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Spatio-temporal changes in degassing behavior at Stromboli volcano derived from two co-exposed SO₂ camera stations

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Improving volcanic gas monitoring techniques is central to better understanding open-vent, persistently degassing volcanoes. SO₂ cameras are increasingly used in volcanic gas studies, but observations are commonly limited to one single camera alone viewing the volcanic plume from a specific viewing direction. Here, we report on high frequency (0.5 Hz) systematic measurements of the SO₂ flux at Stromboli, covering a 1-year long observation period (June 2017-June 2018), obtained from two permanent SO₂ cameras using the same automated algorithm, but imaging the plume from two different viewing directions. Our aim is to experimentally validate the robustness of automatic SO₂ camera for volcano monitoring and to demonstrate the advantage of using two co-exposed SO₂ camera stations to better capturing degassing dynamics at open-vent volcanoes. The SO₂ flux time-series derived from the two SO₂ camera stations exhibit good match, demonstrating the robustness of the automatic SO₂ camera method. Our hightemporal resolution SO₂ records resolve individual Strombolian explosions as transient, repetitive gas bursts produced by the sudden release of over pressurized gas pockets and scoriae. Calculations show that explosive degassing activity accounts for ~10% of the total $\ensuremath{\text{SO}_2}$ emission budget (dominated by passive degassing) during mild regular open-vent activity. We show that the temporal variations of the explosive SO₂ flux go in tandem with changes in total SO₂ flux and VLP seismicity, implicating some commonality in the source processes controlling passive degassing and explosive activity. We exploited the spatial resolution of SO₂ camera to discriminate degassing at two distinct regions of the crater area, and to minimize biases due by the station position respect to the target plume. We find that the SO₂ fluxes from southwest-central (SWCC) and northeast (NEC) crater areas oscillate coherently but those from the NEC are more sensitive to the changes in the volcanic intensity. We interpret this as due to preferential gas/magma channeling into the structurally weaker north-eastern portion of the crater terrace in response to increasing supply rate of buoyant, bubble-rich magma in the shallow plumbing system.

KEYWORDS

volcanic degassing, Stromboli (Italy), Strombolian activity, UV camera, ${\rm SO}_2$ flux, volcano monitoring

Introduction

Magmatic gases are the drivers for explosive volcanic eruptions, making their sensing and quantification of prime importance for characterizing volcano behavior (Oppenheimer et al., 2014; Vergniolle and Métrich, 2022). The advent of the SO₂ camera technique (see reviews in Kern et al., 2010a, Burton et al., 2015; McGonigle et al., 2017) has paved the way to monitoring SO₂ flux emissions at Stromboli (and elsewhere) with finer temporal and spatial resolution (Tamburello et al., 2012; Delle Donne et al., 2017; Aiuppa et al., 2021) than before (Allard et al., 2008). More broadly at open-vent volcanoes, SO₂ cameras have led to enormous progresses in understanding the link between SO₂ degassing, seismicity (McGonigle et al., 2009; Kazahaya et al., 2011; Tamburello et al., 2012; Waite et al., 2013; Nadeau et al., 2015), infrasound (Dalton et al., 2010; Delle Donne et al., 2016; Delle Donne et al., 2017), and deformation (Watson et al., 2000; Saballos et al., 2014). These studies have exploited the advantage of SO₂ cameras of enabling high temporal resolution measurements of the total SO₂ flux (Mori and Burton, 2006; Bluth et al., 2007), and their ability to resolve (and contribute to characterize) the variety of volcanic degassing forms and modes (Mori and Burton, 2009; Tamburello et al., 2012; Delle Donne et al., 2017).

 SO_2 Camera observations are normally operated by using one single SO_2 camera station observing the plume from a specific viewing direction. However, the SO_2 camera method, as other spectroscopic techniques used in volcanology (Oppenheimer et al., 2011), is strongly dependent on geometrical constraints (position of the observation point relative to the volcanic plume) that determine—among others—the conditions of sunlight illumination of the volcanic plume, and the presence of clear sky conditions (required to identify a correct background light intensity) (Kern et al., 2010b). The uncertainties related to these effects are difficult to quantify with one SO_2 camera system alone. In addition, using one single SO_2 camera station often prevents from resolving SO_2 emissions from different degassing vents in the volcanic crater area—a condition commonly encountered at worldwide active volcanoes.

Here, we report on SO₂ flux observations obtained at Stromboli volcano (in the period June 2017–June 2018) by using two independent, fully autonomous SO₂ camera stations (Figure 1) imaging the volcanic plume from two different viewing directions. One aim of the work is to empirically test the extent to which SO₂ camera measurements depend on specific observation site conditions, in the attempt to validate the robustness of automatic SO₂ camera for volcano monitoring and surveillance. We also use such two differently positioned, simultaneously acquiring SO₂ camera stations to spatially

resolve and characterize the SO₂ flux emissions from the two persistent Stromboli's gas sources that we have recognized from data: the northern (NEC) and central-southwestern (SWCC) areas of the summit crater terrace (Figure 1, 2). We additionally exploit the high temporal resolution of the cameras to derive independent records of explosive (during Strombolian explosions) and passive (in between the explosions) SO2 emissions, integrating SO2 observations with other independent geophysical parameters such as the volcanic tremor and the Very Long Period (VLP) seismicity. The integration of these independent datasets helps us better interpreting the shallow conduit gas-magma dynamics that feed the Stromboli's persistent Strombolian activity. Our results are also relevant for understanding use conditions and limitations of the automatic SO₂ camera method in detecting changes in intensity of mild persistent open-vent volcanic activity.



FIGURE 1

Map of the Stromboli's summit crater area, showing the position of the two SO₂ camera stations (UV1 and UV7), the locations of the LGS-UNIFI seismo-acoustic and thermal stations (ROC, SCI, STR, PZZ, SDK) used for the daily evaluation of volcanic activity index, for the detection of seismic VLP events and evaluation volcanic tremor amplitude. The positions of the three summit craters (NEC, north-eastern crater; SW, southwest, and CC, central craters) are also shown. White dashed lines represent the limit separating the two degassing sources (SWCC and NEC) within the two station's field of views, as also indicated in Figures 5A,B.



 SO_2 column density images derived from processing of UV1 (A) and UV7 (B) SO_2 camera stations. The top panels represent the normalized SO_2 column amount profiles obtained along transects (one per camera) intersecting the crater terrace (see dashed white areas in the pseudo-color images). These profiles allow spatially locating the NEC and SWCC emission sources, and separately resolving their SO_2 contributions.

