

RocMLMs: Predicting Rock Properties through Machine Learning Models

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Abstract

Mineral phase transformations significantly alter the bulk density and elastic properties of mantle rocks and consequently have profound effects on mantle dynamics and seismic wave propagation. These changes in the physical properties of mantle rocks result from evolution in the equilibrium mineralogical composition, which can be predicted by the minimization of the Gibbs Free Energy with respect to pressure (P), temperature (T), and chemical composition (X). Thus, numerical models that simulate mantle convection and/or probe the elastic structure of the Earth's mantle must account for varying mineralogical compositions to be self-consistent. Yet coupling Gibbs Free Energy minimization (GFEM) approaches with numerical geodynamic models is currently intractable for high-resolution simulations because execution speeds of widely-used GFEM programs (100–102 ms) are impractical in many cases. As an alternative, this study introduces machine learning models (RocMLMs) that have been trained to predict thermodynamically self-consistent rock properties at arbitrary PTX conditions between 1–28 GPa, 773–2273 K, and mantle compositions ranging from fertile (lherzolitic) to refractory (harzburgitic) end-members defined with a large dataset of published mantle compositions. RocMLMs are 101–103 times faster than GFEM calculations or GFEM-based look-up table approaches with equivalent accuracy. Depth profiles of RocMLMs predictions are nearly indistinguishable from reference models PREM and STW105, demonstrating good agreement between thermodynamic-based predictions of density, V_p , and V_s and geophysical observations. RocMLMs are therefore capable, for the first time, of emulating dynamic evolution of density, V_p , and V_s in high-resolution numerical geodynamic models.

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Key Points:

- RocMLMs predict rock properties up to 10^1 – 10^3 faster than commonly used methods
- RocMLMs trained with Neural Networks are more efficient compared to other regression algorithms
- RocMLM training data show good agreement with PREM and STW105 for an average mantle geotherm

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25 chine learning models (RocMLMs) that have been trained to predict thermodynamically
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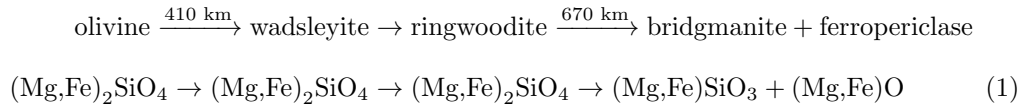
Plain language summary

36 The mineralogical makeup of rocks within Earth’s mantle largely determines how the
37 mantle flows over geologic time, and how it responds to seismic waves triggered by earth-
38 quakes, because mineral assemblages control important rock properties such as density
39 and stiffness (elasticity). The mineralogy of mantle rocks is not constant, however. It
40 changes depending on three factors: pressure, temperature, and the chemical composi-
41 tion of the rock. Thus, it is important for computer simulations of mantle convection to
42 account for the evolution of rock mineralogy. Computer programs that can predict rock
43 properties based on thermodynamic calculations are available, but are generally too slow
44 to be used in high-resolution simulations. As an alternative approach, this study intro-
45

46 duces machine learning models (RocMLMs) that have “learned” how to predict rock prop-
 47 erties (density and elasticity) by “training” on a large dataset of thermodynamic calcu-
 48 lations. We demonstrate that RocMLMs can then predict rock properties up to 10^1 – 10^3
 49 times faster than state-of-the-art methods. We tested RocMLM predictions against ref-
 50 erence mantle models based on observations of seismic waves and found good agreement.
 51 RocMLMs are therefore capable of fast and highly-accurate predictions of changes in rock
 52 properties and can be implemented in high-resolution computer simulations of mantle
 53 convection.

54 1 Introduction

55 The dominant mineral phases in Earth’s mantle are olivine, pyroxene, garnet, wad-
 56 sleyite, ringwoodite, bridgmanite, ferropericlase, calcium silicate perovskite, and MgSiO_3
 57 post-perovskite (e.g., Stixrude and Lithgow-Bertelloni, 2012). Mantle mineralogy evolves
 58 with depth by a series of relatively discontinuous phase transformations that define sharp
 59 transitions in the physical properties of mantle rocks (Ringwood, 1991). The most im-
 60 portant phase transformations occur at depths between 410 km and 670 km beneath Earth’s
 61 surface, defining the transition from the upper to the lower mantle (Equation (1)). This
 62 mantle transition zone (MTZ) is characterized by sharp variations in density and elas-
 63 tic properties that strongly impact mantle convection (Christensen, 1995; Fukao et al.,
 64 2001; Jenkins et al., 2016; Karato et al., 2001; Kuritani et al., 2019; Nakagawa and Buf-
 65 fett, 2005; Ringwood, 1991; Schubert et al., 1975; Tackley et al., 1994; Wang et al., 2015),
 66 and the propagation of teleseismic waves (Dziewoński and Anderson, 1981; Ita and Stixrude,
 67 1992; Ringwood, 1991). The MTZ is therefore an essential feature for modeling mantle
 68 structure and dynamics. With respect to a simple FeO-MgO-SiO_2 chemical system, the
 69 most important MTZ reactions can be written as:



70 These phase changes (e.g., Equation (1)) are often parameterized in numerical geo-
 71 dynamic simulations with simple pressure-temperature (PT)-dependent reaction bound-
 72 aries based on high-pressure experiments (e.g., Agrusta et al., 2017; Ballmer et al., 2015;

73 Christensen, 1995; Čížková and Bina, 2013; Kerswell et al., 2021; Liu et al., 1991; Nak-
74 agawa and Buffett, 2005; Tackley et al., 1994; Torii and Yoshioka, 2007). Alternatively,
75 some numerical geodynamic experiments (e.g., Li et al., 2019; Yang and Faccenda, 2020)
76 use Gibbs Free Energy minimization (GFEM) programs (e.g., Connolly, 2009; Riel et al.,
77 2022) to precompute Lookup Tables of rock properties, which are subsequently referenced
78 to adjust material properties as the numerical experiments evolve. These implementa-
79 tions usually consider fixed ideal mantle compositions, such as pyrolite, and/or approx-
80 imate phase transitions with simple functions. These approaches neglect the PT depen-
81 dency of mineral transitions on natural variations of mantle composition (X) such as vari-
82 ations of Fe-Mg and Al-Ca that may be either primordial or result from melt extraction
83 or reactions during melt transport. Despite these simplifications, these models have cor-
84 roborated that the MTZ is a critical feature impacting subduction dynamics, mantle plume
85 dynamics, and water cycling in the deep Earth.

86 More self-consistent numerical models of mantle convection would track changes
87 in physical properties of mantle rocks by computing GFEM as a function of the evolu-
88 tion of PTX conditions. However, this is currently intractable for high-resolution geo-
89 dynamic models because GFEM programs remain too slow (≥ 4 -228 ms per PTX point)
90 to be applied recursively during a geodynamic simulation (see Supporting Information).
91 Parallelization of GFEM programs can increase efficiency by scaling the number of par-
92 allel processes (Riel et al., 2022), but continuously computing phase relations during geo-
93 dynamic simulations would require GFEM efficiency on the order of $\leq 10^0$ - 10^{-1} ms to
94 be feasible (see Supporting Information), which may be difficult to achieve solely by par-
95 allelisation and/or direct improvements to the current GFEM paradigm.

96 Here, we propose an alternative approach to predicting rock properties based on
97 the use of machine learning models (referred to as RocMLMs) that have been “trained”
98 on a multidimensional dataset of precomputed rock properties using classical (k-Neighbors,
99 Decision Trees) and deep (Neural Network) regression algorithms. These later regres-
100 sion algorithms compress large amounts of thermodynamic information into highly ef-
101 ficient nonlinear functions, allowing RocMLMs to infer (predict) rock properties across
102 arbitrary PTX conditions faster than any current GFEM algorithm. We demonstrate
103 that RocMLMs are thus highly efficient emulators of GFEM programs and are well-suited
104 for predicting bulk rock properties in numerical geodynamic models.

105 This article begins by detailing our method for building, training, and evaluating
 106 RocMLMs. We then demonstrate that RocMLMs can predict densities and seismic ve-
 107 locities in a dry upper mantle and transition zone up to 10^1 – 10^3 times faster than com-
 108 monly used GFEM programs with equivalent accuracies. Finally, we compare RocMLM
 109 predictions with reference models derived from seismological datasets (Dziewoński and
 110 Anderson, 1981; Kustowski et al., 2008) and discuss the accuracy and performance of
 111 RocMLMs with respect to their future implementation in numerical geodynamic mod-
 112 els.

113 2 Methods

114 The following sections describe the methodologies employed in constructing, train-
 115 ing, and assessing RocMLMs, with a focus on four primary objectives. First, define the
 116 size and scope of RocMLM training data to ensure widespread applicability of RocMLMs
 117 to the upper mantle and transition zone (Section 2.1). Second, define a generalized ap-
 118 proach for generating RocMLM training data to ensure applicability to any GFEM pro-
 119 gram (e.g., MAgEMin, Perple_X, and others, Section 2.2). Third, train RocMLMs on
 120 a set of input features that can be routinely computed during geodynamic simulations
 121 to ensure widespread applicability of RocMLMs to various geodynamic codes (Section
 122 2.3). Fourth, rank the overall performance of RocMLMs in terms of accuracy and effi-
 123 ciency (Section 2.4).

124 2.1 RocMLM Training Dataset Design

125 2.1.1 Pressure-Temperature Conditions

126 High-pressure experiments constrain the reaction olivine \rightarrow wadsleyite between 14.0
 127 ± 1.0 GPa and 1600 ± 400 K with Clapeyron slopes between $2.4 \times 10^{-3} \pm 1.4 \times 10^{-3}$ GPa/K
 128 (Akaogi et al., 1989; Katsura and Ito, 1989; Li et al., 2019; Morishima et al., 1994). Like-
 129 wise, the reaction ringwoodite \rightarrow bridgmanite + ferropericlase is constrained between
 130 24.0 ± 1.5 GPa and 1600 ± 400 K with negative Clapeyron slopes between -2.0×10^{-3}
 131 $\pm 1.6 \times 10^{-3}$ GPa/K (Akaogi et al., 2007; Bina and Helffrich, 1994; Hirose, 2002; Ishii et al.,
 132 2018; Ito, 1982; Ito et al., 1990; Ito and Katsura, 1989; Ito and Takahashi, 1989; Kat-
 133 sura et al., 2003; Litasov et al., 2005). We therefore compute RocMLM training data within
 134 a rectangular PT region bounded between 1–28 GPa and 773–2273 K to encompass ex-

135 pected conditions for the entire upper mantle and MTZ—from approximately 30 km to
 136 865 km depth (Figure 1).

137 Figure 1 shows that our training dataset PT range includes PT conditions that are
 138 not expected to exist in neither the Earth’s mantle, nor geodynamic simulations (e.g.,
 139 very cold conditions with thermal gradients ≤ 5 K/km, Cerpa et al., 2022; Maruyama
 140 et al., 1996; Syracuse et al., 2010). Such a large rectangular PT range might be consid-
 141 ered impractical with respect to training efficiency (unnecessary amounts of training data)
 142 and accuracy (outside the bounds of calibrated thermodynamic data) compared to an
 143 irregular PT range bounded between arbitrary geotherms. However, initial sensitivity
 144 tests showed comparable RocMLM performance irrespective of the range of PT condi-
 145 tions used to generate RocMLM training data. Thus, we adopted a regular rectangu-
 146 lar training dataset design because it is computationally convenient and does not dete-
 147 riorate RocMLM accuracy.

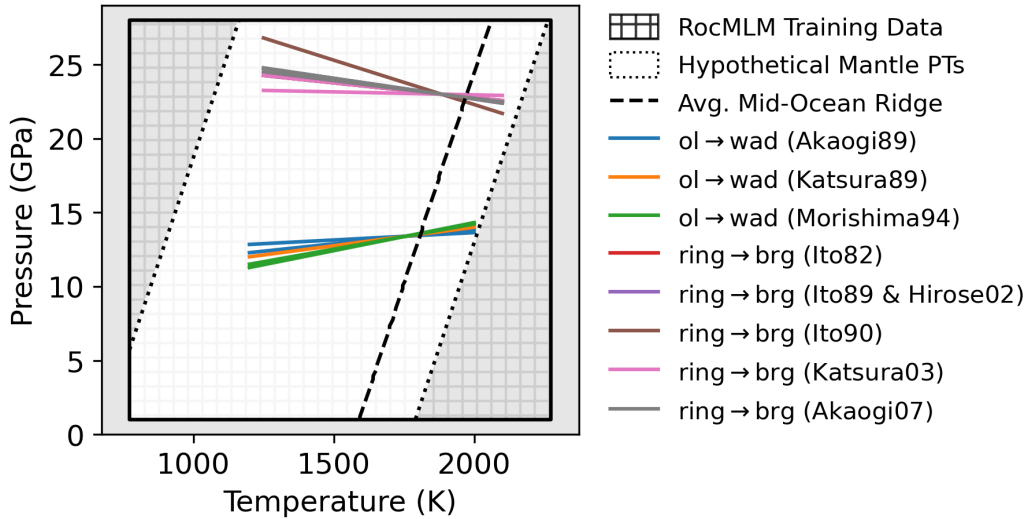


Figure 1: PT diagram showing the range of conditions considered for generating RocMLM training data (hatched region) compared to a range of possible upper mantle conditions (inner white region). The dotted black lines are geotherms with arbitrary mantle potential temperatures of 673 K and 1773 K and a constant adiabatic gradient of 0.5 K/km, representing hypothetical lower and upper bounds for mantle PT conditions (including hypothetical cold lithospheric slabs). The dashed black line is an average geotherm for a mid-ocean ridge (1573 K adiabat). Phase boundaries for the 410 km and 670 km discontinuities (colored lines) are from a compilation by Li et al. (2019).

148 **2.1.2 Bulk Mantle Compositions**

149 We derived an array of synthetic bulk mantle compositions with the aim of encom-
150 passing the widest range of chemical variability in Earth’s mantle. For this, we applied
151 a statistical analysis to publicly-available geochemical data from thousands of natural
152 peridotite samples. The procedure was as follows.

153 Bulk chemical analyses of peridotite samples were downloaded using the Earthchem.org
154 Search Portal with a single search criterion: “*set sample type > igneous rocks > names*
155 *from Earthchem categories > igneous-plutonic-ultramafic*”. The search queried 19791 sam-
156 ples with rock type classifications that we did not modify from their original labels. Sam-
157 ples lacking analyses for SiO₂, MgO, Al₂O₃, or CaO were excluded from the dataset. All
158 samples classified as “unknown”, chromitite, limburgite, wehrlite, undifferentiated peri-
159 dotite, dunite, or pyroxenite were also excluded from the dataset to focus on samples that
160 are most likely mantellic, that is, residues of partial melting modified (or not) by refer-
161 tilization, rather than products of fractional crystallization (Bowen, 1915). The data were
162 grouped according to the remaining rock types (Iherzolite and harzburgite) and outliers
163 were removed from each group using a 1.5 interquartile range threshold applied to each
164 chemical component. Cr and Ni measured as minor elements (ppm) were converted to
165 Cr₂O₃ and NiO (wt.%) and all Fe oxides were converted to Fe₂O₃T. Total oxides were
166 then checked against H₂O, CO₂, and LOI to determine if chemical analyses were per-
167 formed before or after ignition. Analyses with total oxides summing to $\leq 97\%$ or $\geq 103\%$
168 were considered erroneous, or otherwise low-quality, and excluded from the dataset. All
169 analyses were then normalized to a volatile-free basis before converting Fe₂O₃T to FeOT.
170 After normalization, the final compositional space investigated includes the components
171 Na₂O-CaO-FeO-MgO-Al₂O₃-SiO₂-TiO₂ (NCFMAST system). The final dataset contains
172 3111 chemical analyses of classified peridotite samples (Table 1).

173 We applied Principal Component Analysis (PCA) to the standardized peridotite
174 dataset to reduce its dimensionality from the original 7-oxides space. PCA requires com-
175 plete data, so samples were first arranged by decreasing MgO and increasing SiO₂ con-
176 tent and a k-Neighbors algorithm was applied to impute missing oxide analyses, which
177 were mainly the Na₂O component (see Table 1 for missing analyses counts). Following
178 common practice, a “z-score normalization” was applied to all oxide components before
179 running PCA. The first two principal components (PC1 and PC2) explain 78% of the

180 variance of the dataset, which we considered to be sufficient for modeling a broad range
 181 of peridotitic mantle compositions. PC1 separates samples by their TiO₂, Al₂O₃, MgO,
 182 CaO, and Na₂O contents, while PC2 separates samples by SiO₂ and FeO (Figure 2).

183 In this PC space, we drew a mixing line connecting the lherzolite and harzburgite
 184 group centroids (i.e., the median values for PC1 and PC2 for each group). The lherzolite-
 185 harzburgite mixing line was then extended until reaching the approximate location of
 186 the most fertile (Al₂O₃-CaO-TiO₂-rich) and most refractory (MgO-rich, SiO₂-poor) peri-
 187 dotite samples, hereafter referred to as Primitive Synthetic Upper Mantle (PSUM) and
 188 Depleted Synthetic Upper Mantle (DSUM, Figure 2b), respectively. The mixing line ap-
 189 proximates the widest array of mantle compositions derived from the natural rock record
 190 and may be interpreted as representing the first order composition variation in response
 191 to melt extraction (depletion) or addition (refertilization) in the mantle. The mixing line
 192 therefore provides a basis for sampling synthetic bulk mantle compositions directly from
 193 PC space, which were then used to generate RocMLM training data.

Table 1: Summary of the filtered and standardized peridotite dataset from Earth-
 chem.org. Columns with an asterisk are in wt.%. Std = standard deviation, IQR = in-
 terquartile range.

Oxide	Measured	Missing	Min*	Max*	Mean*	Median*	Std*	IQR*
SiO ₂	3111	0	36.7	52	44.1	44.1	1.16	1.24
TiO ₂	2835	276	0	0.268	0.051	0.03	0.05	0.068
Al ₂ O ₃	3111	0	0.023	4.95	1.65	1.31	1.14	1.82
FeO	3111	0	5.98	15.3	8.05	8.01	0.675	0.569
MgO	3111	0	31.8	50.8	43	43.6	2.96	4.38
CaO	3111	0	0.01	5.2	1.46	1.17	1.04	1.66
Na ₂ O	2008	1103	0	0.525	0.127	0.098	0.11	0.171

194 *2.1.3 Reducing Bulk Mantle Compositions to a Single Fertility Index* 195 *Value*

196 Training RocMLMs with either 7 oxide components or two PCs as inputs is possible.
 197 However, our targeted application (e.g., implementing RocMLMs in geodynamic
 198 codes) discourages the use of the two options because in either case it would require track-

199 ing the oxides in numerical geodynamic codes, which is currently impractical. Thus, we
 200 aimed to reduce the dimensionality of the training dataset from nine dimensions (7 ox-
 201 ide components + PT) to three dimensions (1 compositional dimension + PT) by es-
 202 timating the amount of melt extraction (depletion) that might have produced the syn-
 203 thetic bulk mantle compositions in the training dataset. Assuming that all synthetic sam-
 204 ples were derived from a PSUM source, we adopt a simple modal fractional melting model
 205 (after Shaw, 1970):

$$\frac{C_{\text{TiO}_2}^s}{C_{\text{TiO}_2}^0} = R = (1 - F)^{\frac{1}{D_0} - 1} \quad (2)$$

206 where R is the ratio of the TiO_2 concentration of the sample to the initial PSUM source
 207 (Table 2), F is the melt fraction, and $D_0 = 0.05$ is the bulk distribution coefficient for
 208 TiO_2 in peridotite (after Brown and Lesher, 2016). Note that unlike the dataset of nat-
 209 ural peridotite samples, synthetic samples were drawn directly from PC space and their
 210 TiO_2 concentrations (and other oxide components) change monotonically with PC1 from
 211 the initial PSUM source (Figure 2b,c). Synthetic samples therefore represent a smooth
 212 and idealized variability from fertile (PSUM) to depleted (DSUM) mantle compositions
 213 that captures the average variation in natural peridotite samples.

