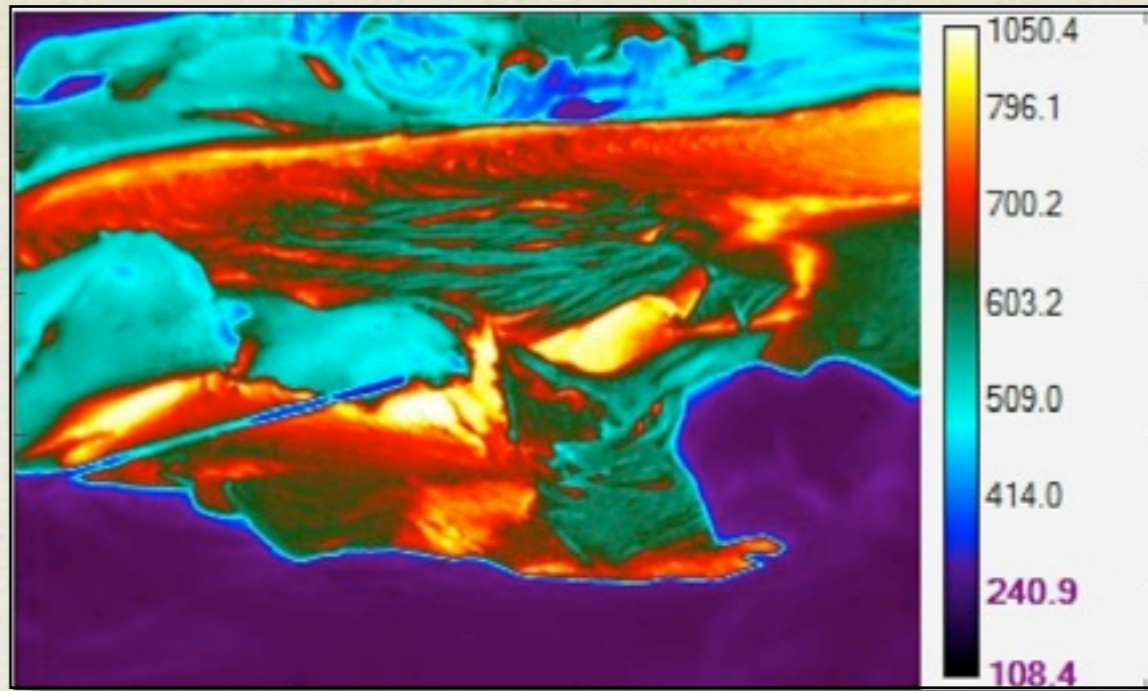
October 2007 obstacle movie



# FIELD OBSERVATIONS – THERMAL DATA

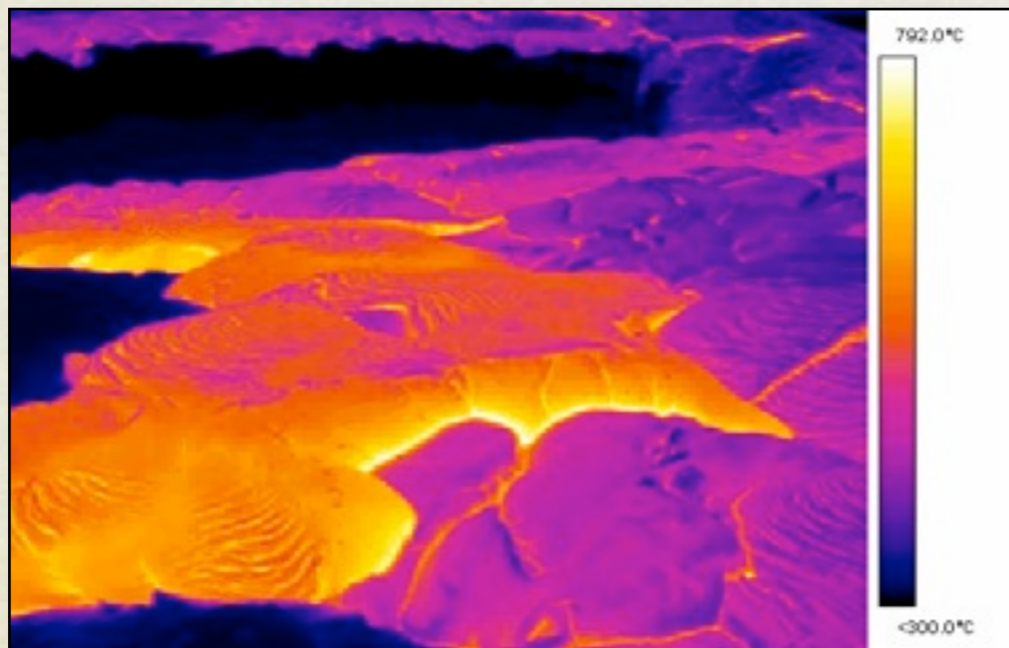
Pahoehoe channel+ropes

Kilauea (E. Lev)

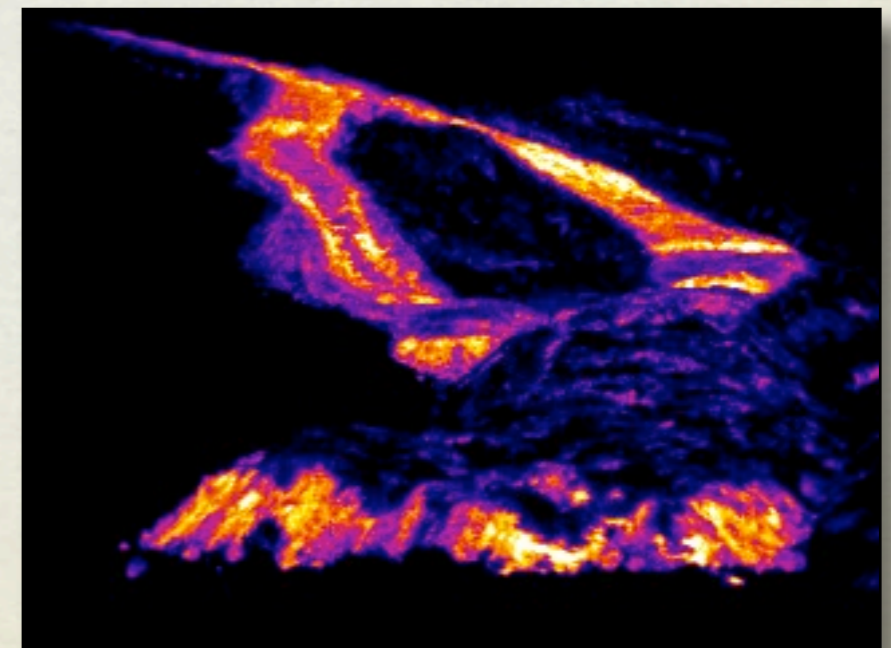


Discontinuous advance –  
crust breakage

Kilauea (M. Ramsey)



A'a channel+front, Etna (M. James)



# FIELD OBSERVATIONS — VISCOSITY

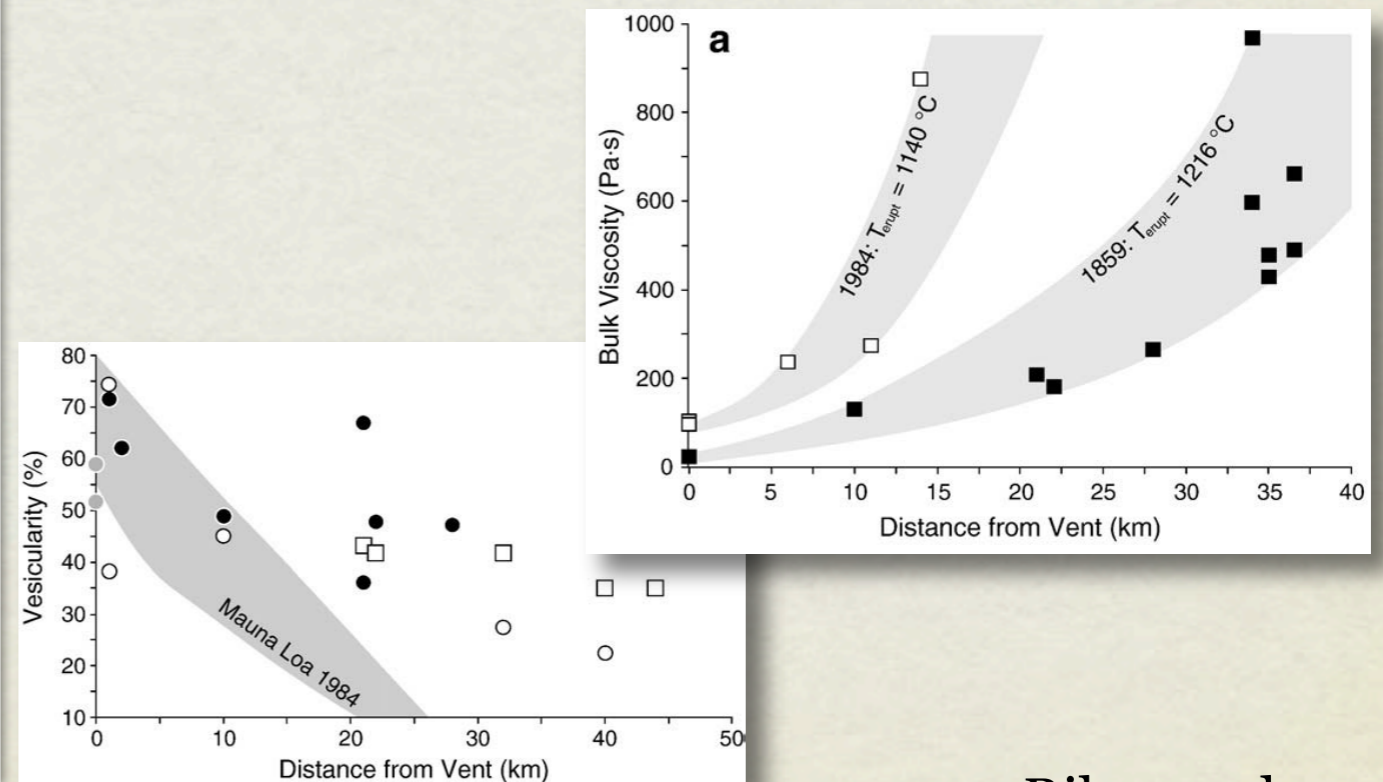
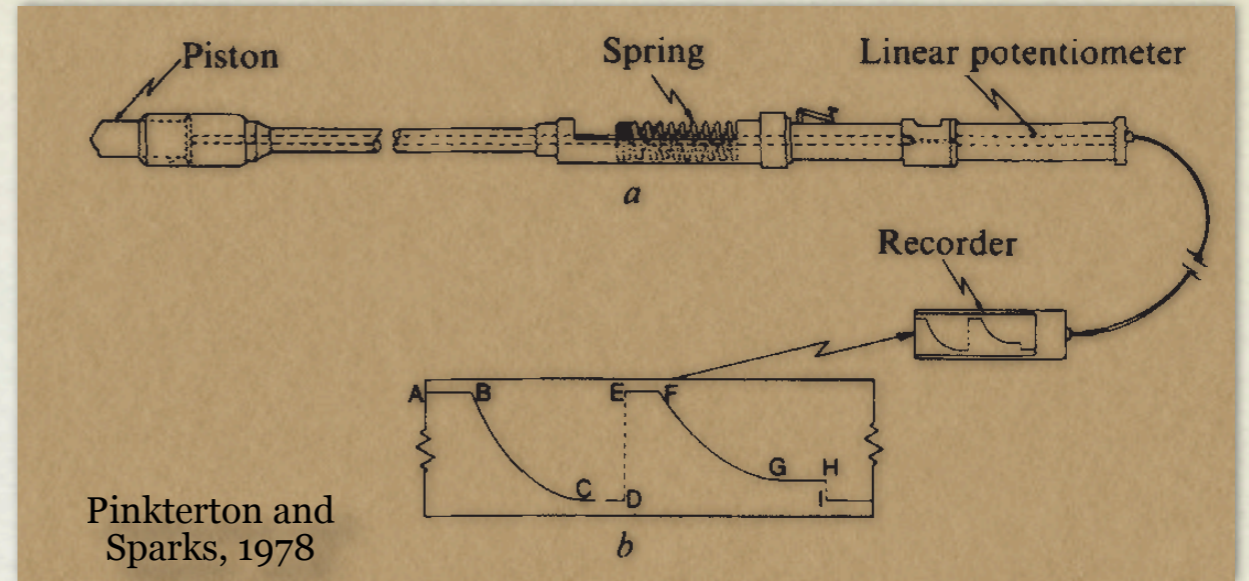
1558

