

1 **Insights into sulfur cycling at subduction zones from *in-situ* isotopic analysis of sulfides**
2
3 **in high-pressure serpentinites and ‘hybrid’ samples from Alpine Corsica**

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28 **Keywords**

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31 Sulfur; Subduction; Stable isotope; In-situ; Serpentine; Redox
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Abstract

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3 Devolatilisation of serpentinites at depth in subduction zones contributes significant
4 quantities of sulfur and other redox sensitive elements to the sub-arc mantle. However, the
5 fate of sulfur in subducted serpentinites is poorly constrained. Textures of sulfur-bearing
6 phases in subducted serpentinites are rarely studied, yet provide important information on the
7 changes to sulfur distribution throughout the subduction cycle and as a result of fluid
8 infiltration. $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values of sulfides provide constraints on sulfur sources, the redox state of
9 sulfur in the host mineral, and on processes that have occurred subsequent to sulfide
10 crystallisation, including interaction with oxidised or reduced fluids. Therefore, it is possible
11 to use $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values in subducted serpentinites to constrain the redox state of sulfur in sulfides
12 and subduction zone fluids. Furthermore, the proximity of serpentinites to ocean crust and
13 metasediments may influence enrichment or depletion of ^{34}S during subduction relative to
14 serpentinites distal to such lithologies.
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18 This study investigates the redox state, the likelihood of sulfur addition to the sub-arc mantle
19 from serpentinite dehydration, and the distribution of sulfur within subducted serpentinites
20 and ‘hybrid’ mafic/ultramafic rocks from Alpine Corsica. The techniques utilised include
21 petrographic analysis, *in-situ* sulfur isotopic analysis and trace element analysis of sulfides
22 hosted in these rocks. All sulfides investigated have high $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values of 1.9–15.5‰, which
23 suggests that mantle-derived sulfur ($\delta^{34}\text{S} \sim 0.1\text{‰}$), was not the sole source of sulfur. The
24 highest $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values are recorded in pyrites of a hybrid mafic/ultramafic sample. High $\delta^{34}\text{S}$
25 values are preserved in sulfides attributed to prograde metamorphism, and is most consistent
26 with the retention of sulfur derived from hydrothermal sulfate reduction on the seafloor.
27 However, a shift towards higher $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values in sulfides associated with the advanced stages
28 of exhumation suggests that late stage exhumation enables enhanced access to slab-derived
29 fluids bearing oxidised sulfur (SO_4^{2-} or SO_2). Such fluids may have been derived from the
30 devolatilisation of serpentinite at greater depth, or from other lithologies.
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1. Introduction

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56 2 Sulfur is subducted in variable oxidation states from sulfate (+6) to sulfide (-2) within
57 3 altered ocean crust, hydrated mantle lithosphere and ocean floor sediments, to contribute a
58 4 significant flux of redox budget to subduction zones (Evans, 2006; Evans, 2012). Sulfur input
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5 to subduction zones is an order of magnitude higher than the flux of sulfur released (Evans,
6 2012; Evans et al., 2014). However, changes to the oxidation state of sulfur, the processes
7 that sulfur undergoes during subduction and the quantity of sulfur transferred to the sub-arc
8 mantle and deep mantle are poorly constrained (e.g., Evans et al., 2014). The redox state and
9 the concentration of sulfur in the sub-arc mantle are of particular importance because genetic
10 models for arc-related ore deposits currently require an oxidised sub-arc mantle (e.g.,
11 Mungall et al., 2002).

12 The combined approach of sulfide mineral paragenesis and *in-situ* measurement of
13 sulfur isotopes ($\delta^{34}\text{S}$) in sulfur-bearing mineral phases within rocks that have undergone
14 subduction and, at a later stage, exhumation, can be used to constrain the source, redox state
15 and processes that sulfur has undergone throughout the subduction cycle. Such processes
16 include bacterial sulfate reduction, fluid infiltration or devolatilisation. ^{34}S partitions
17 preferentially into oxidised species relative to ^{32}S ; for example, present day seawater sulfate
18 has a $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ value of $\sim 20\text{--}21\text{‰}$ (Rees, 1978; Paytan et al., 1998, 2004; Tostevin et al. 2014),
19 whereas mantle sulfur is $0.1\pm 0.5\text{‰}$ (Sakai et al., 1984; Shanks et al., 1995; Alt and Shanks,
20 1998). The observation that porphyry arc-related ore deposits have $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values up to $\sim 13\text{‰}$
21 higher than the mantle (Alt et al., 1993; Ishihara & Sasaki, 1989), requires a source of ^{34}S ,
22 which is proposed to have originated via sulfate transfer from the slab (Richards, 2015). Pre-
23 subduction fixation of sulfate in serpentinised mantle lithosphere, oceanic crust and
24 sediments is considered to account for sulfate enrichment in the slab (Ishihara and Sasaki,
25 1989; Shanks et al., 1981; Wallace & Edmonds, 2011; Alt et al., 2012a; Debret et al., 2014;
26 Evans et al., 2014). However, sulfur release and retention within the slab during subduction,
27 and the mechanisms that control the distribution of sulfur are not well understood.

28 Attempts have been made to constrain subduction-related fluxes of sulfur from the
29 oceanic crust (Evans et al., 2014; Marschall & Shimizu, 2012; Aulbach et al., 2012), but
30 fluxes from the hydrated mantle lithosphere during subduction are rarely investigated, with
31 some exceptions (e.g., Alt et al., 2012a; Alt et al., 2012b; Shimizu et al., 2013). The hydrated
32 mantle lithosphere component of the slab is of particular interest because its dehydration at
33 depth within the subduction channel has the potential to release a significant volume of
34 fluids, which could migrate to the sub-arc mantle. Various processes can affect the sulfur
35 isotope composition of peridotite exhumed on the seafloor at spreading centres, including
36 microbial sulfate reduction (Alt and Shanks, 1998; Alt et al., 2007; Schwarzenbach et al.,
37 2012; Ono et al., 2012) and hydrothermal sulfate reduction (Alt and Shanks, 2003; Bach et

al., 2004, Alt et al., 2007, Delacour et al., 2008; Peters et al., 2010, Ono et al., 2012). Temperature governs the process that prevails on the seafloor (e.g., Schwarzenbach et al., 2018). A contribution from seawater-derived sulfate in modern day can result in ^{34}S -enriched serpentinites with $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values of up to $\sim 20\%$ compared to the Earth's mantle (Delacour et al., 2008; Alt & Shanks, 2003; Alt et al., 2012a, Tostevin et al., 2014). Therefore, upon subduction, serpentinites may carry oxidised sulfur to the sub-arc mantle or deep mantle. In contrast, microbial sulfate reduction on the seafloor at low temperature results in a ^{34}S depleted reservoir of reduced sulfur, and resultant $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values as low as -34% (Alt and Shanks, 1998; Schwarzenbach et al. 2012). Therefore, the oxidation state of sulfur input into subduction zones is strongly dependent on temperature, whether the system is open or closed with respect to sulfur, and whether microbial or hydrothermal processes govern sulfate reduction.

$\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ is used to describe the extent of mass independent fractionation (MIF); the degree to which variations in isotope abundance are not dependent on mass. $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ values provide additional information compared to the measurement of $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values alone (Ono et al., 2012; Schwarzenbach et al., 2018), and allows distinction between open and closed system sulfate reduction, and between bacterial sulfate reduction and hydrothermal sulfate reduction that can be traced through subduction. Non-zero MIF values for sulfur indicate that the analysed sulfur deviates from the terrestrial line defined by the slope of a fractionation line between $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ and $\delta^{33}\text{S}$ for the Earth-Moon system, where the slope is 0.515 (Seal, 2006 and references therein). Modern day seawater sulfate has a $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ value of $0.050 \pm 0.0003\%$ (Ono et al., 2012), whereas mid ocean ridge basalts (MORB) from the East Pacific Rise have $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ values within error of zero at $\sim 0.001 \pm 0.017\%$ (Ono et al., 2012). A study of samples from the Iberian Margin basement revealed that serpentinised peridotites have higher $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ values than basaltic samples with values ranging from 0.00 to 0.16 in peridotites (Ono et al., 2012; Schwarzenbach et al., 2018), compared to -0.06 to 0.04 in the basalts (Ono et al., 2012). Lower $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ values (-0.06 to 0.02) have been reported for Northern Appenine serpentinites (Schwarzenbach et al., 2018), and similarly low $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ values (-0.01 to 0.01) are reported for basalts from the Pacific-Antarctic ridge, however, these values are indistinguishable from the Canyon Diablo Troilite international standard (Labidi et al., 2014).

The proximity of serpentinites to ocean crust and metasediments in the subduction channel may influence the redox state and concentration of sulfur in both serpentinites and other lithologies, and therefore the sulfur isotope compositions, either through the loss of

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71 oxidised or reduced fluids from serpentinites, or the infiltration of fluids from other
72 lithologies. For example, seafloor serpentinites associated with gabbroic intrusions have been
73 shown to have higher $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values than serpentinites elsewhere (Alt and Shanks, 2003).
74 Mixing of sediments/oceanic crust and mantle along the slab/sub-arc mantle interface at high-
75 pressure produces ‘hybrid’ rocks, which are physical or chemical mixtures of two or more
76 end member rock types, such as sediment, peridotite (mantle), gabbro and basalt (Spandler
77 and Pirard, 2013; Marschall and Schumacher, 2012), and have chemical and isotopic
78 compositions that reflect this mixing. Hybrid rocks have been recognised as important
79 carriers of volatile elements to even greater depths than the serpentinised mantle (e.g.,
80 Spandler et al. 2008), and could play an essential role in the transfer of sulfur to the sub-arc
81 mantle.

82 Although whole rock $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ data are available for subducted ultramafic rocks (Alt et al.,
83 2012a; b), subducted ultramafic rocks undergo several stages of alteration starting at the
84 seafloor, followed by subduction and exhumation, such that whole rock sulfur isotope
85 analysis provides a record of superimposed processes. *In-situ* $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ measurements of sulfides
86 with well-constrained parageneses provide an opportunity to sample the evolution of sulfur
87 throughout the metamorphic evolution of the samples. To the authors’ best knowledge the
88 only other published *in-situ* $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values for subducted ultramafic rocks are reported in two
89 conference abstracts, Santiago-Ramos et al. (2012) and Shimizu et al. (2013) who measured
90 $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values of pentlandite and heazlewoodite grains within Erro Tobbio serpentinites. These
91 studies report relatively low $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values for sulfide grains within low temperature
92 serpentinites (-3.2 to 5.9‰), and variable $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values from -1.1 to 18.3‰ for sulfide grains
93 within subducted serpentinites.

94 In this study, redox conditions, the likelihood of sulfur transfer to the sub-arc mantle
95 from serpentinite dehydration, and the distribution of sulfur within subducted serpentinites
96 and hybrid mafic/ultramafic rocks are investigated through a combination of petrographic
97 analysis, *in-situ* sulfur isotope and trace element analyses of sulfides hosted in these rocks.

98 **2. Geological Background**

99 Thirty samples were collected from the Schistes Lustrés complex at the two localities
100 Serra di Pigno and Capu Corvoli, Cap Corse (Fig. 1). Serra di Pigno lies approximately 10
101 km west of Bastia, on Cap Corse (Fig. 1a). The sample collection includes metagabbros,
102 metasediments, serpentinites and hybrid rocks from the Schistes Lustrés complex.

103 Serpentinite samples from Serra di Pigno were collected adjacent to metasediments,
104 metagabbros and metabasalts, and distal to these lithologies (Fig. 1b, c). Hybrid samples from
105 Capu Corvoli were collected from slivers next to metagabbro and <0.5 km from calcareous
106 schist (Fig. 1d, e). These localities were chosen because they allow the assessment of
107 lithological controls on the isotopic composition of sulfur.

108 During the Middle to Late Jurassic, the ophiolites and associated sediments were
109 considered to have been part of an ocean-continent transition (OCT) zone (e.g., Vitale
110 Brovarone and Herwartz, 2013; Vitale Brovarone et al., 2013; Magott et al., 2016). At this
111 time, seawater sulfate had $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values of ~ 17‰ (Kampschulte and Strauss, 2004). Field
112 observations consistent with an OCT setting of the ophiolites prior to subduction include the
113 juxtaposition of continental slices and ultramafic rocks, ultramafic clasts within carbonaceous
114 sediments, the presence of opicalcites, and variable interlayering of sediments with mafic
115 and ultramafic lithologies at Serra di Pigno (Meresse et al., 2012) and other localities within
116 Alpine Corsica (Vitale Brovarone et al., 2011).

117 The samples from the Serra di Pigno region record blueschist to eclogite facies
118 metamorphism and underwent high-pressure metamorphism from ~55 to 34 Ma (Ravna et al.,
119 2010; Vitale Brovarone et al. 2011, Vitale Brovarone and Herwartz, 2013). The minimum
120 pressure recorded during subduction is estimated to be ~1.3–2.6 GPa (Lahondère and
121 Guerrot, 1997; Vitale Brovarone et al., 2013), and on the basis of Raman spectroscopy of
122 carbonaceous material (Vitale Brovarone et al., 2013), the peak metamorphic temperature is
123 constrained to ~414–471°C.

124 The chlorite schist and talc schist hybrid mafic/ultramafic samples were collected at
125 Capu Corvoli, Cap Corse. The samples are from a shear zone with a top-to-the-west to
126 northwest sense of shear, parallel to a series of proximal WNW to NW shallowly dipping
127 thrust faults, which were previously interpreted to divide the lawsonite-blueschist Upper
128 Castagniccia metasediments and lawsonite-eclogite ophiolites (Lahondère, 1992). The sense
129 of shear is uniform with deformation associated with prograde metamorphism (Mattauer et
130 al., 1977; 1981; Faure and Malavielle, 1981; Harris, 1985; Warburton, 1986; Magott et al.,
131 2016). Within the shear zone, slivers of the hybrid lithologies are juxtaposed with
132 metagabbro. Recent P-T estimates suggest that the Upper Castagniccia metasediments record
133 eclogite facies metamorphism (Vitale Brovarone et al., 2013 & references therein). Thus, the
134 Capu Corvoli samples record similar or higher P-T conditions than the Serra di Pigno

135 samples at ~490–550 °C and 1.9–2.6 GPa (Ravna et al., 2010; Vitale Brovarone et al., 2011;
136 2013).

137 In this study, existing estimates of P-T conditions (e.g., Agard and Vitale-Brovarone,
138 2013), detailed sample petrography and mineral chemistry are used to distinguish between
139 sulfides associated with mantle, seafloor, prograde, peak and retrograde stages. In the
140 seafloor environment, sulfur is present as mantle sulfides, or as sulfides derived from
141 seawater sulfate and precipitated during hydrothermal alteration. Such sulfides could be
142 preserved during prograde metamorphism, or these sulfides may recrystallize at this stage.
143 The onset of exhumation is marked by a decrease in pressure (Agard and Vitale-Brovarone,
144 2013). At this stage, maximum temperatures are recorded, such that heating via continued
145 thermal equilibration is still occurring at the onset of exhumation. Additionally, it is likely
146 that the rocks remain partially hydrated even after they have undergone prograde
147 metamorphism, therefore, therefore fluids are also released at the onset of exhumation (e.g.,
148 Miller and Cartwright, 2006). Hence, the rocks may have access to both prograde and
149 exhumation-related fluids during this stage. Retrogressed sulfides associated with such fluids
150 provide insight into the composition of fluids released from the slab.

