

# 1 **Potassium silicate alteration in porphyry copper-** 2 **gold deposits: a case study at the giant maar-** 3 **diatreme hosted Grasberg deposit, Indonesia**

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5 Richard W. Henley<sup>1</sup>  
6 Terrence Mernagh<sup>2</sup>  
7 Clyde Leys<sup>3</sup>  
8 Ulrich Troitzsch<sup>1</sup>  
9 Joseph Bevitt<sup>4</sup>  
10 Frank Brink<sup>5</sup>  
11 Joe Gardner<sup>6</sup>  
12 Lydia Knuefing<sup>1</sup>  
13 John Wheeler<sup>6</sup>  
14 Limaye, Ajay<sup>1</sup>  
15 Michael Turner<sup>1</sup>  
16 Yulai Zhang<sup>1</sup>

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19 1. ARC Training Centre for M3D Innovation, Research School of Physics, Australian  
20 National University, Canberra, ACT, Australia  
21 2. Research School of Earth Sciences, The Australian National University, Canberra,  
22 ACT 0200, Australia  
23 3. P.T. Freeport Indonesia, Tembagapura, Papua, Indonesia  
24 4. Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation, Lucas Heights, NSW 2234,  
25 Australia  
26 5. Centre for Advanced Microscopy, The Australian National University, ACT 0200,  
27 Australia  
28 6. Department of Earth, Ocean, and Ecological Sciences, University of Liverpool,  
29 Liverpool, U.K.  
30

## 31 **Abstract**

32  
33 Potassium silicate alteration is a hallmark of the porphyry copper deposits that supply two  
34 thirds of the world's annual copper demand. These deposits formed in the cores of calc-  
35 alkaline to alkaline volcanic systems from the flux of magmatic gas that transported copper  
36 and other metals from source to the surface. The giant 3.2 Ma Grasberg Cu-Au deposit  
37 formed within a maar-diatreme complex following a resurgence in magmatism. The defined  
38 resources of this deposit occur from a few hundred metres depth to 1.7 kilometres below the  
39 paleosurface which, uniquely in this deposit, is partially preserved as a section of maar tuffs.  
40

41 Potassium silicate alteration has commonly been interpreted as being the result of the  
42 addition of potassium to the porphyry copper host rocks via pervasive interaction with a large  
43 volume of a potassium-rich brine that is commonly presumed to be of magmatic origin.  
44 However, the data reported here show that alteration at the deposit scale is essentially  
45 isochemical with respect to the major rock-forming components and that only sulphur and the

46 economic metals (Cu, Mo, Au, etc.) are added by flux of reactive magmatic gas containing  
47 SO<sub>2</sub> and HCl from source intrusions at depth. Silicate solubilities are very low so that only a  
48 minor fraction of the total alkalis in the host rock are extracted by alteration reactions and  
49 then discharged at the paleo-surface. Reaction of the magmatic gas phase with plagioclase  
50 results in the coupled deposition of anhydrite (CaSO<sub>4</sub>) and disproportionation of SO<sub>2</sub> to  
51 release H<sub>2</sub>S. The in-situ release of H<sub>2</sub>S immediately scavenges Cu and other chalcophile  
52 metals from the continuing magmatic gas flux to form the Cu-, Fe- and other sulphides that,  
53 in sufficient concentration, make up the economic reserve available to mining.

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55 The sequestration of Ca into anhydrite, along with deposition of silica into early quartz veins,  
56 increases the concentration of the other major components (K<sub>2</sub>O, Na<sub>2</sub>O, MgO, etc) in the  
57 remaining silicate assemblage within the porous host rock. The result is the development of  
58 intermingled potassium-enriched silicate and sulphur-rich (anhydrite-sulphide) sub-  
59 assemblages that constitute the mineralized phyllic or potassic alteration zones. These  
60 crystallize according to their pressure and depth into alteration assemblages dominated by  
61 potassic phyllosilicates, quartz and pyrite in the phyllic alteration zone, and alkali feldspar  
62 and phlogopitic-biotite plus minor andalusite and corundum in the central potassic zone.  
63 Dissolution and recrystallization of primary magmatic biotite in the host rock releases K as  
64 well as Fe, the latter (along with amphibole and feldspar) providing iron for the formation of  
65 chalcopyrite, bornite and pyrite. The in-situ release of H<sub>2</sub>S through anhydrite formation,  
66 immediately scavenges Cu and other chalcophile metals from the continuing magmatic gas  
67 flux to form the Cu-Fe- and other sulphides that, in sufficient concentration, make up the  
68 economic reserve available to mining. Understanding of the alteration processes during  
69 porphyry copper formation also provides insights into gas-solid reactions processes inside  
70 active magmatic arc volcanoes but the magnitude of copper mineralisation is dependent on  
71 the original metal content of the source of the magmatic gas phase.

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75 **Key words**

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77 Porphyry copper; alteration; feldspar replacement; microporosity.

78

79 **Highlights**

80

81 • Potassium silicate alteration is commonly assumed to be due to potassium addition

82 • New analytical data from Grasberg show that alteration was quasi-isochemical

83 • Apparent potassium enrichment is due to sequestration of Ca into anhydrite

84 • Anhydrite formation releases H<sub>2</sub>S from SO<sub>2</sub> with co-deposition of sulphides

85 • There is no potassic brine addition during porphyry copper formation

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## 90 **1. Introduction**

91

92 More than two thirds of the annual global production of copper (Singer, 2017) comes from  
93 'porphyry copper' deposits – the very large hydrothermal ore deposits that formed inside the  
94 cores of volcanic systems that were active in magmatic arcs throughout the Phanerozoic  
95 (Henley and Berger, 2013; Henley and Ellis, 1983; Sillitoe, 1973; Sillitoe, 2010). A defining  
96 geochemical characteristic of these deposits is the association of economic grades of sulphide  
97 mineralisation (presently averaging  $> \sim 0.5$  % copper) with pervasive *potassium silicate* rock  
98 alteration (Meyer and Hemley, 1967; Sillitoe, 2010). Potassium silicate alteration was initially  
99 defined for porphyry copper deposits by Creasey (1959) as characterized by the presence of  
100 secondary potassium feldspar and micas within altered rocks. Further observations were  
101 provided by Meyer and Hemley (1967). Recognition of the consistency of alteration zonation  
102 within many well-studied deposits worldwide has since led to sub-division of potassium silicate  
103 alteration assemblages into '*potassic*' assemblages dominated by potassium feldspar (often  
104 with abundant albite - Meyer and Hemley (1967)) and phlogopitic biotite, and phyllic (syn.  
105 sericitic) assemblages characterized by fine-grained potassic 'white' mica (or illite/muscovite  
106 mixed layer micas) and quartz.

107

108 Potassium silicate alteration has generally been assumed to be the result of infiltration of exotic  
109 hypersaline *liquid-phase* brines, directly from intrusives (Frank and Vaccaro, 2012; Meyer and  
110 Hemley, 1967; Paterson and Cloos., 2005b; Sillitoe, 2010). More recently, Lerchbaumer and  
111 Audétat (2012) showed that the vapour to brine mass ratio at Alumberrera was 4 to 9, which  
112 translates to a volume proportion of 96 to 98% vapour. An analogous conclusion for the  
113 Grasberg deposit was reached by Mernagh et al. (2020) based on enthalpy constraints (i.e., ~98  
114 vol% vapour). Similarly, other researchers have proposed that potassic alteration is  
115 mineralisthe product of high temperature *gas-solid* reactions within the sub-volcanic  
116 environment of porphyry copper formation (Henley et al., 2015; Henley and Seward, 2018;  
117 Mernagh et al., 2020; Nadeau et al., 2016) with the *gas phase* composition equivalent to that  
118 of high temperature gas mixtures released by fumaroles in modern volcanoes. These gas  
119 mixtures are dominated by H<sub>2</sub>O, SO<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>S, HCl and HF and have very low concentrations of  
120 alkali metals (Henley and Seward, 2018) of less than 0.1 wt% and commensurate, as discussed  
121 elsewhere (Mernagh et al., 2020) with the composition of vapour-rich inclusions from porphyry  
122 copper deposits.

123

124 The above observations then raise a paradox of how such large-scale potassium enrichment  
125 develops throughout alteration and mineralisation during the formation of porphyry copper-  
126 gold deposits worldwide without the addition of high salinity brines. In this paper we address  
127 this paradox through analysis of micro to mine scale petrographic and geochemical data using  
128 a range of techniques including high resolution tomography to determine microporosity. The  
129 study is based on samples from the giant Grasberg porphyry copper-gold deposit (Indonesia,  
130 longitude 137.1144°, latitude -4.0461°) whose metal content is over 32 Mt of Cu (Leys et al.,  
131 2012).

132

## 133 **1. Geological context**

134

135 The Grasberg deposit is one of the youngest and most comprehensively studied porphyry  
136 deposits in the world (Leys et al., 2020; Leys et al., 2012). It is one of a group of major porphyry

137 and related-skarn deposits, including the giant Ertsberg deposit (Figure 1), within the Grasberg-  
138 Ertsberg mining district of Papua, Indonesia (Leys et al., 2020; Leys et al., 2012; MacDonald  
139 and Arnold, 1994). The deposit formed in the second of two porphyry mineralising events  
140 (Leys et al., 2020), an earlier Cu-Mo event that postdated the ~3.4-3.3 Ma Gajah Tidur intrusion  
141 and a later Cu-Au event that followed the emplacement of the  $3.22 \pm 0.05$  Ma Main Grasberg  
142 Intrusion. Both events deposited mineralisation within the upper 2 to 3 km of a maar-diatreme  
143 volcanic complex as a result of magmatic vapour release from underlying intrusions whose  
144 final, post-mineralisation activity is preserved as a suite of monzodiorite dykes dated at  $3.09 \pm$   
145  $0.05$  Ma. The Grasberg deposit itself is defined by the distribution of the dominant alteration  
146 minerals (anhydrite, K-feldspar, muscovite and pyrite). A vertically extensive, cylindrical  
147 column of high-grade copper-gold mineralisation is closely related with bornite in the centre  
148 of the deposit (Figure 2) associated with the Main Grasberg Intrusion (Figure 3) as is detailed  
149 below (Leys et al., 2020). Sub-grade mineralisation has been defined to 2500m elevation (1700  
150 metres below the paleosurface), and the very limited drilling below this to 2200 m elevation  
151 (2km below the paleosurface) has identified patchy, low-grade mineralisation.

152  
153 Uniquely, the Grasberg porphyry copper-gold deposit retains clear evidence of its volcanic  
154 setting and depth of formation. The Grasberg deposit comprises about 2 km<sup>3</sup> of altered rock  
155 material and is centered within a diatreme that formed during the partly-eruptive, early 3.6-3.3  
156 Ma Dalam stage of the Grasberg Igneous Complex which intruded a sequence of Mesozoic  
157 carbonate and siliclastic rocks. The Cu-Au mineralisation occurs principally through the Dalam  
158 Fragmental Andesite breccia that infills the vent of the previously eruptive diatreme. Dalam  
159 igneous units are the principal host of mineralisation in the Grasberg deposit (Figure 3a), with  
160 their Cu-Au grades highest adjacent to their contact with the Main Grasberg intrusion. The  
161 unaltered primary compositions of the Dalam volcanic and intrusive rocks are partially  
162 obscured by the spatial extent of low-grade metamorphism of the volcanic sequence across the  
163 district and weak, more localised hydrothermal alteration related to the two subsequent  
164 porphyry mineralising events (Leys et al., 2020; MacDonald and Arnold, 1994). However  
165 retention of primary igneous textures and calcic plagioclase, as well as sample location with  
166 respect to the deposit, enable definition of the petrochemical affinity of the primary igneous  
167 rocks. Average whole rock analyses for 1400 outcrop and drillhole samples of Dalam intrusive  
168 and volcanic rocks were reported by MacDonald and Arnold (1994). These data provide a  
169 relative measure of the extent of alteration from their sulphur content (representing anhydrite  
170 and sulphides) and their loss on ignition results (representing loss of water from deuteritic and  
171 phyllic alteration minerals that replaced primary potassium silicates and loss of CO<sub>2</sub> from  
172 minor carbonate alteration). Table 1 recasts these data by converting Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> to FeO, normalising  
173 on a LOI and S-free basis and ignoring the minor contribution of introduced transition metals  
174 (e.g. Cu, Mo). Recast in this way, the primary Dalam units previously reported as  
175 'monzodiorites' and related 'andesitic' volcanics may be reclassified as high-K tholeiitic rocks  
176 (Arculus, 2003; Zimmer et al., 2010).

177  
178 Detailed petrographic descriptions of the least-altered Dalam intrusive rocks and their volcanic  
179 equivalents are provided by Pollard and Taylor (2002) and by Paterson (2004). Both report that  
180 Dalam samples are petrographically and mineralogically highly variable. They generally  
181 contain between 20 and 45 vol.% plagioclase phenocrysts, but in many samples the plagioclase  
182 phenocrysts have been completely destroyed by alteration. Some rare primary Dalam  
183 plagioclase phenocrysts are recorded as having oscillatory zoning ranging from An<sub>25</sub> to An<sub>50</sub>  
184 (Paterson, 2004), some of which were broken as indicated by their truncated zoning. Dalam  
185 units also contain 5 to 25 vol.% of primary magmatic biotite phenocrysts but in many altered  
186 samples this is progressively replaced by more phlogopitic biotite. Primary magmatic biotite

187 phenocrysts are distinguished from secondary biotite by their preserved euhedral to subhedral  
188 shape, their high Ti with respect to Mg numbers ( $Mg\# = Mg/(Mg+Fe)$  from about 55 to 75)  
189 and their relative K and Si ratios with respect to Al (Paterson, 2004). Rare primary igneous  
190 hornblende is also recorded (Paterson (2004) but was not identified in our samples. The  
191 groundmass of Dalam units comprises potassic feldspar, plagioclase and quartz (~2:1 K-  
192 feldspar to quartz) and makes up ~40 vol.% of the rock. Interestingly, Paterson and Cloos  
193 (2005a) also noted that the fine- to medium-grained groundmass of the Dalam Fragmental  
194 volcanics may have been glassy and reported the rare presence of albite (see discussion below).  
195 In addition, MacDonald and Arnold (1994) noted the presence of 1-2 wt% igneous magnetite  
196 in all Grasberg district igneous rocks that they examined.

197  
198 The spatial extent and geometry of alteration zones at Grasberg are provided by Leys et al.  
199 (2020) and are shown in cross-section (Figure 3b) based on more than 4000 X-ray Diffraction  
200 (XRD) and petrographic analyses obtained from intensive in-mine drilling. These data clearly  
201 show the concentrations of biotite, K-feldspar and anhydrite as a central vertical core (green  
202 colours in Figure 3b) surrounded by a phyllic alteration annulus (yellow-orange in Figure 3b),  
203 and the wider distribution of Cu as both disseminated and vein-hosted chalcopyrite and bornite,  
204 extending outward from the core across both of these alteration zones. A narrow zone of more  
205 massive sulphide, known as the Heavy Sulphide Zone (HSZ), forms a distinctive assemblage at  
206 the contact of the diatreme vent with surrounding sediments as shown in Figure 3b. The overall  
207 pattern of zonation at Grasberg is very similar to that commonly observed in porphyry copper  
208 deposits around the world (Burnham, 1962; Lowell and Guilbert, 1970). At Grasberg, the  
209 central core alteration facies (that is cut through by the later Kali dykes) is defined by the  
210 assemblage orthoclase-quartz-anhydrite with secondary magnetite present in the upper ~1000  
211 m (within the fragmental sub-volcanic units that infill the upper part of the diatreme) but are  
212 absent in the underlying porphyritic intrusions. Surrounding this core is an annulus of quartz-  
213 'sericite'-anhydrite-pyrite (*phyllic*) alteration that may be further sub-divided according to  
214 relative abundance of quartz and 'sericite'. Sericite is a generic term for crystalline potassic  
215 phyllosilicates (micas) in altered rocks within the phyllic zone and includes smectite/illite,  
216 illite, illite/muscovite and muscovite series minerals. Other significant minerals present within  
217 the potassic and phyllic alteration zones include secondary apatite and hornblende (Paterson,  
218 2004), the former as both disseminated grains and in veins. Andalusite, diaspore and corundum  
219 (Penniston-Dorland, 1997), occur in the core of the Grasberg potassic alteration in association  
220 with hydrothermal biotite (Paterson, 2004; Penniston-Dorland, 1997), as they do in a number  
221 of other porphyry copper deposits.

222  
223 The volumes of each alteration assemblage within the Grasberg deposit and the proportions  
224 (Wt%) of their major mineral phases are summarized in Table 2, based on an extensive program  
225 of diamond core drilling and representative XRD analyses (Freeport-McMoran proprietary  
226 data) between 2400 and 3800 meters above sea level (masl). A total of 2906 samples were  
227 analysed from the potassium feldspar ('potassic') alteration zone and 824 from the surrounding  
228 phyllic zone (Figure 2). Models based on these results show that the volume of the potassic  
229 alteration zone is 1.05 km<sup>3</sup> and the phyllic zone is 1.17 km<sup>3</sup>. The XRD results for the  
230 proportions of K-feldspar, phlogopitic biotite and muscovite shown in Table 2 clearly  
231 distinguish these two alteration assemblages and highlight the higher copper grade of the  
232 potassium feldspar zone. This higher-grade potassic core contains 7.7 Wt% of combined  
233 anhydrite and gypsum and the phyllic zone contains 3.6 Wt%. The phyllic zone is distinguished  
234 also by its very high average pyrite content (14 Wt%) relative to the potassic zone (2 Wt%).  
235

## 236 **2. Sampling and Analytical Methods**

237

238 Earlier studies of porphyry copper alteration were based on detailed field observations  
239 supported by XRD, electron microprobe analyzes and optical microscopy that in this study we  
240 have complemented with high resolution SEM mineral mapping and X-ray and thermal neutron  
241 micro-computed tomography ( $\mu$ CT). This approach provides detailed spatial understanding of  
242 mineral relationships and of the distribution of microporosity the latter crucial to consideration  
243 of mineral replacement processes. The data analysis provided here is fundamentally  
244 underpinned by the extensive and highly detailed petrographic descriptions for Grasberg  
245 provided by Penniston-Dorland (1997), Pollard and Taylor (2002) and Paterson (2004) of  
246 samples obtained during earlier investigations.

247

### 248 **2.1 Samples**

249

250 The samples described here were selected to first compare and contrast the assemblages within  
251 weak to intense stages of potassium silicate alteration and second to attempt to unravel the  
252 chemical mechanisms that control these alteration reactions and their accompanying  
253 mineralisation. Two potassium silicate altered samples of Dalam volcanics were selected from  
254 underground drill holes for comparative analysis and their locations are shown in Figure 3a  
255 and b. Sample GP was collected as a loose block from within the open pit at ~1000 m higher  
256 elevation and is illustrative of the intense phyllic alteration that surrounds the potassic core of  
257 the deposit. Entire samples and sub-cores taken from them were examined using X-ray  $\mu$ CT,  
258 followed by high resolution EDS mineral mapping, XRD and a range of standard petrographic  
259 techniques based on polished and thin sections that were prepared using water-free polishing  
260 paste to avoid removal of anhydrite.

261

262 Alteration mineralogy and whole rock geochemical analyses for the Grasberg deposit were  
263 provided by Freeport from proprietary databases. These data were obtained by in-house XRD  
264 analysis of pulps from 2730, 3m length half-core samples at an average 75m spacing  
265 throughout the deposit, and whole rock geochemistry data was obtained by commercial ICP  
266 analyses of splits from the same pulp samples.

267

### 268 **2.2 Analytical methods**

#### 269 **2.2.1 Scanning Electron Microscopy**

270

271 FEI <sup>TM</sup>QEMSCAN (Quantitative Evaluation of Minerals using Energy Dispersive  
272 Spectroscopy and referred to in this paper as QEM) provided detailed mineral mapping at pixel  
273 step size resolutions of 5  $\mu$ m. Resolution is here defined by the step size between point scans  
274 in the QEM-EDS mineral map. Mineral maps are constructed digitally, pixel by pixel, using  
275 look-up routines with reference X-ray mineral spectra. Spectral fit ratios less than 90% were  
276 rejected and in all such cases compositions verified using quantitative, fully calibrated FESEM  
277 EDS spot analyses and micro-XRD. The quantitative EDS spot analyses were performed at  
278 15kV and 0.6nA of probe current using a Hitachi 4300 FESEM equipped with an Oxford INCA  
279 EDS analytical system. The system was calibrated using Astimex mineral reference standards  
280 and PAP matrix corrections (Pouchou et al., 1991) were used throughout. The colour schemes  
281 for mineralogy have not been standardized through this paper so that images presented may  
282 focus on key features of the data.

283

284 **2.2.2 High resolution Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)**

285 Preliminary electron backscatter diffraction (EBSD) data and high resolution SEM images  
286 were also collected on a Zeiss Gemini 450 FEG-SEM in the SEM Shared Research Facility at  
287 The University of Liverpool (Gardner, unpublished). These data provide information on the  
288 crystallographic relationships between primary and alteration feldspars that will be reported  
289 separately.

290  
291

292 **2.2.3 Powder X-ray Diffraction (XRD)**

293 Powder XRD was carried out on a flat, solid sample blocks that were the opposing cut-off to  
294 that used for QEM mineral mapping. The analyses were performed with  $\text{CoK}\alpha$  radiation using  
295 a Malvern Panalytical Empyrean Series 3 which is equipped with Bragg-BrentanoHD divergent  
296 beam optic, a motorized xy-stage with z-adjustment and a PIXcel3D detector (1D scanning  
297 mode,  $3.347^\circ$  active length), over a range of  $4-90^\circ 2\Theta$ , with step width of  $0.0131303^\circ 2\Theta$  and  
298 a total dwell time of 75 s/step. Phyllosilicate crystallinity standards (Warr 2018) were analysed  
299 over a range of  $8-11^\circ 2\Theta$ , and the width of their 001-reflection compared with that of sample  
300 GP. Phase identification was carried out with DiffracPlus Eva 10 software (Bruker, 2004) and  
301 the ICDD PDF-2 database (Data, 2004).

302

303 **2.2.4 X-ray Micro-computed Tomography**

304 3D mineral distribution data were obtained by X-ray micro-computed tomography (X-ray  $\mu$ -  
305 CT) using a combination of helical scanning, image registration and segmentation for  
306 quantitative analysis (Kingston et al., 2011; Sheppard et al., 2004; Varslot et al., 2011a; Varslot  
307 et al., 2011b). These data were obtained on the National Laboratory for X-ray Micro-Computed  
308 Tomography (CT Lab) at the Research School of Physics at the Australian National University  
309 using a HeliScan  $\mu$ CT system with an optimized space-filling trajectory to yield sharp images.  
310 The CT scanning systems are capable of imaging materials with a wide variety of densities and  
311 sizes, from 70 mm cores of rock that are imaged at 20  $\mu\text{m}$  resolution, to subsection of cores  $<5$   
312 mm across that are imaged with a voxel size of  $<2 \mu\text{m}$ . The scan data were quantitatively  
313 analysed using in-house developed Mango and Drishti visualization software (Limaye, 2012).

314

315 Microporosity distribution was obtained using a two-step process in which the sample was first  
316 scanned in a dry state and then in a “saturated” state after pressure impregnation with  
317 diiodomethane ( $\text{CH}_2\text{I}_2$ ), which is a highly X-ray attenuating liquid. The saturation process  
318 involved immersing the sample in a  $\text{CH}_2\text{I}_2$  bath under a pressure of 41MPa for 1-2 days. Both  
319 ‘dry’ and ‘wet’ (saturated state) scans are then brought into perfect alignment (Latham et al.,  
320 2008) and a 3D difference image created. This image shows only the attenuating liquid  
321 response (Fogden et al., 2014; Golab et al., 2010; Zhang et al., 2017) thus, creating a map of  
322 the connected porosity, including fractional porosity at the sub-voxel scale.

323

324 The dry image enables mineral groups to be classified and segmented via phase attenuation.  
325 The saturated image exhibits higher x-ray attenuation in the connected saturated pore space,  
326 enabling its connected porosity to be calculated. For a population of  $n$  voxels, the voxel porosity  
327 as volume percent is the sum of the fractional infill porosity of each voxel divided by the total  
328 voxels in the sampled region. Further segmentation of domains such as phenocrysts and veins  
329 was then conducted.

