

1 **Revision 2 (Clean)**

2 **Oxygen isotope evidence for input of magmatic fluids and precipitation of**
3 **Au-Ag-tellurides in an otherwise ordinary adularia-sericite epithermal system in NE**
4 **China**

5
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Abstract

23

24 Tellurium (Te)-rich adularia-sericite epithermal Au-Ag deposits are an important
25 current and future source of precious and critical metals. However, the source and
26 evolution of ore-forming fluids in these deposits are masked by traditional bulk analysis
27 of quartz oxygen isotope ratios that homogenize fine scale textures and growth zones. To
28 advance understanding of the source of Te and precious metals, herein, we use
29 petrographic and cathodoluminescence (CL) images of such textures and growth zones to
30 guide high spatial resolution secondary ion mass spectroscopy (SIMS) oxygen isotope
31 analyses (10- μm spot) and spatially correlated fluid inclusion microthermometric
32 measurements on successive quartz bands in contemporary Te-rich and Te-poor
33 adularia-sericite (-quartz) epithermal Au-Ag vein deposits in northeastern China. The
34 results show that large positive oxygen isotope shifts from -7.1 to +7.7‰ in quartz rims
35 are followed by precipitation of Au-Ag telluride minerals in the Te-rich deposit, whereas
36 small oxygen isotope shifts of only 4‰ (-2.2 to +1.6‰) were detected in quartz
37 associated with Au-Ag minerals in the Te-poor deposits. Moreover, fluid-inclusion
38 homogenization temperatures are higher in comb quartz rims (avg. 266.4 to 277.5 °C)
39 followed by Au-Ag telluride minerals than in previous stages (~250 °C) in the Te-rich
40 deposit. The Te-poor deposit has a consistent temperature (~245 °C) in quartz that pre-
41 and postdates Au-Ag minerals. Together, the coupled increase in oxygen isotope ratios
42 and homogenization temperatures followed by precipitation of Au-Ag tellurides strongly

43 supports that inputs of magmatic fluid containing Au, Ag, and Te into barren meteoric
44 water-dominated flow systems are critical to formation of Te-rich adularia-sericite
45 epithermal Au-Ag deposits. In contrast, Te-poor adularia-sericite epithermal Au-Ag
46 deposits show little or no oxygen isotope or fluid inclusion evidence for inputs of
47 magmatic fluid.

48

49 **Key words:** quartz, SIMS, oxygen isotopes, fluid inclusions, magmatic fluid, Te,
50 epithermal Au-Ag deposits

51

52

1. Introduction

53

54 Tellurium (Te)-rich adularia-sericite epithermal Au-Ag deposits are important
55 producers of gold throughout the world ([Ahmad et al. 1987](#); [Spry et al. 1996](#); [Cooke and](#)
56 [McPhail 2001](#); [Cook and Ciobanu 2005](#); [Ciobanu et al. 2006](#); [Voudouris 2006](#); [Cook et al.](#)
57 [2009](#); [Saunders and Brueseke 2012](#); [Goldfarb et al. 2016, 2017](#); [Kelley and Spry 2016](#);
58 [Zhai et al. 2018](#); [Keith et al. 2020](#)). Some of these deposits are associated with alkalic
59 volcano-plutonic centers (e.g., Cripple Creek; [Kelley et al. 1998](#)) and others with
60 calc-alkalic volcano-plutonic centers (e.g., Sandaowanzi; [Gao et al. 2017](#)). Furthermore,
61 the magmatic belts that contain Te-rich Au-Ag deposits can also host Te-poor Au-Ag
62 deposits (e.g., Dong'an; [Zhang et al. 2010a](#) and [reference therein](#)). The source of Te in
63 continental magmatic belts has been attributed to the nature of sub continental

64 lithospheric mantle (SCLM) (e.g., [Holwell et al. 2019](#)). These deposits are economically
65 important and are a potential source of Te, which is a critical commodity for modern
66 technology, if current metallurgical impediments are resolved ([Spry et al. 2004](#); [Ciobanu](#)
67 [et al. 2006](#); [Cook et al. 2009](#); [Goldfarb et al. 2016, 2017](#); [Kelley and Spry 2016](#); [Jenkin et](#)
68 [al. 2019](#)).

69

70 In magmatic-hydrothermal systems, Te is generally interpreted to be derived from
71 igneous intrusions ([Jensen and Barton 2000](#); [Saunders and Brueseke 2012](#); [Kelley and](#)
72 [Spry 2016](#); [Holwell et al. 2019](#)); thus, magmatic fluids have been proposed to be involved
73 in the formation of Te-rich epithermal Au-Ag deposits (e.g., [Ciobanu et al. 2006](#)).
74 Recently, high-precision in situ oxygen isotope analyses by ion microprobe are regarded
75 to be the most effective way to detect short-lived oxygen isotope variations, which can
76 record transient variations of fluid inputs in hydrothermal ore deposits ([Valley and](#)
77 [Graham, 1996](#); [Smith et al. 1998](#); [Valley et al., 1998](#); [Saunders et al., 2008](#); [Tanner et al.,](#)
78 [2013](#); [Fekete et al., 2016](#); [Cernuschi et al., 2018](#); [Li et al., 2019](#); [Haroldson et al., 2020](#)).
79 However, in situ isotopic evidence in Te-rich epithermal Au-Ag deposits is scarce; thus,
80 the role of magmatic fluids in Te-rich epithermal Au-Ag deposits is still unclear. The
81 large range of oxygen isotope values in quartz obtained by conventional technique from
82 Te-rich epithermal deposits allows several interpretations. The highest $\delta^{18}\text{O}(\text{Qz})$ values of
83 up to 20‰ (e.g., Cripple Creek, Colorado, USA; [Beaty 1996](#)) are indicative of a
84 magmatic fluid dominated system (e.g., [Taylor 1997](#); [Hedenquist et al. 1998](#)). In contrast,

85 many other deposits have lower $\delta^{18}\text{O}(\text{Qz})$ values close to 0‰, such as Tongyoung (Korea)
86 ~3‰ (Shelton et al. 1990) and Sandaowanzi (northeast China) from -3.9 to -0.2‰ (Wu et
87 al., 2005a; Zhai et al. 2018) that are indicative of meteoric water dominated systems
88 (O'Neil and Silberman 1974; Hedenquist and Lowenstern 1994; Simmons 1995; John et
89 al. 2003; Simmons et al. 2005). The low oxygen isotope values raise the question: Is
90 magmatic fluid needed to form a Te-rich Au-Ag deposit? If needed, what process causes
91 Au-Ag telluride minerals to precipitate from magmatic fluids in epithermal systems (e.g.,
92 fluid boiling, mixing of magmatic fluid with meteoric water, or cooling; Anderson and
93 Eaton 1990; Cooke and McPhail 2001; Zhai et al. 2018)? How do ore-forming processes
94 differ between Te-rich and Te-poor epithermal Au-Ag deposits with low oxygen isotope
95 values (e.g., $\delta^{18}\text{O}(\text{Qz}) = 7\text{-}9\text{‰}$ at Hishikari, Japan; $\delta^{18}\text{O}(\text{Qz}) = -3.0$ to 1.5‰ at Dong'an,
96 northeastern China; Faure et al. 2002; Han 2013)?

97

98 To investigate these questions, we studied the contemporary Te-rich Sandaowanzi
99 and Te-poor Dong'an adularia-sericite epithermal Au-Ag deposits situated in an Early
100 Cretaceous continental magmatic arc in northeastern China. We used mineral textures
101 and cathodoluminescence (CL) imaging to guide high spatial resolution secondary ion
102 mass spectroscopy (SIMS) oxygen isotope analyses in combination with fluid inclusion
103 microthermometric measurements of the same generation of quartz to advance
104 understanding of the source and evolution of hydrothermal fluids in these two deposits.
105 The results show a large difference in the oxygen isotope ratios of quartz is associated

106 with Te-rich vs. Te-poor Au-Ag mineralization in these deposits. In combination with
107 fluid inclusion homogenization temperatures, the results reveal the evolution of
108 hydrothermal fluids and mechanisms of mineral precipitation. This study highlights the
109 role of magmatic fluid inputs to formation of high-grade Au, Ag, and Te veins and the
110 importance of correlating oxygen isotope analyses to fluid inclusion homogenization
111 temperatures on the same generation of quartz in complex banded veins to reveal the
112 source and evolution of ore-forming fluids.

113

114

2. Geologic setting

115

116 The Te-rich Sandaowanzi and Te-poor Dong'an epithermal Au-Ag deposits that are
117 the focus of this study are located in the eastern part of the Paleozoic Central Asian
118 Orogenic Belt (CAOB) ([Sengör et al. 1993](#); [Jahn et al. 2000](#); [Jahn 2004](#); [Li 2006](#)). It
119 consists of the Erguna and Xing'an Blocks in the northwest, the Songliao Block in the
120 central part, and the Jiamusi Massif in the east, separated by the De'erbugan,
121 Nenjiang-Hehei, and Jiayin-Mudanjiang structures, respectively ([Fig. 1a](#); [Wu et al. 2007](#)).
122 Sandaowanzi is in the Xing'an Block and Dong'an is in the Songliao Block ([Fig. 1a](#)).

123

124 The Xing'an Block is dominated by Early Cretaceous volcanic rocks ([Ge et al. 2005](#);
125 [Sui et al. 2007](#); [Zhang et al. 2010b](#); [Gao et al. 2017, 2018a, b](#)) and Neoproterozoic-Early
126 Cambrian metamorphic rocks, e.g., Luomahu Group ([Qu 2008](#); [Fig. 1a](#)). Although

127 sedimentation occurred during the Neoproterozoic and Paleozoic (Miao et al. 2004, 2007,
128 2015), metamorphism and deformation occurred in these blocks during the Jurassic (ca.
129 170-160 Ma; Miao et al. 2015). The Songliao Block is largely covered by Early
130 Cretaceous volcanic rocks (Wang et al. 2002; Zhang et al. 2008) with local exposures of
131 underlying granitoids and Proterozoic rocks (Wu et al. 2000, 2001; Wang et al. 2006; Pei
132 et al. 2007; Gao et al. 2007; Zhang et al. 2008) (Fig. 1a).

133

134 Regional structures mainly consist of NE- and NW-trending faults. The
135 Nenjiang-Heihe fault and Jiayin-Mudanjiang fault control the distribution of gold
136 deposits in the area (Fig. 1a). Early Cretaceous intrusions consist of granite, granodiorite,
137 and granite porphyry and have been dated at ca. 119-108 Ma (Gao et al. 2017, 2018b;
138 Zhao et al., 2019). Although the ore ages are imprecise, Sandaowanzi, Dong'an and
139 several other epithermal Au-Ag deposits in the area are interpreted to be coeval with a
140 period of a ca. 122-108 Ma of Early Cretaceous volcanism (Ge et al. 2005; Sui et al. 2007;
141 Zhang et al. 2010a; Gao et al. 2017, 2018a, b). Epithermal Au-Ag mineralization and
142 contemporaneous volcanism occurred in an extensional setting related to subduction of
143 the Paleo-Pacific Plate (e.g., Wu et al. 2005b).

144

145 **2.1. Sandaowanzi**

146

147 Sandaowanzi produced 22 t Au at an average grade of 14 g/t, 127 t Ag at an average

148 grade of 97 g/t, and 34 t of Te at an average grade of 17 g/t from gold-bearing quartz
149 veins hosted in Early Cretaceous volcanic rocks (Yu et al. 2012; Xu et al. 2012; Liu et al.
150 2013; Zhai and Liu 2014; Gao et al. 2017). Sandaowanzi is hosted in the Lower
151 Cretaceous Longjiang (121.7 Ma) Formation (Fm.). The lower and upper parts of the
152 Longjiang Fm. contain pyroclastic and lava flow facies, respectively, with rock types
153 comprising (brecciated) andesite and basaltic andesite. Geochemically, these igneous
154 rocks are enriched in LREEs, Pb, K, and U, depleted in Nb, P, and Ti and are
155 calc-alkaline (Gao et al. 2017). Major structures in the area include NW-SE- and
156 E-W-trending faults, with most deposits localized along NW-trending normal faults. The
157 E-W-trending faults are earlier than the volcanism and crosscut Jurassic intrusive rocks
158 (Fig. 1b). The main igneous intrusion in the area is the gray, medium-grained,
159 Sandaowanzi monzogranite (177.2 Ma; Gao et al. 2017). Near ore deposits, Sandaowanzi
160 monzogranite was emplaced under Longjiang Fm. andesite (Fig. 1b). Diabase dikes
161 (116.6 Ma; Liu et al. 2011) crosscut the ore bodies. The major ore type at Sandaowanzi
162 consists of Au-Ag-telluride-bearing quartz veins. Ore bodies (40 in three ore belts) occur
163 along WNW-trending normal faults in andesite flows and pyroclastic breccias of the
164 Lower Cretaceous Longjiang Fm. (Fig. 1b). Ore body II is the only current operating
165 stope. The lenticular ore body is 213 m long and 0.8-14.3 m thick (averaging ~6 m). It
166 strikes 20-40°, dips 58-77°, and plunges 520 m deep along the dip direction. The average
167 Au grade of ore body II is 13.98 g/t (Gao et al. 2017).

