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Key Points:

- We present a comprehensive interferometric synthetic aperture radar (InSAR)-based data, analyses, and models of Taal's pre- to post-eruptive state
- During the eruptive crisis, Taal's magma reservoir lost $0.531 \pm 0.004 \text{ km}^3$ of volume while a $0.643 \pm 0.001 \text{ km}^3$ lateral dike was emplaced
- Low-latency InSAR-derived products provided crucial and significant information to PHIVOLCS during the January 2020 eruptive event

Supporting Information:

Supporting Information may be found in the online version of this article.

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The 2020 Eruption and Large Lateral Dike Emplacement at Taal Volcano, Philippines: Insights From Satellite Radar Data

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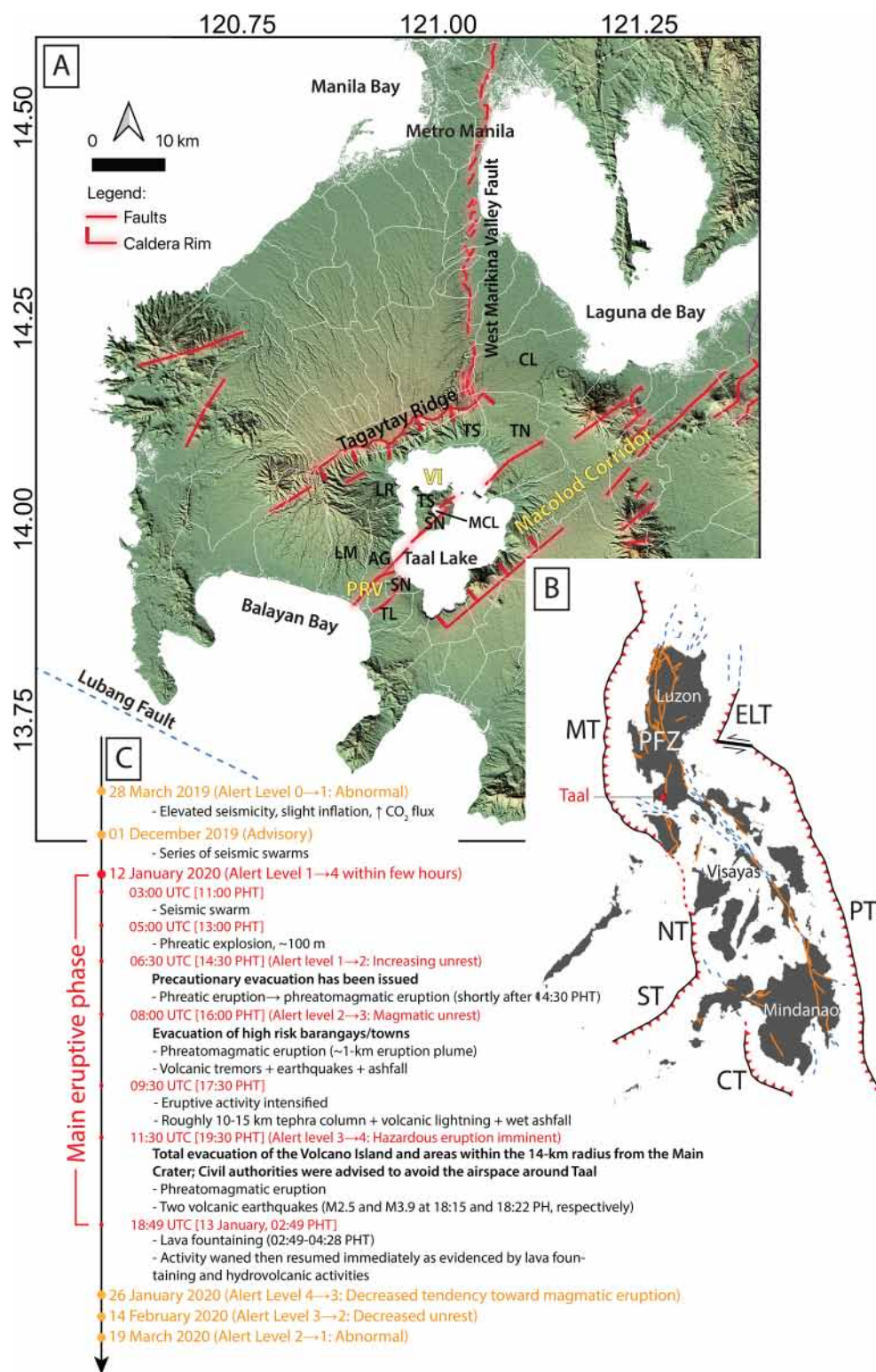
Abstract On January 12, 2020, Taal volcano, Philippines, erupted after 43 years of repose, affecting more than 500,000 people. Using interferometric synthetic aperture radar (InSAR) data, we present the pre- to post-eruption analyses of the deformation of Taal. We find that: (1) prior to eruption, the volcano experienced long-term deflation followed by short-term inflation, reflecting the depressurization-pressurization of its $\sim 5 \text{ km}$ depth magma reservoir; (2) during the eruption, the magma reservoir lost a volume of $0.531 \pm 0.004 \text{ km}^3$ while a $0.643 \pm 0.001 \text{ km}^3$ lateral dike was emplaced; and (3) post-eruption analyses reveal that the magma reservoir started recovery approximately 3 weeks after the main eruptive phase. We propose a conceptual analysis explaining the eruption and address why, despite the large volume of magma emplaced, the dike remained at depth. We also report the unique and significant contribution of InSAR data during the peak of the crisis.

Plain Language Summary Taal volcano in the Philippines erupted on January 12, 2020. Here, we present the pre-, co-, and post-eruption data, model, and analyses using interferometric synthetic aperture radar (InSAR) data acquired by various satellite systems. We find that: (1) prior to the eruption, the volcano experiences a sequence of long-term (> 1 year) deflation followed by short-term (≤ 1 year) inflation as a result of the depressurization-pressurization of its $\sim 5 \text{ km}$ depth magma reservoir; (2) during the eruption, the magma reservoir lost a volume of $0.531 \pm 0.004 \text{ km}^3$ while a $0.643 \pm 0.001 \text{ km}^3$ lateral dike was emplaced; and (3) post-eruption analyses reveal that the magma reservoir is in recovery starting ~ 3 weeks after the main eruptive phase. We propose a conceptual analysis to explain the 2020 Taal eruption and the dike emplacement. We also report the unique and significant contribution of remote sensing data, particularly InSAR during the peak of the crisis.

