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6 **Fluid source and metal precipitation mechanism of sediment-hosted Chang'an**  
7 **orogenic gold deposit, SW China: constraints from sulfide texture, trace element,**  
8 **S, Pb and He–Ar isotopes and calcite C–O isotopes**

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## Abstract

26 The source of fluids and mechanism of metal precipitation in sediment-hosted,  
27 disseminated orogenic gold deposits are ambiguous. Pyrite texture, trace element, S, Pb  
28 and He–Ar isotope compositions of sulfides and C–O isotope data of calcite from  
29 Chang'an orogenic gold deposit in the Ailaoshan orogenic belt, SW China, were studied  
30 to provide a new genetic model for the sediment-hosted orogenic gold deposit, and  
31 furthering knowledge of the source of fluids and their mechanism of metal precipitation.  
32 Orebodies at Chang'an are mainly hosted by Ordovician turbidite with minor in  
33 Oligocene syenite. Two stages of mineralization have been identified in the deposit:  
34 stage I disseminated quartz–arsenopyrite–pyrite, and stage II veined quartz–calcite–  
35 polymetallic sulfides. Five generations of pyrite have been identified in turbidite: pre-  
36 ore syn-sedimentary pyrite, py<sub>I-1</sub> and py<sub>I-2</sub> in stage I, and py<sub>II-1</sub> and py<sub>II-2</sub> in stage II, and  
37 an unzoned pyrite population developed in syenite. Py<sub>I-1</sub> commonly overgrows syn-  
38 sedimentary pyrite with irregular boundaries and contains arsenopyrite, galena,  
39 chalcopyrite and electrum inclusions along the boundaries. Py<sub>I-1</sub> is overgrown by thin  
40 and inclusion-free py<sub>I-2</sub>, and crosscut by py<sub>II-1</sub>, which is rimmed by py<sub>II-2</sub>.

41 The syn-sedimentary pyrite is distributed parallel to the sedimentary bedding and  
42 contains As (620.8 ppm), Pb (61.6 ppm), Ni (59.8 ppm), Mo (54.4 ppm), Co (23.4 ppm),  
43 and Cu (13.0 ppm) with low Au content of 0.06 ppm. This pyrite has  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  values of –  
44 18.1 to +30.4 ‰ and high radiogenic Pb isotope ratios (average  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ ,  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$   
45 and  $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$  of 19.05, 15.86 and 39.87, respectively). Py<sub>I-1</sub> and coexisting  
46 arsenopyrite are enriched in invisible Au (up to 227.1 ppm and 353.3 ppm, respectively),

47 As, Ni, Cu and Pb, while py<sub>I-2</sub> contain much lower trace element abundances relative  
48 to py<sub>I-1</sub> and arsenopyrite. Partial replacement of syn-sedimentary pyrite by py<sub>I-1</sub> plus  
49 arsenopyrite, galena, chalcopyrite and electrum, and similar Pb isotope ratios between  
50 syn-sedimentary pyrite and py<sub>I-1</sub> indicate that reaction of external deep Au-rich fluids  
51 with syn-sedimentary pyrite is responsible for gold precipitation in stage I. Py<sub>I-1</sub>,  
52 arsenopyrite and py<sub>I-2</sub> show a narrower  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  range of  $-3.2$  to  $7.1$  ‰ relative to syn-  
53 sedimentary pyrite, demonstrating that the fluid-pyrite interaction has homogenized the  
54 sulfur. The unzoned pyrite in syenite has similar mineral inclusions (arsenopyrite,  
55 galena, etc.),  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  values ( $+0.6$  to  $6.3$  ‰) and Pb isotope ratios to py<sub>I-1</sub>, but much lower  
56 trace element abundances relative to py<sub>I-1</sub>. It may be attributed to different reactions of  
57 similar fluids with different wall-rocks. Py<sub>II-1</sub> and py<sub>II-2</sub> in stage II contain elevated As,  
58 Pb, Cu, Sb, Zn and Ag with low mean Au content (3.3 ppm) and have  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  ranges of  $-$   
59  $2.8$  to  $+1.2$  ‰ and  $-6.2$  and  $-0.8$  ‰, respectively. Galena in stage II has lower  
60 radiogenic Pb isotope ratios than stage I pyrites, indicative of a different Pb source or  
61 fluid evolution. The gases released from mixture of py<sub>II-1</sub>-py<sub>II-2</sub> have R/Ra of 0.38 to  
62 0.98 and  $^{40}\text{Ar}^*/^4\text{He}$  of 0.50 to 1.34, falling between the fields of mantle-derived and  
63 crustal fluids. Late ore calcites have  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{PDB}}$  of  $-8.7$  to  $2.7$  ‰ and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{PDB}}$  of 8.05 to  
64 25.58 ‰, also plotting between sedimentary carbonate and mantle fields. These  
65 signatures indicate that ore fluids in stage II are base metal-rich fluids with a small  
66 amount contribution from mantle. Different ore assemblages, trace element  
67 composition and isotope data between stages I and II at Chang'an suggest that the  
68 deposit experienced an evolution from early Au-rich fluids to late base metal-rich ones.

69 This study highlights that ore metals in sediment-hosted disseminated orogenic gold  
70 deposits may be sourced from both deep fluids and local wall-rock, and that fluid-rock  
71 interaction behaved as key control on ore precipitation.

72

73 Keywords: Pyrite texture, trace element, *in situ* S–Pb isotopes, sediment-hosted gold  
74 deposit, Chang’an, Ailaoshan

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## Introduction

77 (Meta)sediment-hosted, disseminated orogenic gold deposits are characterized by  
78 wide alteration zones and thick orebodies with low grade but commonly large tonnage  
79 (Wilde et al. 2001; Large et al. 2007, 2011; Steadman and Large 2016). Their ore  
80 precipitation mechanism and the source of metals, critical subjects for understanding  
81 ore-forming process and developing enhanced exploration strategies (Barker et al. 2009;  
82 Peterson and Mavrogenes 2014; Velasquez et al. 2014; Tanner et al. 2016; Voute et al.  
83 2019), are poorly understood, thus attracting broad interest. Ore precipitation  
84 mechanisms for these orogenic gold deposits are diverse, and include flash boiling of  
85 fluids triggered by earthquake-induced fault-valve processes (Sibson and Scott 1998;  
86 Weatherley and Henley 2013), fluid-rock reaction (Evans et al. 2006; Li et al. 2019a),  
87 and fluid mixing (Bateman and Hagemann 2004). Moreover, the origin for the gold in  
88 these orogenic gold deposits has been hotly debated by two contrasting perspectives:  
89 locally sourced from metamorphic devolatilization reactions of sedimentary rocks  
90 (Large et al. 2007, 2009, 2011; Thomas et al. 2011) and deeply sourced reservoirs,  
91 including magmatic (Lawrence et al. 2013; Treloar et al. 2015), mantle (Graupner et al.  
92 2006; Deng et al. 2019a, 2020; Wang et al. 2019), and metamorphic fluids (Pitcairn et  
93 al. 2006; Tomkins 2010; Lawrence et al. 2013; Chinnasamy et al. 2015).

94 Pyrite is the most common ore mineral that forms in different stages of fluid  
95 evolution during gold mineralization (e.g., Large et al. 2007; Deditius et al. 2014),  
96 which thus allows pyrite composition associated with Au and other metals to be traced  
97 by *in situ* microanalytical techniques throughout the history of formation of a deposit

98 (e.g., [Large et al. 2007, 2009](#)). Pyrite texture, paragenesis and trace element data have  
99 been successfully interpreted to evaluate fluid composition and mechanisms of  
100 incorporation or release of Au and other trace metals in different types of gold deposits  
101 ([Large et al. 2007, 2009, 2011](#); [Thomas et al. 2011](#); [Cook et al. 2013](#); [Steadman and](#)  
102 [Large 2016](#); [Yang et al. 2016](#); [Li et al. 2019a](#)). Sulfur and lead isotopes in sulfide have  
103 been used to determine the fluid source(s), interaction with wall-rocks (including earlier  
104 generation of minerals), and fluid mixing processes ([Ohmoto and Rye 1979](#); [Chang et](#)  
105 [al. 2008](#); [Meffre et al. 2008](#); [Woodhead et al. 2009](#)). Noble gases may constrain the  
106 fluid source because of their relatively unreactive nature, transportation with the major  
107 volatiles, and element and isotope ratios that vary by orders of magnitude between  
108 different reservoirs (e.g., [Burnard et al. 1999](#); [Mao et al. 2003](#); [Graupner et al. 2006](#); [Li](#)  
109 [et al. 2010](#); [Goodwin et al. 2017](#)). Synthesizing the methods noted above is an effective  
110 approach to understanding ore source, fluid evolution and ore precipitation (e.g., [Large](#)  
111 [et al. 2013](#); [Li et al. 2016](#)).

112 The Ordovician turbidite-hosted Chang'an gold deposit (with reserves of > 30 tons  
113 Au) occurs in the southern segment of the Ailaoshan belt, SW China ([Fig. 1a](#); [Yang et](#)  
114 [al. 2010, 2011](#); [Zhang et al. 2014a](#)). It is one of the rare examples, globally, of an  
115 orogenic gold deposit hosted in a Cenozoic orogenic belt ([Goldfarb et al. 2001](#); [Deng](#)  
116 [et al. 2016, 2019b](#); [Li et al. 2019b](#); [Wang et al. 2019, 2020](#)). Although different studies  
117 focusing on the fluid source and ore genesis at Chang'an have been carried out, they  
118 are still under debated. Characteristics of intermediate to low temperature (200–280 °C)  
119 and salinity (8–18 wt% NaCl equiv) from studies of fluid inclusions of quartz and  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$

120 values of whole pyrite (−2.0 ‰ to +3.6 ‰) at Chang’an have been interpreted to be a  
121 magmatic source associated with an epithermal gold genesis (Chen et al. 2010; Tian et  
122 al. 2014). Based on features of turbidite-hosted disseminated ore, CO<sub>2</sub>-rich (~3.8–  
123 21.2 ‰) ore fluids and δ<sup>34</sup>S values of whole pyrite (+1.1 ‰ to +2.9 ‰), Li et al. (2011)  
124 suggested that the Chang’an gold deposit is intermediate between Carlin-type and  
125 orogenic gold deposits with magmatic fluids. Based on LA-ICP-MS trace element  
126 analysis of pyrite, Zhang et al. (2014a) extrapolated that trace element-poor pyrite in  
127 syenite and trace element-rich pyrite in turbidite were formed by magmatic and  
128 metamorphic fluids, respectively, and thus considered multiply sourced fluids  
129 (metamorphic and magmatic) responsible for the Chang’an gold deposit. In this  
130 contribution, based on new observations on the deposit geology, textural and trace  
131 element analysis of pyrite, *in situ* S–Pb isotopes of sulfides, pyrite He–Ar isotopes and  
132 carbonate C–O isotopes, we provide systematic evidences for the mechanism of fluid–  
133 wall-rock reaction that promoted metal precipitation, and further demonstrate that  
134 sediment-hosted disseminated ores at Chang’an may be sourced from both deeply  
135 sourced fluids and local wall-rock, in contrast to two popular but contrasting origin:  
136 local metamorphic devolatilization or deep source.

137

## 138 **Regional Geology**

139 The NW-trending Ailaoshan belt is a Paleo-Tethyan suture zone separating the South  
140 China block from Indochina block (Wang et al. 2014; Deng et al. 2014; Yang et al.  
141 2018; Fig. 1a). During the Neoproterozoic, the South China block went through oceanic

142 subduction, which triggered formation of a series of magmatic arcs along the western  
143 margin of the block (Cai et al. 2014). From Cambrian to Devonian, the South China  
144 block was situated along the margin of Gondwana and comprised passive continental  
145 margin sedimentary sequences (YNGMR 1990; Wang et al. 2014). As a result of  
146 opening of the Paleo-Tethys during the Silurian to Devonian, the Ailaoshan Paleo-  
147 Tethyan Ocean developed between the South China and Indochina blocks and the  
148 clastic rock sequences were deposited along the western margin of the South China  
149 block and the eastern margin of the Indochina block (YNGMR 1990; Yang et al. 2018).  
150 Southwest-directed (current direction as reference) subduction of the Ailaoshan Paleo-  
151 Tethyan oceanic crust and subsequent collision of South China and Indochina blocks  
152 determined the NW-trending structural framework (e.g., fold and thrust system, Faure  
153 et al. 2016) and formed the arc, syn- and post-collisional magmatic rocks mainly  
154 distributed in the eastern margin of the Indochina block (Liu et al. 2015a; Yang et al.  
155 2018).

156 In the early stage of the continent-continent collision between India and Asia (Yin  
157 and Harrison 2000; Chung et al. 2005), the Ailaoshan belt evolved to be a metamorphic  
158 core complex belt comprising high-grade metamorphic core constrained by the  
159 Ailaoshan and Red River faults (Fig. 1b) and low-grade metamorphic or  
160 unmetamorphosed cover (Schärer et al. 1994; Jolivet et al. 2001; Anczkiewicz et al.  
161 2007; Searle et al. 2010). The metamorphic core complex contains high-grade  
162 metavolcanic and metasedimentary rocks, including gneiss, amphibolite, and schist  
163 with predominantly Proterozoic protoliths and also some igneous protoliths of Triassic



164 to Cenozoic age ([Leloup et al. 1995](#); [Carter et al. 2001](#); [Burchfiel et al. 2008](#); [Liu et al.](#)  
165 [2013](#)). The rocks experienced peak amphibolite-granulite facies metamorphism  
166 associated with crustal anatexis at 44–36 Ma and post-peak near-isothermal  
167 decompression occurred at 32–25 Ma, which was followed by late retrograde  
168 metamorphism at 25–14 Ma ([Liu et al. 2013, 2015a](#)). The low-grade metamorphic or  
169 unmetamorphosed cover is further subdivided into a Paleo-Tethyan arc magmatic belt  
170 in the Indochina block and the Jinping terrane in the South China block ([Fig. 1b](#); [Wang](#)  
171 [et al. 2014](#)). Alkali-rich porphyry and lamprophyre dykes formed between ca. 36 and  
172 ca. 30 Ma as a result of melting of lower crust and enriched mantle, respectively, in the  
173 Ailaoshan belt ([Wang et al. 2001](#); [Deng et al. 2015](#)). Major ductile shearing with a large  
174 sinistral displacement occurred between ca. 30 and ca. 22 Ma, as indicated by U–Pb  
175 zircon ages of pre-, syn-, and post-tectonic leucogranites ([Chung et al. 1997](#); [Cao et al.](#)  
176 [2012](#); [Liu et al. 2015b](#)). The Ailaoshan belt has developed two-stage rapid exhumation  
177 cooling at ca. 27–17 Ma and ca. 14–13 Ma (zircon U-Th-He and apatite fission track;  
178 [Wang et al. 2016](#)). The metamorphic core complex was extruded upward along pre-  
179 existing NW-trending thrusts during in a transpressional setting and exposed by  
180 regional exhumation ([Burchfiel et al. 2008](#)).

181 The Chang'an gold deposit is located in the low-grade Jinping terrane, which is  
182 bound by the Ailaoshan fault to the east and Tengtiaohu fault to the west ([Fig. 1b](#)).  
183 Strata exposed in the terrane are mostly Ordovician to Triassic and Quaternary ([Fig.](#)  
184 [1b](#)). The Ordovician and Silurian strata are composed of turbidite packages and  
185 carbonate, respectively ([YNGMR 1990](#)). Magmatic rocks occurring in the easternmost

186 part of the Jinping terrane are Neoproterozoic intrusions that form the basement to  
187 Phanerozoic successions (Fig. 1b). Lamprophyre dikes (Chen et al. 2014) and alkali-  
188 rich porphyries associated with porphyry/skarn mineralization (Zhu et al. 2009; Zhang  
189 et al. 2014b) were widely intruded in the Jinping area (Fig. 1b). The timing of  
190 mineralization in the Chang'an gold deposit has not been constrained precisely. Some  
191 researchers considered that the Chang'an gold deposit shares a similar age with the  
192 Tongchang porphyry deposit with age of ca. 34 Ma (molybdenite Re-Os dating; Wang  
193 et al. 2005) due to their close proximity (< 1.5 km). Based on a paleomagnetic study,  
194 Gao et al. (2018) interpreted gold mineralization at Chang'an to post-date large-scale  
195 sinistral shearing along the Ailaoshan shear zone (ca. 30–22 Ma; Liu et al. 2015b).

196

## 197 **Deposit Geology**

### 198 **Lithologic units**

199 The sedimentary units mainly consist of an Ordovician turbidite package and Silurian  
200 dolostone (Fig. 2a, b). The Ordovician sequence trends NE to EW with northwest to  
201 northerly dip and is exposed in the eastern and western parts of the mining area (Figs.  
202 3, 4a). The Silurian rocks trend EW and are exposed in the middle part of the mining  
203 district (Fig. 2a). The Ordovician turbidite packages include a thick sequence of  
204 sandstone with minor thin layers of carbonaceous and calcareous sandstone, siltstone,  
205 mudstone and conglomerate (YNGMR 1990). The Silurian sequence, dominated by  
206 dolostone, unconformably overlies the Ordovician rocks (Fig. 3). The Palaeozoic  
207 sedimentary rocks are cut by both NE- to E-trending lamprophyre dikes ( $35.16 \pm 0.16$

208 Ma; biotite Ar-Ar plateau age; Wang, 2008), and NE- to E-trending and NW-trending  
209 syenite dikes (ca. 34–35 Ma; zircon U-Pb dating; Zhang et al. 2017) (Figs. 2a, 3, 4b).  
210 The syenite dikes cut the lamprophyre dikes (Fig. 4b). The Ordovician turbidite,  
211 especially the sandstone, is the main host for orebodies with minor occurrences in the  
212 syenite (Fig. 2a, b).

