

Economic Geology

CONSONORM_LG: new normative minerals and alteration indexes for low-grade metamorphic rocks --Manuscript Draft--

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Full Title:	CONSONORM_LG: new normative minerals and alteration indexes for low-grade metamorphic rocks
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Abstract:	<p>The CONSONORM_LG method provides a standardized solution for approximating metamorphic parageneses as well as indexes for estimating chemical and mineralogical changes caused by hydrothermal alteration. CONSONORM_LG is designed for rocks dominated by silicates, Fe-Ti oxides and/or carbonates, and it approximates the main parageneses of greenschist and lower amphibolite-grade metamorphic rocks for three sets of temperature and pressure conditions (2SV350, 2SV450 and 2AMP575 facies of the norm). For each of the facies modelled, the norm calculates the main paragenesis using an ACFMNK tetrahedron, a convenient way of representing a large number of silicate assemblages. In addition to silicate minerals, CONSONORM_LG calculates Fe-Ti oxides and other accessory minerals from minor elements, as well as sulfides from analyzed S or from analyzed metals, and carbonates from analyzed CO₂ or from normative CO₂ estimated from LOI. CONSONORM_LG also calculates several alteration indexes to estimate Fe-Mg (e.g. chloritization), Ca (e.g. propylitic alteration), Na and K acid alterations (e.g. sericitization, phyllic alterations) and Al gain (e.g. argillization). Carbonatation indexes are also calculated using the amount of normative minerals formed by this type of alteration, i.e. carbonates, chlorite and muscovite. The normative calculation is validated using published whole rock analyses and petrographic descriptions. Alteration indexes are validated using several natural samples of alteration halos around base metal and gold deposits.</p>

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5 1 **CONSONORM_LG: new normative minerals and alteration**
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8 2 **indexes for low-grade metamorphic rocks**
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1. INTRODUCTION

The challenge of exploration geology is to discover and define small-volume concentrations of metals or other economic substances. This search uses vectors as many “footprints” of the mineralizing process. As most deposits are formed by hydrothermal processes, the “footprints” most often sought by exploration geologists are rocks modified by the circulation of hydrothermal fluids. These modifications are either chemical or mineralogical, or both; they are related to metasomatic and alteration processes, respectively (Stanley and Madeisky, 1994) and form what will be designated as altered rocks in this contribution.

If the recognition of altered rocks is crucial to exploration geology, qualifying and quantifying the alteration is as important in directing the investigations and in identifying the substance most likely to have been concentrated in a given context. The recognition, qualification and quantification of alteration can be approached using various methods briefly summarized here.

The first is mass balance calculations that use chemical analyses of major elements. In addition, for some methods volatile or trace element analyses might be required. Mass balance methods are based on a mass transfer equation (Gresens, 1967; Stanley and Madeisky, 1994; Leitch and Lentz, 1994) used to compare altered rocks to their unaltered equivalents using ratios of immobile elements to estimate the amount of mass gained and lost by mobile elements (Grant, 1986; Barrett and MacLean, 1994; Stanley and Madeisky, 1994; Trépanier, 2009). The main limit of mass balance methods is the need for a protolith representative of the chemical composition of the fresh precursor of the altered samples. This can be a field sample (Grant, 1986; Barrett and MacLean, 1994)

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4 62 or a modelled igneous rock (Trépanier, 2009; Faure et al., 2011; Faure et al., 2014).
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7 63 Another approach is the Pearce Element Ratios – PER method and diagrams (Pearce,
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9 64 1968), which is a method that can be applied to alteration-related mass transfers and that
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11 65 avoids the fresh precursor difficulty (Beswick and Soucie, 1978; Stanley and Madeisky,
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13 66 1994; Nicholls and Gordon, 1994). But the PER technique is difficult to manipulate,
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15 67 especially in an exploration context.
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18 68 Alteration can also be approached using alteration indexes often calculated from major
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20 69 element analyses. Most alteration index methods use excesses and deficiencies in major
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22 70 elements to identify the minerals formed or destroyed by an alteration process. For
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24 71 example, the sericite-albite index (Kishida and Kerrich, 1987), the Hashimoto index
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26 72 (Ishikawa et al., 1976) and the alkali index (Saeki and Date, 1980) use Al_2O_3 and alkalis
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28 73 to estimate feldspar destruction and mica formation. Others, such as the chlorite index
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30 74 (Saeki and Date, 1980) and the CCPI-Chlorite-Carbonate-Pyrite index (Large et al.,
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32 75 2001) use FeO and MgO to identify the formation of chlorite or other mafic minerals.
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34 76 The main advantage of alteration indexes is their simplicity; their main disadvantages are
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36 77 their great sensitivity to lithological variations and their poor mineralogical constraints.
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38 78 To address this last problem, some indexes are derived from a full normative calculation.
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40 79 For example, the strategy proposed by NORMAT (Piché and Jébrak, 2004) allows for a
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42 80 more precise estimate of the amount of chlorite and white micas for example, likely to be
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44 81 actually present in a rock. The NORMAT method enables the calculation of indexes less
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46 82 sensitive to lithological variations and which do not require the recognition of fresh
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Furthermore, and contrary to mass balance calculations, NORMAT requires only major element analyses and can identify alteration processes involving CO₂ or H₂O volatiles based on the analysis of the LOI (Loss On Ignition) (Piché and Jébrak, 2004). NORMAT is designed for lower greenschist facies rocks and is thus suitable in many shallow hydrothermal contexts. Also, NORMAT uses a ternary diagram to store its four main silicate parageneses and uses petrologic rules to calculate hydrothermal and precursor minerals sequentially. This calculation strategy models hydrothermally altered rocks but prevents the generalization of the method to other rock types and metamorphic facies; however, a technique entirely based on thermodynamic equilibrium might be easier to generalize and may model natural parageneses more accurately.

Recognizing the advantages of the normative approach, the authors have built on the NORMAT method, replacing the ternary diagram by a tetrahedron, adopting a different calculation sequence and proposing an extension of the norm to mid-grade (this contribution) and to high-grade metamorphic rocks (Mathieu, 2014). This contribution extends the method to three low- to mid-grade facies not covered by NORMAT: two greenschist facies (350⁰ C and 450⁰ C, 2.5 kbars) and a lower amphibolite facies (575⁰ C, 2 kbars). Among other advantages, the new norm better describes the mineralogical changes induced by carbonatation. The new method is called the CONSONORM_LG norm, with LG standing for “low grade”. It proposes a calculation of normative minerals and alteration indexes that will be tested on natural examples in the last section of this contribution.

2. NORMATIVE CALCULATIONS

CONSONORM_LG calculates equilibrium assemblages, i.e. minerals co-existing under given conditions of pressure and temperature, for three sets of conditions: 1) 350° C and 2.5 kbars (2SV350 facies); 2) 450° C and 2.5 kbars (2SV450 facies) and 3) to 575° C and 2 kbars (2AMP575 facies).

CONSONORM_LG norm uses a sequential calculation inspired by the CIPW norm (Cross et al., 1902; 1912), the simultaneous calculation of several minerals proposed by MATNORM (Pruseth, 2009) and the virtual estimation of CO₂ from the LOI, which is an innovation of NORMAT (Piché and Jébrak, 2004). Also, available norms use ternary diagrams (NORMAT; Piché and Jébrak, 2004) or tetrahedrons (MESONORM; Barth, 1959) to solve for the main silicate assemblage. Similarly, CONSONORM_LG uses one tetrahedron per facies. Tetrahedrons are preferred to ternary diagrams because they display a greater number of mineral assemblages which limits the sequential adjustments required to approximate natural parageneses better.

3. METAMORPHIC TETRAHEDRONS

Tetrahedrons are the cornerstone of the CONSONORM_LG calculation and are designed to represent theoretical silicate assemblages for each of the pressure-temperature conditions modelled. The three tetrahedrons used by CONSONORM_LG consider H₂O and SiO₂ to be in excess. Their poles correspond to the molar proportions of Al₂O₃, CaO, FeO+MgO+MnO and Na₂O+K₂O, and are designated as the A, C, FM and NK poles, respectively, of the ACFMNC main tetrahedrons (Fig. 1, 2, 3).

