

# Olivine in the Udachnaya-East Kimberlite (Yakutia, Russia): Types, Compositions and Origins

VADIM S. KAMENETSKY<sup>1,2\*</sup>, MAYA B. KAMENETSKY<sup>1,2</sup>,  
ALEXANDER V. SOBOLEV<sup>2,3</sup>, ALEXANDER V. GOLOVIN<sup>4</sup>,  
SYLVIE DEMOUCHEY<sup>5</sup>, KEVIN FAURE<sup>6</sup>, VICTOR V. SHARYGIN<sup>4</sup> AND  
DMITRY V. KUZMIN<sup>2,4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>ARC CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN ORE DEPOSITS AND SCHOOL OF EARTH SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA, HOBART, TAS. 7001, AUSTRALIA

<sup>2</sup>MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE FOR CHEMISTRY, GEOCHEMISTRY DIVISION, MAINZ, 55020, GERMANY

<sup>3</sup>VERNADSKY INSTITUTE OF GEOCHEMISTRY, RUSSIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, MOSCOW 119991, RUSSIA

<sup>4</sup>INSTITUTE OF GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY SB RAS, NOVOSIBIRSK 630090, RUSSIA

<sup>5</sup>DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND GEOPHYSICS, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55455, USA

<sup>6</sup>NATIONAL ISOTOPE CENTRE, GNS SCIENCE, PO BOX 31-312, LOWER HUTT, NEW ZEALAND

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*Olivine is the principal mineral of kimberlite magmas, and is the main contributor to the ultramafic composition of kimberlite rocks. Olivine is partly or completely altered in common kimberlites, and thus unavailable for studies of the origin and evolution of kimberlite magmas. The masking effects of alteration, common in kimberlites worldwide, are overcome in this study of the exceptionally fresh diamondiferous kimberlites of the Udachnaya-East pipe from the Daldyn–Alakit province, Yakutia, northern Siberia. These serpentine-free kimberlites contain large amounts of olivine (~50 vol.%) in a chloride–carbonate groundmass. Olivine is represented by two populations (olivine-I and groundmass olivine-II) differing in morphology, colour and grain size, and trapped mineral and melt inclusions. The large fragmental olivine-I is compositionally variable in terms of major ( $Fo_{85-94}$ ) and trace element concentrations, including  $H_2O$  content (10–136 ppm). Multiple sources of olivine-I, such as convecting and lithospheric mantle, are suggested. The groundmass olivine-II is recognized by smaller grain sizes and perfect crystallographic shapes that indicate crystallization during magma ascent and emplacement. However, a simple crystallization history for olivine-II is complicated by complex zoning in terms of Fo values and trace element contents. The cores of olivine-II are compositionally similar to olivine-I, which suggests a genetic link between*

*these two types of olivine. Olivine-I and olivine-II have oxygen isotope values ( $+5.6 \pm 0.1\text{‰}$  VSMOW, 1 SD) that are indistinguishable from one another, but higher than values ( $+5.18 \pm 0.28\text{‰}$ ) in 'typical' mantle olivine. These elevated values probably reflect equilibrium with the Udachnaya carbonate melt at low temperatures and  $^{18}O$ -enriched mantle source. The volumetrically significant rims of olivine-II have constant Fo values ( $89.0 \pm 0.2$  mol%), but variable trace element compositions. The uniform Fo compositions of the rims imply an absence of fractionation of the melt's  $Fe^{2+}/Mg$ , which is possible in the carbonatite melt–olivine system. The kimberlite melt is argued to have originated in the mantle as a chloride–carbonate liquid, devoid of 'ultramafic' or 'basaltic' aluminosilicate components, but became olivine-laden and olivine-saturated by scavenging olivine crystals from the pathway rocks and dissolving them en route to the surface. During emplacement the kimberlite magma changed progressively towards an original alkali-rich chloride–carbonate melt by extensively crystallizing groundmass olivine and gravitational separation of solids in the pipe.*

KEY WORDS: kimberlite; olivine; partial melting; carbonatitic melt; oxygen isotopes;  $H_2O$

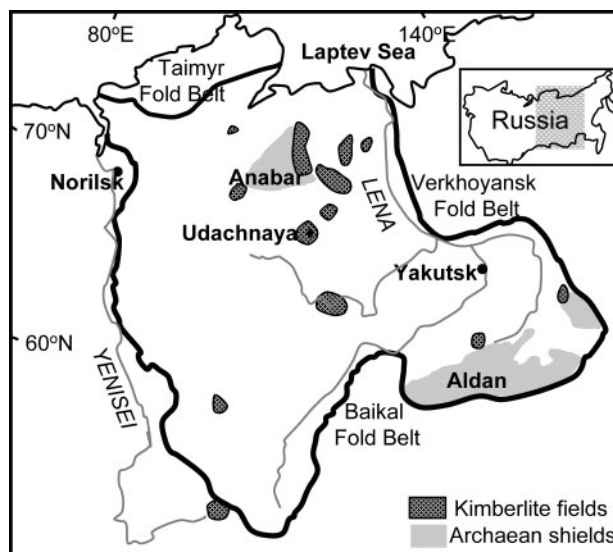
\*Corresponding author. Telephone: 61-3-62267649. Fax: +61-3-62262547. E-mail: dima.kamenetsky@utas.edu.au

## INTRODUCTION

Kimberlites are rare and compositionally unusual among terrestrial magmas, but their intimate relationships with diamonds make them invaluable to the scientific and exploration communities. The association of kimberlites with diamonds and deep-seated mantle xenoliths links the origin of parental kimberlite magmas to the greatest known depths (>150 km) of magma derivation (e.g. Dawson, 1980; Pasteris, 1984; Mitchell, 1986, 1995; Eggler, 1989; Girmis & Ryabchikov, 2005). At the same time, kimberlite magmas are amongst the least viscous and most buoyant of all magmas, which allows exceptionally rapid transport from the source region (Eggler, 1989; Canil & Fedortchouk, 1999; Haggerty, 1999; Kelley & Wartho, 2000; Sparks *et al.*, 2006) and preservation of diamonds. The physical properties of a kimberlite magma relate to the enrichment in carbonate components, which are represented in common kimberlites by calcite and dolomite. The abundant carbonate component in kimberlite rocks is counterbalanced by a more abundant olivine (ultramafic) component, represented by olivine fragments and crystals that are commonly affected by serpentinization.

Kimberlites are characteristically enriched in highly incompatible elements, with extreme fractionation between lithophile elements of contrasting incompatibility, and a genetic link to the parental melts of carbonatites and olivine melilitites is thus possible (Brey & Green, 1976). The work by David H. Green and his colleagues has provided invaluable insights into the compositions of low-degree mantle melts and the role of alkali and volatile elements in the processes of mantle melting and metasomatism (Green & Wallace, 1988; Wallace & Green, 1988; Falloon & Green, 1989, 1990; Green, 1990; Green *et al.*, 1990; Sweeney *et al.*, 1995). One of the most significant achievements of the experimental school of David Green was a demonstration of primary sodic dolomitic carbonatite at the solidus of a carbonated garnet-lherzolite (Green & Wallace, 1988; Wallace & Green, 1988; Falloon & Green, 1990). Mantle-derived alkali carbonate melts were further considered as an important metasomatizing agent in the mantle and lithosphere (Brenan & Watson, 1991; Yaxley *et al.*, 1991, 1998; Dalton & Wood, 1993a).

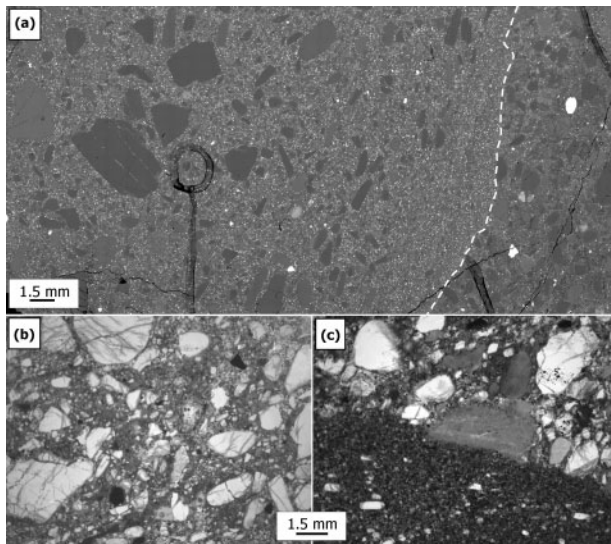
Such an alkali (>3–5 wt% Na<sub>2</sub>O) carbonate melt, poor in SiO<sub>2</sub> (~3–6 wt%) and H<sub>2</sub>O (~1–2 wt%) (Wallace & Green, 1988; Falloon & Green, 1990; Brenan & Watson, 1991; Yaxley & Green, 1996), must play an important role in the genesis of kimberlite primary magmas. However, kimberlites worldwide demonstrate low alkali abundances, especially Na<sub>2</sub>O (<0.3 wt%), and very high H<sub>2</sub>O (>4–5 wt%). The apparent conflict between experimental results and data on natural kimberlite magmas can be resolved if kimberlites from the Udachnaya-East pipe



**Fig. 1.** Map of the Siberian Platform showing the major kimberlite fields after Pearson *et al.* (1995).

(Daldyn–Alakit province, Siberian craton, Fig. 1) are considered to be representative of a kimberlite magma prior to alteration (Marshintsev, 1986; Kamenetsky *et al.*, 2004, 2007a, 2007b; Maas *et al.*, 2005). The Udachnaya-East kimberlites sampled from deep horizons (>400 m) show no signs of alteration (i.e. chlorite and serpentine are absent), which is reflected in low H<sub>2</sub>O contents (<0.5 wt%) and enrichment in alkalis (3.5–6.2 wt% Na<sub>2</sub>O; 1.6–2.2 wt% K<sub>2</sub>O). Importantly, all other key petrographic and compositional features of the unaltered Udachnaya-East kimberlites remain undistinguishable from those of Group-I kimberlites worldwide [see comparison given by Kamenetsky *et al.* (2007b)].

