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Elemental distributions and mineral parageneses of the Skaergaard PGE-Au mineralisation: consequences of accumulation, redistribution, and equilibration in an upward-migrating mush zone

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Elemental distributions and mineral parageneses of the Skaergaard PGE-Au mineralisation: consequences of accumulation, redistribution, and equilibration in an upward-migrating mush zone

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Abstract

The Skaergaard PGE-Au mineralisation, alias the Platinova Reef, is syn-magmatic Platinum Group Element (PGE) and gold (Au) mineralisation that formed after crystallisation of ~74% of the bulk melt of the intrusion. It is hosted in a more than 600 m deep and bowl-shaped succession of gabbroic macro-rhythmic layers in the upper 100 m of Middle Zone. The precious metal mineralisation comprises a series of concordant but compositionally zoned mineralisation levels identified by distinct PGE, Au and Cu peaks. They formed due to local sulphide saturation in stratiform concentrations of interstitial and evolved mush melts in six MLs over > 2000 years. The PGE-Au mineralisation is compared to a stack of gold-rimmed saucers of PGE-rich gabbro of upward decreasing size. Fundamentally different crystallisation and mineralisation scenarios have been proposed for the mineralisation, including offset reef type models based on sulphide saturation in the melt from which the silicate host crystallised, and the here argued model which restricts the same processes to the melt of the inward migrating mush zone of the magma chamber. The latter is supported by: i) a 3D summary of the parageneses of precious metal minerals and phases (> 4000 grains) from 32 samples across the mineralisation; ii) a 3D compilation of all bulk rock assay data; and iii) a principal component analysis (PCA) on PGE, Au, Cu, and selected major-and trace elements. In the main PGE-mineralisation level (Pd5 alias Pd-Zone) the precious metal mineral paragenesis varies across the intrusion with precious metal sulphides and Au-alloys at the W-margin to Precambrian basement, precious metal plumbide and Au- and Ag alloys at the E-margin to flood basalts, and skaergaardite (PdCu) and intermetallic compounds and alloys of PGE-Au and Cu in the central parts of the mineralisation. Precious metal parageneses are distinct for a given sector of the intrusion i.e., drill core (local control), rather than for a given stratigraphic or temporal interval in the accumulated gabbros. The precious metal “grade times width” number (average g/t x metres) for the mineralisation at

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5 an upper and a lower cut off of 100 ppb PGE or Au increases from ~20 to ~45 g toward the
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7 centre of the mineralisation due to ponding of precious metal bearing melt. A strong increase in
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9 (Pd+Pt+Au)/Cu and dominance of (PdCu) alloys in the lower and central parts of the
10
11 mineralisation demonstrate the partial dissolution of droplets of Cu-rich sulphide melt and
12
13 fractionation of precious metal ratios. The precious metal parageneses, the distribution of
14
15 precious metals in the mineralisation, and the PCA support initial accumulation of precious
16
17 metals in melt of the mush in the floor followed by equilibration, sulphide saturation, and
18
19 reactions with residual and immiscible Fe-rich silicate melt in a series of macro-rhythmic layers
20
21 in the stratified and upward migrating mush zone in the floor of the magma chamber. Syn-
22
23 magmatic and upward redistribution of precious metals sets the Skaergaard PGE-Au
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25 Mineralisation apart from conventional reef type and offset-reef type precious metal
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27 mineralisations and characterize “Skaergaard type” precious metal deposits.
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35 **Introduction**

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37 The Skaergaard PGE-Au mineralisation (Nielsen *et al.*, 2015), also referred to as
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39 the Platinova Reef (Andersen *et al.*, 1998), is a large, low grade Platinum Group Element (PGE)
40
41 and gold (Au) mineralisation hosted in the upper 100 m of Middle Zone gabbros of the intrusion
42
43 (Fig. 1). The mineralisation is estimated to have an inferred resource of >30 million ounces
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45 (oz.) PGE and ~9 million oz. Au (Kuo, 2007; Nielsen *et al.*, 2005) and approximates giant
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47 mineralisations as defined by Laznicka (2006). It relates to stratiform precious metal
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49 mineralisation in layered mafic intrusions for which models range from contamination-, magma
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51 mixing- or fractionation-driven sulphide saturation leading to gravitational accumulation of
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53 droplets of immiscible sulphide melt, to upwards-directed transportation of precious metals in
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5 residual melts or fluids and re-deposition, for example at redox barriers, to form precious metal
6 reefs (e.g., review in Barnes *et al.*, 2017; Boudreau, 2004; Boudreau & Meurer, 1999).
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10 Mineralisation models based on in sulphide saturation currently provide the most
11 plausible explanation for of the Skaergaard PGE-Au mineralisation. Within this class, there are
12 currently two different models, outlined most recently by Nielsen *et al.* (2015) and Holwell *et al.*
13 (2016) that described the structure of the mineralisation and the processes inherent in its
14 formation. They are based on contrasting perceptions of the structure of the mineralisation and
15 the distribution of precious metals in the layered gabbros. Nielsen *et al.* (2015) model the
16 mineralisation as a suite of concordant but compositionally zoned mineralisation levels within a
17 >600m deep bowl in the floor of the intrusion, whereas Holwell & Keays (2014) build on
18 correlation of precious metals anomalies, with increasing number of mineralisation levels in the
19 geographic centre of the mineralisation (hereafter “centre”) and a capping gold-zone. In the
20 centre of the mineralisation the Au-zone of Holwell & Keays (2014) is above leucogabbro layer
21 2 (L2) and at the margin of the intrusion below leucogabbro layer 1 (L1) of the Triple Group,
22 some 40 meters lower in the succession of gabbroic layers.
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40 Nielsen *et al.* (2015) and Holwell *et al.* (2016) argue for accumulation of
41 immiscible droplets of sulphide melt enriched in precious metals that were subsequently
42 subjected to reaction with Fe-rich silicate melt. Constrained by their perceptions of the structure
43 of the mineralisation Holwell & Keays (2014) and Holwell *et al.* (2015, 2016) suggested that
44 sulphide droplets to sank through and scavenged precious metals from the bulk liquid
45 accumulated and partly dissolved in Fe-rich silicate melt that ponded at the crystallisation front
46 at the floor of the magma chamber. The elemental variations up the gabbroic layers of the
47 mineralisation would therefore in modified form reflect fractionation and evolution of bulk
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5 liquid. The model is based and supported by observations mainly from drill cores from near the
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7 margin of the intrusion (e.g., Holwell *et al.*, 2016).
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10 Nielsen *et al.* (2015) alternatively argued the bulk melt was circulated into the
11
12 crystallisation zone under the roof of the magma chamber, where it fractionated, reached
13
14 sulphide saturation, and subsequently immiscibility between Fe- and Si-rich silicate melts. The
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16 tiny Cu-rich sulphide droplets that formed at sulphide saturation, had a density similar to FeTi-
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18 oxides and were suspended in the mush melt. When the mush melt reached the two-liquid field
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20 between Fe- and Si rich silicate liquids and buoyant Si-rich melt rose, the already formed Cu-
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22 rich sulphide droplets dissolved into the dense and Fe-rich conjugate that descended along the
23
24 walls to the floor of the magma chamber. Next, the now dissolved precious metals were re-
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26 deposited in macro-rhythmic layers during upward migration of the mushy crystallisation zone
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28 in the floor of the intrusion. In each macro-rhythmic layers the processes were repeated: i)
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30 crystal fractionation; ii) density controlled concentration of mush melt; iii) sulphide saturation
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32 and trapping of precious metals; iv) liquid immiscibility and loss of Si-rich conjugate; v)
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34 reaction and dissolution of sulphide droplets leaving behind precious metal phases in the
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36 gabbros. It is a model that combines initial accumulation followed by an upward redistribution
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38 of precious metals in the mineralisation. The main difference between the proposed sulphide
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40 saturation type models are not the processes involved (sulphide saturation, dissolution and
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42 fractionation in accordance with partition coefficients), but the timing of mineralisation
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44 processes relative to the crystallisation of the host rocks, and the volumes of melt to which the
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46 processes are applied.
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54 Lateral variations are significant in the intrusion and no single drill core can be
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56 representative for the mineralisation. In this contribution we illustrate the 3D distributions of the
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58 precious metals and their mineral parageneses in a search for additional constraints for the
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5 proposed mineralisation models. Specifically, we compiled the information in order to evaluate
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7 the validity of the two-stage model and the upward redistribution of the precious metals in the
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9 mineralisation (Nielsen *et al.*, 2015). We include: (i) as a basis for the evaluations of the
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11 proposed models, a summary of the fundamental elemental distributions and structural
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13 observations that are critical for the perception of the structure of Skaergaard-type
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15 mineralisations and the relative timing of processes in the intrusion, (ii) intrusion-wide
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17 compilation and interpretation of the precious metal mineral parageneses from 32 samples from
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19 drill cores and bulk samples (the mineralogical data for individual samples were collected 2003-
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21 2012 but have not been compiled and discussed in any detail prior to this work), (iii) the
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23 distribution of precious metal in the mineralisation using here compiled grade*width numbers
24
25 ($g*w$; average g/t times width or height in metres) compiled for stratigraphic intervals on basis
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27 of systematic bulk rock assays (Watts, Griffis and McOuat, 1990; Hanghøj, 2005), and (iv) a
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29 principal component analysis (PCA) of the distribution of precious metals, incompatible
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31 elements and major element oxides in the fully developed mineralisation in the centre of the
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33 mineralisation. The PCA is carried out to confirm combination of processes proposed to be
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35 responsible for the distribution of the precious metals. Supplementary information, including
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37 elemental correlations, paragenetic information, additional chemical information, and details on
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39 the PC analysis are provided in electronic appendices EA1 to EA14 attached to this work.
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49 **The Skaergaard intrusion**

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51 The Skaergaard intrusion is 56 Ma (Wotzlaw *et al.*, 2012) and was emplaced during the opening
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53 of the North Atlantic. It is a comparatively small, but well-preserved and well-exposed layered
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55 gabbro intrusion (Fig. 1a.). It is $\sim 7 \times 11$ km in surface size (Wager & Brown, 1968), ~ 4 km in
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57 thickness, and has a box-like or ellipsoidal shape with a volume of ~ 300 km³ (Irvine *et al.*, 1998;
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5 Nielsen, 2004; Svennevig & Guarnieri, 2012). The magma crystallised inwards in an onion-ring
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7 type structure (Fig. 1b) with the Layered Series including Hidden Zone (HZ), Lower Zone (LZ),
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9 Middle Zone (MZ) and Upper Zone (UZ) in the bowl-shaped floor, the Marginal Border Series
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11 (MBS) along the walls, and the Upper Border Series (UBS) below the roof. The UBS and LS
12
13 meet at the Sandwich horizon (SH) (Figs 1b and c) in the upper and central part of the intrusion.
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15 All three series are further subdivided on basis of their parallel evolution of liquidus parageneses
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17 (Wager & Brown, 1968; Salmonsens & Tegner, 2013 and references therein; see Fig. 1).
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19 Significant volumes of melanogranophyre and granophyre occur as sill-like bodies in and
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21 between SH and UBS gabbros and represent strongly evolved compositions on the line of liquid
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23 descent (Wager & Brown, 1968; McBirney, 1989; Nielsen 2004; Salmonsens, 2013). Detailed
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25 accounts of the intrusion are found in Wager & Brown (1968), McBirney (1996), Irvine *et al.*
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27 (1998), and Nielsen (2004).
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36 ***The mineralisation***

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38 The following description of the Skaergaard PGE-Au mineralisation is a summary based on
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40 Nielsen (2004) and Nielsen *et al.* (2015), who identified and correlated elemental, lithological
41
42 and density anomalies between forty-one drill cores and additional chip lines from the intrusion.
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44 N-S and E-W correlations between drill cores are provided in Andersen *et al.* (1998), Nielsen *et*
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46 *al.* (2015), and Holwell & Keays (2014). All publicly available primary information, including
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48 the correlation between systematic assays and lithological logs in the drill cores, and density logs
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50 (which are proxies for lithology) from thirteen drill cores are included in Nielsen *et al.* (2015,
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52 references therein, and SD1-SD3, and SD5 of that publication) and EA1-EA4 of the present
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54 work.
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5 In its centre the mineralisation is hosted in the lower ~60 m of the Triple Group
6 (TG, Fig. 2a; Andersen *et al.*, 1998; Holness *et al.*, 2017c). Triple Group is a ~100 m thick,
7 bowl-shaped succession of macro-rhythmic layers (MLs) located in the uppermost part of
8 Middle Zone, in the Layered Series in the floor of the intrusion (Nielsen, 2004). TG owes its
9 name to three prominent leucogabbro layers referred to as L1, L2 and L3, which are easily
10 observed from a distance (Fig. 2a and b). These leucogabbro layers are lithological markers that
11 provide constraints on the relative timing of the accumulation of the gabbroic host and the
12 precious metals. Nielsen (2004) modelled the structure of the Layered Series in 2D in E-W and
13 N-S sections, and Nielsen *et al.* (2009) extended the models to three dimensions using the
14 geological modelling tool Leapfrog®. These models constrain the bowl-shaped layering in the
15 Layered Series to be ~7000 m wide (E-W) and >600 m deep (Fig. 3; Nielsen *et al.*, 2015;
16 Holness *et al.*, 2017b). The distribution of precious metals is roughly concentric and the
17 mineralisation fully developed around a centre in the south-central part of the intrusion where
18 MZ is at its thickest (Watts, Griffis and McOuat, 1991; Andersen *et al.*, 1998; Nielsen, 2004;
19 Nielsen *et al.*, 2005, 2015).

41 *The fully developed precious metal mineralisation*

42 The fully developed PGE-rich part of the mineralisation is in its centre hosted in eight
43 stratigraphic intervals of host gabbro. The mineralised intervals of gabbro are referred to as Pd-
44 levels (Fig. 3a,) and each interval has upward decreasing Pd/Pt and an easily identified Pd-
45 dominated peak (Nielsen *et al.*, 2005, 2015). The Pd-levels and peaks are numbered top-down
46 from Pd1 to Pd6 and with sub-fixes 'a' and 'b' for levels Pd2-Pd4 (Nielsen *et al.*, 2005).
47 Individual Pd-levels can be correlated across the intrusion (Fig. 3a, EA1). The naming of the Pd-
48 levels is a reminiscence of the earliest identification of mineralisation levels in early years of
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5 exploration (1986-1990). The main resource of PGEs is in level Pd5. In this work, the peak
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7 concentration of PGE (Pd+Pt) in the Pd5 is used as marker and for all correlations between drill
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9 core logs and systematic assays.
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11 Au/PGE increases up the mineralisation (Andersen *et al.*, 1998; Nielsen *et al.*,
12 2005; Holwell & Keays, 2014). Above Pd1, a PGE-poor but Au-rich stratigraphic intervals
13
14 identifies the top of the succession of gabbros enriched in precious metals. It is elevated ~2 m
15
16 above Pd1 and is referred to as Au/Pd1 (see, e.g., drill core 90-22 in Fig. 3a). Overlying Cu-
17
18 bearing intervals with 100-200 ppb gold are numbered sequentially with increasing height from
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20 Au+1, Au+2 etc. Au+1 is located ~13 m above Au/Pd1 (see, e.g., drill core 89-09 in Andersen *et*
21
22 *al.*, 1998) and is identified in more drill cores despite very low levels of Au.
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28 All Pd-levels maintain near-constant elevations relative to Pd5 and can be
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30 correlated across the intrusion at the exact same stratigraphic position, irrespectively of the
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32 absolute concentration of precious metals or Cu (Fig. 3a, Table 1, EA1). For example, the double
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34 peaks Pd2a and b, and Pd3a and b, can be identified near the margins of the intrusion even at
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36 very low (10-100 ppb) bulk concentrations (Fig. 3a, EA2). Pd-levels are stratigraphic intervals of
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38 gabbroic host *with or without* precious metal concentrations. The concentrations and elemental
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40 ratios of precious metals and Cu vary laterally in the Pd-levels. For example, peak Pd2b is PGE-
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42 rich in the centre of the mineralisation (Fig. 3a, drill core 90-22), Au-rich approximately half
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44 way between the centre and margin of the concentric mineralisation (Fig. 3a, drill core 90-17A)
45
46 and Cu-rich near the margin (Fig. 3a, drill core 90-23A). In no case is the main gold-rich peak
47
48 detached from a mineralisation level that can be identified across the intrusion at the given
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50 stratigraphic level in the succession of macro-rhythmic layers.
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58 *Correlation to the gabbroic host and the saucer model*
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5 Systematic structural relationships are observed between mineralised levels and the host gabbros
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7 of the intrusion. For example, the peak concentration of PGE in Pd5 is always located ~2 meters
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9 below the top of leucogabbro layer L0 (defined as the leucogabbro top to the lowermost ML in
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11 the mineralised interval, see SD5 in Nielsen *et al.*, 2015) and Pd1 is always ~40 m above Pd5,
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13 ~3 m above the top of the L2 leucogabbro member of the Triple Group, irrespectively of the
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15 absolute concentration of precious metals (Fig. 3a, Table 1; see also Andersen *et al.*, 1998; and
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17 SD1, and SD3 in Nielsen *et al.*, 2015)). The near-constant stratigraphic separations between Pd-
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19 levels observed in all available drill cores, and the correlation between 13 density profiles
20
21 levels observed in all available drill cores, and the correlation between 13 density profiles
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23 aligned at the Pd5 peak (EA3), highlight that the mineralisation levels are concordant with the
24
25 host rocks across the bowl-shaped floor of the intrusion (Table 1). The elevations relative to sea
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27 level of Pd5 and Pd1 peaks and leucogabbro layer L3 in drill cores are traced across the intrusion
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29 (Fig. 3b) and illustrate the concordant relationship between leucogabbro layers and Pd-levels in
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31 the >600 meter deep bowl of Triple Group (Fig. 3b).
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35 The stratigraphic separation between Pd5 to the main Au-peak decreases from >43
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37 m at the central parts of the mineralisation to < 1 m in the most distant profiles (Fig. 3a). In the
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39 Midnat and Middag Buttress chip lines located farthest away from the centre of the
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41 mineralisation (Fig. 1a), the PGE and peak concentrations of Au overlap within the same metre
42
43 of gabbro (Andersen *et al.*, 1998; Turner & Mosher, 1989). The distribution of precious metals
44
45 in the intrusion is therefore diachronous relative to the layering in the gabbroic host (Fig. 3a) and
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47 no single drill core can provide representative assays through the Skaergaard PGE-Au
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49 mineralisation. Some represent the fully developed succession of gabbroic MLs in the centre of
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51 the mineralisation (e.g., 90-22; Bernstein & Nielsen, 2004), some the little-developed
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53 mineralisation at the margins (e.g., EA2; Holwell *et al.*, 2016), whilst the remainder are
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55 transitional between the two.
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5 The integration of the of the bowl-shape of the layered gabbros (Figs 1b and 3b),
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7 the concordant Pd-levels, and the variation in concentration of precious metals through the ML
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9 stratigraphy (Fig. 3a; SD3 in Nielsen *et al.*, 2015) resulted in the mineralisation being described
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11 as a succession of gold-rimmed saucers of PGE-enriched gabbro that decrease in diameter up
12
13 through the stratigraphy (Fig. 4).
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16 17 18 *Macro-rhythmic layers and compositional subdivision*

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21 Density (ρ) logs can be used as a proxy for lithology, and correlations across the intrusion.

