



Geochemical vectors in mineral exploration: integration, interpretation and modelling of highprecision multielement and hyperspectral datasets

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Lecture D2U1 – part II.



DIM ESEE 2: IMPLEMENTING INNOVATIONS

Innovation in Exploration

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Content

Recent developments in exploration geochemistry and better instrumentation of industrial geochemical laboratories provide large and high-precision partial digestion multi-element datasets for mineral exploration projects. Additionally, the expansion of portable and benchtop XRF, SWIR and XRD devices deliver fast and reliable characterization of mineralogy and geochemistry of drill core, soil and rock samples. Furthermore, tripod- and UAV-based hyperspectral scanning and satellite-based remote sensing deliver high-resolution alteration and lithology maps for pits, underground galleries and surface outcrops. These exploration geochemical datasets provide critical information about ore genetic and mineralization controlling aspects, about alteration footprint and optimal drill-spacing, about vectors to fertile host rocks and economic mineralization and on perspectives of geometallurgical domaining at any mineral exploration project.

This second part of the lesson will assess various tools for 2D and 3D integration, geostatistical methodologies and interpretation of high-precision multielement and spectral datasets and the review of various geochemical vectors used in mineral exploration:

1. Introduction to magmatic-hydrothermal systems

2. Geochemical vectors in magmatic-hydrothermal systems

3. Vectoring tools, geostatistical methodologies and interpretation of exploration geochemical data on the example of Chelopech Cu-Au(Ag-Pb-Zn-Mo) mineralization



Crustal scale phenomenon of magmatic-hydrothermal systems



Fluids involved in magmatic-hydrothermal systems



Fluid-dominated alteration, hydrolysis reactions and fluid-rock interactions neutralize acidity ==> Acid-sulphate or

Advanced argillic alteration (AAA) Incl. alunite-pyrophyllitedickite-kaolinite-vuggy quartz-anhydrite-diasporetopaz-zunyite-APS minerals (alumino-phosphate-sulfate)

After Cooke & Simmons (2000), Moritz (2004)

Fluids involved in magmatichydrothermal systems

Decreasing T increases dissociation of salts & acids (K+ and H+ increase relative to KCl & HCl) \rightarrow dissociation of acids (HSO₄⁻, HCl, H₂CO₃) leads to real acidity increase and sulfide deposition

Important alteration processes:

- Hydrolytic (acidic), H⁺ = K⁺
- Alkali exchange, Na⁺ = K⁺
- Precipitation/dissolution, quartz
- Oxidation/reduction (S₂, O₂)

Greater fluid-rock interaction → neutralizes acidity (H)



Depth-temperature controls on hypogene acid-sulphate systems (Hedenquist et al., 2000)

Depth (m)	Paleosurface– water table	0–150 m	150–300 m	300–500 m	500–1,000 (1,500) m
Temp. (°C)	emp. (°C) 100–120 100–200 lvanced Steam-heated Quartz-alunit argillic kaolinite- halo to sili- alteration alunite blanket; core residual opal, cristobalite		200–230	230-260	260-300+
Advanced argillic alteration			Wide quartz- alunite halo, depending on host	Flaring upward, quartz-alunite; pyrophyllite, diaspore	Narrow zones, pyrophyllite, sericite
Silicic alteration	Chalcedony horizon at water table	Chalcedony veins, residual silica, vuggy quartz, silicification	Residual silica, vuggy quartz, silicification Residual silica, vuggy quartz, silicification		Quartz D-type porphyry veins
Argillic alteration	Kaolinite- smectite	Smectite- interlayered illite/smectite	Transitional to sericitic	On margins	On margins
Sericitic alteration	None	None	None	Illite-sericite, to sericite- pyrophyllite	Sericite- pyrophyllite to 2M mica
T-sensitive or indicative	Opal	Chalcedony	Loss of interlayered clays	Pyrophyllite	Biotite
Sulfides	Pyrite-marcasite at base	Pyrite-marcasite at base, transitional to Cu-As-Sb sulfides/ sulfosalts	Enargite-luzonite with later Au+ tennantite- tetrahedrite- chalcopyrite	Enargite-luzonite with later Au+ tennantite- tetrahedrite- chalcopyrite	Enargite, bornite, digenite, chalcocite, covellite

