# Role of metasomatism in the development of the East African Rift at the Northern Tanzanian Divergence: Insights from 3D magnetotelluric modelling.

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#### Abstract

The Northern Tanzanian Divergence in the East Africa Rift is arguably the best place on Earth to study the controls on rifting of thick lithosphere. Here, where the East Africa Rift intersects the Tanzanian Craton and the Mozambique Belt, the relationships between volcanism, faulting, pre-existing structures and lithospheric thickness and composition can be observed. In this work, we carry out the first lithospheric-scale 3D magnetotelluric modelling of the Northern Tanzanian Divergence and combine the results with experimental electrical conductivity and petrology models to calculate mantle composition, which is also inferred in the craton from reanalysis of garnet xenocryst data. Our results show that metasomatic materials exist in the cratonic lithospheric mantle and the relatively undeveloped southern part of the rift zone. However, the lithospheric mantle of the Mozambique Belt and the more developed northern section of the rift is more resistive and does not contain metasomatic phases. Combined with geochemical data from erupted lavas, these results suggest that, in zones that have experienced voluminous Cenozoic magnatism, melting events have destroyed the metasomes and dehydrated the mantle. Since the presence of magma is a primary control of lithospheric strength, rifting may become limited as the lithospheric mantle becomes dehydrated and harder to melt.











0 50 100 km



(2.6 Ma - Present) Active (1.5-0.9 Ma) Hanang & (1.5-0.7 Ma) (0.4-0.2 Ma) Kwaraha Labait (5.9-0.75 Ma) Volcanism Dormant <sup>cengai</sup> g Loolmalasin Olmati Ngorongoro (a) [m] Elevation [m] в., 50 **C**<sub>M-2</sub> Depth [km] См 100 См 150 Melted regions from geochemical modelling for Kwaraha and Labait lavas (Baudouin & Parat, 2020). 200 (d) Labait Region 0 Depths under water solubility limit of NAMs Pello Hill & Eledoi 50 Depth [km] Xenolith Water Samples 100 Sample Comp. Model Comp. 150 Modelled Water Conf Sample Lherzolite Mod 85 - 245 ppm 149 - 326 ppm Xenolith Water Contents vs Mod 200 Bulk Water Distance [km] Content [H2O wt ppm] <sup>tumbeine</sup> *Keninasi* (b) (c) Elevation [m] 400 20 0 моно ▲ Volcanoes 50  $C_5$ Depth [km] MT Stations 100 300 См LAB 250 (mdc 150 10<sup>3</sup> t (*H<sub>2</sub>O* wt p Resistivity [Dm] 200 Content 150 0 100 Bulk Water 50 Depth [km] 50 100 10 150-200 60 Distance [km] Distance [km]





# Role of metasomatism in the development of the East African Rift at the Northern Tanzanian Divergence: Insights from 3D magnetotelluric modelling.

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## <sup>12</sup> Key Points:

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13	•	3D magnetotelluric models of North Tanzanian Divergence are converted to water in
14		mantle models to map metasomatism in the region.
15	•	Melting events in the Mozambique Belt caused metasomes to be destroyed and the
16		lithospheric mantle to be dehydrated.
17	•	The rifting in the region might be limited if there is no supply of metasomatic material
18		towards the rift zone.

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#### 19 Abstract

The Northern Tanzanian Divergence in the East Africa Rift is arguably the best place 20 on Earth to study the controls on rifting of thick lithosphere. Here, where the East Africa 21 Rift intersects the Tanzanian Craton and the Mozambique Belt, the relationships between 22 volcanism, faulting, pre-existing structures and lithospheric thickness and composition can 23 be observed. In this work, we carry out the first lithospheric-scale 3D magnetotelluric mod-24 elling of the Northern Tanzanian Divergence and combine the results with experimental 25 electrical conductivity and petrology models to calculate mantle composition, which is also 26 27 inferred in the craton from reanalysis of garnet xenocryst data. Our results show that metasomatic materials exist in the cratonic lithospheric mantle and the relatively undeveloped 28 southern part of the rift zone. However, the lithospheric mantle of the Mozambique Belt 29 and the more developed northern section of the rift is more resistive and does not contain 30 metasomatic phases. Combined with geochemical data from erupted lavas, these results sug-31 gest that, in zones that have experienced voluminous Cenozoic magmatism, melting events 32 have destroyed the metasomes and dehydrated the mantle. Since the presence of magma is 33 a primary control of lithospheric strength, rifting may become limited as the lithospheric 34 mantle becomes dehydrated and harder to melt. 35

# <sup>36</sup> Plain Language Summary

The motion of tectonic plates relies on a specific set of physical conditions. Continental 37 breakup or rifting occurs when certain parts of the lithosphere are weak, and when stress 38 applied to these regions is sufficient. Weaknesses in the lithosphere rely on its composition 39 and pre-existing structures. We can image and analyse these features using the magnetotel-40 luric method, a geophysical technique that maps electrical conductivity variations within 41 the Earth. Our results show that compositionally weakening agents (metasomes) play an 42 essential role in the development of the rift by making the mantle easier to melt. We also 43 image some portions of the rift that do not contain such agents, suggesting that melts may 44 have dried out these parts of the lithosphere, leaving a dry and resistive residue. This sit-45 uation may indicate that melting in the region might be limited in the long run due to the 46 absence of these materials. 47

# 48 1 Introduction

The initiation and evolution of intracontinental rifts are fundamental to the theory 49 of plate tectonics. Most simply put, they begin to develop when the stresses applied can 50 overcome the strength of the lithosphere. The intricate interplay between the distribution of 51 stress, magmatism, pre-existing lithospheric architecture, mantle composition and rheology 52 can result in a variety of rifting styles (Brune et al., 2023). The East African Rift System 53 (EARS) is the largest active continental rift system in the world and displays various stages 54 of rift development along its strike length (Boone et al., 2019). In this study, we focus on the 55 region where the EARS meets the Tanzanian Craton at the North Tanzanian Divergence 56 (NTD). Here, the rift structure widens and there is an increase in the geochemical variety 57 and volume of volcanism. The geochemical characteristics of lavas and mantle xenoliths in 58 the NTD reflect the evolving nature of the lithosphere through the Cenozoic in response to 59 plate reorganisation and plume impingement (Foley et al., 2012; Rooney, 2020; Mana et al., 60 2015; Baptiste et al., 2015). 61

<sup>62</sup> Magnetotellurics (MT) is a powerful tool to reveal the composition and architecture of <sup>63</sup> the lithosphere-asthenosphere system (Naif et al., 2021; Selway, 2014; Selway & O'Donnell, <sup>64</sup> 2019). It is especially sensitive to interconnected secondary conductive phases (e.g., melts, <sup>65</sup> hydrous minerals) and water ( $OH^-$  bound to nominally anhydrous minerals), which are <sup>66</sup> often products of metasomatism. Since deformation by diffusion creep in olivine is water-<sup>67</sup> dependent (Hirth & Kohlstedf, 2003), these metasomatised and hydrated regions are more

likely to be rheologically weaker. The same regions are also often more prone to melting 68 since they contain components such as  $H_2O$  or  $CO_2$ , which cause a substantial drop in 69 the solidus temperature (Foley & Pintér, 2018), and metasomatic phases that are easier to 70 melt, such as hydrous pyroxenites (Foley et al., 2022). Moreover, regions rich in metasomes 71 are now envisaged as one of the reasons that such thick lithosphere can initiate rifting 72 (Rooney, 2020; Foley & Fischer, 2017), where the metasomes provide a weaker lithosphere 73 either through the existence of melt (Buck, 2006) or the combined effect of the hydrolytic 74 weakening of olivine and/or grain size reduction (Selway, 2015). 75

It has been demonstrated that MT can be useful in understanding the relationship be-76 tween mantle composition and magmatic processes. For instance, (Ozaydın & Selway, 2022) 77 used MT models to show that kimberlites might exploit the "lithospheric fuel" frozen in 78 metasomatised mantle in order to ascend. However, the effects of large-volume magmatism 79 (e.g., basalts) on the composition of the lithosphere need to be better understood (Ozaydın 80 et al., 2022), since they could possibly exhaust these metasomes and dehydrate the mantle 81 as well. Consequences of such dynamics may be crucial for rift development (Muirhead et 82 al., 2020; Foley & Fischer, 2017). 83

Previous research in the NTD has combined MT and seismic tomography studies to reveal the existence of melt within the crust of the rift zone, mainly around the Manyara fault (Plasman et al., 2019; Tiberi et al., 2019; Clutier et al., 2021; Reiss et al., 2022). 2D modelling of long-period MT data has also imaged the large-scale lithospheric structure in the area, with results suggesting that water content is higher in the cratonic lithosphere than the rift and is not therefore the primary control on deformation localization (Selway, 2015).

