

1 **Trace elements in sulfides from the Maozu Pb-Zn deposit, Yunnan Province, China: Implications**
2 **for trace element incorporation mechanisms and ore genesis**

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10 **ABSTRACT:** The Sichuan-Yunnan-Guizhou Pb-Zn metallogenic province (SYGMP) is an important
11 region for Pb-Zn resources in China. However, considerable controversy remains as to whether the
12 Pb-Zn deposits are Mississippi Valley Type (MVT). The Maozu deposit, a typical example of the
13 carbonate-hosted Pb-Zn deposits in the SYGMP, occurs in the late Ediacaran Dengying Formation and
14 its ore bodies are divided into three types: lower layer (LL), vein layer (VL) and upper layer (UL) ore
15 bodies based on the spatial relationship. In this study, laser ablation-inductively coupled plasma-mass
16 spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS) was used to systematically analyze the trace element compositions of
17 sphalerite and galena in these three ore bodies. The results show that sphalerite is characterized by Cd
18 and Ge enrichment; Fe, Mn and Co depletion; and local In and Sn enrichment. Most of these elements
19 likely appear as solid solutions in sphalerite and show a wide variation, which is probably related to the
20 medium- and low-temperature mixing of the ore-forming fluids. The local enrichment of In and Sn has
21 likely attributed to the long-distance migration of ore-forming fluids through In-Sn-bearing
22 volcanoclastic rocks. In vs Sn and (Cu + Sb) vs (Ag + Ge) show strong correlations and similar element

23 distribution in the mapped images, indicating that these elements may be incorporated into sphalerite
24 via a coupled substitution for Zn as $2\text{In}^{3+} + \text{Sn}^{4+} + 2\Box \leftrightarrow 5\text{Zn}^{2+}$ (\Box = vacancies) and $4(\text{Cu}^{+} + \text{Sb}^{3+}) +$
25 $(\text{Ge}^{4+} + 2\text{Ag}^{+}) + 2\Box \leftrightarrow 13\text{Zn}^{2+}$. Galena is enriched in Ag and Sb with minor Cd and Se and depleted in
26 Bi, and most of the elements may occur as solid solutions. Ag vs Sb in galena displays a strong positive
27 correlation, implying the coupled substitution of $\text{Ag}^{+} + \text{Sb}^{3+} \leftrightarrow 2\text{Pb}^{2+}$. Notably, the majority of the trace
28 element concentrations gradually decrease in the order LL \rightarrow UL except Fe, Co, Cu and Ge, while Fe,
29 In and Sn in sphalerite and Ag and Sb in galena have the highest concentration in the VL, indicating
30 that the VL is a secondary migration channel for the ore-forming fluids. Furthermore, the trace element
31 compositions of the sulfides in the Maozu Pb-Zn deposit are consistent with the typical MVT deposit
32 (hosted in the carbonate sequence) but are markedly different from sedimentary exhalative (SEDEX),
33 volcanogenic massive sulfide (VMS) and skarn-type deposits. Based on these results, as well as the
34 geological and geochemical characteristics of the deposit, the Maozu Pb-Zn deposit is an MVT deposit.

35 **Keywords:** Maozu Pb-Zn deposit, Sulfides, Trace elements, LA-ICP-MS, Mapping, MVT

36

37 **Introduction**

38 The Sichuan-Yunnan-Guizhou Pb-Zn metallogenic province (SYGMP), located in the
39 southwestern margin of the Yangtze Block, China, is an important region of the South China giant
40 low-temperature metallogenic domain and the major source of Pb-Zn-Ag-Ge in China (Hu and Zhou
41 2012; Zhou et al. 2013; Zhang et al. 2015; Ye et al. 2016). Approximately 400 Pb-Zn ore deposits and
42 occurrences have been explored in the SYGMP (e.g., Zhang 2008; Wu 2013), most of which are hosted
43 in the late Ediacaran to early Permian carbonate rocks; notably, late Ediacaran and Carboniferous
44 carbonates are the principal host rocks (Wu 2013; Ye et al. 2016). Previous studies have shown that all

45 the Pb-Zn deposits in the SYGMP have striking epigenetic characteristics and share features with
46 typical Mississippi Valley Type (MVT) deposits (Leach et al. 1993, 2005) in terms of mineral
47 assemblages, mineralization types, ore host rocks, wall rock alterations. (e.g., Han et al. 2007; Zhang et
48 al. 2015). However, the ore bodies of the Pb-Zn deposits in the SYGMP are typically characterized by
49 massive, thick veinlets filling open spaces controlled by the structure of the host rock, with high grades
50 of Pb and Zn at generally >20%, such as the Huize (Huang et al. 2004; Han et al. 2007), Maoping (Wei
51 et al. 2015) and Fule (Zhu et al. 2016; Li et al. 2018a, b) Pb-Zn deposits, which present slightly
52 different characteristics from those of typical MVT deposits (Leach et al. 1993, 2005). Accordingly, the
53 genetic types of these Pb-Zn deposits in the SYGMP remain inconclusive (e.g., Huang et al. 2004;
54 Zhou et al. 2013; Zhang et al. 2015; Li et al. 2018b). Several hypotheses for the ore genesis have been
55 proposed in the past two decades, such as a distal magmatic-hydrothermal type related to a Permian
56 Emeishan mantle plume (Xie, 1963; Huang et al. 2004), a sedimentary reworked type (Liu and Lin
57 1999; Tu, 1984), MVT (e.g., Zhang, 2005; Li, 2016; Li et al. 2018a; Wei et al. 2018a), or a unique
58 Sichuan-Yunnan-Guizhou (SYG) type (Han et al. 2007; Zhou et al. 2013b, 2018a, 2018b).

59 The Maozu deposit, a typical carbonate-hosted Pb-Zn deposit in the SYGMP, occurs in the Late
60 Ediacaran Dengying Formation and has proven Pb + Zn reserves of ~2 Mt, with average grade of 4.15
61 wt.% Pb and 7.25 wt.% Zn (e.g., Liu et al. 2009; Zhou et al. 2013; Li et al. 2018). Previous studies
62 mainly focused on the geology (Liu and Lin 1999; He et al. 2006), metallogenic regularity (Chen 2002;
63 Liu 2009) and source of the ore-forming metal (Zhou et al. 2013) in the deposit. Due to the lack of
64 geochemical data, in particular the study of trace elements in sulfide, the ore genesis remains a subject
65 of debate, although the following have been postulated: a) sedimentary reworked type (Zhang et al.
66 1984; Liu and Lin 1999; Zhang 2013); b) SEDEX-type (Chen 2002; He et al. 2006); c) SYG-type

67 (Zhou et al. 2013); or d) MVT (Liu 2009). These disparate classifications are confusing for exploration
68 or mining design.

69 Sphalerite, as the chief mineral in Pb-Zn deposits, contains a variety of useful elements such as Ga
70 (Moskalyk 2003), Ge (Höll et al. 2007), In (Alfantazi and Moskalyk 2003), Cd (Bonnet et al. 2016) and
71 Ag (Cook et al. 2009). Previous studies indicated that trace elements, such as Fe, Mn, Cd, Ge, In, Ga,
72 Se and Te, can be used to ascertain important genetic information and can, to a large extent, be used to
73 classify ore genesis types (Zhang 1987; Cook et al. 2009; Ye et al. 2011, 2012, 2016; Li et al. 2016;
74 Wei et al., 2018a, b). The obvious limitation of bulk analysis of trace elements of sulfide separates is
75 that a sample may include fine-grained sulfide minerals with complex texture from different origins,
76 which is common in the Maozu deposit. However, laser ablation-inductively coupled plasma-mass
77 spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS) can accurately and effectively determine the sulfide trace element
78 concentrations of individual sulfide grains (e.g., Watling et al. 1995; Cook et al. 2009; Ye et al. 2011,
79 2016), making it possible to discriminate different stages in microscale sulfide grains (Cook et al. 2009;
80 Ye et al. 2011, 2016; George et al. 2015, 2016). Furthermore, time-resolved LA-ICP-MS depth
81 profiling can provide information on whether a given trace element is present within the sulfide matrix
82 or enclosed as micro-inclusions, even in elements at extremely low concentrations (e.g., Cook et al.
83 2009; George et al. 2015; Bonnet et al. 2016).

84 In this study, to understand the distribution features and substitution mechanisms of the trace
85 elements in the sulfides from the Maozu Pb-Zn deposit in Yunnan, China, LA-ICP-MS (spot and
86 mapping analyses) was used to determine sphalerite and galena trace element chemistry in the deposit.
87 When combined with the geologic setting, these analyses contribute to the development of a robust
88 deposit model.

89 **1. Geology of the Maozu Pb-Zn deposit**

90 The Maozu Pb-Zn deposit is located in the western Yangtze block and northern SYGMP (Fig. 1).
91 The SYGMP is an important production base of Pb, Zn, Ge and Ag in China, and ~400 Pb-Zn deposits
92 or occurrences (no economic value) have been found in the area. The exposed strata in the area include
93 late Ediacaran to Quaternary strata (Fig. 2), including the late Ediacaran Dengying Formation, one of
94 the chief ore-bearing strata in the region, which is mainly composed of phosphorus-bearing and
95 silicified dolomite. The Cambrian strata consist of phosphorite, sandstone and carbonate rocks.
96 Ordovician strata are composed of sandy shale and argillaceous limestone. Silurian rocks are composed
97 of siltstone and carbonates. The lower Devonian is chiefly composed of sandstone and carbonates, and
98 the upper Devonian is mainly composed of dolostone, which is one of the important ore-hosting strata
99 in the region. The Carboniferous strata are predominantly composed of (siliceous) carbonate rocks,
100 which is another important ore-hosting strata in the region; for example, the world-class Huize Pb-Zn
101 deposit mainly occurs in this Carboniferous strata. The Permian rocks predominantly consist of
102 carbonates and basalts. The Triassic layer is mainly composed of clastic rocks and includes the main
103 coal-bearing strata. The chief composition of the Tertiary and Quaternary rocks is sediments that are
104 exposed in the valley or river areas (Han et al. 2007). The NS-striking faults and anticlines are well
105 developed in this region (Zhang et al. 2006). The principal regional structures are the
106 Anninghe-Lvzhijiang, Mile-Shizhong-Shuicheng, Kangding-Yilian-Shuicheng tectonic belts (Fig. 1),
107 most of which are regional compression thrust faults. The Permian Emeishan flood basalts are among
108 the most widely distributed magmatic rocks in the area.

109 The Maozu deposit is a representative large-scale Pb-Zn deposit hosted in the late Ediacaran
110 Dengying Formation dolostone in the SYGMP. The deposit is located in a triangular area bounded by

111 the Jinsha River in the north, the Maozu reverse fault in the west and the Choushuijing fault in the
112 southeast (Fig. 3a). Some folds are observed in the ore fields, such as the Ganshulin and Baika
113 synclines and the Hongfadong and Changpo anticlines (Fig. 3a). The rocks in the Maozu ore fields are
114 dominated by late Ediacaran carbonate rocks, Cambrian sediments (black shale, sandstone and
115 limestone) and Permian Emeishan basalts (Fig. 3a, b). The late Ediacaran Dengying Formation is the
116 ore-hosting rock and is structurally controlled by the Maozu thrust fault-fold (Fig. 3a). The Permian
117 Emeishan basalts are widely distributed in the western Maozu thrust fault (Fig. 3).

118 The ore bodies of the Maozu deposit are strictly controlled by stratigraphy (late Ediacaran
119 Dengying Formation) and lithology (dolostone) and can be divided from shallow to deep into three
120 types: upper layer (UL), vein layer (VL) and lower layer (LL) ore bodies. The VL connects the LL and
121 UL (Fig. 3b), and these layers are characterized as follows: 1) The UL occurs in fine to
122 coarse-crystalline stratiform dolomite that is below the phosphorus-bearing layer (Fig. 4a); the
123 thickness is 15-30 m; predominant minerals are sphalerite, fluorite, and dolomite (Fig. 4a-d), and minor
124 amounts of tetrahedrite (Fig. 4d). 2) The VL ores occur in veinlets within the tectonic fractures (Fig. 4e)
125 formed by ore-bearing hydrothermal fluids filling the cracks on both sides of the syngenetic fault (Gao
126 et al. 2011; Liu et al. 2013); Pb-Zn ores are surrounded by breccias (Fig. 4f), in which the volume of
127 galena in sulfide ore is relatively higher than that of the other two ore body types (He et al. 2006; Liu
128 2009, Fig. 4g-h), with fluorite, quartz and calcite as the main gangue minerals; the VL is probably a
129 secondary hydrothermal channel for ore-forming fluids (Gao et al. 2011; Liu et al. 2013). 3) The LL
130 occurs in stratoid shape within siliceous dolostone; the ore body thickness varies from 50 to 120 m; the
131 minerals are predominantly sphalerite and quartz (Fig. 4i-l), and minor bitumen occurs around the
132 sulfides (Fig. 4l).

133 The primary sulfide ores are predominantly by sphalerite and galena, with minor pyrite and
134 tetrahedrite. Gangue minerals consist of dolomite, calcite, fluorite, quartz and bitumen. Ore textures
135 and structures separately include the following: granular, porphyritic and metasomatic (Fig. 4c, d, k);
136 massive, banded (Fig. 4i); and disseminated and veined (Fig. 4e). Wall rock alterations are principally
137 dolomitization and calcitization, which are closely associated with Pb-Zn mineralization.

138 Based on macro- to microscale geological observations, the paragenesis in the Maozu deposit has
139 been identified. Fine pyrite (Py1) in sphalerite precipitated first (Fig. 4k, l), and the particles of the fine
140 pyrites are small due to replacement by later sphalerite or other sulfides. Under a microscope, the
141 sphalerite is cross-cut by later galena veins (Fig. 4c, k), which also wraps around the coarse pyrite (Py2,
142 Fig. 4k), i.e., the coarse pyrite and galena were formed simultaneously. The edges of the galena are in
143 some cases replaced by later tetrahedrite (Fig. 4d, k). Fluorite is frequently cut by sphalerite and galena
144 veins (Fig. 4g). The Pb-Zn ores are in some cases are cut by calcite veins (Fig. 4b), which may indicate
145 that the calcite (and dolomite) is the last mineral to form in the deposit. Based on the macro- to
146 micro-scale geological observations, the mineralization stages in the Maozu deposit were divided into
147 diagenetic, hydrothermal and supergene stages (Fig. 5), and the simplified mineralization sequence is
148 as follows:

149 Fine pyrite (Py1) → fluorite (Flu) → sphalerite (Sp) → galena (Gn) + coarse pyrite (Py2) →
150 tetrahedrite (Tet) → quartz (Q) → calcite (Cal) + dolomite (Dol).

151 **2. Analytical method**

152 The sulfide samples were collected from all three types of ore bodies in the Maozu mine area,
153 including 6 samples from the upper layer, 4 samples from the vein layer and 3 samples from the lower
154 layer. The details are listed in Table 1, and the sample locations are shown in Fig. 3b. All samples were

155 prepared as one-inch polished blocks.

156 LA-ICP-MS spot and mapping analyses of trace elements in sphalerite and galena were
157 performed using the Agilent 7700x Quadrupole ICPMS instrument at CODES (University of Tasmania,
158 Hobart, Australia) coupled with a high-performance RESolution 193-nm ArF ATL excimer laser
159 ablation system equipped with Geostar software. The diameter of the analytical spot was 30 μm . Trace
160 element analyses of the sphalerite (9 samples, 72 spots) and galena (4 samples, 26 spots) from the three
161 ore bodies (UL, VL and LL) were completed, and an average of 8 spots were analyzed for each sample.
162 Each analysis was performed in the time-resolved mode, which involves sequential peak hopping
163 through the mass spectrum. The laser system was operated at a consistent 5 Hz pulse rate, and the laser
164 energy was typically 2.7 J/cm², with a dwell ratio of 3.0 $\mu\text{m}/\text{sec}$. The masses of the following elements
165 were measured: ⁵⁵Mn, ⁵⁷Fe, ⁵⁹Co, ⁶⁰Ni, ⁶⁵Cu, ⁶⁶Zn, ⁷²Ge, ⁷⁵As, ⁷⁷Se, ¹⁰⁷Ag, ¹¹¹Cd, ¹¹⁵In, ¹¹⁸Sn, ¹²¹Sb,
166 ¹²⁵Te, ²⁰⁵Tl, ²⁰⁸Pb and ²⁰⁹Bi. The analysis time for each sample was 90 s, including 30-s background
167 with laser off and 60s analysis with laser on. Acquisition time for all masses was set to 0.02 s, with a
168 total sweep time of ~0.6 s. Calibration was performed using STDGL2b-2 (an in-house standard), which
169 is suitable for quantitative analyses in different sulfide matrixes (Danyushevsky et al. 2003, 2011). For
170 more details about the analytical process, please refer to Cook et al. (2009) and Ye et al. (2011).