Kimberlites worldwide are rich in olivine, both entrained by and crystallized from the melt (Mitchell, 1973, 1986; Moore, 1988; Arndt *et al.*, 2006). Thus, the obvious mismatch between kimberlites and experimental melts at the peridotite solidus (Wallace & Green, 1988; Falloon & Green, 1990) is the significant depletion, and possibly even undersaturation (Sweeney *et al.*, 1995), of the carbonatitic melt in the olivine component. Unfortunately, the masking effects of alteration, common in kimberlites, do not permit routine recognition of olivine generations, and so the olivine component originally dissolved in the kimberlite parental melt remains controversial. The unaltered Udachnaya-East kimberlites provide an unique opportunity for recognition of olivine populations and olivine paragenetic assemblages. The results of this study suggest a complex interplay between mantle-derived alkali carbonate melt and olivine-rich upper mantle and lithosphere that ultimately produces the magmas and rocks known as kimberlites.



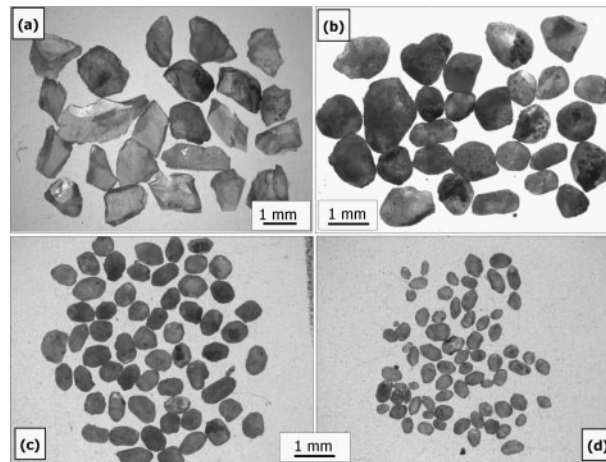
**Fig. 2.** Back-scattered electron image (a) and photomicrographs in plane-polarized light (b, c) showing the main petrographic features of unaltered kimberlites. Distinct contacts between typical porphyroclastic textures and rare aphanitic textures are demonstrated in (a) and (c). Olivine-I is represented by fragments and round crystals. Olivine phenocrysts are set in a carbonate–chloride–olivine groundmass. (See Fig. 6 for more details of kimberlite textures and morphological features of olivine.)

## SAMPLES AND METHODS

### Udachnaya-East kimberlite

The ~350 Ma Udachnaya pipe, the best known example of twin diatremes, is located in the NW part of the Daldyn field of the Siberian diamondiferous province (Fig. 1). It consists of two adjacent bodies (East and West) that become separated at 250–270 m depth. The pipe has a complex structure, which reflects multiple events of magma injection. The samples studied belong to the latest stages of emplacement of the multiphase Udachnaya-East pipe (Marshintsev, 1986; Zinchuk *et al.*, 1993). The rocks are characterized by the petrographic features, mineralogy, chemical and isotopic compositions (Marshintsev *et al.*, 1976; Marshintsev, 1986; Sobolev *et al.*, 1989; Golovin *et al.*, 2003; Kamenetsky *et al.*, 2004, 2007a; Maas *et al.*, 2005) of most common Type-I (Mitchell, 1989) or Group-I (Smith, 1983) kimberlites.

The Udachnaya-East kimberlites are olivine-rich rocks (Fig. 2), a feature shared by the majority of known kimberlites, excluding rare aphanitic kimberlites, such as those from Kimberley, South Africa (Shee, 1986; Edgar *et al.*, 1988; Edgar & Charbonneau, 1993; le Roex *et al.*, 2003) and Jericho, Canada (Price *et al.*, 2000). Aphanitic varieties among the Udachnaya-East kimberlites are also present on a small scale, either showing sharp linear contacts with, or grading into the more common porphyritic rocks (Fig. 2a and c). The large abundance of olivine in our



**Fig. 3.** Two populations of olivine: clear angular grains of olivine-I (a), round to euhedral crystals of 'transitional' population, fraction size 0.5–1 mm (b); 0.3–0.5 mm (c) and <0.1–0.3 mm (d) fractions of euhedral unambiguously groundmass olivine-II.

samples (45–60 vol.%) is reflected in the high MgO content in the bulk-rock compositions (28–35 wt%). Olivine is set in a fine-grained matrix of carbonates [calcite, shortite  $\text{Na}_2\text{Ca}_2(\text{CO}_3)_3$  and zemkorite  $(\text{Na}, \text{K})_2\text{Ca}(\text{CO}_3)_2$ ], chlorides (halite and sylvite), and minor phlogopite and opaque minerals [e.g. spinel group minerals, perovskite,  $\text{Fe} \pm (\text{Ni}, \text{Cu}, \text{K})$  sulphides].

### Sample preparation

Olivine was released from the kimberlite by gentle crushing to 1–2 mm size and subsequent dissolution of matrix carbonates and chlorides in 10% HCl. Then olivine was sorted by size and euhedral crystals were hand-picked from fragmentary grains (Fig. 3). Several thousand euhedral crystals (size fraction 0.3–0.5 mm) from three porphyritic samples were mounted in epoxy, and ground to approximately the mid-plane surfaces for further analytical studies. Such a method is advantageous compared with traditional studies of polished sections because it applies to a much larger population of grains from a larger rock sample, distinguishes between crystal populations based on their size and shape, provides 3D observation of grain interiors, and allows precise control of grain positioning, sectioning and exposure of olivine-hosted inclusions. Conventional studies of polished sections were also carried out.

### Measurement of major and trace elements in olivine

Quantitative element analysis and mapping of olivine were performed using a JEOL Superprobe JXA-8200 electron microprobe (Max Planck Institute for Chemistry, Mainz, Germany). The analytical conditions were 20 kV accelerating voltage and 20 nA primary electron beam current,

with 60 s peak and 30 s background counting times (Sobolev *et al.*, 2007). Back-scattered electron imaging (BSE) and element mapping were used to examine the 2D distribution of elements across grain surfaces. Measurements were done in the stage scanning mode, registering simultaneously X-ray signals of five wavelength-dispersive spectrometers and a BSE image. Step intervals were 1–2  $\mu\text{m}$  and X-ray acquisition time per step was 100–300 ms. Measurements were interpreted using the built-in JEOL Map Analysis Software.

Morphology, zoning and textural relationships of olivine were studied in three samples by BSE imaging of the entire surface of polished sections. Mapping was performed using a FEI Qanta 600 scanning electron microscope and EDAX energy-dispersive X-ray analysis system (CSL, University of Tasmania). A series of individual BSE images were collected (40 nA emission current, 25 kV accelerating voltage, 1024  $\times$  800 pixels frame resolution), and then joined together using the Mineral Liberation Analyser (MLA) software (written at the Julius Kruttschnitt Mineral Research Centre, University of Queensland).

### Measurement of H<sub>2</sub>O in olivine

Fourier-transform IR spectroscopy (FTIR) was used for analysis of H<sub>2</sub>O in doubly polished olivine crystals ( $\sim$ 500  $\mu\text{m}$  thick). The analyses were performed at the University of Minnesota using a FTIR Nicolet Magna-IR 750 spectrometer coupled with an IR microscope and equipped with a KBr beam splitter and a MCT (mercury–cadmium–telluride) detector. A square aperture 100  $\times$  100  $\mu\text{m}^2$  was chosen for the analyses and 200 scans were accumulated to obtain the absorbance spectra. A series of spectra were collected at a spacing of 50  $\mu\text{m}$  across the olivine samples along the longest axis to check for the homogeneity of the hydroxyl distribution. Despite some parts of the olivine being cloudy or milky, the analysed spots and paths across each of the olivine crystal were in all cases free of cracks or inclusions, and were clean and transparent (no turbid, cloudy or milky areas). The water content (i.e. hydrogen detected as a hydroxyl bond determined from the stretching frequencies) and the homogeneity of the hydroxyl distribution within our samples were analysed using unpolarized IR radiation.

