

1 **Nanoscale distribution of Pb in monazite revealed by atom probe**
2 **microscopy**

3 D. Fougereuse^{1,2}, S.M. Reddy^{1,2}, D.W. Saxey^{2,3}, T. Erickson^{1,4}, C.L. Kirkland¹, W.D.A.
4 Rickard^{2,3}, A.-M. Seydoux-Guillaume^{5,6}, C. Clark¹, I.S. Buick⁷

5

6 ¹School of Earth and Planetary Sciences, The Institute for Geoscience Research (TIGeR),
7 Curtin University, GPO Box U1987, Perth, WA 6845, Australia.

8 ²Geoscience Atom Probe, Advanced Resource Characterisation Facility, John de Laeter
9 Centre, Curtin University, GPO Box U1987, Perth, WA 6845, Australia

10 ³Department of Physics and Astronomy, Curtin University, GPO Box U1987, Perth, WA 6845,
11 Australia

12 ⁴Lunar and Planetary Institute, Universities Space Research Association, 3600 Bay Area
13 Boulevard, Houston, TX, 77058, USA

14 ⁵Université de Lyon, UJM-Saint-Etienne, UCA, CNRS, IRD, LMV UMR 6524, F-42023 Saint-
15 Etienne, France

16 ⁶CNRS, Université Clermont Auvergne, IRD, OPGC, Laboratoire Magmas et Volcans, F-
17 63000 Clermont-Ferrand, France

18 ⁷Department of Earth Sciences, Stellenbosch University, Matieland Private Bag X1,
19 Stellenbosch, South Africa

20

21 **Abstract**

22 The widespread use of monazite (LREEPO₄) in U-Pb geochronology is underpinned by the
23 assumption that it incorporates negligible amounts of Pb during initial growth, and that
24 radiogenic Pb remains immobile after formation. We have investigated the nanoscale
25 distribution of Pb in monazite from granulite facies rocks of the Sandmata Metamorphic
26 Complex (Rajasthan, India) by atom probe microscopy to further understand the utility of
27 monazite as a geochronometer. The studied monazite contains distinct 10 nm clusters,

28 enriched in Ca and with a bulk composition consistent with them being apatite
29 ($\text{Ca}_5(\text{PO}_4)_3(\text{OH})$), that are also enriched in Si and Pb relative to the monazite host. The
30 $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{232}\text{Th}$ ratios of the clusters ranged from 1.1 ± 0.1 to 1.4 ± 0.2 (2σ), indicating that the
31 clusters hold unsupported Pb. The $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{232}\text{Th}$ ratios of the whole specimen (including
32 clusters) and the matrix alone are similar (<6% difference), indicating that the clusters formed
33 shortly after monazite crystallisation by a phase exsolution mechanism that partitioned the
34 initial common Pb and the minor radiogenic Pb into apatite. A volume-dependent analysis of
35 the bulk monazite composition shows that a large variability in the Ca and, by proxy, Pb
36 composition at small volumes (125 to 10,000 nm^3) due to its heterogeneous distribution in the
37 clusters, may have detrimental effects on radiometric dating with small analytical volumes. At
38 larger volumes, including those used in EPMA and traditional isotopic dating methods (LA-
39 ICPMS, SIMS), the variability of Pb content is negligible. However, the measured composition
40 may result from the mixing of multiple reservoirs.

41

42 **Introduction**

43 Monazite is a light rare earth element phosphate (LREEPO_4) widely used in the geosciences
44 to date geological events. Monazite has been used to date the timing of diagenesis (Evans et
45 al., 2002; Rasmussen et al., 2001), low-grade metamorphism (Del R  o et al., 2009; Janots et
46 al., 2008), high-grade metamorphism (e.g. (Ayers et al., 2002; Kelly et al., 2012; Laurent et
47 al., 2016), stages of deformation during complex tectonic histories (Kirkland et al., 2016;
48 Williams et al., 1999) and the timing of fluid movement on major structures (Kirkland et al.,
49 2009).

50 Underpinning the widespread geochronological use of monazite is its ability to incorporate U
51 and Th, but generally exclude Pb within its crystal structure during growth so there is little initial
52 Pb (Parrish, 1990). In many circumstances, essentially all Pb in monazite can be related to
53 radioactive decay of U and Th, which presents an ideal case for U-Pb geochronology.
54 However, some studies have reported significant initial Pb fractions in monazite (Didier et al.,
55 2013; Janots and Rubatto, 2014; Mottram et al., 2014; Seydoux-Guillaume et al., 2012)

56 indicating that a non-radiogenic Pb component can be present. The nature and the
57 mechanisms of incorporation of this initial Pb in monazite has not been extensively studied.
58 Previous studies have suggested that initial Pb in monazite is due to surface contamination
59 during sample preparation, the presence of Pb in cracks and inclusions or the mixing of
60 nanoscale Pb reservoirs (Grand'Homme et al., 2016; Seydoux-Guillaume et al., 2003).
61 Another assumption for the use of monazite in U-Th-Pb geochronology is that Pb produced
62 by the radioactive decay of U and Th remains immobile, or "trapped" in the crystal lattice and
63 that the isotopic parent-daughter pair remains coupled at the scale of the analytical volume.
64 However, discordance has been observed in monazite from polymetamorphic terrains
65 indicating that Pb can be mobile at a scale of $>10\ \mu\text{m}$ (Bingen and van Breemen, 1998;
66 Cocherie et al., 1998). The mechanisms responsible for Pb mobility in minerals operate at the
67 nanoscale (Grand'Homme et al., 2017; Grand'Homme et al., 2016; Seydoux-Guillaume et al.,
68 2003). However, such mechanisms have been previously inferred only from comparatively
69 large scale analytical volumes (Crowley and Ghent, 1999; Goncalves et al., 2005; Paquette
70 and Tiepolo, 2007; Tilton, 1960). In this paper, atom probe microscopy (APM) is used to
71 investigate the nanoscale dissemination of Pb in a monazite grain to provide insight into
72 common Pb distribution and solid state Pb mobility. APM has the unique ability to accurately
73 measure the trace element and isotopic composition of minerals in three-dimensions and at
74 sub-nanometre resolution as demonstrated in zircon (Peterman et al., 2016; Valley et al.,
75 2014; Valley et al., 2015) and baddeleyite (White et al., 2017). This study focusses on the
76 distribution of Pb in two low strain ($<0.5^\circ$ misorientation; fig. 1) Paleoproterozoic domains of
77 the monazite studied by Erickson et al. (2015). These domains are characterised by low
78 fractions of initial ^{206}Pb ranging between 0.08 and 0.73% (Erickson et al., 2015; their data
79 repository).

