



Chemical Heterogeneities in the Mantle: Progress Towards a General Quantitative Description

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Abstract. Chemical equilibration between two different assemblages (peridotite-type and gabbro/eclogite-type) of variable initial size assuming few different initial compositions has been determined using certain mass and reactions constraints and thermodynamic principles.

The pattern that emerges suggests that mass transfer between the two sub-systems defines two petrological assemblages that separately are maintained in local thermodynamic equilibrium. In addition, when two assemblages previously equilibrated together in a certain mass ratio are rearranged assuming a different initial ratio, no mass transfer occurs and the two sub-systems remain unmodified.

By modeling the chemical equilibration results of several systems it is possible to provide a quantitative framework to determine the chemical and petrological evolution of two assemblages from an initial state, in which the two are separately in chemical equilibrium, to a state of equilibration of the whole system (sum of the two sub-systems). Assuming that the local Gibbs energy variation follows a simple diffusion couple model, a complete petrological description of the two systems can be determined over time and space. Since there are no data to constrain the kinetic of the processes involved, the temporal and spatial scale is arbitrary. Nevertheless a 1-D static model shows how chemical equilibration is controlled by the size of the two sub-systems. As the initial size of the first assemblage (peridotite-like) increases, the differences between the initial and the final equilibrated stage becomes smaller, while on the opposite side the difference increases.

A simplified 2-D dynamic model in which either one of the two sub-systems is allowed to move with a prescribed velocity, shows that after an initial transient state, the moving sub-system tends to preserve its original composition defined at the entry side. The other sub-system instead evolves towards a large compositional difference from the starting assemblage. The results appear to be the same varying the initial proportion of the two assemblages, which simplify somehow the development of potential tools for predicting the chemical equilibration process from real data and geodynamic applications.

Four animations and data sets of three 1-D and two 2-D numerical models are available following the instructions in the supplementary material.

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1 Introduction

Our understanding of the Earth and planetary interiors is based on the underlying assumption that thermodynamic equilibrium is effectively achieved, which means that the system under consideration is in thermal, mechanical and chemical equilibrium on a certain domain. Although this may appear a theoretical observation, it affects the significance of geophysical, petrological and geochemical interpretations of the Earth Interior. While the assumption of thermodynamic equilibrium is not necessarily incorrect, the major uncertainty is the temporal and spatial scale on which the assumption is expected to be valid.

The Earth's interior as a whole could be defined to be in mechanical equilibrium when the effect of the gravitational field is compensated, within a close limit, by a pressure gradient (for simplicity variations of viscous forces are neglected). Even if this condition could be verified, thermodynamic equilibrium most likely is not achieved because it requires also chemical equilibration (a definition is provided further below) and thermal equilibrium (uniform temperature). On a smaller scale instead, local thermodynamic equilibrium could be a reasonable approximation, at least in principle. If the system is small enough, the effect of the gravitational field is negligible and a condition close to mechanical equilibrium is achieved by the near balance between the gravitational force and pressure (locally both density and pressure are effectively constant and viscous forces are neglected for simplicity). Clearly a perfect balance will lead to static equilibrium. While dynamic equilibrium can be acceptable, it complicates the treatment of chemical and thermal equilibrium, hence it is reasonable to assume a quasi-static condition (the forces balance is close but not exactly zero). At this smaller scale it is then easier to consider that the temperature is also nearly constant. The main uncertainty remains the chemical equilibrium condition. In an multiphase system such as a rock, one possible definition of chemical equilibrium requires that the sums of the chemical potentials and the stoichiometric coefficients of a unique set of possible reactions involving the rock's mineral components are all zero (Prigogine and Defay, 1954; Smith and Missen, 1991; Kondepudi and Prigogine, 1998). On a planetary scale, defining the size of system under investigation to be on the order of hundreds of meters or few kilometers has little effect on the variation of the gravity force and in most cases of the temperature gradient. But for the chemical equilibrium assumption, even a small size variation (relative to a planetary spatial scale) could lead to a significant departure from the equilibrium condition. The main reason is that it is generally understood that the Earth's mantle is chemically heterogeneous, that is the amount of MgO or Sr or any other chemical component is not necessarily the same everywhere.

The topic has been debated for some time (Kellogg, 1992; Poirier, 2000; Schubert et al., 2001; van Keken et al., 2002; Helffrich, 2006) and large scale geodynamic models to study chemical heterogeneities in the Earth's mantle have been refined over the years (Gurnis and Davies, 1986; Ricard et al., 1993; Christensen and Hofmann, 1994; Walzer and Hendel, 1999; Tackley and Xie, 2002; Zhong, 2006; Huang and Davies, 2007; Brandenburg et al., 2008; Li and al., 2014; Ballmer et al., 2015, 2017). Geochemical (van Keken and Ballentine, 1998; van Keken et al., 2002; Kogiso et al., 2004; Blusztajn et al., 2014; Iwamori and Nakamura, 2014; Mundl et al., 2017) and geophysical (van der Hilst et al., 1997; Trampert et al., 2004; Tommasi and Vauchez, 2015; Zhao et al., 2015; Tesoniero et al., 2016) data essentially support the idea that the mantle develops and preserves chemically heterogeneities through the Earth's history. Even though all the interpretations of the mantle structure are based on the assumption of local thermodynamic equilibrium, the scale of chemical equilibration has never been investigated in much detail. An



early study (Hofmann and Hart, 1978) suggested that chemical equilibrium cannot be achieved over a geological time, even for relatively small systems (kilometer scale). The persistence of an heterogeneous mantle was inferred based on volume diffusion data of Sr in olivine at 1000°C. At that time the assessment was very reasonable, albeit the generalization was perhaps an oversimplification of a complex multiphase multicomponent problem. At any rate, significant progress in the experimental methodology to acquire kinetic data and better understanding of the mechanisms involved suggest that the above conclusion should be at least reconsidered. In the past the only mechanism that was assumed to have some influence on partially homogenizing the mantle was mechanical thinning/mixing by viscous deformation (Kellogg and Turcotte, 1987). In addition very limited experimental data on specific chemical reactions relevant to mantle minerals (Rubie and Ross II, 1994; Milke et al., 2007; Ozawa et al., 2009; Gardés et al., 2011; Nishi et al., 2011; Dobson and Mariani, 2014) came short to set the groundwork for a general interpretation of chemical heterogeneities in the mantle.

In summary some of the questions that remain unanswered are the following. At what spatial and temporal scale we can reasonably assume that a petrological system is at least close to chemical equilibrium? How does it evolve? And what kind of petrological tools or models we can apply to develop a forward quantitative investigation of the chemical and petrological evolution of the mantle?

This study expands a previous contribution that aimed to provide an initial procedure to determine the chemical equilibration between two lithologies (Tirone et al., 2015). The problem was exemplified in a illustration (figure 1 in Tirone et al. (2015)). The heuristic solution, further developed here, is perhaps less rigorous than other approaches based on diffusion kinetics that were applied mainly for contact metamorphism problems (Fisher, 1973; Joesten, 1977; Nishiyama, 1983; Markl et al., 1998). However the advantage is that it is relatively easy to generalize, and it leads towards a possible integration with large scale geodynamic numerical models while still allowing for a comparison with real petrological data.

The following section (section 2) outlines the revised procedure to determine the two petrological assemblages forming together a system in chemical equilibrium. As will be discussed in the rest of this study, the revision involves the method used to perform the Gibbs minimization, the database of the thermodynamic properties involved and the number of oxides considered in the bulk composition. In addition since the solids are non-ideal solid mixtures (in the previous study all mixtures were ideal), the chemical equilibration requires that the chemical potential of the same components in the two assemblages must be the same. The method is still semi-general in the sense that a similar approach can be used for different initial lithologies with different compositions, however some assumptions and certain specific restrictions should be applied to the procedure. The ideal system discussed in the following sections assumes on one side a peridotite-like assemblage, and a gabbro/eclogite on the other side. Both are considered at a fixed pressure and temperature (40 kbar and 1200°C). The general idea is to conceptually describe the proxy for a generic section of the mantle and a portion of a subducting slab. A more general scheme that allows for variations of the pressure and temperature should be considered in future studies. The results of the equilibration method applied to 43 different systems are presented in section 2.1. The parameterization of the relevant information that can be used for various applications is discussed in section 2.2. Section 3 presents the first application of a 1-D numerical model applied to pairs of assemblages in variable initial proportions to determine the evolution over time towards a state of equilibration for the whole system. The following section (section 4) illustrates the results of few simple 2-D dynamic models that assume chemical



and mass exchange when one side moves at a prescribed velocity while the other side remains fixed in space.

All the necessary thermodynamic computations are performed in this study with the program AlphaMELTS (Smith and Asimow, 2005), which is based on the thermodynamic modelization of Ghiorso and Sack, (1995); Ghiorso et al., (2002) for the melt phase, the mixture properties of the solid and certain end-member solids. The thermodynamic properties of most of the end-member solid phases are derived from an earlier work (Berman, 1988). Even though melt is not present at the (P,T,X) conditions considered in this study, and other thermodynamic models are also available (Saxena, 1996; Stixrude and Lithgow-Bertelloni, 2005; Piazzoni et al., 2007; de Capitani and Petrakakis, 2010; Holland and Powell, 2011; Duesterhoeft and de Capitani, 2013), AlphaMELTS demonstrated to be a versatile tool to illustrate the method described in this work. It also allows for a seamless transition to potential future investigations in which it would be possible to study the melt products of two equilibrated, or partially equilibrated, assemblages at different (P,T) conditions.

2 Modeling Chemical Equilibration Between Two Assemblages

This section describes in some details the procedure to determine the transformations of two assemblages after they are put in contact and the system as a whole reaches a condition of chemical equilibrium. The bulk composition is described by nine oxides (SiO_2 , TiO_2 , Al_2O_3 , Fe_2O_3 , Cr_2O_3 , FeO , MgO , CaO , Na_2O wt%). Pressure and temperature are defined at the beginning of the process and they are kept constant. Water (thermodynamic phase) is not considered simply because the mobility of a fluid phase cannot be easily quantified and incorporated in the model. Three independent equilibrium computations are performed by minimizing the Gibbs free energy using AlphaMELTS. The first two equilibrations involve the bulk compositions of the two assemblages separately. The third one is performed assuming a weighted average of the bulk composition of the two assemblages in a predefined proportion, for example 1:1, 5:1 or 100:1, also expressed as f:1 where f=1,5,100 (peridotite : gabbro/eclogite). This third computation applies to a whole system in which the two assemblages are now considered sub-systems. The variable proportion essentially allows to put increasingly larger portions of the sub-system mantle in contact with the sub-system gabbro/eclogite using the factor f to indicate the relative “size” or mass of material involved. By using AlphaMELTS the mineralogical abundance and composition in moles is retrieved from the file `phase_main.tbl.txt`, while the chemical potential for each mineral component in the solid mixture is retrieved from the thermodynamic output file (option 15 in the AlphaMELTS program). Knowing all the minerals components involved, an independent set of chemical reactions can be easily found (Smith and Missen, 1991). For the problem in hand, the list of minerals and abbreviations are reported in table 1, and the set of independent reactions are listed in table 2.

Given the above information, the next step is to determine the bulk composition and the mineralogical assemblages of the two sub-systems after they have been put together and equilibration of the whole system has been reached. For this equilibration procedure the initial amount of moles n of mineral components i in the two assemblages is allowed to vary (Δn_i), provided that certain constraints are met.

The first and most straightforward set of constraints requires that the sum of the moles in the two assemblages should be equal to the moles of the whole system:



$$\frac{f[n_i(A_0) + \Delta n_i(A)] + [n_i(B_0) + \Delta n_i(B)] - (f+1)n_i(W)}{(f+1)n_i(W)} = 0 \quad (1)$$

where $n_i(A_0)$ represents the initial number of moles of the mineral component in the first assemblage (A) in equilibrium before it is put in contact with the second assemblage (B). A similar definition applies to $n_i(B_0)$. $\Delta n_i(A)$ and $\Delta n_i(B)$ are the variations of the number of moles after the two assemblages are held together and $n_i(W)$ is the number of moles of the component in the whole assemblage ($A+B$). The size of the whole assemblage is defined by $f+1$ where f refers to the size of the first assemblage.