VOLCANISM IN HAWAII

TABLE 57.3.—Dimensions and characteristics of lava channels and their changes with time, 1984 Mauna Loa eruption

[Locations of channel stations on figure 57.1B. Distance, spacing of measuring points along channel bank. Depths estimated; see text for details. PWL, Peter W. Lipman; NGB, Norman G. Banks]

Measurement	Date (mo/d)	Hour (H.s.t.)	Condition	Distance (m)	Time (s)	Velocity (m/s)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Flow rate (10 <sup>6</sup> m <sup>3</sup> /h)	Comments
<b>Station 1: Lower channel 1A, elevation 1,600 m</b>										
1	3/31	1130	stable	18	19	0.95	24	5	0.410	Conspicuous marginal shears, with velocities about 1 m/min, next to central well-defined channel. Channel velocities slow during surges which contain more viscous material. Maximum velocities occur just after surges. Gradient about 3°.
2	3/31	1200	surge	18	22	.82	24	5	.355	
3	4/01	1200	--	18	28	.64	35	5	.405	Channel less defined than on 3/31, more choked with viscous debris. Although relatively steep gradient (about 5°) has migrated about 50 m downstream, adjacent to measurement site, velocities have still slowed. Because channel zone seems wider, flow rates have changed less than velocities. Measured by PWL and E. Wolfe.
4	4/01	1300	--	18	30	.60	35	5	.385	
5	4/02	1200	full	15	60	.25	40	6	.215	Channel less well defined than on 4/01, and choked with rubble; velocities much slowed. Measured by PWL, J. Fink, and H. Moore.
6	4/02	1230	low	15	110	.14	40	6	.120	
7	4/03	1520	slow	25	140	.18	52	5	.170	New station; old one unusable because of inboard levees. Top of active channel varies, 3 m below to 1 m above levees. Gradient 4.5°. Measured by NGB.
8	4/03	1550	normal	25	80	.31	52	5	.290	
9	4/03	1645	surge	25	90	.28	52	7	.364	
10	4/04	1350	--	25	163	.15	50	5	.138	Measured by NGB.
<b>Station 2: Upper channel 1A, elevation 1,700 m</b>										
11	4/03	1430	stable	15	45	.33	50	5	.295	Measured by PWL, J. Fink, and H. Moore.
12	4/03	1530	surge	15	30	.50	50	5	.450	
13	4/04	1345	stable	15	45	.3	25	5	.150	Sensitive to release of ponded lava at 1,800-m blockage. Surge provides upper limit in flow rate; estimates for stable periods likely to be more meaningful. Gradient about 4°. Measured by PWL, T. Neal, and H. Moore.
14	4/04	1430	stable	15	40	.4	25	5	.170	
15	4/04	1500	surge	15	25	.6	25	5	.270	
<b>Station 3: Lower Powerline Road (flow 1, south side), elevation 1,800 m</b>										
16	3/28	1310-1335		73	84	0.87	75	5	1.20	Depth fluctuations of as much as 2-3 m in 5 min, associated with surges; channel in two branches—only southern strand measured; channel broad, measured by visual aerial comparison with distance between power poles. Channel gradient about 2.5°. Measured by PWL and D. Clague.
17	3/28	1535-1605		73	80	.91	75	5	1.25	
<b>Station 3: Lower Powerline Road (flow 1B), elevation 1,800 m</b>										
18	4/06	1400	--	25	210	0.12	25	4	0.043	The channel flow slowed, and its upper surface subsided as we made these measurements. When checked an hour later, the head of flow 1B was captured by other overflows, and its channel was drained and empty. Gradient: 2.5°. Measured by PWL and T. Neal.
<b>Station 4: Upper Powerline Road (site 1), elevation 1,900 m</b>										
19	3/29	1300	blocks	30.2	25	1.20	13	6	0.335	Channel is within a gentle stretch related to large overflows and temporary ponding; probably deep as result. Higher velocities in center channel tend to push blocks to sides; more consistent measurements of maximum velocities obtained from small fragments in center channel. Channel gradient about 2.5°. Measured by PWL and E. Wolfe.
20	3/29	1400	fragments	30.2	18	2.75	13	6	.470	
21	3/31	1430	stable	30.2	23	1.3	13	6	.365	All measurements on small fast-moving fragments in center channel; lower level at 22 (about 1 m below levees) because of slightly higher gradient after drainage of ponded blockage downchannel. Gradient about 2.5°. Measured by PWL, NGB, and J. Fink.
22	3/31	1530	low	30.2	18	1.7	13	6	.470	
23	4/01	0830	stable	30.2	18	1.7	13	6	.470	Channel is sluggish and viscous; shear and pressure ridges are weakly developed on nearly stagnant channel sides. Measured by PWL and E. Wolfe. Levees have increased in height about 2 m and largely obscure view of the channel; could only measure large boats during high stand of channel. Measured by PWL, J. Fink, and H. Moore.
24	4/01	0930	blockage	30.2	19.5	1.6	13	6	.435	
25	4/02	1700	--	30.2	31	1.0	15	7	.370	
26	4/03	1000	--	30.2	32.1	.94	18.3	7	.431	Levee height is 2.3 m above top of old ponded broad as channel. Surge caused spreading of levee by 1 m in 15 min. Measured by NGB.
<b>Station 4: Upper Powerline Road (site 2), elevation 1,930 m</b>										
27	4/02	1600	--	20	9.5	2.1	14	4	0.455	New site, above upper cascade. Gradient about 3.5°. Measured by PWL, J. Fink, and H. Moore.
28	4/03	1320	--	20	12.6	1.6	14	5	.399	
<b>Station 4: Upper Powerline Road (site 2A), elevation 1,930 m</b>										
29	4/04	1200	--	23	12.3	1.9	15	5	0.500	Measured lava boats; low gradient due to blockages at head of middle cascade. Measured by PWL, T. Neal, and H. Moore.
<b>Station 4: Upper Powerline Road (site 3), elevation 1,900 m</b>										
30	4/04	1120	boats	20	7.5	2.7	15	4	0.580	Boats are sparse; channel level is 0.5-1 m below recent levee overflows. Gradient about 3°. Measured by PWL, T. Neal, and H. Moore.
31	4/04	1130	fragments	20	8.1	2.5	15	4	.530	
32	4/04	1140	fragments, surge	20	7.2	2.8	15	4	.600	
33	4/05	1100	--	20	9	2.2	20	4	.640	



Riker et al. 2009

Lipman and Banks, 1987

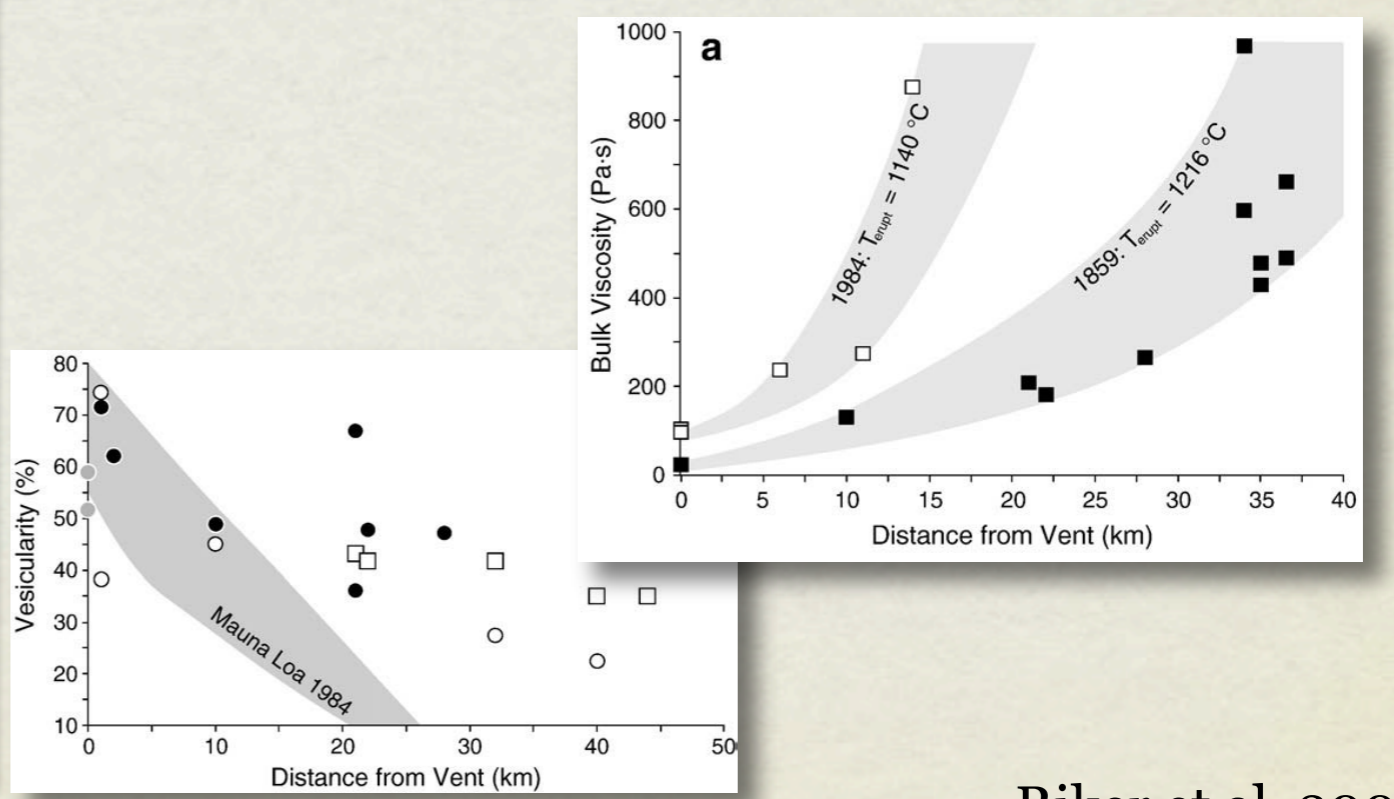
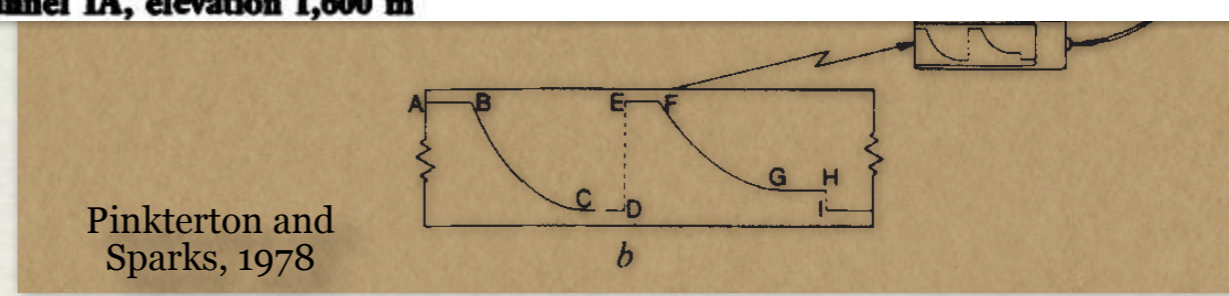
Friday, July 26, 2013