Each tetrahedron is an assemblage of four ternary diagrams published by Spear (1993) or modelled by the intermediary of the Theriak-Domino software using the JUN92.BS

database of thermodynamic data (de Capitani and Petrakakis, 2010). The tetrahedrons were designed by cross-referencing the information provided by the following ternary diagrams:

- Tetrahedron of the 2SV350 facies (Fig. 1): ANK, AKF, AKM, AFM (projected from muscovite) and ACM ternary diagrams from Spear (1993); and a modelled ACK diagram.
- Tetrahedron of the 2SV450 facies (Fig. 2): ACM, ACF, AFM (projected from epidote), ANK, ACM, AKF, AFM, AKM (projected from muscovite) ternary diagrams from Spear (1993); and modelled ACK, ACF and AFM diagrams.
- Tetrahedron of the 2AMP575 facies (Fig. 3): AKM, AKF, AFM (projected from muscovite) and ANK ternary diagrams from Spear (1993); and modelled ACM, ACF, AFM (projected from anorthite) and AKC ternary diagrams.
- The silica deficiency is solved using information provided by ternary diagrams with a pole represented by SiO_2 (diagrams from Spear, 1993).

The ACFMNK tetrahedrons are designated as the main tetrahedrons, which are made of an assemblage of small tetrahedrons each defined by four minerals (Fig. 1, 2, 3). Also, the paragenesis of FeO- versus MgO-rich rocks and Na_2O - versus K_2O -rich rocks can be very different and the full variability of these parageneses cannot be represented on a single tetrahedron. For this reason, the ACFMNK tetrahedrons are designed for MgO-rich and K_2O -rich rocks and adjustments are made during the norm calculation for rocks rich in FeO and/or Na_2O (see section 4).

4. CALCULATION SEQUENCE

CONSONORM_LG is a Visual Basic code provided as supplementary material. This code prompts the user to choose one of three facies to calculate the norm, i.e. the 2SV350, the 2SV450 or the 2AMP575 facies, and to choose between using analyzed or modelled values of CO₂. The code also uses measured values of FeO and Fe₂O₃ only, and the user is encouraged to either analyze these values or to estimate them from Fe₂O₃T prior to initiating a CONSONORM_LG calculation. Discussions on strategies for estimating FeO and Fe₂O₃ can be found in LeMaître (1976).

Once the calculation is started, CONSONORM_LG initiates a succession of operations summarized by Fig. 4. The first set of operations aims to extract and prepare the chemical elements for the norm calculation (see step 1 of Fig. 4) and are conducted as follows:

- 1) The calculation starts by extracting the main oxides (SiO₂, Al₂O₃, CaO, MgO, FeO, Fe₂O₃, MnO, Na₂O, K₂O, TiO₂, P₂O₅), volatiles (H₂O⁺, H₂O⁻, S, CO₂, LOI), some trace elements (Cr, Pb, Zn, Ni, Mo, Cu, As) and the TOTAL from the input file.
- 2) The elements are then re-calculated to 100% and converted to moles. Note that if a value for TOTAL is not provided by the user, the norm sums the main oxides, volatiles and trace elements in order to re-calculate each analysis to 100%.
- 3) If the user chooses to estimate CO₂ normatively, following the method developed by Piché and Jébrak (2004), the GOI (Gain on Ignition) is calculated (equation 1). The GOI, i.e. the oxidation of the iron contained in sulfides and carbonates during the heating of a sample, is calculated from the amount of iron contained in the normative carbonates and sulfides. Its value is null at this stage and will be adjusted as these minerals are calculated (equation 1).

$$\text{GOI\%} = (\text{sulfide\%} * \text{Fe_molar_in_sulfide} * 1.5 + \text{carbonate\%} * \text{Fe_molar_in_carbonate} * 0.5) * 15.998$$

(equation 1)

The normative calculation starts with the sequential calculation of accessory minerals, i.e. sulfides, carbonates and Fe-Ti oxides (see step 2 of Fig. 4):

1) First, galena, sphalerite, millerite, molybdenite, chalcopryite, arsenopyrite, pyrite and anhydrite are calculated until exhaustion of sulfur or the metals, including iron. If sulfur was not analyzed, then pyrite will not be calculated and Pb, Zn, Ni, Mo, Cu and As will be combined with a calculated amount of sulfur until exhaustion of these metals. It is strongly recommended to analyze or estimate the amount of sulfur for rocks containing over 1 wt% iron sulfides, otherwise an incorrect amount of iron will be allocated to silicates and carbonates later in the calculation.

2) The carbonates are then calculated if $\text{CO}_2 > 0$. For the 2SV350 and 2SV450 facies, carbonates are calculated using a sequence based on that used in NORMAT (Piché and Jébrak, 2004): 1) calculation of calcite; 2) calculation of magnesite and siderite simultaneously; 3) reaction of these minerals to form dolomite and ankerite. For the 2AMP575 facies, carbonates are not calculated at this stage because they are not always stable in the presence of quartz (Spear, 1993).

3) The Fe-Ti oxides are then calculated sequentially using observations made by Spear (1993) on natural rocks. If $\text{MgO}/(\text{MgO}+\text{FeO}+\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3)$ molar < 0.45 (Spear, 1993), ilmenite, then magnetite, titanite, rutile and hematite are calculated successively. Otherwise the calculation sequence is titanite, rutile and hematite, which are calculated until exhaustion of Fe_2O_3 or/and TiO_2 .

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4 198 4) The GOI is adjusted according to the normative amount of Fe-bearing oxides
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11 201 The next series of operations aim at calculating the silicates (see step 3 of Fig. 4). The
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13 202 calculation sequence is the following:
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16 203 1) The sample is located in one of the small tetrahedrons of the main ACFMNK
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18 204 tetrahedron using the sample's composition in Al-Ca-K-Na-Fe-Mg. This small
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20 205 tetrahedron is identified using the following steps: a) calculation of the barycentric
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22 206 coordinates of the sample using the main tetrahedron as a reference, followed by a
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24 207 conversion to Cartesian coordinates; b) calculation of the barycentric coordinates of the
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26 208 sample using each small tetrahedron as a reference. The small tetrahedron for which the
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28 209 samples' coordinates are all strictly > 0 is the one that contains the sample.
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32 210 2) At this stage, the norm calculates the Mg# (i.e. $\text{MgO}/(\text{MgO}+\text{FeO})$ molar) and
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34 211 the K# (i.e. $\text{K}_2\text{O}/(\text{K}_2\text{O}+\text{Na}_2\text{O})$ molar) using the amount of FeO, MgO, Na₂O and K₂O
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36 212 remaining after the calculation of accessory minerals.
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40 213 3) The four minerals represented by the previously selected small tetrahedron are
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42 214 calculated simultaneously by matrix inversion using a method developed by Pruseth
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44 215 (2009). Then, and for the minerals that represent solid solutions between MgO-FeO and
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46 216 Na₂O-K₂O, the molar masses are distributed between each mineral species using the Mg#
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48 217 and K# values.
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52 218 4) As the ACFMNK tetrahedrons are designed for MgO-rich rocks, adjustments
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54 219 are here made for FeO-rich rocks. These adjustments enable the formation of chloritoid
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56 220 (facies 2SV450) and garnet, staurolite and cordierite (facies 2AMP575) (Table 1).
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4 221 5) The ACFMNK tetrahedrons are designed for K₂O-rich rocks, and adjustments
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6 222 for Na₂O-rich rocks are necessary. If white micas and alkali feldspars co-exist, K₂O is
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8 223 attributed to micas preferentially and Na₂O is increased in feldspars. Also, paragonite and
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10 224 orthoclase are reacted to form albite and muscovite as these minerals do not co-exist
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12 225 according to ANK ternary diagram (Spear, 1993).
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16 226 6) Finally, the amount of silicon used by the normative silicates is calculated. If
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18 227 the silicates' silicon content is less than the amount of SiO₂ available, then quartz is
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20 228 formed; otherwise the silicon deficit is addressed by turning SiO₂-rich minerals into less
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22 229 SiO₂-rich phases (Table 2), following the CIPW norm (Cross et al., 1902; 1912).
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29 231 At this stage, the WITHOUTCO₂ alteration indexes are calculated using the proportions
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31 232 of silicates (wt%) calculated in a carbonate-free paragenesis (see section 5) (Fig. 4).
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33 233 These indexes are thus calculated if CO₂ = 0, which is always the case during the first
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35 234 loop of normative mineral calculations. If the user choses to use the amount of analyzed
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37 235 CO₂, then the normative minerals are destroyed and the calculation of the norm resumes
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39 236 one time to include the amount of analyzed CO₂ and to enable carbonate formation.
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41 237 Otherwise iteration will be initiated (see next paragraph). The WITHOUTCO₂ indexes
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43 238 will no longer be calculated during successive loops (Fig. 4).
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51 240 If the user chooses to estimate CO₂ normatively, following the Piché and Jébrak method
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53 241 (2004), then the iteration is initiated as follows (step 4 of Fig. 4): firstly, the amount of
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55 242 H₂O consumed by the hydrous normative minerals (H₂O_mineral%) is calculated. Then,
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57 243 the following conditions are checked:
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4 244 1) If $\text{LOI\%} > (\text{H}_2\text{O_mineral\%} + \text{CO}_2\text{_normative\%} + \text{S_analyzed\%} + \text{H}_2\text{O}^+$
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6 245 $\text{_analyzed\%} - \text{GOI\%})$, then the amount of $\text{CO}_2\text{_normative\%}$ is increased by 0.1%, the
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9 246 normative minerals are destroyed and the calculation resumes from the first step, i.e. the
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11 247 extraction of chemical data. The norm calculation will then be resumed as many times as
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14 248 necessary for the values of $\text{CO}_2\text{_normative\%}$, $\text{H}_2\text{O_mineral\%}$ and GOI\% to be properly
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16 249 adjusted to the LOI\% . Note that a more accurate estimate of $\text{CO}_2\text{_normative\%}$ will be
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19 250 obtained if the LOI is carefully measured.