151 **3. Petrography**

152 Different sulfide generations are attributed to stages of metamorphism on the basis of
153 their textural association with silicate minerals, where silicate mineral stability has been well
154 constrained at a range of temperatures and pressures. Primary sulfides are typically
155 polyhedral blebs with concave inward boundaries (Seyler et al., 2007; Schwarzenbach et al.,
156 2012), a textural characteristic that is not observed in any of the samples. In this section, the
157 numbering 1-3 is used to assign sulfides to stability during (1) prograde metamorphism (2)
158 the onset of exhumation, and (3) advanced stages of exhumation.

159 **3.1 Serra di Pigno**

160 *3.1.1 Serpentinite CO13-40*

161 CO13-40 is a serpentinite sample distal to other lithologies (grid reference: WGS 84,
162 zone 32T, 0533122 mE 4728302 mN, Fig. 1 a, b). Pentlandite1 (pn1) consist of grains up to
163 ~50 µm in diameter associated with magnetite. Both magnetite and pn1 overprint the foliation
164 defined by fine-grained antigorite (atg1), and contain inclusions of atg1 (Fig. 2a). Orientated
165 and foliated antigorite (atg1) has a fine and interlocking texture consistent with prograde

166 growth (e.g., Li et al., 2004), and defines the dominant foliation. Given the inclusion of atg1
167 in pn1, it is inferred that pn1 maintained stability during prograde to peak metamorphism. A
168 late generation of antigorite (atg2) cuts pn1 (Fig. 2a) and therefore further constrains pn1
169 growth to a stage prior to retrogression.

170 3.1.2 *Serpentinite CO13-33*

171 CO13-33 is a serpentinite sample collected from an outcrop proximal to metagabbro
172 and metaquartzite (grid reference: WGS 84, zone 32T 0533514 mE 4729532 mN, Fig. 1a, b).
173 Early pentlandite (pn1; Fig. 2b) occurs as elongate grains (~5 µm) associated with
174 heazlewoodite, magnetite¹, kamacite (~5 µm), fine matrix antigorite and fine balangeroite
175 veins (<5 µm across). Balangeroite growth has previously been ascribed to prograde
176 metamorphism within the antigorite stability field in both the Piemonte zone in the Alps
177 (Groppo and Compagnoni, 2007), and Sasaguri, Japan (Evans and Kuehner, 2011). The
178 association of pn1 with fine-grained antigorite (atg1) and balangeroite implies that pn1 was
179 stable during prograde metamorphism. Chlorite growth is associated with antigorite
180 dehydration (e.g., Padrón-Navarta et al., 2013; Scambelluri et al., 2014; Evans and Powell,
181 2015), overprinting atg1. Pentlandite² partially replaces chlorite (pn2; Fig 2c) and contains
182 inclusions of atg1. Therefore, pn2 postdates prograde–peak metamorphism and is considered
183 to have grown at the onset of exhumation, overprinted by a later generation of magnetite at
184 the rim. A late phase of pentlandite, pn3, occurs as euhedral to subhedral grains that overprint
185 a late generation of antigorite veins, and is synchronous with or includes late magnetite (Fig.
186 2d), thus pn3 is related to advanced stages of exhumation.

187 3.1.3 *Serpentinite CO13-55*

188 CO13-55 is a serpentinite sample proximal to metagabbro and calcareous schist (grid
189 reference: WGS 84, zone 32T, 0533398 mE 4729368 mN, Fig. 1a, b). Primary phases are
190 absent; all spinel grains are ‘porous’, Al-poor, Cr-Fe spinel with mt1 rims, which are
191 compositionally and texturally consistent with alteration of primary spinel during seafloor
192 and/or prograde metamorphism (Evans and Frost, 1975; Bliss and MacLean, 1975; Wylie et
193 al., 1987; Kimball, 1990; Frost, 1991; Barnes, 2000; Mellini et al., 2005; Merlini et al., 2009;
194 Mukherjee et al., 2010; Grieco and Merlini, 2012; Gervilla et al., 2012; Colás et al., 2014).
195 Phases stable during prograde to peak metamorphism include fine-grained antigorite (atg1),
196 which comprises the matrix (<1 to 5 µm), chlorite, pentlandite¹ (pn1), pyrite and
197 chalcopyrite. Altered porous spinels contain inclusions of fine-grained antigorite (atg1) and

198 pentlandite (pn1), consistent with the interpretation of recrystallisation of antigorite from
199 precursor lizardite and retention of pn1 during prograde metamorphism. Pentlandite1 also
200 consists of larger grains (10–30 μm), which contain small Cr-Fe spinel grains (2–3 μm) and
201 overprints or is in equilibrium with mt1 but is itself cut by atg2 veins (Fig. 2e). Phases
202 associated with the onset of exhumation include pentlandite2 (pn2) and mt2. Pentlandite2 and
203 mt2 are associated with diopside, although some grains of diopside are observed overprinting
204 these phases. Diopside growth is constrained to the onset of exhumation, or after, because it
205 overprints prograde antigorite and peak chlorite. Additionally, diopside is comprised of
206 randomly orientated idioblastic prisms (Fig. 2f, g) consistent with retrograde textures
207 previously described elsewhere (Gropo and Compagnoni, 2007). Pentlandite3 is
208 synchronous with or occurs as rims on late antigorite cross-cutting veins (Fig. 2h) and
209 therefore pn3 postdates the veins (Fig. 2h), where antigorite veins cut prograde to peak
210 phases (pyrite, chalcopyrite, pn1 and mt1) (Fig. 2e), and phases associated with the onset of
211 exhumation (pn2 and mt2).

3.2 Capu Corvoli

3.2.1 Chlorite schist CO14-03

CO14-03 is a chlorite schist in contact with metagabbro that lies structurally above the
sample (grid reference: WGS 84, zone 32T, 0529140 mE 4753069 mN; Fig. 1d, e). There is
little evidence for the retention of primary or seafloor phases. The earliest phases associated
with prograde to peak metamorphism are thin (<5 μm), orientated laths of foliated chlorite
and antigorite, which together comprise the matrix. Magnetite is constrained to the onset of
exhumation because it cuts the prograde to peak antigorite-chlorite defined foliation.
Magnetite has undergone brittle deformation and is cut by second generation of chlorite
(chl2) veins, and overprinted by titanite, a low-pressure Ti-rich phase (e.g., Laird & Albee,
1981; Spear, 1981; Ernst & Liu, 1998). Thus, magnetite growth is constrained to the earliest
stages of exhumation. Pyrite occurs as euhedral aggregates isolated in the matrix, as rims on
magnetite or within fractures connected to the matrix in magnetite (Fig. 2i, j). Pyrite is
enclosed by titanite, although some grains contain inclusions of titanite towards the rim
implying synchronous pyrite and titanite growth for some time. Pyrite is therefore attributed
to lower pressures associated with an advanced stage of exhumation, and is thus referred to as
py3.

229 3.2.2 Talc schist CO14-04

230 CO14-04 is a talc schist sample in contact with metagabbro associated with CO14-03
231 structurally below the sample (grid reference: WGS 84, zone 32T, 0529107 mE 4753071 mN,
232 Fig. 1d, e). Primary or seafloor phases consist of an early generation of pyrrhotite (po0 <5
233 μm), Cr-rich spinel cores to magnetite, and Pt-rich alloys (rare, $\sim 2 \mu\text{m}$). Cr-Al spinels are
234 proposed to be primary based on their Al-rich composition (e.g. Barnes and Roeder, 2001),
235 although the grains could have undergone alteration during seafloor alteration from more Mg-
236 rich primary compositions. The association of spinel with pyrrhotite0 and Pt-rich alloys
237 attributes these phases to primary growth and possible alteration during seafloor processes.
238 Prograde phases include pyrite (py1), an early generation of talc (talc1), magnetite, a later
239 generation of pyrrhotite (po1) and chlorite. Talc1 growth is attributed to metasomatism
240 during subduction (e.g., Spandler et al., 2008). Pyrite1 contains inclusions of pyrrhotite0, Cr-
241 Al spinel and a Pt-rich alloy. Given the inclusion of Cr-spinel in py1, and magnetite rims on
242 Cr-rich spinel, py1 and magnetite growth are synchronous. Chlorite, which is attributed to
243 peak metamorphism, cross-cuts magnetite, thus the growth of magnetite and py1 predate peak
244 metamorphism. Pyrrhotite1 is texturally later than py1, given its inclusion in rims on py1,
245 though possible incorporation from the matrix cannot be excluded. A second generation of
246 pyrite (py2) cuts the prograde talc1 matrix and peak metamorphic chlorite, and has coarse
247 talc2 rims (Fig. 2i). Talc stability is restricted to pressures below 1.5 GPa (Evans & Powell,
248 2015), therefore the talc rim records decompression associated with advanced stages of
249 exhumation (e.g., Crossley et al., 2017). Pyrite2 is therefore constrained to growth during the
250 onset of exhumation.

251 4. Methods

252 The samples selected for this study contain sulfides of suitable size for secondary ion
253 mass spectrometry (SIMS) analysis, using a large geometry (LG) SIMS, a Cameca IMS 1280,
254 and NanoSIMS. Prior to *in-situ* analysis, detailed petrographic analysis was undertaken using
255 transmitted and reflected light microscopy, and scanning electron microscopy (SEM) and
256 energy dispersive spectrometry (EDS). Electron probe microanalysis (EPMA) was performed
257 prior to SIMS analysis to determine compositions of sulfides. In addition, EPMA and
258 NanoSIMS mapping were employed to search for any discrete zoning in sulfide minerals.

259 4.1 Sample Preparation

260 Prior to SIMS and NanoSIMS analysis, representative areas were selected from thin
261 section billets, where billets were cut perpendicular to sample foliation, and drilled from each
262 sample using a hollow cylindrical diamond coated drill bit that produces 7 mm pucks. The
263 pucks were mounted in 25 mm diameter epoxy disks, polished and coated with ~30 nm of Au
264 to provide electrical conductivity at high voltage and thus prevent sample charging. Using a
265 precision saw, the mounts were trimmed by approximately one third to allow a reusable
266 standard piece that contains Sierra pyrite and VMSO pentlandite standards to be mounted
267 alongside the unknown samples in the ion probe.

268 4.2 EPMA Mapping

269 Trace element mapping was carried out on sulfide grains selected for SIMS analysis
270 using the JEOL 8530F Hyperprobe at the Centre for Microscopy, Characterisation and
271 Analysis (CMCA) at the University of Western Australia (UWA). The carbon coating was 25
272 nm in thickness. Wavelength dispersive spectrometry (WDS) operating conditions included a
273 20 kV accelerating voltage, a 20 nA beam current, and a 40s dwell time. Mean atomic
274 number (MAN) background corrections were used with a total on-peak counting time of 20 s
275 per element. The standards used for calibration include Ni, Co, Pyrite (S) and ASP200
276 (arsenopyrite; As). WDS was conducted using the crystals PETJ for S $K\alpha$, TAP for As $L\alpha$,
277 and LiF for Fe $K\alpha$. The use of two crystals, LiFH and LiF, enabled optimum detection of Co
278 $K\alpha$ and Ni $K\alpha$. Data reduction was performed using the Probe for EPMA software (Donovan
279 et al., 2012), and quantitative element maps were generated from WDS X-ray intensity maps
280 using the CalcImage and Surfer 10.2 software. A matrix correction was conducted at each
281 pixel and a script file was output for each element. Element concentrations were calculated
282 using the mean atomic number (MAN) background method, where after background
283 correction, X-ray intensity was multiplied by the matrix effect correction factors Z (atomic
284 number correction; Duncumb and Reed, 1968), A (absorption correction; Philibert, 1963;
285 Duncumb & Shields; 1966; Heinrich, 1969; Bearden, 1964; Heinrich, 1986) and F
286 (characteristic fluorescence correction; Reed, 1965), relative to standards. The script files
287 generated by CalcImage were input into Surfer 10.2 to plot maps for each element.

288 Point analyses were carried out under the same operating conditions but additional
289 standards were used for calibration including wollastonite (Si), San Carlos Olivine (Mg),
290 Crocoite (Pb), ZnO, Cu, Mn, Cr₂O₃, Bi₂Se₃, Ag, GaAs (As), and Sb. In addition, WDS was

291 conducted using the crystals LiF for Ni K α and Co K α , TAP for Si K α , Mg K α and Se L α ,
292 PETJ (Pb m α), LiFH (Zn K α , Cu K α , Mn K α , Cr K α), PETJ (Ag L α and Bi M α) and LiF (Sb
293 L α).

294 **4.3 Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry**

295 *4.3.1 NanoSIMS*

296 Mapping of small pentlandite grains in sample CO13-40 was performed on the
297 CAMECA NanoSIMS N50 at the CMCA, UWA, prior to LG-SIMS analysis. Secondary ion
298 images were acquired using a focused Cs⁺ primary ion beam, with a nominal beam diameter
299 of ~100 nm. Electron multipliers at the five detector sites were positioned to detect the
300 secondary ions FeS⁻, CoS⁻, NiS⁻, CuS⁻, AsS⁻, Te⁻ and Au⁻ on masses 88, 91, 92, 97, 107, 130
301 and 197, respectively. The mass spectrometer was tuned using a 30 μ m entrance slit, and
302 peak positions were calibrated using sulfide minerals and metallic Au. Areas of 60 \times 60 μ m
303 and 30 \times 30 μ m were imaged at a pixel resolution of 512 \times 512, with a primary beam current
304 of approximately 2.8 pA, and a dwell time of 25 ms/pixel. Smaller areas of 15 \times 15 μ m were
305 imaged at a pixel resolution of 256 \times 256, with a primary beam current of approximately 1.2
306 pA and a dwell time of 45 ms/pixel. All areas were pre-sputtered to 10¹⁷ Cs ions/cm² prior to
307 imaging. All images were corrected for 44 ns detector deadtime and processed using the
308 NRIMS plugin for ImageJ (<http://nrims.harvard.edu/software>).

309 *4.3.2 LG-SIMS: Cameca IMS 1280*

310 *4.3.2.1 Standards*

311 Sierra pyrite (fragments from the same pyrite block have been previously reported as
312 Sonora-3) is from a 9 kg cube of pyrite from a Cretaceous porphyry copper mine in Sonora,
313 Mexico, described in Wacey et al. (2011), Farquhar et al. (2013) and Evans et al. (2014).
314 VMSO pentlandite is sourced from a massive sulfide lens from the Ni-Cu-PGE Long-Victor
315 mine, Kambalda, Western Australia metamorphosed to amphibolite facies (Barnes et al.,
316 2013, and references therein). All $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values in this study are relative to Vienna Canyon
317 Diablo Troilite (VCDT), the value of which is assumed to be 0.0450045 (Ault and Jensen,
318 1963). The details of bulk $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ measurement by laser fluorination, heterogeneity, precision
319 and reproducibility of the Sierra pyrite and VMSO pentlandite standards are discussed in
320 detail in LaFlamme et al. (2016). Both Sierra and VMSO are of similar major element (Fe,
321 Ni, Co and S) compositions to the pyrites and pentlandites studied here (section 5.1).