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23 Leucogabbro layers are easily followed as concordant stratigraphic intervals (EA3; see also
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25 Nielsen *et al.*, 2015). The following division of the host rock lithology in drill core 90-22
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27 (Bernstein & Nielsen, 2004; Tegner *et al.*, 2009; Nielsen *et al.*, 2015) therefore applies to the
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29 host gabbros across the intrusion. This drill core was chosen out of eleven from central parts of
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31 the mineralisation for the establishment of the so-called 'Standard Profile' in the Skaergaard
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33 intrusion (Nielsen *et al.*, 2000; Tegner *et al.*, 2009; Keays & Tegner, 2016) because it has a very
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35 high recovery with very few intersecting dikes within the mineralised interval (Tegner *et al.*,
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37 2009).
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42 The gabbros of the Triple Group divide into several MLs that encapsulate the
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44 prominent leucogabbro layers shown in Fig. 2. The MLs have dense, pyroxene-rich bases ($\rho =$
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46 3.4-3.6 g/cm³; modal abundance of plagioclase relative to clinopyroxene $\cong 0.5$) and low density
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48 and plagioclase-rich tops ($\rho = 2.9-3.1$ g/cm³; modal abundance of plagioclase relative to
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50 clinopyroxene > 2) (data in Bernstein & Nielsen, 2004; Nielsen *et al.*, 2015). Transitions between
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52 MLs are located immediately above the leucogabbro layers, in sections of gabbro with a marked
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54 upward increase in the proportion of clinopyroxene relative to plagioclase, and an accompanying
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56 increase in density. Nielsen *et al.* (2015) divided the stratigraphic interval enriched in precious
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5 metals in drill core 90-22 into four MLs including ML0, ML1, ML2 and ML2.1 (named with
6
7 reference to the included leucogabbro layers L0, L1 and L2), where ML0 is the lowest-most ML.
8

9
10 In this study, the lithological sub-division of the stratigraphic interval of the
11
12 mineralisation is revised to comprise six ML layers that each maintain near constant
13
14 stratigraphic thickness across the intrusion. ML1 of Nielsen *et al.* (2015) was exceptionally thick
15
16 (>20 versus ~13 m for all other MLs) and, based on re-evaluation of the density logs, it is now
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18 divided into ML1.1, ML1.2, and ML2.2 is added above ML2.1. Low-density layers in the tops of
19
20 ML1.1 (~10 m above Pd5 marker) and ML2.1 (~50 m above Pd5 marker) are easily followed
21
22 across the intrusion in the density logs (EA3). Table 1 and Fig. 5 outline the revised lithological
23
24 subdivision of the gabbroic host of the mineralisation. ML0 hosts precious metal mineralisation
25
26 levels Pd6 and Pd5 (Subzone and Pd-zone of Holwell & Keays, 2014), ML1.1 hosts Pd4a and b,
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28 ML1.2 host Pd-levels Pd3a and b, ML2 hosts Pd2a and b, ML2.1 hosts Pd1 and Au/Pd1, and
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30 ML2.2 hosts the Au+1 (Fig. 5).
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35 Each ML includes a lower precious metal level which Nielsen *et al.* (2015) argue is
36
37 cumulative and an upper level in mush melt accumulated in the base of the low density roof of
38
39 the MLs (Fig. 5). In Figure 5 is included sections of drill core 90-22 enriched in tiny euhedral
40
41 crystals of ilmenite that cannot sink. These layers are found in all lithologies including leuco-,
42
43 meso-, and melanogabbros and show no relationship to mineralisation levels or to the
44
45 distribution of precious metals and Cu. They are in Nielsen *et al.* (2015) understood as formed
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47 due to stratbound nucleation of ilmenite in the melt of the stratified mush zone.
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52 In addition to the lithologic sub-division into MLs, Nielsen *et al.* (2015) sub-
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54 divided the fully developed mineralisation on the basis of the distribution of the precious metals.
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56 The fully developed mineralisation (e.g. in drill core 90-22) was divided into the “Lower PGE
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58 Mineralisation” (LPGEM) comprising ML0 and ML1.1 (Pd6, Pd5, Pd4a and b levels), and the
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5 “Upper PGE Mineralisation” (UPGEM) comprising ML1.2, ML2, ML2.1 (Pd3a and b, Pd2a and
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7 b, Pd1 and Au/Pd1 levels, see Fig. 5). LPGEM is rich in precious metals across the floor,
8
9 whereas in the UPGEM, the precious metals are increasingly restricted to smaller and smaller
10
11 gold-rimmed bowls upwards through the sequence of MLs and towards the centre of the
12
13 mineralisation (Figs 4-5).
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16 Au/PGE in bulk samples increases upwards through the mineralisation levels (Bird
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18 *et al.*, 1991; Andersen *et al.*, 1998). Skaergaardite (PdCu) is the main precious metal phase in
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20 lower mineralisation levels in the central parts of the mineralisation. It is increasingly Au-rich up
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22 through the mineralisation levels and is in the upper parts of the mineralisation accompanied by
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24 tetra-auricupride (AuCu) (Nielsen *et al.*, 2005; Rudashevsky *et al.*, 2014). In addition, Au also
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26 occurs as anhedral grains on grain boundaries in already crystallised gabbros (Godel *et al.*, 2014;
27
28 Rudashevsky *et al.*, 2014). This additional form of gold deposition is referred to as the “Upper
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30 Au Mineralisation” (UAuM) (Nielsen *et al.*, 2015) and is observed in or above the upper most
31
32 Pd-level with more than traces of PGE (Fig. 6). The upward distribution of Au in the top of the
33
34 precious metal rich mineralisation is illustrated by drill core 89-09 (Turner & Mosher, 1990).
35
36 The core was drilled near the centre of the mineralisation and ~1.5 km NW of drill core 90-22. It
37
38 was wedged twice and the three parallel drill cores have very similar (g^*w) numbers (Table 2),
39
40 but nevertheless very different distributions of gold (Fig. 6). In drill core 89-09 the main gold
41
42 peak is in the Pd1/Au level, in drill core 89-09A in Pd1/Au as well as in a small peak c. 1 meter
43
44 above, and in 89-09B the main gold peak is elevated c. 3 m above Pd1 (Fig. 6). Major local
45
46 variations are seen in the distribution of gold relative to the Pd1 peak.
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53 In data sets high stratigraphic resolution, the first Cu peak (Cu>1000 ppm) always
54
55 occurs *above* main the Au-peak and identifies the base of the Cu-dominated uppermost part of
56
57 the mineralisation (CuM, as defined in Nielsen *et al.*, 2015). The base of CuM is the
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5 stratigraphic level at which mineralisation levels change from Au-rich to Cu-rich, irrespectively
6
7 of the stratigraphic position of the Au-peak relative to the leucocratic layers of MLs. It is below
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9 leucogabbro L1. of the Triple Group at the margins and above L2 in the centre of the intrusion
10
11 (Fig. 3a).
12

13
14 A much simpler geochemical subdivision of the mineralisation was proposed by
15
16 Holwell & Keays (2014). They correlate PGE and Au anomalies across the intrusion and
17
18 irrespectively of the relative stratigraphic elevation, and defined a Pd-zone with an underlying
19
20 Subzone (both PGE rich) an intermediate zone with an increasing number of Pd-levels toward
21
22 the centre of the mineralisation, and a capping gold zone at the transition to the overlying Cu-
23
24 rich mineralisation. The proposed gold zone would be diachronous and discordant. It rises from
25
26 the margin to the centre upwards through ~40 m of stratigraphy (including four MLs) of the
27
28 Triple Group (Fig. 3a). It would encompass gold-rich parts of the PGE-saucers of Nielsen *et al.*
29
30 (2015) as well as little-mineralised gabbros between gold-rimmed PGE-saucers in the succession
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32 of MLs (Figs 3-4).
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41 ***Reported precious metal parageneses***

42 The volumetric proportion of sulphide in the mineralisation is very small and, in samples that
43
44 have precious metal concentrations in the ppm range it is estimated to be ~0.05 vol. %
45
46 (Rudashevsky *et al.*, 2014, 2015; Nielsen *et al.*, 2015; Holwell *et al.*, 2016). The sulphides are
47
48 almost exclusively Cu-rich and are dominated by bornite, chalcocite, digenite, and minor
49
50 chalcopyrite. Pyrrhotite, cobaltpentlandite, pentlandite, sphalerite, arsenopyrite, pyrite all are
51
52 very rare (Rudashevsky *et al.*, 2014 and 2015; Nielsen *et al.*, 2015; Holwell *et al.*, 2016).
53
54

55 Initial information on the precious metal paragenesis is provided by Bird *et al.*
56
57 (1991), Andersen *et al.* (1998), Cabri *et al.* (2005), and Nielsen *et al.* (2005) who summarized
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5 the then available mineralogical information from 6 drill cores and reported the occurrence of
6
7 >30 precious metal minerals and phases (Nielsen et al, 2003_{a-e}; Rudashevsky *et al.*, 2004). The
8
9 mineralogy is very varied and comprises a large number of known minerals, frequently recorded
10
11 stoichiometric compositions that are possible unnamed minerals or intermetallic compounds, and
12
13 a suite of Cu and precious metal-bearing alloys. Subsequent mineralogical investigations
14
15 presented by Rudashevsky *et al.* (2005_{a-b}, 2006_{a-b}, 2009a-b, 2010_{a-d}, 2012_{a-i}, 2014 and 2015),
16
17 Nielsen *et al.* (2015), McDonald *et al.*, (2008) and Holwell *et al.* (2015, 2016) confirmed the
18
19 complex mineralogy and add more minerals and unnamed phases to the list. All of these reports
20
21 and investigations are the basis for the 3D compilations and interpretations of the parageneses of
22
23 the mineralisation of this contribution.
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26

27
28 Common minerals and phases of the Skaergaard PGE-Au mineralisation include
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30 skaergaardite (PdCu), nielsenite (PdCu₃), (Cu,Pd) alloys, tetra-auricupride (AuCu),
31
32 (Au,Cu,Pd,Ag) alloys, (Pt,Fe,Cu,Pd) alloys electrum (Au,Ag), (Pt,Fe), seemingly stoichiometric
33
34 PGE and Au intermetallic compounds, a large variety of non-stoichiometric PGE and Au-rich
35
36 alloys, PGE-sulphides such as vysotskite ((Pd,Ni,Cu,Fe)S), braggite ((Pt,Pd,Ni)S), and vasilite
37
38 ((Pd,Cu,Fe)₁₆S₇), arsenides, such as guanglinitite ((Pd,Pt)₃(As,Sn)) and arsenopalladinite
39
40 (Pd₈(As,Sb)₃), tellurides such as keithconnite (Pd₃Te), stannides like atokite (Pd₃Sn), and the
41
42 plumbide zvyagintsevite (Pd₃Pb). In the fully developed central part of the mineralisation the
43
44 precious metals are hosted in skaergaardite (PdCu) and in tetra-auricupride (AuCu) and related
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46 intermetallic compounds. Pt-rich minerals are exceedingly rare.
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53 **Methods and data sources**

54 *Investigation of mineral parageneses*

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5 The precious metal mineral grains of the Skaergaard PGE-Au mineralisation are generally so
6 small (<5 to ~100 micron, averages of 15-20 micron; Rudashevsky *et al.*, 2014, 2015) that they
7 easily escape observation under the microscope. To overcome this difficulty, the precious metal
8 parageneses were studied from Hydroseparator® concentrates (Cabri *et al.*, 2005) of sulphide
9 and precious metal grains in monolayer samples (polished thin sections or mounts). A total of
10 32 samples were investigated (EA5), and more than 4000 grains were studied using a Camscan
11 Microspec-4DV scanning electron microscope equipped with a Link AN-10,000 detector (Cabri
12 *et al.*, 2005). The samples included three bulk samples from “Toe of Forbindelsesgletscher”
13 (locality ToF in Fig. 1a; unofficial name) investigated by Skaergaard Minerals Corporation
14 (Cabri, 2004b), and 29 drill core samples from four separate drill cores (Rudashevsky *et al.*,
15 2014 and 2015, Tables 3-5). The drill cores selected for the study include 90-10 from the
16 western margin of the intrusion, 90-18 from the SW part of the mineralisation, 90-24 from the
17 centre of the mineralisation (sister core to 90-22 that was sampled by Bernstein & Nielsen
18 (2004), Nielsen *et al.* (2015), and part of the sample collection used by Keays & Tegner (2016)),
19 and 90-23A from the eastern margin (see Fig. 1a for locations).

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40 Whereas the concentrates of precious metal grains in the bulk samples were
41 obtained by performing the Hydroseparator® technique on a split and sieved fraction of 1-tonne
42 samples, the samples from drill cores represent all of the precious metal grains that were
43 retrieved from a 1-metre section of drill core. For each drill core-sample, this amounted to
44 between 600 and 1200 g of gabbro, which varied due to lithology and previous use of the core
45 for exploration purposes. In samples with the highest precious metal grades (>3 ppm) we
46 commonly retrieve several hundred precious metal mineral grains from a single 1-meter sample.
47 Information collected from the samples includes backscatter images, grain size, paragenetic
48 information, and for each individual grain, the composition and volume, which was estimated
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5 from the size of a circle that enclosed the grain (a method comparable to that of Holwell *et al.*,
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7 2016). The primary mineralogical data for the present compilations are available in reports
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9 (Nielsen *et al.*, 2003_{a-e}; Rudashevsky *et al.* 2005_{a-b}, 2006_{a-b}, 2009a-b, 2010_{a-d}, 2012_{a-i}) on the
10
11 “Greenland Portal”, at www.greenmin.gl (official web page of Greenland Minerals Authority)
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13
14 Compiled tables with lists of the precious metal minerals and phases in mineralisation levels
15
16 (Pd6 to Pd1/Au and Au+1) in drill cores and bulk samples across the intrusion (E-W section)
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18 and the volumetric proportion of the minerals and phases in MLs in the mineralised intervals are
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20 provided in EA5-EA12.
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24 In this contribution we have summed up the relative volumes for: a) PGE-rich
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26 alloys, b) PGE-rich sulphides, c) PGE-rich arsenides, d) other PGE-rich minerals and phases
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28 with Sn, Bi, Pb, Te, Se, Sb, a.o., and e) Au and Ag minerals and phases throughout the
29
30 mineralisation. The tables also report the depth of the Pd5 peak in the drill core from which the
31
32 sample was taken, the name of the mineralisation level for a given sample (see Fig 3a), the
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34 elevation of the sample relative to nearest Pd-peak, elevation of sample relative to Pd5 peak, and
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36 the number of grains that were studied from the given sample. In addition, EA6-EA11 include
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38 descriptions of the precious metal parageneses of individual samples.
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44 *Geochemical sources*

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46 The geochemical data presented in Table 6, is compiled and refined from assays reported by
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48 Platinova A/S (Watts, Griffis & McOuat, 1991), Skaergaard Minerals Corporation (Hanghøj,
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50 2005), Holwell & Keays (2014), and drill core 90-22 (Bernstein & Nielsen, 2004, EA13). These
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52 references for the precious metal assays include information on the analytical methods used, and
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54 details of the sampling methods for those data sets.
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5 The geochemical profile obtained from drill core 90-22 is used for the principal
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7 component analysis (Fig. 12, Table 8, EA14), and is composed of a continuum of 25-cm samples
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9 (Bernstein & Nielsen, 2004; 259 samples, 258 analysed for Pd, Pt and Au, EA13) and serves as
10
11 'master profile' for the identification of the MLs and mineralisation levels in the central parts of
12
13 the Skaergaard PGE-Au Mineralisation. Being an integrated part the standard profile for the
14
15 intrusion (Tegner *et al.*, 2009), the data set in Keays & Tegner (2016), drill core 90-22 allows
16
17 correlation between all these studies. It is the only publicly available, continuous data set for
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19 density (Fig. 5) and full major-, trace-, and precious metal (Pd, Pt and Au) element geochemistry
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21 through the fully developed centre of the Skaergaard PGE-Au Mineralisation.
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25 All cores drilled in the Skaergaard intrusion have numbers that identify the year
26
27 they were drill and a consecutive number (e.g. 90-22, drill core 22 drilled 1990). The numbering
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29 system was adopted by Platinova Resources Ltd in 1989 and has been continued by all other
30
31 license holders. Drill cores 89-01 to 90-27 were drilled by Platinova Resources Ltd. and
32
33 Platinova A/S, drill cores 04-28 to 04-34 by Skaergaard Minerals Corporation (SMC), and drill
34
35 cores 08-35 to 11-58 by Platina Resources Ltd. All exploration reports and assay data in public
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37 domain are all available online in "Greenland Portal" at www.greenmin.gl.
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45 **Compiled information**

46 *The precious metal parageneses of the Skaergaard PGE-Au Mineralisation.*

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48 The mineralogical investigations listed above show that the parageneses of the Skaergaard PGE-
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50 Au Mineralisation comprise a total of 3 native elements, 35 precious metal minerals, 21
51
52 repeatedly recognized precious metal phases, and about 40 alloys combining two or more of
53
54 PGE, Au, Ag, Cu, Sn, Zn, Ni, Fe Sb, Pb, Ge, Te, and S (Table 3). Pt-minerals and phases are
55
56 very rare and Pt is almost entirely hosted in Pd-minerals and phases. The paragenetic variations
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5 for individual drill cores and MLs (i.e. in the order that the host rocks accumulated) are
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7 summarise in Fig. 7 and Table 4. All volumetric percentages are reported relative to the total
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9 volume of the precious metal paragenesis of the studied sample. The distribution of investigated
10
11 samples and detailed descriptions are found in EA5-EA12.
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14 Near the margins of the intrusion, precious metals are restricted to ML0 and
15
16 ML1.1. At the western margin (drill core 90-10) the precious metal assemblage is dominated by
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18 the PGE-sulphides vysotskite and vasilite, PGE-arsenide guanglinite and Au-minerals including
19
20 Au-rich intermetallic compounds and/or alloys. At the eastern margin (drill core 90-23A) the
21
22 paragenesis is dominated by the Pd-plumbide zvyagintsevite, Pd-arsenides guanglinite and
23
24 arsenopalladinite, and unnamed Au-alloys. In both drill cores the proportion of the dominant Pd-
25
26 phase (as sulphides in the west and plumbide in the east) decreases upward and is volumetrically
27
28 replaced first by arsenides, and then by Au-rich phases (Table 5, Fig. 7). In ML1.1 at both the
29
30 east and west margins, the parageneses are strongly dominated by Au-phases (alloys of Au, Pd,
31
32 Cu, Fe and Ag) and Ag-phases. The overlying mineralisation levels in the same cores are Cu-
33
34 rich and poor in precious metals (e.g, drill core 90-23A in Fig. 3a).
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40 In more centrally located sampling sites (drill core 90-24 and bulk sample TOF)
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42 the PGE-paragenesis of the main PGE peak in ML0 (Pd6 and Pd5) is dominated by
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44 skaergaardite (PdCu, >95 vol. %), and the remainder is accounted for by related alloys. In the
45
46 south-western part of the intrusion, ML0 in drill core 90-18 is characterised by a mixture of PGE
47
48 sulphides (18.2 vol. %, vysotskite dominates) and Skaergaardite and related alloys (78.0 vol. %),
49
50 and therefore can be considered transitional between the skaergaardite dominated centre and the
51
52 sulphide dominated W-margin (Table 4 and Fig. 7).
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56 With minor departures, the mineralogy of the precious metal mineral assemblages
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58 in overlying MLs in the central sampling sites (drill core 90-24 and TOF) continue to be
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5 dominated by skaergaardite (PdCu). With increasing height in the stratigraphy, an increasing
6
7 amount of Au is substituted into skaergaardite in place of Pd (Rudashevsky *et al.*, 2014) until
8
9 skaergaardite is joined, or substituted, by tetra-auricupride (AuCu). In drill core 90-18 from the
10
11 SW part of the intrusion, the relative volumes of the sulphides vysotskite and vasilite increase
12
13 with stratigraphic height until the uppermost mineralisation levels (those above ML2.2, five MLs
14
15 above the base of the mineralisation), where the assemblage is dominated by Au-phases. In
16
17 parallel with the observations at the margins, the dominant Au-phases in the centre of the
18
19 mineralisation are tetra-auricupride and (Au,Cu,Pd) intermetallic compounds, with compositions
20
21 between skaergaardite (PdCu) and tetra-auricupride (AuCu). Tetra-auricupride and Au₃Cu
22
23 dominate the Au-rich mineralised levels in ML2.2 in drill core 90-18, as in the uppermost Au-
24
25 rich levels in drill core 08-35A (Holwell *et al.*, 2015) some 40 m lower in the succession of the
26
27 layered gabbros (Fig. 7, EA12). The uppermost part of the Au-mineralisation is, irrespectively of
28
29 stratigraphic elevation above the main PGE peak (Pd5) and the ML it is hosted in, characterized
30
31 by unnamed Au₃Cu.
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Bulk rock PGE and Au: E-W cross section

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42 In order to provide an overview and a better understanding of the distribution of precious metals
43
44 in the mineralisation we have calculated grade times width numbers (g*w) for all drill cores for
45
46 which assays are publicly available. The (g*w) number for a given interval of a drill core is the
47
48 average concentration in the chosen width or stratigraphic interval in grams/ton (ppm) multiplied
49
50 by the width or height of the interval in metres, and is equivalent to compositing the selected
51
52 stratigraphic interval of the mineralisation into a 1-meter thick layer of gabbro containing all
53
54 precious metal of the stratigraphic interval. We include: (1) (g*w) for the main PGE
55
56 mineralisation level (Pd5), which is defined as the 5 m of core with the highest 1-m (Pd+Pt)
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5 averages and equivalent to the Pd-zone of Holwell & Keays (2014); (2) (g*w) for LPGEM (Fig.
6
7 5), which includes the lower Pd6-Pd4 mineralisation levels in ML0 and ML1.1 as defined by a
8
9 cut off at 100 ppb (Pd+Pt) below Pd6 and the PGE-low between mineralisation levels Pd4a and
10
11 Pd3b of the mineralisation (see Fig. 3a). Following Nielsen *et al.* (2015), LPGEM is the
12
13 stratigraphic interval of gabbro that crystallised while precious metals were supplied to the
14
15 mushy floor of the intrusion; and (3) (g*w) for the total stratigraphic interval of the precious
16
17 metal mineralisation, comprising the drill core section between a lower cut-off of 100 ppb at the
18
19 base of Pd6, and an upper cut-off of 100 ppb at the top of the precious metal mineralisation of a
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21 given drill core.
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26 For the entire precious metal mineralisation (case 3 above), the (g*w) for
27
28 (Pd+Pt+Au) increases from ~25 near the margins to >45 in the centre of the mineralisation (Fig.
29
30 8, Table 6). These concentrations signal results from increases in the Au and PGE (Pd+Pt)
31
32 grades towards the geographic centre and up the MLs (Figs 8-10). For LPGEM (Pd6-Pd4, case
33
34 2 above), the Pd+Pt (g*w) number is 21-22 across the intrusion, with Au (g*w) decreasing from
35
36 highs of ~4 at the margins (5.4 in drill core 11-57; Holwell & Keays, 2014) to a low of 0.8 at the
37
38 centre of the intrusion (Table 6), and complementary to what is observed for the entire
39
40 stratigraphic interval of the mineralisation (Fig. 9). In Pd5 (case 1 above) the (g*w) for (Pd+Pt)
41
42 decreases from a high of c. 11 at the margins (note, however, Holwell *et al.* 2016 recorded a
43
44 maximum of >14 for Pd in drill core 08-35A, but supply no data for Pt) to < 9 in the
45
46 geographically central parts of the mineralisation. The Au (g*w) in Pd5 decreases from
47
48 approximately 0.75 at the margins to 0.35 at the centre. Thus the Pd5 interval, just as LPGEM
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50 displays a distribution that is complementary to total of precious metals contained in the
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52 mineralisation (case 3).
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5 Apart from the most westerly drill core (90-18) all open symbols in Fig. 8 refer to
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7 (g*w) numbers from drill cores that are located north of the cross section (from W to E: drill
8
9 cores 04-30, 89-03, 89-04, and 89-06; see Table 6). Their low totals are artefacts of greater
10
11 distances to the geographical centre of the concentric mineralisation. Drill core 90-18 (1200m
12
13 from W margin) with elevated precious metal contents is located far to the SW in the
14
15 mineralisation (Fig. 1a), but projects too close to the western margin despite a more central
16
17 location in the mineralisation. It should be compared to more centrally located drill cores.
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21 22 23 ***Bulk rock PGE and Au relative to centre***