213

#### 214 **Structural setting and orebody occurrence**

215 The Chang'an fault, which dips at  $\sim 75^\circ$  towards  $\sim 070^\circ$  in the vicinity of the Chang'an  
216 gold deposit (Figs. 3, 4c), is a splay of the regional-scale Ganhe fault (Figs. 2a). The  
217 Chang'an fault is developed mainly within the Silurian dolostone and locally along the  
218 unconformity boundary between Ordovician turbidite and Silurian dolostone (Fig. 2a).  
219 The fault zone is 150–200 m wide and consists of a 10–30 m wide core central to a  
220 60–80 m wide zone of cataclastic deformation in the Silurian dolostone and 80–100 m  
221 wide zone of cataclastic deformation in the Ordovician sandstone (Figs. 2a, b, 3). The  
222 lamprophyre and syenite dikes in the fault zone have also been deformed to cataclastic  
223 rocks (Figs. 3, 4b). Sinistral-reverse displacement on the Chang'an fault is inferred from  
224 the striations and steps on the fault planes and the secondary faults (Fig. 4c, d).  
225 Orebodies occur within the Chang'an fault zone and are distributed in the hanging wall  
226 cataclastic sandstone zone (Fig. 2a, b). The orebodies, occurring as lenticular,  
227 stratiform-like and podiform in shape, show a NW trend with a dip of  $70\sim 80^\circ$  to NE,  
228 and taper out towards the east (Fig. 2a, b). They are discontinuous over 1.8 km along  
229 strike and 20 to 253 m down dip with average thickness of 16 m and average grade of

230 4.54 g/t (Zhang et al. 2014). Ore shoots are mainly distributed around the intersection  
231 between secondary faults and the contact between Ordovician turbidites and intrusions  
232 (syenite and lamprophyre) (Fig. 3).

233

#### 234 **Alteration**

235 The alteration types at Chang'an include silicification, sericitization, sulfidation, and  
236 carbonation (Fig. 5a-f), which are found in the Ordovician turbidite, Silurian dolostone,  
237 lamprophyre and syenite in the hanging wall of the Chang'an fault with no obvious  
238 zonation (Fig. 2a, b). In the turbidite (dominated by sandstone), the silicification and  
239 sericitization show a pervasive distribution along microfractures (Fig. 5a, b). The quartz  
240 and sericite arising from alteration are commonly distributed in pressure shadows at  
241 crystal terminations of pyrite (Fig. 5a). In the lamprophyre and syenite, the sericite and  
242 quartz together with pyrite, ankerite, apatite and rutile were preferentially developed  
243 along the biotite cleavage and grain boundaries (Fig. 5c, d). Sulfidation (sulfides; e.g.  
244 pyrite, arsenopyrite, etc.) mainly occur in the sandstone-hosted cataclastic zone (Fig.  
245 5a, b, e, f). Two stages of carbonation including phases of calcite and ankerite may be  
246 identified in all rock types, i.e., intergrowth with sulfidation (Fig. 5e) and cross-cutting  
247 sulfidation (Fig. 5f).

248

## 249 **Samples and Analytical Techniques**

### 250 **Sample preparation**

251 Forty-three samples of pre-ore and different hydrothermal stages were collected for  
252 this study (Fig. 3). Thirty-five thin sections and nineteen polished mounts from different  
253 spatial locations were prepared for mineralogical and textural studies. Nine polished  
254 mounts from orebodies (CA20, CA33, CA36, CA38 and CA39) and weakly  
255 mineralized turbidite sequence (CA21 and CA25) and syenite (CA1 and CA29) (Fig. 3)  
256 were further selected for analyses of trace elements and S–Pb isotopes of sulfides  
257 (pyrite and arsenopyrite). Trace element and Pb isotope of sulfides were analyzed by  
258 laser ablation-inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS), and S  
259 isotopes in sulfides were analyzed using sensitive high-resolution ion microprobe  
260 (SHRIMP). Four pyrite samples from hydrothermal stage II (CA17, CA31, CA34 and  
261 CA35) were separated by hand-picking (60–80 mesh size; 99% purity) for He–Ar  
262 isotope analysis. Four calcite samples from stage II (CA22B, CA24B, CA27B and  
263 CA37B) and six from stage III (CA22N, CA24N, CA27N, CA33N, CA37N and  
264 CA38N) (Fig. 3) were hand-picked under a binocular microscope with the purity of 99%  
265 for C–O isotope analysis.

### 266 **Morphology and composition analysis of sulfides**

267 Polished thin sections and mounted blocks of ore samples were examined under  
268 optical microscope to study the morphological and paragenetic features of the sulfides.  
269 The samples were further examined using a scanning electron microscope (SEM) to

270 identify compositional zoning and micro-textures. The SEM analysis was carried out at  
271 the Key Laboratory of Deep-Earth Dynamics, Institute of Geology, Chinese Academy  
272 of Geological Sciences, using the FEI Nova NanoSEM 450. The back scattered electron  
273 (BSE) images were taken under operating voltage of 15-20 KV and the working  
274 distance of 13.5 mm.

275

### 276 **LA-ICP-MS trace element analyses**

277 The trace element compositions of pyrite and arsenopyrite were analyzed at the LA-  
278 ICP-MS facility at the University of Tasmania using a 213-nm solid-state laser  
279 microprobe (UP213, NewWave Research) coupled to an Agilent 7500a quadrupole mass  
280 spectrometer. The LA-ICP-MS spot and mapping data may be used to characterize  
281 spatial and temporal variations in the trace element composition of the sulfides ([Large  
282 et al. 2009](#)).

283 Because of the range of grain sizes, the beam size for spot analyses of pyrite and  
284 arsenopyrite was kept as 29  $\mu\text{m}$  and 19  $\mu\text{m}$ , respectively. Laser repetition rate was  
285 typically 5 Hz and laser beam energy at the sample was maintained at 2.7 J/cm<sup>2</sup>. The  
286 analysis time for each spot was 90 s, comprising a 30-s measurement of background  
287 (laser off) and a 60-s analysis of the sample (laser on). The analyses were carried out in  
288 an atmosphere of pure He, which was introduced into the cell at a rate of 0.8 l/min. To  
289 improve aerosol transport, 0.85 l/min of Ar was mixed with the He carrier gas.  
290 Calibration standards STDGL3, GSD-1G and PeruPy ([Belousov et al. 2015](#)) were  
291 analyzed twice between every 31 unknown analyses and between each sample change.

292 Geometric mean of detection limit for Co<sup>59</sup>, Ni<sup>60</sup>, Cu<sup>65</sup>, Zn<sup>66</sup>, As<sup>75</sup>, Se<sup>77</sup>, Mo<sup>95</sup>, Ag<sup>109</sup>,  
293 Sb<sup>121</sup>, Te<sup>125</sup>, Au<sup>197</sup>, Tl<sup>205</sup>, Pb<sup>208</sup> and Bi<sup>209</sup> selected for following discussion are 0.01 ppm,  
294 0.01 ppm, 0.76 ppm, 0.42 ppm, 3.58 ppm, 6.75 ppm, 0.004 ppm, 0.01 ppm, 0.05 ppm,  
295 0.21 ppm, 0.007 ppm, 0.01 ppm, 0.03 ppm and 0.002 ppm, respectively.

296 Line and image analyses were performed under similar conditions except that a 11-  
297  $\mu\text{m}$  spot size and 10-Hz pulse rate were used. Instead of individual spot locations, a  
298 series of parallel lines were ablated at a speed of 11  $\mu\text{m/s}$ . The detailed process for  
299 creating a trace element map may be found in [Steadman et al. \(2013\)](#).

300

### 301 **SHRIMP S isotope**

302 *In situ* SHRIMP S-isotopic analysis of pyrite and arsenopyrite was undertaken at the  
303 Research School of Earth Sciences, Australian National University. A 25  $\mu\text{m}$  spot size  
304 and  $\sim 1$   $\mu\text{m}$  beam depth were used for all samples, regardless of grain size. The Ruttan  
305 pyrite, with a  $\delta^{34}\text{S}_{\text{V-CDT}}$  (Vienna-Canyon Diablo Troilite) values of +1.2 ‰ ([Crowe and](#)  
306 [Vaughan 1996](#)), was used as a primary standard to normalized all analyses. Errors for  
307 each sulfur isotope ratio are reported at the  $2\sigma$  confidence level. The analytical errors  
308 ( $2\sigma$ ) of Ruttan pyrite were  $\pm 0.35$  ‰ (n=12), and the internal precisions are better than  
309  $\pm 0.08$  ‰ ([Ireland et al. 2014](#)). Data are expressed in delta notation such that ratios are  
310 expressed as per mil (‰) deviations from a reference value, e.g.

$$311 \delta^{34}\text{S} = \left[ \frac{(^{34}\text{S}/^{32}\text{S})_{\text{measured}}}{(^{34}\text{S}/^{32}\text{S})_{\text{reference}}} - 1 \right] \times 1000$$

312 where  $(^{34}\text{S}/^{32}\text{S})_{\text{measured}}$  is the measured  $^{34}\text{S}/^{32}\text{S}$  ratio,  $(^{34}\text{S}/^{32}\text{S})_{\text{reference}}$  is the reference  
313 value of that ratio used for normalization, and  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  is expressed in per mil (‰) deviation.

314 The detailed analytical procedures are described by [Ireland et al. \(2014\)](#).

315

### 316 **LA-ICP-MS Pb isotope**

317 *In situ* Pb isotope analyses of different generations of pyrites and galena in the  
318 Chang'an deposit were analyzed at the University of Tasmania, using a 213-nm solid-  
319 state laser microprobe (UP213, NewWave Research) coupled to an Agilent 7500a  
320 quadruple mass spectrometer. Laser spot sizes for analyses of pyrite and galena are 74  
321  $\mu\text{m}$  and 29  $\mu\text{m}$ , respectively, and the laser operated at 10 Hz, using fluence at the sample  
322 of 2.9 J/cm<sup>2</sup>. Analytical processes and conditions of the analyses are similar to those  
323 described in [Woodhead et al. \(2009\)](#). The NIST610 and STDGL3 glasses ([Belousov et](#)  
324 [a. 2015](#)), and Chatree and Jaguar pyrites ([Woodhead et a. 2009](#)) were used as calibration  
325 standard for pyrite, whereas the MtMurch and BH galena together with STDGL3 glass  
326 ([Belousov et a. 2015](#)) were used as calibration standard for galena.

### 327 **He–Ar isotopes**

328 Measurements of He and Ar isotopes were conducted at the Institute of Geology and  
329 Geophysics, Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing, using the Noblesse mass  
330 spectrometer. The Noblesse instrument with >700 mass resolution is sufficient to allow  
331 complete separation of <sup>3</sup>He and HD. The operating and data processing procedures were  
332 similar to those described by [He et al. \(2011\)](#).

333 Post-mineralization structural overlap cannot be found in veinlet-hosted  
334 mineralization in hydrothermal stage II, thus fluid inclusions from pyrite (py<sub>II-1</sub> and py<sub>II-</sub>



335 2) in stage II may characterize the He–Ar isotopic composition of this stage. The  
336 veinlets were separated from wall-rocks and then crushed and sieved to pass the 80–  
337 100 mesh fractions. Fresh pyrite crystals were picked by hand and washed with acetone  
338 in an ultra-sonic bath for 10 min. The grains were then rinsed in the ultra-sonic bath  
339 several times with distilled water and dried. Approximately 1 g of sample was loaded  
340 into the in vacuum crusher. Samples were transferred to an oven and roasted under  
341 conditions of 130 °C in the purification system for two or three days to remove the  
342 atmosphere attached to the surface of the samples. The mineral grains were crushed by  
343 a one-step or multistep process in a vacuum crusher at about 1500 psi to extract the  
344 noble gases. The Ar in the noble gas mixtures was trapped in a cold finger with charcoal  
345 at the temperature of liquid nitrogen. Helium was trapped in another cold finger at about  
346 10 K and released at 35 K.

#### 347 **C–O isotopes**

348 The  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  compositions of calcites formed in stages II and III were measured  
349 by GasBench coupled with Thermo Finnigan Delta V Advantage at Oxy-Anion Stable  
350 Isotope Consortium (OASIC) at Louisiana State University. About 0.20 mg samples  
351 were loaded into 12 mL Labco Exetainer vials and sealed with Labco septa were flushed  
352 with 99.999% Helium and automatically acidified at 70 °C. The carbon dioxide analyte  
353 gas was isolated via gas chromatography, and water was removed using a Nafion trap.  
354 Isotopic results are expressed in the delta notation as per mil (‰) deviations from the  
355 V-PDB standard. Precisions for  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  are routinely better than 0.06 ‰ and  
356 0.09 ‰, respectively.

357

358

### Paragenesis and Pyrite Generations

359 Pre-ore pyrite, termed as  $py_s$ , is composed of layered or banded concentrations of  
360 porous pyrite or pyrite nodules parallel to the bedding of the Ordovician sequence (Fig.  
361 4a; Table 1). The pyrite nodules are formed by dense aggregates of 5–200  $\mu\text{m}$  euhedral  
362 to subhedral crystals (Fig. 6a). The porous  $Py_s$  occur as subhedral pyrite varying from  
363 20 to 1000  $\mu\text{m}$  across (Fig. 6b, c, d).

364 Based on the mineral paragenesis and cross-cutting relationships, three distinct  
365 hydrothermal stages are recognized, namely: stage I quartz–arsenopyrite–pyrite, stage  
366 II quartz–calcite–polymetallic sulfides and stage III quartz–calcite. Hydrothermal stage  
367 I is represented by disseminated distribution of quartz–arsenopyrite–pyrite, and three  
368 generations of pyrite have been identified in stage I:  $py_{I-1}$  and  $py_{I-2}$  in turbidite  
369 (especially sandstone), and  $py_{I-Sy}$  in the syenite (Figs. 3, 6b-d; Table 1).  $Py_{I-1}$  has a  
370 pervasive distribution in the sandstone and is composed of euhedral-subhedral crystals  
371 ranging from 20 to 200  $\mu\text{m}$  across.  $Py_{I-1}$  commonly develops oscillatory zoning  
372 structure and overgrows  $py_s$  with irregular contact boundaries (Figs. 6c, 7b). It shows  
373 fine-grained porous texture that is commonly filled with anhedral quartz, arsenopyrite,  
374 galena, chalcopyrite and electrum inclusions (Fig. 6a-d).  $Py_{I-Sy}$  is euhedral-subhedral,  
375 unzoned pyrite with 20 to 150  $\mu\text{m}$  across and contains similar mineral inclusions (such  
376 as fine-grained quartz, arsenopyrite and galena) to  $py_{I-1}$  (Fig. 7a).  $Py_{I-2}$  with 20 to 50  
377  $\mu\text{m}$  across occurring in the sandstone generally overgrows  $py_{I-1}$  as thin rim to produce  
378 euhedral grains, and rarely contains base-metal mineral inclusions (Fig. 6d; Table 1).

379 Hydrothermal stage II occurs as quartz–calcite–polymetallic veinlets controlled by  
380 the NW-, NE- and EW-trending faults (Fig. 4e, f), which crosscut the syenite and  
381 lamprophyre (Fig. 4b). Two generations of pyrite, named  $py_{II-1}$  and  $py_{II-2}$ , may be  
382 identified in stage II (Fig. 7b, c) and crosscut  $py_{I-1}$  and  $py_{I-2}$  (Fig. 7b).  $Py_{II-1}$  is subhedral  
383 crystal with 20 to 150  $\mu\text{m}$  across and generally has porous textures with abundant  
384 inclusions of galena, sphalerite, and tetrahedrite (Fig. 7b, c).  $Py_{II-2}$  is euhedral with 30  
385 to 200  $\mu\text{m}$  across and commonly overgrows  $py_{II-1}$  (Fig. 7b, c).  $Py_{II-2}$  is cogenetic with  
386 euhedral galena, chalcopyrite, sphalerite, tetrahedrite and proustite (Fig. 7c, d).  
387 Hydrothermal stage III is dominated by NW-trending quartz and calcite veinlets with  
388 only minor sulfides (Figs. 3, 4g). The mineral paragenesis during pre-mineralization  
389 and different hydrothermal stages are summarized in Fig. 8 and Table 1.