Typical alteration and mineralization paragenesis of acid-sulphate (high-sulphidation) systems





Alumino-phosphate minerals (APS - Alunite Supergroup) acid-sulphate systems



White alunite & kaolinite in a steam-heated zone affecting rhyolite tuff above the water table (Király-hegy, Hungary)

- Alunite series Alunite Natroalunite Natrojarosite Jarosite Ammoniumjarosite Hydronium alunite Minamiite
- Woodhouseite series Woodhouseite Svanbergite Hinsdalite Corkite Kemmlitzite
- Crandallite series

Crandallite Goyazite Gorceixite Plumbogummite Florencite Arsenocrandallite Philipsbornite Dussertite Segnitite

Wardite series Wardite Millisite $\begin{array}{l} {\rm KAl}_{3}({\rm SO}_{4})_{2}({\rm OH})_{6} \\ {\rm NaAl}_{3}({\rm SO}_{4})_{2}({\rm OH})_{6} \\ {\rm NaFe}_{3}({\rm SO}_{4})_{2}({\rm OH})_{6} \\ {\rm KFe}_{3}({\rm SO}_{4})_{2}({\rm OH})_{6} \\ ({\rm NH}_{4}){\rm Fe}_{3}({\rm SO}_{4})_{2}({\rm OH})_{6} \\ ({\rm H}_{3}{\rm O}){\rm Al}_{3}({\rm SO}_{4})_{2}({\rm OH})_{6} \\ {\rm Ca}_{0.5}{\rm Al}_{3}({\rm SO}_{4})_{2}({\rm OH})_{6} \end{array}$

 $CaAl_{3}(PO_{4}/SO_{4})(OH)_{6}$ SrAl_{3}(PO_{4}/SO_{4})(OH)_{6} PbAl_{3}(PO_{4}/SO_{4})(OH)_{6} PbFe(PO_{4}/SO_{4})(OH)_{6} SrAl_{3}(AsO_{4}/SO_{4})(OH)_{6}

CaHAl $(PO_4)_2(OH)_6$ SrHAl₃ $(PO_4)_2(OH)_6$ BaHAl₃ $(PO_4)_2(OH)_6$ PbHAl₃ $(PO_4)_2(OH)_6$ (REE)Al₃ $(PO_4)_2(OH)_6$ CaHAl₃ $(AsO_4)_2(OH)_6$ PbHAl₃ $(AsO_4)_2(OH)_6$ BaHFe₃ $(AsO_4)_2(OH)_6$ PbHFe₃ $(AsO_4)_2(OH)_6$

NaAl₃(PO₄)₂(OH)₄ \cdot 2H₂O (Na, Ca)Al₃(PO₄)₂(OH, O)₄ \cdot 2H₂O

Geochemical vectoring in magmatic-hydrothermal systems (Halley et al., 2015)



Case study I: Chelopech Au-Cu deposit, Bulgaria



Baker (2019):

Location and styles of Au deposits (>0.5 Moz Au) related to Cretaceous and Cenozoic magmatism in the Western Tethyan magmatic belt.

Abbreviations: CRD = carbonate replacement deposit, HS = high sulfidation, IS = intermediate sulfidation, LS = low sulfidation, VMS = volcanogenic massive sulphide.