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25 The distribution of precious metals in the mineralisation is concentric (Fig. 4, Andersen *et al.*,
26
27 1998; Watts, Griffis & McOuat, 1991) and the elemental distribution is better illustrated relative
28
29 to a possible centre for the mineralisation (Fig. 10). The location of the centre is, however, not
30
31 well-constrained. Here we have, in part supported by Watts, Griffith & McOuat (1991) and by
32
33 trial and error used topographic fixed point 666 on the western side of Basistoppen and between
34
35 the drill hole collars of drill core 90-22 and 90-24 as a proxy (Fig. 1a, see also exploration map
36
37 in Watts, Griffis & McOuat, 1991). In the compilation of the available data from 24 drill cores
38
39 we include (g*w) for PGE (Pd+Pt) and total precious metals (Pd+Pt+Au) as well as the three
40
41 elemental ratios Pd/Pt, Au/Pt and Au/Pd for the stratigraphic interval between cut-offs of 100
42
43 ppb (Pd+Pt+Au) at base and top of mineralised gabbros, for LPGEM, and for Pd5. From the
44
45 margin of the intrusion to the geographical centre of the mineralisation the (g*w) for
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47 (Pd+Pt+Au) increases from ~25 to >45 in and is accompanied by increases in Au/Pt and Au/Pd.
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49 This pattern signals a general enrichment in Au whereas Pd/Pt shows only a very limited
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51 increase toward the centre.
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5 The main PGE mineralisation level (Pd5) is complementary. Drill cores near the
6 margins of the intrusion show high (g^*w) for (Pd+Pt) and (Pd+Pt+Au) compared to most of the
7 cores from the geographical centre (Fig. 10). The Au/Pd and Au/Pt ratios decrease markedly
8 towards the centre and is combined with a general decrease in PGE (see above), which indicates
9 a strong relative depletion in Au in Pd5 in the centre. In LPGEM the (g^*w) numbers are
10 intermediate between numbers for Pd5 and those for the entire mineralisation between 100 ppb
11 cut offs above and below the mineralised gabbros. LPGEM shows little variation in (g^*w) from
12 margins to centre in (Pd+Pt) and (Pd+Pt+Au) and in the Pd/Pt ratio, whereas the Au/Pt and
13 Au/Pd ratios - as in Pd5 - are in comparison high near the margins of the intrusion and reflect
14 general Au depletion in LPGEM toward the geographical centre.
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30 ***Precious metal to copper ratios in LPGEM***

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32 The ratio (Pt+Pd+Au)/Cu computed from whole rock analyses (Table 7; Fig. 11) is a proxy to
33 the average (Pt+Pd+Au)/Cu of the sulphide droplets once hosted by the bulk rock as precious
34 metals are heavily partitioned into the sulphide melt. Since this ratio reflects the sum of the
35 processes that affected the composition of droplets of sulphide melt during the crystallisation of
36 the local gabbroic host, any variation of (Pt+Pd+Au)/Cu within a specific stratigraphic interval
37 across the intrusion will likely point to differences in the local physical and chemical processes
38 during crystallisation. Figure 11 shows how (Pt+Pd+Au)/Cu varies across the intrusion for the
39 interval between 8 m below the Pd5 peak to 4 m above it, corresponding roughly to the zone
40 spanned by ML0. The data shows how (Pt+Pd+Au)/Cu increases from the margins towards the
41 geographical centre of the mineralisation at all depths, and that (Pt+Pd+Au)/Cu at the centre is
42 greater than that at the margins by a factor of up to 2.2. Importantly, this difference is present
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5 despite the inwards depletion of Au (and to a lesser extent, Pd) in Pd5 and the LPGEM (Fig. 10,
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7 Table 6) and is due to a significantly lowered Cu relative to the precious metals.
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10 11 ***Principal component analysis*** 12

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14 To examine the mineralisation in the context of the host rock and test models for the distribution
15
16 of the precious metals, we performed a principal components analysis (PCA) on assay data from
17
18 drill core 90-22. The aim of a PCA is to reduce the dimensionality of a dataset by extracting
19
20 from it a set of linearly uncorrelated variables, or principal components, and retaining only those
21
22 that make significant contributions to the total variance. Detailed descriptions of the PCA
23
24 methodology are given by Le Maitre (1982) and Albarède (1995), and some additional, recent
25
26 examples of its application to igneous geochemistry are given by, e.g., Hamelin *et al.* (2011),
27
28 Ueki & Iwamori (2017). The interval 978.5-1045 m from drill core 90-22 from the centre of the
29
30 mineralisation (Bernstein & Nielsen, 2004) was used for the PCA because it comprises the
31
32 thickest and most fully developed sequences of mineralisation for which both lithochemistry and
33
34 precious metal assays exist. The dataset comprises 258 samples.
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40 To prepare the data for the PCA, all trace elements were converted to parts per
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42 million concentrations, and major element oxides were recast as their major element cation
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44 values. Because geochemical datasets are compositional by nature and contain only relative
45
46 information, the data in their raw form are subject to spurious correlations (e.g. Aitchison, 1986;
47
48 Aitchison & Egozcue, 2005; Pawlowsky-Glahn & Egozcue, 2006). To avoid these well-
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50 documented effects and reveal meaningful correlations, the data were transformed using the
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52 centred log-ratio transformation (Aitchison, 1982) and subsequently scaled and centred. To
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54 improve the performance of the PCA the data were filtered to (i) remove variables that do not
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56 correlate significantly with other variables, and (ii) replace sets of variables that show very
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5 strong multicollinearity, such as REE, with a single variable from the set. This resulted in the
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7 selection of the following 14 variables for the PCA: Ti, Fe³⁺, P, Pd, Pt, Au, V, Cu, Zn, Y, Zr, Ce,
8
9 Nd, and Pb (see EA13). Finally, these variables were extracted from the original data set and the
10
11 centred log-ratio transformation was reapplied.
12
13

14 Table 8 summarizes the results of the first 6 principal components of the PCA (full
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16 results in EA14, Table EA14-1). Application of the scree test (Cattell, 1966) indicates that the
17
18 first 3 principal components (PCs) provide a meaningful representation of the input data;
19
20 collectively they explain 80% of the total variance of the data. To aid analysis and interpretation,
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22 Figures 12a-c plot for each of the three PCs the standardized loadings of the different elements
23
24 considered, and figure EA14-3 in EA14 shows how PCs 1-3 vary with depth in drill core 90-22.
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26 In Figures 12a-c and EA14-3 and Table 8, the loadings indicate how each element correlates
27
28 with the different principal components. For example, large positive values indicate that a given
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30 analyte and principal component correlate positively and strongly. Conversely a small
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32 magnitude, negative value indicates a weak, negative correlation between a component and
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34 analyte.
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39 PC1 accounts for 45% of the total variance. From Figure 12a and Table 1 it is clear
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41 that this component discriminates between aspects of the precious metal mineralisation and, with
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43 the exception of Cu, elements that are typically found in silicate, oxide and phosphate minerals.
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45 That copper and the precious metals Pd, Pt and Au are anticorrelated in this component indicates
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47 that more processes are responsible in determining the distributions of these metals within the
48
49 mineralized section of Skaergaard. Figure EA14-3 demonstrates that local lows in PC1
50
51 correspond to mineralisation levels Pd2-6, Pd1 and to lesser extend Pd1/Au.
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55 In PC2, which accounts for 26% of the total variance, Fe³⁺ and the metals Ti, V,
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57 Zn correlate strongly and negatively with Au, and the relatively incompatible elements P, Pb, Ce
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5 and Nd (Fig. 12b). Cu does not participate in PC2, and the remaining precious metals (Pd and Pt)
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7 and Zr are only weakly associated with the component. Systematic variation in PC2 with depth
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9 (Fig. EA14-3) is less obvious than for PC1. PC2 increases to the top of ML0 and ML1.1, in Pd3a
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11 and b peaks of ML1.2, but has minor importance in ML2. The largest and distinct positive
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13 values of PC2 occur in ML2.1 in the top 15 m of the studied interval and form local highs at the
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15 stratigraphic positions of Pd1 and especially at Pd/Au.
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19 PC3 accounts for 9% of the total variance of the data. Figure 12c shows that Au
20
21 and Cu correlate strongly and positively with PC3. Fe³⁺ and Pb also load positively, but more
22
23 weakly, onto this component. These metals (including Fe³⁺) are anticorrelated with P, which
24
25 exhibits the largest negative loading in PC3, and, to a slightly lesser extent, Pd, Pt and Ce. The
26
27 remaining metals (Nd, Ti, V, Y, Zn, Zr) load very weakly and negatively with PC3. Figure
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29 EA14-3 shows that the variation of PC3 with depth is complex. The variation is in general more
30
31 systematic above ML1.2, corresponding to the interval spanned by UPGM, UAuM and CuM
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33 (<1021m). In ML1.2 and ML2 the PC3 loadings generally decrease with height above a Pd
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35 interval before increasing within a few metres of the next overlying Pd level. The largest positive
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37 values occur again in the top 15 m of the studied interval and correlates with elevations in Cu
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39 concentration >200 ppm).
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46 Discussion

47 *Sulphide saturation as the driver for mineralisation*

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49 To understand the results it is necessary to review the evidence for sulphide saturation as the
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51 driver for the mineralisation process. Models proposed for origin of the Skaergaard PGE-Au
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53 Mineralisation include: (1) contamination/mixing-driven sulphide saturation and precious metal
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55 deposition (Bird *et al.*, 1991), (2) mineralisation caused by upward transport and re-deposition of
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5 precious metals by rising (silicate melts and/or fluids late in the solidification of the gabbros
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7 (e.g., Boudreau, 2004) , and (3) closed magma chamber fractionation of melt to sulphide
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9 saturation (Andersen *et al.*, 1998; Andersen 2006; Nielsen *et al.*, 2005, 2015; Holwell & Keays,
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11 2014; Holwell *et al.*, 2015, 2016; Keays & Tegner, 2016). Together, these models cover almost
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13 the entire spectrum of processes suggested responsible for PGE mineralisations in layered mafic
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15 intrusions.
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19 In the Skaergaard intrusion, the section of MZ beneath the mineralisation includes
20
21 several stratigraphic intervals that are distinguished by both (i) elevated, but erratic Pd
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23 concentrations (Andersen *et al.*, 1998; Nielsen *et al.*, 2015), and (ii) the presence of many
24
25 gabbroic blocks, which originate from a collapsed part of the UBS and are estimated to make up
26
27 about 10 vol. % of lower MZ (Irvine *et al.*, 1998). The variation in (Pd+Pt) and in Pd/Pt in the
28
29 block zone is seemingly of local origin as it returns to low values in bulk rocks above the block
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31 zone (Nielsen *et al.*, 2015) and the elevated precious metal grades are suggested to be caused by
32
33 local contamination- or mixing-driven accumulation of precious metal-bearing droplets of
34
35 sulphide melt. This was first suggested by Bird *et al.* (1991), who proposed that incorporation of
36
37 the gabbroic UBS blocks led to an increase in crystallisation of FeTi-oxides and to decrease
38
39 FeO* and in sulphide solubility in the silicate melt. However, the main PGE-Au mineralisation
40
41 contains fewer as well as large roof blocks (Fig. 2) but shows concordant variations across the
42
43 intrusion (EA1), irrespective of the frequency of UBS blocks and lateral variations in grades and
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45 elemental ratios of precious metal (Fig. 10). The Skaergaard PGE-Au mineralisation
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47 demonstrates no clear evidence is for a magma mixing- or contamination-driven sulphide
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49 saturation
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55 Other models suggest that precious metals were scavenged from already-
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57 crystallized gabbros by upward migrating late-stage fluids, and then redeposited, e.g. at redox
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5 barriers, (Boudreau, 2004; Boudreau & Meurer, 1999). These models are also regarded unlikely
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7 because sulphide droplets with PGE and Au are found inside liquidus phases of the gabbroic
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9 host (Godel *et al.*, 2014; Nielsen *et al.*; 2015, Holwell *et al.*, 2016). Only the late deposition of
10
11 Au on grain boundaries in extensively crystallised gabbro (UAuM) could be caused by a late,
12
13 residual and upward migrating, volatile-rich silicate melt and fluids (Godel *et al.*, 2014; Nielsen
14
15 *et al.*, 2015; Rudashevsky *et al.*, 2014).

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17
18 This leaves the possibility for sulphide saturation caused by closed system
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20 fractionation. This is supported by the mineralogical investigations and the PCA model. The
21
22 major difference between the proposed sulphide saturation models is that Holwell *et al.* (2016)
23
24 assume sulphide saturation in bulk liquid, whereas Nielsen *et al.* (2015) restrict sulphide
25
26 saturation to evolved mush melts of the crystallisation zones that existed between remaining
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28 bulk liquid and already crystallised gabbros. The timing of sulphide saturation in the evolution
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30 of the bulk liquid therefore is a key question that needs to be addressed. Keays & Tegner (2016)
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32 suggested that sulphide saturation in the bulk liquid was reached at the evolutionary point
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34 represented by the liquidus paragenesis represented by LZc (t_{LZc}). As noted in Nielsen *et al.*
35
36 (2015), however, co-variations in Pd/Pt and Au/Pt in the bulk liquid prior to the mineralisation in
37
38 upper MZ point to loss of Pt rather than Pd or Au, during crystallisation of LZc and up MZ, e.g.
39
40 in the form of ferroplatinum ((Fe,Pt); Holwell *et al.*, 2016). If sulphide saturation had taken
41
42 place from t_{LZc} and onwards, the Pd/Au ratio should have decreased in the remaining bulk liquid
43
44 throughout LZc and MZ because $D_{Pd} \gg D_{Au}$ for coexisting sulphide and silicate liquids. With the
45
46 exception of minor deposition of PGE in MZ in reaction with sunken roof blocks, a decrease in
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48 Pd/Au is not observed (Nielsen *et al.*, 2015), and thus the initiation of sulphide saturation in bulk
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50 liquid at t_{LZc} is not supported.
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5 Only the closed system sulphide saturation models in Nielsen *et al.* (2015) and
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7 Holwell *et al.* (2016) seem plausible, but they are based on very different perceptions and
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9 samples sets. The Nielsen *et al.* (2015) model is based on drill cores from across the intrusion,
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11 and is inherently three dimensional as a result and times mineralisation processes relative to the
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13 crystallisation of the silicate host rock. The study and conclusions of Holwell *et al.* (2016) are
14
15 based mainly data obtained from drill core 08-35A from near the margin of the intrusion and
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17 seemingly assumed to be representative for the mineralisation process throughout the intrusion.
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19 The stratigraphic variations in Fe₂O₃ in sections of drill core (Fig. 13) are proxies to the
20
21 lithological variation in the layered host rocks of the mineralisation and allow detailed
22
23 correlation between the sections of drill core studied by Holwell *et al.* (2016) and Nielsen *et al.*
24
25 (2015). The entire stratigraphic interval enriched in precious metals (from the Subzone to Au-
26
27 zone of Holwell *et al.*, 2016) in drill core 08-35A from near the margin of the intrusion
28
29 corresponds only to a 20 m succession of gabbro in ML0 and ML1.1, and to LPGEM with
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31 mineralisation levels Pd6, Pd5, Pd4a and Pd4b of central drill core 90-22 (Fig. 13).
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37 In contrast the precious metal mineralisation in the centre of the intrusion is in all
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39 drill cores (except drill core 90-18, which hosts an additional upper Au-rich level) contained
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41 within a stratigraphic interval 60 m thick. It includes five MLs (rather than two) with precious
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43 metal peaks in Pd-levels Pd6 to Pd1 and Pd1/Au (Figs 5). The package of MLs maintains near
44
45 constant stratigraphic thickness across the floor of the intrusion (EA3) and the profile through
46
47 the mineralisation discussed in Holwell *et al.* (2016), therefore, is not a compressed version of
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49 the section studied by Nielsen *et al.* (2015).
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55 ***Evidence against offset reef-style mineralisation***

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5 Near the margin of the intrusion, in drill core 08-35A, the uppermost PGE peak is in Pd-level
6 Pd4b (~5 m above the main Pd peak in Pd5, see fig. 5 in Holwell et al, 2016) and the Au peak ~7
8 m above Pd5. However, in the Middag Buttress chip line (Fig. 3a) and as well as the
9 incompletely sampled Midnat chip line (Turner & Mosher, 1989; Fig. 2b) to the north and
10 farthest away from the centre of the deposit (see locations in map Fig. 1a), PGE and Au are
11 accumulated in the same one-metre interval of layered gabbro that hosts Pd5 throughout the
12 intrusion.
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21 The marked differences between the margin and the centre of the mineralisation is
22 also shown by (g*w) for the uppermost Au rich part of the mineralisation (Table 6; Fig. 12). In
23 the centre the combined Au-bearing Pd1, Pd1/Au and UAuM mineralisation levels have 2.1 g/t
24 precious metals over 3.6 m at a cut off of 0.7 g/t and a (g*w) of 7.56 whereas the drill core from
25 the margin of the intrusion that Holwell *et al.* (2016) presents as representative for the
26 Skaergaard PGE-Au Mineralisation has an average of 2.2 g/t over 0.8 m and a (g*w) of 1.76.
27 That is less than 25% of contained gold compared to the centre of the deposit. The drill core
28 studied in Holwell *et al.* (2016) does not compare to and cannot be representative for anything
29 but the Skaergaard PGE-Au Mineralisation as developed at the east margin of the intrusion.
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41 As mentioned above, the accumulation of precious metals during the formation of
42 offset reef type mineralisations is thought to be concordant with the crystallisation front. Holwell
43 *et al.* (2016) and Holwell & Keays (2014) attribute the formation of their Au-zone to a single,
44 short-lived and critical event, but this scenario is difficult to reconcile with the increase in
45 stratigraphic elevation between the peak PGE and peak Au concentrations, from <1 m farthest
46 away to >43 m at the centre of the mineralisation, whilst the host layered gabbros form a
47 concordant succession of MLs that maintains constant stratigraphic thickness across the
48 intrusion (Fig. 3a and b, EA3). Assuming a constant crystal accumulation rate of 2 cm/y on the
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5 floor of the intrusion (Irvine, 1970; Morse, 2011) the Au and PGE (Pd5) peak are separated by
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7 >2000 years (y) in the centre of the intrusion (e.g. drill core 90-22, stratigraphic separation of 40
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9 m, see SD3 of Nielsen *et al.*, 2015), 400 y closer to the margin (e.g. drill core 08-35A,
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11 stratigraphic separation of 8 m, Holwell *et al.* 2016) and <50 y farthest away from the centre of
12
13 the mineralisation (e.g. Middag and Midnat Buttress chip lines, stratigraphic separation <1 m).
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15 Assuming the crystallisation rate in upper MZ had dropped to 1 cm/y during the later stages of
16
17 crystallisation when only 20% of the initial volume of bulk melt remained, the precious metal
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19 mineralisation may have formed over as much as 4000 years; thus its formation would have been
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21 diachronous. In the context of an offset reef-type model, this situation is not compatible with a
22
23 mineralisation event triggered by a specific and short-lived event in a magma homogenized in
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25 convective currents (cf. Holwell *et al.*, 2016).
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32 ***Accumulation of precious metals in the floor mush.***

