



# Groundwater Interacting at Depth With Hot Plastic Magma Triggers Phreatic Eruptions at Yugama Crater Lake of Kusatsu-Shirane Volcano (Japan)

Muga Yaguchi<sup>1\*</sup>, Takeshi Ohba<sup>2</sup> and Akihiko Terada<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Volcanology Research, Meteorological Research Institute, Japan Meteorological Agency, Tsukuba, Japan,

<sup>2</sup>Department of Chemistry, School of Science, Tokai University, Hiratsuka, Japan, <sup>3</sup>Volcanic Fluid Research Center, School of Science, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Meguro, Japan

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### \*Correspondence:

Muga Yaguchi  
myaguchi@mri-jma.go.jp

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Interpreting the triggering mechanisms for phreatic eruptions is a key to improving the hazard assessment of crater lakes. Yugama Crater Lake at Kusatsu-Shirane volcano, Japan, is the site of frequent phreatic eruptions with the recent eruptions in 1982–83, 1989, and 1996, as well as volcanic unrest, including earthquake swarms in 2014 and 2018. To understand the magma–hydrothermal interaction beneath Yugama Crater Lake, we analyzed lake waters from November 2005 to May 2021. From 2005 to 2012, Cl and SO<sub>4</sub> concentrations decreased slowly, suggesting the development of a self-sealing zone surrounding the crystallizing magma. We focused on Ca, Al, and Si concentrations as representatives of the breach and dissolution of minerals comprising the self-sealing zone and the Mg/Cl ratio as an indicator for enhanced interaction between groundwater and hot plastic rock within the self-sealing zone. In 2006–2007, the Ca, Al, Si concentrations and the Mg/Cl ratio increased. No Cl and SO<sub>4</sub> increase during this period suggests the self-sealing zone was leached by deep circulating groundwater rather than by magmatic fluids injection. After the 2014 earthquakes, Ca, Al, and Si increased again but were associated with a significant Cl increase and a pH decrease. We believe that the HCl-rich magmatic fluids breached the self-sealing zone, leading to fluids injection from the crystallizing magma to the Yugama crater. During this period, the Mg/Cl ratio did not increase, meaning that magmatic fluids ascending from the breached area of the self-sealing zone inhibited deep intrusion of groundwater into the hot plastic rock region. In 2018, magmatic fluids ascended through the self-sealing zone again with less intensity than in 2014. All eruptions since 1982 have been accompanied by a Mg/Cl ratio increase and a Cl decrease, whereas, when a significant HCl input occurs, as in 2014, no eruptions and no Mg/Cl ratio increase occurred. This demonstrates that the groundwater–hot plastic rock interaction, rather than the magmatic fluids input, played an essential role in triggering phreatic eruptions; i.e., phreatic eruptions can potentially occur without clear signs of fresh magma intrusions.

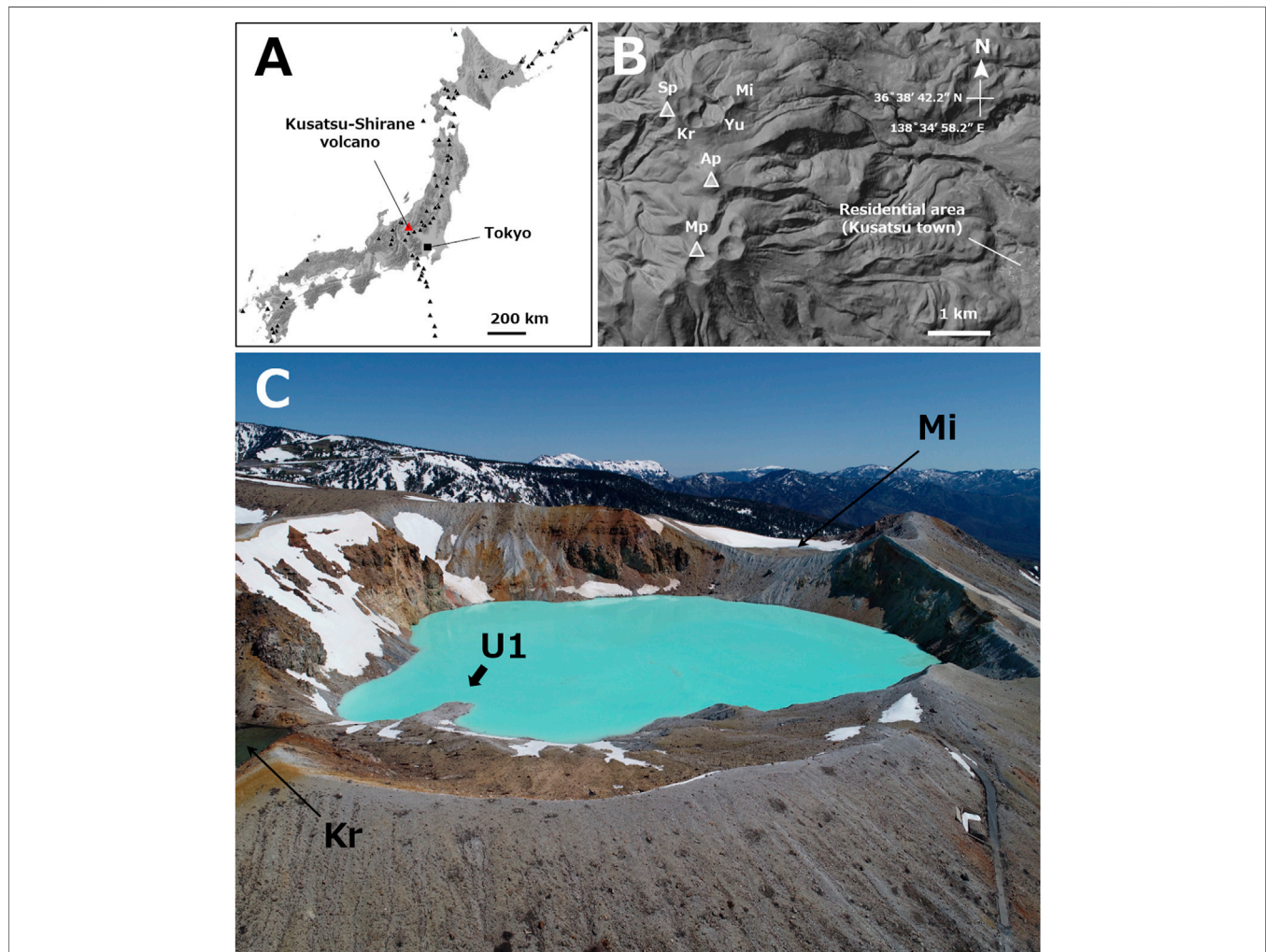
**Keywords:** crater lake, phreatic eruption, hydrothermal system, Kusatsu-Shirane volcano, self-sealing zone, crystallizing magma, Mg/Cl ratio, geochemical monitoring

## INTRODUCTION

Phreatic eruptions do not expel juvenile magma and are typically small in scale. For “wet volcanoes” they can be the dominant type of volcanic eruption that sometimes causes hazardous damage (e.g., Caudron et al., 2015; Yamaoka et al., 2016; Mannen et al., 2019). Although understanding the mechanism and forecast of phreatic eruptions are still challenging, previous studies have shown that various processes in magma–hydrothermal systems, such as rapid pressurization of fluids due to contact between groundwater and hot rocks, increased release of magmatic gases, rapid vaporization of superheated water due to decompression, and sealing by precipitation of hydrothermal minerals, play an important role in triggering this type of eruption (e.g., Hedenquist and Henley, 1985; Barberi et al., 1992; Mastin, 1995; Browne and Lawless, 2001; Stix and de Moor, 2018; Ohba et al., 2019a). An active crater lake connected to a

magma–hydrothermal system is a suitable site for studying magma–hydrothermal activity. For example, in Ruapehu (New Zealand), Poás (Costa Rica), and Kelut (Indonesia), chemical analyses of crater lakes were applied as a means of volcanic surveillance (e.g., Giggenbach and Glover, 1975; Rowe et al., 1992; Badrudin, 1994; Bernard and Mazot, 2004; Martínez et al., 2000, 2019; Martínez, 2008; Christenson et al., 2010; Rouwet et al., 2017, 2019).

Yugama Crater Lake at Kusatsu-Shirane volcano on Honshu Island, Japan (**Figures 1A–C**), is known as a frequent phreatic eruption site (e.g., Ohba et al., 2008a; Terada, 2018) despite there is no clear evidence of recent fresh magma intrusion at shallow depths and actively degassing. Yugama Crater Lake is also an important resource for tourism and economic activities. Interpreting the triggering mechanisms for phreatic eruptions, which occur at such crater lakes as Yugama, is essential to improve how to assess the hazard of phreatic activity at crater



**FIGURE 1** | Index map of Kusatsu-Shirane volcano and Yugama crater. **(A)** Location map of Kusatsu-Shirane volcano (Source of the base map; the Geographical Survey Institute of Japan). Solid triangles indicate an active volcano. **(B)** Shaded-relief image overlapping the aerial photograph around Kusatsu-Shirane volcano (Source of the base map; the Geographical Survey Institute of Japan). Sp, the peak of Mt. Shirane; Ap, the peak of Mt. Ainomine; Mp, the peak of Mt. Motoshirane; Yu, Yugama crater; Mi, Mizugama crater; and Kr, Karegama. **(C)** Yugama crater (photograph taken by AT using a drone on May 8, 2020). U1, regular sampling point.

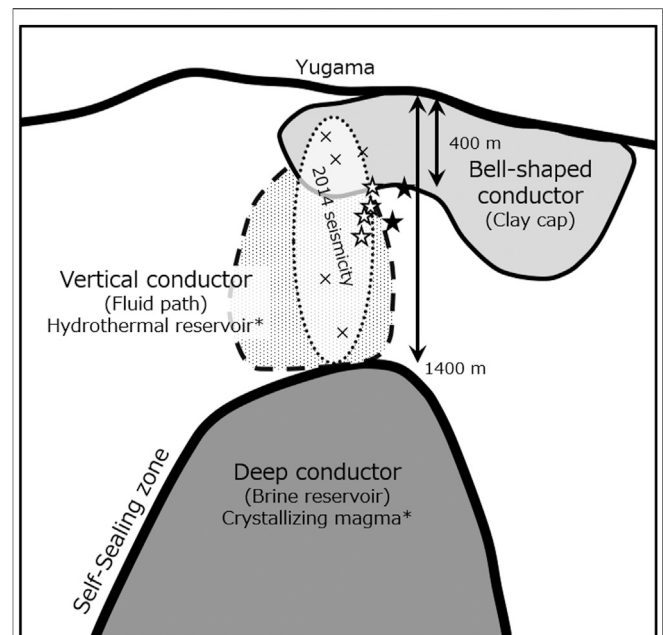
lake-bearing volcanoes. Accordingly, the correspondence between changes in the chemical composition of lake water and eruptive activity has been investigated at the Yugama crater (e.g., Ohba et al., 1994, 2000, 2008a). For example, in the last 50 years, a phreatic eruption occurred within the Mizugama crater adjacent to the Yugama crater in 1976, and phreatic eruptions occurred within and surrounding the Yugama crater in 1982–83, 1989, and 1996 (Ida et al., 1989; Kusatsu-Shirane Volcano Observatory, Tokyo Institute of Technology, 1996, 1997; Terada, 2018). No eruption has occurred at the Yugama crater since then, but there were earthquake swarms beneath the Yugama crater in 1989–91, followed by a pH drop in the lake water (Ohba et al., 1994, 2000). For this series of activities, Ohba et al. (2008a) proposed the following model, based on the chemical analysis of lake water at crater Yugama. The 1982–83 eruption was triggered by vapor expansion following the interaction between groundwater and the hot plastic rock region inside the self-sealing zone. The 1989–91 earthquakes and subsequent pH drops were caused by the groundwater that intruded within the self-sealing zone, extracting HCl-rich fluids from the hot plastic rock region and supplying it to the Yugama crater.