Another set of constraints imposes the condition of local chemical equilibrium (Kondepudi and Prigogine, 1998) by requiring that the chemical potentials of the mineral components in the two sub-systems cannot differ from the chemical potentials found from the thermodynamic computation in the whole assemblage (W):

$$\left| \frac{\mu_i(A) - \mu_i(W)}{\mu_i(W)} \right|^2 + \left| \frac{\mu_i(B) - \mu_i(W)}{\mu_i(W)} \right|^2 = 0 \quad (2)$$

where $\mu_i(A)$ is the chemical potential of the mineral component in the assemblage A whose number of moles is $n_i(A) = n_i(A_0) + \Delta n_i(A)$, and similarly for the second assemblage B .

Certain constraints on the mass exchange can be imposed by comparing the equilibrium mineral assemblage of the whole system (W) with the initial equilibrium assemblages A_0 and B_0 . Table 3 provides an example of the input data and the results of the equilibrium modeling assuming initial proportion 1:1 ($f=1$). The second and third column on the upper side of the table report the input bulk composition on the two sides. The second and fifth column on the lower part of the table show the results of the thermodynamic equilibrium calculation applied separately to the two sub-systems. The last column shows the results for the whole system W . Turning the attention to the olivine components, the results suggest that the changes of the moles of Fayalite (Fa), Monticellite (Mtc) and Forsterite (Fo) can be fixed based on the assumption that the olivine found in the whole assemblage W is located only in A . Considering that no olivine was present in the initial assemblage B_0 , the transformation in A requires essentially a chemical readjustment, rather than the formation of a complete new mineral. It follows that the changes in the two sub-systems could be set as: $\Delta n_{Fa}(A) = 0.0008090$, $\Delta n_{Mtc}(A) = -0.0000555$ and $\Delta n_{Fo}(A) = -0.0726300$ and $\Delta n_{Fa}(B) = \Delta n_{Mtc}(B) = \Delta n_{Fo}(B) = 0$. The same assumption is also applied to the orthopyroxene components. Starting with different bulk compositions or proportions or (T,P) conditions, alternative assemblages may be formed, therefore different conditions may apply, but the reasoning behind the procedure to limit the number of the unknown change of moles remains applicable.

The list of reactions in table 2 allows to define a new set of equations which relates the extent of the reaction ξ_r with the changes of the moles of the mineral components (Prigogine and Defay, 1954; Kondepudi and Prigogine, 1998). Consider for example the garnet component almandine (Alm) which appears in reaction (T-1), (T-3), (T-10), (T-12), (T-13), (T-14), (T-15) and (T-16), the following relation can be established:

$$f\Delta n_{Alm}(A) + \Delta n_{Alm}(B) + 1\xi_{(T-1)} + 1\xi_{(T-3)} + 1\xi_{(T-10)} + 1\xi_{(T-12)} + 1\xi_{(T-13)} + 1\xi_{(T-14)} + 1\xi_{(T-15)} - 1\xi_{(T-16)} = 0 \quad (3)$$



where all the extent of the reactions are considered to be potential new variables. However not necessarily all the ξ_r should be treated as unknowns. For example, from the reactions in table 2 and the data in table 3, the orthopyroxene component En appears only in reaction T-2, and since no OEn appears on the B side, the mole change in A is considered to be locked ($\Delta n_{OEn}(A) = -0.0700777$). Therefore $\xi_{(T-2)}$ can be fixed to -0.0700777 . The same is also assumed to be true for $\xi_{(T-3)}$ uniquely coupled to $\Delta n_{OEss}(A)$, $\xi_{(T-4)}$ coupled to $\Delta n_{OHd}(A)$, $\xi_{(T-11)}$ coupled to $-\Delta n_{OJd}(A)$, and also $\xi_{(T-17)}$ fixed by $\Delta n_{Coe}(B)$.

Another constraint is given by the sum of the Gibbs free energy of the two sub-systems that should be also equal to the total Gibbs free energy of the whole system:

$$10 \quad \left(\frac{fG(A) + G(B) - (f+1)G(W)}{(f+1)G(W)} \right)^2 = 0 \quad (4)$$

where $G(A) = \sum_i n_i(A)\mu_i(A)$ and similar expression for B . A value for $G(W)$ instead is directly provided by the Al-phaMELTS computation.

Additional constraints based on further assumptions can be imposed. Considering for example garnet which appears on both sides. The components pyrope (Prp) and grossular (Grs) contribute only to two reactions, (T-1) and (T-12), and in both cases the reactions involve only olivine components which have been fixed in sub-system A , as previously discussed. The assumption that can be made is that the change of the moles of the garnet components in sub-system B will be minimal because no olivine is available in this sub-system and considering that garnet is readily available in A . Therefore the following equation can be applied:

$$20 \quad \min \left(\frac{\Delta n_{Prp}(B)}{n_{Prp}(B_0)} \right)^2 \quad (5)$$

and a similar relation can be also imposed to the other garnet components. The same argument can be applied to the clinopyroxene and spinel components. For example the spinel component hercynite (Hc) appears only in reaction (T-13), where the mineral components in olivine, orthopyroxene are only located in sub-system A and the change of moles of garnet is already minimized in sub-system B .

The overall procedure is implemented with the use of Minuit (James, 1994), a program that is capable of performing a minimization of multi-parameter functions. Convergence is obtained making several calls of the Simplex and Migrad minimizers (James, 1994). The procedure is repeated with different initial values for the parameters $\Delta n_i(A)$, $\Delta n_i(B)$ and ξ_r to confirm that a global minimum has been found.

2.1 Results of the Chemical Equilibrium Model Between Two Assemblages

This procedure described in the previous section has been applied to 43 different cases, varying the proportion of the two sub-systems from 1:1 to 1000:1 and considering different, but related, initial compositions. The initial bulk composition and the proportion factor f of the two sub-systems for all the 43 cases are included in the supplementary material. The results for few cases are shown in tables 3-7. Table 3 was partially introduced earlier showing the initial bulk composition of the two sub-systems (upper portion of the table), the initial equilibrium assemblages and the mole changes after the chemical equilibration



(lower part of the table). The table also includes the bulk composition in the two sub-systems after the chemical equilibration procedure is completed (upper part, column 5 and 6). These bulk compositions are calculated from the mole abundance of the mineral components shown in the lower part (columns 4 and 7). The total mass of the sub-systems is reported as well. In the example shown in table 3 there is a significant mass transfer from B to A ($\text{mass}(A_0)=100$, $\text{mass}(A)=146.36$, $\text{mass}(B_0)=100$, $\text{mass}(B)=53.64$). The table also includes the total Gibb energy for the sub-systems, before and after the equilibration. This is a quantity that will become relevant for the parameterization discussed in the next section. Table 4 is a summary of additional results based on a further analysis. The bulk composition in the upper portion of the table (A^* , B^*) is obtained by normalizing the oxides in A and B (upper part, column 5 and 6, table 3) to a total mass of 100. These bulk compositions are used for two new Gibbs free energy minimizations, one for each of the two separate sub-systems to retrieve the equilibrium assemblages.

The interesting observation that can be made, following the summary in the lower part of table 4, is that the abundance of the mineral components remains unmodified after scaling the results for the total mass of the system. For example using the data from table 3, the proportion relation: $n_{alm}(A) : 146.347 = n_{alm}(A^*) : 100$ gives $n_{alm}(A^*) = n_{alm}(A) \times 100/146.347 = 0.01453 \times 0.6833 = 0.009928$ which is remarkably close to the moles of almandine found from the separate equilibration calculation reported in table 4, $n_{alm}(A^*) = 0.0099353$.

Based on this observation, some equilibration models have been carried out considering at least one of the initial composition from a previous model (e.g. A^* from a previous equilibration model \Rightarrow input for a new model A_0 or alternatively $B^* \Rightarrow B_0$), while for the other sub-system the initial bulk composition given in table 3 is the same of the previous model. A special case is the one shown in table 5 in which both A_0 and B_0 are taken from the equilibrated and normalized data of the previous model, A^* and B^* , reported in table 4. If the proportion in the new model remains the same, 1:1, then clearly no compositional changes are expected since the whole system is already in equilibrium. If the proportion is changed, for example to 5:1 ($f = 5$), the bulk composition of the whole system is different from the bulk composition of the whole system with 1:1 proportion and the assemblages in the two sub-system may not remain unmodified after equilibration. However this does not appear to be the case, as shown in table 5, where $\Delta n_i(A)$ and $\Delta n_i(B)$ are very small. Practically the results suggests that the moles of the mineral components remain unchanged.

A more general case with $f = 5$ is presented in table 6. The model is essentially the same shown in table 3, but with proportion of the two initial sub-systems set to 5:1. As expected the results of the equilibration process are different from the results starting with an initial proportion 1:1 (table 3). For example with 1:1, $n_{alm}(A) = 0.01453$, while with 5:1, $n_{alm}(A)/5 = 0.00737$. The question is whether the observation made for the first studied case with proportion 1:1 can be generalized. In particular the observation that the scaled mineral abundance in the two sub-systems is the same obtained from the equilibration procedure of the whole system when the normalized bulk composition of the equilibrated sub-systems are used for an independent Gibbs free energy minimization. Indeed the same conclusion can be made for the model with 5:1 initial proportion (table 7). Considering the example used earlier of the almandine component, $(n_{alm}(A)/5) \times 100/110.064 = 0.006698$ (table 6) which can be compared with $n_{alm}(A^*) = 0.006695$ (table 7). The observation has been also confirmed for all the other models that have been studied with f ranging from 1 to 1000.



2.2 Parameterization of the Equilibrium Model Results for Applications

While interesting observations have been made about the mineralogical assemblages in the two sub-systems after chemical equilibration, it is still unclear how this type of model can be applied for studies on the chemical evolution of the mantle. Figure 1 summarizes the relevant data that allows to determine the bulk composition and the mineralogical assemblage in the two sub-systems after the chemical equilibration process is completed.

The key quantity is the normalized Gibbs energy of the two sub-systems after they have been equilibrated, $G(A^*)$ and $G(B^*)$ (the normalized Gibbs energy for an unspecified sub-system is defined by the symbol $G(*)$). Panel 1-A) shows the relation between the ratio $G(A^*)/G(B^*)$ and $G(B^*)$ which will be used later to define $G(*)$ at the interface between the two assemblages. The data in the figure for the 43 models have been fitted using a Chebyshev polynomial (Press et al., 1997). By knowing $G(*)$ at any point in the whole system, it is possible to retrieve the abundance of all the oxides defining the bulk composition normalized to 100. An example is shown in panels 1-B) and 1-C) which illustrate the data points for MgO in (A^*) and (B^*) in the 43 study models and the related fitting using Chebyshev polynomials.

The mass transfer between the two sub-systems can be related to the total Gibbs free energy variation in each of the two sub-systems $G(A)$ and $G(B)$. The two relations are almost linear, as shown in panel 1-D). For practical applications, once a relation is found between G and the normalized $G(*)$, then the mass transfer can be approximately quantified. Panel 1-E) of figure 1 shows the data points and the related fitting with the Chebyshev polynomial of the function $G(B)[G(B^*) - G(B_0)]$ versus $[G(B^*) - G(B_0)]$. More details on the use of the fitting polynomial functions are provided in the next section.