168

169 Five stages have been identified in the veins (Fig. 2a-e). Telluride minerals in the
170 deposit include calaverite, krennerite, sylvanite, petzite, hessite, stützite, empressite,
171 altaite and coloradoite, which coexist with chalcopyrite, sphalerite, tetrahedrite, galena,
172 native gold, and minor pyrite and bornite. Other silver-bearing phases include acanthite,
173 pyrargyrite, and kerargyrite. Petzite, sylvanite, calaverite, and native gold assemblages
174 generally occur in bonanza ore veins, and silver-bearing minerals occur mostly in the
175 upper parts of the ore bodies (Yu et al. 2012). Gold-Ag tellurides are the major
176 gold-bearing minerals (>95% of Au production); the remaining ~5% is in native gold.
177 Alteration minerals include quartz, pyrite, sericite, carbonates, anhydrite, chlorite, and
178 epidote. Pyrite, albite, and chlorite are widespread in the alteration halo, which is ~15 m
179 in width around the veins. Plagioclase is replaced by epidote, pyrite, calcite, sericite, and
180 chlorite. Other alteration minerals include pyrophyllite and minor siderite. Veins contain
181 quartz, calcite, and anhydrite with euhedral laumontite in vugs (Fig. 2f). Bulk oxygen
182 isotope analyses indicate meteoric sources for the vein-forming fluids with $\delta^{18}\text{O}(\text{Qz})$
183 ranging from -3.9 to -0.2, avg. -1.8 (Table 1; Wu et al. 2005a; Zhai et al. 2018). Sericite
184 from the alteration halo yielded $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ plateau, isochron, and total gas dates that
185 overlap within error and yield a preferred age of 122.4 ± 3.9 Ma (Cheng 2017).

186

187 **2.2. Dong'an**

188

189 Dong'an produced 24 t Au at an average grade of 8.8 g/t and 207 t Ag at an average

190 grade of 75.8 g/t from quartz-adularia veins hosted in Early Cretaceous volcanic rocks.
191 Stratigraphy at Dong'an includes Lower Cretaceous Guanghai Fm. volcanic rocks and
192 Oligocene-Pliocene sandstone and conglomerate. The Guanghai Fm. consists
193 predominantly of rhyolitic lava and rhyolitic tuff with minor dacitic lava that are
194 underlain by an Early Jurassic coarse- and fine-grained alkali feldspar granitic intrusion.
195 The volcanic sequence and granitic intrusion are cut by granite porphyry dikes (Fig. 1c).
196 The area is cut by a series of tensile-shear NS-, NE- and NNE-trending faults. The 14
197 gold orebodies recognized in the mine are controlled by NS- and NE-striking faults,
198 dipping NW at 70 to 85°. Eight of the orebodies are hosted in rhyolitic lavas, five are
199 hosted in rhyolitic porphyry dykes, and one is hosted in Jurassic granite. Gold-rich
200 orebodies are commonly brecciated and the breccias are bounded by faults. The size of
201 the gold veins varies considerably, from 50 to 800 m in length and 1 to 7 m in thickness.
202 They extend to depths of less than 400 m and have grades from 3 to 10 g/t Au. The
203 largest vein is 770 m long, 6.7 m thick on average, and has a vertical extent of 358 m,
204 with an average grade of 8.8 g/t Au and 75.8 g/t Ag.

205

206 Ore minerals occur in sparse disseminations, local dense disseminations, isolated
207 veinlets and stockworks inside the 1 to 7 m thick veins. Five stages have been identified
208 in the veins (Fig. 3). Pyrite, galena, chalcopyrite, sphalerite, hematite, acanthite, native
209 gold, electrum, and native silver are present in the ores (Fig. 4b). Altaite, petzite, hessite,
210 and melonite are rare. Electrum (>95%) is the major gold- and silver-bearing mineral,

211 with the remaining ~5% in Au-Ag tellurides. Quartz, adularia, chlorite, and calcite are the
212 most abundant gangue minerals, with fluorite in places. The gold veins are enclosed by
213 concentrically zoned alteration envelopes consisting of quartz, chalcedonic quartz, sericite,
214 adularia, chlorite, and pyrite. Bulk oxygen isotopes indicate meteoric sources for the
215 vein-forming fluids with $\delta^{18}\text{O}(\text{Qz})$ from -3.0 to 0.5, avg. -1.0 (Table 1; Ao et al. 2004;
216 Yang 2008; Han 2013). Sericite yielded a $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ date of 107.2 ± 0.6 Ma that is within
217 uncertainty of a zircon U-Pb date of 108.1 ± 2.4 Ma on rhyolite porphyry (Zhang et al.
218 2010a).

219

220

3. Methods

221

3.1. Sampling and petrography

222

223
224 Samples used in this study were collected from vein exposures and drill holes in both
225 vertical and horizontal directions at Sandaowanzi and Dong'an. The sample set includes
226 barren and ore-bearing veins with different textures (Fig. 5; Table 2). Images of samples
227 in reflected and transmitted light were obtained using petrographic microscope at the U.S.
228 Geological Survey Denver Inclusion Analysis Laboratory. Thick sections (~200 μm) were
229 used, because they are required for fluid inclusion studies. Although the birefringent
230 colors of minerals in thick sections are different from standard thin sections under
231 crossed polars, quartz textures are still evident. Representative samples were selected for

232 CL imaging.

233

234 **3.2. SEM-CL and EDS**

235

236 Cathodoluminescence (CL) images were acquired with a JEOL 5800LV scanning
237 electron microscope (SEM) operated at 10 or 15 kV and approximately 5 nA beam
238 current at the U.S. Geological Survey Denver Microbeam Laboratory. Double polished
239 thick sections (~200 μm) and mineral mounts from 35 samples of banded vein material
240 from Sandaowanzi and Dong'an were studied. The major element composition of
241 adularia was determined by energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS) with 50 mm^2
242 silicon drift detector on a FEI Quanta 450 FEG-SEM operated at 15 kV accelerating
243 voltage. Beam calibration was performed on copper metal and Oxford factory standards.
244 Orthoclase and albite standards were analyzed to check the calibration. The major
245 element compositions of adularia were used to calculate secondary ion mass spectrometer
246 (SIMS) bias corrections for $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values.

247

248 **3.3. Oxygen isotopes**

249

250 The $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values of quartz, chalcedony, and adularia from five representative samples
251 were measured using a CAMECA IMS 1280 SIMS at the WiscSIMS Laboratory,
252 University of Wisconsin-Madison ([Kita et al. 2009](#); [Valley and Kita 2009](#); [Heck et al.](#)

253 [2011](#)). Oxygen isotope ratios were analyzed using a 1.6 nA $^{133}\text{Cs}^+$ primary beam of ions
254 focused to a spot of ~ 10 μm diameter. Analysis pits were 1-2 μm deep. Ions of $^{16}\text{O}^-$ and
255 $^{18}\text{O}^-$ were simultaneously collected in two movable Faraday cup detectors with an
256 average $^{16}\text{O}^-$ intensity of 2.7×10^9 cps and $^{16}\text{O}^1\text{H}^-$ was collected in the axial Faraday cup
257 to check for traces of water in quartz. The magnetic field strength was held stable using a
258 nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) probe, which was readjusted every 12 h. The mass
259 resolving power ($\text{MRP} = M/\Delta M$), measured at 10% peak height, for $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ analytical
260 conditions was ~ 2200 for the movable Faraday detectors and ~ 5000 for the axial position,
261 allowing $^{16}\text{O}^1\text{H}^-$ to be resolved from $^{17}\text{O}^-$ ([Kita et al. 2009](#); [Wang et al. 2014](#)). Each spot
262 analysis took approximately 4 min, which includes 10 s of presputtering to penetrate the
263 gold coating, ~ 60 s to stabilize sputtering and automatically center the secondary ions in
264 the field aperture, and 80 s (20 cycles of 4 s each) to integrate secondary ions. Detailed
265 descriptions of these analytical conditions and the instrument setup at WiscSIMS have
266 been published previously ([Kelly et al. 2007](#); [Kita et al. 2009](#); [Valley and Kita 2009](#);
267 [Heck et al. 2011](#); [Wang et al. 2014](#)). All data were collected with a
268 standard-sample-standard bracketing procedure of four UWQ-1 quartz-standard
269 measurements, 10-16 sample measurements and four UWQ-1 standard measurements.
270 [Oster et al. \(2017\)](#) showed that the SIMS bias is not measurably different for UWQ-1, an
271 anhydrous quartz vs. the hydrous opal standard, BZVV. Bracketing standards were used
272 to evaluate the reproducibility of a series of measurements as well as to correct for the
273 instrumental bias and minor instrument drift. The external spot-to-spot reproducibility of

274 bracketing standards averaged $\pm 0.22\%$ (2 standard deviations, SD) for oxygen isotope
275 analyses. Raw values of isotope ratios measured by SIMS were corrected to the Vienna
276 standard mean oceanic water (VSMOW) scale for oxygen based on values measured for
277 the UWQ-1 bracketing standards (UWQ-1: $\delta^{18}\text{O} = 12.33\%$, VSMOW, [Kelly et al. 2007](#);
278 [Heck et al. 2011](#)). To ensure that the best precision and accuracy were achieved, all
279 analyses were conducted on spots within 5 mm of the center of a polished 25 mm mount
280 ([Kita et al. 2009](#); [Peres et al. 2013](#)).

281

282 Four feldspar reference materials, Amelia Ab (Or% = 0), MES-4 (Or% = 71), FCS
283 (Or% = 75), and Gem28 (Or% = 93), were measured in the same SIMS session to
284 determine the bias as a function of major element chemistry ([Pollington 2013](#)). Because
285 we use UWQ-1 as a bracketing standard, all calculations use the difference in the biases
286 of quartz and feldspar to calculate VSMOW values of feldspar (adularia) ([Pollington](#)
287 [2013](#)). Relative bias to UWQ-1 of Amelia Ab was 3.87‰ for end member albite during
288 the analysis session. The relative biases of FC, MES-4, and Gem28 were 4.76‰, 4.98‰,
289 and 4.94‰ for K-feldspar, respectively ([Appendix A](#)). The mean measured UWQ-1
290 values are 5.94‰ for SG-1, 5.82‰ for SG-2, and 5.98‰ for SG-3, respectively. All
291 measured feldspars (adularia) were measured with SG-3.

292

293 Values of $^{16}\text{O}^1\text{H}/^{16}\text{O}^-$ (OH/O hereafter) were background corrected for contaminant
294 OH by subtracting the average OH/O values measured on bracketing analyses of UWQ-1

295 quartz standard that comes from a granulite facies quartzite and is assumed to be
296 anhydrous (see Wang et al. 2014). Background corrected ratios of OH/O are not
297 calibrated against a standard but are useful on a relative basis to identify subtle changes
298 in OH content of silica (e.g., chalcedony) as well as aqueous solid and fluid inclusions.

299

300 **3.4. Microthermometry**

301

302 In each of the five representative samples, fluid inclusion assemblages observed in
303 crystalline quartz were spatially correlated with the CL bands analyzed by SIMS. Fluid
304 inclusion petrography and microthermometry were conducted at the U.S. Geological
305 Survey Denver Inclusion Analysis Laboratory. A Linkman 600 heating/freezing stage on
306 an Olympus BX60 microscope was used to measure the ice melting temperature and
307 homogenization temperature of fluid inclusions in each assemblage. A pure H₂O standard
308 with an ice melting temperature (T_m) of 0 °C and a critical homogenization temperature
309 (T_h) of 373.6 °C was used to calibrate the stage with the data reproducible to ± 0.2 °C for
310 ice melting temperatures and ± 2.0 °C for homogenization temperatures.

