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Modelling stress field conditions of the Colima Volcanic Complex (Mexico) integrating FEM simulations and geological data

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Abstract

In the last decades numerical methods have become very popular tools in volcanological studies, since capable of considering many relevant parameters in their calculations, such as the presence of multiple reservoirs, topography, and heterogeneous distribution of the host rock mechanical properties. Although the widespread availability of geodetic data is keep growing, the influence of geological data on the numerical simulations is still poorly considered. In this work a 2D Finite Element Modelling is provided by using the commercial Linear Static Analysis (LISA) software, in order to investigate the stress field conditions occurring around the Colima Volcanic Complex (CVC, Mexico) at increasing the details of geological and geophysical input data. By integrating the published geophysical, volcanological and petrological data, we provide a first-order domain of the CVC feeding system, considering either one or two magma chambers connected to the surface via dykes or isolated (not connected) in the elastic host rocks. We test the methodology by using a gravitational modelling with different geometrical configurations and constraints (i.e. magma chamber dimensions, depth, overpressure). Our results suggest that an appropriate set of geological data is of pivotal importance for improving the mesh generation procedures and the degree of accuracy of numerical outputs, aimed to more reliable physics-based representations of the natural systems.

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1 Introduction

Large-scale deformation of geological systems, characterized by abrupt spatial variations of material properties, was increasingly investigated in recent years through numerical modelling (Xing et al., 2003; Simms and Garven 2004; Manconi et al., 2007; Long and Grosfils 2009; Currenti et al., 2010; Currenti and Williams et al., 2014; Zehner et al., 2015). A large number of semi-analytical and numerical solutions have been proposed, taking into account the static elastic deformation in a multi-layered half-space (Dieterich and Decker, 1975; Bonafede et al., 2002; Wang et al., 2003; Gudmundsson and Brenner, 2004; Zhao et al., 2004; Pritchard and Simons, 2004; Gottsmann et al., 2006; Geyer and Gottsmann, 2010; Zhong et al., 2019). Following the successful application in mechanical engineering, the use of Finite Element Method (FEM) has been extensively introduced in Earth Sciences in order to investigate the effects of topography, lithologic heterogeneities, tectonic stresses and the gravity field on the Earth's surface deformation (Cailleau et al., 2003; 2005; Buchmann and Conolly 2007; Manconi et al., 2009; Pepe et al., 2010; Masterlak et al., 2012; Fujita et al., 2013), including volcanoes (Fujita et al., 2013; Carcho and Sastre, 2014; Bunney 2014; Ronchin et al., 2015; Hickey et al., 2015; Cabaniss et al., 2019; Rivalta et al., 2019). In FEM-based models, the geometry of the Earth's subsurface is performed either by a boundary representation or by discrete cells (Zehner et al., 2015). Boundary representations describe the spatial extent of a geo-object only by its boundaries (Weiler, 1988; Mallet, 1989; Duvinage et al., 1999; Zehner et al., 2015), completely confined and partitioned by surfaces without holes and overlaps. These surfaces can be described as a triangulated surface or by a function like a spline (Mallet, 2002).

The use of FEM in volcanic areas has several examples, which vary from the influence of layered materials on the surface deformation process during volcanic inflation (e.g. Darwin volcano, Galapagos Islands; Manconi et al., 2007) to processes affecting chamber rupture (e.g. Grosfils 2007; Long and Grosfils, 2009). The local stress around a volcanic feeding system strongly depends on the magma chamber geometry and on the mechanical properties of the layered host rock around it (Martì and Geyer, 2009). For instance, limestones, lava flows, welded pyroclastic units and intrusions can be very stiff (high Young's modulus), whereas young and non-welded pyroclastic units may be very soft (low Young's modulus). Consequently, the local stress may change abruptly from one layer to another (Gudmundsson, 2006). Irrespective of the scope of the numerical investigation, the

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importance of applying accurate rheological constraints to FEM modelling was discussed in many studies (Folch et al., 2000; Newman et al., 2001; Fernandez et al., 2001; Currenti et al., 2010; Geshi et al., 2012; Masterlack et al., 2013). This implies that geology of the volcanic area needs to be considered as more accurate as possible. However, few investigations have been carried out to assess the influence of the amount and quality of geological data into FEM computations. To bridge this gap, in this work we use the Linear Static Analysis (LISA) software (version 8.0; www.lisafea.com) to study the subsurface stress behaviour in an elastic domain at Colima Volcanic Complex (CVC, Mexico) when improving the description of geological constraints. In other words, we propose different results of the FEM model by using the available published data of the inferred CVC feeding system structure, in order to assess how the addition of more detailed geological and volcanological constraints may and at what extent affect the model outputs.

The CVC area is a good candidate for testing the response of FEM software to different geological conditions, being constituted by a large volcanic complex (significant topographic load; Lungarini et al., 2005), a well-defined feeding system inferred from geophysical and petrological data (e.g. Spica et al., 2017; Massaro et al. 2018; 2019), and growth within a tectonic graben (bordered by normal faults) infilled by volcaniclastic material (variability of rock mechanical characteristics; Norini et al., 2010, 2019).

It is worth noting that the elastic models clearly cannot replicate the full complexity of deformation and stress behaviour in volcanic areas if approximations in FEM modelling will not be tested and understood (Grosfils, 2007). Thus, the presented study proposes a contribution to a more proper use of FEM models for assessing surface deformation and failure location patterns in volcanic areas. Beside and beyond the evaluation of geological details on FEM outputs we also obtained a picture of the large-scale stress distribution in the CVC subsurface.

Considering the limitations of the results, it is a matter of fact that in volcanic regions many factors make the rocks deviate from pure elastic behaviour and may strongly affect the estimate of source overpressure (Currenti and Williams, 2014). However, although arguably limited in their ability to simulate the complexity characteristics of volcanic areas, elastic models are nonetheless widely used to describe the response of magma reservoir pressure variations and to calibrate the development of more advanced models that enhance our simulation capacities (Grosfils, 2007; Trasatti et al., 2008).

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2 The Colima Volcanic Complex (Mexico)

2.1 Geological framework

The Pleistocene-Holocene Colima Volcanic Complex (CVC) is one of the most prominent volcanic edifices within the Trans-Mexican Volcanic Belt (TMVB) (Macías et al., 2006; Capra et al., 2016; Norini et al., 2019). In this area, the Rivera microplate and the Cocos plate subduct beneath the North America plate along the Middle American Trench, producing great deformation and fragmentation of the continental plate (Stock and Lee, 1994), and forming a triple junction that delimits the tectonic units known as the Jalisco Block (JB) and the Michoacán Block (MB) (Luhr et al., 1985; Allan, 1986; Rosas-Elguera et al., 1996; Rosas-Elguera et al., 1997; Ferrari and Rosas- Elguera, 1999; Rosas-Elguera et al., 2003; Frey et al., 2007). The three rifts of this system are the Tepic-Zacoalco (TZR), the Chapala-Tula (CTR), and the Colima Rift (CR) where the CVC is emplaced (Allan 1986; Escudero and Bandy, 2017). The still active NS trending Colima Rift (CR) was formed during an extensional phase occurred after the Late Cretaceous–Paleogene compressive and transpressive phase (Allan, 1986; Serpa et al., 1992; Bandy et al., 1995; Cortés et al., 2010). The rifting phase deformed Cretaceous marine limestones, Jurassic–Tertiary metamorphosed clastic and volcaniclastic sediments, Cretaceous–Tertiary intrusive rocks and Tertiary-Quaternary volcanic deposits along sub-vertical crustal faults. While opening, CR was gradually filled with Pliocene–Quaternary lacustrine sediments, alluvium and colluvium (e.g. Allan, 1986; Allan et al., 1991; Norini et al., 2010). The geometry, kinematics and dynamics of the CR have been studied on the basis of field, seismic, and geodetic data, mainly collected in its northern and central sectors (Fig. 1).

