

1 **Revision 1**

2 **Transition metals in komatiitic olivine: Proxies for mantle composition, redox**
3 **conditions, and sulfide mineralization potential**

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ABSTRACT

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We present the results of a comprehensive study on the concentrations of first-row transition elements (FRTE: Sc, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, and Zn), as well as Ga and Ge in liquidus olivine from 2.7-3.5 Ga old Al-undepleted and Al-depleted komatiites from the Kaapvaal and Zimbabwe Cratons in southern Africa, the Yilgarn Craton in Australia, and the Superior Craton in Canada. The sample set includes komatiites that remained sulfur-undersaturated upon emplacement, as well as komatiites that reached sulfide saturation owing to assimilation of crustal sulfur.

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All olivine grains display concentrations of Mn, Zn, Ge, Co, Fe, Mg, and Ni similar to the Bulk Silicate Earth (BSE) values, with significant negative anomalies in Sc, Ti, V, Cr, Ga, and Cu. Olivine from the studied Al-depleted komatiites displays on average higher $100 \times \text{Ga}/\text{Sc}$ ratios (>5) than olivine from Al-undepleted komatiites (≤ 5). Because garnet preferentially incorporates Sc over Ga, the data suggest that elevated Ga/Sc ratios in komatiitic olivine are indicative of garnet retention in the source region of komatiites, highlighting the potential of olivine trace element chemistry as a proxy for depth of komatiite melting and separation of the magma from the melting residue. Copper concentrations in the studied olivine grains are controlled by sulfur saturation of the host komatiite during olivine crystallization. Olivine from sulfur-undersaturated komatiite systems displays Cu concentrations mostly between 1 and 10 ppm, whereas olivine from sulfide-bearing komatiites has Cu contents < 0.5 ppm. Because komatiites contain some of the world's highest metal tenor magmatic Ni-Cu sulfide deposits, the Cu variability in olivine as a function of the sulfide-saturation state highlights a potential application of olivine chemistry in the exploration for sulfide ore deposits.

45 Olivine from the Paleo-Archean (3.5-3.3 Ga) komatiites displays overall higher V/Sc
46 ratios ($V/Sc = 2.1 \pm 0.96$; 2SD) than olivine from their Neo-Archean (2.7 Ga) counterparts (V/Sc
47 $= 1.0 \pm 0.81$, 2SD). Vanadium and Sc behave similarly during partial melting of the mantle and
48 are similarly compatible in majorite garnet. However, V is redox-sensitive and its compatibility
49 in olivine increases as the system becomes less oxidized, whereas Sc is redox-insensitive. We
50 argue that olivine from the studied Paleo-Archean komatiites crystallized from more reduced
51 magmas than their Neo-Archean counterparts. Elevated Fe/Mn ratios in olivine from Paleo-
52 Archean komatiites mimic the V/Sc signatures and are interpreted to reflect that Fe^{2+} is more
53 compatible in olivine than Fe^{3+} . These results imply that V/Sc and Fe/Mn in komatiitic olivine
54 may potentially provide insight into the evolution of the oxidation state of the Archean mantle.
55 Additional studies that integrate the chemistry of komatiitic olivine with those of relict interstitial
56 glass and melt/fluid inclusions are encouraged to fully understand and quantify the potential of
57 FRTE in olivine as a proxy for the oxidation state of the mantle sources of komatiite magmas.

58 **KEYWORDS:** Komatiite, olivine, Archean mantle evolution, first row transition elements,
59 oxygen fugacity, laser ablation ICP-MS.

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1. INTRODUCTION

70 Olivine is the most abundant mineral in the upper mantle and a major constituent of most
71 mantle-derived rocks. However, compared to other rock-forming minerals, studies on the trace
72 element chemistry of olivine are underrepresented; as a result, unlocking the full potential of
73 olivine chemistry as petrogenetic tracer for igneous processes is a long-standing goal. An
74 important advantage of in-situ mineral analysis is that elemental signatures captured by early
75 crystallizing minerals, such as olivine and chromite, are potentially better shielded from
76 subsequent alteration than bulk rock signatures (e.g. Jurewicz and Watson, 1988; Foley et al.,
77 2011; Birner et al., 2016; Locmelis et al., 2018). Therefore, the trace element chemistry of
78 olivine may provide us with a more robust archive for early Earth processes, particularly in cases
79 where bulk rock studies yield ambiguous results and/or sample material is limited.

80 Over the past two decades, most of the information on the role of olivine in the
81 fractionation and concentration of trace elements was derived from experimental studies that
82 focused on the partitioning of these elements between olivine and silicate melt (e.g. Borisov et
83 al., 2008; Canil and Fedortchouk, 2001; Wang and Gaetani, 2008; Nicklas et al., 2016, 2018,
84 2019), as well as from compositional studies that investigated in-situ major and minor elements
85 by electron microprobe (e.g., Sobolev et al., 2007; Sobolev et al., 2005). However, owing to
86 significant advances in analytical techniques, such as laser ablation inductively coupled plasma
87 mass spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS) and secondary ion mass spectrometry (SIMS), there is a
88 renewed enthusiasm on the use of olivine chemistry as a petrogenetic tracer of mantle source
89 composition (De Hoog et al., 2010; Foley et al., 2013; Sobolev et al., 2016), in geothermometry
90 (De Hoog et al., 2010), to track crustal recycling and interaction with carbonatitic melts (Foley et

91 al., 2013), and as a tool in the exploration for magmatic sulfide deposits (Bulle and Layne,
92 2015).

93 However, the trace element chemistry of olivine from komatiites remains largely
94 unexplored. Here, we address this void by presenting the results of a comprehensive study of
95 first row transition elements (FRTE = Sc, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, and Zn), as well as Ga
96 and Ge, in olivine from a globally representative sample set of 2.7 to 3.5 Ga old komatiites.
97 Komatiites are ultramafic rocks that represent the crystallization products of magmas formed via
98 high degrees of partial melting (up to 50%) of the mantle (Gruau et al., 1990; Jahn et al., 1982;
99 Nesbitt et al., 1979). Because of the high MgO liquid compositions of komatiites (> 18 wt.%
100 MgO anhydrous) and high liquidus temperatures (up to ~1700° C), olivine is the only liquidus
101 phase that crystallized in komatiites over a wide temperature interval ($\Delta T = 350^\circ\text{C}$) and makes
102 up 40-80 vol.% of cumulate zones of differentiated komatiite lava flows and up to 100% in
103 adcumulus olivine dunite bodies (Arndt et al., 2008). Therefore, the compositional information
104 extracted from komatiitic olivine can provide valuable insights into the composition of the
105 Archean mantle, as well as on the nature of the deep melting processes that occurred during the
106 genesis of komatiites (e.g., Nisbet et al., 1993; Sobolev et al., 2016). Furthermore, komatiites
107 contain some of the world's highest metal tenor magmatic Ni-Cu sulfide deposits formed via
108 sulfur saturation of komatiitic magmas and accumulation of immiscible sulfide liquid;
109 accordingly, studies that may help constrain the sulfide-saturation history of komatiites are of
110 notable interest to economic geologists (e.g., Le Vaillant et al., 2016).

111 The FRTE, Ga and Ge are variably siderophile and chalcophile elements that behave
112 compatibly to mildly incompatibly during partial melting of the mantle. As a consequence, these
113 elements have been employed as petrogenetic tracers to constrain a wide range of geochemical

114 and physical processes. For example, the high Fe/Mn ratios recorded in basaltic lavas collected
115 from Hawaii, Tahiti, and Reunion have been inferred to represent evidence of core-mantle
116 exchange (e.g. Humayun et al., 2004). Further, ratios of Ga/Sc (Davis et al., 2013; Le Roux et
117 al., 2015), Ga/Ge (Arevalo Jr. and McDonough, 2010) and Zn/Fe (Le Roux et al., 2010; Lee et
118 al., 2010), as well as absolute abundances of Cu (Lee et al., 2012) and the partitioning behavior
119 of V and Cr (Canil, 1997; Delano, 2001; Nicklas et al., 2016; Nicklas et al., 2018) measured in
120 mantle-derived materials have been interpreted to reflect source lithologies and/or local redox
121 conditions.

122 Here, we present the major, minor, and trace element compositions of olivine grains from
123 a globally representative set of 2.7-3.5 Ga samples of komatiites determined by electron probe
124 (EPMA) and laser ablation ICP-MS. The data are integrated with previously published bulk-rock
125 data from the same locations. The results are used to discuss the usefulness of the FRTE, Ga and
126 Ge in olivine as petrogenetic tracers for mantle source compositions, the redox conditions of
127 komatiite magmas, and the exploration for komatiite-hosted magmatic sulfide deposits.

128 **2. SAMPLES AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

129 In order to build a globally representative suite of Archean komatiites, we analyzed well-
130 preserved komatiites of different ages and from different cratons (Table 1), including samples
131 from: the 3.5 Ga Komati Formation and 3.3 Ga Weltevreden (Puchtel et al., 2013) in the
132 Barberton greenstone belt (Kaapvaal Craton, South Africa); 2.7 Ga Tony's Flow (Bickle et al.,
133 1993; Puchtel et al., 2009; Renner et al., 1994) in the Belingwe greenstone belt (Zimbabwe
134 Craton, Zimbabwe); 2.7 Ga Alexo (Puchtel et al., 2004) in the Abitibi greenstone belt (Superior
135 Craton, Canada); and 2.7 Ga Betheno (Barnes et al., 2011), Mount Clifford (Locmelis et al.,
136 2009), Murphy Well (Locmelis et al., 2011), Perseverance (Locmelis et al., 2013), and The Horn

137 (Locmelis et al., 2013) in the Eastern Goldfields Superterrane (Yilgarn Craton, Australia). All
138 localities and samples are described in detail in Appendix A1.

139 This sample selection also enables the comparison between komatiites of different
140 geochemical affinities, i.e., Al-depleted and Al-undepleted komatiites. Aluminum-depleted
141 komatiites ($\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{TiO}_2 \approx 10\text{-}15$) are considered to have formed from ~30% batch melting of the
142 mantle at depths greater than 300 km, whereby Al-depletion reflects majorite retention in the
143 mantle source and/or fractionation from the komatiite melt during magma ascent (Gruau et al.,
144 1990; Jahn et al., 1982; Nesbitt et al., 1979). In contrast, Al-undepleted komatiites ($\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{TiO}_2 \approx$
145 $15\text{-}25$) formed from higher degrees of fractional melting (up to 50%) at depths shallower than
146 300 km, outside of the majorite garnet stability field. Thus, the influence of garnet retention in
147 the source on the composition of the magma, as well as on olivine chemistry, may be
148 interrogated through this sample set.

