Primary textures and mineral associations in the Ultramafic zone of the Stillwater complex, Montana

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April 1960

Weld - Int. 5278

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Geological Survey
Washington, D. C.

For Release APRIL 21, 1960

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Introduction

Field work, acknowledgments, and scope of the report

This paper presents some results of work done between 1951 and 1955 as a part of a comprehensive investigation of the stratigraphy, geochemistry, and petrography of the Ultramafic zone of the Stillwater complex by the U. S. Geological Survey. Detailed mapping of the chromite deposits of the complex was done between 1939 and 1943, under the supervision of J. W. Peoples. Reports of this work, and geologic maps of most of the complex, have been published: Peoples and Howland (1940); Wimmler (1948); Howland, Garrels, and Jones (1949); Peoples, Howland, Jones, and Flint (1954); Jackson, Howland, Peoples, and Jones (1954); Howland (1955); Jones, Peoples, and Howland (in press). The present investigation has called for additional mapping and study of many problems which had to be bypassed because of the pressure of wartime urgency. I spent a total of about 15 months in the field during the summers of 1951 through 1955; P. R. Vail assisted in the field work in 1952 and 1953, and R. L. Christiansen assisted in 1954.

Two members of the U. S. Geological Survey have been especially helpful to the conduct of this investigation. Arthur L. Howland introduced me to the Stillwater complex and worked closely with me during the first three summers of field work. The critical advice and ideas of Arthur H. Lachenbruch on the

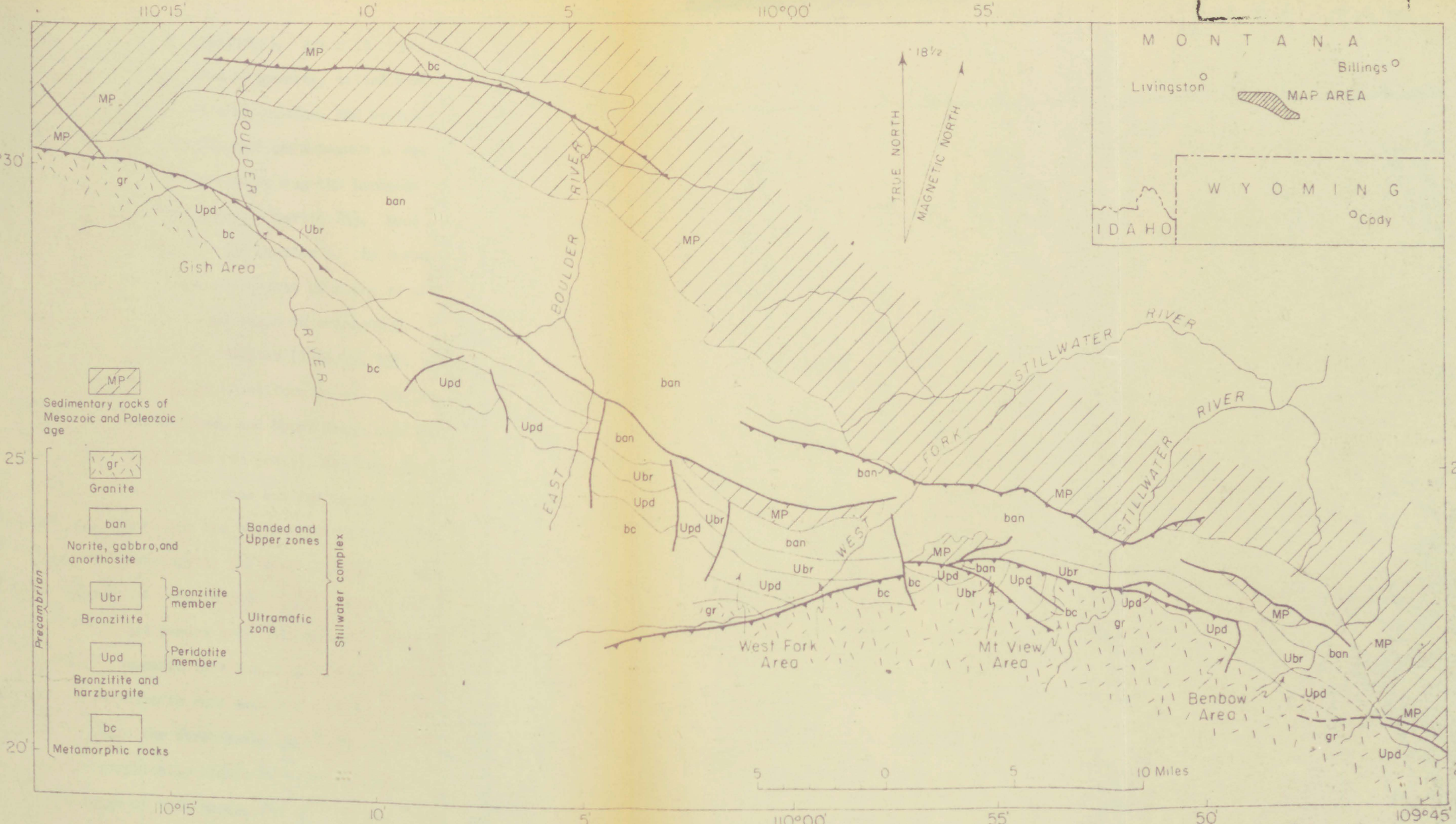
subject of heat relations have contributed substantially to the conclusions on origin of the Stillwater complex outlined in this report.

General geology of the complex

The Stillwater igneous complex is a differentiated "gravity stratified" sheet which strikes northwest across the northern margin of the Beartooth Mountains, in Stillwater, Sweetgrass, and Park Counties, Montana (fig. 1). The exposed strike length of the complex is about 30 miles, but it is terminated at both ends by faults. The maximum exposed stratigraphic thickness is 18,000 feet, and Hess (1940, p. 377) estimates that the original thickness was 25 to 45 percent greater.

In general, the rocks of the complex are unaltered and well exposed. Locally, the more mafic rocks have been serpentinized, but preservation of primary textures generally permits mapping of the original rock types. Five deeply glaciated canyons cut the complex nearly at right angles to its strike, thus exposing it continuously through a vertical distance of 5,000 feet.

The general structural and age relations between the complex and adjoining formations have been described in a paper by Jones, Peoples, and Howland (in press). In Precambrian time the parent magma of the complex was intruded as a horizontal sill into pelitic sedimentary rocks of unknown age, and these sediments were metamorphosed to cordierite-hypersthene-biotite-quartz horn-



Simplified from Jones, Peoples, and Howland (in press)

Figure 1. Geologic index map of the Stillwater complex

fels (Howland, 1954, p. 1264-1265). After it crystallized, the complex was locally intruded by granite, tilted about 25 degrees in the eastern part, beveled by erosion, and buried by sediments ranging from Middle Cambrian through Mesozoic in age. All of these rocks were later deformed during the Laramide orogeny, and the complex now stands nearly vertically. Much faulting accompanied the rotation of the complex to its present position.

Internally, the complex consists of a series of conformably layered subsilicic rocks that range in composition from dunite to norite and anorthosite. Peoples (1936, p. 356) has divided these rocks into four major stratiform units: the Basal zone, Ultramafic zone, Banded zone, and Upper zone. According to Jones, Peoples, and Howland (in press), Hess has abandoned the terms Banded zone and Upper zone and has proposed a five unit stratigraphic section for the rocks above the Ultramafic zone.

Peoples' terminology is the basis for the informal stratigraphic nomenclature used in this report. The terms Basal zone, Ultramafic zone, and Banded zone correspond to Peoples' Basal chilled zone, Ultramafic zone and Banded zone, respectively. In addition, the Ultramafic zone has been divided in this report into two members: the stratigraphically lower Peridotite member and the stratigraphically higher Bronzitite member.

In the usage of this paper, the Basal zone includes those rocks that underlie the stratigraphically lowest harzburgite layer, and is composed of pyroxene gabbros, norites and feldspathic bronzitites. This zone is irregularly developed along the south margin of the complex. Locally it is absent, but at its maximum measured exposure, it is 700 feet thick. Where well developed, the lower part of the Basal zone is composed of fine-grained ophitic gabbro containing many inclusions of hornfels. Upward the rock becomes coarser grained, has fewer inclusions, and contains less clinopyroxene and plagioclase. The upper rocks of the zone are, for the most part fine- to medium-grained, layered bronzitites with automorphic-granular textures, but in several areas a few lenticular layers of norite occur within the bronzitite.

The Ultramafic zone, with which this paper is largely concerned, contains dunites, chromitites, harzburgites, and bronzitites, and conformably overlies the Basal zone, where present, or lies directly on basement. The Ultramafic zone averages about 3,500 feet in thickness and includes the rocks between the base of the stratigraphically lowest harzburgite in the complex and the base of the stratigraphically lowest norite in the Banded zone; both the upper and lower contacts are sharp, and can be traced the entire length of the complex. The lower two-thirds of the Ultramafic zone, here called the Peridotite member, is composed of alternating, conformable layers of dunite, chromitite, harzburgite, and bronzitite; the upper one-third of the zone, here called the Bronzitite member, is composed of a single thick unit of bronzitite. Most of these rocks have medium- to coarse-grained automorphic- to hypautomorphic-granular or poikilitic textures, but some have a xenomorphic-granular texture.

The layered rocks stratigraphically above the Ultramafic zone have a maximum exposed thickness of about 14,000 feet, and are composed of alternating layers of norite, gabbro, and anorthosite. Norite and gabbro are most abundant in the lower part of the section; anorthosite and olivine gabbro are more common in the upper part. The rocks are medium- to coarse-grained, and most have hypautomorphic-granular or poikilitic textures.

The most striking feature of the complex is the regular and persistent layered character of its rocks. Hess (1940, p. 377) has shown that the compositions of the mineral phases in the complex vary in a systematic fashion upward from the base. Superimposed on this gradual mineral compositional change are the remarkably continuous zones formed by abrupt changes in mineralogic associations. Within the zones are many alternating compositional layers defined by the presence and absence of individual minerals. Within these compositional layers are concordant layers defined by change in proportions, grain size, or habit of minerals. The layering is remarkably similar to sedimentary bedding, and is recognized and mapped by the same criteria: change in mineralogic composition, proportion of minerals, texture, grain size, orientation of constituent grains, and so on. Although certain similarities between these layered rocks and detrital sediments exist, and although textural comparisons between the two are made in the text of this report, the writer proposes that the origin of the Stillwater rocks more nearly resembles that of chemical sediments.

The complex is believed to be a product of the fractional crystallization of a basaltic magma, formed by the settling of crystals, layer on layer, to the nearly horizontal floor of the magma chamber. The constituent grains of the layered rocks can be divided into two categories: 1) well-sorted individual crystals which make up about 65 percent of the layered rocks; and, 2) anhedral, commonly poikilitic grains, which are molded on the well-formed individual crystals, and which make up the remaining 35 percent of the rocks. The individual crystals define the layering plane by upward changes in proportions or size; the interstitial material has no direct relation to the layering plane. Hess (1938a, p. 264-268) deduced from these and other textural considerations that the well-formed individual grains represent primary precipitates from the main magma successively accumulated on the floor of the magma chamber, and that the interstitial grains represent material crystallized from the magma surrounding these settled crystals. The present writer believes this to be the only tenable theory to explain the textures and structures of the layered rocks of the complex.

The purpose of this paper is threefold: 1) to describe the distribution and interrelations of the primary minerals of the Ultramafic zone of the complex; 2) to point out the dominantly sedimentary nature of the texture of the rocks within this zone; and 3) to discuss some of the genetic implications of these distributions and textures. Subsequent publications will describe the primary structures, stratigraphy, and geochemistry of the ultramafic rocks of the complex.

Composition of the rocks

Mineralogy

The rocks of the Stillwater complex are composed essentially of only five primary solid solution minerals: olivine, orthopyroxene, clinopyroxene, plagioclase, and chromite. In addition, very minor amounts of primary biotite, sulfide minerals, and quartz occur in some rocks. The compositions of the essential minerals and their over-all isomorphous variations within the complex have been described in a series of papers by Hess (1939, p. 431; 1940, p. 377).

All five of the essential solid solution minerals occur in the Ultramafic zone of the complex. Detailed compositional studies within the zone have not yet been completed, but the general range of composition is: bronzite, En_{75-90}; olivine,

Fo_{80-95}; plagioclase, An_{65-85}; and chromite, in Thayer's (1946, p. 205) terminology, $Cr_{52}Al_{39}(Mg_{51})$ - $Cr_{69}Al_{26}(Mg_{39.5})$. Two clinopyroxenes from the Ultramafic zone were determined by Hess (1949, p. 646 and 647) to be chrome augites with the compositions $Ca_{37}Mg_{56}Fe_{7}$ and $Ca_{40}Mg_{52}Fe_{8}$.

Rock types in the Ultramafic zone

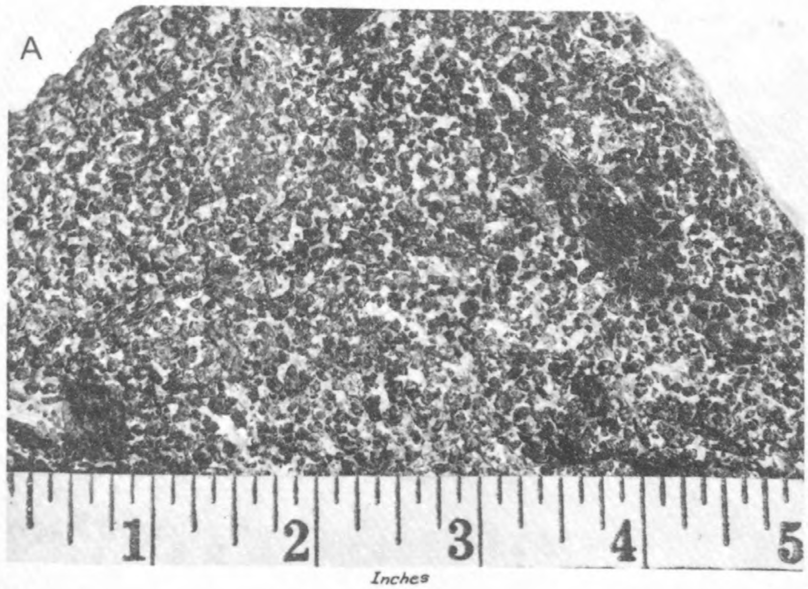
In the field, the layered rocks of the Ultramafic zone have been divided into four major compositional types: bronzitite, harzburgite, dunite, and chromitite (Peoples and Howland, 1940, p. 378-380). Although these rock names, with appropriate mineralogic and textural modifiers, have been found convenient for field classification, many of the rocks do not conform strictly to the definitions given in standard texts. The local usage of the terms is described below. In addition to the four types of layered rocks, small irregular intrusive bodies of dunite and of noritic, gabbroic, and troctolitic pegmatite occur within the zone.

Bronzitite is used as a general term to designate the equigranular, medium- to coarse-grained rocks whose principal constituent mineral is bronzite (pl. 1A and pl. 16); these rocks, by definition, contain no olivine. An average mode for bronzitites is given in column 1 of table 1. Bronzite constitutes 50 to 99 percent of bronzitites, and occurs as individual equidimensional or broad prismatic grains or crystals, mostly

Plate 1. Photographs of bronzitite and granular harzburgite hand specimens.

A. Bronzitite. Dark euhedral grains are bronzite; darker areas are augite oikocrysts; white interstitial material is plagioclase.

B. Granular harzburgite. Black euhedral grains are bronzite; gray euhedral grains are olivine; white interstitial material is plagioclase.



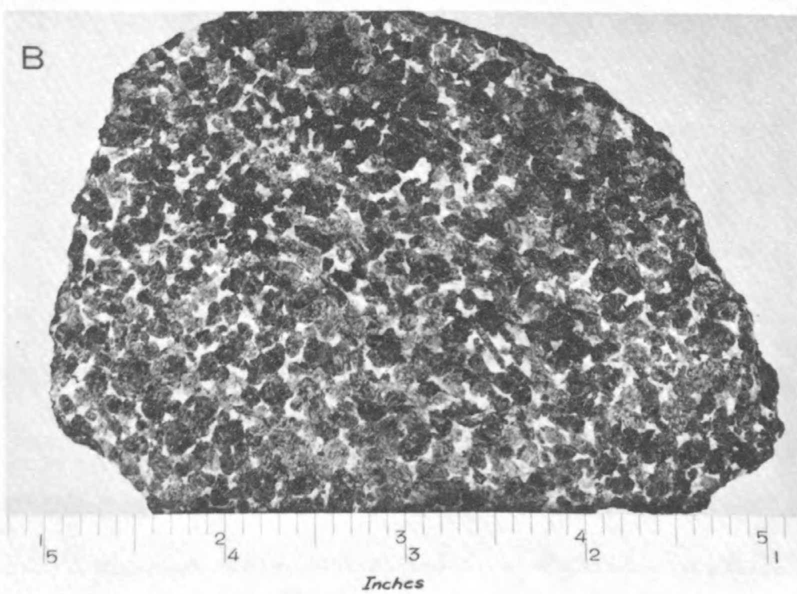


PLATE 1

between 1 and 4 mm in diameter. Chromite is absent from most bronzitites, but occurs in some in amounts up to 3 percent as 1.1 to 0.4 mm octahedra (or clusters of octahedra), which are located between, rather than within the bronzite crystals. All bronzitites contain some plagioclase and bright green chrome augite, invariably interstitial to, and molded on, bronzite crystals. Plagioclase makes up from less than 1 percent to 35 percent of the rocks; chrome augite from less than 1 to 16 percent. Both these minerals are commonly poikilitic, enclosing large numbers of bronzites. Interstitial quartz, generally accompanied by minute amounts of grossularite-pyrope garnet, occurs in bronzitites in the Basal zone and in the top of the Bronzitite member of the Ultramafic zone. In the bronzitites of the Basal zone, quartz occurs in amounts up to 5 percent; in the Bronzitite member of the Ultramafic zone it is present in amounts less than 0.1 percent. Biotite occurs in some bronzitites in amounts up to 2 percent.

Rocks texturally and mineralogically similar to bronzitites but which contain olivine in measurable amounts up to about 10 percent are termed olivine bronzitites, and the average mode for a rather limited number of specimens is listed in column 2 of table 1. Olivine occurs as single crystals 1 to 2 mm long or as clusters of crystals almost always slightly smaller than the contiguous bronzites. Olivine bronzitites grade into granular

Table 1.--Average modes of principal rock types

Minerals	(1) Bronzitite	(2) Olivine Bronzitite	(3) Granular Harzburgite	(4) Poikilitic Harzburgite	(5) Poikilitic Chromite Harzburgite	(6) Olivine Chromitite	(7) Chromitite
	Average of 38 modes	Average of 5 modes	Average of 19 modes	Average of 22 modes	Average of 16 modes	Average of 10 modes	Average of 22 modes
Bronzite	83.2	83.1	52.8	17.6	26.7	16.7	4.2
Olivine	-	4.6	33.6	70.4	40.7	19.4	3.9
Chromite	0.2	1.0	1.0	2.0	27.0	58.4	80.3
Plagioclase	12.3	8.5	9.1	7.0	1.9	2.5	6.2
Chrome augite	4.1	2.8	3.4	2.8	3.5	2.8	5.1
Biotite	0.1	-	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3
Quartz	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

harzburgite on increase of olivine to amounts greater than 10 percent.

Harzburgite is used as a general term to designate the medium- to coarse-grained rocks composed principally of olivine and bronzite, both in amounts exceeding 10 percent by volume. Harzburgites have been divided into two types on the basis of texture: granular harzburgite and poikilitic harzburgite (pl. 1B and pl. 2) and the average modes of each are given in columns 3 and 4, table 1. Granular harzburgites are texturally identical with bronzitites, and differ compositionally only by the substitution of olivine for bronzite. The volumetric sum of these two minerals makes up from 65 to 95 percent of the rock. Harzburgites with an olivine content of less than 10 percent grade into olivine bronzitites. Chromite is more commonly present in granular harzburgites than in bronzitites, but it does not occur in amounts greater than 4 percent in individual specimens. Plagioclase and chrome augite are ubiquitous interstitial constituents of granular harzburgite, and occur in amounts up to 20 and 10 percent, respectively. Quartz or grossularite-pyrope have not been observed, although biotite occurs in minor amounts in many of the granular harzburgites. Poikilitic harzburgites are compositionally similar to granular harzburgites, but differ texturally. In poikilitic harzburgites, bronzite occurs only in irregularly spherical oikocrysts, generally from 3/4 to 4

Plate 2. Photograph of poikilitic harzburgite hand specimen. Gray euhedral grains evenly distributed through rock are olivines; one- to two-inch gray and black ovals are bronzite oikocrysts; white interstitial material is plagioclase.

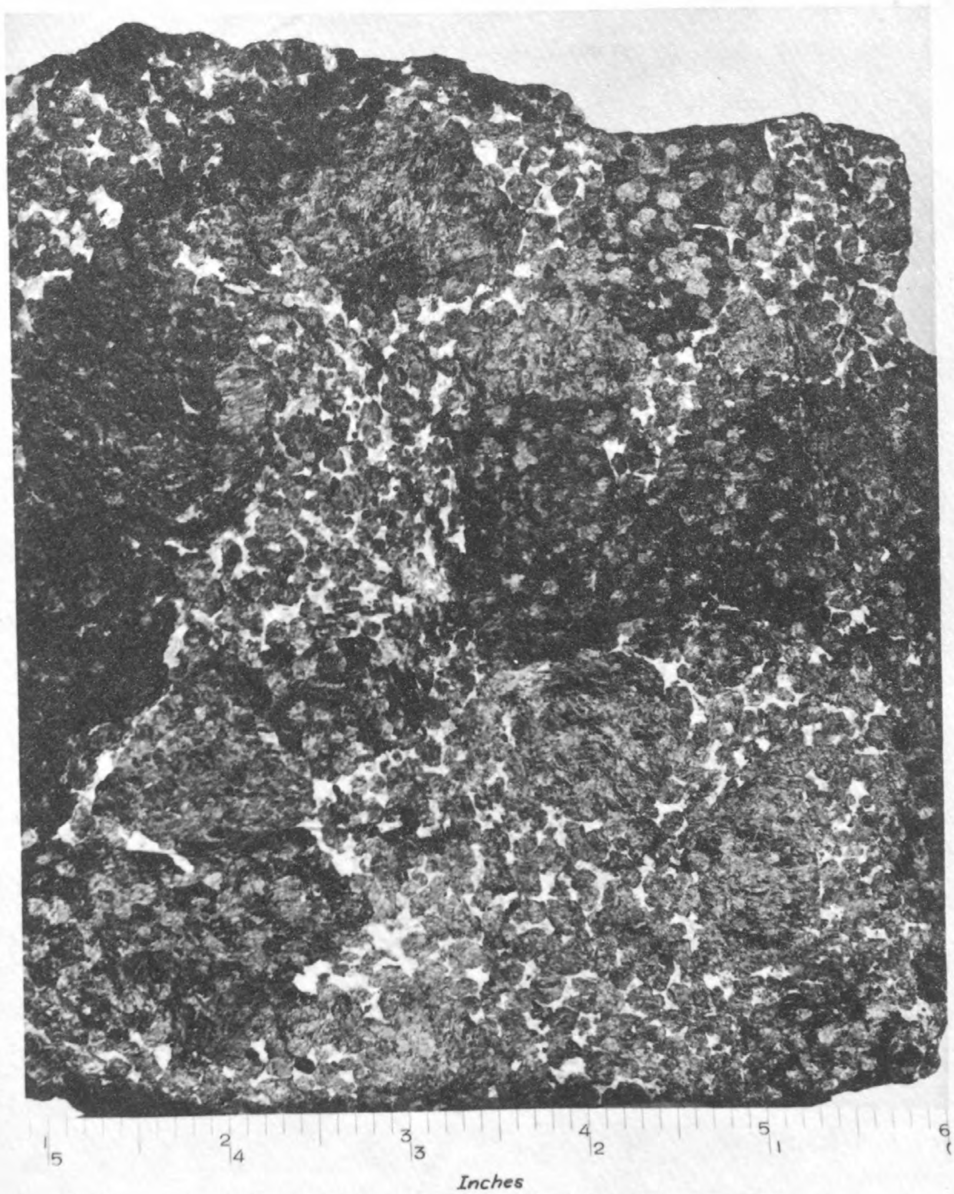


PLATE 2

inches in diameter, which enclose large numbers of olivine grains. Olivine crystals, generally ranging from 1 to 4 mm in diameter, are scattered evenly throughout the rock, making up 50 to 90 percent of its volume. Chromite is considerably more abundant in poikilitic harzburgites than in bronzitites or granular harzburgites, and almost all the chromitite layers in the complex lie within poikilitic harzburgites. Chromite occurs in all proportions with olivine as small octahedra evenly scattered between the olivine grains. Poikilitic harzburgites containing more than 5 percent chromite are termed poikilitic chromite harzburgites. Rocks in which chromite has displaced olivine as the principal constituent are termed olivine chromitites. Poikilitic harzburgites contain between 5 and 40 percent of poikilitic bronzite. Plagioclase is commonly interstitial to olivine between bronzite oikocrysts, and makes up as much as 20 percent of some rocks. Chrome augite is a less abundant constituent of poikilitic harzburgites than of the other rock types, but does occur in a few rocks in amounts up to 12 percent. Minor amounts of biotite are present in all poikilitic harzburgites, but neither quartz nor grossularite-pyrope has been observed.

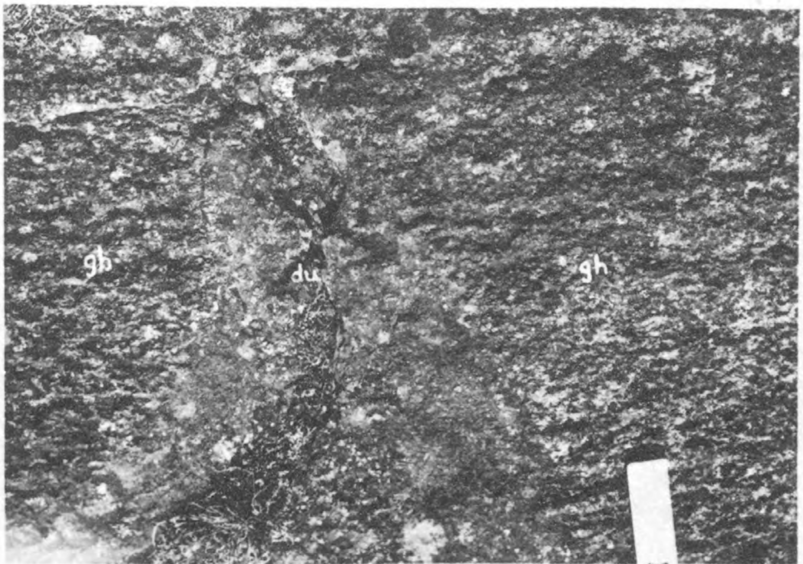
Dunite is used as a general term to designate rocks containing more than 95 percent olivine. Dunites are not abundant in the Stillwater complex, but do occur locally both as parts of primary layers, and as secondary bodies cutting irregularly across the layering (pl. 3A). The secondary dunites have been described by Hess (1938b, p. 334-339), and will be treated only incidentally in this paper. The layered dunites commonly contain accessory chromite and interstitial grains or small oikocrysts of bronzite. Dunite, on increase of interstitial bronzite, grades along the strike of the layering into poikilitic harzburgite. In some dunites bronzite is absent, and the rock consists of an interlocking mosaic of olivine grains (pl. 15C). Some dunites contain a few percent of interstitial plagioclase.

Olivine chromitite is a term used to designate rocks whose principal constituent is chromite, but which contain lesser amounts of olivine as individual crystals scattered through the rock (pl. 5A, central part). An average mode is given in column 6, table 1. Chromite occurs as individual octahedral crystals generally 1 to 4 mm in diameter, which surround or are located between the olivines. The olivine crystals are generally about 10 times the diameter of the chromite crystals, and on increase in olivine abundance the rocks grade into poikilitic chromite harzburgites (pl. 13). Bronzite is generally present as an interstitial mineral in amounts up to 35 percent, and interstitial plagioclase and chrome augite may be present in amounts up to 11 and 7 percent, respectively. Biotite is nearly always present in small amounts, but quartz has not been recognized.

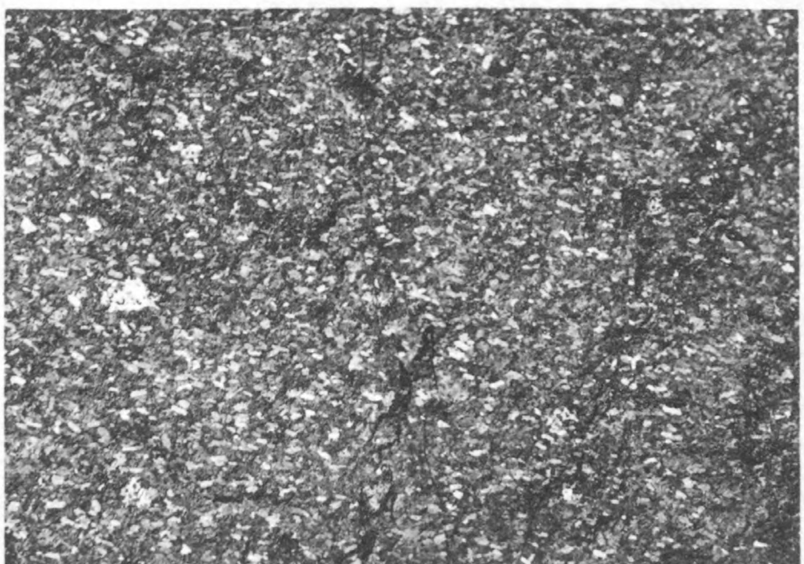
Plate 3. Field photographs of primary structures in the Ultramafic zone.

A. Secondary dunite cutting layered granular harzburgite. du = dunite; gh = granular harzburgite.

B. Planar structure in bronzitite. Note that foliation of bronzite is not perfect but that many grains stand at high angles to the layering plane and others appear to be propped up by underlying grains. Highly reflecting area at left center is augite oikocryst.



A 1.0 in. top layering



B 1.0 in. top layering

PLATE 3

Chromitites are those rocks whose principal constituent is chromite, but which contain less than 5 percent individual olivine crystals (pl. 5B; upper part of pl. 13). An approximate average composition is given in column 7 table 1. Chromite makes up from about 55 to 90 percent of such rocks, and as in other rock types, generally occurs as 1 to 4 mm octahedra. Most chromitites contain no individual crystals of olivine, but in these rocks olivine may occur as an interstitial constituent, and as such, appears in amounts up to 20 percent in individual specimens. Bronzite and plagioclase are common but not ubiquitous interstitial constituents, and in some rocks occur in amounts up to 15 and 17 percent, respectively. Chrome augite is slightly more abundant in chromitites than in other rock types, and may occur in amounts up to 27 percent. Biotite is nearly invariably present up to a maximum of 2 percent, but generally in amounts less than 0.5 percent. Quartz does not occur.

Norite, gabbro, and troctolite pegmatites occur within the Ultramafic zone, but not as layered rocks. Pegmatites are not abundant, but occur as irregular bodies with intrusive contacts which locally cut the layering plane but are generally elongate parallel to it. Most commonly these bodies are irregularly developed along the base of massive chromitite layers, and, in general, the thicker the chromitite, the larger and coarser grained the pegmatite. Only those pegmatites associated with layered chromitites contain chromite, and these chromites have identical sizes and size distributions with those of the layered chromitite invaded. Chromite crystals in pegmatite are therefore present as included and redistributed xenocrysts rather than as primary crystallization products. In the larger bodies, pyroxene and plagioclase crystals attain lengths in excess of a foot, but olivines greater than 3 inches in diameter have not been observed. Good examples of both volume for volume replacement (pl. 4A) and expansion during crystallization (pl. 4B) have been observed.

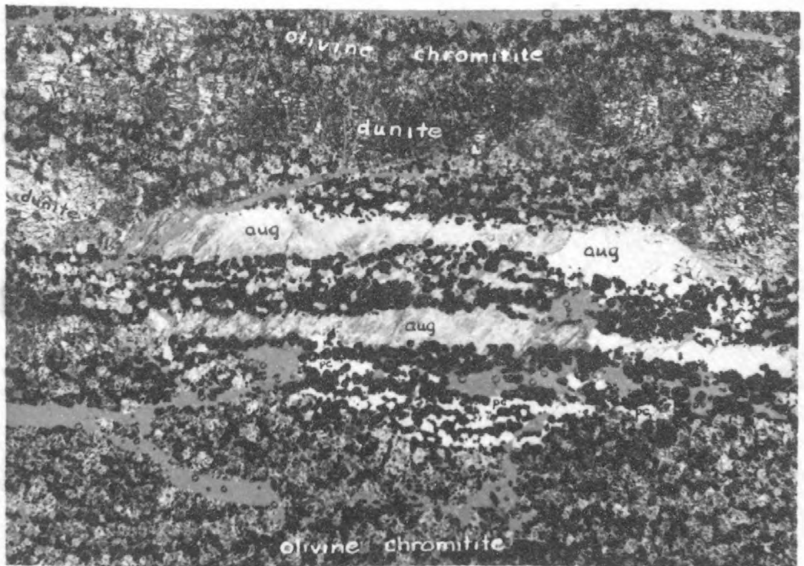
Lithologic similarities and contrasts

The various lithologic types of the layered rocks of the Ultramafic zone have a common compositional feature: all consist principally of individual crystals of bronzite, olivine, or chromite, or a mixture of these three constituents, set in a gabbroic mesostasis of plagioclase, bronzite and augite. The volumetric sum of the bronzite, olivine and chromite crystals ranges between 50 and 99 percent, regardless of the proportions in which they occur. Mixtures of olivine and chromite occur in all proportions; mixtures of olivine and bronzite occur through the range 99 to 20 percent bronzite--1 to 80 percent olivine, but chromite and bronzite are generally antipathetic. Although such mixtures do occur, there is an extreme tendency

Plate 4. Photomicrographs of pegmatitic segregations in layered ultramafic rocks.

A. Volume for volume replacement of olivine by gabbro pegmatite. Chromite grains are unaffected, and the delicate layering is not disturbed. aug = augite; pc = plagioclase. Crossed nicols.

B. Volume increase during replacement of olivine by olivine gabbro pegmatite. Chromite grains are unaffected, but have been redistributed, destroying the layering within the area occupied by the pegmatite. Layers above the segregation have been bowed upwards. br = bronzite; ol = olivine; pc = plagioclase. Crossed nicols.



A 0.1 in. top layering

B 0.1 in. top layering

PLATE 4

for these minerals to occur singly. Rocks composed of only bronzite and mesostasis constitute about 65 percent of the volume of the Ultramafic zone; rocks composed of only olivine and mesostasis constitute another 25 percent; rocks containing mixtures of olivine and bronzite make up only about 10 percent of the zone. Although rocks in which chromite is a major constituent make up only a small part of the volume of the Ultramafic zone, many of these rocks consist only of chromite and mesostasis.

The volumetric sum of the interstitial grains ranges between 1 and 50 percent, regardless of the volumetric proportions present. In contrast to the wide proportional variation of the peridotitic crystals in the various rocks, the composition of the mesostasis is relatively constant; plagioclase seldom if ever constitutes more than 35 percent of any rock in the zone; clinopyroxene seldom more than 25 percent, and interstitial bronzite seldom more than 50 percent. Plagioclase and clinopyroxene occur interstitial to all the peridotitic major constituents, but bronzite occurs interstitially only in rocks which contain few or no individual bronzite crystals. Olivine is not common as an interstitial constituent, and then is confined to chromitites which contain no individual olivine crystals.

Textures of the rocks

The minerals of the Ultramafic rocks can be divided into two general groups on the basis of shape and mutual grain relations: those which are commonly euhedral and always occur as individual grains or crystals, and those which are invariably anhedral and molded around these individual crystals. Olivine and chromite belong to the first group, plagioclase, clinopyroxene, quartz, and biotite to the second. Bronzite is unique, being an important constituent of both groups in the Ultramafic zone, but bronzites of the two habits do not generally occur together. Minerals of the first group are considered to be the primary precipitate that crystallized and settled from the molten magma and successively accumulated at its floor; minerals of the second group crystallized at a later stage in the pore space surrounding the crystal accumulate. The distinction between the two groups is analogous to the distinction made in clastic sedimentary rocks between detrital grains and cement: thus, the former came into existence outside of, and prior to, the formation of the rock of which it now forms a part; the latter was formed in the places it now occupies in the rock.

In distinguishing between these two genetic groups in the Stillwater complex, Hess (1939, p. 430-432) used the term "settled crystals" to describe those grains that fell to form a crystal mush, and the term "interstitial mineral" to describe the material crystallized from the interstitial liquid between the settled crystals. Wager and Deer (1939, p. 127-132), who encountered similar textural relations in the layered rocks of the Skaergaard intrusion, used the terms "primary precipitate" and "interprecipitate material". The primary precipitate was defined (p. 127) as "...discrete crystals or small glomeroporphyritic groups which separated from the overlying magma..." and the interprecipitate material (p. 127) "...crystallized from the magma surrounding the primary precipitate".

In this report the terms settled crystals and primary precipitate will be used synonymously to describe those crystals that grew in and were separated by settling from the overlying magma. The term interprecipitate material will be used to include all minerals which grew in place in the rocks. The writer prefers to reserve interstitial for a descriptive term without genetic connotation.

The primary precipitate of olivine, bronzite, and/or chromite makes up about two-thirds of all the layered rocks of the Ultramafic zone, the remaining one-third is composed of: 1) interprecipitate enlargements of settled crystals; 2) interstitial plagioclase, bronzite, and clinopyroxene "cement". The settled crystals were self-supporting prior to development of the interprecipitate material. Settled crystals that are not equidimensional tend to lie with their long axes in a plane parallel to the floor of the intrusion (pl. 3B); however, lineation in the foliation plane is weak or absent. Changes in grain size or proportions of the three settled minerals upward in the section produced layering in the rocks, (pl. 5A), and such layers are remarkably continuous along the strike.

The interprecipitate material occurs as enlarged rims on settled crystals, in interstitial grains, and in large, sponge-shaped oikocrysts. The oikocrysts bear no relation to the layering plane, and commonly cut across the delicate planar structures exhibited by the settled crystals (pl. 5B).

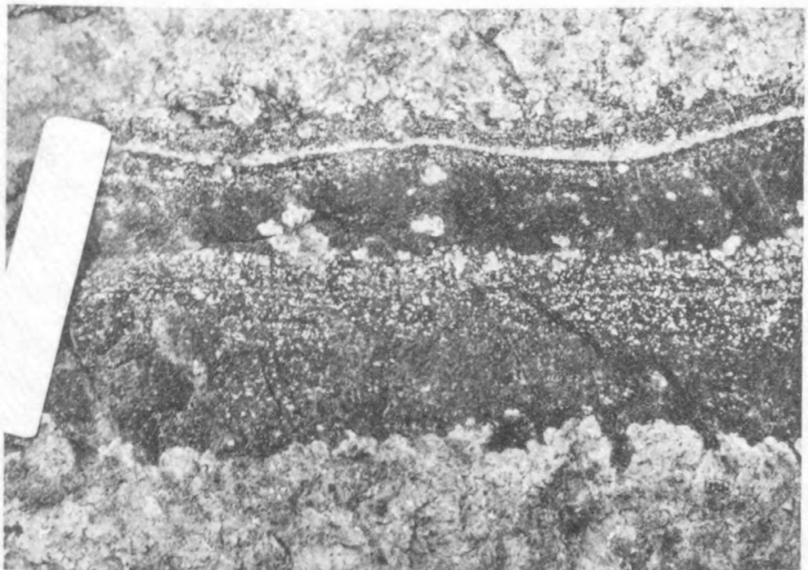
The distinction between individual euhedral settled crystals and simple space-filling interprecipitate material is evident in many rocks by change in mineralogy. Two processes have, however, operated after crystal settling to obscure such clear-cut relations: secondary enlargements and reaction replacement. Where crystals continued to grow after deposition, interference boundaries developed, and the original euhedral shapes of the settled crystals were obscured by addition of optically continuous material. Where settled crystals were partially replaced by reaction with the interprecipitate magma, the originally euhedral crystals were rounded and embayed.

The layered rocks have some textures which can be described in ordinary igneous terminology, and others more accurately described in terms usually reserved for sedimentary rocks. In the following discussion both igneous and sedimentary terminology

Plate 5. Field photographs of primary structures in the Ultramafic zone.

A. Layering in chromitite and poikilitic harzburgite. The layering is defined by changes in grain size and mineralogy, and the unit of layering is one grain thick. Lower light gray layer is poikilitic harzburgite; central darker layer is chromitite and olivine chromitite; upper light gray layer is poikilitic chromite harzburgite. Note rhythmic layering with "dense" chromitite at base and "less dense" olivine chromitite at top repeated twice in photograph.

B. Layering in chromitite and olivine chromitite. The layering is produced by the primary precipitate minerals olivine and chromite. The highly reflecting areas are bronzite oikocrysts cutting across layers. Lower black layer is chromitite; upper layers are olivine chromitites containing variable proportions of olivine and chromite.



A 1.0 in.   layering top

B 1.0 in.   layering top

PLATE 5

will be used to describe appropriate textural features, but these terms will be used, in so far as possible, in their descriptive, rather than genetic, sense.

The primary precipitate

Shape of the settled crystals

In many rocks of the Ultramafic zone, the individual settled grains of chromite, olivine, and bronzite are completely bounded by crystal faces, but every gradation between euhedral and anhedral grains exists. Euhedral grains are associated with rocks which have relatively large amounts of interstitial material. With reduction in the amount of interstitial material due to enlargement of the settled constituents, these crystals develop generally polygonal interference boundaries. The degree of automorphism varies from layer to layer, but is relatively constant in any given layer, and may be predicted by knowledge of the amount of interstitial material within that layer. Independently of this effect, settled olivine and bronzite have rounded and embayed forms wherever they are in contact with interstitial pyroxenes.

Euhedra.--The euhedral crystals show only a limited number of preferred forms. The dominant form of chromite is the octahedron, although dodecahedral modifications occur in some rocks, particularly on the larger crystals. Strongly distorted crystals are uncommon, although in rocks where chromite crystals are clumped there is restricted development along join surfaces. In rocks where chromite is a minor constituent, the octahedral outlines as seen in thin section are generally sharp and angular, but in most chromitites, the edges of chromite crystals are rounded (pl. 19A). The radius of rounding is generally less than one-tenth the long diameter of the octahedra. Olivine crystals are domatic and nearly equant, commonly slightly elongated parallel to the c axis, and slightly flattened on the (010) crystal face. Brachydomes are well developed and basal terminations uncommon. Many olivine crystals have slightly rounded terminations. Bronzite crystals are domatic, generally equant to broad prismatic less commonly tabular. Crystals are simple, generally formed by eight nearly equally developed faces in the prism zone terminated by flat domes. Typical prismatic forms are elongate parallel to the c axis, and the short axis is b (using the orthopyroxene orientation preferred by Hess and Phillips (1940, p. 271-272). Although most bronzites are stubby and nearly equidimensional, crystals with dimensions of 1:5:10 are not uncommon. Bronzite crystals in any one layer generally have the same habit. Terminations of bronzite crystals as seen in thin section are generally sharper than those of chromite and olivine.

Subhedra and anhedra.--The subhedral and anhedral grains may be divided into two types: those that have mutual interference boundaries with each other, and those that are anhedral against the interstitial material. Chromite, olivine, and bronzite all may have interference boundaries in rocks containing less than about 30 percent interstitial material. In rocks containing less than 10 percent gabbroic mesostasis the peridotitic grains have polygonal outlines and equigranular mosaic textures (pl. 15C; pl. 16C). Only olivine and bronzite have anhedral boundaries with interstitial material: olivine has irregular, embayed contacts where surrounded by interstitial bronzite; and bronzite is embayed where it is in contact with clinopyroxene.

Discussion.--Textural evidence, which will subsequently be discussed, indicates that all of the settled crystals were originally euhedral, and those not currently so were altered in shape after deposition either by continued growth or by reaction with the interprecipitate magma.

The euhedral development and tendency toward equidimensional forms are typical of crystals which have grown freely suspended in a saturated solution, and it is difficult to believe that rocks composed of 70 percent of perfectly formed olivine or chromite or bronzite could possibly have crystallized in place. The rounded corners of some olivine and chromite crystals were probably caused by partial resorption prior to deposition. According to Buckley (1951, p. 45, 257), such effects are not uncommon in artificially prepared crystals, and can be caused by slight changes in temperature, pressure, viscosity, and other factors.

Distribution of the settled crystals

The distribution of the three settled minerals varies with stratigraphic height above the floor of the complex, and the repetitive occurrence and absence of these constituents gives rise to the well-developed compositional layering. Along planes parallel to the layers the kind and proportions of the settled minerals remain essentially unchanged. Description of primary precipitate distribution is therefore largely concerned with stratigraphy, a subject which will be outlined here, but which will be considered in more detail in a subsequent publication.

Distribution of settled minerals within the various rock types is reasonably simple. Poikilitic harzburgites and dunites essentially contain only settled olivine, although a small percentage of settled chromite is almost always present in the rocks. In many chromitites, chromite is the only settled constituent, although a small percentage of settled olivine is present in some. In most bronzitites, bronzite is the only settled constituent. Mixtures of settled olivine and bronzite are present in olivine bronzitites and granular harzburgites, as are mixtures of settled olivine and chromite in olivine chromitites. A characteristic feature of the settled mineral distribution throughout the entire section is that settled phases do not persist vertically across the layering, but appear, disappear, and reappear.

Basal zone.--Along much of the base of the complex, where the chilled gabbro is separated from the Ultramafic zone by fine-grained bronzitite, settled bronzite is the first primary precipitate mineral of the Basal zone and of the complex. In several areas where the Basal zone bronzitites reach their maximum development, bronzite is joined by settled plagioclase in a few thin, lenticular layers within the bronzitite. In those areas where Basal zone bronzitites are not developed, and the lowest poikilitic harzburgite of the Ultramafic zone rests directly on the chilled gabbro, the lowest precipitate is predominantly olivine, although a few percent of chromite crystals are generally present.

Ultramafic zone-Peridotite member.--In the lower part of the Ultramafic zone, the settled phases not only appear, but disappear in a regular order. Detailed field mapping has shown that the rock sequence poikilitic harzburgite, chromitite, olivine chromitite, poikilitic harzburgite, granular harzburgite, bronzitite is repeated, with minor variations, some 15 times within the Peridotite member. Several examples of these rock sequences, or cyclic units, are illustrated in figure 3. A typical example of the variation within cyclic units in terms of stratigraphic appearance and disappearance of settled minerals is shown in figure 2. Olivine and chromite appear abruptly at the base of the unit, with olivine comprising about 99 percent of the settled material, and chromite about one percent. No settled bronzite is present. About midway in the poikilitic harzburgite section, olivine abruptly disappears, and is replaced by settled chromite alone. In this particular cyclic unit the accumulated chromite forms a layer seven inches thick. At the top of the chromitite layer chromite is joined by olivine, and the two minerals appear together, with olivine gradually increasing in amount and chromite decreasing, to the top of the olivine chromitite layer. In many cyclic units, however, the decrease and disappearance of chromite and concomitant increase of olivine is not gradational, but abrupt with repeated alternations upward of chromite-rich and olivine-rich rock. At the base of the granular harzburgite layer, olivine and chromite are joined abruptly by relatively large quantities of settled bronzite (pl. 22B), and throughout the remainder of the granular harzburgite layer, settled bronzite increases in amount at the expense of olivine. Chromite generally disappears completely within the granular harzburgite layer. At the top of the granular harzburgite layer, olivine abruptly ceases to be a settled constituent of the rock, and only settled bronzite

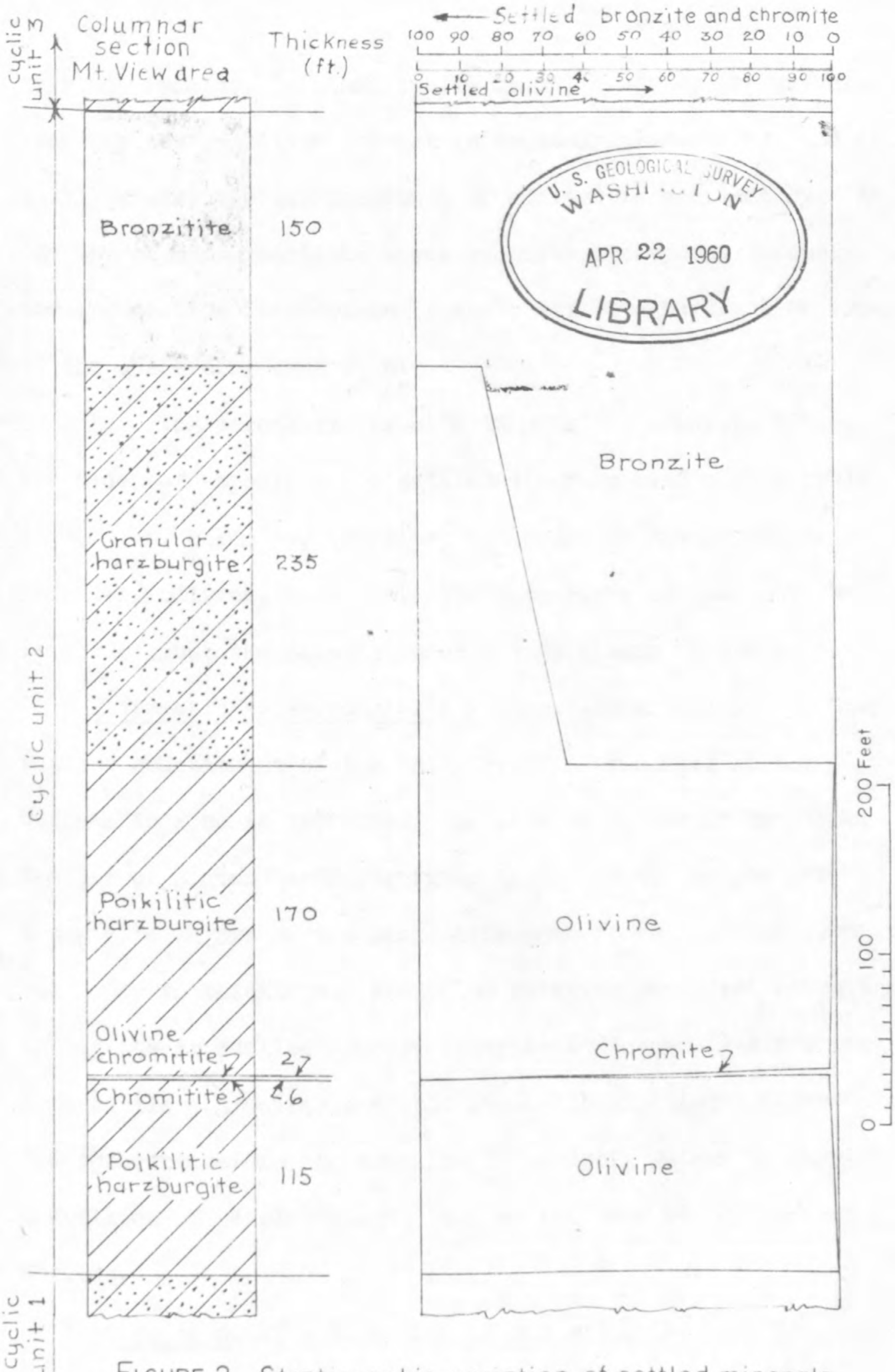


FIGURE 2. Stratigraphic variation of settled minerals in a typical cycle of the Peridotite member.

crystals remain. In other cyclic units, however, the granular harzburgite-bronzitite contact is smoothly gradational, and in still others, the disappearance of olivine is oscillatory. At the top of the bronzitite layer bronzite disappears abruptly, and the section is overlain by the poikilitic harzburgite layer of the succeeding cyclic unit.

Ignoring accessory chromite in poikilitic harzburgites, the order of appearance of settled minerals within each cycle is olivine, chromite, bronzite; the order of disappearance is chromite, olivine, bronzite. The appearance of each new phase is abrupt, but the disappearance may be abrupt or gradational.

Ultramafic zone-Bronzitite member.--Essentially, the only settled constituent of the thick Bronzitite member of the Ultramafic zone is bronzite. The section begins at the upper contact of a granular harzburgite layer, as do the thinner bronzitite layers of the Peridotite member, and differs from them only in thickness. About 100 stratigraphic feet below the top of the Bronzitite member, bronzite is joined by a few percent settled chromite, and this gradually diminishes in amount, disappearing before the bronzite is abruptly joined by large quantities of settled plagioclase at the base of the layered norites.

Discussion.--The direction of top and bottom in the complex can be demonstrated by slump structures, crystal sorting, and other gravity controlled phenomena, so that the stratigraphic order of appearance and disappearance of the settled minerals can be said to be their order of accumulation. Further, relative ages of accumulation of the settled phases, based on the law of superposition, are from older at the base to younger at the top. In this sense, the oldest crystal accumulate along most of the base of the complex is bronzite, succeeded within a very short stratigraphic distance by olivine and chromite, and, much higher in the section, by settled plagioclase and augite. Within the cyclic units of the Peridotite member, the older settled minerals are olivine and chromite, followed by younger bronzite.