1. Introduction

Taal volcano is a caldera located in southwestern Luzon island in the Philippines (Figure 1). It is one of the frequently erupting volcanoes in the country, having at least 33 known historical eruptions between CE1572 and CE1977 (Delos Reyes et al., 2018). The volcano is part of the Macolod Corridor, a complex NE-SW trending 50–60 km-wide rift zone, characterized by active volcanism, crustal thinning, extensive faulting, and block rotation (Delos Reyes et al., 2018; Galgana et al., 2014; Pubellier et al., 2000; Wolfe & Self, 1983). Recent activities at Taal are limited to Volcano Island, a 5 km wide, 311 m high resurgent dome that has > 40 volcanic vents, with the largest being the Main Crater (Delos Reyes et al., 2018; Zlotnicki et al., 2018). Geophysical studies reveal the presence of a large hydrothermal system at 2.5 km depth below the Main Crater, sitting above a magmatic body (Alanis et al., 2013; Fikos et al., 2012; Yamaya et al., 2013; Zlotnicki et al., 2018). Eruptions are controlled by local tectonics, and magma reservoir-water interactions from external sources (e.g., rainwater, groundwater, and seawater) that can result in different eruption styles and a wide range of explosivity (Delos Reyes et al., 2018; Pubellier et al., 2000; Zlotnicki et al., 2018).

On January 12, 2020, Taal volcano experienced a phreatic-phreatomagmatic eruption after 43 years of quiescence, spewing a column of steam-laden ash reaching up to $\sim 15 \text{ km}$ -high with frequent volcanic lightning (PHIVOLCSa, 2020). In Figure 1c, we summarized the chronology of events as the crisis progressed and waned, based on published PHIVOLCS bulletins and materials (Martinez-Villegas, 2020). A total of 565,005



individuals were directly affected by this crisis with ~\$69M worth of damage to infrastructure and agriculture reported (NDRRMC, 2000).

Here we present the pre- to post-eruption analyses of the January 2020 Taal eruption and dike emplacement using interferometric synthetic aperture radar (InSAR) datasets. We discuss a conceptual analysis on what drove the 2020 eruption as well as explain why the dike remained emplaced at depth. We also report the significant contribution of InSAR data during the on-going crisis when most of the in situ instruments were not operating.

2. Data and Methods

2.1. InSAR and Time-Series Processing

2.1.1. Pre-Eruptive Data Set

We explored the surface deformation using synthetic aperture radar (SAR) data from two systems: the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) ALOS-2 satellite's PALSAR-2 L-band (23.8 cm wavelength) sensor and the Copernicus Sentinel-1A/B dual satellites's C-SAR C-band (5.5 cm wavelength) sensor operated by the European Space Agency (ESA). All datasets were processed into differential interferograms of surface deformation projected into the radar line-of-sight (LOS) after correcting for Earth curvature and topographic effects.

The ALOS-2 SAR data acquired from December 2, 2018 to January 12, 2020 were processed at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) using the InSAR Scientific Computing Environment (ISCE) software (Rosen et al., 2018). The Sentinel 1A/B SAR data covering the periods between October 19, 2014 and January 11, 2020 were processed through JPL's Advanced Rapid Imaging and Analysis (ARIA) Project (Bekaert et al., 2019) based on nearest three acquisitions (i.e., $N = 3$), leading to temporal baselines of up to 36 days over Taal. ARIA provides rapid, free, and open-access standard Sentinel-1 geocoded unwrapped (GUNW) interferograms that are automatically processed in the cloud using ISCE. We leverage these GUNWs since they are ready for ingestion into postprocessing algorithms (Buzzanga et al., 2020), enabling the fast generation of deformation time-series.

We computed InSAR time-series for both the ascending and descending tracks of the two satellite systems using the MintPy software (Yunjun et al., 2019). In addition, for comparison-only, a time-series was computed for the Sentinel-1 descending track (i.e., May 5, 2016–January 9, 2020) using the New Small Baseline Subset (NSBAS) processing chain, modified to allow TOPSAR data ingestion (Doin et al., 2011; Grandin, 2015). The rationale is to ensure that the neighborhood pairing ($N = 3$) used to generate the ARIA products has no effect on the resulting time-series, as short-temporal pairs can sometimes induce biases (i.e., phase mis-closure, [De Zan et al., 2019]).

2.1.2. Co-Eruptive Datasets

We utilized SAR data acquired by Sentinel 1A/B from 9–17 January 2020 covering the main eruptive event to produce the InSAR phase and pixel-offset maps using ISCE. The descending data set captured the deformation from 9–15 January 2020, whereas the ascending data set spans 11–17 January 2020. We derived the horizontal and vertical displacements following the method of Wright et al. (2004).

Figure 1. (a) Map showing Taal volcano and the local tectonic features in the vicinity including parts of the Macolod Corridor (modified after Delos Reyes et al., 2018; Pubellier et al., 2000; Rimando & Knuepfer, 2006). VI: Volcano Island; PRV: Pansipit River Valley; MCL: Main Crater Lake. White outlines are town boundaries. LM: Lemery; AG: Agoncillo; LR: Laurel; TL: Taal; SN: San Nicolas; TS: Talisay; CL: Calamba; TN: Tanauan. (b) The Philippine archipelago and the major tectonics controlling the region. Two opposing subduction zones create the oblique convergence in the Philippines: to the west are the Manila-Negros-Sulu and Cotabato trenches, and to the east is the Philippine Trench. The result of this oblique plate motion is the Philippine Fault Zone which is a 1,200-km long left-lateral strike-slip fault that traverses the archipelago from north to south (Aurelio, 2000). Orange solid lines are active faults and blue broken lines are offshore extension of the active faults. The red triangle is the location of Taal volcano. MT: Manila Trench, NT: Negros Trench, ST: Sulu Trench, ELT: East Luzon Trough, PFZ: Philippine Fault Zone, CT: Cotabato Trench, PT: Philippine Trench. (c) Summarized chronology of events based on issued PHIVOLCS bulletins and publicly available materials (Martinez-Villegas, 2020).

2.1.3. Post-Eruptive Datasets

We explored Sentinel-1 SAR data from January 15 to June 27, 2020 for both the descending and ascending orbits. The interferograms were processed using ISCE and we computed the post-eruptive time-series for both tracks using MintPy. We divided the time-series into two epochs (i.e., 15 January to 04 February and 02 February to 27 June) based on the change in deformation trend within Volcano Island and derived the horizontal and vertical cumulative displacement maps following Wright et al. (2004).

