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sulfide deposits: a data review and re-evaluation

REVISION 1

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Abstract

Nickel contents of olivine have been widely used as petrogenetic indicators and as fertility indicators 14 15 for magmatic sulfide potential of mafic-ultramafic intrusions, on the assumption that olivines 16 crystallized from magmas that had equilibrated with sulfide liquid should be relatively depleted in Ni 17 compared with a sulfide-free baseline. This has given rise to a large accumulation of data that is brought together here, along with data on volcanic olivines, to critically evaluate the effectiveness of 18 19 the approach. We identify multiple sources of variance in Ni content of olivine at given Fo content, 20 including: variability in mantle melt composition due to depth, water content (and possibly source); 21 subsequent fractional crystallization with and without sulfide; recharge and magma mixing; batch 22 equilibration between olivine and sulfide at variable silicate-sulfide ratio (R) and olivine/liquid ratio; 23 and subsequent equilibration during trapped liquid crystallization in orthocumulates. Baselines for Ni 24 in olivine in relation to Fo content are somewhat lower in orogenic belt settings relative to intrusions 25 in continental Large Igneous Provinces (LIPs). This is probably related to differences in initial parent 26 magma compositions, with plume magmas generally forming deeper and at higher temperatures. No 27 clear, universal discrimination is evident in Ni in olivine between ore-bearing, weakly mineralized 28 and barren intrusions even when tectonic setting is taken into account. However, sulfide-related 29 signals can be identified at intrusion scale in many cases. Low-R factor, low-tenor sulfides are 30 associated with low-Ni olivines in a number of examples and these cases stand out clearly.

31 Anomalously high-Ni olivines are a feature of some mineralized intrusions, in part due to trapped 32 liquid reaction effects. However, in some cases, this mechanism cannot account for the magnitude 33 of enrichment. In these cases, enrichment may be due to re-entrainment of "primitive" Ni-rich 34 sulfide by a more evolved Fe-rich magma, driving the olivine to become Ni-enriched due to Fe-Ni 35 exchange reaction between sulfide and olivine during transport. An extreme case of this process 36 may account for ultra-Ni enriched olivine at Kevitsa (Finland), but more subtle signals elsewhere 37 could be positive indicators. A lack of clear mineralized/barren distinction in specific groups of 38 related intrusions, e.g. the deposits of NW China or the Kotalahti Belt in Finland, may well be due to 39 "false negatives" where undiscovered mineralization exists in specific intrusions or in their feeder 40 systems, or may also be due to a multiplicity of confounding factors. Wide variability of both Fo and 41 Ni between related intrusions at regional scale may be a useful regional prospectivity indicator, 42 more than an intrusion-scale discriminant, and is certainly informative as a petrogenetic indicator. In 43 general, the use of Ni-olivine as a fertility tool is more likely to generate false negatives than false 44 positives, but both are possible, and the technique should be used as part of a broader weight-of-45 evidence approach.

46 *Keywords: magmatic sulfides, nickel deposits, mantle melting.*

47

Introduction

The Ni content of olivine has been used over several decades as an indicator of potential host rocks 48 49 to magmatic Ni-Cu sulfide deposits (Häkli, 1971; Naldrett et al., 1984; Li and Naldrett, 1999; Barnes 50 et al., 2004; Makkonen et al., 2008; Barnes and Fiorentini, 2012; Le Vaillant et al., 2016). More 51 generally, Ni in olivine has been widely used as a petrogenetic indicator to infer mantle magma 52 sources (Sobolev et al., 2005; Sobolev et al., 2007; Li and Ripley, 2010) and deep-seated petrogenetic 53 processes (Hart and Davis, 1978; Zhang et al., 2005; Herzberg et al., 2016; Matzen et al., 2017b; 54 Gleeson and Gibson, 2019). Its potential usefulness as a prospectivity indicator arises from the 55 compatible and chalcophile character of Ni, which has a strong tendency to partition both into 56 olivine and much more strongly into sulfide liquid from coexisting silicate melt (Duke, 1979; Naldrett 57 et al., 1984; Kiseeva and Wood, 2015; Yao et al., 2018). Consequently, competition for Ni between 58 co-precipitating sulfide and olivine should produce olivine depleted in Ni relative to olivines that 59 have never "seen" sulfide liquid. This effect was modelled in detail in the only previous global review 60 of the topic (Li et al., 2007). However, more recent experimental data on the strong dependency of 61 partitioning behaviour of Ni into olivine with temperature (Li and Ripley, 2010; Matzen et al., 2017a; 62 Matzen et al., 2017b; Pu et al., 2021) together with effects of recharge and magma mixing (Gleeson 63 and Gibson, 2019) introduce important confounding factors into the interpretation. Furthermore,

olivine compositions may be modified considerably by post-cumulus processes (Barnes, 1986) which
can generate Ni enrichment in some circumstances (Barnes and Naldrett, 1985; Li and Naldrett,
1999; Ding et al., 2010). These multiple factors, among others considered here, have not been fully
considered in previous studies,

68 In this contribution, we combine an empirical data-driven approach with quantitative modelling of 69 the various factors controlling olivine compositions in sulfide-saturated and undersaturated 70 magmas. We employ a large compilation of data on Ni in olivine from volcanic and intrusive rocks, 71 including all the published data we have been able to locate on mineralized and unmineralized 72 mafic-ultramafic intrusive rocks over a wide range of ages and tectonic settings. From this dataset, 73 we assess whether systematic differences exist that would enable reliable discrimination of 74 mineralized intrusions. Such a tool would potentially be applicable in target selection at the early 75 stage of regional exploration campaigns and also in vectoring towards mineralization in well-76 explored terranes. This approach has already been investigated for komatiite-hosted magmatic 77 sulfide systems and shown to be effective at prospect scale in some cases, such as the Agnew-78 Wiluna Belt of the Yilgarn Craton (Barnes and Fiorentini, 2012; Le Vaillant et al., 2016), although 79 signals are commonly confounded by flushing of mineralized lava channels post ore formation 80 (Barnes et al., 2013b). Here we focus primarily on application to mineralization within small mafic-81 ultramafic intrusions in continental large igneous provinces (LIPs) and orogenic belts.

82

Method

83 Olivine chemistry data has been compiled from large number of literature sources listed in 84 Supplemental Table 1 and from the GEOROC online database (http://georoc.mpch-85 mainz.gwdg.de/georoc/)(Lehnert et al., 2000; Sarbas, 2008). Data plotting and data density 86 contouring was done with the ioGas geochemical plotting software. In all cases data are from 87 electron microprobe microanalysis, which typically reports Ni contents down to hundreds of ppm 88 with precisions around 5-10% of measured abundance. Tabulation of individual precision estimates 89 for the many dozens of different data sources was not attempted, but readers are referred to 90 original sources (Supplementary Table 1) for further details. A full listing of data compilation used in 91 this study is available at https://zenodo.org/record/5787901 or via the CSIRO Data Access Portal at doi: (to be advised). 92

Samples were classified on the basis of volcanic/intrusive status (volcanic, small intrusions and large
 layered intrusions); combined tectonic setting and age (large igneous provinces and convergent
 margins, Phanerozoic and Proterozoic) and for intrusion samples, three categories of mineralization
 status of the host intrusion: M(ineralized), containing economic accumulations of Ni-Cu sulfide;

97 (D)isseminated, containing economic or sub-economic disseminated Ni-Cu sulfide mineralization

98 only; and (B)arren, either no sulfide mineralization at all as far as is known, or only minor

99 disseminations. These distinctions are inevitably somewhat arbitrary and based on best available

100 data. In many of the plots, summary "data clouds" for particular groupings are represented as

smoothed kernel data density contours determined in the loGas plotting software. In most cases

102 except where stated contours enclose the 50th and 90th percentiles on data point density.

Modelling calculations follow the procedures and assumptions of Yao et al. (2018). These aredescribed in appendix 1.

105

Results

106 Background olivine compositions in Phanerozoic basalts

Compositions of olivine phenocrysts in basalts provide a useful baseline for comparison, in that they are least likely to have been modified by the processes that affect cumulate rocks in intrusions. A dataset of over 20,000 analyses, assembled by Sobolev and co-workers (Sobolev et al., 2007), is shown in summary form in Figure 1 along with additional data from convergent margin basalts from the GEOROC database (Sarbas, 2008). Wide variability was noted by Sobolev et al. (2007) in relation to tectonic setting, such as basalts from continental large igneous provinces (CLIPS) and from intraoceanic plumes associated with old, thick oceanic lithosphere. This gives rise to distinctly different

baseline ranges for CLIPS, oceanic LIPs and hotspot chains (OLIP) and MORBs, which are distinctly

lower in olivine Ni than the other two categories for given Fo content. Since many of the potential

116 target intrusions for magmatic sulfide deposits occur within mid-plate LIPs, the CLIP basalt dataset

117 (Figure 1B) makes a useful baseline for comparison for these cases. The approximate 75th percentile

data density contour on the CLIP data (black outline on Figure 1 B,C) (with the outlying

119 Gudchichinsky Picrite suite from Siberia excluded) is reproduced in some of the diagrams that follow.

120 Figure 1

121 Volcanic olivine compositions from convergent margins (Figure 1D) show a somewhat contrasting

122 pattern with the LIP data cloud. The bulk of the data sets overlaps with the LIP data, but clusters of

123 points fall both well above and well below. Oceanic arc olivines have a distinctly bimodal

124 distribution, whereby a distinct group of primarily oceanic arc-associated olivines falls well below the

125 LIP cloud at the higher Fo end (Fig. 1D).

126 Comparison of intrusion hosted olivines between tectonic settings

127 Modelling of olivine compositions from variably hydrated and variable depth sources (see below)

128 indicates that we would expect significantly different baseline trends for magmas from deep-

129 sourced continental LIPs relative to magmas formed by shallow flux melting in arcs. The effect of 130 melting depth (melting beneath thick and thin lithosphere) was pointed out by (Sobolev et al., 2005, 131 2007). For this reason we combine continental LIP and intracratonic layered intrusions such as 132 Bushveld together as one category, and orogenic belts with likely arc associations as another (Figure 133 2) in establishing baselines for comparison of mineralized versus unmineralized intrusions. A caveat 134 is needed here in that in some cases "orogenic belt" localities may be sampling plume magmas 135 emplaced along craton margins and caught up in collisional events; this is particularly an issue in 136 highly deformed Proterozoic orogens such as the Albany-Fraser Orogen in Western Australia. For 137 purposes of this study, we include all such occurrence in the Orogenic Belt category but acknowledge the strong possibility of misclassification. Data for unmineralized intrusions only are 138 139 plotted in Figure 2. Layered intrusions containing stratiform PGE Reef mineralization are considered 140 unmineralized for this purpose, on the grounds that the magmas parental to the reefs could not 141 have interacted previously with large proportions of sulfide liquid.