Open questions on degassing mechanisms at Stromboli

Stromboli is a worldwide known open-vent volcano characterized by persistent mild explosive activity that consists of about 8-17 mild, discrete explosions per hour (Ripepe et al., 2008). Such mild explosive activity is sustained by continuous magma overturning in the shallow conduits (Allard et al., 1994; Laiolo et al., 2022) and is thought to result from outbursting of large over-pressurized gas slugs at the top of the magma column (Harris and Ripepe, 2007b). Stromboli's volcanic activity takes place within a NE-SW elongated crater terrace composed of three main vent areas, named northeast (NEC), southwest (SW) and central craters (CC) (Figure 1). The terrace is located at an elevation of ~750 m a.s.l. on the upper margin of the Sciara del Fuoco, a deep horse-shoe depression resulting from several lateral collapses (Rosi et al., 2013). Stromboli's gas emissions are sustained by distinct forms of degassing that are related to distinct volcanic processes: passive degassing, puffing and explosions (Harris and Ripepe, 2007b). Tamburello et al. (2012) studied a dataset of 130 explosions and 50 gas puffs acquired during brief campaign-style surveys, from which they discriminated the relative contributions of passive (~77%), puffing (~16%) and explosive (~7%) degassing to the total gas output. However, such estimates are made based upon a limited dataset taken over short temporal intervals, leaving the question open of if, and to what extent, these proportions fluctuate in time and with changing volcanic activity. Our longer term observations here, covering 12 months, are aimed also at specifically answer this question.

Another aspect that has received scarce attention is if (and to what extent) degassing activity varies spatially over Stromboli's crater terrace (Figure 1), and what the spatial distribution of degassing activity can tell us on the geometry of the shallow plumbing system, and on the modes/rates of gas and magma ascent in the feeding conduit(s). It is well known that degassing occurs simultaneously from several vents hosted in the crater terrace (North-East crater, NEC; South-West crater, SW; Central crater, CC; Figure 1), but the relative gas contributions from these sources have only occasionally been characterized (Pering et al., 2020). The three craters are characterized by distinct degassing and explosive regimes (Ripepe and Braun, 1994; Harris and Ripepe, 2007b; Ripepe et al., 2008), and are therefore likely to contribute differently to the degassing budget (Pering et al., 2020). Moreover, recent effusive eruptions on Stromboli have systematically been preceded by clustering of puffing and explosive activity on the gravitationally unstable NEC (Calvari et al., 2005; Neri and Lanzafame, 2009; Ripepe et al., 2009; Calvari et al., 2010; Calvari et al., 2011; Valade et al., 2016). This shift can be tracked by automatic infrasonic locations (Ripepe and Marchetti, 2002), anticipated by weeks the 2007 flank eruption (Ripepe et al., 2009) and by hours most of the small lava

overflows occurring from the summit craters (Valade et al., 2016). Therefore, it is vital to demonstrate the ability of Stromboli's SO_2 cameras to capture this activity shift toward the NEC in the SO_2 flux record.

Materials and methods

We use two stand-alone, permanent SO₂ camera stations, located at respectively Roccette $(38^{\circ}47'53'' \text{ N}, 15^{\circ}13'0.1'' \text{ E}; \text{ NE}$ upper flank of Stromboli, at 750 m a.s.l.; UV1 in Figure 1) and Valle della Luna $(38^{\circ}47'28'' \text{ N}, 15^{\circ}12'26'' \text{ E}; \text{SW}$ upper flank of Stromboli, at 750 m above sea level; UV7 in Figure 1). The two SO₂ camera stations are both located ~500 m away from the center of the summit crater (range: 400–600 m) allowing us to image the crater plume(s) from two different viewing directions (Figure 1).

The SO₂ camera stations are designed to output high-rate (0.5 Hz) long-term SO₂ flux observations in continuous mode for 6 h per day. Both stations are equipped with two JAI CM-140GE-UV cameras sensitive to UV-radiation fitting two distinct bandpass optical filters (both of 10 nm Full Width at Half Maximum) with central wavelengths of 310 (SO₂ absorption) and 330 nm (no SO₂ absorption) (Kern et al., 2010a; Kantzas et al., 2010; Burton et al., 2015). Data from a collocated UV spectrometer (Ocean-Optic USB 2000+), along with periodic field calibration campaigns using gas cells of known SO₂ concentration, allow calibration the SO₂ camera images (Delle Donne et al., 2017). Measurement principles of the SO₂ camera station are detailed in Mori and Burton (2006), Kantzas et al. (2010) and Kern et al. (2010b), whilst hardware, software and acquisition/processing routines used in this work are described in Delle Donne et al. (2017) and Delle Donne et al. (2019). SO₂ column densities are measured on a restricted image portion, capturing a sub-region located just above the crater rim where the SO₂ absorption signal is maximized and atmospheric effects, such as air entertainment in the plume and complexities in the local wind field, are minimized. Plume speed is calculated by applying the Lucas and Kanade (1981) optical flow algorithm included in the OpenCV open source library (Bradski and Kaehler, 2008) (https://opencv.org/) to sets of consecutive images. This involves an automatic selection of plume fronts (i.e., high SO₂ column density) showing high spatial coherence and being characterized by consistent velocity vectors. The SO2 flux is then obtained from combination of plume speed and SO_2 column density profiles along an ideal section encompassing the entire crater area (Figure 2). The use of an optimal viewing condition algorithm that determines, for each acquired image, the presence of clear sky and the degree of reliability in the SO_2 signal within the image, allows us to discard image sequences with a low signal to noise ratio (Delle Donne et al., 2017; Delle Donne et al., 2019). SO₂ flux measurements that fulfil the quality requirements are then averaged on a daily basis in order to obtain

a long-term trend of degassing. This is obtained by averaging the 6 h long (acquisition time is fixed for both SO_2 camera stations from 6.30 to 12.30 UTC) daily image datasets.