214 A Fertility Index (ξ) is calculated by rearranging Equation (2) for F and subtract-
 215 ing F from 1:

$$\xi = 1 - F = R^{\frac{1}{\frac{1}{D_0} - 1}} \quad (3)$$

216 Training RocMLMs on ξ instead of seven oxide components is beneficial for two
 217 reasons: 1) it greatly increases RocMLM efficiency and 2) unlike oxide components or
 218 PCs, melt fraction is routinely implemented in numerical geodynamic simulations (e.g.,
 219 Cerpa et al., 2019; Gerya and Yuen, 2003; Kelley et al., 2010; Li et al., 2019; Sizova et al.,
 220 2010; Yang and Faccenda, 2020). Likewise, tracking the depletion/fertility of the man-
 221 tle in geodynamics models with Lagrangian tracers and/or compositional fields is more
 222 conceivable (Agrusta et al., 2015; Cagnioncle et al., 2007; Gerya and Meilick, 2011; Tack-
 223 ley and Xie, 2003). Although we chose ξ for RocMLM training, ξ and F represent op-
 224 posite reference frames for the same time-integrated melting process, and are therefore

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interchangeable. This approach offers a generalized solution for coupling RocMLMs to geodynamic codes.

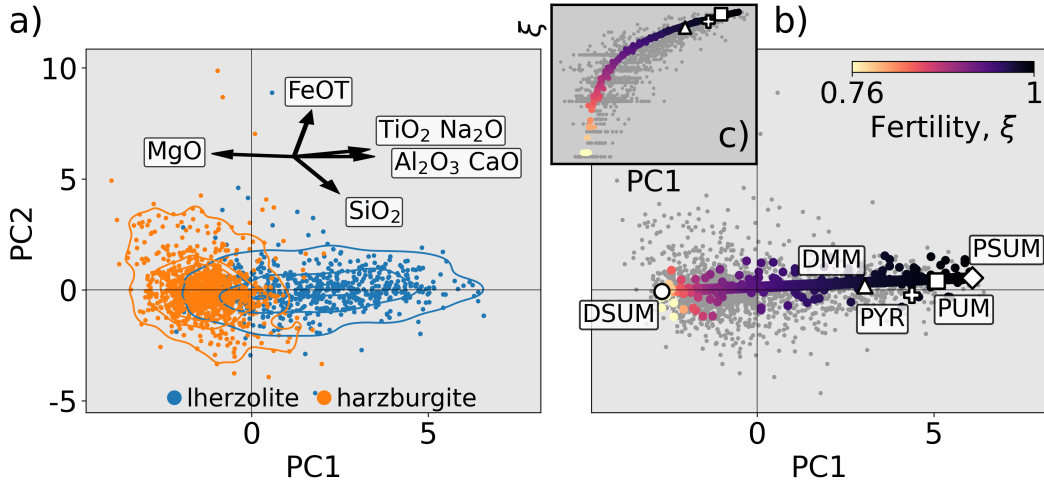


Figure 2: PC1-PC2 diagrams showing the standardized geochemical dataset of natural peridotite samples (a) and a mixing array between hypothetical end-member mantle compositions Primitive Synthetic Upper Mantle (PSUM) and Depleted Synthetic Upper Mantle (DSUM, b). Black arrows in (a) indicate PCA loading vectors. Colored data points in (b) are the synthetic mantle compositions used to train RocMLMs, which were sampled independently from the natural peridotite samples (gray data points). The inset (c) shows how the Fertility Index (ξ) changes nonlinearly with PC1. DMM, PUM, and PYR are from Table 2.

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The melting model in Equation (2) is oversimplified since it assumes: 1) melt is instantaneously removed from the source region, 2) D_0 is constant, and 3) minerals melt in the same proportions that they exist in the source rock. It nevertheless provides an efficient parameterization of the variation in mantle composition as a function of melt extraction and addition. Equation (2) predicts that a Depleted MORB Mantle (DMM) composition is produced through a time-integrated 2.2% melt extraction from a Primitive Upper Mantle (PUM) source (Table 2). This result is consistent with the degree of depletion inferred from trace element patterns and mass balance constraints (2-3% melt removal from PUM, Workman and Hart, 2005). We therefore consider ξ an adequate first-order proxy for describing the variations in bulk mantle composition used in our RocMLM training dataset. However, given that TiO_2 concentrations are strongly affected by reactive melt transport (e.g., Le Roux et al., 2007), ξ may only be estimated for the average compositional trend as expressed in PC1-PC2 space, rather than on individual peridotite samples.

Table 2: Hypothetical upper mantle end-member compositions. Columns with an asterisk are in wt.%. Depleted MORB Mantle (DMM) is from Workman and Hart (2005), Primitive Upper Mantle (PUM) is from Sun and McDonough (1989), and Pyrolite (PYR) is from Green (1979). Primitive Synthetic Upper Mantle (PSUM) and Depleted Synthetic Upper Mantle (DSUM), are end-member compositions derived in this study.

Sample	SiO ₂ *	TiO ₂ *	Al ₂ O ₃ *	FeOT*	MgO*	CaO*	Na ₂ O*	ξ
DSUM	44.1	0.0012	0.261	7.96	47.4	0.22	0.042	0.764
DMM	44.7	0.13	3.98	8.18	38.7	3.17	0.13	0.974
PYR	45	0.16	4.4	7.6	38.8	3.4	0.34	0.984
PUM	44.9	0.2	4.44	8.03	37.7	3.54	0.36	0.996
PSUM	46.2	0.216	4.88	8.88	35.2	4.34	0.33	1

2.2 Generating RocMLM Training Data

We used the GFEM program *Perple_X* (version 7.0.9, Connolly, 2009) to generate RocMLM training data across PT conditions as described in Section 2.1.1 and synthetic bulk mantle compositions as described in Section 2.1.2. The *Perple_X* calculations were constrained to the Na₂O-CaO-FeO-MgO-Al₂O₃-SiO₂ (NCFMAS) chemical system to comply with the thermodynamic data and solution models of Stixrude and Lithgow-Bertelloni (2022). The Stixrude and Lithgow-Bertelloni (2022) dataset (*stx21ver.dat*) was used because our initial tests with alternative thermodynamic datasets (*hp02ver.dat* and *hp633ver.dat*, Connolly and Kerrick, 2002; Holland et al., 2018; Holland and Powell, 2001) failed to reproduce the seismic wave velocities of geophysical reference models (PREM and STW105, Dziewoński and Anderson, 1981; Kustowski et al., 2008) with sufficient accuracy because these datasets lack a parametrization of the shear moduli of the minerals phases. Note that our *Perple_X* calculations ignored TiO₂, which was initially included to define ξ and derive synthetic bulk mantle compositions. Despite being measured as a major oxide component, the average TiO₂ content of our standardized samples is 0.05 ± 0.1 wt.% (2σ, Table 1). Such small concentrations of TiO₂ may safely be ignored in phase relation calculations with negligible effects on the RocMLM training dataset.

The *Perple_X* models used to generate the present RocMLM training database included equations of state for solution phases: olivine, plagioclase, spinel, clinopyroxene,

260 wadsleyite, ringwoodite, perovskite, ferropericlase, high-pressure C2/c pyroxene, orthopy-
 261 roxene, akimotoite, post-perovskite, Ca-ferrite, garnet, and Na-Al phase. Melt was not
 262 considered due to the absence of melt models in the Stixrude and Lithgow-Bertelloni (2022)
 263 dataset, but may be considered in future versions of training datasets if the elastic pa-
 264 rameters in hp02ver.dat are corrected. Once configured, Perple_X generated RocMLM
 265 training data (density, as well as P- and S-wave seismic velocities) by minimizing the to-
 266 tal Gibbs Free Energy of a multicomponent multiphase thermodynamic system at fixed
 267 PTX conditions (Gibbs, 1878; Spear, 1993). The reader is referred to Connolly (2009)
 268 and Riel et al. (2022) for a complete description of the GFEM problem.

269 In principle, applying identical sets of solution phase models, thermodynamic data,
 270 and bulk compositions will define identical Gibbs Free Energy hyperplanes. This implies
 271 that any GFEM algorithm should converge on identical phase relations. Thus, although
 272 this study uses Perple_X exclusively, an identical set of training data can be generated
 273 by applying the procedures outlined above to other GFEM programs. Note that RocMLM
 274 capabilities and performance are primarily dependent on the size and the range of PTX
 275 conditions of the training dataset, not on the choice of GFEM algorithm.

276 **2.3 Training RocMLMs**

277 RocMLM training data were preprocessed using the following procedure. First, two-
 278 dimensional grids of rock properties (“pseudosections”) calculated by Perple_X were stacked
 279 into a three-dimensional array, $Z = (z_{1,1,1}, \dots, z_{n,w,w})$, where $w = 128$ is the resolution
 280 of the PT grid and $n = 128$ is the number of random synthetic bulk mantle composi-
 281 tions represented by a ξ value. Z was flattened into arrays of training features (PT and
 282 ξ), $X = (x_{1,1,1}, \dots, x_{v,v,v})$, and training targets (density, V_p , and V_s), $y = (y_{1,1,1}, \dots, y_{v,v,v})$,
 283 where $v = n \cdot w^2 = 128^3$ is the total number of training examples. Following common
 284 practice, X and y were scaled using “z-score normalization” before training.

285 The preprocessed training data were then fit with three different nonlinear regres-
 286 sion algorithms (Decision Tree: DT, k-Neighbors: KN, and Neural Networks: NN) from
 287 the scikit-learn python library (Pedregosa et al., 2011). Each regression algorithm was
 288 tuned with a grid search approach, where a performance score (RMSE) was evaluated
 289 over all hyperparameter combinations relevant to the particular regression algorithm (Ta-

290 ble 3). The set of hyperparameters that produced the best score (lowest RMSE) was used
 291 to train the RocMLM.

Table 3: RocMLM configuration. Hyperparameter values in parentheses are tested sequentially by a cross-validation grid search algorithm and the best set of hyperparameters is chosen by the lowest RMSE. Hyperparameters that are not shown use default values (see regression model documentation on scikit-learn.org).

Model	Hyperparameter	Value	Tuned
DT	splitter	(best, random)	tuned
	max features	(1, 2, 3)	tuned
	min samples leaf	(1, 2, 3)	tuned
	min samples split	(2, 4, 6)	tuned
KN	n neighbors	(2, 4, 8)	tuned
	weights	(uniform, distance)	tuned
NN1	hidden layer sizes	(8, 16, 32)	tuned
NN2	hidden layer sizes	([16, 16], [32, 16], [32, 32])	tuned
NN3	hidden layer sizes	([32, 16, 16], [32, 32, 16], [32, 32, 32])	tuned
NN(all)	learning rate	(0.001, 0.005, 0.001)	tuned
	batch size	20%	fixed
	max epochs	100	fixed

292 **2.4 Evaluating RocMLM Accuracy and Performance**

293 Connolly and Khan (2016) estimated the uncertainties of V_p and V_s to be on the
 294 order of 3–5% within the same thermodynamic framework used to generate RocMLM
 295 training data (Stixrude and Lithgow-Bertelloni, 2005). We can therefore consider the base-
 296 uncertainty of RocMLM predictions to be 3–5%. RocMLM predictions must also account
 297 for additional uncertainties that are introduced during RocMLM training (i.e., the vari-
 298 ance of residuals between RocMLM predictions and targets), which are about 2% for NN1
 299 and < 1% for DT, KN, and NN3. Assuming the lowest-uncertainty models (DT, KN,
 300 NN3) would be preferred for geodynamic applications, we ignore the small variances in-
 301 troduced during training (< 1%) and evaluate the total RocMLM prediction uncertain-

ties to be on the same order as the base GFEM uncertainty (3–5%) after Connolly and Khan (2016).

RocMLM accuracy (in terms of RMSE) was evaluated by: 1) testing RocMLMs on a separate validation dataset to determine the generalization capacity of RocMLMs to unseen mantle conditions (internal accuracy), and 2) comparing RocMLMs predictions with geophysical reference models PREM and STW105 (external accuracy). The first test evaluates the degree to which RocMLMs can reproduce GFEM predictions. The second test evaluates the degree to which the “true data” used for RocMLM training reproduces the phase transitions actually observed in Earth’s upper mantle, which depend on the thermodynamic data, GFEM algorithm, and parameterization used to describe the composition of mantle rocks (i.e., ξ).

The validation dataset was generated by *Perple_X* in the same manner as the training dataset, but shifted by one-half step (in the positive PT directions) so that RocMLM predictions could be evaluated at completely independent PT conditions. RocMLM performance was evaluated by: 1) measuring single-point prediction times (execution speed), and 2) scaling execution speed by RocMLM file size (disk space) to account for information compression (model efficiency).

The number of PT points and synthetic bulk mantle compositions used for generating training data were varied from 8 to 128 (2^{11} – 2^{21} total training examples) to test the sensitivity of RocMLM accuracy and performance with respect to the size (“capacity”) and composition of the training dataset. The same sets of training data were also used to evaluate single-point execution speed using a common Lookup Table approach, where a cubic spline interpolation was applied to the training dataset and rock properties were evaluated at arbitrary PTX conditions. Prediction accuracy and performance were measured in a consistent manner so that direct comparisons could be made between RocMLMs, Lookup Tables, and GFEM programs.

3 Results

3.1 RocMLM Accuracy

The following examples of Decision Tree (DT, Figure 3), single-layer Neural Network (NN1, Figure 4), and three-layer Neural Network (NN3, Figure 5) models demon-

332 strate how different regression algorithms ultimately influence the accuracy of RocMLM
 333 predictions (see Supplementary Information for all regression algorithms).

334 DT predictions are practically indistinguishable from that of *Perple_X*, indicating
 335 a nearly-perfect mapping of the validation dataset by the DT algorithm (RMSE for den-
 336 sity: 0.01 g/cm³, V_p and V_s: 0.02 km/s, Figure 3). Absolute differences between *Per-*
 337 *ple_X* and DT predictions (residuals) are broadly dispersed and approach zero in most
 338 regions of PT space. Some concentrations of residuals exist near phase transitions, but
 339 are subtle and discontinuous (Figure 3g-i).

340 In contrast, NN1 predictions are notably smoother than *Perple_X* (Figure 4), with
 341 higher errors (RMSE for density: 0.02 g/cm³, V_p: 0.06 km/s, V_s: 0.05 km/s) that in-
 342 dicate an inability to resolve sharp gradients in physical properties when using a single-
 343 layer Neural Network with a small to moderate amount of neurons. This is evident by
 344 the NN1 residuals, which are systematically concentrated near phase transitions (Fig-
 345 ure 4g-i). NN1 profiles display relatively weak discontinuities with gradual changes in
 346 physical properties across the olivine → wadsleyite and ringwoodite → bridgmanite +
 347 ferropericlasite transitions (Figure 4j-l), and phase transformations within the MTZ are
 348 virtually absent compared to DT and NN3 profiles. While NN1 predictions do not re-
 349 produce the validation dataset or geophysical profiles with the highest accuracy, deeper
 350 (and/or wider) NN architectures with more hidden-layers (e.g., NN3) are more capable
 351 (Figure 5). NN3 predictions fit the validation dataset and resolve discontinuities in geo-
 352 physical profiles with nearly equivalent accuracy as DT and KN algorithms (compare
 353 profiles in Supplementary Information).

354 Comparing density, V_p, and V_s depth profiles predicted by RocMLMs (for an av-
 355 erage mid-ocean ridge-like geotherm with a mantle potential temperature of 1573 K) with
 356 PREM and STW105 reveals relatively low errors (density: ≤ 0.08 g/cm³, V_p: ≤ 0.26
 357 km/s, V_s: ≤ 0.14 km/s) and high correlations ($R^2 \geq 0.94$) that indicate good agreement
 358 between seismically-derived profiles and thermodynamic predictions, irrespective of re-
 359 gression algorithm (compare profiles in the Supplementary Information). The largest de-
 360 viations between RocMLM profiles, PREM, and STW105 fall within two regions: 1) be-
 361 tween 1–8 GPa, and 2) at the base of the MTZ (Figures 3–5j–l). At pressures lower than
 362 5 GPa, the divergence between RocMLM profiles and seismically-derived profiles may
 363 be explained by the low resolution of the 1D geophysical profiles relative to the extreme

364 spatial variability in composition and geotherms on Earth. Tests using an average con-
 365 tinental geotherm to calculate RocMLM profiles results in less divergence between RocMLM
 366 profiles and PREM at < 5 GPa compared to the mid-ocean ridge-like geotherms used
 367 to build the profiles presented in Figures 3–5. At pressures between 5–8 GPa, the two
 368 geophysical models show a discrepancy: PREM contains a discontinuity, especially in
 369 seismic velocities, while STW105 has a gradual and continuous increase. RocMLM pro-
 370 files between 5–8 GPa are more similar to STW105, which does not map any disconti-
 371 nities until the olivine \rightarrow wadsleyite transition at 410 km depth (Figures 3–5j–l).

372 Within the MTZ, DT and NN3 profiles predict intermediate discontinuities, while
 373 PREM and STW105 are gradual and continuous (Figures 3,5g–i). As expected, compar-
 374 ing RocMLM profiles for different geotherms shows that the choice of a mantle poten-
 375 tial temperature leads to contrasting predictions of: 1) the overall evolution of rock prop-
 376 erties with depth, and 2) the depths, magnitudes, and sharpness of phase transitions within
 377 the MTZ (Figures 3–5g–i). RocMLM profiles show, similarly to those directly derived
 378 from the *Perple_X* calculation, temperature-sensitive discontinuities at the olivine \rightarrow wad-
 379 sleyite and wadsleyite \rightarrow ringwoodite transitions, but a rather temperature insensitive
 380 ringwoodite \rightarrow bridgmanite + ferropericlasite transition (Figures 3–5g–i). This can be ex-
 381 plained by differences in Clapeyron slopes modeled by the Stixrude and Lithgow-Bertelloni
 382 (2022) dataset.

383 **3.2 RocMLM Performance**

384 We now compare RocMLM performance to two other tools classically used to pre-
 385 dict the variations of physical properties of mantle rocks in geodynamic models: GFEM
 386 programs and Lookup Tables. Note that RocMLM, GFEM, and Lookup Table perfor-
 387 mance is platform specific. Running analogous implementations with other programming
 388 languages and/or on alternative computer hardware will differ from the results presented
 389 here. All computations in this study were made using CPUs of a Macbook Pro (2022;
 390 M2 chip) with macOS 13.4 and using Python 3.11.4. All performance metrics were eval-
 391 uated with a single CPU core.

392 Figure 6 shows how execution speed, efficiency, and accuracy scale with the capac-
 393 ity of Lookup Tables and RocMLMs. Here, “capacity” refers to the number of scalar val-
 394 ues stored by Lookup Tables, or alternatively, the number of pseudosection PTX points

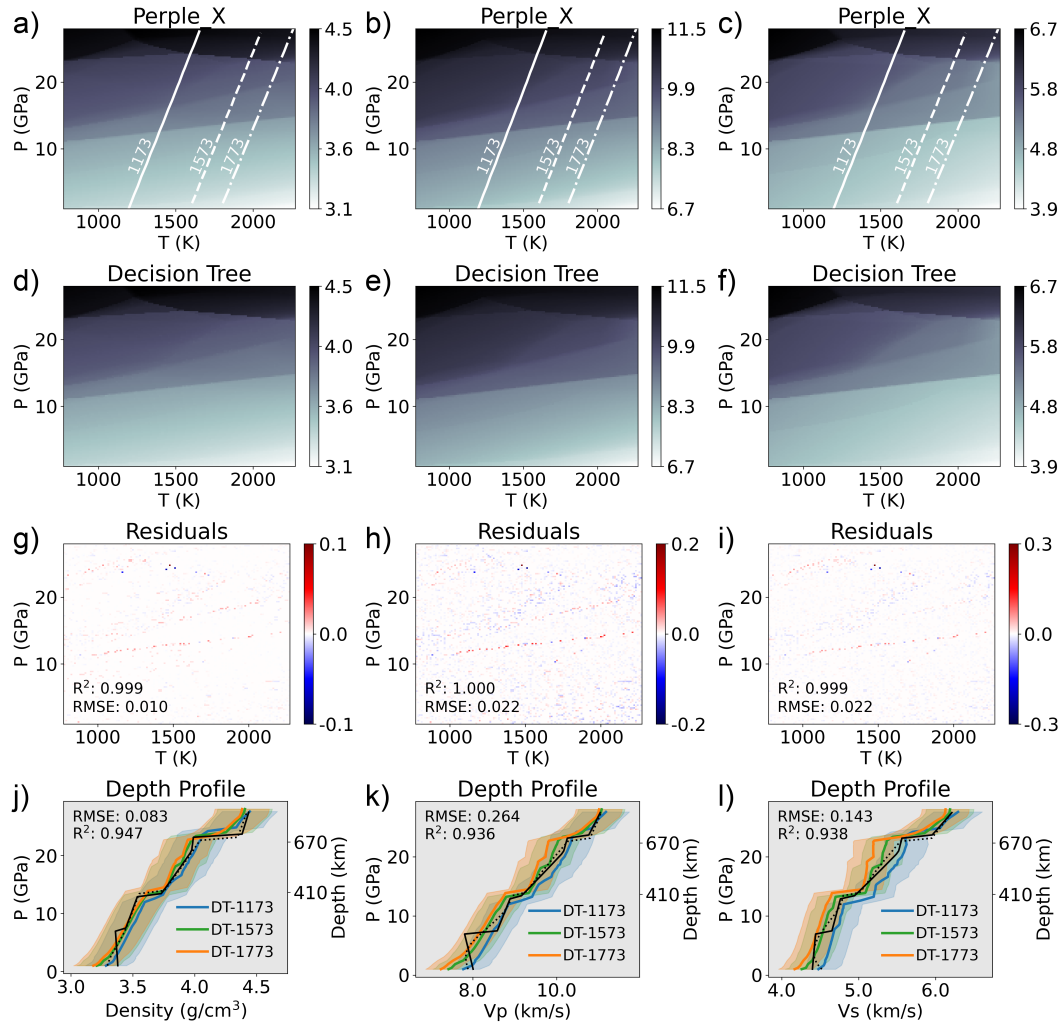


Figure 3: PT diagrams showing density (left column, g/cm^3), V_p (middle column, km/s), and V_s (right column, km/s) predictions from a Perple_X model with a PUM bulk composition (a–c), a Decision Tree RocMLM (d–f), and absolute differences between Perple_X and DT (g–i) measured on the validation dataset. Depth profiles (j–l) compare Perple_X and DT predictions extracted along a 0.5 K/km adiabat with different mantle potential temperatures (white lines) with reference models PREM (solid black line, Dziewoński and Anderson, 1981) and STW105 (dotted black line, Kustowski et al., 2008). The RMSE in (j–l) indicates the measured differences between DT-1573 and PREM. Colored ribbons indicate 5% uncertainty in RocMLM predictions.