# FIELD OBSERVATIONS — VISCOSITY

TABLE 57.3.—Dimensions and characteristics of lava channels and their changes with time, 1984 Mauna Loa eruption

[Locations of channel stations on figure 57.1B. Distance, spacing of measuring points along channel bank. Depths estimated; see text for details. PWL, Peter W. Lipman; NGB, Norman G. Banks]

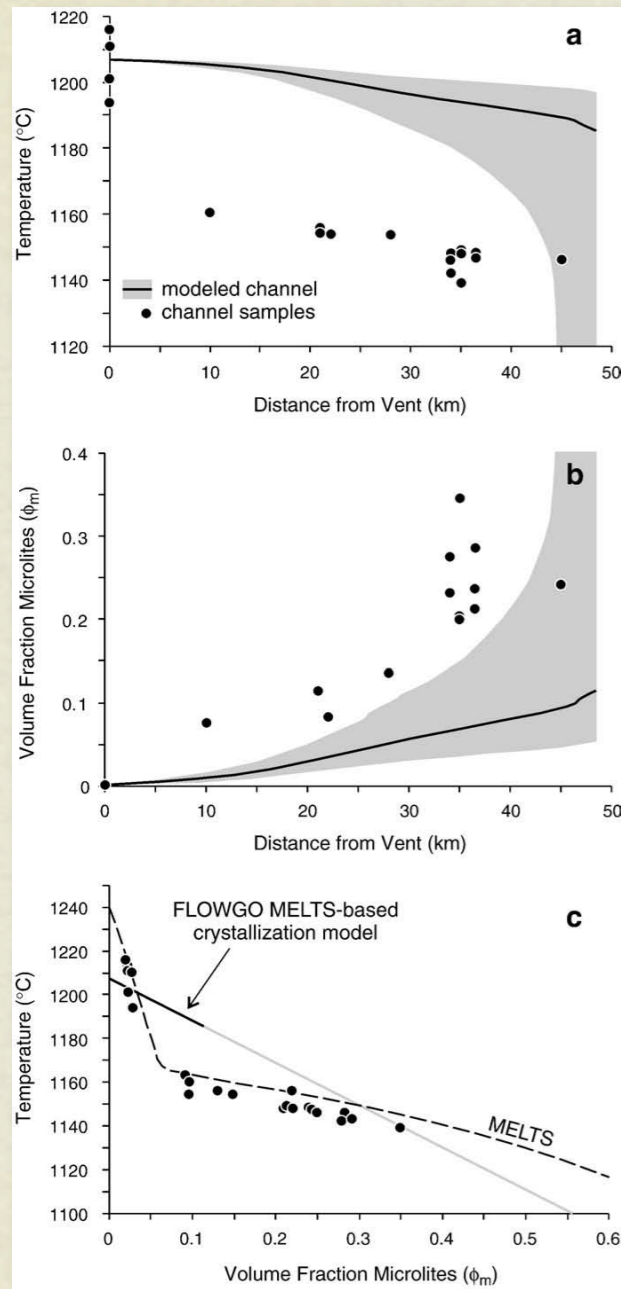
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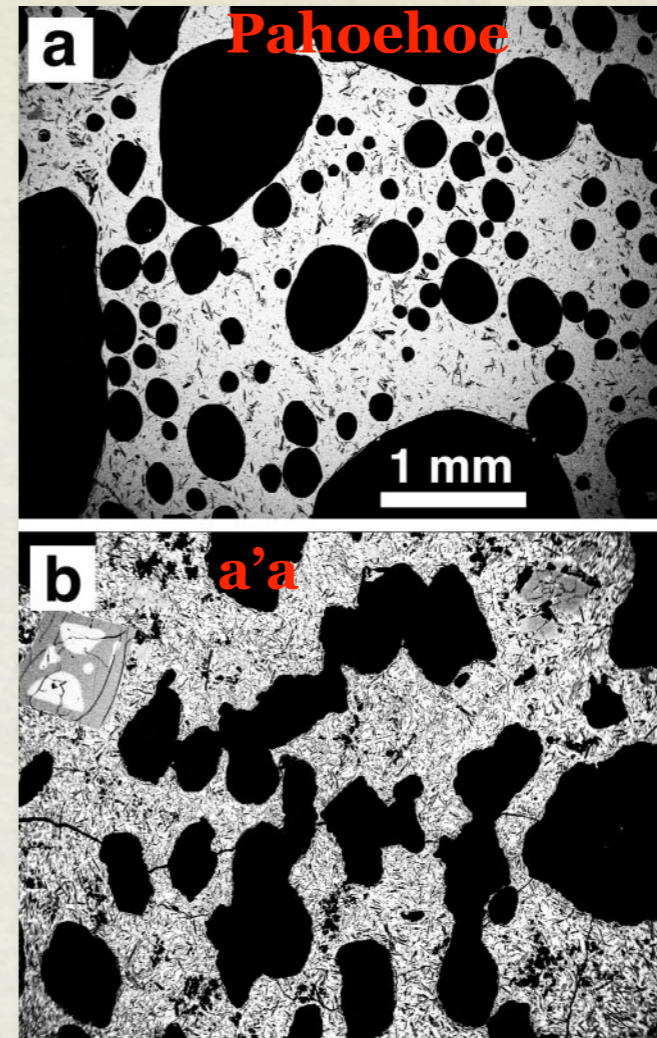
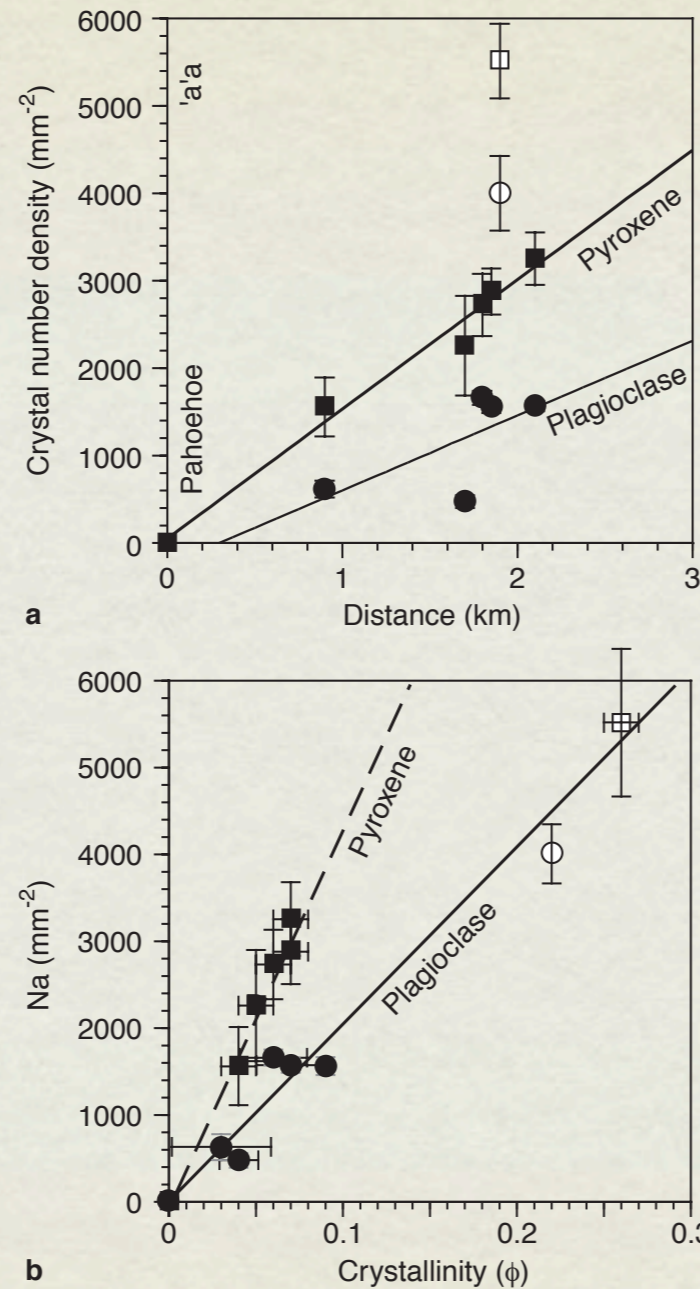
Riker et al. 2009

