

1 **An atmospheric source of S in Mesoarchaeon structurally-controlled gold mineralisation of the**
2 **Barberton Greenstone Belt**

3 Authors: Andrea Agangi^{1*}, Axel Hofmann², Benjamin Eickmann², Johanna Marin-Carbonne³, Steven
4 M. Reddy¹

5 ¹ Department of Applied Geology, Curtin University, Bentley, WA, Australia.

6 ² Department of Geology University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg, South Africa

7 ³ Université Lyon – UJM –Saint Etienne- Laboratoire Magma et Volcans CNRS UMR 6524-,UBP,
8 IRD – 23 rue Paul Michelon 42100 St Etienne

9 Keywords: Archaean; gold; Barberton Greenstone Belt; multiple S isotopes

10 *andrea.agangi@curtin.edu.au

11

12 **An atmospheric source of S in Mesoarchaeal structurally-controlled gold mineralisation of the**
13 **Barberton Greenstone Belt**

14 **Keywords:** Archaean, gold, Barberton Greenstone Belt, multiple S isotopes

15 **Abstract**

16 The Barberton Greenstone Belt of southern Africa hosts several Mesoarchaeal gold deposits. The
17 ores were mostly formed in greenschist facies conditions, and occur as hydrothermal alteration
18 zones around extensional faults that truncate and post-date the main compressional structures of
19 the greenstone belt. Ore deposition was accompanied by the intrusion of porphyries, which has led
20 to the hypothesis that gold may have been sourced from magmas. Because the transport of Au in
21 the hydrothermal fluids is widely believed to have involved S complexes, tracing the origin of S may
22 place strong constraints on the origin of Au. We measured multiple S isotopes in sulfide ore from
23 Sheba and Fairview mines of the Barberton Greenstone Belt to distinguish “deep” S sources (e.g.
24 magmas) from “surface” S sources (i.e. rocks of the volcano-sedimentary succession that contain S
25 processed in the atmosphere preserved as sulfide and sulfate minerals). Ion probe (SIMS) analyses of
26 pyrite from ore zones indicate mass-independent fractionation of S isotopes ($\Delta^{33}\text{S} = -0.6 - +1.0 \text{‰}$)
27 and the distribution of the analyses in the $\Delta^{33}\text{S} - \delta^{34}\text{S}$ space matches the distribution peak of
28 previously published analyses of pyrite from the entire volcano-sedimentary succession.
29 Notwithstanding that the $\text{H}_2\text{O}-\text{CO}_2$ components of the fluids may have been introduced from a deep
30 source external to the greenstone belt rocks, the fact that S bears an atmospheric signature suggests
31 the hypothesis that the source of Au should also be identified in the supracrustal succession of the
32 greenstone belt. Our findings differ from conclusions of previous studies of other Archaean shear-
33 hosted Au deposits based on mineralogical and isotopic evidence, which suggested a magmatic or
34 mantle source for Au, and imply that there is no single model that can be applied to this type of
35 mineralisation in the Archaean.

36 **1. Introduction**

37 The Palaeoarchaeal Barberton Greenstone Belt of southern Africa hosts some of the oldest
38 gold mineralisation known (Anhaeusser, 1976; de Ronde et al., 1991; Dirks et al., 2013; Dziggel et al.,
39 2010) (Fig 1). These deposits have proved to be an important source of Au since their discovery in
40 the 1880s, and have produced more than 345 tons of Au (Anhaeusser, 1976; Dirks et al., 2009) (Fig
41 1). Most deposits are hosted in greenschist facies rocks, where gold mineralisation is structurally
42 controlled and occurs along extensional faults cross-cutting the main compressional structures of
43 the greenstone belt, which extend for several tens of km along strike (Dirks et al., 2013). The ore is

44 dominated by pyrite and arsenopyrite, and gold is mostly finely dispersed in sulfides, either present
45 in the mineral structure or as sub-microscopic inclusions (“invisible gold”) (Craig et al., 1998). In this
46 kind of structurally-controlled gold deposits, the mineralising fluids are typically aqueo-carbonic and
47 have low to moderate salinity (Goldfarb et al., 2001; Mikucki and Ridley, 1993), and are interpreted
48 to originate from a deep source (Salier et al., 2005). The origin of mineralising fluids is controversial,
49 especially in Archaean deposits, and mineralogical, elemental and isotopic evidence seems to point
50 towards either metamorphic or igneous sources, or a combination of these (Hutti mine, India;
51 Rogers et al., 2013; Western Australia, Doublier et al., 2014; Wang et al., 1993). Propagation of these
52 fluids along crust-scale structures is believed to be responsible for the formation of deposits in a
53 single region over a range of depths and temperatures (from <200 to >500, and possibly $\leq 700^\circ\text{C}$)
54 (“crustal continuum model”; Barnicoat et al., 1991; Groves, 1993; Phillips and Powell, 2009; Kolb et
55 al., 2015). Deposition of Au would have occurred by reaction of the mineralising fluid with the host
56 rocks or by fluid mixing (Bateman and Hagemann, 2004; Evans et al., 2006), or vapour separation (de
57 Ronde et al., 1992; Mikucki and Ridley, 1993). The origin of S is an important aspect in the study of
58 deposits hosted in Archaean greenstone belts and other structurally controlled Au deposits, since
59 hydrosulfide complexes $[\text{Au}(\text{HS})_2^-]$ and AuHS are believed to be the main Au transporting agents
60 (Benning and Seward, 1996; Pokrovski et al., 2014; Seward, 1973; Simon et al., 1999). Therefore,
61 identifying the source of S can help constrain the origin of Au in these deposits, which has so far
62 remained elusive (Tomkins, 2013; Gaboury, 2013; Kendrick et al., 2011; Pitcairn 2006).

63 In order to distinguish deep (magmatic- or mantle-related) from sedimentary sources of
64 sulfur, multiple S isotope analyses can be used. Mass-independent fractionation of S isotopes (MIF-S)
65 is a common feature of Archaean and early Palaeoproterozoic (>2.4 Ga) sedimentary and diagenetic
66 sulfur minerals (sulfides and sulfates; Ono et al., 2003). This S isotope signature is believed to
67 originate from ultraviolet radiation-induced reactions of S gas species (e.g. SO_2 , SO_3) in anoxic
68 atmosphere, and thus to be a distinctively atmospheric signature (e.g. Farquhar et al., 2000). MIF-S
69 can be expressed as $\Delta^{33}\text{S} = \delta^{33}\text{S} - 1000 \cdot [(1 - \delta^{34}\text{S}/1000)^{0.515} - 1]$, as ‰ variation. Among the
70 products of this reaction, water-soluble sulfate with $\Delta^{33}\text{S} < 0$ and relatively insoluble elemental S with
71 $\Delta^{33}\text{S} > 0$ can then be separated by bodies of water upon deposition on the Earth’s surface,
72 incorporated into the sediments, and preserved in the rock record in the form of sulfide and sulfate
73 minerals. In the Barberton Greenstone Belt MIF-S has been described in pyrite and barite from
74 several stratigraphic units (Grosch and McLoughlin, 2013; Montinaro et al., 2015; Philippot et al.,
75 2012; Roerdink et al., 2012; 2013).

76 Following the discovery of MIF-S in sedimentary environments, MIF-S signal has also been
77 found in Neoproterozoic VMS deposits (Jamieson et al., 2013), in diamond-hosted sulfide inclusions
78 (Farquhar et al., 2002; Thomassot et al., 2009), in the Palaeoproterozoic Rustenburg Layered Suite of
79 the Bushveld complex (Penniston-Dorland et al., 2012) and in olivine-hosted sulfide inclusions in
80 Cainozoic plume-related ocean island basalt magmas (Cabral et al., 2013). These findings have
81 revealed a feedback between surface and deep S cycle, indicating that S processed in the
82 atmosphere during the Archaean can be stored in the crust or the mantle, and be recycled back to
83 the surface through different processes, even after a long time. Thus, using MIF-S signal as a marker
84 of Archaean atmospheric processes has opened up new ways of testing the hypothesis that ore
85 deposits, even if non-sediment-hosted, can have sourced at least part of their S from sediments or
86 other deposits that carry MIF-S (Bekker et al., 2009; Fiorentini et al., 2010; 2012; Hofmann et al.,
87 2014).

88 In this study, analyses of multiple S isotopes (^{32}S , ^{33}S , ^{34}S) have been used to trace the origin of
89 S in structurally controlled hydrothermal Au deposits of the Barberton Greenstone Belt by
90 comparing the S isotope compositions of the ore and sulfide and sulfate minerals hosted throughout
91 the volcano-sedimentary succession. The analysis of multiple S isotopes offers advantages, as
92 different processes affecting hydrothermal fluids, such as redox reactions and fluid-phase separation
93 can impart significant mass-dependent fractionation of S isotopes, and modify the original $\delta^{34}\text{S}$
94 composition. Also, because of the limited variation of $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ during the Archaean, and because post-
95 depositional processes, e.g. metamorphism, can mask original isotopic variations, in many cases $\delta^{34}\text{S}$
96 alone cannot unambiguously identify the origin of S. In contrast, metamorphic reactions and
97 hydrothermal remobilisation would have limited impact on $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ values except in the case where
98 mineralisation involves mixing of S pools with different $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$.

99 **2. Geological setting**

100 The Palaeoarchaeo Barberton Greenstone Belt is situated in the east of the Kaapvaal Craton,
101 southern Africa (Fig 1). Its volcano-sedimentary succession, the ca. 3.55 – 3.22 Ga old Barberton (or
102 Swaziland) Supergroup (Anhaeusser, 1976) is preserved in a southwest-northeast-trending belt
103 surrounded by granitoid rocks, and has been divided into three main lithostratigraphic units: the
104 Onverwacht Group, the Fig Tree Group, and the Moodies Group, in ascending order (Lowe and
105 Byerly, 2007; Viljoen and Viljoen, 1969). The Onverwacht Group is mostly composed of komatiite,
106 komatiitic basalt and basalt, with minor felsic volcanic rocks, and has been dated at ca. 3550 – 3300
107 Ma (Kröner et al., 1996). The Fig Tree and Moodies groups consist of sandstone, shale, chert, banded
108 iron formation and felsic volcanic rocks, and have been dated at ca. 3260 – 3216 Ma (Byerly et al.,

109 1996; de Ronde and de Wit, 1994; Hofmann, 2005; Kamo and Davis, 1994; Kröner et al., 1991). The
110 southwest to northeast-trending Inyoka-Saddleback Fault System, separates a northern and a
111 southern terrane of different age and geochemical characteristics (Kamo and Davis, 1994; Kisters et
112 al., 2003). Economic gold mineralisation is mainly present in the northern terrane (Fig 1).

113 The Barberton Supergroup has been metamorphosed under conditions of greenschist to
114 amphibolite facies, and shows a temperature gradient, with temperatures increasing towards the
115 margins of the belt (Dziggel et al., 2005). Three major tectono-magmatic events have affected the
116 northern terrane. The first event is connected with accretion and collision of the southern and
117 northern terranes at 3229 – 3227 Ma (de Ronde and Kamo, 2000; Schoene et al., 2008), and
118 coincided with emplacement of tonalite-trondhjemite-granodiorite (TTG) intrusions, such as the
119 Kaap Valley Tonalite (Kamo and Davis, 1994; Kisters et al., 2010). This is the main compressional
120 event (D2 at the greenstone belt scale). The second event (event D3 at the regional scale) extending
121 between 3.26 and 3.1 Ga, marked the passage from a compressive regime to a transtensional
122 regime. The last event (D4, at ~3.1Ga) involved strike-slip and normal faulting, and was accompanied
123 by emplacement of potassic granite, such as the 3106 ±3 Ma Nelspruit Batholith (de Ronde and de
124 Wit, 1994; Kamo and Davis, 1994).

125 All major greenschist-facies gold deposits in the Barberton Greenstone Belt have common
126 distinctive alteration characteristics and structural style, and occur as auriferous quartz-carbonate
127 veins and sulfide bodies (Agangi et al., 2014; Anhaeusser, 1986; Schouwstra, 1995). Ore assemblages
128 include predominant pyrite and arsenopyrite, with minor chalcopyrite, Ni-As sulfide and sphalerite.
129 Most gold is hosted by sulfides as “invisible” (or refractory) gold and micro-inclusions, but free gold
130 associated with quartz veins is also present (Cabri et al., 1989; de Ronde et al., 1992; Barberton Gold
131 Mines, 2014). Gold mineralisation is hosted by different lithologies, ranging from meta-mafic-
132 ultramafic rocks of the uppermost Onverwacht Group, to meta-sediments (greywacke, shale,
133 sandstone) of the Fig Tree and Moodies groups. Alteration zones associated with greenschist-facies
134 mineralisation in mafic-ultramafic host include, from distal to proximal to the ore, talc-carbonate,
135 quartz-carbonate, fuchsite-quartz-carbonate ±sulfides, and sericite-quartz-sulfides ±carbonate
136 ±fuchsite (Schouwstra, 1995). In contrast, mineralisation at New Consort mine is hosted in medium
137 metamorphic grade rocks, and has distinct ore assemblages, which resulted from a two-stage
138 metamorphism and mineralisation history (Otto et al., 2007).

