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Formation of the Lunar Highlands Mg-suite as told by Spinel

Revision 1

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28

Abstract

29 Two competing hypotheses suggest lunar Mg-suite parental melts formed (1) by shallow-
30 level partial melting of a hybridized source region (containing ultramafic cumulates, plagioclase-
31 bearing rocks and KREEP), producing a plagioclase-saturated, MgO-rich melt or (2) when
32 plagioclase-undersaturated, MgO-rich melts were brought to plagioclase saturation during
33 magma-wallrock interactions within the anorthositic crust. To further constrain the existing
34 models, phase equilibria experiments have been performed on a range of Mg-suite parental melt
35 compositions to investigate which composition can best reproduce two distinct spinel
36 populations found within the Mg-suite troctolites – chromite-bearing (FeCr_2O_4) troctolites and
37 the more rare pink spinel (MgAl_2O_4 , or Mg-spinel) troctolites (PST).

38 Phase equilibria experiments at 1-atm pressure were conducted under reducing conditions
39 ($\log f\text{O}_2 \sim \text{IW} - 1$) and magmatic temperatures (1225 – 1400°C) to explore the spinel
40 compositions produced from melts predicted by the models above. Additionally, the
41 experimental data are used to calculate a Sp-Ol, Fe-Mg equilibrium exchange coefficient to
42 correct natural spinel for sub-solidus re-equilibration with olivine in planetary samples: Sp-Ol
43 $K_D^{\text{Fe-Mg}} = 0.044\text{Cr}_{\#_{\text{sp}}} + 1.5$ ($R^2 = 0.956$). Melts from each model ($\geq 50\%$ normative anorthite)
44 produce olivine, plagioclase and Mg-spinel compositionally consistent with PST samples.
45 However, chromite was not produced in any of the experiments testing current Mg-suite parental
46 melt compositions. The lack of chromite in the experiments indicates that current estimates of
47 Mg-suite parental melts can produce Mg-spinel bearing PST, but not chromite-bearing troctolites
48 and dunites. Instead, model calculations using the MAGPOX equilibrium crystallization program
49 predict chromite production from plagioclase-undersaturated melts ($< 20\%$ normative anorthite).
50 If so, experimental and model results suggest chromite in Mg-suite crystallized from plagioclase-

51 undersaturated parental melts, whereas Mg-spinel in the PST is an indicator of magma-wallrock
52 interactions within the lunar crust (a mechanism that increases the normative anorthite contents
53 of initially plagioclase-undersaturated melts, eventually producing Mg-spinel). The constraints
54 for magmatic chromite crystallization suggest Mg-suite parental melts were initially plagioclase-
55 undersaturated. In turn, a plagioclase-undersaturated Mg-suite parent is consistent with mantle
56 overturn models that predict Mg-suite parent magmas resulted from decompression melting of
57 early ultramafic cumulates produced during the differentiation of a global lunar magma ocean.

58

59

Introduction

60 The lunar highlands Mg-suite samples are comprised of plutonic to hypabyssal igneous
61 rock fragments and clasts including dunites, troctolites, pink spinel troctolites, norites, and
62 gabbronorites [e.g. *James* 1980; *Warren* 1993; *Papike et al.*, 1998; *Shearer et al.*, 2015].
63 Primitive olivine, orthopyroxene ($\text{high-Mg\#} = \text{Fo\#} = \text{Mg}/[\text{Mg} + \text{Fe}] \times 100$), and calcic-plagioclase
64 ($\text{high-An\#} = \text{Ca}/[\text{Ca} + \text{Na} + \text{K}] \times 100$) dominate the mineralogy of Mg-suite samples. Mg-suite
65 rocks are also among the most ancient samples returned from the Moon, dating to > 4.1 Ga [e.g.
66 *Nyquist and Shih* 1992, *Borg et al.*, 2013; *Carlson et al.*, 2014]. The primitive mineralogy
67 combined with ancient ages indicate Mg-suite samples can provide insight into the early lunar
68 interior and magmatic activity post-dating the differentiation of a global magma ocean [*Wood et*
69 *al.*, 1970, *Smith et al.*, 1970, *Walker et al.*, 1975, *Drake* 1976, *Norman & Ryder* 1979; *James*
70 1980; *Nyquist & Shih* 1992; *Warren* 1993; *Shearer et al.*, 2006; *Elardo et al.*, 2011; *Borg et al.*,
71 2013, 2015; *Carlson et al.*, 2014; *Shearer et al.*, 2015].

72 A positive correlation between the Mg# of mafic minerals and the An# of plagioclase
73 suggests that Mg-suite rock types are comagmatic (i.e., related by a common parental magma

74 crystallizing at < 0.3 GPa) [e.g. *Walker et al.*, 1976; *James* 1980; *Warren* 1986, *Shearer and*
75 *Papike* 2005; *Carlson et al.*, 2014]. Consistent with a common source, Mg-suite whole rock
76 analyses fall along a Lu-Hf isochron [*Carlson et al.*, 2014]. However, Mg-suite samples also
77 contain an evolved trace element signature (KREEP – K, rare earth element, and P) [e.g. *Warren*
78 1986; *Hess* 1994; *Papike et al.*, 1998; *Shervais and McGee* 1998; *Shearer and Papike* 2005;
79 *Longhi et al.*, 2010; *Elardo et al.*, 2011]. The pairing of primitive major element chemistry with
80 an evolved trace element signature indicates a more complex origin than crystal fractionation
81 alone [e.g. *Hess* 1994; *Longhi et al.*, 2010; *Elardo et al.*, 2011; *Shearer et al.*, 2015].

82 Along with elevated trace element concentrations, the pairing of forsteritic olivine and
83 anorthitic plagioclase in the Mg-suite troctolites also suggests an unusual petrogenesis [e.g.
84 *Warren* 1986; *Hess* 1994; *Wieczorek et al.*, 2006; *Longhi et al.*, 2010; *Shearer et al.*, 2015]. First,
85 the high-Fo# olivines constrain Mg-suite parental melts to have Mg#'s ≥ 86 , which would be the
86 most primitive melt composition on the Moon and suggests the Mg-suite parent is the least
87 fractionated melt of the lunar mantle [e.g. *Warren* 1986; *Hess* 1994; *Longhi et al.*, 2010].
88 Second, the pairing of forsteritic olivine with anorthitic plagioclase is unexpected since most
89 basaltic melts fractionate olivine (reducing the Mg# of the melts) prior to plagioclase saturation
90 [e.g. *Green et al.*, 1971, *Hess* 1994]. In this scenario, plagioclase precipitates with relatively
91 FeO-rich olivine (inconsistent with observed troctolite mineralogy).

92 Two competing petrogenetic models can explain the pairing of anorthitic plagioclase and
93 forsteritic olivine as well as the observed trace element enrichment within Mg-suite troctolites:
94 (1) shallow-level partial melting of a hybridized source region (containing ultramafic cumulates,
95 plagioclase-bearing rocks and KREEP) produces plagioclase-saturated, MgO-rich melts with a
96 KREEP signature [*Hess* 1994; *Shearer and Papike*, 1999, 2005; *Longhi et al.*, 2010; *Elardo et*

97 *al.*, 2011] and (2) plagioclase-undersaturated, MgO-rich melts are brought to plagioclase
98 saturation during magma-wallrock interactions with the lunar anorthositic crust (and KREEP)
99 [e.g. *Warren and Wasson* 1980; *Longhi* 1981; *James and Flohr* 1983; *Warren* 1986; *Ryder* 1991;
100 *Shervais and McGee* 1998, *Morgan et al.*, 2006; *Prissel et al.*, 2014a]. Both models invoke the
101 production of MgO-rich melts via cumulate mantle overturn [*Hess and Parmentier*, 1995; *Zhong*
102 *et al.*, 2000; *Elkins Tanton et al.*, 2002; *Laneville et al.*, 2013]. See *Shearer et al.*, [2015] for a
103 recent summary of Mg-suite petrogenetic models.

104 Models (1) and (2) primarily focus on the major mineralogy (olivine and plagioclase)
105 and/or the enriched trace element concentration of the Mg-suite samples. Similarly, existing
106 experimental studies focus on the composition of the major minerals and phases involved in
107 assimilation and/or plagioclase dissolution on the Moon [e.g., *Walker* 1973; *Grove and Bence*
108 1979; *Warren* 1986; *Finilla* 1994; *Hess* 1994; *Morgan et al.*, 2006; *Longhi et al.*, 2010; *Elardo et*
109 *al.*, 2011]. The present study explores the composition of the accessory mineral spinel within the
110 Mg-suite to further constrain existing petrogenetic models.

111

112 **Premise**

113 Spinel is commonly observed in the lunar troctolites as anhedral to euhedral mineral grains
114 and also inclusions within both olivine and plagioclase indicating it is a primary crystallization
115 product of the Mg-suite parent magma [e.g. *Prinze et al.*, 1973; *Albee et al.*, 1974; *Dowty et al.*,
116 1974; *Dymek et al.*, 1975; *Baker and Herzberg* 1980; *Lindstrom et al.*, 1984; *Shervais et al.*,
117 1984; *Marvin et al.*, 1988; *Snyder et al.*, 1998, 1999]. A few Mg-suite samples also exhibit
118 symplectite assemblages containing Cr-spinel, which may be the result of secondary, subsolidus
119 processes. For example, lunar troctolite 76535 is unique in that it contains both anhedral

120 chromite grains and chromite inclusions within olivine, but also a small portion of vermicular
121 intergrowths (or, “symplectite assemblages”) of Cr-spinel + high-Ca pyroxene +/- low-Ca
122 pyroxene [Gooley *et al.*, 1974; Dymek *et al.*, 1975; Elardo *et al.*, 2012]. Previous studies have
123 concluded the Cr-rich symplectite assemblages of Cr-spinel and two pyroxenes are the result of
124 low-pressure olivine (hosting chromite inclusions) + melt reactions to form pyroxene [Dymek *et*
125 *al.*, 1975]. More recently however, the symplectites in 76535 have been interpreted to be the
126 result of Fe- and Cr-rich metasomatic liquids [Elardo *et al.*, 2012]. Regardless, the present study
127 focuses on the compositions reported for primary, magmatic spinel grains within the Mg-suite
128 samples to compare to experimentally produced spinel in order to better understand the primary
129 processes involved in the formation of Mg-suite lithologies on the Moon.