Uncertainties in automatic SO_2 camera retrievals for volcanic SO_2 flux

The advent of passive spectroscopic techniques to measure gas emissions from volcanoes, such as the SO₂ camera method, has made a step forward in volcano monitoring, allowing us to quantify volcanic gas plume emissions from remote and safe locations, thus increasing significantly the robustness and continuity of observations. Besides, passive spectroscopic gas measurements are characterized by intrinsic uncertainties that are often difficult to constrain in real time and which may lead to significant biases in the results (Platt and Stuts, 2008; Kern et al., 2010a; Klein et al., 2017). In general, a main source of bias in spectroscopic techniques for volcanic plume SO₂ detection is the presence of ash and aerosol in the plume and in the atmosphere, which can mask the SO₂ signal of a certain quantity. Moreover, the evaluation of volcanic plume velocity vectors from UV images is not straightforward, as UV images allow to detect only the velocity component that is parallel to the focal plane of the image. An additional source of error resides in the assumption that every pixels in the image correspond to the same plume-SO₂ camera distance, that is not valid if the plume is moving toward, or away from, the SO₂ camera. Among all the sources of uncertainty, light dilution can also affect the SO₂ camera measurements, determining a significant bias in interpretation of the results (Kern et al., 2010b; Campion et al., 2015; Varnam et al., 2021). Light dilution is mainly controlled by the distance of the observation point from the target plume: Campion et al. (2015) estimated for Stromboli a degree of underestimation due to light dilution of 25% for a target plume at a distance of 2.2 km. Therefore, given our much shorter distances of the SO₂ camera sites to the target plume (\sim 500 m), light dilution would play a minor role in our measurements. However, to better constrain uncertainty related to light dilution effects, we used the formula of Campion et al. (2015) to correct for light dilution pixel intensities measured from each camera:

$$I_c = \frac{I - I_A \left(1 - e^{-\sigma d}\right)}{e^{-\sigma d}} \tag{1}$$

where I_C is pixel intensity corrected for light dilution, I is the uncorrected pixel intensity, and I_A is the pixel intensity produced by light dilution. σ and d are the atmosphere scattering coefficient in dry air (=1.326E-4 m⁻¹ at STP condition for a wavelength of 310 nm, Penndorf, 1957) and the distance to the target plume (in our case is ~500 m for both SO₂ cameras) respectively. Then, applying Eq. 1 to our data, we obtain that the term $e^{-\sigma d} = 0.953$, and then very close to 1 (i.e., light dilution effects weight less than one order of magnitude on the measured

pixel intensities). In this condition, the corrected pixel intensity for light dilution I_C can be approximated by the measured pixel intensity I retrieved by the cameras without introducing significant errors. However, such conclusions may be not valid when aerosol concentration within the plume becomes significant, determining a change in scattering coefficient. However such condition is avoided since our automatic algorithm discards images associated with cloudy conditions and/or periods with extremely low SO₂ signal to noise ratio (see Delle Donne et al., 2019 for further details on the automatic algorithm). We conclude that light dilution has only a marginal role on our measurements mainly because of the short proximity of the stations from the target plumes. Rather, other factors can be far more important to introduce errors in measurements. In particular, instrumental set-up (e.g., position of the measurement sites relative to the plume) may cause uncertainties in SO₂ flux estimations, considering that observing the plume from different viewing directions implies different sunlight position relative to the target. The use of two SO2 camera stations to measure the same gas emissions from different viewing angles will give us an empirical evidence on how significant this effect can be. Moreover, in our case, the morphological complexity of the volcano can also play a role, since the proximity between SO₂ cameras and the target plumes could prevent a full capture of the whole plume within our restricted field of view, especially during period of strong winds, during which the plume is not developing vertically but rather spreading horizontally along the rough topography of the summit crater area. In this work we demonstrate that the use of two SO₂ camera stations at different locations can minimize of less than 30% the errors in quantification of the SO₂ fluxes due to topographic effects.

SO₂ degassing source location

The positions of the two SO₂ camera stations relative to the multiple gas emissions sources allow us to spatially distinguish two main degassing areas which are displaced in a rough SW-NE striking direction (Figure 1). The northernmost degassing source is associated with the NEC crater, while the southernmost source corresponds to degassing from both SW and Central craters (SWCC), being the latter in the same line of sight of the two SO₂ camera stations (Figure 1). Figure 2 shows examples of two pseudo-color images of plume SO2 column densities derived from processing of UV images taken (in the same measurement day) from respectively UV1 (Figure 2A) and UV7 (Figure 2B). Visual inspection of the images shows that, for geometrical reasons related to the configuration of the network and to the topography of the summit crater area, images taken from UV1 capture well gas emissions arising from the NEC, while they may underestimate emissions from the SWCC, these being (at least partially) hidden by the NEC ridge (see also Delle Donne et al., 2017). On the other hand, gas emissions seen by UV7 fully

enclose the gas plume(s) issuing from the SWCC region, while gas emissions from NEC emissions could be underestimated due to the same geometrical reasons. Then, in order to obtain a more robust estimate of the total SO_2 flux, and of the distinct gas emission sources, we combined the flux measurements retrieved from the two SO_2 camera stations (see Figures 1, 2), as described below.

Images taken from the SO₂ cameras open the possibility to spatially resolving the SO₂ flux associated with degassing at distinct crater sources (Figure 2). To this aim, we adopt a procedure to evaluate the spatial distribution of degassing from UV absorbance images (Delle Donne et al., 2017). The individual vent contributions to the bulk plume can be resolved by tracing an ideal profile on sets of absorbance images of the near-vent plume (Figure 2). Then, the profile's segment with highest absorbance corresponds to the source crater area where gas exits from the vents. Long-term analysis conducted on the same image profiles allows evaluating the fluctuations through time of the two main (NEC and SWCC) degassing sources, and to separate spatially their distinct contributions to the total flux. Since the proximity of the SO₂ camera stations respect to the emission sources, we are confident the complex wind patterns produce little biases in the location of degassing source within the image, particularly for the long term period of analysis.

Explosive vs. passive degassing

High-rate SO₂ flux time-series at Stromboli typically exhibit sudden and short-lived gas flux pulses over-imposed on a rather constant background signal (Figure 3A) (McGonigle et al., 2009; Tamburello et al., 2012; Pering et al., 2016). These pulses correspond to the rapid ascent, within the camera field of view, of over-pressured gas jets released by Strombolian explosions (Mori and Burton, 2006; Tamburello et al., 2012). Stromboli's SO2 total flux can thus be interpreted as the summation of two independent degassing processes: a nearly constant gas emission originating from persistent degassing, which comprises of puffing and passive degassing, and a sequence of short-lived gas transients related to gas outburst during Strombolian explosions (Figure 3A). To fully characterize these distinct degassing behaviors, we use an automatic peakfinder algorithm (developed upon the built-in Matlab findpeaks function; https://it.mathworks.com/help/signal/ref/findpeaks. html) to detect (and count) the transient SO₂ pulses in the SO2 flux time-series, and to quantify duration and amplitude of every single pulse. Typically, these active SO₂ emissions are characterized by an abrupt onset with a relatively fast increase in flux, followed by a slower decreasing phase down to the average flux (Figure 3A, see also Pering et al., 2016). The SO₂ mass associated with each pulse is derived by integrating the SO₂ flux over the pulse duration (Delle Donne et al., 2017). Very long



FIGURE 3

(A) Example of a simultaneous high-frequency SO_2 flux records derived from the two SO_2 camera stations (using the same automatic algorithm). The temporal plot highlights the transient gas pulses produced by the mild Strombolian explosive activity. These are superimposed over a continuous background SO_2 emission sustained by passive degassing. (B) VLP seismic displacement (bandpass filter: 0.05-0.2 Hz), derived from the EW component of ground motion recorded a STR station (Figure 1), highlighting the temporal match between VLP seismic events and gas pulses detected by the two SO_2 camera stations.

period (VLP) seismicity records (Figure 3B) are also used to detect independently the explosive activity at craters (Ripepe et al., 2021), and to validate the explosion-related nature of SO₂ pulses detected by automatic peak-find algorithm (McGonigle et al., 2009; Tamburello et al., 2012; Delle Donne et al., 2017).

