

A Twenty-First Century View of Plutons

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In the past decade the concept of what a pluton represents has undergone radical revision. These building blocks of the continental crust, once thought to be the frozen remains of huge, molten blobs of magma, instead seem to be formed by piecemeal aggregation of myriad small pulses of magma. I will review the evidence that led to this new view, and some of the more important implications for fields as diverse as structural geology, seismology, volcanology, and geodetics.