390

391

## Results

### Trace element compositions

392  
393 Data analyzed by 77 spots and 2 lines (one crosscuts  $py_{I-1}$  and  $py_s$  in sample CA20  
394 and the other crosscuts  $py_{II-2}$  and  $py_{II-1}$  in sample CA38; Fig. S1) include 14 analyses of  
395  $py_s$ , 23 of  $py_{I-1}$ , 17 of  $py_{I-Sy}$ , 4 of  $py_{I-2}$ , 14 of  $py_{II-1}$ , 9 of  $py_{II-2}$  and 13 of arsenopyrite.  
396 Results of LA-ICP-MS spot and line analyses are given in Table S1 and selected trace  
397 element compositions of different generation of pyrites and arsenopyrite are illustrated  
398 in Table 2.  $Py_s$  contains a wide range of trace elements, the most abundant of which are  
399 As (geometric mean 620.8 ppm), Pb (61.6 ppm), Ni (59.8 ppm), Mo (54.4 ppm), Co  
400 (23.4 ppm), Cu (13.0 ppm), Se (8.3 ppm), Sb (4.8 ppm), Tl (4.1 ppm), Zn (4.1 ppm),

401 Te (3.3 ppm), Bi (0.7 ppm) and Ag (0.4 ppm) with geometric mean Au/Ag of 0.1 (Table  
402 2). Notably,  $py_s$  contains low Au content ranging from below detection limit to 0.46  
403 ppm (geometric mean of 0.06 ppm; standard deviation (S.D.) of 0.2) and highly variable  
404 As (2.3–10371 ppm; S.D.=3569.2) (Table 2).  $py_{I-1}$  has significantly elevated trace  
405 elements, except Mo, Te and Tl, compared to  $py_s$  (Fig. 9; Figs. S1-3). The Au content  
406 in  $py_{I-1}$  ranges from 0.6 to 227.1 ppm (geometric mean=8.9 ppm; S.D.=63.2) (Table 2).  
407 Other elevated trace elements include As (geometric mean 8931 ppm), Ni (248.1 ppm),  
408 Cu (139.9 ppm), Pb (120.0 ppm), Co (79.8 ppm), Sb (26.2 ppm), Zn (8.4 ppm) and Ag  
409 (8.2 ppm) with geometric mean Au/Ag of 1.2 (Table 2).

410 Arsenopyrite contains As (geometric mean 474554 ppm) and much higher Pb (347.2  
411 ppm), Au (268.8 ppm; S.D.=155.6), Cu (239.1 ppm) and Sb (73.1 ppm) with Au/Ag of  
412 22.6, but lower Ni (113.9 ppm) and Co (26.1 ppm) than  $py_{I-1}$  (Table 2). In sharp contrast,  
413  $py_{I-Sy}$  has much lower trace element contents relative to  $py_{I-1}$  and arsenopyrite (Fig. 10;  
414 Fig. S4), such as As (geometric mean 1131 ppm), Ni (63.0 ppm), Co (62.7 ppm) and Pb  
415 (8.6 ppm) with mean Au/Ag of 0.3 (Table 2). The Au content in  $py_{I-Sy}$  ranges from  
416 below detection limit to 2.3 ppm with a geometric mean value of 0.4 ppm. Similarly,  
417  $py_{I-2}$  has lower Au (0.5 to 2.4 ppm; geometric mean 0.4 ppm; S.D.=0.7) and other trace  
418 elements, such as As (2183 ppm), Ni (44.8 ppm), Co (21.7 ppm) and Pb (27.7 ppm)  
419 (Table 2), which is similar to those of  $py_{I-Sy}$  but lower than those of  $py_{I-1}$  and  
420 arsenopyrite (Fig. 10). LA-ICP-MS images of pyrite from stage I also reveal spectacular  
421 compositional zoning patterns (Fig. 9; Figs. S2-3), which correspond to distinct  
422 generations of pyrite revealed by BSE petrographic observation. Figure 9 highlights

423 three generations of a selected pyrite grain: the core (py<sub>s</sub>) has low Au, As, Sb, Pb, Cu  
424 but high Co, Ni, Bi and Te, whereas the inner rim (py<sub>I-1</sub>) enriches in Au, As, Ag, Co, Ni,  
425 Sb, Pb, Cu and Bi, and the thin outer rim (py<sub>I-2</sub>) contains much lower trace elements  
426 compare to py<sub>I-Sy</sub>.

427 Py<sub>II-1</sub> contains higher As (geometric mean 11325 ppm), Pb (1061 ppm), Cu (558 ppm),  
428 Sb (241.7 ppm), Zn (63.4 ppm) and Ag (58 ppm), but lower Au (1.0 to 34.8 ppm with  
429 a geometric mean value of 4.1 ppm; S.D.=9.7) and Au/Ag (geometric mean=0.1)  
430 relative to py<sub>I-1</sub> (Table 2). Py<sub>II-2</sub> contains As (geometric mean 6311 ppm), Pb (98.5 ppm),  
431 Ni (26.6 ppm), Cu (19.5 ppm), Sb (16.8 ppm), Ag (11.7 ppm), Co (8.0 ppm), Zn (6.8  
432 ppm) and Au (geometric mean 2.3 ppm; S.D.=4.6), all much lower than values of py<sub>II-</sub>  
433 <sub>1</sub> (Table 2). The spot and line analysis results for py<sub>II-1</sub> to py<sub>II-2</sub> are consistent with their  
434 LA-ICP-MS spectra (Fig. 10). Figure 10 shows a porous core (py<sub>II-1</sub>) with galena and  
435 Au-bearing polybasite inclusions enriched in As, Pb, Cu, Sb, Ag and Zn, and a rim (py<sub>II-</sub>  
436 <sub>2</sub>) contains lower contents of these elements compared with py<sub>II-2</sub>. Plots based on Au-  
437 As relationship of aforementioned arsenian pyrites of different generations at Chang'an  
438 fall below the gold saturation line of Reich et al. (2005) (Fig. 11a), indicating that the  
439 gold is most probably held within the structure of the arsenian pyrite and arsenopyrite.  
440 The pattern of the As-Au data in Figure 11a for py<sub>I-1</sub>, strongly suggests that the gold  
441 saturation line for the Chang'an deposit is about an order of magnitude lower in Au than  
442 for Carlin-type deposits as defined by Reich et al (2005). This difference in the position  
443 of the gold saturation line has been noticed by Large and Maslennikov (in press) for  
444 several other orogenic gold deposits.

#### 445 ***In situ* S-isotope analyses**

446 The SHRIMP S-isotopic data for arsenopyrite and the different generations of pyrite  
447 are shown in [Table S2](#) and plotted in [Figure 12](#). The  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  values of thirteen analyses of  
448  $\text{py}_s$  show a fairly wide range of  $-18.1$  to  $+30.4$  ‰ with mean value of  $+1.9$  ‰ ( $n=20$ ),  
449 respectively. In hydrothermal stage I, twelve analyses of  $\text{py}_{\text{I-1}}$  grains yielded a relatively  
450 restricted  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  range of  $-3.2$  to  $+3.3$  ‰ with a mean of  $+0.6$  ‰ and seven analyses on  
451  $\text{py}_{\text{I-Sy}}$  grains gave a  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  range of  $+0.6$  to  $6.3$  ‰ (mean =  $3.4$  ‰). The six  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  values of  
452 arsenopyrite range from  $+3.0$  to  $+7.1$  ‰ (mean =  $+4.6$  ‰; [Table S2](#)). The  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  values  
453 of three analyses of  $\text{py}_{\text{I-2}}$  range from  $-2.8$  to  $+0.2$  ‰ (mean =  $-1.1$  ‰). In hydrothermal  
454 stage II,  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  values of  $\text{py}_{\text{II-1}}$  range from  $-2.8$  to  $+1.2$  ‰ (mean =  $-1.2$  ‰,  $n=8$ ), which  
455 are slightly higher than those of  $\text{py}_{\text{II-2}}$  with a range from  $-6.2$  and  $-0.8$  ‰ (mean =  $-$   
456  $3.6$  ‰,  $n=10$ ) ([Table S2](#); [Fig. 12](#)).

#### 457 ***In situ* Pb isotope**

458 *In situ* Pb isotopes of different generations of pyrites and galena in the Chang'an  
459 deposit are shown in [Table S3](#) and [Figure 13](#).  $\text{Py}_s$  have  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$  of  $18.88$ – $19.19$   
460 (average  $19.05$ ),  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb} = 15.76$ – $16.01$  (average  $15.86$ ), and  $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb} = 38.55$ –  
461  $40.20$  (average  $39.87$ ,  $n=5$ ; [Table S3](#)). In hydrothermal stage I, Pb isotope ratios of  $\text{py}_{\text{I-1}}$   
462 are  $18.98$ – $19.31$  (average  $19.15$ ) for  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ ,  $15.85$ – $15.90$  (average  $15.87$ ) for  
463  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$  and  $38.37$ – $39.91$  (average  $39.64$ ,  $n=2$ ), which have overlapped ranges of  
464 those of  $\text{py}_{\text{I-Sy}}$  but slight lower average values than those of  $\text{py}_{\text{I-Sy}}$  ([Table S3](#); [Fig. 13](#)).  
465 Pb isotope ratios of galena in hydrothermal stage II fall in a limited range as follows:  
466  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb} = 18.75$ – $18.89$  (average  $18.84$ ),  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb} = 15.63$ – $15.71$  (average  $15.67$ ),

467 and  $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb} = 38.01\text{--}39.41$  (average 39.25,  $n=12$ ; [Table S3](#)), which have generally  
468 lower average Pb isotope ratios compared to those of  $\text{py}_s$ ,  $\text{py}_{\text{I-1}}$  and  $\text{py}_{\text{I-Sy}}$  ([Fig. 13](#)).

469

#### 470 **He–Ar isotopes**

471 Results of pyrite He–Ar isotopes in stage II are shown in [Table S4](#). The corresponding  
472  $R/R_a$  are 0.38 to 0.98 (average = 0.73). The  $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$  and  $^{40}\text{Ar}^*/^4\text{He}$  ratios show ranges  
473 of 353.9 to 959.4 (average = 606.93) and 0.50 to 1.34 (average = 0.89), respectively  
474 ([Fig. 14a](#)), where  $^{40}\text{Ar}^*$  represents the  $^{40}\text{Ar}$  content corrected for atmospheric  
475 contribution.

476

#### 477 **C–O isotopes**

478 Carbon and oxygen isotopic compositions for calcites from stages II and III are listed  
479 in [Table S5](#) and plotted in [Fig. 14b](#). The  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{PDB}}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{PDB}}$  of calcites in stage II are  
480  $-8.7$  to  $-4.4$  ‰ and  $9.0$  to  $18.4$  ‰, respectively, whereas those in stage III separately  
481 range from  $-4.7$  ‰ to  $2.7$  ‰ and from  $8.1$  to  $25.6$  ‰ ([Table S5](#)). It is shown that the  
482  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{PDB}}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{PDB}}$  of most calcites in stage III are slightly higher than those in stage  
483 II ([Fig. 14b](#)).

484

## 485 **Discussion**

### 486 **Genetic classification**

487 The geological and geochemical features of mineralization in the Chang'an gold

488 deposit include: (1) proximity to the major lithospheric-scale Ailaoshan shear zone (Fig.  
489 1) but hosted by second- or third-order structures (e.g., the Chang'an fault; Fig. 2a); (2)  
490 ore bodies thicken in the fault bend where the fault dip becomes more gentle; (3) gold-  
491 related alteration dominated by silicification, sericitization, sulfidation and carbonation  
492 (Fig. 5a-f); (4) lack of lateral metal zoning; and (5) trace element association of Au–As  
493 with low Ag, Cu, Zn and Pb contents (Fig. 10). These characteristics are inconsistent  
494 with the epithermal (e.g., cryptocrystalline silicification and clayization alteration with  
495 featured minerals of adularia/alunite/kaolinite; Sillitoe 1997; Hedenquist et al. 2000)  
496 and Carlin-type (e.g., decarbonation and argillization alteration and fuzzy gold-pyrite  
497 rim; Cline et al. 2005; Wang and Grove 2018) gold deposits, but consistent with those  
498 of orogenic gold deposit as summarized by Groves et al. (1998, 2003), Kerrich et al.  
499 (2000), and Goldfarb et al. (2005). These features, together with the moderate to low  
500 (200–280 °C) mineralization temperature and depths of ~3 km (Chen et al. 2010),  
501 suggest a sediment-hosted epizonal orogenic gold affiliation for this deposit.

502

### 503 **Pre-ore pyrite formation**

504 Distribution of  $py_s$  parallel to the bedding of Ordovician strata indicates a syn-  
505 sedimentary origin for  $py_s$ . The Ordovician global ocean anoxic events (Strauss 2006),  
506 were favorable for trace elements (As, Pb, Ni, Mo, Co, Cu, Se, Sb, Tl, Zn and Te; in  
507 decreasing order) to be preferentially partitioned into arsenian pyrites (e.g., Large et al.  
508 2014).  $\delta^{34}S$  values of  $py_s$  show a wide range of –18.1 to +30.4 ‰ (Table S2; Fig. 12),  
509 which is consistent with syn-sedimentary pyrites with large  $\delta^{34}S$  range (e.g., Large et



510 [al. 2013](#); [Gregory et al. 2019](#); [Mukherjee et al. 2019](#)). The highest  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  values of  $\sim 30\text{‰}$   
511 is compared with that of Ordovician global seawater sulfate ([Chang et al. 2008](#)). Such  
512 large  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  range and occurrence of negative  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  values can be explained as bacterial  
513 sulfate reduction in a marine sedimentary environment ([Canfield and Thamdrup 1994](#);  
514 [Habicht and Canfield 1997](#); [Canfield 2001](#)).  $\text{Py}_s$  has relatively high radiogenic Pb  
515 isotope ratios plotting above the upper crust curve of [Zartman and Doe \(1981\)](#) ([Fig. 13](#)),  
516 which may be attributed to the radioactive decay of U and Th of the organic matter in  
517 the Ordovician strata.

518

### 519 **Texture and chemical evolution of pyrite**

520 Based on textural observation and LA-ICP-MS data of pyrite, the textural evolution  
521 of pyrite at Chang'an, from  $\text{py}_{\text{I-1}}$  to  $\text{py}_{\text{II-2}}$ , correlates to the systematic changes in gold  
522 and other trace metal concentrations in pyrite, indicating two pulses of metal  
523 enrichment. During the early fluid pulse (i.e., hydrothermal stage I), oscillatory-zoned  
524  $\text{py}_{\text{I-1}}$  ([Figs. 6c, 7b](#)), accompanied by quartz grains with pressure shadow structures ([Fig.](#)  
525 [5a](#)), was precipitated. LA-ICP-MS data shows an Au, As, Cu and Sb oscillatory zoning  
526 ([Fig. 9](#)), and Au shows a positive relationship with As, Cu and Sb ([Fig. 11a, b, d](#)). The  
527 LA-ICP-MS element maps in [Figure 9](#) show that whereas the As and Sb are uniformly  
528 distributed through  $\text{py}_{\text{I-1}}$ , the maximum gold band (10 – 70 ppm Au) is much thinner  
529 and concentrated on the outer part of the  $\text{py}_{\text{I-1}}$  As-Sb growth zone.  $\text{Py}_{\text{I-1}}$  is enriched in  
530 As, Ni, Cu, Pb, Co, Sb, Au, Zn and Ag (in decreasing order; [Table 2](#); [Fig. 9](#)) and contains  
531 cogenetic arsenopyrite, galena and electrum inclusions ([Figs. 6a-d, 9b, d](#)), indicating

532 that the ore-forming fluid carried these elements noted above. The ubiquitous presence  
533 of the Au-As-rich hydrothermal pyrite ( $py_{I-1}$ ) overgrowths on detrital pyrites ( $py_s$ ) (Fig.  
534 6a-d) and their uniform trace element composition across all samples studied indicate a  
535 uniform deposit-scale As-Au-rich hydrothermal event. The element zoning in  $py_{I-1}$  may  
536 be explained by two possible scenarios: fluid pressure fluctuation (Sibson and Scott  
537 1998; Peterson and Mavrogenes 2014) and crystallographic incorporation of trace  
538 elements controlled by growth rate (Barker and Cox 2011; Fougereuse et al. 2016; Wu  
539 et al. 2019). Although pressure shadow structure of quartz that intergrown with  $py_{I-1}$   
540 indicates a possible relationship between structural pressure and formation of  $py_{I-1}$  and  
541 quartz, lack of direct evidence for pressure fluctuation from fluid inclusion study makes  
542 the former not confirm. Similarly, the later cannot be confirmed or excluded at the  
543 current scale of observation. Although  $py_{I-Sy}$  in the syenite has much lower As, Ni, Co,  
544 Pb and Au relative to  $py_{I-1}$  (Table 2; Fig. 11), their similar mineral inclusions of fine-  
545 grained quartz, arsenopyrite and galena (Figs. 6, 7a), and undistinguishable S and Pb  
546 isotope compositions (Figs. 12, 13) indicate that they may be produced by the same ore  
547 fluids. Differences in trace element compositions and sulfide texture may be attributed  
548 to different wall-rock composition ( $py_{I-1}$  in turbidite and  $py_{I-Sy}$  in syenite) in which  
549 sulfides precipitated (see “Mineralization mechanism” for further discussion). The thin  
550  $py_{I-2}$ , occurring as  $py_{I-1}$  rim in the sandstone (Fig. 6d), contains much lower trace  
551 elements (Fig. 9), indicative of a fluid waning of the early hydrothermal pulse.