Here, we image the deep electrical structure in NTD with 3D MT modelling utilising the 91 combined MT datasets of Selway (2015) and Plasman et al. (2019). Electrical conductivity 92 variations in the mantle can be used to make quantified interpretations of composition em-93 ploying experimental electrical conductivity and petrology studies (Ozaydın & Selway, 2020; 94 Selway, 2014). We made these calculations using the software MATE (Ozaydın & Selway, 95 2020) and a geophysically-constrained thermal model (Afonso et al., 2022). In the cratonic 96 domain, we also constructed lithological sections from the garnet xenocryst database (Griffin 97 et al., 1991; O'Reilly & Griffin, 1996), using the methods described in Griffin et al. (2002). 98 Using the MT model, we checked for the presence of water, melt, and other conductive 99 phases. We compared these results with the current knowledge from geochronological stud-100 ies, geochemical modelling, mantle xenoliths/xenocrysts and other geophysical studies to 101 form a better understanding of the geodynamics of the region. 102

# <sup>103</sup> 2 Geological Background

The rocks of north-eastern Tanzania record more than 2.5 billion years of continental 104 evolution, including cratonisation, rifting, collision and multiple episodes of reactivation of 105 lithospheric-scale structures. The Tanzania Craton amalgamated by c. 2.6 Ga (Chesley 106 et al., 1999; Manya et al., 2006; Thomas et al., 2016) and geophysical studies suggest that 107 the lithosphere has seismic wavespeeds typical of cratonic domains to depths of at least 108 150 km (e.g., Afonso et al., 2022; Mulibo & Nyblade, 2013b; Emry et al., 2019; O'Donnell 109 et al., 2013), with low surface heat flows (Nyblade, 1997). The cratonic lithosphere has 110 been sampled by Jurassic to Quaternary kimberlite magmatism and Tertiary to Recent rift-111 related volcanism (e.g., Foley et al., 2012; Rooney, 2020). Petrographic and geochemical 112 analyses of xenoliths show evidence that the cratonic lithosphere has been metasomatised 113 during multiple events since the Archean (e.g., Koornneef et al., 2009; Stachel et al., 1998; 114 Chesley et al., 1999; Baptiste et al., 2015; Aulbach et al., 2011). This agrees with MT models 115 that show the cratonic lithosphere is likely to be hydrated and metasomatised (Selway, 2014, 116 2015).117



**Figure 1.** Maps showing the study area: (a) Main tectonic units, active volcanoes and Cenozoic volcanic units of Eastern African Rift System overlain on LAB depths derived from the study of Afonso et al. (2022). (b) Geological map of the main study area alongside MT stations, kimberlite locations (Giuliani & Pearson, 2019), and Cenozoic volcanic rocks derived from the GeoRoc database (Lehnert et al., 2000). MKF: Mwadui Kimberlite Field, EKF: Eyasi Kimberlite Field.

After cratonisation, the first major tectonic event to affect the north-east Tanzania 118 Craton was the Neoproterozoic East African (or Pan-African) Orogen, which was associated 119 with the amalgamation of East and West Gondwana and formed the Mozambique Belt 120 as part of an extensive band of deformed lithosphere that extends from East Africa into 121 Antarctica (e.g. Stern, 1994; Grantham et al., 2003). Despite the Neoproterozoic timing of deformation, isotopic and geochronological data from across the Mozambique Belt show that 123 it consists largely of reworked Archean lithosphere, including protoliths with ages similar 124 to Tanzanian Craton rocks (e.g., Maboko, 2000; Thomas et al., 2016), implying that the 125 Tanzania Craton may have originally extended further to the east than its present extent. 126 Peak East African Orogen metamorphism occurred at c. 640 Ma (Muhongo et al., 2001) 127 and was followed by a period of relative quiescence. 128

North-eastern Tanzania is currently being deformed as part of the East African Rift 129 (Ebinger, 2012), the most extensive and best exposed active continental rift on Earth, 130 which extends from Ethiopia to Malawi. Seismic tomography models show relatively slow 131 wavespeeds at lower to upper mantle depths beneath central and eastern Africa and a 132 thinned mantle transition zone, which is interpreted to be caused by a hot mantle plume 133 impinging on the base of the African lithosphere (e.g., Mulibo & Nyblade, 2013a; Emry et 134 al., 2019; Hansen et al., 2012; O'Donnell et al., 2013; Ritsema et al., 1999). The geochem-135 istry of Cenozoic magmas support the existence of a plume underlying East Africa, with 136 evidence for elevated mantle temperatures and plume magma sources (Rooney et al., 2012; 137 Rooney, 2020). The initial plume impact is interpreted to have occurred c. 30-40 Myr ago 138 (Ebinger & Sleep, 1998; Hofmann et al., 1997). Geodynamic models suggest that the present 139 rifting is dominantly caused by deviatoric stresses induced by plume-related uplift (Stamps 140 et al., 2014; Koptev et al., 2016) and much of the deformation has reactivated pre-existing 141

structures, including those formed during the East African Orogen, suggesting that they
have continued to be zones of lithospheric weakness (e.g., Daly et al., 1989; Tommasi &
Vauchez, 2001).

The character of the East African Rift changes markedly along its extent, from in-145 cipient oceanic spreading in the northern part of the rift to the first gasps of magmatism 146 in the Rungwe Province, south of the Tanzanian Craton. Where it meets the Tanzanian 147 Craton, the rift bifurcates into Eastern and Western Branches, seemingly following weaker 148 lithosphere that surrounds the strong craton. The NTD is the section of the Eastern Branch 149 in north-eastern Tanzania and is characterised by a relatively broad zone of volcanism and 150 block faulting (Tiberi et al., 2019; Le Gall et al., 2008; Clutier et al., 2021). The Eyasi 151 and Manyara rifts extend into the eastern margin of the Tanzania Craton, and the vol-152 canic centres at Labait and Hanang have sampled cratonic lithosphere that is being actively 153 impacted by the plume (Le Gall et al., 2008), making this an ideal location to study the 154 controls on continental rifting. As is the case for the broader rift, faulting and volcanism 155 tend to follow pre-existing zones of weakness. Volcanism in the NTD initiated at c. 6 Ma 156 at locations in the west of the NTD close to the edge of the craton; with time new volcanic 157 centres have erupted further to the east, while volcanism has continued and spread in the 158 west, including to Oldoinyo Lengai, the only active carbonatitic volcano on Earth (Mana et 159 al., 2015). While the timing of faulting is harder to quantify, most faulting appears to have 160 occurred in the last 4 Myr and movement on individual faults appears to be temporally 161 correlated with volcanism (Le Gall et al., 2008). 162

# 163 3 Methods

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# 3.1 Magnetotelluric Data and Modelling

MT data used in this study are a compilation from stations published previously (Sel-165 way, 2015; Plasman et al., 2019). These data include the 21 long-period stations reported in 166 Selway (2015), which were from a regional study around the North Tanzanian Divergence 167 (green triangles, Figure 1b), and 24 broad-band stations from Plasman et al. (2019), from a 168 study focused more on the rift zone (white triangles, Figure 1b). The long-period data also 169 included tipper data, which was included in the inversion. Some of the stations are excluded 170 from the broad-band dataset due to the limitations that arise from cell sizes constructed 171 for the large-scale model. For this problem, we eliminated the most locally similar-looking 172 stations to avoid loss of information in the long periods. 173

Three-dimensional magnetotelluric inversions were carried out using the ModEM algo-174 rithm (Kelbert et al., 2014). The 3D nature of the area is apparent both from the high phase 175 tensor skew degrees observed at all frequency ranges and highly variable strike directions 176 (Figure 3), which require three-dimensional MT modelling techniques to obtain reliable re-177 sults (Booker, 2014). The horizontal discretization in the core region was chosen to be 5 178 km in both directions. Outside the core region, we inserted seven padding cells with widths 179 that increase by a factor of 1.5. In the vertical domain, we used a total of 53 cells with 180 depths that increase by a factor of 1.15, starting from the third cell with a thickness of 150 181 m. We choose to add three 50 m layer cells at the top of the model to partially mitigate the 182 problems that may arose from galvanic distortion (Kelbert et al., 2014). The total depth in 183 the vertical direction is  $\sim 705$  km. The ocean is dealt with by inserting fixed 0.3  $\Omega m$  valued 184 cells according to global topography/bathymetry data ETOPO1 (Amante & Eakins, 2009). 185

<sup>186</sup> We performed the inversion in two main stages. In the first stage, we inverted only the <sup>187</sup> tippers from the long-period stations at 25 frequencies between 1 to 10000 s. The errors <sup>188</sup> on the tipper were fixed at a single value of 0.05. The initial model was constructed as a <sup>189</sup> homogeneous half-space with 210  $\Omega m$  resistivity, which is the median determinant apparent <sup>190</sup> resistivity value calculated from impedance tensors from all stations between 100 to 10000 <sup>191</sup> s. An isotropic covariance matrix was constructed using the value of 0.5 in all directions.