The amount of vertical displacement of the northern and central sectors is estimated to be at least 2.5 km by adding the topographic relief of the bounding fault scarps (1.5–1.6 km) to the calculated sediment depth (Allan, 1985; Serpa et al., 1992). Field data and focal mechanism solutions are consistent with a direction of opening of the northern and central sectors oriented from E-W to NW-SE, with a mainly normal and minor right-lateral displacements of the bounding faults (Barrier et al., 1990; Suárez et al., 1994; Rosas-Elguera et al., 1996; Garduño-Monroy et al., 1998; Norini et al., 2010; 2019). In contrast to field and seismic evidence of long-term slightly dextral oblique extension, recent GPS geodetic measurements suggest a possible sinistral oblique extension of the CR (Selvans et al., 2011). In both cases, the stress regime is mainly extensional, with an approximately E-W

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orientation of the minimum horizontal stress in the basement of the CVC (Barrier et al., 1990; Suárez et al., 1994; Rosas-Elguera et al., 1996; Selvans et al., 2011; Norini et al., 2010, 2019). The CVC stands within the central sector of the CR, on top of the Cretaceous limestones, Late Miocene-Pleistocene volcanic rocks, and Pliocene-Holocene lacustrine sediments, alluvium, and colluvium (Allan, 1985, 1986; Allan et al., 1991; Cortes et al., 2005; Norini et al., 2010). The volcanic complex is affected and displaced by the N-S/NNE-SSW-trending recent-active crustal faults of the CR, controlling the geometry and location of the volcano feeding system. Indeed, the CVC was formed by three andesitic stratovolcanoes aligned parallel to the CR bounding faults: the northern inactive Cantaro volcano (2900 m asl), following by the inactive Nevado de Colima (4255 m a.s.l.) and, in the southern part, the youngest and active Volcán de Colima (3763 m a.s.l.) (Norini et al., 2019, and reference therein).

2.2 Eruptive activity

The eruptive history of the CVC started in the northeast area with the formation of Cantaro volcano at ca. 1-1.5 Ma. The volcanic activity of the Nevado de Colima started at ca. 0.53 Ma. It is composed of voluminous andesitic lava domes and flows and pyroclastic deposits associated with caldera forming eruptions and numerous partial sector collapses (Robin et al., 1987; Roverato et al., 2011; Roverato and Capra, 2013; Cortès et al., 2019). The youngest Volcán de Colima, now considered one of the most active volcanoes of the world, consists of the Paleofuego edifice that suffered several sector collapses, with the formation of a horseshoe-shaped depression where the new active cone (also known Volcán de Fuego) grew up, through Merapi and Soufrière type dome collapses, extrusion of lava flows, Vulcanian and occasionally sub-Plinian explosive eruptions (Saucedo et al., 2010; Massaro et al., 2018, 2019). The activity of both Nevado and Volcán de Colima volcanoes included several sector collapses, occurred frequently in the Upper Pleistocene and Holocene, repeatedly devastating the floor of the Colima Rift down to the Pacific Ocean (Robin et al., 1987; Luhr and Prestegaard, 1988; Stoopes and Sheridan, 1992; Komorowski et al., 1997; Capra and Macias, 2002; Cortes et al., 2005, 2019; Roverato et al., 2011).

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2.3 The CVC plumbing system

Spica et al. (2017) indicate a 15 km-deep low velocity body (LVB) as the CVC deep magma reservoir. Its horizontal extension seems to be delimited by the borders of the CR, suggesting a structural control of the normal fault system on it (Spica et al., 2014). The LVB has an extent of ca. 55 × 30 km in the N-S and E-W directions respectively, showing a mean thickness < 8 km. Escudero and Bandy (2017) obtained a higher resolution tomographic image of the subsurface in the CVC area, showing that the most active magma generation zone is presently under the Fuego de Colima edifice. Here, the ambient seismic noise tomographic study proposed by Spica et al. (2014) confirmed the presence of a shallow magma chamber above ca. 7 km depth, as also demonstrated by petrological studies (Medina-Martinez et al., 1996; Luhr, 2002; Zobin et al., 2002; López-Loera et al., 2011; Reubi et al., 2013; 2019; Macìas et al., 2017). Cabrera-Gutiérrez and Espíndola (2010) suggested the shallow active magma storage has a volume of ca. 30 km^3. The shallow magma chamber is connected to the surface by a dyke/conduit system, whose path is facilitated by the presence of the CR fault zone, which provides a natural pathway for fluids (e.g., Allan, 1986; Norini et al., 2010, 2019). The arrangement of dykes and the alignment of volcanic centres of CVC suggest that the dykes swarm draining the magma chambers developed along the NNE-SSW-trending, steep, eastward dipping normal fault exposed on the northern CVC flank (Fig. 1) (Norini et al., 2010, 2019).

Taking into account the previous information, Massaro et al. (2018) provided a first-order geometrical reconstruction of the Fuego de Colima feeding system during the 1913 sub-Plinian eruption, by using volcanological data (Saucedo et al., 2010, 2011; Bonasia et al., 2011) as input and constraints for numerical simulations. Results showed good matches for a hybrid configuration of the shallow conduit-feeding system (i.e., dyke developing into a shallower cylindrical conduit). The best-fit dyke has width in the range between 200 and 2000 m and thickness of ca. 40 m, with the cylindrical conduit diameter similar to the dyke thickness. The shallow magma chamber top was set at 6 km of depth, and dyke-cylinder transition at 500 m below the summit, as inferred from geophysical data (Salzer et al., 2014; Aràmbula et al., 2018).

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3 Methods

In this study, we used the commercial 8.0 version of LISA software (www.lisafea.com). LISA is a general-purpose Finite Element Analysis (FEA) software developed in the '90s based on the formulations proposed by Rao (1989). Since then, formulations from many other sources have been also integrated (Bathe, 1990; Michaeli, 1991; Schwarz, 1991; Babuska et al., 1995). Despite FEA was originally used for structural analysis (Rao, 1989; 2013), it is also able to successfully predict the stress-strain behaviour of rock masses accounting for elastic models, in particular the deformation and failure mechanisms even in layered rock masses (Gabrieli et al., 2015).

Simplifying techniques in structural FEA can give valuable insight into local stresses more rapidly and efficiently than a full 3D model. Here we considered a 2D model throughout a complex structure, in order to investigate the stress behaviour induced in the host rocks in response to the increasing detail of geological data used to constrain the model.

3.3 Modelling approach

Taking into account the works of Norini et al. (2010, 2019), we simulated the deformation of the CVC plumbing system considering an E-W cross section, which is parallel to the extension associated to the active Colima Rift (Norini et al., 2010), shown in Figure 1a (a-a').

Since the extensions of the CVC magma chambers in the NNE-SSW direction are typically much longer than the dimensions of the E-W cross section (Spica et al., 2017), 2D solutions of either numerical or analytical models describing E-W elongated magma chambers in the crust can be legitimately adopted (Jaeger et al., 2007; Costa et al., 2011). A topographic profile and 2D plane along the chosen E-W cross-section of the CVC area was obtained in ESRI ArcGIS from a Digital Elevation Model (DEM; resolution 50 m; INEGI website). This cross section was imported into Autodesk Auto-Cad R13 and approximated to a third-degree spline. Finally, the IGES file was imported into LISA, where the mesh discretization was performed. The domain was discretized by three-noded triangular finite elements (Table 1).

The volcanic area domain extends 60 km horizontally and 30 km below the surface set in an *x-z* Cartesian Coordinate System. Zero normal displacements are assigned at the bottom and the lateral boundaries of the domain, while the upper boundary representing the ground surface is stress free.

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FEM of geological structures requires accurate discretization of the computational domain such that geological units are represented correctly. Zehner et al. (2015) reported that the unstructured tetrahedral meshes on a complex geological model has to fulfil the following requirements: i) sufficient mesh quality: the tetrahedrons should not be too acute-angled, since numerical instabilities can occur, ii) incorporation of geometry for defining boundary conditions and constraints, iii) local adaption, which is a refinement of the mesh in the vicinity of physical sources in order to avoid numerical errors during the simulation. Considering these requirements, in this work we adopt as the best discretization a mesh with 4660 elements for the E-W cross-section (Table 1). The size of finite elements was refined in the regions with higher gradients, especially near the contours of the magmatic feeding systems.

In our simulations, the geometry of the geological units is referred to the model in Norini et al. (2010, 2019). Magma chambers and dykes are considered as finite-size bodies in an elastic crustal segment, acting as fluid-filled holes. This approach has been extensively used in several analytical and numerical models that treated magma reservoirs as internally pressurized ellipsoidal cavities within an elastic half space, in order to gain insight into the behaviour of magma plumbing systems (Pinel and Jaupart, 2004; Gudmundsson, 2006; Grosfils, 2007; Andrew and Gudmundsson, 2008; Hautmann et al., 2013; Currenti and Williams, 2014; Zhong et al., 2019).