142 A major problem in empirical comparisons of this type is a sampling bias towards mineralized 143 intrusions; they tend to be more common subjects of academic study than barren intrusions and 144 exploration companies drill more holes into sulfide-bearing bodies. Furthermore, there may well be 145 a false negative bias in that where an intrusion is known to contain sulfides its classification is clear, 146 whereas "barren" intrusions may simply contain as yet undiscovered mineralization. As an 147 additional baseline for comparison, we have therefore included a field for expected olivine compositions derived by fractional crystallization from the plausible range of mantle-derived basaltic 148 149 magmas generated by 10% or more partial melting, based on the modelling of Yao et al. (2018). This 150 field is labelled "MSFM" for "model sulfide free mantle melts" in Figure 2 and subsequent Ni vs Fo 151 plots. The derivation of these model values is discussed in detail below.

152 Figure 2.

153 The data clouds shown in Figure 2 are clearly distinct between the continental LIP (CLIP+LMI) and

154 Orogenic Belt (OB) categories, with the latter having consistently lower Ni for the same Fo content.

155 We therefore need to consider different baselines for these two different tectonic settings.

156 Furthermore, the data set for CLIP-associated intrusions shows a considerably broader spread than

157 the field for volcanic olivines, particularly at low Fo contents.

158 In the following sections, we compare olivine compositions for mineralized and unmineralized

159 intrusions from CLIP and OB settings. Implicit in this comparison is the major uncertainty of "false

160 negatives" as noted above, which should be borne in mind through the discussion.

161 Mineralized vs barren, CLIP settings

162 Figure 3 shows a comparison of data points for olivines in variably mineralized mafic-ultramafic 163 intrusions in intraplate continental Large Igneous Province (CLIP) settings (including large 164 intracratonic layered intrusions), plotted over the data density cloud for unmineralized CLIP-165 associated intrusions. In this plot and those that follow, intrusions hosting economic sulfide-rich 166 mineralization are plotted as red symbols, with symbol shapes indicating locality, while green 167 symbols denote intrusions containing disseminated and/or minor subeconomic mineralization only. The bulk of the data fall within the "unmineralized" data cloud, with three localities as major 168 169 exceptions. Kabanga (Tanzania) shows consistently strong Ni depletion in the main ore-hosting 170 intrusion (Maier et al., 2010; Maier et al., 2011). Voisey's Bay (Labrador, Canada, red circles) defines 171 a field of widely varying Ni and Fo with Fe-rich olivine compositions extending to below Fo45. Nickel contents vary by a factor of up to 7 over the same Fo. In the Kevitsa Intrusion (northern Finland) the 172 range of variability is a factor of 20 over a limited range in Fo. As well as a cluster of strongly 173 174 depleted olivines, the Kevitsa dataset includes some extreme examples of Ni enrichment (Yang et al., 175 2013) falling outside the scale limits of this plot; these are discussed further below in the case-study 176 section below. The main conclusion at this stage is that there is no universal evidence for consistent 177 Ni depletion in mineralized compared with unmineralized intrusions, but distinct signals can be 178 recognized in some specific cases. Wide variability for limited range in Fo appears to be the most 179 consistent signal in mineralized intrusions. It is noteworthy that a large portion of the data cloud falls 180 above the theoretical field (MSFM field on Figure 3) for olivines derived from sulfide-free mantle 181 melts.

182 Figure 3.

183 Mineralized vs barren, orogenic belt settings

184 An exactly equivalent comparison to that in Figure 3 is shown in Figure 4 for combined Phanerozoic and Proterozoic orogenic settings (bearing in mind that some of the localities included in this 185 186 category could be misallocated plume associations). The same conclusion applies: there is no clear 187 evidence for consistent Ni depletion in mineralized compared with unmineralized intrusions. 188 However, as in the CLIP category, mineralized intrusions occupy a wider range, with Ni falling both 189 above and below the unmineralized baseline and show a wide variability of Ni for similar Fo 190 contents. The most clearly anomalous mineralized intrusions are the Savannah intrusions in the Halls 191 Creek orogen that show localized strong enrichment, and a group of intrusions (Moxie, Maine; St 192 Stephen, New Brunswick and Rana, Northern Norway) within the Appalachian-Caledonide orogen 193 that shows consistently Ni depleted olivine (Figure 4B). The Beja intrusion, Portugal, host to minor

194 disseminated sulfides (Jesus et al., 2020), straddles the 90th percentile "barren" contour but 195 contains a high proportion of significantly Ni-depleted olivines at low Fo. We consider some of these 196 localities further below as case studies. The Xiarihamu deposit in the East Kunlun orogenic belt in 197 Tibet shows a distinctive signal of widely variable Ni at a restricted range of high Fo contents, 198 somewhat similar to the Povi intrusion in the Central Asia Orogenic Belt in China. Comparing 199 Phanerozoic and Proterozoic settings, Phanerozoic intrusions appear to be more likely to show 200 recognisable Ni depletion, as noted by Jesus et al. (2020). This may be an association with depth of 201 emplacement, noting that several of the Proterozoic intrusions (Savannah, Kotalahti Belt, Nova) 202 were emplaced at mid to lower crustal depths.

203 Compared with the theoretical model field for olivines derived from sulfide-free basalts (MSFM

204 outline), evidence for Ni depletion is seen in the localities mentioned above, along with some

samples from Xiarihamu, Ntaka Hill, Nova and several of the Chinese CAOB deposits. Samples from

206 Savannah plot well above the MSFM field.

207 Figure 4.

- 208 Comparison within individual magmatic provinces
- 209 In this section, we consider some specific examples from both orogenic and CLIP categories where
- 210 multiple intrusions co-exist within a restricted province with and without significant mineralization.
- 211 LIP related: Kabanga–Musongati–Kapalagulu Belt, Tanzania
- 212 The Kabanga deposit is located in a relatively small chonolith-style intrusion within the 1.4 Ga
- 213 Kabanga–Musongati–Kapalagulu (KMK) mafic–ultramafic belt that extends for >500 km from Uganda
- to Lake Tanganyika in the Great Lakes region of East Africa (Deblond and Tack, 1999; Evans et al.,
- 215 2000; Duchesne et al., 2004; Maier et al., 2007; Maier et al., 2010). This belt is considered to form
- 216 part of a LIP developed along the NW margin of the Tanzanian Craton (Mäkitie et al., 2014). The belt
- 217 contains both relatively large, mafic-ultramafic layered intrusions of several km thickness and tens of
- square km in surface and subsurface outcrop (e.g., Musongati and Kapalagulu) and numerous sills
- and chonolith bodies consisting largely of harzburgite, pyroxenite and gabbronorite, with
- thicknesses on the order of m to hundreds of m (e.g., Kabanga).
- 221 The Kabanga North-MNB body, one of the smallest intrusions in the belt, has a tubular chonolith
- 222 morphology measuring up to 150 m in diameter. The body has been delineated by drilling for ~1.4
- 223 km in a NE–SW direction. The Kabanga Main intrusion is a sill-like body with a relatively narrow
- 224 (2km), trough-like lower portion and an upper segment of greater width (~4km). Its thickness may
- 225 be on the order of 500m. The ~500-m-thick MNB body was discovered in 2001 while drilling for
- 226 extensions of the Kabanga North body. The MNB extends over >2 km strike length and bears

considerable similarity to the Kabanga Main body. It may thus represent the extension of Kabanga
Main at depth. The Block 1 intrusion, 4 to 5 km to the SW of Kabanga Main, consists of a thick (~
800m) pile of mafic-ultramafic cumulates containing abundant disseminated low-tenor sulfides.