330



### 331 **2.2.5 Thermal neutron micro-computed tomography**

332 High throughput thermal neutron micro-computed tomographic scans (Smith et al., 2021) were  
333 conducted using the Dingo neutron imaging instrument (Garbe et al., 2015), located at the 20  
334 MW Open-Pool Australian Lightwater (OPAL) reactor housed at the Australian Nuclear  
335 Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO), Lucas Heights, New South Wales, Australia.  
336 These data supplement the X-ray  $\mu$ -CT scans and aid the 3D mapping of veins and  
337 discrimination of mineral phases as discussed elsewhere (Voisey et al., 2020; Williams et al.,  
338 2017). For this study, Dingo was configured in high-intensity mode with a collimation ratio  
339 ( $L/D$ , where  $L$  is the neutron aperture-to-sample length and  $D$  is the neutron aperture diameter)  
340 of 500 and neutron flux of  $4.75 \times 10^7 \text{ n.cm}^{-2}.\text{s}^{-1}$  at the sample position. For all specimens, a  
341 Zeiss Ikon 50 mm f/2.0 Makro Planar lens and  $200 \times 200 \text{ mm} \times 100\mu\text{m}$  thick ZnS(Ag)/6LiF  
342 scintillator screen (RC Tritec AG) were used to obtain a pixel size of  $1019 \times 101 \mu\text{m}$  and Field-  
343 of-View of  $200 \times 200 \text{ mm}$ . A total of 897 equiangular shadow-radiographs of 2.25s exposure  
344 was obtained as each sample was continuously rotated about its vertical axis at a rotation speed  
345 of  $0.08^\circ\text{s}^{-1}$ , for a scan time of 37.5 min. One-hundred dark (closed shutter) and beam profile  
346 (open shutter) images were obtained for normalisation of the raw 16-bit radiographs.  
347 Tomographic reconstruction was accomplished using Octopus Reconstruction v.8.8. The  
348 complementary neutron and X-ray  $\mu$ CT data were integrated into a single registered data set  
349 for visualisation and data analysis. For the high resolution Dalam Diorite G2 and G7 sub-core  
350 QEM data were registered into the X-ray  $\mu$ CT data to allow 3D resolution of some mineral  
351 phases like anhydrite as described in the text.  
352

## 353 **3. Analytical Results**

354  
355 All of the samples analysed here are from the Dalam Fragmental Andesite (Tgdfa) and Dalam  
356 Diorite (Tgdd) geologic units, both of whose names are simplified field terms. All samples  
357 have been altered to phyllic (illite/muscovite) or potassic (K-feldspar-rich) ('potassic')  
358 assemblages during porphyry copper alteration. Based on preserved surface outcrop of  
359 volcanics from the maar eruption (Mernagh et al., 2020), these samples came from 900 to  
360 1700 m below the paleosurface that is estimated to have been at  $4500 \pm 200$  metres above  
361 presentday sea level, resulting in estimates of maximum paleo-lithostatic pressures from 22.6  
362 to 46.9 MPa (226 - 469 bar) based on an average rock density of  $2600 \text{ kg.m}^{-3}$  (Table 3).  
363

### 364 **3.1 Potassic altered Dalam diorite (G2)**

365  
366 Sample G2 (mine reference number GRD36-02 18.8m) is from a drillhole collared  
367 underground within the center of the Grasberg deposit. It is a weakly potassic altered Dalam  
368 diorite interpreted as an occluded block within Dalam Fragmental Andesite (Figure 4 ). It is  
369 paler in color than normal andesite volcanics and, through preservation of its porphyritic  
370 texture, is one of the least altered Dalam rocks found at Grasberg. Its state of partial alteration  
371 makes it particularly valuable with respect to unravelling the chemical processes involved in  
372 alteration.  
373

374 QEM mineral mapping at a step size resolution of  $5 \mu\text{m}$  highlights the distribution of  
375 mineralised veinlets (Figure 5) that cut the altered rock. An unmineralised quartz vein is  
376 truncated by mineralised veinlets and crisscrossed by an array of K-feldspar and anhydrite-  
377 filled fractures containing albite, bornite and chalcopyrite. This mineral mapping clearly shows  
378 the preserved, abundant primary plagioclase and biotite (*sensu lato*) phenocrysts within a

379 matrix dominated by K-feldspar. Also, K-feldspar with isolated albite grains infills the  
380 principal central fracture-vein that also contains anhydrite-chalcopyrite-bornite. The relative  
381 proportions of each phase are shown in Table 4 based on QEM mineral mapping.  
382

383 Anhydrite is distributed through the matrix but most prominently infills discontinuous, arrays  
384 of microfractures throughout the early quartz veins and the rock matrix and is very closely  
385 associated with chalcopyrite and bornite (Figure 6). Apatite is also dispersed through the matrix  
386 and some altered biotite phenocrysts and is closely associated with anhydrite indicating its  
387 formation during alteration. The partially altered plagioclase phenocrysts (Figure 5 and Figure  
388 6) have anastomosing veinlets of albitic plagioclase that nucleate at the vein interface and  
389 spread out from the anhydrite-K-feldspar-Cu-Fe-sulphide in the vein. The albitic composition  
390 of altered plagioclase grains adjacent to this albitic network indicate that the alteration of  
391 andesine ( $An_{25-50}$ ) composition primary plagioclase resulted in loss of calcium. Quartz is  
392 heterogeneously distributed as ragged clusters but is absent in some regions, and its rounded  
393 and embayed form suggests that it has been partially dissolved. Most notably, quartz is absent  
394 from orthoclase reaction rims around plagioclase phenocrysts (X in Figure 6). Minor  
395 illite/muscovite (determined by matching corresponding Xray spectrum) is directly associated  
396 with phlogopitic biotite within interstitial voids across the partially altered plagioclase  
397 phenocrysts but absent from the K-feldspar-rich matrix and the phlogopitic biotite within it.  
398

399 EDS spot mineral analyses of feldspar in the site of interest (SOI 1) demonstrate the wide range  
400 of individual feldspar compositions formed within the anastomosing veinlets and the feldspar  
401 matrix as alteration proceeds. K-feldspar and Ca-rich anorthoclase also infill grain boundary  
402 porosity resulting in a complex spread of compositions in a feldspar ternary plot (Figure 7). In  
403 a series of random spot analyses, Paterson (2004) noted the presence of some albitic plagioclase  
404 grains and suggested that these were remnants of primary oscillatory zoning in plagioclase  
405 phenocrysts. However, our data suggest that these grains form part of the anastomosing  
406 network of replacement zones that developed within primary plagioclase phenocrysts. We  
407 found no evidence of oscillatory zoning in the limited number of samples examined in this  
408 study. At higher magnification and a  $1\mu\text{m}$  step size resolution, the plagioclase alteration is seen  
409 (e.g., areas Y and Z) as pervasive with two discrete anastomosing zones of albitic plagioclase  
410 veinlets cementing a mosaic of plagioclase grains of varying composition from andesine  
411 (assumed to be the primary igneous plagioclase) to albite, and b) a similar pattern of K-feldspar  
412 linked to embayment of the phenocrysts along their boundaries with surrounding orthoclase  
413 (Figure 6, area Y).  
414

415 **3.1.1. Biotite replacement.** Concurrent with plagioclase alteration, both the matrix  
416 and primary magmatic biotite phenocrysts were intensely altered (Figure 8). Altered biotite  
417 phenocrysts retain their overall shape but have been extensively replaced, dissected and infilled  
418 by K-feldspar and are characteristically mantled by K-feldspar and quartz grains. EDS spot  
419 analyses of the large biotite phenocrysts in SOI 2 are plotted with the comprehensive biotite  
420 data set of Paterson (2004) in Figure 9. Paterson (2004) reported ‘biotite’ compositions from  
421 weakly to strongly altered rocks throughout the Grasberg deposit according to lithology and  
422 degree of alteration, and he also noted that even sharply-bounded magmatic phenocrysts  
423 showed evidence of weak alteration. This is demonstrated in Figure 9 with our data from the  
424 skeletal plagioclase phenocrysts in SOI 2 that corresponds to Paterson’s group of partially  
425 altered magmatic biotite. Paterson (2004) also recognized green biotite that occurred on the  
426 margins of hydrothermal brown biotite and noted that hydrothermal biotite was commonly  
427 associated with magnetite. The composition of hydrothermal biotite shows a loss of Fe relative  
428 to Mg and a loss of Ti compared to less altered magmatic biotite (Figure 9), and the proportion

429 of K in the altered biotite is constrained between 1.55 and 1.75 atoms per 44 atoms of oxygen  
430 in the formula unit. More importantly, since the abundance of primary biotite phenocrysts is  
431 similar to that of primary plagioclase (Paterson, 2004), the dissolution of biotite during  
432 alteration caused a significant release of K into the hydrothermal fluids. Concomitant loss of  
433 Fe, as discussed below, from magmatic biotite as well as from amphibole (Paterson, 2004),  
434 may additionally have contributed Fe directly to the deposition of Cu-Fe sulphides  
435 (chalcopyrite, bornite) in pore spaces and mineralised veins.  
436

### 437 **3.2 Potassic altered Dalam Fragmental Andesite (G7)**

438  
439 By contrast to G2, this core sample (Figure 4 ) is intensely altered to orthoclase-rich potassic  
440 assemblages with only remnant altered biotite phenocrysts and is cut by arrays of quartz veins.  
441

442 The high resolution (5  $\mu\text{m}$ ) mineral map of G7 (Figure 10) is dominated by K-feldspar (Table  
443 4). EDS spot analyses shows that this phase is composed of about 90 to 100 mol.% orthoclase  
444 with minor calcic albite (up to 2 mol.% Ca) and equivalent 'perthitic' albite with orthoclase  
445 lamellae up to about Or<sub>20</sub>. Quartz microveins are more abundant within a millimetre of the  
446 larger quartz vein (Figure 10). The quartz veins all have corroded margins and are traversed by  
447 networks of anhydrite with apatite, K-feldspar and both discrete chalcopyrite and bornite and  
448 intergrown examples. Grains of corundum with lesser andalusite and diaspore occur adjacent  
449 to highly altered ragged biotite phenocrysts. Apatite is also relatively common and is often  
450 closely associated with anhydrite and sulphides. The sample retains outlines of what we  
451 interpret to be magmatic biotite (Paterson, 2004), based on petrographic observations of less  
452 altered rocks. XRD confirmed the presence of accessory illite/muscovite, and EDS analysis  
453 showed that its K/(Na + K) was 80 - 88 wt%. This minor phase occurs as a dusting through the  
454 alteration as albitic and potassic feldspar and the altered magmatic biotite suggesting that it is  
455 a waning phase that developed during cooling of the altered rock mass in the presence of  
456 infiltrated groundwater or trapped condensate of the magmatic vapour. Discontinuous masses  
457 of anhydrite occur throughout the intensely potassium altered rock mass and notably these cut  
458 brittle fractures in earlier quartz veins (Figure 10). The latter have irregular margins indicating  
459 quartz dissolution and some of their infill consists of potassic feldspar. Clusters of intergrown  
460 chalcopyrite-bornite grains occur throughout the altered rock and are very closely associated  
461 with anhydrite in the fractured and mineralised quartz veins.  
462

### 463 **3.3 Phyllic altered Dalam Fragmental Andesite (GP)**

464  
465 An outer phyllic alteration zone characterizes the majority of porphyry copper deposits (Lowell  
466 and Guilbert, 1970; Meyer and Hemley, 1967) and is characterized by a range of potassic  
467 phyllosilicates from sericite (fine-grained potassic, illite/muscovite, illite). In many cases these  
468 minerals overprint earlier potassium silicate alteration (Beane, 1982; Parry et al., 2002) but, at  
469 Grasberg, they constitute a primary outer alteration zone defined by sericite and  
470 illite/muscovite phyllosilicates with quartz, pyrite and anhydrite (Paterson, 2004).  
471

472 Figure 11 is a QEM mineral map for the open pit sample, GP, that was taken from the phyllic-  
473 alteration annulus around the potassic centre of the deposit. It is discussed here in the context  
474 of potassium silicate alteration at Grasberg for which comprehensive mapping of phyllosilicate  
475 distribution has been provided by Paterson (2004). In sample GP, an anhydrite-bornite infilled  
476 anhydrite-cpy-bn vein cuts through pervasively phyllic-altered and silicified Dalam Volcanic  
477 host rock. XRD analyses of the phyllic assemblage confirmed the presence of quartz, illite,

478 anhydrite, pyrite and traces of alum and amarantite (a ferric iron sulphate hydrate). The  
479 dioctahedral mica, was identified as well-crystallized illite similar to the epigenetic standard  
480 sample SW7-2012 (Warr, 2018).

481  
482 All plagioclase and ferromagnesian silicates (biotite and hornblende) phenocrysts have been  
483 completely replaced by illite in this sample. Although some distal pore space contains very  
484 small intergranular calcite grains, the primary Ca component has been removed from the bulk  
485 of the wallrock and deposited within anhydrite. This confirms that alteration and anhydrite-  
486 sulphide deposition were contemporaneous rather than separate events. A small zone  
487 containing intergranular calcite occurs distal to the vein which, as discussed below, we interpret  
488 to be due to depletion of SO<sub>2</sub> from the intergranular gas flow as anhydrite formed.

489  
490 The amarantite identified in the XRD analyses, and also noted in FESEM analysis, occurs with  
491 minor alums (also noted in XRD) and is likely the result of recent supergene reactions within  
492 the open pit where the sample was collected. We also noted the presence of native sulphur as  
493 a supergene reaction product at the interface of anhydrite and pyrite in the sulphide vein  
494 immediately above the top of the sample section shown in Figure 11. Paterson (2004) has noted  
495 the rare presence of kaolinite in phyllic zone assemblages and this, along with the sulphur and  
496 alum minerals, suggests that locally there was weak low temperature alteration superimposed  
497 on the potassium silicate alteration zones.

498 .

#### 499 **4. Porosity and fluid inclusions**

500  
501 While fractures and connected porosity are essential to the mass transport of components  
502 during the alteration of host rocks, their distribution is seldom reported in alteration studies.  
503 Norton and Knapp (1977) provided porosity and permeability data for altered igneous rocks  
504 based on laboratory and field observations of fracture arrays.

505  
506 The distribution of micro-porosity in part of the polished section of Figure 6 is illustrated in  
507 Figure 12. More complete 3D mapping of the connected sub-voxel (<5.3 μm) micro-porosity  
508 through the G2 sub-core sample is shown in Figure 13a, Which also shows the tomogram of  
509 sample G2 while Figure 13b shows a slice through the tomogram corresponding to the mineral  
510 mapped section shown in Figure 5 and described above. This slice provides details of the  
511 microporosity through the altered feldspars at the margin of an altered plagioclase phenocryst  
512 and in the K-feldspar-rich matrix in the region Y outlined in Figure 6a. The micropores have  
513 diameters of up to a few microns and are located primarily on grain boundaries and triple  
514 junctions between grains. The μCT analyses allow identification of the connected  
515 microporosity that controls reactive fluid transport through wallrock during its alteration and  
516 mineralisation. Following CH<sub>2</sub>I<sub>2</sub> saturation, μCT images of a longitudinal slice of the scanned  
517 sub-core of sample G2 show high porosity around the anhydrite-sulphide veins and abundant  
518 connected microporosity throughout the host rock, especially within partially altered  
519 plagioclase and biotite phenocrysts. The saturation process defines connected porosity which,  
520 for sample G2, is estimated at 2.5 volume % of the scanned sub-core. In the colored  
521 microporosity slice of the X-ray CT tomogram (Figure 13b) small isolated clusters of voxel  
522 porosity >10 volume % are shown in red and < 1% are shown in blue, where voxel porosity is  
523 the volume of pore space in each voxel that contains CH<sub>2</sub>I<sub>2</sub>. These microporosity data show  
524 high porosity along the anhydrite-sulphide infilled veins that may be due to thermal  
525 contraction, shear movement on the vein or localized later dissolution of anhydrite.

526

527 In a sub-sample of G7, the porosity distribution (Figure14) contrasts strongly with the  
528 microporosity of the partially altered sample G2. In G7 the quartz-filled veins have almost no  
529 remaining porosity indicating the efficient sealing of the fractured vein by anhydrite, sulphides  
530 and some intergranular feldspar. Of particular note is the much lower relative porosity of the  
531 orthoclase feldspar matrix than the clusters of feldspar-and phlogopitic biotite that replace  
532 primary biotite phenocrysts. This may indicate that feldspar recrystallization has removed  
533 intergranular pore space.

534  
535 In a rock mass undergoing alteration due to fluid saturation there is a continual process of  
536 generation and sealing of connected porosity. Sealed micropores at all scales may become fluid  
537 inclusions that potentially allow trapped fluid (liquid or gas) to be preserved so that, with  
538 necessary care to avoid leaked inclusions or interchanged components (Lerchbaumer and  
539 Audétat, 2012), it is possible to estimate the ambient fluid composition at the site of trapping.  
540 Fluid inclusion homogenization temperatures for liquid phase (condensate) inclusions in quartz  
541 veins record temperatures that are below the temperature of the ambient isentropic expanding  
542 magmatic gas phase. This mismatch of inclusion homogenization temperatures and mineral  
543 relations is common in porphyry copper studies, particularly where liquid phase continua  
544 models are assumed. Detailed discussion of the fluid inclusion populations at Grasberg have  
545 been provided elsewhere (Mernagh et al., 2020; Mernagh and Mavrogenes, 2019) so that only  
546 a brief summary is given here. No intermediate density fluid inclusions were found in the study  
547 of Mernagh and Mavrogenes (2019). Only, two types of aqueous inclusions were observed in  
548 quartz veins. The first type were high salinity inclusions containing a large halite crystal  $\pm$   
549 sylvite, a small opaque crystal and a vapour bubble. Their salinity ranged from 39.3 wt% NaCl  
550 eq. to 54.0 wt% NaCl eq. Total homogenisation or partial homogenisation (V+L+S $\rightarrow$ L+S)  
551 temperatures ranged from 356 °C to 602 °C. The second type were lower salinity, aqueous  
552 inclusions containing 15 – 30 vol.% vapour that were clearly of secondary origin and these  
553 homogenised to liquid over the range 234 – 458 °C. A third type of inclusion occurred in early  
554 vein quartz. These inclusions contained primary and pseudo-secondary trails with abundant  
555 multi-solid inclusions (MSI) containing halite, sylvite, anhydrite, hematite, chalcopyrite, pyrite  
556 and other unidentified crystals. Vapour bubbles typically filled ~20 to 30 vol% of inclusions.  
557 These MSI have salinities ranging from 65 to 75 wt% NaCl eq. and do not completely  
558 homogenise, but instead form a liquid brine and coexisting liquid silicate that remain  
559 immiscible at temperatures up to 1281 °C (Mernagh and Mavrogenes, 2019). These ultra-high  
560 temperatures and salinities may be ascribed to the entrapment of hydrated molecular clusters  
561 (i.e. salt hydrates formed in the vapour phase) during crystal growth (Henley and Seward, 2018).  
562 Alternatively, if interpreted as inclusions that grew within quartz veins during episodes of  
563 isenthalpic expansion into fractures, then the primary inclusion temperatures represent  
564 transient growth conditions rather than the temperature of the ambient continuum fluid within  
565 the magmatic vapour plume at that depth. These temperatures are thus compatible with those  
566 estimated through analysis of phase assemblages. For the current study suitable inclusions were  
567 sought unsuccessfully in alteration feldspar and anhydrite, however, in the latter, inclusions  
568 were vapour-rich (Figure 15). These inclusions are rare and appear to be primary, i.e.,  
569 associated with the growth of anhydrite. Unfortunately, due to their small size and the fact that  
570 inclusions trapped in anhydrite are prone to leakage, they were not further analysed. Moreover,  
571 the mineral sequences described in this paper emphasize that sulphate-sulphide mineralisation  
572 occurred from a *quartz-undersaturated gas phase* that post-dated earlier episodes of quartz  
573 vein formation.

574

## 575 **5. Discussion**

576

577 Potassium silicate alteration at the cubic kilometer scale characterizes porphyry copper deposits  
578 worldwide. This paper provides new data targeted at developing more rigorous understanding  
579 of how such alteration develops by replacement of primary host rocks and how alteration  
580 processes may be directly related to the deposition of base metal sulphides in porphyry copper  
581 deposits. This analysis is based on a multidisciplinary approach that combines aspects of fluid  
582 flow, brittle rock failure, phase relationships and basic gas properties with the mineralogic  
583 observations detailed above. In order to commence this analysis, it is however necessary to  
584 restate some important fundamentals.

585

### 586 **5.1 Fundamentals of fluid phase mass transfer in the porphyry copper** 587 **environment**

588

589 The first fundamental concerns the matter of scale. Mineralisation and alteration in porphyry  
590 copper-gold deposits developed within *magmatic vapour plumes* (Henley and Berger, 2013;  
591 Henley and Hughes, 2016; Henley and McNabb, 1978; Weis et al., 2012) that were fed by  
592 magmatic vapour expansion from deeper, crystallizing intrusion complexes. Figure 16  
593 illustrates the basic anatomy and extent of such a volcano-scale magmatic vapour plume in  
594 relation to the Grasberg diatreme and the porphyry copper-gold deposit. The scale of the latter  
595 (a few cubic kilometres) is only a fraction of the scale of the plume and confined to the specific  
596 outflow regime that is centred on the highly permeable breccia within the diatreme vent.  
597 Porphyry copper deposit formation occurs over a period of at most a few tens of thousands of  
598 years and, as in the Grasberg district (Leys et al., 2020), several plume events may occur  
599 through the lifetime of the magmatic province.

600

601 An implication of the schema for the Grasberg plume, as shown in Figure 16, is that the  
602 magmatic fluid was derived from a deep complex of intrusions which themselves may have  
603 interacted directly with deeper sources of gas components including metals and sulphur. It is  
604 also implied that the deposit scale phyllic and potassic alteration is a consequence of gas-solid  
605 reactions driven by such ‘magmatic’ gas rather than involving external groundwater as is  
606 demonstrated both at Grasberg (Harrison, 1999) and El Salvador (Watanabe and Hedenquist,  
607 2001) using stable isotope transects. The viability of magmatic gases for metal transport in  
608 developing porphyry copper systems has also been investigated by multicomponent  
609 equilibrium thermochemical modelling and theoretical simulation of alteration and  
610 mineralisation (Henley and Seward, 2018; Hurtig et al., 2021).

611

612 The second fundamental requiring emphasis is that, regardless of its phase state, mass transport  
613 is governed by the physics of fluid flow through fractured porous media (Berre et al., 2019).  
614 This means that mass flux occurs through both fractures and wallrock but the flow regimes in  
615 each are, while interconnected, quite different. Flow in fractures is governed by pressure  
616 differentials through Darcy’s Law but in wallrock, mass flux is governed by connected porosity  
617 (intergranular porosity, microfractures and microporosity) driven, at smaller scale, by Darcy  
618 permeability through Knudsen flow constraints. Moreover, these interactive phenomena  
619 develop as dynamical (by definition, constantly evolving) systems due to local and larger scale  
620 deviatoric stresses, including regional stress (Sapiie and Cloos, 2004). In these systems, as is  
621 demonstrated by the data reported here for altered rocks at Grasberg, mineral deposition occurs  
622 in fractures when fluid flow is throttled. A coupled fluid flow in the wallrock results in  
623 progressive alteration of primary minerals and deposition of disseminated sulphides and

624 anhydrite with reacted fluid feeding back into the fracture flow regimes. This contrasts with  
625 approaches that assume a uniform permeability through a rock mass or pipe-models that  
626 assume flow from some source reservoir through a simple array of fractures.

627  
628 Thirdly, where reliable estimates are available for fluid phase pressure (as at Grasberg through  
629 preservation of the paleosurface) and temperature (through mineral stability relationships and  
630 systematic interpretation of fluid inclusions), then the phase state of the continuum fluid may  
631 be determined. At Grasberg and elsewhere (Mernagh et al., 2020) the phase state is that of a  
632 compressed gas. The relationships between volume, pressure and temperature in a compressed  
633 gas within a developing deposit are then controlled by the well known Gas Laws in concert  
634 with understanding of adiabatic expansion of gases (Anderson and Crerar, 1993) and heat  
635 transfer (Henley and Hughes (2016). Where a liquid phase continuum fluid is assumed for  
636 modelling purposes then pressure-temperature relationships are commonly imposed (c.f. fluids  
637 are stated to have heated or cooled) without consideration of the requirements of the laws of  
638 conservation of heat and mass. These are important as shown by Mernagh et al.(2020) who  
639 demonstrated that the maximum volume percent of saline liquid was only 2% in a magmatic  
640 two phase plume so that the continuum fluid was predominantly a gas phase. The saline liquid  
641 component may be regarded as an aerosol whose wetting properties may be responsible for the  
642 abundant liquid-dominated inclusions that are trapped during crystal growth during vein  
643 infilling even though vapour-rich inclusions are also abundant.

644  
645 Finally it is necessary to revisit some of the fundamentals of fluid inclusion interpretation  
646 following Mernagh et al. (2020).The mineralised zone in porphyry copper deposits typically  
647 forms well above the magmatic intrusions that release the fluids into the porphyry systems.  
648 The fluids released from these magmas are commonly trapped in unidirectional solidification  
649 textured (UST) quartz which is spatially associated close to the intrusions. This UST quartz  
650 has only rarely been observed in porphyry deposits (e.g. Carten et al., 1988; Bain et al.,  
651 2022). However, most fluid inclusion studies are conducted on inclusions occurring in quartz  
652 veins formed at higher levels within the brittle environment of the porphyry deposits. As a  
653 consequence, the fluid inclusions present in the quartz veins trap vapour or liquid that have  
654 substantially evolved after their release from a source magma. Processes such as phase  
655 separation increase the concentration of many elements within separated liquid relative to the  
656 vapour phase, and, as stressed in this paper, fluid phases are partially or completely  
657 equilibrated with the host rock through which they pass. This process of fluid-rock  
658 equilibration is evident in Figure 5 of Kouzmanov and Pokrovski (2012). In this figure the  
659 elemental concentrations in single-phase, vapour-rich, hypersaline and low-salinity aqueous  
660 fluid inclusions vary as a function of their salinity. However, the ratios of each element to  
661 each other (i.e., the elemental patterns) of the average values are very similar for all four  
662 types of inclusions. This would not be expected to occur in inclusions that were trapped  
663 during separate fluid flow events unless they had equilibrated with the host rocks.

