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3 **Origin of corundum within anorthite megacrysts from anorthositic amphibolites, Granulite**

4 **Terrane, Southern India**

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23

24 **Abstract**

25

26 Growth of corundum in metamorphosed anorthosites and related basic-ultrabasic rocks is an  
27 exceptional feature and its origin remains elusive. We describe the occurrence of and offer an  
28 explanation for the genesis of corundum in anorthositic amphibolites from ~2.5 Ga old basement  
29 of the Granulite Terrane of Southern India (GTSI). The studied amphibolites from two localities,  
30 Manavadi (MvAm) and Ayyarmalai (AyAm), contain anorthite lenses (An<sub>90-99</sub>) with euhedral to  
31 elliptical outline set in a finer grained matrix of calcic plagioclase (An<sub>85-90</sub>) and aluminous  
32 amphibole (pargasite-magnesiohastingsite). The lenses, interpreted as primary magmatic  
33 megacrysts, and the matrix are both recrystallized under static condition presumably during the  
34 regional high pressure (HP) metamorphism (~800°C, 8-11 kbar) at ~2.45 Ga. Corundum occurs  
35 in the core of some of the recrystallized anorthite lenses (An<sub>95-99</sub>) in two modes: (a) Dominantly,  
36 it forms aggregates with magnetite (with rare inclusion of hercynite; in MvAm) or spinel (and  
37 occasionally hematite-ilmenite; in AyAm). The aggregates cut across the polygonal grain  
38 boundaries of the anorthite and contain inclusions of anorthite. (b) Corundum also occurs along  
39 the grain boundaries or at the triple junctions of the polygonal anorthite grains, where it forms  
40 euhedral tabular grains, sieved with inclusions of anorthite or forms skeletal rims around the  
41 recrystallized anorthite, such that it seems to be intergrown with anorthite. Combined petrological  
42 data and computed phase relations are consistent with growth of corundum in an open system  
43 during regional metamorphism in the presence of intergranular fluids. Two mechanisms are  
44 proposed to explain the formation of the corundum in the amphibolites: (a) Corundum +  
45 magnetite/spinel aggregates formed dominantly by oxy-exsolution of pre-existing Al-Fe-Mg-  
46 (Ti)-spinel. This pre-existing spinel may be primary magmatic inclusions within the anorthite

47 phenocrysts or could have formed due to reaction of primary magmatic inclusions of olivine with  
48 the host anorthite. Pseudosections of  $fO_2$ - $nH_2O$ -T-P in the CaO-FeO-MgO-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-SiO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O  
49 (CFMASH) system indicate that  $fO_2$  and H<sub>2</sub>O strongly influence the formation of corundum +  
50 amphibole from the initial magmatic assemblage of anorthite (phenocrysts) + spinel ± olivine  
51 (inclusions). (b) The corundum with anorthite presumably formed through desilification and  
52 decalcification of anorthite, as is indicated by computed phase relations in isobaric-isothermal  
53 chemical potential diagrams ( $\mu SiO_2$ - $\mu CaO$ ) in parts of the CASH system. Growth of corundum in  
54 this mode is augmented by high activity of anorthite in plagioclase, high pressure and low to  
55 medium temperature of metamorphism. This study thus presents a new viable mechanism for the  
56 origin of corundum in anorthositic amphibolites, and basic-ultrabasic rocks in general, which  
57 should provide new insight into lower crustal processes like high pressure metamorphism.

58

59 **Keywords:**

60 metasomatic corundum; chemical potential; desilification decalcification; anorthite phenocryst;

61 Granulite Terrane of South India

62

## INTRODUCTION

63

64

65 The origin of corundum and its gem varieties (ruby, sapphire) is a subject of significant interest  
66 to petrologists and gemologists. Corundum is rarely found in anorthosites and related basic –  
67 ultrabasic rocks, and there are only a few known reports of gem quality corundum in anorthositic  
68 rocks (Mercier et al. 1999; Keulen and Kalvig 2013; GTSI, Bhattacharya and Chandramouli  
69 2018). A number of diverse petrogenetic models have been proposed to explain the formation of  
70 corundum in basic-ultrabasic rocks in general: (1) as a product of ultra-high pressure (UHP)  
71 metamorphism at lower crustal to mantle depth (Morishita and Kodera 1998; Morishita 2004);  
72 (2) through anatexis of anorthositic rocks (Kullerud et al. 2012; Karmakar et al. 2017; Palke et al.  
73 2018); (3) as a metasomatic mineral through fluid induced desilification of aluminous minerals  
74 (Schreyer et al. 1981; Tenthorey et al. 1996; Ranson 2000; Fernando et al. 2001; Bucher et al.  
75 2005; Rakotondrazafy et al. 2008; Raith et al. 2008; Berger et al. 2010; Zhang et al. 2018;).

76 In this communication we document a unique occurrence of corundum within the core of  
77 highly calcic plagioclase lenses ( $An_{95-99}$ ) in a suite of anorthositic amphibolites from the  
78 Manavadi and Ayyarmalai localities in the GTSI. The origin of anorthitic feldspars with  $An_{>90}$  in  
79 basic – ultrabasic rocks, particularly anorthite phenocrysts, in itself is an intriguing problem  
80 (Kohut and Nielsen 2003). Given the rarity of their occurrences, the origin of corundum in such  
81 anorthite-bearing basic rocks remains an elusive issue as comprehensive petrogenetic models that  
82 explain the physico-chemical conditions of formation of such unusual minerals in intriguing rock  
83 types are generally lacking. In this study, field and petrographic observations and results of  
84 thermodynamic analyses in parts of the systems  $CaO-FeO-MgO-Al_2O_3-SiO_2-H_2O$  (CFMASH)  
85 and CASH systems were integrated to explore the genesis of the corundum. The study  
86 demonstrates that increasing  $fO_2$ , hydration, high activity of anorthite and the ambient  $P-T$

87 conditions of metamorphism facilitated the growth of corundum in the studied rocks. Controls of  
88 the chemical potentials of the mobile species and the ambient  $P$ - $T$  path on the stability of  
89 corundum in the studied anorthosite have also been discussed. This study offers a new and viable  
90 mechanism for the growth of corundum and its gem varieties (ruby, sapphire) in anorthosites and  
91 basic rocks.

92

93

## REGIONAL GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

94

95 The GTSI exposes an ensemble of lithologies that preserve crustal history for over 2.5 Ga  
96 (reviewed in Ghosh et al. 2004; Brandt et al. 2014; Sengupta et al. 2015; Raith et al. 2016). Its  
97 northernmost part (Northern Granulite Terrain, NGT; Fig. 1) comprises felsic orthogranulites, the  
98 magmatic protoliths of which were emplaced at  $\sim 3.4$  and  $\sim 2.55$  Ga (Peucat et al. 1989; 1993;  
99 Raith et al. 1999; Jayananda et al. 2000; Clark et al. 2009; Peucat et al. 2013). The vast southern  
100 part of the GTSI (Madurai Block, MB; Fig. 1) is believed to have been accreted to the NGT  
101 during Paleoproterozoic ( $\sim 2.52$ - $2.48$  Ga) north-directed collisional tectonics, causing high-  
102 pressure granulite-facies metamorphism of the suture zone as well as parts of the NGT (Raith et  
103 al. 1999; Meissner et al. 2002; Sengupta et al. 2009; Saitoh et al. 2011; Chowdhury et al. 2013;  
104 Peucat et al. 2013; Brandt et al. 2014).

105 The suture zone (Moyar Bhavani Cauvery Suture, MBCS; Fig. 1) is dominated by  
106 magmatic and non-migmatitic felsic orthogneisses (retrograded charnockitic gneisses) that host  
107 dismembered, high-grade, layered anorthosites and basic-ultrabasic igneous complexes (Fig. 1;  
108 Brandt et al. 2014; Karmakar et al. 2017). Published geochronological information suggests that:  
109 (1) the magmatic protoliths of the layered complexes have been interpreted to represent  
110 fragments of former oceanic crust (Bhaskar Rao et al. 1996; Dutta et al. 2011) that were

111 emplaced between 2.9-2.54 Ga (Bhaskar Rao et al. 1996; Mohan et al. 2013) at shallow depth  
112 corresponding to 2-3 kbar (Dutta et al. 2011); (2) protoliths of the enclosing felsic gneisses  
113 intruded at ~2.51 Ga (Mohan et al. 2013; Brandt et al. 2014); (3) subduction of the Neoproterozoic  
114 oceanic crust led to polyphase deformation, accompanied with high pressure granulite- to upper  
115 amphibolite-facies metamorphism (11-14 kbar and ~800°C) at ~2.48-2.45 Ga, followed by  
116 isothermal decompression and then cooling (to ~6 kbar and ~600°C) that affected the entire belt  
117 (Raith et al. 1999; Ghosh et al. 2004; Chowdhury et al. 2013; Mohan et al. 2013; Brandt et al.  
118 2014; Raith et al. 2016; Chowdhury and Chakraborty 2019). In spite of increased interest in  
119 recent years, the evolution of the MBCS and the boundary relations between the three blocks of  
120 the GTSI still remain poorly resolved, offering wide scope for interpretation (Ghosh et al. 2004;  
121 Brandt et al. 2014; Collins et al. 2014; Glorie et al. 2014; Plavsa et al. 2015; Raith et al. 2016).

122 Manavadi and Ayyarmalai areas, which host the corundum-bearing anorthositic  
123 amphibolites, are situated at the boundary between the MBCS and the MB (Fig. 1), close to the  
124 southern bank of the Cauvery river and is dominated by exposures of migmatitic charnoenderbite,  
125 extensively retrogressed to hornblende–biotite gneiss (Raith et al. 2016). There are a number of  
126 meter-scale exposures of corundum bearing anorthositic amphibolites and basic granulites in the  
127 area, which are believed to be analogous to the layered magmatic complexes of the MBCS (Raith  
128 et al. 2010; Dutta et al. 2011; Chowdhury et al. 2013; Raith et al. 2016; Karmakar et al. 2017).  
129 The regional high-pressure metamorphism (~800°C, ~11 kbar) followed by isothermal  
130 decompression to mid-crustal conditions (~750°C, 5–6 kbar) at ~2.48 Ga has also been  
131 constrained from a basic granulite in Ayyarmalai (Raith et al. 2016).

132 In the nearby Sittampundi layered complex (LC) in the MBCS, Karmakar et al. (2017)  
133 suggested corundum formation through vapour present incongruent melting of the highly calcic

134 plagioclase during ultra-high temperature (UHT) metamorphism ( $T \geq 1000$  °C,  $P \geq 9$  kbar). The  
135 subsequent evolution of the Sittampundi LC, i.e. high pressure metamorphism at 11-14 kbar,  
136 750-800 °C stabilizing the assemblage corundum + pargasite + anorthite + clinozoisite, followed  
137 by near-isothermal decompression to 7–8 kbar forming coronitic spinel + anorthite + sapphirine  
138 (Chowdhury et al. 2013; Karmakar et al. 2017), is similar to that of the Ayyarmalai rocks.