230 The heavily mineralized intrusions of the Kabanga locality stand out clearly as having strongly Ni 231 depleted olivines, with the most advanced depletion being in the Upper KM Sill, Block 1 and the 232 MNB body (Figure 5). This is the clearest example in the entire dataset of strong Ni depletion 233 associated with high degrees of crustal contamination and abundant sulfides having low Ni tenors. 234 Kabanga sulfides have low Ni (<1–3 wt%), Cu (\sim 0.1–0.4 wt%), and PGE contents (\ll 1 ppm), high 235 Ni/Cu (5-15), and low Ni/Co (10-15) and Pd/Ir (2-20). Sulfides with higher metal contents (up to 236 \sim 5% Ni, 0.8% Cu, 10 ppm PGE) are found in only one unit from Kabanga North, which significantly 237 has markedly less Ni depleted olivine, albeit still depleted relative to the CLIP "Barren" baseline. The 238 observed metal contents of the Kabanga sulfides are consistent with segregation of magmatic 239 sulfides from fertile to strongly metal-depleted magmas, at intermediate to very low mass ratios of 240 silicate to sulfide liquid (R factors) of approximately 10–400.

The Kapalugulu intrusion, approximately 300 km south of Kabanga, is a large layered intrusion
 containing chromitite and associated PGE concentrations. It contains sulfide mineralization only in a
 proposed feeder zone and shows undepleted olivines in samples from the unmineralized layered
 cumulate sequence.

245

246 Figure 5.

247 Proterozoic Orogenic Belt: Halls Creek Orogen, Australia. The Savannah (formerly Sally Malay) and 248 Savannah North deposits, along with the smaller Copernicus deposit, are located within a belt of 1.8 249 Ga mafic and mafic-ultramafic intrusions, the Sally Malay Suite, within the Halls Creek Orogen of 250 Western Australia (Mole et al., 2018; Le Vaillant et al., 2020). The magmatism is thought to be 251 related to a slab break-off event during the collision of the North Australian and Kimberley Craton 252 (Kohanpour et al., 2017). The Savannah deposit occupies the lower edge of a now rotated bladed 253 dyke (Barnes and Mungall, 2018) and the adjacent Savannah North deposit occupies a basal contact 254 position within a separate small layered intrusion with probable funnel geometry. A group of petrographically similar intrusions within about 10 km of Savannah has been sampled by regional 255 256 scale exploratory drilling, which has located only minor occurrences of disseminated sulfide. On this 257 basis, Savannah and Savannah North samples represent the mineralized category while the 258 remainder are considered barren.

259 Most of the olivines analysed from this suite fall within the "barren" baseline for orogenic settings 260 (Figure 6), and Savannah North is indistinguishable in olivine chemistry from the barren Dave Hill and 261 Wilson's Creek bodies, aside from one data cluster at high Fo and low Ni that probably does reflect 262 sulfide-related depletion. The notable exception is the Savannah Intrusion, which contains 263 substantially more Ni enriched olivines within the layered peridotite and olivine norite layers that 264 occupy the interior of the dyke. These rocks are primarily mesocumulates, and no systematic 265 difference in olivine composition is recognisable with sulfide or olivine mode, such that the 266 displacement from the cluster of Savannah North olivines cannot simply be explained by trapped 267 liquid equilibration. The Savannah Intrusion evidently formed from a more Ni rich carrier magma 268 than the other components of the Sally Malay suite. However, this contrast is not evident in the Ni 269 tenors of the Savannah and Savannah North sulfide rich ores, which are 3.5-5 wt% and 2-3.5 wt% 270 respectively. Both orebodies are strongly PGE depleted (Le Vaillant et al., 2020) implying prior 271 extraction of sulfide liquid.

For this data set, we have also investigated the extent to which Fo-Ni variability is distinguishable on the basis of the sulfide content of individual samples (Figure 6B). Most of the analysed samples from the Savannah intrusion are sulfide-free, from the interior of the intrusion, showing the distinctive Ni enrichment characteristic of this body, but some mineralized samples are also Ni enriched. There is an almost complete overlap (with the exception of the highest Fo sample) between sulfide-bearing and sulfide-free samples in the Savannah North intrusion. This confirms that recognition of indicative Fo-Ni signals does not rely on sampling sulfide-bearing rocks.

279 Figure 6.

280 Phanerozoic Orogenic Belt, Central Asian Orogenic Belt, NW China. About a dozen economic 281 magmatic Ni-Cu sulphide deposits occur at the southern margin of the Central Asian orogenic belt 282 (CAOB) in NW China (Mao et al., 2008; Lu et al., 2019), with a few deposits occur in the 283 southeasternmost part of CAOB, such as the Hongqiling deposit in NE China (Wei et al., 2013; Lu et 284 al., 2019). These NW China deposits could be classified into four groups by spatial distribution: the 285 Beishan, Central Tianshan, Eastern Tianshan, and south Chinese Altai groups from south to north. 286 over a total distance of close to 1000 kilometres. They were predominately formed in the Permian (Qin et al., 2011; Su et al., 2011). The host rocks of these NW China deposits are enriched in hydrous 287 288 phases and show arc-like geochemical characteristics, suggesting that the related magmas were 289 derived from metasomatized mantle sources which have been modified by the subduction events 290 prior to the Permian. Most researchers propose that the Permian magmatism in the south (Beishan, 291 Central Tianshan, and Eastern Tianshan) of NW China was associated with the partial melting of 292 metasomatized mantle driven by either the coeval Tarim mantle plume (Qin et al., 2011; Su et al.,

293 2011) or asthenosphere upwelling induced by lithosphere delamination (Song et al., 2011a; Zhang et 294 al., 2011). The Permian magmatism in the Chinese Altai is thought to be triggered by a slab break-off 295 event (Zhang et al., 2009; Li et al., 2012). Ore-hosting magmatic bodies of these deposits come in a 296 variety of shapes, i.e. elongated rhomboid, kernel-shaped flares, tube-like or dyke-like, and have surface areas less than 2 km². Several have been interpreted as variants on the theme of "blade-297 298 shaped dykes" (Barnes and Mungall, 2018). Sulphide mineralization mainly occurs at the bases of 299 these magmatic bodies, with few exceptions locating at the central to upper zones, such as the 300 Huangshandong mafic body and the Tulaergen deposit.

301 Olivine-rich cumulates are the predominant host to the sulphides in the NW China deposits.

302 Lherzolite and olivine websterite are the most prevalent rock types in the intrusions, such as the

303 Tianyu and Baishiquan deposits in the Central Tianshan, Huangshandong, Huangshanxi,

Huangshannan, Xiangshanzhong, Tudun, Tulaergen, and Hulu deposits in the Eastern Tianshan.

305 Dunite is one of the main rock types of the intrusions from the Beishan, such as the Poyi and Poshi

306 intrusions (Xue et al., 2016). The Kalatongke deposit comprises 14 small mafic intrusions, with the

307 orebodies mostly hosted by the Y1 and Y2 intrusion. Olivine grains are common in the Y1 intrusion,

308 where olivine norite is the main rock type, but rarely found in the others. (Zhang et al., 2009; Gao

and Zhou, 2013; Mao et al., 2021). The olivine from the NW China deposits has variable Fo values

310 (from 70 to 90 mol%) (Figure 7). Generally, the Ni content in olivine decreases with decreasing Fo

311 value (Figure 7), as expected for simple fractional crystallization. For each deposit, the Ni variation

312 cannot be adequately produced by fractional crystallization alone. For instance, the Poyi olivines

show wide Ni variation (from 1500 to 3500 ppm) but subtle Fo variation (88-89 mol%).

314 The intrusions of this province show no clear discrimination on the basis of olivine chemistry

between mineralized and weakly or unmineralized intrusions (Figure 7). The mineralized

Huangshanxi intrusion shows a wide range in Ni, 400-1750 ppm, over a restricted range in Fo, but

317 similar ranges are seen in unmineralized and weakly mineralized bodies also. Huangshandong

318 contains both Ni-depleted and Ni-enriched olivine at relatively low Fo contents, whereas Kalatongke

319 shows a grouping of relatively Ni-enriched olivines at around Fo75 compared with the rest of the

320 CAOB data set, although less enriched than the olivines at Savannah (Figure 6). Notably, these

321 Kalatongke samples are primarily sulfide-bearing orthocumulates, whereas the more Fo-rich samples

322 from Poyi and others are adcumulate to mesocumulates. Huangshannan stands out as having

323 strongly Ni-enriched olivines relative to the rest of the province, and to orogenic-setting intrusions

- 324 generally, over a range of Fo contents. The distinctive character of the Huangshannan and
- 325 Kalatongke olivines may be related to trapped liquid effects, as discussed below. With reference to

- 326 the modelled sulfide-free olivine (MSFM) field, distinct depletion is seen in Tulaergen (most
- 327 samples), Huangshanxi, Hunangshandong, Honqiling, Xiarihamu, and Poyi.
- Also included in this comparison is the Xiarihamu deposit, a small ultramafic-dominated intrusion of
- 329 Paleozoic age in the East Kunlun orogenic belt in Tibet, containing a large accumulation of
- disseminated sulfides (Li et al., 2015; Song et al., 2016; Song et al., 2020), entirely unrelated to the
- 331 CAOB suite. It is marked by a very wide range of Ni contents at a relatively high and narrow range of
- 332 Fo contents, similar to Poyi.
- As in the previous section for the Savannah area intrusions, sufficient data are available to subdivide
- individual samples on their sulfide content (Figure 7B). Depletion signals are present in sulfide-free
- as well as sulfide-bearing samples from the same intrusion (e.g. Poyi, Honqiling), although Ni-
- enriched olivines (Kalatongke and Huangshandong) tend to be restricted to sulfide-bearing samples.
- 337 This can be taken as evidence for Ni enrichment being due to trapped liquid equilibration effects,
- discussed further below.
- 339 Figure 7.
- 340 **Proterozoic orogenic belt: the Svecofennian (Raahe-Ladoga) Orogenic Belt, Finland.** The