In order to demonstrate that the order of accumulation is identical with the order of crystallization of the Stillwater magma, it is necessary to show that the magma crystallized in a closed system, that crystal products did not accumulate except at the floor, and that long term suspension or floating of crystallization products did not occur. These conditions are discussed elsewhere in this report.

Internal character of the settled crystals

Inclusions.--Inclusions in settled olivine, bronzite, and chromite crystals are present but relatively uncommon. In all three minerals the distribution of inclusions is related to the layering plane in that thin layers containing abundant inclusions are separated by much thicker sections in which inclusions are rare.

Inclusions in chromite can be divided into two types, both relatively uncommon: 1) those which are made up of the same material which surrounds the chromite grain, and which are commonly in optical continuity; and 2) those made up of individual crystals which have no relation to the surrounding material. Inclusions of the first type occur in large chromites very sparsely scattered among normal-sized chromite crystals, and seem to be made up of a shell of smaller chromites. The large, compound grains tend to have euhedral shapes (pl. 6A), but are commonly embayed. These crystals are believed to have formed in the magma as clusters of chromite grains which continued to grow on their outer surfaces while suspended. After deposition, their open irregular cavities were filled by interprecipitate minerals. Inclusions of the second type have smooth margins, are centrally located within the chromite grain, and are composed of olivine, usually accompanied by small amounts of pleochroic brown mica. The inclusions bear no relation to the material surrounding the grains, and in some rocks, are unaltered where interstitial material is partly serpentinized. These inclusions do not occur in rocks where chromite is a minor constituent, and are rare even in most chromitites. In a few chromitite layers, however, from 10 to 20 percent of the

Plate 6. Photomicrographs showing internal characteristics of settled minerals.

A. Inclusions in chromite crystals. chr = chromite; pc = plagioclase. Crossed nicols.

B. Fine-grained chromite inclusions (black) in olivine (white ovals). Olivine chromitite. Plane polarized light.

C. Clinopyroxene lamellae in euhedral bronzite. Lamellae pinch out at margin. Crossed nicols.

D. Clinopyroxene lamellae in partially replaced bronzite. Lamellae pinch out adjacent to replacing augite. Crossed nicols.

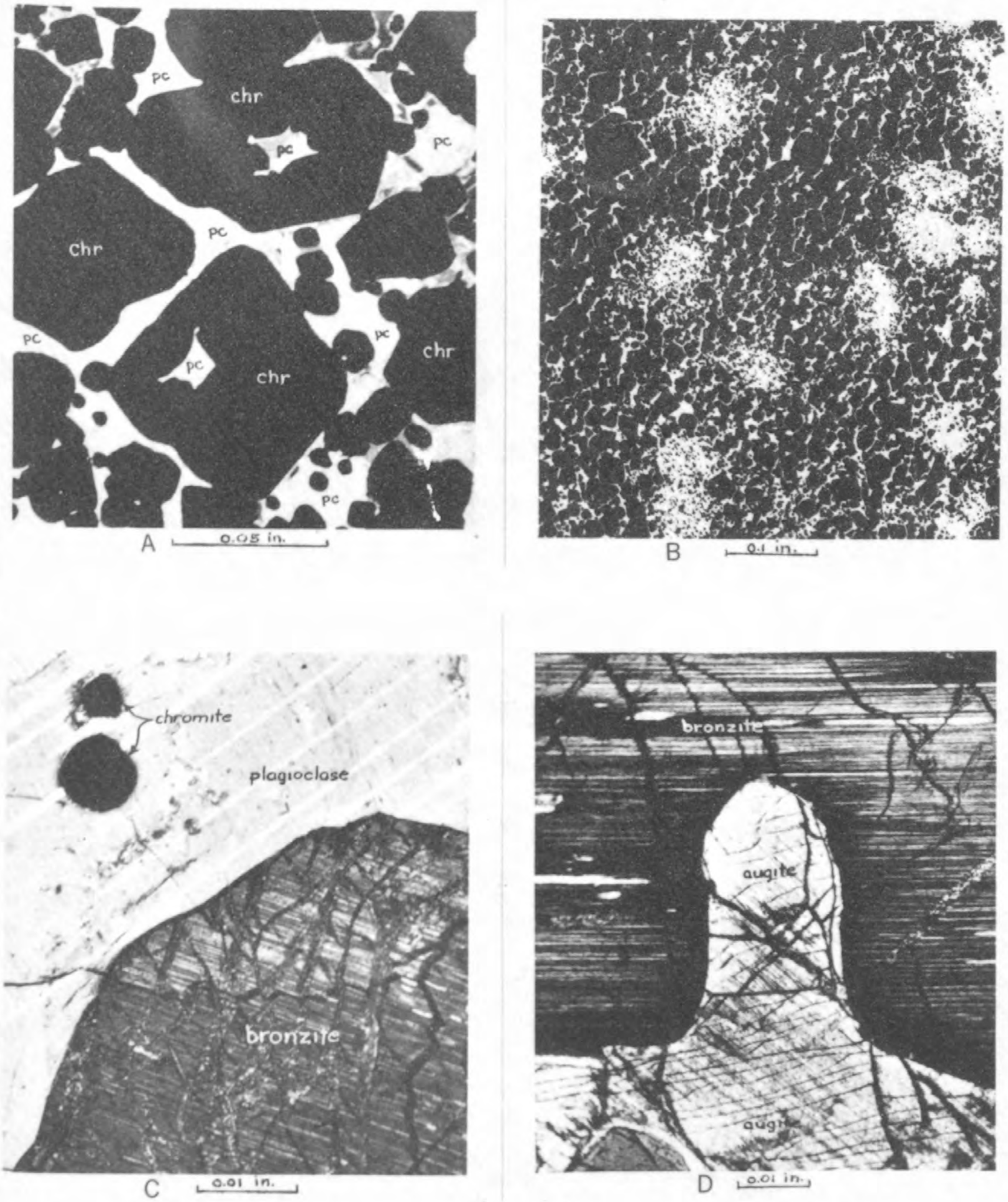

pc
chr
A
0.05 in.
B
0.1 in.
chromite
plagioclase
bronzite
C
0.01 in.
augite
D
0.01 in.

PLATE 6

chromite grains contain these olivine inclusions. The disposition and distribution of this type of inclusion suggests that small olivine crystals acted as nucleation centers for chromite growth. The olivines apparently did not continue to grow after chromite crystallization began, for such inclusions are confined to massive chromitite layers.

Olivines, like chromites, rarely contain inclusions. Chromite is the only included mineral observed, and it occurs in three different distributions: 1) as single euhedra located in the central part of olivine crystals; 2) as abundant small crystals around the periphery of olivines; and 3) as abundant small crystals evenly distributed throughout the olivines. Although chromite occurs mostly between olivine grains rather than within them, sparse inclusions of the first type occur in all rock types containing the two minerals. Where chromites occur both within and between olivines, the included chromites are generally smaller. Olivines with inclusions of the second and third type occur only in a few olivine chromitite layers, but where they occur, each olivine in the layer has the same internal character. In some of these layers, the olivine crystals have a clear core and marginal chromite inclusions; in others the olivine is crowded with chromites throughout, and these increase slightly in size toward the margin (pl. 6B). In both cases the size break between the included chromites and those packed between the olivine crystals is sharp, the included chromites usually being about one-fourth as large. The included chromites tend to have perfect terminations, whereas those between olivines are slightly rounded. Inclusions of all three types are believed to represent envelopment of chromite by olivine during the growth and differential settling of the crystals through the magma column. The central location of many of the chromites of the first type may indicate that some olivine formed around a nucleus of chromite. Inclusions of the second and third type occur only where chromite is an important constituent of the rock, and probably indicate simultaneous crystallization of the two minerals. In the second type olivine crystallization preceded that of chromite, and in the third, chromite apparently preceded olivine.

Rare inclusions of olivine, chromite, and plagioclase have been observed in bronzite crystals. Settled bronzites with olivine inclusions are confined to rocks in which olivines also occur in discrete crystals. Included olivines are rounded and embayed, suggesting partial replacement by bronzite; discrete olivines in the same rocks are larger and euhedral. In keeping with the general antipathy of chromite and settled bronzite, chromite inclusions are extremely uncommon, and are confined to rocks in which chromite also occurs between settled bronzites. In the few examples observed, chromites within and between bronzites appear to be about the same size. In one specimen cut from the Bronzitite member of the Ultramafic zone at its contact with the stratigraphically lowest norite layer, plagioclase inclusions in bronzites were observed, but other specimens from the same horizon do not contain them. In this specimen, the bronzites average about 2 mm in diameter, and about half contain one or more prisms of plagioclase 0.2 mm in length near their margins. No individual settled plagioclases occur in the rock, but those in the norite layer above are the same size as the bronzites. It would appear that in this specimen plagioclase and bronzite had crystallized in part simultaneously.

Certain inferences as to the paragenesis of settled minerals coexisting in the rocks can be drawn from the nature of their inclusions. It has been demonstrated that, in some cases, olivine and chromite crystallized simultaneously. The absence of inclusions in olivine and chromite in most rocks containing mixtures of these minerals may be explained in two ways: 1) olivine and chromite in all such rocks crystallized simultaneously with widely spaced crystallization centers and with no tendency for one mineral to act as nuclei for the formation of the other; or, 2) olivine and chromite in most of these rocks crystallized at slightly different compositional horizons in the magma.

A somewhat different problem exists in rocks containing mixtures of settled olivine and bronzite. The well known reaction relation between olivine and bronzite has been established in the Stillwater magma by the presence of embayed olivines in the centers of bronzite crystals. In the great majority of granular harzburgites and olivine bronzitites, however, olivines are not rimmed by bronzites, but the two minerals occur side by side as euhedral crystals (pl. 11A). These relations may have occurred in two ways: 1) the coexisting olivines and bronzites in the rocks represent the assemblage present at the reaction boundary between olivine and bronzite in a homogeneous magma; or, 2) the olivines and bronzites in the rocks crystallized alone at slightly different compositional horizons in the magma. In the first case, either reaction rims around olivine or rounded olivines would normally be expected, especially on those individual crystals located in the upper parts of the layers. In the second case, assuming that bronzites must fall through magma in equilibrium with olivine, some evidence of melting of bronzite crystals might be seen, unless the settling velocity was rapid compared to the distance of fall.

<u>Oriented intergrowths</u>.--Regular intergrowths in unaltered chromites have not been observed. Many olivines, however, contain minute, opaque blades of ore minerals uniquely oriented on (100) of the host. The blades are discontinuous, generally

average about 0.05 mm in length, and presumably represent exsolution of an iron or titanium oxide.

Hypersthenes in the chilled gabbro at the base of the Stillwater complex contain two types of clinopyroxene lamellae: 1) abundant, coarse, discontinuous, 0.1 mm thick lamellae or blebs oriented on irrational planes in the host, and 2) narrow, more regular lamellae oriented parallel to (100) of the hypersthene. Poldervaart and Hess (1951, p. 472-489) and Brown (1957, p. 529-534) consider lamellae of the first type to be indicative of primary crystallization of pigeonite that, on cooling, exsolved augite for the most part oriented on (001) of the pigeonite, and, on further cooling, inverted to hypersthene. The presence of relict pigeonite lamellae is considered to indicate that these pyroxenes crystallized above the orthopyroxene-clinopyroxene inversion temperature (Hess, 1941, p. 582-584).

Bronzites in the layered rocks of the Basal zone and throughout the entire Ultramafic zone, on the other hand, contain only regular, 0.001 - 0.002 mm thick, well-developed clinopyroxene lamellæ parallel to (100) of the bronzite, and these are generally spaced 0.005 - 0.01 mm apart. No relict pigeonite lamellae have been observed. Bronzites with simple (100) lamellae have been described by Hess and Phillips (1938, p. 450-456); Poldervaart and Hess (1951, p. 472-489) interpret them as indicating primary crystallization of orthopyroxene with exsolution of clinopyroxene on slow cooling. Pyroxene crystallization temperatures throughout the upper part of the Basal zone and the entire Ultramafic zone were, according to Hess (1941, p. 582-584), below the orthopyroxene-clinopyroxene inversion temperature for their range in composition.

Some indication of the relative sequence of clinopyroxene exsolution in settled bronzites can be obtained by examination of the margins of the crystals. In a zone about 0.05 mm thick aroung the peripheries of euhedral crystals, the (100) lamellae pinch out (pl. 6C). The tips of the narrowing lamellae extend to the terminating crystal face. Presumably, this is a primary border effect caused by the local reduction of unit volume from which Ca^{+2} can migrate during the exsolution. Similar pinching effects also occur around chromite inclusions in bronzite, and along a very few apparently pre-exsolution fractures. Lamellae in relict, partially resorbed bronzites surrounded by interstitial augite also pinch out at the bronzite-augite contact (pl. 6D). This suggests that exsolution in settled bronzites occurred after crystallization of much of the interprecipitate magma.

In summary, the character of the lamellae indicates that all of the settled bronzites of the Basal and Ultramafic zones crystallized below their inversion temperatures as primary orthopyroxenes, cooled very slowly, and exsolved clinopyroxene lamellae at some time after at least the major part of the interstitial material had crystallized.

Zoning.--Zoning has not been observed in euhedral settled crystals within the Ultramafic zone. In a few nearly monomineralic layers, however, anhedral olivines and bronzites have narrow, gradational selvages of slightly more iron-rich material which are believed to be related to continued growth of these crystals after deposition. Zoned chromites have not been observed, although in a few highly altered rocks, rims of secondary magnetite around chromite grains can be seen in polished section.

Fractures.--Almost all the minerals are intimately fractured on a microscopic scale, and many of these fractures are loci for whatever alteration the minerals exhibit. The great majority of fractures cut settled and interstitial material alike, and are related to post-consolidation deformation. In a few rocks, however, tongues of interprecipitate material extend into fractures cutting settled crystals, and, equally uncommon, exsolution lamellae in bronzites pinch out on either side of prominent cracks. These relations suggest that, in a few places, settled crystals were fractured prior to the complete solidification of the interprecipitate magma, and prior to the exsolution of clinopyroxene from the bronzite.

Undulatory extinction.--In several parts of the complex near the base of the Ultramafic zone, the rocks are characterized by plastic deformation of layers, drag folds, and broken layers healed by dunite. Although the same compositional rock types present in the main part of the Ultramafic zone can be recognized in these areas, the rocks have xenomorphic textures, and the constituent grains show brecciated margins, patchy extinctions, bent exsolution lamellae, rupture on cleavage planes, and other evidence of post-depositional deformation (pl. 7A). It is in these areas that the crosscutting dunite segregations described by Hess (1938b, p. 334-340) occur, and these are also characterized by xenomorphic textures and deformed minerals. Although typical interstitial minerals are generally absent from these rocks, plagioclase and interstitial bronzite, where present, are highly strained, with patchy extinctions and rupture surfaces on cleavage planes. Undulatory extinction is most highly developed in the olivines, all of which show repeated undulatory banding on planes near (100), or continuous extinction changes, or patchy strain shadows. Differences in extinction position in the same olivine exceed 30 degrees in many grains, but translation lamellae have not been observed. Chromites in some of these rocks are slightly anisotropic.

Plate 7. Photomicrographs showing undulatory banding in olivines.

A. Early deformation texture in poikilitic harzburgite. Grains are strongly undulatory with patchy extinctions and brecciated margins. ol = olivine; br = bronzite; pc = plagioclase. Crossed nicols.

B. Weak undulatory banding of olivine in poikilitic harzburgite. About one-third of the olivines in the specimen show some banding. ol = olivine; pc = plagioclase. Crossed nicols.

C. Compound undulatory banding of olivine in olivine chromitite. All olivines are undulatory and in some banding is repeated on ruptures. ol = olivine; chr = chromite. Crossed nicols.

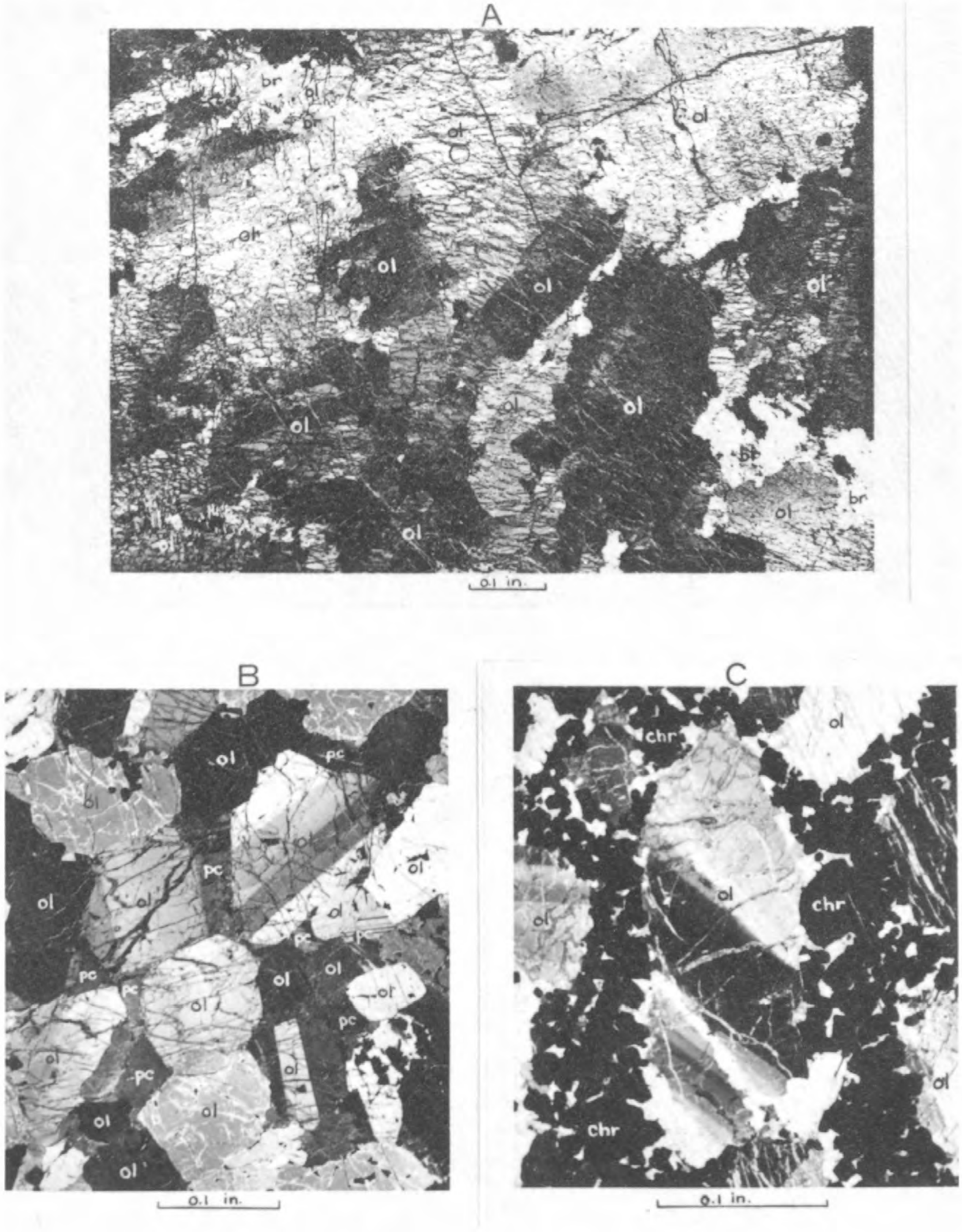

A
br
ol
br
ol
ol
ol
ol
ol
ol
ol
ol
br
ol
br
0.1 in.
B
ol
pc
ol
ol
pc
ol
ol
pc
pc
ol
ol
ol
pc
pc
pc
ol
ol
pc
ol
ol
ol
0.1 in.
C
chr
ol
ol
chr
ol
ol
chr
0.1 in.

PLATE 7

In contrast, the layered rocks which form the main bulk of the Ultramafic zone, stratigraphically above the deformed areas where present, are characterized by abundant interstitial plagioclase and pyroxene, undeformed layering, and absence of crosscutting Ultramafic bodies. The plagioclase and pyroxene of these rocks show no evidence of intragranular strain, but olivine crystals in many of the layers show comparatively weak undulatory banding. These bands are sharply defined, 0.1 to 1.0 mm thick, and define non-rational planes subparallel to (100). A complete range exists from rocks which contain no undulatory olivines to those in which all the olivines have extinction bands; however, the latter are rare. The number of bands per olivine ranges from 2 or 3 in rocks in which only a small proportion of the olivines are undulatory, to 10 or 15 in rocks where all the olivines are undulatory. In olivines with 2 or 3 extinction bands the crystallographic orientation of the subindividuals commonly differs by 1 to 3 degrees (pl. 7B). In olivines with multiple extinction bands, the extinction positions in the subindividuals commonly change consistently in the same direction from one side of the olivine to the other. In a few rocks where bands are highly developed, this consistent change may be interrupted by ruptures and repeated several times (pl. 7C), so that a total extinction difference of 20 degrees may be produced. These ruptures, as well as patchy or continuous extinction changes, and brecciation are, however, extremely uncommon in the main body of the Ultramafic zone. Within these rocks, undulatory extinction is best developed and most common in layers containing mixtures of olivine and chromite, and in adjacent poikilitic harzburgites. It is less common and more poorly developed in granular harzburgites and olivine bronzitites.

Turner (1942, p. 280-300) considers undulatory extinction in olivines to be an expression of combined flexure gliding and incipient rupture of the olivine space lattice, and believes that the presence of undulatory olivines is evidence of intragranular deformation after the complete solidification of the rock which contains them. This is abundantly substantiated by field evidence in the locally deformed areas near the base of the Ultramafic zone and it seems likely that such deformation took place above serpentine stability temperatures (Bowen and Tuttle, 1949, p. 455). In many of the rocks from the main part of the zone, however, undulatory olivines are the only evidence for internal deformation. The rocks are not sheared, they retain their depositional fabrics, and coexisting chromites and bronzites retain their euhedral shapes. Furthermore, undulatory and internally homogeneous olivines can be found in all proportions in the rocks, apparently without favored orientations for either type (fig. 20). It would thus appear that olivines are very sensitive to deformation.

A great deal more work would be necessary to account for the localization of undulatory minerals both areally and within samples, or to relate the preferred orientations to deformation mechanism, or to the period of deformation. From field evidence such as incompetent behavior of layers and healing of fractures, it seems reasonable to assign the major deformation of the local areas near the base of the Ultramafic zone to a period before complete solidification of the mush, and perhaps before the major part of the rocks of the zone were deposited. Very early deformation would also account for the general paucity of interstitial minerals in these rocks, for the trapped magma would have been squeezed out during deformation by filter press action. In the main part of the Ultramafic zone, it may be significant that undulatory olivines are more commonly developed in olivine chromitites than in other rock types. It seems possible that the relatively fine grain size of the chromitites makes them less competent than other rock types in the section. The single specimen investigated from the main part of the zone which contained strongly undulatory olivines proved to be a tectonite (fig. 22), and it is possible that this is related to the known Precambrian tilting, or to Laramide folding of the complex to its present position. If so, the effects are local only, for not only do many layers contain undeformed olivines, but interstitial quartz in the Basal zone and Bronzitite member shows no strain shadows or undulatory extinction.

Grain size and grain size distribution

The superficial similarities of grain size variation and distribution between settled crystals of the Ultramafic zone and clastic grains of sediments are striking. Layers formed by changes in grain size are parallel to the compositional layering, and in some layers change in grain size accompanies compositional change. Grain sizes are remarkably consistent along the layering plane. The distribution of grain sizes of settled olivine, bronzite or chromite within almost all compositionally homogeneous layers shows a positive skewness which is largely eliminated by logarithmic transformation, and sorting characteristics most nearly resemble those of beach sands. More detailed study, however, reveals many features of size distribution distinctly different from those of clastic sediments. Many rocks, for instance, contain mixtures of settled olivine and either bronzite or chromite. Each of the settled minerals in such rocks have approximately lognormal size distributions with small sorting coefficients, but these settled minerals are most commonly not in hydraulic equivalence. Further, the sedimentary structures usually associated with coarse sands are not abundant. Scour and local unconformity occur, but are extremely rare. Unequivocal cross-bedding has never been observed in the Ultramafic zone. Small-scale size-graded bedding is rare, and, in the few places where recognized, is just as commonly coarse-zone up as coarse-zone down. The origin of the rocks of the Ultramafic zone is believed to have been more similar to chemical than detrital sediments. In the following section, however, comparisons are largely with detrital rocks, for size and sorting in chemical sediments have not been investigated to the same extent.

In order to describe adequately the grain size variation in the closely packed settled crystals of the Ultramafic zone, quantitative size measurements were made using standard sedimentary techniques. Because of the coherent nature of the rocks, all size measurements were made in the following manner: In the finer grained rocks, areas to be measured were blocked out on 2 by 2 inch thin sections, and the diameter of each grain within the area was measured by means of a microscope micrometer ocular. In the coarser grained rocks, measurements were made with a millimeter scale on etched rock slabs. For each specimen the apparent diameter of each grain as seen in section was measured and separately tabulated. In samples that contained nonequidimensional grains, the maximum and minimum diameters of the grains were read and averaged. Where more than one of the three settled minerals was present in a specimen, grain sizes of each mineral were measured separately. In rocks for which mean diameters only were desired, between 75 and 100 grains of each mineral species were measured. In rocks for which size distribution curves were to be constructed, between 150 and 400 grains of each mineral species were counted and individually tabulated. In each case grains were counted until cumulative arithmetic means of the measurements were nearly stabilized. In addition, the maximum 95 percent confidence limit of the mean was determined on one well sorted and one more poorly sorted sample, and found to be 8 and 12 percent respectively. The tabulated measurements were assigned to 1/2 Udden size grades, number percentages for each interval were calculated and plotted as histograms and cumulative curves, and quartile measures were read graphically. It should be recognized that grains measured in section show not only their true diameters, but diameters less than the true ones. Corrections for sectioning have not been applied to these measurements, both because the results were to be used only for comparative purposes within a single study, and because of doubt as to the applicability of sectioning corrections to grains not spherical or ellipsoidal in shape (Greenman, 1951a, p. 271-272). The general effect of an arithmetic mean correction such as that proposed by Krumbein (1935, p. 482-496) would be to increase the reported arithmetic mean diameters about 25 percent. If the cumulative size distribution curves were corrected by the method proposed by Greenman (1951b, p. 447-462) the quartile sorting coefficients would be lowered about 6 percent.

Grain size.--In the layered rocks of the Ultramafic zone, olivine crystals range in diameter from 0.5 mm to over 40 mm, but the great majority of grains are between 1 and 4 mm. Bronzites range between 0.5 mm and 15 mm, but, like olivines, they most commonly range from 1 to 4 mm. Chromites are always smaller than associated bronzite and olivine, and, in most rocks, range in diameter from 0.1 to 0.4 mm, with observed extreme diameters of 0.02 and 5 mm.

The vertical distribution of grain sizes within the Ultramafic zone is complex, and study of the variation has been confined to stratigraphic sections in the eastern 15 miles of exposure. Within the Basal zone of the complex in this area, a gradual, but somewhat irregular, increase in grain size occurs from the chilled lower margin up to the base of the Ultramafic zone. The average grain size of the chilled marginal gabbro itself is about 0.3 mm, and the layered bronzitites above it contain euhedral bronzite crystals ranging in average diameter from about 0.7 mm to 1.0 mm. With the appearance of the first settled olivine (the base of the Ultramafic zone) a sharp change in size occurs, and the lowest ultramafic layer has an average grain size of about 2 mm.

Within the Ultramafic zone, three types of sharp vertical size change occur: 1) a diminution in size invariably occurs in passing from silicate layers to chromitites because chromite grains are always smaller than bronzites or olivines; 2) a size change occurs at the base of each poikilitic harzburgite layer; the overlying poikilitic harzburgite is coarser grained than the layer stratigraphically below it; and 3) sharp size changes occur within some layers of bronzitite, harzburgite, and chromitite without a change in mineral constitution of the rock. Each of these types of size variation is illustrated in figure 3. The chromite crystals in chromitite in the lower part of cyclic unit 2 have an average grain size about 1/12 of that of the olivines on either side, and the chromites in the lower part of cyclic unit 15 have about the same size ratio. In detail, the boundary surfaces between silicate layers and the finer chromitites are cuspate, analogous to conglomerate-sand contacts in sedimentary rocks (pl. 8)[1/]. Five examples of sharp increases in size between the poikilitic harzburgites and the rocks underlying them can be seen in figure 3, and these size breaks coincide with the compositional layering contacts. In the same figure, an example of a sharp grain size change within a

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[1/] The writer is not acquainted with previous descriptions of this relationship, and the term "cusp texture" is here coined to describe it.

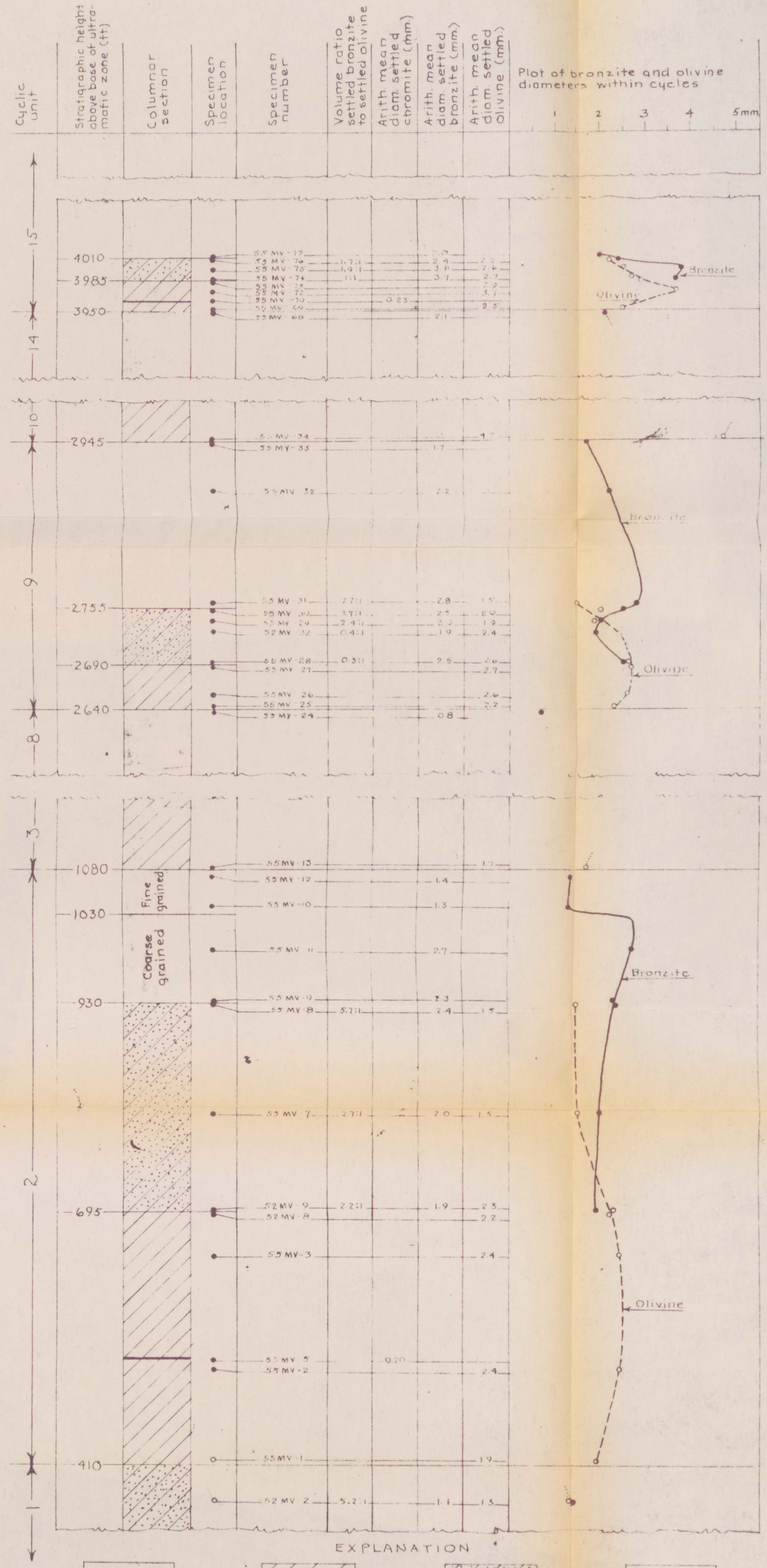
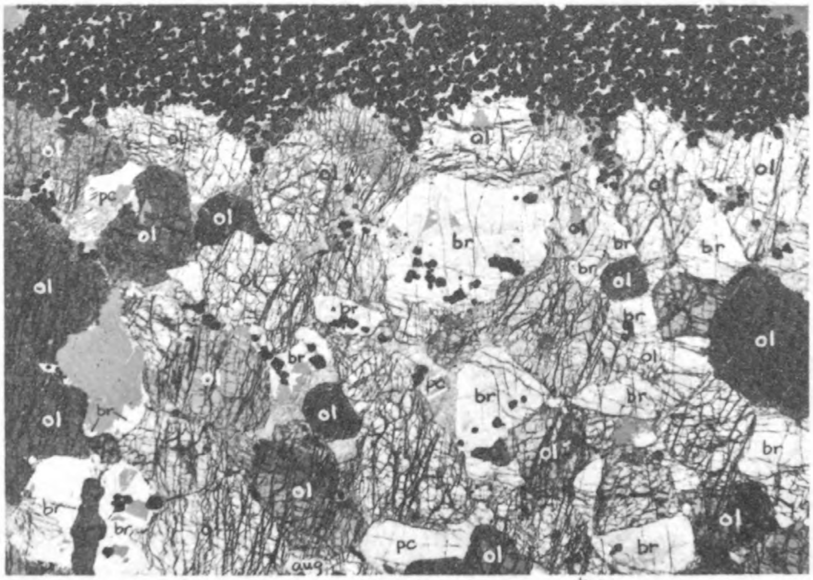


FIGURE 3 Stratigraphic distribution of mean diameters of settled bronzite and olivine crystals in the Peridotite member in the Mt. View section.

Plate 8. Cusp texture illustrated.

A. Photomacrograph of cusp texture at chromitite-poikilitic harzburgite contact. The chromites have sifted down between the larger olivines. ol = olivine; br = bronzite; pc = plagioclase; aug = augite. Crossed nicols.

B. Field photograph of cusp texture. The poikilitic harzburgite above the chromitite (dark layer) is considerably finer grained than the poikilitic harzburgite below it. Light gray areas are lichen.



A 0.1 in. layering top

B 1.0 in. layering top

PLATE 8

compositional layer is shown in the bronzitite of cyclic unit 2. Contacts at which sharp size changes within compositional layers occur are parallel to the boundaries of the layer. Most such intra-layer size changes observed are, like the example in cyclic unit 2, from coarse to fine upward in the section, and the grain size of the stratigraphically higher, finer grained upper portion typically increases gradationally away from the contact. Sharp grain size changes also occur in some chromitites (pl. 11B), but in these, no grading above the contact has been observed.

In addition to the sharp grain size variations, there are three types of gradual vertical grain size changes within the Ultramafic zone: 1) small scale size-graded bedding, both right-side-up and upside-down; 2) gradual increases and decreases in grain size on a scale of 100 to 500 stratigraphic feet which are related to the cycles; and 3) a gradual over-all increase in grain size to near the center of the Ultramafic zone followed by a decrease to the top. Small scale size-graded beds are rare features of the Ultramafic zone; only a few unequivocal graded beds have been seen in the field (pl. 9A), and laboratory work has failed to turn up additional examples. The graded beds observed range from one to three inches thick, and in about half the occurrences grain size diminished downward, that is, the graded beds were upside down. In the layered norites and gabbros above the Ultramafic zone, where small scale graded beds are slightly more abundant, the ratio of upside-down to right-side-up is about the same. Density-graded beds, or "rhythmic layering", which is a prominent feature of the entire complex, should not be confused with size-graded beds even though the density-graded beds have been compared with size-grading in sedimentary rocks by some authors (Wager and Deer, 1939, p. 271; Cooper, 1936, p. 32; Hess, 1938a, p. 265).

The second type of gradual grain size variation occurs within the cyclic units of the Peridotite member, and the size behavior of settled olivines and bronzites in three of these cycles is shown in figure 3. Olivine crystals within the three cycles gradually increase in size stratigraphically upward to a point near the base of the granular harzburgites, then decrease. The abrupt appearance of bronzite as a settled crystal at the bases of the granular harzburgites has no pronounced effect on the gradual increase or decrease in size of the olivines. As the bronzites exceed olivines in volume, the sizes of olivines decrease sharply. The earliest bronzite crystals in each cyclic unit, which are those near the bases of the granular harzburgites, are also relatively fine grained. Like the olivines, these gradually increase in size, to a point in the lower part of the bronzitite layers, then decrease in size toward the upper parts of the sections. In the lower part of cyclic unit 9, however, this pattern is complicated by an initial diminution in grain size of the bronzite. The gradual variation in bronzite grain size shows no discontinuity as olivine ceases to be a consitituent of the rock. The maximum and minimum average size attained by olivine and bronzite in a given cycle are very nearly equal, but occur at different positions in the cycle. Further, the maximum and minimum sizes attained by olivine and bronzite within a cycle are not related to the thickness of the cyclic unit. A major violation of this general pattern of size variation occurs at the base of a few cyclic units, including the one containing the main chromitite layer. In these, the basal poikilitic harzburgite is composed of extremely coarse olivine crystals up to the base of the chromitite, but above the chromitite the normal size variation pattern of olivines obtains.

It is believed that the grain size variation of chromites in single massive chromitite layers is much like that of olivines and bronzites in harzburgites and bronzitites. The size variation of the chromites is so small, however, and the number of measurements necessary to sample adequately a particular horizon so large, that such a vertical grain size variation cannot be said to be general. About 2,000 measurements were made on one 7-inch thick chromitite layer, and the results are summarized in table 2. Several other similar massive layers were more

Table 2.--Arithmetic mean diameters of chromite crystals in a 7-inch thick massive chromitite.

Specimen No.	Height above base of chromitite (in.)	Arith. mean diameter of chromites (mm)
7UU	$6\frac{1}{2}$	0.143
7UL	$5\frac{1}{4}$	0.161
7MU	4	0.151
7ML	3	0.149
7LU	$1\frac{1}{4}$	0.146
7LL	0	0.137

cursorily examined, and generally were slightly coarser grained near the center than at either margin. In some simple chromitite-olivine chromitite layers, where the amount of chromite in the chromitites decreases upwards, there is a gradual diminution of chromite grain size toward the top, but this variation again cannot be said to be general. It has been noted, however, that although the compositional break between chromitite and olivine chromitite in such rocks is generally extremely sharp, there is no size difference between the chromites at the top of the chromitite and the bottom of the olivine chromitite. The chromitite-olivine chromitite contacts are thus analogous to the poikilitic harzburgite-granular harzburgite contacts in that the grain size of chromite or olivine is unaffected by the abrupt appearance of another phase which is larger in the first case, and smaller in the second. In complex chromitite layers, where the section is composed of many alternating layers of massive and disseminated chromitite, no simple size variation has been found.

The third type of gradual size variation in the Ultramafic zone is an over-all change in average grain diameter superimposed on all the minor variations thus far discussed. This variation is not readily apparent unless some consistent horizon within any of the alternating compositional layers is compared throughout the Ultramafic zone. Figure 4 illustrates the stratigraphic

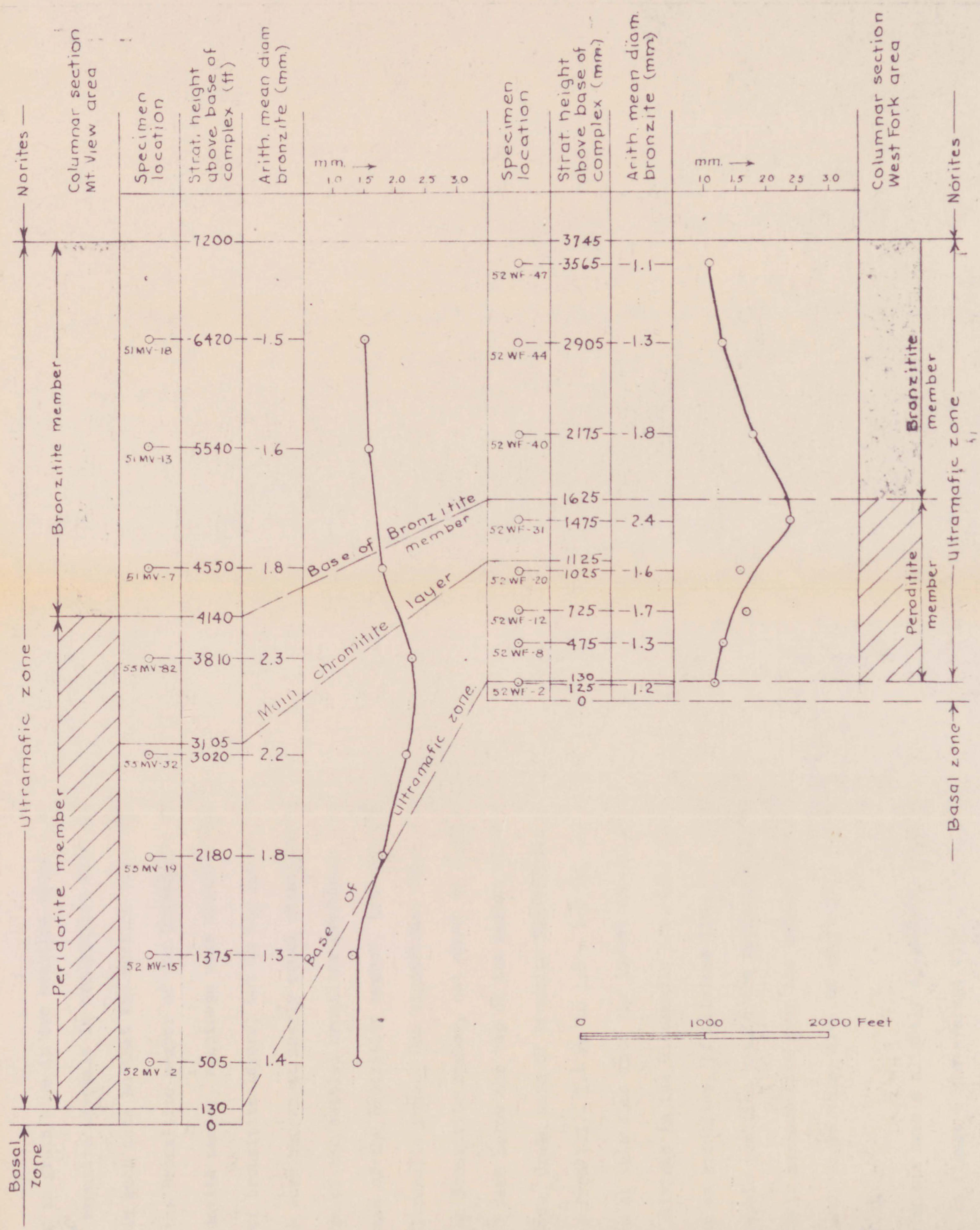


FIGURE 4. Stratigraphic distribution of mean diameters of settled bronzite crystals in bronzitite in the Mt. View and West Fork areas.

variation in grain size in two sections about 5 miles apart. Sizes of bronzite crystals in bronzitites were chosen for comparison in each case so that the section could be extended through the Bronzitite member of the Ultramafic zone. Within the Peridotite member, specimens were chosen from near the centers of bronzitite layers, but in the Bronzitite member, specimens were chosen at nearly equal stratigraphic intervals. Grain size of the settled bronzites gradually increases nearly to the base of the Bronzitite member, then decreases to the top of the Ultramafic zone. One significant sharp size change within the Bronzitite member, not shown in figure 4, occurs about 100 feet below the top of the member wherever this section is exposed. Grain size of bronzite individuals at this horizon increases from 1.1 - 1.4 mm to 1.8 - 1.9 mm, and bronzite continues at this size into the lowest norite layer. Grain sizes of olivines in the Ultramafic zone have the same over-all variation as bronzites, if olivines from the same relative stratigraphic position within the cycles are compared. Olivines attain their maximum size near the base of the Bronzitite member, and, above this, are, of course, no longer constituents of the rock.

Chromites have a slightly different over-all size distribution. In figure 5 the average size of the settled chromites at the footwall of the various chromitite layers in the Mt. View

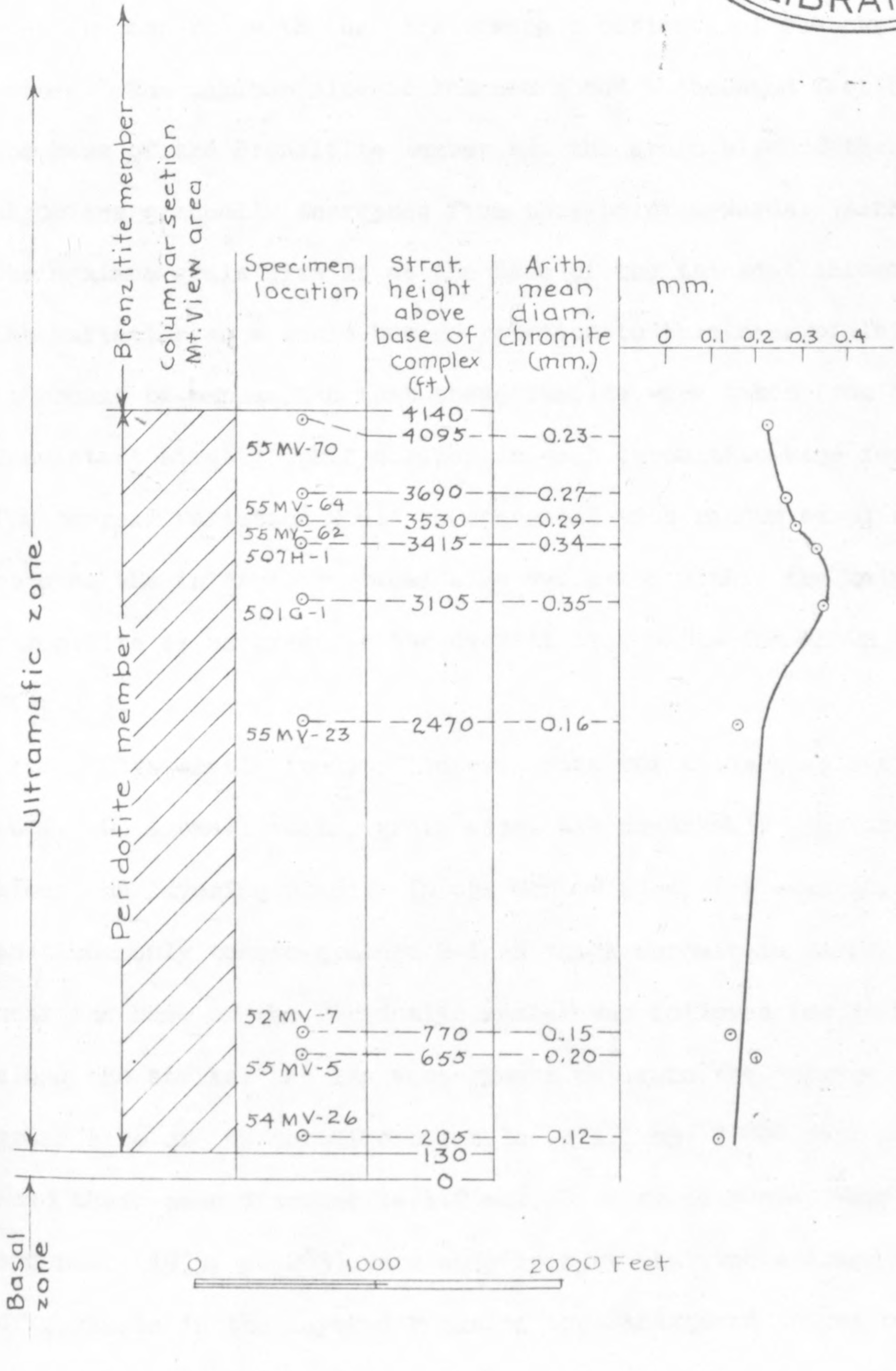
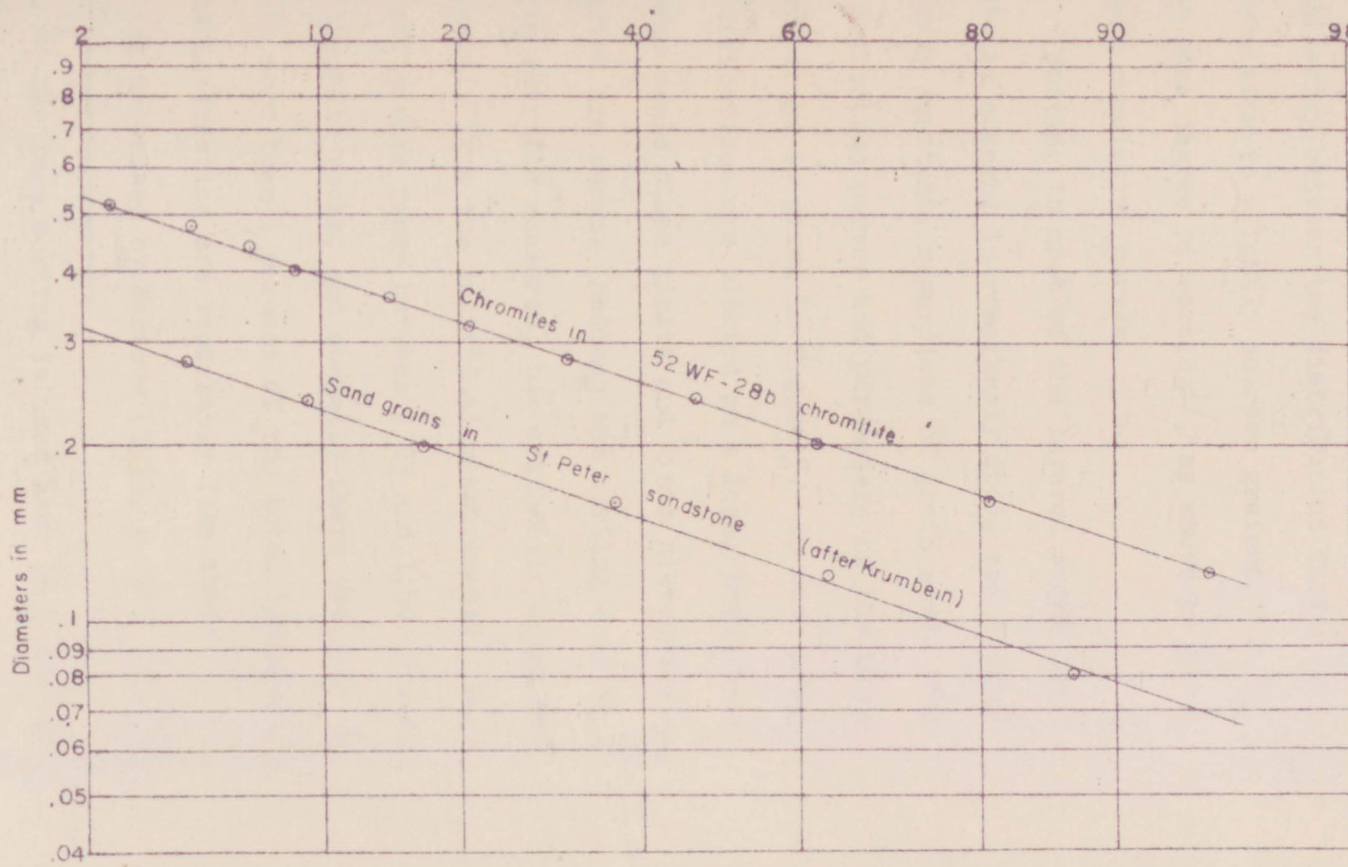


FIGURE 5. Stratigraphic distribution of mean diameters of settled chromite crystals in chromitite in the Mt. View section.

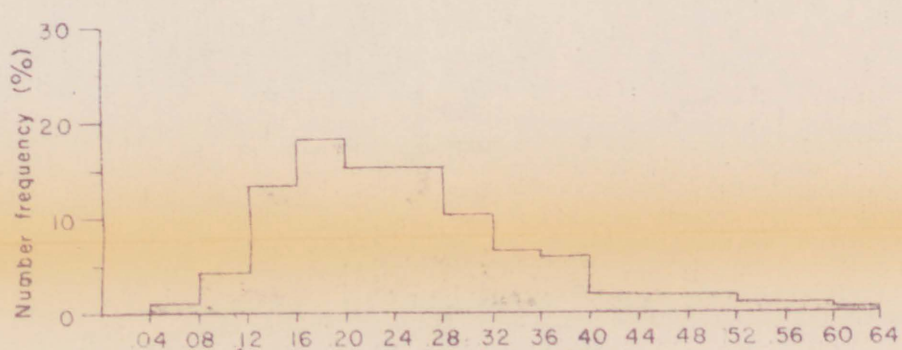
area is compared with the stratigraphic position of the chromitites. The maximum size is reached about a thousand feet below the base of the Bronzitite member and the grain size of the chromites gradually decreases from this point upwards. Although the maximum grain size is at the base of the thickest chromitite, the variation as a whole has no relation to thickness of layers. It should be emphasized that these samples were taken from a consistent stratigraphic horizon in each chromitite (the footwall). The overall variation would be concealed with random sampling because the internal vertical size variation within the main chromitite is as great as the overall size variation shown in figure 5.