139

140

## PETROGRAPHY

141

### 142 **Mesoscopic features**

143

144 The anorthositic amphibolites from Manavadi (MvAm) and Ayyarmalai (AyAm) are highly  
145 recrystallized and appear saccharoidal. Milky white plagioclase alternates with millimeter to  
146 centimeter thick, laterally continuous to discontinuous dark bands rich in amphibole. Locally,  
147 plagioclase lenses up to ~5 cm long are found in the matrix consisting of smaller grains of  
148 amphibole and plagioclase (Fig. 2). The plagioclase lenses display a saccharoidal texture, show a  
149 sharp boundary with the plagioclase–amphibole matrix (Fig. 2a-c) and are randomly oriented  
150 (Fig. 2c). Sometimes, the lenses appear to preserve the shape of a single grain with elliptical to  
151 subhedral (rarely euhedral) outline (Fig. 2d). Cores of some of the plagioclase lenses show a  
152 greyish white color (Fig. 2a-c), caused by microscopic inclusions of corundum; the lenses  
153 without the color variation being corundum free (Fig. 2a, d). The abundance and grain size of  
154 amphibole increases significantly around some the plagioclase lenses (Fig. 2). Amphibole  
155 sometimes occurs as inclusions within the plagioclase lenses (Fig. 2d). The amphibole grains are  
156 prismatic and randomly oriented suggesting that they experienced static recrystallization in the  
157 absence of any deformation.

158

159 **Microscopic features**

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161 The rock matrix shows a granoblastic fabric defined dominantly by polygonal grains of  
162 plagioclase, prismatic amphibole, and some magnetite (Fig. 3a). The polygonal aggregates have  
163 sharp boundaries at an angle of  $120^\circ$ , and formed presumably due to static recrystallization.  
164 Amphibole is commonly present as inclusions in plagioclase (Fig. 3b). Amphibole grains show  
165 no signature of internal strain, suggesting that the growth of amphibole outlasted deformation.  
166 The plagioclase lenses show a sharp boundary with the recrystallized plagioclase–amphibole  
167 matrix and are entirely made up of polygonal aggregates of plagioclase (Fig. 3c-d). The  
168 polygonal grains within the lenses are much coarser (1000-3000  $\mu\text{m}$ ) than the plagioclase grains  
169 in the matrix ( $<1200 \mu\text{m}$ ; Fig. 3c-f). Several of the lenses contain corundum, magnetite and/or  
170 spinel in their cores (Fig. 3c, d, f). The grain size of recrystallized plagioclase in the corundum-  
171 bearing core is much finer (mostly 100-500  $\mu\text{m}$ ) than in the surrounding corundum free rim  
172 (1000-3000  $\mu\text{m}$ ; Fig. 3f). The core-rim variation in the size of the polygonal plagioclase grains is  
173 absent in the corundum free lenses (Fig. 3e).

174 The corundum grains are euhedral tabular with straight boundaries, smaller ( $<250 \mu\text{m}$ ) than  
175 the polygonal plagioclase grains (Fig. 3). The euhedral corundum grains often share triple  
176 junctions and straight boundaries with plagioclase (Fig. 3g-i). Sometimes they crosscut phase  
177 boundaries to plagioclase, are sieved with abundant inclusions of the latter, or form skeletal rims  
178 around plagioclase (Fig. 3g-i). Thus corundum appears to be either intergrown with plagioclase  
179 or to grow over the latter (Fig. 3g-i). Corundum also forms aggregates with magnetite (in MvAm)  
180 or spinel (in AyAm), which crosscut the polygonal grain boundaries of the plagioclase, and also



181 contain inclusions of the latter (Fig. 3j-l). Each aggregate seems to preserve the outline of a single  
182 grain where the boundary between corundum and magnetite/spinel is straight (Fig. 3j-l). Rarely,  
183 aggregates of spinel and hemo-ilmenite (hematite with ilmenite lamellae) are also found, but only  
184 in AyAm (Fig. 3l). Green spinel occurs as tiny blebs within magnetite or along plagioclase grain  
185 boundaries (Fig. 3j). Magnetite also occurs outside the lenses, in the recrystallized matrix, as  
186 subhedral to tiny rounded grains at the interstices between the polygonal plagioclase grains or as  
187 inclusions within them (Fig. 3c). Corundum does not occur outside the plagioclase lenses in the  
188 amphibole-plagioclase matrix, which is also devoid of minerals like garnet, pyroxenes, olivine  
189 clinzoisite and quartz.

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191

## MINERAL COMPOSITIONS

192

193 Chemical compositions of the minerals were determined with a CAMECA SX5 microprobe with  
194 5 WD spectrometers at the Central Research Facility of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad,  
195 India. The instrument was operated at 15kV accelerating voltage, 2-3  $\mu\text{m}$  beam diameter and 15  
196 nA current. Natural standards were used for most major elements (Si, Al, Cr, Fe, Mg, Ca, Na, K)  
197 except for Mn and Ti, for which synthetic standards were used. The raw data were corrected by  
198 PAP procedure (Pouchou and Pichoir 1984). During cation recalculation from oxide weight  
199 percentage,  $\text{Fe}^{+3}$  is recalculated after the scheme of Grew (2013). Mineral abbreviations in figures  
200 and tables have been used after Whitney and Evans (2010). Representative mineral compositions  
201 are presented in Table 1 and Fig. 4. In the following section salient compositional features of the  
202 minerals in the studied rocks are described. The composition of amphibole and plagioclase from  
203 the studied samples (MvAm and AyAm) have also been compared to those from three other high  
204 grade metamorphosed Archean layered complexes, namely the Fiskanaesset layered complex,

205 Greenland (Fsk; Huang et al. 2014), the Messina layered complex of central Limpopo belt, South  
206 Africa (Lmp; Keeditse et al. 2017) and the Sittampundi layered complex, South India (SLC;  
207 Karmakar et al. 2017).

208 *Plagioclase* is highly calcic. Overall, MvAm plagioclase (An<sub>99-89</sub>) is slightly more calcic  
209 than AyAm (An<sub>97-87</sub>; Fig. 4a-b, Table 1a). In both samples, plagioclase shows variation in its  
210 anorthite content with respect to different textural settings, but individual grains are unzoned.  
211 Plagioclase in the recrystallized amphibole–plagioclase matrix throughout has uniform  
212 composition and is the least calcic (MvAm: An<sub>92-89</sub>; AyAm: An<sub>90-87</sub>; Fig. 4a). The corundum free  
213 lenses are compositionally homogeneous and slightly more calcic than the matrix (MvAm: An<sub>96-</sub>  
214 <sub>92</sub>; AyAm: An<sub>94-90</sub>; Table 1a). The corundum bearing lenses are compositionally zoned: fine  
215 recrystallized plagioclase grains in the core of the lenses intergrown with corundum are almost  
216 pure anorthite (MvAm: An<sub>99-97</sub>; AyAm: An<sub>97-94</sub>; Fig. 4a), whereas the coarse plagioclase grains in  
217 the rim of the lenses have the same composition as the grains in the corundum free lenses  
218 (MvAm: An<sub>96-92</sub>; AyAm: An<sub>94-90</sub>; Fig. 4a; Table 1a). Plagioclase of the MvAm and AyAm  
219 therefore joins the only two other occurrences of the world, the Sittampundi and Fiskanaasset  
220 (Fig. 4b), where nearly pure anorthite has been reported from basic rocks and anorthosite.

221 *Amphibole* is highly aluminous (~12-13 wt% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>), calcic (~12 wt% CaO) and magnesian  
222 (X<sub>Mg</sub>=0.68-0.74) with low TiO<sub>2</sub> (≤1.1 wt%) and Na<sub>2</sub>O (up to 2.5 wt%, Table-1b). For the sake of  
223 comparison to amphiboles from Fiskanaasset, Limpopo and Sittampundi, the classification  
224 scheme of Leake et al. (1997; 2004) has been used instead of the more recent scheme (Hawthorne  
225 and Oberti 2006; 2007; Hawthorne et al. 2012). The amphibole compositions show a spread in  
226 the pargasite and magnesiohastingsite compositional fields (Fig. 4c). In MvAm, the amphiboles  
227 adjacent to the plagioclase lenses are pargasite with <sup>VI</sup>Al/Fe<sup>+3</sup>>1.5, and the ratio decreases

228 gradually to magnesiohastingsite  $^{VI}\text{Al}/\text{Fe}^{+3} < 1$  away from the lenses (Fig. 4d). The AyAm  
229 amphiboles also show a similar trend in their  $^{VI}\text{Al}/\text{Fe}^{+3}$  ratios with respect to their distance from  
230 the plagioclase lenses, though they all plot in the magnesiohastingsite compositional field (Fig.  
231 4d). In the  $[\text{Ca}+\text{Na}+\text{K}]_{\text{TOTAL}}$  vs. Si and the  $[\text{Na}+\text{K}]_{\text{A}}$  vs.  $\text{Al}^{\text{IV}}$  plots (Giret et al. 1980; Molina et al.  
232 2009; Keeditse et al. 2017) the amphibole compositions of both MvAm and AyAm fall in the  
233 field of primary igneous amphiboles (Fig. 4e-f).

234 *Corundum* is rich in  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  ( $>1.98$  Al apfu) with minor amount of  $\text{Fe}^{+3}$  ( $<0.02$  apfu) and  
235 insignificant Cr (Table 1c).

236 *Magnetite* in MvAm has virtually end member composition with  $\leq 0.1$  apfu Cr+Al. *Spinel* in  
237 MvAm is hercynitic ( $X_{\text{Mg}}=0.34-0.43$ ; Table 1c) with ZnO contents below detection limit, and  
238 negligible Cr and  $\text{Fe}^{+3}$  ( $<0.01$  apfu, recalculated). *Spinel* in AyAm is more magnesian ( $X_{\text{Mg}}=0.46-$   
239  $0.53$ ; Table 1c) with  $0.06-0.13$  apfu  $\text{Fe}^{+3}$  and negligible Cr (Table 1c).

240

## 241 DISCUSSION

242

### 243 Mineral evolution

244

245 **Amphibole + Plagioclase.** Preserved textural and compositional features like: (a) sharp  
246 boundary of the plagioclase lenses with the recrystallized amphibole–plagioclase matrix (Fig. 2,  
247 3c-d), (b) the plagioclase lenses preserving euhedral to subhedral shape of a single grain (Fig.  
248 2e), and (c) uniform composition of the all the lenses (MvAm:  $\text{An}_{99-92}$ ; AyAm:  $\text{An}_{97-90}$ ) indicate  
249 that the lenses represent a single large grain that existed prior to the recrystallization, possibly  
250 magmatic phenocrysts. The elongated aspect ratio of the lenses conforms to those of plagioclase

251 laths. The compositional zoning observed in the corundum-bearing lenses may be a primary  
252 magmatic zoning of the anorthite phenocrysts. Similarly, the following features point towards a  
253 primary igneous origin of amphibole: (a) the occurrence of amphibole as inclusions in  
254 plagioclase, both lenses and matrix grains (Fig. 2e, 3b), (b) the granoblastic texture of the matrix  
255 comprising of only amphibole and plagioclase having nearly uniform compositions, and absence  
256 of any relict of minerals like clinopyroxene or olivine (possible pre-cursors of amphibole), and  
257 (c) compositional trends in Fig. 4e-f where the amphiboles fall in the field of primary igneous  
258 amphiboles, along with primary igneous amphiboles from Fiskanaeset and Limpopo. However,  
259 though primary magmatic origin of amphibole in the Fiskanaeset is well established (Polat et al.  
260 2012; Huang et al. 2014; Huang 2018), it must be noted that owing to the complex mineral  
261 structure of amphibole, distinguishing primary magmatic and secondary metamorphic amphibole  
262 is ambiguous, especially in high-grade metamorphosed magmatic complexes.

263 **Corundum.** The exclusive occurrence of corundum within the core of the zoned  
264 plagioclase lenses (recrystallized phenocrysts) is an enigmatic feature of the studied rocks, which  
265 implies that the matrix assemblage was not involved in the formation of corundum. Corundum  
266 exhibits two distinct textural associations, which were likely formed through different reactions  
267 or mechanisms.

