

An aerial photograph of a lava flow. The central part of the flow is a large, roughly triangular area with a distinct, parallel, ribbed texture, indicating a crust of rubble. This central area is surrounded by a more irregular, cracked, and fragmented surface, which is the result of the rubble crust tearing apart as the lava cooled further. The overall color is a mix of light and dark grays, typical of cooled basaltic lava.

## COMPLICATED LAVA COOLING

*In this lava, a crust of rubble forms as the lava partially cools but then tears up its own cover. Eventually, the rubble can form plates that can be rafted apart as the lava cools further, producing textures like those visible on terrestrial lava lakes that have cooled.*