130 The presence and composition of primary, magmatic spinel is widely used in terrestrial
131 basaltic systems to place constraints on formation conditions since spinel is commonly observed
132 as an accessory mineral within olivine-bearing igneous rocks [e.g., Irvine 1965, 1967; Dick and
133 Bullen 1984; Allan *et al.*, 1988; Kamenetsky *et al.*, 2001]. Spinel also exhibits distinct spectral
134 properties and is an important mineral in remote sensing studies aimed at characterizing the
135 geology of the lunar surface [e.g. Pieters *et al.*, 2010, 2014; Gross and Treiman 2011; Prissel *et*
136 *al.*, 2012, 2014a; Williams *et al.*, 2012, in press; Sun *et al.* 2013; Yamamoto *et al.* 2013; Vaughan
137 *et al.* 2013; Cheek and Pieters 2014; Gross *et al.*, 2014; Isaacson *et al.*, 2014; Jackson *et al.*,
138 2014; Shearer *et al.*, 2015; Treiman *et al.*, 2015]. Within the Mg-suite troctolites and dunites,
139 magmatic spinel is an accessory mineral (1 – 13 vol.%) relative to olivine and plagioclase with
140 the exception of ~30 vol.% in ALHA 81005 [Gross and Treiman 2011]. Quantifying true modes
141 within the Mg-suite is problematic because of the small clasts that comprise much of the sample
142 set (350 x 150 μm in the case of ALHA 81005) [e.g. Warren 1993; Papike *et al.*, 1998; Gross

143 *and Treiman 2011*].

144 Two distinct magmatic spinel populations exist within the Mg-suite troctolites (Fig. 1). The
145 pink spinel in the eponymous pink spinel troctolites (PST) is magnesium-rich and chromium-
146 poor (nearly end-member MgAl_2O_4 , or Mg-spinel) [e.g., *Prinz et al.*, 1973; *Marvin et al.*, 1988;
147 *Snyder et al.*, 1998; *Prissel et al.*, 2014b]. Spinel in the second group of troctolites (and dunites)
148 is relatively FeO- and Cr_2O_3 -rich, existing as chromian spinel or chromite (FeCr_2O_4) [*Albee et*
149 *al.*, 1974; *Dymek et al.*, 1975; *Lindstrom et al.*, 1984; *Elardo et al.*, 2012; *Shearer et al.*, 2015].
150 In general, Mg-suite spinel compositions trend from chromite within the troctolites and dunites
151 to Mg-spinel in the PST, indicative of the reciprocal substitutions (Mg-Fe^{2+} and Al-Cr) in normal
152 spinel [*Deer et al.*, 1962; *Irvine 1965*; *Haggerty 1973*].

153 To investigate the origin of magmatic spinel in the Mg-suite, melt compositions consistent
154 with models (1) and (2) above were synthesized. Each composition was then used in a series of
155 high-temperature (1225 – 1400°C), 1-atm phase equilibria experiments, which produce a range
156 of spinel compositions. Mg-suite rocks are thought to have formed at depths from the base of the
157 lunar crust (< 0.3GPa) up to a kilometer below the surface [e.g., *McCallum & O'Brien 1996*].
158 Additionally, Mg-suite troctolites are restricted to the low-pressure environments because olivine
159 and plagioclase are not in equilibrium at pressures exceeding ~ 0.3 GPa, [*Andersen 1915*; *Roeder*
160 *and Osborn 1966*; *Morse 1980*; *Sen and Presnal 1984*]. Under anhydrous conditions, such low
161 pressures have minimal effect on phase equilibria [e.g., *Walker et al.*, 1976; *Prissel et al.*,
162 2014a]. Therefore, the results from 1-atm phase equilibria experiments are applicable to Mg-
163 suite crystallization within the low-pressure regime of the lunar crust. Experiments testing melts
164 from each model produce olivine, plagioclase and spinel that are compositionally consistent with
165 PST samples. However no chromite was produced in this study, indicating a different melt

166 composition is required to produce the chromite-bearing Mg-suite troctolites. Model calculations
167 using the MAGPOX equilibrium crystallization program [Longhi *et al.*, 1991; Davenport *et al.*,
168 2014] predict chromite crystallizes from plagioclase-undersaturated parental melts (i.e., melts
169 with low-normative anorthite contents). Experimental and model data therefore indicate a range
170 of melt compositions are required to explain the production of both chromite and Mg-spinel in
171 the Mg-suite troctolites.

172

173

Experimental Methods

174 The parental melt composition derived from model (1) [Longhi *et al.*, 2010] is in
175 equilibrium with Fo95 olivine (Mg# ~95) and has a high normative anorthite component (~50%
176 An, Table 1). Longhi *et al.*, [2010] report this melt is capable of producing both forsteritic olivine
177 and calcic-plagioclase consistent with the natural troctolite samples. However, spinel was not
178 considered. Because the Mg-suite parental melt reported by Longhi *et al.*, [2010] can explain the
179 major mineralogy of the Mg-suite troctolites, it was selected as our starting composition A in
180 order to also test the composition of spinel produced.

181 Depending on the degree of contamination, melt compositions produced in model (2) could
182 span a wide range in normative anorthite content, but should still be in equilibrium with Fo95
183 olivine. On the basis of this criterion, starting compositions B, C, and D were estimated by
184 holding the Mg# of composition A constant while systematically increasing its initial normative
185 anorthite content by ~10, 15, and 25% An, respectively (Table 1). Each calculated starting
186 composition was synthesized using reagent grade oxides and conditioned at IW within a
187 horizontal gas-mixing (H₂ + CO₂ continuous flow) furnace at 900°C for 24 hours. Conditioned
188 powders were pressed (dry) into pellets and affixed to 0.10 mm diameter Re-wire loops. Re-wire

189 was selected as an alternative to Pt-wire because of the minimal (< 15%) FeO-loss expected at
190 the experimental conditions explored here (see *Borisov and Jones* [1999] for a detailed
191 evaluation of Re-wire in 1-atm loop experiments). Experimental charges were then glassed at
192 1400°C within a Deltech 1-atm vertical gas-mixing furnace (CO-CO₂ continuous flow) at ~ IW –
193 1 for three hours before drop-quenching into water.

194 The phase equilibria experiments follow the same methods described above. Experimental
195 runs are held at temperature for 24 hours and then drop-quenched into water. After the drop
196 quench, experimental charges were mounted in epoxy and prepped for electron microprobe
197 analyses. Experimental conditions and results of all experiments are given in Table 2.

198 All experimental crystalline phases were analyzed using a CAMECA SX 100 Electron
199 Microprobe (Brown University), with a focused beam, accelerating voltage of 15 kV, and beam
200 current of 20 nA. Glass was measured using a diffuse beam (~20 μm). Elements were set to 45s
201 count times with the exception of Na (30s). Na concentrations were calculated by extrapolating
202 time-resolved Na counts to time = 0 (sub-counting for three sets of 10 seconds). Microprobe
203 analyses for each glassed starting composition are reported in Table 1 and all phase compositions
204 are reported in Appendix Table 2.

205

206

Results

207 Results from phase equilibria experiments performed in this study at 1-atm and controlled
208 lunar-like fO_2 (~ IW – 1) produced assemblages of liquid (Liq), Liq + olivine (Ol), Liq + Ol +
209 spinel (Sp), Liq + Sp, Liq + Sp + plagioclase (Pl) and finally (Liq + Ol + Pl). Low sums of the
210 residuals squared were calculated during mass balancing of run products (Table 2). Re-metal was
211 not detected in any of the glass analyses. A few experiments contained small (< 5μm) Re-metal

212 crystals suspended in the glass phase. Minimal FeO-loss (~11% throughout) to the Re-wire
213 occurred in the experiments during 24hr duration as expected [Borisov and Jones 1999].
214 However, each melt investigated produced olivine compositionally consistent with the natural
215 Mg-suite samples (moreover, all Mg-suite parental melt compositions are theoretical and the
216 total FeO content of parental melts are not well constrained). Thus, the similarity between
217 experimental olivine produced in this study and olivine observed in the Mg-suite samples
218 suggests phase equilibria data reported herein is directly applicable to models of Mg-suite
219 petrogenesis. A summary of the experimental conditions, phases present, and calculated modal
220 abundances is provided in Table 2. Averaged phase compositional data for each run is reported
221 in Appendix Table 2.

222

223 **Testing for Equilibrium**

224 Phases in each run appear chemically homogeneous with euhedral to subhedral mineral
225 grains (Fig. 2). The mineral-melt partition coefficient, K_D (Fe^{2+} -Mg cation fraction exchange
226 coefficient; defined by the $[X_{\text{Fe}}/X_{\text{Mg}}]^{\text{min}} \times [X_{\text{Mg}}/X_{\text{Fe}}]^{\text{melt}}$), for olivine-melt is 0.30 +/- 0.01. The
227 K_D reported here is consistent with other independent studies [e.g. *Elkins-Tanton et al.*, 2003;
228 *Wan et al.*, 2008] performed at similar conditions, but with various starting compositions.