139 Fluid inclusion studies from the major deposits indicate predominant low-salinity (NaCl eq = 5
140 – 6 wt.%), H₂O-CO₂-rich fluids, and homogenisation temperatures in the T = 290 – 310°C range (de
141 Ronde et al., 1992; also see Marin-Carbonne et al., 2011). Based on O, H and C isotope analyses of

142 mineralisation-related quartz and carbonate, the ore fluid would have had narrow ranges of $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$
143 (+4.7 to 5.8 ‰), $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (-4.5 to -2 ‰) and δD (-35 to -41 ‰), recalculated at 300°C (de Ronde et al.,
144 1992). Hydrothermal sulfides have slightly positive $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ (+1.2 – +3.9‰ for pyrite and arsenopyrite;
145 de Ronde et al., 1992; Kakegawa and Ohmoto, 1999). Gold is spatially associated with thrust faults
146 associated with the main compression event at the greenstone belt scale and has been, therefore,
147 classified as “orogenic gold” (Otto et al., 2007). On the basis of detailed structural work at Sheba and
148 Fairview mines, Dirks et al. (2009) pointed out that gold mineralisation occurs in extensional
149 structures cross-cutting the thrust faults. This may not apply to New Consort mine, where
150 mineralisation is hosted in medium metamorphic grade rocks (Otto et al., 2007). At Fairview mine a
151 3126 ± 21 Ma (U-Pb zircon dating) granitic dyke predating the shearing and mineralisation gives a
152 maximum age for mineralisation, and 3084 ± 18 Ma hydrothermal rutile may be coeval with gold
153 mineralisation (de Ronde et al., 1991). Dating of syn-mineralisation dykes at New Consort mine
154 (3030 – 3040 Ma, U – Pb zircon) and Golden Quarry near Sheba mine (3015 – 3100 Ma, Pb – Pb
155 zircon; Dirks et al., 2013), and dating of titanite associated with sulfides at 3027 Ma at New Consort
156 mine (Dziggel et al., 2010) suggests that Au deposition may have lasted for several tens of million
157 years. This seems to imply a protracted, multi-stage mineralisation process (Dziggel et al., 2010).

158 **3. Sample preparation and analytical methods**

159 Samples collected from Fairview and Sheba mines were prepared as polished rock chip
160 mounts and thin sections and observed by conventional optical microscopy and scanning electron
161 microscopy (SEM). SEM observations were made using a Tescan Vega 3 SEM equipped with energy-
162 dispersion spectroscopy (EDS) detector at the Spectrum Centre of the University of Johannesburg.
163 Additional EDS and electron backscatter diffraction (EBSD) data were collected at Curtin University
164 on a Mira Tescan FE-SEM. X-ray element distribution maps were obtained using a four spectrometer-
165 equipped Cameca SX-100 electron microprobe. Arsenic ($\text{L}\alpha$ line), Co ($\text{K}\alpha$), Ni ($\text{K}\alpha$), and Pb ($\text{M}\alpha$) for
166 pyrite, and Co ($\text{K}\alpha$), Ni ($\text{K}\alpha$), Se ($\text{L}\alpha$), and Sb ($\text{L}\alpha$) for arsenopyrite, were measured at 20 kV
167 acceleration, 80 nA beam current. See Agangi et al. (2015) for full analytical details.

168 *In situ S isotope analyses (SIMS)*

169 Sulfur isotope compositions ($\delta^{34}\text{S}$ and $\delta^{33}\text{S}$) were measured by secondary ion mass
170 spectrometry (SIMS) using a Cameca ims 1280 HR2 at CRPG-CNRS (Nancy, France). The analytical
171 method is described in detail in Thomassot et al. (2009) and only summarized here. Briefly, a Cs^+
172 primary beam of 5 nA intensity was focused to a spot of about 15-20 μm . ^{32}S , ^{33}S and ^{34}S were
173 simultaneously measured in three off-axis Faraday cups (L'2, C and H1). The relative gains of the

174 Faraday cups were intercalibrated at the beginning of the analytical session. Typical ^{32}S intensity was
175 between 1 and $7 \cdot 10^8$ counts per second (cps). Several sulfide in-house reference minerals (Maine,
176 Spain and Balmat; Marin-Carbonne et al., 2014) were used to determine the instrumental mass
177 fractionation and the reference mass discrimination line, from which $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ was calculated. A typical
178 analysis consisted of 2 minutes of pre-sputtering followed by 30 cycles of 3 s each. The background
179 of each detector was measured during the pre-sputtering and was then corrected for each analysis.
180 The internal precision achieved in these conditions was better than 0.06 ‰ for $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ and better than
181 0.10 ‰ for $\delta^{33}\text{S}$ (2σ). The reproducibility, based on multiple measurements of the reference
182 materials, for $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ was ± 0.40 ‰ (2σ), and the reproducibility for $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ was ± 0.06 (2σ). Sulfur isotopes
183 are expressed as per mil (‰) variation relative to the Vienna Canyon Diablo Troilite (VCDT)
184 international reference, as $\delta^{3x}\text{S} = 1000 \cdot [(^{3x}\text{S}/^{32}\text{S})_{\text{sample}} - (^{3x}\text{S}/^{32}\text{S})_{\text{VCDT}} / (^{3x}\text{S}/^{32}\text{S})_{\text{VCDT}}]$. Deviations from
185 linear relations between $\delta^{33}\text{S}$ and $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ reflect mass-independent fractionation (MIF), and can be
186 expressed as $\Delta^{33}\text{S} = \delta^{33}\text{S} - 1000 \cdot [(1 - \delta^{34}\text{S}/1000)^{0.515} - 1]$, as per mil variation. The results are
187 reported in Additional Tables 1 and 2.

188 **4. Sample description and sulfide chemical zoning**

189 Samples 46CMR and 62-11 were collected at Fairview mine (Fig 1B). Sample 46CMR was
190 collected from the Commitment Reef, in rocks belonging to the Fig Tree Group, between the Eureka
191 syncline and Ulundi syncline, east of the Sheba fault (Fig 1B). Sample 46CMR is a fine-grained
192 foliated rock (metagreywacke), mostly composed of oriented colourless phyllosilicate (muscovite),
193 quartz, Fe-Mg carbonate, and μm -scale anhedral grains of monazite. The sample is cross-cut by
194 quartz-carbonate veins up to ~ 1 cm wide. Sample 62-11 is representative of sulfide mineralisation at
195 the contact between chert and greywacke at Fairview mine, and part of a 6 m-wide zone of high
196 grade Au mineralisation (30-40 g/ton Au). Stockwork quartz and Fe-Ca-Mg carbonate veins cross-cut
197 the chert host rock. In both sample 46CMR and 62-11, mineralisation is composed of euhedral to
198 anhedral pyrite, arsenopyrite and minor chalcopyrite, gersdorffite, sphalerite and native gold, which
199 occur associated with quartz-carbonate veins (Fig 2A). Arsenopyrite forms randomly-oriented,
200 elongate euhedral grains overgrowing pyrite (Fig 2B). Pyrite contains inclusion-rich (mostly silicate
201 inclusions) and massive-textured domains, which are either concentrically or irregularly distributed
202 within single pyrite grains. In addition, some anhedral and inclusion-rich pyrite grains have textures
203 reminiscent of pyrite of diagenetic origin (Fig 2C).

204 Samples 33ZK-A and 33ZK-B, collected at Sheba mine, are representative of mineralisation in
205 the Zwartkoppie reef, which is located at the top of the Onverwacht Group (Dirks et al., 2009;
206 Wagener and Wiegand, 1986). The samples include quartz-carbonate-sulfide veins in strongly

207 deformed and silicified (ultra)mafic volcanic rocks and chert. The rock is foliated at the mm-scale,
208 and mostly composed of alternating dark grey fine-grained microcrystalline quartz-rich layers (chert)
209 and green, foliated quartz-fuchsite (Cr-bearing muscovite)-carbonate-rich schist. Ore minerals
210 include pyrite, chalcopyrite, ullmannite [Ni(Sb,As)S], gersdorffite, and sphalerite. Pyrite occurs as 1)
211 euhedral to subhedral crystals, up to 100-200 μm in size (Fig 2D), which occur in, or at the contact
212 with, quartz-carbonate veins; and 2) anhedral crystals, up to 500 μm , occurring in aggregates with
213 chalcopyrite, ullmannite, and gersdorffite.

214 *Chemical zoning of pyrite and arsenopyrite*

215 High-contrast BSE images and X-ray compositional maps of pyrite from Fairview mine reveal
216 complex growth patterns, which indicate different events of crystal growth, veining, resorption and
217 crystallisation (Fig 3). Recrystallised domains of pyrite are typically associated with deposition of gold
218 and other sulfides, including arsenopyrite, gersdorffite, sphalerite, chalcopyrite and galena (Fig 3,
219 Additional Fig 1). This is also visible in inclusion-rich pyrite crystals, which have massive overgrowths
220 and intragranular textures associated with sulfide inclusions that suggest recrystallisation and
221 element remobilisation as shown by trace element X-ray maps (Fig 4). In contrast, arsenopyrite has
222 simpler intragranular textures, with concentric element zoning (Se, Sb) and in some cases cross-
223 cutting Ni-rich veinlets (Additional Fig 2). Elemental maps of pyrite from Sheba mine indicate
224 complex textures indicative of a multi-stage depositional mechanism, similar to what was found in
225 samples from Fairview mine (Additional Fig 3).

226 **5. Multiple S isotope analyses**

227 Pyrite analyses revealed mostly positive $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ values (-0.87 to +9.64 ‰), and $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ values
228 varying from -0.6 to +1.0 ‰ (with the exception of one outlying analysis at -1.97 ‰) (Fig 5,
229 Additional Table 1). The histogram of $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ has a near-symmetric distribution and a peak around 0
230 (Fig 5B). The histogram of $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ has a peak between +4 and +5 ‰ for pyrite. A comparison with
231 published multiple S isotopes from the Barberton Greenstone Belt indicates that these values largely
232 overlap with the S isotope values of sediment-hosted and volcanic-hosted sulfides. No clear
233 correlation was found between texture of pyrite (inclusion-rich vs. massive) and S isotope
234 compositions. Some of the highest $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ values were found in euhedral hydrothermal pyrite grains
235 from Sheba mine that show euhedral zoning in BSE images (Fig 6). Significant variations in $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ and
236 $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ can be observed, even in adjacent spots on single grains (e.g. $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ varying from 1.0 to 0.2 ‰
237 within 50 μm distance, Fig 6A).

238 **6. Discussion**

239 6.1. Structurally-controlled Au deposits, genetic models and possible sources of S-bearing
240 auriferous fluids

241 Structurally-controlled Au deposits, also referred to as orogenic or shear-hosted Au deposits,
242 include a variety of Au deposits that formed in accreted and metamorphosed terranes and may have
243 been formed by fluids derived from crustal sources (e.g. devolatilisation of a volcano-sedimentary
244 succession during metamorphism) or from subcrustal sources (e.g. mantle-derived magmas and
245 fluids; Goldfarb and Groves, 2015; Pitcairn et al., 2006; Yardley and Cleverley, 2013). The problem of
246 fluid source is a complex one, especially in old terranes that have undergone multiple tectono-
247 thermal and magmatic events during their history, and much effort has been placed in addressing
248 this issue (Lüders et al., 2015; Mikucki and Ridley, 1993). Various hypotheses have been proposed to
249 explain the origin of fluids (and, by inference, S and Au) in Archaean and Proterozoic gold deposits,
250 including, 1) metamorphic dehydration of the crust (Groves and Phillips, 1987), 2) derivation from
251 felsic magmas (Cameron and Hattori, 1987; Salier et al., 2005 and refs therein), or a combination of
252 these (; Wulff et al., 2010), and 3) mantle derivation associated with alkaline magmatism (Phillips
253 and Powell, 2009) or mantle degassing and granulitisation (Cameron, 1988; Fu and Touret, 2014). In
254 the following discussion, we evaluate the significance of our results in the light of the existing
255 genetic models.

256 6.2 Crustal origin for the mineralising fluids

257 The rocks of the Barberton Supergroup represent the most immediate source of MIF-S. These
258 rocks are known to contain S phases recording wide variations of $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ and $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ ($\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ of pyrite ranges
259 mostly from -1.3 to +4.2 ‰, occasionally up to +14 ‰, and $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ ranges from -55 to +29 ‰). Figure 5
260 represents the $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ versus $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ plot of a dataset of approximately 1700 published analyses of pyrite,
261 barite and bulk-rock samples from across the Barberton Supergroup, ranging in age from 3.5 to 3.2
262 Ga. The distribution density of these analyses, which can be obtained by counting the number of
263 analyses per unit cell in the $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ vs $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ space, allows to identify the most commonly represented
264 compositions. A very distinct density peak can be seen centred at around $\Delta^{33}\text{S} \sim 0\text{‰}$ and $\delta^{34}\text{S} \sim 1.5\text{‰}$.
265 Assuming that the dataset is representative of the S composition of the Barberton Greenstone Belt,
266 high-density areas are expected to make the largest contribution of S (and other elements) to
267 hydrothermal fluids leaching the rocks. A comparison with this dataset shows that our analyses plot
268 remarkably close to the density peak. Thus, rocks of the volcano-sedimentary succession represent
269 an abundant, compositionally suitable proximity source of S for the hydrothermal fluids responsible
270 for Au mineralisation at Sheba and Fairview.

271 When considering in further detail the possible sources of S to the mineralising fluids, it
272 becomes apparent that the distribution of our analyses in the $\delta^{34}\text{S} - \Delta^{33}\text{S}$ space is mostly comparable
273 to a distinctive steep negative trend observed in different studies of pyrite from barite-free samples
274 of the Barberton Greenstone Belt (Philippot et al., 2012; Roerdink et al., 2013), and replicated in
275 bulk-rock analyses of shales containing finely-disseminated pyrite in both the Fig Tree and Moodies
276 groups, which host the mineralisation (Montinaro et al., 2015) (Fig 5). Roerdink et al. (2013)
277 reported this negative trend in different sedimentary rocks, including conglomerate, chert, breccia
278 and dolomite. A similar trend was reported in pyrite from the 3.5 Ga old Dresser Formation of the
279 Pilbara craton (Philippot et al., 2007) and in pyrite nodules from ca. 2.7 Ga old shales of the Eastern
280 Goldfields of the Yilgarn craton (Steadman et al., 2015). This trend may be either due to redox
281 reactions and local mixing of S pools with different $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ compositions (Roerdink et al., 2013) or
282 represent an atmospheric fractionation array (Philippot et al., 2012). Values of $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ in these analyses
283 are mostly positive, but also extend to negative values (as low as -0.7 ‰), encompassing the entire
284 range of our analyses. Shales are considered a good source of S and Au in Phanerozoic orogenic Au
285 deposits (e.g. Pitcairns, 2006). In these rocks, Au is typically trapped by sedimentary to diagenetic
286 pyrite and is remobilised upon destabilisation of pyrite during metamorphism (Hu et al., 2016;
287 Thomas et al., 2011; Tomkins et al., 2010). Evidence of high Au concentrations in diagenetic pyrite in
288 the Neoproterozoic (up to 3 – 4 ppm; Steadman et al., 2015) opens up the possibility that this may also
289 apply to Archaean successions.