3 Application to the evolution of a 1-D Static Model with Variable Extension

The chemical and petrological evolution of two assemblages can be investigated with a 1-D numerical model, assuming that the two sub-systems remain always in contact and they are not mobilized. The problem can be described using a diffusion couple-type model for the local variation of $G(*)$ which can be expressed by the following equation for each sub-system:

$$\frac{\partial G(*)}{\partial t} = S(*) \frac{\partial^2 G(*)}{\partial d_x(*)^2} \quad (6)$$

where $G(*)$ refers to either $G(A^*)$ or $G(B^*)$. Time t , distance $d_x(*)$ and the scaling factor $S(*)$ have no specific units since we have no knowledge of the kinetic of the processes involved. Therefore at the moment these quantities are set according to arbitrary units, $S(A^*)$ and $S(B^*)$ are set to 1, while t , $d_x(A^*)$ and $d_x(B^*)$ vary depending on the numerical model. The numerical solution with grid spacing $\Delta d_x(*)$, uniform on both sides, is obtained using the well-known Crank-Nichols method (Tannehill et al., 1997). At the interface if the polynomial of the function shown in panel 1-A) of figure 1 is used together with the flux conservation equation:

$$\left. \frac{\partial G(A^*)}{\partial d_x(A^*)} \right|_{if} = - \left. \frac{\partial G(B^*)}{\partial d_x(B^*)} \right|_{if} \quad (7)$$

to retrieve $G(A^*)_{if}$ and $G(B^*)_{if}$ assuming that $S(A^*) = S(B^*)$. The boundaries defining the limits l of the whole system are assumed to be of closed-type or symmetric-type. Both are obtained by the condition $G(A^*)_l = G(A^*)_{n_A-1}$ and $G(B^*)_l =$



$G(B^*)_{n_B-1}$, where n_A and n_B are the total number of grid points on each side (excluding the boundary points). $G(A^*)_l$ and $G(B^*)_l$ define the outside boundary limits of the whole system representing either the closed-end of the system or the central points of mirrored images.

To determine the mass transfer and how it affects the length of the two sub-systems, the following steps are applied. The polynomial of the relation shown in panel 1-E) of figure 1 is used at the interface point to find $G(B)_{if}$ (from the relation with $G(B^*)_{if} - G(B_0)$). Defining $\Delta G = [G(B_0) - G(B)_{if}]/G(B_0)$, the length of sub-system B at complete equilibrium would be $D_{x,eq}(B^*) = D_x(B_0) + D_x(B_0)\Delta G$, where $D_x(B_0)$ is the total length of the sub-system at the initial time. The spatial average of $G(B^*)$, defined as $G(B^*)_{av}$ is also needed but it can be easily computed. To find the current total length of the sub-system at a particular time, the following relation is applied:

$$D_{x,t}(B^*) = D_{x,eq}(B^*) - [D_{x,eq}(B^*) - D_x(B_0)] \frac{G(B^*)_{if} - G(B^*)_{av}}{G(B^*)_{if} - G(B_0)} \quad (8)$$

The same change of length is applied with opposite sign on the other sub-system. The new dimensions $D_{x,t}(A^*)$ and $D_{x,t}(B^*)$ define also new equispacial grid step sizes, $\Delta_x(A^*)$ and $\Delta_x(B^*)$. The final operation, necessary for the application of a simple numerical discretization, is to re-mesh the values of $G(*)$ at the previous time step onto the new spatial grid.

Two assumptions are made in this whole procedure. The relation between the change of G and the change of the total mass was shown in panel 1-D) of figure 1. The further assumption here is that the change of mass (and G) is proportional to the change of the total length of the sub-system.

To summarize the numerical procedure, at every time step the complete solution on both sides is obtained by solving equation 6 for $G(A^*)$ and $G(B^*)$ with the boundary conditions imposed for the limits of the whole system and preliminary values for the interface points. Then the interface points are updated using the polynomial function and equation 7. The total length is then rescaled to account for the mass transfer and the numerical grid is updated. This procedure is iterated until the variation between two iterations becomes negligible (typically convergence is set by: $|G(A^*)_{if}^{\#1} - G(A^*)_{if}^{\#2}| + |G(B^*)_{if}^{\#1} - G(B^*)_{if}^{\#2}| < 1e-4$, where the labels # 1 and # 2 refer to two iterative steps).

Once convergence has been reached, the oxide abundance can be found easily using the Chebyshev polynomial parameterization in which each oxide is related to a function of $G(A^*)$ or $G(B^*)$ (e.g. for MgO see panel 1-A) and 1-B) of figure 1). Finally, knowing temperature, pressure and the variation of the bulk oxides composition in space and time, a thermodynamic equilibrium calculation can be performed at every grid point using AlphaMELTS to determine the local mineralogical assemblage.

Several 1-D numerical simulations have been carried out with initial proportion ranging from 1:1 to 100:1. Some results from a test case with proportion 1:1 are shown in figure 2. Initial total length on both side is set to $D_x(A_0) = D_x(B_0) = 100$ (arbitrary units), the initial spatial grid step is $\Delta d_x(A_0) = \Delta d_x(B_0) = 1$. Time step is set to 4 (arbitrary units) and $S(A^*)=S(B^*)=1$. The initial bulk composition of the two assemblages, that separately are in complete thermodynamic equilibrium, is the same reported in table 1: $SiO_2 = 45.2$, $TiO_2 = 0.20$, $Al_2O_3 = 3.94$, $Fe_2O_3 = 0.20$, $Cr_2O_3 = 0.40$, $FeO = 8.10$, $MgO = 38.40$, $CaO = 3.15$, $Na_2O = 0.41$ wt% (peridotite side) $SiO_2 = 48.86$, $TiO_2 = 0.37$, $Al_2O_3 = 17.72$, $Fe_2O_3 = 0.84$, $Cr_2O_3 = 0.03$, $FeO = 7.61$, $MgO = 9.10$, $CaO = 12.50$, $Na_2O = 2.97$ wt% (gabbro/eclogite side). Panel 2-A) illustrates the varia-



tion of G^* on both sides, at the initial time (black line) and at three different times, 80, 4000 and 20000 (arbitrary units). Note the increase of the length on the A side and decrease on the B side. Bulk oxides abundance is also computed at every grid point. The bulk MgO (wt%) is reported on panel 2-B), which shows the progressive decrease on the A side while MgO increases on the B side. The bulk composition is used with AlphaMELTS to determine the local equilibrium assemblage which is presented

5 in panels 2-C) - 2-H). The panels show the amount of the various minerals in wt% (solid lines) and the MgO content in each mineral in wt% (dotted lines), with the exception of coesite in panel 2-H) (SiO_2). The complex mineralogical evolution during the chemical equilibration process can be studied in some detail. For example one can observe the progressive disappearance of orthopyroxene on the peridotite side and the exhaustion of coesite on the gabbro/eclogite side.

Similar results are shown in figure 3 and 4 for models with initial proportion set to 5:1 and 50:1, respectively. Differences

10 in the numerical setup of the new test cases can be summarized as follow. For the 5:1 case: $D_x(A_0) = 500$, $D_x(B_0) = 100$, $\Delta d_x(A_0) = \Delta d_x(B_0) = 1$, time step is set to 40, for the 50:1 case: $D_x(A_0) = 5000$, $D_x(B_0) = 100$, $\Delta d_x(A_0) = 5$, $\Delta d_x(B_0) = 1$, time step is set to 800.

Few observations can be made by comparing the three simulations. For example, orthopyroxene on the peridotite side becomes more resilient and the total amount of Opx increases with the size of the initial sub-system. On the other side it appears that

15 the MgO content in garnet (pyrope component) is greater for the model with starting proportion 5:1, compared to the 1:1 case. However with initial proportion 50:1, the MgO content does not seem to change any further.

The supplementary material provides a link to access the raw data (all nine oxides) for the three test cases with initial proportion 1:1, 5:1 and 50:1. In addition two animations (1:1 and 5:1 cases) should help to visualize the evolution of the models over time.

20 4 Application to the Evolution of a 2-D Model with One Dynamic Assemblage and Variable Extension

A 2-D numerical model opens up the possibility that at least one of the two assemblages becomes mobile. The simplest approach, which is explored in this section, is to consider a rectangular box with a vertical interface dividing the two sub-systems. The dynamic component is simply enforced in the model by assuming that one of the two assemblages moves downwards with a certain velocity, replaced by new material entering from the top side, while the other assemblage remains fixed in the initial

25 spatial frame. The whole system evolves over time following the same conceptual idea introduced in the previous section. This type of 2-D model is described by a two stages procedure. In the first stage the following equation is applied to both sub-systems:

$$\frac{\partial G(*)}{\partial t} = S_x(*) \frac{\partial^2 G(*)}{\partial d_x(*)^2} + S_y(*) \frac{\partial^2 G(*)}{\partial d_y^2} \quad (9)$$

30 where $d_x(*)$ is the general spacing in the x-direction representing either $d_x(A^*)$ or $d_x(B^*)$ and the vertical spacing d_y is assumed to be the same on both sides. This equation is solved numerically using the alternating-direction implicit method (ADI) (Peaceman and Rachford, 1955; Douglas, Jr., 1955) which is unconditionally stable with a truncation error $O(\Delta t^2, \Delta d_x^2, \Delta d_y^2)$ (Tannehill et al., 1997). The method requires only the solution of a tridiagonal matrix similar to the one used for 1-D implicit



methods.

The same numerical procedure described in section 3 to determine $G(*)$ at the interface is applied to the 2-D model. The limits of the whole system opposite to the interface (left/right) are also treated similarly, assuming either a closed-type or symmetric-type boundary. For the other two boundaries (top/bottom) the zero flux condition is imposed, $G(A*)_l = G(A*)_{n_A}$

5 and $G(B*)_l = G(B*)_{n_B}$.

In the previous section a procedure was developed to account for the mass transfer between the two sub-systems. The same method is applied for the 2-D problem. The conceptual difference is that in a 2-D problem the mass change in principle should affect the area defined around a grid point. For practical purposes however in this study it only affects the length in the horizontal x-direction, hence re-meshing applies only to $D_{x,t}(A*)$ and $D_{x,t}(B*)$ and consequently the two numerical grid step

10 size, $\Delta d_x(A*)$ and $\Delta d_x(B*)$.

Up to this point the evolution of the system is not different than what was described for the 1-D case. The dynamic effect is included in the second stage of the procedure. It is activated at a certain time assuming that the chosen sub-system moves downwards with a fixed pre-defined vertical velocity (y-component). Values of $G(*)$ are then re-meshed to preserve the continuity of the orthogonal grid. The material introduced from the top side is assumed to have the same composition of the initial assemblage (composition of the initial assemblages is the same used for the 1-D models, table 1). Oxides bulk composition is then retrieved at each grid point over time using the same polynomial functions applied in the previous section. The complete mineralogical assemblage can be also computed using AlphaMELTS as part of a post-process step after the numerical simulation is completed.

15 Only few 2-D simulations have been performed, specifically considering the initial proportion 1:1, 5:1 and 50:1, assuming either one of the two assemblages moving downward. Figure 5 summarizes some of the results for the case 5:1(A), i.e. with moving sub-system A. Initial grid specifications are: $D_x(A_0) = 500$, $D_x(B_0) = 100$, $\Delta d_x(A_0) = \Delta d_x(B_0) = 2$, $D_y(A_0) = D_y(B_0) = 50$, $\Delta d_y(A_0) = \Delta d_y(B_0) = 1$ (arbitrary units). Time step is set to 16 (arbitrary units). The scaling coefficients $S_x(*)$ and $S_y(*)$ are set to 0.01 (arbitrary units). The dynamic component is activated at time=100000 with vertical velocity set to 0.00625 (arbitrary units). The figure is a snapshot of the whole system soon after sub-system A has been activated

25 downwards (time=102400). Panel 5-A) shows the variation of $G(*)$, while panel 5-B) illustrates the bulk MgO distribution (wt%). The other panels, 5-C) - 5-H), present an overview of the mineralogical distribution (flood contour-type) and the MgO content in each mineral phase (line contour-type), with the exception of panel 5-H) for coesite (SiO_2). The panels clearly illustrate the variations introduced by the mobile sub-system A. There is apparently no immediate effect on the assemblage B, however the long term effect is significant and becomes visible in a later figure (figure 7).

30 Figure 6 provides a similar overview for the case assuming 5:1(B) with sub-system B moving downward. Exactly the same numerical conditions described for the previous case apply for this case as well. The figure, showing only one time-frame soon after the sub-system is mobilized, does not appear to reveal new remarkable features. Advancing the simulation, a clear effect becomes more evident near the interface. In particular changes of the chemical and mineralogical properties moving away from the top entry side are quite significant. An animation related to figure 6 illustrating this point and another animation related to



figure 5 can be downloaded following the link provided in the supplementary material. The associated raw data files including all nine oxides are also available.