229

230 **Liquid Lines of Descent**

231 All relevant phase boundary experiments are shown in forsterite-anorthite-quartz pseudo
232 ternary space (Fig. 3).

233 The liquid line of descent (LLD) for composition A is as follows: $\text{Liq} \rightarrow \text{Liq} + \text{Ol} \rightarrow \text{Liq}$
234 $+ \text{Ol} + \text{Sp} \rightarrow \text{Liq} + \text{Ol} + \text{Sp} + \text{Pl} \rightarrow \text{Liq} + \text{Ol} + \text{Pl}$. Olivine is the primary liquidus phase,

235 precipitating between 1350 – 1400°C. Olivine continues to precipitate until reaching the Ol + Sp
236 divariant between 1300 – 1280°C. Experimental temperatures investigated in this study did not
237 produce the peritectic assemblage (Liq + Ol + Sp + Pl). However, the loss of spinel at $T <$
238 1280°C indicates melt A went through a ternary peritectic resorption reaction (Liq + Ol + Sp \rightarrow
239 Liq + Ol + Pl) between 1225 – 1280°C. Melt A also reaches the Ol + Pl cotectic between 1225 –
240 1280°C.

241 The LLD for composition D follows the order: Liq \rightarrow Liq + Pl \rightarrow Liq + Pl + Sp \rightarrow Liq +
242 Pl + Sp + Ol \rightarrow Liq + Pl + Ol. The assemblage Liq + Pl was not produced at the temperatures
243 considered. However, plagioclase is estimated to be the original liquidus phase as indicated by
244 the modal abundance accumulated by 1350°C relative to the amount of spinel present (Table 2).
245 Thus, composition D has plagioclase on the liquidus at temperatures between 1350 – 1400°C and
246 also reaches the Pl + Sp divariant within the same temperature range. Melt D follows the Pl + Sp
247 divariant until reaching the ternary peritectic point between 1280 – 1300°C indicated by the
248 presence of spinel at 1300°C and loss of spinel (appearance of olivine) at 1280°C. Thus, Melt D
249 has reached the Pl + Ol cotectic between 1280 – 1300°C and continues co-precipitating the two
250 phases between 1225 - 1280°C.

251 The LLD for compositions B and C are similar and therefore discussed concurrently.
252 Both compositions B and C produced higher modal abundances of spinel relative to
253 compositions A and D (Table 2). In fact, composition B failed to reach the Sp + Pl divariant at
254 1300°C, producing only Liq + Sp. Composition C likely began precipitating Liq + Sp, but
255 quickly reached the Liq + Sp + Pl divariant as indicated by the presence of plagioclase at
256 1300°C.

257

258 **Mineral Chemistry**

259 **Spinel**

260 Mg-spinel (~1 – 10 μ m in diameter throughout) is mostly euhedral and displays an
261 octahedral form with high optical relief relative to the glass (Fig. 2). Spinel grains were too small
262 to obtain reliable compositional profiles to test for zoning, as some spinel exhibit bright rims in
263 BSE imaging. However, each polished grain surface represents a unique dissection distance from
264 the spinel nuclei. Thus, the low standard deviations from EMP analyses suggest chemical zoning,
265 if any, was minimal.

266 Stoichiometry indicates A-site occupancy (Mg + Fe²⁺ + Mn in normal spinel) is 1.01 +/-
267 .01 cations/4O (2 σ standard deviations reported herein) assuming all measured iron is FeO,
268 reflecting a low (~IW – 1) oxygen fugacity. Spinel compositions are near end-member Mg-
269 spinel. Spinel produced by melt A (initial %An ~50) exhibit the greatest variability in
270 composition (Run A6: Cr# = 13 +/- 3, Mg# = 90.6 +/- 0.6; Run A7: Cr# = 13 +/- 2, Mg# = 90.4
271 +/- 0.5). Compositions B and C (%An ~60, 65 respectively) produce spinel compositions within
272 2 σ of each other (Run B1: Cr# = 6 +/- 1, Mg# = 93.4 +/- 0.3; Run C1: Cr# = 6.2 +/- 0.9, Mg# =
273 93.6 +/- 0.2). Spinel produced from composition D (%An ~75) are less FeO- and Cr₂O₃-rich than
274 spinel produced in B and C (Run D2: Cr# = 4.3 +/- 0.2, Mg# = 94.4 +/- 0.2; Run D3: Cr# = 5.0
275 +/- 0.9, Mg# = 93.8 +/- 0.2). Partition coefficients for Mg, Al, and Fe in spinel range from D_{Mg} ~
276 5 – 6, D_{Al} ~ 8 – 9, and D_{Fe} ~ 1 – 2 throughout the experimental series. The partitioning of Cr is
277 more variable ranging from D_{Cr} ~ 59 – 81 in melts B, C, and D and D_{Cr} ~ 117 – 129 in melt A.

278

279 **Olivine**

280 Olivine is consistently forsteritic in composition ranging from Mg# ~92 – 95. Euhedral
281 to subhedral olivine grains were observed throughout the entire A-series and also in runs D5 and
282 D4. Compositions B and C did not produce olivine. Grain size is typically 10-50 μ m in diameter
283 throughout (Fig. 2). Olivine stoichiometry of M1-site occupancy (Mg + Fe + Mn + Ca) shows
284 excellent totals of 2.00 +/- 0.01 cations/4O. Olivine in composition A evolved from Fo# = 95.7
285 +/- 0.1 (1330°C) to Fo# = 92.4 +/- 0.5 at lower temperatures (1225°C). Olivine did not
286 precipitate from composition D until 1280°C (D5: Fo# = 94.4 +/- 0.2), resulting in a higher
287 Mg/Fe in the melt and thus, higher Mg/Fe olivine relative to A at the same temperature (D4:
288 Mg# = 93.7 +/- 0.3 at 1225°C). The mineral-melt Cr partition coefficient (D_{Cr}) is ~2 throughout.
289 Al-concentrations in olivine are below detectable limits in all but two runs, which have D_{Al} ~
290 0.01.

291

292 **Plagioclase**

293 Euhedral lathes of plagioclase were observed throughout D-series experiments ranging
294 from 5 - 25 μ m in width and up to ~60 μ m in length (Fig. 2). Because of the initially low Na₂O
295 and K₂O contents in each starting composition, plagioclase compositions are both uniformly and
296 highly anorthitic ($An\# = [Ca/(Ca + Na + K)] \times 100 > 97$) spanning the entire compositional and
297 temperature range investigated.

298

299

Discussion

300 Melt compositions predicted by both the hybridized source region and assimilation models
301 do not yield chromite and produce Mg-spinel only. Thus, the high normative anorthite melts
302 explored here are capable of producing spinel consistent with the pink spinel troctolites (PST),

303 but not the chromite-bearing troctolites (and dunites). Is either model capable of producing
304 chromite? In the following sections, natural spinels are corrected for sub-solidus re-equilibration
305 using experimental data. Corrected natural spinel compositions are then compared to both
306 experimental and model data in order to determine the parental melt compositions necessary to
307 explain the range of chromite to Mg-spinel in the Mg-suite troctolites. Finally, implications
308 stemming from the spinel constraints are discussed in context with current Mg-suite petrogenetic
309 models.

310

311 **Correcting for Sub-Solidus Re-Equilibration**

312 The Mg# of both olivine and spinel can be affected by sub-solidus re-equilibration
313 regardless of origin [*Irvine, 1965, 1967; Roeder et al., 1979; Jamieson and Roeder, 1984;*
314 *McCallum and Schwartz 2001*]. Evidence for sub-solidus processes exists within the lunar
315 troctolites in the form of symplectite assemblages (that may have formed via metasomatism)
316 [e.g., *Dymek et al., 1975; Elardo et al., 2012*] and also the rare occurrence of cordierite (e.g.,
317 PST 15295 *Marvin et al., 1988*). The pairing of cordierite-forsterite-spinel is not in equilibrium
318 at pressures exceeding 0.25 GPa [*Marvin et al., 1988*]. *Marvin et al., [1988]* conclude high-T,
319 low-P metamorphic recrystallization of corundum-normative, spinel troctolite lithologies
320 occurred within the lunar crust to form cordierite in situ. Our experimental results support the
321 conclusions of *Marvin et al., 1988*, as no cordierite precipitated during equilibrium
322 crystallization from any of the starting compositions explored. Because of the evidence for sub-
323 solidus processes, natural data must be corrected for sub-solidus re-equilibration prior to
324 comparison with phase-equilibria experiments. Below, we demonstrate how the experimental
325 results can be used to both identify and correct for sub-solidus re-equilibration between olivine

326 and spinel in planetary samples.

327 Using phase equilibria data from this study in conjunction with data of *Wan et al.*, [2008],
328 we calculate a Sp-Ol, Fe-Mg equilibrium exchange coefficient (Sp-Ol $K_D^{\text{Fe-Mg}} = [X_{\text{Fe}}/X_{\text{Mg}}]^{\text{Sp}} \times$
329 $[X_{\text{Mg}}/X_{\text{Fe}}]^{\text{Ol}}$). Because of the efficiency with which reciprocal substitutions in normal spinel take
330 place at magmatic temperatures, the Sp-Ol K_D is linearly correlated with the Cr# of spinel over a
331 wide range of melt compositions (Fig. 4a),

$$332 \quad \text{Sp-Ol } K_D^{\text{Fe-Mg}} = 0.044\text{Cr\#}_{\text{sp}} + 1.5 \quad (1)$$

333 ($R^2 = 0.956$ with 2σ error of ± 0.003 and 0.2 for the slope and intercept, respectively). If sub-
334 solidus re-equilibration has occurred, the apparent Sp-Ol $K_D^{\text{Fe-Mg}}$ of natural data will be greater
335 than equilibrium since spinel incorporates Fe^{2+} from olivine, and so will plot above the
336 equilibrium line in Figure 4a.