No systematic study of lateral size variation has been made. On a small scale, grain sizes are remarkably constant along the layering plane. In the Benbow area, for example, an uncommonly coarse-grained 2-inch thick chromitite layer near the base of the Peridotite member was followed for 1½ miles along the strike. At its westernmost exposure the average grain size of its chromite crystals is 1.1 mm; 7,000 feet eastward their mean diameter is 1.2 mm. On a gross scale, Wager and Deer (1939, p. 263) were able to show that the average size of crystals in the layered rocks of the Skaergaard intrusion increased in size from the margins of the intrusion toward the center. No such gross lateral variation has been observed in the field in the Stillwater complex. The data given in figure 4 seem to indicate that, at any given stratigraphic position, the rocks in the thinner West Fork section are slightly finer grained than those of the thicker Mt. View section. The grain sizes of a third section, intermediate between these two in thickness, but east of the Mt. View section in position, were determined, and the average bronzite diameters were found to be very close to the Mt. View section values. A great many more measurements would be necessary to determine if this apparent lateral variation is related to stratigraphic thickness, to lateral position, or to neither.

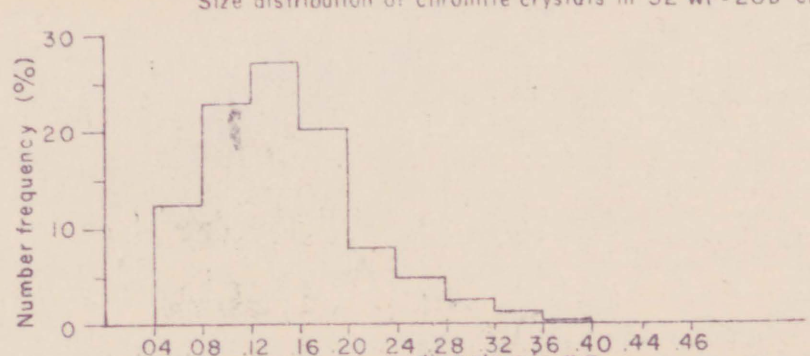
Sorting.--Size frequency distributions of the settled crystals within compositionally homogeneous layers are symmetrically disposed when plotted on a logarithmic scale, and most distributions plot as straight-line curves on logarithmic probability paper. Such distributions are said to be lognormal, and are typical of size distributions in many sedimentary rocks (Krumbein, 1938, p. 84-90). For comparison, the size distributions of sand grains in a well-sorted sandstone, the St. Peter, and chromite grains in a chromitite are plotted graphically in figure 6. The distribution curves for the St. Peter sandstone were constructed from measurements made in thin section by Krumbein (1935, p. 486). Neither set of measurements is corrected for sectioning effects, both are grouped into the same arithmetic



Cumulative size distribution curves of grains in layered chromitite and sandstone plotted on log probability paper



Size distribution of chromite crystals in 52 WF-28b chromitite



Size distribution of sand grains in St Peter sandstone (after Krumbein)

Arithmetic size groupings of grains in layered chromitite and sandstone

Fig. 6. Size distribution curves of chromitite and sandstone

intervals, and both are based on more than 300 measurements. The similarity between the distribution curves is obvious. The chromitite is slightly coarser grained, but both rocks have the same degree of sorting[1], as shown by the equal slopes of their cumulative curves.

Sorting in most of the layered rocks that contain only one settled mineral is remarkably good, and sorting indices are nearly constant, regardless of grain size. For illustration, distribution curves and parameters of the three varieties of such rocks is given in figure 7. In each example, size frequency distributions are plotted on a logarithmic base using one-half Udden scale class limits and both histograms and cumulative curves are shown. Medians and sorting coefficients were obtained from quartile measures, but arithmetic means were calculated directly from the individual measurements. Quartile sorting coefficients range between 1.27 and 1.50 in most of the layered ultramafic rocks, and normally there are 3 or 3½ Udden classes with more than 1 percent of the total individuals. These sorting characteristics are remarkably like those of the marine beach sands described by Martens (1939, p. 207-218), although the

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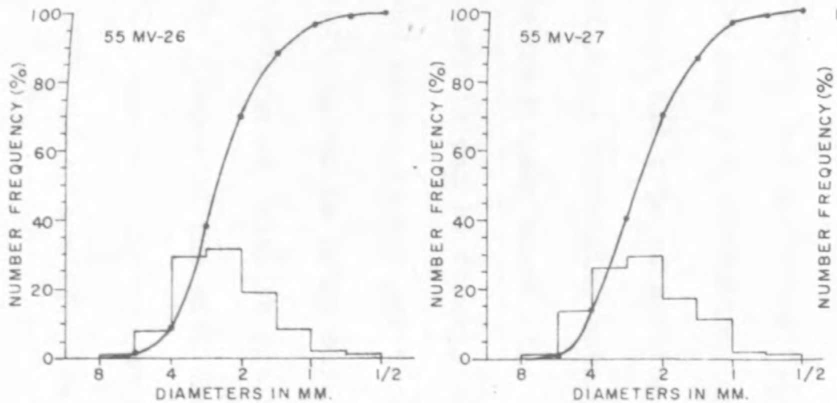
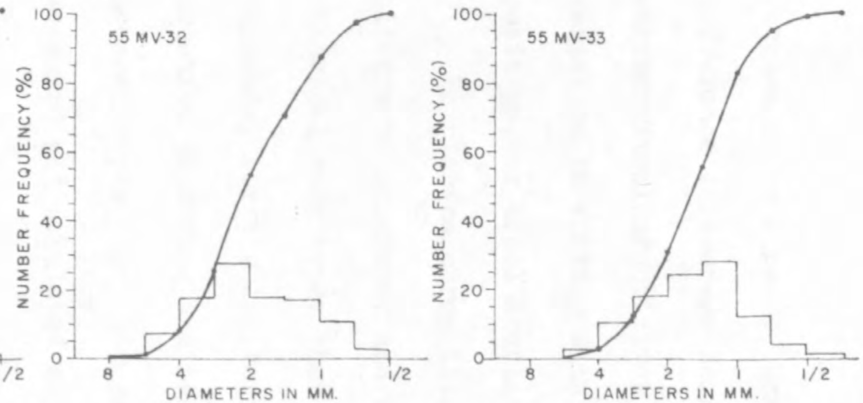
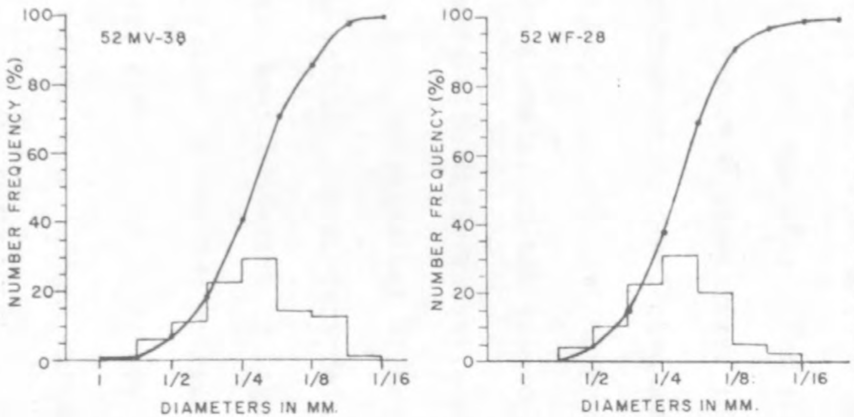
[1] The term sorting is used here in a statistical sense, without implication as to the agency responsible for the spread (Pettijohn, 1957, p. 37).



SIZE DISTRIBUTIONS OF OLIVINES IN POIKILITIC HARZBURGITES



SIZE DISTRIBUTIONS OF BRONZITES IN BRONZITITES



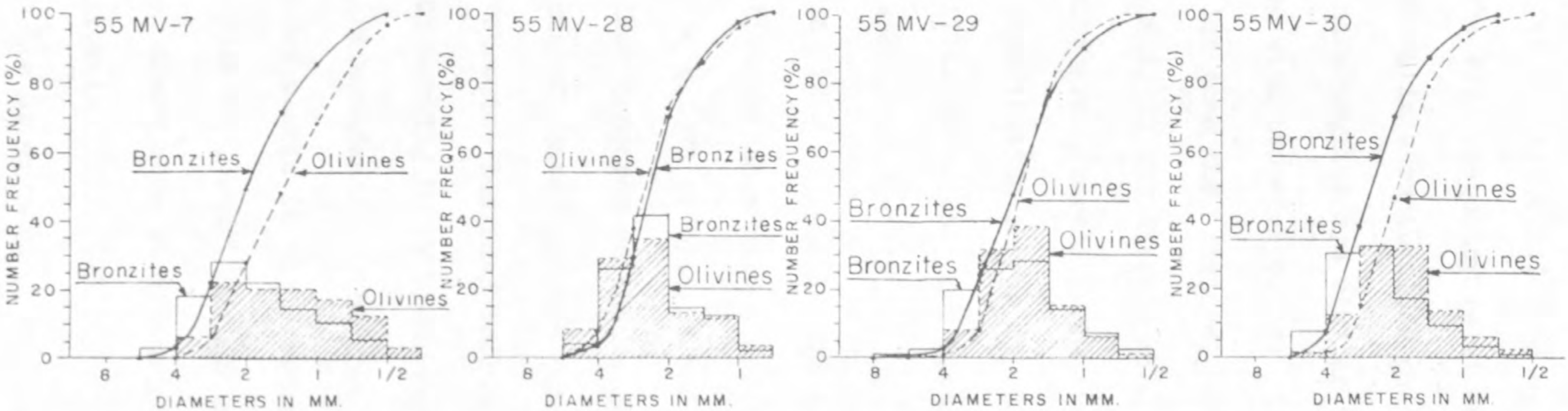
SIZE DISTRIBUTIONS OF CHROMITES IN CHROMITITES

Specimen number	Arith. mean diameter mm.	Median diameter mm.	Sorting coefficient $\sqrt{Q3/Q1}$
55 MV-26	2.57	2.53	1.31
55 MV-27	2.68	2.53	1.37
55 MV-32	2.18	2.07	1.48
55 MV-33	1.74	1.54	1.40
52 MV-38	0.25	0.23	1.36
52 WF-28	0.24	0.22	1.32

FIGURE 7. Comparison of size frequency distributions in layered rocks containing only one settled mineral.

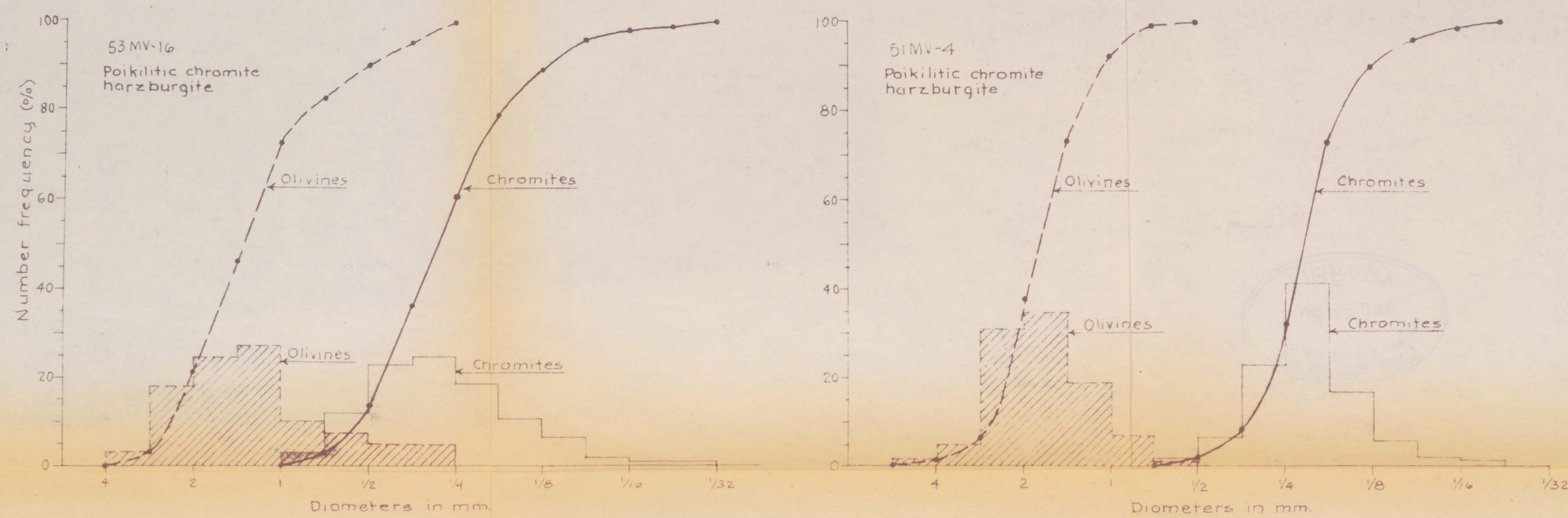
average grain sizes of beach sands are considerably finer. No difference in average sorting has been found between poikilitic harzburgites, bronzitites, and chromitites, nor has a consistent variation in sorting with change in grain size, stratigraphic position, or areal location been discovered.

In olivine chromitites, poikilitic chromite harzburgites, olivine bronzitites, and some granular harzburgites, the four principal rock types that consist of two varieties of settled crystals, sorting is poor or bimodal if, as is the common practice in sizing sediments, no distinction is made between mineral types. If, however, the two settled constituents are measured and tabulated separately, each is found to be well sorted, but generally different in average size. The size frequency distribution curves in figure 8 illustrates the general range and type of sorting variations in four selected specimens of rocks containing both settled olivine and settled bronzite. As previously noted, the average diameter of the two constituent minerals can be roughly correlated with their relative abundance and stratigraphic position. No such correlations of degree of sorting can be made, nor is the sorting coefficient related to absolute or relative grain size. As illustrated in figure 8, the slopes of the distribution curves of the two minerals in the same rock tend to be similar, and in some rocks the sorting coefficients are identical. In rocks where slight differences



Specimen number	Mineral	Arith. mean diam. mm.	Median diam. mm.	Quartile sorting coefficient	Volume ratio bronzite/olivine in rock
55 MV-7	Olivine	1.54	1.36	1.52	2.7/1
	Bronzite	2.05	1.97	1.44	
55 MV-28	Olivine	2.58	2.58	1.30	0.3/1
	Bronzite	2.47	2.45	1.26	
55 MV-29	Olivine	1.91	1.82	1.28	2.4/1
	Bronzite	1.99	1.96	1.37	
55 MV-30	Olivine	2.01	1.93	1.29	3.7/1
	Bronzite	2.53	2.46	1.29	

FIGURE 8. Comparison of size frequency distribution of coexisting olivines and bronzites in layered granular harzburgites



Specimen number	Mineral	Arith. mean diam. mm.	Median diam. mm.	Quartile sorting coefficient	Vol. ratio chromite /olivine in rock
53 MV-16	Olivine	1.42	1.37	1.43	0.6[illegible]:1
	Chromite	0.31	0.29	1.43	
51 MV-4	Olivine	1.83	1.79	1.29	0.11:1
	Chromite	0.23	0.22	1.25	
52 NL-19	Olivine	2.32	2.27	1.31	1.00:1
	Chromite	0.24	0.23	1.30	
53 BE-15	Olivine	9.40	9.20	1.38	0.02:1
	Chromite	1.48	1.41	1.39	

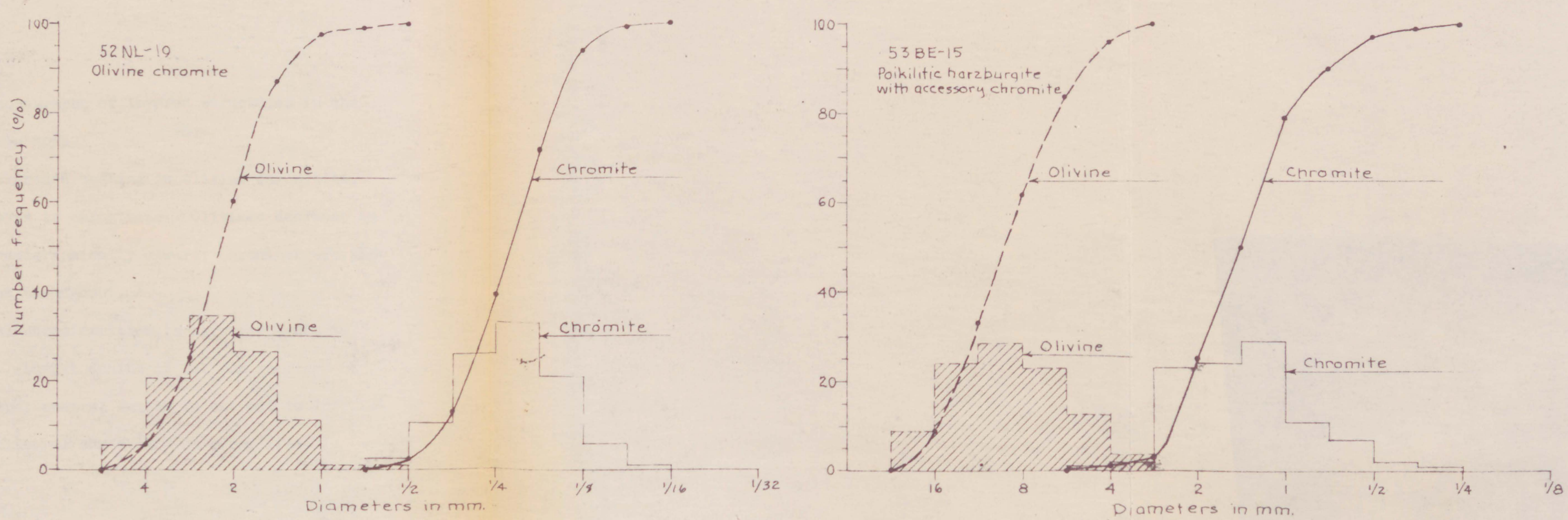


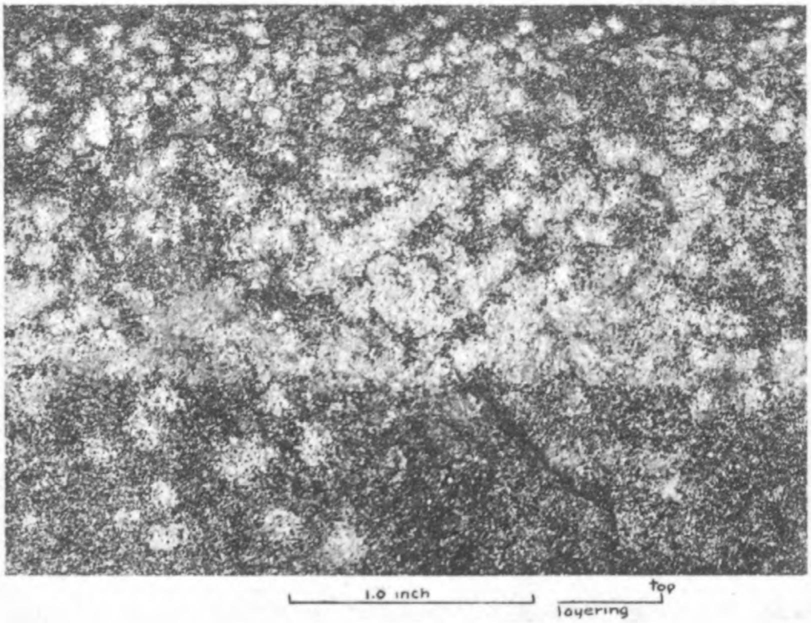
FIGURE 9. Comparison of size frequency distribution of coexisting olivines and chromites in structureless olivine chromitites and poikilitic chromite harzburgites.

Plate 9. Field photographs of layered structures in the Ultramafic zone.

A. Size graded bedding in olivine chromitite. Lower layer is chromitite. Olivines decrease in size stratigraphically upward; chromites are the same size throughout.

B. Local unconformities in chromitite-dunite section. Lowest dunite is cut out to right of photograph; central dunite is cut out to left. du = dunite; ol chr = olivine chromitite.

A


1.0 inch
top
layering

B

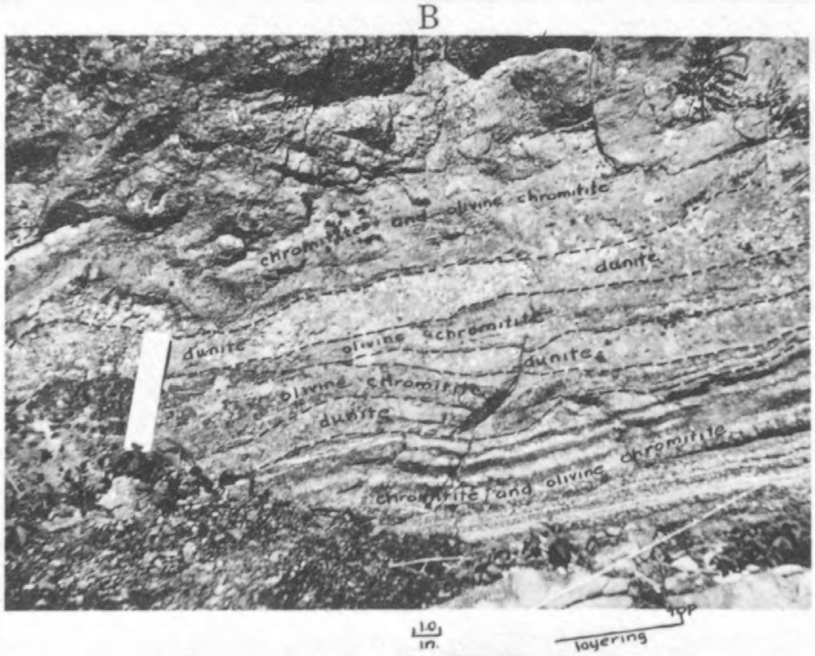
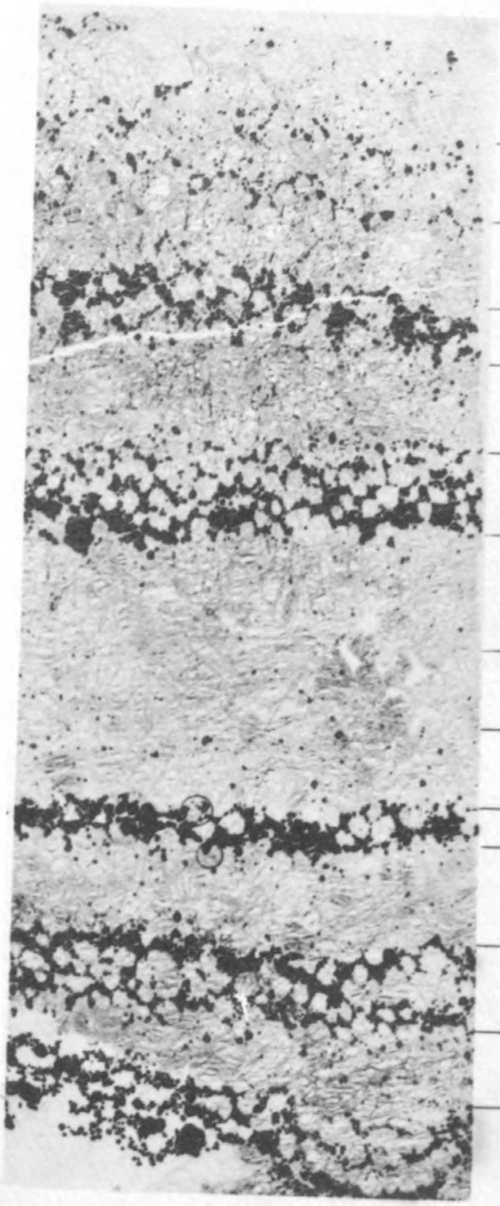

chromitite and olivine chromitite
dunite
dunite
olivine chromitite
dunite
olivine chromitite
dunite
olivine chromitite
chromitite and olivine chromitite
1.0 in.
top
layering

PLATE 9

grain size of the settled crystals is finer than average, and the rock consists of alternating laminae of dunite and olivine chromitite, which is in contrast to the relatively thick bedding of sections that show no current structures. The size distributions in a sequence of these layers were investigated and found to be considerably different from those of structureless olivine chromitites and granular harzburgites. The layered sequence investigated is illustrated in plate 10 and size distribution data are given in figure 10. The most obvious feature of the sequence is that the fine-grained olivines are associated in layers with the chromites, and that these layers are separated by coarse-grained dunite. The distribution curves of coexisting olivines and chromites (layers B, H, J, and L), in distinction to the distribution curves of these minerals in structureless olivine chromitites, are unlike, with chromites considerably more poorly sorted than olivines. The olivines of these olivine chromitite layers have nearly symmetrical distribution, but the chromites are strongly skewed to the coarser size. The size distribution of olivine grains in the coarse dunites (layers C, K, and M) is similar to that of the chromites in the olivine chromitites. Despite the large variations in arithmetic mean diameters of olivines in the various layers, all their modes are the same, as are those of the chromites. If it is assumed that the modes of olivine and chromite in these layers

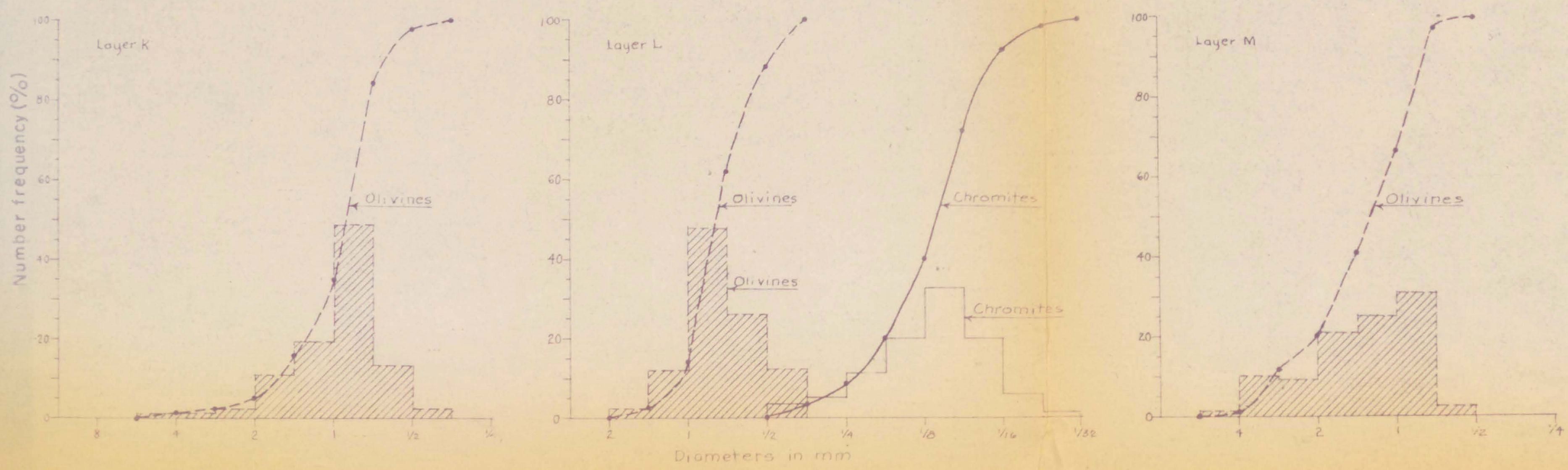


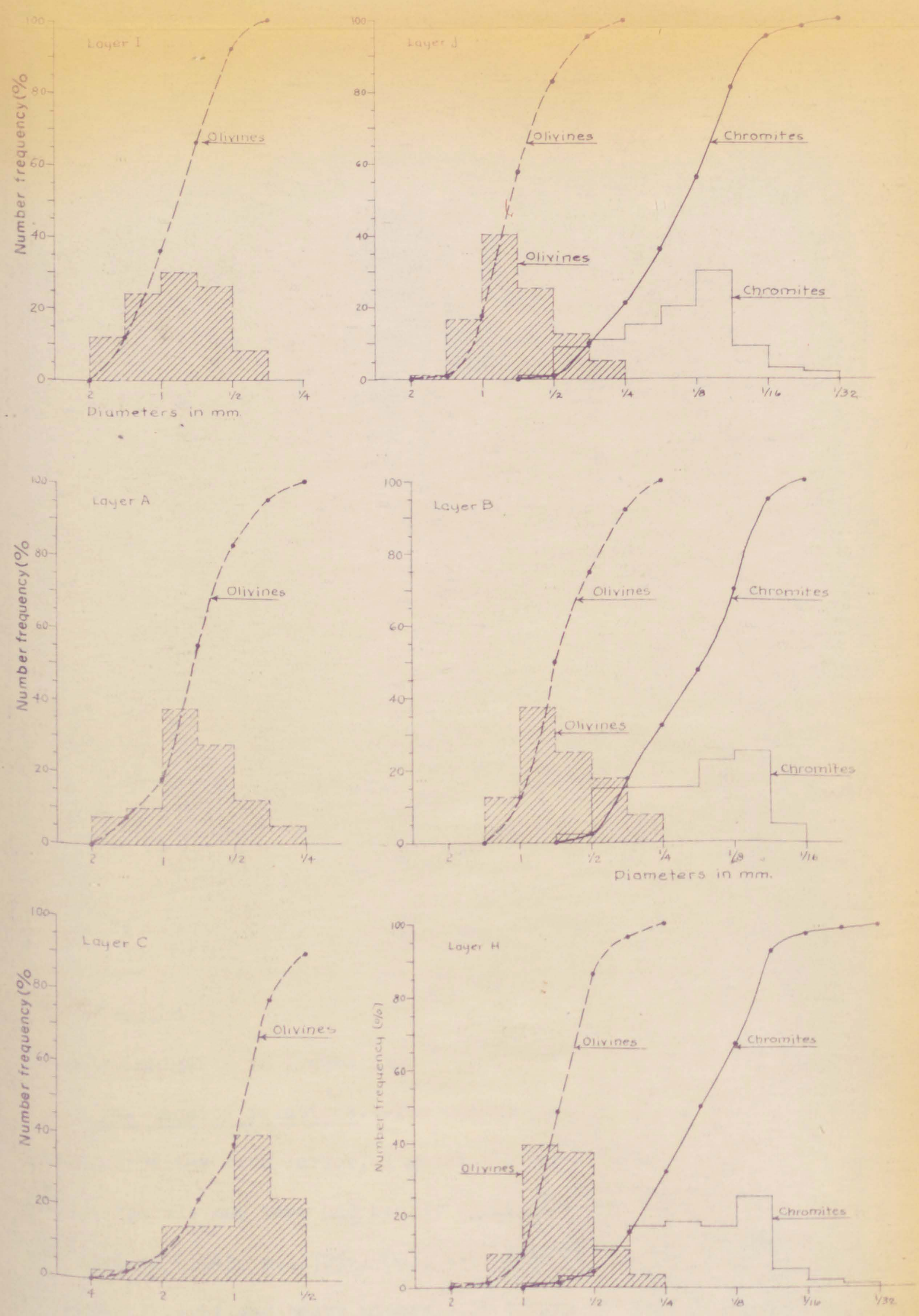
Layer	Rock Type
M	Dunite
L	Chromite dunite
K	Dunite
J	Olivine chromitite
I	Dunite
H	Olivine chromitite
G	Dunite
F	Dunite
E	Dunite
D	Olivine chromitite
C	Dunite
B	Olivine chromitite
A	Dunite

0.1 in.

top
layering

PLATE 10





Thickness mm	Layer number	Rock type	Mineral	Arith. mean diam. mm.	Median diam. mm.	Modal diam. mm.	Coefficient of sorting	Arith. mean size olivines / Arith. mean size chromites
1	N	chromitite	chromite	0.21				
8	M	Dunite	Olivine	1.53	1.28	0.84	1.38	
5	L	Chromite dunite	Olivine Chromite	0.75 0.14	0.75 0.12	0.84 0.11	1.16 1.38	5.3
4	K	Dunite	Olivine	1.05	0.85	0.84	1.23	
3	J	Olivine chromitite	Olivine Chromite	0.75 0.18	0.75 0.13	0.84 0.11	1.25 1.45	4.2
5	I	Dunite	Olivine	0.94	0.87	0.84	1.38	
4	H	Olivine chromitite	Olivine Chromite	0.72 0.22	0.70 0.18	0.84 0.11	1.26 1.63	3.3
5	G	Dunite	Olivine	1.44				
4	F	Dunite	Olivine	1.09				
4	E	Dunite	Olivine	0.92				
2	D	Olivine chromitite	Olivine Chromite	0.84 0.26				3.2
5	C	Dunite	Olivine	1.06	0.90	0.84	1.34	
2	B	Olivine chromitite	Olivine Chromite	0.73 0.22	0.71 0.17	0.84 0.11	1.34 1.53	3.3
3	A	Dunite	Olivine	0.74	0.75	0.84	1.30	

55 DR-1

FIGURE 10. Comparison of size frequency distribution of olivines and coexisting olivines and chromites in current bedded dunites and olivine chromitites.

represent the modes of lognormal distributions of available chromites and olivines before deposition, then current action has removed the fine fraction of olivine from the coarse dunites and the fine fraction of chromite from the olivine chromitites. The coarse dunite layers would have been deposited from the strongest currents, which suspended the finer olivines and all the chromites. The olivine chromitites would have been deposited by the weakest currents, which allowed deposition of all the olivines but which still suspended or carried off the finer chromite fractions. Regardless of interpretations as to mechanisms of origin, the most significant feature of the distribution is that where olivine chromitites or poikilitic chromite harzburgites appear internally structureless in the field, sorting indices of olivine and chromite in the rock are nearly equal, but, in the few localities where current structures can be observed in the field, chromites are much more poorly sorted than the associated olivines. This relation is shown graphically in figure 11.

Size-density relations.--The common association of small dense chromites with larger, lighter olivines suggests that these minerals may have had nearly equal settling velocities. Rittenhouse (1943, p. 1725-1780), who studied the size distributions of light and heavy minerals in fluvial sands, found the equivalent hydraulic sizes of two minerals to be closely related

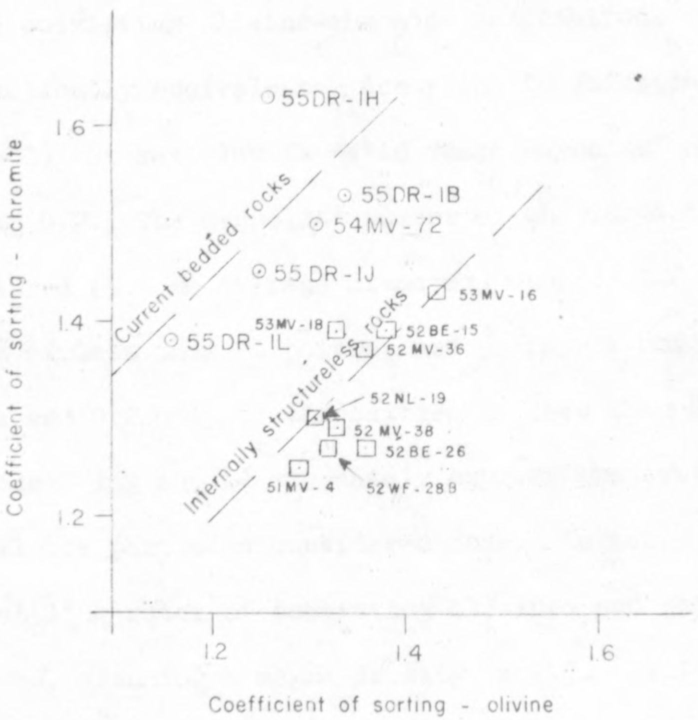


Fig.11. Ratios of sorting coefficients of coexisting olivine and chromite in olivine chromitites and poikilitic chromite harzburgites

to their densities, the coarser light minerals being associated with the coarser heavies, and the finer light minerals with the finer heavies. As illustrated in figure 12, this relationship does not obtain in either the internally structureless or the current bedded olivine chromitites. On theoretical grounds, none of the coexisting olivine-chromite associations would appear to be hydraulically equivalent. According to Christiansen (1935, p. 480), Stokes' law is valid where Reynolds' number $\left\{\frac{2rv\rho}{\mu}\right\}$ is less than 0.2. The Reynolds' number of the largest olivine grains measured (9.4 mm average diameter) exceeds 0.2 only at viscosities of less than 20 poises, and grains of more normal diameter exceed 0.2 only at viscosities of less than 2 poises, so that Stokes' law should adequately express the settling rates of all the particles considered here. In table 3 the relative settling rates of coexisting olivines and chromites are tabulated, assuming a magma density of 2.7. It is apparent from the wide variation in values that the differences in size between olivines and chromites are not compensated by differences in density, and that the grains are not hydraulically equivalent. It should be noted, however, that, on the average, the current-bedded olivine chromitites approach hydraulic equivalence more closely than structureless rocks containing the two minerals. It is also obvious from inspection of figure 3 that coexisting olivines and bronzites in granular harzburgites and olivine

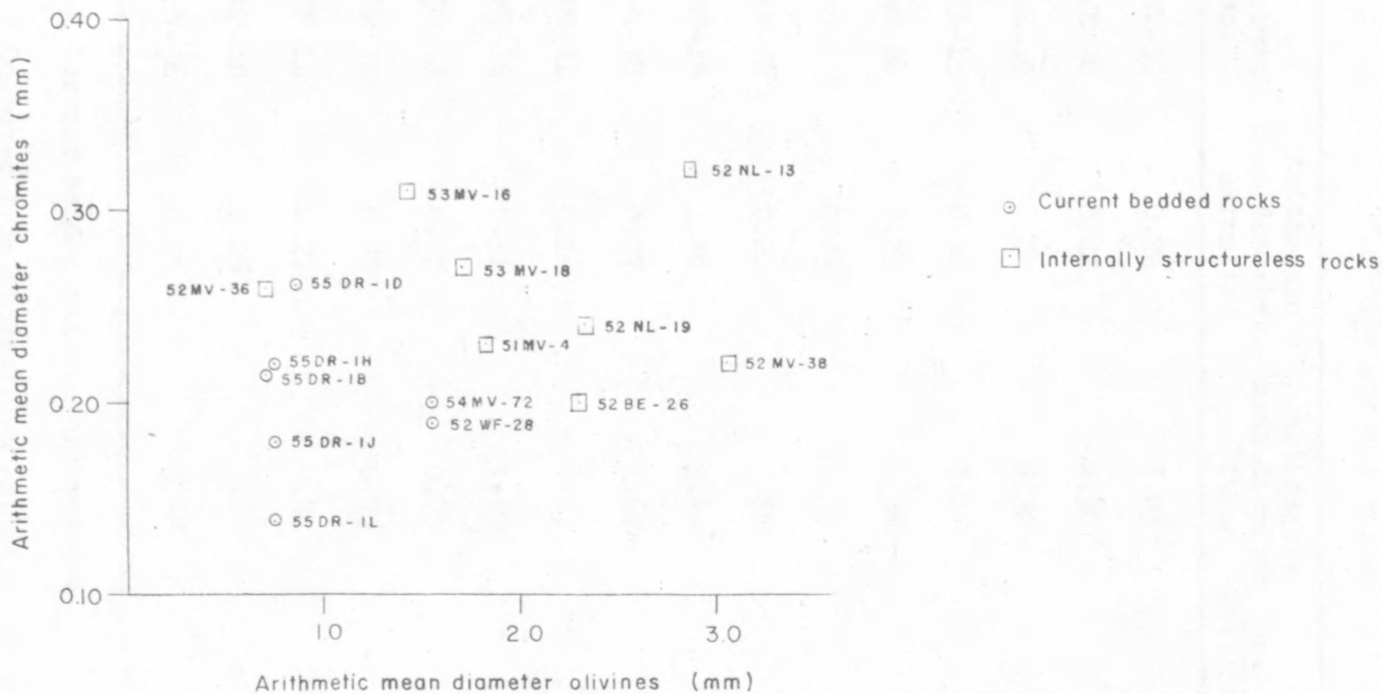


Figure 12. Ratios of mean diameters of coexisting olivines and chromites in olivine chromitites and poikilitic chromite harzburgites.

Table 3.--Relative settling velocities of coexisting olivines and chromites

Specimen No.	Arithmetic mean diameter chromite	Arithmetic mean diameter olivine	Settling velocity olivine / Settling velocity chromite*
52MV-38	0.22	3.03	67
52BE-26	0.21	2.38	45
52NL-19	0.24	2.32	33
52NL-13	0.32	2.87	28
52WF-28	0.21	1.68	22
51MV-4	0.23	1.83	22
† 54MV-72	0.20	1.55	21
53BE-15	1.48	9.40	14
53MV-18	0.27	1.62	13
† 55DR-1L	0.14	0.75	10
53MV-16	0.31	1.42	7.4
† 55DR-1J	0.18	0.75	6.1
† 55DR-1B	0.22	0.73	3.9
† 55DR-1H	0.22	0.72	3.8
† 55DR-1D	0.26	0.84	3.7
52MV-36	0.26	0.68	2.4

† Current bedded olivine chromitites.

* Computed from Stokes' law assuming the density of the magma to be 2.7; olivine 3.3; chromite 4.4.

bronzitites are not hydraulically equivalent. Olivine and bronzite have nearly the same density in the composition range encountered in the Ultramafic zone, and, theoretically should be the same diameter in equivalent association, but coexisting olivine-bronzite diameter ratios range from 1.3:1 to 0.5:1. At the one extreme the Stokes' settling rate for olivine would be 1.8 times that of bronzite, and at the other extreme bronzite would theoretically settle 3.5 times faster than olivine.

From textural evidence in the Ultramafic zone, it seems doubtful that the effective size, and therefore the settling rate, is modified to any extent by groups or clusters of crystals sinking together. Effects of clumping are most easily evaluated in rocks containing mixtures of two settled phases, and pre-accumulation clustering apparently has occurred in a few olivine bronzitites, where groups of 4 or 5 olivine crystals welded at their contacts are irregularly distributed throughout the rock (pl. 11C). In the great majority of olivine bronzitites and granular harzburgites, however, individual crystals of bronzite and olivine are evenly distributed throughout the rocks (pls. 11A and 1B). A few compound chromite grains formed by clusters of smaller crystals have been recognized, but these are easily separated from their individual associates, and where observed, have been measured in aggregate. Synneusis texture in chromites as described by Vogt (1921, p. 321) has not been

Plate 11. Photomicrographs of settled mineral distribution in the Ultramafic zone.

A. Coexisting settled olivines and bronzites in granular harzburgite. The two minerals occur side by side as euhedral and suhedral crystals and are evenly distributed throughout the rock. ol = olivine; br = bronzite; pc = plagioclase. Crossed nicols.

B. Sharp change in grain size within a chromitite layer. Black grains chromite; white mesostasis plagioclase. Crossed nicols.

C. Clustering of olivine crystals in olivine bronzitite. Contacts between most olivines in cluster are welded. ol = olivine; br = bronzite; pc = plagioclase; aug = augite. Crossed nicols.

D. Chain structure in chromitite. Many of the chromites are connected into two dimensional irregular "chains". Mesostasis is plagioclase, bronzite, and augite. Crossed nicols.

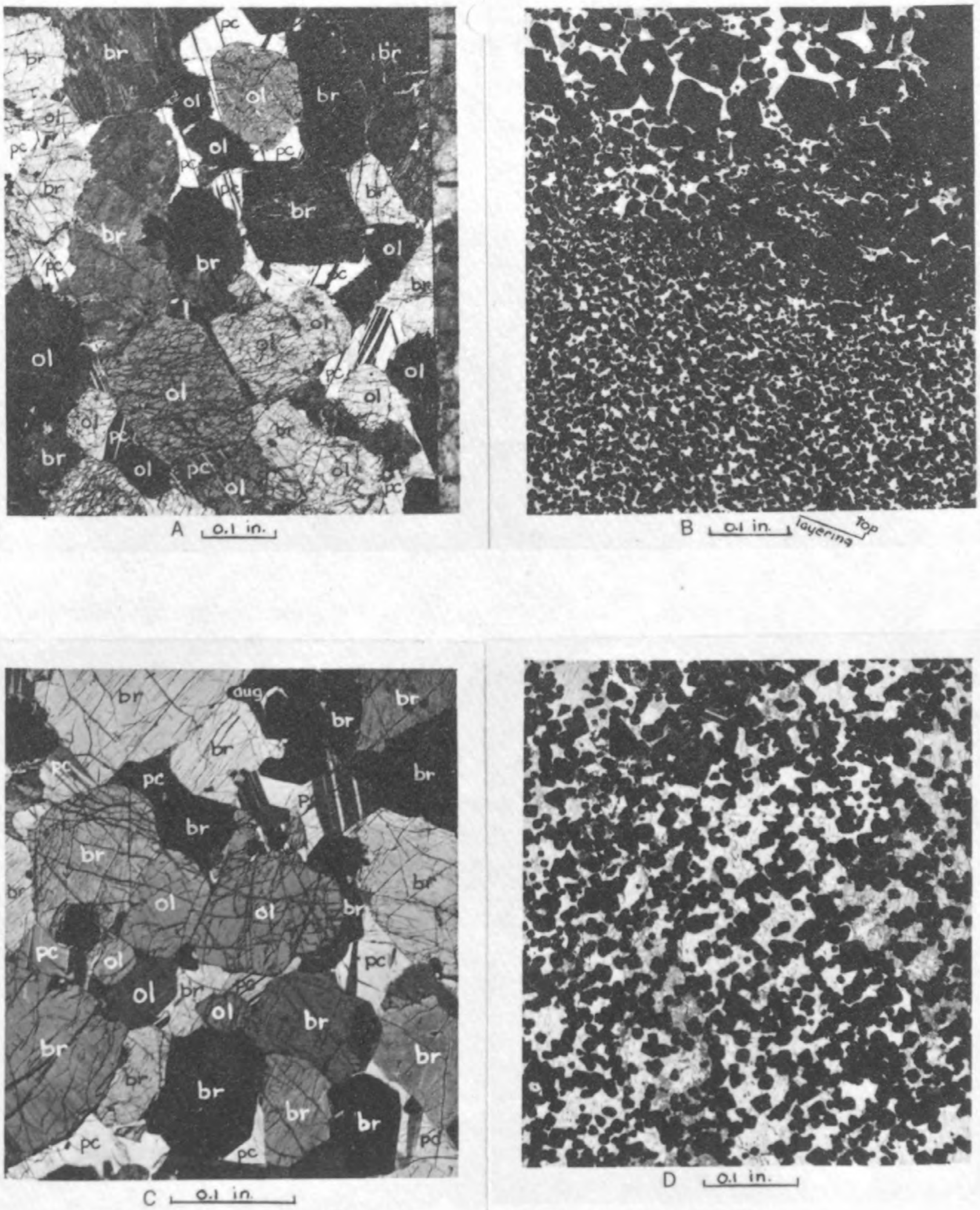


PLATE 11

observed in the Stillwater chromitites, although a superficially similar texture has been developed in olivine chromitites by close packing of large olivines and small chromites (pl. 13). Chain texture, identical with that described by Sampson (1932, p. 126-127) from the Bushveld complex, occurs in some Stillwater chromitites. The long, branching, generally curved "chains" seen in thin section consist of as many as 30 contiguous grains, and the elongation of these bears no relation to the layering plane (pl. 11D). Bastin (1950, p. 7) suggests chain texture may be a variety of synneusis texture, but the present writer doubts that they represent preaccumulation aggregations. The curved, branching groups of crystals seen in two dimensions are probably not chains, but complex three dimensional structures. In the Ultramafic zone, chain texture occurs only where the interstitial material between chromite grains makes up about 25-30 percent of the rock; where interstitial material makes up more of the rock most chromite grains do not touch, and where interstitial material is less abundant all the grains mutually interfere. It seems most probable, therefore, that the chain structure is caused by fortuitous sectioning of tightly packed chromite octahedra.

Discussion.--The size distribution data have important bearing on the problem of mechanism of crystal accumulation, particularly in respect to the effect of convection current as agents of transportation and deposition. Gravity sinking of crystals to the floor of a magma chamber seems to be generally accepted as an essential condition for the formation of layered intrusions of this type, and gravity settling in basaltic liquids has been abundantly demonstrated (MacDonald, 1944, p. 177-189; Fuller, 1939, p. 303-313) and experimentally verified by Bowen (1915, p. 175-191). Wager and Deer (1939, p. 262-289), in one of the best documented discussions of crystal accumulation, propose that, in addition to settling by gravity, the minerals of the Skaergaard intrusion were transported and deposited by convection currents sweeping across the floor of the magma chamber. The existence of currents was deduced from igneous lamination, lineations, and trough banding in certain parts of the intrusion (1939, p. 262-289), and, as evidence of their effectiveness, the authors found an enrichment of heavy melanocratic minerals near the margin of the intrusion (1939, p. 40 and 263), and a gradual increase in the average size of plagioclase crystals away from the margin toward the center of the mass (1939, p. 71 and 263). Pulsatory variation in the velocity of convection currents was considered responsible for variation in the proportion of light and heavy minerals deposited in any place, giving rise to rhythmic layering. In the Stillwater complex, the very local scour and unconformity effects indicate that currents were present at certain times and in certain parts of the magma chamber during the period of crystal accumulation.

The writer, however, does not consider currents in the magma to have been important in either the transportation or deposition of the primary precipitate minerals in the Ultramafic zone for the following reasons: 1) no trough banding has been observed; 2) lineation of elongate minerals is weak or absent; 3) although a wide range of grain size of settled crystals is recognized in some rocks, size-graded bedding is almost nonexistent; 4) in nearly all of the rocks containing two coexisting settled phases, the two minerals are not in hydraulic equivalence; and 5) in the rocks in which current bedding can be observed, the size distribution relations are markedly different from those of the structureless rocks. It should be noted that rhythmic layering or "gravity stratification" in the Ultramafic zone is developed in rocks containing two settled constituents of different density. In many olivine chromitites, for instance, "gravity stratification" is properly developed with denser chromites concentrated at the base, and these gradually give way to less dense olivines at the top (pl. 5A). Because size affects settling velocity as the square and density only to a power of one, however, every one of the "gravity stratified" layers so constructed is hydraulically upside down. The writer does not wish to imply that no convection currents existed in the Stillwater magma, and is aware of the problems of extremely slow settling rates in thick stagnant magmas, but merely wishes to point out here that current transportation and deposition of the primary precipitates in the lower part of the Stillwater complex is incompatible with the textures of the rocks.

The lognormal distribution of grain sizes in many sedimentary rocks has suggested origin by some natural process concerned with grading by fluid movement, and Krumbein (1938, p. 89-90) has suggested that observed fluctuations in wind velocity as one process capable of producing such distributions. The effectiveness of such a mechanical sorting process is largely dependent on the viscosity of the fluid and on the density difference between the particles and the fluid, and Kuenen (1951, p. 25-26) has experimentally determined that the degree of sorting is greatly reduced in fluids of high viscosity and density. In a highly viscous magma, therefore, it seems doubtful that mechanical sorting of precipitates with a large size range could account for the narrow size spread in the rocks.

In a magmatic system, where the suspending fluid is also producing the particles by crystallization, it seems possible that logarithmic size distributions might be produced by crystal growth as well as by fluid movement. Loveland and Trivelli (1927, p. 193-217) found logarithmic size frequency distributions of silver bromide crystals in photographic emulsions.

They reasoned that the distribution is a result of crystal growth proportional to the attained size of the crystals at any given instant, and predicted that the logarithmic form would be found to be uniquely involved in the case of precipitates.

I therefore propose that the close approach to lognormal distributions of the three primary precipitate minerals in the Ultramafic zone is a phenomenon produced by crystallization and supply, and that the sorting or spread is a direct measure of the range of size of the crystallization products of the magma immediately above the continually rising floor of the magma chamber. If two minerals were crystallizing simultaneously or at slightly different horizons in the melt, their relative average diameters would probably depend largely on their concentrations, solubilities, and relative distances of fall to the floor. Simple crystal sinking of two minerals which had inherently different sizes would explain the apparently anomalous observed relations of narrow, symmetrical size distributions of different minerals in the same rock, where these minerals are not in hydraulic equivalence and have no consistent size relation in different rocks. Any currents strong enough to cause suspension of hydraulically lighter particles would tend to skew or destroy the lognormality of the distribution and, at the same time, move the minerals closer to hydraulic equivalence. This is in accord with the field and laboratory observations.

A corollary of this argument is that crystallization, and therefore supply, must be continuous. Should crystallization suddenly cease while only one mineral was being supplied, the finer crystals of that constituent would fall at a slower rate than the coarser crystals, and a normal graded bed would occur. Should crystallization cease while two minerals were present in the supply then the hydraulically heavier mineral would be preferentially deposited at the base and gradually give way to the lighter constituent at the top. Should crystallization begin again after all the individuals of the previous cycle had settled, then the first of the new crystals to be deposited on the floor would be smaller than those higher up because they would have fallen a shorter distance through the magma, and a reverse graded bed would result. This has been illustrated by Bowen (1915, p. 175-191) and Bowen's figure 1a shows just such reverse graded bedding of olivine crystals in an artificial melt.