Lipman and Banks, 1987

# FIELD OBSERVATIONS – CRYSTALS AND BUBBLES



Riker et al. 2009  
Kilauea 1859 flow



Casham et al. 1999  
Kilauea 1997 flow

# WILL DISCUSS CONSTRAINTS FROM:

**Natural  
Flows**

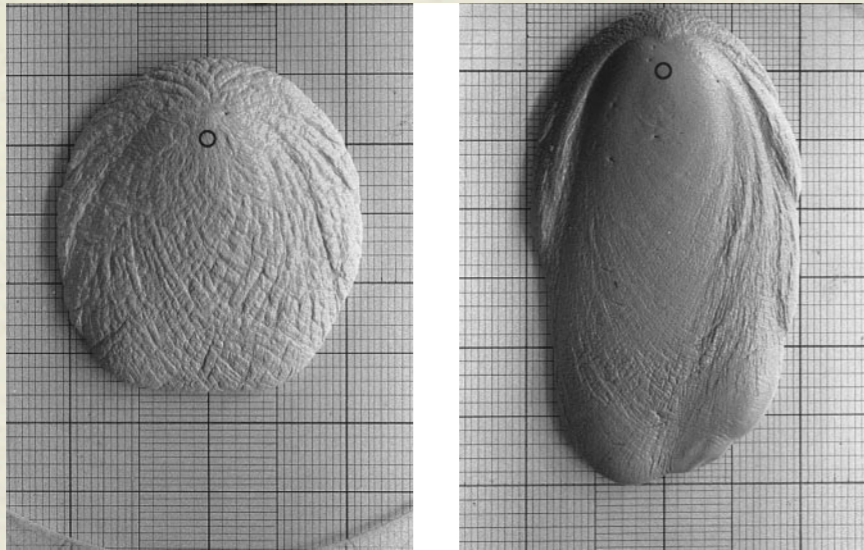
**Analogue  
Experiments**

**Basaltic  
Experiments**

# ANALOGUE EXPERIMENTS – QUANTITATIVE, CONTROLLED

## Isothermal

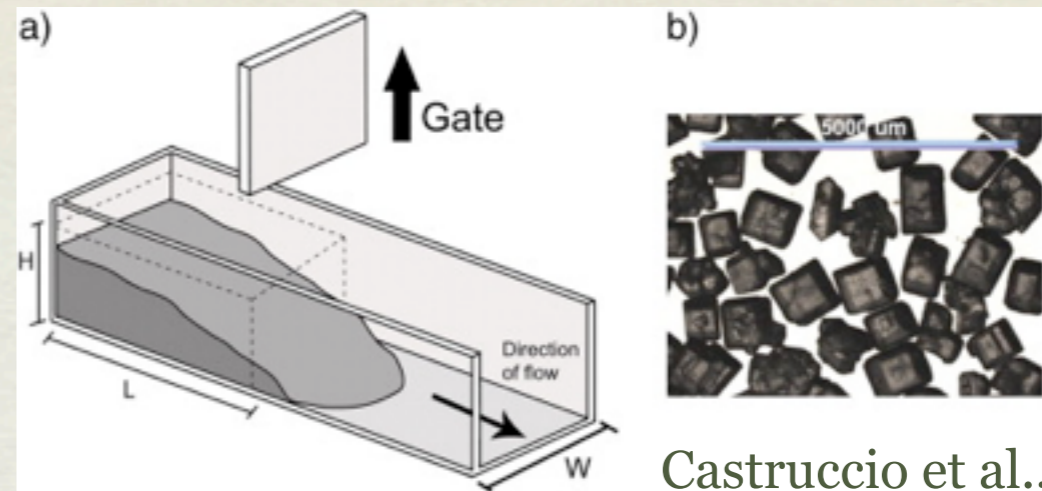
Osmond & Griffiths 1998)



Kaolin/water slurry, slope  $b=12$  deg

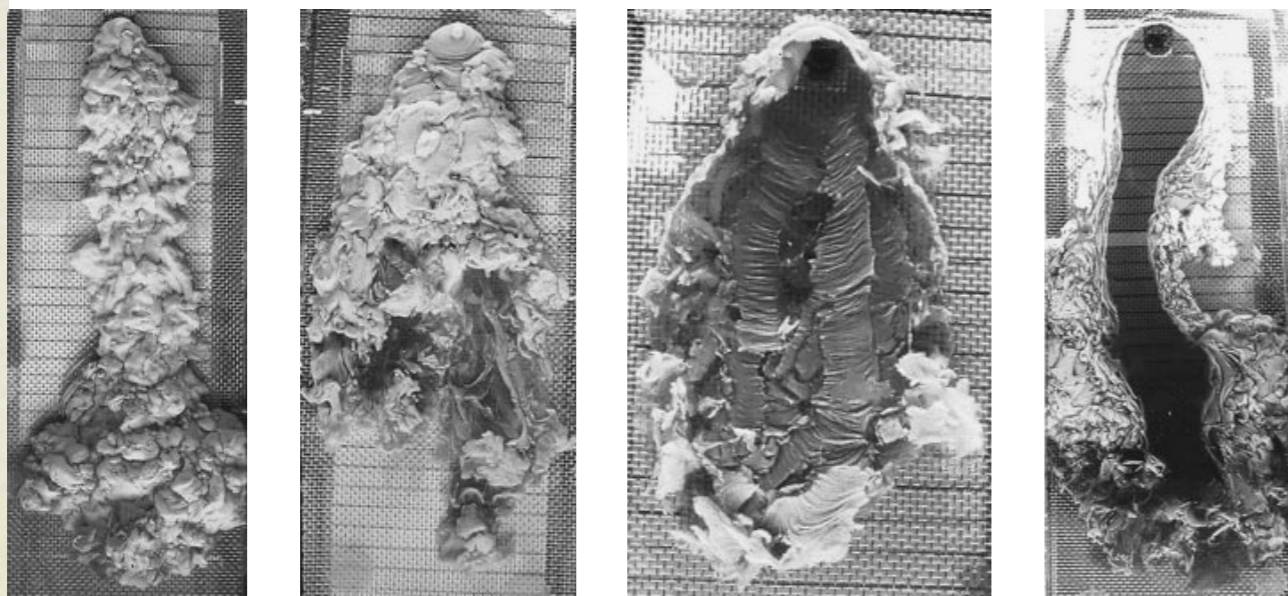
Kaolin/PEG slurry, slope  $b=18$  deg

## With crystals



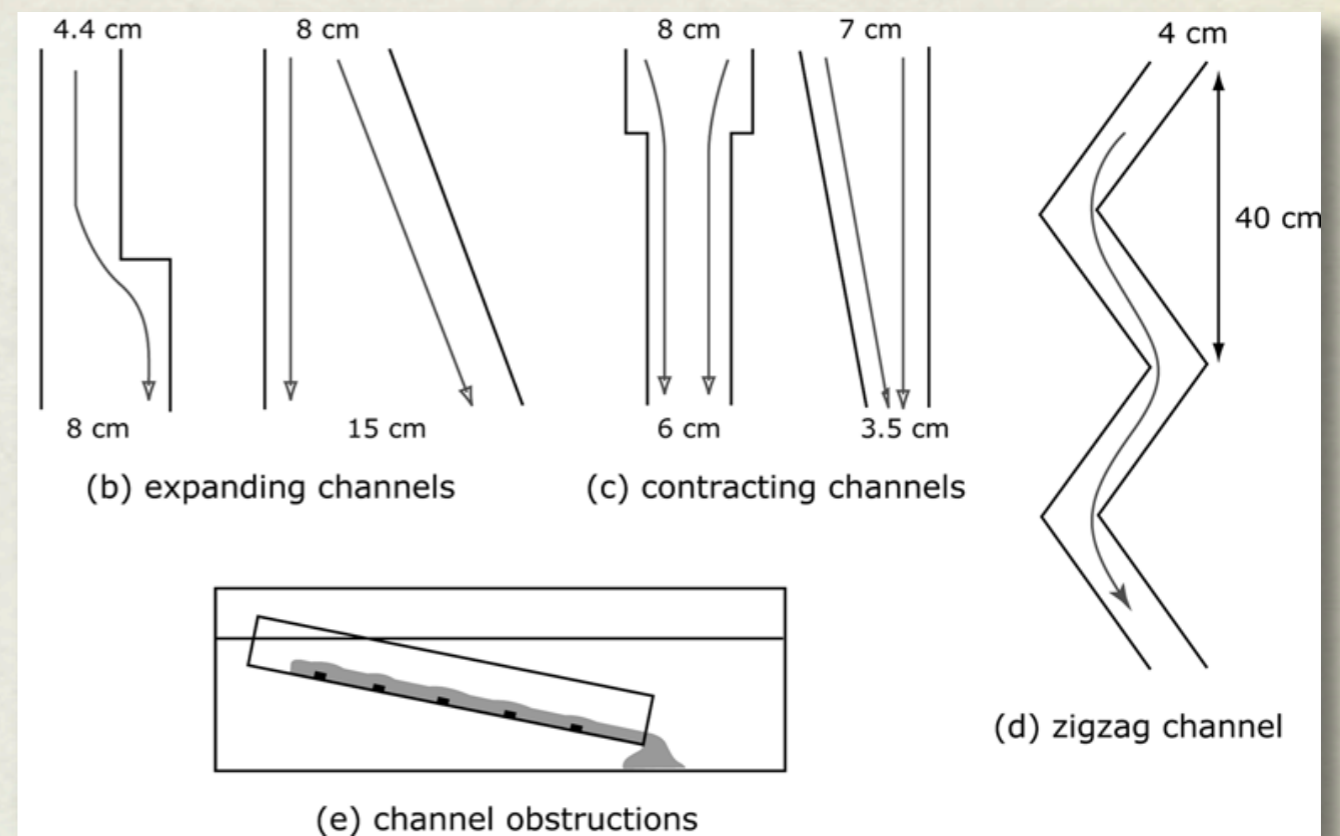
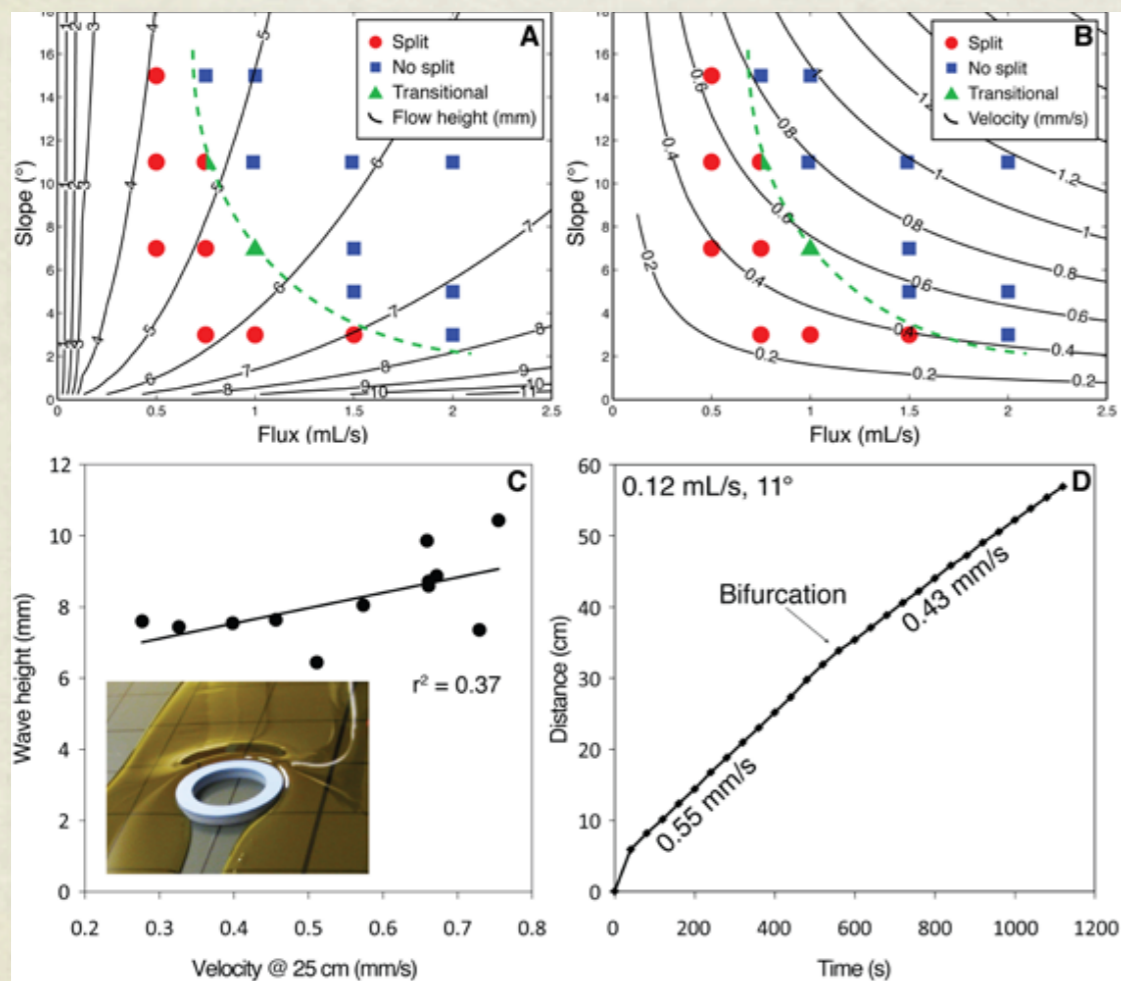
Castruccio et al., 2010