171 Each measured values of sphalerite samples were adjusted by the following correction factors
172 (Danyushevsky et al. 2011): Mn 1.46, Fe 1.49, Co 1.51, Ni 1.59, Cu 1.53, As 1.36, Se 1.85, Ag 1.40,
173 Cd 1.50, In 1.45, Sn 1.60, Sb 1.17, Te 1.00, Tl 2.17, Pb 1.37 and Bi 1.33. These correction factors have
174 been established by analyzing sphalerite secondary standards using STDGL2b-2 and reflect the
175 significant elemental fractionation between Zn and the other elements during ablation. The correction
176 factor error is <5% (Cook et al. 2009). Whereas, the measured value of galena did not require

177 correction.

178 The raw analytical data for each spot analysis were plotted as a line graph, and the integration
179 times for background and sample signal were selected. The counts were then corrected for instrument
180 drift (standards were run every 1½ to 2 hours) and converted to concentration values using known
181 values of Zn in the analyzed sphalerite as an internal standard. Data reduction was undertaken using Zn
182 (640,600 ppm) as the internal standard for sphalerite and Pb (866,000 ppm) for galena.

183 **3. Results**

184 The sphalerite (9 samples, 72 spots) and galena (4 samples, 26 spots) from three ore bodies (UL,
185 VL and LL) of the Maozu Pb-Zn deposits are summarized in Table 1, and the data include the mean,
186 median, median absolute deviation (MAD), minima and maxima for each selected sample. The ranges
187 for each selected element in absolute concentrations are shown in Fig. 6 (sphalerite) and Fig. 8 (galena).
188 Representative time-resolved profiles of given elements are shown in Fig. 9. Complete LA-ICP-MS
189 datasets can be found in Electronic Appendix A.

190 During the analysis, the areas that are free of obvious inclusions or other features in the sulfides
191 were chosen for the experiment. Flat and irregular (inconsistent with Zn and S profiles) acquisition
192 profiles in the time-resolved depth acquisition profiles likely represent elements distributed as solid
193 solutions and microscale inclusions, respectively. Inclusions were excluded during the data reduction.

194

195 **3.1 Trace elements in sphalerite**

196 Fe: The *iron* concentrations in the sphalerite of the Maozu deposit range from 698 to 20,570 ppm
197 (median 6273 ppm, n=72), which is the highest trace element content in sphalerite and slightly lower
198 than the *iron* content of the MVT deposit (Cook et al. 2009; Ye et al. 2011, 2016; Yuan et al. 2018) (Fig.

199 6). The Fe counts in the time-resolved depth acquisition profiles are flat and smooth (Fig. 9a-c). The Fe
200 concentrations of the sphalerite in the VL are the most enriched (Fig. 6, 7c), and the Fe content changes
201 in the order LL → VL → UL, with values of 1555-8156 ppm (median 2257 ppm, n=16) →
202 4386-20,570 ppm (median 9527 ppm, n=16) → 698-14,752 ppm (median 9257 ppm, n=40),
203 respectively.

204 Cd: *cadmium* has the second highest measured values in sphalerite with respect to any other
205 element analyzed in this study. Its concentration ranges from 2237-4685 ppm (median 3465 ppm,
206 n=72), which is much higher than the content of by-products extracted from sphalerite (100-900 ppm)
207 and consistent with the Cd content of MVT (Cook et al. 2009; Ye et al. 2011, 2016; Yuan et al. 2018).
208 Cadmium was uniformly distributed in the mapping image (Fig. 10) and appeared as a smooth
209 acquisition profile (Fig. 9a-c). *Cadmium* is negatively correlated with Fe and Mn (Fig. 7a-b). Moreover,
210 the median contents of Cd tend to decrease from the LL to VL to UL at 3945 ppm (n=16) → 3678 ppm
211 (n=16) → 3162 ppm (n=40), respectively.

212 Cu: The *copper* concentrations are not constant and vary from 9.23 to 2752 ppm, with a median of
213 334 ppm (n=72). The compositions of Cu in sphalerite are similar to those in MVT (Cook et al. 2009;
214 Ye et al. 2011, 2016; Yuan et al. 2018) (Fig. 6). Although Cu is unevenly distributed in the mapping
215 images and has overlapping enrichment areas with Ge, Sb and Ag (Fig. 10), the acquisition profiles of
216 Cu, Ge, Sb and Ag are parallel to the Zn and S acquisition profile (Fig. 9d). Furthermore, the
217 distribution in the (Cu + Sb) vs (Ag + Ge) plot (Fig. 9k) exhibits a strong positive correlation (r=0.80).

218 Sn: The *tin* concentrations in the Maozu deposit are abnormally enriched compared with those in
219 the typical MVT deposit (Cook et al. 2009) and reach the values observed in skarn and massive sulfide
220 deposits (Cook et al. 2009; Ye et al. 2011) (Fig. 6), which vary from 0.05 to 2192 ppm (median 1.52

221 ppm, n=71). The Sn concentration range is relatively wide, but the majority of Sn is low and only
222 partially enriched. Sn is positively correlated with In ($r=0.82$, Fig. 7j, Fig. 10). The acquisition profiles
223 of Sn are analogous with In and parallel to the Zn and S acquisition profiles (Fig. 9c). Sn is most
224 abundant in the VL, and the Sn contents in the LL, VL and UL vary from 0.06-14.5 ppm (median 0.25
225 ppm, n=16), 0.1-2192 ppm (median 54.8 ppm, n=16) and 0.05-179 ppm (median 1.67 ppm, n=39),
226 respectively.

227 In: The *indium* concentrations in sphalerite of different deposit types vary as shown in Fig. 6. The
228 skarn and massive sulfide deposits (Cook et al. 2009; Ye et al. 2011) contain the highest volume of In,
229 whereas low In contents was observed in the MVT (Fig. 6; Cook et al. 2009; Ye et al. 2011, 2016; Yuan
230 et al. 2018). In concentration in Maozu extend from 0.001 pp to 1191 ppm, with a median of 2.84 ppm
231 (n=66). A remarkable feature is that the maximum concentration of In in the Maozu deposit has reached
232 the levels observed in typical skarn and massive sulfide deposits (Cook et al. 2009; Ye et al. 2011),
233 which are much higher than the In levels of the MVT. Additionally, In and Sn show the same element
234 enrichment areas (Fig. 10). The acquisition profile of In is smooth and parallel to Sn, Zn and S on the
235 time-resolved depth profiles (Fig. 9c). Similar to Sn, In is most enriched in the VL (Fig. 6, Fig. 7j); the
236 variation of In is in the order LL \rightarrow VL \rightarrow UL, with values of 0.01-464 ppm (median 0.94 ppm, n=13)
237 \rightarrow 0.001-1191 ppm (median 35.7 ppm, n=15) \rightarrow 0.01-397 ppm (median 1.40 ppm, n=38), respectively.

238 Sb: The *antimony* content is relatively low in the skarn and massive sulfide deposits but those in
239 typical MVT deposits relatively high (Cook et al. 2009; Ye et al. 2011) (Fig. 6). The composition of Sb
240 in the sphalerite of the Maozu deposit is 0.35-835 ppm (median 36.3 ppm, n=71), and it presents a wide
241 variation range and a nonuniform distribution. As previously described, Sb has the same enrichment
242 characteristics as Cu, Ge and Ag (Fig. 10), and these elements have a strong positive correlation

243 ($r=0.83$, Fig. 7h, k-m). The profile of Sb is smooth and parallel to Cu, Ge, Ag, Zn and S (Fig. 9d).

244 Pb: The *lead* content shows an uneven enrichment in the mapping image (Fig. 10), and the
245 concentrations are within the range of 0.62-399 ppm (median 8.22 ppm, $n=72$). The ragged and irregular
246 profiles (Fig. 9b) imply that Pb is present as micro-inclusions in sphalerite rather than as a solid
247 solution. Pb and As have similar profiles.

248 Ge: The *germanium* content ranges widely from 0.30-342 ppm (median 36.9 ppm, $n=72$), and the
249 Ge concentrations within sphalerite from the Maozu deposit are consistent with those in the MVT
250 (Cook et al. 2009; Ye et al. 2011, 2016; Yuan et al. 2018) while low levels observed in typical skarn
251 (Cook et al. 2009; Ye et al. 2011) and massive sulfide deposits (Cook et al. 2009 and references therein;
252 Ye et al. 2011). The spectrum of Ge is smooth (Fig. 9b, d). Ge shares similar enrichment areas with Cu,
253 Sb and Ag in the mapping images and is positively correlated with these elements (Fig. 7e, h, k).

254 As: The *arsenic* content in the sphalerite of Maozu varies from 0.75 to 275 ppm (median 9.36
255 ppm, $n=58$), which is more enriched than that in the skarn (Cook et al. 2009; Ye et al. 2011) and
256 massive sulfide deposits (Cook et al. 2009 and references therein; Ye et al. 2011) but similar to the
257 concentration in the MVT deposits (Fig. 6). Most of As show smooth LA-ICP-MS down-hole spectral
258 profiles, but several anomalous LA-ICP-MS time-resolved signal spectra (Fig 9d) could be observed
259 which consistent with that of Pb. In the mapping images, *Arsenic* also shows a relatively concordant
260 distribution with Pb.

261 Ag: The *silver* concentrations range from 1.34-254 ppm (median 12.5 ppm, $n=72$), and a certain
262 amount of Ag was found in all samples. The Ag contents in the deposits with different genesis types are
263 similar (Fig. 6). Although Ag is unevenly distributed in the mapping images (Fig. 10), the Ag
264 enrichment areas are consistent with the enrichment areas of Cu, Ge and Sb (Fig. 10). In addition, all

265 spot analyses show that Ag show a positive correction with the Cu ($r=0.59$, Fig.7f), Ge ($r=0.48$, Fig.7g)
266 and Sb ($r= 0.76$), respectively.

267 Mn: The *manganese* content presents a relatively narrow distribution range (Table 1, Fig. 6), with
268 concentrations from 2.78-206 ppm (median 74.5 ppm, $n=72$). The Mn contents gradually increased
269 from the center to the edge of the sphalerite particles in the mapping image (Fig. 10). The concentration
270 of Mn is generally consistent with that of the MVT deposits but significantly lower than that of the
271 massive sulfide and skarn deposits.

272 Co: *Cobalt* concentration varies 3 orders of magnitude, ranging from 0.04 ppm to 35.1 ppm
273 (median 4.59 ppm, $n=71$), which is slightly higher than that of the MVT deposits (Fig. 6). A positive
274 correlation between Co and Ni was observed in Fig. 7d, and Co show coordination changes between
275 Co and Fe (Fig. 10). From the LL to UL, Co shows a trend of gradual enrichment (Fig. 7d). In the
276 profiles, Co presents a flat and smooth acquisition profile that is nearly parallel to Fe.

277 Ni: The *nickel* concentrations are relatively low, with most below the detection limit, and the
278 maximum is only 3.08 ppm and medians are lower than the concentrations in the massive sulfide and
279 skarn-type sphalerites (Fig. 6). Due to the low contents, the Ni acquisition profiles cannot be shown in
280 the LA-ICP-MS profiles. However, Ni is evenly distributed in the mapping image of sphalerite (Fig.
281 10). Co and Ni have a strong positive correlation (Fig. 7d).

282 Se: The *selenium* concentration in sphalerite from the Maozu deposit is mostly lower than the
283 detection limit, and the maximum content is only 3.52 ppm, which is analogous to the concentrations in
284 the MVT and lower than that in the skarn deposits (Fig. 6).

285 In addition, the concentrations of other elements, such as Te, Tl and Bi, from the Maozu deposit
286 have been detected in a few spots with the contents mostly below the detection limits (Appendix A).

287 Although the Hg acquisition profile is obvious in the measured samples (Fig. 9a), an accurate Hg value
288 cannot be obtained because there is no available sample standard.

289 3.2 Trace elements in galena

290 Sb: *Antimony* is the most enriched element in galena of the Maozu deposit (Fig. 8b), ranging from
291 342 to 1033 ppm (median 724 ppm, n=26). Sb and Ag are positively correlated (Fig. 7n) and both show
292 smooth LA-ICP-MS acquisition profiles (Fig. 9e-f). Sb contents gradually increase from the LL (498
293 ppm, n=7) to the UL (740 ppm, n=6), with the highest concentration in the VL ore body (764 ppm,
294 n=13).

295 Ag: *Silver* is widely distributed in galena of the Maozu deposit (Fig. 8a), ranging from 293-910
296 ppm (median 582 ppm, n=26). There is a very strong positive correlation between Ag and Sb ($r=0.98$,
297 n=26; Fig. 7n). In the time-resolved depth acquisition profiles, Ag and Sb appear as flat acquisition
298 profiles that are parallel to the Pb and S (Fig. 9e-f). From the LL (median 426 ppm, n=7) to the UL
299 (median 575 ppm, n=6), Ag gradually increases, and the content of Ag in the VL (median 666 ppm,
300 n=13) is the highest (Fig. 8a).

301 Se: *Selenium* is relatively enriched in the galena of the Maozu deposit from 0.44-96.4 ppm
302 (median 56.6 ppm, n=22). Although Se is widely distributed (Fig. 8h), Se appears in a flat acquisition
303 profile in the time-resolved depth acquisition profiles (Fig. 9f).

304 Cd: *Cadmium* is relatively enriched and concentrated in the galena from the Maozu deposit and
305 presents a normal distribution (Fig. 8c) from 19.7-56.7 ppm (median 36.1 ppm, n=26). The Cd
306 acquisition profile is smooth and flat and parallel to Pb and S. The Cd of galena from the three ore
307 bodies shows no obvious differences.

308 Sn: *Tin* content in galena is relatively low, with most concentrations <10 ppm, and the variation

309 range is 0.61-16.6 ppm (median 2.74 ppm, n=26). From the LL to VL to UL, the median contents
310 change from 0.76 ppm (n=7) to 5.29 ppm (n=13) to 2.33 ppm (n=6), respectively, and the highest Sn
311 concentration occurs in the VL.

312 Bi: *Bismuth* content in galena is mostly <10 ppm (Fig. 8f), and it ranges from 0.01-14.2 ppm
313 (median 0.48 ppm, n=26). The Bi acquisition profile is smooth and flat and parallel to the Pb and S
314 acquisition profiles (Fig. 9f). The correlation between Bi and Sb is strong (Fig. 7o).

315 Tl: *Thallium* is the most concentrated trace element in the galena of the LL (Fig. 8e), and the total
316 content range is 4.73-8.59 ppm (median 5.76 ppm, n=26). The acquisition profile of Tl is smooth and
317 flat (Fig. 9e-f). From LL → VL → UL, the median content changes from 8.15 ppm (n=7) → 5.17 ppm
318 (n=13) → 5.84 ppm (n=6), respectively.

319 Cu: *Copper* is present in relatively low concentrations except in the LL, where its concentration is
320 relatively high (Fig. 8d). The Cu concentrations in the VL and UL are all <1 ppm, and the total
321 distribution range is 0.15-3.04 ppm (median 0.67 ppm, n=24). The correlation between Cu and Tl is
322 strong (Fig. 7o).

323 In addition, other elements in the galena from the Maozu deposit, such as Fe, Mn, and As, are
324 generally below the minimum detection limit.