311

312

4. Results

313

314 **4.1. Petrography of minerals**

315

316 In this study, we describe quartz textures using terminology from Dong et al. (1995)
317 for adularia-sericite epithermal deposits. Colloform (Fig. 6a-e), jigsaw (Fig. 6b), bladed
318 (Fig. 7a), flamboyant (Fig. 7b), plumose (Fig. 7c), granoblastic and comb (Fig. 6c-e)
319 textures were observed under crossed polars. Other textures such as zonal and cockade
320 are evident on SEM-CL images.

321

322 At Sandaowanzi, colloform textures (Stage I) are barren of gold and consist of
323 alternating bands of fine-grained quartz with a jigsaw texture and thin layers of quartz
324 with a granoblastic texture (Fig. 6a, b). In thin section, jigsaw texture is characterized by
325 aggregates of microcrystalline to coarse crystalline quartz crystals with interpenetrating
326 grain boundaries (Fig. 6a, b). Fibrous chalcedony with sweeping extinction and a
327 botryoidal texture (Stage II) also grows on, or is mantled by, quartz with a granoblastic
328 texture (Fig. 6c). Intervening quartz layers with granoblastic and comb textures (Stage III;
329 Fig. 6d, e) usually contain sparse liquid-rich fluid inclusions. Gold-silver telluride bands
330 are associated with a thin overgrowth (Stage IV) on comb quartz (Fig. 6c-f).

331

332 At Dong'an, bladed texture (Stage I) consists of chalcedony and crystal quartz (Fig.
333 7a). Flamboyant texture (Stage II), followed by Stage III quartz and chalcedony, contains
334 three dimensional arrays of small liquid- and vapor-rich inclusions that follow
335 crystallographic axes (Fig. 7b). Plumose texture (Stage IV; Fig. 7c) consists of quartz and
336 chalcedony overgrowths on euhedral adularia (Stage IV; Fig. 7d). Colloform textures

337 (Stage IV) are usually mineralized and consist of alternating bands of fine-grained quartz,
338 coarse-grained quartz, chalcedony, and fine-grained adularia with electrum, pyrite, and
339 sphalerite +/- trace amounts of Au-Ag tellurides (Fig. 7d, e, f).

340

341 **4.2. Cathodoluminescence of minerals**

342

343 Cathodoluminescence (CL) images were used to further document the paragenetic
344 relationships among textures of, and zoning within quartz, chalcedony, adularia, and
345 other gangue and ore minerals. The CL images shown in Figures 8 and 9 are of the thick
346 sections that we used for SIMS $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and fluid inclusion analyses. Textural complexity is
347 clearly evident. In each panel, the white arrows show the direction of mineral growth
348 with stages indicated by Roman numerals. Barren and high-grade material collected from
349 the Sandaowanzi quartz-telluride veins is shown on Figure 8 and Dong'an
350 quartz-adularia-electrum veins on Figure 9. Granoblastic and comb quartz is CL-gray
351 (Fig. 8a-c), CL-dark, or CL-bright (Fig. 8d, e), whereas chalcedony is homogeneous and
352 CL-dark (Fig. 8b, c). Adularia is also homogeneous and CL-dark relative to quartz (Fig.
353 9b, c). The multiple generations of quartz identified by CL at Sandaowanzi and Dong'an
354 were grouped into five stages based on crosscutting relationships, growth zones, and
355 mineral assemblages as described below.

356

357 At Sandaowanzi, the paragenetic sequence is (I) fine-grained quartz + coarse-grained

358 quartz, (II) chalcedony + CL-gray quartz + CL-dark quartz + CL-bright quartz, (III)
359 CL-gray comb quartz + CL-dark zonal quartz, (IV) CL-bright quartz + CL-dark quartz +
360 Au-Ag-tellurides, and (V) thin veinlets of CL-bright quartz (Fig. 8). Colloform textures
361 are common at Sandaowanzi, and many are barren (Fig. 8a). Stage I has a colloform
362 texture consisting of alternating fine-grained and coarse-grained quartz bands (Fig. 8a).
363 Fine-grained quartz has a jigsaw texture in thin section, is CL-dark, and lacks fluid
364 inclusions. Coarse-grained quartz is generally CL-gray and contains sparse tiny fluid
365 inclusions. In high-grade veins, Stage I colloform quartz is sometimes brecciated and
366 overgrown by Stage II chalcedony and crystalline quartz (e.g., Fig. 8b). In some sections,
367 Stage II chalcedony forms circles that are overgrown by quartz (Fig. 8c). Stage III quartz
368 consists of CL-gray comb and CL-dark zones that are overgrown by a Stage IV thin rim
369 of CL-bright and dark quartz followed by Au-Ag-tellurides (Fig. 8c-e). Thin (20 ~ 120
370 μm in width), Stage V veinlets of CL-bright quartz are also present that crosscut the early
371 stages (e.g., Fig. 8b). Fluid inclusions are present in Stages I, II, and III CL-gray and
372 CL-bright quartz crystals.

373

374 At Dong'an, the paragenetic sequence is (I) bladed chalcedony + bladed quartz, (II)
375 CL-dark quartz + CL-bright quartz, (III) chalcedony + CL-gray quartz + CL-bright quartz,
376 (IV) adularia + chalcedony + CL-dark quartz + CL-gray quartz + electrum, and (V) thin
377 veinlets of CL-dark and bright quartz (Fig. 9). Bladed quartz textures including ghost and
378 lattice are common at Dong'an, and many are barren. Both chalcedony and bladed Stage I

379 quartz are CL-dark, whereas Stage II and III quartz are both CL-bright and CL-dark and
380 can have a circular shape (Fig. 9a). Stage II quartz is sometimes brecciated and
381 overgrown by Stage III of chalcedony, CL-gray, and CL-bright quartz with a cockade
382 texture (e.g., Fig. 9b). In ore-bearing veins, earlier stages of quartz are typically
383 brecciated and cemented with Stage IV adularia (Fig. 9b and c). Stage IV adularia is
384 overgrown by chalcedony, CL-dark quartz and CL-gray comb quartz followed by
385 electrum (Fig. 9c). Stage V veinlets of quartz are also present and crosscut the Stage II,
386 III, and IV quartz bands (Fig. 9b and c). Stages I, II, and IV quartz contain fluid
387 inclusions.

388

389 **4.3. SIMS oxygen isotopes**

390

391 SIMS oxygen isotope analyses of quartz, chalcedony and adularia from three
392 samples at Sandaowanzi and two samples at Dong'an are presented in Appendix A and
393 displayed on Figures 8-10. Sandaowanzi quartz and chalcedony have a wide range of
394 $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values from -7.1 to +7.7‰. A slight decrease from Stage I to Stage III is followed
395 by an abrupt increase in Stage IV quartz, which is mantled by Au-Ag-tellurides (Fig. 10a).
396 At Dong'an, quartz and chalcedony have a narrow range from -2.2 to +1.6‰, and
397 adularia varies from -5.9 to -3.5‰ (Fig. 10b).

398

399 In Stage I barren colloform texture quartz at Sandaowanzi, $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values fluctuate

400 mildly along the direction of growth (Fig. 8a). Bands of fine-grained quartz (FQ, blue
401 symbols) have $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values that are 1-2‰ higher than those of more coarsely crystalline
402 quartz (red symbols) (Fig. 8a). In contrast, the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values of Stage II CL-gray quartz and
403 chalcedony are 3-4‰ lower than brecciated Stage I fine-grained quartz (Fig. 8b, c). Stage
404 III CL-gray comb quartz also has $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values that are 1-2‰ lower than Stage II
405 CL-bright and CL-gray quartz and chalcedony (Fig. 8d, e). Notably, the Stage II quartz
406 and chalcedony and Stage III CL-gray comb quartz have much lower $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values (down
407 to -7.1‰) than the rims of Stage IV CL-dark and CL-bright quartz followed by tellurides
408 (e.g., Fig. 8d, e). The Stage V thin quartz veinlet has an $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ value of -2.4‰ (e.g., Fig.
409 8b).

410

411 In Stage I to Stage III barren ghost bladed textures at Dong'an, $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values fluctuate
412 from -2.2 to +1.6‰ with a median of -0.3‰ (Fig. 9a). In Stage II to Stage III silica bands
413 with a cockade texture, $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values have a narrow range from -2.1 to -0.2‰ (Fig. 9b). In
414 ore-bearing veins, the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values of Stage IV quartz followed by electrum have a narrow
415 range from -1.6 to -0.2‰ (Fig. 9c) that is within the range of values from the barren
416 bands (Stage I to Stage III). Moreover, the Stage V thin quartz veinlet crosscutting silica
417 bands and cockade texture also has $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values from -1.1 to -0.1‰ that are similar to the
418 other stages (Fig. 9b, c).

419

420 4.4. Fluid inclusion microthermometry

421

422 Fluid inclusion petrography and microthermometry were conducted on the same
423 samples used for CL imaging and SIMS analysis, which enabled spatial correlation of
424 homogenization temperatures with the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ results obtained on specific bands of quartz.
425 Fluid inclusions were only observed in crystalline quartz and they are uncommon (Fig.
426 11). None were observed in fine-grained quartz or chalcedony. Microthermometric
427 measurements were generally made on inclusions more than 5 μm in diameter. Most of
428 the inclusions were classified as primary; they have irregular shapes, occur along crystal
429 growth zones, and are liquid-rich with 0 to 25 vol% vapor at room temperature.
430 Secondary inclusions along fractures are also liquid-rich. Thus, the primary liquid-rich
431 inclusions in crystal quartz were trapped prior to, or between, episodes of boiling.
432 Microthermometric measurements on liquid-rich inclusions from each band are
433 summarized in Table 3. All of the liquid-rich inclusions are dilute with salinities between
434 0 and 1.0 wt.% NaCl equiv. The homogenization temperatures (T_h) of primary liquid-rich
435 inclusions vary from 237 to 281 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ (Fig. 12) and have higher temperatures than those of
436 secondary inclusions with T_h from 164 to 216 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. Entrapment temperature is
437 approximately equal to homogenization temperature because of low pressure in
438 epithermal systems (Hass, 1971). To evaluate this further, the pressure-corrected
439 temperatures at the conditions of $T_h = 250$ $^{\circ}\text{C}$ and $T_m = -0.5$ $^{\circ}\text{C}$ are 251, 255, and 259 $^{\circ}\text{C}$
440 with the referred pressures of 50, 100, and 150 bars, respectively (Steele-MacInnis et al.,
441 2012).

442

443 At Sandaowanzi, fluid inclusions in a band of Stage I quartz with barren colloform
444 texture have a narrow range of high T_h from 268.6 to 270.2 °C (average 269.4 °C); three
445 groups of secondary fluid inclusions with lower T_h are also present (Table 3). Stage II
446 CL-bright quartz has a T_h range from 248.6 to 252.4 °C (avg. 250.9 °C). Fluid inclusions
447 in two bands of Stage III CL-gray quartz have a narrow range of T_h with averages of
448 248.2 °C and 250.5 °C. The low $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of fluids in equilibrium with such quartz suggest
449 that it precipitated from exchanged meteoric water. In contrast, fluid inclusions in Stage
450 III comb quartz followed by the Stage IV rim associated with Au-Ag-tellurides have
451 higher average T_h values of 276.2, 266.4, and 277.5 °C (Table 3), and the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values of
452 fluids in equilibrium with the Stage IV rim are much higher.

453

454 At Dong'an, fluid inclusions in Stage I quartz with a ghost bladed texture also have
455 high T_h from 267.6 to 269.5 °C (avg. 268.6 °C) (Table 3). This temperature may be
456 representative of fluids prior to boiling. Fluid inclusions in Stage II CL-bright quartz
457 layers in colloform texture have T_h from 242.1 to 245.0 °C (avg. 243.4 °C). Similarly, the
458 T_h of fluid inclusions in Stage IV CL-gray comb quartz followed by electrum vary
459 between 237.2 and 255.7 °C (avg. 244.6 °C) and between 244.2 and 248.9 °C (avg.
460 246.6 °C) (Table 3), which are within the range of data from barren bands. These data
461 indicate that the quartz and adularia bands associated with electrum precipitated at
462 average temperatures, which is unlike Sandaowanzi.