After background-baseline correction and thickness normalization to 1 cm, the hydroxyl content was determined for each spectrum using the calibration given by Paterson (1982). This calibration, which may underestimate the water content for some minerals (Libowitzky & Rossman, 1996; Bell *et al.*, 2003), is based on an empirical correlation between OH stretching frequency and extinction coefficient:

$$C_{\text{OH}} = \frac{\phi_i}{150\xi} \int \frac{k(\nu)}{3780 - \nu} d\nu$$

where  $C_{\text{OH}}$  is the concentration of hydroxyl as a function of  $\phi_i$ ,  $\xi$  is an orientation factor that equals 1/3 for unpolarized measurements, and  $k(\nu)$  is the absorption coefficient for a given wavenumber  $\nu$ .  $\phi_i$  is a density factor, whose value is chemistry dependent;  $\phi_i = 4.39 \times 10^4 \text{H}/10^6 \text{Si}$  or 2695 ppm H<sub>2</sub>O wt% for olivine Fo<sub>90</sub>. Integration was performed from  $\nu = 3200$  to 3600  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

### Measurement of oxygen isotopes in olivine

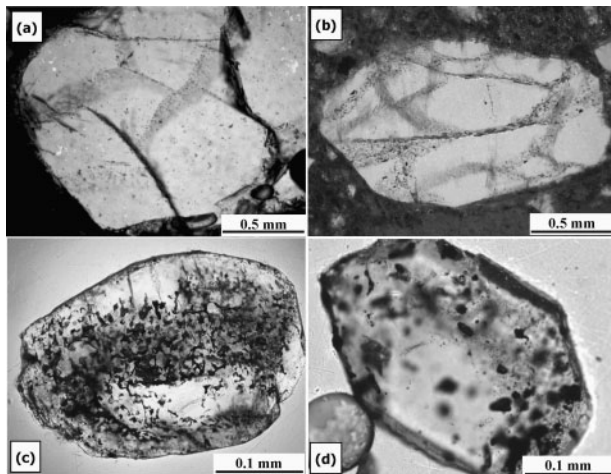
Fractions of euhedral crystals and fragments of olivine from four samples were analysed separately for their oxygen isotope composition at the National Isotope Centre, GNS Science (New Zealand). Olivine grains were pretreated with BrF<sub>5</sub> overnight to remove any surface or water contamination. After evacuation in a sample chamber oxygen was extracted by heating the samples with a CO<sub>2</sub>-laser in a BrF<sub>5</sub> atmosphere, similar to the method described by Sharp (1990). The evolved O<sub>2</sub> was converted to CO<sub>2</sub> and analysed on a Europa GEO 20-20 mass spectrometer. Oxygen yields from olivine varied between 96 and 102%. Values are reported in the familiar  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  notation, relative to VSMOW. Samples were normalized to the international quartz standard NBS-28 (NIST SRM 8546) using a value of +9.6‰. Values for six NBS-28 standards analysed with the samples varied by less than 0.1‰ from each other.

## OLIVINE MORPHOLOGY AND COMPOSITION

Two populations of olivine in the Udachnaya-East kimberlite can be recognized based on size, colour, morphology, and entrapped inclusions (Figs 2–4 and 6). Consistent with many other studies of kimberlitic olivine (e.g. Mitchell, 1973, 1978; Emeleus & Andrews, 1975; Barashkov & Mahotko, 1977; Boyd & Clement, 1977; Hunter & Taylor, 1984; Sobolev *et al.*, 1989; Nielsen & Jensen, 2005), the populations are represented by olivine-I (interpreted by different workers as cognate phenocrysts or xenocrysts) and groundmass olivine-II. However, as indicated by descriptions and discussion below, the two populations overlap significantly in terms of their composition, and possibly origin.

### Olivine-I

Light green or light yellow olivine-I is present as rounded and oval crystals, or more often as angular fragments with smooth edges (Figs 3a, b and 4a, b). Angular olivine-I is characteristically transparent and large (0.5 to 7–8 mm, Figs 3a and 4a, b), whereas ovoid grains are smaller (0.7–2 mm) and often ‘dusted’ with inclusions (Fig. 3b). It should be noted that olivine grains in Fig. 3b cannot be confidently assigned to either population. Melt and fluid inclusions occur only in ‘secondary’ trails along healed



**Fig. 4.** Photomicrographs in plane-polarized light of individual crystals of olivine-I (a, b) and olivine-II (c, d) showing networks of magmatic inclusions, including carbonate–chloride melt inclusions. Details of melt inclusions in the studied samples have been given in several earlier publications (Golovin *et al.*, 2003, 2007; Kamenetsky *et al.*, 2004, 2007a).

fractures in angular olivine-I and some round crystals (Fig. 4a and b).

Olivine-I is characterized by variable forsterite content (Fo) from 85 to 94 mol%, although most grains are Fo >91 (Fig. 5a and Supplementary Data, available for downloading at <http://www.petrology.oxfordjournals.org/>). Most grains appear to be homogeneous, at least in terms of their Fo content, except the outermost rims and around healed fractures. Abundances of minor elements Ca, Ni, Cr and Mn in olivine-I vary strongly with Fo content (Fig. 5a). Compositional trends resembling fractionation can be seen for NiO (decreasing from 0.43 to 0.13 wt%) and MnO (increasing from 0.07 to 0.17 wt%) as the Fo content decreases (Fig. 5a). However, it should be noted that NiO in the majority of olivine-I is almost constant (0.35–0.39 wt%). CaO increases in Fo<sub>94–90</sub> (0–0.05 wt%) and remains constant as olivine-I becomes less forsteritic (Fig. 5a).

Unpolarized FTIR spectra of the nine largest (>0.8 mm) euhedral olivine crystals from the aphanitic zone of sample K24/04 are typical of kimberlite-derived olivine (Matsyuk & Langer, 2004) with the main IR bands located at 3572 and 3525 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Additional IR bands at wavenumbers >3600 cm<sup>-1</sup> could be due to hydrous mineral impurities such as humite and serpentine (Miller *et al.*, 1987; Matsyuk & Langer, 2004). The corresponding water contents, after application of the calibration of Paterson (1982), range from 10 to 136 ppm H<sub>2</sub>O (Table 1). Three crystals have surprisingly low water contents (10–36 ppm) and have IR characteristics similar to those of olivine from peridotite xenoliths in alkali basalts (e.g. Demouchy *et al.*, 2006; Peslier & Luhr, 2006).

A FTIR profile across the olivine crystal ol-2 demonstrated homogeneous distribution of hydroxyl bands.

### Olivine-II: morphology and zoning

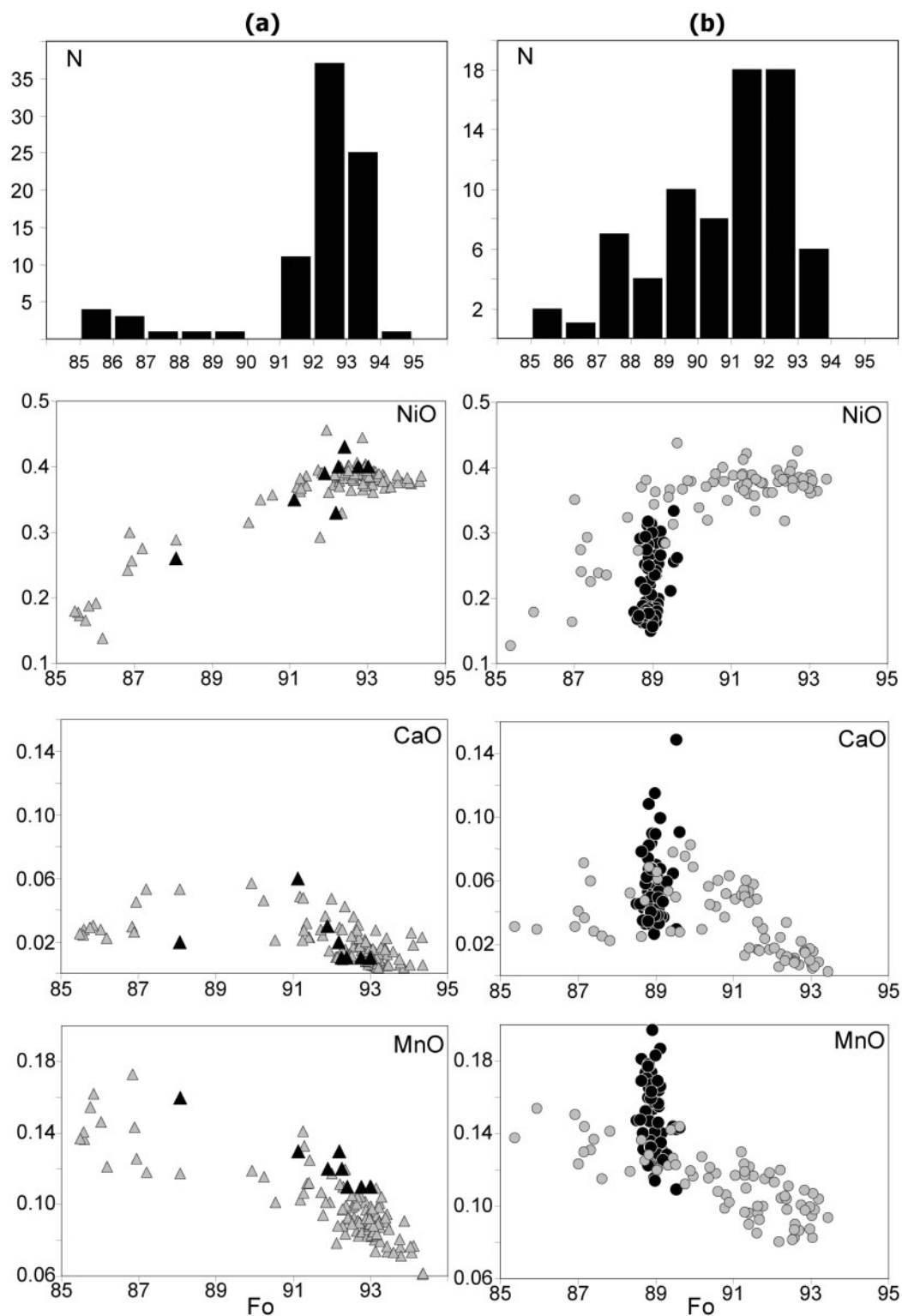
Olivine-II is represented by relatively small (0.05–0.8 mm), euhedral, flattened grains (Figs 3c, d and 4c, d). Crystals display a tabular habit (tablet shape), and crystal growth is preferentially developed in the {100} and {001} directions. Olivine-II is colourless or slightly greenish or brownish; the presence of a large amount of various inclusions is responsible for the weak transparency and ‘cloudy’ appearance of their host crystals (Figs 3c, d and 4c, d).

