Stress Control of Deep Rift Intrusion at Mauna Loa
Volcano, Hawaii
Falk Amelung, et al.
Science 316, 1026 (2007);
DOI: 10.1126/science.1140035

The following resources related to this article are available online at
www.sciencemag.org (this information is current as of May 18, 2007):

Updated information and services, including high-resolution figures, can be found in the online
version of this article at:
http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/316/5827/1026

Supporting Online Material can be found at:
http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/316/5827/1026/DC1

This article cites 17 articles, 2 of which can be accessed for free:
http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/316/5827/1026#otherarticles

This article appears in the following subject collections:
Geochemistry, Geophysics
http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/collection/geochem_phys

Information about obtaining reprints of this article or about obtaining permission to reproduce
this article in whole or in part can be found at:
http://www.sciencemag.org/about/permissions.dtl
Stress Control of Deep Rift Intrusion at Mauna Loa Volcano, Hawaii

Falk Amelung,1* Sang-Ho Yun,2 Thomas R. Walter,1† Paul Segall,2 Sang-Wan Kim1

Mauna Loa volcano, Hawaii, deforms by a combination of shallow dike intrusions in the rift zones and earthquakes along the base of the volcano, but it is not known how the spreading is accommodated in the lower part of the volcanic edifice. We present evidence from interferometric synthetic aperture radar data for secular inflation of a dike-like magma body at intermediate depth in the southwest rift zone during 2002 to 2005. Magma accumulation occurred in a section of the rift zone that was unclamped by previous dikes and earthquakes, suggesting that stress transfer plays an important role in controlling subsurface magma accumulation.

Modern volcano-monitoring techniques can detect precursory seismic unrest months to days before an eruption, but information about possible eruption locations is generally not available. Such information is important for hazard assessment and for timely warning of the population for large and populated basaltic shield volcanoes such as Mauna Loa volcano in Hawaii. Forecasting the eruption location requires a better understanding of subsurface magma migration. Here we show that the 2002 to 2005 magma intrusion at Mauna Loa volcano inferred from space-geodetic data is consistent with changes in the stress due to the previous tectonic and magmatic events. This suggests that the stress field within the volcanic edifice is a dominant effect in controlling magma accumulation. Space-geodetic measurements can be used to infer changes to the stress field in the interior and contribute to better forecasts of the response of a volcano to the arrival of new magma from below.

Mauna Loa volcano is the largest and one of the most active volcanoes on Earth. It has produced more than 4 km3 of lava during the past 150 years (1). Most historic eruptions involved the propagation of an eruptive fissure from the summit downrift into the northeast rift zone (NERZ) or into the southwest rift zone (SWRZ) (Fig. 1A). About 30 to 40% of the volcano’s subaerial surface has been covered by new lava during the past 1000 years. Thus, a large portion of the island is threatened by lava flows, and it is very important to better estimate where possible eruptions could occur. The last major eruptions occurred in 1950 from the SWRZ and in 1984 from the NERZ. At Mauna Loa, repeated dike intrusions into the rift zone result in seaward motion of the volcano flanks, most of which is believed to be accommodated in form of seismic or aseismic displacement along a decollement fault on the paleo-seafloor at the base of the volcanic edifice at 12- to 14-km depth below the summit. The 1868 magnitude (M) 8 Pahala (2) and the 1951 M6.9 Kona earthquakes (3) likely ruptured the decollement.

Inflation at Mauna Loa volcano started in May 2002 at the same time when Kilauea volcano increased its rate of lava production (4). Subcrustal seismicity increased in 2004 (Fig. 1A). We used interferometric synthetic aperture radar (InSAR) acquired by the Canadian Radarsat-1 satellite between 2001 and early 2006 to obtain a detailed image of the ground deformation associated with the volcanic inflation. InSAR measures the change in distance between the ground and the satellite in radar line-of-sight (LOS) direction. We used imagery with different incidence angles of the radar beam and an average of five to nine interferograms each spanning 3 to 4 years for each viewing geometry (table S1) to obtain averaged LOS velocities for the period May 2002 to end 2005 (5). Averaging interferograms increases the signal-to-noise

---

1Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, University of Miami, 4600 Rickenbacker Causeway, Miami, FL 33149, USA. 2Department of Geophysics, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305, USA.
*To whom correspondence should be addressed. E-mail: famelung@rsmas.miami.edu
†Present address: GeoforschungsZentrum Potsdam Section 2.1, Telegrafenberg, 14473 Potsdam, Germany.