5 Summary of the 1-D and 2-D Models Approaching Chemical Equilibration

Figure 7 summarizes the results of all the 1-D and 2-D numerical test models at conditions in which the whole system approaches or is close to chemical equilibration. In the static scenario, exemplified by the 1-D models (solid lines), by increasing the initial size of sub-system *A*, the variations of the related assemblage from the initial condition tend to decrease (see panels 7-C) - 7-H) and enlarged view around the interface, panels 7-C2) - 7-H2)). It is the expected behavior since any change is distributed over a larger space of the sub-system. The variations of the minerals abundance in assemblage *B* (gabbro/eclogite) instead remain quite independent of the initial size of sub-system *A*. However the abundance of the minerals not necessarily is the same found in the initial assemblage. In particular the amount of garnet, clinopyroxene and coesite are quite different, even though the change from the initial assemblage remains rather constant over the range of initial proportions varying from 1:1 to 100:1 (from $f=1$ to $f=100$).

The composition of the minerals in assemblage *A* (e.g. *MgO* illustrated in panels 7-CC) - 7-HH)) follows a pattern similar to the minerals abundance, approaching the initial composition as the size of the initial sub-system increases. A different result is observed for the composition of the minerals in assemblage *B*. Regardless whether the mineral abundance changes or remains close to the initial amount, the composition varies quite significantly and in most minerals the difference is larger as *f* is set to higher values.

When one of the sub-systems is allowed to move (2-D models), the general observation on the long run is that the sub-system tends to preserve the assemblage that enters in the model. In this study this assemblage is set to be equal to the initial assemblage (see figure 7, panels 7-C) - 7-H) and zoomed view in panels 7-C2) - 7-H2)). Note that the plots refer to an horizontal section of extracted data points at the middle distance $D_y/2$. When sub-system *A* is mobile (dotted lines), the behavior of assemblage *B* is similar to the static case, with some minerals changing their initial abundance, garnet, clinopyroxene, coesite and in part spinel. In the reverse case, with sub-system *B* being mobile (dashed lines), the mineralogical abundance of *A* is different from the initial assemblage, but unlike the static cases, no significant variations can be noted with the increase of the initial proportion.

In terms of minerals composition (e.g. *MgO*, panels 7-CC) - 7-HH) in figure 7), the dynamic sub-system preserves the composition of the entering assemblage. The other assemblage instead, shows a compositional variation that is larger than any variation observed for the static cases, even though it remains somehow independent of the initial proportion, at least with $f = 1, 5, 50$.

Complete data for the bulk composition, which includes nine oxides, is available for three 1-D models and two 2-D simulations following the instructions in the supplementary material.



6 Conclusions

Geochemical and petrological interpretations of the Earth interior rely on the achievement of thermodynamic equilibrium on a certain scale. Phase equilibrium data and partition coefficients for example do require that chemical equilibrium has been reached and is preserved. Curiously, while this assumption is tacitly imposed on the most convenient dimension to interpret
5 observed data, chemical equilibration is ignored when it comes to discuss the presence or the extent of chemical heterogeneities (i.e. chemical equilibration, in this regard, is considered ineffective) (e.g. Morgan, 2001; Ito and Mahoney, 2005a, b; Strake and Bourdon, 2009; Brown and Lesher, 2014).

On the other hand geophysical interpretations usually require to specify certain properties, such as the density for the Earth materials under consideration. For example when the density does not assume some fictitious values but somehow it is related
10 to real rock assemblages, the system has to be sufficiently small that the gravitational force is almost completely balanced by the pressure effect (viscous forces are ignored for simplicity), effectively establishing a quasi-static or static condition. Then the “only” requirement is that the system is close to chemical equilibrium, hence petrological constraints can be applied to determine the proper density of the assemblage.

The main objective of this study was to develop a quantitative forward model to understand the evolution of chemical hetero-
15 genities in the mantle. The model has been restricted to one set of values for the pressure and temperature and one pair of bulk compositions indicative of a peridotite-type and a gabbro/eclogite-type. The gabbro/eclogite type can be interpreted as a portion of a subduction slab. Ignoring a thin sedimentary layer, that possibly could peel off during subduction, a large portion of the slab consists also of a depleted peridotite. Three lithologies (mantle peridotite, gabbro, depleted slab peridotite) probably can be also approached with a chemical equilibration model similar to the one presented here. However it remains to be seen
20 whether the difference in composition with respect to the generic peridotite assumed in this study would lead to significant new results that would justify the additional modeling effort.

In the meantime the priority has been given here to understand the influence on the final assemblages of various initial proportions of the two sub-systems and few selected initial compositions. The spatial and temporal evolution necessarily assumes arbitrary units. The main reason is that a comprehensive approach to study chemical heterogeneities that would include time-
25 dependent experiments and suitable models for the interpretation of the experimental results is missing.

The results from 43 study models suggest that the imposed condition of thermodynamic equilibrium for the whole system defines two assemblages that are not only in chemical equilibrium as a whole, but also as separate sub-systems. Furthermore, mass exchange between these equilibrated assemblages does not take place even when the initial proportion of the two is modified and a new equilibration model is imposed. The results of the study models have been condensed in a series of parameterized
30 functions that can be used for various applications.

The choice made to describe the variation of $G(*)$ using the transport model presented in section 3 and 4 may seem rather arbitrary. However local thermodynamic properties can be defined as a function of space and time (Kondepudi and Prigogine, 1998). Furthermore, in the original derivation of the classical chemical diffusion equations, the flux of the chemical potential is assumed to evolve towards equilibrium following a similar formulation (e.g. Kondepudi and Prigogine, 1998). Ultimately



only extensive experimental studies could determine whether the simple transport model applied in this work for the variation of $G(*)$ in an heterogeneous system can be considered a reasonable approximation for practical geological applications. Two aspects of the numerical applications presented in the previous sections deserve perhaps a further consideration. The assumption made for the composition of the entering assemblage in the 2-D models perhaps should be reconsidered in future studies. The other consideration concerns the boundary condition imposed on the opposite side of the interface between the two assemblages. The assumption is that the whole system is either close to mass exchange or mirror images exist outside the boundary limits. From a geological perspective the first scenario is probably the more difficult to imagine. On the other hand the possibility that periodic repetitions of the same model structure are replicated over a large portion of the mantle, if not the entire mantle, seems more reasonable. Assuming that the time scale is somehow constrained, an investigation of the temporal evolution would still require some kind of assessment of the periodic distribution of the thermodynamic system as a whole. Over a long period of time, the 2-D simulations have shown that the mineralogical abundance and compositional variations are approximately independent of the size of the two sub-systems. This observations suggests the possibility of implementing large geodynamic models with evolving petrological systems, once the temporal and spatial scale of the chemical changes have been constrained.

At the moment the spatial and temporal variations are arbitrarily defined, but this study shows that the petrological and mineralogical changes may still be quantified, at least at the (P,T) conditions that have been considered. It would be useful for example to select few bulk compositions for the two sub-systems and apply them to the dynamic equilibrium melting (DEM) and dynamic fractional melting (DFM) models that have been developed combining 1-D multiphase flow with AlphaMELTS (Tirone and Sessing, 2017; Tirone, 2018). Perhaps even a simplified model for non-equilibrium fractional crystallization could be introduced to reproduce 3-D chemical zoning in minerals and multicomponent zoning in melts (Tirone et al., 2016). The results could be compared with existing data on melt products and residual solids observed in various geological settings to investigate indirectly, but from a quantitative perspective, the presence of chemical heterogeneities in the mantle. It becomes also possible to determine the variation of certain physical properties, such as bulk density, and relate them to certain observables, such as seismic velocities. At least on a relative scale, the effect of the compositional variations could be associated to seismic velocity variations, providing in this way another indirect evidence of heterogeneities in the mantle based on a quantitative description.

Data availability. Supplementary material included

Competing interests. No competing interests are present



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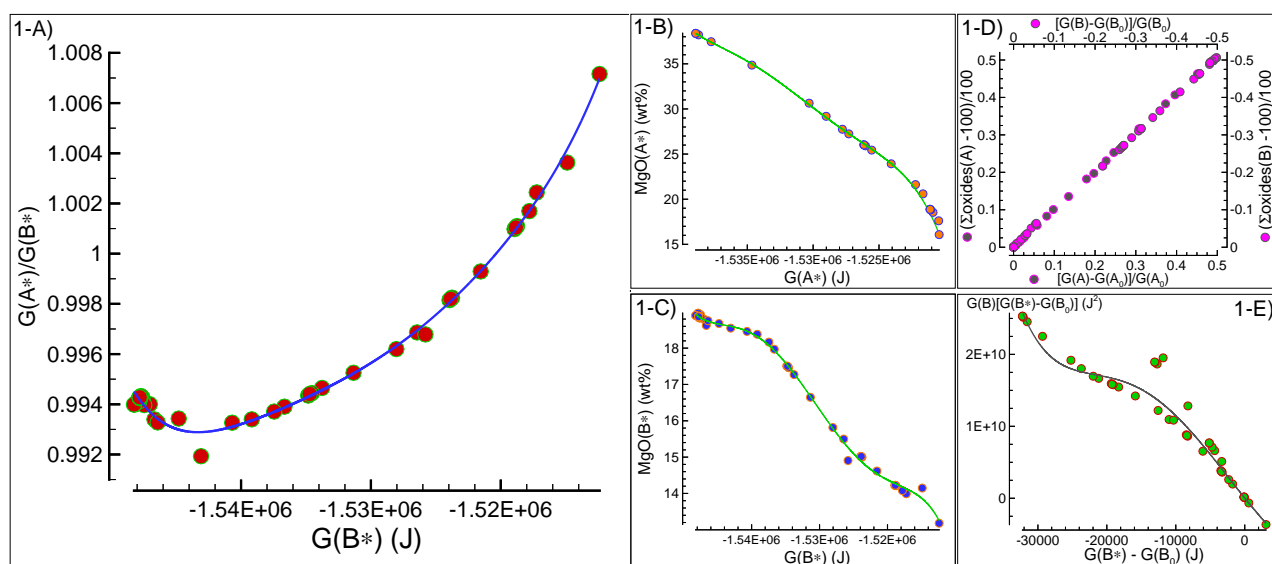


Figure 1. Data and relative fitting used to develop the chemical equilibration model. Panel 1-A) relation between the ratio $G(A^*)/G(B^*)$ and $G(B^*)$ which is applied to constrain $G(A^*)$ and $G(B^*)$ at the interface. Panel 1-B) and 1-C) illustrate the relation between $G(A^*)$ and $G(B^*)$ with MgO bulk abundance. Similar relations are applied for all nine oxides defining the bulk composition. Knowing $G(B)$, the total size of the assemblage at equilibrium can be found assuming that a) a relation between the mass change and the change of $G(B)$ is established (Panel 1-D), b) the extension of the assemblage is proportional to the mass change and it takes place along a direction perpendicular to the interface. The total length at equilibrium is then adjusted in accordance with the difference between the spatial average $G(B^*)$ of the assemblage and $G(B^*)$ at the interface (see the main text for a detailed explanation). The change of size of the second assemblage is also applied on the first assemblage with opposite sign. Panel 1-E) allows to determine $G(B)$ from the relation with $G(B^*)$ at the interface.