80 The studied monazite grain comes from granulite-facies rocks of the Sandmata Complex,
81 Rajasthan, India (Fig.1). The host rock has experienced two high-temperature metamorphic
82 events. M1_{sc} records conditions of $\sim 7\text{--}10$ kbar and $800\text{--}900$ °C and has been dated at ~ 1720
83 Ma, whilst the ~ 1000 Ma M2_{sc} event took place at $\sim 5\text{--}7$ kbar and $600\text{--}750$ °C (Buick et al.,

84 2006). Monazite grains within the matrix of the studied sample record a complex
85 Mesoproterozoic age distribution, as determined by U-Th-Pb radiometric dating, with peaks at
86 ca. 1700 Ma and 1200 Ma, and minor Neoproterozoic ages at ca. 900 Ma (Buick et al., 2010).
87 Electron Backscattered Diffraction (EBSD) data and correlated secondary ion mass
88 spectrometry (SIMS) U/Pb analyses reveal systematic Pb-loss with progressive lattice strain
89 and complete age-resetting in neoblasts formed by dynamic recrystallization at 970 ± 14 Ma
90 (2σ , $n = 6$, MSWD = 1.3; Erickson et al., 2015), within error of the age of amphibolite-facies
91 metamorphism from the adjacent Mangalwar Complex (Buick et al., 2006).

92

93 **Methods**

94 **Focused ion beam.** Site specific sample preparation for atom probe needle-shaped specimen
95 was performed using the Tescan Lyra3 dual Focused Ion Beam Scanning Electron
96 Microscope (FIB-SEM) at Curtin University using the lift-out method described in detail
97 elsewhere (Thompson et al., 2007). The Ga⁺ beam was operated at 30kV for the lift out and
98 atom probe needle shaping, with low voltage (5kV) being used for a final polishing stage to
99 remove effects of surface knock-on damage created by the high energy Ga beam. The same
100 instrument, fitted with an Oxford Instruments X-max EDS detector, was used for the energy
101 dispersive x-ray (EDS) measurements of the composition of the monazite, using an
102 accelerating voltage of 20 keV and beam current of 1 nA. Three EDS point analyses (500,000
103 counts each) were performed on homogenous flat polished regions adjacent to the atom probe
104 lift-out. The EDS data was analysed using Oxford AZtec software. Quantification results were
105 normalised to 100 at.% with oxygen calculated by stoichiometry (2 ions). The trace elements
106 Tb, Li, Y, U and Pb were below the detection limit of EDS and as such were not included in
107 the quantification. Uncertainties were determined as two standard deviations from the three
108 analyses.

109

110 **Atom probe microscopy (APM).** APM utilises field evaporation of atomic or molecular
111 species from a needle-shaped specimen which are instantly ionised and accelerated to hit a

112 position sensitive detector. All species are identified by time-of-flight mass spectrometry by
113 ranging of mass-to-charge ratio (Da) spectra (e.g., Fig. 2). Each peak in the mass spectrum
114 is identified based on mass, charge state (1+ to 3+), and relative isotopic abundances. The
115 original lateral (X, Y) location of the identified species within the specimen needle can be
116 reconstructed from the detector impact location, whilst the depth (Z location) of the atom within
117 the specimen is determined from the order in which the atoms field-evaporate.

118 Atom probe microscopy was undertaken on the Advanced Resource Characterisation
119 Facility's Geoscience Atom Probe (Cameca LEAP4000X HR) housed in the John de Laeter
120 Centre, Curtin University, Perth, Australia. The instrument was operated in laser mode with a
121 UV laser ($\lambda = 355$ nm), pulse energy of 100 pJ, pulse rate of 125 kHz, base specimen
122 temperature of 50 K and evaporation rate of 0.01 atoms/pulse. Two datasets, each of ~16
123 million ions, were collected before the specimens fractured. IVAS v3.6.12 processing software
124 was used to reconstruct and analyse the data. Ca-rich clusters were observed in the
125 reconstructed 3D data. In order to minimise cross-contamination between different
126 compositional domains, a 2.5 at.% Ca isoconcentration surface (Hellman et al., 2000) was
127 used to isolate the composition of the matrix, a 5 at.% Ca surface for the isotopic analysis of
128 the clusters. Proximity histograms representing the composition of the monazite from the
129 centre of the cluster to a maximum radius of 10 nm with a resolution of 0.5 nm increments
130 (Hellman et al., 2000) were used to investigate the composition transition between the cluster
131 and the host.

132 No instrumental drift standardisation has yet been established in atom probe microscopy. Data
133 quality, in terms of background noise, mass peak overlaps and detector saturation, is
134 assessed from the data sets themselves, with uncertainties typically comparable to those
135 arising from the counting statistics for each atomic species (Peterman et al., 2016; White et
136 al., 2017). Due to peak interferences on the thermal tail of the ThO^{++} peak, each ion type used
137 for isotopic quantification was measured using a narrow range of fixed width (0.1 Da). This
138 procedure reduces the number of counts for each ion, but provides a better basis for
139 quantitative comparison between isotopes. This method is equivalent to 'full-width' ranging

140 applied at a specified fraction of the peak maximum, with the reasonable assumption that the
141 peak shapes are sufficiently similar between mass peaks within a single acquisition, and that
142 the peaks are well above the background noise (Hudson et al., 2011).

143

144 **Results**

145 The atom probe mass-to-charge spectrum of monazite is complex due to the presence of
146 single ion species and complicated molecular species of REEs with different charge states
147 (Fig. 2). The compositions of the monazite derived by atom probe data are deficient in O and
148 P and enriched in REE compared to the EDS data in the same domain (Table 1) and the
149 expected stoichiometry for monazite. Similar discrepancies in stoichiometry have been
150 reported in some other complex oxide phases and has been attributed to a number of potential
151 mechanisms, including the dissociation of complex molecules during the flight path, the
152 creation and evaporation of neutral species, and the ranging of the 16 Da peak as $^{16}\text{O}^+$ despite
153 overlap with the dimer $^{16}\text{O}_2^{++}$ resulting in O underestimation (Bachhav et al., 2011; Gault et
154 al., 2016; Karahka et al., 2015; Saxey, 2011).

155 Despite the complexity of the spectrum, the $^{206}\text{Pb}^{++}$ and $^{208}\text{Pb}^{++}$ peaks are clearly identifiable
156 above the background noise at 103 Da and 104 Da respectively (Fig. 2, inlay). However, the
157 minor ^{206}Pb signal and relatively high background levels introduce a large uncertainty in its
158 quantification and for this reason we have not reported ^{206}Pb values. No peaks were
159 identifiable for ^{204}Pb and ^{207}Pb and therefore are not quantified in this study. Th has been
160 quantified using four different peaks, primarily as ThO^{++} (~120 Da), but also as ThPO_3^{+++}
161 (~103.7 Da), ThPO_4^{++} (~163.5 Da) and as $\text{ThP}_2\text{O}_6^{+++}$ (~195 Da). Interference of the ThO^{++}
162 peak tail is caused by $\text{P}_5\text{O}_5\text{REE}$ molecules (Fig. 2) altering the precise quantification of the Th
163 concentration, and inevitably leading to the underestimation of the total Th content. $^{238}\text{UO}_2^{++}$
164 has been identified at mass 135 Da, however $^{235}\text{UO}_2^{++}$ is below the detection limit of our
165 analysis and cannot be quantified. The $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{232}\text{Th}$ ratios measured from the whole specimen
166 and matrix domain are elevated when compared to the expected age of the studied grain

167 (Erickson et al., 2015) because the APM measurement appears to have underestimated the
168 Th content of the monazite. The presence of initial Pb would also increase this ratio.
169 The atom probe results reveal the presence of ~10 nm diameter clusters enriched in Ca, Si
170 and Pb in a homogeneous matrix for both datasets (Fig. 3, 4). The proximity histogram profile
171 for the largest cluster defined by a 1.3 at.% Ca isoconcentration surface (Fig. 4) shows a
172 gradual compositional change over several nanometres with an increase of Ca, Si and Pb and
173 decrease of O, P and REE. As shown on the proxigram (Fig. 4C), the Ca concentration varies
174 from 1 at.% outside of the cluster to ~10 at.% in the centremost domain of the cluster. Pb and
175 Si exhibit the same trends with an increase superior to one order of magnitude in the cluster
176 compared to the matrix. Conversely, all other element abundances decrease in the clusters
177 (Fig. 4, table 1). Notably, the O content decreases by ~3 at % and P by ~2 at.%. Th does not
178 show any clear trend with values in the same range between the different domains. No F or
179 Cl was measured in the clusters or matrix and the presence of background H in the atom
180 probe analysis chamber precludes the discrimination of oxygen isotope peaks and overlapping
181 hydroxyl and water molecules.