Figure 2. Apparent resistivity and phase curves of selected off-diagonal stations used in the inversions. More information on data can be found in Figures S7-52. LP: Long Period, BB: Broadband.



Figure 3. Phase tensor ellipses filled with skew angles ( $\beta^{\circ}$ ) for (a) 10, (b) 100, (c) 1000, and (d) 2500 seconds. Absolute skew angles above the value of 3° are considered to be out of the practical limits of reliable 2D MT modelling (Booker, 2014).

The initial regularization parameter  $(\lambda)$  was selected as 10 and set to decrease by a factor of 5 when the RMS difference between subsequent iterations became less than 0.002. The inversion ran for 55 iterations until it converged to a final RMS value of 1.59, starting from 3.48.

In the second stage of inversion, we inverted both the full impedance tensor and tipper 196 data, using the result from the tipper inversion as the initial model. The error floors were 197 chosen to be 5 % of  $\sqrt{Z_{xy}Z_{yx}}$  for all impedance tensor elements. We chose to decrease 198 the constraints on tipper data with an error of 0.15 to give more weight to impedances in 199 this stage of the inversion. Twenty-five frequencies between 1 and 10000 s were inverted. 200 The inversion was conducted with the same regularization parameter and reduction scheme 201 as the first stage of the inversion, and the isotropic covariance value was reduced to 0.3. 202 We also ran the inversions with covariance values and observed no crucial differences that 203 would affect our interpretations (Figure S2-3). Inversion started with an initial RMS value 204 of 16.25 and finalized with a value of 2.52. The local RMS values can be seen in the RMS map of impedance fittings (Figure S6) and individual graphs (Figures S53-115). 206

Sensitivity tests on the resistivity models were performed on the conductors  $C_1$  and  $C_M$  to test their robustness. We masked these conductive regions with blocks in electrical resistivities varying between 1  $\Omega m$  and 10000  $\Omega m$  (Figures S4-5). The results demonstrated that both conductors appear robust and applicable for interpretation in the models.

# 3.2 Water content calculations and compositional solutions to electrical conductivity

The electrical conductivity distribution of the mantle can be used to calculate mantle water content with the aid of experimental electrical conductivity measurements, a waterdistribution model between phases and a temperature model (Özaydın & Selway, 2020). By

"water" here, we refer to the  $OH^-$  within melts, hydrous minerals and nominally anhydrous 216 minerals (NAMs) such as olivine and pyroxenes. There can be multiple compositional causes 217 for anomalously electrically conductive regions in the mantle (Ozaydın et al., 2021), such 218 as the existence of hydrous phases (e.g., phlogopite, amphibole), melts, and other minor 219 accessory minerals (e.g., magnetite, graphites and sulphides, Ten Grotenhuis et al., 2005; 220 Dai et al., 2019). Since this "water" is a general product of mantle processes that modify 221 the composition of the mantle and almost exclusively exist along with other metasomatic 222 phases (e.g., Peslier et al., 2012), we use it as a general proxy for mantle metasomatism 223 in the maps and sections in the figures in this study. Along the A-A' transect, we also 224 specifically calculated phlogopite contents in a dry lherzolitic matrix 10 km below the LAB 225 (Figure 6e). For all compositional calculations, the MATE software was used (Ozaydın & 226 Selway, 2020). 227

Experimental electrical conductivity studies in mantle phases carried out during the last two decades have shown that conductivity in most mantle minerals is controlled by semi-conduction mechanisms with varying degrees of temperature dependence (T), which can be defined with an Arrhenian formalism (Equation 1; Özaydın & Selway, 2020; Dai et al., 2020).

$$\sigma = \sigma_0 exp \left( -\frac{\Delta H}{RT} \right) \tag{1}$$

where  $\sigma_0$  is pre-exponent (S/m),  $\Delta H$  is the activation enthalpy, and R is the gas constant. For the NAMs, the electrical conduction processes can be described as a summation of three conduction mechanisms that operate on different temperature levels: ionic ( $\sigma_{ion}$ ), polaron ( $\sigma_{ion}$ ) and proton ( $\sigma_{pro}$ ) conduction (Equation 2).

$$\sigma = \sigma_{ion} + \sigma_{pol} + \sigma_{pro} \tag{2}$$

For the depths in which we are interested in this study, polaron and proton conduction are the most relevant conduction mechanisms, and relate to the electrical conductivity of dry and hydrated minerals, respectively. While electrical conductivities of silicate minerals have high temperature dependencies (high activation enthalpy), there are some other phases such as graphite and sulphides that have very low temperature dependencies (low activation enthalpy; Özaydın & Selway, 2020).

The model for water distribution among NAMs is constructed using the water parti-243 tioning coefficients shown in Table 1. We sought solutions of water contents between a dry 244 lithosphere and bulk water solubility values calculated using water partitioning coefficients, 245 based upon the sub-solidus olivine water solubility model of Padrón-Navarta & Hermann 246 (2017). Since this model limits water solubility to low levels (several tens of ppm) in the 247 shallow lithospheric mantle, we cannot use water content as a proxy for metasomatism in 248 most of the uppermost lithosphere (< 70 - 90 km). Therefore, one has to be mindful while 249 interpreting our figures in terms of how metasomatism translates to different signatures 250 going from the lower lithosphere (> 70 - 90 km) to above. One can most easily do this by 251 looking at resistivity and water content maps in tandem and checking whether a conductor 252 originates from water-rich/metasomatised areas. 253

We have used the electrical conductivity models of Gardés et al. (2014), Dai & Karato 254 (2009a), Liu et al. (2019), and Dai & Karato (2009b) for olivine, orthopyroxene, clinopy-255 roxene and garnet, respectively. For the conductivity of phlogopite, the model of Li et al. 256 (2017) was utilised with a fluorine content of 0.52 w.t. % (average fluorine content value in 257 mantle rocks, Ozaydın et al., 2022). All electrical conductivity models are corrected for the 258 water measurement calibrations of Withers et al. (2012) for olivine, and Bell et al. (1995) for 259 pyroxenes and garnet if needed. A lherzolitic composition was used to calculate the water 260 contents in the region (Table S1). The use of different mantle peridotitic modal compositions 261

	Water Partitioning Coefficient	Reference
Orthopyroxene/Olivine Clinopyroxene/Olivine Garnet/Olivine	$D_{opx/ol} = 5.6$ $D_{cpx/ol} = D_{opx/ol} \times 1.9$ $D_{cpx/ol} = 0.8$	Demouchy et al. (2017) Demouchy et al. (2017) Novella et al. (2014)

Table 1. Mineral water partitioning coefficients used in this study.

has been shown to have a negligible effect on understanding the variations of metasomatism (Özaydın & Selway, 2022). The Generalised Archie's Law (Glover, 2010) was used for phase mixing to calculate bulk electrical conductivity. Interconnections for the minerals are constructed with cementation components of m = 2 for orthopyroxene, m = 4 for clinopyroxene and garnet and m < 1 for olivine, which gives results close to Hashin-Shtrikman lower-bound (Özaydın & Selway, 2020). The thermal model used in these calculations is taken from multi-observable probabilistic inversions of Afonso et al. (2022).