664 Recent models for the fluid evolution of porphyry copper deposits suggest that an initial,  
665 single-phase, “supercritical” fluid is exsolved from the magma (Kouzmanov and Pokrovski,  
666 2012). Fluid inclusions thought to represent this supercritical fluid are referred to as  
667 ‘intermediate density’ inclusions but this definition is not well constrained. Kouzmanov and  
668 Pokrovski (2012) state that these inclusions contain approximately equal volumes of liquid  
669 and vapour at room temperature while Audetat (2019) states that their salinity lies between 5  
670 and 15 wt % NaCl eq. and Hurtig et al. (2021) defines intermediate inclusions as having

671 densities from 0.1–322 kg/m<sup>3</sup>, which is an enormous range. However, all authors agree that  
672 these “supercritical” fluids behave like gases in magmatic vapour plume environments.  
673 Therefore, we suggest that the term “intermediate density” inclusions is causing a great deal  
674 of confusion in the literature and this should be avoided by referring to the state of the fluid at  
675 the time of trapping (either gas or liquid) and avoiding terms like liquid-like that simply  
676 obfuscate understanding of reactive mass transfer in these environments. By doing this, it  
677 would become immediately clear that gaseous fluid (often referred to as ‘vapour’) are  
678 predominant in all stages of fluid evolution in porphyry copper systems. The term ‘vapour’  
679 itself has a specific meaning which is that it is a gas *in equilibrium* with a condensed phase  
680 (solid or liquid). A further consideration is that condensed liquid is necessarily saturated with  
681 gas phase species and that these solutes contribute to the apparent salinity that is deduced  
682 from freezing point measurements as discussed by Hedenquist and Henley (1985).

683  
684 With these fundamentals in place, the processes that developed zoned potassium silicate  
685 alteration at Grasberg may be examined through analysis of the available deposit scale  
686 geochemical data and the mineralogical data described above. Here we take an inductive  
687 analytical rather than attempt a numerical modelling approach given the complexities of the  
688 interacting flow regimes.

## 690 **5.2. Element transfer**

691  
692 The high-resolution petrographic data that has been presented above show that the development  
693 of vein-filling and intergranular anhydrite and sulphides is coincident with the alteration of  
694 primary plagioclase phenocrysts and their matrix. It is evident that Ca is progressively  
695 transferred from the plagioclase into anhydrite so that the assemblage is sub-divided into  
696 silicate and sulphide-sulphate sub-assemblages. A consequence of the sequestration of Ca to  
697 anhydrite is the redistribution of alkalis into potassic alkali and sodic plagioclase feldspar  
698 (Figures 5 and 6) through the altered phenocrysts as well as into the developing veins. Primary  
699 magmatic biotite is also altered with the release of iron. This alteration process only requires  
700 the addition of sulphur and copper, with HCl primarily operating as a flux or complexing agent;  
701 for the transport of alkalis and copper as gaseous chloride species. HBr also acts in this way  
702 (Henley and Seward, 2018). Summarized in this way it is possible to suggest that alteration at  
703 the local scale is essentially isochemical, given that some alkali is lost into the larger scale vein  
704 flow. This loss is small given the very low solubility of silicate minerals, as are the solubilities  
705 of anhydrite and sulphides. We therefore suggest that with the exception of a flux of S as SO<sub>2</sub>  
706 (Henley et al., 2015), HCl and Cu (± Au, Mo), alteration and mineralisation are coupled and  
707 essentially isochemical. It suggests that potassium silicate alteration is a consequence of Ca  
708 sequestration resulting in a K-enriched silicate sub-assemblage whose potassium concentration  
709 has been further enhanced by sequestration of Si into earlier quartz veins. The corollary is then  
710 that potassium silicate alteration does not require the addition of potassium through influx of  
711 an exotic brine or potassium enriched magmatic fluid as has previously been assumed. Our  
712 data also show that alteration and mineralisation occurred with silica undersaturated in the  
713 reactive gas mix leading to progressive dissolution of earlier vein quartz and primary host rock  
714 quartz. We shall refer to this proposal as the *quasi-isochemical hypothesis for potassium  
715 silicate alteration*.

716  
717 The quasi-isochemical hypothesis for potassium silicate alteration proposed above may be  
718 tested at the larger deposit scale. Figure 17 provides comparison of the compositions of weakly



719 altered Dalam intrusive and volcanic rocks (Table 5) with the averages of altered and  
720 mineralised rock compositions within the deposit. Since all the primary (unmineralised) Dalam  
721 rocks have suffered weak deuteric alteration as is common in volcanic sequences, their  
722 compositions have been normalized to a water and sulphur free basis but their average LOI  
723 values are shown as the bar D in Figure 17. Notably, D is close to the average LOI for phyllic  
724 altered rocks but higher for potassic altered rocks whose range of LOI and SiO<sub>2</sub> values is large.  
725 The wide compositional ranges for altered rocks are hard to interpret especially where potassic  
726 altered rocks appear to show lower K<sub>2</sub>O than unaltered Dalam host rocks. However, since the  
727 altered and mineralised rocks differ from unaltered rocks through hydrolysis (for phyllic  
728 alteration) and the addition of sulphur and metals including Cu, the comparison is more usefully  
729 made on the basis of normalization to molal abundances with exclusion of these added  
730 components. This approach, depicted in Figure 17 shows that there is a remarkable similarity  
731 between unaltered Dalam igneous rock compositions and those of the average potassium  
732 silicate altered rocks. Outliers in these data are few and this suggests that element redistribution  
733 occurs mostly within the 3m scale of the samples up to deposit scale.

734  
735 The correspondence between the major element compositions of primary (i.e. least altered  
736 surrounding rocks) and potassium silicate altered igneous rocks at Grasberg affirms that the  
737 *major elements* of the primary igneous rock mass are conserved during deposit formation and  
738 that porphyry copper deposit formation is the simple result of adding water, metals such as Cu  
739 and Mo, and SO<sub>2</sub>, the latter disproportionating to form sulphide and sulphate minerals through  
740 reaction with plagioclase to form anhydrite (Henley and Fischer, 2021; Henley et al., 2015). In  
741 this process HCl plays an essential catalytic role through formation of gas phase vapour  
742 transport species for the major elements as well as for metals including Fe and Cu. The system  
743 itself is open to input of magmatic vapour and discharge through to the surface so that while  
744 major elements are redistributed at a variety of scales in the developing deposit through their  
745 low solubilities, they are essentially conserved at the deposit scale. These observations then  
746 suggest that porphyry copper alteration and mineralisation are essentially isochemical (quasi-  
747 isochemical) except for addition of sulphur and the ore metals (Cu, Mo, Au, etc). Losses of  
748 alkali metals are limited by the very low solubilities of silicate, sulphate and sulphide minerals.

749  
750 A corollary of the quasi-isochemical hypothesis is that potassium silicate alteration  
751 assemblages are the consequence of Ca sequestration into anhydrite as is illustrated by the  
752 ternary plot for Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-CaO-K<sub>2</sub>O-MgO in Figure 18. This process necessarily shifts the  
753 composition of the remaining silicate sub-assemblage along a tie line to the muscovite or K-  
754 feldspar stability fields depending on the pressure and temperature of alteration. Ca  
755 sequestration to anhydrite therefore necessarily induces potassium silicate alteration without  
756 any other mass transfer beyond addition of sulphur as sulphate, and, for phyllic alteration,  
757 water. This sequestration process is complimented by the alteration of primary magmatic  
758 biotite to phlogopitic biotite plus K-feldspar. Another corollary is that deposition of iron-  
759 bearing sulphides (pyrite, chalcopyrite, bornite) is in response to the in situ H<sub>2</sub>S formation as  
760 anhydrite is formed, with Cu supplied in the magmatic gas flux. The Fe required for copper  
761 sulphide and pyrite deposition is also provided by the magmatic gas input as well as locally by  
762 the dissolution of biotite as well as amphibole and the minor Fe released from primary  
763 plagioclase.

764  
765 It is important to note that the quasi-isochemical hypothesis proposed here is not amenable to  
766 mass balance examination through Gresens isocon modelling (Grant, 1986) because the  
767 alteration assemblages, at sample scale, are an intimate mixture of silicates and anhydrite as  
768 well as sulphide minerals. At a basic level the defined resources of Cu (5.26 Gt) and other

769 metals in the deposit are an expression through grade (~ 0.61 % Cu) of the mass of copper and  
770 sulphur added to the primary rock by the reactive flux of magmatic gas. Moreover, the process  
771 of potassium silicate alteration itself results in quite large variations in local compositions. For  
772 example, at the sample scale (split drill core in lengths of 3m), the composition of some samples  
773 may be affected by large numbers of earlier quartz or other veins as exemplified in the sample  
774 photographs shown in Figure 4.

775

776 We may however recalculate the respective volumes of phyllic and potassic alteration at  
777 Grasberg (Table 2) as masses using appropriate rock density data from the deposit, in order to  
778 obtain the minimum, overall water:rock mass ratio responsible for the formation of the deposit.  
779 Here the density of the altered rock mass is taken as that of feldspar (2560 kg/m<sup>3</sup>) and the  
780 average whole rock LOI due to biotite and muscovite/illite is taken as 2 wt% in order to include  
781 water within these minerals. The S content of the altered rock mass is converted into moles of  
782 total sulphur and in turn to an equivalent mass of water (1.27E+13 kg) based on the  
783 representative volcanic gas analysis provided in Table 6. The time integrated minimum  
784 water:rock mass ratio is higher in the phyllic than the potassic alteration assemblage and their  
785 overall ratio is 2.24 (Table 7).

786

787 The recognition that, owing to the exceedingly low solubilities of sulphide minerals, anhydrite  
788 formation with release of reduced sulphur is directly coupled with sulphide deposition allows  
789 us to estimate the minimum concentration of copper in the magmatic gas phase that fluxes  
790 through to the developing deposit. Thus the total estimated in-situ Cu metal content of 32 Mt  
791 Cu was introduced by the minimum mass of water (1.27E+13 kg), so that the minimum  
792 concentration of Cu in the magmatic gas phase was ~2500 mg/kg. This compares very  
793 favorably with the value of 3000 mg/kg Cu in the single-phase magmatic input gas at Grasberg  
794 that was used by Mernagh et al. (2020) to track the systematics of Cu partitioning between  
795 vapour and liquid during two phase expansion during deposit formation. This adopted value  
796 itself was based on fluid inclusion data for Grasberg reported by Ullrich et al. (1999).

797

798 Although the focus of this paper is on potassium silicate alteration processes during porphyry  
799 copper formation, it is interesting as an aside to compare these estimated gas phase  
800 compositions with those observed in fumaroles on active volcanoes. Zelenski et al. (2013), for  
801 example, reported 2 ppm Cu in the 1084 °C gas mixture discharged from hornitos immediately  
802 adjacent to basalt magma at Erta Ale (Ethiopia). Such proximal magmatic gas data are not  
803 available from the less quiescent magmatic arc andesite volcanoes but Wahrenberger (1997)  
804 reported 53 ppb for a 920 °C fumarole on Kudryavy Volcano (Kurile Islands, Russia).  
805 Notwithstanding the difference in provenance of their source magmas, the large difference (~40  
806 times) between these measurements together with the absence of Cu minerals in arc volcano  
807 fumarole sublimates led Henley and Berger (2013) to propose that subsurface deposition of Cu  
808 from volcanic gases was highly efficient. The subsequent recognition of the coupling of  
809 anhydrite formation with in situ H<sub>2</sub>S formation (Henley et al., 2015) supports this hypothesis  
810 as does the petrographic data reported in this paper. A further implication is that the formation  
811 of major porphyry copper deposits requires source magmas that are highly enriched in copper  
812 and other metals relative to other arc magmas as discussed by Park et al. (2021) and Chiaradia  
813 and Caricchi (2022).

814

815 In terms of volcanic context, it is useful to speculate on what may have been the paleo-surface  
816 environment above the developing Grasberg porphyry copper deposit. A maar lake has been  
817 recognized through preservation of some of its marginal volcanoclastic sediments (Mernagh et  
818 al., 2020) in the rugged, high altitude, mountainous terrane within which the deposit occurs.

819 Mineralisation and alteration were occurring to only a few hundred metres below the surface  
820 (Figure 3) so that it is likely that there were widespread gas discharges through the lake floor  
821 to produce a hyperacidic lake, as well as subaerial fumaroles and these continued during the  
822 late stage Kali resurgence. Excess SO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>S that discharged likely produced sulphur-  
823 bearing sediments and floating sulphur globules some of which may contain crystals of  
824 covellite (CuS) and enargite (Cu<sub>3</sub>AsS<sub>4</sub>) as is observed at Kawah Ijen in east Java (Henley,  
825 2015). A similar surface environment appears to have been developed in proximity to the  
826 evolving Far Southeast porphyry copper deposit in the Philippines (Berger et al., 2014) as well  
827 as at Jardin in Chile (Lortie and Clark, 1987). In other porphyry copper environments the  
828 consequence of discharge and condensation of excess acidic gas through near surface fractured  
829 rock is expressed through the development of ‘high sulphidation’ copper, arsenic, gold  
830 mineralisation in solfataras (Berger and Henley, 2011, Henley and Berger, 2011) as is  
831 exemplified at Chinkuashih, Taiwan (Henley and Berger, 2012), Pascua Au–Ag–Cu deposit,  
832 Chile and Argentina (Chouinard et al., 2005, Deyell et al., 2004) and other deposits even though  
833 economic grade porphyry copper mineralisation may not occur below them.

834

835 Returning to the focus of this paper (the hypothesis that potassium silicate alteration during  
836 porphyry copper formation does not require significant gain or loss of major elements) we  
837 proceed below to consideration of the pressures and temperatures of the alteration environment  
838 and then to a more detailed examination of As noted above, alteration processes.

839

## 840 **5.2 Pressure**

841 Alteration and mineralisation in porphyry copper deposits are the result of the flux of magmatic  
842 gas from source to surface. The principal components of the gas phase (Table 6), as discussed  
843 elsewhere, are of similar composition to that sampled in active volcanoes (Henley and Berger,  
844 2013; Henley and Seward, 2018). Volcanic gas compositions are dominated by H<sub>2</sub>O, SO<sub>2</sub> and  
845 HCl, with some HF also present. Metals such as Cu, Mo and Au are transported into the  
846 porphyry system in such magmatic gas and precipitated as a consequence of the in-situ  
847 generation of H<sub>2</sub>S by anhydrite-forming reactions (Henley et al., 2015; Henley and Seward,  
848 2018). As noted above, the continuum fluid within a magmatic vapour plume (Henley and  
849 McNabb, 1978; Weis et al., 2012) is a condensable gas phase containing up to only a few  
850 percent of salts so that during expansion within a plume, a maximum of about 2 volume percent  
851 of saline liquid condenses out (Mernagh et al., 2020). Additional evidence for the  
852 predominance of a vapour phase continuum fluid at Grasberg have also been provided by  
853 sulphur isotope analyses that show that SO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>S were indeed the dominant species at  
854 temperatures above 550 °C and that the hydrothermal fluid followed a rock-buffered trajectory  
855 and became more reduced at < 550 °C as H<sub>2</sub>S was progressively released during expansion  
856 (Sulaksono et al., 2021).

857

858 The altered and mineralised rocks at Grasberg and other porphyry copper deposits (Redmond  
859 and Einaudi, 2010) are characterized by multiple extensional fracture arrays. Successive  
860 generations of these fractures are the principal guides for magmatic gas throughout any  
861 evolving porphyry copper deposit. Given the maintenance of such fracture arrays in response  
862 to changing deviatoric stress, we may assume that a magmatic gas phase expands through to  
863 the surface to be discharged at close to atmospheric pressure. For a compressed gas phase  
864 expanding through low thermal conductivity porous rocks, it is reasonable to assume that  
865 expansion is adiabatic as discussed elsewhere (Henley and Fischer, 2021; Henley and Hughes,  
866 2016). Where expansion may be considered reversible (in low permeability fractured porous  
867 rocks), the PT path is isentropic (Anderson and Crerar, 1993) and may be modelled on the basis  
868 of the properties of pure water (Wagner et al., 2008) assuming also that the few percent of other

869 gases in the magmatic gas mixture behave as ideal gases. Figure 19 provides a plot of isentropes  
 870 (constant entropy) and isenthalps (constant enthalpy) for pure water in PT space. As will be  
 871 discussed below, it is then possible to examine simple gas expansion trajectories from source  
 872 to surface. Such trajectories are distinct in that temperature gradients are high with respect to  
 873 pressure. By contrast, for irreversible expansion into, for example, an open fracture PT paths  
 874 are isenthalpic and the temperature gradient is much lower. It is also evident from the  
 875 relationship between vein and wallrock assemblages in samples G2 and G7 that a fluid phase  
 876 from open fractures passes into intergranular space in the wallrock which progressively  
 877 becomes choked by a sulphide-sulphate sub-assemblage and K-feldspar deposition while new  
 878 connected porosity develops through mineral dissolution. The reacted gas permeates back into  
 879 the fracture-guided gas flux.

880  
 881 In a magmatic vapour plume the internal fluid pressure must be maintained at greater than the  
 882 external groundwater pressure so that groundwater does not penetrate the deposit during its  
 883 formation. Such permeation does occur during the later (retrograde) waning stages of porphyry  
 884 deposit formation as the pressure declines in the magmatic vapour reservoir of the system. The  
 885 pressure within the plume itself is controlled by adiabatic gas expansion (as discussed above)  
 886 and the effective permeability of the rock mass as it undergoes repetitive fracturing and  
 887 alteration. Plume pressures may therefore be interpreted through the principles of hydraulic  
 888 fracturing in response to fluid pressure cycling within stressed crust (Cox, 2010). At Grasberg  
 889 the preservation of part of the paleosurface during deposit formation enables the *maximum*  
 890 lithostatic alteration pressure  $P_{\max}$  for each sample to be estimated through the following  
 891 equation,

$$892 \quad P_{\max} = P_L + \Theta = \rho_r g h + \Theta \quad (1)$$

894 where  $P_L$  is the lithostatic pressure defined by the density,  $\rho_r$ , of the rock mass,  $g$  is the  
 895 acceleration due to gravity and  $h$  is the estimated depth of the sample beneath the paleosurface.  
 896  $\Theta$  is the tensile strength of the rock mass and has values up to about 5 MPa. Taking  $\Theta$  as about  
 897 1 MPa (Cox, 2010), Dalam volcanic rock density as  $2600 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$  and ignoring atmospheric  
 898 pressure (0.1 MPa), the upper limits of lithostatic pressures for the samples examined here are  
 899 shown in Table 3. No depth estimate can be made for sample GP as the only information  
 900 available is the depth of the bottom of the open pit at time of sampling. Its pressure-depth  
 901 estimate is then less than that for this depth. At Grasberg, economic mineralisation extends  
 902 from near the paleosurface (4500 masl) to about 2000 masl, giving a range of lithostatic  
 903 pressure from 46.9 to 22.6 MPa, respectively, and hydrodynamic pressure from 16.7 to 7.8  
 904 MPa within which these processes occurred. However, whilst useful as ambient reference  
 905 pressures, alteration reactions may have been initiated at locally much lower transient pressures  
 906 immediately after fracture formation and throughout subsequent pressure recovery (Mernagh  
 907 et al., 2020).

908  
 909 For a gas phase expanding to the surface, its pressure is less than lithostatic but greater than  
 910 hydrostatic pressure due to liquid water at the same depth because otherwise groundwater  
 911 would flood the system. This relationship allows approximation of the minimum pressure of  
 912 the expanding gas phase at each sample depth (Table 3).

913

### 914 **5.3 Temperature**

915

916 Fluid inclusion data provide a general view of part of the temperature range over which  
 917 porphyry copper deposits formed from expanding magmatic vapour (Mernagh et al., 2020).

918 Temperature estimates for alteration processes are independently obtained from key phase  
919 equilibria. Thus, samples G2 and G7, as detailed above, provide evidence that they formed in  
920 a phase regime where K-feldspar was stable and actively forming, while the phyllic-altered  
921 sample, GP, formed in a distinct regime where 'illite' was the stable potassium phyllosilicate  
922 phase that replaced primary plagioclase feldspar. Corundum and diaspore (assumed a  
923 retrograde alteration of andalusite) are present in G7. Corundum has been previously reported  
924 in association with andalusite from Grasberg (Penniston-Dorland, 1997) as well as from a  
925 number of other porphyry copper deposits including Los Pelambres and El Salvador, Chile  
926 (Atkinson et al., 1998, Gustafson and Quiroga, 1995). The presence of these trace  
927 aluminosilicate minerals allows temperature estimations for this sample through plotting the  
928 range of its estimated limits for alteration pressure onto the phase diagram for the  
929 decomposition of an assemblage of quartz and muscovite to K-feldspar, corundum and water  
930 vapour (Kerrick, 1972) as shown in Figure 19; it is important to note that the reference phase  
931 boundaries are based on experiments on pure potassium aluminosilicate mixtures and that, as  
932 shown below, some variation occurs in natural systems through the presence of other salts and  
933 due to the saturation state of silica in the gas phase with respect to quartz. The K-feldspar-  
934 andalusite phase boundary is very close to that of corundum and so choice of andalusite as  
935 reference makes no significant difference to the temperature estimate referred here. What is  
936 important is that the occurrence of corundum indicates a relatively low fugacity of silica in the  
937 gas phase and this reinforces the observation from the partial dissolution textures on quartz in  
938 the samples analyzed here indicate that potassic alteration occurred under quartz-  
939 undersaturated conditions.

940  
941 In order to determine alteration processes at the scale of the deposit we need to estimate a likely  
942 expansion path in pressure-temperature space for an expanding magmatic gas. As noted above  
943 pressure on this path must be lower than lithostatic pressure in order to sustain flux of the  
944 reactive gas phase, and higher than hydrostatic. *For the purposes of discussion*, we here  
945 propose that the magmatic gas phase had entropy equal to about  $6.5 \text{ kJ.kg}^{-1}.\text{°C}^{-1}$  (Figure 19).  
946 This is commensurate with release of magmatic gas from intrusions at a lithostatic pressure of  
947 50-60 Mpa and equivalent depth of  $> 2\text{ km}$ . Consideration of a deeper magmatic source and  
948 consequent higher pressures along the expansion path necessarily change the assumed entropy  
949 of the released magmatic gas and temperature estimates that we have applied in the discussion  
950 by  $\pm \sim 20\text{°C}$  but do not alter the principle outcomes of the analysis.

951  
952 For this illustrative model, sample G7, therefore, alteration occurred between about 565 and  
953 585 °C at hydrostatic pressure. Sample G2, which preserves a partially altered state, with K-  
954 feldspar replacement of plagioclase and precipitation in fractures, has an estimated alteration  
955 temperature 535-550 °C at hydrostatic pressure (Figure 19). The expansion path tracks through  
956 the upper stability limit of K-mica (muscovite) to the lower pressures and temperatures that  
957 applied for crystalline illite formation in sample GP (whose paleodepth is not well established  
958 as a loose sample of phyllic alteration) at  $< 415\text{ °C}$ . Muscovite is used as a reference proxy for  
959 the range of potassium micas that characterize the phyllic alteration zone noting that the upper  
960 stability limit for pure illite is not well established. It has been recorded with crystalline  
961 muscovite at 350-360°C for geothermal wells in the Philippines (Reyes, 1990) but may be  
962 stable to higher temperatures. Its stability as a silica-rich potassium mica is also dependent on  
963 the chemistry of the coexisting fluid phase.

964  
965 Along this path the density of the gas phase at G7 was about  $47 \text{ kg.m}^{-3}$ ,  $42 \text{ kg.m}^{-3}$  for G2 and  
966  $< 24 \text{ kg.m}^{-3}$  for GP. For reference, liquid water at room temperature and pressure has a density  
967 of  $997 \text{ kg.m}^{-3}$ . This approach also suggests that the continuum gas phase was released from a

968 dioritic melt at about 750 °C and ~55 MPa, and had a density of about 130 kg/m<sup>3</sup> It expanded  
969 isentropically ( $\sim 6.0 \pm 0.2$  kJ/(kg.°C) by a factor of three at the boundary between potassic and  
970 phyllic alteration zones. In a developing porphyry copper system, cyclic fluctuations of local  
971 gas pressure occurred due to hydraulic fracturing (Figure 20a). This fracturing resulted in  
972 highly variable gas phase densities as fractures opened and closed in the evolving fracture  
973 arrays (Mernagh et al., 2020). In turn these triggered rapid vein mineral deposition due to  
974 pressure effects on solubility (Crerar et al., 1985). Rapid pressure drops due to fracturing  
975 provided irreversible isenthalpic offshoot paths to lower pressure with coupled reduction of  
976 pore pressure in the host rock (Mernagh et al., 2020) and associated temperature changes. For  
977 example, if fracture formation provided a transient localized isenthalpic expansion for G2 to  
978 10MPa then the alteration temperature would drop from 600 to 550 °C and vein mineral  
979 deposition would initiate (Figure 19).

