Magma water content of Pico Volcano (Azores Islands, Portugal): a clinopyroxene perspective

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Abstract
Clinopyroxenes from the Pico Volcano (Pico Island, Azores Archipelago) have been used as a proxy to define the water content of primitive magmas and the volcanological history of the erupted rocks. This very young volcano (53 ± 5 ka) is at a primordial stage of its evolution in comparison with the other volcanoes of the Azores. Clinopyroxenes from Pico Volcano underwent important dehydration processes and after annealing experiments under H2 gas flux, a pre-eruptive H2O content between 93 and 182 ppm was recovered. A moderately high cooling rate for the cpx-host lavas expressed by the clinopyroxene closure temperature ($T_c = 755–928 °C$ ± 20 °C) correlates with the dehydration, suggesting that this process may have occurred during magma ponding at the Moho Transition Zone (17.3–17.7 km) and/or after the eruption. By applying an IVAl-dependent partition coefficient to the measured H amount in clinopyroxene, the pre-eruptive water content of the parental magma was calculated to vary between 0.71 and 1.20 (average of 1.0) wt%. Clinopyroxene geobarometry performed by combining X-ray diffraction with mineral chemistry points to a general crystallisation from the mantle lithosphere (~ 8–9 kbar) to the oceanic mantle/crust boundary (~ 4–5 kbar). The similar major and trace chemistry, water content and Fe3+/FeTtot ratio of clinopyroxenes, suggest similar conditions of oxygen fugacity, water content and fractional crystallisation of the magma from which clinopyroxene cores crystallised during the Pico Volcano central eruptions from 40 ka to historical times.

Keywords Mantle · Intraplate magmatism · FTIR spectroscopy · Azores islands · Magma water content · OIB · Cpx geobarometry

Introduction

The Azores region is located at the triple junction between the North American, Eurasian and Nubian lithospheric plates, a complex region where a mantle plume intersects with the mid-Atlantic ridge (MAR) and is associated to the presence of the Terceira Rift, a slow-spreading oceanic rift system on a thick and relatively old lithosphere (Fig. 1). The Azores islands are well-known for their chemical heterogeneities both at regional and single island scale. At regional scale, heterogeneities have been for a long time ascribed to the interactions of a hot-spot-associated, deep-rooted mantle plume with the magmas ascending at the MAR (e.g. Schilling 1975; Cannat et al. 1999). However, this model has been questioned as a result of a number of geological observations, such as the lack of a coeval plateau and a time progressive chain of islands (Müller et al. 2008), by the lack of connection between the regional seismic anomalies (~ 200–250 km deep) and the supposed deep source for
mantle plumes (Zhang and Tanimoto 1992; Courtillot et al. 2003; Montelli et al. 2004).

In the Azores region, a close association of different magmas coexist, namely the mid ocean ridge basalt (MORB) from the MAR and Ocean Island Basalt (OIB) from the Azores volcanoes. As a whole, the basalts emplaced along the MAR segments intersecting the Azores region are thought to be originated from dry (50–200 ppm H₂O) mantle source melting, whereas a wet (300–1000 ppm H₂O) mantle source was initially postulated for the OIB magmas of the Azores (Hirschmann 2006). Geochemical data modelling indicated that the Azores magmas were produced by melting of a source with a minimum H₂O content of 200 ppm at temperature lower than that of a dry mantle (Asimow et al. 2004; Beier et al. 2012; Métrich et al. 2014). Nevertheless, few data are available on the water content of Azores magmas (Métrich et al. 2014; Turner et al. 2017), moreover, a detailed study on the pre-eruptive magma water content during the magmatic evolution of each single island is lacking.

Pico is the youngest among the Azores islands and developed by the overlapping of products erupted by three volcanic systems: Topo-Lajes to the South, Planalto da Achada fissure system to the East and Pico Volcano to the West (Fig. 1). Topo-Lajes volcano (> 186 ka) is eroded and partially collapsed (Costa et al. 2014). This edifice is partially buried by the lavas of the Planalto da Achada fissure system, a 30-km-long line of cinder cones which ultimately erupted in 1562. Pico Volcano is a steep conical edifice reaching 2351 m above sea level and is the youngest of the Azores (K/Ar age of 53 ± 5 ka; Costa et al. 2014), although its true base has never been dated. Recent eruptions occurred in 1718 and in 1720. This volcano differs from the other central volcanoes of the archipelago for the absence of a summit caldera (Nunes et al. 1999) even though the present summit is a wide crater showing evidence of instability.

The present work focuses on the pre-eruptive magma storage conditions of Pico Volcano with emphasis on the water content characterization, aiming at providing further constraints on the plumbing system, as well as to unravel the early evolution of the Azores volcanic systems.

The water content of magma is often determined by measuring the water content dissolved in glass and/or melt inclusions in olivine (i.e. Wallace 2005). However olivine may be scarce or absent in many volcanic rocks as well as it could not contain melt inclusions; then an alternative method, based on the analysis of hydrous species in
nominally anhydrous minerals (NAMs), opened a new way to determine magmatic water contents. In fact, hydrogen can be found as a trace element in numerous NAMs, which can be thus used as a probe to estimate the activity of hydrous components especially in rock-forming silicates (see review of Kepller and Smyth 2006 and references therein). Among NAMs, clinopyroxene is highly sensitive to variations of intensive parameters, like P, T and fO2 and therefore, it was used to model geological processes (i.e. Dal Negro et al. 1989; Nazzareni et al. 1998, 2001, 2020; Bindi et al. 1999; Perugini et al. 2003; Putirka et al. 2003; Putirka 2008). Moreover from the early studies on NAMs, pyroxenes were found to be able to host relatively high contents of hydrogen (e.g. Skogby 2006 and references therein). Because pyroxenes are really common in volcanic rocks they have been increasingly used to estimate the volatile budget of magmas (Wade et al. 2008; Nazzareni et al. 2011; Weis et al. 2015; Lloyd et al. 2016; Ferriss et al. 2016).

In a volcanic system, many different geochemical processes occur inside the magma reservoir, during the ascent, as well as after eruption. These processes may strongly affect the hydrogen content of NAMs, blurring its original value. Volcanological and petrological observations may help to constrain the possible H loss from NAMs. Another approach to estimate possible H loss is experimental rehydration under controlled conditions (e.g. Weis et al. 2015). We used this approach, by performing thermal annealing experiments under hydrogen gas flux, to evaluate the H content of NAMs, pyroxenes were found to be able to host relatively high contents of hydrogen (e.g. Skogby 2006 and references therein). Because pyroxenes are really common in volcanic rocks they have been increasingly used to estimate the volatile budget of magmas (Wade et al. 2008; Nazzareni et al. 2011; Weis et al. 2015; Lloyd et al. 2016; Ferriss et al. 2016).