Volcanic activity, tremor and VLP seismicity

During the time interval covered by our observations (June 2017–June 2018), volcanic activity remained within the "ordinary" Strombolian activity levels (Ripepe et al., 2008; Laiolo et al., 2022) that had persisted since the August-November 2014 effusive crisis (Rizzo et al., 2015; Zakšek et al., 2015; Valade et al., 2016; Delle Donne et al., 2017; Di Traglia et al., 2018). More specifically, the 2017–2018 period marked a phase of progressive Strombolian activity rejuvenation that interrupted a two-year long phase of very low activity following the 2014 effusive eruption. In our analyzed temporal interval, this activity rejuvenation manifests in regular mild (Strombolian) explosive activity being interrupted by eight major explosions, and by a short-lived lava summit overflows that took place on 15 December 2017 from the northern rim of the NEC crater (Giudicepietro et al., 2019).

To better interpret the degassing trends seen by the SO_2 cameras, we complement the gas results with other independent geophysical observations taken by the Laboratorio di Geofisica Sperimentale (LGS) of the University of Firenze (LGS, 2022 available at http://

lgs.geo.unifi.it/index.php/monitoring/volcanoes/stromboli2). In particular, we here compare the observed gas results with volcanic tremor, Very Long Period (VLP) seismic rate, and the Volcanic Activity Index (Ripepe et al., 2009) reported by LGS. In particular the Volcano Activity Index is performed by weighting information from infrasonic amplitude of explosions/puffing activity (Ripepe et al., 2007), and thermal radiance detected either from fixed thermal cameras and from satellite images (Valade et al., 2016). This index can vary from low to very high depending on fluctuations of regular Strombolian activity, is calibrated over the last 20 years of continuous observations covering the three last main eruptive phases of 2007, 2014, and 2019, and thus constitutes a reliable proxy for volcanic intensity on Stromboli. During the period of investigation, the Volcanic Activity Index ranged from low to medium levels for ~80% of the period, with short-lived phases of "high" ($\leq 20\%$).

Results

Vent-resolved SO₂ fluxes

The apparent total SO₂ fluxes (daily averages along with their associated weekly-long moving averages), independently evaluated from the two UV1 and UV7 SO₂ camera stations, are illustrated in Figure 4A, and show similar trends (Pearson correlation coefficient R=0.5). The SO₂ flux time-averaged means and standard deviations (for the period June 2017-June 2018) are $61 \pm 32 \text{ t/d}$ (range: 12–180 t/d) and $68 \pm 45 \text{ t/d}$ (range: 10–202 t/d) for UV1 and UV7, respectively, and fall at the lower bound of



(A) Daily averaged SO₂ fluxes derived from the two SO₂ camera stations (crosses) with their 7-day long moving averages (solid lines), identifying the alternation of high (HDP) and low (LDP) degassing phases. The SO₂ temporal records obtained from the two SO₂ camera stations generally agree well in their long-term weekly averaged trends (that differ one each other by $28 \pm 20\%$). Larger discrepancies are observed in individual measurement days, that spread around their weekly means by $44 \pm 34\%$. (B) Volcanic tremor amplitude, and the (C) Volcanic Activity Index delivered daily by LGS-UNIFI (black line represents the associated 7-day moving average).

estimates obtained at Stromboli during regular persistent Strombolian activity (Allard et al., 2008; Burton et al., 2009; Delle Donne et al., 2017; Laiolo et al., 2022; LGS, 2022). The SO₂ temporal records obtained from the two camera stations generally agree well in their long-term weekly averaged trends, differing between each other by 28 ± 20%, up to a maximum of 79%. Larger discrepancies are observed in distinct daily measurements, which show a variability around their weekly mean of $44 \pm 34\%$ and a maximum difference of 143%. Besides such uncertainties, the longterm weekly averaged degassing trends inferred from the two camera stations show coherent fluctuations through time. We identify two main phases of relatively more sustained degassing activity (higher degassing phases, HDP) in June-August 2017 and October 2017-mid January 2018, when both SO₂ cameras exhibit higher-than-average SO_2 fluxes, and peak emissions of up to ~200 t/d. These two more energetic phases are separated by periods of lower degassing (lower degassing phases, LDP), during which the SO2 fluxes average at ~50 t/d (Figure 4A). These SO_2 flux temporal variations are coherent with fluctuations detected by independent geophysical parameters, such as volcanic tremor amplitude (Figure 4B) and Volcanic Activity Index, as reported by LGS daily bulletins (Figure 4C).

Moreover, the close proximity of the SO₂ camera stations to the emission sources, together with their high spatial resolution (pixel size is less than 1 m), allows us to capture the gas at the vent exit before it spreads in the atmosphere. Figures 5A,B are temporal records of the normalized (daily averaged) spatial distribution of SO₂ column densities along the crater terrace, as separately imaged by the UV1 and UV7 SO₂ camera stations. In these temporal plots, the blue to red color tones are proportional to SO₂ column amounts. SO₂ column density peaks, marked by red areas, therefore convey information on the position(s) along the crater terrace where degassing activity concentrates (at any given time). These dominant gas-venting sources correspond to positions, within the crater terrace, of either one of the two main active vent sectors that can be resolved in the SO₂ cameras' field of view: the SWCC and the NEC. The limit (see white dashed lines in Figures 5A,B) between these two emission sources has been set at a fixed position along the transect based on visual inspection of the images, and corresponds to the area where the long-term averaged SO₂ density is the lowest. The figures demonstrate coherent (for the two SO₂ camera stations) temporal changes in the spatial distribution of SO₂ degassing: the SO₂ column density peaks (red



tones) switch from one vent area to another multiple times during 2017–2018, implying large temporal fluctuations in the *NEC* vs. *SWCC* relative gas contributions.