268 1. In this association, corundum forms aggregates with magnetite (in MvAm) and spinel (in  
269 AyAm). Occasionally, aggregates of spinel + hemo-ilmenite also occur in AyAm. Textural  
270 features of the different oxide aggregates like (a) outline preserving the shape of a single  
271 grain, (b) straight internal contact between the different oxides within a single grain, (c) the  
272 aggregates as a whole growing over the polygonal anorthite and containing inclusions of the  
273 latter, (d) the presence of relict spinel in magnetite and as skeletal grains along anorthite  
274 grain boundaries (in MvAm), and (d) the rare presence of spinel + hemo-ilmenite aggregates

275 (in  $AyAm$ ), best explain their formation by decomposition of or oxy-exsolution from a  
276 pristine mineral phase, possibly an ulvöspinel solid solution in the system Ti-Al-Fe-Mg-O.  
277 The single outline that surrounds the oxide aggregates likely represent the shape of this  
278 precursor Al-Fe-Mg-(Ti)-spinel (Sack and Ghiorso 1991; Waters 1991; Sengupta et al. 1999;  
279 Das et al. 2017).

280 2. In the magnetite/spinel-absent micro domains, textural relations like (a) the euhedral tabular  
281 shape of the corundum grains with straight boundaries that either share triple junctions with,  
282 or crosscut the grain boundaries of plagioclase (Fig. 3g-i), (b) skeletal nature of the  
283 corundum grains, sieved with abundant plagioclase inclusions (Fig. 3g-l), and (c) smaller  
284 size of the recrystallized plagioclase grains in the corundum-bearing cores, as compared to  
285 the corundum-free rim or the corundum-free lenses indicate that corundum, in the  
286 magnetite/spinel absent micro domains, developed during the recrystallization of the  
287 plagioclase and also at the expense of plagioclase. Additionally, corundum occurs only in the  
288 compositionally zoned lenses with the most calcic core compositions, and never in the  
289 compositionally homogeneous lenses. This further indicates that corundum formation is most  
290 likely a function of  $X_{An}$ .

291 The formation of the two different modes of corundum is discussed separately in the following  
292 sections.

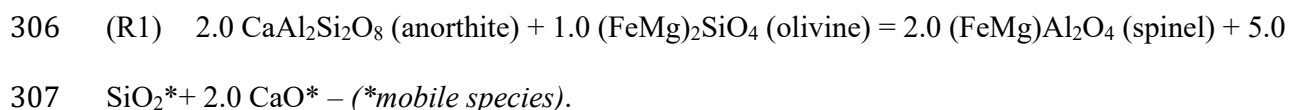
293

#### 294 **Formation of corundum + magnetite/spinel from Al-Fe-Mg-(Ti)-spinel**

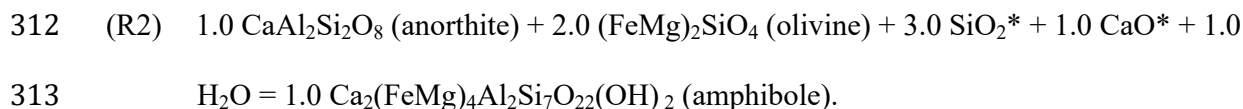
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296 **Origin of spinel, and corundum forming reaction:** Compositional modeling in the  
297 simplified CaO-FeO-MgO-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-SiO<sub>2</sub>±H<sub>2</sub>O (CFMAS±H) system has been done using the

298 computer program CSpace (Torres-Roldan et al. 2000; Sengupta et al. 2009) to identify the  
299 possible spinel and corundum forming chemical reactions. High anorthite phenocrysts in Al rich  
300 mid-ocean ridge basaltic magmas (MORB) are known to contain abundant inclusions of not only  
301 Al-Fe-Mg-(Ti) bearing spinels but also olivine (Sinton et al. 1993; Nielsen et al. 1995; Sours-  
302 Page et al. 1999; Kohut and Nielsen 2003). Since olivine is absent in the studied anorthite lenses,  
303 any primary magmatic inclusions of olivine, if present, possibly reacted with the host anorthite of  
304 the phenocrysts and formed spinel in an open system through the following reaction, forming  
305 spinel:



308 The mobile species (\*SiO<sub>2</sub> and CaO) released during R1 may have formed amphibole (as  
309 inclusions within the anorthite lenses, Fig. 2e; or in the matrix, in immediate contact with the  
310 lenses Fig. 2b-d) through the following hydration reaction of olivine, if present, during the  
311 recrystallization of the rock:



314 Thus the pre-existing spinel may be primary magmatic inclusion within the anorthite  
315 phenocrysts, or it may be of metamorphic origin. However, spinel is almost always associated  
316 with corundum, magnetite or hemo-ilmenite, thus indicating that these oxide aggregates formed  
317 through breakdown of Al-Fe-Mg-(Ti)-spinel. As olivine cannot incorporate Al and only trace  
318 amounts of Ti in its structure, it is impossible that such an Al-Fe-Mg-(Ti)-spinel formed from  
319 olivine. Hence, the pre-existing spinel was most likely of magmatic origin, and olivine was either  
320 absent, or if present, its abundance was either very low or it reacted to form amphibole.

321 Corundum (+ hemo-ilmenite) forming through breakdown of Al-Fe-Mg-(Ti)-spinel

322 through oxidation of its hercynite (Fe) component can be explained through the following  
323 reactions:

324 (R3) Fe-Al-Ti-spinel (non-stoichiometric) + O<sub>2</sub> → Fe<sub>2</sub>TiO<sub>4</sub> (ulvöspinel) + FeAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (spinel)

325 (R4) 2.0 Fe<sub>2</sub>TiO<sub>4</sub> (ulvöspinel) + 0.5 O<sub>2</sub> = 2.0 FeTiO<sub>3</sub> (Ilmenite) + 1.0 Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (hematite)

326 (R5) Fe-Al-spinel (non-stoichiometric) + O<sub>2</sub> → Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (corundum) + FeAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (spinel)

327 (R6) 3.0 FeAl<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (spinel) + 0.5 O<sub>2</sub> = 1.0 Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> (magnetite) + 3.0 Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (corundum)

328 R3-5 explain the formation of the aggregates of corundum + spinel, and spinel + hemo-ilmenite  
329 in AyAm, and R6 explains the formation of corundum + magnetite in MvAm.

330 **Stability of corundum in fO<sub>2</sub>-nH<sub>2</sub>O-T-P space.** It has been mentioned previously that  
331 the rocks of the MBCS experienced a high pressure granulite- to upper amphibolite-facies  
332 metamorphism (11-14 kbar and ~800°C) at ~2.48-2.45 Ga (Raith et al. 1999; Ghosh et al. 2004;  
333 Chowdhury et al. 2013; Mohan et al. 2013; Brandt et al. 2014; Raith et al. 2016; Chowdhury and  
334 Chakraborty 2019). In order to test if the above modeled reactions are thermodynamically viable,  
335 i.e. the assemblage corundum + anorthite + amphibole could stabilize in the studied rocks during  
336 the regional metamorphism, phase equilibria modeling was done in the CaO-FeO-MgO-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-  
337 SiO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O (CFMASH) system using the computer program PERPLEX\_6.6.8 (Connolly 2005;  
338 2009), calculated effective bulk composition, the updated thermodynamic dataset and solution  
339 models of Holland and Powell (1998) for olivine, spinel and Dale et al. (2000) for amphibole.  
340 The presence of magnetite with spinel and corundum within the anorthite lenses, and the modeled  
341 oxidation reactions (R3-6) indicate that fO<sub>2</sub> exerted a control on the formation of corundum.  
342 Accordingly, isobaric-isothermal (iT-iP) fO<sub>2</sub>-nH<sub>2</sub>O pseudosection (Fig. 5a) calculated at 11-12  
343 kbar and 750-800°C in view of the P-T conditions of the peak metamorphism from the co-  
344 metamorphosed Ayyarmalai basic granulites and the analogous rocks of the Sittampundi LC

345 (Raith et al. 2010; Chowdhury et al. 2013; Karmakar et al. 2017). Several such iT-iP-fO<sub>2</sub>-nH<sub>2</sub>O  
346 pseudosections were calculated at: 12kbar-800°C, 12kbar-750°C, 11kbar-800°C and 11kbar-  
347 750°C; but as they do not show any change in topology, or only very minor negligible changes,  
348 one representative pseudosection has been given. Fig. 5a indicates that hydration and slight  
349 oxidation of the system can stabilize the assemblage anorthite + amphibole + corundum +  
350 magnetite + spinel, from an initial anhydrous assemblage of anorthite + spinel ± olivine.  
351 Additionally, T-nH<sub>2</sub>O (Fig. 5b) and P-T (Fig. 5c) pseudosections calculated at fixed fO<sub>2</sub> values  
352 (selected from Fig. 5a; -11.5 in the field of ‘Ol-Spl-An-Crn-Mag’) indicate that corundum  
353 forming reactions are pressure-insensitive. Fig. 5d demonstrates the change in the relative modal  
354 abundance of the different phases with increasing fO<sub>2</sub> and nH<sub>2</sub>O and decreasing temperature.  
355 Pseudosection modeling is thus also able to explain certain textural features like increased  
356 abundance of coarse-grained amphibole around some the anorthite lenses (Fig. 2b-d). Thus at  
357 least some of the amphibole in the rock, adjacent to the plagioclase lenses, is of metamorphic  
358 origin. Owing to relative immobility or restricted mobility of Al, the anhydrous aluminous phases  
359 (corundum, spinel) remain restricted within the anorthite lenses; and hydrous amphibole forms  
360 outside the lenses leading to slightly increased Al contents of amphiboles (increased <sup>VI</sup>Al/Fe<sup>+3</sup>  
361 ratios) in contact with the anorthite lenses.

362

### 363 **Formation of corundum from anorthite**

364

365 Studies have shown that corundum may form through desilification of aluminous minerals or  
366 rocks through a variety of fluid induced metasomatic processes: (a) in Al-Si-rich granitic  
367 pegmatites or metapelites through metasomatic exchange of silica with Si-poor ultrabasic rocks



368 in contact (Fernando et al. 2017; Ahmed and Gharib 2018; Gordon 2018; Yakymchuk and Szilas  
369 2018); (b) in basic-ultrabasic rocks through infiltration of silica-poor fluids leading to depletion  
370 of Si and enrichment of Al (Schreyer et al. 1981; Tenthorey et al. 1996; Ranson 2000; Fernando  
371 et al. 2001; Rakotondrazafy et al. 2008; Berger et al. 2010; Zhang et al. 2018); or (c) solely at the  
372 expense of calcic plagioclase through fluid induced desilification and decalcification of the  
373 plagioclase (Bucher et al. 2005; Raith et al. 2008). In view of the restricted occurrence of  
374 corundum in the calcic cores of the zoned lenses, and the intergrown nature of corundum with  
375 anorthite in the studied rocks, it seems likely that some of the corundum formed through  
376 desilification and decalcification of the plagioclase through the following reaction:  
377 (R7)  $1.0 \text{ anorthite} = 1.0 \text{ corundum} + 2.0 \text{ SiO}_2^* + 1.0 \text{ CaO}^* - (*\text{mobile species})$ .  
378 Reactions 1 and 7 are both require removal of Si and Ca from the system, thus indicating that  
379 desilification and decalcification of the system could also be a viable mechanism to form  
380 corundum.

