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## THERMODYNAMIC CONSTRAINTS ON THE GEOCHEMISTRY OF LOW-TEMPERATURE, CONTINENTAL, SERPENTINIZATION-GENERATED FLUIDS

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**ABSTRACT.** The hydrous alteration of ultramafic rocks, known as serpentinization, generates fluids that can fuel microbial communities and enable the synthesis of simple organic compounds. Serpentinization reactions can proceed even at the ambient, low-temperature conditions present in continental aquifers raising questions about the limits of life deep in the Earth's subsurface. Through thermodynamic calculations, we investigate various reactions that facilitate the transformation of oxidic, slightly acidic rainwater into reduced, hyperalkaline fluids during low-temperature serpentinization. We explore a suite of factors (variabilities in temperature, host-rock compositions, fluid salinity, and the buffering capacity of various serpentinization-relevant minerals) that offer broad insights into the chemical environments formed through low-temperature serpentinization. Results of calculations show that alteration of olivine-rich lithologies will lead to fluids constrained by the chrysotile-brucite-diopside equilibrium assemblage, close in pH to those measured from the most alkaline fluids hosted in ultramafic rocks. Variabilities in the compositions of fluids hosted by continental serpentinizing systems can be attributed to a shift from being in equilibrium with diopside to calcite, among other reactions. Results of calculations also show that it would be difficult to distinguish fluids reacting with either fresh or altered ultramafic rocks based solely on their pH, and total dissolved Ca, Mg and Si content. Our models also account for Fe incorporation into solid solutions of serpentine and brucite and show that the global H<sub>2</sub> flux from continental serpentinization could be considerably lower than estimates based on iron oxidation to magnetite only. Lastly, we present the energetic landscape available to subsurface microorganisms by focusing on two microbial processes using H<sub>2</sub>: methanogenesis and hydrogen oxidation. Limited but available energy (0.2–1.7 calories/kg fluid) can be exploited by methanogens, permitting the possibility of deep communities in serpentinizing aquifers. More energy is available for methanogenesis (0.2–6 calories/kg fluid) and hydrogen oxidation (0–17 calories/kg fluid) when upwelling, deep-seated, serpentinization-generated fluids mix with shallow groundwater. Ultimately, predictions set forth in this study provide a framework for testing ideas that can explain the compositions of fluids and microbial communities sampled at ultramafic environments here on Earth and perhaps in the near future, on ocean worlds in our solar system.

Keywords: serpentinization, water-rock interaction, thermodynamics, microbial energetics

### INTRODUCTION

Environments where water meets ultramafic rocks enable serpentinization, one of the most profound geochemical processes on Earth. During serpentinization, minerals

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that compose ultramafic rocks (olivine and pyroxene), are replaced mainly by serpentine upon interaction with water. Serpentinization drives the transformation of near-neutral and oxic surface fluids like rain or seawater into alkaline, reduced fluids rich in  $H_2$  and  $CH_4$ . These reduced fluids provide energy and nutrients for chemosynthetic communities (see review by Schrenk and others, 2013), abiotically synthesize organic compounds (see review by McCollom and Seewald, 2007), and potentially facilitate the emergence of life on Earth (Sleep and others, 2004, 2011; Holm and others, 2006; Martin and Russel, 2007; Martin and others, 2008, 2014; Russel and others, 2010; Lane and Martin, 2012). Serpentinization extends beyond Earth, as ultramafic rocks are present in a number of terrestrial bodies in the Solar System (Schulte and others, 2006; Vance and others, 2007; Ehlmann and others, 2010; Holm and others, 2015; Glein and others, 2015), raising possibilities of life powered by water-rock interactions beyond our own planet.

On Earth, serpentinization occurs wherever ultramafic rocks meet water, which is inevitable at the seafloor. Chimneys venting  $H_2$ - and  $CH_4$ -rich fluids at temperatures exceeding  $100\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ , including those at the Rainbow (Charlou and others, 2002; Douville and others, 2002), Logatchev (Schmidt and others, 2007), Kairei (Gallant and Von Damm, 2006; Kumagai and others, 2008), Von Damm (McDermott and others, 2015), and Lost City (Kelley and others, 2001, 2005; Lang and others, 2010; Seyfried and others, 2015) vent fields, are well known consequences of hydrothermal interactions between ultramafic rocks and seawater. Less dramatic but likely more widespread outcomes of serpentinization are low-temperature ( $<100\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ )  $H_2$ - and  $CH_4$ -rich hyperalkaline fluids seeping diffusely from ultramafic rocks exposed near spreading ridges (Früh-Green and others, 2003, 2018), serpentinite mud volcanoes near subduction zones (Mottl and others, 2003, 2004; Wheat and others, 2008; Mottl, 2009), and exposed ultramafic outcrops in continents such as in ophiolites, ultramafic massifs, metamorphic belts and kimberlite deposits (see table 1).

Serpentinizing systems hosted on the continents provide accessible opportunities to sample deep-seated fluids. These low-temperature systems also provide examples to test predictions about the consequences of water and rock interactions without the added complexity of magmatic input like those in seafloor hydrothermal systems. Recent undertakings to drill into and sample deep aquifers, and subsequently establish a borehole observatory on the Samail Ophiolite in Oman (Kelemen and others, 2013; <https://www.omandrilling.ac.uk/>) will advance knowledge of the subsurface reactions driving fluid transformation during the serpentinization process. In preparation, insights into these subsurface reactions can be provided by thermodynamic predictions.

Several theoretical investigations have focused on seawater-ultramafic interactions at hydrothermal conditions (Janecky and Seyfried, 1986; Wetzal and Shock, 2000; Alt and Shanks, 2003; Allen and Seyfried, 2004; Palandri and Reed, 2004; Frost and Beard, 2007; Seyfried and others, 2007, 2015; Foustoukos and others, 2008; McCollom and Bach, 2009; Klein and others, 2009, 2013; Evans and others, 2013; Bach and others, 2013). The existing theoretical studies for low-temperature continental serpentinizing settings (Pfeifer, 1977; Bruni and others, 2002; Palandri and Reed, 2004; Cipolli and others, 2004; Boschetti and Toscani, 2008; Marques and others, 2008; Okland and others, 2012; Paukert and others, 2012) tend to focus on the consequence of altering a specific composition of ultramafic rock under conditions for a given study site. Here we examine low-temperature continental serpentinization independent of conditions dictated by a specific locality. Our initial focus is on generalized reactions that drive the serpentinization process. We examine the consequences brought about by variabilities in temperatures ( $0\text{--}100\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ), fluid salinity, and host rock compositions. Other factors such as varying dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) input, and the buffering capacity of

TABLE 1

*List of continental locations with documented fluid and gas compositions attributed to serpentinization*

Location	Study <sup>1</sup>
U.S.A. (Coast Range ophiolites, the Cedars, Del Puerto ophiolite, California and Oregon)	Barnes and others, 1967; Barnes and O'Neil, 1969; Blank and others, 2009*; Cardace and others, 2013; Crespo-Medina and others, 2014*; Morrill and others, 2013; Suzuki and others, 2013*, 2014*, 2017*; Kohl and others, 2016*; Twing and others, 2017*; Meyer-Dombard and others, 2018
Switzerland (Engadine Valley)	Pfeiffer, 1977
Italy (Voltri, Taro-Cenno, Elba)	Pfeiffer, 1977; Bruni and others, 2002; Cipolli and others, 2004; Boschetti and Toscani, 2008; Chavagnac and others, 2013a, 2013b; Boulart and others, 2013**; Schwarzenbach and others, 2013; Boschetti and others, 2013; Quéménéur and others, 2015*; Segadelli and others, 2016; Brazelton and others, 2017*; Sciarra and others, 2019**; Etiope and Whitaric, 2019**
Greece (Othrys and Argolida ophiolites)	Papastamaki, 1977; Etiope and others, 2013a**; D'Alessandro and others, 2018; Daskalopoulou and others, 2018**
Oman (Samail ophiolite)	Barnes and others, 1978; Neal and Stanger, 1983**, 1984, 1985; Bath and others, 1987*; Taylor and others, 1991; Sano and others, 1993**; Dewandel and others, 2005; Matter and others, 2006; Paukert Vankeuren and others, 2012, 2019; Chavagnac and others, 2013a, 2013b; Boulart and others, 2013**; Olson and others, 2014; Miller and others, 2016*; Rempfert and others, 2017*; Canovas and others, 2017; Vacquand and others, 2018**; Zgonnik and others, 2019**; Fones and others, 2019*; Giampouras and others, 2020
New Caledonia (Prony Bay)	Barnes and others, 1978; Monnin and others, 2014; Quéménéur and others, 2014*; Postec and others, 2015*; Vacquand and others, 2018**
Bosnia and Herzegovina (Dinaride ophiolite)	Barnes and others, 1978; Etiope and others, 2017**
Philippines (Zambales and Palawan ophiolites)	Abrajano and others, 1988**, 1990**; Fujii and others, 2010; Cardace and others, 2015; Woycheese and others, 2015*; Baculi and others, 2015*; Shimbashi and others, 2018; Vacquand and others, 2018**; Meyer-Dombard and others, 2018*, 2019*
New Zealand (Poison Bay, Dun Mountain)	Giggenbach and others, 1993**; Pawson and others, 2014**
Cyprus (Troodos massif)	Neal and Shand, 2002; Rizoulis and others, 2016*
Mexico (Socorro Island) <sup>2</sup>	Taran and others, 2002, 2010**
Canada (Kirkland Lake and Lake Timiskiming kimberlite fields, Canadian Shield, and Tablelands massif)	Sader and others, 2007; Sherwood-Lollar and others, 2007**; Szponar and others, 2013; Brazelton and others, 2012*, 2013*; Morrill and others, 2014*; Cumming and others, 2019
Portugal (Iberian Hercynian Belt)	Tiago and others, 2004*; Marques and others, 2008, 2018; Etiope and others, 2013b**; Tiago and Verissimo, 2013*
Finland (Outokumpu deep drill hole, Fennoscandian Shield) <sup>3</sup>	Sherwood-Lollar and others, 2007**; Itävaara and others, 2011*; Nyssönen and others, 2014*
Turkey (Chimaera seep and Tekirova ophiolites)	Hosgormez and others, 2008**; Etiope and others, 2011**; Meyer-Dombard and others, 2015*; Neubeck and others, 2017*
Japan (Hakuba Happo springs, Hida belt)	Homma and Tsukahara, 2008; Suda and others, 2014**, 2017**
Norway (Leka ophiolite)	Okland and others, 2012; Daece and others, 2013*
Costa Rica (Santa Elena ophiolite)	Sanchez-Murillo and others, 2013*; Crespo-Medina and others, 2017*
U.A.E. (Samail ophiolite)	Etiope and others, 2015**
Spain (Ronda massif)	Etiope and others, 2016**; Giampouras and others, 2019

<sup>1</sup>Those indicated by \* are microbiological studies or geochemical studies that include microbiological data. Those indicated with \*\* are studies focused on gas compositions. All the rest are focused on the aqueous compositions and/or hydrogeology of serpentinizing systems.

<sup>2</sup>Acidic hotsprings that likely have input from volcanic gas.

<sup>3</sup>Borehole lithology is dominated by metasedimentary rocks with some ultramafic sequence.

various Ca-bearing minerals are considered. Exploration of this suite of factors offers broad insights into the chemical environments formed through low-temperature serpentinization. In the latter part of this paper, we describe model outcomes for the amounts of H<sub>2</sub> generated, and offer a reevaluation of existing estimates for the global H<sub>2</sub> flux from continental serpentinization. Lastly, we present the energetic landscape

available to subsurface microorganisms by focusing on two microbial processes: methanogenesis and hydrogen oxidation.

#### OVERVIEW OF LOW-TEMPERATURE CONTINENTAL SERPENTINIZATION

Since the reports in the 1960's by Barnes and others (1967, 1972, 1978) and Barnes and O'Neil (1969), studies on the chemistry of continental hyperalkaline fluids have grown to encompass a number of settings in  $\sim 20$  countries shown in table 1. A number of these studies (Neal and Stanger, 1985; Bruni and others, 2002; Cipolli and others, 2004; Dewandel and others, 2005; Marques and others, 2008; Paukert and others, 2012; Okland and others, 2012) proposed models for the overall evolution of fluids that infiltrate into aquifers composed of ultramafic rocks. These models, together with observations from natural systems permit the following generalizations. Initially, rainwater infiltrates into the shallow aquifer and reacts with the rocks in a system open to atmospheric exchange. These reactions generate slightly basic (pH 7–9) fluids rich in  $\text{Mg}^{+2}$  and  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  that are often referred to as Type 1 fluids. It has been documented that Type 1 fluids occur in highly fractured zones of shallow ophiolite aquifers (<50 m, Dewandel and others, 2005), as well as in surface streams. Some fluids infiltrate into the deep subsurface and interact progressively with more and more ultramafic rocks in a system that is ultimately closed from atmospheric influence. The greater degrees of interactions between water and rock facilitate the transformation of meteoric and Type 1 fluids into reduced, hyperalkaline fluids that are enriched in  $\text{Ca}^{+2}$  and  $\text{OH}^-$ , often referred to as Type 2. It is estimated that these fluids originate at depths of at least 500 m (Dewandel and others, 2005). Through deep-seated structures such as faults and lithological contacts, these fluids can eventually discharge back onto the surface as hyperalkaline seeps, and precipitate travertine deposits upon interaction with atmospheric  $\text{CO}_{2(g)}$  or mixing with  $\text{HCO}_3^-$ -rich Type 1 fluids.

#### COMPUTATIONAL MODEL

Reaction path calculations simulate processes occurring during rock alteration by quantifying changes in the aqueous and mineral compositions arising from irreversible mass transfer reactions as specified quantities of water and rock progressively react. An increase in reaction progress is akin to an increase in the rock-to-water ratio, as the reacting water encounters more rock while infiltrating into the subsurface. These equilibrium calculations, although idealized, allow us to adequately track changes in fluid chemistry during rock alteration as demonstrated by the above-mentioned studies on various sites of active serpentinization. The reaction path code EQ6 (Wolery and Jarek, 2003) was used for calculations in this study, together with a customized thermodynamic database (see below). A global average modern rainwater composition compiled by Hao and others (2017) from Berner and Berner (2012) was used as the starting reacting fluid. We modified the pH and DIC from this compilation slightly to be in equilibrium with modern atmospheric  $\text{CO}_{2(g)}$  levels. Details about the composition of this starting rainwater can be found in table A1. As illustrated in figure 1, our calculations include both *open* and *closed* systems, related to those simulated by Cipolli and others (2004) and Paukert and others (2012). Water-rock interactions first proceed in a system *open* to atmospheric exchange, simulating conditions when fluids are in the shallow subsurface or close to the surface. At some point in the reaction progress, fluids infiltrate deeper into the subsurface where conditions are *closed* to atmospheric influence and input from atmosphere-derived volatiles such as  $\text{CO}_{2(g)}$  and  $\text{O}_{2(g)}$  ceases. Temperature and pressure conditions remain near ambient (25 °C, 1 bar) in our initial models of low-temperature continental serpentinizing systems.

As in the case of kinetically enabled models by Paukert and others (2012), simulations were run using a fluid-centered, flow-through system where compositions

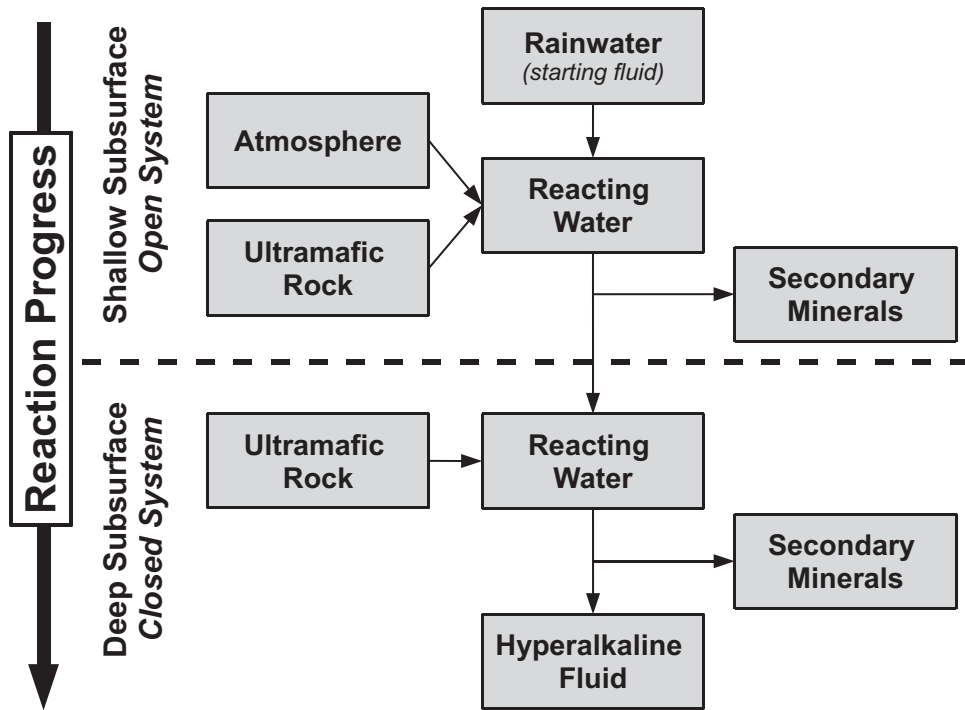


Fig. 1. Schematic of a fluid-centered flow-through model, as modified from Paukert and others (2012), showing transition from a system *open* to the atmosphere to one *closed* to atmosphere-derived volatiles as the overall serpentinization reaction progresses.

are tracked as reactive fluid moves through an aquifer. However, instead of using experimentally-derived dissolution rates, in this study inputs from primary minerals are controlled by relative dissolution rates to explore effects of variable contributions of primary minerals to changes in fluid composition. Compositions of reacting rocks used in our simulations are listed in table 2. We first simulate rainwater interactions with an idealized ultramafic rock (Model A) with a composition typical of an ophiolitic harzburgite (Hanghoj and others, 2010) with 85 mol% olivine ( $X_{\text{Mg}} = \text{Mg}/(\text{Mg}+\text{Fe}) = 0.9$ , Forsterite<sub>90</sub> or Fo<sub>90</sub>), 14 mol% orthopyroxene ( $X_{\text{Mg}} = 0.9$ , Enstatite<sub>90</sub> or En<sub>90</sub>), and 1 mol% clinopyroxene ( $X_{\text{Mg}} = 0.95$ , Diopside<sub>95</sub> or Di<sub>95</sub>). The resulting reaction paths are divided into various stages to explore, step by step, the reactions that drive the transformation of rainwater to hyperalkaline fluids. We then explore further the consequences of reactions with rocks composed of variable amounts of primary minerals (Models B1-B5 and C1-C5) as well as with previously altered ultramafic rocks (serpentinites, Models D1-D4). To facilitate discussions in terms of idealized reactions using end-member phases, we first report results of simulations without considering the precipitation of secondary minerals as solid solutions. Later in the discussion, we report the consequences of incorporating solid solutions into our models. Effects of variable temperature and salinity were also explored, as well as the precipitation of various Ca-bearing phases, as discussed below.

Thermodynamic data used in the calculations were calculated with the SUPCRT code (Johnson and others, 1992) using standard state thermodynamic data for aqueous species taken from Shock and Helgeson (1988), Shock and others (1989,

TABLE 2

*Compositions of reacting rocks used in this study and figures where results of each model appear*

Model	Rock Name	Composition <sup>1</sup>
<i>Model A: Generalized Model</i> (figures 2-3, 7F, 8-11)		
A	Harzburgite	85% Olivine-14% Orthopyroxene-1% Clinopyroxene
<i>Model B: Alteration of olivine- and orthopyroxene-bearing rocks</i> (figures 7A-7E)		
B1	Dunite	100% Olivine
B2	Harzburgite	75% Olivine-25% Orthopyroxene
B3	Harzburgite	50% Olivine-50% Orthopyroxene
B4	Orthopyroxenite	25% Olivine-75% Orthopyroxene
B5	Orthopyroxenite	100% Orthopyroxene
<i>Model C: Alteration in the presence of clinopyroxene</i> (figures 8-9, 12)		
C1	Harzburgite	85% Olivine-10% Orthopyroxene-5% Clinopyroxene
C2	Harzburgite	75% Olivine-20% Orthopyroxene-5% Clinopyroxene
C3	Harzburgite	65% Olivine-30% Orthopyroxene-5% Clinopyroxene
C4	Harzburgite	45% Olivine-50% Orthopyroxene-5% Clinopyroxene
C5	Orthopyroxenite	35% Olivine-60% Orthopyroxene-5% Clinopyroxene
<i>Model D: Alteration of serpentinites</i> (figure 9B)		
D1	Serpentinite	95% Serpentine-5% Clinopyroxene
D2	Serpentinite	75% Serpentine-20% Brucite-5% Clinopyroxene
D3	Serpentinite	65% Serpentine-30% Brucite-5% Clinopyroxene
D4	Serpentinite	55% Serpentine-40% Brucite-5% Clinopyroxene

<sup>1</sup>Compositions of reacting minerals are in solid solutions.  $X_{Mg}$ : olivine - 0.90; orthopyroxene - 0.90; clinopyroxene - 0.95, serpentine - 0.95; brucite - 0.90.