2.2. Geodetic Source Modeling

For modeling, we used different software, algorithms, and techniques depending on the data set and the process that we intend to address (i.e., pre-eruptive: inflating magmatic source, co-eruptive: deflating magma reservoir and dike emplacement, post-eruptive: further propagation of the dike). For a detailed description of our methods, please refer to the Supplementary Information.

2.2.1. Pre-Eruptive Modeling

We used the Caltech-JPL-developed AlTar v2.0 Bayesian inversion software. AlTar is based on the Cascading Adaptive Transitional Metropolis in Parallel method of Minson et al. (2013). To constrain the model, we utilized the Sentinel-1 and ALOS-2 velocity maps from the time-series inversion covering one year of the inflation event before the eruption. We subsampled each data set and computed the covariances by applying a model-based quadtree approach (Lohman & Simons, 2005) using a sill model, which is appropriate for an inflationary volcanic signal.

We used the compound dislocation model (CDM) (Nikkhoo et al., 2017) in AlTar to model the magmatic reservoir beneath Taal. The CDM approximates an arbitrarily oriented and shaped ellipsoidal reservoir (from cigar to pancake). Overall, the CDM has 10 parameters: three for the locations (x , y , z), three for the semi-axes lengths (a , b , c), three for the rotations (ω_x , ω_y , ω_z), and a uniform opening, u . We also estimated the shifts in the InSAR data since InSAR measurements are relative measurements based on a reference point. In the end, we estimated 14 parameters. We extract the optimal parameter values by calculating the maximum *a posteriori* probability (MAP) solutions.

2.2.2. Co-Eruptive Modeling

We followed the approach of Lundgren et al. (2013) to model the co-eruptive deformation source. The modeling occurred in two steps: (1) we solve for a deflating magma reservoir beneath Taal using a CDM and a simple planar tensile dislocation (dike) model with uniform opening, and (2) after we fixed the parameters of the CDM and the rectangular dislocation, we developed a distributed opening model to further constrain the dike dimensions and opening using non-negative least squares method.

We used the Sentinel-1 InSAR ascending and descending cumulative LOS displacements and the descending range-offset maps for the co-eruptive modeling since these data provided better constraints on the initial activity of the dike. We downsampled each data set and calculated their covariances using a model-based quadtree approach (Lohman & Simons, 2005) given a dike model.

2.2.3. Post-Eruptive Modeling

We only modeled the deformation from January 15 to February 4, 2020 to track the further activity of the dike after the main eruptive phase using the Sentinel-1 ascending and descending cumulative LOS displacements. Following the steps in Section 2.2.2, we first fixed the geometries and locations of the magma reservoir and the dike either by: Case (1) using the co-eruptive MAP solutions (Table S1) or Case (2) independently estimating the dike parameters using a Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) Bayesian inference method (Table S1). Afterward, we estimated the distributed opening of the dike as in step-2 of the co-eruptive modeling.

3. Crisis Response Story

During the peak of the eruption, monitoring instruments installed on Volcano Island were either destroyed or temporarily stopped operating (Sabillo, 2020). SAR data delivered with low-latency were essential in understanding the state of the volcano and in guiding PHIVOLCS to forecast possible eruption scenarios as the event progressed. On 12 January, we initiated a crisis response by producing interferograms using available datasets at that time: (1) ALOS-2 descending SAR datasets spanning one year (i.e., January 13, 2019–January 12, 2020) and (2) Sentinel-1 ascending SAR datasets covering 12 days prior to the eruption (i.e., December 30, 2019–January 11, 2020), to determine if there was any long- or short-term pre-eruptive deformation detected by InSAR. The ALOS-2 descending interferogram (Figure 2a) revealed roughly two fringes crossing Volcano Island (i.e., ~ 24 cm of LOS surface deformation) over one year, whereas the Sentinel-1 ascending interferogram (Figure 2b) showed null to very small short-term deformation. Regions outside the European territory are typically imaged by the Sentinel-1 satellite every 12 days. To monitor the on-going volcanic crisis with low-latency, the International Disaster Charter was triggered and, at the same time, we requested a 6-day repeat Sentinel-1 acquisition from the ESA, which operates Sentinel-1 for the Copernicus program of the European Commission. ESA granted the request until 22 February 2020.

On 15 January, after the descending SAR data became available in the Copernicus sci-hub repository (<https://scihub.copernicus.eu/>), we rapidly processed and directly communicated the first co-eruptive Sentinel-1 interferogram (Figure 3a) to PHIVOLCS through a messaging application—just in time for their science discussion and planning. The interferogram revealed dense fringes within Volcano Island and the Pansipit River Valley (PRV). However, due to the large deformation caused by the eruption, it was difficult to measure the ground displacements within these areas. The pixel-offset analysis (Figure 3c) enabled us to see through the regions that have significantly changed, however, with a lower accuracy compared to InSAR-derived phase measurements. We interpreted the signal from this first co-eruptive InSAR and pixel-offset maps as a result of the emplacement of a large dike and the deflation of a magma reservoir. This initial interpretation during the on-going crisis was further supported by the subsequent ascending interferogram and modeling (see Section 5). If a dike-fed eruption had occurred at that time, we would have inferred the dike breaking to the surface near the vicinity of the Pansipit River Valley, where the towns of Taal, Lemery, Agoncillo, and San Nicolas are directly affected. The information derived from low-latency InSAR data, coupled with the recorded seismicity during the eruption, enabled PHIVOLCS to monitor the volcanic state despite loss of several in situ instruments. We continued providing InSAR data and analyses to PHIVOLCS as the eruption progressed until it had completely waned.

4. The Pre-Eruptive State, Location, and Geometry of the Magma Storage Beneath Taal

The Sentinel-1 datasets stretch back from late 2014 until 1 day before Taal's 2020 eruption. For both the Sentinel-1 tracks (Figure 2c), the time-series revealed a negative trend in the measured LOS displacement from 2014 until late 2018 before the slope shifted to positive, leading up to the eruption day. This negative trend followed by a positive displacement trend has also been recorded through geodetic surveys conducted by PHIVOLCS (PHIVOLCS, 2019). The ALOS-2 time-series from both tracks started in late 2018 until a few hours before the eruption and thus only revealed the inflationary part of the deformation time-series.