## With cooling and crusting



Griffiths et al., 2003

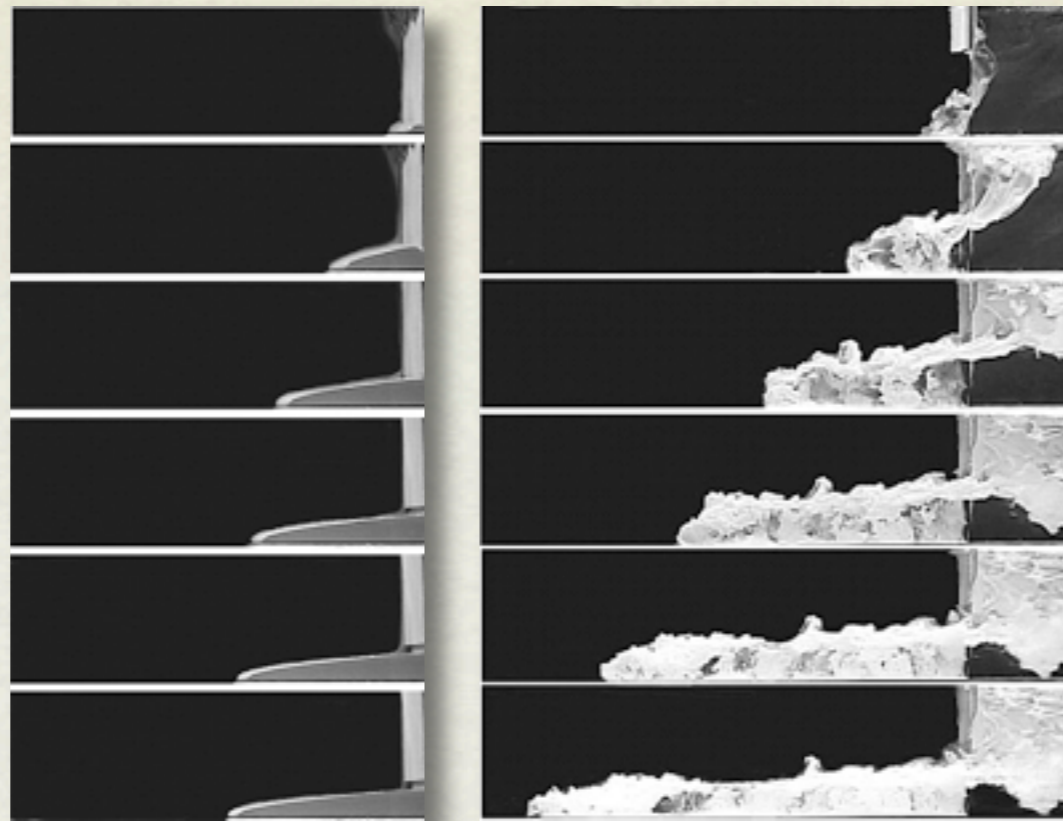
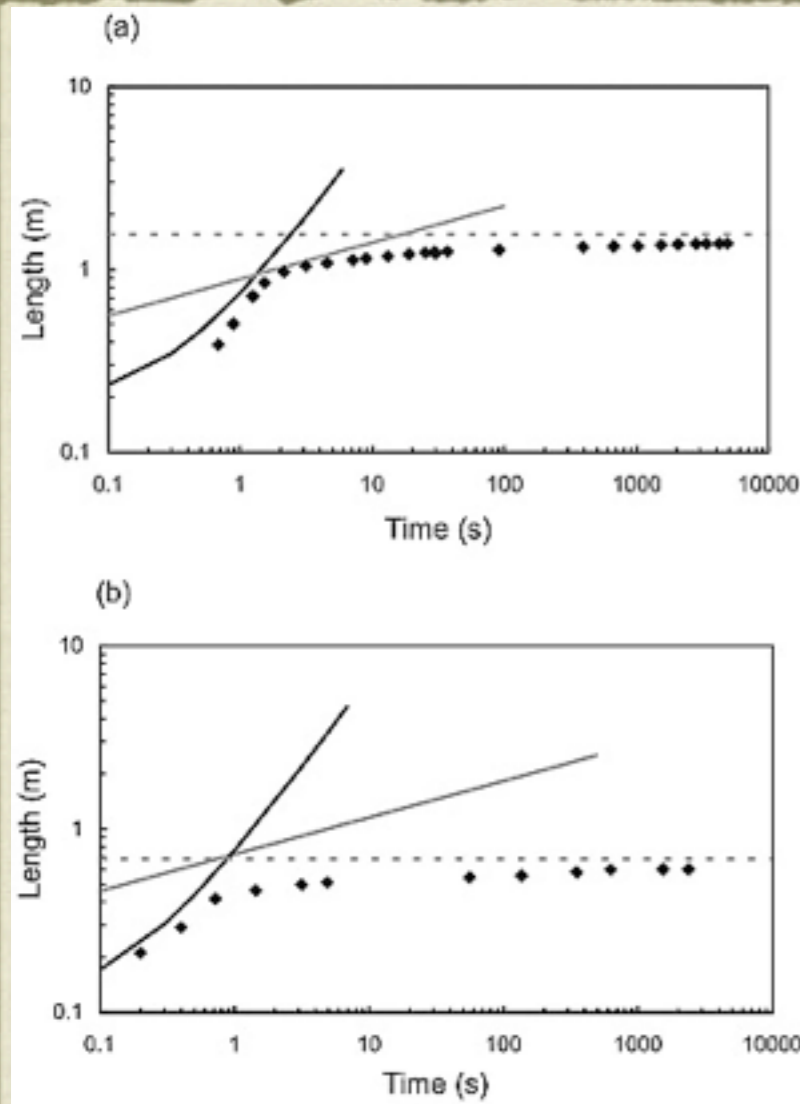
# ANALOGUE EXPERIMENTS – COMPLEX GEOMETRIES



Cashman et al. 2006

Dietterich and Cashman

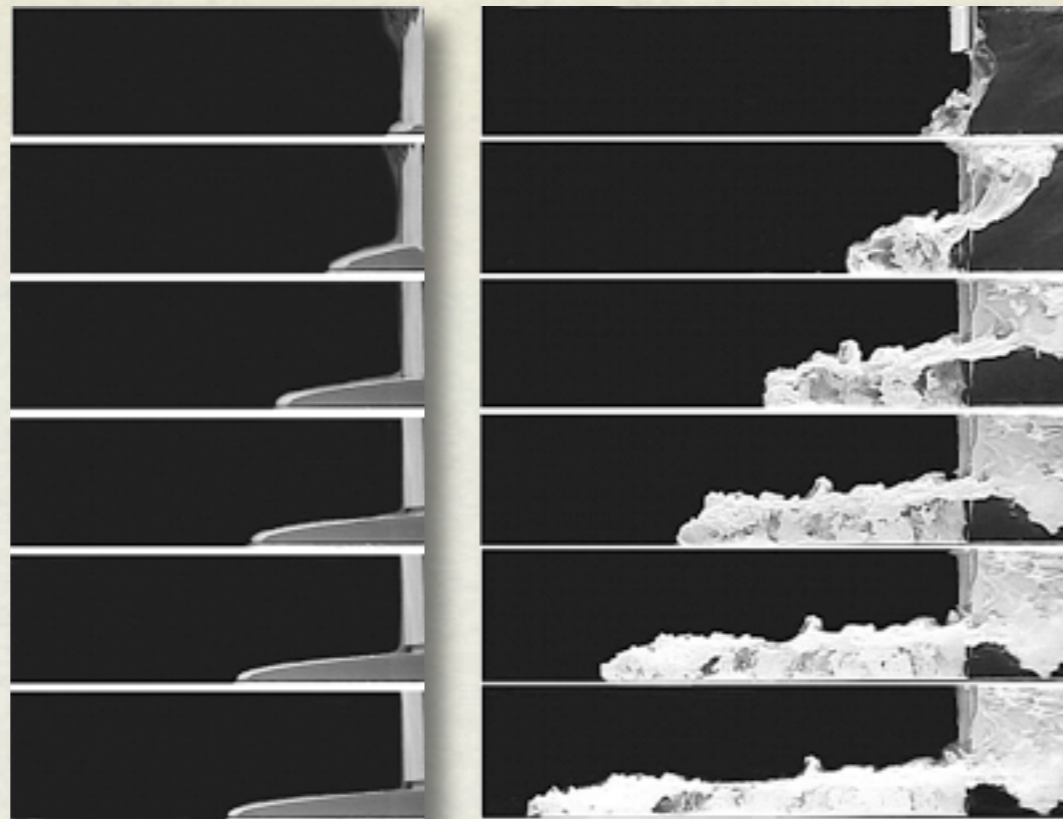
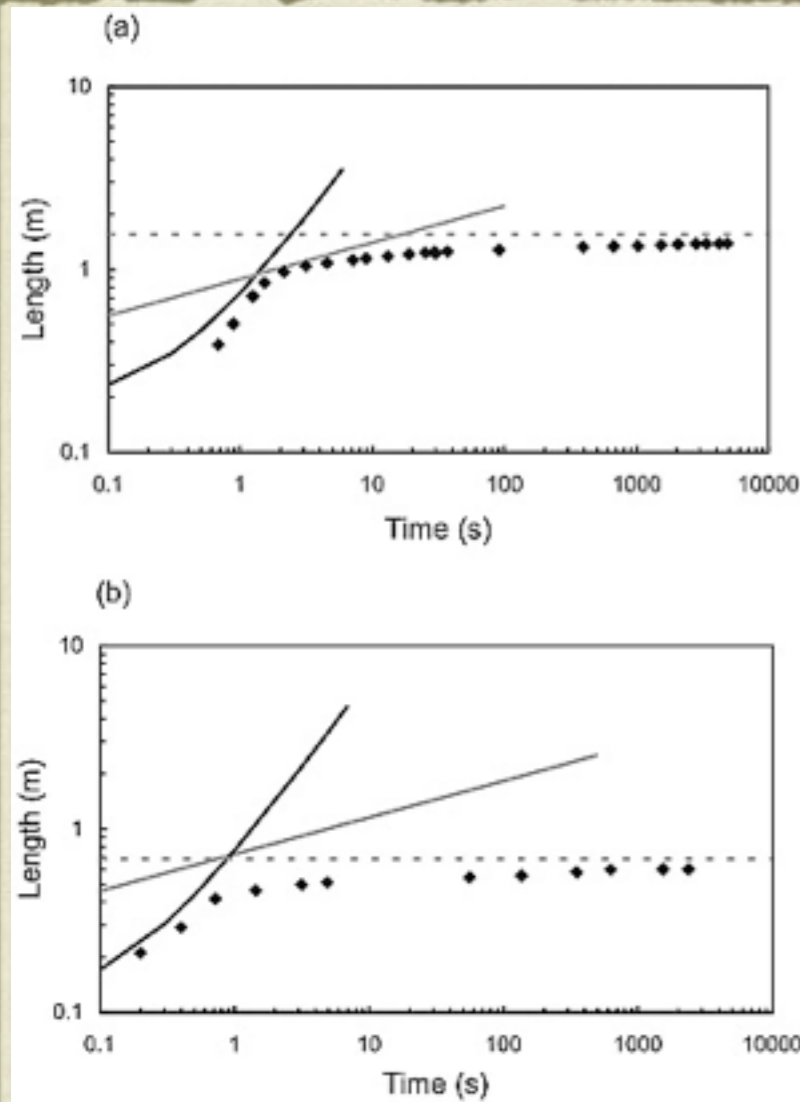
# ANALOGUE EXPERIMENTS – QUANTITATIVE, CONTROLLED