341 Svecofennian Orogenic Belt (also known as the Raahe-Ladoga Belt, or the Kotalahti Nickel Belt) is a 342 Paleoproterozoic (1.88 Ga) belt of polydeformed gneisses and amphibolites extending through 343 central Finland (Makkonen et al., 2008; Makkonen, 2015). It is co-eval and probably correlative with 344 the Vammala Nickel Belt in the south west of Finland. The belt contains over a dozen distinct mafic and mafic-ultramafic intrusions, several of which – Rytky, Kotalahti, Hitura and Enankoski – contain 345 346 mined or subeconomic Ni-Cu sulfide deposits (Makkonen et al., 2008; Makkonen, 2015), along with a 347 suite of mafic metavolcanic rocks at least some of which are considered to be co-magmatic with 348 these intrusions (Barnes et al., 2009). Most of these intrusions are deformed and in some cases 349 dismembered and are considered to have been emplaced during the peak of metamorphism in the 350 belt (Makkonen et al., 2015). The weakly differentiated, dominantly ultramafic Vammala-type 351 intrusions consist almost entirely of olivine cumulates and represent magma conduits. The more 352 strongly differentiated, mafic and mafic-ultramafic, Kotalahti type intrusions consist of olivine 353 cumulates, pyroxene cumulates, and plagioclase-bearing cumulates. The parental magma was 354 basaltic with MgO contents mostly around 10–12 wt%. The mineralized intrusions show chemical 355 evidence for crustal contamination. Makkonen et al. (2008) identified Ni-depleted olivine in the 356 mineralized intrusions. Some of the mineralized intrusions contain complexly zoned cumulus and 357 poikilitic pyroxenes, features not observed in similar rock types from the unmineralized bodies (Schoneveld et al., 2020). 358

359 A new compilation of olivine data drawing on Makkonen et al. (2008) and Lamberg (2005) is shown 360 in Figure 8. There is no clear-cut discrimination between the mineralized and barren intrusions, but 361 some indicative features are present. Distinct depletion is evident at low Fo contents in the weakly 362 mineralized Ylivieska intrusion; the mineralized Rytky intrusion shows a wide range in Ni from 600 to 363 2400 ppm for a restricted range of 81-84 mol % Fo; the Nirimaki intrusion shows a similar trend to 364 Rytky but displaced to lower Fo; and the weakly mineralized Laukukangas body shows a grouping of high-Ni, low Fo olivine similar to those seen at Kalatongke in the CAOB (Figure 7). Data for several of 365 366 the intrusions (Luusniemi, Ylivieska, Heimonvouri) fall to the lower Ni end of the range of Ni in this 367 tectonic setting, and well below the data cloud for plume-related settings.

368 *Figure 8.*

369 Ural-Alaskan Complexes. Ural-Alaskan Complexes are a rare but widely distributed component of 370 orogenic belts in the Phanerozoic and Proterozoic, and in some cases contain sub-economic Ni-Cu 371 sulfide mineralization, usually in the form of disseminated sulfides (Thakurta et al., 2008). Examples 372 of this are the Duke Island Intrusion in Alaska (Li et al., 2013; Thakurta et al., 2014) and the Turnagain Complex in British Columbia (Clark, 1980). Olivine data from these intrusions are 373 374 compared with the data contours on barren orogenic belt intrusions in Figure 9. Duke Island and 375 some samples from Turnagain, along with the Akarem Complex in Egypt, which also contains 376 disseminated mineralization (Helmy and Mogessie, 2001) contain distinctly Ni-depleted olivines 377 falling well below the reference field and showing wide variability in Ni for limited Fo.

378 Figure 9.

379 The Kevitsa intrusion, Finland. The 2.058 Ga Kevitsa intrusion (Mutanen, 1997; Santaguida et al., 380 2015; Luolavirta et al., 2017; Luolavirta et al., 2018) is located in the Central Lapland greenstone belt 381 in northern Finland. It is part of a suite of small to medium sized mafic-ultramafic intrusions, 382 including the large Koitelainen layered intrusion as well as the neighbouring Sakatti intrusion hosting 383 the Cu-Ni Sakatti deposit. These intrusions range in age from 2.1 Ga to 1.8 Ga (Huhma et al., 2013). 384 They are emplaced into a volcanic suite containing komatiites. The Kevitsa intrusion occupies a surface area of approximately 16 km² and consists of a lower ultramafic unit up to 2 km in thickness, 385 386 overlain by a mafic unit over several hundred metres thick. The ultramafic unit is composed of 387 interlayered olivine pyroxenite and websterite, with local development of cyclic units, but for the 388 most part lacking obvious internal layering (Santaguida et al., 2015), but showing inward-dipping 389 cryptic layering defined by variations in the sulfide tenors (Le Vaillant et al., 2017). The Kevitsa Ni-Cu-390 (PGE) deposit occurs in the middle part of the ultramafic unit, associated with variably layered olivine pyroxenites and websterites. The deposit consists entirely of disseminated sulfides with 391 392 widely varying Ni, Cu and PGE tenors, with a published combined resource of 237 Mt at 0.28% Ni,

393 0.41% Cu and 0.6 ppm 3E (Pt + Pd + Au) (Geological Survey of Finland website, 2016) with Ni grades 394 up to around 0.6% (99th percentile on all assays in the database). The mineralization has been 395 separated into different ore types, mainly on the basis of their Ni-PGE tenors showing a broadly 396 layered distribution with higher tenors generally at higher levels within the stratigraphy (Le Vaillant 397 et al., 2017). Low tenor disseminated but locally net-textured ores form near the base of the intrusion and along the margins of the Cu-Ni mineralization are classified as "false ore". This 398 399 pyrrhotite-rich mineralization has Ni tenors less than 1% and is typically associated with abundant 400 country rock xenoliths. The "regular" or "normal" ore represents the bulk (>90%) of the economic 401 resource and is characterized by 2-6 vol% of sulfides (pyrrhotite, pentlandite, and chalcopyrite) and 402 average Ni and Cu ore-grades of 0.3 and 0.4 wt% respectively (Santaguida et al., 2015) with a range 403 of Ni tenors between 1 and 10 % and PGE tenors between about 1 and 5 ppm. The volumetrically 404 minor "Ni-PGE ore" has a similar sulfide content to that of the Normal ore, but the sulfides are 405 predominantly pentlandite, pyrite and millerite. These ores have higher and more variable Ni grades, 406 lower Cu grades (Ni/Cu = 1.5–15), and extreme Ni tenors ranging as high as 30%, attributed to high R 407 factors in olivine-rich suspensions (Barnes et al., 2013a) with a likely, possibly assimilated komatiitic 408 component (Yang et al., 2013). Pockets of Ni-PGE ore are developed throughout the orebody but the 409 main development is in the upper part of the section (Le Vaillant et al., 2017).

410 The Kevitsa occurrence provides a useful case study in the variability of olivine compositions (Figure 411 10) within a single extensively mineralized intrusion that shows a wide range in nickel tenors. The 412 most striking feature of the dataset is the presence of a group of ultra-Ni-rich olivines within the Ni-413 PGE ores (Yang et al., 2013), but the dataset is also characterized by strongly Ni-depleted olivines associated with the very low Ni-tenor False Ores (Luolavirta et al., 2017). The False Ores are 414 415 interpreted to be the opposite case to the Ni-PGE rich ores: the result of very restricted equilibration 416 between abundant assimilated sulfide and a poorly-stirred, high viscosity crystal mush (Le Vaillant et 417 al., 2017), or alternatively as the result of extensive pre-emplacement fractional extraction of sulfide 418 (Luolavirta et al., 2018). Within the strongly Ni-enriched part of the data set, distinct linear arrays are 419 developed at sample scale where Ni correlates negatively with Fo (Figure 10B): this is a hallmark of 420 sample-scale trapped liquid equilibration, as discussed further below.

421 Figure 10.

Nova-Bollinger. The Mesoproterozoic Nova – Bollinger Ni-Cu – sulfide ore deposit is located in the
Albany-Fraser Orogen in Western Australia (Maier et al., 2016). The host-rocks are mafic - ultramafic
intrusive cumulates subdivided into two connected intrusions, designated Upper and Lower (Figure
11). The Upper Intrusion is bowl-shaped and modally layered with alternating peridotite and norite
mesocumulate layers, with a basal series of dominantly orthocumulate mafic lithologies. The Lower

427 is a much thinner semi-conformable chonolith (flattened tube-shaped intrusion) comprising mostly 428 unlayered mafic to ultramafic orthocumulates (Taranovic et al., 2021). The Lower Intrusion hosts all 429 the high-grade mineralization and most of the disseminated ores. A distinctive plagioclase-bearing 430 Iherzolite containing both orthopyroxene and olivine as cumulus phases is a characteristic of the 431 Lower Intrusion and the basal series of the Upper. The intrusions were emplaced under peak 432 metamorphic conditions at around 20-25 km depth into granulite facies paragneisses which 433 underwent partial melting during extensive infiltration of sulfides into the footwall (Barnes et al., 434 2020). The geometry of the intrusions and the disposition of the sulfides suggest that the Lower 435 intrusion formed as an apophysis off the base of the Upper, propagating westward into the footwall 436 rocks (Taranovic et al., 2021). Nova-Bollinger ores contain Ni tenors in the 5-9% range (Barnes et al., 437 2021).