1992, 1997), Sverjensky and others (1997), together with the revised Helgeson-Kirkham-Flowers equations of state (Shock and others, 1992) and data for minerals taken from Helgeson and others (1978) and Wolery and Jove-Colon (2004). In addition, data for several minerals were added, while maintaining internal thermodynamic consistency, to explore solid solution behavior during serpentinization. New data are summarized in table A2, which also includes a discussion of data sources. In models where the precipitation of secondary phases in solid solutions are allowed, the calculations account for ideal solid solution substitution of the iron endmembers with their Mg endmember counterparts. Serpentine usually occurs as lizardite or chrysotile at low-temperature environments. Because differences in the thermodynamic properties between these two serpentine polymorphs are minor (Evans, 2004; Frost and Beard, 2007) we used chrysotile to represent the Mg-end member of serpentine. In some of our calculations, we suppressed the precipitation of certain minerals. These suppressed minerals and the reasons for suppression are explained in the discussions of model results. Primary and secondary minerals, including solid solutions modeled in this study, are listed in table 3.

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Results of calculations simulating the serpentinization of the model ultramafic rock introduced above (Model A, 85% olivine, 14% orthopyroxene, 1% clinopyrox-



TABLE 3  
List of minerals included in this study

Mineral <sup>1</sup>	Abbreviation <sup>2</sup>	Formula
<i>Primary Minerals</i>		
Forsterite ( <i>Olivine</i> )	Fo	Mg <sub>2</sub> SiO <sub>4</sub>
Fayalite ( <i>Olivine</i> )	Fa	Fe <sub>2</sub> SiO <sub>4</sub>
Enstatite ( <i>Orthopyroxene</i> )	En	MgSiO <sub>3</sub>
Ferrosilite ( <i>Orthopyroxene</i> )	Fs	FeSiO <sub>3</sub>
Diopside ( <i>Clinopyroxene</i> )	Di	CaMgSi <sub>2</sub> O <sub>6</sub>
Hedenbergite ( <i>Clinopyroxene</i> )	Hd	CaFeSi <sub>2</sub> O <sub>6</sub>
<i>Secondary Minerals</i>		
Chrysotile ( <i>Serpentine</i> )	Ctl	Mg <sub>3</sub> Si <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> (OH) <sub>4</sub>
Greenalite ( <i>Serpentine</i> )	Gre	Fe <sub>3</sub> Si <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> (OH) <sub>4</sub>
Mg-Cronstedtite ( <i>Serpentine</i> )	Mg-Cro	Mg <sub>2</sub> Fe(FeSiO <sub>5</sub> )(OH) <sub>4</sub>
Hisingerite ( <i>Serpentine</i> ) <sup>3</sup>	His	Fe <sub>2</sub> Si <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> (OH) <sub>4</sub>
Talc ( <i>Talc</i> )	Tlc	Mg <sub>3</sub> Si <sub>4</sub> O <sub>10</sub> (OH) <sub>2</sub>
Minnesotaitite ( <i>Talc</i> )	Mns	Fe <sub>3</sub> Si <sub>4</sub> O <sub>10</sub> (OH) <sub>2</sub>
Brucite ( <i>Brucite</i> )	Brc	Mg(OH) <sub>2</sub>
Ferroan Brucite ( <i>Brucite</i> )	Fe-Brc	Fe(OH) <sub>2</sub>
Tremolite ( <i>Amphibole</i> )	Tr	Ca <sub>2</sub> Mg <sub>5</sub> Si <sub>8</sub> O <sub>22</sub> (OH) <sub>2</sub>
Ferrotremolite ( <i>Amphibole</i> )	Fe-Tr	Ca <sub>2</sub> Fe <sub>3</sub> Si <sub>8</sub> O <sub>22</sub> (OH) <sub>2</sub>
Goethite	Gth	FeO(OH)
Magnetite	Mag	Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>
Dolomite	Dol	CaMg(CO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>
Magnesite	Mgs	MgCO <sub>3</sub>
Calcite	Cal	CaCO <sub>3</sub>
Andradite	Adr	Ca <sub>3</sub> Fe <sub>2</sub> Si <sub>3</sub> O <sub>12</sub>
Portlandite	Por	Ca(OH) <sub>2</sub>

<sup>1</sup>If shown, minerals in italics indicate name of solid solution. All reacting primary minerals used in our models are in solid solutions. For compositions of primary phases, see Table 2.

<sup>2</sup>Mineral abbreviations follow recommendations by Whitney and Evans (2010). Minerals not included in Whitney and Evans (2010) are abbreviated using the first three letters of the minerals.

<sup>3</sup>The dehydrated version of hisingerite (Fe<sub>2</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>(OH)<sub>4</sub>nH<sub>2</sub>O, n=0) was used in this study.

ene) are shown in figures 2 and 3, and provide a framework for depicting the predicted consequences. The resulting reaction paths are divided into six stages to explore, step by step, the reactions that drive the transformation of acidic rainwater to hyperalkaline fluids. The numbers in circles in figures 2 and 3 indicate the starting points of various stages of the overall reaction progress. Figure 2A depicts these six stages in a generalized schematic diagram for a subsurface flowpath in an ultramafic aquifer. Note that the transition from shallow to deep subsurface settings described in figure 1 occurs in stage 3. Calculated changes in pH with reaction progress are shown in figure 2B. Precipitating minerals and compositions of fluids at each stage of the overall reaction progress are summarized in figure 2C and are described in detail in the following discussion. Changes in the total concentrations of Ca, Mg, Si, Fe and dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC), as well as the number of moles of secondary minerals produced or consumed are shown in figure 3. Also shown in figure 3 are activity diagrams that depict the stabilities of minerals relative to the activities of aqueous solutes, together with the reaction paths. Unless otherwise stated, compositions of fluids (including pH) and solid precipitates are results of calculations simulating ambient conditions (25 °C, 1 bar).

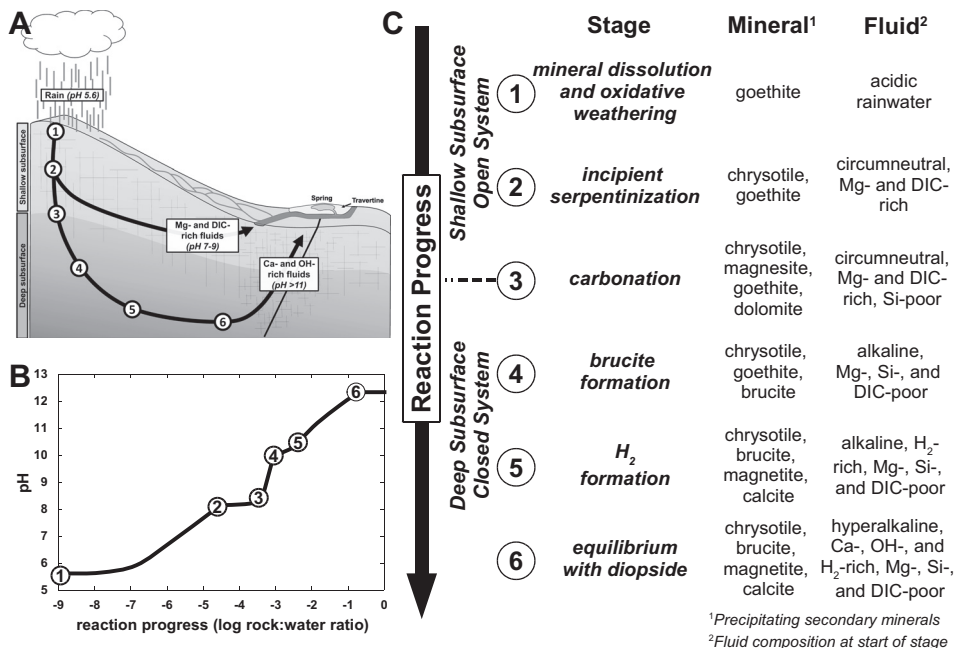
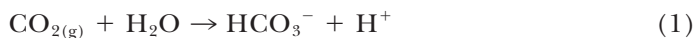


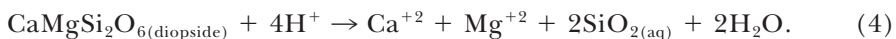
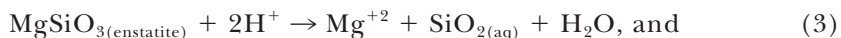
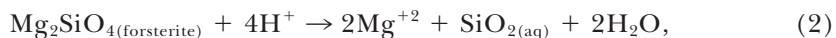
Fig. 2. The progress of the overall serpentinization reaction is divided into six stages that depict conversion of meteoric water into evolved fluids (Types 1 and 2). The numbers in circles indicate the starting points of these stages. (A) depicts these stages in the generalized subsurface reaction scheme shown in figure 1. (B) shows the evolution of pH during the overall reaction progress at 25 °C and 1 bar. (C) summarizes precipitating minerals and fluid compositions at each stage of the overall serpentinization reaction progress. Note that stage 3 marks the transition from shallow to deep subsurface environments.

### Stages in Reaction Progress

*Stage 1, dissolution of primary minerals into rainwater.*—The first stage of reaction progress begins when rainwater interacts with the rocks. At initial stages of reaction progress, the model system is *open* to the atmosphere, simulating rainwater interacting with rocks in the surface or shallow subsurface. The primary minerals that compose ultramafic rocks, formed at mantle temperatures and pressures, are unstable at the surface in the presence of rain and the atmosphere and consequently alter into secondary phases. Rainwater is slightly acidic (pH ~ 5.6) and contains H<sup>+</sup> derived from atmospheric CO<sub>2(g)</sub> via



which drives the dissolution of primary minerals present in ultramafic rocks as described by the reactions



As shown in figure 2B, progress of these reactions drives pH to higher values owing to the continuous consumption of H<sup>+</sup> during mineral hydrolysis. The dissolution of the primary minerals also releases solutes into the fluid, which increases their total



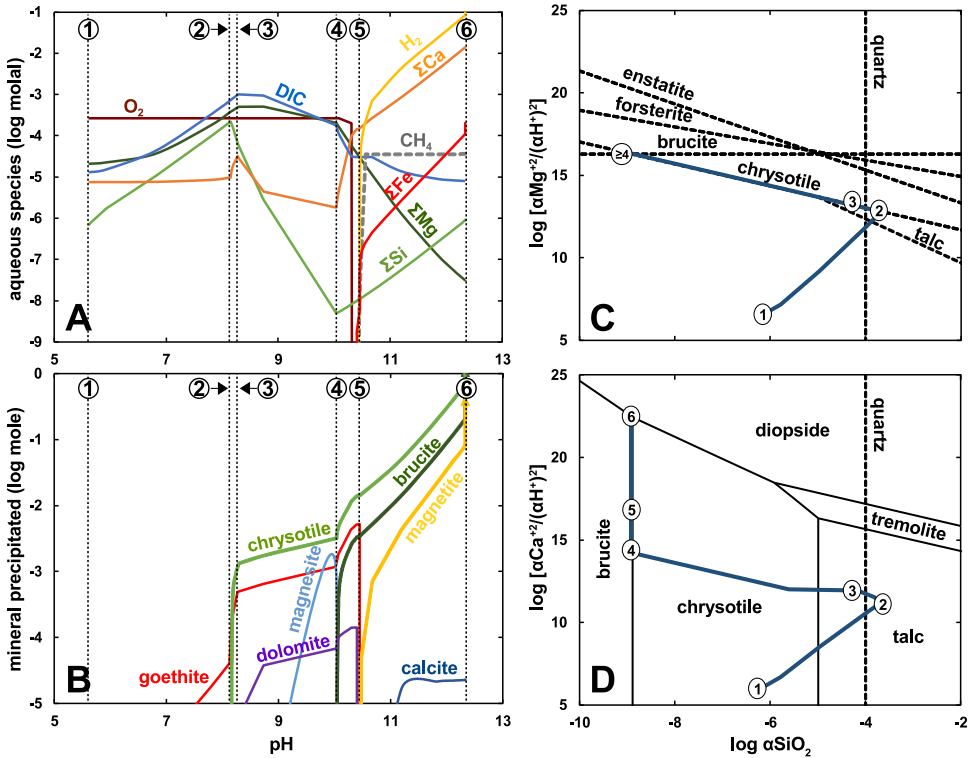
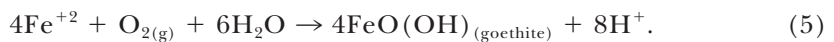


Fig. 3. Evolution of (A) aqueous compositions and (B) secondary precipitation as pH increases with overall reaction progress at 25 °C and 1 bar. Fluid evolution is also depicted on activity diagrams for the (C) MgO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O and (D) CaO-MgO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O systems. The numbers in circles indicate the starting points of various stages of overall reaction progress as in fig. 2C. Note that mineral saturation is indicated by dashed lines in (C) and (D), while solid lines in (D) represent boundaries for the stability fields of minerals.

concentrations relative to rainwater as illustrated in figure 3A. At conditions open to the atmosphere, the concentration of dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) is controlled by atmospheric CO<sub>2(g)</sub> levels. At a constant atmospheric fugacity,  $f_{\text{CO}_2(\text{g})}$ , HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> and DIC must increase with pH (decrease in H<sup>+</sup>) for reaction (1) to proceed. This increase in DIC early in the reaction progress is shown in figure 3A. Ultimately, reactions (1 – 4) facilitate the transformation of dilute, acidic rainwater into a circumneutral fluid mostly enriched in Mg and DIC.

Reactions (2 – 4) refer to the Mg endmembers of natural mineral compositions that are solid solutions. The Mg endmembers provide a framework for illustrating the reactions discussed throughout this section. It should be kept in mind that dissolution of natural ultramafic minerals will also release Fe<sup>+2</sup>, which often substitutes for Mg<sup>+2</sup> in minerals. As shown in figure 3B, Fe<sup>+2</sup> released to the fluid can be oxidized by O<sub>2</sub> to form an oxyhydroxide such as goethite (FeOOH), through



As goethite precipitates, total Fe concentrations stay at low values that plot below the concentration range of most of figure 3A. Throughout the overall reaction progress, O<sub>2</sub> consumption and oxidative weathering proceed through reaction (5) only. Ferric iron-bearing phases like hematite and other ferric oxyhydroxides are also known to

occur in serpentinizing systems (Alt and Shanks, 2003; Mayhew and others, 2018). Precipitation of these phases would result in similarly low values of dissolved Fe as those shown in figure 3A owing to their low solubilities. The fluid accumulates other major solutes (Mg, Ca, Si) from mineral dissolution, until they are concentrated enough for minerals to saturate. Increases in total dissolved concentrations of the above solutes are accompanied by increases in the activity ratios of  $\text{Mg}^{+2}$  and  $\text{Ca}^{+2}$  to  $\text{H}^+$  [ $\alpha\text{Mg}^{+2}/(\alpha\text{H}^+)^2$  and  $\alpha\text{Ca}^{+2}/(\alpha\text{H}^+)^2$ , respectively], as well as the activity of  $\text{SiO}_{2(\text{aq})}$  [ $\alpha\text{SiO}_{2(\text{aq})}$ ] as illustrated by reaction paths on activity diagrams shown in figure 3C, for the  $\text{MgO-SiO}_2\text{-H}_2\text{O}$  system, and 3D for the  $\text{CaO-MgO-SiO}_2\text{-H}_2\text{O}$  system. Note that mineral saturation is indicated by dashed lines in figures 3C and 3D, while solid lines in figure 3D represent boundaries for the stability fields of minerals. At a point during Stage 1 of reaction progress, as shown by the reactions paths in figures 3C and 3D,  $\alpha\text{SiO}_{2(\text{aq})}$  is high enough to saturate quartz and talc. These minerals, however, are rarely encountered in low-temperature serpentinites and were suppressed in the model to evaluate the maximum concentrations that Mg and Si can attain before the fluid reaches chrysotile saturation.

*Stage 2, the onset of serpentinization.*—The maximum values of  $\alpha\text{SiO}_{2(\text{aq})}$  and total dissolved Si are reached at Stage 2 where the reaction path encounters the chrysotile saturation line, at which point chrysotile begins to precipitate in the model via



In response to the precipitation of chrysotile, the total dissolved Si decreases as shown in figure 3A. Correspondingly, as illustrated in figure 3C, when chrysotile saturation is attained, the reaction path turns and  $\alpha\text{SiO}_{2(\text{aq})}$  decreases along the chrysotile saturation line. Despite the consumption of Mg in reaction (6), continued dissolution of ultramafic phases means that the total dissolved Mg continues to increase in concentration. As an example, dissolution of olivine-dominated lithologies results in a surplus of Mg with respect to Si taken up during serpentinization as depicted by



Trends in pH result from reactions consuming and releasing  $\text{H}^+$  into the fluid. In Stage 1 of reaction progress, dissolution of primary minerals consumes  $\text{H}^+$  (rxns 2–4), and reactions that release  $\text{H}^+$  include precipitation of secondary goethite (rxn 5), as well as the continuing dissolution of atmospheric  $\text{CO}_{2(\text{g})}$  (rxn 1) into the fluid. Released  $\text{H}^+$ , in turn, drives the dissolution of primary minerals (rxns 2–4) allowing reaction progress to proceed. As shown in figures 2 and 3, the increasing trends in pH means that dissolution reactions prevail over reactions that release  $\text{H}^+$ . The precipitation of chrysotile (rxn 6) at the start of Stage 2 provides another source for  $\text{H}^+$ , which dampens the increasing pH trend observed since the start of Stage 1 (see fig. 2B). However, pH continues to increase, as production of  $\text{H}^+$  through reaction (6) is not enough to balance its consumption through reactions (2–4). The overall process is exemplified by reaction (7), which depicts the overall process of forsterite dissolution and chrysotile precipitation (sum of rxns 2 and 6) and results in a net consumption of protons.

*Stage 3, atmosphere out, carbonates in.*—As the fluid infiltrates deeper into the aquifer, it loses contact with the atmosphere as it continues to react with the rock. At the start of Stage 3, our calculations simulate a transition from an open shallow subsurface setting to a deep subsurface environment closed to atmospheric input. As shown in figure 3A, DIC stops increasing without the atmosphere supplying  $\text{CO}_{2(\text{g})}$ . Consequently, as illustrated in figure 2B, pH increases dramatically without additional  $\text{H}^+$  provided by reaction (1). Increasing pH and concentrations of divalent cations

( $\text{Mg}^{+2}$  and  $\text{Ca}^{+2}$ ) will saturate carbonate minerals. As shown in figures 3A and 3B, the first carbonate predicted to precipitate is dolomite via the reaction



which causes DIC and total dissolved Ca to decrease in response to dolomite precipitation. The next carbonate predicted to saturate, and in greater quantity than dolomite, is magnesite via the reaction



which causes a slight decrease in the total dissolved Mg concentration.

During Stage 3, as shown in the reaction paths depicted in the activity diagrams shown in figures 3C and 3D, the decrease in  $\alpha\text{SiO}_{2(\text{aq})}$  that started when chrysotile first precipitated at the beginning of Stage 2 continues. Despite the overall decrease in total Mg owing to dolomite, magnesite and chrysotile precipitation, the increase in pH is abrupt enough to cause the  $\alpha\text{Mg}^{+2}/(\alpha\text{H}^+)^2$  to increase gently along the chrysotile saturation line (fig. 3C). The abrupt increase in pH also causes the  $\alpha\text{Ca}^{+2}/(\alpha\text{H}^+)^2$  to increase slightly as the  $\alpha\text{SiO}_{2(\text{aq})}$  decreases (fig. 3D).

*Stage 4, brucite in, magnesite and dolomite out.*—At Stage 4 of the overall reaction progress, pH is high enough to saturate brucite via



Reaction (10) provides a new source for protons ending the dramatic increase in pH observed since the start of Stage 3 (fig. 2B). However, the dissolution reactions (rxns 2–4) that consume  $\text{H}^+$  continue, allowing pH to increase more gradually than during Stage 3. As shown in figures 3A and 3B, total dissolved Mg decreases abruptly in response to brucite precipitation. The continuous decreases in total Mg and DIC cause magnesite and eventually dolomite to become unstable and neither precipitates henceforth. Additionally, as depicted in figure 3C, the trend of decreasing  $\alpha\text{SiO}_{2(\text{aq})}$  observed since the onset of serpentinization at Stage 2 stops when the reaction path attains brucite saturation at the point where the brucite and chrysotile saturation lines intersect. A major implication is that a fluid in equilibrium with both chrysotile and brucite will always remain undersaturated with respect to forsterite and enstatite, ultimately driving the total dissolution of these primary minerals. Totally serpentinized ultramafic rocks, where no relict olivine and orthopyroxene survive, are not uncommon in ultramafic settings (for example, see Oufi and others, 2002; Klein and others, 2014). Forsterite only becomes stable relative to chrysotile and brucite at temperatures  $> 350$  °C (see Klein and others, 2013).