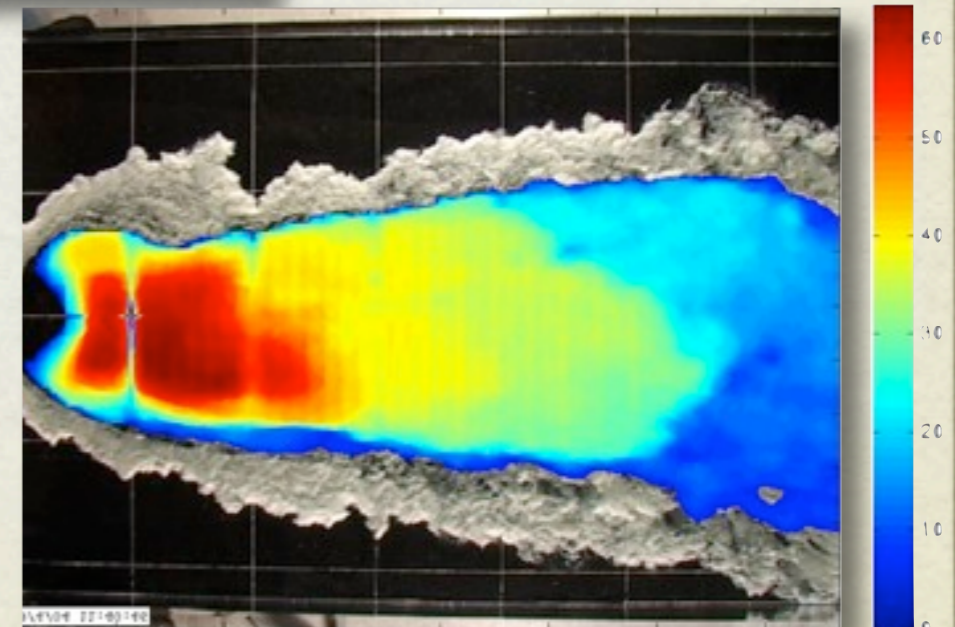
Lyman et al. 2005



# ANALOGUE EXPERIMENTS – QUANTITATIVE, CONTROLLED

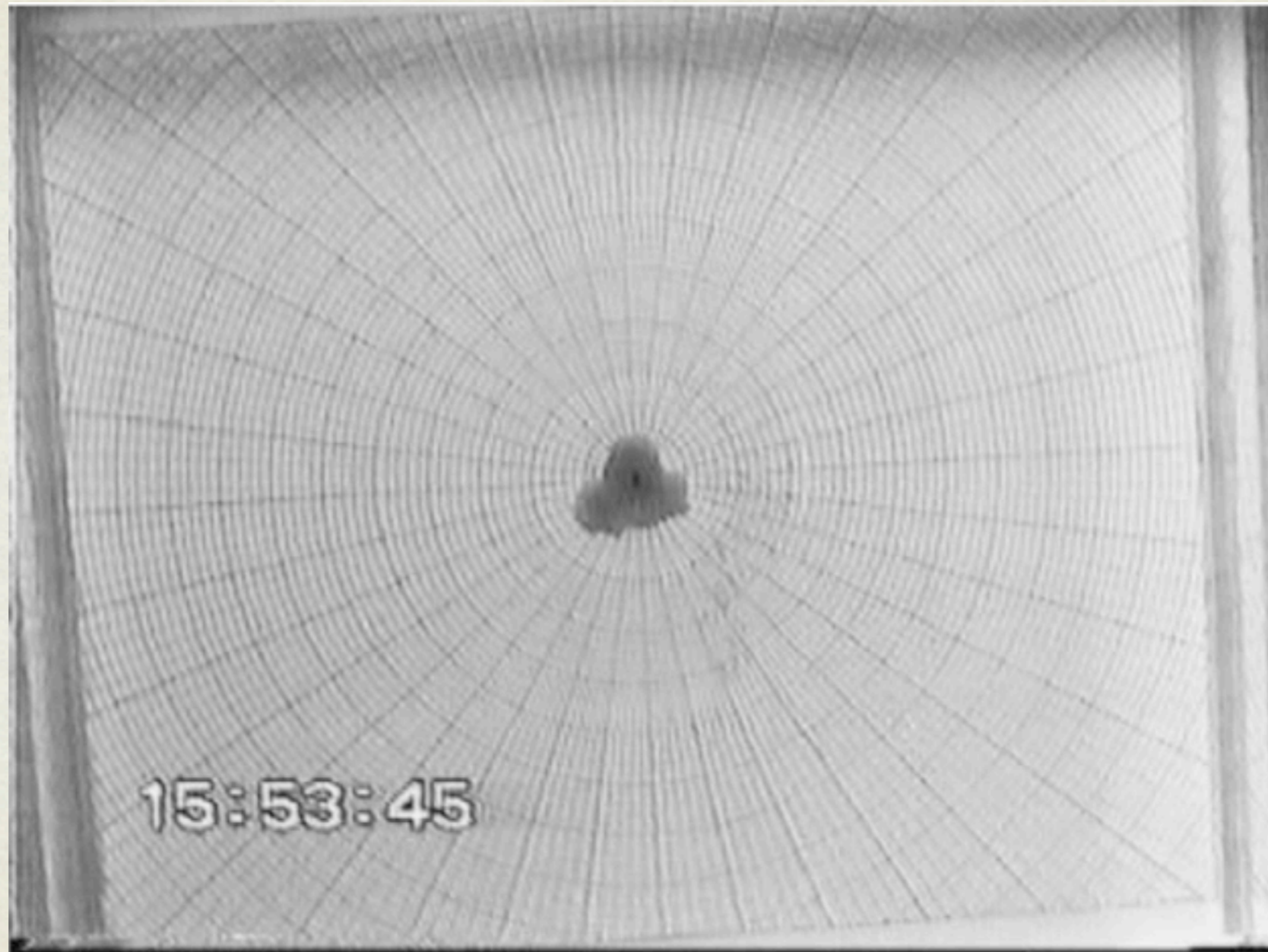


Using Optical Flow  
(Lev et al., 2012)