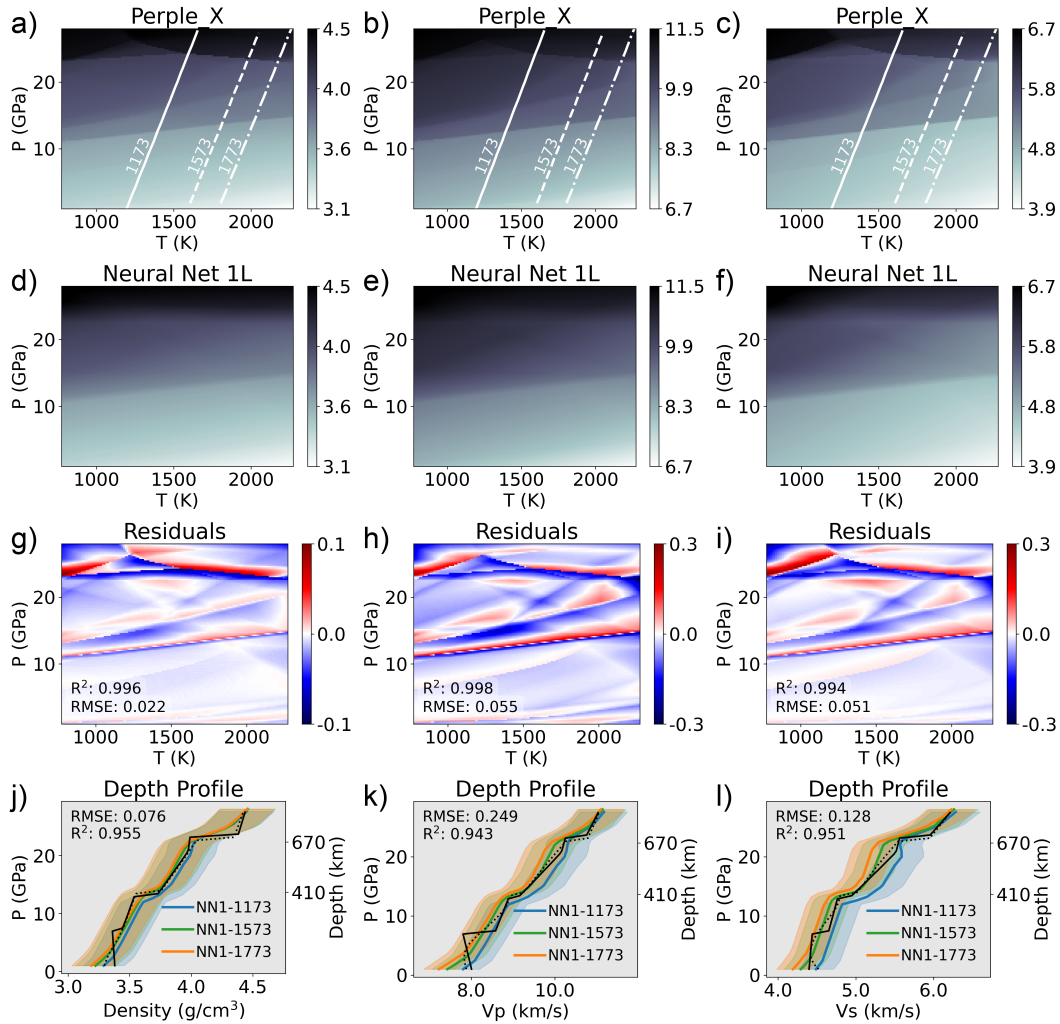


Figure 4: PT diagrams showing density (left column, g/cm^3), Vp (middle column, km/s), and Vs (right column, km/s) predictions from a Perple_X model with a PUM bulk composition (a–c), a single-layer Neural Network RocMLM (d–f), and absolute differences between Perple_X and NN1 (g–i) measured on the validation dataset. Other legend details are the same as in Figure 3.

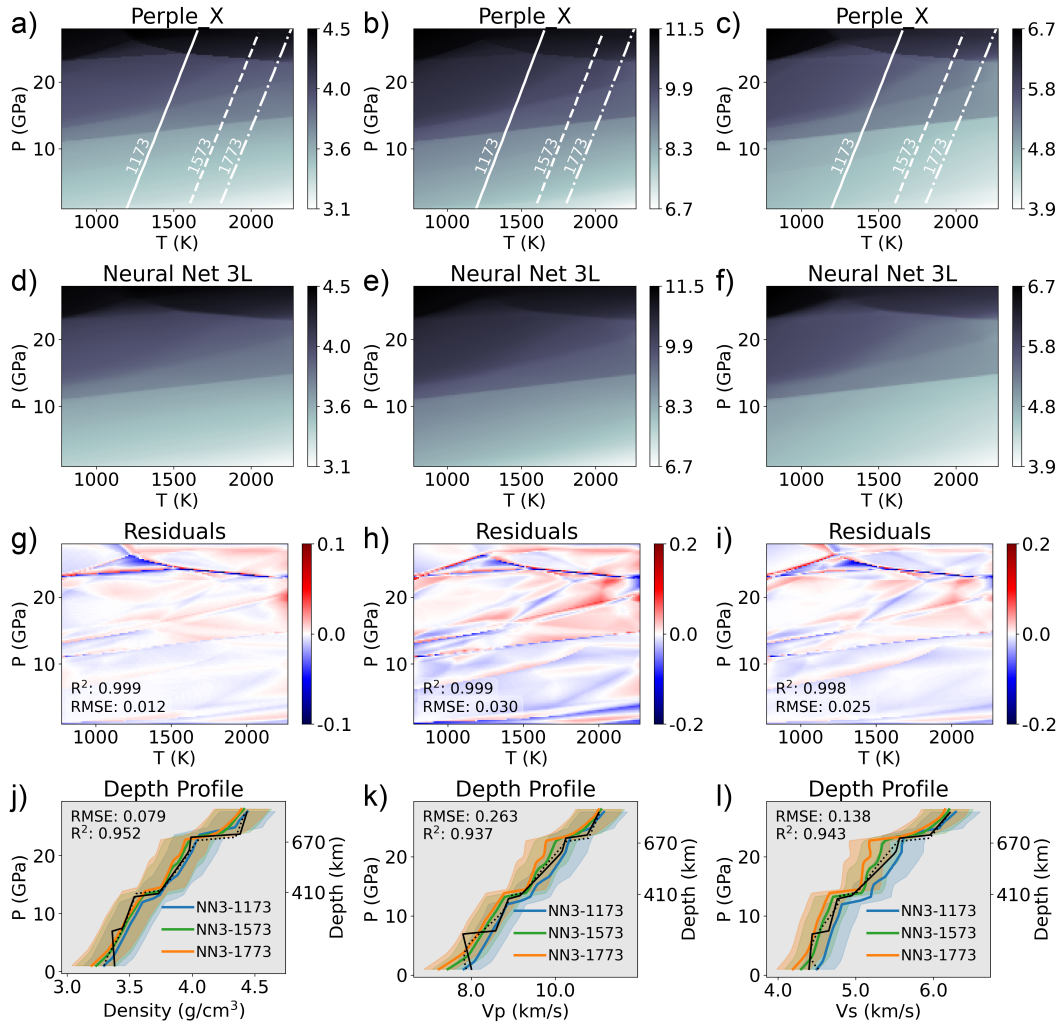


Figure 5: PT diagrams showing density (left column, g/cm³), Vp (middle column, km/s), and Vs (right column, km/s) predictions from a Perple_X model with a PUM bulk composition (a–c), a three-layer Neural Network RocMLM (d–f), and absolute differences between Perple_X and NN3 (g–i) measured on the validation dataset. Other legend details are the same as in Figure 3.

395 “learned” by RocMLMs. Thus, “capacity” is intended to convey and compare the breadth
 396 of petrological “knowledge”, or predictive capabilities, of Lookup Tables and RocMLMs.
 397 Within the same context, the notion of “capacity” is irrelevant for GFEM programs. Rather,
 398 GFEM performance primarily scales with the number of chemical components, phase
 399 solutions, and size of the compositional space defined by the user, as well as automatic
 400 grid refinement settings and other user-defined configuration options.

401 GFEM performance is reported using the range of average execution speeds (4–228
 402 ms) and efficiencies (60–3138 ms·Mb) that we measured while generating our RocMLM
 403 training datasets as described in Section 2.2. To demonstrate the sensitivity of GFEM
 404 performance to alternative *Perple_X* configurations, we also show GFEM execution speed
 405 and efficiency for similar calculations using the thermodynamic data and phase solutions
 406 of Holland et al. (2018). Note that none of the *Perple_X* calculations using the Holland
 407 et al. (2018) configuration were used to train RocMLMs due to inaccurate seismic ve-
 408 locity predictions, and their performance metrics are only shown for illustrative purposes.

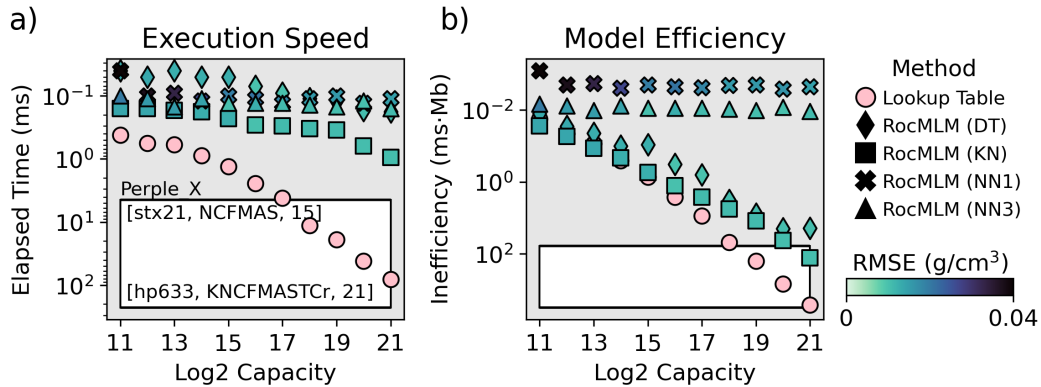


Figure 6: Computational efficiency of various approaches in terms of execution speed (a) and model efficiency (b). “Capacity” (x-axis) is a proxy for the petrological “knowledge”, or predictive capabilities, of Lookup Tables and RocMLMs. White regions indicate GFEM efficiencies for different *Perple_X* configurations (thermodynamic dataset, chemical system, and number of solution phases are indicated in square brackets). stx21: Stixrude and Lithgow-Bertelloni (2022), hp633: Holland and Powell (2011) updated in Holland et al. (2018). *Perple_X* was run without multilevel grid refinement. RMSE is measured between density predictions and the validation dataset.

409 For Lookup Tables, execution speed and efficiency both scale roughly linearly with
 410 capacity on a logarithmic scale—indicating an inverse power-law relationship between
 411 Lookup Table capacity and performance (Figure 6). RocMLM performance, in contrast,

412 scales differently depending on the performance metric and regression algorithm. For ex-
413 ample, RocMLM execution speed remains roughly constant, or increasing slightly with
414 capacity, and shows relatively small variance among all regression algorithms (0.14 ± 0.26
415 ms, 2σ , Figure 6a). Yet RocMLM efficiency is markedly different for DT and KN algo-
416 rithms compared to NN algorithms (Figure 6b). Despite the fast execution times of KN
417 and DT algorithms (Figure 6a), their efficiency scales roughly linearly with capacity on
418 a logarithmic scale—indicating an inverse power-law relationship between efficiency and
419 capacity similar to Lookup Tables (Figure 6b). NN algorithms, on the other hand, show
420 roughly constant efficiencies that indicate a high degree of information compression with-
421 out sacrificing execution speed (Figure 6b). We note that training times for NN algo-
422 rithms are many orders of magnitude larger than DT and KN algorithms (Supplemen-
423 tary Information). However, training times are neither limiting nor critical for geody-
424 namic applications as training is independent from, and precedes numerical simulations.

425 Since accuracy is measured relative to the rock properties generated by GFEM pro-
426 grams, GFEM programs have perfect accuracy by definition. With respect to RocMLMs,
427 validation accuracies (RMSE) are observed to be roughly constant for regression algo-
428 rithms that apply binary decisions or local distance-based weights (DT and KN), while
429 algorithms that apply global activation-based weights (NNs) show a positive correlation
430 between accuracy and capacity (Figure 6). In addition to improving accuracy with in-
431 creasing amounts of training examples, NN accuracy also increases with the number of
432 hidden-layers (Figure 6) because deeper networks are more capable of fitting sharp gra-
433 dients in the training data (see Supplementary Information for examples of NN1, NN2,
434 and NN3 RocMLMs). We also tested the effects of NN width (changing the number of
435 nodes within each hidden layer), but this had a negligible impact on NN performance
436 and accuracy compared to increasing NN depth.

437 **4 Discussion**

438 **4.1 RocMLM Performance Tradeoffs**

439 RocMLM performance and accuracy are both critical for geodynamic applications
440 and crucial for determining if RocMLMs are an improvement over methods commonly
441 used for predicting rock properties in numerical geodynamic simulations. In terms of pure
442 execution speed, our testing demonstrates that RocMLMs can make predictions between

443 10^1 – 10^3 times faster than GFEM programs and Lookup Tables (Figure 6), depending
444 on the GFEM program configuration. The difference in execution speed between Lookup
445 Tables and RocMLMs is small for low-resolution models (Figure 6) that are limited to
446 ≤ 16 mantle compositions and large PT intervals (≥ 1.7 GPa and 100 K PT step sizes).
447 However, such low-resolution models are not an obvious improvement over simple poly-
448 nomial approximations of a selective number of important phase transformations. At higher
449 resolutions, RocMLMs can accurately resolve the physical properties of all thermodynamically-
450 stable mineral assemblages in fine detail (at PT intervals of ≤ 0.2 GPa and 12 K) and
451 for a wide variety of bulk mantle compositions (Figure 2). In addition to their broad pre-
452 dictive capabilities, high-resolution RocMLMs make predictions at speeds (approximately
453 0.1–1 ms, Figure 6) that allow computation of physical properties at the node-scale dur-
454 ing geodynamic simulations. We therefore argue that high-resolution RocMLMs over-
455 come all practical limitations for implementing thermodynamically self-consistent den-
456 sity evolution in numerical geodynamic models.

457 With respect to ranking the practicality of different RocMLM for geodynamic ap-
458 plications, execution speeds and accuracies alone suggest that high-resolution RocMLMs
459 will perform with roughly equivalent outcomes regardless of the regression algorithm (Fig-
460 ure 6a). However, our testing reveals an obvious tradeoff between RocMLM performance
461 and accuracy when accounting for compression ratio (i.e., the amount of “learned” in-
462 formation relative to the RocMLM file size). Figure 6b shows DT and KN algorithms
463 becoming rapidly inefficient compared to NNs as the capacity of the training dataset in-
464 creases. This is because NN algorithms require relatively little information to make pre-
465 dictions after training (weights and biases for each neuron) compared to DT (tree struc-
466 ture: nodes, splits, and predictions) and KN (entire training dataset with distance weights)
467 algorithms. Moreover, accuracy tends to improve monotonically with dataset capacity
468 for NN, but not for DT or KN. We therefore argue that deep NN RocMLMs are the most
469 practical choice for geodynamic applications for three reasons: 1) modeling more rock
470 types only requires adding more training data, 2) adding more training data improves
471 prediction accuracy without diminishing performance, and 3) further improvements and
472 adaptations to different geodynamic applications are possible by exploring different ar-
473 chitectures than the simple NN models we have tested thus far.

474 The main limitations of NN RocMLMs are twofold: 1) training is computationally
475 expensive compared to other regression algorithms (Supplementary Information) and 2)

476 shallow NN architectures imply smoother gradients in rock properties than GFEM cal-
 477 culations. We do not consider these limitations critical because training time is indepen-
 478 dent from RocMLM performance and even if deeper NN architectures are needed to fit
 479 discontinuities in rock properties with high accuracy, the number of layers and neurons
 480 in each layer remains small (Table 3). We note that our testing has been limited to the
 481 prediction of three properties that are mostly P-dependent and are relatively continu-
 482 ous despite a few large discontinuities. In principle, RocMLMs can be trained on any ther-
 483 modynamic variable output by GFEM programs. However, we have not yet trained RocMLMs
 484 on more discrete, discontinuous, and/or highly T-dependent variables, such as modal pro-
 485 portions of minerals, volatile contents, or melt fraction, which will be treated in future
 486 developments of RocMLMs.

487 **4.2 Geophysical and Thermodynamic Estimates of Elastic Properties**

488 The amount of overlap between RocMLM profiles and PREM (Figures 3–3) sug-
 489 gests good agreement between thermodynamic and geophysical estimates of the elastic
 490 properties of mantle rocks within the limits of our training dataset and *Perple_X* con-
 491 figuration (see Sections 2.1 and 2.2). Discrepancies between thermodynamic profiles and
 492 PREM can be explained by chemical heterogeneity and/or differences in mantle geotherms
 493 that modify phase relations (Goes et al., 2022; Karki and Stixrude, 1999; Karki et al.,
 494 2001; Stixrude and Lithgow-Bertelloni, 2012; Waszek et al., 2021; Xu et al., 2008). Be-
 495 cause the RocMLM training dataset spans a wide array of synthetic bulk mantle com-
 496 positions, we can directly test the sensitivity of thermodynamic estimates to changes in
 497 bulk FeO–MgO contents (Figure 7).

498 As Fertility Index (ξ) increases by refertilization and/or lack of melt extraction and
 499 the bulk mantle composition becomes more Fe-rich (and more dense), V_p and V_s respond
 500 (both positively and negatively) according to the equations of state described in Stixrude
 501 and Lithgow-Bertelloni (2005). RocMLM training data show that density is the least sen-
 502 sitive parameter to ξ overall with only modest variations across a broad range of man-
 503 tle rocks from fertile to highly depleted ($\xi = 0.76$, Figure 7a). The largest density vari-
 504 ations occur at pressures below the olivine \rightarrow wadsleyite transition (< 410 km), yet are
 505 still small enough (approximately 3–5 %) to imply that spontaneous mantle convection
 506 requires strong thermal gradients and/or hydration by metamorphic fluids in addition
 507 to melt extraction.

508 In contrast to density, V_p and V_s are more sensitive to ξ overall, especially at pressures
 509 above the olivine \rightarrow wadsleyite transition (> 410 km). RocMLM training data sug-
 510 gests that an “optimal” V_p/V_s profile requires a more depleted mantle between 410–670
 511 km and a more fertile mantle at < 410 km (Figure 7b,c). Forming this compositional
 512 layering pattern is counterintuitive, however, as partial melting is expected to be more
 513 pervasive at lower pressures. Moreover, density profiles are incongruent with this pat-
 514 tern, suggesting instead that a depleted mantle at < 410 km and more fertile mantle at
 515 > 410 km are required for an optimal fit with PREM and STW105 (Figure 7a).