463

464

5. Discussion

465

466 Box and whisker plots showing the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values of each stage of chalcedony, quartz,
467 and adularia from Sandaowanzi and Dong'an are compared to one another on **Figure 10**
468 and discussed below. Both Sandaowanzi and Dong'an have similar initial $\delta^{18}\text{O}(\text{Qz})$
469 values ($\sim 0\%$, Stage-I; **Fig. 10a, b**) and fluid inclusion homogenization temperatures
470 ($\sim 270\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$; **Fig. 10c, d**). These initial fluids ($\delta^{18}\text{O}(\text{H}_2\text{O}) = -8.6\%$, Stage-I; **Fig. 10e, f**) are
471 indicative of isotopically exchanged meteoric water (e.g., [Hedenquist and Lowenstern](#)
472 [1994](#); [Simmons 1995](#); [John et al. 2003](#); [Simmons et al. 2005](#)) and are typical of most
473 other adularia-sericite Au-Ag deposits in the world (e.g., [Simmons 1995](#); [Faure et al.](#)
474 [2002](#); [John et al. 2003](#)). The magmatic fluid signal is thought to be weak in these deposits,
475 because the intrusive source is deep such that magmatic fluids are diluted by a much
476 larger volume of meteoric water (e.g., [Giggenbach 1992](#); [Hedenquist and Lowenstern](#)
477 [1994](#); [Simmons 1995](#); [Simmons et al. 2005](#)).

478

479 At Sandaowanzi, variations in the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of quartz from $\sim 0\%$ in Stage I, to $\sim -4\%$ in
480 Stage II, to $\sim -6\%$ in Stage III, to $\sim +7\%$ in Stage IV, to $\sim -3\%$ in Stage V (**Fig. 10a**) show
481 that, at the micron to millimeter scale only accessible by SIMS (10- μm spots), $\delta^{18}\text{O}$
482 fluctuates by 15%. We infer that this fluctuation reflects a step change in the proportions
483 of meteoric and magmatic and fluid in the veins (**Fig. 10a**). Evidence for the mixing of

484 meteoric water with magmatic fluids is provided by the low $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values of Stage II-III
485 quartz, the high $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ value of Stage IV quartz followed by Au-Ag-tellurides, and the low
486 $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values of Stage V quartz veins (Fig. 10a). The abrupt positive $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ shift (up to +7.7)
487 detected in Stage IV quartz followed by Au-Ag telluride minerals at Sandaowanzi (Figs.
488 8c-e and 10a) is similar to those attributed to input of magmatic fluids or vapors in other
489 deposits (Giggenbach 1992; Hedenquist and Lowenstern 1994; Simmons 1995; Spry et al.
490 1996; Taylor 1997; Hedenquist et al. 1998; Simmons et al. 2005; Christie et al. 2007;
491 Saunders et al. 2008; Simpson and Mauk 2011; Simmons et al. 2016).

492
493 Regarding ore-forming processes at Sandaowanzi, (i) colloform quartz veins (Stage I)
494 are typical textures that form from boiling fluids and are thought to be a product of
495 flashing-intense episodic boiling where the majority of the liquid transforms to steam
496 (Moncada et al. 2012; Shimizu 2014; Simpson et al. 2015; Taksavasu et al. 2018). Layers
497 of chalcedony and fine-grained quartz with a jigsaw texture are thought to form by
498 recrystallization of an amorphous silica precursor that precipitated during episodes of
499 boiling (Fournier 1985; Saunders 1990, 1994; Herrington and Wilkinson 1993; Saunders
500 and Schoenly 1995; Shimizu et al. 1998; John et al. 2003; Shimizu 2014; Prokofiev et al.
501 2016). (ii) The small decrease in oxygen isotope ratios from Stage I to III indicates that
502 hydrothermal fluids were still dominated by meteoric water (Fig. 10e). (iii) The
503 subsequent increase by up to 15‰ during Stage IV records a substantial input of
504 magmatic fluids into the veins. The euhedral comb textures of Stage III and IV quartz are

505 unlike typical textures that form from boiling fluids (e.g., bladed quartz, [Dong et al. 1995](#);
506 [Moncada et al. 2012](#)), which suggests that they precipitated from slowly changing
507 conditions, such as fluid mixing or gentle boiling (a relatively small portion of the liquid
508 mass is transferred to the vapor phase) or nonboiling ([Fournier 1985](#); [Dong et al. 1995](#);
509 [Moncada et al. 2012](#); [Shimizu 2014](#); [Taksavas et al. 2018](#)). Fluid inclusions in Stage III
510 quartz (~280 °C) followed by the Stage IV rim have higher homogenization temperatures
511 than those in Stage II quartz (~250 °C). (iv) After Stage IV magmatic fluid input, Stage V
512 quartz $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values decrease to -2.8‰, which reflects dilution by meteoric water with a
513 calculated $\delta^{18}\text{O}(\text{H}_2\text{O}) = -12.3\text{‰}$.

514

515 Although the positive oxygen isotope shift in Stage IV quartz could theoretically be
516 explained by intense boiling with rapid cooling and oxygen isotope exchange with host
517 rocks, textures (e.g., bladed quartz) with fluid inclusions (e.g., coexisting vapor-rich and
518 liquid-rich) that form from boiling fluids are absent, and host rocks were sealed off by
519 earlier stages of quartz. Fluid inclusion data also show that temperature increased (from
520 250 to 280 °C) in comb quartz followed by tellurides, which indicates that the positive
521 oxygen isotope shift (15‰) was accompanied by heating rather than cooling.
522 Furthermore, if the fluid moved through underlying metasedimentary rocks, they are
523 unlikely to leach significant amounts of Te because of the low Te concentration in the
524 crust (5 ppb; [Wedepohl 1995](#)). In addition, the subaerial continental setting of NE China
525 in the Early Cretaceous precludes involvement of seawater in the hydrothermal systems.

526 Thus, the abrupt positive shift in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values in Stage IV quartz and the ensuing
527 precipitation of Au-Ag telluride minerals must be due to a significant input of magmatic
528 fluid.

529

530 To evaluate this further, the mixing ratios between hot (300, 325, and 350 °C)
531 magmatic water and cooler 250 °C exchanged meteoric water required to produce a shift
532 from Stage III (average -5‰) to Stage IV (max +7.7‰), are ~1.7/1, ~1.9/1, and ~2.2/1 at
533 corresponding temperatures of 281, 299, and 318 °C, respectively (Fig. 13). These results
534 show that mixing with 300 °C magmatic fluids is required to explain the $\delta^{18}\text{O}(\text{Qz})$ shift
535 from -5 to 7.7‰ and the maximum temperature of ~278 °C recorded by fluid inclusions.
536 Higher temperature magmatic fluids produce the same isotopic shift at much higher
537 temperatures. Magmatic fluid must have been saturated with dissolved silica because it
538 cooled from magmatic temperatures to 300 °C before mixing with 250 °C exchanged
539 meteoric water. Because the difference in silica solubility between 300 °C magmatic fluid
540 and 250 °C exchanged meteoric water is small, only a small amount of quartz
541 precipitated followed by tellurides. The magmatic fluid must also have had a low salinity
542 or the increase in temperature would have been accompanied by a marked increase in
543 salinity, which is not observed. We therefore surmise that the magmatic fluid in this
544 system consisted of low salinity condensed magmatic vapor with elevated Te, Au, and Ag
545 contents, as postulated by Williams-Jones and Heinrich (2005).

546

547 At Dong'an, although five stages of quartz were also distinguished, the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values
548 of quartz and chalcedony are much more consistent with a narrow range of -2.2 to +1.6‰
549 that is indicative of meteoric hydrothermal fluids (Fig. 10b). Although adularia has a
550 lower range from -5.9 to -3.5‰ (Fig. 10b), this difference is mostly due to the ~3‰
551 fractionation factor between quartz and K-feldspar at epithermal conditions (Clayton et al.
552 1972, 1989; Chiba et al. 1989). In other words, adularia precipitated from the same fluid
553 as quartz and chalcedony.

554

555 Regarding ore-forming processes at Dong'an, (i) Stage I bladed quartz is a
556 pseudomorphic replacement of bladed calcite that formed by boiling of meteoric water
557 (Simmons and Christenson 1994; Dong et al. 1995; Etoh et al. 2002a) and has oxygen
558 isotope values that fluctuate over a range of ~2.0‰. (ii) Stage II flamboyant texture
559 followed by Stage III quartz and chalcedony also forms from boiling fluids (Bodnar et al.
560 1985; Dong et al. 1995) and oxygen isotope compositions did not change much during
561 precipitation of Stage II and III quartz and chalcedony. (iii) Subsequent boiling during
562 Stage IV was accompanied by an increase in pH and precipitation of quartz, adularia,
563 calcite, electrum, sphalerite, and galena with plumose and colloform textures (Reed 1982;
564 Reed and Sycher 1985; Simmons and Browne 2000; Zhou et al. 2001; Etoh et al. 2002b;
565 Shimizu 2014). Gold-Ag tellurides are notably rare or absent. Fluid inclusions in Stage
566 IV quartz also have homogenization temperatures that are similar to those in Stage II
567 quartz (~245 °C). (iv) Finally, although oxygen isotope evidence for inputs of magmatic

568 fluid is not obvious, the trace amount of Au-Ag telluride minerals allows that inputs may
569 have been minute inputs (Fig. 7f). These results confirm that boiling was the main
570 mechanism of Au-Ag mineralization in Stage IV quartz-adularia-electrum bands at
571 Dong'an, which is also similar to other adularia-sericite Au-Ag deposits in the world (e.g.,
572 Hishikari, Japan; [Hayashi et al. 2001](#); [Faure et al. 2002](#)).

573

574

6. Implications

575

576 This study shows that detailed understanding of the textures, oxygen isotope
577 compositions, homogenization temperatures, and salinities of fluid inclusions within
578 paragenetically complex quartz veins can advance understanding of fluid sources and
579 processes of mineral precipitation in Au-Ag ± Te bearing epithermal systems. The
580 detailed CL patterns, oxygen isotope, and temperature variations documented in these
581 quartz veins show that inputs of magmatic fluid into adularia-sericite epithermal systems
582 are exceedingly difficult to detect without in situ micro analysis spatially correlated to
583 textures. Furthermore, these minerals only record clear evidence of magmatic inputs in
584 thin growth zones of quartz (20-100 μm) that are mantled by Au-Ag-Te minerals.
585 Consequently, most of the evidence gathered from gangue minerals in these systems
586 using conventional methods is apt to record convection and episodic boiling of more or
587 less barren meteoric hydrothermal fluids. Our results support a growing body of evidence
588 that productive high-grade Au-Ag-telluride ores in adularia-sericite epithermal systems

589 form by the input of magmatic fluids into otherwise barren meteoric flow systems. This
590 interpretation is consistent with that proposed to explain the origin of bonanza epithermal
591 Au-Ag deposits in the Northern Great Basin, USA, based on the O and Pb isotope
592 compositions of ore and gangue minerals (Saunders et al., 2008) and thus may have broad
593 applicability.

594

595

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596

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List of figure captions

997

998 Fig. 1. (a). Regional geologic map showing the location of Au-Ag deposits in north
999 Heilongjiang province, NE China (after [Gao 2017](#); [Zhao et al. 2019](#)). The inset shows the

1000 location of the regional map relative to crustal blocks in NE China. Geologic map and
1001 cross section of Sandaowanzi (b) (after [Liu et al. 2013](#); [Gao et al. 2017](#)) and Dong'an
1002 deposits (c) (after [Zhang et al. 2010a](#)).

1003

1004 Fig. 2. Photos of multiple generations of quartz from Sandaowanzi. (a). Stage I quartz
1005 veins hosted by andesite from underground. (b). Brecciated Stage I vein quartz cemented
1006 by the Stage II quartz from underground. (c). Stage II and Stage III quartz veins from
1007 underground. (d-e). Five stages of quartz and tellurides in the ore. (f). Early quartz vug
1008 with late euhedral laumontite. Roman numeral is quartz stage.

1009 Abbreviations: Lmt=Laumontite. Qz=Quartz. SEE=Southeast-East.

1010

1011 Fig. 3. Photos of multiple generations of quartz from Dong'an. (a). Five generations of
1012 quartz with early bladed and late colloform textures in drill core. Early bladed textures
1013 cross-cut by late colloform textures. (b). Ore-bearing colloform textures from open pit.
1014 Stage I, II, II, IV quartz in vein hosted by altered rhyolite, and crosscut by Stage 5 thin
1015 quartz veinlets. (c). Stage IV quartz, chalcedony, and adularia crosscut by Stage V thin
1016 quartz veinlets from open pit. (d). Early bladed quartz textures that are barren of gold. (e).
1017 Colloform texture vein with four stages of quartz hosted in altered rhyolite. (f).
1018 Ore-bearing colloform vein. As in b, four stages of quartz are cut by Stage V thin quartz
1019 veinlets. Roman numeral is quartz stage.