In detail, we selected basalts representing primitive compositions erupted by the lateral activity of Pico Volcano from less than 40 ka to AD 1718 (Fig. 1) characterised by Zanon and Frezzotti (2013), Métrich et al. (2014) and Zanon et al. (2020). We measured hydrogen content, geobarometric data, and iron oxidation state at the core of clinopyroxenes extracted from the selected basalts to estimate the water content of the primitive parental melt in equilibrium with the clinopyroxene cores and reconstruct their crystallisation pressure.

**Data collection from literature**

Literature data have been collected from the Geochemistry of Rocks of the Oceans and Continents, GEOROC, database (https://georoc.mpch-mainz.gwdg.de). In detail, for whole rocks and clinopyroxenes, we downloaded the ‘AZORES.csv’ and ‘CLINOPYROXENES.csv’ files from the precompiled files by locations and minerals respectively.

**Pico rock geochemistry in the Azores framework**

Erupted magmas at the Azores islands belong to an alkaline series with Na/K > 1, whose SiO2 content varies between ~ 41 and ~ 68 wt% and the alkali content (Na2O + K2O) ranges between ~ 2 and ~ 14 wt% (Fig. 2). Mafic lavas (basalts, alkali basalts, hawaiites) and associated pyroclastic rocks forming cinder cones are by far more abundant than silicic rocks (trachytes, comendites, pantellerites). Mafic rocks are typical of the fissure zones present on each island and at the early stages of magmatism of central volcanoes, such as Pico Volcano; felsic rocks are erupted during plinian or sub-plinian eruptions, from vents located inside the summit calderas of the various stratovolcanoes or in forms of domes and coulees (Zanon 2015; Larrea et al. 2018). Intermediate terms (mugearites, benmoreites) are volumetrically insignificant, probably because of a rapid and effective process of mafic phases removal occurring in small reservoirs below central volcanoes. The geochemical evolution path of the magmas erupted is similar for all the islands, and fractional crystallization and/or crystal accumulation are the main processes that explain the Azores volcanic evolution starting from small pockets of magma (Zanon 2015; Larrea et al. 2018).

Pico Volcano is constituted by basalts (sensu lato) with reduced volumes of benmoreites erupted only during the AD 1718 eruption (Franca et al. 2006) (Fig. 2). Basalts were erupted by lateral fissures at lower altitudes and are frequently cumulitic due to a large amount of clinopyroxene and olivine. The rocks which constitute the summit cone are hawaiites and contain plagioclase and clinopyroxene. These magmas are linked to each other by fractional crystallization processes (Zanon and Frezzotti 2013; Zanon et al. 2020).

Basalts show an enrichment in light Rare Earth Elements (REE), as compared to middle and heavy REE ascribed to a low degree of partial melting of an enriched mantle source in the garnet stability field (Franca et al. 2006; Piryulk and Elliott 2009; Elliott et al. 2007; Beier et al. 2012; Zanon and Frezzotti 2013; Bourdon et al. 2005; Métrich et al. 2014; Waters et al. 2019).

**Samples description**

In this work, we studied clinopyroxenes extracted from seven basalts representative of the recent activity of the central volcano. Five of these rock samples (Pic22, Pic32, Pic43, Pic59, Pic64) are lavas erupted from lateral vents...
at low altitudes in a timeframe spanning the last 40 ka (Nunes 1999; Zanon et al. 2020). Pic61 is a rheomorphic lava sampled nearby the summit crater rim and generated about 740 years before present by an episode of lava fountain (Zanon et al. 2020). 1718 sample is a clinopyroxene fallout originated during small size lava fountains from the vent of the 1718 eruption. The main data are resumed in supplementary data Table S1 and sampling locations are shown in Fig. 1.

The studied lavas are highly porphyritic with an average crystal content of ~ 38 vol% dominantly consisting of pyroxene and olivine, both as large antecrysts, megacrysts and phenocrysts.

Olivine phenocrysts and antecrysts (Fo78-86) are present in all lava samples with a modal content ranging from 4 to 14%. Crystals are commonly euhedral and frequently contain fluid and melt inclusions. Spinels are present only in the most Fo-rich grains, while oxides are common in all the other crystals. Glomeroporphyritic aggregates of clinopyroxenes are present in some samples. Microphenocrysts (average Fo86 ± 3) are present only in three lava samples with ≤ 2% modal abundance and do not contain fluid and melt inclusions.

Perfectly euhedral diopside megacrysts (Wo40–43 Fs6–8 En40–45) are present in the fallout deposit from the 1718 eruption and constitute ~ 52% in volume of the rheomorphic lava. Some of these crystals show disequilibrium features due to incipient melting or reaction, patchy zoning and embayments. Many crystals show oscillatory zoning at the 50–80 microns towards the rim. All these zoned crystals coexist with unzoned phenocrysts/antecrysts diopsides. Smaller phenocrystals/antecrysts represent the 13–19% in volume of lavas and are diopsides (Wo36–41 Fs8–10 En37–47). Oscillatory zoning is present in few crystals. Both megacrysts and phenocrysts host fluid and melt inclusions. Microphenocrysts (1–7 vol%) are frequently subhedral with a composition matching that of the phenocrysts.

Plagioclases (average An66 ± 1) are present as microphenocrysts (150–400 μm) only in a single sample, oxides and apatites are minor phases. Intergranular to intersertal groundmass consists of olivine and clinopyroxene, ilmenite or Ti-magnetite, occasional plagioclase, plus eventual glass. The rheomorphic lava (or autoclastic lava) is the last eruptive event originated by the summit crater before collapsing, as it is the last unit in the stratigraphy there. This lava shows an extremely high crystal content (70–75 vol%) consisting of aggregates of very large euhedral clinopyroxenes (frequently > 1.5 cm in length) and olivines (0.2–0.4 cm) welded by a reddish and partially glassy groundmass. All these lavas correspond to the type-A described in Zanon et al. (2020) and analysed in Zanon and Frezzotti (2013).

