



# Reconciling fast and slow cooling during planetary formation as recorded in the main group pallasites

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## ABSTRACT

Pallasite meteorites contain evidence for vastly different cooling timescales: rapid cooling at high temperatures (K/yrs) and slow cooling at lower temperatures (K/Myrs). Pallasite olivine also shows contrasting textures ranging from well-rounded to angular and fragmental, and some samples record chemical zoning. Previous pallasite formation models have required fortuitous changes to the parent body in order to explain these contrasting timescales and textures, including late addition of a megaregolith layer, impact excavation, or parent body break-up and recombination. We investigate the timescales recorded in Main Group Pallasite meteorites with a coupled multiscale thermal diffusion modelling approach, using a 1D model of the parent body and a 3D model of the metal-olivine intrusion region, to see if these large-scale changes to the parent body are necessary. We test a range of intrusion volumes and aspect ratios, metal-to-olivine ratios, and initial temperatures for both the background mantle and the intruded metal. We find that the contrasting timescales, textural heterogeneity, and preservation of chemical zoning can all occur within one simple ellipsoidal segment of an intrusion complex. These conditions are satisfied in 13% of our randomly generated models (2200 model runs), with small intrusion volumes (with a mean radius  $\lesssim 100$  m) and colder background mantle temperatures ( $\lesssim 1200$  K) favourable. Large rounded olivine can be explained by a previous intrusion of metal into a hotter mantle, suggesting possible repeated bombardment of the parent body. We speculate that the formation of pallasitic zones within planetesimals may have been a common occurrence in the early Solar System, as our model shows that favourable pallasite conditions can be accommodated in a wide range of intrusion morphologies, across a wide range of planetesimal mantle temperatures, without the need for large-scale changes to the parent body. We suggest that pallasites represent a late stage of repeated injection of metal into a cooling planetesimal mantle, and that heterogeneity observed in micro-scale rounding or chemical zoning preservation in pallasite olivine can be explained by diverse cooling rates in different regions of a small intrusion.

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## 1. Introduction

Main Group Pallasite meteorites (referred to from here on as “pallasites”), consisting of a mixture of silicate crystals (predominantly forsteritic olivine) and FeNi alloy, are believed to represent a key time in the early evolution of the solar system as metal differentiated from silicate and planetary cores began to form. However, models differ about the exact details of the process represented by the pallasite meteorites. In particular, pallasites contain evidence for cooling at contrasting timescales: the metal portion records

cooling at rates of  $\sim 10^{-6}$ – $10^{-5}$  Kelvin per year below  $\sim 900$  K (Ni diffusion studies; Yang et al., 1997, 2010; Goldstein et al., 2014), while orders of magnitude more rapid cooling ( $\sim 10^0$ – $10^2$  Kelvin per year) has been suggested to explain chemical gradients and heterogeneity in olivine acquired at higher temperatures (Miyamoto, 1997; Tomiyama and Huss, 2006), and the halted textural equilibration post-metal-injection (Walte and Golabek, 2022). The difference between these rates cannot be explained by a simple conductive cooling model of a planetesimal that initially cools rapidly and then slows (Yang et al., 2010).

The macro-scale texture of pallasite olivine across and within samples ranges from well-rounded to fragmental and highly angular (Grossman and Nomenclature Committee of the Meteoritical Society, 2022). While not systematically addressed in the liter-

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ature, the degree of micro-scale rounding also appears to vary across samples, with macroscopically angular olivine grains frequently having microscopically rounded corners (Scott, 1977). The degree of rounding of olivine grains increases with residence time in hot FeNi (Saiki et al., 2003; Walte et al., 2020), and so the range in degree of olivine angularity across pallasite samples adds further constraints on the cooling rate of the intruded metal in contact with said olivine. The heterogeneity of olivine textures may indicate different formation environments for rounded versus angular olivine crystals, with different temperatures, cooling rates and residence times in molten FeNi metal (McKibbin et al., 2019).

Previous models have suggested injection of metal into a planetesimal mantle via a metallic bolide (Tarduno et al., 2012) or ferrovulcanism from the planet's molten core (Johnson et al., 2020) in order to explain the delivery of molten metal into the parent body mantle. Metal intrusion formation models typically include a qualitative description of large-scale changes to the parent body following metal intrusion to explain the contrasting timescales recorded in pallasite samples, including impact-related excavation to enable rapid cooling of olivine, the late addition of a thick megaregolith blanket to slow cooling at lower temperatures after the olivine cooling rates were recorded, or the break-up and/or re-combination of the parent body (Bryson et al., 2015; Walte et al., 2020; Yang et al., 2010). Walte et al. (2020) suggest the presence of a small fraction (2–15 vol. %) of 'primary' metal trapped in the parent body mantle before the intrusion of 'secondary' metal from a bolide, either as residual metal from incomplete parent-body differentiation, or delivered by an earlier impact and subsequently texturally equilibrated (Walte and Golabek, 2022), to facilitate rounding and grain-growth of the largest fraction of rounded olivines over geological timescales, and to aid later migration of metal melt through the mantle (Saiki et al., 2003).

The observed cooling-rate constraints and textural details have previously been studied in isolation or included in descriptive formation hypotheses, and have not been integrated into a single quantitative model to address whether large-scale changes to the parent body or different formation environments are required to produce the diversity of time scales and textures seen across Main Group Pallasites.

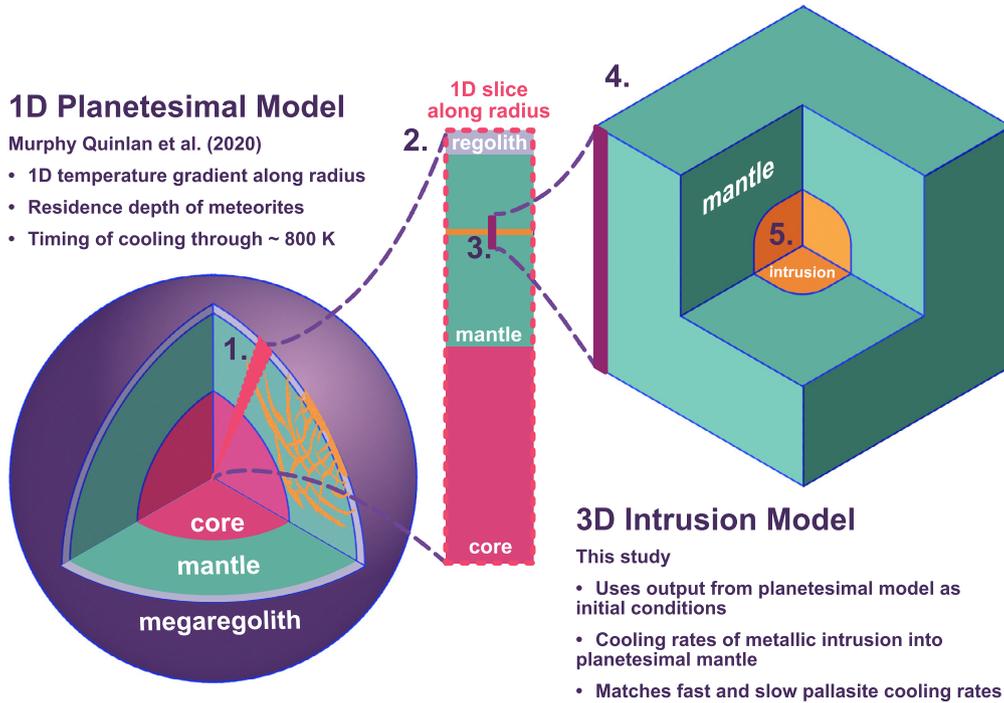
We model the rapid thermal evolution of a metal-olivine intrusion within a slowly cooling mantle in order to test whether we can reproduce the recorded cooling rates and observed olivine textures in pallasite samples without ad-hoc changes to the parent body. We assume a separation of timescales such that there is a one-way interaction between slow cooling of the planetesimal and the fast evolution of the intrusion: the planetesimal mantle temperature sets the initial and boundary conditions of the metallic intrusion, but this small metallic intrusion does not influence the slow, large-scale cooling of the planetesimal mantle. We also investigate the effect of the inclusion of a small fraction of metal in the planetesimal mantle, both on the cooling of the parent body, and on the cooling of later intrusions into the mantle, in order to address the possibility of a multi-collisional formation with earlier stranded metal in the mantle. We discuss the existence of other meteorite groups under the umbrella textural term "pallasite" that formed in different parent bodies, in distinct regions of the Solar System, and what this implies for the planetary building process.