438 *Figure 11.*

439 A wide spread of Ni and Fo contents is present. The most Ni-depleted Fo rich olivines are located 440 within the upper part of the Upper Intrusion, and also within the Lower intrusion where the two intrusions diverge. Less Fo rich olivines with trends towards Ni enrichment are in the Lower (ore-441 442 bearing) intrusion (Figure 11). The Lower Intrusion rocks are distinctly more orthocumulate such that 443 the trend towards lower Fo and higher Ni can be attributed to trapped liquid effects, as discussed 444 further below. This is particularly clear in the purple diamond symbols in Figure 11A. However, the 445 most significant feature of the Nova data set is the presence of a widespread group of low-Ni, high-446 Fo samples located predominantly in the Upper Intrusion, and particularly in the entirely 447 unmineralized layered ultramafic cumulates higher in the sequence (Figure 11B). This is significant 448 from an exploration viewpoint in that the Lower Intrusion is entirely blind to the surface; recognition 449 of Ni depletion in these ostensibly barren upper cumulate layers would be a pathfinder to the 450 orebodies.

The choice of baseline for Nova is problematic. While the setting is undoubtedly a convergent margin orogenic belt (Spaggiari et al., 2015), the Fraser Zone magmatic complex to which Nova belongs is a large volume mafic suite with a restricted age range and trace element characteristics that could be interpreted as plume-like, indicative of a LIP affinity (Taranovic et al., 2021). If the Fraser Zone is indeed a LIP, then the low-Ni, high Fo olivines of the Upper intrusion are definitively depleted. Regardless, the Ni in olivine signal of the Nova-Bollinger intrusions is clearly positive for mineralization. 458

Discussion: controls on olivine Fo-Ni variations in sulfide-bearing

459

magmatic systems

460 As we have seen, intrusion-hosted olivines show wide and complex variability in Ni-Fo trends, even

461 within the same intrusion, indicating that sulfide melt equilibration is only one of a number of

- 462 factors influencing the Ni content of olivine. Some of these factors are considered and modelled in
- the following section.

464 Range of variability of Ni in carrier magmas

465 The silicate magmas that form magmatic sulfide ores (carrier magmas) are known to have a wide 466 range of Ni contents, from ~1600 ppm in primitive komatiites to ~100 ppm in some mafic-hosted 467 systems (Barnes et al., 2016). The ability of relatively low-Ni mafic magmas to form deposits with 468 economic Ni contents arises from the very high partition coefficient D_{Ni} of Ni between sulfide and olivine; this D_{Ni} value increases strongly with falling temperature and hence is considerably higher in 469 470 basalt than in komatiite (Kiseeva and Wood, 2015). The same effect applies to D_{Ni} between olivine and silicate melt (Li and Ripley, 2010; Matzen et al., 2013; Matzen et al., 2017a; Matzen et al., 471 472 2017b; Pu et al., 2021). The effect of this T dependence on olivine Ni contents gives rise to the 473 observed wide variability in the Ni contents of primary mantle melts, (Li and Ripley, 2010; Yao et al., 474 2018) and basalt-hosted olivines (Sobolev et al., 2007; Herzberg et al., 2016), (Figure 1), a variability 475 that could be further enhanced by variability in the pyroxene:olivine ratio in mantle sources (Sobolev 476 et al., 2005). The presence of pyroxene-rich mantle-source regions has been proposed as a major 477 controlling factor on the range of olivine compositions in various Chinese deposits (Song et al., 478 2011b; Song et al., 2011c; Lu et al., 2019), but remains a hotly debated topic beyond the scope of 479 this contribution.

480 We have carried out a series of model calculations on compositions of potential carrier magmas and 481 associated olivines generated at a variety of depths and primary water contents and undergoing 482 fractional crystallization, following the methods of Yao et al. (2018). A representative series of these 483 curves are shown in Figure 12, for conditions corresponding to sulfide undersaturation (i.e. no 484 sulfide liquid involved during melting or fractional crystallization) and appropriate values for the 485 crystallization pressure (1 kbar), water content (1 wt% H₂O) and oxygen fugacity (QFM-1). The 486 emplacement depths of most these mafic-ultramafic intrusions are probably shallow, resulting in a 487 relatively narrow pressure range varying from 0.5 to 2.5 kbar (Norilsk, (Yao and Mungall, 2021); 488 Bushveld, (Maier et al., 2013)), which has little influence on the trendlines of Ni in the crystallized olivine grains (Appendix Fig. A1-a). The addition of water into the parental magma will decrease the 489 490 olivine saturation temperature and enhance the olivine stability during crystallization (dropping to a

- 491 lower Fo number), but the partition coefficient of Ni between olivine and melt has been shown to 492 have a negligible dependence on water content (Pu et al., 2021). The combined effects of water 493 content on the Ni trendlines of olivine grains is confirmed to be slight when the initial H₂O in the 494 parent magma varies from 0 to 3 wt% (Appendix Fig. A1B). The oxygen fugacity of plume-associated 495 magmatism may mostly vary from QFM-2 to QFM, while the parental magma derived by flux-melting 496 of mantle wedge can have a higher oxygen fugacity that can even reach QFM+2. These most oxidized 497 conditions are within the range where most of the S in the magma would be dissolved as S⁶⁺ rather 498 than S^{2-} such that sulfide formation is inhibited (Jugo et al., 2005), so can be disregarded in this 499 context. In both settings, for fO_2 below QFM+1, the variation of fO_2 simply drives a limited horizontal 500 movement of the trendlines of Ni contents (Appendix Fig. A1C, D) because a higher fO_2 results in the increase of Fe³⁺/Fe²⁺ in melt, which further elevates the Fo content of olivine. Hence, the variations 501
- of crystallization conditions have only a limited impact on the modelled Ni trendlines. The reader is
 referred to Appendix 1 for more detailed discussion of the modelling.
- These curves are used to define a range for model olivine compositions that can be derived from plausible mantle partial melts, taking the upper limit as the uppermost plume model curve at any Fo and the lower as the 10% partial melt in the depleted MORB mantle (DMM) flux model. This range is plotted as a reference field on the data plots shown above.

508 Aside from this reference field, the main conclusions from the modelling are

- the curve for olivine fractionation in plume magmas changes over a factor of about 50%
 (2400 to 3600 ppm) between pyroxenite-free and 30% pyroxenite sources, but converges to
 similar values with fractionation. The range between sources gives model trends that match
 reasonably well with the CLIP basalt data array, but fall to the low end compared with
 intrusion-hosted olivines.
- Models involving flux melting from hydrated depleted mantle generate lower Ni in olivine
 for the same Fo, but also (probably for the same reason) fall at the lower Ni side of the field
 for intrusion hosted olivines. Natural olivines from convergent margin lavas show a wide
 spread of Ni at high Fo contents.

518 Figure 12

519 The consistent difference between olivine Ni contents in LIP relative to orogenic belt settings above

- 520 probably arises largely from these primary controls on the compositions of the carrier magmas.
- 521 More generally, it provides a major confounding effect on the ability to discern sulfide extraction
- 522 history in magma suites from olivine compositions alone, reinforcing the need to use different
- 523 baselines when comparing LIP settings with convergent margin settings.

524 Fractional crystallization of olivine + sulfide liquid

525 In most models of olivine evolution in sulfide-saturated systems, sulfide is assumed to be segregated 526 from the carried magma along with the fractional crystallization of olivine in some defined 527 proportion. In the models shown in Figure 13, olivine compositions are shown for fractional 528 crystallization of two starting liquids: a plume melt including a 50% contribution from a "pyroxenite" 529 mantle corresponding to the uppermost curve in Figure 12A, and from a melt generated by flux 530 melting of depleted mantle (Figure 12B) as the proportion ratios of olivine and sulfide in each 531 crystallization increment are assumed as 50, 100, 200 and 500. The partition coefficient of Ni 532 between sulfide and melt is from the formulation of Kiseeva and Wood (2015). As expected, 533 variation in the proportion of olivine to sulfide from 50 to 500 produces a change over a factor of 4-5 534 in Ni in olivine. Various estimates of the proportion of sulfide to olivine under cotectic conditions 535 (i.e. fractionation of olivine plus sulfide liquid exactly along the sulfide saturation surface) have been 536 made, using various parameterizations of the sulfide content at sulfide liquid saturation (SCSS) as a 537 function of melt chemistry and temperature (Ariskin and Barmina, 1999; Li and Ripley, 2005; Barnes, 538 2007; Ariskin et al., 2013; Godel et al., 2013) with a general consensus of values around 100-200 for 539 olivine saturated magmas. Hence cotectic fractionation should result in Ni depletion by factors of 540 around 3-4.

541 Figure 13

542 Recharge and magma mixing

543 Recharge and magma mixing of derivative fractionated magmas with primitive parental magmas has 544 been identified in MORBs and other mafic suites and has been proposed by Gleeson and Gibson 545 (2019) as a mechanism for generating anomalous Ni enrichment in olivine. This follows from the convex-upward form of curves for Ni vs Fo in olivine during fractional crystallization (Figure 12, 546 547 Figure 13). This type of process may account for otherwise unexplained Ni-enriched olivine trends 548 such as in the Gudchichinsky Picrites of the Siberian LIP (Figure 1A), and also the high Ni in Hawaiian picrite olivines reported by Sobolev et al. (2007). Where magmatic sulfides are generated within 549 550 multiply recharged sill-dyke networks, as proposed by Barnes et al. (2016), this process has good 551 potential to obscure Ni depletion signals and indeed to generate enrichment. Presence of sulfide in 552 the system may enhance this tendency, as discussed further below.