381 To test the thermodynamic viability of the metasomatic reaction that can form corundum at  
382 the expense of anorthite, iT-iP chemical potential ( $\mu$ ) diagrams have been computed in parts of  
383 the CASH system. The phases corundum, anorthite, grossular and clinozoisite are chosen for  
384 construction of the iT-iP  $\mu\text{CaO}-\mu\text{SiO}_2$  diagrams. Activities of all the phases are considered as  
385 unity (for their near end-member compositions, or their absence in the rock). The computer  
386 program PERPLEX\_6.6.8 (Connolly 2005; 2009) and the updated thermodynamic data of  
387 Holland and Powell (1998) have been employed to calculate the stability fields of the minerals in  
388 the iT-iP- $\mu\text{CaO}-\mu\text{SiO}_2$  space (Fig. 6). In view of the P-T conditions of the peak metamorphism  
389 from the co-metamorphosed Ayyarmalai basic granulites and the analogous rocks of the  
390 Sittampundi LC (Raith et al. 2010; Chowdhury et al. 2013; Karmakar et al. 2017), the P-T data

391 for Fig. 6 (a and b) are set at 12 kbar and 800°C.

392 The topology of the CASH system (Fig. 6a) suggests that formation of the assemblages  
393 corundum + anorthite (corundum bearing lenses) and anorthite without corundum (corundum free  
394 lenses, and matrix) in closely spaced domains may be controlled by the local potential gradients  
395 of  $\mu\text{CaO}$  and  $\mu\text{SiO}_2$  under isothermal-isobaric conditions. It is also evident from Fig. 6a that  
396 corundum may form from anorthite through lowering of  $\mu\text{SiO}_2$  and/or  $\mu\text{CaO}$ , i.e. desilification  
397 and/or decalcification respectively. The topology of the CASH system is thus able to explain the  
398 formation of corundum solely at the expense of anorthite.

399 However, corundum selectively occurs in the core of the compositionally zoned lenses  
400 having the highest anorthite contents (MvAm:  $\text{An}_{>97}$ ; AyAm:  $\text{An}_{>94}$ ). In order to investigate the  
401 effect of plagioclase composition ( $X_{\text{An}}$ ) on the stability of corundum, a series of iT-iP  $\mu\text{CaO}$ -  
402  $\mu\text{SiO}_2$  diagrams were constructed at different activities of anorthite. Fig. 6b shows that reducing  
403 the activity of anorthite reduces the stability field of corundum. This indicates that high anorthite  
404 activity (and alumina content) facilitates corundum formation.

405 Additionally, to investigate the effect of pressure and temperature on the stability of  
406 corundum, the iT-iP  $\mu\text{CaO}$ - $\mu\text{SiO}_2$  diagrams were constructed at different P-T values. Fig. 6c  
407 shows that isothermal decompression (12 kbar, 10 kbar and 8 kbar at 800°C) significantly  
408 reduces the stability field of corundum, whereas isobaric cooling (800°C and 700°C at 12 kbar)  
409 increases the stability field of corundum. Fig. 6c thus indicates that the regional HP  
410 metamorphism at low to medium temperatures (11-14 kbar and ~800°C) facilitated corundum  
411 formation, and also corundum most likely formed at the culmination of the regional  
412 metamorphism, prior to the onset of the isothermal decompression.

413 The skeletal nature of the corundum grains most likely originates due to an interplay

414 between various factors like the non-uniform presence of grain boundary fluids, immobile or  
415 nominally mobile nature of Al, and possibly rapid growth rate and slow nucleating rate of  
416 corundum crystals (Vernon 2004). Although recrystallization forming polygonal aggregates with  
417 straight crystal faces is essentially a fluid present process (Vernon 2004), but this does not imply  
418 the presence of continuous fluid film along all grain boundaries, especially within the core of the  
419 anorthite lenses where the environment is relatively less hydrous than in the matrix (Vernon  
420 2004). Corundum is able to grow fast and develops straight crystal faces with anorthite where a  
421 fluid film saturated in Al is present (Si and Ca being relatively very mobile are carried away,  
422 leaving behind Al). In contrast, it develops concave outwards cusps at the 'dry' boundaries,  
423 where Al-saturation is not high enough to form corundum, thereby trapping rounded inclusions of  
424 anorthite (Vernon 2004).

425

#### 426 **Protolith of the amphibolites (MvAm)**

427

428 The studied MvAm and AyAm rocks are considered analogous to the magmatic layered  
429 complexes in the MBCS (Raith et al. 2010; Dutta et al. 2011; Chowdhury et al. 2013; Raith et al.  
430 2016; Karmakar et al. 2017), and exhibit features that are common to metamorphosed Archean  
431 layered magmatic complexes like the Sittampundi LC, Fiskanaesset and Limpopo (Rollinson et  
432 al. 2010; Chowdhury et al. 2013; Huang et al. 2014; Karmakar et al. 2017; Keeditse et al. 2017):

- 433 1. Alternation of laterally continuous millimeter to centimeter thick bands of calcic plagioclase  
434 and amphibole rich layers, and the presence of euhedral plagioclase lenses (recrystallized  
435 phenocrysts) suggest that the primary magmatic structures of the rocks are still preserved. In  
436 fact, since it has been discussed that both plagioclase and amphibole in the rock are possibly  
437 of primary magmatic origin, the only pervasive effect of the HP Paleoproterozoic

438 metamorphism seems to be intense recrystallization of the primary igneous minerals,  
439 presumably under static conditions, in the presence of fluids.

440 2. The plagioclase compositions (phenocryst as well as matrix) are highly calcic ( $An \geq 87$ ),  
441 being almost pure anorthite, which is a striking feature of the Archean layered complexes  
442 (Rollinson et al. 2010). Anorthite or calcic plagioclase can crystallize from a hydrous basaltic  
443 magma with high Al or Ca/Na at low pressure  $\leq 3$  kbar (Sisson and Grove 1993; Nielsen et  
444 al. 1995; Panjasawatwong et al. 1995; Takagi et al. 2005; Feig et al. 2006; Rollinson et al.  
445 2010; Dutta et al. 2011). The magmatic protoliths of the Sittampundi LC were emplaced at  
446 depths of 2-3 kbar (Dutta et al. 2011). Thus it seems likely that the protolith magmas of the  
447 MvAm and AyAm were also emplaced at shallow depths  $\leq 3$  kbar.

448 3. The composition of the matrix amphiboles of MvAm and AyAm are similar to those of  
449 Fiskanaesset and Limpopo (Fig. 4b), both interpreted to be primary magmatic amphiboles  
450 (Huang et al. 2014; Keeditse et al. 2017; Huang 2018). The presence of primary magmatic  
451 amphibole in the rock matrix is in agreement with the presence of anorthite phenocrysts and  
452 signify that the magmatic amphiboles are late crystallizing (Huang et al. 2014; Keeditse et al.  
453 2017). Experimental study of Müntener et al. (2001) showed that hydrous basaltic melts with  
454  $< 3$  wt%  $H_2O$  stabilizes plagioclase earlier than amphibole (thus forming the phenocrysts in  
455 this case) while increased  $H_2O$  contents ( $> 3$  wt%) in the remaining liquid suppress  
456 plagioclase leading to the crystallization of primary amphibole.

457 The above arguments thus indicate that the precursor magmas of the MvAm and AyAm were  
458 most likely hydrous ( $< 3$  wt%  $H_2O$ ) basaltic magmas with high Al or Ca/Na that were emplaced at  
459 shallow depths (approximately  $\leq 3$  kbar); and the recrystallized anorthite lenses represent primary  
460 magmatic phenocrysts.

461

462 **Other possibilities of corundum formation in basic-ultrabasic rocks**

463

464 In general, the formation of corundum in silica deficient feldspathic domains (basic-ultrabasic  
465 rocks) requires the presence of excess alumina. As discussed earlier (#2 of previous section) the  
466 shallow depth ( $\leq 3$  kbar) of emplacement of the precursor magmas of the MvAm and AyAm rules  
467 out the possibility of corundum formation as a liquidus phase during magmatic crystallization, as  
468 inclusions within the anorthite phenocrysts, because this requires  $T \geq 1500^\circ\text{C}$  at  $P > 20$  kbar (Liu  
469 and Presnall 1990). Corundum formation through UHP metamorphism (Morishita and Arai 2001;  
470 Morishita et al. 2001) is also not considered as a viable mechanism for the development of  
471 corundum in the studied rocks as corundum does not co-exist with garnet or clinopyroxene and  
472 the metamorphic conditions in the region (Sittampundi LC and Ayyarmalai) never exceeded 14  
473 kbar at  $800^\circ\text{C}$  (discussed in detail in Karmakar et al. 2017).

474 Experimental work (Hariya and Kennedy 1968; Goldsmith 1980; 1982) has shown that in  
475 the  $\text{CaO-Al}_2\text{O}_3\text{-SiO}_2\text{-H}_2\text{O}$  (CASH) system corundum (+melt) may form at pressures above 9  
476 kbar through incongruent melting of anorthite ( $\text{An}_{40}\text{-An}_{100}$ ) at temperatures ranging from  $1570^\circ\text{C}$   
477 ( $\text{An}_{100}$ , anhydrous) to  $725^\circ\text{C}$  ( $\text{An}_{40}$ , water saturated). In view of this, Karmakar et al. (2017)  
478 computed a series of isobaric  $T\text{-nH}_2\text{O}$  diagrams (Fig. 7 of Karmakar et al. 2017) to examine the  
479 effects of pressure, Na and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  on the solidus of anorthite melting in the  $\text{CaO-Na}_2\text{O-Al}_2\text{O}_3\text{-}$   
480  $\text{SiO}_2\text{-H}_2\text{O}$  (CNASH) system, and suggested that in the Sittampundi LC corundum was probably  
481 formed through vapour present incongruent melting of the anorthite ( $\text{An}_{>95}$ ) during UHT  
482 metamorphism ( $T \geq 1000^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $P \geq 9$  kbar).

483 However, unlike the Sittampundi LC, formation of corundum through anatexis of anorthite

484 in the MvAm and AyAm is inconsistent with several features. In the Sittampundi LC, corundum  
485 occurs as euhedral porphyroblasts, and is replaced by spinel (Chowdhury et al. 2013; Karmakar  
486 et al. 2017). In contrast, in the studied rocks corundum occurs as small euhedral grains  
487 intergrown with anorthite and magnetite/spinel, possibly forming at the expense of anorthite and  
488 preexisting spinel. Also, the MvAm and AyAm rocks are devoid of any evidence of partial  
489 melting and corundum occurs within subhedral to euhedral anorthite lenses. Partial  
490 melting of primary phenocrysts would also not have been able to preserve the euhedral  
491 shape. Following the model of Karmakar et al. (2017) corundum formation in the studied  
492 rocks of the MvAm and AyAm (where plagioclase has composition of An<sub>99-92</sub> coexisting with  
493 corundum) would require temperatures >950-1000°C at 9-12 kbar pressure, which is  
494 beyond the usual stability field of amphibole in basic rocks where plagioclase and quartz  
495 co-exist with amphibole (Rapp et al. 1991; Watkins et al. 2007). If it is assumed for the time  
496 being that the recrystallized amphibole is of metamorphic origin (and not primary igneous),  
497 and recall that the recrystallization occurred during the regional HP metamorphism with a  
498 strongly decompressive retrograde path, then it follows that the amphibole formed due to  
499 hydration of preexisting anhydrous assemblage (either magmatic or metamorphic) on this  
500 retrograde path. Further, the extensive presence of amphibole together with the complete  
501 absence of any products of amphibole dehydration melting (pyroxene or garnet),  
502 corroborates the fact that the amphibole we see now did not experience partial melting,  
503 formed on the retrograde path and thus discards the possibility of crustal anatexis, the  
504 latter (melting) being a prograde metamorphic reaction. On the other hand, if the  
505 amphibole in the studied rocks is of igneous origin, as is assumed here, then due to the  
506 highly silica under saturated nature of the rocks (basic-ultrabasic, no quartz) the amphibole

507 melting reactions could not occur, in spite of the presence of fluids, as amphibole  
508 dehydration melting, wet or dry, requires the presence of quartz ( $\text{Amp} + \text{Qtz} \pm \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow$   
509  $\text{Grt/Pyx} + \text{melt}$ ; Watkins et al. 2007). The melting temperature of amphibole alone is much  
510 higher,  $>1100^\circ\text{C}$  (Médard et al. 2005)

511 The above arguments thus elucidate that crustal anatexis is not a viable mechanism for  
512 corundum formation in the studied MvAm and AyAm rocks. This strengthens our previous  
513 inference that corundum formation in the studied rocks occurred through metasomatic reactions.  
514 However, restricted occurrence of the anhydrous aluminous phases (corundum, spinel) within the  
515 anorthite lenses, and abundance and compositional zoning of amphibole in contact with the  
516 anorthite lenses indicate that during the metasomatic reactions Si and Ca were mobile only at the  
517 grain scale (few millimeter) but essentially remained immobile in the scale of a thin section.