The geometrical configuration set for the CVC feeding system (i.e. the shape and dimensions of the magmatic chambers) derives from literature (Spica et al., 2014, 2017; Alvarez and Yutzis, 2015, Massaro et al., 2018, 2019). The overpressure in magma chambers may be produced by a variety of processes, including fractional crystallization, volatile exsolution and magma recharge, leading to deviatoric stresses in the country rock that may be tens of MPa in magnitude (Jellinek and DePaolo, 2003; Karlstrom et al., 2010).

Previously published studies indicate that differences between and problems with elastic models derive principally from the key role played by gravity. Gravity plays a first order role on bedrock failure conditions (Gerbault, 2012), on the geometry of magma propagation with respect to an edifice load (Corbi et al., 2015) and on buoyancy contrasts driving magma upward (Lister and Kerr, 1991; Watanabe et al., 2002). However, in a wide variety of simulations of natural phenomena the

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gravitational effects are often incorporated either incorrectly or incompletely (Grosfils, 2007). Some authors argued on whether it is appropriate or not to account for the gravity body force in numerical models of volcanic inflation (Currenti and Williams, 2014; Grosfils et al., 2015). When the gravitational loading is not included in the model, the volcanic deformation results from a change with respect to a stage previously at equilibrium (Gerbault et al. 2018).

In this work, we carried out simulations considering the effect of the gravitational loading. Gravity in the host rock ($z \leq 0$ m) is implemented via body forces and the application of a lithostatic stress.

4 Geological data

In this work, we used geological information available in literature as input data, in order to estimate the stress variations around the CVC magmatic plumbing system. Here we briefly describe the main geological features taken into account in LISA simulations.

4.1 Stratigraphy

Five units forming the CVC system were defined from the available geological data (Table 2): i) *Basement* (*Unit B*): cretaceous limestones and intrusive rocks forming the bed-rock underlying the CVC; ii) *Graben fill deposits* (*Unit GF*): Quaternary alluvial, colluvial, and lacustrine deposits filling the graben; iii) *Fuego de Colima deposits* (*Unit FC*): andesitic lavas and pyroclastic deposits forming the Paleofuego-Fuego de Colima edifices; and iv) *Volcaniclastic deposits* (*Unit VD*): volcaniclastic deposits covering the southern flank of the CVC (e.g. Cortés et al. 2010; Norini et al., 2010, 2019). Being the area interested by FEM extended down to 30 km, it is evident how *Unit B* is dominant with respect to the others, which occupy only few km in the upper part of the simulated domain. We assumed constant mechanical characteristics within each Unit (Table 2). In particular, *Unit B* was considered mechanically homogeneous with elastic properties of a carbonate, due to the lack more detailed information of deeper lithologies (Norini et al., 2019).

Deformation within the brittle upper crust is described by elastic material behaviour. For each Unit we fixed typical rock mass properties, density (ρ), Young's Modulus (E) and Poisson's Ratio (ν) (Table 2). The rock masses are considered dry, in order (eventual) pore pressure to be neglected.

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Only for *Unit GF* a higher value for the Poisson's Ratio was used close to the surface in order to mimic high water content in the graben sediments. The maximum thickness of the graben fill (about 1 km) was assumed from the literature (Allan, 1985; Serpa et al., 1992; Norini et al., 2010, 2019). For Units B and GF rock mass proprieties were derived from Hoek and Brown (1997) and Marinos and Hoek (2000), while for volcanic materials (units *FC* and *VD*; Table 2) were estimated according to the approach proposed by Del Potro and Hürlimann (2008). This information allowed Norini et al. (2019) to derive the equivalent Mohr-Coulomb properties for the stress ranges expected in the different sectors of the CVC.

4.2 The geometry of the plumbing system

The geometry of the E-W cross-section of the CVC plumbing system was modelled taking into account the previous subsurface information described in Section 4.1. In our 2D model, we assumed the CVC composed of a two magma chambers connected by dykes and to the surface by a conduit. The shape of the magma chambers and dykes are represented by elliptical cross-sections with the major ($2a$) and minor ($2b$) axes over which magmatic overpressure (ΔP) acts.

Generally, the magma chambers have a sill-like shape that is often imaged in seismic studies of volcanoes and rift zones (Macdonald, 1982; Sinton and Detrick, 1992; Mutter et al., 1995; MacLeod and Yaouancq, 2000; Singh et al., 2006; Canales et al., 2009). Most of them are not totally molten but rather a mixture of melt and crystal mush (i.e. Parfitt and Wilson, 2008). Various estimates have been made to infer the actual amount of melt in a magmatic body, showing that it is only ca. 10% of the total chamber volume (Gudmundsson et al., 2012 and reference therein).

Spica et al. (2017) described a 15 km-deep low velocity body (LVB) with its top at ca. 15 km of depth and with an estimated volume of ca. 7000 km^3, representing the deep magmatic reservoir of CVC. Assuming the melt as 10%, the deep magma chamber volume would be ca. 700 km^3. Simplifying this volume in an elliptical sill-like geometry, the dimensions (i.e. *2a*, *2b*, *2c* axes) have to be scaled according to those of LVB (55 × 30 × 8 km; Spica et al., 2017). We therefore fixed $2a$ = 14 km, $2b$ = 3.6 km, $2c$ = 26 km as dimensions of the deep magma chamber, being *2c* elongated in

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NW-SE direction.

For the shallow part of the feeding system, we have no detailed geophysical constraints. However, Massaro et al. (2019) reproduced through numerical modelling the nonlinear cyclic eruptive activity at Fuego de Colima in the last 20 years, using a shallow magma chamber volume in the range of 20-50 km^3, also according to the estimation of Cabrera-Gutiérrez and Espindola (2010). Assuming a volume of 30 km^3, we fixed $2a = 3.5$ km, $2b = 2$ km, $2c = 8$ km as dimensions of the shallow magma chamber.

Numerous theoretical and field studies have established that host rock stresses dictate the magma pathways (e.g. Maccaferri et al., 2011; Gudmundsson 2011). During ascent to the surface, the dykes align themselves with the most energy-efficient orientation, which is roughly perpendicular to the least compressive principal stress axis σ_3 (e.g. Gonnermann and Taisne, 2015; Rivalta et al., 2019). This behaviour, however, can be modulated in the presence of significant variations in fracture toughness of the surrounding rock due to stratification (Maccaferri et al., 2010) or to old and inactive fracture systems (Norini et al., 2019). Although for oblate magma chambers the propagation of dykes is most probable from the tip areas, in our simulations the orientation of dykes is assumed vertical, because of the preferential pathways represented by the CR fault planes (Spica et al., 2017).

Although, for decades, magma conduits were modelled as cylinders, because of easiness of their mathematical treatment, geophysical data and field observations highlight the importance of dykes in magma transport and hence the need to adopt more realistic geometries (Costa et al., 2009; Hautmann et al., 2013; Tibaldi, 2015). It is important to stress that although all cavities/inclusions in a medium modify the local stress field and concentrate stresses, the induced perturbation depends mainly on the geometry of the cavity/inclusion (Savin, 1961; Boresi and Sidebottom, 1985; Tan, 1994; Saada, 2009). We set the dimensions of feeder dykes in agreement with Massaro et al. (2018): deep dyke $2a_d = 2$ km; shallow dyke $2a$ varies from 1 km at bottom to 500 m in the upper part of the volcano; width of both deep and shallow dyke $2b_d = 2b = 100$ m.

It is worth noting that it is not the aim of this study to provide the conditions for the magma chamber rupture, being LISA accounting only for the elastic regime. For these reasons, the selected magma overpressures (ΔP) have to be less than the tensile strength of the rocks. We therefore fixed ΔP at

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10 MPa and 20 MPa for the 15 km-deep chamber, and 5 MPa for the 6 km-deep one. For the modelling of the dyke and conduit the magmatic overpressure is fixed at 10 MPa in the deeper dyke and 5 MPa in the shallower dyke, except for the upper 500 m of the shallower dyke where overpressure is set at 0.4 MPa.

5 Results

The first part of this section is focused on sensitivity analysis of Young modulus variation, aimed to quantify the numerical effects of approximation of this important rock property on FEM outputs. The second part of this section describes the model when adding complexity to the input geological/geophysical data.

Considering the E-W cross-section (a-a'; Fig. 1a), we provided six domain configurations with increasing geological complexity: i) "*homogeneous lithology model*" in which the volcanic domain is only composed of andesite rocks; ii) "*not homogeneous lithology model*" where different geological units are considered; iii) "*single magma chamber model*" composed of a not homogeneous lithology and a 15 km-deep magma chamber; iv) "*dual magma chamber model*" composed of a not homogeneous and 6 km- and 15 km-deep magma chambers; v) "*feeding system model*" composed of not homogeneous lithology, 6 km- and 15 km-deep magma chambers connected through a deep-dyke, and a shallow conduit connecting to the surface; vi) "*extensional model*", in which we added a 5 MPa horizontal extensional stress to configurations ii) – v) (Fig. 1b).