290 Negative $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ are known from rocks and mineral deposits interpreted to have interacted with
291 sea water sulfate, such as volcanic-hosted massive sulfide (VMS) deposits and sea floor-altered
292 volcanic rocks (Bekker et al., 2009; Jamieson et al., 2013; Fiorentini et al., 2012). Mafic and
293 ultramafic magmas are known to be relatively Au-rich, and are considered as the main source of Au
294 in some Neoproterozoic orogenic Au deposits, such as the ones in the Yilgarn craton of Western
295 Australia (Groves and Phillips, 1987; Bierlein and Pisarevsky, 2008). In the Barberton Greenstone
296 Belt, mafic-ultramafic volcanic rocks from the Onverwacht Group have been reported to have $\Delta^{33}\text{S} =$
297 $-0.2 - -0.4\text{‰}$, and VMS mineralisation with $\Delta^{33}\text{S} = -0.1 - -0.2\text{‰}$ is known at Bien Venue, northeast of
298 Sheba and Fairview mines (Montinaro et al., 2015; Fig 5). Mafic-ultramafic rocks are a largely-
299 available source of S with negative $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ in the Barberton Greenstone Belt, where they form the bulk
300 of the Onverwacht Group (Fig 5). VMS ore may also have contributed S with negative $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ signal,
301 although the small volume of known VMS in the Barberton Greenstone Belt suggests that its
302 contribution would have been limited.

303 6.3 Derivation of Au mineralising fluids from felsic magmatism

304 The hypothesis of a magmatic origin for mineralising fluids has been proposed in several cases
305 of Archaean Au deposits. For example, in structurally-controlled Neoproterozoic Au deposits of
306 Western Australia, the case for magmatic derivation of ore fluids is based on several lines of
307 evidence, such as the presence of coeval magmatism (Doublier et al., 2014; Wang et al., 1993), trace
308 element signature of accessory minerals (Bath et al., 2013), and Pb and noble gas isotope studies
309 (Qiu and McNaughton, 1999; Kendrick et al., 2011). Although a magmatic derivation of Au
310 mineralising fluids is not universally accepted (Goldfarb and Groves, 2015), this hypothesis has been
311 particularly applied to Archaean deposits (Tomkins, 2013). Xue et al. (2013) have analysed multiple S
312 isotopes of sulfide from the Eastern Goldfields of Western Australia and the Abitibi greenstone belt
313 of Canada and, in contrast with our results, found little evidence for MIF-S from ore sulfides, thus
314 proposing a felsic igneous or mantle source for S and, by inference, the fluids. However, although
315 this is the simplest hypothesis, it should be noted that mixing of S pools with positive and negative
316 $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ will result in partial or total dilution (or “cancelling”) of the MIF-S signal, so the absence of MIF-S
317 does not conclusively rule out the possibility of sourcing of S from an “atmospheric” reservoir.

318 In the Barberton Greenstone Belt, involvement of magmatism has long been proposed, based
319 on spatial and temporal associations (Anhaeusser, 1976, 1986). Widespread K-rich felsic magmatism
320 occurred between ca. 3.11 and 3.07 Ga (such as the 3106 Ma Nelspruit Batholith to the north of the
321 greenstone belt, or the 3105 – 3092 Ma Mpuluzi and 3107 Ma Piggs Peak Batholiths to the
322 southwest and southeast, and the 3180 – 3067 Ma Stentor pluton; Kamo and Davis, 1994), a time
323 span that partially overlaps with the expected age of mineralisation. . In addition, at most mines,
324 mineralisation is spatially associated with small-volume granitic dykes (porphyries), some of which
325 pre-date and others post-date the mineralisation (Dirks et al., 2013; Dziggel et al., 2010; Harris et al.,
326 1995). Thus, based on intersection relationships and available radiometric ages, the mineralisation
327 seems to have mostly postdated the main magmatic event at around 3.1 Ga, but was accompanied
328 by emplacement of small granitic dykes. However, the role of these dykes in the mineralising process
329 is not clear. Furthermore, the expected S isotopic composition of magmatic fluids, having near-zero
330 $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ and $\delta^{34}\text{S}$, makes these intrusions unlikely sources of S and mineralising fluids.

331 6.4 Subcrustal sources of S-bearing auriferous fluids

332 The idea of CO₂-rich deep fluids deriving from the mantle and flowing along crustal scale faults
333 and tapping the lithosphere has been proposed in the past (e.g. Cameron 1988) and re-proposed in
334 recent models that aim at linking the presence of various types of Au deposits with the presence of
335 “fertile” metasomatised lithospheric mantle (Hronsky et al., 2012; Fu and Touret, 2014). The model
336 has been applied especially when mafic mantle magmas are coeval with mineralisation (De Boorder

337 2012). The pristine mantle is believed to have $\Delta^{33}\text{S} \sim 0 \text{ ‰}$ (Penniston-Dorland et al., 2012), although S
338 isotope analyses of sulfides hosted in diamonds (Farquhar et al., 2002; Thomassot et al., 2009) have
339 revealed that the sub-continental lithospheric mantle can have non-zero $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ as a consequence of
340 contamination from Archaean crustal material. The limited data available on these diamond-hosted
341 sulfide samples indicate that $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ spans from 0 to +0.6 ‰ and $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ from ~ 0 to 2 ‰ (Farquhar et al.,
342 2002), a range that is not large enough to explain our samples. More in general, in the Barberton
343 Greenstone Belt, magmatism coeval with Au mineralisation is essentially felsic, and most likely
344 derived from crustal melts, not from the mantle. Therefore, although involvement of sublithospheric
345 mantle-derived fluids cannot be discounted entirely in the Barberton Greenstone Belt, it remains
346 highly speculative at present.

347 As a further hypothesis, fluids deriving from a subducting slab and overlying sediments have
348 been invoked in the Cretaceous Jiaodong Au deposits, which are hosted in high-temperature,
349 essentially anhydrous, Precambrian rocks of the North China block (Goldfarb and Santos, 2014). In
350 this model, fluids deriving from the devolatilisation of the subducting slab would flow up-dip along
351 the slab-mantle boundary or percolate through the corner of the serpentinised mantle wedge
352 eventually reaching the crust. For the Barberton Greenstone Belt, contrasting tectonic models have
353 been presented to explain the circa 3.2 Ga compression and deformation, including modern-style
354 subduction (Moyen et al., 2006), density-driven destabilisation of the crust and “sugduction” of the
355 dense volcanic pile (Van Kranendonk, 2011), or modified “Archaean-type” subduction, whereby hot
356 and weak lithosphere subducts intermittently and breaks frequently (Van Hunen and Moyen, 2012).
357 In either case, metamorphism would result in heating and dehydration of the crust, and consequent
358 release of MIF-S-carrying fluids. Because the source of this S would be a volcano-sedimentary
359 succession similar to what is represented in the greenstone belt, the expected $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ signals resulting
360 from this type of mechanism are not different from what described previously (section 6.2).

361 6.5 Heterogeneous trace element and S isotope compositions as evidence for pulsating fluid

362 In the Barberton Greenstone Belt, Dirks et al. (2013) described mineralised brittle-ductile
363 shear zones, which truncated compressional faults and developed in a homogeneous stress field,
364 and concluded that mineralisation was formed during a single tectonic event. This evidence
365 corroborates the homogeneity of fluid compositions and inferred temperatures (fluid inclusion
366 homogenisation temperatures) and stable isotope compositions of alteration assemblages at the
367 greenstone belt-scale, which has been interpreted as evidence for ore deposition from a single fluid
368 of nearly constant composition (de Ronde et al., 1992). These authors suggested that the fluid
369 responsible for the mineralisation was a H_2O - CO_2 -rich fluid with salinity of 5 – 6 wt.% NaCl

370 equivalent that originated outside of the greenstone belt and was focussed along shear zones.
371 However, this is seemingly in contrast with the heterogeneity of $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ values, as well as the complex
372 trace element zones observed in our samples. Our analyses revealed significant deviation from mass-
373 dependent fractionation of S isotopes, with $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ extending towards both positive and negative
374 values ($\Delta^{33}\text{S} = -0.6 - +1.0 \text{ ‰}$). Strong microscale variations in $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ and complex zoning textures
375 observed in X-ray maps (overgrowth, truncation and recrystallisation, Fig 3, 4) imply that the metal
376 content (Ni, Co, As) and S isotope composition of the mineralising fluid was heterogeneous. The
377 different generations of pyrite generally cannot be traced across separate grains and between
378 samples, as would be expected in large-scale, pervasive fluid flow. The values of $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ in the
379 mineralisation can result from several reactions, such as dissolution, precipitation, fluid phase
380 unmixing and redox reactions, all of which will impose mass-dependent fractionation on the S
381 isotope compositions of the source. In contrast, $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ is little affected by such processes, and
382 variations of $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ can only be achieved by dilution, such as leaching of sources having $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$
383 compositions of opposite sign. Any mixing between S pools with variable $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ in the fluid will result
384 in homogenisation and reduction of the overall spread of MIF-S values.

385 Similar overprinting textures appear to be common in structurally controlled Au deposits, and
386 have also been described in the Neoproterozoic Au deposits of Western Australia (Bateman and
387 Hagemann, 2004). Evidence for intermittent fluid with varying temperature and composition have
388 been presented for the Palaeoproterozoic Ashanti belt Au deposits, based on carbonate zoning and
389 replacement textures (Mumin and Fleet, 1995). This evidence is compatible with a pulsating fluid
390 flow (Jiang et al., 1997), and suggests that single fluid pulses had a very localised effect in terms of
391 both S (and Au) leaching of source rocks and ore deposition. Individual fluid pulses would have
392 transported S leached from isotopically distinct sources (i.e. different rock types as detailed above or
393 different sulfide precursors), without large-scale mixing of S, which would have resulted in dilution
394 of $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ signals.

395 This textural and isotopic complexity is compatible with discontinuous fluid flow and sulfide
396 cracking and replacement, as described for structurally-controlled Au deposits in the Phanerozoic,
397 whereby shear faults are periodically reactivated when the fluid pressure overcomes the confining
398 pressure and mineral tensile strength along the faults (fault-valve model; Sibson, 2004).

399 In summary, it is conceivable that “external” fluids of deep origin, magmatic or mantle-
400 derived, fluxed through the Barberton Greenstone Belt rocks along extensional faults and
401 remobilised S from the metamorphosed volcano-sedimentary succession, as implied by the finding
402 of MIF-S. During discrete fluid-flow events, the fluids may have collected S from various isotopically

403 diverse sources, resulting in small-scale isotope heterogeneity. Modelling of ore fluid composition
404 based on alteration assemblages in several Archaean Au deposits indicates that the fluids were S-
405 rich, and that Au transport was primarily controlled by S complexes across the formation
406 temperature spectrum (Phillips et al., 1996; Ridley et al., 1996). This is in agreement with the
407 ubiquitous observation that high Au grades occur in sulfide-rich mineralisation and with the
408 presence of finely-dispersed Au in sulfides, which implies contemporaneous deposition of S and Au.
409 The deposition of Au is believed to occur mainly by destabilisation of S-Au complexes $[\text{Au}(\text{HS})_2^-]$ and
410 AuHS during wall-rock sulfidation, a mechanism compatible with the observation of invisible Au in
411 sulfides, although H_2S extraction by fluid immiscibility (Mikucki and Ridley, 1993; Pokrovski et al.,
412 2014), and pH and temperature variations may also have a role (Benning and Seward, 1996; Phillips
413 et al., 1996). Therefore, the proposed distinction between the origin of S and the fluid is relevant, as
414 a fluid originated as S-poor will not acquire its ability to carry Au until it scavenges S.

415 **7. Conclusions**

416 The origin of gold in structurally-controlled deposits has been a source of discussion for a long
417 time. Part of this difficulty resides in the lithological and structural complexity of these deposits, and
418 in the fact that the ultimate source of the fluids and Au may be far removed from the site of
419 mineralisation. The finding of marked MIF-S in sulfide ore from the Barberton mines ($\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ varying
420 from -0.6 to +1.0 ‰) indicates that S was previously processed through the oxygen-depleted
421 Archaean atmosphere. In particular, a comparison between our $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ and $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ analyses and available
422 analyses of S isotopes from the greenstone belt suggests that S in the mineralising fluids was leached
423 from the volcano-sedimentary succession. The $\Delta^{33}\text{S} < 0$ signal is interpreted to have derived from
424 rocks that experienced circulation of sea water sulfate, namely sea floor-altered mafic-ultramafic
425 volcanic rocks, and possibly VMS mineralisation. The $\Delta^{33}\text{S} > 0$ signal is interpreted to have originated
426 from leaching of disseminated diagenetic pyrite hosted in shales, chert and conglomerate, and
427 ultimately derived from reduction of atmospheric elemental S. These results are apparently in
428 contrast with previous suggestions that the mineralising fluids were external to the greenstone belt
429 and were magmatic or mantle-derived. However, as S complexes are believed to be the main
430 complexing agent enabling the transport of Au in several cases, the problem of fluid source and the
431 problem of S and Au source can be separated. The main components of this fluid (H_2O and CO_2 ; de
432 Ronde et al., 1992) may have been introduced from an external source (e.g. felsic magmas), but
433 would have leached S from volcanic and sedimentary rocks. Thus, this fluid would have acquired its
434 Au-transport capability only within the greenstone belt. Therefore, S isotopes of the ore may not
435 directly constrain the source of fluids, but have strong implications on the transport and origin of Au.

