

1 **Tectonic controls on Ni and Cu contents of primary mantle-derived magmas for**
2 **the formation of magmatic sulfide deposits**

3 **Revision 2**

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13 **Abstract**

14 We have modeled the genesis of primary mantle-derived magma to explore the
15 controls exerted on its Ni-Cu ore potential by water content, pressure and mantle
16 potential temperature (T_p). During decompression melting, Ni concentration in
17 primary magma decreases with increasing degree of melting, in contradiction to
18 long-held understanding obtained from previous isobaric melting models. Pressure
19 exerts a first-order control on the ore potential of primary plume-derived melt, such
20 that plumes rising beneath thick lithosphere with melting paths terminating at
21 relatively high pressure generate Ni-rich melts. Additionally, as plumes with higher T_p
22 produce more Ni-rich melt at a higher pressure, the magmatism related to hotter
23 plume-centers may have the greatest ore potential. On the other hand, the strong
24 dependence of Cu behavior upon the presence or absence of residual sulfide is partly
25 countered in decompression melting. Significant influences of mantle-contained water
26 on Ni and Cu partitioning are restricted to low-degree melting. While release of H_2O
27 in lithosphere delamination may trigger voluminous magmatism, the Ni concentration
28 in melt is far lower than in melt generated from plumes. Furthermore, if isobaric
29 melting dominates when the subcontinental lithospheric mantle (SCLM) is heated by
30 underlying hotter plumes, the plume-lithosphere interaction plays no active role in the
31 Ni ore potential of primary magma because derived melt volumes are relatively small.
32 In subduction zones, flux-melting of the mantle wedge tends to generate cool Ni-poor
33 melts, however hot subduction zones may produce magmas with increased metal
34 concentrations. Overall, the anticipated ranges of Ni contents in primary melts are

35 strongly controlled by tectonic setting, with range of 100-300 ppm in subduction
36 zones, 230-450 ppm in mid-ocean ridges, and 500-1300 ppm in plume suites. There
37 are only minor differences in the Cu concentrations of primitive magmas generated
38 from diverse tectonic settings, despite the variations in Cu partitioning behaviors.

39

40 **Keywords** mantle partial melting, Ni and Cu partitioning behaviors, tectonic settings,
41 ore potential of primary magma, forward model

42

43 **1. Introduction**

44

45 Magmatic Ni-Cu-(PGE) sulfide deposits, hosting ~56 % and >96 % respectively
46 of global resources of Ni and PGEs, are formed as the result of segregation and
47 accumulation of immiscible sulfide liquids from mafic and/or ultramafic
48 mantle-derived magmas ([Arndt et al. 2005](#); [Barnes and Lightfoot 2005](#); [Naldrett 2010](#),
49 [2011](#); [Mungall 2014](#); [Barnes et al. 2016](#); [Barnes and Robertson 2018](#)). The
50 characteristics of primary magma that promote the formation of magmatic
51 Ni-Cu-(PGE) deposits in various tectonic settings still remain poorly constrained
52 ([Arndt et al. 2005](#); [Zhang et al. 2008](#)) despite the general consensus that picritic and
53 komatiitic magmas are best. Although the existence of an unusually metal-rich
54 primary melt has not been widely considered as a necessity for the formation of most
55 magmatic Ni-Cu-(PGE) deposits, it is also evident that relatively metal-poor magmas
56 would not be optimal. Petrological information regarding primary magma

57 composition that can be obtained from intrusive samples is not straightforward as
58 primary magmas are likely to be modified by partial crystallization, assimilation, and
59 mixing in crustal environments ([Herzberg and Asimow 2015](#)).

60 The use of forward models to compute the geochemistry of melts and partitioning
61 behaviors of Ni, Cu and PGEs during partial melting offers us a distinctive angle to
62 explore the ore potential of primary magma. Naldrett ([2010, 2011](#)) modeled the
63 partitioning behaviors of Ni, Cu, Pt and Pd in the isobaric melting of mantle, an
64 approach followed in several more recent studies (e.g., [Li et al. 2012](#); [Lightfoot et al.](#)
65 [2012](#); [Jowitt and Ernst 2013](#); [Mao et al. 2014](#)). Lee et al. ([2012](#)) quantified the
66 evolution of Cu concentrations in mantle-derived melts by modeling fractional
67 melting of a fertile mantle at fixed proportions of mineral phases and P-T condition,
68 advocating Cu content can be used to trace the presence of sulfide in the source ([Liu](#)
69 [et al. 2014](#); [Le Roux et al. 2015](#)). More recently, polybaric melting models were
70 developed to predict the concentrations of PGE in primary melt and the corresponding
71 restites ([Mungall and Brenan 2014](#); [Aulbach et al. 2016](#)), as well as the sulfur budget
72 in MORBs ([Ding and Dasgupta 2017](#)). The compositions of primary melts can be
73 controlled by: 1) the composition and thermal state of mantle source; 2) the type of
74 melting (e.g., fractional, equilibrium or continuous melting); 3) melting conditions,
75 including the temperature, pressure, and volatile components ([Asimow et al. 2001](#);
76 [Herzberg and O'Hara 2002](#); [Asimow and Langmuir 2003](#); [Arndt et al. 2005](#); [Herzberg](#)
77 [and Asimow 2015](#)). These factors, which dominate the extent and output of partial
78 melting, are highly variable in different tectonic settings, e.g., mid-ocean ridges,

79 mantle plumes and subduction zones. Consequently, the geochemical characteristics
80 and ore potentials of primary magmas involved in magmatic deposits must bear a
81 close relationship to geodynamic environments. Existing models have not considered
82 all of these parameters together to provide a detailed and realistic picture of this
83 complex process in the broad range of tectonic settings in which mantle melting
84 occurs.

85 In this contribution, we present a comprehensive model optimized for mantle
86 melting in the pressure range of 0-4 GPa, using the alphaMELTS thermodynamic
87 software ([Ghiorso and Sack 1995](#); [Ghiorso et al. 2002](#); [Asimow et al. 2004](#); [Smith and](#)
88 [Asimow 2005](#)) to constrain phase equilibria, in conjunction with recent refinements of
89 partition coefficients to trace the behaviors of Ni and Cu during the partial melting of
90 mantle in various tectonic settings as realistically as possible with the current state of
91 knowledge.

92

93 **2. Model descriptions**

94

95 Approaches to modeling mantle melting can be achieved via empirical
96 parameterizations ([Katz et al. 2003](#); [Till et al. 2012](#); [Kimura and Kawabata 2014](#);
97 [Mungall and Brenan 2014](#)) and thermodynamic models ([Ghiorso et al. 2002](#); [Ueki and](#)
98 [Iwamori 2013](#); [Jennings and Holland 2015](#)), each with their own advantages and
99 weaknesses ([Supplementary 1](#)). pMELTS is a popular model to track the phase
100 relations and compositional variations for partial melting systems as it can be applied

101 to various melting mechanisms (e.g., fractional, continuous or equilibrium) and P-T
102 conditions (e.g., isobaric, polybaric or dynamic P-T paths) (Ghiorso et al. 2002) that
103 cannot be addressed quantitatively with purely empirical models. Although the
104 topology and phase proportions in mantle melting reactions are captured well by
105 alphaMELTS, it reproduces experimental temperature and MgO content of melt at a
106 given melt fraction in due to the overstabilization of clinopyroxene, and gives relative
107 large disparities at high pressure exceeding 4 GPa (Ghiorso et al. 2002; Ueki and
108 Iwamori 2013; Kimura and Kawabata 2014; Jennings and Holland 2015). Here, we
109 have adopted the latest version of alphaMELTS, which includes pMELTS having
110 updated garnet and spinel models and offers an improved match to experimental data
111 (Supplementary 1), but caution is still warranted in the entire calculation. Below we
112 summarize the controls on partitioning behaviors of Ni and Cu during partial melting
113 exerted by a range of parameters, including pressure, temperature, oxygen fugacity,
114 source composition, H₂O concentration, and the partition coefficients between silicate
115 melt, minerals and sulfide liquid.

116

117 **2.1 Source compositions**

118

119 Concentrations of major elements (including Ni) of primitive source from
120 McDonough and Sun (1995), were used to model the partial melting of primitive
121 mantle (PM, Table 1). Cu concentration in PM was assumed to be 24 ppm (Wang and
122 Becker 2015), within the estimated range of 20-30 ppm (Sun 1982; O'Neill 1991;

123 [McDonough and Sun 1995](#); [Lorand and Luguet 2016](#); [Barnes et al. 2016](#)). For the
124 melting models of the MORB mantle source, we used the depleted MORB mantle
125 (DMM) ([Workman and Hart 2005](#)). Compared to the primitive mantle, DMM has
126 been depleted by 2-3% ancient melt extraction. The Ni abundance in DMM is 1886
127 ppm, but the Cu concentration was not mentioned by Workman and Hart ([2005](#)).
128 Because the presence of residual sulfide phase at such low degree of melt extraction
129 would minimize depletion of Cu, we assume that DMM has the same concentration of
130 Cu as PM ([Table 1](#)).

131 The composition of the sub-continental lithospheric mantle (SCLM) has a broad
132 range, and is related to the age of overlying crust ([Griffin et al. 1998, 2009](#)). We used
133 three estimates of SCLM composition based on the Griffin et al. ([1999](#)) classification,
134 wherein A-SCLM occurs in areas where the crust has been unaffected since ≥ 2.5 Ga;
135 P-SCLM has been formed or modified in the range of 2.5-1.0 Ga; and T-SCLM
136 experienced tectonism and melting ≤ 1.0 Ga ([Table 1](#)). The Ni amounts in A-, T- and
137 P-SCLM are 2357 ppm, 2200 ppm and 2043 ppm, respectively ([Griffin et al. 2009](#)).
138 Additionally, the Cu concentrations of most massif and xenolith peridotites exhibit a
139 positive correlation with Al₂O₃ content, an indicator of the fertility (or melt depletion)
140 of peridotites ([Wang and Becker 2015](#)). Based on the Al₂O₃ contents from the A-, T-
141 and P-SCLM compositions ([Griffin et al. 2009](#)), in conjunction with the values of
142 Al₂O₃/Cu from DMM, the Cu concentrations in A-, T- and P-SCLMs were taken to be
143 1.8, 11.5 and 21.1 ppm, respectively.

144 The mantle wedge above subduction zones is a complex environment where

145 subducted inputs are mixed with the convecting mantle to generate magmas (Stern
146 2002), and hence, its partial melting is a multi-stage and multi-source process (Cole et
147 al. 1990). The composition of mantle wedge may be highly variable from one location
148 to another. We use Workman and Hart's (2005) DMM to approximate the composition
149 of the sub-arc mantle to facilitate comparison of partitioning behaviors of Ni and Cu
150 between the mantle wedges and mid-ocean ridges. The restites resulting after 5%,
151 10%, 15% and 20% melt extraction from the isobaric melting of DMM at 1 GPa were
152 considered as the plausible approximations of initial source compositions within the
153 mantle wedge. The transfer of ore-forming metals from slab-derived inputs into
154 mantle wedge is restricted (e.g., Mungall 2002; Jenner et al. 2010; Lee et al. 2012),
155 and hence, the source was assumed to contain 24 ppm Cu.

156

157 **2.2 Water content**

158

159 There is a growing database on the water content in nominally anhydrous
160 minerals from a wide range of mantle-derived rocks (Peslier 2010). Although previous
161 estimates of H₂O content of the MORB source vary from 100 to 340 ppm (Bell and
162 Rossman 1992; Bolfan-Casanova 2005), the most recent estimates range from 50 to
163 200 ppm (Peslier 2010, and references therein). A range of 0-250 ppm H₂O was
164 adopted in our model.

165 The source of the oceanic island basalts (OIBs), which is a common component
166 of mantle plume material (Wilson 1963; White 2010), appears to be more hydrous

167 than MORB-source mantle (200-550 ppm H₂O; [Bell and Rossman 1992](#) or 450-700
168 ppm H₂O; [Bolfan-Casanova 2005](#)). Based on the H₂O analyses of glasses and melt
169 inclusions, the sources of OIBs are richer in water than DMM, containing 300-1000
170 ppm H₂O ([Hirschmann 2006](#); [Peslier 2010](#)). Comparably, the H₂O contents of basaltic
171 glasses from the Ontong Java and Kerguelen oceanic plateaus (~4000-6900 ppm) are
172 also higher than that of MORBs (~2500 ppm) ([Michael 2000](#); [Wallace 2002](#)). More
173 recently, the estimated H₂O contents of the mantle sources for Siberian Traps, Karoo
174 LIP, Tarim LIP, Emeishan LIP, Yellowstone hotspot track and Caribbean LIP are from
175 750 to ~6000 ppm ([Liu et al. 2017](#)). Additionally, H₂O may have been transferred
176 from a hypothesized water-rich transition zone to Archaean plumes, producing
177 hydrous komatiites with ~0.6 wt. % water ([Sobolev et al. 2016](#)). Therefore, the H₂O in
178 mantle plumes has a broad range (0-6000 ppm in this modeling), and its source should
179 have one or more H₂O-rich reservoirs that feed plume-related magmatism
180 ([Hirschmann 2006](#)).

181 The recalculated water contents of whole-rock peridotite xenoliths from
182 continental cratons are somewhat lower than the MORB source, e.g., Kaapvaal craton
183 (16-175 ppm H₂O, average of 82 ppm) ([Bell and Rossman 1992](#); [Peslier et al. 2012](#)).
184 Although the whole-rock H₂O content of SCLM can be affected by many complex
185 processes, e.g., metasomatism (Siberia craton, 38-293 ppm, [Doucet et al. 2014](#);
186 [Ragozin et al. 2014](#)), lithospheric thinning (North China craton, mostly <50 ppm,
187 [Yang et al. 2008](#); [Xia et al. 2010](#)) and plume-lithosphere interaction (Tranzanian
188 craton, 7-48 ppm, [Hui et al. 2015](#)), with few exceptions it stays in a relatively low

189 range, ~0-150 ppm.

190 As slab-derived fluids and melts have a broad range of compositions, the H₂O
191 content of the mantle wedge may be highly variable from one location to another,
192 with a reported range from 250 to >2500 ppm (Peslier et al. 2002; Dixon et al. 2004;
193 Peslier and Luhr 2006; Peslier 2010).

194

195 **2.3 Mantle potential temperature**

196

197 Mantle potential temperature (T_p) represents the hypothetical temperature that
198 mantle would have if it was adiabatically decompressed to surface without melting
199 (Fig. 1) (McKenzie and Bickle 1988). The ranges of T_p in different tectonic
200 environments mostly do not overlap (Lee et al. 2009), so the inferences of T_p based on
201 basaltic magma compositions can be used to constrain the tectonic setting of basaltic
202 magmatic suites (Putirka 2005; Herzberg et al. 2007; Herzberg and Asimow 2008).

203 Based on the global database of basaltic magmatism, Lee et al. (2009) depicted
204 the Earth's thermal state (T_p) and magmatism in various geologic environments.
205 MORB compositions from the Mid-Atlantic Ridge and the East Pacific Rise showed
206 that the T_p of their mantle is near 1350-1400°C (Lee et al. 2009), which is hotter than
207 previous estimates (McKenzie and Bickle 1988), but falls within the range of recent
208 estimations for mid-ocean ridges (1280-1400°C by Herzberg et al. 2007 and
209 1300-1570°C by Langmuir et al. 1993), considering that the aggregated error on T_p
210 may be as large as $\pm 77^\circ\text{C}$ due to uncertainties in estimates of melting fraction and

211 mantle olivine composition (Putirka 2016).

212 Furthermore, numerous petrological studies of basalts from large igneous
213 provinces (LIPs) and ocean islands infer higher T_p than the oceanic ridges, which
214 strongly supports the mantle plume model (Thompson and Gibson 2000; Putirka 2005,
215 2016; Putirka et al. 2007; Herzberg et al. 2007; Lee et al. 2009; Herzberg and Gazel
216 2009). The estimated range of T_p for plume-related magmatism is large, even for an
217 individual mantle plume occurrence (Herzberg and Asimow 2008; Herzberg and
218 Gazel 2009). The T_p of Hawaii and Iceland reach as high as 1722°C and 1616°C,
219 respectively (Putirka et al. 2007; Herzberg and Asimow 2008, 2015). More broadly,
220 almost all of the data from plume-related basalts point to a T_p of more than 1500°C,
221 and the T_p anomaly required to merit the term "plume" can be set to be 220-320 °C
222 higher than the ambient mantle (Putirka 2016).