980

#### 981 **5.4 Alteration processes**

982

983 The overall context for porphyry copper formation is that of a dynamical, internally and  
984 externally stressed, gas phase reactor (Henley and Berger, 2013). Cycles of repetitive fracturing  
985 continually maintain the high permeability flow paths that are required for expansion of the  
986 continuum magmatic gas phase, from source to surface, through porous rock during its  
987 evolution as an altered and mineralised rock mass. A minor volume fraction (< 2% volume) of  
988 saline liquid condenses during gas phase expansion as is detailed elsewhere (Henley and  
989 McNabb, 1978; Mernagh et al., 2020; Weis et al., 2012). The PT data and illustrative expansion  
990 path for the magmatic gas phase that is detailed above, show that rock alteration and  
991 mineralisation at Grasberg occurred at pressures of a few tens of MPa. The temperature was >  
992 ~550 °C for potassic alteration and down to ~ 350 °C for phyllic alteration due to progressive  
993 reaction between the porous rock mass and a flux of reactive magmatic gas containing SO<sub>2</sub> and  
994 HCl, as well as metals including Cu, Mo and Au as gas phase species (Henley and Seward,  
995 2018).

996

997 The generation of H<sub>2</sub>S, as a by-product of the formation of anhydrite results in co-deposition  
998 of chalcopyrite or bornite – and pyrite in the phyllic alteration zone - through reaction with Fe  
999 released during the replacement of primary biotite by higher Mg number (Mg#) phlogopitic  
1000 biotite. At Grasberg this replacement process forms a characteristically shredded texture as  
1001 described above and by Paterson (2004), and this has also been documented in other porphyry  
1002 copper deposits such as Alumbrera, Argentina (Harris et al., 2004) and Santa Rita, New Mexico  
1003 (Jacobs and Parry, 1979). The compositional ranges of altered relative to primary magmatic  
1004 biotite have been described elsewhere and confirm losses of K and Fe relative to Mg and Si-  
1005 Al. The overall replacement process commonly retains the primary fabric of the original biotite  
1006 (or amphibole) phenocrysts until it is well advanced, as in GP where almost complete  
1007 replacement by clusters of illite and K-feldspar occurs. Replacement of amphibole also  
1008 provides Fe for subsequent sulphide deposition as noted by Paterson (2004) and some Fe may  
1009 also be contributed by dissolution of primary magnetite. The scattered occurrences of accessory  
1010 disseminated sericite/illite and chlorite are interpreted as the product of retrograde alteration.

1011

1012 The overall process of potassium silicate alteration is one of gas phase dissolution and  
1013 precipitation of silicate minerals at the deposit scale but with more localised types of chemical  
1014 reactions developed over a range of smaller scales. Mechanisms of feldspar replacement have  
1015 been discussed by several authors in the context of metamorphic terranes (Hövelmann et al.,  
1016 2010; Niedermeier et al., 2009; Putnis, 2009). but we are not aware of any detailed studies of  
1017 such replacement processes in hydrothermally altered rocks, or specifically for porphyry

1018 copper deposits due to gas-solid reactions. The theory of dissolution-precipitation as the  
1019 mechanism of mineral replacement has progressively evolved over the last two decades into a  
1020 more explicit form focused on interface-coupled reactions (Cardew and Davey, 1985; Gardner  
1021 et al., 2021; Hövelmann et al., 2010; Putnis, 2009; Putnis, 2021; Putnis and Putnis, 2007). Key  
1022 features of the theory are epitaxial growth of the replacement phase onto the replaced phase,  
1023 the catalytic effect of water (i.e. water is conserved), the development of microporosity in  
1024 response to density differences and the presence of a liquid-like boundary layer at the reaction  
1025 interface. However, in the high temperature, low pressure gas-solid reaction context, no  
1026 adsorbed hydrous layer is present as a dissolution medium. Rather the mechanism centres on  
1027 chemisorption that is defined as adsorption which results from chemical bond formation (strong  
1028 interaction) between the adsorbent and the adsorbate in a monolayer on the surface (IUPAC,  
1029 2014); the reference to a monolayer is nominal given the formation of longer-range molecular  
1030 interactions in the gas phase (Kubicki and Watts, 2018). Rather than dissolution-precipitation  
1031 in this setting, it is therefore more appropriate to focus on mechanisms of element gain and loss  
1032 involving lattice degradation (Henley et al., 2017; Petrishcheva et al., 2020) and nucleation of  
1033 product phases such as, in the present case, anhydrite. Other differences are that ionic species  
1034 are not present in a low density, high temperature gas phase and gas flux is not constrained by  
1035 fluid boundary layers.

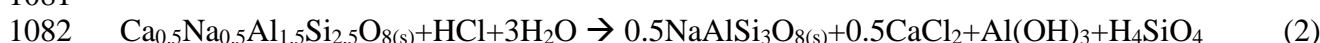
1036  
1037 As shown in Figures 13 and 14, microporosity is abundant in samples G2 and G7 and  
1038 particularly in the partially altered plagioclase phenocrysts in G2. However, in sample G2 *two*  
1039 replacement processes operated simultaneously. These were the replacement of plagioclase by  
1040 albite that is nucleated at the fracture vein interface in response to sequestration of calcium into  
1041 anhydrite, and the replacement of plagioclase by K-feldspar that nucleates at the phenocryst  
1042 interface with its more potassic, K-feldspar-magmatic biotite matrix. Sample G7 shows the  
1043 completed stage of these replacement processes where all Ca has been removed from the  
1044 silicate part of the mineral assemblage.

1045  
1046 Figure 20b provides a schematic summary of the alteration process at the scale of a few cm and  
1047 highlights the interaction of porous medium and fracture flow, and the input and output of  
1048 major components that results in the partially potassic altered sample, G2. Continued magmatic  
1049 gas flux progressively leads to the intense alteration of sample G7. In the expanding gas flux  
1050 at lower temperature and pressure, equivalent flow schema applies that result in the intense  
1051 phyllic alteration and mineralisation of sample GP. This same generalized schema applies at  
1052 the deposit scale to provide the zoned potassium silicate alteration and mineralisation shown  
1053 in Figures 2 and 3 for the Grasberg porphyry copper deposit and which is mirrored in other  
1054 porphyry copper deposits worldwide.

1055  
1056 G2, itself, preserves an intermediate, and therefore non-equilibrium, stage in the potassium  
1057 silicate alteration process, and this is highlighted by the display of interlacing Na-feldspar and  
1058 K-feldspar anastomosing veinlets running through the altering plagioclase from a nucleation  
1059 zone adjacent to the anhydrite-Cu-Fe sulphide fracture vein. The veinlets are smaller scale and  
1060 quite distinct from vein formation due to fracture infilling. The Na-rich veinlets nucleate at the  
1061 boundary between the plagioclase phenocryst and the open fracture and evidently coalesce  
1062 progressively as plagioclase replacement proceeds. K-rich alkali feldspar replacement of  
1063 plagioclase develops also as anastomosing veinlet networks through primary plagioclase but  
1064 these spread contrary to the direction of the Na-rich veinlets. These are nucleated in the  
1065 replaced rims of the phenocrysts that are evident in Figures 5 and 6. Rim development in such  
1066 ‘shrinking core expanding rim’ settings are a Knudsen diffusive process related to the surface  
1067 area of solids in the presence of reactive fluid (Amiri et al., 2013). Reaction progress may

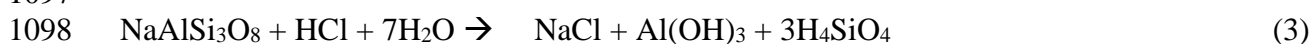
1068 become self-limiting as product minerals accumulate in the interface region. In sample G2, K  
1069 displaces Na from the reacting plagioclase with Na and excess K lost in the general discharge  
1070 of reacted gas. This feature of the contrary growth directions of the veinlet networks and lack  
1071 of ordered fabrics suggest that an origin from microfracture networks, such as associated with  
1072 hydraulic fracture initiation (Ravi-Chandar and Knauss, 1984) is untenable. A diffusion-  
1073 controlled mechanism may be more likely (Petrishcheva et al., 2019) for the development of  
1074 these fine anastomosing networks of veinlets.

1075  
1076 Significantly, there is a spatial and temporal association of a region of albite in the altered  
1077 plagioclase where it intersects a prominent fracture which contains anhydrite and albite  
1078 together with both bornite and chalcopyrite (Figure 20). Taking the primary plagioclase as  
1079  $An_{50}$ , this association is readily interpreted as being triggered by a gas-solid reaction of the  
1080 form,



1084 Solid phases are here designated with the subscript (s) and for the purposes of illustration,  
1085 reactions are written with reference to the dominant gas phase species for a given element; Ca  
1086 for example is transported also as  $\text{CaCl}(\text{OH})$  in magmatic gas mixtures (Henley and Fischer,  
1087 2021; Henley and Seward, 2018). Al and Si are dispersed with other gaseous species, into the  
1088 connected porosity-fracture network. The transformation of andesine to albite results in a small  
1089 (0.2%) decrease in volume that may be the source of some microporosity whose effect is to  
1090 enable further gas permeation and release during alteration. The andesine conversion itself  
1091 takes place as a sliding reaction as Ca is progressively removed to provide more albitic  
1092 plagioclase. This is observed in the range of plagioclase analyses shown in Figure for samples  
1093 G2 and G7.

1094  
1095 Reaction 2 describes the solubility of andesine in the reactive gas mixture. Parallel solubility  
1096 reactions occur for the alkali feldspars. For albite,



1102  
1103 The driving reaction for anhydrite-sulphide deposition in both vein and wallrock porosity may  
1104 be written in the generalised form,



1108 The in-situ release of  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  and  $\text{H}_2$  then captures Cu and Fe from the oxidized magmatic gas  
1109 stream (where, as shown in Table 7,  $\text{SO}_2 \gg \text{H}_2\text{S}$ ) to precipitate chalcopyrite and bornite. The  
1110 efficiency of plagioclase to anhydrite reactions has been demonstrated experimentally  
1111 elsewhere (Henley et al., 2015) with pure  $\text{SO}_2$  gas over a temperature range of 500 to 800°C.  
1112 These water-free experiments also demonstrated the nucleation and growth of an albitic region  
1113 below the solid-gas interface, with associated aluminous material, below the interface with the  
1114 gas phase.

1115  
1116 A perennial concern in the replacement of plagioclase by alkali feldspar is the disposal of  
1117 excess Al (Equation 2). The gas phase equilibrium solubility constants (K) for the alkali



1118 feldspars (Equations 3 and 4) are low; for example, for both Na- and K-feldspar  $K = 10^{-37}$  at  
1119 600°C. Exfiltration of excess  $\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3$  from the host rock into the fracture flow disturbs these  
1120 solubility relations and this leads to supersaturation with respect to the alkali feldspar-gas  
1121 equilibria and progressive infilling of the fracture with alkali feldspars simultaneously with  
1122 anhydrite and Cu-Fe-sulphide as is evident in Figures 5 and 6. As an open system the evolved  
1123 gas phase discharges into the general flux through the fractured porous medium. Infilling of  
1124 the K-feldspar-anhydrite-sulphide vein indicates mass transfer from the wallrock and in turn  
1125 this relates to the maintenance of connected microporosity. Equivalent dissolution occurs for  
1126 magmatic biotite as it alters toward more phlogopitic composition releasing K and Fe into the  
1127 gas phase. The specific association of sulphide mineralisation with alkali feldspar deposition  
1128 appears to have been overlooked in reviews of porphyry copper mineralisation where a focus  
1129 has been on a possible spatial association of sulphides directly with quartz veining.

1130  
1131 Similar chemical processes dominated by anhydrite deposition also drove mineralisation skarn  
1132 deposits such as Ertsberg, a younger mineralised system immediately adjacent to the Grasberg  
1133 deposit (Henley et al., 2017; Sieber et al., 2020). Here other primary calcic phases, such as  
1134 calcite and calcic garnet, react with  $\text{SO}_2$  and HCl with the coupled deposition of metal  
1135 sulphides.

1136  
1137 Reference is made above to *equilibrium* solubilities. This is for convenience only, given that  
1138 the alteration system is open at all scales. This has the effect of driving solubility reactions to  
1139 the product side due to discharge of the evolved gas mixture, and similarly influx of HCl drives  
1140 reactions to the product side. The same applies to the dissolution of the Ca-component of the  
1141 primary plagioclase through deposition of very low solubility anhydrite. As a general  
1142 observation, the mineral relations seen in these samples, such as the proximity of vein anhydrite  
1143 and sulphides to albitised plagioclase do suggest that an assumption of equilibrium is  
1144 reasonable even though the system is open to influx of magmatic gas and outflux of evolved  
1145 gas mixtures. We note also that a further corollary of the model developed here is that  $\Sigma\text{K}/\Sigma\text{HCl}$   
1146 in the gas phase is low, as it is in fumarole condensates (Henley and Seward, 2018). This  
1147 contrasts with the much higher ratios that have been defined experimentally using liquid brines  
1148 by Hemley and Jones (1964) who also recognized the role of HCl in driving potassium silicate  
1149 alteration.

1150  
1151 There are of course limits to the applicability of any closed system equilibrium modelling but  
1152 these are beyond the scope of this paper. Some exploration of this field has been undertaken  
1153 elsewhere by Henley and Berger (2000) and Ord et al. (2012) in terms of dissipative structures  
1154 based on relative diffusion and reaction rates (Scott, 1991).

1155

## 1156 **5.5. Other porphyry copper deposits**

1157

1158 It has been shown above that the mineralogical and geochemical data from drillcore to mine  
1159 scale at Grasberg may be integrated, through reasonable estimates of alteration depth and  
1160 pressure, to provide a *quasi-isochemical model* for the major elements involved in potassium  
1161 silicate rock alteration. The model, which is underpinned by thermochemical modelling  
1162 (Henley and Fischer, 2021), is applicable to a majority of porphyry copper-gold deposits  
1163 worldwide where anhydrite is a common gangue mineral. Some exceptions may be due to post-  
1164 mineralisation dissolution of anhydrite or to replacement of anhydrite by epidote, analcite and  
1165 sometimes calcite due to retrograde infiltration of groundwater. The importance of anhydrite  
1166 formation in driving potassium silicate alteration in porphyry copper deposits has been

1167 overlooked even though the abundance of anhydrite was well known to earlier workers  
1168 (Burnham, 1962; Meyer and Hemley, 1967). This largely relates to a paradox arising from  
1169 alteration petrography studies of the earliest developed porphyry copper deposits in the SW  
1170 United States where anhydrite appeared to be almost absent. A prime example is Bingham  
1171 Canyon, Utah, where potassium silicate alteration is well developed but anhydrite is not present  
1172 above a quite considerable depth in the deposit as demonstrated by recent drilling (c.f.  
1173 Appendix data in Henley et al. 2015). Anhydrite is, however, present with sulphides in the deep  
1174 core of the more recently explored deposit at Resolution, Arizona (Hehnke et al., 2012) and in  
1175 these and other deposits in the region fluid inclusion data show that the trapped liquid was  
1176 anhydrite-supersaturated. Notably, at Bingham Canyon, Baumgartner et al. (1997)  
1177 demonstrated at the mine scale the deficit in calcium that potentially results from low  
1178 temperature dissolution and removal of soluble calcic alteration minerals such as anhydrite.  
1179 Both at Resolution and at Grasberg, evidence has been obtained suggesting that such anhydrite  
1180 removal is common during post-mineralisation influx by groundwater (Hehnke et al., 2012;  
1181 Leys et al., 2020) as a result of its inverse liquid water solubility with respect to temperature.  
1182

1183 While maar sediments and tuffs are preserved and mark the paleosurface at Grasberg during  
1184 its formation, in most porphyry copper deposits their contemporary volcanic edifice has been  
1185 eroded completely (Sillitoe, 1973). Exceptions include Cerro de Pasco (Peru) where  
1186 mineralised clasts indicate an underlying porphyry copper system with fluid inclusion  
1187 temperatures  $> 600$  °C (Rottier et al., 2018; Rottier et al., 2020) and Cerro Colorado (Chile)  
1188 (Bouzari and Clark, 2006). Near-surface alteration in such volcanic settings occurs around  
1189 active fumarolic vents (Africano and Bernard, 2000) and, more extensively, where acidic  
1190 gases (SO<sub>2</sub>, HCl) are adsorbed into shallow, often perched, groundwater aquifers. This leads  
1191 to intense alteration to sulphate-quartz-clay assemblages with dispersed, sometimes  
1192 economic, deposition of Au-Ag-As ‘high sulphidation’ deposits (Berger and Henley, 2011;  
1193 Henley and Berger, 2011) and sometimes extensive masses of native sulphur, as in the active  
1194 White Island (New Zealand) volcano (Kilgour et al., 2021) and the 0.4 to 0.98 Ma Onto  
1195 deposit in Sumbawa, Indonesia (Burrows et al., 2020). These assemblages are generally  
1196 chemically unstable and structurally weak so that they erode away very quickly in regions of  
1197 relatively high relief and high rainfall, eventually exposing the deeper potassic-altered  
1198 regions that were developed as magmatic gas actively fluxed through the volcano. A feature  
1199 of potassic (K-feldspar normative) altered rocks is that they are quite dense and hard due to  
1200 their interlocking, fine-grained feldspar texture so that these may explain the deep resistive  
1201 masses observed in resistivity surveys of active volcanoes. Surrounding lower resistivity  
1202 rocks may then correlate with phyllic alteration containing clays, and secondary or retrograde  
1203 chloritic clay. The continuum gas phase itself is not conductive, so that the conductivity of  
1204 these rocks may be enhanced by networks of thin films of highly saline liquid condensate  
1205 derived from magmatic gas expansion as determined from porphyry copper fluid inclusion  
1206 studies (Mernagh et al., 2020) rather than more continuous lenses of brine as suggested by  
1207 some authors (Blundy et al., 2021). The conductivity effect due to thin saline films in porous  
1208 media has been documented elsewhere (Knackstedt et al., 2007).

1209

## 1210 **6 Conclusions**

1211

1212 Porphyry copper-gold deposits form within magmatic vapour plumes that are dominated by a  
1213 continuum of high temperature gas containing highly reactive SO<sub>2</sub> and HCl along with Cu and  
1214 other metals (Henley and McNabb, 1978; Mernagh et al., 2020; Weis et al., 2012). The  
1215 continuum gas phase has only minor, < 2 volume percent, of saline liquid that separates by  
1216 condensation during its expansion from source to surface. The permeability of plumes during  
1217 porphyry copper evolution is maintained through their evolution by time variant internal and  
1218 regional deviatoric stress.

1219  
1220 Porphyry copper deposits are characterized by potassium silicate alteration, at the scale of  
1221 several km<sup>3</sup> (Gustafson and Hunt, 1975; John et al., 2010; Lowell and Guilbert, 1970). This  
1222 potassium silicate alteration is directly associated with Cu-Fe-S mineralisation and occurs in  
1223 the giant 3.2 Ma Grasberg deposit (Indonesia) and elsewhere as a core of *potassic*, K-feldspar-  
1224 and biotite-rich, assemblages surrounded by *phyllic*, mixed layer potassium phyllosilicates  
1225 assemblages that pervasively replace the primary host rocks (Figures 2 and 3). Fluid inclusions  
1226 in such assemblages have commonly been interpreted as due to deposit scale, potassium  
1227 enrichment resulting from infiltration of a potassium-rich brine of unknown origin but which  
1228 is commonly assumed to be a potassium-enriched magmatic vapour. However here we report  
1229 detailed geochemical and petrographic data from the giant Grasberg porphyry copper-gold  
1230 deposit (Indonesia) that disputes such interpretation.

1231  
1232 The new data from Grasberg may be interpreted as showing, for the first time, that alteration  
1233 at the deposit scale of several km<sup>3</sup> was essentially isochemical for the major rock forming  
1234 elements Ca, K, Na, Al, Si and Fe. Only minor losses of these elements occur in the reactive  
1235 magmatic gas phase as it expands and escapes to the surface regime of the deposit. There is no  
1236 evidence at Grasberg for the involvement of a K-rich brine or K-enriched magmatic gas phase.  
1237 Apparent potassium enrichment is the result of sequestration of calcium into anhydrite which  
1238 with coupled sulphide formation requires that the alkali content of the remaining silicate sub-  
1239 assemblage increases. It is this simple segregation that results in potassium silicate alteration.  
1240 We have also shown how this alteration process continually evolves intergranular porosity  
1241 during mineral replacement with secondary minerals, including anhydrite and sulphides,  
1242 infilling porosity as it develops. In this way reactive gas flux is maintained in the altering host  
1243 rock and sustained through higher flux of magmatic gas through developing fracture veins

1244  
1245 These data underpin the development of a *quasi-isochemical* hypothesis for potassic alteration  
1246 in porphyry copper deposits based on introduction of Cu and other metals with SO<sub>2</sub> and HCl,  
1247 two of the common components of volcanic gases. A corollary is that such alteration is the  
1248 normal process that occur to various extents in evolving magmatic arc volcanoes due to sub-  
1249 surface gas-solid reactions. The correlation of porphyry copper formation with processes inside  
1250 active volcanoes does not however mean that all alkali or calc-alkaline volcanoes, past and  
1251 present, are host to porphyry copper formation. Their relative economic potential arises  
1252 primarily from the relative fertility, with respect to copper, of the magmatic source regime that  
1253 sustains an active volcano.

1254

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1256

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1264

1265

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1595 calc-alkaline trend: new volatile data for Aleutian magmas and a new tholeiitic index.  
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- 1597

1598 Figure 1. Location of the 3.3-3.6 Ma Grasberg porphyry copper deposit within a maar  
1599 volcanic vent cutting through a Mesozoic carbonate-siliciclastic basement rock sequence  
1600 (Leys et al., 2020; Leys et al., 2012).

1601  
1602 Figure 2 Distribution of selected minerals and metals in a cross section of the Grasberg  
1603 deposit relative to the estimated paleosurface as defined in Mernagh et al., (2020).

1604  
1605 Figure 3 (a) Geology and b) alteration assemblage distribution on a SW-NE cross section  
1606 through the Grasberg deposit showing the locations of the samples discussed in this paper.  
1607 The alteration data, shown here in summary form, are discussed in detail by Leys et al.  
1608 (2020). The distinct Heavy Sulphide zone adjacent to the diatreme margin is comprised of  
1609 massive pyrite with variable amounts of chalcopyrite and minor covellite, sphalerite and  
1610 enargite (Leys et al., 2020). The solid lines are the track of drill holes that were collared  
1611 underground and for which the samples discussed in this paper were obtained. The general  
1612 location of the open pit float sample is shown with reference to the base of the pit at the time  
1613 of sampling. The dashed lines outline regions containing >1 wt% Cu. The approximate level  
1614 of the paleosurface is shown based on the data of Mernagh et al. (2020)

1615 .  
1616 Figure 4 Photographs of the potassium feldspar altered drillcore specimens used in this study.  
1617 a) Dalam Diorite (Tgdd) or occluded block of this in Dalam Fragmental Andesite (Tgdfa).  
1618 The sample is only partially altered and retains altered plagioclase feldspar and biotite  
1619 phenocrysts and a K-feldspar-rich matrix as described in the text. Anhydrite with associated  
1620 chalcopyrite and bornite occurs as narrow veins and as disseminated clusters through the  
1621 matrix, b) combined X-ray  $\mu$ CT and thermal neutron tomogram of sample G2, c) Intensely  
1622 potassic-altered Dalam Fragmental Andesite showing K-feldspar (grey-mauve) and  
1623 secondary biotite cut by quartz-anhydrite veining and associated chalcopyrite and bornite, d)  
1624 combined X-ray  $\mu$ CT and thermal neutron tomograph of sample G7, e) intense muscovite-  
1625 quartz (phyllic) altered open pit sample containing pyrite and a vein with bornite (bn) and  
1626 anhydrite (anh), and f) polished slab of GP from the wallrock adjacent to the anhydrite-  
1627 sulphide vein. Sample locations are shown in Figure 3.

1628  
1629 Figure 5.  $^{\text{TM}}$ QEMSCAN mineral map for a cross section of the Dalam Diorite subcore (G2)  
1630 showing the relative abundance of altered plagioclase and 'biotite' phenocrysts, through-  
1631 going fractures and healed microfractures that are filled by anhydrite, chalcopyrite, bornite  
1632 and K-feldspar with lesser albite. High resolution maps for specific sites of interest (SOI)  
1633 areas 1 and 2 are shown in Figure and Figure 8. Only principal phases are shown and the full  
1634 scan image is provided in the Supplement. Plagioclase solid solution is provided as a colour  
1635 scale between labradorite and albite composition in the legend and note that the primary  
1636 phenocryst composition is andesine.

1637  
1638 Figure 6 a) High resolution mineral map of the area SOI 1 shown in Figure for sample G2.  
1639 Note the specific association of Ca-depleted plagioclase (albite) with the vein margin  
1640 adjacent to sulphide and anhydrite nucleation and growth in the vein. Anastomosing veinlets  
1641 of albite penetrate across the phenocrysts. K-feldspar replacement of the phenocryst margin  
1642 is evident together with anastomosing vein networks of K-feldspar through the phenocryst.  
1643 There is void space along the vein margin that either are primary porosity remaining after  
1644 vein formation ceased or, less likely plucking during polishing. b) Relative ternary ratios of  
1645 Ca, Na and K element concentrations in area SOI 1. The element distributions demonstrate  
1646 the nucleation and growth of albite adjacent to the fracture channel with release of Ca to  
1647 nucleate vein anhydrite. The map also shows the concomitant dissolution and replacement of

1648 the plagioclase by K-feldspar due to infiltrated K from the matrix and dissolution of biotite as  
1649 discussed in the text.