By processing images from the two SO₂ camera stations, we derive two independent records of the vent-resolved contributions from NEC and SWCC, as illustrated in Figures 5C,D. This operation is accomplished by calculating the relative contribution of degassing between the two sources, and therefore by integrating, over the two segment portions of the profile associated with NEC and SWCC respectively, the normalized column densities (of Figures 5A,B). The two so-derived quantities are used to partition the total daily averaged SO₂ flux. Then, we obtain two different estimates for the same degassing source from the two independent SO₂ cameras (Figures 5C,D). The ventresolved SO₂ fluxes obtained from the two cameras exhibit coherent temporal oscillations. However, as expected from the geometry of the network (the position of the two cameras relative to the SWCC and NEC; Figure 1, 2), a generally higher

NEC SO2 flux is derived from UV1 than from UV7 (Figure 5D); likewise, the SWCC SO_2 flux is generally largest as measured from UV7 (Figure 5C). In order to minimize these biases induced by the different positions of the SO₂ cameras, we therefore extract, for each measurement day, the maximum of the two independently estimated (one from UV1 and one from UV7) NEC and SWCC time-series, and take them as representative of the NEC and SWCC fluxes. The use of the maxima is justified by the fact that all source of uncertainties (cfr. 2.1), especially the incomplete plume coverage due to its frequent partial hiding behind the summit volcano's slopes (Figure 2), lead to SO₂ flux underestimation. These maxima-based NEC and SWCC fluxes are graphically shown in Figure 6. Based on these results, we estimate time-averaged SO2 fluxes and associated standard deviations for the entire period of investigations of $43 \pm 22 \text{ t/d}$ (range 9–116 t/d) for NEC and of 35 ± 22 t/d (range 4–99 t/d) for SWCC (Figure 6A).

Then, we calculate the total SO_2 flux (shown in Figure 6A) as the algebraic summation of the NEC and SWCC fluxes of Figure 6A. These total fluxes, integrating together results of the two SO₂ camera stations, are higher than the SO₂ flux records obtained by any single SO2 camera (data in Figure 4A) for the reasons explained above. We infer a mean total (NEC+SWCC) SO₂ flux of 81 ± 40 t/d. During the LDPs, the daily total SO₂ flux averages at 54 \pm 24 t/d (range, 17–123 t/d), the NEC SO₂ flux ranges between 13 and 55 t/d (mean, 31 t/d), and the SWCC SO₂ flux ranges between 4 and 72 t/d (mean, 23 t/ d) (Figure 6A). During the HDPs, SO₂ degassing increases at both craters, with the NEC fluxes ranging between 15 and 116 t/d (mean, 57 t/d) and the SWCC fluxes between 8 and 97 t/d (mean 40 t/d); the total (NEC+SWCC) flux therefore averages at 97 \pm 40 t/d (Figure 6A). Interestingly, during HDPs, the NEC SO₂ flux is roughly 43% as much as higher as the SWCC flux, while we observe a more similar SO2 flux contributions from NEC and SWCC during LDPs, with NEC 30% higher than SWCC (Figure 6A).

We illustrate the relative contributions of NEC and SWCC to the SO₂ budget using the differential flux Φ_D (Figure 6B):

$$\Phi_{\rm D} = \Phi_{\rm NEC} - \Phi_{\rm SWCC} \tag{2}$$

where $\Phi_{\rm NEC}$ is the daily averaged SO₂ flux from NEC, and $\Phi_{\rm SWCC}$ is daily averaged SO₂ flux from SWCC. Eq. 2 implies that $\Phi_{\rm D}$ approaches ~0 when the two vent areas contribute same amounts of gas, $\Phi_{\rm D}$ is >0 if NEC emits more SO₂ than SWCC, and <0 when/if SWCC is the dominant gas source. We find that $\Phi_{\rm D}$ averages at 13 t/d, indicating that degassing is generally more intense at NEC than at SWCC, and shows significant fluctuations between -13 t/d and 44 t/d, up to three times respect than the long-term average. We also find that the fluctuations observed volcanic tremor amplitude mimic those observed in $\Phi_{\rm D}$ (Figure 6B) and in the total SO₂ flux, with a correlation of R~0.53 and R~0.48 (Pearson coefficient)



FIGURE 6

(A) SWCC (black) and NEC (red) SO₂ daily averaged fluxes (crosses) and their associated 7-day long moving averages (lines) are shown together with the total SO₂ fluxes (blue line, derived by summation of the two components). (B) The differential flux trend (Φ_D), calculated as the net difference between the two emission sources (the black bold line represents Φ_D calculated combining data from the two camera stations, while the two thin black lines represent Φ_D calculated using separately the data from UV1 and UV7 camera stations respectively), agrees well with the volcanic tremor temporal amplitude (gray). This suggests that escalating volcanic activity, as traced by HDPs, are accompanied by escalating SO₂ degassing clustering at the NEC. (C) and (D) represent the scatter plots relating tremor amplitude with Φ_D and total SO₂ fluxes respectively, which highlight how the increase in volcanic activity is always accompanied with an increase in bulk degassing with the NEC source contribution becoming dominant.

respectively (Figures 6B,C). Specifically, we find Φ_D to be much greater than its average (e.g., NEC dominates the total SO₂ budget) during phases of heightened activity (HDPs), when tremor amplitude (and volcanic activity, Figure 4C) is also high. In contrast, the low degassing regime (LDPs), during which tremor amplitude is consistently low, is associated with more similar contributions from the two crater regions, with Φ_D oscillating near its long-term average. In summary, our data show that degassing fluctuations nicely follow the fluctuations in the tremor amplitude (Figure 6D), and that the higher is the tremor amplitude and the more the degassing concentrates at the NEC (Figure 6C).

SO₂ degassing produced by the mild strombolian explosive activity

The high sampling rate of SO_2 cameras can be exploited to resolve the transient sin-explosive SO_2 pulses (that, as demonstrated by synchronous VLP seismic signals, are related to Strombolian explosions; Ripepe et al., 2021; Figure 3) from the passive (not associated with a VLP seismic signal) gas emissions (Mori and Burton, 2006; Tamburello et al., 2012; Delle Donne et al., 2017). Our aim here is to test if explosive degassing scales with passive degassing and with volcanic activity level. We caution that, due to the relatively slow acquisition rate used (0.5 Hz), our SO_2 camera stations cannot resolve the repetitive (every 1-2 s) but short-lived (~0.5 s) degassing pulses produced by puffing (Harris and Ripepe, 2007a). In other words, the puffing contribution to degassing (accounting for ~16% of the total flux, according to Tamburello et al., 2012) is seen by the SO₂ cameras as a (unresolved) component of the background degassing signal. While in this study (for simplicity) we refer to the term "passive" to account for such non-explosive gas release, we are aware puffing involves, by definition, the release of over-pressured gas pockets (and, therefore, is ultimately an active degassing mode). We analyze the derived SO₂ flux time series with a peak finder routine (Delle Donne et al., 2017) to derive degassing exclusively associated with the explosions; this is possible thanks to their typical transient short-lived waveform that render them easily extractable from the gas flux time series (Figure 3A). In total, we identify ~7,000 explosive pulses throughout the study period (~1 year) associated with mild Strombolian explosions at the NEC and SWCC craters.