Morphology and zoning of olivine can be observed in polished sections (Fig. 6); however, for the purpose of the statistical study we examined several thousands of individually picked and epoxy-mounted olivine grains and recorded 296 BSE images of individual olivine-II crystals in a single grain-mount. Olivine-II demonstrates compositional variability (Table 2 and Supplementary Data) in terms of its Fe–Mg relationships (higher and lower Fo correspond to darker and lighter areas, respectively; Figs 6 and 7). Nearly all the groundmass olivine crystals, even the smallest, exhibit intra-grain compositional variability (Figs 6, 7 and 8). The commonly used term ‘zoning’ is not quite appropriate in the case of the Udachnaya-East olivine-II, as is evident from the description below. Several main types of olivine compositional ‘structure’ account for most typical Fo variations within single grains (Fig. 7):

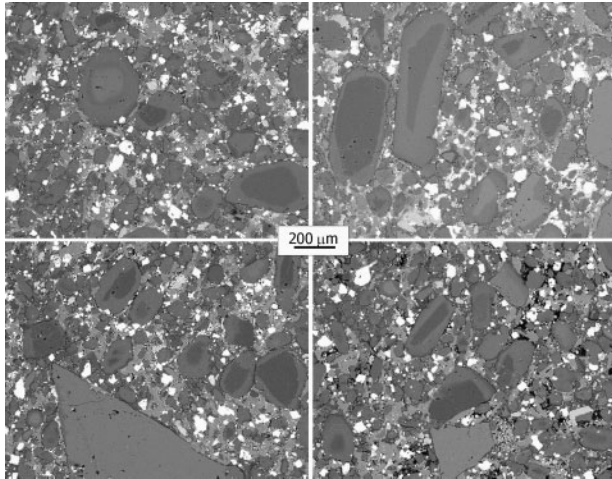
- (1) a single core, euhedral, subhedral, or round in shape, that can be more forsteritic (~70%; Figs 6, 7a, c, f, g and 8b) or less forsteritic (~30%; Figs 6, 7b, h, i and 8c–e) than the rim;
- (2) two or more cores of different shape and composition (Fig. 7l–q);
- (3) no distinct core—the grains are either compositionally uniform or have a mosaic-like structure (Fig. 7d and e).

Some cores exhibit linear features (e.g. cracks) along which the olivine composition changes (Fig. 9a). All olivine-II show abrupt change to extremely Mg-rich (Fo<sub>96</sub>) compositions at the very edge of the grains (~5–10 μm thick) in contact with matrix carbonate (Fig. 8).

The grains with a single core are the most abundant (~85–90%); however, euhedral cores are very rare (5%) compared with round shapes. Some cores have almost perfect olivine crystal shapes, and as a rule the crystallographic outlines of the inner cores are parallel to the whole grain outlines (Fig. 7a, b, g and h). The majority of olivine grains have corroded core edges (Fig. 7c and d), and the degree of irregularity varies even within a single core. In other words, some outlines of the core can be straight and parallel to the crystal’s outer rims, whereas



**Fig. 5.** Forsterite (in mol%) and trace element (in wt%) compositions of olivine-I (a) and olivine-II, 0.3–0.5 mm size (b). Olivine-I analysed for H<sub>2</sub>O (Table 1) is shown by black triangles; grey and black circles represent cores and rims of olivine-II, respectively. N, number of grains. The analytical error ( $1\sigma$ , equals 0.08% for Fo, 2% for Ni, and 6% for CaO and MnO) is smaller than the size of the symbols.



**Fig. 6.** Back-scattered electron images of representative areas in the hypabyssal kimberlite sample K24/04 showing the shape, size and ‘zoning’ patterns of olivine grains. The matrix is composed of different carbonates, chlorides and oxides.

other boundaries of the same core appear highly diffuse (Fig. 7a, f, g and j).

In the majority of zoned crystals the cores are separated from rims by a thin layer of distinct composition (Figs 7f–q and 8a, c, e; see also Fedortchouk & Canil, 2004, fig. 3). These layers are variable in shape, continuity and width. Even within a single grain the ‘separating’ layer shows significant variability in shape, width and composition. The composition of such layers in those grains with reverse ‘zoning’ is always more Fo-rich than the composition of both cores and rims (Fig. 7h, i and m–q). In the grains with normal ‘zoning’, the ‘separating’ layer can be more or less forsteritic than cores and rims.

The areas of ‘cores’ and ‘rims’ calculated from a large number of BSE images occupy in total 56 and 44%, respectively, but volumetrically the ‘rims’ are more dominant (~60 vol.%).

Crystals with two or three cores are relatively rare (14%), but can be very important for genetic interpretations. Typically, multi-core grains are an intergrowth of two distinct crystals, where the cores with different or similar Fo have a shape and orientation similar to those of the grain’s edges (Fig. 7l–q). In grains with two or more cores of different compositions, the cores are usually separated from each other (Fig. 7l–o), although a few examples are noted where the cores coalesce (Fig. 7p and q).

### Olivine-II: compositional variation

The inner parts (‘cores’) of olivine-II are highly variable in Fo content (85.5–93.5 mol%), although the compositions Fo 90.5–93 are most common (69%, Fig. 5b, Table 2 and Supplementary Data). The cores display a relatively wide range of NiO (0.13–0.44 wt%), CaO (0–0.08 wt%), MnO

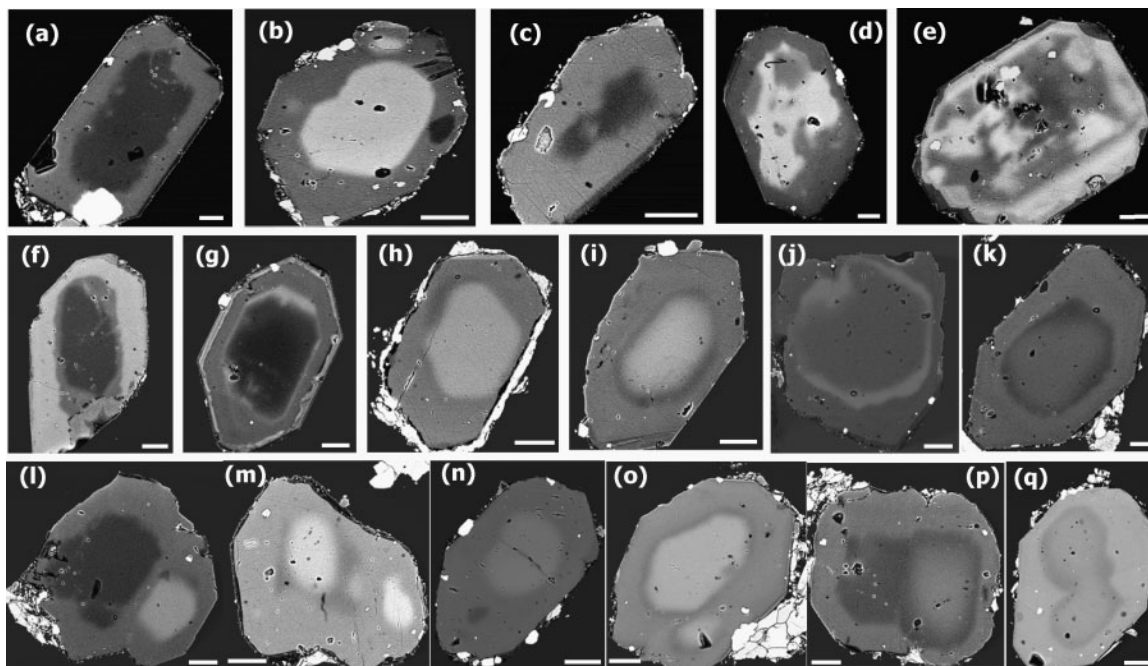
*Table 1: Major element composition (wt%) and water abundances (ppm by weight) of individual olivine-I grains from sample K24/04 (Fig. 2a)*

	ol-2	ol-3	ol-4	ol-5	ol-6	ol-8	ol-9	ol-10
SiO <sub>2</sub>	40.27	40.53	40.18	39.82	39.69	40.56	40.86	40.83
FeO	8.69	6.88	7.92	7.54	11.52	7.12	7.70	7.48
MnO	0.13	0.11	0.12	0.12	0.16	0.11	0.13	0.11
MgO	50.00	51.33	50.35	50.38	47.73	51.19	50.91	51.04
CaO	0.06	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01
NiO	0.35	0.40	0.39	0.40	0.26	0.40	0.33	0.43
Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	0.05	0.04	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.05	0.04	0.03
Total	99.55	99.29	99.02	98.30	99.39	99.43	99.99	99.93
Fo (mol%)	91.12	93.01	91.89	92.25	88.07	92.76	92.18	92.40
H <sub>2</sub> O (ppmw)	114	118	10	117	136	30	112	36