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35 As an alternative to the classic offset reef type models, Nielsen *et al.* (2015)
36
37 suggested that the structure of the mineralisation, and temporal and elemental correlations were
38
39 the result of syn-magmatic accumulation and re-distribution of precious metals in an upward
40
41 migrating and stratified mush zone in the floor of the magma chamber (Nielsen *et al.*, 2015). The
42
43 diachronic distribution of PGE and Au (Figs 3a, EA1, EA4) is by these authors regarded critical
44
45 and taken to demonstrate redistribution of precious metals up the succession of MLs. They also
46
47 argued that initial accumulation of precious metals in the floor mush was due to scavenging of
48
49 precious metals by immiscible droplets of sulphide melt (small and in suspension) in the
50
51 crystallising and evolving bulk melt that convection carried along the mushy roof of the magma
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53 chamber. At immiscibility between Fe-rich and Si-rich silicate melts in this mush and after the
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55 buoyancy-driven loss of the Si-rich conjugate, the sulphide solubility increased in the remaining
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5 Fe-rich silicate melt. In consequence, already formed droplets of sulphide melt dissolved in the
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7 Fe-rich conjugate. The dense Fe-rich melt mixed with crystals and was carried to the floor of the
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9 magma chamber by convection. The precious metals were subsequently redistributed into MLs
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11 during the upward migration of the mushy crystallisation zone in the floor of the magma
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13 chamber. Precious metals were supplied to the floor during the crystallisation of ML0 and
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15 ML1.1 (LPGEM) only, as MLs above ML1.1 (UPGEM) near the margins of the intrusion are
16
17 Cu-rich and only have traces of precious metals (Fig. 3a, Nielsen *et al.*, 2015).
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21 A simple upward re-deposition of precious metals that were initially evenly
22
23 distributed across the floor of the magma chamber cannot account for the total of precious
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25 metals accumulated in the central parts of the mineralisation (Fig. 8, Table 6). The (g^*w) of the
26
27 precious metal reaches a maximum of ~50 with ~38 for PGE and ~12 for Au in the centre,
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29 compared to 18-20 for PGE and 4 for Au closer to the margins (Fig. 10, Table 6). These results
30
31 show that distribution of precious metals in the mineralisation requires pre-concentration of
32
33 precious metals in the central part of the bowl in the floor of the magma chamber.
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37 Ponding of precious metal bearing silicate melt (e.g. Holwell & Keays, 2014)
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39 could potentially account for the increasing larger (g^*w) numbers and a stratigraphic separation
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41 of >40 m between PGE and Au rich mineralisation levels (Fig. 3a) in the centre of the
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43 mineralisation. A bowl constructed from observed Au peaks, however, would in its centre be
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45 >600 m deep relative to the rim and the ponded magma should therefore itself have the shape of
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47 a >600 m deep bowl. However, the distribution of ponded melts is controlled by gravity and
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49 would not form a >600 m deep bowl with walls thinning from forty to a few metres from the
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51 centre of the bowl and >600 m up the walls of the magma chamber. An alternative suggestion
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53 could be a bowl formed by accumulation of precious metals over thousands of years with
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55 increase in Au, and accumulation gradually displaced to more central parts of the magma
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5 chamber. Such a scenario would, however, be in conflict with overlapping PGE and Au peaks
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7 farthest away from the centre of the mineralisation and would not explain why gabbro
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9 successions that formed at the same time (same ML layer and same Pd-level, e.g., Pd2b in Fig.
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11 3a) contains PGEs in the centre, Cu-sulphides at the margin of the intrusion and Au in between
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13 (Fig. 3a).
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16 The explanation we suggest for the increase observed in (g^*w) numbers in the
17
18 central parts of the mineralisation is that slurries composed of Fe-rich silicate melt and solids
19
20 descended along the walls of the magma chamber and decelerated as they reached the bowl-
21
22 shaped floor. During deceleration the slurries deposited carried-along solids (crystals) while Fe-
23
24 rich and dense silicate melt with its load of dissolved precious metals continued into the deeper
25
26 part of the bowl-shaped floor. In itself, the bowl-shape is witness to a continued accumulation of
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28 solids entrained in convection currents descending along the concomitant walls of the magma
29
30 chamber. The preservation of near-constant thicknesses of MLs in Triple Group despite the
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32 accumulation of entrained solids near the walls may seem as a contradiction, but is apparently
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34 the consequence of the dynamic stratification process in the MLs of the Triple Group (see
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36 section: Macro-rhythmic layers and compositional subdivision). At the time of formation of the
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38 mineralisation, the density of the mush melt was less than that of pyroxene and FeTi-oxides, but
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40 greater than that of plagioclase (see fig. 26 in Nielsen *et al.*, 2015) and *in situ* sorting of solids
41
42 and melt(s) stratified the mush into a succession proto-MLs in the upward migrating mush zone.
43
44 The stratification process is referred to by Nielsen & Bernstein (2009) and Nielsen *et al.* (2015)
45
46 as self-stratification with thicknesses and cyclicity controlled by density contrasts and rheology
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48 (e.g., McKenzie, 2011, Bons *et al.*, 2015). The density-controlled sorting does not distinguish
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50 between crystals transported from the roof zone to the floor or those that crystallised *in situ*. The
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52 crystals would be subjected to the same dynamic forces irrespectively of their place of origin in
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5 the magma chamber and the MLs would consequently have near-constant thicknesses across the
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7 floor of the magma chamber.
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10 11 ***Re-distribution of precious metals in upward migrating mush melt***

12 *Paragenetic evidence for redistribution*

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16 Concentrates of precious metal grains from drill cores near the margins of the intrusion (Table 4,
17
18 Fig. 7) have parageneses that are characterized by sulphides, arsenides, plumbides, tellurides,
19
20 etc., and a host rock with hydrous silicate phases. In comparison, PGE parageneses in central
21
22 drill cores are dominated by skargaardite (PdCu), and gabbros that contain no hydrous silicate
23
24 phases (Fig. 7, Table 4, Fig. 15a). The more varied parageneses at the margins were by Nielsen
25
26 *et al.* (2015) suggested to reflect the trapping in the mushy floor of melt carrying volatiles in
27
28 addition to precious metals, Cu, and elements such as Pb, S, As, and Te. Trapping of residual
29
30 melt and volatiles in the gabbros near the margins was suggested to lead to re-equilibration of
31
32 precious metal phases to low temperature phases such as Au₃Cu (see, Holwell *et al.*, 2016).
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37 Equilibration of the precious metal phases with residual and hydrous mush melt,
38
39 however, does not explain why gabbros close to the western contact against Precambrian
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41 basement (Fig. 1) are characterized by Pd-sulphides (vysotskite and vasilite) and arsenide-rich
42
43 parageneses, whereas the gabbros at the eastern contact against Palaeogene basalts (Fig. 1) are
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45 characterized by the plumbide zvyagintsevite (Pd₃Pb) and arsenide rich Pd-parageneses (Table 4,
46
47 Fig. 7), and why the same mineralisation level in the centre is entirely dominated by
48
49 skargaardite (PdCu). Skaergaardite is found as euhedral crystals within immiscible droplets of
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51 Cu-rich sulphide melt that are trapped in liquidus crystals of FeTi-oxides (Godel *et al.*, 2014;
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53 Nielsen *et al.*, 2015). These Cu-rich sulphide droplets were already depleted in most other
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58 element with distribution coefficient between sulphide and silicate liquid lower than those of
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5 PGE, but were enriched in precious metals due to relative loss of the Cu-rich sulphide (Fig. 11).
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7 The process predated or was contemporaneous with the crystallisation of its host mineral. A
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9 further example of paragenetic variation across the intrusion is provided by drill cores 90-18 and
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11 90-24. In drill core 90-18, Pd-sulphides are the major PGE-bearing phases, whilst in drill core
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13 90-24, located only 2.2 km away, the paragenesis is dominated by skaergaardite and related
14
15 (Pd,Cu) alloys with only traces of precious metal sulphide. The two drill cores exhibit parallel
16
17 variations in bulk rock PGE concentrations (Fig. 3a), and yet they represent very different
18
19 compositional environments. The precious metal parageneses are specific to a given drill core or
20
21 sector of the intrusion and are found (i) inside sulphide droplets, (ii) as grains protected in and
22
23 between minerals crystallised from the mush melt (Godel *et al.*, 2014; Rudashevsky *et al.*, 2014,
24
25 2015; Nielsen *et al.*, 2015), and (iii) as un-protected grains in related to subliquidus paragenesis
26
27 of the gabbros (Nielsen *et al.*, 2003_{a-e}; Rudashevsky *et al.*, 2005_{a-b}, 2006_{a-b}, 2009_{a-b}, 2010_{a-d},
28
29 2012_{a-i}, 2014, 2015). The observed precious metal paragenesis of a given sample therefore
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31 reflects the local composition of melt in the mushy floor and the melt in which the immiscible
32
33 sulphide droplets formed and equilibrated.
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40 The observed paragenetic variations could not result from flow of melt or mushes
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42 across the floor of the solidifying magma chamber and cannot be explained by accumulation
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44 controlled by bulk liquid processes. Both would lead to more uniform parageneses in the same
45
46 mineralisation levels and MLs. Instead, the paragenetic variations, just as the 3D distribution of
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48 precious metals in the mineralisation (Figs 8-10) and upward decrease in Pd/Pt in mineralisation
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50 levels (see figure 13 in Nielsen *et al.*, 2015), support crystallisation and equilibration in local
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52 geochemical environments that are repeated up the succession of MLs. The paragenetic
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54 variations in the precious metal mineralogy indicate that syn-magmatic processes in the silicate
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56 mush of the crystallisation zone vary laterally across the floor of the magma chamber in
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5 response to local compositional variations, and that individual MLs operated as semi-closed
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7 crystallisation and fractionation chambers with limited lateral communication.
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10 11 *Compositional evidence for upward redistribution*

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14 In the melt-rich zones of the MLs in the floor of the magma chamber, the crystallisation is
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16 argued by Nielsen *et al.* (2015) to have driven the mush melt to sulphide saturation (leading to
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18 the formation of tiny, suspended immiscible droplets of sulphide melt and subsequently to the
19
20 two-liquid field between Fe-rich and Si-rich silicate liquids. Reactions between the pre-existing
21
22 silicate paragenesis and immiscible Fe-rich melt and (Holness *et al.*, 2011) would not have taken
23
24 place unless the low-density granophyric conjugate was lost from the mush. The resorption of
25
26 the silicate host may be comparable to dissolution processes more recently proposed in
27
28 relationship to discordant chromite seams in the Bushveld Complex (Latypov *et al.*, 2017). The
29
30 loss of the granophyric conjugate also led to reaction between the remaining Fe-rich melt and
31
32 un-protected droplets of sulphide melt. During dissolution Pd was preferentially retained in the
33
34 droplets of Cu-sulphide melt over the other precious metals, since Pd has the largest
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36 sulphide/silicate melt partition coefficient (Makovicky, 2002; Naldrett, 2011). Conversely,
37
38 precious metals with lower *D*-values (Pt and especially Au) became available for convection-
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40 and crystallisation-driven redistribution upwards to the overlying MLs (Nielsen *et al.*, 2015, see
41
42 also Holness *et al.*, 2017a; Vukmanovic *et al.*, 2018).
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49 The fractionation of precious metals that is argued to have occurred during
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51 dissolution of droplets of sulphide melt is a critical step in the proposed model and is supported
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53 by the relative depletion of Au in the lower and central parts of the mineralisation (Figs 8-10)
54
55 and in particular in $((\text{Pd}+\text{Pt}+\text{Au})/\text{Cu})\cdot 1000$ in Pd5 (Fig. 11). In drill core 08-35A the ratio
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57 reaches a maximum of ~16 in the Pd5 peak (argued by Holwell *et al.*, 2016 to be the highest
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5 among sulphide mineralisations), but in the interior of the mineralisation, up to 30 (Fig. 11).
6
7 Nielsen *et al.* (2015) used petrographic observations outlined in Holness *et al.* (2011) to explain
8 the reason for this variation. Specifically, near the margins of the intrusion, Middle Zone
9
10 gabbros contain paired pockets of solidified Fe-rich and Si-rich liquids (incomplete separation of
11
12 immiscible melts), whereas gabbros from equivalent stratigraphic levels near the centre of the
13
14 intrusion contain abundant reactive symplectites, which are a by-product of reaction between
15
16 immiscible Fe-rich silicate liquid and already crystallised gabbro. These observations indicate
17
18 that the separation of the conjugate silicate melts was completed in the centre of the intrusion
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20 and allowed for reaction and dissolution of unprotected, precious metal-enriched sulphide
21
22 droplets and the corresponding rise in $(\text{Pd}+\text{Pt}+\text{Au})/\text{Cu} \times 1000$ in bulk rock compositions in the
23
24 centre of the mineralisation.
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30 The marked increase in precious metals during dissolution and loss of Cu is
31 highlighted by the PCA. PC1 shows the separation of PGE (Pd and Pt) and Au from all other
32 elements and Cu in all mineralisation levels from Pd6 to Pd1/Au (EA14). As argued by Nielsen
33
34 *et al.* (2015), the mineralisation levels are melt-rich intervals in stratified crystal mush in which
35 sulphide saturation was followed by dissolution of first-formed droplets of sulphide melt. All
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37 intervals between mineralisation levels are anti-correlated to PC1 and consequently they have no
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39 accumulation of droplets of sulphide melt formed due to sulphide saturation.
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46 Finally, in the central parts of the intrusion, the UPGEM (Pd3b, Pd3a, Pd2b, Pd2a,
47 Pd1, Pd1/Au and UAuM in ML1.2, MI2, MI2.1 and ML2.2) accounts for ~40% of the PGE over
48 the full depth of the mineralisation (Pd6-UAuM) and for ~90% of that for Au (Table 6). This
49
50 suggests that the loss of PGE and Au from LPGEM in the lower parts of the mineralisation, and
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52 redistribution of these metals to the interval spanned by UPGEM (Figs 8-10).
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5 In combination, the (i) short-lived co-accumulation of PGE and Au in LPGEM (in
6 Middag and Midnat Buttresses), (ii) augmented dissolution of sulphide in the central parts of the
7 intrusion (Fig. 11), and (iii) depletion in PGE, Au and Cu in central and lowermost parts of the
8 mineralisation (figs 8-10) demonstrate upward transport and fractionation of precious metals in a
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14 the mushy crystallisation zone in the bowl-shape floor of the magma chamber.
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18 ***Late mineralisation along grain boundaries.***

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21 In the central parts of the mineralisation, the upwards increase of Au in immiscible sulphide melt
22 is indicated by increasing Au-substitution into skaergaardite (PdCu) (Rudashevsky *et al.*, 2014)
23 and increasing proportions of tetra-auricupride (AuCu) in the uppermost Pd-level of any given
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34 drill core (Tables 3 and 4, Holwell & Keays, 2014; Nielsen *et al.*, 2015). The clear negative
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60 value of PC1 at Pd1 (EA14) suggests sulphide saturation in mineralisation level Pd1 followed by
dissolution and enrichment of remaining sulphide droplets in gold.

In addition to sulphide saturation related Au-accumulation in tetra auricupride in Pd1 and to lesser extend in Pd1/Au, all central drill cores have gold added to the uppermost Au-rich mineralisation levels. Gold is added along grain boundaries in a mineralisation event referred to as UAuM (Nielsen *et al.*, 2015). On the basis of petrography and peak concentrations at unconstrained elevations above Pd1 (see Fig. 6) UAuM is argued (Godel *et al.*, 2014; Nielsen *et al.*, 2015) to be the result of mineralisation processes caused by migration of residual silicate melts and fluids in already crystallised gabbro. We interpret the variance explained by PC2 as the result of this process. PC2 of the PCA (Table 8, Fig. EA14-3) is closely related to the Pd1 and especially to Pd1/Au peaks and above in the gold-rich top of the mineralisation in drill core 90-22 and tops ML0 and ML1.1. PC2 is anti-correlated to Cu, but correlated to P, Pb, Ce which all are incompatible elements, at least until apatite starts to crystallised from bulk liquid or mush

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5 melts. The marked compositional differences between the gold rich Pd1 and Pd1/Au levels and
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7 all other precious metal rich mineralisation levels is highlighted in Fig. 14 that shows elevate
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9 P_2O_5 in most samples from Pd1 and Pd1/Au. PC2 is therefore on the basis of: (i) stratigraphic
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11 association; (ii) the occurrence of gold unattached to sulphide along grain boundaries, and (iii)
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13 the common occurrence of low temperature Au_3Cu (Holwell *et al.*, 2016) rather than high
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15 temperature tetra-auricupride ($AuCu$; Bird *et al.*, 1991) representing the separate mineralisation
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17 event referred to as (UAuM). Contrary to the conclusions of Holwell *et al.* (2016), the anti-
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19 correlation between Au and Cu in PC2 negates that all gold in the top of the Skaergaard PGE-Au
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21 mineralisation was accumulated due to sulphide saturation and accumulation of immiscible
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23 droplets of Cu-rich sulphide melt, and negates that the Skaergaard PGE-Au Mineralisation is a
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25 conventional “offset reef” type mineralisation.
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31 The association of PC2 to incompatible elements and the enrichment in the tops of
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33 ML0 and ML1.1 (EA14) strongly support that the UAuM-type redistribution of gold was related
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35 to reactions and deposition from the residual of the Fe-rich melt ponded and crystallised within
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37 the MLs. Examination of the Au-rich mineralisation levels in exposures at Toe of
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39 Forbindelsesgletscher (ToF, Fig. 1a) and in drill core 90-22 reveals that the Au-bearing gabbros
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41 are rusty due to oxidation of Fe. The gabbroic host is in all other Pd-levels extremely fresh and
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43 shows no signs of alteration under the microscope (Fig. 15a), whereas gabbros rich in gold are
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45 affected by hydration, and extensive alteration and recrystallisation of clinopyroxene and
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47 presence of H_2O -bearing silicates (Fig. 15b).
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52 The compositional fingerprint of UAuM is reminiscent of IOCG deposits *sensu*
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54 *strictu* as defined by Groves *et al.* (2010). We add that a volatile-bearing environment is
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56 evidenced by the common occurrence of hydrous phases in immiscible sulphide droplets as well
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58 as silicate melt inclusions (Godel *et al.*, 2014; Holwell *et al.*, 2016; Nielsen *et al.*, 2015). The
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5 bulk melt of the Skaergaard intrusion was already evolved at the time of emplacement ($Mg\# =$
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7 0.43; Nielsen *et al.*, 2009), and only ~10 vol. % of the bulk liquid remained when immiscibility
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9 between Fe-rich and Si-rich melts was reached (Nielsen *et al.*, 2015). At the time the
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11 mineralisation formed, volatiles would have been concentrated in melt of the mushy
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13 crystallisation zones and likely amounted to several wt % (dependent on loss). It would be most
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15 surprising if the residual bulk magma was not saturated in volatiles and that no syn- to late-
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17 crystallisation redistributions in presence of a free volatile phase followed the inward migrating
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19 crystallisation zone.
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26 ***Sulphide saturated mush melt in CuM***

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28 In PC3, the positive correlation between Au, Fe, Cu and Pb and anticorrelation
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30 between these elements and P and incompatibles, suggests a return to sulphide saturation. Large
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32 magnitude PC3 values occur predominantly in CuM (Fig. EA14-3). Samples from CuM are
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34 characterized by Cu-rich sulphides interstitially between grains of the host rocks and described
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36 as an orthomagmatic mineralisation (Holwell *et al.*, 2016; EA12). They apparently formed due
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38 to sulphide saturation just as Pd-levels, but without subsequent dissolution. The lack of
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40 dissolution accounts for the geochemical distinction between PC1 and PC3, seemingly because
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42 the immiscible Fe-rich melts that at CuM time ponded in the mushy floor already were sulphide
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44 saturated as they formed (cf. Nielsen *et al.*, 2015).
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49 Sulphide saturation and subsequent dissolution (PC1) is restricted to mineralisation
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51 levels and PC3 seem to be of no importance in intervals between mineralisation levels in
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53 LPGEM and UPGEM (Fig. EA14-3). Consequently, no support is found in the PCA for sulphide
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55 saturation and accumulation of immiscible droplets sulphide melt from the bulk liquid of the
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57 Skaergaard intrusion during the formation of its PGE-Au mineralisation. Sulphide saturation was
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5 as concluded in Nielsen *et al.* (2015) restricted to evolved melt in the mushy crystallisation
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7 zones of the magma chamber.
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10 11 **Conclusions**

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14 The genesis of the Skaergaard PGE-Au Mineralisation is very complex and results
15 from *in situ* fractionation, sulphide saturation, immiscibility between Fe-rich and Si-rich silicate
16 melts in mushy crystallisation zones in the magma chamber. The model, first developed in
17 Nielsen *et al.* (2015) on the basis of a structural model that compares the mineralisation to a
18 stack of gold-rimmed saucers with upward decreasing diameter, is here further supported by: i)
19 3D paragenetic variations of precious metal minerals, ii) 3D distribution of precious metals in
20 the mineralisation, and iii) PC1-PC3 of the principal component analysis.
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30 The precious metals concentrated in droplets of sulphide melt in bulk melt
31 circulated to the mushy roof. They dissolved and were entrained in immiscible Fe-rich mush
32 melt that descended to the floor of the magma chamber. Flow differentiation in mushes along the
33 bowl-shaped floor concentrated melt with its cargo of dissolved precious metals in the deepest
34 and central parts of the bowl shaped floor. The co-accumulation of PGE and Au in more distant
35 parts of the mineralisation, the diachronous distribution of precious metals, and the lateral
36 variations in bulk composition and precious metal parageneses in the >600 m deep bowl exclude
37 in our view a classic offset-reef type model for the origin of the mineralisation.
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49 In our model, the precious metals were re-distributed up the MLs of the Triple
50 Group due to repetition in stratified mush of: i) fractionation of mush melt; ii) density
51 stratification; iii) sulphide saturation in remaining mush melt; iv) immiscibility between Fe-rich
52 and Si-rich silicate liquids; v) loss of Si-rich conjugate; vi) reaction and equilibration between
53 formed droplets of sulphide melt and ponded Fe-rich melt; vii) fractionation of Fe-rich melt and
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5 loss of its residual taking dissolved PGE, P, REE, HFSE, Cu, Au and volatiles along to the mush
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7 of the overlying ML.
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10 The fully developed Skaergaard PGE-Au mineralisation is neither a classic reef nor
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12 an offset reef type precious metal deposit, but a three-dimensional distribution of precious metals
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14 and the result of prolonged crystallisation, syn-depositional and syn-magmatic processes in a
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16 crystal mush. We therefore argue that the mineralisation should not be referred to as the
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18 “Platinova Reef”, but to the “Skaergaard PGE-Au Mineralisation” (Nielsen *et al.*, 2015) to avoid
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20 little-supported associations to reef-type mineralisations to which its structure and genesis
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22 cannot and should not be compared. The Skaergaard PGE-Au Mineralisation is a mineralisation
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24 type in its own right.
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For Peer Review

Figure captions

Fig. 1: Geology of the Skaergaard intrusion: (a) Map with series (LS, MBS and UBS), zones of LS, collar locations for drill cores and the sampling site “Toe of Forbindelsesgletscher” (ToF), and the chip lines Midnat (Mn) and Middag (Md) Buttresses. Red star: position of the centre of the mineralisation used in Fig. 10; (b) E-W section through the intrusion with subdivisions in Fig. 1a, and (c) schematic representation of the correlation between zones and subzones of LS, MBS and UBS. After Nielsen *et al.* (2015) and Salmonsén & Tegner (2013).

Fig. 2: a) Western face of Wagertoppen (1277 m) with the three leucogabbro layers of Triple Group (TG). The layering is in the upper left disturbed by large blocks of gabbro assumed derived from the roof of the magma chamber. The layering drapes over the blocks of UBS sunk into the magma chamber (e.g., lower right; photo by M.B. Holness. b) Close-up of the north-western ridge of Wagertoppen (photo by J.C. Ø. Andersen) showing L1 and L2 of TG maintaining constant stratigraphic separation even in the most north-western exposures and the distinct layering of the zebra-banded zone the lower part of the image. Includes several leucogabbro blocks and rafts, some coherent and some smeared out parallel to the layering in the gabbroic host. Yellow vertical bars identify the macro-rhythmic layers (ML0-ML2.2) of the mineralised section of TG, each with a plagioclase rich top. Pd5 of the mineralisation is hosted in the upper metres of ML0, and Pd1 which host the main Au concentration in central parts of the intrusion is hosted in ML2.1. The section of MLs covered by the Midnat chipline (Turner and Mosher, 1989) is also shown.