The SO₂-derived explosion rate varies widely during June 2017-June 2018, between 1 and 20 events/hour (Figure 7B). These variations parallel those of the passive SO₂ flux (Figure 7A) and of the seismic VLP rate (Figure 7B). The HDPs/LDPs are associated with parallel increase/decrease in the SO₂-derived explosion rate, from 5–20 events/hour during HDPs to 1-5 events/hour during LDPs. However, Figure 7B shows that the SO₂-derived explosive rate is always lower than VLP rate, confirming that SO₂ camera is not able to resolve the totality of the explosive events occurring at the summit craters. This is particularly true for the ash-rich explosions, which are typically difficult to detect spectroscopically (Kern et al., 2010a).

The automatic detection of explosive transients also allows quantifying the total SO2 mass produced by each Strombolian explosion. This is obtained by time integration of a SO₂ flux time series after subtracting the stationary trend associated with passive degassing (Delle Donne et al., 2017). Then, we derive explosive SO2 average masses and associated standard deviations of 30 \pm 22 kg (range, 1–385 kg); these are released during temporal intervals of 24 ± 12 s on average, and up to 140 s (Figures 8A,B). Considering a typical 4 wt.% SO₂ concentration in Stromboli's explosive gas outbursts (Burton et al., 2007), the so-derived sin-explosive SO₂ masses convert into total explosion gas masses of 750 \pm 550 kg, in agreement with previous observations (Mori and Burton, 2006; Tamburello et al., 2012; Delle Donne et al., 2016; Delle Donne et al., 2017). If we consider a temperature of ~625 K (Harris and Ripepe, 2007a) for a typical gas mixture, we can infer a ~0.35 kg/m³gas density at ambient pressure, from which we estimate the total gas volume released by an explosion of 2,100 \pm 1,600 m³. This is consistent with previous estimates made with SO2 cameras (1,500-4,100 m³, Mori and Burton, 2006) and thermal records (300-3,000 m³, Delle Donne and Ripepe, 2012). The summation of all explosive masses for each measurement day allows quantifying a record of the SO₂ flux (in tons/day) solely contributed by explosive activity (Figure 7B; see also Delle Donne et al., 2017). The passive SO_2 flux (Figure 7A; 8A) is then derived by subtracting the explosive flux from the total flux. Within the investigated period of analysis (June 2017-June 2018), the explosive SO_2 flux averages at 6 t/d (range, 0.3–20 t/d), on average contributing ~10% of the total SO_2 budget, confirming that explosive activity plays a minor role in the total magma degassing at Stromboli (see also Tamburello et al., 2012; Delle Donne et al., 2017). Notably, we find that the explosive and passive fluxes are well correlated (R=0.5; Figures 8C,D), showing coherent fluctuations during the analyzed temporal interval (Figure 7).

Discussion

Empirical constraints on potentials and limitations of automatically generated SO₂ camera-based fluxes

The automatic SO_2 flux retrievals using the UV camera method, although technically challenging, promise a stepchange in our ability to capture the spatio-temporal evolution of volcanic degassing at open-vent volcanoes, with implications for volcano surveillance. However, the multiple sources of uncertainty related to this un-supervised method make it very difficult to apply it in real-time and in different volcanic environments worldwide.

 SO_2 camera fluxes at volcanoes are typically quantified using a single camera pointing at the volcanic plume from one single viewing direction. This operation can be complicated by optical/ geometrical constraints (complexities in the summit crater topography, and position of the Sun relative to the SO_2 camera station, among others), and can hamper a proper resolution of distinct gas emissions from multiple vents/ craters (where they exist). Our SO_2 flux records here, based on applying the same automated algorithm to two independently acquired image datasets, demonstrate the advantage of using two SO_2 camera stations simultaneously, gathering plume images from two different viewing directions. Using two SO_2 camera stations, degassing from distinct sources can be more reliably quantified (Figure 5) and, by summation, a more robust estimate of the total SO_2 flux can be derived (Figures 4, 6, 7).

One important aspect is that, despite the use of a single SO_2 camera station can introduce greater uncertainties, we show (at least for Stromboli) that the two individual SO_2 camera records from UV1 and UV7 stations (Figure 4A) exhibit coherent temporal SO_2 fluctuations, and well record the alternation of high/low degassing regimes as well as the changes in degassing partitioning between the two individuated degassing sources (Figure 5). This demonstrates that the numerous uncertainties associated with the automatic method effectively play a minor role in producing biases which may affect significantly the reliability of the gas measurement. This observation corroborates the effectiveness of the single UV camera



FIGURE 7

(A) Daily averaged (red crosses) SO_2 explosive fluxes and associated 7-day long moving averages (black line) range 1–20 t/d. These are plotted together with the passive fluxes (gray line), derived by removing the explosive flux component from the total fluxes of Figure 6A. Explosive and passive trends match well, as seen by the explosive flux increasing when the passive flux increases. (B) Explosion rates evaluated at a daily basis from SO_2 flux and VLP records show good similarities and the same fluctuations.



FIGURE 8

Histograms showing the frequency distributions of SO₂ masses (A) and SO₂ pulse durations (B) associated with the mild Strombolian explosions, obtained from a database of ~7,000 events. We estimate an average SO₂ mass released by individual Strombolian explosions of 30 ± 22 kg during temporal intervals of 24 ± 12 s and which can reach a maximum of 140 s; (C) Passive and explosive SO₂ fluxes show a positive correlation with R=0.5 that suggests a commonality in their source processes; (D) SO₂ total flux and the explosive to total degassing ratio are also positively correlated (i.e., the higher is the total gas flux, the more gas is released explosively).

approach to continuously monitor volcanic degassing in time, as already empirically demonstrated in occasion of the Stromboli's 2014 (Delle Donne et al., 2017) and 2019 (Aiuppa et al., 2021; Laiolo et al., 2022) crises. Notably, as the two cameras image the plume from two very distinct viewing directions (Figure 1), their generally coherent records (Figure 4A) suggest that uncertainties in UV camera-based gas quantification, arising from the different position of the SO₂ camera station relative to the plume, are relatively modest. We give an estimation of these uncertainties from the SO₂ flux difference between the two camera records in Figure 4A. This difference is $28 \pm 20\%$ (maximum difference of 79%) if calculated from the weekly averaged SO₂ fluxes measured at the two instruments, while it rises to $44 \pm 34\%$ (maximum difference of 143%) if daily average values are considered instead. We conclude our automatic SO₂ camera method can resolve well degassing intensity variations occurring over timescales of weeks to months, while accurately resolving faster (daily) variations is more complicated by instrumental and environmental noise due to intrinsic uncertainties of the method.