The factors influencing the size of crystals collected on the floor of the magma chamber are many and complex; these include: 1) the rate of heat loss from the intrusion, 2) the viscosity, temperature, and composition of the magma, 3) the solubility of minerals crystallizing from it, and 4) the rate and distance of fall of crystals to the floor. Despite the abundance of variables, some speculations as to the origin of the various types of size changes described can be made. The relatively fine grain size of the chromites may be related to the relatively low concentration of chromium in the magma, and perhaps to the solubility of chromite in the magma. The sharp size breaks at the bases of the poikilitic harzburgites are believed to represent hiatuses in crystallization, and the relatively fine grain size of olivine crystals in the lower part of these units is believed due in part to slight super-cooling probably necessary to inaugurate crystallization (Overbeek, 1952, p. 63). The gradual increase in grain size of these olivines upward in the section is probably caused by the relatively longer growth times of crystals which began crystallizing farther from the floor as described by Bowen (1915, p. 175-191). The large scale size-breaks within compositional layers, such as the one illustrated in cyclic unit 2, figure 3, where gradual increases in size occur upward in the overlying unit, would seem to be caused by the same processes. The gradually diminishing grain sizes of olivines in the granular harzburgites is not a result of resorption, for the olivine crystals retain their euhedral character even where present in very small amounts. It is possible that olivine crystallization is restricted to increasingly narrower zones above the floor, and that this is reflected in the gradually smaller proportion and grain size of the olivine crystals. A similar explanation might account for the decreasing size of bronzite crystals in the bronzitites. It seems likely that the overall increase in grain size upward in the Peridotite member is a function of the decrease in cooling rate from the walls of the magma chamber as the thermal gradients are gradually flattened, so that each cycle is repeated with a slightly coarser grain size throughout.

Orientation of the settled crystals

Planar orientation of platy or elongate minerals in the layering plane is sporadically developed throughout the complex, and has been described by Jones, Peoples, and Howland (in press). Lineation, or alignment of long axes within the layering plane, however, is poorly developed.

Dimensional orientation of settled crystals is not commonly observed in the Ultramafic zone in the field, because of the tendency for all three precipitate minerals to occur in nearly equidimensional forms. In some layers in the lower two-thirds of the zone, however, bronzites assume a broad prismatic habit, and the broadest surfaces of the crystals tend to lie in the layering plane. Average attitudes obtained on the broad surfaces of such crystals are parallel to the compositional layering. Such orientations are never perfect, and in places, crystals can be observed at high angles to the layering, giving the appearance of being propped up on underlying individuals (pl. 3B). The perfection of the dimensional orientation seems to be related to the degree of elongation or flattening of the bronzites in the rock. This is best illustrated in the uncommon rocks which contain bronzites of both equidimensional and tabular habits (pl. 14A). The equidimensional crystals show no preferred orientation, but the layering plane is marked by the broad surfaces of the tabular crystals.

Because the settled crystals are commonly euhedral, and because the habit and the ratio of crystal dimensions of any mineral type in a given layer is relatively constant, it is possible to investigate the degree of perfection of dimensional orientation by optical methods. Hambleton (1947, p. 1-61) studied the optical orientations of principal minerals in 6 specimens from the Ultramafic zone. In one specimen each of an anorthosite pod and a poikilitic harzburgite the fabric diagram of plagioclase and olivine showed little significant preferred orientation. In the four bronzitite specimens investigated, one reported as being composed of equidimensional bronzite crystals, showed no obvious preferred orientation. The other three bronzitites are reported as having "lath" shaped crystals with the flat (100)[1/] crystal face parallel to the layering plane. In each of these three specimens, therefore, there is a strong concentration of X perpendicular to the layering, and Y and Z tend to lie in the layering plane. In one of Hambleton's

[1/] (010) of the orientation used in this report.

specimens both Y and Z form girdles; in a second, the Y and Z diagrams are almost identical and show two maxima about 90° apart, and in the third, Y and Z show mutually perpendicular maxima in the layering plane. Hambleton concludes that the coincidence of the flat face of the bronzite crystals with the layering plane is best explained by movement of rigid particles in a fluid magma, and that the observed lineation suggests flow of the magma during deposition of the crystals.

Because such marked lineation had never been observed in the field, and because planar structure is an intermittent phenomenon in the Ultramafic zone, the present investigation was directed toward three objectives: 1) to determine if crystal orientations were purely dimensional; 2) to determine the degree of perfection, and if possible, the relative abundance of lineated fabrics; and 3) to determine whether the layering plane could be found by petrofabric methods where it is not visible in the field. Optical orientations of bronzite in 4 specimens and olivine in 3 specimens were determined. In one of these specimens the optical orientation did not conform to the dimensional orientation and the rock is believed to be a tectonite. In the other 6 specimens the following relations were noted: 1) the perfection of the optical orientations are directly dependent on the forms of the crystals making up the rocks; 2) five of the specimens displayed concentrations of long axes in the layering plane;

of these, one had a weak unimodal lineation of long axes; one had a weak bimodal lineation, and the remaining three had long axes evenly distributed in the girdle; and, 3) three of the four megascopically structureless specimens studied showed significant planar structures.

In rocks where olivine or bronzite occur in elongate forms, the long axes form a girdle in the layering plane; where bronzite occurs in flattened forms, the pole to the broadest face is perpendicular to the layering plane. These patterns, characterized by crystals lying in positions of least potential energy with reference to the layering surface, are interpreted as apposition fabrics.

The 7 specimens for which optical orientations were determined were collected in each case from near a compositional contact, so that the layering plane could be accurately located on the hand specimens even within apparently massive layers. Three mutually perpendicular thin sections, including one in the layering plane, were cut from each specimen. Measurements of crystal dimensions of 30 to 50 individuals oriented with a, b, or c perpendicular were made for each specimen using the three mutually perpendicular sections, and these were converted to ratios and averaged. The X, Y, and Z axes of 80 crystals for each specimen was determined with a 4-axis Universal stage on thin sections cut in the layering plane and axis positions were plotted on a Schmidt net. Petrofabric diagrams were constructed for each principal optic direction. In those specimens showing a concentration of long axes in the layering plane, points were replotted on polar coordinate paper and azimuthal distribution histograms constructed after the method described by Krumbein (1939, p. 681-685). Eighty measurements for each optic direction seems to be sufficient to recognize the essential features of the orientation patterns encountered, but individual submaxima are probably not significant.

Bronzites.--As previously noted, bronzite crystals occur in a wider variety of forms than do olivines, but generally occur with a particular habit within a single layer.

Specimen 54 EDJ-71 was selected as typical of the bronzitites which contain stubby, anchi-equidimensional bronzite crystals, and in which no macroscopic preferred dimensional orientation can be detected. The average ratio of crystal dimensions of bronzites in the rocks was determined to be a:b:c equals 0.92:0.77:1, using the orthopyroxene orientation preferred by Hess and Phillips (1940, p. 271) and equaling c to unity. Diagrams of the distributions of the principal optic directions in 80 bronzites are shown in figure 13 (in pocket). Y axes appear to be randomly distributed, but a very weak preferred orientation of X and Z can be detected. About half the bronzite crystals lie with Z near the layering plane, and of these, about

40 percent are oriented with the short axis X = b nearly perpendicular to the plane. The orientation is, nevertheless, too weak to permit unequivocal location of the layering plane.

Specimen 54 EDJ-80, an olivine bronzitite, was selected to study the orientation of bronzites with short prismatic habits. A preferred orientation was not detected in this specimen in the field, but a planar structure was observed on the hand specimen subsequent to slabbing. The average ratio of crystal dimensions was determined to be a:b:c about 0.67:0.62:1. The fabric diagrams (fig. 14, in pocket) show an excellent Z girdle in the layering plane and little or no preferred distribution of X and Y which correspond to the almost equally short a and b crystal axes. A histogram of azimuthal distribution of Z axes was prepared from polar coordinate plots as a check on preferred orientation with the girdle. Figure 17 shows a broad lineation over about 60° of the first and third quadrants which was not apparent at the outcrop nor on etched slabs cut in the layering plane.

Two specimens of bronzitite composed largely of broad prismatic bronzite crystals were investigated. One of these, specimen 54 EDJ-100, was collected from a normal compositional layer with an average grain size of 2.2 mm. The second, 54 EDJ-74, was finer grained, averaging 1.3 mm, and was collected 2 inches below a thin chromitite showing scour structures and believed to be current bedded. Both specimens showed a strong planar structure parallel to the compositional layering in the field. The average ratio of crystal diameters in 54 EDJ-100 was 0.79:0.51:1; in 54 EDJ-74, 0.67:0.39:1. The optical orientations of these specimens are shown in figures 15 and 16 (in pocket). Both show a $7\frac{1}{2}$ percent concentration of X axes perpendicular to the layering, well-developed Z girdles perpendicular to the X maxima, and little or no preferred orientation of the intermediate Y axes. In both specimens there is a tendency for girdle development of X, and in 54 EDJ-74 two X maxima occur about equidistant from the pole to the layering plane. The significance of this is not apparent. Both the X maxima and the Z girdle are better developed in specimen 54 EDJ-74, which has the more extreme difference in average b:c dimensions. Azimuthal distribution plots of the bronzite Z axes in these two specimens (fig. 17) show little or no preferred direction of alignment.

The orientation patterns of the investigated bronzites appear to conform to the following patterns: 1) where crystals are nearly equidimensional they have little or no preferred orientation; 2) where crystals have a broad flat surface, that surface tends to lie in the layering plane; and, 3) where crystals are elongate, the long axis tends to lie in the layering plane regardless of whether or not the crystal is flattened. A rude

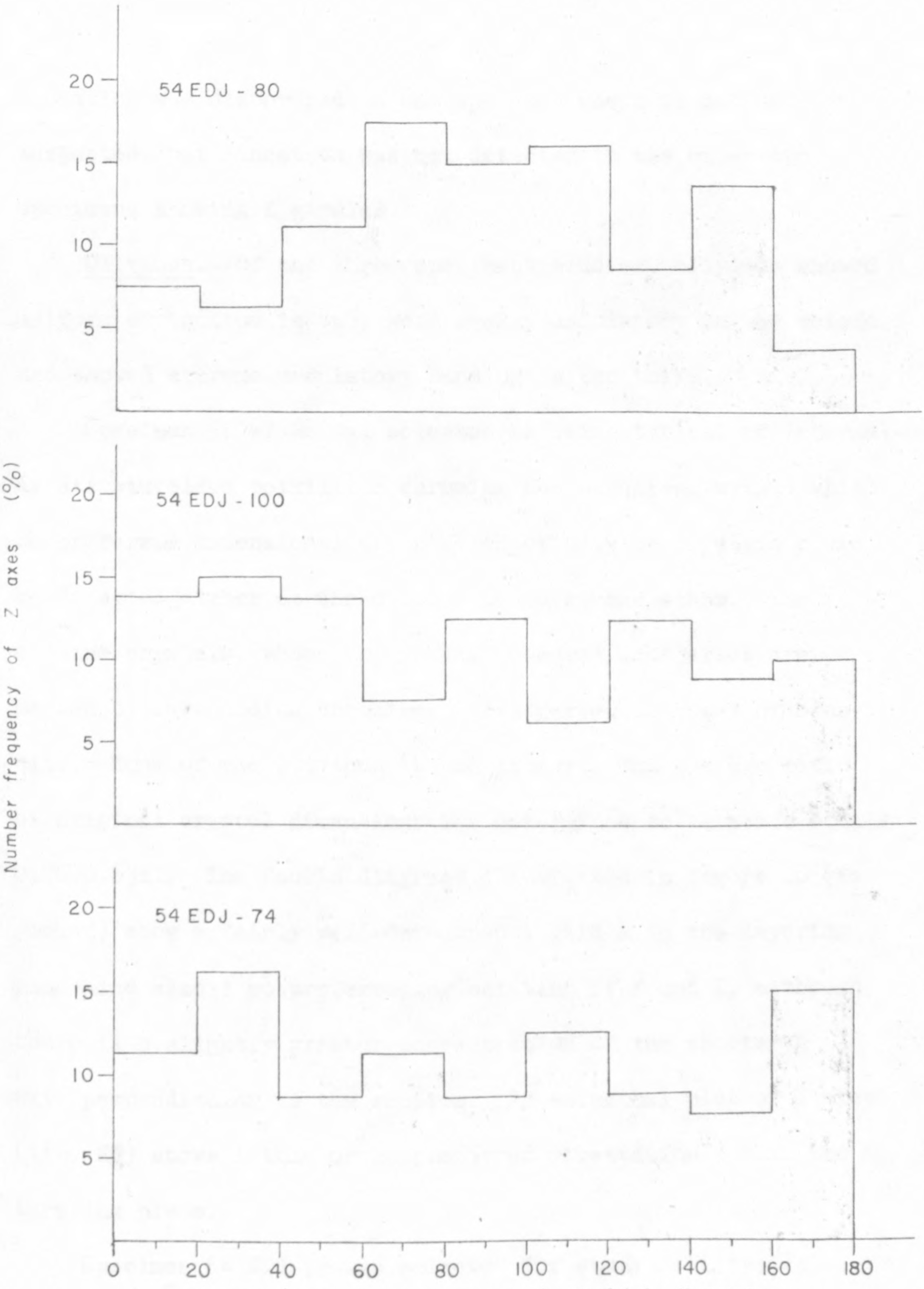


Fig. 17. Azimuthal distribution of bronzite Z = c axes in specimens showing Z girdles

lineation was discovered in one specimen where it had not been suspected, but lineation was not detected in the other two specimens showing Z girdles.

Olivines.--Of the three specimens studies, olivines showed uniform extinction in one, were weakly undulatory in the second, and showed extreme undulatory banding in the third.

Specimen 52 WF-28 was selected as being typical of internally structureless poikilitic chromite harzburgites, within which no preferred dimensional orientation of olivine crystals could be detected either at the outcrop or on etched slabs. The olivine crystals, whose originally euhedral boundaries are marked by surrounding chromites, have narrow selvages of bronzite. None of the olivines is undulatory. The average ratio of original crystal dimensions was determined to be a:b:c equals 0.76:0.63:1. The fabric diagrams illustrated in figure 18 (in pocket) show a fairly well-developed Y girdle in the layering plane and almost no preferred orientation of X and Z, although there is a slightly greater concentration of the shorter X axis perpendicular to the section. An azimuthal plot of Y axes (fig. 21) shows little or no preferred orientation within the layering plane.

Specimen 54 EDJ-79 was selected for study as a typical poikilitic harzburgite. The rock is composed of about 80 percent olivine in stubby anchi-equidimensional crystals, and appears structureless in hand specimen. No dimensional orientation of crystals could be detected at the outcrop or on etched slabs. The average ratio of olivine intercepts was 0.78:0.64:1, nearly identical with the average intercepts of specimen 52 WF-28. The fabric diagrams, figure 19 (in pocket) show a discontinuous Y girdle in the layering plane and little or no preferred orientation of X and Z. The Y fabric diagram and the azimuthal distribution of Y axes, plotted in figure 21, shows two Y concentrations about 65° apart. In this specimen 37 of the 80 measured olivines showed undulatory extinction. Most undulatory grains are composed of 2 or 3 extinction bands and the difference in orientation between the subindividuals ranges from 1 to 3 degrees. Interstitial plagioclase and bronzite show no evidence of deformation, and, because of the similarity to specimen 52 WF-28, it is concluded that the original fabric of the rock has not been significantly altered. Undulatory grains and grains with internally uniform extinction were plotted separately and their distribution is shown in figure 20 (in pocket). No preferred position of either type can be established.

Specimen 52 MV-41, a poikilitic chromite harzburgite, contained the most strongly undulatory olivines of any rock examined from the main part of the Ultramafic zone. Nearly every olivine consists of 5 to 15 subindividual bands. Some of the

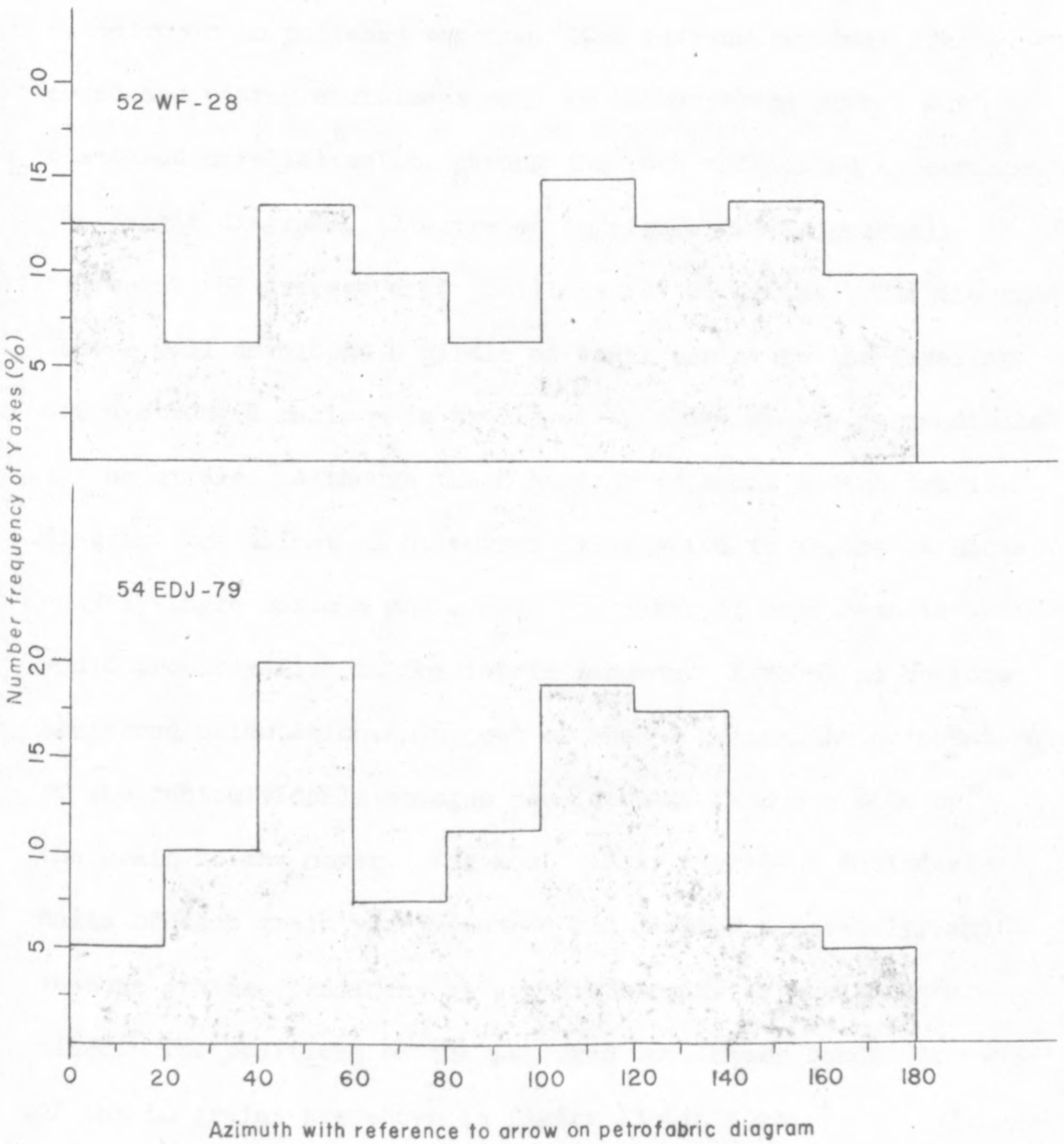


Fig. 2 Azimuthal distribution of olivine Y=C axes in specimens showing Y girdles

grains are brecciated at the margins. Chromite crystals between the olivines are euhedral and undeformed, but are slightly anisotropic in polished section. The olivine crystals are round and nearly equidimensional in the layering plane, but flattened parallel to it, giving the rock a foliated appearance. The fabric diagrams, illustrated in figure 22 (in pocket), represent the average axis positions for 50 grains. The diagrams show a well developed Y girdle at right angles to the layering, and a strong Z maximum in the layering plane nearly perpendicular to the girdle. Although the Z maximum is split in the fabric diagram, the azimuthal histogram illustrated in figure 24 shows only a single maximum and a greater number of measurements would probably fill in the fabric diagram. X shows no obvious preferred orientation. In most of the 50 grains the orientation of the subindividuals changes consistently from one side of the grain to the other. The most widely divergent subindividuals of each grain were measured and plotted separately, and in some grains, prominent intermediate bands were also determined. The positions of the measured undulatory bands for each of the 50 grains are shown in figure 23 (in pocket). In most grains Y shows the least divergence, and Z is generally more divergent than X. In all grains where more than two extinction bands were measured, the Z axis changes in a consistent direction from one side of the grain to the other, but both X and Y are

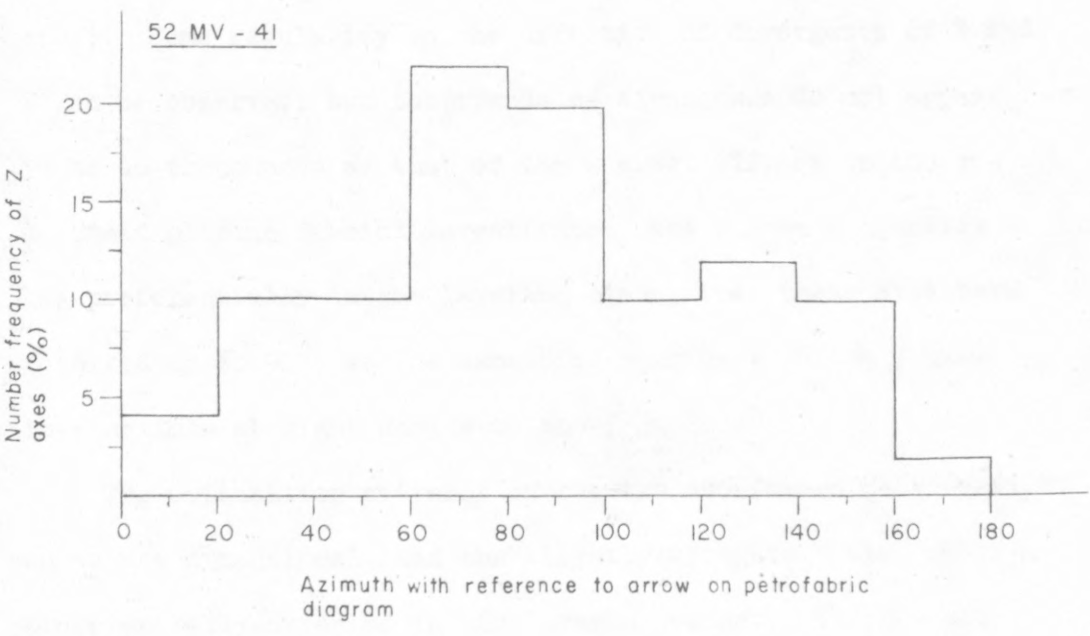


FIGURE 24. Azimuthal distribution of olivine Z=a axes in the layering plane.

observed to rotate in some grains (that is, 6, 22, 31, 39, 49, etc.). Some regularity in the direction of divergence of X and Y can be observed, but the trends of divergence do not appear to be so pronounced as that of the Z axes. If, as in the undeformed olivine fabrics investigated, the Y axes originally lay preferentially in the layering plane, then these axes have revolved up to 90°, at the same time turning to bring Z axes to a maximum at right angles to the Y girdle.

The orientation patterns of the two undeformed olivine-rich rocks are dimensional, and the slightly elongate Y axes are preferentially oriented in the layering plane. Olivines are not sufficiently flattened on b to produce X maxima perpendicular to the layering. As previously noted, the shape of olivine crystals seems to change very little throughout the Ultramafic zone, and presumably these patterns are typical of all olivine-rich rocks throughout the zone. The relative abundance of Stillwater complex rocks whose primary fabrics have been altered by deformation is unknown, but such effects are thought to be minor because of the scarcity of rocks with strongly developed undulatory olivines. Although many rocks contain a few olivines with poorly developed undulatory bands, deformation has apparently not been severe enough to alter their fabrics.

Discussion.--The fabrics of settled olivine and bronzite in the undeformed rocks of the Ultramafic zone are dimensional, and the degree of perfection of preferred grain orientation is dependent on the degree of anisotropism of grain shape. Fabrics of this type, which imply orientation prior to the solidification of the magma containing the crystals, might be accomplished by at least four mechanisms: laminar mush flow; magma currents; simple gravity settling; or post-depositional compaction.

Phillips (1938, p. 130-135) and Turner (1942, p. 280-300) have described certain peridotites and chromite-rich dunites in which the optical orientation of olivine is governed by its external form, and have proposed that the fabric of these rocks originated by laminar flow in a largely crystalline "magma" in the process of intrusion. Huang and Merritt (1952, p. 865-868) find a dimensional and consequent crystallographic orientation in certain troctolites that they interpret as being flow-banded. There are several strong objections to origin of layering in the Stillwater complex by laminar mush flow: 1) the extreme lateral continuity of layers only a few inches thick; 2) the prevalence of gradational layering and regular cyclical size changes throughout the layered sequence; and 3) the abundance of delicate textural features such as layers one crystal thick and cusp textures. Furthermore, many of the fabrics assigned by these authors to origin by flow of a largely crystalline mass show a strong linear alignment of long axes in the layering plane, a feature very poorly developed in Stillwater rocks.

Magma flow has been proposed by several authors as a mechanism for obtaining dimensional fabrics in layered igneous rocks. Current bedded sedimentary rocks have strongly lineated fabrics (Krumbein, 1942, p. 1355-1402; Nanz, 1955, p. 130), and preferred elongations are also produced where sand grains are deposited by flowing air and water in laboratory experiments (Dapples and Rominger, 1945, p. 246-261). It would seem probable, therefore, that magma currents, if capable of producing a dimensional orientation of grains, should also produce a strong lineation of long axes. In the Skaergaard intrusion, where evidence for magma currents has been abundantly demonstrated, Wager and Deer (1939, p. 271-275) found lineation of plagioclase crystals wherever such crystals had developed rectangular shapes. In the Merensky Reef, Schmidt (1952, p. 233-279) found long axes of orthopyroxenes and plagioclases aligned parallel to the sides of circular depressions whose origin he ascribes to swirling magma currents, whereas the orthopyroxenes in the undisturbed reef show no directional alignment in the layering plane. In the Ultramafic zone of the complex, current structures have been observed locally but no systematic study of orientations within these areas has been made. By analogy, however, the two rudely lineated fabrics encountered in the present study, as well as those described by Hambleton (1947), seem best assigned to current action.

It seems reasonable to expect that platy or elongate crystals sinking through quiet magma would tend to accumulate with their largest surfaces parallel to the floor of the magma chamber. The perfection of such orientation would depend on the size and habit of the crystals, their density difference from the magma, and on the viscosity of the magma. The efficacy of this process has, however, been questioned by several authors. Turner (1942, p. 295) concluded on the basis of his examination of a specimen from the differentiated sill of Lugar, Ayrshire, that settling of olivine crystals under the influence of gravity as they separate from a basic magma under static conditions fails to produce a preferred orientation of the olivine space lattice. Huang and Merritt (1952, p. 866) similarly failed to find preferred orientation in olivines from a troctolite in the Wichita Mountains, Oklahoma, which they believed from independent evidence to have been formed by gravity settling. Both authors, however, reported equant olivines in these specimens, and it would seem from the present investigation that random fabrics in gravitationally settled rocks may be caused simply by lack of dimensional anisotropism of the minerals involved. Wager and Deer (1939, p. 268) doubted that the platy parallelism of tabular plagioclases in the Skaergaard intrusion resulted from direct sinking of crystals because of the feebleness of orienting forces acting in a viscous magma of nearly the same density as the crystals. van den Berg (1946, p. 199), however, had no hesitation in assigning dimensional fabrics of plagioclases and bronzites in Bushveld gabbros to crystal settling. In the Ultramafic zone of the Stillwater complex, the olivines and bronzites must have had considerably greater densities than the magma through which they fell. The process of orientation by simple settling and toppling leads to nonlineated fabrics, and thus would explain the position of grains in those rocks which contain elongate crystals randomly disposed in the layering plane.

The role of post-depositional compression in orienting grains is difficult to evaluate. Borg and Maxwell (1956, p. 71-81) have produced dimensional fabrics in loose quartz sands by compressional deformation under conditions simulating burial at depths of 16,000 to 35,000 feet, but the relative amounts of orientation caused by initial packing of the sand into cylinders, and the amount caused by the subsequent deformation was not determined. If, as seems likely, settled crystals were very loosely packed at the surface of the floor of the magma chamber, considerable compaction and consequent rotation of crystals could be accomplished by jarring or from compressive weight of burial, and such rotation should at least intensify any dimensional grain orientation already present.

Several inferences as to conditions of crystal deposition in the Ultramafic zone may be made from the observed fabrics. Rocks containing elongate settled crystals which tend to be evenly disposed in the layering plane were probably deposited in the absence of magma currents. The disposition of the crystals is probably a result of simple gravitational forces that caused grains to assume their most stable position on the floor of the magma chamber. This process was assisted to an unknown extent by post-depositional compaction. Rocks containing elongate settled minerals which tend to be concentrated in one or two directions in the layering plane were probably influenced by weak magma currents during deposition. Rocks with little or no preferred orientation of settled crystals are composed of nearly equidimensional grains, and give little information as to conditions during deposition.

Relations between the primary precipitate and the interprecipitate material

The original relative volumes of settled crystals and of the interprecipitate magma between them can be measured directly in a few rocks, but in most the boundaries of the primary precipitate have been obscured by either reaction with the interprecipitate magma or by continued growth after deposition.

Reaction replacement.--Textural relationships in the Ultramafic zone suggest that under the particular conditions of crystallization obtaining, reaction relations existed between olivine-bronzite, olivine-augite, and bronzite-augite. Resorption textures have only been observed between settled and interprecipitate minerals. It should be noted that settled bronzites coexist with settled olivines in the Ultramafic zone without resorption textures, and that settled orthopyroxenes similarly coexist with settled clinopyroxenes in parts of the Banded zone.

Textural evidence for the three reaction pairs mentioned above may be summarized as follows: 1) wherever settled olivine is surrounded by interstitial or poikilitic bronzite or augite, and wherever settled bronzite is surrounded by interstitial or poikilitic augite, the normally euhedral settled crystals are rounded and embayed; 2) where augite or bronzite occurs as poikilitic host crystals, the number of centers of included settled crystals within and between the oikocrysts is the same, but volume of settled crystals within the oikocrysts are much reduced; and 3) single settled crystals at the edges of pyroxene oikocrysts are embayed where in contact with pyroxene and euhedral at the emergent ends. The reaction relation between olivine and bronzite is well known, and the textural features between these minerals are explained as reaction replacement of settled olivine in contact with the interprecipitate magma to form bronzite. The similar textural relations where augite is the interstitial mineral suggest that olivine-augite and bronzite-augite are likewise reaction pairs, at least within the Ultramafic zone.

Reaction textures involving chromite have not been observed.

Olivine→bronzite.--Replacement of olivine by interstitial bronzite is most highly developed in poikilitic harzburgites, which are composed of essentially equigranular olivines in a mesostasis of poikilitic bronzite and interstitial plagioclase. Olivines within the bronzite oikocrysts are, without observed exception, rounded, embayed, and, in some cases separated into islands (pl. 12A). Between the poikilitic bronzite crystals on the other hand, where the interstitial material is plagioclase, olivines are commonly euhedral and invariably larger in size than those included in bronzite in the same hand specimen (pl. 12A). At the margins of bronzite oikocrysts, single olivine crystals can be observed which are euhedral at the ends which protrude into plagioclase, but which are embayed at the ends which are in contact with bronzite (pl. 12B). In rocks where chromite is an essential constituent the original shapes of the olivine crystals before resorption are outlined by rims of formerly contiguous chromite (pl. 13). Textural evidence that the replacement of olivine by bronzite was post-depositional is provided by thin chromite layers within the poikilitic harzburgites which pass continuously through the rock without

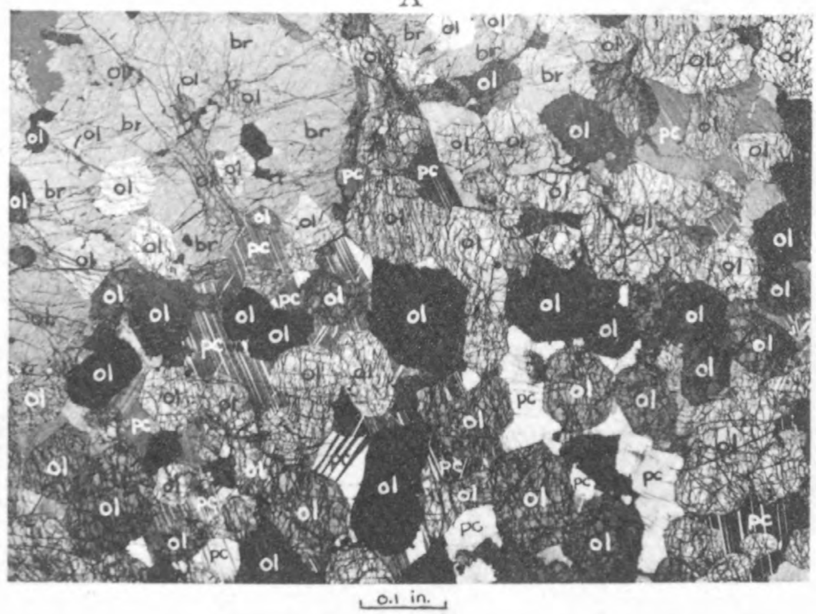
Plate 12. Photomicrographs of olivine-bronzite and olivine-augite reaction textures.

A. Reaction replacement of settled olivine crystals in poikilitic harzburgite. Many of the olivine crystals surrounded by interstitial plagioclase (in lower part and at right of photograph) are euhedral; olivine grains within bronzite oikocrysts (upper left) are rounded, embayed, and islanded. ol = olivine; br = bronzite; pc = plagioclase; aug = augite. Crossed nicols.

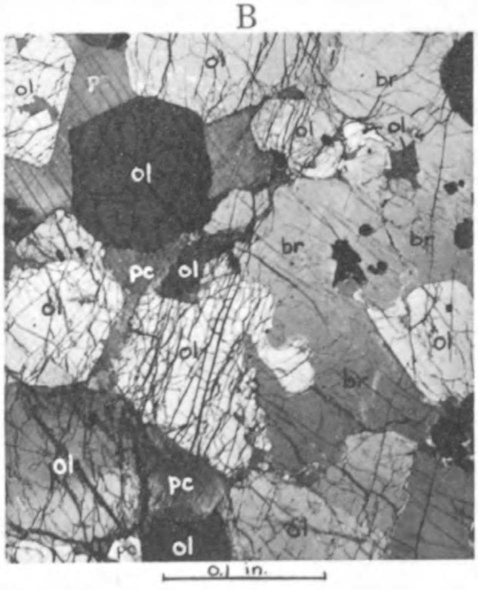
B. Reaction replacement of settled olivine by bronzite. Single olivine crystal at lower left of photograph shows crystal faces against plagioclase but is partially replaced where in contact with bronzite. Symbols same as above. Crossed nicols.

C. Reaction replacement of settled olivines and bronzites in granular harzburgite. Settled minerals surrounded by interstitial plagioclase are euhedral; both olivine and bronzite within augite oikocryst are rounded and embayed. Symbols same as above. Crossed nicols.

A



B



C

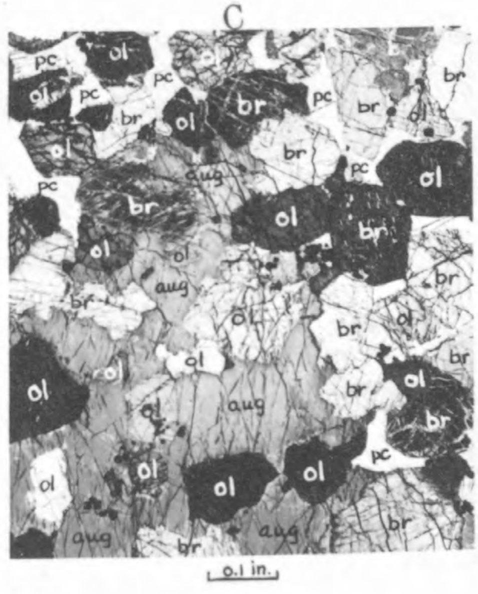


PLATE 12

Plate 13. Photomacrograph of reaction replacement texture in poikilitic chromite harzburgite. The original size and shape of the olivine crystals is outlined by the rims of formerly contiguous chromite crystals. In some areas outlined by chromite crystals, olivine has been completely replaced. ol = olivine. Crossed nicols.

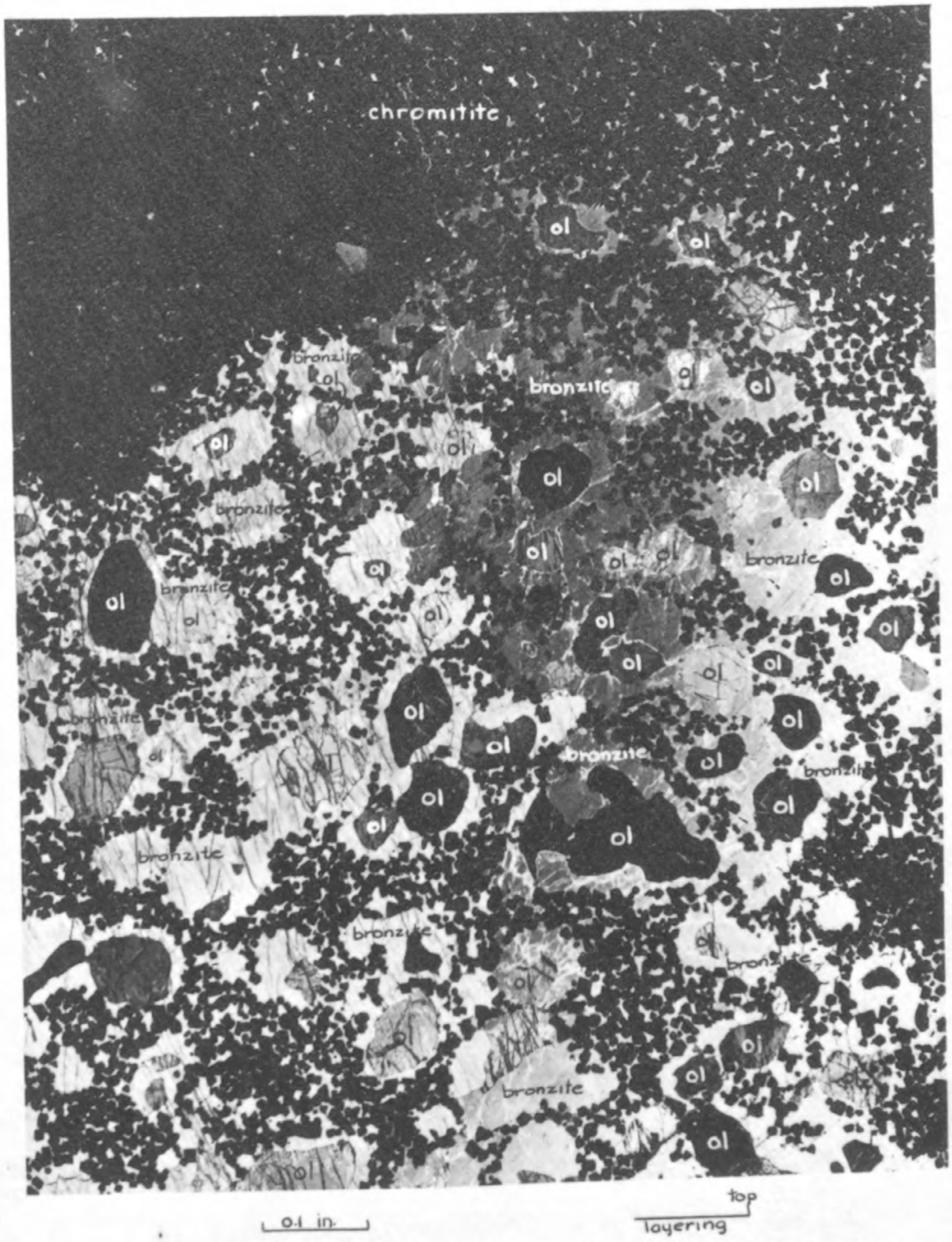


PLATE 13

regard for the composition or orientation of the interstitial material (pl. 5B). In most rocks the centers of the roughly spherical bronzite oikocrysts contain smaller olivine remnants than to the edges.

Olivine → chrome augite.--Chrome augite oikocrysts, about 1/2 inch in diameter, are rare rather than essential constituents of poikilitic harzburgites, and, where present, are accompanied by interstitial bronzite. They are more commonly associated with olivine in granular harzburgites, where bronzite oikocrysts are not developed, and, in these rocks, augite oikocrysts contain embayed bronzite as well as olivine. Textural relations between olivine and augite are identical with those between olivine and bronzite: olivine crystals within augite oikocrysts are rounded, embayed, and smaller than those surrounded by interstitial plagioclase (pl. 12C). Examples of chromitite layers a few grains thick passing through augite hosts without interruption have been observed.

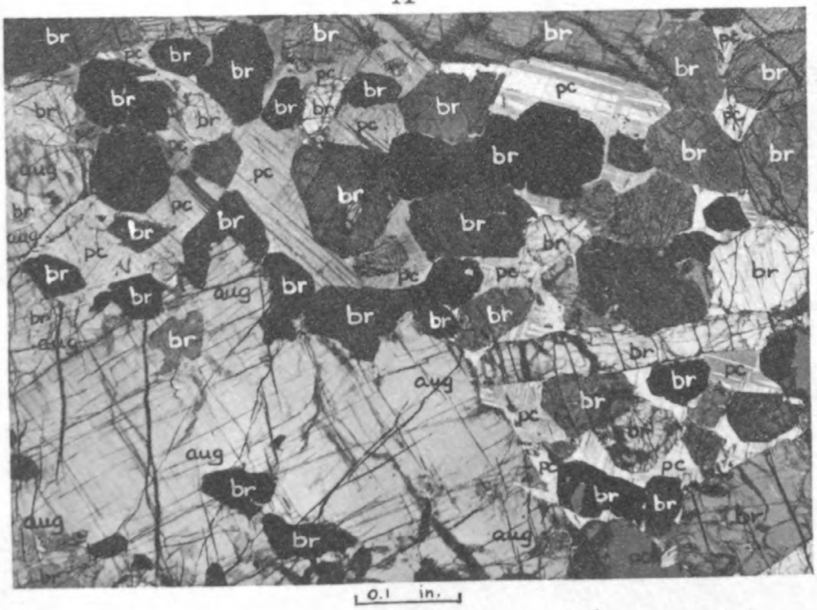
Bronzite → chrome augite.--All bronzitites contain 3/8 to 5/8 inch clinopyroxene oikocrysts scattered evenly throughout the rock. Textural relations within and between the oikocrysts are identical with those described between olivine and bronzite and between olivine and augite (pl. 14A). Single settled crystals of bronzite at the margins of poikilitic augite crystals show

Plate 14. Photomacrograph of bronzite-augite reaction textures.

A. Reaction replacement of settled bronzite crystals in bronzitite. Bronzite crystals surrounded by plagioclase (upper right half of photograph) are euhedral; bronzite grains within augite oikocryst (lower left) are rounded, embayed and islanded. br = bronzite; aug = augite; pc = plagioclase. Note subparallel alignment of two elongate bronzite crystals. Crossed nicols.

B. Reaction replacement of settled bronzites by augite. Single bronzite crystals around periphery of augite oikocryst show crystal faces against plagioclase, are partially replaced where in contact with augite. Symbols same as above. Crossed nicols.

A



B

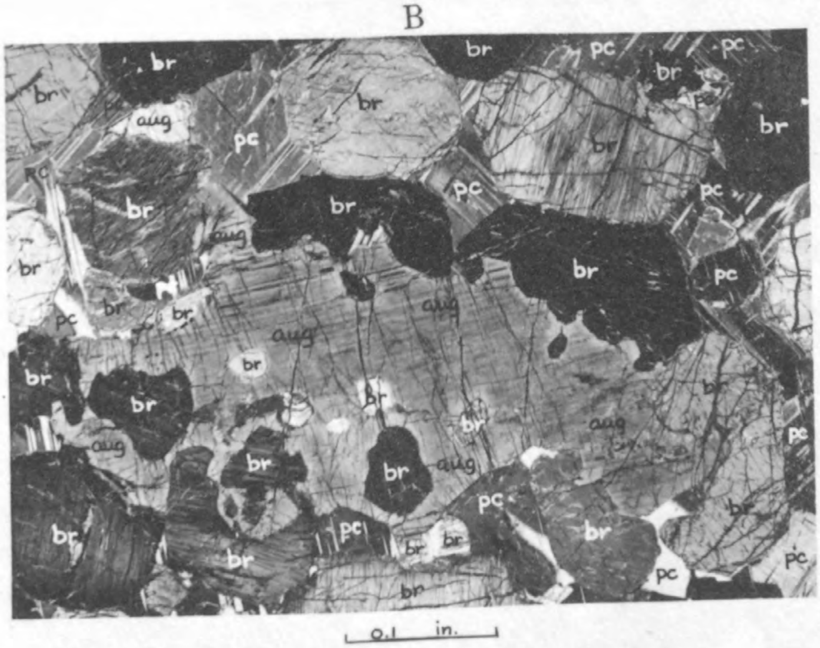


PLATE 14

euhedral forms against plagioclase, and embayed contacts against clinopyroxene (pl. 14B). Similar reaction textures between hypersthene and clinopyroxene in the main zone of the Bushveld complex have been described by Lombaard (1934, p. 26-27), van den Berg (1946, p. 163), and Wells (1952, p. 919-920).

Volume relationships.--Relative proportions of settled olivine and bronzite within and between the bronzite and augite oikocrysts have been determined by means of separate modal counts on large etched slabs by the method described by Jackson and Ross (1956, p. 648-651). A total of 53 specimens of poikilitic harzburgites and bronzitites were investigated, and results are tabulated in table 4. Modal counts outside of oikocrysts, where the interstitial material is plagioclase, are reproducible within about two percent, but counts within the poikilitic crystals are no better than about 5 percent. In most rocks the oikocrysts contain higher proportions of included bronzite or olivine near the margins, and adequate samples within non-homogeneous spheres larger than about 1/2 inch in diameter cannot be made, even on large slabs. Some of the rocks investigated contain 1 to 3 percent chromite, which was assigned during counting to the mineral within which it occurred, so that only two constituents need be dealt with.

Table 4.--Volume percentages of constituents within and between pyroxene oikocrysts in poikilitic harzburgites and bronzitites

POIKILITIC HARZBURGITES

Specimen No.	Constituents between pyroxene oikocrysts (Vol. %)		Constituents within bronzite oikocrysts (Vol. %)		Constituents within chrome augite oikocrysts (Vol. %)		Amount of olivine replaced within oikocrysts (Vol. %)	
	olivine	plagioclase	olivine	bronzite	olivine	chrome augite	bronzite	chrome augite
52WF- 4	94	6	68	32	--	—	28	--
-14	80	20	50	50	--	--	37	--
-18	82	18	67	33	--	--	18	--
-27	85	15	55	45	69	31	35	19
-29	90	10	57	43	71	29	37	21
52BE- 8	82	18	48	52	66	34	41	20
-15	87	13	71	29	--	--	18	--
52AL- 4	75	25	42	58	55	45	44	27
52NL-13	78	22	34	66	57	43	56	27
52MV- 8	70	30	36	64	50	50	49	29
-20	91	9	55	45	70	30	40	23
55MV- 1	78	22	53	47	--	--	32	--
- 3	86	14	54	46	58	42	37	33
-25	87	13	58	42	--	--	33	--
-26	89	11	55	45	67	33	38	25
-27	81	19	50	50	63	37	38	22
-63	82	18	57	43	--	--	30	--
-69	83	17	52	48	--	--	37	--
-72	85	15	--	--	71	29	--	16
54EDJ-73	72	28	30	70	--	--	58	--

Table 4.--Volume percentages of constituents within and between pyroxene oikocrysts in poikilitic harzburgites and bronzitites--continued

BRONZITITES

Specimen No.	Constituents between chrome augite oikocrysts (Vol. %)		Constituents within chrome augite oikocrysts (Vol. %)		Amount of bronzite replaced within chrome augite oikocrysts (Vol. %)
	bronzite	plagioclase	bronzite	chrome augite	
51MV- 7	87	13	50	50	43
- 9	91	9	53	47	42
-11	87	13	48	52	45
-13	90	10	52	48	42
-15	88	12	51	49	42
55MV- 9	81	19	48	52	41
-10	76	24	37	63	51
-12	79	21	31	69	61
-32	88	12	55	45	38
-33	91	9	63	37	31
-68	87	13	54	46	38
-77	91	9	61	39	33
-78	89	11	57	43	36
52WF- 2	90	10	60	40	33
- 8	99	1	64	36	35
-12	99	1	73	27	26
-20	93	7	62	38	33
-35	93	7	66	34	29
-40	89	11	48	52	46
-42	90	10	49	51	46
-44	89	11	45	55	49
-47	85	15	42	58	51
-48	80	20	34	66	57

Table 4.--Volume percentages of constituents within and between pyroxene oikocrysts in poikilitic harzburgites and bronzitites--continued

BRONZITITES

Specimen No.	Constituents between chrome augite oikocrysts (Vol. %)		Constituents within chrome augite oikocrysts (Vol. %)		Amount of bronzite replaced within chrome augite oikocrysts (Vol. %)
	bronzite	plagioclase	bronzite	chrome augite	
52BE-29	85	15	48	52	44
-31	85	15	51	49	40
-34	88	12	46	54	47
-35	83	17	46	54	45
55BE- 2	66	34	12	88	82
- 4	59	41	9	91	85
- 5	73	27	25	75	66
- 7	85	15	38	62	55
53IM-12	87	13	50	50	43
52EDJ- 7	85	15	42	58	51

In the 20 specimens of poikilitic harzburgite listed in table 4, the average volume percentage of olivine between oikocrysts is 83 percent, the average volume of olivine within bronzite oikocrysts is 52 percent, and the average volume of olivine within augite oikocrysts, where these are present in the rocks, is 63 percent. In the 33 specimens of bronzitite investigated the average volume percentage of bronzite between the augite oikocrysts is 85 percent, and the average volume of bronzite within the oikocrysts is 48 percent. Assuming that the settled bronzites and olivines in the individual rocks were the same size and shape when deposited in the layers, and that the volume percentage of olivine where surrounded by plagioclase represents the volume percentage of olivine in the crystal mush before crystallization of the trapped interprecipitate magma, then the averages indicate that more than 35 percent of olivine in contact with bronzite has been replaced, that about 25 percent of olivine in contact with augite has been replaced, and that more than 40 percent of bronzite in contact with augite has been replaced. The ability of augite to replace more bronzite than olivine is also suggested qualitatively in granular harzburgites, where settled bronzites in augite oikocrysts are noticeably smaller and more embayed than contiguous olivines in the same oikocrysts.

The amounts of settled olivine and bronzite resorbed within the area of replacing pyroxenes have been computed for each specimen and are tabulated in table 4. These values have been plotted against the volume percentage of settled minerals between the pyroxene oikocrysts for the individual specimens in figure 25. A rough but significant linear trend can be observed in each of the three sets of data. The slopes of these trends for olivine-bronzite and bronzite-augite are the same, and although the data for olivine-augite relations are not definitive, a similar slope seems possible. Again assuming that the volume of settled minerals between the oikocrysts represents the volume of olivine and bronzite present prior to the crystallization of either interstitial pyroxene or plagioclase, then these curves indicate that the higher the porosity of the crystal mush, the more olivine and bronzite were resorbed within the area of the oikocrysts, regardless of the relative percentages of the two interstitial minerals in the rock.