Water measurements made on xenoliths from Labait, Lashaine, Olmani and Pello Hill 269 were also compared with the MT-derived water models (Baptiste et al., 2015; Hui et al., 270 2015). To compare the bulk water contents, we used only the water measurements made 271 on orthopyroxenes since they represent a more reliable water recorder than olivine (Yang 272 et al., 2019). We converted orthopyroxene water contents to bulk water contents assuming 273 the same partition coefficients used in MT-derived water models and composition. We 274 have also used individual sample-based modal compositions in this conversion, which are 275 indicated with different symbols (Figure 6). The orthopyroxene water contents reported in 276 Baptiste et al. (2015) were measured with calibration of Paterson (1982), which is known 277 to underestimate the water contents (Demouchy & Bolfan-Casanova, 2016). We corrected 278 these values by multiplying the water contents by 3 (Demouchy & Bolfan-Casanova, 2016). 279

#### 3.3 Garnet xenocryst analyses

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The data used for this analysis includes the garnet xenocrysts previously used in stud-281 ies with older methods (Griffin et al., 1991; O'Reilly & Griffin, 1996). Garnet (pyrope) 282 xenocrysts derived from kimberlites can be analysed to understand the compositional struc-283 ture of the underlying lithosphere, with the aid of thermobarometry (Ryan et al., 1996) and 284 geochemical classification schemes (Griffin et al., 2002; Grütter et al., 2004). We analysed 285 276 garnet xenocrysts derived from five kimberlite pipes on the Tanzanian Craton (Green 286 stars, Figure 1). We constructed a 36  $mWm^{-2}$  generalised continental paleogeotherm to the 287  $P_{Cr}^{max}$ - $T_{Ni}$  equilibrium conditions (Figure 4 Hasterok & Chapman, 2011). This geotherm is 288 kinked parallel to the diamond-graphite transition at the temperature (950  $^{\circ}C$ ) correspond-289 ing to the base of the depleted lithosphere (160 km), following the commonly observed 290 distribution of  $P_{Cr}^{max} - T_{Ni}$  parallel to this trend (Griffin et al., 2003). The temperature at 291 the base of the depleted lithosphere is determined by the sharp decrease in the population of 292 garnets with Yttrium values less than 10 ppm (Figure S1). In order to determine the depth 293 of origin of the garnet grains and construct the compositional sections, calculated garnet 294 equilibrium temperatures were projected onto the defined paleogeotherm. 295

The constructed geotherm, alongside garnet major- and trace-element compositions, 296 can be used to make compositional sections of the lithosphere. We use two garnet xenocryst 297 classification schemes to understand the nature of the lithosphere. The first one is the CARP 298 method (Cluster Analysis by Regressive Partitioning; Griffin et al., 2002), which shows the 299 proportion of garnets derived from five different lithologies: (1) Depleted harzburgites, (2) 300 Depleted lherzolites, (3) Depleted lherzolites with phlogopite metasomatism, (4) Fertile 301 lherzolites, and (5) Melt-metasomatised lithologies. The other classification scheme (Figure 302 Xc,d), taken from the work of Grütter et al. (2004), determines whether the host lithology 303



Figure 4. Mantle composition sections derived from kimberlite-derived garnet xenocrysts on the Tanzanian Craton (Green stars, Figure 1), alongside geophysical and xenolith-based geotherms. (a) CARP mantle composition section using the methodology of Griffin et al. (2002). (b) The number of samples analysed in with CARP methodology. (c)  $CaO - Cr_2O_3$  based mantle section based on the classification scheme of Grütter et al. (2004). (d) Geotherms constructed with garnet-xenocrysts alongside geotherms extracted from the geophysical thermal model of Afonso et al. (2022), for the Tanzanian Craton (grey) and Mozambique Belt (red). The pink diamond markers indicate the pyroxene-based thermobarometric calculations derived from xenoliths from Quaternary lavas in Labait (Lee & Rudnick, 1999). The black dashed line indicates the base of the depleted lithosphere.

is harzburgite, lherzolite, wehrlite, megacrystic, Ti-metasomatised, pyroxenite or eclogite based on garnet  $CaO - Cr_2O_3$  contents. Thermobarometry and classifications were made using the python library Thermobar (Wieser et al., 2022), specifically using the Cr-pyrope garnet thermobarometry method of Ryan et al. (1996).

# 4 Electrical structure, metasomatism and volcanism in northern Tanzania

MT resistivity (reciprocal conductivity) models produced in this work are presented 310 alongside water content calculations derived from the MT models and other relevant geo-311 logical information (Figures 5-7). Horizontal depth slices of electrical resistivity at different 312 lithospheric depths and water content calculations in the mantle are shown in Figure 5. The 313 first two electrical resistivity slices, down to 25 km, include information from earthquake 314 epicentres in the region, while the deeper slices include information on the distribution of 315 solidified magmatic products. We also show vertical slices from the electrical resistivity 316 model where MT stations are denser and form a profile (Figures 6,7). 317

## 318 4.1 Cratonic domain

The first slice (A-A'), which is shown in Figure 6, traverses through the Tanzanian 319 Craton, Mwadui kimberlite field (MKF, Figure 1), Cenozoic volcanics in the Rift Basin 320 and the Mozambique Belt. A two-dimensional model of this same slice that uses only 321 the long-period data along this transect was previously analysed in Selway (2015). In the 322 westernmost (cratonic) side of A-A', we observe a prominent shallow mantle (50 - 100 km) 323 conductor  $C_1$ . While the horizontal limits are the same, the depth of this conductor is 324 shifted vertically upwards ( $\sim 50 \, km$ ) compared to the 2D model of Selway (2015). This 325 change in conductor location might be due to the different regularization approaches of 326 different inversion codes, the inclusion of more data points in the 3D inversion, and the more 327 accurate modelling of 3D features. The nature of this conductor can be best explained by the 328 deposition of temperature independent conductive materials such as graphite and sulphides 329 via infiltrating metasomatic fluids. Such prominent lithosphere-spanning conductors within 330 cratons have also been observed worldwide, such as the Curnamona Province in South 331 Australia (Robertson et al., 2016) and the Bushveld Complex in Southern Africa (Ozaydın 332 et al., 2022).  $C_1$  is proximal to several large orogenic gold deposits, including Nyankanga 333 (Sanislav et al., 2015) and Bulyanhulu, which are associated with mafic rocks and sulphides. 334 Orogenic gold deposits elsewhere are underlain by prominent mid-lower crustal conductors 335 (Kirkby et al., 2022) that have been interpreted to be related to sulphide- and carbon-336 rich fluids involved in the gold mineralisation. There is no low-velocity anomaly in the 337 vicinity of  $C_1$  in the large-scale study of O'Donnell et al. (2013), indicating that either the 338 conductor is caused by a feature with no strong seismic response (i.e., it is not caused by 339 hydrous minerals), or that the resolution of the seismic model is too coarse to image any low 340 velocities. We suggest that  $C_1$  is likely caused by interconnected minor conductive phases 341 such as sulphides or graphite, and that with further investigation it may be related to the 342 orogenic gold mineralisation. 343

Along the A-A' transect, we observe a good correlation with our calculated water con-344 tent variations, the LAB depths acquired from the study of Afonso et al. (2022) and the 345 base of the depleted lithosphere from garnet xenocrysts (Figure 4). Water content calcu-346 lations demonstrate that the cratonic lithospheric mantle beneath this region is variably 347 metasomatised (e.g., near  $C_1$ ). We calculate a maximum bulk water content approaching 348 750 ppm beneath  $C_1$ . Since hydrous minerals can also enhance mantle conductivity, we also 349 considered combinations of phlogopite and water in NAMs that could explain the conduc-350 tivity structures along this transect. To do this, we first added phlogopite with different 351 degrees of interconnectivity to a dry lherzolite matrix and compared the resulting conduc-352 tivities with those observed at 10 km above the LAB of Afonso et al. (2022) (Figure 6e). 353 If the phogopite grains are very well connected (Archie's Law m = 1.1) very low volume 354 percentages throughout the transect can match the observed conductivities (< 0.5 %). On 355 the other hand, non-connected phlogopites (m = 5) require unrealistically large volumet-356 ric abundances to explain the conductivities (15 %). We calculated the effect of 15 %357 phlogopite in a lherzolite matrix on seismic velocities with the toolbox of Abers & Hacker 358 (2016): this showed that such high phlogopite contents would result in a  $V_S$  of ~ 4.17 km/s 359 beneath  $C_1$  at 140 km depth, which is much lower than what was observed (~ 4.5 - 4.6360 km/s, O'Donnell et al., 2013). The results, overall, suggest that amounts of phlogopite that 361 fit the electrical conductivity values and the seismic model can only be present if they are 362 moderately interconnected (m = 2.5). 363

#### 4.2 Kimberlites on the Craton

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Kimberlites that are coincident with our MT transect on Tanzanian Craton are situated in the Mwadui kimberlite field (MKF on Figure 1, 42% diamondiferous) and the completely barren Eyasi kimberlite field (previously unnamed, EKF on Figure 1, Giuliani & Pearson, 2019). The mantle composition section constructed from kimberlite-derived garnet xenocrysts displays a semi-depleted and metasomatised lithosphere above the base of the depleted lithosphere at 160 km (Figure 4). Below this depth, melt-metasomatised low-Mg# garnets start to strongly dominate the population. Fe-rich, heavily metasomatised mantle has also reported from studies of diamond mineral inclusions from the Mwadui kimberlites (Stachel et al., 1998). The small diamond window between the diamond-graphite transition and heavily metasomatised area might explain the relatively low proportion of diamondiferous kimberlites in the area compared to southern African counterparts (O'Reilly & Griffin, 1996).