1650

1651 Figure 7 Alteration feldspar compositions from samples G2 (area Y in Figure 6) and G7 in  
1652 comparison with primary magmatic feldspar compositions at Grasberg (grey shaded area)  
1653 from Paterson (2004).

1654

1655 Figure 8. Sample G2: High resolution mineral map of area SOI 2 ( Figure 5) showing the  
1656 replacement of primary biotite by phlogopitic biotite and K-feldspar.

1657

1658 Figure 9. Comparison of EDS spot analyses of the biotite phenocrysts in the area of interest  
1659 SOI 2 of sample G2 (Figure 5) and in sample G7 (Figure 10).

1660

1661 Figure 10. a) High resolution QEM mineral map for sample G7. b) enlarged to show the  
1662 margin of the pre-alteration quartz vein that is now fractured and infilled by anhydrite,  
1663 sulphide and alkali feldspar. c) zoomed image to show the location of molybdenite(mo), other  
1664 sulphides and corundum (crn).

1665

1666 Figure 11. a) <sup>TM</sup>QEMSCAN mineral map showing intense illite-quartz alteration in sample  
1667 GP from the Grasberg open pit (Figure ). The image shows the upper part of a 91mm long  
1668 scan extending from an extensional vein of bornite-chalcopyrite-anhydrite into the altered  
1669 Dalam host rock and towards another vein. Well-crystallized illite/muscovite (45.6 area %)   
1670 pseudomorphically replaces primary plagioclase, biotite and hornblende, and quartz (37.9  
1671 area%) replaces the primary matrix. Chalcopyrite (2.2 area%), pyrite (1.1 area%) and  
1672 anhydrite (8.3 area %) are disseminated as isolated grains and infilled microfractures through  
1673 the wallrock. Minor phlogopite, apatite and rutile are present and there is residual biotite  
1674 distal to the vein. No sodium is present in the illite. b) shows the polished slab of sample GP  
1675 whose central section was scanned for the QEM mineral variety map shown in a), and c) is a  
1676 zoomed in part of the full image that is several mm below a) and shows calcite and anhydrite  
1677 occurring together: the full image is provided in the Supplement.

1678

1679 Figure 12. Distribution of microporosity in the feldspar assemblage across the plagioclase  
1680 phenocryst margin in the region POR that is located in Figure . a-d are high resolution back  
1681 scattered and secondary electron images of a part of this region. The inset shows part of the  
1682 area segmented with the same colour legend as in Figure 6. Abbreviations: quartz, qz; K-  
1683 feldspar, or; albite, ab; plagioclase, plag and phlogopite, phl.

1684

1685 Figure 13 a) Unsegmented X-ray  $\mu$ CT tomogram of subcore of G2 showing veins and the  
1686 distribution of altered phenocrysts at a voxel resolution of 5.3  $\mu$ m. b) 2D microporosity map  
1687 of the X-ray  $\mu$ CT section equivalent to the mineral map shown in Figure 5, where blue  
1688 registers regions of essentially no porosity (<1% voxel porosity), grey to black indicates  
1689 regions of high voxel porosity 1 -10%, and red indicates regions of >10% voxel porosity. c)  
1690 reproduces Figure 5 in order to provide reference for the microporosity slice of the subsample  
1691 tomogram. Region 1 locates one of the altered plagioclase phenocrysts, regions marked 2  
1692 identify altered magmatic biotite and region 3 focusses on the matrix assemblage between  
1693 phenocrysts.

1694

1695 Figure 14 Visualization of the G7 sample as a  $\mu$ CT tomogram slice (voxel resolution  
1696 5.3 $\mu$ m) showing the general texture of the rock matrix, fractured quartz veins with anhydrite  
1697 and silicate fracture fill and Cu-Fe sulphides (c.f. Figure ). a) and b) show the distribution of

1698 microporosity using the same colour scheme as in Figure 13. The tomogram is for a lozenge-  
1699 shaped sample from the cut slab adjacent to that shown in Figure 4.

1700

1701 Figure 15. Examples of fluid inclusion trapped in anhydrite from Grasberg. (a) Vapor-rich  
1702 inclusions containing <20 vol% liquid, (b) Rare, liquid-rich inclusion with ~10 vol% vapor,  
1703 (c) and (d) irregularly shaped, liquid + vapor inclusions with <30 vol% vapor. These  
1704 inclusions did not freeze at temperatures as low as -180 C, which may indicate a CaCl<sub>2</sub>  
1705 dominant aqueous phase.

1706

1707 Figure 16 Schematic showing the principal components of the hydrodynamics of a volcanic  
1708 hydrothermal system in the context of formation of a major porphyry copper deposit  
1709 associated with a maar volcano at Grasberg, Indonesia. The figure emphasizes the scales of  
1710 magmatic vapour expansion (light grey gradient infill) to form the plume and the peripheral  
1711 interactions with groundwater (Henley and McNabb 1978). The expansion path for magmatic  
1712 fluid is cartooned in as the blue arrow and its expansion through the high permeability  
1713 diatreme region shown figuratively as red arrows. The figure includes the outline (blue) of  
1714 the Grasberg porphyry copper deposit, relative to its estimated paleo-surface, as described in  
1715 the text.

1716

1717 Figure 17 Comparison of compositions of average phyllic and potassic K-feldspar altered  
1718 rocks with the composition of weakly altered Dalam volcanic and intrusive host rocks. a) and  
1719 b) show wt % analyses for the major rock forming oxide components in relation to the  
1720 composition of Dalam host rocks as described in the text. c) provides the comparison of  
1721 normalised water, Cu and S free potassic and phyllic altered rock compositions with the  
1722 Dalam host rocks.

1723

1724 Figure 18. Ternary plots showing the relative distribution of primary rock compositions  
1725 (purple) (normalised to anhydrous) and alteration minerals as described in the text.

1726

1727 Figure 19. Contoured enthalpy (blue) and entropy (black) data for pure water (Wagner and  
1728 Kretzschmar, 2008). Shown in red is an isentropic expansion path for magmatic gas through  
1729 the evolving Grasberg deposit, as discussed in the text, from lithostatic pressure within the  
1730 water-undersaturated melt field of dacite(shaded) as determined by (Holtz, 2001) to the  
1731 surface. The path illustrated is necessarily generalised and shown for the condition where the  
1732 expanded gas phase has a pressure less than lithostatic and higher than that of external  
1733 groundwater as described in the text. The open circles are the estimated pressure temperature  
1734 locations for samples G2, G7 and GP along the illustrative expansion path. Thermodynamic  
1735 data for water are a very good proxy for those of water-rich volcanic gas mixtures as  
1736 discussed elsewhere (Mernagh et al., 2020).

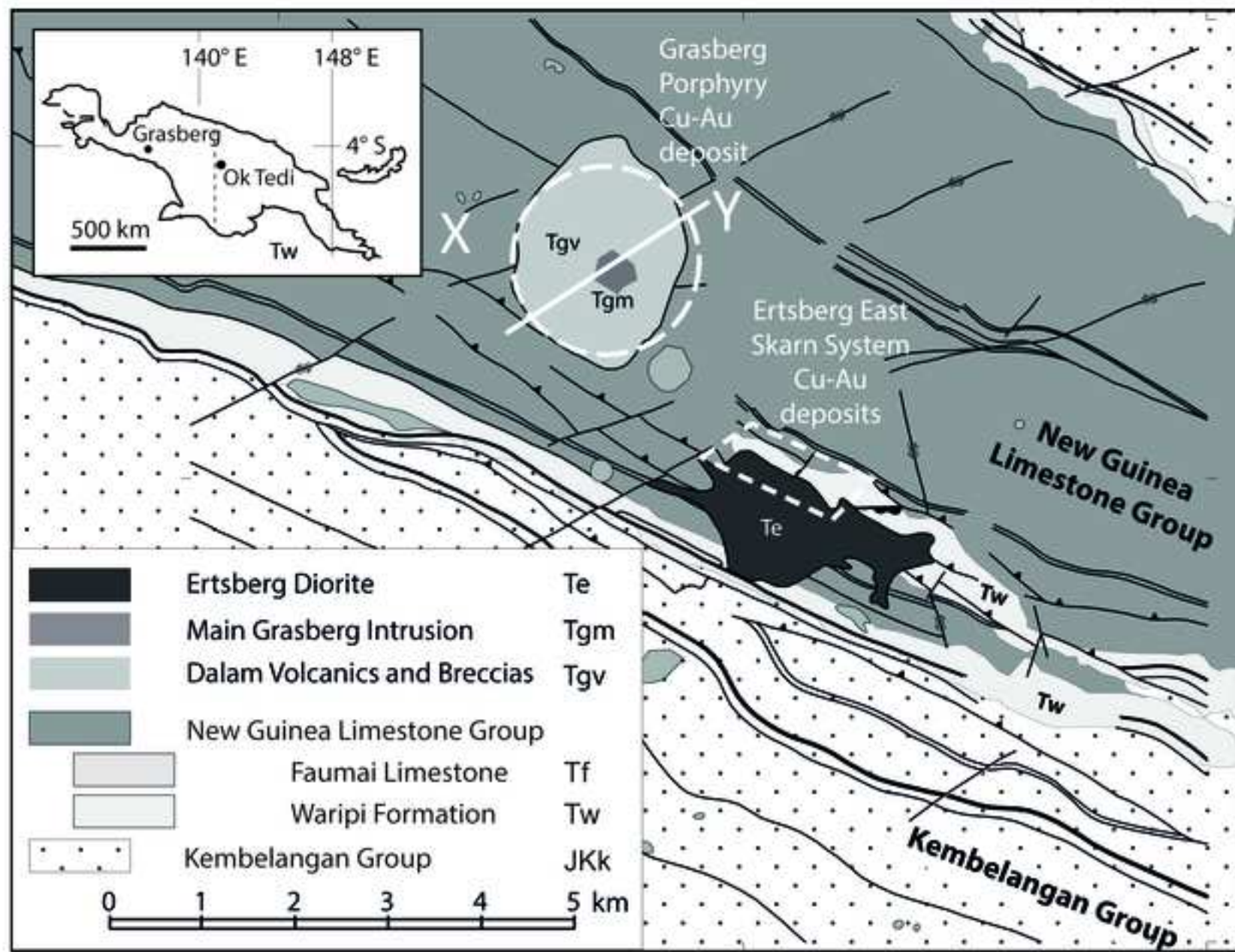
1737

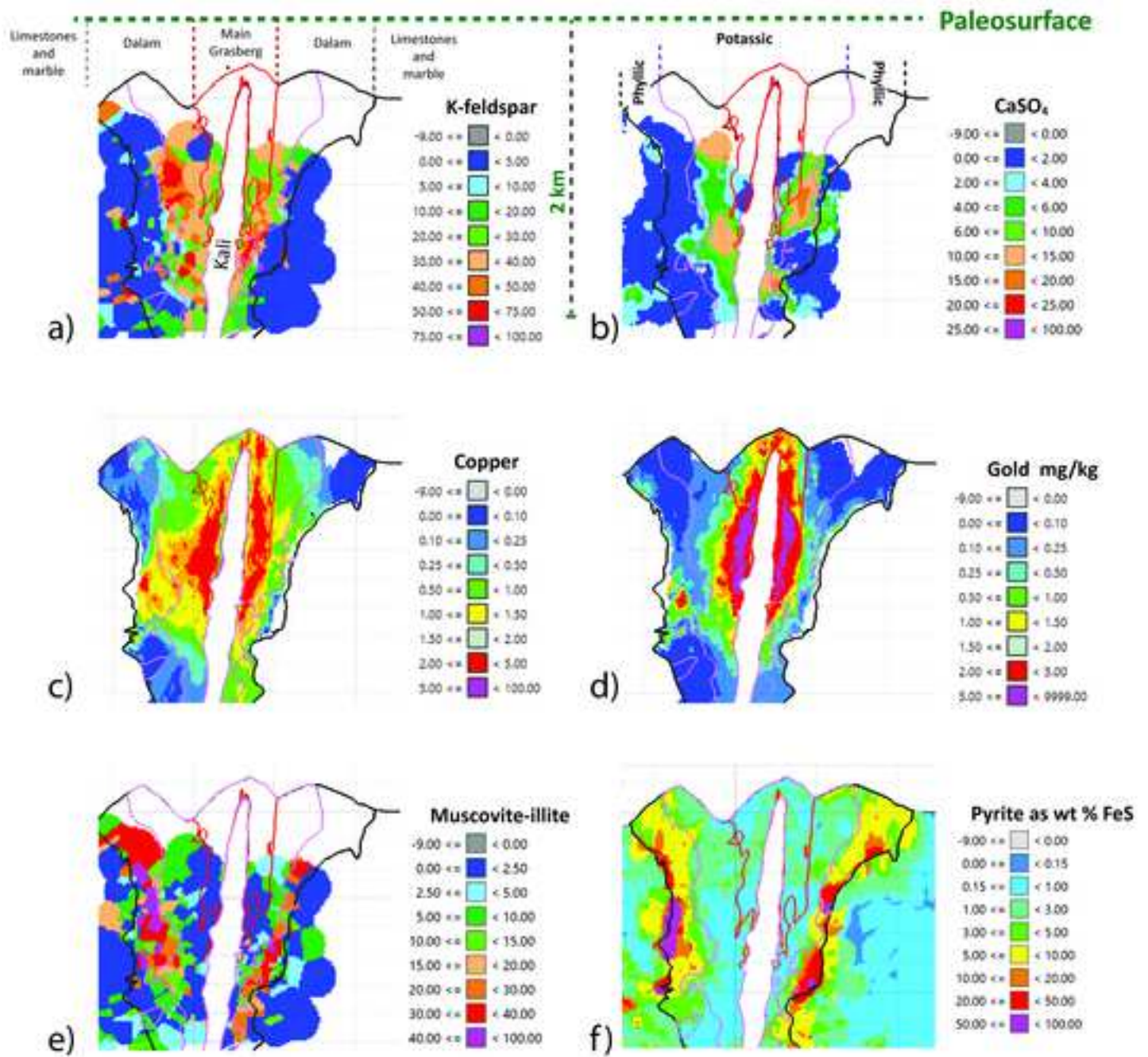
1738 Figure 20. a) illustrates the fluctuations of gas pressure in a fractured porous rock through  
1739 several cycles of hydraulic fracture formation. It is these cycles that control permeation of the  
1740 altering porous rock and egress of evolved gas mixtures into new and reopened fractures that  
1741 results in coupled alteration and mineralisation. b) The schema shows input (yellow) of  
1742 reactive magmatic gas containing Cu, Fe and other ore metals, through a fracture and relative  
1743 flow paths through the high permeability fracture vein and microporous wallrock. Reacted  
1744 gas outflux to the fracture is shown in white. Note that this flow schematic is very highly  
1745 generalised and is for illustration purposes alone. Ca removal from plagioclase leads to  
1746 anhydrite deposition in the fracture vein and macroporosity and sulphide formation. Alkali  
1747 feldspar also deposits in the developing vein as shown in Figure 5 and discussed in the text.

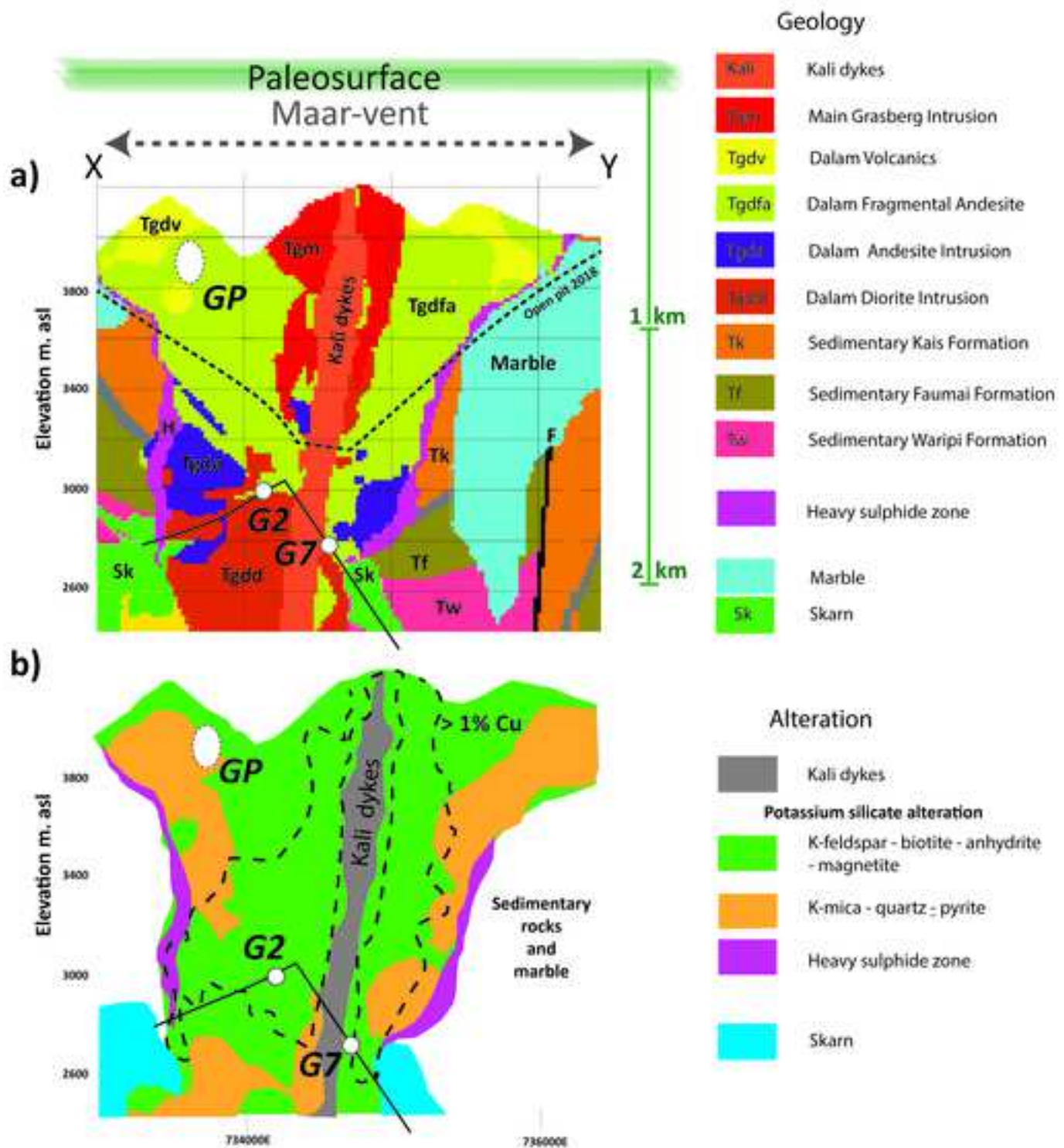
1748 Output (red) includes excess Na, K, Cu, and sulphur species. For convenience the schema is  
1749 illustrated using the Na-Ca-K element map provided in Figure 6.  
1750

1751 Table 1. Average whole rock analyses of variously altered Dalam stage rocks (MacDonald  
1752 and Arnold, 1994) from a suite of 1400 outcrop and drillhole samples. The data were  
1753 normalized after removal of the LOI and S in the original data (up to 5.5 and 3.8 wt %,  
1754 respectively),  
1755 Table 2. Volumes of potassic and phyllic in the Grasberg porphyry copper deposit and their  
1756 average mineral compositions based on proprietary XRD data kindly provided by P.T.  
1757 Freeport Indonesia  
1758 Table 3. Upper and lower pressure, density and temperature limits for alteration processes for  
1759 the 3 samples discussed in this paper  
1760 Table 4. Relative proportion of minerals (by area %) in the QEM mineral variety maps  
1761 provided in Figure 5 and Figure 10 for samples G2 and G7. Mineral abundances above 0.5  
1762 volume percent. Note that plagioclase per cents report to the appropriate part of the  
1763 plagioclase solid solution series for each sample with andesine dominating the plagioclase.  
1764 Table 5. a) Average major oxide compositions and standard deviations of potassic and phyllic  
1765 altered rocks at Grasberg. The data have been recalculated water-free and normalized after  
1766 removal of minor elements and of S and Cu as introduced elements. b) Major element  
1767 compositions of least altered Dalam volcanic and intrusive rocks (Table 1) and the average  
1768 altered rocks converted to atomic proportions and normalized to 3 oxygen atoms. The  
1769 proprietary alteration composition data were kindly provided by P.T. Freeport Indonesia.  
1770 Table 6 . Reference magmatic gas phase composition. This representative gas analysis for arc  
1771 volcanic systems is one that was sampled by Wahrenberger (1997) in a Kudryavy Volcano  
1772 (Russia) fumarole at 920 °C and discussed further in terms of gas phase speciation and redox  
1773 state by Henley and Seward (2018) and by Henley and Fischer (2021).  
1774 Table 7. Estimation of the minimum mass of water and water-rock ratio for the formation of  
1775 the Grasberg porphyry copper deposit based on the average compositions of the phyllic and  
1776 potassic altered rocks at the mine scale and the ratio of H<sub>2</sub>O:SO<sub>2</sub> in a representative high  
1777 temperature volcanic gas. Note that w/r is a minimum value since the calculation here  
1778 assumes complete reaction; incomplete reaction would increase the time-integrated w/r.\* The  
1779 average of the w/r values for the two alteration zones.  
1780  
1781  
1782  
1783  
  
1784  
  
1785  
  
1786





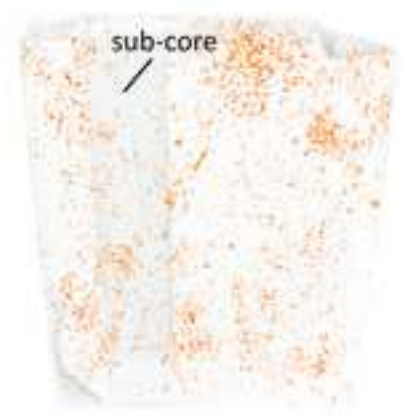




a) G2: GRD36-02 -18.8m.