322 4.3.2.2 Method

323 Ion microprobe analysis was carried out on the CAMECA IMS 1280 at the CMCA,
324 UWA, to measure *in-situ* sulfur isotope compositions ($^{33}\text{S}/^{32}\text{S}$ and $^{34}\text{S}/^{32}\text{S}$). A ca. 2–3 nA
325 focused Cs^+ primary beam was operated at 10 kV and the secondary ion beam was extracted
326 at -10 kV. The analysis area was presputtered using a $25 \times 25 \mu\text{m}$ (or $20 \times 20 \mu\text{m}$ for
327 pentlandite) raster for 30 seconds (or 10 sec for pentlandite; see below) followed by
328 automated secondary centering in the field aperture (FA; $4000 \mu\text{m}$) and entrance slit (ES; 60
329 μm). The analysis used a $15 \times 15 \mu\text{m}$ (or $10 \times 10 \mu\text{m}$ for pentlandite) raster employing
330 dynamic transfer at a $133 \times$ field magnification for 45×4 second integrations. Three sulfur
331 isotopes were measured simultaneously using three Faraday Cup detectors with amplifiers of
332 $10^{10} \Omega$ resistor for ^{32}S and $10^{11} \Omega$ for ^{33}S and ^{34}S . An exit slit of $500 \mu\text{m}$ was used on each of
333 the multicollector detectors, providing a nominal mass resolving power (MRP) of ca. 2500.
334 As this MRP does not allow for complete resolution of the $^{32}\text{S} \ ^1\text{H}$ and ^{33}S peaks, the detector
335 collecting ^{33}S was offset to the low mass side, sufficient to exclude tailing of the $^{32}\text{S} \ ^1\text{H}$ signal
336 (e.g., LaFlamme et al., 2016). The magnetic field was regulated using nuclear magnetic
337 resonance (NMR). To avoid any problems related to non-conducting inclusions and/or to the
338 very small pentlandite grains in the silicate matrix, a normal incidence electron gun was used
339 for charge compensation in all analyses. Although ^{36}S was not analysed, an electron
340 multiplier detector was also setup to locate pentlandite grains $<20 \mu\text{m}$ using the ^{36}S ion
341 image. For these pentlandite analyses, the areas were pre-burnt to see their ion images so the
342 presputter time was reduced to 10 seconds. Measurements of an appropriate standard after
343 each block of four to five analyses allowed the assessment of instrumental drift. The method
344 for data reduction is described in Appendix A.

345 Incorporation of minute antigorite inclusions in the analysis volume ($<2 \mu\text{m}$) may
346 have affected S isotope ratios via the changes to matrix fractionation effects, however the
347 inclusions would not contain sufficient sulfur to alter $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values. Sulfide grains were
348 checked carefully for such inclusions using SEM and nominally inclusion-free areas were
349 analysed. After the measurements were finished, the analysed spots were checked again using
350 SEM.

351 5. Results

352 5.1 Sulfide mineral compositions

353 Average major element concentrations for sulfides are provided in Table 1. The full
354 dataset is provided in Appendix B. Formulae of sulfide minerals were calculated using charge
355 balance and stoichiometric constraints. Different generations of sulfides are indistinguishable
356 on the basis of mineral composition. The average mineral formulae for pentlandite in CO13-
357 33 and CO13-55 is $\text{Fe}_{3.5-3.9}\text{Ni}_{4.8-5.2}\text{Co}_{0.3}\text{S}_8$ ($n = 36$ and 30 , respectively). Pentlandite in CO13-
358 40 has higher concentrations of Fe and contains lower concentrations of Ni and slightly lower
359 Co concentrations with the average formula $\text{Fe}_{4-4.2}\text{Ni}_{4.6-4.8}\text{Co}_{0.2-0.3}\text{S}_8$. Pyrites in CO14-03 and
360 CO14-04 are stoichiometric (FeS_2) with minor (up to 0.01 cations) Co and Ni replacing Fe
361 per formula unit in each sample.

362 5.2 Sulfur isotope compositions and trace element mapping

363 Here the results are presented as $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values, non-zero $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ values, and EPMA trace
364 element maps. The complete sulfur isotope data set including the $\delta^{33}\text{S}$ values and measured
365 standard sulfur isotope compositions are provided in Appendix C. All uncertainties reported
366 in the text, figures and tables are 2σ , unless otherwise noted.

367 5.2.1 Serra di Pigno

368 5.2.1.1 Distal Serpentinite CO13-40

369 $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values in CO13-40 pentlandite range from 4.3 to 10.4‰ ($n=30$) (Fig. 3a, Fig. 4a–
370 e, Table 2, Appendix C). Three analyses have non-zero $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ values of $0.52\pm 0.30\text{‰}$ (a3_s12-
371 3), $0.67\pm 0.50\text{‰}$ (a3_s1-2) and $0.38\pm 0.24\text{‰}$ (a3_s3) (Table 3). Trace element NanoSIMS
372 maps reveal zonation in Cu, Co, As and Ni. Co, As and Ni zoning is decoupled from the Cu
373 zoning (Fig. 4f). Due to the small size of the grains (up to 50 μm), it was not possible to
374 determine the relationship of the zonation to the $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ ratios, therefore homogeneous areas
375 were chosen for analysis.

376 5.2.1.2 Serpentinite proximal to metaquartzite and metagabbro CO13-33

377 $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values in pentlandite in CO13-33 range from 1.8 to 9.2 ‰ ($n = 18$) (Table 2,
378 Appendix C; Fig. 3b; Fig. 5a–e). The sulfides analysed include pn1 ($n=9$; Fig. 5a, b), pn2
379 ($n=9$; Fig. 5b, c) and pn3 ($n=5$; Fig. 5d–e). The histograms display a unimodal distribution
380 (Fig 3b) and Mann-Whitney U tests (Appendix D) do not reveal significant variation in $\delta^{34}\text{S}$
381 between the different generations of pentlandite from early to late grains. Pn1 grains have

382 similar $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values to pn2 grains with values of 6.5 to 8.8‰ in pn1 grains, compared to 5.5 to
383 8.3‰ in pn2 grains ($p = 0.79$), where p indicates the probability that the pn1 and pn2
384 analyses are from the same distribution. $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values of pn3 grains vary from 1.8–8.4‰, and
385 are not significantly different from pn1 and pn2 ($p = 0.39$). EPMA mapping reveals
386 homogenous Co concentrations in the interior of pn2, but higher Co concentrations towards
387 pn2 rims, (Fig. 5f).

5.2.1.3 Serpentinite proximal to calcareous-schist and metagabbro (CO13-55)

389 $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values in pentlandite within CO13-55 range from 1.9 to 8.0‰ (n=19; Table 2,
390 Appendix C, Fig. 3c); pn1 from 1.9 to 5.7‰ (n=10; Fig. 6a–c), pn2 $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ from 3.1–6.9‰
391 (n=5; Fig. 6d) and pn3 from 5.5–8.0‰ (n=5; Fig. 6e–f). The Mann Whitney U test revealed a
392 significant difference between pn1 and pn3 at a level of significance of 1% ($p = 0.0078$), but
393 not between pn2 and pn3 ($p = 0.05$). Four analyses have non-zero $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ values of $0.33\pm 0.23\text{‰}$
394 (area2_s1-1, pn1), $0.37\pm 0.28\text{‰}$ (area2_s3-1; pn2), $0.38\pm 0.23\text{‰}$ (area3_s2-1, pn3) and
395 $0.49\pm 0.31\text{‰}$ (Table 3, pn1). Zonation in Co is not evident in CO13-55 pentlandites (Fig. 6b).

5.2.2 Capu Corvoli

5.2.2.1 Chlorite Schist CO14-03

398 Relative to other samples in this study, CO14-03 pyrite $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values are very
399 heterogeneous, within individual pyrite grains and between different pyrite grains, with
400 values ranging from 5.9 to 15.5 ‰ (n=32; Table 2, Appendix C, Fig. 3d). The majority of
401 grains have $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values from 6–9‰ (n = 21), with higher $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values from 10.8–15.5 ‰ (n =
402 11). Some pyrites appear to form clusters, while others are isolated in the matrix. Although
403 no differences in relative timing are inferred from textural analysis, isolated pyrites (Fig. 7 a–
404 c, n=17) were compared to pyrites in clusters (Fig. 7d–e, n=15). Significantly higher $\delta^{34}\text{S}$
405 values were recorded in pyrite that formed clusters ($p = 0.0057$). EMPA mapping reveals fine
406 scaled zonation of Co from 0.1 to 1.2 wt%, and of Ni from 0.1 to 0.4 wt% (Fig. 8a–c). The
407 Co and Ni zonation does not show a significant correlation with $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ ($R^2 = 0.3$ and 0.23 ,
408 respectively, Fig. 8d).

5.2.2.2 Talc Schist CO14-04

410 CO14-04 pyrites appear to be relatively homogeneous with $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values of 3.6–5.4‰
411 (n=49). Py1 has slightly higher values (4.1–5.4‰, n=12; Fig. 9a–d), compared to py2 which
412 has a larger range from 3.1–5.0‰ (n=37; Fig. 9e–f), where there is a low probability of both
413 pyrite generations sampling the same isotopic population ($p=0.0065$). Additionally, three

414 $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ values are significantly different to zero, s1 in area 1 ($0.11\pm 0.10\%$), s1 analysis 9 in
415 area 2 ($-0.16\pm 0.12\%$) and S1 in area 3 ($-0.17\pm 0.15\%$).

416 EPMA maps show Co and Ni zonation at a finer scale than the interaction volume of
417 SIMS analysis (Fig. 8d–f). Mann-Whitney U test calculations (Appendix D) revealed that the
418 correlation between Co and $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ is significant at a 5% level of significance ($P=0.048$,
419 $R^2=0.49$; Fig. 8g) but Ni is decoupled from $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ ($R^2=0.12$, Fig. 8h).

420 6. Discussion

421 Primary, seafloor and prograde sulfides provide an insight on the inputs of sulfur to
422 subduction zones, while sulfides associated with the onset of exhumation, provide a record of
423 fluid composition released from the slab. Primary sulfide grains occur as polyhedral blebs
424 with concave inward boundaries (Seyler et al., 2007; Schwarzenbach et al., 2012), a textural
425 characteristic not observed in the samples presented here. In addition, none of the sulfides
426 analysed in this study have $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values of $\sim 0\%$, and therefore sulfur is not solely mantle
427 derived (e.g., Alt and Shanks, 1998; Sakai et al., 1984; Shanks et al., 1995). Instead, the
428 samples from Serra di Pigno and Capu Corvoli record a wide range of sulfur isotopic
429 concentrations from 1.7–15.5 ‰. On the basis of textural observations and non-zero $\delta^{34}\text{S}$
430 values, it is concluded that primary sulfides are not preserved in the studied samples.

431 Serra di Pigno samples proximal to metasediments and metagabbros (CO13-33 and
432 CO13-55) display different trends in changes to $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values throughout the subduction cycle.
433 The sample in close proximity to metagabbro and calcareous schist (CO13-55, section 4.2.3)
434 shows a significantly different composition for the late sulfides (5.5–8.0‰) compared to
435 earlier sulfides (1.9 to 6.5‰, Fig. 3c). However, there is no significant difference between
436 prograde and retrograde sulfide grains in CO13-33 (Fig. 3b). The $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values of sulfides in
437 CO13-55 are also significantly lower than the sample distal to other lithologies ($p=1.81\times 10^{-5}$),
438 with values of 1.9–8.0‰ and 4.3 to 10.4‰, respectively (Fig. 3a and c). Capu Corvoli
439 chlorite schist and talc schist samples, that are proximal to metagabbro and only metres apart
440 from each other, show very different $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values; CO14-03 has heterogeneous sulfur isotope
441 compositions ranging from 5.9 to 15.5‰, whereas CO14-04 has lower and more
442 homogeneous $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values of 3.6 to 5.4‰ (Fig. 3d and e).

443 The isotopic compositions of the sulfides are assessed in the context of trace element
444 composition, bacterial sulfate reduction, hydrothermal sulfate reduction, sulfur speciation in

445 the fluid, rock buffering versus fluid buffering of the samples, the effects temperature during
446 prograde metamorphism, and the effect of lithological mixing.

447 **6.1. Trace element relationships with $\delta^{34}\text{S}$**

448 Trace element mapping was carried out to determine the relationship between $\delta^{34}\text{S}$
449 and trace elements, which provide insights into fluid pathways and potential composition
450 (e.g., Evans et al., 2014; Giacommetti et al., 2014). Whereas no significant correlation was
451 observed between Co or Ni and $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ in CO14-03 ($R^2 = 0.30$ and 0.12 , respectively) or Ni in
452 CO14-04 ($R^2=0.23$), the correlation between Co and $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ in CO14-04 was found to be
453 statistically significant at a 95% confidence level ($P=0.048$). Therefore, in general $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ is
454 inferred to be decoupled from Ni and Co, with the exception of Co in CO14-04. The limited
455 data available here, therefore, suggests that trace elements are not controlled by the same
456 processes that determine the S isotope compositions in the pyrite grains. With the exception
457 of Co in CO14-04, the lack of correlation between trace element zoning and $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values is in
458 agreement with previous studies on subducted sulfides (Giacommetti et al., 2014), although
459 some correlation between Co and $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ was reported for pyrites in mafic and sedimentary
460 rocks (Evans et al., 2014; Giacommetti et al., 2014). However, due to the restrictions of the
461 beam size for analysis, it was not possible to assess the $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ zonation on the $<5\ \mu\text{m}$ scale of
462 the Co and Ni zoning, so small length scale variations in S isotope compositions would have
463 been obscured by the relatively large beam size ($10\ \mu\text{m}$).

464 Similarly, it was not possible to determine relationships between trace element
465 concentrations and sulfur isotope compositions in pentlandite grains due to the small size of
466 the grains analysed, so areas selected for analysis were considered to be homogeneous in Co,
467 Ni and As.