## 2. Numerical model of a metal intrusion

Our conceptual approach of coupling the large-scale, long-term cooling of the pallasite parent body, to the small-scale, rapid cooling of the intrusion region, can be summarised in five steps (labelled with corresponding numbers in Fig. 1):

- Step 1.** We model the 1D temperature evolution of a simple three-layered parent body, using the method and planetesimal geometry of the best-fitting result of Murphy Quinlan et al. (2021a): a thick-mantled 250 km radius planetesimal with a core radius of 125 km, and an 8 km-thick megaregolith layer that does not vary in thickness with time. We repeat this body geometry, with the addition of 15 vol. % metal in the mantle, as an upper end-member (based on the upper limit of primary metal fraction found in Seymchan, Walte et al. 2020). We also use an example result from Nichols et al. (2021): a thin-mantled 300 km radius body with a 250 km radius core, and an 8 km-thick blanket of megaregolith that does not vary in thickness with time.
- Step 2.** We use the output of step 1 (a time series of temperatures and cooling rates along radius) to calculate a residence depth for the Imilac meteorite in each parent body, based on the metallographic cooling rates recorded by Ni diffusion between kamacite and taenite (Yang et al., 2010; Bryson et al., 2015). We infer that this cooling rate is recorded after metal injection, once the metal has cooled to the background mantle temperature of the parent body, and that it captures the large-scale cooling of the planetesimal mantle. We focus on this one meteorite as an example, but our results are general and can be applied across the suite of pallasite meteorites.
- Step 3.** We extract temperature profiles along the planetesimal's radius, centred at the residence depth calculated in step two, at times earlier than the metal cooling rates were recorded. We interpolate these temperature profiles so that they can be used at a smaller metre-scale grid size.
- Step 4.** We consider a cube of mantle material with a vertical temperature gradient set by the background mantle 1D temperature profile from step three.
- Step 5.** We place an ellipsoid with the material properties of mixed metal and forsteritic olivine in the centre of this cartesian box, with an elevated temperature relative to the background mantle (above the liquidus of FeNi metal, but below the solidus of the forsterite), and allow it to cool and crystallise while determining the region's 3D temperature field. Our use of 3-dimensional geometry (as opposed to 1- or 2D) allows us to represent a finite ellipsoid encapsulated by mantle with an asymmetric initial temperature condition along  $z$ .

Steps 4 and 5 are developed and discussed in more detail below; information regarding the earlier steps can be found in Murphy Quinlan et al. (2021a). We use the Imilac meteorite due to paleomagnetic measurements that add an additional constraint regarding core crystallisation timing (Bryson et al., 2015), but our model set-up and assumptions can also be applied to other Main Group Pallasite samples. An inherent assumption of our model is that there is a separation of timescales, implying that there is only one-way interaction between the slowly cooling parent body mantle, and the rapidly cooling intrusion: while the mantle temperature sets the boundary condition and initial temperature field of the intrusion model, the intrusion does not affect the large scale cooling of the mantle. We assume instantaneous emplacement of the molten metal and do not model deformation associated with intrusion. The results of this intrusion model are then compared to the evidence from pallasite samples for preservation of chemical heterogeneity and rounding of olivines to see whether the conditions are favourable for reproducing the known pallasite samples in the meteorite record.



**Fig. 1.** Cartoon sketch of model set up; not to scale. 1D temperature, cooling rate, and pallasite residence depth estimation output from the planetesimal model of Murphy Quinlan et al. (2021a) are used as input for a 3D intrusion model; the numbers refer to the modelling method steps laid out in section 2.

### 2.1. Modelling the intrusion region

Our intrusion model consists of an ellipsoidal region of interconnected solid olivine bridgework (Boesenberg et al., 2012), the pore space (created by impact-related inter- and intra-granular fracturing) of which has been infiltrated and saturated by initially molten FeNi metal. This intrusion region is centred in a box of mantle material (Fig. 1; steps 4 and 5) that is below the FeNi solidus. We assume convection of the metal in this region is inhibited by the low porosity and permeability of the solid olivine bridgework, the crystallisation of the metal, and the low gravitational acceleration.

We consider a cartesian box of mantle material with constant temperature in the horizontal directions  $x$  and  $y$ , and the vertical coordinate  $z$  aligned with the 1D mantle temperature output from the planetesimal model (Fig. 1; part three). Assuming a purely conductive system in which convective heat transport and internal heat generation are neglected, the temperature  $T$  (K) in this volume satisfies the three-dimensional heat conduction equation (Carslaw and Jaeger, 1959):

$$\rho c_p \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( k \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left( k \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( k \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} \right) \quad (1)$$

where:  $\rho$  is the density of the material ( $\text{kg m}^{-3}$ );  $c_p$  is the specific heat capacity ( $\text{J kg}^{-1} \text{K}^{-1}$ );  $t$  is time (s);  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  are the spatial coordinates (m); and  $k$  is thermal conductivity ( $\text{W m}^{-1} \text{K}^{-1}$ ). We choose temperature-independent  $k$ , allowing the Crank-Nicolson scheme to be applied to the problem without the complications associated with non-linearity (Carslaw and Jaeger, 1959; Özisik, 1993).

We define a uniaxial ellipsoid of volume  $V = \frac{4}{3}\pi a^2 b$ , where  $a$  and  $b$  are radii, which represents the intrusion region with a pallasitic mix of silicate and metal. The dimensions of the box ( $X = Y = Z$ ), within which this ellipsoid is centred, is set by the diffusion lengthscale for the mantle material: we wish to run the model for ten years, and do not want the temperature near

the model boundaries to change during that time. This allows us to apply a zero-flux condition to the boundaries of the problem.

Directly modelling the mixed-phase region of olivine crystals and metal melt would be computationally expensive and require detailed knowledge of the geometry of the phase mixture, which we do not know. Instead, we take a macroscopic approach to track the cooling and crystallisation of the metal in this area, and consider the intrusion region as a single material, using volume-averaged effective thermal properties. We adopt the method of Mottaghy and Rath (2006) to model permafrost: we assume a simple saturated two component system, where olivine forms a solid interconnected bridgework of crystals, with the pore space filled with metal.

The fraction of solid and liquid metal is controlled by a temperature-dependent function which should be one when the metal is entirely solid ( $T < T_S$ , the FeNi solidus temperature), and zero when the metal is fluid ( $T > T_L$ , the FeNi liquidus temperature). In order to account for the latent heat associated with melting or crystallisation, we apply the simple fixed-domain apparent heat capacity method (Figure S1 in the supplementary material) which correlates the heat capacity of the phase-changing material with the slope of the enthalpy-temperature curve (Zeneli et al., 2021, further details in supplementary materials).

The material properties outside the intrusion region have constant values that match that of olivine, or a mixture of olivine and 15 vol. % metal; however, phase change processes are not considered for the metal in this region. Sudden jumps and step functions in the spatially-varying diffusivity can introduce instabilities especially if these material properties boundaries intersect with the model boundary, so we surround our intrusion region with mantle material and ensure spatially-constant material properties at the model boundaries.

We apply the semi-implicit Crank-Nicolson scheme (Crank and Nicolson, 1947) due to its stability with zero-flux boundary conditions to the heat equation in 1D. Forward difference is used for the time derivative of  $T$ , but the spatial derivative is evaluated at

the time step  $t + \Delta t/2$  instead of at  $t$ , taking the arithmetic mean between the time step  $t$  and  $t + \Delta t$ . We also discretise  $\kappa$  with respect to distance using finite differences (Langtangen and Linge, 2017). In order to extend this scheme to three dimensions, we apply the Fractional Step Method (Cen et al., 2016; Yanenko, 1971), which evaluates the heat equation in one-third time step increments along each of the spatial dimensions.

We bench-marked our numerical model against an analytical solution from Carslaw and Jaeger (1959), and found that the maximum relative defect between the numerical and analytical models dropped to below 1% within 150 seconds (Figure S2). We also investigated the effect of spatial and temporal resolution on our results to ensure we chose a sufficiently small step size (Figure S3). Extended methods and full derivations can be found in the supplementary information.

### 3. Quantitative constraints on the cooling of pallasite meteorites

The results of the model at different times are analysed and compared to the meteorite record. We address two key criteria: the potential for rounding of olivine grains, and the preservation of primary igneous zoning. Each intrusion model output is scored based on whether it was consistent with observations from the meteorite record with respect to these criteria; models with a score of two reproduce both results.

#### 3.1. Textural heterogeneity

While the macro-scale textural heterogeneity of pallasite olivines is a striking feature that has previously been used to attempt to constrain formation mechanisms (for instance, McKibbin et al., 2019), pallasite samples also display textural heterogeneity on the micro-scale. Scott (1977) recorded the presence of apparently spheroidal sub-millimetre olivine grains alongside macroscopically angular olivine, and noted that while the degree of microscopic rounding of olivine grains varied across samples, when magnified, many angular olivine grains have rounded corners. This is supported also by Buseck (1977), who stated that ‘almost all’ sharp olivine corners appear to have been somewhat microscopically rounded following fragmentation.

Small olivine grains of diameter 300  $\mu\text{m}$ , or the corners of larger olivine fragments, could be rounded within approximately ten years in Fe-Ni-S at temperatures at or above  $\sim 1573$  K, or within approximately three months at  $\sim 1623$  K (Walte et al., 2020; Saiki et al., 2003). Larger olivines could also be rounded on geologically short timescales at higher temperatures, or with protracted cooling, or in the presence of sulfide-rich metal melt (Solferino et al., 2015).