436 **Figure captions**

437 **Fig 1 A** Geological map of the Barberton Greenstone Belt and distribution of the main gold deposits
438 (modified from de Ronde et al., 1992). **B** Cross sections of Fairview and Sheba mines (modified from
439 Barberton gold mines, 2014)

440 **Fig 2** Rock textures of samples from Fairview and Sheba mines. **A** Pyrite-arsenopyrite (Asp-Py)
441 mineralisation at the contact between chert and a quartz-carbonate (Qtz, cb) vein (sample 62-11,
442 Fairview mine, transmitted plane polarised light). **B** Pyrite with euhedral arsenopyrite and Au
443 inclusions. The image was taken at high-contrast to evidence the patchy zoning of pyrite hosting
444 inclusions (sample 46CMR, BSE image). **C** Anhedral inclusion-rich pyrite aggregate with massive rim
445 (arrowed) (sample 46CMR, reflected light). **D** Euhedral pyrite with galena (Gn) secondary inclusion
446 (sample 33ZKB, Sheba mine, BSE image)

447 **Fig 3** BSE image and X-ray compositional maps of pyrite from Fairview mine. Oscillatory zones of As
448 define euhedral growth zones, truncated by irregular, As-poor and Ni-rich recrystallised pyrite.
449 Recrystallised pyrite is associated with arsenopyrite and sphalerite. Sample 46CMR-d

450 **Fig 4** Location of SIMS spot analyses overlain on BSE image of anhedral pyrite and X-ray
451 compositional maps of a portion of the pyrite showing complex intragranular textures and
452 compositional variations between inclusion-rich portion and massive rim. Pyrite contains
453 arsenopyrite, chalcopyrite and gold inclusions (BSE-brighter domains). Spots are colour-coded based
454 on $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ values. Sample 46CMR-e, Fairview mine

455 **Fig 5** Multiple S isotope plots of pyrite from Sheba and Fairview mines. **A** and **B** Plot of $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ vs. $\delta^{34}\text{S}$. **C**
456 Frequency histogram of $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$. The data are compared with pyrite, barite and bulk-rock analyses from
457 various units of the Barberton Greenstone Belt, some groups of literature analyses are differentiated
458 to exemplify specific data distributions. Density distribution of literature pyrite analyses was
459 calculated as number of spots per $\sim 0.5\text{‰ } \delta^{34}\text{S} \times 0.1\text{‰ } \Delta^{33}\text{S}$ cell. Literature analyses acquired with
460 different bulk and in situ methods, uncertainty up to $\sim 0.5\text{‰ } \delta^{34}\text{S}$, $0.2\text{‰ } \Delta^{33}\text{S}$. References [1]
461 Philippot et al. (2012), [2] Montinaro et al. (2015), [3] Roerdink et al. (2012), [4] Bao et al. (2007), [5]
462 Roerdink et al. (2013; 2016), [6] Grosch and Mcloughlin (2013)

463 **Fig 6** BSE images and location of SIMS spot analyses of euhedral-subhedral pyrite. Spots are colour-
464 coded based on $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ values. The two grains are located in the same thin section, around 2 mm apart.
465 Sample 33ZKA, Sheba mine

466 **Additional Fig 1** BSE image and X-ray elemental maps (sample 46CMR)

467 **Additional Fig 2** BSE image and X-ray elemental maps of arsenopyrite. Note simple, euhedral growth
468 textures marked by concentric zoning of elements. Sample 46CMR, Fairview mine. Sp sphalerite, Tet
469 tetrahedrite

470 **Additional Fig 3** BSE image, X-ray elemental maps and EBDS maps of pyrite and arsenopyrite (sample
471 62-11, Fairview mine)

472 **Acknowledgement**

473 This research was funded by SIEF (Science and Industry Endowment Fund) and the NRF
474 (National Research Foundation of South Africa). JMC thanks the CNRS- INSU Programme National de
475 Planétologie for their support. Johan Villeneuve is thanked for analytical assistance on the SIMS. We
476 also acknowledge Chris Rippon (Barberton Mines (Pty) Limited) for providing the sample material
477 used for this study.

478 **References**

479 Agangi, A., Hofmann, A., Przybyłowicz, W., 2014. Trace element zoning of sulfides and quartz at Sheba
480 and Fairview gold mines: Clues to Mesoarchean mineralisation in the Barberton Greenstone Belt, South Africa.
481 *Ore Geology Reviews* 56, 94-114.

482 Agangi, A., Przybyłowicz, W., Hofmann, A., 2015. Trace element mapping of pyrite from Archean gold
483 deposits – A comparison between PIXE and EPMA. *Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research*
484 *Section B: Beam Interactions with Materials and Atoms* 348, 302-306.

485 Anhaeusser, C.R., 1976. Archean metallogeny in southern Africa. *Economic Geology* 71, 16-43.

486 Anhaeusser, C.R., 1986. Archean gold mineralization in the Barberton Mountain Land, in: Anhaeusser,
487 C.R., Maske, S. (Eds.), *Mineral Deposits of Southern Africa Vol.I*. Geol. Soc. South Africa, pp. 113-154.

488 Bao, H., Rumble III, D., Lowe, D.R., 2007. The five stable isotope compositions of Fig Tree barites:
489 Implications on sulfur cycle in ca. 3.2-Ga oceans. *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* 71, 4868-4879.

490 Barnicoat, A.C., Fare, R.J., Groves, D.I., McNaughton, N.J., 1991. Synmetamorphic lode-gold deposits in
491 high-grade Archean settings. *Geology* 19, 921-924.

492 Barberton Gold Mines, 2014. Mineral Resource & Mineral Reserve Report, 62 p. www.panafricanresources.com
493 (consulted December 2015).

494 Bath, A.B., Walshe, J.L., Cloutier, J., Verrall, M., Cleverley, J.S., Pownceby, M.I., Macrae, C.M., Wilson,
495 N.C., Tunjic, J., Nortje, G.S., Robinson, P., 2013. Biotite and apatite as tools for tracking pathways of oxidized
496 fluids in the Archean East Repulse Gold Deposit, Australia. *Economic Geology* 108, 667-690.

497 Bateman, R., Hagemann, S., 2004. Gold mineralisation throughout about 45 Ma of Archaean orogenesis:
498 protracted flux of gold in the Golden Mile, Yilgarn craton, Western Australia. *Mineralium Deposita* 39, 536-559.

499 Bekker, A., Barley, M.E., Fiorentini, M.L., Rouxel, O.J., Rumble, D., Beresford, S.W., 2009. Atmospheric
500 sulfur in Archean komatiite-hosted nickel deposits. *Science* 326, 1086-1089.

501 Benning, L.G., Seward, T.M., 1996. Hydrosulphide complexing of Au (I) in hydrothermal solutions from
502 150–400°C and 500–1500 bar. *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* 60, 1849-1871.

503 Bierlein, F.P., Pisarevsky, S., 2008. Plume-related oceanic plateaus as a potential source of gold
504 mineralisation. *Economic Geology* 103, 425-430.

505 Byerly, G.R., Kröner, A., Lowe, D.R., Todt, W., Walsh, M.M., 1996. Prolonged magmatism and time
506 constraints for sediment deposition in the early Archean Barberton greenstone belt: evidence from the Upper
507 Onverwacht and Fig Tree groups. *Precambrian Research* 78, 125-138.

508 Cabral, R.A., Jackson, M.G., Rose-Koga, E.F., Koga, K.T., Whitehouse, M.J., Antonelli, M.A., Farquhar, J.,
509 Day, J.M.D., Hauri, E.H., 2013. Anomalous sulphur isotopes in plume lavas reveal deep mantle storage of
510 Archaean crust. *Nature* 496, 490-493.

511 Cabri, L.J., Chryssoulis, S.L., de Villiers, J.P.R., Laflamme, J.H.G., Buseck, P.R., 1989. The nature of
512 "invisible" gold in arsenopyrite. *The Canadian Mineralogist* 27, 353-362.

513 Cameron, E.M., 1988. Archean gold: Relation to granulite formation and redox zoning in the crust.
514 *Geology* 16, 109-112.

515 Cameron, E.M., Hattori, K., 1987. Archean gold mineralization and oxidized hydrothermal fluids.
516 *Economic Geology* 82, 1177-1191.

517 Craig, J.R., Vokes, F.M., Solberg, T.N., 1998. Pyrite: physical and chemical textures. *Mineralium Deposita*
518 34, 82-101.

519 de Boorder, H., 2012. Spatial and temporal distribution of the orogenic gold deposits in the Late
520 Palaeozoic Variscides and Southern Tianshan: How orogenic are they? *Ore Geology Reviews* 46, 1-31.

521 de Ronde, C.E.J., de Wit, M.J., 1994. Tectonic history of the Barberton greenstone belt, South Africa:
522 490 million years of Archean crustal evolution. *Tectonics* 13, 983-1005.

523 de Ronde, C.E.J., Kamo, S., Davis, D.W., de Wit, M.J., Spooner, E.T.C., 1991. Field, geochemical and U-Pb
524 isotopic constraints from hypabyssal felsic intrusions within the Barberton greenstone belt, South Africa:
525 Implications for tectonics and the timing of gold mineralization. *Precambrian Research* 49, 261-280.

526 de Ronde, C.E.J., Kamo, S.L., 2000. An Archaean arc-arc collisional event: a short-lived (ca 3 Myr)
527 episode, Weltevreden area, Barberton greenstone belt, South Africa. *Journal of African Earth Sciences* 30, 219-
528 248.

529 de Ronde, C.E.J., Spooner, E.T.C., de Wit, M.J., Bray, C.J., 1992. Shear zone-related, Au quartz vein
530 deposits in the Barberton greenstone belt, South Africa; field and petrographic characteristics, fluid properties,
531 and light stable isotope geochemistry. *Economic Geology* 87, 366-402.

532 Dirks, P.H.G.M., Charlesworth, E.G., Munyai, M.R., 2009. Cratonic extension and Archaean gold
533 mineralisation in the Sheba-Fairview mine, Barberton Greenstone Belt, South Africa. *South African Journal of*
534 *Geology* 112, 291-316.

535 Dirks, P.H.G.M., Charlesworth, E.G., Munyai, M.R., Wormald, R., 2013. Stress analysis, post-orogenic
536 extension and 3.01 Ga gold mineralisation in the Barberton Greenstone Belt, South Africa. *Precambrian*
537 *Research* 226, 157-184.

538 Doublier, M.P., Thébaud, N., Wingate, M.T.D., Romano, S.S., Kirkland, C.L., Gessner, K., Mole, D.R.,
539 Evans, N., 2014. Structure and timing of Neoproterozoic gold mineralization in the Southern Cross district (Yilgarn
540 Craton, Western Australia) suggest leading role of late Low-Ca I-type granite intrusions. *Journal of Structural*
541 *Geology* 67, Part B, 205-221.

542 Dziggel, A., Armstrong, R.A., Stevens, G., Nasdala, L., 2005. Growth of zircon and titanite during
543 metamorphism in the granitoid-gneiss terrane south of the Barberton greenstone belt, South Africa.
544 *Mineralogical Magazine* 69, 1019-1036.

545 Dziggel, A., Poujol, M., Otto, A., Kisters, A.F.M., Trieloff, M., Schwarz, W.H., Meyer, F.M., 2010. New U-
546 Pb and ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar ages from the northern margin of the Barberton greenstone belt, South Africa: Implications
547 for the formation of Mesoarchaean gold deposits. *Precambrian Research* 179, 206-220.

548 Evans, K.A., Phillips, G.N., Powell, R., 2006. Rock-buffering of auriferous fluids in altered rocks
549 associated with the Golden Mile-style mineralization, Kalgoorlie Gold Field, Western Australia. *Economic*
550 *Geology* 101, 805-817.

551 Farquhar, J., Bao, H., Thiemens, M., 2000. Atmospheric influence of Earth's earliest sulfur cycle. *Science*
552 289, 756-758.

553 Farquhar, J., Wing, B.A., McKeegan, K.D., Harris, J.W., Cartigny, P., Thiemens, M.H., 2002. Mass-
554 independent sulfur of inclusions in diamond and sulfur recycling on early Earth. *Science* 298, 2369-2372.

555 Fiorentini, M.L., Barnes, S.J., Leshner, C.M., Heggie, G.J., Keays, R.R., Burnham, O.M., 2010. Platinum
556 group element geochemistry of mineralized and nonmineralized komatiites and basalts. *Economic Geology*
557 105, 795-823.

558 Fiorentini, M., Beresford, S., Barley, M., Duuring, P., Bekker, A., Rosengren, N., Cas, R., Hronsky, J., 2012.
559 District to camp controls on the genesis of komatiite-hosted nickel sulfide deposits, Agnew-Wiluna Greenstone
560 Belt, Western Australia: Insights from the multiple sulfur isotopes. *Economic Geology* 107, 781-796.

561 Fougereuse, D., Micklethwaite, S., Tomkins, A.G., Mei, Y., Kilburn, M., Guagliardo, P., Fisher, L.A.,
562 Halfpenny, A., Gee, M., Paterson, D., Howard, D.L., 2016. Gold remobilisation and formation of high grade ore

563 shoots driven by dissolution-precipitation replacement and Ni substitution into auriferous arsenopyrite.
564 *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* 178, 143-159.

565 Fu, B., Touret, J.L.R., 2014. From granulite fluids to quartz-carbonate megashear zones: The gold rush.
566 *Geoscience Frontiers* 5, 747-758.

567 Gaboury, D., 2013. Does gold in orogenic deposits come from pyrite in deeply buried carbon-rich
568 sediments?: Insight from volatiles in fluid inclusions. *Geology* 41, 1207-1210.

569 Goldfarb, R.J., Groves, D.I., 2015. Orogenic gold: Common or evolving fluid and metal sources through
570 time. *Lithos* 233, 2-26.

571 Goldfarb, R.J., Groves, D.I., Gardoll, S., 2001. Orogenic gold and geologic time: a global synthesis. *Ore*
572 *Geology Reviews* 18, 1-75.