Gleeson and Gibson (2019) point out that recharge and mixing provides a viable alternative
hypothesis to the "pyroxenite source" model, which has been involved for some Ni deposits and
camps, notably several of the Chinese deposits (Lu et al., 2019). Numerous other studies (Matzen et
al., 2017b; Yao et al., 2018) have pointed out other combinations of melting depth and mechanism

that avoid the need for pyroxenitic sources. Full discussion of this issue requires consideration of trace elements and isotopic signals that are out of scope of this contribution, but we note that of the deposits represented in this compilation, only a few (Mirabela, Poyi, Xiarihamu, Eagle and Kevitsa) contain olivines in the high Fo (>85 mol pct) and high Ni (>3000) ppm that are claimed by Sobolev et al (2007) as evidence for pyroxenitic mantle sources.

562 R factor effects

The term "R-factor" refers to the widely used equation (Campbell and Naldrett, 1979) describing the 563 564 composition of silicate and sulfide melt during closed-system batch equilibration, where R is defined 565 as the mass ratio of silicate to silicate liquid at equilibrium during a closed-system batch 566 equilibration event. The equation can readily be adapted to also include olivine as a third component 567 in the reaction (Barnes et al., 2013a). It is particularly applicable to the situation where a sulfide 568 xenomelt (Lesher, 2017) is incorporated into a magma body by assimilation of crustal rocks and 569 equilibrates with a fixed mass of magma. Olivine and sulfide compositions can be modelled by a one-570 stage three-way batch equilibrium calculation, involving equilibrium between olivine, sulfide liquid 571 and silicate liquid using experimental values for partition and distribution coefficients (Barnes et al., 572 2013a). Figure 14 shows the results of these calculations for variable R and four hypothetical silicate 573 melt compositions (Table 1): komatiite ("kom"), a high-Mg plume basalt ("Plume bas 18"), a 574 ferropicrite and a MORB, using typical values taken from data compilations of Barnes and Fiorentini 575 (2012) and Barnes et al. (2015). The main conclusion from the model results in Figure 14 is that 576 much of the spread of Fo and Ni concentrations in olivine found between individual deposits can 577 theoretically be explained by the combination of initial melt composition and R factor. Variations in 578 R within a single deposit, as for example in the Kevitsa intrusion noted above, can generate the 579 observed spread in olivine Ni for a limited range of Fo, and this variability would be expected to 580 correlate with sulfide tenor, as indeed it does at Kevitsa. The prime cause of strongly Ni depleted 581 olivine is equilibration with silicate and sulfide liquid at low R values, a process which generates correspondingly low-Ni tenor sulfides, as seen in the Kabanga example above (Figure 5) and 582 583 modelled in Figure 14.

It is commonly concluded that depletion of Ni in olivine necessarily implies that the silicate component has been depleted by some previous "upstream" sulfide extraction event prior to the crystallization of the assemblage being studied; i.e. that the depletion implies the existence of an additional sulfide body or bodies elsewhere in the intrusion network. Figure 14 shows that this is not a necessary conclusion: a single stage batch equilibration event can produce a wide range in degrees of Ni depletion depending on the R factor. Low R factor, low Ni-tenor sulfide necessarily coexists with low-Ni olivine at equilibrium. 591 *Figure 14.*

592 *Table 1.*

593 Trapped liquid effects

594 One of the factors affecting cumulus mineral compositions is the effect of equilibration between 595 olivine and trapped intercumulus liquid (Barnes, 1986). The principle is illustrated in Figure 15. The 596 original orthocumulate consists of a mixture of olivine, sulfide and silicate liquid, assumed to be in 597 equilibrium (Figure 15A), with the composition of the three phases determined by the three-way 598 equilibration at a given R factor (mass ratio of silicate to sulfide) and proportion of silicate to olivine 599 (F). In the illustrative calculations shown here, the proportion of olivine participating in this initial 600 bulk equilibrium is assumed to be small, 5%. Olivine and sulfide then accumulated mechanically in 601 different proportions along with a component of trapped interstitial silicate melt to form a partially 602 solid mush (Figure 15B). For simplicity we assume that the resulting component has 40% trapped 603 liquid and 5% sulfide (at and above this proportion of sulfide, the change in composition of sulfide 604 during the trapped liquid reaction is minor). As the olivine then re-equilibrates with the evolving 605 trapped liquid during solidification (Figure 15C), it becomes more Fe-rich, and consequently is

606 constrained to also become more Ni rich due to the exchange reaction

607 NiO (olivine) + FeS (sulfide) = NiS (sulfide) + FeO (olivine) (1)

608 The distribution coefficient for this reaction K_D is given by

$$609 K_D = (X_{NiS}/X_{FeS})_{sulfide \ liquid}/(X_{NiO}/X_{FeO})_{olivine}, (2)$$

610

which has a value independent of temperature but dependent on fO₂ and the sulfide
composition (Brenan 2003; Barnes et al., 2013a; Mao et al., 2017).

The sulfide is the dominant reservoir of Ni in the rock for abundances of more than about 5%, such that its composition is only slightly affected by the trapped liquid reaction. Consequently, as the FeO content of the olivine increases, the NiO content must also increase to satisfy the K_D. This gives rise to a negative correlation between Fo and Ni, first recognized in the JM Reef of the Stillwater Complex (Barnes and Naldrett, 1985) and identified subsequently at Voisey's Bay (Li and Naldrett, 1999). Hints of such correlations are present in several of the data sets presented in this study, notably Kevitsa (Figure 10).

620 *Figure 15.*

621 The effect has been quantified for a variety of different starting compositions and assumptions

622 (Figure 16), using an iterative solution method based on that of Barnes et al. (2013a). The calculation

- 623 procedure involves (1) calculation of olivine, sulfide and liquid compositions for each starting liquid
- 624 (Table 1) as a function of silicate:sulfide mass ratio R, corresponding to stage A in Figure 15; and (2)
- 625 calculation of new olivine and sulfide composition following complete equilibrium crystallization of a
- 626 mixture of 55% olivine, 5% sulfide and 40% trapped silicate liquid (Figure 15 b-c).
- 627 Figure 16.

The calculation shows that trapped liquid reaction can have a significant effect on Ni content of olivine, most evident in sulfide-bearing orthocumulates where the change in olivine Fo content is greatest. For komatiites, the effect is enhanced by the composition dependence of the K_D on the Ni content of the sulfide, which becomes a significant factor where the Ni content of the sulfide is in the 20-30% Ni range (Barnes et al., 2013a), but it is present for all assumptions about parent melts. The range of Ni variation is comparable to that produced by changes in R over factors of up to an order of magnitude.

635 Sulfide "cannibalization" and Ni enrichment

It is likely that the trapped liquid effect contributes considerably to the "noise" in the data and may
well explain the observation of anomalously Ni rich olivines in some deposits such as Kalatongke,
Savannah, Nova-Bollinger and Kevitsa. However, in a number of cases high Ni is not specifically
associated with sulfide-bearing orthocumulates so another explanation is called for.

640 The sequence of events may be more complex than the simple scenario modelled in Figure 16. For 641 example, fluid dynamic considerations predict that pools of Ni-enriched magmatic sulfide liquid may 642 commonly be "cannibalized" and entrained as droplets in a flowing slurry of silicate magma, liquid 643 sulfide and olivine (Barnes and Robertson, 2019; Lesher, 2019). In this case (Figure 17), we have a 644 starting scenario similar to Figure 15A, except that rather than starting out as a Ni-free Fe-sulfide 645 xenomelt, the sulfide component in the slurry is re-entrained magmatic sulfide that already has high Ni. For example, if the slurry has 5% of sulfide with 10% Ni, 5% olivine with 0.1 % Ni and the silicate 646 melt has 250 ppm Ni (realistic assumptions for a typical mafic-hosted deposit), the sulfide 647 648 component contains 95% of the total Ni budget and will effectively buffer the Ni contents of both 649 silicate melt and olivine. In contrast, the silicate melt is the predominant reservoir of Fe and Mg and 650 buffers the olivine Fo content. Where this olivine is relatively Fe-rich, the Fe-Ni exchange reaction 651 will cause it to gain Ni from the re-entrained sulfide, without greatly affecting the Ni content of that 652 sulfide component. In a more extreme case, where the sulfide has 30% Ni (towards the upper end of 653 sulfides associated with komatiites), an olivine with an initial composition of Fo84 would react towards a Ni content in excess of 10,000 ppm for a typical Ni/Fe K_D of around 8, provided that 654 655 equilibrium was attained between the three phases during flow. Further trapped liquid reaction

656 post-deposition could then push this value even higher, to the extreme values of 10,000-15,000 ppm 657 Ni seen in the Ni-PGE ores at Kevitsa. The effect is further amplified as the K_D value increases with 658 increasing Ni in the sulfide. This is consistent with the suggestion of Yang et al. (2013) that these 659 unusual ores could be the result of assimilation of komatiite-derived sulfide, and with the 660 explanation offered by Burnham et al. (2003) for anomalously Ni-rich olivines in the komatiite-661 associated William Lake intrusion in the Thompson Nickel Belt, Manitoba (Burnham et al., 2003). 662 More generally, the process of re-entrainment of pre-formed magmatic sulfide by magma-olivine 663 mixtures with variable composition could explain the apparent paradox that several deposits mentioned above, and also Ntaka Hill (Barnes et al., 2019) and William Lake, show signals of Ni 664 665 enrichment rather than depletion in olivine. In particular the presence of a strong Ni enrichment 666 signal in sulfide-free rocks in the Savannah intrusion (Figure 6B) is attributed to this effect. (It is also 667 possible that the same effect could operate in reverse: an Mg-rich olivine reacting with sulfide 668 formed initially in equilibrium with a relatively Mg-poor olivine could have its Ni content reduced).