223

224 **2.4 Choice of Partition Coefficients between minerals and melt**

225

226 Ni is compatible in olivine, which is the most abundant mineral in the Earth's
227 upper mantle. As a result, the behavior of Ni is mostly determined by its distribution
228 between olivine and silicate melt as defined by its Nernst partition coefficient
229 ($D_{Ni}^{Ol/melt}$). We used a parameterized equation of $D_{Ni}^{Ol/melt}$ that accounts for the
230 effects of temperature and melt composition (Matzen et al. 2017a). Ni is also
231 compatible in orthopyroxene. Experiments by Laubier et al. (2014) under anhydrous
232 and oxidized conditions at 0.1 MPa and 1155-1180°C indicated that the partition

233 coefficient $D_{Ni}^{Opx/melt}$ was 7.38 ± 2.56 , whereas high pressure (1.5-2 GPa), high
234 temperature (1300-1500 °C) and relatively reducing conditions may result in a low
235 $D_{Ni}^{Opx/melt}$ (3.69-4.38; [Le Roux et al. 2011](#)). Here, we followed the model of Beattie
236 et al. (1991), which gives $D_{Ni}^{Opx/melt}$ as a function of the mole fractions of MgO in
237 the melt and orthopyroxene. Although this is a temperature-, pressure-independent
238 model, we think the influences of temperature and pressure can be reflected in the
239 variations of MgO in melt, and the equation of Beattie et al. (1991) also provides a
240 good description of experimental data for the Ni partitioning between olivine and melt
241 ([Herzberg et al. 2013](#)), lending confidence to the orthopyroxene model. The
242 $D_{Ni}^{Cpx/melt}$ was calculated as a function of temperature, pressure and $D_{Ni}^{Opx/melt}$
243 ([Seitz et al. 1999](#)), whereas the parameterization of $D_{Ni}^{Grt/melt}$ is based on the
244 experimental measurements of partitioning of Ni between olivine and garnet ([Canil](#)
245 [1999](#)).

246 In contrast to Ni, as constrained by several recent studies, Cu is a mildly
247 incompatible element in the major mineral phases of mantle ([Fellows and Canil 2012](#);
248 [Lee et al. 2012](#); [Liu et al. 2014](#); [Le Roux et al. 2015](#)). The measured $D_{Cu}^{minerals/melt}$
249 from groundmass and phenocrysts pairs in natural samples ([Lee et al. 2012](#)) are
250 usually equivalent to or lower than the values obtained from experiments ([Fellows](#)
251 [and Canil 2012](#); [Liu et al. 2014](#); [Le Roux et al. 2015](#)). In addition, [Liu et al. \(2014\)](#)
252 found that increasing fO_2 ($>\Delta FMQ+1.2$) would result in the increase of $D_{Cu}^{mineral/melt}$
253 for olivine, orthopyroxene, spinel and possible clinopyroxene, presumably due to
254 increasing Cu^{2+}/Cu^+ in the system. In this regard, we adopted the absolute upper

255 values for high-pressure Cu partitioning ($D_{Cu}^{Ol/melt}$, 0.13; $D_{Cu}^{Opx/melt}$, 0.12; $D_{Cu}^{Cpx/melt}$,
256 0.09; $D_{Cu}^{Grt/melt}$, 0.042; $D_{Cu}^{Spl/melt}$, 0.25) based on the recent work of Le Roux et al.
257 (2015).

258

259 **2.5 Influence of sulfide within source**

260

261 Fe-Ni-Cu base metal sulfides (BMSs) have been widely observed as intergranular
262 grains and as inclusions within silicate minerals from a variety of peridotites and
263 xenoliths (Harvey et al. 2016 and references therein). The partition coefficients
264 between sulfide and melt are large for Cu (~290-390 for komatiite, 360-460 for basalt,
265 and 420-560 for andesite, Kiseeva et al. 2017), with the result that the bulk
266 partitioning of Cu during partial melting strongly depends on how sulfide mode varies
267 during melt extraction.

268 Although the canonical S content of primitive mantle is ~250 ppm (McDonough
269 and Sun 1995; Lorand and Luguet 2016 and references therein), the bulk S abundance
270 of DMM is closer to 150-200 ppm (Lorand and Luguet 2016), which coincides with
271 the estimated value in recent models (e.g., 100-200 ppm in Ding and Dasgupta 2017;
272 195 ± 45 ppm from Nielsen et al. 2014; 185 ppm in Mungall and Brenan 2014; 165
273 ppm from Shimizu et al. 2016). The S contents of A-, P- and T-SCLM (Table 1) were
274 assumed following the linear decrease in sulfur content with decreasing Al_2O_3 (Wang
275 and Becker 2013), although this simple relationship could be affected by addition or
276 removal of S by S-unsaturated fluids or melts. In the mantle wedge above subduction

277 zones, the estimated S contents range from 250 to 500 ppm ([Métrich et al. 1999](#); [De](#)
278 [Hoog et al. 2001](#)), which may be triggered by addition of excess S in the slab-derived
279 fluids ([Mungall 2002](#); [Jégo and Dasgupta 2013, 2014](#)).

280 Sulfur in solid mantle materials is hosted by sulfide phases which dissolve
281 progressively during partial melting of mantle. The S content in melt at equilibrium
282 with sulfide liquid (SCSS) is influenced by pressure, temperature, melt composition
283 (including water content), oxygen fugacity and the sulfide composition ([Mavrogenes](#)
284 [and O'Neill 1999](#); [Liu et al. 2007](#); [Moretti and Baker 2008](#); [Li and Ripley 2009](#);
285 [Ariskin et al. 2013](#); [Fortin et al. 2015](#); [Lesne et al. 2015](#); [Smythe et al. 2017](#)). At the
286 relative low oxygen fugacity that obtains during partial melting of DMM, PM and
287 SCLM ([Foley 2010](#); [Cottrell and Kelley 2011](#)), effectively all S within melt remains
288 in the S²⁻ redox state. The f_{O_2} of mantle wedge above subducting slabs is widely
289 considered to be relatively oxidized due to the addition of subduction-released
290 oxidized fluids and/or melts ([Mungall 2002](#); [Kelley and Cottrell 2009](#); [Richards 2015](#)),
291 and the island arcs (average $\Delta FMQ+1.3$) are more oxidized than continental arcs
292 (average $\Delta FMQ-0.16$) ([Foley 2010](#)). At high oxygen fugacity ($\log f_{O_2} > \Delta FMQ+1$),
293 the dominant speciation of S in melt changes from S²⁻ to S⁶⁺, and the total S solubility
294 increases dramatically ([Jugo et al. 2010](#)). We have adopted the SCSS model of [Fortin](#)
295 [et al. \(2015\)](#) for the MORB generation and the sub-arc mantle wedge melting due to
296 its success at the corresponding pressure-temperature conditions ([Ding and Dasgupta](#)
297 [2017](#)). But for higher pressure melting (PM and SCLM), we used the new model of
298 [Smythe et al. \(2017\)](#) that incorporates the influences of sulfide composition and

299 extends the pressure and temperature ranges of SCSS. The differences between
300 modeling outputs that would result from the use of various SCSS models are
301 discussed in the [Supplementary 2](#).

302 We have adopted a recent thermodynamic model that accounts for the effects of
303 temperature and sulfide composition on the partitioning of Ni and Cu between sulfide
304 liquids and anhydrous silicate melt at 1.5 GPa and 1300-1700°C ([Kiseeva and Wood](#)
305 [2013, 2015](#)) in lieu of previous assumptions of fixed values (e.g., [Lee et al. 2012](#);
306 [Naldrett 2010, 2011](#); [Ding and Dasgupta 2017](#)).

307

308 **3. Mechanism of partial melting in mantle**

309 **3.1 Polybaric continuous melting of DMM beneath Mid-Ocean Ridges**

310

311 Models for the production of MORB have been based on empirical or
312 thermodynamic parameterization ([McKenzie and Bickle 1988](#); [Langmuir et al. 1993](#);
313 [Asimow et al. 2001](#); [Niu and O'Hara 2008](#)). We use the polybaric continuous melting
314 model via the alphaMELTS, which derives plausible results for MORB compositions,
315 crustal thickness and axial depth of global Mid-Ocean Ridges ([Asimow et al. 2001](#);
316 [Asimow and Langmuir 2003](#); [Asimow 2004](#)).

317 In a continuous melting model, a fixed volume (or mass) proportion of melt is
318 retained in residual mantle after extraction, defining an intermediate state between
319 fractional and batch melting. The approach for computing the polybaric continuous
320 melting of mantle was described by [Asimow et al. \(2001\)](#). Melting is simulated by the

321 decompression process from the solidus to surface in 10 MPa steps. Once the melt
322 fraction by volume exceeds a fixed threshold, the extra melt in each increment is
323 extracted, and the composition and entropy of the residual system are used as
324 reference for the next increment. Increments of extracted liquid are integrated as the
325 pooled magmatic output of mantle melting beneath the mid-ocean ridges. We
326 compared results using a triangular melting prism (e.g., [Mungall and Brenan 2014](#))
327 and the simpler vertical column (e.g., passive flow model of [Asimow et al. 2001](#)) and
328 found little difference for Cu and Ni. The results presented here are for a simple
329 vertical melting column. The influence of water on melting behavior was taken into
330 account throughout this entire calculation by simulating the equilibrium distribution
331 of hydrogen among silicate melts and nominally anhydrous minerals ([Asimow et al.](#)
332 [2004](#); [Asimow 2004](#)). The measurements of global $\text{Fe}^{3+}/\Sigma\text{Fe}$ ratios of MORB glasses
333 provided an accurate approximation for the oxygen fugacity of the MORB source,
334 which is distributed around the fayalite-magnetite-quartz (FMQ) buffer
335 ($\sim\Delta\text{FMQ}+0.07$ by [Cottrell and Kelley 2011](#); $\Delta\text{FMQ}+0.1$ by [Berry et al. 2018](#); or
336 $\Delta\text{FMQ}-0.18$ by [Zhang et al. 2018](#)). The modeling results of DMM melting under
337 different fixed oxygen fugacity (from $\Delta\text{FMQ}-1.0$ to $\Delta\text{FMQ}+0.6$) show almost the
338 same trends of Cu; a relatively oxidized state drives a slightly faster drop of Ni at
339 lower pressure ([Fig. S3](#)).

340
341 To address the behavior of Ni and Cu, a secondary operation was done on the
342 output of alphaMELTS ([Supplementary 3](#)). There are two simple alternative models
for the trace element distribution during partial melting ([White 2013](#)): equilibrium

343 model based on the mass balance, or fractional model where the melt is extracted
344 instantaneously without being equilibrated with the restite ([Shaw 1970](#)). It has been
345 confirmed that the equilibrium partitioning model offers a good approximation of
346 trace element behaviors in the complex partial melting reactions (e.g., [Langmuir et al.](#)
347 [1993](#)). For the finite difference models used here, the differences between Ni and Cu
348 concentrations in the pooled melt derived from equilibrium and fractional (modal and
349 non-modal) partitioning models are less than 3 ppm ([Supplementary 3](#)), and hence we
350 adopted the simple equilibrium model where the contents and individual partition
351 coefficients of the solid phases plus residual sulfide at each melting increment were
352 used to calculate the instantaneous bulk partition coefficients. As the amount of
353 residual sulfide is not provided by alphaMELTS, it must be calculated by mass
354 balance, subtracting the amount of S dissolved in melt from the bulk S budget
355 ([Supplementary 3](#)). Before the complete exhaustion of sulfide liquid in the source,
356 melt in each increment is saturated with sulfide liquid, so the sulfur content of melt
357 was obtained by using empirical SCSS parameterizations ([Fortin et al. 2015](#); [Smythe](#)
358 [et al. 2017](#)).

359

360 **3.2 Adiabatic decompression melting of primary mantle in mantle plume**

361

362 The decompression of mantle material is considered by some investigators to be
363 essentially adiabatic ([McKenzie and Bickle 1988](#); [Asimow 1997](#)). Alternatively,
364 Herzberg and O'Hara ([2002](#)) advocated the importance of perfect fractional melting in

365 plumes, which is different from adiabatic decompression because latent heat escapes
366 with the extracted melt, and differs from continuous melting as there is no melt
367 retained in restite after extraction. The impacts of adiabatic, perfect fractional or
368 continuous melting on the compositions of primary melts have been evaluated in the
369 [Supplementary 4](#); Putirka (2016) argued that the differences between those three
370 melting mechanisms would not introduce significant systematic errors. Here we use a
371 model of purely adiabatic decompression melting, in part because the alphaMELTS
372 software is not calibrated for pressures exceeding 4 GPa, preventing adequate
373 modeling of open-system behaviour in high T_p mantle. In this purely adiabatic case
374 the melt is not separated from the restite over the entire melting path.

375 To begin calculation of a melting path, the entropy of the metastable completely
376 solid system is calculated at 0.1 MPa and the desired T_p . This estimated entropy will
377 be unchanged along the adiabat, so it can be used as a constraint on the
378 thermodynamic model at the starting point of the melting path to give the temperature
379 of the stable assemblage at 4 GPa and then being held constant during decompression.
380 Adiabatic upwelling of mantle leads to continued melting until upwelling ceases at the
381 base of rigid lithosphere ([Fig. 1](#)). We have extended our decompression model to the
382 surface in order to explore the effects of melt cessation under differing lithospheric
383 thicknesses.

384

385 **3.3 Isobaric melting of SCLM in plume-lithosphere interaction**

386

387 The base of the lithosphere will be heated and weakened after hotter plume
388 material impinges on it from below (Condie 2001; Manglik and Christensen 2006;
389 Burov et al. 2007; Gorczyk et al. 2017). We examined the initial stage of
390 plume-lithosphere interaction prior to any subsequent lithospheric thinning, so that the
391 melting of SCLM is caused solely by the isobaric addition of heat from the plume.

392 For this isobaric melting model, we assumed pressures of 1.5, 2.7 and 3.9 GPa,
393 corresponding to 45, 81 and 117 km thick lithosphere, respectively. Based on
394 extensive calculations with oxybarometers in peridotites from the continental
395 lithosphere, it has been concluded that the f_{O_2} of peridotites should decrease by 0.7
396 log units per 1 GPa increase in pressure (Foley 2010). Therefore, the appropriate f_{O_2}
397 at these pressures are $\Delta FMQ = -1.0, -1.7, \text{ and } -2.4$, respectively. In addition, the
398 estimated compositions of A-, P- and T-SCLM (Table 1) were adopted to take the
399 evolution of lithospheric mantle into consideration (Griffin et al. 2009). The range of
400 water contents of SCLM has been assumed as 0-300 ppm, whereas the water-rich
401 portion (100-300 ppm) was used to examine the influence of metasomatism in melting
402 of SCLM.

403

404 **3.4 Flux-melting of mantle wedge above subduction zone**

405

406 The presence of H₂O depresses the peridotite solidus, so the influx of slab-driven
407 fluids and hydrous melts induces magmatism in the mantle wedge (Tatsumi and
408 Eggins 1995; Stern 2002; Grove et al. 2012). Decompression melting associated with

409 convection-induced pressure release has also been proposed to operate above
410 subduction zones (Lee et al. 2009). Because decompression melting in subduction
411 zones (e.g., Tatsumi et al. 1983; Plank and Langmuir 1988; Lee et al. 2009) is similar
412 to what we already consider in mid-ocean ridges, the model here focuses on isobaric
413 flux-melting in an open system, where the progressive addition of small amounts of
414 H₂O and the removal of the generated melts occurs simultaneously at constant P-T
415 close to the anhydrous solidus of mantle wedge peridotite. Primary magmas found in
416 continental magmatic arcs typically last equilibrated with mantle at ~1 GPa and
417 1100°C, representing the crust-mantle boundary; while the temperature of the hottest
418 part of mantle wedge even reaches ~1200-1350°C (Grove et al. 2012). Therefore, the
419 constant pressure in flux-melting model is assumed as 1.0 GPa, and the temperature
420 of this open system ranges from 1100 to 1300 °C. We modeled melting at a range of
421 f_{O_2} , e.g., $\Delta FMQ = +1.0, +1.3, +1.6, +2.0$.