*Table 2: Representative analyses of groundmass olivine II (cores and rims)*

	SiO <sub>2</sub>	FeO	MnO	MgO	CaO	NiO	Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Total	Fo
core	39.80	14.09	0.14	46.14	0.03	0.13	0.00	100.33	85.4
rim	40.48	10.87	0.18	48.47	0.08	0.18	0.03	100.29	88.8
core	39.76	13.48	0.15	46.29	0.03	0.18	0.01	99.90	86.0
rim	40.37	10.87	0.16	48.46	0.05	0.19	0.04	100.14	88.8
core	39.97	12.53	0.12	47.07	0.04	0.35	0.01	100.09	87.0
rim	40.00	10.70	0.17	48.11	0.07	0.18	0.03	99.26	88.9
core	40.31	10.99	0.14	48.07	0.02	0.27	0.01	99.81	88.6
rim	40.58	10.58	0.16	48.40	0.06	0.16	0.03	99.97	89.1
core	40.30	10.60	0.12	48.31	0.07	0.34	0.04	99.78	89.0
rim	40.15	10.78	0.18	48.01	0.07	0.21	0.04	99.44	88.8
core	40.53	9.72	0.12	48.96	0.07	0.38	0.06	99.84	90.0
rim	40.34	10.61	0.16	48.55	0.06	0.17	0.06	99.95	89.1
core	40.58	8.73	0.12	49.94	0.05	0.39	0.06	99.87	91.1
rim	40.28	11.00	0.18	48.18	0.08	0.17	0.11	100.00	88.7
core	40.88	7.28	0.08	50.56	0.01	0.39	0.02	99.22	92.5
rim	40.54	10.70	0.14	48.24	0.04	0.22	0.04	99.92	88.9
core	41.14	6.93	0.10	51.47	0.01	0.37	0.01	100.03	93.0
rim	40.44	10.71	0.18	48.59	0.09	0.17	0.01	100.19	89.0
core	40.79	6.45	0.09	51.59	0.00	0.38	0.03	99.33	93.5
rim	39.83	10.77	0.17	48.11	0.07	0.18	0.05	99.18	88.8

(0–0.15 wt%), and Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (0–0.09 wt%) contents (Fig. 5b). NiO contents are the highest and almost constant at Fo >89.5, and then gradually decrease in less magnesian olivine. MnO contents tend to increase with decreasing Fo.



**Fig. 7.** Back-scattered electron images of olivine-II crystals demonstrating different types of zoning and core and rim relationships (see text for details). Scale bars represent 50  $\mu\text{m}$ .

CaO abundances seem to increase (from 0 to 0.1 wt%) as Fo decreases to 89.5 mol%.

The outer parts ('rims') of olivine-II, although representing significant volumes of this population, have very constant Fo content of  $89.0 \pm 0.2$  mol% (Fig. 5b). In contrast, the trace element abundances in the rims are highly variable (in wt%: NiO 0.15–0.35, CaO 0.03–0.15, MnO 0.11–0.2, Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> 0.01–0.11 and Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> 0–0.04). In general, the rims are richer in MnO, but poorer in NiO than cores with the same Fo content (Fig. 5b). The outermost forsteritic (Fo<sub>96</sub>) rims are very enriched in CaO (up to 1 wt%).

X-ray element maps for Fe, Ni, Ca, Al, and Cr were acquired for 55 olivine-II grains mounted individually in epoxy and exposed at the mid-plane parallel to the *c*-axis (e.g. Fig. 8). In general, the distribution of elements and their relationships are very complex, but consideration of the distribution of Fo and Ni has permitted three main groups of compositional patterns to be identified.

Compositional Pattern 1, found in 23 grains, is characterized by coupled behaviour of Fe (Fo) and Ni contents in the olivine cores. In other words, a core, defined as having distinct Fe, is clearly visible on the Ni maps (Fig. 8a–c), and in a given grain the higher Ni content corresponds to lower Fe.

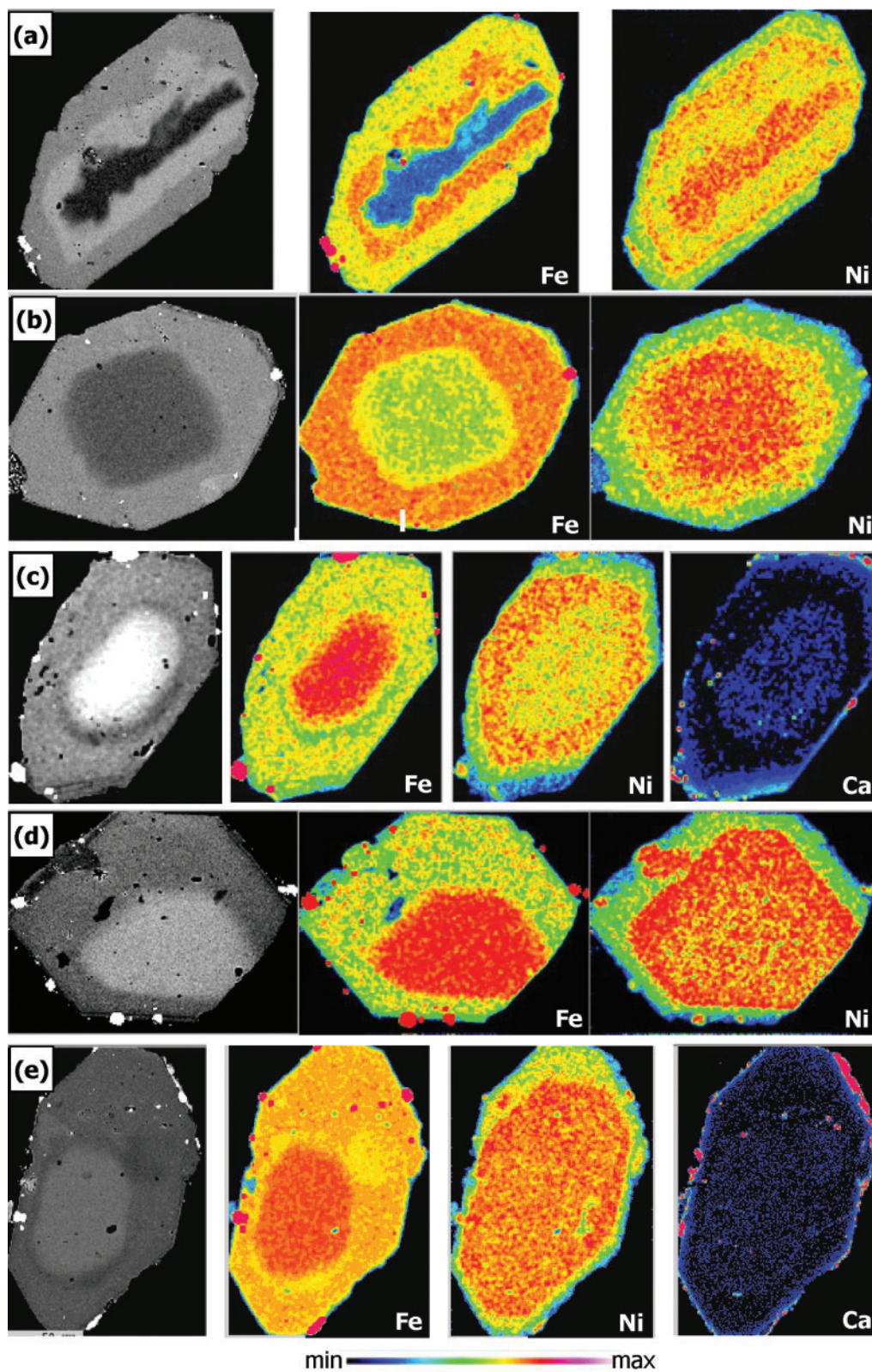
Compositional Pattern 2, found in 19 grains, still shows a 'negative' correlation between Fe and Ni in the cores, but a distinct (in terms of Fe) core cannot be confidently recognized on the Ni maps (Fig. 8d).