Evidence for magma channeling toward the NEC during enhanced volcanic activity

At the numerous volcanoes worldwide that comprise more than one simultaneously active crater/vent, degassing/eruptive activity is not uniformly distributed, but rather typically concentrated at one particular vent at any given time (Fee and Matoza, 2013; D'Aleo et al., 2016; D'Aleo et al., 2019). At Stromboli, for example, temporal shifts in infrasonic source location are frequently observed during periods of regular, mild Strombolian activity (Ripepe et al., 2007; Landi et al., 2011). These are interpreted as due to shifts in magmatic gas bubble flow into, and surface bursting from, the shallow conduits that feed the different active vents/craters (Ripepe et al., 2007, 2009). Our fully automatic SO2 camera stations allow to systematically (and continuously) resolve the distinct emission sources over the crater terrace (Figures 1, 2). These results reveal, over temporal timescales of months, that the two degassing sources are active at the same time, although multiple swings in degassing partitioning along the crater terrace (red tones in Figures 5C,D), from one crater to another, are observed. While NEC and SWCC contribute ~60% and ~40% of the total SO_2 emissions on a yearly average (June 2017-June 2018), there exist large temporal fluctuations in their relative SO₂ contributions, as indicated by our Φ_D parameter ranging from –13 to +44 t/d, and averaging at 13 t/d (Φ_{AVG}). Notably, we find that such temporal changes are well consistent with oscillations in the intensity of regular Strombolian activity, as indicated by the geophysical proxies (Figures 4, 6, 7). We show, in particular, that periods of heightened degassing (HDP) and seismicity are systematically marked by degassing accelerating at the NEC over the SWCC ($\Phi_D > \Phi_{AVG}$); while periods of relatively reduced degassing (LDP) and milder Strombolian activity are systematically characterized by roughly similar SO₂ contributions ($\Phi_D \sim \Phi_{AVG}$) from the two sources (or

even by the SWCC dominating over the NEC; Φ_D <0). These observations suggest that any increase in shallow magma transport (as indicated by increasing total SO₂ flux and seismicity; Allard et al., 2008; Ripepe et al., 2008) leads to preferential magma channeling toward the NEC (Figure 6B). This clustering of SO₂ degassing at NEC with heightened Strombolian activity is fully consistent with observed shifts in infrasound location before Stromboli's effusive eruptions (Ripepe et al., 2009; Valade et al., 2016).

The northeastern portion of Stromboli's crater terrace corresponds to a prime structural weakness zone of the volcano, as testified by geological information (Francalanci et al., 2013), geo-structural constraints (i.e., Tibaldi, 2001; Acocella et al., 2006; Corazzato et al., 2008), slope failure, ground deformation data (Tarchi et al., 2008; Tommasi et al., 2008), and geophysical evidence (Chouet et al., 2003; Ripepe et al., 2005; Marchetti et al., 2008). Magma accumulation (Ripepe et al., 2015; Ripepe et al., 2017) and cone growth in the gravitationally unstable NEC sector is known to trigger flank instability (Valade et al., 2016), opening of lateral vents, and onset of tsunamigenic lava effusion in the Sciara del Fuoco (Bonaccorso et al., 2003; Rosi et al., 2013; Di Traglia et al., 2014). As such, the ability of our SO_2 camera stations to spatially (vent-to-vent) resolve any magma input rate increase (Figure 6B) adds to existing geophysical knowledge (Ripepe et al., 2008; Ripepe et al., 2009; Ripepe et al., 2015) that helps forecasting transition from ordinary to effusive activity, with obvious implications for volcanic risk mitigation.

Explosive activity goes with passive degassing

One major advantage of UV cameras is that, because of their high temporal resolution, they allow identifying the rapid, transient SO₂ bursts produced by Strombolian explosions (Figure 3). We estimate an average SO₂ mass released by individual Strombolian explosions of 30 ± 22 kg. Our results, that use of a dataset of more than 7,000 explosions, strengthen previous conclusions (Mori and Burton, 2009; Tamburello et al., 2012; Delle Donne et al., 2017) of a minor (~10% on average) contribution of explosive degassing to the total (explosive + passive) SO₂ budget, at least during regular activity on Stromboli (Figures 7B, 8A).

Results indicate that gas is released during explosions in temporal intervals of 24 ± 12 s (up to 140 s), in the same order of magnitude as previously observed (Pering et al., 2016). The explosion-related SO₂ burst therefore last longer than thermal gas thrusts (5–15s; Ripepe et al., 2008), implicating a post-explosion degassing mechanism (Pering et al., 2016) in which daughter bubbles are delivered post-explosion from the decompressing upper portion of the magma column (Ripepe et al., 2021).

One important novel aspect we bring here to light is the statistically significant (R ~0.5, Figure 8C) correlation between passive and explosive SO_2 fluxes during the observational period. This correlation suggests that passive and explosive degassing are commonly modulated, and are therefore likely to be driven by a common source process. One additional key (and novel) observation is that the explosive/total SO_2 flux ratio scales with the total SO_2 flux (Figure 8D), suggesting that more gas is released explosively as the total SO_2 flux (and volcanic activity) increases.

The total (explosive + passive) SO2 flux on Stromboli (Allard et al., 1994; Allard et al., 2008), as well as at other open-vent volcanoes (Shinohara, 2008), is thought to be controlled by the rate of convective magma transport in the shallow (<3 km) plumbing system (Harris and Stevenson, 1997; Bonaccorso et al., 2008). This degassing-driven shallow magma convection process is operated by fresh (gas-rich) magma ascent continuously replacing viscous and degassed magma sinking back into the conduit (Shinohara, 2008). This mechanism helps to explain the observed excess SO₂ degassing (Allard et al., 2008), the longevity of Strombolian activity (Rosi et al., 2013), and the overall homogeneity of magma chemistry (Bertagnini et al., 2008). In a constant geometry (conduit radius) scenario (likely in the "stable" Stromboli 2017 conditions), any change in magma input (convection) rate would mainly be controlled by changing magma rheology, and especially by the density difference between non-degassed (ascending) and degassed (sinking) magmas (Stevenson and Blake, 1998; Shinohara, 2008). The latter in turn mostly depends on magma vesicularity (gas bubble volumetric fraction) of the ascending magma. Notably, ascent of a more "bubbly" magma in the conduits leads to both faster convection and escalating explosivity (Gonnermann and Manga, 2013), offering a simple explanation for the relationship between passive and explosive fluxes, observed here (Figure 8A). In this interpretation, Stromboli swings in between high and low degassing regime periods would depend on the bubble-rich vs. bubble-poor nature of the ascending magma (Ripepe et al., 2002). Following the methodology of Allard et al. (1994), Allard et al. (2008) we can convert the measured SO₂ fluxes into a magma input rate, and assuming an initial sulfur content of 0.18 wt%, a magma density of 2,700 kg/m³, and a crystallinity of 30%. In line with previous estimations, we find a magma input rate ~0.15 m³/s as threshold between HDP and LDP phases. Therefore, we propose that, as the magma supply rate in the conduit approaches or reaches this threshold, regular Strombolian activity intensifies, heighted tremor and VLP seismicity are observed, and degassing activity escalates to concentrate at the NEC (Figure 4-7). In the most extreme cases, this acceleration can lead to an effusive eruption (Ripepe et al., 2009).