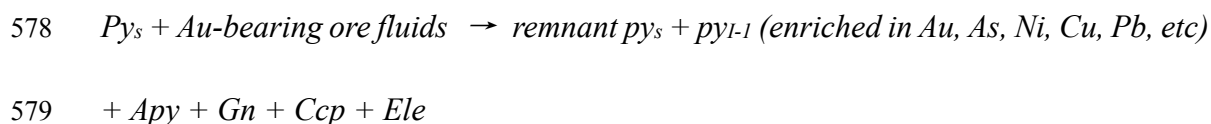
552 The late hydrothermal pulse is represented by the formation of veinlet-hosted  $py_{II-1}$   
553 and  $py_{II-2}$  in hydrothermal stage II.  $Py_{II-1}$  contains galena, chalcopyrite, tetrahedrite,

554 sphalerite and Au-bearing polybasite inclusions (Figs. 7b, c, 10) and is enriched in As,  
555 Pb, Cu, Sb, Zn and Ag (in decreasing order) with minor Au (geometric mean 4.1 ppm;  
556 Table 2; Fig. 10). Although the trace elements in py<sub>II-2</sub> is lower than those in py<sub>II-1</sub> (Table  
557 2; Fig. 10), py<sub>II-2</sub> is cogenetic with abundant euhedral galena, chalcopyrite, tetrahedrite  
558 and sphalerite (Fig. 7d). The signatures indicate that the late hydrothermal fluids are  
559 As- and base metal-rich but Au-poor. The LA-ICP-MS element images of py<sub>II-1</sub> show  
560 that Ag, Pb, Cu and Sb have a similar distribution (Fig. 10), and appear to be  
561 concentrated in cracks, indicating that the elevated base-metal elements are related to  
562 micro-inclusions of base-metal sulfides, particularly galena and tetrahedrite in cracks  
563 in py<sub>II-1</sub> (Fig. 10). Two mechanisms may explain the base-metal elements related to  
564 galena and tetrahedrite in the cracks: Ag enters into the crystal lattice of galena together  
565 with Sb (or Bi) by substitution for Pb as illustrated in the formula  $Ag^+ + (Sb, Bi)^{3+} =$   
566  $2Pb^{2+}$  (Li et al. 2016); Ag incorporates into tetrahedrite to form argentiferous  
567 tetrahedrite via an Ag–Cu solid-state exchange reaction (Sack et al. 2003). The LA-  
568 ICP-MS element images and positive correlations between Pb and Ag, Ag and Sb, and  
569 Ag and Cu (Figs. 10d, g, h, i, 11f) support the two interpretations.

## 570 **Mineralization mechanism**

571 A series of lines of key evidences, including (1) partial replacement textures of py<sub>s</sub>  
572 and irregular contact boundaries between py<sub>s</sub> and py<sub>I-1</sub>; and (2) existence of  
573 hydrothermal minerals (arsenopyrite, galena, electrum, quartz, calcite, etc.) along the  
574 contact boundaries or in the porous py<sub>s</sub> and py<sub>I-1</sub>, support an interaction of ore fluids  
575 with sedimentary pyrite. The interaction of sedimentary pyrite and ore fluids, and

576 formation of hydrothermal pyrites plus minor inclusions (Apy, Gn, Ccp and Ele) can be  
577 described by:



580 There may be an intermediate step required in the above reaction, i.e., after the initiation  
581 of the reaction, a meta-stable pyrite first formed with Au, As, Pb, and Cu dissolved in  
582 the structure before it broke down to  $\text{py}_{I-1}$  and arsenopyrite, galena, chalcopyrite and  
583 electrum (e.g., [Stepanov 2019](#)). This step is unequivocally supported by the fact that  
584 arsenopyrite, galena, chalcopyrite and electrum are very fine-grained (micro-inclusions)  
585 crowded in  $\text{py}_{I-1}$  ([Fig. 6a-d](#)). The cogenetic gold-bearing arsenian pyrite and  
586 arsenopyrite, and hydrothermal calcite ([Fig. 5b, e](#)) and rutile in the sandstone ([Fig. 9a](#);  
587 [Fig. S3](#)) suggest that the ore fluids have also reacted with the Fe carbonate and Fe-Ti  
588 oxides in the sandstone. Similarly, unzoned  $\text{py}_{I-Sy}$  may be produced by the reaction of  
589 ore fluids with biotite in the syenite as evidenced by the replacement of biotite by pyrite  
590 and ankerite ([Fig. 5d](#)). Different reactors ( $\text{py}_s$  in the sandstone and biotite in the syenite)  
591 may be responsible for differences in trace element compositions and sulfide texture  
592 between  $\text{py}_{I-1}$  and  $\text{py}_{I-Sy}$ , such as zoned  $\text{py}_{I-1}$  and unzoned  $\text{py}_{I-Sy}$  that contains much  
593 lower trace elements and finer cogenetic mineral inclusions than  $\text{py}_{I-1}$  ([Figs. 6, 7a, 11](#)).  
594 These reactions indicate that the host rocks could provide part of ore materials in low-  
595 grade metamorphic rocks through fluid–wall-rock/mineral interaction rather than  
596 metamorphic devolatilization reaction.

597

## 598 Sources of early fluid pulse

599 **Sulfur isotope.** The Au is hosted by the sulfides, like pyrite and arsenopyrite,  
600 implying that ore fluids were enriched in reduced S and that Au was principally  
601 transported as an Au-HS complex (e.g., [Seward 1991](#); [Stefánsson and Seward 2004](#);  
602 [William-Jones et al. 2009](#)). The S isotope ratios thus provide insights into potential Au  
603 and ore fluid sources. The S isotope fractionation between pyrite and a reduced  
604 hydrothermal fluid is less than 2 ‰ at a temperature of ~250 °C ([Ohmoto 1972](#)),  
605 consistent with ore-forming temperature of the Chang'an gold deposit ([Chen et al.](#)  
606 [2010](#)). Thus, the  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  values of ore sulfides should broadly mimic those of the ore-  
607 forming fluids.

608 Au-rich  $\text{py}_{1-1}$  and arsenopyrite and Au-poor  $\text{py}_{1-5\text{y}}$  have  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  range of -3.2 to +7.1 ‰  
609 ([Fig. 12](#)), which falls within the normal range between about -15 ‰ and +15 ‰ for  
610 sediment-hosted orogenic gold deposits ([Chang et al. 2008](#) and references therein). A  
611 homogeneous sulfur isotope composition may only be shifted with few per mil via  
612 changes in redox and other thermo-chemical parameters ([Goldfarb and Groves 2015](#);  
613 [Zhao et al. 2018](#)). Such sulfur isotope composition and range (10.3 ‰) of  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  values  
614 is inconsistent with a single homogeneous sulfur reservoir, such as magmatic ( $0 \pm 5$  ‰)  
615 and mantle sulfur ( $0 \pm 3$  ‰; [Ohmoto and Rye 1979](#)), and is more compatible with, but  
616 not diagnostic of, a (meta)sedimentary sulfur source or mixed sulfur source. A  
617 comparison between the sulfur isotope data for Chang'an and sea-water sulfate plus  
618 global sediment-hosted orogenic gold deposits through time ([Fig. 12](#)) shows that the  
619 sulfur isotope composition of sulfides in stage I at Chang'an is inconsistent with those

620 in the underlying strata of the Ordovician hosting sequence. Several lines of evidence  
621 support that  $py_s$  has provided part of trace metals for this stage, as follows: (1)  $py_s$   
622 contains a suite of As, Pb, Cu, Sb, etc. (Figs. 9, 11); (2) arsenopyrite, galena,  
623 chalcopyrite and electrum in stage I are intergrown with  $py_{I-1}$  and occur as fine-grained  
624 micro-inclusions along contact between  $py_s$  and  $py_{I-1}$  (Fig. 6a-d); (3)  $py_s$  has been partly  
625 dissolved by ore fluids, resulting in irregular boundaries (Fig. 6a-d). However,  $py_s$  has  
626 very low Au content (mean 0.06 ppm), suggesting that external deep Au-bearing fluid  
627 is certainly required for gold mineralization in hydrothermal stage I. Therefore, we infer  
628 that ore fluids in hydrothermal stage I were sourced from mixing external deep Au-  
629 bearing fluids and pre-ore  $py_s$ . There are two preferred explanations about the external  
630 Au-bearing fluids: one is deep metamorphic fluids if the Chang'an gold mineralization  
631 was coeval to regional exhumation and cooling of hot metamorphic core complex  
632 (720 °C to 760 °C; Liu et al. 2013), which could trigger metamorphic devolatilization  
633 of contacted rocks, and the other is metasomatic lithospheric mantle-sourced fluids if  
634 the Chang'an gold mineralization is later than regional exhumation and cooling.  
635 Paleomagnetic study indicates that gold mineralization at Chang'an postdated large-  
636 scale sinistral shearing along the Ailaoshan shear zone (Gao et al. 2018). If this age is  
637 valid, the external Au-bearing fluids would be sourced from metasomatic lithospheric  
638 mantle as interpreted by Wang et al. (2019). The hydrothermal sulfides in stage I show  
639 a narrower  $\delta^{34}S$  range (-3.2 to 7.1 ‰) relative to syn-sedimentary pyrite (-18.1 to  
640 +30.4 ‰; Fig. 12), demonstrating that the fluid-pyrite interaction has gradually  
641 homogenized the sulfur. The homogenization of early sulfur driven by fluid-rock

642 interaction and metamorphism has been reported by [Chang et al. \(2008\)](#).

643 **Lead isotopes.** Lead isotope ratios for  $py_{I-1}$  and  $py_{I-Sy}$  in hydrothermal stage I plot  
644 above the upper crust curve of [Zartman and Doe \(1981\)](#). As shown in [Figure 13](#),  $py_{I-1}$   
645 and  $py_{I-Sy}$  display higher  $^{206}Pb/^{204}Pb$  ratios than those of Proterozoic volcanics and  
646 alkali-rich porphyry in the Ailaoshan belt and mafic rocks in the vicinity of Chang'an  
647 deposit ([Zhou et al. 1998](#); [Zhang and Schärer 1999](#); [Lu et al. 2013](#); [Fig. 13](#)). Such Pb  
648 isotopic signature rules out the main contribution of metal from these reservoirs. Ranges  
649 of Pb isotope ratios of hydrothermal  $py_{I-1}$  and  $py_{I-Sy}$  at Chang'an are undistinguishable  
650 from those of  $py_s$  ([Fig. 13](#)), indicating that the Pb metal may be sourced from the  
651 Ordovician turbidite sequence, which supports the above inference that the Ordovician  
652 sequence provided part of metals.

653

#### 654 Sources of late fluid pulse

655 **S isotope.** Sulfur isotopic composition ( $\delta^{34}S = -2.8$  to  $+1.2$  ‰ with a mean of  $-1.2$  ‰)  
656 of  $py_{II-1}$  formed in stage II can result from a metamorphic, magmatic ( $0 \pm 5$  ‰; [Ohmoto](#)  
657 [and Rye 1979](#)), or mantle S ( $0 \pm 3$  ‰; [Ohmoto and Rye 1979](#)) source. Relative negative  
658  $\delta^{34}S$  values of  $-6.2$  to  $-0.8$  ‰ in  $py_{II-2}$  ([Fig. 12](#)) can be attributed to the fluid oxidation  
659 since the ratio of  $H_2S/SO_4^{2-}$  will decrease in the oxidized fluids, resulting in more  $^{34}S$   
660 to concentrate in  $SO_4^{2-}$  and thus more negative  $\delta^{34}S$  values in sulfides (e.g., [Duuring et](#)  
661 [al. 2009](#); [Kamvong and Zaw 2009](#)).

662 **Pb isotope.** Lead isotope ratios for galena in hydrothermal stage II plot near the  
663 orogen and upper crust curves of [Zartman and Doe \(1981\)](#) ([Fig. 13](#)), indicative of a

664 crustal-derived lead source. The  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$  and  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$  ratios of galena is lower  
665 than those of  $\text{py}_{\text{I-1}}$ ,  $\text{py}_{\text{I-Sy}}$  and  $\text{py}_{\text{s}}$  (Fig. 13), indicating that ore-forming fluids in stage II  
666 have less radiogenic Pb than pre-ore  $\text{py}_{\text{s}}$  and those in stage I. Higher  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$  ratios  
667 of galena relative to Proterozoic volcanics (Fig. 13; Zhou et al. 1998) rule out the main  
668 contribution of Pb metal from Proterozoic volcanics. In contrast, lead isotope ratios for  
669 galena partly overlaps those of Ailaoshan leucogranite, alkali-rich porphyry and mafic  
670 rocks in Western Yunnan (Fig. 13; Zhang and Schärer 1999; Lu et al. 2013), suggesting  
671 that the Pb metal in stage II possibly share similar source region with these rocks.

672 **He–Ar isotopes.** The 0.38 – 0.98 range (average = 0.73) in R/Ra ratios of pyrite  
673 (mixture of  $\text{py}_{\text{II-1}}$  and  $\text{py}_{\text{II-2}}$ ) at Chang’an are intermediate between the crust R/Ra ratio  
674 (0.01 to 0.05 Ra; Tolstikhin 1978) and the sub-continental lithospheric mantle (5 – 6  
675 Ra; Dunai and Baur 1995) (Fig. 14a). The He–Ar isotopic composition at Chang’an is  
676 different from that in the Macraes gold deposits with crust-dominant helium source  
677 (Goodwin et al. 2017) and that in the Dongping gold deposit with mantle-dominant  
678 helium source (Mao et al. 2003), but consistent with those in the Murantau, Daping and  
679 Zhenyuan gold deposits with a mixed crust-mantle helium source (Burnard et al. 1999;  
680 Graupner et al. 2006; Sun et al. 2009). This signature could be explained by two  
681 possible scenarios: a mixed crust-mantle source, or mantle source with wall-rock  
682 contamination. The R/Ra ratios have been used to estimate the proportion of mantle and  
683 crustal components in fluids (Li et al. 2010). Using 5.5 Ra and 0.03 Ra as representative  
684 of mantle and typical crustal He respectively, a proportion of mantle He between 6 %  
685 and 17 % is estimated.



686 **C–O isotopes.** The  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{PDB}}$  of calcites in hydrothermal stages II and III range from  
687  $-8.7$  to  $+2.7$  ‰ (Fig. 14b), which are consistent with those for most orogenic gold  
688 deposits ( $-23$  to  $+2$  ‰; Ridley and Diamond 2000 and reference therein). The calcite  
689  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{PDB}}$  values at Chang’an are lower (except one value of  $+2.7$  ‰) than those of  
690 seawater ( $0$  ‰; Ohmoto and Rye 1979), much higher than those of reduced carbon in  
691 sedimentary or metamorphic rocks ( $-25$  ‰; Hoefs 1997), and close to but slightly  
692 higher than those of magmatic fluids and mantle ( $-7$  to  $-2$  ‰; Deines et al. 1991;  
693 Cartigny et al. 1998). Figure 14b shows that the  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{PDB}}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{PDB}}$  values are  
694 intermediate between the fields of sedimentary carbonates and mantle carbonates.  
695 Sulfur isotopes of  $\text{py}_{\text{II-1}}$ , He–Ar isotopes of fluid inclusions released from pyrite  
696 (mixture of  $\text{py}_{\text{II-1}}$  and  $\text{py}_{\text{II-2}}$ ) and C–O isotopes of calcites suggest that the ore-forming  
697 materials in hydrothermal stage II have mantle contributions.

698

### 699 **Two fluid pulses from distinct systems or an evolving fluid system**

700 The field, textural, compositional and isotopic data support that the two fluid pluses  
701 in stages I and II at Chang’an may have been derived from both two distinct fluid  
702 systems and from a single, evolving hydrothermal system. These signatures are listed  
703 as follows: (1) Au-rich  $\text{py}_{\text{I-1}}$  in stage I is characterized by pervasive disseminated  
704 distribution (Fig. 2b) and oscillatory zoning (Figs. 6c, 7b), whereas mineralization in  
705 stage II is hosted in veinlets (Fig. 4e, f), which cuts across the mineralization in stage I  
706 (Fig. 7c); (2) the ore assemblage in stage I is dominated by pyrite and arsenopyrite (Fig.  
707 6a-d), which are enriched in Au, As, Ni, Cu and Pb (Fig. 10) with geometric mean

708 Au/Ag of 3.6 (involving  $\text{py}_{1-1}$  and arsenopyrite; [Table 2](#)), and contain few galena and  
709 chalcopyrite inclusions ([Fig. 6a-d](#)), whereas ore assemblage in stage II comprises pyrite  
710 containing much higher As, Pb, Cu, Sb, Zn and Ag ([Fig. 11](#)) with geometric mean  
711 Au/Ag of 0.1 ([Table 2](#)) and abundant base-metal minerals ([Fig. 7c, d](#)); and (3) sulfides  
712 in stage I have high radiogenic Pb isotope ratios and wide  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  range, whereas those in  
713 stage II have lower radiogenic Pb isotope ratios and more concentrated  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  range  
714 relative to those in stage I ([Figs. 12, 13](#)). Differences in ore assemblages ([Fig. 8](#)), trace  
715 element composition ([Figs. 9-11](#)) and S-Pb isotope data ([Fig. 12](#)) between two fluid  
716 pluses may be easily explained by two distinct fluid systems, which have been  
717 extrapolated as metamorphic and magmatic fluids by [Zhang et al. \(2014a\)](#) based on LA-  
718 ICP-MS trace element analysis of pyrite. However, any alteration overlap related to the  
719 fluid pluses at Chang'an is not identified by this work or previous studies in the  
720 literature ([Li et al. 2011](#); [Zhang et al. 2014](#)). The differences noted above may also be  
721 attributed to various mineralization mechanism and changing mineralization conditions  
722 from stage I to stage II. For example, the high radiogenic Pb isotope ratios of pyrite in  
723 stage I relative to those of galena were more likely caused by the interaction of fluid  
724 and rock (or sedimentary pyrite). The more negative  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  values in sulfides in stage II  
725 may be triggered by fluid oxidation due to fracture-controlled veinlets in this stage ([Fig.](#)  
726 [7b-d](#); [Duuring et al. 2009](#); [Kamvong and Zaw 2009](#)). Further deposit-scale  
727 documentation and robust geochronological studies are required to better constrain the  
728 two fluid pluses in the deposit.