669 *Figure 17.*

670 Multi-stage emplacement and sulfide re-entrainment in predominantly vertical sill-dyke-conduit

671 complexes (Barnes et al., 2016) could provide an additional set of confounding factors for the

672 interpretation of Ni in olivine data. On a more positive note, the presence of anomalously Ni-

673 enriched olivines within a suite of otherwise similar intrusions may be as much of a positive indicator

674 for mineralization as depletion.

675 Summary of sources of variation of Ni in olivine.

Multiple sources of variance in Ni content of olivine at given Fo content could be operative at
multiple stages in the formation of a mineral system. Some of these processes are summarized on
Figure 18.

- Variability in mantle melt composition due to depth, water content (and possibly source).
 Baselines for Ni in olivine in relation to Fo content are somewhat lower in orogenic belt
 settings relative to intrusions in continental LIPs. This is probably related to differences in
 initial parent magma compositions, with plume magmas generally forming deeper and at
 higher temperatures (Yao et al., 2018).
- Subsequent fractional crystallization with and without sulfide (Figure 18);
- Recharge and magma mixing (Gleeson and Gibson, 2019) (Figure 18);.
- Batch equilibration between olivine and sulfide at variable R and olivine/liquid ratio (Figure
 14);

Subsequent equilibration during trapped liquid crystallization in orthocumulates (Figure 18;
 Figure 15);

Reaction of olivine with sulfide during "cannibalization"/re-entrainment; olivine could
 become anomalously enriched or depleted during such events depending on the sequence
 of emplacement and relative change in melt composition and olivine Fo content.

693 Figure 18.

694

Implications and application to exploration

695 While there is no clear, universal discrimination evident in Ni in olivine between ore-bearing, weakly 696 mineralized and barren intrusions in either CLIP or orogenic categories, sulfide-related signals of 697 both enrichment and depletion can be detected at intrusion scale in many cases, in both sulfide-698 bearing and sulfide-free samples. Low-R factor, low-tenor sulfides are associated with low-Ni olivines 699 in a number of examples such as Kabanga, and these cases stand out clearly; to put it another way, Ni depletion is a very effective tool for finding low tenor deposits. A lack of clear mineralized/barren 700 701 distinction in specific groups of related intrusions, e.g. the deposits of NW China or the Kotalahti Belt 702 in Finland, may well be due to "false negatives" where undiscovered mineralization exists in specific 703 intrusions or in their feeder systems, or may also be due to a multiplicity of confounding factors as 704 summarized in Figure 18. In these cases, wide variability of high and low Ni at similar Fo may be 705 more useful as a fertility indicator than simple depletion signals. Wide variability of both Fo and Ni 706 between related intrusions at regional scale may be a useful regional prospectivity indicator, more 707 than an intrusion-scale discriminant. Anomalously high Ni in sulfide-free samples may in some cases 708 be an indicator of prospectivity. In general, the use of Ni-olivine as a fertility tool is more likely to 709 generate false negatives than false positives, but both are possible, and the technique should be 710 used as part of a broader weight-of-evidence approach.

The increasing availability of laser ablation – ICPMS trace element data potentially opens new
opportunities for practical applications. A small number of existing data sets, e.g. from Savannah (Le
Vaillant et al., 2020) and Nova (Taranovic et al., 2021), show that the presence of positive
correlations between Ni and Co in olivine may be a useful indicator of reaction with sulfide, and
further work is warranted to test this association.

716 More broadly, Ni in olivine is certainly informative as a petrogenetic process indicator in magmatic

sulfide mineral systems. The question of whether "pyroxenite" components in plume sources

contribute to higher Ni olivines remains open and, given the large number of confounding variables,

is probably not resolvable on olivine data alone.

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726	Appendices/Supplementary
727	Supplementary Table 1. Data source table and references.
728	Appendix 1. Modelling methods
729	Mafic-ultramafic magmas in continental LIPs are derived from decompression melting of mantle
730	beneath the rigid lithosphere. The geochemical characteristics of these mantle-derived magmas are
731	mostly dependent on geochemical features, mineralogy and potential temperature) of the mantle
732	source, as well as the melting degree which is determined by the thickness of lithosphere because
733	the upwelling of mantle ceases at the base of rigid lithosphere. Given that the continental
734	lithosphere is rarely thinned to below 80-100 km during the LIP event, the representative mantle-
735	derived magma in the CLIP is adopted as the melt that is generated by the adiabatic decompression
736	melting of the primary mantle (McDonough and Sun, 1995) with a hot potential temperature
737	(1550 °C), and extracted from the source at 3 GPa (~100 km). This melt contains ~25 wt% MgO, 14
738	wt% FeO _t (total Fe expressed as FeO) and 1040 ppm Ni based on the model from Yao et al. (2018),
739	and is used for a further model of fractional crystallization at the assumed condition. In order to
740	account for the effect of mantle heterogeneity, this peridotite-derived melt is also mixed with the
741	melt generated by a MORB-like pyroxenite mantle with the same decompression melting path
742	(potential temperature, 1550 °C; terminal melting pressure, 3 GPa). The proportions of pyroxenite-
743	derived melt in the mixed magmas are assumed as 10, 30 and 50%, respectively. The partition
744	coefficient of Ni between the olivine and melt is calculated via the new equation that is calibrated on
745	many 1-bar experiments spanning a wide range of melt and olivine compositions (Pu et al., 2017; Pu
746	et al., 2021). The partition coefficients of Ni within the clinopyroxene-melt and orthopyroxene-melt
747	pairs follow the equations from Matzen et al. (2017b). The olivine grains crystallized from the mixed
748	magmas (especially contain 30-50% pyroxenite-derived melt) contain a higher Ni content than that
749	of peridotite-derived melt at the high-Fo regime, but all modelled Ni trendlines become overlapped
750	when the Fo value drops below 78 (Figure 12A). In general, the modelling results coincide with the

trends and distributions of CLIP olivine dataset (Fig. 12A) and can be considered as the baseline to
 trace the influence of post-cumulus processes on the Ni content of olivines.

753 The petrogenesis of ultramafic-mafic intrusions in orogenic belts is extremely complex, and the 754 associated magmatism may be generated in subduction, collision and post-collision periods. Hence, 755 the partial melting process occurred in orogenic belt may involve the flux-melting of mantle wedge 756 during subduction, the upwelling of asthenosphere due to slab break off or lithospheric 757 delamination in syn- or post-collisional setting, and even the possible contributions of adiabatic 758 decompression melting of hot plume material. In the models presented here (Fig. A1), partial 759 melting processes in orogenic belt are simplified as the flux-melting of mantle wedge above the 760 subducted slab. The details of this melting model can be found in Yao et al. (2018). The mantle 761 source is simplified as the depleted MORB mantle (DMM) (Workman and Hart, 2005). We also set a 762 relatively high temperature (1300 °C) that is close to the anhydrous solidus of mantle wedge 763 peridotite at the crust-mantle boundary (~ 1 GPa), which corresponds to the subduction of a young 764 oceanic lithosphere with slow convergence rate and low subduction angle. The melting products 765 generated at different melting degree (5-25%) are adopted as the representative parental magmas 766 in orogenic belt to model the subsequent fractional crystallization at 1 kbar pressure. The melts 767 derived by flux-melting contain the relatively lower Ni contents (~245-273 ppm), and the melting 768 degrees here show a slight influence on the Ni trendlines of olivine (Figure 12B).

769 Appendix Figure A1.

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1062 Figure captions

Figure 1 Sobolev et al. (2008) and GEOROC basaltic olivine data set. A, Sobolev data, for continental
and oceanic LIPs (CLIP, OLIP) and MORB. B, Sobolev CLIP data, excluding the outlying Gudchichinsky

1065 Picrites (Siberia) with 90th and 50th percentile data density contours. C Density shaded data cloud

1066 for Oceanic LIPs only (individual points are 95th percentile outliers) shown over the CLIP contours

- and with 90th percentile data contour on MORB olivines. D, Comparison of convergent margin data:
- 1068 data points are olivines from GEOROC data compilation for tholeiitic and picritic
- volcanic/subvolcanic rocks from continental (pink) and oceanic (green) convergent margin settings
 including active arcs, compared with Sobolev CLIP data density fields (grey).

1071 Figure 2. Comparison of olivine from unmineralized intrusions, small intrusions and large LMIs

1072 combined, between LIP settings (A – 550 data points) and orogenic belt settings (B – 844 data

1073 points), both showing data points and contoured data density. A shows data points for LIP intrusions

1074 over outline for CLIP basalts from Sobolev et al. (Figure 1), B shows orogenic belt intrusions over

1075 50th and 90th density contours for barren LIP intrusions. Field labelled MSFM is for olivines formed

as fractional crystallization products of modelled sulfide-free mantle melts, based on computationalmodelling described in detail below.

Figure 3. Proterozoic plus Phanerozoic CLIP-LMI settings. A, Data points for mineralized intrusions
over cloud for barren intrusions from Figure 2A. B, same dataset, mineralized only, subdivided by
locality. Note that scale is trimmed to exclude extreme Ni enriched olivines from Kevitsa discussed
below. In this and most following plots, red symbols indicate Mineralized, green indicated
Disseminated or minor mineralization – see Methods section for definitions. Curve labelled MSFM is
modelled outline for olivines derived from variably fractionated model sulfide free mantle melts

1084 (MSFM). Grey fields are data cloud for unmineralized LIP-related intrusions.