As depicted in figure 3C, the  $\alpha\text{Mg}^{+2}/(\alpha\text{H}^+)^2$  becomes constant when the reaction path reaches the horizontal brucite saturation line corresponding to reaction (10). Moreover, the equilibrium assemblage of brucite and chrysotile will also set the  $\alpha\text{SiO}_{2(\text{aq})}$  as defined by the reaction



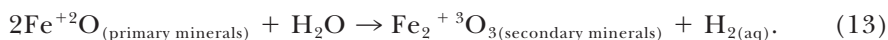
which is the sum of reactions (6) and (10). At 25 °C and 1 bar, reaction (11) will yield a low  $\alpha\text{SiO}_{2(\text{aq})}$  of  $10^{-8.9}$ . Despite the  $\alpha\text{SiO}_{2(\text{aq})}$  being fixed by reaction (11), the speciation of Si allows an increase in total dissolved Si, as depicted in figure 3A, because the abundance of  $\text{HSiO}_3^-$  increases with increasing pH via the reaction



Reaction (12) allows total dissolved Si to increase with increasing pH while maintaining the fixed  $\alpha\text{SiO}_{2(\text{aq})}$  imposed by reaction (11).

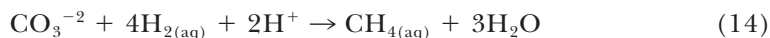
Along the reaction path depicted in the activity diagram shown in figure 3D, Stage 4 starts at the boundary between the brucite and chrysotile stability fields. The reaction path follows this boundary as the  $\alpha\text{Ca}^{+2}/(\alpha\text{H}^+)^2$  continues to increase with reaction progress owing to increases in both pH, shown in figure 2B, and total dissolved Ca concentration shown in figure 3A. This point marks the transition from a *Type 1* fluid dominated by Mg and  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  to a *Type 2* fluid dominated by  $\text{Ca}^{+2}$  and  $\text{OH}^-$ , which are the characteristic fluids found in serpentinizing systems.

*Stage 5, rise of a reduced fluid.*—As fluid moves deeper into the subsurface, atmosphere-derived volatiles such as  $\text{O}_{2(\text{g})}$  and  $\text{CO}_{2(\text{g})}$  are exhausted, demarcating the start of Stage 5 of the overall reaction progress. At this point,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  becomes the main oxidant, generating  $\text{H}_2$  through the oxidation of ferrous iron in primary minerals to ferric iron in secondary minerals via



Progress of reaction (13) causes the fluid to become more reduced with the continuous addition of  $\text{H}_2$ . This destabilizes goethite which is replaced by magnetite as the only Fe-bearing precipitate in this initial round of modeling because solid solution models of serpentine and brucite were not included. The consequences of allowing solid solutions to form is explored below. Moreover, as shown in figure 3A, continuous addition of  $\text{H}_2$  will generate a concentration of dissolved  $\text{H}_2$  close to 100 millimolar by the end of Stage 5. This is 100 times as much dissolved  $\text{H}_2$  as would be in equilibrium with 1 atmosphere of  $\text{H}_{2(\text{g})}$  at ambient conditions ( $\sim 1$  millimolar dissolved  $\text{H}_2$ ), suggesting an overpressurized system capable of generating a free  $\text{H}_{2(\text{g})}$  phase. Further calculations incorporating constraints on confining pressures in deep subsurface aquifers can quantify the proportion of  $\text{H}_2$  present as a free gas. This evaluation can provide insights into the habitability of serpentinizing subsurface as free  $\text{H}_2$  is believed to promote formation of  $\text{CH}_4$  (McCollom, 2016; Etiope and Whiticar, 2019).

As conditions become increasingly reduced,  $\text{CH}_4$  formation is thermodynamically favorable and the concentration of DIC (represented by the species  $\text{CO}_3^{-2}$  at this pH condition) will decrease if the reaction



is not kinetically inhibited. Such a scenario is depicted as a downward dashed arrow from the DIC curve in figure 3A. This downward trend for DIC does not occur if kinetic barriers for reaction (14) exist and DIC will remain in solution, albeit at low concentrations. DIC can then precipitate to yield calcite via

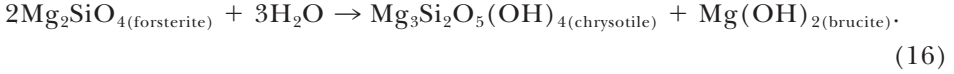


when pH and the total dissolved Ca are high enough, as shown in figures 3A and 3B. A kinetic inhibition to abiotic methane generation opens the possibility for microbial methanogenesis, as discussed below.

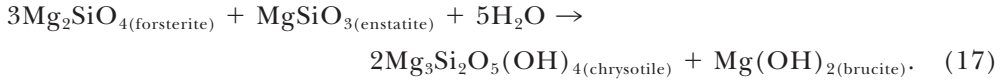
*Stage 6, chrysotile-brucite-diopside equilibria.*—Since the beginning of Stage 1 through the end of Stage 5, pH continues to increase transforming slightly acidic rainwater into an increasingly alkaline fluid. The increase in pH is driven by the consumption of  $\text{H}^+$  through the dissolution of primary minerals (rxns 2–4). Precipitation of secondary minerals releases  $\text{H}^+$ , and, in turn, increases the extent of the dissolution reactions. So far, the release of  $\text{H}^+$  from precipitation reactions is not enough to counter its consumption during dissolution reactions resulting in an overall net consumption of  $\text{H}^+$  that drives the increasing pH trend shown in figure 2B. Note that as the fluid becomes more alkaline, reactions depicted in this paper could be written using the species  $\text{OH}^-$  instead of  $\text{H}^+$ . Nonetheless, rewriting the above reactions into those that

release and consume  $\text{OH}^-$  for dissolution and precipitation reactions, respectively, would still result in the same trends in the pH and concentrations of aqueous species shown in figures 2 and 3.

In a system involving only forsterite as the dissolving primary mineral, the increase in pH stops when the overall reaction progress precipitates both chrysotile and brucite as depicted by the reaction



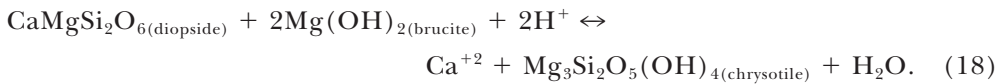
Reaction (16) describes the overall reaction for the dissolution of forsterite (rxn 2), and the precipitation of chrysotile (rxn 6) and brucite (rxn 10). As Reaction (16) does not result in a net consumption or production of  $\text{H}^+$ , pH will remain constant once chrysotile and brucite are both precipitating. The maximum pH this system can attain is that reached at the start of stage 4 (pH  $\sim 10$ ) where brucite joins chrysotile in the secondary assemblage. Addition of enstatite will favor the formation of chrysotile over that of brucite, as exemplified by the reaction



However, as both chrysotile and brucite are still precipitating, the pH would still be constrained by the chrysotile-brucite equilibria and would still end up like that predicted for reaction (16).

It is the dissolution of diopside (rxn 4) that further drives the pH into hyperalkaline conditions (pH  $> 11$ ).  $\text{Mg}^{+2}$  and  $\text{SiO}_{2(\text{aq})}$  released through the dissolution of diopside can be consumed through the precipitation of Mg- and Si-bearing minerals such as chrysotile, dolomite, magnesite, and brucite.  $\text{Ca}^{+2}$  released by the dissolution of diopside (rxn 4) can be potentially balanced by the precipitation of Ca-bearing phases such as dolomite (rxn 8) or calcite (rxn 15), but the minimal and continuously decreasing amount of DIC is not enough for reactions (8) and (15) to consume all of the  $\text{Ca}^{+2}$  released through reaction (4). Unbalanced  $\text{Ca}^{+2}$  will be accommodated by the consumption of  $\text{H}^+$  (or, conversely, release of  $\text{OH}^-$ ), and thus pH continues to increase.

At some point in the overall reaction progress, the increase in pH will stop. This occurs when the fluid approaches equilibrium with diopside, which means that reaction (4) stops going forward. As depicted in figure 3D, this occurs when the reaction path reaches the invariant point defined by the equilibrium assemblage of chrysotile, brucite, and diopside (Ctl-Brc-Di), as described by the reaction



As this is an invariant point in the  $\text{CaO-MgO-SiO}_2\text{-H}_2\text{O}$  system, not only the pH (fig. 2B) but also the total dissolved Ca, Mg, and Si (fig. 3A) will remain unchanged despite continuous reaction progress, until diopside is completely reacted. As fluids attain compositions dictated by this triple point, they are as close as possible to being in equilibrium with the host aquifer rocks, and defining the final stage, Stage 6, of overall reaction progress.

Fluid composition attained at Stage 6 of overall reaction progress is shown in figure 3A and corresponds to reduced, Ca-OH fluid with hyperalkaline pH (pH  $\sim 12$ ), elevated levels of total dissolved Ca ( $\sim 10$  millimolal), and dilute concentrations of total dissolved Si ( $\sim 1$   $\mu\text{molal}$ ) and Mg ( $< 1$   $\mu\text{molal}$ ). As an example, the pH can be

derived using reaction (18), which, at 25 °C and 1 bar, has an equilibrium constant of  $10^{22.4}$ . An equilibrium constant expression for reaction (18), assuming activities of pure solids and water at unity, is given by

$$K_{18} = \frac{\alpha\text{Ca}^{+2}}{(\alpha\text{H}^+)^2} = 10^{22.4}, \quad (19)$$

and, incorporating an ionic balancing constraint

$$\alpha\text{Ca}^{+2} = 0.5\alpha\text{OH}^- = 0.5\frac{10^{-14}}{\alpha\text{H}^+}, \quad (20)$$

will yield a pH of  $\sim 12$  at 25 °C and 1 bar. Equation (20) is a simplified illustration compared with our calculations that account for full aqueous speciation and ionic balance. Further constraints via reaction (15, calcite precipitation) will allow the prediction of DIC concentrations. As shown in figure 3A, an equilibrium assemblage of Ctl-Brc-Di and calcite results in a predicted fluid with very low concentrations of DIC ( $< 10 \mu\text{molal}$ ).

In summary, Stage 6 of the overall reaction progress corresponds to the final step in which the infiltrating fluid attains its maximum pH. Fluid composition imposed by the above assemblage of minerals results in a hyperalkaline fluid with elevated total concentrations of Ca, and dilute levels of total Mg, Si and DIC (see fig. 3A). Such equilibria also impose limits on the maximum pH that can be attained by a serpentinizing system. At ambient conditions (25 °C, 1 bar) this yields a pH close to 12. This and other results discussed in this section have strong or subtle temperature dependencies as discussed next.

#### Variations in Temperature

The models described above simulate water-rock interactions at ambient conditions (25 °C, 1 bar). Continental serpentinizing fluids reported in the literature range in temperature up to  $\sim 50$  °C. Although yet to be sampled, serpentinizing fluids at higher temperatures up to  $\sim 100$  °C could exist deep in an ophiolite aquifer, assuming ophiolite thickness of 3 to 4 km and a geotherm of  $30 \text{ °C km}^{-1}$ . To explore the chemistry of serpentinization-generated fluids that can form at various low temperatures, fluid compositions constrained by Ctl-Brc-Di plus calcite were calculated at temperatures ranging from 0 °C to 100 °C. Results are shown in figure 4, including trends in pH, total dissolved Ca, Si, Mg, and DIC, and their speciated components over this temperature range. In the following discussion, note that the temperatures for calculated or measured pH values are indicated in subscripts.

The pH of a fluid in equilibrium with chrysotile, brucite, diopside, and calcite will decrease as temperature increases, as shown in figure 4A. The calculated pH at 100 °C ( $\text{pH}_{100^\circ\text{C}} = 10.1$ ) is more than 3 pH units lower than that calculated at 0 °C ( $\text{pH}_{0^\circ\text{C}} = 13.4$ ). The latter is close to the  $\text{pH}_{2.4^\circ\text{C}}$  (13.1) calculated at *in situ* temperatures at South Chamorro Seamount (Mottl, 2009). Mottl (2009) argued that this extremely high pH is attained through the release of  $\text{OH}^-$  (or conversely, consumption of  $\text{H}^+$ ) during the reduction of DIC to generate  $\text{CH}_4$  (see rxn 14). Alternatively, this high pH could result from fluid-mineral equilibria as it is close to that predicted for equilibrium with Ctl-Brc-Di (fig. 4A). On the continents, high pH values were measured in fluids hosted in Canadian kimberlite deposits (12.46, Sader and others, 2007), the Tablelands Ophiolite in Canada (12.2, Szponar and others, 2013), Coast Range Ophiolites Microbial Observatory (CROMO) in California, USA (12.4, Crespo-Medina and others, 2014), Voltri Massif in Italy (12.3, Schwarzenbach and others, 2013), Samail Ophiolite in Oman (12, Chavagnac and others, 2013b), and the Dinaride Ophiolite in



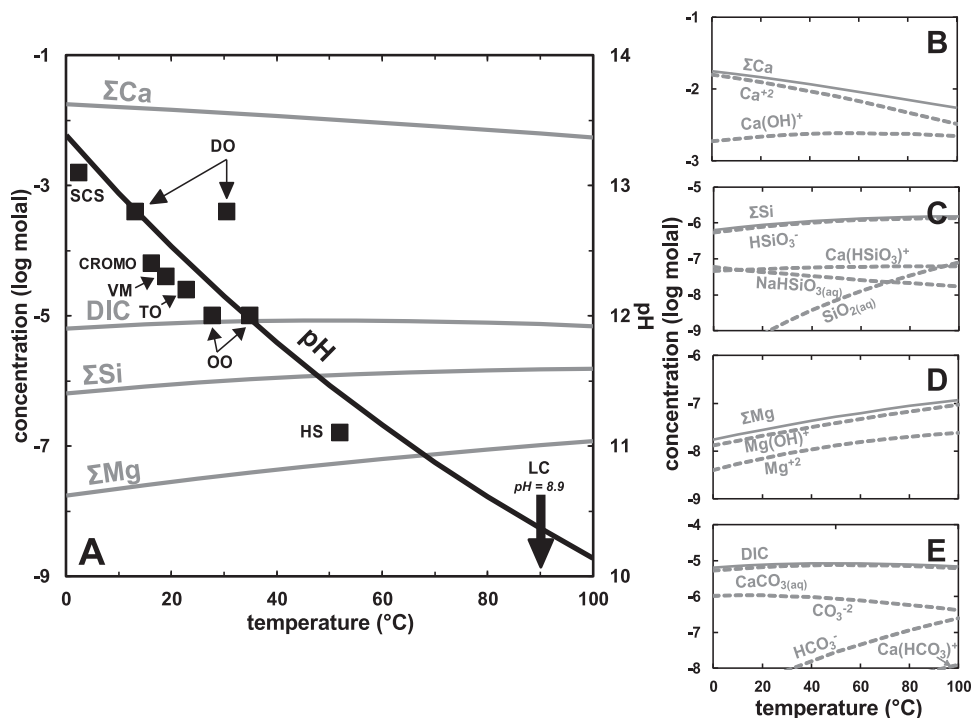


Fig. 4. (A) Trends of pH and total dissolved solute concentrations, as constrained by equilibrium with Ctl-Brc-Di (rxn 18) and Cal (rxn 15) at temperatures ranging from 0 °C to 100 °C (see table 3 for abbreviations of minerals). Also shown are the calculated speciations of (B)  $\Sigma Ca$ , (C)  $\Sigma Si$ , (D)  $\Sigma Mg$ , and (E) DIC. Plotted in (A) are some of the highest pH measured in serpentinizing systems (black squares): South Chamorro Seamount (SCS, Mottl, 2009); Coast Range Ophiolites, California (CROMO, Crespo-Medina and others, 2014); Voltri Massif, Italy (VM, Schwarzenbach and others, 2013); Oman Ophiolite (OO, Chavagnac and others, 2013b); Dinaride Ophiolite, Bosnia and Herzegovina (DO, Etiope and others, 2017); Tablelands Ophiolite, Canada (TO, Szponar and others, 2013); Hakuba Happo Springs, Japan (HS, Homma and Tsukahara, 2008); and Lost City Hydrothermal Field, Mid-Atlantic Ridge (LC, Seyfried and others, 2015). pH values for SCS and LC were measured at 25 °C and were recalculated to *in situ* temperatures by Mottl (2009) for SCS and by this work using data from Seyfried and others (2015) for LC.

Bosnia and Herzegovina (12.8, Etiope and others, 2017). Measured pH of 12 (Oman), 12.2 (Tablelands), 12.3 (Voltri), 12.4 (CROMO) and 12.8 (Dinaride) at temperatures of 34.9 °C, 21.3–24.3 °C, 19 °C, 16.2 °C, and 13.1 °C, respectively, are close to those predicted for the Ctl-Brc-Di equilibria (fig. 4A). A  $pH_{30.5^\circ C}$  measurement of 12.8 at Dinaride, which is 0.7 pH units above that imposed by Ctl-Brc-Di equilibria could have been produced through reduction reactions that generate  $CH_4$ , as Mottl (2009) postulated for the South Chamorro Seamount fluid. The  $CH_4$  concentration (2706  $\mu M$ ) associated with this sample is the highest recorded so far in ultramafic-hosted hyperalkaline fluids (Etiope and others, 2017). Alternatively, this high pH could be a result of mineral buffering reactions other than the Ctl-Brc-Di equilibria. High pH values (~12.5) were measured from slag-filled aquifer fluids in Lake Calumet, Chicago, Illinois (Roadcap and others, 2005, 2006; Ohlsson and others, 2019) and even more basic pH values were observed in Maqarin, Jordan (Barnes and others, 1982; Khourey and others, 1985, 1992; Alexander and others, 1992; Pederson and others, 2004). These sites are not hosted in ultramafic rocks and the high pH is likely a result of mineral equilibria akin to that resulting from concrete-water interactions rather than by the Ctl-Brc-Di equilibria attained during the serpentinization of ultramafic

rocks. As an example, the  $\alpha\text{Ca}^{+2}/(\alpha\text{H}^+)^2$  of a fluid constrained by portlandite and high Ca/Si hydrate (CSH) phases is higher than typically seen in serpentinizing fluids, owing to both higher pH and total dissolved Ca (Blanc and others, 2010). In addition to portlandite and CSH phases, fluid in equilibrium with calcite at extremely DIC-limited environments would require very high pH, as expounded upon below. These examples underscore the fact that hyperalkaline fluids are not unique to serpentinization-related environments and other fluid-rock processes that buffer pH to high values also exist.

Temperatures slightly exceeding 50 °C, perhaps the highest measured in continental serpentinizing systems, were recorded by Homma and Tsukahara (2008) and Suda and others (2014) in Hakuba Happo Hot Springs, Japan. The highest reported  $\text{pH}_{52^\circ\text{C}}$  for this area is 11.1 (Homma and Tsukahara, 2008) which is also close to that constrained by the Ctl-Brc-Di equilibrium. Taran and others (2002, 2010) documented acidic ( $\text{pH}_{25^\circ\text{C}} = 2.58\text{--}2.93$ ) hot springs (42–99 °C) in Socorro Island, Mexico enriched in  $\text{H}_2$  and  $\text{CH}_4$  attributed to serpentinization. As it is located in an active magma-driven hydrothermal system, further work can decouple how much the compositions of these fluids were influenced by volcanic input or by serpentinization. Otherwise, temperatures higher than those recorded in Hakuba Happo for continental serpentinizing fluids have yet to be measured, but higher temperatures are observed in submarine hydrothermal fields. Calculated pH values at *in situ* temperatures (ranging from 75–116 °C) for end-member fluids venting at the Lost City hydrothermal field are lower than those predicted for Ctl-Brc-Di equilibria (Seyfried and others, 2015). For instance, at an *in situ* temperature of 90 °C (Beehive Structure, Lost City hydrothermal field; Seyfried and others, 2015), the calculated  $\text{pH}_{90^\circ\text{C}}$  of 8.9 is 1.5 pH units below that predicted for a fluid in equilibrium with Ctl-Brc-Di ( $\text{pH}_{90^\circ\text{C}} = 10.4$ ). Seyfried and others (2015) attributed this lower pH to the chrysotile-tremolite-diopside (Ctl-Tr-Di) equilibria, which compared to the Ctl-Brc-Di equilibria, will yield lower  $\alpha\text{Ca}^{+2}/(\alpha\text{H}^+)^2$  (and hence lower pH) and higher  $\alpha\text{SiO}_{2(\text{aq})}$ . The shift from the Ctl-Brc-Di to the Ctl-Tr-Di equilibria results from subsurface transport in which fluids react with the intermingling peridotite and the relatively more silica-rich gabbroic bodies beneath the Lost City hydrothermal field (Seyfried and others, 2015).