Compared to  $C_1$ , the uppermost mantle (Moho to 100 km depth) is more resistive but 377 still damp (50-500  $H_2O$  wt ppm) in the region further east where the Mwadui and western 378 Eyasi kimberlites erupted (Figure 6a). The distribution of kimberlites along the profile 379 matches well with the previously described relationship of electrical conductivity/water 380 content variations of the mantle and kimberlites worldwide (Ozaydın & Selway, 2022), in 381 which kimberlites tend to be emplaced through metasomatised lithosphere but also avoid 382 the most electrically conductive/heavily metasomatised regions such as the region around 383 the lithosphere-spanning conductor  $C_1$ . 384

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# 4.3 Rift Basin and Cenozoic Volcanics

The types of Cenozoic volcanism in the  $\sim 250$  km wide band from Ngorongoro to 386 Mt. Kilimanjaro are starkly different from the kimberlite magmatism within the Tanzanian 387 Craton and its margins (Mana et al., 2015; Foley et al., 2012; Rooney, 2020). The products 388 of volcanism also vary temporally and spatially within the rift zone, indicating that the 389 underlying mantle source region has continually evolved in structure and composition over 390 time (Rooney, 2020; Foley et al., 2012; Baudouin & Parat, 2020; Baudouin et al., 2016; 391 Mattsson et al., 2013). It has been suggested that melting of lithospheric or sub-lithospheric 392 peridotite might not be enough to explain the chemical variety of alkaline volcanic rocks in 393 the region and a mixture of sources might be needed (Mana et al., 2015; Rooney, 2020; Foley 394 et al., 2012). Non-peridotitic sources include ultramafic rock assemblages such as hydrous 395 pyroxenites and, in cratonic lithosphere regions, MARID (Mica-Amphibole-Rutile-Ilmenite-396 Diopside) or PIC (Phlogopite-Ilmenite-Clinopyroxene) (Grégoire et al., 2002). It is not 397 certain whether such rock assemblages would have an effect on the electrical conductivity 398 of the mantle since they may not be connected over large distances, but they may still 399 be susceptible to melting if a thermal anomaly is present at depths shallower than 150 400 km (Foley et al., 2012, 2022). At the same time, melting and magma migration events 401 may have induced the dehydration, hydration or destruction of conductive metasomes in their source region, which could be picked up by the MT models. The parental magma 403 sourced from these regions can also deposit conductive minerals along their ascent pathway, 404 forming electrically conductive features elongated towards the crust (e.g., Ozavdin et al., 405 2022; Heinson et al., 2018). A system of coated channels formed in this way could help to preserve minerals not stable in peridotites (Foley, 1992). Previous profile-based 3D 407 MT models of the region showed possible magma channels at crustal depths correlating 408 well with the main rift segments (Plasman et al., 2019), providing support for the control 409 of magmatism via inherited structures in the region (Le Gall et al., 2008; Muirhead & 410 Kattenhorn, 2018). 411

Unveiling the nature of magma/fluid infiltration at the trans-lithospheric scale may help 412 us elucidate the processes related to magma generation, how magmas travel to the surface 413 and what kind of compositional effects magmatic events have on the lithosphere. In our 414 models, the rift zone is electrically heterogeneous (Figure 5), as has been observed in previous 415 MT models of the East African Rift (Hübert et al., 2018; Meju & Sakkas, 2007; Dambly 416 et al., 2023). This may reflect magmas and fluids exploiting pre-existing, lithosphere-scale 417 418 weakness zones (Acocella, 2014; Muirhead & Kattenhorn, 2018). More precisely, we image lithospheric-scale conductors proximal to the Eyasi, Manyara and Natron rift fault systems. 419 For instance,  $C_{M-2}$  and  $C_{M-3}$  may represent magma ascent pathways associated with the 420 Manyara rift fault systems. Within the rift zone, all these ascent pathways are sourced from 421

a deeper, widespread, conductive/wet zone in the lithosphere, which we call  $C_M$  (Figures 5 - 6). This deep mantle conductor correlates with low seismic velocities in many different tomography studies (Clutier et al., 2021; Tiberi et al., 2019; Plasman et al., 2019). In larger scale seismic tomography studies, however, the low velocity zone consistently extends towards the northern Natron rift system and connects to Kenya rift (e.g., O'Donnell et al., 2013; Clutier et al., 2021; Mulibo & Nyblade, 2013b).

The conductor  $C_2$  sits under the Northern Crater Highlands where volcanoes Oldoinyo 428 Lengai, Embagai, Loolmasin and Olmati are situated, while  $C_3$  sits under the volcanoes 429 Essimingor, Tarosero and Monduli. These crustal conductors may represent the presence 430 of active magma or the effects of past magmatism in the form of crystalline conductive 431 material. The metasomatised portion of the deeper lithospheric mantle  $(C_M)$  would then 432 represent a plausible place for incipient melts to form in response to an oxidised  $(CO_2 +$ 433  $H_2O$ ) solidus (Pintér et al., 2021) since our calculations fitting electrical conductivities 434 with water-induced melting do not reduce the solidus enough to meet the local geotherm 435 and induce melting (Figure 8). Another possibility could be that magmas form by the 436 melting of hydrous pyroxenites in the region, which matches with the geotherm at  $C_M$  at 437 these depths (Figure 8, Foley et al., 2022). Following this, we can suggest that these melts 438 originated around  $C_M$  in response to a sub-lithospheric heat source and may have used 439 oblique lithospheric weakness zones represented by  $C_{M-2}$  and  $C_{M-3}$  to ascend, forming 440 conductors by mineralising conductive phases along the way. 441

Alternatively, we can assume that the magmas do not necessarily travel along these 442 oblique lithospheric zones of weakness and are instead emplaced vertically upwards from 443 their source regions. This would be likely to happen if the lithosphere beneath the volcanoes 444 is also metasomatised/hydrated to account for metasome-induced incipient melting. While 445 we observe hydrated zones beneath most of the volcanoes in the region, the lithosphere 446 beneath the Northern Crater Highlands, where Oldoinyo Lengai, Embagan and Kerimasi 447 are situated, as well as the lithosphere underlying Mt Meru and Mt Kilimanjaro, appears 448 less hydrous (Figures 5 - 7) One potential pattern, which would require more extensive MT 449 coverage for confirmation, is that dehydrated mantle appears to coincide with the more 450 recent volcanism, while more hydrated mantle coincides with dormant volcanism in the 451 southwest of the model region (Figure 6 - 7, Mana et al., 2015). In this model, recent melt 452 generation would have increased the resistivity of these regions by melting metasomatic 453 phases and partitioning water into the melt (e.g., Novella et al., 2014) and melts would 454 have migrated without precipitating any conductive phases. If this were to be true, we 455 can envisage that the lithospheric pathways may be likely to be more conductive if they 456 use a pre-existing weakness zone such as  $C_{M-2}$  and  $C_{M-3}$ , occupying a plate boundary 457 (Manyara Fault). In either case, it is possible that narrow conductive zones caused by 458 magma/fluid infiltration may exist but are too small to be resolved by the current coarse 459 MT data coverage (Kirkby & Doublier, 2022). This might be especially true for magmatism 460 in Mt Kilimanjaro and Mt Meru since they occur above relatively dry mantle without any 461 visible conductive pathway connecting them to a metasomatised lithospheric source. Since 462 our data are only collected in profiles, it is particularly hard to distinguish if melt migration 463 pathways exist away from the MT sites where they are absent. 464