325 4. Discussion

326 4.1 Occurrence and substitution mechanisms of trace elements

327 LA-ICP-MS analysis could provide significant information for the occurring of a particular
328 element. Micro-inclusions are commonly noted in the LA-ICP-MS acquisition profiles (peak) if they
329 are sufficiently large (e.g., Cook et al. 2009; Ye et al., 2011, 2016; George et al. 2015), whereas
330 lattice-bound trace elements and nanoparticles would present flat in the signal spectra and thus hard to

331 distinguish (e.g., Gregory et al. 2014, 2015). In those cases, trace element mapped images may provide
332 additional constrain on the occurring of the elements in hosted minerals. But the hypothesis that these
333 elements occurs as nanoparticles could not be ruled out.

334 **4.1.1 The occurrence of trace elements in sphalerite**

335 Although trace elements of Mn, Cd, Fe and Co show highly variation (Table 1, Fig. 6), these trace
336 elements occur as smooth and flat and follow changes of Zn and S in the LA-ICP-MS acquisition
337 profiles (Fig. 9a). Moreover, these elements are uniformly distributed in the trace element mapping
338 images (Fig. 10), suggesting that these elements likely mainly occur as solid solutions in sphalerite.
339 Notably, in the mapping images (Fig. 10), from the center to the edge of the sphalerite particles, Mn
340 contents gradually increase, probably because the later formation of hydrothermal dolomite contained a
341 certain amount of Mn. Additionally, several spot-like concentration areas enriched Fe and Co are
342 evenly distributed in the mapping images (Fig. 10), which may be attributed to the disseminated pyrite
343 in the sphalerite (Fig. 4k, 10a) and indicates that the Co enrichment is related to the Fe distribution.

344 The concentrations of elements In, Sn, Cu, Ge, Sb and Ag vary widely (Fig. 6), and these trace
345 elements are unevenly distributed in the mapping images. However, the element acquisition profiles are
346 flat and smooth, which is consistent with the Zn and S acquisition profiles (Fig. 9c, d), implying that
347 these elements did not exist as micro-inclusions. In, Sn and Cu, Ge, Sb, and Ag have overlapping
348 element enrichment areas in the mapping images (Fig. 10), suggesting that these elements may enter
349 into the sphalerite crystal structure by coupled substitution.

350 The sphalerite contains measurable concentrations of Pb and As, which typically vary greatly (Fig.
351 6) and are unevenly distributed in the mapped images (Fig. 10). Several acquisition profiles appear as
352 ragged and irregular in the time-resolved profiles and show a coordination change with the profile of

353 Pb (Fig. 9d), suggesting partly Pb and As exist in sphalerite as micro-inclusions.

354 The concentrations of Bi, Tl, Ni, Se and other trace elements are extremely low (< 5 ppm), and the
355 acquisition profiles of these elements could not be reflected in the LA-ICP-MS profiles.

356 **4.1.2 The occurrence of trace elements in galena**

357 Although the Ag and Sb concentrations vary widely, these element spectral profiles present
358 smooth and flat and are parallel with the Pb and S in the time-resolved profiles (Fig. 9e-f), which may
359 indicate that Ag and Sb likely enter into the galena crystal structure. Meanwhile, Cd, Se Bi and Tl
360 appear as smooth and flat profiles, which is consistent with the changes in the Pb and S (Fig. 9e, f),
361 revealing that these elements may also occur as solid solutions in galena.

362 **4.1.3 Substitution mechanisms**

363 Many studies have demonstrated that the bivalent cations (e.g., Cd²⁺, Fe²⁺, Mn²⁺, Co²⁺) are easily
364 incorporated into sphalerite via simple substitution of Zn²⁺, due to the similar ion radii (Johan 1988;
365 Cook et al. 2009). Tri- and tetravalent elements (e.g., Ge⁴⁺, Sb⁴⁺, In³⁺) are thought to enter sphalerite
366 via coupling with monovalent elements (Cu⁺, Ag⁺) or through the creation of vacancies (e.g., Bernstein
367 1986; Cook et al. 2009; Ye et al. 2011; Belissont et al. 2014; Wei et al. 2019). Johan (1988) proposed a
368 general coupled substitution mechanism for trivalent and tetravalent elements in sphalerite as follows:



370 where M⁺=Ag, Cu; M²⁺=Cu, Fe, Cd, Hg, Zn; M³⁺=In, Ga, Fe, Tl; M⁴⁺=Ge, Sn, Mo, W; and x and
371 y are atomic proportions of M³⁺ and M⁴⁺, respectively. However, substitution mechanisms these
372 elements still debated. For example, some authors proposed the intake of Ge²⁺ in sphalerite via direct
373 substitutions (Zn²⁺ ↔ Ge²⁺) (e.g., Cook et al. 2009; Ye et al. 2011). In contrast, Cook et al. (2015)
374 postulated that Ge enters sphalerite lattice through the creation of vacancies such as 2Zn²⁺ ↔ Ge⁴⁺ + □.

375 Wei et al. (2019) considered that Cu and Ge show a coupled substitution of Zn ($3\text{Zn}^{2+} \leftrightarrow 2\text{Cu}^{+} + \text{Ge}^{4+}$)
376 due to the correlation between Ge and Cu with a trend to parallel to the molar ratio $(\text{Cu}/\text{Ge})_{\text{mol}} = 2$.

377 The atomic ratio (AR) was an effective method to understand the substitution mechanisms of
378 trace elements in sphalerite (e.g., Johan 1988; Belissont et al. 2014; Wei et al. 2019). Therefore, it was
379 applied to determine the substitution of the tri- and tetravalent elements in sulfide from Maozu. Based
380 on the research results of Johan (1988), the slope (k) of different Ars is determined according to the
381 weight ratio (WR) (M_x/M_y) of the elements to make a line (Fig. 7i) with different Ars (i.e., different
382 slopes). Even in different coordinate systems, the slope (k) is constant due to the constant WR;
383 therefore, the AR is also constant. The AR of each element in the substitution reaction can be
384 determined according to the slope of the regression line in the correlation plot (Fig. 7i). The premise of
385 the application of this plot (Fig. 7i) is that M_x and M_y have a good linear relationship, basically
386 presenting a linear distribution (e.g., Fig. 7j-o), and the contents of elements are concentrated and
387 cannot be scattered (Fig. 7e-h); otherwise, the calculated AR is not accurate.

388 As noted above, although In and Sn are not evenly distributed in sphalerite, these elements have
389 similar element distribution features in the mapped images and show a good linear relationship in Fig.
390 7j ($r=0.82$, $n=66$), indicating that these elements are coupled substitutions for Zn in sphalerite, a similar
391 result has been reported by Belissont et al. (2014). Other than In and Sn, there may be the presence of
392 vacancies (represented by \square) for other uncertain elements. According to the equation of Johan (1988),
393 the possible substitution equation is $x\text{In}^{3+} + y\text{Sn}^{4+} + z\square \leftrightarrow (x + y + z)\text{Zn}^{2+}$.

394 As the plots are concentrated and linearly distributed in the In-Sn correlation plot, the regression
395 line ($r=0.82$, $k=0.6$) is approximately parallel to $\text{In}/\text{Sn}=2/1$ ($k=0.5$) (Fig. 7j). The slope of the regression
396 line is slightly higher than the slope of the line with an AR of 2/1, which is attributed to the existing

397 vacancies (\square). The atomic ligand ratio of In^{3+} and Sn^{4+} is 2/1; therefore, the most likely coupled
398 substitution is $2\text{In}^{3+} + \text{Sn}^{4+} + 2\square \leftrightarrow 5\text{Zn}^{2+}$.

399 2) Cu, Ge, Ag, and Sb have consistent element distribution characteristics in the mapping images,
400 and (Cu + Sb) vs (Ag + Ge) ($r=0.8$, $n=72$, Fig. 7k) show strongly positive correlation, therefore these
401 characteristics reveal that the elements are incorporated into sphalerite by coupled substitution. In the
402 correlation plots of Cu vs Ge (Fig. 7e), Cu vs Ag (Fig. 7f), Ge vs Ag (Fig. 7g) and Sb vs Ge (Fig. 7h),
403 the corresponding plots are scattered or not linearly distributed; thus, the AR cannot be determined.
404 Although the correlation coefficients of (Cu + Sb) vs (Ag + Ge) reached 0.8 ($n=69$) and 0.98 ($n=3$),
405 there are two groups of linear relations (Fig. 7k), which suggested that other metal atoms (vacancies)
406 may participate in the substitution; therefore, the AR cannot be determined by these plots.

407 The plots of Cu vs Sb ($r=0.73$, $k=1.11$, Fig. 7l) and Sb vs Ag ($r=0.76$, $k=0.47$, Fig. 7m) are
408 concentrated and linearly distributed, and their slopes are approximately parallel to those of the AR, at
409 1/1 ($k=1$) and 2/1 ($k=0.5$), respectively. The atomic ratio of Cu/Sb is 1/1 and that of and Sb/Ag is 2/1.
410 According to the equation of Johan (1988), Ge is tetravalent and Ag is monovalent. Belissont et al.
411 (2014) reported Sb is trivalent and Cu is monovalent, in agreement with the results of AR. As noted
412 above, other uncertain atoms (vacancies) may participate in the substitution, which may cause the
413 coupled substitution of these elements (Cu, Ge, Ag, and Sb) to be slightly different from the equation of
414 Johan (1988). Consequently, the possible coupled substitution is $4(\text{Cu}^+ + \text{Sb}^{3+}) + (\text{Ge}^{4+} + 2\text{Ag}^+) + 2\square$
415 $\leftrightarrow 13\text{Zn}^{2+}$.

416 Regarding galena, the contents of Ag and Sb vary greatly (Fig. 8a-b). Conventionally, many
417 researches on galena have principally focused on elements with high concentrations, such as Ag, Sb
418 and Bi (Van Hook 1960; Jeppsson 1989; Lueth et al. 2000; Chutas et al. 2008; Renock and Becker

419 2011). *Thallium* is more readily incorporated into the crystal lattices of galena with Bi, Ag and Sb by
420 coupled substitution due to the existence of Cu (George et al. 2015). Although all these elements have
421 good linear relationships ($r=0.98$, $n=26$) in the correlation plots of Ag vs Sb (Fig. 7n) and (Bi + Sb) vs
422 (Cu + Ag + Tl) (Fig. 7o), the coupled relationship of Ag and Sb is only considered because of the low
423 contents of Bi, Cu and Tl in galena from the Maozu deposit. The regression line slope of Ag vs Sb
424 ($k=0.97$, Fig. 7n) is close to 1 (AR is 1/1), (Ag/Sb) at=1/1. Additionally, previous studies generally
425 proposed Ag as monovalent and Sb as trivalent (Renock and Becker 2011; George et al. 2015; Ye et al.
426 2016). Hence, the coupled substitution between Ag, Sb and Pb may be simplified as $Ag^+ + Sb^{3+} \leftrightarrow$
427 $2Pb^{2+}$.

428 **4.2 Mineralization temperature**

429 Many studies have indicated that trace elements in sphalerite have a close connection with the
430 temperature during sulfide precipitation; therefore, the contents of trace elements in sphalerite can
431 indicate the temperature of mineral formation (Oftedahl 1940; Moller 1987; Mladenova and Valchev
432 1998; Kelley et al. 2004; Frenzel et al. 2016). Conventionally, sphalerite enriched in Fe, Mn, In, Sn,
433 and Te indicate sulfide formation under a high-temperature condition, while sphalerite formed at low
434 temperature is enriched in Cd, Ga and Ge with a low In/Ge ratio (Ye et al. 2016). Sphalerite in the
435 Maozu deposit is characterized by the enrichment of Cd and Ge and depletion of Fe, Mn, Co, Se and Te.
436 Fe content (698.1-20,570 ppm) in sphalerite from the Maozu deposit is similar to the Fe content
437 (0.6-4.2 wt %) in sphalerite formed at 100-200 °C according to Kelley et al. (2004). The compositions
438 of the trace elements in sphalerite from the Maozu Pb-Zn deposit show enrichment of low-temperature
439 elements, such as Cd and Ge, which are consistent with those in the typical MVT Pb-Zn deposits (Cook
440 et al. 2009; Ye et al. 2011) (Fig. 6).

441 Cao et al. (2014) showed that sphalerite formed at a high temperature (200-355 °C), the color of
442 sphalerite is dark and rich in Fe (3.58%-11.42%) and Mn (0.2%-0.4%). While sphalerite formed at a
443 low temperature (110-180 °C) is lighter and relatively depleted in Fe (0.23%-2.0%) and Mn
444 (0.003%-0.05%). The colors of the sphalerite in the Maozu Pb-Zn deposit are dominated by brown and
445 yellow (Fig. 4a, e, j). The contents of Fe and Mn are 0.07%-2.1% and ~0.02%, respectively, which are
446 similar to the contents of Fe and Mn in low-temperature sphalerite. These characteristics indicate that
447 the mineralization temperature of the sphalerite in the Maozu Pb-Zn deposit is mainly medium to low
448 temperature.

449 Frenzel et al. (2016) demonstrated that the trace element concentrations (Ga, Ge, In, Fe, Mn, Ag,
450 Co and Cu) of sphalerite can be used to calculate the formation temperature. Because our experiment
451 did not analyze the content of Ga, we use the Ga content (~20 ppm, Ye et al. 2011) from the Huize
452 deposit (a typical Pb-Zn deposit in SYGMP that is similar in geological and geochemical features to the
453 Maozu deposit) as a proxy according to the data from Frenzel et al. (2016). As a result, the formula
454 (Frenzel et al. 2016) for calculating the ore-forming temperature of sphalerite was used, and the
455 considered trace elements were Fe, Ge, In and Mn from this paper and Ga from Huize. The calculated
456 ore-forming temperature of sphalerite in the Maozu deposit is 120.5-288.7 °C (average 179.3 °C),
457 which is similar to a previous analysis of fluid inclusions in the Maozu deposit (140-280 °C, Yang et al.
458 2017), revealing that the ore-forming fluids of the deposit are medium-low temperature fluids.

459 In addition, the concentrations of In and Sn in the VL are the highest (Fig. 6, 7j), and relatively
460 more galena occurs in the VL than in the LL and UL (Fig. 4). These characteristics may indicate that
461 the VL is the secondary channel for the migration of ore-forming fluids. The concentrations of Fe, In,
462 and Sn in sphalerite and Ag and Sb in galena are the most enriched in the VL (Fig. 6). This finding may

463 suggest that ore-forming fluid migration occurs from deep to shallow and that the VL connects the UL
464 and LL by tectonic fracture zone and is the secondary migration channel of the ore-forming fluids.

465 **4.3 Ore genetic type**

466 The sulfide ore bodies of the Maozu deposit mainly occurs as stratiform and lentiform bodies,
467 resulting in some researchers consider it as a sedimentary reworked type or SEDEX-type of deposit
468 (e.g., Chen et al. 2002; He et al. 2006). In fact, the ore-hosting rock is the late Ediacaran Dengying
469 Formation dolostone, which differs from the host rocks (siliciclastic rocks) of the SEDEX-type.
470 Moreover, the steeply VL has been discovered with the mining exposures (Fig. 4), suggesting that the
471 Maozu deposit shows clear epigenetic origin. Furthermore, George et al (2015) found that galena from
472 the SEDEX Pb-Zn deposit is enriched in Bi (>100 ppm, up to 1000 ppm), but Bi in galena from the
473 Maozu deposit is normally below 1 ppm. In plots of Fe vs Mn, Fe vs Bi, Mn vs Bi and Ag vs Bi (Fig.
474 11), the trace elements in galena of the Maozu deposit plot away from those of the SEDEX deposits
475 (George et al. 2015, 2016; Ye et al. 2016). Therefore, we consider that the Mazu deposit is unlikely
476 attributed to a syngenetic origin.

477 Previous studies have suggested that the Maozu deposit is characterized by: (1) stratiform and
478 dipping vein ore bodies hosted in the Late Ediacaran Dengying Formation dolostone; (2) relatively
479 simple mineral assemblage, and including sphalerite, galena, dolomite, and minor pyrite and quartz; (3)
480 ore-forming fluids with low-medium temperature (140-280°C) and medium-high salinity (10-18 wt.%
481 NaCl eqv.)(Yang et al. 2017); (4) a mixing metal source of metamorphic basement rocks and
482 ore-hosting sedimentary rocks (Zhou et al. 2013); (5) sulfur from a thermochemical reduction the
483 ore-hosting sulfate (Zhou et al. 2013). All these geological features are consistent with those of typical
484 MVT deposits (Leach et al. 1993, 2005).