468 **6.2. The effect of seafloor processes on sulfur geochemistry**

469 The infiltration of sulfate-bearing seawater into mantle peridotite and consequent
470 serpentinisation results in the addition of seawater-derived sulfur to the rock (Alt and Shanks,
471 1998; Delacour et al., 2008). In the case of Alpine Corsica, it is considered that primary
472 mantle rocks were exposed on the seafloor and juxtaposed with the continental basement
473 during Tethyan rifting in the Middle to Late Jurassic (Bathonian to Oxfordian) in an ultra-
474 slow spreading centre or an ocean-continent transition setting (e.g., Vitale Brovarone et al.,
475 2011; 2013). During this time, seawater sulfate had $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values of $\sim 17\%$ (Kampschulte and
476 Strauss, 2004). Hydrothermal alteration may also occur during initial subduction associated

477 with slab bending (Ranero and Sallares, 2004). The heterogeneity of $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values in both the
478 Serra di Pigno samples (with an overall range from 3.1 to 8.9‰) and the Capu Corvoli
479 samples (3.6 to 15.5‰) implies that seawater sulfate was likely incorporated into the sulfides,
480 and subsequent processes, including bacterial or hydrothermal sulfate reduction on the
481 seafloor, and further fluid:rock interaction during subduction and exhumation, led to a loss of
482 ^{34}S relative to ^{32}S

6.2.1 Bacterial sulfate reduction

484 Hydrogen and CH_4 released during seafloor serpentinisation, provides an energy source
485 for sulfate reducing micro-organisms (e.g., Alt and Shanks, 1998; Schrenk et al., 2004;
486 Kelley et al., 2005; Brazelton et al., 2006; Schwarzenbach et al., 2012, Schrenk et al., 2013
487 and references therein). Bacterial sulfate reduction (BSR) enriches the light isotope in the
488 mineral products, therefore if BSR occurred during serpentinisation in an open system,
489 negative $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ are expected (e.g., Schwarzenbach et al., 2012). Such a signal is not observed in
490 the sulfides measured here. However, in a closed system, where there is limited fluid
491 circulation, such as in deep sections of magma poor rifted margins (i.e., an ocean-continent
492 transition zone, the proposed pre-subduction geodynamic setting of Alpine Corsica), BSR
493 could enrich ^{34}S over precursor mantle values if the conversion of seawater sulfate to sulfide
494 were close to completion. Nevertheless, if sulfides produced by microbial sulfate reduction
495 were preserved, at least a few negative isotopic values would be expected as most sulfides
496 would have grown in an open system, but this is not the case, therefore BSR is not thought to
497 have played a significant role in the production of the sulfur isotope compositions of the
498 samples described here.

6.2.2 Hydrothermal sulfate reduction

500 Recent studies have shown that $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ in addition to $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values can be used to
501 distinguish between open or closed system sulfate reduction, and hydrothermal versus
502 bacterial sulfate reduction (Ono et al., 2012; Schwarzenbach et al., 2018). $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ values in the
503 samples analysed here indicate a small but significant mass-independent fractionation (MIF)
504 in three pentlandite grains from CO13-40, four pentlandite grains from CO13-55 and three
505 pyrite grains in CO14-04. The data were carefully checked for any variations caused by a
506 drop in S counts or beam centring, and the effects of crystallographic orientation on $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$
507 values is considered to be negligible (LaFlamme et al., 2016). Therefore, the $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ values are
508 concluded to result from MIF, whereby variation in isotope abundance is not dependent on

509 mass and thus records other processes. Insignificant $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ values in most grains is probably a
510 matter of precision. The maximum recorded $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ values for peridotite from the Iberian
511 Margin are 0.14–0.16‰ (Ono et al., 2012; Schwarzenbach et al. 2018), whereas in this study
512 $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ values in pentlandite grains are 0.33–0.67‰ and pyrite grains record $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ values of
513 between -0.17 and +0.11‰. Therefore, the pyrite and pentlandite measurements are less
514 precise but within error of the measurements in Ono et al. (2012) and Schwarzenbach et al.
515 (2018). Lower $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ values in pyrite may be consistent with HSR in an open system, which
516 typically produce more negative $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ values. More precise measurements of $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ are
517 possible using bulk powders and mineral separates (Ono et al., 2012), but not with the *in-situ*
518 SIMS technique used in this study, required for analysis of the small grains in the samples
519 presented here.

520 With the exception of one grain (CO13-55 a2 s1-1), pentlandite grains with
521 significant $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ values are associated with prograde metamorphism and thus hydrothermal
522 sulfate reduction occurred either during seafloor alteration or prograde metamorphism. In
523 contrast, non-zero pyrite $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ values are found in both early and late pyrite. It has been
524 proposed that a MIF-derived signal could result from the breakdown or formation of S^{3-} ,
525 which could be present in fluids at depth in subduction zones in supercritical fluids
526 (Pokrovski and Dubessy, 2015). Pokrovski and Dubessy (2015) proposed that the S^{3-} effect
527 on MIF could result from its radical properties and resemblance to ozone (O_3). It is possible
528 that the MIF signal reflects either HSR or mineral S^{3-} fractionation or a combination. For
529 example, sulfate could have been hydrothermally reduced on the seafloor, and S^{3-} further
530 could contribute to the MIF signal during subduction. At present, the lack of fractionation
531 factors for the S^{3-} ion prevents a more detailed interpretation of the data.

6.3. The effects of temperature increase associated with prograde metamorphism

532 Temperature influences isotopic re-equilibration, fractionation factors and rates of
533 diffusion during metamorphism (e.g., Bachinski, 1969; Ohmoto and Rye, 1979; Ohmoto and
534 Lasaga, 1982). The effect of temperature on $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ depends on the speciation of sulfur. Sulfur
535 is generally considered to be present as mineral-hosted S^- , S^{2-} , S^0 and sulfate (S^{6+}) in
536 serpentinites (e.g., Alt et al., 2013; Debret et al., 2017; Merkulova et al., 2017). The effect of
537 temperature on ^{34}S fractionation between fluid and sulfide minerals is greater for oxidised
538 sulfur (SO_2 and SO_4^{2-}) than reduced sulfur (H_2S and HS^-). The speciation of aqueous sulfur
539 in ultramafic rocks under prograde conditions is poorly constrained, though H_2S (e.g., Peretti

541 et al., 1992), SO_2 or SO_4^{2-} (e.g., Debret et al., 2016) are the most likely species. As discussed
1 542 above, the S^{3-} ion has also been proposed to be present in high-pressure fluids such as those
2
3 543 attributed to subduction zones (Pokrovski and Dubessy, 2015, Section 6.2.2).
4
5

6 544 The oxide and sulfide assemblages in the Serra di Pigno serpentinites and the
7
8 545 prograde assemblage of CO14-04 from Capu Corvoli are low variance and are therefore
9
10 546 inferred to be rock buffered with respect to sulfur, with low fluid:rock interaction and hence
11
12 547 only local fluid flow. Activity-activity diagrams of oxide and sulfide stability as a function of
13
14 548 $a\text{O}_2$ and $a\text{S}_2$ at high pressure (2 GPa, 555°C) are presented in Evans et al. (2017). The
15
16 549 prograde mineral assemblage in the serpentinites analysed (CO13-33, CO13-40 and CO13-
17
18 550 55) is serpentine + pentlandite + magnetite \pm pyrite, serpentine + pentlandite + magnetite \pm
19
20 551 heazlewoodite and in the hybrid sample, CO14-04, is talc + chlorite + magnetite + pyrite +
21
22 552 pyrrhotite. According to calculated O_2 and S_2 activities associated with subduction (Evans et
23
24 553 al., 2017), the oxide and sulfide assemblages present in the rock samples in this study are
25
26 554 consistent with relatively low $a\text{O}_2$ and $a\text{S}_2$, therefore, reduced species such as H_2S or HS^- are
27
28 555 inferred to be in solution.
29

30 556 Calculations were undertaken to assess the possible effect of isotope fractionation
31
32 557 between sulfur hosted in the minerals and sulfur hosted in the fluids as an effect of prograde
33
34 558 metamorphism. A minimum temperature of 250°C was chosen to maximise the calculated
35
36 559 effect of fractionation. Fractionation was calculated for isotope equilibrium between
37
38 560 pyrrhotite of mantle sulfur isotope composition and fluid, pyrite with a nominal hydrothermal
39
40 561 isotope composition and fluid, and recrystallized pentlandite and fluid ($\Delta_{\text{pyrrhotite-H}_2\text{S}}$, $\Delta_{\text{pyrite-}}$
41
42 562 H_2S and $\Delta_{\text{pentlandite-H}_2\text{S}}$, respectively) in closed and open (Rayleigh) systems. A starting
43
44 563 composition of 0‰ was chosen for mantle pyrrhotite (Sakai et al., 1984; Shanks et al., 1995;
45
46 564 Alt et al., 1998). Pyrrhotite was included in calculations because it is present in the hybrid
47
48 565 samples (see section 3.2). 8‰ was chosen as the starting composition for hydrothermal
49
50 566 pyrite, the average of pyrite isotopic analyses here. The value of 6.7‰ for the recrystallised
51
52 567 pentlandite was taken from the average analyses of the pentlandite grains in the Serra di
53
54 568 Pigno samples. There are currently no fluid-mineral isotope fractionation factors available for
55
56 569 pentlandite, so it is assumed that fractionation factors would be similar to either violarite
57
58 570 ($\text{Fe}^{2+}\text{Ni}_2\text{S}_4$; Li and Liu, 2006) or pyrrhotite (Ohmoto and Rye, 1979), or somewhere in
59
60 571 between these two end members. Fractionation at 250 °C is minor for both violarite (-1.2‰,
61
62 572 Li and Liu, 2006) and pyrrhotite (0.1‰, Ohmoto and Rye, 1979). Therefore, $\Delta_{\text{pentlandite-H}_2\text{S}}$
63
64
65

573 would be minimal at temperatures of 250°C and above, in both the closed and open system
1 574 calculations (Fig. 10a, b). Likewise, $\Delta_{\text{pyrite-H}_2\text{S}}$ would also be minor at 250°C, at 1.5‰
2 575 (Ohmoto and Rye, 1979). Therefore, fractionation between reduced sulfide species in
3 576 solution and sulfide minerals would not be a first order control on the sulfur isotope
4 577 compositions, hence sulfur isotope ratios reflect those in the fluid or sulfide minerals that
5 578 have undergone seafloor alteration.
6 579

6.4. Retention of seafloor $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ in prograde sulfides

580 Sulfides texturally related to prograde to peak metamorphism include pentlandite in
14 581 CO13-40, pn1 in CO13-33, in CO13-55 and py1 and po1 in CO14-04. $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values in CO13-
15 582 40 and CO13-33 are similar and range from 4.3 to 10.4‰ in CO13-40 and 6.5 to 8.8‰ in
16 583 CO13-33. Pentlandite2 in CO13-55 has lower values (1.9 to 5.7‰). The positive $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values
17 584 suggest that sulfur isotope compositions were not significantly affected by seafloor BSR. In
18 585 addition, the heterogeneous $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values suggest that diffusion rates were too slow to affect
19 586 sulfur isotope compositions. Peak metamorphic temperatures were ~414 to 470 °C and high-
20 587 pressure metamorphism is estimated to have occurred from ~55 to 34 Ma (Ravna et al., 2010,
21 588 Vitale Brovarone et al., 2011, 2013). At such temperatures and time scale, diffusion of sulfur
22 589 is predicted to be on the scale of >100 μm (Watson et al., 2009), inconsistent with the
23 590 observed heterogeneous $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values in the studied sulfides except pyrites in the talc schist
24 591 sample, CO14-04, which have homogeneous S isotope compositions. However, sharp
25 592 gradients in Co and Ni concentrations recorded in pyrite grains (Fig. 8b–f), and the
26 593 metasomatic nature of this sample, suggest that fluid flow and mass transport and re-
27 594 equilibration via dissolution-precipitation reactions are likely to prevail and solid state
28 595 diffusion is inferred to be limited (e.g. Putnis, 2002; Putnis and Austrheim 2009). Therefore,
29 596 the process of HSR during seafloor alteration is the preferred control on sulfur isotope ratios
30 597 in prograde sulfides.
31 598

598 The preservation of sulfur isotope compositions derived from seafloor sulfate reduction is
48 599 consistent with the conclusions of Alt et al. (2012a) who compared high-pressure
49 600 serpentinites from the Voltri Massif and seafloor serpentinite considered unaffected by
50 601 metamorphism from Val Graveglia, and found no difference in content or isotopic
51 602 composition of sulfur during subduction on a sample scale. Bulk $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values recorded by
52 603 high-pressure serpentinites from 6.0 to 14.3‰ were suggested to reflect the retention of
53 604
54 605

604 sulfur from seafloor serpentinisation, where seafloor sulfur isotope compositions range from
605 -4 to 9.8‰.

606 **6.5. Sulfides associated with exhumation**

607 The similar range of heterogeneous $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values of prograde sulfides and sulfides
608 associated with the onset of exhumation in serpentinites CO13-33 and CO13-55 is consistent
609 with the interpretation of early HSR as the dominant control on sulfur isotope compositions,
610 and the formation of exhumation-related sulfides from this sulfur reservoir. However, the
611 homogeneity of $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values in talc schist sample CO14-04, and higher $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values of up to
612 8.0‰ and 15.5‰ in sulfides associated with advanced stages of exhumation in the
613 serpentinite sample CO13-55 and chlorite schist CO14-03, respectively, suggest that
614 subduction related fluids may have influenced the sulfur isotope composition of these late
615 sulfides.

616 Late sulfide and oxide mineral assemblages associated with exhumation in the Capu
617 Corvoli samples, CO14-03 and CO14-04 are high variance, and are therefore fluid buffered
618 with respect to sulfur. The presence of the mineral assemblage magnetite + pyrite is attributed
619 to increased $a\text{S}_2$ and $a\text{O}_2$ (Evans et al., 2017), relative to the Serra di Pigno samples, reflecting
620 more oxidising conditions in the hybrid environment. $\Delta_{\text{pyrite-SO}_2}$ and $\Delta_{\text{pyrite-SO}_4^{2-}}$ fractionation
621 was calculated for the open and closed system models (Fig. 10c–f) using fractionation values
622 from Ohmoto and Rye (1979). It is evident that there is greater fractionation between pyrite
623 and SO_4 , at ~23‰ (Fig. 10e, f), compared to pyrite and H_2S . Given the relatively texturally
624 late setting of pyrite grains in the hybrid samples (section 3.2), with the exception of the early
625 assemblage in CO14-04 (see 6.1.1), it is inferred that the hybrid samples record fluid
626 buffering during exhumation and that during this time fluid:rock isotope fractionation could
627 have been significant at a minimum temperature of 250 °C, the temperature at which
628 fractionation was calculated.

629 *6.5.1. The source of heterogeneous $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values in the chlorite schist.*

630 The sulfur isotope composition of pyrites in CO14-03, with $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values of up to 15.5‰,
631 are higher than serpentinite $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values, and are consistent with those of pyrites in Zermatt-
632 Saas mafic eclogite samples associated with retrogression to blueschist facies (10.0–16.5‰,
633 Evans et al., 2014, Fig. 11). The heterogeneity of the pyrites in CO14-03 likely reflects the
634 mixing of fluids from different sources, as expected for a hybridised ultramafic/mafic rock.