337 The effects of sub-solidus re-equilibration are greatest for the least abundant mineral
338 [*Irvine, 1965; McCallum and Schwartz 2001*]. Considering the relative abundances of olivine
339 and spinel in lunar rocks, the modal fraction of olivine to spinel is almost always > 1 [*Prissel et*
340 *al.*, 2014a] with the exception of ALHA 81005 as noted in the introduction. Because spinel is
341 typically an accessory phase of most igneous rocks, the effects of re-equilibration on olivine are
342 assumed to be negligible (Fig. 4b). Thus, only the Fe/Mg of natural spinel is corrected to the
343 equilibrium line defined in equation (1) for comparison with the experimental data (Fig. 4c). For
344 a given Cr# of spinel, the Sp-Ol $K_D^{\text{Fe-Mg}}$ of the lunar dunites and troctolites is consistently greater
345 than equilibrium, indicating sub-solidus re-equilibration has occurred (Fig. 4a). PST samples lie
346 along the equilibrium line, and appear to have experienced minimal sub-solidus re-equilibration.

347

348 **Comparison of Experimental and Natural Data with Model Results**

349 Experiments testing melt compositions predicted by the hybridized source region and
350 assimilation models produce highly forsteritic-olivine and anorthitic-plagioclase (Fo₉₂ – 96; An#
351 > 97). On average, olivine and spinel observed in PST samples are more MgO-rich than olivine
352 in the troctolites and dunites. Results are therefore most consistent with the highest Fo# olivine
353 in the natural PST samples (Fig. 4b).

354 Melts predicted by both the hybridized source region and assimilation models produce Mg-
355 spinel only (spinel Cr# 4 - 13, Mg# 90 – 94), consistent with Mg-spinel in the PST samples (Fig.
356 4c). Thus, both models are capable of explaining the production of PST. However, no chromite
357 was experimentally produced in this study. The lack of chromite in the experiments suggests
358 melts saturated (or nearly saturated) with plagioclase cannot be parental to the chromite-bearing
359 troctolites (and dunites). Additional melt compositions appear necessary to explain chromite-
360 bearing troctolite lithologies.

361

362 **Estimating Mg-suite Parental Melt Compositions**

363 Unlike olivine and plagioclase (which can both chemically evolve throughout most of
364 crystallization), the peritectic reaction limits the overall chemical evolution and total modal
365 production of spinel for a given melt. Hence, a single melt cannot reproduce the total
366 compositional range of natural PST spinel (or when considering the four experimental starting
367 compositions collectively, Fig. 4c). Moreover, the problem of producing a wide range of spinel
368 compositions from a single melt is much more severe when considering the range of chromite to
369 Mg-spinel in the Mg-suite as a whole.

370 The Cr# of spinel is negatively correlated with the normative anorthite content (i.e., total
371 Al₂O₃-content) of a melt [*Kamenetsky et al.*, 2001]. Chromian spinel and chromite are thus, not

372 expected in parental melts initially saturated (or nearly saturated) with plagioclase (melts with
373 $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 > 16$ wt.%). Instead, melts undersaturated with plagioclase are necessary for chromian
374 spinel and chromite production (even at Cr_2O_3 contents < 0.6 wt.%, *Wan et al.*, 2008).

375 The equilibrium crystallization program MAGPOX [*Longhi et al.*, 1991; *Davenport* 2014]
376 is used to predict the Cr# of spinel produced from plagioclase-undersaturated Mg-suite parental
377 melts. MAGPOX is well calibrated for lunar compositions and redox states [*Slater et al.*, 2003;
378 *Thompson et al.*, 2003] and is chosen here for its ability to reproduce data similar to the
379 experimental results of composition A (Fig. 3, Table 3), including crystallization sequence, phase
380 compositions, and liquidus temperature (compared to MELTS [*Ghiorso and Sack* 1995; *Asimow*
381 *and Ghiorso* 1998], which predicts spinel as the primary crystallization phase at temperatures $>$
382 1500°C using the same starting composition).

383 Major element chemistry of plagioclase-undersaturated, Mg-suite parental melts are
384 estimated by removing a typical ferroan anorthosite component (FAN 65315, *Hess* [1989]) from
385 starting composition A, producing melts with normative anorthite contents of 40, 30, 20, and
386 15% An and approximately the same initial melt Mg# (Table 3). Olivine and spinel compositions
387 are recorded at near-liquidus temperatures and also at plagioclase (or orthopyroxene) saturation,
388 producing a range of possible spinel and olivine compositions for a given melt. Model input
389 compositions and results are reported in Table 3.

390 Model results are consistent with terrestrial observations, in which the Cr# of spinel is
391 negatively correlated with the %An of the melt (Fig. 4c). Melts with $> 20\%$ An do not yield
392 chromite, whereas melts with $< 20\%$ An produce chromian spinel and chromite consistent with
393 the troctolites and dunites. Note, melts with $< 20\%$ An yield both spinel and olivine
394 compositions similar to the troctolites and dunites after $\sim 50\%$ crystallization (Table 3, Fig. 4b,c).

395 Results indicate the chromite-bearing troctolites were produced during the crystallization of
396 plagioclase-undersaturated parental melts (Table 3).

397 An important distinction is that melts must be saturated (or nearly saturated) with
398 plagioclase *prior to* crystallization in order for Mg-spinel to precipitate. For instance, melts with
399 < 50% An can evolve to plagioclase saturation during crystallization, but do not yield Mg-spinel
400 consistent with the natural PST data (Fig. 4c). Moreover, melts with < 20% An (required for
401 chromite production) reach orthopyroxene saturation prior to plagioclase saturation (Fig. 3,
402 Table 3). Given the Mg-suite troctolites contain only a few modal percent of orthopyroxene, if
403 any [e.g., *Shearer et al.*, 2015], a secondary mechanism may be required to enrich the melt in
404 anorthite to not only produce Mg-spinel in the PST, but also delay significant orthopyroxene
405 precipitation in the lunar troctolites (Fig 3).

406

407

Implications

408 Phase equilibria experiments and model results from this study indicate melts saturated (or
409 nearly saturated) in plagioclase cannot explain the presence of chromite in Mg-suite troctolites
410 and dunites. Melts saturated with plagioclase prior to crystallization produce Mg-spinel only,
411 consistent with Mg-suite PST samples. Results therefore indicate melts derived from the
412 hybridized source region model (85.5% dunite, 10% norite, 3% gabbronorite, and 1.5% KREEP,
413 *Longhi et al.*, 2010) can explain PST assemblages, but not the chromite-bearing troctolites. As
414 will be discussed below, revisions to the hybridized source model are suggested to satisfy the
415 spinel constraints.

416 What appears most robust however, and should be considered in any successful
417 petrogenetic model, is that melt compositions with a range of normative anorthite contents are

418 needed to explain the wide compositional range of spinel observed within the Mg-suite
419 troctolites (Fig. 4b,c). Below, we review magma-wallrock interactions within the lunar ferroan
420 anorthositic crust. Both experimental and model results suggest magma-wallrock interaction is a
421 viable mechanism to increase the normative anorthite content of initially chromite-bearing,
422 plagioclase-undersaturated Mg-suite parental melts. Here, chromite is interpreted to be a primary
423 crystallization phase from Mg-suite parental magmas that are derived from a non-hybridized,
424 ultramafic cumulate (initially uncontaminated, low-normative anorthite melts). As these melts
425 interact with the anorthositic crust, the magma-wallrock interface becomes enriched in Al-
426 content, eventually producing Mg-spinel. In this scenario, Mg-spinel can be used as a marker for
427 magma-wallrock interactions (precipitating from contaminated, high-normative anorthite melts)
428 [*Morgan et al.*, 2006].

429 Additionally, the interpretation that Mg-suite parental melts were initially plagioclase-
430 undersaturated is consistent with the differentiation of a global magma ocean (that may have
431 accumulated an ultramafic source region from which, Mg-suite parental melts are derived) [e.g.,
432 *Wood et al.*, 1970; *Smith et al.*, 1970; *Walker et al.*, 1975; *Drake* 1976; *Norman & Ryder* 1979].
433 Cumulate mantle overturn could have resulted in the upwelling and decompression melting of
434 the ultramafic source region [e.g. *Hess* 1994; *Hess and Parmentier* 1995; *Zhong et al.*, 2000;
435 *Elkins Tanton et al.*, 2002]. The weight fraction of melt produced during mantle overturn is
436 pressure dependent (weight fraction of melt $\sim 0.10/\text{GPa}$) [*MacKenzie and Bickle*, 1988].
437 Assuming the ultramafic source accumulated at 600 – 800km depth, $\sim 30 - 40\%$ melting may
438 have occurred during the upwelling of the ultramafic cumulates [*Hess* 1994]. *Hess* [1994]
439 suggests partial melts from the upwelling ultramafic cumulate would resemble Al_2O_3 -poor
440 picrites or komatiitic basalts. Mg-suite parental melts predicted here ($< 20\%$ An, Table 3) are

441 compositionally similar to both komatiitic basalts and earlier estimates of Mg-suite parent
442 compositions [Warren 1986; Hess 1994], but with higher Mg# as defined by the model of Longhi
443 *et al.*, [2010]. Thus, results from this study support cumulate mantle overturn as a mechanism to
444 bring chromite-bearing, plagioclase-undersaturated Mg-suite parental melts toward the surface
445 with subsequent intrusions into, and interactions with, the anorthositic crust [e.g. Hess 1994; Hess
446 and Parmentier 1995; Zhong *et al.*, 2000; Elkins Tanton *et al.*, 2002]. Chromite-bearing,
447 plagioclase-undersaturated Mg-suite parental melts are also dense, perhaps explaining the lack of
448 extrusive Mg-suite samples [Prissel *et al.*, 2013, 2015, accepted]. Early mantle-derived magmas
449 such as the Mg-suite should be hotter (analogous to terrestrial komatiites in the Archean) than
450 younger basalts and would be more capable of assimilating crustal material [e.g. Nisbet 1982;
451 Smith and Erlank 1982; Huppert and Sparks 1985; Sparks 1986; Finilla *et al.*, 1994; Hess 1994;
452 Parman *et al.*, 1997; Arndt *et al.*, 1998; Shervais and McGee 1998; Grove and Parman 2004].