149 **3. Analytical Techniques**

150 **3.1 Electron microprobe analyses**

151 The major element compositions of olivine grains from Komati, Weltevreden, Tony's
152 Flow and Alexo were determined on polished samples using a JEOL JXA-8900R electron probe
153 microanalyzer at the Department of Geology, University of Maryland, with 15 kV accelerating
154 potential, a 20 nA focused electron beam current, and a 10 μm spot size. Major elements
155 (defined as > 1 wt.%) have been determined with an accuracy of better than 3% and an external
156 precision of better than 3% (2SD) based on replicate analyses of various probe standards.
157 Conversely, minor elements (defined as < 1 wt.%) have been determined with an accuracy of
158 better than 5% and an external precision of better than 4% (2SD).

159 Olivine grains from Betheno, Mount Clifford, Murphy Well, Perseverance and The Horn
160 were analyzed using a Cameca SX-100 electron microprobe in the Geochemical Analysis Unit
161 (GAU), GEMOC/CCFS at Macquarie University with 15 kV acceleration voltage, a 20 nA
162 sample current and a spot size of 5 μm . Major elements have been determined with an accuracy
163 of better than 3% and an external precision of better than 3% (2SD); minor elements have been
164 determined with an accuracy of better than 4% and an external precision of better than 4%
165 (2SD).

166 **3.2 Laser ablation ICP-MS analyses**

167 The FRTE, Ga and Ge contents of the olivine grains were determined using a Photon
168 Machines Analyte G2 ArF Excimer laser ablation system coupled to a Nu Instruments AttoM
169 high resolution ICP-MS in the Planetary Environments Laboratory at NASA Goddard Space
170 Flight Center. The analyses used 75-150 μm beam sizes, a pulse rate of 10 Hz and a constant
171 fluence of 4.47 J/cm². The ICP-MS analyses were conducted in medium resolution mode (M/ Δ M
172 = 2500, measured at 5% peak intensity) using the tunable slits offered by the Nu AttoM
173 (Funderburg et al., 2017). Following the protocol outlined in Arevalo et al. (2011), multiple
174 isotopes for each element (when available) were monitored in order to identify potential isobaric
175 interferences, namely: ⁴⁵Sc, ^{47,49}Ti, ⁵¹V, ^{52,53}Cr, ⁵⁵Mn, ^{56,57}Fe, ⁵⁹Co, ^{60,62}Ni, ^{63,65}Cu, ^{66,67,68}Zn,
176 ^{69,71}Ga, ^{72,73,74}Ge. Spikes in signal transients (i.e., counts-per-second versus time), which could
177 reflect inclusions, were excluded from the data reduction; thus, all reported elemental
178 abundances are interpreted to reflect the matrix of the analyzed olivines. The analytical protocol
179 and the accuracy and precision of the analyses are discussed in detail in Appendix A2.

180 **4. RESULTS**

181 **4.1. Bulk-rock major and minor element data**

182 Bulk-rock data of the komatiites investigated in this study have previously been presented
183 elsewhere (see Figure 1 for references) and are only summarized here. All bulk-rock data have
184 been normalized to 100 % on a volatile-free basis and include the samples from this study, as
185 well as additional samples to provide a more representative bulk-rock data set for some of the
186 localities discussed here, i.e., Alexo, Betheno, Murphy Well, Mount Clifford, Tony's Flow
187 samples (from the same olivine cumulate portions as the samples analyzed via LA-ICP-MS), and
188 Weltevreden and the Komati Formation (additional flows). The bulk-rock compositions are
189 dominantly controlled by fractionation and accumulation of olivine, resulting in olivine-
190 controlled linear trends of increasing $\text{FeO}_{\text{total}}$, TiO_2 and Al_2O_3 with decreasing MgO (Fig. 1 A-C).
191 Samples with the highest MgO abundances (49-52 wt. %) are near-pure olivine cumulates (i.e.,
192 Perseverance and Betheno), whereas the lower-MgO samples are from olivine cumulate layers
193 with lower modal olivine abundances and/or less MgO-rich olivine (e.g., 28-31 wt.% MgO in
194 Tony's Flow). Intercepts of TiO_2 and Al_2O_3 on the MgO axis are at 50-54% MgO for individual
195 localities (Fig. 1B, C), implying that the bulk-rock chemistry is primarily controlled by
196 fractionation of liquidus olivine. Nickel concentrations are typical of ultramafic systems (up to
197 ~3000 ppm for sulfur-undersaturated komatiites with S < 0.25 wt.% (Barnes, 1998) and display a
198 positive correlation with MgO (Fig. 1D). However, it is noted that some samples from Betheno
199 are enriched in Ni (up to 7000 ppm). Conversely, samples from Mount Clifford are depleted in
200 Ni with concentrations mostly between 800 and 1100 ppm.

201 Two different komatiite types can be distinguished based on their $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{TiO}_2$ ratios and
202 relative Al_2O_3 abundances (Fig. 1E). Komatiites from the Komati Formation have $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{TiO}_2$ of
203 ~10, typical of Al-depleted komatiites (Gruau et al., 1990; Jahn et al., 1982; Nesbitt et al., 1979).

204 Samples from Tony's Flow, Alexo, Mount Clifford, and Murphy Well have average $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{TiO}_2$
205 ratios of 19 to 24. These values are consistent with the Bulk Silicate Earth (BSE) $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{TiO}_2$
206 ratio of 22 (McDonough and Sun, 1995) and the Al-undepleted affinity of these rocks (Gruau et
207 al., 1990; Jahn et al., 1982; Nesbitt et al., 1979). The majority of samples from Betheno,
208 Perseverance, and The Horn have lower $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{TiO}_2$ ratios of 4-14. However, komatiites in the
209 Eastern Goldfield Superterrane are generally classified as Al-undepleted komatiites (Barnes,
210 2006). The observed deviation from the typical mantle $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{TiO}_2$ values is best explained by
211 the very low TiO_2 concentrations, which are close to the detection limit (≤ 0.05 wt.%). Samples
212 from the Weltevreden Formation have Al-enriched signatures with $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{TiO}_2$ ratios of 28-30.
213 However, as illustrated in Figure 1, the Al_2O_3 concentrations at a given MgO of the Weltevreden
214 samples are identical to the Al-undepleted komatiites, whereas the high $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{TiO}_2$ ratios are
215 due to the lower TiO_2 contents in the former. As such, we refer to the Weltevreden komatiites as
216 Al-undepleted.

217 **4.2. Olivine petrography**

218 Most olivine grains are cumulate in origin, ranging between 0.2 and 1 mm in size.
219 Despite some replacement by serpentine around the rims and along cracks into the grains, the
220 relict olivine cores are commonly well preserved (Fig. 2, A-C). The samples from Mount
221 Clifford and Murphy Well are more extensively serpentinized, whereby olivine commonly
222 occurs as rounded relict grains mostly between 100-200 μm in diameter. Although the relict
223 olivine grains from Murphy Well are rounded, their primary skeletal texture is well preserved
224 (Fig. 2D).

225 **4.3. Olivine chemistry**

226 The complete olivine data set is presented in Appendix A3. All analyzed grains display
227 similar trace element patterns when normalized to the composition of the BSE. Olivine grains
228 from the various localities have near-BSE abundances of Mn, Zn, Ge, Co, Fe, Mg, Ni, and
229 negative anomalies at Sc, Ti, V, Cr, Ga, and Cu (Fig. 3). The forsterite ($Fo = \text{molar}$
230 $\text{Mg}/(\text{Mg}+\text{Fe}) \times 100$) contents of olivine are between 90 and 94, and as low as 87 in one sample
231 from Komati; olivine clusters at different Fo at Komati represent individual komatiite flows (Fig.
232 4; Appendix A-1). Grains from Weltevreden have Fo contents between 94 and 95, which are
233 characteristic of this locality and are among the highest values reported for komatiitic olivine
234 (Arndt et al., 2008; Byerly et al., 2017; Puchtel et al., 2013). Nickel contents are typically high
235 (from 1900 to 4800 ppm Ni), although grains from Mount Clifford are distinctly Ni-depleted,
236 with only 1000-1200 ppm Ni (Fig. 4A). Most olivine grains contain between 500 and 1900 ppm
237 Cr, with no obvious correlation with Fo ; grains from Betheno, Murphy Well and Mount Clifford
238 are notably low in Cr, with concentrations between 260 and 650 ppm Cr (Fig. 4B). Manganese
239 displays a consistent negative correlation with Fo , with Mn contents between 550 and 1600 ppm
240 (Fig. 4C). Negative correlations with Fo also exist for Co (90-170 ppm; 170-200 ppm at Mount
241 Clifford), Zn (20-70 ppm), and V (1.1-11 ppm; Fig. 4D, E, F, respectively), with variable
242 degrees of scatter.

243 Most olivine grains contain between 6.1 and 40 ppm Ti; however, it is noted that olivine
244 from the Komati Formation shows a distinct variability in Ti (~10-100 ppm) that is independent
245 of Fo (Fig. 4G). Scandium ranges from 1.2 to 3.5 ppm in olivine grains from Weltevreden and
246 the Komati Formation and from 3.0 to 6.5 ppm in all other localities (Fig. 4H). Germanium
247 concentrations fall between 0.20 and 1.5 ppm, independently of Fo values (Fig. 4I); however, the
248 grains from Murphy Well notably display a wide range in Ge, with concentrations between 1.0

249 and 3.8 ppm. Copper contents of olivine are also independent of Fo and range from 1-5 ppm in
250 most localities, but concentrations < 0.5 ppm are observed in grains from Betheno, Perseverance
251 and The Horn (Fig. 4J). Gallium concentrations, which range from < 0.1 to 0.6 ppm, also do not
252 correlate with Fo (Fig. 4K).