Compositional Pattern 3, found in 13 grains, is different from the above two types in that the distribution of Ni bears no resemblance to that of Fe (Fig. 8e). For example, the cores of different shape and size, well defined on Fe maps (e.g. Fig. 8e), are not apparent based on Ni concentrations. On the other hand, the distribution of Ni throughout a significant part of these grains (excluding outermost rims and their closest 'neighbourhood') is very homogeneous and defines shapes similar to the grains' outlines. In other grains a seemingly homogeneous distribution of Fe is in contrast to the distribution of Ni and Ca, showing good crystallographic contours, largely parallel to the grain's outlines.

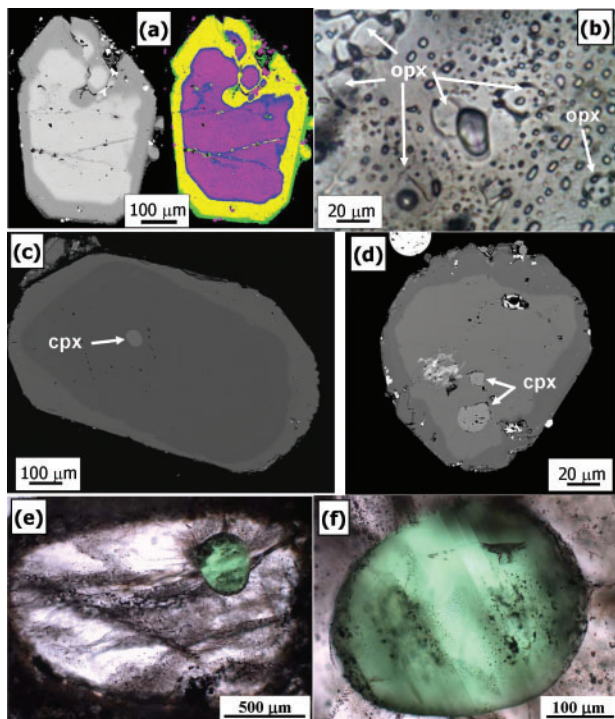
Unlike Fe (1/Fo), in most cases the patterns of Ni distribution demonstrate good crystallographic shapes, similar to the outer edges of the olivine grain, regardless of the number, shape and composition of the cores (in terms of Fo) present (Fig. 8). This shape always includes the core [as defined by Fe (1/Fo)], and may have the highest Ni abundances in a thin outline (Fig. 8a). Such a Ni-enriched layer has variable thickness, and its outer contour is always rectilinear, whereas the inner contour can be curved. In all grains with two or more cores, Ni defines a single zone combining all cores (Fig. 8e).

Distribution of Ca within olivine-II, despite its very low abundances, can be also useful in recognizing a transition from cores to rims (Fig. 8c and e). In all mapped grains Ca increases abruptly in very thin outer rims and along secondary fractures filled with mineral, fluid and





**Fig. 8.** Back-scattered electron images and X-ray element maps of olivine-II crystals demonstrating different types of Fo (Fe), Ni and Ca distribution (a–e). Colour scale indicates increasing intensity (and thus concentration).



**Fig. 9.** Back-scattered electron images (a, c, d) and photomicrographs in plane-transmitted light (b, e, f) of mineral, fluid and melt inclusions in olivine. (a) Framework of fractures in the core of olivine-II healed with more forsteritic olivine and carbonate–chloride melt inclusions (for details see Golovin *et al.*, 2003, 2007; Kamenetsky *et al.*, 2004, 2007a); shown on BSE and X-ray (Fe  $K\alpha$ ) map; (b) a cluster of coexisting orthopyroxene crystals and low-density  $\text{CO}_2$ -rich bubbles in the rim of olivine-II; (c, d) high-Ca pyroxene inclusions in high-Fo and low-Fo cores, respectively, of olivine-II; (e, f) high-Ca pyroxene inclusion in round olivine-I.

melt inclusions. The inner parts of most analysed grains show no significant gradient in Ca content (at given analytical conditions and detection limits), but in several grains (Fig. 8c and e) Ca is relatively enriched in the core parts (and ‘transitional’ layer, where present). Importantly, such Ca enrichment is recorded for cores and transitional layers with variable Fo contents. This is most pronounced in the grains with two cores of both different (Fig. 8e) and similar Fo values. At the same time, Ca content is minimal in those parts of olivine grains that have a Ni-enriched layer (Fig. 8c).

### Oxygen isotope composition

We present for the first time  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values of unaltered olivine from kimberlites. Both populations of the Udachnaya-East olivine crystals from four samples show similar, and restricted, oxygen isotopic values (+5.5 to +5.7‰, Table 3). These are more positive than values from unaltered mantle peridotite xenoliths ( $5.18 \pm 0.28\text{‰}$ , 2 SD; Matthey *et al.*, 1994), but are similar to values obtained for olivine from oceanic arc lavas (Eiler *et al.*, 2000)

**Table 3.** Oxygen isotope values of olivine from two populations

	$\delta^{18}\text{O}\text{‰}$ VSMOW	
	olivine-I	olivine-II
YBK-0	5.6	5.5
YBK-1	5.7	5.6
YBK-2	5.7	5.6
YBK-3	5.5	5.6

and peridotite xenoliths in New Mexico alkali basalts (Perkins *et al.*, 2006). We interpret deviation from the accepted isotope values of mantle olivine by low-temperature (<700–800°C; Kamenetsky *et al.*, 2004) re-equilibration of olivine with the carbonate-rich melt of the Udachnaya kimberlite (12–14‰, Kamenetsky *et al.*, 2007a). Furthermore, the elevated  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values for the Udachnaya-East kimberlite melts imply a mantle source that has an  $^{18}\text{O}$  enrichment compared with ‘typical’ mantle.

## MINERAL AND MELT INCLUSIONS IN OLIVINE

Inclusions of different composition are present in almost all grains of the Udachnaya-East olivine. They can be very abundant in some grains, but rare in others. Three main types of magmatic inclusions are recognized in the studied samples: crystals, fluid and melt (see also Sobolev *et al.*, 1989). Inclusion sizes are variable (<1 to ~400  $\mu\text{m}$ ) and the distribution of inclusions within a single olivine crystal is very heterogeneous, with some parts totally devoid of inclusions, and some parts so packed with inclusions as to make olivine almost opaque (Figs 4 and 9e). The highest density of inclusions is observed along internal fractures and growth planes (Figs 4 and 9). Crystal inclusions in olivine of both populations are always primary. Inclusions of melt and fluid in olivine-I and cores of olivine-II are always restricted to fractures healed with olivine of different composition (Fig. 9a), and thus are secondary in origin with respect to their host olivine. Similar inclusions in the rims of olivine-II show features reminiscent of both primary and secondary origin. Melt inclusions in olivine of both populations are predominantly alkali carbonate–chloride in composition with daughter crystals of phlogopite–tetraferriphlogopite, djerfisherite, magnetite, olivine, humite–clinohumite, monticellite, rare sulphates and phosphates, and  $\text{CO}_2$ -rich bubbles (Golovin *et al.*, 2003, 2007; Kamenetsky *et al.*, 2004; Sharygin *et al.*, 2007). Silicate melt inclusions have not been found in this or other studies.

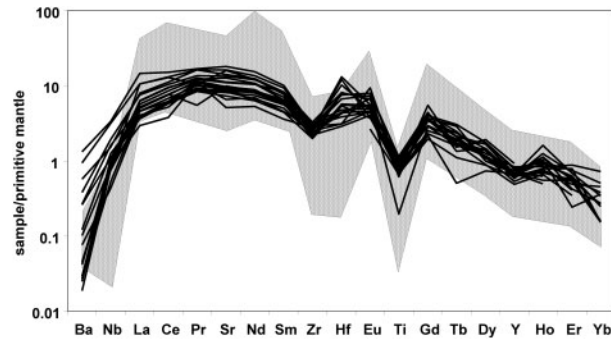
The rims of olivine-II grains contain abundant inclusions of different minerals that are never present in the cores. Among them, Cr-spinel, phlogopite, perovskite and rutile are relatively abundant, whereas magnetite and picroilmenite are less common. Inclusions of low-Ca pyroxene (Mg-number 88–92) occur in both cores and rims ( $\text{Fo}_{86-91}$ ) in clusters of several (10–30) round and euhedral grains. A common association of low-Ca pyroxene in the rims includes numerous melt and fluid inclusions, and  $\text{CO}_2$ -rich bubbles adhering to the surfaces of the pyroxene crystals (Fig. 9b). The compositions of low-Ca pyroxene inclusions are characterized by high  $\text{SiO}_2$  (53.3–58 wt%), and  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$  (0.1–0.9 wt%), elevated  $\text{TiO}_2$  (0–0.5 wt%), and low  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  (0.7–1.4 wt%),  $\text{CaO}$  (0.7–1.7 wt%) and  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  (0.1–0.6 wt%), compared with mantle orthopyroxene.