485 Trace elements in sphalerite, such as Fe, Mn, Cd, Ge, In, Ga, Se and Te, has been used to classify
486 the deposit genesis in recent decades because trace elements can be used to provide genetic information
487 (Zhang 1987; Cook et al. 2009; Ye et al. 2011, 2012, 2016; Wei et al. 2018a, b). In general, the MVT
488 Pb-Zn deposit is enriched in Cd, Ge, and Ga (Ye et al. 2011; Bonnet et al. 2016; Yuan et al. 2018) and
489 depleted in Fe, Mn, In, Sn, and Co (Ye et al. 2011, 2016; Wei et al. 2018a). The massive sulfide
490 deposits (SEDEX and VMS) are characterized by enrichment in Fe, Mn, and In and depletion in Cd, Ge,
491 and Ga (Cook et al. 2009; Ye et al. 2011; Wei et al. 2018b). The skarn-type deposits are enriched in Mn
492 and Co and depleted in In, Sn and Fe (Cook et al. 2009; Ye et al. 2011). For the Maozu deposit, trace
493 element compositions in sphalerite are characterized by depletion in Fe, Mn, and Co. The Mn and Co
494 contents in sphalerite from the Maozu deposit are lower than that of the skarn-type (most of Mn >1000
495 ppm and Co >200 ppm, Table 2) (Cook et al. 2009; Ye et al. 2011), and the Fe and Mn contents are
496 significantly lower than those in the sedimentary exhalative deposit (most of Fe and Mn >1000 ppm,
497 Table 2) (Ye et al. 2011). Whereas, these sphalerite samples are enriched in Cd and Ge which are
498 analogous to those of MVT deposits from the USA, China and Mexico (Cook et al. 2009; Ye et al. 2011;
499 Bonnet et al. 2016; Wei et al. 2018a). Furthermore, in the binary plots of different genesis deposits (Fig.
500 12), including Mn vs Fe, Mn vs Co, Mn vs Ge and Cd/Fe vs Mn, all the samples fall into the MVT
501 range.

502 In conclusion, the composition of trace elements in sulfides from the Maozu Pb-Zn deposit is
503 significantly different from that of the sedimentary exhalative and skarn-type deposits but consistent
504 with that of the MVT deposits (Cook et al. 2009; Ye et al. 2011, 2016; Wei et al. 2018a, b). Combined
505 with the geological and geochemical characteristics of the deposit, we propose that the deposit is an
506 MVT deposit.

507 **4.4 A possible reason for anomalies Indium and Tin in sphalerite**

508 Generally, the magma-related deposits show high In and Sn concentrations in sphalerite (e.g.,
509 Cook et al. 2009; Belissont et al. 2014; Wei et al. 2018b). Most of the Pb-Zn deposits in the SYGMP
510 are considered as MVT that have no genetic relationship with igneous rock (Leach et al. 2005).
511 Therefore, the concentrations of In and Sn in these deposits are very low (most <10 ppm, Fig. 6).
512 However, several LA-ICP-MS spot analyses in this study display high concentrations of In and Sn.
513 Interestingly, Mo et al. (2013) found that the volcanic rocks in the basement (the main metal source of
514 these Pb-Zn deposits in the SYGMP) contain high level of In (78 ppm) and Sn (120 ppm). Meanwhile,
515 the mineralizing fluids of MVT deposits are defined as a long-distance migration of basinal fluid
516 (Garven, 1985, Garven and Raffensperger, 1997). Therefore, a possible explanation is that the
517 hydrothermal fluid flow through the basement including In-Sn-bearing volcanic rocks and leach metals
518 out, and final form in In-Sn-bearing sphalerite because In and Sn preferred host in sphalerite (Höll et al.
519 2007; Cook et al. 2009). But this hypothesis should be verified in the future.

520 **5. Implications**

521 To understand the genesis of Pb-Zn deposits in the SYGMP, the trace elements in different
522 sulfides (sphalerite and galena) from the Maozu Pb-Zn deposit, which is a representative Pb-Zn deposit
523 in the SYGMP, were analyzed by LA-ICP-MS. Compared with trace elements in sulfides from the
524 different genetic type Pb-Zn deposits, the Maozu Pb-Zn deposit is characterized by enrichment of Ge,
525 Fe, Mn, Co in sphalerite and Ag, Sb, Cd, Se in galena, which is similar to the composition of typical
526 MVT deposits and different from those of SEDEX, VMS, and skarn-type Pb-Zn deposits, suggesting
527 that the Maozu deposit is an MVT deposit.

528 The occurrence of the trace elements in sulfides were determined by the LA-ICP-MS acquisition

529 profiles, mapped images and element inter-correlation. Bivalent cations such as Mn, Cd, Fe, and Co
530 likely enter sphalerite lattice via a direct substitution. Tri- and tetravalent elements including In^{3+} , Sn^{4+} ,
531 Ge^{4+} and Sb^{3+} were incorporated into sphalerite by coupling with monovalent elements (Cu^+ , Ag^+) as
532 $2\text{In}^{3+} + \text{Sn}^{4+} + 2\Box \leftrightarrow 5\text{Zn}^{2+}$ (\Box = vacancies) and $4(\text{Cu}^+ + \text{Sb}^{3+}) + (\text{Ge}^{4+} + 2\text{Ag}^+) + 2\Box \leftrightarrow 13\text{Zn}^{2+}$. Partly
533 Pb and As exist in sphalerite as micro-inclusions. In addition, strong binary correlations between Sb
534 and Ag in galena imply the coupled substitution of $\text{Ag}^+ + \text{Sb}^{3+} \leftrightarrow 2\text{Pb}^{2+}$.

535 The enrichment of trace elements in sulfide minerals differs among the lower layer (LL), vein
536 layer (VL) and upper layer (UL). In sphalerite, Fe, Co, Cu, and Ge show a slight decrease trend while
537 Cd, Mn, Ag, Sb, and Pb display a gradually increasing trend from the upper to lower layer. Notably, Fe,
538 In and Sn in sphalerite and Ag and Sb in galena are the highest in the VL, suggesting that the VL is a
539 secondary migration channel of the ore-forming fluids.

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547

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740

741 **Figure captions**

742 **Figure 1.** Regional tectonic sketch map of southern China and the location of the
743 Sichuan-Yunnan-Guizhou Pb-Zn metallogenic province (SYGMP) (modified from Huang et al. 2004;
744 Zhou et al. 2018). (Color online.)

745 **Figure 2.** Generalized stratigraphic column of the Maozu Pb-Zn deposit (modified from Zhou et al.
746 2018) (Color online.)

747 **Figure 3.** (a) Geological map of the Maozu Pb-Zn deposit (modified after Liu 2009). (b)
748 Representative cross-section A-A* through the deposit. (Color online.)

749 **Figure 4.** Outcrop photographs coupled with photomicrographs of thin sections from lower layer (LL),
750 vein layer (VL) and upper layer (UL) three ore bodies in the Maozu deposit. **(a)** UL occurs as
751 stratiform in dolostone below the phosphorus-bearing layer. **(b)** Gangue minerals in the UL are
752 dominated by fluorite and dolomite. **(c)** Sphalerite is cross-cut by a later galena vein. **(d)** Galena edges
753 are replaced by later tetrahedrite. **(e)** VL ore bodies occur as veinlets in the tectonic fractures. **(f)** Pb-Zn
754 ores coexist with calcite. **(g)** Fluorite is cut by sphalerite and galena veins. **(h)** Galena is wrapped with
755 coarse pyrite (Py2). **(i)** LL occurs in siliceous dolomite as in stratoid form. **(j)** Quartz is the dominant
756 gangue mineral in the LL. **(k)** Fine pyrite (Py1) in sphalerite formed earlier than sphalerite. **(l)** Minor
757 bitumen occurs around the sulfides. Abbreviations: Sp=Sphalerite; Gn=Galena; Py=Pyrite;
758 Tet=Tetrahedrite; Flu=Fluorite; Q=Quartz; Cal=Calcite; Dol=Dolomite and Bit=Bitumen; UL=Upper
759 layer; VL=Vein layer; and LL=Lower layer. (Color online.)

760 **Figure 5.** Mineral paragenesis in the Maozu Pb-Zn deposit. (Color online.)

761 **Figure 6.** Trace element concentrations (LA-ICP-MS) in sphalerite from the Maozu Pb-Zn deposit and
762 trace element concentrations in different genesis deposits (the data on the skarn, SEDEX, VMS, MVT,
763 and Huize are from Ye et al. 2011; data on Tianbaoshan are from Ye et al. 2016; data on Daliangzi are
764 from Yuan et al. 2018, and data on Fule are from Li 2016). (Color online.)

765 **Figure 7.** Correlation plots of sphalerite: **(a)** Fe vs Cd, **(b)** Mn vs Cd, **(c)** Fe vs Mn, **(d)** Co vs Ni, **(e)** Cu
766 vs Ge, **(f)** Cu vs Ag, **(g)** Ge vs Ag, **(h)** Sb vs Ge, **(i)** Mx vs My, **(j)** In vs Sn, **(k)** (Cu + Sb) vs (Ag + Ge),
767 **(l)** Cu vs Sb, **(m)** Sb vs Ag. Galena of **(n)** Ag vs Sb, and **(o)** (Bi + Sb) vs (Cu + Ag + Tl). Note:
768 r =correlation coefficient; k =slope; dashed lines=regression lines; solid lines=lines with different WRs.
769 (Color online.)

770 **Figure 8.** Histogram of trace elements for galena of the Maozu Pb-Zn deposit. (Color online.)

771 **Figure 9.** Representative time-resolved depth acquisition profiles for sphalerite (**a-d**) and galena (**e-f**)
772 analyzed by LA-ICP-MS. (Color online.)

773 **Figure 10.** Mapping images of sphalerite in the Maozu Pb-Zn deposit. (**a**) Scanning area of sphalerite.
774 (Color online.)

775 **Figure 11.** Binary plots of (**a**) Fe vs Mn, (**b**) Fe vs Bi, (**c**) Mn vs Bi and (**d**) Ag vs Bi in galena from
776 Maozu and other genesis Pb-Zn deposits (the data of SEDEX are from Ye et al. 2011; George et al.
777 2015, 2016; the MVT data are from Ye et al. 2016). (Color online.)

778

779 **Figure 12.** Binary plots of (**a**) Mn vs Fe, (**b**) Mn vs Co, (**c**) Mn vs Ge and (**d**) Cd/Fe vs Mn in sphalerite
780 from Maozu and other genesis Pb-Zn deposits (the data of other genesis deposits are from Cook et al.
781 2009; Ye et al. 2011, 2016; Li 2016; Yuan et al. 2018; Wei et al., 2018a, b). (Color online.)

782

783

784 **Table captions**

785 **Table 1** Trace elements in sphalerite and galena from the Maozu Pb-Zn deposit, Yunnan, China (ppm)

786 Note: Sp=Sphalerite; Gn=Galena; S.D.=Standard deviation; UL=Upper layer; VL=Vein layer;

787 LL=Lower layer; “-”=Not detected or below the detectable limit.

788

789 **Table 2** Concentrate variations for trace elements of sphalerite in Pb-Zn deposits of different genetic

790 types analyzed by LA-ICP-MS (ppm)

Table 1 Trace elements in sphalerite and galena from the Maozu Pb-Zn deposit, Yunnan, China (ppm)

Mineral	Layer		Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Ge	As	Se	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Pb	Bi
Sp MZ-8 (N=8)	UL	Mean	76.1	10257	3.01	-	786	138	19.6	-	87.6	2926	0.62	0.58	294	43.9	-
		Median	73.7	9833	1.77	-	311	113	7.01	-	35.7	2963	0.13	0.24	95.6	30.0	-
		MAD	17.3	439	1.22	-	177	73.3	3.70	-	21.9	43.2	0.32	0.14	76.2	21.6	-
		Min	51.5	9316	0.45	-	33.5	6.81	1.27	-	4.46	2787	0.01	0.08	0.49	1.02	-
		Max	97.9	13057	12.2	0.08	2074	342	77.9	1.86	254	3019	2.75	1.98	835	135	0.02
Sp MZ-30 (N=8)	UL	Mean	136	4115	5.07	-	318.18	62.0	6.88	-	14.4	3618	0.54	0.36	32.2	24.0	-
		Median	141	4199	4.88	-	333	42.1	4.28	-	12.8	3773	0.33	0.32	13.2	14.4	-
		MAD	19.9	106	2.12	-	195	32.9	3.33	-	7.22	710	0.22	0.15	10.1	10.9	-
		Min	2.78	2915	2.65	-	43.1	3.95	0.82	-	6.05	2459	0.05	0.05	4.98	2.74	-
		MAX	206	4884	7.54	0.06	897	185	26.8	2.31	28.2	4569	1.86	1.34	120	64.4	0.01
Sp MZ-51 (N=8)	UL	Mean	114	11114	17.2	0.73	684	83.0	6.32	-	10.6	2723	14.9	14.6	116	5.81	-
		Median	120	11738	17.3	0.75	244	64.4	2.94	-	5.02	2724	7.54	9.31	21.9	2.11	-
		MAD	28.6	2941	10.1	0.19	191	62.0	1.91	-	1.68	341	6.11	7.38	14.7	1.46	-
		Min	54.0	6073	4.49	0.42	32.6	0.32	1.03	-	3.50	2237	0.15	0.50	0.35	0.62	-
		MAX	154	14752	28.2	0.94	1999	227	16.0	3.39	45.9	3236	72.5	47.5	633	30.7	0.01
Sp MZ-67 (N=8)	UL	Mean	61.0	9917	18.7	1.49	362	65.9	15.5	-	4.11	3438	7.00	32.0	30.3	8.56	-
		Median	57.5	9848	18.7	1.28	201	25.9	3.04	-	6.11	3563	0.44	0.40	26.2	1.37	-
		MAD	27.2	554	1.84	0.21	37.0	17.4	2.29	-	4.29	137	0.42	0.31	24.7	1.37	-
		Min	25.2	8621	14.2	0.94	46.8	4.03	0.75	-	1.44	2746	0.02	0.12	1.31	2.74	-
		MAX	96.3	11021	26.0	3.08	1007	186	56.3	-	11.6	3778	32.6	179	134	13.7	0.01
Gn MZ-67	UL	Mean	-	-	-	-	0.28	-	-	0.47	561	32.9	-	2.32	724	-	0.16
		Median	-	-	-	-	0.22	-	-	0.47	575	33.9	-	2.33	740	-	0.16