635 Metasomatism and hybridisation of the rock either during seafloor alteration and/or prograde
636 metamorphism, could have contributed sulfur with high $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values to the rock (e.g. Alt and
637 Shanks, 2003). Fluid mixing is possibly facilitated during deformation via fluid migration to
638 low pressure zones (e.g., Evans et al., 2014). The similarity of some pyrite sulfur isotope
639 compositions to those of retrogressed pyrites from mafic samples from the Zermatt-Saas
640 provides additional evidence that metasomatic alteration and mixing with the metagabbro
641 contributed oxidised sulfur-bearing fluids.

642 Fluid transport of sulfur on a sample scale or greater in CO14-03 is consistent with the
643 observed high variance mineral assemblage, where the only late opaque minerals observed
644 are large magnetite grains and pyrite, which replace prograde matrix minerals such as
645 chlorite. The shift from magnetite to pyrite growth during late retrogression associated with
646 exhumation records an increase in sulfur activity during this stage. The increase in sulfur
647 activity probably occurred on relatively short time scales, given the aggregate nature of the
648 pyrites in CO14-03, where such a texture suggests rapid growth and inadequate time to form
649 well-defined crystal faces. Large clusters of aggregate pyrites record the highest $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values,
650 some of which surround magnetite grains (Fig. 2j). Rapid pyrite growth is likely consistent
651 with a sudden influx of a sulfur-rich and, given the high $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values, oxidised fluid at the
652 onset of exhumation. We speculate that sulfate in solution was reduced to H_2S via interaction
653 of sulfate bearing fluids with a pre-existing Fe^{2+} -bearing silicate, whereby Fe^{2+} was the
654 electron donor for sulfate reduction. Fe^{2+} -bearing chlorite, a phase attributed to stability prior
655 to fluid infiltration at the onset of exhumation, is a plausible candidate. The resultant
656 oxidation from Fe^{2+} to Fe^{3+} within chlorite is consistent with the growth of magnetite at this
657 stage. The reaction of H_2S with Fe^{3+} from magnetite, where ferric iron is considered to react
658 faster than ferrous iron with H_2S (Canfield et al., 1992; Ono et al., 2012), may have triggered
659 the rapid growth of pyrite, hence the observed clusters around magnetite.

660 6.5.2. *The source of homogeneous $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values in the talc schist.*

661 CO14-04 pyrites record relatively low (4–5‰) and homogeneous $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values. The
662 transition from prograde metamorphism to exhumation is associated with a small but
663 significant shift to lower $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values in the pyrites. The shift from low to high variance
664 sulfide mineral assemblages associated with this transition records a switch from a rock
665 buffered or closed system to fluid buffered or open system with respect to sulfur. The low
666 variance assemblage associated with prograde metamorphism is consistent with rock

667 buffering with H₂S or HS⁻ in solution. Therefore, in the talc schist sample, it is possible that
668 the infiltration of external fluids homogenised pre-existing heterogeneous δ³⁴S values that
669 were associated with pre-exhumation stages of metamorphism.

670 **6.6. Implications for sulfur cycling**

671 The *in-situ* δ³⁴S data presented here is consistent with the range of whole rock δ³⁴S
672 values presented in Alt et al. (2012a) from the Voltri Massif in the Ligurian Alps, where the
673 pre-subduction setting is similar to that of the samples studied here (Fig. 11). Alt et al. (2012)
674 proposed that the sulfur isotope compositions of serpentinites remained unaltered during
675 subduction. The *in-situ* technique, however, allows the evolution of δ³⁴S values to be
676 assessed as a function of the stage of sulfide growth, and provides an insight into fluid:rock
677 interaction. The observation that all sulfides record δ³⁴S values in between those of the
678 mantle and Jurassic seawater-derived sulfate, suggests that sulfides record mixing between
679 these two end members (Fig. 11). The textural preservation of sulfides with inclusions of
680 antigorite, a high-pressure serpentine polymorph, and the overprinting of late antigorite
681 generations by retrograde sulfides suggest sulfur redistribution on a millimetre scale during
682 subduction. Spatially heterogeneous sulfur isotope compositions, similar chemical
683 compositions of sulfides between early and late sulfides (section 5.1), and low variance
684 mineral assemblages, is consistent with a closed system, and only local scale redistribution of
685 sulfur with low fluid:rock ratios.

686 Sulfides associated with advanced stages of exhumation in serpentinite proximal to
687 metagabbro and calcareous schist (CO13-55), record a significant shift towards higher δ³⁴S
688 values, and record the presence of fluids with the ability to carry oxidised sulfur (SO₂ or
689 SO₄²⁻) at depth within subduction zones. Fluids bearing oxidised sulfur were most likely
690 devolatilised from lithologies other than serpentinites during subduction, because the sulfide
691 mineral assemblages in the Serra di Pigno serpentinites are consistent with reduced sulfur in
692 solution.

693 The hybrid samples are fluid buffered on at least the scale of the pyrites (0.1 to 1cm)
694 and the homogeneity of the early and late S isotope compositions of pyrite in CO14-04
695 suggests that fluids and therefore sulfur may have been sourced externally, consistent with
696 the metasomatic alteration of this sample. The high variance mineral assemblage of CO14-03
697 is associated with heterogeneous δ³⁴S values, unlike the homogeneous values in CO14-04.

698 One possibility is that sulfur in this rock derived from both mafic and ultramafic sources,
699 consistent with the hybrid nature of this sample.

700 The composition of fluids released during dehydration of serpentinites are poorly
701 constrained, however a fluid inclusion study in high-pressure serpentinites from Cima di
702 Gagnone, Swiss Alps, suggests the release of Cl-bearing fluids during the dehydration
703 reactions of chrysotile, and antigorite + brucite (Scambelluri et al., 2004a; Scambelluri et al.,
704 2004b; Kodolányi and Pettke, 2011; Scambelluri et al., 2015). On the basis of the presence of
705 sulfides in the fluid inclusions, sulfur in such fluids is proposed to be hosted by a reduced
706 species (Scambelluri et al., 2015). On the other hand, the low ferric iron contents and high Fe
707 isotopic values of serpentinites have been suggested to record the devolatilisation of sulfate-
708 bearing fluids during subduction (Debret et al., 2016), consistent with the presence of sulfate
709 in seafloor serpentine minerals (Debret et al., 2017). In this study, on the basis of mineral
710 assemblages in the Serra di Pigno serpentinites, the reduced species H_2S or HS^- are inferred
711 to be in solution during subduction.

712 **7. Conclusions**

713 *In-situ* sulfur isotope data, in combination with textural and trace element
714 compositions provides insights into the processes, evolution of the redox state and source of
715 sulfur in serpentinites and hybrid mafic/ultramafic rocks through the subduction cycle. High
716 $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values were recorded in all sulfides (1.9–15.5‰), where the simplest explanation for this
717 observation is the early fixation and retention of oxidised sulfur from seafloor alteration in
718 the serpentinites. This explanation is consistent with heterogeneous values, low variance
719 mineral assemblage and low degrees of fluid:rock interaction in most serpentinite samples,
720 with the exception of a serpentinite sample proximal to metagabbro and calcareous schist,
721 where there is a marked shift towards higher $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values in pentlandite grains associated with
722 late exhumation. Therefore, in the studied serpentinites, sulfur is redistributed only on a local
723 mm to cm scale throughout the subduction cycle, consistent with the conclusions of previous
724 sulfur isotope studies (e.g., Alt et al., 2012a). Infiltration of slab derived fluids during
725 exhumation affected the sulfur mineral assemblages and sulfur isotope compositions in
726 hybrid samples. Hybridisation of mafic/ultramafic rocks appears to be dominated by fluid-
727 buffered assemblages with high sulfur activities, suggesting mobilisation of oxidised sulfur
728 during ‘mixing’ of these lithologies on a scale greater than a thin-section sized sample.

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Figure Captions

Figure 1: (a) map showing the locations and P-T conditions of the field areas Serra di Pigno and Capu Corvoli on Cap Corse, Corsica (redrawn from Brovarone et al., 2011, 2013). Abbreviations correspond to the name of the units; Mm: Monte Maggiore peridotite unit, Ce: Centuri continental slice, Ma: Macinaggio flysch, Fa: Farinole continental slice, Ne: Nebbio unit; Te: Tenda unit. (b) map of Serra di Pigno sample localities. (c) map of Capu Corvoli sample localities (adapted from Lahondère, 1992). MB = metabasalt, CS = calcareous schist, H = hybrid, MG = metagabbro. (d) Field photo showing the juxtaposition of lithologies at Serra di Pigno. (e) Field photo of the contact between metagabbro and chlorite schist at Capu Corvoli.

Figure 2: microphotographs illustrating key textures, bse = backscattered electron, rfl = reflected light and xpl = cross-polarised light image. **Serra di Pigno serpentinite samples:** (a) rfl: pentlandite grain in CO13-40 with early antigorite inclusions (atg1) replacement by atg2. (b) rfl: pentlandite (pn1) in CO13-33 aligned with atg1 foliation. (c) rfl: pn2 overprints early Cr- rich spinel grains in CO13-33. (d) rfl: pn3 grains in CO13-33 cross-cut late antigorite and associated with magnetite (mt2) (e) bse: pn1 cross-cut by atg3 in CO13-55 (f) xpl: pn2 associated with atg2 in CO13-55 (g) rfl: pn2 associated with atg2 in CO13-55 (h) xpl: euhedral grain of pn3 associated with late atg3 veins in CO13-55. **Capu Corvoli hybrid samples:** (i) rfl: pyrite grains within matrix in chlorite schist CO14-03. (j) pyrite rims on magnetite, and pyrite connected to the matrix by fractures in magnetite in chlorite schist CO14-03. (k) rfl: py1 grains in talc schist CO14-04 with inclusions of chromite and an iron hydroxide rim, which contains inclusions of po. (l) xpl: py2 grains with a talc2 rim in talc schist CO14-04 (xpl).

Figure 3: Histograms of $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values in sulfides for (a) CO13-40, (b) CO13-33, (c) CO13-55, (d) CO14-03 and (e) CO14-04. Red/no lines = sulfide grains related to prograde and peak metamorphism. Blue/horizontal lines = sulfide grains related to early exhumation. Green/diagonal lines = sulfide grains related to late exhumation.

Figure 4: CO13-40. Reflected light images of pentlandite grains (a) s1 in area 3, (b) s8 in area 3, (c) s2 in area 1, (d) s9 + repeated analysis (r) in area 3 and (e) s3 in area 3. (f) NanoSIMS map of grain s3 in area 3, circle indicates point of SIMS analysis. All values are

$\delta^{34}\text{S}$ (‰) unless otherwise indicated. **Figure 1:** CO13-33. Reflected light images of pentlandite grains (a) Pn1 grain s14 in area 3, (b) Pn2 grain s4 in area 2, (c) Pn2 grain s3 in area 2, (d) Pn3 grain s10 in area 2 and (e) Pn3 grain s10 in area 3. (f) Co map (wt%) of a pn2 grain. All values are $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ (‰).

Figure 5: CO13-33. Reflected light images of pentlandite grains (a) Pn1 grain s14 in area 3, (b) Pn2 grain s4 in area 2, (c) Pn2 grain s3 in area 2, (d) Pn3 grain s10 in area 2 and (e) Pn3 grain s10 in area 3. (f) Co map (wt%) of a pn2 grain. All values are $\delta^{34}\text{S}$.

Figure 6: CO13-55 pentlandite. (a) bse image of Pn2 grain s2 in area 3. (b) Co map (wt%) of Pn2 grain s1 in area 3. (c) bse image of Pn2 grain s1 in area 2. (d) bse image of Pn3 grain s2 in area 3. (e) bse image of Pn4 grain s3 in area 1. (f) bse image of Pn4 grain s1 in area 1. All values are $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ (‰).

Figure 7: CO14-03. Reflected light images of gold coated (a) matrix grain within 1mm of magnetite, area 1 analyses 1-8. (b) matrix grain area 2 analyses 9-13 (c) matrix grain area 3 within 1mm of magnetite analyses 9–11. (d) large cluster of pyrite aggregates in matrix area 2 1–8. (e) large cluster of pyrite grains on rim of large magnetite, area 3 analyses 1–11. All values are $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ (‰).

Figure 8: (a) reflected light image of matrix pyrite grain in CO14-03, area 1 analyses 1-8 for matrix pyrite, the same grain is shown in images b-c; (b) EPMA derived trace element map of Co in pyrite grain in CO14-03; (c) EPMA derived trace element map of Ni; (d) reflected light image of py2 grain s1 in area 1 in CO14-04; the same grain is shown in images e-f; (e) EPMA derived trace element map of Co in pyrite grain in CO14-04 (f) EPMA derived trace element map of Ni in pyrite grain in CO14-04; (g) Ni (wt%) plotted against $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ in CO14-03 and CO14-04; (h) Co (wt%) plotted against $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ in CO14-04. The values in b–c and e–f are $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ (‰). Sample CO14-03 = orange circles and sample CO14-04 = yellow diamonds in g–h.

Figure 9: CO14-04. Reflected light images of gold coated py1 grains (a) s2 in area 2, (b) s3 in area 2, (c) s1 in area 3, (d) s2 in area 3 and py2 grains in (e) s1 in area 1 and (f) s1 in area 2. All values are $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ (‰).

Figure 10: Fractionation calculation plots of $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ and progression of the reactions mantle (m) pyrrhotite-H₂S, mantle pentlandite-H₂S, hydrothermally altered and recrystallized (r) pyrrhotite-H₂S, hydrothermally altered and recrystallised (r) pentlandite-H₂S, and hydrothermal pyrite-H₂S for (a) a closed system and (b) open system (Rayleigh) fractionation, between $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ and progression of the reactions mantle (m) pyrrhotite-SO₂,

mantle pentlandite-SO₂ and hydrothermal pyrite-SO₂ for (c) a closed system and (d) an open system (Rayleigh), and between $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ and progression of the reactions mantle (m) pyrrhotite-SO₄²⁻, mantle pentlandite-SO₄²⁻ and hydrothermal pyrite-SO₄²⁻ for (c) a closed system and (d) an open system (Rayleigh), and between $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ and progression of the reactions mantle (m) pyrrhotite-SO₄²⁻, mantle pentlandite-SO₄²⁻ and hydrothermal pyrite-SO₄²⁻ for (e) a closed system and (f) an open system (Rayleigh).

Figure 11: Comparison of $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values from this study to those from other whole rock and *in-situ* studies.