Fig. 3. Examples of available elemental and density profiles through the Skaergaard PGE-Au Mineralisation (see Fig. 1a for locations). a) From left to right: in order of increasing distance from centre of the concentric mineralisation. Compositional profiles: PGE (Pd+Pt) in blue; Au in yellow; and Cu in red in a continuous 25-cm bulk rock profile in drill core 90-22 from the centre of the intrusion, 1-m continuous averages in drill core 90-17A located ~ 1150 m from the western margin, in drill core 90-23A located ~ 900 m from the eastern margin of the intrusion, and in the Middag chip line profile almost 5 km N of the centre of the mineralisation (see Fig. 1). Density profiles for drill cores 90-22 (centre) and 90-23A (margin) and in grey the logged elevation of leucolayers L0, and L1 and L2 of the Triple Group demonstrate the extreme

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5 continuity of layering in host rocks as well as for the mineralisation levels and the upward
6 migration relative to MLs of precious metals and Cu toward the supposed centre of the
7 mineralisation. Details and sources for the plotted data can be found in Nielsen *et al.*, (2015) and
8 EA therein. b) Cross section to scale after EA2 in Nielsen *et al.*, (2015) (see location in Fig. 1a)
9 with elevations of intersects between drill cores and Pd5 (blue) and Pd1 (red) mineralisation
10 levels and leucogabbro layer L3 (yellow) of Triple Group. Only drill cores for which all three
11 markers are identified are included. In all others, one or more data points are lost in due to
12 intersecting dykes. Mineralisation levels are concordant with the lithological layering in the
13 7000 m wide and >600 m deep bowl-shaped succession of macro-rhythmic layers (MLs) of
14 upper Middle zone. Data for the compilation in can be found in EA1-3 in Nielsen *et al.* (2015).
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23 Fig. 4: Schematic illustration of the structure of the precious metal mineralisation. The Pd-levels
24 are concordant with the bowl-shape of the magmatic layering in the intrusion (Nielsen *et al.*,
25 2015, EA2). The circular structure of the mineralisation is based on modelling in Watts, Griffis
26 and McOuat (1991), Andersen *et al.*, (1998), Nielsen *et al.*, (2005) and is idealised relative to the
27 actual and more irregular structure. The colour change from blue to yellow symbolizes the
28 lateral variation from PGE-rich to Au and Cu rich in mineralisation levels.
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34 Fig. 5: Correlation between mineralisation levels, macro-rhythmic layers (MLs) of the host
35 gabbros, and subdivision of the mineralisation as developed in the geographical centre of the
36 multi-layered mineralisation (drill core 90-22). The subdivision of the gabbros into macro-
37 rhythmic layers follows the principles in Nielsen *et al.* (2015, see also text for details). Left: the
38 density profile is divided into MLs (centre) on the basis of the midpoint of marked increases in
39 density, i.e., half way between the low density top of a lower ML and the density high near the
40 base of the overlying ML. Grey sections identifies ilmenite rich intervals occurring at regular
41 intervals but with no apparent correlation to the layering in MLs (see Nielsen *et al.*, 2015).
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Right: Mineralisation levels Pd6 and Pd5 in ML0, Pd4a,b in ML1.1, , Pd3a,b in ML1.2, , Pd2a,b
in ML2, and Pd1 and Pd1/Au in ML2. Geochemical subdivision of the mineralisation into
LPGEM, UPGEM, UAuM and CuM in centre column. The Au-rich combined Pd1 and Pd1/Au
mineralisation levels have an average of 2.1 g/t precious metals over 3.6 m in drill core 90-22.

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5 Fig. 6: Variation in PGE (Pd+Pt) and Au in drill cores 89-09, 89-09A and 89-09B from the
6 central parts of the mineralisation. Data from Turner & Mosher (1990). Drill core 89-09 was
7 wedged twice to produce three neighbouring cores (Figs 6a-c) through the mineralised gabbros
8
9 The elemental profiles for PGE are very similar in all three cores, whereas the details of the
10 uppermost Au-rich mineralisation (Figs 6d-f) varies significantly, despite having very similar
11 grade times width numbers (g^*w ; average grade in grams/ton times the width or height of
12 stratigraphic interval in metres; Table 2). The unconstrained distribution of gold is on basis of
13 petrographic observations (Godel *et al.*, 2014) argued to be due to local and late redistribution
14 (see text for further explanations).
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21 Fig. 7: The volumetrically most important groups of precious metal minerals and phase
22 encountered in samples from drill cores and bulk samples. Sulphide minerals vysotskite and
23 vasilite dominate near the Archaean basement to the west, the plumbides and arsenides near
24 basalts to the east, and Cu,PGE) alloys and minerals including skaergaardite (PdCu) dominate in
25 the central parts of the intrusion. Au-rich paragenesis are dominated by tetra-auricupride
26 (AuCu) and unnamed Au_3Cu . All data and information on methods and sample can found in
27 Table 4, EA5-12.
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34 Fig. 8: Variation in total content of precious metals in “grade x width” numbers (g^*w ; average
35 grade in grams/ton times the width or height of the stratigraphic interval in metres) in a section
36 across the intrusion (Table 6). Circles: (Pd+Pt) in the 5 meters of drill core with the highest
37 Pd+Pt in the Pd5 mineralisation level (potential ore horizon); diamonds: (Pd+Pt) in LPGEM
38 (ML0 and ML1.1), triangles: (Pd+Pt) in the bulk mineralisation from a lower cut off at Pd6 to an
39 upper cut below off above Pd1 of 100 ppb, and squares: (Pd+Pt+Au) for the bulk mineralisation
40 (ML0 to ML2.1). Blue: Platinova Resources A/S drill cores (Watts, Griffis and McOuat, 1991),
41 red: Skaergaard Minerals Corporation (Hanghøj, 2005), and green: Holwell and Keays (2014).
42 Open symbols: Low totals in drill cores 04-30, 89-03, -04, -06 north of the section and low in
43 90-18 south of the section. Further explanations in text.
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52 Fig. 9: Au (g^*w)-numbers (average grade in grams/ton times the width or height in metres) in a
53 profile across the intrusion as compiled from base to top of the mineralisation and in the Pd5
54 mineralisation level. Orange: Au (g^*w) in the 5-meter section in Pd5 with the highest (Pd+Pt) of
55 the Pd5 mineralisation level (potential ore horizon, Table 6). Yellow: All Au in the
56 mineralisation from <100 ppb below Pd6 (ML0) to <100 ppb above Pd1/Au (ML2.1). Red: Au
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(g*w) number for sections through the entire mineralised succession of gabbro in drill cores from the margins of the intrusion. They provide an approximation to the average Au accumulated the mushy floor of the magma chamber and available for redistribution up macro-MLs. See text for further explanations. Fig. 10: Bulk precious metal contents as in Fig. 8, but plotted relative to an assumed geographical centre for the mineralisation (topographic point 666 on lower Basistoppen, see text for details, data in Table 6n). Blue: Watts Griffis and McOuat (1991), red: Hanghøj (2005) and green: Holwell & Keays (2014). Open symbols are (g*w; average grade in grams/ton times the width or height in metres) and ratios of precious metals in drill cores from the W-margin of the intrusion. Left column:(g*w) number from a lower cut off at <100 ppb below Pd6 to an upper cut off at <100 ppb above Pd1; centre column:(g*w) for LPGEM that (Nielsen *et al.* (2015) argued to have formed while precious metal were supplied from bulk magma; and right column: 5-meter section in Pd5 with the highest (Pd+Pt) of the Pd5 mineralisation level (potential ore horizon). For all are shown (Pd+Pt), (Pd+Pt+Au), and Pd/Pt, Au/Pt and Au/Pd ratios. As in Fig. 8, the lower centre of the mineralisation is relatively depleted in PGE and especially in Au (see also Fig. 9), whereas the upper central parts are enriched (see text for further descriptions and discussions). The mineralisation is not perfectly concentric and the open symbol data at 2500 m should be compared to the samples at the E-margin at 3500 to 4000 m. Data in Holwell *et al.* (2016) have been omitted as they give no Pt values.

Fig. 11: Relative Cu depletion in the geographic centre of the mineralisation due to dissolution of sulphide melt hosted in immiscible droplets. The shown 12-meter section in ML0 includes the main concentration of PGE (Pd5 /Pd-zone) and below Pd6 (subzone). Blue: drill cores from the E-margin incl. 90-23A, 04-34, 08-35A, and 11-57 green: drill cores from the W-margin incl. 04-30 and 90-14; orange: drill cores from the SW-part of the intrusion incl. 90-22 and 90-18 and red: drill cores from central parts incl. 04-32, 04-33, 11-53 and 90-24;; and ; all data in Table 7.

Fig. 12: Standardized loadings of the elements considered onto: (a) principal component 1 (PC1), (b) principal component 2 (PC2), and (c) principal component 3 (PC3).

Fig. 13: Fe as Fe₂O₃ wt % up the MLs of the Skaergaard mineralisation. Blue: central drill core 90-22, red: margin drill core 08-35A. The variations overlap and demonstrate that MLs maintain near constant thickness across the intrusion. Black column: the precious metal mineralised section of drill core 08-35A from near the margin of the intrusion in ML0 and ML1.1 in; grey column: mineralised ML0 to ML2.1 in drill core 90-22 in the centre of the mineralisation. Upper

golden field: the Au rich section in 90-22 at 0.7 ppm cut-off and green field: the Pd1 peak. The combined average is 2.1 g/t over 3.6 m (grade x width: 7.56). The lower golden field: the Au rich interval in drill core 08-35A (Holwell *et al.*, 2016) with an average of 2.2 g/t over 0.8 m (grade x width: 1.76). Depth in drill core 90-22 (Bernstein & Nielsen, 2004) data is calibrated to 08-35A by subtraction of 706 meter.

Fig. 14: Correlation between FeO* (FeO total) and P₂O₅ (wt %) in the continuous 25-cm sample profile from the base of the mineralisation below Pd6 to the Cu-rich gabbros above the precious metal rich mineralisation levels in drill core 90-22. Red: all samples (# 16) related to the gold-bearing Pd1 and Au/Pd1 mineralisation levels and sections of core with transgressive and late felsic veins. Blue: all other samples (# 243) in the profile demonstrate a negative correlation between FeO* and P₂O₅.

Fig. 15: Thin section views of mineralised gabbros in the Skaergaard mineralisation in drill core 90-22: (a) Pd5, peak of main PGE mineralisation level (1033.25m), and (b) Pd1, base of main Au-mineralised interval (993.5 to 990 m) showing extensive-late magmatic recrystallisation and alteration of clinopyroxene. Dissolution of plagioclase (greyish tones) and clinopyroxene (vivid colours) of the liquidus paragenesis and crystallisation of rim, and symplectites between late crystallised masses of FeTi-oxides (black) and the liquidus paragenesis are common to both mineralisation levels. Further descriptions in Holness *et al.* (2011) and in Nielsen *et al.* (2015).

Table Captions

Table 1: Stratigraphic elevation of mineralisation levels and bases of macrorhythmic layers across the intrusion and relative to elevation of Pd5.

Table 2. Table 2. Grade times width numbers (g*w) for the gold-peak in drill cores 89-09, 89-09A and 89-09B

Table 3: Identified PGE and Au native elements, minerals, unnamed minerals, intermetallic compounds and alloys of the PGE-Au mineralisation of the Skaergaard intrusion. Alloys are identified by their dominant elements in decreasing order.

Table 4: Summary of precious metal mineralogy of the Skaergaard PGE-Au mineralisation in vol. % of the precious metal paragenesis in individual samples. Comparisons and more detailed data in EA5-EA12.

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5 Table 5: Stratigraphic variation in relative importance of precious metal mineral groups in Pd5 in
6 drill cores 90-23A and 90-10 from near the E and W margins, respectively. Each sample collects
7 t a 1-metre interval in the drill core.
8

9 Table 6. Grade times width* for Pd, Pt and Au in Skaergaard PGE-Au Mineralisation

10
11 Table 7. Bulk rock ((Pd+Pt+Au)/Cu)*1000 ratios in Pd5 relative to peak concentration (1-m
12 averages).
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15 Table 8: Summary of the first six principal components from the PCA.
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20 **Supplementary data**

21 **Electronic Appendix 1, Nielsen et al.**

22 Correlation of Pd-levels and peaks (Pd+Pt in ppb) from west to east across the Skaergaard
23 intrusion. Correlations are based on easily identified and at very low concentrations in
24 logarithmic plots observed elemental peaks. The thirteen drill cores were selected because assay
25 data as well as density data is available for all. In all cases is the vertical scale set to 0 meters at
26 the Pd5 peak. Purple: Pd5; blue: Pd4a (upper) and Pd4b (lower peak); green: Pd3a (upper) and
27 Pd3b (lower); orange: Pd2b; yellow: Pd2a and red: Pd1. Minor corrections of true stratigraphic
28 scales due to faults and intersecting dykes in accordance with EA3 of Nielsen et al. (2015).
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38 **Electronic Appendix 2, Nielsen et al.**

39 Correlation between PGE anomalies in the fully developed mineralisation (drill core 90-22) and
40 assay profiles in drill cores from near the margins of the intrusion. Note that the scale for the
41 concentrations of PGE is logarithmic in order to highlight low concentration anomalies. Pd5 is
42 used as marker horizon (0 metres) and all elevations are relative to that peak. Note also that Pd1
43 and Pd1/Au peaks are readily identified and maintain near-constant elevations above Pd5 at
44 concentrations of 10-100 ppb even to the margins of the intrusion.
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50 **Electronic Appendix 3, Nielsen et al.:**

51 Correlation of density anomalies in Triple Group based on samples collected at 1 m intervals.
52 Samples were weighed in air and water for calculation of the density. Gaps in the measurements
53 are due to intersecting dykes. Density highs as well as lows are correlated. The density
54 profiles are lined up at the density low of L0. L1 is located ~20 meters, L2 ~ 40 metres and L3
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5 ~100 m above L0 across. The stratigraphic separation between L-layers is near constant across
6 the intrusion from the west to the east margins (app. 7 km).
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10 **Electronic Appendix 4, Nielsen et al.:**

11 Gold anomalies (orange) plotted on top elemental variation in Pd+Pt from EA1. All data in ppb.
12 In all cases are gold peaks located in or marginally over a corresponding PGE peak. In no case is
13 gold found to peak between peaks defined by PGE. Some drill cores (89-08 and 90-18) have two
14 gold peaks separated by more than 10 metres with no more than traces of gold in between. The
15 uppermost gold peak may be double due to accumulation of gold caused by sulphide saturation
16 as well as deposition of gold along grain boundaries from mobile and residual mush melts (see
17 Fig. 6 and text).
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25 **Electronic Appendix 5, Nielsen et al.:**

26 **Distribution of samples from the Skaergaard PGE-Au mineralisation that were used for the** 27 **investigation of the precious metal mineral parageneses of the mineralisation** 28 29

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31 Schematic illustration of the distribution of samples in the Skaergaard PGE-Au Mineralisation
32 relative to the geographical centre of the deposit. Peaks identify the mineralisation levels from
33 which the samples were taken Columns to the right provide the precious metal 1-metre grades
34 and depths (= # of the samples) in the given drill core or bulk sample. The investigated samples
35 (purple) are shown from left to right with decreasing relative distance from the centre. The
36 uncoloured boxes highlight the diachronous transition from the PGE- and Au-rich part of the
37 mineralisation (LPGEM + UPGEM) to the Cu-rich gabbros (CuM) above the Au-rich
38 mineralisation levels, irrespectively of their stratigraphic elevation in the layered gabbros.
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46 **Electronic Appendix 6, Nielsen et al.**

47 PGE and Au mineralogy of macrorhythmic layer ML0.
48 Pd6 and Pd5 levels.
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52 **Electronic Appendix 7, Nielsen et al.**

53 PGE and Au mineralogy of macrorhythmic layer ML1.1.
54 Pd4a and Pd4b levels.
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58 **Electronic Appendix 8, Nielsen et al.**

59 PGE and Au mineralogy of macrorhythmic layer ML1.2.
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5 Pd3a and Pd3b levels.
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8 **Electronic Appendix 9, Nielsen et al.**

9 PGE and Au mineralogy of macrorhythmic layer ML2.

10 Pd2a and Pd2b levels.
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14 **Electronic Appendix 10, Nielsen et al.:**

15 PGE and Au mineralogy of macrorhythmic layer ML2.1.

16 Pd1 and Pd1/Au levels.
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20 **Electronic Appendix 11, Nielsen et al.:**

21 PGE and Au mineralogy of macrorhythmic layer ML2.2.

22 Pd1 and Pd1/Au levels.
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26 **Electronic Appendix 12, Nielsen et al.**

27 Summary of precious metal mineralogy in Skaergaard mineralisation including data from
28 Holwell et al. (2016).
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32 **Electronic Appendix 13, Nielsen et al.**

33 Continuous profile in drill core 90-22. Density, major element, precious metal and trace element
34 compositions.
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38 **Electronic Appendix 14, Nielsen et al.**

39 Methods and results of Principal Component Analysis (PCA).
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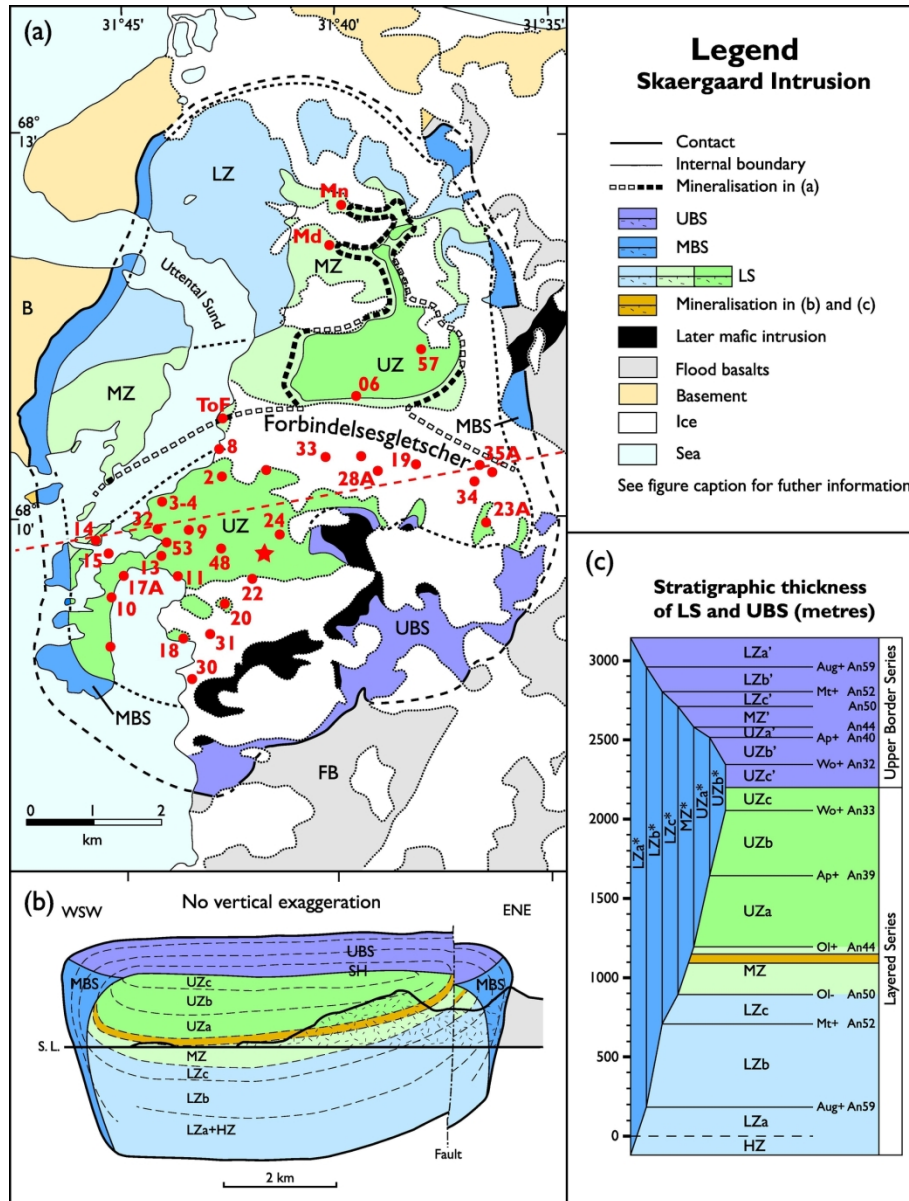


Fig. 1

161x212mm (300 x 300 DPI)