Compared to pH, total dissolved Ca, Si, Mg and DIC do not vary as much with temperature (fig. 4A). At most, the total Mg concentration is greater by an order of magnitude at 100 °C compared with 0 °C, while changes in total Ca, Si, and DIC are less conspicuous. As shown in figure 4B, the most abundant species contributing to the total Ca in the fluid is  $\text{Ca}^{+2}$ , although with an increasing contribution from  $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})^+$  as temperature increases. Total Si is dominantly made up of the anion  $\text{HSiO}_3^-$ , which can form aqueous complexes with cations like  $\text{Na}^+$ ,  $\text{Ca}^{+2}$  and  $\text{Mg}^{+2}$  (fig. 4C). The low concentration of  $\text{Mg}^{+2}$  means that the abundance of the Mg-silicate complex is predicted to be lower than the concentration range shown in figures 4C and 4D. Total dissolved Mg is mostly made up of  $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})^+$  at these alkaline conditions (fig. 4D). Most of the dissolved inorganic carbon exists as the neutral complex,  $\text{CaCO}_{3(\text{aq})}$ , in these Ca-enriched fluids followed by  $\text{CO}_3^{-2}$  (fig. 4E).

#### Variations in Fluid Salinity

Results described above are for calculations with 1 millimolar NaCl solutions. In additional models we examined the effects of varying salinity from dilute (0.1 millimolar NaCl) to that equivalent to seawater (0.5 molal NaCl). Results of calculations for conditions at 25 °C and 1 bar depicted in figure 5, show that pH and the concentrations of most dissolved species (DIC, total dissolved Mg and Ca) in equilibrium with the Ctl-Brc-Di plus calcite assemblage change only slightly, increasing with fluid salinity. In contrast, total dissolved Si increases by more than an order of magnitude (fig. 5A). This change is attributed to a shift in the dominant aqueous species that comprises the total

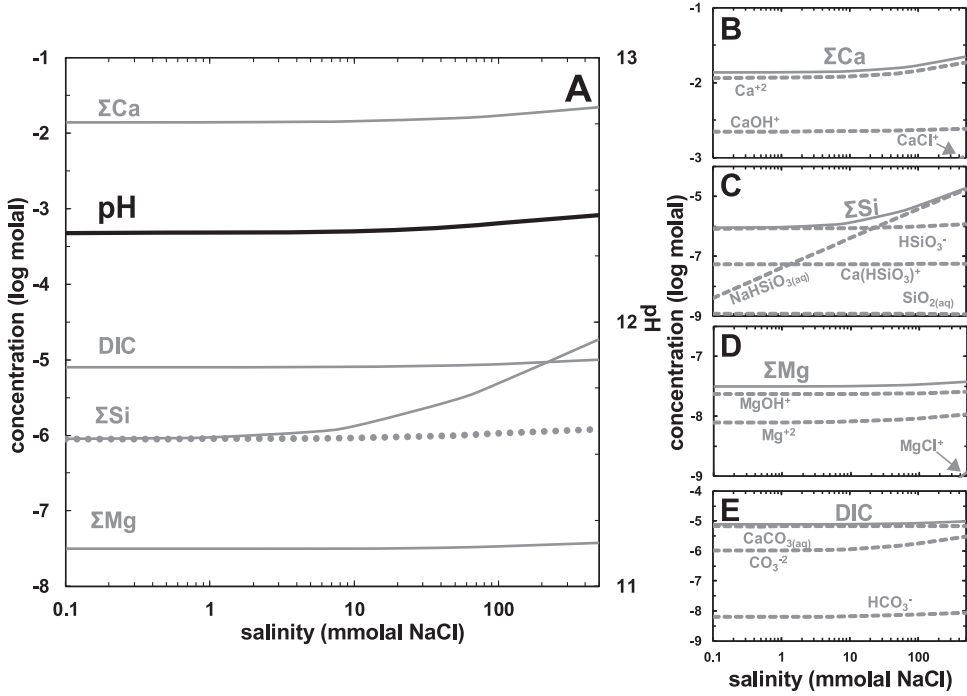
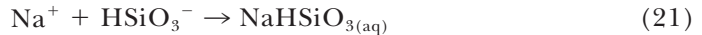


Fig. 5. (A) Trends of pH and total dissolved solute concentrations constrained by Ctl-Brc-Di equilibrium (rxn 18) at 25 °C and 1 bar, as functions of increasing fluid salinity. Also plotted are the calculated speciations of (B)  $\Sigma\text{Ca}$ , (C)  $\Sigma\text{Si}$ , (D)  $\Sigma\text{Mg}$ , and (E) DIC. Dotted line for  $\Sigma\text{Si}$  in (A) depicts results of simulations where the  $\text{NaHSiO}_{3(\text{aq})}$  complex is suppressed.

dissolved Si pool (fig. 5C). In dilute highly basic solutions, most of the dissolved Si exists as the anion  $\text{HSiO}_3^-$ , but shifts to the sodium silicate complex,  $\text{NaHSiO}_{3(\text{aq})}$  as salinity rises. Because the activity of  $\text{SiO}_{2(\text{aq})}$  remains constant as dictated by the Ctl-Brc equilibrium (rxn 11), and pH increases only slightly, the concentration of  $\text{HSiO}_3^-$  also remains relatively constant (see rxn 12) with salinity. Simultaneously, the concentration of  $\text{NaHSiO}_{3(\text{aq})}$  increases even at constant  $\text{HSiO}_3^-$  as the reaction



proceeds with increasing salinity. The overall consequence is an increase in the total dissolved Si. This increase in dissolved Si aligns with observations of the enhanced solubility of a number of silicates with increasing salinity (see Newton and Manning, 2010) that may be attributed to changes in the speciation of dissolved silica species. However, existing stability constants for the  $\text{NaHSiO}_{3(\text{aq})}$  complex (Seward, 1974; Sverjensky and others, 1997) used in this work are questioned by some studies (Busey and Mesmer, 1977; Tutolo and Tosca, 2018; Huang and Sverjensky, 2019). For example, the solubilities of certain silicates (amorphous silica; Marshall and Warakomski, 1980; Zarubin and Nemkina, 1990) decrease with increasing salinity indicating a much weaker drive to form this complex than depicted in our models. Suppressing this complex results in a dissolved Si trend, shown by the dotted line in figure 5A, that is independent of fluid salinity. Future studies that can constrain solubilities of serpentinization-relevant minerals at highly saline environments will permit predictions of fluid compositions in other rocky bodies in our solar system where saline fluids are

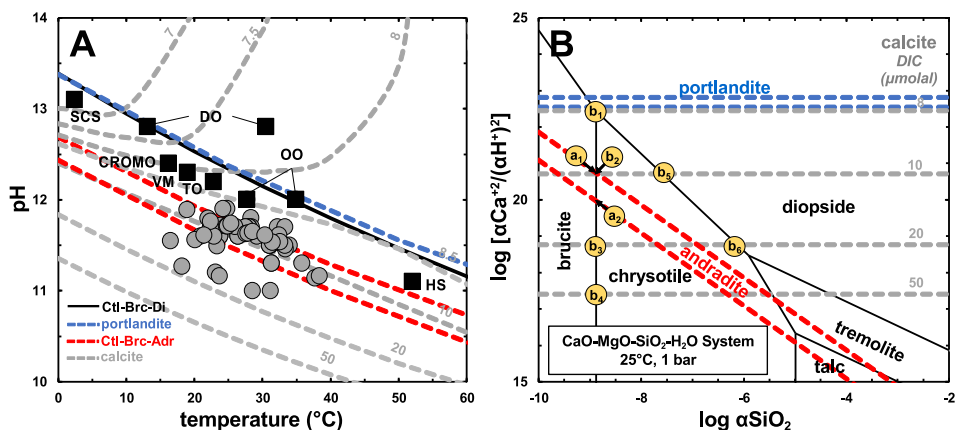


Fig. 6. (A) pH and temperature of hyperalkaline fluids (pH > 11) sampled from Oman (filled gray circles, data from Paukert and others, 2012, Chavagnac and others, 2013b, and Canovas and others, 2017) and other < 60 °C sites listed in fig. 4A (filled black squares). Most samples from Oman plot below the pH dictated by Ctl-Brc-Di equilibrium (solid black curve). (B) Activity diagram for the CaO-MgO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O system. Stability fields and saturation lines of minerals are similar to fig. 3D, with the addition of saturation lines for calcite (dashed gray) at variable DIC concentrations indicated above or below the line, portlandite (dashed blue), and andradite (dashed red). Upper and lower lines for portlandite represent ranges in solubility data from the literature (see text). Upper line for andradite depicts redox conditions constrained by the iron-magnetite equilibrium, lower line is constrained by the goethite-magnetite equilibrium. Points a<sub>1</sub> and a<sub>2</sub> depict equilibrium with andradite with both chrysotile and brucite (Ctl-Brc-Adr) at redox conditions mentioned above. Point b<sub>1</sub> depicts the Ctl-Brc-Di equilibrium triple point. Points b<sub>2</sub>, b<sub>3</sub>, and b<sub>4</sub> depict equilibrium with Ctl-Brc-Cal at DIC concentrations of 10, 20, and 50 μmolal, respectively. The lines in (A) represent pH values calculated by the equilibria noted by these points in (B) – dashed red lines (a<sub>1</sub> and a<sub>2</sub>) and dashed gray lines (b<sub>1</sub>, b<sub>2</sub>, b<sub>3</sub>, and b<sub>4</sub>) – as well as pH values derived from the lower portlandite line (dashed blue line) and additional Ctl-Brc-Cal equilibrium points at limited DIC (< 8.5 μmolal) concentrations (dashed gray lines). Equilibria without brucite are represented by points b<sub>5</sub> and b<sub>6</sub>, which depict equilibrium with Ctl-Di-Cal at DIC concentrations of 10 and 20 μmolal, respectively. See table 3 for abbreviations of minerals.

known to predominate (Gleim and others, 2015). Nonetheless, the lowest Si concentrations measured from non-saline, continental serpentinizing fluids (1 μmolal Si, Chavagnac and others, 2013b) are consistent with our predictions. The speciation of other solutes are depicted in figures 5B, 5D, and 5E for total dissolved Ca, Mg and inorganic carbon, respectively, and change minimally with variable salinity. Chloride complexes of Ca<sup>+2</sup> and Mg<sup>+2</sup> occur only in minor amounts that remain below most of the concentration range in figure 5 (note how MgCl<sup>+</sup> appears only at the highest salinity) and would not affect the speciation of these cations as much as Na affects the total dissolved Si.

#### Precipitation of Ca-bearing Phases

The dissolution of diopside and the lack of a precipitating Ca-bearing phase to counter reaction (4) requires the consumption of H<sup>+</sup> (or production of OH<sup>-</sup>) to accommodate the otherwise unbalanced Ca<sup>+2</sup>. During the overall serpentinization progress, this increase in pH is accommodated until the fluid attains equilibrium with diopside. As shown in figure 4A, equilibria involving diopside can account for some of the highest pH values observed in serpentinizing environments. Most studies on continental serpentinizing sites report the pH of hyperalkaline fluids to be between 11 to 12, somewhat lower than the theoretical maxima. As an example, as shown in figure 6A, most hyperalkaline fluids sampled in Oman (filled gray circles, Paukert and others, 2012; Chavagnac and others, 2013b; Canovas and others, 2017) have measured pH values lower than those set by equilibrium with diopside (solid black line in fig. 6A)

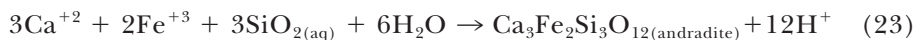
given the measured fluid temperature. The precipitation of Ca-bearing phases can cause fluids to shift from being in equilibrium with diopside and can likely draw pH to lower values. In this section, we explore the effects of various Ca-bearing phases (portlandite, andradite, and calcite) on fluid compositions. Results of calculations are shown in the temperature *vs.* pH plot and the CaO-MgO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O activity diagram depicted in figures 6A and 6B, respectively.

*Portlandite.*—Albeit rarely, portlandite can occur in serpentinizing environments (Neal and Stanger, 1984; Chavagnac and others, 2013a). The  $\alpha\text{Ca}^{+2}/(\alpha\text{H}^+)^2$  needed to saturate portlandite can be derived using the equilibrium constant expression for the reaction



At ambient conditions (25 °C, 1 bar),  $\alpha\text{Ca}^{+2}/(\alpha\text{H}^+)^2 = 10^{22.5}$  to  $10^{22.8}$  (Reardon, 1990; Wolery and Jove-Colon, 2004; Blanc and others, 2010, dashed blue lines in fig. 6B) where the lower value is close to that derived for Ctl-Brc-Di equilibrium ( $10^{22.4}$ , see point b<sub>1</sub> in fig. 6B). Temperature-dependent thermodynamic data for portlandite exist (Wolery and Jove-Colon, 2004) and allow us to calculate pH constrained by portlandite solubility from 0 °C to 60 °C. The dashed blue line plotted in figure 6A depicts calculated pH values that closely align with pH values dictated by the Ctl-Brc-Di equilibrium. It follows that fluids produced through serpentinization, at the maximum pH and Ca concentration attainable through Ctl-Brc-Di equilibrium, can potentially precipitate portlandite. However, it is only at this specific stage of the overall serpentinization progress that portlandite saturation can be attained, which is consistent with its rare occurrence in hyperalkaline pools and serpentinite outcrops.

*Andradite.*—Anhydrous and hydrous andraditic garnets are known to occur in a number of serpentinites (Beard and Hopkinson, 2000; Menez and others, 2012, 2018; Plümper and others, 2014), where they are found to be intimately associated with organic matter (Menez and others, 2012, 2018). The uptake of Ca<sup>+2</sup> into garnet as shown by the reaction



can draw pH away from equilibrium with diopside. The  $\alpha\text{Ca}^{+2}/(\alpha\text{H}^+)^2$  of fluids in equilibrium with andradite was calculated using reaction (23) over ranges of  $\alpha\text{SiO}_{2(\text{aq})}$  from  $10^{-10}$  to  $10^{-2}$ , and  $\alpha\text{Fe}^{+3}/(\alpha\text{H}^+)^3$  constrained by redox states buffered by either goethite-magnetite or magnetite-iron equilibria. Results of calculations are plotted as dashed red lines in figure 6B and show that equilibrium with andradite requires that the fluid has lower values of  $\alpha\text{Ca}^{+2}/(\alpha\text{H}^+)^2$  than set by equilibrium with diopside. A more reduced environment constrained by the magnetite-iron equilibrium (top dashed red line in fig. 6B) results in slightly higher  $\alpha\text{Ca}^{+2}/(\alpha\text{H}^+)^2$  values than those set by the goethite-magnetite (lower dashed red line in fig. 6B). We calculated pH constrained by an equilibrium assemblage of chrysotile, brucite, and andradite (Ctl-Brc-Adr, points a<sub>1</sub> and a<sub>2</sub> in figure 6B) at temperatures ranging from 0 °C to 60 °C and results of calculations are overlain in figure 6A as dashed red lines. pH constrained by the above equilibrium at the range of temperature depicted in figure 6A can account for many but not all environmental observations offset from Ctl-Brc-Di equilibria. In the calculation above, we substituted thermodynamic data for andradite in place of missing data for hydrous andraditic garnets. Further calculations incorporating thermodynamic data on hydrous andraditic garnets, and field studies documenting their occurrence in ophiolitic aquifers, would allow assessments on the role of garnets during low-temperature serpentinization. Like magnetite, andraditic garnets can potentially host ferric iron among secondary precipitates during serpentinization, which can further the potential to generate H<sub>2</sub> via reaction (13). For example,



Plümper and others (2014) estimated massive amounts of H<sub>2</sub> generated through andradite formation that would be enough to stabilize Fe-Ni alloys based on observations of garnet-bearing serpentinites in the Feragen ultramafic body in Norway.

*Calcite.*—As discussed above, results shown in figure 3A demonstrate that limits on the amount of DIC late in the overall serpentinization progress mean that calcite precipitation (rxn 15) will not be able to balance Ca<sup>+2</sup> released through diopside dissolution (rxn 4). However, if there is a supply of DIC from another source it may be possible for fluids to be in equilibrium with calcite instead of diopside. This may occur where deep-seated fluids devoid of atmospheric input discharge back to the surface where infiltration of CO<sub>2(g)</sub>, interaction with near-surface carbonate veins, or mixing with DIC-rich shallow groundwater can supply DIC. The consequences are illustrated by the dashed gray lines in figure 6B, which show calculated values of  $\alpha\text{Ca}^{+2}/(\alpha\text{H}^+)^2$  in equilibrium with calcite at the indicated concentrations of DIC. At DIC concentration of ~8 μmolal, a 25 °C, 1 bar fluid can be in equilibrium with both diopside and calcite (point b<sub>1</sub> in fig. 6B). At higher DIC concentrations, the presence of calcite can draw  $\alpha\text{Ca}^{+2}/(\alpha\text{H}^+)^2$  to values lower than those constrained by diopside. If calcite precipitation is faster than diopside dissolution, fluid composition can shift from that dictated by Ctl-Brc-Di equilibrium to that constrained by chrysotile-brucite-calcite (Ctl-Brc-Cal) equilibrium such as those depicted by points b<sub>2</sub>, b<sub>3</sub>, and b<sub>4</sub> in figure 6B for DIC concentrations of 10, 20, and 50 μmolal, respectively. The consequences for pH of this shift in controlling mineral assemblages at temperatures ranging from 0 °C to 60 °C are shown as dashed gray lines in figure 6A, and show that equilibrium with calcite in extremely DIC limited environments (< 8 μmolal) may require pH higher than that can be attained through equilibrium with diopside. This could account for the extremely high pH recorded by Etiope and others (2017) at one site in the Dinaride Ophiolite discussed above. Otherwise, at DIC concentrations > 8 μmolal, calcite will draw pH to lower values than equilibrium with diopside. With increasing DIC concentration the equilibrium pH constrained by Ctl-Brc-Cal will be lower. As shown in figure 6A, a shift from equilibrium with diopside to calcite can account for most environmental pH observations. As an example, most hyperalkaline fluids sampled in Oman have pH values that lie between ranges possible for calcite at low DIC concentrations (8–20 μmolal) and andradite at variable redox conditions (goethite-magnetite to magnetite-iron equilibria). So far, no study has surveyed the abundance of andradite or hydrogarnets in ophiolitic aquifers. Calcite, on the other hand, is common as near-surface veins and surface travertine deposits (Kelemen and Matter, 2008; Mervine and others, 2014). It is likely that this shift to calcite equilibria occurs in the near subsurface or at the surface where deep-seated fluids encounter DIC-rich shallow groundwater or the atmosphere. It can also be seen in figure 6A that a few Oman samples plot at pH values higher than that set by calcite equilibrium at 10 μmolal DIC and are close to equilibrium with diopside or with calcite at extremely DIC-limited conditions (<10 μmolal). This suggests that these fluids were less influenced by surficial or shallow subsurficial processes and remain close to equilibrium with the altered host rocks (Ctl-Brc-Di equilibrium).

Higher concentration of DIC will draw the fluid to lower pH as shown in figure 6A. Pfeiffer (1977) and Bruni and others (2002) argued that the high pH of serpentinizing springs is mainly attributed to extremely low DIC characteristic of systems closed to atmospheric influence. Our calculations agree with this statement, as very low DIC concentrations are needed for pH to remain > 11 as shown by the calcite trends in figure 6A. However, reaction path calculations underscore that the path to hyperalkaline pH is facilitated by primary mineral dissolution reactions, especially diopside, and a low DIC concentration is only needed to preserve hyperalkaline conditions generated by water-rock reactions. Nevertheless, the calculations shown above underline



that variabilities in pH recorded in serpentinizing systems may be attributed to variations in DIC input in addition to variations in temperature and buffering reactions involving other minerals.

In the discussions above, brucite is assumed to be present in the equilibrium mineral assemblage. Fluid pathways may encounter environments where brucite is unstable such as in the shallow subsurface where the aquifer can be composed of brucite-free serpentinites (Miller and others, 2016). Interaction with these rocks will draw fluids away from the brucite stability field depicted in figure 6B and toward assemblages stable at higher  $\alpha\text{SiO}_{2(\text{aq})}$ . As an example, fluids in equilibrium with chrysotile, diopside, and calcite at DIC concentrations of 10  $\mu\text{molal}$  and 20  $\mu\text{molal}$ , respectively depicted by points  $b_5$  and  $b_6$  in figure 6B, will result in fluids with lower  $\alpha\text{Ca}^{+2}/(\alpha\text{H}^+)^2$  and higher  $\alpha\text{SiO}_{2(\text{aq})}$  and will ultimately generate fluids with lower pH and higher Si concentrations than values constrained by the Ctl-Brc-Di equilibrium. Note that points  $b_5$  and  $b_6$  (Ctl-Di-Cal), respectively, share similar  $\alpha\text{Ca}^{+2}/(\alpha\text{H}^+)^2$  with points  $b_2$  and  $b_3$  (Ctl-Brc-Cal equilibrium) and would result in fluids with similar pH with the former distinguished from the latter only by their higher dissolved Si concentrations. As such, most of the environmental pH values shown in figure 6A can also be accommodated by this shift to the Ctl-Di-Cal equilibrium. In addition to the consequences of a brucite-free serpentinite aquifer, mixing with Si-rich shallow groundwater can also draw fluids to higher  $\alpha\text{SiO}_{2(\text{aq})}$ . Assessment of the silica concentrations of serpentinization-generated hyperalkaline fluids is one of the most powerful ways to discriminate among various fluid pathways possible in ultramafic aquifers, as well as the consequence of fluid mixing at and below the surface.