518

519

## IMPLICATIONS

520

521 Corundum is a mineral of great economic value because of its wide industrial application as an  
522 abrasive and also for its two expensive gem varieties ruby (red color due to Cr) and sapphire  
523 (blue color due to  $\text{Fe}^{+3}$  and Ti). There are only a few known reports of gem quality corundum in  
524 anorthositic rocks, in a similar petrological setting as the studied samples, from Madagascar  
525 (Mercier et al. 1999) and Fiskanaesset (Keulen and Kalvig 2013). Gem quality corundum, hosted  
526 in anorthositic rocks, is extensively mined from the studied and adjoining areas of the GTSI  
527 namely, Sittampundi Complex, Chinnadharapuram, and Manavadi (Bhattacharya and  
528 Chandramouli 2018). As such, the subject of origin of corundum is of significant interest to  
529 petrologists and gemologists. The origin of corundum in aluminous metapelitic rocks through

530 high to ultra-high temperature (UHT) metamorphism is well established (Sack and Ghiorso 1991;  
531 Sengupta et al. 1999). However, its origin (in-situ, not xenocrysts) in basic-ultrabasic rocks is not  
532 so well understood with only limited natural examples of corundum formation in basic-ultrabasic  
533 rocks through UHP metamorphism. Both UHT and UHP are lower crustal processes. This study  
534 presents a new viable mechanism for the origin of corundum in anorthositic amphibolites in the  
535 presence of aqueous crustal fluids in the oxidized rocks, and also basic-ultrabasic rocks in  
536 general. The growth of corundum in these rocks is a complex interplay between pressure,  
537 temperature, open system behavior and local controls on chemical potential of mobile/immobile  
538 species. The grain size of corundum/ruby is a result of the degree of reaction progress: inhibited  
539 kinetics forms smaller grains, whereas progress of the reaction forms larger gem quality grains.  
540 So the present study not only provides new insights about the formation of corundum (and  
541 possibly its gem varieties) in basic-ultrabasic rocks, but also about lower crustal processes in  
542 general, particularly the effect of fluids and how local gradients in chemical potentials of species  
543 can exert a strong control on the mineral assemblages that develop in a rock.

544

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558

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- 822
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824 **FIGURE CAPTIONS**

825

826 Fig. 1. Generalized geological map of part of the Granulite Terrain of South India (adapted and  
827 simplified from the Geological Survey of India map of Tamil Nadu, published in 2001) showing  
828 studied sample localities: Mannavadi (N 10° 52.81'; E 78° 6.77') and Ayyarmalai (N 10° 51.58';  
829 E 78° 22.91').

830

831 Fig. 2. Mesoscopic features: (a-c) Elongated and elliptical plagioclase lenses (Pl<sub>Lense</sub>) having  
832 sharp contact with matrix of amphibole + plagioclase; amphibole is coarse grained, and more  
833 abundant near some of the lenses. (d) Euhedral plagioclase lens having inclusions of amphibole;  
834 Mineral abbreviations are after Whitney and Evans (2010).

835

836 Fig. 3. Microscopic features: (a) Polygonal grains of plagioclase and amphibole defining  
837 granoblastic fabric in the matrix of the rock (plane polarized light, PPL); (b) Amphibole  
838 inclusions in matrix plagioclase grain. (c, d) Plagioclase lenses (Pl<sub>Lense</sub>) having sharp contact  
839 with matrix of amphibole + plagioclase; at their core some of the lenses contain corundum and  
840 magnetite (c, MvAm) or spinel (d, AyAm). (e) Stitched PPL (inset) and crossed polarized light  
841 (CPL) photomicrograph of a single corundum free lens (across 2 slides) showing coarse grained  
842 recrystallized nature of the lens. (f) CPL photomicrograph of the corundum bearing lens (Pl<sub>Lense(f)</sub>  
843 in Fig. c) showing that corundum bearing core has smaller recrystallized grains than the  
844 corundum free rim.

845

846 Fig. 3. Continued... (g-i) CPL photomicrographs showing euhedral tabular corundum grains that  
847 either share triple junctions with the polygonal plagioclase grains (indicated by red arrow heads),  
848 or cut across the plagioclase grain boundaries; the corundum grains are smaller in size than the  
849 plagioclase grains, and contain abundant inclusions of plagioclase; (j-l) Photomicrographs  
850 showing aggregates or corundum + magnetite that cut across the polygonal grains of plagioclase;  
851 spinel occurs as tiny blebs in magnetite or as skeletal grains along plagioclase grain boundaries.

852

853 Fig. 4. Plots showing compositional range of minerals from the studied amphibolites (MvAm).  
854 For comparison, data from other localities with similar mineral assemblages have also been  
855 plotted: namely the Fiskanæsset layered complex, Greenland (Fsk; Huang et al. 2014), the  
856 Messina layered complex of central Limpopo belt, South Africa (Lmp; Keeditse et al. 2017) and  
857 the Sittampundi layered complex, South India (SLC; Karmakar et al. 2017) (a) Plot showing  
858 variation in anorthite content of plagioclase from the studied samples with respect to their  
859 different textural associations; (b) Plot of plagioclase compositions from different localities along  
860 the albite-anorthite join, revealing their highly calcic nature; (c) Plot of  $Mg/(Mg+Fe)$  versus Si  
861 (after Leake et al. 1997) showing that amphibole compositions plot in the pargasite–  
862 magnesiohastingsite field; (d) Plot of  $Al^{VI}/Fe^{+3}$  versus  $Mg/(Mg+Fe)$  showing zonation in  
863 amphibole compositions with respect to their distance from the plagioclase lenses; (e)  
864  $[Ca+Na+K]_{TOTAL}$  vs. Si and (f)  $[Na+K]_A$  vs.  $Al^{IV}$  plots (after Giret et al. 1980; Molina et al. 2009)  
865 showing that the amphibole compositions fall in the field of primary igneous amphiboles.

866

867 Fig. 5. Pseudosections calculated in the CFMASH (CaO-FeO-MgO-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-SiO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O) system  
868 using the bulk composition (in moles of oxide) CaO-6; FeO-4; MgO-4; Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-8; SiO<sub>2</sub>-15: (a)  
869 isobaric isothermal fO<sub>2</sub>-nH<sub>2</sub>O; (b) isobaric T- nH<sub>2</sub>O at fixed fO<sub>2</sub>; (c) P-T at fixed fO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O;

870 (d) Change in the relative modal abundance of the different phases with increasing  $fO_2$  and  $nH_2O$   
871 and decreasing temperature; The pseudosections suggest that corundum + magnetite + amphibole  
872  $\pm$  spinel may form by hydration and oxidation of the assemblage anorthite + spinel + olivine  
873 under isothermal-isobaric conditions.

874

875 Fig. 6. (a) Activity constrained phase relations in  $\mu CaO$ - $\mu SiO_2$  (chemical potential) diagram at 12  
876 kbar and  $800^\circ C$  in the CASH ( $CaO$ - $Al_2O_3$ - $SiO_2$ - $H_2O$ ) system suggesting that occurrence of the  
877 relevant assemblages corundum + anorthite and anorthite without corundum in closely spaced  
878 domains may be controlled by the local potential gradients of  $\mu CaO$  and  $\mu SiO_2$  under isothermal-  
879 isobaric conditions; (b)  $\mu CaO$ - $\mu SiO_2$  diagram (12 kbar and  $800^\circ C$ ) in CASH system calculated at  
880 different activities of anorthite showing that the stability field of corundum is the largest at the  
881 highest anorthite activity; (c)  $\mu CaO$ - $\mu SiO_2$  diagram in CASH system calculated at different P-T  
882 values: 12 kbar, 10 kbar, 8 kbar at  $800^\circ C$  and  $700^\circ C$  at 12 kbar. The figures show that isothermal  
883 decompression significantly reduces the stability field of corundum, whereas isobaric cooling  
884 increases the stability field of corundum.