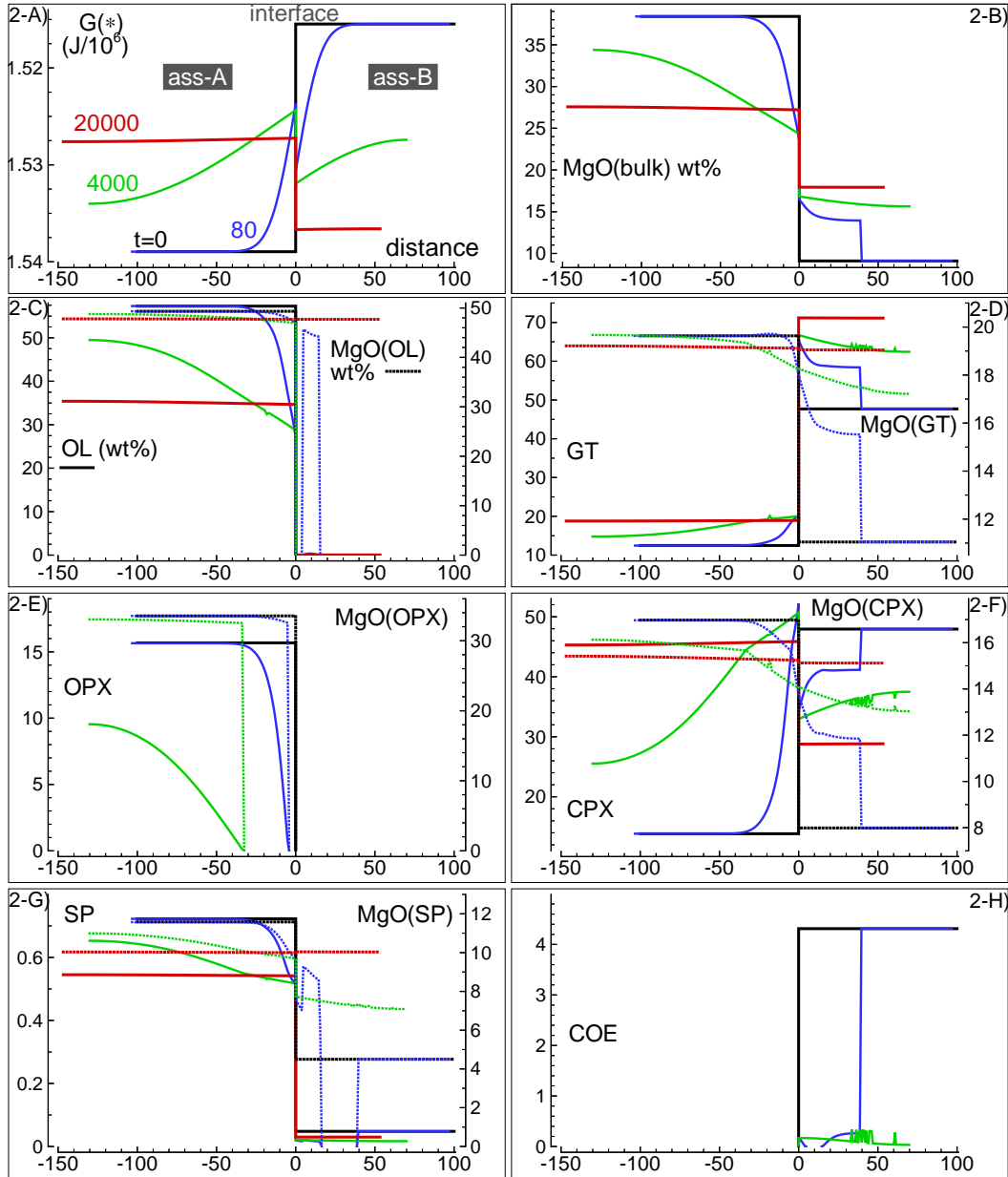


Figure 2. Solution of a 1-D model simulation. The initial proportion of the two assemblages is 1:1. Panel 2-A) $G(A^*)$ and $G(B^*)$ at three different times and at time zero when the two assemblages separately are considered in chemical equilibrium. Panel 2-B) Local bulk MgO (wt%) retrieved from the relation with G^* . All the other oxides are retrieved with similar relations. Panels 2-C) -G) Minerals abundance (solid lines) and MgO content (dotted lines) in the corresponding minerals. Panel 2-H) distribution of coesite. Local minerals abundance and compositions shown in panels 2-C) -H) are retrieved after performing thermodynamic computations at every spatial location with AlphaMELTS using the bulk oxides abundance exemplified in panel 2-B) for MgO . Time and distance in arbitrary units. Pressure and temperature are fixed at 40 kbar and 1200°C. The rest of the parameters for the model are defined in the main text.

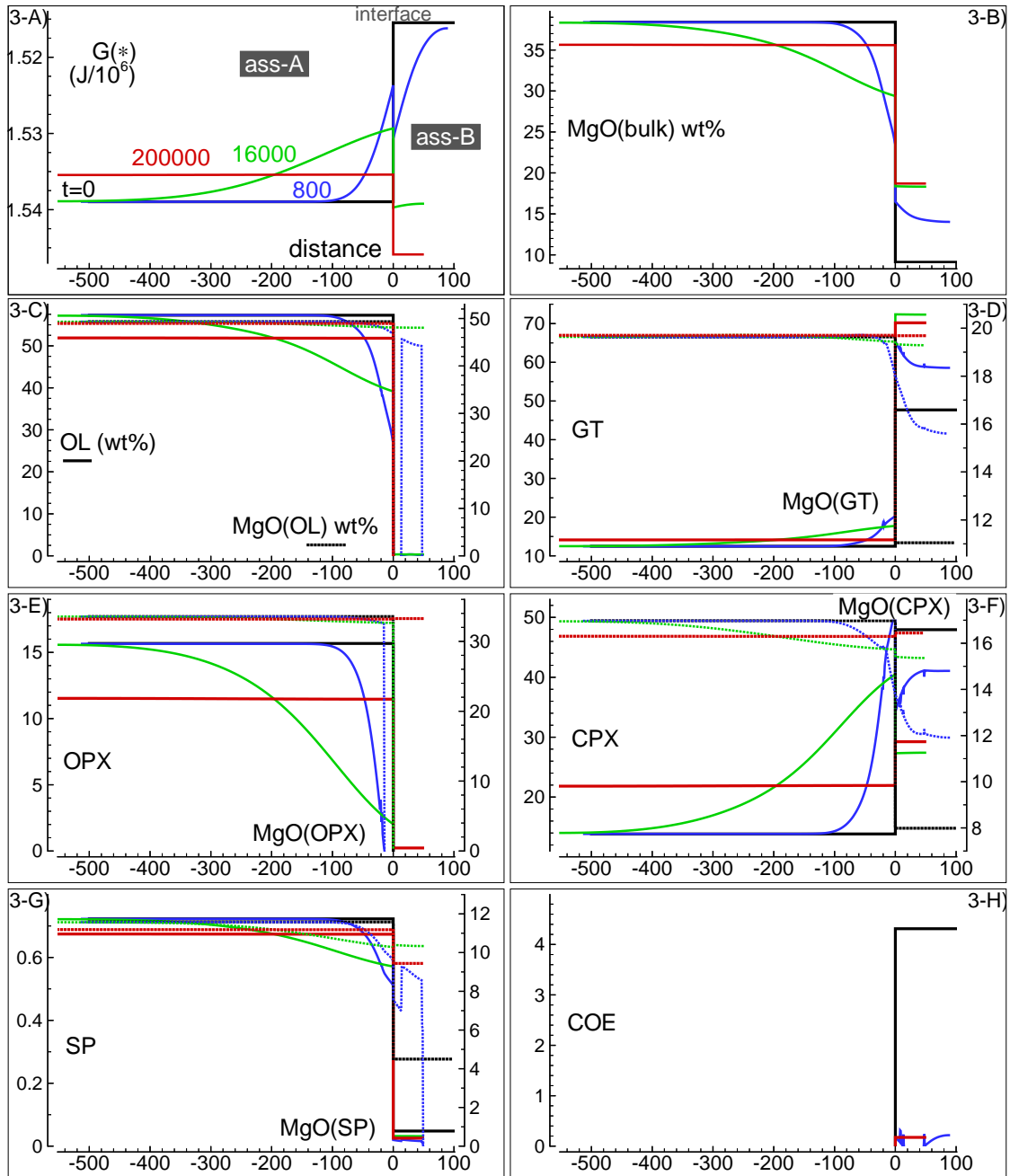


Figure 3. Solution of a 1-D model simulation. The initial proportion of the two assemblages is 5:1 ($f = 5$). The description of the panels follows the caption provided for figure 2.

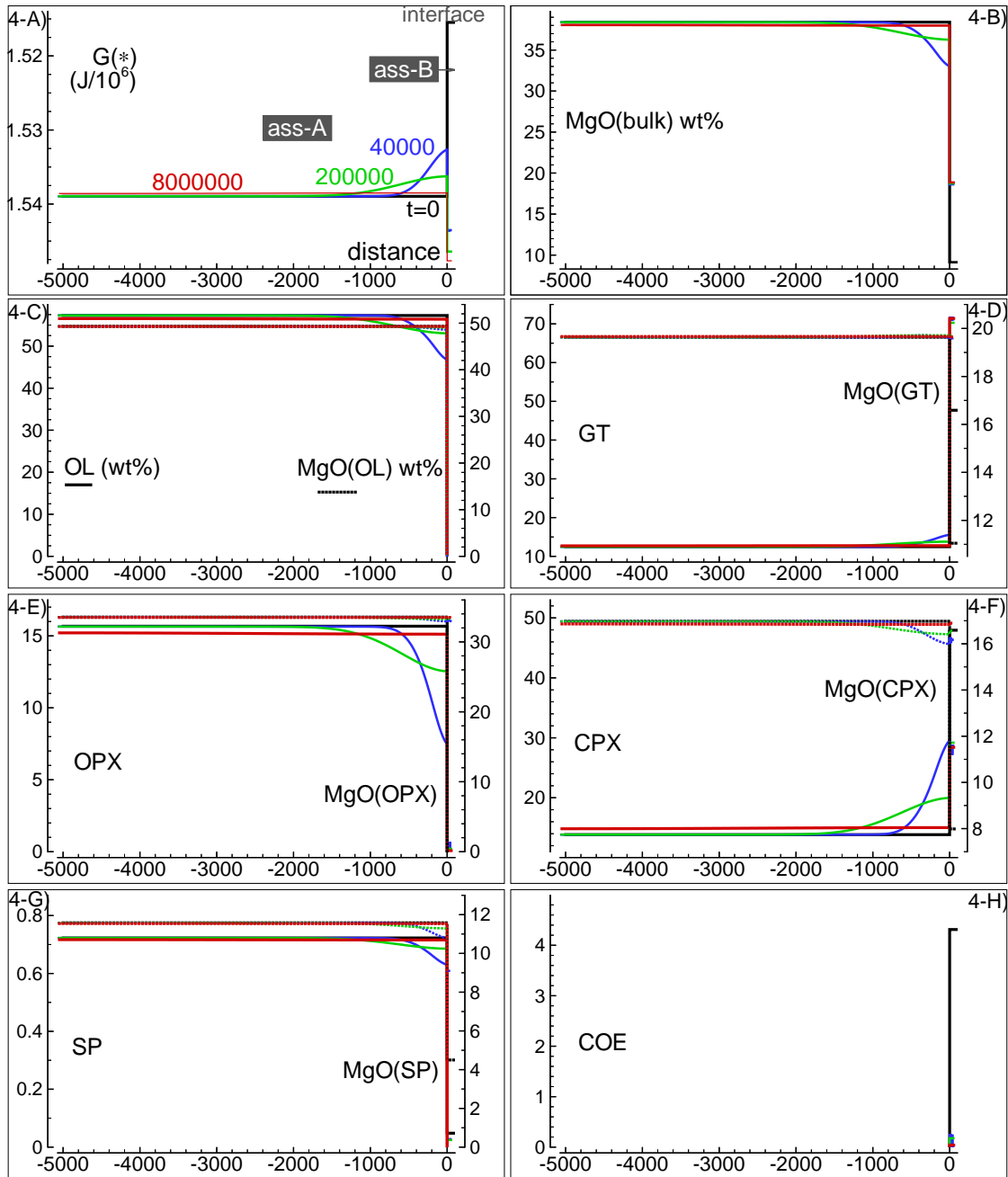


Figure 4. Solution for a 1-D model. The initial proportion of the two assemblages is 50:1 ($f = 50$). The description of the panels follows the caption provided for figure 2.

