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Sr isotopes indicate millennial-scale formation of metal-rich layers by reactive melt percolation in an open-system layered intrusion

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In order to test whether the crystal mushes that form layered mafic intrusions can behave as open systems, we investigated mineral-scale textural, chemical and Sr isotopic heterogeneity in the c. 60 Ma Rum intrusion, Scotland. Within Unit 10 of the Rum intrusion, intercumulus plagioclase and clinopyroxene crystals in peridotite 1-2 cm above and below millimetric Cr-spinel seams exhibit complex optical and chemical zoning (Hepworth et al. 2017). These Cr-spinel seams are closely associated with sulphide and platinum-group element (PGE) mineralization. High precision Sr isotopic analyses (undertaken by thermal ionisation mass spectrometry) of individual intracrystal zones (sampled by micromilling) in intercumulus plagioclase and clinopyroxene from within the PGE-enriched Cr-spinel seams have revealed significant intra-crystalline heterogeneity. ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr heterogeneity is present between plagioclase crystals, between clinopyroxene and plagioclase, and within plagioclase crystals, throughout the studied section. The preservation of Sr isotope heterogeneities at 10-100 µm length-scales implies cooling of the melts that formed the precious metal-rich layers at rates >1 °C per year, and cooling to diffusive closure within 10s-100s of years. The combined textural observations and intra-crystal plagioclase ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr data also highlight the importance of repeated cycles of dissolution and recrystallization within the crystal mush, and together with recent documentation of 'out-of-sequence' layers in other layered intrusions (Mungall et al. 2016; Wall et al. 2018), raise the prospect that basaltic magmatic systems may undergo repeated self-intrusion during solidification.

Hepworth, L.N., O'Driscoll, B., Gertisser, R., Daly, J.S. and Emeleus, H.C. 2017. *Journal of Petrology* 58, 137-166; Mungall, J. E., Kamo, S. L. & McQuade, S. 2016. *Nature Communications* 7, 13385; Wall, C. J., Scoates, J. S., Weis, D., Friedman, R. M., Amini, M. & Meurer, W. P. 2018. *Journal of Petrology* 59, 153-190.