Figure 1
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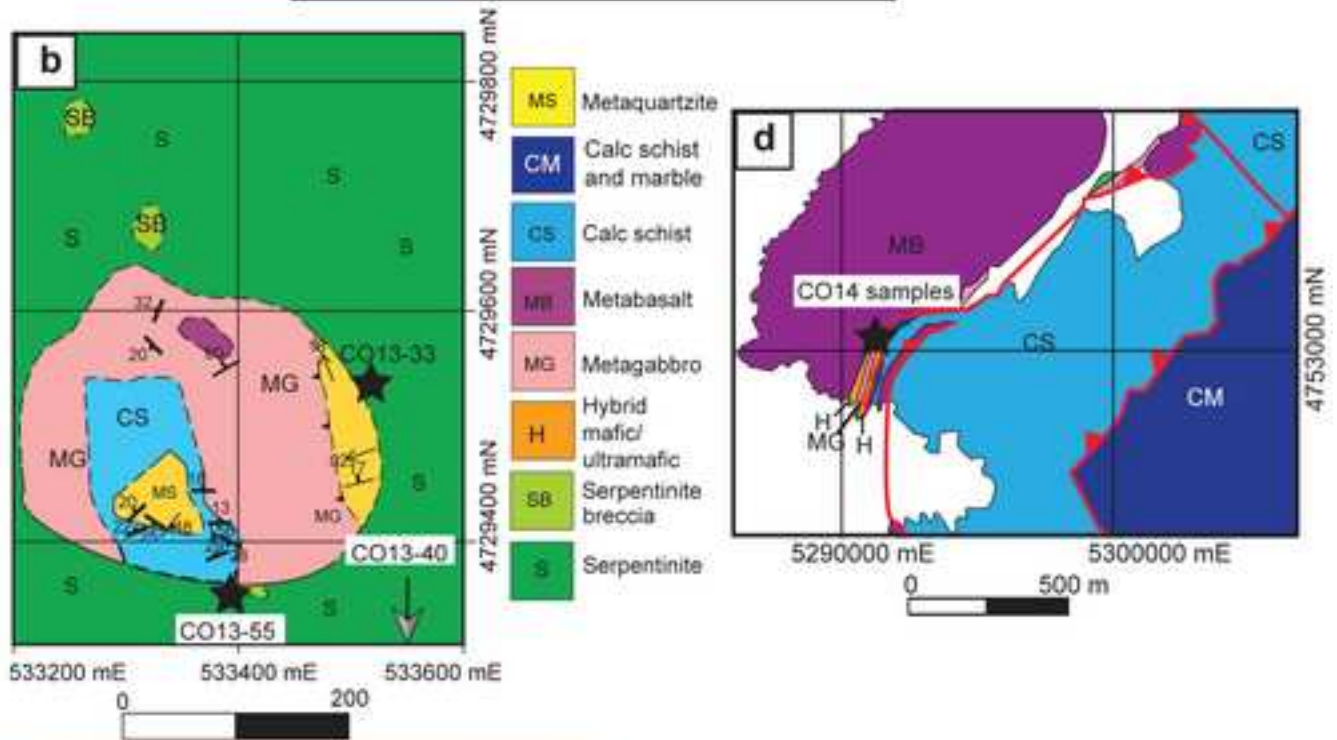
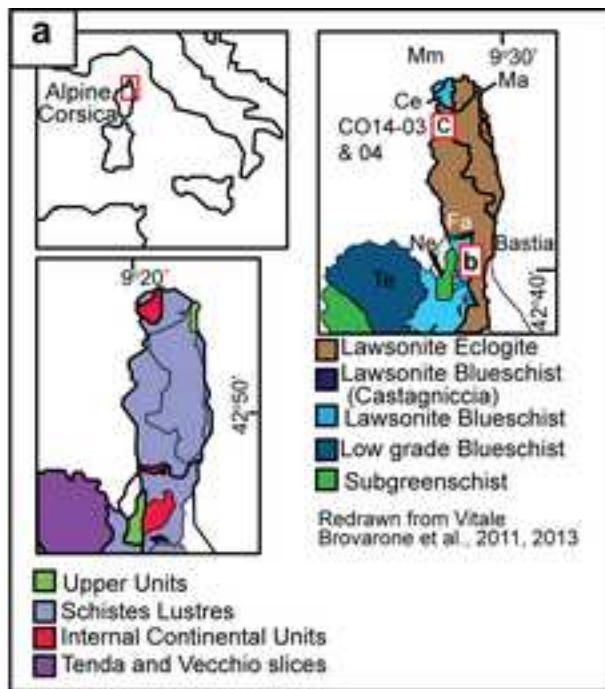


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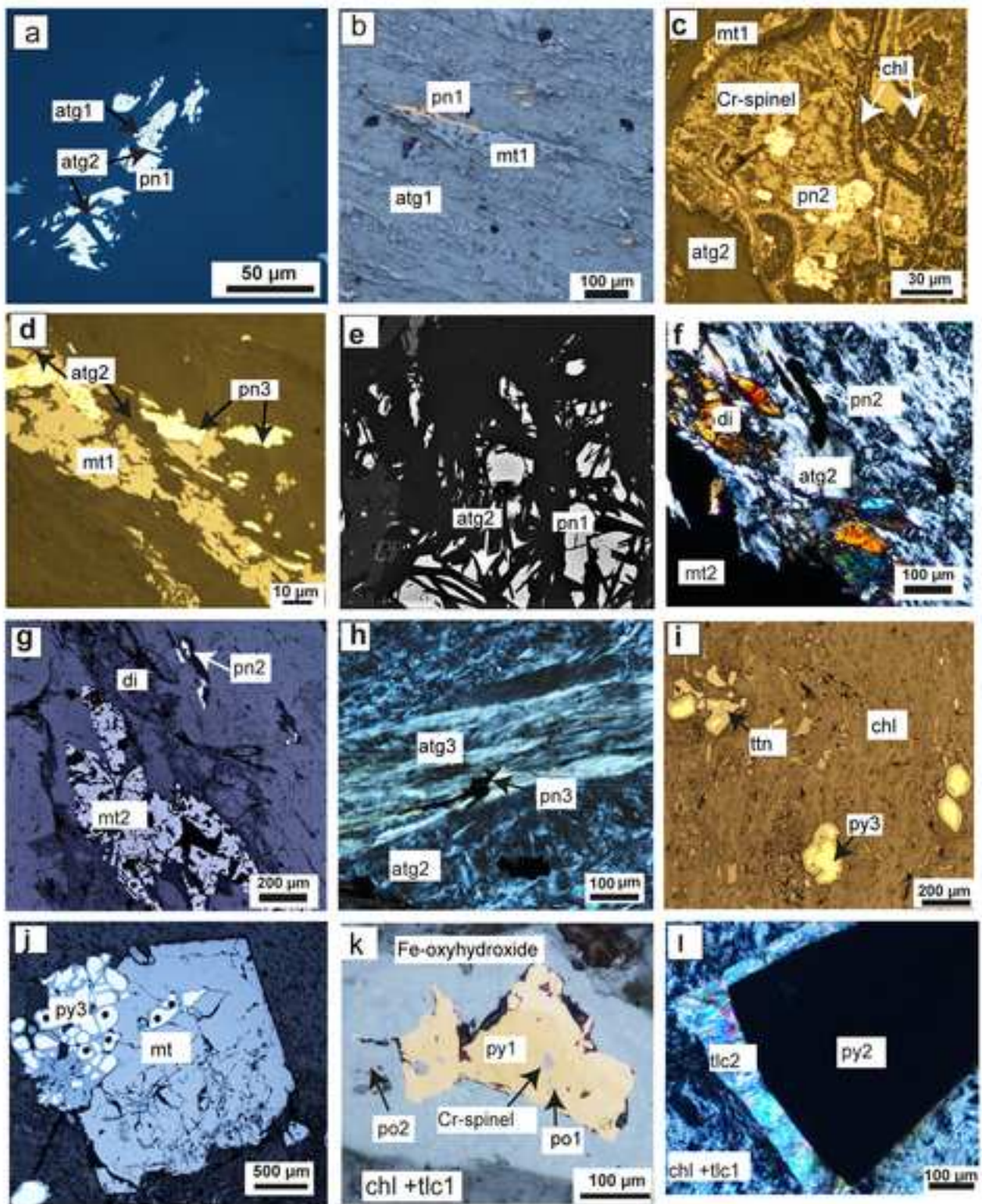


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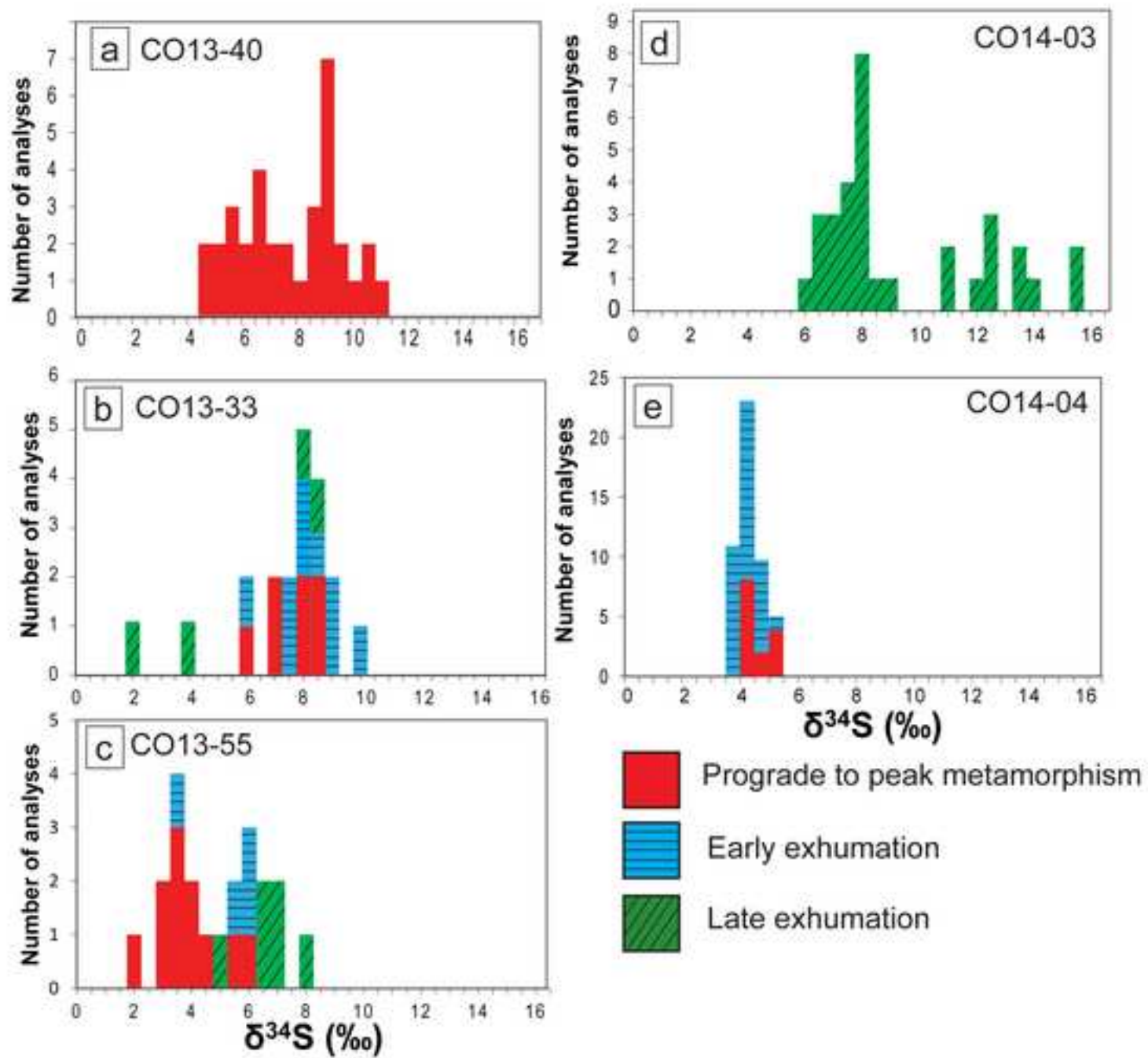


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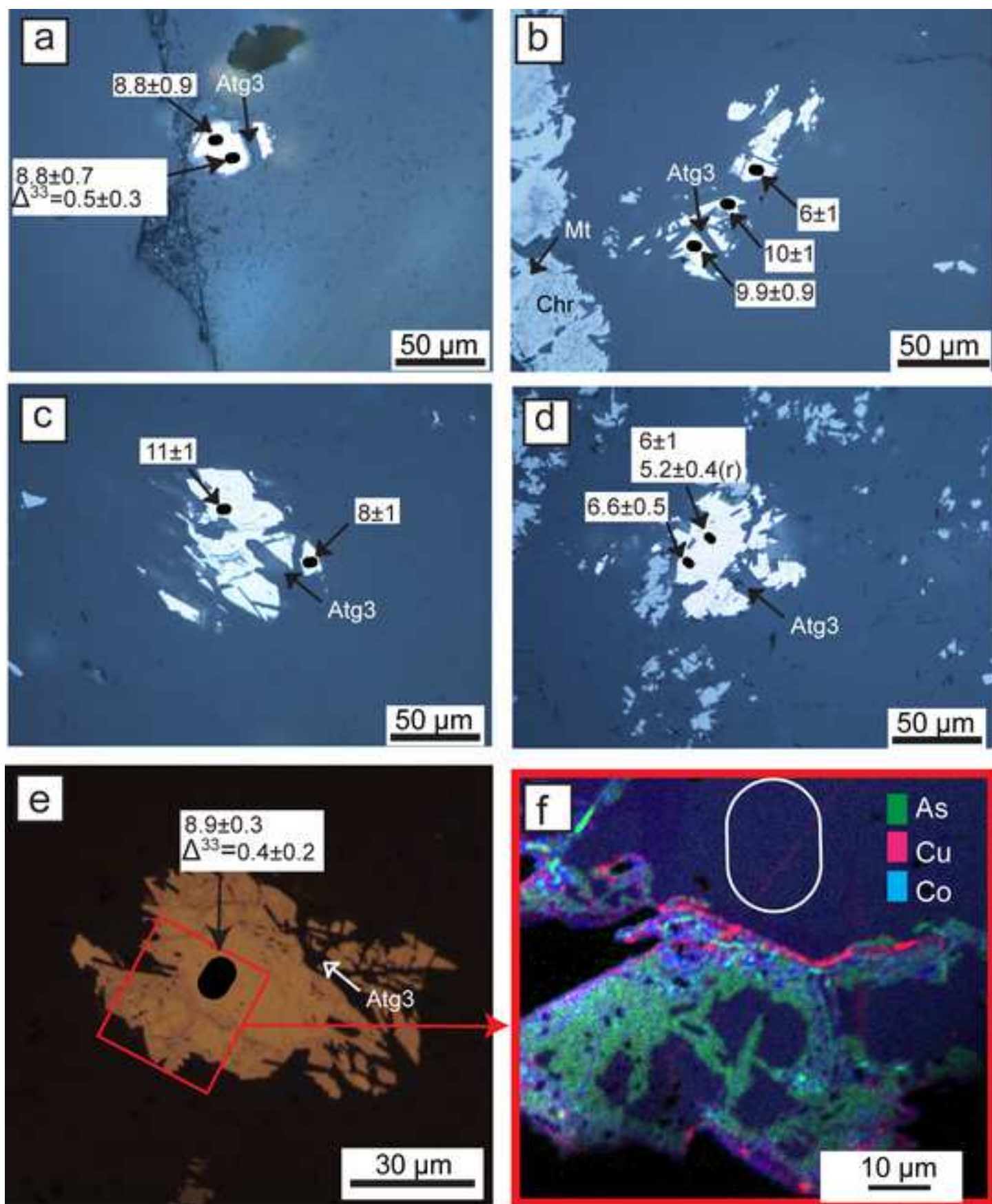