253 **5. DISCUSSION**

254 **5.1. Olivine chemistry**

255 The high Fo content of olivine (mostly between Fo 90 and 94; Fig. 4) is characteristic of olivine
256 crystallized from primary komatiite magmas (Arndt et al., 2008). The lower Fo content of ~87 in
257 sample BV-13 implies crystallization from a more evolved liquid. The high Ni contents of
258 olivine between 1900 and 4800 ppm and the broad positive correlation with Fo (Fig. 4B) are
259 typical of komatiitic olivine reflecting the ultramafic nature of the komatiite magma and the
260 compatibility of Ni in olivine (Hart and Davis, 1978). The Ni depletion in grains from Mount
261 Clifford has previously been shown to reflect early sulfide segregation that caused a Ni depletion
262 in the magma parental to the Mount Clifford dunite (Locmelis et al., 2009). The high Cr contents
263 of most olivine (~1000 – 2000 ppm Cr) are linked to high Cr concentrations in the parental melt
264 reflecting the high degrees of partial melting that is required to form komatiite liquids; lower Cr
265 concentrations in some samples reflect co-crystallization of minor chromite. Manganese, Co, Zn
266 and (less distinctly) V show negative correlations with Fo implying liquidus control during the
267 fractionation of the komatiite melt (Fig. 4 C-E). The reasons for the Co enrichment in olivine
268 from Mount Clifford (150 – 200 ppm Co) remain a subject of investigation. Titanium
269 concentrations are mostly less than 70 ppm and are independent of the Fo content; such low Ti
270 contents are typical of mantle-derived olivine (Foley et al., 2013). All other analyzed elements
271 are discussed in the following sections.

272 **5.2. Olivine chemistry as a proxy for mantle source composition?**

273 Davis et al. (2013) and Le Roux et al. (2015) suggested that high bulk rock Ga/Sc ratios
274 in mantle-derived lavas may reflect the presence of garnet in their mantle source regions; it is
275 argued that this signature may also be recorded by early crystallizing olivine. As shown in Fig. 5,
276 $100 \times \text{Ga}/\text{Sc}$ ratios in the olivine from Al-depleted Komati Formation komatiites are on average
277 higher than in the olivine from the Al-undepleted komatiites (all other localities). Independent
278 and paired t-test probabilities show that the two Ga/Sc populations (i.e., Al-depleted vs. Al-
279 undepleted types) are statistically distinct at the >95% confidence-level.

280 Following the argument of Davis et al. (2013) that garnet preferentially incorporates Sc
281 over Ga ($D_{\text{Sc}}^{\text{garnet/melt}} = 6.0$; $D_{\text{Ga}}^{\text{garnet/melt}} = 0.39$), the data suggest that the elevated Ga/Sc ratios in
282 the Komati Formation olivine reflect garnet retention in the source, corroborating the commonly
283 accepted model for the formation of Al-depleted-type komatiites (Arndt et al., 2008). This
284 hypothesis is strengthened by the observation that the difference in olivine Ga/Sc ratios between
285 Al-depleted and Al-undepleted komatiites is largely driven by a depletion in Sc (Fig. 4H)
286 whereas the Ga concentrations are similar (Fig. 4K). Such behavior is expected because Ga
287 partitioning is largely unaffected by garnet crystallization (Davis et al., 2013). As a consequence,
288 the results imply that olivine trace element chemistry may be successfully integrated with bulk-
289 rock data (e.g., Al/Ti, Gd/Yb) to constrain the nature of mantle sources. However, it is noted that
290 the experimental data presented by Davis et al. (2013) were conducted at P-T conditions (~1.5 –
291 3.0 GPa, 1300-1500 °C) distinctly lower than the conditions expected for the source regions of
292 Al-depleted komatiites (> 10 GPa, > 1700 °C; Arndt et al., 2008). Therefore, the validity of this
293 approach remains to be experimentally tested for majorite-garnet retention at higher P-T.

294 Arevalo and McDonough (2010) proposed that that bulk-rock Ga/Ge ratios can be used to
295 understand the role of garnet and spinel during melting of mantle rocks, suggesting that Ga and
296 Ge may approximate the geochemical behavior of Al and Si, respectively; but are more sensitive
297 to geochemical processes due to their trace abundances. However, as shown in Fig. 6, there are
298 no notable differences in Ga/Ge ratios between the different komatiites, although olivine grains
299 from Murphy Well display distinctly variable Ge contents (up to 3.8 ppm; Fig. 4-I).

300 It is remarkable that anomalous Ge spikes were not observed during the time-resolved
301 analyses collected in this study, suggesting that Ge does not exist as Ge-rich inclusions but
302 dissolved in the olivine matrix. Although Ge concentrations are generally very low in igneous
303 rocks and only display minor variability, significant Ge enrichments have been observed in some
304 rocks with high volatile contents (Höll et al., 2007). This observation is noteworthy because the
305 Murphy Well flow is considered to have crystallized from a magma with high water contents of
306 ~3 wt.% H₂O (Siégel et al., 2014). Moreover, a detailed study of early crystallized olivine from
307 hydrous (≥ 4 wt.% H₂O) alkaline mantle-derived magmas emplaced in pipes in the Ivrea Zone of
308 northwest Italy yielded Ge concentrations similar to Murphy Well (i.e., 2-4 ppm; Locmelis et al.,
309 2016), well above the Ge concentrations of olivine from the other komatiite localities included in
310 this study. For comparison, the parental melt of the komatiite from Alexo has a reported water
311 content of 0.6 wt.% H₂O (Sobolev et al., 2016), whereas olivines from Belingwe crystallized
312 from a magma with 0.2 - 0.3 wt.% H₂O (Berry et al., 2008; Danyushevsky et al., 2002). Because
313 of the scarcity of published Ge data in olivine, more comprehensive studies are required to
314 confirm if high Ge concentrations in olivine indicate crystallization from a hydrous magma, or if
315 the observed trend is merely the result of sampling bias.

316 **5.3 V/Sc ratios in olivine as a proxy for magma redox conditions?**

317 The redox state of the mantle has been estimated from the partitioning behavior of V and
318 Sc as these elements behave in a similar way during partial melting but V is multivalent (V^{2+} to
319 V^{5+}) and more compatible in olivine under reducing conditions (Canil, 1997; Canil and
320 Fedortchouk, 2001; Mallmann and O'Neill, 2009). Conversely, Sc is monovalent (Sc^{3+}), and,
321 therefore, its compatibility in olivine is not affected by shifts in oxygen fugacity (fO_2) within the
322 range observed in natural systems.

323 Li and Lee (2004) and Lee et al. (2005) interpreted similar bulk-rock V/Sc systematics in
324 a global series of peridotites, mid-ocean ridge basalts, arc lavas, and ancient volcanic rocks to
325 reflect spatial and temporal uniformity in the mantle oxidation state over the past 3.5 billion
326 years. This conclusion is in agreement with other studies that proposed a static mantle redox state
327 since the Archean based on the analogous geochemical behavior of V, Cr, and Ce in
328 contemporary and ancient magmatic materials (Canil, 1997; Delano, 2001; Trail et al., 2011) and
329 $Fe^{3+}/\Sigma Fe$ ratios measured in melt inclusions (Berry et al., 2008).

330 However, several more recent studies argue against static mantle redox conditions since
331 the Archean. A more reduced Archean mantle is proposed by Aulbach and Stagno (2016) who
332 compare V/Sc signatures of 3000–550 Ma mid-ocean ridge basalts (MORB) and picrites. Their
333 data show that Archean suites have lower V/Sc ratios than Proterozoic and contemporary mantle-
334 derived rocks, which these authors interpret to reflect more reduced mantle source regions for the
335 Archean rocks. Nicklas et al. (2018) investigated the fO_2 of the Archean mantle measuring the
336 redox-sensitive partitioning of V between olivine, chromite and komatiite melts in a series of 3.5
337 to 2.4 Ga komatiites. These authors speculate that a secular trend of increasing mantle fO_2 in the
338 Archean exists in their data, but acknowledge that overlapping uncertainties between their data
339 and/or with contemporary MORB lavas does not allow for a statistically robust quantification.

340 However, a subsequent study by Nicklas et al. (2019) using a more comprehensive sample set
341 shows compelling evidence for a secular oxidation of the Archean mantle over ~ 1.3 log units
342 relative to the fayalite-magnetite-quartz buffer from 3.48 to 1.87 Ga.

343 In-situ trace element analysis of early-formed komatiitic olivine potentially provides an
344 alternative tool to further constrain the redox conditions of the Archean mantle. Analyses of
345 early crystallized minerals from mantle-derived rocks have the distinct advantage that such
346 analyses circumvent many of the uncertainties associated with bulk-rock studies, such as
347 degassing of reduced volatiles and/or interaction with oxidizing metasomatic fluids, which may
348 lead to the oxidation of a magma but not necessarily of its source. The hypothesis that V/Sc
349 ratios in olivine may be indicative of magma redox conditions is supported by observations of
350 Foley et al. (2013), who linked low V/Sc ratios (< 2) in olivine from metasomatized peridotites
351 to infiltration of oxidizing melts. Similar observations were made by Locmelis et al. (2016), who
352 linked low V/Sc ratios (< 0.5) in olivine from lower crustal alkaline ultramafic pipes in the Ivrea-
353 Verbano Zone to their genesis through partial melting of metasomatized lithospheric mantle
354 domains, following infiltration of oxidizing fluids and/or melts.

355 Here, we evaluate the applicability of V/Sc ratios in olivine as a proxy for magma redox
356 conditions of komatiitic magmas during olivine crystallization. As shown in Figure 7A, B,
357 olivine from the Paleo-Archean (3.5 - 3.3 Ga) komatiites have overall higher V/Sc ratios ($2.1 \pm$
358 0.96 ; 2SD) than olivine from their Neo-Archean (2.7 Ga) counterparts ($V/Sc = 1.0 \pm 0.81$, 2SD).
359 Independent and paired t-tests show that the two V/Sc populations are statistically distinct at a
360 $>99\%$ confidence level. A bimodal V/Sc distribution can also be seen in the bulk-rock
361 concentrations, based on the limited published data available; i.e. Paleo-Archean samples from
362 the Komati Formation and Weltevreden have relatively higher bulk-rock V/Sc ratios of 6.0 to

363 7.2, whereas Neo-Archean bulk-rock samples from Betheno, Perseverance and The Horn are
364 characterized by lower $V/Sc = 1.8-3.6$ (Fig. 1F). The V/Sc ratios observed in the bulk-rock data
365 are overall higher than in the corresponding olivine, suggesting that a phase other than olivine
366 affects the total V/Sc budget of the sampled units, e.g., late magmatic chromite and/or
367 postmagmatic alteration products. Distinguishing between different V and Sc hosts based on the
368 published bulk-rock data is difficult, because bulk-rock signatures represent a wide range of
369 magmatic and post-magmatic processes. This particularly applies to komatiites, where even
370 “fresh” samples display advanced metamorphism, alteration and/or weathering (Fig. 2), which
371 further highlights the need for novel mineral-based petrogenetic tracers for Archean rocks. It is
372 noted that the V/Sc ratios in olivine do not correlate with the Fo content (Fig. 7A), thereby
373 corroborating the notion that these elements have a very similar geochemical behavior. Because
374 V compatibility in olivine increases as the oxidation state of the system decreases, the elevated
375 V/Sc ratios measured in the olivine grains from the Paleo-Archean systems may reflect
376 crystallization from a more reduced magma. However, several alternative mechanisms, other
377 than redox conditions, may be responsible for the observed V/Sc distribution. We critically
378 discuss these alternative scenarios below.