5.1 Sensitivity analysis on selected input parameters

In order to quantify the influence of Young Modulus selection on the model outputs, we performed a sensitivity test using the single magma chamber model as reference case. We evaluated the influence of varying the Young Modulus in each geological Units on the principal stresses σ_1 and σ_3. Taking into account the material properties used in the simulations (Norini et al., 2010, 2019; Table 2) as reference values, we compared the stress state of the computational domain at changing (±) Young

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Modulus by an order of magnitude. This variation has been separately applied to each Unit, in order to assess what is the effect of changing material properties on model outputs. This sensitivity analysis, although incomplete, may lead to raise awareness on the selection of input data when running a FEM. The sensitivity analysis was carried out on a reduced simulation domain, in order to diminish the influence of binding effects that are present along domain borders.

We used the Euclidean norm (L2) method for illustrating the results of the sensitivity analysis. The L2 norm applied on a vector space *x* (having components *i = 1,...n*) is strongly related with the Euclidean distance from its origin, and is equal to:

$$||x||_2 = \sqrt{\sum_i^n x_i^2} \quad (1)$$

In our case, the vector space *x* is composed of all nodes of the computational domain (Table 1). We defined x_{ref} the vector containing the results for the maximum and minimum principal stress when using the selected values of material properties (Table 1) and *x(-)*, *x(+)* the vectors at varying the Young Modulus of one order of magnitude in each Unit.

We evaluated the global variation of stress in the proposed geometrical configurations of the domain (i.e. not homogeneous lithology, single magma chamber, dual magma chamber, and dual magma chamber with conduits models) calculating the global relative variation in L2 as follow:

$$L_2(-) = \frac{||x_{ref} - x(-)||_2}{||x_{ref}||_2} \quad (2)$$

$$L_2(+) = \frac{||x_{ref} - x(+)||_2}{||x_{ref}||_2} \quad (3)$$

In Figure 2 are reported the global relative variations in L2 of the principal maximum stress σ_1 and principal minimum stress σ_3 caused by the variation of Young Modulus in each Unit. All the geometric configurations show variability less than 15%, with few exceptions within *Unit B* that have variability over 30% (Fig. 2; Table 3). It is worth noting that the spatial distribution of the major variations seems to not significantly affect the final stress distributions, because: i) they are located

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near the mesh borders (Fig. 3a, b); and, ii) when not at the mesh borders, the variations are limited to few % (Fig. 3c, d). It means that changing the Young Modulus of one order of magnitude produces variation in FEM outputs distributed over a large domain and the change affecting the single nodes is limited to few %.

5.2 Homogeneous and not homogeneous lithology

We carried out LISA simulations considering the effect of the gravitational loading on the homogeneous and not homogeneous lithology on FEM outputs. In Figure 4 we reported a gravity loading model for E-W cross-section of the CVC system. We first considered the homogeneous rock composition composed by only andesitic lavas (Fig. 4a) and then by carbonates (*Unit B*), alluvional, volcaniclastic and pyroclastic deposits (*Units GF* and *VD;* Fig. 4b). We analysed the principal stresses σ_1 and σ_3 acting on the system, which correspond to the maximum and minimum stress at a point, respectively.

Figure 4 shows the patterns of the minimum principal stress σ_3 (panels i-ii) and of the maximum principal stress σ_1 (panels iii-vi), highlighting very slight differences between the homogeneous and not homogeneous lithology cases. It is very important to stress that the *x-z* zero displacement assigned at the bottom and the lateral boundaries of the domain created substantial artefacts in the results (i.e. curved patterns of stress). The artefacts are also evident when considering σ_3 (panels i-ii) where the boundary effect on *x*-axis is amplified by the presence of the upper free surface. For this reason, the only area to be considered as unperturbed is the central part of the entire domain, and it extends ca. 30 km horizontally and ca. 15 km vertically (within the blue contour in Fig. 4).

5.3 Gravitational modelling using the inferred feeding system geometry

We progressively add the elements of the conduit/feeding system of the CVC to FEM under the effect of the gravitational loading. Three cross-section profiles (Figs. 5, 6) show increasing complexity of the feeding system starting from a single magma chamber, passing to two magma chambers and, finally, adding the conduits.

Figure 5a describes the distribution of the minimum principal stress σ_3 (panel i) and the maximum

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principal stress σ_1 (panel ii) at magma chamber overpressure of 10 MPa, showing how the insertion of the pressurized magma chamber modifies the lithostatic stress. No significant differences in magnitude and pattern of stresses are visible when having a magma chamber overpressure of 20 MPa (Appendix 1a).

The addition of the shallow magma chamber significantly changes the values and pattern of both σ_3 and σ_1 (Fig. 5b). In particular, σ_3 and σ_1 stresses describe a typical inflation pattern produced by overpressurised magma chamber(s) (Anderson, 1936; Gudmundsson, 2006), producing well-defined stress arches of σ_3 (red dotted lines in Figs. 5bi) and divergent strong gradients of σ_1, well developed around the larger magma chamber (Fig. 5bii). Stress arch is a common phenomenon occurring in continuous materials as response to applied pressure. It has been proved to have great influences on the self-stabilization of soils or rock masses (Huang and Zhang, 2012), and may influence mechanisms of caldera collapse (Holohan et al., 2015). Very slight differences in magnitude and pattern of stresses appear when using 10 MPa (Fig. 5b) or 20 MPa of deep magma chamber overpressure (Appendix 1b).

Figure 6 shows the addition of two conduits connecting the deep and shallow magma chambers. It is evident how the insertion of the conduits in the feeding system of CVC dramatically changes the stress distribution, with disappearance of the stress arch and an almost constant stress in the computational domain except than on the tips of the deep magma chamber.

5.4 Addition of an extensional field stress

In order to explore the influence of the extensional field stress on stress patterns caused by the presence of the CR (Fig. 1a), we run simulations applying 5 MPa of extensional stress to the FEM domain, which is a typical value for rift zones (Turcotte and Schubert, 2002; Moek et al., 2009; Maccaferri et al., 2014; Sulpizio and Massaro, 2017). This should reproduce the effect of the CR on the different feeding system configurations (Fig. 7).

In the case of a single magma chamber (with 10 MPa overpressure), the addition of extensional far field stress reduces the confinement effect due to the no displacement condition imposed along the *x*-

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z directions. The effect of the extensional field stress on double magma chamber configuration (with 10 MPa overpressure in the deep chamber and 5 MPa in the shallower one) produces slight changes in stress magnitude and pattern for both σ_3 and σ_1 (Fig. 7). The same applies also for the complete feeding system configuration, in which the attrition of the far field stress changes slightly the intensity of the stresses and patterns. Using 20 MPa overpressure in the deep magma chamber does not significantly affect the model outputs (Appendix 2).

6 Discussions

6.1 FEM analysis at increasing geological details

The presented FEM model of the CVC highlighted some important characteristics of crustal stress distribution at changing geological constraints used as input conditions (Spica et al. 2014; 2017; Massaro et al., 2018). Although the results have to be considered as a first order approximation, the changes in stress distribution are evident and useful for the understanding of limitations and advantages of finite element modelling.

We used the conditions of gravitational loading, the zero-displacement along *x-z* directions and overpressured magma chambers and dykes in order to simulate the fluid state conditions. Under these assumptions, the use of homogeneous or not homogeneous lithology for FEM provides negligible effects in stress intensity and pattern (Fig. 4). This is because the upper Units (*Units FC, VD, GF*; Table 2) represent only a limited part of the simulated domain, which in the remaining part results entirely composed of the assumed homogeneous basement (*Unit B*; Table 2). This does not mean that the influence of the upper Units may be still negligible using smaller scales of the simulated domain.

Analysing the FEM outputs with the single magma chamber, it emerges how ΔP only limited the effects of gravitational loading. The use of a dual magma chamber geometry better describes the inflation induced by overpressure within magma chambers, with the formation of the stress arch in the minimum compressive stress σ_3 plot.

It is important to highlight that for both single and dual magma chamber models, the change of internal overpressure from 10 to 20 MPa slightly changes the magnitude of the stress but not their

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general patterns (Appendix 1-2).