Clinopyroxenes from the pyroclastic fallout originating during the 1718 eruption have been directly hand-picked from the field deposit. Sampling site is a dirt road at a short distance from the lowermost vent of the fissure. Loose euhedral clinopyroxenes are numerous and constitute a thin blanket together with small lapilli and lava lithics.
We handpicked clinopyroxenes of size from ~0.5 up to 1.5 cm from gently crushed lavas or directly from tephra fallout. From each sample we extracted various clinopyroxene crystals with particular attention to avoid complex zoned minerals.

**Experimental methods**

**Single-crystal X-ray diffraction**

Six clinopyroxene crystals (Pic43cpx, Pic61cpx, Pic22cpx, Pic32cpx, Pic59cpx, Pic64cpx) from lava samples were oriented by single-crystal X-ray diffraction, whereas the large euhedral crystal from the sample 1718cpx was oriented by aid of well-developed morphology. Crystals were mounted on a goniometric head for the single-crystal diffractometer Philips Pw1100 (Dept. Physics and Geology, University of Perugia) where, by applying the orientation matrix of each sample, crystallographic planes (100) and (010) were oriented and then glued directly on a glass plate.

A fragment of the crystals used for the FTIR measurements was used to collect XRD data. Data collection was performed on the Xcalibur diffractometer (Rigaku-Oxford diffraction, at the Dept. Physics and Geology, University of Perugia) up to \( \theta = 30^\circ \) by using graphite monochromatized MoK\( \alpha \) radiation. Anisotropic structural refinements were carried out in the \( \text{C}2\text{I}/c \) space group by using Shelxl (Sheldrick 2008) software. Details of the data collection and refinement are reported in Table S2 (supplementary material). In the refinements, we used partly ionized scattering factors (Si\(^{2.5+}, \text{O}^{1.5-}\), a mixed Mg\(^{2+}/\text{Al}^{3+}\) and mixed Ca\(^{2+}/\text{Na}^+\)) and occupancies of Mg and Fe\(^{2+}\) in M1 and Ca in M2 were refined. In all samples a residue peak in the electron density map occurred early in the refinements cycles at around 0.6 Å from the M2 sites, thus the occupancy of Fe\(^{2+}\) in the M2’ site was refined as described in Nazzareni et al. (2011). Final discrepancy factors R1 range between 1.7 and 3.2% (Table S2).

**Electron microprobe analyses**

Major elements of a second set of clinopyroxene crystals were analysed with a JEOL 8200 Super Probe electron microprobe by WDS at the Department of Earth Sciences Ardito Desio, University of Milan, Italy. A spot size of 1 μm with a beam current of 5 nA and 15 kV was used throughout the measurements. Counting times were 30 s on the peak and 10 s on each background. Natural and synthetic mineral were used as standards for Si, Ca, Al (Grossular); Na (Omphacite); Ti (Ilmenite); Mn (Rhodonite); K (K-Feld); Mg (Olivine 153); Cr (pure Cr); Fe (Fayalite 143); P (Apatite); Ni (Niccolite). Accuracy is within 2% at 2σ. Raw data were corrected applying a Phi-Rho-Z quantitative analysis program. Typical detection limit for each element is 0.01%. The relative errors are better than 6% for P\(_2\)O\(_5\) and K\(_2\)O and better than 3% for all the other major elements.

An average over up to five point analyses measured at the core of crystals are reported in Tables S3. Table 1 lists the final site occupancy assignments based on considerations of both microprobe and refinement results, the agreement of structural and chemical data expressed by the difference in the mean electron numbers (m.e.n.) was less than half electron.

**Laser ablation-inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry**

Trace element compositions of the second set of clinopyroxene crystals were estimated by laser ablation-inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry at the Department of Physics and Geology, University of Perugia. The instrumentation consisted in a Teledyne Photon Machine G2 laser ablation device coupled to a Thermo Fischer Scientific iCAP Q quadrupole mass spectrometer. A circular 65 μm spot size, a repetition rate of 8 Hz, and a laser fluence of ~3.5 J cm\(^{-1}\) have been utilized. Ablation times were ~50 s per spot, preceded by a 30 s background measurement and followed by 30 s of washout. Data reduction was performed by the Iolite 3 software (Paton et al. 2011). The NIST SRM 610 (Pearce et al. 1997) glass and the USGS BCR2G (Wilson 1997) reference materials were used as calibrator and quality control, respectively. Si was used as internal standard. Under the reported analytical conditions, the precision is better than 10% for concentrations above ~0.1 ppm, and better than 5% above ~2 ppm; accuracy is always better than 10% (Petrelli et al. 2016a, b). An average over 5 analyses are reported in Table S3 (supplementary material).

**Polarized infrared spectroscopy**

Polarized infrared spectra were measured using a Bruker Equinox 55 Fourier-Transform spectrometer equipped with a tungsten light source, a Si-coated CaF\(_2\) beam splitter, a wire-grid polarizer (KRS-5) and an InSb detector at the Department of Geological Sciences (Natural History Museum, Stockholm). The spectra were acquired in the range 2000–5000 cm\(^{-1}\), polarized along the directions of the main refractive indices (\(\alpha, \beta \) and \(\gamma\)) on doubly polished crystal plates oriented parallel to (010) and (100), with thicknesses from 200 to 550 μm. Measuring areas were masked by circular apertures with diameters in the range 100–300 μm, carefully avoiding inclusions and cracks.

Spectra were baseline-corrected by a polynomial function and the OH bands fitted using the Peakfit software to determine the absorption area of the OH bands. Water
concentrations were then calculated from the sum of the integrated absorption areas obtained in the α, β, and γ directions \( (A_{\text{tot}} = A_\alpha + A_\beta + A_\gamma) \) according to the Beer–Lambert law.

Potential uncertainties for calculated water contents can arise from baseline definition and measurements of the crystal thickness. However, due to the good quality of the spectra obtained after rehydration, and the relatively large thickness of the crystals, a maximum error of ±10% is assumed for the precision of the absorption areas. In addition, the uncertainty regarding the accuracy of the values due to the calibration of absorption coefficients is estimated to another ±10% (cf. Libowitzky and Rossman 1997), resulting in an overall uncertainty of ±20% for the calculated clinopyroxene water contents.

### Thermal annealing

All samples were thermally annealed under hydrogen atmosphere (at 1 atm) at either 700 °C or 800 °C for different time in a horizontal furnace equipped with a quartz-glass tube at the Department of Geological Sciences (Natural History Museum, Stockholm). Crystals were placed in a golden sample holder and pushed into the centre of the furnace. The run was terminated by pushing the sample holder out of the hot spot zone. A Pt100-Pt90Rh10-thermocouple placed directly above the samples was used to control the temperature values, which are estimated to be correct within ±2 °C. All samples were treated at 700 °C during different steps by increasing time up to 65 h. Pic22cpx, Pic32cpx Pic43cpx Pic59cpx Pic61cpx Pic64cpx were then additionally treated at 800 °C for 42–148 h. 1718cpx was treated only at 800 °C. The time of the heating experiments and the number of steps to reach a steady OH content were based on the change of the OH bands in the FTIR spectra recorded after each heating step (Table 2).