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21 251 2) If $\text{LOI\%} \leq (\text{H}_2\text{O_mineral\%} + \text{CO}_2\text{_normative\%} + \text{S_analyzed\%} + \text{H}_2\text{O}^+$
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23 252 $\text{_analyzed\%} - \text{GOI\%})$, the iteration ceases.

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28 254 At this stage the calculation of normative minerals is achieved (see step 5 of Fig. 4). The
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30 255 proportions of minerals (wt%) are estimated and re-calculated to 100%. The density of
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33 256 each sample is also estimated using mineral densities from Piché and Jébrak (2004) and
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36 257 from internet compilations (e.g. <http://webmineral.com> by D. Barthelmy, 2014). Finally,
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38 258 the WITHCO2 alteration indexes are calculated (see section 5).

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43 260 CONSONORM_LG provides the following outputs to its users:

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45 261 1) The proportions (wt%) of all the normative minerals calculated during the first
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48 262 loop (i.e. the WITHOUTCO2 minerals) and calculated by the last calculation loop – all
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51 263 other types of minerals.

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53 264 2) The values of the WITHCO2 and WITHOUTCO2 alteration indexes.

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55 265 3) The estimated density of the sample.

4) The TOTALoxide (i.e. the sum of original chemical data prior to re-calculating the analysis to 100%) and the TOTALmineral (i.e. sum of normative minerals prior to re-calculation to 100%) parameters are provided to be used as quality control of the norm – confidence should be accorded to the normative calculation only if these parameters are close to 100%.

5) The ACFK parameter provides the four minerals of the small tetrahedron selected to represent the main paragenesis.

6) The EXCESSDEFICIT parameter gives specific information on the calculation performed.

7) The CO₂_normative%, GOI% (equation 1) and H₂O⁺_normativeMolar (equation 2) values are also given to the user.

$$\text{H}_2\text{O}^+_{\text{normativeMolar}} = (\text{LOI}\% + \text{GOI}\% - \text{S}_{\text{analyzed}}\% - \text{H}_2\text{O}^-_{\text{analyzed}}\% - \text{CO}_2_{\text{normative}}\%) / 9.01$$

(equation 2)

5. ALTERATION INDEXES

The alteration indexes compare the proportions of alteration-related minerals and fresh rock-related minerals using ratios (equation 3).

$$\text{alteration index} = (\text{alteration-related minerals}) / (\text{alteration-related minerals} + \text{fresh rocks-related minerals})$$

(equation 3)

Because carbonatation may induce mineralogical changes in a rock without necessarily modifying the absolute concentrations of the main oxides (Kishida and Kerrich, 1987), two main types of indexes are proposed: WITHCO₂ and WITHOUTCO₂. Indeed, chlorite and muscovite, which are usual markers of FeO, MgO and K₂O gains, may form

in FeO-, MgO- or K₂O-bearing rocks as a result of carbonatation alone (equations 4 and 5; after Kishida and Kerrich, 1987).

epidote + actinolite + CO₂ --> chlorite + calcite + quartz (equation 4)

albite + chlorite + calcite --> muscovite + ankerite (equation 5)

The WITHOUTCO₂ indexes are calculated from carbonate-free parageneses, in which the normative muscovite and chlorite can be related to chloritization and sericitization alteration processes with more confidence (Table 3). The WITHOUTCO₂ indexes thus document the Fe-, Mg-, K-, Na- and Ca-types of alterations. On the other hand, the WITHCO₂ indexes use carbonates as well as the normative amounts of carbonatization related chlorite and muscovite (Table 4) and are thus dedicated to CO₂-type of alteration. Note that the 2AMP575 facies, for which carbonates are not calculated, provides only WITHOUTCO₂ indexes.

6. CASE STUDY

In this section, CONSONORM_LG is used to recalculate the chemical composition of a number of samples. The calculation is performed on altered rocks from the Touquoy and Beaufor gold deposits and from the Hellyer and Montauban VMS deposits, using published analytical data (Prabhu and Webber, 1984; Gemmell and Large, 1992; Bernier and MacLean, 1993; Bierlein and Smith, 2003; Roussy, 2003) (see section 6.3 for a brief description of each deposit). A modern database of fresh magmatic rocks is also used to constrain threshold values for the indexes (section 6.2).

6.1. Validating the normative calculation

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4 312 We used published analysis from the Touquoy and Beaufor gold deposits to validate the
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6 313 CONSONORM_LG calculations, as both the chemistry and petrology of these rocks are
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9 314 published. The petrology data were obtained from quantitative XRD analyses (Touquoy
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12 315 deposit; Bierlein and Smith, 2003) and from observations made in thin sections (Beaufor
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14 316 deposit; Roussy, 2003).
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16 317 We performed the CONSONORM_LG calculations for the 2SV350 facies on bulk
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19 318 samples, using an $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{T}$ (wt%) ratio of 0.3 to estimate FeO and Fe_2O_3 from
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21 319 $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{T}$, and a normative estimation of CO_2 . The normative parageneses were then
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24 320 compared to the observed phases (Fig. 5), showing a good correlation between modelled
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26 321 and natural minerals.
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30 31 323 ***6.2. Lithological dependence of indexes and threshold values***

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33 324 The alteration indexes have been calculated for fresh magmatic rocks to establish
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36 325 threshold values. We used the GEOROC database (<http://georoc.mpch-mainz.gwdg.de/>)
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38 326 downloaded in 2014. Rocks that were possibly altered were removed from the database
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41 327 by deleting the analysis with $\text{LOI} > 3 \text{ wt\%}$ and/or $\text{CO}_2 > 1 \text{ wt\%}$. The samples were then
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43 328 classified using their original name in the dataset. These names were validated using the
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46 329 De La Roche et al. (1980) classification – the R1-R2 diagram – and the samples were
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48 330 eventually classified as felsic, intermediate, mafic and ultramafic magmatic rocks (n=
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50 331 1125 samples). Alteration indexes were then calculated for each class, and threshold
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53 332 values corresponding to the maximum value of 80% of each dataset (i.e. 80th percentile)
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55 333 were established (Table 5).
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Threshold values are less than 20 for index values that range from 0 to 100, indicating a limited dependency of indexes on the variable composition of unaltered magmatic rocks (Table 5). The ALT_PHYLLO and ALT_AND indexes, which are sensitive to the amount of normative aluminosilicates, are particularly low for fresh magmatic rocks. Also, note that threshold values for these indexes, as well as for the indexes that use phyllosilicates, are expected to be higher for fresh sedimentary rocks.