Rare inclusions of high-Ca pyroxene in the Udachnaya-East olivine (Fig. 9c–f) are restricted to olivine-I and cores of olivine-II. They occur as single crystals or clusters of several crystals. They vary in size (25–400  $\mu\text{m}$ ), colour (emerald green to greyish green) and shape (round to euhedral–subhedral). Most of them are intimately associated with the carbonate–chloride material, which forms a coating on surfaces and inclusions inside clinopyroxene grains (Fig. 9f). The clinopyroxene inclusions (Mg-number 87.5–94.5 mol%) are in Mg–Fe equilibrium with the host olivine  $\text{Fo}_{86.3-93}$ , and are characterized by low  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  (0.65–2.9 wt%), and high  $\text{CaO}$  (19.5–23.8 wt%),  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$  (0.75–2.3 wt%) and  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  (0.9–2.6 wt%) contents. Individual crystals show fine-scale compositional zoning, with a general pattern of MgO and CaO increase, and  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  and, in some cases,  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  decrease towards the rims. Major and trace element compositions of high-Ca pyroxene inclusions overlap with compositions of clinopyroxene from lherzolite nodules in the Udachnaya-East kimberlite (Fig. 10).

## DISCUSSION

### How unique is fresh olivine in kimberlites?

Olivine, although the most abundant mineral in kimberlites and that responsible for their ultramafic compositions, remains largely ‘neglected’ in petrological studies, and ‘surprising little work has been done on the olivine’ (Arndt *et al.*, 2006). The lack of free access to kimberlites, and existing restrictions on release of information to the general public because of the exceptional commercial value of kimberlites has the result that ‘kimberlites are regarded by... the geological and geochemical community within an aura of glamour and mystique’ (Eggler, 1989). Moreover, even within the ‘kimberlite community’ the confidentiality related to the kimberlite research limits the exchange of information about specific features of particular kimberlites. If kimberlites are to be finally ‘freed from their aura of mystique’ as D. H. Eggler suggested, their studies need to be more transparent.



**Fig. 10.** Primitive mantle normalized (Sun & McDonough, 1989) compositions of high-Ca pyroxene inclusions in the cores of olivine-II (lines) in comparison with the compositions of clinopyroxene from lherzolite xenoliths in the Udachnaya-East pipe (field). Details of the samples and the analyses will be published elsewhere.

Apart from the Udachnaya-East kimberlite, only a few examples of ‘extremely fresh’ and ‘remarkably well-preserved’ kimberlites [e.g. from Lac de Gras, Northwest Territories (Fedortchouk & Canil, 2004), West Greenland (Nielsen & Jensen, 2005; Arndt *et al.*, 2006) and the Upper Canada Gold Mine, Ontario (Watkinson & Chao, 1973)] have been reported in the literature. Although the availability of chemical analyses of groundmass olivine in the kimberlite literature is poor, the nature of the olivine zoning and compositions has either been plotted or discussed (e.g. Mitchell, 1973, 1978, 1986; Emeleus & Andrews, 1975; Reid *et al.*, 1975; Boyd & Clement, 1977; Hunter & Taylor, 1984; Moore, 1988; Skinner, 1989; Dawson, 1994; Fedortchouk & Canil, 2004; Nielsen & Jensen, 2005; Arndt *et al.*, 2006). Importantly, the olivine of the Udachnaya-East kimberlite shares the same morphological, structural and compositional features with the olivines from kimberlites worldwide.

### Two populations of olivine in kimberlites: fellow-travellers or close relatives?

This work on the uniquely unaltered Udachnaya-East kimberlite concurs with what has been shown in other mineralogical studies of other kimberlites, namely, the presence of morphologically distinct populations of olivine. One population is represented by large rounded grains [olivine-I of disputed origin; ‘the olivine macrocryst problem... remains one of the more controversial aspects of kimberlite petrology’ according to Mitchell (1986)], whereas another type of olivine is typically smaller but forms better-shaped crystals (olivine-II or groundmass phenocrysts). It has been advocated in the literature that olivine may provide valuable clues to the processes of kimberlite formation, transport and emplacement (e.g. Mitchell, 1973, 1986; Barashkov & Mahotko, 1977; Boyd & Clement, 1977; Moore, 1988; Skinner, 1989; Arndt *et al.*, 2006).

Mitchell (1973, 1986) considered olivine from both populations to be phenocrysts (cognate phenocrysts of olivine-I from high-pressure crystallization of the kimberlite melt, and groundmass olivine-II), although up to 40% of olivine was assigned to a xenocrystic origin from various mantle and lithospheric sources. The xenogenic origin of all or part of olivine-I is supported by their variable and relatively low water contents (Table 1), which may reflect sampling of lithological heterogeneities in the convecting upper mantle and lithosphere by the kimberlitic magma. A similar conclusion can be endorsed by the extreme diversity of peridotite xenoliths within the Udachnaya-East kimberlite (Sobolev, 1977; Shimizu *et al.*, 1997). The absence of primary melt inclusions and the presence of Cr-diopside inclusions in olivine-I also argue against their phenocrystic origin. On the other hand, the Fo–NiO covariations in olivine-I can be typical of magmatic crystallization (Sobolev *et al.*, 2007).

A xenocrystic origin of some or all grains of olivine-I does not preclude this olivine type being overgrown by the 'phenocrystic' olivine. Both types of olivine are transported together, and thus all changes related to chemical and mechanical resorption should be equally imposed on them, making a morphological distinction subjective. Both olivine populations in the studied Udachnaya-East samples demonstrate striking compositional similarity in their Fo contents (Fig. 5) and oxygen isotope ratios (Table 3). Trace element abundances are also indistinguishable for the olivine-I and core sections of the groundmass olivine (Fig. 5). Moreover, in many cases the olivine-II cores have their original crystal faces ground away (Figs 7b, h, k, m–q, 8b–e and 9c), and thus their shapes are similar to those of round olivine-I (Figs 2b, 3b and 9a). It is most likely that crystals that now show as relics in the olivine-II cores were formed at depth and transported upwards in a crystal mush.

The chemical resemblance between olivine-I and the cores of olivine-II discovered in this study challenges the existence of different populations of kimberlitic olivine as defined by differences in morphology and size. In other words, our inferred common origin of olivine-I and cores of olivine-II makes it possible to track down the earliest and deepest stages of the kimberlite evolutionary story; that is, when and from where the primary (protokimberlite) magma was derived and started to ascend.

### **Anatomy of olivine-II: evolutionary storyline of the kimberlite parental melt**

The Udachnaya-East groundmass olivine has a clear zoning pattern with the cores having variable Fo values and rims with a limited range in Fo values (Fig. 5b). It should be emphasized again that the olivine-II rims are essentially uniform with respect to major elements, but minor elements fluctuate strongly, especially Ni abundances, which reach maximum values near the core–rim

boundary then decrease rapidly towards the outer rims (Figs 5b and 8). Broadly similar compositional features of olivine, with normal and reversed core to rim zonation and similar ranges in Fo and trace element contents, have been previously reported by Mitchell (1986). In more recent literature the same features of groundmass olivine in diamondiferous and barren kimberlites have been emphasized (e.g. Moore, 1988; Skinner, 1989; Fedortchouk & Canil, 2004).

Although the origin of olivine cores (cognate vs exotic) is still debatable, the overall compositional similarity between groundmass olivine from different pipes and different kimberlite provinces argues that: (1) the origin of cores and rims of groundmass olivine is intimately linked to kimberlite genesis and evolution; (2) in each case the physical and chemical conditions of olivine formation are closely similar; (3) olivine cores and rims originate in different conditions; (4) the variable Fo compositions of cores reflect varying sources or changing conditions, whereas the similar Fo values of the olivine rims reflect a major buffering event.

### **High-pressure origin of olivine-II cores**

The presence of relatively common Na- and Cr-enriched high-Ca pyroxene inclusions in the cores of the groundmass olivine (Fig. 9c and d) is indicative of their high-pressure formation. To the best of our knowledge there exists only one report of such Cr-diopside inclusions, in the spheroidal olivine cores from the Igwisi Hills extrusive kimberlites (Reid *et al.*, 1975). Their association with garnet and orthopyroxene inclusions was interpreted in terms of derivation from garnet peridotite at  $\sim 1000^\circ\text{C}$  and 50–60 kbar (Reid *et al.*, 1975). Another occurrence of compositionally similar Cr-diopside was recorded as micro-inclusions in diamonds (Stachel & Harris, 1997; Aulbach *et al.*, 2002; Dobosi & Kurat, 2002).

Application of the single-pyroxene geothermobarometer of Nimis & Taylor (2000) to the composition of the high-Ca inclusions provides minimum  $P$ – $T$  estimates for the origin of the host olivine-II cores (45–50 kbar and 900–1100°C). These  $P$ – $T$  conditions correspond to the diamond stability field in the lower part of lithosphere beneath the Siberian craton (Boyd *et al.*, 1997). Even higher pressures (80–100 kbar) of the kimberlite melt 'take-off' were inferred based on the finding of nanocrystalline (Mg, Fe, Cr)TiO<sub>3</sub> perovskite inclusions in olivine from an ilmenite–garnet–peridotite nodule in the Udachnaya-East kimberlite (Wirth & Matsyuk, 2005). Magmatic crystallization of the high-Ca pyroxene inclusions, and by inference their host olivine-II cores, is tentatively supported by the fine-scale compositional zoning of pyroxene crystals and the presence of carbonate–chloride melt inclusions (Fig. 9f). On the other hand, the compositional similarity of high-Ca pyroxene inclusions to diopside in the lherzolite xenoliths of

Udachnaya-East (Fig. 10) indicates a non-magmatic or hybrid origin.

