

**ERTH 456 / GEOL 556**  
**Volcanology**

**– Lecture 09: Magma Chemistry–**

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hours: M 4-5PM, R 3-4PM or appt.

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# What is magma?

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Mixture of:

- melt (liquid rock)
- crystals (solids)
- volatiles (gases)

# Chemical Composition of Magma

- Major elements  $>1$  wt% of rock
- Minor elements between 1-0.1 wt% of rock
- Trace elements  $<0.1$  wt%

# Major/Minor Elements in Magma

- Oxygen (O)
- Silicon (Si)
- Aluminum (Al)
- Calcium (Ca), Potassium (K), Sodium (Na), Iron (Fe), Titanium (Ti), Magnesium (Mg)
- Hydrogen (H), Sulfur(S), Chloride (Cl), Fluorine (F)

# Charges in Magma

- Elements exist as electrically charged ions in magma
- most as positively charged cations with charges from +1 . . . +4
- Oxygen negatively charged anion -2
- Having both cations and anions results in molecule formation (electrically neutral, oxides)

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Examples:

- Silicon: +4 charge, bonds with 2 oxygens:  $\text{SiO}_2$
- Magnesium: +2 charge, bonds with 1 oxygen:  $\text{MgO}$
- Aluminum: +3 charge, 2 Al bond with 3 O:  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$

# Example Compositions

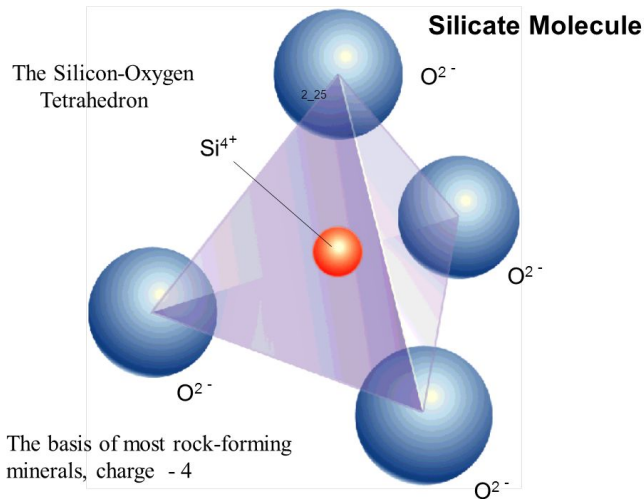
Compound	Rhyolite (wt%)	Basalt (wt%)
SiO <sub>2</sub>	73.2	49.2
TiO <sub>2</sub>	0.2	2.3
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	14.0	13.3
FeO	1.8	12.0
MgO	0.4	10.4
CaO	1.3	10.9
Na <sub>2</sub> O	3.9	2.2
K <sub>2</sub> O	4.1	0.5
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	0.1	0.2

*N. Dunbar*



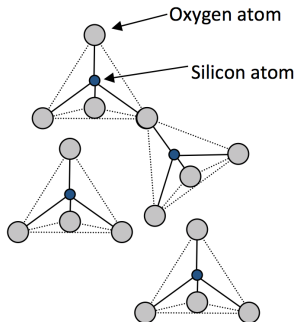
# In melt ... Silica Tetrahedron

Silica as  $\text{SiO}_4$  anion with -4 charge in tetrahedron form:

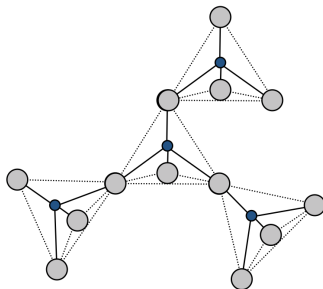


# In melt ... Polymerization

## Basalt configuration



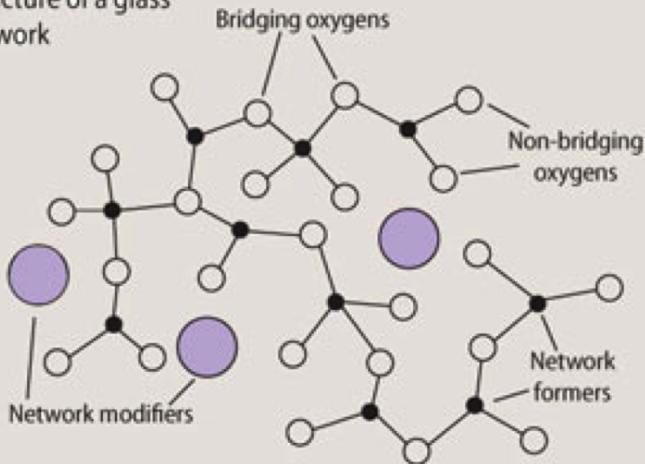
## Rhyolite configuration



*N. Dunbar*

**Fig 2**

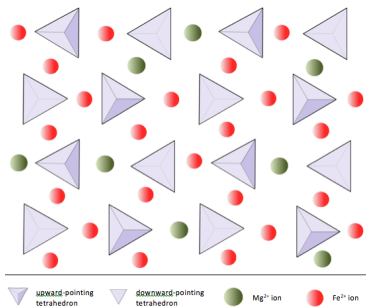
Structure of a glass network



# In minerals ... Olivine

The -4 charge of the Silicon Molecule must be balanced when forming minerals:

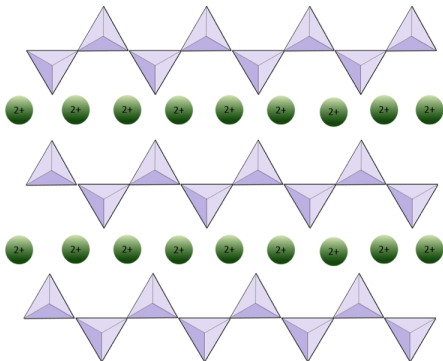
- Two +2 cations (Magnesium, Iron - close in radius) –  $\text{Mg}_2\text{SiO}_4$ ,  $\text{Fe}_2\text{SiO}_4$ , or  $(\text{Mg,Fe})_2\text{SiO}_4$
- silica tetrahedra not bonded to each other (opposed to most silicate minerals)



3 Fe for each Mg, <https://opentextbc.ca/geology/chapter/2-4-silicate-minerals/>



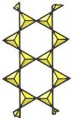
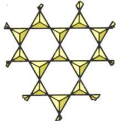
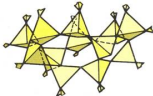
# In minerals ... Pyroxene

- Silica tetrahedra linked in single chains,
- one oxygen ion shared between neighboring tetrahedra
- fewer oxygen in the structure, lower oxygen to silicon ratio (3:1, instead of 4:1 in olivine)



e.g.,  $\text{MgSiO}_3$  <https://opentextbc.ca/geology/chapter/2-4-silicate-minerals/>

# Silica Polymer Structures

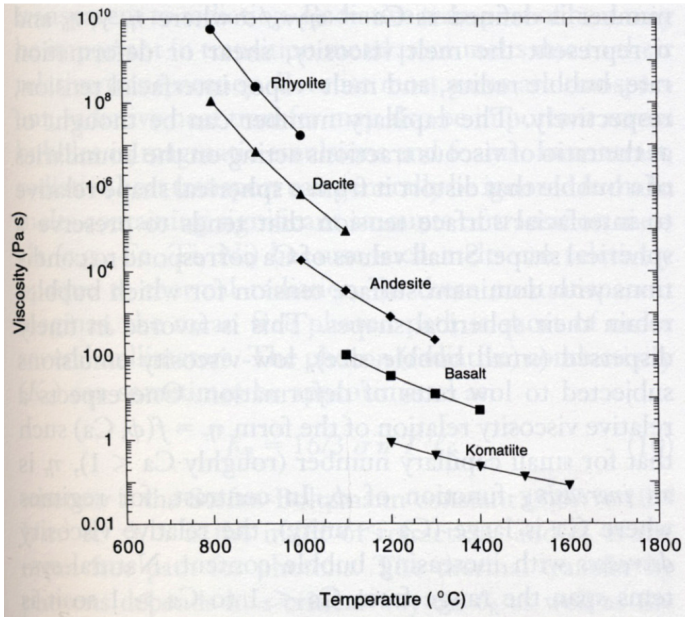
		Example
Isolated silicate structure		Olivine
Single chain structure		Pyroxene group
Double chain structure		Amphibole group
Sheet silicate structure		Mica group Clay group
Framework silicate structure		Quartz Feldspar group