6.3. Calculating the indexes for hydrothermally altered rocks

Touquoy gold deposit, Nova Scotia, Canada – The Touquoy deposit is hosted in metasilstones (see Hudgins, 1989 for details on the lithology). The alteration halos surrounding the mineralized veins are characterized by feldspar and chlorite destruction, as well as carbonates, muscovite and disseminated sulfide formation that reflect gains of CO₂, K₂O, Au, As, S and loss of Na₂O (Bierlein and Smith, 2003). The veins formed at 250-350^o C and 1-2 kbars, and were then metamorphosed under mid-greenschist facies conditions (Reynolds et al., 1987).

The samples used here were collected along a drill hole and correspond to unaltered to intensely altered meta-sedimentary rocks (Bierlein and Smith, 2003). We calculated the 2SV350 facies and indexes using the CONSONORM_LG method with normative CO₂ and a Fe₂O₃/Fe₂O₃T (wt%) ratio of 0.3, or using the analyzed values of CO₂, FeO and Fe₂O₃ whenever possible.

The alteration indexes for the 2SV350 facies (Fig. 6A) point to phyllosilicate alteration (muscovite and ± chlorite) and to carbonatation (carbonates and related chlorite). These alterations correspond to the K₂O and CO₂ gains reported by Bierlein and Smith (2003),

indicating concordance between previously interpreted alterations and
CONSONORM_LG indexes.

Hellyer VMS, Tasmania, Australia – The Hellyer VMS deposit is hosted by an
assemblage of felsic to mafic magmatic and sedimentary rocks (see detailed geology in
Jack, 1989; McArthur and Dronseika, 1990; Sharpe, 1991; Gemmelle and Large, 1992;
Waters and Wallace, 1992; McArthur, 1996; Solomon and Zaw, 1997). The footwall pipe
alteration is zoned with a siliceous core surrounded by chloritic and sericitic zones
(Gemmell and Large, 1992; Schardt et al., 2001). The deposit formed at an average
temperature of 200-350^o C and was then weakly deformed and metamorphosed
(Gemmell and Large, 1992; Large, 1992).

The samples used correspond to median values representative of the chemistry of the
main alteration zones (Gemmell and Large, 1992), for which the 2SV350 facies and
indexes of the CONSONORM_LG method were calculated using normative CO₂ and a
Fe₂O₃/Fe₂O₃T (wt%) ratio of 0.2.

The ALT_CHLO alteration index for the 2SV350 facies (Fig. 6B) is high only for the
sample from the chloritic zone. The ALT_MUSCV points to sericitization in the silicified
core and in the muscovite-bearing zones. The ALT_PHYLLO index confirms that all the
zones are rich in phyllosilicates, and the other indexes (i.e. ALT_CHLO and ALT_
MUSCV) show that the phyllosilicate phase varies from one zone to the next. Also, there
is no evidence of carbonatization based on the ALT_MUSCV_CARBS,
ALT_CHLO_CC_TLC and ALT_CARBS indexes.

Beaufor gold deposit, Abitibi, Québec – The Beaufor and nearby Perron orebodies are hosted by the dioritic Bourlamaque batholith (see detailed geology by Tremblay, 2001; Tessier, 1990; Belkabir et al., 1993). The mineralized veins are surrounded by zoned alteration halos that grade from carbonate-sericite rocks, albite-rich rocks and mesocratic rocks to unaltered rocks (Roussy, 2003). Most of the Abitibi rocks are at greenschist facies (Goulet, 1978; Jolly, 1978), including the rocks of the Bourlamaque pluton (Campiglio and Darling, 1976).

The samples used here were published by Roussy (2003). The 2SV350 facies and indexes of CONSONORM_LG were calculated using normative CO_2 and a $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{T}$ (wt%) ratio of 0.3. The samples were grouped using observations made by Roussy (2003) (Fig. 6C). The alteration indexes point toward alterations dominated by carbonatation, which formed carbonates, chlorite and muscovite in the altered rocks. All the rocks, including the rocks of the so called unaltered group, had been carbonatized. The rocks of the albite zone are particularly enriched in carbonates and are poorer in phyllosilicates compared to the other groups of rocks (Fig. 6C).

Montauban VMS, Québec, Canada – Montauban is a deformed and metamorphosed Zn-Pb-Cu-Ag-Au deposit of VMS origin (Sangster, 1972; MacLean et al., 1982; Bernier et al., 1987; Morin, 1987) located in the allochthonous monocyclic belt of the Proterozoic Grenville Province (see Rivers (1989) for the main divisions of the Grenville orogeny). The deposit is hosted by biotite gneiss and biotite-muscovite-quartz-feldspar gneiss which likely correspond to meta-felsic magmatic rocks (Prahbu and Webber, 1984). The VMS deposit likely formed in greenschist facies conditions and was then metamorphosed to a maximum of 650°C and 4.5 kbars (Bernier, 1992).

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4 404 The samples used here were published by Bernier and MacLean (1993) and Prabhu and
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6 405 Webber (1984). The 2AMP575 facies and indexes of CONSONORM_LG were
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9 406 calculated using normative CO₂ and a Fe₂O₃/Fe₂O₃T (wt%) ratio of 0.2.
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11 407 The rocks of the unaltered group contain some muscovite, cordierite, anthophyllite and
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13 408 biotite based on the alteration indexes (Fig. 6D). The altered rocks have the same
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16 409 paragenesis, but contain excess biotite (in all alteration zones, see ALT_BIOT index),
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19 410 excess cordierite-anthophyllite (for the cordierite- and sillimanite-bearing groups
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21 411 especially, see ALT_CRD_ANT index), excess aluminosilicates (for the nodular
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24 412 sillimanite-bearing rocks only, see ALT_AND index) and a slight excess in muscovite
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26 413 (for the quartzite unit, see ALT_MUSC index) (Fig. 6D).
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28 414 The hydrothermal alteration associated with the Montauban deposit is mostly marked by
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31 415 cordierite, biotite and anthophyllite. These mafic minerals point toward an Fe-Mg
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33 416 alteration (i.e. chloritization). Note that the potassium in the biotite likely originated from
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36 417 the felsic magmatic precursor and is unlikely to be related to a hydrothermally induced
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38 418 K₂O gain.
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45 421 7. CONCLUSIONS

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48 422 CONSONORM_LG is a new method for the recognition of rocks altered by the
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51 423 circulation of hydrothermal fluids. This normative solution standardizes parageneses,
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53 424 links minerals observed in hand sample to modelled phases and calculates alteration
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55 425 indexes.
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4 426 Compared to other methods dedicated to the recognition and quantification of alteration
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7 427 processes, CONSONORM_LG has the following advantages:
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9 428 1) It requires only major element analyses and solutions are available even if only
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11 429 the LOI and $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{T}$ are analyzed (i.e. samples for which FeO , Fe_2O_3 , H_2O^+ , H_2O^- and
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13 430 CO_2 are not available). This is an advantage compared to the mass balance methods that
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16 431 require trace element analyses (Stanley and Madeisky, 1994; Trépanier, 2009; Faure et
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18 432 al., 2011; Faure et al., 2014) and volatile analyses (carbonatation estimates described by
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21 433 Grant (1986)).
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24 434 2) CONSONORM_LG can be applied to any rock type, an advantage compared to
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26 435 the mass balance method of Trépanier (2009) that is designed for magmatic rocks only.
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29 436 3) CONSONORM_LG does not require the identification of a fresh precursor, an
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31 437 advantage compared to most mass balance methods (Grant, 1986; Trépanier, 2009).
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34 438 4) CONSONORM_LG method is particularly high-performing in quantifying
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36 439 carbonatation and discriminating between muscovite and chlorite formed as a result of
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38 440 carbonatation from those formed as a result of K or Fe-Mg alterations (i.e. sericitization
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40 441 and chloritization). Also, its performance for recognizing and quantifying K, Na, Fe-Mg
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42 442 and Ca types of alteration is satisfactory. In addition, the mineralogical concepts used to
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44 443 calculate the CONSONORM_LG indexes are sounder than those used to calculate major
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47 444 element ratio based indexes.
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50 445 5) CONSONORM_LG has the same advantages as NORMAT (Piché and Jébrak,
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52 446 2004). The tetrahedrons of the CONSONORM_LG method improve the normative
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55 447 calculation, enabling a more precise characterization of the parageneses and opening the
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4 448 door to carrying out normative calculations for high-grade metamorphic rocks
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7 449 (CONSONORM_HG; Mathieu 2014).
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9 450 CONSONORM_LG and its alteration indexes represent a new set of tools available to the
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11 451 mining exploration industry or to anyone interested in characterizing hydrothermally
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13 452 induced chemical and mineralogical changes, especially those related to carbonatation
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16 453 processes.
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35
36 461 in French, available online at <http://www.consorem.ca/>, Trépanier, 2012) and Judit
37
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40
41 463 for the years 2011-2012 are also thanked as a group for defining this project and for
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43 464 constructive comments throughout its realization. The CONSONORM_LG calculation
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46 465 has been available to Consorem members as part of the non-public LithoModeleur
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48 466 software since April 2012, and its users are thanked for constructive comments on the
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51 467 method throughout the years.
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4 630 **Figure captions**
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9 632 **Fig. 1** – Exploded view of the main ACFMNK tetrahedron of facies 2SV350.
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11 633 **Fig. 2** – Exploded view of the main ACFMNK tetrahedron of facies 2SV450.
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13 634 **Fig. 3** – Exploded view of the main ACFMNK tetrahedron of facies 2AMP575.
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15 635 **Fig. 4** – Calculation sequence of CONSONORM_LG (see text for details).
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17 636 **Fig. 5** – Binary diagrams comparing the normative and observed minerals of the Touquoy
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19 (A) and Beaufor (B) deposits. The normative minerals are calculated for the 2SV350
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21 facies.
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23 639 **Fig. 6** – Box plots and binary diagram displaying the alteration indexes calculated for the
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644 **Table caption**