References

2. Spectroradiometric observations of photosynthetically available radiation (PAR) in eddy A4 indicated that the depth of 1% of the surface value (a proxy for euphotic zone depth) had a mean of 96 m (SD = 9 m, n = 37 observations), which is nearly identical to that reported at the BATS site (48). Findings in C1 were similar, with a mean 1% PAR depth of 97 m (SD = 12 m, n = 49 observations).
4. Altimetric data point toward the northern source region for the 1-year period during which the eddy could be tracked (Fig. 1B). However, initial analysis of radiotranslator measurements offers conflicting evidence: Radiolocator data suggest a southern source, whereas tritium data suggest a southern source.
5. Nitrate-to-silicate ratios were similar in cyclone C1 and mode-water eddy A4. Concentrations in the upper euphotic zone were consistent with nitrogen limitation, because excess silicate (1 to 2 μmol kg−1) was present in waters in which nitrate was depleted (<0.1 μmol kg−1). All of the eddies we studied exhibited a similar trend for the phosphocline to reside deeper than the nitraline, leading to supra-Redfield nitrate-phosphate ratios just below the euphotic zone. This enigmatic aspect is characteristic of the region (49, 50). Nevertheless, we could find no systematic differences in nitrate-to-phosphate ratios between cyclones and mode-water eddies.
7. The Martin and Richards model (40) predicts the vertical velocity at the base of the layer through which wind stress can be transmitted directly through waves and turbulence (the Ekman layer). Quasigeostrophic theory and models demonstrate that this vertical motion penetrates well into the inviscid interior, diminishing with depth (51). We ran a primitive equation model simulation of eddy A4, which indicated that the vertical velocity at the depth of the high-cholephophyl layer was ~90% of the Ekman upwelling velocity. The physical manifestation of this effect is a tendency for upward displacement of the seasonal pycnocline at the eddy center, enhancing the mode-water eddy structure (Fig. 1A).
8. This model also predicts upwelling in the interior of regular anticyclones. An analogous phenomenon has been hypothesized to upwell depressed density surfaces in the interiors of warm-core Gulf Stream rings (52), a process that would tend to enhance biological activity associated with their frictional decay (52).
ratio of the measurements, which are affected by path delays in the troposphere and by uncertainties in the satellite orbits. InSAR in Hawaii is challenging because repeating weather patterns and up to 4200 m of topography can cause phase contributions of several cycles. Combining multiple viewing geometries better constrains the deformation sources and allows one to estimate the vertical and east component of the velocity field (6).

The interferograms show a distinct pattern of ground deformation in the summit area and on the upper flanks of Mauna Loa. For an east-looking interferogram (Fig. 1A), a roughly circular area with a diameter of 10 km west of the rift zone moves toward the radar with a velocity of more than 1 cm/year and maximum velocity of 5 cm/year (yellow-red colors). A smaller area on the southeast flank is moving away from the radar (blue colors). The vertical velocity field is characterized by two lobes of uplift of up to 6 cm/year on either side of the SWRZ, and the east velocity field is roughly symmetric across the SWRZ (Fig. 1B). The symmetry of the ground-velocity field clearly indicates that the principal source of deformation is located within the rift zone.