### Mössbauer spectroscopy

Mössbauer analysis was performed both on untreated and hydrogen-treated crystals using a conventional spectrometer system operated in constant-acceleration mode. For the untreated samples, material was handpicked from the remaining crystals, which was soaked in acetone and grinded. The sample powder was then mixed with an acrylic resin powder, and pressed to self-supporting disc under mild heating (150 °C). Spectra were collected at room-temperature using a standard \(^{57}\text{Co}\) source in Rh matrix with a nominal activity of 50 mCi. The spectra were acquired over 1024 channels in the velocity range −4.5 to +4.5 mm/s and calibrated against an α-Fe foil.

| Table 1 Clinopyroxenes cation partitioning calculated on 6 oxygens atoms (in a.f.u.) |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| T site                        | Pic32cpx       | Pic43cpx       | Pic59cpx       | Pic61cpx       | Pic64cpx       | 1718cpx        | Pic22cpx       |
| Si                            | 1.863          | 1.883          | 1.925          | 1.918          | 1.913          | 1.870          | 1.88           |
| Al\(^{IV}\)                   | 0.137          | 0.117          | 0.075          | 0.082          | 0.047          | 0.130          | 0.11           |
| M1 site                       |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| Al\(^{VI}\)                  | 0.063          | 0.044          | 0.034          | 0.037          | 0.055          | 0.05           | 0.056          |
| Ti                            | 0.027          | 0.026          | 0.009          | 0.017          | 0.014          | 0.030          | 0.023          |
| Fe\(^{3+}\)                  | 0.03           | 0.034          | 0.022          | 0.024          | 0.023          | 0.028          | 0.026          |
| Fe\(^{2+}\)                  | 0.039          | 0.048          | 0.052          | 0.054          | 0.065          | 0.070          | 0.0517         |
| Cr                            | 0.015          | 0.018          | 0.027          | 0.018          | 0.013          | 0.021          | 0.031          |
| Mn                            | 0.001          | 0.001          | 0.001          | 0.002          | 0.001          | 0.002          | 0.0009         |
| Mg                            | 0.825          | 0.829          | 0.854          | 0.848          | 0.827          | 0.799          | 0.8181         |
| M2 site                       |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| Ca                            | 0.813          | 0.848          | 0.861          | 0.864          | 0.871          | 0.860          | 0.8524         |
| Na                            | 0.024          | 0.03           | 0.026          | 0.03           | 0.031          | 0.030          | 0.032          |
| Fe\(^{2+}\)                  | 0.109          | 0.059          | 0.043          | 0.048          | 0.042          | 0.048          | 0.0548         |
| Mg                            | 0.053          | 0.062          | 0.07           | 0.057          | 0.056          | 0.061          | 0.0596         |
| Mn                            | 0.002          | 0.002          | 0.001          | 0.001          | 0.001          | 0.001          | 0.0011         |
| m.e.n                         |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| chem                          | 33.5           | 33.3           | 33.0           | 33.1           | 33.1           | 33.6           | 33.4           |
| XRD                           | 33.4           | 32.6           | 33.0           | 32.8           | 32.6           | 32.9           | 33.2           |
| Dm.e.n                        | 0.10           | 0.73           | 0.00           | 0.32           | 0.48           | 0.66           | 0.16           |
| \(T_c\) (°C)                  | 554            | 755            | 903            | 814            | 928            | 949            | 791            |

Partition between ferric and ferrous iron based on Mössbauer analysis. Closure temperature (\(T_c\)), mean electrons number (m.e.n.) from chemical (chem.) and single-crystal X-ray diffraction (XRD) and their difference (Dm.e.n.) are also reported.
For the treated samples, the Mössbauer absorbers were made from parts of the crystals used for the FTIR measurements. Since the amount of this material was too small to produce the discs described above, the powdered sample was mixed with a thermoplastic resin and molded by hand on a piece of tape under heat, to obtain a mm-sized absorber. Spectra were collected using a 57Co point-source in Rh matrix with a nominal activity of 10 mCi and an active area of 0.5 mm diameter, with other experimental conditions as described above.

The Mössbauer spectra were folded and fitted with one Fe3+ and two Fe2+ quadrupole doublets by means of a least squares fitting program (Jernberg and Sundqvist 1983). The obtained hyperfine parameters are typical for diopside-augite clinopyroxene. The fitting parameters, centroid shift δ, quadrupole splitting ΔEQ, full width at half maximum Γ, are reported in Table 3.

Clinopyroxene thermo-barometry

Barometry based on clinopyroxene unit cell and octahedral M1 volumes

Following the same approach reported in Nazzareni et al. (2011), we used the clinopyroxene geobarometer based on crystallographic and crystal-chemical characteristics of the clinopyroxene phase to infer its pressure of crystallisation (Nazzareni et al. 1998; Nimis 1999; Nimis and Ulmer 1998). In clinopyroxene, a linear relationship exists between unit cell and octahedral M1 volumes with pressure of crystallization: at high pressure both volumes have small values that increase by decreasing pressure irrespective to magma bulk composition (see Dal Negro et al. 1989). For the calculations, we used the structural data obtained by the single-crystal X-ray diffraction.

Thermobarometric calculations based on the chemistry of the clinopyroxene-liquid pairs

Thermobarometric estimations based on the chemistry of clinopyroxene-liquid pairs were performed using the calibrations reported in Putirka (2008). In agreement with Hammer et al. (2016), we reported the results of different calibrations, including the equations T1 (Putirka et al. 1996), T33 (Putirka 2008), and T34 (Putirka 2008) for the temperature and the equations P1 (Putirka et al. 1996), 30 (Putirka 2008), 32a (Putirka 2008) an 32b (Putirka 2008) for the pressure. As a liquid composition, we utilized the average value of basalts for the Azores extracted from a AZORES.csv file from GEOROC, and reported as supplementary material (Table S4). We checked for the cpx-liquid pair’s equilibrium by using the ΔDiHd parameter, with threshold at 0.1.