379 **5.3.1 Factors that can influence the partitioning behavior of V and Sc.**

380 (1) The partitioning of V and Sc into olivine may reflect changes in V and Sc
381 concentrations in the co-existing melt during the crystallization of the host komatiite magma.
382 However, according to Henry’s Law, the partitioning behavior of a trace element is independent
383 of its concentration. Because V and Sc are trace elements in komatiites, it is unlikely that the
384 observed V/Sc pattern reflects changes of bulk V and Sc contents in the magmas from which
385 olivine crystallized. Increasing the concentration above a critical value may lead to

386 concentration-dependent partitioning behavior. In such a scenario, and considering that the
387 komatiite sequences included in this study are essentially two-component systems of olivine with
388 accessory chromite, a concentration-dependent partitioning behavior would manifest as a distinct
389 correlation between Fo versus V/Sc, which is not evident in the presented dataset (Fig. 7).
390 Nonetheless, to circumvent any potential V-Sc behavioral changes related to time-varying
391 magma composition, only the olivine cores were analyzed. Therefore, it is possible to consider
392 the effect of evolving magma composition on V-Sc partitioning as negligible.

393 (2) The V/Sc ratios in olivine may not reflect magmatic signatures, but instead post-
394 magmatic overprints (requiring open system behavior). However, such an assertion is
395 improbable because bimodal distribution of V/Sc does not correlate with metamorphic grade
396 (Table 1). Furthermore, this study only analyzed the core portions of the best preserved olivine
397 grains in each sample. Thus, only significant mass exchange followed by complete re-
398 equilibration of the olivine grains analyzed here could reconcile this argument, which is an
399 unlikely scenario. This hypothesis is supported by a study of Birner et al. (2016) that shows that
400 abyssal peridotite minerals preserve mantle fO_2 signatures even at high levels of alteration
401 and/or serpentinization.

402 (3) The V/Sc ratios in olivine may not reflect the composition of the mantle-derived
403 parental magma, but assimilation of sedimentary rocks upon komatiite emplacement. Thermo-
404 mechanical erosion and assimilation of country rocks have been shown to alter the composition
405 of komatiite magmas upon emplacement; perhaps most notably, the assimilation of crustal sulfur
406 is required to reach sulfide saturation at low pressures and to form komatiite-hosted magmatic
407 sulfide deposits (Bekker et al., 2009; Groves et al., 1986; Leshner et al., 1984; Leshner, 1989;
408 Ripley et al., 1999). As a consequence, it could be argued that the redox states recorded by the

409 composition of the komatiitic olivine grains do not reflect mantle conditions, but rather the
410 assimilation of crustal material that altered the magma composition and/or fO_2 . However,
411 previous studies of lithophile element and isotope systematics have shown that crustal
412 contamination did not play a significant role in the evolution of most of the studied komatiite
413 systems (Puchtel et al., 2013; Puchtel et al., 2004, 2009). Localities that do show evidence of
414 crustal assimilation through the presence of sulfides (i.e., 2.7 Ga Betheno, The Horn, and
415 Perseverance) do not differ in terms of their olivine compositions from the other 2.7 Ga
416 komatiites that did not assimilate enough crustal sulfur to reach sulfide saturation (Fig. 4J).
417 Therefore, it can be argued that the olivine V/Sc contents were not notably affected by crustal
418 assimilation.

419 (4) The olivine V/Sc ratios may be affected by the co-crystallization of chromite and the
420 resulting competition for V between olivine and chromite. Although chromite grains were not
421 analyzed for this study, several lines of evidence suggest that the effect of chromite
422 crystallization on the V/Sc ratios of olivine is only minor. Firstly, the absolute abundances of
423 most major, minor, and trace lithophile elements in the bulk komatiitic magmas (e.g., Puchtel et
424 al., 2013), as well as in their constituent olivine (Fig. 4) track predictably with MgO, coinciding
425 with olivine control lines as discussed above, thus suggesting that olivine was the only liquidus
426 phase in the studied samples. Secondly, even if chromite would have been a liquidus phase that
427 co-crystallized with early olivine, preferred partitioning of V into chromite only has a very
428 limited effect on V/Sc ratios in komatiitic olivine as shown by models of fractional
429 crystallization based on the equation of Shaw (2006):

$$430 \quad C_s = F^{(D-1)} * C_o * D \quad (2)$$

431 Where C_s is the concentration in the crystallizing solid, F is the melt fraction, C_o are the initial V
432 and/or Sc contents in the source, and D is the initial bulk rock partition coefficient for V and Sc.
433 Values for V and Sc were calculated separately. V/Sc ratios were then used to determine the
434 amount of fractionation between V and Sc during olivine crystallization for a Fo range relevant
435 to this study (i.e., Fo 95 to 87). Using partitioning coefficients from Mallmann and O'Neill
436 (2009), the modelling shows that crystallization of 5% chromite causes <5% of fractionation
437 between V and Sc at fO_2 conditions of QFM-0.7 to QFM+1.3 (i.e., assuming that the Neo-
438 Archean mantle equilibrated around the QFM buffer as suggested by Canil (1997)), Lee et al.
439 (2005), and Li and Lee (2004). It is noted that the analyzed komatiites only contain 1-3%
440 chromite, implying that the real effect of fractional crystallization on the V/Sc ratios in olivine is
441 lower than the extreme case calculations assuming 5% chromite. Therefore, we argue that olivine
442 and chromite co-crystallization cannot account for the V/Sc ratio decrease of ~50% between
443 Paleo-Archean olivine ($V/Sc_{\text{mean}} = 2.1 \pm 0.96$; 2SD) and Neo-Archean olivine ($V/Sc_{\text{mean}} = 1.0 \pm$
444 0.81 ; 2SD)

445 (5) Some of the elevated V/Sc ratios may be due to the presence of majorite garnet in the
446 komatiite source regions, which may have preferentially retained Sc in the residual mantle,
447 analogous to the observations made for Ga/Sc above. As shown in Fig. 7A, B, all Paleo-Archean
448 komatiites are characterized by elevated V/Sc ratios, but only Komati Formation komatiites
449 show evidence of significant garnet retained in their source. Olivine from Paleo-Archean Al-
450 depleted (Komati: $V/Sc_{\text{mean}} = 2.0 \pm 0.92$, 2SD) and Al-undepleted (Weltevreden: $V/Sc_{\text{mean}} = 2.3$
451 ± 0.93 , 2SD) komatiites have similarly elevated V/Sc ratios, despite sampling different mantle
452 domains and forming under different melting conditions and processes (Robin-Popieul et al.,
453 2012). Thus, an argument can be made that V/Sc ratios can “see through” early fractional

454 crystallization (as opposed to Ga/Sc that is indicative of garnet retention). This has previously
455 been suggested by Li and Lee (2004) and is experimentally supported by Ohtani et al. (1989)
456 who conducted experiments on V and Sc partition coefficients (D) between majorite garnet and
457 ultramafic melts at high pressures (16 GPa) and temperatures (1950 °C). These authors show that
458 the partition coefficients between majorite garnet and komatiitic melt are similar for V (D_V
459 $_{\text{majorite/liquid}} = 1.4$) and Sc ($D_{\text{Sc majorite/liquid}} = 1.6$), suggesting that V and Sc are not greatly
460 fractionated via garnet retention under the conditions encountered in the source regions of
461 komatiites. However, an argument can be made that even small differences in D_V and D_{Sc} may
462 affect the V/Sc signatures in olivine shown in Fig. 7-A, particularly for Komati, which represents
463 a mantle source that contained residual garnet. In such a scenario, the V/Sc variability shown in
464 Fig. 7-A may be interpreted to primarily reflect garnet retention at Komati. Consequently, the
465 similar V/Sc ratios observed for Paleo-Archean olivine from Weltevreden may be coincidental.
466 Although our current data do not allow a quantification of garnet control on the V/Sc ratios
467 measured in olivine, it is noted that the study by Nicklas et al. (2019) also observed a secular
468 mantle oxidation in the Archean, using a similar sample set, but a redox proxy that is
469 independent of Sc. Thus we argue that the V/Sc ratios of olivine in our presented data provide a
470 corroborative gauge for the fO_2 of the komatiite magma during olivine crystallization. However,
471 further evaluation of the quantitative applicability of V/Sc in olivine from komatiites and more
472 evolved systems as a proxy for magma redox conditions will require extensive studies of relict
473 interstitial glass, and melt/fluid inclusions, as well as experimental calibration of V/Sc in olivine
474 as an fO_2 meter.

475 In summary, the V/Sc ratios in komatiitic olivine empirically support the observations by
476 Foley et al. (2013) and Locmelis et al. (2016) that low V/Sc ratios in olivine are indicative of

477 oxidizing conditions during olivine crystallization. However, significant uncertainties remain
478 regarding the usefulness of V/Sc in olivine as a reliable indicator for magma fO_2 . For example,
479 even if the elevated V/Sc ratios in olivine from the 3.5 Ga Komati Formation and 3.3 Ga
480 Weltevreden komatiites reflect crystallization from magmas that were more reduced than their
481 2.7 Ga counterparts, it remains unclear if the V/Sc ratios are really indicative of a global
482 oxidation of the Archean mantle between 3.5 and 2.7 Ga or merely reflect mantle heterogeneity.
483 Furthermore, the variation in fO_2 as a function of variations in V/Sc of olivine remains to be
484 quantified.