182 In specimen 1 the isotopic composition of the clusters defined by a 2.5 at.% isosurface has a
183 $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{232}\text{Th}$ ratio of 1.1 ± 0.1 (1σ) In contrast, the matrix has a $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{232}\text{Th}$ ratio of $0.1304 \pm$
184 0.0016 and the whole specimen, including the matrix and clusters, yields a $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{232}\text{Th}$ ratio of
185 0.1384 ± 0.0016 . In specimen 1 the difference between the $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{232}\text{Th}$ ratio in the whole
186 specimen and the matrix is 6 ± 2 %.

187 In specimen 2 the $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{232}\text{Th}$ ratio is 1.4 ± 0.2 (1σ) for the clusters, 0.1152 ± 0.0015 for the
188 matrix and 0.1178 ± 0.0015 for the whole specimen. In this specimen the $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{232}\text{Th}$ ratios
189 are within error between the whole specimen and the matrix, but the difference between
190 absolute values is 2 ± 2 %.

191

192 **Discussion**

193 *Nanoscale compositional heterogeneities in monazite*

194 The reconstructed atom probe data show variations in major and trace element distribution.
195 These variations are manifest as clusters that are depleted in O, P and REEs and enriched in
196 Ca, Pb and Si. Similar nanoscale clusters were observed in monazite by transmission electron
197 microscopy (TEM) and were suggested to be a Pb-Ca-Si-O phase such as margarosanite
198 ($\text{Ca}_2\text{PbSi}_3\text{O}_9$), represent material that crystallized in fluid inclusions, or be a local domain in
199 the monazite structure, high in Pb, like the brabantite ($\text{CaTh}(\text{PO}_4)_2$) end member (Seydoux-
200 Guillaume et al., 2003). The chemical composition of the clusters measured by APM with ~10
201 at.% Ca, ~1 at.% Si and ~0.7 at.% Pb is however inconsistent with this interpretation.
202 The composition of the clusters is significantly different than the monazite host (O, P and REE
203 decrease by a few at.% whereas Ca increases by ~9 at.%), and is more consistent with apatite
204 $\text{Ca}_5(\text{PO}_4)_3(\text{OH}, \text{Cl}, \text{F})$. Pb and Si can substitute for Ca in apatite (Harrison et al., 2002; Rønso,
205 1989) and can account for the increased Si and Pb content of the clusters as observed in our
206 APM data. The gradual compositional change between the two domains is also consistent
207 with the interpretation that the cluster represent nano-scale inclusions (Fougerouse et al.,
208 2016; Vurpillot et al., 2000).

209

210 *Timing of inclusion formation*

211 Different models have been proposed for the formation of nano-inclusions. These include
212 formation during annealing of radiation damages (Valley et al., 2014), dissolution-
213 reprecipitation (Harlov et al., 2011), fluid supersaturation at the crystal/fluid interface (Gebauer
214 et al., 2014; Markov, 2003) or phase immiscibility (Ferraris et al., 2005; Putnis, 1992). To
215 discriminate between these potential models it is useful to consider the mobility of Pb
216 associated with cluster formation and the timing of this mobility.

217 Previous studies investigating Pb mobility in zircons have concluded that radiation damage
218 and metamictization of the crystal structure is a prerequisite for Pb mobility and formation of
219 Pb-enriched clusters during high temperature metamorphism (Peterman et al., 2016; Valley
220 et al., 2014; Valley et al., 2015). However, the fast annealing of radiation damage in monazite
221 precludes the formation of metamict domains (Meldrum et al., 1998; Seydoux-Guillaume et

222 al., 2002b) which could have enhanced Pb mobility. Pb diffusion in monazite is extremely slow
223 and almost negligible at temperatures of ~1050 °C (Cherniak and Pyle, 2008; Cherniak et al.,
224 2004; Gardés et al., 2006; Gardés et al., 2007; Harrison et al., 2002). Hence, volume diffusion
225 is unlikely to be responsible for the segregation of Pb into already existing apatite
226 nanoinclusions and therefore, Pb mobility and formation of apatite nanoinclusions are likely to
227 be coupled.

228 The Sandmata rock sample studied here does not record a significant hydrous retrograde
229 metamorphic assemblage and has remained in a dry environment since granulite facies
230 metamorphism and initial crystallisation of the monazite (Buick et al., 2006; Buick et al., 2010;
231 Erickson et al., 2015). The chemical zonation of the monazite (Erickson et al., 2015, their Fig.
232 2), including preservation of epitaxial growth zoning, is therefore not consistent with either
233 dissolution-reprecipitation (Erickson et al., 2016) or supersaturation of the fluid at the
234 crystal/liquid interface (Gebauer et al., 2014; Markov, 2003) .

235 The phase immiscibility model is based on a potential miscibility gap of Ca in monazite similar
236 to the miscibility gap between monazite and xenotime (Andrehs and Heinrich, 1998; Gratz and
237 Heinrich, 1997; Heinrich et al., 1997; Seydoux-Guillaume et al., 2002a). Ca can be
238 incorporated in the monazite structure by the brabantite/cherelite coupled substitution (Ca^{2+}
239 or $\text{Pb}^{2+} + \text{Th}^{4+}$ or $\text{U}^{4+} = 2\text{REE}^{3+}$; (Clavier et al., 2011; Spear and Pyle, 2002)). Excess Ca
240 impurities can be assimilated in large quantities during rapid crystal growth favouring
241 exsolution (unmixing) during slow cooling (Ferraris et al., 2005; Putnis, 1992; Watson, 1996;
242 Watson and Liang, 1995), or during subsequent heating after a fast cooling (Putnis, 1978).

243 In both of our samples, the $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{232}\text{Th}$ ratio of the whole specimen and the matrix alone has
244 a slight, but measurable difference of 6 ± 2 % in specimen 1 but are within uncertainty in
245 specimen 2. This similarity between the two domains indicates that only a short time elapsed
246 before the formation of the clusters. Our isotopic data are therefore in agreement with the
247 formation of the inclusions by exsolution during the slow cooling of the Sandmata rocks, shortly
248 after monazite crystallisation.