To understand what causes the observed deformation, we assume elastic material behavior and use geophysical inverse-modeling methods. We first test simple, kinematic models consisting of point (Mogi) sources of inflation and uniform opening dislocations. We find that the data are well explained using a model with a Mogi source southeast of the caldera and an opening dislocation bisecting the caldera and upper SWRZ (7). We then consider a more realistic, mechanical model with the magma chamber and dike hydraulically connected and sharing the same excess magma pressure (8). The magma chamber is represented as a finite, spherical cavity (9) and the dike as a gridlike combination of 1 km by 1 km opening dislocation elements covering 30 km of the rift zone from the surface to the decollement at 14-km depth, subject to a uniform excess-pressure boundary condition. The effect of topography is included in the model (10). We invert simultaneously for the opening status of the individual dislocation elements on the dike plane (open or closed) (11), for the excess magma pressure, for the location and radius of the spherical cavity, and for phase ramps for each averaged interferogram to account for orbital uncertainties using a Monte Carlo–type simulated annealing algorithm (12). The actual opening distribution of the dike-like magma body depends on the configuration of connected dislocation elements.

We find that the model magma chamber is under the southeastern caldera margin at 4.7-km depth below the summit (at 0.5-km below sea level) (Fig. 2A); this was also the inferred location of the active reservoir during the 1984 eruption (13). The radius of the magma chamber is 1.1 km and the rate of magma excess pressure increase is 1.8 MPa/year. Most of the dike inflation occurs at 4- to 8-km depth along an 8-km-long zone, resulting in an opening of 0.2 to 0.35 m/year (14). This model explains about 96% of the data variance. Comparison of the data with the model predictions shows that the data fit is generally very good except near the summit (Fig. 2B). The differences arise because of simplified model assumptions such as a spherical magma chamber and uniform elastic parameters (15) and because we did not account for the subtle, pre-2002 subsidence of the summit area detected with the Global Positioning System (16) and for the subsidence of the recent intracaldera lava flows due to cooling. We do not include possible fault slip under the flanks because the geometry of the fault plane and the amount of slip are not well constrained (17). Other model simplifications are that the dike opening is constrained to take place within the volcanic edifice (to a depth of 14 km below the summit) and that horizontal and vertical variations in the magma pressure go along with variations in the tectonic stress field so that the magma excess pressure is constant.

Although details of the opening distribution of the dike should be interpreted with caution, we conclude that about 80% of the magmatic intrusion occurs in the intermediate and deep section of the rift zone at depth larger than the shallow magma reservoir. This suggests that the volcano operates in a manner similar to that inferred for its neighbor Kilauea with secular magma intrusion into the deep section of the rift zone and occasional dike injection into the shallow section (18). Indeed, the intrusion of magma into the deep section of the rift

Fig. 1. (A) Averaged 2002 to 2005 satellite radar interferogram of the Big Island of Hawaii showing ground velocity in the radar line-of-sight (LOS) direction. The radar looks toward the east (ascending orbit) with an incidence angle of ~45° on the ground (Standard Beam A6). The star denotes the 1983 Kaoiki earthquake. The seismicity with depth > 20 km and with M > 2.2 is also shown. (B) Vertical and east component of the ground-velocity field obtained by combining averaged interferograms from four different viewing geometries. The black line and circle indicate the dike and magma chamber, respectively, of the model in Fig. 2A.
The inferred rate of magma accumulation of 21 × 10^6 m^3/year is almost three times the long-term growth rate averaged over the past 4000 years (19). As magma intrusion is continuing as of March 2007, albeit at a lower rate, there are no indications that Mauna Loa’s magma production rate is waning, as suggested by the decreased eruption rate over the past 50 years (20).

We discuss whether the spatial pattern of magma intrusion can be explained by stress transfer and how the 2002 to 2005 intrusion changed the stress field in the interior of the volcano. We first consider changes in the ambient normal stress along the rift zone. We would expect magma intrusion in sections of the rift zone for which the normal stress change resulted in unclamping (positive normal stress change) but no intrusion in clamped sections of the rift zone (negative stress change) (21, 22).

The largest events during the past 25 years were a M6.6 earthquake in 1983 and the eruption from the NERZ in 1984. The earthquake occurred in the Kaoiki seismic zone 15 km southeast of the summit (Fig. 1A) and involved right-lateral strike-slip and seaward decollement faulting (23). The eruption was associated with a dike propagating from the summit a few kilometers into the SWRZ zone and then into the NERZ from where most of the lava erupted (1).