From the inversion, we found a NE-SW striking ellipsoidal body located at ~ 5 km depth slightly east of Volcano Island (Figures S1–S2). Seismic analysis (Kumagai et al., 2014), magnetotelluric soundings (Zlotnicki et al., 2017), and geodetic studies of Taal volcano also showed a reservoir at roughly similar depth and location, although with a spherical-shaped chamber (Bartel et al., 2003; Galgana et al., 2014; Morales-Rivera et al., 2019; Zlotnicki et al., 2018). The estimated reservoir volume change was 0.045 ± 0.007 km³ over the year prior to the eruption (Figure S3a). Note that all our reported volume changes in this manuscript and their uncertainties are only based on simple assumptions and crustal rheology (i.e., elastic, homogenous half-space). Considering a non-elastic rheology will modify the volume estimation required to fit the surface deformation, however: (1) as shown by Holohan et al. (2017), taking into account the damage of the crust induced changes, which are significant only for a large depletion of the storage zone and for shallow reservoirs and (2) we lack constraints on the local rheology's deviation from an elastic one. The lack of constraint

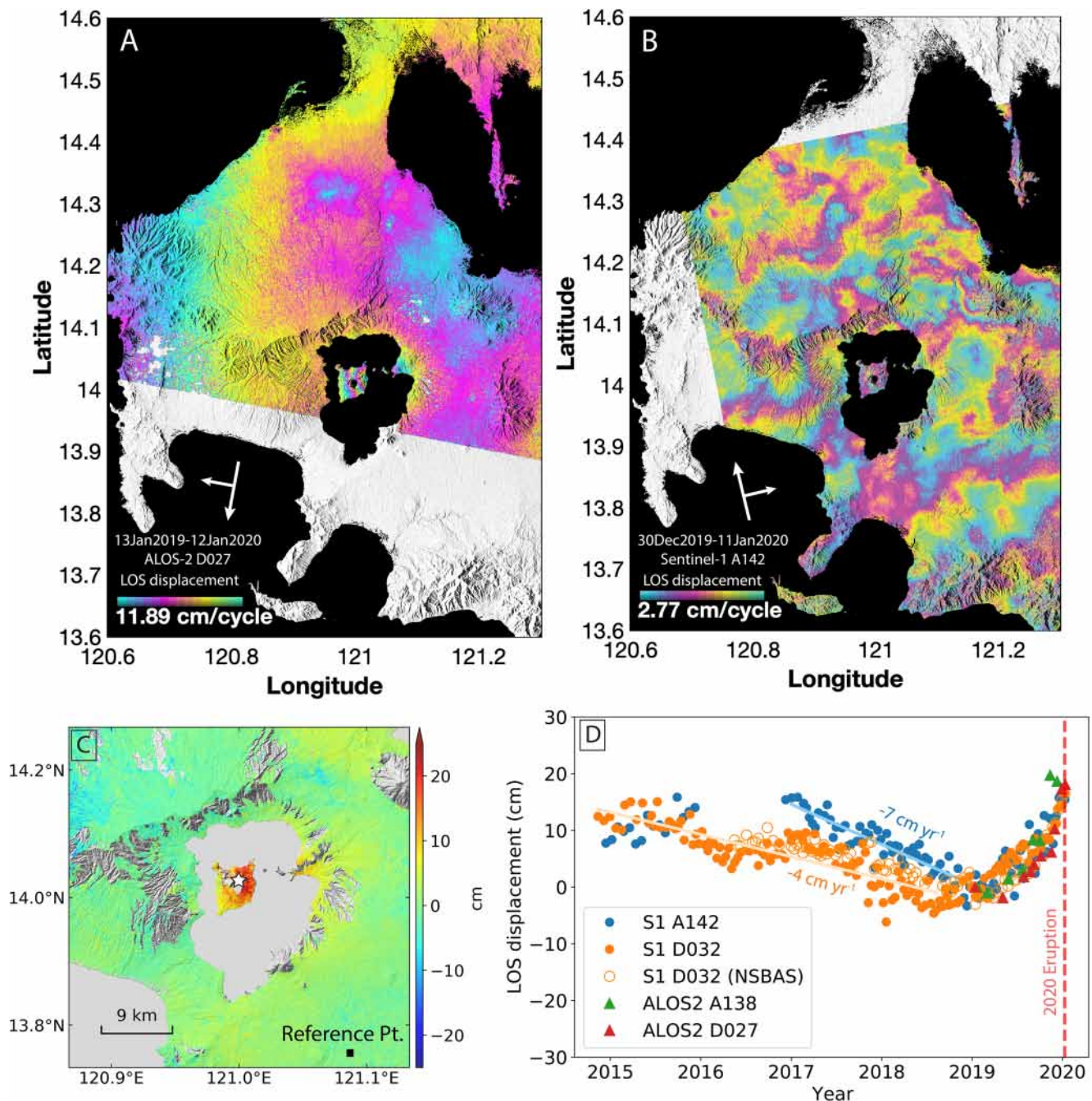
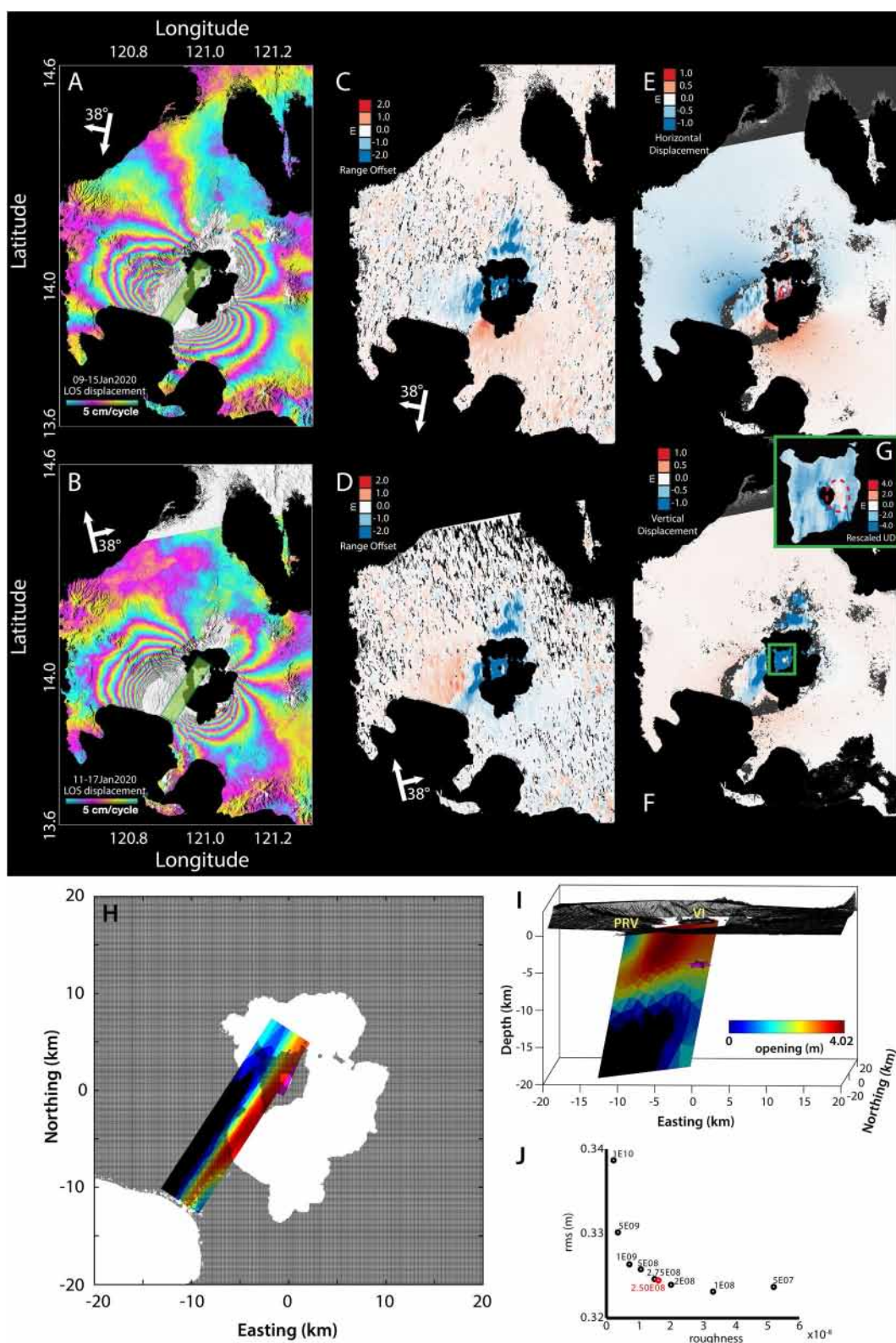