If development and breach of the self-sealing zone play key roles in the magma–hydrothermal activity beneath the Yugama crater, this cycle may continue until the underlying magma cools and loses its volatiles. As expected, earthquake swarms reoccurred around the Yugama crater from March 2014 and in April 2018. Ohba et al. (2019b) estimated that the earthquake swarms in 2014 and 2018 were triggered by the increased pressure in the hydrothermal reservoir due to the injection of magmatic gas, a model based on the analytical results of the chemical and stable isotopic compositions of the fumarolic gases near the Yugama crater. This result made us expect that magma–hydrothermal interaction can be inferred through the chemical composition of Yugama Crater Lake because magmatic gas contains many water-soluble components. In this study, we present the chemical composition of water at Yugama Crater Lake, which was sampled almost every month from November 2005 to May 2021 except for the volcanic unrest period and snow season, and based on this, we investigate the magma–hydrothermal interaction beneath Yugama Crater Lake during this period and propose a key mechanism for the recent eruptions at this crater.

## STUDY AREA

### Kusatsu-Shirane Volcano and Hydrothermal Systems Beneath the Yugama Crater

Kusatsu-Shirane volcano is an active volcano consisting of the pyroclastic cones of Shirane, Ainomine, and Motoshirane (Figure 1B). The eruption stages of this volcano are distinguished into the following: 0.6–0.5 Ma, 0.5–0.3 Ma, and 16 ka-present (Hayakawa and Yui, 1989; Kaneko et al., 1991; Takahashi et al., 2010). Three pyroclastic cones were formed since

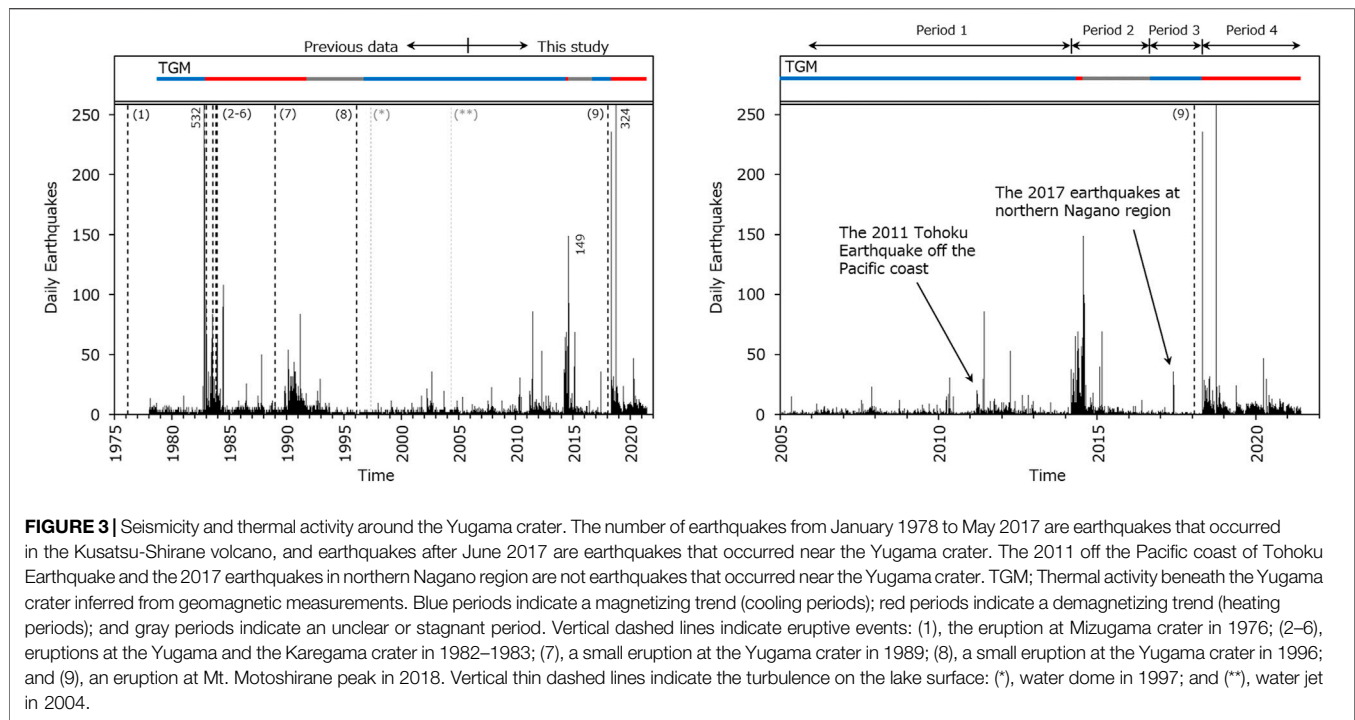


**FIGURE 2** | Major structures beneath the Yugama crater inferred by the magnetotellurics survey simplified from Tseng et al. (2020). Cross marks indicate simplified earthquake locations. Open and solid stars indicate approximate locations of magnetizations and demagnetizations corresponding to the volcanic events in 1982–2012 (Takahashi and Fujii, 2014), respectively. \*The deep conductor and vertical conductor correspond to crystallizing magma and a hydrothermal reservoir (Ohba et al., 2008a; Ohba et al., 2019b).

16 ka, and recent studies have shown that the Mt. Motoshirane and Mt. Shirane experienced magmatic eruptions at approximately 1.5 and 1.4 ka, respectively (Ishizaki et al., 2020; Kametani et al., 2021). The Yugama crater is located near the summit of Mt. Shirane (Figure 1B). All recorded (since 1805) eruptions were phreatic, and almost all occurred in and around the Yugama crater, except for the phreatic eruption at Mt. Motoshirane on January 23, 2018 (e.g., Uto et al., 1983; Japan Meteorological Agency, 2013; Terada, 2018). The last eruption at the Yugama crater was in 1996, but turbulence on the lake surface, such as a dome-shaped water bulge in 1997 and a water jet in 2004, have been observed (Kusatsu-Shirane Volcano Observatory, Tokyo Institute of Technology, 1996, 1997; Volcanic Fluid Research Center, Tokyo Institute of Technology, 2004).

The hydrothermal structure beneath Kusatsu-Shirane volcano has been investigated mainly by magnetotelluric (MT) or audio-frequency magnetotellurics (AMT) methods (Nurhasan et al., 2006; Matsunaga et al., 2020; Tseng et al., 2020). Among these, Tseng et al. (2020) investigated the electrical conductivity structure specifically focused on just beneath the Yugama crater and pointed out three major conductors: a bell-shaped conductor from near the surface to about 400 m below the surface (m.b.s.), interpreted as the smectite-rich layer; a deep conductor at >1,500 m.b.s., interpreted as the brine reservoir; and a vertical conductor connecting the deep conductor and the shallow





conductor (**Figure 2**). Such hydrothermal structures have also been suggested by geochemical studies of lake water in the Yugama crater and volcanic gases around the Yugama crater (Ohba et al., 2000; Ohba et al., 2008a; Ohba et al., 2019b). Considering this information, a deep conductor corresponds to magma and the surrounding hot plastic rock region, and a vertical conductor corresponds to a two-phase hydrothermal reservoir of liquid and vapor. Flushing of magmatic fluids from deep conductors is thought to be controlled by self-sealing due to mineral deposition.

Volcanic earthquakes have occurred at mainly 1,000 m beneath the Yugama crater (Japan Meteorological Agency, 2019; Terada et al., 2021). Source locations of thermal magnetization and demagnetization are estimated to be about 400–700 m beneath the Mizugama crater (Takahashi and Fujii, 2014). The seismicity and thermal activity indicate a magmatic fluids injection into the hydrothermal reservoir due to a breach of the self-sealing zone (Ohba et al., 1994, 2008a, 2019b; Tseng et al., 2020).

## Overview of Recent Activities of Kusatsu-Shirane Volcano Seismic and Thermal Activity

As phreatic eruptions have occurred mainly at Mt. Shirane in the last 200 years, geodetic, seismic, and geomagnetic observations have been carried out around the Yugama crater since the 1970s (Ohchi, 1987; Japan Meteorological Agency, 2013). In this study, to discuss the lake water chemistry, we identified the periods of volcanic activity into Periods 1–4 based on the seismic and the geomagnetic observations (**Figure 3**). Thermal activity in **Figure 3** shows the results of geomagnetic observations

simplified into demagnetization (heating), magnetization (cooling), and stagnation.

### Period 1 (November 2005–February 2014)

Although seismic activity, such as after the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake off the Pacific coast (about 420 km northeast of Kusatsu-Shirane volcano) has been observed, the seismicity from November 2005 to February 2014 was essentially less active (**Figure 3**). The low seismic activity was consistent with the geomagnetic observations, indicating cooling beneath the Yugama crater during this period (Takahashi and Fujii, 2014; Kakioka Magnetic Observatory, 2016).

### Period 2 (March 2014–August 2016)

Earthquake swarms occurred at Mt. Shirane from March to August 2014, followed by minor seismic activity until March 2018 (the end of Period 3; **Figure 3**). The thermal demagnetization was observed beneath the Yugama crater from May to June 2014. The thermal demagnetization appeared to stop after July 2014 (Kakioka Magnetic Observatory, 2019).

### Period 3 (September 2016–March 2018)

Minor seismicity at Mt. Shirane was still observed during this period. Although many earthquakes were observed in May 2017 (**Figure 3**), these earthquakes corresponded to the seismicity at the northern part of Nagano Prefecture, more than 5 km north of Kusatsu-Shirane volcano (Japan Meteorological Agency, 2018). A magnetized trend was observed from summer in 2016 to March 2018. We consider that the beginning of the magnetization was from September 2016, the same as Period 2 (Kakioka Magnetic Observatory, JMA, 2019).

On January 23, 2018, a phreatic eruption occurred at Mt. Motoshirane, 2 km south of the Yugama crater. No precursors, such as changes in seismicity, ground deformations, and thermal demagnetizations, were observed at the Kusatsu-Shirane volcano preceding this eruption (Ogawa et al., 2018; Terada et al., 2021).

#### Period 4 (April 2018–May 2021)

Three months after the eruption of Mt. Motoshirane, an earthquake swarm started in late April 2018 at Mt. Shirane (Terada et al., 2021). Seismic activity remained high until May 2021; especially, many earthquakes occurred in May 2019 and March 2020 (Figure 3). A demagnetized trend during this period suggests that a temperature increase in the subsurface of the crater continued from April 2018 to May 2021 (Kakioka Magnetic Observatory, 2019; Japan Meteorological Agency, 2021).