(N=6)		MAD	-	-	-	-	0.06	-	-	-	20.4	3.74	-	0.32	31.9	-	0.02
		Min	-	-	0.01	0.14	0.15	-	-	0.44	506	24.7	-	1.89	654	-	0.14
		MAX	-	-	-	-	0.66	-	-	0.50	606	37.6	-	2.78	773	-	0.19
Sp	UL	Mean	75.7	4225	7.27	-	609	75.1	66.6	-	89.3	3454	96.2	18.5	180	228	-
MZ-69		Median	75.9	3509	5.95	-	574	55.7	62.9	-	89.8	3506	29.8	30.2	121	219	-
(N=8)		MAD	14.9	1672	3.36	-	55.6	14.7	19.8	-	31.9	210	21.3	22.7	46.8	85.1	-
		Min	41.9	698	2.21	-	308	20.8	36.0	-	40.4	3185	3.06	6.72	29.0	90.4	-
		MAX	109	13025	14.4	0.19	1193	143	123	3.40	149	3731	397	32.8	776	399	0.01
Sp	VL	Mean	31.2	5554	1.62	-	274	60.0	70.4	-	7.47	4122	5.15	3.86	19.2	11.3	-
MZ-12		Median	29.7	5312	1.55	-	106	50.8	0.91	-	6.01	4037	0.07	0.44	3.79	6.17	-
(N=8)		MAD	12.8	572	0.71	-	73.4	37.4	1.98	-	2.17	100	0.07	0.31	1.50	2.05	-
		Min	15.4	4386	0.33	-	9.23	0.75	1.03	-	2.54	3739	0.00	0.10	0.75	1.37	-
		MAX	53.5	7358	3.70	-	1037	196	275	-	15.1	4685	20.6	12.3	78.3	50.7	0.01
Gn	VL	Mean	-	-	-	-	0.95	-	-	68.1	619	33.8	-	8.03	705	-	0.81
MZ-12		Median	-	-	-	-	0.74	-	-	72.1	640	29.8	-	7.17	724	-	0.60
(N=8)		MAD	-	-	-	-	0.43	-	-	7.99	37.4	7.60	-	2.85	53.3	-	0.12
		Min	-	6.63	0.01	0.03	0.23	-	0.69	13.7	485	21.2	-	3.45	583	-	0.17
		MAX	-	-	-	-	2.56	-	-	96.4	703	56.7	-	16.6	795	-	1.90
Sp	VL	Mean	61.7	17832	22.5	-	989	7.29	11.7	-	31.6	3161	483	496	87.7	20.8	-
MZ-14		Median	65.3	19298	22.6	-	659	2.01	1.04	-	13.5	3177	532	393	10.8	3.43	-
(N=8)		MAD	11.3	1073	3.81	-	255	1.17	11.3	-	11.8	97.9	286	273	10.7	3.43	-
		Min	32.7	11697	8.77	-	109	0.66	1.36	-	1.34	2386	35.7	15.8	2.05	1.37	-
		MAX	79.9	20570	35.1	0.67	2752	34.7	20.9	3.14	141	3618	1191	2192	486	57.5	-
Gn	VL	Mean	-	-	-	-	0.37	-	-	4.07	869	32.8	-	4.36	990	-	0.22
MZ-14		Median	-	-	-	-	0.37	-	-	3.57	863	36.4	-	4.52	988	-	0.19
(N=5)		MAD	-	-	-	-	0.09	-	-	1.72	21.1	4.33	-	0.48	15.62	-	0.09

		Min	-	6.31	-	-	0.27	-	-	1.26	832	19.7	-	2.70	961	-	0.10
		MAX	-	-	-	-	0.47	-	0.47	6.96	910	40.7	-	5.29	1033	-	0.42
Sp	LL	Mean	38.4	4069	2.34	-	411	89.6	76.2	-	14.2	3760	93.0	0.96	48.3	6.43	-
MZ-2		Median	24.3	2845	1.55	-	743	40.8	38.4	-	16.2	3485	0.02	0.18	97.1	5.35	-
(N=8)		MAD	14.0	887	1.23	-	432	40.4	25.7	-	4.10	374	0.50	0.07	91.6	1.55	-
		Min	10.1	1555	0.04	-	20.7	0.30	23.5	-	6.92	3082	0.01	0.06	0.81	1.08	-
		MAX	87.1	8156	8.62	0.13	1029	238	164	1.73	29.1	4644	464	6.39	123	15.2	-
Sp	LL	Mean	101	2051	0.62	-	322	65.1	35.5	-	18.6	4052	7.94	3.32	63.2	46.6	-
MZ-35		Median	98.4	2033	0.44	-	235	39.2	10.3	-	14.1	4087	3.31	1.59	33.6	37.7	-
(N=8)		MAD	11.5	142	0.21	-	157	31.2	2.88	-	4.80	225	2.91	1.45	8.42	10.9	-
		Min	50.0	1830	0.10	-	31.3	2.49	0.92	-	5.93	3479	0.11	0.17	9.92	26.0	-
		MAX	141	2327	1.54	-	994	201	117	3.52	41.4	4519	40.7	14.5	177	82.2	0.04
Gn	LL	Mean	-	-	-	-	2.02	-	-	55.9	398	40.2	-	0.75	460	-	5.13
MZ-35		Median	-	-	-	-	1.94	-	-	59.3	426	39.0	-	0.76	498	-	3.32
(N=7)		MAD	-	-	-	-	0.61	-	-	9.28	37.9	4.45	-	0.11	37.1	-	1.25
		Min	-	-	-	0.02	1.25	-	-	37.8	293	31.6	-	0.61	342	-	1.56
		MAX	-	-	-	-	3.04	-	-	68.7	464	51.6	-	0.89	535	-	14.2

Note: Sp- Sphalerite; Gn- Galena; MAD- Median absolute deviation; UL- Upper layer; VL- Vein layer; LL- Lower layer; “-“- Not detect or below detectable limit.

Table 2 Concentrate variations for trace elements of sphalerite in different genetic types Pb-Zn deposits analyzed by LA-ICPMS (ppm)

Ore deposit/ genetic type		Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Ge	As	Se	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	Tl	Pb	Reference
The target deposit																		
Maozu (N=72)	Mean	77.4	7681	8.81	0.74	514	71.8	32.3	2.58	31.5	3473	81.4	73.9	96.3	0.35	0.09	42.6	this paper
	Median	74.5	6273	4.59	0.67	334	37.0	9.36	2.48	12.5	3465	2.84	1.52	36.3	0.32	0.07	8.22	
	Min	2.78	698	0.04	0.04	11.6	0.30	0.75	1.73	1.60	2237	0.004	0.08	0.07	0.15	0.004	0.001	
	Max	206	20570	35.1	3.08	2394	342	275	3.52	257	4685	1191	1814	865	0.60	0.43	399	
SYGMP-MVT deposits																		
Fule (N=88)	Mean	2.82	2636	13.5	2.06	1004	170	191	-	11.6	17182	-	-	248	-	-	198	unpublished
	Median	3.25	2543	14.2	2.21	1035	184	153	-	32.3	3221	-	-	458	-	-	254	
	Min	0.98	1305	8.08	0.59	5.09	0.54	1.59	-	1.55	2833	-	-	0.18	-	-	0.2	
	Max	10.6	5370	19.7	5.03	5650	632	1534	69.2	91.4	46662	3.25	31.71	2317	0.82	1.09	1182	
Daliangzi (N=85)	Mean	7.40	13713	3.79	1.99	1485	66.9	109	-	225	5289	1.41	2.52	242	-	0.57	680	Yuan et al., 2018
	Median	5.13	11250	3.12	1.27	314	26.8	20.5	-	31.6	3681	0.11	0.74	66.1	-	0.13	52.9	
	Min	0.11	570	0.44	0.29	8.79	0.11	0.27	-	1.85	529	0.002	0.24	0.13	-	0.001	1.08	
	Max	48.9	57683	10.3	10.8	15113	328	1863	-	4037	19479	15.3	24.7	3073	-	10.9	31653	
Tianbaoshan (N=57)	Mean	10.1	16309	44.2	3.11	2903	29.5	276	2.42	205	7245	1.25	3.27	202	0.47	0.06	166	Ye et al., 2016
	Median	10.5	16219	11.1	0.09	391	11.8	13.8	0.79	98.5	4761	0.01	0.38	35.0	0.48	0.01	59.9	
	Min	1.92	7251	3.03	0.03	40.6	0.52	0.56	0.48	25.4	2915	0.001	0.03	0.68	0.15	0.004	1.18	
	Max	20.1	30675	855	155	20042	206	4748	40.3	1011	28278	10.2	76.0	1546	0.89	0.67	3821	
Huize	Mean	96.5	21193	0.03	0.07	285	81.9	33.9	0.62	22.8	2131	0.72	1.68	28.5	0.12	0.08	9.99	Ye et al.,

(N=24)	Median	92.5	18840	0.02	0.03	186	59.5	1.62	0.71	16.4	1730	0.06	0.25	2.52	0.05	0.02	4.75	2011
	Min	7.27	5063	0.001	0.01	7.11	3.05	0.14	0.12	6.10	929	0.001	0.07	0.001	0.01	0.001	0.40	
	Max	305	45776	0.06	0.24	1169	348	399	1.65	74.4	4502	5.81	27.6	297	0.36	0.85	69.1	
MVT deposit (Mexico)																		
	Mean	27.6	61805	0.34	0.68	20.2	704	510	1.94	3.52	5109	0.20	3.20	33.9	0.23	113	2094	
Tres Marias (N=23)	Median	38.8	74829	0.39	0.23	13.4	970	532	2.00	2.69	5150	0.17	2.20	15.5	0.24	141	1376	Cook et al.,
	Min	4.40	16681	0.09	0.12	1.00	174	122	1.23	1.64	3354	0.04	0.29	0.71	0.18	29.5	374	2009
	Max	50.0	106107	0.48	2.33	80.6	1242	1321	3.08	6.60	6581	0.70	11.1	161	0.27	179	12496	
VMS deposit																		
	Mean	531	1937	0.03	0.31	382	10.2	-	1.09	5.72	4745	0.05	0.10	3.25	0.29	0.24	462	Cook et al.,
Vorta DMV (N=8)	Median	571	2084	0.02	0.31	381	8.90	-	1.05	3.12	4771	0.05	0.08	1.24	0.29	0.01	5.64	2009 and
	Min	165	917	0.02	0.23	131	2.73	-	0.82	1.38	4169	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.21	0.01	0.46	references
	Max	761	2617	0.06	0.39	719	23.4	-	1.40	21.2	5088	0.06	0.24	17.1	0.36	1.14	3426	therein
Eskay Creek (N=12)	Mean	3265	4882	0.10	1.93	770	2.08	211	2.35	535	3852	1.41	12.6	20420	0.63	3.97	11521	Cook et al.,
	Median	3373	4549	0.09	1.24	402	1.01	48.9	1.70	102	3898	0.20	7.60	4831	0.50	1.10	5390	2009 and
	Min	2296	3880	0.04	0.47	67.0	0.47	1.00	1.30	6.80	2720	0.10	2.60	5.06	0.18	0.08	1.15	references
	Max	4744	7112	0.17	4.01	3483	13.7	1550	4.10	2785	4955	13.7	31.1	117467	1.40	20.6	50955	therein
Sauda (N=10)	Mean	970	78561	27.8	-	29.4	1.03	-	94.1	3.80	2202	29.7	0.65	0.03	-	-	-	Cook et al.,
	Median	924	74359	26.0	-	25.5	1.02	-	93.5	3.68	2079	28.0	0.50	0.02	-	-	-	2009 and
	Min	874	69576	25.0	-	22.0	0.86	-	89.0	2.44	1973	27.0	0.27	0.01	-	-	-	references
	Max	1449	120205	44.0	-	44.0	1.43	-	109	5.48	3488	42.0	1.26	0.10	-	-	-	therein
Zinkgruvan (N=5)	Mean	513	32337	160	0.74	3.44	1.06	-	1.90	6.51	3812	0.29	0.15	1.23	0.16	-	43.0	Cook et al.,
	Median	507	31930	15	0.67	3.10	1.07	-	1.90	4.65	3807	0.30	0.11	0.28	0.16	-	2.95	2009 and

	Min	499	31735	157	0.56	1.90	0.82	-	1.90	4.55	3661	0.26	0.08	0.12	0.15	-	1.38	references
	Max	532	33261	164	0.95	5.10	1.19	-	1.90	12.6	3943	0.32	0.25	4.12	0.17	-	193	therein
Kaveltorp (N=8)	Mean	30101	96962	11.4	1.15	1077	2.08	0.52	1.97	5.22	1669	4.59	0.64	0.16	-	0.09	2620	Cook et al.,
	Median	29491	85634	11.4	0.99	299	1.95	0.52	1.82	5.42	1688	4.55	0.94	0.17	-	0.08	14.3	2009 and
	Min	27739	79809	10.7	0.69	13.5	1.82	0.52	1.34	3.11	1585	4.05	0.07	0.04	-	0.01	5.93	references
	Max	34816	163123	12.0	1.78	3743	3.09	0.52	2.68	7.57	1731	5.32	1.03	0.35	0.21	0.18	10443	therein
Marketorp (N=8)	Mean	4105	96877	170	0.74	4021	3.48	-	32.9	13.7	3251	26.4	0.27	0.06	0.18	0.18	11.8	Cook et al.,
	Median	1853	91503	169	0.74	2807	2.08	-	33.2	10.3	3257	26.6	0.15	0.07	0.18	0.06	9.33	2009 and
	Min	1684	86959	160	0.74	1414	1.78	-	29.1	7.42	2968	24.7	0.09	0.04	0.15	0.02	0.81	references
	Max	18729	119418	188	0.74	14368	12.6	-	35.6	33.6	3619	27.9	0.81	0.08	0.21	0.30	29.1	therein
Laochang (N=30)	Mean	2841	121474	0.84	0.17	248	3.86	2.44	1.69	6.32	8119	186	6.49	0.94	0.20	0.35	23.7	
	Median	2905	119716	0.53	0.13	176	3.33	0.83	1.44	5.89	8071	179	4.73	0.42	0.24	0.11	2.02	Ye et al.,
	Min	2438	114390	0.07	0.02	111	1.95	0.14	0.25	4.47	7605	62.0	2.06	0.001	0.03	0.001	0.28	2011
	Max	3711	139194	4.14	1.55	1883	14.1	32.9	3.70	9.49	8947	522	34.9	3.81	0.45	2.40	517	
SEDEX deposit																		
Dabaoshan (N=26)	Mean	2021	109851	2.01	0.08	741	3.07	0.59	0.84	32.9	5291	213	11.3	3.84	0.16	0.02	25.9	
	Median	2094	110318	0.86	0.05	219	3.09	0.18	0.61	21.7	5359	242	6.32	1.24	0.06	0.01	2.38	Ye et al.,
	Min	650	99050	0.02	0.01	105	2.44	0.08	0.17	8.71	4364	105	1.33	0.09	0.03	0.001	0.47	2011
	Max	2463	116763	6.16	0.34	5499	3.92	3.00	3.85	186	5609	388	44.5	17.9	0.35	0.13	465	
Skarn deposit																		
Late Cretaceous (SE Europe)	Mean	3919	90412	34.3	0.64	251	1.09	-	75.9	1.77	2898	55.5	0.40	0.10	0.36	-	0.52	
	Median	4134	91531	34.4	0.62	168	1.10	-	75.0	1.75	2859	48.6	0.16	0.05	0.31	-	0.43	Cook et al.,
	Min	2545	85805	31.9	0.37	69.0	1.00	-	72.4	1.50	2773	38.6	0.07	0.02	0.29	-	0.12	2009

(N=8)	Max	4476	92590	36.3	1.06	541	1.20	-	81.5	2.06	3256	98.9	1.52	0.32	0.44	0.02	1.20	
Ocna de Fier (N=37)	Mean	5308	30549	580	1.22	828	1.07	2.93	6.51	18.9	5865	20.7	0.44	0.59	2.01	0.17	4413	
	Median	3070	20797	278	0.97	112	1.02	0.80	4.55	2.67	5896	10.10	0.13	0.26	0.38	0.10	225	Cook et al.,
	Min	905	1619	5.90	0.11	4.60	0.58	0.50	1.50	1.50	4825	0.03	0.05	0.01	0.04	0.02	0.30	2009
	Max	36136	99262	2828	3.95	13397	1.76	9.60	47.2	356	7146	175	4.83	3.04	12.7	0.91	57625	
Baita Bihor (N=36)	Mean	3019	13062	578	8.08	2872	0.95	0.55	7.59	11.6	6923	203	5.15	0.43	1.08	0.05	120	
	Median	3422	11651	567	8.60	162	0.87	0.52	5.45	1.84	7363	49.8	0.40	0.10	0.29	0.04	0.92	Cook et al.,
	Min	841	919	2.40	0.24	9.00	0.69	0.34	1.30	1.30	5102	10.3	0.05	0.02	0.16	0.01	0.07	2009
	Max	4924	32653	1458	17.4	25535	1.51	0.82	30.8	121	7999	867	46.0	2.22	2.95	0.11	3476	
Baisoara (N=20)	Mean	446	8216	11.1	0.79	1380	7.17	143	5.72	74.9	43576	12.9	30.4	154	0.83	25.0	2089	
	Median	24.4	1185	9.95	0.70	1394	1.15	51.9	3.10	49.0	28717	2.30	11.7	30.0	0.72	17.0	541	Cook et al.,
	Min	0.43	118	2.00	0.07	6.00	0.58	14.9	1.10	3.00	423	0.03	0.92	17.5	0.27	8.10	215	2009
	Max	5263	30578	23.5	2.41	6879	47.9	474	19.3	311	132317	74.8	121	1245	1.60	72.0	12140	
Lefevre (CLY) L-12 (N=8)	Mean	3050	103995	328	4.59	306	2.25	0.90	16.2	3.38	10804	179	0.12	0.15	0.33	0.14	3.83	
	Median	2789	102017	331	0.53	142	2.09	0.90	16.5	3.09	10602	183	0.11	0.09	0.33	0.09	2.37	Cook et al.,
	Min	2396	92428	300	0.25	107	1.73	0.90	12.9	1.95	10071	139	0.06	0.03	0.33	0.03	0.70	2009
	Max	5186	119230	355	19.2	1268	3.58	0.90	19.2	5.19	11945	203	0.20	0.41	0.33	0.44	8.65	
Konnerudkollen Ko99.2 (N=5)	Mean	545	4236	1547	5.10	389	0.75	0.48	24.2	93.2	2449	7.58	0.09	0.08	12.2	-	3451	
	Median	551	4332	1542	4.55	350	0.79	0.50	12.30	4.79	2469	7.70	0.07	0.08	12.2	-	17.2	Cook et al.,
	Min	483	3981	1526	2.13	103	0.59	0.37	10.5	3.05	2321	6.50	0.05	0.04	12.2	-	9.70	2009
	Max	609	4405	1585	11.9	633	0.83	0.57	72.0	446	2495	8.20	0.15	0.11	12.2	1.55	17158	