729

730

## Implications

731 Two distinct metal-enrichment stages with distinct mineral assemblages and trace  
732 element compositions were identified in the Chang'an gold deposit. Early quartz–  
733 arsenopyrite–pyrite stage is dominated by Au mineralization with low base metals,  
734 whereas veinlet-hosted quartz–calcite–polymetallic sulfide stage is characterized by  
735 base metal mineralization with low gold. Mineral assemblages and trace elements of  
736 pyrite indicate that ore fluids in stage I are enriched in Au, As, Ni, Cu and Pb, whereas  
737 those in stage II contain As, Pb, Cu, Sb, Zn and Ag with low Au content. Replacement  
738 of syn-sedimentary pyrite with low Au content by inclusion- and Au-rich pyrite in stage  
739 I,  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  value range (10.3 ‰) of pyrite in stage I, and similar Pb isotope ratios between  
740 pyrite in stage I and syn-sedimentary pyrite indicate that reaction of external deep Au-  
741 rich fluids and syn-sedimentary pyrite is responsible for gold precipitation. Sulfur and  
742 He–Ar isotopes of sulfides and C–O isotopes of calcite in stage II indicate that ore fluids  
743 have 6–17 % mantle contribution. This study highlights that ore metals in sediment-  
744 hosted disseminated orogenic gold deposits can be sourced from both deep fluids and  
745 local wall-rock, and that fluid-pyrite interaction behaved as key control on ore  
746 precipitation.

747

748

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759

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1168 **Figure Captions**

1169 **Figure 1.** (a) Generalized map showing major tectonic structures developed during the  
1170 collision between India and Eurasia and the geographic location of the Ailaoshan  
1171 orogenic belt (revised from [Tapponnier et al. \(1990\)](#)). Red dashed line represents part  
1172 of current China National boundary. (b) Geological map of the Ailaoshan gold belt  
1173 showing the distribution of high- and low-grade metamorphic belts. The location of the  
1174 Chang'an gold deposit in the low-grade Jinping terrane is indicated (revised from [Wang](#)  
1175 [et al. \(2014\)](#)).

1176

1177 **Figure 2.** (a) Geological map of the Chang'an gold deposit, showing the major  
1178 lithologic units, widespread wall-rock alteration halo and gold orebodies (revised from  
1179 [Yunnan Gold Mining Co. Ltd, unpublished report, 2015](#)). (b) Cross-section of the  
1180 Chang'an gold deposit, showing lithologic units, wall-rock alteration, and geometry of  
1181 ore bodies. Modified from the unpublished internal geological map of Yunnan Gold  
1182 Mining Co. Ltd. Two colors in a legend (turbidite, dolostone, syenite or lamprophyre)  
1183 represent unaltered (to the left) and altered (to the right) rock.

1184

1185 **Figure 3.** Photograph of open mining pit, showing distribution of lithologic units,  
1186 structures, and sample locations as well as contour map of Au grade at 1580 m level.

1187

1188 **Figure 4.** Photographs of structural features, crosscutting relationship and  
1189 mineralization styles. (a) Sedimentary pyrites (pys; outlined by dashed ellipses) in the



1190 Ordovician strata. **(b)** A syenite dike cutting an earlier lamprophyre. **(c)** Core of the  
1191 Chang'an fault composed of several secondary faults in the northern part of the open  
1192 pit. **(d)** Striations and steps in the fault planes of the Chang'an fault, showing a sense  
1193 of sinistral-reverse movement. **(e)** An EW-trending quartz-calcite-polymetallic sulfide  
1194 veinlet in the Ordovician sandstone. **(f)** A NS-trending quartz-calcite-polymetallic  
1195 sulfide veinlet in the syenite. **(g)** NW-trending quartz-calcite veinlets in the Ordovician  
1196 sandstone.

1197

1198 **Figure 5.** Photomicrographs (cross-polarized light: a-c and e; BSE: d; plane-polarized  
1199 light: f) of different rocks showing the alteration characteristics in the Chang'an gold  
1200 deposit. **(a)** Quartz-, sericite-, and pyrite ( $py_s$  and  $py_{I-1}$ )-altered sandstone. **(b)** Quartz-,  
1201 sericite-, pyrite ( $py_{I-1}$ )- and arsenopyrite-altered sandstone. **(c)** Quartz-, sericite-, and  
1202 pyrite ( $py_{I-Sy}$ )-altered syenite. **(d)** Quartz-, and ankerite-, and sphalerite-altered syenite.  
1203 The ankerite and sphalerite, together with the apatite and rutile, are distributed along  
1204 the cleavage of biotite. White dashed lines mark outlines of biotite. **(e)** Calcite- and  
1205 pyrite ( $py_{II-1}$ )-altered sandstone, showing a cogenetic calcite and  $py_{II-1}$ . **(f)** Quartz-,  
1206 sericite-, pyrite ( $py_s$  and  $py_{I-1}$ )- and calcite-altered sandstone. The calcite cuts the quartz,  
1207 sericite and pyrite ( $py_s$  and  $py_{I-1}$ ). Abbreviation: Ank=ankerite, Ap=apatite, Apy=  
1208 arsenopyrite, Bt=biotite, Cal=calcite, Py=pyrite ( $py_s$ ,  $py_{I-1}$ ,  $py_{I-Sy}$  and  $py_{II-1}$  represent  
1209 different generations of pyrite), Qtz=quartz, Rut=rutile, Ser=sericite, Sp=sphalerite.

1210

1211 **Figure 6.** BSE images showing the mineralogy, pyrite texture and paragenesis in pre-

1212 ore and hydrothermal stage I. Also shown are the locations of representative spot  
1213 analyses for sulfur isotopes (red) and Au concentration (pink) results of selected sulfide  
1214 grains. **(a)** Subhedral  $py_s$  overlapped by  $py_{I-1}$  containing inclusions of arsenopyrite. **(b)**  
1215 Subhedral  $py_s$  overgrown by  $py_{I-1}$  with galena inclusions. Apertures in  $py_s$  are filled by  
1216 quartz and calcite. **(c)** Subhedral  $py_s$  overgrown by oscillatory zoning  $py_{I-1}$  with  
1217 arsenopyrite inclusions along the contact between  $py_s$  and  $py_{I-1}$ . **(d)** Corrosive  $py_s$  with  
1218 irregular contact boundary overgrown by  $py_{I-1}$ , which in turn is rimmed by  $py_{I-2}$ .  
1219 Abbreviation: Apy= arsenopyrite, Cal=calcite, Py=pyrite ( $py_s$ ,  $py_{I-1}$  and  $py_{I-2}$  represent  
1220 different generations of pyrite), Qtz=quartz.

1221

1222 **Figure 7.** BSE images showing the mineralogy, pyrite texture and paragenesis of  
1223 hydrothermal stages I and II. Also shown are the locations of representative spot  
1224 analyses for sulfur isotopes (red) and Au concentration (pink) results of selected sulfide  
1225 grains. **(a)** Unzoned  $py_{I-Sy}$  with porous texture filled by quartz, galena and arsenopyrite  
1226 in stage I in the syenite. **(b)**  $Py_{I-1}$  with oscillatory zoning overgrown by  $py_{I-2}$  in stage I,  
1227 which is cut by subhedral to anhedral  $py_{II-1}$  (with porous texture filled by galena)  
1228 overgrown by euhedral  $py_{II-2}$  in stage II. **(c)** Subhedral to euhedral  $py_{II-1}$  overgrown by  
1229  $py_{II-2}$  with cogenetic Ga in stage II. **(d)** A cogenetic mineral assemblage of  $py_{II-2}$ , galena  
1230 and arsenopyrite, chalcopyrite, tetrahedrite, proustite, sphalerite in stage II.  
1231 Abbreviation: Apy= arsenopyrite, Ccp=chalcopyrite, Ga=galena, Pr=proustite,  
1232 Py=pyrite ( $py_{I-1}$ ,  $py_{I-Sy}$ ,  $py_{I-2}$ ,  $py_{II-1}$  and  $py_{II-2}$  represent different generations of pyrite),  
1233 Qtz=quartz, Sp=sphalerite, Tet= tetrahedrite.

1234

1235 **Figure 8.** Interpreted paragenetic sequence of pre-ore and ore-related minerals in the  
1236 Chang'an gold deposit. Small yellow cycles indicate the phase contains invisible gold.

1237

1238 **Figure 9.** LA-ICP-MS images of trace elements (ppm) in pyrite from sample CA33.  
1239 The pyrite core ( $py_s$ ) contains minor electrum inclusions and contains up to ~1 wt% Co  
1240 and Ni in solid solution. The pyrite inner zone ( $py_{I-1}$ ) has higher Au, As, Ag, Co, Ni,  
1241 Pb, Sb and Cu concentrations relative to  $py_s$  and the rimming pyrite ( $py_{I-2}$ ), which has  
1242 low As, Co, Ni, Pb and Au contents. See text for more explanation of pyrite generations  
1243 and their compositions.

1244

1245 **Figure 10.** LA-ICP-MS images of trace elements (ppm) in pyrite from sample CA38.  
1246 Pyrite inner zone ( $py_{II-1}$ ) is enriched in Au, As, Ag, Co, Ni, Pb, Sb and Cu.  $py_{II-1}$   
1247 contains Au-Ag-Sb-Cu inclusions, possible suggestive of Au-bearing polybasite. Pyrite  
1248 outer zone ( $py_{II-2}$ ) shows As-Co-Ni enrichment and zonation but depletion in Au. See  
1249 text for more explanation of pyrite generations and their compositions. Red lines  
1250 represent inferred cracks in pyrite.

1251

1252 **Figure 11.** Interelement correlations for pyrites of different generations and  
1253 arsenopyrite from samples CA01, CA20, CA25, CA29, CA33, CA36 and CA38. (a)  
1254 Au-As. Black solid line in Figure a is Au saturation line defined by [Reich et al. \(2005\)](#)  
1255 and red dashed line is preferred Au saturation line of arsenian pyrite from the Chang'an

1256 gold deposit. (b) Au-Cu. (c) Au-Ag. (d) Au-Sb. (e) Co-Ni. (f) Pb-Ag.

1257

1258 **Figure 12.** Sulfur isotope composition of different generations of pyrites and  
1259 arsenopyrites in the Chang'an gold deposit. Variation curves of  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  values of pyrites  
1260 in the sedimentary rock-hosted orogenic gold deposits and sulfate seawater through  
1261 time are based on [Chang et al. \(2008\)](#). Dashed line marks the  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  value of 0 ‰ and  
1262 yellow shadow area represents the  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  range of sulfides in hydrothermal stages I and  
1263 II.

1264

1265 **Figure 13.** *In situ* Pb isotope of different generations of pyrite and galena in the  
1266 Chang'an gold deposit. The field for western Yunnan volcanics is from [Zhou et al.](#)  
1267 [\(1998\)](#). The field for western Yunnan potassic mafic rocks is from [Lu et al. \(20013\)](#).  
1268 The field for leucogranite within the Ailao Shan-Red River shear zone (ASRR) in  
1269 western Yunnan is from [Zhang and Schärer \(1999\)](#).

1270

1271 **Figure 14.** (a) R/Ra vs.  $^{40}\text{Ar}^*/^4\text{He}$  diagram of fluid inclusions in composites of py<sub>II-1</sub>-  
1272 py<sub>II-2</sub> in the Chang'an gold deposit, in comparison to typical crustal and mantle  
1273 reservoirs ([Ballentine et al. 2002](#); [Ozima and Podosek 2002](#)) as well as those in the  
1274 Murantau, Macreas, Zhenyuan, Daping and Dongping gold deposits ([Burnard et al.](#)  
1275 [1999](#); [Mao et al. 2003](#); [Graupner et al. 2006](#); [Sun et al. 2009](#); [Goodwin et al. 2017](#)). The  
1276  $^{40}\text{Ar}^*$  is the  $^{40}\text{Ar}$  content corrected for atmospheric contribution. (b)  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{PDB}}-\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{PDB}}$   
1277 diagram of calcites in hydrothermal stages II and III. Fields for sedimentary carbonate

1278 and sedimentary organic carbon are from [Hoefs \(2009\)](#) and field for mantle is from [Ray](#)  
1279 [et al. \(1999\)](#).

1280

## 1281 **Supplementary Materials**

1282 **Table S1.** Laser Ablation-Inductively Coupled Plasma-Mass Spectrometry (LA-ICP-  
1283 MS) analyses of pyrite and arsenopyrite from the Chang'an gold deposit.

1284

1285 **Table S2.** In situ sulfur isotope composition of different sulfide types from the  
1286 Chang'an gold deposit.

1287

1288 **Table S3.** In situ Pb isotopic composition of pyrite and galena from Chang'an gold  
1289 deposit.

1290

1291 **Table S4.** He-Ar isotopic composition of composites of Py<sub>II-1</sub>-Py<sub>II-2</sub> in hydrothermal  
1292 stage II in the Chang'an gold deposit.

1293

1294 **Table S5.** C-O isotopic composition of calcites in hydrothermal stages II and III in the  
1295 Chang'an gold deposit

1296

1297 **Figure S1.** LA-ICP-MS count outputs for a composite of (a) py<sub>s</sub>-py<sub>I-1</sub> from sample  
1298 CA20 and (b) py<sub>II-1</sub>-py<sub>II-2</sub> from sample CA38. Insets show the analyzed pyrites and  
1299 paths of the laser analysis (arrows indicate the direction of ablation). Note that the py<sub>s</sub>

1300 is lower Au, As and Pb contents, compared to the surrounding py<sub>I-1</sub>, which is enriched  
1301 in Au and As compared to py<sub>II-1</sub> and py<sub>II-2</sub>. The pattern of analyzed py<sub>II-1</sub> and py<sub>II-2</sub>  
1302 indicates micro-inclusions of galena and free gold.

1303

1304 **Figure S2.** LA-ICP-MS images of trace elements (ppm) in pyrite from sample CA20.  
1305 Core of the pyrite (py<sub>s</sub>) contains Au, As, Ag, Co, Ni, Pb, Sb and Cu. Rim of the pyrite  
1306 (py<sub>I-1</sub>) is more enriched in these elements. See text for more explanation of pyrite  
1307 generations and their compositions.

1308

1309 **Figure S3.** LA-ICP-MS images of trace elements (ppm) in pyrite from sample CA25.  
1310 Pyrite core (py<sub>s</sub>) has higher Co, Ni and Pb concentrations than the rimming pyrite (py<sub>I-</sub>  
1311 <sub>1</sub>), which has higher Au, As, Ag, Co, Ni, Pb, Sb and Cu contents. See text for more  
1312 explanation of pyrite generations and their compositions.

1313

1314 **Figure S4.** LA-ICP-MS images of trace elements (ppm) in pyrite (py<sub>I-Sy</sub>) from sample  
1315 CA29. Py<sub>I-Sy</sub> has high As, Ni and Co contents with inclusions of chalcopyrite, galena  
1316 and sphalerite.

1317

Table 1. Summary of common textures and pyrite classification for the Chang'an gold deposit

Pyrite	Timing	Host rock	Texture	Co-genetic minerals	Evidence for timing
Py <sub>S</sub>	Synsedimentary/ diagenetic	Turbidite	Bedding-parallel nodule; corroded structure	Detrital quartz, Fe-dolomite, apatite	Bedding parallel; nodal texture (Fig. 4a); overgrown by py <sub>I-1</sub> (Fig. 6a-d)
Py <sub>I-1</sub>	Hydrothermal stage I	Turbidite	Euhedral-subhedral; oscillatory zoning structure; inclusion-rich	Fine-grained quartz, arsenopyrite, galena, chalcopyrite and electrum	Overgrow py <sub>S</sub> and overgrown by py <sub>I-2</sub> (Fig. 6a-d); crosscut by py <sub>II-1</sub> and py <sub>II-2</sub> (Fig. 7b)
Py <sub>I-2</sub>	Hydrothermal stage I	Turbidite	Euhedral to subhedral; outer thin rim; inclusion-free	No or rarely	Overgrow py <sub>I-1</sub> (Fig. 6a, d); crosscut by py <sub>II-1</sub> and py <sub>II-2</sub> (Fig. 7b)
Py <sub>I-Sy</sub>	Hydrothermal stage I	Syenite	Euhedral to subhedral; disseminated	Fine-grained quartz, arsenopyrite, galena	Similar mineral assemblage to py <sub>I-1</sub> (Fig. 7a)
Py <sub>II-1</sub>	Hydrothermal stage II	Turbidite	Subhedral; porous textures; inclusion-rich	Abundant fine-grained inclusions of galena, sphalerite, and tetrahedrite	Crosscut py <sub>I-1</sub> and py <sub>I-2</sub> (Fig. 7b)
Py <sub>II-2</sub>	Hydrothermal stage II	Turbidite	Euhedral	Euhedral galena, chalcopyrite, sphalerite, tetrahedrite and proustite	Crosscut or overgrow py <sub>II-1</sub> (Fig. 7b, c)

1318 Explanation of nomenclatures: “Py” represents pyrite; “S” and “Sy” represent sedimentary rock and syenite, respectively; “I” and “II” denote hydrothermal stages I and II,  
 1319 respectively; “-1” and “-2” represent the first and second generations of pyrite. For example, py<sub>S</sub> represent sedimentary pyrite, py<sub>I-1</sub> denotes the first generation of pyrite formed  
 1320 in hydrothermal stage I, and py<sub>I-Sy</sub> represent stage-I pyrite in syenite.