422 In subduction zones, the compositions of slab-derived fluids vary from aqueous
423 fluid (5-15% SiO₂ and 80-95% H₂O) to hydrous silicate melt (55-75 %SiO₂ and 5-30%
424 H₂O) along subduction paths with rising pressure and temperature (Spandler and
425 Pirard 2013). In addition, supercritical fluid, which exhibits complete miscibility
426 between aqueous solution and hydrous melt, is predicted to form in subducting slabs
427 at sub-arc depths (Spandler and Pirard 2013; Kessel et al. 2005a). In order to estimate
428 the effect of various slab fluids on this flux-melting model, 15 typical fluid
429 compositions from previous experiments were used to cover the variation range of
430 these three fluid types (3 representative compositions are listed in Table 1) (Kessel et

431 [al. 2005b; Hermann and Spandler 2008](#)). In this model, 0.1 wt. % slab-fluid is added
432 into the system at each increment, and the portion of melt exceeding 1 vol. % is
433 extracted and pooled to form the final magmatic output.

434

435 **4. Results**

436 **4.1 Polybaric continuous melting of DMM**

437

438 Figures 2 a-c exhibit the variations of Ni in aggregated melt during the partial
439 melting of DMM at 1350°C T_p . Ni concentrations decrease with increasing melting,
440 which is opposite to expectations based on simple isobaric melting models ([Naldrett](#)
441 [2010, 2011](#)), as issue dealt with in the Discussion. Mantle source with greater H₂O
442 contents (0 to 250 ppm) causes its partial melting to begin at a higher pressure (e.g.,
443 increase from 1.85 to 3.54 GPa in [Figure 2a](#)) and temperature, which diminishes the
444 bulk Ni partition coefficient and therefore strongly elevates the Ni concentration
445 within the first ~5 wt. % of melting ([Figs. 2a, b and c](#)). The effect of remaining melt
446 fraction (“porosity”) is felt most strongly at the initial stage of partial melting. If the
447 DMM contains 250 ppm H₂O, the Ni concentrations in first instantaneous melt
448 removed are 580, 543 and 511 ppm at the porosity of 0.3, 0.5 and 0.7 vol. %,
449 respectively ([Figs. 2a, b and c](#)), because greater retention of the earliest Ni-rich melts
450 occurs at higher porosity; these differences gradually decrease as melting progresses.
451 In other words, greater proportions of retained melt modulate the effects of extreme
452 first melt compositions. Based on the assumed initial S abundance (200 ppm) and

453 potential temperature (1350°C), the Ni in pooled melt produced by the polybaric
454 continuous melting of DMM falls in a range between 320-450 ppm after 5 wt. %
455 melting.

456 The trends of Cu in aggregated melt (Fig. 2d) also differ from previous results
457 (Naldrett 2010, 2011; Lee et al. 2012; Ding and Dasgupta 2017). At anhydrous
458 conditions, the Cu concentration of melt starts at 70 ppm, slowly grows to 87.1 ppm at
459 16-17 wt. % melting, and then declines. Addition of water will drive a great increase
460 of Cu amounts in the first instantaneous melt (e.g., 94.6 ppm Cu at 250 ppm H₂O, Fig.
461 2d), which is followed by a sharp drop of Cu within the first ~0-3 wt. % melting. The
462 variations of Cu in hydrous melt output are almost parallel to, but slightly higher than
463 the result from anhydrous melting (Fig. 2d). Moreover, the influence of porosity (i.e.,
464 melt retention in the source) on the Cu concentration of melt is so small as to be
465 negligible.

466 At 1350°C T_p and 200 ppm initial S, the sulfide in residual mantle will be
467 exhausted after ~11.7 wt. % melting, which should not be notably influenced by
468 various water contents and remaining melt fractions. The Ni concentrations of
469 residual sulfide liquids increase from initial values of ~27.5, 24.5, and 23 wt. % (at
470 the initial H₂O contents of 0, 100, and 200 ppm, respectively) to 31.5 wt.%
471 immediately before complete exhaustion of residual sulfide, and the Cu amounts
472 range from 2.79, 2.55, and 2.41 wt. % (at 0, 100, and 200 ppm H₂O, respectively) to
473 ~6.35 wt.% (Figs. 2a, b and c). Moreover, the MgO and FeO of melt output decrease
474 continuously during partial melting (Figs. 2e and f); as with Ni, addition of water can

475 strongly increase their contents at the initial stage.

476 Higher T_p leads to increased concentration of Ni in melt (~50-100 ppm with the
477 25°C increase of T_p) over the whole partial melting path (Fig. 3a). Parallel effects of
478 T_p on the MgO and FeO of aggregated melt are shown in Figure 3c and 3d. The
479 increase of T_p will also drive Cu concentrations to higher values in melt outputs (rise
480 of ~6-17 ppm for 25°C increase of T_p), but this influence wanes after the complete
481 exhaustion of sulfide (Fig. 3b). A hotter DMM brings about the exhaustion of sulfide
482 at a greater depth and a lower melting fraction (Fig. 3a). Moreover, in Figure 2d and
483 Figure 3b, the point when Cu reaches its maximum value slightly lags behind the
484 exhaustion of sulfide in residual mantle due to the buffering of remaining melt, and a
485 higher T_p will cause the maximum in Cu concentration to occur earlier and extend at a
486 higher value.

487

488 **4.2 Adiabatic decompression melting in Mantle Plumes**

489

490 In the adiabatic decompression melting model, the Ni concentration in primitive
491 melt also decreases with the increasing melting degree (Figs. 4a, c and e). Because the
492 base of solid lithosphere limits the final depth of decompression melting of plume
493 which, in turn, determines the extent of melting, the influences of distinct parameters
494 on melt output are easiest to compare at a single pressure. At given pressure and T_p ,
495 H₂O in the source can strongly increase the melting fraction, and drive a slight or
496 negligible decrease of Ni concentration in melts. For example, at the same pressure

497 (2.7 GPa) and potential temperature (1500°C), the decrease of Ni caused by 0-1000
498 ppm H₂O addition is ~26 ppm, whereas continued addition of 2000-6000 ppm H₂O
499 causes a further drop of only 44-76 ppm Ni (Fig. 4a). By analogy to the polybaric
500 continuous melting of DMM, the influences of water on melting fractions and Ni
501 contents are weakened at high degrees of partial melting. On the other hand, small
502 decreases in pressure cause large decreases in Ni, e.g., a fall of ~90-180 ppm Ni for a
503 pressure drop of 0.6 GPa (Figs. 4a, c and e). In contrast, a higher T_p largely increases
504 the degree of melting and slightly increases the Ni content of melt at the same
505 pressure and water content, e.g., 876 ppm (T_p=1500°C), 966 ppm (T_p=1550°C) and
506 1011 ppm (T_p=1600°C) at 2.7 GPa and 0 ppm H₂O (Figs. 4a, c and e). Therefore, Ni
507 concentration in primitive melt is more strongly affected by pressure than by an
508 increase of T_p, and both of them far outweigh the effects of H₂O at the same pressure.
509 Additionally, the exhaustion of sulfide in the source will be completed earlier in a
510 hotter plume, changing from 21.4% to 16.1% melting for an increase of T_p from
511 1500°C to 1550°C.

512 The MgO content of melt also decreases with melting until the exhaustion of
513 orthopyroxene (Figs. 4b, d and f). After this point, the restite is dunite and further
514 melting leads to rapid rise of MgO in melt. At constant pressure, the effect of H₂O
515 addition on MgO is insignificant. Moreover, the pressure drop causes an obvious
516 decrease of MgO, which is analogous to the trend of Ni in melt. Likewise, a higher T_p
517 slightly increases the MgO of magma (~0.5-1.0 wt. %) at the same pressure and water
518 content. In all, the trend of MgO within primitive melt is similar to that of Ni during

519 adiabatic decompression melting process.

520 At $T_p=1500^\circ\text{C}$, the Cu concentration in melt always exhibits a constant
521 downward trend with increasing melting, and the exhaustion of sulfide causes only a
522 slight inflection on the slope of Cu vs. degree of melting (Fig. 5a). This trend is
523 different from either the long-held view of Cu behavior (Naldrett 2010, 2011; Lee et
524 al. 2012; Ding and Dasgupta 2017) or the previous results obtained for polybaric
525 continuous melting of DMM (Figs. 2d and 3b), and we return to this matter in the
526 Discussion. Addition of water will drive a slight increase of Cu in melt at the same
527 melting fraction, but this effect is negligible after the complete exhaustion of sulfide
528 in source (Fig. 5a). In contrast, at constant pressure, a greater amount of H_2O in
529 source slightly reduces the Cu concentration of primary melt (by ~6 ppm for 0 to
530 1000 ppm H_2O at 3.9 GPa) due to the extended degree of melting. Although sulfide
531 exhaustion occurs at different melting degrees for $T_p=1500$ and 1550°C , the Cu
532 concentrations of melts fall into equal or near-equal ranges from 0 to 4 GPa (Figs. 5a
533 and 5b). In the model with higher T_p ($>1600^\circ\text{C}$), the residual sulfide is entirely
534 dissolved at greater depth before the simulation begins (i.e., >4 GPa), so its result
535 only reflects the late diminishing part and overlaps the Cu trend for the 1500°C T_p
536 model at the corresponding melting range. Before complete exhaustion of sulfide, the
537 Ni and Cu amounts of residual sulfide liquids fall into a narrow range (Ni, 24.7-30.8
538 wt. %; Cu, 1.8-2.29 wt. %) (Fig. 5).

539

540 **4.3 Isobaric melting of SCLM due to plume-lithosphere interaction**

541

542 For an isobaric melting model, the temperature of SCLM must be continuously
543 increased to trigger and continue partial melting. Several numerical simulations of
544 plume-lithosphere interaction have generated the temporal and spatial distribution of
545 the complex resulting temperature field (Farnetani and Richards 1994; d'Acremont et
546 al. 2003; Burov et al. 2007; Koptev et al. 2015; Gorczyk et al. 2017). To avoid endless
547 proliferation of model parameters we have adopted a simple limiting constraint that
548 the melting temperature in SCLM cannot exceed the temperature of subjacent plume.
549 In Figure 6, the conditions where the continuously rising temperature of the isobaric
550 model intersects with the temperature of adiabatic decompression melting at the same
551 pressure, are indicated as round dots. If the temperature of the system exceeds this
552 threshold value, the remaining parts of models will be divorced from reality, and
553 shown as dotted lines.

554 The models of A-, P- and T-SCLM at 3.9 GPa, 50 ppm H₂O and Δ FMQ-2.4,
555 show that Ni concentration increases steadily in melt as melting proceeds (Fig. 6a).
556 Based on the assumed S abundances (Table 1), the residual sulfide of source is
557 entirely dissolved in melts at ~1.43%, 5.76% and 10.14% melting for A-, P- and
558 T-SCLM, respectively. Overall, at the same degree of melting, the relative Ni contents
559 of melt from A-SCLM are highest, followed by P-SCLM and T-SCLM. The oldest
560 A-SCLM should be strongly depleted and refractory after previous melting events.
561 Thus, limited to the temperature threshold offered by the plumes with same T_p , the
562 effective melting extent of A-SCLMs is lower than that of P-SCLMs, and both of

563 them are lower than T-SCLMs (Fig. 6a). If S has not previously been affected by
564 metasomatism of SCLM, the isobaric melting of SCLMs mostly ceases before the
565 complete exhaustion of sulfide, except for the T-SCLM heated by mantle plume with
566 1600°C T_p (Fig. 6a).

567 To examine the effect of lithospheric thickness, isobaric melting of T-SCLM has
568 been modeled at 1.5 GPa ($\Delta\text{FMQ}-1.0$), 2.7 GPa ($\Delta\text{FMQ}-1.7$) and 3.9 GPa
569 ($\Delta\text{FMQ}-2.4$) (Fig. 6b). For the same source, isobaric melting at higher pressure results
570 in higher Ni contents; melting at 2.7 GPa results in Ni contents ~ 400 ppm greater than
571 at 1.5 GPa. Additionally, the reduction of pressure will also drive a slight delay for the
572 sulfide exhaustion, and much higher degrees of melting occur at lower pressure (Fig.
573 6b). The MgO content of melts for different SCLMs and pressures have similar trends
574 as the Ni concentration with the melting increases (Fig. 6c). Dotted lines in Figure 6c
575 show the unrealistic increases in melt MgO content that would occur if the isobaric
576 melting was not limited by the temperature of the impinging plume.

577 The Cu concentration of melt in isobaric model shows a rapid growth at the
578 beginning of melting, followed by a smooth increase to a maximum value, and then a
579 slow decline (Fig. 6d). The complete exhaustion of sulfide slightly lags behind the
580 appearance of maximum Cu concentration, except in the case of partial melting of
581 T-SCLM at 1.5 GPa. Higher pressure increases the Cu concentration at the initial
582 stage of melting, but the results at different pressure overlap at higher degrees of
583 melting after the exhaustion of sulfide (Fig. 6d). As the A- and P-SCLM may be
584 depleted in Cu due to multi-phase magmatic events, the Cu released by their isobaric

585 melting is generally less than that of T-SCLM at the same fraction of mantle melted
586 (Fig. 6d).

587 Isobaric melting models of T-SCLM with different H₂O contents (0-300 ppm)
588 were conducted under 3.9 GP and Δ FMQ-2.4, using H₂O as a proxy for the many
589 possible fluxing influences of metasomatism. Because H₂O in the source reduces the
590 melting temperature, its effect is exhibited in element concentration vs. temperature
591 diagrams (Figs. 6e and f). The increase of H₂O from 0 to 300 ppm leads to only 11 °C
592 drop of the temperature at which sulfide is exhausted (Figs. 6e and f). On the other
593 hand, the influences of H₂O addition on the overall trends of Ni and Cu are
594 insignificantly small. At the same temperature, just ~60 ppm growth of Ni
595 concentration is related to the increase of H₂O from 0 to 300 ppm (Fig. 6e). The
596 variation of melt productivity (%/°C) along with the increasing temperature shows a
597 smooth growth at the onset of melting, and then rapidly increases to a maximum value
598 with the exhaustion of clinopyroxene, which can be slightly delayed via the loss of
599 H₂O (Fig. 6e).

600

601 **4.4 Flux-melting of mantle wedge**

602

603 Variations of Ni and Cu in the aggregated melt during the partial melting of
604 mantle wedge are shown in Figure 7. Although the model slab-derived fluids cover
605 the compositional range from aqueous fluid to hydrous silicate melt, these changes
606 have little influence on the Ni, Cu concentrations and compositions of melts. Increase

607 of temperature from 1100 to 1300 °C causes increases in MgO and Ni contents in
608 magmatic output, e.g., 5-6 wt.% MgO, ~90 ppm Ni at 1100°C and 11-13.5 wt. %
609 MgO, ~250-300 ppm Ni at 1300°C (Figs. 7a and b).

610 On the other hand, increasing temperature also enhances the transfer of S into the
611 melt, leading to sulfide exhaustion at ~17 %, 19 %, 20.5 %, 21.3 % and 22 % of
612 mantle wedge melted at the temperature of 1300, 1250, 1200, 1150 and 1100°C,
613 respectively, which, in turn, will control the behavior of Cu during flux-melting (Fig.
614 7c). Moreover, the timing of maximum values of Cu lag behind the sulfide exhaustion
615 owing to the buffering of remaining melt. Variations of initial S abundance in the
616 source can slightly enhance or retard the exhaustion of sulfide, driving a little increase
617 or decrease of the Cu maximum, but all trends overlap at high degrees of melting (Fig.
618 7d). The depleted DMM will reach the exhaustion of sulfide earlier, but the reason for
619 these nearly parallel Cu trends is the different initial concentrations of Cu in sources
620 (Fig. 7e). At higher f_{O_2} , sulfide will be exhausted at lower degree of melting because
621 of enhanced S solubility, resulting in earlier and more efficient release of Cu into the
622 melt. For example, the maximum value of Cu within melt exceeds ~170 ppm at
623 $\Delta FMQ+2$ and 1% melting, but is about 65 ppm for $\Delta FMQ+1$ and 20% partial melting
624 (Fig. 7f). More oxidized conditions are therefore conducive to the generation of more
625 Cu-rich arc magmas from a given source.