573 Goldfarb, R.J., Santos, M., 2014. The dilemma of the Jiaodong gold deposits: Are they unique?
574 *Geoscience Frontiers* 5, 139-153.

575 Grosch, E.G., McLoughlin, N., 2013. Paleoproterozoic sulfur cycle and biogeochemical surface conditions on
576 the early Earth, Barberton, South Africa. *Earth and Planetary Science Letters* 377–378, 142-154.

577 Groves, D., 1993. The crustal continuum model for late-Archaean lode-gold deposits of the Yilgarn
578 Block, Western Australia. *Mineralium Deposita* 28, 366-374.

579 Groves, D.I., Phillips, G.N., 1987. The genesis and tectonic control on Archaean gold deposits of the
580 Western Australian Shield - A metamorphic replacement model. *Ore Geology Reviews* 2, 287-322.

581 Harris, P.D., Robb, L.J., Tomkinson, M.J., 1995. The nature and structural setting of rare-element
582 pegmatites along the northern flank of the Barberton greenstone belt, South Africa. *South African Journal of*
583 *Geology* 98, 82-94.

584 Hofmann, A., 2005. The geochemistry of sedimentary rocks from the Fig Tree Group, Barberton
585 greenstone belt: Implications for tectonic, hydrothermal and surface processes during mid-Archaean times.
586 *Precambrian Research* 143, 23-49.

587 Hofmann, A., Bekker, A., Dirks, P., Gueguen, B., Rumble, D., Rouxel, O., 2014. Comparing
588 orthomagmatic and hydrothermal mineralization models for komatiite-hosted nickel deposits in Zimbabwe
589 using multiple-sulfur, iron, and nickel isotope data. *Mineralium Deposita* 49, 75-100.

590 Hronsky, J., Groves, D., Loucks, R., Begg, G., 2012. A unified model for gold mineralisation in
591 accretionary orogens and implications for regional-scale exploration targeting methods. *Mineralium Deposita*
592 47, 339-358.

593 Hu, S., Evans, K., Craw, D., Rempel, K., Bourdet, J., Dick, J., Grice, K., 2015. Raman characterization of
594 carbonaceous material in the Macraes orogenic gold deposit and metasedimentary host rocks, New Zealand.
595 *Ore Geology Reviews* 70, 80-95.

596 Jamieson, J.W., Wing, B.A., Farquhar, J., Hannington, M.D., 2013. Neoproterozoic seawater sulphate
597 concentrations from sulphur isotopes in massive sulphide ore. *Nature Geoscience* 6, 61-64.

598 Jiang, Z., Oliver, N.H.S., Barr, T.D., Power, W.L., Ord, A., 1997. Numerical modeling of fault-controlled
599 fluid flow in the genesis of tin deposits of the Malage ore field, Gejiu mining district, China. *Economic Geology*
600 92, 228-247.

601 Kakegawa, T., Ohmoto, H., 1999. Sulfur isotope evidence for the origin of 3.4 to 3.1 Ga pyrite at the
602 Princeton gold mine, Barberton Greenstone Belt, South Africa. *Precambrian Research* 96, 209-224.

603 Kamo, S.L., Davis, D.W., 1994. Reassessment of Archean crustal development in the Barberton
604 Mountain Land, South Africa, based on U-Pb dating. *Tectonics* 13, 167-192.

605 Kendrick, M.A., Honda, M., Walshe, J., Petersen, K., 2011. Fluid sources and the role of abiogenic-CH₄ in
606 Archean gold mineralization: Constraints from noble gases and halogens. *Precambrian Research* 189, 313-327.

607 Kisters, A.F.M., Belcher, R.W., Poujol, M., Dziggel, A., 2010. Continental growth and convergence-
608 related arc plutonism in the Mesoarchean: Evidence from the Barberton granitoid-greenstone terrain, South
609 Africa. *Precambrian Research* 178, 15-26.

610 Kisters, A.F.M., Stevens, G., Dziggel, A., Armstrong, R.A., 2003. Extensional detachment faulting and
611 core-complex formation in the southern Barberton granite-greenstone terrain, South Africa: evidence for a 3.2
612 Ga orogenic collapse. *Precambrian Research* 127, 355-378.

613 Kolb, J., Dziggel, A., Bagas, L., 2015. Hypozonal lode gold deposits: A genetic concept based on a review
614 of the New Consort, Renco, Hutti, Hira Buddini, Navachab, Nevoria and The Granites deposits. *Precambrian*
615 *Research* 262, 20-44.

616 Kröner, A., Byerly, G.R., Lowe, D.R., 1991. Chronology of early Archean granite-greenstone evolution in
617 the Barberton Mountain Land, South Africa, based on precise dating by single zircon evaporation. *Earth and*
618 *Planetary Science Letters* 103, 41-54.

619 Kröner, A., Hegner, E., Wendt, J.I., Byerly, G.R., 1996. The oldest part of the Barberton granitoid-
620 greenstone terrain, South Africa: evidence for crust formation between 3.5 and 3.7 Ga. *Precambrian Research*
621 78, 105-124.

622 Lowe, D.R., Byerly, G.R., 2007. An overview of the geology of the Barberton greenstone belt and
623 vicinity: Implications for early crustal development, in: Kranendonk, M.J.v., Smithies, R.H., Vickie, C.B. (Eds.),
624 *Earth's Oldest Rocks*, pp. 481-524.

625 Lüders, V., Klemm, R., Oberthür, T., Plessen, B., 2015. Different carbon reservoirs of auriferous fluids in
626 African Archean and Proterozoic gold deposits? Constraints from stable carbon isotopic compositions of
627 quartz-hosted CO₂-rich fluid inclusions. *Mineralium Deposita* 50, 449-454.

628 Marin-Carbonne, J., Chaussidon, M., Boiron, M.-C., Robert, F., 2011. A combined in situ oxygen, silicon
629 isotopic and fluid inclusion study of a chert sample from Onverwacht Group (3.35 Ga, South Africa): New
630 constraints on fluid circulation. *Chemical Geology* 286, 59-71.

631 Marin-Carbonne, J., Rollion-Bard, C., Bekker, A., Rouxel, O., Agangi, A., Cavalazzi, B., Wohlgemuth-
632 Ueberwasser, C.C., Hofmann, A., McKeegan, K.D., 2014. Coupled Fe and S isotope variations in pyrite nodules
633 from Archean shale. *Earth and Planetary Science Letters* 392, 67-79.

634 Mikucki, E.J., Ridley, J.R., 1993. The hydrothermal fluid of Archean lode-gold deposits at different
635 metamorphic grades: compositional constraints from ore and wallrock alteration assemblages. *Mineralium
636 Deposita* 28, 469-481.

637 Montinaro, A., Strauss, H., Mason, P.R.D., Roerdink, D., Münker, C., Schwarz-Schampera, U., Arndt, N.T.,
638 Farquhar, J., Beukes, N.J., Gutzmer, J., Peters, M., 2015. Paleoarchean sulfur cycling: Multiple sulfur isotope
639 constraints from the Barberton Greenstone Belt, South Africa. *Precambrian Research* 267, 311-322.

640 Mumin, A.H., Fleet, M.E., 1995. Evolution of gold mineralization in the Ashanti Gold Belt, Ghana:
641 Evidence from carbonate compositions and parageneses. *Mineralogy and Petrology* 55, 265-280.

642 Munyai, M.R., Dirks, P.H.G.M., Charlesworth, E.G., 2011. Archean gold mineralisation during post-
643 orogenic extension in the New Consort gold mine, Barberton Greenstone Belt, South Africa. *South African
644 Journal of Geology* 114, 121-144.

645 Ono, S., Eigenbrode, J.L., Pavlov, A.A., Kharecha, P., Rumble III, D., Kasting, J.F., Freeman, K.H., 2003.
646 New insights into Archean sulfur cycle from mass-independent sulfur isotope records from the Hamersley
647 Basin, Australia. *Earth and Planetary Science Letters* 213, 15-30.

648 Otto, A., Dziggel, A., Kisters, A., Meyer, F., 2007. The New Consort Gold Mine, Barberton greenstone
649 belt, South Africa: orogenic gold mineralization in a condensed metamorphic profile. *Mineralium Deposita* 42,
650 715-735.

651 Penniston-Dorland, S.C., Mathez, E.A., Wing, B.A., Farquhar, J., Kinnaird, J.A., 2012. Multiple sulfur
652 isotope evidence for surface-derived sulfur in the Bushveld Complex. *Earth and Planetary Science Letters* 337-
653 338, 236-242.

654 Philippot, P., Van Zuilen, M., Lepot, K., Thomazo, C., Farquhar, J., Van Kranendonk, M.J., 2007. Early
655 Archean microorganisms preferred elemental sulfur, not sulfate. *Science* 317, 1534-1537.

656 Philippot, P., van Zuilen, M., Rollion-Bard, C., 2012. Variations in atmospheric sulphur chemistry on early
657 Earth linked to volcanic activity. *Nature Geoscience* 5, 668-674.

658 Phillips, G.N., Groves, D.I., Kerrich, R., 1996. Factors in the formation of the giant Kalgoorlie gold
659 deposit. *Ore Geology Reviews* 10, 295-317.

660 Phillips, G.N., Powell, R., 2009. Formation of gold deposits: Review and evaluation of the continuum
661 model. *Earth-Science Reviews* 94, 1-21.

662 Pitcairn, I.K., Teagle, D.A.H., Craw, D., Olivo, G.R., Kerrich, R., Brewer, T.S., 2006. Sources of metals and
663 fluids in orogenic gold deposits: insights from the Otago and Alpine Schists, New Zealand. *Economic Geology*
664 101, 1525-1546.

665 Pokrovski, G.S., Akinfiyev, N.N., Borisova, A.Y., Zotov, A.V., Kouzmanov, K., 2014. Gold speciation and
666 transport in geological fluids: Insights from experiments and physical-chemical modelling, Geological Society
667 Special Publication, pp. 9-70.

668 Qiu, Y., McNaughton, N.J., 1999. Source of Pb in orogenic lode-gold mineralisation: Pb isotope
669 constraints from deep crustal rocks from the southwestern Archaean Yilgarn Craton, Australia. *Mineralium*
670 *Deposita* 34, 366-381.

671 Ridley, J., Mikucki, E.J., Groves, D.I., 1996. Archean lode-gold deposits: fluid flow and chemical evolution
672 in vertically extensive hydrothermal systems. *Ore Geology Reviews* 10, 279-293.

673 Rogers, A.J., Kolb, J., Meyer, F.M., Vennemann, T., 2013. Two stages of gold mineralization at Hutti
674 mine, India. *Mineralium Deposita* 48, 99-114.

675 Roerdink, D.L., Mason, P.R.D., Farquhar, J., Reimer, T., 2012. Multiple sulfur isotopes in Paleoproterozoic
676 barites identify an important role for microbial sulfate reduction in the early marine environment. *Earth and*
677 *Planetary Science Letters* 331-332, 177-186.

678 Roerdink, D.L., Mason, P.R.D., Whitehouse, M.J., Reimer, T., 2013. High-resolution quadruple sulfur
679 isotope analyses of 3.2 Ga pyrite from the Barberton Greenstone Belt in South Africa reveal distinct
680 environmental controls on sulfide isotopic arrays. *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* 117, 203-215.

681 Roerdink, D.L., Mason, P.R.D., Whitehouse, M.J., Brouwer, F.M., 2016. Reworking of atmospheric sulfur
682 in a Paleoproterozoic hydrothermal system at Londozi, Barberton Greenstone Belt, Swaziland. *Precambrian*
683 *Research* 280, 195-204.

684 Salier, B.P., Groves, D.I., McNaughton, N.J., Fletcher, I.R., 2005. Geochronological and stable isotope
685 evidence for widespread orogenic gold mineralization from a deep-seated fluid source at ca 2.65 Ga in the
686 Laverton Gold Province, Western Australia. *Economic Geology* 100, 1363-1388.

687 Schoene, B., de Wit, M.J., Bowring, S.A., 2008. Mesoproterozoic assembly and stabilization of the eastern
688 Kaapvaal craton: A structural-thermochronological perspective. *Tectonics* 27, TC5010.

689 Schouwstra, R.P., 1995. Wall-rock alteration as a guide to gold-bearing fracture zones in the
690 Zwartkoppie Section, Sheba gold mine, South Africa. *South African Journal of Geology* 98, 399-414.

691 Seward, T.M., 1973. Thio complexes of gold and the transport of gold in hydrothermal ore solutions.
692 *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* 37, 379-399.

693 Sibson, R.H., 2004. Controls on maximum fluid overpressure defining conditions for mesozonal
694 mineralisation. *Journal of Structural Geology* 26, 1127-1136.

695 Simon, G., Huang, H., Penner-Hahn, J.E., Kesler, S.E., Kao, L.-S., 1999. Oxidation state of gold and arsenic
696 in gold-bearing arsenian pyrite. *American Mineralogist* 84, 1071-1079.

697 Steadman, J.A., Large, R.R., Meffre, S., Olin, P.H., Danyushevsky, L.V., Gregory, D.D., Belousov, I., Lounejeva,
698 E., Ireland, T.R., Holden, P., 2015. Synsedimentary to early diagenetic gold in black shale-hosted pyrite nodules at
699 the Golden Mile deposit, Kalgoorlie, Western Australia. *Economic Geology* 110, 1157-1191.

700 Thomas, H.V., Large, R.R., Bull, S.W., Maslennikov, V., Berry, R.F., Fraser, R., Froud, S., Moye, R., 2011.
701 Pyrite and pyrrhotite textures and composition in sediments, laminated quartz veins, and reefs at Bendigo gold
702 mine, Australia: Insights for ore genesis. *Economic Geology* 106, 1-31.