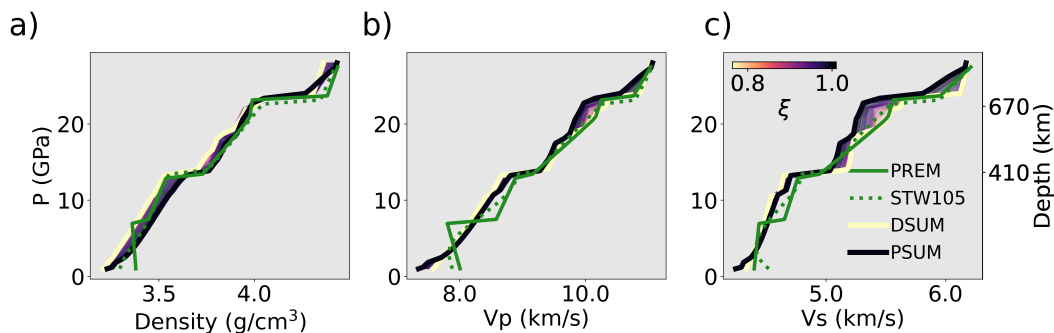


Figure 7: Depth profiles of RocMLM training data along a 1573 K mantle adiabat showing the sensitivities of thermodynamic estimates of density (a), V_p (b), and V_s (c) to changes in bulk mantle composition (as represented by the Fertility Index, ξ). Geophysical profiles PREM and STW105 (green lines) and the profiles of synthetic mantle end-member compositions PSUM and DSUM (thick colored lines) are shown for reference. Thin colored lines show profiles for the entire range of RocMLM training data.

516 5 Conclusions

517 The dynamics of Earth’s upper mantle is largely driven by density contrasts stem-
 518 ming from changes in PT conditions, which lead to phase transformations in mantle rocks.
 519 These phase transformations also modify the elastic properties of mantle rocks. There-
 520 fore phase changes must be considered when inverting present-day mantle structure from
 521 seismic data. Likewise, numerical geodynamic simulations of mantle convection must ac-
 522 count for thermodynamics, but are typically implemented with simple PT-dependent pa-
 523 rameterizations of rock properties and phase boundaries that do not explicitly account
 524 for changes in Gibbs Free Energy resulting from changes in PT and in bulk composition.
 525 Here, we introduce RocMLMs as an alternative to GFEM programs and we evaluate RocMLM
 526 performance and accuracy. We also show how the RocMLM predictions compare to PREM
 527 and STW105. Our main findings are as follows:

- 528 1. RocMLMs predict density and elastic properties with high accuracy and are up
529 to 101–103 faster than commonly used methods. This improvement in prediction
530 speed makes thermodynamically self-consistent mantle convection within high-resolution
531 numerical geodynamic models practical for the first time.
- 532 2. RocMLMs trained with moderately deep (3 hidden layers) NNs are more robust
533 and efficient compared to RocMLMs trained with other regression algorithms, and
534 are therefore the most practical models for coupling with numerical geodynamic
535 codes.
- 536 3. RocMLM training data are sensitive to bulk mantle composition and geothermal
537 gradients, yet show good agreement with PREM and STW105 for an average man-
538 tle geotherm.

539 Based on our results, we argue that moderately deep NN RocMLMs can be excep-
540 tional emulators of GFEM programs in geodynamic simulations that require computa-
541 tionally efficient predictions of rock properties. We have demonstrated that RocMLMs
542 perform remarkably well for dry mantle rocks with compositions ranging from very fer-
543 tile lherzolites to strongly depleted harzburgites and PT conditions ranging from 1–28
544 GPa and 773–2273 K.

545 Moreover, the RocMLM approach can be used with any GFEM program and ther-
546 modynamic dataset. Any improvement to the underlying thermodynamic data should
547 further increase the accuracy of RocMLM predictions. Testing RocMLMs predictions
548 on other thermodynamic variables of interest, including modal proportions of minerals,
549 volatile contents, and melt fractions will be the focus of future studies. Likewise, in fu-
550 ture works, we will extend the training data to include hydrous systems and additional
551 end-member mantle compositions (e.g., pyroxenites and dunites).

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560 **7 Open Research**

561 All data, code, and relevant information for reproducing this work can be found
562 at https://github.com/buchanankerswell/kerswell_et_al_rocmlm, and at <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/K23TB>, the official Open Science Framework data repository
563 (Kerswell et al., 2024). All code is MIT Licensed and free for use and distribution (see
564 license details). Reference models PREM and STW105 are freely available from the In-
565 corporated Research Institutions for Seismology Earth Model Collaboration (IRIS EMC,
566 doi: 10.17611/DP/EMC.1, Trabant et al., 2012). All computations were made using CPUs
567 of a Macbook Pro (2022; M2 chip) with macOS 13.4 and using Python 3.11.4.
568

569 **8 References**

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RocMLMs: Predicting Rock Properties through Machine Learning Models

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Key Points:

- RocMLMs predict rock properties up to 10^1 – 10^3 faster than commonly used methods
- RocMLMs trained with Neural Networks are more efficient compared to other regression algorithms
- RocMLM training data show good agreement with PREM and STW105 for an average mantle geotherm

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Abstract

Mineral phase transformations significantly alter the bulk density and elastic properties of mantle rocks and consequently have profound effects on mantle dynamics and seismic wave propagation. These changes in the physical properties of mantle rocks result from evolution in the equilibrium mineralogical composition, which can be predicted by the minimization of the Gibbs Free Energy with respect to pressure (P), temperature (T), and chemical composition (X). Thus, numerical models that simulate mantle convection and/or probe the elastic structure of the Earth's mantle must account for varying mineralogical compositions to be self-consistent. Yet coupling Gibbs Free Energy minimization (GFEM) approaches with numerical geodynamic models is currently intractable for high-resolution simulations because execution speeds of widely-used GFEM programs (10^0 – 10^2 ms) are impractical in many cases. As an alternative, this study introduces machine learning models (RocMLMs) that have been trained to predict thermodynamically self-consistent rock properties at arbitrary PTX conditions between 1–28 GPa, 773–2273 K, and mantle compositions ranging from fertile (lherzolitic) to refractory (harzburgitic) end-members defined with a large dataset of published mantle compositions. RocMLMs are 10^1 – 10^3 times faster than GFEM calculations or GFEM-based look-up table approaches with equivalent accuracy. Depth profiles of RocMLMs predictions are nearly indistinguishable from reference models PREM and STW105, demonstrating good agreement between thermodynamic-based predictions of density, V_p , and V_s and geophysical observations. RocMLMs are therefore capable, for the first time, of emulating dynamic evolution of density, V_p , and V_s in high-resolution numerical geodynamic models.

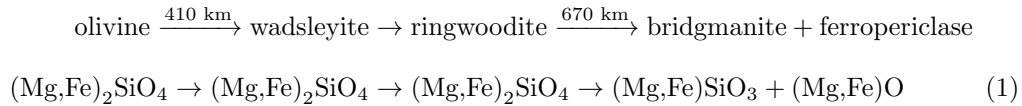
Plain language summary

The mineralogical makeup of rocks within Earth's mantle largely determines how the mantle flows over geologic time, and how it responds to seismic waves triggered by earthquakes, because mineral assemblages control important rock properties such as density and stiffness (elasticity). The mineralogy of mantle rocks is not constant, however. It changes depending on three factors: pressure, temperature, and the chemical composition of the rock. Thus, it is important for computer simulations of mantle convection to account for the evolution of rock mineralogy. Computer programs that can predict rock properties based on thermodynamic calculations are available, but are generally too slow to be used in high-resolution simulations. As an alternative approach, this study intro-

46 duces machine learning models (RocMLMs) that have “learned” how to predict rock prop-
 47 erties (density and elasticity) by “training” on a large dataset of thermodynamic calcu-
 48 lations. We demonstrate that RocMLMs can then predict rock properties up to 10^1 – 10^3
 49 times faster than state-of-the-art methods. We tested RocMLM predictions against ref-
 50 erence mantle models based on observations of seismic waves and found good agreement.
 51 RocMLMs are therefore capable of fast and highly-accurate predictions of changes in rock
 52 properties and can be implemented in high-resolution computer simulations of mantle
 53 convection.

54 1 Introduction

55 The dominant mineral phases in Earth’s mantle are olivine, pyroxene, garnet, wad-
 56 sleyite, ringwoodite, bridgmanite, ferropericlase, calcium silicate perovskite, and MgSiO_3
 57 post-perovskite (e.g., Stixrude and Lithgow-Bertelloni, 2012). Mantle mineralogy evolves
 58 with depth by a series of relatively discontinuous phase transformations that define sharp
 59 transitions in the physical properties of mantle rocks (Ringwood, 1991). The most im-
 60 portant phase transformations occur at depths between 410 km and 670 km beneath Earth’s
 61 surface, defining the transition from the upper to the lower mantle (Equation (1)). This
 62 mantle transition zone (MTZ) is characterized by sharp variations in density and elas-
 63 tic properties that strongly impact mantle convection (Christensen, 1995; Fukao et al.,
 64 2001; Jenkins et al., 2016; Karato et al., 2001; Kuritani et al., 2019; Nakagawa and Buf-
 65 fett, 2005; Ringwood, 1991; Schubert et al., 1975; Tackley et al., 1994; Wang et al., 2015),
 66 and the propagation of teleseismic waves (Dziewoński and Anderson, 1981; Ita and Stixrude,
 67 1992; Ringwood, 1991). The MTZ is therefore an essential feature for modeling mantle
 68 structure and dynamics. With respect to a simple FeO-MgO-SiO_2 chemical system, the
 69 most important MTZ reactions can be written as:



70 These phase changes (e.g., Equation (1)) are often parameterized in numerical geo-
 71 dynamic simulations with simple pressure-temperature (PT)-dependent reaction bound-
 72 aries based on high-pressure experiments (e.g., Agrusta et al., 2017; Ballmer et al., 2015;

73 Christensen, 1995; Čížková and Bina, 2013; Kerswell et al., 2021; Liu et al., 1991; Nak-
74 agawa and Buffett, 2005; Tackley et al., 1994; Torii and Yoshioka, 2007). Alternatively,
75 some numerical geodynamic experiments (e.g., Li et al., 2019; Yang and Faccenda, 2020)
76 use Gibbs Free Energy minimization (GFEM) programs (e.g., Connolly, 2009; Riel et al.,
77 2022) to precompute Lookup Tables of rock properties, which are subsequently referenced
78 to adjust material properties as the numerical experiments evolve. These implementa-
79 tions usually consider fixed ideal mantle compositions, such as pyrolite, and/or approx-
80 imate phase transitions with simple functions. These approaches neglect the PT depen-
81 dency of mineral transitions on natural variations of mantle composition (X) such as vari-
82 ations of Fe-Mg and Al-Ca that may be either primordial or result from melt extraction
83 or reactions during melt transport. Despite these simplifications, these models have cor-
84 roborated that the MTZ is a critical feature impacting subduction dynamics, mantle plume
85 dynamics, and water cycling in the deep Earth.

86 More self-consistent numerical models of mantle convection would track changes
87 in physical properties of mantle rocks by computing GFEM as a function of the evolu-
88 tion of PTX conditions. However, this is currently intractable for high-resolution geo-
89 dynamic models because GFEM programs remain too slow (≥ 4 -228 ms per PTX point)
90 to be applied recursively during a geodynamic simulation (see Supporting Information).
91 Parallelization of GFEM programs can increase efficiency by scaling the number of par-
92 allel processes (Riel et al., 2022), but continuously computing phase relations during geo-
93 dynamic simulations would require GFEM efficiency on the order of $\leq 10^0$ - 10^{-1} ms to
94 be feasible (see Supporting Information), which may be difficult to achieve solely by par-
95 allelisation and/or direct improvements to the current GFEM paradigm.

96 Here, we propose an alternative approach to predicting rock properties based on
97 the use of machine learning models (referred to as RocMLMs) that have been “trained”
98 on a multidimensional dataset of precomputed rock properties using classical (k-Neighbors,
99 Decision Trees) and deep (Neural Network) regression algorithms. These later regres-
100 sion algorithms compress large amounts of thermodynamic information into highly ef-
101 ficient nonlinear functions, allowing RocMLMs to infer (predict) rock properties across
102 arbitrary PTX conditions faster than any current GFEM algorithm. We demonstrate
103 that RocMLMs are thus highly efficient emulators of GFEM programs and are well-suited
104 for predicting bulk rock properties in numerical geodynamic models.

105 This article begins by detailing our method for building, training, and evaluating
 106 RocMLMs. We then demonstrate that RocMLMs can predict densities and seismic ve-
 107 locities in a dry upper mantle and transition zone up to 10^1 – 10^3 times faster than com-
 108 monly used GFEM programs with equivalent accuracies. Finally, we compare RocMLM
 109 predictions with reference models derived from seismological datasets (Dziewoński and
 110 Anderson, 1981; Kustowski et al., 2008) and discuss the accuracy and performance of
 111 RocMLMs with respect to their future implementation in numerical geodynamic mod-
 112 els.

113 2 Methods

114 The following sections describe the methodologies employed in constructing, train-
 115 ing, and assessing RocMLMs, with a focus on four primary objectives. First, define the
 116 size and scope of RocMLM training data to ensure widespread applicability of RocMLMs
 117 to the upper mantle and transition zone (Section 2.1). Second, define a generalized ap-
 118 proach for generating RocMLM training data to ensure applicability to any GFEM pro-
 119 gram (e.g., MAgEMin, Perple_X, and others, Section 2.2). Third, train RocMLMs on
 120 a set of input features that can be routinely computed during geodynamic simulations
 121 to ensure widespread applicability of RocMLMs to various geodynamic codes (Section
 122 2.3). Fourth, rank the overall performance of RocMLMs in terms of accuracy and effi-
 123 ciency (Section 2.4).

124 2.1 RocMLM Training Dataset Design

125 2.1.1 Pressure-Temperature Conditions

126 High-pressure experiments constrain the reaction olivine \rightarrow wadsleyite between 14.0
 127 ± 1.0 GPa and 1600 ± 400 K with Clapeyron slopes between $2.4 \times 10^{-3} \pm 1.4 \times 10^{-3}$ GPa/K
 128 (Akaogi et al., 1989; Katsura and Ito, 1989; Li et al., 2019; Morishima et al., 1994). Like-
 129 wise, the reaction ringwoodite \rightarrow bridgmanite + ferropericlase is constrained between
 130 24.0 ± 1.5 GPa and 1600 ± 400 K with negative Clapeyron slopes between -2.0×10^{-3}
 131 $\pm 1.6 \times 10^{-3}$ GPa/K (Akaogi et al., 2007; Bina and Helffrich, 1994; Hirose, 2002; Ishii et al.,
 132 2018; Ito, 1982; Ito et al., 1990; Ito and Katsura, 1989; Ito and Takahashi, 1989; Kat-
 133 sura et al., 2003; Litasov et al., 2005). We therefore compute RocMLM training data within
 134 a rectangular PT region bounded between 1–28 GPa and 773–2273 K to encompass ex-

135 pected conditions for the entire upper mantle and MTZ—from approximately 30 km to
 136 865 km depth (Figure 1).

137 Figure 1 shows that our training dataset PT range includes PT conditions that are
 138 not expected to exist in neither the Earth’s mantle, nor geodynamic simulations (e.g.,
 139 very cold conditions with thermal gradients ≤ 5 K/km, Cerpa et al., 2022; Maruyama
 140 et al., 1996; Syracuse et al., 2010). Such a large rectangular PT range might be consid-
 141 ered impractical with respect to training efficiency (unnecessary amounts of training data)
 142 and accuracy (outside the bounds of calibrated thermodynamic data) compared to an
 143 irregular PT range bounded between arbitrary geotherms. However, initial sensitivity
 144 tests showed comparable RocMLM performance irrespective of the range of PT condi-
 145 tions used to generate RocMLM training data. Thus, we adopted a regular rectangu-
 146 lar training dataset design because it is computationally convenient and does not dete-
 147 riorate RocMLM accuracy.

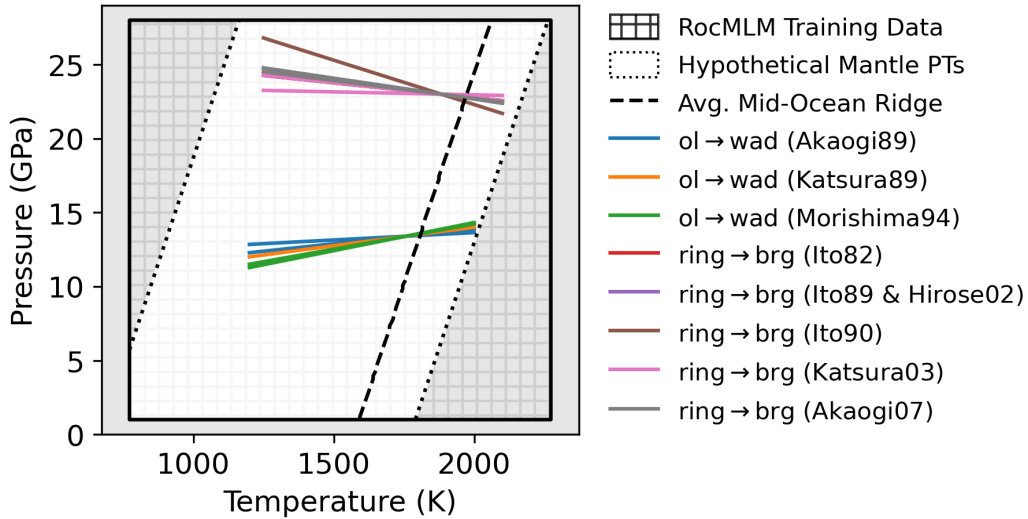


Figure 1: PT diagram showing the range of conditions considered for generating RocMLM training data (hatched region) compared to a range of possible upper mantle conditions (inner white region). The dotted black lines are geotherms with arbitrary mantle potential temperatures of 673 K and 1773 K and a constant adiabatic gradient of 0.5 K/km, representing hypothetical lower and upper bounds for mantle PT conditions (including hypothetical cold lithospheric slabs). The dashed black line is an average geotherm for a mid-ocean ridge (1573 K adiabat). Phase boundaries for the 410 km and 670 km discontinuities (colored lines) are from a compilation by Li et al. (2019).

148 **2.1.2 Bulk Mantle Compositions**

149 We derived an array of synthetic bulk mantle compositions with the aim of encom-
150 passing the widest range of chemical variability in Earth’s mantle. For this, we applied
151 a statistical analysis to publicly-available geochemical data from thousands of natural
152 peridotite samples. The procedure was as follows.

153 Bulk chemical analyses of peridotite samples were downloaded using the Earthchem.org
154 Search Portal with a single search criterion: “*set sample type > igneous rocks > names*
155 *from Earthchem categories > igneous-plutonic-ultramafic*”. The search queried 19791 sam-
156 ples with rock type classifications that we did not modify from their original labels. Sam-
157 ples lacking analyses for SiO₂, MgO, Al₂O₃, or CaO were excluded from the dataset. All
158 samples classified as “unknown”, chromitite, limburgite, wehrlite, undifferentiated peri-
159 dotite, dunite, or pyroxenite were also excluded from the dataset to focus on samples that
160 are most likely mantellic, that is, residues of partial melting modified (or not) by refer-
161 tilization, rather than products of fractional crystallization (Bowen, 1915). The data were
162 grouped according to the remaining rock types (Iherzolite and harzburgite) and outliers
163 were removed from each group using a 1.5 interquartile range threshold applied to each
164 chemical component. Cr and Ni measured as minor elements (ppm) were converted to
165 Cr₂O₃ and NiO (wt.%) and all Fe oxides were converted to Fe₂O₃T. Total oxides were
166 then checked against H₂O, CO₂, and LOI to determine if chemical analyses were per-
167 formed before or after ignition. Analyses with total oxides summing to $\leq 97\%$ or $\geq 103\%$
168 were considered erroneous, or otherwise low-quality, and excluded from the dataset. All
169 analyses were then normalized to a volatile-free basis before converting Fe₂O₃T to FeOT.
170 After normalization, the final compositional space investigated includes the components
171 Na₂O-CaO-FeO-MgO-Al₂O₃-SiO₂-TiO₂ (NCFMAST system). The final dataset contains
172 3111 chemical analyses of classified peridotite samples (Table 1).