485 Sobolev et al. (2016) investigated the water content, as well as the abundances of other
486 volatile components, in olivine from Alexo in the Abitibi greenstone belt, Canada. Their findings
487 show that the parental melt of the Alexo komatiite was hydrous and began to crystallize under
488 redox conditions approximately one log unit below the QFM buffer. These results are in
489 agreement with other studies of 2.7 Ga komatiites, which demonstrated that Neo-Archean
490 komatiites generally equilibrated at, or just below the QFM buffer (Barnes and Fiorentini, 2012;
491 Locmelis et al., 2018; Nicklas et al., 2018). Consequently, if the V/Sc ratios of olivine in Paleo-
492 Archean komatiites reflect more reducing conditions, the Paleo-Archean mantle must have
493 resided notably more below the QFM buffer than previously thought. This hypothesis is
494 supported by the recent study by Nicklas et al. (2019), who propose an increase in mantle fO_2 of
495 ~ 1.3 log units relative to the QFM buffer from 3.48 to 1.87 Ga based on V partitioning between
496 liquidus olivine and komatiitic and picritic melts. The observations of this study and Nicklas et
497 al. (2019) are intriguing, as an increase of only 0.5 log units in fO_2 of the mantle has been
498 proposed as a sufficient kick-starter to instigate a transition from a reducing to an oxygenated
499 atmosphere during the ~ 2.4 Ga Great Oxidation Event (Holland 2002).

500 **5.4. Fe/Mn and Fe/Zn ratios in olivine: a redox proxy of the magma or a red**
501 **herring?**

502 Since the valence state of Fe ($\text{Fe}^{3+}/\sum\text{Fe}$) is redox sensitive, and because Fe^{2+} , Mn and Zn
503 behave similarly during mantle melting, Fe/Mn (Humayun et al., 2004) and Fe/Zn (Lee et al.,
504 2010) ratios have also been used as proxies of $f\text{O}_2$. The distribution of Fe/Mn ratios in the studied
505 olivine grains mimics the picture portrayed by the V/Sc ratios: elevated Fe/Mn ratios in olivine
506 from Paleo-Archean komatiites indicate more reducing conditions because Fe^{2+} is more
507 compatible in olivine (Fig. 7-C, D). In contrast, the distributions of Fe/Zn ratios measured in
508 olivine from Paleo- and Neo-Archean komatiites are statistically indistinct (Fig. 7-E, F). These
509 conflicting findings are not surprising, as olivine-melt partitioning of Fe is less sensitive to
510 varying $f\text{O}_2$ than V under the redox conditions typical of mantle-derived magmas, as observed in
511 natural systems (Canil, 1997; Delano, 2001) and laboratory experiments (Canil and Fedortchouk,
512 2001; Mallmann and O'Neill, 2009). In addition, recent partitioning experiments indicate that
513 Fe/Zn is a less sensitive indicator of mantle source composition than Fe/Mn (Davis et al., 2013),
514 potentially explaining the decoupling between the Fe/Mn and Fe/Zn results.

515 **5. 5. Copper in olivine as a search criterion for magmatic sulfide ore**
516 **deposits?**

517 Komatiites contain some of the highest metal tenor magmatic Ni-Cu sulfide deposits
518 (Barnes, 2006); consequently, the development of reliable geochemical indicators to guide the
519 search for Ni-Cu sulfide ores associated with komatiites has been a long-standing goal.
520 Traditionally, chalcophile element abundances in bulk-rock samples were employed to determine
521 if a given komatiite unit reached sulfide saturation, thus making it prospective as a host for
522 magmatic sulfide mineralization (e.g. Barnes and Fiorentini, 2012; Barnes et al., 2013; Le

523 Vaillant et al., 2016; Leshner et al., 2001). However, bulk-rock signatures represent a combined
524 effect of several magmatic and post-magmatic processes, complicating the identification of
525 primary ore-forming signatures. Recently, laser ablation ICP-MS studies of minerals that
526 fingerprint magmatic sulfide ore forming processes were shown to be a powerful exploratory
527 tool for magmatic sulfide deposits (see review by Le Vaillant et al., 2016). The data presented in
528 this study allow further testing of the usefulness of in-situ laser ablation ICP-MS as a potential
529 triage method by comparing the trace element compositions of olivine from komatiites that host
530 known Ni-Cu sulfide deposits to olivine grains from sulfide-undersaturated komatiites.

531 As shown in Figure 4J, olivine from komatiite units that host sulfide mineralization (i.e.,
532 Betheno, The Horn, and Perseverance) have significantly lower Cu concentrations than olivine
533 from komatiites that were sulfide-undersaturated upon emplacement, although there appears to
534 be some overlap in selected grains from the sulfide-free Murphy Well komatiite. The overall Cu
535 variation pattern is remarkably similar to the Ru variation patterns observed for komatiitic
536 chromite from various mineralized and barren komatiite localities (Locmelis et al., 2018;
537 Locmelis et al., 2013) and is interpreted to reflect the competition for Cu between sulfides and
538 olivine upon sulfide segregation. In the presence of sulfides, Cu will preferentially partition into
539 sulfides, with sulfide-melt partition coefficients close to 1500 (Peach et al., 1990). In the absence
540 of sulfides, Cu can more freely partition into olivine, albeit with low olivine-melt partition
541 coefficients of <0.15 (Le Roux et al., 2015; Lee et al., 2012). Therefore, even small amounts of
542 sulfides in the system will strongly affect the Cu contents of olivine, providing a distinct proxy
543 for the presence or absence of sulfides in the system.

544 Notably, the concentrations of other chalcophile elements in olivine, such as Ni, Zn, and
545 Co, do not seem to be significantly influenced by the sulfide saturation state of the host komatiite

546 magma in the studied localities, with exception of olivine from Mount Clifford that displays a
547 strong Ni depletion. The Ni content of olivine has previously been shown to be depleted relative
548 to typical komatiitic olivine in some magmatic sulfide-ore deposits (e.g., Barnes et al., 1988;
549 Leshner et al., 1981). However, olivine Ni depletion signatures generally appear to occur in
550 samples that are spatially close to ore zones (Le Vaillant et al., 2016), thus hampering their
551 usefulness in the exploration for such deposits. Zinc and Co concentrations in olivine also do not
552 correlate with the sulfide saturation state of komatiite magmas, likely due to the fact that the
553 partition coefficients for Zn and Co between sulfides and silicate melts are 1-2 orders of
554 magnitude lower compared to Cu (Li and Audétat, 2012). In contrast to Ni, Zn and Co, the Cu
555 contents of olivine appear to be distinctly more sensitive to the sulfide-saturation state. It is
556 noted, however, that the sulfide mineralized samples included here are from large dunite bodies,
557 whereas the non-mineralized samples are from thinner komatiite flows. It remains to be further
558 tested if the bimodal Cu variation in olivine primarily reflects sulfide-saturation, or if it is also
559 controlled by other factors, such as the silicate magma to sulfide melt ratio, kinetic effects during
560 magma emplacement and sub-solidus re-equilibration. To further develop Cu in olivine as a
561 pathfinder for magmatic sulfide deposits, future studies will have to include olivine from thin
562 mineralized flows as well as large unmineralized dunite bodies.

563 The Cu content of olivine is also of interest as a potential redox proxy, as bulk-rock Cu in
564 arc and mid-ocean ridge basalts has been used to reflect mantle redox states (Lee et al., 2012).
565 Although Cu predominantly exists as its monovalent species under the redox conditions typical
566 of natural igneous systems, its affinity for reduced sulfide phases may be used to unravel redox
567 conditions in mantle source regions. Based on this observation, Lee et al. (2012) interpreted
568 identical Cu contents in primary arc and mid-ocean ridge basalts to reflect indistinguishable

569 redox conditions between both settings. However, our data show that such an approach cannot be
570 reliably applied to the Cu contents of olivine, as even small amounts of sulfides present in the
571 system can potentially override any Cu-based redox signals.

572 **6. IMPLICATIONS**

573 Our study of FRTE, Ga and Ge concentrations in olivine from a globally representative suite of
574 komatiites measured via laser ablation ICP-MS indicates that (1) elevated Ga/Sc ratios in olivine
575 reflect garnet retention in the komatiite source region, (2) high Ge contents in olivine may be
576 indicative of melting under hydrous conditions in the mantle, (3) redox-sensitive V/Sc and
577 Mn/Fe ratios in olivine can potentially be used to constrain local fO_2 in the komatiite magma, and
578 (4) Cu-abundances reflect the sulfide saturation state of a komatiite magma during olivine
579 crystallization. The results highlight that in-situ trace element analysis of olivine can provide
580 novel insight into early Earth processes, particularly in cases where bulk rock studies yield
581 ambiguous results and/or sample material is limited.

582 To further evaluate the quantitative applicability of olivine element trace chemistry as a
583 proxy for the composition and evolution of the Archean mantle future research is encouraged to
584 focus particularly on (i) an experimental calibration of V/Sc and Mn/Fe in olivine as an fO_2
585 meter complemented by studies of relict interstitial glass and melt/fluid inclusions; and (2)
586 systematic studies of Cu abundances in olivine from thin mineralized flows and large
587 unmineralized dunite bodies to complement the data presented here and further test the
588 usefulness of Cu in olivine as an exploration tool for komatiite hosted magmatic Ni-Cu sulfide
589 deposits.

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List of figure captions

822 **Fig. 1.** Bulk-rock chemistry of the komatiites included in this study. Data are from: Komati
823 Formation and Weltevreden - Puchtel et al. (2013), Tony's Flow, Belingwe - Puchtel et al.
824 (2009), Alexo, Abitibi - Puchtel et al. (2004), Mount Clifford - Locmelis et al. (2009), Betheno,
825 Perseverance, The Horn, Murphy Well - Locmelis (2010). The symbols indicate komatiite age:
826 circle = 2.7 Ga, ternary: 3.3 Ga, square: 3.5 Ga. The lines in Fig. 1E illustrate $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{TiO}_2$ ratios
827 representative of Al-depleted ($\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{TiO}_2 = 10$), and Al-undepleted ($\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{TiO}_2 = 20$),
828 komatiites.

829

830 **Fig. 2.** Representative transmitted light microscope (crossed polarizers; A, B, D) and scanning
831 electron microprobe (C) images of the sample mineralogy. (A) Olivine (ol) from Betheno with
832 interstitial serpentine (serp). (B) Nearly fresh olivine from The Horn, sample LWDD-794-549.3.
833 (C) Nearly fresh olivine from Tony's Flow, sample TN-22. (D) Advanced replacement of
834 dendritic olivine by serpentine at Murphy Well, sample MW-2303-3).

835

836 **Fig. 3.** Primitive mantle-normalized concentrations of FRTE, Ga and Ge in komatiitic olivine.
837 The average olivine compositions for each locality are shown. Elements are ordered based on
838 increasing olivine/melt partitioning coefficients using the recommended values of Le Roux et al.
839 2015 for the FRTE, Ga and Ge, and assuming a value of 6.6 for Mg (Kloock and Palme, 1988).
840 Primitive mantle values are from McDonough and Sun (1995).