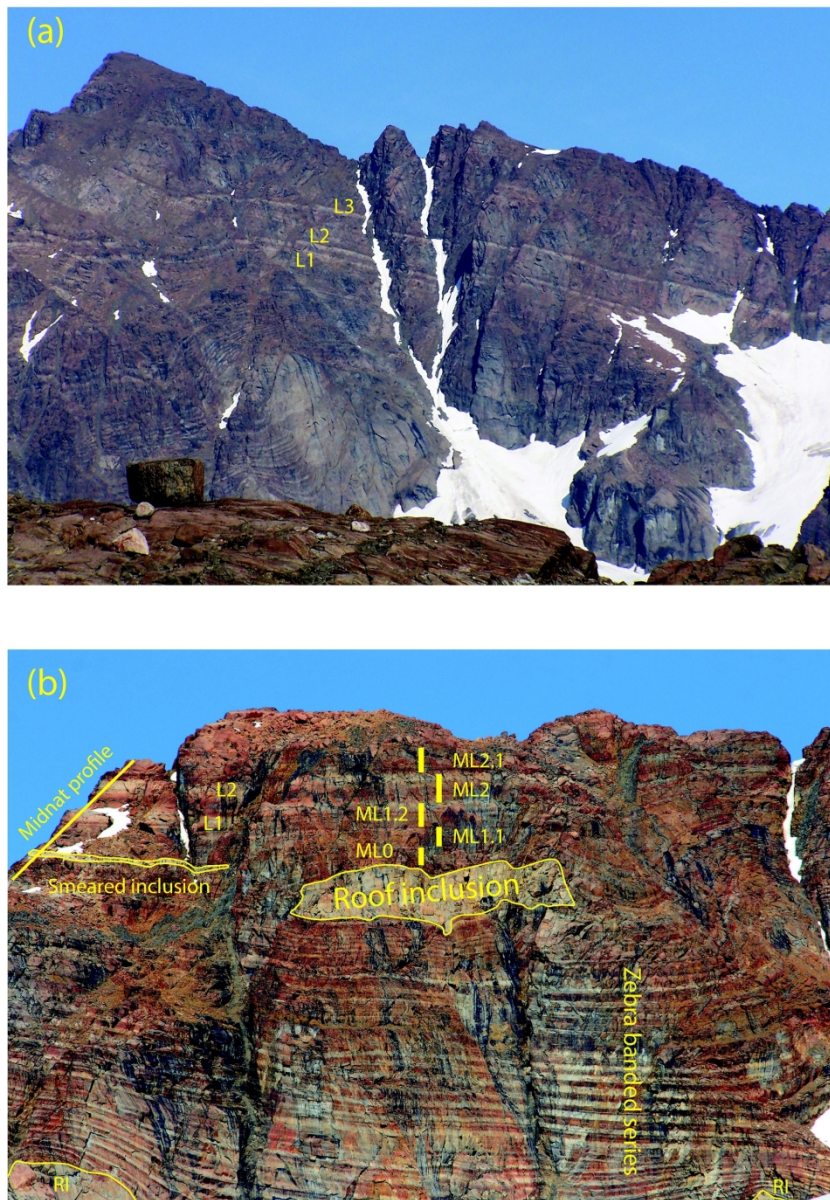


Fig. 2

165x239mm (300 x 300 DPI)

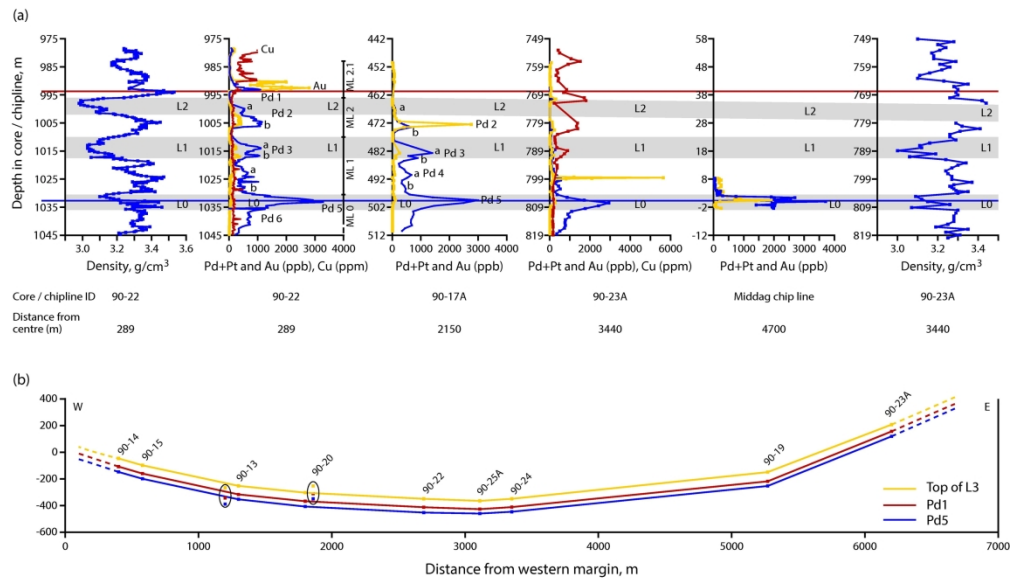


Fig. 3

228x200mm (300 x 300 DPI)

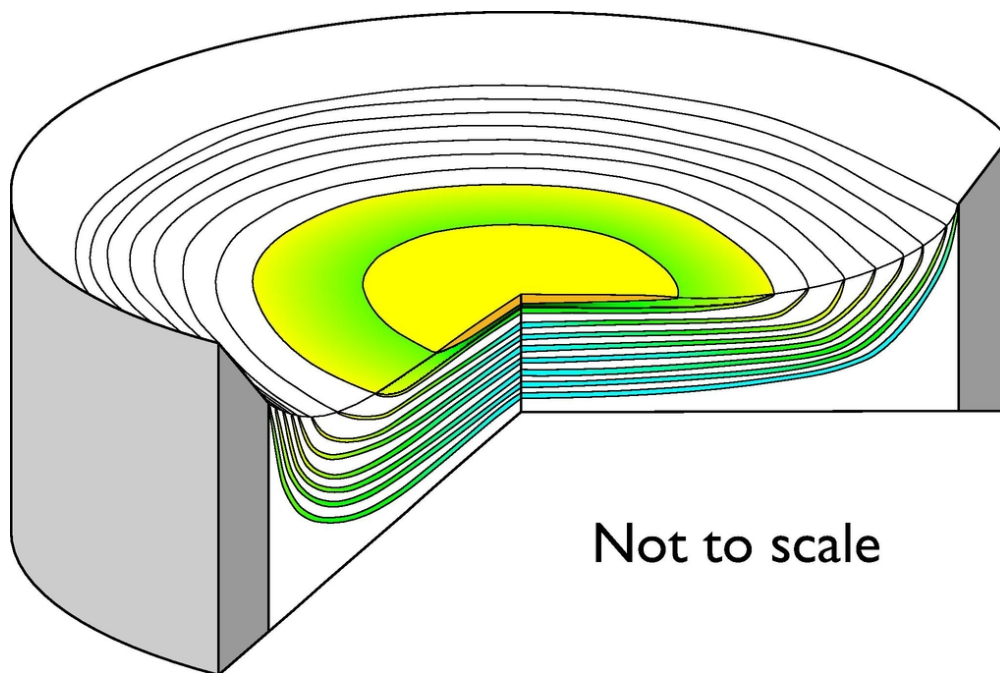


Fig. 4

86x57mm (300 x 300 DPI)

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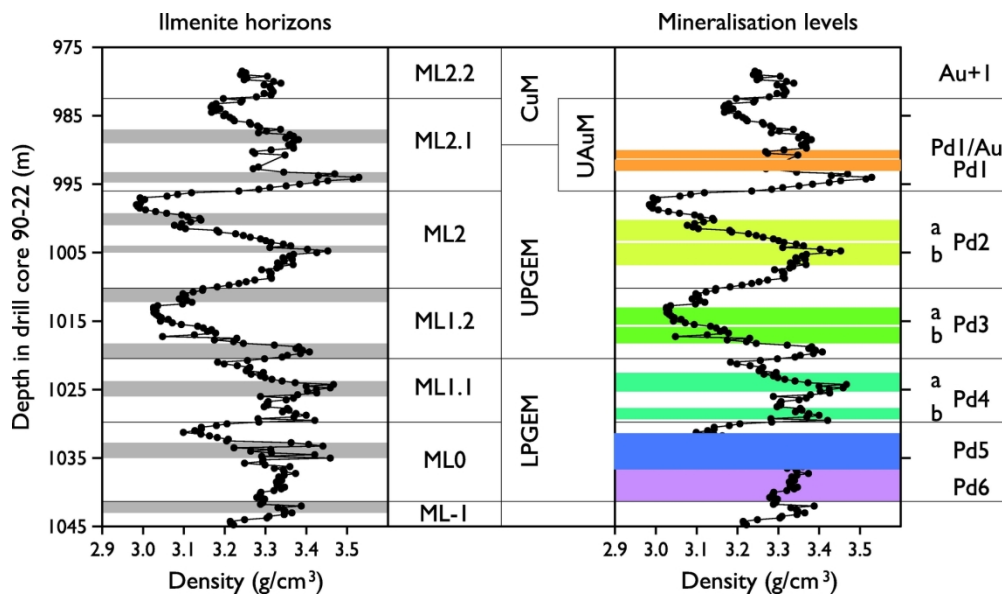


Fig. 5

174x101mm (300 x 300 DPI)

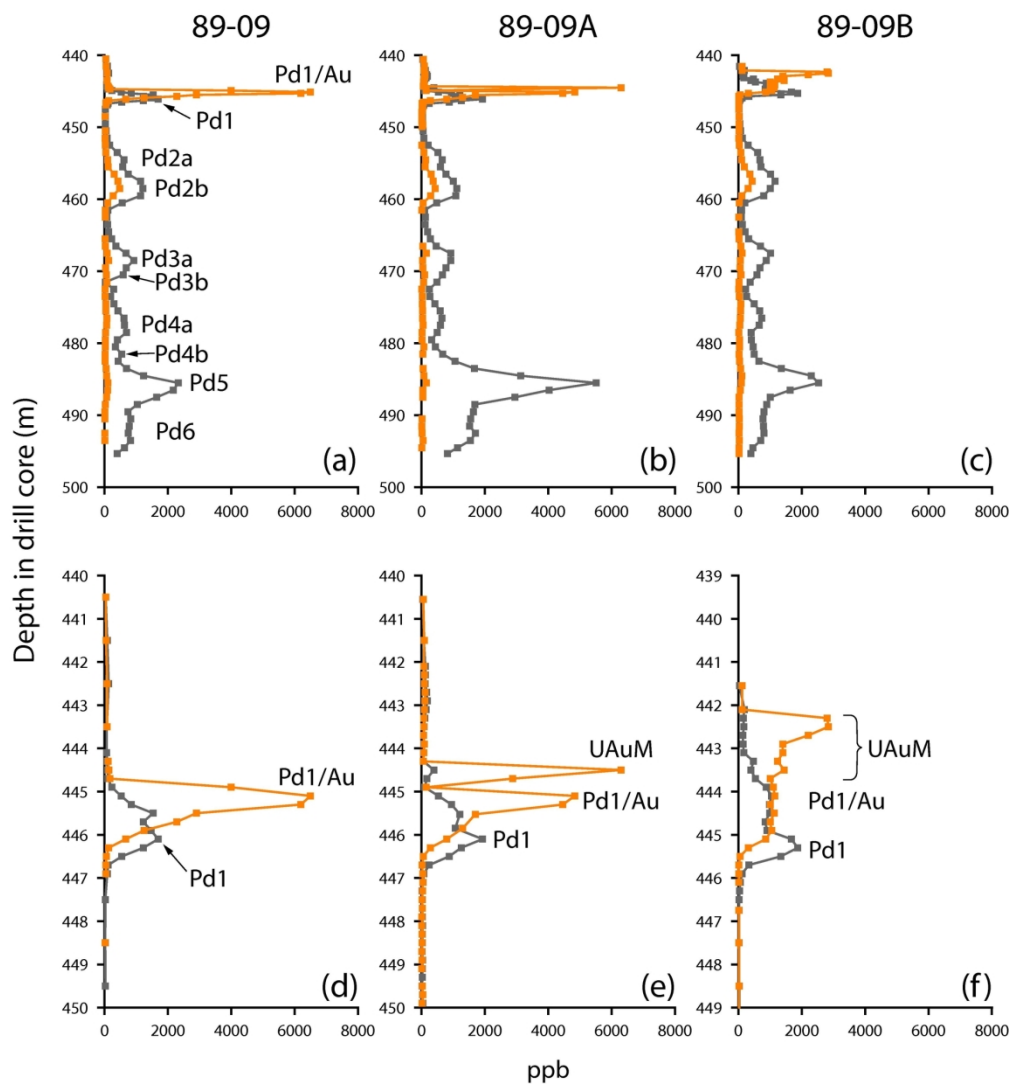


Fig. 6

168x180mm (300 x 300 DPI)

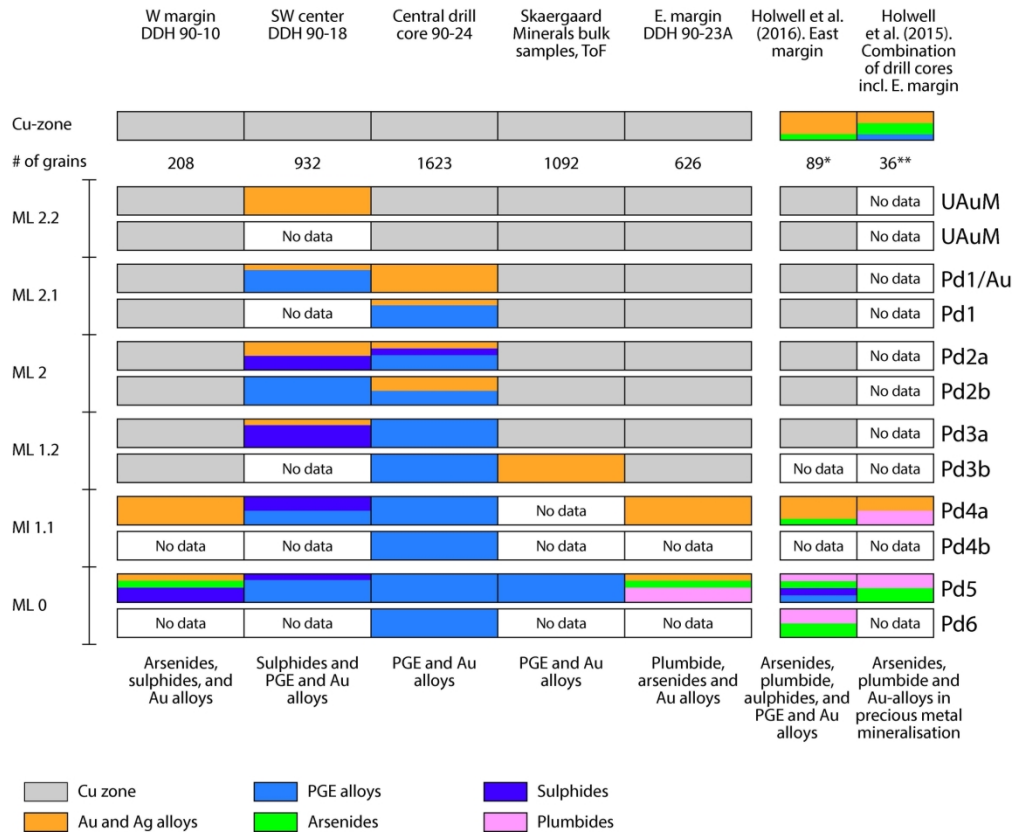


Fig. 7

182x150mm (300 x 300 DPI)

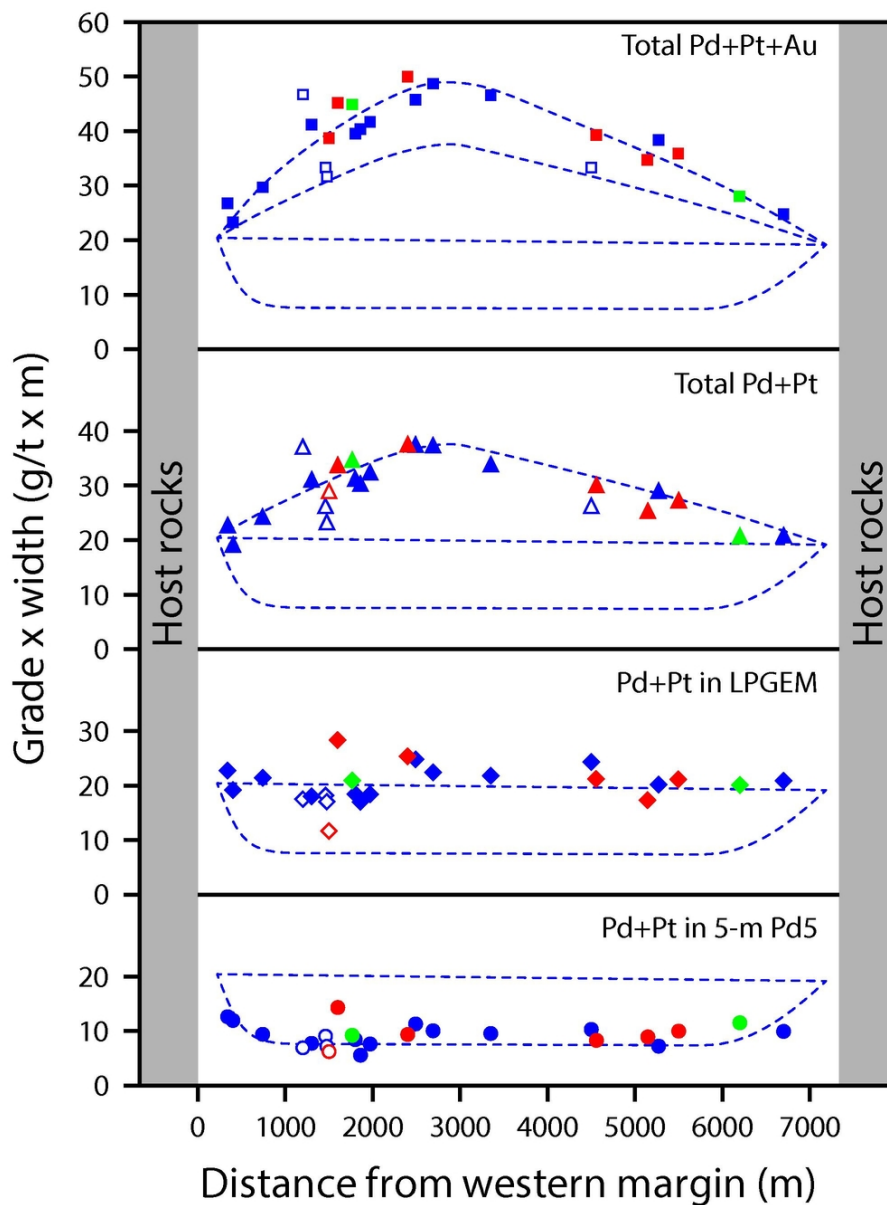


Fig. 8

83x112mm (300 x 300 DPI)

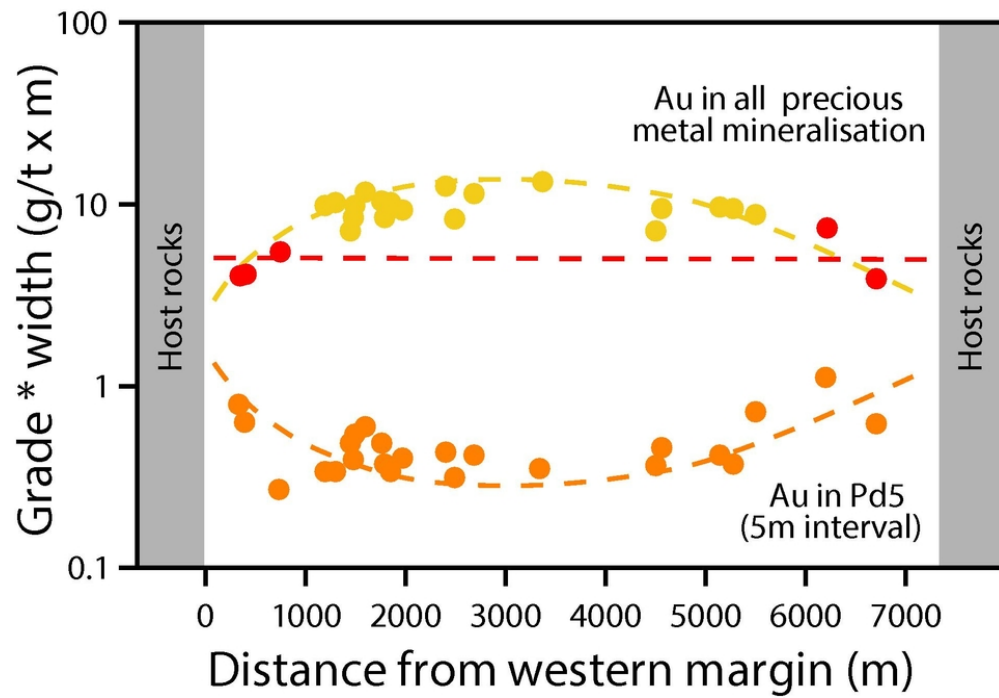


Fig. 9

81x56mm (300 x 300 DPI)