173 We applied Principal Component Analysis (PCA) to the standardized peridotite
174 dataset to reduce its dimensionality from the original 7-oxides space. PCA requires com-
175 plete data, so samples were first arranged by decreasing MgO and increasing SiO₂ con-
176 tent and a k-Neighbors algorithm was applied to impute missing oxide analyses, which
177 were mainly the Na₂O component (see Table 1 for missing analyses counts). Following
178 common practice, a “z-score normalization” was applied to all oxide components before
179 running PCA. The first two principal components (PC1 and PC2) explain 78% of the

180 variance of the dataset, which we considered to be sufficient for modeling a broad range
 181 of peridotitic mantle compositions. PC1 separates samples by their TiO_2 , Al_2O_3 , MgO ,
 182 CaO , and Na_2O contents, while PC2 separates samples by SiO_2 and FeO (Figure 2).

183 In this PC space, we drew a mixing line connecting the lherzolite and harzburgite
 184 group centroids (i.e., the median values for PC1 and PC2 for each group). The lherzolite-
 185 harzburgite mixing line was then extended until reaching the approximate location of
 186 the most fertile (Al_2O_3 - CaO - TiO_2 -rich) and most refractory (MgO -rich, SiO_2 -poor) peri-
 187 dotite samples, hereafter referred to as Primitive Synthetic Upper Mantle (PSUM) and
 188 Depleted Synthetic Upper Mantle (DSUM, Figure 2b), respectively. The mixing line ap-
 189 proximates the widest array of mantle compositions derived from the natural rock record
 190 and may be interpreted as representing the first order composition variation in response
 191 to melt extraction (depletion) or addition (refertilization) in the mantle. The mixing line
 192 therefore provides a basis for sampling synthetic bulk mantle compositions directly from
 193 PC space, which were then used to generate RocMLM training data.

Table 1: Summary of the filtered and standardized peridotite dataset from Earth-
 chem.org. Columns with an asterisk are in wt.%. Std = standard deviation, IQR = in-
 terquartile range.

Oxide	Measured	Missing	Min*	Max*	Mean*	Median*	Std*	IQR*
SiO_2	3111	0	36.7	52	44.1	44.1	1.16	1.24
TiO_2	2835	276	0	0.268	0.051	0.03	0.05	0.068
Al_2O_3	3111	0	0.023	4.95	1.65	1.31	1.14	1.82
FeO	3111	0	5.98	15.3	8.05	8.01	0.675	0.569
MgO	3111	0	31.8	50.8	43	43.6	2.96	4.38
CaO	3111	0	0.01	5.2	1.46	1.17	1.04	1.66
Na_2O	2008	1103	0	0.525	0.127	0.098	0.11	0.171

194 *2.1.3 Reducing Bulk Mantle Compositions to a Single Fertility Index* 195 *Value*

196 Training RocMLMs with either 7 oxide components or two PCs as inputs is pos-
 197 sible. However, our targeted application (e.g., implementing RocMLMs in geodynamic
 198 codes) discourages the use of the two options because in either case it would require track-

199 ing the oxides in numerical geodynamic codes, which is currently impractical. Thus, we
 200 aimed to reduce the dimensionality of the training dataset from nine dimensions (7 ox-
 201 ide components + PT) to three dimensions (1 compositional dimension + PT) by es-
 202 timating the amount of melt extraction (depletion) that might have produced the syn-
 203 thetic bulk mantle compositions in the training dataset. Assuming that all synthetic sam-
 204 ples were derived from a PSUM source, we adopt a simple modal fractional melting model
 205 (after Shaw, 1970):

$$\frac{C_{\text{TiO}_2}^s}{C_{\text{TiO}_2}^0} = R = (1 - F)^{\frac{1}{D_0} - 1} \quad (2)$$

206 where R is the ratio of the TiO_2 concentration of the sample to the initial PSUM source
 207 (Table 2), F is the melt fraction, and $D_0 = 0.05$ is the bulk distribution coefficient for
 208 TiO_2 in peridotite (after Brown and Lesher, 2016). Note that unlike the dataset of nat-
 209 ural peridotite samples, synthetic samples were drawn directly from PC space and their
 210 TiO_2 concentrations (and other oxide components) change monotonically with PC1 from
 211 the initial PSUM source (Figure 2b,c). Synthetic samples therefore represent a smooth
 212 and idealized variability from fertile (PSUM) to depleted (DSUM) mantle compositions
 213 that captures the average variation in natural peridotite samples.

214 A Fertility Index (ξ) is calculated by rearranging Equation (2) for F and subtract-
 215 ing F from 1:

$$\xi = 1 - F = R^{\frac{1}{\frac{1}{D_0} - 1}} \quad (3)$$

216 Training RocMLMs on ξ instead of seven oxide components is beneficial for two
 217 reasons: 1) it greatly increases RocMLM efficiency and 2) unlike oxide components or
 218 PCs, melt fraction is routinely implemented in numerical geodynamic simulations (e.g.,
 219 Cerpa et al., 2019; Gerya and Yuen, 2003; Kelley et al., 2010; Li et al., 2019; Sizova et al.,
 220 2010; Yang and Faccenda, 2020). Likewise, tracking the depletion/fertility of the man-
 221 tle in geodynamics models with Lagrangian tracers and/or compositional fields is more
 222 conceivable (Agrusta et al., 2015; Cagnioncle et al., 2007; Gerya and Meilick, 2011; Tack-
 223 ley and Xie, 2003). Although we chose ξ for RocMLM training, ξ and F represent op-
 224 posite reference frames for the same time-integrated melting process, and are therefore

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interchangeable. This approach offers a generalized solution for coupling RocMLMs to geodynamic codes.

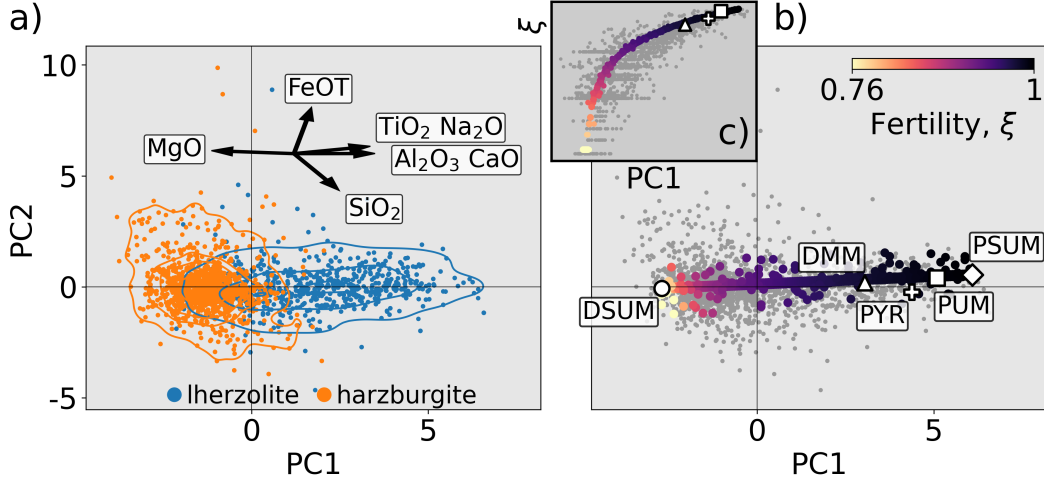


Figure 2: PC1-PC2 diagrams showing the standardized geochemical dataset of natural peridotite samples (a) and a mixing array between hypothetical end-member mantle compositions Primitive Synthetic Upper Mantle (PSUM) and Depleted Synthetic Upper Mantle (DSUM, b). Black arrows in (a) indicate PCA loading vectors. Colored data points in (b) are the synthetic mantle compositions used to train RocMLMs, which were sampled independently from the natural peridotite samples (gray data points). The inset (c) shows how the Fertility Index (ξ) changes nonlinearly with PC1. DMM, PUM, and PYR are from Table 2.

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The melting model in Equation (2) is oversimplified since it assumes: 1) melt is instantaneously removed from the source region, 2) D_0 is constant, and 3) minerals melt in the same proportions that they exist in the source rock. It nevertheless provides an efficient parameterization of the variation in mantle composition as a function of melt extraction and addition. Equation (2) predicts that a Depleted MORB Mantle (DMM) composition is produced through a time-integrated 2.2% melt extraction from a Primitive Upper Mantle (PUM) source (Table 2). This result is consistent with the degree of depletion inferred from trace element patterns and mass balance constraints (2-3% melt removal from PUM, Workman and Hart, 2005). We therefore consider ξ an adequate first-order proxy for describing the variations in bulk mantle composition used in our RocMLM training dataset. However, given that TiO_2 concentrations are strongly affected by reactive melt transport (e.g., Le Roux et al., 2007), ξ may only be estimated for the average compositional trend as expressed in PC1-PC2 space, rather than on individual peridotite samples.

Table 2: Hypothetical upper mantle end-member compositions. Columns with an asterisk are in wt.%. Depleted MORB Mantle (DMM) is from Workman and Hart (2005), Primitive Upper Mantle (PUM) is from Sun and McDonough (1989), and Pyrolite (PYR) is from Green (1979). Primitive Synthetic Upper Mantle (PSUM) and Depleted Synthetic Upper Mantle (DSUM), are end-member compositions derived in this study.

Sample	SiO ₂ *	TiO ₂ *	Al ₂ O ₃ *	FeOT*	MgO*	CaO*	Na ₂ O*	ξ
DSUM	44.1	0.0012	0.261	7.96	47.4	0.22	0.042	0.764
DMM	44.7	0.13	3.98	8.18	38.7	3.17	0.13	0.974
PYR	45	0.16	4.4	7.6	38.8	3.4	0.34	0.984
PUM	44.9	0.2	4.44	8.03	37.7	3.54	0.36	0.996
PSUM	46.2	0.216	4.88	8.88	35.2	4.34	0.33	1

2.2 Generating RocMLM Training Data

We used the GFEM program *Perple_X* (version 7.0.9, Connolly, 2009) to generate RocMLM training data across PT conditions as described in Section 2.1.1 and synthetic bulk mantle compositions as described in Section 2.1.2. The *Perple_X* calculations were constrained to the Na₂O-CaO-FeO-MgO-Al₂O₃-SiO₂ (NCFMAS) chemical system to comply with the thermodynamic data and solution models of Stixrude and Lithgow-Bertelloni (2022). The Stixrude and Lithgow-Bertelloni (2022) dataset (*stx21ver.dat*) was used because our initial tests with alternative thermodynamic datasets (*hp02ver.dat* and *hp633ver.dat*, Connolly and Kerrick, 2002; Holland et al., 2018; Holland and Powell, 2001) failed to reproduce the seismic wave velocities of geophysical reference models (PREM and STW105, Dziewoński and Anderson, 1981; Kustowski et al., 2008) with sufficient accuracy because these datasets lack a parametrization of the shear moduli of the minerals phases. Note that our *Perple_X* calculations ignored TiO₂, which was initially included to define ξ and derive synthetic bulk mantle compositions. Despite being measured as a major oxide component, the average TiO₂ content of our standardized samples is 0.05 ± 0.1 wt.% (2σ , Table 1). Such small concentrations of TiO₂ may safely be ignored in phase relation calculations with negligible effects on the RocMLM training dataset.

The *Perple_X* models used to generate the present RocMLM training database included equations of state for solution phases: olivine, plagioclase, spinel, clinopyroxene,

260 wadsleyite, ringwoodite, perovskite, ferropericlasite, high-pressure C2/c pyroxene, orthopy-
 261 roxene, akimotoite, post-perovskite, Ca-ferrite, garnet, and Na-Al phase. Melt was not
 262 considered due to the absence of melt models in the Stixrude and Lithgow-Bertelloni (2022)
 263 dataset, but may be considered in future versions of training datasets if the elastic pa-
 264 rameters in hp02ver.dat are corrected. Once configured, Perple_X generated RocMLM
 265 training data (density, as well as P- and S-wave seismic velocities) by minimizing the to-
 266 tal Gibbs Free Energy of a multicomponent multiphase thermodynamic system at fixed
 267 PTX conditions (Gibbs, 1878; Spear, 1993). The reader is referred to Connolly (2009)
 268 and Riel et al. (2022) for a complete description of the GFEM problem.

269 In principle, applying identical sets of solution phase models, thermodynamic data,
 270 and bulk compositions will define identical Gibbs Free Energy hyperplanes. This implies
 271 that any GFEM algorithm should converge on identical phase relations. Thus, although
 272 this study uses Perple_X exclusively, an identical set of training data can be generated
 273 by applying the procedures outlined above to other GFEM programs. Note that RocMLM
 274 capabilities and performance are primarily dependent on the size and the range of PTX
 275 conditions of the training dataset, not on the choice of GFEM algorithm.

276 2.3 Training RocMLMs

277 RocMLM training data were preprocessed using the following procedure. First, two-
 278 dimensional grids of rock properties (“pseudosections”) calculated by Perple_X were stacked
 279 into a three-dimensional array, $Z = (z_{1,1,1}, \dots, z_{n,w,w})$, where $w = 128$ is the resolution
 280 of the PT grid and $n = 128$ is the number of random synthetic bulk mantle composi-
 281 tions represented by a ξ value. Z was flattened into arrays of training features (PT and
 282 ξ), $X = (x_{1,1,1}, \dots, x_{v,v,v})$, and training targets (density, V_p , and V_s), $y = (y_{1,1,1}, \dots, y_{v,v,v})$,
 283 where $v = n \cdot w^2 = 128^3$ is the total number of training examples. Following common
 284 practice, X and y were scaled using “z-score normalization” before training.

285 The preprocessed training data were then fit with three different nonlinear regres-
 286 sion algorithms (Decision Tree: DT, k-Neighbors: KN, and Neural Networks: NN) from
 287 the scikit-learn python library (Pedregosa et al., 2011). Each regression algorithm was
 288 tuned with a grid search approach, where a performance score (RMSE) was evaluated
 289 over all hyperparameter combinations relevant to the particular regression algorithm (Ta-

290 ble 3). The set of hyperparameters that produced the best score (lowest RMSE) was used
 291 to train the RocMLM.

Table 3: RocMLM configuration. Hyperparameter values in parentheses are tested sequentially by a cross-validation grid search algorithm and the best set of hyperparameters is chosen by the lowest RMSE. Hyperparameters that are not shown use default values (see regression model documentation on scikit-learn.org).

Model	Hyperparameter	Value	Tuned
DT	splitter	(best, random)	tuned
	max features	(1, 2, 3)	tuned
	min samples leaf	(1, 2, 3)	tuned
	min samples split	(2, 4, 6)	tuned
KN	n neighbors	(2, 4, 8)	tuned
	weights	(uniform, distance)	tuned
NN1	hidden layer sizes	(8, 16, 32)	tuned
NN2	hidden layer sizes	([16, 16], [32, 16], [32, 32])	tuned
NN3	hidden layer sizes	([32, 16, 16], [32, 32, 16], [32, 32, 32])	tuned
NN(all)	learning rate	(0.001, 0.005, 0.001)	tuned
	batch size	20%	fixed
	max epochs	100	fixed

292 **2.4 Evaluating RocMLM Accuracy and Performance**

293 Connolly and Khan (2016) estimated the uncertainties of V_p and V_s to be on the
 294 order of 3–5% within the same thermodynamic framework used to generate RocMLM
 295 training data (Stixrude and Lithgow-Bertelloni, 2005). We can therefore consider the base-
 296 uncertainty of RocMLM predictions to be 3–5%. RocMLM predictions must also account
 297 for additional uncertainties that are introduced during RocMLM training (i.e., the vari-
 298 ance of residuals between RocMLM predictions and targets), which are about 2% for NN1
 299 and < 1% for DT, KN, and NN3. Assuming the lowest-uncertainty models (DT, KN,
 300 NN3) would be preferred for geodynamic applications, we ignore the small variances in-
 301 troduced during training (< 1%) and evaluate the total RocMLM prediction uncertain-

ties to be on the same order as the base GFEM uncertainty (3–5%) after Connolly and Khan (2016).

RocMLM accuracy (in terms of RMSE) was evaluated by: 1) testing RocMLMs on a separate validation dataset to determine the generalization capacity of RocMLMs to unseen mantle conditions (internal accuracy), and 2) comparing RocMLMs predictions with geophysical reference models PREM and STW105 (external accuracy). The first test evaluates the degree to which RocMLMs can reproduce GFEM predictions. The second test evaluates the degree to which the “true data” used for RocMLM training reproduces the phase transitions actually observed in Earth’s upper mantle, which depend on the thermodynamic data, GFEM algorithm, and parameterization used to describe the composition of mantle rocks (i.e., ξ).

The validation dataset was generated by *Perple_X* in the same manner as the training dataset, but shifted by one-half step (in the positive PT directions) so that RocMLM predictions could be evaluated at completely independent PT conditions. RocMLM performance was evaluated by: 1) measuring single-point prediction times (execution speed), and 2) scaling execution speed by RocMLM file size (disk space) to account for information compression (model efficiency).

The number of PT points and synthetic bulk mantle compositions used for generating training data were varied from 8 to 128 (2^{11} – 2^{21} total training examples) to test the sensitivity of RocMLM accuracy and performance with respect to the size (“capacity”) and composition of the training dataset. The same sets of training data were also used to evaluate single-point execution speed using a common Lookup Table approach, where a cubic spline interpolation was applied to the training dataset and rock properties were evaluated at arbitrary PTX conditions. Prediction accuracy and performance were measured in a consistent manner so that direct comparisons could be made between RocMLMs, Lookup Tables, and GFEM programs.

3 Results

3.1 RocMLM Accuracy

The following examples of Decision Tree (DT, Figure 3), single-layer Neural Network (NN1, Figure 4), and three-layer Neural Network (NN3, Figure 5) models demon-

332 strate how different regression algorithms ultimately influence the accuracy of RocMLM
 333 predictions (see Supplementary Information for all regression algorithms).

334 DT predictions are practically indistinguishable from that of *Perple_X*, indicating
 335 a nearly-perfect mapping of the validation dataset by the DT algorithm (RMSE for den-
 336 sity: 0.01 g/cm³, V_p and V_s: 0.02 km/s, Figure 3). Absolute differences between *Per-*
 337 *ple_X* and DT predictions (residuals) are broadly dispersed and approach zero in most
 338 regions of PT space. Some concentrations of residuals exist near phase transitions, but
 339 are subtle and discontinuous (Figure 3g-i).

340 In contrast, NN1 predictions are notably smoother than *Perple_X* (Figure 4), with
 341 higher errors (RMSE for density: 0.02 g/cm³, V_p: 0.06 km/s, V_s: 0.05 km/s) that in-
 342 dicate an inability to resolve sharp gradients in physical properties when using a single-
 343 layer Neural Network with a small to moderate amount of neurons. This is evident by
 344 the NN1 residuals, which are systematically concentrated near phase transitions (Fig-
 345 ure 4g-i). NN1 profiles display relatively weak discontinuities with gradual changes in
 346 physical properties across the olivine → wadsleyite and ringwoodite → bridgmanite +
 347 ferropericlase transitions (Figure 4j-l), and phase transformations within the MTZ are
 348 virtually absent compared to DT and NN3 profiles. While NN1 predictions do not re-
 349 produce the validation dataset or geophysical profiles with the highest accuracy, deeper
 350 (and/or wider) NN architectures with more hidden-layers (e.g., NN3) are more capable
 351 (Figure 5). NN3 predictions fit the validation dataset and resolve discontinuities in geo-
 352 physical profiles with nearly equivalent accuracy as DT and KN algorithms (compare
 353 profiles in Supplementary Information).

354 Comparing density, V_p, and V_s depth profiles predicted by RocMLMs (for an av-
 355 erage mid-ocean ridge-like geotherm with a mantle potential temperature of 1573 K) with
 356 PREM and STW105 reveals relatively low errors (density: ≤ 0.08 g/cm³, V_p: ≤ 0.26
 357 km/s, V_s: ≤ 0.14 km/s) and high correlations ($R^2 \geq 0.94$) that indicate good agreement
 358 between seismically-derived profiles and thermodynamic predictions, irrespective of re-
 359 gression algorithm (compare profiles in the Supplementary Information). The largest de-
 360 viations between RocMLM profiles, PREM, and STW105 fall within two regions: 1) be-
 361 tween 1–8 GPa, and 2) at the base of the MTZ (Figures 3–5j-l). At pressures lower than
 362 5 GPa, the divergence between RocMLM profiles and seismically-derived profiles may
 363 be explained by the low resolution of the 1D geophysical profiles relative to the extreme

364 spatial variability in composition and geotherms on Earth. Tests using an average con-
 365 tinental geotherm to calculate RocMLM profiles results in less divergence between RocMLM
 366 profiles and PREM at < 5 GPa compared to the mid-ocean ridge-like geotherms used
 367 to build the profiles presented in Figures 3–5. At pressures between 5–8 GPa, the two
 368 geophysical models show a discrepancy: PREM contains a discontinuity, especially in
 369 seismic velocities, while STW105 has a gradual and continuous increase. RocMLM pro-
 370 files between 5–8 GPa are more similar to STW105, which does not map any disconti-
 371 nities until the olivine \rightarrow wadsleyite transition at 410 km depth (Figures 3–5j–l).