Fig. 1

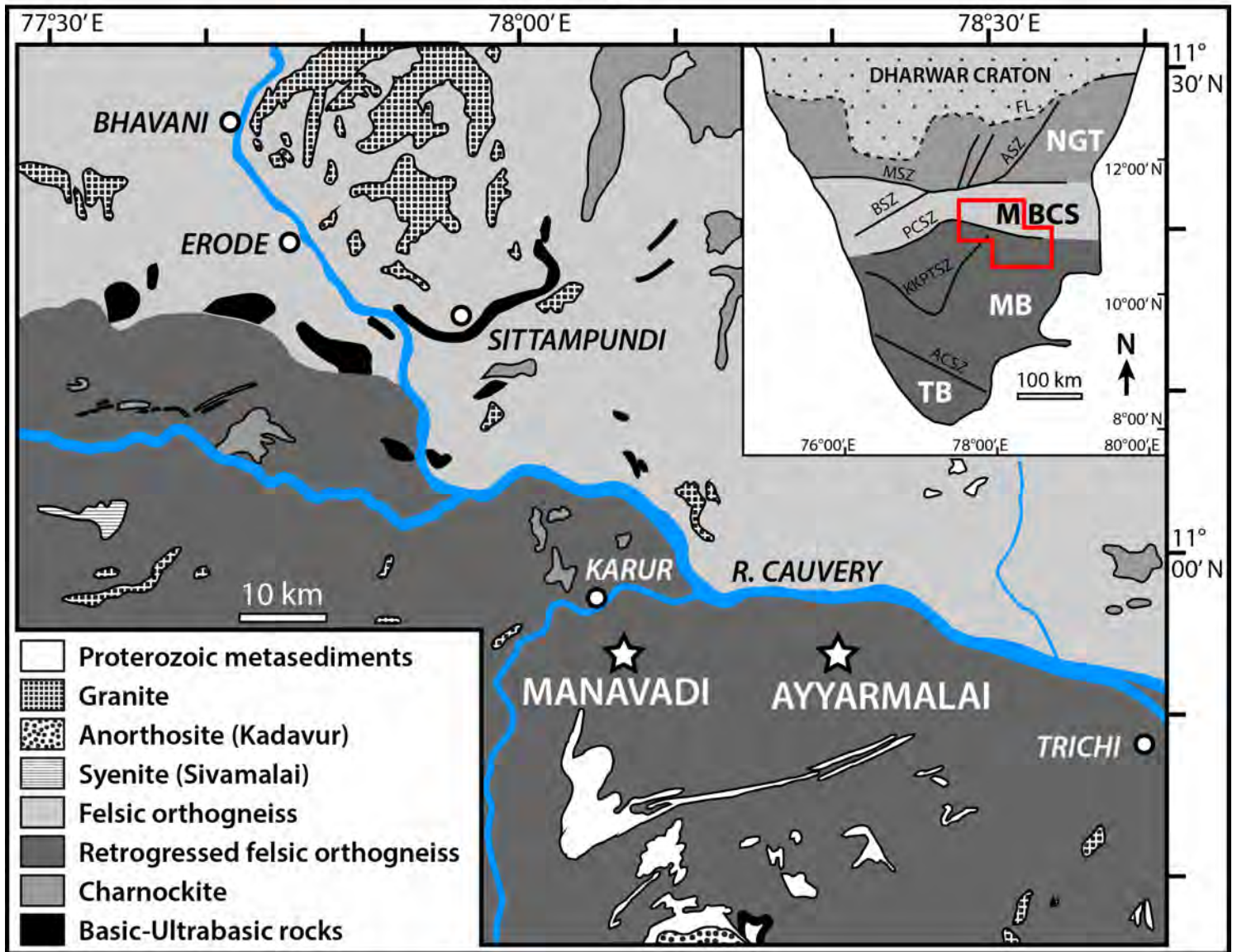




Fig. 2

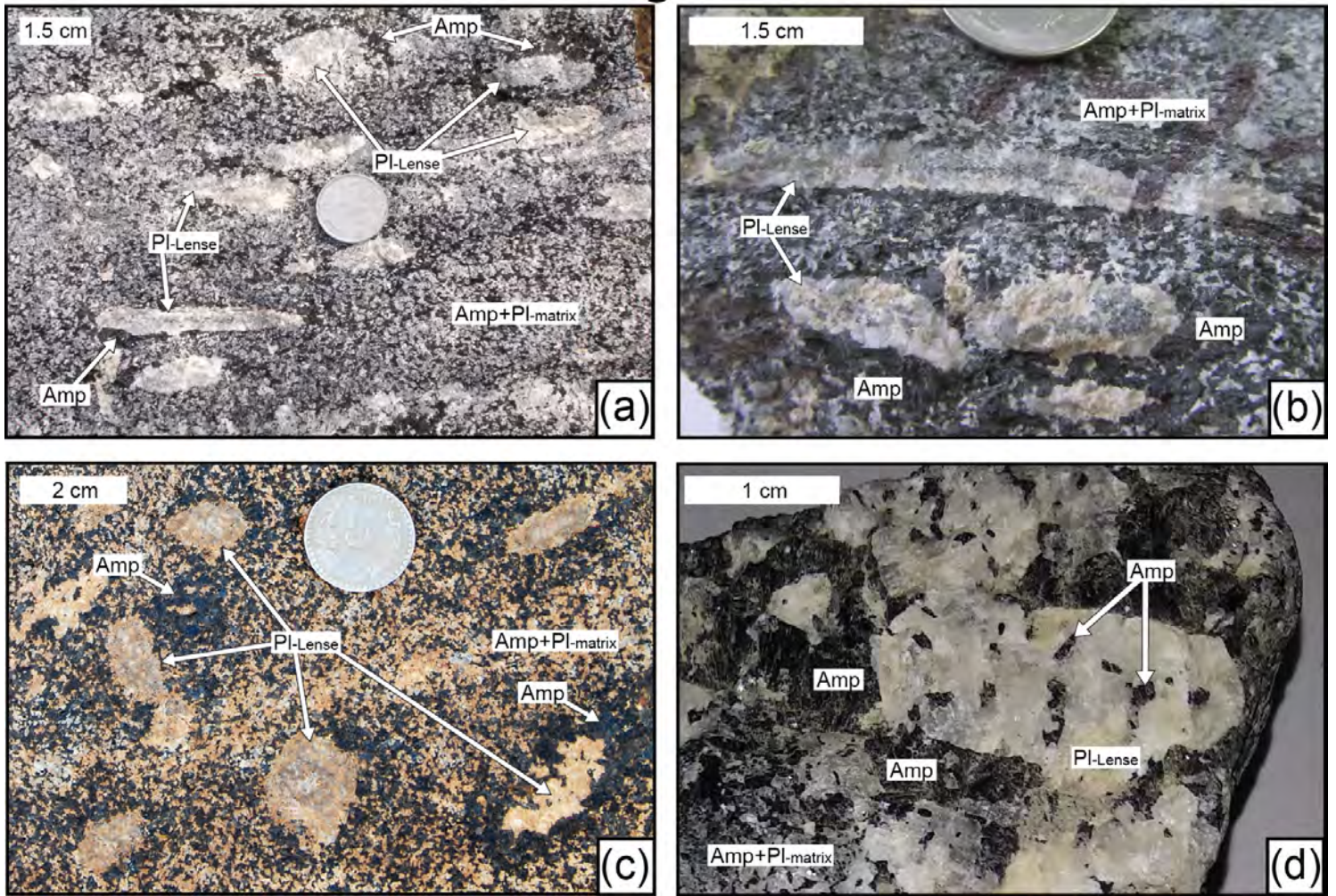




Fig. 3i

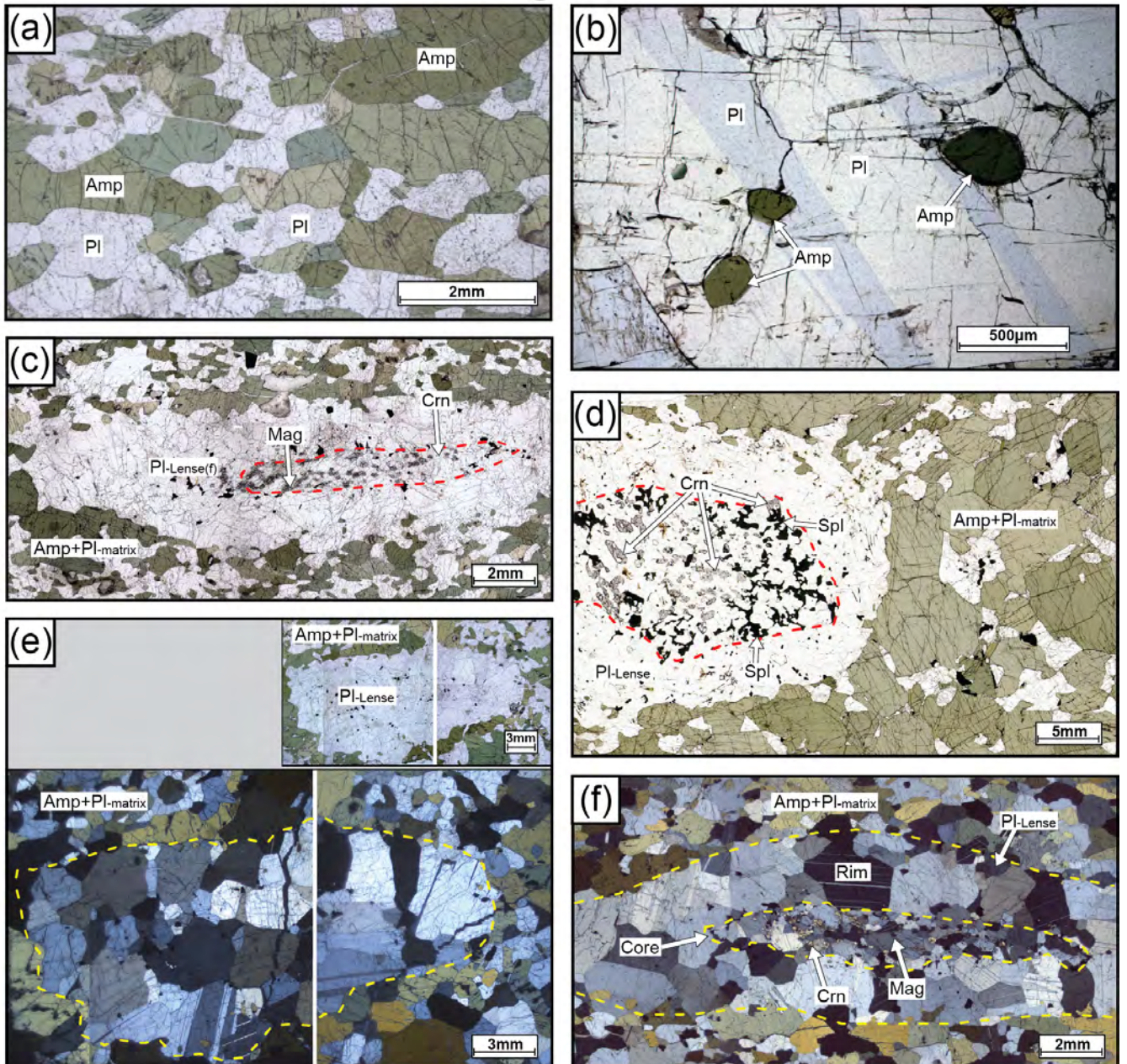




Fig. 3ii

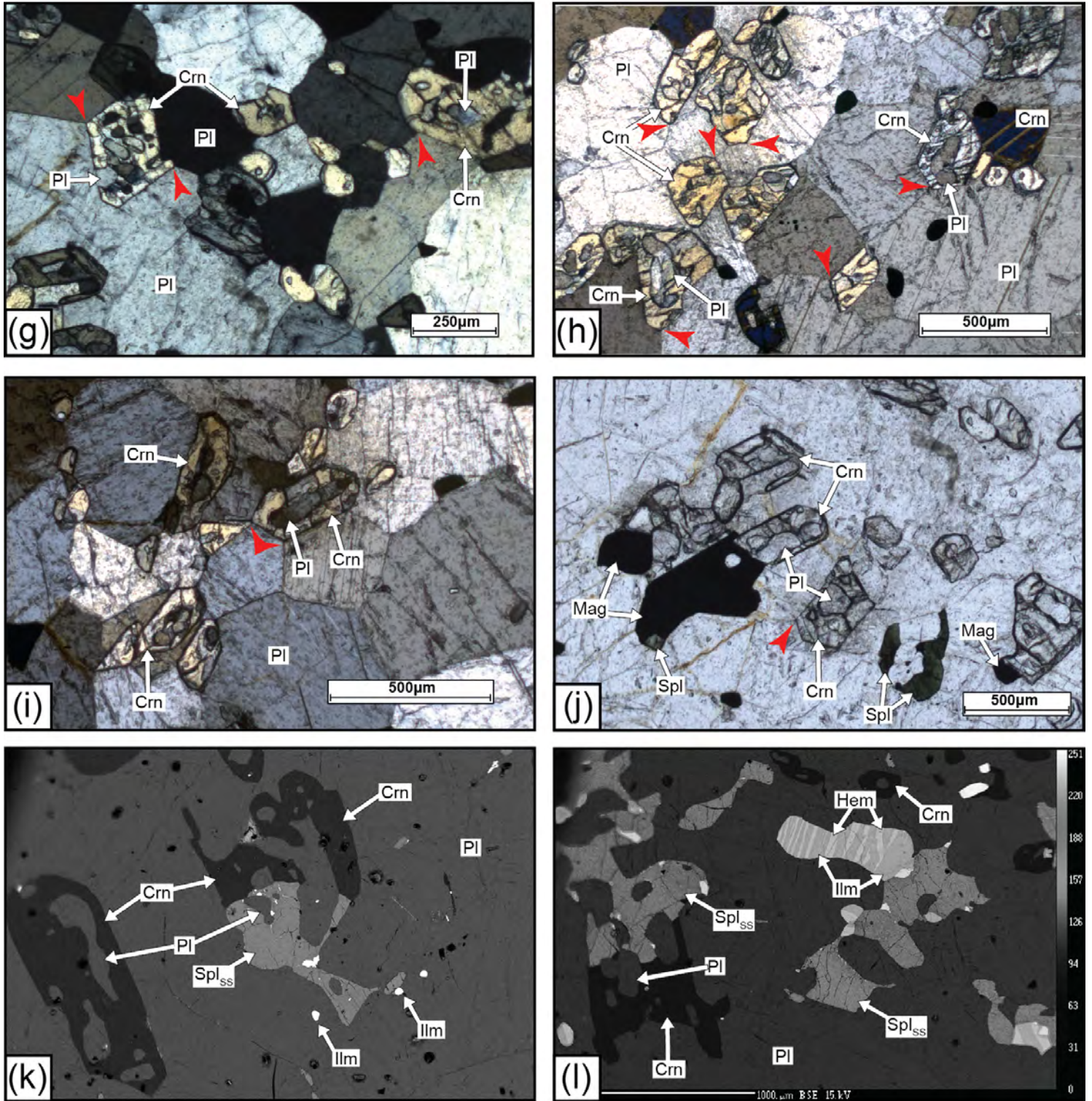




Fig. 4