Figure 2. (a and b) Pre-eruptive interferograms of Taal produced using (a) ALOS-2 L-band and (b) Sentinel-1 C-band satellite data set showing long- and short-term surface deformations, respectively. (c) Cumulative descending LOS displacement map from Sentinel-1 track 032, covering January 2, 2019–January 9, 2020. (d) Surface LOS displacement time-series measured at 14.0188° N, 121.0012° E (i.e., star symbol in Figure 2c) from both the ascending and descending tracks of ALOS-2 and Sentinel-1 starting in late 2014 and leading up to the January 12, 2020 Taal eruption (dashed red line). For each time-series, we referenced the date to their respective first acquisitions in January 2019 (ALOS-2 A138: 22 January 2019; ALOS-2 D027: January 13, 2019; S1 A142: January 4, 2019; S1 D032: January 2, 2019) Blue dots: displacement time-series from Sentinel-1 ascending track 142. Orange dots: displacement time-series from Sentinel-1 descending track 032. Orange circles: displacement time-series from Sentinel-1 descending track 032 generated using the NSBAS processing chain. Note that the NSBAS-derived result is only shown here for comparison and was not used during the inversion. Green triangles: displacement time-series from ALOS-2 track ascending track A138. Red triangles: displacement time-series from ALOS-2 descending track 027. The light blue and light orange lines correspond to the negative displacement trend for the Sentinel-1 derived measurements. LOS, line-of-sight.



on the local rheology would significantly increase our estimated volume uncertainties. Figure S2 gives the data, model and residual maps using the MAP values illustrating a good fit between the model inversion results and data.

5. Magma Withdrawal and Dike Emplacement

From the co-eruptive InSAR phase (Figures 3a and 3b) and pixel-offset (Figures 3c and 3d) displacement maps, we derived the horizontal (Figure 3e) and vertical displacements (Figures 3f and 3g). Two distinct signals emerged: (1) Volcano Island and the north and east portions of Taal caldera experienced deflation of ~ 4 m, and (2) the SW region from Volcano Island toward Balayan Bay inflated (~ 1 m) and pulled apart (~ 2 m), with the center of the NE-SW trending rift located near the Pansipit river. In volcano geodesy studies, these signals suggest magma withdrawal from a reservoir and magma emplacement through dike intrusion (Neal et al., 2019; Shreve et al., 2019; Sigmundsson et al., 2015; Sturkell et al., 2006; Wright et al., 2006, & references therein).

From the co-eruptive modeling, we find that the magma reservoir at ~ 5 – 6 km depth below Volcano Island lost an estimated volume of -0.531 ± 0.004 km³ (Figures S3b and S4), which is an order of magnitude larger than the accrued volume change of the reservoir the prior year. This indicates that only a small percentage of the magma withdrawn from the reservoir came from the short-term accumulation period. The model also revealed that a 21×8 km, near-vertical, NE-striking dike was intruded below the surface from Volcano Island extending southwestward toward Balayan Bay (Figure S5). NE-SW trending ground fissures that emerged in the municipalities of Agoncillo, Lemery, San Nicolas, Taal, and Talisay, matched the results of our dike model (PHIVOLCSd, 2020). We estimated that the volume of the dike is 0.643 ± 0.001 km³ (Figure S3c) assuming a uniform opening, which has the same order of magnitude as the volume loss of the magma reservoir. The volume of the dike is only 1.2 \times greater than the volume loss of the magma reservoir, which can imply that the volume difference may be due to additional deep source input or the effect of magma compressibility as a result of gas exsolution (Rivalta & Segall, 2008). Fixing the magmatic source to a deeper depth (i.e., >6 km) might result in equal volumes, however there is currently no independent data set to support this claim. During the on-going eruption response, we estimated that if half of the dike's volume had erupted explosively, it might have yielded a Volcano Explosivity Index (VEI) 4 eruption (Newhall & Self, 1982).

The co-eruptive distributed opening model in Figures 3h–3i indicated strong opening below Volcano Island that extended southwestward toward the Pansipit River Valley at <10 km depth. Although the strongest opening is found beneath Taal Lake, it is unclear if the dike reached the bottom of the lake, which has a maximum depth of 198 m (Castillo & Gonzales, 1976). Notice that the co-eruptive model also shows opening at around 15–20 km depth indicating that there may be a possible deep source feeding the shallow reservoir, although this can also represent the inability of the shallower portions of the model to fit far-field LOS displacements that may be dominated by spatially long wavelength sources of noise in the InSAR data. The estimated volume of the dike from the distributed opening model is 0.689 km³, which has the same order of magnitude as the rectangular dislocation model. Figure S7 shows the co-eruptive data, model, and residual maps using the MAP values, illustrating a good fit between the model and the data.