Mana et al. (2015) performed geochemical melt modelling and radiometric dating on 465 466 the lavas from the region spanning the Crater Highlands in the west to Mt Kilimanjaro in the east and proposed a melt generation model involving four stages of magmatism. In 467 this model, different parts of the lithosphere with veined metasomes are melted within a 468 somewhat depleted lithosphere where they might have intermingled with sub-lithospheric 469 peridotitic melt. We indeed observe that the roughly outlined areas related to the four 470 stages (Figure 6) coincide with the dryer mantle as calculated from the MT model. From 471 the geochemical and isotopic data, (Mana et al., 2015) propose that during Stage 1 and 472 Stage 4, melting occurred at c. 110-140 km depth and involved melting of amphibole-rich 473 veins, while Stage 2 and Stage 3 melting occurred at slightly shallower depths (c. 85-110 474

km), involved more decompression melting and that the contribution from hydrous veins 475 was negligible. This pattern is consistent with an interpretation of the MT model whereby 476 melting of metasomatic phases increases lithospheric resistivity. The lithospheric mantle 477 beneath Stage 1 and Stage 4 volcanoes is resistive and dehydrated at depths greater than 478 110 km, consistent with the melting and destruction of any hydrous veins. In contrast, the 479 lithospheric mantle beneath Stage 3 volcanoes and some Stage 2 volcanoes is still conductive 480 and hydrated in the depth range 85-110 km from which melts were sourced, consistent with 481 the geochemical data that hydrous veins did not melt to produce the erupted lavas. 482

483 Dehydration and destruction of metasomes since the eruption of the xenoliths also might explain the mismatch between the bulk xenolith water contents (Baptiste et al., 2015) and 484 our MT-derived water models (completely dry instead of  $\sim 122 - 186 H_2O$  wt ppm from the 485 Lashaine sample LS11, Figure 6). A similar mismatch between xenolith water contents and 486 MT-derived water contents is also observed in samples from Eledoi and Pello Hill (Figure 7 487 Baptiste et al., 2015). Carbonatite metasomatism in the mantle is indicated by the chemistry 488 of Lashaine and Olmani xenoliths, the famous carbonatite magmatism of Oldoinyo Lengai, 489 measured  $CO_2$  fluxes from Manyara Basin (Muirhead et al., 2020), and the occurrence of 490 wehrlite xenoliths (Aulbach et al., 2020). This suggests that the recent metasomatic events 491 might not introduce hydration since the increased  $CO_2$  fugacity will lower the  $H_2O$  fugacity 492 in the environment, lowering the hydration of NAMs in the region (Baptiste et al., 2015). 493

In the NTD, another set of water content measurements made on mantle xenoliths is 494 available from the Labait volcano (Figure 7 Hui et al., 2015). Similar to the other regions 495 for which xenolith water contents are known, the mismatch between the MT-derived and 496 xenolith water contents is high in Labait. This mismatch is too high to be caused by specific 497 water partition coefficients between NAMs. Even though there are some good matches 498 between xenolith water contents with MT models (Özaydın et al., 2021), the universality 499 of this correlation is not well studied. In several studies it has been suggested that NAMs 500 from xenoliths emplaced at the surface might not accurately record the hydration state of 501 the mantle since water may diffuse into the host magma during xenolith ascent (Denis et 502 al., 2018; Wang et al., 2021; Demouchy & Alard, 2021). Another possible reason might 503 be that other phases control the bulk electrical conductivity rather than water in NAMs. 504 For instance, the observed conductivity might be due to interconnected phlogopite-rich 505 regions reported in the Labait and Kwaraha xenoliths (Baudouin & Parat, 2020) or melts 506 as suggested by seismic tomography studies (Clutier et al., 2021; Tiberi et al., 2019; Plasman 507 et al., 2019). The volcanism here might represent the relatively undeveloped version of the 508 rift in the Northern Crater Highlands and volcanism outside the rift-axis, where metasomes 509 have not yet been destroyed and may induce melting in the region as for the younger ages 510 of the lavas of Labait, Hanang and Kwaraha (Mana et al., 2015). 511

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# 4.4 Implications for the stability of the Tanzanian Craton and Rift Propagation

Tectonically, one of the most striking features about northeast Tanzania is the vastly 514 different responses to stress between the Tanzanian Craton and the adjacent lithosphere 515 in the Mozambique Belt and Rift Basin. The Mozambique Belt underwent deformation 516 of the whole lithosphere during the Pan-African Orogeny and is currently being deformed 517 again during rifting. In contrast, the Tanzanian Craton, or at least the surviving portion 518 of the Tanzanian Craton (Ebinger et al., 1997), has remained relatively tectonically stable 519 during these events, seemingly able to withstand stresses that elsewhere are enough to 520 produce continental-scale deformation. The apparent strength of the Tanzanian Craton is 521 highlighted by the fact that the East Africa Rift, after extending approximately linearly from 522 the Main Ethiopian Rift to the northern margin of the Tanzanian Craton, then bifurcates 523 around the Tanzanian Craton and splits into the Eastern Branch, which we image here, and 524 the Western Branch (Fig. 1). This contrasting behaviour indicates that there are significant 525 rheological differences between the Tanzanian Craton and the adjacent lithosphere. 526



Figure 5. Horizontal electrical resistivity slices alongside water content calculations. The first map includes information on earthquake epicentres taken from USGS EarthExplorer. Slices deeper than 50 km include the location of kimberlites (Giuliani & Pearson, 2019) and Cenozoic volcanic rocks found in the GeoRoc geochemical data repository (Lehnert et al., 2000). More information on the geological map can be seen in Figure 1.



Figure 6. MT slice along the A - A' profile and other estimated and catalogued properties. (a) Histogram showing the number of kimberlites within the 50 km proximity of the profile. Since there are no kimberlites within the Eastern portion, the profile is cut after Fault Eyasi. (b) Elevation along the profile. (c) MT slice along the profile, also showing LAB and MOHO acquired from Afonso et al. (2022). (d) Water content estimation along the profile, where the shaded regions with white indicate the places below the water solubility limit. Melted lithosphere portions at different stages (Stage 1 - 4) envisioned by the study of Mana et al. (2015) are indicated on the slice. Bulk water solubility limits calculated with Padrón-Navarta & Hermann (2017) for end-member Craton and Mozambique Belt geotherms are also shown on the right-hand side of the figure. (e) Estimated volumetric abundances of phlogopite (% 0.52 F) to fit the MT model 10 km below the LAB with different interconnection (m) values.



**Figure 7.** MT and estimated bulk water content slices along (a) C - C', (b) B - B', and (c) D - D' profiles. Melted regions envisioned by the study of Baudouin & Parat (2020) for Kwaraha and Labait Volcanoes are indicated with red water content slice of (a). (d) Modelled water content profiles around the Labait Volcano compared to xenolith water contents Hui et al. (2015). We used the orthopyroxene water measurements to convert them to bulk water contents with composition used in water models (blue circles) and individual compositions for each sample indicated in the study.



Figure 8. Geotherm near conductor  $C_M$  at the rift-axis alongside different peridotite and pyroxenite solidus curves. These solidus curves include Dry peridotite solidus (Hirschmann et al., 2009),  $H_2O$ -depressed peridotite solidus fitting the conductivity at  $C_M$  (Hirschmann et al., 2009) with scenarios varying with different melt contents and interconnection scenarios (see legend a-d); 40 wt %  $CO_2$  - depressed peridotite solidus (orange curve, Dasgupta et al., 2013); hydrous pyroxenite solidus (yellow curve, Foley et al., 2022),  $CO_2 + H_2O$  saturated peridotite (purple curve, Foley et al., 2009).