372 Within the MTZ, DT and NN3 profiles predict intermediate discontinuities, while
 373 PREM and STW105 are gradual and continuous (Figures 3,5g–i). As expected, compar-
 374 ing RocMLM profiles for different geotherms shows that the choice of a mantle poten-
 375 tial temperature leads to contrasting predictions of: 1) the overall evolution of rock prop-
 376 erties with depth, and 2) the depths, magnitudes, and sharpness of phase transitions within
 377 the MTZ (Figures 3–5g–i). RocMLM profiles show, similarly to those directly derived
 378 from the *Perple_X* calculation, temperature-sensitive discontinuities at the olivine \rightarrow wad-
 379 sleyite and wadsleyite \rightarrow ringwoodite transitions, but a rather temperature insensitive
 380 ringwoodite \rightarrow bridgmanite + ferropericlasite transition (Figures 3–5g–i). This can be ex-
 381 plained by differences in Clapeyron slopes modeled by the Stixrude and Lithgow-Bertelloni
 382 (2022) dataset.

383 **3.2 RocMLM Performance**

384 We now compare RocMLM performance to two other tools classically used to pre-
 385 dict the variations of physical properties of mantle rocks in geodynamic models: GFEM
 386 programs and Lookup Tables. Note that RocMLM, GFEM, and Lookup Table perfor-
 387 mance is platform specific. Running analogous implementations with other programming
 388 languages and/or on alternative computer hardware will differ from the results presented
 389 here. All computations in this study were made using CPUs of a Macbook Pro (2022;
 390 M2 chip) with macOS 13.4 and using Python 3.11.4. All performance metrics were eval-
 391 uated with a single CPU core.

392 Figure 6 shows how execution speed, efficiency, and accuracy scale with the capac-
 393 ity of Lookup Tables and RocMLMs. Here, “capacity” refers to the number of scalar val-
 394 ues stored by Lookup Tables, or alternatively, the number of pseudosection PTX points

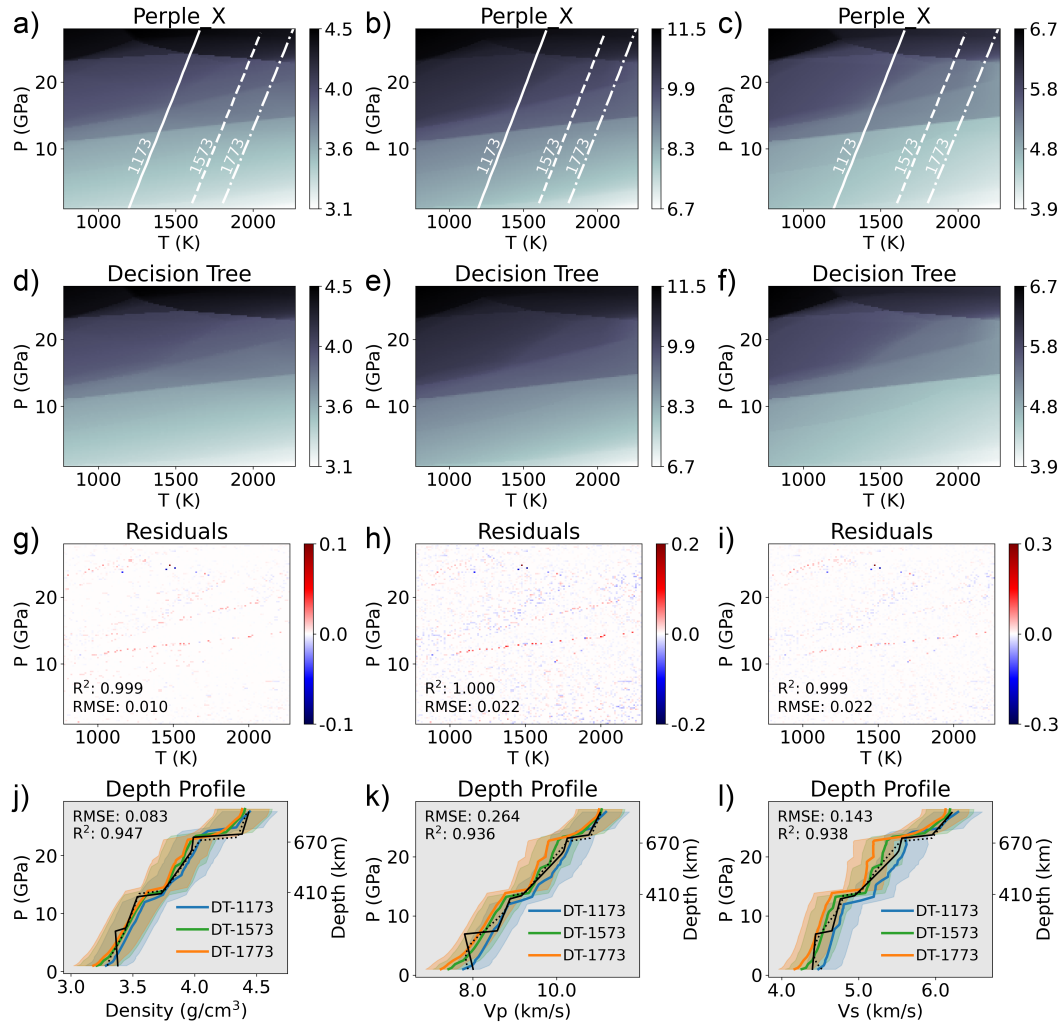


Figure 3: PT diagrams showing density (left column, g/cm^3), V_p (middle column, km/s), and V_s (right column, km/s) predictions from a *Perple_X* model with a PUM bulk composition (a–c), a Decision Tree RocMLM (d–f), and absolute differences between *Perple_X* and DT (g–i) measured on the validation dataset. Depth profiles (j–l) compare *Perple_X* and DT predictions extracted along a 0.5 K/km adiabat with different mantle potential temperatures (white lines) with reference models PREM (solid black line, Dziewoński and Anderson, 1981) and STW105 (dotted black line, Kustowski et al., 2008). The RMSE in (j–l) indicates the measured differences between DT-1573 and PREM. Colored ribbons indicate 5% uncertainty in RocMLM predictions.

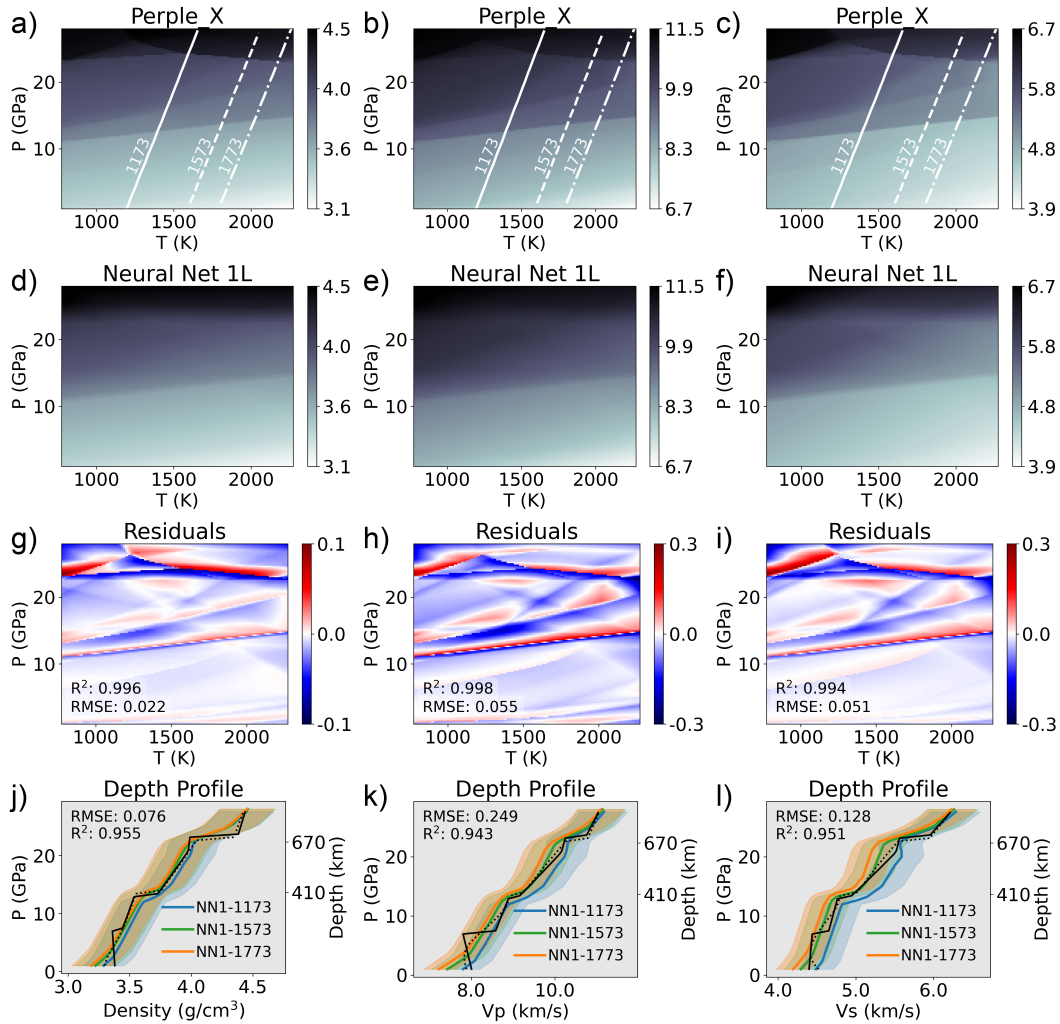


Figure 4: PT diagrams showing density (left column, g/cm^3), V_p (middle column, km/s), and V_s (right column, km/s) predictions from a Perple_X model with a PUM bulk composition (a–c), a single-layer Neural Network RocMLM (d–f), and absolute differences between Perple_X and NN1 (g–i) measured on the validation dataset. Other legend details are the same as in Figure 3.

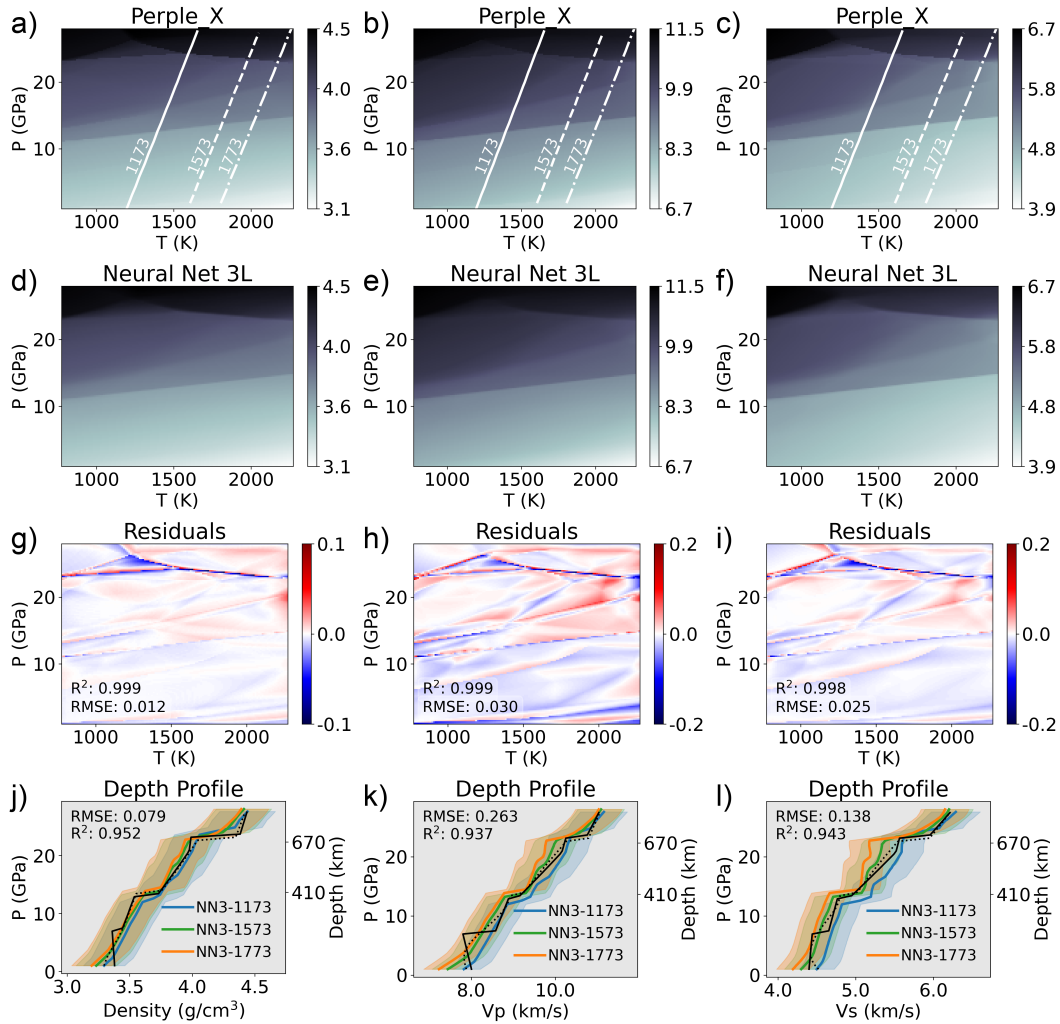


Figure 5: PT diagrams showing density (left column, g/cm^3), V_p (middle column, km/s), and V_s (right column, km/s) predictions from a *Perple_X* model with a PUM bulk composition (a–c), a three-layer Neural Network RocMLM (d–f), and absolute differences between *Perple_X* and NN3 (g–i) measured on the validation dataset. Other legend details are the same as in Figure 3.

395 “learned” by RocMLMs. Thus, “capacity” is intended to convey and compare the breadth
 396 of petrological “knowledge”, or predictive capabilities, of Lookup Tables and RocMLMs.
 397 Within the same context, the notion of “capacity” is irrelevant for GFEM programs. Rather,
 398 GFEM performance primarily scales with the number of chemical components, phase
 399 solutions, and size of the compositional space defined by the user, as well as automatic
 400 grid refinement settings and other user-defined configuration options.

401 GFEM performance is reported using the range of average execution speeds (4–228
 402 ms) and efficiencies (60–3138 ms·Mb) that we measured while generating our RocMLM
 403 training datasets as described in Section 2.2. To demonstrate the sensitivity of GFEM
 404 performance to alternative *Perple_X* configurations, we also show GFEM execution speed
 405 and efficiency for similar calculations using the thermodynamic data and phase solutions
 406 of Holland et al. (2018). Note that none of the *Perple_X* calculations using the Holland
 407 et al. (2018) configuration were used to train RocMLMs due to inaccurate seismic ve-
 408 locity predictions, and their performance metrics are only shown for illustrative purposes.

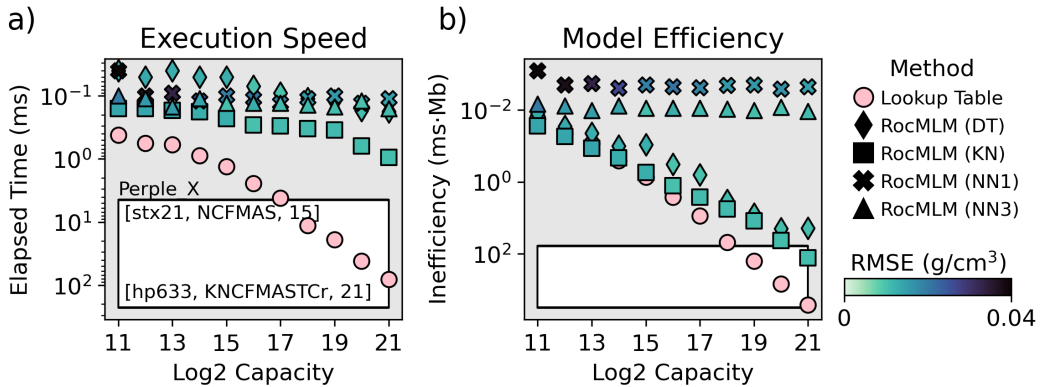


Figure 6: Computational efficiency of various approaches in terms of execution speed (a) and model efficiency (b). “Capacity” (x-axis) is a proxy for the petrological “knowledge”, or predictive capabilities, of Lookup Tables and RocMLMs. White regions indicate GFEM efficiencies for different *Perple_X* configurations (thermodynamic dataset, chemical system, and number of solution phases are indicated in square brackets). stx21: Stixrude and Lithgow-Bertelloni (2022), hp633: Holland and Powell (2011) updated in Holland et al. (2018). *Perple_X* was run without multilevel grid refinement. RMSE is measured between density predictions and the validation dataset.

409 For Lookup Tables, execution speed and efficiency both scale roughly linearly with
 410 capacity on a logarithmic scale—indicating an inverse power-law relationship between
 411 Lookup Table capacity and performance (Figure 6). RocMLM performance, in contrast,

412 scales differently depending on the performance metric and regression algorithm. For ex-
 413 ample, RocMLM execution speed remains roughly constant, or increasing slightly with
 414 capacity, and shows relatively small variance among all regression algorithms (0.14 ± 0.26
 415 ms, 2σ , Figure 6a). Yet RocMLM efficiency is markedly different for DT and KN algo-
 416 rithms compared to NN algorithms (Figure 6b). Despite the fast execution times of KN
 417 and DT algorithms (Figure 6a), their efficiency scales roughly linearly with capacity on
 418 a logarithmic scale—indicating an inverse power-law relationship between efficiency and
 419 capacity similar to Lookup Tables (Figure 6b). NN algorithms, on the other hand, show
 420 roughly constant efficiencies that indicate a high degree of information compression with-
 421 out sacrificing execution speed (Figure 6b). We note that training times for NN algo-
 422 rithms are many orders of magnitude larger than DT and KN algorithms (Supplemen-
 423 tary Information). However, training times are neither limiting nor critical for geody-
 424 namic applications as training is independent from, and precedes numerical simulations.

425 Since accuracy is measured relative to the rock properties generated by GFEM pro-
 426 grams, GFEM programs have perfect accuracy by definition. With respect to RocMLMs,
 427 validation accuracies (RMSE) are observed to be roughly constant for regression algo-
 428 rithms that apply binary decisions or local distance-based weights (DT and KN), while
 429 algorithms that apply global activation-based weights (NNs) show a positive correlation
 430 between accuracy and capacity (Figure 6). In addition to improving accuracy with in-
 431 creasing amounts of training examples, NN accuracy also increases with the number of
 432 hidden-layers (Figure 6) because deeper networks are more capable of fitting sharp gra-
 433 dients in the training data (see Supplementary Information for examples of NN1, NN2,
 434 and NN3 RocMLMs). We also tested the effects of NN width (changing the number of
 435 nodes within each hidden layer), but this had a negligible impact on NN performance
 436 and accuracy compared to increasing NN depth.

437 **4 Discussion**

438 **4.1 RocMLM Performance Tradeoffs**

439 RocMLM performance and accuracy are both critical for geodynamic applications
 440 and crucial for determining if RocMLMs are an improvement over methods commonly
 441 used for predicting rock properties in numerical geodynamic simulations. In terms of pure
 442 execution speed, our testing demonstrates that RocMLMs can make predictions between

443 10^1 – 10^3 times faster than GFEM programs and Lookup Tables (Figure 6), depending
444 on the GFEM program configuration. The difference in execution speed between Lookup
445 Tables and RocMLMs is small for low-resolution models (Figure 6) that are limited to
446 ≤ 16 mantle compositions and large PT intervals (≥ 1.7 GPa and 100 K PT step sizes).
447 However, such low-resolution models are not an obvious improvement over simple poly-
448 nomial approximations of a selective number of important phase transformations. At higher
449 resolutions, RocMLMs can accurately resolve the physical properties of all thermodynamically-
450 stable mineral assemblages in fine detail (at PT intervals of ≤ 0.2 GPa and 12 K) and
451 for a wide variety of bulk mantle compositions (Figure 2). In addition to their broad pre-
452 dictive capabilities, high-resolution RocMLMs make predictions at speeds (approximately
453 0.1–1 ms, Figure 6) that allow computation of physical properties at the node-scale dur-
454 ing geodynamic simulations. We therefore argue that high-resolution RocMLMs over-
455 come all practical limitations for implementing thermodynamically self-consistent den-
456 sity evolution in numerical geodynamic models.