1321

1322

1323 **Table 2.** Summarized Laser Ablation-Inductively Coupled Plasma-Mass Spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS) analyses of pyrite and arsenopyrite from  
 1324 the Chang'an gold deposit

	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	As	Se	Mo	Ag	Sb	Te	Au	Tl	Pb	Bi	Au/ Ag
Pys (n=14)															
Min	7.3	8.7	1.4	1.1	2.3	4.1	b.d.l	0.1	0.1	b.d.l	0.0	0.0	14.2	b.d.l	0.0
Max	204.1	358.5	30.0	12.1	10371	10.9	264.0	2.3	33.2	10.3	0.5	43.7	196.0	100.8	1.1
Mean	23.4	59.8	13.0	4.1	620.8	8.3	54.4	0.4	4.8	3.3	0.1	4.1	61.6	0.7	0.1
S.D.	51.5	105.2	8.9	2.8	3569.2	2.2	79.4	79.4	11.5	2.9	0.2	14.9	42.9	30.2	0.3
PyI-1 (n=23)															
Min	2.7	19.8	7.4	b.d.l	1247	b.d.l	b.d.l	b.d.l	2.2	b.d.l	0.6	0.1	19.0	0.0	0.0
Max	767.5	599.1	2242.7	59.4	44583	16.1	282.7	74.6	102.7	3.9	227.1	19.5	803.5	11.6	85.6
Mean	79.8	248.1	139.9	8.4	8931	9.6	47.6	8.2	26.2	0.9	8.9	2.5	120.0	1.3	1.2
S.D.	225.9	192.9	472.9	14.6	13421	3.6	92.6	23.9	28.9	1.3	63.2	6.7	252.4	3.4	21.9
PyI-Sy (n=17)															
Min	0.4	15.1	b.d.l	b.d.l	3.6	b.d.l	b.d.l	b.d.l	b.d.l	b.d.l	b.d.l	b.d.l	b.d.l	b.d.l	0.1
Max	1017.3	948.3	73.2	41.2	9416	15.7	0.2	4.3	10.8	72.1	2.3	0.5	62.0	62.1	1.9
Mean	62.7	63.0	8.1	1.8	1131	8.3	0.0	0.9	2.5	2.3	0.4	0.1	8.6	0.2	0.3
S.D.	270.7	224.1	27.4	11.6	3505.2	3.3	0.1	1.3	3.4	31.0	0.7	0.2	18.7	17.2	—
PyI-2(n=4)															
Min	19.4	11.0	9.9	b.d.l	596	b.d.l	b.d.l	0.1	1.0	b.d.l	0.0	b.d.l	9.6	b.d.l	0.0
Max	24.3	181.1	31.2	3.7	3692	b.d.l	119.8	7.6	18.1	0.7	2.4	6.1	76.1	0.5	4.2
Mean	21.7	44.8	16.2	2.7	2183	b.d.l	—	1.0	4.8	0.5	0.4	1.0	27.7	0.2	0.4
S.D.	2.76	76.78	11.33	1.24	1452.58	—	—	0.32	8.59	0.24	1.10	4.20	31.68	0.25	2.06



PyII-1 (n=14)

Min	6.2	47.1	7.6	2.9	3258	4.8	b.d.l	15.7	12.1	b.d.l	1.0	0.1	90.0	0.1	0.0
Max	331.8	828.0	2542.1	813.7	22838	26.5	3.8	1663.2	915.2	8.4	34.8	11.4	11205	28.3	0.5
Mean	61.2	189.3	558.0	63.4	11325	8.9	0.9	58.0	241.7	2.6	4.1	2.1	1060.5	4.1	0.1
S.D.	99.9	208.3	587.6	226.9	5076.6	6.8	1.2	414.7	296.5	2.2	9.7	2.8	3341.1	6.9	0.1

PyII-2 (n=9)

Min	0.0	1.2	7.0	0.4	1965	5.7	b.d.l	1.5	2.1	b.d.l	0.4	b.d.l	14.0	b.d.l	0.0
Max	987.0	1152.3	99.4	70774.0	16968	19.6	0.5	731.8	1077.1	2.0	11.1	0.3	49622	1.1	7.4
Mean	8.0	26.6	19.5	6.8	6311.3	9.3	0.0	11.7	16.8	0.5	2.3	0.1	98.5	0.1	0.2
S.D.	326.0	376.4	30.2	23589	4839	7.6	0.3	6.9	354.8	0.7	4.6	0.1	16519	0.4	2.4

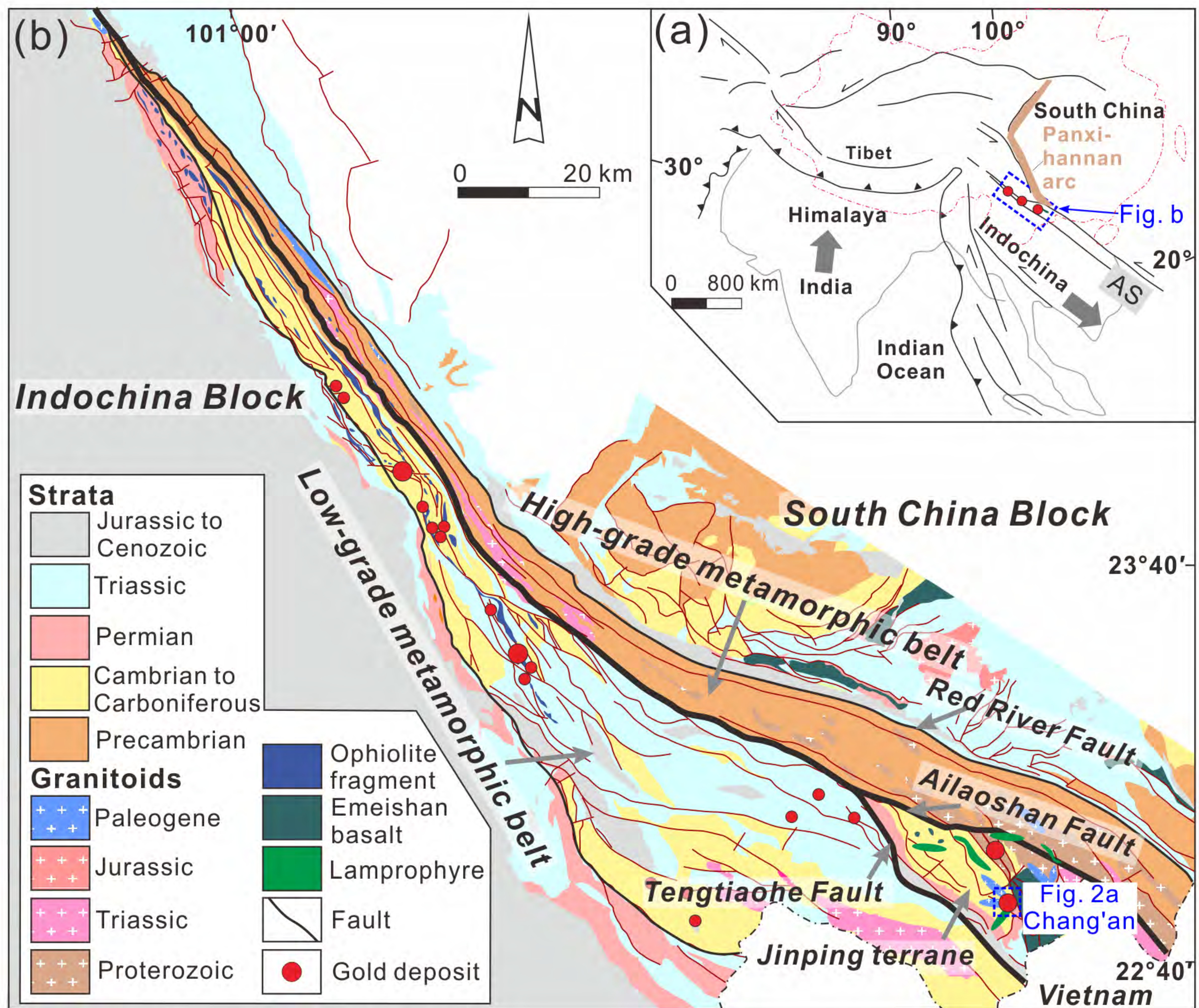
Apy (n=13)

Min	15.6	80.2	113.1	0.5	446274	b.d.l	b.d.l	4.6	60.2	b.d.l	110.5	0.3	206.9	7.3	8.9
Max	82.6	233.1	555.5	63.1	516615	12.4	1.7	18.6	111.9	8.3	353.3	4.3	558.4	12.9	34.9
Mean	26.1	113.9	239.1	2.5	474555	9.8	0.1	11.9	73.1	1.6	268.8	1.9	347.2	9.2	22.6
S.D.	216.3	239.4	160.8	15442	235796	3.9	0.5	5.1	221.1	2.0	155.6	1.3	10527	4.7	12.8

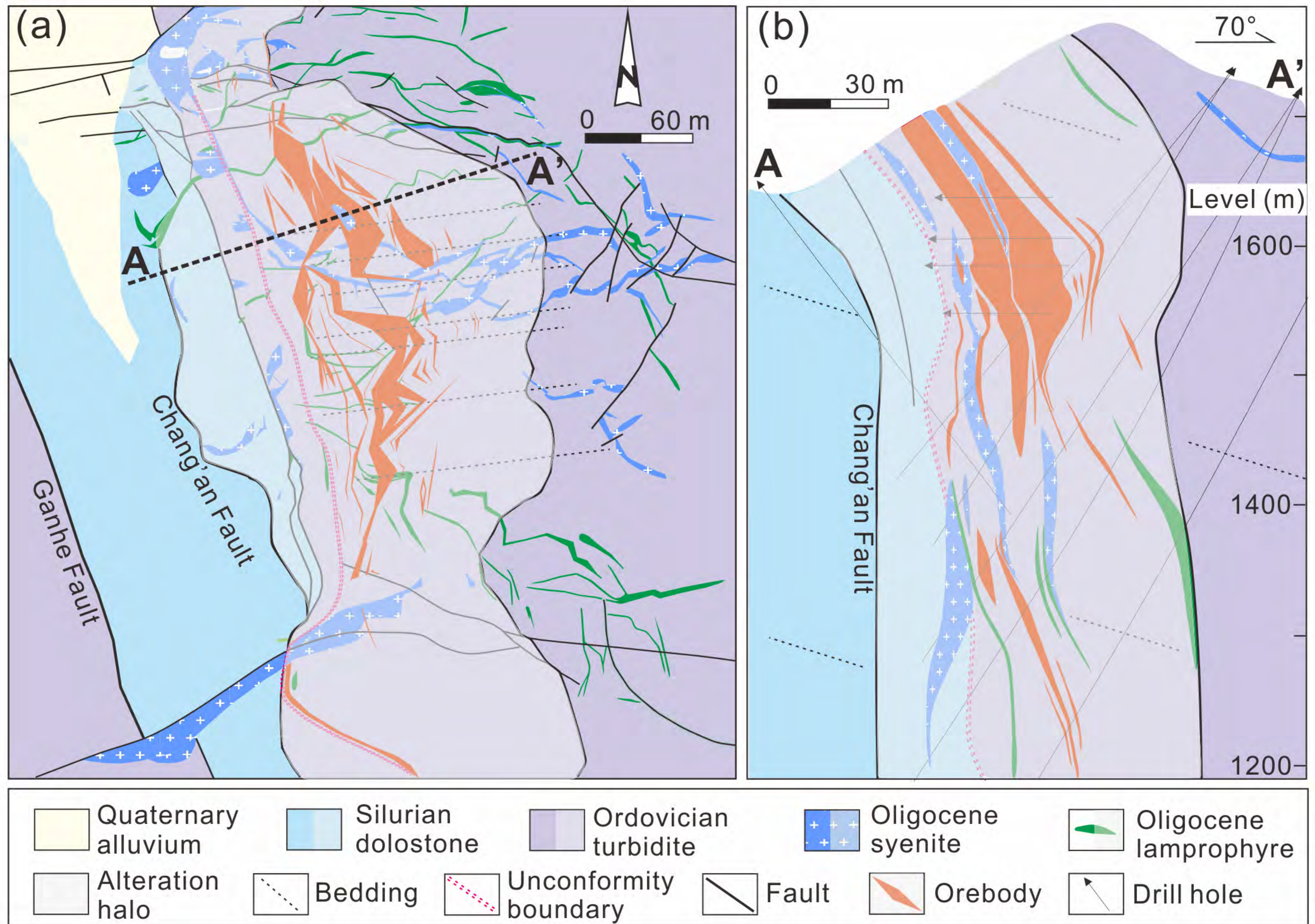
1325 b.d.l = below detection limit, S.D.=standard deviation, — =not suitable for calculation.