Discussion.--In view of the well known reaction relation between olivine and orthopyroxene, the poikilitic bronzites enclosing and partly replacing olivine are best explained as reaction products between settled olivines and the interprecipitate magma with which they were in contact. The trapped magma at the same time precipitated bronzite between the olivine

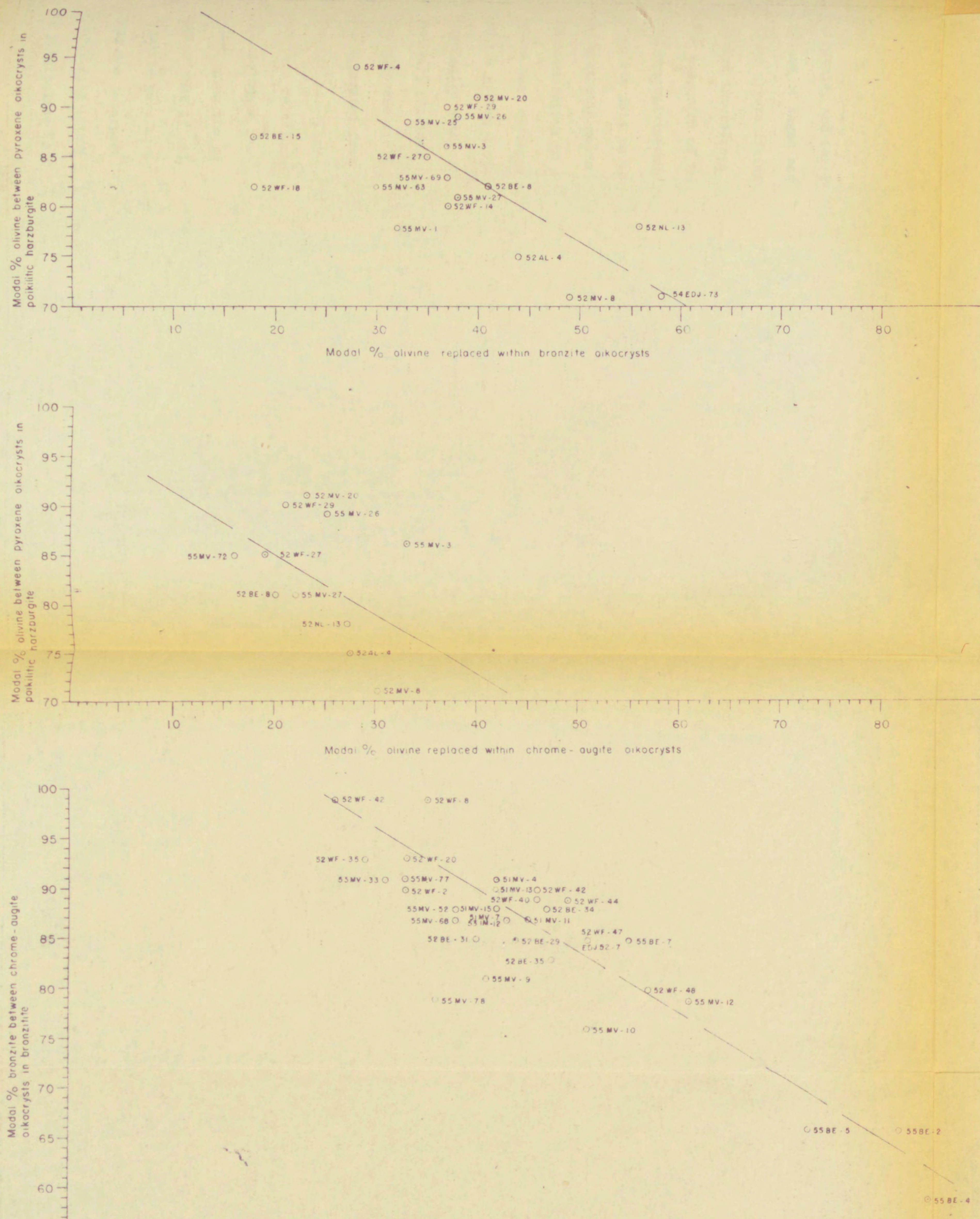


Fig. 25. Relations between volumes of settled minerals between pyroxene oikocrysts and volumes of settled minerals replaced within pyroxene oikocrysts

crystals, and the reaction stopped when the proportionally small volume of magma had exhausted its mafic constituents. Plagioclase crystallizing from the interprecipitate magma simply filled interstices between olivine grains without reaction. The extension of this mechanism to explain identical textures between olivine-augite and bronzite-augite is hampered by incomplete data on the crystallization behavior of clinopyroxenes. In synthetic melts clinopyroxenes form solid solutions from clinoenstatite to diopside, and Osborn and Tait (1952, p. 429) state that clinopyroxenes over most of the composition range in the system diopside-forsterite-anorthite-silica have reaction boundaries with olivine. Poldervaart and Hess (1951, p. 472-489), however, consider that only limited solid solution exists in the pyroxene field of natural magmas, and that lime-rich pyroxenes are separated from olivines and lime-poor pyroxenes by cotectic boundaries. They conclude that although olivine may have a reaction relationship with orthopyroxene, neither olivine nor orthopyroxene has a reaction relationship with augite. Without questioning the general validity of this conclusion, it would appear that if cotectic relations between augite and olivine-bronzite were invariably operative, then augite crystallizing from the interprecipitate magma in the Ultramafic zone would simply fill interstices between settled olivines and bronzites as plagioclase is observed to do. The consistent development of replacement textures would seem to indicate that, under the particular conditions obtaining, augite was formed in part by reaction of previously settled bronzite and olivine with the interprecipitate magma.

Relative volume measurements indicate that only about one-third of the interprecipitate pyroxene in the Ultramafic zone fills spaces between settled crystals, and that the remainder crystallized at the expense of the settled crystals by reaction replacement. The measurements also suggest that the ability of the trapped magma to react with and replace the outer peripheries of settled crystals is restricted by low porosity in the crystal mush and enhanced by high porosity.

Secondary enlargement

Individual crystals of chromite, olivine, and bronzite, although as a general rule essentially euhedral, are commonly observed with partially developed mutual interference boundaries, and, in a few rocks, are completely anhedral against each other. Mutual interference between these crystals is inversely related to the amount of interstitial minerals present in the rocks, so that crystals range from perfectly euhedral in rocks with 30 percent or more matrix to completely anhedral in rocks with less than 5 percent matrix.

In certain areas of the complex characterized by plastically deformed layers, undulatory olivines, and strained bronzites, these relations are believed to be caused by deformational filter pressing prior to the final crystallization of the interstitial material. In other areas, however, where no evidence of early deformation exists, mutual interference seems best explained as being caused by continued growth of the settled crystals in certain layers after deposition, as proposed by Hess (1939, p. 431). The term secondary enlargement is used here to describe phenomena believed caused by this second mechanism.

Several independent criteria indicating secondary enlargement are recognized: 1) all gradations exist between rocks with perfectly euhedral settled crystals and those with mosaic textures; 2) the degree of euhedrism of individual crystals of olivine, bronzite, or chromite is related to the layering plane, so that a bronzitite with euhedral bronzites may be succeeded in the section by a dunite with mosaic texture, which may itself be succeeded by a granular harzburgite with partially interfering olivines and bronzites, with each of these units retaining their character along the strike; and, 3) individual crystals of olivine and bronzite in a few rocks have euhedral cores surrounded by slightly more iron-rich, mutually interfering rims which are suggestive of authigenic overgrowths in sedimentary rocks (for example, orthoquartzites). The general absence of peripheral zoning in rocks where secondary enlargement is believed to have occurred is attributed to the growth of the settled crystals in contact with magma from which crystals of the same composition were being precipitated.

The simplest and most regular development of secondary enlargement occurs in rocks composed of only one settled mineral: poikilitic harzburgites, dunites, bronzitites, and chromitites. In rocks composed of two settled minerals, (olivine chromitites, poikilitic chromite harzburgites, olivine bronzitites, and granular harzburgites), secondary enlargement is dependent on the relative proportions of settled minerals present, and relationships are more complicated.

Poikilitic harzburgites and dunites.--The transition from rocks with automorphic to those with xenomorphic olivines is accompanied by concomitant decrease in matrix minerals. For example, the specimen shown in plate 15A is composed of 70 percent perfectly euhedral olivine crystals and 30 percent interstitial plagioclase. In the rock illustrated in plate 15B the olivine-plagioclase ratio has increased to 82 : 18, and the olivines show some mutually interfering boundaries. The plagioclase, however, still perfectly fills interstices between the partially interfering olivines, and shows no evidence of being replaced. The specimen illustrated in plate 15C contains no interstitial plagioclase, and the olivines are completely anhedral. The absence of replacement textures between olivine and plagioclase is considered indicative that the mutual

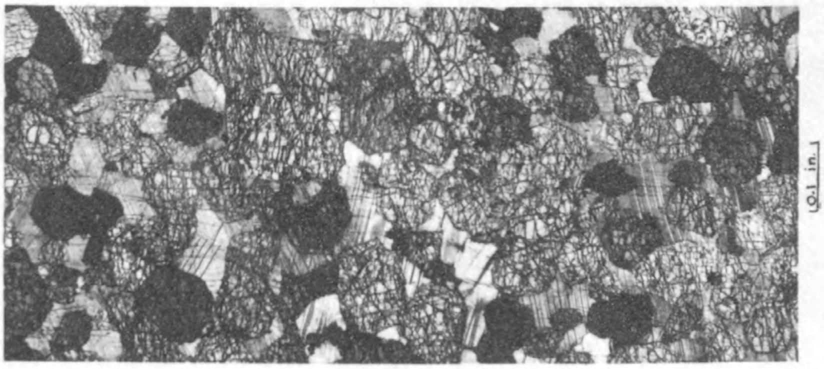
Plate 15. Photomacrographs of olivine-rich rocks with progressively increasing degrees of secondary enlargement.

A. Poikilitic harzburgite with essentially no secondary enlargement. Euhedral olivine crystals are separated by interstitial plagioclase. Texture is automorphic-poikilitic. Crossed nicols.

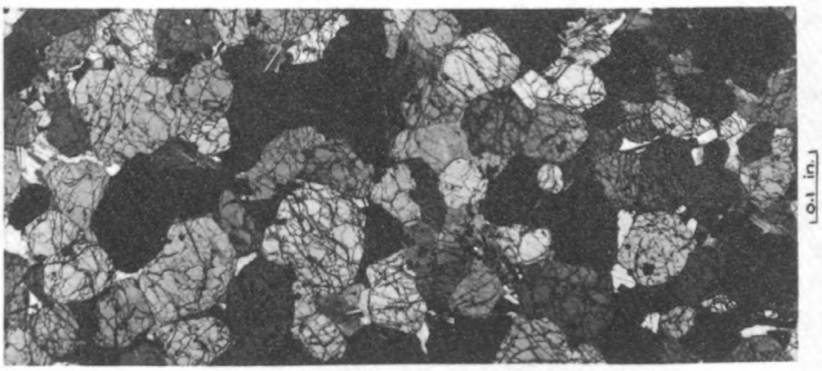
B. Poikilitic harzburgite with intermediate secondary enlargement. Subhedral olivine grains show some mutual interference; are partially separated by interstitial plagioclase. Texture is hypautomorphic granular. Crossed nicols.

C. Dunite with complete secondary enlargement. Anhedral olivine grains show well-developed mutual interference. The rock contains no plagioclase. Texture is xenomorphic granular. Crossed nicols.

A



B



C

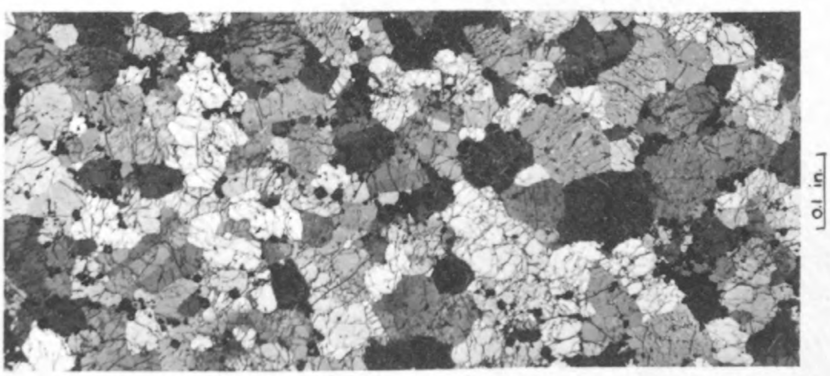


PLATE 15

interference between olivines occurred prior to the crystallization of the interstitial material, and that interprecipitate magma was displaced in the process of overgrowth.

In a few rocks the outermost margins of secondarily enlarged olivines are slightly more iron-rich than the cores, but, in general, no zoning can be detected.

Bronzitites.--Progressive increase of interference boundaries with decreasing interstitial material content occurs with bronzite exactly as it does with olivine (pl. 16A, B, and C).

Zoning of peripheral parts of secondarily enlarged bronzites is, as with olivines, rare, but is somewhat more easily recognized because of bronzite's lower birefringence. In rocks where such zoning is observed (pl. 21B), the central core of the bronzite commonly has a euhedral shape. Exsolution lamellae generally extend continuously from the cores into the peripheries of the grains, indicating that enlargement occurred prior to exsolution.

Chromitites.--In some chromitite layers chromite behave like olivine and bronzite in that mutually interfering grains are distributed evenly throughout the layer. In other chromitites, however, the distribution of mutually interfering chromites is heterogeneous and the layers are composed of two textural types: 1) aggregations of nearly pure, massive chromite grains with polygonal shapes; and 2) normal euhedral or

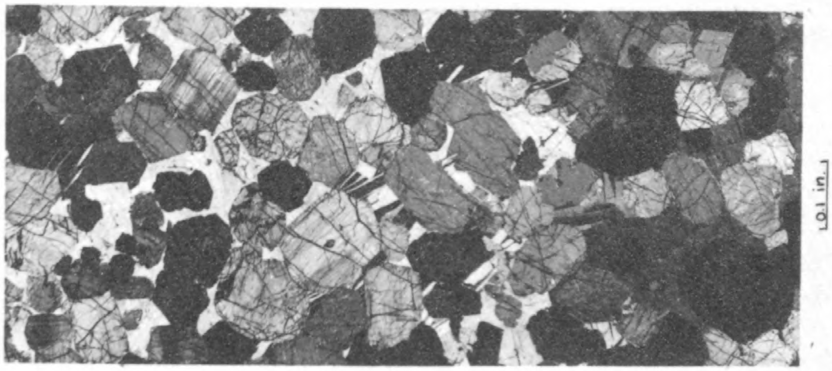
Plate 16. Photomacrographs of bronzitites with progressively increasing degrees of secondary enlargement.

A. Bronzitite with essentially no secondary enlargement. Euhedral bronzite crystals are separated by interstitial plagioclase. Texture is automorphic-poikilitic. Crossed nicols.

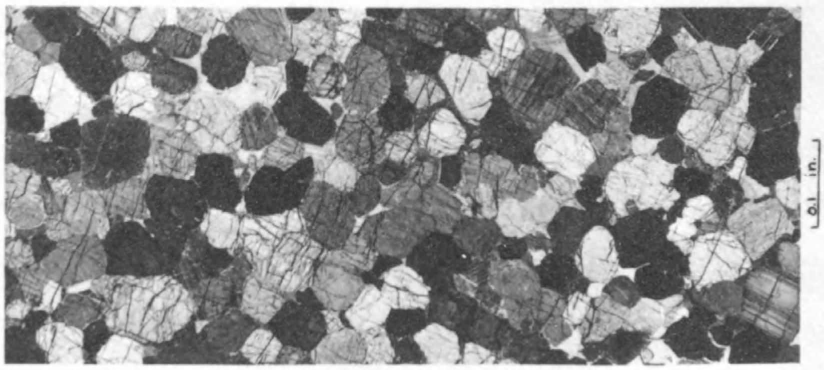
B. Bronzitite with intermediate secondary enlargement. Subhedral bronzite grains show some mutual interference; are partially separated by interstitial plagioclase. Texture is hypautomorphic granular. Crossed nicols.

C. Bronzitite with complete secondary enlargement. Anhedral bronzite grains show well-developed mutual interference. The rock contains no plagioclase. Texture is xenomorphic granular. Crossed nicols.

A



B



C

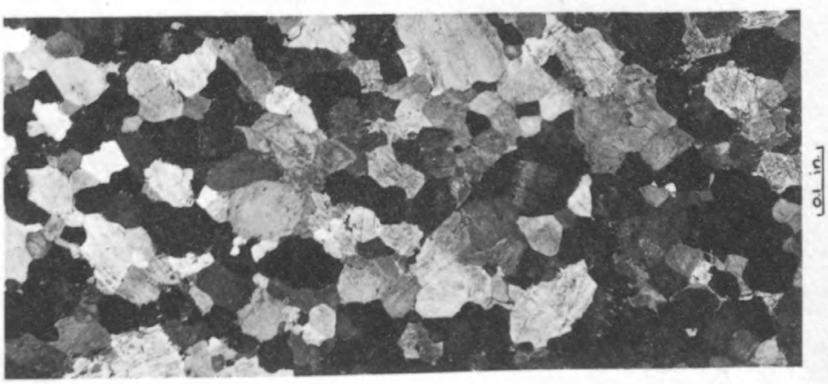


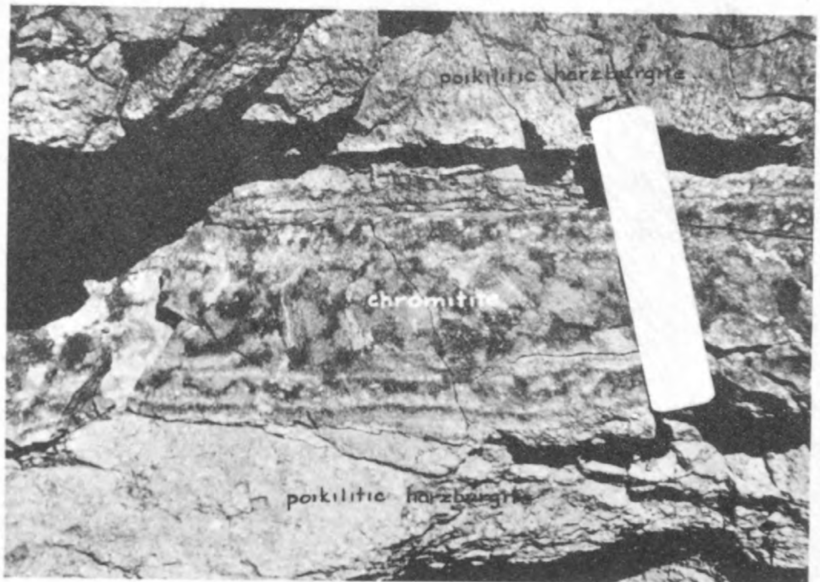
PLATE 16

subhedral chromites that comprise about 70 percent by volume of the rock, and which are separated by interstitial silicates. Chromite crystals in the massive clots are about one-third larger than those in the more disseminated areas. Transitions between the massive and more disseminated chromitite areas are sharp, and the irregular attitudes of their contacts have no relation to the layering plane (pl. 17A and B). Wagner (1923, p. 228, 232) describes a similar texture in the chromitites of the Bushveld complex, which he calls "psuedo-porphyritic poikilitic", and concludes that the more disseminated clots fell to the floor as aggregates whereas the chromite crystals of the more massive areas fell as individuals. Several aspects of this texture in the Stillwater complex do not seem to conform with Wagner's hypothesis: 1) through-going layers of olivine crystals and thin chromitite layers parallel to the general structure cut across both massive and disseminated clots; 2) in many occurrences the more disseminated clots are very irregular in shape and long dimensions are not in the layering plane; and, 3) the dense packing and polygonal mutual boundaries of the chromite grains in the massive areas would seem to preclude an origin by simple accumulation of individuals. It seems most likely that the "psuedo-porphyritic poikilitic" texture of Stillwater chromitites is caused by irregularly distributed secondary enlargement subsequent to deposition. The chromitite

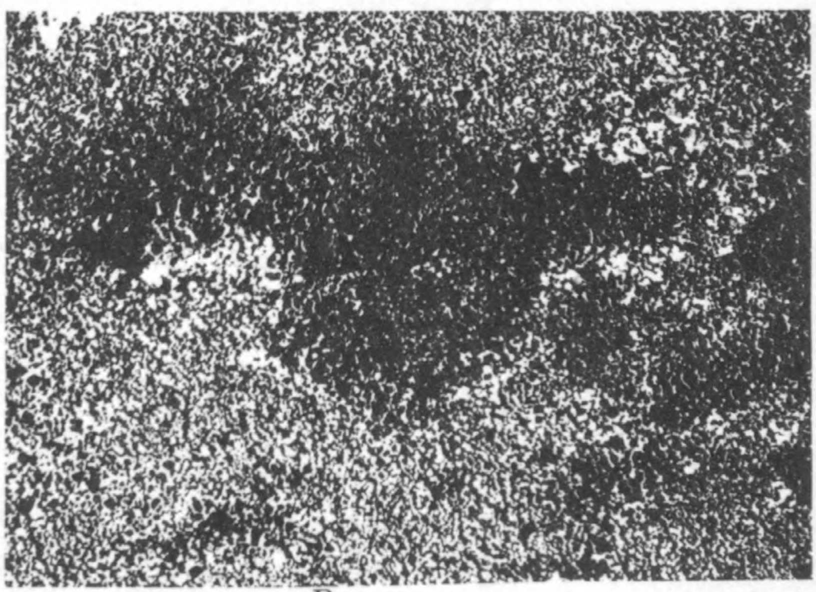
Plate 17. Illustrations of heterogeneous secondary enlargement in chromitites.

A. Field photograph of massive and disseminated clots in chromitite layer.

B. Photomicrograph of massive and disseminated clots in chromitite. Light material interstitial to chromites in disseminated clots is pyroxene and plagioclase. Plane polarized light.



A 1.0 in. top layering



B 0.1 in.

PLATE 17

layers probably originally consisted of closely packed chromite euhedra containing about 40 percent interstitial magma. In part these chromite crystals were secondarily enlarged, and elsewhere the undisplaced interstitial magma crystallized to silicate minerals. Zoning at the outer margins of enlarged chromites has not been observed.

Olivine chromitites and poikilitic chromite harzburgites.-- In many olivine chromitites and poikilitic chromite harzburgites, chromite crystals are commonly euhedral, whereas olivines commonly show evidence of secondary enlargement. In many of these rocks the peripheral parts of olivine crystals are crowded with inclusions of chromite identical in size with the chromites located between olivine grains (pl. 18A). The clear inner core of such olivines is thought to represent the original settled crystal and the periphery is believed to represent secondary enlargement of the olivines after deposition. Enlargement of chromites in many of these rocks, however, apparently did not occur.

In other olivine chromitites and poikilitic chromite harzburgites, particularly in those with high chromite to olivine ratios, these relations are reversed. Chromites commonly show interference boundaries with each other, and olivines are nearly euhedral, or are partially replaced by interprecipitate

Plate 18. Photomicrographs showing details of secondary enlargement and relations between interprecipitate minerals in the Ultramafic zone.

A. Secondary enlargement of settled olivine crystals in olivine chromitite. Olivine has grown outward after deposition to include neighboring settled chromite crystals. Some enlargements of chromites has also occurred. ol = olivine; chr = chromite; pc = plagioclase. Crossed nicols.

B. Secondary enlargement of settled bronzite crystals in olivine-rich granular harzburgite. Bronzite crystals have grown out to fill interstices and to replace partially olivine crystals. ol = olivine; br = bronzite; pc = plagioclase. Crossed nicols.

C. Details of interstitial plagioclase-interstitial bronzite contact in poikilitic harzburgite. Where the two minerals are in contact, small scale mutual embayment occurs. Symbols as above. Crossed nicols.

D. Details of interstitial plagioclase-interstitial augite contact in bronzitite. The augite has locally developed segments of prism and dome faces against plagioclase, but along most of the contact there is mutual embayment. aug = augite; other symbols as above. Crossed nicols.

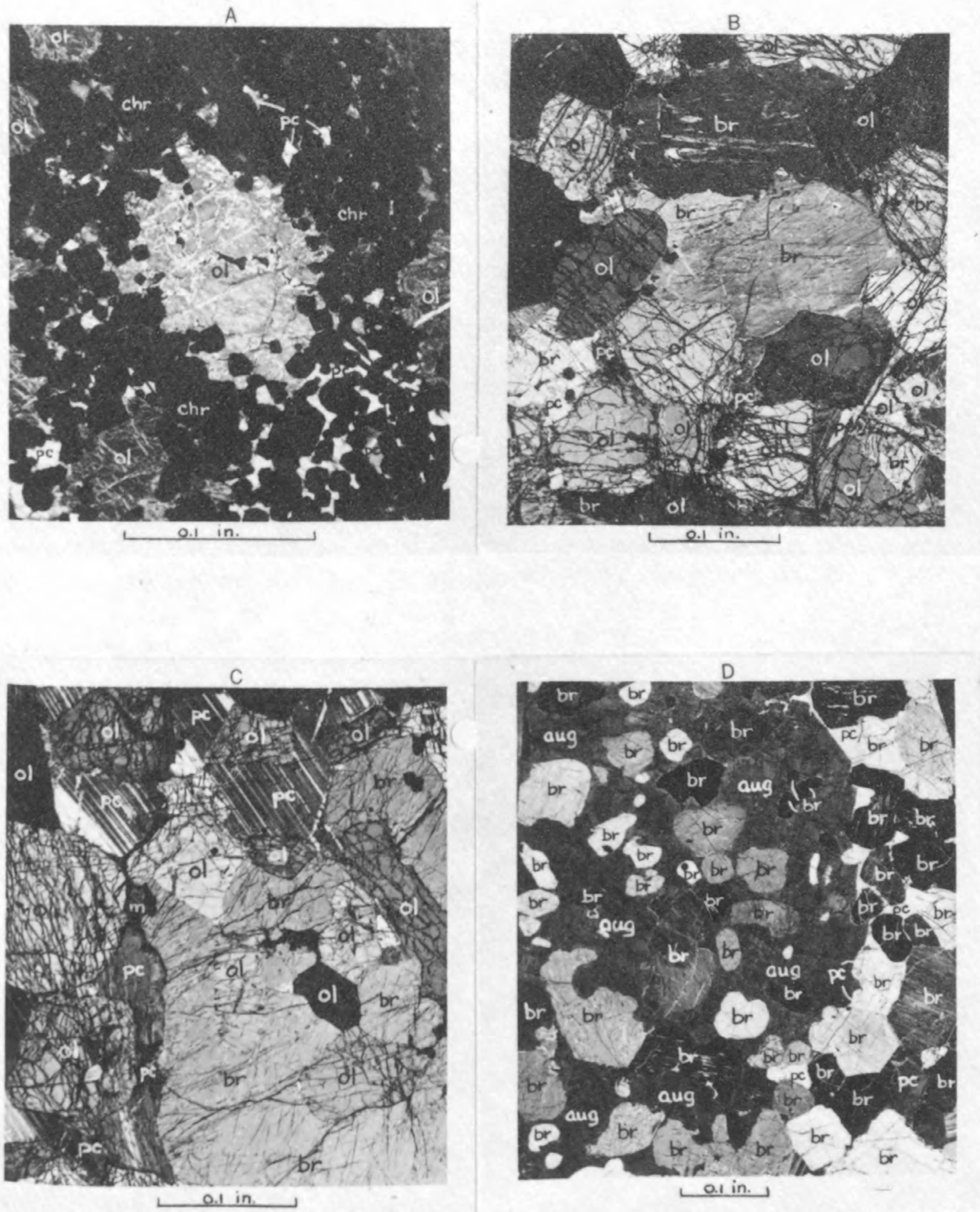


PLATE 18

bronzite (pl. 13). In these rocks chromite was apparently precipitated from the interstitial liquid or at the mush surface, whereas olivines were not enlarged.

In some olivine chromitites both olivines and chromites show evidence of having been enlarged subsequent to deposition. It is not clear from textural evidence whether enlargement of olivine and chromite occurred simultaneously or sequentially.

Olivine bronzitites and granular harzburgites.--The character of enlargement in rocks containing mixtures of settled olivine and bronzite, like that in olivine-chromite rocks, seems dependent on the relative proportions of settled minerals in the layer. In olivine-rich granular harzburgites, olivine crystals commonly show considerable mutual interference. Bronzites in these rocks are also enlarged, but the outer peripheries have replacement textures against the olivines (pl. 18B). In olivine bronzitites, olivine crystals are generally euhedral, whereas bronzites may have considerable mutual interference (pl. 11C). In both types, olivine enlargement, where present, appears to have been completed before bronzite enlargement began.

Volumetric relations.--The original pore space in the crystal mush formed at the floor of the intrusion during the accumulation of the Ultramafic zone is now composed of material added to settled crystals after deposition plus interstitial precipitates of other minerals. If the original pore space volume in the crystal mush is known, a measure of the amount of secondary enlargement in any rock can be obtained by subtracting the volume of interstitial material from the initial porosity.

Variations in the initial porosity of the crystal mush are discussed in the following section, and estimates of the average initial porosities for the various rock types are listed in table 5. No single average value for initial porosity of olivine chromitites can be given because of their bimodal size characteristics and variable proportions of olivine and chromite.

Measurements of the amount of interstitial material in specimens of the various rock types have been made by modal counts and are presented graphically in figure 26. The amount of interstitial material in harzburgites and bronzitites was determined on those parts of large etched slabs where plagioclase was in contact with the settled minerals; areas within pyroxene oikocrysts, where much of the material formed by reaction replacement, were avoided. Interstitial chromite in these rocks was tabulated as settled material, even though it occupies parts of the interstices between the larger settled olivines and bronzites. Measurements in chromitites, where reaction textures have not been observed, were made on the entire area of 2 by 2 inch thin sections. The frequency histograms in figure 25 suggest a normal distribution of the amount

Table 5.--Average volume percentage of enlargement of settled crystals in the principal rock types.

Rock type	Estimated average initial porosity (volume percent)	Average volume percent of interstitial material	Average volume percent of secondary enlargement
Poikilitic harzburgite	35	15	20
Bronzitite	35	14	21
Chromitite	40	20	20
Granular harzburgite and olivine bronzitite	30	10	20
Olivine chromitite and poikilitic chromite harzburgite	25-40	14	11-26

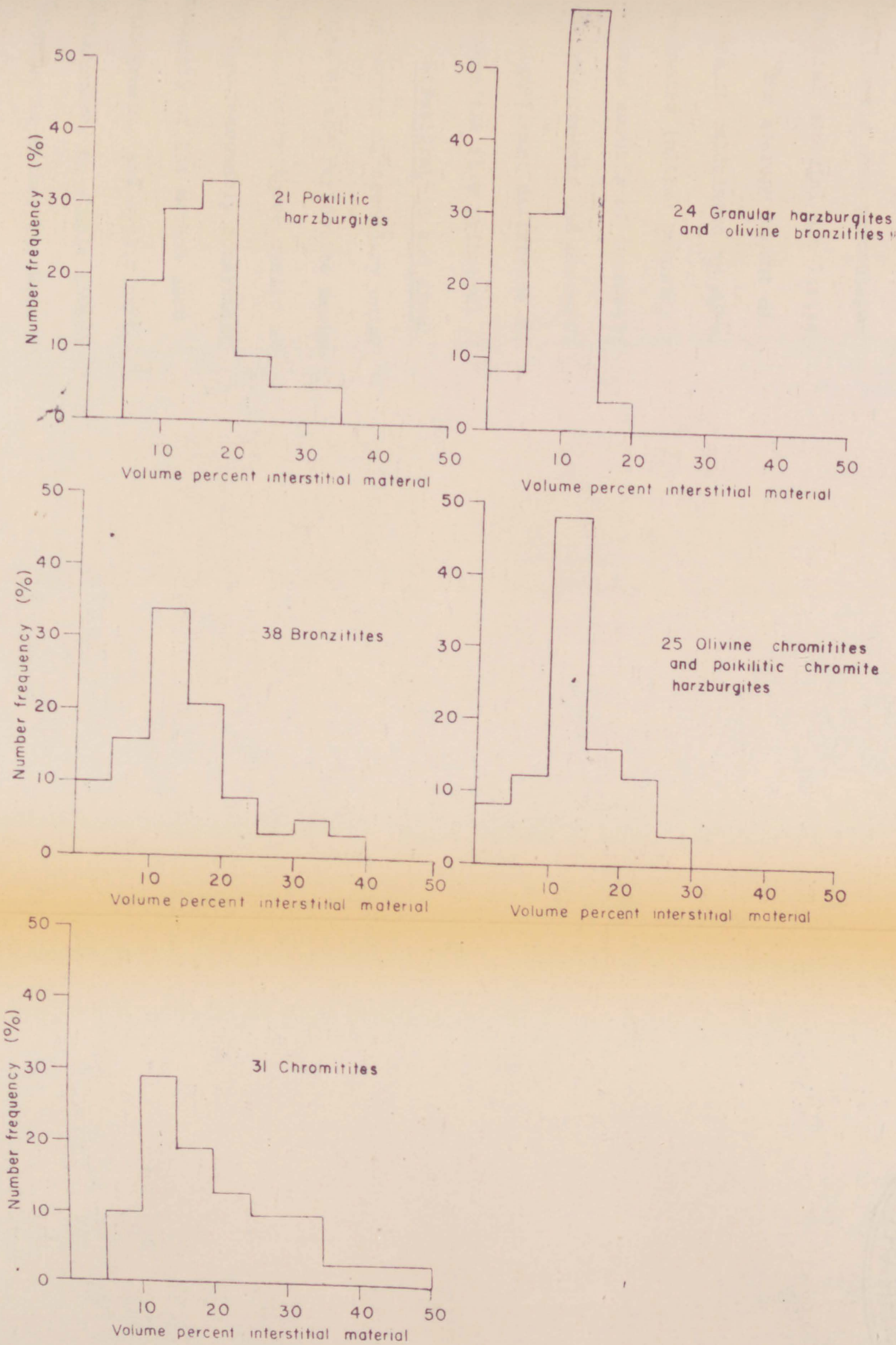


Figure 26. Frequency distribution of volume of interstitial material by rock type

of interstitial material, but the number of measurements is, in all cases, insufficient to establish this definitely. Arithmetic mean percentages of the average amounts of interstitial material are listed in table 5.

The average amount of secondary enlargement for the rock types is calculated by subtraction in table 5. Differences in estimated initial porosity tend to balance the differences in average amounts of interstitial constituents. Within the limits of measurements and assumptions, therefore, there seems to be no significant difference in the amount of secondary enlargement between the five principal rock types of the Ultramafic zone.

Stratigraphic and areal distribution.--Determinations of the amount of secondary enlartement material within the cyclic units of the Peridotite member show no smooth pattern of variation. Of the three cyclic units shown in table 6, units 9 and 15 show reasonably consistent values considering the limits of accuracy of the method used to determine the amount of secondary enlargement, and cyclic unit 2 shows an irregular variation. Furthermore, no simple upward variation between cycles could be detected in either the West Fork or Mt. View sections. If simple intercycle variation does exist an excessively large number of measurements would be required to define it because of the large deviation in amount of interstitial material within single layers.

Table 6.--Intra-cycle stratigraphic distribution of amount of secondary enlargement in the Mt. View section of the Peridotite member.

Cyclic unit		Specimen number	Vol. % interstitial material	Vol. % secondary enlargement material*
15	bronzitite	55MV-77	9	26
	granular harzburgite	55MV-76	10	20
		55MV-75	12	18
		55MV-74	10	20
	poikilitic harzburgite	55MV-73	13	22
		55MV-72	15	20
		55MV-69	12	23
9	bronzitite	55MV-33	9	26
		55MV-32	12	23
		55MV-31	13	22
	granular harzburgite	55MV-30	8	22
		55MV-29	8	22
		55MV-28	8	22
	poikilitic harzburgite	55MV-27	17	18
		55MV-26	9	26
		55MV-25	9	26
2	bronzitite			
	fine-grained	55MV-12	21	14
		55MV-10	24	11
	coarse-grained	52MV-11	17	18
		55MV- 9	19	16
	granular harzburgite	55MV- 8	15	15
		55MV- 7	19	11
		52MV- 9	14	16
	poikilitic harzburgite	52MV- 8	29	6
		55MV- 3	12	23
		55MV- 2	14	21
		55MV- 1	20	15

* Assuming an initial porosity of 35 percent in bronzitites and poikilitic harzburgites, and 30 percent in granular harzburgites.

Table 8.--Settled and interstitial minerals in Ultramafic zone rocks with relatively small amounts of secondary enlargement (parentheses indicate minerals not invariably present).

Major rock types	Settled constituents	Interstitial constituents	
		Generally abundant (in order of average abundance)	Generally <1 percent of rock
poikilitic harzburgites	olivine chromite	bronzite plagioclase augite	biotite
granular harzburgites and olivine bronzitites	olivine bronzite (chromite)	plagioclase augite (bronzite)	(biotite)
bronzitites	bronzite (chromite)	plagioclase augite	(quartz) (biotite) (grossularite-pyrope)
chromitites	chromite (olivine)	(plagioclase) (augite) (bronzite) (olivine)	biotite
olivine chromitites and poikilitic chromite harzburgites	chromite olivine	bronzite (augite) (plagioclase)	(biotite)

Although a pattern of stratigraphic variation in the amount of secondary enlargement cannot be established, gross changes in the amount of interstitial material along the strike were observed in the field and have been confirmed to some extent by measurements. In the field, it was observed that in areas where the Peridotite member is stratigraphically thick, the rocks contained more interstitial material than rocks in thinner sections. Within the Bronzitite member of the Ultramafic zone, which is considerably more consistent in thickness than the Peridotite member, no significant changes in interstitial material content along the strike were detected in the field. Measurements were made of the amount of interstitial material in a number of specimens from correlative subunits in the Mt. View and West Fork sections and the amount of secondary enlargement was calculated. These values are tabulated in table 7. In the lower part of the Peridotite member, the West Fork section is about one-third as thick as the Mt. View section, and contains 1.5 times as much secondary enlargement material; above the main chromitite, the West Fork section is about one-half as thick and contains about 1.1 times as much enlargement material; in the Bronzitite member the West Fork section is about two-thirds as thick as the Mt. View section, and contains only very slightly more enlargement material. These relations are illustrated graphically in figure 27.

Table 7.--Average amounts of interstitial and secondary enlargement material in correlative subunits of the Ultramafic zone.

Subunit		West Fork Section				Mt. View Section			
		Strat. thickness (ft.)	Vol. % interstitial material	Vol. % secondary enlargement material	No. of specimens averaged	Strat. thickness (ft.)	Vol. % interstitial material	Vol. % secondary enlargement material	No. of specimens averaged
Bronzitite member		2,120	12	23	6	3,060	13	22	6
Peridotite member	Main chromitite to top of Peridotite member	500	12	21	12	1,035	14	19	19
	Base of Peridotite member to main chromitite	1,000	9	24	15	2,975	16	17	28

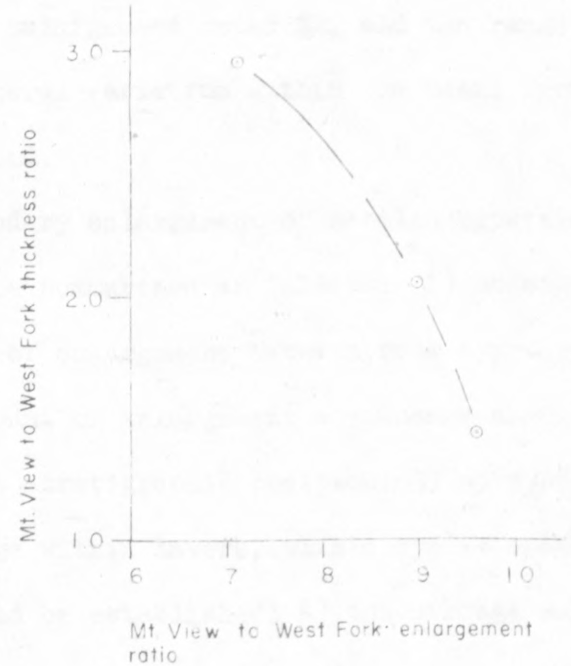


Fig. 27. Relations between thickness of correllative sub-units and amount of secondary enlargement

The average amount of enlargement material in the bronzitites of the Basal zone, which are sporadically developed between the chilled gabbro and the base of the Peridotite member, is considerably less than the average anywhere within the Ultramafic zone. The average of four determinations from the Benbow area, where the basal bronzitite reaches its maximum development, is 7 percent enlargement material, and the range is 20 percent to none. Lateral variation within the basal bronzitites was not investigated.

Secondary enlargement of settled crystals in the Ultramafic zone may be summarized as follows: 1) no significant difference in amount of enlargement between rock types can be established; 2) the amount of enlargement may change abruptly and on a small scale with stratigraphic position; 3) no systematic trends in this change within layers, within cyclic units, or between cyclic units could be established; 4) the average amount of secondary enlargement seems to be related to relative thickness of stratigraphic section, so that in two correlative sections believed to have been formed in the same interval of time, the thinner stratigraphic section shows more enlargement than the thicker; and, 5) there is considerably less enlargement in the bronzitites of the Basal zone than in any investigated part of the Ultramafic zone.

Discussion.--Wager and Deer (1939, p. 127-128) postulate that primary precipitate minerals in the Skaergaard intrusion had been enlarged subsequent to their deposition, and state:

"That part of the interprecipitate material which crystallized as the same minerals as the primary crystals, is found as outer zones of increasingly lower temperature solid solutions, and such outer zones often occupy interstices. Neglecting the outer fringe, the primary precipitate may be found to have an idiomorphic relation to a certain mineral, but taking into consideration the outer fringe, the crystals would be put down as allotriomorphic to the same mineral."

Enlargement of settled minerals caused only by continued precipitation of the same minerals from the trapped interstitial magma should be limited in amount and characterized by strong peripheral zoning. Such a mechanism cannot account for completely monomineralic dunites, bronzitites, and chromitites in the Stillwater Ultramafic zone without calling upon olivine-, bronzite-, and chromite-magmas for which there is no other evidence of existence. To account for these relations, Hess (1939, p. 430-431) has proposed a more complicated mechanism involving diffusion. On the basis of slump structures in the gabbroic rocks, Hess considers the unconsolidated mush on the floor of the complex to have been 10 feet thick throughout the period of accumulation. Diffusion between the main body of magma and the magma trapped within this crystal mush allowed crystallization of solid phases in the interstices which were identical in composition with the settled crystals. Hess has concluded that the amount of diffusion was controlled by the rate of accumulation of crystals:

where the rate of accumulation was slow, diffusion was operative; where rapid, the original magma was effectively trapped.

The relative efficacy of diffusion in causing secondary enlargement in the Ultramafic zone seems open to some question. The quantity of a material which diffuses in the steady state is proportional to its concentration at the front (Garrels, Dreyer, and Howland, 1949, p. 1826-1827), and assuming that diffusion is capable of supplying olivine or bronzite to dunite or bronzitite layers in the mush, the supply of chromite to associated chromitites should be much less. The average amount of secondary enlargement in chromitites, however, does not seem to be significantly less than in silicate layers. In some sequences, 1 to 2 inch chromitite layers contain less interstitial material than the olivine-rich rocks immediately above and below, and the mechanism for accomplishment of this selective overgrowth after burial is difficult to visualize. Furthermore, detailed mapping of the Ultramafic zone has resulted in discovery of small scale slump structures involving units as thin as six inches. It would therefore seem possible that some secondary enlargement, at least, took place at or near the surface of the mush, in contact with the magma from which the crystals were precipitating.

Regardless of whether optically continuous overgrowth occurred at the surface of the mush or at depths of several feet, Hess' concept of a direct relationship between amount of overgrowth and rate of crystal accumulation seems equally valid. Field estimates throughout the Ultramafic zone as well as laboratory measurements indicate that in areas where the stratigraphic section is relatively thin, the rocks contain less interstitial material than rocks in areas where the stratigraphic section is relatively thick. Because these "shelf" and "basin" sections are believed to have accumulated in the same interval of time, the amount of overgrowth would seem to be related to rate of accumulation.

Assuming that the measurements are representative and that a qualitative relation between secondary enlargement and accumulation rate is established, the following observations can be made: 1) accumulation of bronzite to form the bronzitite of the upper part of the Basal zone was sufficiently more rapid than crystal accumulation with the Ultramafic zone proper, to inhibit appreciably secondary crystal enlargement; 2) in some parts of the Ultramafic zone the rate of crystal accumulation changed erratically on a small scale; and 3) the average rate of crystal accumulation in the Mt. View section was greatest near its base, and gradually decreased throughout the section, whereas the initial average rate in the West Fork section was very slow, but increased near the main chromitite and maintained a steady rate at least through the Bronzitite member (table 7).

Initial porosity.--The original porosity of settled crystals in the accumulating mush can be estimated in some rocks by means of modal counts of individual crystals and interstitial material, but distinction between what were originally settled crystals and interprecipitate material is commonly difficult because of secondary enlargement and reaction replacement of the settled material. The apparent porosity is, of course, decreased where settled material has been enlarged, and increased where the settled material has been resorbed. Modal counts of areas where relations are most clearly definable indicate that original porosities in the crystal mush ranged between about 20 and 50 percent by volume, and that the average for the zone was probably about 35 percent. Packing relationships are similar to those in comparable sedimentary rocks: the finer grained chromitites apparently had slightly higher initial porosities than the coarser harzburgites and bronzitites, and bimodal associations of chromite and olivine in general had lower initial porosities than assemblages containing minerals of uniform size.

Estimates of maximum, minimum, and average porosities are considered below. For a given rock type, the maximum original porosity is based on the maximum observed amount of interstitial material in any rock of that type; the minimum estimate is based on the amount of interstitial material in rocks showing very slight mutual interference effects between settled crystals;

the estimated average porosity is a guess limited by these two extremes.

Bronzitites.--In bronzitites with anchi-equidimensional bronzites, the greatest measured amount of interstitial material was 41 percent; the amount of interstitial material in bronzitites showing the beginnings of mutual interference boundaries between bronzites is about 30 percent. The range of original porosity was probably, therefore, between 30 and 40 percent. Differences in original porosity between bronzitites of this type are more probably a result of differences in packing than of differences in grain size or sorting because the observed ranges in the latter properties are relatively small. The average porosity of bronzitites with nearly equidimensional grains is estimated to have been 35 percent.

The much less abundant bronzitites composed of tabular or broad prismatic bronzites are observed to have considerably less interstitial material than bronzitites with nearly equidimensional grains. This is presumably an effect of grain shape on original porosity similar to the decrease in porosity of sands with disk-shaped particles observed by Fraser (1935, p. 937). No numerical estimate of the average original porosity for bronzitites with flattened bronzites can be given because the ratio of intercepts of these minerals varies widely between individual specimens, and, presumably, so would the initial porosity. The largest amount of interstitial material measured in a bronzitite of this type was 15 percent, but the specimen showed some mutual interference between the bronzites. The initial porosity of this bronzitite is estimated to have been about 20 percent.

Poikilitic harzburgites.--The maximum amount of interstitial material measured in a poikilitic harzburgite was 30 percent, and this specimen shows slight effects of mutual interference between the olivine crystals. Presumably, both the maximum porosity and the average porosity were greater than 30 percent. The grain shape, sorting, and size range of olivines in poikilitic harzburgites do not differ appreciably from those of anchi-equidimensional bronzites in bronzitites. Furthermore, the average amount of interstitial material for all measured poikilitic harzburgites is slightly greater than the average for bronzitites, a difference which may be related to the inclusion of several bronzitites with broad prismatic crystals into the average. It seems reasonable, therefore, that the porosity of crystal mush composed of olivine crystals and liquid was very nearly equal to the porosity of anchi-equidimensional bronzite crystals and liquid, and the original porosity of the poikilitic harzburgites is assumed to have been about 35 percent. Neither grain size, sorting, nor shape variations within the poikilitic harzburgites seem large enough to have caused much variation in original porosity. The presence of accessory chromite in poikilitic harzburgites, however, lowered the original porosity slightly, because of its location between olivine grains.

Chromitites.--The maximum amount of interstitial material in any massive chromitite investigated was 50 percent; beginnings of mutual interference boundaries are observed in chromitites with about 30 percent interstitial material. The amount of interstitial material in three of the specimens measured exceeded the 41 percent recorded for the maximum amount in the bronzitites. The range of porosity in chromitites, therefore, exceeded that of bronzitites, and the average porosity was probably higher. An average porosity of 40 percent would seem to be a reasonable estimate. That fine-grained aggregations of chromite crystals should have a higher porosity than aggregations of olivine or bronzite crystals 10 times as large is in accord with the observations of Ellis and Lee (1919, p. 121), Trask (1931, p. 273), and others that contrary to the theoretical behavior of spheres, the porosity of sands decreases as grain size increases. Variations in grain size, shape, and sorting within the chromitites, as in the poikilitic harzburgites, are probably too small to effect porosity changes of any great magnitude between layers. If an original porosity range of 15 to 20 percent did exist, as indicated, the major part of the variation is most likely caused by differences in packing and bridging.

Granular harzburgites.--The maximum observed amount of interstitial material in a granular harzburgite is 19 percent, and this specimen shows considerable mutual interference. The average amount of interstitial material in all granular harzburgites measured is three percent lower than the average for bronzitites (fig. 26). In granular harzburgites composed of bronzites and olivines of equal size, the original porosity should have been in the same range as the original porosity in bronzitites and poikilitic harzburgites. In most granular harzburgites, however, the settled olivines and bronzites have different sizes (fig. 3), and, although these minerals considered individually have good sorting, the degree of sorting of the rock as a whole is reduced by the inclusion of two sizes of material (fig. 8). The effect of this poorer sorting should be lowered original porosity (Fraser, 1935, p. 922-930); the amount of lowering is dependent on the relative proportions and the relative sizes of settled olivine and bronzite in the rock. The decrease in average original porosity caused by these bimodal size distributions was probably relatively small, because at the observed size ratios between olivine and bronzite most of the smaller grains are incapable of filling voids between the larger ones. The average porosity of granular harzburgites, therefore, should have been somewhat less than that of bronzitites and poikilitic harzburgites, possibly about 30 percent.

Olivine chromitites and poikilitic chromite harzburgites.--The maximum observed amount of interstitial material in a rock composed of a mixture of settled olivine and chromite is 26 percent. This specimen, which has an olivine chromite ratio of 69:31, shows no mutual interference, and the observed amount of interstitial material is believed to coincide closely with the initial porosity. The average amount of interstitial material in the 20 specimens measured was 14 percent, about the same as that for bronzitites.

It seems reasonable that mushes composed of mixtures of olivine and chromite had considerably lower porosities than mushes composed of either mineral alone. The sorting of olivine chromitites is strictly bimodal (fig. 9) and the average size ratios of chromite to olivine range from 0.07 to 0.38, with an average of 0.19 (table 3). In all of these rocks, the chromite is small enough to exist in voids between the olivine crystals; the size ratios are less than what Fraser (1935, p. 919) calls the "critical ratio of occupation". In most of the 16 olivine chromitites for which size measurements have been made the chromite-olivine diameter ratio is also within what Fraser (1935, p. 919) calls the "critical diameter of entrance", and finds to be 0.414 for loosest packing and 0.154 for tightest packing in the case of spheres. Assuming that octahedral chromites and nearly equidimensional olivines did behave essentially as spheres, the observed diameter ratios indicate that chromites in most olivine chromitites are small enough to have passed between tightly packed olivine crystals, and are therefore capable, at least, of having been sifted down in the mush. At any rate, the original porosity of olivine chromitites was much reduced by small chromites filling spaces between olivine grains at the expense of interstitial magma. The extent of this reduction would be greatest where olivine constitutes about 65 percent of the rock, and the porosity of the mush with these proportions would seem to have been about 25 percent. With decrease in chromite content, the porosity would approach that of the poikilitic harzburgites. With increase of chromite the porosity would approach that of chromitites. The range of porosity was probably between 25 and 40 percent.

Discussion.--The original porosity variation of the mush, which is 20 to 50 percent in the Ultramafic zone, is most probably caused by two independent factors: 1) the physical properties of the crystal aggregate making up the mush, and 2) the amount of compaction of the mush prior to cementation. Crystal shape differences are apparently responsible for the porosity difference between equidimensional and tabular collections of bronzites; average size differences for porosity differences between silicate layers and massive chromitites; and differences in sorting for porosity differences between olivine-chromite mixtures and monomineralic accumulations. Indicated porosity differences of 10 to 20 percent within bronzitites and chromitites with nearly equal size and shape, however, cannot be accounted for by changes in physical properties of the grains, and these differences would seem to be caused by variations in amount of compaction prior to cementation.

Bronzitites and poikilitic harzburgites make up about 88 percent of the Ultramafic zone, and the remaining 12 percent is composed largely of granular harzburgite. The estimated average porosity of the Ultramafic zone as a whole, therefore, is only slightly less than 35 percent. In consideration of the high viscosity and density of the magma, and the generally uniform sizes and nearly equidimensional shapes of the settled crystals, even an average porosity of 35 percent seems somewhat low compared with measured porosities of experimentally settled and freshly deposited sands which, in the 0.2 to 1.0 mm size grades, generally range between 40 and 46 percent (Ellis and Lee, 1919, p. 121; Trask, 1931, p. 273; Hamilton and Menard, 1956, p. 756). Fraser (1935, p. 936), however, has shown that the porosity of quietly settled wet natural sands can be reduced 5.5 to 8 percent by continued jarring.

The porosity of the complex as a whole is probably considerably less than 35 percent because of the prevalence of broad prismatic and tabular minerals in the thick section of norites, gabbros, and anorthosites stratigraphically above the Ultramafic zone. In contrast, the Ultramafic zone is characterized by a preponderance of nearly equidimensional settled crystals.

Within the limits imposed by a small number of significant measurements, the settled crystals in the Ultramafic zone obey the general physical laws of particle packing with regard to grain size, sorting, and shape. Numerical estimates of the original porosity agree very well with porosity measurements of well-packed sedimentary rocks in the same size range. The generally good packing of the settled crystals, like the packing in sandstones, was probably effected near the surface of deposition, perhaps by periodic jarring of the floor by minor tectonic disturbances during deposition. Failure of the mush to pack is recorded in a few layers by abnormally large amounts of interstitial material in the rocks.

The interprecipitate material

The interprecipitate material is defined as including all minerals that crystallized in place in the rocks. Under this definition, it may be divided into three types: 1) the material added on to settled crystals by secondary enlargement after deposition; 2) the material which simply fills space between the original or secondarily enlarged settled crystals; and 3) the material which has partly replaced settled crystals by post-depositional reaction replacement. The first two types of material, taken together, occupy what originally was pore space in the crystal mush. The third type, however, now occupies space which originally was taken up by precipitated crystals, and, although it is not descriptively "interprecipitate", it is so classified because it formed in place.