#### Crustal Deformation

Crustal deformations have been observed at the Kusatsu-Shirane volcano using tiltmeters and GNSSs. According to tiltmeter observations, the shallow inflation of  $1.2 \times 10^5 \text{ m}^3$  beneath the Yugama crater (about 1,000 m.b.s.) was observed from March 2014 to approximately October 2016 (Terada et al., 2021). Such inflation has been detected intermittently also from April 2018, but its inflated volume is one-third of the one of 2014–2016 (Kusatsu-Shirane Volcano Observatory, Tokyo Institute of Technology, 2021).

Preceding the earthquake swarms in 2014 and 2018, the deep pressure source at about 2 km northwest of the Yugama crater, at a depth of about 6.3 km below the lake surface, was inflated (Munekane, 2021). The inflated volumes from late-2013 to mid-2015 and from late-2017 to mid-2020 are estimated at  $5 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3$  and  $2.5 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3$ , respectively. We consider that the deep inflation source affected the earthquake swarms in 2014 and 2018.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study presents the chemical composition of lake water within the Yugama crater from November 2005 to May 2021. The sampling frequency is usually at least once a month, but samples from December to March were usually unavailable because snow inhibits access to the sampling site. The lake water was basically collected using a plastic cup with a long handle on the southwest coast (U1; Figure 1C) of Yugama Crater Lake, but since 2017, remote sampling using a drone, as in Terada et al. (2018), was also applied. The analyses of lake water collected from November 2005 to August 2009 were conducted at Tokyo Institute of Technology, as in Ohba et al. (2008a), and samples collected after this period were analyzed at the Meteorological Research Institute (MRI). At the MRI, the pH and electrical conductivity were measured using a handheld pH/EC meter (Horiba, D-74) equipped with a glass electrode (Horiba, 9615S-10D) calibrated with pH 1.68 and 4.00 buffer solutions and a platinum–platinum black electrode (Horiba, 3552-10D), respectively. The lake waters were filtered with 0.45- $\mu\text{m}$  membrane filters and diluted with ultra-pure water using the

appropriate dilution factor to bring the concentrations of the analytes to within the calibration ranges and limit of detections (LOD; Table 1), and then subjected to ion chromatography (Thermo Scientific, Dionex Integrion HPIC) to determine Cl and  $\text{SO}_4$  concentrations, and microwave plasma atomic emission spectrometer (Agilent, 4210 MP-AES) to determine Na, K, Ca, Mg, Fe, Al, Mn, and Si (expressed as  $\text{SiO}_2$  in Table 2) concentrations. The relative standard deviations (RSD) of IC and MP-AES analyses were better than 3% (Table 1). Stable isotope ratios ( $\delta\text{D}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ) of lake waters sampled after 2012 were analyzed by using a cavity ring-down spectrometer (Picarro, L2140-i) and expressed in per mil (‰) relative to VSMOW. Analytical precisions tested were within  $\pm 0.4\text{‰}$  for  $\delta\text{D}$  and  $\pm 0.05\text{‰}$  for  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ . The analytical results are listed in Table 2.

## RESULTS

#### Period 1 (November 2005–February 2014)

The lake water's pH is approximately 1.2–1.3, and no significant change was observed (Table 2 and Figure 4). The concentrations of anions, Cl and  $\text{SO}_4$ , showed a gradual decreasing trend throughout the period with short-term fluctuations (Figure 5A). The concentrations of Na, K, Fe, and Mn did not change significantly, but Si and certain cations, such as Al, Ca, and Mg, increased temporarily from September 2006 to November 2007 (Figure 5B).

#### Period 2 (March 2014–August 2016)

The pH decreased sharply (Figure 4), and almost all concentrations of anions, cations, and  $\text{SiO}_2$  increased (Figure 5). Among these, the decrease in pH and increase in Cl concentrations reach values of pH = 0.91 and Cl = 5,180 mg/L on August 7, 2016, respectively, which is the lowest and highest compared to past observations (Ohba et al., 2008a and references therein), respectively. At the same date,  $\delta\text{D} = -39.4\text{‰}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O} = -1.7\text{‰}$  (Table 2) were observed, which are the highest values ever observed.

#### Period 3 (September 2016–March 2018)

The concentrations of dissolved components that increased in Period 2 maintained high values, with fluctuations, until October 2016. Thereafter, the pH increased until the end of this period, and the concentrations of various constituents decreased in general, with fluctuations (Figures 4, 5).

#### Period 4 (April 2018–May 2021)

The overall trend in this period was a persistent decrease in Cl and  $\text{SO}_4$  concentrations, which started in August–October 2016. However, after the earthquake swarms (e.g., in April–September 2018, May 2019, and April 2020), an increase in Cl and  $\text{SO}_4$  concentration (or stagnation of concentration decrease) occurred. The acceleration in speed of such increases in Cl and  $\text{SO}_4$  concentrations after the earthquake swarms were accompanied by increases in Ca, Al, Fe, and Si concentrations (Figure 5).

**TABLE 1** | Analytical performance of anions, cations and Si analyzed at the MRI.

Analyte	Technique	Dilution factor	Calibration range mg/L	LOD mg/L	RSD %
Cl	IC	1,000 and 500	0–10	<sup>(a)</sup> $5.05 \times 10^{-3}$	0.15
SO <sub>4</sub>	IC	100 and 50	0–40	<sup>(a)</sup> $2.04 \times 10^{-2}$	0.25
Al	MP-AES	40	0–10	<sup>(b)</sup> $4.92 \times 10^{-4}$	1.54
Ca	MP-AES	40	0–5	<sup>(b)</sup> $4.42 \times 10^{-4}$	0.45
Fe	MP-AES	40	0–5	<sup>(b)</sup> $8.19 \times 10^{-4}$	2.59
K	MP-AES	40	0–1	<sup>(b)</sup> $1.72 \times 10^{-4}$	0.87
Mg	MP-AES	40	0–1	<sup>(b)</sup> $3.97 \times 10^{-4}$	0.90
Mn	MP-AES	40	0–1	<sup>(b)</sup> $5.56 \times 10^{-4}$	1.31
Na	MP-AES	40	0–1	<sup>(b)</sup> $4.35 \times 10^{-4}$	0.69
Si	MP-AES	40	0–5	<sup>(b)</sup> $9.01 \times 10^{-3}$	2.32

<sup>a</sup>LODs of IC analysis were calculated as three times the peak height to baseline noise ( $S/N = 3$ ) at the standard's concentration tested (1 mg/L for Cl and 4 mg/L for SO<sub>4</sub>).

<sup>b</sup>LODs of MP-AES analysis were calculated as  $LOD = 3\sigma C / (I_C - I_B)$ , where  $\sigma$  is the standard deviation of blank's intensity,  $I_C$  is the standard's intensity,  $I_B$  is the blank's intensity,  $C$  is the standard's concentration tested (0.1 mg/L for all analytes).

## DISCUSSION

### Assumptions for Discussion

In the following discussion, we assume that the magma–hydrothermal system is affected by crystallization (cooling), rather than melting magma (Figure 6A). The latest magmatic eruption at Mt. Shirane occurred about 1.4 ka ago. Moreover, no magma intrusions into the shallow depth have been detected since the 1990s (Munekane, 2021; Terada et al., 2021). Additionally, although a large amount of heat of over 120 MW is released during the quiescent period (Ueki and Terada, 2012), concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub> in fumarolic gas, as a representative of magmatic gas derived from fresh magma at shallow depth, are low (Ohba et al., 2019b). In the assumed system (Figure 6A), magmatic fluids are degassed through the impermeable hot plastic rock surrounding a crystallizing magma, as Giggenbach (1992a) proposed. Secondary mineral deposition as a self-sealing zone occurs at the margin of the hot plastic rock region at about 370–400°C (Fournier, 1999). The self-sealing zone corresponds to brittle to plastic transition: dominantly meteoric water circulates at hydrostatic pressure in brittle rock while dominantly magmatic fluids at lithostatic pressure accumulates in hot plastic rock. Magmatic fluids flushes into the overlying brittle region when episodic and temporary breaching of a normally self-sealed zone occurs. Such magma–hydrothermal structure has not yet been demonstrated in the Kusatsu–Shirane volcano, but a very similar structure has been observed in the deep wells drilled in the Kakkonda geothermal field located in northeast Japan. According to the deepest geothermal well (named WD-1a; total depth of 3,729 m) data, the quaternary granitic pluton, which is the heat source of this field, was encountered at 2,860 m.b.s., and the brittle–plastic transition was confirmed at 3,100 m.b.s. at about 380°C, the maximum temperature of 500–510°C was recorded at 3,700 m.b.s. (Muraoka et al., 1998). In the brittle rock region of this well, the deeper fluids have a higher salinity (Komatsu et al., 1998). Saline fluids are also recognized below the brittle–plastic transition; for example, hypersaline liquid (about 40 wt% total chloride species) has been obtained from 3,708 m.b.s. (Kasai et al., 1998). Those Cl–

rich fluids were concentrated in the liquid phase during the crystallization process of the crystallizing magma. In the case of Yugama crater lake, Cl species released to the brittle rock region would be dominated by HCl. This is because, in the assumed hydrothermal system, magmatic fluids are released from the plastic rock region when the self-sealing zone is breached, i.e., under a hydrostatic pressure of about 150 bar (assuming that the depth of plastic rock is 1,500 m; Tseng et al., 2020); at such low pressure, the silicate–water interaction leads to a high HCl/NaCl ratio in the aqueous phase (Shinohara and Fujimoto, 1994).

Anionic species (e.g., Cl and SO<sub>4</sub>) in the most active volcanic lakes mostly originate from the degassing magma, whereas rock-forming species (e.g., Na, K, Ca, Mg, Al, Mn, Fe, and Si) originate from the leaching from the rock (Ohba et al., 2008a; Rouwet et al., 2014; Varekamp, 2015). However, it is not always necessary that SO<sub>4</sub> in the water of Yugama Crater Lake be derived from the unique origin. This is because the sulfur components initially come to the hydrothermal system from the gas phase, but some of them are removed from the aqueous phase as elemental sulfur, and the precipitation and dissolution of secondary minerals such as sulfates and sulfides contribute to the SO<sub>4</sub> concentration in lake water. In addition, some of the sulfur species absorbed by the lake water are dissolved in chemical forms other than SO<sub>4</sub>, such as polythionates (Takano and Watanuki, 1990; Ohba et al., 2008a; Takano et al., 2008).

Phreatic eruptions may form even in the case of magma crystallizing and driving the shallower hydrothermal circulation. In this case, the Mg/Cl ratio can be used as an indicator of water–hot plastic rock contact. We assume that Cl and Mg originate from the crystallizing magma. In this situation, an increase in Mg/Cl is interpreted to correspond to enhanced interaction between water and a hot plastic rock region relative to the stable HCl degassing state (Giggenbach and Glover, 1975; Giggenbach, 1996; Rouwet et al., 2014). Increases in the Mg/Cl ratio were observed before and after all eruptions at Yugama Crater Lake since 1982 (i.e., in 1982–82, 1989, and 1996) and the water bulge appearance in 1997 (Ohba et al., 2008a).