# Viscosity

Material	Viscosity (Pa s)	Wt% SiO <sub>2</sub>	Temp. (°C)
Water	$1.002 \times 10^{-3}$	—	20
ASE 30 motor oil	$2 \times 10^{-1}$	—	20
Kimberlite	$10^{-1}$ –1	30–35	~1000
Komatiite	$10^{-1}$ –10	40–45	1400
Ketchup	$\sim 5 \times 10$	—	20
<b>Basalt</b>	$10$ – $10^2$	45–52	1200
Peanut butter	$\sim 2.5 \times 10^2$	—	20
Crisco <sup>®</sup> shortening	$2 \times 10^3$	—	20
<b>Andesite</b>	$\sim 3.5 \times 10^3$	~58–62	1200
Silly Putty <sup>®</sup>	$\sim 10^4$	—	—
<b>Tonalite</b> 6% H <sub>2</sub> O	$\sim 10^4$	65	950
<b>Rhyolite</b>	$\sim 10^5$	~73–77	1200
<b>Granite</b> 6% H <sub>2</sub> O	$\sim 10^5$	75	750
<b>Rhyolite</b>	$\sim 10^8$	~73–77	800
Average mantle	$10^{21}$	—	—

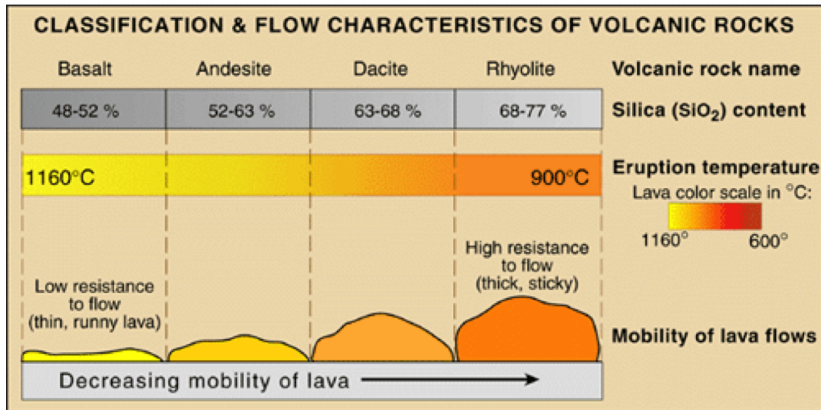
*From Philpotts and Ague, Igneous and Metamorphic Petrology, 2009*

# Viscosity





# Flow Characteristics



<https://www.e-education.psu.edu/geosc30/node/720>

# Classification - Fractional Crystallization - Bowen's Reaction Series

## Bowen's Reaction Series

	<b>Discontinuous Series</b>	<b>Continuous Series</b>	<b>Rock Name</b>	<b>Light vs Dark* %</b>	<b>Rock Chemistry</b>
1200°C ↓ Temperature Decreases ↓ 600°C	Olivine (isolated silica tetrahedra)		Peridotite (p)	100% dark	Ultramafic 45 wt % SiO <sub>2</sub>
	Pyroxene (double chains)	Ca plagioclase (3D framework)	Gabbro (p) Basalt (v)	80% dark	Mafic 55 wt % SiO <sub>2</sub>
	Hornblende (single chains)	Na-Ca plagioclase (3D framework)	Diorite (p) Andesite (v)	50-50 light & dark	Intermediate 65 wt % SiO <sub>2</sub>
	Biotite (sheets)	Na-rich plagioclase (3D framework)	Granite (p) Rhyolite (v)	60-80% light	Felsic
	K-spar (3D framework) Muscovite (sheets) Quartz (3D framework)				