The dominant conclusion from numerous studies investigating the rheological response 527 to rifting in this region is not that it is unusual that the Tanzanian Craton is stable, but 528 rather that it is instead surprising that the adjacent lithosphere of the Eastern and Western 529 Branches is rifting (e.g., Behn et al., 2006; Buck, 2006; O'Donnell et al., 2016; Koptev et al., 530 2016). The stresses in the region are tensional and primarily derived from gradients in the 531 gravitational potential associated with the uplift of the East African Plateau (Stamps et al., 532 2014; Craig et al., 2011; Rajaonarison et al., 2021). These stresses provide only a fraction of 533 the stress theoretically needed to rift thick (>100 km thickness) and melt-free lithosphere. 534 Adding to this challenge, as pointed out by Selway et al. (2014) and Selway (2015) and 535 confirmed in the results shown here, is that much of the lithospheric mantle beneath the 536 Eastern Branch is dehydrated. Since water content in olivine is one of the major controls on 537 mantle rheology, (e.g., Hirth & Kohlstedf, 2003), higher water contents in the cratonic mantle 538 should, all else being equal, make it weaker than the Eastern Branch lithospheric mantle. 539 Selway (2015) suggested that small grain sizes in the Eastern Branch lithosphere, which 540 may still remain as a scar from Pan-African deformation, could contribute to weakening the 541 Eastern Branch lithosphere and could outweigh the impact of water content (e.g., Ramirez 542 et al., 2022). Mantle xenoliths from the volcanoes along the rift zone (Pello Hill and Elodoi) 543 do indeed dominantly have porphyroclastic textures with smaller olivine grain sizes (0.4 544 to 2 mm Baptiste et al., 2015). In the less developed parts of the rift zone towards the 545 south (Labait Volcano), porphyroclastic textures only exist in the samples with the highest 546 equilibrium temperatures (1450  $C^{\circ}$ ), whereas larger grain sizes (5-15 mm) were observed 547 in lithospheric samples (Vauchez et al., 2005). Xenolith samples from Lashaine, east of the 548 rift valley, show similar textures to lithospheric samples from Labait (Baptiste et al., 2015). 549 Even though they occur in close proximity in space and time to Lashaine, Olmani xenoliths 550 consist of porphyroclastic to coarse textures with small grain sizes, suggesting that the area 551 east of the rift valley experienced heterogeneous distribution of stress and, therefore, that 552 localised deformation might have occurred (Baptiste et al., 2015). 553

Although fine grain sizes in the rift zone will reduce mantle viscosity, most calculations 554 suggest that the East African lithosphere should still be too strong to rift in the presence 555 of the available stresses (e.g., O'Donnell et al., 2016). Instead, the presence of melt is the 556 most effective mechanism to reduce the strength of the Tanzanian lithosphere enough that 557 it deforms (e.g., Buck, 2006; O'Donnell et al., 2016; Reiss et al., 2022). Correlations between 558 the timing of volcanism and faulting in the NTD (e.g., Le Gall et al., 2008) lend support to 559 the idea that the East African Rift lithosphere is weakened by active magnatism. The MT 560 results presented here can improve our understanding of the distribution of melt within the 561 lithospheric mantle of the NTD and of the likely development of large-scale deformation. 562 Within the cratonic mantle lithosphere, although resistivities are low, the lack of high-563 volume Cenozoic surface volcanism and the high seismic velocities suggest that there is no 564 melt present and that the low resistivities are attributable to solid-state causes. Within the 565 Eastern Branch, despite the generally higher resistivities, the recent and active volcanism 566 (Mana et al., 2015), low seismic velocities (Clutier et al., 2021; Tiberi et al., 2019), and 567 high seismic attenuation (Reiss et al., 2022) suggest that melt is present in the lithosphere. 568 The seismic and MT observations can be reconciled if melt is present in a sufficiently small 569 volume that it resides in triple junctions but does not coat grain boundaries (e.g., Selway & 570 O'Donnell, 2019) and the mantle conductor  $C_M$  (Fig. 6) may indicate regions with slightly 571 higher and more interconnected melt concentrations. 572

Geochemical investigations of magmatism in the East Africa Rift suggest that thermal 573 input has occurred in pulses (e.g., Rooney, 2020). During later thermal pulses, portions of 574 the lithospheric mantle that were metasomatised in earlier pulses are progressively melted 575 until, eventually, the lithospheric mantle is depleted and magmas are sourced from the sub-576 lithospheric mantle (e.g., Rooney, 2020; Mana et al., 2015). The relatively dehydrated na-577 ture of the lithospheric mantle in the Mozambique Belt suggests that this process is already 578 well-developed. Magma currently within the lithospheric mantle may contain significant 579 sub-lithospheric material (Muirhead et al., 2020) and may be scavenging any remaining 580



Figure 9. 3D representation of the MT model in the eastern portion of the area (see shaded area in the inset map) structured with (a) 3D MT model slices, and (b) the interpretive sketch dependent on the results of this study.

metasomatised material from the lithosphere (Mana et al., 2015). This dehydration of the 581 lithosphere suggests that, unless there are large future thermal pulses to inject significant 582 volumes of sub-lithospheric melt into the Eastern Branch lithospheric mantle, future vol-583 canism in this part of the Eastern Branch may be limited. Given that magma is a primary 584 control on lithospheric strength, this may mean that the extent of rifting in the Eastern 585 Branch will also be limited. The outlook for rifting and deformation would differ if the 586 plume were to migrate towards parts of the lithospheric mantle that still contain metasomatic phases, including the adjacent cratonic lithosphere, inducing redox melting (Muirhead 588 et al., 2020; Foley & Fischer, 2017). The effect of grain sizes, hydrolytic weakening of olivine, 589 structural inheritance and existence of melt should be tested with geodynamic modelling 590 using the results of this study to further constrain the mechanisms accommodating rifting 591 in this region. 592

# 593 5 Conclusions

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Newly developed 3D MT models of the Northern Tanzanian Divergence are subjected to quantified interpretations. The most important conclusions of this study are:

- The cratonic region displays signs of a metasomatised lithosphere throughout, especially around the prominent conductor  $C_1$ . The large conductor  $C_1$  lies above the water solubility limit of NAMs, suggesting other minor conductive phases, particularly graphite and sulphides, might be responsible for its formation.
- Kimberlites on the craton appear on the metasomatised/hydrated portions of the lithosphere and avoid the prominent conductor  $C_1$ , which aligns with the previously observed relationship between electrical conductivity and kimberlite distribution around the world (Özaydın & Selway, 2022).
- The garnet xenocryst section demonstrates a layered lithosphere where the mantle below ~ 160 km is abundantly melt-metasomatised, which matches mantle xenolith observations from the region (e.g., Lee & Rudnick, 1999). This boundary also coincides with geophysical interpretations of the current LAB and displays a transition from a hydrated/metasomatised to a dry lithosphere.
- The rift zone is electrically heterogeneous, where primary conductors follow the fault zones. In the deeper rift zone, the conductor  $C_M$  appears, which correlates well with the suggested melt-bearing regions from seismic tomography studies (Clutier et al., 2021; Reiss et al., 2022). As well as melt, the conductive nature of the region may indicate the presence of metasomes that are likely to reduce the solidus and induce melting in the presence of a thermal anomaly.
- The mantle beneath the northern rift zone (proximal to Oldoinyo Lengai) and the region spanning Mt Essimingor to Mt Kilimanjaro appears to be dehydrated. This might indicate that melting in these areas caused metasomes to be destroyed, and consequently the mantle to be dehydrated. The fact that mantle xenolith water contents also do not match the MT-derived water contents in these regions might indicate that the area has evolved significantly in composition since eruption of the xenoliths.
- The dehydrated nature of the Mozambique Belt suggests that rifting might be accommodated through melting of metasomes across the rift zone. In the absence of an enhanced thermal anomaly, the rifting in the Eastern Branch might be limited in future geological times.

# <sup>626</sup> Open Research

We used the *ModEM* inversion code for 3D MT modelling, which can be accessed by contacting the developers http://www.modem-geophysics.com/. The quantified interpretations of the MT model were made by using the software *MATE* (Özaydın & Selway, 2020), which can be found at https://github.com/sinanozaydin/MATE. The python
library *Thermobar* is used to make thermobarometric calculations and garnet xenocryst
analyses (Wieser et al., 2022), which can be found at https://github.com/PennyWieser/
Thermobar. Phase tensor ellipses are generated using the python library *mtpy* (https://
github.com/MTgeophysics/mtpy). Original MT model and data files, water model files can
be found at https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.8232221.

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Figure 1.



Figure 2.



Figure 3.





Figure 4.



Figure 5.



100 km 

Figure 6.



Figure 7.



Figure 8.



Figure 9.



# Supporting Information for "Role of metasomatism in the development of the East African Rift at the Northern Tanzanian Divergence: Insights from 3D magnetotelluric modelling."