**TABLE 2 |** Chemical and isotopic composition of lake water in Yugama crater sampled from November 2005 to May 2021.

Sampling date	Temp. °C	pH	EC S/m	Cl mg/L	SO <sub>4</sub> mg/L	Al mg/L	Ca mg/L	Fe mg/L	K mg/L	Mg mg/L	Mn mg/L	Na mg/L	SiO <sub>2</sub> mg/L	δ <sup>18</sup> O ‰	δD ‰
November 4, 2005	17.9	1.28	ND	2,840	1,740	140	94.2	86.2	11.7	20.9	0.86	23.0	163	ND	ND
April 20, 2006	8.6	1.30	ND	2,570	1,460	129	85.6	70.9	11.1	20.4	0.87	20.1	139	ND	ND
May 25, 2006	18.3	1.31	ND	2,500	1,350	128	86.2	73.6	10.1	20.2	0.85	18.9	142	ND	ND
June 15, 2006	19.1	1.30	ND	2,430	1,360	125	84.4	68.5	10.4	19.9	0.84	18.9	133	ND	ND
July 20, 2006	23.7	1.31	ND	2,430	1,290	124	83.2	67.9	9.3	19.3	0.82	17.9	130	ND	ND
August 14, 2006	26.8	1.29	ND	2,470	1,390	128	85.9	71.6	9.3	19.9	0.83	18.5	134	ND	ND
September 5, 2006	26.4	1.29	ND	2,490	1,390	127	86.1	71.0	10.1	20.1	0.84	19.2	134	ND	ND
October 13, 2006	18.7	1.29	ND	2,460	1,480	132	89.6	72.3	10.3	23.8	1.04	20.5	137	ND	ND
November 18, 2006	16.1	1.25	ND	2,520	1,590	135	94.0	73.6	10.0	27.9	1.25	22.1	154	ND	ND
April 20, 2007	11.2	1.27	ND	2,640	1,580	150	97.7	63.7	12.9	30.0	1.27	20.0	164	ND	ND
May 31, 2007	17.1	1.27	ND	2,600	1,520	152	100	64.4	11.4	30.0	1.25	21.3	171	ND	ND
June 27, 2007	22.8	1.27	ND	2,590	1,500	152	100	65.3	15.3	30.3	1.28	22.1	169	ND	ND
July 19, 2007	25.5	1.27	ND	2,620	1,470	158	101	69.1	11.5	29.7	1.25	22.1	168	ND	ND
August 21, 2007	26.9	1.25	ND	2,720	1,540	166	103	70.0	12.0	30.7	1.32	23.5	187	ND	ND
September 19, 2007	24.9	1.28	ND	2,540	1,510	162	105	74.8	11.2	29.4	1.27	22.7	185	ND	ND
October 21, 2007	20.9	1.22	ND	2,630	1,620	166	108	75.6	9.7	30.4	1.24	21.2	177	ND	ND
November 14, 2007	14.8	1.23	ND	2,550	1,670	170	107	76.0	11.3	30.3	1.24	21.8	181	ND	ND
April 24, 2008	11.2	1.31	ND	2,440	1,330	142	91.0	58.0	16.5	25.1	0.80	25.1	154	ND	ND
May 13, 2008	13.6	1.29	ND	2,450	1,340	147	94.8	59.3	11.5	25.6	0.84	23.8	153	ND	ND
June 11, 2008	20.1	1.30	ND	2,360	1,290	138	94.6	58.8	11.5	24.5	0.79	22.6	149	ND	ND
July 16, 2008	25.2	1.35	ND	2,340	1,330	132	90.9	56.5	13.0	23.0	0.87	21.9	144	ND	ND
August 15, 2008	26.9	1.34	ND	2,370	1,330	135	93.5	61.5	13.8	23.1	0.88	22.6	148	ND	ND
September 2, 2008	25.5	1.33	ND	2,320	1,430	146	100	68.4	12.5	25.0	0.93	24.4	153	ND	ND
October 21, 2008	20.4	1.30	ND	2,460	1,590	144	97.1	72.3	10.2	25.3	0.75	22.7	153	ND	ND
November 7, 2008	15.3	1.28	ND	2,520	1,630	147	96.3	72.2	6.5	25.3	0.75	23.2	159	ND	ND
April 23, 2009	12.1	1.30	ND	2,540	1,410	136	89.9	57.7	11.2	23.4	0.78	22.3	142	ND	ND
May 21, 2009	19.0	1.30	ND	2,560	1,360	140	92.0	59.6	11.1	23.7	0.86	23.0	149	ND	ND
June 9, 2009	20.2	1.29	ND	2,570	1,290	140	92.8	59.0	10.2	23.8	0.94	23.4	149	ND	ND
July 16, 2009	22.4	1.28	ND	2,580	1,300	144	92.3	59.8	12.1	24.5	0.92	24.0	150	ND	ND
August 13, 2009	27.1	1.29	ND	2,570	1,300	144	94.5	61.3	11.2	24.7	0.84	24.0	151	ND	ND
June 26, 2012	21.6	1.29	2.35	2,230	1,120	132	92.0	64.3	10.2	19.5	0.66	22.3	161	-6.4	-60.2
May 19, 2014	18.8	1.24	2.76	2,630	1,100	124	85.2	68.0	10.4	19.9	0.70	21.1	162	-5.6	-58.7
August 23, 2014	ND	1.19	2.93	2,680	1,250	130	92.8	75.7	10.3	20.8	0.74	22.7	168	-5.0	-55.1
September 27, 2014	25.3	1.15	3.24	3,000	1,370	144	98.9	77.7	10.3	22.8	0.77	23.3	181	-4.2	-51.6
May 15, 2015	22.6	1.07	3.97	3,630	1,310	160	96.9	67.1	12.0	25.2	0.81	25.7	194	-4.1	-48.2
August 28, 2015	ND	1.02	4.49	4,040	1,670	179	105	82.2	13.2	28.0	0.92	29.4	208	-3.0	-44.1
October 15, 2015	21.4	1.01	4.62	4,170	1,780	178	111	79.9	12.6	29.1	0.96	29.2	211	-2.7	-42.2
April 22, 2016	16.6	0.94	5.48	4,670	1,890	210	120	79.9	14.8	33.9	1.11	33.0	219	-2.1	-39.5
August 7, 2016	29.8	0.91	5.79	5,180	2,220	217	129	88.7	18.0	35.4	1.18	38.3	213	-1.7	-39.4
August 25, 2016	27.5	0.91	5.76	5,180	2,230	226	132	94.1	17.0	36.5	1.21	37.0	214	-1.8	-39.5
September 6, 2016	26.5	0.91	5.71	5,000	2,200	222	133	94.3	16.8	36.1	1.19	36.2	217	-1.8	-39.5
September 29, 2016	24.9	0.94	5.42	4,900	2,140	219	131	95.0	17.1	34.4	1.22	37.4	211	-2.5	-42.6
October 17, 2016	21.9	0.92	5.55	5,080	2,230	226	132	104	17.0	36.9	1.17	37.0	215	-2.1	-41.3
October 27, 2016	17.4	0.92	5.69	5,140	2,230	236	137	102	20.0	37.5	1.26	45.7	221	-1.8	-40.0
April 25, 2017	13.8	0.96	4.97	4,370	1,790	205	121	81.3	14.1	32.2	1.08	31.7	170	-3.9	-48.5
May 17, 2017	17.0	0.98	5.14	4,750	1,840	200	122	81.0	13.7	31.8	1.09	33.5	176	-3.6	-47.3
July 21, 2017	26.5	0.97	5.02	4,460	1,810	203	121	82.3	14.2	32.3	1.08	33.8	179	-3.6	-48.3
September 13, 2017	24.0	1.00	4.76	4,250	1,780	199	118	82.2	13.5	30.3	1.03	30.9	175	-3.3	-47.0
October 5, 2017	19.3	0.98	4.79	4,300	1,800	204	119	89.0	13.6	31.0	1.01	32.3	177	-3.2	-46.4
<sup>(a)</sup> October 18, 2017	ND	1.01	4.98	4,450	1,830	205	120	93.4	16.7	28.4	1.31	37.5	160	-3.6	-48.5
November 10, 2017	11.7	1.00	4.75	4,200	1,800	194	121	87.1	13.9	30.5	1.03	31.3	175	-3.7	-49.0
May 18, 2018	18.6	1.02	4.51	4,220	1,490	189	120	82.4	14.8	27.9	1.17	31.4	152	-4.3	-51.6
June 19, 2018	22.5	1.01	4.54	4,340	1,550	198	129	86.3	14.6	29.2	1.17	32.2	158	-4.0	-50.7
July 9, 2018	24.5	1.03	4.42	4,420	1,610	226	123	92.0	15.3	29.7	1.22	35.3	164	-4.1	-51.6
August 2, 2018	26.8	1.04	4.50	4,360	1,640	214	134	90.9	15.9	30.4	1.15	34.3	181	-3.8	-50.6
October 17, 2018	21.4	1.03	4.35	4,270	1,620	201	122	93.2	13.6	30.1	0.91	29.7	189	-3.6	-49.4
May 24, 2019	18.8	1.10	4.29	4,270	1,420	211	128	84.9	14.6	31.4	1.01	35.0	188	-3.6	-47.0
<sup>(b)</sup> July 1, 2019	ND	1.05	4.20	4,130	1,420	204	139	89.5	14.5	33.4	0.98	31.3	201	-3.7	-47.9
<sup>(c)</sup> July 1, 2019	ND	1.05	4.21	4,100	1,410	196	135	85.9	16.0	32.3	0.94	44.0	195	-3.7	-47.9
<sup>(d)</sup> July 1, 2019	ND	1.04	4.20	4,110	1,410	194	131	84.5	14.2	32.0	0.96	33.2	193	-3.4	-47.3
August 2, 2019	27.1	1.07	4.10	4,070	1,420	219	148	104	15.9	31.7	1.06	33.5	203	-3.8	-49.1
August 26, 2019	26.0	1.06	4.21	4,090	1,460	219	144	99.4	16.7	31.8	1.09	33.2	199	-3.6	-48.2
October 1, 2019	25.0	1.06	4.24	4,160	1,550	231	165	118	20.6	33.4	1.25	38.0	222	-3.0	-46.1

(Continued on following page)

**TABLE 2 |** (Continued) Chemical and isotopic composition of lake water in Yugama crater sampled from November 2005 to May 2021.