Based on experimental results from Walte et al. (2020), to round small olivine grains we require a point within the intrusion region to be at or above 1623 K at three months after the start of the model run, or at or above 1573 K at ten years after the start of the model run. We investigate the sensitivity of the model to these requirements by both varying the temperature cut-offs by  $\pm 10\%$  and by varying the timing of the measurement, and find that the earliest requirement ( $T \geq 1623$  K at three months) is the most sensitive both to changing the time or temperature of this requirement (see Figure S4). As the temperature constraints are derived from two preliminary experimental results recorded at the temperatures listed extrapolated multiple orders of magnitude beyond the original experimental design (i.e. from hours and seconds to months and years), and the texture estimates are based on arbitrary estimates of the gross statistical properties of the incomplete meteorite record, incorporating an estimate of error on the constraints would imply an unrealistic level of precision.

As micro-scale rounding of olivine in pallasite meteorites has not been systematically surveyed, we vary the volume requirement of the intrusion that must cool slowly enough to meet the above criteria between  $\geq 30\%$  and  $\geq 70\%$  by volume. For the main suite of results presented in this paper, we require that  $\geq 40\%$  by volume of the intrusion region cools slowly enough to enable micro-scale rounding. This arbitrary lower limit takes into account the isothermal nature of the experiments presented by Walte et al. (2020). As our starting temperature is higher than the experimental temperatures that were held constant while investigating rounding (1623 K and 1573 K), a shorter time at elevated temperatures will actually be required, leading our model to underestimate the rounded fraction of the intrusion.

Scott (2017) suggested that the macro-morphology of rounded-type pallasites (for example, Brenham, with cm-scale spheroidal olivine grains) predates the fragmentation of olivine clusters and intrusion of the main bulk of pallasite metal (the intrusion modelled in this study). These large, well rounded grains may have formed in contact with sizeable metal pockets that were trapped in the planetesimal mantle either during impact core-mantle differentiation (Scott, 2017) or through repeated impact delivery of metal to the planetesimal (Walte et al., 2020; Walte and Golabek, 2022). This pre-fragmentation trapped metal is referred to as ‘primary metal’ hereafter, while the later metal intrusion is referred to as ‘secondary metal’.

We address the possible retention of primary metal by increasing the average diffusivity of the parent body mantle for a selection of runs, to approximate a macroscopic mixture of metal and olivine, and track the cooling history at the depth of pallasite residence to see if large-scale rounding can be achieved prior to secondary metal intrusion. While we examine this early process further in the discussion, our modelling primarily focuses on the micro-scale rounding in secondary metal.

Macroscopically ‘mixed-type’ pallasites can potentially be explained by pieces of angular or rounded olivine being broken off the bridgework and entrained in the secondary metal melt, and carried to regions with olivine of a different morphology, followed by cooling which preserved the macroscopic textural heterogeneity; alternatively early sub-solidus convection of the parent-body mantle could redistribute and mix different olivine morphologies from different source regions in the mantle (Solferino and Golabek, 2018). Further study on the microscopic textures of pallasite olivine are required to determine the extent of heterogeneity within and between samples; mixing in the intrusion region and rapid cooling could similarly be invoked to explain any observed contrasts within single samples.

#### 3.2. Chemical heterogeneity

Pallasite olivines display heterogeneous core and rim compositions (Hsu, 2003), with potential oscillatory zoning in Cr, Al and V recorded in the Imilac meteorite (Chernozhukin et al., 2021). Preservation of original igneous compositions is varied, with solid-state diffusive modification of different elements on different scales recorded across samples (Hsu, 2003). In general, Ca zoning (either diffusion profiles or original heterogeneity) is pervasive in pallasite olivine and has not been completely homogenised (Hsu, 2003).

In an olivine grain of diameter 300–500  $\mu\text{m}$ , Ca will be completely homogenised within four years at  $\sim 1573$  K and within 8 years at  $\sim 1373$  K (Hsu, 2003; Jurewicz and Watson, 1988). This means that to preserve the Ca heterogeneity in pallasite olivine, including in the smallest size fraction, the majority of pallasite samples had to cool rapidly enough to prevent this erasure.

Based on diffusion studies of Hsu (2003) and Jurewicz and Watson (1988), to preserve zoning we require that a point within the

intrusion region cools below 1573 K within four years, and below 1373 K within eight years. In order to reproduce the “ubiquitous” preservation of Ca zoning observed in the pallasite meteorite record (Hsu, 2003), we require that  $\geq 90\%$  by volume of the intrusion region cools rapidly enough to preserve Ca zoning. As with the rounding criteria, we also varied this requirement, down to a lower limit of  $\geq 30\%$  by volume, to allow for variations in degree of diffusional modification, to test if this changes the overall trend of results. We use the lower cut-off value of  $\geq 50\%$  for our example case (Fig. 2) to better illustrate our point-by-point filtering approach, but use the stricter  $\geq 90\%$  cut-off when looking at the overall suite of models, and unless otherwise specified refer to this as the zoning requirement. As with the rounding criteria, we allowed the temperature requirements to vary by  $\pm 10\%$ , and investigated the sensitivity of the model to the times these filters were applied (Figure S4).

### 3.3. Filtering model output

We analyse each model run’s 3D temperature array at three months, four years, eight years, and ten years and find the volume of the intrusion region that meets each of the following logical criteria:

$$\begin{aligned} R &:= (T_{3\text{mnths}} \geq 1623 \text{ K}) \vee (T_{10\text{yrs}} \geq 1573 \text{ K}), \\ Z &:= (T_{4\text{yrs}} \leq 1573 \text{ K}) \wedge (T_{8\text{yrs}} \leq 1373 \text{ K}), \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where  $R$  represents potential rounding, and  $Z$  denotes potential zoning. Based on the meteorite record (Grossman and Nomenclature Committee of the Meteoritical Society, 2022; see supplementary information) we assign a score to the model output:

- If  $\geq x$  vol. % of the intrusion will round olivine crystals, and  $\geq y$  vol. % will preserve Ca heterogeneity, the output receives a score of two. For the main body of this study, we require rounding in  $\geq 40$  vol. % and zoning in  $\geq 90$  vol. % of the intrusion region, but for our example model run (Figs. 2 and 3) we use a requirement of  $\geq 50$  vol. % for both rounding and zoning as it is more illustrative of our method. We additionally test a suite of different filter requirements, ranging from  $\geq 30$ – $90$  vol. % (see supplementary information).
- If the intrusion region meets only one of these criteria, the output receives a score of one.
- If neither constraint is met, the output receives a null score.

We use this simple scoring criteria instead of alternative measures of goodness-of-fit as we are primarily interested in whether any models can match these criteria, as opposed to investigating in detail what region of parameter space best reproduces certain results. This can be addressed in future work, as the Euclidean norm or a similar measurement can be easily incorporated into our framework. We also test the sensitivity of the overall score to changing the rounding and zoning criteria. We find that for a spatial step  $\Delta x < 4$  m or time step  $\Delta t \leq 1$  month, the result is not impacted by the spatial or temporal resolution of the model (Figure S3).

### 4. Cooling of a metal intrusion

Using the best-fitting model of Murphy Quinlan et al. (2021a), we initially modelled the temperature evolution of the mantle of a 250 km radius planetesimal and calculated the residence depth of the Imilac pallasite meteorite based on Ni-diffusion cooling rates estimated from its metal portion (Fig. 2a; Murphy Quinlan et al., 2021a; Yang et al., 2010; Bryson et al., 2015). The vertical temperature gradient through the mantle at an earlier time (selected

at random, Fig. 2b) was then used as the initial condition for the metal intrusion model (Fig. 2c and d). The parameters used for this model are given in Table 1. Additional 3D temperature arrays plots in the supplementary information (Figures S5, S6).