#### *Variations in Contributions from Primary Minerals*

The preceding discussion refers to a model of rainwater reacting with a single generalized composition of ultramafic rock (85%  $\text{Fo}_{90}$ -olivine, 14%  $\text{En}_{90}$ -orthopyroxene, and 1%  $\text{Di}_{95}$ -clinopyroxene). This composition is characteristic of harzburgites that are common in ophiolites. However, modal compositions of primary minerals that compose harzburgites vary in ophiolites and in exhumed ultramafic rocks in the seafloor [see: Warren (2016) for a compilation of seafloor ultramafic rock mineralogy and geochemistry]. Consequently, fluids will likely encounter rocks with variable composition during subsurface transport. Moreover, primary minerals can dissolve at differing rates resulting in variable contributions of aqueous solutes from primary minerals that may differ from the modal composition of the host rock. Therefore, in this section we discuss the consequence of variable contributions of primary minerals on the compositions of aqueous fluids. Details on the composition of the reacting rocks used in our simulations can be found in table 2. This work focuses on alteration at ambient conditions and is complementary to results by Klein and others (2013) on the variabilities in secondary mineralization and fluid and gas chemistry resulting from the alteration of ultramafic rocks of variable modal compositions at temperatures up to 400 °C. In addition, this work expands the compositional variabilities explored by seminal calculations on low-temperature serpentinization by Pfeifer (1977) and Palandri and Reed (2004).

Results for 25 °C and 1 bar are shown in figures 7 to 9. We start with rainwater interactions with rocks composed only of olivine (Forsterite<sub>90</sub>) and orthopyroxene (Enstatite<sub>90</sub>) (Models B1-B5, MgO-FeO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O system), and then discuss the effects of involving clinopyroxene (Diopside<sub>95</sub>) (Models C1-C5, CaO-MgO-FeO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O system) on the resulting fluid compositions. Lastly, instead of a fresh ultramafic rock, we model fluids reacting with a serpentinite (Models D1-D4). This model shares features with those conducted by Cipolli and others (2004) and Bruni and others (2002) who simulated rainwater-serpentinite interactions to account for the origins of hyperalkaline fluids seeping out from metaophiolitic lithologies in the Voltri Group of

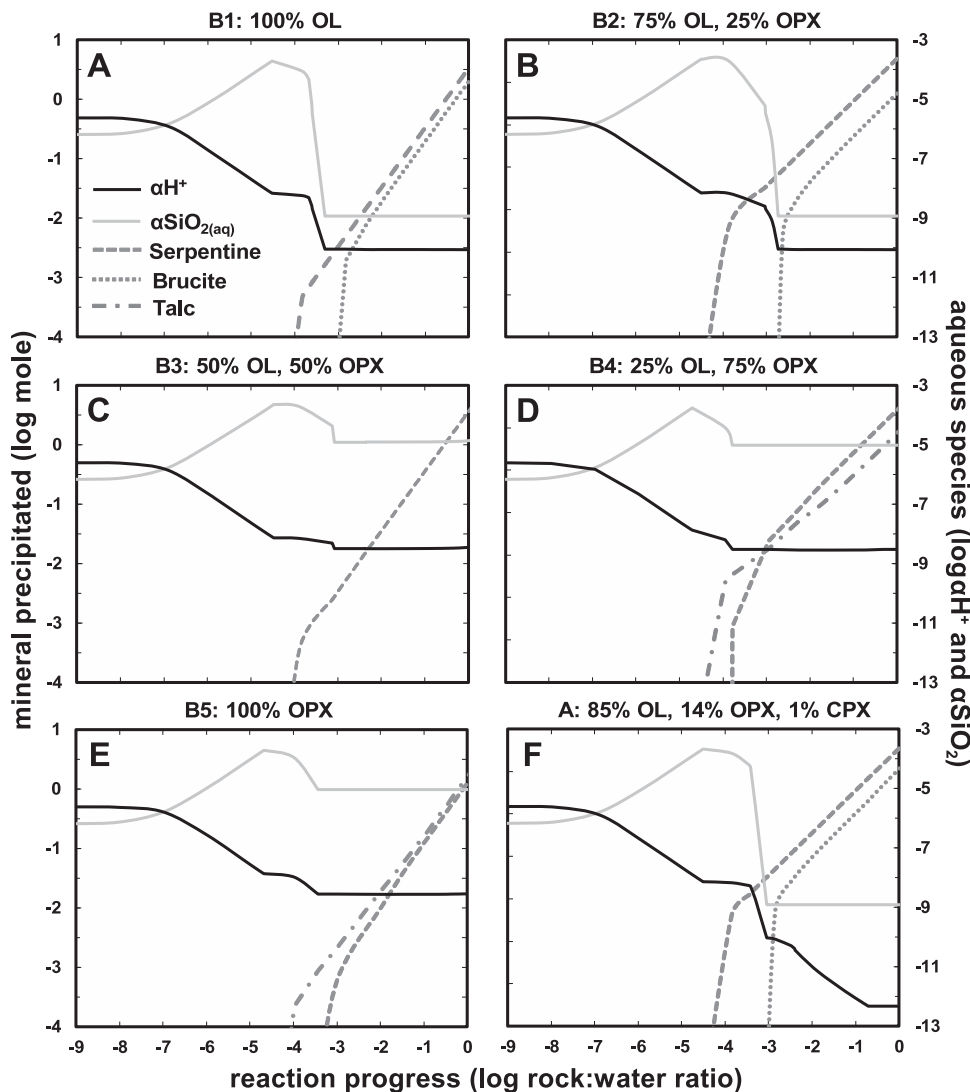


Fig. 7. (A-E) Results of simulations at 25 °C and 1 bar for host rocks of the MgO-FeO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O system (Models B1-B5) where reacting rocks contain olivine (OL) or orthopyroxene (OPX) or combinations of both. (F) Results of simulation illustrated in fig. 3 (Model A) for comparison. Contributions from the primary phases are indicated above each plot.

the Ligurian Ophiolite in Italy. However, instead of bulk serpentinite chemistry, here we use variable molal contributions of serpentine and brucite to investigate the effects of variable serpentinite compositions on the evolution of fluids. In these serpentinite models, the source of Ca is minor relict clinopyroxene.

*Olivine and orthopyroxene alteration (MgO-FeO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O system).*—As shown in figure 7A, at late stages of reaction progress almost equal amounts of chrysotile and brucite (in moles) will precipitate if the only dissolving mineral is olivine (Model B1). This is exemplified by reaction (16), which depicts the sum of the reactions involving the dissolution of forsterite (rxn 2), and the precipitation of chrysotile (rxn 6) and brucite

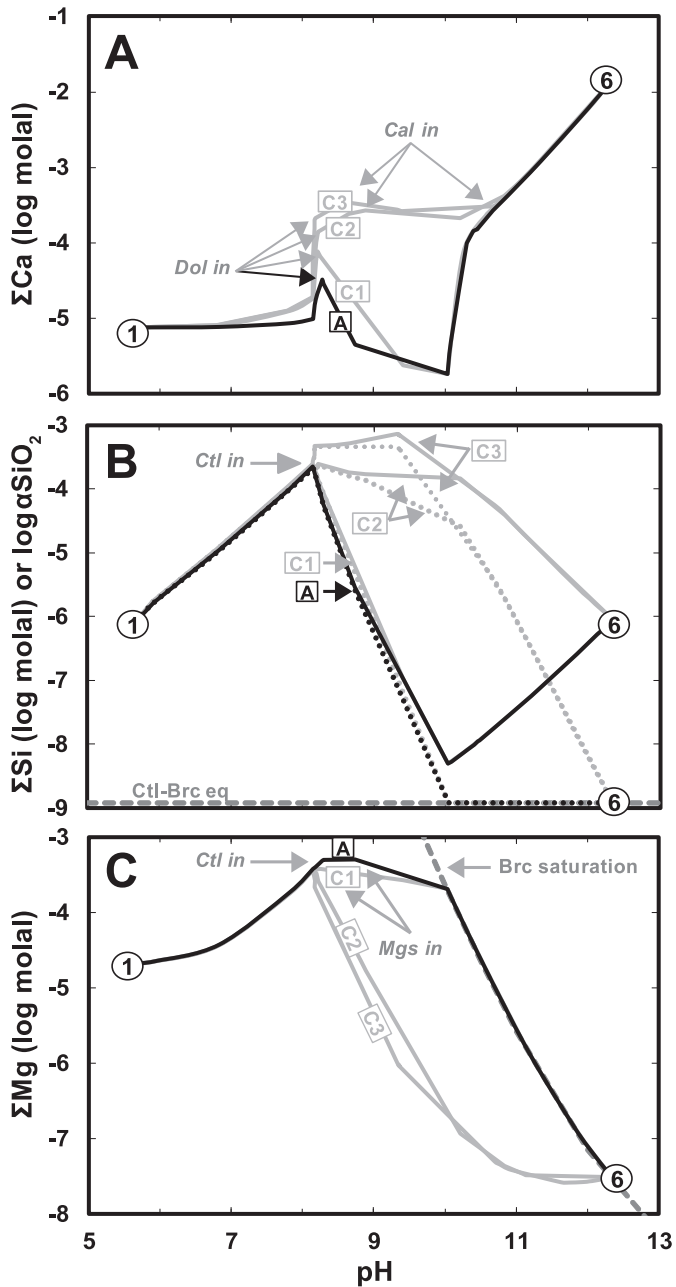


Fig. 8. Trends in (A)  $\Sigma\text{Ca}$ , (B)  $\Sigma\text{Si}$  and  $\alpha\text{SiO}_2(\text{aq})$ , and (C)  $\Sigma\text{Mg}$  during reactions with variable harzburgitic compositions in the  $\text{CaO-MgO-FeO-SiO}_2\text{-H}_2\text{O}$  system at 25 °C and 1 bar. Black and gray lines refer to results of simulations using Model A and C rock compositions, respectively. Note that 1 and 6 refer to the beginning and end of the reaction path depicted in figs. 2 and 3. Letters indicate reaction paths summarized in table 2. Abbreviations of minerals are listed in table 3. The word “in” (for example, Mgs in) refers to the point in the reaction progress where a given mineral starts to precipitate. Note that  $\text{SiO}_2(\text{aq})$  in (B) is one of the various species that compose  $\Sigma\text{Si}$  shown in fig. 4C.

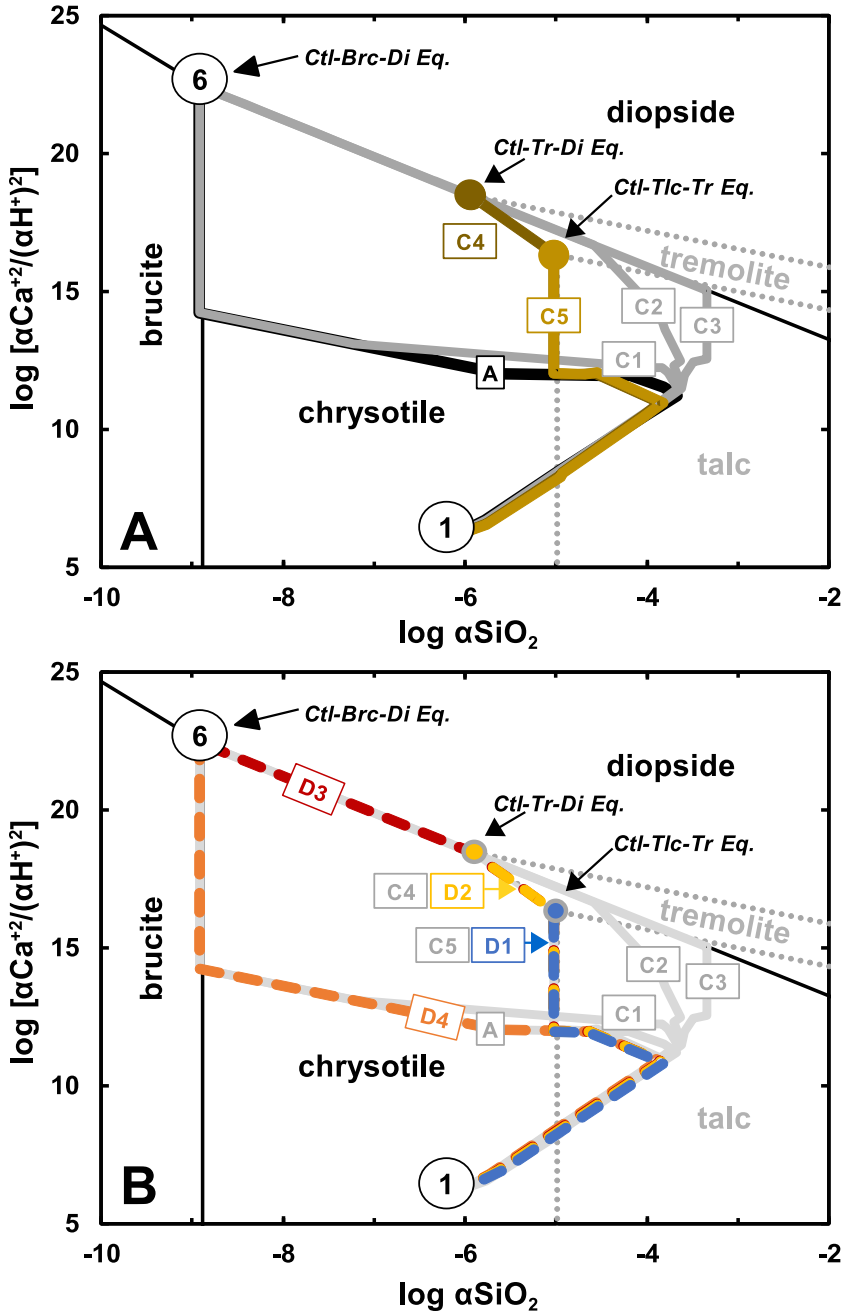


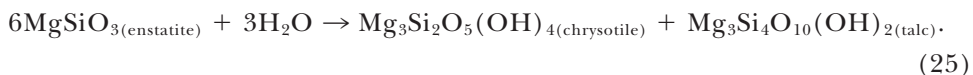
Fig. 9. CaO-MgO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O activity diagram for 25 °C and 1 bar depicting various reaction pathways summarized in table 2: (A) models A and C1-C5, (B) models D1-D4. Reaction paths A and C1-C5 depict interaction of water with fresh ultramafic rocks with variable primary mineral compositions, while reaction paths D1-D4 depict water interacting with serpentinites of variable compositions (see table 2). Stability fields bounded by dotted lines in gray are for minerals (talc and tremolite) suppressed in some calculations. Note that reaction paths D1-D4 overlap with most of reaction paths A and C1-C5, and that 1 and 6 refer to the beginning and end of the reaction path depicted in figs. 2 and 3.

(rxn 10). The reason that there is slightly less brucite forming relative to chrysotile in figure 7A is that iron released from olivine precipitates as goethite and magnetite during alteration. If the reacting mineral is pure forsterite, equal amounts of chrysotile and brucite (in moles) will precipitate as depicted by reaction (16). Note that reaction (16) results in neither a net consumption or production of  $H^+$  and pH will remain constant once chrysotile and brucite are both precipitating. The activity of  $SiO_{2(aq)}$  will be set by Ctl-Brc equilibrium defined by reaction (11). The consequences of reactions (11) and (16) are shown in figure 7A, including the constant pH ( $-\log \alpha H^+$ ) and  $\alpha SiO_{2(aq)}$  trends once brucite joins chrysotile in the secondary assemblage. The predicted pH arising from these equilibria is near 10 which is close to the maximum pH of 9.5 measured by Okland and others (2012) in groundwaters seeping from olivine-rich (dunite) outcrops of the Leka Ophiolite.

In contrast to dunites which are mostly composed of olivine, harzburgites have considerable abundances of orthopyroxene in addition to olivine. The involvement of orthopyroxene during alteration will decrease the amount of brucite precipitated in favor of chrysotile as shown in figure 7B, which illustrates a model where rainwater interacts with a hypothetical rock composed of 75 mole percent olivine and 25 mole percent orthopyroxene (see rxn 17, Model B2). As in figure 7A, both chrysotile and brucite are present, which means that fluid compositions will be controlled by the same Ctl-Brc equilibrium (rxn 11). As a consequence, this scenario will yield similar pH and total dissolved Si values to the results shown in figure 7A for olivine-only dissolution. This pattern continues until we consider equal mole percent contributions of olivine and orthopyroxene (Model B3), as depicted in figure 7C, which will only produce serpentine via



In cases where the abundance of orthopyroxene exceeds that of olivine, talc is favored instead of brucite, as shown in figure 7D (Model B4). In these models for orthopyroxene-rich systems, the precipitation of talc is allowed. As the abundance of primary orthopyroxene increases, talc will precipitate at the expense of chrysotile. This pattern continues for alteration of rocks composed of increasing abundances of orthopyroxene, and culminates in the results shown in figure 7E for orthopyroxene-only dissolution (Model B5), which results in equal moles of precipitating chrysotile and talc, corresponding to the reaction



Note that most of the plots in figure 7 reveal that extensive reaction progress results in constant pH values as  $H^+$  is neither consumed and produced, consistent with reactions (16), (17), (24) and (25) depending on the rock composition. In the model depicted in figure 7C, pH approaches 8.5 once chrysotile starts to precipitate. In the orthopyroxene-dominated models shown in figures 7D and 7E, constant pH is maintained once talc and chrysotile are both precipitating. At these conditions, the  $\alpha SiO_{2(aq)}$  will be set by the chrysotile-talc (Ctl-Tlc) equilibria as defined by



and is higher than values set by Ctl-Brc equilibrium (rxn 11), which is revealed by comparing figures 7D and 7E with figures 7A and 7B.

*Alteration in the presence of clinopyroxene (CaO-MgO-FeO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O system).*—As shown in figures 7A to 7E, hyperalkaline pH (>11) can not be attained from the dissolution of any combination of olivine and orthopyroxene alone. It is the presence of diopside that drives pH to increase further with reaction progress. The precipitation of

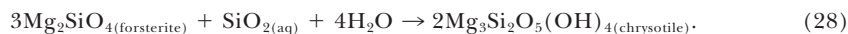
dolomite (rxn 8) calcite (rxn 15) will not be enough to counterbalance the pH increase driven by the overall reaction among diopside, chrysotile and brucite (rxn 18) owing to DIC limitation at late stages of reaction progress. Thus, pH will continue to increase and the fluid will accumulate Ca until it maximizes as the fluid attains equilibrium with diopside. Results from the initial model described above (85% olivine, 14% orthopyroxene, 1% clinopyroxene) are shown again in figure 7F for comparison with the other scenarios that do not involve the dissolution of diopside. It can be seen that including diopside in the model will yield pH values >12, which are higher than those attained in scenarios without it (pH ≤ 10).

The dramatic effect on pH of the single example of a diopside-bearing alteration model in figure 7 raises questions about the consequences for other ultramafic assemblages. Results of simulations depicting effects of modal variations in the CaO-MgO-FeO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O system, summarized in table 2, are shown in figures 8 and 9. In both figures, reaction path A (Model A) reflects results discussed above as depicted in figures 3 and 7F for 85% Ol-14% Opx-1% Cpx. Simulations that generally encompass variabilities in harzburgite compositions, having five times as much clinopyroxene and variable contributions from olivine and orthopyroxene, are depicted by reaction paths C1, C2, and C3, which refer to 85% Ol-10% Opx-5% Cpx, 75% Ol-20% Opx-5% Cpx, and 65% Ol-30% Opx-5% Cpx scenarios, respectively. As shown in figure 8A trends in total dissolved Ca are similar among the four models tested. Note however that models with 5 percent clinopyroxene can attain higher Ca concentrations in fluids at pH~9 and can precipitate calcite at lower extents of reaction progress than the model with 1 percent clinopyroxene (reaction path A).