626

627 **5. Discussion**

628 **5.1 Partitioning behavior of Ni during decompression melting**

629

630 Based on the models above, the distribution of Ni during partial melting of
631 mantle is complicated and shows a strong dependence on tectonic setting (230-450
632 ppm Ni for mid-ocean ridges, [Figs. 2 and 3](#); 500-1300 ppm Ni for mantle plume, [Fig.](#)
633 [4](#); 100-300 ppm Ni for subduction zones, [Fig. 7](#)), which can be attributed to the
634 following reasons: (1) Ni is not only strongly compatible in sulfide, but is also hosted
635 in major mineral phases in the source, especially the olivine which constitutes a large
636 percentage of mantle and has a moderate partition coefficient for Ni (~1.5-13); (2)
637 partition coefficients of Ni between the mineral phases and silicate melt are dependent
638 on melt composition, pressure and temperature ([Beattie et al. 1991](#); [Li and Ripley](#)
639 [2010](#); [Herzberg et al. 1991](#); [Matzen et al. 2013, 2017a](#)), which will change during the
640 generation of magma; (3) source compositions, thermal regimes and melting
641 mechanisms of mantle are different in various tectonic settings ([Arndt et al. 2005](#)),
642 resulting in diverse melt products.

643 First of all, the partitioning behavior of Ni in mantle melting is determined by the
644 bulk partition coefficient of Ni between restite and melt (D_{Ni}^{bulk}), which is simply the
645 sum of the individual partition coefficients multiplied by the proportions of each
646 phase, including the residual sulfide. Therefore, the variations of partition coefficients
647 and modal phase proportions in restite during partial melting of mantle affect the Ni
648 contents of melts along melting paths. As shown in [Supplementary Figure S6](#), the
649 contribution of olivine to the bulk partition coefficient is far greater than that of other
650 phases, occupying ~ 78-91% proportion of D_{Ni}^{bulk} in the polybaric continuous

651 melting of DMM (Fig. S6b), $\sim >73\%$ proportion in the adiabatic melting of PM (Fig.
652 S6d), $\sim 76.5\text{-}86\%$ proportion in the isobaric melting of T-SCLM (Fig. S6f), and $> 73.5\%$
653 proportion in the flux melting of mantle wedge (Fig. S6h). Additionally, as garnet,
654 clinopyroxene and/or orthopyroxene are exhausted in turn, the olivine proportion in
655 restite rises in a similar manner over melting paths in different tectonic settings (Figs.
656 S6a, S6c, S6e and S6g). Therefore, the distinct partitioning behaviors of Ni (Figs. 2, 3,
657 4, 6 and 7) are mostly strongly attributed to the variations of $D_{Ni}^{ol/melt}$ at different
658 melting scenarios.

659 During decompression, for both the continuous melting of DMM and adiabatic
660 melting of PM, Ni concentrations in melts decrease with increasing degree of melting
661 (Figs. 2, 3 and 4), which contradicts intuition and the long-held conclusions derived
662 from previous isobaric melting models with fixed partition coefficients (Naldrett 2010,
663 2011). As the D_{Ni}^{bulk} is mostly controlled by the partition coefficient between olivine
664 and melt (Figs. S6b, S6d, S6f and S6h), the reasons for the distinct Ni trends are
665 related to variations of $D_{Ni}^{ol/melt}$ between melting scenarios. First, there is an obvious
666 inverse relationship between $D_{Ni}^{ol/melt}$ and MgO in melt (e.g., Hart and Davis 1978);
667 the increasing temperature and pressure of melting typically yield primary melts with
668 elevated MgO (Herzberg et al. 2013, 2016), and this strong correlation makes it
669 difficult to distinguish the isolated effects of temperature and/or pressure on $D_{Ni}^{ol/melt}$.
670 More recently, the experiments of Matzen et al. (2013, 2017a) separated the
671 influences of temperature from liquid composition, and demonstrated that the increase
672 of temperature at constant melt composition largely decreases $D_{Ni}^{ol/melt}$. Niu et al.

673 (2011) suggested explicitly the inverse correlation of $D_{Ni}^{Ol/melt}$ with increasing
674 pressure, but this parameterization may not be consistent with the experimental
675 database (Herzberg et al. 2013). In addition, an explicit pressure dependence is absent
676 from many parameterizations of $D_{Ni}^{Ol/melt}$ (Li and Ripley 2010; Putirka et al. 2011;
677 Herzberg et al. 2013); Matzen et al. (2013, 2017a) proposed that the effect of pressure
678 on $D_{Ni}^{Ol/melt}$ is negligible over the range from 0 to 3 GPa. Incorrect results are
679 obtained by simple isobaric melting models because increasing temperature and
680 continuous growth of MgO in melt cause a decrease of $D_{Ni}^{Ol/melt}$ in isobaric models
681 (Naldrett 2010, 2011). For the decompression melting of mantle, the variation of
682 pressure cannot be ignored, and will exert a strong influence on the melt composition.
683 Melting experiments of both the spinel peridotite and garnet peridotite have
684 consistently shown that MgO increases in partial melt with the increasing pressure
685 (Jaques and Green 1980; Walter 1998; Herzberg and Asimow 2015). Once upwelling
686 mantle material intersects the solidus, initial melting occurs at the largest pressure and,
687 in turn, results in minor melt production of melt with the highest MgO. As upwelling
688 continues, more melt with less MgO will be generated at lower pressure, which
689 dilutes the original high-MgO melt. Hence, the drop of pressure in decompression
690 process causes the decrease of MgO with melting before the exhaustion of
691 orthopyroxene, resulting in rising $D_{Ni}^{Ol/melt}$ and a consequent drop of Ni
692 concentration in the melt. In addition, the temperature of hotter mantle decreases
693 during its ascent, making secondary contributions to the increase of $D_{Ni}^{Ol/melt}$ and
694 decrease of Ni concentrations in the decompression of DMM and PM (Matzen et al.

695 [2013, 2017a](#)). This trend of MgO within melt has also been revealed by the
696 accumulated and instantaneous fractional melts during adiabatic decompression paths
697 of the fertile peridotite (Fig. 8 and Fig. 11 in [Herzberg and O'Hara 2002](#)).

698

699 **5.2 Partitioning behavior of Cu during partial melting**

700

701 In consideration of the complexities of various melting degrees and source
702 compositions, our results are in good agreement with existing knowledge of the Cu
703 concentrations in MORBs (60-90 ppm), arc basalts (50-100 ppm) and OIBs (80-120
704 ppm) ([Fellows and Canil 2012](#); [Lee et al. 2012](#); [Liu et al. 2014](#); [Richards 2015](#)).

705 Based on the recent experimental investigations on the partition coefficients of Cu
706 between mineral phases and silicate melts at upper mantle conditions ([Fellows and](#)
707 [Canil 2012](#); [Lee et al. 2012](#); [Liu et al. 2014](#); [Le Roux et al. 2015](#); [Zhang et al. 2017](#)),
708 many models for the partitioning of Cu within partial melting have reached a
709 consensus that its concentration increases with progressive melting at initial stage,
710 reaches a maximum value and then starts to decrease when sulfide is exhausted as
711 there is little to hold them back in the restite ([Naldrett 2010, 2011](#); [Lee et al. 2012](#);
712 [Zhang et al. 2017](#); [Ding and Dasgupta 2017](#)).

713 However, our models predict some distinct and complex partitioning behaviors of
714 Cu during the partial melting of DMM ([Figs. 2d and 3b](#)), PM ([Fig. 5](#)), SCLM ([Fig. 6d](#))
715 and mantle wedge ([Figs. 7c-f](#)), which is mostly attributed to the new insight into
716 $D_{Cu}^{sul/melt}$. Due to the insufficient and unsystematic experiments on $D_{Cu}^{sul/melt}$, a high

717 constant value was mostly used as a simplifying assumption in previous models (e.g.,
718 800 in [Lee et al. 2012](#), 1000 in [Ding and Dasgupta 2017](#)), which ignores the possible
719 effects of changes of $D_{Cu}^{sul/melt}$ and overestimates the contribution of sulfide to the
720 D_{Cu}^{bulk} . More recently, Li and Audétat ([2012](#)) recognized that the sulfide-silicate melt
721 partition coefficients of Ni and Cu vary as a function of oxygen fugacity. Then
722 Kiseeva and Wood ([2013, 2015](#)) did further experiments and developed a more
723 comprehensive thermodynamic model that takes account of the effects of temperature,
724 oxygen fugacity (refers to the FeO wt. % in silicate melt) and the composition of
725 sulfide liquid on $D^{sul/melt}$, to describe the Ni and Cu partitioning between sulfide
726 liquids and silicate melts. A simple relationship between the $D_{Cu}^{sul/melt}$ and the FeO
727 of melt has been confirmed by Kiseeva and Wood ([2013](#)), showing the negative
728 near-linear correlation in diagram of $\log D_{Cu}^{sul/melt}$ vs. $\log FeO$. Moreover, negative
729 T-dependences were also observed within the range of 1300-1700°C, and substantial
730 addition of Ni and/or Cu into the sulfide liquid resulted in the slight variation of
731 $D^{sul/melt}$ ([Kiseeva and Wood 2015](#)). As a result, the elevated temperature and FeO of
732 melt experienced during melting at higher pressure drive an important reduction of
733 $D_{Cu}^{sul/melt}$.

734 Walter ([1998](#)) demonstrated that the FeO of melt increases with increasing
735 pressure, although his data exhibit considerable scatter. Hence, the FeO of melt output
736 during decompression, shows a sustained downward trend ([Fig. 3d](#)), leading to the
737 increase of $D_{Cu}^{sul/melt}$ ([Fig. 8a](#)) and falling Cu of melts. On the other hand, the ascent
738 of mantle is also accompanied by the reduction of temperature, which also makes a

739 secondary contribution to the elevated $D_{Cu}^{sul/melt}$. As the start of melting for the hotter
740 mantle occurs at a higher pressure, the $D_{Cu}^{sul/melt}$ will increase from a lower value for
741 the mantle partial melting at a larger T_p . For the adiabatic decompression melting of
742 mantle plume ($T_p > 1500^\circ\text{C}$), the values of $D_{Cu}^{sul/melt}$ are always smaller than ~ 290
743 before the exhaustion of residual sulfide (Fig. 8a), resulting in the monotonic decrease
744 of Cu with melting (Fig. 5). Similarly, Cu concentrations during polybaric continuous
745 melting of DMM at $T_p = 1400$ and 1375°C will also exhibit a fast drop followed by a
746 smooth increase (the concave trend of Cu before exhaustion of sulfide, Fig. 3b)
747 because their increasing $D_{Cu}^{sul/melt}$ cross the transition value (~ 360) for Cu evolution
748 above which its D_{Cu}^{bulk} becomes less than unity (Fig. 8a). In contrast, for lower T_p
749 cases, Cu mostly increases before sulfide is exhausted (Fig. 3b) as their values of
750 $D_{Cu}^{sul/melt}$ always exceed ~ 360 (Fig. 8a). Additionally, because of the relative low
751 $D_{Cu}^{sul/melt}$ at the initial melting of DMM, the Cu content begins the melting path at
752 moderate values, which is distinct from the low initial value of Cu predicted by
753 previous models (Naldrett 2010; Lee et al. 2012; Ding and Dasgupta 2017). As a
754 result, the Cu contents of melts derived from partial melting of DMM fall into a
755 narrow range (~ 60 - 90 ppm for 1300 - 1375°C T_p) during the entire decompression
756 process, matching well with the observed distribution of Cu from MORB worldwide
757 (Fellows and Canil 2012). The hotter plume results in a very low value of $D_{Cu}^{sul/melt}$,
758 which, in turn, increases the Cu of primary melt, showing good agreement with the
759 relative high Cu contents from OIBs (Fellows and Canil 2012).

760 In contrast, the constantly rising temperature within isobaric melting of SCLMs

761 induces the increase of FeO of melt output, meanwhile both factors cause the
762 reduction of $D_{Cu}^{sul/melt}$. Its low melt productivity (%/°C) at the initial stage of partial
763 melting (Fig. 6e) determines that ~2-3% fraction after the onset of melting requires
764 great growth of temperature, leading to a sharp drop of $D_{Cu}^{sul/melt}$ (Fig. 8b)
765 accompanied by the rapid increase of Cu abundance in this stage (Fig. 6d). Then the
766 trend of $D_{Cu}^{sul/melt}$ shows a smooth decrease due to the relatively slow heating
767 process (moderate melt productivity, Fig. 6e) at the high melting fraction (Fig. 8b).
768 Additionally, the positive relationship between pressure and FeO content of melt also
769 makes a difference, showing that the isobaric melting of T-SCLM at higher pressure
770 produces melt with higher FeO content, lower $D_{Cu}^{sul/melt}$ and consequently higher Cu
771 content (Figs. 8b and 6d). At 3.9 GPa, the $D_{Cu}^{sul/melt}$ falls beneath ~150 for Cu
772 evolution during isobaric melting, leading to the transition of Cu abundance from fast
773 initial rise to smooth decrease (Fig. 6d). Hence, during the isobaric melting of SCLMs
774 at high pressure, the control of mantle sulfide on Cu partitioning behavior is
775 weakened by the sustained fall in $D_{Cu}^{sul/melt}$, and the maximum Cu content in the melt
776 can be reached before the exhaustion of sulfide within the restite.

777 As the temperature and pressure are constant within the flux-melting model, the
778 FeO content of melt output is nearly invariable, producing little change in $D_{Cu}^{sul/melt}$
779 during partial melting (Fig. 8c). Increasing temperature causes an increase in FeO and
780 reduction of $D_{Cu}^{sul/melt}$, but all the flux-melting models at appropriate temperature
781 range (1100-1300°C) confirm the high level of $D_{Cu}^{sul/melt}$ (>~590), driving the
782 monotonic increase of Cu concentration with increasing melting before sulfide

783 exhaustion (Figs. 7c-f), which is parallel to the Cu trends from previous models with
784 the assumed high $D_{Cu}^{sul/melt}$ (Naldrett 2010, 2011; Lee et al. 2012; Ding and
785 Dasgupta 2017).

786

787 5.3 Composition of base metal sulfide

788

789 Base metal sulfide (BMS) within the mantle has drawn attention because it
790 controls the behaviors of chalcophile and siderophile elements and plays a crucial role
791 in recording melt depletion, enrichment and/or metasomatic events that may occur in
792 the mantle, particularly for Re-Os isotope systematics (Lorand and Luguet 2016;
793 Harvey et al. 2016). We presume that under all conditions addressed in our modeling
794 study, the BMS exists as a single sulfide liquid phase (Zhang and Hirschmann 2016).

795 Here, the thermodynamic model for Ni and Cu partitioning between sulfide and
796 silicate melt (Kiseeva and Wood 2013, 2015) not only traces the variations of
797 $D_{Ni}^{sul/melt}$ and $D_{Cu}^{sul/melt}$, but also provides a new insight into the compositional
798 evolution of BMS during partial melting of mantle. During the polybaric continuous
799 melting of DMM, the Ni concentration in BMS increases from 27.5 to 31.7 wt.%,
800 along with the rise of Cu from 2.79 to 6.33 wt.% (Figs. 2a, b and c). Addition of water
801 to the source drives a slight reduction of Ni and Cu contents in low-degree melting
802 due to the H₂O-induced extremely low $D^{sul/melt}$ at the onset of melting (Fig. 2f).
803 For the adiabatic decompression melting of hotter mantle, BMS falls into a similar
804 range for Ni abundance (24.7-29.9 wt.%), but a relatively lower and narrower range

805 for Cu concentration (1.8-2.3 wt.%, [Fig. 5](#)). In contrast, the BMS in models of
806 isobaric melting of SCLM exhibits decreasing Ni and Cu concentrations with
807 increasing melting ([Fig. 6d](#)), because of the drop of $D^{sul/melt}$. The ranges of Ni and
808 Cu in BMS are larger if the SCLM melts at lower pressure, and the melting of
809 strongly-depleted A-SCLM at 3.9 GPa results in Ni-rich, Cu-poor BMS ([Fig. 6d](#)).
810 Flux-melting of the mantle wedge gives a wide range for the composition of BMS that
811 mostly has high Ni (20-36 wt.%) and Cu (2-15 wt.%). In all, the sulfide compositions
812 within our models mostly fall into the range of 20-30 wt.% Ni and 2-10 wt.% Cu,
813 coinciding well with the observed compositional range of peridotite-hosted sulfide
814 worldwide (e.g., [Guo et al. 1999](#); [Wang et al. 2009](#); [Liu et al. 2010](#); [Lorand and](#)
815 [Luguet 2016](#); [Harvey et al. 2016](#)). Although the influence of Ni and Cu concentrations
816 in sulfide on partitioning is relatively small ([Kiseeva and Wood 2013, 2015](#)), their
817 impacts on the SCSS model are the factors that must be considered ([Ariskin et al.](#)
818 [2013](#); [Smythe et al. 2017](#)).