249 This finding is different to that reported in previous studies in zircon where Pb mobility was
250 linked to a metamorphic event several hundred million years after crystallisation (Peterman et
251 al., 2016; Valley et al., 2014; Valley et al., 2015). In our sample, this similar isotopic ratio
252 between whole specimen and matrix indicates that the M2_{SC} 600-750 °C metamorphic event
253 at 1 Ga, some 700 Ma after monazite crystallisation cannot be responsible for the cluster
254 formation. Hence the Pb mobility associated with neoblast formation during deformation, as
255 documented by Erickson et al. (2015), represents a temporally distinct process from the
256 segregation of Pb-enriched apatite inclusions.

257 The studied monazite grain hosts up to 0.73% initial ²⁰⁶Pb (Erickson et al., 2015). This initial
258 Pb value is lower than the ~6% difference between the ²⁰⁸Pb/²³²Th ratio of the whole specimen
259 and matrix alone indicating that the Pb in the inclusions is a combination of initial Pb and
260 radiogenic Pb produced before they formed. Additional radiogenic ²⁰⁸Pb, would also be
261 produced within the inclusion from the decay of inclusion-hosted Th (Table 1).

262

263 *Geochronological Implications of Nanocluster in Monazite*

264 The presence of initial Pb in nanoscale inclusions in monazite has the potential to be
265 detrimental for geochronology depending on their concentration and the scale of the analyses.
266 If uncorrected, the presence of unsupported Pb would increase the calculated age. There are,
267 for instance, no common Pb correction protocols for U-Th-Pb chemical dating using electron
268 microprobe (EPMA; Montel et al., 1996). Common Pb correction protocols exist for some
269 dating methods based on isotopic analyses (Andersen, 2002; Ludwig, 2003), but these
270 methods assume a homogeneous common Pb distribution and the common Pb composition
271 at the time of incorporation. The isotopic composition of common Pb is frequently estimated
272 using the expected composition at the age of crystallization, based on a Pb evolution model
273 for the Earth (Stacey and Kramers, 1975), or projected using a free regression through the
274 uncorrected data in a Tera Wasserburg diagram (Williams, 1998).

275 The atom probe data reveals the presence of Pb clusters composed of initial Pb and
276 radiogenic Pb. The geochronological significance of the Pb bearing nanoclusters identified by

277 APM has been investigated using a spatial and statistical analysis of the 3D APM data set. In
278 this analysis the Ca content has been used as a proxy for Pb as it provides a better signal-to-
279 noise ratio and a more robust estimation of the effect of the nanoinclusions. Cubic volumes of
280 varying size (125 nm³ to 150,000 nm³) were sampled and analysed at evenly-spaced locations
281 throughout the three-dimensional atom probe data. Volumes composed of Ca concentrations
282 greater than the average Ca content of the monazite indicate the presence of a cluster (or
283 portion of one) within this volume, and hence also, a higher fraction of Pb. The Ca
284 concentration measurements, as a function of the cubic sampling volume (Fig. 5) indicate a
285 large variability in the Ca concentration for small sampling volumes, with values up to 20 at.%
286 Ca. This highlights the heterogeneity of Ca throughout the analysed material and the
287 dependence of measured values on the size of the analysis volume. By proxy, the Pb content
288 is also highly variable for small volumes and becomes decoupled from radioactive parents.
289 This variability decreases and is analytically negligible for sampling volumes greater than
290 100,000 nm³ (10⁻⁴ μm³).

291 Based on the size and the distribution of the clusters in the Sandmata monazite, our study
292 predicts that for analytical volumes used for commonplace dating methods such as Electron
293 microprobe (EPMA; ~0.5 μm³), Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry (SIMS; ~250 μm³) and
294 Laser Ablation Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS; 20,000 μm³), the
295 variability in the Pb fraction is negligible, as a sufficient quantity of clusters will have been
296 incorporated into the analytical volume to result in an average Pb concentration. However,
297 these analyses represent the mixing of multiple, discrete Pb isotopic reservoirs that do not
298 permit the initial Pb component present in the clusters to be accurately measured or corrected.

299

300 **Conclusion**

301 This research presents detailed trace element and isotopic compositional measurements of
302 monazite at the nanoscale to yield unique information about this widely used geochronometer.
303 We observed 10 nm apatite nano-inclusions in monazite which formed shortly after monazite
304 crystallisation and contain both initial Pb and radiogenic Pb. The inclusions formed by

305 exsolution of a Ca-bearing phase during the cooling of the rock and gathered excess Pb and
306 Si from the monazite hosts. The inclusions spatial distribution and size control the amount of
307 Pb signal that may end up in a given analytical volume. In the case of this monazite a negligible
308 variability of inclusion load is found at analytical volumes $>100,000 \text{ nm}^3$. Atom probe
309 microscopy provides a unique and complementary tool for characterising sub-micron
310 elemental and isotopic variations in Pb distribution within monazite.

311

312 **Acknowledgements**

313 The authors would like to acknowledge constructive reviews by Fernando Corfu, an
314 anonymous reviewer and editorial handling by Catherine Chauvel. The Australian Resource
315 Characterisation Facility (ARCF), under the auspices of the National Resource Sciences
316 Precinct (NRSP) – a collaboration between CSIRO, Curtin University and The University of
317 Western Australia – is supported by the Science and Industry Endowment Fund (SIEF R113-
318 01). ISB acknowledges funding under the NRF (South Africa) Incentives for Rated
319 Researchers Scheme.

320

321 **References**

322

323 Andersen, T. (2002) Correction of common lead in U–Pb analyses that do not report ^{204}Pb .

324 *Chemical geology*, 192(1), 59-79.

325 Andrehs, G., and Heinrich, W. (1998) Experimental determination of REE distributions

326 between monazite and xenotime: potential for temperature-calibrated geochronology.

327 *Chemical Geology*, 149(1), 83-96.

328 Ayers, J.C., Dunkle, S., Gao, S., and Miller, C.F. (2002) Constraints on timing of peak and

329 retrograde metamorphism in the Dabie Shan ultrahigh-pressure metamorphic belt,

330 east-central China, using U–Th–Pb dating of zircon and monazite. *Chemical*

331 *Geology*, 186(3), 315-331.

332 Bachhav, M., Danoix, R., Danoix, F., Hannyoyer, B., Ogale, S., and Vurpillot, F. (2011)
333 Investigation of wüstite (Fe_{1-x}O) by femtosecond laser assisted atom probe
334 tomography. *Ultramicroscopy*, 111(6), 584-588.

335 Bingen, B., and van Breemen, O. (1998) U-Pb monazite ages in amphibolite-to granulite-
336 facies orthogneiss reflect hydrous mineral breakdown reactions: Sveconorwegian
337 Province of SW Norway. *Contributions to Mineralogy and Petrology*, 132(4), 336-353.

338 Buick, I., Allen, C., Pandit, M., Rubatto, D., and Hermann, J. (2006) The Proterozoic
339 magmatic and metamorphic history of the Banded Gneiss Complex, central
340 Rajasthan, India: LA-ICP-MS U-Pb zircon constraints. *Precambrian Research*,
341 151(1), 119-142.