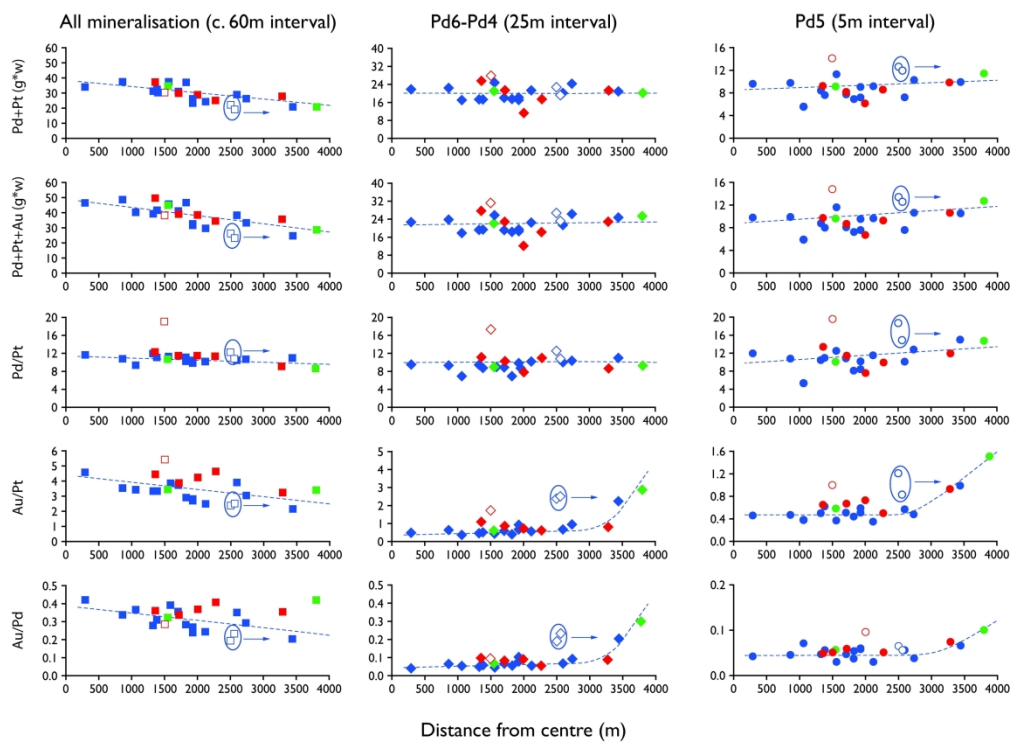


Fig. 10

282x206mm (300 x 300 DPI)

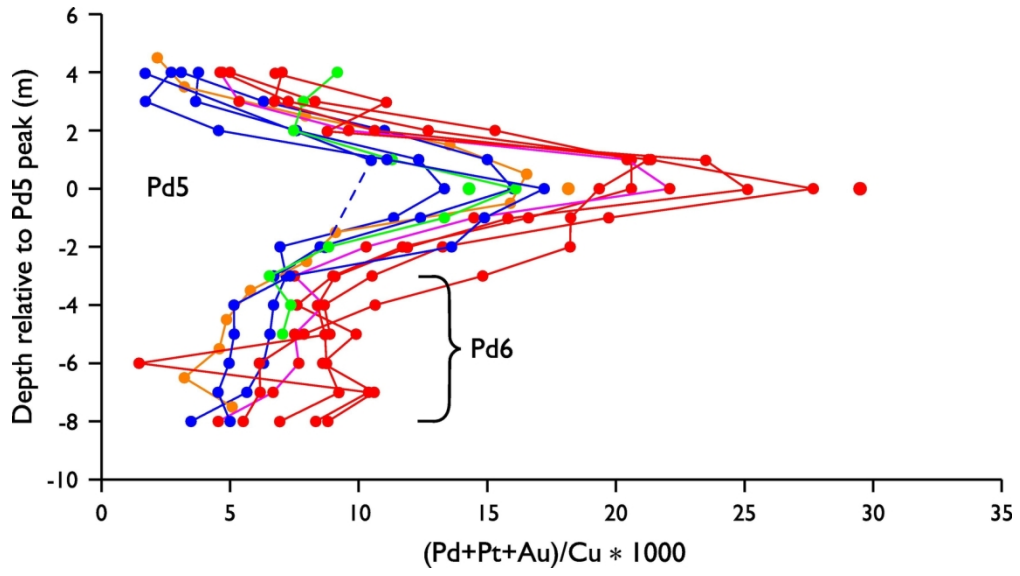


Fig. 11

149x83mm (300 x 300 DPI)

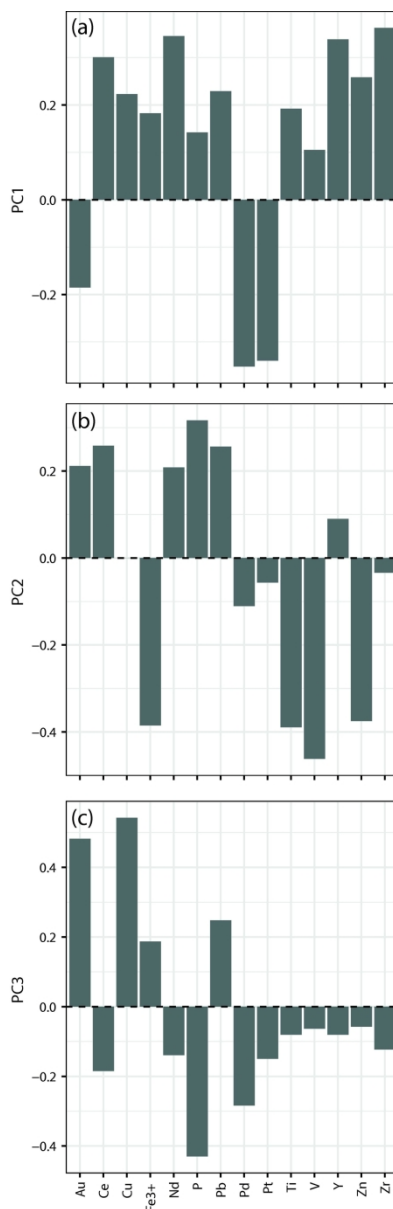


Fig. 12

90x278mm (300 x 300 DPI)

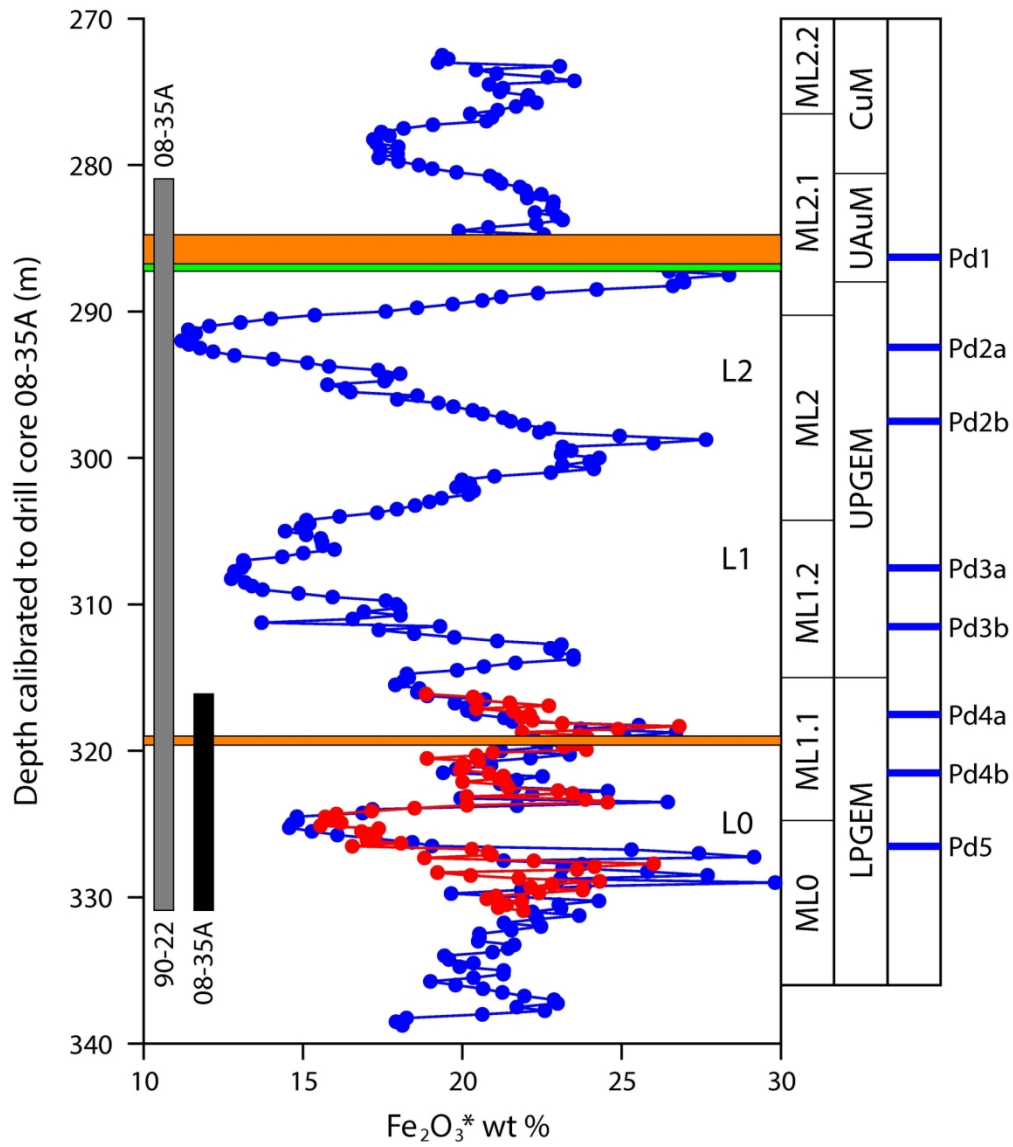


Fig. 13

150x171mm (300 x 300 DPI)

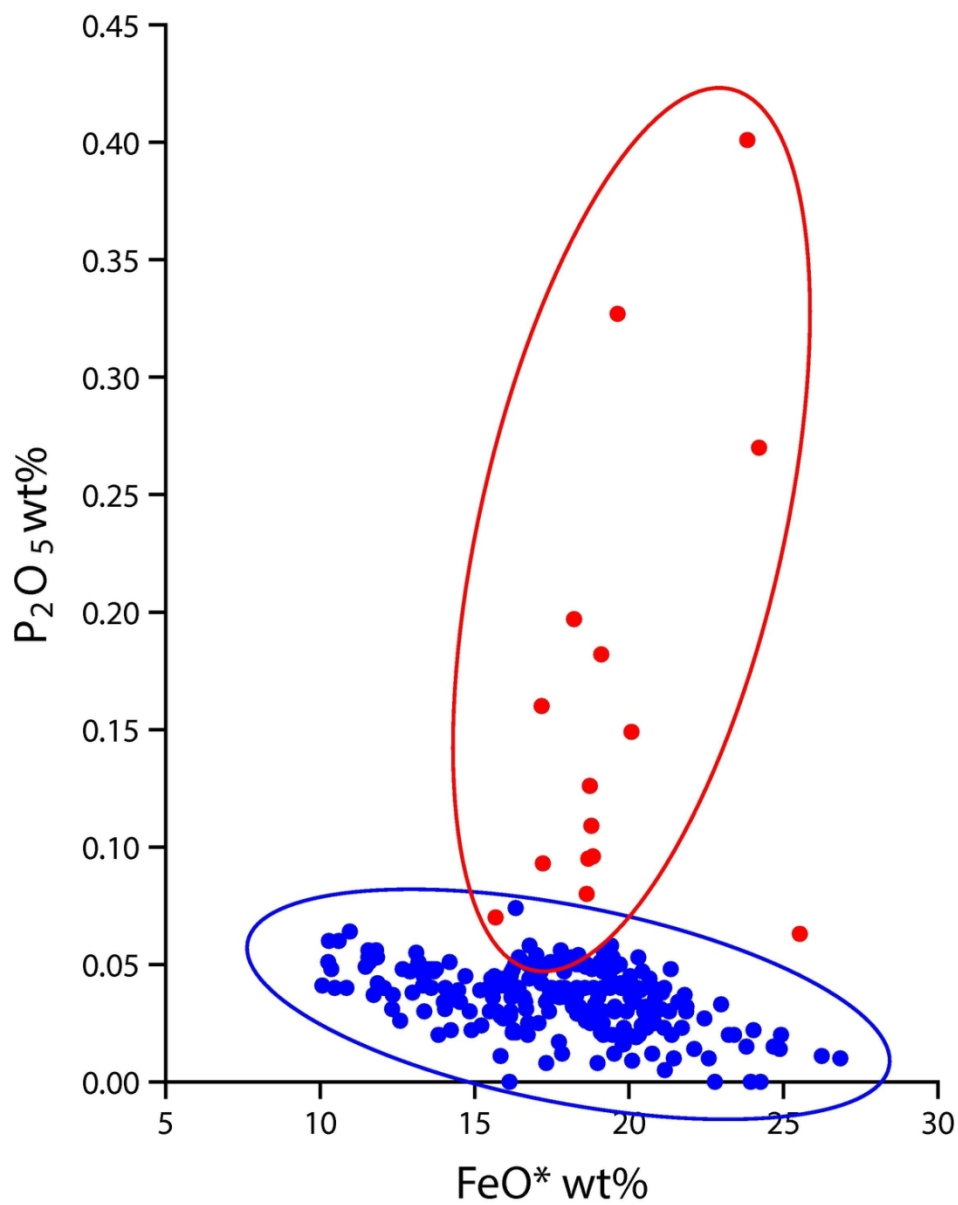


Fig. 14

100x126mm (300 x 300 DPI)

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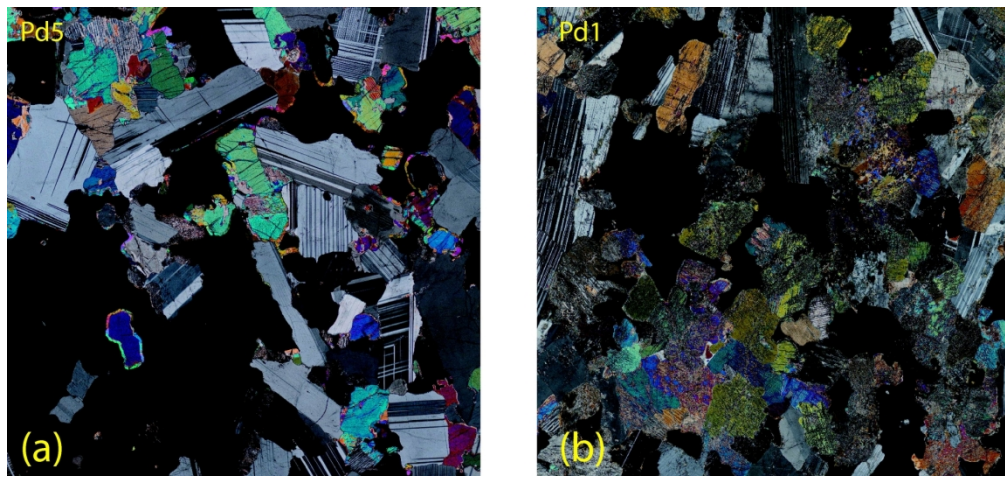


Fig. 15

175x82mm (300 x 300 DPI)

Table 1: Stratigraphic elevation of mineralisation levels and bases of macrorhythmic layers across the intrusion and relative to elevation of Pd5.

ML2.2	base	50.75
Pd/Au	peak	42.25
Pd1	peak	40.25
ML2.1	base	37.00
Pd2a	peak	32.50
Pd2b	peak	27.75
ML 2	base	23.00
Pd3a	peak	18.75
Pd3b	peak	16.50
ML1.2	base	12.25
Pd4a	peak	10.50
Pd4b	peak	5.50
ML1.1	base	2.50
Pd5.2*	peak	0.75
Pd5.1*	peak	0.00
ML0	base	-8.75

Based on 1-metre assays, logs and density profiles in 41 drill cores. Elevations relative to Pd5 are compiled in EA 1 and 3 in Nielsen et al. (2015).

* The Pd5 peak is, were resolution allows, divided in an upper and a lower maxima.

Table 2. Grade times width numbers (g*w) for the gold-peak in drill cores 89-09, 89-09A and 89-09B

Drill core	from (m)	to (m)	width (m)	Au av. ppb	PGE av. ppb	Au av. ppm	PGE av. ppm	PGE+Au g*w
4m interval								
89-9	443.0	447.0	4.0	1311	511	1.3	0.5	7.2
89-9A	443.4	447.0	4.0	1229	495	1.2	0.5	6.8
89-9B	442.0	446.0	4.0	1106	666	1.1	0.7	7.2
0.7 g/t cut off*								
89-9	444.8	446.4	1.6	2992	1093	3.0	1.1	6.6
89-9A	444.4	446.6	2.2	2277	848	2.3	0.9	7.0
89-9B	442.2	445.6	3.4	1293	747	1.3	0.7	6.8

* g*w; average grade in grams/ton of given stratigraphic interval multiplied by its height in meters.

** Cut off based on (Pd+Pt+Au). Data from Watts, Griffis and McOuat Ltd. (1991).

Table 3: Identified PGE and Au native elements, minerals, unnamed minerals, intermetallic compounds and alloys of the PGE-Au mineralisation of the Skaergaard intrusion. Alloys are identified by their dominant elements in decreasing order.

Native elements		Minerals continued	Formula	Unnammed minerals	Alloys	alloys continued
Native Ag	Ag	Majakite	PdNiAs	Au ₃ Ag	(Au,Ag,Cu)	(Pd,Au,Ag,Cu)
Native Pd	Pd	Merenskyite	Pd(Te,Pb) ₂	Au ₃ Cu	(Au,Ag,Cu)	(Pd,Cu,As,Sb)
Native tellurium	Te	Naldrettite	Pd ₂ Sb	(Cu,Pd) ₁₇ S ₆	(Au,Cu,Ag)	(Pd,Cu,Au,Pt)
		Nielsenite	(Pd,Pt,Au)Cu ₃	(Pd,Au) ₇ (Ni,Cu) ₁₁ Pb ₂	(Au,Cu,Ag)	(Pd,Cu,Pb)
Minerals	Standart formula	Palladoarsenide	PdAs ₂	(Pd,Au) ₃ (Cu,Fe) ₆ S ₃ (Te,Sn) ₂	(Au,Ag)	(Pd,Cu,Pb)
Acantite	Ag ₂ S	Palarstanide	Pd ₅ (As,Sn) ₂	AuPdCu ₂	(Au,Ag,Cu,Pd)	(Pd,Cu,Sn)
Arsenopalladinite	Pd ₈ As _{2.5} Sb _{0.5}	Polybasite	(Ag,Cu) ₁₆ Sb ₂ S ₁₁	(Pd,Ag) ₂ Te	(Au,Cu)	(Pd,Ge,Cu)
Atokite	Pd ₃ Sn	Skaergaardite	PdCu	Pd ₃ Ag ₂ S	(Au,Cu,Fe)	(Pd,Pb,Cu)
Auricupride	Au ₃ Cu	Sopcheite	Ag ₄ Pd ₃ Te ₄	Pd ₃ S	(Au,Cu,Pd)	(Pd,Pb,Cu,Sn,Te)
Bogdanovite	(Au,Te,Pb) ₃ (Cu,Fe).	Sperrylite	PtAs ₂	(Pt,Pd)Cu ₃	(Au,Cu,Pd,Ag)	(Pd,Pt,Cu)
Braggite	(Pt,Pd)S	Stefanite	Ag ₅ SbS ₄	(Au,Pd) ₃ (Cu,Fe)	(Au,Pd,Cu,Pt,Ag)	(Pd,Sn,Cu)
Cabriite	Pd ₂ SnCu	Telargpalite	(Pd,Ag) _{3+x} Te	(Cu,Pt,Pd) ₃ S ₃	(Au,Pd)Cu	(Pd,Te,As)
Electrum	(Au,Ag)	Telluropalladinite	Pd ₉ Te ₄	(Pd,Ag,Cu) ₅ S	(AuCu,Ag)	(Pt,Cr,Pd)
Froodite	PdBi ₂	Tetra auricupride	AuCu	Pd ₂ (Cu,Fe)TeBi	(Cu,Au)	(Pt,Cu,Fe)
Guanglinitite	Pd ₃ As.	Tetraferriplatinum	PtFe	(Au,Pd) ₃ (Cu,Fe)	(Au,Cu, Pd)	(Pt,Cu,Fe,Pd)
Hessite	Ag ₂ Te	Tulameenite	PtFe _{0.5} Cu _{0.5}	(Pd,Hg,Ag) _{2+x} S	(Cu,Au,Ni,Zn)	(Pt,Fe,Cu)
Hongshite	PtCu	Vasilite	Pd ₁₆ S ₇	Pd ₃ Ag ₂ S	(Cu,Pd,Pt)	(Pt,Fe,Pd)
Isomertiete	Pd ₁₁ Sb ₂ As ₂	Vincentite	Pd ₃ As	(Au,Pd) ₃ (Cu,Fe)	(Cu,Pt,Pd)	(Pt,Fe,Pd,Cu)
Keithconnite	Pd _{3,x} Te(0.14<x<0.43)	Vysotskite	PdS	(Pd,Ag,Cd,Cu,Tl) ₄ S	(Cu,Pt,Pd)	(Pt,Pd,As)
Kotulskite	PdTe	Zvyagintsevite	Pd ₃ Pb	(Pd,Ag,Cu) ₆ S	(Pd,Ag,Cu)	(Pt,Pd,Fe)
				Pd ₁₁ As ₂ Sn ₂		

Sources: Bird et al., 1991; Nielsen et al, 2003_{a-c}, 2005, 2015; Cabri, 2004; Rudashevsky et al., 2005_{a-b}, 2006_{a-b}, 2009, 2010_{a-d}, 2012_{a-i}, 2007, 2009, 2014 2015; Holwell et al., 2015 and 2016

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For Peer Review

Table 4: Summary of precious metal mineralogy of the Skaergaard PGE-Au mineralisation in volume % of the precious metal paragenesis in individual samples. Comparisons and more detailed data in EA5-EA12

	West Margin	South center (SW core)		Center		Half way to Centre	East margin
	Drill core 90-10 Upper mineralisation level	Drill core 90-18 Lower mineralisation level	Drill core 90-18 Upper mineralisation level	Drill core 90-24 Lower mineralisation level	Drill core 90-24 Upper mineralisation level	Toe of Forbindelses gletscher Upper mineralisation levels	Drill core 90-23A Upper mineralisation level
Total number of grains	208	932		1623		1092	626
ML-2.2 (Au+1)							
Number of grains	13	0	0	13	0	0	0
Au and Ag minerals and phases	above	no data	93.8*	no data	above	above	above
PGE with Sn, Bi, Pb, Te, Se, Sb	above	no data	-	no data	above	above	above
Arsenides	above	no data	6.2*	no data	above	above	above
Sulfides	above	no data	-	no data	above	above	above
Intermetallic alloys	above	no data	-	no data	above	above	above
ML-2.1 (Pd1 and Pd1/Au)							
Number of grains	585	0	0	206	228	41	0
Au and Ag minerals and phases	above	no data	23.4	36.3	98.5	above	above
PGE with Sn, Bi, Pb, Te, Se, Sb	above	no data	0.9	1.1	0.2	above	above
Arsenides	above	no data	0.0	0.0	0.0	above	above
Sulfides	above	no data	0.0	0.6	1.4	above	above
Intermetallic alloys	above	no data	75.6	61.9	0.0	above	above
ML-2 (Pd2a and b)							
Number of grains	438	0	152	144	47	95	0
Au and Ag minerals and phases	above	3.8	15.0	48.2	8.8	above	above
PGE with Sn, Bi, Pb, Te, Se, Sb	above	1.0	4.7	1.0	0.7	above	above
Arsenides	above	0.0	6.5	0.0	0.0	above	above
Sulfides	above	0.2	67.9	2	15.0	above	above
Intermetallic alloys	above	94.9	5.0	48.8	75.6	above	above

Table 4 continued

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2	ML-1.2 (Pd3a and b)							
3	Number of grains	866		37	270	63	496	
4	Au and Ag minerals and phases	above	no data	17.3	0.9	1.9	84.7	above
5	PGE with Sn, Bi, Pb, Te, Se, Sb	above	no data	3.6	1.0	0.6	0.4	above
6	Arsenides	above	no data	-	-	0.0	0.0	above
7	Sulfides	above	no data	71.3	8.2	0.0	0.0	above
8	Intermetallic alloys	above	no data	8.4	89.8	97.5	14.9	above
9								
10								
11	ML-1.1 (Pd4a and b)	Above level						
12	Number of grains	482	89	25	78	122		179
13	Au and Ag minerals and phases	92.7	no data	6.1	0.7	1.2	no data	94.8
14	PGE with Sn, Bi, Pb, Te, Se, Sb	0.9	no data	0.4	0.7	0.8	no data	0.4
15	Arsenides	5.5	no data	n.d.	-	0.0	no data	4.8
16	Sulfides	1.0	no data	41.1	0.6	1.0	no data	0.0
17	Intermetallic alloys	0.0	no data	46.3	98.4	96.9	no data	0.0
18								
19								
20								
21	ML-0 (Pd5 and Pd6)							
22	Number of grains	2196	119	368	33	666	596	447
23	Au and Ag minerals and phases	10.9	no data	2.2	0.0	1.2	1.0	15.5
24	PGE with Sn, Bi, Pb, Te, Se, Sb	6.7	no data	1.8	0.6	1.2	0.4	53.4
25	Arsenides	28.6	no data	0.1	0.0	0.9	0.8	24.7
26	Sulfides	53.6	no data	18.2	0.1	0.0	3.0	4.3
27	Intermetallic alloys	0.4	no data	78.0	99.3	96.4	94.8	1.5

* Sample 90-22 977,

Table 5: Stratigraphic variation in relative importance of precious metal mineral groups in Pd5 in drill cores 90-23A and 90-10 from near the E and W margins, respectively. Each sample collects t a 1-metre intervart inn the drill core.