Sampling date	Temp. °C	pH	EC S/m	Cl mg/L	SO <sub>4</sub> mg/L	Al mg/L	Ca mg/L	Fe mg/L	K mg/L	Mg mg/L	Mn mg/L	Na mg/L	SiO <sub>2</sub> mg/L	δ <sup>18</sup> O ‰	δD ‰
October 16, 2019	ND	1.11	3.86	3,800	1,460	230	164	120	17.7	30.8	1.23	35.9	196	-3.9	-49.7
November 9, 2019	15.4	1.07	3.90	3,850	1,470	234	171	129	17.9	32.7	1.30	38.8	204	-3.7	-49.4
December 3, 2019	ND	1.09	4.03	3,920	1,500	230	174	130	17.1	31.7	1.24	35.4	202	-3.3	-47.8
April 3, 2020	8.3	1.13	3.77	3,790	1,310	206	159	119	15.5	32.2	1.13	34.1	193	-3.8	-49.8
April 30, 2020	14.3	1.16	3.41	3,170	1,100	180	140	102	15.5	28.0	0.94	30.4	169	-4.6	-51.8
<sup>(b)</sup> May 8, 2020	ND	1.13	3.67	3,900	1,330	222	165	122	16.9	31.3	1.27	36.6	184	-3.9	-49.5
<sup>(c)</sup> May 8, 2020	ND	1.13	3.67	3,880	1,330	221	163	120	16.7	31.1	1.23	36.3	184	-3.5	-49.3
June 2, 2020	20.8	1.11	3.70	3,830	1,320	225	170	127	16.7	32.4	1.26	35.9	189	-3.7	-49.9
August 11, 2020	26.9	1.13	3.63	3,820	1,350	221	166	129	18.7	31.0	1.29	37.5	190	-3.6	-52.1
September 8, 2020	27.2	1.12	3.79	3,910	1,390	235	173	139	17.2	33.2	1.27	38.5	196	-3.3	-50.0
October 15, 2020	21.5	1.12	3.79	3,990	1,420	243	176	141	17.7	33.9	1.31	39.1	200	-3.3	-49.4
November 5, 2020	16.6	1.13	3.90	4,040	1,420	238	174	142	17.6	33.9	1.32	39.2	199	-2.8	-48.0
<sup>(b)</sup> November 14, 2020	ND	1.08	3.89	4,110	1,430	240	176	142	17.5	34.2	1.33	38.8	206	-2.9	-47.3
April 20, 2021	13.1	1.11	3.90	4,080	1,270	205	149	104	15.0	32.8	1.06	32.7	197	-3.6	-48.5
April 26, 2021	13.5	1.11	3.85	4,140	1,280	242	169	127	17.2	34.0	1.25	38.9	198	-3.5	-48.8
May 31, 2021	20.3	1.12	3.92	4,070	1,260	227	172	126	17.9	33.9	1.28	40.2	203	-3.4	-47.4

<sup>a</sup>Data cited from Terada et al. (2018).

<sup>b</sup>Water sampled approximately 10 m offshore from the U1 point by using a drone.

<sup>c</sup>Water sampled near the center of the crater by using a drone.

<sup>d</sup>Water sampled from the discolored area of the crater by using a drone.

## Period 1 (November 2005–February 2014) Development of the Self-Sealing Zone and its Breach due to Leaching by Deep Circulating Water

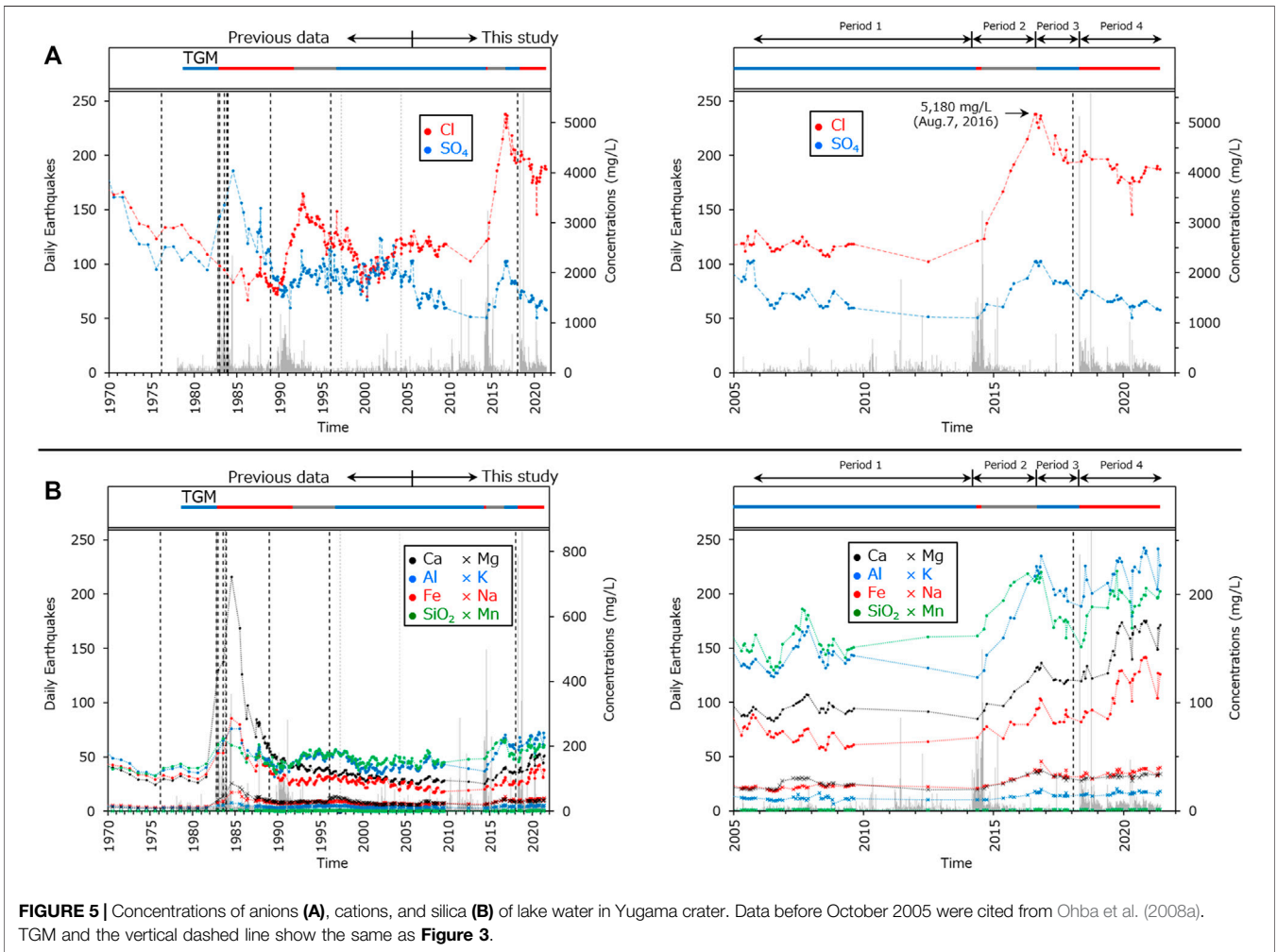
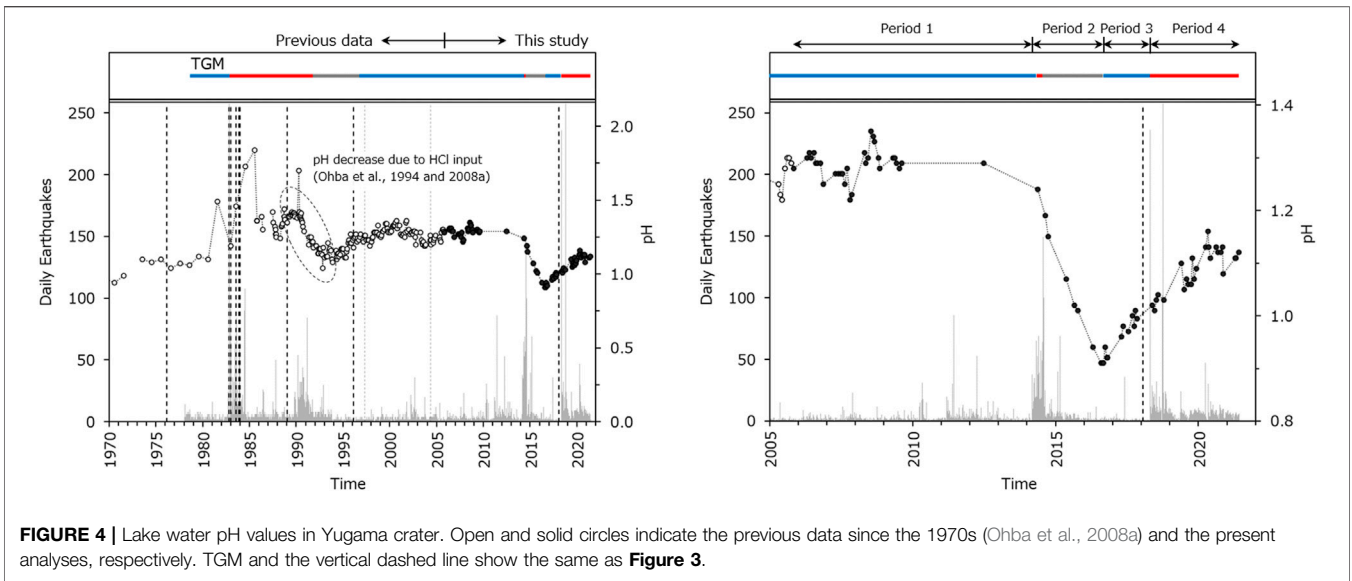
During this period, Cl and SO<sub>4</sub> concentrations decreased gradually. Considering the minor seismicity and the cooling of the hydrothermal reservoir inferred by the geomagnetic observation (Takahashi and Fujii, 2014), the supply of magmatic fluids was suppressed due to the development of the self-sealing zone. The gradual decrease in Cl and SO<sub>4</sub> is considered due to dominantly meteoric groundwater circulating in the hydrothermal system only mixing with the residual saline fluids in the deep part of the brittle rock region, and being washed away to the Yugama Crater Lake, with no additional magmatic fluids ascending, as shown in **Figure 6A**. Considering that the cooling of the hydrothermal reservoir in Period 1 has continued since 1996 (**Figure 3**; Kakioka Magnetic Observatory, 2016), self-sealing may have started before this study period.