645 Table 1: Mineral reactions used to adjust the parageneses for FeO-rich rocks

646 Table 2: Mineral reactions used to solve silica deficits

647 Table 3: WITHOUTCO2 indexes for Na, K, Ca, Fe-Mg and Al alterations

648 Table 4: WITHCO2 indexes for carbonatation-type alteration

649 Table 5: Threshold values of alteration indexes for magmatic rocks
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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- **File 1:** copy of the CONSONORM_LG code, and instructions for importing it into Microsoft Visual Studio software.

ANNEX A: CONSONORM_LG CODE

CONSONORM_LG is provided as three Visual Basic .NET classes, compatible with .NET version 3.5 and later. The first class – CONSONORM_LG.vb – contains the calculation sequence for a single rock sample. The second class – FormMain.vb – serves as an interface with the user; it is used to input options and data to the code from a .txt file, to calculate the norm and indexes for several samples and to output the data as a .txt file. The third class – TypeDataMx.vb – defines geochemical data types.

The code contained in these three .NET classes is copied to a .pdf file (see supplementary material). This file contains instructions for integrating the code into the Microsoft Visual Studio software, as well as instructions about input data format.

The MathNet.Numerics.LinearAlgebra module was also used to define matrices (see <http://numerics.mathdotnet.com>). This .NET compatible module is required to compile the VB code properly.

ANNEX B: CONSONORM_LG MINERALS

Mineral	σ	Formula	Mineral	σ	Formula
Albite	2.63	NaAlSi ₃ O ₈	Pyrope	3.56	Mg ₃ Al ₂ Si ₃ O ₁₂
Almandine	4.32	Fe ₃ Al ₂ Si ₃ O ₁₂	Pyrophyllite	2.81	Al ₂ Si ₄ O ₁₀ (OH) ₂
Andalusite	3.15	Al ₂ SiO ₅	Quartz	2.65	SiO ₂
Anorthite	2.75	CaAl ₂ Si ₂ O ₈	Serpentine	2.54	Mg ₆ Si ₄ O ₁₀ (OH) ₈
Anthophyllite_FE	3.8	Fe ₇ Si ₈ O ₂₂ (OH) ₂	Staurolite_FE	3.64	Fe ₂ Al ₉ Si ₄ O ₂₀ (OH) ₄
Anthophyllite_MG	3.67	Mg ₇ Si ₈ O ₂₂ (OH) ₂	Staurolite_MG	3.54	Mg ₂ Al ₉ Si ₄ O ₂₀ (OH) ₄
Biotite_FE	3.34	KFe ₃ AlSi ₃ O ₁₀ (OH) ₂	Talc	2.75	Mg ₃ Si ₄ O ₁₀ (OH) ₂
Biotite_MG	2.83	KMg ₃ AlSi ₃ O ₁₀ (OH) ₂	Tremolite	3.05	Ca ₂ Mg ₅ Si ₈ O ₂₂ (OH) ₂
Brucite	2.39	MgOOH	Ankerite	3.05	CaFe(CO ₃) ₂
Chlorite_FE	3.3	Fe ₁₀ Al _{4.5} Si _{5.5} O ₂₀ (OH) ₁₆	Calcite	2.71	CaCO ₃
Chlorite_MG	2.75	Mg ₁₀ Al _{4.5} Si _{5.5} O ₂₀ (OH) ₁₆	Dolomite	2.84	CaMg(CO ₃) ₂
Chloritoid_FE	3.7	FeAl ₂ SiO ₅ (OH) ₂	Magnesite	3	MgCO ₃
Chloritoid_MG	3.57	MgAl ₂ SiO ₅ (OH) ₂	Rhodochrosite	3.69	MnCO ₃
Cordierite_FE	2.67	Fe ₂ Al ₄ Si ₅ O ₁₈	Siderite	3.96	FeCO ₃
Cordierite_MG	2.48	Mg ₂ Al ₄ Si ₅ O ₁₈	Hematite	5.28	Fe ₂ O ₃
Diaspore	3.4	AlOOH	Ilmenite	4.79	FeTiO ₃
Diopside	3.26	CaMgSi ₂ O ₆	Magnetite	5.15	Fe ₃ O ₄
Epidote	3.3	Ca ₂ Al ₃ Si ₃ O ₁₂ (OH)	Rutile	4.8	TiO ₂
Fayalite	4.66	Fe ₂ SiO ₄	Titanite	3.48	CaTiSiO ₄ (OH)
Ferroactinolite	3.51	Ca ₂ Fe ₅ Si ₈ O ₂₂ (OH) ₂	Arsenopyrite	6.19	FeAsS
Forsterite	3.22	Mg ₂ SiO ₄	Chalcopyrite	4.19	CuFeS ₂
Grossular	3.59	Ca ₃ Al ₂ Si ₃ O ₁₂	Galena	7.4	PbS
Grunerite	3.66	Fe ₇ Si ₈ O ₂₂ (OH) ₂	Millerite	5.5	NiS
Hedenbergite	3.68	CaFeSi ₂ O ₆	Molybdenite	5	MoS
Hornblende_FE	3.38	Ca ₂ Fe ₅ AlSi ₇ O ₂₂ (OH) ₂	Pyrite	5.01	FeS ₂
Hornblende_MG	2.96	Ca ₂ Mg ₅ AlSi ₇ O ₂₂ (OH) ₂	Sphalerite	4.08	ZnS
Leucite	2.48	KAlSi ₂ O ₆	Anhydrite	2.35	CaSO ₄
Muscovite	2.83	KAl ₃ Si ₃ O ₁₀ (OH) ₂	Apatite	3.19	Ca ₅ P ₃ O ₁₂ (OH)
Nepheline	2.61	NaAlSi ₃ O ₈	Chromite	5.09	FeCr ₂ O ₄
Orthoclase	2.56	KAlSi ₃ O ₈	Halite	2.17	NaCl
Paragonite	2.78	NaAl ₃ Si ₃ O ₁₀ (OH) ₂	Sylvite	2	KCl