The presence of conduits in the magma feeding system dramatically change the σ_3 and σ_1 patterns (Fig. 6). Indeed, they become quite homogeneous throughout the computational domain, with the only exception of sidewall effects induced by the zero displacement conditions, already discussed in Figure 4.

The addition of extensional field stress of 5 MPa reduces the sidewall effects and produces an almost homogeneous stress distribution in the upper part of the FEM domain, above the top of the deep magma chamber. This describes a close to equilibrium volcanic system, in which volcanic overpressure and lithostatic stress almost equilibrate each other (Sulpizio et al., 2016).

6.2 Some implication of the stress state of the CVC inferred from FEM

The results obtained with the insertion of the full feeding system and far field stress on the FEM highlight an almost homogeneous stress distribution in the CVC area. This means that the shape of the dual magma chamber model plus conduits and far field stress provides a stable geometry, which limits the stress changes to few MPa. All the large stress variations are located at the tips of the magma chambers, as expected for pressurized or under-pressurized cavities in the lithosphere (Martì and Geyer, 2009). This means that the whole feeding system is in a quasi-equilibrium state, and, as an example, any overpressure created by input of new magma is adjusted by increasing the magma chamber volume or erupting at the surface. Even if we consider the scenario of complete emptying the upper conduit and part of the shallow magma chamber, as occasionally occurred in the past originating sub-Plinian and Plinian eruptions (Luhr et al., 2002; Saucedo et al., 2010; Massaro et al., 2018), this would result in the restoration of the stress arch, which is still a stable stress configuration. Even the complete emptying of the shallow magma chamber probably would be ineffective for triggering a large collapse (caldera forming) of the feeding system. This latter event would be possible only if a large depressurization of the deeper magma chamber would occur, but it implies the eruption of tens to hundreds of km^3 of magma, which seems not very likely provided the current stress distribution in CVC.

Beside and beyond the inaccuracies due to the first order approximation of the FEM analysis, other sources of uncertainties in the discussion about present and future stress state of the CVC come from

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the not consideration of gravity-driven processes as volcano spreading triggered by plastic deformation of the GF Unit (Norini et al., 2010, 2019) or pressurization of the upper conduit (Massaro et al., 2018), and detailed regional tectonics (Norini et al., 2010, 2019). Two main fault systems have been described in the CVC and surrounding area: the N-S trending Colima Rift and a set of E-W-trending faults (Fig. 1; Garduño-Monroy et al. 1998; Norini et al., 2010, 2019). The effect on stress distribution of these regional fault systems are not included in the presented analysis, and may alter significantly the stress patterns at a local scale, favouring intrusion of dykes or acting as trigger of depressurization of the feeding system promoting eruptions or causing catastrophic collapse of the upper edifice (e.g. Roverato et al., 2011).

7 Conclusions

The increasing detail of geological and geophysical data to FEM simulation at Colima Volcanic Complex (Mexico) showed the importance of using the most accurate input data in order to have reliable outputs. In particular, the data here presented highlighted how the use of simplified models produces unreliable outputs of the stress state of the volcano subsurface.
Beside and beyond the results obtained by analysing the influence of detailing geological and geophysical data, the FEM of CVC confirms the close to equilibrium state of the volcano, which is the expected stress distribution induced by a feeding system directly connected to the surface.
This means that any overpressure created by input of new magma is adjusted within the feeding system, sometimes triggering eruptions. The complete emptying the upper conduit and part of the shallow magma chamber, as occasionally occurred in the past originating sub-Plinian and Plinian eruptions would result in the restoration of the stress arch, which is still a stable stress configuration. Descends that large magnitude, caldera forming eruptions are possible only if the deeper magma chamber is involved and significantly emptied during an eruption.

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Appendices

Appendix 1

E-W gravitational modelling of the CVC domain (stratified lithology) for all configurations investigated. The magnitude and pattern of the principal stress account for a) single magma chamber model; b) dual magma chamber model; c) dual magma chamber with conduits model (deep magma chamber, $2a = 14$ km and $2b = 3.6$ km at 15 km of depth; shallow magma chamber, $2a = 3.5$ km and $2b = 2$ km at 6 km. The magmatic overpressure is 20 MPa for the deep chamber, and 5 MPa for the shallower.

Appendix 2

E-W gravitational modelling of the CVC domain (stratified lithology) considering a far extensional stress field of 5 MPa for all configurations investigated. The magnitude and pattern of the principal stress account for a) single magma chamber model; b) dual magma chamber model; c) dual magma chamber with conduits model (deep magma chamber, $2a = 14$ km and $2b = 3.6$ km at 15 km of depth; shallow magma chamber, $2a = 3.5$ km and $2b = 2$ km at 6 km. The magmatic overpressure is 20 MPa for the deep chamber, and 5 MPa for the shallower.

Code/Data Avaiability

The LISA code is available at https://lisafea.com/.

Author's contribution

SM and RS wrote the manuscript with the input of all the co-authors. SM and GL compiled the numerical simulations and formulated the adopted methodology. MP and SM carried out the sensitivity analysis. RS, AC, SM, GN, GG, LC, GL, MP and AG worked on the interpretation of the results.

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Table 1 - Input parameters used in finite-element model.

Element types used in LISA analysis.

E-W cross-section (a-a')		Element Type	Quantity
FC	Fuego de Colima	quad4	596
VD	Volcanic Deposits	quad4	235
GF	Graben Fill	quad4	434
B	Basement	quad4	3395

Total Elements: 4660

Table 2 - Rock mass and mechanical properties used in the finite-element model (from Norini et al. 2010; 2019).

Acronym	**Model Unit**	**Rock Type**	**Density (kg/m^3)**	**Young's Modulus (MPa)**	**Poisson's ratio *ν***
FC	Fuego de Colima	Andesitic lavas and pyroclastic deposits forming the Paleofuego-Fuego de Colima volcano	2242	1.4×10^3	0.30
VD	Volcaniclastic deposits	Pyroclastic and epiclastic deposits covering the southern flank of the CVC	1539	1.7×10^3	0.32
GF	Graben Fill	Quaternary alluvial, colluvial, lacustrine deposits filling the graben	1834	1.5×10^3	0.35
B	Basement	Cretaceous limestones and intrusive rocks forming the bed-rock underlying the CVC	2650	3.6×10^4	0.30

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Figures Captions

Fig. 1 (a) Morphotectonic map of the Colima Volcanic Complex (NC=Nevado de Colima volcano; FC=Fuego de Colima volcano) and Colima Rift with the main tectonic and volcano-tectonic structures (NCG =Northen Colima Graben; CCG= Central Colima Graben, from Norini et al., 2019). In the inset, the location of the Colima Volcanic Complex (CVC) within the Trans-Mexican Volcanic Belt (TMVB) is shown in the frame of the subduction-type geodynamic setting of Central America (from Davìla et al., 2019); (b) general sketch of the geometrical configurations used in FE modelling for the E-W cross-section.

Fig. 2 Sensitivity analysis of the Young's Modulus variations within the investigated domain configurations (stratified substratum model, single magma chamber model, dual magma chamber model, and dual magma chamber with conduits model). For each Units (*B*, *FC*, *GF*, *VD*), the *relative global variation in L_2* is provided for σ_1 and σ_3. The *x*(-) and *x*(+) vectors indicate the Young Modulus variation by an order of magnitude with respect to x_{ref} vector, containing the stress values calculated by using the values of material's properties indicated in Table 2.

Fig. 3 Spatial variation of the L_2 norm's components at varying Young Modulus in *Units B* for the stratified substratum (a), the single (b) and dual (c) magma chamber models, and in *Units VD* for the dual magma chamber with conduits model (d).

Fig. 4 E-W gravitational modelling of the CVC domain. The scale of the mesh is expressed in Unit of Design (1 UD = 1 km). The domain extends 60 km along the *x*-axis, and 30 km along the *z*-axis. The magnitude and pattern of the principal stresses (dotted black lines) are reported for a homogeneous lithology (HL: *Unit FC* =andesitic lavas and pyroclastic deposits) and for a stratified lithology (SL: *Unit B*= Cretaceous limestones and intrusive rocks forming the bed-rock underlying the CVC; *Unit GF*=Quaternary alluvial, colluvial, and lacustrine deposits filling the graben; *Unit FC; Unit VD*= volcaniclastic deposits covering the southern flank of the CVC). The blue contour defines the unperturbed part of the domain, which extends ca. 30 km horizontally and ca. 15 km vertically.