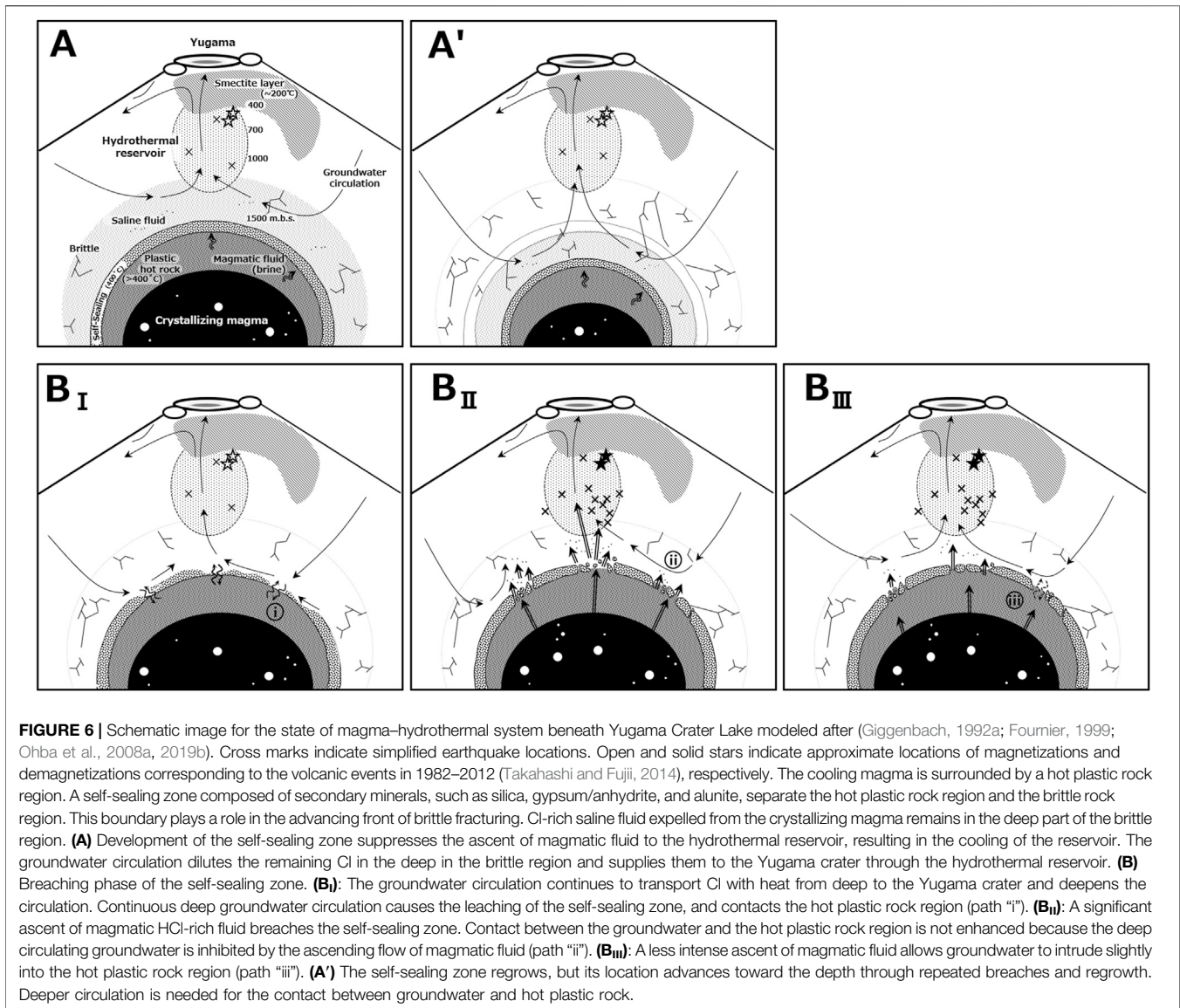
Nevertheless, the Mg concentration increased from 2006 to 2007 (**Figure 5B**), resulting in an increase in the Mg/Cl ratio (circle “a” in **Figure 7**). At this time, the increase of Al, Ca, and Si was also observed (**Figure 5B**). As Al, Ca, and Si are major components of secondary mineral depositions that constitute the self-sealing zone (e.g., alunite, gypsum/anhydrite or SiO<sub>2</sub>) and Mg originates dissolution of crystallizing magma, we believe that two processes occurred in 2006: 1) the breach (dissolution) of the self-sealing zone, and 2) the contact between groundwater and the hot plastic rock region inside the self-sealing zone. However, since the increase in Al, Ca, and Si concentrations were smaller than before and after the 1982–83 eruptive period (**Figure 5B**), the breach of the self-sealing zone in 2006 would have been smaller in scale. Moreover, the region below the brittle-plastic transition has a

temperature of about >400°C with low permeability, by referring to the deep well in the Kakkonda geothermal field (Komatsu et al., 1998; Muraoka et al., 1998). The saturated vapor temperature of water at 150 bar is about 340°C; thus, the groundwater that reached the hot plastic rock from the small breached part of the self-sealing zone in 2006 could not invade deeply and abundantly as, otherwise, it would evaporate.

Direct evidence for the presence and mineral species of the self-sealing zone beneath the Yugama Crater Lake has not been revealed by direct drilling, however, ejecta from past phreatic eruptions provide important insights. The abundant phases in eruptive ejecta of Ruapehu Crater Lake (New Zealand), which has repeated phreatic eruptions, are low-temperature SiO<sub>2</sub> polymorphs such as cristobalite, sulfates such as gypsum/anhydrite and alunite, pyrite, and native sulfur (Christenson and Wood, 1993). Especially, native sulfur, alunite, anhydrite, and SiO<sub>2</sub> are considered to be readily precipitated in hydrothermal systems (Christenson et al., 2010). Alunite, gypsum/anhydrite, and SiO<sub>2</sub> polymorphs are also abundant in the ejecta of the 1982–83 eruptions at the Yugama Crater Lake (Ossaka et al., 1984; **Table 3**), supporting the presence of a self-sealing zone and its dissolution to enhance the increase of Al, Ca, and Si concentrations in Yugama Crater Lake. Considering no increase in Cl or SO<sub>4</sub> before or after the increase of the Mg/Cl ratio in 2006, it is unlikely that the injection of magmatic fluids caused the breach of the self-sealing zone at that time. Therefore, we believe that a long period of suppression of magmatic fluids, arguably also due to the presence of the self-sealing zone, allows groundwater to circulate deeply and allows groundwater to leach the mineral deposition of the self-sealing zone and intrusion into the hot plastic rock region (path “i” in **Figure 6B<sub>1</sub>**). Afterward, the self-



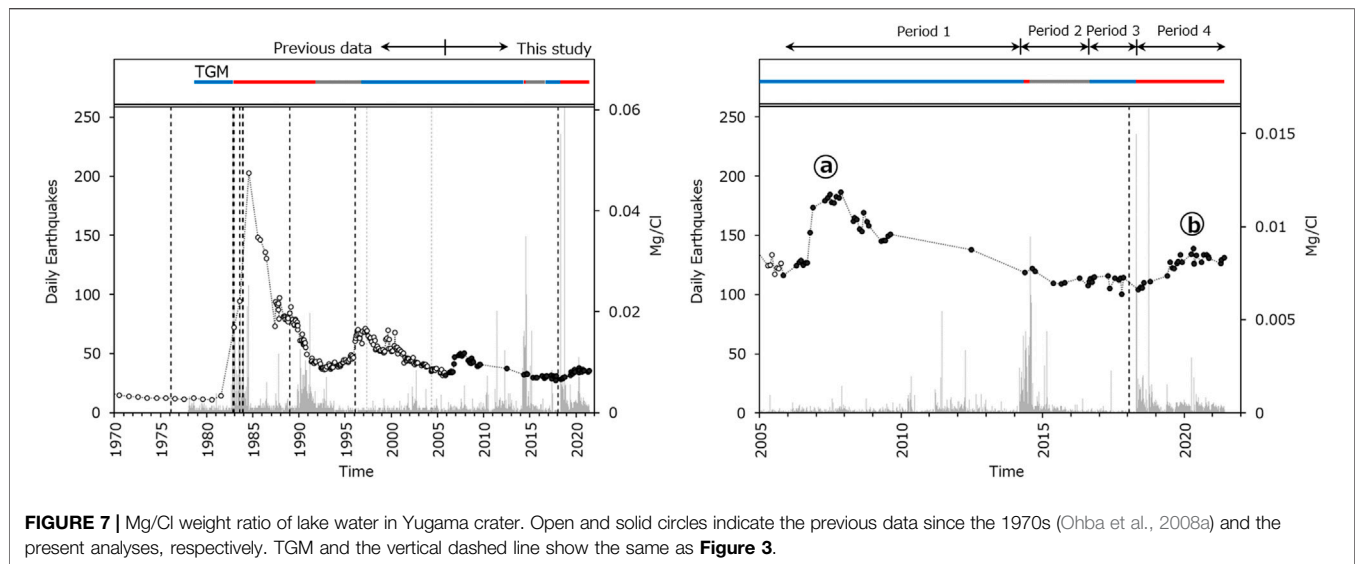




sealing zone regrew and returned to the state shown in **Figure 6A**, until the end of this period.

Although no eruption occurred at the Yugama Crater Lake in 2006, the above mentioned invasion of groundwater into the brittle magma carapace that envelops the hot plastic rock and the self-sealing zone can trigger hydrothermal destabilization and phreatic eruptions. For example, at the hyperacid crater lake of Poás volcano in Costa Rica, the lake level dropped by about 8 m accompanied by an increase in seismic activity through 1998, followed by, between late 1998 and mid-1999, the opening of cracks in the ground and new fumaroles, and enhanced influx of heat and volatiles into the lake as indicated by the increase in lake water temperature and concentrations of solutes (Martínez, 2008). At Yugama Crater Lake, the water level was high during the eruption and decreased after the eruption in the active period of 1982–83. In particular, after the October 26, 1982 eruption, the first eruption of the 1982–83 series, the water

level decreased remarkably, dropping about 7 m, followed by the subsequent eruption on December 29 (Tokyo Institute of Technology and Sophia University, 1983). The high lake level during the eruption is attributed to the discharge pressure of the volcanic fluids, while the decrease after the eruption is attributed to the deep invasion of lake water, mainly through the conduit created by the eruption (Tokyo Institute of Technology and Sophia University, 1983; Osaka et al., 1984). The lake level rise during the eruption would be similar to that occurred about a year before the first phreatic eruption at Poás in March 2006, which is interpreted as the pushing vapor front (Rouwet et al., 2017). For the period without eruptions, i.e., when there is no open conduit to a deep hydrothermal system, the depth of groundwater invasion or percolation at Kusatsu-Shirane volcano has not yet been evaluated by geochemical or geophysical observations. On the other hand, other volcanoes and geothermal fields in Japan, such as Mt. Fuji and the



**FIGURE 7** | Mg/Cl weight ratio of lake water in Yugama crater. Open and solid circles indicate the previous data since the 1970s (Ohba et al., 2008a) and the present analyses, respectively. TGM and the vertical dashed line show the same as **Figure 3**.

**TABLE 3** | Constituent minerals in the ejecta of the 1982–83 eruptions at Yugama Crater Lake (data cited from Ohsaka et al. (1984).

Eruption date	Qz	Cr	Tr	Fd	Gy	Ah	Al	Py	Pr	Ka	Mo
October 26, 1982	++	+	+	(+)	++	-	+	++	++	++	++
December 29, 1982	+	+	+	(+)	+++	-	+	++	++	+++	+++
December 29, 1982	++	+	++	-	++	-	+	++	+++	+++	+
December 29, 1982	-	+	+	-	-	+	++	++	++	++	-
July 26, 1983	+	-	+	(+)	++	+	++	++	++	++	+
November 13, 1983	++	+	+	-	+	-	+	++	++	++	++
November 13, 1983	++	+	+	-	+	-	+	++	++	++	++
November 13, 1983	++	+	+	-	+	-	+	++	++	++	(+)
November 13, 1983	++	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	++	(+)

Abundance: +++, very abundant; ++, abundant; +, present; -, absent; (+), unidentified.

Qz, Quartz; Cr, Cristobalite; Tr, Tridymite; Fd, Feldspar; Gy, Gypsum; Ah, Anhydrite; Al, Alunite; Py, Pyrite; Pr, Pyrophyllite; Ka, Kaolin; Mo Montmorillonite.