A common source for explosive and passive degassing: Volcanological implications

Our results are also relevant to testing the role played by the viscous cap on-top of the conduit in driving the mild persistent and paroxysmal Strombolian explosive activity (Gurioli et al., 2014; Del Bello et al., 2015; Caracciolo et al., 2021; Mattia et al., 2021; Viccaro et al., 2021). There is a growing evidence supporting the presence of a crystal mush as a stable feature of the Stromboli's shallow conduit (Suckale et al., 2016; Barth et al., 2019; Ripepe et al., 2021), acting as a viscous cap.

The presence of a viscous cap would represent a permeability barrier for volcanic gases, thus promoting gas accumulation and the pressure buildup to trigger the explosive activity (Barth et al., 2019; Woitischek et al., 2020). An open question is if (and to what extent) Strombolian explosive activity can change with time in response to rheological (and geometrical) changes of the viscous cap. A permeability change in the viscous cap is, at least in principle, expected to modulate the partitioning between passive (bubbles) and explosive (slugs) degassing, ultimately determining a condition of enhanced explosivity at surface due by a permeability decrease (more bubbles accumulate deep instead to degas at surface, and forming more gas slugs) (Gurioli et al., 2014; Del Bello et al., 2015). This should be reflected in a drop of passive degassing in response to increased explosivity (Thivet et al., 2021). However, the observation evidence we bring to light in this study is that persistent vs. explosive gas emissions are instead commonly modulated (Figure 7, 8), indicating that fluctuations in explosive activity are also accompanied by coherent fluctuations of the passive (and total) degassing. These observations suggest a marginal (if any) role played by a potential rheologic stiffening of the viscous cap in controlling the observed week to monthly long trends in volcanic activity. The model we propose instead is one in which faster magma circulation of bubbly magma (Laiolo et al., 2022) leads to both more sustained passive degassing and larger sin-explosive gas release (Ripepe et al., 2002; Ripepe et al., 2009) (Figure 8D). Our results therefore suggest that viscous cap, although a stable element of the Stromboli's feeding conduit, plays no (or marginal) role in controlling degassing and activity regimes, at least over the first-order degassing fluctuations at a timescale of weeks-months.

Our coherent fluctuations between explosive and passive degassing (Figures 7, 8) suggest a common and unique degassing source, whose fluctuations through time are explained in term of changes in the rate of magma ascent (that, in turn, control the rate of bubble nucleation, expansion, and separate rise in the silicate melt). To reconcile this unique source of degassing with the widely accepted paradigm that passive and explosive gases at Stromboli are compositionally different (Burton et al.,

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2007; Aiuppa et al., 2010; Pering et al., 2020; Woitischek et al., 2020), we invoke a role played by different re-equilibrium kinetics of small and large bubbles (slugs) in the conduit. Bubble ascent velocities are dependent on bubble size, so that large bubbles (that evolve into slugs by coalescence and expansion in the conduit, or at the base of the viscous plug) rise faster through silicate melts (Gonnermann and Manga, 2013). Because of their faster ascent, large bubbles, as the slugs feeding Strombolian explosions (Burton et al., 2007), are therefore more prone to preserve molar ratios (e.g., high CO₂/SO₂ and SO₂/HCl) characteristic of gas-melt equilibrium at deeper magmastatic depths than smaller bubbles. We caution that during gas bubble ascent, the temperature drop due to adiabatic expansion has been shown to promote bubble compositional change (Oppenheimer et al., 2018). However, such re-equilibration upon bubble adiabatic expansion and cooling, while affecting to some extent ratios between redox couples (e.g., SO₂/H₂S and CO₂/CO ratios), is unlikely to alter bulk gas chemistry (Oppenheimer et al., 2018). Ultimately, the high C, low-Cl signature of deeply sourced bubbles will be preserved if slugs rise fast. In contrast, the smaller bubbles sustaining passive degassing would travel slower within the conduit, therefore chemically re-equilibrating with the surrounding melt upon ascent in the shallow conduit, and ultimately acquiring their low CO₂/SO₂ and SO₂/HCl signature (Burton et al., 2007; Woitischek et al., 2020).

Conclusive remarks

Our automatic SO_2 flux measurements at Stromboli, derived from two simultaneously operating cameras observing the plume from two different viewing directions, support the robustness of SO_2 camera monitoring at volcanoes. Using two co-exposed SO_2 camera stations provides insights into temporal swings in degassing activity between the NEC and SWCC that can only partially be detected using one single SO_2 camera station (Delle Donne et al., 2017). When interpreted in tandem with seismic parameters (volcanic tremor and VLP seismicity), our vent-resolved SO_2 flux data contribute to better understanding degassing mechanisms operating in the shallow plumbing system during Stromboli's regular activity.

Our results indicate that regular degassing activity fluctuates significantly in terms of intensity and spatial distribution along the crater terrace, and concentrates at the NEC during the phases of escalating Strombolian activity. During phases of heightened regular Strombolian activity, as indicated by increasing volcanic tremor and VLP seismic rate, the total (passive + explosive) and explosive SO₂ fluxes increase in parallel. We propose these fluctuations reflect temporal changes in the gas bubble cargo

of the feeding magma in the shallow conduits. Temporal records of SO_2 fluxes, captured at high spatial and temporal resolution by automated UV cameras, allows to "live" monitoring degassing activity, thus contributing to understanding (and potentially forecasting) changes in volcanic activity style.

Data availability statement

The raw data supporting the conclusion of this article will be made available by the authors, upon reasonable request.

Author contributions

DD conceived the manuscript and drafted the figures. DD and AA, and wrote the manuscript; EC analyzed and validated the results of the automatic processing; DD, MB, FM, JL, and GT designed, install, and maintained the permanent SO_2 camera stations; GL and MR analyzed the seismic VLP and tremor data. AA and MR supervised the work. All the authors have contributed to the realization of the final version of the manuscript.

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Conflict of interest

The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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