Results and discussion

Clinopyroxene crystal chemistry

The studied clinopyroxenes are optically homogeneous diopside with a limited chemical variability (Wo45–46 En45–48 Fs6–9) (Tables 1-S3). Crystals have low Cr2O3 (0.5–1.08 wt%) and TiO2 (0.5–1.24 wt%). Ferric and ferrous iron ratio has been calculated using the Mössbauer Fe3+/Fe tot values: Fe2O3 varies from 1.23 to 0.79 wt% and FeO from 4.30 to 3.06 wt% (Tables 3, S3).

We observed a coupled substitution of AlIV for Si in T site, AlVI, Ti4+ and Fe3+ for Mg in M1 site and Na for Ca.

### Table 2 Water content in ppm of the clinopyroxenes before and after each treatment in H-atmosphere

| Temperature | Time (h) | 1718cpx Core | 1718cpx Rim | Pic64cpx Core | Pic22cpx Core | Pic32cpx Core | Pic43cpx Core | Pic61cpx Core | Pic59cpx Core |
|-------------|----------|--------------|------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Untreated   | –        | 120 (24)     | 131 (26)   | 91 (18)       | –            | –            | –            | –            | –            |
| 700 °C      | 7        | 189 (38)     | 109        | 66            | 96           | 48           | 57           | 44           |
|            | 24       | 148          | 85         | 112           | 95           | 100          | 91           |              |
|            | 65       | 157 (31)     | 122        | 144           | 124 (25)     | 121          | 93 (18)      |              |
| 800 °C      | (+) 42   | –            | 134        | 151           | 154 (31)     |              |              |              |
|            | (+) 83   |              | 141 (28)   | 167           |              |              |              |              |
|            | (+) 148  |              | 170 (34)   |               |              |              |              |              |
|            | 65       | 180          |            |               |              |              |              |              |
|            | 131      | 182 (36)     |            |               |              |              |              |              |

Bold values are the final values used for further calculations. Values obtained using the Libowitzky and Rossman (1997) calibration are reported. All clinopyroxenes were treated at 700 °C by increasing time up to 65 h. Pic22cpx, Pic32cpx Pic61cpx were then additionally treated at 800 °C for 42–148 h. 1782Cpx was treated only at 800 °C. The (+) sign means additional treatments at different temperature (800 °C).
in M2 site to charge balance the structure. The Ca-Eskola substitution (Ca$_{0.5}$[Al$_{0.5}$Si$_2$O$_6$]), which has been shown to correlate with the H content in high-pressure pyroxene (omphacite, Skogby 2006), was not observed.

All the samples have a larger variation in incompatible elements than in Sc and other compatible elements (Table S3). The Sc concentration ranges from 76 to 115 ppm, Ni from 204 to 264 ppm and Cr from 4327 to 7637 ppm. Nd varies from 3.5 to 11 ppm, La from 0.84 to 2.7 ppm, Ce from 3.31 to 9.23 ppm, Zr from 8.8 to 47 ppm, Y from 7.5 to 16 ppm and Sm from 1.5 to 3.5 ppm. Mg# correlates negatively with incompatible elements (REE, HFSE and Sr) and

| Sample         | δ    | $\Delta E_Q$ | Γ   | % Area | Assignment | Source |
|----------------|------|--------------|-----|--------|------------|--------|
| Pic22cpx       | 1.14 | 2.28         | 0.33 | 32.2   | Fe$^{2+}$  | Standard |
|                | 1.14 | 1.92         | 0.24 | 46.8   | Fe$^{2+}$  |         |
|                | 0.44 | 0.71         | 0.41 | 20.9   | Fe$^{3+}$  |         |
| Pic32cpx       | 1.14 | 2.28         | 0.33 | 32.2   | Fe$^{2+}$  | Standard |
|                | 1.14 | 1.93         | 0.23 | 47.7   | Fe$^{2+}$  |         |
|                | 0.44 | 0.70         | 0.45 | 20.1   | Fe$^{3+}$  |         |
| Pic32cpx, treated | 1.14  | 2.29         | 0.30 | 33.0   | Fe$^{2+}$  | Point   |
|                | 1.14 | 1.93         | 0.24 | 50.9   | Fe$^{2+}$  |         |
|                | 0.48 | 0.68         | 0.55 | 16.1   | Fe$^{3+}$  |         |
| Pic43cpx       | 1.13 | 2.30         | 0.31 | 30.1   | Fe$^{2+}$  | Standard |
|                | 1.14 | 1.92         | 0.24 | 44.1   | Fe$^{2+}$  |         |
|                | 0.44 | 0.73         | 0.44 | 25.8   | Fe$^{3+}$  |         |
| Pic59cpx       | 1.13 | 2.25         | 0.32 | 31.3   | Fe$^{2+}$  | Standard |
|                | 1.14 | 1.92         | 0.22 | 48.1   | Fe$^{2+}$  |         |
|                | 0.46 | 0.69         | 0.40 | 20.6   | Fe$^{3+}$  |         |
| Pic59, treated | 1.13 | 2.30         | 0.32 | 32.6   | Fe$^{2+}$  | Point   |
|                | 1.14 | 1.93         | 0.24 | 45.0   | Fe$^{2+}$  |         |
|                | 0.43 | 0.72         | 0.40 | 22.4   | Fe$^{3+}$  |         |
| Pic61cpx       | 1.12 | 2.26         | 0.34 | 32.5   | Fe$^{2+}$  | Standard |
|                | 1.14 | 1.91         | 0.23 | 46.3   | Fe$^{2+}$  |         |
|                | 0.46 | 0.71         | 0.38 | 21.2   | Fe$^{3+}$  |         |
| Pic61cpx, treated | 1.14 | 2.28         | 0.30 | 31.6   | Fe$^{2+}$  | Point   |
|                | 1.14 | 1.91         | 0.23 | 47.7   | Fe$^{2+}$  |         |
|                | 0.44 | 0.71         | 0.49 | 20.7   | Fe$^{3+}$  |         |
| Pic64          | 1.13 | 2.27         | 0.30 | 30.3   | Fe$^{2+}$  | Standard |
|                | 1.14 | 1.92         | 0.22 | 50.9   | Fe$^{2+}$  |         |
|                | 0.45 | 0.71         | 0.39 | 18.8   | Fe$^{3+}$  |         |
| Pic64cpx, treated | 1.14 | 2.29         | 0.30 | 33.0   | Fe$^{2+}$  | Point   |
|                | 1.15 | 1.92         | 0.23 | 49.2   | Fe$^{2+}$  |         |
|                | 0.44 | 0.69         | 0.44 | 17.8   | Fe$^{3+}$  |         |
| 1718cpx core   | 1.15 | 2.31         | 0.34 | 32.3   | Fe$^{2+}$  | Standard |
|                | 1.14 | 1.92         | 0.23 | 47.0   | Fe$^{2+}$  |         |
|                | 0.44 | 0.70         | 0.46 | 20.6   | Fe$^{3+}$  |         |
| 1718cpx core, treated | 1.14 | 2.27         | 0.30 | 31.8   | Fe$^{2+}$  | Point   |
|                | 1.15 | 1.93         | 0.23 | 47.8   | Fe$^{2+}$  |         |
|                | 0.42 | 0.64         | 0.49 | 20.4   | Fe$^{3+}$  |         |
| 1718cpx rim    | 1.13 | 2.35         | 0.33 | 34.8   | Fe$^{2+}$  | Standard |
|                | 1.14 | 1.88         | 0.26 | 34.6   | Fe$^{2+}$  |         |
|                | 0.43 | 0.73         | 0.42 | 30.6   | Fe$^{3+}$  |         |