1326

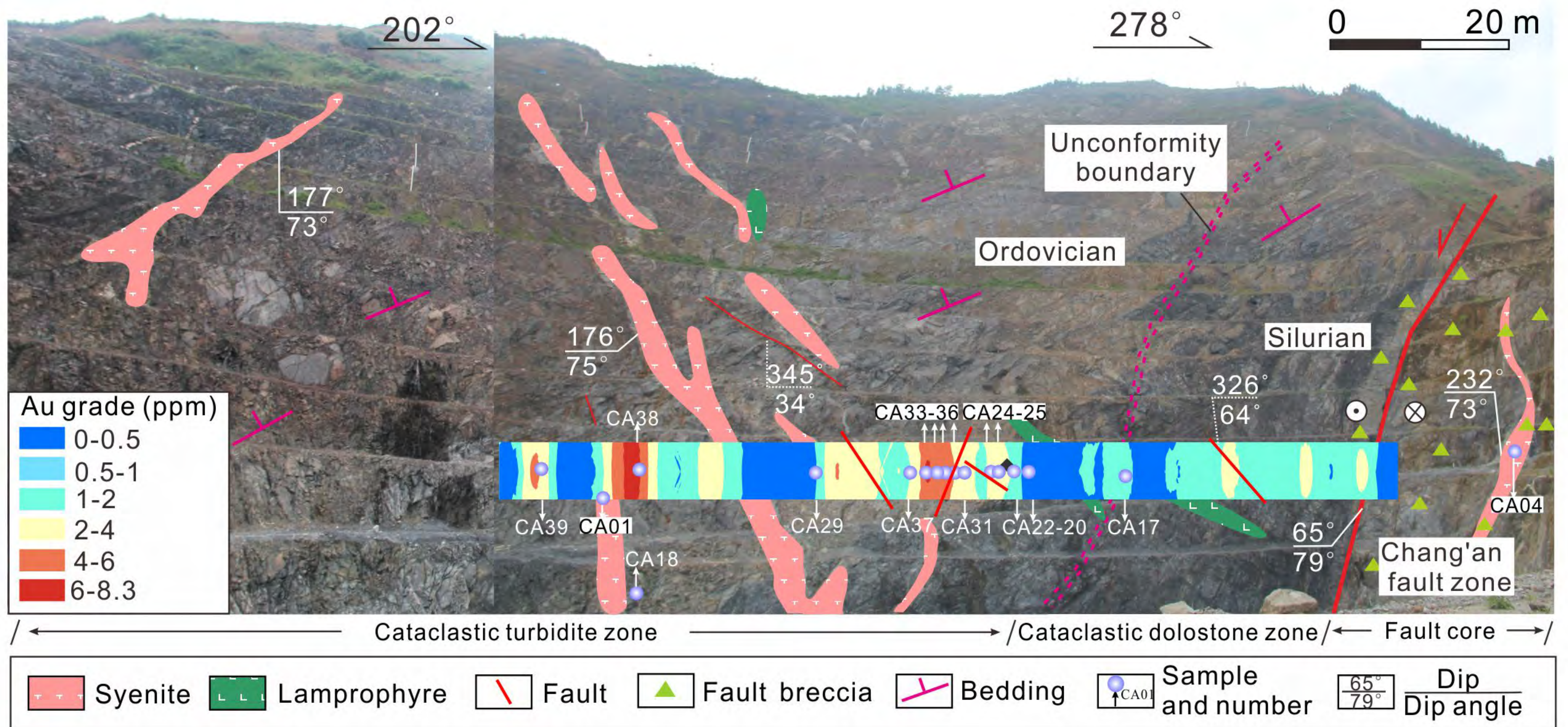
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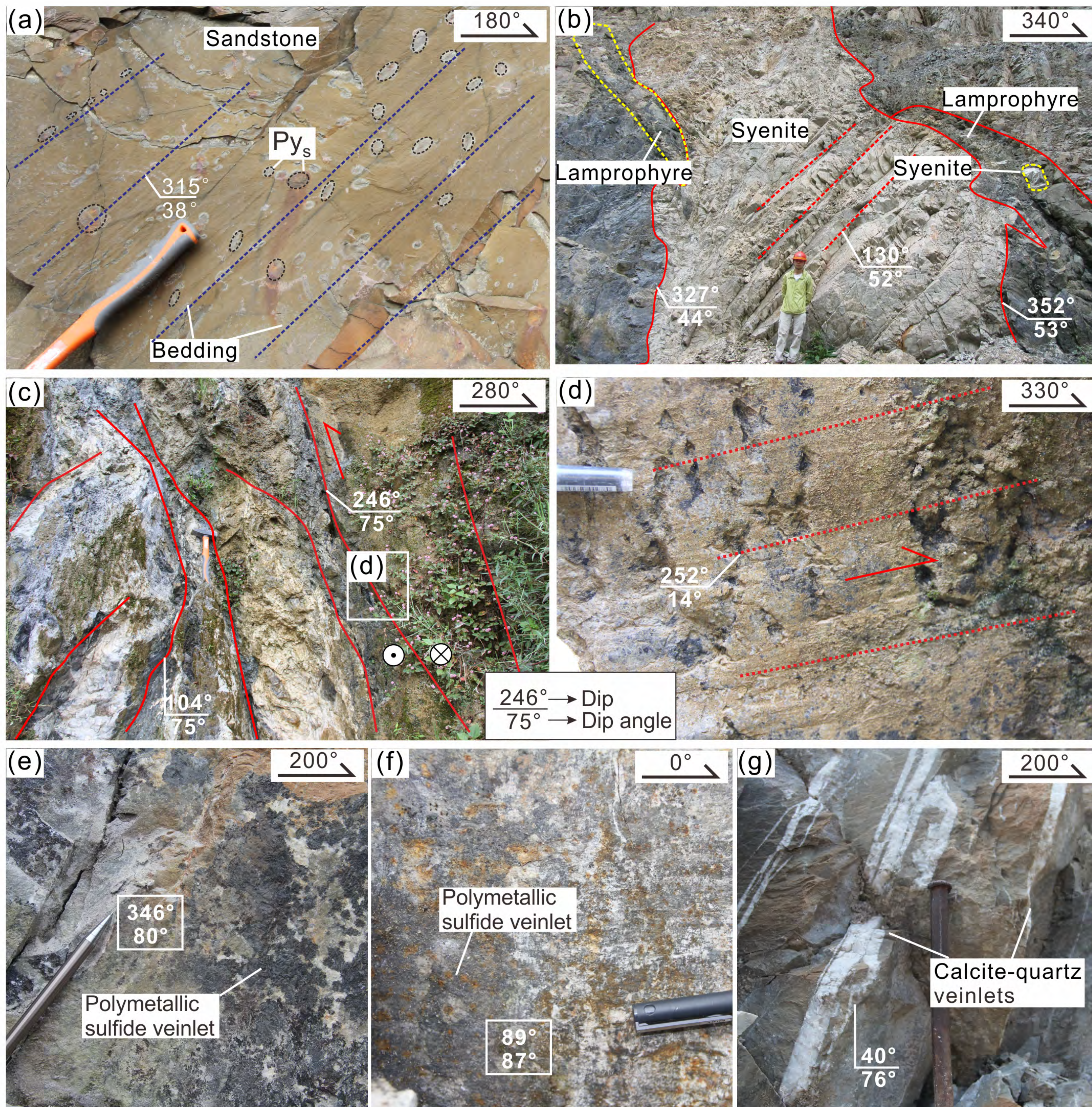
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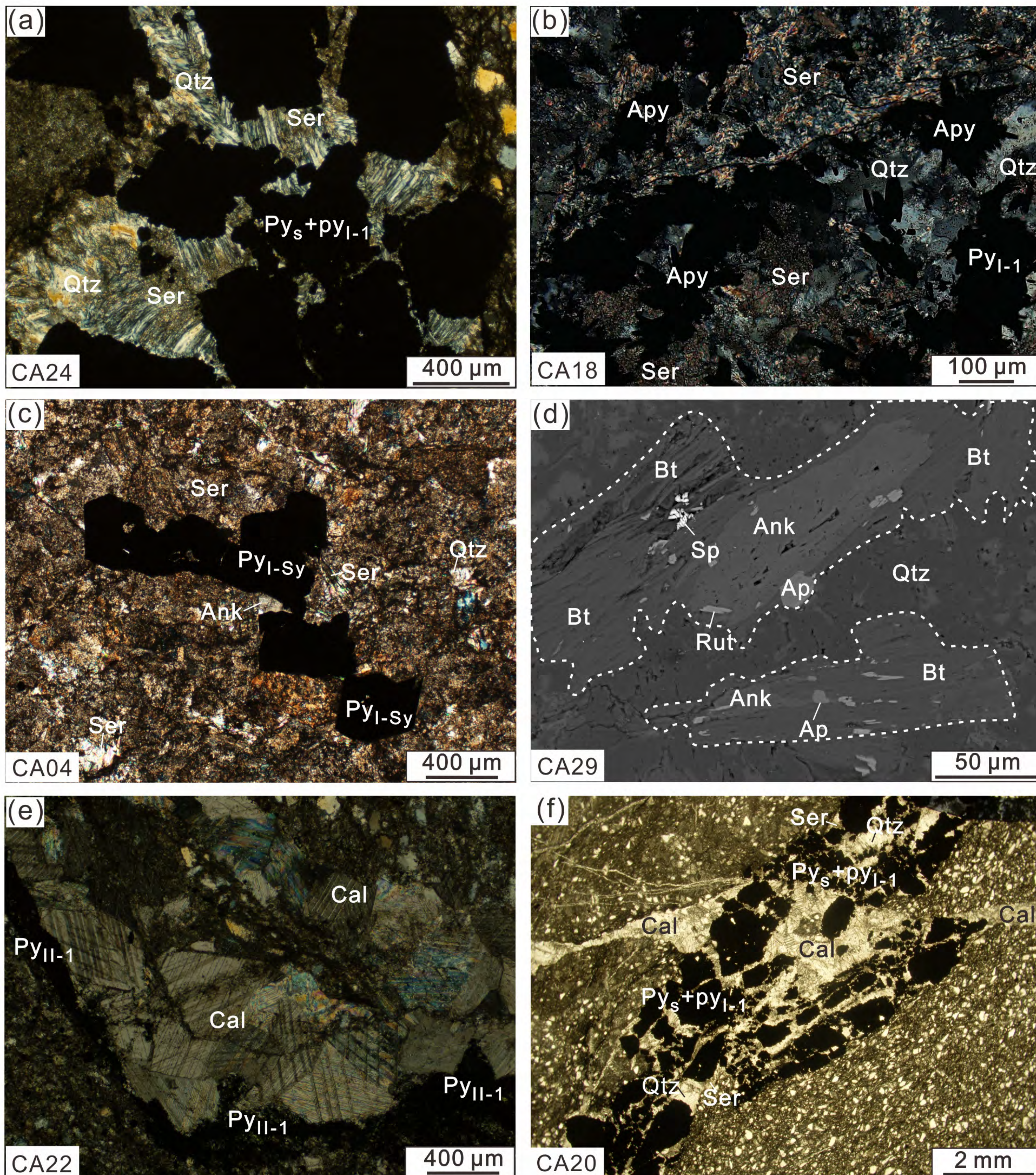
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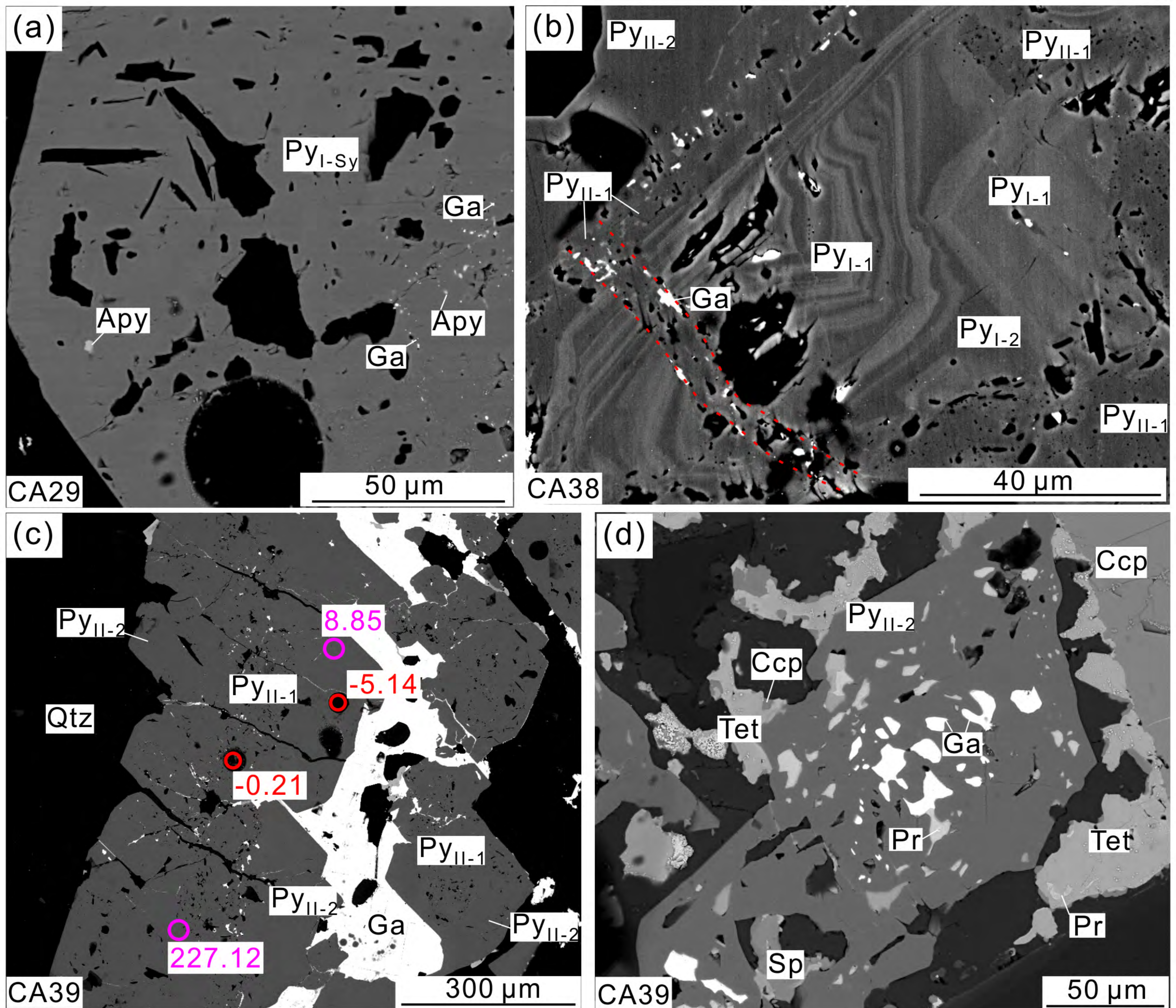
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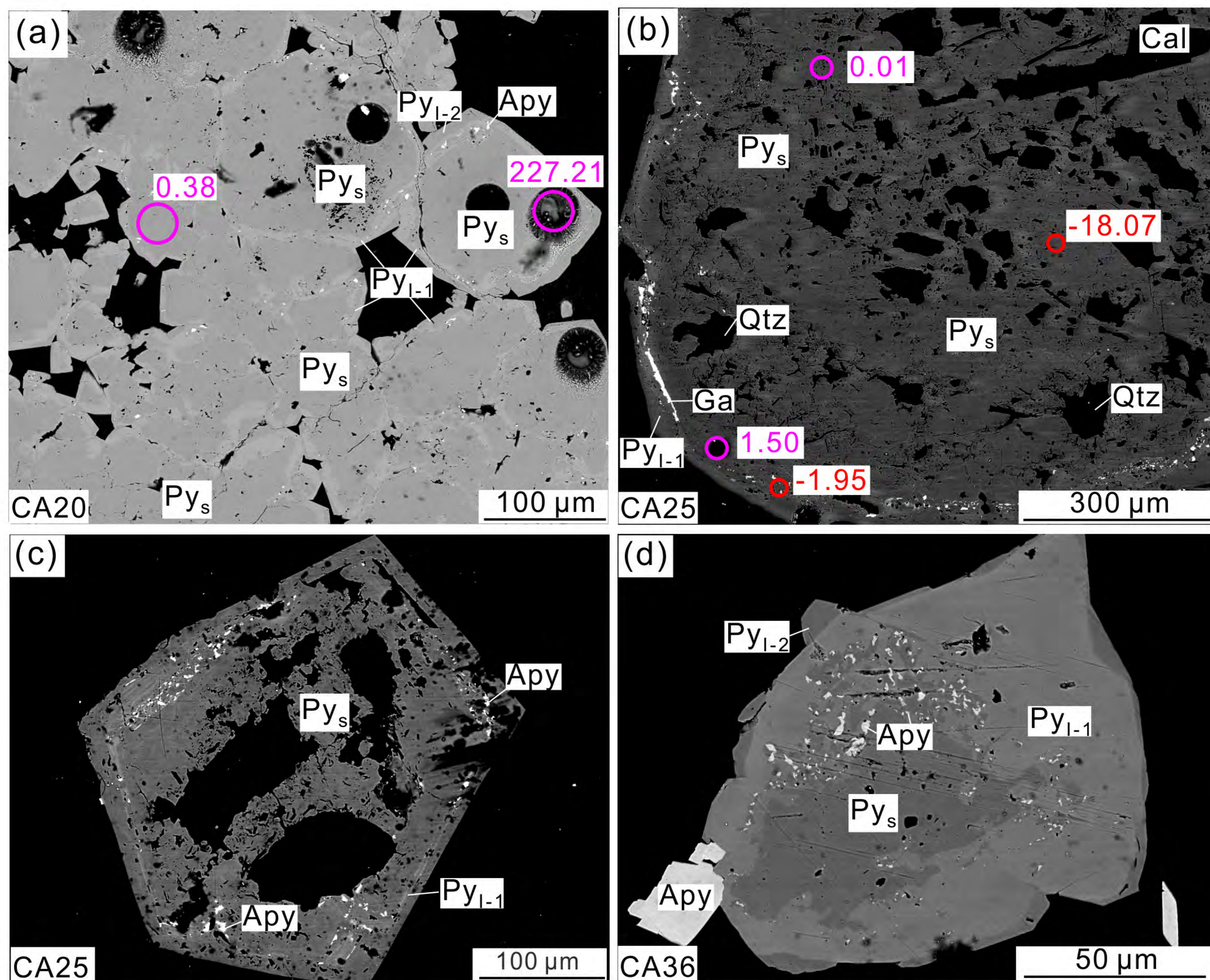
# Figure 5