Fig. 5 E-W gravitational modelling of the CVC domain (stratified lithology). The magnitude and pattern of the principal stresses are reported for (a) the single magma chamber model represented by a deep magma chamber ($2a$ = 14 km and $2b$ = 3.6 km) at 15 km of depth, and for (b) the dual magma chamber model composed of a 15-km deep ($2a$ = 14 km and $2b$ = 3.6 km) and 6-km deep ($2a$ = 3.5

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km and *2b* = 2 km) magma chambers. These chambers are not connected via dykes. The magmatic overpressure is 10 MPa for the deep magma chambers (a,b) and 5 MPa for the shallow one (b).

Fig. 6 E-W gravitational modelling of the CVC domain (stratified lithology). The magnitude and pattern of the principal stresses account for a dual magma chamber system connected by dykes via surface (deep magma chamber, *2a* = 14 km and *2b* = 3.6 km at 15 km of depth; shallow magma chamber, *2a* = 3.5 km and *2b* = 2 km at 6 km). The magmatic overpressure is 10 MPa for the deep chamber, 5 MPa for the shallow one.

Fig. 7 E-W gravitational modelling of the CVC domain (stratified lithology) when considering an extensional stress field of 5 MPa. The magnitude and pattern of the principal stresses are shown for i-ii) the single magma chamber model, iii-vi) the dual magma chamber model, and v-vi) the dual magma chamber with conduits model. The magmatic overpressure is set of 10 MPa for the deep chamber, 5 MPa for the shallower one.

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Fig. 1

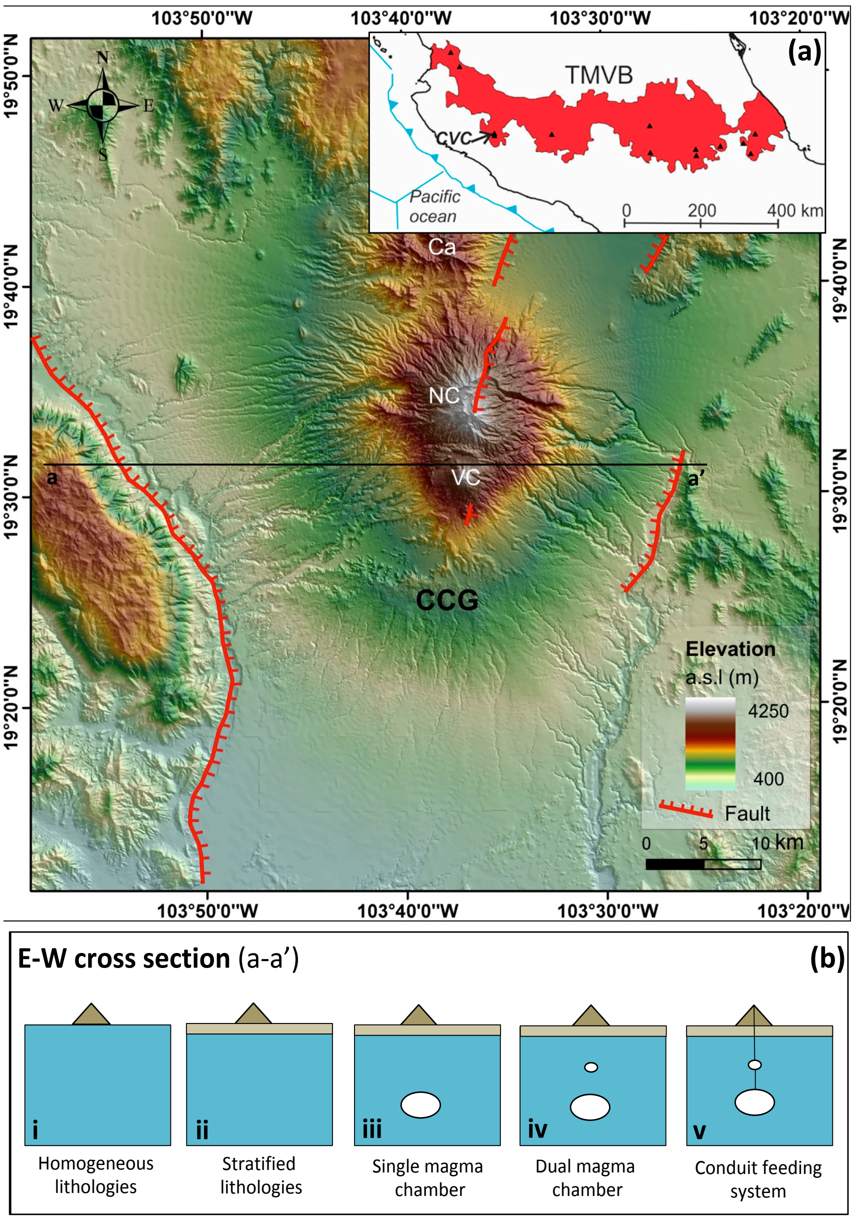

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Fig. 2

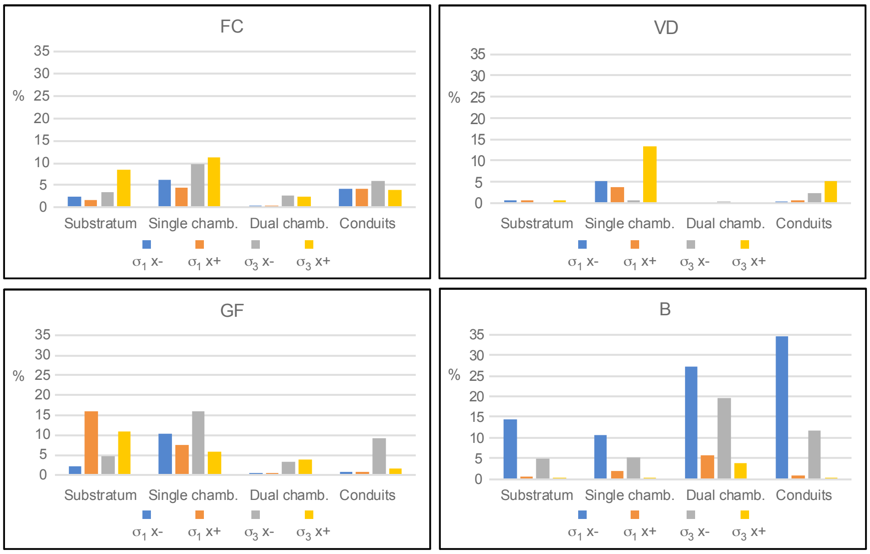

Fig. 3

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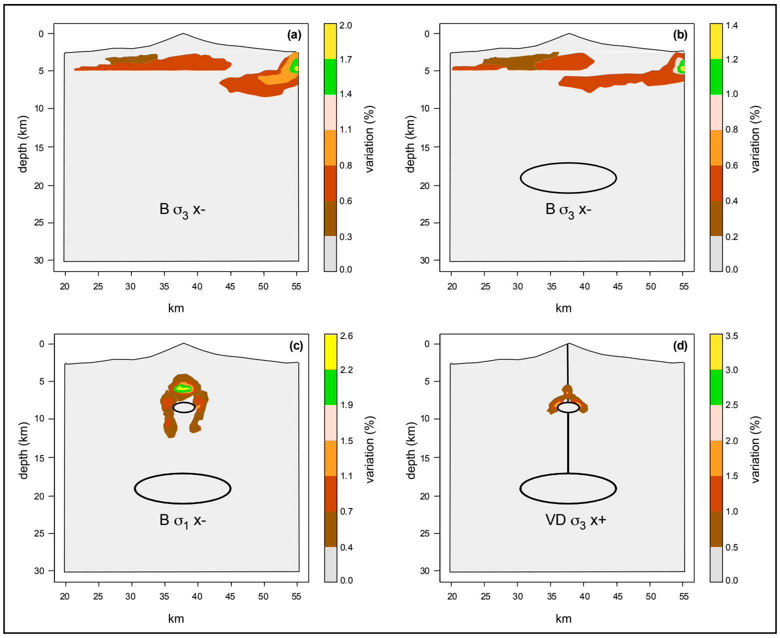