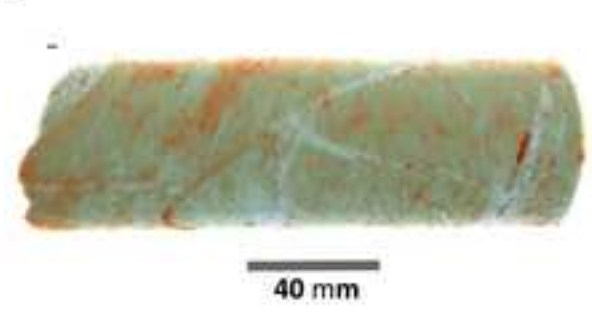
b) sub-core



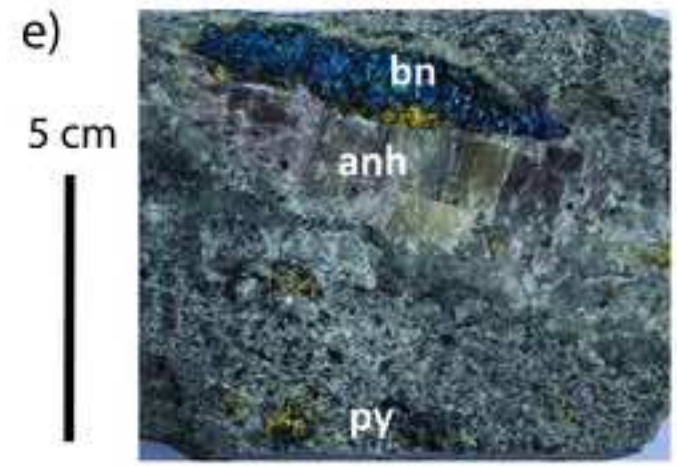
c) G7: GRD36-07. 292.6m



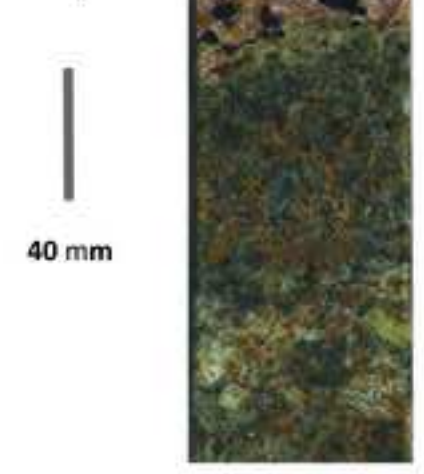
d)

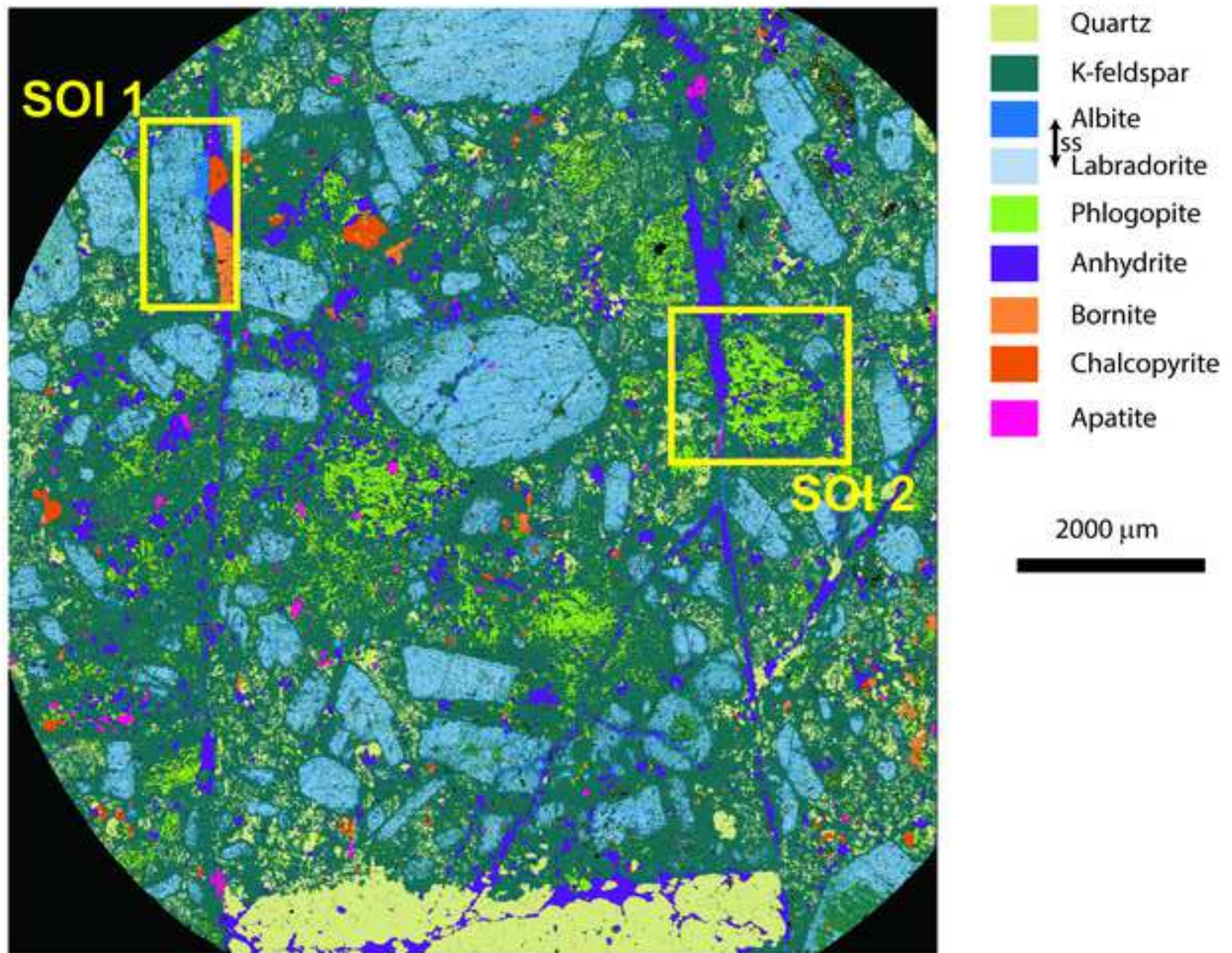


GP: Open Pit

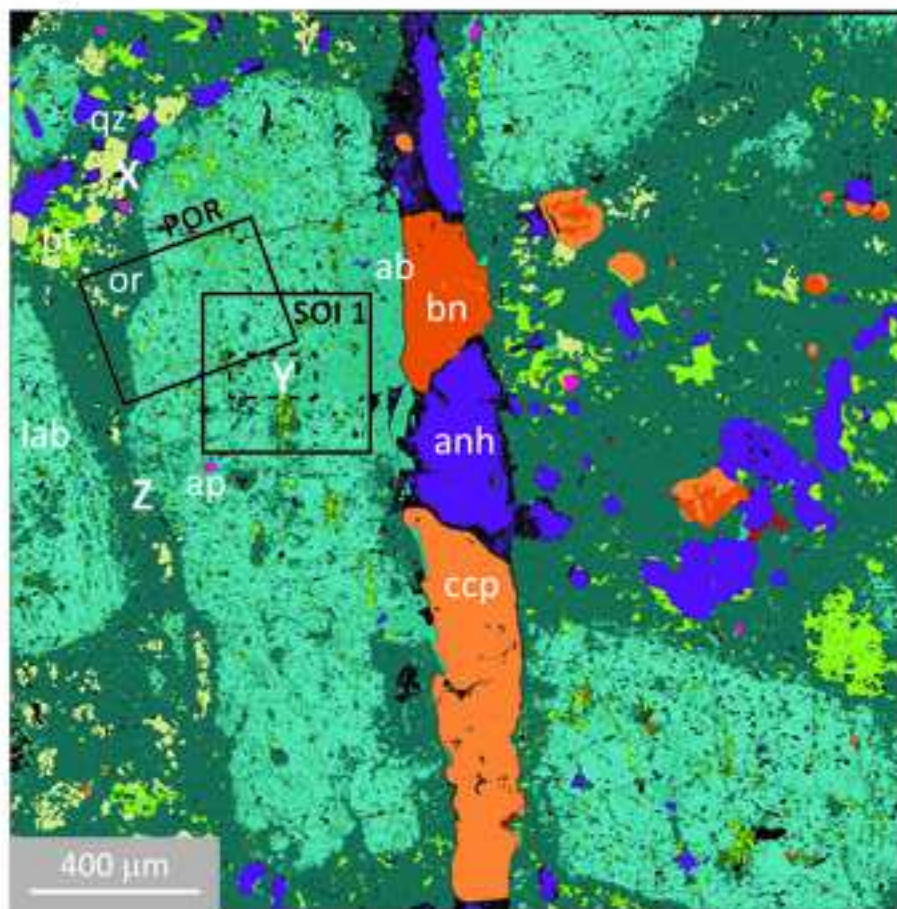


f)

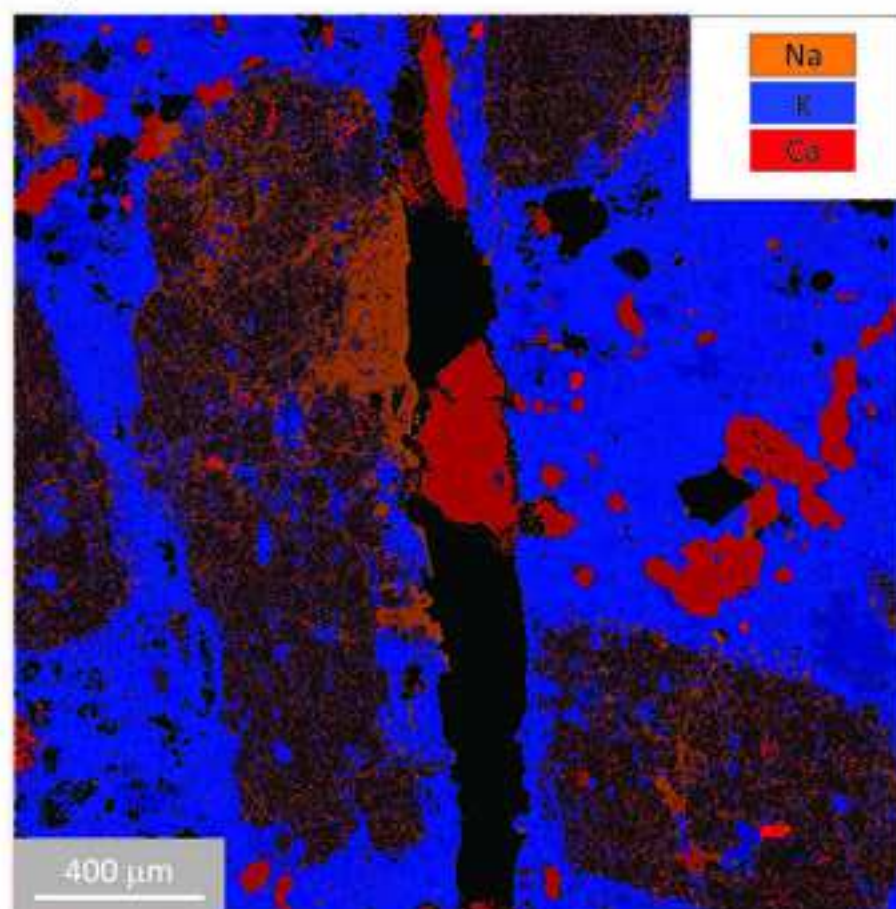


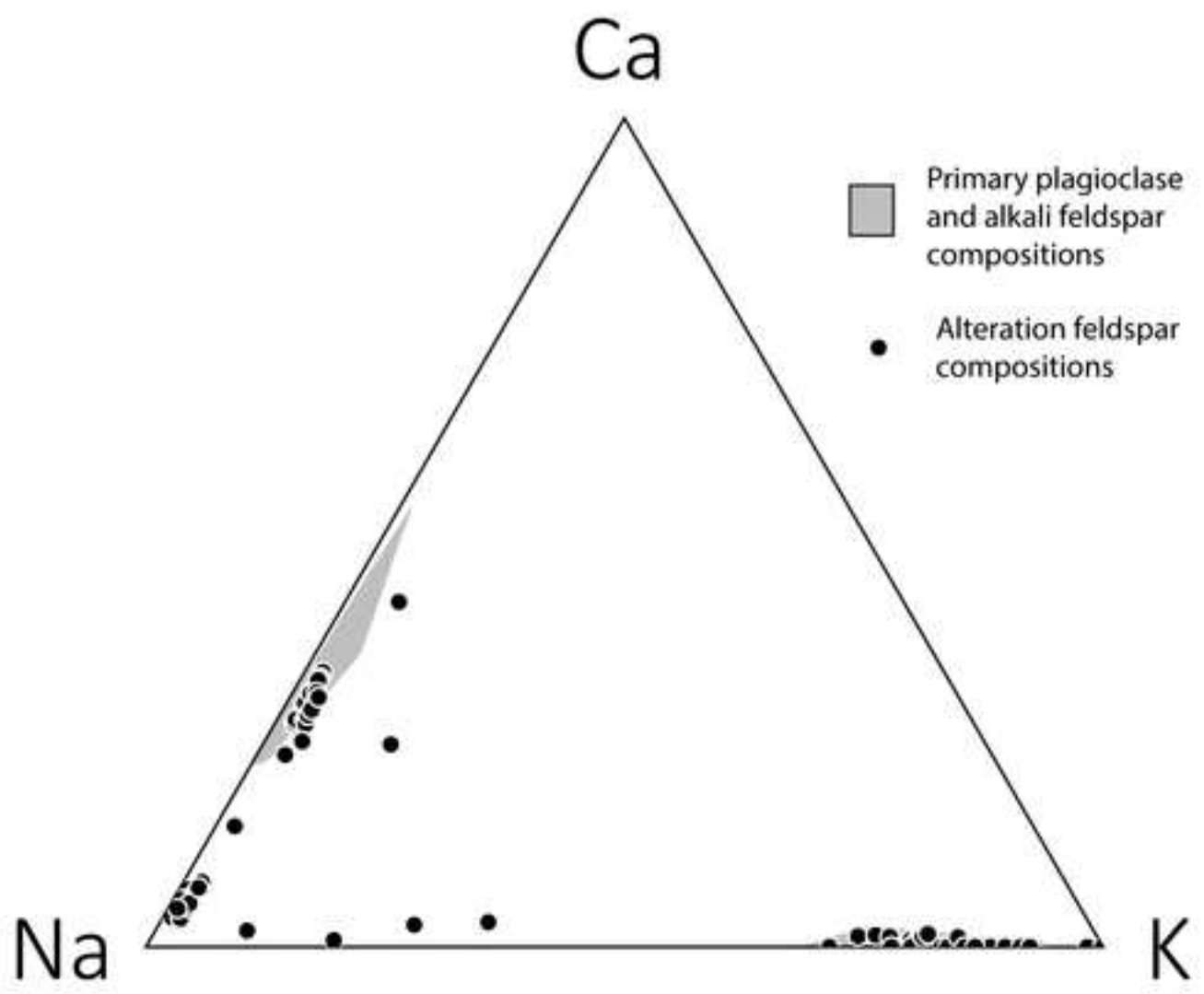


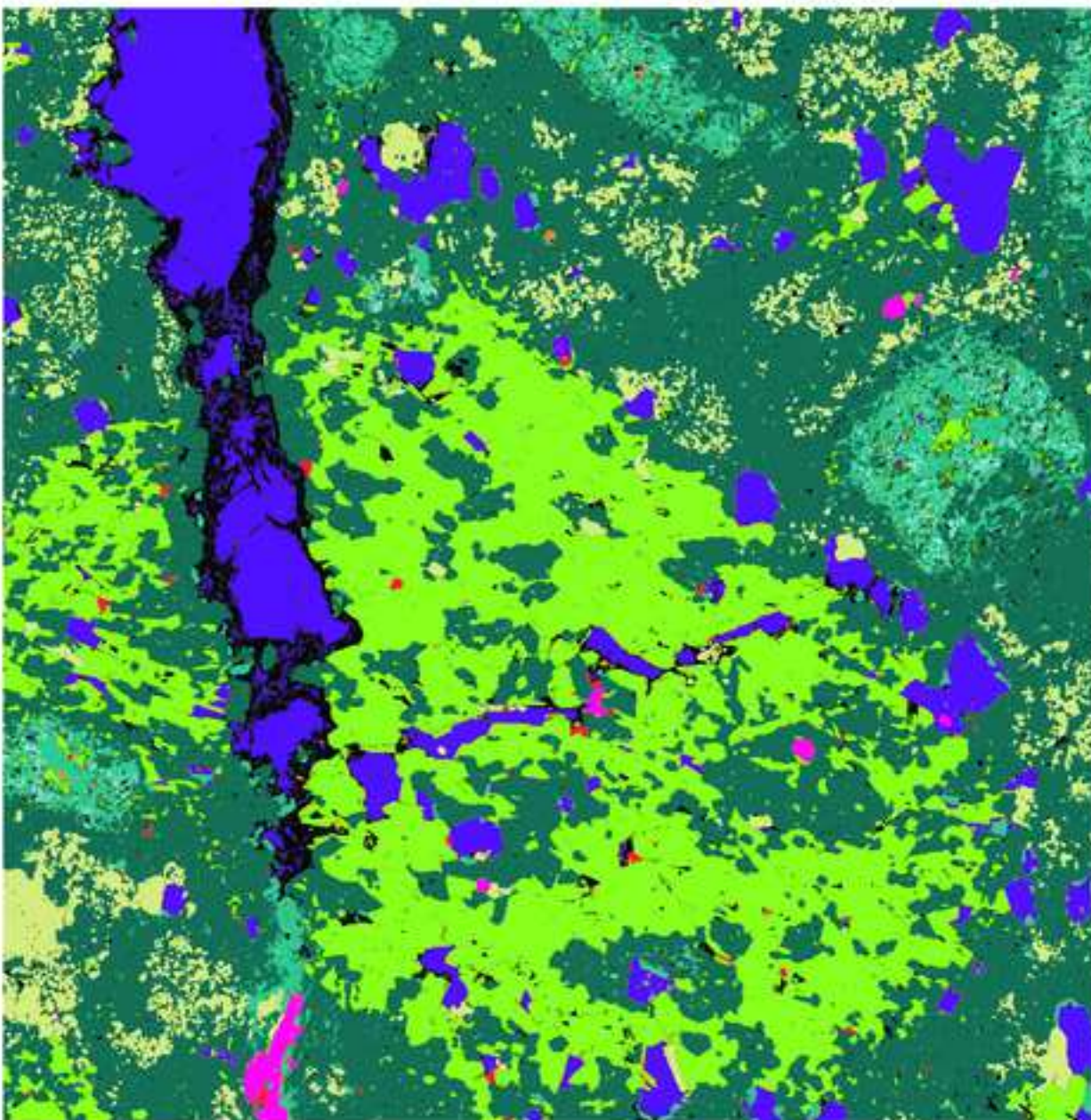
a)



b)





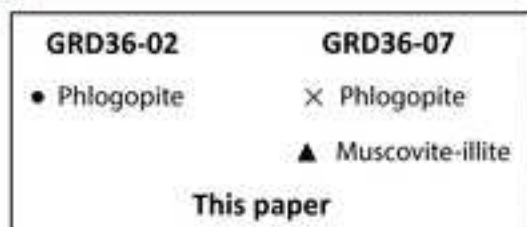
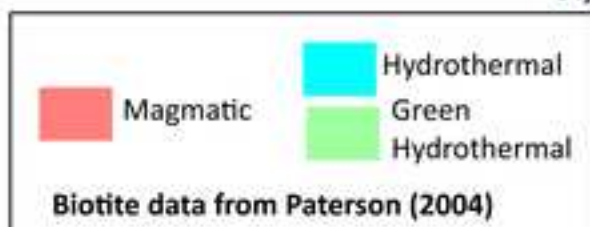
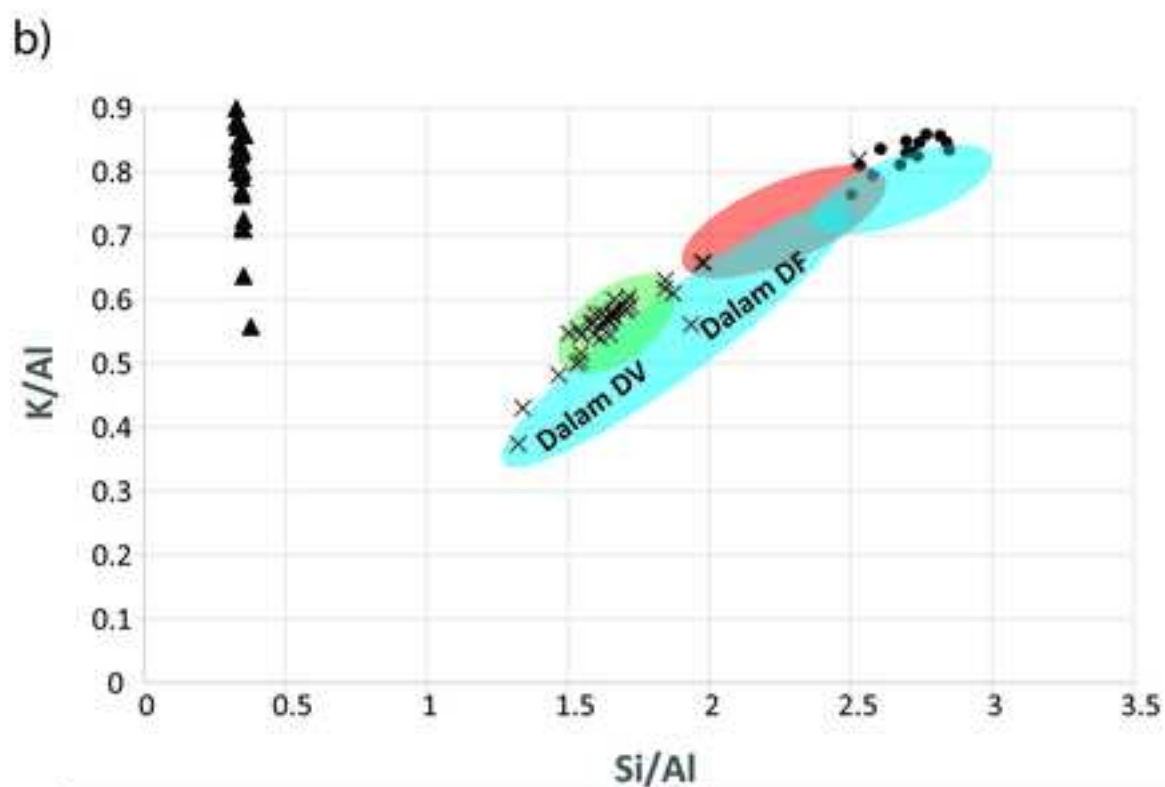
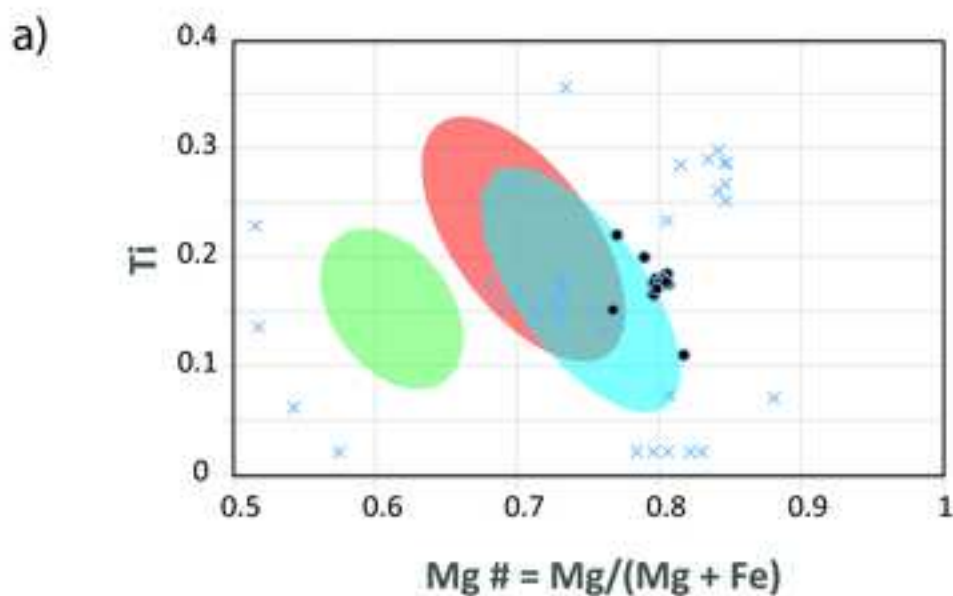


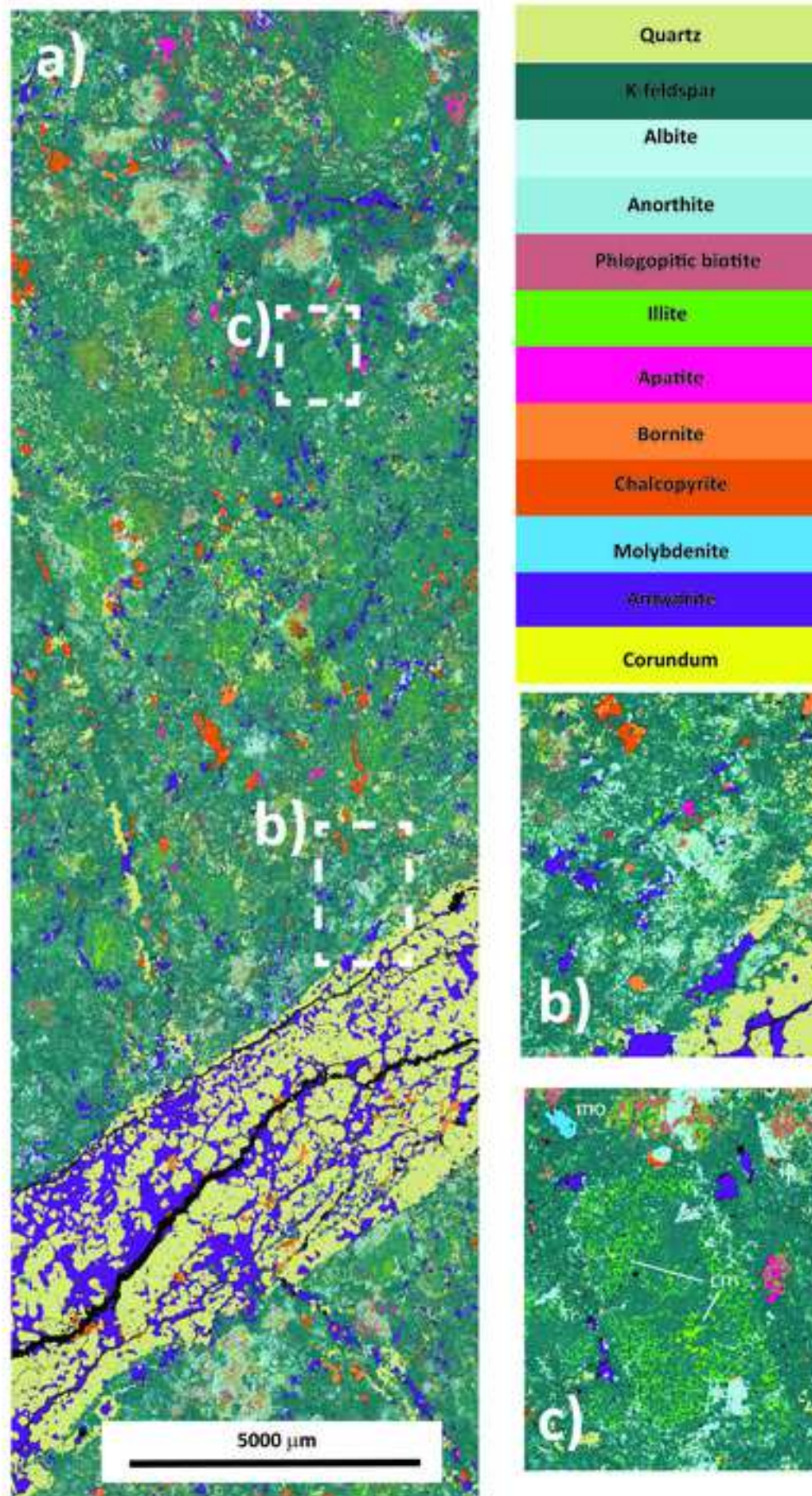
- Quartz
- K-feldspar
- Albite
- Anorthite
- Phlogopite
- Bornite
- Chalcopyrite
- Anhydrite
- Apatite