Trends in total dissolved Si concentration (solid lines), as well as trends in the SiO<sub>2(aq)</sub> activity (dotted lines) are shown in figure 8B. Reaction paths A and C1 follow similar patterns, characterized by dramatic decreases in the total Si concentration and SiO<sub>2(aq)</sub> activity once chrysotile joins the secondary assemblage (see Stage 2 of the overall reaction progress). Likewise, these reaction paths also attain αSiO<sub>2(aq)</sub> values constrained by Ctl-Brc equilibria starting at pH~10, yet have increasing total Si concentrations until the maximum pH values are attained. In contrast, the models with greater contribution from orthopyroxene (Reaction paths C2 and C3) yield different pathways with no abrupt drop in total Si concentration once chrysotile starts precipitating. The reaction of enstatite into chrysotile involves a release in SiO<sub>2(aq)</sub> as depicted by the reaction



which is in contrast to alteration of relatively more forsterite-rich systems (reaction paths A and C1) that involve release of Mg<sup>+2</sup> during chrysotile precipitation (see rxn 7). SiO<sub>2(aq)</sub> released through reaction (27) can react with forsterite to form additional chrysotile via



Consequently, as forsterite is reacting with excess silica from orthopyroxene to form chrysotile, the precipitation of brucite occurs much further in reaction progress in the orthopyroxene-rich model. These differences are depicted in figure 8C, which illustrates trends in the total dissolved Mg concentration of the four reaction paths. Also depicted in figure 8C is the saturation curve for brucite (dashed gray line), showing that brucite precipitates when the reaction paths intersect the saturation line. Reaction paths C2 and C3 attain brucite saturation much further along the alteration process than do the other reaction paths. Moreover, and in contrast to reaction paths A and C1, magnesite precipitation does not occur along Reaction paths C2 and C3, due to interactions with rocks that are relatively less Mg-rich and more Si-rich.



These various pathways are depicted on an activity diagram for the CaO-MgO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O system in figure 9A. Note that reaction paths C2 and C3 first attain equilibrium with both chrysotile and diopside and only attain brucite saturation at the end of the reaction path at the Ctl-Brc-Di equilibrium point. This is in contrast with models depicting interactions with more Mg-rich or forsterite-rich rocks where chrysotile and brucite equilibrium is attained first before reaching the Ctl-Brc-Di equilibrium point, as shown by reaction paths A and C1. In addition to the four reaction paths shown in figure 8, results of additional calculations modelling orthopyroxene-dominated systems, 45% Ol-50% Opx-5% Cpx (reaction path C4) and 35% Ol-60% Opx-5% Cpx (reaction path C5), are also shown in figure 9A. When contributions from orthopyroxene exceed those of olivine, reaction paths will not attain silica activities lower than that constrained by equilibrium with tremolite. Reaction path C4, which models system with still significant contribution from olivine but not greater than pyroxene minerals, will ultimately end at the chrysotile-tremolite-diopside (Ctl-Tr-Di) invariant point shown in figure 9A. Reaction path C5 exemplifies systems with even greater orthopyroxene contributions and will end at the chrysotile-talc-tremolite (Ctl-Tlc-Tr) equilibrium triple point without proceeding to compositions with lower  $\alpha\text{SiO}_{2(\text{aq})}$ . Equilibria with Ctl-Tr-Di or Ctl-Tlc-Tr results in lower  $\alpha\text{Ca}^{+2}/(\alpha\text{H}^+)^2$  and higher  $\alpha\text{SiO}_{2(\text{aq})}$  than those in equilibrium with Ctl-Brc-Di. As a consequence, water-rock interactions hosted in orthopyroxene-dominated lithologies will result in fluids with lower pH and dissolved Ca values but higher Si concentration. Further discussion of the consequences for fluid compositions arising from variabilities in primary minerals follows discussion of model results below that allow iron incorporation into solid solutions of precipitating phases.

*Alteration of serpentinites.*—In addition to alteration of fresh ultramafic rocks, groundwater can interact with partially or completely serpentinized rocks. Results of four reaction paths that model alteration of serpentinites (composed mostly of serpentine and brucite) are shown in figure 9B where they can be compared to the alteration of fresh ultramafic rocks discussed above (see table 2). In these calculations, the source for Ca is relict clinopyroxene (5 mole % Di<sub>95</sub>). Reaction path D1 (dashed blue line) shows the changing calculated composition of a fluid interacting with a rock whose secondary assemblage is completely composed of serpentine and relict clinopyroxene, and reaction paths D2 (dashed yellow), D3 (dashed red) and D4 (dashed orange) follow fluid compositions where the aquifer rock is composed of different proportions of serpentine and brucite with 5 percent clinopyroxene (see table 2). Overall, these reaction paths are similar to others shown in figures 8 to 9A, but contributions from the dissolving rock are described by the reverse of reactions (6) and (10) for chrysotile and brucite dissolution, respectively. Alteration of a serpentinite without relict clinopyroxene leads to results similar to those shown in figure 7C for reaction of 50 mole percent olivine and orthopyroxene. After all, a mole of serpentine (chrysotile) is the hydrated equivalent of one mole each of olivine (forsterite) and orthopyroxene (enstatite) as indicated by reaction (24).

Reaction path D1 generates a fluid with  $\alpha\text{SiO}_{2(\text{aq})}$  controlled by Ctl-Tlc equilibrium as a fully serpentinized ultramafic rock is too silica-rich to attain the Ctl-Brc equilibria. Additionally, as depicted by the CaO-MgO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O activity diagram shown in figure 9B, path D1 ends up at the Ctl-Tlc-Tr equilibrium triple point similar to that of reaction path C5 described above. Compared with the Ctl-Brc-Di and the Ctl-Tr-Di equilibrium triple points, fluids constrained by Ctl-Tlc-Tr equilibrium have lower  $\alpha\text{Ca}^{+2}/(\alpha\text{H}^+)^2$  and higher  $\alpha\text{SiO}_{2(\text{aq})}$ . The pH of the fluid controlled by these equilibria can be derived and results of calculations yield pH (~10 at 25 °C, 1 bar) lower than that attained by a fluid controlled by the Ctl-Brc-Di (pH ~ 12) or the Ctl-Tr-Di (pH ~ 11) equilibria. If the host serpentinite contains some amount of brucite, fluids can attain equilibrium with the Ctl-Tr-Di or the Ctl-Brc-Di assemblage.

Models depicting serpentinites composed of 75 mol% serpentine, 20 mol% brucite, and 5 mol% clinopyroxene, represented by reaction path D2 in figure 9B, ultimately result in fluids in equilibrium with Ctl-Tr-Di similar to systems modelled by reaction path C4. A greater contribution from brucite will result in reaction paths that end up at the Ctl-Brc-Di equilibrium triple point. This is shown by reaction path D3 in figure 9B, which depicts results for a model fluid reacting with host rocks composed of 65 mol% serpentine, 30 mol% brucite, and 5 mol% clinopyroxene. This model follows a path that is similar to that of reaction paths C2 and C3 described above, and would even follow a similar path at earlier stages of the reaction progress if talc precipitation was suppressed. The trace of reaction path D4 in figure 9B depicts interactions with rocks containing even more brucite (40 mol%) and follows a path similar to those from alteration of olivine-rich rocks (reaction paths A and C1). Specifically, if talc is suppressed in a model related to that depicted by reaction path D4, the results will follow a path close to that shown by reaction path C1.

*Further discussion on the consequences of lithological variations.*—Many reaction paths for low-temperature alteration of olivine-rich rocks are similar to the overall serpentinitization of a rock with the generalized composition shown in figures 2 and 3 and summarized as reaction path A in figures 7, 8, and 9. Examination of these figures shows that this pathway closely resembles those resulting from simulations of other olivine-rich rocks (reaction path C1) and consequently, despite these lithological variations, a useful starting assumption is that low-temperature alteration of olivine-rich rocks would follow similar stages in the overall reaction progress as that of reaction path A. It is only in models that include greater contributions from orthopyroxene (for example, reaction paths C2 and C3 starting with 25 mol% orthopyroxene) that the overall reaction progress takes a different pathway. Nevertheless, these models still attain equilibrium with chrysotile, brucite, and diopside (Stage 6) but along a different path than that followed by more olivine-rich systems. Specifically, this pathway attains equilibrium with brucite only at the last stage of the overall reaction progress. Results of further simulations involving greater orthopyroxene contributions (>50 mol%) yield pathways resulting in fluids in equilibrium with Ctl-Tr-Di or Ctl-Tlc-Tr.

The system  $\text{CaO-MgO-SiO}_2\text{-H}_2\text{O}$ , as represented by the activity diagrams shown in figures 6B and 9, has three equilibrium triple points: (1) Ctl-Brc-Di, (2) Ctl-Tr-Di, and (3) Ctl-Tlc-Tr. It follows that fluid-rock interactions involving ultramafic rocks will ultimately lead to fluids with three distinct composition as dictated by these assemblages, despite variabilities in the compositions of the reacting rocks. Variabilities in the dissolved inorganic carbon levels, however, draw fluids away from these equilibrium triple points to equilibrate with calcite and greatly diversify the compositions of fluids approaching equilibrium with the host aquifer rocks. As shown in figure 6B, greater amounts of DIC, however, would be needed to draw fluids away from being in equilibrium with Ctl-Tr-Di or Ctl-Tlc-Tr than that if the fluid composition is dictated by the Ctl-Brc-Di equilibrium.

Results of calculations involving secondary minerals (serpentine and brucite, with relict clinopyroxene) as the dissolving phases, will yield a range of fluid compositions similar to those generated when primary minerals are dissolving, as depicted in the  $\text{CaO-MgO-SiO}_2\text{-H}_2\text{O}$  activity diagram shown in figure 9B. *It follows that it would be difficult to distinguish fluids reacting with either fresh or altered ultramafic rocks based solely on their pH, and total Ca, Mg and Si content.* Perhaps this explains why when Chavagnac and others (2013b) sampled fluids from both the Voltri group of the Ligurian Ophiolite in Italy and the Samail Ophiolite in Oman, where aquifer rocks are variably serpentinitized, they found that fluids from both localities have overlapping pH and total Ca, Mg, and Si content. Rather than major solutes, other species should be considered to further evaluate how the degree of alteration of the aquifer host rock affects the

resulting fluid chemistry. Serpentine and carbonate minerals can sequester certain trace elements (for example, B, U, Sr, Cl; Kodolanyi and others, 2012) during serpentinization and it follows that remobilization of these elements during further alteration of serpentinites could result in fluids with trace element compositions different from those where the host aquifer rocks are less altered. In addition to trace elements, data on timescales of reactions could be diagnostic as serpentinites would be less reactive than fresh harzburgites. Experiments show that olivine usually dissolves at a much faster rate than various polymorphs of serpentine (for example, see Pokrovsky and Schott (2000) and Oelkers (2001) for olivine, and Bales and Morgan (1985), Thom and others (2013), and Daval and others, (2013) for serpentine). Attaining hyperalkaline conditions would likely take a greater length of time when serpentinizing serpentinites rather than fresh ultramafic rocks.

#### *Effects of Incorporating Mineral Solid Solutions*

In the reaction paths discussed above we allow the dissolving primary minerals to be in solid solutions, but so far have discussed results of models where the precipitation of secondary minerals only as endmember compositions were considered. Studies of natural serpentines, however, show that both serpentine and brucite can incorporate Fe into their structures (O'Hanley and Dyar, 1993, 1998; Evans, 2008; Evans and others, 2012). In brucite the iron is present as  $\text{Fe}^{+2}$ , but in serpentine minerals iron can be both  $\text{Fe}^{+2}$  and  $\text{Fe}^{+3}$ . Therefore, additional calculations were conducted to compare results incorporating solid solutions in product phases, as shown in figure 10, with results shown in figure 3 where alteration product solid-solutions were not considered. These calculations share features with those of McCollom and Shock (1998), McCollom and Bach (2009) and Klein and others (2009, 2013) where ideal site mixing was assumed for most solid solutions. The serpentine structure incorporates  $\text{Fe}^{+3}$  either through ferri-Tschermack's substitution in octahedral and tetrahedral sites [towards the Mg-cronstedtite ( $(\text{Mg}_2\text{Fe}^{+3})(\text{Fe}^{+3}\text{Si})\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4$ ) endmember] or through an octahedral vacancy model [towards the hisingerite ( $([\text{Fe}^{+3}]_2)\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4$ ) endmember] as shown by O'Hanley and Dyar (1993, 1998), Evans (2008), Andreani and others (2013), and Tutolo and others (2019). To accommodate  $\text{Fe}^{+3}$  incorporation in both octahedral and tetrahedral sites in serpentine, a four member (chrysotile, greenalite, Mg-cronstedtite, hisingerite) ideal mixing model was used in our calculations.

Trends are plotted against overall reaction progress showing the number of moles of precipitated Mg-, Fe-, and Si-bearing minerals in figure 10A, and concentrations of aqueous  $\text{H}_2$ , and total dissolved Si, Mg, and Fe in figure 10B. Total dissolved Ca, DIC, and other minerals that do not differ meaningfully from results in figure 3 are not included. Earlier stages (1 – 3) of reaction progress are also not shown as the models give nearly identical results.

*Overall mineralogical trends.*—If solid solutions are not considered, the only secondary minerals that can host Fe throughout the overall serpentinization progress are goethite and magnetite, as depicted as the solid black curves in figure 10A. If solid solutions are allowed, at later stages of the reaction progress most of the Fe will be incorporated into brucite and serpentine instead of magnetite, as shown by the dashed gray lines in figure 10A. This is consistent with observations showing brucite and serpentine as the major iron-hosting precipitates in low-temperature serpentinites rather than magnetite, which forms more readily during high-temperature ( $>250^\circ\text{C}$ ) serpentinization (Klein and others, 2014). In all other cases iron released during alteration goes into either serpentine or brucite. As they first form, serpentine and brucite are Mg-rich, and increasingly incorporate Fe as reactions progress toward higher rock:water ratios. Despite incorporating some Fe, serpentine remains Mg-rich ( $X_{\text{Mg}} = \text{Mg}/(\text{Mg}+\text{Fe}) = 0.94$ ) at latter stages of reaction progress, and a significant amount of the iron is incorporated into brucite ( $X_{\text{Mg}} = 0.83$ ). These predictions are

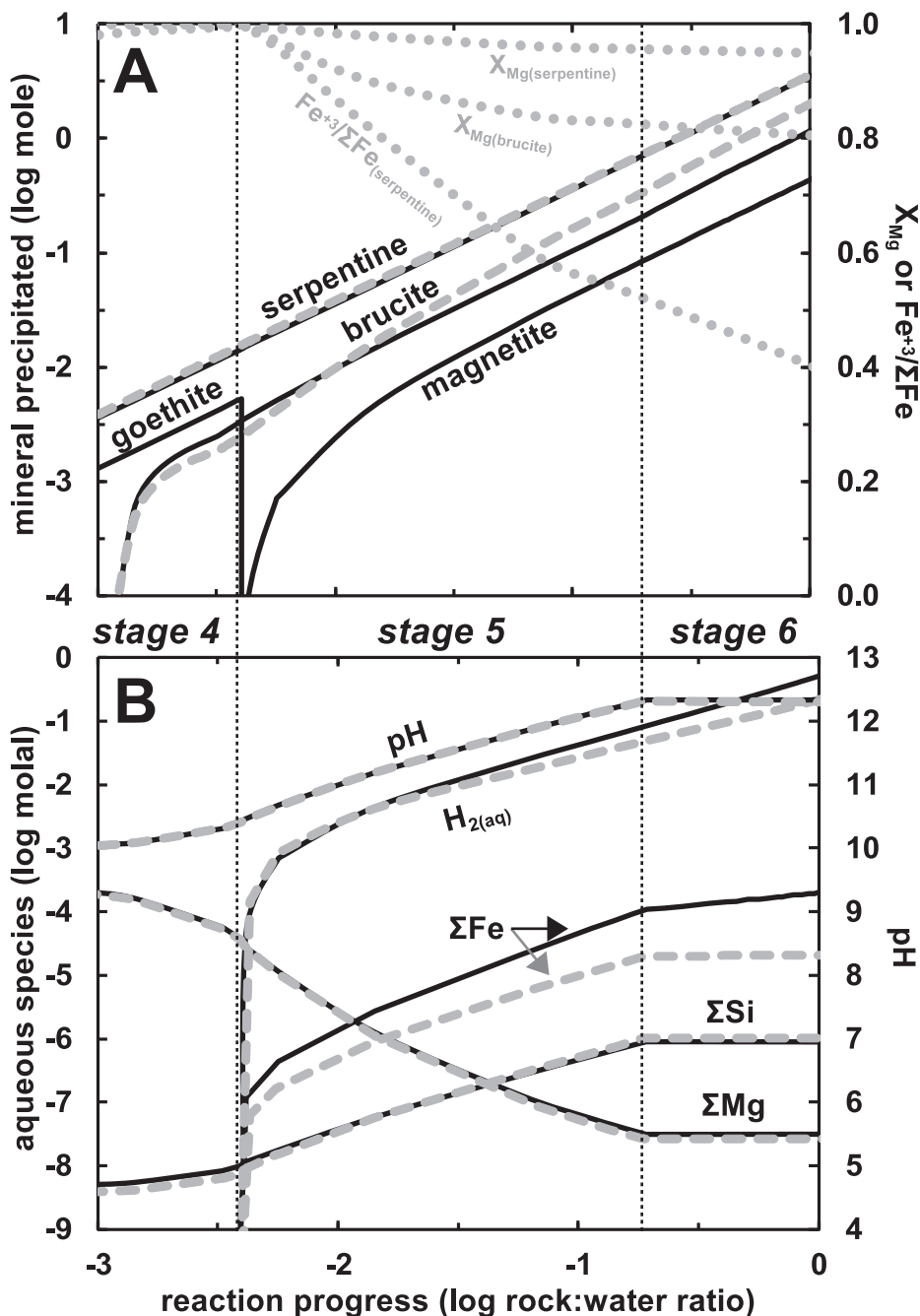


Fig. 10. Reaction path differences at 25 °C and 1 bar in models where precipitation of secondary phases in solid solutions were (dashed gray) and were *not* (solid black) considered. Trends in secondary precipitation (moles precipitated) and aqueous concentration (pH and molal concentration) are depicted in (A) and (B), respectively. Also plotted in (A) as dotted gray lines (values on right y-axis) are the mole fraction of Mg ( $X_{Mg} = Mg/(Mg + Fe)$ ) in precipitating serpentine and brucite, and the  $Fe^{+3}/\Sigma Fe$  of precipitating serpentine in models allowing solid solutions. The vertical black dashed lines indicate the start and end of stages 4–6 of the serpentinization process summarized in figure 2C.

consistent with observations from serpentine ( $X_{\text{Mg}} = 0.92\text{--}0.94$ ) and brucite ( $X_{\text{Mg}} = 0.82\text{--}0.84$ ) veins cutting olivine in partially serpentinized dunites from New Caledonia (Frost and others, 2013). At low rock:water ratios  $\text{Fe}^{+3}/\Sigma\text{Fe}$  in precipitating serpentine is elevated, and decreases as the system becomes more rock dominated and reduced. This is consistent with low  $\text{Fe}^{+3}/\Sigma\text{Fe}$  ( $<0.50$ ) of serpentine determined by Mayhew and others (2018) and Andreani and others (2013) in the least serpentinized samples, and high values ( $>0.70$ ) in highly altered samples that formed in fluid-dominated environments. As shown in figure 10A, serpentine with  $\text{Fe}^{+3}/\Sigma\text{Fe} > 0.70$  would only occur in fluid-dominated systems characterized by relatively low rock:water ratios  $< 10^{-1.5}$  and relatively oxidized fluids.

The  $\alpha\text{SiO}_{2(\text{aq})}$  of a fluid in equilibrium with the  $\text{Fe}^{+2}$  endmembers of serpentine and brucite, as depicted by the reaction



is slightly higher at 25 °C and 1 bar ( $10^{-7.9}$ ) than that constrained by the  $\text{Mg}^{+2}$ -end members ( $10^{-8.9}$ , see rxn 11). The incorporation of Fe into both serpentine and brucite shifts the  $\alpha\text{SiO}_{2(\text{aq})}$  to slightly higher values and the  $\alpha\text{Mg}^{+2}/(\text{H}^+)^2$  to lower values, consistent with the minor differences in pH, and total Mg and Si concentrations between the two models (fig. 10B). In contrast, a major difference between the two models is the resulting total dissolved Fe concentration depicted in figure 10B. In the model where Fe incorporation into serpentine and brucite is prohibited, the total dissolved Fe will be controlled by magnetite solubility. If solid solutions are allowed, the resulting total dissolved Fe will be a response to the precipitation of both Fe-bearing serpentine and brucite, yielding lower concentrations of total dissolved Fe.