Fig. 4

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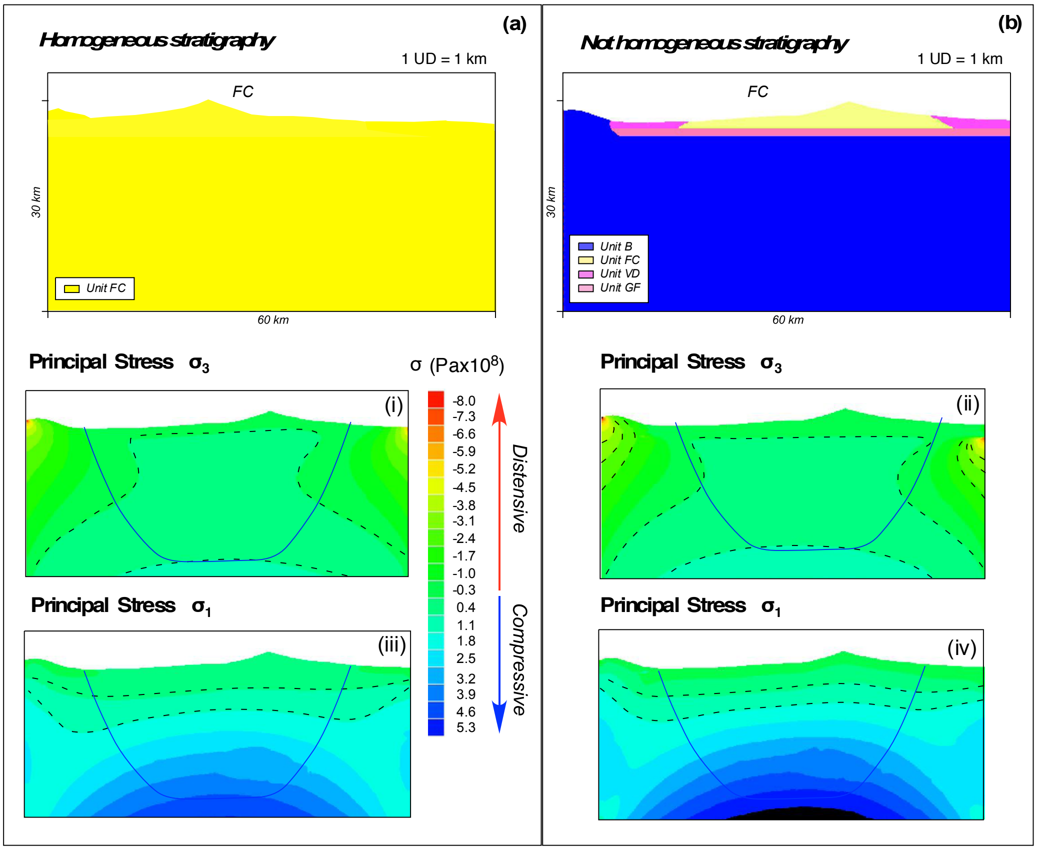

Fig. 5

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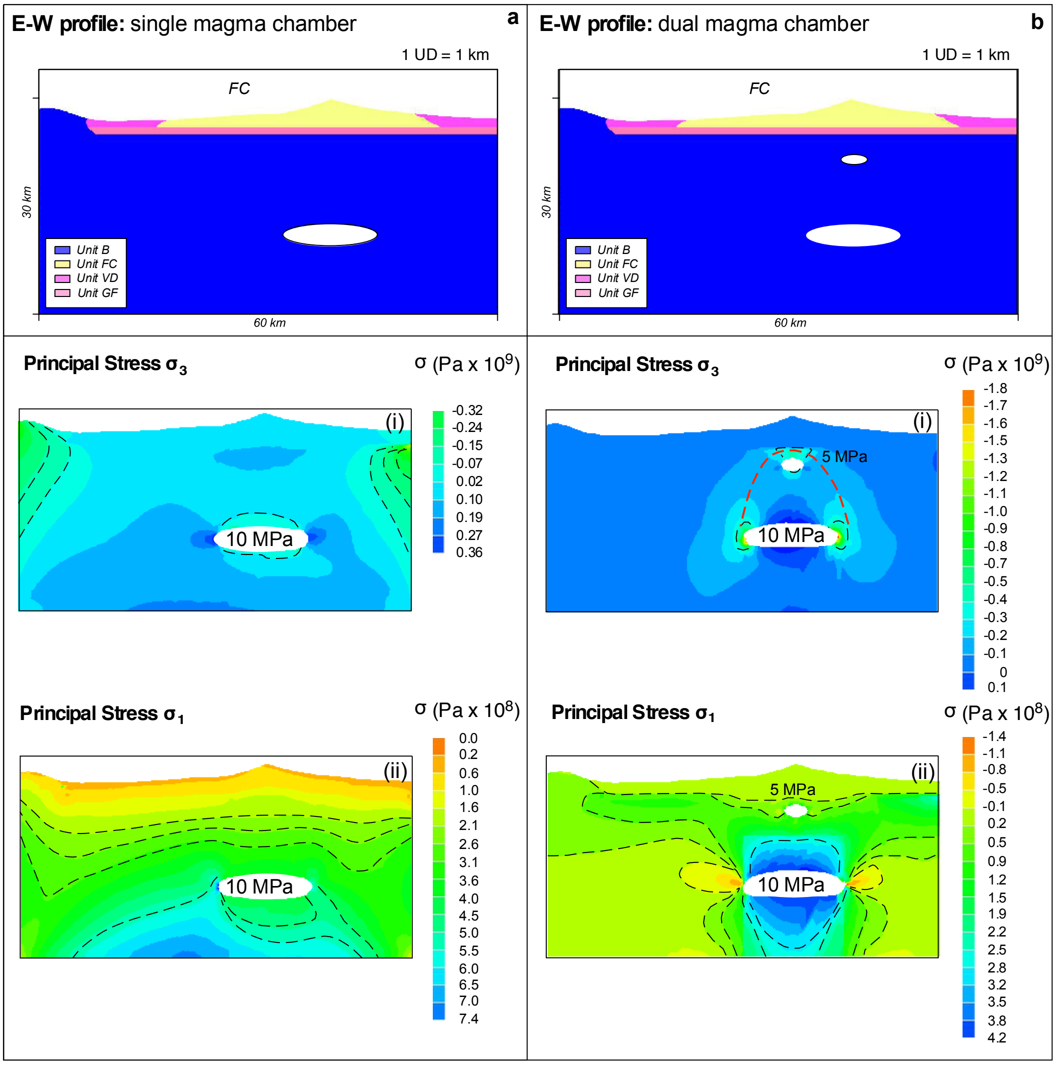

Fig. 6

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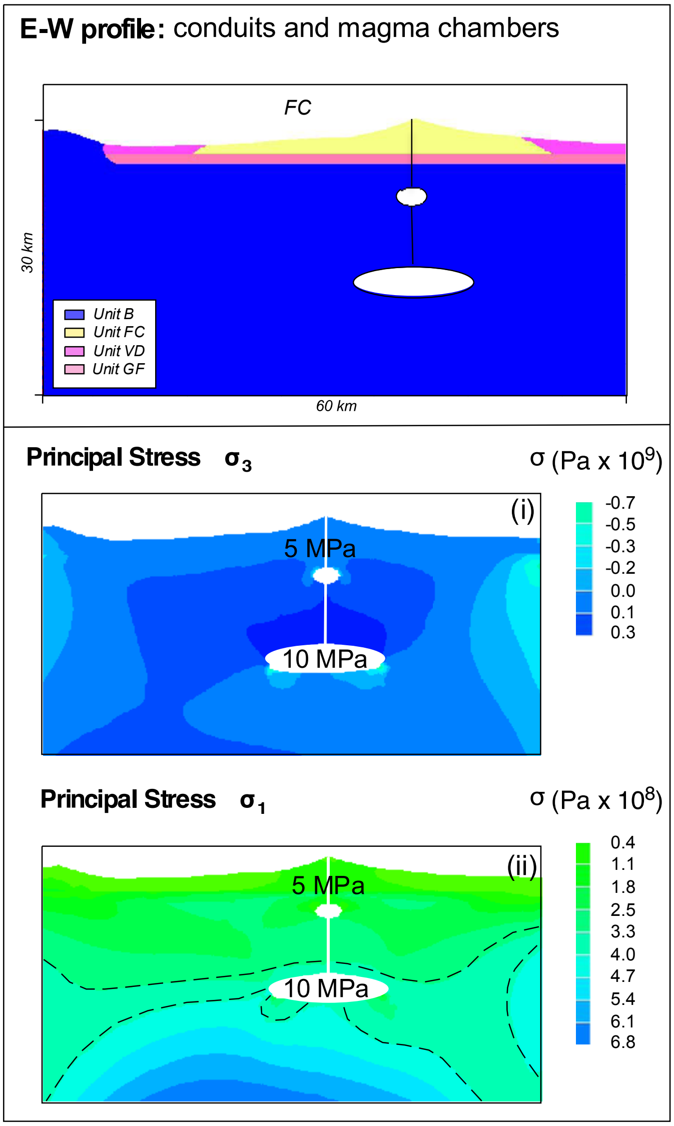