Mineral	General formula	90-23A samples				90-10 samples		
		808	807	806	avg.	445	443	avg.
Au, Ag and Pt phases		1.9	8	36.3	15.4	0	21.7	10.8
Au-phases		1.9	8	28.3	12.7	0	21.7	10.8
(Au,Cu,Pd,Ag) alloys	(Au,Cu,Pd,Ag,Pt)	0.7	8	23	10.6	0	17.3	8.65
Bogdanovite	(Au,Pd,Pt) ₃ (Cu,Fe)	1.2	n.d.	5	2.1	0	0	0
Tetra-auricupride	(Au,Pd,Pt)(Cu,Fe)	n.d.	n.d.	0.3	0.1	0	4.4	2.2
Ag-phases		0	0	8	2.7	0	0	0
Native silver	(Ag)	n.d.	0	n.d.	0	0	0	0
Polybasite	[(Ag,Cu) ₆ (Sb,As) ₂ S ₇][Ag ₉ CuS ₄]	n.d.	0	n.d.	0	0	0	0
Stephanite	Ag ₅ SbS ₄	n.d.	n.d.	8	2.7	0	0	0
Others								
Plumbides, tellu tellurides and stannides		74.2	60	26.6	53.6	0	5.8	2.9
Kotulskite	Pd(Te,Pb)	n.d.	n.d.	0.3	0.1	0	0	0
Keithconnite	Pd _{3-x} (Te,Pb,As,Sn)	0.5	2	2	1.5	0	4	0.2
Zvyagintsevite	(Pd,Au,Pt) ₃ (Pb,Sn)	73	58	24	51.7	0	1.8	0.9
Atokite	(Pd,Pt) ₃ (Sn,As,Te)	n.d.		0.3	0.1	0	0	0
Arsenides		11.7	25	36.3	24.7	34.8	29.8	32.3
Arsenopalladinite	(Pd,Cu,Au) ₈ (As,Sn) ₃	3	11	17	10.3	0	0	0
Guanglinite	(Pd,Cu,Au) ₃ (As,Sn,Te,Sb)	8	12	8	9.3	30.3	24.8	27.6
Palladoarsenide	(Pd,Cu) ₂ As	0.7	2	2	1.6	0	0	0
Isomertieite	Pd ₁₁ As ₂ (Sb,Te) ₂	0.7	n.d.	0.3	0.3	0	0	0
Sperrylite	PtAs ₂	0.5	0	9	3.2	0	0	0
Atokite	(Pd,Pt,Au) ₃ (Sn,Pb,As)	0	0	0	0	2.6	5	3.8
Unnamed						1.9	0	0.95
Sulphides		10	2	1	4.3	64.5	42.6	53.6
Vysotskite	(Pd,Ni)S	4	0	n.d.	1.3	19.1	22.5	20.8
Vasilite	Pd ₁₂ Cu ₄ S ₇	6	2	1	3	45.4	20.1	32.8
Pd and Pd-alloys		1	3	0	1.3	0.7	0	0.4
Native palladium	(Pd)	n.d.	3	n.d.	1	0	0	0
Skaergaardite	PdCu	1	n.d.	n.d.	0.3	0.7	0	0.4
Pt-alloy	(Pt,Pd,Fe,Cu)	0.7	0	n.d.	0.2	0	0	0

n.d.: No data

Table 6. Grade times width* for Pd, Pt and Au in Skaergaard PGE-Au Mineralisation

Drill core	from metres	to metres	Distance from western margin (see Nielsen et al., 2015)	Distance from center at at point 666 (m) (see text)	Pd	Pt	Au	Pd+Pt	Pd+Pt +Au	Pd/Pt	Au/Pd	Au/Pt	PGE % of all In core through deposit	Au % of all In core through deposit
<i>Pd5, 5 meters of core with highest Pd+Pt **</i>														
89-02	201.0	206.0	2490	1559	10.45	0.84	0.31	11.29	11.60	12.51	0.030	0.37	30.1	3.8
89-03	255.0	260.0	1460	1588	8.24	0.81	0.48	9.05	9.53	10.17	0.058	0.59	34.4	6.8
89-04	272.0	277.0	1475	1588	6.43	0.76	0.39	7.20	7.58	8.42	0.060	0.51	30.8	4.6
89-06	159.0	164.0	4500	2735	9.54	0.75	0.36	10.28	10.64	12.80	0.038	0.48	39.1	5.1
89-09	484.0	489.0	1800	1324	7.68	0.73	0.36	8.41	8.77	10.46	0.047	0.50	26.9	4.4
90-10	442.6	447.6	340	2500	11.98	0.64	0.78	12.62	13.40	18.70	0.065	1.21	55.5	19.4
90-11	675.1	680.1	1970	1382	6.97	0.64	0.39	7.61	8.00	10.95	0.056	0.62	23.5	4.3
90-13	469.0	474.0	1300	1706	7.08	0.65	0.33	7.73	8.06	10.84	0.047	0.51	24.9	3.3
90-14	192.9	198.0	400	2559	11.19	0.75	0.63	11.94	12.57	14.89	0.056	0.83	62.2	15.3
90-17A	498.0	503.0	740	2118	8.64	0.75	0.26	9.39	9.65	11.52	0.030	0.35	38.6	4.9
90-18	1009.0	1014.0	1200	1824	6.15	0.76	0.33	6.91	7.24	8.11	0.054	0.44	18.6	3.5
90-19	589.0	594.0	5270	1824	6.57	0.65	0.37	7.22	7.59	10.11	0.056	0.57	24.9	3.9
90-20	975.0	980.0	1860	2588	4.68	0.88	0.33	5.56	5.89	5.33	0.071	0.38	18.3	3.3
90-22	810.0	815.0	2690	1029	9.15	0.89	0.41	10.04	10.45	10.29	0.045	0.46	26.9	3.6
90-23A	806.0	811.0	6700	3441	9.30	0.62	0.61	9.92	10.53	15.00	0.066	0.99	47.5	15.8
90-24	1055.0	1060.0	3350	294	8.80	0.74	0.35	9.54	9.89	11.89	0.040	0.47	28.1	2.7
04-28A	471.0	475.3	5147	2273	8.10	0.82	0.41	8.92	9.33	9.86	0.051	0.50	26.5	4.7
04-30	1168.0	1173.0	1500	2000	5.50	0.73	0.53	6.23	6.76	7.53	0.096	0.73	55.4	14.9
04-31	1170.0	1176.0	2400	1357	8.71	0.65	0.42	9.36	9.79	13.31	0.049	0.65	35.2	4.3
04-32	412.0	417.0	1600	1500	13.61	0.7	0.59	14.31	14.90	19.44	0.043	0.84	21.5	5.4
04-33	411.0	416.0	4559	1714	7.62	0.67	0.45	8.29	8.74	11.37	0.059	0.67	24.9	3.4
04-34	460.0	465.0	5500	3286	9.22	0.76	0.71	9.98	10.69	12.13	0.077	0.93	42.4	5.1
11-53	475.0	480.0	1765	1549	8.37	0.83	0.48	9.20	9.68	10.08	0.057	0.58	27.6	4.8
11-57	114.0	119.0	6200	3803	10.77	0.73	1.09	11.50	12.59	14.75	0.101	1.50	36.6	8.2

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2 *Table 6 continued.....*

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4 *LPGEM (Pd6-Pd4): from a lower cut-off of 100 ppb Pd+Pt to Pd+Pt low between Pd4a and Pd3b*

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6	89-02	191.0	218.0	2490	1559	22.52	2.29	1.01	24.80	25.81	9.83	0.045	0.44	66.1	12.2
7	89-03	245.0	267.0	1460	1588	16.31	1.88	1.27	18.19	19.46	8.69	0.078	0.67	69.2	18.0
8	89-04	258.0	283.0	1475	1588	15.34	1.71	1.59	17.05	18.64	8.97	0.103	0.93	73.1	19.1
9	89-06	144.0	173.0	4500	2735	22.16	2.14	2.03	24.30	26.32	10.37	0.092	0.95	92.4	28.9
10	89-09	473.0	495.6	1800	1324	16.68	1.76	0.81	18.44	19.25	9.45	0.049	0.46	59.0	9.8
11	90-10	429.0	457.6	340	2500	21.07	1.68	4.00	22.75	26.75	12.54	0.190	2.38	100.0	100.0
12	90-11	663.5	691.5	1970	1382	16.51	1.89	0.96	18.40	19.36	8.75	0.058	0.51	56.7	10.4
13	90-13	459.0	483.0	1300	1706	16.22	1.83	1.07	18.04	19.12	8.88	0.066	0.59	58.0	10.6
14	90-14	173.5	208.0	400	2559	17.57	1.63	4.09	19.19	23.28	10.80	0.233	2.51	100.0	100.0
15	90-17A	484.0	512.9	740	2118	19.50	1.92	1.08	21.42	22.49	10.18	0.055	0.56	88.1	19.9
16	90-18	998.3	1025.7	1200	1824	15.38	2.13	0.86	17.51	18.37	7.21	0.056	0.40	47.2	8.9
17	90-19	571.0	603.0	5270	1824	18.33	1.83	1.22	20.17	21.39	10.01	0.067	0.67	69.5	13.1
18	90-20	962.0	992.0	1860	2588	14.87	2.15	0.80	17.01	17.82	6.92	0.054	0.37	56.1	8.0
19	90-22	1020.0	1045.0	2690	1029	20.25	2.17	1.37	22.42	23.80	9.33	0.068	0.63	60.0	12.1
20	90-23A	794.0	822.0	6700	3441	19.12	1.74	3.90	20.87	24.76	10.98	0.204	2.24	100.0	100.0
21	90-24	1045.0	1070.0	3350	294	19.80	2.02	0.87	21.82	22.69	9.80	0.044	0.43	64.4	6.9
22	04-28A	461.0	484.0	5147	2273	15.90	1.46	0.90	17.36	18.26	10.91	0.056	0.62	60.2	12.5
23	04-30	1155.0	1175.9	1500	2000	10.37	1.30	0.90	11.67	12.57	7.95	0.087	0.69	96.7	72.6
24	04-31	1152.0	1184.5	2400	1357	23.29	2.10	2.02	25.39	27.69	11.06	0.099	1.09	68.5	9.5
25	04-32	399.0	425.0	1600	1500	26.89	1.50	2.50	28.39	30.89	17.93	0.093	1.67	45.1	9.2
26	04-33	396.0	425.0	4559	1714	19.35	1.90	1.63	21.25	22.88	10.21	0.084	0.86	67.6	18.4
27	04-34	450.0	477.0	5500	3286	19.10	2.09	1.70	21.19	22.89	9.14	0.089	0.81	92.9	71.7
28	11-53	465.0	490.0	1765	1549	18.79	2.11	1.28	20.90	22.18	8.91	0.068	0.61	70.6	17.6
29	11-57	98.0	127.0	6200	3803	18.20	1.87	5.35	20.07	25.41	9.76	0.294	2.87	77.6	19.6

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Table 6 continued.....

*Pd6 to Pd1/Au: Pd+Pt+Au from a lower to an upper cut-off of 100ppb Pd+Pt+Au****

7	89-02	163.0	218.0	2490	1559	34.45	3.06	8.25	37.51	45.76	11.26	0.239	2.70	100	100
8	89-03	230.0	267.0	1460	1588	24.00	2.30	7.03	26.30	33.33	10.42	0.293	3.05	100	100
9	89-04	251.2	283.0	1475	1588	21.19	2.15	8.31	23.34	31.64	9.85	0.392	3.86	100	100
10	89-06	138.0	173.0	4500	2735	24.00	2.30	7.03	26.30	33.33	10.42	0.293	3.05	100	100
11	89-09	444.8	495.6	1800	1324	28.87	2.41	8.04	31.28	39.32	11.97	0.279	3.34	100	100
12	90-10	429.0	457.6	340	2500	21.07	1.68	4.00	22.75	26.75	12.54	0.190	2.38	100	100
13	90-11	635.8	691.5	1970	1382	29.77	2.68	9.22	32.45	41.67	11.10	0.310	3.44	100	100
14	90-13	421.0	483.0	1300	1706	28.39	2.71	10.10	31.10	41.19	10.48	0.356	3.73	100	100
15	90-14	173.5	208.0	400	2559	17.57	1.63	4.09	19.19	23.28	10.80	0.233	2.51	100	100
16	90-17A	471.6	512.9	740	2118	22.13	2.17	5.41	24.30	29.71	10.18	0.244	2.49	100	100
17	90-18	946.0	1025.7	1200	1824	33.82	3.30	9.61	37.12	46.72	10.25	0.284	2.91	100	100
18	90-19	551.0	603.0	5270	1824	26.62	2.40	9.33	29.02	38.35	11.12	0.351	3.90	100	100
19	90-20	935.0	992.0	1860	2588	27.40	2.93	10.04	30.32	40.37	9.36	0.367	3.43	100	100
20	90-22	978.0	1045.0	2690	1029	34.21	3.16	11.34	37.37	48.71	10.82	0.331	3.59	100	100
21	90-23A	794.0	822.0	6700	3441	19.12	1.74	3.90	20.87	24.76	10.98	0.204	2.24	100	100
22	90-24	1018.0	1070.0	3350	294	31.15	2.75	12.67	33.89	46.56	11.34	0.407	4.61	100	100
23	04-28A	436.0	484.0	5147	2273	23.31	2.04	9.44	25.34	34.79	11.45	0.405	4.64	100	100
24	04-30	1121.0	1175.9	1500	2000	26.72	2.31	9.79	29.03	38.81	11.57	0.366	4.24	100	100
25	04-31	1110.0	1184.5	2400	1357	34.78	2.80	12.48	37.58	50.06	12.40	0.359	4.45	100	100
26	04-32	371.0	425.0	1600	1500	32.00	2.02	11.46	34.02	45.48	15.84	0.358	5.67	100	100
27	04-33	377.0	425.0	4559	1714	27.69	2.40	9.29	30.09	39.38	11.56	0.335	3.88	100	100
28	04-34	419.0	477.0	5500	3286	24.61	2.68	8.67	27.29	35.96	9.18	0.352	3.24	100	100
29	11-53	433.0	490.0	1765	1549	31.76	2.95	10.25	34.71	44.96	10.77	0.323	3.47	100	100
30	11-57	89.0	127.0	6200	3803	18.52	2.22	7.36	20.74	28.10	8.34	0.397	3.32	100	100

*Grade times width (g*w) is the average grade over a given stratigraphic interval in grams/ton multiplied by its height in metres.

**Exception: Drill core 04-28A from which the lower part of Pd5 is missing and core 31 in which Pd5 is cut by a dike.

***With the exception of 90-18 that has an Au concentration in Au+1 elevated ~ 12 meters above the Au/Pd1. See text for further information.

Table 7. Bulk rock ((Pd+Pt+Au)/Cu)*1000 ratios in Pd5 relative to peak concentration (1-m averages)

Drill core	PRL 11-57	PRL08-35A*	90-23A*	SKM 04-34	90-14*	SKM 04-30	90-18*	90-22**	SKM 04-32	PRL11-53	SKM 04-28A	SKM 04-31	SKM 04-33	90-24*	
	East margin			West margin			SW sector		Central part of intrusion						
Depth (m) relative to Pd5 peak	((Pd+Pt+Au)/Cu) * 1000														
4.0	3.77	3.10	1.74	2.71	-	9.17	-	2.17	4.69	4.98	4.61	6.76	7.02	-	
3.0	3.66	6.30	-	1.71	-	7.84	-	3.22	7.26	8.32	5.35	11.9	6.72	-	
2.0	7.58	11.00	-	4.55	-	7.47	-	7.93	12.70	15.35	9.61	8.79	10.62	-	
1.0	12.33	15.00	10.48	11.10	-	11.30	-	13.54	21.26	20.63	20.43	23.52	21.36	-	
0.0	13.33	16.00	-	17.21	14.29	16.11	18.15	16.53	19.35	20.62	22.09	25.15	27.67	29.49	
-1.0	11.36	12.40	-	14.89	-	13.33	-	15.90	18.24	16.61	14.48	15.82	19.72	-	
-2.0	6.94	8.50	8.69	13.61	-	8.83	-	9.10	18.22	11.67	10.29	11.91	13.26	-	
-3.0	7.18	6.70	6.67	7.33	-	6.53	-	7.97	14.82	8.96	7.50	9.09	10.52	-	
-4.0	6.69	-	-	5.15	-	7.36	-	5.79	10.64	7.61	8.66	8.41	8.66	-	
-5.0	6.55	-	-	5.16	-	7.04	-	4.86	7.87	9.87	7.51	8.70	8.88	-	
-6.0	6.30	-	-	4.96	-	-	-	4.58	6.14	8.55	7.67	8.76	1.46	-	
-7.0	5.65	-	-	4.53	-	-	-	3.22	6.17	10.59	6.67	9.24	10.38	-	
-8.0	3.48	-	-	5.00	-	-	-	5.08	5.51	8.75	4.54	6.94	8.33	-	

* No systematic Cu determinations. Cu values from samples collected at intervals (J.C.Ø Andersen, unpublished).

**All data are based on 1-m averages and are +/- 0.5 m in elevation. In Fig. 10 the data for 90-22 have been moved up 0.5 m to align the Pd5 peak.

Table 8: Summary of the first six principal components from the PCA

Principal component	PC1	PC2	PC3	PC4	PC5	PC6
Eigenvalues	6.26	3.68	1.32	0.76	0.63	0.46
Proportion of total variance (%)	44.75	26.30	9.40	5.44	4.56	3.28
Cumulative proportion of total variance (%)	44.75	71.05	80.45	85.89	90.46	93.73
Eigenvectors (loadings)						
Ti	0.19	-0.39	-0.08	0.06	-0.48	0.14
Fe ³⁺	0.18	-0.38	0.19	-0.18	-0.07	-0.08
P	0.14	0.32	-0.43	0.07	-0.44	-0.28
Pd	-0.35	-0.11	-0.28	-0.14	0.01	0.10
Pt	-0.34	-0.06	-0.15	0.44	0.24	-0.05
Au	-0.19	0.21	0.48	-0.59	-0.22	-0.06
V	0.11	-0.46	-0.06	-0.07	0.29	0.04
Cu	0.22	0.00	0.54	0.49	-0.02	-0.46
Zn	0.26	-0.38	-0.06	-0.16	0.06	0.02
Y	0.34	0.09	-0.08	-0.17	0.46	-0.17
Zr	0.36	-0.03	-0.12	0.10	-0.31	0.11
Ce	0.30	0.26	-0.18	-0.13	0.11	-0.02
Nd	0.35	0.21	-0.14	-0.15	0.23	-0.08
Pb	0.23	0.26	0.25	0.22	0.07	0.79

Details of analysis and method in text and EA14