Kamioka Kam-1 (N=8)	Mean	1380	20413	231	3.21	3.21	0.83	-	60.9	14.0	5446	0.99	0.20	0.06	1.92	0.24	1345	Cook et al., 2009
	Median	1397	20483	231	3.13	3.20	0.85	-	41.0	2.25	5455	0.98	0.16	0.04	1.90	0.17	30.3	
	Min	1249	19408	222	3.03	2.20	0.70	-	21.4	1.70	5334	0.76	0.09	0.02	0.35	0.09	0.22	
	Max	1460	21553	245	3.54	4.20	0.87	-	190	94.4	5521	1.37	0.38	0.13	3.52	0.46	10630	
Skarn (China)																		
Hetaoping (N=24)	Mean	2985	51001	212	0.10	583	2.79	0.28	31.3	8.08	4643	0.05	0.10	4.43	0.12	0.01	37.2	Ye et al., 2011
	Median	2817	37964	110	0.04	10.3	2.78	0.16	23.6	6.07	4254	0.01	0.10	2.81	0.05	0.001	6.32	
	Min	1254	20530	65.9	0.01	6.06	2.53	0.09	7.08	4.43	4033	0.001	0.06	0.001	0.02	0.001	0.20	
	Max	5486	105927	478	0.47	7714	3.13	1.76	86.7	23.3	6472	0.17	0.12	19.9	0.35	0.07	368	
Luziyuan (N=39)	Mean	3466	46233	347	5.87	649	2.03	52.9	43.8	5.26	1808	0.09	0.78	22.7	0.14	0.05	1697	Ye et al., 2011
	Median	1237	44529	377	0.47	44.5	2.70	0.88	1.54	4.49	1923	0.04	0.15	4.12	0.04	0.02	29.5	
	Min	442	-	63.4	0.08	4.99	0.12	0.08	-	0.42	1199	0.005	0.001	0.005	-	-	-	
	Max	22642	99651	1267	51.1	6636	3.51	324	327	22.4	2387	0.82	8.74	383	0.70	0.32	48958	

Note: “-“ - Not detect or below detectable limit.

Fig.1

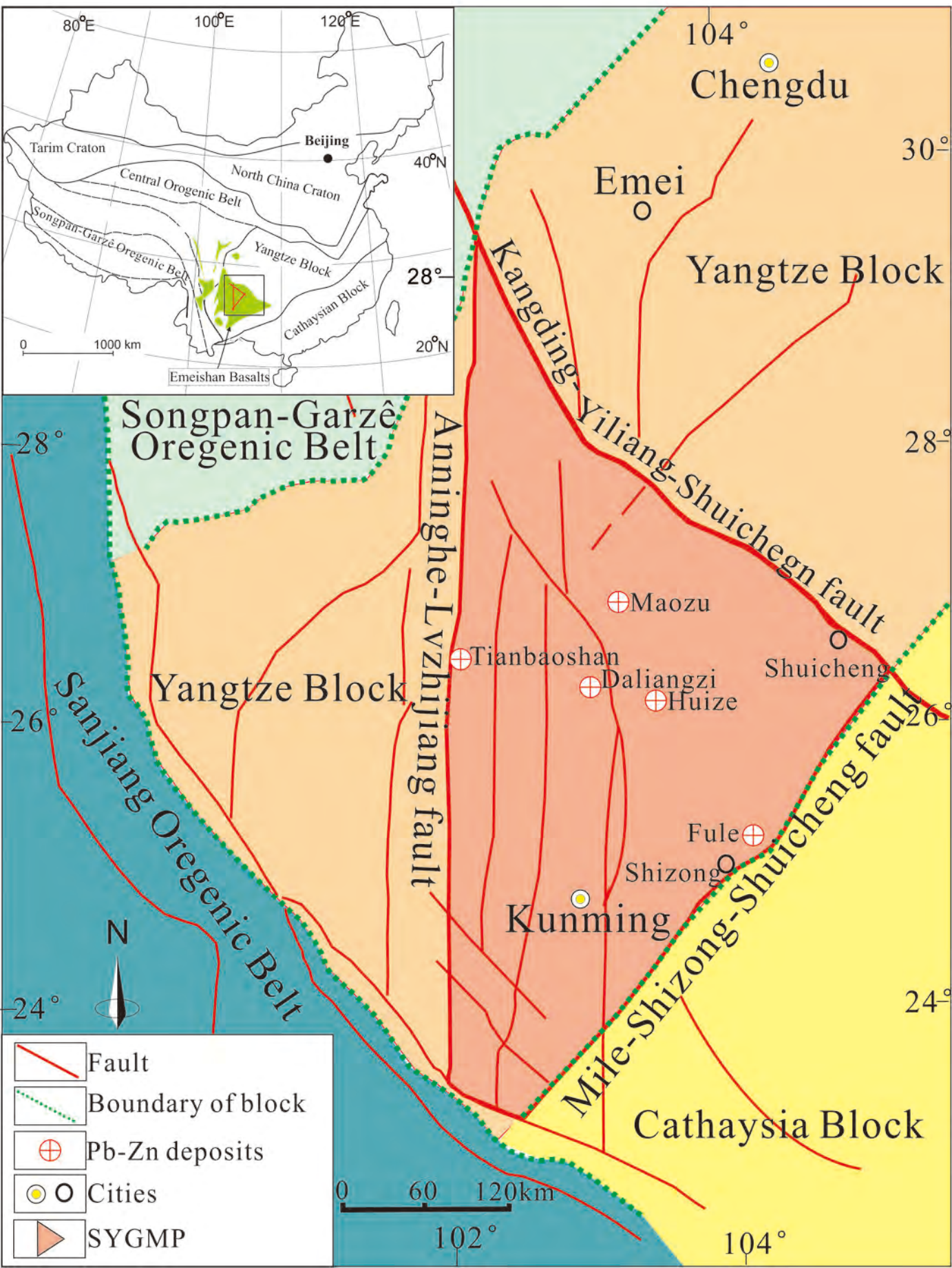


Fig.2

Formation		Lithology	Lithological character
Quaternary Tertiary			Sediments rocks that are exposed in valley or river areas
Triassic			Sandstone, shale, and claystone, hosting coal
Permian	Emeishan basalt		Flood basalt, hosting native Cu ore body
	Yangxin		Limestone and dolostone
Carboniferous			Limestone, dolostone, and sandy shale
Devonian	Zaige		Dolostone
	Haikou		Sandstone and carbonates
Silurian			Siltstone and carbonates
Ordovician			Sandy shale and argillaceous limestone
Cambrian	Qiongzusi/Meishucun		Phosphorite, sandstone and carbonates
	Dengying		Phosphorus-bearing and silicified dolomite, Hosting Pb-Zn ore body of the Maozu.
Proterozoic basement			Volcaniclastic and Metamorphic rocks

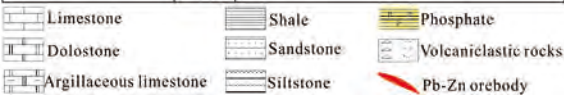


Fig.3

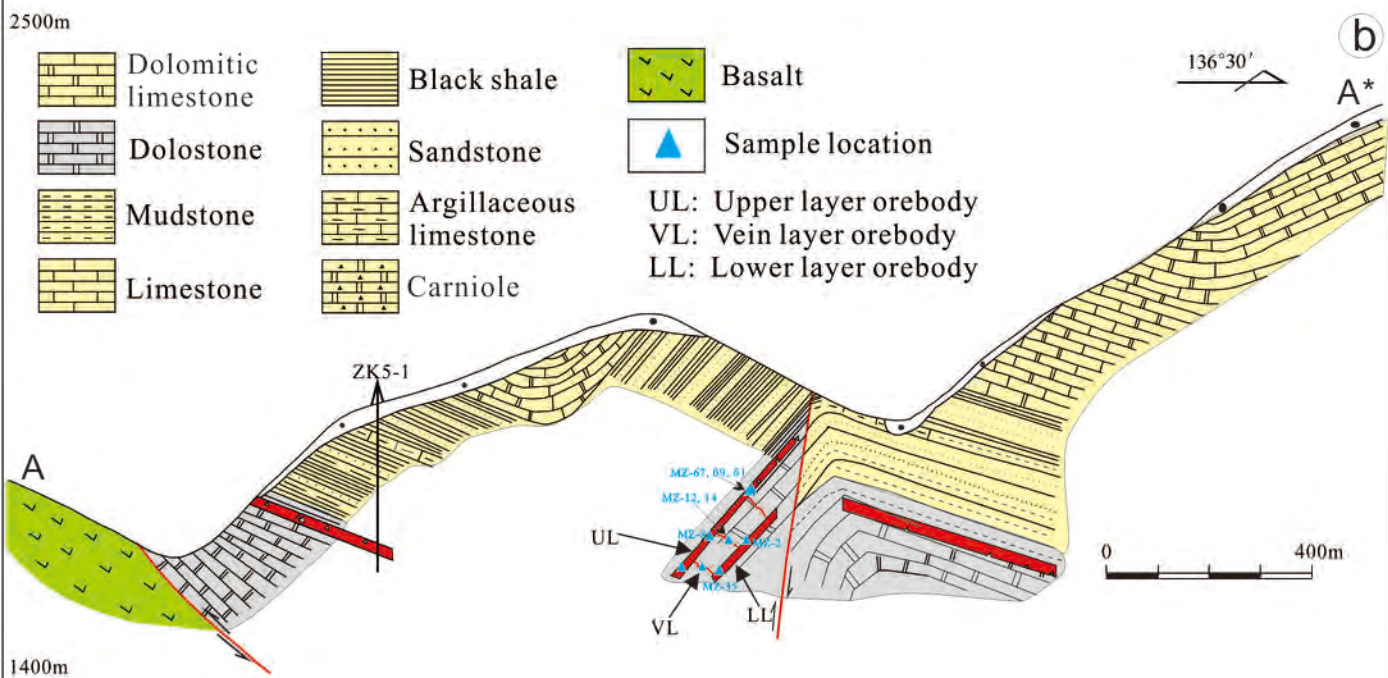
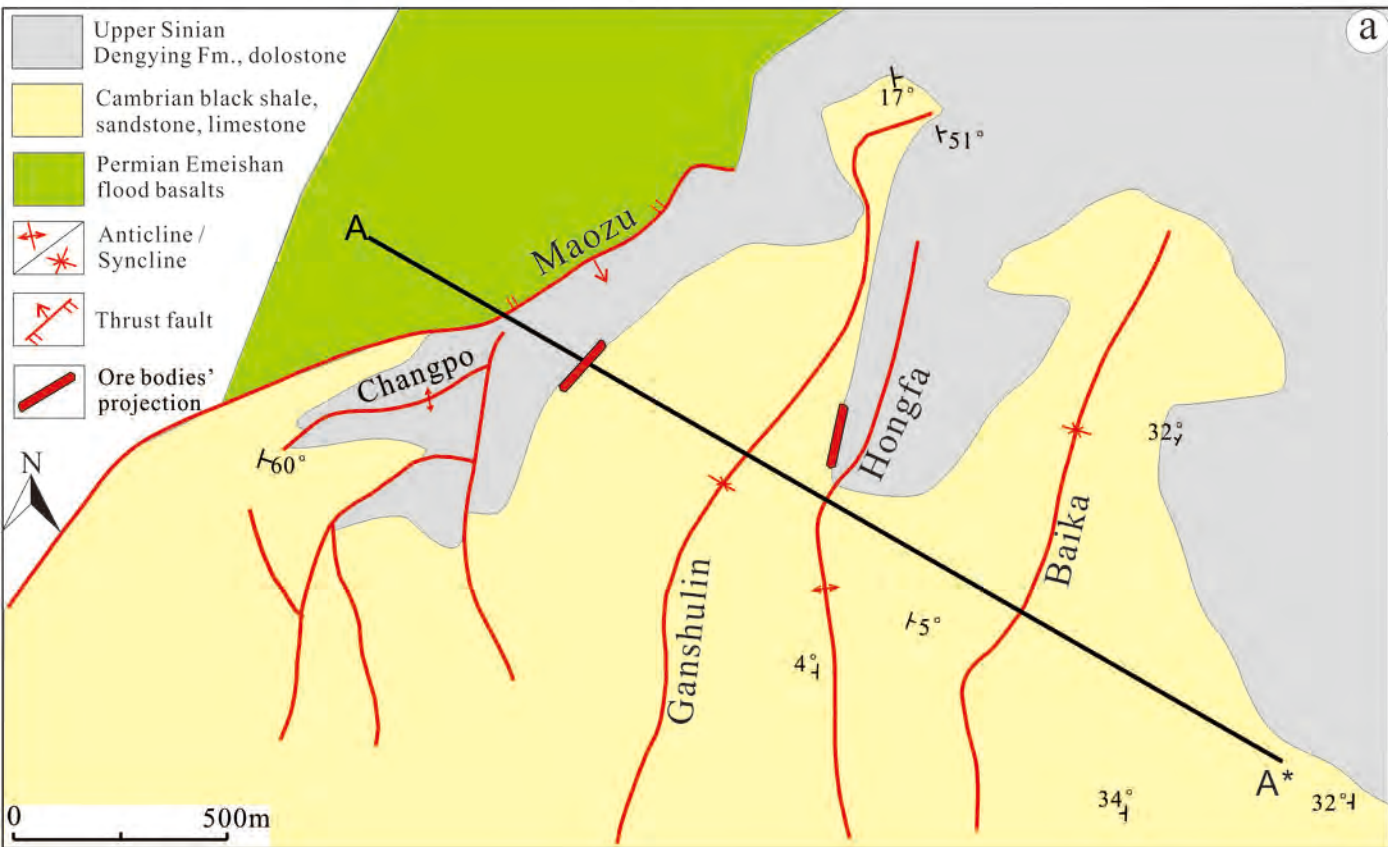