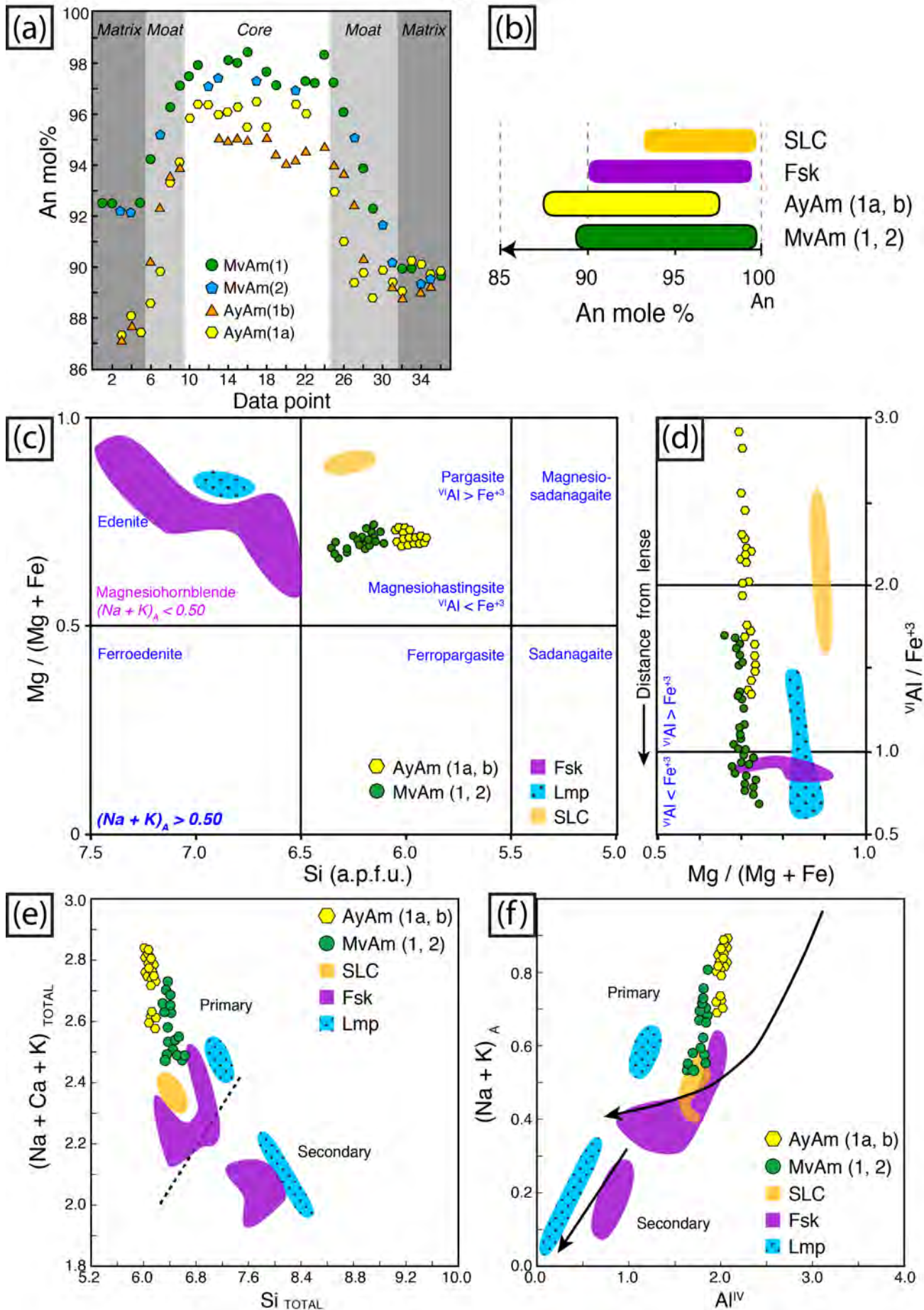
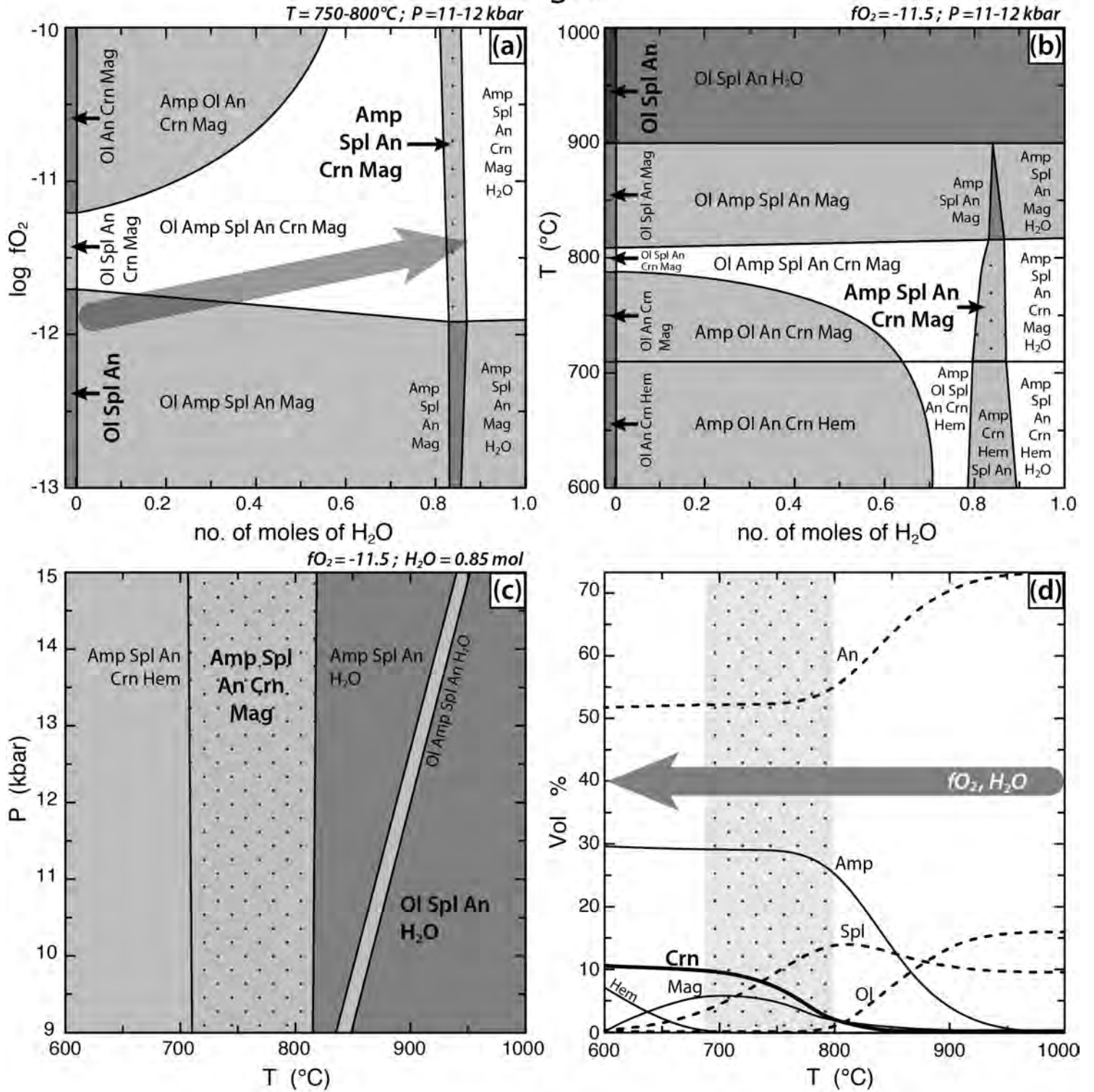




Fig. 5



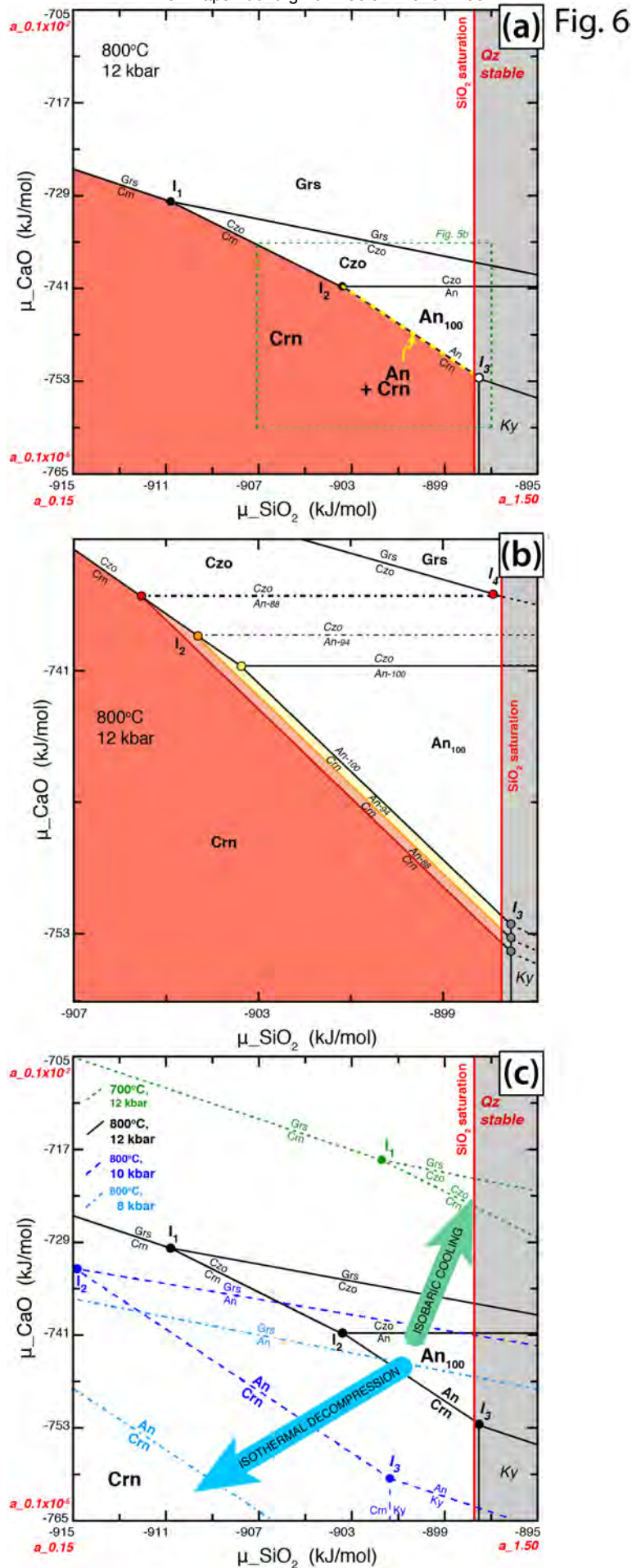


Table 1a: Representative microprobe analyses and calculated cations of plagioclase based on 8 oxygens