1020 Abbreviations: Adl=Adularia. Chc=Chalcedony. Lmt=Laumontite. Qz=Quartz.

1021

1022 Fig. 4. Paragenesis of ore and gangue minerals in the veins. (a). Sandaowanzi deposit. (b).
1023 Dong'an deposit.

1024

1025 Fig. 5. Sample locations from underground, open pit, and drill holes. (a). Longitudinal
1026 vertical projection of Sandaowanzi veins. (b). Plane map and cross section of Dong'an
1027 veins.

1028

1029 Fig. 6. Representative photomicrographs of quartz textures under crossed polars in
1030 transmitted light (a-e, sample thickness ~200 μm) and ore minerals in reflected light (f)
1031 from Sandaowanzi. (a). Colloform texture consisting of fine-grained quartz with a jigsaw
1032 texture and crystalline quartz with granoblastic texture. (b). Thin colloform texture with
1033 alternating bands of fine-grained jigsaw texture quartz and crystalline quartz. (c-e).
1034 Chalcedony, dark quartz, and crystalline quartz with a comb texture followed by
1035 tellurides. (f). Coarse-grained hessite, stützite, and petzite associated with comb quartz
1036 from figure d.

1037 Abbreviations: Chc=Chalcedony. Qz=Quartz. Hes=Hessite. Ptz=Petzite. Stü=Stützite.
1038 CQ=Comb quartz. FQ=Fine-grained quartz.

1039

1040 Fig. 7. Representative photomicrographs of quartz textures under crossed polars in
1041 transmitted light (a-d, sample thickness ~200 μm) and ore minerals in reflected light (e-f)

1042 from Dong'an. (a). Bladed quartz followed by chalcedonic quartz. (b). Quartz crystals
1043 with liquid- and vapor-rich inclusions in flamboyant texture. (c). Dark adularia crystals
1044 followed by plumose quartz. (d). Adularia and quartz bands with sulfides, tellurides, and
1045 electrum. (e). Pyrite, sphalerite, argentite, and electrum in colloform bands from figure d.
1046 (f). Rare fine-grained hessite, petzite, altaite, and electrum.

1047 Abbreviations: Act=Acanthite. Adl=Adularia. Alt=Altaite. Chc=Chalcedony.
1048 Elc=Electrum. Gn=Galena. Hes=Hessite. Ptz=Petzite. Py=Pyrite. Qz=Quartz.
1049 Sp=Sphalerite. BQ=Bladed quartz. PQ=Plumose quartz.

1050

1051 Fig. 8. CL images of quartz and chalcedony from Sandaowanzi. SIMS oxygen isotope
1052 spots are in red, and homogenization temperatures of fluid inclusion assemblages are
1053 outlined in yellow. The orange dashed lines show how each band of quartz correlates with
1054 the oxygen isotope profile in red and corresponding fluid composition in blue. The
1055 quartz-water fractionation factor from Clayton et al. (1972) and Friedman and O'Neil
1056 (1977) and fluid inclusion homogenization temperature from each band were used to
1057 calculate $\delta^{18}\text{O}(\text{H}_2\text{O})$. In bands where fluid inclusions are absent, temperature data from
1058 adjacent bands were used. (a). Colloform quartz with thin layer. (b and c). Fine-grained,
1059 drusy, and chalcedonic quartz without tellurides (b) and with abundant tellurides (c). (d
1060 and e). Chalcedonic, fine-grained, and crystal quartz with abundant tellurides.

1061 Abbreviations: Chc=Chalcedony. Qz=Quartz. FQ=Fine-grained quartz. QB=Quartz with
1062 CL-bright. QD=Quartz with CL-dark. QG=Quartz with CL-gray. QV=Quartz vein (Thin).

1063

1064 Fig. 9. CL images of quartz, chalcedony and adularia at Dong'an. SIMS oxygen isotope
1065 spots are in red, and homogenization temperatures of fluid inclusion assemblages are
1066 outlined in yellow. The orange dashed lines show how each band of quartz correlates with
1067 the oxygen isotope profile in red and corresponding fluid composition in blue. The
1068 quartz-water fractionation factor from Clayton et al. (1972) and Friedman and O'Neil
1069 (1977) and fluid inclusion homogenization temperature from each band were used to
1070 calculate $\delta^{18}\text{O}(\text{H}_2\text{O})$. The K-feldspar-water fractionation factor from O'Neil and Taylor
1071 (1967) fluid inclusion homogenization temperature from quartz in the same band with
1072 adularia were used to calculate $\delta^{18}\text{O}(\text{H}_2\text{O})$. In bands where fluid inclusions are absent,
1073 temperature data from adjacent bands were used. (a). Barren ghost-bladed texture quartz.
1074 (b and c). Colloform and cockade texture (b) and colloform texture (c) with minor Au-Ag
1075 minerals.

1076 Abbreviations: Adl=Adularia. Chc=Chalcedony. Qz=Quartz. QB=Quartz with CL-bright.
1077 QD=Quartz with CL-dark. QG=Quartz with CL-gray. QV=Quartz vein (Thin).

1078

1079 Fig. 10. Box and whisker plots of SIMS $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ data from chalcedony, quartz, and adularia
1080 in the Sandaowanzi and Dong'an deposits. (a and b). Measured $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ data. (c and d).
1081 Homogenization temperature of fluid inclusions spatially correlated to measured $\delta^{18}\text{O}$
1082 data from each band. (e and f). Calculated $\delta^{18}\text{O}(\text{H}_2\text{O})$ for every SIMS spot. (a, c, and e).
1083 Sandaowanzi. (b, d, and f). Dong'an. The orange dashed lines separate each stage.

1084 Abbreviations: FQ=Fine-grained quartz. Adl=Adularia. Chc=Chalcedony. Qz=Quartz.
1085 QB=Quartz with CL-bright. QD=Quartz with CL-dark. QG=Quartz with CL-gray.
1086 QV=Quartz vein (Thin).

1087

1088 Fig. 11. Images of fluid inclusion assemblages with their average (Avg.) homogenization
1089 temperatures (T_h) from Sandaowanzi (a-c) and Dong'an (d-f). (a). Fluid inclusion
1090 assemblages from thin colloform texture shown on Figure 8a. (b). Fluid inclusion
1091 assemblages from CL-bright quartz shown on Figure 8d. (c). Fluid inclusion assemblages
1092 from CL-dark quartz near tellurides shown on Figure 8d, e. (d). Fluid inclusion
1093 assemblages from ghost-bladed texture shown on Figure 9a. (e). Fluid inclusion
1094 assemblages form CL-bright quartz breccia shown on Figure 9b. (f). Fluid inclusion
1095 assemblages form CL-gray quartz near electrum shown on Figure 9c.

1096

1097 Fig. 12. Histograms of fluid inclusion homogenization temperatures from Sandaowanzi
1098 and Dong'an deposits. Red color is primary fluid inclusions, blue color is secondary fluid
1099 inclusions.

1100

1101 Fig. 13. Diagrams showing the calculated fluid temperature and oxygen isotopic
1102 composition of water and quartz as a function of the mixing ratio of magmatic and
1103 meteoric water. Meteoric water has an initial temperature of 250 °C (based on stage III
1104 quartz fluid inclusion measurements at Sandaowanzi), and magmatic water has an initial

1105 temperature of 300 (a), 325 (b), and 350 °C (c), respectively. Oxygen isotope values are 8‰
1106 for magmatic water (Taylor 1997), and -14.7‰ for meteoric water (after stage III quartz
1107 at Sandaowanzi). The temperature of the mixed fluids is based on the enthalpy of water
1108 and the mixing increment. The effects of salinity on the enthalpy of water can generally
1109 be ignored because they are small (Reed 1998). Because the total mass of precipitated
1110 minerals is small in most cases, their heat contributions can be neglected (Reed 1998).
1111 The quartz-water fractionation factor used is from Clayton et al. (1972) as corrected by
1112 Friedman and O'Neil (1977).

1113

1114

List of tables

1115

1116 Table 1. Bulk oxygen isotope compositions from Sandaowanzi and Dong'an deposits.

1117

1118 Table 2. Compilation of the sample material, mineralogy, and applied analytical
1119 techniques.

1120

1121 Table 3. Microthermometric data on fluid inclusions from Sandaowanzi and Dong'an
1122 deposits.

1123

1124

Appendix A

1125

1126 Table A1. SIMS oxygen isotope data on quartz, chalcedony, and adularia from

1127 Sandaowanzi and Dong'an deposits.

1128

Table 1. Bulk oxygen isotope compositions from Sandaowanzi and Dong'an deposits.

Location	Mineral	$\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{SMOW}}$	$\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$	Referred T (°C)	Reference
Sandaowanzi	Quartz in vein	-2.3	-14.7	190	Wu et al., 2005
	Quartz in vein	-2	-13.3	207	
	Quartz in vein	-1.8	-11.4	237	
	Quartz in vein	-0.2	-11.3	210	
	Quartz in vein	-1.8	-11.4	238	
	Quartz in vein	-2.2	-11.6	240	
	Quartz in vein	-0.7	-10.9	226	
	Quartz in vein	-1.5	-9.3	276	
	Quartz in vein	-1.7	-10.6	252	
	Quartz in vein	-1.9	-11	247	
	Quartz in vein	-2.5	-10.6	326	Zhai et al., 2018
	Quartz in vein	-0.4	-8.3	276	
	Quartz in vein	-0.3	-10.1	276	
	Quartz in vein	-1.9	-9.7	275	
	Quartz in vein	-3.3	-12.9	242	
	Quartz in vein	-1.8	-9.8	246	
	Quartz in vein	-3.9	-12	246	
	Quartz in vein	-0.3	-7.6	246	
	Quartz in vein	-3.5	-13.6	203	
Quartz in vein	-2.6	-10.9	195		
Dong'an	Quartz in igneous rock	6.9	5.3	550	Han, 2013
	Quartz in igneous rock	7.5	5.9	550	
	Quartz in vein	0	-8.9	250	
	Quartz in vein	0.1	-8.9	250	
	Quartz in vein	-1.8	-10.9	250	
	Quartz in vein	-1.1	-12.8	180	
	Quartz in vein	0.3	-10.1	250	Ao et al., 2004
	Quartz in vein	-1.1	-8.5	250	
	Quartz in vein	0.5	-10.3	250	
	Quartz in vein	-1.3	-11.1	250	
	Quartz in vein	-2.1	-10.5	250	
	Quartz in vein	-1.5	-11.1	250	Yang, 2008
	Quartz in vein	-3	-10.7	280	
	Quartz in vein	-2.1	-10.6	250	
	Quartz in vein	-1.6	-10.5	250	
Quartz in vein	-1.5	-9.6	250		
Quartz in vein	-0.6	-7.5	250		
Quartz in vein	1.5	-10.1	250		

Table 2. Compilation of the sample material, mineralogy, and applied analytical techniques.

Site	Sample no.	Type	Ore texture	Mineralogy	Hot-CL	SEM-CL	SIMS	FIs
Sandaowanzi	130-1	High-grade	Comb	Quartz and tellurides		√		
	130CM21-6	Barren	Comb	Quartz		√		
	130CM23-10	Barren	Colloform	Quartz	√	√	√	√
	130CM23-14-1	High-grade	Multistage including colloform, coarse-grained, and comb	Quartz, chalcedony, and tellurides	√	√		
	130CM23-14-2	High-grade	Multistage including colloform, coarse-grained, and comb	Quartz, chalcedony, and tellurides	√	√	√	√
	130CM23-14-7	High-grade	Multistage including colloform, coarse-grained, and comb	Quartz, chalcedony, and tellurides	√	√	√	√
	130CM23-21	Barren	Colloform	Quartz	√	√		
	130CM23-4	Barren	Coarse-grained	Quartz		√		
	130CM23-5	Barren	Colloform	Quartz		√		
	170CM3	Barren	Comb	Quartz		√		
	210CM11-7	Barren	Coarse-grained	Quartz		√		
	210CM4	Barren	Comb quartz vein cross cutting andesite	Quartz		√		
	240CM10-3	Barren	Coarse-grained	Quartz	√	√		
	240CM9	Barren	Comb quartz vein cross cutting andesite	Quartz		√		
	50CM31	Barren	Coarse-grained	Quartz		√		
	50CM35-5	Barren	Coarse-grained	Quartz		√		
	90CM11	Barren	Coarse-grained	Quartz		√		
	90CM21-1	High-grade	Comb	Quartz and tellurides	√	√		
	90CM4	Barren	Coarse-grained	Quartz		√		
	SDW25B	High-grade	Multistage including colloform, coarse-grained, and comb	Quartz, chalcedony, and tellurides		√		
Dong'an	17-2-187	Barren	Coarse-grained	Quartz	√			
	18-1-164	Low-grade	Colloform	Quartz, chalcedony, adularia, and electrum	√	√		
	DA-100	Barren	Bladed and flamboyant	Quartz	√			
	DA-103	Barren	Coarse-grained	Quartz	√	√		
	DA-106	Barren	Coarse-grained	Quartz	√			
	DA-107	Barren	Colloform	Quartz, chalcedony, and adularia	√			
	DA-135	Low-grade	Colloform	Quartz, chalcedony, adularia, and electrum	√			
	DA-144	Barren	Comb	Quartz	√			
	DA-35	Barren	Coarse-grained	Quartz	√			
	DA-47	Barren	Colloform	Quartz and chalcedony	√			
	DA-53	Barren	Bladed and flamboyant	Quartz, chalcedony, and adularia	√	√	√	√
	DA-66	Barren	Colloform	Quartz and chalcedony	√			
	DA-77	Low-grade	Colloform	Quartz, chalcedony, adularia, and electrum		√		
	DA-80	Low-medium-grade	Colloform	Quartz, chalcedony, adularia, and electrum	√	√	√	√
	DA-90	Low-grade	Colloform	Quartz, chalcedony, adularia, and electrum	√			

Table 3. Microthermometric data on fluid inclusions from Sandaowanzi and Dong'an deposits.