841

842 **Fig. 4.** Concentrations of FRTE, Ga and Ge in olivine vs. forsterite content.

843

844 **Fig. 4** (continued). Concentrations of FRTE, Ga and Ge in olivine vs. forsterite content.

845

846 **Fig. 5.** (A, B) Plots of $100 \cdot \text{Ga}/\text{Sc}$ vs. Fo in komatiitic olivine. (C) The statistical differences
847 between Paleo-Archean (3.3 and 3.5 Ga) and Neo-Archean (2.7 Ga) komatiites are illustrated as
848 Gaussian distribution curves of the numerical data.

849

850 **Fig. 6.** Plot of Ga/Ge vs. Fo in komatiitic olivine.

851

852 **Fig. 7.** V/Sc, Fe/Mn and Fe/Zn vs. Fo in komatiitic olivine. The statistical differences between
853 Paleo-Archean (3.3 and 3.5 Ga) and Neo-Archean (2.7 Ga) komatiites are illustrated as Gaussian
854 distribution curves of the numerical data on the right side.

855

List of table captions

856 **Table 1.** Summary of localities and sample characteristics and variables included in this study.

Craton / Shield	Terrane / Belt	Locality	Age (Ga)	Affinity	Metm ¹
Kapvaal Craton	Barberton greenstone belt	Komati	3.5	Al-depleted	G
Kapvaal Craton	Barberton greenstone belt	Weltevreden	3.3	Al-undepleted	G
Zimbabwe Craton	Belingwe greenstone belt	Tony's Flow	2.7	Al-undepleted	PP
Superior Craton	Abitibi greenstone belt	Alexo	2.7	Al-undepleted	PP
Yilgarn Craton	EGST - Agnew Wiluna GB	Betheno	2.7	Al-undepleted	G, A
Yilgarn Craton	EGST - Agnew Wiluna GB	Mount Clifford	2.7	Al-undepleted	G, A
Yilgarn Craton	EGST - Agnew Wiluna GB	Perseverance	2.7	Al-undepleted	A
Yilgarn Craton	EGST - Agnew Wiluna GB	The Horn	2.7	Al-undepleted	G, A
Yilgarn Craton	EGST - Kurnalpi Terrane	Murphy Well	2.7	Al-undepleted	G

¹Metamorphic grade, PP = prehnite-pumpellyite facies, G = greenschist facies, A = amphibolite facies