819 We have used our modeled phase compositions to assess several published
820 parameterizations for the distribution of Ni between olivine and sulfide melt
821 ([Supplementary 5](#)). Whereas our model results are consistent with experimental data
822 in olivine-sulfide systems, they are not consistent with any of the published models.
823 We conclude that there is potential to derive a self-consistent model for olivine-sulfide
824 partitioning of Ni from the existing thermodynamic models for olivine-silicate melt
825 and sulfide liquid-silicate melt partitioning that would be more accurate than the
826 existing ones (e.g., [Barnes et al. 2013](#); [Sciortino et al. 2015](#)).

827

828 **5.4 Effect of lithosphere thickness overlying mantle plume**

829

830 The decompression melting of deep-rooted thermal mantle plumes is triggered by
831 their intersection with the solidus, during the adiabatic upwelling of plume mantle,
832 and ceases at the bottom of lithosphere (Fig. 1). Hence, the base of rigid,
833 nonconvecting lithosphere will act as a ‘lid’ on upwelling sources, controlling the
834 vertical range of decompression processes, which is also proportional to the extent of
835 melting (Humphreys and Niu 2009; Niu et al. 2011). This decompression melting
836 beneath thick lithosphere stops at a greater depth, resulting in less melt with a high
837 pressure signature; whereas more melt bearing a low pressure signature comes from
838 partial melting beneath thin lithosphere (Humphreys and Niu 2009; Niu et al. 2011).
839 Because high pressure leads to the lower melting degree, larger MgO and Ni in melt
840 (Fig. 4), the lithosphere thickness exerts a strong control on the Ni concentration of
841 mantle plume-derived magma. On the other hand, our results are consistent with
842 explanations for the occurrence of high-Ni olivine phenocrysts stating that the
843 presence of thick lithosphere leads to high Ni contents in melt that in turn, allow the
844 crystallization of Ni-rich olivine near the surface (Niu et al. 2011; Putirka et al. 2011;
845 Matzen et al. 2013, 2017a, b).

846 It has been confirmed that variation of oceanic lithosphere thickness exerts the
847 first-order control on the major elements of OIBs (Humphreys and Niu 2009; Niu et al.
848 2011). We have adopted geochemical data for volcanic islands from the GEOROC

849 database to evaluate the relationship between the lithosphere thickness and Ni
850 concentration in melt. The samples with $\text{SiO}_2 > 53\%$ and no Ni contents were excluded,
851 which resulted in a smaller data set containing 93 volcanic islands and 7216 samples
852 from the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Oceans. The Ni contents of the OIB data set
853 were corrected for fractionation effects using the MORB liquid lines of descent (LLD)
854 to $\text{Mg}^\# = 0.72$ ([Supplementary 6](#)). In order to test the influence of lithosphere thickness,
855 the corrected Ni contents of samples from each volcanic island were averaged
856 ([Supplementary Table S1](#)). Lithosphere thickness of each volcanic island was
857 obtained from Humphreys and Niu (2009), and given in [Supplementary Table S1](#).
858 Although it has large compositional scatter for a given volcanic island (1σ variation in
859 [Supplementary Table S1](#), and the error bars in [Figure 9](#)), the positive correlation of
860 island-averaged Ni with lithosphere thickness is noticeable ($R^2 = 0.295$, [Fig. 9](#)),
861 coinciding with the model-based prediction that termination of melting paths at higher
862 pressure under thicker lithosphere results in the increase of Ni concentration in melt
863 output.

864 Additionally, based on the GEOROC database, ultramafic-mafic volcanic
865 samples from oceanic LIPs were also used to verify the effect of lithosphere thickness.
866 Oceanic plateaus form in deep-ocean basins as broad and flat-topped plateaus with
867 over-thickened crusts ([Ernst 2014](#)). Although some features of oceanic plateaus (in
868 particular, Ontong Java) disagree with expectations of the mantle plume hypothesis
869 ([Korenaga 2005](#)), most oceanic plateaus still appear to have formed as a result of
870 decompression melting of a large mantle plume head ([Révillon et al. 2000](#); [Weis et al.](#)

871 [2002; Ernst 2014](#)). The geochemical signatures of the Caribbean, Kerguelen and most
872 Ontong Java oceanic plateau lavas show no evidence of lithospheric interaction ([Kerr](#)
873 [and Mahoney 2007; Ernst 2014](#)). The older Kerguelen plateau basalts are slightly
874 contaminated by continental lithosphere ([Ingle et al. 2002](#)), and Wrangellia is the only
875 known oceanic plateau to have evidence for interaction with a subduction-modified
876 lithosphere ([Greene et al. 2008](#)). Thus, most oceanic plateaus are unlikely to be
877 modified by crustal contamination and continental lithosphere, and hence, are more
878 useful than continental LIPs to decipher mantle processes and source materials ([Kerr](#)
879 [and Mahoney 2007; Ernst 2014](#)). The Ni and MgO concentrations in lavas from
880 oceanic plateaus show a strong positive correlation, especially when MgO exceeds 12
881 wt.% ([Fig. 10a](#)). Final melting pressure and temperature are inferred from the
882 compositions of high-Mg rocks (>12 wt.%) following the equations from Herzberg
883 and Gazel (2009) ([Fig. 10b](#)). Melting in the Ontong Java and Wrangellia oceanic
884 plateaus is inferred to have ceased at 0.5-2 GPa, whereas the final melting pressures
885 of Caribbean and Kerguelen magmas decreased from ~7 GPa to 0.5 GPa. Diameters
886 of circles in [Figure 10b](#) are proportional to the Ni concentrations in samples. Although
887 the rocks are mixtures of melts and olivine phenocrysts, causing some overestimations
888 of Ni amount in melt, it appears that, in general, low final melting pressure leads to a
889 relatively low Ni content ([Fig. 10b](#)).

890 Even if the parental magma for Ni-Cu-(PGE) deposit experiences ascent,
891 assimilation, transport and crystallization after its generation ([Naldrett 2010, 2011](#)), a
892 Ni-rich primary melt still has greater potential to form a deposit during its subsequent

893 evolution. Based on many systematic studies of magmatic sulfide deposits, it has
894 become widely accepted that most of them are closely related to the coeval mantle
895 plume events and LIPs ([Barnes and Lightfoot 2005](#); [Begg et al. 2010](#); [Qin et al. 2011](#);
896 [Ernst 2014](#); [Barnes et al. 2015](#)), e.g., the Noril'sk magmatic deposit associated with
897 the end-Permian Siberian Traps ([Lightfoot and Keays 2005](#)). However, there is almost
898 no significant Ni-Cu-(PGE) mineralization in oceanic LIPs, except the Wellgreen
899 deposit in the Wrangellia plateau, which has interacted with the continental crust or
900 lithosphere ([Marcantonio et al. 1994](#); [Ernst 2014](#)). Our models indicate that melting
901 beneath the thin oceanic lithosphere (mostly <90 km) may cause Ni concentrations
902 too low to generate significant magmatic mineralization. Although the continental
903 LIPs usually interacted with thick ancient cratonic lithosphere, there are still some
904 barren continental LIPs, in which no significant magmatic Ni-Cu-(PGE) deposits have
905 been found, e.g., the Paraná-Etendeka Province and Deccan Traps ([Zhang et al. 2008](#)).
906 In the main pulse of Deccan Traps magmatism (~65 Ma), the thickness of Dharwar
907 Carton in Indian may have been just ~80 km ([Dessai et al. 2004](#); [Karmalker et al.](#)
908 [2009](#)). Based on the compositions of MgO-rich rocks, most magmatism in the Deccan
909 LIP was constrained by its low lithosphere thickness, and contain extremely low Ni
910 contents (8-573 ppm, [Zhang et al. 2008](#)). Additionally, a thinned lithosphere is also
911 advocated in the Paraná-Etendeka LIP event ([Gibson et al. 2006](#)). The thin lithosphere
912 may therefore be one of the reasons for the barren Deccan and Paraná-Etendeka LIPs.
913 However, it must be recalled that the mineralization process depends on a
914 combination of factors such as the availability of S-rich crustal contaminants and

915 suitable structural traps that are not related to the composition of the primary magma;
916 furthermore, not all valuable Ni deposits are preserved and exposed where we can
917 find them. Absence of evidence for their existence is not evidence of their absence.

918

919 **5.5 Effect of potential temperature in mantle plume**

920

921 Besides lithosphere thickness, the potential temperature also influences the P-T
922 condition at which melting ceases within the ascending plume. Evidently T_p of an
923 adiabatically upwelling plume must be high enough for it to intersect the solidus at
924 sub-lithospheric depths (e.g., [Farnetani and Richards 1994](#); [Garfunkel 2008](#)). At
925 constant pressure (e.g., thickness of lithosphere lid), a 50°C increase of T_p will lead to
926 ~ 2 MgO wt. % growth and ~ 70 - 110 ppm Ni increase in melt.

927 The T_p of some typical oceanic and continental LIPs have been calculated using
928 PRIMETL 3 ([Herzberg and Asimow 2015](#)) ([Fig. 11](#)). In our calculations, we excluded
929 samples: (1) generated from pyroxenite sources; (2) degassed from CO_2 -rich sources;
930 (3) which have experienced plagioclase and/or clinopyroxene fractionation. All results
931 illustrated that LIPs were formed by sources which are hotter than normal mantle, and
932 most of them have a wide range of T_p , such as 1410 - 1670°C for Siberian Traps ([Fig.](#)
933 [11](#)). Although secular cooling does occur in mantle plumes ([Herzberg and Gazel](#)
934 [2009](#)), this influence is very small for the short duration of these LIP events, and
935 hence, the variations of T_p mostly depend on the thermal structure of mantle plume
936 such that hot primary magmas originate from the axis with high T_p , and cooler

937 primary magmas come from the periphery having low T_p (Ribe and Christensen 1999).
938 Therefore, the primary melt related to the highest T_p in plume-center should have
939 great ore potential, coinciding well with observations that the Ni-Cu-(PGE)
940 mineralization is usually proximal to their respective mantle plume centers (Ernst
941 2014). Furthermore, Lee et al. (2009) concluded that Archean komatiites mostly
942 formed by melting in a mantle with a $T_p > 1700^\circ\text{C}$, which is one of the possible reasons
943 for the abundant magmatic Ni-Cu-(PGE) sulfide deposits located in komatiites.

944

945 **5.6 Effect of H₂O in Mid-Ocean Ridges and Mantle Plumes**

946

947 Under water-unsaturated conditions in our models, the effect of H₂O on mantle
948 melting was determined via a simplified approach using water partition coefficients
949 between phases and melt (Asimow et al. 2004; Hirschmann 2006), where water as an
950 incompatible component has a strong tendency to enter into the melt. The decreased
951 melting temperature of hydrous mantle causes the onset of melting at a higher
952 pressure (Fig. 1) (Hirth and Kohlstedt 1996; Asimow and Langmuir 2003; Aubaud
953 2004), which further results in a series of changes in the melt composition, e.g., the
954 reduction of SiO₂ and increase of MgO and FeO (e.g., Hirose and Kushiro 1993;
955 Hirose and Kawamoto 1995; Walter 1998). The elevated MgO causes a decrease of
956 $D_{Ni}^{Ol/melt}$ (Matzen et al. 2017a), resulting in an increase of Ni concentration in the
957 melt. Meanwhile, the increase of FeO content will also reduce $D_{Cu}^{sul/melt}$ (Kiseeva
958 and Wood 2013, 2015), facilitating the liberation of Cu into the melt. Additionally,

959 recent experiments demonstrate an increase in the SCSS of ~100 ppm/wt.% added
960 water into the melt composition (Fortin et al. 2015), which enhances the dissolution of
961 residual sulfide to release more Ni and Cu at the same melting degree. Therefore, the
962 influence of water on mantle melting can be projected on the partitioning behavior of
963 Ni and Cu, and mostly will elevate their concentrations in the melt output.

964 During polybaric continuous melting of DMM, the augmenting effects of water
965 addition on the Ni and Cu concentrations are significant at the initial stage, but will be
966 gradually weakened with continued melting (Figs. 2a-d). As the bulk partition
967 coefficient for hydrogen applicable to partial melting of mantle is extremely low
968 (~0.009) and similar to that of incompatible Ce (Aubaud 2004; Kohn 2006), hydrogen
969 should be strongly concentrated in melt. Because of the very small amount of water
970 contained in DMM, its abundance within the source will be diluted by further melting
971 and has little effect on the maximum melting extent (Hirth and Kohlstedt 1996;
972 Asimow and Langmuir 2003). On the other hand, although H₂O can trigger the onset
973 of partial melting at higher pressure, the melt productivity (%/GPa) is extremely low
974 at the initial stage. Hence, the addition of water strongly expands the melting region
975 by creating a large pressure interval at the base of the main melting regime, but the
976 contribution of this elongated area to the final melt output is minimal (Asimow and
977 Langmuir 2003). Therefore, the sharp drop of Ni and Cu concentrations within 0-3 wt.%
978 melting (Figs. 2a-d) comes from the accumulated effect of a long decompression path
979 with the very low melt productivity.

980 However, the net effect of water addition seems to be long-lasting in the adiabatic

981 decompression melting of primary mantle ([Figs. 4 and 5](#)). In addition to the
982 differences between the initial abundance of H₂O within PM (0-6000 ppm) and DMM
983 (0-250 ppm), the partial melting mechanisms can also make some difference. In the
984 polybaric continuous melting and perfect fractional melting, H₂O is lost rapidly from
985 the system but this loss of water is not experienced during adiabatic decompression
986 melting. Notwithstanding the fact that water addition can drive the increase of Ni and
987 Cu contents at the same melting fraction; at a constant pressure (lithosphere thickness),
988 the increase of water from 0 to 1000 ppm slightly decreases the Ni and Cu in melt
989 ([Figs. 4 and 5](#)) because the melting extent has been greatly increased. In adiabatic
990 decompression melting, this influence of water will also become negligible at high
991 melting fraction.

992 Ductile delamination of continental lower lithosphere can cause continental
993 magmatism, possibly with large volumes ([Elkins-Tanton 2005, 2007; Lustrino 2005](#)).
994 The delaminating material may dehydrate as it sinks and heats, releasing a fluid that
995 induces melting in the asthenospheric mantle which has flowed in to replace the
996 foundered lithosphere; furthermore, the rising asthenosphere may produce melt
997 adiabatically in response to the upward movements ([Elkins-Tanton 2005; Lustrino](#)
998 [2005](#)). However, delamination models do not require hotter mantle upwelling from
999 deep hotter boundary layers, and hence the adiabatic decompression melting occurs
1000 within ambient normal mantle ($\sim T_p=1350^\circ\text{C}$). The model of DMM melting in
1001 mid-ocean ridge, shows that the metals in melt remain at a relatively low levels under
1002 such conditions (Ni, ~230-450 ppm; Cu, ~60-90 ppm). Moreover, the addition of vast

1003 amounts of water to the source (e.g., 2000-6000 ppm) in adiabatic decompression
1004 greatly increases its melting extent and causes reductions of Ni and Cu in melt at the
1005 same pressure (Figs. 4a, c, e, and 5). The overall combination of decompression- and
1006 fluid-induced melting provoked by the lithospheric delamination undoubtedly can
1007 generate extensive magmatism, but the metals in the melt output are far lower than
1008 that in mantle plume-related suites.

1009

1010 **5.7 Contribution of SCLM to plume-derived magmas**

1011

1012 Recently, the contribution of SCLM to the mineralization in magmatic ore
1013 deposits has been a topic of much discussion and debate. Griffin et al. (2013) claimed
1014 that ‘fertile’ (mineralized and continental) LIPs with high PGE contents (e.g., at the
1015 Bushveld Complex) have a close genetic relation to the SCLMs. Mungall and Brenan
1016 (2014) also advocated a mixture of SCLM- and asthenosphere-derived magmas to
1017 account for the PGE composition of Bushveld magmas. However, Arndt (2013)
1018 suggested that lithospheric mantle may play no active role in the magmatic deposits,
1019 and no evidence was found for systematic differences in magma compositions
1020 between various LIPs that could be attributed to contributions from SCLM (Barnes et
1021 al. 2015).