The fitting parameters, centroid shift $\delta$, quadrupole splitting $\Delta E_Q$, full width at half maximum $\Gamma$, and absorption area (expressed in percent) together with assignment to ferric or ferrous iron are reported. Standard or point source used for the measurement are also reported. The estimated error for the areas is 1%.

$\delta =$ centroid shift (mm/s), $\Delta E_Q =$ quadrupole splitting (mm/s), $\Gamma =$ full width at half maximum (mm/s)
positively with compatible Cr, Ni elements. U, Pb, Th and Nb show no correlation with Mg# (Table S2). Clinopyroxenes 1718cpx, Pic32cpx and Pic22cpx have higher contents of REE than the other pyroxene samples, although with a similar distribution pattern. Pico Volcano clinopyroxenes have a similar trace elements distribution (Fig. 3), with a slight depletion in LREE relative to MREE for all the clinopyroxenes and a very slight negative anomaly of Eu in the REE pattern. The 1718cpx and Pic22cpx clinopyroxenes are the most enriched whereas Pic59cpx and Pic61cpx are the less enriched in REE given the same pattern in the spider diagram of Fig. 3.

From the application of the lattice strain model specific to mafic alkaline magmas (Mollo et al. 2018) to the chemical compositions of the studied Pico cpxs, it emerges that the predicted partition coefficients for the different REEs do not vary significantly among the investigated cpx-liquid compositions. As a consequence, we can infer that the observed trace element enrichments of 1718cpx, Pic22cpx and Pic64cpx result from chemical heterogeneities in the magmatic system, possibly due to parental magma primary differences, crystallization-related zonations, or the interaction with metasomatic agents at a different degree (Zanon and Frezzotti 2013; Larrea et al. 2014).

**Clinopyroxenes water content**

The IR spectra of diopside and augite normally show a characteristic set of bands in the OH region with a pleochroic scheme with one OH band around 3630–3640 cm⁻¹ polarized in the α and β directions and two bands around 3530 cm⁻¹ and 3450 cm⁻¹ with γ > α = β pleochroism (e.g. Skogby 2006). We observed these OH bands with varying intensity for samples 1718cpx, Pic22cpx, Pic64cpx, whereas these bands were very weak or absent for the other four samples (Fig. 4). We calculated the water contents by the integrated area of the OH bands derived from the IR spectral fitting using the calibration proposed by Libowitzky and Rossman (1997) (Table 2). This calibration takes into account the wavenumber dependence of the absorption coefficients and better applies to several natural pyroxenes as reported by Mosenfelder and Rossman (2013).

Pic22cpx, 1718cpx and Pic64cpx had a H₂O content from 16 to 120 ppm, whereas the other Pico samples had very weak to absent OH bands that prevent a reasonable
determination of the OH bands absorption area and hydrogen content. The variable amount of hydrogen content cannot be explained by a chemical variation among the studied clinopyroxenes: they all are diopside (Wo\textsubscript{45–46} En\textsubscript{45–48} Fs\textsubscript{6–9}) with very similar chemical compositions (Tables 1, S2). However, 1718cpx has the highest water content as can be expected for a pyroclastic occurrence due to the fast quenching limiting hydrogen loss.

Several processes starting from a possible residing in magma chamber(s), the ascent to surface and/or post-eruption may all be potential hydrogen loss steps (e.g. Peslier et al. 2002; Wade et al. 2008). In phenocrysts, the H loss often occurs more extensively at the rim than at the core (Ferriss et al. 2016), thus to minimize potential underestimation of H, we measured the FTIR spectra at the core of our crystals, nevertheless most of them showed to be dry. In the case of the 1718cpx “large” crystal the difference in the H\textsubscript{2}O content measured at the core (120 ppm) and at the rim (131 ppm) is ±11 ppm, a value within the analytical error (Table 2).

Considering post-eruptive processes, we expect that in slowly cooled lavas the H loss process may be extensive. To assess the cooling rate of our lavas we can utilize the same clinopyroxene phenocrysts because the subsolidus process of Mg and Fe\textsuperscript{2+} cations intracrystalline exchange between the M1 and M2 crystallographic sites in this phase is temperature and time dependent (Dal Negro et al. 1982). The closure temperature (\(T_c\)) at which this exchange reaction ceases is related to the pyroxene–bearing host rock cooling rate (Murri et al. 2018). A high (low) \(T_c\) corresponds to a fast (slow) cooling rate of the pyroxene–bearing host rock.

We calculated the \(T_c\) for Pico pyroxenes using the calibration of Murri et al. (2018) obtaining a quite high cooling rate for the cpx-host lavas (\(T_c = 755–928 °C ± 20 °C\)) except for Pic32cpx that has a low \(T_c = 554 °C (± 20 °C)\) and consequently a low cooling rate (Table 1). The highest \(T_c\) of 949 °C was recorded by the 1718cpx pyroxene, as expected for a fast cooled material like a pyroclastic fall.

We expected that if the loss of H was uniquely a post-eruptive process at high cooling rates we had a low H loss. In our case we did not observed a clear correlation between host rocks cooling rates and pyroxene water content (Fig. 5) suggesting that all the studied pyroxenes suffered dehydrogenation mainly before eruption.