457 With respect to ranking the practicality of different RocMLM for geodynamic ap-
458 plications, execution speeds and accuracies alone suggest that high-resolution RocMLMs
459 will perform with roughly equivalent outcomes regardless of the regression algorithm (Fig-
460 ure 6a). However, our testing reveals an obvious tradeoff between RocMLM performance
461 and accuracy when accounting for compression ratio (i.e., the amount of “learned” in-
462 formation relative to the RocMLM file size). Figure 6b shows DT and KN algorithms
463 becoming rapidly inefficient compared to NNs as the capacity of the training dataset in-
464 creases. This is because NN algorithms require relatively little information to make pre-
465 dictions after training (weights and biases for each neuron) compared to DT (tree struc-
466 ture: nodes, splits, and predictions) and KN (entire training dataset with distance weights)
467 algorithms. Moreover, accuracy tends to improve monotonically with dataset capacity
468 for NN, but not for DT or KN. We therefore argue that deep NN RocMLMs are the most
469 practical choice for geodynamic applications for three reasons: 1) modeling more rock
470 types only requires adding more training data, 2) adding more training data improves
471 prediction accuracy without diminishing performance, and 3) further improvements and
472 adaptations to different geodynamic applications are possible by exploring different ar-
473 chitectures than the simple NN models we have tested thus far.

474 The main limitations of NN RocMLMs are twofold: 1) training is computationally
475 expensive compared to other regression algorithms (Supplementary Information) and 2)

476 shallow NN architectures imply smoother gradients in rock properties than GFEM cal-
 477 culations. We do not consider these limitations critical because training time is indepen-
 478 dent from RocMLM performance and even if deeper NN architectures are needed to fit
 479 discontinuities in rock properties with high accuracy, the number of layers and neurons
 480 in each layer remains small (Table 3). We note that our testing has been limited to the
 481 prediction of three properties that are mostly P-dependent and are relatively continu-
 482 ous despite a few large discontinuities. In principle, RocMLMs can be trained on any ther-
 483 modynamic variable output by GFEM programs. However, we have not yet trained RocMLMs
 484 on more discrete, discontinuous, and/or highly T-dependent variables, such as modal pro-
 485 portions of minerals, volatile contents, or melt fraction, which will be treated in future
 486 developments of RocMLMs.

487 **4.2 Geophysical and Thermodynamic Estimates of Elastic Properties**

488 The amount of overlap between RocMLM profiles and PREM (Figures 3–3) sug-
 489 gests good agreement between thermodynamic and geophysical estimates of the elastic
 490 properties of mantle rocks within the limits of our training dataset and *Perple_X* con-
 491 figuration (see Sections 2.1 and 2.2). Discrepancies between thermodynamic profiles and
 492 PREM can be explained by chemical heterogeneity and/or differences in mantle geotherms
 493 that modify phase relations (Goes et al., 2022; Karki and Stixrude, 1999; Karki et al.,
 494 2001; Stixrude and Lithgow-Bertelloni, 2012; Waszek et al., 2021; Xu et al., 2008). Be-
 495 cause the RocMLM training dataset spans a wide array of synthetic bulk mantle com-
 496 positions, we can directly test the sensitivity of thermodynamic estimates to changes in
 497 bulk FeO–MgO contents (Figure 7).

498 As Fertility Index (ξ) increases by refertilization and/or lack of melt extraction and
 499 the bulk mantle composition becomes more Fe-rich (and more dense), V_p and V_s respond
 500 (both positively and negatively) according to the equations of state described in Stixrude
 501 and Lithgow-Bertelloni (2005). RocMLM training data show that density is the least sen-
 502 sitive parameter to ξ overall with only modest variations across a broad range of man-
 503 tle rocks from fertile to highly depleted ($\xi = 0.76$, Figure 7a). The largest density vari-
 504 ations occur at pressures below the olivine \rightarrow wadsleyite transition (< 410 km), yet are
 505 still small enough (approximately 3–5 %) to imply that spontaneous mantle convection
 506 requires strong thermal gradients and/or hydration by metamorphic fluids in addition
 507 to melt extraction.

508 In contrast to density, V_p and V_s are more sensitive to ξ overall, especially at pressures
 509 above the olivine \rightarrow wadsleyite transition (> 410 km). RocMLM training data sug-
 510 gests that an “optimal” V_p/V_s profile requires a more depleted mantle between 410–670
 511 km and a more fertile mantle at < 410 km (Figure 7b,c). Forming this compositional
 512 layering pattern is counterintuitive, however, as partial melting is expected to be more
 513 pervasive at lower pressures. Moreover, density profiles are incongruent with this pat-
 514 tern, suggesting instead that a depleted mantle at < 410 km and more fertile mantle at
 515 > 410 km are required for an optimal fit with PREM and STW105 (Figure 7a).

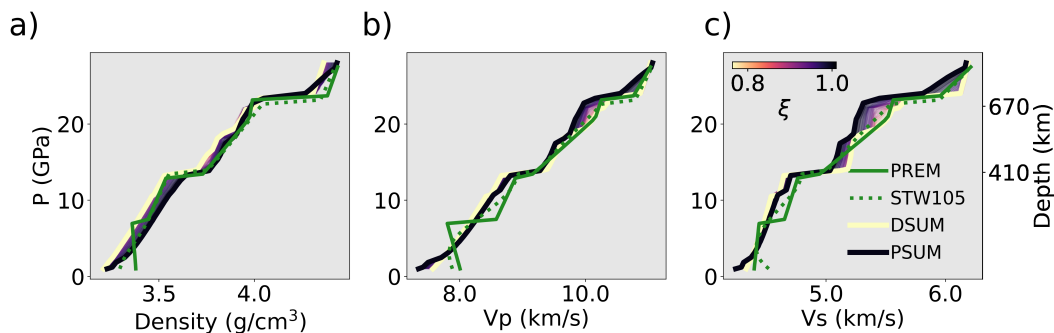


Figure 7: Depth profiles of RocMLM training data along a 1573 K mantle adiabat showing the sensitivities of thermodynamic estimates of density (a), V_p (b), and V_s (c) to changes in bulk mantle composition (as represented by the Fertility Index, ξ). Geophysical profiles PREM and STW105 (green lines) and the profiles of synthetic mantle end-member compositions PSUM and DSUM (thick colored lines) are shown for reference. Thin colored lines show profiles for the entire range of RocMLM training data.

516 5 Conclusions

517 The dynamics of Earth’s upper mantle is largely driven by density contrasts stem-
 518 ming from changes in PT conditions, which lead to phase transformations in mantle rocks.
 519 These phase transformations also modify the elastic properties of mantle rocks. There-
 520 fore phase changes must be considered when inverting present-day mantle structure from
 521 seismic data. Likewise, numerical geodynamic simulations of mantle convection must ac-
 522 count for thermodynamics, but are typically implemented with simple PT-dependent pa-
 523 rameterizations of rock properties and phase boundaries that do not explicitly account
 524 for changes in Gibbs Free Energy resulting from changes in PT and in bulk composition.
 525 Here, we introduce RocMLMs as an alternative to GFEM programs and we evaluate RocMLM
 526 performance and accuracy. We also show how the RocMLM predictions compare to PREM
 527 and STW105. Our main findings are as follows:

- 528 1. RocMLMs predict density and elastic properties with high accuracy and are up
529 to 101–103 faster than commonly used methods. This improvement in prediction
530 speed makes thermodynamically self-consistent mantle convection within high-resolution
531 numerical geodynamic models practical for the first time.
- 532 2. RocMLMs trained with moderately deep (3 hidden layers) NNs are more robust
533 and efficient compared to RocMLMs trained with other regression algorithms, and
534 are therefore the most practical models for coupling with numerical geodynamic
535 codes.
- 536 3. RocMLM training data are sensitive to bulk mantle composition and geothermal
537 gradients, yet show good agreement with PREM and STW105 for an average man-
538 tle geotherm.

539 Based on our results, we argue that moderately deep NN RocMLMs can be excep-
540 tional emulators of GFEM programs in geodynamic simulations that require computa-
541 tionally efficient predictions of rock properties. We have demonstrated that RocMLMs
542 perform remarkably well for dry mantle rocks with compositions ranging from very fer-
543 tile lherzolites to strongly depleted harzburgites and PT conditions ranging from 1–28
544 GPa and 773–2273 K.

545 Moreover, the RocMLM approach can be used with any GFEM program and ther-
546 modynamic dataset. Any improvement to the underlying thermodynamic data should
547 further increase the accuracy of RocMLM predictions. Testing RocMLMs predictions
548 on other thermodynamic variables of interest, including modal proportions of minerals,
549 volatile contents, and melt fractions will be the focus of future studies. Likewise, in fu-
550 ture works, we will extend the training data to include hydrous systems and additional
551 end-member mantle compositions (e.g., pyroxenites and dunites).

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560 **7 Open Research**

561 All data, code, and relevant information for reproducing this work can be found
562 at https://github.com/buchanankerswell/kerswell_et_al_rocmlm, and at <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/K23TB>, the official Open Science Framework data repository
563 (Kerswell et al., 2024). All code is MIT Licensed and free for use and distribution (see
564 license details). Reference models PREM and STW105 are freely available from the In-
565 corporated Research Institutions for Seismology Earth Model Collaboration (IRIS EMC,
566 doi: 10.17611/DP/EMC.1, Trabant et al., 2012). All computations were made using CPUs
567 of a Macbook Pro (2022; M2 chip) with macOS 13.4 and using Python 3.11.4.
568

569 **8 References**

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Supporting Information for RocMLMs: Predicting Rock Properties through Machine Learning Models

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Contents of this File

1. Figures S1 to S6
2. Tables S1

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Synthetic Peridotite Compositions

Figure S1 shows a comparison between natural peridotite compositions in the standardized Earthchem.org dataset and synthetic peridotite compositions sampled randomly along the PCA mixing array as described in Section 2.1.2 of the main text. The data in Figure S1 are the same as presented in Figure 2 of the main text, but show peridotite compositions in chemical space (Harker diagrams vs. SiO_2) instead of PC space. The trend from more fertile lherzolite samples to more depleted harzburgite samples is closely approximated by the synthetic peridotite mixing array. While PUM and DMM are often represented in the literature as distinct mantle end-members, they have quite similar major oxide compositions (e.g., Al_2O_3 , CaO , MgO , and FeO). Synthetic mantle end-members PSUM and DSUM represent a much wider range of recorded mantle compositions than PUM and DMM (Figure S1).

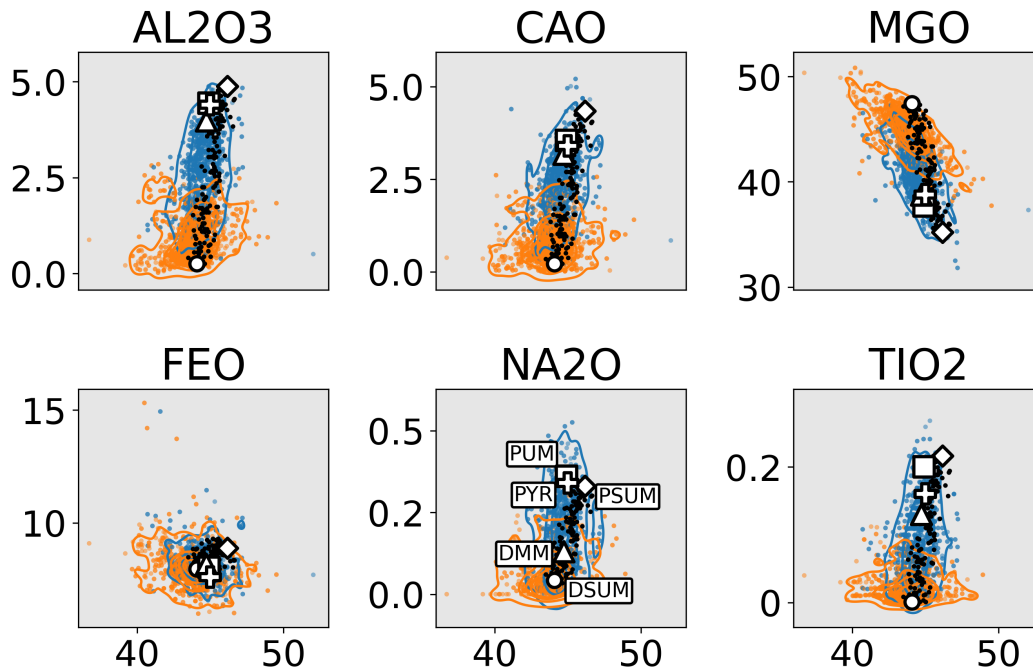


Figure S1: Harker Diagrams vs. SiO_2 (in wt.%) showing the distribution of peridotite samples from Earthchem.org (colored data points and contours). PUM (white square), DMM (white triangle), and pyrolite (white plus) are commonly-referenced bulk mantle compositions (see Table 2 in the main text), while PSUM (white diamond) and DSUM (white circle) define a mixing array used to generate RocMLM training data (black data points).

RocMLM Regression Algorithms

Figures S2–S6 show RocMLM predictions and depth profiles for a PUM bulk mantle composition. The Decision Tree, single-layer Neural Network, and three-layer Neural Network RocMLMs were presented in the main text (Figures 3–5), while the k-Neighbors (Figure S3) and two-layer Neural Network RocMLMs (Figures S5) are presented here for a comprehensive comparison of all the regression algorithms tested in this study.

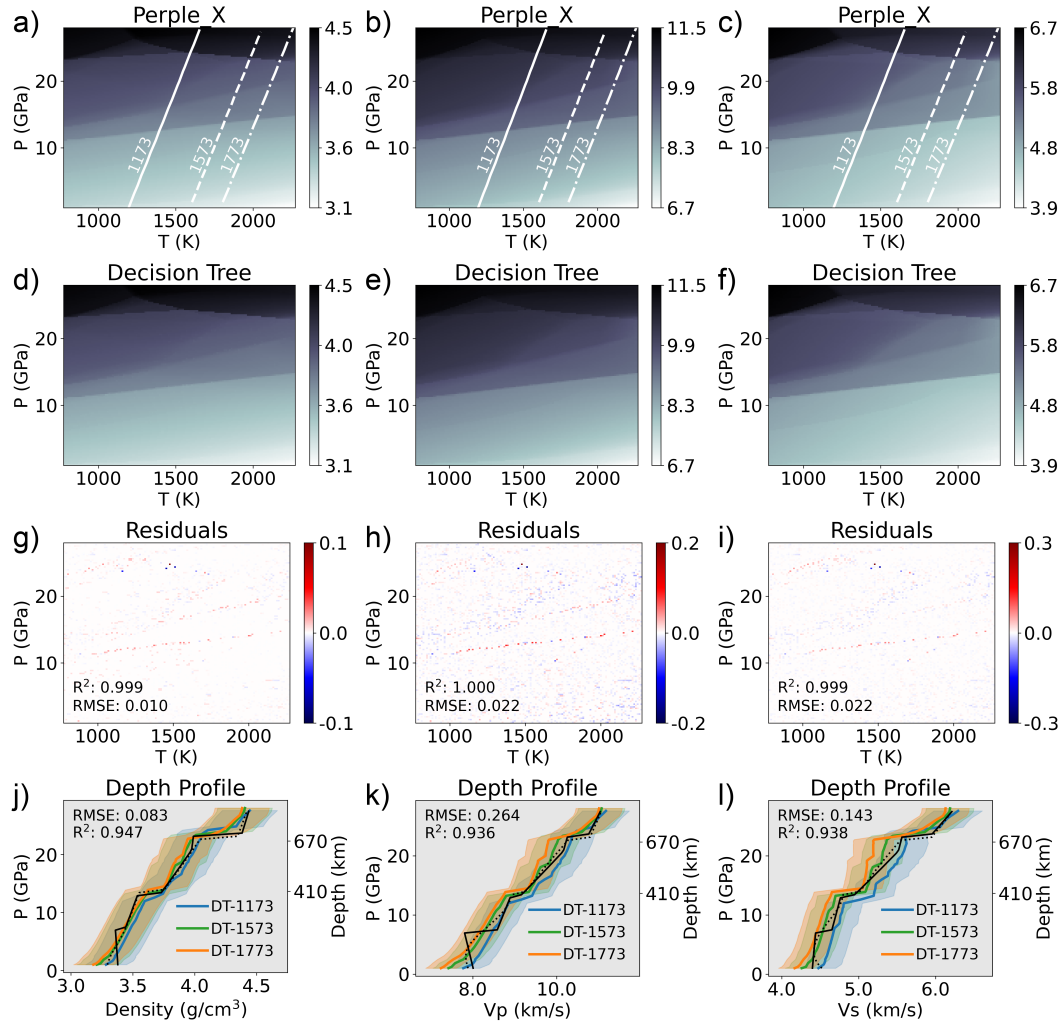


Figure S2: (ref:image12-PUM-DT-cap)

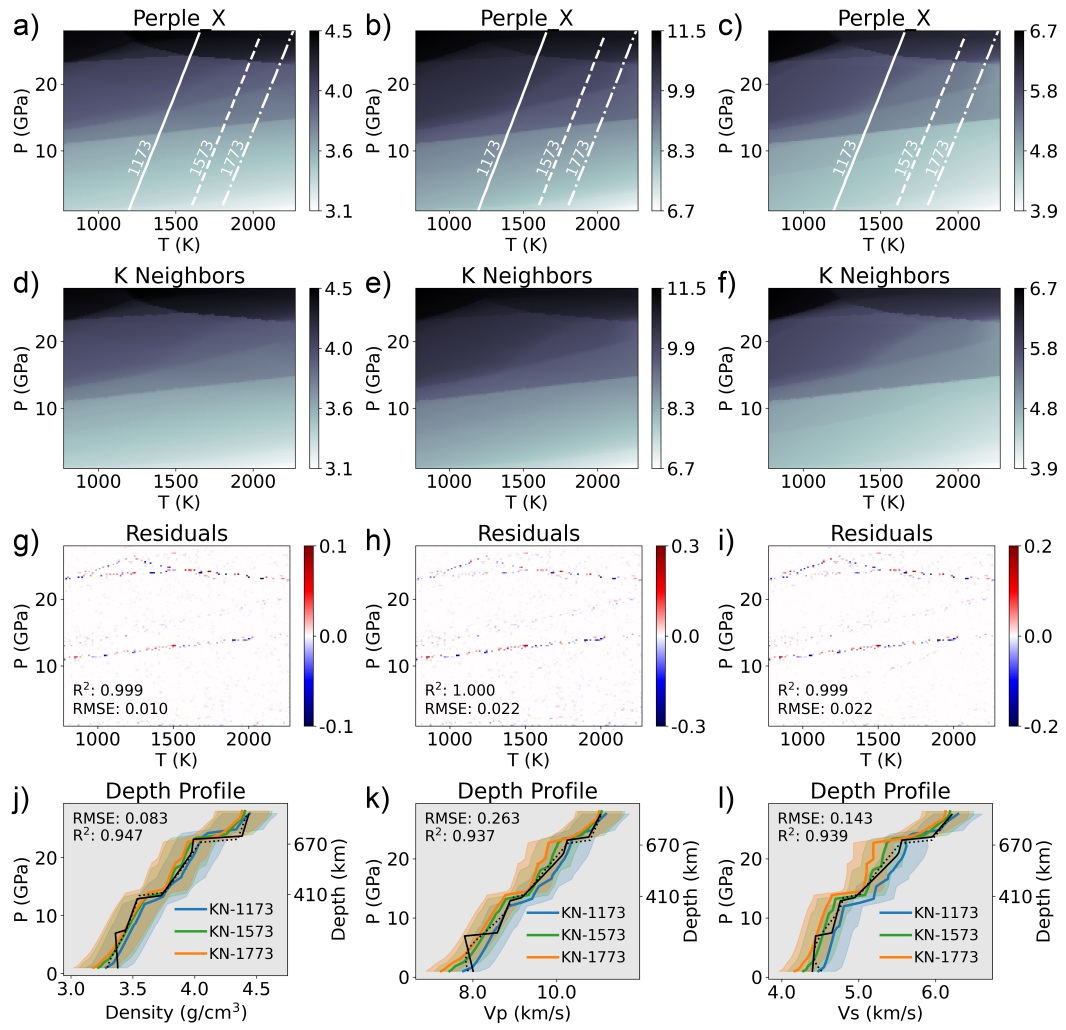


Figure S3: (ref:image12-PUM-KN-cap)