The relative proportions of these three types of material differ from layer to layer. Development of secondary enlargement and interstitial space filling minerals are reciprocal: at one extreme are the completely monomineralic rocks whose entire original pore space has been filled by secondary enlargement of the settled crystals; at the other are certain bronzitites and chromitites that contain 40 to 50 percent of interstitial space filling material. Development of reaction replacement in rocks containing olivine or bronzite is greatest in rocks with minimal secondary enlargement.

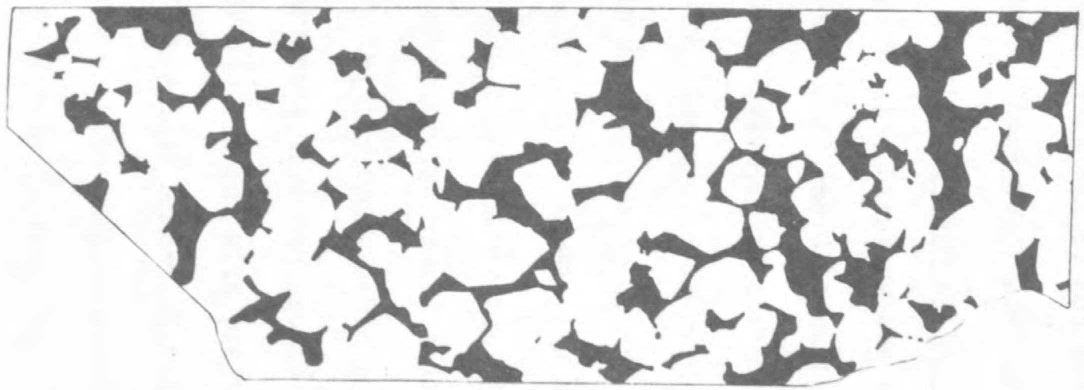
The exact distinction between the precipitate and inter-precipitate constituents of every rock cannot be made by simple inspection because of the absence, in most rocks, of internal boundaries in secondarily enlarged crystals and in replacing minerals. The distinction between individual grains and interstitial material, however, is evident by change of mineralogy, and the following descriptive material will deal in large part with interstitial grains.

Shape of the interstitial material

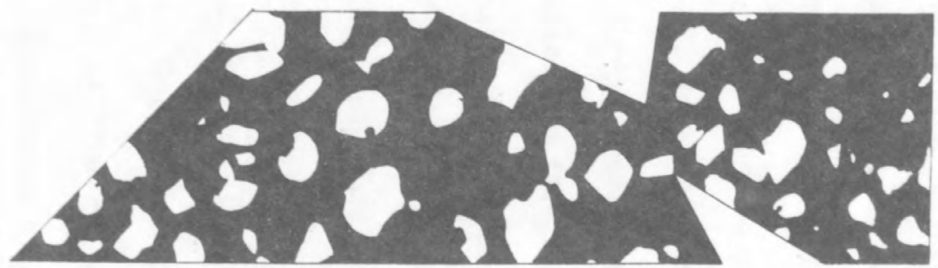
The interstices between settled crystals are continuously interconnecting. Some interprecipitate material is confined to the space defined by 3 or 4 adjacent settled crystals, which may be termed a unit interstice, and the material in the adjoining interstice is different either in composition or optical orientation. In other instances, the interstitial material is in common optical orientation over many hundreds of these interstices, and the texture is said to be poikilitic. A distinction must be made, therefore, between the shapes of the unit interstices, which may or may not define the boundaries of an optically continuous interstitial mineral, and the exterior shape of poikilitic crystals, where these occur.

Shape of the interstices.--The interstices are invariably concave polygons, entirely bounded by the crystal faces of the settled minerals. In cross section the interstices are cuspoid, terminating in 4 to 8 sharp points, or continuing along narrow throats between settled crystals. Crystals that have continued to grow after deposition develop interference boundaries against their neighbors, but retain their crystal faces where growing into pore spaces, so that in rocks with moderate amounts of overgrowth material the shapes of the interstices are the same, but they are decreased in volume. This effect is illustrated in figure 28A, a tracing of olivine-plagioclase relations in a poikilitic harzburgite. Modal counts indicate that the olivine crystals of this rock have been enlarged about 15 percent after deposition and, although olivine crystals are in contact in many areas, the shapes of the interstices occupied by plagioclase retain their sharp boundaries. Where the interstitial material has not only filled spaces between settled crystals, but partially replaced them, the material is increased in volume and the interstices lose their characteristic shapes. In rocks where such replacement has been extensive the interstitial material becomes the dominant element in the texture, and, in aggregate, is sponge-shaped. The sectional relationship for the case of settled olivine partly replaced by interstitial bronzite is shown in figure 28B.

Local restriction of any of the interstitial minerals to one interstice has been observed, but the tendency to form connecting, poikilitic crystals is pronounced, and varies with mineralogy and mineral abundance. Quartz has been observed to surround 3 or 4 bronzites, but generally occurs in widely separated single grains. Plagioclase crystals generally occupy 1 to 5 connecting interstices, but, uncommonly, develop into large poikilitic crystals. Bronzite, chrome augite and olivine



A. Interstitial plagioclase (black) surrounding olivine crystals (white) between bronzite oikocrysts.



B. Interstitial bronzite (black) surrounding olivine crystals (white) within bronzite oikocrysts.

1 2 3 inches

FIGURE 28. Sectional shapes of interstitial minerals in poikilitic harzburgite. Traced from etched slab.

all have strong tendencies toward development of large oikocrysts, and are rarely seen in single grains confined to individual interstices. Mica, where relatively abundant, also prefers the poikilitic habit, but commonly is restricted to single interstices because of its scarceness.

Shape of the poikilitic crystals.--Bronzite oikocrysts in poikilitic harzburgites are perhaps the most striking textural feature of the Ultramafic zone. Less obviously, they are also well developed in chromitites. In both rock types the poikilitic bronzites are, with rare exceptions, grossly spherical (pl. 3). In detail, the spherical boundaries are irregular; olivine crystals project across the contacts, and where the bronzite is in contact with interstitial plagioclase the boundary is generally irregular with small scale mutual embayments (pl. 18C). In a few highly feldspathic poikilitic harzburgites, however, the bronzite develops smooth crystal boundaries along short segments of its contact with plagioclase. Several examples of elliptical rather than spherical development of bronzite oikocrysts occur where thin poikilitic chromite harzburgites exist between two chromitite layers. Some of the bronzite oikocrysts have apparently been restricted in vertical development.

Chrome augite oikocrysts tend to have prismatic rather than spherical shapes, so that cross sections are imperfect rectangles or squares. In detail the outer margins of augite oikocrysts, like those of bronzite, are irregular, with settled crystals extending across the contacts. In many rocks the poikilitic crystals have completely irregular boundaries with surrounding plagioclase, but euhedral crystal terminations of augite against plagioclase are developed to a greater extent than with bronzite. In rocks with minimal amounts of secondarily enlarged material, particularly in bronzitites, augite oikocrysts have what appear to be sharp prism and dome terminations against plagioclase (pl. 18D). When examined in detail, however, the augite-plagioclase contacts have, for the most part, mutual embayments and curved boundaries, and only short segments of the augite oikocrysts are actually euhedral. The augite oikocrysts, therefore, have a strong tendency to maintain a prismatic form, but at their outer margins have interference boundaries with plagioclase. In feldspathic bronzitites where replacement of bronzite by augite has been extreme, these prismatic forms give the rocks the appearance of porphyritic texture. Where augite is in contact with interstitial bronzite the boundaries of the bronzite are commonly embayed.

Interstitial olivine occurs only in certain chromitites, and, in these, it is commonly poikilitic. In the restricted number of specimens where olivine oikocrysts have been observed, they have prismatic, nearly equidimensional shapes. Boundaries with contiguous olivines are irregular and interfering, and contacts with pyroxene are irregularly embayed. Contacts between interstitial olivine and plagioclase are not common in chromitites because of the tendency for all minerals to fill completely the smaller interstices, because many chromitites with relatively abundant interstitial olivine contain no plagioclase, and because olivine is commonly rimmed by pyroxene. In the few places where relations are observable, interstitial olivine is completely euhedral against plagioclase.

Biotite occurs in very minor amounts in all the rock types, but poikilitic crystals have been observed only in a few poikilitic harzburgites and chromitites. Oikocrysts tend to be strongly tabular parallel to the micaceous cleavage, and are generally less than 0.1 mm thick. In sections parallel to the cleavage the mica is roughly circular in shape but irregular in detail, and apparently surrounds several settled crystals. Perpendicular to the cleavage, however, settled crystals extend through both sides of the oikocryst. Pinacoid faces, or segments of them, are developed against all the other interstitial materials, but prismatic or pyramidal terminations have not been observed.

Poikilitic plagioclase, where developed, is roughly spherical in bronzitites and granular harzburgites. In poikilitic harzburgites and chromitites, however, the plagioclase oikocrysts are irregular in shape and tend to conform to hourglass-shaped or large cuspate areas between pyroxene oikocrysts. The outer contacts of the poikilitic plagioclases are scalloped by extension of settled crystals across the contacts. Where it is in contact with other interstitial minerals the plagioclase either has interference boundaries or is controlled by crystal boundaries of interstitial pyroxene; plagioclase has not been observed to be terminated by its own crystal faces.

Quartz, in its uncommon occurrences as a poikilitic mineral, has roughly spherical outlines and irregular boundaries against all the other interstitial constituents.

Poikilitic olivine, bronzite, and augite crystals in chromitites, and, to a lesser extent, bronzite and augite crystals in harzburgites and bronzitites, are locally modified by narrow apophyses that envelop settled crystals far beyond the roughly spherical limits of the oikocryst. Narrow rims of these three minerals surround settled crystals at considerable distances from the centers of the oikocrysts, coating the walls of the interstices with optically continuous material (pl. 19A). The centers of the interstices are filled with plagioclase. The reverse of this textural development has been observed in a few chromitites: plagioclase plates the faces of chromite crystals outwards from the margins of plagioclase oikocrysts, and diopside or bronzite fills the central parts of the outlying interstices (pl. 19B). Where these peripheral platings of

Plate 19. Photomicrographs of textures of interprecipitate minerals in the Ultramafic zone.

A. Plating of chromite crystals by bronzite. Narrow shells of bronzite surround settled chromite crystals near margin of bronzite oikocryst. br = bronzite; pc = plagioclase. Crossed nicols.

B. Plating of chromite crystals by plagioclase. Narrow shells of plagioclase surround settled crystals near margin of plagioclase oikocryst. Symbols as above. Crossed nicols.

C. Augite replacing bronzite in poikilitic harzburgite. Remnants of uniformly oriented bronzite oikocryst occur within augite oikocryst near boundaries of olivine crystals. ol = olivine; aug = augite; other symbols as above. Crossed nicols.

D. Biotite in poikilitic harzburgite. Biotite has partly replaced included portion of chromite crystal. Note that plagioclase is strongly zoned near biotite. (Radial fractures around olivine crystals are probably a result of expansion during partial serpentinization.) m = biotite; chr = chromite; other symbols as above. Crossed nicols.

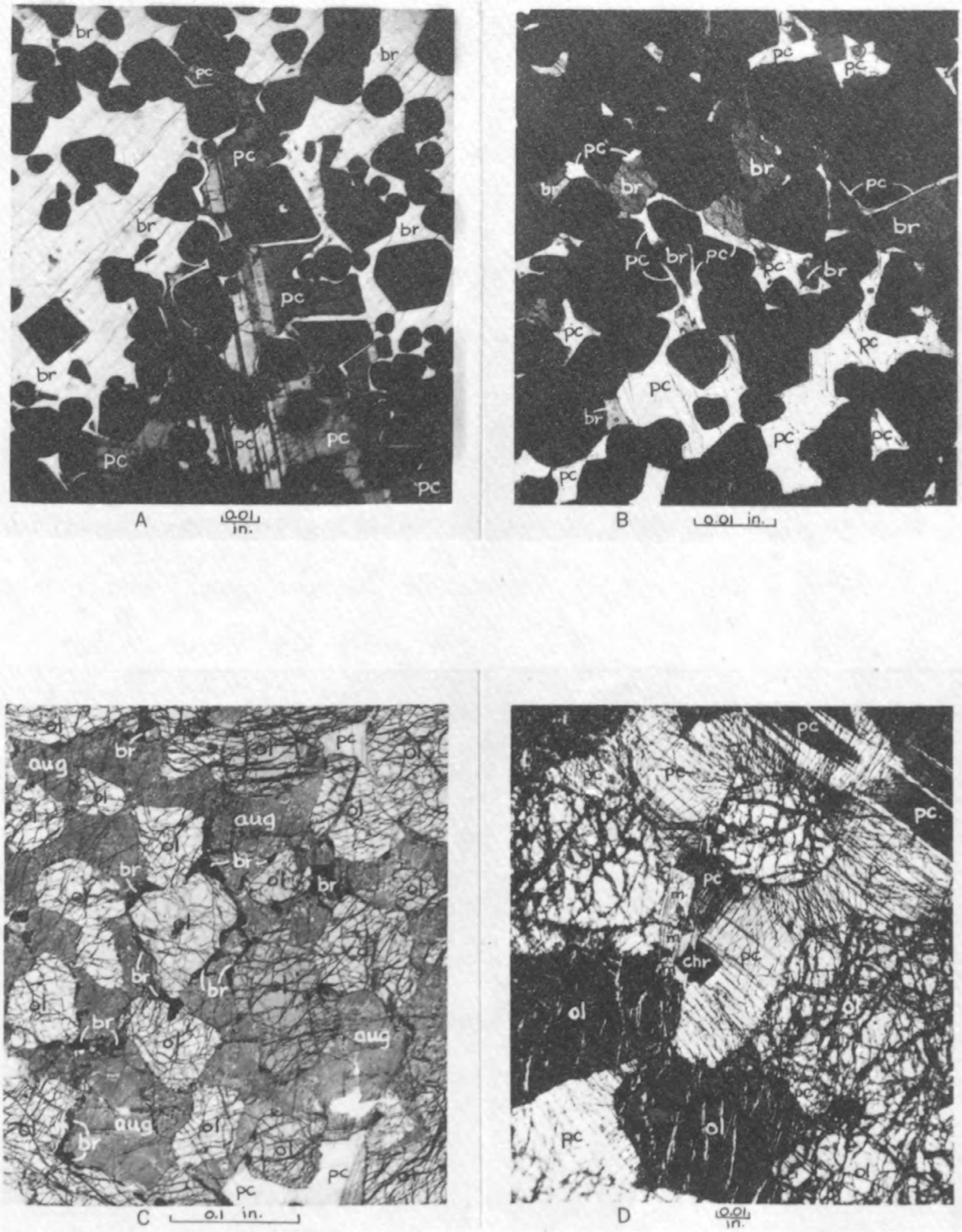


PLATE 19

settled crystals are well developed, the coating material decreases in abundance away from the center of the oikocrysts, so that the rims become increasingly narrow, although the whole remains in optical continuity.

Discussion.--There is a striking similarity between the sectional shapes of unit interstices defined by the closely packed settled crystals and the section shapes of unit voids between spheres illustrated by Graton and Fraser (1935, figs. 14, 17-20). If arcuate boundaries be substituted for angular ones, many of the shapes correspond exactly.

The tendency of the interstice walls to maintain their angularity even where the settled crystals have grown considerably after deposition suggests that secondary enlargement was essentially completed by the time the interstitial minerals crystallized. Where bronzite forms a part of the interstitial material, for instance, its boundaries with plagioclase are for the most part irregular and interfering, whereas secondarily enlarged bronzites have euhedral terminations against plagioclase. The homogeneity of interstitial material formed in part by reaction replacement, however, suggests that reaction occurred simultaneously with space filling. Within the greatly enlarged interstices no trace of the original pore space boundaries can be detected.

The characteristic equidimensional or prismatic forms of bronzite, augite, and olivine oikocrysts dominate the texture of the interstitial material, and suggest that these minerals grew outward from central nuclei, displacing the interprecipitate magma without local entrapment. The generally irregular contacts of augite and bronzite with plagioclase at the peripheries of the oikocrysts suggests mutual interference in the final stages of crystallization. Local segments of crystal faces of these minerals against plagioclase probably record the local parts of the outer peripheries which completed crystallization prior to plagioclase. Although the relative power of automorphism of olivine and plagioclase cannot be evaluated, I prefer to believe that the interstitial olivine in chromitites completed crystallization prior to precipitation of plagioclase.

Envelopment and plating of chromite crystals at the margins of some oikocrysts, although almost identical with reaction textures between chromite and gabbro described by Thayer (1946, p. 203-205) would seem to have a different origin for the following reasons: 1) no consistent zonal arrangement is recognized; 2) the enveloping rims are optically continuous with, and connected to, large oikocrysts which fill the entire space between chromites; 3) the width and therefore volume of the rims decreases away from the oikocrysts; and 4) the euhedral shape of the chromites is not altered. It seems most likely that the enveloping rims are skeletal outgrowths from the poikilitic crystals with which they are connected, and that the magma was unable to supply enough of the constituent to fill the interstices completely.

Distribution of the interprecipitate material

In most rocks of the Ultramafic zone, the interstitial material is evenly distributed along the plane of the layering, and ranges in volume from less than a percent in the uncommon rocks where secondary enlargement is nearly complete, to 50 percent in an abnormally porous chromitite with no secondary enlargement. Exceptions to the rule of even distribution of interstitial material occur in the clotted chromitites, where secondary enlargement is irregularly developed, and in some poikilitic harzburgites, which contain relatively large quantities of bronzite formed by reaction.

The mineralogy and distribution of interstitial material varies with the amount of oriented overgrowth on settled crystals, and because of this they also vary areally and stratigraphically. Rocks in which the settled crystals have been considerably enlarged after deposition do not have interstitial minerals with characteristic poikilitic textures. Oikocrysts become progressively smaller as enlargement increases until, in nearly monomineralic rocks the interstitial constituents are confined to single widely spaced interstices, and are not in contact or in optical continuity. Presumably this restriction of poikilitic development is caused by cementation and consequent closing the throats of interstices, thus decreasing the permeability of the mush.

The character of the interstitial material also varies independently with change in mineralogy of the settled crystals and with stratigraphic position. The variation of the character of interstitial material with change in mineralogy of settled crystals seems the most fundamental, and for this reason the descriptions will be considered separately for the various rock types. The mineralogy of these rocks is summarized in table 8.

Poikilitic harzburgites.--The settled constituents of poikilitic harzburgites are olivine and accessory chromite; the recognized interstitial constituents are bronzite, plagioclase, augite, and very minor amounts of biotite. Quartz has not been observed. Interprecipitate olivine occurs where settled crystals have been secondarily enlarged.

Bronzite invariably occurs in poikilitic crystals partially replacing included olivines in amounts up to 58 percent. In some bronzite oikocrysts the amount of replacement seems constant throughout, but in others olivine is more highly resorbed in the central part of the bronzite oikocrysts. Augite is present only in extremely minor amounts in many poikilitic harzburgites, and it is nearly always subordinate in amount to bronzite. Its most general form of occurrence is as minute grains in the cusps or throats of interstices occupied largely by strongly zoned plagioclase. In rocks where augite is slightly more abundant, it also occurs in poikilitic crystals very much smaller than, and generally located between, bronzite oikocrysts in the same rock. Poikilitic augite partially replaces olivine, but to a lesser extent than bronzite does. In a few layers augite is nearly as abundant as bronzite and the rocks are properly poikilitic lherzolites. In these rocks augite occurs in oikocrysts the same size as those of bronzite, and spaced equally with them throughout the rock. Microscopic examination shows that the central part of each augite oikocryst of this type contains irregular isolated inclusions of uniformly oriented bronzite (pl. 19C). Apparently, therefore, the augite in these rocks is in part formed at the expense of bronzite which had previously crystallized from the interprecipitate magma. Bronzite and augite oikocrysts in individual poikilitic harzburgites tend to have equal size and roughly equidistant spacing along the strike of the layers.

Plagioclase fills the interstices between pyroxene oikocrysts, and, for the most part, occurs as small grains occupying a single interstice or as small poikilitic grains including, in section, 3 or 4 olivine crystals. The poikilitic grains are generally larger near the centers of the areas of plagioclase in the specimen, that is, at some distance from the pyroxene oikocrysts. Scattered throughout the area of interstitial plagioclase, but generally concentrated near the margins of pyroxene oikocrysts, are small pockets of plagioclase which occupy single interstices or parts of interstices, and which are characterized by extreme zoning (pl. 20A). In most poikilitic harzburgites interstitial pyroxene is about 3 times more abundant than plagioclase, but examples in which plagioclase is dominant are known. The problem of estimating the proportions is greatly complicated by the extremely large grain size of the bronzite oikocrysts; in some rocks a representative mode would involve an area of about 75 square feet.

Biotite generally occurs within the pockets of strongly zoned plagioclase, either along the wall of an interstice in contact with olivine or adjacent to chromite grains, if these are present (pl. 19D). It commonly occurs in single tablets 0.5 to 1.0 mm diameter and 0.05 to 0.1 mm thick, so that the entire crystal commonly is confined within a single interstice. Development of larger poikilitic crystals which cross several interstices are not common, occurring only in poikilitic harzburgites where mica is abnormally abundant. Rarely, however, mica plates cut transversely across boundaries between plagioclase and olivine, and have apparently formed by replacement of both minerals. A small percentage of chromite crystals

Plate 20. Photomicrographs of final interprecipitate crystallization products in rocks of the Ultramafic zone.

A. Granular harzburgite with pockets of plagioclase characterized by extreme zoning. The two noses of augite which extend into the interstice at left center of photograph are also zoned. ol = olivine; br = bronzite; aug = augite; pc = plagioclase. Crossed nicols.

B. Interstitial quartz in bronzitite. Note that nearly all quartz-filled interstices contain some biotite near their margins. m = biotite; q = quartz; other symbols as above. Crossed nicols.

C. Grossularite-pyrope associated with quartz in bronzitite. Two crystals within interstitial quartz are illustrated. g = grossularite-pyrope; other symbols as above. Crossed nicols.

D. Grossularite-pyrope associated with plagioclase in bronzitite. Garnet is partially replacing bronzite. Note suggestions of dodecahedral shapes. Symbols as above. Crossed nicols.

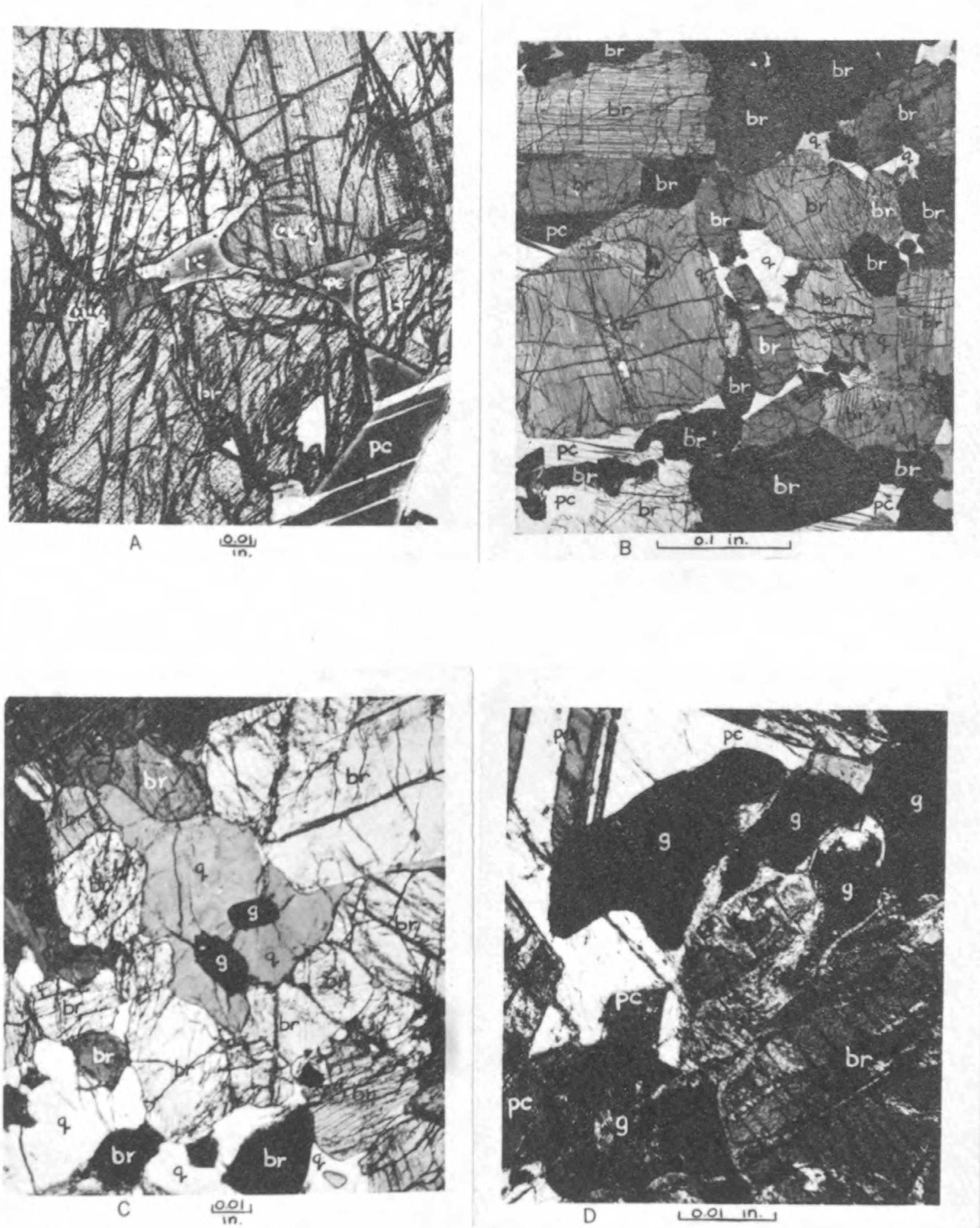


PLATE 20

in contact with mica are serrate at the margins (see pl. 19D) and small volumes of chromite are replaced.

Granular harzburgites.--The settled constituents of granular harzburgites are olivine, bronzite, and accessory chromite; the interstitial constituents are plagioclase, augite, bronzite, and accessory biotite. Quartz has not been observed. Variable amounts of interprecipitate olivine and bronzite occur where these minerals have been secondarily enlarged.

In the upper parts of granular harzburgite layers, where settled bronzite is equal to or exceeds olivine in volume, the bronzites tend to be euhedral toward plagioclase even where they are secondarily enlarged, (pl. 11A; 11C). In the lower parts of granular harzburgites, however, where olivine is more abundant than bronzite, the bronzites are irregular, generally terminating in cuspoid shapes controlled by surrounding crystals (pl. 18B). Such bronzites have interference boundaries where they are in contact with plagioclase, and have grown out to replace partly the neighboring olivines. These relations are interpreted to indicate that in olivine-rich granular harzburgites settled bronzites continued to grow after deposition until joined by plagioclase, filling interstices between and partly replacing settled olivines, whereas in the bronzite-rich granular harzburgites, bronzite enlargement was essentially completed before plagioclase crystallized, and no interstitial bronzite occurs in the rock.

Chrome augite typically occurs in small poikilitic crystals or in grains filling one or two interstices between settled crystals, with oikocrysts more commonly developed in the bronzite-rich granular harzburgites. Margins of included settled silicates are partially replaced, bronzite to a greater extent than olivine (pl. 12C). In rocks where oikocrysts are developed, the augite grains tend to have nearly equal size and spacing along the strike of the layering. Augite also occurs independently in minute grains in the cusps or throats of many interstices occupied by plagioclase, accompanied, in some rocks, by mica. The plagioclase adjacent to these small augite crystals commonly is strongly zoned, and the areas are interpreted as pockets of relatively late crystallization.

Plagioclase distribution is much like that in poikilitic harzburgites. It occurs in single grains and small poikilitic crystals, which are generally larger away from augite oikocrysts; pockets of fine-grained, highly zoned plagioclase are also scattered throughout the rocks. In granular harzburgites plagioclase is considerably more abundant than interstitial pyroxene.

Biotite is much less abundant in granular harzburgites than poikilitic harzburgites, and cannot be detected at all in 2 by 2 inch thin sections of many specimens. Where observed it does not form poikilitic crystals, but occurs as tiny tablets, generally within areas of strongly zoned plagioclase.

Bronzitites.--The settled constituents of bronzitites are bronzite and, in a few rocks, a little chromite; the observed interstitial constituents are plagioclase, augite, biotite, quartz, and extremely minor amounts of grossularite-pyrope. Of the interstitial constituents only plagioclase and augite are ubiquitous. Biotite is spottily developed throughout the Ultramafic zone, but quartz and grossularite-pyrope, which generally occur together, occur only in the Basal zone and in the upper part of the Bronzitite member.

In most specimens augite occurs in poikilitic crystals replacing included bronzites in amounts up to 85 percent. As with bronzite oikocrysts in poikilitic harzburgites, augite commonly replaces larger amounts of bronzite near the center and lesser amounts near the edge of the oikocrysts. Poikilitic crystals of augite tend to have nearly equal size and spacing along the strike of the layers. Augite also occurs as thin selvages on bronzite in the throats and cusps of some interstices occupied by plagioclase.

Plagioclase distribution in bronzitites is identical with that of the harzburgites. It is invariably more abundant than interstitial pyroxene.

Biotite is even less abundant in bronzitites than granular harzburgites, and, where present, is generally associated with strongly zoned plagioclase, as in the other rock types.. Generally it is confined to the interstices between settled bronzites but, in some cases, it has replaced the pre-existing minerals.

Quartz occurs in clear, internally homogeneous single grains or in small poikilitic crystals scattered throughout bronzitite layers (pl. 20B) and it is generally closely asociated with biotite. Like biotite, quartz is slightly more abundant near the margins of pyroxene oikocrysts, but maintains a fairly even distribution through the rock even where it is an extremely minor constituent. Where quartz occurs in amounts less than about 0.5 percent, it shares the corners of interstices with strongly zoned plagioclase; where more abundant, it fills entire interstices. Quartz seems to be entirely space filling, and has not been observed with replacement relations.

Very minor amounts of grossularite-pyrope garnet have been observed in six specimens of quartz-bearing bronzitite. In thin section the mineral is colorless, locally very weakly birefringent with sectoral extinction, and in places has suggestions of dodecahedral boundaries. Other physical properties of the garnet were difficult to obtain because of the extreme scarcity of the mineral in the rocks in which it occurs. About one-quarter of a gram of material containing roughly 10 percent garnet and altered garnet was obtained from a two-pound sample of bronzitite by hand panning in methlyene iodide. Garnet grains in this concentrate were pale pink to pale amber in color, and varied in refractive index between 1.73 and 1.755, with single grains commonly variable over much of this range. Unit cell size calculated from X-ray diffraction patterns proved to be 11.74 $\pm$ .04 Ångstrom units. Average values of n and a_o plotted on Sriramadas' (1957, p. 294-298) determinative diagrams reveal two possible compositions: grossularite 70 pyrope 20 almandite 10, and grossularite 60 pyrope 30 andradite 10. Winchell's (1958, p. 595-600) diagrams confirm these two alternatives and add a third: grossularite 65 pyrope 20 spessartite 15. While the physical properties do not provide a definitive composition, it seems clear that in first approximation, the garnet is predominantly grossularite, with subordinate pyrope. The grossularite-pyrope is closely associated with quartz, either occurring in 0.2 to 0.6 mm subhedral crystals within it (pl. 20C) or in plagioclase near quartz concentrations. In some instances the garnet is concentrated at the contacts between plagioclase and settled bronzite, with its boundaries partially controlled by the outlines of the bronzite and partially replacing it (pl. 20D). The textures, mineral associations, and stratigraphic distribution of this mineral are strong evidence for its occurrence as a primary constituent in the Ultramafic zone.

Chromitites.--The interstitial constituents of chromitites include bronzite, augite, olivine, plagioclase, and small amounts of mica. Quartz and garnet have not been observed.

Olivine occurs as an interstitial mineral only in about one-half of the chromitites examined. Where it does occur, it is commonly in small poikilitic crystals. Chromitites containing interstitial olivine commonly also contain both pyroxenes, and the amount of olivine may exceed or be less than total pyroxene. In some chromitites interstitial olivine is separated from plagioclase by a shell of bronzite that commonly replaces the olivine near its periphery, but in a few chromitites interstitial olivine is directly in contact with the feldspar.

Bronzite and augite are apparently absent in a few chromitites, but not simultaneously. Where present, bronzite occurs in about one-half inch diameter evenly spaced poikilitic crystals, filling space between chromites without evidence of replacement. Augite typically occurs in irregular oikocrysts either rimming or partially enclosing poikilitic bronzites, with replacement textures where the two minerals are in contact (pl. 21A). As in the silicate rocks augite is also found in tiny grains in corners of interstices. The two pyroxenes generally occur together, and, in most rocks, in nearly equal amounts, although rocks with either in excess are known.

Plagioclase in chromitites, although not appreciably different in grain size from that in silicate layers, is almost invariably poikilitic because of the relatively fine grain size of included chromite crystals. As in silicate layers, plagioclase occurs between the sharply defined pyroxene oikocrysts, but in chromitites, the size of the plagioclase oikocrysts commonly is nearly the same as poikilitic crystals of bronzite and augite. Most commonly plagioclase is about one-half as abundant as total interstitial ferromagnesian minerals, but layers are known where, at least locally, plagioclase is well in excess of total bronzite, augite, and olivine. In a few chromitites, plagioclase is apparently absent.

Biotite is relatively abundant in chromitites. Traces can be found in nearly all specimens and, in a few rocks, concentrations up to nearly two percent have been observed. As in the silicate layers, biotite occurs as tiny crystals between settled chromites, and, much less commonly, as small poikilitic plates. Generally, mica is associated with strongly zoned plagioclase, and locally replaces edges of contiguous chromites.

<u>Olivine chromitites and poikilitic chromite harzburgites</u>.--The interstitial constituents of rocks containing mixtures of settled olivine and chromite are bronzite, augite, plagioclase,

and biotite. Of these, only bronzite is invariably present.

The proportions and distribution of interstitial minerals in these rocks are more similar to those of poikilitic harzburgites than chromitites. Olivine does not occur as an interstitial mineral but does surround some chromite as a consequence of secondary enlargement of settled olivine. Bronzite, which commonly occurs in 1- to 2-inch oikocrysts partially replacing olivine and surrounding large numbers of chromites, is considerably more abundant than augite or plagioclase. Where present, augite occurs as in chromitites, but is much less abundant and is absent in a few specimens.

Plagioclase occurs in very small poikilitic crystals, and is confined to the chromite-rich part of the rock between olivine crystals. Plagioclase is less abundant in olivine chromitites and poikilitic chromite harzburgites than in any other rock types in the Ultramafic zone, and was not found in about one-third of the specimens examined.

Biotite occurs with strongly zoned plagioclase in chromite-rich parts of the rocks, and is less abundant than in either chromitites or poikilitic harzburgites.

Stratigraphic distribution.--As is apparent from the foregoing descriptions, the mineralogy, texture, and proportions of the interstitial constituents are strongly dependent on the character of the settled minerals present. Because the settled minerals tend to be regularly disposed in cycles, the interstitial minerals have, to the same extent, a cyclic stratigraphic variation. Thus, poikilitic bronzite is an important constituent of the poikilitic harzburgites in the lower parts of the cyclic units; it decreases in abundance in the lower part of the granular harzburgite layer in the central part of the unit, and is completely absent from the upper half where settled bronzite becomes an abundant mineral. Augite has a reciprocal distribution, being generally of minor importance in poikilitic harzburgites, increasing in size and abundance in the upper part of granular harzburgites, and reaching maximum development in the bronzitites at the stratigraphic tops of the cycles. Plagioclase is ubiquitous, but the plagioclase-interstitial pyroxene ratio increases markedly upward in the cyclic unit. Although concentrations of mica in excess of three percent in any rock have not been observed, it is nevertheless more abundant in the lower parts of cycles than in the upper.

Several anomalous stratigraphic variations in distribution of interstitial minerals between cycles have been observed. In the western half of the complex, augite is abnormally abundant in the harzburgites immediately above the cyclic unit 2 chromitite layer in the lower middle part of the Periodotite member. In this poikilitic harzburgite (properly a feldspathic lherzolite) augite and bronzite occur in nearly equal amounts;

in the overlying granular harzburgite augite also occurs in greater than normal abundance. A second anomaly occurs in the lower half of the Periodotite member in the West Fork section, where plagioclase is unusually scarce, and the plagioclase-interstitial pyroxene ratio is exceptionally low. The chromitites in this area contain abundant interstitial olivine and little or no plagioclase. A third anomalous stratigraphic variation concerns the distribution of quartz and grossularite-pyrope, which have been observed only in the upper two-thirds of the Bronzitite member, and in the bronzitites of the Basal zone. Neither mineral has been found in rocks containing settled olivine or chromite, nor have they been observed in bronzitites within the Peridotite member. Where present in the Bronzitite member neither mineral exceeds one-tenth percent by volume; in the Basal zone grossularite-pyrope similarly does not occur in measurable amounts, but quartz is present in amounts up to 5 percent. Quartz apparently occurs alone in some of these bronzitites, but grossularite-pyrope is found only in bronzitites that contain some quartz.

Discussion.--Several deductions concerning the order of crystallization in the interprecipitate magma can be made on the basis of mineral distribution. As previously pointed out, the idiomorphism of crystal faces on secondarily enlarged settled crystals contiguous to interstitial minerals indicates that enlargement was essentially complete before crystallization of the interstitial phases. This is not true, however, of bronzite enlargement in olivine-rich granular harzburgite, where the outer margins of enlarged bronzite crystals partially replace contiguous olivines, and interfere with plagioclase. Interstitial bronzite in these rocks does not form new centers of crystallization as it does in the poikilitic harzburgites immediately below, but adds on to settled crystals, and continues to crystallize with plagioclase.

It is apparent from textures in the chromitites that the reaction replacement of settled olivine by interstitial bronzite continues to occur between these two minerals even where both are interstitial constituents, and thus crystallization of interstitial olivine must cease before bronzite can appear. Similarly, in the poikilitic harzburgites where both augite and bronzite appear as interstitial constituents, there is abundant evidence that augite occurs in part as a replacement of bronzite. A reaction, rather than cotectic, relationship between these minerals therefore continues in the interprecipitate magma, and interstitial bronzite ceased crystallizing prior to deposition of augite.

When plagioclase began to precipitate in the crystallization sequence of the interstitial magma is not entirely clear. In chromitites containing interstitial olivine, the olivine apparently finished crystallizing prior to the appearance of feldspar, but both pyroxenes in these rocks show mutually interfering boundaries with plagioclase. In poikilitic harzburgites the bronzite oikocrysts control the textures by their even-spaced poikilitic development, and it seems likely that bronzite began to crystallize prior to plagioclase. The same argument suggests that augite in bronzitites began crystallization before feldspar. In rocks that contain both augite and bronzite as interstitial constituents, the bronzites have interference boundaries with plagioclase, indicating that feldspar must have begun to crystallize before augite.

The pockets of strongly zoned plagioclase and isolated augite grains in all of the rock types suggests that augite and plagioclase were the final crystallization products of the interstitial magma throughout the section, and their association with biotite, quartz, and grossularite-pyrope indicates that they were joined, in some rocks, by these new mineral phases.

On the basis of foregoing observations on shape, distribution, and mutual relations, diagrammatic sequences of crystallization for the principal rock types are presented in figure 29.

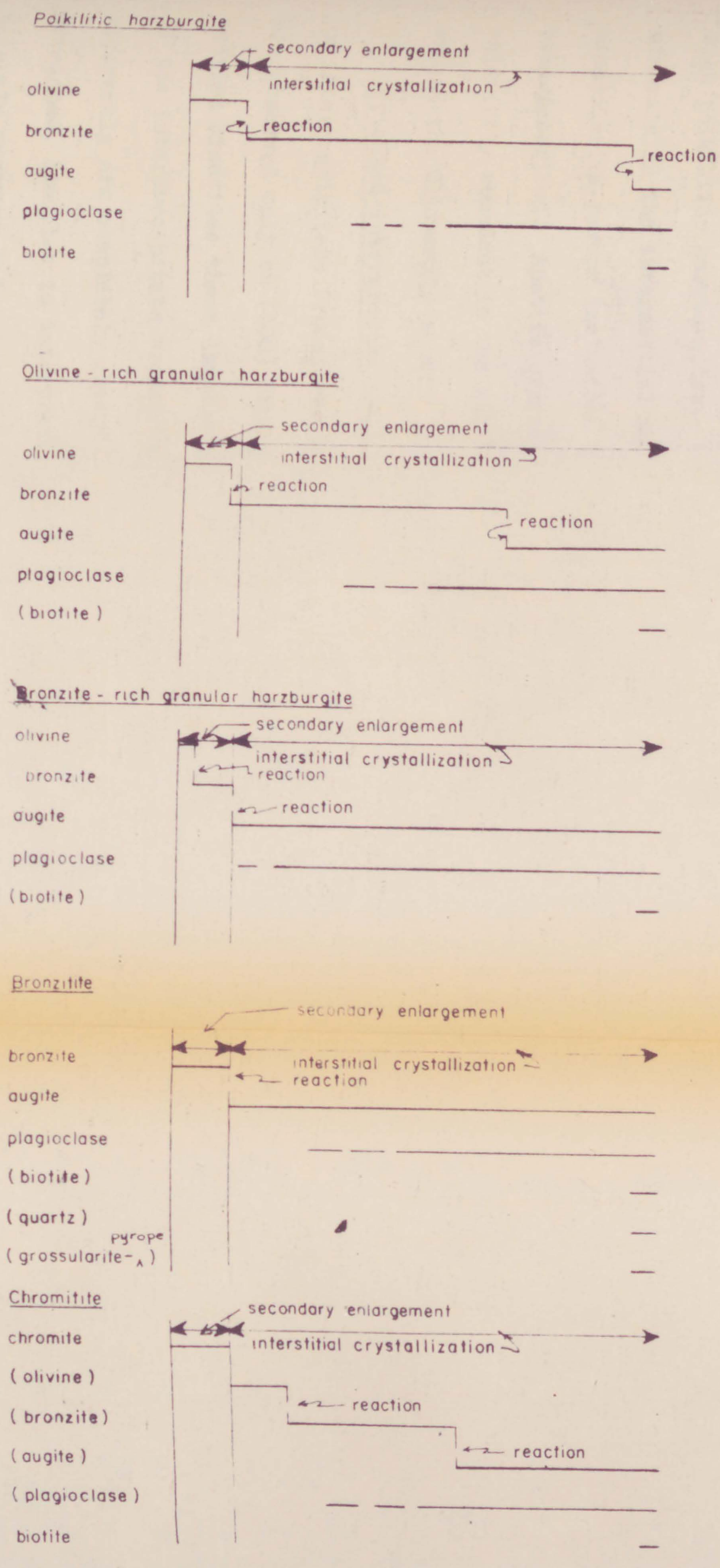


Fig. 29. Diagrammatic illustrations of order of crystallization from the interprecipitate magma (brackets indicate minerals not invariably present)

Internal character of the interprecipitate material

Inclusions.--Settled crystals excepted, primary inclusions in interstitial minerals are rare. One example of inclusions of previously formed interstitial material has been described: uniformly oriented bronzite occurs in augite in a few augite-rich poikilitic harzburgites. Minor inclusions of accessory minerals in the interstitial material are even less common. Grossularite-pyrope inclusions in quartz and plagioclase have been described. Apatite crystals in plagioclase, although relatively abundant in the chilled border rocks, are not common within the Ultramafic zone.

Oriented intergrowths.--Clinopyroxene exsolution lamellae in interprecipitate bronzites, like those of settled bronzites, are observed only on (100) crystal planes of the host. In settled bronzites these lamallae are ubiquitous; in portions of the interprecipitate bronzites, however, the lamellae apparently are completely absent. Even where they are well developed, lamellae in interprecipitate bronzites tend to be slightly narrower and more widely spaced than those of settled crystals.

The lamellae of bronzites that occur as euhedral settled crystals in granular harzburgites and bronzitites commonly extend all the way to the outer margin of the grain and pinch out sharply. In rocks where settled bronzites have been secondarily enlarged, however, the lamellae begin to die out at considerable distances from the margin, leaving an outer shell of nonlamellar bronzite (pl. 21B). In most grains this outer shell of clear bronzite is zoned, but in a few grains the bronzite appears to be in perfect optical continuity throughout the entire grain.

The lamellae of bronzite that occurs as an interstitial mineral in poikilitic harzburgites and some granular harzburgites are most commonly continuous throughout the grain and pinch out sharply at the grain margins and around inclusions of olivine. In many rocks, however, lamellae are absent from zoned portions of the interstitial bronzite, and these clear areas are commonly concentrated near the margins of the poikilitic crystals and in narrow rims around included settled crystals (pl. 21C). In a very few layers interstitial bronzite has poorly developed, irregularly distributed lamellae throughout. The absence of lamellae in certain portions of interprecipitate bronzite must be related either to migration of the exsolved material during exsolution, or to a deficiency of diopside molecule in the original crystallization product, inasmuch as the plutonic environment precludes retention of diopside molecule due to rapid cooling. Lime deficiencies in parts of the interprecipitate bronzites could occur in two ways: 1) by crystallization of the nonlamellar bronzite in a lime-free environment as proposed

Plate 21. Photomicrographs of textures of interprecipitate minerals in the Ultramafic zone.

A. Interstitial augite replacing interstitial bronzite in chromitite. Black grains are chromite. Tongues of augite extending into bronzite are zoned. br = bronzite; aug = augite; pc = plagioclase. Crossed nicols.

B. Clinopyroxene lamellae in secondary enlarged bronzite crystal. Lamellae die out at considerable distances from the margin. Bronzite is zoned; in photograph darker (more iron-rich) at margin. br = bronzite. Crossed nicols.

C. Clinopyroxene lamellae in interprecipitate bronzite. Lamellae continue to margins of some included olivines, but die out considerable distances from others. Absence of lamellae corresponds with maximum zoning. ol = olivine; br = bronzite. Crossed nicols.

D. Orthopyroxene lamellae in interprecipitate augite. Lamellae die out in areas of extreme zoning. Symbols as above. Crossed nicols.

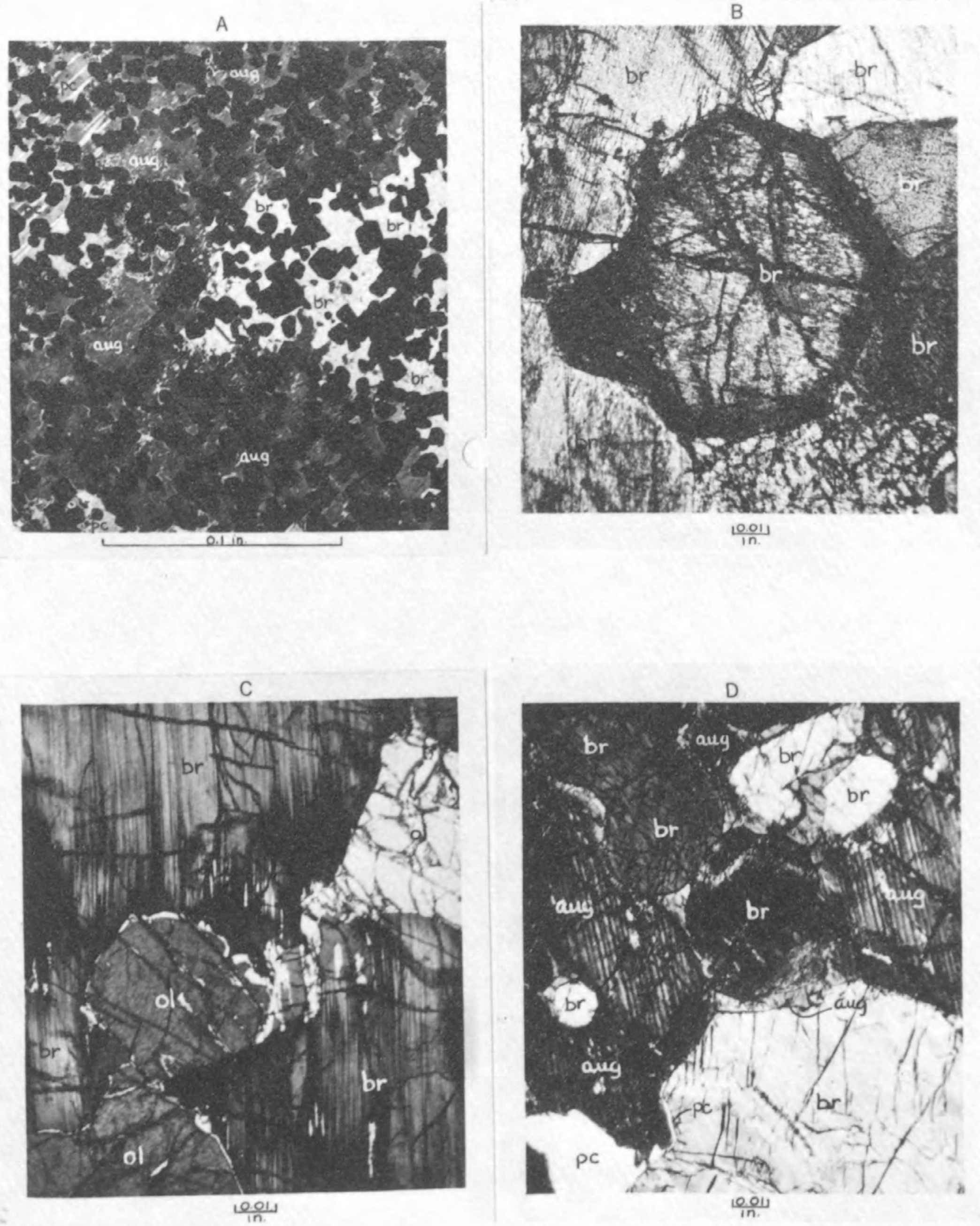

A
pc
aug
aug
br
br
br
aug
br
aug
pc
0.1 in.
B
br
br
br
br
br
0.01 in.
C
br
ol
br
br
ol
0.01 in.
D
br
aug
br
br
br
aug
aug
br
br
aug
aug
pc
br
pc
0.01 in.

PLATE 21

by Walker (1940, p. 1090) to explain similar bronzites in the Palisades diabase; or 2) by crystallization at low magma temperatures where diopsidic material is less soluble in orthopyroxene, as proposed by Hess and Phillips (1940, p. 282-283). Hess and Phillips' explanation is favored because plagioclase is almost invariably present in the final crystallization product. It is also possible that exsolution began near the centers of bronzite grains and that exsolved material moved from the margins toward the centers during this process as proposed by Brown (1957, p. 521, 528) to explain similar relations in inverted pigeonites from the Skaergaard intrusion, but this hypothesis does not explain the general association of absence of lamellae with zoning.

Narrow orthopyroxene lamellae are abundantly developed on the (100) plane of interstitial augite, and these pinch out sharply at grain boundaries and around inclusions in the same manner as do clinopyroxene lamellae in bronzite. Exsolution plates on (001) of augite, indicating primary exsolution of pigeonite, have not been observed. Augite oikocrysts tend to be peripherally zoned, and the outer margins of these zoned crystals are generally free of lamellae. On oikocrysts oriented perpendicular to Y of augite, where zoning can be observed by change in interference colors, the lamellae become progressively less abundant and more poorly developed in areas of increasing birefringence (pl. 21D).

The absence of lamellae from the outer parts of many augite oikocrysts is probably due to a deficiency of orthopyroxene molecule in the original crystallization product. Again, relatively low temperatures during the final stages of consolidation of the rocks would decrease the solubility of the orthopyroxene molecule in augite, and explain the distribution of lamellae-free areas.

Zoning.--Compositional zoning in settled crystals is not at all common; in contrast, the interprecipitate minerals characteristically show well-developed compositional variation.

The secondarily enlarged outer peripheries of some settled crystals show minor continuous compositional changes, and these seem to be related to the amount of overgrowth which has occurred. In a few bronzitites and dunites characterized by xenomorphic texture, the margins of bronzites and olivines become gradually more iron-rich outward, especially where the amount of enlargement has been relatively great (pl. 21B). Where the amount of enlargement has been relatively small, constitutent grains of olivine and bronzite are homogeneous in composition throughout. Zoning in secondarily enlarged outer margins of chromites has not been observed, either in transmitted or reflected light.

Smoothly gradational, non-oscillatory zoning is well developed in interstitial plagioclase, augite, and bronzite. In areas where plagioclase grains are confined to single interstices the most calcic portion of the grain generally lies adjacent to a settled crystal forming part of the boundary, and the feldspar becomes more sodic toward the opposite side of the interstice. In some specimens, however, the more sodic part lies in the center of the interstice (pl. 20A). The pattern of compositional change in larger, poikilitic plagioclases is more complex. In these, the most calcic portion commonly lies adjacent to one of the included settled crystals, or in narrow areas between two adjacent settled crystals, located near the center of the oikocryst. Plagioclase of intermediate composition surrounds the calcic portion and fills the central parts of nearby interstices. The most sodic plagioclase surrounds the intermediate portion and thus lies adjacent to most of the settled crystals included within the plagioclase oikocryst.