Figure 1

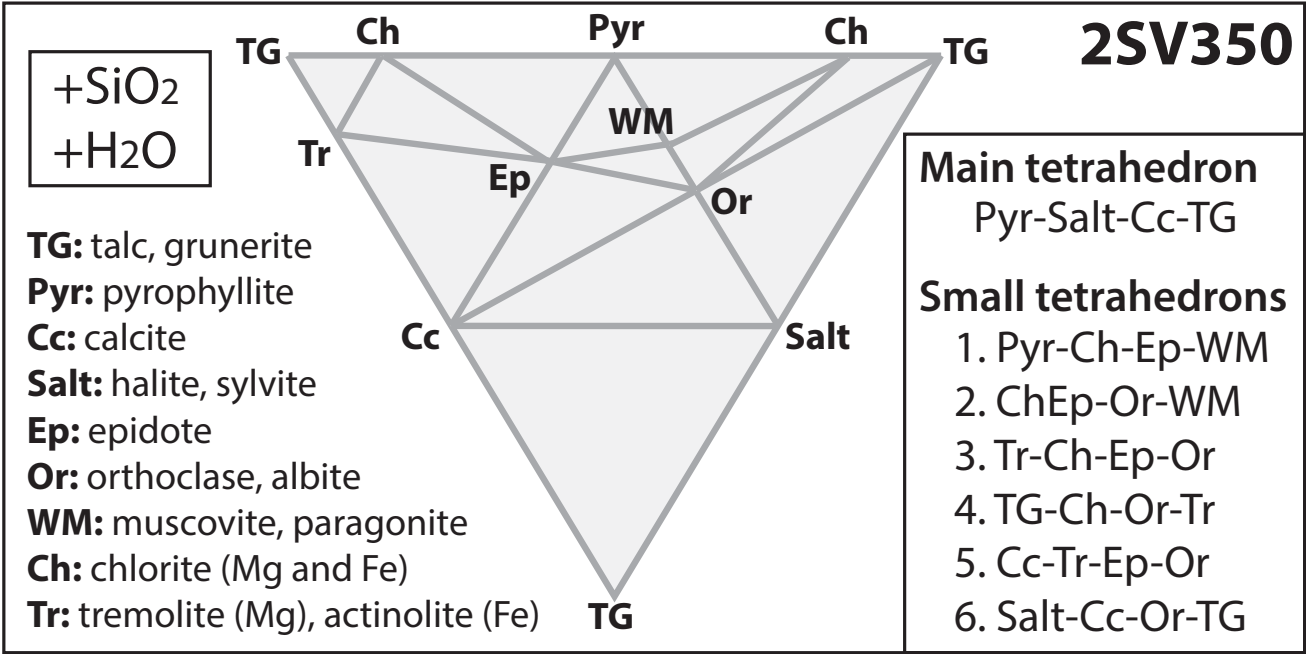


Figure 2

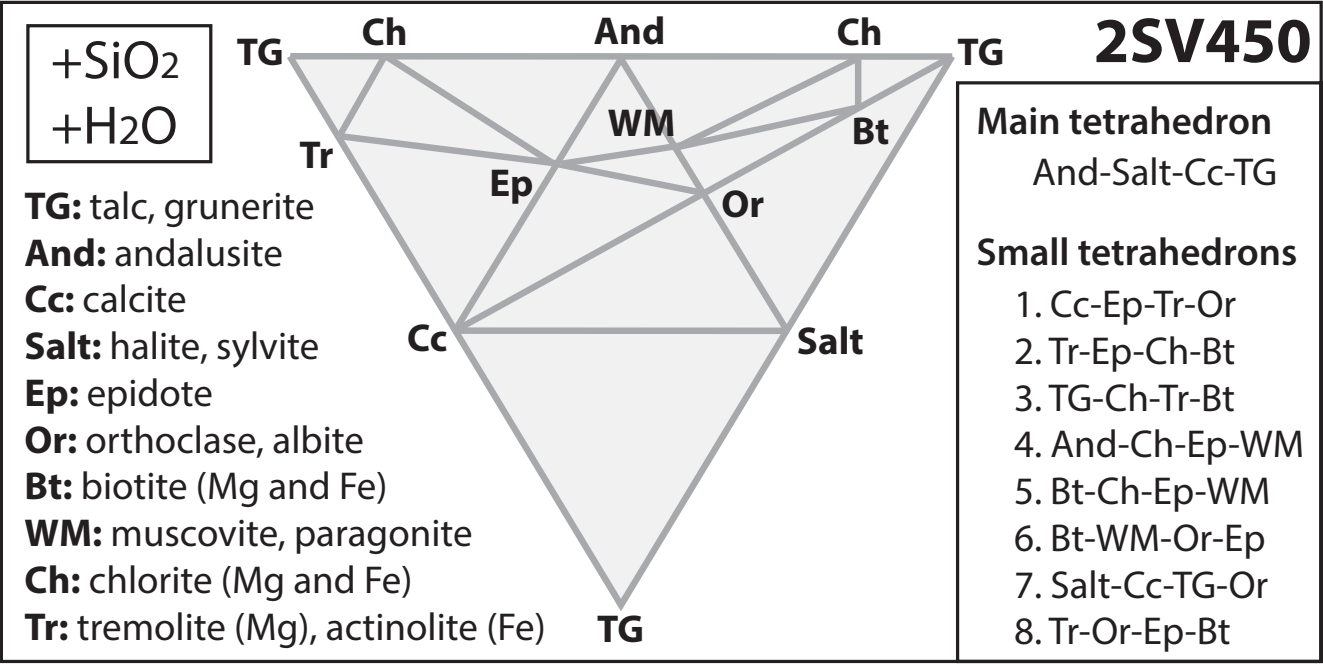


Figure 3

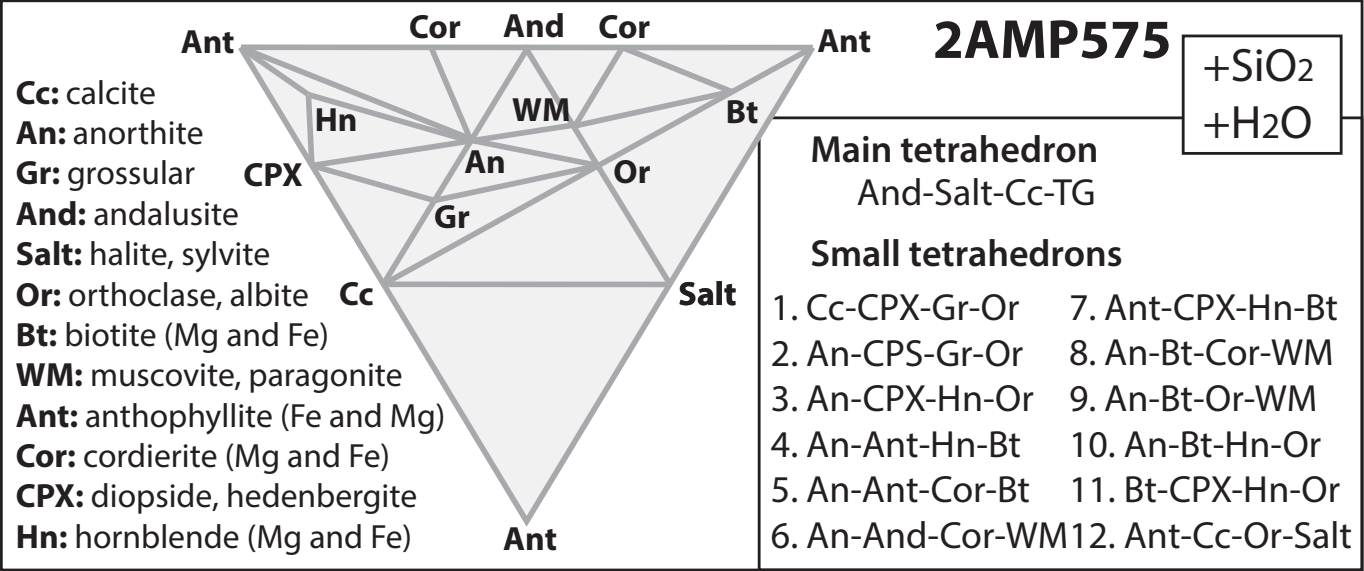


Fig. 3

Figure 4

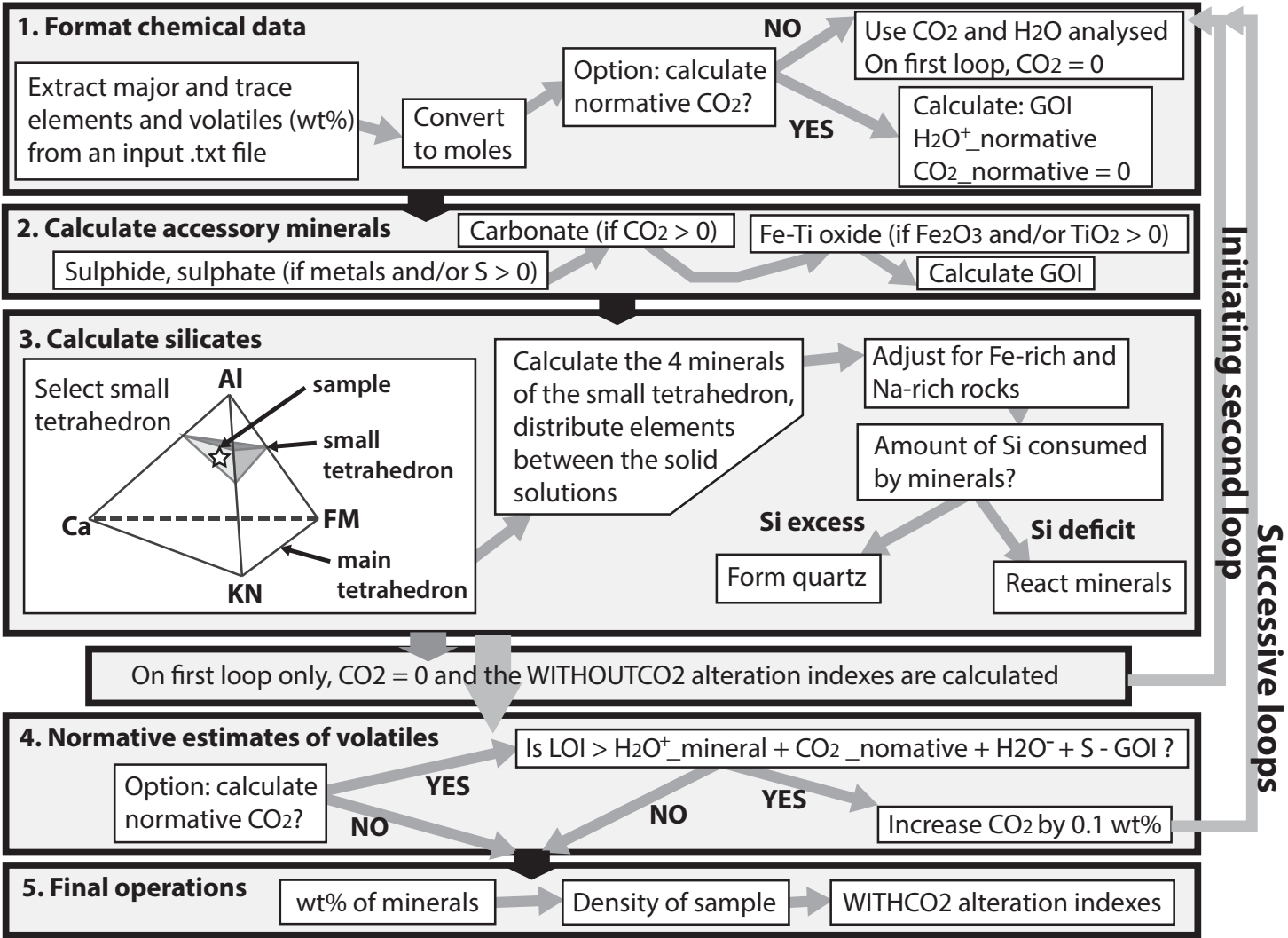


Fig. 4

Figure 5

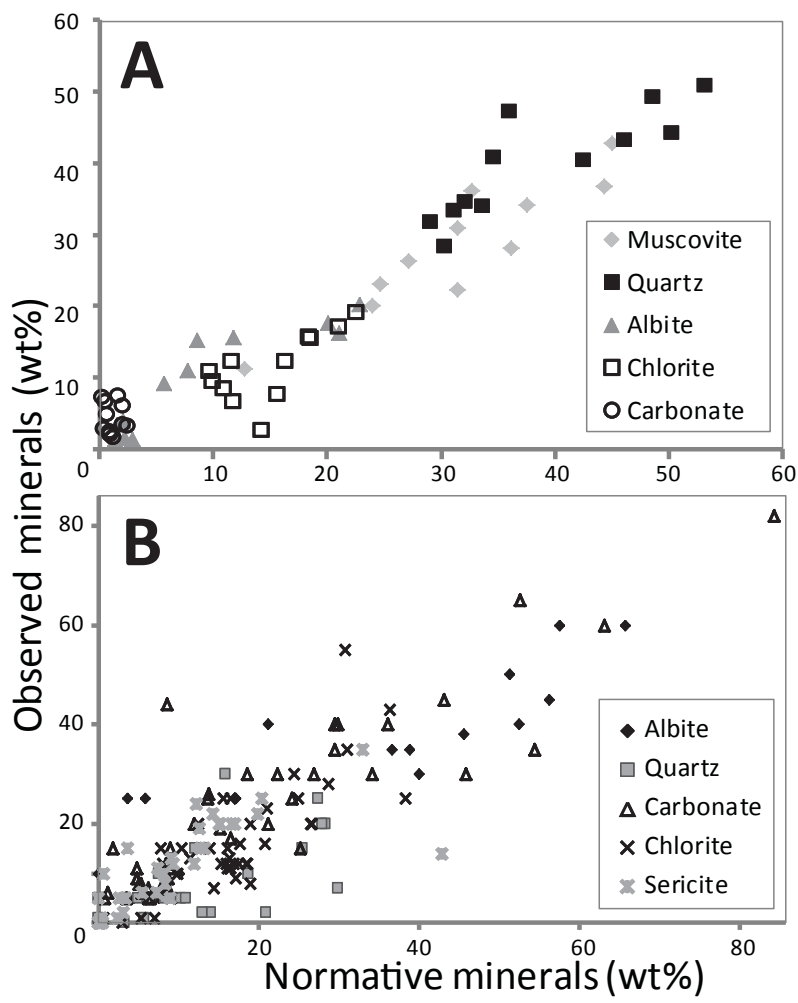


Fig. 5



Figure 6

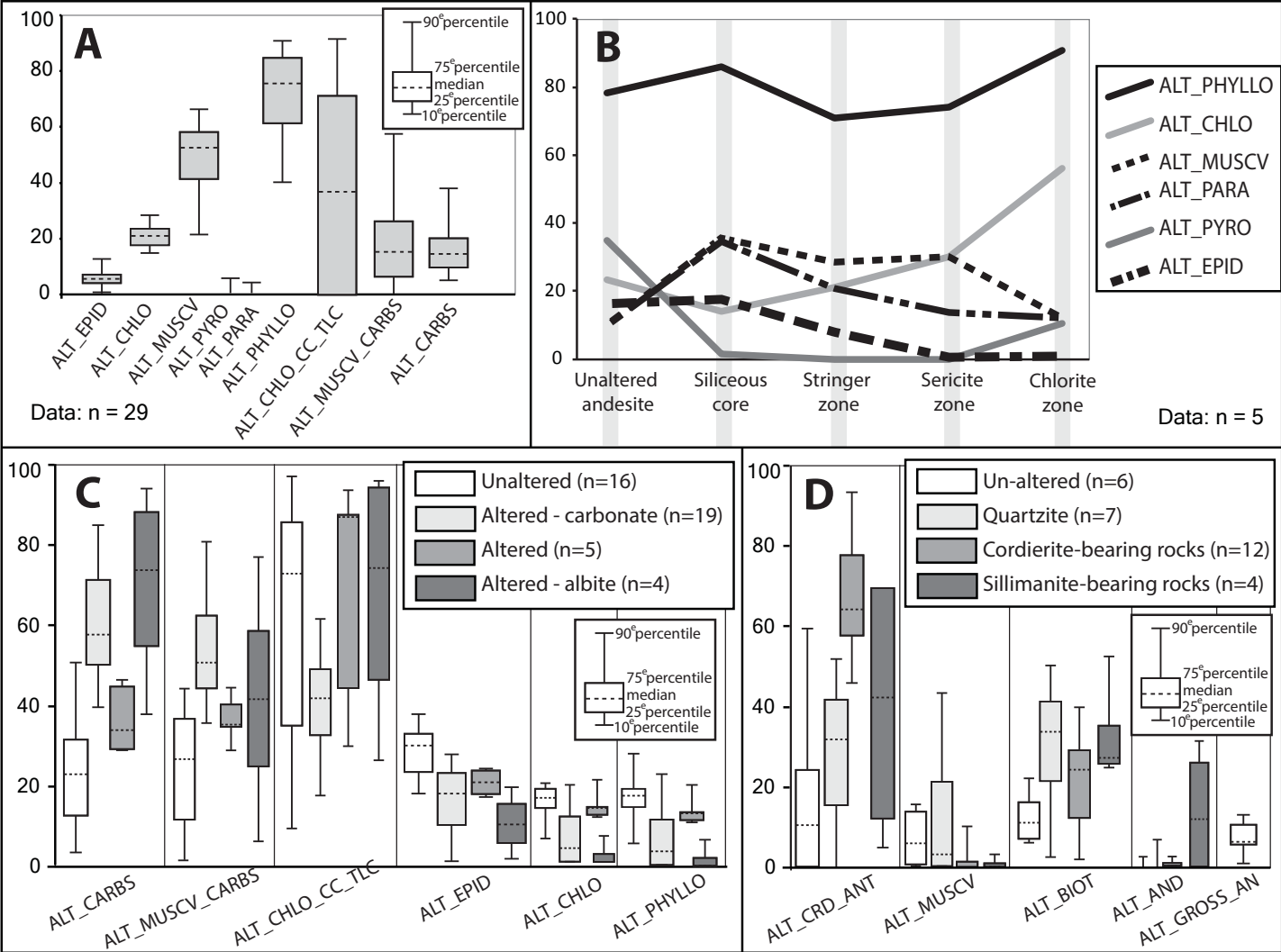


Fig. 6

Table 1: Mineral reactions used to adjust the parageneses for FeO-rich rocks

Facies	Reactions performed	Condition
2SV450	chlorite + 7.75 andalusite + 2.5 H ₂ O --> 10 chloritoid + 3.25 quartz 0.516 chlorite + 0.516 muscovite --> 2.161 chloritoid + 2.161 biotite + 0.677 quartz + 1.709 H ₂ O	Mg#* <0.3 and muscovite there
2SV450	chlorite + 7.75 andalusite + 2.5 H ₂ O --> 10 chloritoid + 3.25 quartz	Mg# <0.65 and epidote there
2AMP575	7.5 cordierite + 5 muscovite --> 5 biotite + 20 andalusite + 17.5 quartz 3.5 cordierite + H ₂ O --> anthophyllite + 7 andalusite + 1.25 H ₂ O	Mg# <0.55 and muscovite there
2AMP575	9 andalusite + 0.286 anthophyllite + 1.714 H ₂ O --> staurolite + 2.785 quartz 15.5 andalusite + 2 biotite + 6 H ₂ O --> 3 staurolite + 2 muscovite + 3.5 quartz staurolite + 1.64 anthophyllite --> 4.5 almandine + 3.643 quartz + 3.643 H ₂ O 70 staurolite + 3.833 biotite + 9.5 quartz --> 4.5 almandine + 3.833 muscovite + 3.833 H ₂ O	Mg# <0.3 and muscovite there
2AMP575	2 cordierite + 5/7 anthophyllite --> 3 almandine + 63/7 quartz + 5/7 H ₂ O	Mg# <0.4 and anorthite there

*Mg# = MgO/(MgO+FeO) molar, calculated with the bulk of FeO and MgO.

Table 2: Mineral reactions used to solve silica deficits

Facies	Reaction