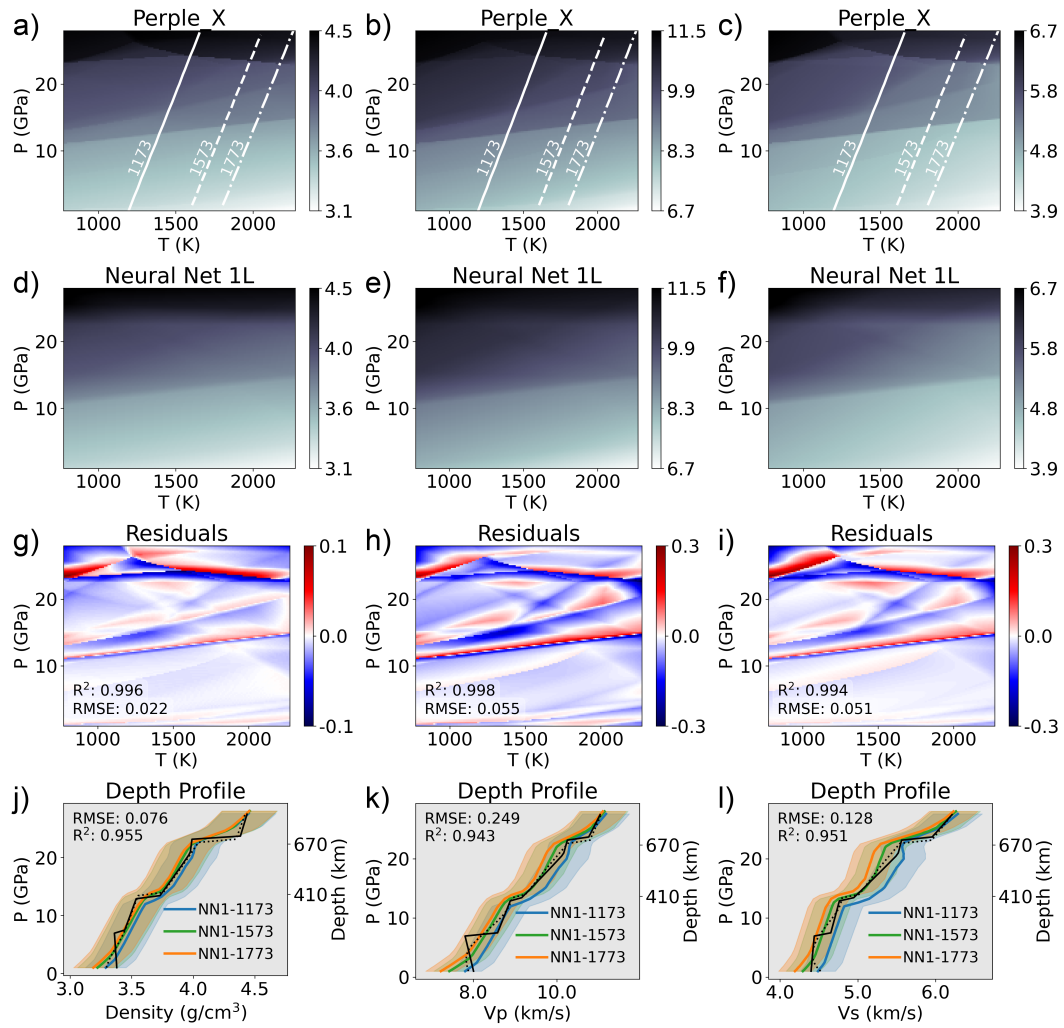


Figure S4: (ref:image12-PUM-NN1-cap)

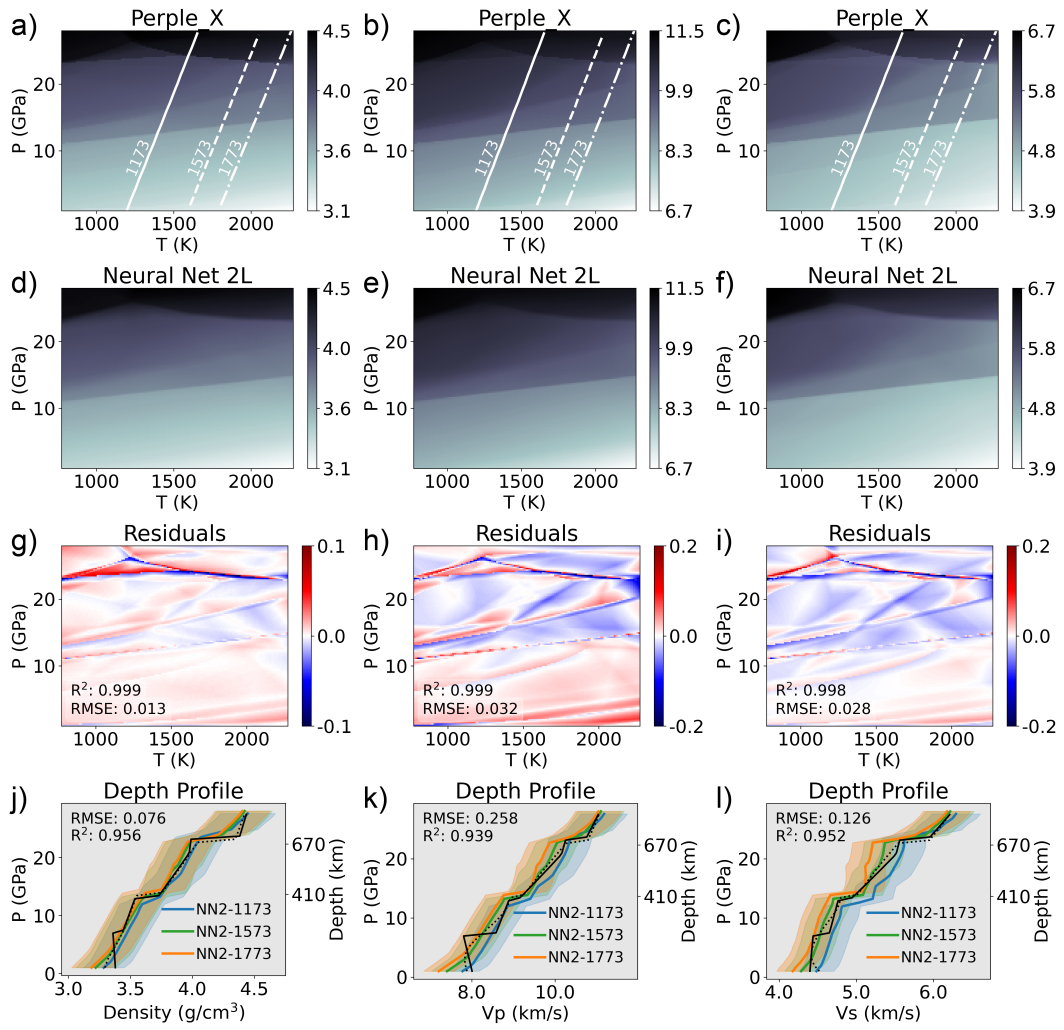


Figure S5: (ref:image12-PUM-NN2-cap)

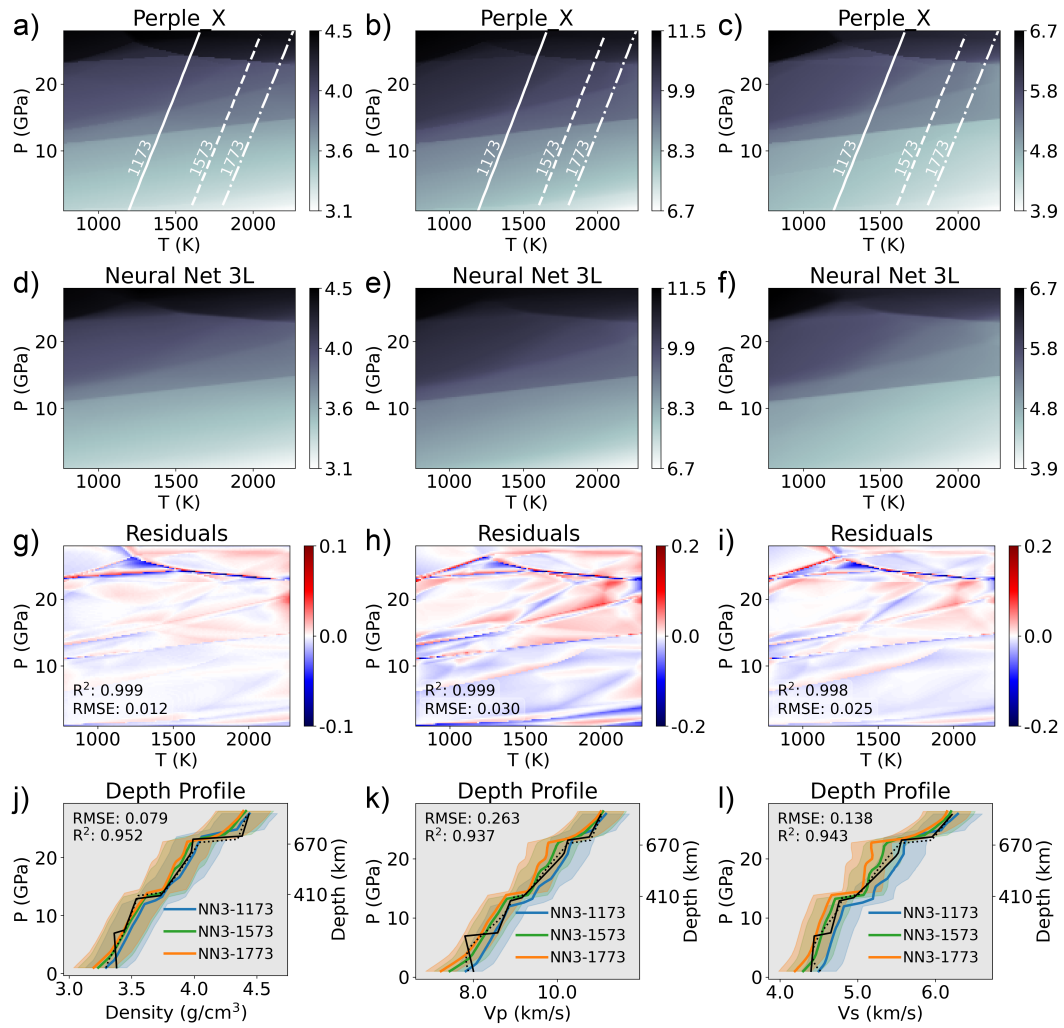


Figure S6: (ref:image12-PUM-NN3-cap)

GFEM, Lookup Table, and RocMLM Performance Datasets

The Lookup Table and GFEM performance data referenced in the main text are not included here for brevity, but can be found at <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/K23TB>. These data are shown in Figure 6 of the main text and referenced in the Introduction of the main text to give a sense of the execution speeds of widely-used GFEM programs (4–228 ms per PTX point). The Introduction of the main text also references a feasibility objective for RocMLM performance (10^0 – 10^{-1} ms), which was estimated with the following reasoning. Numerical geodynamic models on the order of 2000 x 300 km in scale, containing at least 277,221 nodes (921 x 301, e.g., Kerswell et al., 2021) are widely-considered “high-resolution”. Running GFEM on each node (at 4–228 ms/node) would take between 18.5 minutes to 17.5 hours with modern GFEM programs, depending on their configuration and assuming a simple sequential computation. At execution speeds of 10^0 – 10^{-1} ms, however, only 0.5–4.5 minutes of computation time would be added to each timestep, in a similar context. We consider an additional 0.5–4.5 minutes per timestep reasonable considering the advantage of implementing thermodynamic self-consistency in numerical experiments, especially given that parallel computing would further decrease these time estimations. We therefore set 10^0 – 10^{-1} ms as a minimum feasibility objective for RocMLM execution speeds.

Note that Figure 6 of the main text shows a representative subset of the RocMLM performance data evaluated in this study. RocMLM performance was measured multiple times for each regression algorithm: iterating over all combinations of PT and X resolutions (Table S1), or model “capacities”, which was too much data to include in the main text. For graphical clarity, Figure 6 of the main text only shows the set of RocMLM models with the lowest prediction times for each unique model capacity (ranging from 2^{11} – 2^{21}). The same filtering procedure is equally applied to Lookup Table results. Removing this filtering step (or alternatively selecting for the highest prediction times) does not alter the main conclusions discussed in Section 4 of the main text, but does make the results presented in Figure 6 of the main text easier to digest for the reader. For transparency and reproducibility, the complete RocMLM performance dataset is contained in Table S1 below.

Table S1: RocMLM PTX resolution, accuracy (RMSE vs. *Perple_X*), and performance (training and prediction times) measured on a validation dataset after training.

Model	PT		Train (ms)	Predict (ms)	RMSE rho (g/cm ³)	RMSE		Filesize (Mb)
	Res (pts)	X Res (pts)				Vp (km/s)	Vs (km/s)	
DT	8	2	0.77	0.03	0.017	0.038	0.038	0.034
DT	8	32	2.8	0.04	0.014	0.034	0.034	0.313
DT	8	64	5.1	0.05	0.014	0.034	0.034	0.572
DT	8	128	8.5	0.05	0.014	0.034	0.034	0.52
DT	16	2	1.1	0.04	0.0098	0.022	0.021	0.117
DT	16	32	9.7	0.04	0.013	0.029	0.027	1.12
DT	16	64	19	0.05	0.013	0.029	0.027	2.04
DT	16	128	34	0.05	0.014	0.029	0.027	1.86
DT	32	2	3.6	0.04	0.0099	0.022	0.02	0.44
DT	32	32	43	0.07	0.011	0.022	0.021	4.22
DT	32	64	39	0.07	0.011	0.022	0.022	4.63
DT	32	128	170	0.09	0.011	0.022	0.022	7.02
DT	64	2	14	0.04	0.011	0.022	0.022	1.7
DT	64	32	220	0.09	0.011	0.023	0.022	16.4
DT	64	64	440	0.11	0.012	0.023	0.022	29.8
DT	64	128	790	0.15	0.012	0.023	0.023	27.2
DT	128	2	64	0.06	0.01	0.022	0.022	6.71
DT	128	32	1000	0.12	0.011	0.023	0.022	64.4
DT	128	64	2100	0.17	0.011	0.023	0.022	117
DT	128	128	4100	0.18	0.011	0.023	0.022	108
KN	8	2	0.39	0.18	0.027	0.078	0.058	0.017
KN	8	32	0.61	0.16	0.015	0.035	0.034	0.174
KN	8	64	0.98	0.16	0.015	0.035	0.034	0.342
KN	8	128	1.6	0.17	0.015	0.034	0.034	0.678
KN	16	2	0.47	0.14	0.015	0.041	0.033	0.057
KN	16	32	1.5	0.17	0.014	0.031	0.028	0.603
KN	16	64	2.9	0.18	0.014	0.029	0.027	1.19

Model	PT				RMSE rho (g/cm ³)	RMSE		Filesize (Mb)
	Res (pts)	X Res (pts)	Train (ms)	Predict (ms)		Vp (km/s)	Vs (km/s)	
KN	16	128	6	0.23	0.014	0.029	0.027	2.35
KN	32	2	0.67	0.22	0.011	0.028	0.024	0.21
KN	32	32	7.4	0.45	0.011	0.024	0.023	2.27
KN	32	64	14	0.29	0.011	0.023	0.022	4.48
KN	32	128	31	0.31	0.011	0.023	0.022	8.89
KN	64	2	2.1	0.21	0.011	0.023	0.022	0.814
KN	64	32	29	0.3	0.012	0.024	0.023	8.82
KN	64	64	56	0.33	0.012	0.023	0.023	17.4
KN	64	128	120	0.35	0.012	0.023	0.023	34.5
KN	128	2	8.4	0.2	0.01	0.022	0.022	3.2
KN	128	32	130	0.47	0.011	0.023	0.022	34.8
KN	128	64	270	0.62	0.011	0.023	0.022	68.5
KN	128	128	610	0.95	0.011	0.023	0.022	136
NN1	8	2	240	0.03	0.049	0.15	0.12	0.02
NN1	8	32	450	0.04	0.042	0.13	0.11	0.02
NN1	8	64	13000	0.1	0.04	0.12	0.096	0.02
NN1	8	128	14000	0.09	0.035	0.09	0.077	0.02
NN1	16	2	270	0.04	0.052	0.15	0.13	0.02
NN1	16	32	14000	0.13	0.036	0.087	0.081	0.02
NN1	16	64	16000	0.12	0.029	0.072	0.068	0.02
NN1	16	128	32000	0.1	0.021	0.06	0.055	0.02
NN1	32	2	14000	0.07	0.04	0.12	0.099	0.02
NN1	32	32	32000	0.13	0.025	0.061	0.057	0.02
NN1	32	64	51000	0.11	0.022	0.055	0.051	0.02
NN1	32	128	82000	0.16	0.019	0.05	0.046	0.02
NN1	64	2	15000	0.08	0.03	0.073	0.068	0.019
NN1	64	32	84000	0.13	0.02	0.048	0.044	0.019
NN1	64	64	140000	0.11	0.016	0.039	0.039	0.019
NN1	64	128	250000	0.14	0.017	0.045	0.041	0.019
NN1	128	2	36000	0.12	0.022	0.055	0.051	0.02

Model	PT				RMSE rho (g/cm ³)	RMSE		Filesize (Mb)
	Res (pts)	X Res (pts)	Train (ms)	Predict (ms)		Vp (km/s)	Vs (km/s)	
NN1	128	32	250000	0.1	0.017	0.041	0.038	0.02
NN1	128	64	500000	0.13	0.017	0.042	0.04	0.02
NN1	128	128	980000	0.11	0.016	0.039	0.036	0.02
NN2	8	2	290	0.04	0.045	0.12	0.11	0.045
NN2	8	32	14000	0.07	0.034	0.098	0.089	0.045
NN2	8	64	26000	0.13	0.024	0.076	0.072	0.045
NN2	8	128	28000	0.11	0.016	0.046	0.04	0.045
NN2	16	2	14000	0.1	0.046	0.12	0.11	0.045
NN2	16	32	28000	0.1	0.017	0.056	0.046	0.045
NN2	16	64	32000	0.09	0.015	0.043	0.035	0.045
NN2	16	128	63000	0.15	0.014	0.037	0.032	0.045
NN2	32	2	26000	0.11	0.033	0.088	0.079	0.045
NN2	32	32	63000	0.11	0.013	0.032	0.027	0.045
NN2	32	64	96000	0.12	0.012	0.032	0.027	0.045
NN2	32	128	150000	0.14	0.013	0.037	0.033	0.045
NN2	64	2	29000	0.13	0.02	0.054	0.048	0.043
NN2	64	32	160000	0.18	0.013	0.032	0.029	0.043
NN2	64	64	270000	0.15	0.011	0.03	0.026	0.043
NN2	64	128	500000	0.16	0.012	0.031	0.028	0.043
NN2	128	2	67000	0.16	0.013	0.032	0.028	0.045
NN2	128	32	510000	0.15	0.012	0.028	0.025	0.045
NN2	128	64	1e+06	0.14	0.015	0.032	0.03	0.045
NN2	128	128	2.1e+06	0.19	0.015	0.037	0.032	0.045
NN3	8	2	330	0.04	0.04	0.12	0.1	0.069
NN3	8	32	27000	0.1	0.021	0.061	0.059	0.069
NN3	8	64	40000	0.11	0.016	0.048	0.044	0.069
NN3	8	128	42000	0.15	0.016	0.042	0.037	0.069
NN3	16	2	27000	0.08	0.04	0.12	0.099	0.069
NN3	16	32	42000	0.16	0.015	0.048	0.039	0.069
NN3	16	64	47000	0.11	0.015	0.042	0.035	0.069

Model	PT		Train (ms)	Predict (ms)	RMSE rho (g/cm ³)	RMSE		Filesize (Mb)
	Res (pts)	X Res (pts)				Vp (km/s)	Vs (km/s)	
NN3	16	128	91000	0.16	0.016	0.041	0.034	0.069
NN3	32	2	40000	0.2	0.028	0.072	0.067	0.069
NN3	32	32	92000	0.13	0.011	0.027	0.024	0.069
NN3	32	64	140000	0.13	0.014	0.037	0.033	0.069
NN3	32	128	220000	0.13	0.012	0.03	0.026	0.069
NN3	64	2	44000	0.14	0.016	0.044	0.037	0.068
NN3	64	32	230000	0.17	0.013	0.028	0.026	0.068
NN3	64	64	400000	0.14	0.012	0.027	0.025	0.068
NN3	64	128	780000	0.18	0.012	0.027	0.024	0.068
NN3	128	2	97000	0.18	0.012	0.03	0.025	0.069
NN3	128	32	780000	0.15	0.011	0.025	0.023	0.069
NN3	128	64	1.6e+06	0.12	0.011	0.025	0.023	0.069
NN3	128	128	2.9e+06	0.16	0.012	0.025	0.024	0.069

1 References

References

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