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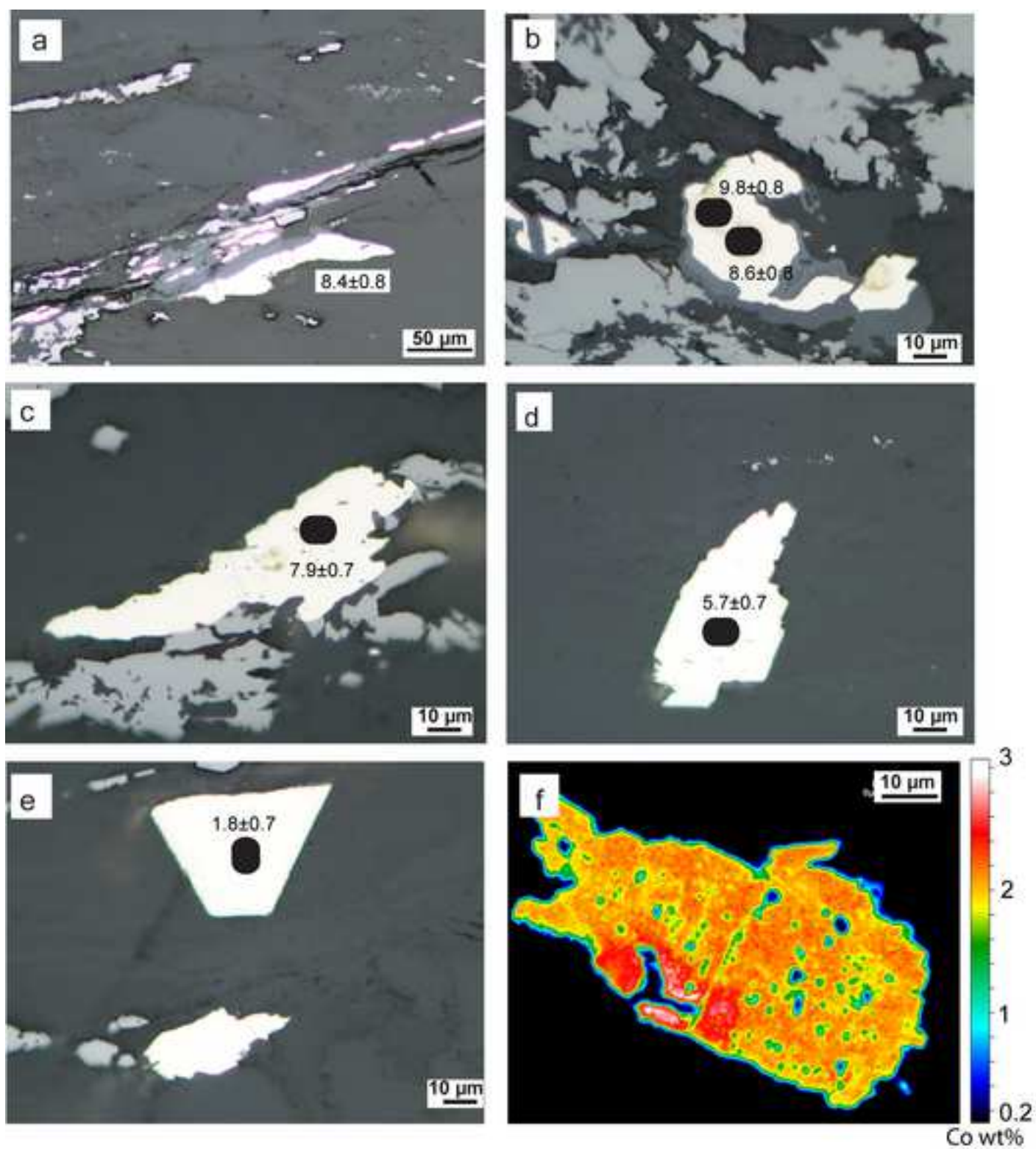


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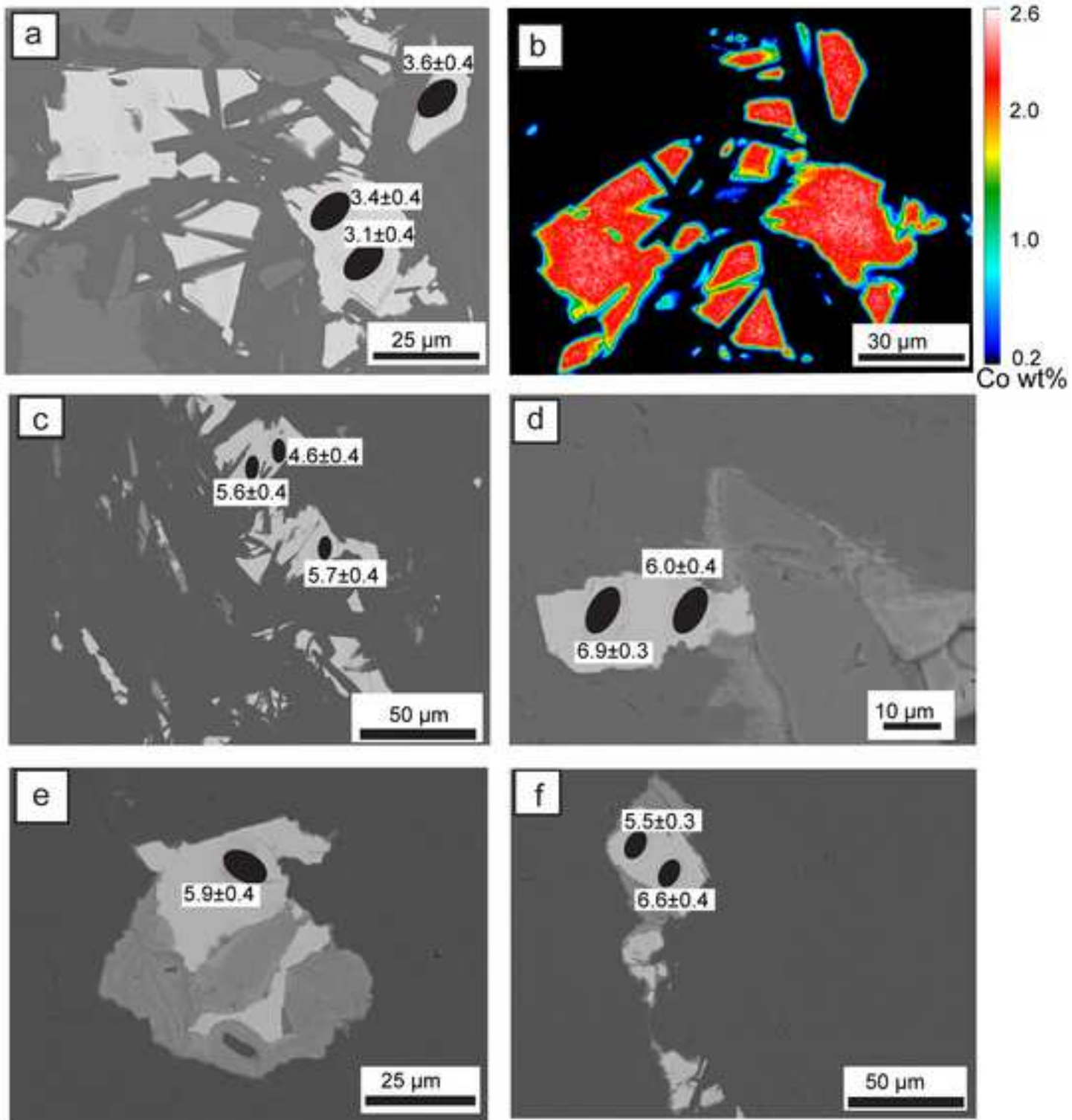


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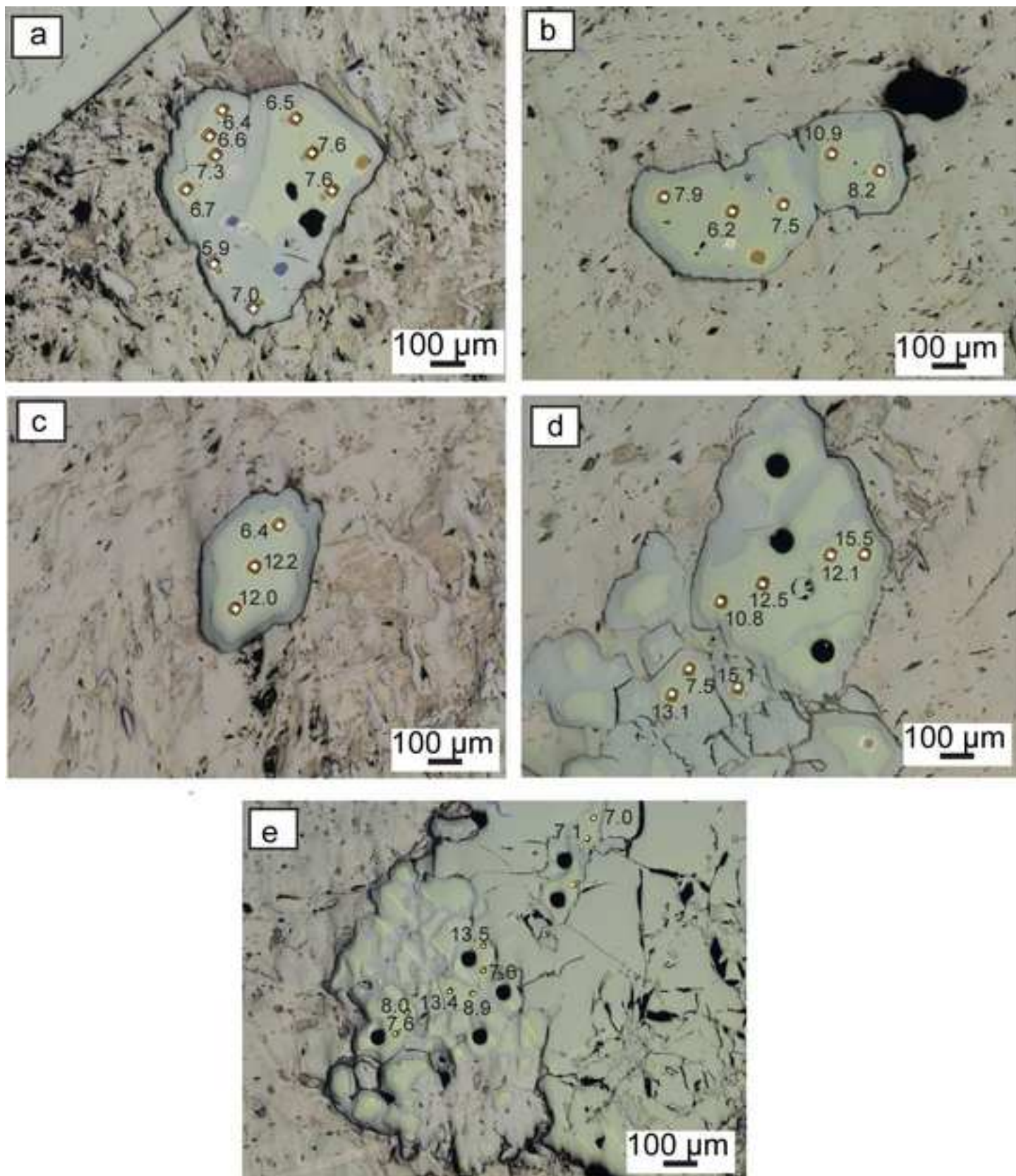


Figure 8

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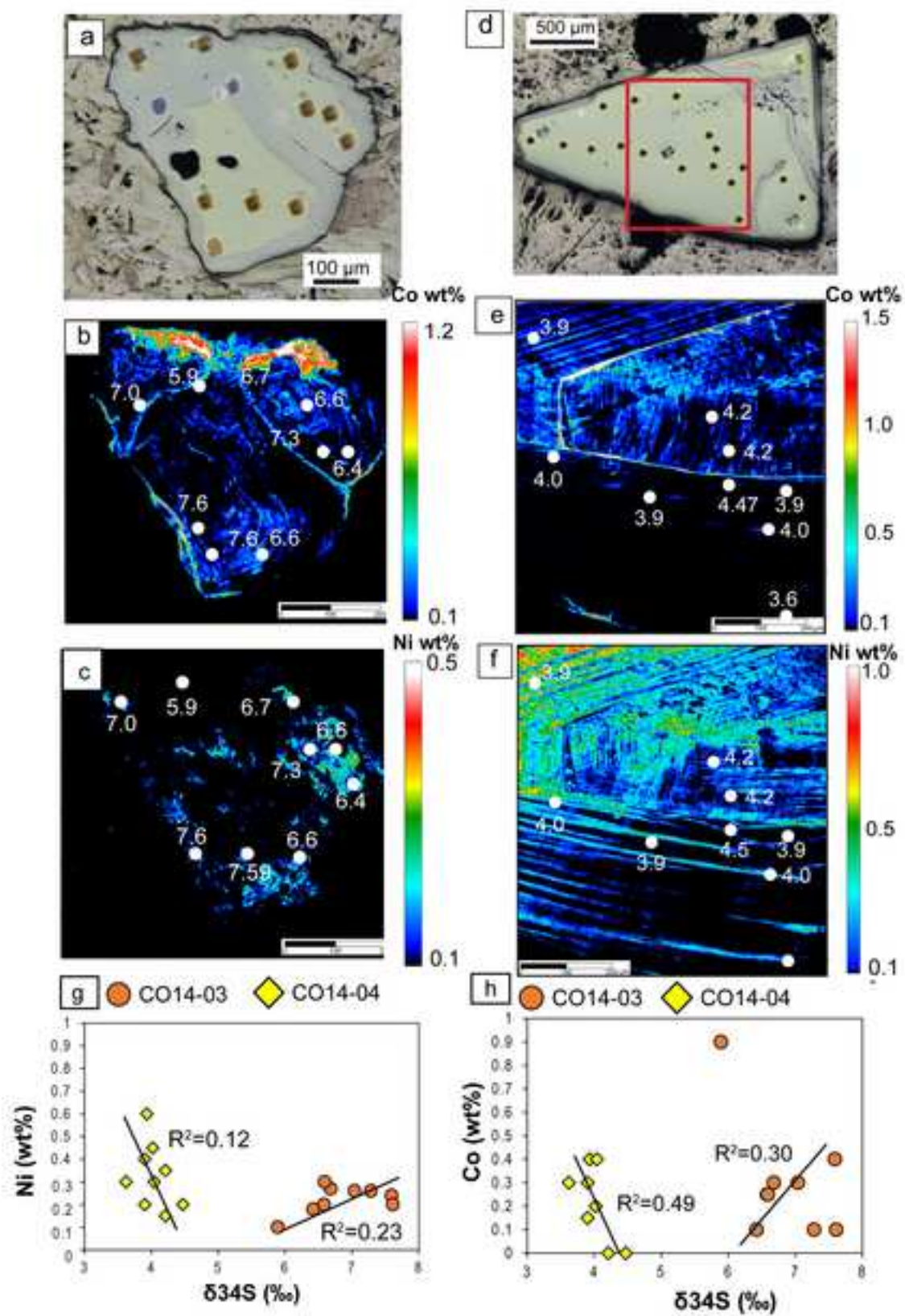