Kakkonda geothermal field, have demonstrated deep groundwater percolation reaching 1,500–3,000 m.b.s. (Saishu et al., 2014; Yaguchi et al., 2016). In the case of a hydrothermal system beneath the Yugama crater, such deep groundwater percolation corresponds to a depth below the self-sealing zone and is sufficient for the groundwater to interact with the mineral deposition of the self-sealing zone, or with the hot plastic rock region.

## Period 2 (March 2014–August 2016) HCl Input Into the Hydrothermal Reservoir

The earthquake swarm in 2014 was accompanied by a significant increase in Cl concentration and a decrease in pH, which is similar to the case of the earthquake swarm in 1990–93 (**Figure 4**) caused by the supply of HCl-rich magmatic fluids from the hot plastic rock region (Ohba et al., 2008a). The state of the magma–hydrothermal system in this period is represented in **Figure 6B<sub>II</sub>**.

To be precise, acidic gases, such as HF, HCl, and sulfur gases likely cause decreases in pH in the crater lake. However, it is difficult to estimate the contribution of each of the acidic gases

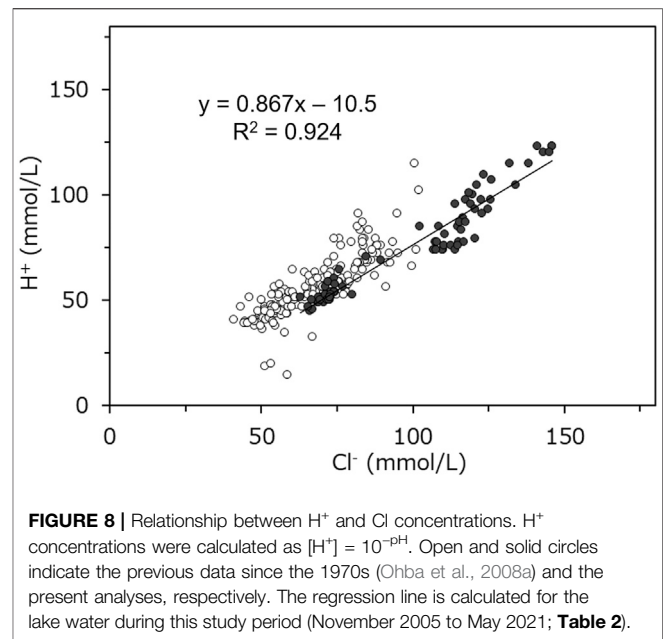
quantitatively because our analyses (ion chromatography) contain a large uncertainty in the HF concentrations due to an interference by coexisting species. Dissolved  $\text{SO}_4$  is also not always representative of the total amount of sulfur gases supplied from magma to the crater lake, as explained above. Moreover,  $\text{SO}_2$  is probably already released for being less soluble in magma with respect to HCl and HF. The crystallizing magma is hence relatively rich in HCl with respect to a fresh, less degassed magma (richer in  $\text{SO}_2$ ). This also explains why the pH is not lower at Yugama, as for Poás, White Island or Kawah Ijen for instance. Despite the uncertainty in the contributions of HF and sulfur species, a high correlation was observed between  $\text{H}^+$  and Cl concentrations during this study period (**Figure 8**), indicating that the increase in Cl in 2014–16 was caused by the input of HCl-rich fluids to the hydrothermal reservoir. The slope lower than 1 in the regression line (appears to be  $\text{H}^+$  poor) is probably the result of the suppression of  $\text{H}^+$  activity due to the high ionic strength of the lake water. This is supported by the activity coefficient of  $\text{H}^+$  in the ionic strength of the lake water during this study period (0.09–0.17) obtained by using

the extended Debye-Hückel equation resulting in 0.81–0.83, which is very similar to the slope (0.867) of the regression line. These situations were similar to 1990–93; however, the  $\delta D$  and  $\delta^{18}O$  of the lake water after the 2014 activity were the highest ever observed ( $-39.4\text{‰}$  and  $-1.7\text{‰}$  on August 7, 2016, respectively; **Table 2**). We propose that the amount of HCl-rich magmatic fluids in 2014–16 was more significant in magnitude than that in 1990–93. Incidentally, although the main water source of any crater lake is generally meteoric precipitation, Yugama Crater Lake water is more enriched in  $\delta D$  and  $\delta^{18}O$  than the local meteoric water, and the  $\delta D/\delta^{18}O$  slope is 4.7 (**Figure 9A**). This slope very much resembles the slope of about 5, which typically results from the evaporation of lake water at ambient temperature (e.g., Matsubaya and Sakai, 1978; Rowe, 1994; Balistreri et al., 2007). According to Ohba et al. (2000), however, this isotopic enrichment mainly results from evaporation, but there is a small contribution of isotopically heavy Cl-rich fluids. This isotopically heavy fluids is a liquid phase separated by boiling of a mixture of local meteoric water and a magmatic fluids rich in Cl. The isotopic enrichment of lake water relative to local meteoric water ( $\Delta\delta D$  and  $\Delta\delta^{18}O$ ) can be obtained by subtracting the  $\delta$  value of local meteoric water ( $\delta D_{lmw} = -79.3\text{‰}$  and  $\delta^{18}O_{lmw} = -11.8\text{‰}$ ; Ohba et al., 2000) from the  $\delta$  value of lake water ( $\delta D_{lake}$  and  $\delta^{18}O_{lake}$ ). For example, the  $\Delta\delta$  values on August 7, 2016, are calculated as  $\Delta\delta D = +39.9\text{‰}$  and  $\Delta\delta^{18}O = +10.1\text{‰}$ . On the other hand, the isotope enrichment of lake water by the addition of isotopically heavy Cl-rich fluids ( $\Delta\delta D_{Cl}$  and  $\Delta\delta^{18}O_{Cl}$ ) can be estimated by multiplying the Cl concentration (mg/L) of the lake water by the coefficients,  $2.10 \times 10^{-3}$  for  $\delta D$  and  $5.16 \times 10^{-4}$  for  $\delta^{18}O$  (see Ohba et al., 2000 for more details). Based on this simple calculation, it is estimated that the  $\Delta\delta D_{Cl} = +10.9\text{‰}$  and  $\Delta\delta^{18}O_{Cl} = +2.7\text{‰}$ , which account for 27.3 and 26.7% of  $\Delta\delta D$  and  $\Delta\delta^{18}O$ , respectively. The contributions of the addition of isotopically heavy Cl-rich fluids to total isotope enrichment calculated in this way were 21–32% (average in  $\delta D$  and  $\delta^{18}O$ ) throughout the present study period, which is not significantly different from the period 1990–93 (**Figure 9B**). In other words, although there is isotope enrichment by addition of Cl-rich fluids, the heavy isotope ratio of lake water relative to local meteoric water is mainly due to evaporative enrichment even during this study period.

### Self-Sealing Zone Breach due to Magmatic Fluids Ascend

In addition to Cl and  $SO_4$ , the concentrations of rock-forming species increased, especially Ca, Al, Fe, and Si (**Figure 5**). As mentioned above, these species are probably derived from the secondary mineral deposition. The increases in these components suggest that a breach (dissolution) of the self-sealing zone occurred corresponding to the earthquake swarm in 2014. However, we believe that the breaching process was different than the one in 2006.

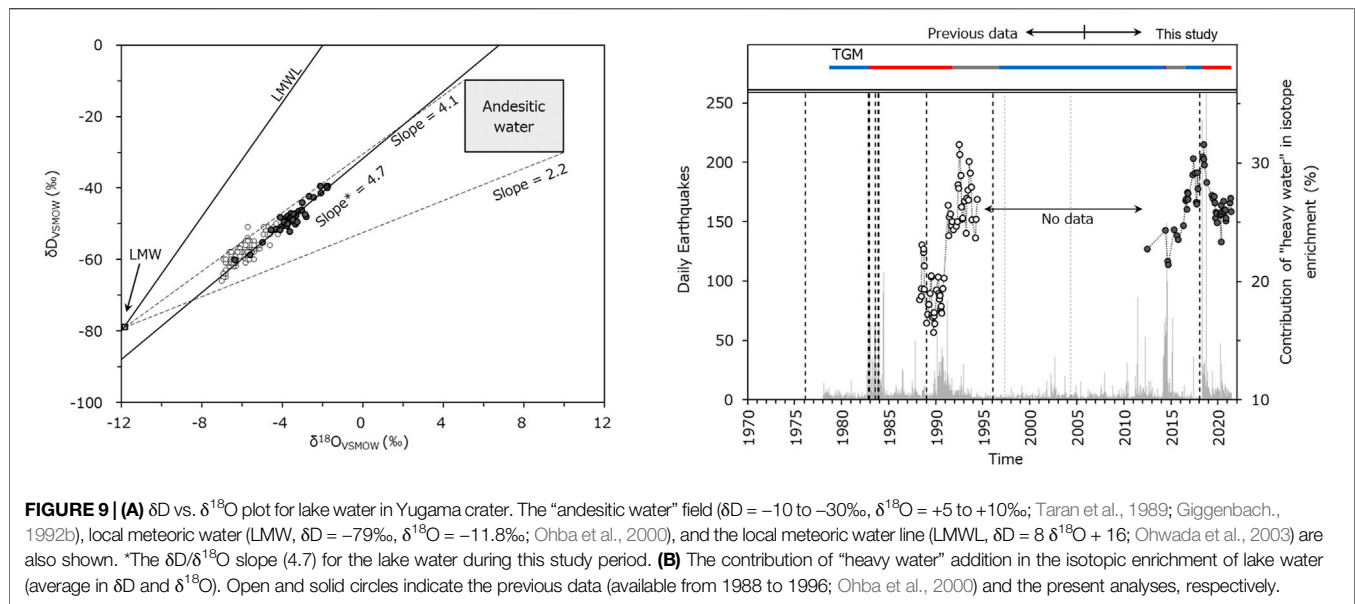
The significant increase in Cl suggests that the breach of the self-sealing zone in 2014 was caused by an internal pressurization due to the Cl-rich fluids accumulation or



injection from depth. The deep deformation source pressurized in 2013–2015 (at a depth of 6.3 km and 2 km northwest of the Yugama Crater Lake; Munekane, 2021) may not be a direct source of Cl because the HCl should remain dissolved in the magma at this depth (e.g., Christopher et al., 2015), but may have induced the supply of Cl-rich magma fluids from the crystallizing magma. During this period, there were no obvious increases in the Mg/Cl ratio despite the breach of the self-sealing zone (**Figure 7**). This implies that the ascending of the Cl-rich magmatic fluids from inside the self-sealing zone through the breached section inhibited the deep circulation of the groundwater; as a result, the groundwater could not intrude into the hot plastic rock region inside the self-sealing zone (path “ii” in **Figure 6B<sub>II</sub>**).