2SV350, 2SV450	2 talc + 2 H ₂ O --> serpentine + 4 quartz
2SV350	serpentine --> 6 brucite + 4 quartz + 2 H ₂ O
2SV450	serpentine --> 3 forsterite + 1 quartz + 4 H ₂ O
2AMP575	anthophyllite--> 3.5 forsterite + 4.5 quartz + H ₂ O
2SV450, 2AMP575	forsterite + H ₂ O --> 2 brucite + 1 quartz
2SV350, 2SV450	pyrophyllite --> diaspore + 2 quartz
All the facies, only if (Na+K) > Al (molar)	albite --> nepheline + 3 quartz orthoclase --> leucite + 2 quartz

Table 3: WITHOUTCO2 indexes for Na, K, Ca, Fe-Mg and Al alterations

Facies	Indexes	Formula
2SV350, 2SV450	ALT_CHLO*	$100 * (\text{chlorite_Mg} * 0.75 + \text{chlorite_Fe}) / \text{SUM}^{**}$
	ALT_MUSCV	$100 * \text{muscovite} / \text{SUM}$
	ALT_EPID	$100 * \text{epidote} / \text{SUM}$
2SV350	ALT_PYRO	$100 * \text{pyrophyllite} / \text{SUM}$
	ALT_PHYLLO***	$100 * (\text{chlorite_Mg} * 0.75 + \text{chlorite_Fe} + \text{muscovite} + \text{paragonite} + \text{pyrophyllite}) / \text{SUM}$
2SV450	ALT_CTD	$100 * (\text{chloritoid_Mg} + \text{chloritoid_Fe}) / \text{SUM}$
	ALT_PHYLLO	$100 * (\text{chlorite_Mg} * 0.75 + \text{chlorite_Fe} + \text{muscovite} + \text{andalusite} + \text{biotite} + \text{Chloritoid}) / \text{SUM}$
2SV450, 2AMP575	ALT_BIOT	$100 * \text{biotite} / \text{SUM}$
	ALT_AND	$100 * \text{andalusite} / \text{SUM}$
2AMP575	ALT_MUSCV	$100 * \text{muscovite} / \text{SUM}$
	ALT_GROSS_AN	$100 * (\text{grossular} + \text{anorthite} * 0.5) / \text{SUM}$
	ALT_STD_GRT	$100 * (\text{staurolite} + \text{almandine} + \text{pyrope}) / \text{SUM}$
	ALT_CRD_ANTH	$100 * (\text{cordierite} + \text{anthophyllite}) / \text{SUM}$