The 1983 earthquake unclamped the upper SWRZ, the upper NERZ, and a section of the NERZ further down the rift (Fig. 3A) (see supporting online material). The 1984 dike unclamped large parts of the rift zone but clamped the section in which it intruded (Fig. 3B). The dike likely relieved stress due to prior events, which is not
included in this stress-change budget. Together, the earthquake and the dike unclamped most of the rift zone (Fig. 3C), with the largest unclamping (by more than 0.2 MPa) occurring in the southern deformation zone at a depth of 2 to 6 km (the area of inferred magma intrusion during 2002 to 2005).

The 2002 to 2005 intrusion unclamped the rift zone, except in the area of magma intrusion (Fig. 3D). The magnitude of stress change is similar to that for the 1984 dike (Fig. 3B). The inferred opening rate corresponds in places to an opening of 1 m during the 3.3 years covered by our data, even larger in thickness than the 1984 dike. The stress change since 1983 is given by the sum of the stress changes due to the 1983 earthquake, the 1984 dike, and the 2002 to 2005 intrusion (Fig. 3E). The unclamping is most pronounced in the shallow section of the upper SWRZ and in the intermediate-depth section of the NERZ.

The stress-change modeling shows that the magma intrusion during 2002 to 2005 occurred into the most-unclamped section of the rift zone since 1983 (24). This observation is notable because it suggests that the stress changes due to the 1983 and 1984 events influenced, if not controlled, the accumulation of the magma. Consequently, if we can constrain the deformation sources to reliably estimate changes in the stress field, we can forecast the location for the accumulation of new magma and possibly of eruptions based on the stress-change models. Obviously, other factors also contribute, such as local stress heterogeneities associated with the magma conduits and magmatic factors such as the size and compressibility of the reservoir feeding the intrusion and the vesicularity and density of the magma, but our results suggest that stress changes due to prior events are the dominant effect.

The historic eruptions of Mauna Loa were fissure eruptions associated with dikes injected into the shallow rift zone. After the 2002 to 2005 intrusion, the most favorable stress conditions for the propagation of shallow dikes occurred in the upper SWRZ (Fig. 3E). Thus, according to the stress-change models, this is the most likely location for a new dike injection and possibly for an eruption. The last eruption from this section of the rift zone occurred in 1950. A new eruption from the SWRZ would be consistent with the previously observed pattern of alternating eruptions between the NERZ and the SWRZ (25, 26).

We also estimate how the 2002 to 2005 intrusion has influenced the flank stability and affected the potential for slumping of the flanks and for decollement earthquakes under the flanks of the volcano. We evaluate changes of the Coulomb failure stress (27, 28) resolved for seaward motion parallel to nearly horizontal faults in a cross section roughly perpendicular to the rift zone. An increase of the Coulomb failure stress encourages faulting, and a decrease discourages faulting, respectively. In the central section of the volcanic edifice, the changes in Coulomb failure stress are negative above sea level but positive below sea level (Fig. 4). The strongest stress changes occur at about 5- to 7-km depth under the southeast flank because of the combined effect of rift intrusion and chamber inflation. In the shallow southeast flank, the stress changes are also positive. The 2002 to 2005 intrusion stabilized the summit section of the volcanic edifice, discouraging landslide-type motion, but strongly destabilized the deep part of the edifice, making it prone to earthquakes along horizontal faults such as the decollement. Changes in Coulomb failure stress are 0.1 MPa and larger in most places of the seismogenic decollement fault. Bearing in mind that stress changes as low as 0.01 MPa can trigger earthquakes (29), the below-sea level portion of Mauna Loa has clearly been destabilized by the magma intrusion. Faulting along the decollement fault would be consistent with the previously observed pattern of alternating rift intrusions and decollement earthquakes (22). Indeed, aseismic motion along subhorizontal faults may already have been occurring during 2002 to 2005, but it is difficult to constrain with surface measurements.