Late Cretaceous magmatism and metal endowment of Panagyurishte district

- NE trending magmatism
- Younging from north to south (92 Ma 78 Ma)





Chelopech Cu-Au Mine: Solid Performer Focused on Optimization

- The deposit, having a considerable mining history since 1954, is operated as an underground mine by Dundee Precious Metals with an annual production rate of 179,600 ounces of gold and 33.4 million pounds of copper (2.2 Mt ore processed) as per 2020.
- Effective as of 31st December 2020, the Mine has a Proven and Probable Mineral Reserve of 18.6Mt at 0.84% Cu, 2.89g/t Au and 7.73g/t Ag and has a remaining Mineral Resource (exclusive of Mineral Reserves) of 17.4Mt (M+I) at an average grade of 0.82% Cu, 2.63g/t Au and 8.71g/t Ag.
- The reserves currently support an optimized mine life that extends to 2029.



TSX: DPM C\$8.81 05/28/2021 4:00 PM Gold: US\$1,906.88

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Business Model & Strategy Investors Coperating Regions Current Operations Chelopech, Bulgaria Overview

Chelopech Proven and Probable Mineral Reserve Estimate (As at December 31, 2020)										
Classification	Tonnes	Go	old	Silver		Copper				
	(Mt)	Grade (g/t)	K oz.	Grade (g/t)	K oz.	Grade (%)	Mlbs.			
Proven	7.8	2.71	681	7.23	1,818	0.84	145.5			
Probable	10.8	3.03	1,046	8.09	2,797	0.84	198.9			
Total	18.6	2.89	1,727	7.73	4,615	0.84	344.4			

- Mineral Reserves are based on a cut-off value of \$10 per tone profit margin (around 3 g/t AuEq).
- Long-term metal price assumed for the evaluation of Mineral Reserves and Mineral Resources are \$1,400 per ounce for gold, \$17.50 per ounce for silver, and \$2.75 per pound for copper.

Chelopech Cu-Au Mine: ore bodies



- The ore bodies vary from 150-300 meters in length, are 30-120 meters thick and can extend at least 350 meters down plunge.
- 2021-10-15

15

• The main ore bodies are spatially grouped into two mining areas, with semi-circular distribution and controlled by favorable breccia and host rock contact zones and structure intersections within the breccias.

Chelopech Cu-Au Mine: mineralization



Ore Mineralization

Stockwork, vein and disseminated type of ore are most common among the different types breccia and among intrusive bodies.

Ore Minerals

Py, Tn, En-Luz, Au, Cpy & Bn with late stage Sp/Ga

Orebodies Morphology

Columnar pipe like bodies that typically plunge steeply towards the S & SE.

Alteration

Advanced argillic zone with "vuggy" silica and massive silica localities with quartz, dickite, kaolinite, pyrite, pyrophillite and alunite

Sericitic zone, characterized with quartz, sericite, illite, kaolinite, pyrite, rutile \pm APS minerals;

Propylitic zone, composed of quartz, albite, calcite, chlorite, pyrite, sericite and epidote.

Chelopech Cu-Au Mine: geology model



Brittle deformation in fine-laminated sediment



Matrix-supported monomictic phreatomegmatic breccia



It is interpreted that Chelopech deposit was formed in shallow intrusive setting, related to phreatomagmatic breccias which formed a maar-diatreme and numerous blind breccia-pipe structures.

Chelopech Cu-Au Mine: Exploration (as per DPM 2021/03 press release)



- In January 2021, a Geological Discovery was registered with the Bulgarian Ministry of Energy for the Sveta Petka License.
- In 2021 exploration activities on the Sveta Petka license are focused on infill and extensional drilling required for the technical development of the Wedge, West Shaft, Sharlo Dere and Krasta prospects in conjunction with the Commercial Discovery process.
- the broader On Brevene ٠ exploration license scout drilling of priority targets, including the Bridge Target, has commenced. A targeting study to evaluate the Vozdol prospect has been completed and drilling on selected priority targets will commence during the second quarter.

8



not to scale

distribution patterns of selected ore-related metals (Marton et al 2016)

Calcite-Illite Chlorite Dickite Fe Carbonate Flat Response

Illite

Kaolinite-Quartz Montmorillonite Pyrophyllite Uncertain Water

Alteration & mineralization by core scan

Examples with closer looks of moderately mineralized drill core:

- LWIR SOM Borehole image, with ٠ light blue highlighting the sulphide/sulphosalt zones.
- The VN-SWIR map shows that the ٠ dominant argillic alteration is represented by dickite, which is locally interfingered by kaolinite and illite zones.