Figure 10

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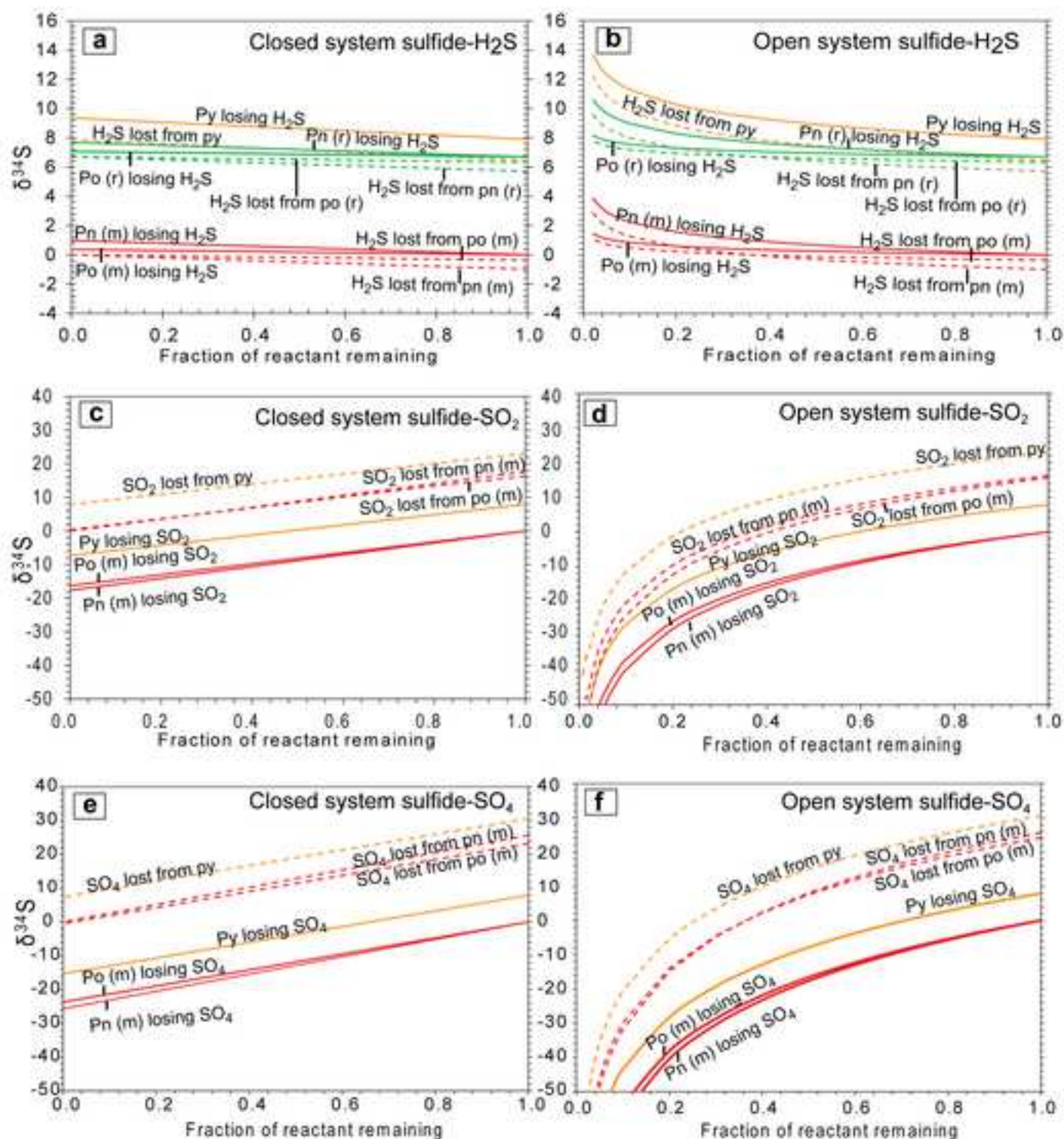


Table 1[Click here to download Table: Table 1.docx](#)**Table 1:** EPMA data for sulfides. Number in brackets is two standard deviations. b.d.l indicates the concentration is below detection

Sample	CO13-40 Pn1 (n=10)	CO13-33 Pn1 (n=6)	CO13-33 Pn2(n=14)	CO13-33 Pn3(n=10)	CO13-55 Pn1(n=9)	CO13-55 Pn2(n=8)	CO13-55 Pn3(n=13)	CO14-03 Py3(n=38)	CO14-04 Py1(n=21)	CO14-04 Py2(n=31)
wt%										
Si	n.d.	0.02(1)	0.04(3)	0.03(1)	0.05(3)	0.1(1)	0.04(4)	b.d.l	b.d.l	b.d.l
Mg	n.d.	0.09(9)	0.10(9)	0.05(4)	0.08(7)	0.07(4)	0.06(3)	b.d.l	b.d.l	b.d.l
Ni	34(2)	37.2(4)	37.1(3)	37.2(5)	37.5(8)	36(2)	37(1)	b.d.l	0.2(2)	0.2(2)
Fe	28.4(7)	25.3(4)	26.6(3)	26.1(5)	25.5(9)	26(1)	26(2)	45.3(5)	46.8(2)	46.8(4)
Co	1.8(2)	2.40(6)	2.32(5)	2.37(8)	2.3(2)	2.2(2)	2.3(2)	1.0(4)	0.1(3)	0.1(3)
S	35(2)	33.1(5)	33.3(3)	33.2(4)	33.4(2)	33.2(5)	33.3(2)	53.3(2)	53.9(3)	53.9(3)
Cu	n.d.	0.01(1)	0.1(2)	0.01(1)	0.01(1)	0.010(3)	0.01(1)	b.d.l	b.d.l	b.d.l
Se	n.d.	0.15(1)	0.01(1)	0.14(2)	0.16(1)	0.16(1)	0.15(2)	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
Bi	n.d.	0.12(1)	0.13(1)	0.13(1)	0.13(1)	0.120(4)	0.13(1)	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
As	n.d.	0.24(1)	0.22(2)	0.23(1)	0.27(4)	0.27(2)	0.25(3)	b.d.l	b.d.l	b.d.l
Sb	n.d.	0.02(1)	0.01(1)	0.01(1)	0.02(1)	0.02(2)	0.02(1)	0.02(1)	0.02(1)	0.01(1)
TOTAL	98.9(7)	99(1)	99.2(5)	99.7(5)	99.5(7)	98.6(7)	98.7(5)	100.4(3)	101.1(3)	101.1(3)
mol%										
Ni	26.9(8)	29.27(7)	29.1(2)	29.1(3)	29.3(6)	28(1)	29(1)	-	0.1(1)	0.1(1)
Fe	23.3(6)	21.0(2)	21.1(2)	21.4(5)	20.9(7)	22(1)	21(1)	32.5(3)	33.2(1)	33.2(3)
Co	1.3	1.88(5)	1.81(4)	1.85(6)	1.8(1)	1.7(1)	1.8(2)	0.7(3)	0.1(2)	0.1(1)
S	49(1)	47.8(2)	47.9(2)	47.5(3)	47.8(2)	47.9(3)	47.9(2)	66.79(9)	66.6(2)	66.6(2)
S/Fe+Ni+Co	0.94(5)	0.92(1)	0.92(1)	0.91(1)	0.92(1)	0.92(1)	0.92(1)	2.011(8)	2.2(2)	2.2(3)

Table 2

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Table 1: Average $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ sulfur isotope analyses of individual pentlandite (pn) and pyrite (py) grains. ‘Stage’ corresponds to the metamorphic stage of the sulphide grain growth; P = prograde to peak metamorphism, EE = Early Exhumation, LE = Late Exhumation. The full analytical results are reported in Appendix B. N.a. = not applicable for single analyses of grains.

Grain	Sulfide	Average $\delta^{34}\text{S}_{\text{VCDT}}$ (‰)	External 2σ (‰)	# Analyses	Av 2σ on single grain (‰)	Stage
CO13-40						
CO13-40-a1-s1	Pn1	7.23	1.22	3	0.98	P
CO13-40-a1-s2	Pn1	9.33	2.33	2	1.03	P
CO13-40-a1-s3	Pn1	8.80	n.a.	1	0.93	P
CO13-40-a1-s4	Pn1	4.27	n.a.	1	1.10	P
CO13-40-a2-s1	Pn1	7.57	n.a.	1	0.31	P
CO13-40-a2-s2	Pn1	5.39	n.a.	1	0.37	P
CO13-40-a2-s3	Pn1	6.32	0.35	2	0.46	P
CO13-40-a3-s1	Pn1	6.72	1.04	3	0.36	P
CO13-40-a3-s2	Pn1	5.93	0.99	2	0.46	P
CO13-40-a3-s3	Pn1	8.85	n.a.	1	0.32	P
CO13-40-a3-s4	Pn1	10.43	n.a.	1	0.90	P
CO13-40-a3-s5	Pn1	6.77	n.a.	1	1.14	P
CO13-40-a3-s6	Pn1	6.21	n.a.	1	1.09	P
CO13-40-a3-s8	Pn1	8.73	2.15	3	0.96	P
CO13-40-a3-s9	Pn1	8.81	0.04	2	0.81	P
CO13-40-a3-s10	Pn1	9.36	n.a.	1	0.86	P
CO13-40-a3-13	Pn1	8.83	n.a.	1	0.78	P
CO13-40-a3-14	Pn1	5.03	n.a.	1	0.79	P
CO13-40-a3-15	Pn1	4.39	n.a.	1	0.94	P
CO13-40-a3-16	Pn1	8.03	n.a.	1	0.82	P
CO13-33						
CO13-33-a2-s2	Pn2	5.50	n.a.	1	0.76	EE
CO13-33-a2-s3	Pn2	7.88	n.a.	1	0.74	EE
CO13-33-a2-s4	Pn2	9.19	0.81	2	0.81	EE
CO13-33-a2-s5	Pn3	3.89	n.a.	1	0.90	LE
CO13-33-a2-s6	Pn3	7.27	n.a.	1	0.75	LE
CO13-33-a2-s7	Pn3	8.42	n.a.	1	0.72	LE
CO13-33-a2-s8	Pn3	8.20	n.a.	1	0.82	LE
CO13-33-a2-s9	Pn2	7.91	n.a.	1	0.76	EE
CO13-33-a3-s1	Pn1	5.47	n.a.	1	0.78	P
CO13-33-a3-s2	Pn1	8.82	n.a.	1	0.79	P
CO13-33-a3-s4	Pn2	6.54	n.a.	1	0.73	EE
CO13-33-a3-s6	Pn2	7.54	n.a.	1	0.83	EE
CO13-33-a3-s7	Pn2	7.56	n.a.	1	0.74	EE
CO13-33-a3-s10	Pn3	1.75	n.a.	1	0.74	LE
CO13-33-a3-s13	Pn1	6.53	n.a.	1	0.74	P
CO13-33-a3-s14	Pn1	8.40	n.a.	1	0.75	P
CO13-33-a3-s15	Pn2	7.78	n.a.	1	0.76	EE
CO13-55						
CO13-55-a1-s1	Pn3	6.02	0.75	2	0.35	LE
CO13-55-a1-s2	Pn1	5.18	1.66	2	0.36	P
CO13-55-a1-s3	Pn3	5.91	n.a.	1	0.42	LE
CO13-55-a2-s1	Pn1	4.97	0.83	4	0.41	P
CO13-55-a2-s2	Pn2	3.25	0.20	2	0.38	EE
CO13-55-a2-s3	Pn2	5.90	0.82	2	0.39	EE
CO13-55-a3-s1	Pn3	7.44	0.36	2	0.36	LE
CO13-55-a3-s2	Pn1	3.13	0.22	3	0.41	P
CO13-55-a3-s2b	Pn1	2.95	n.a.	1	0.50	P
CO14-03						
CO14-03-a1-1-8	Py3	6.85	0.58	9	0.21	LE
CO14-03-a2-1-4	Py3	12.70	1.99	4	0.21	LE
CO14-03-a2-5	Py3	15.08	n.a.	1	0.21	LE
CO14-03-a2-7-8	Py3	10.30	3.93	2	0.21	LE
CO14-03-a2-9-13	Py3	8.13	1.75	5	0.21	LE
CO14-03-a3-1-2	Py3	7.79	0.29	2	0.21	LE
CO14-03-a3-3-4	Py3	11.16	3.14	2	0.21	LE
CO14-03-a3-5-6	Py3	10.54	4.20	2	0.21	LE
CO14-03-a3-7-8	Py3	7.32	0.37	2	0.21	LE
CO14-03-a3-9-11	Py3	10.17	3.26	3	0.22	LE
CO14-04						

CO14-04-a1-s1	Py2	3.96	0.20	17	0.15	EE
CO14-04-a2-s1, 1-9, 22-32	Py2	4.48	0.22	20	0.11	EE
CO14-04-a2-s2, 11-14, 21-23	Py1	4.31	0.16	7	0.11	P
CO14-04-a2-s3	Py1	5.06	0.10	1	0.10	P
CO14-04-a3-s1	Py1	5.06	0.40	3	0.10	P
CO14-04-a3-s2	Py1	5.02	n.a.	1	0.10	P

Table 1: non zero $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ sulfur isotope analyses in pentlandite (pn) and pyrite (py) grains.

Grain	Sulfide	$\Delta^{33}\text{S}_{\text{VCDT}}$ (‰)	2σ abs (‰)
CO13-40			
CO13-40 a3 s1-2	Pn1	0.52	0.30
CO13-40 a3 s3	Pn1	0.38	0.24
CO13-40 a3 s12-3	Pn1	0.67	0.50
CO13-55			
CO13-55 a2 s1-1	Pn1	0.33	0.23
CO13-55 a2 s3-1	Pn2	0.37	0.28
CO13-55 a3 s2-1	Pn1	0.38	0.23
CO13-55 a3 s2-4	Pn1	0.49	0.31
CO14-04			
CO14-04 s1 a1	Py1	0.11	0.10
CO14-04 s1 a2	Py2	-0.16	0.12
CO14-04 s1 a3	Py1	-0.17	0.15

Appendix A

[Click here to download Background dataset for online publication only: Appendix_A_S_isotope_data_reduction.pdf](#)

Appendix B

[Click here to download Background dataset for online publication only: Appendix_B_sulfide_compositions.xlsx](#)

Appendix C

[Click here to download Background dataset for online publication only: Appendix_C_S_isotope_compositions.docx](#)

Appendix D

[Click here to download Background dataset for online publication only: Appendix_D_Mann_Whitney_U_test.pdf](#)