Subsequent to the main eruptive phase, persistent surface deformation was still observed at Taal (Figures 4a–4d; Figures S8–S12). Volcano Island continued to deflate of up to 0.08 m until around 04 February (Figures 4a and 4c) before inflationary signals are detected (Figures 4b and 4d; Figures S8 and S10). Ground displacements are sustained around the Pansipit River Valley toward Balayan Bay, with most of the significant deformation occurring almost simultaneous to the deflation of Volcano Island. We observed that the

Figure 3. The co-eruptive datasets and model. (a and b) The InSAR phase, re-wrapped at 5 cm per color cycle, and (c and d) range-offset displacement maps from Sentinel-1 descending and ascending tracks showing how much the ground moved as a result of the Taal eruption and dike emplacement. The green rectangles in Figures 3a and 3b is the trace of the dike from the model inversion. (e and f) Derived horizontal and vertical displacements from InSAR phase and range-offset maps. Note that areas covered by fringe aliasing in the InSAR maps are masked and are replaced by range-offset data. (g) Magnified view of the vertical displacement map to highlight the local subsidence within the island and the location of emplaced volcanic deposits (encircled in red). (h) Map view and (i) 3D view of the CDM and distributed opening model. PRV: Pansipit River Valley; VI: Volcano Island. (j) Solution root-mean-square misfit versus roughness as a function of the smoothing value used for the dike. The value in red text is the smoothing factor that we used for the co-eruptive model.

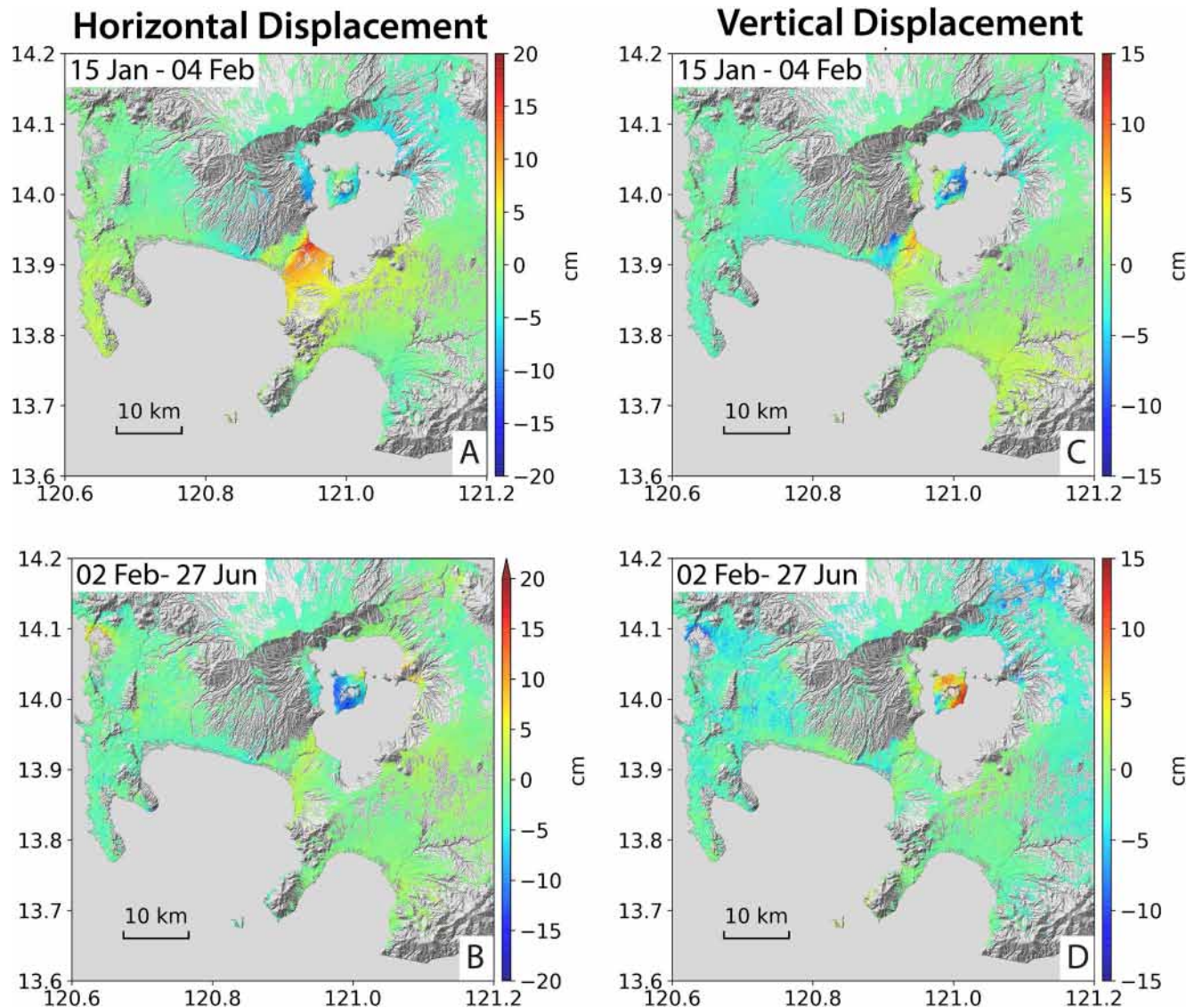


Figure 4. Post-eruptive data. Horizontal (a and b) and vertical displacement (c and d) maps derived using Sentinel-1 descending and ascending datasets covering two periods: (a and c) 15 January to 04 February and (b and d) 02 February to 27 June 2020. (a and b) Red means that the ground moved eastward, blue signifies that the ground moved westward. (c and d) Red means that the ground moved upward and blue represents downward movement.

reservoir continued to lose volume (i.e., $-0.00775 \pm 0.0001 \text{ km}^3$, Figure S3d) while the dike continued to grow (i.e., $0.0557 \pm 0.0004 \text{ km}^3$, Figure S3e) until 4 February.