1022 From the T-SCLMs to P-SCLMs and then to A-SCLMs, the lithospheric mantle is
1023 continuously depleted due to the progressive removal of basaltic components during
1024 previous partial melting events, resulting in high Mg number, slight increase of Ni

1025 content, obvious reduction of Cu and S concentrations, and small amounts of easily
1026 fusible minerals ([Griffin et al. 1999, 2009](#); [Arndt 2013](#); [Wang and Becker 2013, 2015](#)).
1027 Hence, A-SCLM requires a higher temperature for a lower melting degree, and the
1028 contributions of Ni and Cu from older lithospheric mantle to plume magmas must be
1029 rather small, although A-SCLM-derived melts may have a slightly higher Ni content
1030 ([Fig. 6a](#)) but lower Cu concentration ([Fig. 6d](#)). In all isobaric melting models of
1031 SCLMs, the Ni and Cu amounts in melt are always less than that in corresponding
1032 plume system driving heating of the SCLM, even at the maximum extent of SCLM
1033 melting. Mixture of melts generated from SCLMs and plumes undoubtedly
1034 contributes continental signatures, but this process dilutes the Ni and Cu in the
1035 plume-related primary melt. Furthermore, our model did not account for the drop of
1036 temperature during plume-lithosphere interaction, heat loss by conduction and the
1037 complexities of the spatial thermal regime in SCLM. Hence, the achievable degree of
1038 melting in the SCLM was overestimated here. Once the sulfide in SCLMs has been
1039 completely dissolved, which is not likely to occur for the A-SCLMs and P-SCLMs in
1040 our models ([Fig. 6a](#)), it is possible that a unique SCLM PGE signature may be
1041 imparted to the mixed asthenosphere-SCLM source melt ([Mungall and Brenan 2014](#)),
1042 however this is not expected to be important except in the hottest and largest plume
1043 impingement events such as the Bushveld LIP or cases in which large-scale
1044 refertilization of the SCLM by melts or fluids permits greater degrees of melting than
1045 are envisaged here. For the T-SCLM, sulfide exhaustion requires high T_p plume or
1046 thin lithosphere ([Figs. 6a and b](#)), which occurs when plume heads migrate towards the

1047 thinned edges of continental lithosphere but not within continents. Even if sulfide is
1048 exhausted, the Cu contents still stay in the same order with these in plume-related
1049 melt, showing no great enrichment. Although the addition of metasomatic fluids
1050 easily triggers SCLM melting, its influence on Ni and Cu is still minimal (Figs. 6e
1051 and f). Finally, there is little evidence that the metasomatized SCLMs are abnormally
1052 enriched in chalcophile and highly siderophile elements (Arndt 2013; Wang and
1053 Becker 2015; Aulbach et al. 2015; Barnes et al. 2015; Lorand and Luguet 2016) to
1054 increase the metals contents in their melting products. Therefore, during
1055 plume-lithosphere interaction, the contribution of SCLMs to the ore potential of
1056 mantle-derived magma output is minimal, or even negative.

1057

1058 **5.8 Controlling factors in melting of the mantle wedge**

1059

1060 For the partial melting of the mantle wedge above subduction zones, our
1061 flux-melting model is more suitable than the widely-adopted melting calculation (Lee
1062 et al. 2012; Liu et al. 2014; Le Roux et al. 2015) that assumed mineral phases and
1063 only changed melt fractions during the entire melting process. Our models confirm
1064 that the MgO and Ni contents of melts driven by flux melting in subduction zones are
1065 strongly enhanced by increases in temperature (Fig. 7a and b). High temperature will
1066 also drive increasing Cu concentration in melt (Fig. 7c) owing to its combined
1067 influences on SCSS and $D_{Cu}^{sul/melt}$, which may be one of the reasons for the elevated
1068 Cu content in the Cascade magmatic arc that is an example of a ‘hot’ subduction zone

1069 (Fig. 2c in [Lee et al. 2012](#)).

1070 Recent experiments confirmed that fluid-present melting of sulfide-bearing ocean
1071 crust enhances the transport of S from the slab to mantle wedge ([Jégo and Dasgupta](#)
1072 [2013, 2014](#)). Sulfur enrichment leads to the complete exhaustion of residual sulfide at
1073 a higher melting fraction accompanied with a lower Cu maximum ([Fig. 7d](#)). On the
1074 other hand, melt induced by aqueous fluid has slightly larger MgO, Ni and Cu than
1075 the output triggered by hydrous silicate melt ([Figs. 7a, b and c](#)), ignoring any possible
1076 transfer of metals into mantle wedge by slab-induced fluids.

1077 A simplified petrological model from [Arai and Ishimaru \(2008\)](#) demonstrated that
1078 before metasomatism, the degree of depletion of mantle peridotite decreases from the
1079 fore-arc to back-arc region within the mantle wedge. Although prior melt depletion
1080 would reduce S and Cu concentrations, the subsequent addition of slab-derived fluids
1081 may compensate the S depletion ([Jégo and Dasgupta 2013, 2014](#)). Hence, for the
1082 flux-melting of mantle wedge with different depletion degrees, the partitioning
1083 behaviors of Cu are more affected by the loss of Cu relating to the prior melt
1084 extraction rather than the variations of other major compositions ([Fig. 7e](#)), if the S
1085 content within mantle wedge remains the same. Additionally, the Cu enrichment in
1086 melt could potentially be derived from highly oxidized melting of the subducted slab
1087 ([Oyarzun et al. 2001](#)) and/or heating of pyroxenite cumulates in the deep roots of arcs
1088 ([Lee et al. 2012](#)), which may introduce more complexity into the behavior of Cu in
1089 the fore-arc and back-arc regions.

1090 Oxygen and sulphur fugacity within the mantle wedge are also crucial to the fate

1091 of S and, in turn, the partitioning behavior of Cu during partial melting (e.g., [Mungall](#)
1092 [et al. 2005, 2006](#); [Jugo et al. 2010](#)). It has been confirmed that a small increase in f_{O_2}
1093 above $\Delta FMQ+1$ will have a strong impact on S behavior (transition from S^{2-} to S^{6-}),
1094 leading to a 10-fold increase of the total S solubility ([Li and Ripley 2009](#); [Jugo et al.](#)
1095 [2010](#)). Flux-melting of highly oxidized mantle wedge accelerates the liberation of Cu
1096 with the largest maximum value (~ 185 ppm Cu at $\Delta FMQ+2$, [Fig. 7f](#)) owing to the low
1097 melting degree at the complete exhaustion of sulfide. However the influence of high
1098 oxidation state on Cu behavior is weaker than predicted by [Lee et al. \(2012\)](#), e.g., the
1099 Cu maximum value decreases from ~ 280 ppm to ~ 140 ppm ([Fig. 7f](#)) at $\Delta FMQ+1.6$.
1100 At still higher f_{O_2} , Cu and other chalcophile elements are incompatible from the very
1101 onset of melting because sulfide melt is not a stable phase (e.g., [Mungall 2002](#);
1102 [Botcharnikov et al. 2013](#)). Relatively high oxidation states are indicated in many arcs
1103 ([Arai and Ishimaru 2008](#); [Frost and McCammon 2008](#)), but unlike Au and PGE
1104 ([Mungall et al. 2006](#); [Botcharnikov et al. 2013](#)), no convincing correlation between
1105 magma oxidation state and Cu enrichment has been found ([Lee et al. 2012](#); [Richards](#)
1106 [2015](#)). One of the reasons for this may be that the promotion effect of high oxidation
1107 state on Cu abundance is confined to a narrow window near the exhaustion of sulfide
1108 (mostly at low melting degree), and most parts of Cu trends are identical to each other
1109 at high melt fractions, e.g., 20-30 wt. % melting degree as suggested for most arc
1110 rocks ([Mitchell and Grove 2015](#); [Mallik et al. 2016](#)).

1111 In all, during flux-melting of mantle wedge within subduction zones, temperature
1112 is the most important factor controlling the partitioning behavior of Ni, and the

1113 temperature distribution of the mantle wedge reflects the influences of convergence
1114 rate, slab age, dip, rate of shear heating, vigor and geometry of flow in the mantle
1115 wedge and release of latent heat during phase change, and dehydration of the slab
1116 (Stern 2002; Simon 2003; Kincaid and Griffiths 2003; Peacock et al. 2005; van Keken
1117 et al. 2008; Leng and Mao 2015). Slow convergence rate, young lithosphere and low
1118 subduction angle lead to relatively high temperature in the subduction system (Leng
1119 and Mao 2015), increasing the Ni abundance in melt. If the dehydration of slab is
1120 weak and pre-eruptive water contents are low, or at slab windows, the partial melting
1121 occurs at high temperature, similar to the decompression melting in mid-ocean ridges.
1122 On the other hand, the melting in cooler subduction zones is usually triggered and
1123 enhanced by continuous addition of slab-derived fluids or melts, resulting in a relative
1124 low Ni content in the melt. In contrast, although the Cu behavior can be influenced by
1125 temperature, S and Cu enrichment, depletion of mantle and oxygen fugacity, showing
1126 notable increases in low-degree oxidized melts over all others, the Cu concentrations
1127 of most arc magmas are expected to fall in the range from 50 to 100 ppm, which is
1128 sufficient for the generation of large porphyry deposits within reasonable magma
1129 volumes (Cline and Bodnar 1991; Richards 2015).

1130

1131 **6. Implications**

1132

1133 1. There is a close relationship between the geodynamic environment of partial
1134 melting and ore-potential of mantle-derived magma, which will be of significance for

1135 the delineation of the Ni-Cu exploration target areas at the regional scale. For
1136 magmatic sulfide deposits, a thick lithosphere (high pressure) with a hot plume tends
1137 to generate melts with higher MgO and Ni contents, whereas there is no clear
1138 correlation between magma fertility for porphyry Cu deposits and the detailed aspects
1139 of the melting process above subduction zones.

1140 2. In this regard, the comprehensive results can be used as reference values for
1141 the MgO content and ore potential of primary melt. If the tectonic setting, thermal
1142 state and H₂O abundance of source mantle can be presumed *a priori* for given
1143 mineralized magmatic suite, these expectations can be compared with the observed
1144 outputs from the system to provide a better understanding of the complex processes
1145 that may have occurred in transit through the crust, e.g., assimilation, sulfide
1146 segregation, magma evolution and transport, because the characteristics of inflow and
1147 outflow magmas have been effectively outlined.

1148 3. This forward model sheds new light on some contentious issues for the genesis
1149 of magmatic sulfide deposits; we suggest that the SCLM may play no active role for
1150 ore potential of mixed magma during plume-lithosphere interactions and that addition
1151 of vast amounts of water released from delaminating material, while potentially
1152 generating extensive magmatism, is unlikely to produce magmas highly fertile for the
1153 generation of Ni deposits.

1154 4. Our results show that efforts to decipher the NiO content of olivine
1155 phenocrysts in basalts strictly in terms of lithospheric thickness (e.g., [Matzen et al.](#)
1156 [2013, 2017a, b; Niu et al. 2011](#)) must be applied in full consideration of complicating

1157 factors including partial melting mechanisms, last equilibration pressures (e.g.,
1158 lithospheric thicknesses for plumes) and thermal states of source (e.g., potential
1159 temperatures), besides the possible presence of olivine-free pyroxenite mantle in
1160 source (Sobolev et al. 2005, 2007).

1161 5. By using completely independent parameterizations for the deportment of Ni
1162 in systems containing silicate melt, sulfide melt, and olivine, we have duplicated
1163 experimental results and also shown that existing parameterizations of Ni partitioning
1164 between sulfide melt and olivine are inconsistent with what is known about Ni
1165 partitioning between the more thoroughly understood sulfide melt and silicate melt or
1166 olivine and silicate melt systems. The results open a path to improved understanding
1167 of olivine-BMS equilibria in mantle peridotite, and further make it easier to
1168 distinguish between diverse BMS generations for in situ analyses of Re-Os isotope to
1169 trace the evolution of SCLM.

1170

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1179

1180 **References**

1181

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1801

Figure captions

1802 **Fig. 1.** Phase diagram of mantle melting (modified from [Rey 2015](#)). Primary melts are
1803 initially produced at solidus temperatures (blue and red stars). If they are extracted at
1804 the onset of melting, they would follow their respective melt adiabat (solid blue and
1805 red arrows). For the polybaric continuous melting in mid-ocean ridges, melt is usually
1806 extracted with a minor part retained in the residual source. As latent heat escapes with
1807 melt, the source cools and follows the solidus during its exhumation (path a-a'). In a
1808 mantle plume, the adiabatic upwelling of source keeps following the adiabat (path
1809 b-b'). Once the upwelling ceases at the base of lithosphere (b'), magma will be
1810 extracted following the melt adiabat (empty red arrow). The water-saturated solidus
1811 was predicted by the pHMELTS model ([Ghiorso et al. 2002](#)), showing that addition of
1812 water can cause melting to begin at a higher pressure under constant potential
1813 temperature. The filled blue and red circles mark the potential temperature (T_p) for
1814 mantle exhumation (e.g., polybaric continuous melting of DMM) and mantle plume
1815 upwelling, respectively.

1816

1817 **Fig. 2.** Variations of Ni in pooled melts during the polybaric continuous melting of
1818 DMM with constant potential temperature ($T_p=1350^\circ\text{C}$), different water contents
1819 (0-250 ppm) and fractions of remaining melt (**a**, 0.3 vol.%; **b**, 0.5 vol.%; **c**, 0.7 vol.%).
1820 The influence of water abundances (0-250 ppm) on the partitioning behaviors of Cu
1821 (**d**), the trends of MgO (**e**) and FeO (**f**) within the aggregated melt at 1350°C T_p and
1822 0.3 vol. % remaining melt. In addition, the variations of $D_{Ni}^{ol/melt}$ and $D_{Cu}^{sul/melt}$
1823 within low melting degree (0-3 wt.%) are shown in the schematic inset diagrams in (**e**)
1824 and (**f**). The dash lines in (**a**, **b**, **c**, **d**) are the constant pressure lines in these models,
1825 and the variations of residual sulfide compositions (Ni and Cu abundances) before
1826 complete exhaustion are also provided in (**a**, **b**, **c**). The gray vertical bands in (**a-f**)
1827 indicate the reference area in which the residual sulfide has been completely
1828 dissolved.

1829

1830 **Fig. 3.** Influences of different potential temperature on the evolutions of (**a**). Ni, (**b**).

1831 Cu, **(c)**. MgO and **(d)**. FeO abundances in the pooled melts during the polybaric
1832 continuous melting of DMM with 150 ppm H₂O and 1 vol. % remaining melt. The
1833 dash lines in **(a-d)** are the constant pressure lines in these models.

1834

1835 **Fig. 4.** Variations of **(a, c, e)** Ni and **(b, d, f)** MgO in the instantaneous, equilibrated
1836 melts during the adiabatic melting of primary mantle with different potential
1837 temperatures (1500, 1550 and 1600°C) and water contents (0-6000 ppm). Note that
1838 these high T_p melting paths begin at 4.0 GPa with some melt already present as
1839 described in the text. The dash lines in **(a-f)** mean the constant pressure values. The
1840 gray vertical bands in **(a-f)** indicate the reference area in which the residual sulfide
1841 has been completely dissolved.

1842

1843 **Fig. 5.** Partitioning behavior of Cu in the instantaneous, equilibrated melts during
1844 adiabatic melting of mantle at **(a)**. 1500°C and **(b)**. 1550°C potential temperatures.
1845 The dotted line in **(a)** shows the constant pressure condition (3.9 GPa), and the
1846 variations of residual sulfide compositions (Ni and Cu abundances) before complete
1847 exhaustion were also provided in **(a, b)**. The gray vertical bands in **(a)** and **(b)**
1848 indicate the reference area in which residual sulfide has been completely dissolved.

1849

1850 **Fig. 6.** Results of isobaric melting model for SCLM. **(a)**. the behaviors of Ni in the
1851 isobaric melting of A-, P- and T-SCLMs under constant pressure (3.9 GPa) and water
1852 content (50 ppm); **(b)** the trends of Ni in isobaric melting model of T-SCLMs at
1853 different pressure (1.5, 2.7 and 3.9 GPa); The gray vertical band in **(b)** indicates the
1854 reference area that the residual sulfide has been completely dissolved. The variations
1855 of **(c)** MgO and **(d)** Cu in the melt derived from isobaric melting of A-, P- and
1856 T-SCLMs at 3.9 GPa, in conjunction with T-SCLMs melting at 1.5 and 2.7 GPa. The
1857 dotted lines in **(a-d)** represent the unrealizable parts of isobaric melting as their
1858 temperatures exceed the threshold values that assumed as the temperatures of
1859 underlying hotter mantle (white dots, T_p=1500°C; black dots, T_p=1550°C; red dots,
1860 T_p=1600°C) at the same pressure. Moreover, the variations of residual sulfide

1861 compositions (Ni and Cu abundances) are also exhibited in **(d)**. **(e, f)**. the influences
1862 of water addition (0-300 ppm) on the abundances of Ni, Cu in melt and the melt
1863 productivity (%/°C) in isobaric melting model of T-SCLMs at 3.9 GPa. The light blue
1864 vertical bands in **(e)** and **(f)** indicate the influences of water addition on the sulfide
1865 exhaustions.