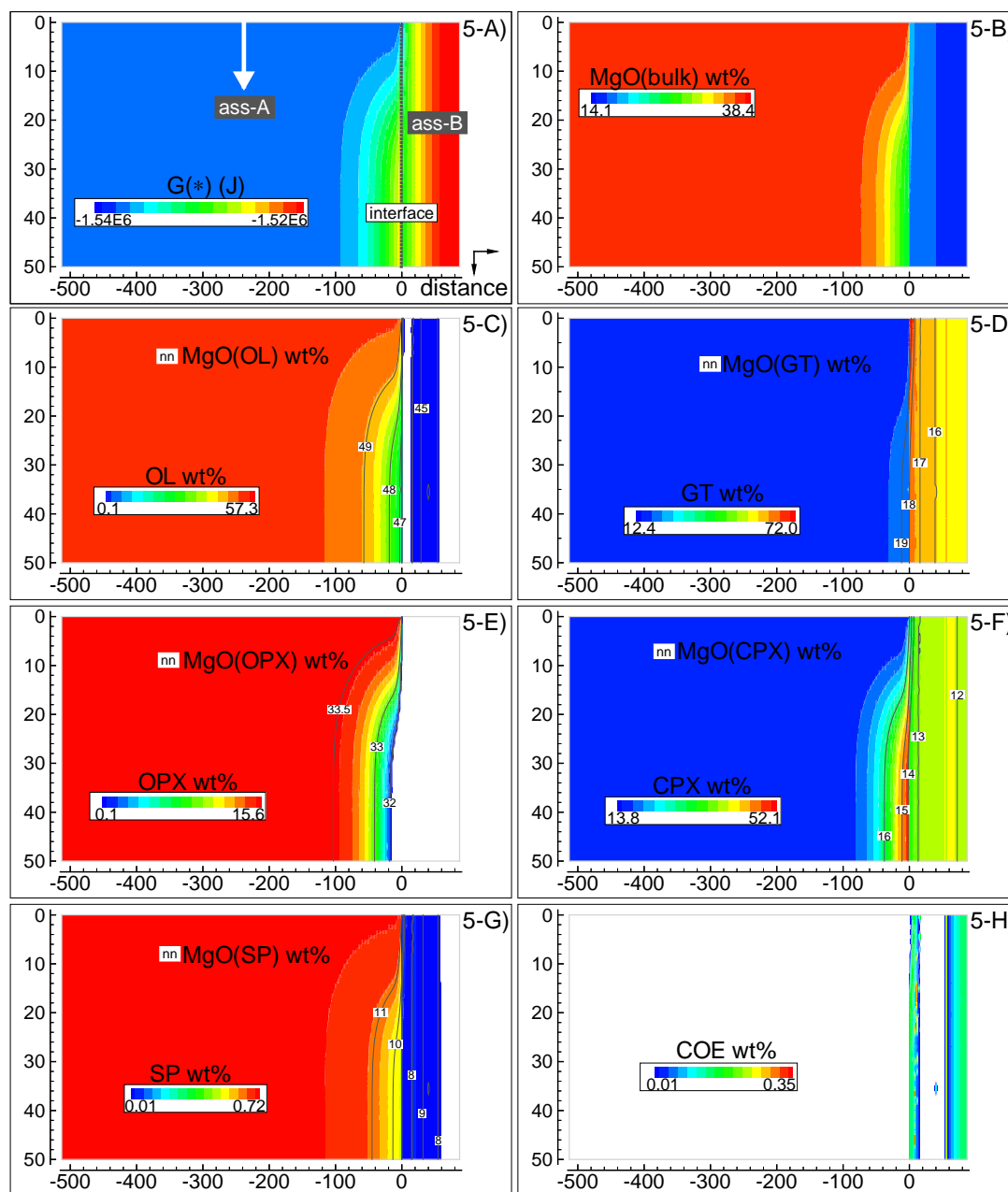


Figure 5. Solution of a 2-D model simulation at time 102400 (arbitrary units). The starting proportion of the two assemblages is 5:1 ($f = 5$). In the initial setup the 2 assemblages are separately in chemical equilibrium. At time 100000 a new assemblage *A* enters from the top side with velocity 0.00625 (arbitrary units). The new assemblage is assumed to have been equilibrated but never been in contact with assemblage *B* (same composition of the initial assemblage). Panel 5-A) spatial variation of G^* . Panel 5-B) local distribution of MgO in the bulk assemblage. Similar results are obtained for all the other oxides defining the bulk composition. Panels 5-C) - G) local minerals distribution (color map) and few contour lines for the abundance of MgO in the associate minerals. Panel 5-H) spatial distribution of coesite. Time and distance in arbitrary units. Pressure and temperature are fixed at 40 kbar and 1200°C. The rest of the parameters for the numerical model are defined in the main text.

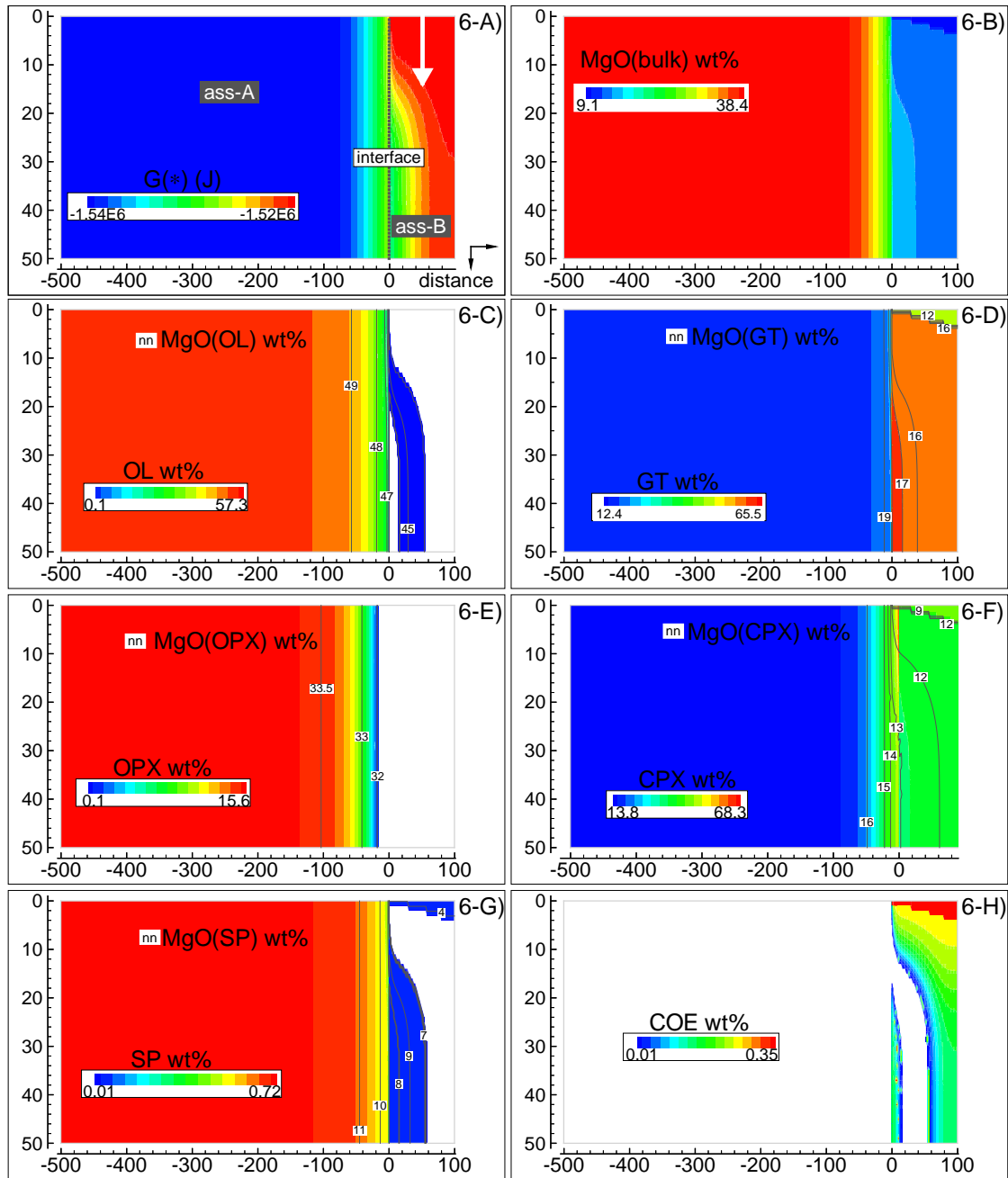


Figure 6. Solution of a 2-D model simulation at time 102400 (arbitrary units). The starting proportion of the two assemblages is 5:1 ($f = 5$). In this model it is assumed that at time 100000 a new assemblage *B* enters from the top with velocity 0.00625 (arbitrary units). The description of the panels follows the caption of figure 5.

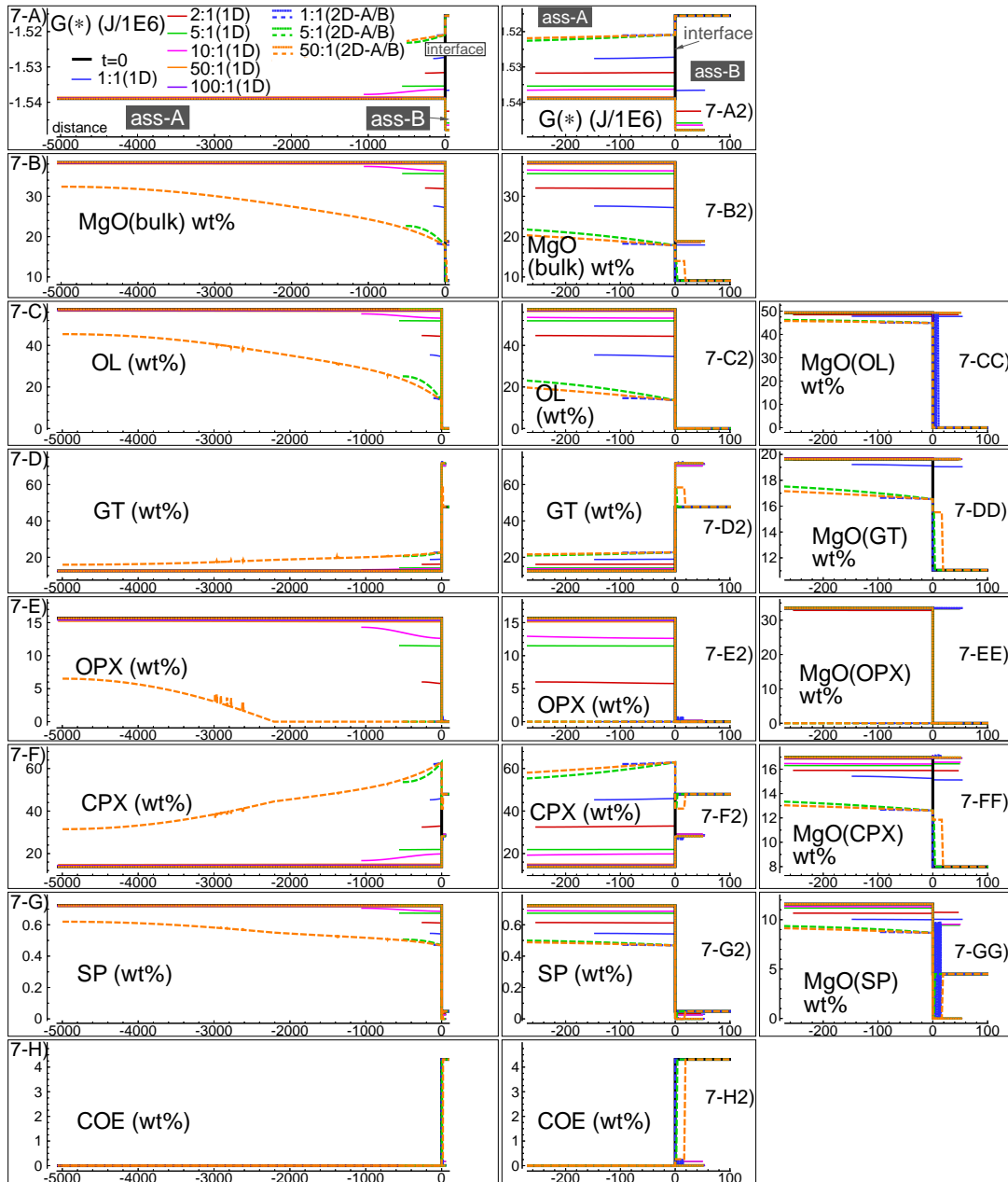


Figure 7. Summary of the results for all the 1-D and 2-D numerical models at conditions close to chemical equilibrium for the whole system. The models consider different initial proportions of the two assemblages. In addition for the 2-D models it is assumed that either assemblage *A* or *B* enters from the top side at time 100000 (arbitrary units) with velocity 0.00625 (arbitrary units). For the 2-D models the profiles represent an horizontal section at the middle point ($D_y/2$). Panel 7-A) spatial variation of G^* . For clarity, plot of the 2-D model with 50:1(B) is truncated at $x \sim 500$. Panel 7-A2) enlarged view of G^* near the interface. Panel 7-B) variation of bulk MgO (wt%). Panel 7-B2) enlarged view of bulk MgO near the interface. Panels 7-C) - G) spatial variation of minerals abundance. Panels 7-C2) - G2) minerals abundance zoomed near the interface. Panels 7-CC) - GG) MgO content in the associated minerals near the interface. Panels 7-H) and 7-H2) distribution of coesite (SiO_2).