² EGST = Eastern Goldfield Superterrane

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Figure 1

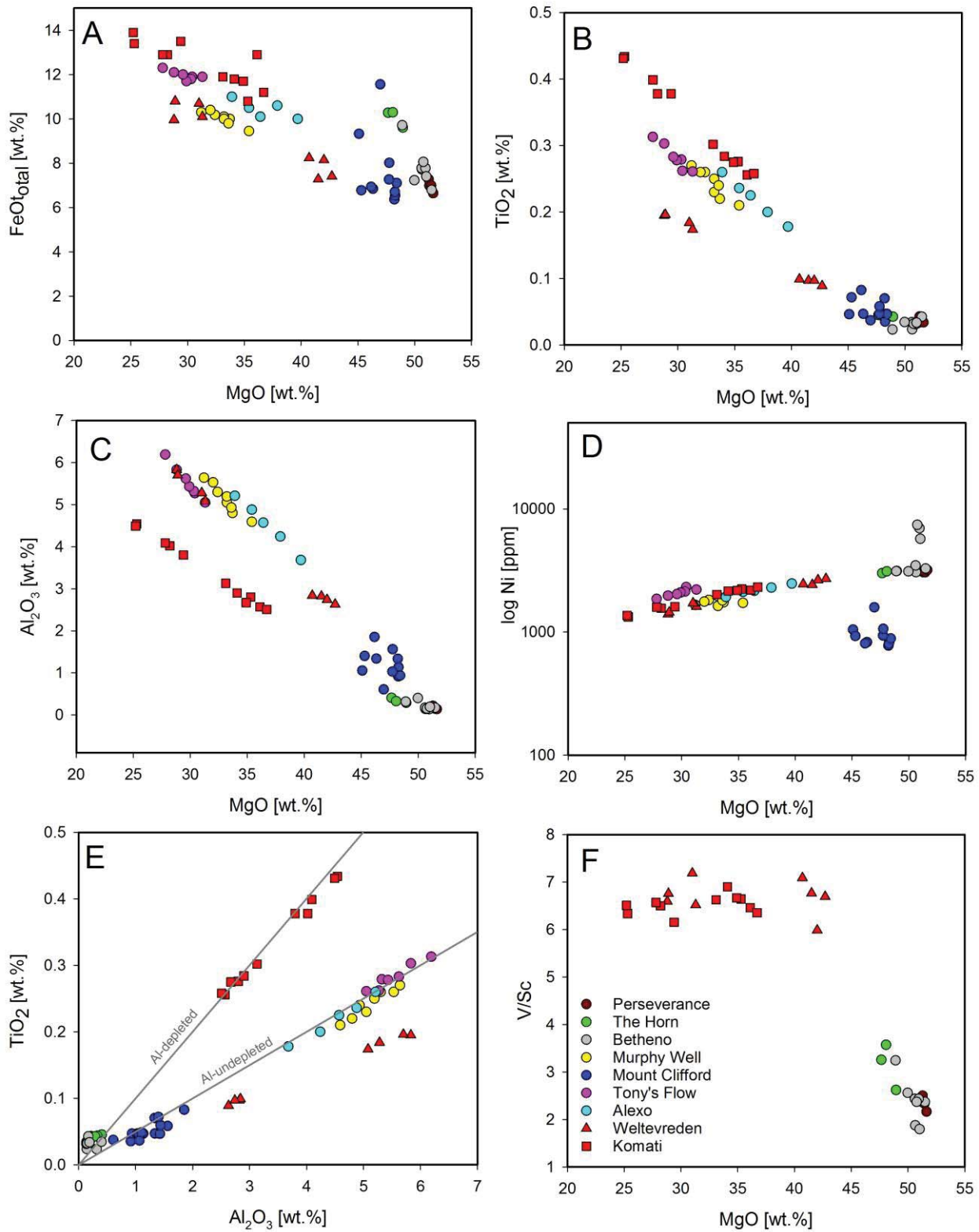


Figure 2

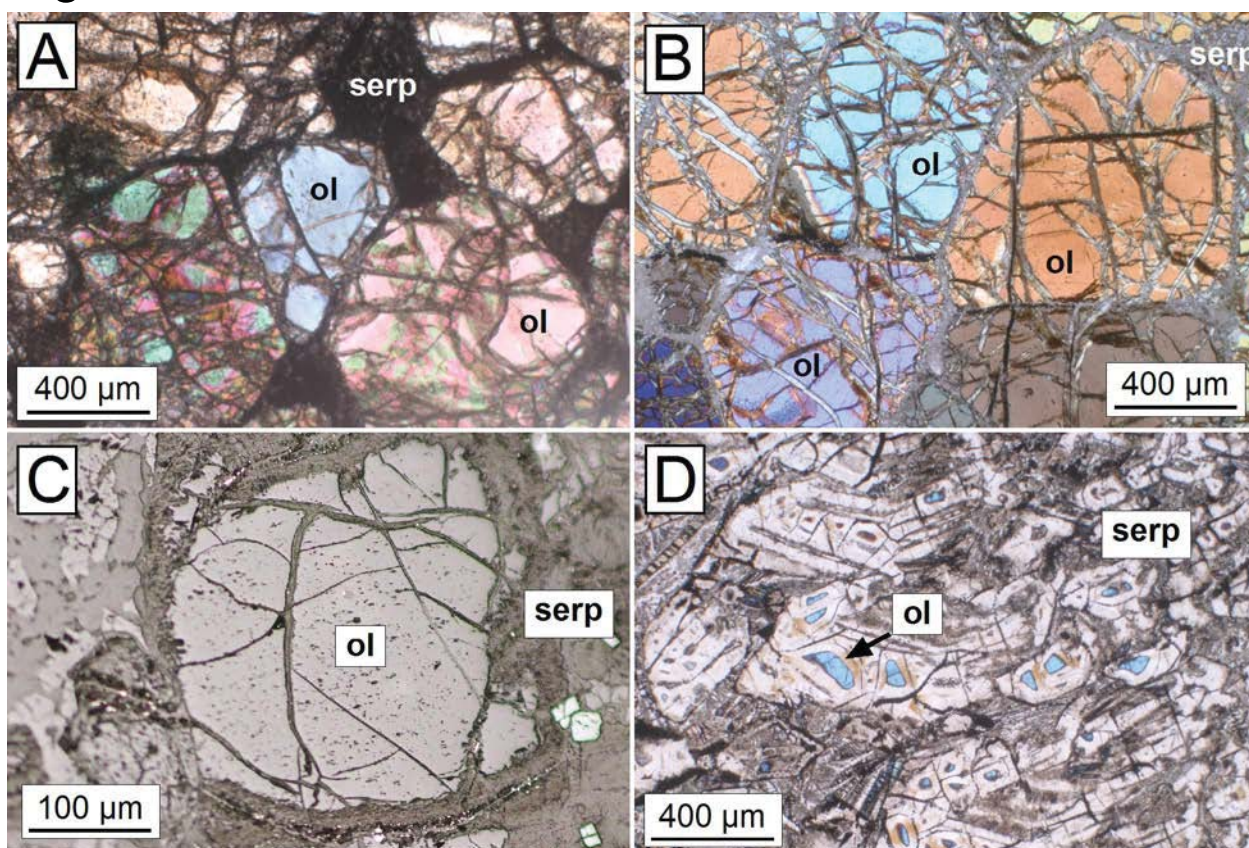


Figure 3

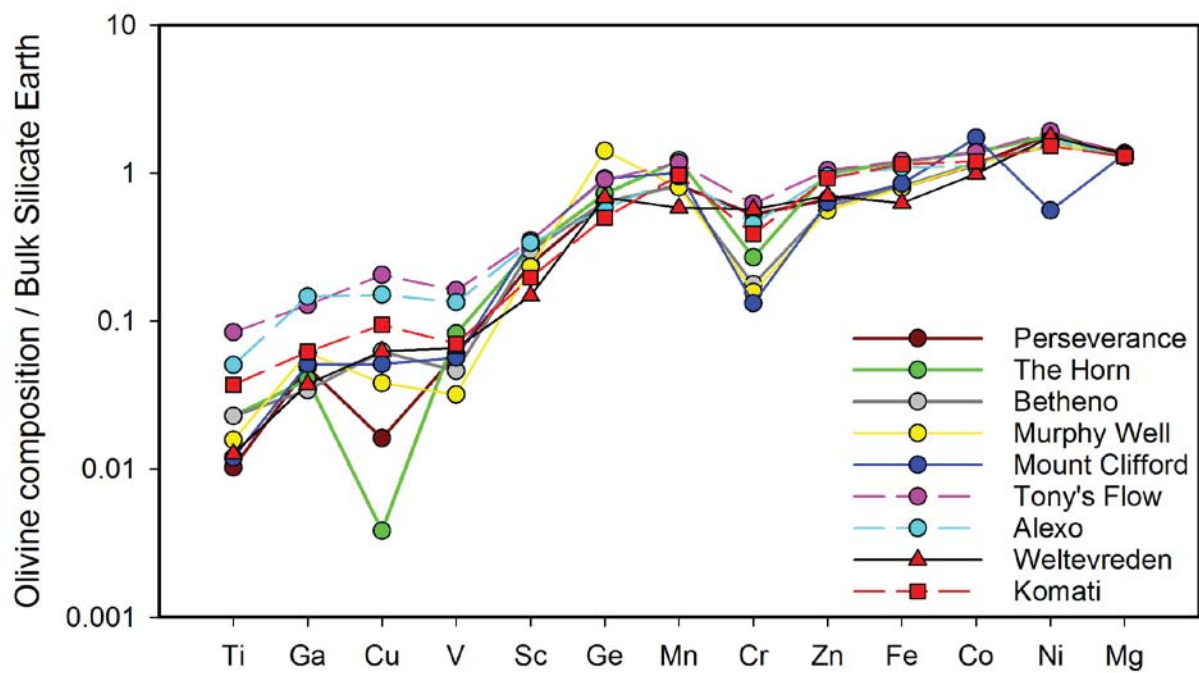


Figure 4-A

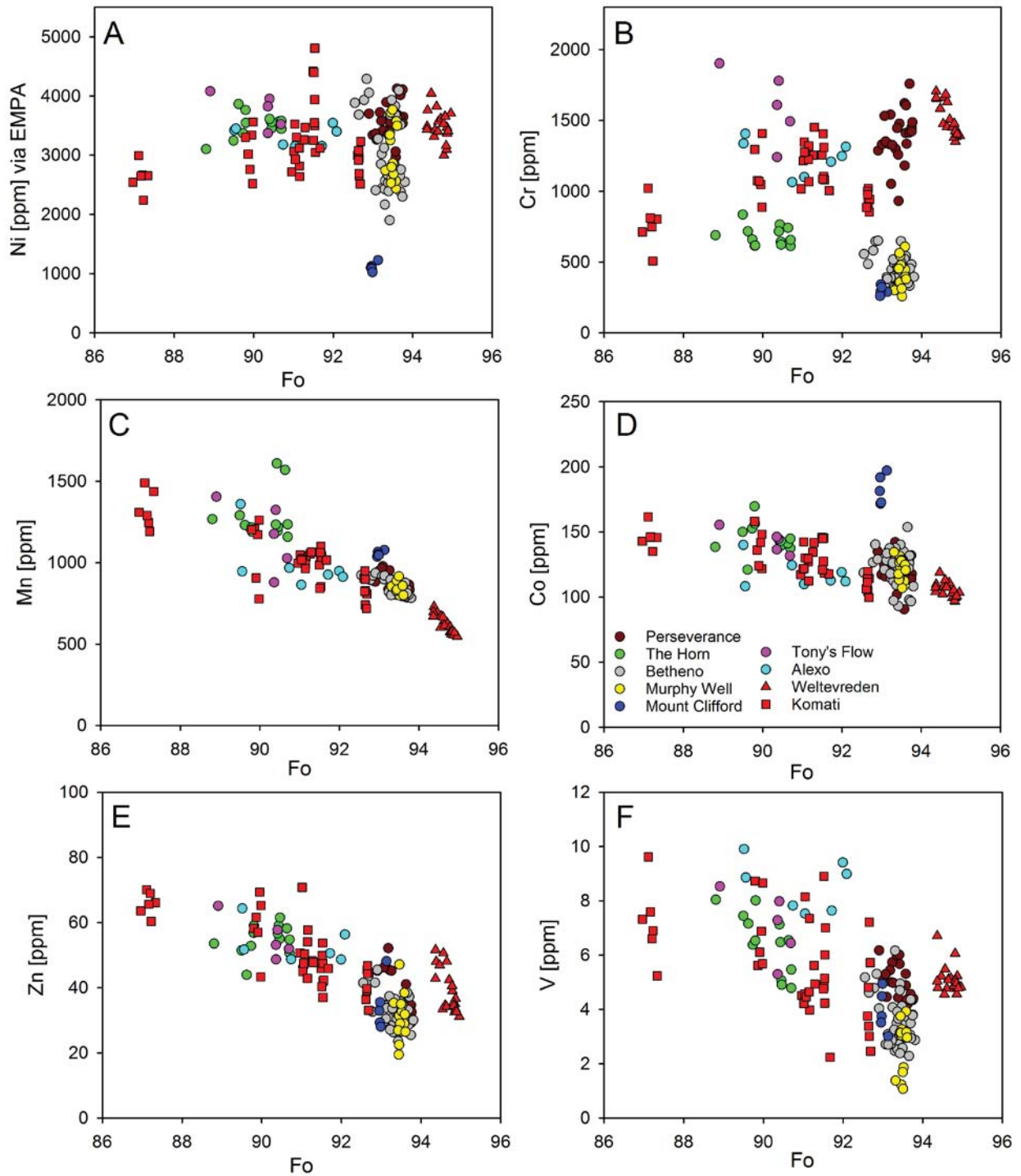


Figure 4-B

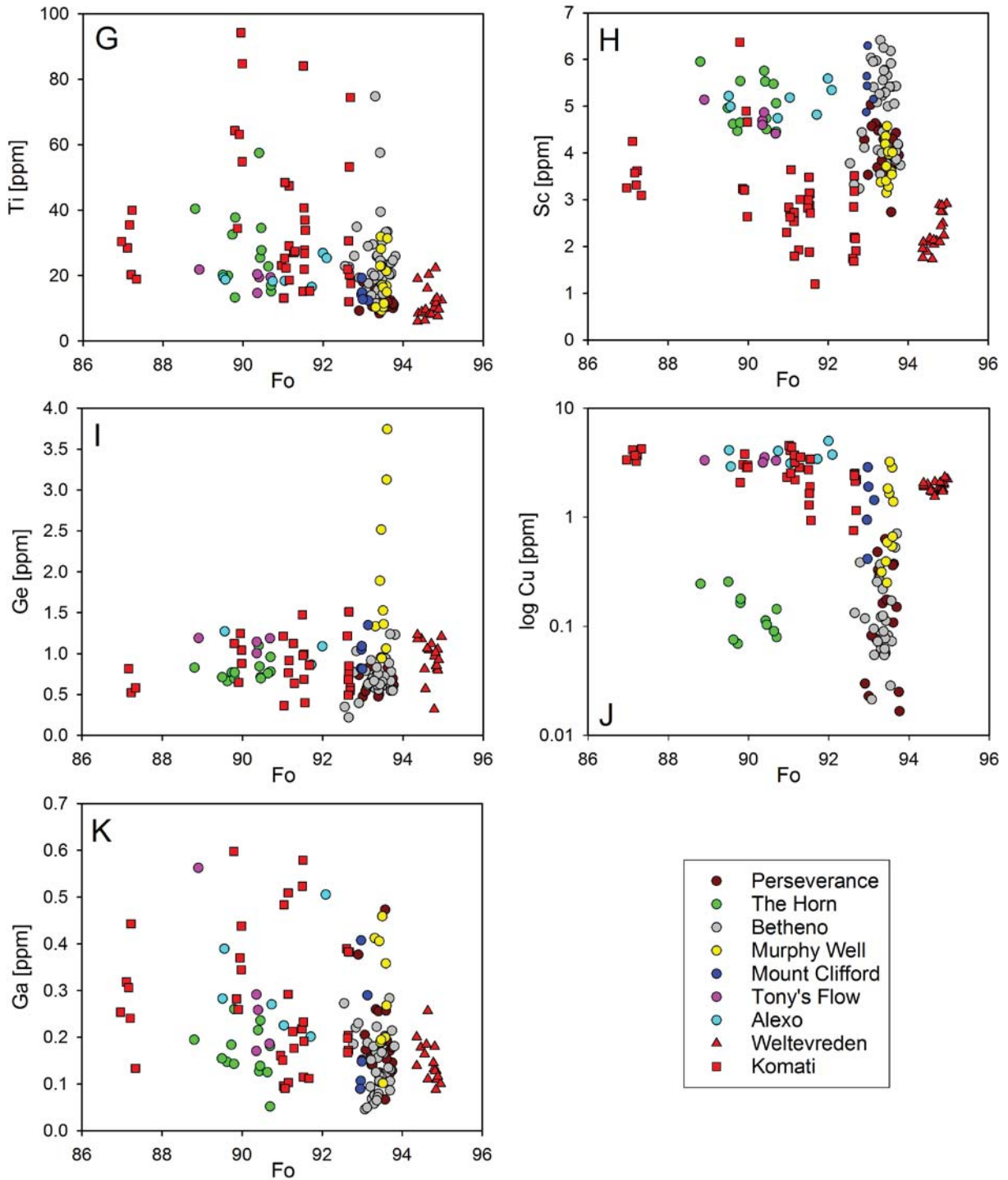


Figure 5