453

454 **Petrogenesis of the Lunar Highlands Mg-suite as told by Spinel**

455 How prevalent were magma-wallrock interactions (the term is used here to encompass
456 generally the processes of contamination, dissolution, assimilation, etc.) within the lunar crust?
457 Several studies have quantified the effects of assimilation and dissolution of plagioclase,
458 concluding magma-wallrock interactions occurred to some degree on the Moon [e.g., Warren
459 1986; Finilla *et al.*, 1994; Hess 1994; Morgan *et al.*, 2006] as is observed on Earth [e.g. DePaolo
460 1981; Huppert and Sparks 1985, 1988; Sparks 1986; Daines and Kohlstedt, 1994; Kelemen *et al.*
461 *et al.*, 1995; Kelemen and Dick, 1995; Morgan and Liang, 2003]. On Earth, dunite channels (up to
462 100m wide and several km in length) are formed through preferential dissolution of pyroxene as
463 melts percolate through peridotite and precipitate olivine as the reaction product [Boudier and

464 *Nicolas, 1985; Kelemen et al., 2000; Morgan and Liang, 2005*]. If similar processes occurred
465 within the lunar crust, plagioclase-undersaturated melts could preferentially dissolve plagioclase
466 from anorthosite and precipitate Mg-spinel as the reaction product [*Morgan et al., 2006; Gross*
467 *and Trieman 2011; Prissel et al., 2014a*].

468 Difficulties associated with magma-wallrock interactions arise when considering the
469 amount of energy needed to raise the temperature of the lunar crust to its melting point (~ 1200 -
470 1250°C), and assimilation of a pure anorthosite (solidus temperature of ~ 1450°C) is unlikely
471 [*Warren 1986; Finilla et al., 1994; Hess 1994*]. Both the cooling and crystallization of a given
472 magmatic intrusion will release energy, which can work to raise the temperature of the wallrock
473 to its melting point. Previous lunar assimilation models suggest that latent heat released during >
474 15% crystallization of olivine will decrease the Mg# of the residual Mg-suite parent,
475 precipitating FeO-rich olivine inconsistent with Mg-suite mineralogy [e.g., *Hess 1994*].
476 However, a range of olivine compositions exists within the Mg-suite, and results from this study
477 indicate > 50% crystallization from plagioclase-undersaturated melts produces olivine
478 compositionally consistent with the range of olivine observed within the lunar troctolites and
479 dunites (Fig. 5).

480 Moreover, the incorporation of a normative anorthite component in basaltic melts can
481 decrease liquidus temperatures by nearly 200°C (Table 3). This means olivine fractionation may
482 be momentarily delayed in contaminated melts, preserving the high-Mg# of the system. *Morgan*
483 *et al., [2006]* verified this effect with plagioclase dissolution experiments, producing both
484 crystal-free and spinel saturated reactive boundary layers near the melt-plagioclase interface. In a
485 similar study, *Prissel et al., [2014a]* experimentally confirmed the reactive boundary layer
486 between the melt and anorthite is Mg-spinel saturated.

487 The production of Mg-spinel may be restricted to the melt-rock interface due to the slow
488 diffusion rates for Al₂O₃ in basaltic melts [e.g., *Finilla et al.*, 1994; *Hess* 1994; *Morgan et al.*,
489 2006]. Thus, if Mg-spinel is produced at a reactive boundary layer during plagioclase
490 dissolution, Mg-spinel-bearing lithologies are expected to represent a volumetrically minor,
491 albeit possibly widespread, component of the lunar crust. Taking the current lunar sample
492 collection at face value then, the paucity of PST and Mg-spinel-bearing samples supports the
493 conclusion that crustal contamination occurred, but was rare and restricted to small volumes of a
494 given intrusion (i.e., the magma-wallrock interface). Although the lunar sample collection may
495 not be entirely representative, remote sensing observations support conclusions that Mg-spinel
496 lithologies are widespread (detections on both the near- and farside of the Moon), but possibly a
497 volumetrically minor constituent of the lunar crust (~20 outcrops globally at the km-scale)
498 [*Pieters et al.*, 2014].

499 The Apollo 14 high-alumina basalts, which are contemporaneous with the Mg-suite (~4.2 –
500 4.3 Ga), also contain low Cr# spinel and likely acquired their aluminous chemistry through
501 crustal contamination [e.g. *Steele* 1972; *Taylor et al.*, 1983, *Morgan et al.*, 2006]. The presence
502 of low-Cr spinel in ancient lunar rocks supports models suggesting the thermal state of the early
503 lunar crust was hotter, making assimilation or dissolution more likely [*Andrews-Hanna et al.*,
504 2013, 2014]. Additionally, a turbulent or replenished dike, sill, or magma reservoir will buffer
505 high-temperatures near the magma-wallrock interface [*Huppert and Sparks* 1988; *Finilla et al.*,
506 1994; *Morgan et al.*, 2006; *Prissel et al.*, 2014a]. Without a turbulent or replenished magmatic
507 system, the base of the lunar crust would provide the most favorable conditions (higher
508 temperatures relative to the mid-shallow level crust) for magma-wallrock interactions to occur.
509 As the crust ages and cools, assimilation and dissolution of plagioclase should become less

510 prevalent. Little evidence for crustal contamination exists in the younger mare basalts and
511 pristine lunar volcanic glasses [*Finilla et al.*, 1994; *Hess* 1994].

512 The production of Mg-spinel via magma-wallrock interactions could also explain the lack
513 of sub-solidus re-equilibration in the PST samples relative to the chromite-bearing troctolites
514 (Fig. 4a). If Mg-spinel formed at the magma-wallrock interface within dikes or via reactive
515 porous flow through the anorthositic crust [*Prissel et al.*, 2014a], the effects of sub-solidus re-
516 equilibration should be minor due to rapid cooling rates (e.g., weeks to months for a shallow sill
517 or dike). The disequilibrium between spinel and olivine in the troctolites and dunites (Fig. 4a)
518 indicates slower cooling than PST samples and/or the high olivine/spinel modal fractions
519 expected during equilibrium crystallization from uncontaminated, plagioclase-undersaturated
520 melts (Table 2).

521 Finally, the distinct spinel-troctolite populations may be the result of a limited lunar sample
522 set. Additional sampling could yield spinel troctolites intermediate in composition to the Mg-
523 spinel-bearing PST and chromite-bearing troctolites (and dunites). However, intermediate Mg-
524 suite spinel compositions will not change the conclusions herein as a spectrum of melt
525 compositions are required to produce the current chromite to Mg-spinel populations.

526

527

528 **An Alternative Hybridized Source Region?**

529 It is possible that several source regions, heterogeneous in plagioclase abundance, could
530 produce a variety of melts with respect to normative anorthite content. However, it is physically
531 unclear whether or not several heterogeneous hybridized source regions can be formed, and later
532 re-melted, during mantle overturn. Thus, geophysical modeling on the solid state mixing of early

533 cumulates at the base of the lunar crust is needed to strengthen this hypothesis [*Shearer et al.*,
534 2015].

535 An alternative hypothesis could include the hybridization of ultramafic cumulates and
536 KREEP (with little to no plagioclase-bearing cumulates) below or near the base of the lunar
537 anorthositic crust. Melts derived from such a source would contain a KREEP component,
538 bypassing the complications associated with assimilation of KREEP, which could lower the Mg#
539 of the parental melt as originally proposed [*Hess* 1994; *Longhi et al.*, 2010; *Elardo et al.*, 2011].
540 Based on the constraints presented above, this scenario suggests partial melts from the ultramafic
541 + KREEP hybridized source could fractionate to form chromian spinel and/or interact with the
542 anorthositic crust to produce Mg-spinel.

543 Note, a KREEP component is required to explain several Mg-suite samples collected
544 during the Apollo and Luna missions. On the other hand, lunar meteorite Dhofar 489, which
545 includes a KREEP-poor Mg-suite-like PST clast [*Takeda et al.*, 2006], and Mg-suite dunite
546 72415 do not contain a KREEP signature [*Papike et al.*, 1998]. It is possible that the KREEP
547 component measured in several of the returned Mg-suite samples is a factor of nearside sampling
548 near the Procellerum KREEP Terrane [e.g. *Lucey and Cahill* 2009; *Cahill et al.*, 2009; *Taylor*
549 2009; *Prissel et al.*, 2014a; *Shearer et al.*, 2015].