703 Thomassot, E., Cartigny, P., Harris, J.W., Lorand, J.P., Rollion-Bard, C., Chaussidon, M., 2009.
704 Metasomatic diamond growth: A multi-isotope study (^{13}C , ^{15}N , ^{33}S , ^{34}S) of sulphide inclusions and their host
705 diamonds from Jwaneng (Botswana). *Earth and Planetary Science Letters* 282, 79-90.

706 Tomkins, A.G., 2010. Windows of metamorphic sulfur liberation in the crust: Implications for gold
707 deposit genesis. *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* 74, 3246-3259.

708 Tomkins, A.G., 2013. A biogeochemical influence on the secular distribution of orogenic gold. *Economic*
709 *Geology* 108, 193-197.

710 Van Kranendonk, M.J., 2011. Cool greenstone drips and the role of partial convective overturn in
711 Barberton greenstone belt evolution. *Journal of African Earth Sciences* 60, 346-352.

712 Viljoen, M.J., Viljoen, R.P., 1969. Introduction to the geology of the Barberton granite-greenstone
713 terrain. *Geological Society of South Africa Special Publication* 2, 9-28.

714 Wagener, J.H.F., Wiegand, J., 1986. The Sheba Gold Mine, Barberton Greenstone Belt, in: Anhaeusser,
715 C.R., Maske, S. (Eds.), *Mineral Deposits of Southern Africa Vol.I*. Geol. Soc. South Africa, pp. 155-161.

716 Wang, L.G., McNaughton, N., Groves, D., 1993. An overview of the relationship between granitoid
717 intrusions and gold mineralisation in the Archaean Murchison Province, Western Australia. *Mineralium*
718 *Deposita* 28, 482-494.

719 Xue, Y., Campbell, I., Ireland, T.R., Holden, P., Armstrong, R., 2013. No mass-independent sulfur isotope
720 fractionation in auriferous fluids supports a magmatic origin for Archean gold deposits. *Geology* 41, 791-794.

721 Yardley, B.W.D., Cleverley, J.S., 2013. The role of metamorphic fluids in the formation of ore deposits.
722 *Geological Society, London, Special Publications* 393.

723 Wulff, K., Dziggel, A., Kolb, J., Vennemann, T., Böttcher, M.E., Meyer, F.M., 2010. Origin of mineralizing fluids
724 of the sediment-hosted Navachab Gold Mine, Namibia: Constraints from stable (O, H, C, S) isotopes. *Economic*
725 *Geology* 105, 285-302.

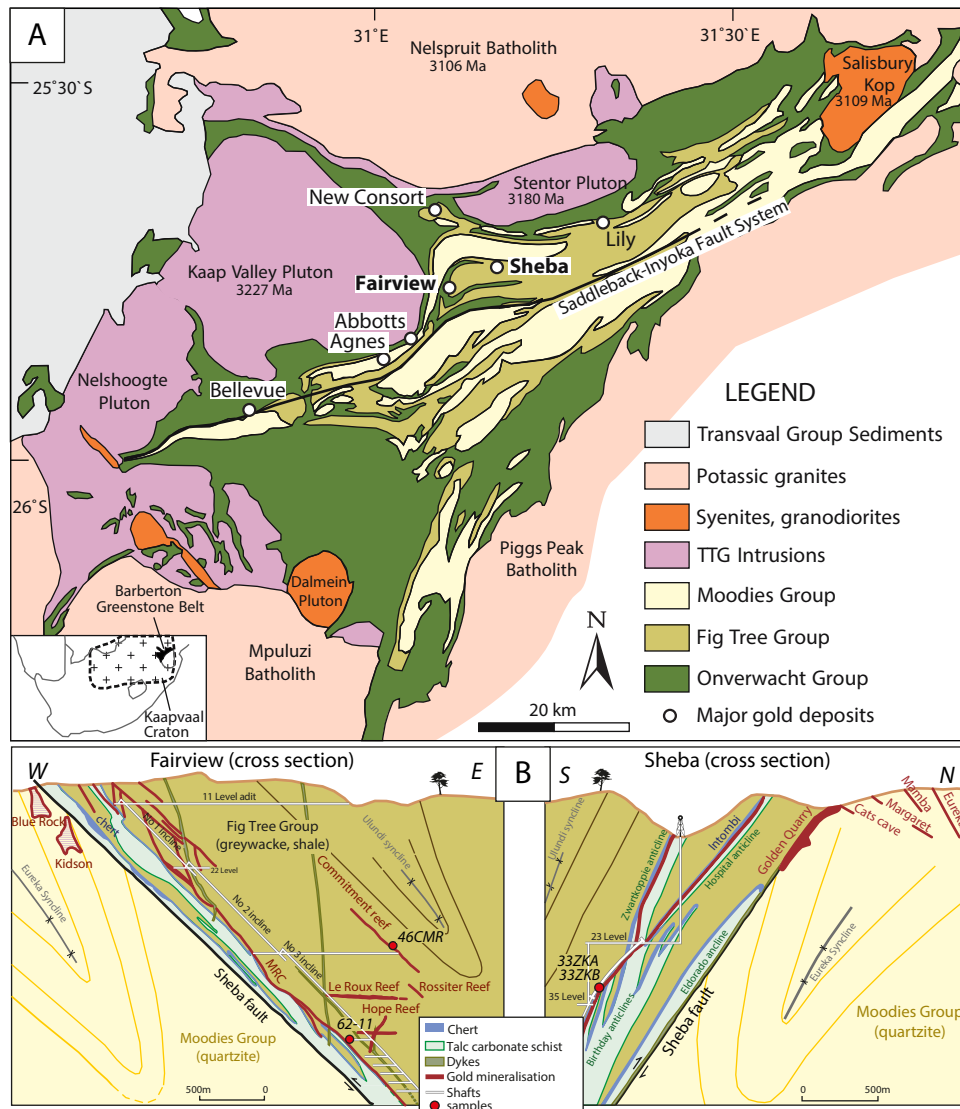


Fig.1 A Geological map of the Barberton Greenstone Belt and distribution of the main gold deposits (Modified from De Ronde et al., 1992). B and C Cross-sections of Fairview and Sheba mines (modified from Barberton mines, 2015).