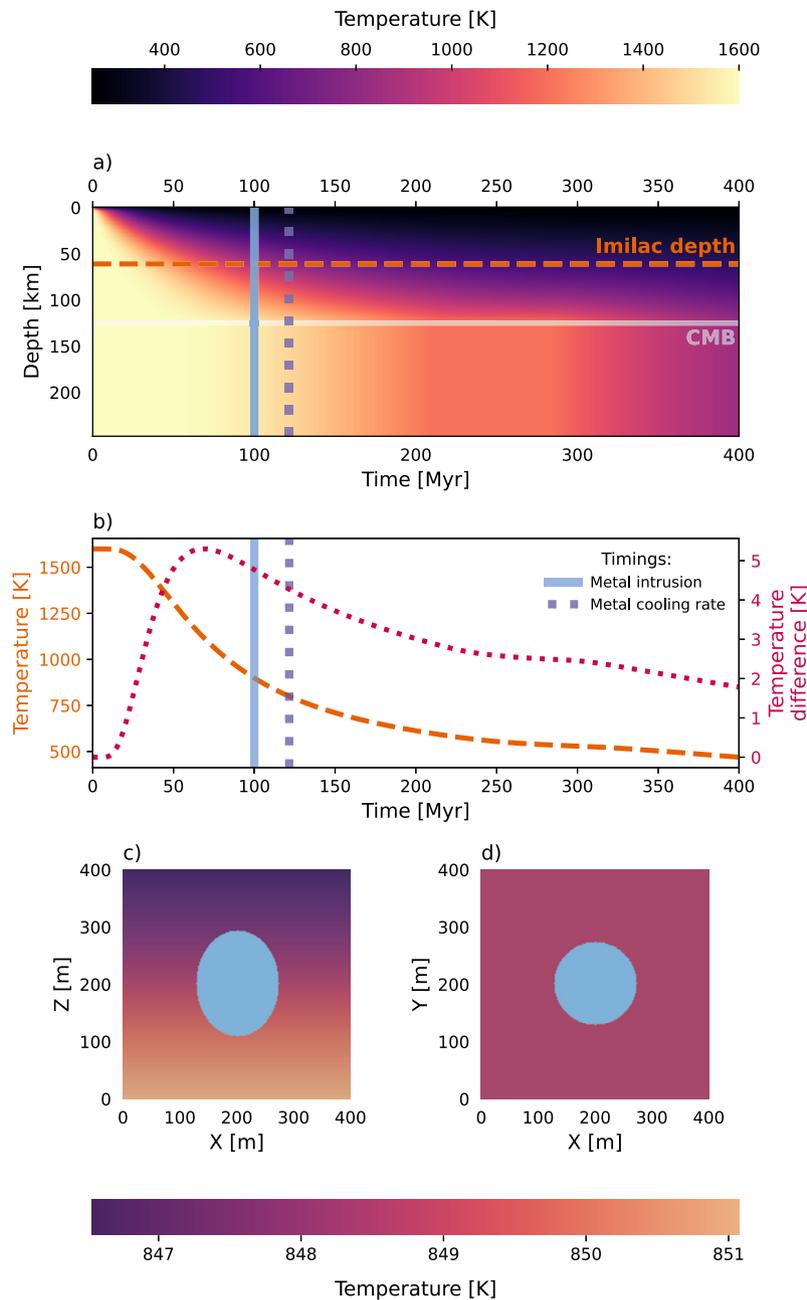
Each node within the intrusion region was filtered as described in section 3.3, and the volume percentage of the intrusion meeting the rounding requirements and zoning requirements were calculated independently (Fig. 3). Approximately 67% of the intrusion region cools quickly enough to preserve calcium zoning in olivine (Fig. 3 a), passing the requirement of  $\geq 50\%$  by volume of the intrusion region meeting the zoning criterion. The rounding requirement is also met by just under 67% of nodes in the intrusion region, passing the requirement of  $\geq 40\%$  by volume of the region meeting this criterion. The model receives a score of two, indicating that it meets both requirements.

This result demonstrates that an ellipsoidal intrusion of molten metal into a porous olivine planetesimal mantle can reproduce the necessary thermal evolution pathways both to facilitate the rounding of small olivine grains, and to allow the preservation of Ca zoning. Within the intrusion region, mean cooling rates of  $\sim 10$ – $150$  K/yr are reached, agreeing with the elevated cooling rates suggested by Miyamoto (1997) to explain olivine diffusion profiles (Fig. 3 c). This model also agrees with recorded metal cooling rates due to the initial and boundary conditions; once the intrusion cools to the background mantle temperature (15 – 50 years by conductive cooling, depending on size of the intrusion), it will continue to cool at the same rate as the planetesimal mantle, and will cool through the required temperature window at the rate predicted by metal cooling rates (Bryson et al., 2015; Yang et al., 2010; Murphy Quinlan et al., 2021a).

### 5. Exploring the parameter space

In order to explore how commonly pallasite formation models can yield conditions that preserve the disparate cooling rates, the model procedure was repeated for different intrusion times in the 250 km radius planetesimal (300 models), and for a 300 km radius planetesimal with a 250 km radius core, and an 8 km megaregolith layer (300 models, reproducing a case from Nichols et al., 2021) with randomised intrusion geometry allowing the unique and non-unique axes of the ellipsoid to vary and change orientation, to produce vertically and horizontally oriented sheets (dike and sill-like) and pipes. Randomised initial mantle temperatures were also chosen to approximate different parent body geometries and a range of different intrusion depths (600 models). The summarised results of these 1200 model runs are shown in Fig. 4, and ranges within which parameters were varied in Table 1. We also ran a suite of 1000 models with varying material properties including density, heat capacity, and crystallisation temperature in addition to randomly selected mantle temperatures and intrusion geometry, which allowed us to approximate the effect of adding a small percentage of trapped metal to the mantle or changing the composition of the intruding metal, as well as testing the model’s sensitivity to these parameters.

Neither initial intrusion temperature (Fig. 4, third column) nor metal fraction (by volume, Fig. 4, fourth column) strongly control whether the intrusion region will match both constraints. Intrusion volume is a strongly controlling parameter (Fig. 4, first column), with the majority of models with a volume smaller than  $5 \times 10^5$  and greater than  $5 \times 10^6$  m<sup>3</sup> meeting only one constraint. Smaller volumes favour rapid cooling and preservation of zoning, while larger intrusions favour rounding of olivine grains due to their protracted cooling. While background mantle temperature displays a weak negative relationship with the overall model score, it is strongly negatively correlated with zoning preservation, and moderately positively correlated with rounding potential (Figure S7).



**Fig. 2.** Initial conditions for model run. (a) The 1D temperature evolution for a 250 km radius planetesimal with a 125 km radius core and an 8 km thick porous megaregolith layer (Murphy Quinlan et al., 2021a,b). The core-mantle boundary (CMB) and residence depth of the Imilac pallasite meteorite (61 km, from metal cooling rates; Murphy Quinlan et al., 2021a) are labelled. (b) Temperature profile at this 61 km depth, and temperature difference across a 400 m slice of mantle centred at this depth ( $\Delta T = |T_b - T_t|$ ). These outputs provide the initial and boundary conditions for the intrusion model. The blue vertical line shows the time of intrusion of metal into the mantle (chosen), while the purple dashed line shows the time metallographic cooling was recorded in the pallasite sample (measured). (c & d) Initial conditions for the intrusion model: two 2D slices through the 3D ellipsoid geometry (prolate ellipsoid). Z lies along the planetesimal radius, and shows the vertical temperature gradient, while X and Y have constant temperature. The blue ellipsoid represents the intrusion region, with a temperature of 1660 K.

Cooler mantle background temperatures (Fig. 4, second column) result in higher mean cooling rates and favour meeting both constraints (Fig. 4n). These trends hold true not only for model results that use mantle temperature inputs from the planetesimal model, but also for the randomised input parameters that cover a larger parameter space, when material properties are varied randomly (Figure S8), when different volume % requirements are used (Figure S9), and in the more specific sensitivity tests (Table S1, Figures S8, S10, S11).

Varying the trapped metal content in the mantle or the mantle diffusivity does not systematically change the mean intrusion temperature after ten years, the zoning preserved or the round-

ing expected (Figure S12), with no significant correlation found between either olivine or metal material properties and model results (Figure S14).

Based on the mean temperature of the intrusion through time, we calculated the mean cooling rate and average temperature of the intrusion between three months and ten years; this allows for an approximate overview of the cooling rate over the model run time, excluding the extremely rapid cooling on initiation of the model. Fig. 5 highlights the temperatures and cooling rates relevant to rapid pallasite olivine cooling suggested by Miyamoto (1997); sufficiently high cooling rates are reached in the first few years of cooling. This suggests that both short-term, rapid cool-

**Table 1**

Ranges of parameter values for 2200 model runs, including example model run illustrated in Figs. 2 and 3. Mantle background temperatures show the range for randomised runs, with planetesimal-model informed ranges in round brackets. Ranges given do not include parameter variation for sensitivity testing and benchmarking (see supplementary material for further information).

Parameter	Symbol	Unit	Range/Value	Example model run	References/Notes
<b>Initial/boundary conditions</b>					
Intrusion radii	$r_x, r_y, r_z$	m	10–150	72, 72, 92	
Mean radius	$\bar{r}$	m	11–147	79	
Unique/non-unique axes	$b/a$		0.07–15.0	1.28	
Metal fraction (intrusion)	$\phi_m$	vol. fraction	0.05–0.55	0.32	Met. Bull. Database
Trapped metal (in mantle)		vol. fraction	0–0.2	0	Walte et al. (2020)
Background mantle temp.—top	$T_t$	K	250–1600 (804–1600)	847	Murphy Quinlan et al. (2021a)
Background mantle temp.—bottom	$T_b$	K	260–1685 (808–1600)	851	Murphy Quinlan et al. (2021a)
Initial intrusion temp.	$T_i$	K	1600–1900	1660	Assumed to be above metal liquidus due to impact heating
<b>Material properties</b>					
<b>Metal</b>					
Density	$\rho_m$	kg m <sup>-3</sup>	7020–7500	7260	Scheinberg et al. (2016)
Conductivity	$k_m$	W m <sup>-1</sup> K <sup>-1</sup>	30–40	35	Scheinberg et al. (2016); Touloukian et al. (1971)
Heat capacity	$c_m$	J kg <sup>-1</sup> K <sup>-1</sup>	820–850	835	Desai (1986)
Diffusivity	$\kappa_m$	m <sup>2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>	$k_m/(\rho_m c_m)$		
Latent heat of crystallisation	$L$	J kg <sup>-1</sup>	$1.33 \times 10^5 - 2.7 \times 10^5$	$2.56 \times 10^5$	Scheinberg et al. (2016)
Liquidus temperature	$T_L$	K	1570–1810	1600	Ehlers (1972)
Solidus temperature	$T_S$	K	1260–1790	1260	Ehlers (1972)
<b>Olivine</b>					
Density	$\rho_{ol}$	kg m <sup>-3</sup>	3320–3360	3341	Su et al. (2018)
Conductivity	$k_{ol}$	W m <sup>-1</sup> K <sup>-1</sup>	2.5–3.4	3	Murphy Quinlan et al. (2021a); Bryson et al. (2015)
Heat capacity	$c_{ol}$	J kg <sup>-1</sup> K <sup>-1</sup>	810–830	819	Su et al. (2018)
Diffusivity	$\kappa_{ol}$	m <sup>2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>	$k_{ol}/(\rho_{ol} c_{ol})$		
<b>Numerical details</b>					
Time step	$\Delta t$	s	$2.63 \times 10^6$	$2.63 \times 10^6$	Approx. 1 month
Spatial step	$\Delta x, \Delta y, \Delta z$	m	2	2	Calculated from $L, N$
Box size	$L_x, L_y, L_z$	m	200–800	400	
Number of nodes	$N_x, N_y, N_z$		101–401	201	$L$ and $N$ balanced to give $\Delta x, y, z = 2$ m
Total iterations			10–241	121	
Boundary conditions	$\mathbf{b}^n, \mathbf{b}^{n+1}$		Neumann, Dirichlet	Zero flux (Neumann)	
<b>Outputs</b>					
Actual intrusion volume	$V$	m <sup>3</sup>	$4.90 \times 10^3 - 1.38 \times 10^7$	$1.998 \times 10^6$	
Percentage zoning preserved	$Z$ %	%	0 – 100	67.2	
Percentage rounded	$R$ %	%	0 – 100	66.7	