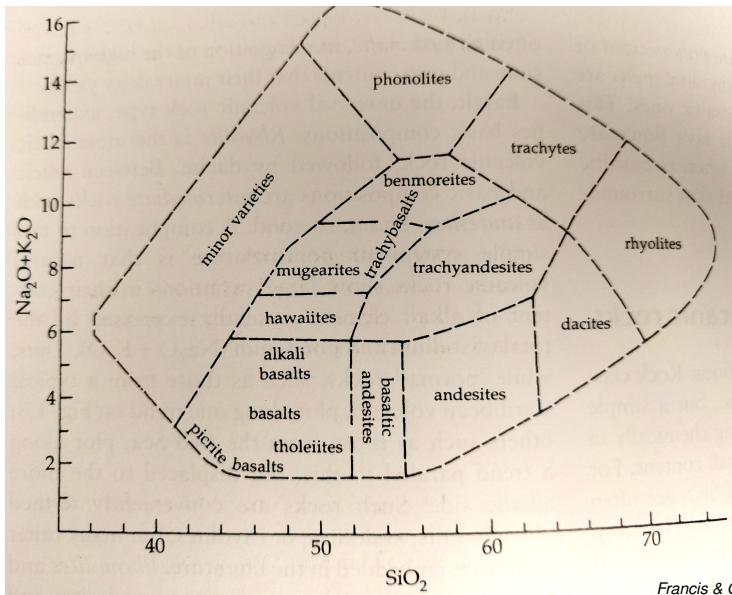
\*Light minerals refer to nonferromagnesian silicates (do not contain Fe or Mg) which are typically light in color  
 Dark minerals refer to ferromagnesian silicates (contain Fe and Mg) which are typically dark in color

<http://geology1403.blogspot.com/2016/10/bowens-reaction-series-relationship.html>

# Classification - Texture

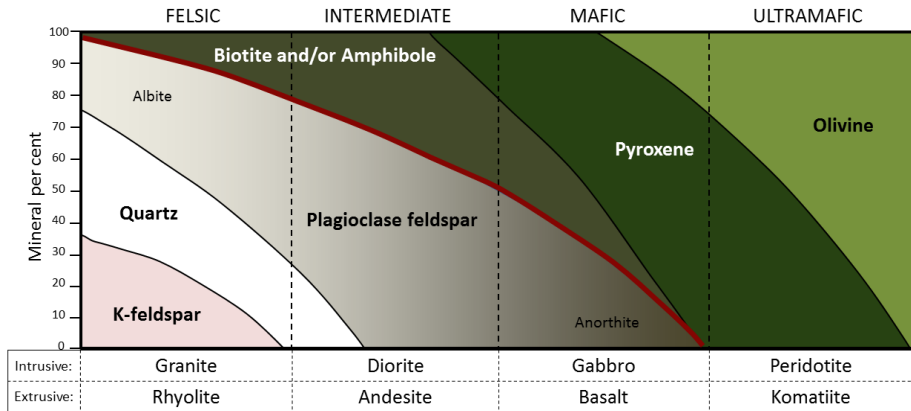
- glassy: no crystals found
- aphanitic: crystals too small to see by eye
- phaneritic: minerals are visible by eye
  - fine grained:  $< 1$  mm diameter
  - medium grained: 1-5 mm diameter
  - coarse grained: 5-50 mm diameter
  - very coarse grained:  $> 50$  mm diameter
- porphyritic: bimodal grain size distribution
- pyroclastic: amalgamated igneous fragments

# Classification - Composition



Francis & Oppenheimer

# Classification - Simplified Composition



<https://opentextbc.ca/geology/chapter/3-4-classification-of-igneous-rocks/>