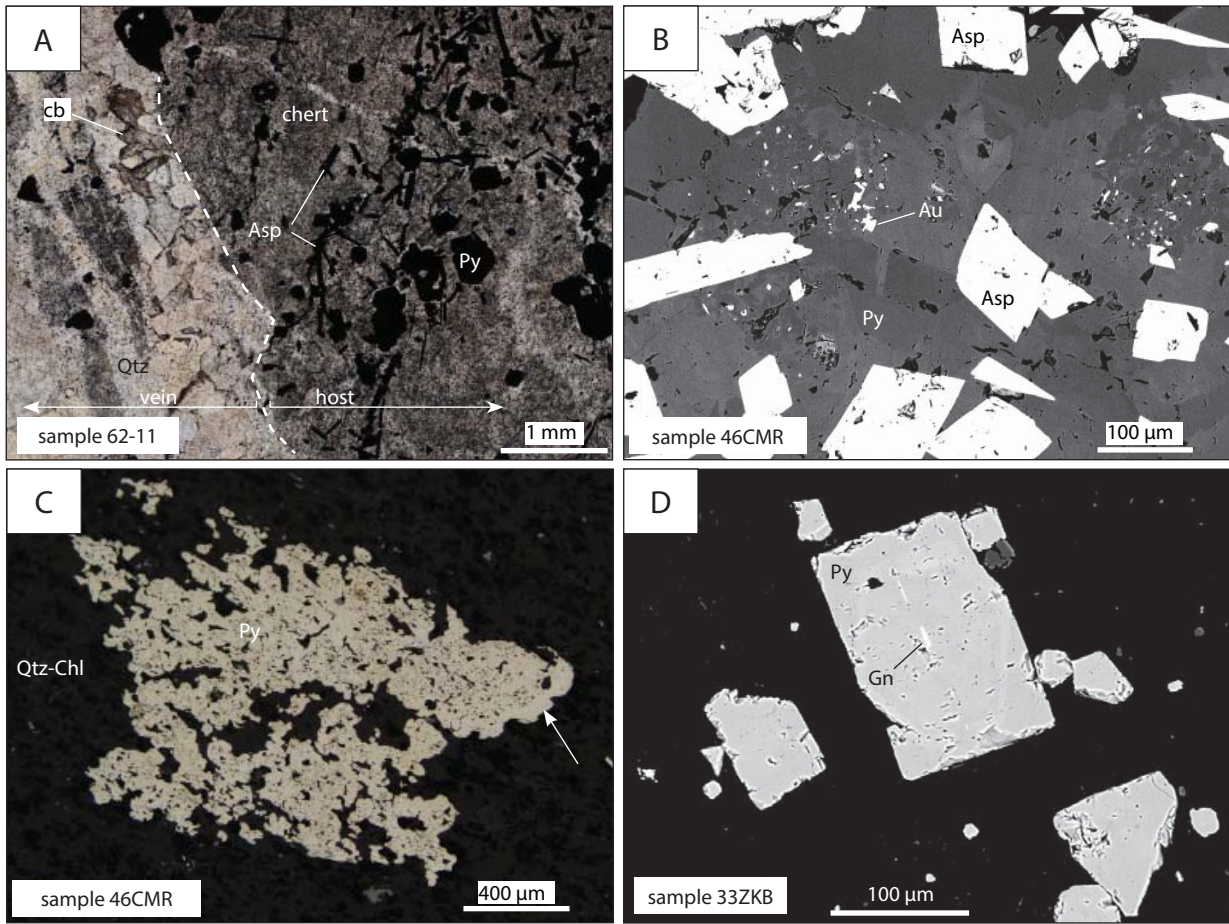


Fig 2

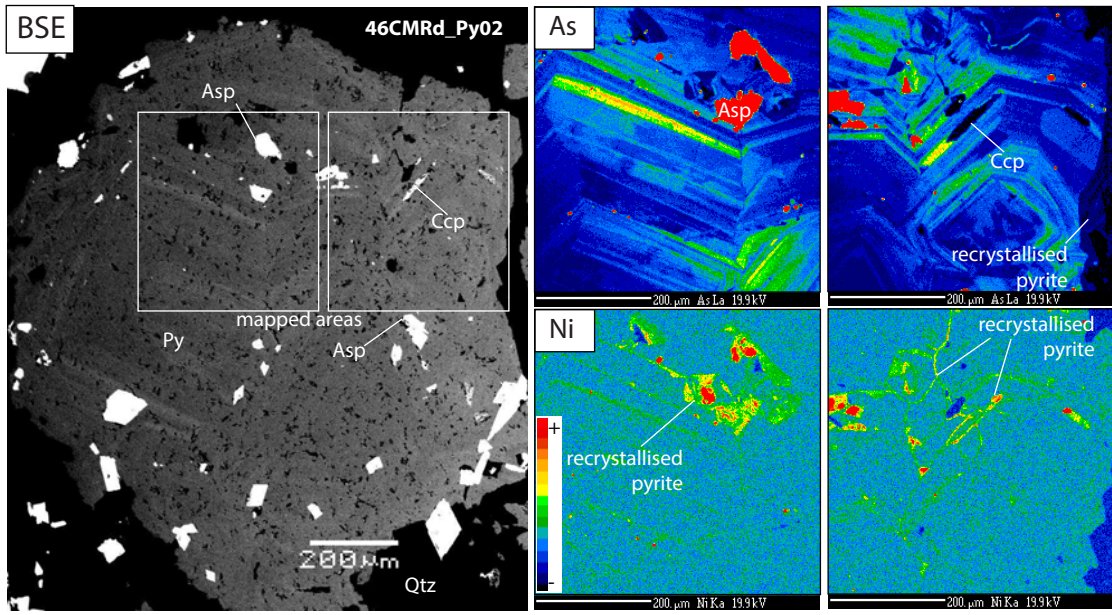


Fig 3

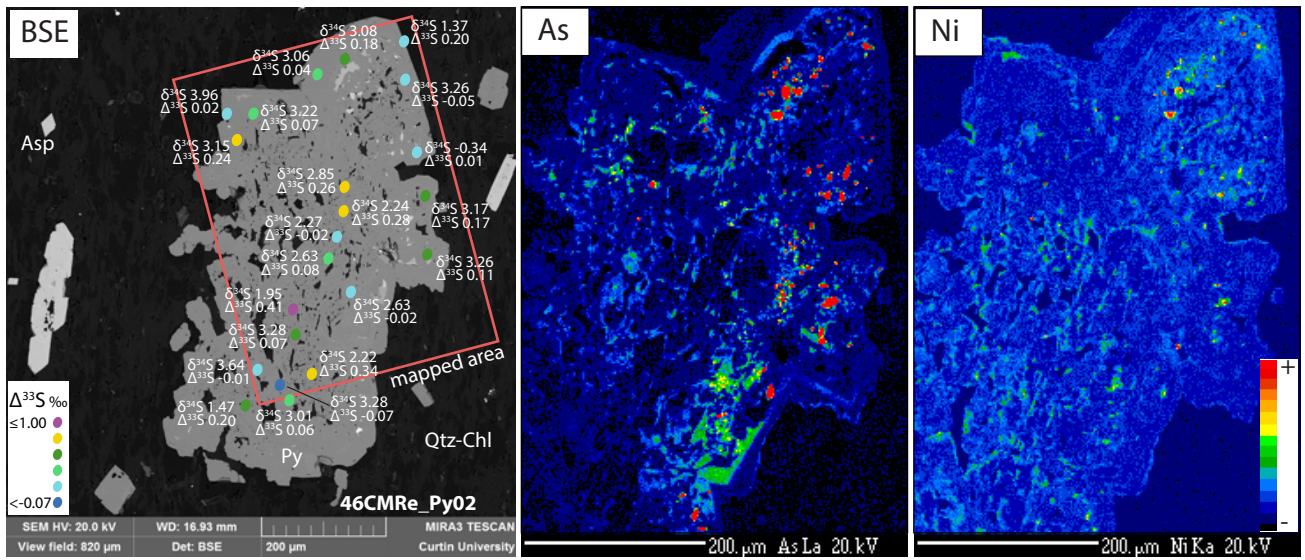


Fig 4

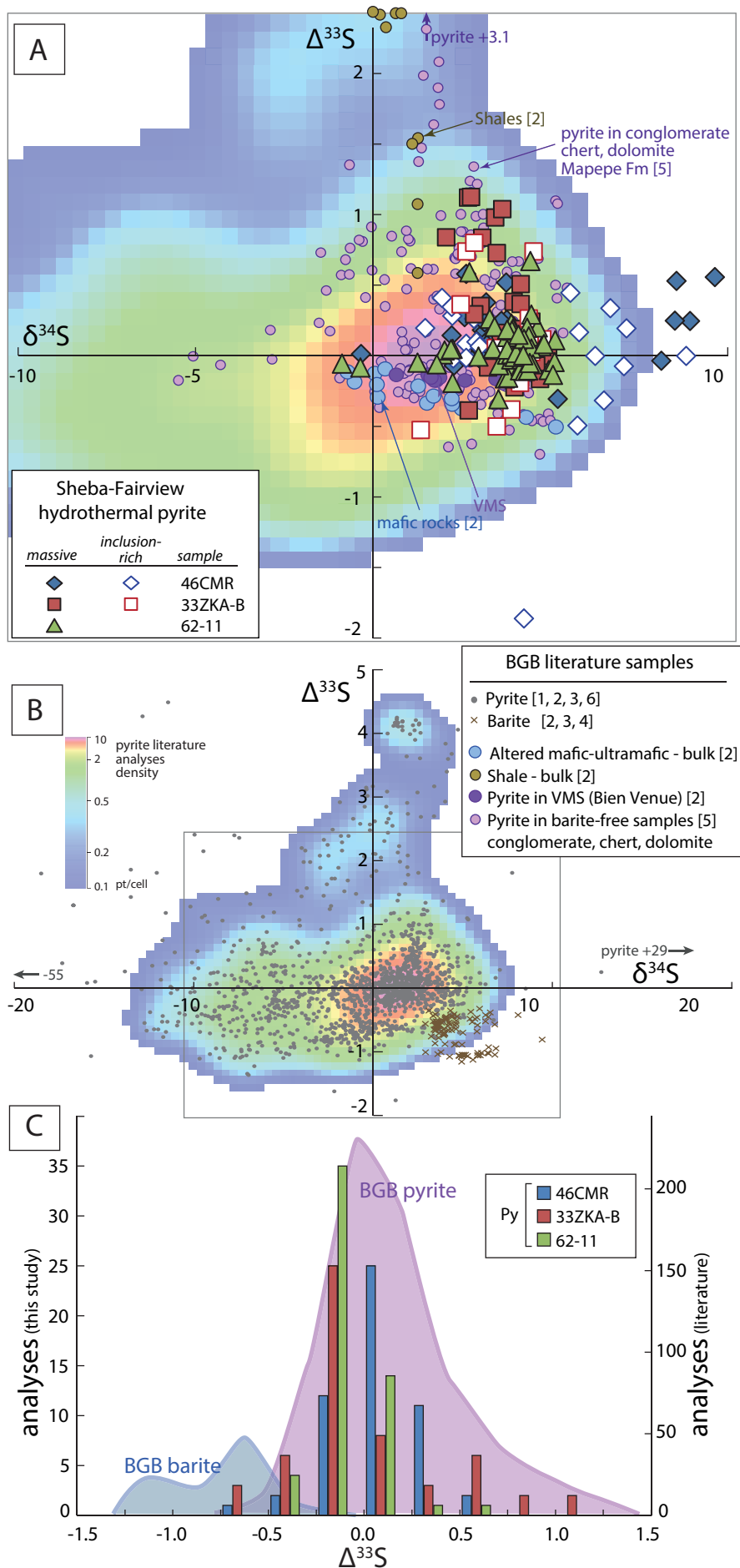


Fig 5 Multiple S isotope plots of pyrite from Sheba and Fairview mines. A and B Plot of $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$ vs. $\delta^{34}\text{S}$. C Frequency histogram of $\Delta^{33}\text{S}$. The data are compared with pyrite, and barite and bulk-rock analyses from various units of the Barberton Greenstone Belt, some groups of literature analyses are differentiated to exemplify specific distributions (data from Bao et al., 2007; Grosch and McLoughlin, 2013; Montinaro et al., 2015; Philippot et al., 2012; Roerdink et al., 2012; 2013; 2016). Density distribution of literature pyrite analyses was calculated as number of spots per $\sim 0.5 \delta^{34}\text{S} \times 0.1 \Delta^{33}\text{S}$ cell. Literature analyses acquired with different bulk and in situ methods, uncertainty up to $\sim 0.5 \text{‰ } \delta^{34}\text{S}$, 0.2‰ . References [1] Philippot et al. (2012), [2] Montinaro et al. (2015), [3] Roerdink et al. (2012), [4] Bao et al. (2007), [5] Roerdink et al. (2013), [6] Grosch and McLoughlin (2013)

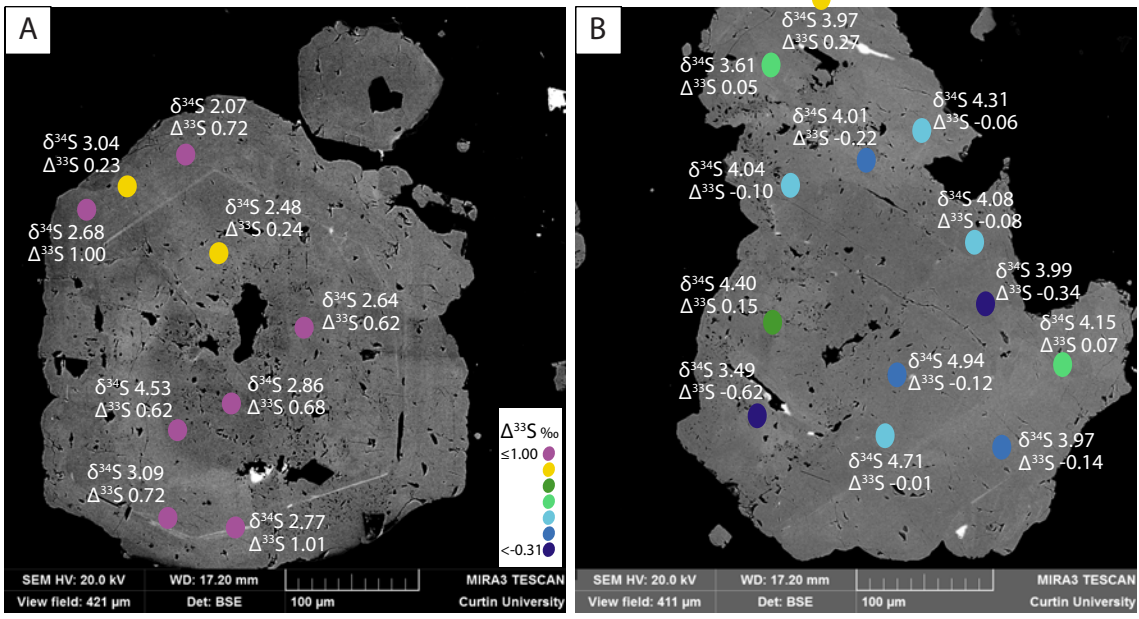
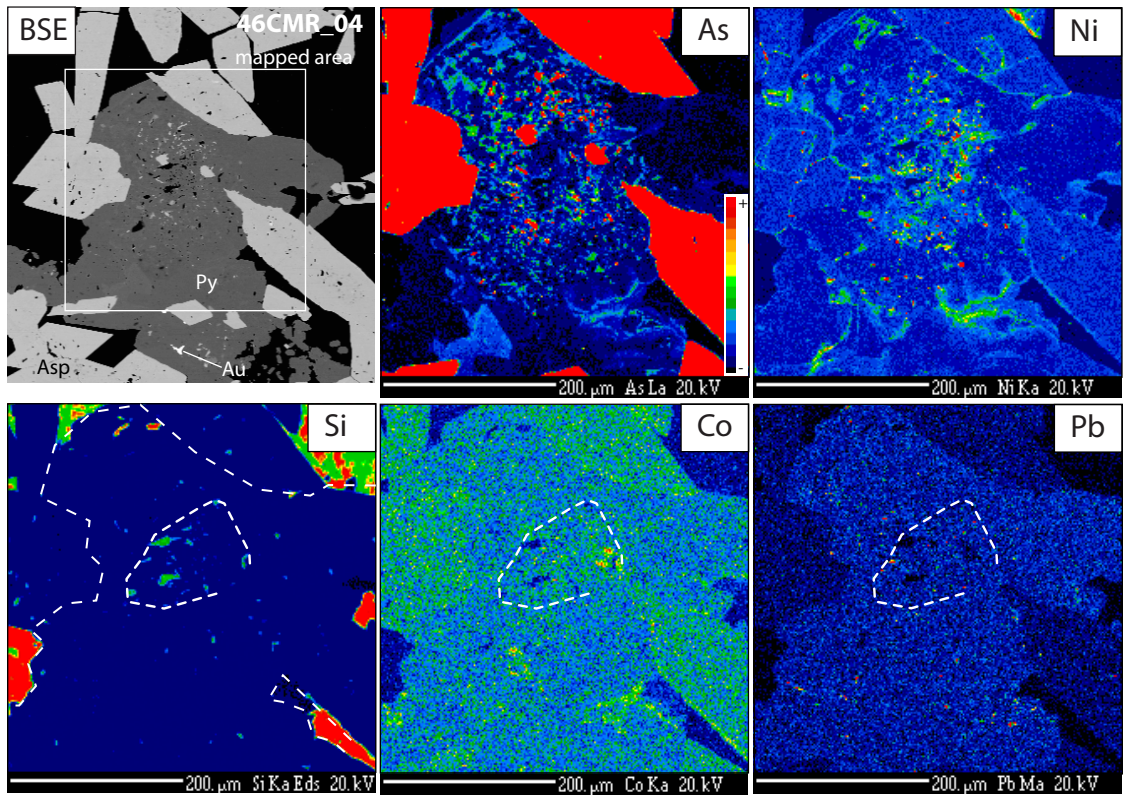
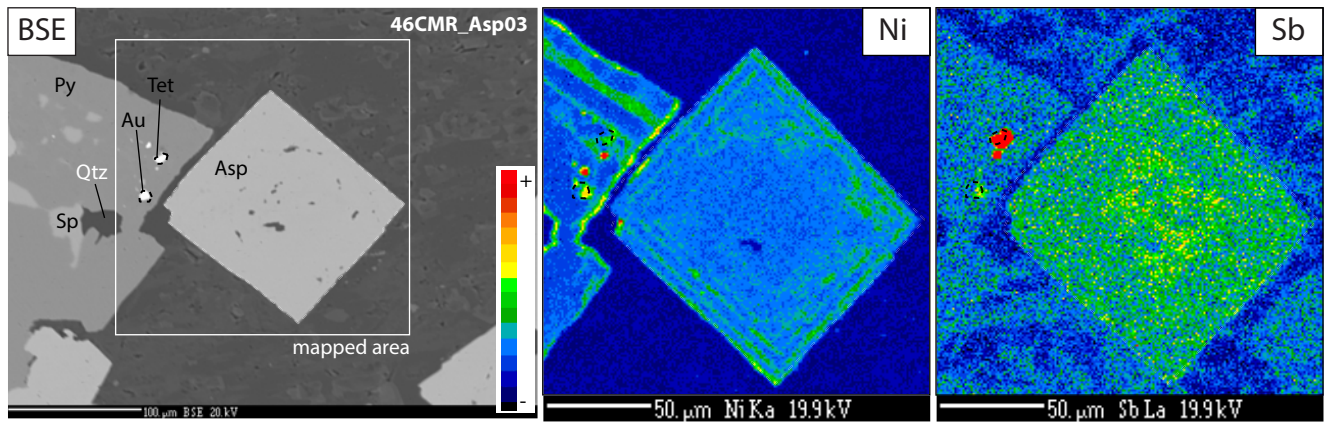