Fig.4

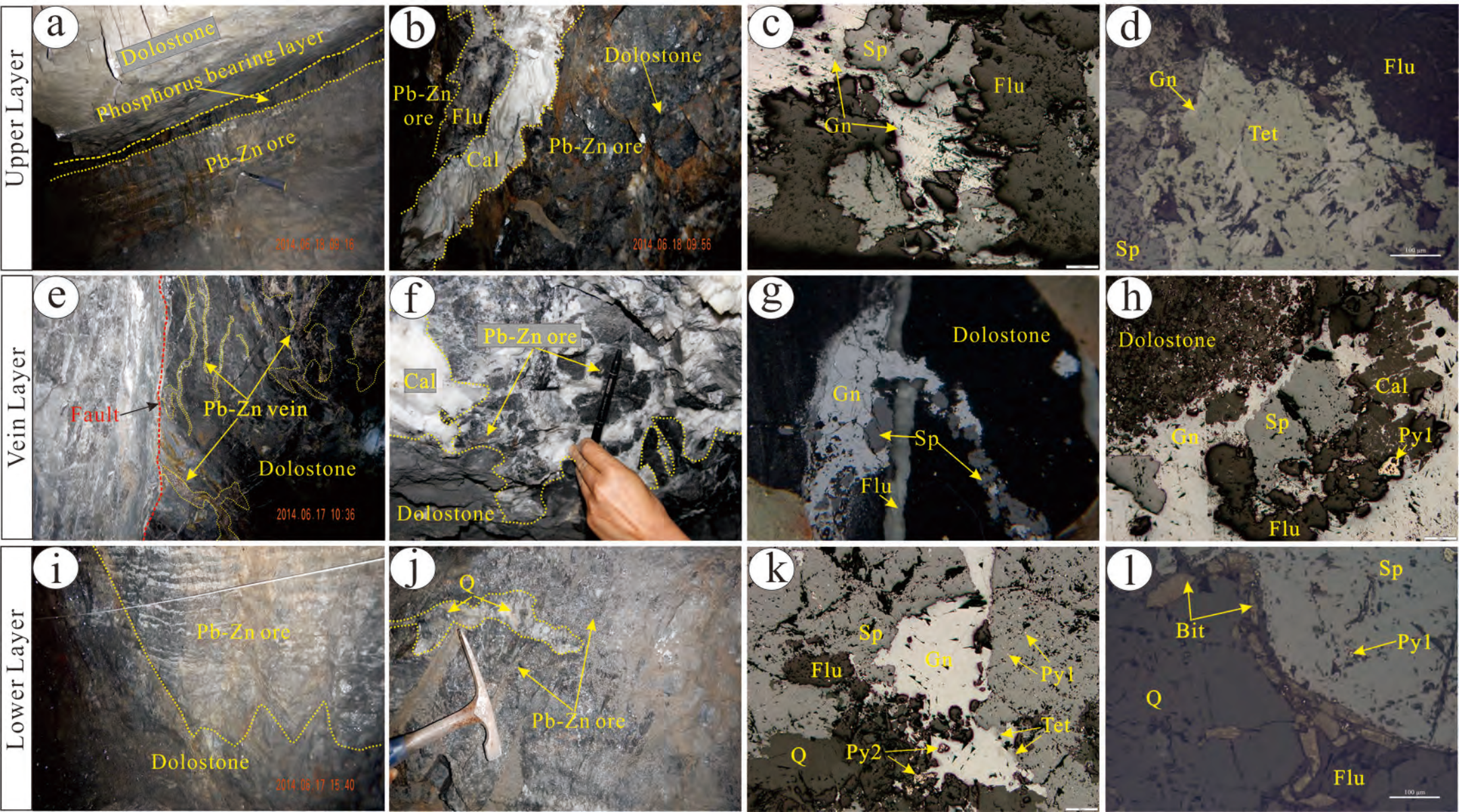


Fig.5

MINERAL	Diagenetic stage	Hydrothermal stage		Supergene stage
		Early-ore stage	Late-ore stage	
Fine pyrite (Py1)		██████████		
Fluorite		██████████	██████████	
Sphalerite		██████████	██████████	
Galena			██████████	
Coarse pyrite (Py2)			██████████	
Tetrahedrite		██████████	██████████	
Quartz		██████████	██████████	
Calcite	██████████		██████████	
Dolomite	██████████		██████████	
Smithsonite				██████████
Cerussite				██████████