*Implications for  $\text{H}_2$  generation.*—In addition to differences in dissolved Fe, models that do or do not include serpentine and brucite solid solutions result in differing amounts of  $\text{H}_2$  generated, which is tied to the amount of ferrous iron from the primary minerals that was oxidized and hosted as ferric iron in the secondary phases (see rxn 13). Bach (2016) demonstrated differing trends of  $\text{H}_2$  generation applied to low-temperature serpentinization of the seafloor depending on the model used. In this work, we discuss implications of using models with and without solid solutions for continental serpentinization. As shown in figure 10B, the model allowing only magnetite formation will generate more than  $\sim 2$  times as much  $\text{H}_2$  as the model that allows Fe incorporation into serpentine and brucite. These differences, weighted per kg of reacting rock, are depicted in figure 11 as functions of rock:water ratio. Before Stage 5 of overall reaction progress, neither model produces  $\text{H}_2$  as  $\text{O}_2$  from the atmosphere is still present and available to oxidize iron. Once  $\text{O}_2$  is consumed,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  will start to oxidize Fe and will, in turn, be reduced to  $\text{H}_2$ . Allowing the formation of ferric iron-hosting serpentine ( $\text{Fe}^{+3}/\Sigma\text{Fe} < 0.67$  for most of Stages 5 and 6, fig. 10A) will generate  $\text{H}_2$ , but not as much as models in which magnetite ( $\text{Fe}^{+3}/\Sigma\text{Fe} = 0.67$ ) is the only Fe-bearing phase allowed to precipitate. Both models predict similar potentials to generate  $\text{H}_2$  only over a small interval of reaction progress right after the beginning of stage 5, as shown in figures 10 and 11, when the  $\text{Fe}^{+3}/\Sigma\text{Fe}$  of serpentine remained  $> 0.67$ . As shown in figure 11, at rock:water ratio = 1, the amount of  $\text{H}_2$  generated through serpentine formation [ $0.18$  mole  $\text{H}_2$  ( $\text{kg harzburgite})^{-1}$ ] is less than half as much as can be generated when magnetite is assumed to be the only Fe-bearing alteration product [ $0.43$  mole  $\text{H}_2$  ( $\text{kg harzburgite})^{-1}$ ].

It can be anticipated that variations in the composition of the reacting rock will affect the amount of  $\text{H}_2$  generated. Results as functions of the ratio of primary olivine to orthopyroxene, all with minor clinopyroxene, are depicted in figure 12. The pH, secondary assemblages (dashed gray lines), and  $X_{\text{Mg}}$  of the secondary phases (dotted gray lines) are shown in figure 12A for a rock:water ratio of 1. As discussed above,

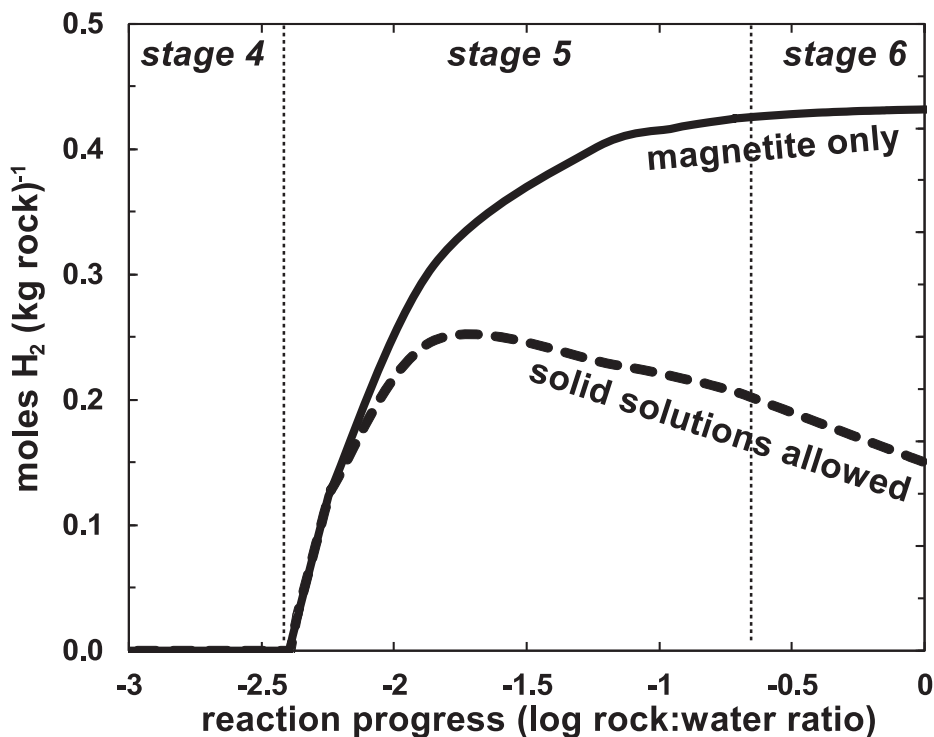
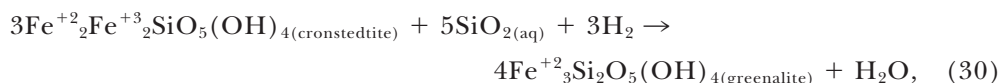


Fig. 11. Predicted amount of  $H_2$  generated per kg of rock at rock:water ratios ranging from  $10^{-3}$  to  $10^0$  in models assuming only magnetite as the Fe-hosting phase (solid black) and those where Fe is allowed to be incorporated into serpentine and brucite (dashed black).

alteration of olivine-rich lithologies (left side of fig. 12A) results in assemblages comprised of serpentine + brucite and the high pH ( $>12$ ) of the fluid will be dictated by Ctl-Brc-Di equilibrium. Compositions of fluids shift from that constrained by the Ctl-Brc-Di equilibrium to that of Ctl-Tr-Di (pH  $\sim 11$ ) as the primary mineral assemblage being altered shifts to one dominated by orthopyroxene. Alteration of systems containing even more orthopyroxene (right side of fig. 12A) yields serpentine + talc assemblages and lower pH ( $\sim 10$ ) set by the Ctl-Tlc-Tr equilibrium.

How iron is hosted in the secondary assemblage is shown in figure 12B. Most of the iron is incorporated into serpentine despite variabilities in rock compositions. Some amount of iron is hosted in brucite in olivine-dominated systems but shifts to talc as orthopyroxene becomes more dominant. Changes in the  $Fe^{+3}/\Sigma Fe$  ratio of the precipitating serpentine are also shown in figure 12B. The ratio remains relatively constant in either olivine- and orthopyroxene-dominated lithologies, but at starkly contrasting values. As shown in figure 12B, a shift to orthopyroxene-dominated lithologies will cause an abrupt drop ( $\sim 6\times$ ) in the  $Fe^{+3}/\Sigma Fe$  ratio of the precipitating serpentine. This shift can be represented by the reaction



which favors the more Si-rich ferrous-iron bearing serpentine component (greenalite) relative to the dominant ferric-iron bearing serpentine component (cronstedtite) as



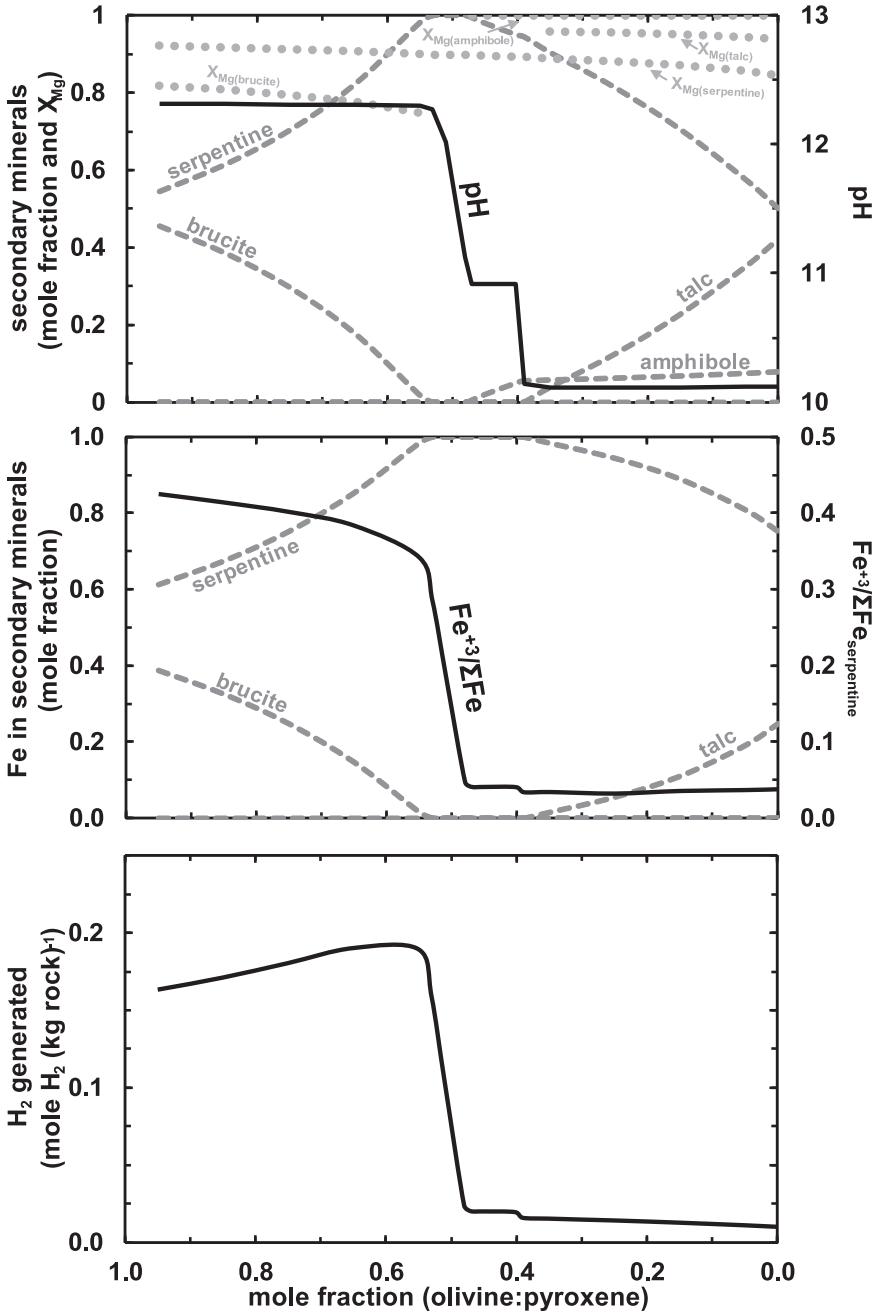


Fig. 12. (A) Trends in secondary assemblages and pH values of fluids resulting from the alteration of ultramafic rocks with variable contributions from olivine and orthopyroxene (clinopyroxene constant at 5 mol% contribution). Dashed gray curves depict the mole fraction of the mineral indicated in the total secondary assemblage. Dotted gray curves show the  $X_{Mg}$  of each mineral. (B) shows how iron is hosted in the secondary assemblages. Solid black curve in (B) indicates the  $Fe^{+3}/\Sigma Fe$  of the precipitating serpentine. (C) indicates the predicted amount of  $H_2$  generated per kg of rock. Values shown in this figure are from results of simulations of alteration of rock with composition depicted by Model A at rock:water = 1, 25 °C, and 1 bar.

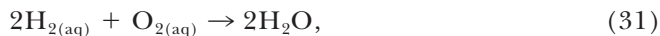
the bulk composition shifts toward the more Si-rich orthopyroxene-dominated lithologies. Reaction (30) is a simplified illustration compared with our calculations that account for ideal solid solution mixing among end-member components (chrysotile, greenalite, Mg-cronstedtite, and hisingerite) of serpentine.

The distribution of iron into alteration phases causes variations in the amount of H<sub>2</sub> generated per kg of reacting rock as shown in figure 12C. As the reacting rocks become less olivine-rich the calculated abundance of H<sub>2</sub> increases owing to the increased proportion of iron being incorporated into serpentine, which hosts both ferrous and ferric iron, relative to that going to form brucite, which only hosts ferrous iron. The shift from cronstedtite to greenalite in the alteration assemblage means that the amount of H<sub>2</sub> generated during the alteration of orthopyroxene-dominated lithologies is less than that from alteration of olivine-dominated systems. The results summarized in figure 12 have similarities to those of Klein and others (2013), who showed that the amount of H<sub>2</sub> generated through seawater-ultramafic interaction depends on the composition of the reacting rocks. The maximum H<sub>2</sub> generated (0.2 moles H<sub>2</sub> kg<sup>-1</sup> rock) shown in figure 12C is two times less than that attained by only allowing iron incorporation into magnetite. Sherwood-Lollar and others (2014) estimated the global flux of H<sub>2</sub> (0.2–1.8 × 10<sup>11</sup> mole H<sub>2</sub> year<sup>-1</sup>) from continental serpentinization using reactions to magnetite. If considering Fe incorporation into serpentine and brucite during low-temperature serpentinization, reevaluation of this flux would amount to 0.1–0.9 × 10<sup>11</sup> mole H<sub>2</sub> year<sup>-1</sup>.

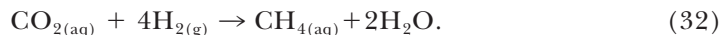
#### BIOENERGETIC LANDSCAPES

Results of numerical models by McCollom (2007), Amend and others (2011), and Nakamura and Takai (2014) show that deep-sea ultramafic-hosted hydrothermal systems can supply more energy to chemolithotrophs than analogous hydrothermal systems generated through basalt-seawater interactions. Moreover, these calculations show that the predominant sources of energy are from reactions that involve H<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub>. Similar findings were observed for analogous serpentinization-generated fluids in continental settings (Cardace and others, 2015; Canovas and others, 2017; Crespo-Medina and others, 2017). Though Canovas and others (2017) inferred the likelihood of several metabolic reactions in the subsurface, available energy supplies for subsurface microorganisms in serpentinizing environments have yet to be quantified. The framework presented above allows us to calculate energy supplies available in the deep subsurface using predicted compositions of fluids close to equilibrium with the host rock, as well as the energy available as these reduced rock-equilibrated fluids mix with oxic groundwater. Details on calculations of instantaneous energetic returns for a metabolic reaction can be found in McCollom and Shock (1997), McCollom (2007), Shock and others (2010), Amend and others (2011) and Canovas and others (2017).

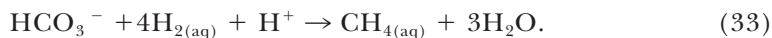
Here, we focus on two microbial metabolisms: hydrogen oxidation, and methanogenesis as described, respectively, by



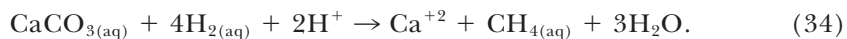
and



Methanogens may also use CO<sub>3<sup>-2</sup></sub> and HCO<sub>3<sup>-</sup></sub> as inorganic carbon sources especially at hyperalkaline conditions typical of serpentinizing environments. Methanogenesis from CO<sub>3<sup>-2</sup></sub> is depicted in reaction (14) while that for HCO<sub>3<sup>-</sup></sub> can be described by



As shown in figure 4E, most of the dissolved inorganic carbon in Ca-rich, hyperalkaline fluids generated through serpentinization exist as the neutral complex  $\text{CaCO}_{3(\text{aq})}$  and would comprise the major dissolved source of inorganic carbon available for methanogens via



We chose hydrogen oxidation and methanogenesis because they are known metabolisms from serpentinizing environments, and because the subsurface concentration of the various aqueous species involved in the reactions can be constrained through mineral-fluid equilibria. Hydrogen oxidizers growing with calcite as their carbon source and belonging to the proposed genera *Serpentinomonas* were isolated by Suzuki and others (2014) from hyperalkaline springs in the Cedars, Coast Range, California. Experiments using isotopically labeled carbon ( $^{13}\text{C}$ ) by Brazelton and others (2011) and Kohl and others (2016) at Lost City and the Cedars, respectively, show evidence for microbial methane generation from various inorganic and organic substrates. Lipid biomarker analysis also provides evidence for microbial methanogenesis at Lost City on the mid-Atlantic ridge (Bradley and others, 2009). Further evidence for microbial  $\text{H}_2$  oxidation and methanogenesis in both submarine and continental serpentinizing sites is provided by metagenomic, 16S rRNA, and 16S rDNA analyses by Schrenk and others (2004), Brazelton and others (2006, 2012, 2013, 2017), Blank and others (2009), Tiago and Veríssimo (2013), Suzuki and others (2013), Sánchez-Murillo and others (2014), Quémeneur and others (2014, 2015), Crespo-Medina and others (2014; 2017); Postec and others (2015), Woycheese and others (2015), Baculi and others (2015), Miller and others (2016), Twing and others (2017), Rempfert and others (2017), and Fones and others (2019).

We calculated the energetic returns for microbial  $\text{H}_2$  oxidation (rxn 31) and microbial methanogenesis (rxns 14, 32, 33 and 34) in fluids close to equilibrium with ultramafic rocks as constrained through fluid-mineral equilibria calculations discussed above. Dissolved  $\text{H}_2$  concentrations of deep-seated reduced fluids were assumed to be in equilibrium with one bar of  $\text{H}_{2(\text{g})}$ , which can be considered as a minimum for a deeply serpentinizing aquifer. Discussion of figure 3A above shows that an  $\text{H}_2$  overpressurized system can occur at advanced stages of reaction progress. Higher dissolved  $\text{H}_2$  would potentially increase energetic returns for both microbial methanogenesis and  $\text{H}_2$  oxidation. There will be no energy available from reactions (14), (32), (33) and (34) if abiotic  $\text{CH}_4$  generation is allowed to proceed and equilibrate. However, if abiotic  $\text{CH}_4$  generation is kinetically inhibited during low-temperature serpentinization, conditions favorable for microbial methanogenesis will develop. As discussed above (see Stage 5), sluggish abiotic methane generation can result in DIC remaining in solution late in the overall serpentinization reaction progress and that DIC will be out of equilibrium with high concentrations of dissolved  $\text{H}_2$ . At the pH dictated by the Ctl-Brc-Di equilibria (pH = 12.3; at 25 °C and 1 bar), the calculated DIC concentration is  $\sim 8 \mu\text{molal}$  if it is in equilibrium with calcite. Assuming minimal background methane ( $< 10^{-12}$  molal) and  $\text{H}_2$  concentrations implied above (in equilibrium with 1 bar of  $\text{H}_{2(\text{g})}$ ), calculations of energetic returns for microbial methanogenesis with inorganic carbon (rxns 14, 32, 33, and 34) will yield  $\sim 0.2$  calories  $\text{kg}^{-1}$  (0.9 joules  $\text{kg}^{-1}$ ) of fluid. An increase in DIC concentration would draw fluids away from being in equilibrium with diopside (Ctl-Brc-Di) to calcite (Ctl-Brc-Cal) and shift the fluid composition to lower pH. The resulting change in the energy available for methanogens as DIC concentrations increase is shown in figure 13. An increase in DIC and a decrease in pH will drive reactions (14), (32), (33), and (34) forward, ultimately increasing the energy that can be available for methanogens to exploit. As an example, a fluid in equilibrium with calcite at higher DIC ( $50 \mu\text{mole kg}^{-1}$ ) and lower pH

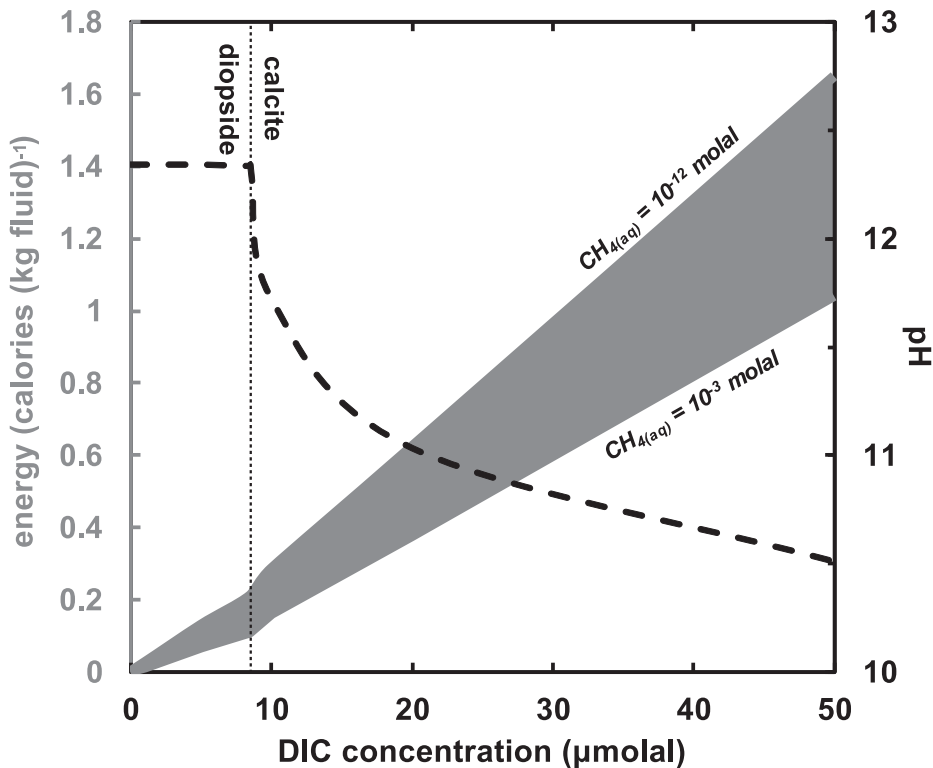


Fig. 13. Predicted energy (calories/kg fluid) available for hydrogenotrophic methanogenesis in deep-seated fluids close to equilibrium with the rocks at 25 °C and 1 bar. Fluid compositions were derived from fig. 6B, which shows that deep-seated fluids are likely close to Ctl-Brc-Di (pH ~12 at 25 °C). At higher DIC concentrations, fluid can saturate with calcite and pH will be dictated by the Ctl-Brc-Cal equilibrium with higher DIC concentrations resulting in lower pH (dashed line). The solid gray area indicates ranges in the energy yield assuming variable background methane concentrations ranging from  $10^{-12}$  to  $10^{-3}$  molal.