All eruptions at the Yugama crater since 1982 were accompanied by an increase in the Mg/Cl ratio during a decrease in Cl concentration (**Figure 5A**). In contrast, neither eruptions nor increases in Mg/Cl ratio occurred in 1990 and 2014, when a significant HCl input occurred (**Figure 7**). This means that the contact between groundwater and the hot plastic rocks has played an important role in triggering phreatic eruptions at the Yugama crater since 1982, rather than the magmatic fluids input to the hydrothermal reservoir. In other words, fresh magma or actively degassing volcanic systems are not necessarily required to trigger phreatic eruptions. The water temperature in the Yugama Crater Lake has remained relatively cold for decades, although it once reached  $55.5^\circ C$  just after the eruption in 1982 (Tokyo Institute of Technology et al., 1983), compared to the hyperacid lake of Poás volcano (up to  $94^\circ C$ ; Rowe, 1994), where magmatic or phreatomagmatic eruptions occur. This seems to support the idea that the contact between groundwater and the hot





plastic rocks, which triggered the recent phreatic eruptions at Yugama Crater Lake, was not caused by magma intrusion, or magma intrusions at Yugama Crater Lake might be fairly small in volume with no critical mass to destabilize the hydrothermal system and trigger eruptions.

### Period 3 (September 2016–March 2018) Regrowth of the Self-Sealing Zone

The changes in water chemistry in the Yugama Crater Lake during this period are characterized by an increase (recovering) in pH and a general decrease in the concentrations of various components (Figures 4, 5). Considering the low seismic activity and cooling in the hydrothermal reservoir suggested by the magnetizing trend, we suggest that the self-sealing zone was redeveloped during this recovery period, leading to the suppression of the ascending magmatic fluids to the Yugama crater (Figure 6A). According to the volcanic gas study (Ohba et al., 2019b), the redevelopment of the self-sealing zone has been suggested as the decrease in the fraction of magmatic components in the volcanic gas around the Yugama Crater Lake from April 2016 to November 2017, which is consistent with the interpretation of the present study. This situation is similar to Period 1, but because this period ended rapidly, the state of the magma–hydrothermal system did not move from the dynamics exposed in Figures 6A–6B<sub>I</sub>, as in Period 1.

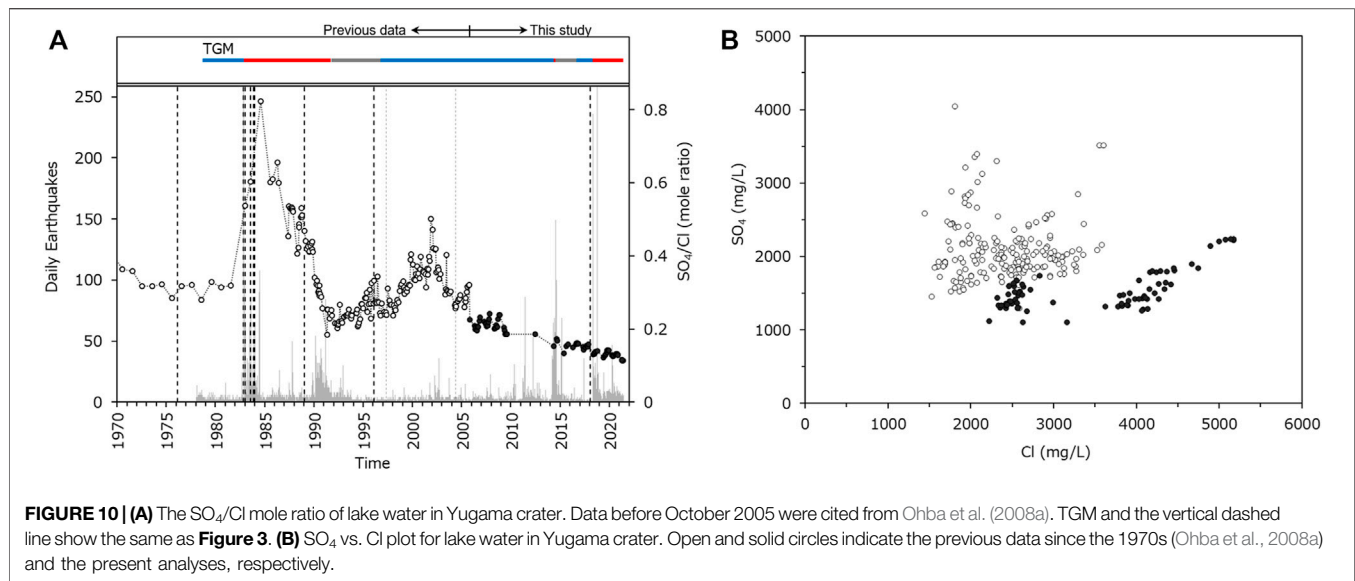
### Period 4 (April 2018–May 2021) Intermittent Breaching of the Self-Sealing Zone due to Less Intense Ascent of Magmatic Fluids

Increases in Ca, Al, Fe, Si, and Cl, an earthquake swarm, and a repressurizing of the deep source (Munekane, 2021) were observed. Based on the similarity to the event in 2014, we believe that the magmatic fluid intermittently breached the self-sealing zone, causing repeated injections of the magmatic fluid to the Yugama crater. Although the number of daily

earthquakes in 2018 (324 earthquakes on September 29) is larger than that in 2014 (149 on July 24), the lake water temperature, Cl concentration,  $\delta D$ , and  $\delta^{18}O$  values since 2018 are lower than those observed in 2014 (Figure 5; Table 2). The amount of magmatic fluids supply in 2018–21 was probably smaller than in 2014–16, which is consistent with the slight increase in the Mg/Cl ratio in 2018 (circle “b” in Figure 7). Because of the less intense discharge of magmatic fluids from the self-sealing zone, groundwater intruded into the hot plastic rock region inside the self-sealing zone, allowing the transport of Mg to the Yugama crater (path “iii” in Figure 6B<sub>III</sub>).

### Aging of Crystallizing Magma

Although we should be cautious because the total amount of S was not analyzed in this study, the long-term  $SO_4/Cl$  molar ratio fluctuates along a general decreasing trend (Figure 10A). Sulfur is one of the major volatiles in magma, but the magma becomes relatively S-poor, Cl-rich as degassing progresses because  $SO_2$  is less soluble than HCl (Giggenbach, 1996). The decrease in the S/Cl ratio with progressive degassing has been demonstrated in volcanic gases. At Unzen volcano in Japan, where magmatic eruptions occurred from 1991 to 1996, the S/Cl ratio of volcanic gases collected from the cooling lava dome after the eruption (Shinohara et al., 2008) was lower than the S/Cl ratio detected during the eruption (Ohba et al., 2008b). Therefore, the long-term decrease in the S/Cl ratio in the lake water may indicate that the crystallizing magma beneath the Yugama crater is gradually becoming S-depleted due to the progress of degassing. On the other hand, the lake water analyzed in this study has a lower  $SO_4$  concentration and a higher Cl concentration than in the previous studies (before November 2005; Figure 10B), indicating that the decreasing trend of the  $SO_4/Cl$  ratio of the lake water is not only due to sulfur depletion but also to the



increase in Cl concentration. According to Bodnar (1992), the salinity of brine exsolving from a magma crystallizing below 1.3 kbar is initially low, but it continues to increase as the magma crystallizes and eventually exceeds 50 wt%. That is, the increase in Cl concentration can be interpreted as being caused by the progress of magma crystallization, and this is responsible for the decrease in the  $\text{SO}_4/\text{Cl}$  ratio of the lake water along with the sulfur depletion.

In addition, it is interesting that the peak value of the Mg/Cl ratio in Yugama Crater Lake decreases with age (**Figure 7**). We believe that the hot plastic rock region may be shrinking during the repeated cycles of breach and regrowth of the self-sealing zone (**Figure 6A'**). However, this hypothesis does not guarantee that the  $\text{SO}_4/\text{Cl}$  and Mg/Cl ratios in the Yugama crater will continue to decrease in the future. If new magma intrusions, extrusions, or exposures of hot plastic rock regions occur in the future, these indicators should be refreshed. Therefore, lake water monitoring should continue. Also, phreatic eruptions triggered by other mechanisms, such as eruptions involving the self-sealing of the liquid sulfur pool at the lake bottom (Rouwet and Morrissey, 2015; Rouwet et al., 2017), should be focused on for future safety and research because a molten sulfur pool has been found at the bottom of the Yugama Crater Lake.

## CONCLUSION

Water samples collected from Yugama Crater Lake at Kusatsu-Shirane volcano were analyzed from November 2005 to May 2021 to discuss the magma–hydrothermal interaction beneath this crater lake and a key mechanism for the recent eruptions at this crater. The conclusions drawn are summarized as follows.

- 1) The magma beneath the Yugama crater supplies HCl-rich fluid to the lake through the hydrothermal reservoir. The long-term  $\text{SO}_4/\text{Cl}$  ratio in Yugama Crater Lake is decreasing, which may reflect the chemical evolution of magmatic fluid due to the degassing process of crystallizing magma.
- 2) Suppression of magmatic fluids due to the development of the self-sealing zone surrounding degassing magma was estimated from 2005 to 2012 because Cl and  $\text{SO}_4$  concentrations in lake water decreased slowly during this period. On the other hand, increases in certain rock-forming species, including Ca, Si, and Al, as well as in the Mg/Cl ratio were observed from 2006 to 2007. This is because the suppression of ascending magmatic fluids due to the developed self-sealing zone led to the deep circulation of groundwater, the chemical and arguably physical leaching of the self-sealing zone, and, eventually, the contact with the hot plastic rock region.
- 3) An input of magmatic fluid to the hydrothermal reservoir breaching the self-sealing zone was estimated in 2014 because a significant increase in Cl concentrations and those of certain solute metal species indicating the leaching of the self-sealing zone, such as Ca, Al, Fe, and Si, were observed in lake water. At this time, the Mg/Cl ratio of the lake water did not increase because the ascending magmatic fluid inhibited the deep intrusion of groundwater into the hot plastic rock region.
- 4) The input of magmatic fluid through the self-sealing zone was repeated in 2018, 2019, and 2020 on a smaller scale than after the 2014 earthquakes, shown by only slight increases in the Mg/Cl ratio, suggesting the less intense ascend of magmatic fluid, allowing deep groundwater intrusion to the hot plastic rock region.
- 5) The  $\delta\text{D}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  of the waters in the Yugama crater lake are enriched relative to the local meteoric water. This is mainly due to evaporation effects, but magmatic fluid input accounts for 21–32% (average in  $\delta\text{D}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ) of the total isotopic

enrichment relative to local meteoric water throughout the present study period.

- 6) The contact between the groundwater and the hot plastic rock played an essential role in the mechanism of the eruptions that occurred at the Yugama crater after 1982, rather than the input of magmatic gas itself. This is because these eruptions were always accompanied by an increase in the Mg concentration and the Mg/Cl ratio, and they occurred during a decrease in the Cl concentration, while the Mg/Cl ratio did not increase and no eruptions occurred during the 1990 and 2014 unrest when there were significant HCl supplies to the Yugama crater.

Our study demonstrates that, in contrast to more actively degassing volcanic systems which are involved in the eruptions at hyperacid crater lakes, such as Poás and Kawah Ijen, phreatic eruptions can potentially occur without clear signs of new magma intrusions, but also during stages of cooling of relatively degassed magmas.

## DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The original contributions presented in the study are included in the article/Supplementary Material, further inquiries can be directed to the corresponding author.

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## AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

MY drafted the manuscript. MY and TO sampled lake water by using a ladle and then analyzed the samples. AT sampled lake water by using a ladle and a drone. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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