Less
 More

Fig.6

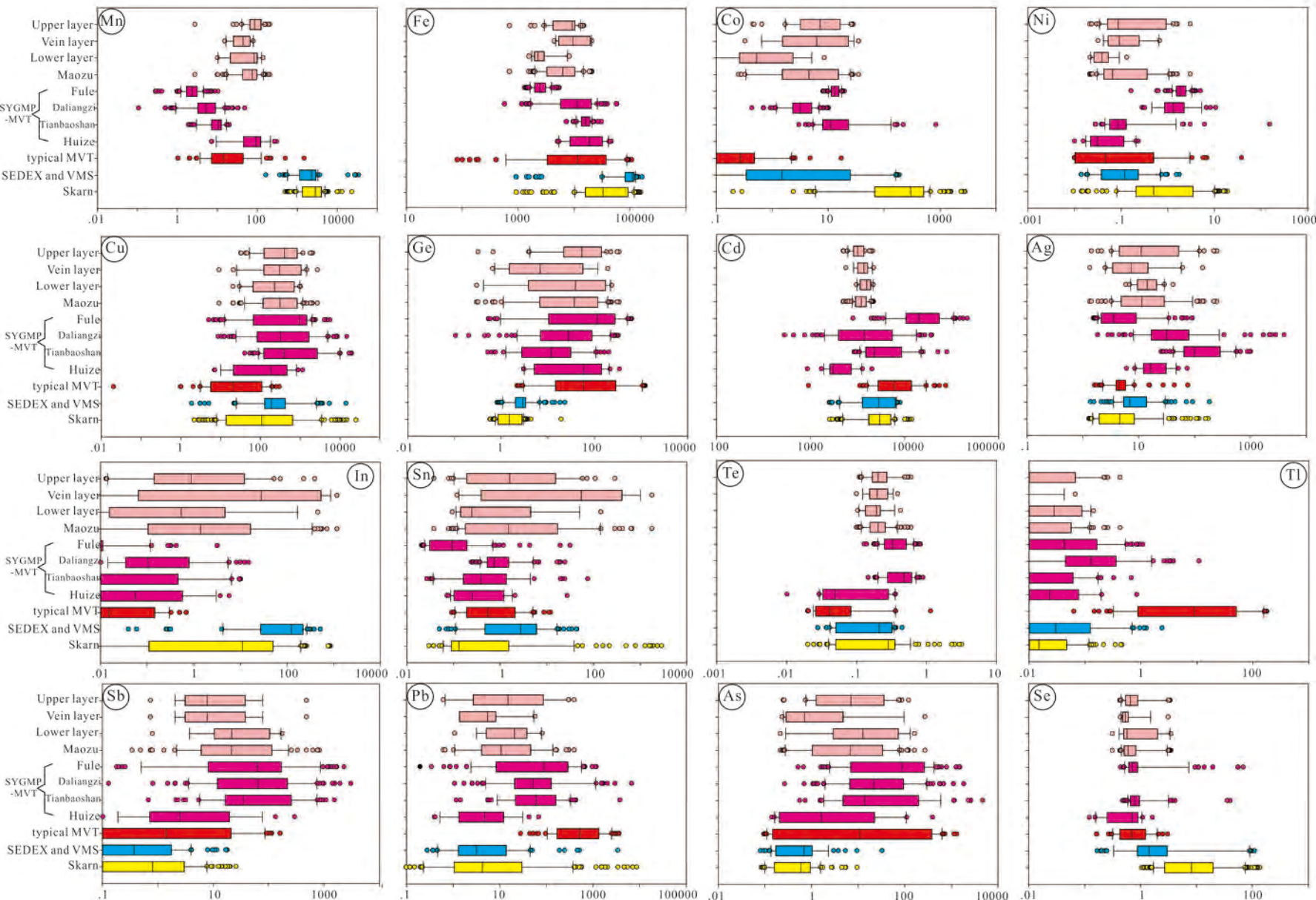


Fig. 7

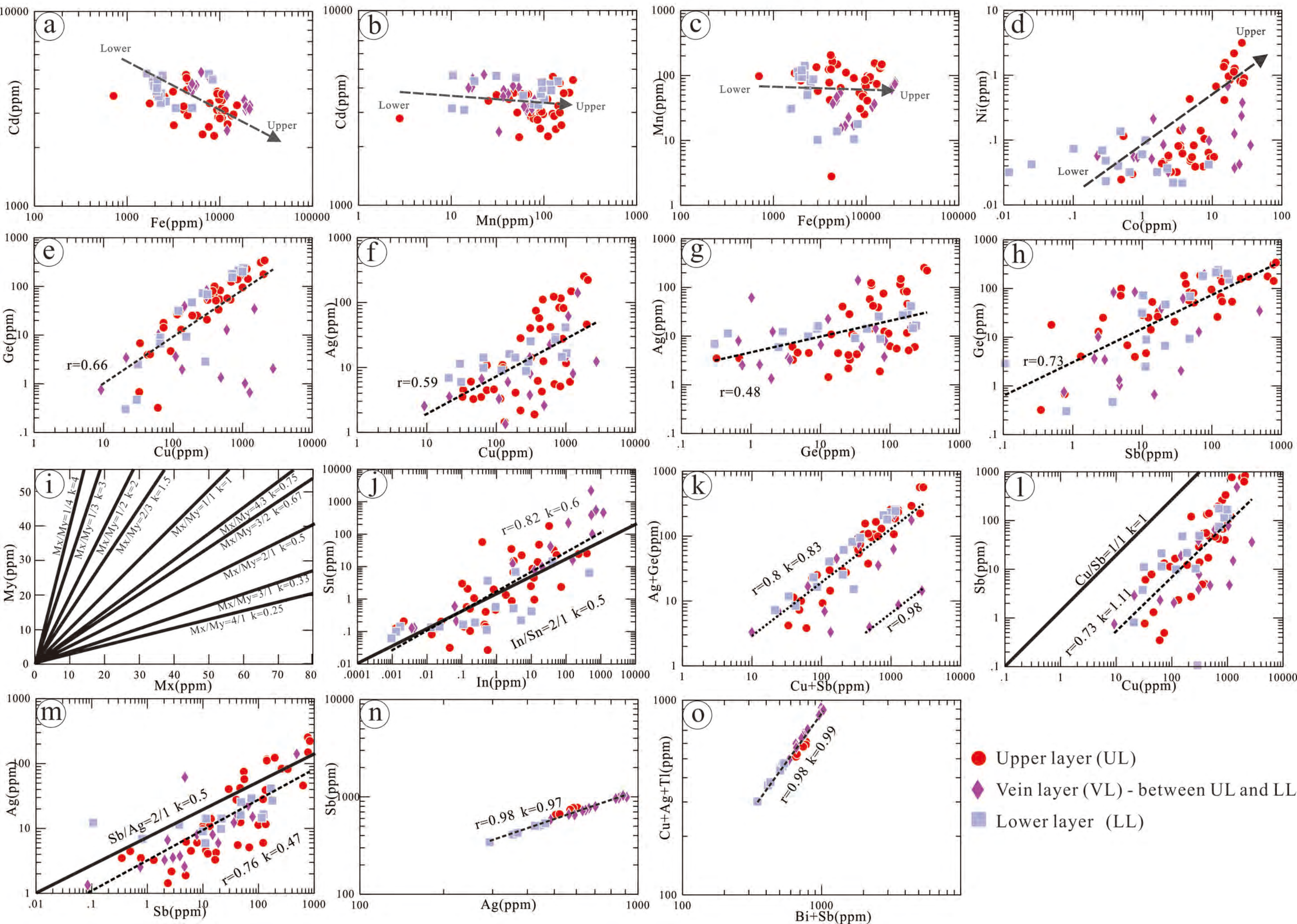


Fig.8

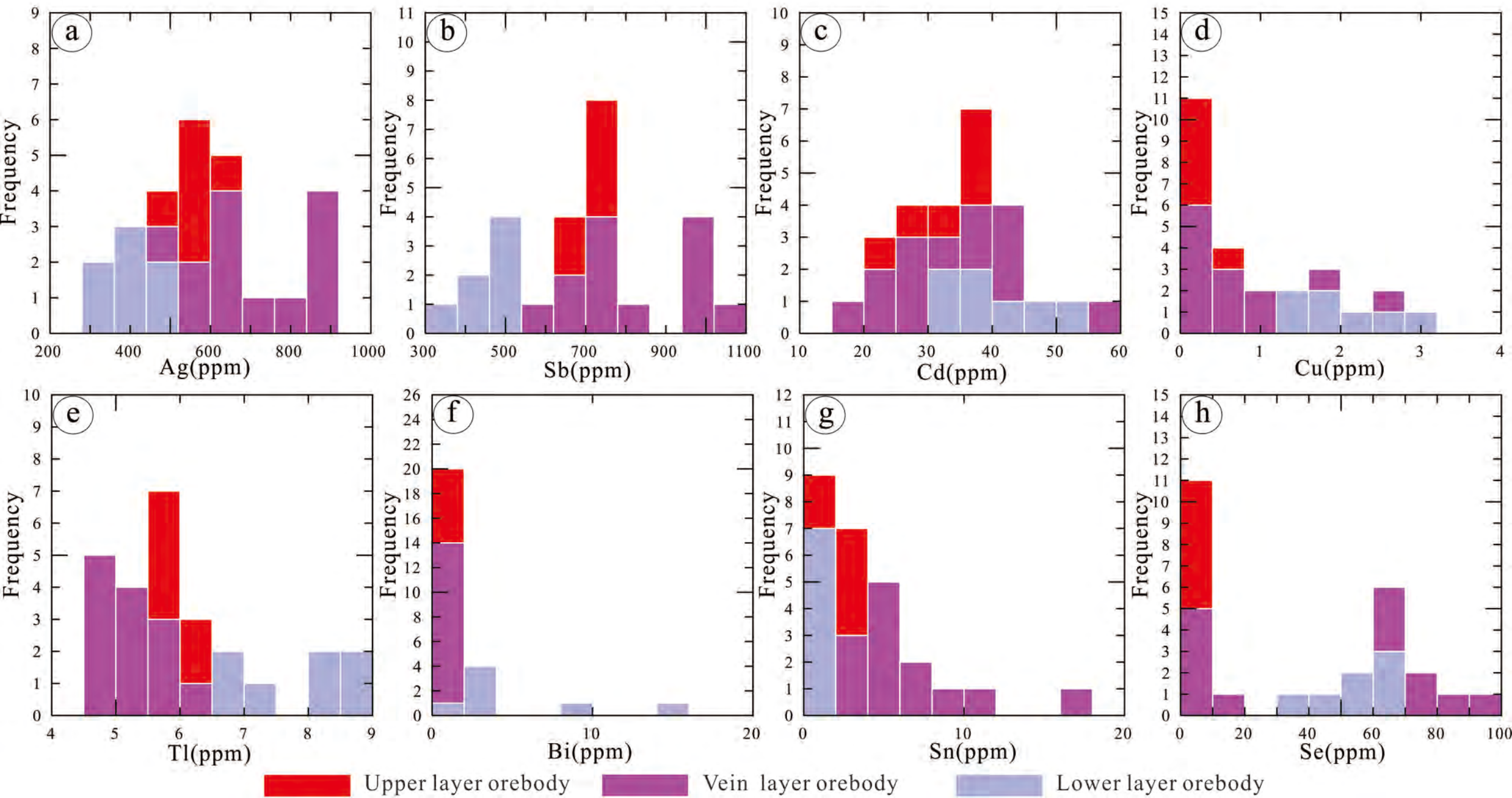


Fig.9

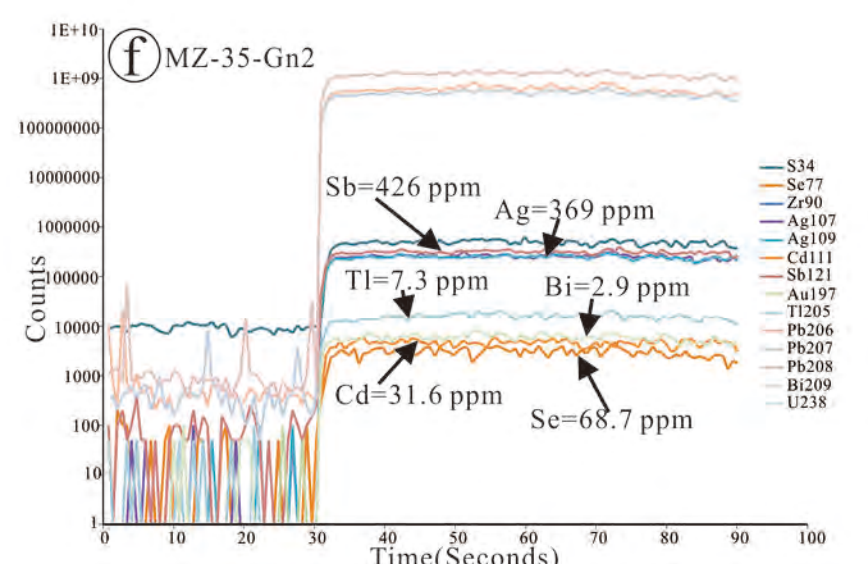
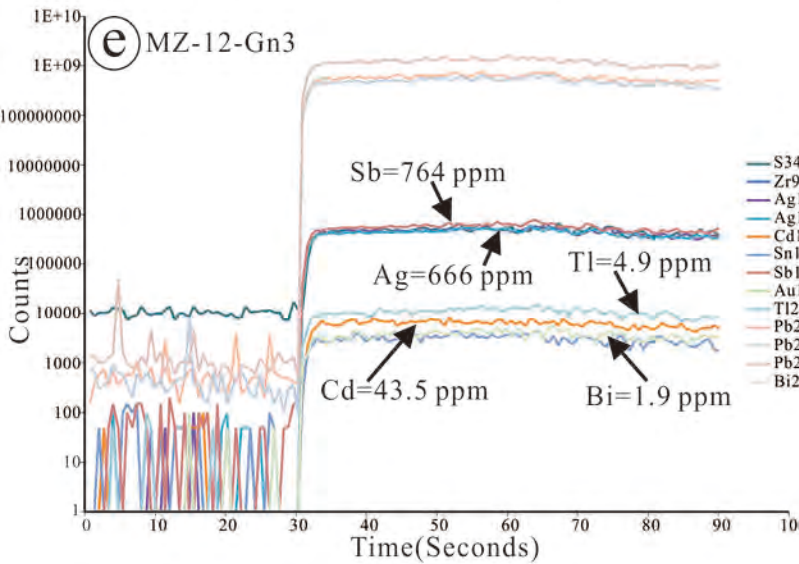
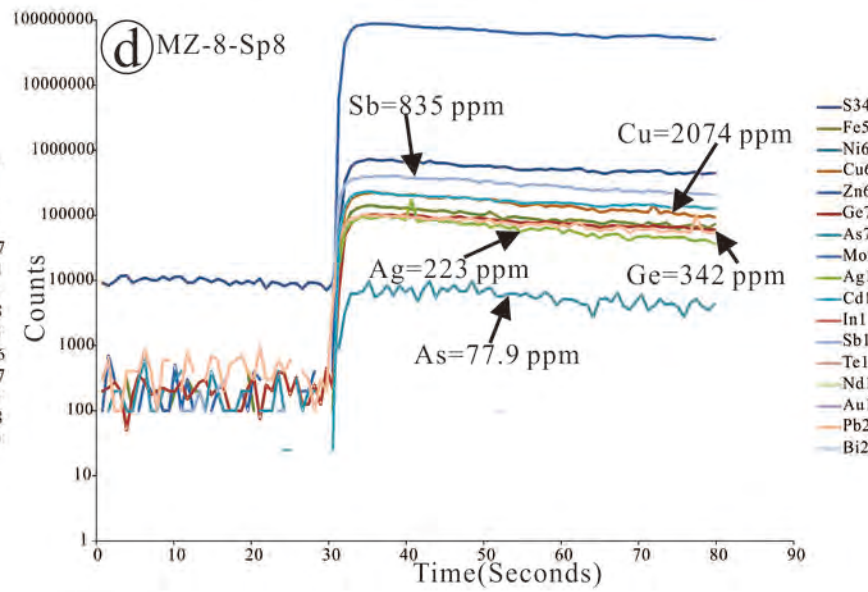
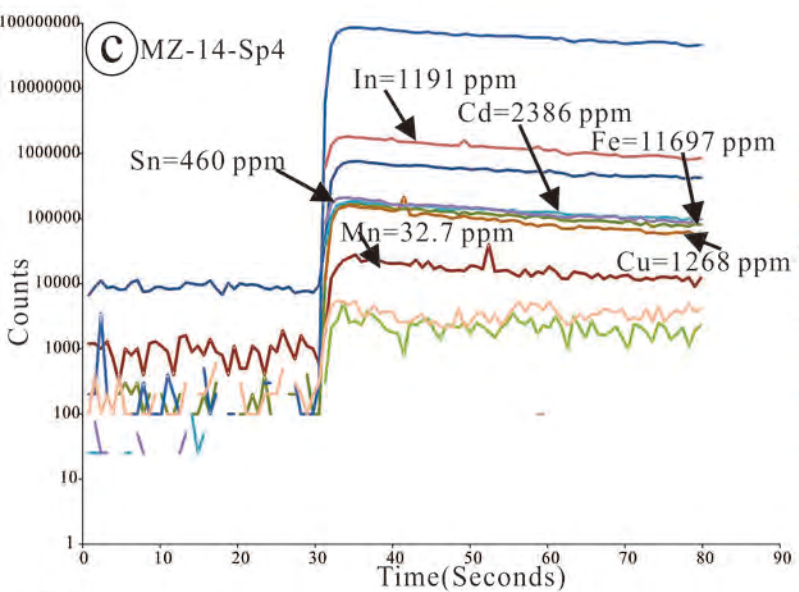
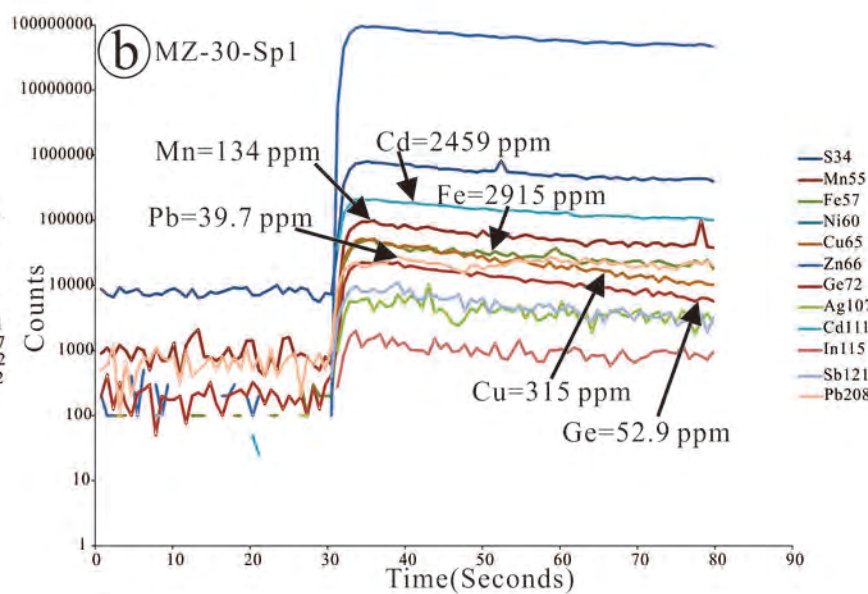
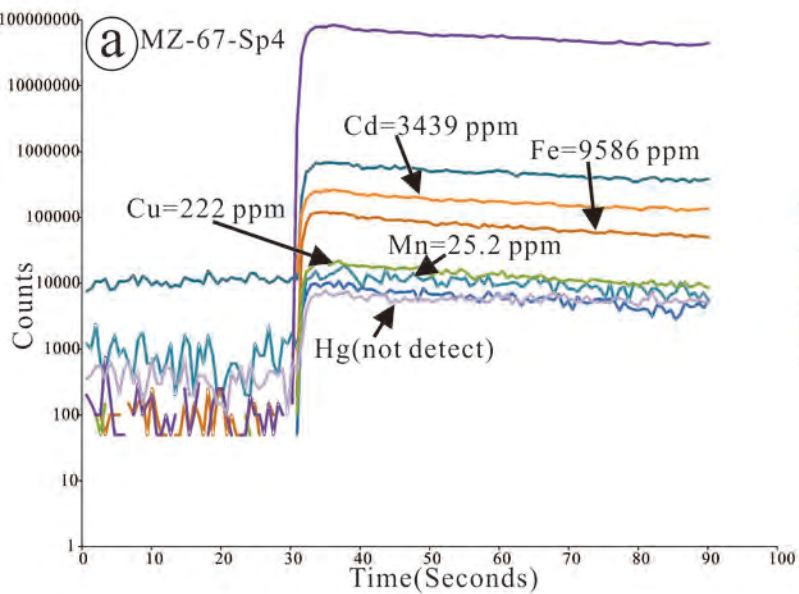


Fig.10

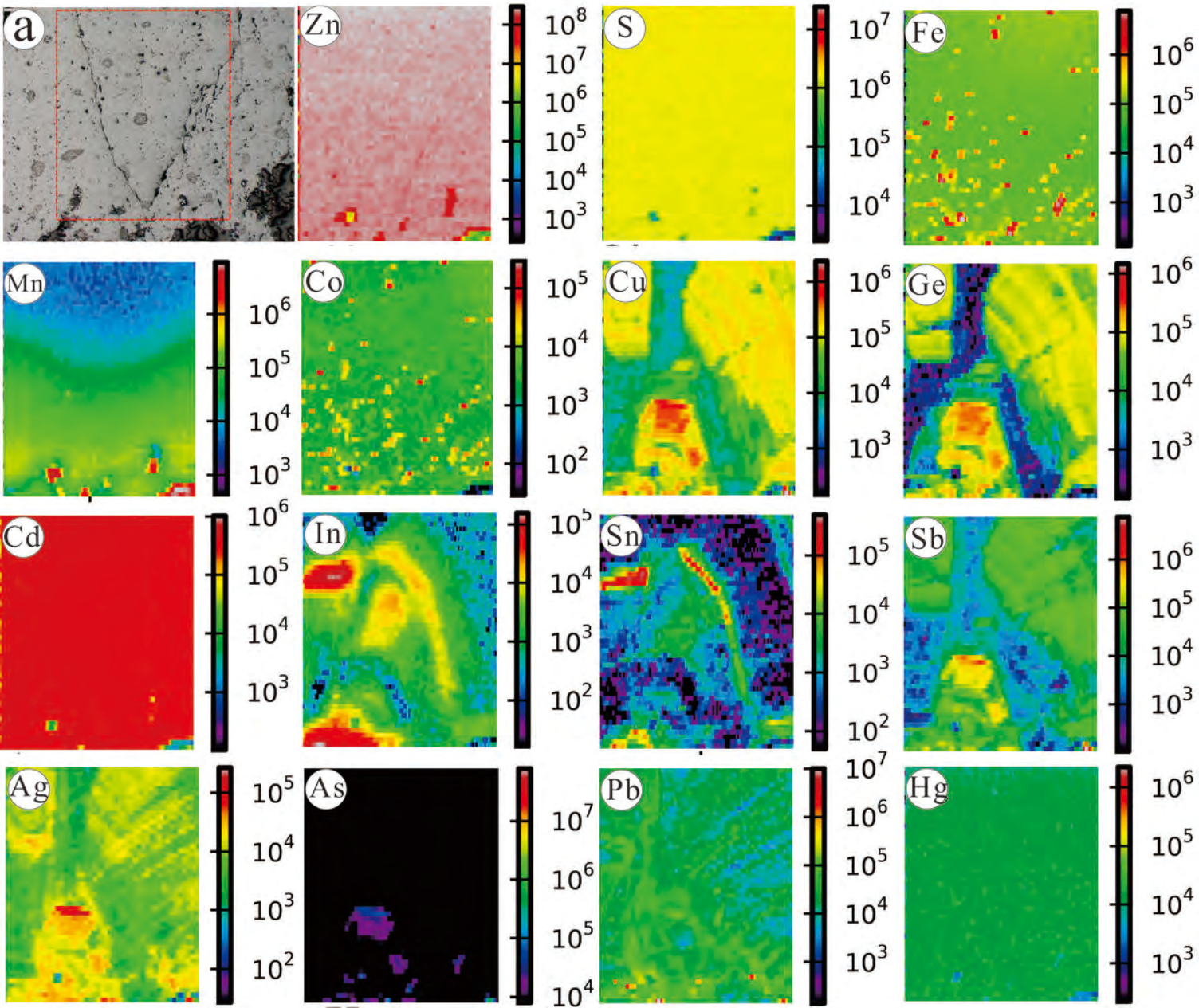


Fig.12

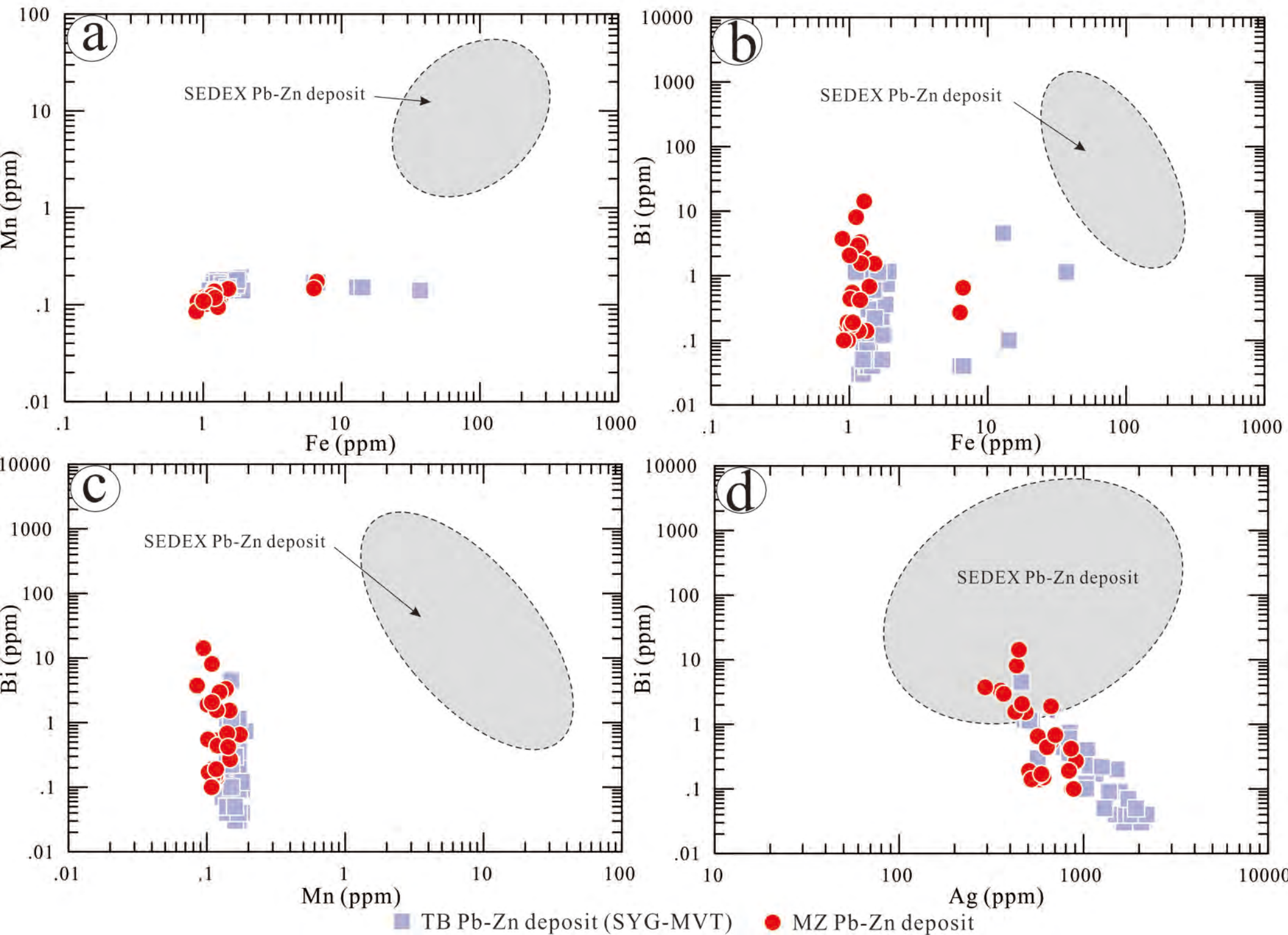


Fig. 11