Our analysis leads to a new model for Mauna Loa’s magmatic system. During 2002 to 2005, most of the magma generated in the mantle, possibly at the depth of the subcrustal seismicity, rose into the deep and intermediate section of the rift zone, whereas only a small percentage rose into the shallow magma chamber. Intrusion of the magma changes the stress field within the volcanic edifice and encourages dike propagation into the shallow SWRZ and faulting along subhorizontal faults in most parts of the volcanic edifice, including along the decollement fault. Mauna Loa volcano likely exhibits a cyclic behavior such that deformation due to earthquakes and intrusions encourages new intrusions elsewhere in the rift zone and fault slip under the flanks.

References and notes

5. Averaged LOS velocities are obtained by dividing the sum of the interferograms by the cumulative time of the interferograms since 12 May 2002. The averaged rates cover slightly different time periods since the beginning of the inflation (3.41, 3.30, 3.37, and 3.26 years for Standard Beams A3, A6, D1, and D6, respectively), but we verified that this does not affect our conclusions. We neglect the subtle deflation of the summit area before May 2002 (26), which according to 1997 to 2002 InSAR data, occurred at a rate below the measurement noise.
7. In this model, the depth of the Mogi source is 3.2 km; the dislocation is nearly vertical, 10 km long at 3- to 35-km depth with an opening rate of 25 cm/year. The volume-change rates are \( \Delta V_{\text{mogi}} = 2.7 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3/\text{year} \) and \( \Delta V_{\text{dike}} = 2.06 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3/\text{year} \).
8. Materials and methods are available as supporting material on Science Online.
The change in Coulomb failure stress is defined as 

$$\Delta CFS = \Delta \sigma_n + \mu \Delta \sigma_t$$, where $$\Delta \sigma_n$$ is the change in shear stress, $$\Delta \sigma_t$$ is the change in effective normal stress, and $$\mu$$ is the coefficient of effective internal friction (28). We use $$\mu = 0.4$$.


27. The change in Coulomb failure stress is defined as 

$$\Delta CFS = \Delta \sigma_n + \mu \Delta \sigma_t$$, where $$\Delta \sigma_n$$ is the change in shear stress, $$\Delta \sigma_t$$ is the change in effective normal stress, and $$\mu$$ is the coefficient of effective internal friction (28). We use $$\mu = 0.4$$.


In plants, seasonal changes in day length are perceived in leaves, which initiate long-distance signaling that induces flowering at the shoot apex. The identity of the long-distance signal has yet to be determined. In Arabidopsis, activation of FLOWERING LOCUS T (FT) transcription in leaf vascular tissue (phloem) induces flowering. We found that FT messenger RNA is required only transiently in the leaf. In addition, FT fusion proteins expressed specifically in phloem cells move to the apex and move long distances between grafted plants. Finally, we provide evidence that FT does not activate an intermediate messenger in leaves. We conclude that FT protein acts as a long-distance signal that induces Arabidopsis flowering.

Perception of day length takes place in the leaf, whereas flowers are formed by the shoot apical meristem at the apex of the shoot (1, 2). A long-distance signal, called florigen or the floral stimulus, has been demonstrated to be transmitted through the phloem vascular system from the leaves to the meristem, although the identity of this signal has remained unclear since the 1930s. Molecular-genetic approaches in Arabidopsis have defined a regulatory pathway that promotes flowering in response to long days (LDs) and have suggested how this pathway responds to day length (3–5). Under LDs, the CONSTANS (CO) transcriptional regulator activates transcription of FLOWERING LOCUS T (FT) in the vascular tissue of leaves (6–8). FT encodes a small protein with similarity to Raf kinase inhibitors that acts at the meristem together with the transcription factor FD to activate transcription of the floral meristem identity gene APETALA1 (7, 9–11). FT is expressed in the leaves in response to photoperiod, but FT protein

1Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research, Carl von Linne Weg 10, D-50829 Cologne, Germany. 2Division of Biology, Imperial College London, Wye Campus, Wye, Kent TN25 5AH, UK.

*These authors contributed equally to this work.

†To whom correspondence should be addressed. E-mail: coupland@mpiz-koeln.mpg.de