The post-main eruptive phase distributed opening model between 15 January and 4 February shows weak opening (i.e., up to 41 cm) centered mostly above 10 km-depth beneath Taal lake for both the cases described in Section 2.2.3 (Figures S13 and S17). No further dike propagation is also evidenced, although the resolution of the dike tip position is limited by the absence of information on the displacement field under the sea. The model in Figure S13 follows the conditions in Case 1 and can only partially explain the post-eruptive data (Figure S14). We reduced the residuals (Figure S18) only when all the parameters of the dike were re-estimated (Figure S17) prior to Step 2, implying that the dike's orientation may have changed as it propagated (i.e., shift to a more vertically dipping dike, Figure S15–S18). There are also transient processes (i.e., local faulting events in the graben area and the emergence of fissures in the northern part of the caldera [PHIVOLCSd, 2020]) that were not accounted for in the post-eruptive model.

Between 2 February and 27 June, InSAR time-series of Taal reveal that (1) the magma reservoir beneath Volcano Island is in recovery as evidenced by the inflation detected around the island, and (2) no significant surface deformation was detected in the Pansipit River Valley and in the nearby areas (Figures S8–S12). The re-inflation and thus, the refilling of the magma reservoir is consistent with our co-eruptive model showing possible evidence of a shallow reservoir fed by a deeper source.

6. Discussion

When a volcanic eruption occurs, we ask the obvious however difficult fundamental questions. *What drives the eruption? Why and when did the shallow magmatic storage become unstable and fail?* And for Taal's specific case, *why did the magma favor lateral propagation and remain stalled at depth?*

Magma produced in the mantle is thought to rise in the form of dike or melt-pocket injections through cracks in the crust driven by its buoyancy relative to the surrounding crust. It can stall at depth once it loses buoyancy or cools and sometimes when it encounters a barrier. Magma may accumulate at shallower zones before erupting to the surface, form magma reservoirs through series of intrusions, and potentially displaces and interacts with older magmas (NAP, 2017).

In the upper 10 km of the crust, the controls on explosivity and eruption include a wide range of intrinsic magma properties (i.e., magma ascent rate, volatile content, magma rheology/viscosity, magma chamber overpressure, magma temperature, magma porosity and permeability, magma depth/pressure, crystal and bubble content) and extrinsic parameters (i.e., stress field changes, decompression rate, crustal properties, conduit and vent geometry, external assimilation of surface water/carbonates) that have competing effects and potentially contradictory outcomes (Cassidy et al., 2018). Nearer the surface, eruption explosivity becomes highly dependent on the initial gas content and melt and magma viscosity (Newhall, 2015). For this reason, high-gas content and high-viscosity magmas often result in explosive eruptions.

How eruptions are triggered is a complex interaction of magma influx into the reservoir (recharge), the size of the reservoir, and the gas content of the magma (NAP, 2017; Degruyter & Huber, 2014, & references therein). Recently, a model whereby passive degassing causes decompression (deflation) followed by rapid magma ascent and pressurization (inflation) of the shallow reservoir has been proposed as a possible mechanism for eruption initiation at volcanoes with hydraulically connected plumbing systems (Girona et al., 2014, 2015). In this model, degassing creates a pressure imbalance that promotes magma ascent from the deep to shallow magma reservoirs. Time-series of deflation-inflation events over multi-year time scales have been observed at numerous systems both with (e.g., Copahue, Lundgren et al., 2017; Velez et al., 2016, 2011) and without eruptions (e.g., Campi Flegrei, Troise et al., 2019; Long Valley, Montgomery-Brown et al., 2015; Domuyo, Lundgren et al., 2020). In the case of Copahue volcano, the linear deflation from 2004 to 2008 was attributed to leakage of magmatic fluids through a self-sealing carapace overlying a multiphase brine surrounding a shallow magma body, whereas the inflation from 2011 to 2016 was found related to the transfer of magma in a two-source system.

As the magma reservoir pressurizes, it may rupture and initiate the propagation of a dike once a critical overpressure is reached. The balance between vertical and lateral propagation is a key question central to many magmatic systems, occurring not only in tectonic spreading centers, such as Krafla, Afar, and Bárðarbunga (Sigmundsson et al., 2015; Sturkell et al., 2006; Wright et al., 2006), but also at ocean islands with localized rift zones such as Kilauea, Ambrym, and Piton de la Fournaise (Froger et al., 2015; Neal et al., 2019; Shreve et al., 2019) and sometimes even at restless calderas such as Campi Flegrei (Di Vito et al., 2016). In these systems, a large volume of magma travels laterally, whether the eruptive sequence starts with an eruption in the central area, as observed at Piton de la Fournaise in 2007 (Froger et al., 2015) and Ambrym in 2018 (Shreve et al., 2019), or without eruption in the central part but deflation due to the lateral dike propagation and distal eruption as found for Bárðarbunga-Holuhraun, 2015 (Sigmundsson et al., 2015) and Kilauea, 2018 (Neal et al., 2019). However, there are also cases where lateral dike propagation does not feed an eruption (Sturkell et al., 2006; Wright et al., 2006), as in the case of Taal's 2020 event.

The direction of magma propagation is mainly controlled by the local stress field and the magma driving pressure due to buoyancy and bottom magma influx, (Pinel et al., 2017) as well as local rheology (Urbani

et al., 2017, 2018). Indeed, positive buoyancy will always favor magma ascent and in all models of lateral propagation (Buck et al., 2006; Einarsson et al., 1980; Grandin et al., 2012; Heimissson et al., 2015; Pinel & Jaupart, 2004; Townsend et al., 2017; Urbani et al., 2017, & references therein), buoyancy should act against the direction of propagation being controlled by the local stress field and/or the topography.

For Taal's case, its ~5–6 km deep shallow reservoir became unstable and ruptured due to a small magma input during the short-term accumulation period. Taal has a history of frequent seismovolcanic crises and/or surface activity which are interpreted as repeated magma recharge of its shallow reservoir (Zlotnicki et al., 2018). The sudden magma injection in 2019 might have been due to the pressure imbalance induced by the depressurization of the shallow storage zone, resulting from long-term diffuse degassing, as supported by: (1) the sequence of long-term deflation and short-term inflation detected by InSAR, and (2) the decrease in CO₂ flux measurements from 2015 to 2017 before rapidly rising from 700 T/day (background value) to 2400 T/day between February 2019 and the eruption day (Bernard et al., 2020).