550

551 **Implications to Remote Sensing Studies**

552 Remote sensing studies have detected Mg-spinel-dominated (i.e. mafic-poor or mafic free)
553 exposures on the surface of the Moon, termed pink spinel anorthosite or PSA [e.g. *Pieters et al.*,
554 2010, 2014; *Dhingra et al.*, 2010]. Much debate remains concerning the nature of the lithology,
555 effects of space weathering on composition, and whether or not the lithology is of endogenic or

556 exogenic origins [*Gross and Treiman* 2011; *Prissel et al.*, 2012; *Williams et al.*, 2012; in press;
557 *Vaughan et al.* 2013; *Cheek and Pieters* 2014; *Gross et al.*, 2014; *Isaacson et al.*, 2014; *Jackson*
558 *et al.*, 2014; *Pieters et al.*, 2014; *Prissel et al.*, 2014a; *Treiman et al.*, 2015]. Mg-spinel is rare
559 among the lunar samples and predominantly associated with the Mg-suite PST, which have been
560 classified as igneous, plutonic and pristine [e.g. *James* 1980; *Warren* 1993; *Papike et al.*, 1998;
561 *Shearer et al.*, 2015]. Results from this study indicate magma-wallrock interactions played a key
562 role in forming Mg-spinel on the Moon. Thus, PSA-type lithologies detected remotely need not
563 invoke exogenic origins. It is more likely the same magma-wallrock interactions involved in
564 producing Mg-spinel within PST (and Apollo 14 high-alumina basalts) also formed the Mg-
565 spinel lithologies detected remotely.

566 Approximately twenty remote detections of Mg-spinel have been identified globally
567 [*Pieters et al.*, 2014]. The low number of global PSA detections is consistent with conclusions
568 from this study, which suggest Mg-spinel lithologies formed by magma-wallrock interactions
569 and represent a widespread, but volumetrically minor component of the lunar crust. If PSA is
570 used as a proxy for Mg-suite magmatism [*Prissel et al.*, 2014a], results from this study suggest
571 remote detections of Mg-spinel represent areas of turbulent or replenished Mg-suite magmatism
572 (e.g., pulsed injections, stoping, fracturing) that interacted strongly with the crust. If so, the
573 concentration of PSA detections within the nearside southern highlands suggests this is the most
574 promising region to study Mg-suite magmatism [*Pieters et al.*, 2014; *Prissel et al.*, accepted].

575 Lastly, a key criteria for magma-wallrock interactions on the Moon is the resulting low Cr#
576 spinel expected [*Morgan et al.*, 2006; *Prissel et al.*, 2014a], whereas Cr-rich spinel will
577 precipitate from uncontaminated, low-Al₂O₃ basaltic melts [*Kamenetsky et al.*, 2001; *Wan et al.*,
578 2008]. Thus, the characterization of spinel Cr-content within the V-NIR can help distinguish

579 between uncontaminated mantle melts and those that have reacted with the crust [*Williams et al.*,
580 2012; in press]. These are integral factors for remote sensing studies aimed at understanding the
581 distribution and origin of spinel-bearing lithologies on the Moon.

582

583

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905 **Figure Captions**

906

907 **Figure 1.** Natural lunar spinel and olivine in Mg-suite troctolites. Two distinct populations of
908 troctolites exist with respect to spinel composition - pink spinel troctolites (pink filled circles),
909 and chromian-spinel or chromite-bearing troctolites and dunites (blue-green filled circles). **a)**
910 Mg# of olivine vs. the Cr# of spinel and **b)** Mg# of spinel vs. the Cr# of spinel. All data reported
911 are from primary, magmatic spinel within each sample and “Plus signs” indicate PST sample
912 associated with cordierite and chromite-bearing troctolite associated with symplectite
913 assemblages. See Appendix Table 1 for data and references.

914

915 **Figure 2.** Back-scattered electron images of experimental results. **a)** Run A6 (1280°C): Sp =
916 Spinel (Mg# ~91, Cr# ~13) + Ol = olivine (Mg# ~94) + Gl = glass. Tiny Re-metal flakes were
917 observed suspended in the glass phase for this experiment (labeled). Additional small bright
918 spots scattered throughout appear to be spinel nuclei (EDS). **b)** Run D3 (1300°C): Sp (Mg# ~94,
919 Cr# ~5) + Pl = plagioclase + Gl.

920

921 **Figure 3.** Experimental melt compositions (light-blue filled symbols) plotted within Forsterite-
922 Anorthite-Quartz pseudo-ternary space defining experimental phase boundaries (inset
923 highlighted on full ternary and data normalized to wt.% end-member constituents - see *Prissel et*
924 *al.*, [2014a] for a worked example). Symbol legend provided. 1-atm phase boundaries (dashed
925 gray lines, *Morse* [1980]) relative to estimated phase boundaries from this study (black lines).
926 Modeled melt compositions (open symbols) define ternary peritectic reaction points and spinel-

927 olivine phase boundaries as a function of initial normative anorthite content (50, 30, and 15%
928 An, labeled within symbols). Cr# of near liquidus spinel also plotted next to each model melt
929 composition (with each model melt composition producing ~Fo95 Olivine, Table 3). Melts
930 undersaturated with plagioclase (15% An) appear to be required for chromite production and
931 several melts with respect to normative anorthite content are required to produce the range of
932 spinel compositions observed in Mg-suite troctolites.

933

934 **Figure 4. a)** Spinel-Olivine $K_D^{\text{Fe-Mg}}$ linearly correlated with the Cr# of spinel. Experimental data
935 (light-blue triangles - this study; open-triangles - *Wan et al.*, [2008], are used to calculate eq. 1 in
936 the text. Natural samples (pink filled circles, PST; blue-green filled circles, troctolites and
937 dunites), and model data (open circles represent near liquidus spinel and olivine compositions
938 and large open circles represent spinel and olivine compositions at plagioclase or orthopyroxene
939 saturation) are plotted relative to the equilibrium trend defined by the experimental data.
940 Symbols are consistent throughout each plot. Sub-solidus re-equilibration will drive the Sp-Ol
941 $K_D^{\text{Fe-Mg}}$ to higher values as FeO diffuses into spinel from olivine (indicated by vertical arrow).
942 PST olivine-spinel pairs are closer to equilibrium compared to those observed within the dunites
943 and troctolites. **b)** Mg# of olivine vs. the Cr# of spinel. Five melt compositions were modeled in
944 the MAGPOX equilibrium crystallization software to test the compositions of Ol + Sp predicted
945 for melts of decreasing %An content in the melt (50 - 15%An in the melt, reported next to each
946 starting composition). **c)** Mg# of spinel vs. the Cr# of spinel. Spinel compositions for the PST,
947 dunites and troctolites have been corrected for sub-solidus re-equilibration (light filled circles are
948 uncorrected).

949

950 **Figure 5.** Mg# of olivine vs. the Mg# of the melt. The olivine-melt $K_D^{\text{Fe-Mg}} \sim 0.30$ measured in
951 this study is used to calculate the black curve running through the experimental (light-blue filled
952 squares) and model data (open circles, prior to crystallization Mg# of the melt ~ 86 , $\sim 15\%$ An,
953 Table 3). The range of PST and troctolite (and dunite) olivine compositions is represented by the
954 pink field and blue-green field, respectively. Melts with initially high Mg/Fe and low normative
955 anorthite contents (open circle at melt Mg# ~ 86) must fractionate appreciable amounts of olivine
956 ($> 50\%$, labeled open circle) to explain olivine compositions in the troctolites and dunites. Thus,
957 a large source of latent heat should be considered in future assimilation and magma-wallrock
958 interaction models.
959

Figure 1.

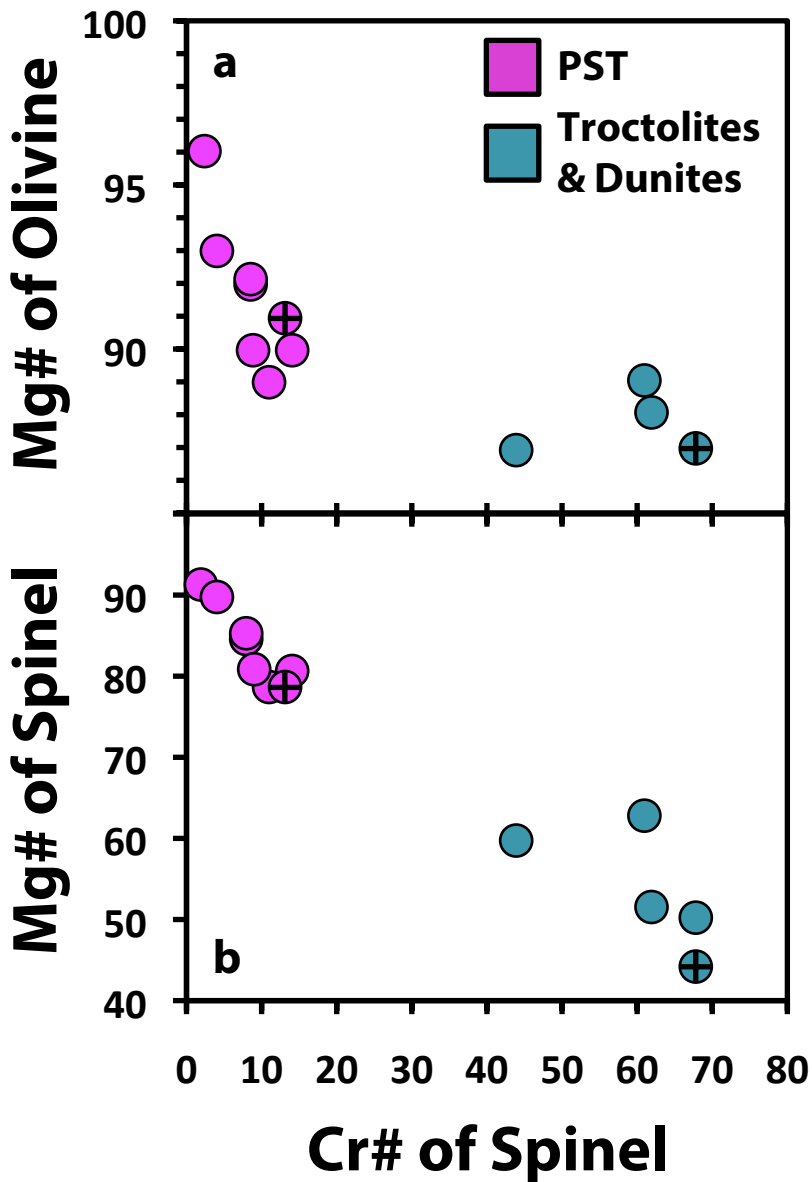


Figure 2.