# Figure 6



# Figure 7

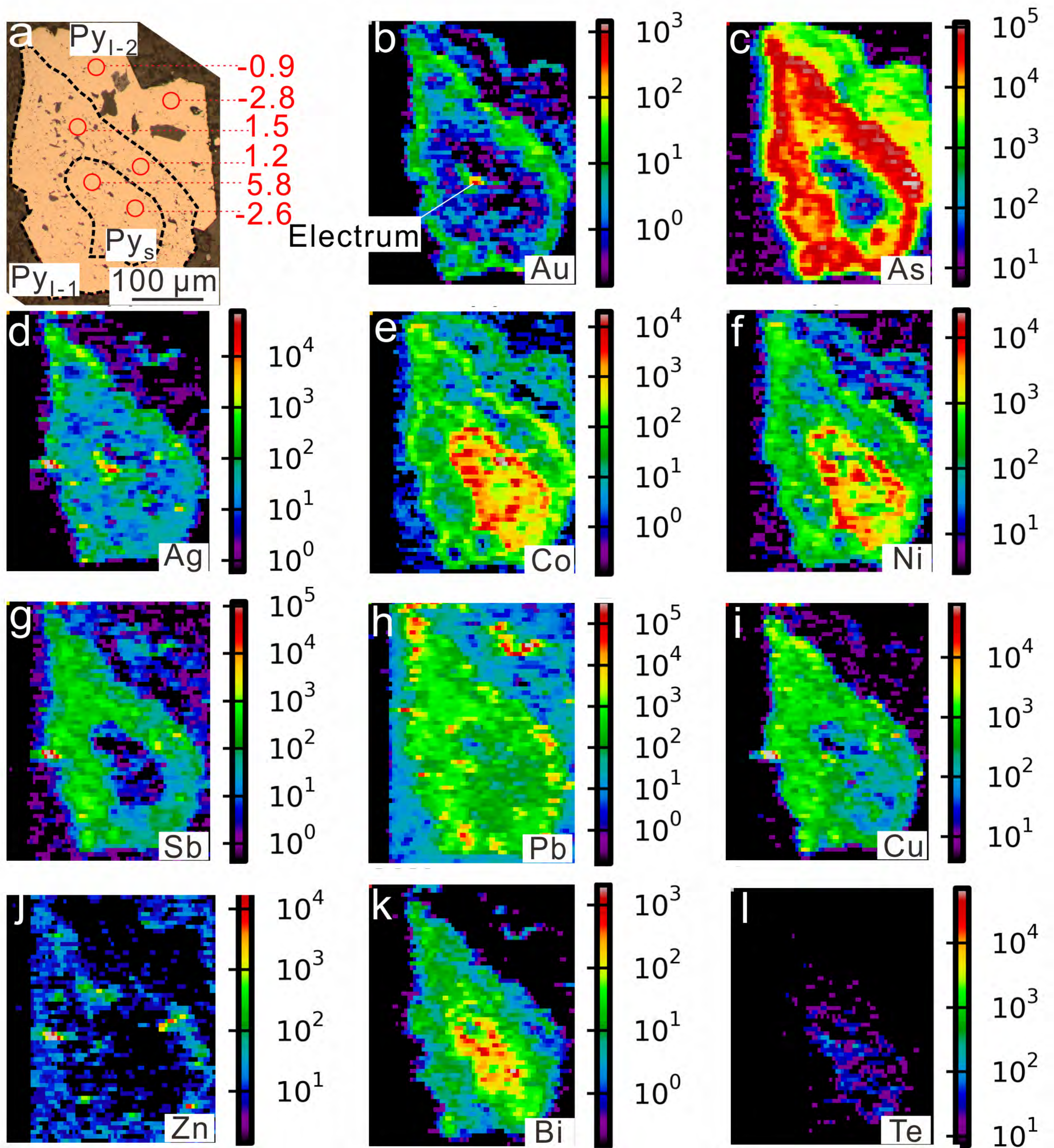




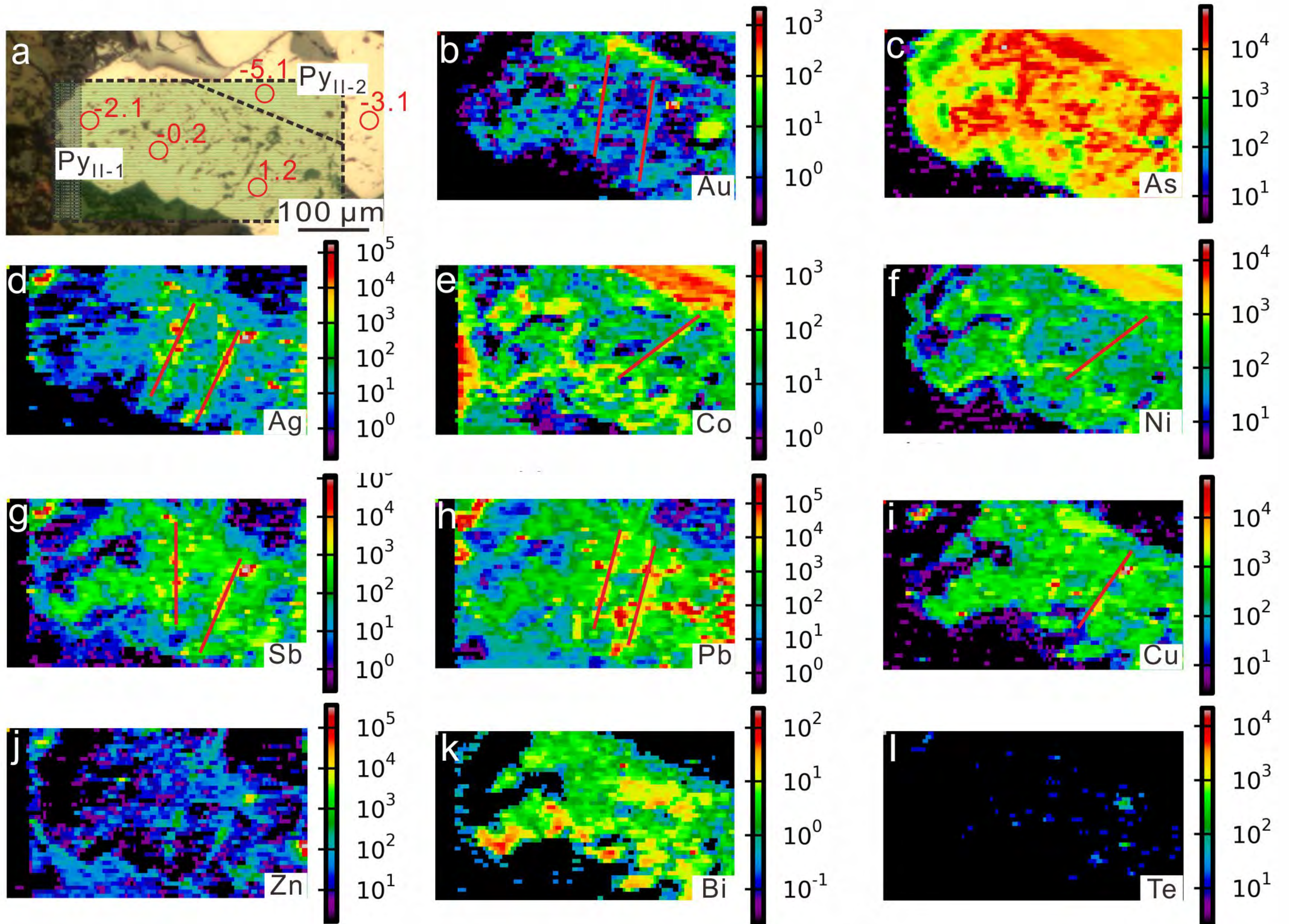
# Figure 8

Minerals		Pre-ore	Hydrothermal mineralization		
			Stage I	Stage II	Stage III
Pyrite	Py <sub>s</sub>				
	Py <sub>I-1</sub>				
	Py <sub>I-Sy</sub>				
	Py <sub>I-2</sub>				
	Py <sub>II-1</sub>				
	Py <sub>II-2</sub>				
Sericite					
Quartz					
Ankerite					
Electrum					
Arsenopyrite					
Chalcopyrite					
Galena					
Sphalerite					
Rutile					
Tetrahedrite					
Proustite					
Calcite					

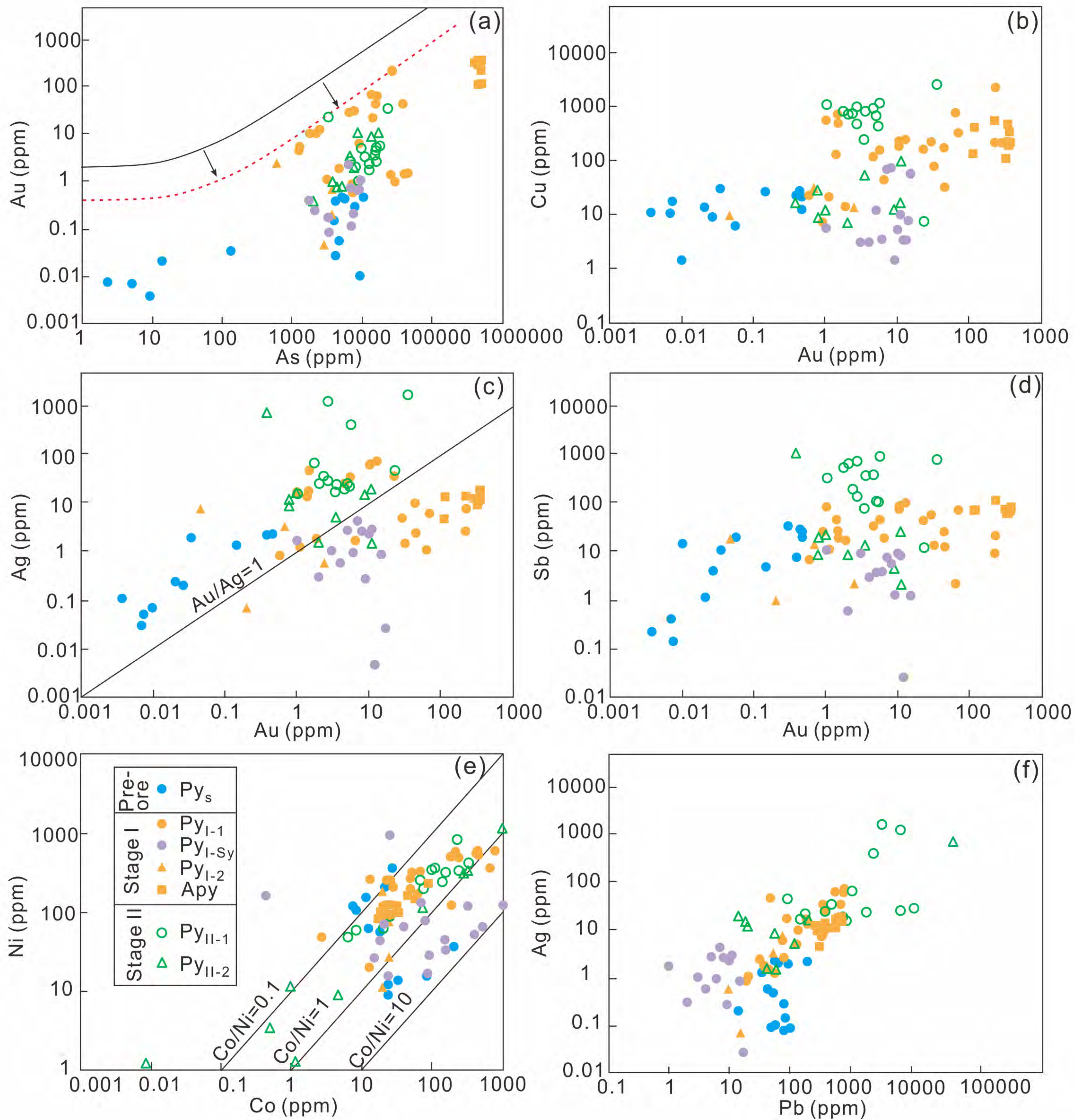
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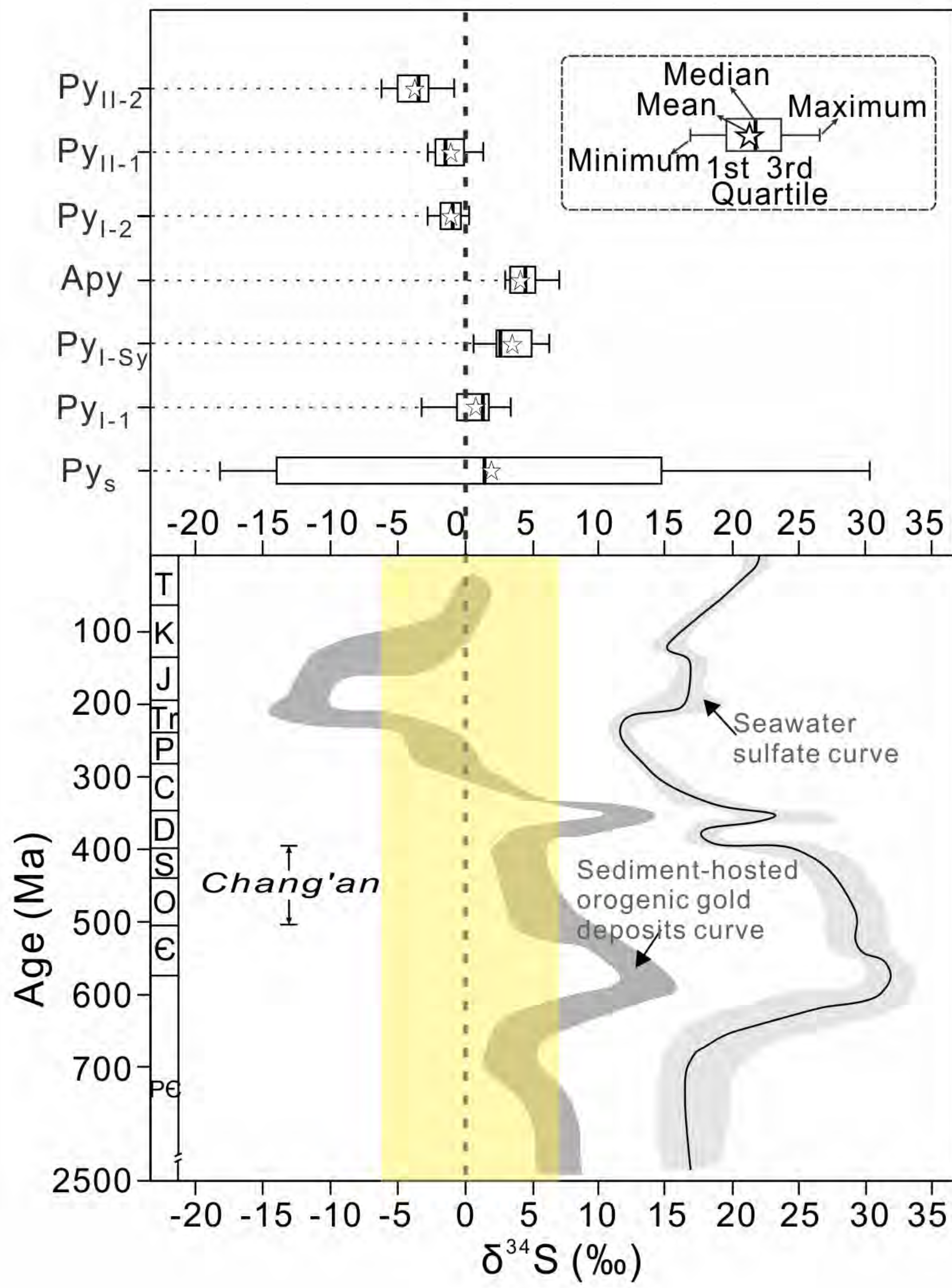
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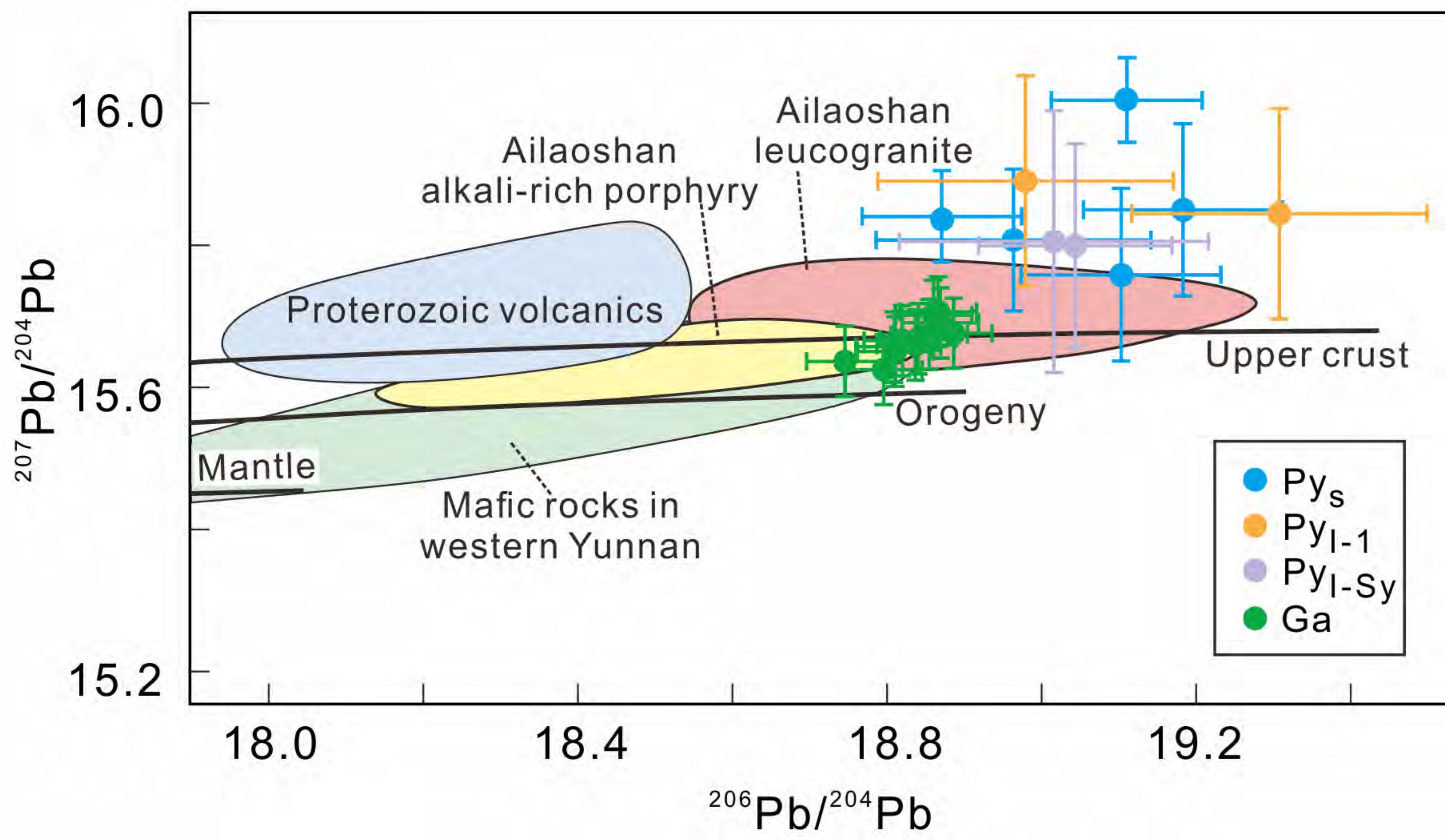
# Figure 11



# Figure 12



# Figure 13



# Figure 14