**Table 1.** List of minerals and mineral components relevant for this study with chemical formulas and abbreviations.

OLIVINE(Ol)	
fayalite(Fa)	$\text{Fe}_2^{2+}\text{SiO}_4$
monticellite(Mtc)	CaMgSiO_4
forsterite(Fo)	Mg_2SiO_4
GARNET(Gt)	
almandine(Alm)	$\text{Fe}_3^{2+}\text{Al}_2\text{Si}_3\text{O}_{12}$
grossular(Grs)	$\text{Ca}_3\text{Al}_3\text{Si}_3\text{O}_{12}$
pyrope(Prp)	$\text{Mg}_3\text{Al}_2\text{Si}_3\text{O}_{12}$
ORTHOPYROXENE(Opx) & CLINOPYROXENE(Cpx)	
diopside(Di)	$\text{CaMgSi}_2\text{O}_6$
enstatite(en)	$\text{Mg}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_6$
hedenbergite(Hd)	$\text{CaFe}^{2+}\text{Si}_2\text{O}_6$
alumino-buffonite(Al-Bff)	$\text{CaTi}_{0.5}\text{Mg}_{0.5}\text{AlSiO}_6$
buffonite(Bff)	$\text{CaTi}_{0.5}\text{Mg}_{0.5}\text{Fe}^{3+}\text{SiO}_6$
esseneite(Ess)	$\text{CaFe}^{3+}\text{AlSiO}_6$
jadeite(Jd)	$\text{NaAlSi}_2\text{O}_6$
SPINEL(Sp)	
chromite(Chr)	MgCr_2O_4
hercynite(Hc)	$\text{Fe}^{2+}\text{Al}_2\text{O}_4$
magnetite(Mag)	$\text{Fe}^{2+}\text{Fe}^{3+}\text{O}_4$
spinel(Spl)	MgAl_2O_4
ulvospinel(Ulv)	$\text{Fe}_2^{2+}\text{TiO}_4$
COESITE(Coe)	
coesite(Coe)	SiO_2



Table 2. Set of independent reactions for the list of mineral components in table 1.

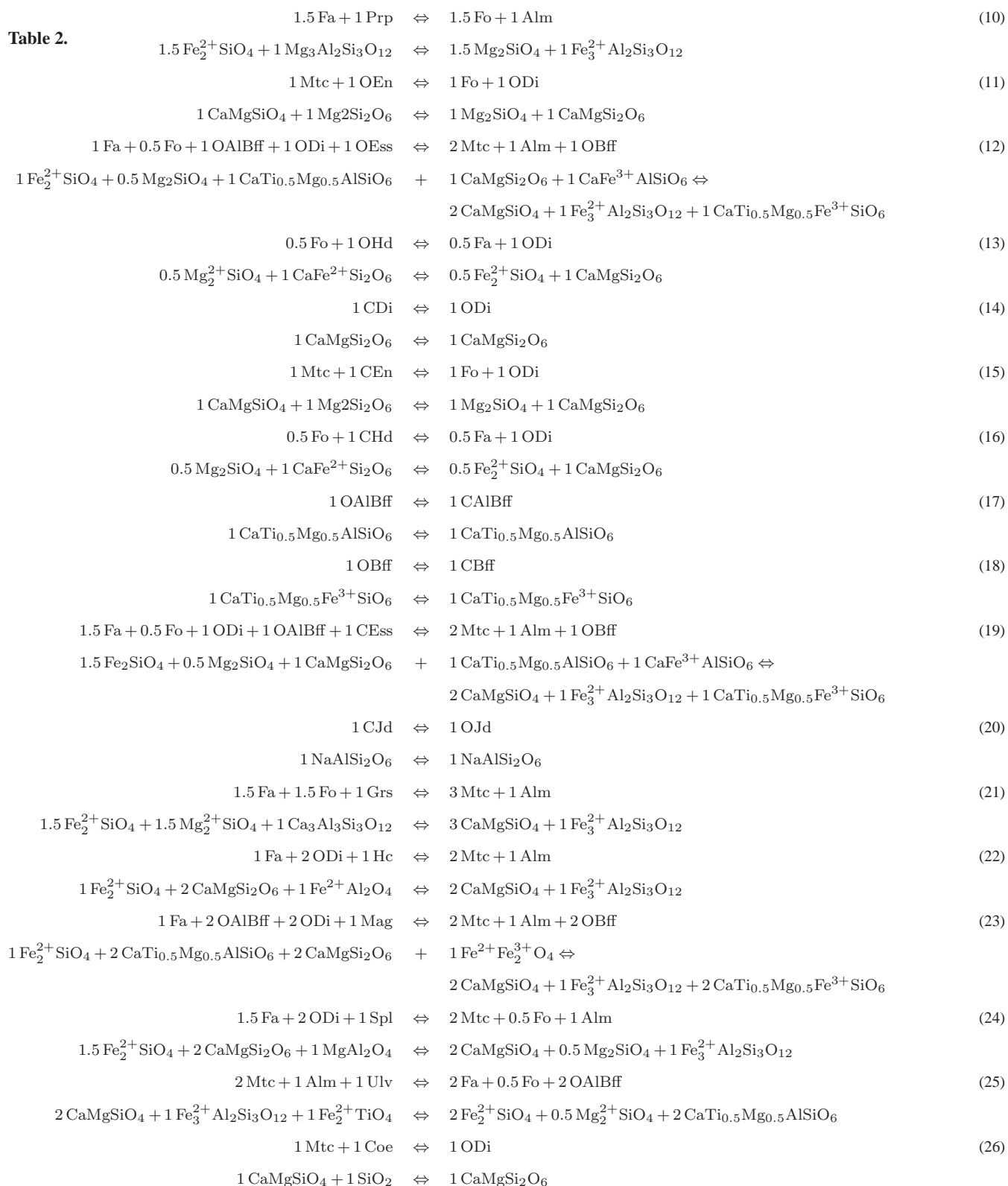




Table 3. Summary of the results of one chemical equilibration procedure. The columns (A_0) and (B_0) describe the initial bulk composition of the two sub-systems and the Gibbs free energy G (joule) of the equilibrium assemblages separately. The initial proportion of the whole system is $f:1$ ($f=1$) and the composition is given by column (W). Columns (A) and (B) present the results of the chemical equilibration in terms of oxides. Note that the sum of the oxides is not 100, which indicates a mass transfer between the two sub-systems. The columns in the lower part of the table shows the composition of the mineral components at equilibrium before the two sub-systems are put together ($f \times n(A_0)$ and $n(B_0)$) and after equilibration of the whole system ($f \times n(A)$ and $n(B)$). Change of moles ($f \times \Delta n(A)$, $\Delta n(B)$) is also reported. The last column is the composition of the whole system (W) after equilibration.

**Table 3.**

bulk comp.	(A ₀)	(B ₀)	(W)=(f×A ₀ +B ₀)/(f+1)	(A)	(B)		
oxides wt%							
SiO ₂	45.20	48.86	47.030	69.428	24.637		
TiO ₂	0.20	0.37	0.285	0.463	0.107		
Al ₂ O ₃	3.94	17.72	10.830	11.677	9.976		
Fe ₂ O ₃	0.20	0.84	0.520	0.852	0.188		
Cr ₂ O ₃	0.40	0.03	0.215	0.422	8.241		
FeO	8.10	7.61	7.855	11.116	4.600		
MgO	38.40	9.10	23.750	38.107	9.391		
CaO	3.15	12.50	7.825	11.565	4.089		
Na ₂ O	0.41	2.97	1.690	2.736	0.643		
sum	100	100	100	146.367	53.639		
G(J)	-1538956.549	-1515471.201	1528524.097	-2233778.043	-823270.616		
min. comp.	mol						
f=1	f×n(A ₀)	f×Δn(A)	f×n(A)	n(B ₀)	Δn(B)	n(B)	(f+1)×n(W)
Ol(Fa)	0.0389399	0.0008090	0.0397489	0	0	0	0.0397490
Ol(Mtc)	0.0003421	-0.0000555	0.0002867	0	0	0	0.0002867
Ol(Fo)	0.3504050	-0.0726300	0.2777750	0	0	0	0.2777780
Gt(Alm)	0.0054726	0.0090575	0.0145301	0.0290995	-0.0100502	0.0190492	0.0335803
Gt(Grs)	0.0035179	0.0039790	0.0074970	0.0347389	-0.0248984	0.0098404	0.0173354
Gt(Prp)	0.0202554	0.0238298	0.0440852	0.0435766	0.0141234	0.0577001	0.1018422
Opx(Di)	-0.0104230	0.0104500	0.0000000	0	0	0	0
Opx(En)	0.0700777	-0.0700777	0.0000000	0	0	0	0
Opx(Hd)	0.0116778	-0.0116778	0.0000000	0	0	0	0
Opx(Al-Bff)	0.0018136	-0.0018136	0.0000000	0	0	0	0
Opx(Bff)	-0.0003756	0.0003756	0.0000000	0	0	0	0
Opx(Ess)	0.0008425	-0.0008425	0.0000000	0	0	0	0
Opx(Jd)	0.0021691	-0.0021691	0.0000000	0	0	0	0
Cpx(Di)	0.0334109	0.1062036	0.1396146	0.0719139	-0.0387234	0.0331905	0.1728462
Cpx(En)	0.0116014	0.0433811	0.0549825	0.0092274	0.0034382	0.0126656	0.0676615
Cpx(Hd)	0.0050948	0.0243636	0.0294585	0.0184485	-0.0116133	0.0068352	0.0362970
Cpx(Al-Bff)	0.0017718	0.0024237	0.0041956	0.0178175	-0.0167911	0.0010264	0.0052218
Cpx(Bff)	0.0016117	0.0056089	0.0072207	-0.0085581	0.0101999	0.0016418	0.0088622
Cpx(Ess)	-0.0001499	0.0029960	0.0028461	0.0190600	-0.0183578	0.0007021	0.0035480
Cpx(Jd)	0.0110612	0.0772301	0.0882913	0.0958389	-0.0750880	0.0207509	0.1090693
Sp(Chr)	0.0026319	0.0001425	0.0027745	0.0001974	-0.0001432	0.0000542	0.0028287
Sp(Hc)	-0.0014341	0.0002618	-0.0011723	-0.0000353	0.0000125	-0.0000229	-0.0011952
Sp(Mag)	0.0002881	0.0000133	0.0003014	0.0000092	-0.0000033	0.0000059	0.0003073
Sp(Spl)	0.0020765	-0.0001627	0.0019138	0.0000536	-0.0000163	0.0000374	0.0019512
Sp(Ulv)	0.0000924	-0.0000023	0.0000902	0.0000011	0.0000006	0.0000018	0.0000919
Coe(Coe)	0	0	0	0.0717690	-0.0717690	0.0000000	0



Table 4. Normalized bulk composition (A^*) and (B^*) in the two sub-systems taken from the results of the model in table 3, (A) and (B). The mineral composition at equilibrium of the two separate sub-systems computed with AlphaMELTS is shown in the lower part of the table.