Significant diversity of the groundmass olivine-II cores in shape, size and composition (Figs 7 and 8) suggests different evolutionary paths for individual grains, related to growth, recrystallization, transport, dissolution and regrowth in different mantle–melt and crust–melt environments. The cores with smoothed crystallographic shapes were likely to have precursors as individual phenocrysts that experienced abrasion during upward transport at extremely high speeds, as advocated for the spheroid olivine of the Igwisi kimberlites (Reid *et al.*, 1975). Partial resorption of olivine suggests that primary olivine crystallization became unstable and disequilibrium developed after initial crystallization (Boyd & Clement, 1977; Skinner, 1989), but the causes of this are uncertain. Skinner (1989) proposed crystallization of olivine-II at depth, in small melt pockets before the magma's ascent. However, in such a scenario the viscosity and density of magmas loaded with ~50 vol.% olivine would be high enough to preclude very high speeds of ascent (several hours to several days; Egger, 1989; Canil & Fedortchouk, 1999; Haggerty, 1999; Kelley & Wartho, 2000; Sparks *et al.*, 2006).

### Low-pressure crystallization of olivine-II rims

As noted above, the composition and zoning of the Udachnaya-East olivine-II are not unique; similar principal compositional characteristics of groundmass olivine phenocrysts (variable and constant Fo of cores and rims, respectively, and variable trace elements at a given Fo of the olivine rims; Fig. 5b) have been described in a number of kimberlite suites (e.g. Emeleus & Andrews, 1975; Boyd & Clement, 1977; Mitchell, 1978, 1986; Hunter & Taylor, 1984; Moore, 1988; Kirkley *et al.*, 1989; Skinner, 1989; Fedortchouk & Canil, 2004; Nielsen & Jensen, 2005; Arndt *et al.*, 2006). Compared with the ambiguous origin of the olivine cores (Mitchell, 1986), the rims of olivine-II most certainly crystallized from a melt transporting these crystals to the surface. This is best supported by the cases where several cores of different size, shape and composition are enclosed within a single olivine-II grain (Fig. 7l–q). As indicated by the presence of mineral inclusions, the olivine-II rims (at least some parts of them) formed together with phlogopite, perovskite, minerals of the spinel group, rutile and orthopyroxene (i.e. common groundmass minerals, except orthopyroxene) from a melt similar to that present as melt inclusions in the olivine rims and healed fractures in the olivine-II cores and olivine-I (Figs 4 and 9a). The groundmass olivine crystals are characterized by a tablet shape, which is, according to experimental studies (Donaldson, 1976; Faure *et al.*, 2003), interpreted to be intermediate between the 'steady-state' growth shape (polyhedral crystals) and rapid growth

textures (hopper and dendritic crystals), and results from small undercooling (difference between liquidus and growth temperatures).

Numerous studies indicate that most the common mantle xenoliths in kimberlites are garnet lherzolites; however, the surprisingly low abundance of orthopyroxene among xenocrysts and macrocrysts has been puzzling (Mitchell, 1973; Skinner, 1989). Low silica activity in the kimberlite magma has been offered as an explanation for the instability of orthopyroxene, especially at subsurface pressures (Mitchell, 1973). However, the presence of orthopyroxene inclusions in groundmass olivine rims (Fig. 9b) seems to be inconsistent with this hypothesis. One explanation is that orthopyroxene inclusions (often in groups and always associated with CO<sub>2</sub> bubbles; Fig. 9b) can result from the local reaction of olivine with a CO<sub>2</sub> fluid ( $2\text{SiO}_4^{-4} + 2\text{CO}_2 \rightarrow \text{Si}_2\text{O}_6^{-4} + 2\text{CO}_3^{-2}$ ).

The limited range of Fo contents in the olivine-II rims, but variable trace element abundances (Fig. 5b), suggests crystallization over a small temperature range and/or buffering of the magma at a constant Fe<sup>2+</sup>/Mg (Mitchell, 1986) whilst fractionating Ni, Mn and Ca. In many instances, where the cores are seemingly affected by diffusion (Fig. 7c–f) and have a surrounding layer of distinct composition (Fig. 7f–q), the uniform Fo in the rims could reflect attempts by the crystals to equilibrate with a final hybrid magma (Mitchell, 1986). We also propose that the buffering of Fe<sup>2+</sup>/Mg can occur if the Mg–Fe distribution coefficient ( $K_d$ ) between olivine and a carbonate-rich kimberlite melt is significantly higher than that for common basaltic systems (i.e.  $0.3 \pm 0.03$ ). This reflects the significantly smaller Mg–Fe fractionation between silicates and carbonate melt, possibly as a result of complexing between carbonate and Mg<sup>2+</sup> ions (Green & Wallace, 1988; Moore, 1988). The implied higher  $K_d$  for carbonatitic liquids, and especially Ca-rich carbonate, has been supported by experimental evidence (Dalton & Wood, 1993a, 1993b; Gironis *et al.*, 2005). We cannot exclude an even more pronounced increase in  $K_d$  for alkali-rich carbonatitic liquids.

The melt crystallizing the rims of the Udachnaya-East groundmass olivine is represented by the carbonate–chloride matrix of the rocks (Kamenetsky *et al.*, 2004, 2007a, 2007b) with an unfractionated chlorine isotope composition (Sharp *et al.*, 2007), and by the melt inclusions in olivine (Figs 4 and 9a; Golovin *et al.*, 2003, 2007; Kamenetsky *et al.*, 2004). The composition of this melt is unusually enriched in alkali carbonates and chlorides, but low in the aluminosilicate component and uniquely low in Al/Si (Kamenetsky *et al.*, 2004, 2007a, 2007b). The crystallization of olivine from this melt implies saturation in the olivine component, which makes this melt different from the alkali carbonate melt experimentally produced at mantle *P–T* conditions and low melting

extents (Wallace & Green, 1988; Sweeney *et al.*, 1995). How and where is the saturation in olivine acquired?

### Life cycle of kimberlite parental melt

Our study of the olivine populations and complex zoning of the groundmass olivine in the Udachnaya-East kimberlite provides evidence that olivine crystals were first entrapped by the melt at depth, then partly abraded, dissolved and recrystallized on ascent, and finally regenerated during emplacement. We suggest that the history of kimberlitic olivine is owed to the extraordinary melt composition as well as to the conditions during melt generation, transport and emplacement.

In our scenario, a key role is played by the chloride–carbonate (presumably protokimberlite) melt, which probably forms by melting of eclogite (e.g. Gaffney *et al.*, 2007) and thus is undersaturated in olivine and orthopyroxene and has a strong ‘garnet’ signature. The chloride–carbonate melt is highly buoyant and starts to ascend rapidly, causing mechanical abrasion of the magma pathways in the convecting mantle and lithosphere. Moreover, such a melt is capable of dissolving silicate minerals (e.g. olivine and orthopyroxene) on ascent. The amount of forsterite that can be dissolved in the sodium carbonate liquid at 10 kbar and 1300°C is about 16 wt% (Hammouda & Laporte, 2000), and in our case such contribution is made by dissolution of entrapped olivine  $\text{Fo}_{85-94}$ . Thus this melt accumulates Si and Mg (and to much lesser extent Al from dissolving orthopyroxene), but only to a certain limit, above which an immiscible Cl-bearing carbonate–silicate liquid could appear (Safonov *et al.*, 2007). Ascending kimberlite magma, although being increasingly enriched in the olivine component and loaded with xenocrysts and xenoliths, still remains buoyant and fluid enough to continue fast ascent. On emplacement, the magma releases the dissolved silicate component in the form of groundmass olivine rims ( $\text{Fo}_{99}$ ) and minor silicate minerals (e.g. phlogopite and monticellite), thus driving the residual melt towards the initial (protokimberlite) chloride–carbonate composition (Kamenetsky *et al.*, 2007a, 2007b). After olivine crystallization the residual chloride–carbonate liquid experiences gravitational separation from other components of the kimberlite magma, such as olivine and other solids (mantle and crustal lithic fragments). Thus the chloride–carbonate melt is squeezed to the top of the kimberlite magma body (e.g. Dawson & Hawthorne, 1973), where combustible gases (e.g.  $\text{H}_2$  and  $\text{CH}_4$ ) are released, causing explosion events and formation of the diatreme and crater ‘kimberlite’ facies. The ultimate fate of the chloride–carbonate melt is both explosive dispersion and rapid degradation in the subsurface environment.

In conclusion, all previous models of kimberlite composition and evolution considered ‘uncontaminated’ and ‘aphanitic’ kimberlite rocks as representative of the ultramafic carbonate–silicate kimberlite melt, which is

propelled to the surface by exsolution of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{CO}_2$ . On the contrary, we propose that the kimberlite magma originates essentially as a non-silicate, chloride–carbonate liquid that ascends rapidly because of its rheology, acquires ultramafic properties by entraining and dissolving olivine and orthopyroxene *en route* to the surface, and segregates from solids upon emplacement and crystallization.

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### SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

Supplementary data for this paper are available at *Journal of Petrology* online.

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