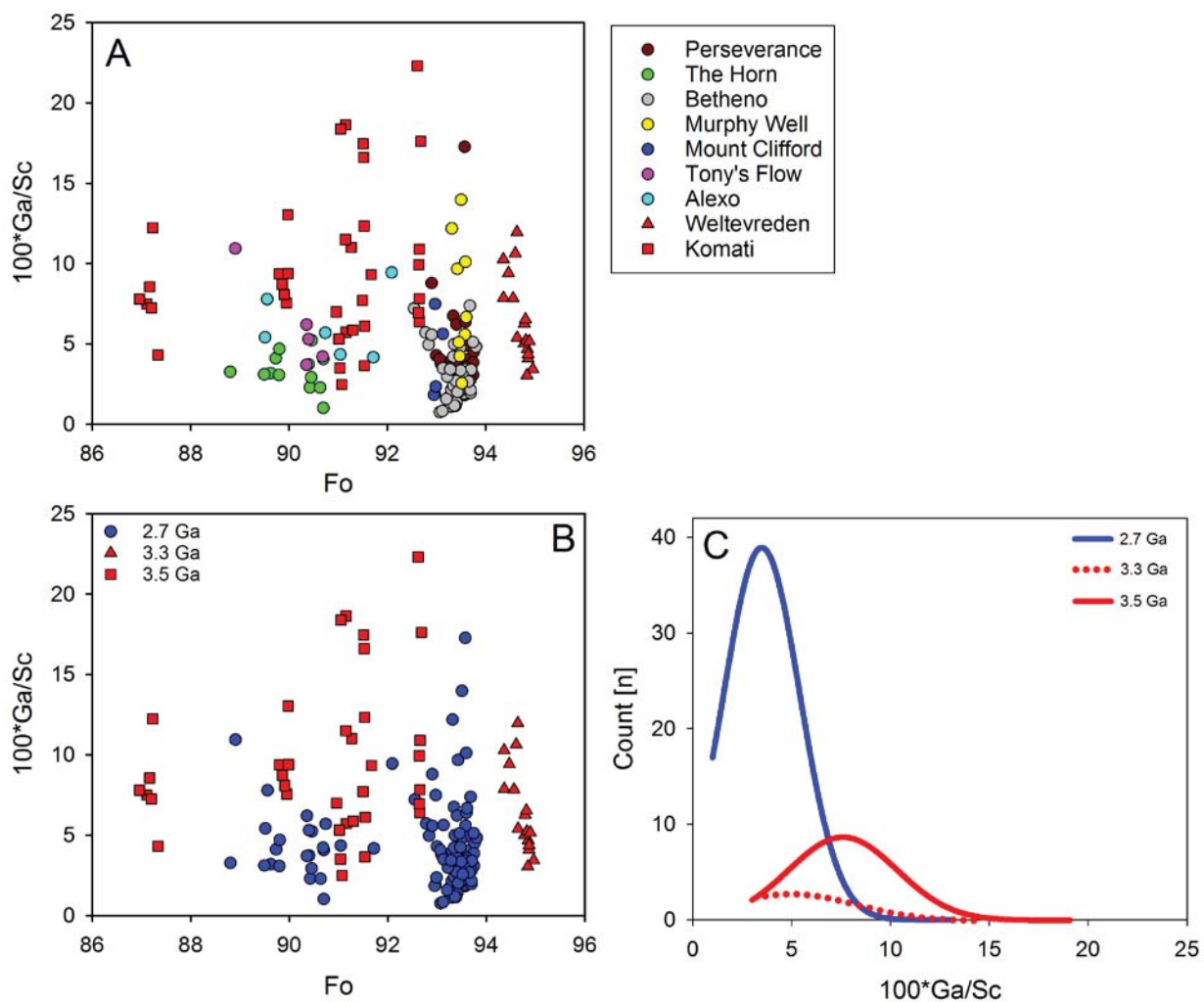


Figure 6

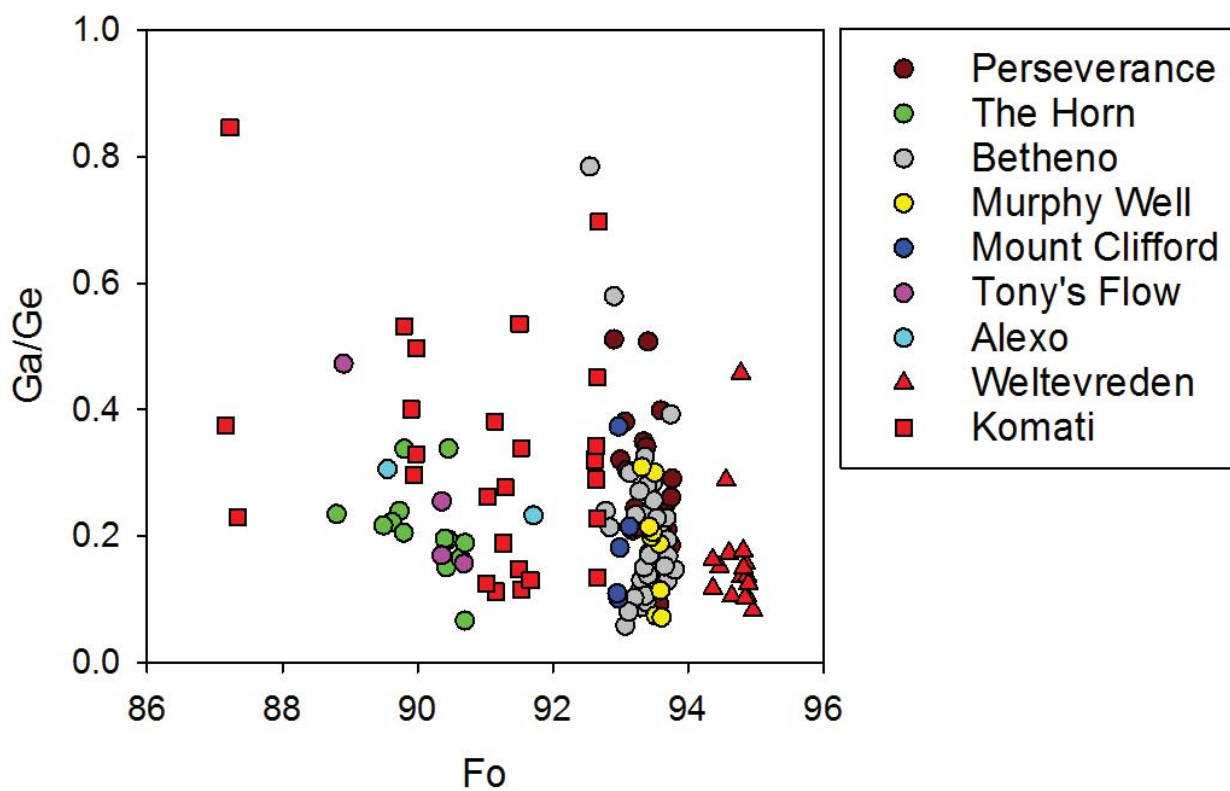


Figure 7

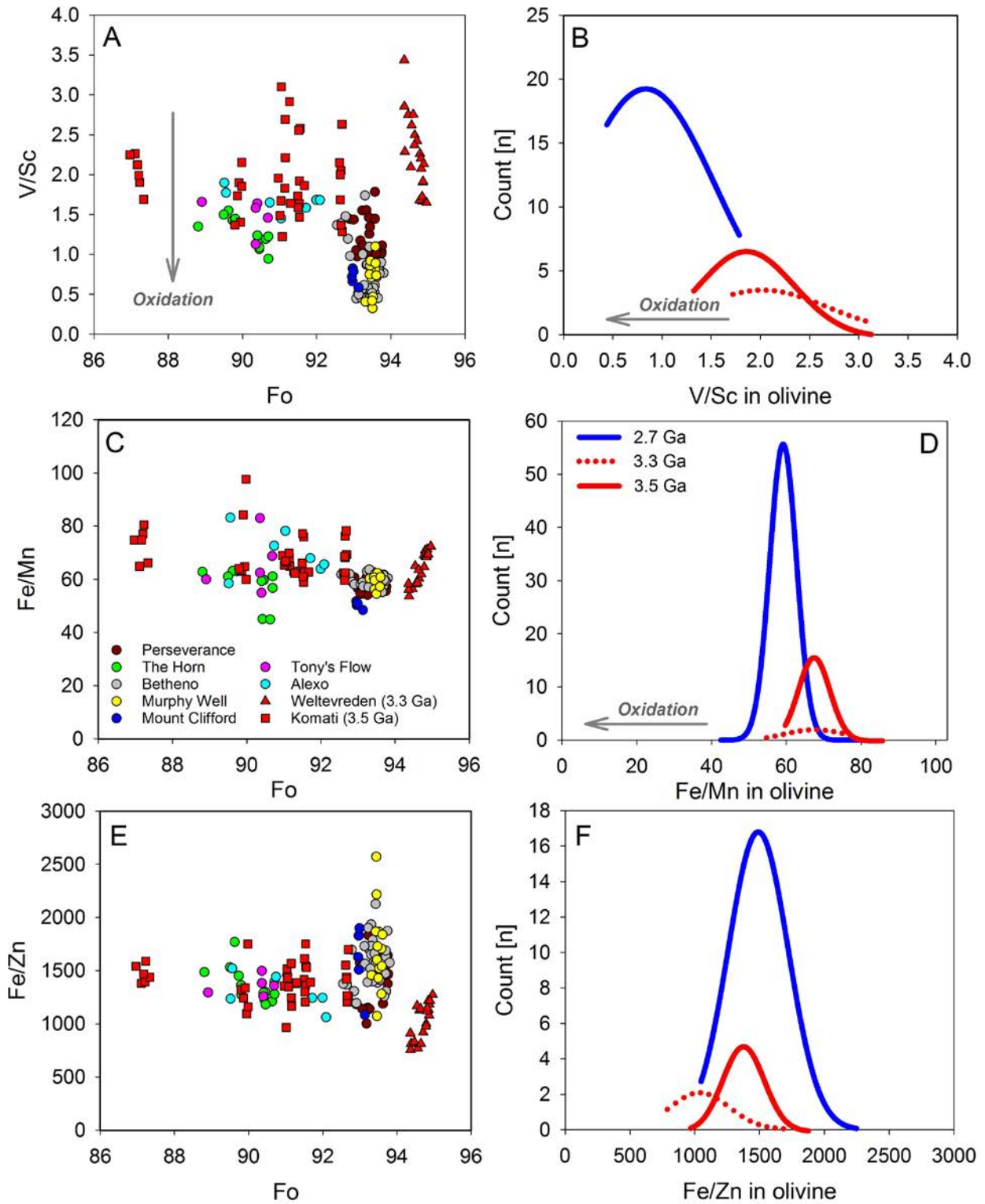


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Yilgarn Craton	EGST - Kurnalpi Terrane	Murphy Well	2.7	Al-undepleted	G

¹Metamorphic grade, PP = prehnite-pumpellyite facies, G = greenschist facies, A = amphibolite facies

²EGST = Eastern Goldfield Superterrane