As the magma reservoir accumulated pressure, it also interacted with the overlying hydrothermal system, resulting to the initial phreatic eruption (Figure 1c) which potentially led to the failure of the shallow reservoir. The timing of events can be further constrained with the availability of seismic, GNSS, and petrological datasets. Nevertheless, current knowledge of Taal's plumbing system from geochemical and geophysical studies (Alanis et al., 2013; Maussen et al., 2018; Yamaya et al., 2013; Zlotnicki et al., 2018), and CO₂ flux and temperature measurements from Main Crater Lake (Bernard et al., 2020), indicate that high-flux of gases and volcanic fluids are transferred from the shallow magma reservoir to the hydrothermal system (Zlotnicki et al., 2018). This eventually leads to three possible scenarios, the hydrothermal system may: (1) have been heated, sealed and pressurized, (2) have accumulated magmatic gas resulting in a reduced boiling point and overpressurization of the system (Bernard et al., 2020), or (3) have been destabilized due to the injection of magma, either as small batches or through interaction with a large dike. It is worth mentioning that the volume of erupted tephra (i.e., ~0.032 km³, VEI = 3) from 12–13 January 2020 (Martinez-Villegas, 2020), is close to the estimated: (1) volume of products that can be initially involved if a phreatic eruption occurs at Taal due to the mechanically weak and mineralized materials in the northern part of Volcano Island (Zlotnicki et al., 2018) and (2) pre-eruptive volume increase of the magma reservoir from 2019.

The phreatic-phreatomagmatic eruption that occurred in Volcano Island was driven by an initial gas-rich phase (Bernard et al., 2020) which further decreased the remaining gas in the shallow storage zone. The orientation of the lateral dike is also consistent with the pre-existing fault structures along the NE-SW-striking Macolod Corridor extensional zone, and appear to have played a significant role during the diking event by promoting the opening in the direction of the minimum compressive stress and the propagation along the maximum compressive stress (Anderson, 1951; Cotterell & Rice, 1980; Delaney et al., 1986). The fact that Taal's topography is very low could have also favored the deflection of the magma (Corbi et al., 2015; Gaete et al., 2019). Both the deflection of the magma path toward the edge of the caldera and the predominance of a lateral transport compared to the vertical one indicate that the magma buoyancy was reduced, probably due to the efficient gas loss at pre-eruptive and initial eruptive phases. This low gas content is also consistent with the fact that the dike volume is only slightly larger than the volume loss from the reservoir.

Although our model showed possible rupture in the lake between the Pansipit River Valley and Volcano Island, there is no reported evidence of underwater lava flow emplacement and our datasets are restricted inland such that we do not have enough constraints beneath the water. Post-eruption bathymetric studies and geochemical analyses of Taal lake will provide more information and constraints. Our models indicate that the dike migrated at deeper depths toward the Pansipit River Valley and the post-eruptive dike growth was limited to a widening beneath Taal lake. Such observations are in agreement with dike propagation models controlled by local topography, thus inhibiting vertical propagation (Maccaferri et al., 2016).

Combining all these pieces of evidence (i.e., gas loss during pre-eruptive and initial eruptive phase, presence of pre-existing weaknesses, reduced magma buoyancy), we conclude that the Taal 2020 volcanic crisis did not result in an eruption, despite its history and potential of creating large and destructive events, simply because there was insufficient pressure to drive the magma upward and hence it remained stalled at depth. Eruptions in the Main Crater and ground fissuring related to dike intrusions or fault adjustments were reported in the past (Delos Reyes et al., 2018). Although the 2020 crisis was not highly destructive, the past

eruptions closest to this event were probably those in 1749 and 1911, which were categorized as VEI 3–4 events (Delos Reyes et al., 2018). Both eruptions were characterized by violent phreatomagmatic or plinian eruptions in the Main Crater while NE-SW-striking ground fissures appeared (1) at the northern part of the volcano reaching as far as Calamba (1749) or (2) from Lemery to Calamba (1911) (Delos Reyes et al., 2018).

7. Lessons Learned

Taal is a closely monitored volcano, consists of multi-parametric network of ground instruments. This is the first time that comprehensive and well-documented InSAR-derived displacement maps, time-series analyses, and deformation modeling of Taal's pre-, co-, and post-eruptive state are presented.

On one hand, the pre-eruptive InSAR time-series revealed the inflation during the year preceding the January 2020 eruption. Although this inflation has also been detected by the geodetic network of Taal, InSAR provided the complementary spatial information. We obtained the geometry, location, and source strength of the magma reservoir beneath Volcano Island which are helpful information when characterizing, in our case, the minimum potential magnitude of an impending eruption. On the other hand, the co-eruptive interferogram showed the emplacement of the large dike allowing us to constrain the possible location of a dike-fed eruption had it occurred at that time and to immediately estimate the maximum VEI, which are important information for crisis management.

Although satellite data will never replace in situ observations, they can provide complementary and significant information with unprecedented spatial coverage. Indeed, multi-parametric datasets that are comprised of ground- and satellite-based measurements should be used in monitoring volcanoes to get a full perspective of the volcanic state and to obtain insights into poorly known volcanic processes.

The launch of the Sentinel-1 satellites in 2014 and 2016 has greatly improved InSAR science and applications, particularly, in the monitoring of crustal deformation, allowing broad access to free and low-latency SAR data. Taal's recent crisis greatly benefited from the freely available Sentinel-1 data and the continuous and real-time delivery of processed data, analyses, and models that were crucial to the observatory when most ground instruments were no longer available. During the eruption, the biggest challenge that we encountered was related to how accurate and correct were the low-latency preliminary analyses and models that we provided to PHIVOLCS, given the lack of prior InSAR baseline observations for Taal. Fortunately, although the results that we report in this manuscript required extensive reprocessing and utilization of larger datasets and tools, our analyses remained consistent with those delivered to the observatory during the height of the crisis and the overall behavior of the volcano also corroborated our results. Despite the unavailability of other co-eruptive in situ data, actual surface deformation observed in the field such as the emergence of ground fissures and the occurrence of subsidence and uplift in the coastal lake regions based on available field photographs confirmed our analyses and interpretations. We, therefore, highlight the need and encourage volcano observatories globally to include remote sensing data like InSAR as a major component in their regular monitoring of active volcanoes, particularly now that (1) the data and processing tools are becoming more open and freely available, and (2) advanced satellite system acquisitions have become more suitable for highly vegetated regions.

Data Availability Statement

All the ARIA-produced interferograms used in this study are accessible via the ASF DAAC vertex page (<https://search.asf.alaska.edu>). All the ALOS-2 interferograms are available on Zenodo at <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4574537>.

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