342 Buick, I., Clark, C., Rubatto, D., Hermann, J., Pandit, M., and Hand, M. (2010) Constraints
343 on the Proterozoic evolution of the Aravalli-Delhi Orogenic belt (NW India) from
344 monazite geochronology and mineral trace element geochemistry. *Lithos*, 120(3),
345 511-528.

346 Cherniak, D., and Pyle, J. (2008) Th diffusion in monazite. *Chemical Geology*, 256(1), 52-61.

347 Cherniak, D., Watson, E.B., Grove, M., and Harrison, T.M. (2004) Pb diffusion in monazite: a
348 combined RBS/SIMS study. *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta*, 68(4), 829-840.

349 Clavier, N., Podor, R., and Dacheux, N. (2011) Crystal chemistry of the monazite structure.
350 *Journal of the European Ceramic Society*, 31(6), 941-976.

351 Cocherie, A., Legendre, O., Peucat, J., and Kouamelan, A. (1998) Geochronology of
352 polygenetic monazites constrained by in situ electron microprobe Th-U-total lead
353 determination: implications for lead behaviour in monazite. *Geochimica et*
354 *Cosmochimica Acta*, 62(14), 2475-2497.

355 Crowley, J., and Ghent, E. (1999) An electron microprobe study of the U-Th-Pb systematics
356 of metamorphosed monazite: the role of Pb diffusion versus overgrowth and
357 recrystallization. *Chemical Geology*, 157(3), 285-302.

358 Del Río, P., Barbero, L., Mata, P., and Fanning, C. (2009) Timing of diagenesis and very
359 low-grade metamorphism in the eastern sector of the Sierra de Cameros (Iberian
360 Range, Spain): a U–Pb SHRIMP study on monazite. *Terra Nova*, 21(6), 438-445.

361 Didier, A., Bosse, V., Boulvais, P., Bouloton, J., Paquette, J.-L., Montel, J.-M., and Devidal,
362 J.-L. (2013) Disturbance versus preservation of U–Th–Pb ages in monazite during
363 fluid–rock interaction: textural, chemical and isotopic in situ study in microgranites
364 (Velay Dome, France). *Contributions to Mineralogy and Petrology*, 165(6), 1051-
365 1072.

366 Erickson, T., Pearce, M., Taylor, R., Timms, N.E., Clark, C., Reddy, S., and Buick, I. (2015)
367 Deformed monazite yields high-temperature tectonic ages. *Geology*, 43(5), 383-386.

368 Erickson, T., Reddy, S., Timms, N., Pearce, M., Taylor, R., Clark, C., and Buick, I. (2016)
369 Deformed monazite yields high-temperature tectonic ages: REPLY. *Geology*, 44(1),
370 e378-e378.

371 Evans, J., Zalasiewicz, J., Fletcher, I., Rasmussen, B., and Pearce, N. (2002) Dating
372 diagenetic monazite in mudrocks: constraining the oil window? *Journal of the
373 Geological Society*, 159(6), 619-622.

374 Ferraris, C., White, T., Plévert, J., and Wegner, R. (2005) Nanometric modulation in apatite.
375 *Physics and chemistry of minerals*, 32(7), 485-492.

376 Fougereuse, D., Reddy, S.M., Saxey, D.W., Rickard, W.D., Van Riessen, A., and
377 Micklethwaite, S. (2016) Nanoscale gold clusters in arsenopyrite controlled by growth
378 rate not concentration: Evidence from atom probe microscopy. *American
379 Mineralogist*, 101(8), 1916-1919.

380 Gardés, E., Jaoul, O., Montel, J.-M., Seydoux-Guillaume, A.-M., and Wirth, R. (2006) Pb
381 diffusion in monazite: An experimental study of $Pb^{2+} + Th^{4+} \leftrightarrow 2Nd^{3+}$ interdiffusion.
382 *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta*, 70(9), 2325-2336.

383 Gardés, E., Montel, J.-M., Seydoux-Guillaume, A.-M., and Wirth, R. (2007) Pb diffusion in
384 monazite: New constraints from the experimental study of $Pb^{2+} \leftrightarrow Ca^{2+}$
385 interdiffusion. *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta*, 71(16), 4036-4043.

386 Gault, B., Saxey, D.W., Ashton, M.W., Sinnott, S.B., Chiamonti, A.N., Moody, M.P., and
387 Schreiber, D.K. (2016) Behavior of molecules and molecular ions near a field emitter.
388 *New Journal of Physics*, 18(3), 033031.

389 Gebauer, D., Kellermeier, M., Gale, J.D., Bergström, L., and Cölfen, H. (2014) Pre-
390 nucleation clusters as solute precursors in crystallisation. *Chemical Society Reviews*,
391 43(7), 2348-2371.

392 Goncalves, P., Williams, M.L., and Jercinovic, M.J. (2005) Electron-microprobe age mapping
393 of monazite. *American Mineralogist*, 90(4), 578-585.

394 Grand'Homme, A., Janots, E., Seydoux-Guillaume, A.M., Guillaume, D., Magnin, V.,
395 Hövelmann, J., Höschen, C., and Boiron, M.C. (2017) Mass transport and
396 fractionation during monazite alteration by anisotropic replacement. *Chemical*
397 *Geology*.

398 Grand'Homme, A., Janots, E., Seydoux-Guillaume, A.-M., Guillaume, D., Bosse, V., and
399 Magnin, V. (2016) Partial resetting of the U-Th-Pb systems in experimentally altered
400 monazite: Nanoscale evidence of incomplete replacement. *Geology*, 44(6), 431-434.

401 Gratz, R., and Heinrich, W. (1997) Monazite-xenotime thermobarometry: Experimental
402 calibration of the miscibility gap in the binary system CePO₄-YPO₄. *American*
403 *Mineralogist*, 82(7-8), 772-780.

404 Harlov, D.E., Wirth, R., and Hetherington, C.J. (2011) Fluid-mediated partial alteration in
405 monazite: the role of coupled dissolution–reprecipitation in element redistribution and
406 mass transfer. *Contributions to Mineralogy and Petrology*, 162(2), 329-348.

407 Harrison, T.M., Catlos, E.J., and Montel, J.-M. (2002) U-Th-Pb dating of phosphate minerals.
408 *Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry*, 48(1), 524-558.

409 Heinrich, W., Rehs, G., and Franz, G. (1997) Monazite–xenotime miscibility gap
410 thermometry. I. An empirical calibration. *Journal of Metamorphic Geology*, 15(1), 3-
411 16.

412 Hellman, O.C., Vandenbroucke, J.A., Rüsing, J., Isheim, D., and Seidman, D.N. (2000)
413 Analysis of three-dimensional atom-probe data by the proximity histogram.
414 Microscopy and Microanalysis, 6(05), 437-444.

415 Hudson, D., Smith, G., and Gault, B. (2011) Optimisation of mass ranging for atom probe
416 microanalysis and application to the corrosion processes in Zr alloys.
417 Ultramicroscopy, 111(6), 480-486.

418 Janots, E., Engi, M., Berger, A., Allaz, J., Schwarz, J.O., and Spandler, C. (2008) Prograde
419 metamorphic sequence of REE minerals in pelitic rocks of the Central Alps:
420 implications for allanite–monazite–xenotime phase relations from 250 to 610 C.
421 Journal of Metamorphic Geology, 26(5), 509-526.