ing of olivine in molten metal, followed by much slower cooling of the FeNi metal, are explained by the intrusion of hot metal into a warm mantle.

We additionally tested a range of filter requirement pairs, to investigate how dependent on our filter cut-off limits our results were (parentheses show the shorthand used in Figure S9):

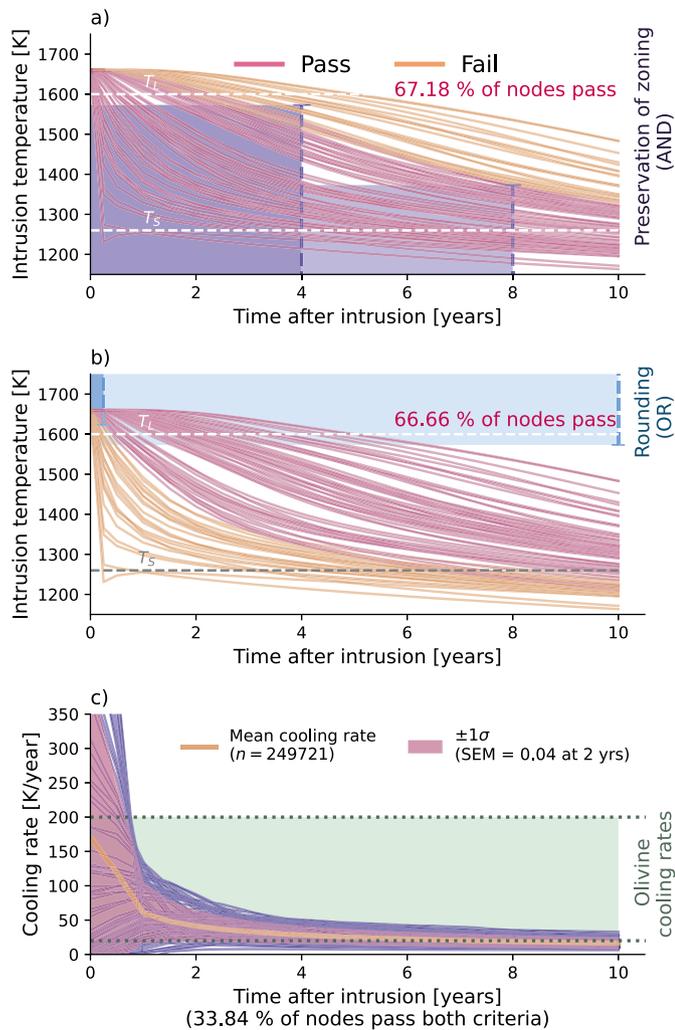
- Zoning  $\geq 30$  vol. %, rounding  $\geq 30$  vol. % ( $Z \geq 30\%$ ,  $R \geq 30\%$ )
- Zoning  $\geq 50$  vol. %, rounding  $\geq 50$  vol. % ( $Z \geq 50\%$ ,  $R \geq 50\%$ )
- Zoning  $\geq 70$  vol. %, rounding  $\geq 70$  vol. % ( $Z \geq 70\%$ ,  $R \geq 70\%$ )
- Zoning  $\geq 90$  vol. %, rounding  $\geq 70$  vol. % ( $Z \geq 90\%$ ,  $R \geq 70\%$ )

Generally, the overall same trends are seen across these results as in our default filter pair ( $Z \geq 90\%$ ,  $R \geq 40\%$ ) with higher intrusion temperatures and smaller mean intrusion radii favoured as the filter requirements increase ( $Z \geq 70\%$ ,  $R \geq 70\%$ ). The correlation of overall model score and background mantle temperature is more strongly negative when both filters are low ( $Z \geq 30\%$ ,  $R \geq 30\%$ ), with the correlation weakening as both filters increase and the total number of models that fit both constraints reduces (Figure S15).

## 6. Discussion

A simple model of a metallic intrusion into the mantle of a planetesimal reproduces the gross statistical properties of olivine texture and diffusive modification observed in pallasite meteorites, and replicates the contrasting slow metal and rapid olivine cooling rates estimated from various elemental diffusion profiles. This model reproduces these results without the need for impact-exhumation or parent body break-up to explain rapid olivine cooling rates, or the addition of a late thick megaregolith layer to explain slow cooling, as have been invoked by previous models (Yang et al., 2010; Bryson et al., 2015; Walte et al., 2020; Walte and Golabek, 2022).

Walte and Golabek (2022) list the observational constraints from pallasite samples that formation models much match, comprising: remnant magnetisation, a warm mantle prior to pallasite formation, rapid cooling at high temperatures ( $>1200$  K), slow cooling at lower temperatures (1000–700 K), varied residence depths (from metal cooling rates), and low Ir concentrations implying differentiation of the injected molten metal. Their qualitative model of a non-destructive two-body collision agrees with



**Fig. 3.** Results and output for a single model run with initial conditions in Fig. 2. Each line is a temperature or cooling rate time-series for a volume element within the intrusion described in Fig. 2 (e.g. within the blue ellipsoid). Each model is initially assigned a score of zero. Panel (a) shows a sample of nodes (200) within the intrusion filtered according to whether olivine zoning would be preserved at that location. If the model “passes” the zoning preservation criteria ( $\geq 50\%$  of points will preserve zoning, as is true in this example with 67.2% passing), one is added to the model’s score. Panel (b) shows the same nodes filtered according to whether olivine grains will be microscopically rounded at that location. If the model “passes” the olivine rounding criteria ( $\geq 50\%$  of points will round olivine, as is true in this example with 66.7% of nodes passing), one is added to the model’s score. A score of two is deemed “successful”. The full array of nodes within the intrusion area is used to calculate these percentages (108,737 in this example). Panel (c) shows the cooling rates for the same selection of nodes. The mean cooling rate and standard deviation were calculated with all nodes in the intrusion ellipsoid (108,737 voxels in this example). The green shaded region highlights the range of cooling rates suggested by Miyamoto (1997) to explain pallasite olivine zoning.

all the available constraints; however, it requires impact rebound or a similar effect to produce rapid cooling after impact and development of a megaregolith layer to support later slow cooling (Walte et al., 2020). Our planetesimal model assumes either disruption and re-accretion of the same thickness of regolith during and after impact, or no impact-related disruption; however, our results are not dependent on the presence of a regolith layer (Figure S16). We show quantitatively that an intrusion of molten metal into a planetesimal mantle can meet the above constraints without the need for an impact rebound or development of a late thick megaregolith layer to slow cooling. While our results do not preclude large-scale changes to the parent body, it removes the need for them; this means that future work can seek lines of evidence

for these planetary-scale processes instead of them being assumed a requirement for pallasite formation.