The zoning pattern of poikilitic augites is similar to that of poikilitic plagioclases. Small but continuous increases in birefringence, 2V, and extinction angle occur roughly concentrically outward from the center of the augite oikocrysts, accompanied by similar increases around the margins of many of the included settled crystals. The magnesium-poor zones at the edges of the oikocrysts and around settled crystals are commonly characterized by absence of orthopyroxene lamellae. Zoning of augite oikocrysts around settled crystals is about equally developed in chromitites, where augite is essentially space-filling, and in bronzitites and harzburgites, where augite occurs partly at the expense of bronzite or olivine. In the latter case, zoning follows the embayed boundaries of the partially replaced chadacrysts.

Bronzite oikocrysts appear to be considerably more uniform in composition than those of augite, but weak enrichment of iron near the extreme margins and surrounding settled inclusions can be detected in many individuals.

If the advance of crystallization of poikilitic crystals of plagioclase and pyroxene was outward from the center, as indicated by their distribution and mutual boundaries, then the general concentric compositional distribution indicates a soda and iron enrichment outward during growth. The secondary pattern of zoning around many of the settled inclusions may indicate that, once inaugurated, crystallization advanced more rapidly through the central portions of the interstices, so that crystallization lagged immediately adjacent to inclusions.

The absence of zoning in settled crystals has been interpreted as indicating growth of these crystals while suspended in a large volume of magma; the prevalence of zoned interstitial minerals is believed to be a result of growth from small volumes of trapped or partially trapped magma surrounding the settled crystals. The consequence of this entrapment is differentiation on a small scale, and it is interesting to note that the general chemical direction of differentiation of the complex as a whole is presaged in the interstices of its stratigraphically lowest layers.

Size and size distribution of poikilitic crystals

The grain size range within the interstitial material is extreme compared with that of settled crystals in the same rocks. In many poikilitic harzburgites that contain settled olivines of a size range of about four Udden size grades, the sizes of single interstitial crystals range from bronzite oikocrysts 8 inches long to plagioclase crystals 0.004 inch in length. Despite this extreme size range, qualitiative variations in average grain dimensions can be observed, particularly when observations are confined to poikilitic crystals of one mineral in a particular rock type.

The size of poikilitic crystals is relatively constant along the layering plane, and several consistent variations occur across the layering. The size distribution of poikilitic crystals is influenced by stratigraphic position, and by the grain size and amount of secondary enlargement in settled crystals.

Maximum and minimum dimensions of oikocrysts were measured, whenever possible, in the field, and "average" dimensions and variability along the strike of layers were estimated at the same time. More refined descriptions of size and sorting were impractical because of the large crystal dimensions involved.

Grain size.--The occurrence and diameter ranges of poikilitic crystals of bronzite, augite, and plagioclase are summarized in table 9. The minimum observed diameters for all three minerals are arbitrary; each of the minerals occupies single interstices in some rocks, and 3/16 inch is about the minimum diameter at which a crystal can be said to be poikilitic.

Size distribution.--The most obvious feature of the size distribution of poikilitic crystals is that the size variation of oikocrysts along layers is less than half that across layers. Individual layers can therefore be characterized by "average" values for the sizes of their poikilitic crystals.

Study of stratigraphic variation in poikilitic crystals has been confined to bronzites in poikilitic harzburgites because they are easily observed in the field and because they have a relatively large size range. Within individual poikilitic harzburgite layers, no consistent variation in oikocryst size has been observed. In some layers bronzite oikocrysts increase in size from bottom to top; in others, size decreases from bottom to top; in most layers, no perceptible change occurs.

A rough overall variation in size of bronzite oikocrysts in poikilitic harzburgites throughout the Peridotite member seems to exist, and is illustrated in figure 30. In a general way, poikilitic harzburgite layers in the lower part of the

Table 9.--Diameters of poikilitic crystals in rocks of the Ultramafic zone.

Poikilitic mineral	Principal occurrence	Maximum observed diameter range (inches)	Normal diameter range (inches)
Bronzite	poikilitic harzburgite chromitite	3/16 - 15	3/4 - 4
Augite	granular harzburgite bronzitite chromitite	3/16 - $1\frac{1}{4}$	3/8 - 5/8
Plagioclase	all rock types in Ultramafic zone	3/16 - 8	3/8 - 5/8

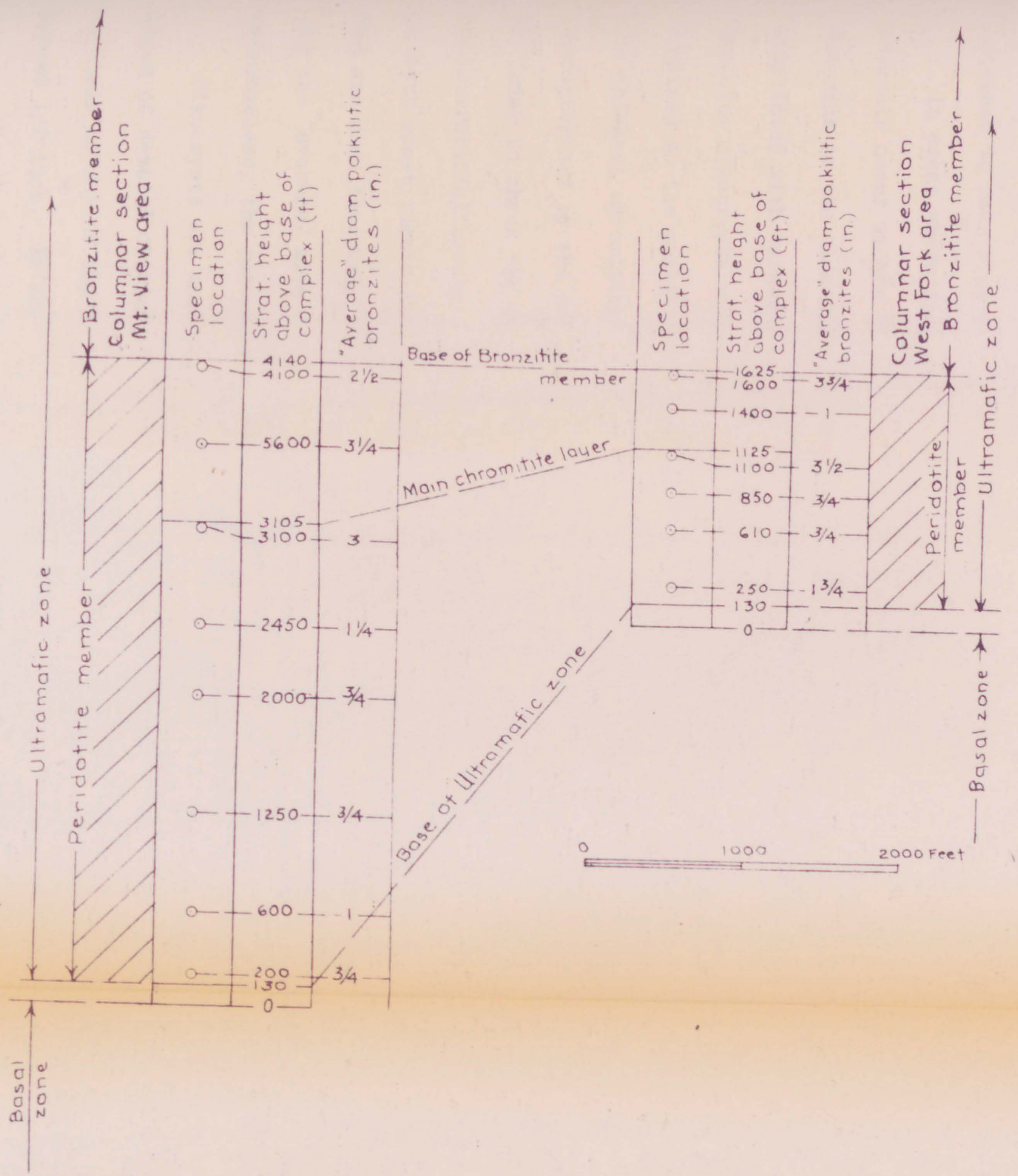


FIGURE 30. Stratigraphic distribution of diameters of bronzite oikocrysts in poikilitic harzburgite layers in the Mt. View and West Fork areas.

section contain smaller bronzite oikocrysts than do poikilitic harzburgites in the upper part. It has been noted that the settled olivine crystals in these poikilitic harzburgite layers increase in mean size in much the same way.

In areas where sharp breaks in size of settled olivine crystals occur within layers, the size of bronzite oikocrysts responds in the same direction, so that larger olivines are associated with larger oikocrysts, and vice versa (pl. 8B). Bronzite oikocrysts with diameters from 5 to 15 inches are largely confined to the poikilitic harzburgites immediately below the two thickest chromitite layers, and these harzburgites are also characterized by the extreme grain size of their settled olivine. In order to check the interdependence of size of settled olivines and interstitial bronzites in the same rocks, the average sizes of both constituents in 22 poikilitic harzburgites were measured and are simultaneously plotted in figure 31. Errors in determining the "average" size of oikocrysts are probably large, but nevertheless, the plot suggests a broad direct relationship.

Oikocrysts are smaller in chromitites than in layers composed of settled olivine or bronzite, and it is not common for crystals of any of the three principal poikilitic minerals to exceed 1/2 inch. In chromitites, bronzite and augite tend to occur in nearly equal-sized crystals.

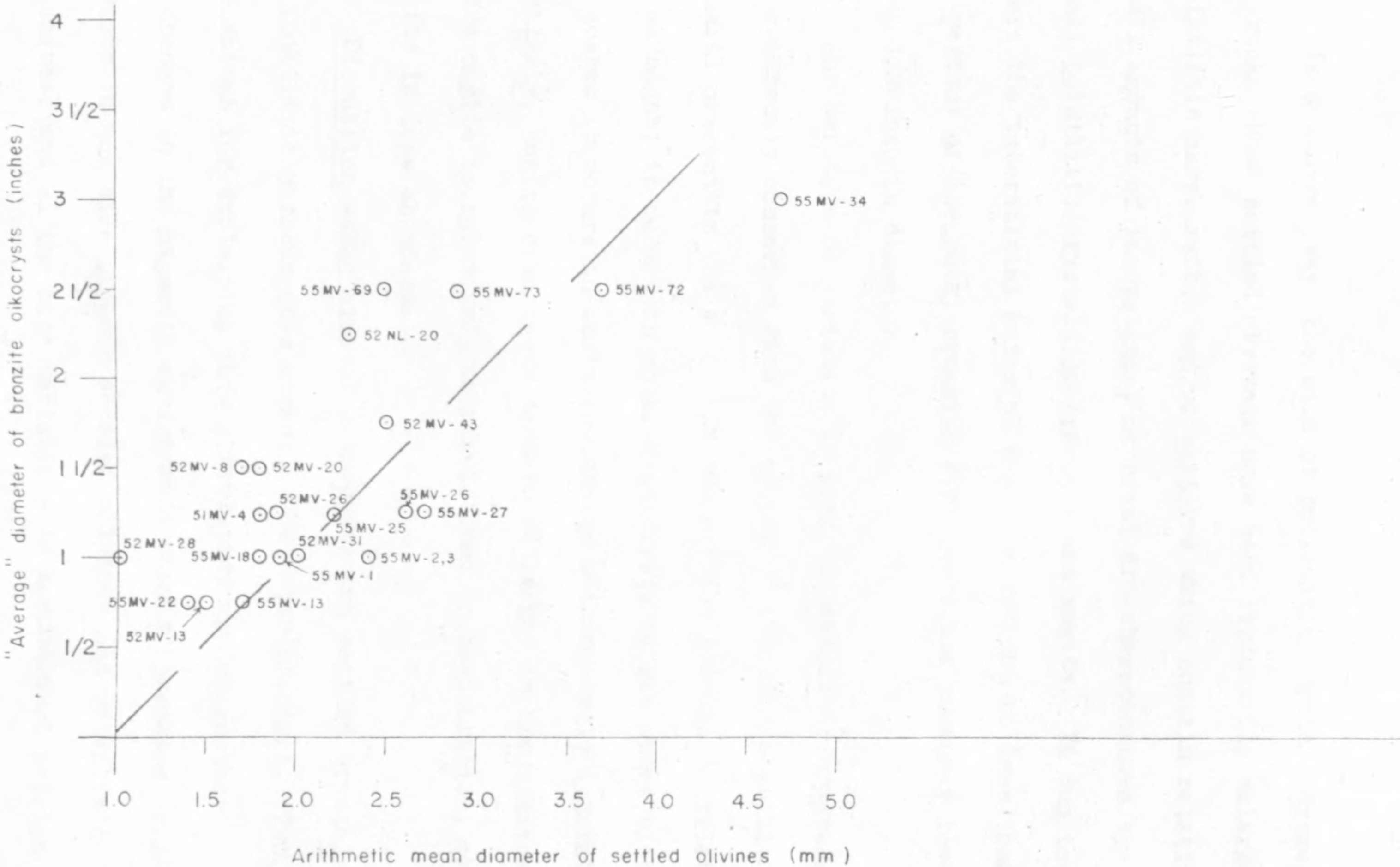


Fig. 31. Relation between size of settled olivines and size of poikilitic bronzites in 22 poikilitic harzburgites

In a general way, the size of poikilitic crystals decreases in rocks whose settled crystals have been secondarily enlarged. Poikilitic harzburgites and bronzitites which contain relatively small amounts of interstitial material are characterized by small poikilitic crystals of bronzite and augite. In dunites, where the interstitial material has been reduced to less than 10 percent of the rock, bronzite oikocrysts are commonly less than 1/2 inch in diameter.

Another type of variation in size of poikilitic crystals is apparently concerned with the amount of the interstitial mineral present in the rock. In rocks where biotite is relatively abundant, it occurs in poikilitic crystals, but where biotite is scarce it occurs in scattered grains within single interstices. Similarly, augite oikocrysts tend to be larger in bronzitites, where augite is relatively abundant, than in harzburgites, where augite is less abundant.

Discussion.--The size of oikocrysts and settled crystals in poikilitic harzburgites appear to be interdependent. Two mechanisms for explaining this correlation are suggested: 1) changes in the magmatic environment caused increases or decreases in the size of both settled olivines and poikilitic bronzites; and 2) the size variations in accumulated settled olivines caused size variations in bronzites by changes in the permeability of the crystal mush. The relative influence of these two mechanisms is not clear. The consistently small oikocrysts in the relatively fine-grained and hence relatively impermeable chromitites suggest that the physical properties of the mush had some influence on poikilitic development.

Two other factors apparently restrict the growth of poikilitic crystals: 1) secondary enlargement of settled crystals presumably limits size of poikilitic crystals by reducing the pore volume and permeability; and 2) the abundance of material available to form the poikilitic mineral limits its final attained size.

Orientation of poikilitic crystals

No statistical study of orientation of poikilitic crystals had been made because of their extreme dimensions. On the basis of qualitative observations, however, no strong or consistent optical or dimensional orientation is believed to exist.

No relation between the optical orientation of oikocrysts and the optical or dimensional orientation of settled crystals has been observed, even where there is a reaction relation between the two. Similarly, no relation between the optical orientation of oikocrysts and the layering plane have been observed. Cleavage reflections on poikilitic crystals within compositional layers are apparently random.

Except for the ellipsoidal dimensions of bronzite oikocrysts in a few chromitites described on p. 178, dimensional orientation in bronzite oikocrysts has not been observed.

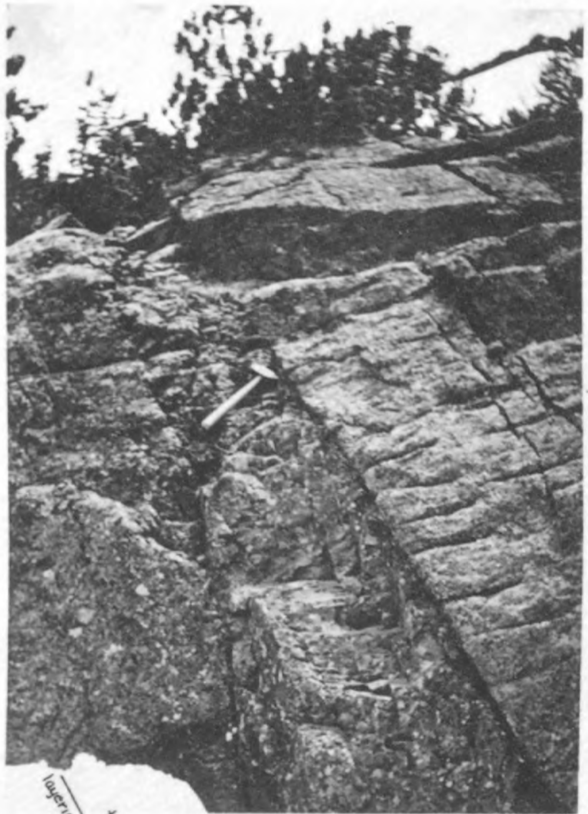
Development of dominant textures in the Ultramafic zone

The coarse granular textures and abundant examples of crystal settling in the Ultramafic zone may be attributed primarily to the extremely slow cooling of the thick intrusion, inasmuch as no abnormalities in composition or physical properties of the saturated basaltic parent magma are apparent. In the lower part of the Basal zone, where the effects of rapid cooling can be observed, the rocks are fine grained and the texture is generally ophitic (pl. 22A), pyroxene and plagioclase being present in about equal amounts. According to Walker (1957, p. 9), ophitic textures in rocks similar in composition to the Stillwater chilled gabbro indicate that both pyroxene and plagioclase began crystallization at a very early stage and continued to crystallize in ophitic relationship throughout the cooling history of the rock. Within the Basal zone above the chilled rocks, a rapid transition from ophitic to settled textures occurs, and the rocks consist of packed euhedral pyroxenes in a predominantly feldspar mesostasis. It is proposed that, in the Stillwater complex, this texture indicates primary precipitation, settling, and burial of bronzite prior to interprecipitate crystallization of plagioclase.

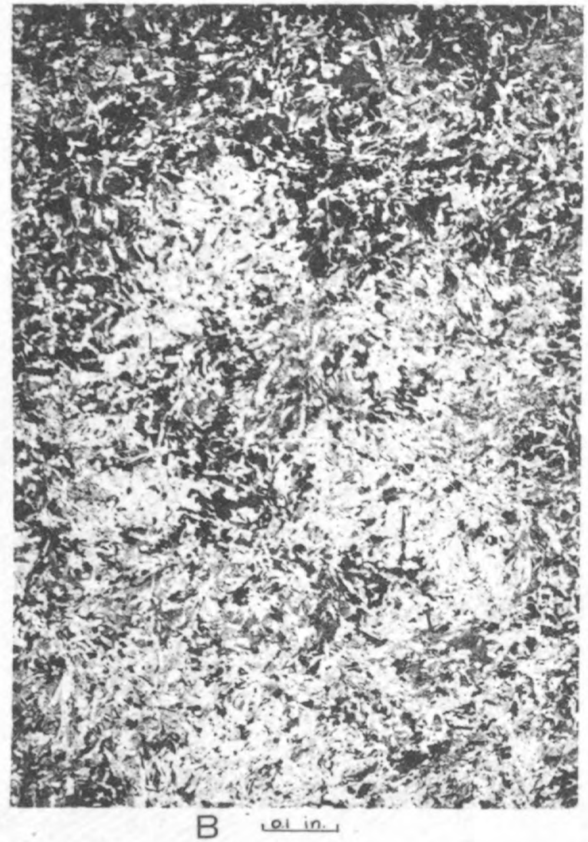
Plate 22. Illustrations of ophitic texture in the chilled gabbro and layering in the Ultramafic zone.

A. Photomicrograph of chilled gabbro at base of the Stillwater complex. Texture is ophitic; plagioclase laths make up about half the specimen, ophitic hypersthene and augite the remainder. Crossed nicols.

B. Photograph of contact between poikilitic harzburgite (at left) and granular harzburgite (at right). The rocks are nearly identical in grain size. Olivine is the only settled constituent in the poikilitic harzburgite; settled bronzite and olivine occur in about equal amounts in the granular harzburgite.



A



B

PLATE 22

The Ultramafic zone is characterized throughout by settled textures in which the primary precipitate and the interprecipitate material can generally be distinguished. Modifications of simple settled-interstitial relations have, however, occurred throughout the zone, and the dominant textures range from automorphic-poikilitic to xenomorphic. Rocks with minor secondary enlargement have interposition fabrics in which the settled crystals are euhedra or partially resorbed euhedra, and the interstitial material is largely poikilitic. Rocks with much secondary enlargement have mosaic fabrics, and contain little or no interstitial material. All gradations between these two textural extremes occur.

The wide range of textural variation is caused by the behavior of the interprecipitate magma: in those parts of the crystal mush where this magma has crystallized constituents different from the settled crystals, textures are dominantly automorphic-poikilitic; where the magma crystallized material of the same composition as the settled constituents, textures are xenomorphic. In many rocks, where the interprecipitate magma has partially crystallized as enlargements on settled crystals and partially crystallized as different phases, the textures are best described as hypautomorphic-poikilitic or intergranular.

Automorphic-poikilitic textures.--Rocks composed predominantly of euhedral settled crystals are accompanied by poikilitic mesostasis textures. Such textures are common in each of the rock types of the Ultramafic zone except dunite (pl. 15A; 16A; and 19A), but are perhaps best exemplified by chromitites because of the absence of resorption effects between precipitate and interstitial material. In rocks where resorption textures are marked, particularly in poikilitic harzgurgites, the automorphic character of the settled crystals is partially destroyed, but only those crystals which lie within the boundaries of the poikilitic reaction product are affected, and the other settled crystals in the rock retain their euhedral character. Automorphic-poikilitic textures are most abundant in the stratigraphically thickest sections of the Ultramafic zone.

The euhedral nature of the settled crystals is attributed to their uninhibited crystallization in a large volume of free magma, and the preservation of their euhedral forms is a result of the failure of the interprecipitate magma to crystallize large amounts of material of the same composition as the settled crystals, or to react with the crystals to form other minerals. Secondary enlargement was not effective in completely filling the interstices between settled crystals where burial was too rapid for diffusion to be operative between the main magma and the interprecipitate magma. The trapped interstitial liquid was therefore incapable of supplying much material of the same composition as the settled crystals, and proceeded to differentiate in place, giving rise to new minerals.

The absence of secondary enlargement in these rocks produced buried crystal mushes characterized by both high porosity and permeability. As a result, poikilitic crystallization of the mesostasis minerals was favored, and the rocks are characterized by large volumes of coarse-grained interstitial material. Crystallization and differentiation in the trapped magma proceeded independently of, but in the same direction as, that of the free magma, and the interstices were filled with minerals not encountered as primary precipitates until much later in the crystallization history.

Hypautomorphic textures.--Rocks composed predominantly of subhedral settled crystals are, like those with euhedral settled crystals, generally accompanied by poikilitic mesostasis textures, but these are more poorly developed, and individual oikocrysts are commonly smaller in size. Most of the rocks of the Ultramafic zone are characterized by such textures, and all gradations between automorphic and xenomorphic textures are recognized (pls. 15B; 16B; and 6B).

The subhedral nature of the settled crystals in these rocks is primarily due to partial mutual interference between grains, and this interference is believed to be caused by continued growth of settled crystals subsequent to deposition. Such loss in automorphism by secondary enlargement is confined to those parts of settled crystals which are in contact with neighboring crystals, and those parts in contact with interstitial minerals retain their crystal faces. From this and other evidence it is concluded that secondary enlargement was completed prior to precipitation of new minerals from the interprecipitate magma. The rate of burial in rocks with textures of this type was apparently slow enough to allow some enlargement of settled crystals, either at the surface of the mush, or, as suggested by Hess (1939, p. 431) by diffusion between the main magma and the interprecipitate magma. The volume of the interprecipitate magma was reduced by continued crystallization of the settled minerals. The remaining interprecipitate magma was trapped by continued burial, and crystallized and differentiated in much the same way as in rocks with no secondary enlargement.

Porosity and permeability in the buried crystal mush were reduced proportionally to the amount of secondary enlargement, and both volume and grain size of interstitial minerals are smaller than in rocks with little or no enlargement. Where the amount of enlargement is small, poikilitic textures are well developed; where relatively large, the tendency for interstitial minerals to occupy adjoining interstices is reduced and textures of the rocks are perhaps better described as hypautomorphic-intersertal.

Xenomorphic textures.--Rocks predominantly composed of anhedral settled crystals generally contain little or no mesostasis minerals. Such rocks, whether dunites, harzburgites, bronzitites or chromitites, have typical peridotite even-grained mosaic-textures (pls. 15C; 16C; and 17B). Rocks with xenomorphic textures can be correlated with rocks of the same type which contain abundant interstitial material in other parts of the Ultramafic zone, and the mosaic texture is best developed in the stratigraphically thinnest areas of the zone.

The anhedral nature of the constituent grains is attributed to the nearly complete secondary enlargement of originally euhedral settled crystals to the point where all grains are mutually interfering. In rocks with xenomorphic texture almost the entire original pore space in the crystal mush is composed of secondarily enlarged material and little or no interprecipitate magma was trapped to form interstitial minerals. This process is believed to have been favored by relatively slow rates of accumulation and burial, so that the settled crystals had ample opportunity to continue growth after deposition, either in contact with the main magma, or by diffusion through the slowly accumulating crystal pile.

In the Stillwater Ultramafic zone, the large compositional and textural differences between rocks with automorphic-poikilitic textures and those with xenomorphic textures are believed to be caused by local conditions of deposition and burial, and are not related to any fundamental variation in composition, or crystallization sequence of the parent magma. Thus, poikilitic harzburgites are genetically closely related to dunites, for both formed from accumulations of olivine crystals. Poikilitic harzburgites, on the other hand, differ in origin to a greater degree from granular harzburgites, even though some may have the same mineralogic compositions, because the latter contains settled bronzite and the former does not. Similarly, automorphic bronzitites with substantial amounts of interstitial feldspar and augite are closely related to monomineralic bronzitites with xenomorphic textures because both rocks formed from a bronzite crystal mush; their textural and compositional differences are attributed to their post-depositional history, and especially to their rate of burial.

Development of the Ultramafic zone

In a study of ultramafic rocks, the problem of origin invites speculation at all stages of the investigation. Some tentative conclusions regarding the development of the Ultramafic zone can be drawn from the preceding data on texture and mineral associations in the rocks. Even though such conclusions must necessarily be incomplete without consideration of detailed data on stratigraphy and chemistry, and will no doubt require subsequent revision, it appears worthwhile to summarize them in this report.

Conditions of crystallization and deposition

The layered rocks composing the Ultramafic zone of the complex are believed to have formed during crystallization of a single magma by accumulation of crystal precipitates that fell to the floor of the magma chamber, and were enlarged or cemented after deposition. The various magmatic processes influencing the final rock products can be divided into three groups: 1) those that affect the character and growth of the primary precipitate crystals prior to deposition; 2) those that affect the distribution of the primary precipitate during descent and arrival at the floor of the magma chamber, and 3) those that largely affect the crystallization of the interprecipitate material after deposition. At any instant of time, of course, free growth, deposition, and consolidation went on simultaneously at different horizons in the intrusion, and the level of all three rose gradually as the pile of crystals accumulated.

Pre-depositional conditions

Some tentative conclusions regarding the properties of the Stillwater magma and its early free crystallization products can be assembled, partly from the present investigation, and partly from the results of earlier investigations.

The magma.--The composition of the Stillwater magma, on the basis of a chill zone analysis reported by Peoples (1932, p. 45) and on more recent analyses by the U. S. Geological Survey, most nearly resembles a saturated normal basalt. Magma of this composition therefore apparently furnished the crystals composing the lower part of the Ultramafic zone. During crystallization of the zone the magma became progressively enriched in silica due to the subtraction of olivine and chromite, and the effects of this change in composition are apparent even within the Ultramafic zone by the increased abundance of bronzite at the expense of olivine upward in the section. From exsolution phenomena in the pyroxenes and from experimental work by Bowen and Schairer (1935, p. 200-201), Hess (1941, p. 582-583) estimates that the initial temperature of the Stillwater magma was about 1120° C, and that after about 60 percent of the volume of magma had crystallized, the temperature was about 1100°. These figures are based on dry measurements at one atmosphere pressure. Recent studies of the crystallization behavior of a natural tholeiitic basalt by Yoder and Tilley (1956, p. 169-171) showed that on heating, pyroxene dissolved at 1090° C and 5000 bars water pressure. Brown (1957, p. 541) assumes from this data that the Skaergaard magma began to crystallize at about 1090°. The apparent agreement between these figures arises because increasing pressures tend to increase the melting point, whereas water dissolved in the magma tends to depress it. The absolute temperature value should be considered subject to further experimental work. Comparison of known compositions of bronzites in the Ultramafic zone with Brown's (1957, fig. 5) crystallization curve for calcium-poor pyroxenes indicates that the magma temperature in the Stillwater complex decreased no more than about 20° C during the crystallization of the entire Ultramafic zone. This is in accord with the estimates of Hess (1941, p. 583) and with the experimental results of Yoder and Tilley (1957, p. 158-159).

The density of the magma throughout the crystallization and accumulation of the Ultramafic zone was less than that of olivine and bronzite, which readily sank in it. By the time the Ultramafic zone had accumulated and calcic plagioclase first appeared as a primary precipitate, the magma density was below that of the plagioclase, which was deposited in the norites immediately above the Bronzitite member. Very little information is available on which to base estimates of the viscosity of the Stillwater magma. In a recent discussion of the viscosity of dolerite sills with compositions similar to that of the Stillwater chilled margin, Jaeger and Joplin (1956, p. 445) suggest limits between 40,000 and 280 poises. Hess (1956, p. 448) gives a preferred value of 3,000 poises. As a first approximation, the viscosity of the Stillwater magma probably lay within an order of magnitude above or below 3,000 poises.

The primary crystallization products.--The primary crystallization products of the magma that were formed during the entire course of crystallization of the Ultramafic zone are olivine, chromite, and bronzite. Augite was not a primary precipitate, for it has about the same density as bronzite, and, if present, would have been recorded as a settled mineral in the rocks. Plagioclase either was not a primary precipitate or it floated. The probability is strong that plagioclase did not crystallize from the free magma for the following reasons: 1) not a single settled crystal of plagioclase has been observed in the Ultramafic zone, and even if plagioclase had floated, a considerable number of grains would have been forced to the floor by settling olivine and bronzite; 2) plagioclase does not occur as inclusions in the settled minerals of the Ultramafic zone except in one specimen of bronzitite collected a few feet below the layered norites; 3) no evidence of rafting of plagioclase has been observed either in the Ultramafic zone or in the norites and gabbros above it; 4) there is no settled plagioclase in the upper part of the Bronzitite member, even though the magma density could not have been significantly different than in the settled plagioclase rocks immediately above it. The contact between the Bronzitite member and the overlying norite is not caused by density change in the magma, inasmuch as density change must be gradual and the bronzitite-norite contact is so sharp that it involves only one layer of crystals. Furthermore, a few settled plagioclases are present in local norite layers in the Basal zone, indicating that plagioclase was capable of settling in the original magma.

The euhedral shapes, equidimensional habits, absence of zoning, and paucity of inclusions in the three settled minerals indicate that they grew freely while falling slowly in saturated solution, and that the magma had no rapid fluctuations in equilibrium. The crystals themselves were apparently present in the magma in logarithmic size distributions, and they apparently continued to grow as they settled toward the floor. The generally smooth grain size changes of settled minerals within the cyclic units suggest that crystallization and deposition were continuous during their accumulation. The sharp grain size breaks accompanying compositional changes at the bases and tops of the cyclic units, on the other hand, suggest hiatuses of crystallization.

Depositional conditions

During deposition, conditions were such as to produce layering. The extensive lateral continuity of layers, the gravity structures within the complex, and the generally conformable relations between the complex and overlying Paleozoic sediments indicate that the layering was originally formed in a nearly horizontal position. In the following section, certain conclusions about the forces responsible for the transport and deposition of the primary precipitate, and about the origin of the various types of layers are summarized.

Agents of transportation and deposition.--Textures and structures in the Ultramafic zone suggest that the magma above the gradually rising floor of the magma chamber was essentially stagnant throughout the period of accumulation of the entire Ultramafic zone, and only very locally did relatively weak currents disturb its quiescence. Local areas where currents were strong enough to sort crystals are marked by scour, local unconformities, and abnormal sorting characteristics in the settled grains. Still weaker currents are indicated in some rocks by crude lineations of elongate grains. The general absence of currents at the site of deposition is indicated by the extreme scarcity of the above features throughout the Ultramafic zone, and by the absence of hydraulic equivalence between coexisting settled crystals in nearly all the rocks in the zone which contain two or more settled minerals. Convection currents, therefore, do not appear to have been active during deposition of settled crystals. Furthermore, magma currents do not appear capable of accounting for the distribution of settled crystals. They cannot explain the rhythmic layering, most of which is hydraulically upside down. The characteristic thick-bedded, predominantly monomineralic, compositional layering in the

Ultramafic zone also does not appear to be a result of current sorting of a mixture of floating crystals; currents or pulsatory variations in current velocity could not have sorted olivine from bronzite of nearly the same size and specific gravity to form the thick poikilitic harzburgites and bronzitites. Currents also fail to explain the repetitive order of the compositional layers. In particular, current sorting seems incapable of producing the Bronzitite member, a 2,000-foot thick unit containing no settled mineral other than bronzite.

Hess (1956, p. 449) has pointed out that crystals fall through relatively viscous magma at very slow rates, and, in the absence of currents, crystals cannot be expected to sink appreciable distances in moderate lengths of time. Calculations of absolute settling rates are subject to considerably more error than consideration of relative settling rates (see p. 87-91), but, with certain assumptions, orders of magnitude can be obtained. Assuming that the falling crystals obey Stokes' law (as their Reynolds' numbers indicate), that the magma density is 2.7, and the viscosity of the magma is 3,000 poises, then olivine and bronzite crystals 2 mm in diameter would fall about 140 meters per year, and 0.2 mm chromite crystals would fall about 4 meters per year. If it were assumed that crystallization occurred at the top of the intrusion then crystals falling at such rates would not reach the bottom of the intrusion during the largest part of the cooling history. If, however, crystallization occurred at the bottom of the intrusion rather than at the top, then gravity settling of the crystallization products could explain the depositional nature of the textures without recourse to magma currents. The physical aspects of bottom crystallization will be discussed in a subsequent section.

Origin of the layering.--The genesis of the various types of layering in the Ultramafic zone will be discussed in greater detail in a subsequent publication, but those aspects of origin that are in some respect illuminated by the textures of the rocks will be briefly discussed here. All of the varieties of layering in the Ultramafic zone of the complex are fundamentally related to the action of gravity on dispersed crystals of the three primary precipitate minerals. Thus, all layers are parallel to the floor of the intrusion; layers never crosscut; sedimentary structures such as scour and slump are locally observed; individual grains lie with their long dimensions in the layering plane. That these particles were discrete is shown by the general absence of clumping.

The planar orientation of settled minerals is believed to be partially a result of simple gravitational forces that caused settled crystals to assume their most stable positions, and partially a result of post-depositional compaction. Such layering is developed only where settled crystals have elongate or platy habits, and planar structure is most pronounced where platy or elongated crystals are most prominent. Lineation of long crystal axes within the layering plane is commonly absent. Planar dimensional distribution, of crystals, where present, is similar to that observed in the plagioclases of the Skaergaard intrusion, called "igneous lamination" by Wager and Deer (1939, p. 37-38). These authors note, however, that where Skaergaard plagioclases are elongate, a lineation of long axes occurs in the layering plane, and ascribe the layering to the action of convection currents sweeping across the floor of the intrusion. Although such currents undoubtedly would have intensified the platy parallelism of settled crystals in the Ultramafic zone of the Stillwater complex, it seems likely that they would also have imparted a strong lineation to the fabric.

If the rocks of the Ultramafic zone were formed by the successive accumulation of crystals, then the compositional layers are a result of a changing supply of primary precipitate minerals available for deposition at the floor of the intrusion. The character of this changing supply was such that contacts between layers are generally knife-sharp (pl. 22B) and that about 85 percent of the rocks of the zone are composed essentially of only one of the three settled minerals. Furthermore, these layers, defined by the abrupt appearance and disappearance of the settled minerals are repeated many times throughout the section, and in a regular order. The size ranges and densities of olivine and bronzite in the rocks are identical, yet for the most part they occur in mutually exclusive layers. As stated above this type of layering could not have been produced by gravity sorting or convection currents. One must conclude, therefore, that the rhythmically repeated compositional layers reflect repeated changes in the supply of crystallization products of the Stillwater magma, and that each layer represents the crystallization products available for deposition at that time. As a corollary, the sequence of the layers in the cyclic units represents the order of crystallization of the settled minerals. Not only does current sorting fail to provide an explanation for the distribution of settled minerals in the Ultramafic zone, but current transportation of crystallization products from the roof to the floor of the intrusion seems incompatible with absence of current structures, lineation, and hydraulic equivalence in the rocks. As Hess (1956, p. 449) has pointed out, convection currents in the Stillwater magma must have existed. The present evidence, however, indicates that they were not active where the settled minerals were deposited at the floor of the intrusion during the accumulation of the Ultramafic zone.

The layering caused by changing proportions of settled minerals in the Ultramafic zone is believed to have several modes of origin. In a few places, thin layers composed of gradually changing proportions of olivine and chromite are developed with chromite increasing upward. These layers, which are hydraulically similar to the rhythmic layering of Wager and Deer (1939, p. 37) may be caused by differences in relative settling rates of suspended mixtures, large olivines and small chromites, as proposed by Hess (1938a, p. 266) and Wager and Deer (1939, p. 272-273) for similar layering involving pyroxene and plagioclase. The normal sequence of such layering in the Ultramafic zone, however, is from predominantly small chromite crystals at the base to predominantly larger olivine crystals at the top. Layers of this type are hydraulically upside-down, and could not have been produced by differential settling. The most probable explanation is that they form as a result of changing proportions in the supply of settled olivine and chromite to the deposition surface due to a gradual cessation of chromite crystallization and concomitant inauguration of olivine crystallization. A third type of layering caused by gradually changing proportions of settled minerals upward in the rocks of the Ultramafic zone is developed on a larger scale in most granular harzburgite layers. In these rocks, the bronzite typically increases in amount stratigraphically upward at the expense of settled olivine (fig. 2), and this change is accompanied by an increase in bronzite grain size and a decrease in olivine grain size (fig. 3). Again, this layering is not easily explained in terms of differential settling rates because the two minerals involved have nearly equal specific gravities and are in hydraulic equivalence only at those horizons within the layers where the grain sizes of the two minerals are equivalent. In view of their consistent stratigraphic position between poikilitic harzburgites and bronzitites, the granular harzburgites seem best explained as accumulations of crystals which reflect a gradual decrease in the amount of olivine crystallized by the magma as bronzite becomes the dominant crystallization product.

The several varieties of size layering described earlier in this paper are also, for the most part, probably a result of changing crystallization conditions in the magma rather than a result of mechanical sorting, but the uncommon current bedded layers described on p. 79, 83, and 87 are an exception to this general hypothesis. The sharp size breaks accompanying mineralogical changes at the bottoms of the poikilitic harzburgite layers are believed to represent hiatuses of deposition. The fact that there is no mixing of fine bronzites with the coarser olivines overlying them at these contacts is taken to indicate that all the bronzite had an opportunity to fall to the floor before olivines were available for deposition. The gradual size increases and decreases of settled minerals within layers and within cyclic units suggest that deposition was continuous throughout their accumulation.

In summary, the types of layering and the textural features of these layers indicate that: 1) simple crystal settling occurred from magma near the floor of the intrusion; 2) the magma from which the settling occurred was essentially stagnant during crystal deposition, and magma currents did not materially effect either the transportation or deposition of such crystals; 3) single layers contain all the settled minerals being crystallized at the time of their deposition, and the stratigraphic sequence, therefore, parallels the order of crystallization in the magma; and 4) deposition and, therefore, crystallization were continuous during the deposition of the individual layers and cyclic units, but discontinuous between cyclic units.

Post-depositional conditions

The primary precipitate formed a crystal mush on the floor of the intrusion, and the interstices of this mush were filled with the basaltic magma from which the primary precipitate had crystallized. The textures of the rocks provide some evidence as to the character of the mush, and the composition and crystallization course of the interprecipitate magma.

The character of the crystal mush.--The porosity of the crystal mush on the floor of the intrusion during the accumulation of the Ultramafic zone is estimated to have ranged from about 20 to 50 percent and to have averaged about 35 percent. Differences in initial porosity can be assigned to the physical properties of the crystal aggregate--size, sorting, shape--and to the amount of compaction prior to cementation. The permeability of the mush presumably was influenced by the packing and by the grain size of the individual layers. The thickness of unconsolidated mush at any one time on the floor of the intrusion apparently ranged between about 6 inches and about 10 feet, because beds of this range of thickness are involved in slump structures. Interprecipitate magma, however, probably existed at much greater depths in the mush, since it would take only a small amount of secondary enlargement to weld the settled crystals and impart a rigidity to the crystal pile.

The interprecipitate magma.--The composition and physical properties of the interprecipitate magma within the unconsolidated mush on the floor of the intrusion must be initially identical with those of the main magma immediately above it. At greater depths in the mush, however, two processes operate to change its character: diffusion and crystallization-differentiation. At shallow or intermediate depths in the mush, where interconnecting pore spaces are available, diffusion between the interprecipitate magma and the main magma is possible. The effect of such diffusion, as pointed out by Hess (1939, p. 431) would be to crystallize interprecipitate minerals of the same phase and composition as were being generated in the main magma above the floor of the intrusion. If only one phase was being precipitated by the main magma, and if accumulation rates were slow enough for diffusion to operate at maximum efficiency, completely monomineralic rocks would probably result. At deeper levels in the mush, or where continuous pore spaces were blocked by welding or impermeable layers, diffusion between the main and interprecipitate magma would not be operative, and the interprecipitate magma would be trapped. Textural and mineralogic relations indicate that the order of crystallization in this trapped magma is such that successive residual fractions are enriched in soda, silica, iron and volatiles.

The relatively lower temperature crystallization products, the absence of exsolution lamellae in the latest crystallized portions of interstitial augites and bronzites, and the zoning all indicate falling temperature of crystallization as the trapped interprecipitate magma solidifies. An inference as to the final consolidation temperatures in those rocks which contain grossularite-pyrope as a very late crystallization product may be drawn from Yoder's (1950, p. 250) conclusion that the assemblage quartz-grossularite-anorthite is incompatible at temperatures above about 650° C.

<u>Crystallization of the interprecipitate material</u>.--Results of the present investigation substantiate Hess' (1939, p. 431) hypothesis that the course of crystallization in the interstices of the crystal mush is largely controlled by the rate of accumulation of that mush. Where the rate of accumulation and burial was rapid the interprecipitate magma was effectively trapped and crystallized in place with the formation of new mineral phases not encountered as primary precipitates until much higher in the section. Where the rate of accumulation and burial was slow, diffusion between the main and interprecipitate magma was relatively effective and all or much of the pore space between settled crystals was filled by material of the same composition as the primary precipitate.

Mineral associations in the Ultramafic zone

Because the constituent minerals of Ultramafic zone rocks can be readily divided into primary precipitate and interprecipitate material, it is possible to examine separately the mineral assemblages produced during the early stages of crystallization of the main Stillwater magma, and the mineral assemblages produced by the same magma where differentiation was spatially restricted by entrapment in the crystal mush.

The primary precipitate

The most striking feature of the primary precipitate assemblage is the tendency for the three settled minerals to occur singly rather than in combination with one another. In the case of olivine-bronzite associations, for instance, poikilitic harzburgite, which contains no settled bronzite, and bronzitite, which contains no olivine, are considerably more abundant rock types than granular harzburgite, which contains a mixture of the two minerals. In order to derive a quantitative expression of this tendency, stratigraphic thickness of each of these three rock types were measured, totaled, and recalculated to 100 percent in three complete sections of the Ultramafic zone, and results are presented in table 10. Settled olivine and bronzite occur together in about 12 percent of the rocks of the zone; they are mutually exclusive in about 88 percent.

The tendency toward monomineralism of settled minerals is also evident in olivine-chromite mixtures. Although the two minerals apparently occur in all proportions, much of the chromite in the Ultramafic zone is concentrated into massive layers containing no other settled mineral.

Where settled minerals do occur as mixtures there is a strong tendency for bimineralic associations. In rocks composed of mixtures of olivine and chromite, settled bronzite does not occur; in rocks composed of mixtures of olivine and bronzite, chromite occurs only in amounts less than 3 percent of the rock or 5 percent of the settled constituents.

Table 10.--Relative stratigraphic thicknesses of harzburgite and bronzitite in three complete sections of the Ultramafic zone.

Rock type	West Benbow Section		Mt. View Section		West Fork Section		Avg. Ratio
	Total thickness (ft)	Ratio	Total thickness (ft)	Ratio	Total thickness (ft)	Ratio	
Poikilitic harzburgite	1,370	27.4	1,675	23.8	750	20.8	24.0
Granular harzburgite	840	16.8	860	12.2	280	7.8	12.3
Bronzitite	2,785	55.8	4,515	64.0	2,580	71.4	63.7
TOTAL	4,995	100.0	7,050	100.0	3,610	100.0	100.0

The rocks of the Ultramafic zone contain only three settled minerals, so that it is possible to outline their fields of coexistence on a triangular plot. In order to establish their true proportions, it is necessary to subtract the amount of interprecipitate material in the individual specimens and recalculate to 100 percent, but in view of the practically universal occurrence of secondary enlargement and reaction replacement care must be exercised in making the calculations. In most chromitites and bronzitites only one settled mineral is present, and the recalculation may be made directly. In bronzitites which contain chromite, and in poikilitic harzburgites, it is necessary to make modal counts in areas where plagioclase is the interstitial mineral, in order to avoid the effects of reaction replacement. In granular harzburgites the same procedure is generally followed, but, in cases where this is impractical it is necessary to compute the original proportions of the settled minerals from the mode of the entire rock. In olivine chromitites and poikilitic chromite harzburgites the original boundaries of olivine crystals are outlined by the closely packed chromites around them, and it is possible to measure the proportions directly. In rocks which contain two or more settled crystals the assumption is made that the amount of secondary enlargement of each mineral is the same. This assumption is not invariably valid, but the error involved is not believed to be large enough to change the boundaries of the fields of occurrence.

Modes of 141 specimens of rocks of the Ultramafic zone were measured and recalculated by the methods described above and were plotted individually in figure 32. Chromitites, olivine chromitites, and poikilitic chromite harzburgites are disproportionally represented in order to outline their fields of occurrence. Nevertheless, the monomineralic tendencies of the settled minerals are obvious from the crowding at the apices of the diagram. Most bronzitites, which contain no olivine by definition, also contain no chromite. Nine of the 38 bronzitites measured contain chromite in amounts less than one-half percent. Three bronzitites contain between 1 and 4 percent settled chromite. Each of these three specimens occurs within 100 feet of the top of the Bronzitite member, and the significance of this abnormal chromite concentration at this particular horizon is discussed in a subsequent section of this report.

Mixtures of olivine and bronzite apparently occur in all proportions between $br_{100}\ ol_{0}$ and $br_{20}\ ol_{80}$. About two-thirds of the olivine bronzitites and granular harzburgites contain measurable chromite, but the total amount in any one specimen does not exceed 5 percent. In a general way, the chromite content increases with increasing amounts of olivine. Specimens containing proportions of olivine and bronzite between

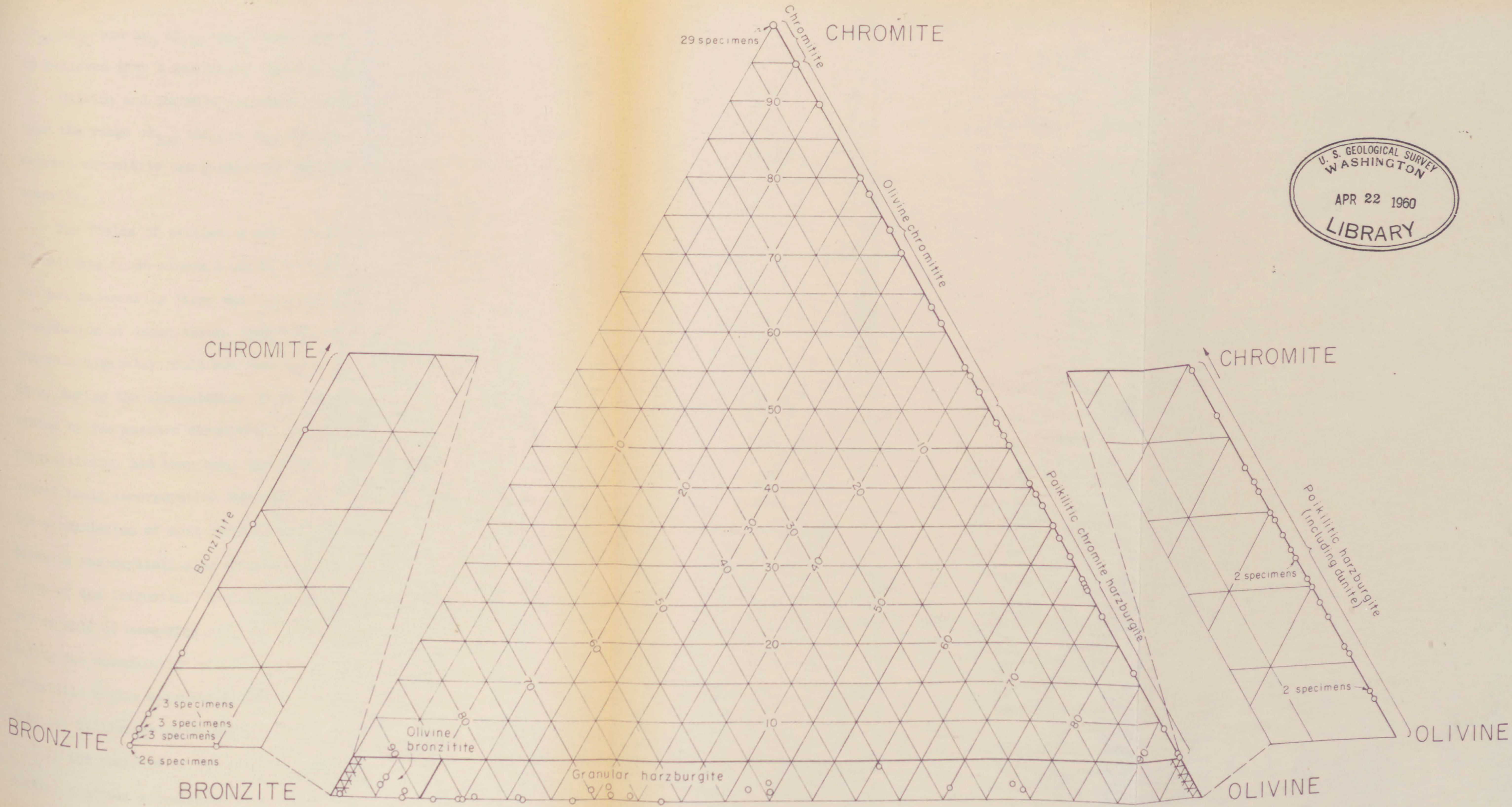


FIGURE 32. Ratios of settled minerals in rocks of the Ultramafic zone

br_{20} ol_{80} and br_0 ol_{100} were looked for but not found, and it is believed that a gap in the field occurs in this range.

Olivine and chromite apparently occur in all proportions over the range ol_{100} chr_0 to ol_0 chr_{100}. The line of variation between chromitite and poikilitic harzburgite contains no settled bronzite.

The fields of settled mineral associations shown in figure 32 indicate those minerals which accumulated simultaneously, and not necessarily those which crystallized together. The restriction of associations does indicate, however, which minerals typically could not have been crystallizing together. Thus, during the accumulation of the chromite mushes now represented by the massive chromitites, no olivine or bronzite was crystallizing; had they been their size and density would have caused their incorporation into the mush. Similarly, during the accumulation of most bronzitites, no mineral other than bronzite was crystallizing within settling distance of the floor of the intrusion. Such monomineralic crystallization was capable of occurring over considerable periods of time; during the accumulation of the 1,500 to 3,000-foot thick Bronzitite member essentially the only mineral crystallizing from the Stillwater magma was bronzite.

If the presence of thick layers containing only one settled mineral connotes monomineralic crystallization from the magma, the presence of layers containing mixtures of settled minerals does not necessarily connote cotectic relationships between them. There appear to be three mechanisms whereby the observed distributions of two or more settled minerals might occur: 1) by cotectic crystallization; 2) by mechanical mixture of minerals crystallized at different times or places; and 3) by simultaneous crystallization at different horizons in the magma.

The distribution of chromite inclusions in olivine in a few rocks suggests a cotectic relation between these two minerals. In the great majority of such rocks, however, inclusions do not occur, and it is not possible to estimate the quantity of rocks or the relative proportions of the two minerals through which a cotectic relationship existed. The constant association of a small amount of chromite with all rocks formed from olivine crystal mushes, and the localization of all chromitites within poikilitic harzburgite layers certainly suggests that the crystallization fields of olivine and chromite are adjoining. The general absence of rocks containing mixtures of chromite and bronzite, on the other hand, suggests that the crystallization fields did not adjoin in the part of the field where crystallization occurred, at least until nearly the entire Ultramafic zone had crystallized, and the original magma had been considerably modified by differentiation, including depletion of the magma in chromium.