422 Janots, E., and Rubatto, D. (2014) U–Th–Pb dating of collision in the external Alpine
423 domains (Urseren zone, Switzerland) using low temperature allanite and monazite.
424 Lithos, 184, 155-166.

425 Karahka, M., Xia, Y., and Kreuzer, H. (2015) The mystery of missing species in atom probe
426 tomography of composite materials. Applied Physics Letters, 107(6), 062105.

427 Kelly, N.M., Harley, S.L., and Möller, A. (2012) Complexity in the behavior and
428 recrystallization of monazite during high-T metamorphism and fluid infiltration.
429 Chemical geology, 322, 192-208.

430 Kirkland, C., Erickson, T., Johnson, T., Danišík, M., Evans, N., Bourdet, J., and McDonald,
431 B. (2016) Discriminating prolonged, episodic or disturbed monazite age spectra: An
432 example from the Kalak Nappe Complex, Arctic Norway. Chemical Geology, 424, 96-
433 110.

434 Kirkland, C.L., Whitehouse, M.J., and Slagstad, T. (2009) Fluid-assisted zircon and monazite
435 growth within a shear zone: a case study from Finnmark, Arctic Norway.
436 Contributions to Mineralogy and Petrology, 158(5), 637-657.

437 Laurent, A.T., Seydoux-Guillaume, A.-M., Duchene, S., Bingen, B., Bosse, V., and Datas, L.
438 (2016) Sulphate incorporation in monazite lattice and dating the cycle of sulphur in
439 metamorphic belts. Contributions to Mineralogy and Petrology, 171(11), 94.

440 Ludwig, K.R. (2003) User's manual for Isoplot 3.00: a geochronological toolkit for Microsoft
441 Excel. Kenneth R. Ludwig.

442 Markov, I.V. (2003) Crystal growth for beginners: fundamentals of nucleation, crystal growth
443 and epitaxy. World scientific.

444 Meldrum, A., Boatner, L., Weber, W., and Ewing, R. (1998) Radiation damage in zircon and
445 monazite. *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta*, 62(14), 2509-2520.

446 Mottram, C.M., Warren, C.J., Regis, D., Roberts, N.M., Harris, N.B., Argles, T.W., and
447 Parrish, R.R. (2014) Developing an inverted Barrovian sequence; insights from
448 monazite petrochronology. *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*, 403, 418-431.

449 Paquette, J.-L., and Tiepolo, M. (2007) High resolution (5 μm) U–Th–Pb isotope dating of
450 monazite with excimer laser ablation (ELA)-ICPMS. *Chemical Geology*, 240(3), 222-
451 237.

452 Parrish, R.R. (1990) U-Pb dating of monazite and its application to geological problems.
453 *Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences*, 27(11), 1431-1450.

454 Peterman, E.M., Reddy, S.M., Saxey, D.W., Snoeyenbos, D.R., Rickard, W.D., Fougereuse,
455 D., and Kylander-Clark, A.R. (2016) Nanogeochronology of discordant zircon
456 measured by atom probe microscopy of Pb-enriched dislocation loops. *Science*
457 *Advances*, 2(9), e1601318.

458 Putnis, A. (1978) The mechanism of exsolution of hematite from iron-bearing rutile. *Physics*
459 *and Chemistry of Minerals*, 3(2), 183-197.

460 Putnis, A. (1992) An introduction to mineral sciences. Cambridge University Press.

461 Rasmussen, B., Fletcher, I.R., and McNaughton, N.J. (2001) Dating low-grade metamorphic
462 events by SHRIMP U-Pb analysis of monazite in shales. *Geology*, 29(10), 963-966.

463 Rønso, J. (1989) Coupled substitutions involving REEs and Na and Si in apatites in alkaline
464 rocks from the Ilimaussaq intrusion, South Greenland, and the petrological
465 implications. *American Mineralogist*, 74(7-8), 896-901.

466 Saxey, D. (2011) Correlated ion analysis and the interpretation of atom probe mass spectra.
467 *Ultramicroscopy*, 111(6), 473-479.

468 Seydoux-Guillaume, A.-M., Goncalves, P., Wirth, R., and Deutsch, A. (2003) Transmission
469 electron microscope study of polyphase and discordant monazites: Site-specific
470 specimen preparation using the focused ion beam technique. *Geology*, 31(11), 973-
471 976.

472 Seydoux-Guillaume, A.-M., Montel, J.-M., Bingen, B., Bosse, V., De Parseval, P., Paquette,
473 J.-L., Janots, E., and Wirth, R. (2012) Low-temperature alteration of monazite: Fluid
474 mediated coupled dissolution–precipitation, irradiation damage, and disturbance of
475 the U–Pb and Th–Pb chronometers. *Chemical Geology*, 330, 140-158.

476 Seydoux-Guillaume, A.-M., Wirth, R., Heinrich, W., and Montel, J.-M. (2002a) Experimental
477 determination of thorium partitioning between monazite and xenotime using analytical
478 electron microscopy and X-ray diffraction Rietveld analysis. *European Journal of
479 Mineralogy*, 14(5), 869-878.

480 Seydoux-Guillaume, A.-M., Wirth, R., Nasdala, L., Gottschalk, M., Montel, J.-M., and
481 Heinrich, W. (2002b) An XRD, TEM and Raman study of experimentally annealed
482 natural monazite. *Physics and Chemistry of Minerals*, 29(4), 240-253.

483 Spear, F.S., and Pyle, J.M. (2002) Apatite, monazite, and xenotime in metamorphic rocks.
484 *Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry*, 48(1), 293-335.

485 Stacey, J.t., and Kramers, J. (1975) Approximation of terrestrial lead isotope evolution by a
486 two-stage model. *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*, 26(2), 207-221.

487 Thompson, K., Lawrence, D., Larson, D., Olson, J., Kelly, T., and Gorman, B. (2007) In situ
488 site-specific specimen preparation for atom probe tomography. *Ultramicroscopy*,
489 107(2), 131-139.

490 Tilton, G. (1960) Volume diffusion as a mechanism for discordant lead ages. *Journal of
491 Geophysical Research*, 65(9), 2933-2945.

492 Valley, J.W., Cavosie, A.J., Ushikubo, T., Reinhard, D.A., Lawrence, D.F., Larson, D.J.,
493 Clifton, P.H., Kelly, T.F., Wilde, S.A., and Moser, D.E. (2014) Hadean age for a post-
494 magma-ocean zircon confirmed by atom-probe tomography. *Nature Geoscience*,
495 7(3), 219-223.

496 Valley, J.W., Reinhard, D.A., Cavosie, A.J., Ushikubo, T., Lawrence, D.F., Larson, D.J.,
497 Kelly, T.F., Snoeyenbos, D.R., and Strickland, A. (2015) Presidential Address. Nano-
498 and micro-geochronology in Hadean and Archean zircons by atom-probe
499 tomography and SIMS: New tools for old minerals. *American Mineralogist*, 100(7),
500 1355-1377.

501 Vurpillot, F., Bostel, A., and Blavette, D. (2000) Trajectory overlaps and local magnification in
502 three-dimensional atom probe. *Applied Physics Letters*, 76(21), 3127-3129.