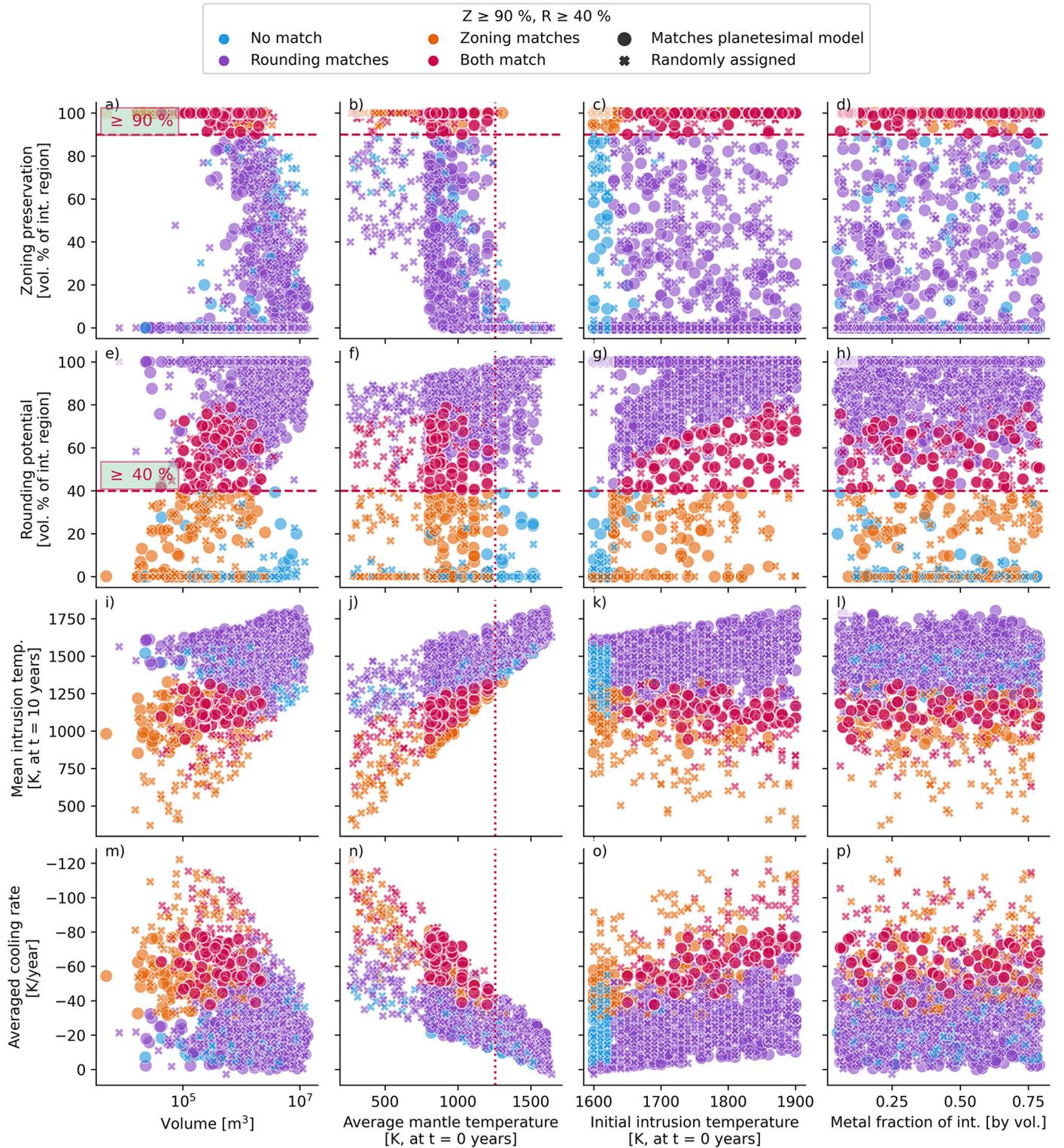
We show that the required criteria for pallasite formation can be met for a wide range of intrusion morphologies (Fig. 6d), at a wide range of mantle temperatures (as a proxy for both timing of intrusion and residence depth). For models using planetesimal mantle temperature as initial conditions, criteria were met more often later in the planetesimal’s history (shortly before the slow metal cooling rates were recorded), when the mantle was cooler and faster intrusion cooling rates could be achieved (Fig. 6a, b); the zoning preservation requirements cannot be met unless the temperature of the mantle is at or below 1373 K, as the intrusion needs to cool below this temperature within 8 years.

Small intrusion regions with mean radii between 20 and 100 m produce the rapid cooling required to preserve olivine chemical heterogeneity (Fig. 6c). Similarly, high aspect ratio morphologies (more pipe- or sheet-like) with a minimum radius  $< 50$  m more frequently meet the constraints as opposed to intrusion segments that are more spherical in shape with both maximum and minimum radii above  $\sim 50$  m (Figs. 6d, S13), with a weak non-monotonic correlation measured (Figure S7). This suggests that pallasite-material formation is constrained to intrusions with a sufficiently small minor axis (of  $\sim 50$  m). When the minimum volume fraction requirement of either rounding or zoning in the intrusion region is increased (thus allowing fewer models to pass), this effect becomes more pronounced with a smaller range of radii resulting in both constraints being met (Figure S17).

In our implementation, the volume of the intrusion region required to satisfy the rounding criteria is set arbitrarily at  $\geq 40$  vol. %, as a detailed systematic study of micro-scale rounding is not available in the literature. We neglect the effect of varying metal/olivine proportion in samples (and their source region of the intrusion), varying local sulfur content, and localised chemical or deformation events. Despite these limitations, our model shows that parameters such as the metal fraction of the pallasite region and the proportion of metal trapped in the planetesimal mantle do not systematically change whether pallasite-like material can be produced. Our results also highlight the importance of the timing of metal intrusion into the parent body mantle, and the temperature at which the intruded mantle is residing. Changing the proportion or volume percentage of rounding required even by a significant percentage does not change the conclusions of our study within the parameter range explored: that rounded olivine and preserved chemical zoning can be recovered from the same pallasite intrusion volume.

Hsu (2003) describes calcium zoning in pallasite olivine as ubiquitous, which in combination with detailed diffusion of Ca in olivine studies, makes it a sensible choice for first steps in calculating erasure or preservation potential in a metallic intrusion. We set the zoning preservation requirement to  $\geq 90\%$ , implying that essentially all pallasites must preserve some degree of Ca heterogeneity while allowing for some uncertainty. However, we also considered lower requirements of  $\geq 30\%$ ,  $\geq 50\%$ , and  $\geq 70\%$  to allow regions of erasure and more intensive diffusional modification (see Figure S9). Lowering both the zoning and rounding requirements to  $\geq 30\%$  increased the number of model runs that meet both constraints from 276 (12.55% of 2200 model runs) to 506 (23.00% of 2200; see Tables S2, S3). The same dependence on mantle temperature and intrusion volume is seen and rapid olivine cooling rates are still met between four and eight years after intrusion (Figure S8).

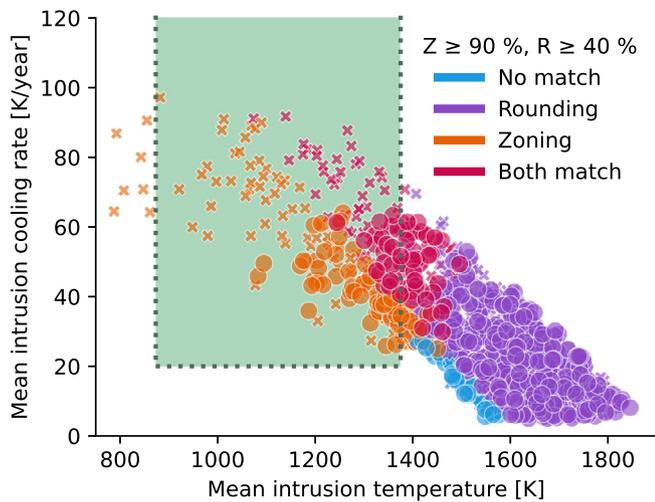
As mentioned previously, the time and temperature pairings used to estimate grain rounding and zoning preservation are associated with large and unquantifiable errors. In order to assess the sensitivity of the model to the temperature requirements, we varied the temperature of each filter by  $\pm 10\%$  of the origi-



**Fig. 4.** Summary of results for 1200 model runs with constant material properties. Colour denotes which constraints were matched: blue means neither constraint was matched, pink—that both were matched, orange—zoning constraint was matched, and purple—rounding constraint matched. Marker shape describes the initial temperature conditions: either output from a planetesimal model, or randomly assigned. Parameters were not varied in isolation. Large pink circles match both constraints and used input from a planetesimal model.

nal temperature (Table S2, Figures S18, S19). While the absolute number of successful models changed, the overall relationship between model score and parameters such as initial temperature, background mantle temperature or intrusion volume remained essentially the same (Figure S17). We also assessed the change through time in intrusion volume that satisfies each temperature

requirement, for the example model run illustrated in Fig. 3. We found that the rounding requirement of  $T_{3\text{months}} \geq 1623\text{ K}$  was most strongly dependent on timing of the measurement, as the intrusion is still rapidly cooling at this time. The intrusion region satisfying this requirement will change by approximately  $\pm 10\text{ vol. \%}$  per month at this stage in the intrusion process (Figure S4), whereas



**Fig. 5.** Mean intrusion temperatures and cooling rates over the model run time (from 3 months to 10 years) for the intrusion region for 1200 model runs with constant material properties. The shaded region highlights the cooling rates and temperatures suggested by Miyamoto (1997), estimated from olivine diffusion profiles (Hsu, 2003). Model results that fall within this region reproduce the required rapid cooling in the relevant temperature window. Colour denotes which constraints were matched: blue means neither constraint was matched, pink—that both were matched, orange—zoning constraint was matched, and purple—rounding constraint matched. Marker shape describes the initial temperature conditions: either output from a planetesimal model (filled circles), or randomly assigned (“x” symbols).

by four, eight and ten years when the other temperature requirements must be matched, the change in the intrusion region that matches each constraint is  $\sim 1$  vol. % or less per month. At three months, changing the temperature requirement by  $\pm 10\%$  may result in a model no longer passing the rounding criterion (Figure S4); however, this does not change the overall relationship between the input parameters and the results (Figure S17).