*ALT_CHLO: the 0.75 factor is used to decrease the effect of mafic, naturally chlorite rich protoliths, on the values of this alteration index.

**SUM = sum of all minerals (with chlorite_Mg multiplied by 0.75) except quartz and sulfides.

***ALT_PHYLLO: index similar to the IFRAIS index of NORMAT (Piché and Jébrak 2004).

Table 4: WITHCO2 indexes for carbonatation-type alteration

Facies	Indexes	Formula
2SV350	ALT_CHLO_CC_TLC	$100 * (\text{chlorite} - \text{chlorite_WITHOUTCO2} + \text{calcite} + \text{talc}) / \text{SUM}^*$
	ALT_MUSCV_CARBS	$100 * (\text{ankerite} + \text{dolomite} + \text{magnesite} + \text{siderite} + \text{muscovite} - \text{muscovite_WITHOUTCO2}) / (\text{SUM} + \text{orthoclase} + \text{muscovite})$
2SV350, 2SV450	ALT_CARB**	$100 * (\text{calcite} + \text{dolomite} + \text{ankerite} + \text{magnesite} + \text{siderite}) / \text{SUM}$

*SUM: sum of all FeO-, MgO- or/and CaO-bearing minerals, except sulfides.

**ALT_CARBS: similar to the IPAF index of NORMAT (Piché and Jébrak 2004).

Table 5: Threshold values of alteration indexes for magmatic rocks

Facies	Indices	Felsic rocks
2SV350, 2SV450	ALT_CARBS, ALT_CHLO_CC_TLC	> 20 (F); > 0 (I, M, UM*)
	ALT_EPID	> 15 (F); > 30 (I); > 20 (M); > 0 (UM)
	ALT_CHLO, ALT_PHYLLO	> 5-10 (F); > 15 (I, M, UM)
All	ALT_MUSCV, ALT_MUSCV_CARBS	> 5-10 (F); > 0 (I, M, UM)
	ALT_PARA, ALT_PYRO, ALT_CTD, ALT_AND	> 0 (F, I, M, UM)
2AMP575	ALT_GROSS_AN	> 10 (F); > 15 (I); > 10 (M); > 5 (UM)
	ALT_BIOT	> 10 (F, I, M, UM)
	ALT_CRD_ANTH	> 0 (F); > 10 (I, M); > 25 (UM)

*F, I, M and UM stand for felsic (F), intermediate (I), mafic (M) and ultramafic (UM)

magmatic rocks.