# ANALOGUE EXPERIMENTS – QUANTITATIVE, CONTROLLED

Discontinuous advance – Crustal breakage



Blake and Bruno, 2000

# WILL DISCUSS CONSTRAINTS FROM:

**Natural  
Flows**

**Analogue  
Experiments**

**Basaltic  
Experiments**

# BASALT EXPERIMENTS



# BASALT EXPERIMENTS

Source material –  
Mid-continent Basalts

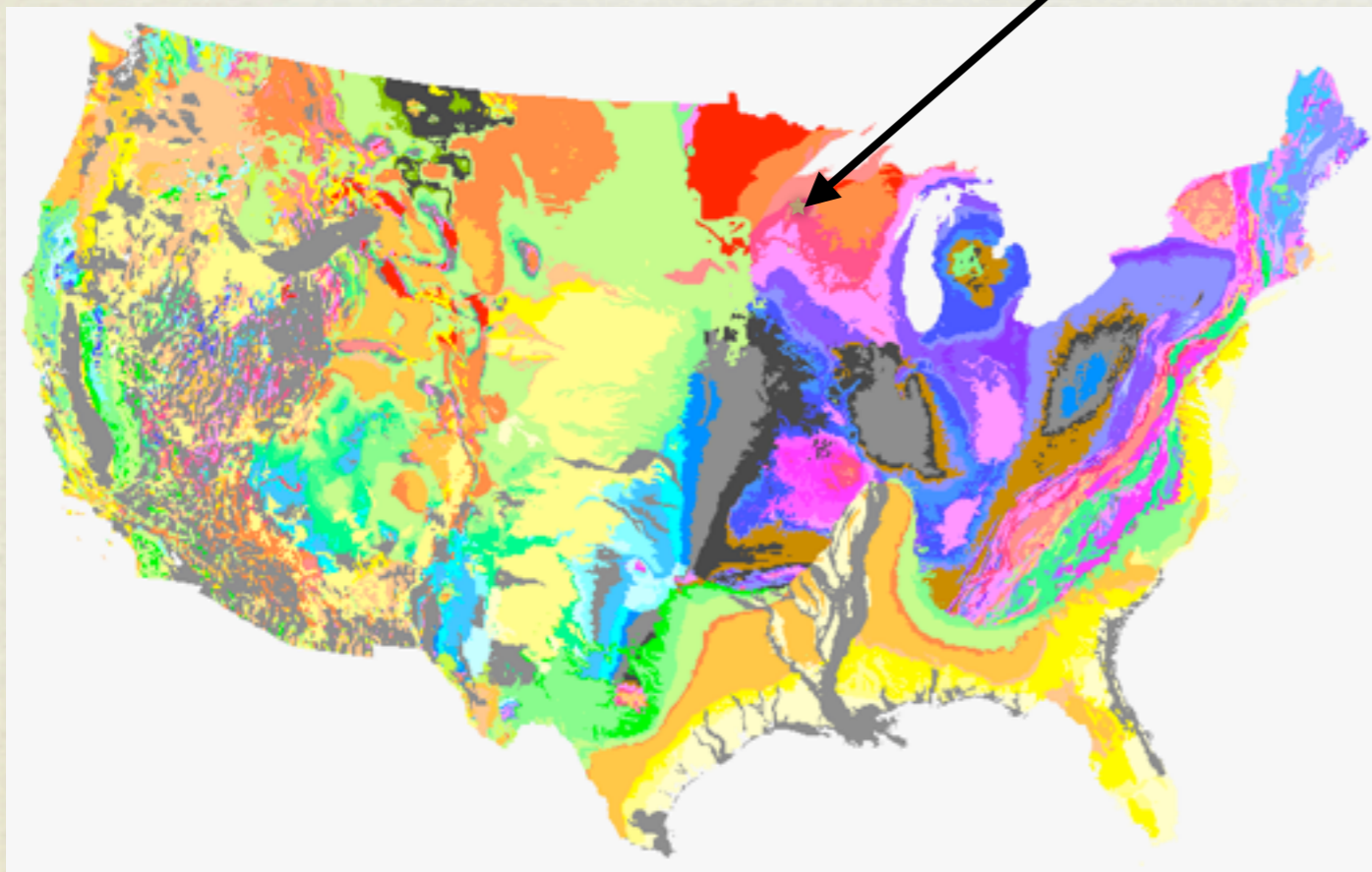


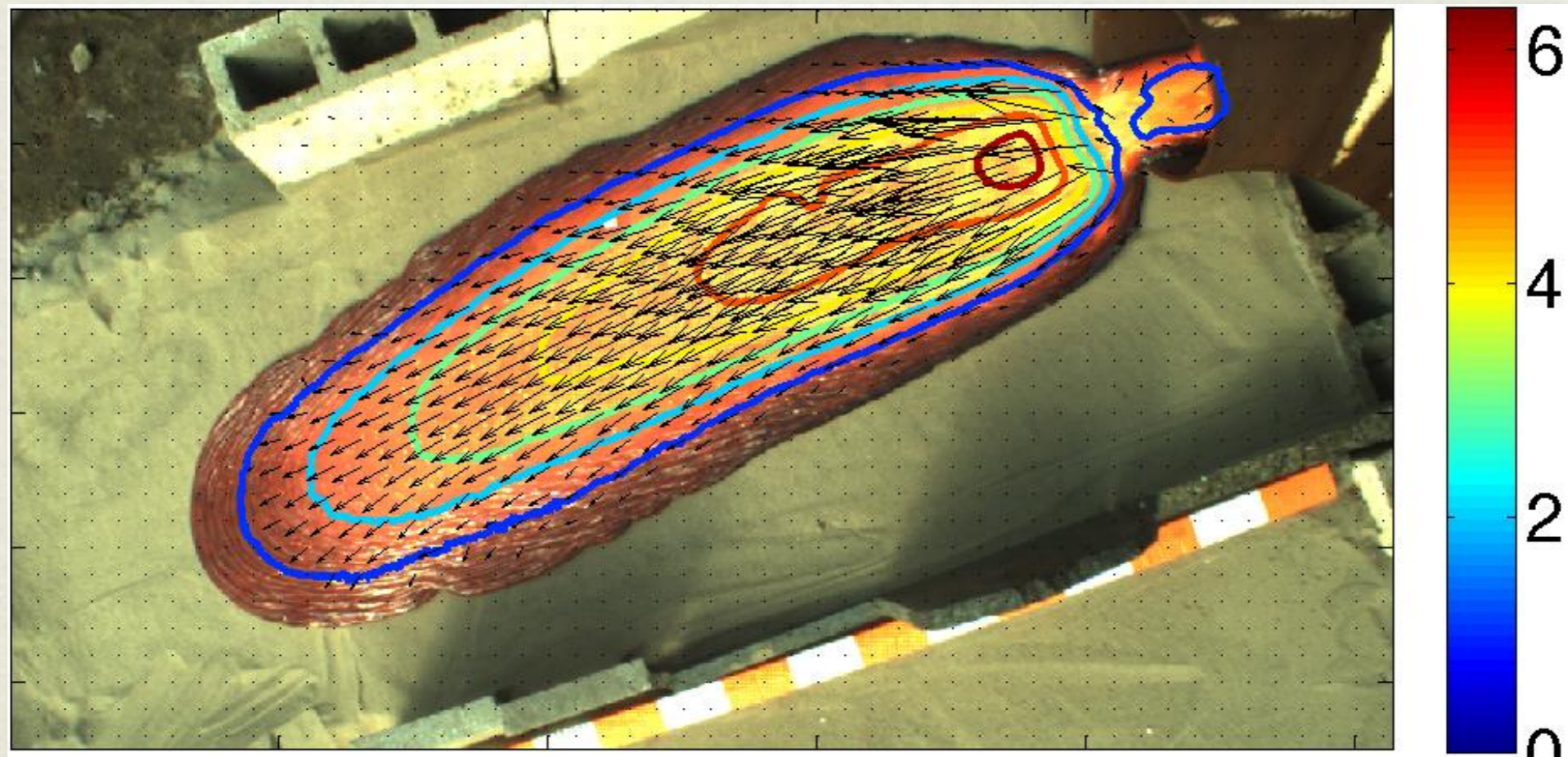
Table 1. Representative analyses of basalt and section  
Falls and Clam Falls region.

	basalt KC-1b	basalt KC-7	basalt KC-70
SiO <sub>2</sub>	47.60	48.30	48.13
TiO <sub>2</sub>	1.69	1.71	2.64
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	15.57	15.65	14.07
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	13.34	13.61	16.40
MnO	0.19	0.19	0.21
MgO	7.48	6.69	5.17
CaO	8.14	9.56	8.41
Na <sub>2</sub> O	2.38	2.60	2.45
K <sub>2</sub> O	1.13	0.55	1.43
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	0.16	0.19	0.31
LOI	3.09	1.63	1.25
Total	100.77	100.68	100.47
Mg#	0.57	0.43	0.42

Institute of Lake Superior  
Geology Field trip guide, 1998

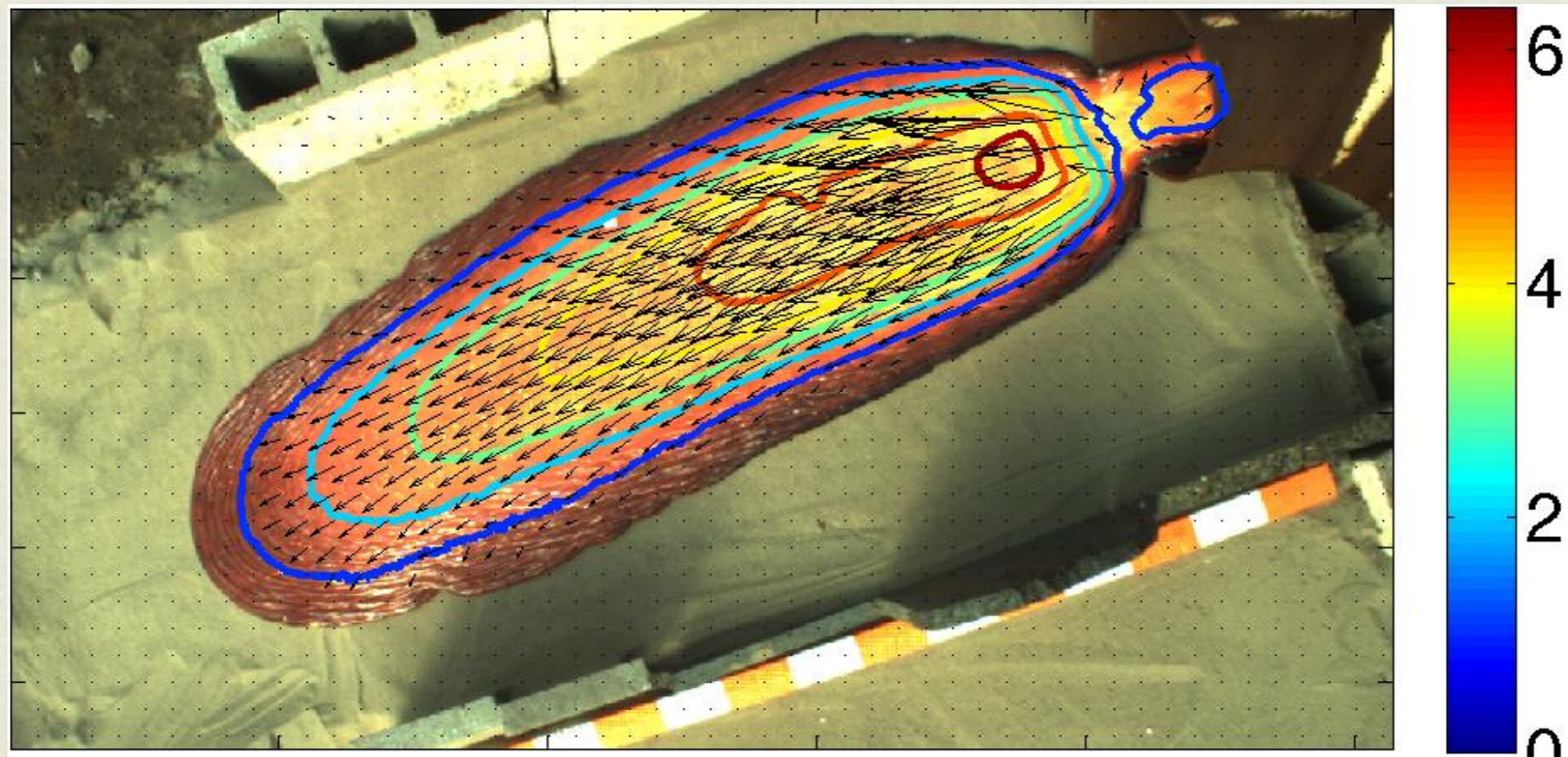
# BASALT EXPERIMENTS – VELOCITY, GEOMETRY

Unconfined flows on sand



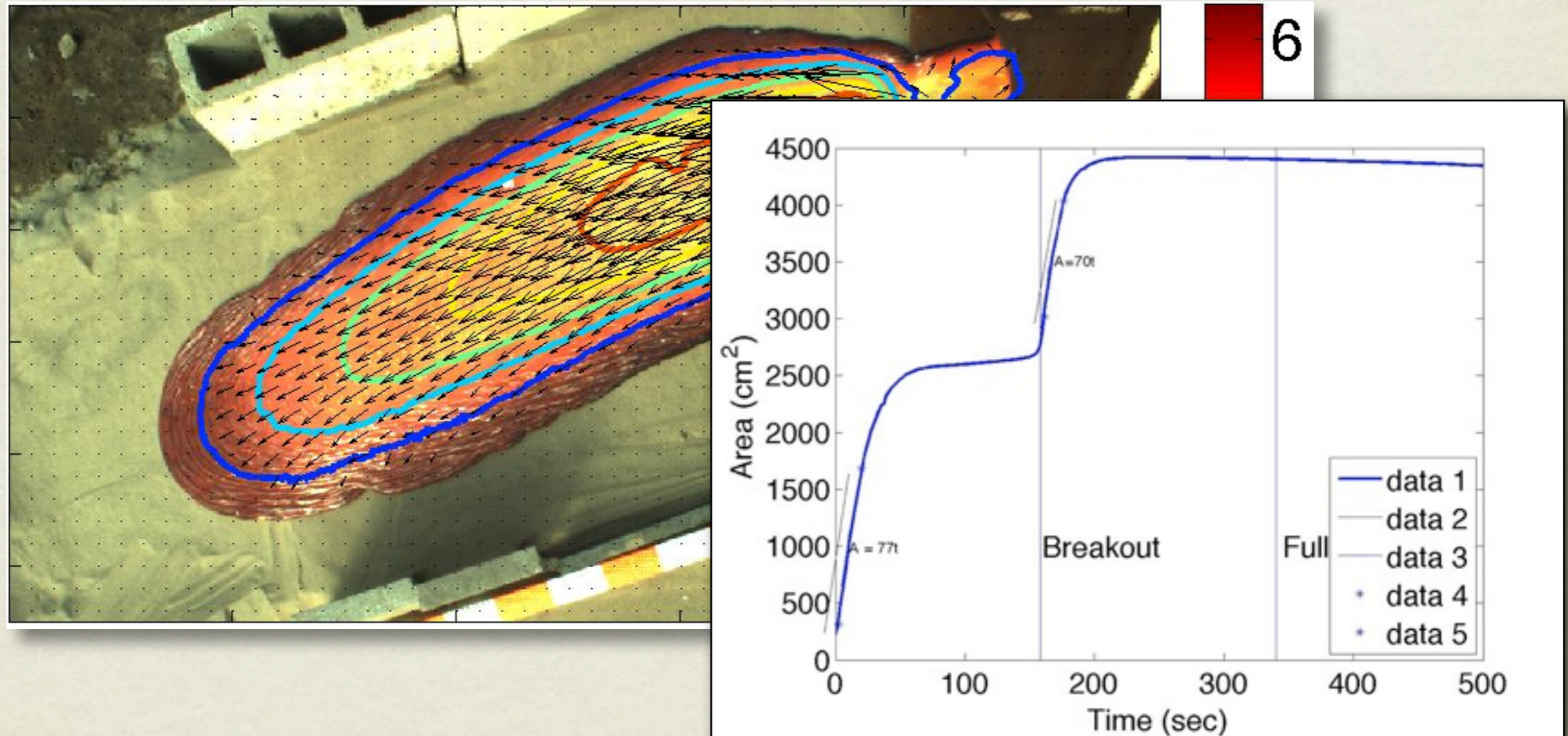
# BASALT EXPERIMENTS – VELOCITY, GEOMETRY