**Water content after rehydration**

In order to assess whether we have sampled different portions of magma with different water content or clinopyroxene suffered of H loss pre- or post-eruption, we carried out annealing experiments under H\textsubscript{2} gas flux up to saturation. In the pyroxene structure H is associated to point defects, and the charge deficiency is compensated by coupled substitutions such as tetrahedral Si-Al exchange and/or a change in the oxidation state of a neighbouring element (e.g. Fe). The hydrogen loss can thus be achieved by iron oxidation reaction:

![Fig. 5 H\textsubscript{2}O content vs \(T_c\) (closure temperature).Grey triangle symbols: untreated pyroxene. Black square symbols: treated pyroxene. See text for discussion](image)
The redox-dehydration reaction has been shown to be reversible to large extents (Weis et al. 2016, 2017), and it is thereby possible to rehydrate samples that have lost H by annealing experiments. During the H-loss process by the redox reaction the point defects originally associated with OH, that have a much slower kinetic diffusion rate (Cherniak and Dimanov 2010), are retained in the structure. In order not to change the overall defect chemistry of the samples, such experiments need to be performed at relatively low temperatures (~700–800 °C; Weis et al. 2016, 2017).

We performed several heating steps on Pico clinopyroxenes at 700 °C and 800 °C up to 148 h to reach hydrogen saturation (Table 2 and Fig. 5). Experiments were repeated with prolonged duration until two similar results in OH content were observed for each sample. All the Pico clinopyroxenes had an increase of the OH bands intensity in their IR spectra, with a corresponding increase in water contents arriving at final values of 93–182 ppm H2O (Table 2). In particular, the “dry” clinopyroxenes recovered H contents to become comparable to the values measured for the “water-rich” 1718cpx untreated crystal (Table 2).

Mössbauer spectra were measured before and after the annealing experiments to quantify the Fe2+/Fe3+ ratio (Fig. 6, Table 3). Apart from the highest Fe3+/Fe tot ratio (25.8% in sample Pic43cpx), untreated Pico clinopyroxenes have a similar Fe3+/Fe tot ratio (min 18.8%, max 21.2%, average 20.4%) despite the different intensity of OH bands in the IR spectra.

After the annealing experiments a minor decrease in the Fe3+/Fe tot ratio was observed for all samples except for Pic59cpx (Table 3). This change is often within the estimated error of 1% of the method. However, only minor changes in Fe3+/Fe tot can be expected, as the Fe content is considerably higher than the change in OH content in terms of ions per formula unit for the studied samples.

Pre-eruptive water content

We estimated the water content of magma in equilibrium with clinopyroxene cores using the H values obtained after the rehydration experiments and based on the calibrations of Libowitzky and Rossman (1997) by using the DHcpx/melt partition coefficient of O’Leary et al. (2010). The resulting water content ranges between 0.71 and 1.20 wt% (average 1.0 wt%) (Table 4). No significant variation was observed for samples collected from different stratigraphic positions. The value provided by the 1718cpx megacryst from the 1718 eruption pyroclastic fallout has a value of 1.17 wt%, in accordance with the range obtained from the pyroxenes in lava samples.

Turner et al. (2017) measured a magma water content of 1.1 wt% from two clinopyroxenes from Pico cumulitic lavas. They also measured zoned millimetric crystals in which the rim had a higher water content (235 ppm) than the core (40 ppm), an enrichment that correlates uniquely with the Al and Fe substitutions in the mineral. In fact, after a rehydration annealing experiment at 900 °C and 1.0 GPa Turner et al. (2017) observed that the re-hydrated clinopyroxene rim retained a H content of 187 ppm, comparable with the values of their untreated clinopyroxene rims suggesting that these were the maximum values of H solubility for Pico clinopyroxenes.

The pre-eruptive water content obtained by clinopyroxene compare to that obtained by olivine-hosted melt inclusions from the nearby Pico fissure zone (<0.8 to 2.0 wt% H2O; Métrich et al. 2014), whose large variability is related to up to 40% H diffusion from the inclusions (Danyushevsky et al. 2000).

In Pico the magma ascent path at the fissure zone and the central volcano are different. Below the central volcano increased volumes of magma ponded for long time at the Moho Transition Zone (MTZ) at ~18 km forming

![Fig. 6](image-url) Representative 57Fe Mössbauer spectrum of the investigated clinopyroxene samples (Pic61cpx, untreated) obtained at room-temperature. Fitted absorption doublets assigned to Fe2+ and Fe3+ are indicated in blue and red colours, respectively. Diamonds denote measured spectrum, and black curve represents summed fitted spectra

| Sample   | H2O in melt wt% |
|----------|-----------------|
| 1718cpx  | 1.17            |
| Pic22cpx | 1.00            |
| Pic64cpx | 1.14            |
| Pic43cpx | 0.83            |
| Pic32cpx | 1.08            |
| Pic61cpx | 1.19            |
| Pic59cpx | 0.71            |
voluminous crystal mushes. Fractional crystallization or the accumulation of mafic phases originated the magmas typically erupted by the volcano lateral vents at lower altitudes, while fractional crystallization at a depth of 5.6–6.8 km originated the magma erupted by the volcano summit (Zanon and Frezzotti 2013; Zanon et al. 2020). The magma erupted by the fissure system is instead affected by a short period of magma ponding at the MTZ, with no crystal mush formation and very limited processes of fractional crystallisation (Métrich et al. 2014; Zanon and Frezzotti 2013).

In clinopyroxenes Mg# [100 Mg/(Mg + Fe)] and Ca# [100 Ca/(Ca + Mg)] differentiation indexes are negatively correlated during fractional crystallization processes and H content decreases by Ca-number increase (Bell et al. 2004). Pico clinopyroxenes have a very limited variation of both Mg# (from 74 to 81) and Ca# (from 48 to 50), as well as a relatively similar composition of major elements and water content (93–182 ppm). Moreover, even if the trace elements enrichment of 1718cpx, Pic22cpx and Pic64cpx seems to be correlated during fractional crystallization processes and H content decreases by Ca-number increase (Bell et al. 2004). Pico clinopyroxenes have a very limited variation of both Mg# (from 74 to 81) and Ca# (from 48 to 50), as well as a relatively similar composition of major elements and water content (93–182 ppm). Moreover, even if the trace elements enrichment of 1718cpx, Pic22cpx and Pic64cpx seems to be related to heterogeneities in the magmatic system (parental magma primary differences, crystallization related zonations, or different degree of interaction with metasomatic agents), all the studied Pico cpx resulted in equilibrium with the average basaltic composition we selected as a proxy for the erupted primitive magmas at Azores volcanoes.