1866

1867 **Fig. 7.** In flux-melting mode, the partitioning behaviors of **(a)** Ni, **(b)** MgO and **(c)** Cu
1868 abundances in the aggregated melts at different temperature (1100-1300°C) and 375
1869 ppm initial S. Influences of various initial S (250-500 ppm) abundances on the trends
1870 of Cu was shown in **(d)**. The depletion degree of mantle and initial Cu abundance can
1871 also change the behavior of Cu **(e)**. **(f)** Cu content of silicate melt versus different f_{O_2}
1872 ($\Delta FMQ+1.0, +1.3, +1.6, +2.0$) for flux-melting. In **(a-f)**, the solid lines represent the
1873 melting model induced by slab aqueous fluid, and the dash lines correspond to the
1874 slab hydrous melt.

1875

1876 **Fig. 8.** Variations of $D_{Cu}^{sul/melt}$ along with increasing melting for **(a)** polybaric
1877 continuous melting of DMM at different T_p (1300-1400°C), **(b)** isobaric melting of
1878 T-SCLMs at various pressure (1.5, 2.7 and 3.9 GPa), **(c)** flux-melting of mantle wedge
1879 under distinct temperature (1100, 1150, 1200, 1250 and 1300°C). The red dashed line
1880 in **(a)** represent the changes of $D_{Cu}^{sul/melt}$ in the adiabatic decompression melting of
1881 PM at 1500°C T_p . Moreover, the critical values of $D_{Cu}^{sul/melt}$ for the transfer of Cu
1882 behavior from downtrend to uptrend are shown as grey dashed lines in **(a)**
1883 decompression melting (~360) and **(b)** isobaric melting (~150).

1884

1885 **Fig. 9.** Island-averaged Ni concentrations corrected for fractionation effect to
1886 $Mg^\# = 0.72$ plotted as a function of the lithosphere thickness. Each data point
1887 represents average contents for a given volcanic island; error bars represent standard
1888 deviations from the mean. The data are corrected using liquid lines of descent (LLDs)
1889 derived from MORB (in [Supplementary 6](#)).

1890

1891 **Fig. 10. (a).** MgO wt. % vs. Ni contents of rocks from the oceanic plateaus. **(b).**
1892 Inferred temperatures and pressures at which partial melting terminated (in text) for
1893 the high-Mg rocks from oceanic plateaus. Diameters of circles in (b) are proportional
1894 to the Ni concentrations in samples. The grey area is nominally below the peridotite
1895 solidus, which is not perfectly constrained; dashed lines are melting paths. The points
1896 farthest to the left of the solidus represent the products of the highest degrees of
1897 partial melting. The highest Ni contents are typically found in magmas with the
1898 highest pressures and temperatures of equilibration at near-solidus conditions, not the
1899 highest aggregate degrees of melting.

1900

1901 **Fig. 11.** Mantle potential temperatures inferred for rocks from some oceanic and
1902 continental LIPs. Oceanic plateaus: Wrangellia, Kerguelen, Ontong Java and
1903 Caribbean. Continental LIPs: Deccan, Parana, Siberian Trap, Karoo and Emeishan.

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Table 1. Compositions of different sources and fluids used in this work

	SiO ₂	Al ₂ O ₃	FeO ^a	MnO	MgO	CaO	Na ₂ O	K ₂ O	Cr ₂ O ₅	TiO ₂	NiO	CoO	P ₂ O ₅	H ₂ O	Total	Ni(ppm)	Cu(ppm)	S(ppm)
PM ^b	45	4.45	8.43	0.135	37.8	3.55	0.36	0.029	0.384	0.2	0.25	0.013	0.021	-	100.622	1960	24	250
DMM ^c	44.71	3.98	8.18	0.13	38.73	3.17	0.13	0.006	0.57	0.13	0.24	-	0.019	-	100	1886	24	200
A-SCLM ^d	42.9	0.3	6.5	0.15	49.2	0.1	0.1	-	0.4	0.01	0.30	-	-	-	99.96	2357	1.8	20
P-SCLM ^d	44.6	1.9	7.9	0.12	42.6	1.7	0.12	-	0.4	0.07	0.28	-	-	-	99.69	2200	11.5	112
T-SCLM ^d	44.5	3.5	8.0	0.13	39.8	3.1	0.24	-	0.4	0.14	0.26	-	-	-	100.07	2043	21.1	190
Aqueous fluid ^c	5.52	0.7	0.23	-	0.24	0.13	1	0.12	-	0.03	-	-	-	92	100	-	-	
Hydrous melt ^c	59.02	11.03	0.7	-	0.34	1.14	4.77	2.63	-	0.25	-	-	-	20	99.88	-	-	
Supercritical liquid ^f	29.8	2.89	1.12	-	0.85	3.25	2.64	-	-	0.71	-	-	-	57.6	98.86	-	-	

1908 ^a total Fe as FeO

1909 ^b primitive mantle from McDonough and Sun (1995)

1910 ^c depleted MORB mantle (DMM) from Workman and Hart (2005)

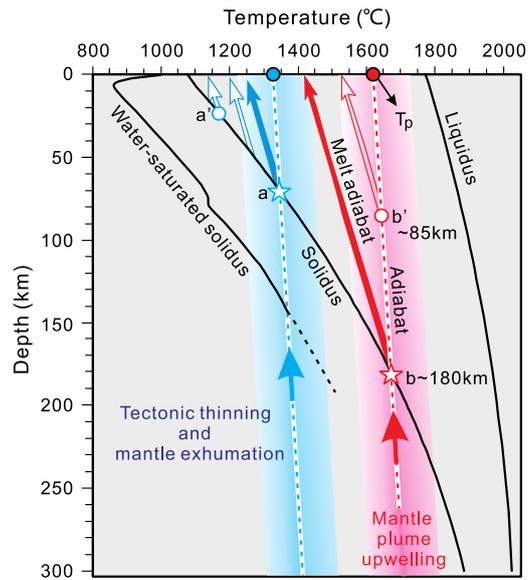
1911 ^d A-SCLM, P-SCLM and T-SCLM from Griffin et al. (2009)

1912 ^e typical aqueous fluid and hydrous melt from Hermann and Spandler (2008)

1913 ^f typical supercritical liquid from Kessel et al. (2005b)

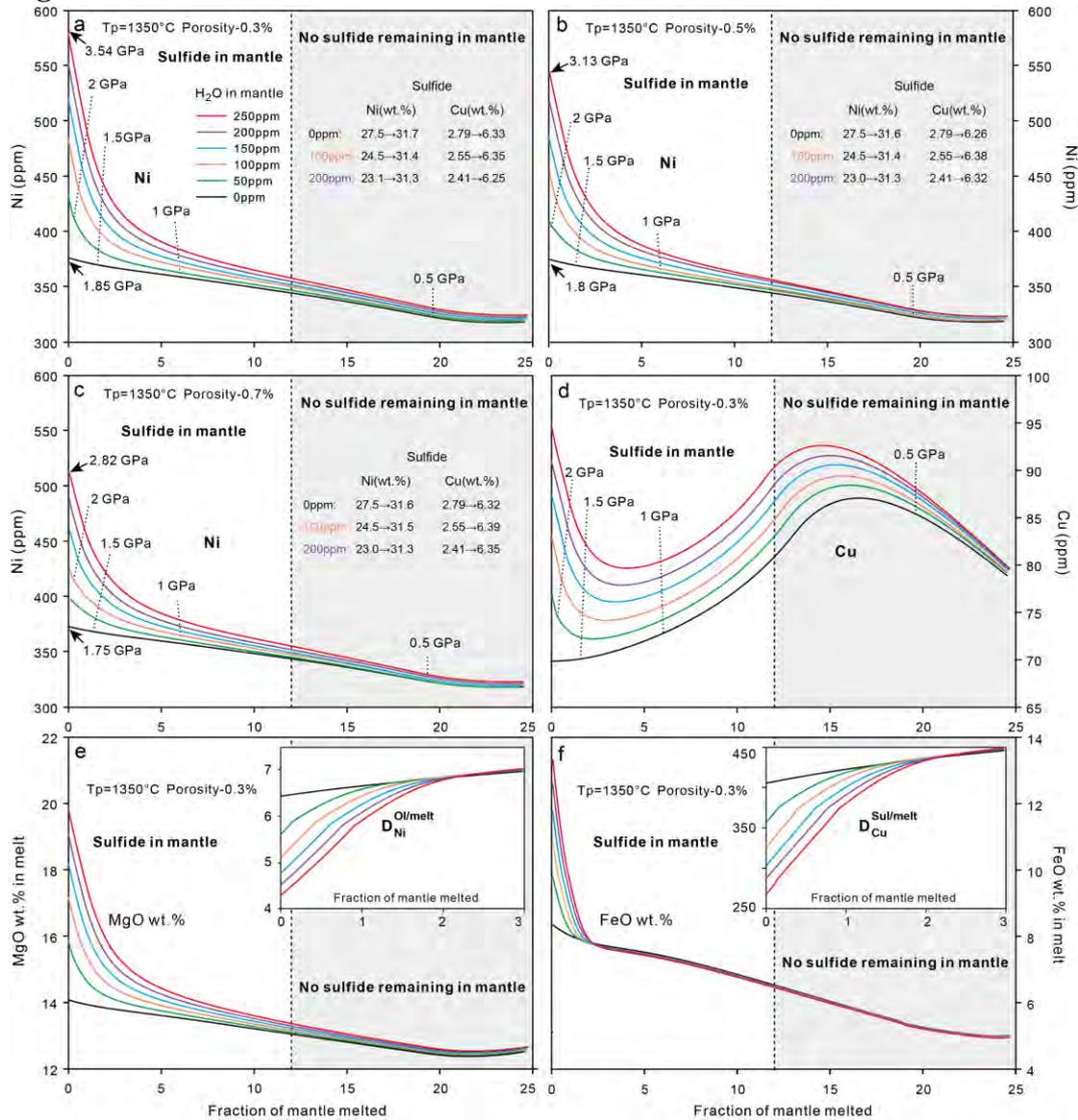
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1915 **Figure 1.**



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1945 **Figure 2.**



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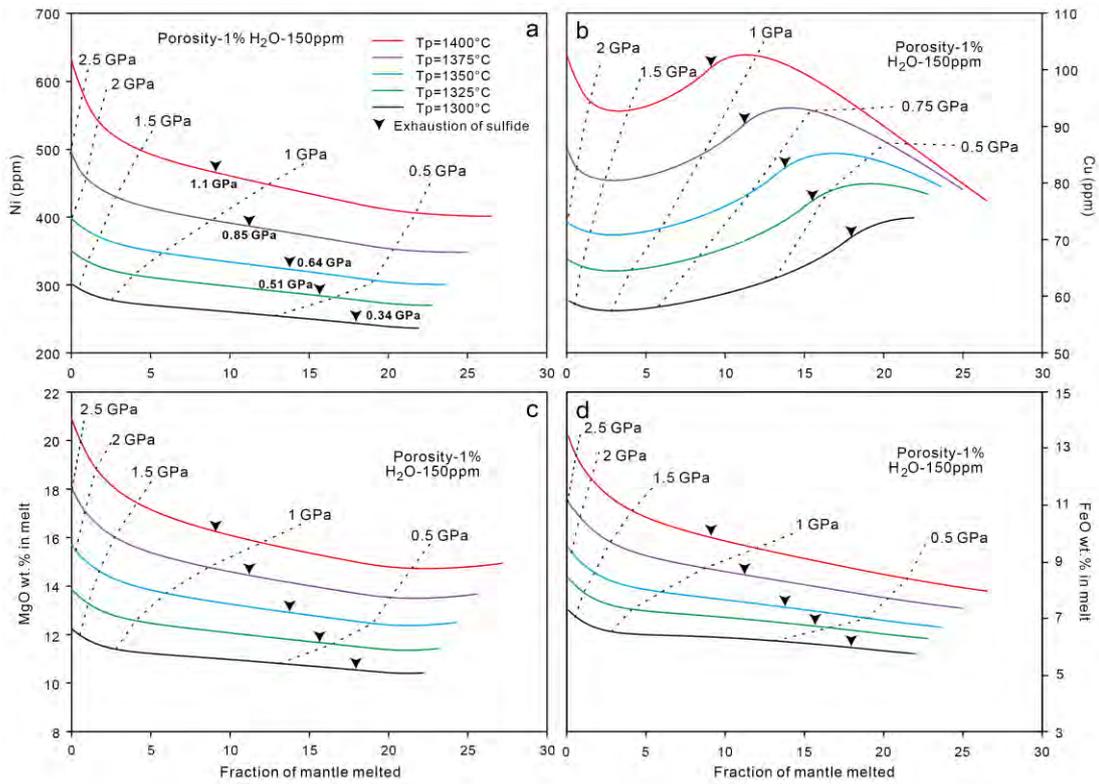
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1957 **Figure 3**



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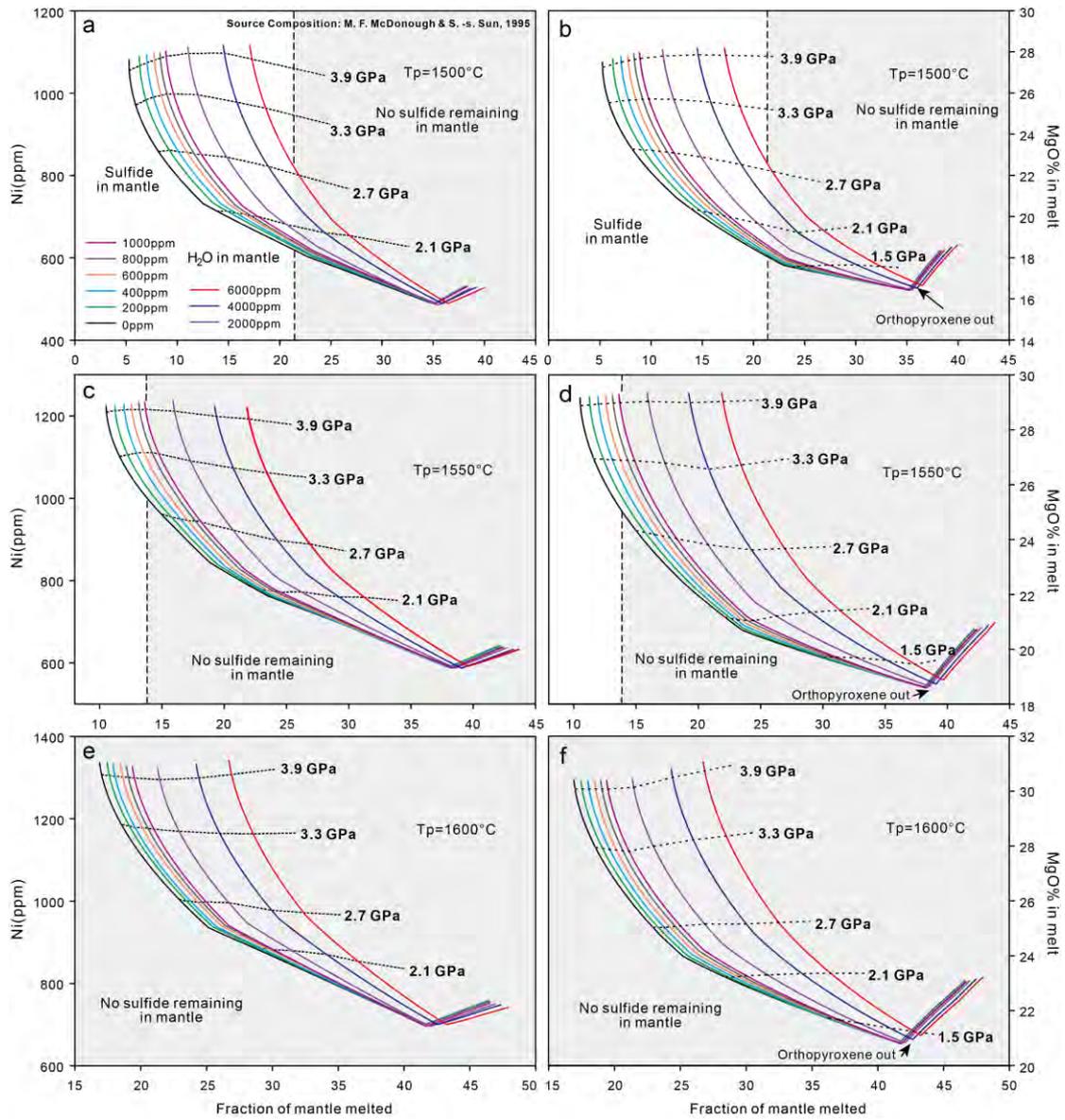
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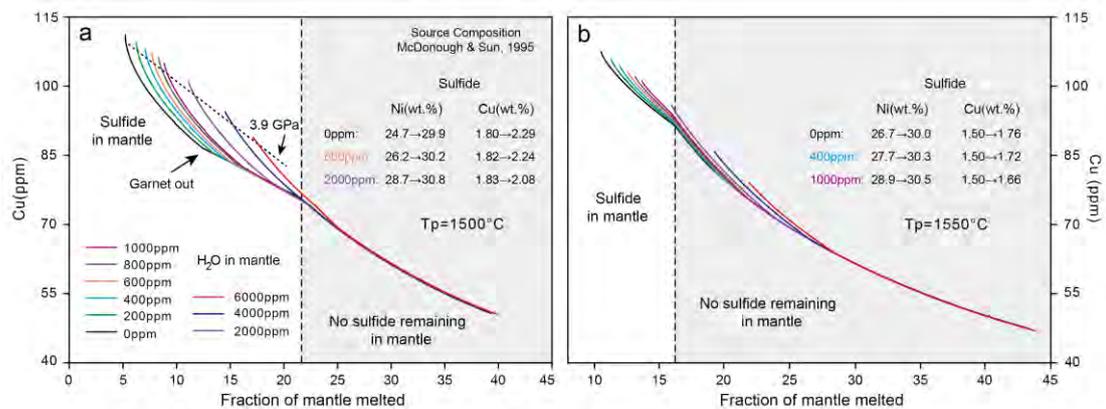
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1974 **Figure 4.**