The inclusion of a fraction of metal within the planetesimal mantle may explain the presence of large (radius  $\sim 5$  mm), well rounded olivine crystals: Saiki et al. (2003) estimated that olivine grains with a radius of 5 mm would be fully rounded in the presence of FeNi after 7 Myr at or above 1673 K, 29 Myr at or above 1573 K, or 241 Myr at or above 1473 K. This is significantly slower than the experimental rounding results of Walte et al. (2020) when the empirical equation of Saiki et al. (2003) is scaled down to the same size fraction of olivine grains; potentially due to experimental design and the absence of sulfur which has been shown to accelerate rounding (Solferino et al., 2015; Solferino and Golabek, 2018), and so these temperature and time constraints can be treated as upper bounds. While we primarily focus on models of the pallasite parent body with a purely olivine mantle, we also modelled a parent body with 15 vol. % metal trapped in the mantle, representing the upper limit of primary metal fraction observed in Seymchan in Walte et al. (2020) (note that Scott (2017) suggests a higher original primary metal fraction for large round-type pallasites such as Brenham, approximately 30 vol. %; Walte and Golabek, 2022). We assumed that the sole effect of adding this small fraction of metal is to increase the mantle diffusivity, which in turn accelerates planetary-scale cooling by a small degree (Fig. 7). We find that hotter mantles (post magma ocean solidification, with higher olivine solidus temperatures) better facilitate this large-scale, long term rounding of olivine grains (Fig. 7). We also varied the metal content in the mantle region surrounding the intrusion in our intrusion-scale model between 0–20 vol. %, but found no systematic effect on the score of models (Figure S12).

While hotter initial mantle temperatures are required for this earlier period of olivine rounding, the final stage of metal intrusion that is recorded in pallasites was most likely injected into a cooler

mantle that was approaching  $\sim 800$  K (Fig. 6 a, b, Fig. 7). We find that intrusions of all sizes into mantles of  $\sim 1250$  K and hotter rarely cool below 1373 K quickly enough to preserve Ca zoning in large volumes of the intrusion region (Figs. 4, 7). In order to reproduce the cooling rates through 873 K suggested by Miyamoto (1997), the background mantle must be below this temperature at the time of intrusion (Fig. 7). This restricts the timing of the pallasite-forming metal intrusion to between  $\sim 10$ –30 Myr before cooling through the metallographic cooling rates at approximately 800 K; for planetesimal models similar to those of Tarduno et al. (2012), Bryson et al. (2015), Solferino and Golabek (2018), Nichols et al. (2021), or Murphy Quinlan et al. (2021a), this suggests intrusion occurred tens of millions of years after the formation of the parent body.

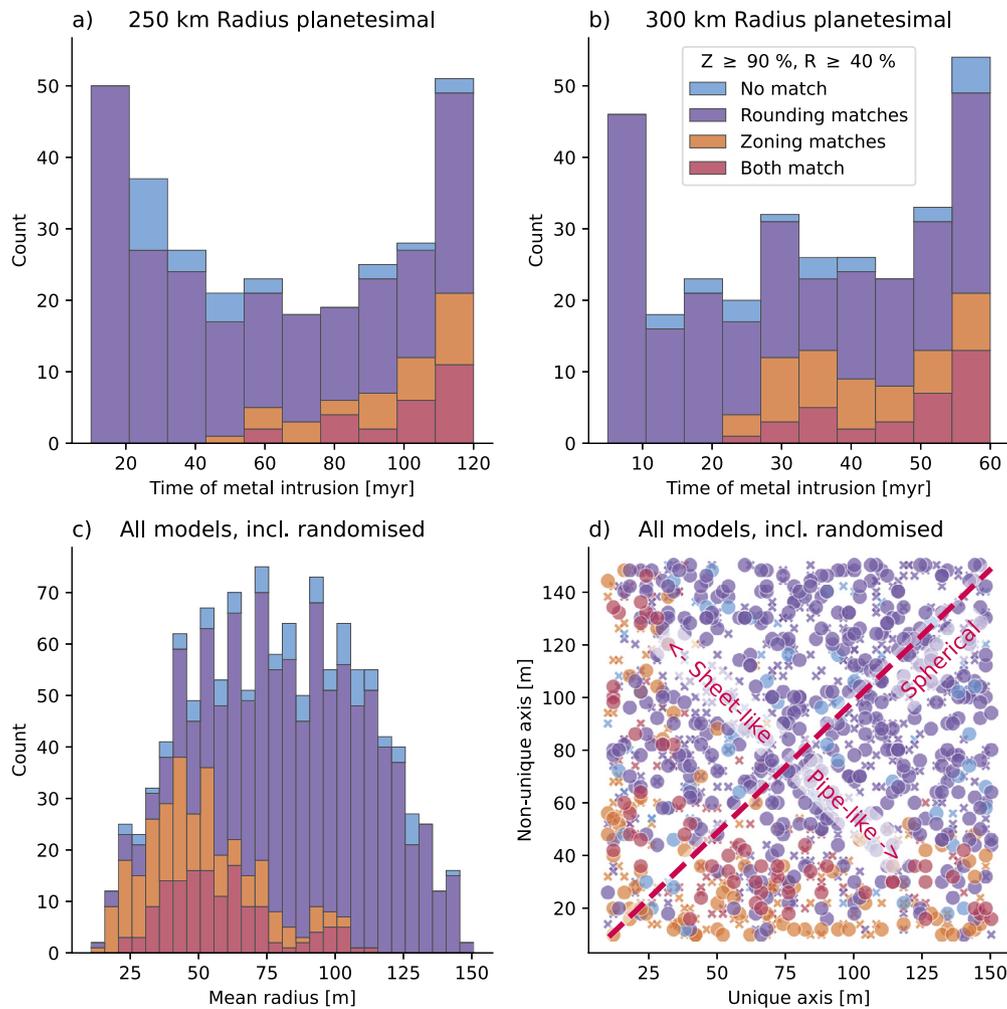
Interestingly, Mn-Cr isotope systematics may suggest a more rapid parent-body evolution: Windmill et al. (2022) argue that the pallasite region of the mantle must have cooled below the Mn-Cr closure temperature ( $\sim 1000^\circ\text{C}$ , 1273 K) within 10 million years of Solar System formation (CAI condensation). This requires a rapidly cooling parent body, orders of magnitude faster than suggested by the planetesimal models listed above (Tarduno et al., 2012; Bryson et al., 2015; Solferino and Golabek, 2018; Nichols et al., 2021; Murphy Quinlan et al., 2021a), and additionally necessitates the intrusion of bolide-sourced metal before 10 million years after CAI formation. This early timing of metal injection is also supported by the isotopic studies of Kruijer et al. (2022) who find a genetic link between pallasite meteorites and the IIIAB irons, and link the chronology of pallasite formation and metal intrusion to the breakup and core exposure of the IIIAB parent body.

There are a few key differences in the assumptions in the modelling approach taken here and in Windmill et al. (2022): firstly, we assume that the rapid cooling (K/yr) experienced by pallasite olivine records a localised reheating and subsequent rapid cooling due to metal injection into the mantle, whereas Windmill et al. (2022) assume that this is representative of overall planetary cooling; secondly, we use slow metal cooling rates (K/Myr) to constrain the planetary cooling, while Windmill et al. (2022) do not reconcile these with the rapid cooling in their exponential cooling rate.

These results are not incompatible with our model, but they do require that the early planetesimal cooling in the region of pallasite formation is accelerated with respect to our parent body model, essentially compressing the timeline illustrated in Fig. 7. While this does not agree with our default planetesimal models, this can be achieved by reducing the parent body radius, thinning or removing the regolith layer, or by increasing the core fraction to create a thin-mantled planetesimal as in Nichols et al. (2021), resulting in shallower pallasite residence depths (Figure S16, Tables S4, S5). As noted previously, few models with background mantle temperatures above approximately 1250 K preserve zoning in large volume fractions of the intrusion region (see also Tables S6 and S7), and so a less restrictive zoning preservation constraint is required.

Our simple model could be developed by incorporating more complex grain-growth and rounding mechanisms, such as that of Solferino and Golabek (2018), which focuses on olivine grain growth in contact with Fe-Ni-S at different depths within a planetesimal mantle. While we take a macroscopic approach to modelling the olivine-metal mixing region, a micro-scale investigation of the crystallisation of metal in contact with olivine and the potential volume change, localised reactions textures and microstructures would provide further constraints on the pressure, temperature and time of mixing between these phases.