Alteration & mineralization by core scan

Examples with closer looks of weekly mineralized drill core:

 Both SWIR and LWIR maps show the contact between the illite (-quartz) and dickite (-quartz) dominated alteration zones.

	SA	1		0	Ex-SEBR-31	75		
VN-SWIR: Dominant Mineral Map				-				eren and a second
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Dickite	3					1 - 4 - L	1.	
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Pyrophyllite				C C	· .~	ر جر	-	2
Uncertain		_						
Water					2			
LWIR (OWL): Borehole Mineral MAP	1 2 1		1.1 - M					2.3.4
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72.587

Alteration & mineralization by core scan

Illite

Depth: N/A



Alteration boxplot: Al vs. AAAI (4 acid + ICP-MS dataset, calculated Si by summed to 100%)



Increase in AAAI represents strong SiO2 enrichment and destruction of chlorite, carbonate and feldspar. These are the mineralogical changes that are also seen in advanced argillic alteration zones in high-sulfidation epithermal systems.

The **Ishikawa Alteration Index** reflects the abundance of chlorite and sericite and depletion of CaO and Na2O associated with feldspar destruction. The arrow on the plot indicates the trend from the unaltered box toward pyrophyllite alteration zones. The box for unaltered samples is defined in the advanced argillic alteration index by the spread of least altered (propylitic) samples as defined in the source paper and in the Al by the least altered box of the Alteration Box Plot by Large et al. (2001).

$AAAI = 100 (SiO_2)/(SiO_2 + 10MgO + 10CaO + 10Na_2O)$ AI = 100*(MgO+K_2O)/(MgO+Na_2O+CaO+K_2O)

References:

• Williams, N.C., and Davidson, G.J., 2004, Possible submarine advanced argillic alteration at the Basin Lake prospect, Western Tasmania, Australia: Economic Geology v.99, pp. 987-1002

• Large, R.R. et al., 2001, The alteration box plot: A simple approach to understanding the relationship between alteration mineralogy and lithogeochemistry associated with volcanic-hosted massive sulfide deposits: Economic Geology v.96, pp. 957-972

Alteration boxplot: Al vs. AAAI (4 acid + ICP-MS dataset, calculated Si by summed to 100%)

Min1 sTSAS

- 😑 Ankerite
- FeChlorite + FeMgChlorite
- Phengite
- Phengitic Illite + PhengiticIllite
- 🗢 Prehnite

Colour

Min1 sTSAS

- 🔵 Illite
- Montmorillonite
- Muscovite
- Muscovitic Illite + MuscoviticIllite
- 🗢 Paragonite
- Paragonitic Illite + ParagoniticIllite
- Phengite

Alteration Box Plot: Ishikawa Alteration Index (AI) vs Advanced Argillic Alteration Index (AAAI)

Concerns:

- Si is not measured but calculated without considering LOI content.
- Al is commonly underestimated in APSrich samples
- Does not provide zonation around ore bodies.
- It works only as broad vector to find the mineralized system.

Tracing alteration footprint through feldspar destruction and Sr, Ca, K and Sc zonation

4 acid + ICP-MS data, 1 m-based sampling

Tracing alteration footprint through feldspar destruction and Sr, Ca, K and Sc zonation

27 2021-10-15

4 acid + ICP-MS data, 1 m-based sampling

Tracing alteration footprint through feldspar destruction and Sr, Ca, K and Sc zonation

Lithophile element provide a primary vector to mineralization within this alteration footprint. Proxy indicators for different alteration zones are the following:

• Ca-depletion shows destruction of feldspar, therefore the general envelope of alteration footprint;

• K-enrichment occurs within illite-rich zone, in outer margin of mineralized zones;

• Sr-enrichment occurs in central core of AAA zones (hot fluids vents, ASP minerals precipitation) forming the core of economic mineralization.