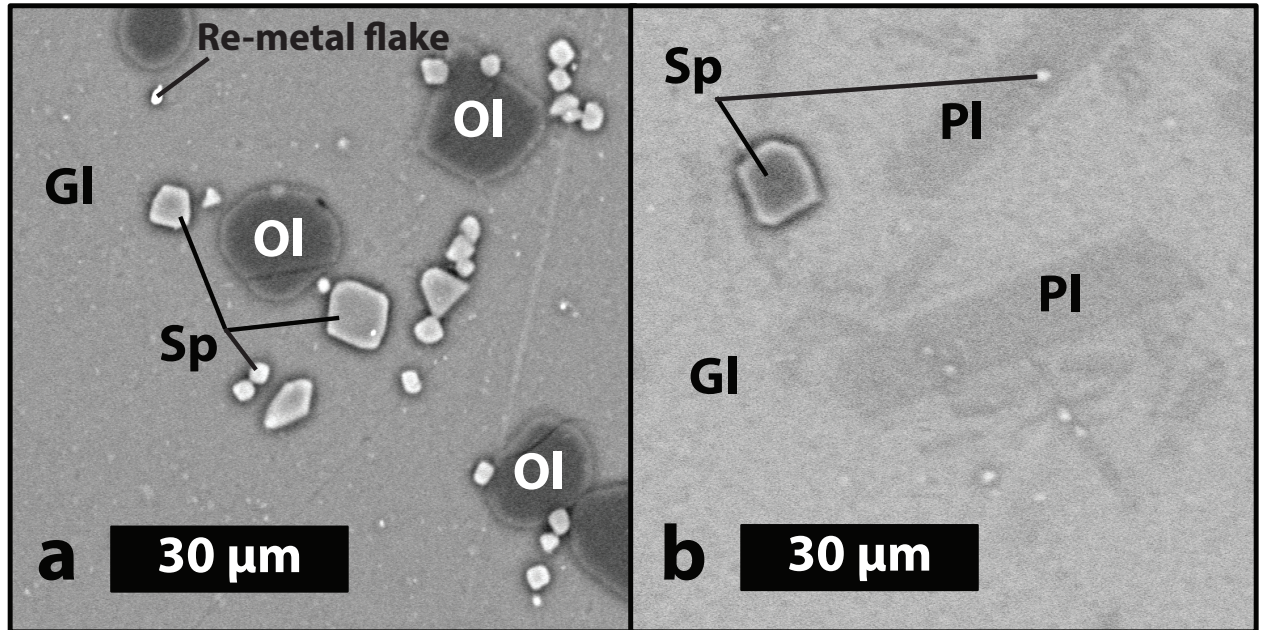


Figure 3.

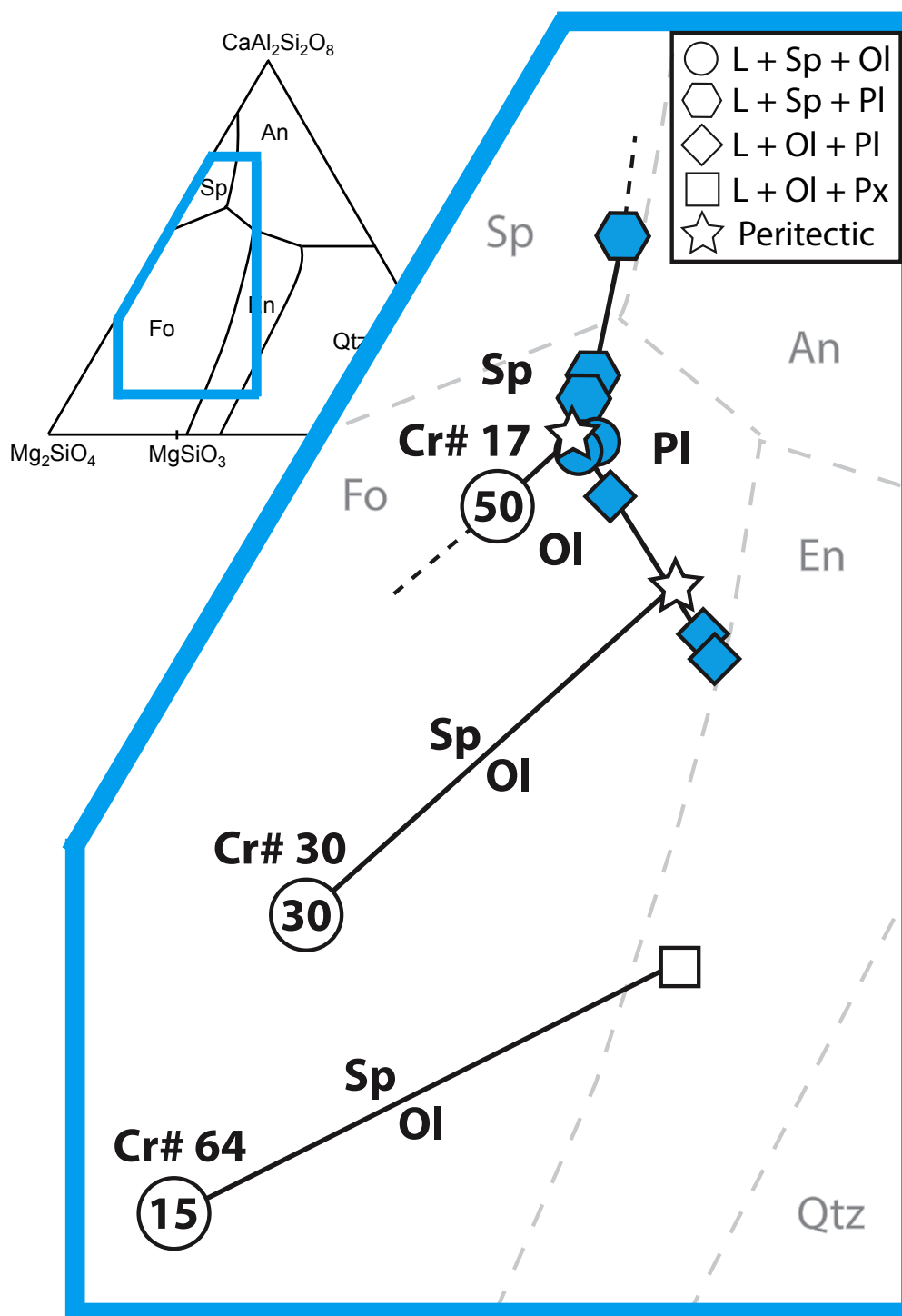


Figure 4.