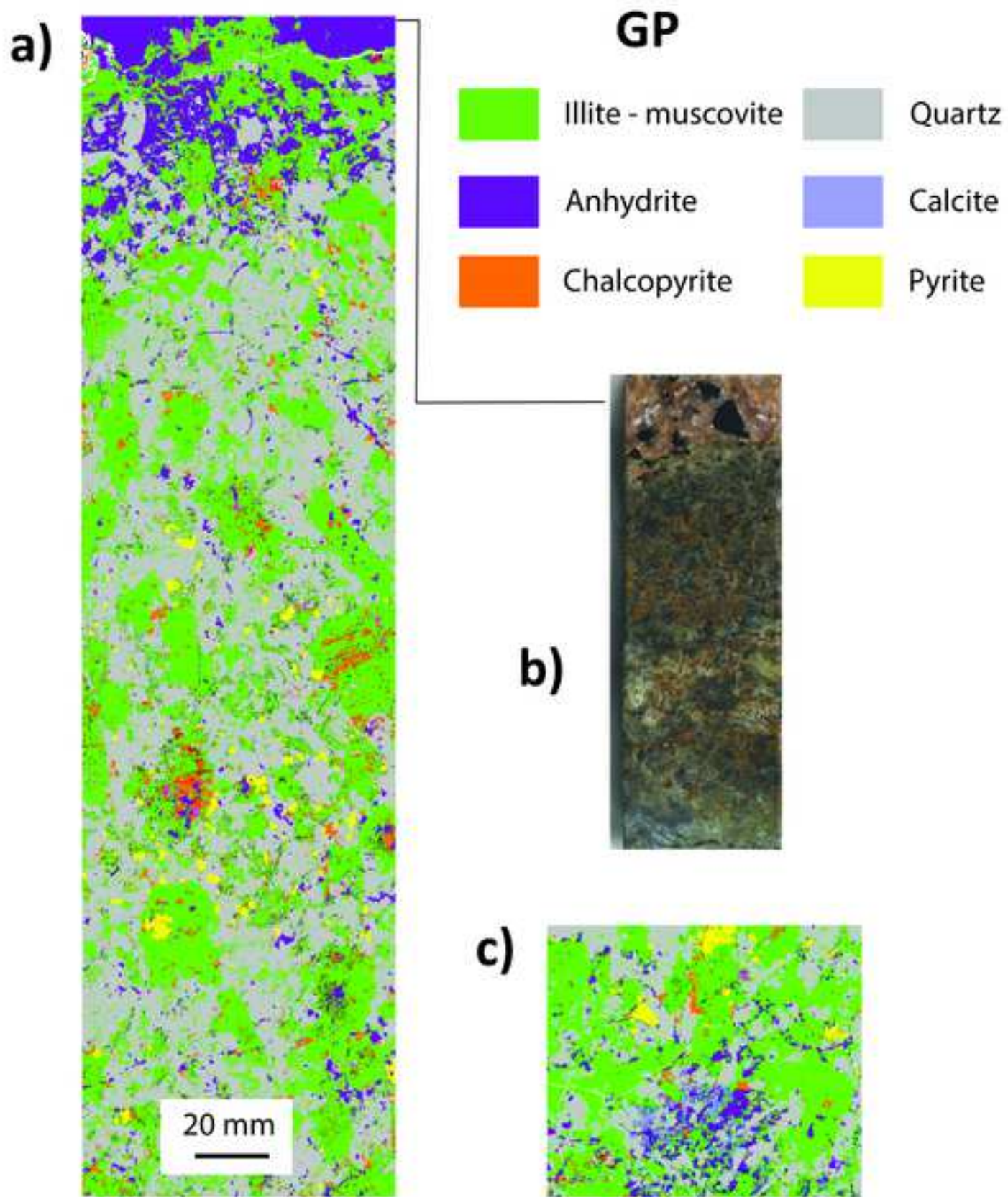
400  $\mu\text{m}$

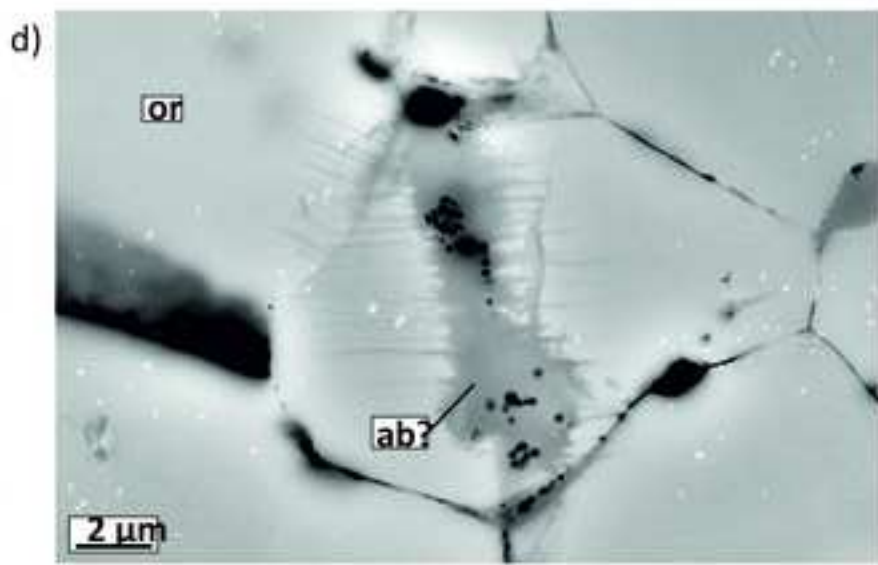
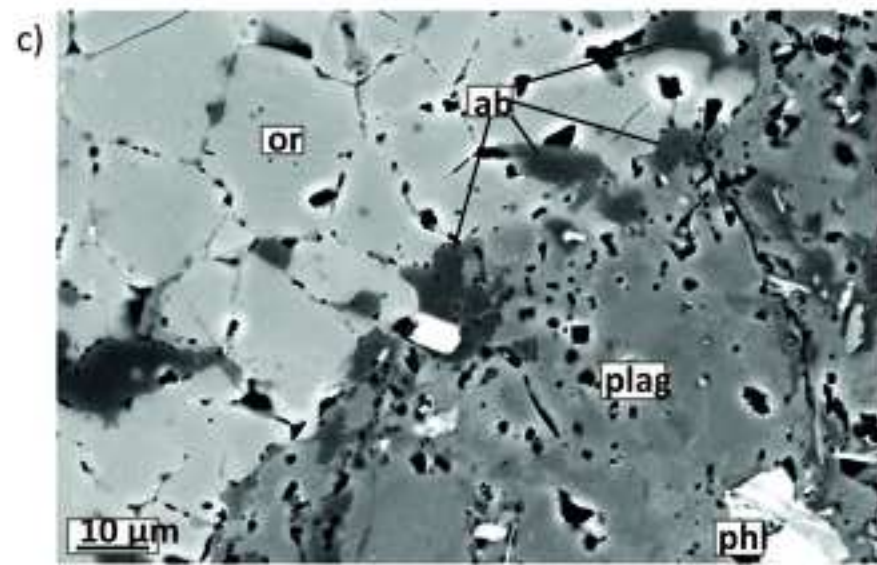
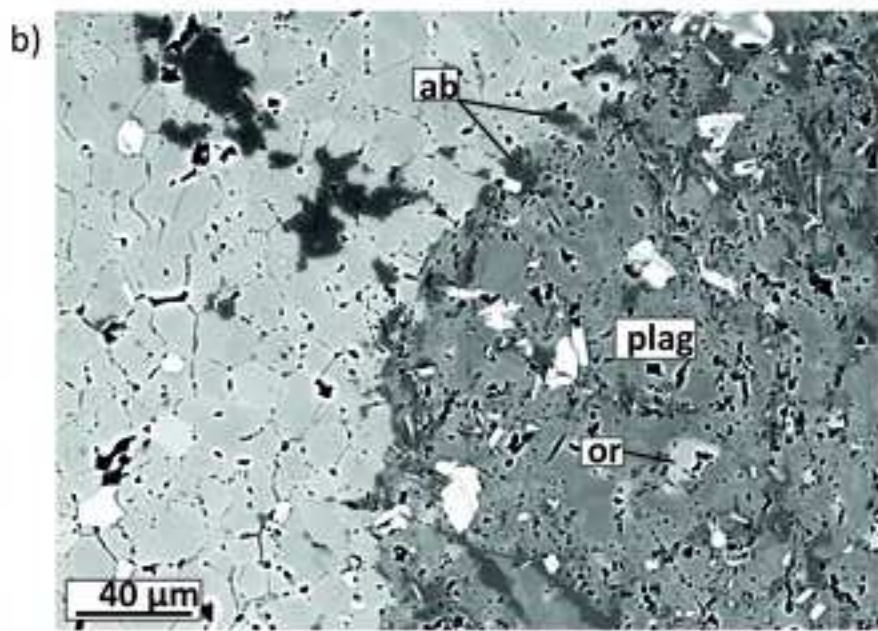
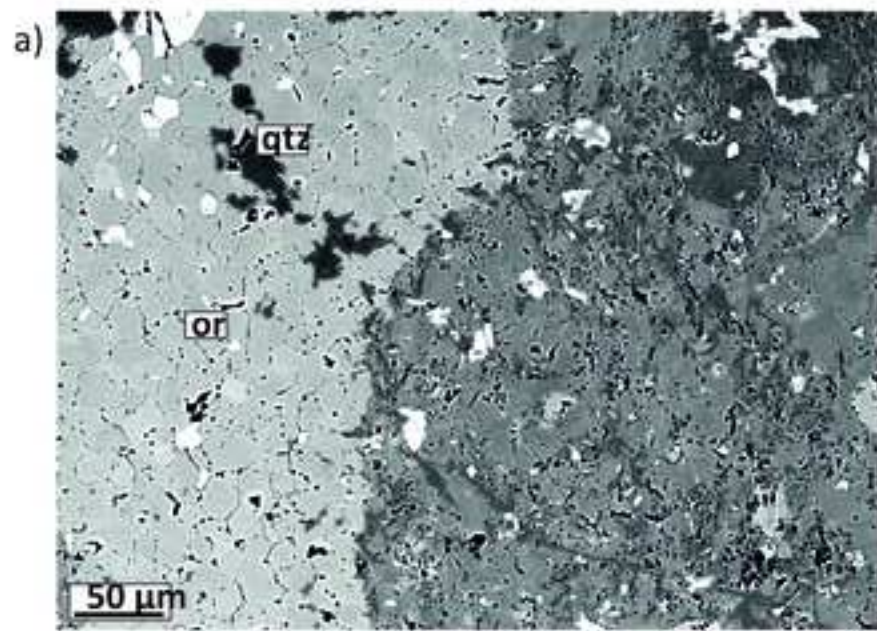
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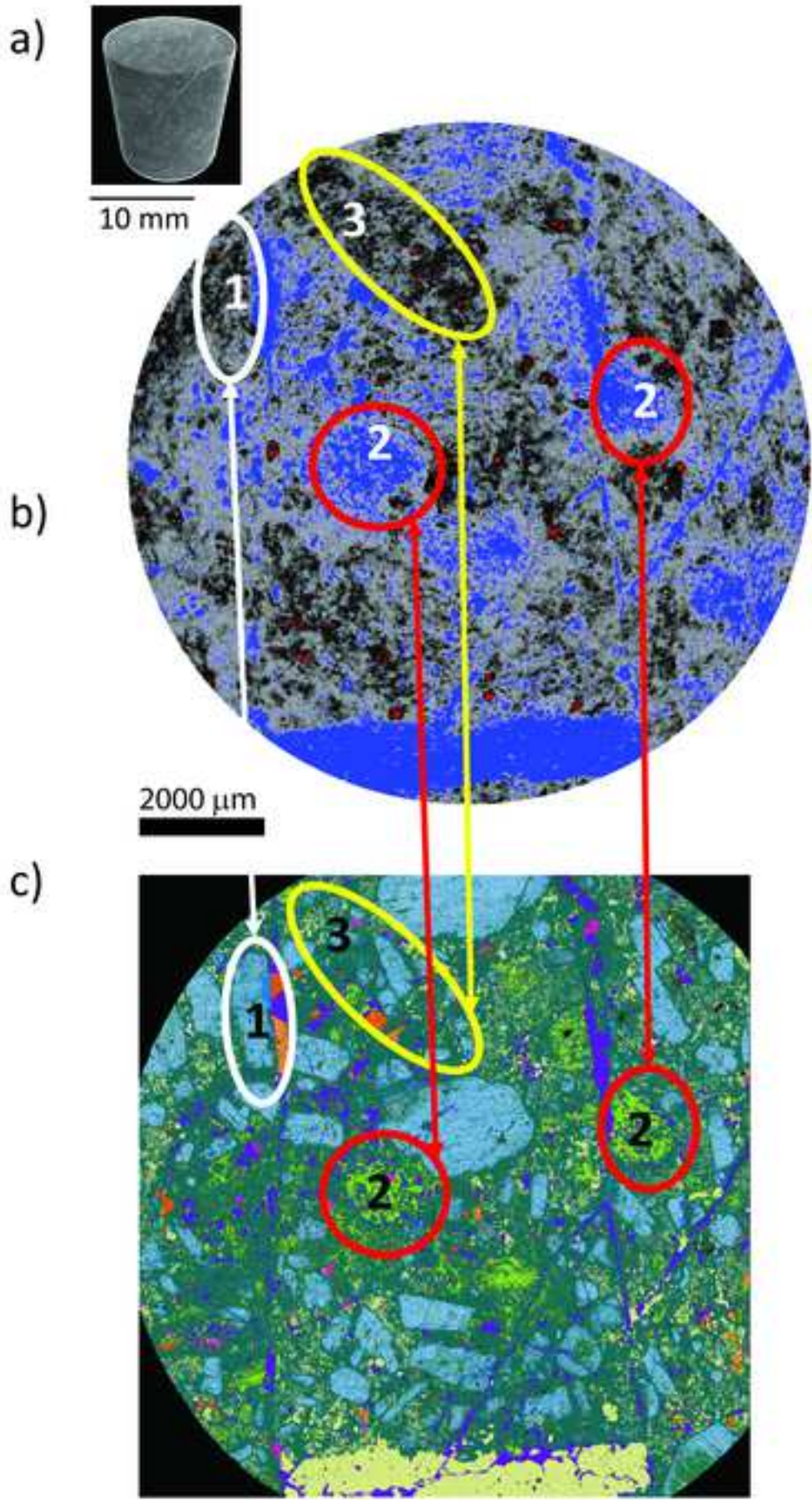


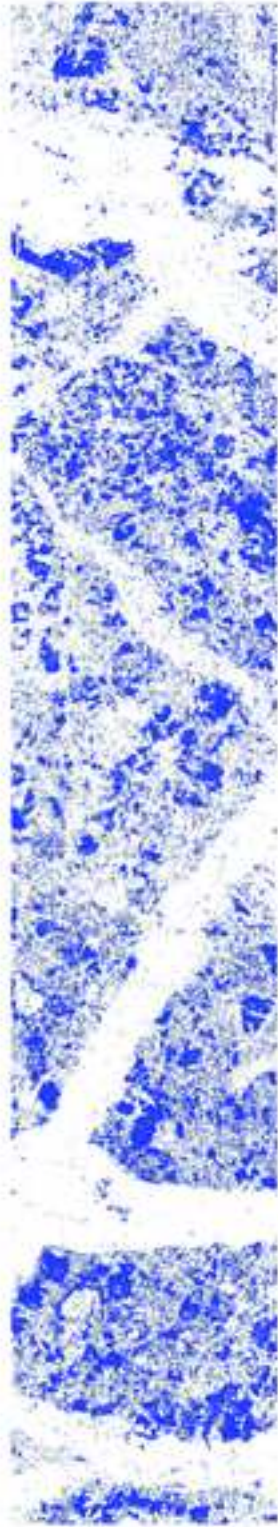






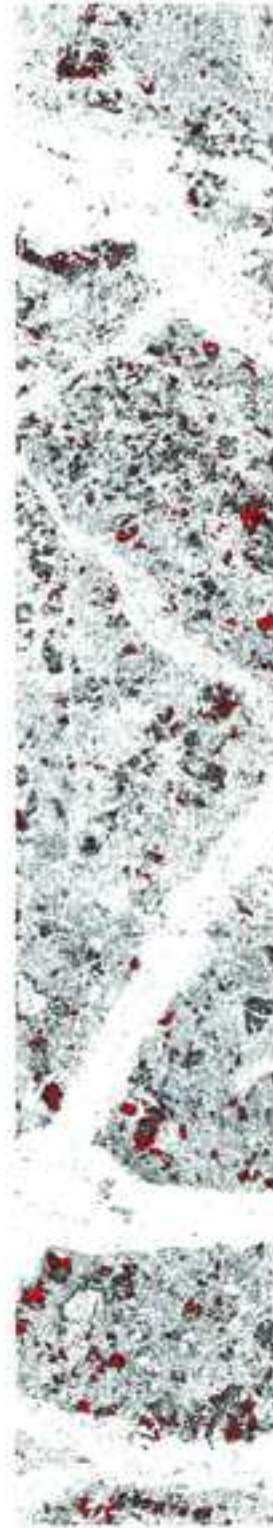




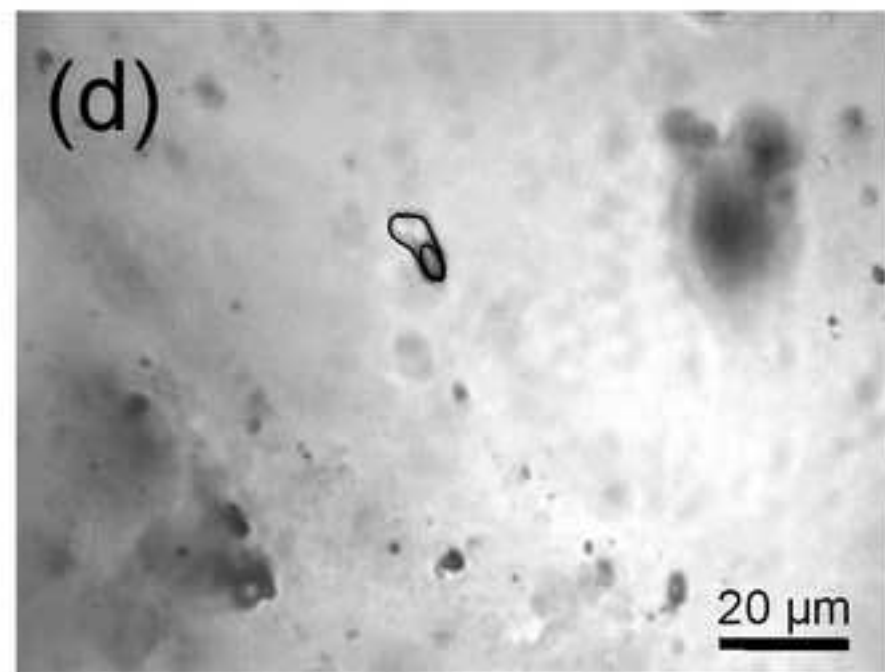
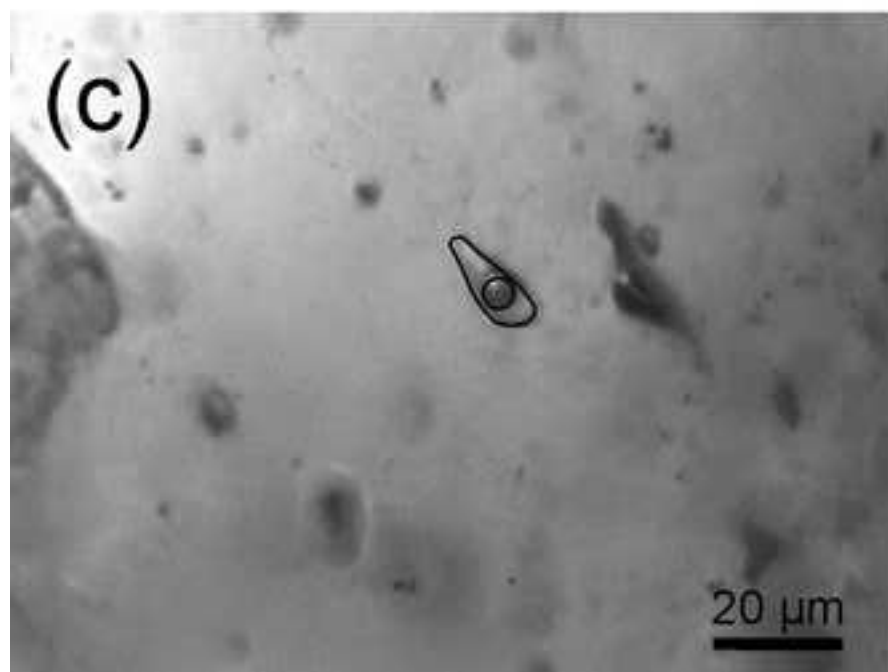
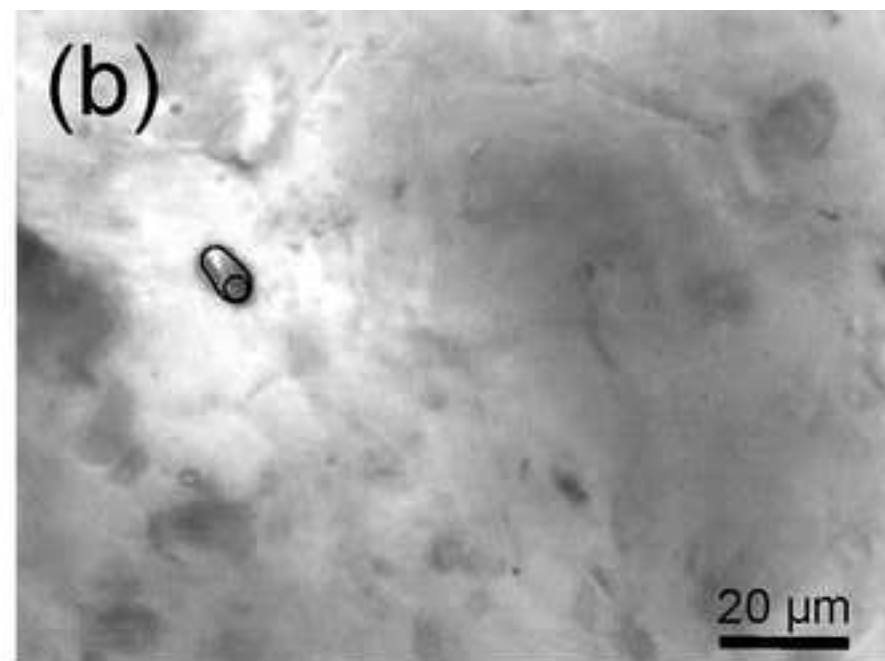
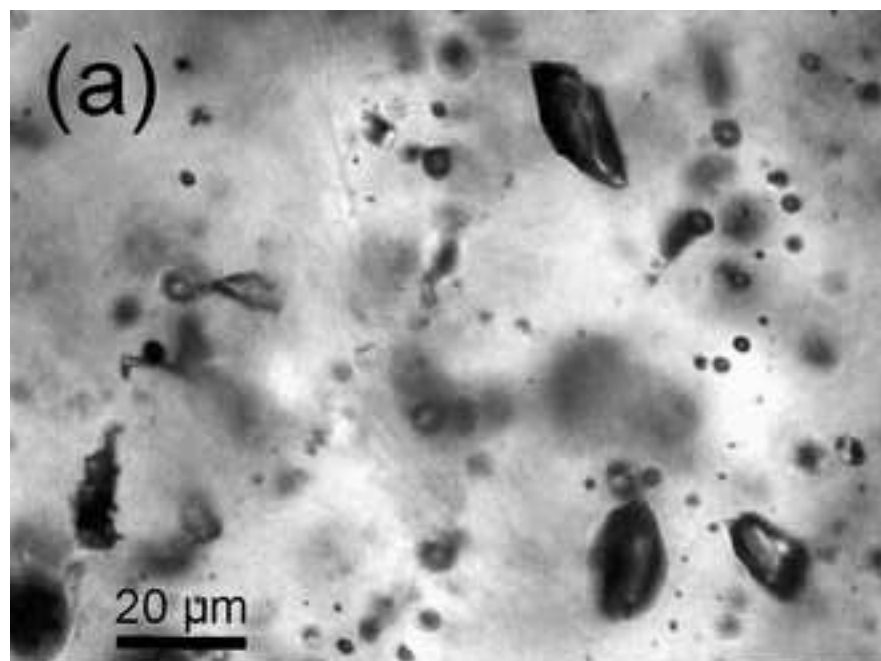