Using the relative distribution of the Ca, K and Sr an alteration classification was created, which enabled tracing within the alteration footprint.

Tracing alteration footprint through feldspar destruction and Sr, Ca, K and Sc zonation

Vectoring footprint:

- Major western ore bodies express well the Sr-K-Ca alteration zonation, with vector from fresh rock -> Sr-depleted propylitic alteration -> illite/muscovite alteration -> AAA alteration (with svanbergite).
- Vectored footprint around ore bodies extend to 150-200 meters

Tracing alteration footprint through feldspar destruction and Sr, Ca, K and Sc zonation

Optimal drill spacing in the footprint:

- DH at 200m spacing could potentially miss smaller (~0.5 Mt) northern ore body, but would intersect the illite/phyllic halo (K-enrichment);
- Following-up vectoring and drillhole infill could potentially intersect the orebody;
- Observe also strong AAA zone with new potential.

gypsum
Fresh rock
Sr-depleted propylitic alt.
Illite/phyllite alteration
svanbergite (+/- woodhousite) in AAA

Au, Cu and other associated metals vs. alteration zones (probability plots)

Au, Ag, As, Sb, Bi, Cu, Mo, Mn, Te, Pb, Zn association : Principal Component Analysis

- Quick PCA highlights at least 3 major ore types:
 - Porphyry Cu-Mo-Bi
 - HS epithermal Au-As-Sb-Te
 - Distal Ag- Pb-Zn-Mn

0.4959 0.2328 0.1563 0.09215 0.117 -0.5583 0.6203 0.08653 0.1053 -0.09695 .04968 -0.4766 .05731 0.149	0.151 -0.2313 0.5413 0.3163 -0.05552 -0.3642	0.201 -0.0709 -0.2416 0.149 -0.1296 0.1093	0.06991 0.1836 0.06373 -0.335 -0.2333	0.02971 0.3526 -0.09039 -0.197 0.5497	0.02815 -0.3283 -0.01709 -0.1913 -0.1973	0.03778 0.2789 -0.1975 0.1796	0.08469 -0.5378 -0.2318 -0.00996
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Note that probability plots suggest for normal scores >1 all elements show accepted distribution, while for <1 normal scores data distribution for certain elements (Ag, Mo, Bi, Mn) is problematic due to various analytical procedures and detection limits. For next steps we only use >1 z-scores assays.

Au, Ag, As, Sb, Bi, Cu, Mo, Mn, Te, Pb, Zn association : WTSR and RGB zonation

Metal zonation HS ore bodies: WTSR and RGB zonation

Distribution of chalcophile elements suggest that the HS ore bodies represent single system, but with zoned metal pattern (implications for vectoring and metallurgy):

- Outer Pb, Zn, Tl, Ag +/-Au (Mn)
- Inner Cu, Au, As, Ag, Te Ο

Au_ppm > 85.0%

Aq_ppm > 85.0%

Cu_pct > 85.0%

- Core Au, Sb, Bi, Te
- Deep Au, W, Sb, Bi Ο

2 and 4 acid + ICP-MS data

Relation of HTA footprint size, metal zonation, potential ore body size and guidance for drill spacing

 The alteration and metal zonation model used for the Chelopech HS system shows a relationship between the size of the alteration footprint, the size of the orebodies as well as their metal zonation from outer to inner (core/economic) parts.

• Useful guide to determine the prospectivity, targeting potential and drilling spacing. By enlarging the size of the target by means of measuring alteration and the metal zonation, the drill spacing can be enlarged to the extent that many undercover areas can be prospected with a reasonable degree of reliability.

Long-term and creative professional collaboration environment and teamwork with Dundee Precious Metals and agreement to share exploration geochemical information for academic purposes is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your attention!

DIM ESEE 2: IMPLEMENTING INNOVATIONS

Innovation in Exploration

Dubrovnik, Croatia / hybrid mode -October 20th – 22nd, 2021