Sample	Mv-1 Lense Core (+ Crn)	Mv-1 Lense Rim	Mv-1 Lense Crn free	Mv-1 Matrix	Mv-1 Matrix	Mv-2 Lense Core (+ Crn)	Mv-2 Lense Rim	Mv-2 Lense Crn free	Mv-2 Matrix	Mv-2 Matrix	Ay-1a Lense Core (+ Crn)	Ay-1a Lense Rim	Ay-1a Matrix	Ay-1a Matrix	Ay-1b Lense Core (+ Crn)	Ay-1b Lense Rim	Ay-1b Matrix	Ay-1b Matrix
Point	60	31	87	20	145	51	122	30	19	147	27	15	21/1	68	23/1	14/1	15/1	67
SiO2	43.23	43.93	43.95	44.87	45.32	43.37	44.52	44.15	44.7	45.24	44.05	44.61	45.07	45.66	44.45	44.89	46.25	45.47
Al2O3	36.14	35.79	35.79	34.9	35.17	36.26	35.33	35.25	35.11	34.69	35.59	35.01	34.01	34.93	34.97	34.70	33.86	35.14
FeO	b.d.l.	0.17	0.09	0.25	0.2	0.17	0.17	0.22	0.03	0.13	0.14	0.04	0.16	0.21	0.09	b.d.l.	0.07	0.20
MgO	b.d.l.	0.01	b.d.l.	b.d.l.	0.02	0.04	0.01	0.01	0.02	b.d.l.	b.d.l.	b.d.l.	0.03	b.d.l.	b.d.l.	b.d.l.	b.d.l.	b.d.l.
CaO	19.61	19.35	19.24	18.36	18.28	19.51	18.93	18.78	18.15	17.99	19.47	18.65	18.30	18.04	19.35	18.90	17.88	18.01
Na2O	0.13	0.39	0.53	0.81	1.19	0.33	0.67	0.57	0.83	1.14	0.41	0.74	1.06	1.13	0.55	0.85	1.46	1.15
K2O	0.02	b.d.l.	0.01	0.03	0.02	b.d.l.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	b.d.l.	b.d.l.	0.04	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.02	b.d.l.
TOTAL	99.34	99.79	99.66	99.09	100.27	96.82	99.78	99.08	98.51	99.2	99.66	99.05	98.99	99.99	99.44	99.37	99.68	100.07
Si	2.02	2.04	2.04	2.09	2.09	2.01	2.06	2.06	2.08	2.10	2.04	2.08	2.11	2.10	2.07	2.09	2.14	2.09
Al	1.99	1.96	1.96	1.91	1.91	1.98	1.93	1.94	1.93	1.90	1.95	1.92	1.87	1.90	1.92	1.90	1.84	1.91
Fe+2	--	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	--	0.00	0.01
Mg	--	0.00	--	--	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	--	0.00	--	0.00	--	--	--	--	--
Ca	0.98	0.96	0.96	0.91	0.90	0.97	0.94	0.94	0.91	0.89	0.97	0.93	0.92	0.89	0.96	0.94	0.89	0.89
Na2O	0.01	0.04	0.05	0.07	0.11	0.03	0.06	0.05	0.07	0.10	0.04	0.07	0.10	0.10	0.05	0.08	0.13	0.10
K2O	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	b.d.l.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	--	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	--
TOTAL	5.00	5.00	5.01	4.99	5.01	5.01	5.00	5.00	4.99	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.01	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
X <sub>Or</sub>	0.120	0.000	0.059	0.180	0.116		0.059	0.060	0.061	0.059	0.000		0.217	0.059	0.076	0.093	0.122	
X <sub>Ab</sub>	1.184	3.519	4.745	7.380	10.526	2.970	6.016	5.203	7.638	10.281	3.671	6.699	9.498	10.175	4.888	7.486	12.866	10.358
*X <sub>An(Na-Ca)</sub>	98.696	96.481	95.196	92.440	89.357	97.030	93.925	94.737	92.301	89.659	96.329	93.301	90.285	89.766	95.036	92.421	87.012	89.642
**X <sub>An(Al-Si)</sub>	98.267	96.213	96.073	91.338	91.402	98.578	93.752	94.046	91.820	89.939	95.543	92.307	89.118	89.674	93.233	91.341	85.925	90.539

\*X<sub>An(Na-Ca)</sub>=Ca/(Ca+Na+K); \*\*X<sub>An(Al-Si)</sub>=(Al-1)/(Al-1)+(Si-2)

Table 1b: Representative microprobe analyses and calculated cations of amphibole based on 23 oxygens

Sample	Mv-1	Mv-1	Mv-1	Mv-2	Mv-2	Mv-2	Ay-1a	Ay-1a	Ay-1a	Ay-1b	Ay-1b	Ay-1b
Texture	Near Pl-L	Matrix	Matrix	Near Pl-L	Matrix	Matrix	Near Pl-L	Matrix	Matrix	Near Pl-L	Matrix	Matrix
Point	129	13	63	130	12	64	16 / 1	59	52	20 / 1	62	53
SiO <sub>2</sub>	41.80	42.59	42	42.20	42.41	42.1	41.121	40.4	41	40.867	40.64	40.78
TiO <sub>2</sub>	0.97	0.86	0.75	0.84	0.87	0.79	1.558	1.28	1.34	1.263	1.24	1.3
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	13.79	12.46	13.25	13.44	12.62	13.5	14.964	15.58	15.5	15.298	15.39	15.07
FeO	12.56	13.98	13.63	12.58	14.46	13.71	11.568	11.75	11.7	11.409	11.72	11.71
MnO	0.20	0.12	0.25	0.25	0.15	0.23	12.1	11.73	11.78	12.607	11.67	11.52
MgO	12.62	12.05	12.62	12.65	12.04	12.8	0.103	0.1	0.04	0.073	0.08	0.13
CaO	12.22	11.73	11.79	12.10	11.97	11.77	12.81	12.7	12.59	12.563	12.68	12.76
Na <sub>2</sub> O	2.26	1.69	1.79	2.10	1.68	1.83	2.398	2.73	2.65	2.456	2.53	2.72
K <sub>2</sub> O	0.66	0.6	0.61	0.61	0.6	0.61	0.578	0.8	0.79	0.658	0.79	0.8
TOTAL	97.13	96.22	96.78	96.76	96.93	97.5	97.425	97.15	97.42	97.4	96.81	96.86
Si	6.17	6.34	6.19	6.24	6.28	6.16	6.02	5.96	6.02	6.00	6.00	6.03
Al <sup>(IV)</sup>	1.83	1.66	1.81	1.76	1.72	1.84	1.98	2.04	1.98	2.00	2.00	1.97
Ti	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sum T	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00
Al <sup>(VI)</sup>	0.57	0.53	0.49	0.58	0.48	0.48	0.61	0.67	0.71	0.65	0.68	0.66
Ti	0.11	0.10	0.08	0.09	0.10	0.09	0.17	0.14	0.15	0.14	0.14	0.14
Fe <sup>+3</sup>	0.35	0.47	0.67	0.38	0.56	0.71	0.42	0.31	0.24	0.47	0.32	0.23
Mg	2.78	2.67	2.77	2.79	2.66	2.79	2.80	2.79	2.76	2.75	2.79	2.81
Fe <sup>+2</sup>	1.20	1.23	0.98	1.17	1.21	0.92	0.99	1.09	1.14	1.00	1.07	1.14
Mn	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sum C	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Mg	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fe <sup>+2</sup>	0.01	0.04	0.03	0.01	0.03	0.04	0.07	0.05	0.06	0.09	0.06	0.05
Mn	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.02
Ca	1.93	1.87	1.86	1.92	1.90	1.84	1.82	1.86	1.84	1.80	1.85	1.86
Na	0.04	0.07	0.07	0.05	0.05	0.08	0.10	0.08	0.09	0.11	0.08	0.08
Sum B	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
Ca	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Na	0.61	0.42	0.44	0.56	0.43	0.44	0.58	0.70	0.67	0.59	0.65	0.70
K	0.13	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.15	0.15	0.12	0.15	0.15
Sum A	0.73	0.53	0.55	0.67	0.54	0.55	0.69	0.85	0.81	0.71	0.80	0.85
TOTAL	15.73	15.53	15.55	15.67	15.54	15.55	15.69	15.85	15.81	15.71	15.80	15.85
X <sup>Mg</sup>	0.70	0.68	0.73	0.70	0.68	0.74	0.72	0.71	0.70	0.72	0.71	0.70
Al <sup>(VI)</sup> /Fe <sup>+3</sup>	1.64	1.14	0.74	1.52	0.87	0.68	1.45	2.18	2.91	1.40	2.14	2.82
Group	Calcic	Calcic	Calcic	Calcic	Calcic	Calcic	Calcic	Calcic	Calcic	Calcic	Calcic	Calcic
Sub-Group	Prg	Prg	Mhs	Prg	Mhs	Mhs	Prg	Prg	Prg	Prg	Prg	Prg

Table 1c: Representative microprobe analyses and calculated cations of oxide minerals

Sample	Mv-1	Mv-2	Ay-1a	Ay-1b	Mv-1	Mv-2	Mv-1	Mv-2	Ay-1b	Ay-1b	Ay-1a	Ay-1a	Ay-1a
Mineral	Crn	Crn	Crn	Crn	Mag	Mag	Spl	Spl	Spl	Spl	Spl	Ilm	Hem
Point	45	48	1	6	1	42	118	116	8	12	25	14	18
SiO <sub>2</sub>	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.01	0.06	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TiO <sub>2</sub>	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.07	0.06	0.04	0.02	0.05	0.03	0.07	53.26	0.64
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	98.26	98.21	98.26	98.08	0.26	0.16	64.98	61.80	60.18	58.33	61.47	0.03	0.70
Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	0.02	0.01	0.05	0.04	0.12	0.13	0.28	0.32	0.07	0.07	0.21	0.08	0.17
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> *	1.68	1.73	1.50	1.76	68.99	68.37	--	0.25	4.41	6.41	2.99	2.19	97.86
FeO*	0.00	0.06	0.04	0.03	30.60	31.04	15.28	18.42	22.52	23.78	20.89	42.99	0.17
MnO	b.d.l.	b.d.l.	0.00	b.d.l.	0.17	0.14	0.67	0.51	0.16	0.11	0.40	1.09	0.17
MgO	0.02	b.d.l.	0.00	0.01	0.29	0.08	16.57	13.98	12.26	11.32	13.23	2.14	0.13
TOTAL	100.02	100.03	99.87	100.06	100.81	100.11	96.74	95.30	99.67	100.04	99.26	101.78	99.85
Oxygen	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3
Si	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ti	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.98	0.01
Al	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.97	0.01	0.01	2.01	1.99	1.91	1.87	1.93	0.00	0.02
Cr	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fe <sup>+3</sup> *	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	1.98	1.98	--	0.01	0.09	0.13	0.06	0.04	1.95
Fe <sup>+2</sup> *	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.97	1.00	0.34	0.42	0.51	0.54	0.47	0.88	0.00
Mn	--	--	0.00	--	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.00
Mg	0.00	--	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.65	0.57	0.49	0.46	0.53	0.08	0.01
TOTAL	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	2.00	2.00
X <sub>Mg</sub>	--	--	---	--	--	--	0.34	0.43	0.49	0.46	0.53	0.05	0.01
X <sub>Mag</sub>	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.99	0.99	--	0.00	0.04	0.07	0.03	--	--

\*Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and Fe<sup>+3</sup> is recalculated after the scheme of Grew (2013)