It is obvious from inspection of figure 32 that the efficacy of mechanical mixing of settled crystals cannot be large. Current mixing has, however, changed proportions of settled minerals in a few current bedded olivine chromitites and granular harzburgites, and differences in settling velocity no doubt account for some of the olivine-chromite graded beds. Neither current deposition nor suspension, however, appear to be capable of producing the thick, internally homogeneous olivine chromitite and poikilitic chromite harzburgite layers, nor do these mechanisms readily explain the olivine-bronzite size-proportion relations in granular harzburgites.

The association of olivine and bronzite in the granular harzburgites and olivine bronzitites, in fact, demands a special explanation. It is abundantly demonstrated in the Stillwater rocks that olivine and bronzite have a reaction relationship and cannot, therefore, crystallize at the same time and place in the magma. It is proposed, therefore, that during certain conditions of crystallization olivine and bronzite crystallized simultaneously at slightly different horizons above the floor of the intrusion. The abrupt appearance of bronzite in relatively small quantities at the bases of the granular harzburgite layers suggests that bronzite began crystallizing at a higher level than the olivine, fell through the zone of olivine crystallization and became incorporated in the crystal mush. Upward in the granular harzburgite layers olivine becomes smaller and less abundant, which suggests that olivine crystallization was restricted to increasingly narrow zones near the floor of the intrusion. Such a mechanism would not only provide an explanation for the regular grain size and abundance variations of the two minerals, but would explain the absence of bronzite reaction shells on the olivines in the rocks. A similar process may account for some olivine chromitite and poikilitic chromite harzburgite layers, because many of these layers gradually increase in olivine at the expense of chromite upward in the section; however, the relative effect of cotectic crystallization in these rocks cannot be evaluated.

The interprecipitate material

If the settled crystals represent the early crystallization products or solidus of the Stillwater magma, then the interprecipitate material should in a broad sense represent the liquidus, or the magma from which the settled crystals were precipitated. It would seem reasonable, therefore, that one could determine magma compositions layer by layer stratigraphically upward in the section by measurement of the volume and composition of the interprecipitate material in the various layers. Unfortunately, it can be shown that the interprecipitate material does not necessarily represent the composition of the liquids trapped in the interstices of the crystal mush, and, furthermore, that the trapped magma in individual layers is not necessarily the same composition as the main magma from which the settled crystals in that layer were precipitated. It is possible, however, to obtain an approximate overall composition for the trapped magma by recognizing that portion of the interprecipitate material which crystallized from it.

The interprecipitate material may be divided into three parts: 1) the secondary enlargement material, 2) the reaction replacement material, and 3) the interstitial minerals. Of these, the secondary enlargement material mineralogically and chemically properly belongs with the primary precipitate because it grew in equilibrium with the main magma. Reaction replacement material and interstitial minerals, for the most part, represent new phases caused by entrapment and later crystallization of the magma. Those portions of the reaction replacement minerals which formed from previously existing settled crystals, however, were not entirely constituted from the trapped magma; where bronzite replaced olivine, for instance, only SiO_2 was added. The interstitial material, including those portions of reaction minerals which fill interstices, is entirely a product of the trapped magma. The interstitial material alone should furnish an approximation of the composition of the trapped magma, but this approximation does not include elements provided in reaction replacement, nor does it include the small portion of the trapped magma which crystallized to form minerals already present as settled constituents.

A serious limitation in obtaining approximations of the composition of trapped magma is the problem of obtaining significant measurements of interstitial minerals. Reproducible proportions of the relatively fine-grained and evenly distributed settled minerals may be obtained from small slabs or thin sections, but the extreme grain size ranges in the interstitial material make equivalent accuracy impossible to obtain even where large slabs were used. Furthermore, the interstitial material makes up only a small part of the rocks, and errors are considerably magnified by recalculation to 100 percent.

Although significant measurements of interstitial material in individual specimens is generally impractical, an average value for a large number of specimens is probably reasonably representative. Qualitatively, the variation in proportions of interstitial constituents is greater between rock types than within them. In order to obtain quantitative data, the amounts of interstitial minerals in 94 specimens containing greater than 10 percent total interstitial material were measured, recalculated to 100 percent, averaged by rock type, and plotted in figure 33. In most rocks more than 95 percent of the total interstitial material is composed of the three minerals, bronzite, chrome augite, and plagioclase, so that averages are

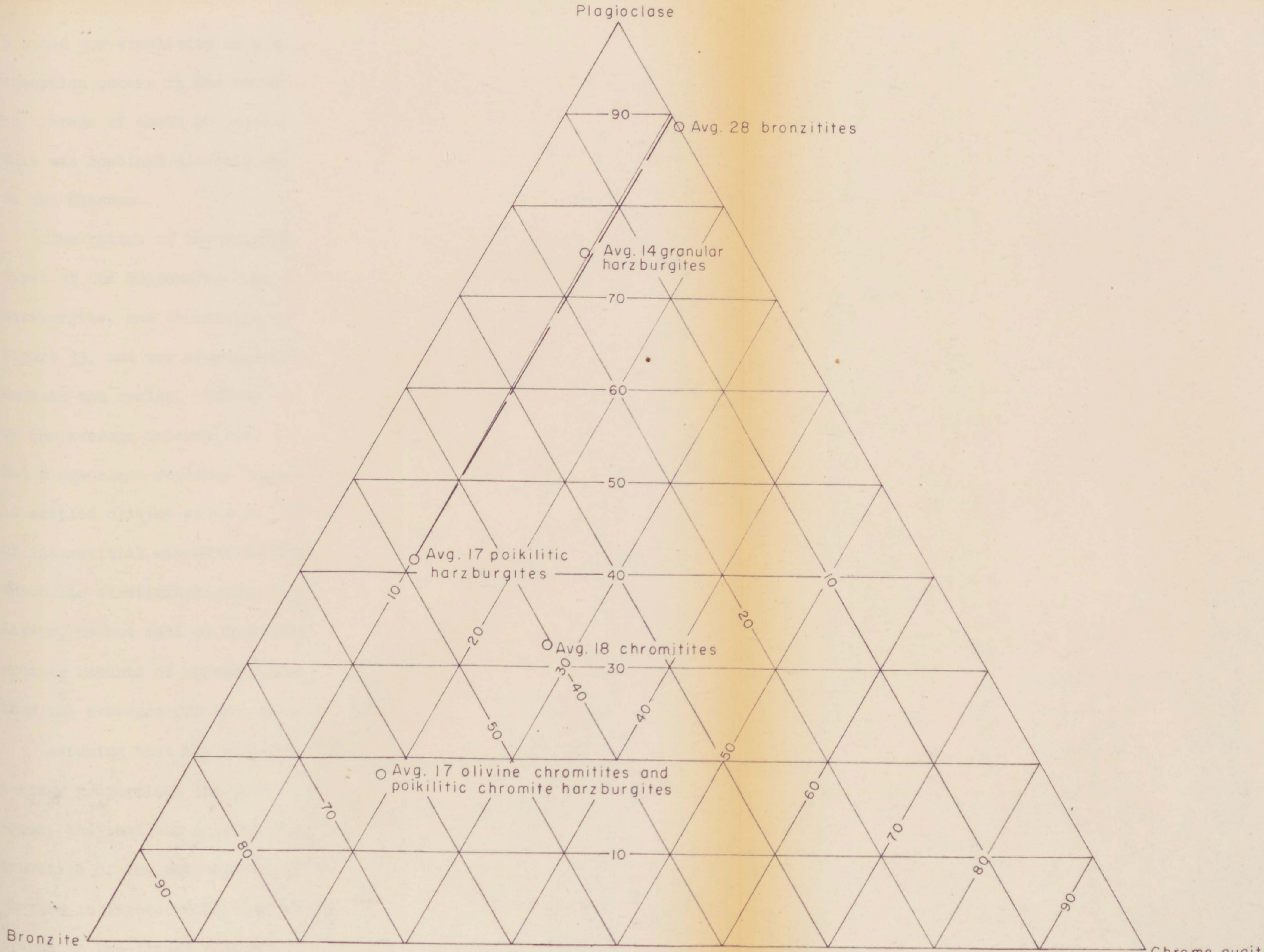


FIGURE 33. Ratios of principal interstitial minerals in rocks of the Ultramafic zone

plotted for simplicity on a triangular diagram. The only major exception occurs in the chromitites, in which olivine constitutes an average of about 20 percent of the interstitial material. This was combined directly with bronzite for purposes of plotting on the diagram.

The ratios of interstitial minerals in the three major rock types of the Ultramafic zone, poikilitic harzburgite, granular harzburgite, and bronzitite, fall on nearly a straight line in figure 33, and are arranged in the same sequence as their appearance in the cycles. Chrome augite makes up about 10 percent of the average interstitial material in all three rock types and plagioclase replaces bronzite as an interstitial constituent as settled olivine gives way to settled bronzite. The ratios of interstitial minerals in chromitites and olivine chromitites, which lie stratigraphically within the poikilitic harzburgite layers, do not fall on this curve. Both contain relatively greater amounts of chrome augite and relatively less plagioclase than the averages for the major rock types.

Assuming that the plotted data are representative of the average proportions interstitial minerals in the various rock types, and that the interstitial minerals are reasonably representative of the composition of the trapped magma, the gross changes in interstitial mineralogy indicate the broader chemical trends in the liquid once present in the crystal mush. The trapped magma in the average chromitite apparently contained slightly larger amounts of iron and magnesia and less alumina than the trapped magma in the average poikilitic harzburgite. The compositional trend of the three major rock types is toward strong calcium and alumina enrichment in passing from poikilitic harzburgites through granular harzburgites to bronzitites. Because the major rock types occur in a regular order of succession this variation coincides with the variation within the cyclic units, and is repeated some 15 times throughout the Ultramafic zone.

The mineralogic and chemical stratification of the trapped magma within the cycles follows the stratification of the settled minerals, although it is neither as sharp nor as extreme chemically. There appear to be at least two possible explanations for this variation: 1) the composition of the trapped magma reflects the composition of the main magma from which the settled crystals precipitated, and its compositional change within the cycle reflects the changing composition of the main magma as it precipitates new phases of settled crystals; or, 2) the composition of the trapped magma in the entire cycle represents the average composition of the main magma, but the trapped magma has differentiated in place, first forming bronzite in the lower olivine-rich layers and leaving a plagioclase-rich residuum to crystallize in the upper bronzite-rich layers. A choice between these hypotheses cannot be made until additional data on the chemical composition of the interstitial minerals is available.

Classification of rock products

The rocks of the Ultramafic zone are generally made up of about 65 percent settled minerals and 35 percent interprecipitate minerals. The interprecipitate material may be all or in part the same composition as the settled minerals, the remainder being made up of new phases precipitated from magma trapped in the interstices of the crystal mush.

The mineralogic composition of individual specimens can be expressed as modes, and the specimens can be assigned rock names on the basis of their total mineral constituents. This normal basis of classification, which suffices to distinguish many igneous rocks, fails to provide a breakdown suitable for field distinctions in the Stillwater complex for two reasons: 1) a standard mode does not differentiate between settled and interstitial minerals, so that many granular and poikilitic harzburgites, for instance, have identical modes; and 2) the variability of interstitial constituents in the rocks complicates the classification and leads to a multiplicity of rock names based on minor constituents which are not consistent along the strike of the layers.

The problem of classification in Stillwater rocks is therefore similar to that in sedimentary, rather than igneous rocks. The bulk composition of the rocks does not represent the composition of the magma from which they crystallized, and is not, therefore, of direct genetic importance. As with sediments, the allogenic minerals of the Ultramafic zone are spread out in mappable beds, and the interstitial constituents, or cement, is dependent on post-depositional factors which may vary from place to place along the beds. The fundamental basis for a field classification of Stillwater rocks must, therefore, be the presence, absence and proportions of the settled crystals in the rocks.

Ideally, new terms expressing the various fields of settled mineral associations should be coined, or rock names should be avoided altogether in the manner of Shand (1942, p. 409-428), to avoid confusion with existing compositional terminology. Standard ultramafic rock names have, however, been applied to Stillwater rocks in previous publications, and precedence for their use has been set. Rather than burden the literature with new names, therefore, the existing terminology for rocks of the Ultramafic zone of the complex is here more rigidly defined, and these definitions will apply to the present and subsequent publications by the author.

The fields of the various rock types are based entirely on presence, absence, and proportions of settled minerals, and these are shown diagrammatically in figure 32. The sequence of rocks made up of mixtures of settled olivine and chromite are arbitrarily divided on the basis of ratios of the two minerals in the rocks. Chromitites range from chr_{100} to ol_5 chr_{95}, olivine chromitites between ol_5 chr_{95} and ol_{50} chr_{50}, and poikilitic chromite harzburgites between ol_{50} chr_{50} and ol_{95} chr_5. The poikilitic harzburgite field ranges from ol_{95} chr_5 to ol_{100}, although no rocks are at present known which contain less than 0.5 percent chromite. Rocks composed of mixtures of olivine and bronzite commonly contain some chromite, so that the fields are two dimensional. Granular harzburgites occur within the field bounded by br_0 ol_{100}, br_{90} ol_{10}, br_{85} ol_{10} chr_5, and ol_{95} chr_5, although specimens containing less than 20 percent settled bronzite have not been observed. Olivine bronzitites occur within the field bounded by br_{90} ol_{10}, br_{100}, br_{95} chr_5 and br_{85} ol_{10} chr_5, and bronzitites range from br_{100} to br_{95} chr_5. Other fields, such as chromite bronzitites or granular chromite harzburgites could be added to the general classification if specimens with corresponding ratios of settled minerals are subsequently observed.

The term dunite is a useful one, and it has been used in previous publications to describe certain layered Ultramafic zone rocks in the Stillwater complex. It is therefore retained as a term to describe rocks composed of 95 percent or more olivine. The term dunite is used, therefore, to describe a particular variety of poikilitic harzburgite, whose settled constituents are olivine and accessory chromite, and which is characterized by extreme secondary enlargement of olivine.

This system of nomenclature leads to some unconventional classifications; that is, one specimen with only 50 percent modal bronzite must be placed in the bronzitite field. In addition, some rocks which in terms of strict mineralogic nomenclature are websterites, lherzolites, gabbros, and norites are included as bronzitites or harzburgites. Wherever the total mineralogic composition of the rocks is pertinent to the discussion, however, individual modes will be presented.

Significance of the depositional cycles

The cyclic units are the building blocks of the Ultramafic zone, and any attempts at reconstructing the genesis of the zone must primarily be concerned with their origin.

Summary of salient features

The cyclic units are internally continuous, repetitive stratigraphic layers in which the settled minerals appear and disappear in a regular order. Minerals were continuously being deposited during the cycles, but the boundaries between cyclic units represent hiatuses. Based on the law of superposition, the stratigraphic sequence of settled minerals represents their order of accumulation within the cyclical unit. Further, in the absence of rafting and current sorting, the order of accumulation within the cycles represents the order of crystallization of the settled crystals from the magma above the floor of the intrusion.

Within the Peridotite member, the order of crystallization of primary precipitate minerals during accumulation of the cyclic unit was olivine, chromite, olivine, bronzite, as represented by the rock types poikilitic harzburgite, chromitite, olivine chromitite, poikilitic harzburgite, granular harzburgite, and bronzitite. The order of disappearance within the cycle was chromite, olivine. Although the order of succession of the rock types is consistent, not all cyclic units within the Peridotite member are complete: some are terminated within the poikilitic harzburgite layer and some within the granular harzburgite, so that bronzitite is not developed. The character of the cyclic units changes gradually upward in the Peridotite member: stratigraphically lower cyclic units have more poikilitic harzburgite relative to bronzitite, and higher cyclic units are proportionally enriched in bronzitite. In a few cyclic units near the top of the Peridotite member, the rock type at the base of the unit is granular harzburgite.

Within the Bronzitite member there appear to be two possibilities regarding cyclic units: 1) the Bronzitite member represents a single continuously deposited upper portion of the highest cyclic unit of the Ultramafic zone, and differs from bronzitites within the Peridotite member only in its thickness; or, 2) an unknown number of cyclic units consisting only of settled bronzite occur within the member concealed by its monotonous lithology. The apparently continuous size changes of bronzite crystals within the member seem to favor the first possibility, but the samples are widely spaced, and sharp small scale size changes are known to exist. The presence of two thin, apparently lenticular layers of granular harzburgite in the Bronzitite member in the Mt. View section, where it reaches its maximum development, favor the second possibility. In either case, essentially the only primary precipitate of the Stillwater magma during the accumulation of the member was bronzite.

Near the top of the Bronzitite member, a new cyclic unit consisting of a lower layer of coarse bronzitite with accessory chromite and an upper layer of norite can be recognized. The order of crystallization within this unit was therefore essentially bronzite, plagioclase.

Chemical aspects

Assuming that deductions as to the order of crystallization of the primary precipitate within the cyclic units are valid, certain phase boundary relationships can be deduced. The investigated chemical field most nearly resembling the composition of Stillwater chilled gabbro is the system $CaMgSi_2O_6$-Mg_2SiO_4-$CaAl_2Si_2O_8$-SiO_2 (Osborn and Tait, 1952, p. 425-432). If iron is assigned to magnesium, the chilled gabbro composition plots at about di_{20} fo_{30} an_{40} q_{10}, near the $CaAl_2Si_2O_8$-Mg_2SiO_4-SiO_2 face of the tetrahedron. This point is within the forsterite field near the spinel boundary. The primary crystallization product would therefore be forsterite, and this would next be joined by spinel. Following forsterite-spinel crystallization, however, the magma would precipitate forsterite-anorthite and dissolve spinel. If the natural system resembles the investigated one then the chromite field of the former must be larger than the spinel field of the latter, and it must extend as far as pyroxene, for no settled feldspar is found in the cyclic units of the Ultramafic zone. In the investigated system the forsterite-clinoenstatite join is a reaction boundary, and the same situation is indicated in the cyclic units by the early disappearance of olivine. The system $CaAl_2Si_2O_8$-Mg_2SiO_4-SiO_2 (Anderson, 1915, p. 407-454) accurately predicts the order of crystallization in the final cyclic unit of the Ultramafic zone.

Assuming that the Stillwater magma had been enriched in SiO_2 by the precipitation and settling of considerable quantities of olivine and chromite, the diagram predicts that bronzite will then crystallize, followed by bronzite plus plagioclase, and this is the observed relation. It is of interest to note that in preliminary investigations of the crystallization behavior of Kilauean tholeiite basalts compositionally similar to the Stillwater chilled gabbro Yoder and Tilley (1956, p. 169; 1957, p. 157-158) found the order of crystallization to be olivine, bronzite, plagioclase.

Several features of the cyclic units cannot, however, be explained in terms of the investigated systems. If the magma began crystallization in the olivine field during the formation of the Peridotite member units, then no simple explanation for the massive chromitite layers indicating slightly later monomineralic crystallization of chromite is apparent. Nor does the system explain the ubiquitous small quantities of chromite that occur with olivine in the poikilitic harzburgites above and below the chromitite layers. Further, the vertical disappearance of chromite before the appearance of a third solid phase, and the absence of resorption textures involving chromite do not correspond with the experimental system, but this may be a result of the early exhaustion of the small chromium content of the magma.

The textures of the granular harzburgites, the rocks which lie between the layers representing the crystallization of olivine alone and bronzite alone are also not what one would expect to find at a reaction boundary in that euhedral olivines and bronzites exist side by side throughout the rock. Bowen (1928, p. 58-59), however, emphasizes that:

> "There is nothing in the existence of a reaction relation between two crystal species to prevent the occurrence of both as perfectly formed crystals with no evidence of a resorption of the earlier member of the reaction pair...under certain conditions of rapid cooling the liquid may ignore the olivine crystals and pass immediately into the pyroxene field with formation of crystals of that phase."

Still, several granular harzburgite layers exceed one hundred feet in thickness, and it seems probable that olivine continued to crystallize after bronzite had begun to precipitate. For this reason, it has been proposed that two different crystallization layers existed briefly in the magma above the floor of the accumulating crystal mush.

History of the cycle

In view of the chemical complexity of the natural magma compared to the investigated systems, the correspondence between crystal products and their order of appearance and disappearance is surprisingly good, and, combined with textural evidence perhaps justifies a preliminary reconstruction of the history of accumulation of a cycle. The many evidences, assumptions, and inferences involved have been stated elsewhere in the text and need not be repeated here.

The cycle begins with the precipitation of olvines from the magma near the floor of the intrusion and these immediately begin to sink. Crystals formed near the floor have less opportunity for growth, and thus the grain size of the olivines in the mush is finer near the floor. After from 5 to 100 feet of mush have formed olivine crystallization ceased abruptly and chromite temporarily became the only crystallization product of the magma, perhaps as a result of supersaturation and excursion of the liquid into the chromite field. A thin, relatively impermeable layer of fine-grained chromitite was then formed in the crystal mush that later acted as a cap rock to interstitial solutions attempting to rise as the mush compressed slightly, and gabbroid pegmatites locally resulted along its base. As with olivine, the growth of chromites forming nearest the floor was arrested by deposition, so that the basal chromites were slightly finer grained than those near the center of the layer. Olivine then joined chromite as a crystallization product and the two crystallized together, olivine increasing in amount and chromite decreasing until the chromium content of the magma was essentially exhausted.

Olivine then continued to crystallize alone, its crystal diameters increasing upward as crystals arrived from increasingly greater distances above the floor. Bronzite began to crystallize at a higher level in the magma, fell through the zone of olivine crystallization, and, at a sharp boundary in the mush, the two minerals began to accumulate simultaneously. Olivine crystallization became restricted to narrower and narrower zones above the floor and thus began to decrease in size and total amount, whereas bronzite increased in both. Along a gradational contact olivine finally ceased to be a crystallization product, and bronzite continued to precipitate alone. Bronzite crystals gradually decreased in size to the top of the cyclic unit, perhaps due to a combination of gradual cessation of crystallization and differential settling of the finer crystallization products. The crystallization had ended and all crystal products had reached the floor before olivines of the succeeding cycle began to precipitate. During the entire time of accumulation and primary crystallization of the cyclic unit the magma was stagnant, or nearly so.

Once collected, most settled crystals continued to grow somewhat into the interstices of the mush and against their neighbors, the amount of secondary enlargement being largely a function of the rate of accumulation. This enlargement tended to produce a rigidity in the mush by welding grains together, and for the most part, prevented the squeezing out of the magma trapped in the remaining interstices of the mush. The mush was not so rigid as to prevent entirely loss of porosity by compressional weight of overburden, however, inasmuch as voids caused by contraction during change from liquid to solid state have not been observed. The crystallization behavior of this trapped liquid on cooling depended a great deal on the settled crystals with which it was choked: where surrounding olivine, the magma attempted to make it over into bronzite, but lacked the volume to accomplish this entirely, and finally crystallized plagioclase and augite. Similarly, in bronzitites the magma on cooling reacted with bronzite to form augite and finally crystallized plagioclase, accompanied by a small amount of quartz in a few rocks.

Two major problems remain in establishing the possibility of this simplified mode of origin: 1) to establish that bottom crystallization is physically reasonable, and 2) to derive a mechanism capable of causing repetative cyclical deposition.

Bottom crystallization

The nature of the layering suggests that crystallization of the primary precipitate of the Ultramafic zone occurred at the bottom, rather than the top of the intrusion. Had the settled minerals formed at the top and directly settled through 5 or 6 miles of magma the rocks would exhibit features of extreme differential settling. Furthermore, Hess (1956, p. 449) has shown that, at reasonable magma viscosities, the time of fall from roof to floor is large considering the probable solidification rate of the intrusion. Transportation of high level crystallization products to the floor of the magma chamber by magma currents fails to explain the mineralogic, rather than size-density, sorting that occurs in individual layers and cycles. The most reasonable explanation for the observed textures and structures, therefore, would seem to be that the primary precipitate crystallized near the bottom of the intrusion, and accumulated by simple crystal settling on the floor as rapidly as it formed.

Many authors have postulated nonconvective cooling and crystal settling as probable or possible mechanisms for differentiation and layering in mafic sill-like intrusions (Tyrrell, 1916, p. 123-128; Bowen, 1919, p. 411-423; Walker, 1940, p. 1083-1089; Edwards, 1942, p. 603-604; and Cornwall, 1951, p. 190-193). Subsequent to initial chilling effects, cooling in nonconvecting, moderately thick horizontal bodies not in an infinite medium must be predominantly from the upper surface, where thermal gradients are increased by the proximity of the earth's surface, which is maintained at constant temperature by atmospheric processes. Lovering (1935, p. 86) has demonstrated that, after an appreciable time, temperatures in the country rock below a tabular body may actually exceed those in the body itself. The major site of crystallization in such bodies depends on the relative magnitudes of the actual thermal gradient and the melting point gradient in the magma. Disregarding the early chill effects, crystallization in a stagnant magma may: 1) proceed inward from both the upper and lower surfaces at essentially equal rates providing the body is relatively thin or deeply buried (Jaeger, 1957, p. 311-312), 2) proceed in all parts of the magma simultaneously if the body has its upper surface at shallow depths and a compositional gradient is established (Cornwall, 1951, p. 192), or 3) proceed predominantly downward from the top if the body is extremely thick.

The heat relations and site of major crystallization subsequent to early chill effects are, however, considerably different in convecting magmas (Jaeger, 1957, p. 317). Wager and Deer (1939, p. 266-270) proposed a theory of convection circulation in the Skaergaard intrusion in which crystallization begins in the upper part of the intrusion, due to cooling, and continued during the descent in the convection current due to increase in pressure. The growing crystals contributed to the mean density of the magma, and, at the bottom of the continuous cycle, were spread out over the floor of the intrusion. This process has been illustrated diagrammatically by Wager (1953, p. 346). Hess has stated that he favors the same mechanism to explain the crystallization process in the Stillwater complex (1956, p. 449).

Wager and Deer base their ideas of crystallization at depth in the magma on the assumption that, in a convecting magma, the melting point increases with depth faster than the actual temperature of the magma, and these authors (1939, p. 268-269) state:

> "If the upper part of the Skaergaard magma is regarded as on the point of precipitating crystals of the primary phases, plagioclase, olivine and pyroxene, then the increase in pressure as the magma is carried down by the convective circulation should cause some crystallization, since the thermal gradient is about 0.3° centigrade per kilometre and the raising of the melting point for these minerals lies between 1° and 5° centigrade per kilometre of descent."

Wager and Deer's figure for the adiabatic gradient is derived from Jeffreys (1929, p. 138-139), and their melting point gradient from measured or calculated data for the minerals forsterite, fayalite, diopside and anorthite.

The relative values of the adiabatic and melting point gradients are extremely important in determining the site of crystallization in a convecting magma, and a review of their nature seems warranted here. The equation for the adiabatic gradient in a perfectly convecting magma may be derived theoretically, and the solution requires a knowledge of the temperature, specific heat at constant pressure and coefficient of volume expansion of the magma. From this equation, Adams

(1924, p. 462) determined the adiabatic gradient in a postulated molten mantle to be "something less than 1° C. per kilometer of depth". Jeffreys (1929, p. 138) used the parameters temperature 1400° K, specific heat 0.2 cal./g. degree, and coefficient of volume expansion 2×10^{-5} per degree in the same equation and determined the thermal gradient of the mantle to be about 0.3° C/km. The application of Adams' and Jeffreys' values to the mantle as a whole have been criticized (Verhoogen, 1956, p. 30, 33-34), but the equation for adiabatic gradient and even the parameters used by Jeffreys would seem to express very adequately the thermal distribution in a convecting magma in the upper levels of the crust. An expression for the melting point gradient may also be theoretically derived, and Jeffreys (1952, p. 272), using fairly typical values for igneous rocks calculated the gradient to be about 3°/km. More recently, Yoder (1952, p. 364-374) experimentally determined the change in melting point in diopside with pressure, and, based on this experimental work, estimated the gradient for basalt to be 10° C/1000 bars, or about 3°C/km. Thus, it would appear that in a convecting basalt sill, the increase of melting point of the basalt at depth would be about 10 times the increase in temperature.

If these gradients are the right order of magnitude, then Adams' (1924, p. 459-472) argument on solidification of the earth may be applied to solidification of the Stillwater magma;

crystallization must have begun at the bottom of the relatively thick sill, once the initial chill effects were overcome, and convection established on adiabatic gradient. This relation is illustrated in figure 34, a diagrammatic representation of the heat relations in an initially molten sill 8 kilometers thick (the assumed initial thickness of the Stillwater magma). At t_1 it is assumed that the magma has established its adiabatic gradient above the melting point gradient, and no crystallization occurs. As heat is lost from the top of the sill, the temperature of the magma decreases uniformly and the adiabatic gradient is maintained. At t_2 the temperature curve in the cooling magma intersects the melting point temperature curve at the bottom of the sill, and crystallization begins, while the temperature at the top is still more than 20 degrees above the melting point. At t_3, after considerable convective cooling and consolidation have taken place, the zone of crystallization has moved upward, but remains near the floor of the intrusion. In relatively thin sills, or in thick ones which have reduced their thickness by precipitation and building at the floor, these conditions may not obtain. At the chosen gradients, a sill 2 kilometers thick beginning to crystallize would be only about 5 degrees above its melting point at the top and if the gradients near the top are slightly superadiabatic, the cooling might cause crystallizations like those pictured by Wager and Deer, and Hess.

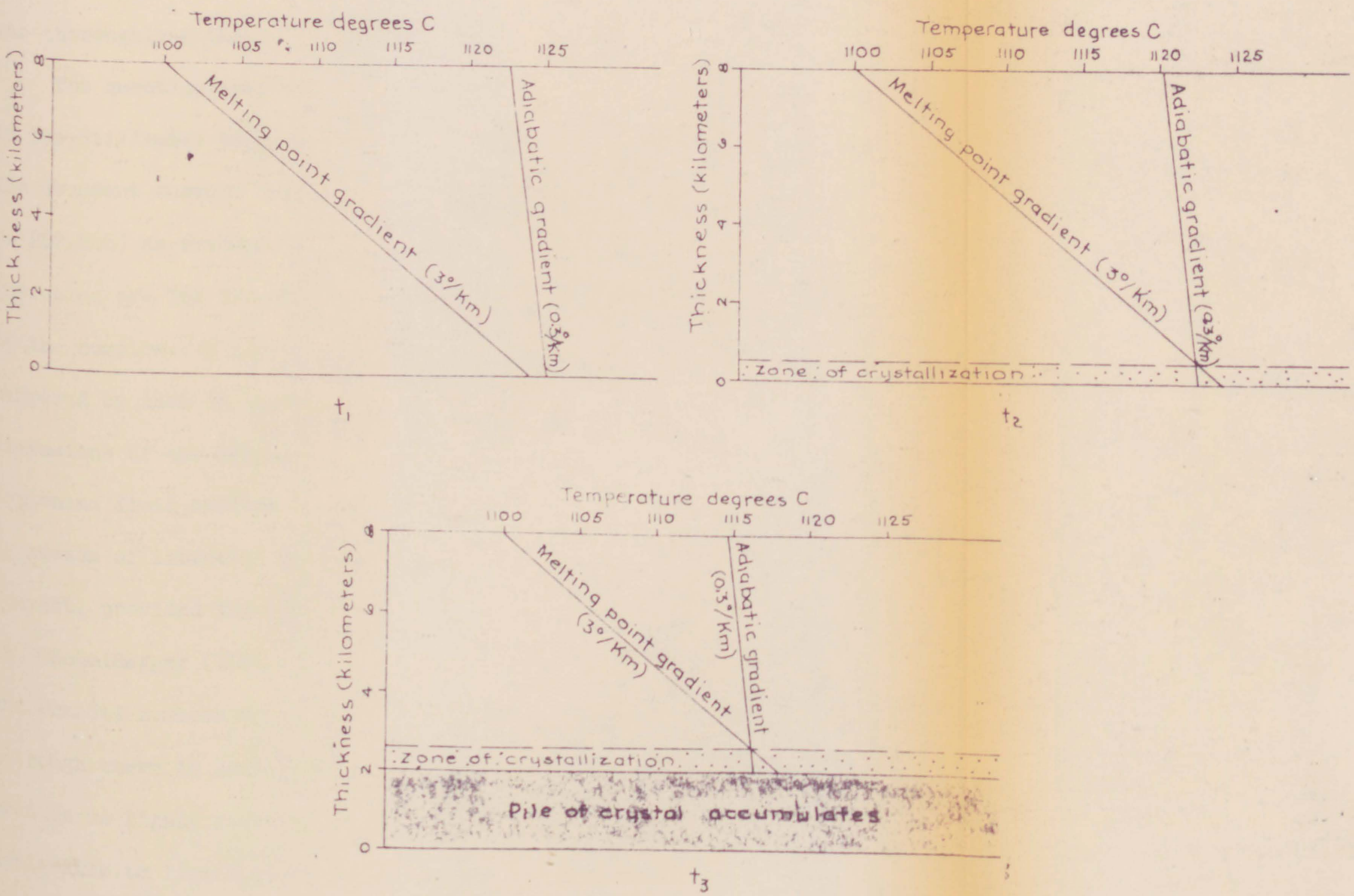


FIGURE 34 Hypothetical crystallization behavior in a thick convecting sill.

Through the Ultramafic zone of the Stillwater complex, at least, the available evidence suggests that crystallization of the primary precipitate occurred entirely at the bottom, if the magma was thoroughly mixed.

The question remains whether convection did, in fact, exist in the Stillwater magma during crystallization and accumulation. The abundant current structures cited by Wager and Deer (1939, p. 262-266) as evidence for current deposition is the Skaergaard intrusion are for the most part lacking in the Ultramafic zone of the complex. A theoretical discussion of convection is hampered by lack of knowledge concerning original shape and dimensions of the Stillwater magma chamber, but ideally, a Newtonian fluid cooling predominantly from the top is unstable by reason of increased density of the surface layers, and will convect, provided the viscosity is not so great as to prevent it. Scheidegger (1953, p. 144) uses the product of the Grashoff and Prandtl numbers to predict convection in the mantle, and although there is some doubt as to the significance of this product in highly viscous materials, it should at least be more applicable to liquid magmas than to solid substances. Calculation of the Grashoff-Prandtl product for the Stillwater magma, assuming a cell diameter of 15 miles and a temperature difference of only one degree, shows that convection would not be damped unless the viscosity were about 3×10^{16} poises, a figure some

13 orders of magnitude greater than the expected viscosity. Inasmuch as any crystallization at the top of the intrusion would serve to increase the probability of overturn, convection appears to be theoretically compelling.

Intermittent crystallization

An attempt has been made to show that the cyclic units are the fundamental building blocks of the Ultramafic zone, and that each cyclic unit represents a single crystallization sequence that occurred near the bottom of the intrusion chamber. A brief and tentative discussion of mechanisms capable of producing the repetition of these crystallization sequences is necessary in order to complete a preliminary outline of origin for the lower portion of the complex. Two such mechanisms will be considered: the first, multiple intermittent injections of magma during crystallization, which was proposed by Lombaard (1934, p. 40-52) to explain certain oscillations in the stratigraphy of the Bushveld complex, appears to have serious limitations in application to the Stillwater; the second, a process involving continuous convection at the top and intermittent crystallization at the bottom during the consolidation of a single intrusion, is proposed by the present writer, and appears, at this stage of the investigation, to be the most probable mechanism to explain the cyclical distribution of compositional layers in the Ultramafic zone.

Intermittent magma injection

Lombaard's multiple injection hypothesis, which was later adopted by Kuschke (1939, p. 71-73) and van der Walt (1941, p. 111), involved differentiation and remelting of successive crystal products in a subcrustal magma chamber, and injection of these liquids in pulses to form the Bushveld complex. This process was criticized by Turner and Verhoogen (1951, p. 223), who objected to the coincidence of pre-intrusive differentiation in an elusive, hidden chamber. Cooper (1936, p. 44-45) postulated repeated injections of original magma to explain repetitive stratigraphy in the Bay of Islands complex, and this seems a more reasonable process.

A superficially plausible explanation for cyclic variation in the Ultramafic zone of the Stillwater complex can be constructed using a mechanism similar to Cooper's. A portion of the magma was injected, formed the chill zone, began to convect, and crystallized olivine, then pyroxene at the base of the magma chanber to form cyclic unit 1. A second pulse of the same magma was at this point, injected into the upper part of the chamber. The fresh magma supplied heat, stopped convection, and terminated crystallization at the base. On further cooling, convection was re-inaugurated, crystallization began once more, and cyclic unit 2 was deposited. This process was then repeated some 15 times during the accumulation of the Peridotite member.

The injections thereupon ceased and allowed the remaining magma to crystallize bronzite alone until, with continued cooling, the mineral was joined by plagioclase.

Hess' (1940, p. 377; 1941, p. 584) mineral variation curves for the Stillwater complex indicate that no fresh magma was injected into the Stillwater system subsequent to the first appearance of settled plagioclase at the top of the Ultramafic zone, and the simple mineralogy of the Bronzitite member indicates that a similar situation prevailed. New influxes of magma, if such occurred at all, must therefore have ceased early in the history of the complex. The possibility that magma injection occurred during the accumulation of the Peridotite member cannot be eliminated, but several strong objections to the theory exist: 1) the initial injection of the complex was accompanied by emplacement of considerable amounts of iron-copper-nickel sulfides along the base, and there is no reason to suppose that subsequent injections would be lacking in similar amounts of sulfur, but no sulfide concentrations at the bases of the cyclic units have been observed; 2) magma injections forming stratigraphically higher cyclic units would be emplaced after consolidation of the lower cyclic units, but no intrusive disturbances of layers of the Ultramafic zone have been observed; and, 3) the total olivine-bronzite ratio in the cyclic units of the Peridotite member changes slightly and gradually from bottom to top, so that Lombaard's coincidental theory of simultaneous differentiation in a hidden chamber must, to some extent, still be called upon.

Variable-depth convection

In consideration of the objections to multiple injection, it seems preferable to turn to a hypothesis bases on single magma injection to account for the repetitive distribution of the cyclic units in the Peridotite member. A mechanism involving variable-depth convection and periodic refreshment of stagnant bottom magma undergoing crystallization seems to fit the observed facts, at least within the Ultramafic zone of the complex. A tentative outline of this mechanism will be made here, and a more detailed treatment will be presented in a subsequent publication.

It is presumed that the magma was injected within a relatively short period of time, and essentially as a single pulse, into relatively cool wall rocks. Conduction of heat by the wall rocks resulted in an initial depression of temperature in the magma at both top and bottom of the intrusion, producing fine-grained chilled gabbro at the margins. During this initial stage of crystallization, the magma presumably was relatively stagnant, and hotter in the central portion than at either top or bottom. At this stage, the rates of heat loss from the top and bottom were much the same, magma temperatures decreased nearly symmetrically, and supercooling resulted near both margins. At both the top and bottom of the chamber the magma was dense, not only because of the relatively lower temperatures obtaining, but because clouds of early precipitates began to form in the magma near the margins which substantially increased the effective density. At the top of the intrusion, the magma was unstable, that is, its temperature gradient was super-adiabatic, and convection commenced almost immediately. Free crystals that might have formed near the upper contact were re-fused when carried into the hot interior by convection because the amounts of magma in the sill was very large compared to the amount of crystals at the top, at least at this early stage of the history of the intrusion. Near the base of the intrusion, however, the situation was considerably different. Relatively cool, crystal-charged magma near the bottom was stable, and its crystal products were preserved by settling to the floor of the chamber. Furthermore, the amount of super-cooling and the amount of crystal precipitation near the bottom was greater than that near the top by reason of the slope of the melting point curve. A schematic diagram of temperature relations hypothetically existing at this time (t_1) is shown on figure 35.

On the basis of the foregoing discussion it is therefore presumed: 1) that convective overturn occurred in the upper portion of the intrusion; 2) that the convective cycle extended

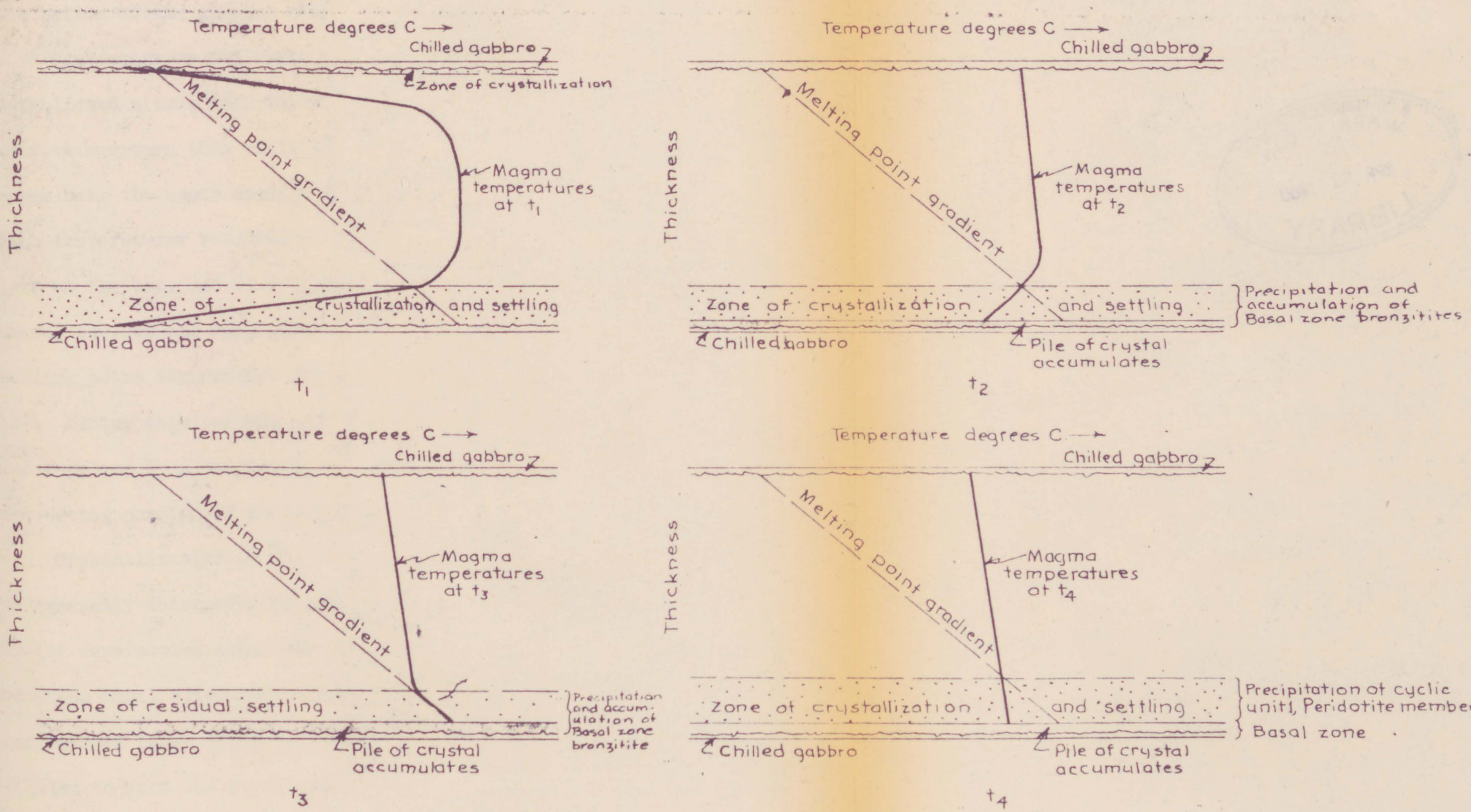


FIGURE 35. Diagramatic illustrations of proposed mechanism for crystallization in the lower part of the Stillwater complex.

to considerable depths in the intrusion; and 3) that magma near the bottom of the chamber did not join in this circulation.

Convection in the upper part of the magma would have established a true adiabiatic temperature gradient there. Convective overturn thus would have raised the temperature of the magma near the upper contact and maintained it at high values. High temperatures resulted in 1) a high rate of conductive heat loss at the top, and 2) virtual cessation of crystallization there, because the adiabatic magma temperature exceeded the melting point temperature for pressures at that depth (fig. 35, t_2). During this period, heat lost through the upper contact was supplied by a uniform decrease in the temperature of the convecting portion of the magma.

Crystallization in the lower stagnant magma would continue at gradually increasing temperatures (fig. 35, t_2) as the originally supercooled magma was warmed by latent heat of crystallization until a two-phase crystal-liquid equilibrium condition was reached (fig. 35, t_3). The crystal products of this process settled to form the Basal zone bronzitites[1/].

1/ Preliminary investigations of the compositions of these layered bronzitites show the predicted relationship; higher temperature phases occur upward in the section.

During this period, heat lost through the lower contact was supplied locally by latent heat of crystallization in the stable bottom layer. Presumably, an equilibrium state would have been approached in the bottom layer, the temperature would have followed the pressure-melting relation, and the rate of crystallization would have been just sufficient to supply the conductive heat lost through the bottom. As the rate of such conductive heat loss through the floor of the intrusion diminished, and as latent heat supply produced by crystallization of the interstitial magma in the accumulating crystal mush became appreciable, the amount of crystallization of primary precipitate from the stable bottom layer would have decreased, with attendant decrease in density of the layer. At the same time, the temperatures of the magma in the bottom layer would have risen to and have been maintained at the melting point curve by supply of latent heat of crystallization. The original temperature gradient in the lower stagnant layer would at this time have been reversed (fig. 35, t_3).

Hypothetically then, at the stage in the cooling history numbered t_3 in figure 35, temperatures in the upper convecting portion of the magma were determined by the true adiabatic gradient and the progressively decreasing upper contact temperatures, and were still greater than melting point temperatures in that part of the sill. Temperatures in the lower, stagnant portion, on the other hand, had been raised to or slightly above the melting point at depth, and crystallization had essentially stopped. The melting point gradient is superadiabatic, and conditions were therefore favorable for the lower, stagnant magma to join in the convective overturn, but owing to the high density of the crystal-laden magma, this could not be accomplished until the residual suspended crystals in the lower layer had settled out. As this residual settling progressed, the circulation of the upper convecting portion of the magma would penetrate to progressively increasing depths, until the bottom layer of magma, partially fractionated by its crystallization of early mineral phases, was completely incorporated into the convective system.

When the heretofore stagnant lower layer did, eventually, join the upper convecting system, fresh, relatively cool magma would have been brought to the bottom as an adiabatic gradient was established there (fig. 35, t_4). This would re-initiate crystallization at the bottom in that portion of the fresh magma brought below the melting point temperatures. A cloud of crystalline precipitate would form, again increasing the density of the bottom layer and causing it to stagnate while convective circulation was maintained in the upper part of the intrusion. Due to the decreased thermal gradient in the rocks below the floor of the sill, this second stagnant magma was not supercooled to the same extent as the magma which produced the Basal bronzitities, and the initial depression of temperatures below the melting point was caused by overshoot rather than rapid conduction. First olivine, then chromite, then bronzite would have been precipitated and successively dropped to form cyclic unit 1 of the Ultramafic zone. Crystallization would virtually stop when the temperature of the bottom layer was raised uniformly to the melting point by latent heat of crystallization, but the bottom layer would not again join the circulation until its density was reduced by crystal settling. This process is presumed to have been repeated, with the crystallization and deposition of the stratigraphically higher cyclic units. The transition to the stagnant state of the bottom layer would not be expected to take place under conditions of thermodynamic equilibrium due to inertia of the deeply convecting system and supercooling prior to nucleation. Thus, layers of finite thickness, as postulated, might be expected to have been brought below the melting point temperature before the increased density due to crystal precipitation brought about stagnation.

A variation of the above hypothesis, which appears less probable at this time, concerns intermittent, rather than variable-depth convection. It seems possible that crystallization in the lower layer might have stagnated the entire magma column during precipitation and settling. In such a case adiabatic temperature gradients would not have been maintained in the upper portion of the intrusion and magma near the top would have been conductively cooled to a considerable extent. After cessation of crystallization and settling in the bottom layer, the unstable column would have overturned one-half cycle, at which time the cool magma from the top would have reached the region of higher melting point at the bottom and crystallization would have once more stabilized the magma. Intermittent convection would require a much longer cooling time for the intrusion as a whole than would variable-depth convection, and a considerably thicker upper chill zone would be expected.

In the favored hypothesis, the cyclic units are pictured as depositional products of periodically refreshed stagnant magma which became stabilized by bottom crystallization. Because the bottom magma during each crystallization cycle was stagnant, it became enriched in silica as crystallization proceeded, and the early chromite and olivine were followed by bronzite. Each overturn brought a fresh supply of magma to the bottom and the cycle was repeated, but after such selective crystallization of a number of overturns the composition of the entire magma was gradually but appreciably changed, so that higher cycles in the Peridotite member systematically contained smaller proportions of olivine. In this manner olivine and chromite finally ceased altogether to be crystallization products, and the magma crystallized bronzite alone in the Bronzitite member, and bronzite plus plagioclase at the base of the norite section above.

An important assumption made in developing the foregoing theory is that crystallization at the top of the Stillwater magma was minor during the formation of the Ultramafic and Basal zones, and that crystal phases forming at the top did not reach the floor of the intrusion and did not become incorporated in the layered rocks. Two points may be made in support of this assumption: 1) it seems theoretically probable, and 2) it supports the field relations. Theoretically, it must be admitted that the maintainance of single phase adiabatic temperatures up to the roof of the intrusion as illustrated in figure 35, t_2, t_3, and t_4 seems very unlikely. Not only would extremely rapid convection be required, but the marginal rocks would begin to melt. No doubt magma temperatures near the roof decreased markedly to the melting point, and some free crystals were produced there while the Basal and Ultramafic zone rocks were accumulating at the bottom. The fate of such crystals would be re-melting, as long as a magma above the melting point gradient remained in the center of the intrusion. Preliminary considerations of the probable heat flow relations indicate that considerably more crystallization took place at the bottom of the intrusion than at the top during the early cooling history. After all of the Ultramafic zone rocks had accumulated, some 6 to 7 km of magma still remained in the intrusion, and, even if the assumption is made that equal amounts of crystals were produced at both margins, it seems unlikely that the magma temperatures would have been driven down to the melting point gradient by this time.

It must be emphasized, however, that as the crystal pile increased in thickness above the Ultramafic zone and as magma temperatures decreased during the continued fractionation and cooling of the complex, crystallization from the top must have become increasingly important. The amount of specific heat available for re-melting crystals would progressively decrease. The magma temperatures would approach and maintain the melting point gradient for whatever mineral phases were precipitating at that time, and a two-phase crystal-liquid equilibrium would result. Under these conditions, the temperature gradient would be super-adiabatic, and the whole magma would have been able to overturn, precipitating crystals throughout. Crystals which began to grow at all levels in the magma would be carried to the bottom and deposited. This is essentially the mechanism proposed by Wager and Deer (1939, p. 266-270) to account for the observed relations in the Skaergaard intrusion, and adopted by Hess (1956, p. 449) to explain the origin of the Stillwater complex.

The theory of variable-depth convection and bottom crystallization as outlined here appears capable of explaining the repetitious stratigraphy, general absence of current features, compositional rather than size-density layering, absence of hydraulic equivalence, and size distributions and other previously described features of the Ultramafic zone. The theory of continuous convection and crystallization appears capable of explaining layered igneous rocks characterized by current structures, size-density layering, lineation of primary precipitate mineral axes, and continuous differentiation toward lower temperature mineral phases. The two theories are not mutually exclusive, and it seems likely that conditions of variable-depth convection, bottom crystallization and magma refreshment in the lower part of the Stillwater complex gave way to continuous convection and deposition in the upper part as the magma volume and, particularly, the magma thickness, diminished.

Similarity to chemical sediments

Several authors, particularly Wager and Deer (1939, p. 271) and Turner and Verhoogen (1951, p. 236) have compared the origin of rocks of layered intrusions to that of detrital sediments. Thus, Wager and Deer, who offer an explanation of origin of layers by what might be called igneous density currents, state:

> "There is a close analogy between the structural features of the layered series and of sedimentary rocks. The igneous lamination of the layered series is similar to the lamination of a micaceous silt; in both cases it is due to the lamellar form of the material deposited. The unlaminated material of melanocratic bands in the layered series, like sandstone is composed of fragments

> with a general rounded shape and in both there is no fissility. ...In other ways the rhythmic layering is comparable with rhythmic variation of sandstones and shales, the light bands of the layered series being comparable with the shale because they represent material carried by feeble currents, while the dark bands are comparable with sandstone composed of heavy grains only transported by vigorous currents."

The rocks of the Ultramafic zone of the Stillwater complex, however, appear to the writer to be more analogous in point of origin to chemical sediments, and in particular to evaporites, than to detrital accumulations. The Stillwater ultramafics and evaporites appear to have the following common features: 1) both have a bedded distribution acquired by crystallization and settling of primary precipitates from a saturated solution; 2) both are constructed of compositional layers, commonly monomineralic or bimineralic, which are derived by fractional crystallization[1/] (Pettijohn, 1957, p. 428, 484); 3) in both, the compositional layers are commonly repeated in a cyclic fashion (Stewart, 1951, p. 446, 460; Schaller and Henderson, 1932, p. 8); and 4) primary settled grains within the layers are single crystals, although more material of the same composition may be added as crystallographically oriented overgrowths after deposition (Dellwig, 1955, p. 88-93). In both saline deposits

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1/ To the writer's knowledge, no one has as yet proposed halite or anhydrite magmas.

and the lower part of the Stillwater complex, appeal must be made to physio-chemical rather than mechanical processes to explain the composition and distribution of the rocks.

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