503 Watson, E.B. (1996) Surface enrichment and trace-element uptake during crystal growth.
504 *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta*, 60(24), 5013-5020.

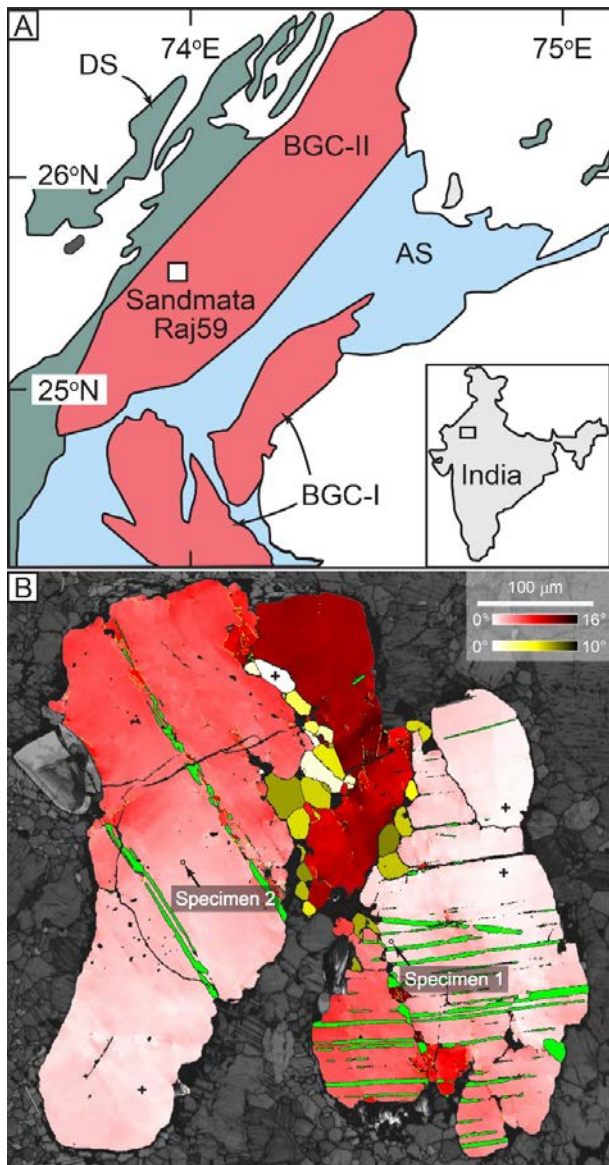
505 Watson, E.B., and Liang, Y. (1995) A simple model for sector zoning in slowly grown
506 crystals: Implications for growth rate and lattice diffusion, with emphasis on
507 accessory minerals in crustal rocks. *American Mineralogist*, 80(11-12), 1179-1187.

508 White, L.F., Darling, J., Moser, D., Reinhard, D., Prosa, T., Bullen, D., Olsen, D., Larson, D.,
509 Lawrence, D., and Martin, I. (2017) Atomic-scale age resolution of planetary events.
510 *Nature Communications*, 8, 1-6.

511 Williams, I.S. (1998) U-Th-Pb geochronology by ion microprobe. Applications of
512 microanalytical techniques to understanding mineralizing processes, 1-35.

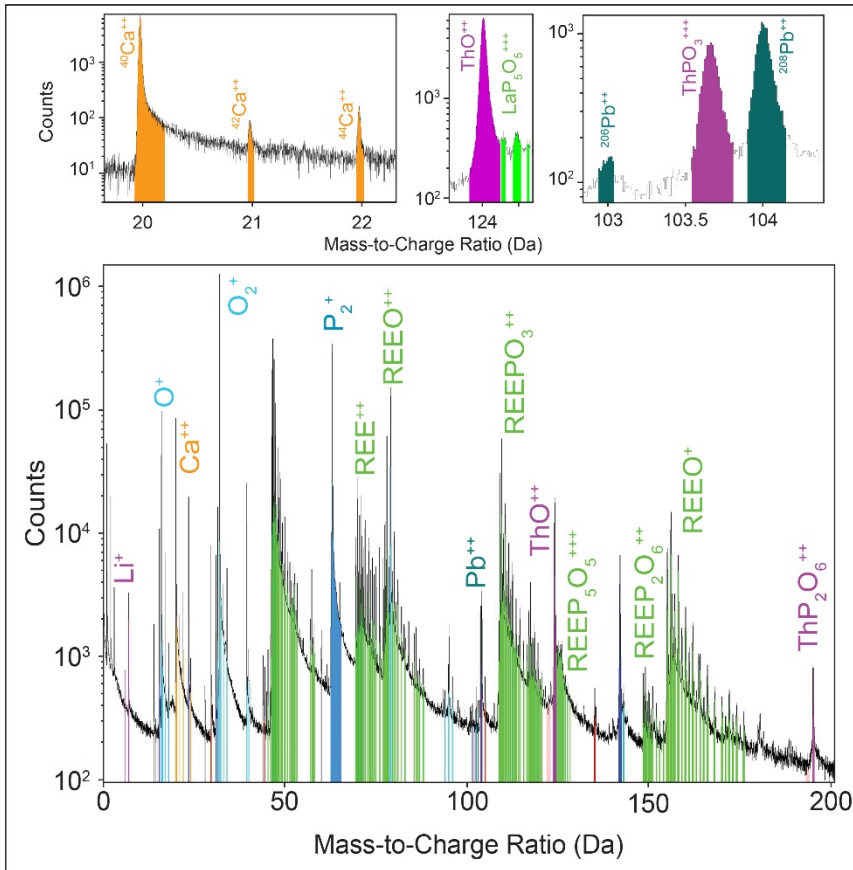
513 Williams, M.L., Jercinovic, M.J., and Terry, M.P. (1999) Age mapping and dating of monazite
514 on the electron microprobe: Deconvoluting multistage tectonic histories. *Geology*,
515 27(11), 1023-1026.

516
517 Figures:



518

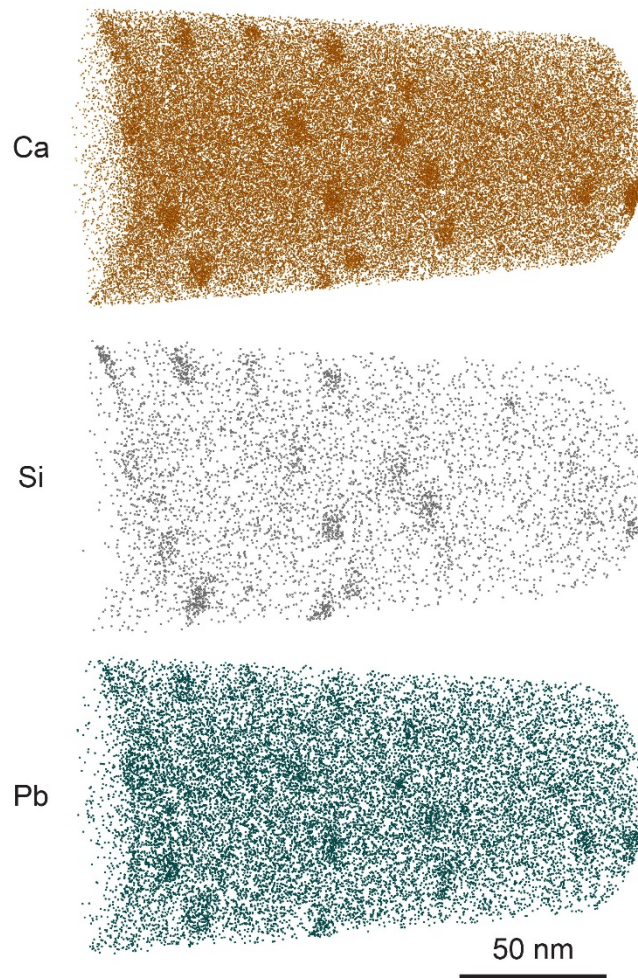
519 Figure 1: A) Simplified geological map of the Sandmata granulite complex indicating the
 520 location of sample Raj59 modified from Buick et al. (2010). Abbreviations: AS - Aravalli
 521 Supergroup; BGC - Banded Gneiss Complex; DS - Delhi Supergroup. B) Crystallographic
 522 orientation electron backscattered diffraction map. Misorientation in each of the host domain
 523 grains is colour coded red from a reference point "+" to maximum of 16°; Neoblasts formed by
 524 dynamic recrystallization are colour coded yellow for misorientation ranging between 0 and
 525 10° from the reference point "+"; Low-angle grain boundaries (1°) are coloured yellow, while
 526 (001), (100) and (122) deformation twins are plotted green, modified from Erickson et al.
 527 (2015). The atom probe microscopy (APM) samples were extracted from two weakly deformed
 528 domains (<0.5°) of the crystal, marked as open circles on the figure.



529

530 Figure 2: Atom probe mass spectrum. Peaks are color-coded by atomic or molecular species.

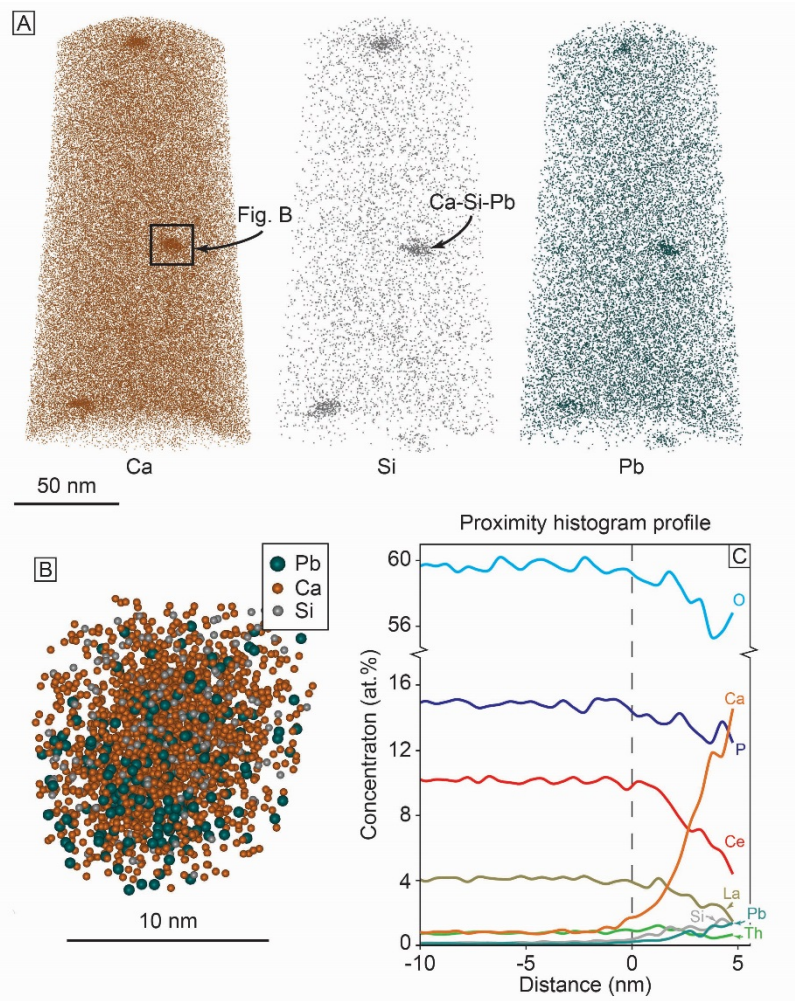
531



532

533 Figure 3: Specimen 1: Reconstructed three-dimensional atom probe image of Ca, Si and Pb
534 ($^{206}\text{Pb} + ^{208}\text{Pb}$) distribution. Each sphere represents one atom. The maps show the presence
535 of Ca-Si-Pb clusters.

536

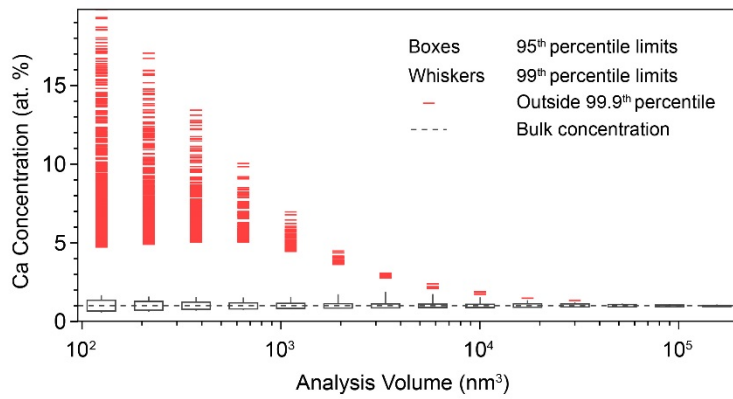


537

538 Figure 4: Specimen 2: A) Reconstructed three-dimensional atom probe image of Ca, Si and
 539 Pb ($^{206}\text{Pb} + ^{208}\text{Pb}$) distribution. Each sphere represents one atom. The maps show the
 540 presence of three Ca-Si-Pb clusters. B) Close up of the biggest cluster. C) Proximity histogram
 541 profile based on a 1.3 at.% Ca isosurface (distance 0 represent the edge of the isosurface).
 542 The histogram shows the decrease of O, P and REEs but the increase of Ca, Si and Pb.

543

544



545

546 Figure 5: Box and whisker plot indicating the range of Ca concentration measurements that
 547 could be obtained depending on the scale of the cubic sampling volume applied to an APM
 548 dataset (specimen 2). Ca concentrations for volumes from 125 nm³ to 150,000 nm³ were
 549 generated from the three-dimensional atom probe data, by sampling cubic volumes at evenly-
 550 spaced locations throughout the data. Boxes indicate 95th percentile limits (approximately 2-
 551 sigma for Gaussian distributed data), and whiskers 99th percentile. Outliers beyond the 99.9th
 552 percentile are plotted in red for volumes up to 150,000 nm³. Whiskers and outliers are only
 553 shown if their percentile cut-offs are compatible with the sample size. The dashed line
 554 indicates the bulk composition, calculated from the full atom probe dataset.

555

556 Table 1: Composition (major, trace and isotopic) of the different domains given by atom probe
 557 and EDX. The composition of a stoichiometric apatite is also given for reference.