1085 Figure 4. Orogenic belt settings – Proterozoic (A) + Phanerozoic (B). Data points for mineralized

1086 intrusions over cloud (yellow) for barren orogenic belt intrusions from Figure 2B and modelled

1087 outline for olivines derived from variably fractionated model sulfide free mantle melts (MSFM).

1088 CAOB = Central Asia Orogenic Belt in China; ACO = Appalachian-Caledonian Orogen; KBF = Kotalahti

- 1089 Belt (Svecofennian Orogen), Finland.
- Figure 5. Ni-Fo plot for samples from the Kabanga–Musongati–Kapalagulu Belt. Contours on datadensities for barren intrusions from CLIP and LMI grouping.

1092 Figure 6. A) Olivines from the Sally Malay suite of intrusions in the Halls Creek Orogen, over data

1093 cloud for barren intrusions from orogenic belts (yellow). Savannah, Savannah North and Copernicus

host the known economic deposits, Dave Hill and Wilsons contain sparse localized disseminated
sulfides. MSFM is theoretical range for olivines from sulfide-free mantle melts. B) Same data set,
coloured by sulfide content of individual samples – B= barren (no visible sulfide, and/or less than
0.1% S), D=containing disseminated sulfide.

1098 Figure 7. A, Olivines from small intrusions in the Central Asian Orogenic Belt in NW China and the 1099 Xiarihamu intrusion, Tibet. All intrusions are mineralized to varying degrees. Field for data from 1100 barren intrusions from orogenic belts (Figure 2). MSFM is model field for sulfide-free olivines from 1101 mantle melts. Note that: "Beishan" here represents a summary of the olivine data from the mafic-1102 ultramafic intrusions located in the Beishan area, except the Poyi intrusion; the olivine data of 1103 Hongiling and Tulaergen deposits is collected from the disseminated mineralization. B, Same data 1104 set excluding Xiarihamu, subdivided by sulfide content of sample (B = <100 ppm Cu, D = >100 ppm 1105 Cu).

Figure 8. Ni vs Fo plot of olivines from intrusions in the Svecofennian (Kotalahti) Belt of central
Finland. Contours are on data from barren intrusions in orogenic settings. MSFM is model field for
sulfide-free olivines from mantle melts.

Figure 9. Ural-Alaskan Type Complexes. MSFM is model field for sulfide-free olivines from mantlemelts.

1111 Figure 10. Olivine compositions from the Kevitsa intrusion. Ni-PGE = High Ni-PGE tenor orezone, Ni 1112 tenors up to 30%. A, all data, subdivided by ore type. Xenolith is a sample of an ultramafic xenolith 1113 within this zone. "Normal" includes disseminated ores with a wide range of Ni tenors. Most Ni 1114 depleted samples are from zones of "False Ore", pyrrhotite-rich disseminated sulfides associated 1115 with country rock metasediment xenoliths. Ni-PGE ores are defined on the basis of high Ni and PGE 1116 tenors in sulfide (Yang et al., 2013). B, Ni-PGE oretype only, data subdivided by sample for all 1117 samples with >6 individual spot analyses. Note the strong negative correlation between Ni and Fo 1118 content within samples. MSFM is model field for sulfide-free olivines from mantle melts. 1119 Figure 11. Olivine compositions in the Nova-Bollinger system. A, Ni vs Fo plot, shapes indicate host

intrusion, colours are arbitrary indications of range of Ni-Fo. Fields for barren orogenic belt
intrusions (yellow) and 90th percentile outline for barren LIP intrusions (grey dashed lines). Arrows
indicate locations of different composition types on (B), projected long section in vertical plane,
looking north, through entire system. Note the most Ni-depleted Fo rich olivines are located within
the upper part of the Upper Intrusion, more Fe rich with trends towards Ni enriched olivine are in
the Lower (ore-bearing) intrusion.

- 1126 Figure 12 model curves for olivine compositions generated by low-pressure fractional
- 1127 crystallization from various starting magmas (see Appendix)
- 1128 Figure 13 Low-pressure fractional crystallization (FC) trends for the indicated pressure, fO2 and
- 1129 magma water content. The proportion ratios of olivine and sulfide in each crystallization increment
- are assumed as 50, 100, 200 and 500. The partition coefficient of Ni between sulfide and melt is
- 1131 calculated by the recent comprehensive model from Kiseeva and Wood (2015). In (B), the mantle
- source in flux melting is assumed to enrich in Ni (~3050 ppm), because the slab-metasomatized
- 1133 mantle wedge can show extreme enrichment of Ni and fluid mobile elements (Savov et al., 2007).
- 1134 Figure 14. Model single-stage batch equilibrium calculations for olivine and sulfide Ni contents as a
- 1135 function of silicate melt/sulfide melt mass ratio R factor for the four idealized silicate melt
- 1136 compositions indicated in Table 1. Sulfide equilibrates with mixture of 95% silicate melt, 5% olivine.
- 1137 See Barnes et al. (2013) for details of calculation procedure.
- 1138 Figure 15. Cartoon of olivine-trapped liquid reaction. A. Flowing slurry of silicate + sulfide melts and
- olivine. B, accumulation of olivine, sulfide in different proportions to form a cumulate mush with
- 1140 ~40% silicate melt. Phases assumed to have the same compositions as A. C, cooling and equilibrium
- 1141 crystallization of the trapped intercumulus liquid causes olivine to evolve towards more Fe rich
- 1142 composition, hence also becoming more Ni rich due the Fe-Ni exchange reaction (equns. 1,2).
- 1143Figure 16. Calculation showing theoretical effect of trapped liquid equilibration in olivine-sulfide1144orthocumulates (olivine-plagioclase orthocumulate in the basaltic case) with 5% modal % sulfide, for1145various silicate liquid compositions. Dash lines join points for the same R factor. "Original"1146compositions, corresponding to stage A in Figure 15, are olivines in equilibrium with sulfide and1147silicate liquid (95% liquid, 5% olivine) for different values of R and different starting silicate melt
- 1148 compositions (Table 1) corresponding to komatiite with 30% MgO, plume "picrite" basalt with 18%
- 1149 MgO, Ferropicrite with 14% MgO and MORB basalt (8% MgO), all being representative
- 1150 compositions from the modelling results described above. Note that a larger shift in olivine Fo is
- assumed for the cumulate from the low-Mg mafic magma owing to a lower modal proportion of
- 1152 olivine in the cumulus assemblage see Barnes (1986).
- Figure 17. Model for generation of Ni-enriched olivine by "cannibalization" of previously formed
 sulfide. A, initial formation of Ni-rich sulfide liquid pool from an Mg-rich magma. B, flushing of flow
 pathway by more evolved magma carrying relatively low-Fo, Fe-enriched olivine. Reaction of this
 olivine with stage-A Ni-rich sulfide causes Ni content of olivine to increase due to the Fe-Ni exchange
 reaction (equation 1).

- 1158 Figure 18. Schematic diagram showing the multiple factors influencing final olivine compositions.
- 1159 Single dashed lines indicate olivine-only fractional crystallization (FX) from idealized primitive mantle
- 1160 melts from deep plume source and from flux melting of hydrated mantle. FX(ol-sul) indicates effect
- 1161 of fractional crystallization/liquation of a cotectic olivine-sulfide assemblage from primitive plume
- 1162 melt. TL = effect of re-equilibration during solidification of trapped intercumulus liquid, with and
- 1163 without presence of cumulus sulfide. Recharge and mixing indicates effect of mixing fractionated
- and primitive magmas (Gleeson & Gibson, 2019). Batch sulfide extraction indicates effect of addition
- of xenomelt sulfide and batch equilibration with melt and olivine (Figure 14).
- 1166 Appendix Figure A1. The influences of crystallization environments (A. crystallization pressure; B.
- 1167 initial H2O content; and C-D. oxygen fugacity) on the Ni contents of olivine grains that are
- 1168 crystallized from parental magma derived by the adiabatic decompression melting in plume (A-C)
- 1169 and the flux melting of DMM in subduction zone (D).
- 1170
- 1171 Table 1.
- 1172 Starting compositions for batch equilibrium trapped liquid reaction model in Figure 16. (eqm)
- 1173 indicates composition of olivine or sulfide liquid at R>10,000

	Kom	Plume	Ferropicrite	MORB 8
		bas 18	14	
Ni sil	1600	660	350	100
FeOsil	10.0	12	14.0	8.5
MgOsil	30.0	18.0	14.0	8.0
Cu sil	50	100	100	200
NiOl (eqm)	3191	3430	2444	1505
FoOl (eqm)	93.8	88.8	84.4	85.4
Sul liq (eqm)	37.9	24.9	13.6	6.9
Т	1600	1380	1280	1140

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Α 4,000 Volcanic CLIP LIP settings, barren intrusions 3,500 3,000 **udd** 2,500 **IX** 2,000 1,500 1,000 Model sulfide-free 500 mantle melts (MSFM) 0 45 50 55 60 65 70 40 75 85 80 Fo mol pct 4,500 I. В 4,000 Barren LIP intrusions Orogenic belts, barren intrusions ĥ

90



Fo mol pct



























Silicate:sulfide mass ratio R Silicate:olivine ratio F Silicate:sulfide mass ratio R1 Silicate:olivine ratio F1