**Clinopyroxene thermobarometry**

Figure 7 reports the unit cell vs. M1 volumes. In detail we observed that 1718cpx, Pic22cpx and Pic64cpx pyroxenes have the largest unit cell and M1 volumes and crystallised at shallower conditions than Pic61cpx, Pic43cpx, Pic32cpx and Pic59cpx pyroxenes. If we compare geobarometric data of Pico cpx with similar literature data (Dal Negro et al. 1989; Nazzareni et al. 1998, 2001, 2003, 2020) a crystallization pressure of around 8–9 kbar (28–31 km depth) can be inferred for the shallowest samples and around 4–5 kbar (~15–19 km depth) for the shallowest.

Pressure values obtained on the basis of structural geometries of the analysed clinopyroxenes have been compared with independent geobarometers based on the chemistry of crystal-liquid pairs (Putirka et al. 1996; Putirka 2008), reported in Fig. 8a and Table S5. Pressure estimations reported in Fig. 8a highlight a range of most probable pressure storages (based on interquartile ranges) between 4 and 9 kbar, in agreement with the results showed in Fig. 7 and based on the unit cell vs. M1 volumes distributions. Also, Fig. 8 do not show significant differences between the pressure storage of Pico magmas and those concerning the all Azores Archipelago. Temperature estimates based on Eq. 1 (Putirka et al. 1996), 33 (Putirka 2008) and 34 (Putirka 2008) define a most probable crystallization interval for Pico clinopyroxenes from ~1180 to ~1250 °C.

Petrological models suggest that Pico magmas derived from mantle melting in the garnet stability field (3 GPa, 98 km), then during ascent mafic phases crystallized between 16–8 kbar (53–28 km depth) before ponding at the MTZ around 18 km (~5 kbar) where fractional crystallization or/and crystal accumulation occurred (Métrich et al. 2014; Zanon et al. 2020; Beier et al. 2012). An ultimate ponding step occurs in a small magma storage system located only beneath the central volcano at 5.6–6.8 km depth where fractional crystallization generates the plagioclase bearing magmas erupted during the last 10 ka by the summit crater (Zanon et al. 2020).

Combining this model with the cpx geobarometric calculations reported above we can infer that most of our pyroxene cores have crystallised in the lithospheric mantle at about 8–9 kbar whereas 1718cpx, Pic22cpx and Pic64cpx crystallised at the ponding system in the oceanic crust at around 12–18 km (4–5 kbar) (Figs. 7, 8).

Moreover, the observed crystallisation pressure distribution correlates to the different amount of hydrogen loss: high pressure clinopyroxenes lost all their pre-eruptive water content, clinopyroxenes which crystallized at crustal depth retained instead some pre-eruptive water content. We may hypothesize that a longer ascent to surface and a prolonged ponding at the MTZ enhanced the H loss by iron redox processes in the high-pressure pyroxene with respect to the low-pressure pyroxene.

The different lava cooling rates, as expressed by the Tc calculated for Pico pyroxene (\(T_c = 554–949 \, ^oC \pm 20 \, ^oC\)), further enhanced the H loss by iron redox processes after the eruptions. This second dehydration step possibly added to the pre-eruptive H loss leaving as a consequence low-pressure pyroxene (Pic64cpx, 1718cpx, Pic22cpx) to retain weak OH bands in the FTIR spectra (as measured before annealing experiments).
Water contents of Azores magmas have been estimated by melt inclusions hosted in primitive olivine (Métrich et al. 2014; Turner et al. 2017) and from clinopyroxene (this work and Turner et al. 2017). Some difference arises in the magma H$_2$O content calculated from these two methods that when combined extend the estimated magma water content in Pico.

The work by Turner et al. (2017) aimed at providing a general view at the scale of the archipelago, by comparing a few analyses of H$_2$O dissolved in melt inclusions in olivine and the water content obtained by the analysis in clinopyroxenes. The pre-eruptive magma water content for the Azores estimated by Turner et al. (2017) from clinopyroxene is very low for Corvo (0.4–1.2 wt%), Flores (0.3–0.4 wt%) and Faial.
(0.5–0.7 wt%) and higher in São Miguel (0.7–2.2 wt%) and Pico (1.0–1.3 wt%).

Nevertheless, except for Pico, these are minimum values because no re-hydration experiments were carried out by Turner et al. (2017) to test whether H loss occurred as we observed in Pico.

These data define a general trend for the minimum water content in the Azores magmas; nevertheless, the evolution trend in the single islands is still unknown. Our data agree with the values of Turner et al. (2017), further suggesting that in Pico a limited variation in the magma water content occurred during the evolution of the Pico Volcano eruptions since 40 ka (Fig. 9).

At the scale of the archipelago, the magma water content overlap the values reported for OIB magma from different island systems (Weis et al. 2015 and reference therein): Hawaii 0.7–1.4 wt%, Revilagigedo Islands 0.5–1.2 wt%, Canary Islands 0.5–1.5 wt%. Moreover, we estimated a water content for Pico magma at lithospheric mantle depths similar to that obtained for Canary Islands magmas (0.7–1.5 wt%, Weis et al. 2015) at similar conditions.

The mantle reservoir for OIB is considered to be water rich and consequently the OIB magmas water content is generally higher than typical values of MAR basalts (Hirschmann 2006; Dixon et al. 2002). In particular, MAR basalts in the Azores region have an average water content of 0.46 wt% (min 0.21–max 1.22 wt% H₂O; Dixon et al. 2002) lower than the values measured in the Azores magmas (this study, Métrich et al. 2014; Turner et al. 2017).

**Conclusions**

We estimated a pre-eruptive maximum water content (as recorded by clinopyroxene) of 1.20 wt% for the recent magmas erupted by Pico Volcano, in agreement with the values reported in literature for the Azorean OIB mafic magmas (minimum average value 0.98 wt% Turner et al. 2017) and higher than the associated MORB. The similar major and trace chemistry, water content and Fe³⁺/Fe tot ratio, suggested similar condition of oxygen fugacity, water content and fractional crystallisation of the parental primitive magma from which clinopyroxene cores crystallised over the Pico Volcano evolution from 40 ka to historical times. The pre-eruptive magma water content estimated by clinopyroxene does not vary significantly in the central volcano being in the range 0.71–1.20 (average 1.0) wt%. Moreover Pico Volcano pyroxenes recorded both a crystallisation in the lithospheric mantle (ca. 24–27 km) and at the oceanic crust/mantle boundary (ca. 12–15 km) (Fig. 9), thus the estimated water content may be considered representative of the early phase of evolution of the parental magmas at lithospheric mantle depth.

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