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## Introduction

This is the supplementary file to the article "Role of metasomatism in the development of the East African Rift at the Northern Tanzanian Divergence: Insights from 3D magnetotelluric modelling.". This file provides the reader with additional information and data that are important in understanding the concepts laid out in the article but were

not necessary to included in the main article. Here we provide information on:

Sensitivity tests on conductor  $C_1$ : Sensitivity tests carried out on conductor  $C_1$ , are made by inserting a block of different resistivities varying from 100 to 10000  $\Omega m$ . We looked at the results considering the responses beneath the stations MZ and MS (Figure S??). The results suggest that  $C_1$  is a robust conductor that reflects reality.

Sensitivity tests on conductor  $C_M$ : Sensitivity tests carried out on conductor  $C_M$ , were made by inserting a block of different resistivities varying from 1 to 10000  $\Omega m$ . Since this conductor encompasses several stations and it is hard to understand the complex responses from different stations at longer periods, we calculated the total RMS differences from the inversion model for each case in the vicinity of the inserted block. RMS values are only calculated using the forward responses after 100s. We plotted the figure RMS figure alongside the geometry of the block inserted (Figure S5). Results demonstrate that the best fitting RMS values for the  $C_M$  are indeed around 60-100  $\Omega m$ , similar to what had been modelled.

 Table S1.
 Lherzolite composition used in this study.

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Depth	Ol	Opx	Cpx	Gt
38-98	62.7	30.3	7	0
98-200	60.6	28.4	6	5

**Table S2.** Kimberlite names where garnet xenocrysts are derived. Mwadui-64k1 and Sultan are clustered together due to their close proximity.

Cluster Name	Longitude	Latitude
Mwadui-64k1-Sultan	33.302	-3.683
80k6	33.269	-4.291
99k2	33.486	-4.804
Makibulei	34.419	-5.201
101k2	34.467	-4.648





Figure S1. Garnet xenocryst thermobarometry results. (a) The paleogeotherm of  $36 \ mW/m^2$  is determined via the locus of garnet P-T estimates. This paleogeotherm then kinked towards the diamond-graphite transition at the temperature corresponding to the base of the depleted lithosphere, which is determined by the (b) sharp decrease of garnets with yttrium contents lower than 10 ppm.



**Figure S2.** The vertical slices of the Slice A-A' from MT models using different covariance values: (a) 0.1, (b) 0.3, (c) 0.5.

August 11, 2023, 7:50am



**Figure S3.** Horizontal slices of 10, 50 and 100 kilometers taken from the MT models with different covariance values: (a) 0.1, (b) 0.3, (c) 0.5.



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Figure S4. Sensitivity tests that are carried out for  $C_1$ . (a) Vertical section figure indicating the location of the inserted anomaly with different resistivities. (b) Forward responses of the inserted block of different resistivities at stations MS and MZ.



Figure S5. Sensitivity tests that are carried out for  $C_M$ . (a) Vertical section figure indicating the location of the inserted anomaly with different resistivities. (b) Plan view of the inserted anomaly over horizontal slices. Pink triangles indicate the stations used for the RMS calculation. (c) RMS differences observed from the inversion model with the given resistivity of the inserted anomaly, indicating that the 60-100  $\Omega m$  is likely the most probable solution to the anomaly here.



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Figure S6. RMS map of the final model for all stations.

Station AR



Figure S7. MT responses for the station AR.



Figure S8. MT responses for the station BA.

### Station ENLP

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Figure S9. MT responses for the station ENLP.



Figure S10. MT responses for the station GE.

Station IS



Figure S11. MT responses for the station IS.



Figure S12. MT responses for the station KI.

#### Station KRLP

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Figure S13. MT responses for the station KRLP.



Figure S14. MT responses for the station MB.

#### Station MI



Figure S15. MT responses for the station MI.



Figure S16. MT responses for the station MK.

## Station ML

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Figure S17. MT responses for the station ML.



Figure S18. MT responses for the station MMLP.

Station MO



Figure S19. MT responses for the station MO.



Figure S20. MT responses for the station MS.





Figure S21. MT responses for the station MTl01.



Figure S22. MT responses for the station MTl03.


Figure S23. MT responses for the station MTl05.



Figure S24. MT responses for the station MTl07.

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Figure S25. MT responses for the station MTm01.



Figure S26. MT responses for the station MTm02.



Figure S27. MT responses for the station MTm03.



Figure S28. MT responses for the station MTm04.

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Figure S29. MT responses for the station MTm05.



Figure S30. MT responses for the station MTm06.



Figure S31. MT responses for the station MTm07.



Figure S32. MT responses for the station MTm08.

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Figure S33. MT responses for the station MTm09.



Figure S34. MT responses for the station MTm10.



Figure S35. MT responses for the station MTp01.



Figure S36. MT responses for the station MTp02.

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Figure S37. MT responses for the station MTp03.



Figure S38. MT responses for the station MTp04.



Figure S39. MT responses for the station MTp05.



Figure S40. MT responses for the station MTp06.



Figure S41. MT responses for the station MTp07.



Figure S42. MT responses for the station MTp09.



Figure S43. MT responses for the station MTp10.



Figure S44. MT responses for the station MTp11.

# Station MY

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Figure S45. MT responses for the station MY.



Figure S46. MT responses for the station MZ.

## Station NA



Figure S47. MT responses for the station NA.



Figure S48. MT responses for the station ND.

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Figure S49. MT responses for the station SG.



Figure S50. MT responses for the station SH.

Station SI



Figure S51. MT responses for the station SI.



Figure S52. MT responses for the station UR.



Figure S53. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station AR



Figure S54. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station BA



Figure S55. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station ENLP



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Figure S56. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station GE



Figure S57. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station IS



Figure S58. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station KI



Figure S59. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station KRLP



Figure S60. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station MB



Figure S61. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station MI



Figure S62. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station MK



Figure S63. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station ML



Figure S64. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station MMLP



Figure S65. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station MO



Figure S66. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station MS



Figure S67. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station MTl01



Figure S68. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station MTl03



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10 10 0 10<sup>-1</sup> 10<sup>-</sup> Frequency [Hz]

100

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Figure S69. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station MTl05

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102 10 10 10-4 10-5

10-3

10<sup>-1</sup> 10<sup>-</sup> Frequency [Hz]

10-4

10-

10-



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Figure S70. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station MTl07.



Figure S71. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station MTm01



Figure S72. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station MTm02



Figure S73. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station MTm03




Figure S74. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station MTm04



Figure S75. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station MTm05



Figure S76. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station MTm06



Figure S77. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station MTm07



Figure S78. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station MTm08



Figure S79. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station MTm09



Figure S80. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station MTm10



Figure S81. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station MTp01.



Figure S82. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station MTp02.



Figure S83. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station MTp03.



Figure S84. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station MTp04.



Figure S85. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station MTp05.



Figure S86. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station MTp06.



Figure S87. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station MTp07.



Figure S88. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station MTp09.



Figure S89. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station MTp10.



Figure S90. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station MTp11.



Figure S91. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station MY.

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Figure S92. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station MZ.



Figure S93. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station NA.



Figure S94. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station ND.



Figure S95. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station SG.

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Figure S96. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station SH.



Figure S97. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station SI.



Figure S98. Apparent resistivity and phase fitting plot for the final model: Station UR.



Figure S99. Tipper fitting plot for the final model: Station AR.

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Figure S100. Tipper fitting plot for the final model: Station ENLP.



Figure S101. Tipper fitting plot for the final model: Station IS.



Figure S102. Tipper fitting plot for the final model: Station KI.



Figure S103. Tipper fitting plot for the final model: Station KRLP.



Figure S104. Tipper fitting plot for the final model: Station MI.



Figure S105. Tipper fitting plot for the final model: Station MK.



Figure S106. Tipper fitting plot for the final model: Station ML.



Figure S107. Tipper fitting plot for the final model: Station MMLP.



Figure S108. Tipper fitting plot for the final model: Station MO.



Figure S109. Tipper fitting plot for the final model: Station MS.


Figure S110. Tipper fitting plot for the final model: Station MY.



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Figure S112. Tipper fitting plot for the final model: Station ND.



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Figure S113. Tipper fitting plot for the final model: Station SG.



 $\label{eq:Figure S114.} {\bf Figure \ S114.} {\ \ Tipper fitting plot for the final model: \ Station \ SH.}$ 



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Figure S115. Tipper fitting plot for the final model: Station SI.