**Table 4.**

bulk comp.	(A*)	(B*)
oxides wt%		
SiO ₂	47.434	45.931
TiO ₂	0.316	0.199
Al ₂ O ₃	7.978	18.599
Fe ₂ O ₃	0.582	0.351
Cr ₂ O ₃	0.288	0.015
FeO	7.595	8.575
MgO	26.035	17.507
CaO	7.902	7.623
Na ₂ O	1.869	1.199
sum	100	100
G(J)	-1526157.990	-1534831.832
min. comp.	———— mol ————	
	n(A*)	n(B*)
Ol(Fa)	0.0271722	0
Ol(Mtc)	0.0001954	0
Ol(Fo)	0.1897603	0
Gt(Alm)	0.0099353	0.0354870
Gt(Grs)	0.0051128	0.0184357
Gt(Prp)	0.0301249	0.1075543
Opx(Di)	0	0
Opx(En)	0	0
Opx(Hd)	0	0
Opx(Al-Bff)	0	0
Opx(Bff)	0	0
Opx(Ess)	0	0
Opx(Jd)	0	0
Cpx(Di)	0.0954926	0.0615373
Cpx(En)	0.0375875	0.0238162
Cpx(Hd)	0.0201308	0.0128313
Cpx(Al-Bff)	0.0028660	0.0018818
Cpx(Bff)	0.0049360	0.0030979
Cpx(Ess)	0.0019432	0.0012846
Cpx(Jd)	0.0603228	0.0386858
Sp(Chr)	0.0018958	0.0001013
Sp(Hc)	-0.0008006	-0.0000398
Sp(Mag)	0.0002063	0.0000046
Sp(Spl)	0.0013058	0.0000473
Sp(Ulv)	0.0000618	0.0000006
Coe(Coe)	0	0.0000130



Table 5. Summary of the results of a chemical equilibration procedure in which the initial composition of the two-sub-systems (A_0) and (B_0) is taken from the outcome of the previous model (A^* and B^* from table 4). The initial proportion of the whole system is f:1 (f=5). The description of the results follow the outline of the caption of table 3.



Table 5.

bulk comp.	(A ₀)	(B ₀)	(W)=(f×A ₀ +B ₀)/(f+1)		(A)	(B)	
oxides wt%							
SiO ₂	47.434	45.931	47.184		47.443	45.888	
TiO ₂	0.316	0.199	0.297		0.317	0.200	
Al ₂ O ₃	7.978	18.599	9.748		7.984	18.565	
Fe ₂ O ₃	0.582	0.351	0.544		0.582	0.352	
Cr ₂ O ₃	0.288	0.015	0.243		0.290	0.004	
FeO	7.595	8.575	7.758		7.596	8.568	
MgO	26.035	17.507	24.614		26.036	17.505	
CaO	7.902	7.623	7.855		7.908	7.588	
Na ₂ O	1.869	1.199	1.757		1.869	1.199	
sum	100	100	100		100.026	99.870	
G(J)	-1526157.990	-1534831.832	1527602.900		-1526543.811	-1532898.134	
min. comp. ————— mol —————							
f=5	f×n(A ₀)	f×Δn(A)	f×n(A)	n(B ₀)	Δn(B)	n(B)	(f+1)×n(W)
Ol(Fa)	0.1358613	-0.0000082	0.1358531	0	0	0	0.1358531
Ol(Mtc)	0.0009771	0.0000021	0.0009792	0	0	0	0.0009792
Ol(Fo)	0.9488016	-0.0000419	0.9487596	0	0	0	0.9487596
Gt(Alm)	0.0496763	0.0000549	0.0497312	0.0354870	-0.0000421	0.0354449	0.0851745
Gt(Grs)	0.0255638	0.0000723	0.0256361	0.0184357	-0.0001625	0.0182731	0.0439087
Gt(Prp)	0.1506246	0.0001470	0.1507716	0.1075543	-0.0001038	0.1074505	0.2582112
Opx(Di)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Opx(En)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Opx(Hd)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Opx(Al-Bff)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Opx(Bff)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Opx(Ess)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Opx(Jd)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cpx(Di)	0.4774632	0.0004950	0.4779581	0.0615373	-0.0002040	0.0613333	0.5392796
Cpx(En)	0.1879373	-0.0003953	0.1875420	0.0238162	0.0002395	0.0240557	0.2115931
Cpx(Hd)	0.1006542	-0.0000980	0.1005562	0.0128313	0.0000665	0.0128978	0.1134595
Cpx(Al-Bff)	0.0143300	0.0000554	0.0143854	0.0018818	-0.0000249	0.0018568	0.0162418
Cpx(Bff)	0.0246801	-0.0000725	0.0246076	0.0030979	0.0000431	0.0031409	0.0277448
Cpx(Ess)	0.0097160	0.0000429	0.0097589	0.0012846	-0.0000210	0.0012637	0.0110218
Cpx(Jd)	0.3016142	-0.0000509	0.3015633	0.0386858	0.0000065	0.0386923	0.3402993
Sp(Chr)	0.0094789	0.0000714	0.0095503	0.0001013	-0.0000730	0.0000283	0.0095786
Sp(Hc)	-0.0040030	-0.0000297	-0.0040327	-0.0000398	0.0000279	-0.0000120	-0.0040447
Sp(Mag)	0.0010314	0.0000071	0.0010385	0.0000046	-0.0000015	0.0000031	0.0010415
Sp(Spl)	0.0065290	0.0000523	0.0065813	0.0000473	-0.0000278	0.0000195	0.0066009
Sp(Ulv)	0.0003088	0.0000019	0.0003107	0.0000006	0.0000003	0.0000009	0.0003116
Coe(Coe)	0	0	0	0.0000130	-0.0000130	0.0000000	0



Table 6. Results from a chemical equilibration model with initial composition of the two sub-systems (A_0) and (B_0) analogous to the one presented in table 3. The only difference is that the initial proportion of the whole system is f:1 (f=5).



Table 6.

bulk comp.	(A ₀)	(B ₀)	(W)=(f×A ₀ +B ₀)/(f+1)		(A)	(B)	
oxides wt%							
SiO ₂	45.20	48.86	45.810		50.424	22.744	
TiO ₂	0.20	0.37	0.228		0.252	0.109	
Al ₂ O ₃	3.94	17.72	6.237		5.619	9.322	
Fe ₂ O ₃	0.20	0.84	0.307		0.340	0.141	
Cr ₂ O ₃	0.40	0.03	0.338		0.404	0.008	
FeO	8.10	7.61	8.018		8.837	3.928	
MgO	38.40	9.10	33.516		38.364	9.279	
CaO	3.15	12.50	4.708		4.910	3.700	
Na ₂ O	0.41	2.97	0.837		0.913	0.450	
sum	100	100	100		110.064	49.683	
G(J)	-1538956.549	-1515471.201	1535494.148		-1689092.173	-767503.430	
min. comp. ————— mol —————							
f=5	f×n(A ₀)	f×Δn(A)	f×n(A)	n(B ₀)	Δn(B)	n(B)	(f+1)×n(W)
Ol(Fa)	0.1946993	0.0044941	0.1991934	0	0	0	0.1991934
Ol(Mtc)	0.0017107	-0.0001606	0.0015502	0	0	0	0.0015502
Ol(Fo)	1.7520250	-0.0760450	1.6759800	0	0	0	1.6759784
Gt(Alm)	0.0273631	0.0094755	0.0368386	0.0290995	-0.0127068	0.0163927	0.0532263
Gt(Grs)	0.0175897	0.0028033	0.0203930	0.0347389	-0.0256505	0.0090884	0.0294782
Gt(Prp)	0.1012771	0.0293155	0.1305926	0.0435766	0.0144206	0.0579973	0.1886035
Opx(Di)	-0.0521149	0.0111195	-0.0409954	0	0	0	-0.0409953
Opx(En)	0.3503883	-0.0953800	0.2550083	0	0	0	0.2550059
Opx(Hd)	0.0583893	-0.0133410	0.0450483	0	0	0	0.0450481
Opx(Al-Bff)	0.0090681	-0.0028948	0.0061732	0	0	0	0.0061732
Opx(Bff)	-0.0018783	0.0006532	-0.0012251	0	0	0	-0.0012250
Opx(Ess)	0.0042123	-0.0011617	0.0030506	0	0	0	0.0030506
Opx(Jd)	0.0108455	-0.0006791	0.0101664	0	0	0	0.0101663
Cpx(Di)	0.1670546	0.1163384	0.2833930	0.0719139	-0.0415608	0.0303531	0.3137231
Cpx(En)	0.0580069	0.0600890	0.1180959	0.0092274	0.0030166	0.0122440	0.1303407
Cpx(Hd)	0.0254742	0.0267773	0.0522515	0.0184485	-0.0129894	0.0054590	0.0577119
Cpx(Al-Bff)	0.0088591	0.0018465	0.0107056	0.0178175	-0.0166661	0.0011514	0.0118564
Cpx(Bff)	0.0080586	0.0070392	0.0150978	-0.0085581	0.0101264	0.0015683	0.0166634
Cpx(Ess)	-0.0007496	0.0023225	0.0015728	0.0190600	-0.0188731	0.0001868	0.0017596
Cpx(Jd)	0.0553062	0.0819615	0.1372677	0.0958389	-0.0812992	0.0145396	0.1518248
Sp(Chr)	0.0131597	0.0001403	0.0133001	0.0001974	-0.0001421	0.0000553	0.0133554
Sp(Hc)	-0.0071704	0.0004160	-0.0067544	-0.0000353	0.0000073	-0.0000281	-0.0067824
Sp(Mag)	0.0014407	-0.0000486	0.0013921	0.0000092	-0.0000034	0.0000058	0.0013979
Sp(Spl)	0.0103828	-0.0003637	0.0100191	0.0000536	-0.0000120	0.0000416	0.0100607
Sp(Ulv)	0.0004622	-0.0000514	0.0004108	0.0000011	0.0000006	0.0000017	0.0004125
Coe(Coe)	0	0	0	0.0717690	-0.0717690	0.0000000	0



Table 7. Normalized bulk composition (A^*) and (B^*) of the two sub-systems taken from the results of the model in table 6. The mineral composition at equilibrium of the two separate sub-systems computed with AlphaMELTS is shown in the lower part of the table.

**Table 7.**

bulk comp.	(A*)	(B*)
oxides wt%		
SiO ₂	45.813	45.778
TiO ₂	0.229	0.219
Al ₂ O ₃	5.105	18.764
Fe ₂ O ₃	0.309	0.284
Cr ₂ O ₃	0.367	0.017
FeO	8.028	7.906
MgO	34.856	18.677
CaO	4.461	7.448
Na ₂ O	0.830	0.907
sum	100	100
G(J)	-1534650.844	-1544800.044
min. comp.	———— mol ————	
	n(A*)	n(B*)
Ol(Fa)	0.0361962	0
Ol(Mtc)	0.0002817	0
Ol(Fo)	0.3045391	0
Gt(Alm)	0.0066953	0.0329652
Gt(Grs)	0.0037073	0.0183808
Gt(Prp)	0.0237244	0.1166920
Opx(Di)	-0.0074620	0
Opx(En)	0.0464101	0
Opx(Hd)	0.0081985	0
Opx(Al-Bff)	0.0011239	0
Opx(Bff)	-0.0002225	0
Opx(Ess)	0.0005551	0
Opx(Jd)	0.0018509	0
Cpx(Di)	0.0515058	0.0607473
Cpx(En)	0.0214049	0.0248836
Cpx(Hd)	0.0094773	0.0110775
Cpx(Al-Bff)	0.0019463	0.0023058
Cpx(Bff)	0.0027401	0.0031700
Cpx(Ess)	0.0002879	0.0003660
Cpx(Jd)	0.0249397	0.0292646
Sp(Chr)	0.0024168	0.0001111
Sp(Hc)	-0.0012274	-0.0000549
Sp(Mag)	0.0002532	0.0000099
Sp(Spl)	0.0018207	0.0000764
Sp(Ulv)	0.0000747	0.0000025
Coe(Coe)	0	0