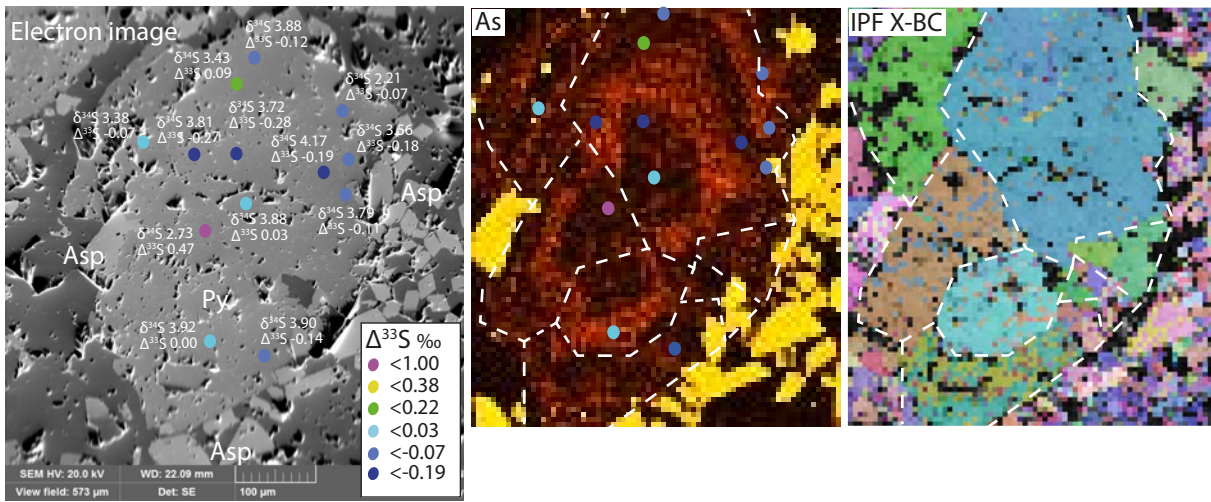
Fig 6



Add Fig 1



Add Fig 2



Add Fig 3

Additional Table 1. Results of S isotope analyses of pyrite (SIMS)

sample	analysis ID	texture	$\delta^{33}\text{S} \text{‰}$	err	$\delta^{34}\text{S} \text{‰}$	err	$\Delta^{33}\text{S} \text{‰}$
46CMR	46CMR-e@1	compact	1.55	0.07	3.10	0.08	-0.16
46CMR	46CMR-e@02	compact	1.60	0.07	3.13	0.08	-0.12
46CMR	46CMR-e@06	compact	1.11	0.08	2.29	0.09	-0.19
46CMR	46CMR-e@07	compact	1.29	0.07	2.22	0.09	0.02
46CMR	46CMR-e@11	compact	2.20	0.06	3.78	0.07	0.14
46CMR	46CMR-e@12	compact	1.55	0.07	2.99	0.10	-0.10
46CMR	46CMR-e@13	compact	1.82	0.06	3.44	0.08	-0.07
46CMR	46CMR-e@15	compact	1.74	0.07	3.10	0.08	0.03
46CMR	46CMR-e@16	compact	2.02	0.05	3.19	0.10	0.26
46CMR	46CMR-e@17	compact	1.93	0.08	2.63	0.07	0.46
46CMR	46CMR-e@18	compact	2.45	0.06	3.76	0.07	0.40
46CMR	46CMR-e@19	compact	1.60	0.06	2.58	0.07	0.16
46CMR	46CMR-e@21	compact	1.60	0.10	3.04	0.11	-0.08
46CMR	46CMR-e@22	compact	1.89	0.07	3.13	0.08	0.17
46CMR	46CMR-e@25	compact	2.11	0.09	3.62	0.07	0.13
46CMR	46CMR-e@26	compact	2.03	0.08	3.83	0.08	-0.05
46CMR	46CMR-e@29	compact	2.06	0.64	3.98	0.15	-0.11
46CMR	46CMR-e@30	compact	1.63	0.08	3.26	0.06	-0.17
46CMR	46CMR-e@31	compact	1.77	0.08	3.08	0.07	0.07
46CMR	46CMR-e@32	compact	1.61	0.08	3.06	0.07	-0.08
46CMR	46CMR-e@33	compact	-0.16	0.06	-0.34	0.10	-0.11
46CMR	46CMR-e@35	compact	1.81	0.06	3.17	0.08	0.06
46CMR	46CMR-e@36	compact	1.79	0.07	3.26	0.09	0.00
46CMR	46CMR-e@37	compact	1.73	0.08	3.22	0.09	-0.04
46CMR	46CMR-e@38	compact	2.06	0.09	3.96	0.09	-0.09
46CMR	46CMR-e@39	compact	1.86	0.07	3.15	0.08	0.12
46CMR	46CMR-e@42	porous	1.73	0.06	2.85	0.07	0.14
46CMR	46CMR-e@43	porous	1.44	0.10	2.24	0.08	0.16
46CMR	46CMR-e@44	porous	1.15	0.07	2.27	0.09	-0.14
46CMR	46CMR-e@45	porous	1.44	0.05	2.63	0.08	-0.03
46CMR	46CMR-e@46	porous	1.34	0.05	2.63	0.07	-0.13
46CMR	46CMR-e@47	porous	1.41	0.07	1.95	0.09	0.29
46CMR	46CMR-e@48	porous	1.60	0.06	2.92	0.08	-0.02
46CMR	46CMR-e@50	porous	1.49	0.08	2.22	0.06	0.23
46CMR	46CMR-e@51	porous	1.61	0.06	3.28	0.07	-0.19
46CMR	46CMR-e@52	porous	1.87	0.07	3.64	0.05	-0.12
46CMR	46CMR-e@53	porous	0.96	0.09	1.48	0.10	0.08
46CMR	46CMR-e@54	porous	1.61	0.08	3.01	0.09	-0.05
46CMR	46CMR-e@55	porous	3.78	0.08	6.70	0.05	0.22
46CMR	46CMR-e@56	porous	3.87	0.13	7.15	0.06	0.08
46CMR	46CMR-e@57	porous	3.16	0.11	5.82	0.05	0.05
46CMR	46CMR-e@58	porous	4.54	0.10	8.83	0.05	-0.11
46CMR	46CMR-e@59	compact	4.14	0.13	8.14	0.06	-0.15
46CMR	46CMR-e@60	compact	4.84	0.11	8.94	0.07	0.14
46CMR	46CMR-e@61	compact	4.93	0.15	8.56	0.09	0.42
46CMR	46CMR-e@62	compact	4.63	0.16	8.52	0.09	0.14
46CMR	46CMR-e@63	compact	5.51	0.20	9.64	0.07	0.45
46CMR	46CMR-e@64	porous	3.22	0.17	6.27	0.11	-0.11
46CMR	46CMR-e@65	compact	2.37	0.21	5.21	0.10	-0.42
46CMR	46CMR-e@66	porous	3.03	0.24	6.52	0.05	-0.43
46CMR	46CMR-e@67	porous	3.56	0.30	7.08	0.08	-0.19
46CMR	46CMR-e@68	porous	3.31	0.24	5.57	0.08	0.33
46CMR	46CMR-e@69	porous	2.47	0.27	5.77	0.07	-0.61
46CMR	46CMR-e@70	porous	0.33	0.36	4.26	0.11	-1.98
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@1	compact	2.02	0.10	3.97	0.06	-0.14

Additional Table 1 (continued). Results of S isotope analyses of pyrite (SIMS)

33ZKA	33ZKA-c@02	compact	2.32	0.07	4.15	0.05	0.07
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@03	compact	1.83	0.10	3.99	0.08	-0.34
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@04	compact	2.13	0.08	4.08	0.04	-0.08
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@05	porous	2.27	0.07	4.31	0.05	-0.06
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@06	compact	2.42	0.12	3.97	0.05	0.27
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@07	compact	2.02	0.10	3.61	0.05	0.05
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@08	porous	1.96	0.10	4.01	0.04	-0.22
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@09	porous	2.09	0.08	4.04	0.03	-0.10
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@10	porous	2.53	0.08	4.40	0.05	0.15
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@11	porous	1.30	0.11	3.50	0.06	-0.62
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@12	compact	2.54	0.08	4.94	0.05	-0.12
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@13	compact	2.53	0.08	4.71	0.05	-0.01
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@14	compact	2.20	0.09	4.22	0.05	-0.09
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@15	compact	2.51	0.09	4.17	0.05	0.25
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@16	compact	1.96	0.11	4.13	0.05	-0.28
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@17	compact	2.17	0.09	4.13	0.06	-0.07
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@18	compact	1.98	0.06	4.15	0.05	-0.27
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@19	compact	2.30	0.08	4.60	0.04	-0.18
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@20	compact	2.25	0.09	4.20	0.05	-0.03
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@21	compact	2.17	0.10	4.20	0.05	-0.10
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@22	porous	0.17	0.08	1.35	0.09	-0.65
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@23	compact	1.00	0.09	2.70	0.11	-0.51
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@24	compact	1.59	0.08	3.25	0.10	-0.20
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@25	compact	2.13	0.08	4.22	0.06	-0.15
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@26	compact	2.26	0.08	4.71	0.06	-0.28
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@27	porous	2.58	0.06	4.78	0.07	0.00
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@28	compact	2.54	0.06	4.47	0.04	0.13
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@29	compact	2.12	0.09	4.24	0.06	-0.18
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@30	porous	1.94	0.06	4.15	0.07	-0.31
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@31	porous	1.84	0.06	3.47	0.08	-0.06
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@32	porous	2.13	0.07	4.31	0.07	-0.20
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@33	porous	1.63	0.06	3.90	0.06	-0.50
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@34	porous	2.16	0.07	4.08	0.06	-0.06
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@35	porous	2.11	0.06	4.01	0.05	-0.07
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@36	porous	2.35	0.07	4.42	0.06	-0.04
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@37	porous	2.12	0.08	3.95	0.06	-0.03
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@38	porous	1.97	0.07	3.90	0.07	-0.15
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@39	porous	2.32	0.07	4.47	0.06	-0.09
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@40	compact	1.92	0.14	3.04	0.06	0.23
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@41	compact	2.50	0.14	2.68	0.06	1.00
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@42	compact	1.90	0.17	2.07	0.05	0.72
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@43	porous	1.64	0.16	2.48	0.04	0.24
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@44	porous	2.09	0.16	2.64	0.07	0.62
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@45	porous	2.27	0.15	2.86	0.05	0.68
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@46	porous	3.07	0.19	4.53	0.05	0.62
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@47	compact	2.42	0.18	3.09	0.09	0.72
33ZKA	33ZKA-c@48	compact	2.55	0.21	2.77	0.08	1.01
33KZB	33KZB@1	compact	1.94	0.09	3.90	0.06	-0.18
33KZB	33KZB@2	compact	1.93	0.05	3.65	0.05	-0.07
33KZB	33KZB@3	compact	1.77	0.10	2.86	0.06	0.17
33KZB	33KZB@4	compact	2.75	0.08	3.45	0.06	0.86
33KZB	33KZB@5	compact	2.92	0.09	3.65	0.07	0.92
33KZB	33KZB@6	compact	2.53	0.06	3.50	0.07	0.61
33KZB	33KZB@7	compact	2.65	0.09	4.17	0.06	0.39
62-11	62-11@04	compact	1.03	0.09	1.98	0.07	-0.11
62-11	62-11@05	compact	1.96	0.05	3.29	0.07	0.14

Additional Table 1 (continued). Results of S isotope analyses of pyrite (SIMS)

62-11	62-11@06	compact	1.51	0.05	3.54	0.06	-0.43
62-11	62-11@07	compact	0.97	0.12	2.25	0.10	-0.31
62-11	62-11@08	compact	1.08	0.10	2.03	0.04	-0.08
62-11	62-11@09	compact	1.52	0.07	2.98	0.05	-0.12
62-11	62-11@10	compact	1.21	0.09	2.25	0.05	-0.07
62-11	62-11@11	compact	1.93	0.07	3.92	0.06	-0.20
62-11	62-11@12	compact	0.60	0.10	1.26	0.15	-0.17
62-11	62-11@13	compact	-0.51	0.08	-0.87	0.11	-0.18
62-11	62-11@14	compact	-0.26	0.10	-0.35	0.08	-0.21
62-11	62-11@15	compact	0.86	0.11	1.80	0.11	-0.18
62-11	62-11@16	compact	1.99	0.11	3.88	0.06	-0.12
62-11	62-11@17	compact	1.97	0.06	3.43	0.07	0.09
62-11	62-11@18	compact	1.75	0.09	3.72	0.06	-0.28
62-11	62-11@19	compact	1.80	0.11	3.81	0.06	-0.27
62-11	62-11@20	compact	1.79	0.10	3.38	0.06	-0.07
62-11	62-11@21	compact	1.18	0.09	2.21	0.06	-0.07
62-11	62-11@22	compact	1.77	0.09	3.56	0.06	-0.18
62-11	62-11@23	compact	2.07	0.09	4.17	0.06	-0.19
62-11	62-11@24	compact	1.96	0.07	3.79	0.08	-0.11
62-11	62-11@25	compact	2.15	0.07	3.88	0.05	0.03
62-11	62-11@26	compact	1.99	0.07	2.73	0.06	0.47
62-11	62-11@27	compact	2.13	0.09	3.92	0.06	0.00
62-11	62-11@28	compact	1.98	0.09	3.90	0.06	-0.14
62-11	62-11@32	compact	2.02	0.07	3.90	0.07	-0.10
62-11	62-11@33	compact	2.13	0.09	4.20	0.09	-0.14
62-11	62-11@34	compact	2.75	0.09	5.14	0.05	0.00
62-11	62-11@35	compact	2.45	0.04	4.96	0.06	-0.22
62-11	62-11@36	compact	2.51	0.06	4.76	0.06	-0.05
62-11	62-11@37	compact	2.59	0.09	5.12	0.06	-0.16
62-11	62-11@38	compact	2.47	0.09	5.07	0.06	-0.25
62-11	62-11@39	compact	2.59	0.09	4.65	0.06	0.08
62-11	62-11@40	compact	2.23	0.08	3.90	0.07	0.11
62-11	62-11@41	compact	2.59	0.09	4.47	0.06	0.18
62-11	62-11@42	compact	2.22	0.06	3.95	0.07	0.08
62-11	62-11@43	compact	2.08	0.05	3.79	0.06	0.02
62-11	62-11@44	compact	2.20	0.05	3.92	0.07	0.06
62-11	62-11@45	compact	2.96	0.08	4.44	0.06	0.56
62-11	62-11@46	compact	2.44	0.06	4.35	0.05	0.08
62-11	62-11@47	compact	2.40	0.08	4.40	0.05	0.02
62-11	62-11@48	compact	2.35	0.04	4.47	0.06	-0.06
62-11	62-11@49	compact	2.03	0.08	4.15	0.06	-0.22
62-11	62-11@53	compact	1.99	0.07	3.79	0.05	-0.07
62-11	62-11@54	compact	2.04	0.04	3.99	0.06	-0.12
62-11	62-11@55	compact	2.26	0.09	4.51	0.06	-0.18
62-11	62-11@59	compact	2.09	0.09	4.29	0.07	-0.22
62-11	62-11@60	compact	2.15	0.06	4.38	0.06	-0.22
62-11	62-11@61	compact	2.09	0.05	4.04	0.05	-0.10
62-11	62-11@62	compact	2.13	0.07	3.79	0.05	0.07
62-11	62-11@63	compact	2.31	0.06	4.26	0.06	0.00
62-11	62-11@64	compact	2.22	0.12	4.42	0.06	-0.17
62-11	62-11@65	compact	2.56	0.08	4.83	0.05	-0.03
62-11	62-11@66	compact	2.18	0.05	4.24	0.06	-0.11
62-11	62-11@67	compact	2.26	0.07	4.10	0.05	0.03