Location	Sample no.	Area no.	Host mineral	CL	Stage	Assemblage no.	Type	Homogenization (T _h)	Ice melting (T _{m,ice})
Sandaowanzi	130CM23-14-7	A_3	Quartz	Bright	II	G_1	L-V	256.1	-0.1
							L-V	255.2	-0.1
							L-V	256.6	-0.1
							L-V	255.8	-0.1
							L-V	257.1	-0.1
		A_5	Quartz	Dark	III	G_1	L-V	267.1	-0.3
							L-V	265.7	-0.3
							L-V	266.3	-0.3
							L-V	272.8	-0.4
							L-V	278.8	-0.4
	A_4	Quartz	Dark	III	G_1	L-V	280.8	-0.4	
						L-V	248.6	-0.3	
						L-V	252.4	-0.3	
						L-V	203.2	-0.5	
						L-V	200.4	-0.1	
						L-V	248.5	-0.2	
	A_1	Quartz	Gray	II	G_1	L-V	254.7	-0.2	
						L-V	249.6	-0.2	
						L-V	244.8	-0.4	
						L-V	251.6	-0.4	
						L-V	273.4	-0.4	
						L-V	277.9	-0.4	
	130CM23-14-2	Quartz	Dark	III	G_2	L-V	277.4	-0.4	
						L-V	167.3	-0.1	
L-V						168.4	-0.1		
L-V						216.4	-0.3		
130CM23-21	Quartz	Gray	Secondary	G_1	L-V	213.6	-0.3		
					L-V	187.5	-0.4		
					L-V	185.2	-0.4		
					L-V	268.6	-0.3		
A_2	Quartz	Gray	I	G_1	L-V	269.5	-0.3		
					L-V	270.2	-0.3		
					L-V	237.2	-0.3		
					L-V	255.7	-0.3		
DA-80	Quartz	Gray	IV	G_1	L-V	240.8	-0.3		
					L-V	248.9	-0.3		
					L-V	244.2	-0.3		
					L-V	242.1	-0.1		
Dong'an	A_2	Quartz	Bright	II	G_1	L-V	245	-0.1	
						L-V	243.2	-0.1	
						L-V	166.1	-0.6	
						L-V	172.9	-0.6	
	A_1	Quartz	Bright	Secondary	G_1	L-V	175.8	-0.6	
						L-V	164.3	-0.6	
						L-V	269.5	-0.1	
						L-V	267.6	-0.1	
DA-53	Quartz	Bright	Secondary	G_1	L-V	202.1	-0.3		
					L-V	210.4	-0.3		
						L-V	207.5	-0.3	