Unconfined flows on sand



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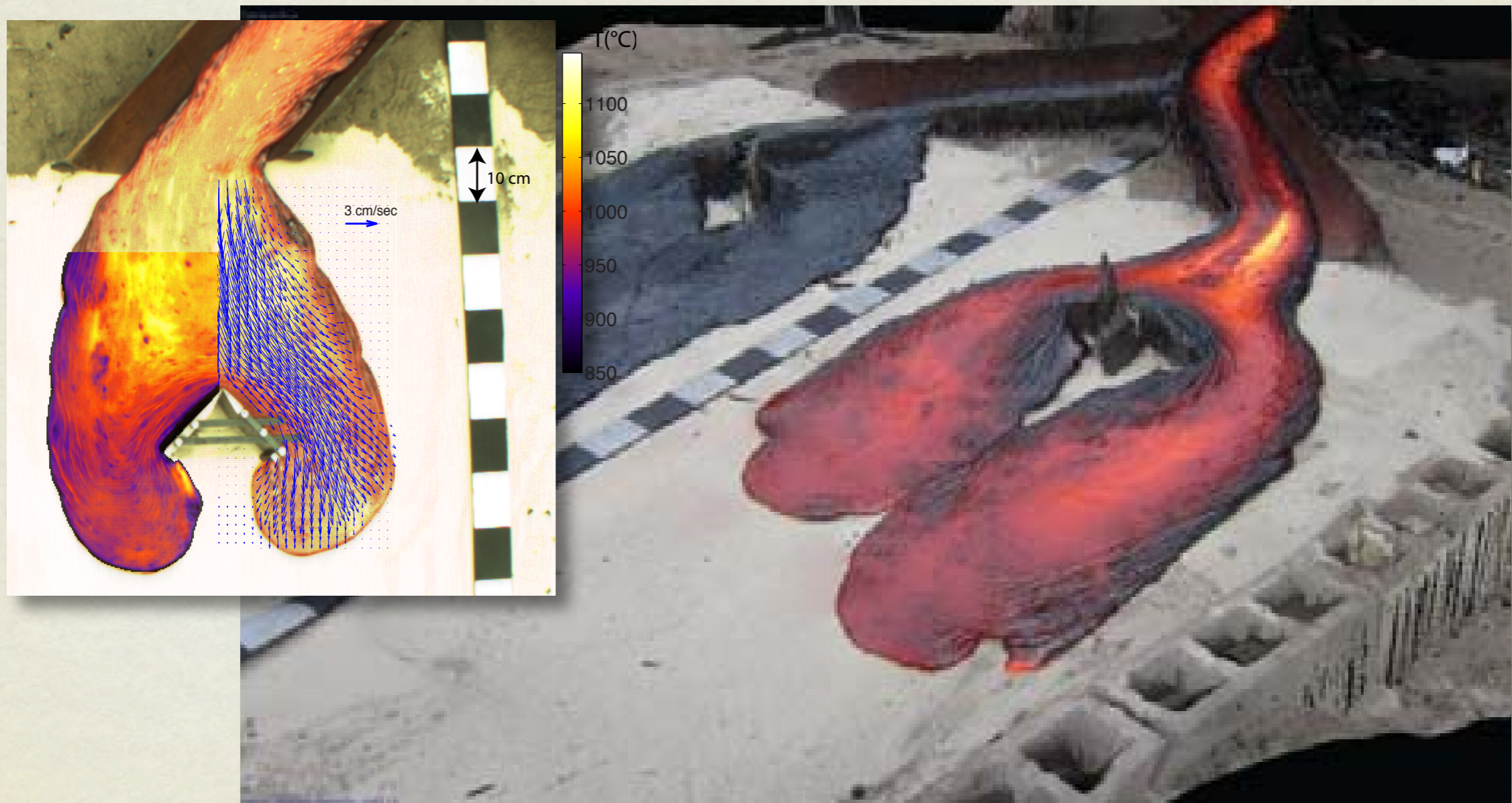
# BASALT EXPERIMENTS – VELOCITY, GEOMETRY

Channelized flows on steel

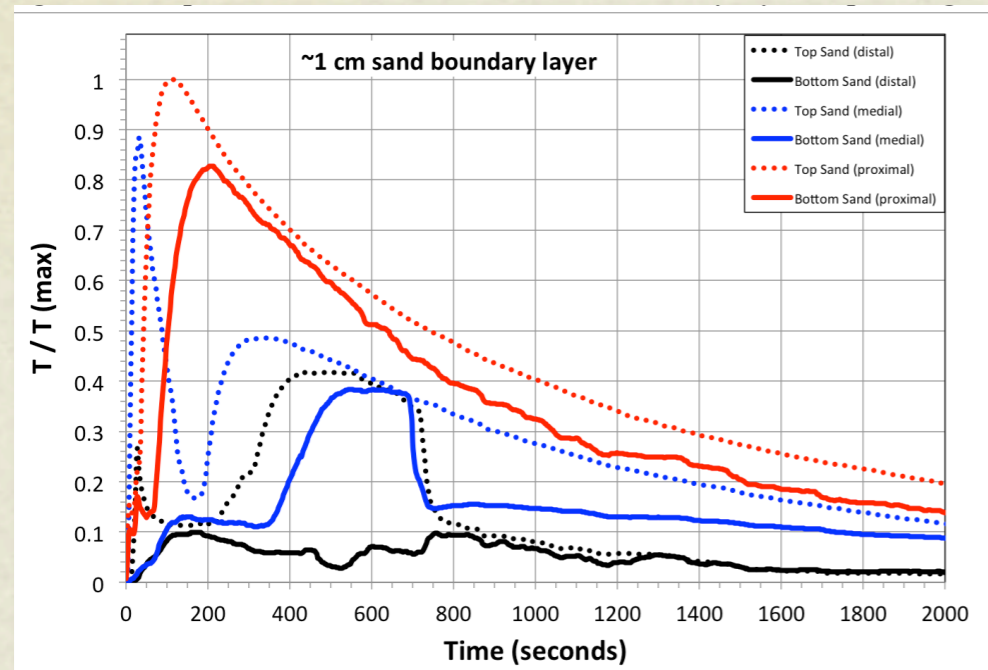


# BASALT EXPERIMENTS – VELOCITY, GEOMETRY

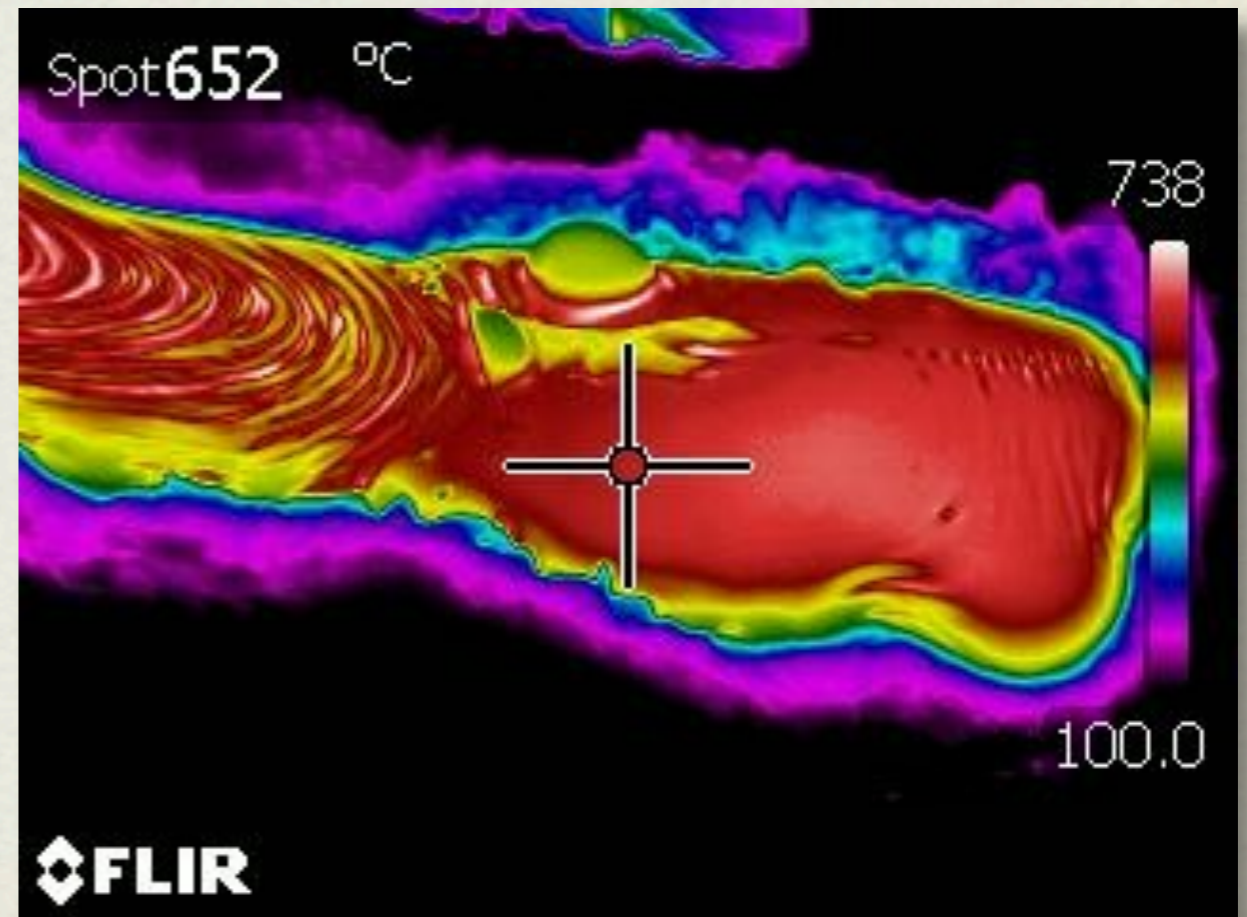
## Flows with Obstacles



# BASALT EXPERIMENTS – THERMAL EVOLUTION



Edwards et al.,  
2013



# SUMMARY

Models & tests should utilize quantitative input conditions and reproduce quantitative output observations:

## INPUT

Rheology

Effusion rate

Thermal model

Ground geometry



## OUTPUT

Velocity

Morphology

Advance with time

Temperature with time

(vesicularity, crystallinity)