Fig. 7

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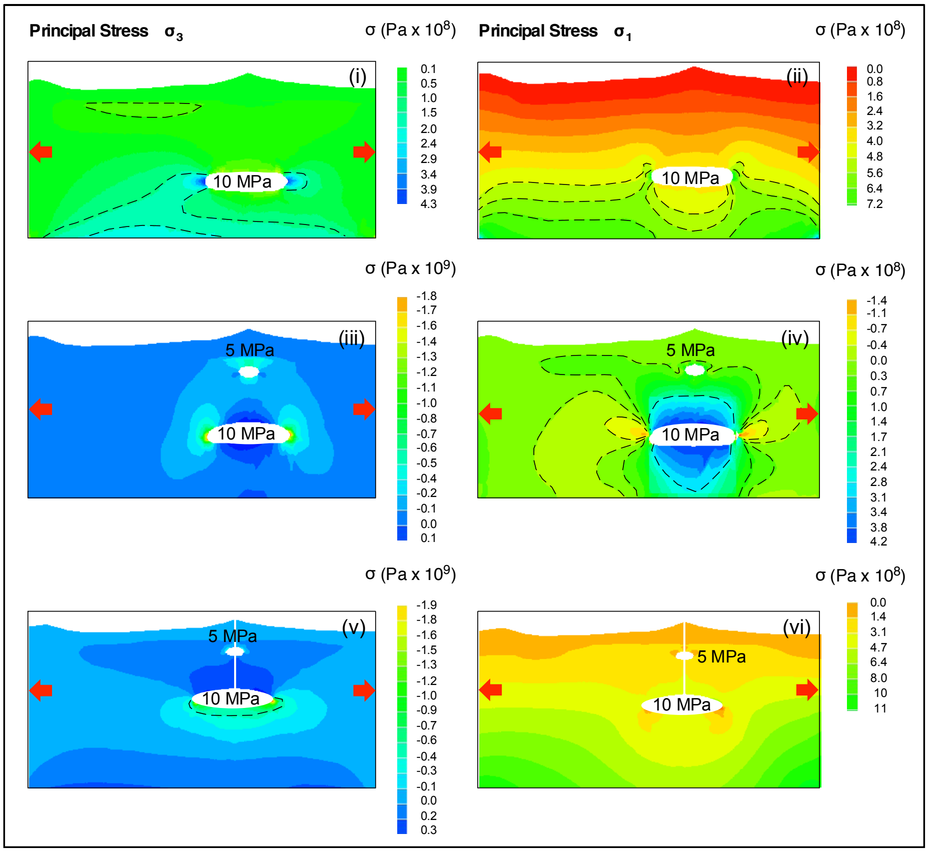

Appendix 1

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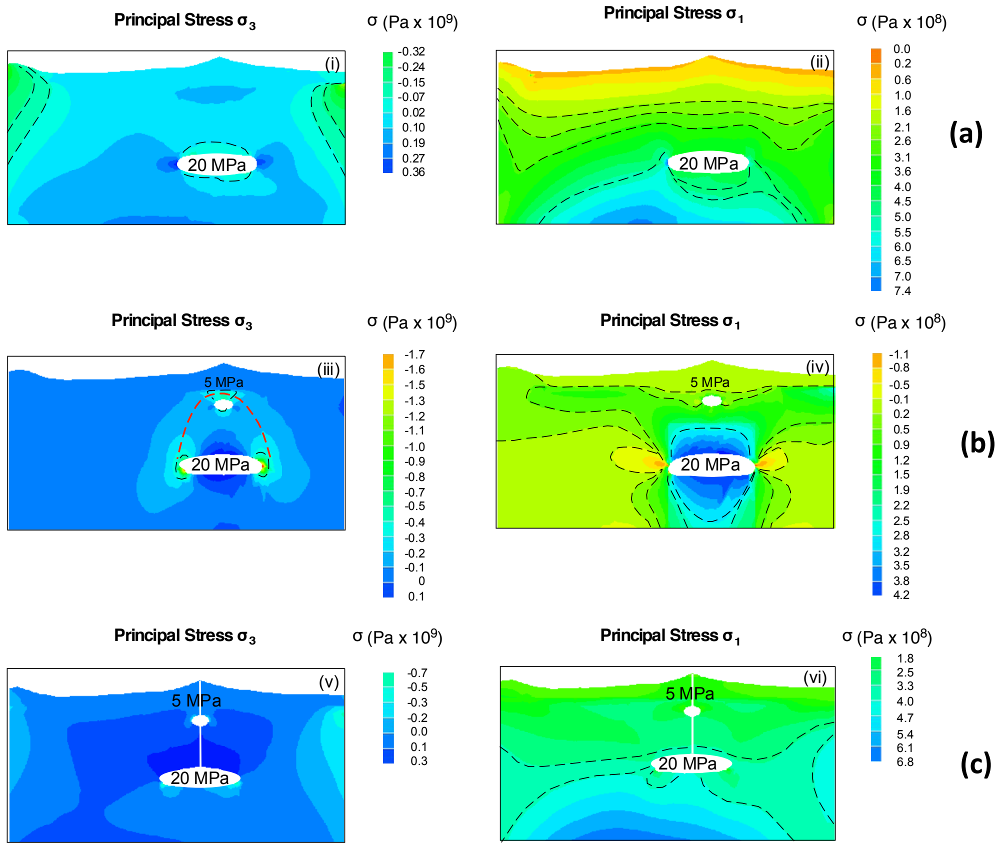

Appendix 2

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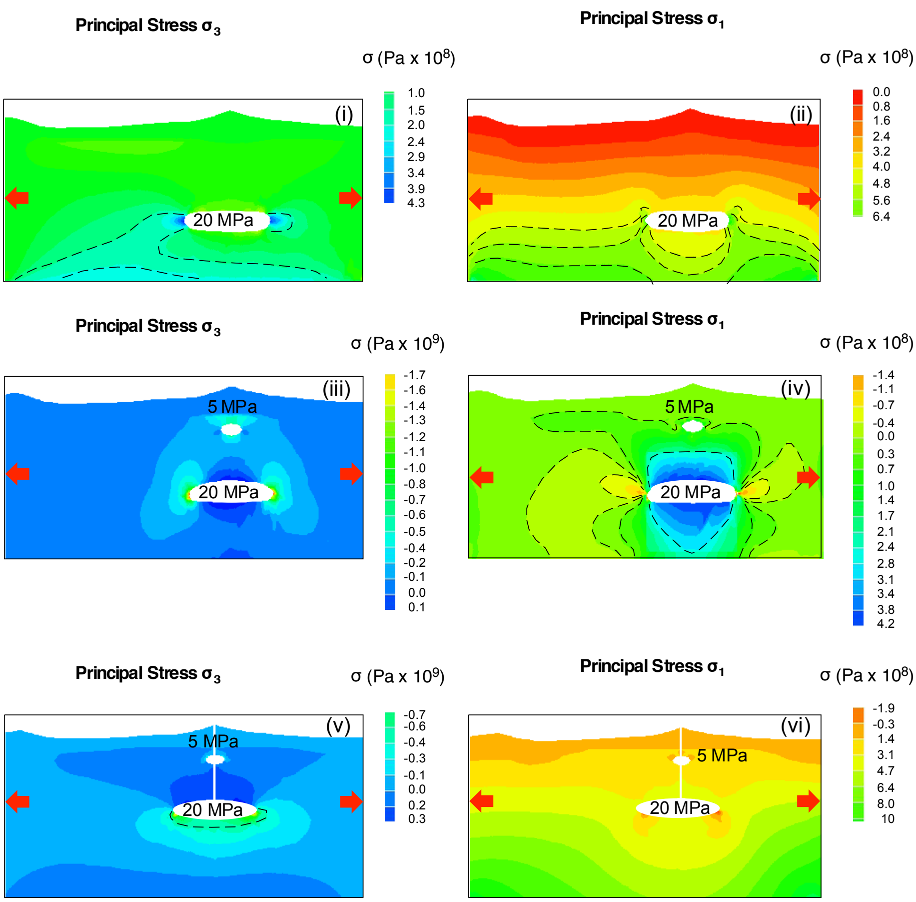

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