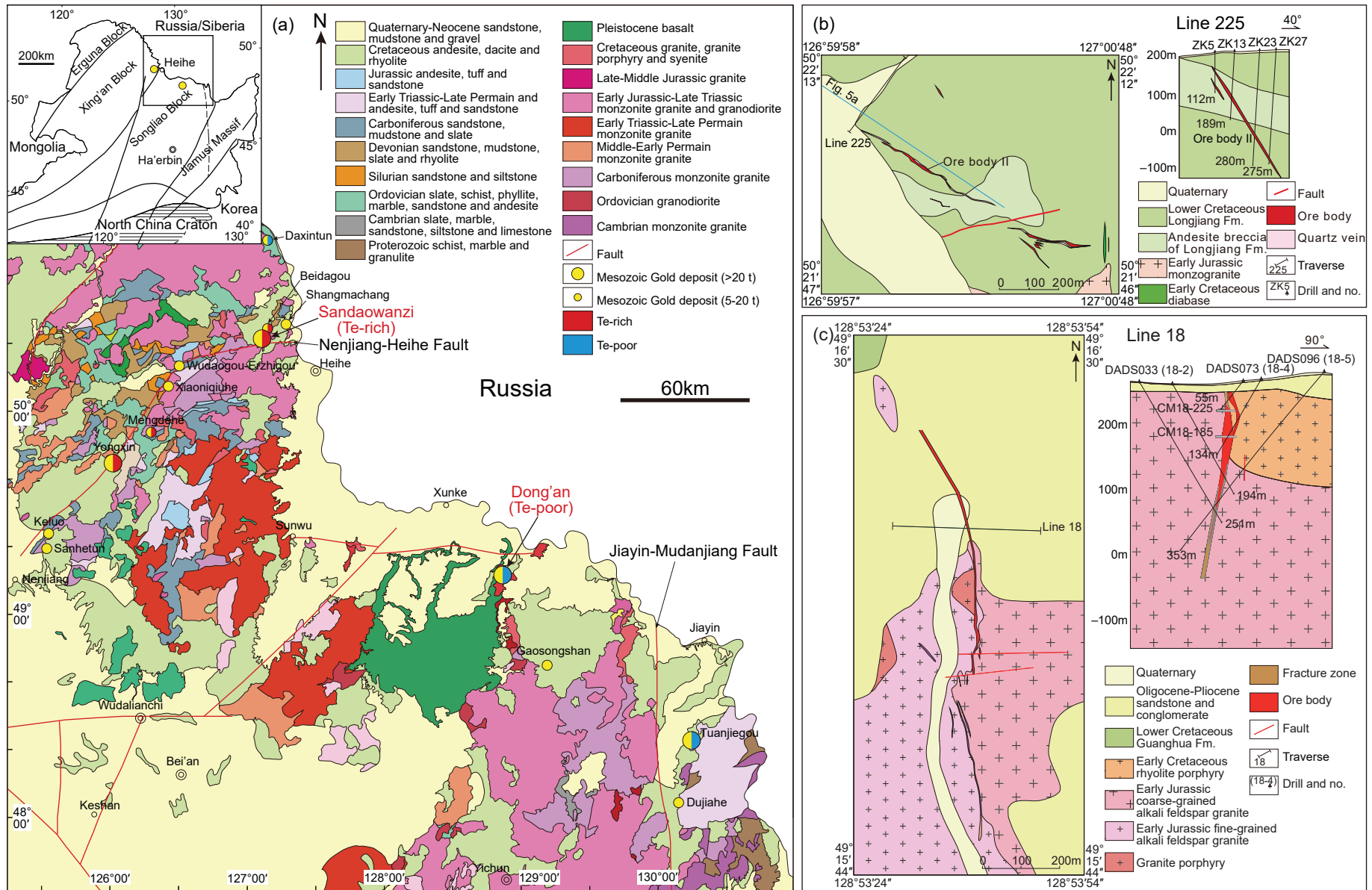


Fig. 1

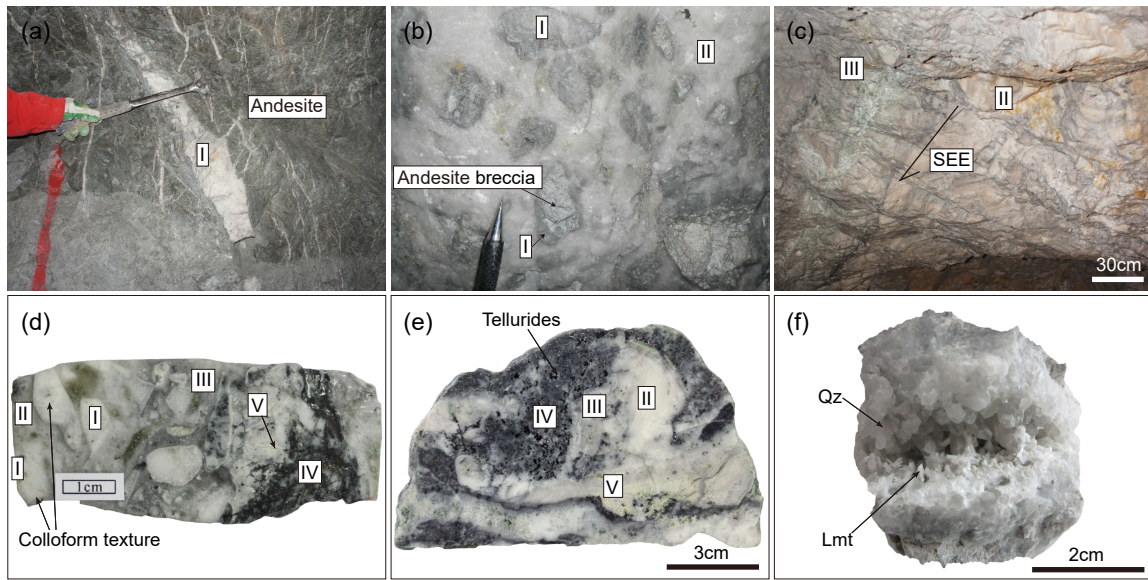


Fig. 2

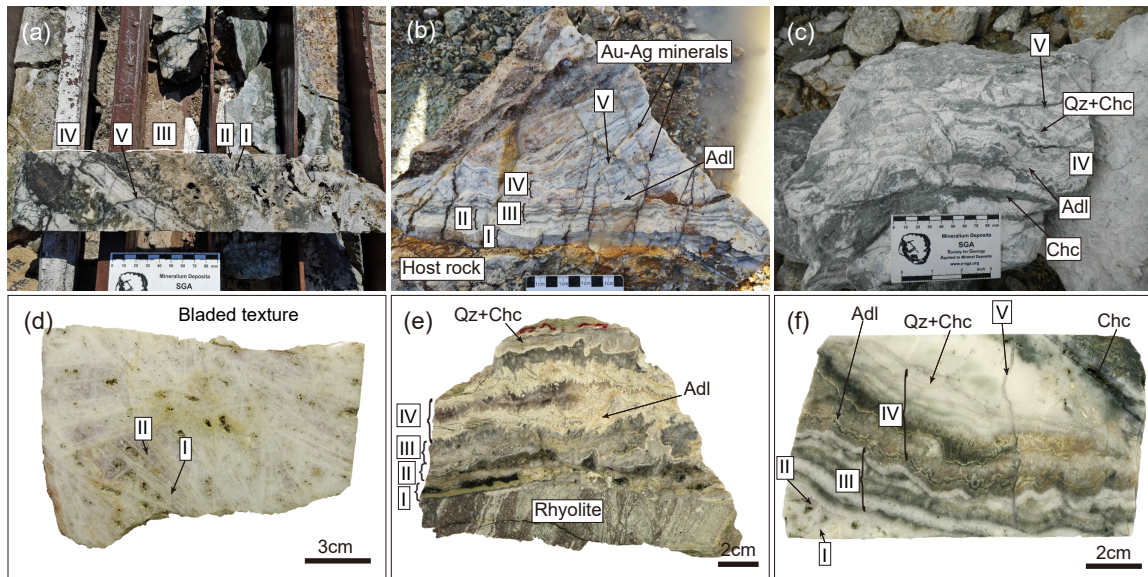


Fig. 3

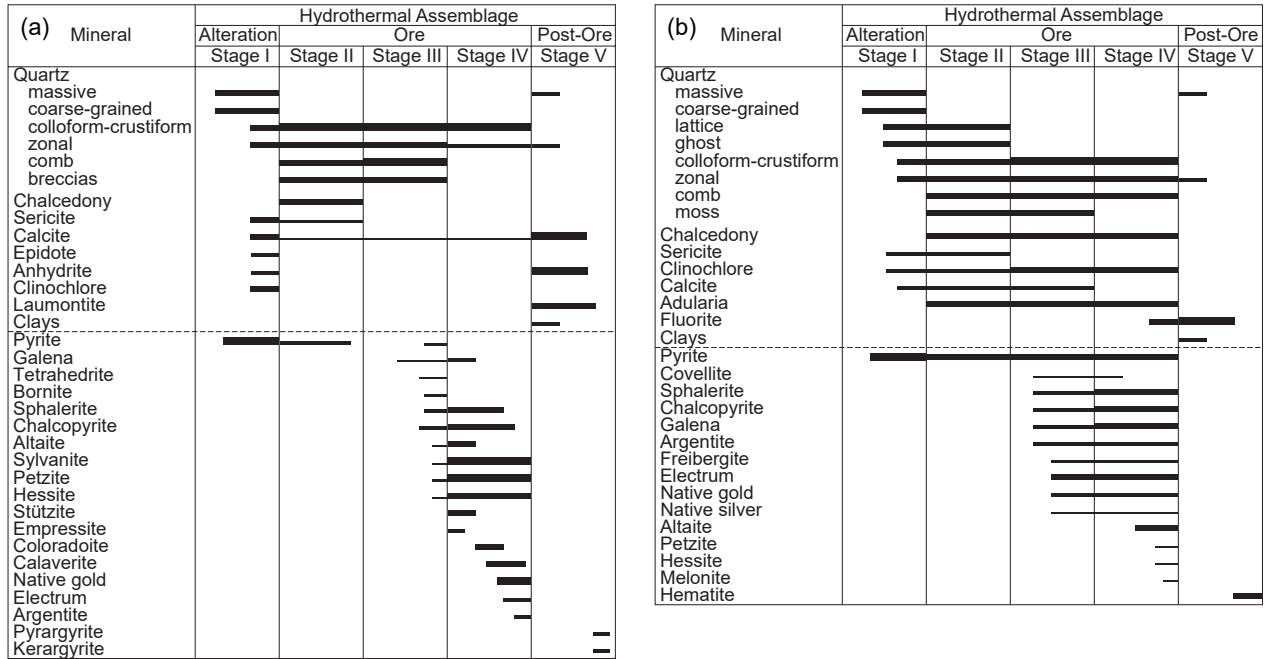


Fig. 4

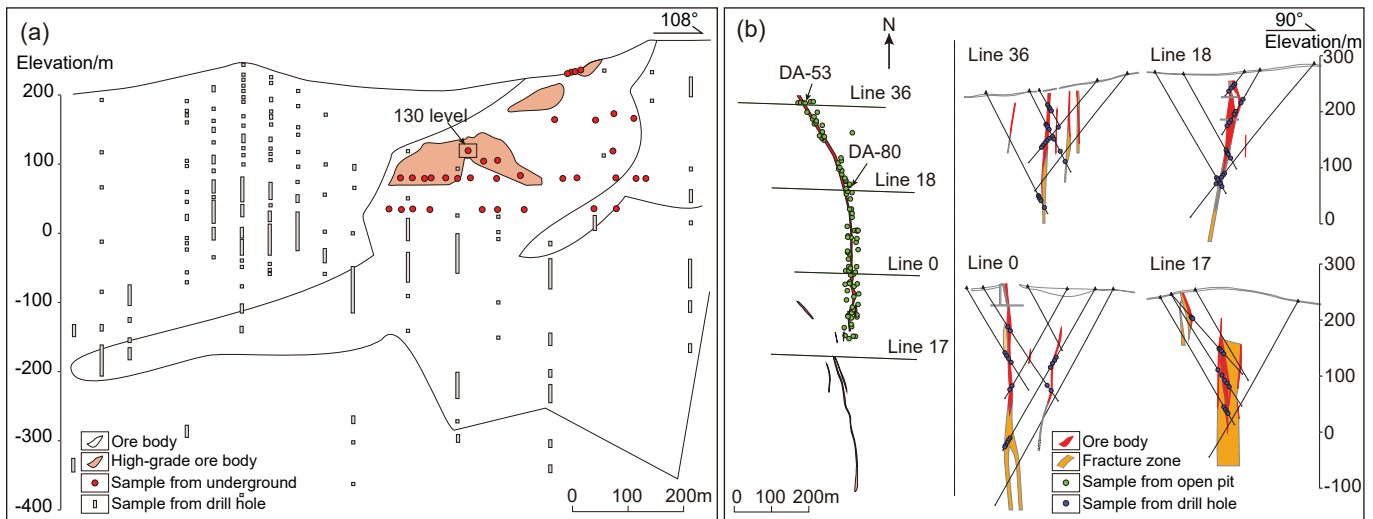


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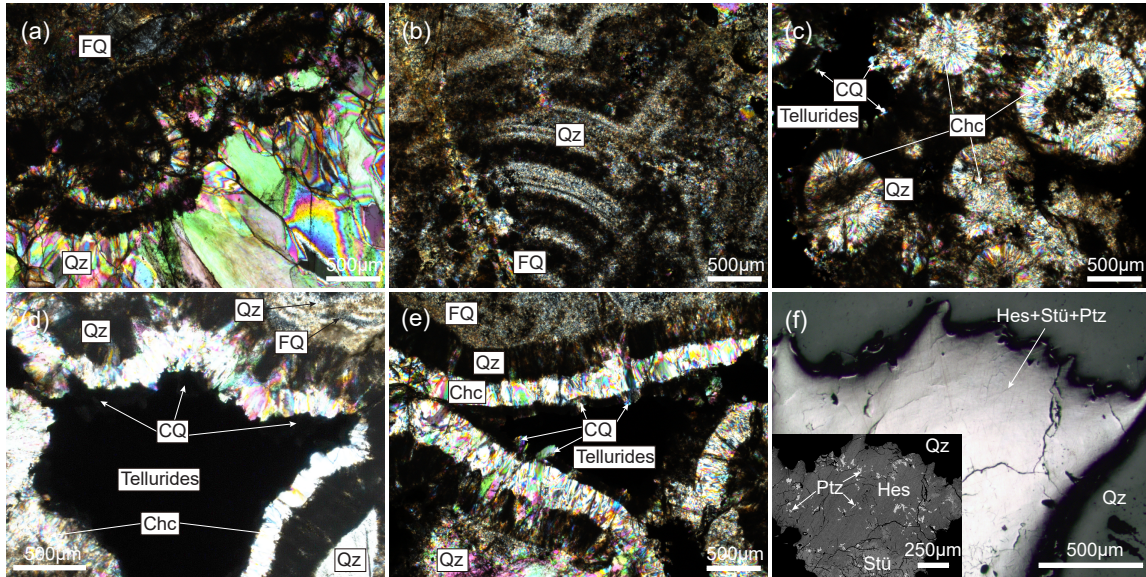