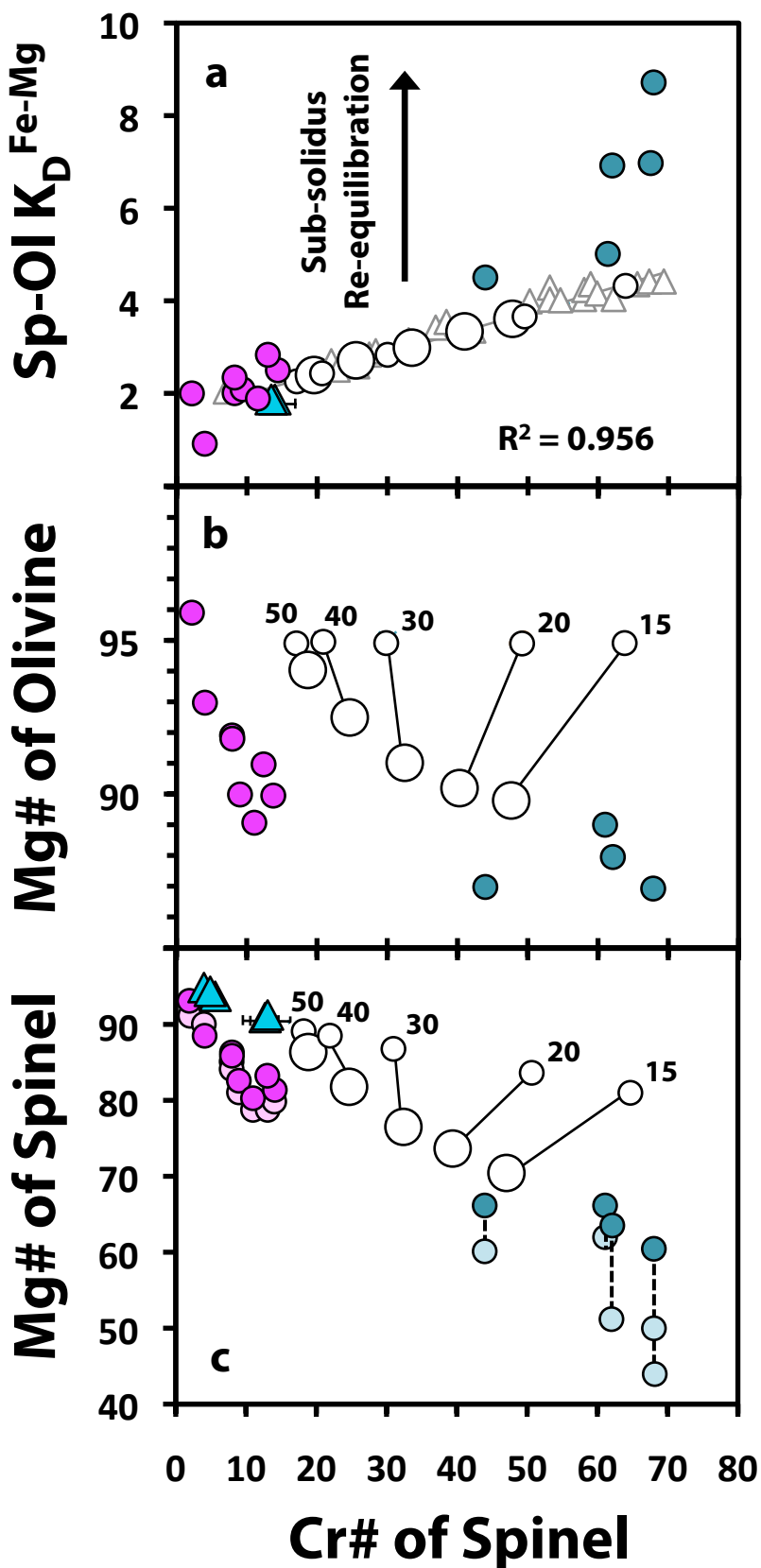


Figure 5.

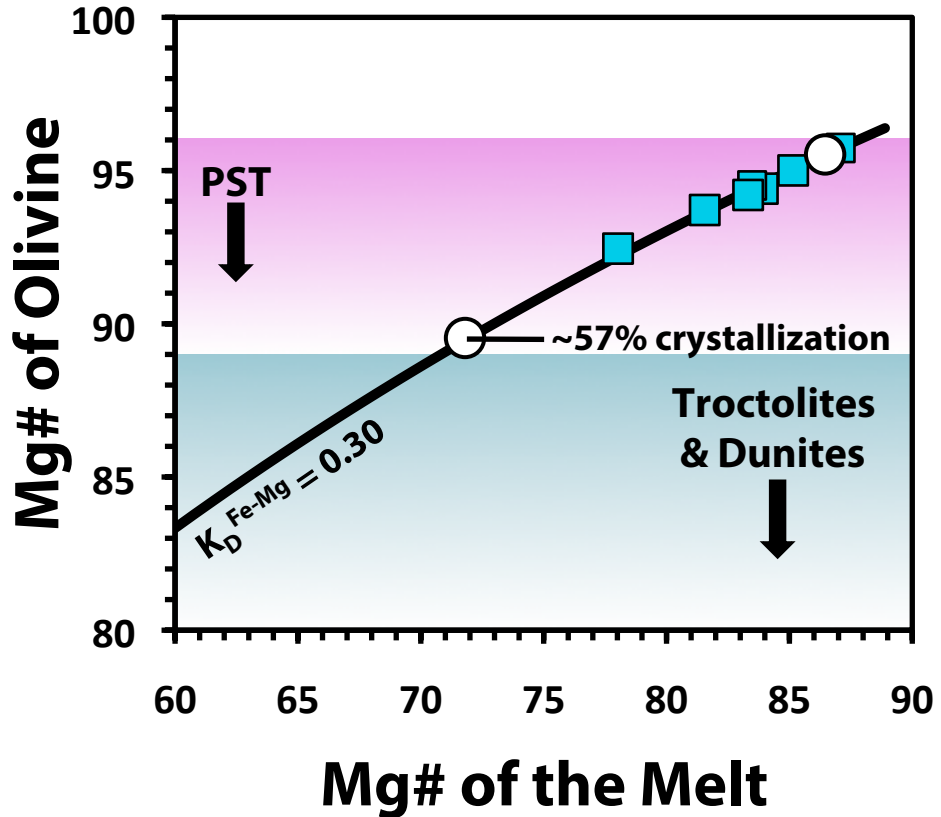


Table 1. Experimental starting materials reported in wt.% oxides.

	A		B		C		D	
n	(6)	S.D.	(8)	S.D.	(10)	S.D.	(10)	S.D.
SiO₂	45.8	2	45.8	2	45.1	2	44.4	1
TiO₂	0.93	2	0.75	2	0.65	1	0.47	1
Al₂O₃	17.40	7	21.2	2	22.96	5	26.4	2
Cr₂O₃	0.35	2	0.24	4	0.22	1	0.16	1
FeO^a	4.8	1	3.8	3	3.5	1	2.6	1
MnO	0.19	4	0.12	6	0.10	5	0.07	3
MgO	17.0	2	13.7	2	12.0	1	8.8	1
CaO	12.45	6	14.12	7	14.92	4	16.4	1
Na₂O	0.19	4	0.14	5	0.16	2	0.19	3
K₂O	0.23	1	0.18	1	0.17	2	0.15	1
Total	99.4		100.0		99.8		99.6	
Mg#	86.3	3	86	1	86.0	4	86.0	7
%An	50.2	2	60.0	3	64.9	1	74.1	3

Notes: Glassed compositions were analyzed by EMPA; "n" denotes number of analyses; S.D. denotes 2 σ standard deviation on the last significant digit reported; Mg# = cation fraction of [Mg/(Mg + Fe)] x 100; %An = % normative anorthite with respect to Fo-An-Qtz ternary space (see *Prissel et al.*, 2014a for worked example).

^a FeO = total Iron.

Table 2. Summary of Mg-suite phase equilibria experiments including calculated modal abundance.

Run #	T (°C)	t (hours)	Gl	S.D.	Ol	S.D.	Pl	S.D.	Sp	S.D.	SSres
A	1400	3	100		-		-		-		-
A3	1330	24	92	3	5	2	-		-		1.51
A4	1300	24	91	2	7	1	-		-		0.58
A6	1280	24	88	1	10	1	-		1.0	7	0.22
A7	1280	24	89.4	8	9.0	6	-		0.8	5	0.09
A5	1225	24	44	5	23	2	30	4	-		0.55
B	1400	3	100		-		-		-		-
B1	1300	24	98	1	-		-		1.8	8	0.36
C	1400	3	100		-		-		-		-
C1	1300	24	84	3	-		13	3	2	1	0.46
D	1400	3	100		-		-		-		-
D2	1350	24	71	4	-		26	4	tr		0.59
D3	1300	24	58	4	-		38	4	tr		0.76
D5	1280	24	35	8	7	3	56	5	-		0.61
D4	1225	24	26	7	10	3	61	5	-		1.20

Notes: All experiments performed at 1-atm pressure and ~IW - 1; Gl = glass, Ol = olivine; Pl = plagioclase, Sp = spinel; SSres denotes the sum of the squared residuals; S.D. denotes 2 σ standard deviation on the last significant digit reported; tr = trace amount (mode ~ S.D.).

Table 3. Model Mg-suite parental compositions

	FAN 65315	This Study	Model Input & Results					Warren 1986	Komatiite
%An	-	A (50)	50	40	30	20	15	21	23
SiO ₂	44.64	45.8	45.8	45.58	45.74	45.90	45.98	46	47.40
TiO ₂	0.01	0.93	0.93	1.19	1.39	1.58	1.68	0.3	0.40
Al ₂ O ₃	35.17	17.40	17.40	13.68	10.10	6.49	4.77	7	7.80
Cr ₂ O ₃	0.01	0.35	0.35	0.46	0.53	0.61	0.65	0.5	-
FeO	0.30	4.8	4.8	6.00	6.95	7.91	8.37	12.4	10.8
MnO	0.01	0.19	0.19	0.27	0.31	0.35	0.37	-	-
MgO	0.30	17.0	17.0	21.37	24.88	28.41	30.10	27.6	25.9
CaO	19.25	12.45	12.45	10.42	8.95	7.46	6.76	5.5	7.60
Na ₂ O	0.30	0.19	0.19	0.44	0.46	0.49	0.50	0.6	0.10
K ₂ O	0.01	0.23	0.23	0.59	0.69	0.79	0.83	0.06	-
Total	100	99	99	100	100	100	100	100	100
Mg#	-	86	86	86	86	87	87	80	81
Liq T°C	-	1350 - 1400	1372	1463	1512	1554	1571	1510	1482
Fo#	-	-	95	95	95	95	95	92	93
Cr#	-	-	17	21	30	49	64	46	45
%Xtl	-	10 +/- 1	9.6	29.7	45.3	53.9	57.4	57.9	44.7
Fo#	-	94.3 +/- 0.1	94	93	91	90	90	84	88
Cr#	-	13 +/- 3	19	25	32	40	47	35	35
An#	97	-	98	94	91	OPX	OPX	OPX	OPX

Notes: All iron is assumed to be FeO. Mg# = Mg/(Mg + Fe)x100 of the melt; Liq T = liquidus temperature; Fo# = Mg# of olivine; Cr# = Cr/(Cr + Al)x100 of spinel; %Xtl = percent crystallized prior to plagioclase or orthopyroxene saturation; An# = Ca/(Ca + Na + K)x100 of plagioclase; OPX denotes orthopyroxene saturation prior to plagioclase saturation. FAN 65315 from Hess 1989; komatiite from Hess 1994.