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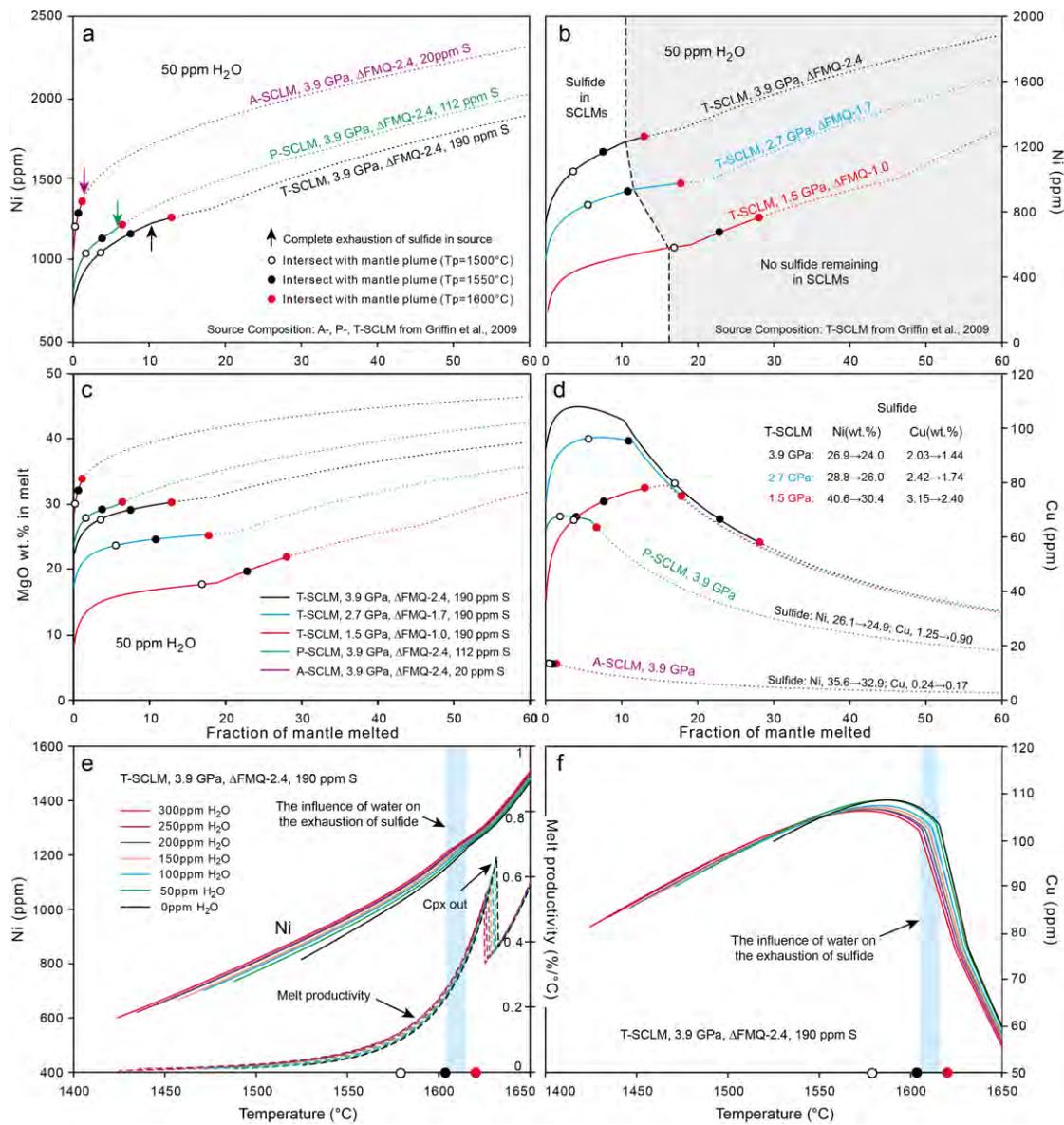
1976 **Figure 5.**



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1979 **Figure 6.**



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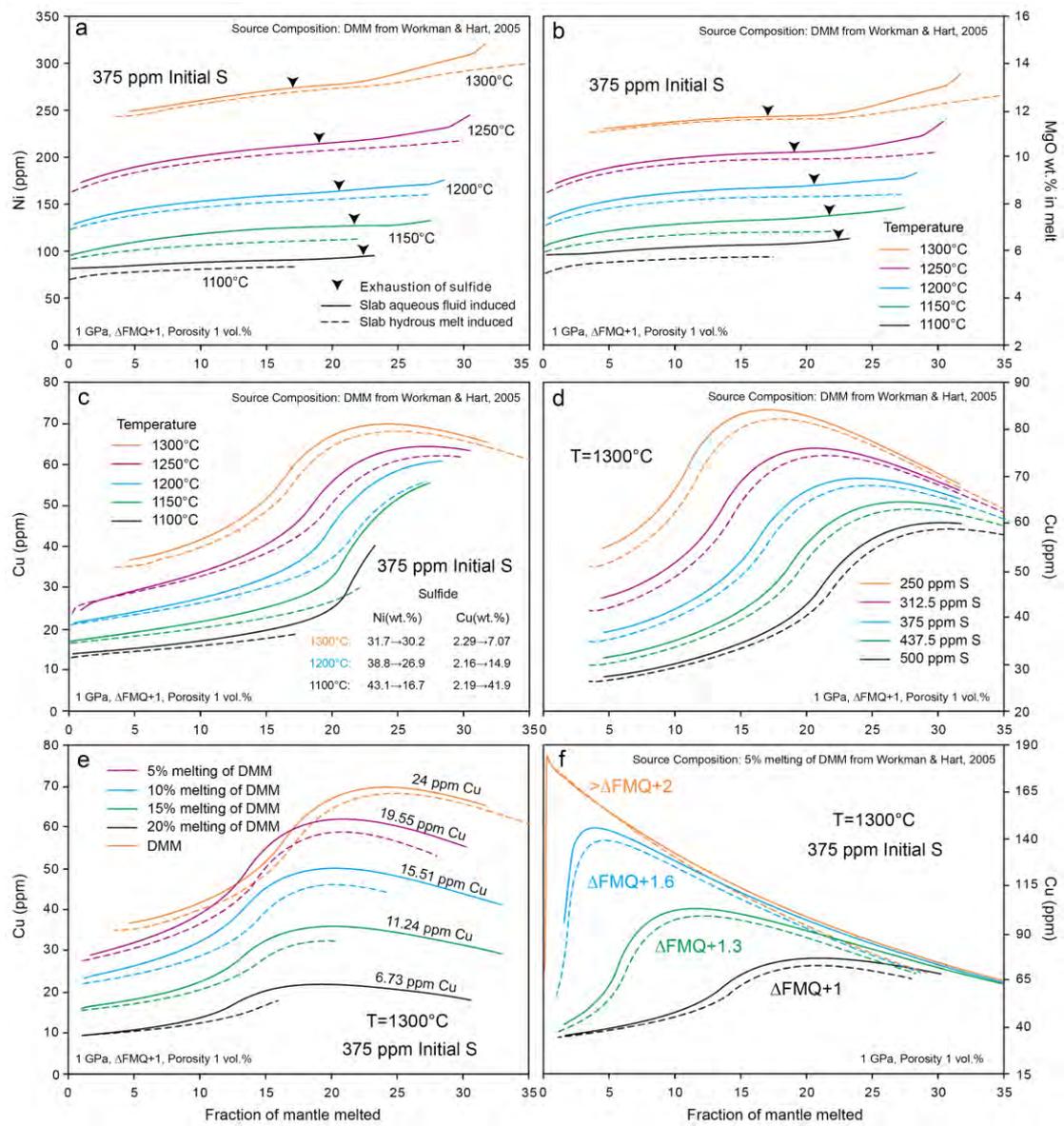
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1988 **Figure 7.**



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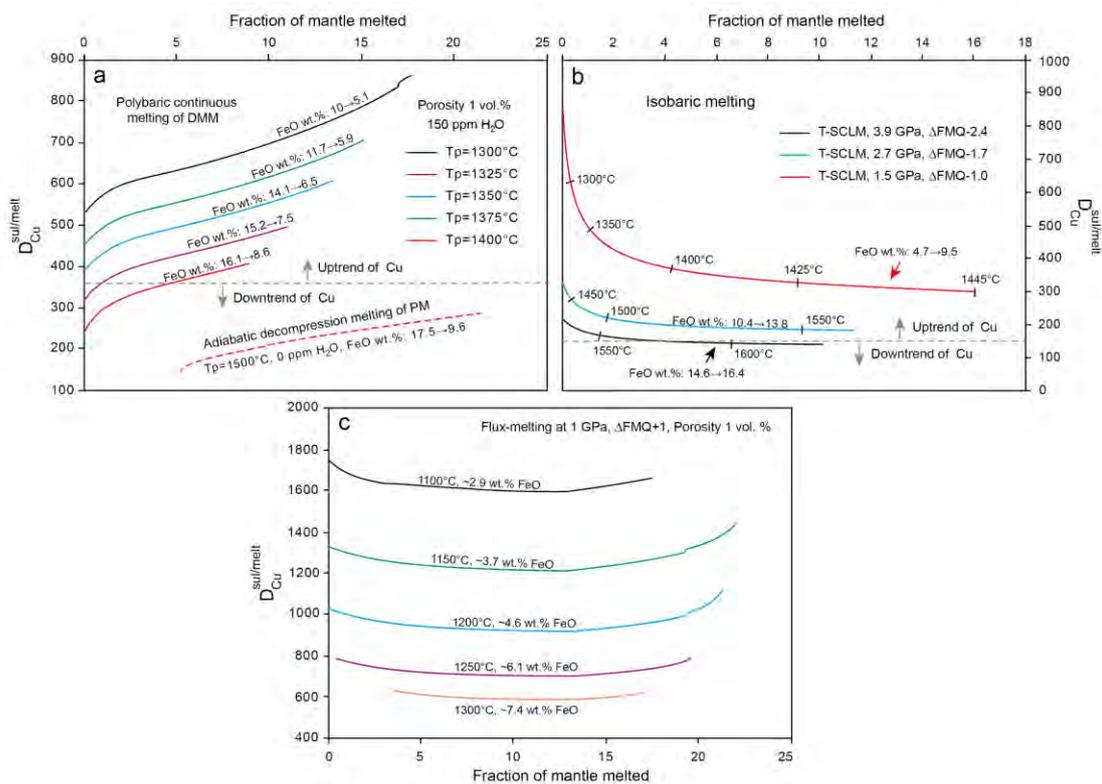
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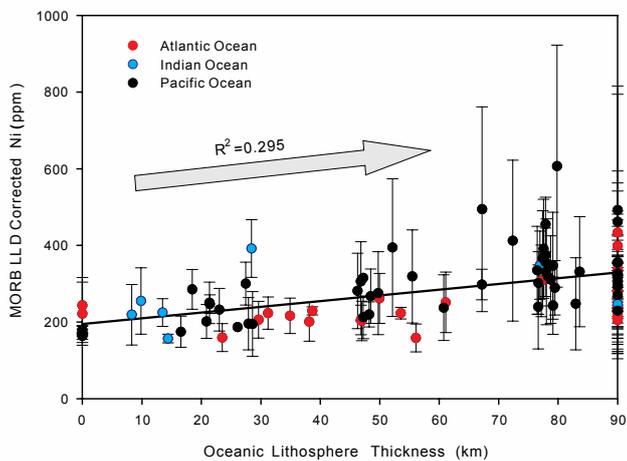
Figure 8.



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2000 **Figure 9.**



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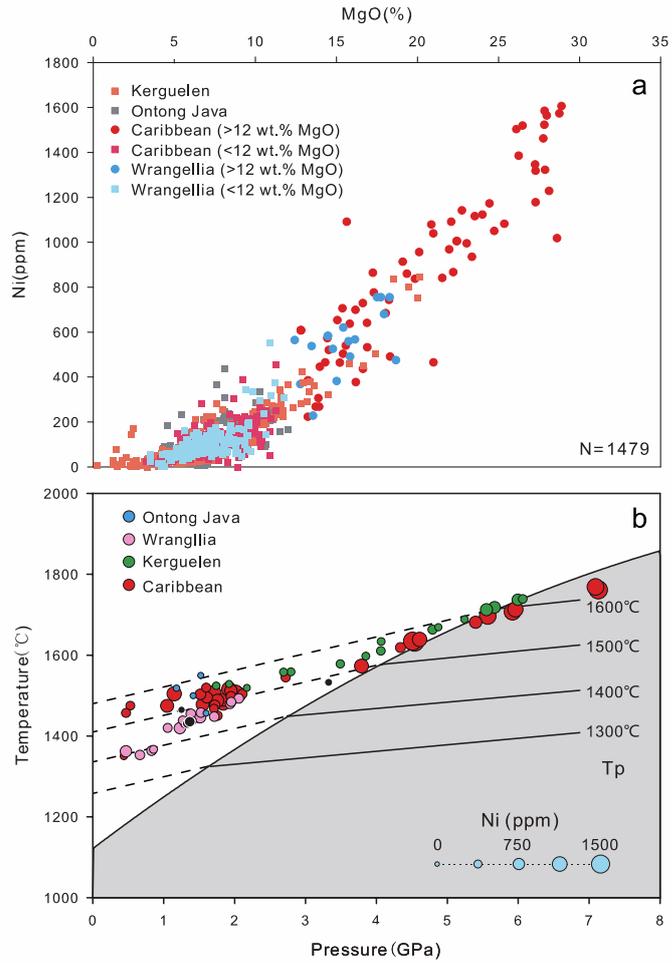
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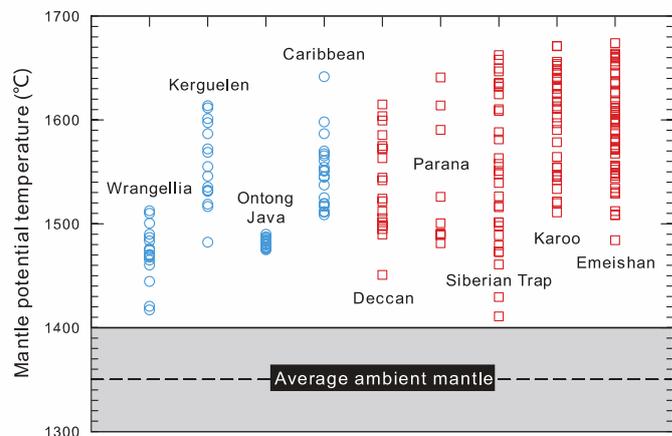
2006 **Figure 10.**



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2009 **Figure 11.**



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