Fig. 6

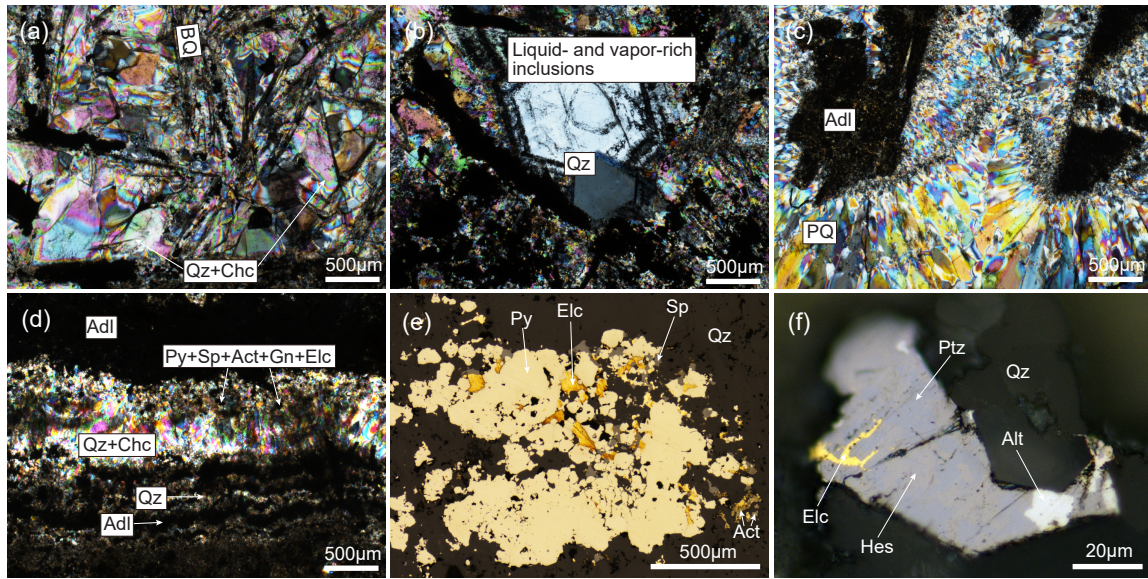


Fig. 7

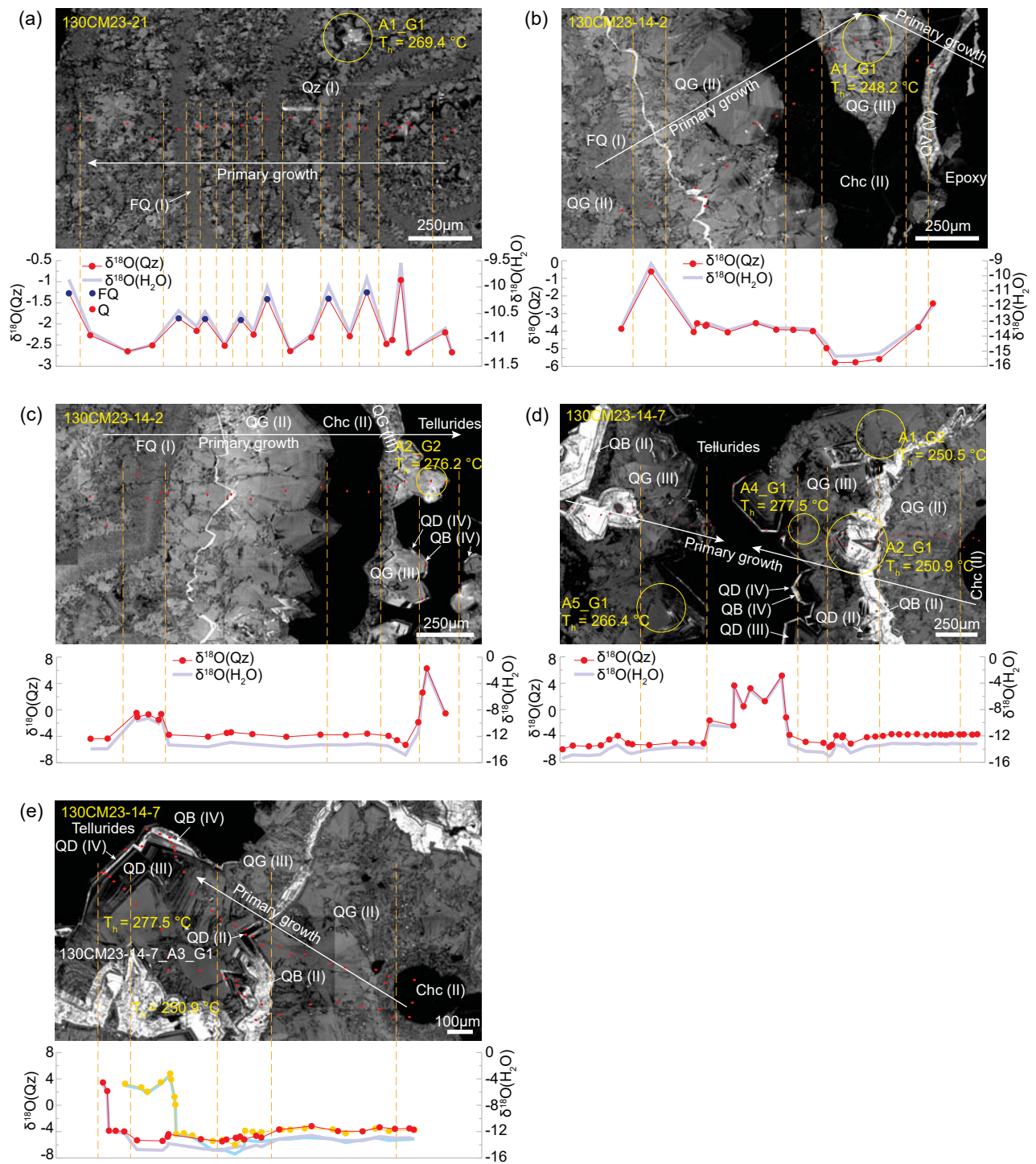


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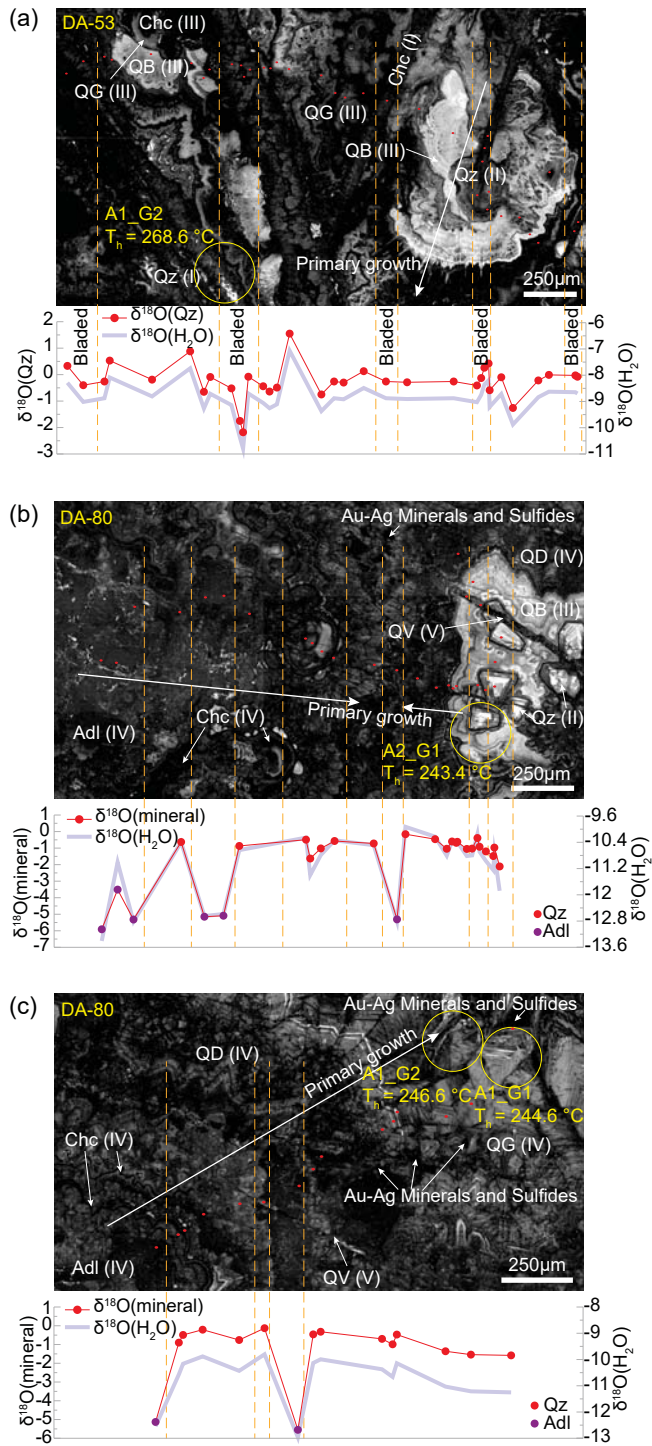


Fig. 9

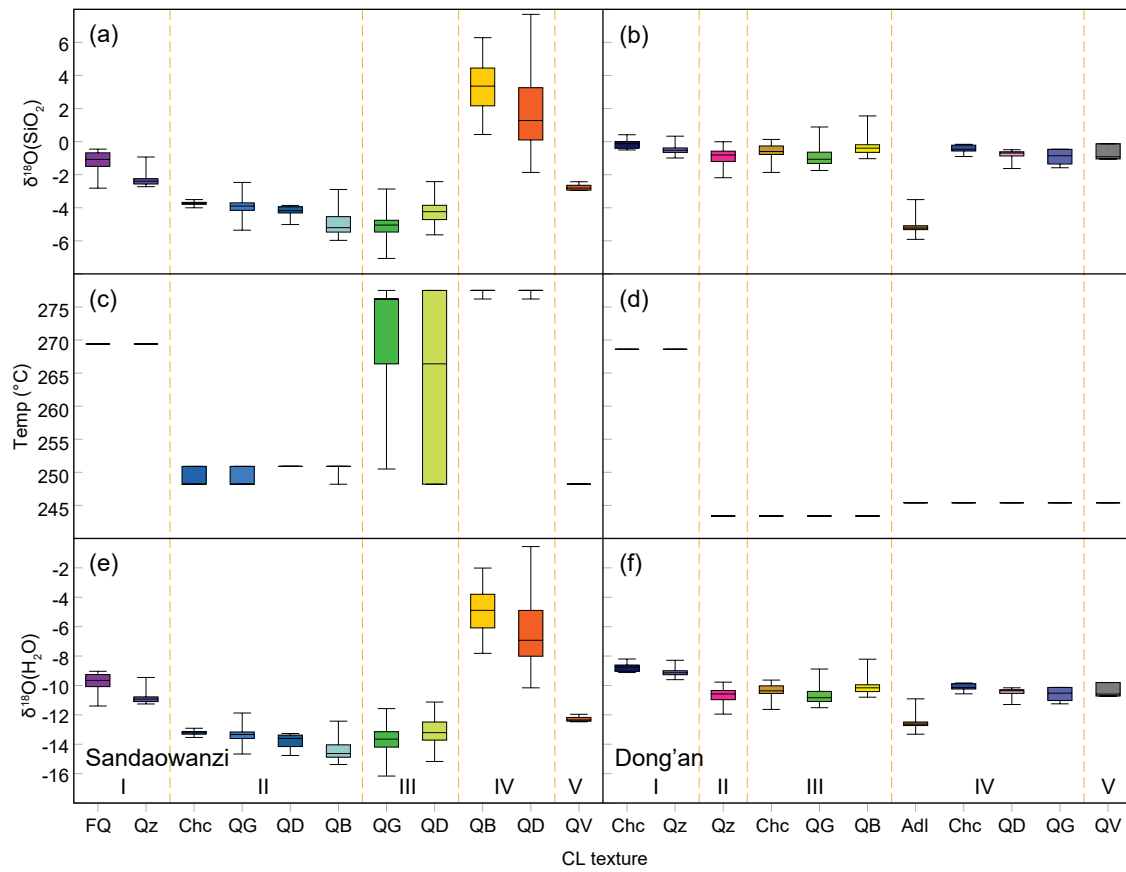


Fig. 10

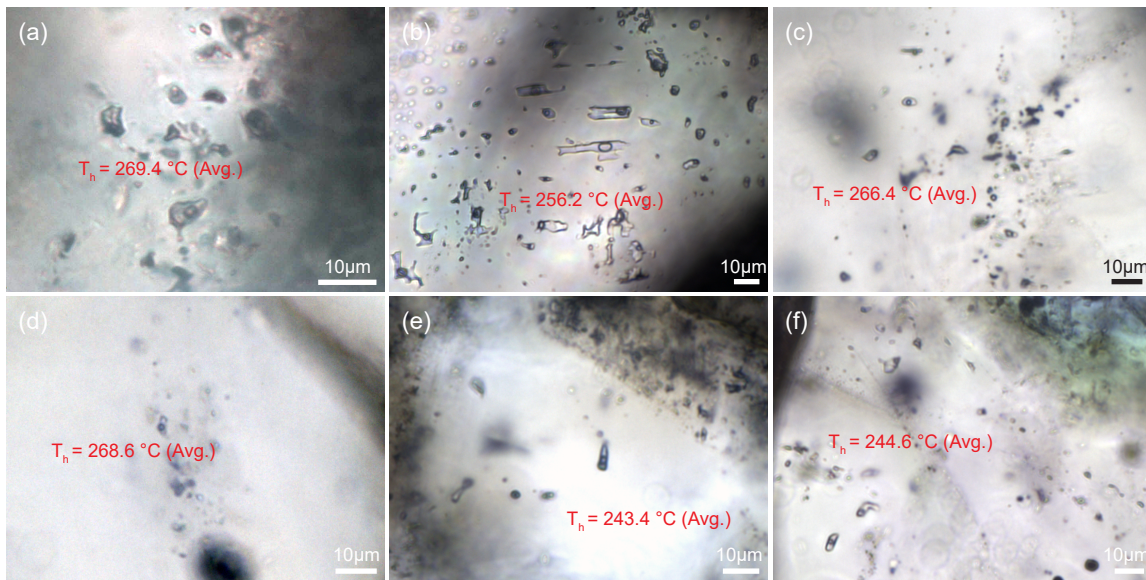


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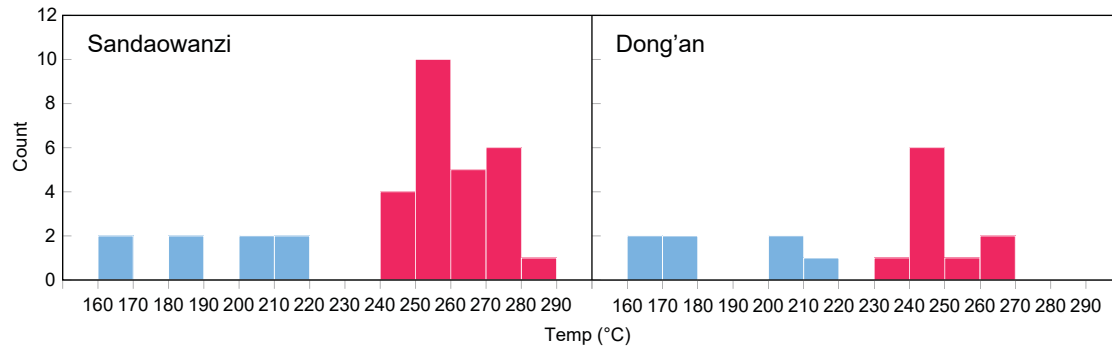


Fig. 12

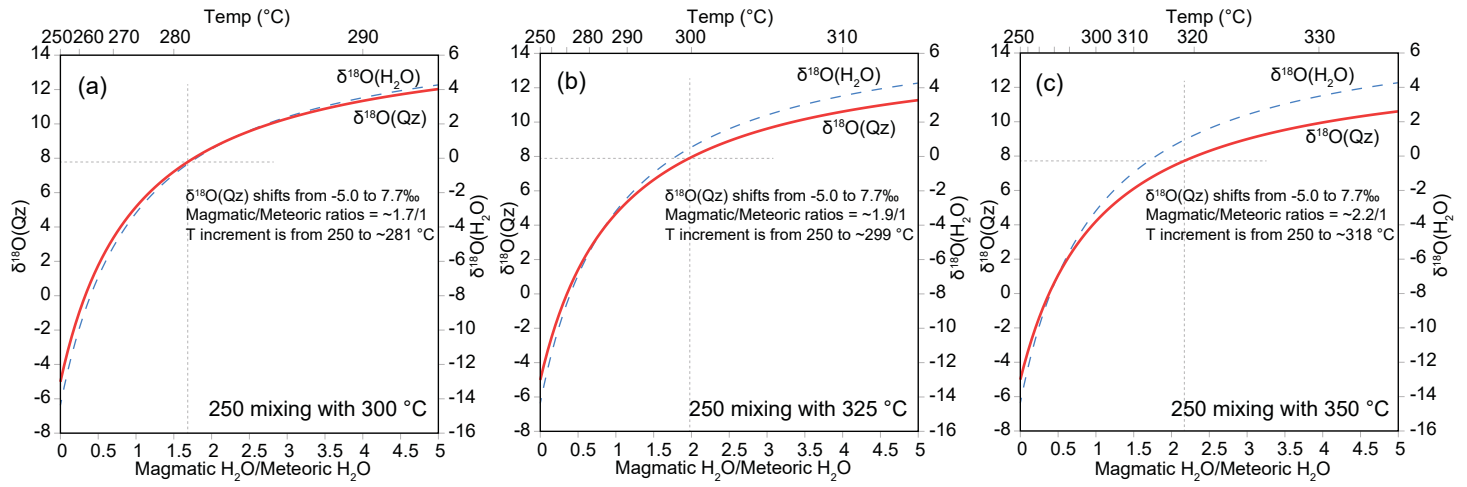


Fig. 13