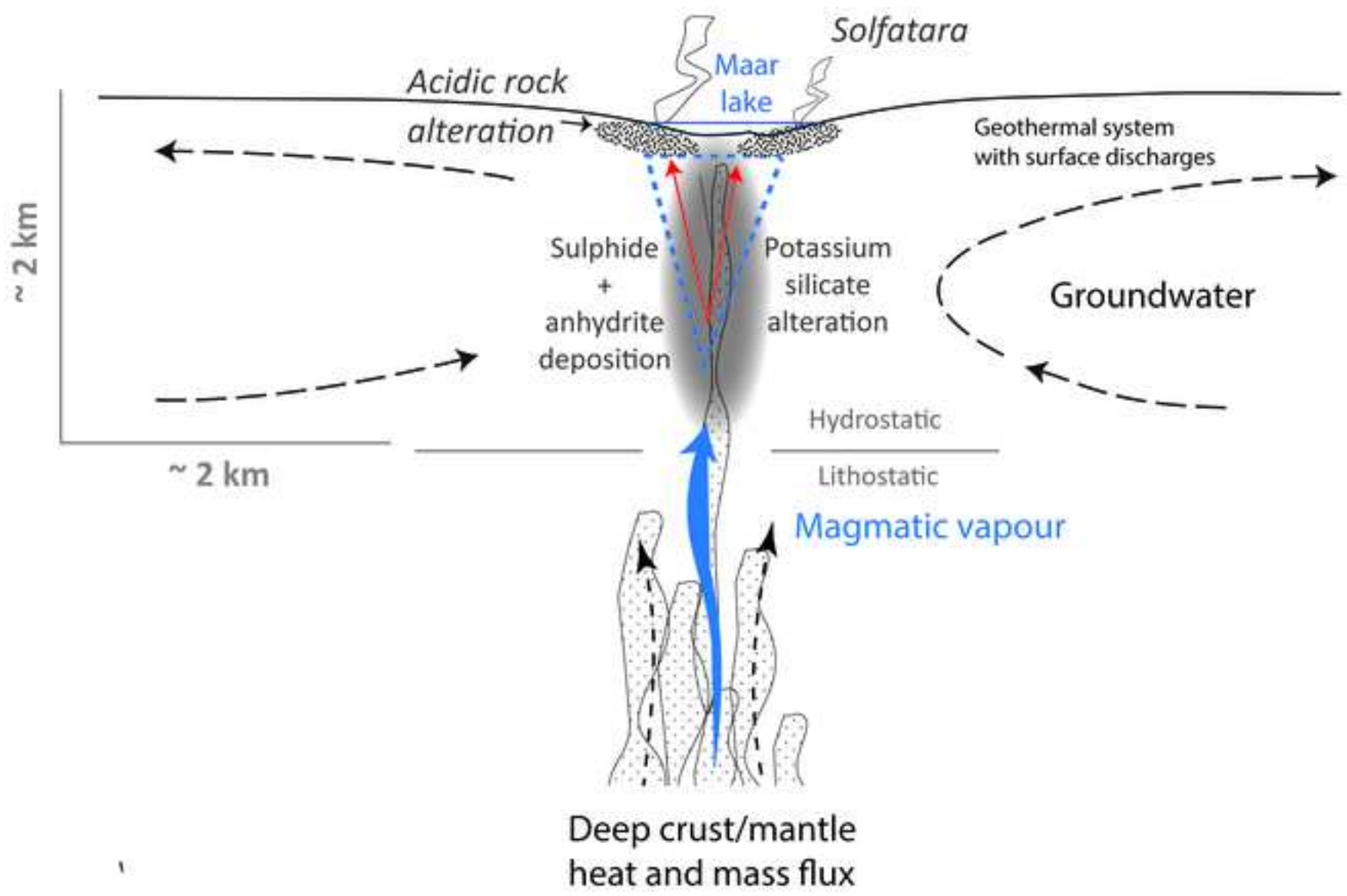
a)

7 mm

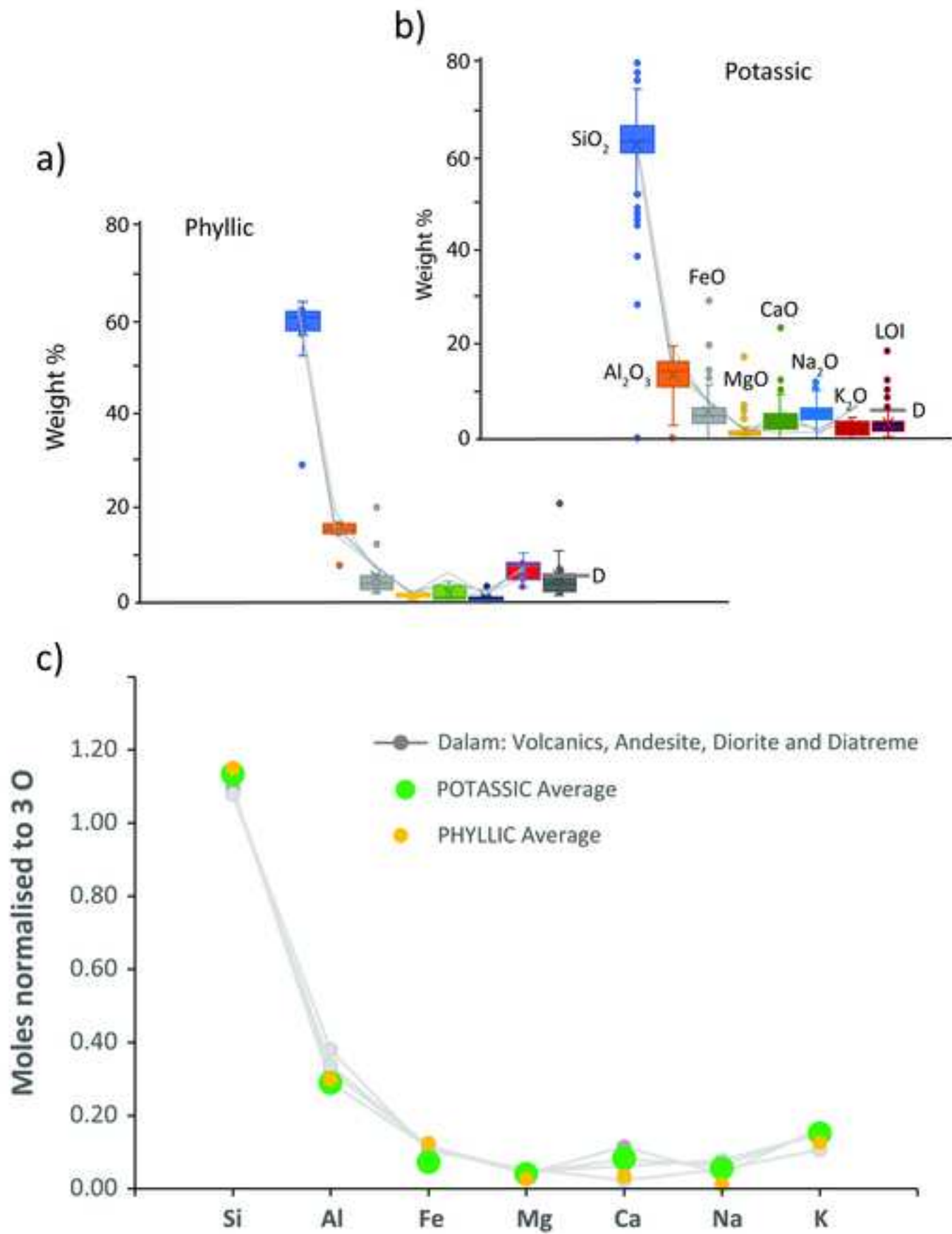


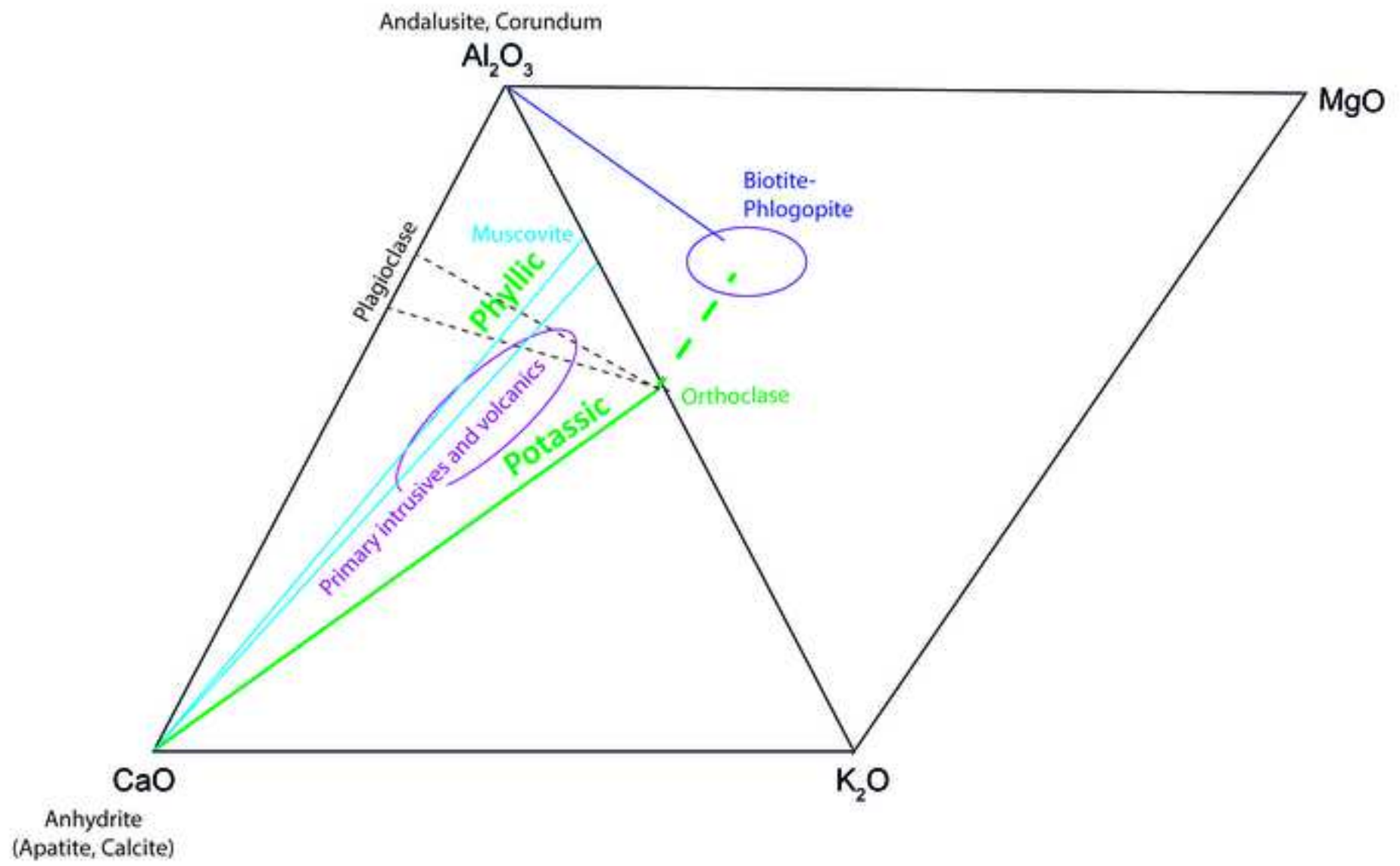
b)

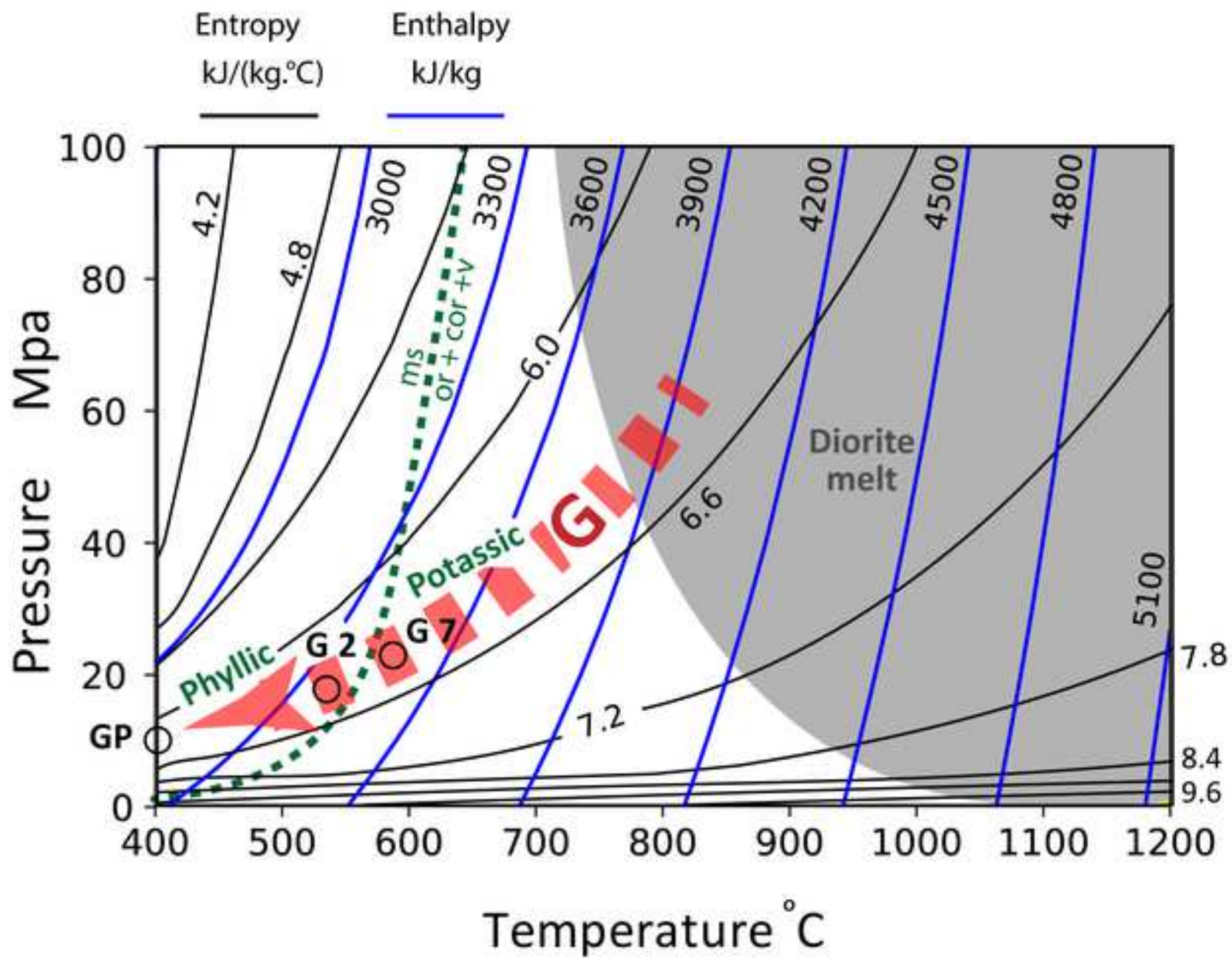


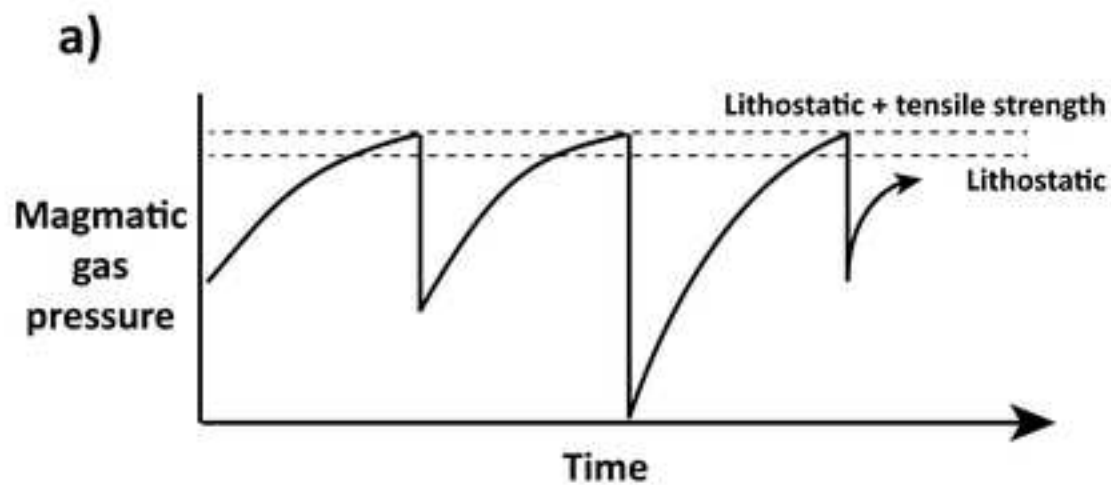






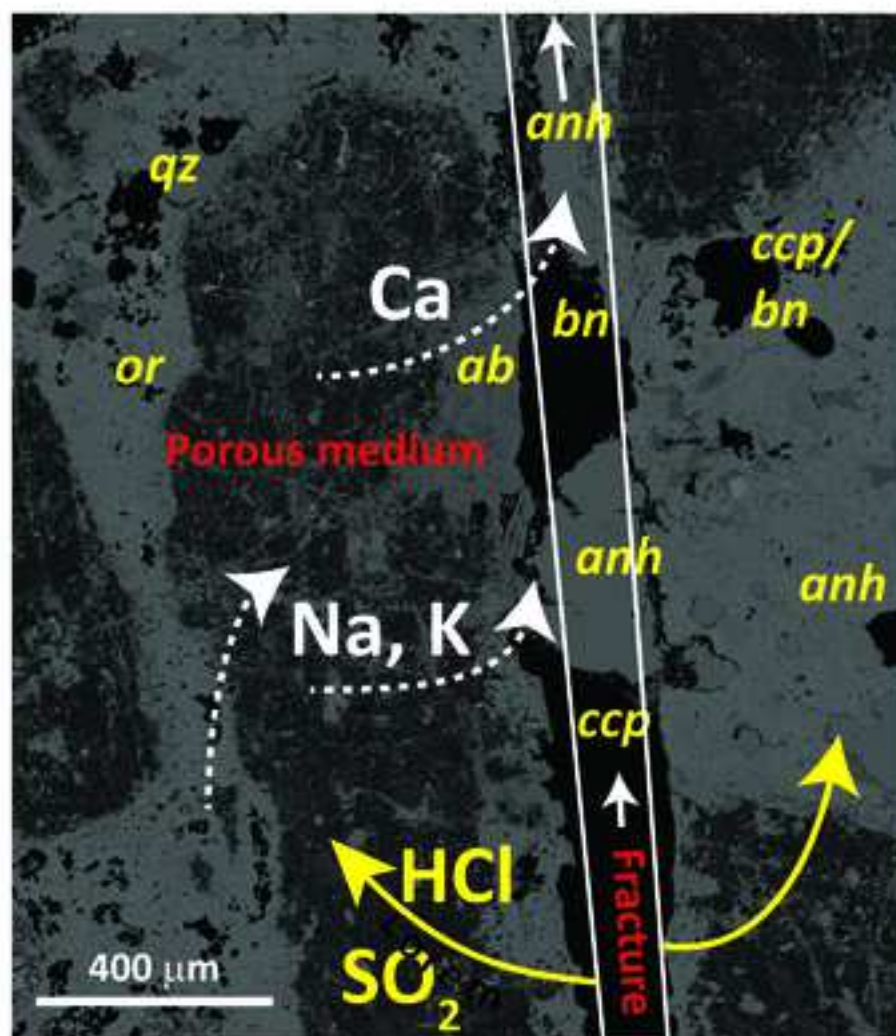






b)

Out: excess Na, K, Mg,  $H_4SiO_4$ ,  $Al(OH)_3$ ,  
unreacted  $SO_2$ , Cu and Fe



In: Cu, Fe,  $SO_2$ ,  $HCl$ ,  $CO_2$ ,  $H_2O$

wt %	Dalam Volcanics	Dalam Diatreme	Dalam Diorite	Dalam Andesite
SiO <sub>2</sub>	63.83	61.90	62.25	61.73
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	18.94	15.49	14.00	16.29
FeO	7.36	7.85	7.62	7.97
MgO	2.09	1.72	1.56	1.82
CaO	1.29	4.26	6.06	3.25
Na <sub>2</sub> O	1.58	1.88	1.18	2.29
K <sub>2</sub> O	4.91	6.89	7.33	6.65

<b>Alteration Type</b>	<b>Potassic</b>	<b>Phyllic</b>
<b>Total volume m<sup>3</sup></b>	1,052,750,250	1,168,114,500
<b>No. of XRD samples</b>	2,906	824
	Weight %	Weight %
<b>Quartz</b>	25	30
<b>K Feldspar</b>	30	11
<b>Plagioclase</b>	14	3
<b>Muscovite</b>	7	19
<b>Biotite-Phlogopite</b>	5.2	3.2
<b>Anhydrite</b>	4	1.8
<b>Gypsum</b>	3.7	1.8
<b>Kaolinite</b>	0.19	0.47
<b>Swelling clay</b>	1.4	2.2
<b>Magnetite</b>	0.71	0.58
<b>Pyrite</b>	1.9	14.3
<b>Chalcopyrite</b>	1.48	1.38
<b>Bornite</b>	0.33	0.06
<b>Covellite</b>	0.14	0.2
<b>Amphibole</b>	0.3	0.7
<b>Pyroxene</b>	0.2	0.7

**Total wt %**

95.05

88.99

Sample	Elevation <sup>a</sup> m.a.s.l.	Paleo- depth m.	PI+ $\Theta$ MPa <sup>b</sup>	P <sub>groundwater</sub> MPa	T <sub>s</sub> <sup>c</sup> °C	$\rho_g$ kg.m <sup>-3</sup>
G2:GRD36-02	3050	1450	40.1	14.2	535	42
G7:GRD36-07	2800	1700	46.9	16.7	565	48
GP: Open Pit	>3700	<800	<22.6	<7.8	<415	<24

<sup>a</sup> Elevations are with respect to present day sea level.

<sup>b</sup> Maximum (Lithostatic + tensile strength) and minimum (groundwater) pressures at the estimated paleo-depths

<sup>c</sup> T<sub>s</sub> is the equivalent temperature at maximum pressure along an isentropic expansion path. based on the model described in the text for S<sub>H<sub>2</sub>O</sub> ~ 6.5 kJ/(kg.°C)

<sup>d</sup>  $\rho_g$  is the gas phase density at the pressures and temperatures along the isentropic expansion path taking water as the dominant component (>90 mole percent) of magmatic gas mixtures.





	G2	G7
K-feldspar	50.32%	51.99%
Quartz (Silica)	11.40%	14.76%
Labradorite solid solution	18.89%	
Anorthite solid solution	9.83%	2.14%
Albite	9.06%	11.50%
Gypsum + Anhydrite	6.10%	6.46%
Phlogopitic-biotite	5.92%	4.85%
Muscovite/Illite	1.69%	4.09%
Bornite	0.55%	0.71%
Chalcopyrite	0.50%	0.89%
Apatite	0.48%	0.30%
Corundum		0.60%

a)	Number of samples analysed	SiO <sub>2</sub>	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	FeO	MgO	CaO	Na <sub>2</sub> O	K <sub>2</sub> O
Average Potassic	1450	65.58	14.20	5.02	1.57	4.48	1.66	6.88
Std Deviation		9.73	3.16	4.53	1.33	3.63	1.11	2.16
Average Phyllic	792	67.08	14.80	8.68	0.99	1.84	0.33	5.76
Std Deviation		14.92	4.61	7.55	1.69	3.24	0.57	2.63

b)	Si	Al	Fe	Mg	Ca	Na	K
Moles per 3 moles O							
Potassic Average	1.13	0.29	0.07	0.04	0.08	0.06	0.15
Phyllic Average	1.15	0.30	0.12	0.03	0.03	0.01	0.13
Dalam Volcanics	1.09	0.38	0.10	0.05	0.02	0.05	0.11
Dalam Diatreme	1.09	0.32	0.12	0.04	0.08	0.06	0.15
Dalam Diorite	1.10	0.29	0.11	0.04	0.11	0.04	0.16
Dalam Andesite	1.08	0.34	0.12	0.05	0.06	0.08	0.15

<b>Gas species</b>	<b>Mole %</b>	<b>Minerals</b>	<b>Mole %</b>
<b>H<sub>2</sub>O</b>	96.3	CaAl <sub>2</sub> Si <sub>2</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	0.094
<b>CO<sub>2</sub></b>	1.61	NaAlSi <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	0.047
<b>SO<sub>2</sub></b>	1.27	KAlSi <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	0.094
<b>HCl</b>	0.2	Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	0.0094
<b>HF</b>	0.03		
<b>H<sub>2</sub></b>	0.58		

	Volume km3	Rock kg	S wt%	kg H2O	Phyllic H2O	total kg water	w/r
Phyllic	1.17	2.99E+12	6.94	8.85E+12	5.98E+10	8.91E+12	2.98
Potassic	1.05	2.69E+12	3.26	3.74E+12	5.39E+10	3.80E+12	1.41
Total	<b>2.22</b>	<b>5.68E+12</b>		<b>1.26E+13</b>		<b>1.27E+13</b>	<b>2.24*</b>

None of the authors have any Conflicts of Interest to declare

No author statement is warranted



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**Supplementary Material**

Henley et al. Grasberg supplement.pdf