An interesting area of research outside the scope of the current study is the details of metal intrusion into the parent body mantle and the dominant mode of transport of the metal through the mantle. While previous models have suggested that the metal may have an internal source (eg., the molten core of the planetesimal,



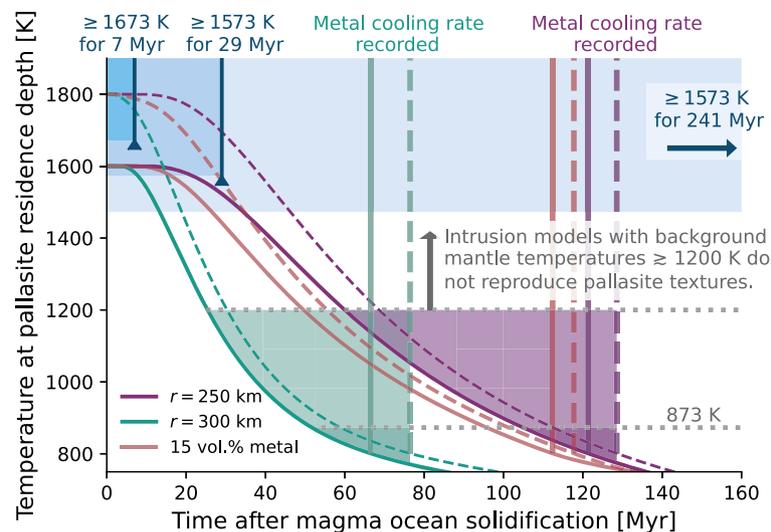
**Fig. 6.** Dependence of model outputs on timing of intrusion, volume of intrusion region, and geometry of intrusion region. a & b) Histograms of score for timing of metal intrusion (in millions of years after initiation of model/crystallisation of magma ocean) for both planetesimal models (299 and 301 models respectively). Maximum time on both histograms is the time the metal cooling rate was recorded. c) Histograms of model outputs for mean radius of intrusion region for all models with constant material properties (1200 model runs). d) Dependence of model outputs on intrusion region volume and aspect ratio for all models with constant material properties (1200 model runs).

suggested by a ferrovolcanism origin; Johnson et al., 2020), recent isotopic studies show a statistically significant disequilibrium between the metal and silicate phases in pallasites, strengthening the argument for an external source delivered via impact (Bennett et al., 2022; Windmill et al., 2022). Studies of core formation via percolative flow (Solferino et al., 2020; Berg et al., 2018) and intrusion propagation and emplacement (Walker et al., 2021; Stephens et al., 2021) alongside microstructural evidence from pallasite samples can be utilised to better understand this. Our model can aid in this research, as it provides a range of mantle temperatures over which pallasite-like textures can be produced.

Instead of attempting to recover specific details of the pallasite parent body, we have taken a statistical approach to constrain the range of parameters over which pallasite formation is possible. Our results show that the development of conditions favourable to pallasite formation is common across the parameters we tested, but are constrained by the mantle temperature, which can be considered a proxy for the timing of metal intrusion. The two-stage formation hypothesis of Walte and Golabek (2022) suggests that an earlier impact injected metal into the pallasite parent body mantle, but did not produce “pallasite-like textures” as observed in meteorite samples, because the mantle was too hot at the time. Instead, the region of intrusion achieved textural equilibrium, only retaining a small fraction of metal in contact with rounded olivine grain

boundaries. A later impact is proposed to then deliver more molten metal into the cooler mantle, producing the textures observed in samples. Our model reproduces the timescales suggested by both these different stages of formation. These metal-injection events may be a recurrent stage in planetesimal development, representing a halted core-growth event where cooler mantle temperatures do not facilitate migration of metal all the way to the centre of the planetesimal before solidification.

Framed in this way, perhaps the unusual feature of pallasite meteorites is that they were excavated in such a way that preserved them and allowed them to be delivered to Earth, as opposed to their formation being a unique event. This is supported by the evidence for planetesimal growth in two distinct reservoirs in our Solar System (Morbidelli et al., 2022), both of which are sampled by pallasitic material: while we specifically discuss and model the parent body of the Main Group Pallasite meteorites, the umbrella group of pallasites including the Eagle Station Pallasites, the Pyroxene Pallasites, and anomalous ungrouped samples, must sample multiple parent bodies sourced from both the carbonaceous and non-carbonaceous reservoirs (Jacquet, 2022). These similar lithologies, samples from different regions of the early Solar System, from isolated planetesimals, suggest that this process was repeated on multiple bodies. Jacquet (2022) suggests a renaming



**Fig. 7.** Temperature time series at depth of Ilmıc pallasite residence, based on FeNi cooling rates (Yang et al., 2010), for a 250 km radius planetesimal with a 125 km radius core (Murphy Quinlan et al., 2021a), a 300 km radius planetesimal with a 200 km radius core (Nichols et al., 2021), and a 250 km radius planetesimal with a 125 km radius core, and 15% by volume metal trapped in the mantle. Blue boxes represent temperature criteria suggested by Saiki et al. (2003) to explain rounding of large (5 mm radius) olivine crystals; the model cooling time series must pass through one of the blue lines. The two horizontal grey dashed lines indicate maximum background mantle temperature at time of final metal intrusion to meet different criteria: in order to preserve Ca zoning, background mantle temperature must be below 1200 K, which in order to cool through temperature window at the cooling rates suggested by Miyamoto (1997), the background mantle temperature must be below 873 K.

of the pallasite class to “dunite-iron” meteorites to highlight the textural similarities instead of inferring a genetic link.

It is possible that multiple metal impacts delivered metal to the mantle of the pallasite parent body over the course of its life span: some of which may have supported core growth during the magma ocean stage of differentiation; others which stalled in the hot, newly-solidified mantle and eventually reached textural equilibrium, producing regions of well-rounded, large olivine grains; and later still an intrusion into a cooler mantle that facilitated rounding of some smaller olivine grains fractured during intrusion, preservation of chemical heterogeneity in areas previously untouched by prior intrusions, and rapid heating, cooling, and subsequent diffusional modification of olivine rim compositions. Following this intrusion, the body continued to cool, the core crystallised and paleomagnetism was recorded in some samples (Bryson et al., 2015; Nichols et al., 2021; Murphy Quinlan et al., 2021a), and the body became geologically frozen in place until its destruction  $\sim 100$  Myr ago (Herzog et al., 2015).

## 7. Conclusions

Different formation environments are not required to explain varied levels of rounding of olivine grains in pallasite meteorites: large, well-rounded grains may predate metal intrusion and be linked to contact with primordial metal pockets (Walte et al., 2020) or an earlier injection of metal into a hotter planetesimal mantle (Walte and Golabek, 2022), while angular olivines were derived from dunite aggregates that contained no or less primary metal. Fragmental grains may have been fractured during metal intrusion. All grains in the intrusion region then were rounded microscopically according to their location in the intrusion - grains near the periphery would have cooled rapidly and preserve their initial state without microscopic rounding of corners (whether macroscopically well-rounded, fragmental, or angular), while olivine grains nearer the centre of the intrusion region would cool more slowly, resulting in micro-scale rounding of corners. Large-scale disruption of, or accretion to, the pallasite parent body is not required to reproduce the contrasting cooling timescales suggested by olivine and metal diffusion. Instead, the rapid injection of hot metal into a slowly cooling, warm planetes-

imal mantle creates a temperature perturbation leading to rapid initial cooling in the local area, matching that required to preserve olivine compositional heterogeneity, followed by equilibration with the mantle and a return to the slow planetesimal-scale cooling rates recorded in the Ni diffusion profiles in the Widmanstätten texture. While Walte and Golabek (2022) suggest that the pallasite-forming metal intrusion event was aided by still-molten trapped metal pockets, residing in a parent-body mantle above the metal solidus, the later impact and large scale injection of metal could have re-melted these preexisting FeNi pockets locally, enabling impact into a marginally cooler mantle. Within one small ellipsoidal segment of intrusion, a diversity of textural and diffusional modification of olivine can be achieved. This does not preclude different formation environments for pallasite meteorites with differing olivine textures or diffusion profiles, rather it removes this as a requirement. Our simple model shows that further understanding of the small-scale processes related to the mixing of olivine and metal in the pallasite region is required to understand the planetesimal-scale processes. The model also highlights the importance of the temperature of the mantle on the evolution of the pallasite region, and how this is linked to relative timing of the injection of metal following the crystallisation of the magma ocean, and shows how different regions of one small intrusion can experience very different temperature-time paths. We produced a simple, first-step model to address the contrasting timescales preserved in pallasite meteorites and suggest that the simplest explanation (injection of metal into the mantle of a planetesimal) without ad hoc changes to the parent body, can explain the heterogeneity seen across pallasite meteorites. We suggest that pallasite meteorites represent a late, preserved metallic intrusion into a planetesimal mantle and speculate that this parent body potentially experienced earlier metal-injections: previous intrusions would have delivered material to the core, leaving a small fraction trapped within the mantle.

## CRediT authorship contribution statement

**M. Murphy Quinlan:** Conceptualization, Formal analysis, Investigation, Methodology, Software, Visualization, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing. **A.M. Walker:** Conceptualization,

Methodology, Supervision, Writing – review & editing. **C.J. Davies:** Conceptualization, Methodology, Supervision, Writing – review & editing.

### Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

### Data availability

Reference to the open source code used is provided in the manuscript.

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### Appendix A. Supplementary material

Supplementary material related to this article can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.epsl.2023.118284>.

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