(~10.5) will yield energy amounting to  $1.7 \text{ calories kg}^{-1}$  ( $7 \text{ joules kg}^{-1}$ ) of fluid, which is close to 10 times higher than that calculated above for a fluid in equilibrium with diopside. Calculations at higher background methane ( $10^{-3} \text{ mole kg}^{-1}$ ) yield less energy as there is a lower drive for reactions (14), (32), (33), and (34) to proceed. However, despite the 9 orders of magnitude change in abundance of dissolved  $\text{CH}_4$  this will reduce the energy yield at most by half. We allow up to  $50 \text{ } \mu\text{molal}$  of DIC despite predicted DIC concentrations of deep-seated hyperalkaline of  $< 20 \text{ } \mu\text{molal}$  (fig. 6A) to accommodate minor input from infiltrating atmosphere-derived volatiles during fluid discharge. Another process that can bring additional inorganic carbon sources to deep-seated fluids is mixing with DIC-rich shallow groundwater. Consequences of mixing are discussed below.

There is no energy available for  $\text{H}_2$  oxidation at deep subsurface environments owing to the predicted absence of  $\text{O}_{2(\text{aq})}$  at advanced stages of serpentinization. However, hydrogen oxidizing bacteria in the genus *Hydrogenophaga* were detected from high pH subsurface fluids in Oman (Miller and others, 2016; Rempfert and others, 2017) implying that  $\text{O}_2$  could have been available in the subsurface through atmospheric infiltration or mixing with oxic groundwater. Subsurface methanogens were also detected in the same studies. We demonstrate above that energy can be available for microbial methanogenesis, but not for  $\text{H}_2$  oxidation, for a deep-seated fluid

without atmospheric and shallow groundwater input. Delivery of additional DIC through atmospheric and shallow groundwater mixing, however, can potentially increase energetic returns. These processes may occur in discharge zones where surfacing deep-seated hyperalkaline fluids can encounter shallow groundwater.

In our mixing calculations we used predicted compositions of deep-seated rock-equilibrated fluids and oxic shallow groundwaters in equilibrium with the atmosphere and altered rocks (serpentinites, carbonates) common in the shallow subsurface, and chose 25 °C and 1 bar for both types of fluid. For the shallow groundwater, we set the pH = 8 based on measurements from well samples ( $7 < \text{pH} < 9$ , Paukert and others, 2012, 2019; Rempfert and others, 2017). This choice of pH is also supported by mineral saturation calculations by Paukert and others (2012) on groundwater fluids from the Oman Ophiolite showing that equilibrium with serpentine, magnesite, and calcite at pH = 8 will yield a Mg-HCO<sub>3</sub> type fluid close in composition to that observed in the field. For the deep-seated, rock-equilibrated fluid we used four different compositions to represent end-member possibilities, all at 25 °C and 1 bar including a fluid in equilibrium with Ctl-Brc-Di plus calcite, and fluids in equilibrium with Ctl-Brc-Cal at DIC concentrations of 10, 20, and 50 μmolal. We assumed minimal background methane ( $10^{-12}$  molal) to quantify maximum energy yields for methanogenesis. Further compositional details of end-member fluids used in our mixing calculations can be found in table A1.

The calculated energies available for hydrogen oxidation and methanogenesis during the subsurface mixing process are shown in figure 14. Trends in pH during the mixing process are shown in figure 14A. Note that the deep-seated fluid in equilibrium with diopside (pH = 12.3) and that in equilibrium with calcite at 10 μmolal DIC (pH = 11.7) are strong bases. As a consequence, it would take more than 80 percent or 50 percent mixing with shallow groundwater, respectively, for the pH of the mixed fluid to be <11. Energetic returns for hydrogen oxidation and methanogenesis are shown in figure 14B. The curve for methanogenesis (thick gray curve in fig. 14B) represents mixing trends for the four deep-seated endmember fluids. These fluids have different starting pH and DIC concentrations contributing to differences in energetic yields (see fig. 13). The thickness of the curve represents this variation. In contrast, the energy yield for H<sub>2</sub> oxidation does not vary among these four endmember fluids resulting in the thin curve shown. As discussed above, energy is available for methanogens even without mixing with shallow groundwater. Fluids that started with more DIC, such as those in equilibrium with calcite, yield more energy throughout the mixing process than those starting with less DIC in equilibrium with diopside. The difference, however, becomes less apparent (thinner gray curve) as the mixed fluid is increasingly dominated by shallow groundwater. Maximum energy availabilities for methanogenesis (6 calories kg<sup>-1</sup> or 25 joules kg<sup>-1</sup> of fluid) are attained at mixing extents of < 30% and the amounts of energy available decrease with increasing progress of mixing. In contrast, no energy is available for H<sub>2</sub> oxidation before mixing occurs, but becomes available at the first instance of mixing. Compared to methanogenesis, energetic returns for H<sub>2</sub> oxidation maximize at greater extents of mixing (~60%) yielding energy of 17 calories kg<sup>-1</sup> (72 joules kg<sup>-1</sup>) of fluid. Changes in the direction of the energetic trends for both methanogenesis and hydrogen oxidation indicate a transition depending on which of the reactants is limiting (DIC or H<sub>2</sub> for methanogenesis, O<sub>2</sub> or H<sub>2</sub> for hydrogen oxidation). Trends shown in figure 14B hint that methanogens could be favored in fluids characterized by no to low extents of mixing, while H<sub>2</sub> oxidizers would prefer systems characterized by higher extents of mixing.

Energetic returns inferred for the continental serpentinizing subsurface are far less than what has been calculated for analogous mixing process accompanying fluid venting in deep sea hydrothermal environments. As an example, McCollom (2007)

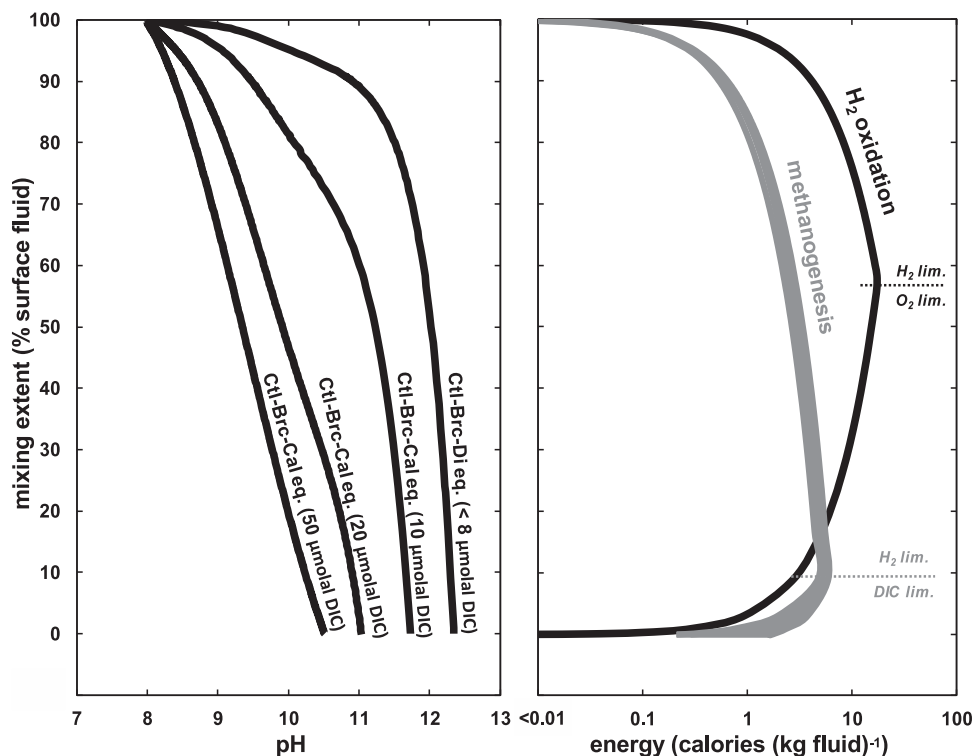


Fig. 14. (A) pH and (B) energy yields for H<sub>2</sub> oxidation and methanogenesis during mixing between fluids that equilibrated with deep-seated rocks (Ctl-Brc-Di and Ctl-Brc-Cal, bottom of (B)) and those that equilibrated with the highly altered shallow aquifer host rocks (top of (B)) at 25 °C and 1 bar. The four curves in (A) depict trends for pH during mixing for four deep-seated end-member fluids with variable starting DIC following fig. 6B: fluid in equilibrium with Ctl-Brc-Di and fluids in equilibrium with Ctl-Brc-Cal at DIC concentrations of 10, 20, and 50 μmolal. These four starting end-member fluids result in little differences in energy yield for methanogenesis as the mixing process progresses and are therefore depicted as one thick gray curve in (B). The thickness of the curve represents variations in energy bounded by that yielded by a fluid in equilibrium with Ctl-Brc-Di as the minimum and a fluid in equilibrium with Ctl-Brc-Cal at DIC concentrations of 50 μmolal as the maximum. Trends for H<sub>2</sub> oxidation are similar for these different starting fluids and are shown as one black curve in (B). Thin dashed lines in (B) indicate transition points for the limiting reactant.

calculated maximums of  $\sim 100$  and  $\sim 900$  calories  $\text{kg}^{-1}$  for methanogenesis and hydrogen oxidation, respectively, during vent fluid-seawater mixing. Nevertheless, despite being limited, available subsurface energy that can be exploited by microorganisms permits the possibility of deep communities in serpentinizing aquifers. Moreover, the above calculations also highlight discharge zones of fluid pathways as hotspots where subsurface life may bloom as reduced deep-seated fluids encounter oxidized shallow-aquifer fluids.

Communities observed in serpentinizing systems are not limited to H<sub>2</sub> oxidation and methanogenesis (Schrenk and others, 2013; Canovas and others, 2017). A more comprehensive theoretical evaluation of subsurface energy available for various metabolic process is possible once concentrations of relevant aqueous and gaseous species are constrained. In addition, constraints on organic compounds, such as formate and acetate, can provide insights into the likelihood of deep subsurface methanogens using substrates other than inorganic carbon. As shown in figure 13, simulations starting with various background concentrations of dissolved CH<sub>4</sub> do not dramatically change the



calculated energy yields for methanogenesis. These yields would, however, influence the energy available for aerobic and anaerobic methanotrophs. Constraints on deep subsurface  $\text{CH}_4$  concentrations will help assess the likelihood of subsurface methanotrophy, as well as refine the energetic returns for methanogens calculated above. Calculations of fluid-mineral equilibria constraining the dissolved sulfide and sulfate concentrations of deep-seated fluids will help quantify energy available for various sulfur-based metabolic processes. Similarly, constraints on dissolved nitrogen species such as ammonia, nitrite and nitrate will allow predictions of energy available for nitrogen-based metabolic reactions. We have inferred the dissolved ferrous iron concentrations of the deep subsurface through fluid-mineral equilibria with magnetite and iron-bearing brucite and serpentine, which can be used to assess energy available for iron oxidizers once more is known about iron oxidizing metabolisms in hyperalkaline systems. Constraints on the available ferric-iron hosting phases (magnetite,  $\text{Fe}^{+3}$ -bearing serpentine) can also help in quantifying energy available for iron reducing microbes.

#### CONCLUDING REMARKS

Our goals in conducting this evaluation of environments generated by low-temperature serpentinization of ultramafic rocks in continental settings are to explore various reactions that drive the serpentinization process and their consequences for the concentrations of various aqueous species. By accounting for variable temperatures, salinities, host-rock compositions, and degree of alteration (fresh ultramafic rock *vs* serpentinites) we demonstrate that equilibrium thermodynamic calculations account for the highly alkaline fluids recorded in serpentinizing environments. In light of the sluggish approach to equilibrium at low temperatures, these calculations provide robust tools for exploring the consequence of mass-transfer processes at ambient conditions. An example is the apparent mismatch between measured pH values of serpentinized fluids and calculations that assume equilibrium with idealized mineral assemblages. As described above, pH and composition will shift as a fluid moves from being in equilibrium with diopside to being in equilibrium with calcite as it encounters more DIC through transport processes like fluid mixing and atmospheric input. We have shown that these processes can account for most pH values measured in hyperalkaline fluids in Oman. Nevertheless, variabilities in the chemistry of serpentinization-generated fluids can also be consequences of reactive-transport processes where reactions are kinetically controlled (Tutolo and others, 2018). Calling upon kinetic constraints is warranted after exhausting equilibrium arguments.

Our calculations also extend the findings of previous work by Klein and others (2009, 2013, 2014) who showed that Fe is favorably incorporated into serpentine and brucite, instead of magnetite, during low-temperature serpentinization. When Fe transport occurs without oxidation there is a diminished potential for  $\text{H}_2$  generation. Results of our work show that the modern  $\text{H}_2$  flux could be two times lower ( $0.1\text{--}0.9 \times 10^{11}$  mole  $\text{H}_2$  year $^{-1}$ ) than recent estimates (Sherwood-Lollar and others, 2014) that assume iron oxidation to magnetite. Thermodynamic properties of Mg-cronstedtite and hisingerite components of serpentine were estimated and incorporated in our model to account for observations in serpentinites (O'Hanley and Dyar, 1993, 1998; Tutolo and others, 2019). Refinement of the thermodynamic properties of Fe end-members and solid solution models of serpentinization-relevant secondary phases such as serpentine and brucite can help improve our models, especially for calculations on the amount of  $\text{H}_2$  generated during low-temperature serpentinization. In addition, by evaluating energy supplies we show how potentials for microbial methanogenesis and hydrogen oxidation can be predicted in the deep serpentinizing subsurface. Energy is available for methanogens in the deep subsurface so long as DIC can be provided through calcite dissolution. Mixing of reduced, deep-seated, rock-equilibrated hyperal-

kaline fluids with shallow groundwater permits hydrogen oxidation, and can provide additional sources of energy that can be exploited by microbes. Further constraints on the chemistry of subsurface fluids, which will soon be available through the Oman Drilling Project will allow a comprehensive evaluation on the habitability of the deep serpentinizing subsurface. Finally, the predictions set forth in this study provide a rigorous framework for testing ideas that can explain the compositions and microbial communities of fluids sampled at the surface in hyperalkaline spring and seeps.

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TABLE A1

*Composition of fluids used in reaction path and mixing calculations*

	Rainwater <sup>1</sup>	Shallow Groundwater <sup>2</sup>	Deep Subsurface Fluid A <sup>3</sup>	Deep Subsurface Fluid B <sup>4</sup>	Deep Subsurface Fluid C <sup>5</sup>	Deep Subsurface Fluid D <sup>6</sup>
pH	5.6	8	12.3	11.7	11.1	10.6
ΣNa (mmole/kg) <sup>7</sup>	0.15	1	10	10	10	10
ΣCa (mmole/kg)	0.008	0.6	14.4	3.2	0.7	0.3
ΣMg (μmole/kg)	21	1700	0.03	0.2	2.6	20
ΣCl (mmole/kg) <sup>7</sup>	0.17	1	10	10	10	10
ΣSi (μmole/kg)	0.7	100	1.3	0.3	0.07	0.02
DIC (μmole/kg)	13	2070	8	10	20	50
DO (mmole/kg) <sup>8</sup>	0.3	0.3	0	0	0	0
H <sub>2(aq)</sub> (mmole/kg) <sup>9</sup>	0	0	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75

<sup>1</sup>modified from Hao and others (2017).

<sup>2</sup>calculated for a fluid in equilibrium with chrysotile, calcite, magnesite, and the atmosphere at 25°C and 1 bar. pH given as 8 (see text).

<sup>3</sup>fluid in equilibrium with the Ctl-Brc-Di and calcite assemblage at 25°C and 1 bar.

<sup>4</sup>fluid in equilibrium with the Ctl-Brc-Cal assemblage, given 10 μmole/kg DIC, at 25°C and 1 bar.

<sup>5</sup>fluid in equilibrium with the Ctl-Brc-Cal assemblage, given 20 μmole/kg DIC, at 25°C and 1 bar.

<sup>6</sup>fluid in equilibrium with the Ctl-Brc-Cal assemblage, given 50 μmole/kg DIC, at 25°C and 1 bar.

<sup>7</sup>shallow and deep fluids were given ionic strengths equivalent to a 1 and 10 millimole/kg NaCl solution, respectively, following environmental observations (Paukert and others, 2012; 2019).

<sup>8</sup>dissolved O<sub>2</sub> (DO) value for rain and shallow groundwater in equilibrium with the atmosphere at 25°C and 1 bar.

<sup>9</sup>value for deep subsurface fluids in equilibrium with one bar of H<sub>2(g)</sub> at 25°C.

TABLE A2  
 Summary of experimental and estimated thermodynamic data for end-member Fe-bearing serpentinization-relevant minerals used in this study

Mineral	Formula	$\Delta G^{\text{oa,f}}$	$\Delta H^{\text{oa,g}}$	$S^{\text{ob,h}}$	$V^{\text{oc,h}}$	$C_p^{\text{ob,h}}$	Maier-Kelley Coefficients		
							a <sup>b,h</sup>	b × 10 <sup>3d,h</sup>	c × 10 <sup>-5e,h</sup>
Ferrous Hydroxide	Fe <sup>+2</sup> (OH) <sub>2</sub>	-117730 <sup>l</sup>	-137340	21.0 <sup>l</sup>	26 <sup>k</sup>	21.3 <sup>l</sup>	26.06 <sup>l</sup>	4.35 <sup>l</sup>	-5.38 <sup>l</sup>
Ferrotremolite	Ca <sub>2</sub> Fe <sup>+2</sup> <sub>5</sub> Si <sub>8</sub> O <sub>22</sub> (OH) <sub>2</sub>	-2349100 <sup>m</sup>	-2511300	163.5	283	169.2	197.93	58.95	-41.17
Greenalite	Fe <sup>+2</sup> <sub>3</sub> Si <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> (OH) <sub>4</sub>	-716530	-787810	72.6	115	74.1	81.65	32.60	-15.39
Minnesotait	Fe <sup>+2</sup> <sub>3</sub> Si <sub>4</sub> O <sub>10</sub> (OH) <sub>2</sub>	-1070060	-1153380	83.5	148	88.5	88.31	42.61	-11.15
Mg-Cronstedtite	(Mg <sub>2</sub> Fe <sup>+3</sup> ) <sub>4</sub> (Fe <sup>+3</sup> Si)O <sub>5</sub> (OH) <sub>4</sub>	-789000 <sup>n</sup>	-865180	60.8 <sup>o</sup>	108 <sup>o</sup>	71.8 <sup>o</sup>	77.03 <sup>o</sup>	40.52 <sup>o</sup>	-15.40 <sup>o</sup>
Hisingerite	Fe <sup>+3</sup> <sub>2</sub> Si <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> (OH) <sub>4</sub>	-703430 <sup>n</sup>	-777330	57.3 <sup>o</sup>	105 <sup>o</sup>	63.4 <sup>o</sup>	68.77 <sup>o</sup>	44.98 <sup>o</sup>	-16.69 <sup>o</sup>

a. cal mol<sup>-1</sup>, b. cal mol<sup>-1</sup> K<sup>-1</sup>, c. cm<sup>3</sup> mol<sup>-1</sup>, d. cal mol<sup>-1</sup> K<sup>-2</sup>, e. cal K mol<sup>-1</sup>, f. unless otherwise noted, data taken from Wolery and Jove-Colon (2004), g. calculated using the  $\Delta G^{\text{o}}$  and  $S^{\text{o}}$  data in the table along with the entropy of the elements from Wagman and others (1982), h. unless otherwise noted, data taken from Helgeson and others (1978), i. Sverjensky and Molling (1992) using data from Baes and Mesmer (1976), j. Wagman and others (1982), k. Wolery and Jove-Colon (2004) using data from Weast and Lide (1989), l. McCollom and Bach (2009), m. Sverjensky (1985), n. Calculated using methods consistent with Wolery and Jove-Colon (2004), o. Calculated using methods consistent with Helgeson and others (1978) using reactions (Mg<sub>2</sub>Fe<sup>+3</sup>)<sub>4</sub>(Fe<sup>+3</sup>Si)O<sub>5</sub>(OH)<sub>4</sub>(Mg-Cronstedtite) + Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> ↔ (Mg<sub>2</sub>Al)(AlSi)O<sub>5</sub>(OH)<sub>4</sub>(Amesite) + Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and Fe<sup>+3</sup><sub>2</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>(OH)<sub>4</sub>(Hisingerite) + Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> ↔ Al<sub>2</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>(OH)<sub>4</sub>(Kaolinite) + Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> to calculate properties for Mg-Cronstedtite and Hisingerite, respectively.

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