

Characteristics of Fluid Inclusions and Metallogenesis of Annage Gold Deposit in Qinghai Province, China

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Abstract

The Annage gold deposit is located at the east part of the eastern Kunlun orogenic belt. The characteristics of ore-forming fluids and metallogenesis were discussed by using fluid petrography, micro-thermometry and hydrogen-oxygen isotope analysis. Three stages, namely quartz-pyrite stage (A), quartz-polymetallic-sulfide stage (B) and quartz-ankerite stage (C) were included in the hydrothermal process as indicated by the results of this study. Inclusions developed in ore-bearing quartz veins from stages A and B are of three types: aqueous inclusions (type I), CO₂-bearing inclusions (type II) and pure CO₂ inclusions (type III). All three types of inclusions, mainly type I, are presented in stage A, having homogenization temperatures at 180°C - 360°C, and salinities ranging from 0.53% to 21.44%. In addition to development of type I inclusions, type II and III inclusions increase significantly in stage B, with homogenization temperatures ranging from 160°C to 330°C, and salinities are from 1.32% to 22.01%. Based on micro-thermometry, fluids in Annage deposit are of H₂O-NaCl-CO₂ type with medium-high temperature (140°C - 395°C) and medium-low salinity (0.53% - 22.01%). Results of hydrogen-oxygen isotope analysis show that ore-forming fluid is mainly CO₂-rich magmatic fluid, mixed with shallow groundwater or metamorphic hydrothermal in the late mineralization stages. Calculated metallogenic pressures are in the range of 79 - 130MPa corresponding to a maximum depth of 4.8 km. The Annage deposit is a mesothermal quartz vein type gold deposit.

Keywords

Fluid Inclusions, Hydrogen-Oxygen Isotope, Ore-Forming Fluid, Metallogenesis, Annage, China

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1. Introduction

The Annage gold deposit is a typical deposit located at the central subzone of eastern Kunlun polymetallic metallogenic belt in Qinghai province, China. Intensive tectonic and magmatic activities occurred in this region, forming a series of mines with abundant resources and various genetic types. The geological characteristics, genesis and ore-forming fluids of typical deposits in this region have been the subjects of several previous studies. Based on analysis of REE, trace elements, sulfur and lead isotope, Hu [1] indicated that ore-forming temperature of Guoluolongwa gold deposit was from medium-high to medium-low, and mineralization fluids derive from deep magmatic hydrothermal rich in SO_4^{2-} and Cl^- . Zou [2] demonstrates that Guoluolongwa gold deposit is of mesothermal type which is related to Variscan-Indosinian intermediate-acidic magmatism. Ding [3] points out ore-forming fluid in Guoluolongwa deposit is the mixture of metamorphic hydrothermal with high temperature, low salinity, high density of CO_2 and magmatic hydrothermal with low temperature, medium-high salinity, and interfused with meteoric water in the late. According to geological characteristics, Qi [4] considered the Asiha gold mine as a typical fracture zone type deposit. On basis of geochemistry of wall rock and ore body, fluid inclusions as well as hydrogen and oxygen isotope, Li [5] reports that ore-forming fluid of Asiha deposit is mainly CO_2 -rich mantle-derived magmatic hydrothermal.

Few previous studies on deposit characteristics, mineral resources of Annage gold mine have been reported, and its metallogenic mechanism, especially as it pertains to the characteristics of ore fluids, remain unclear. An investigation of the metallogenic mechanism and the evolution of the ore fluids are important for ore exploration and understanding the ore-formation process. Fluid inclusions can provide abundant information on the genetic and evolutionary history of ore formation and thus play an important role in ore geology research [6]. This paper focuses on microthermometric studies and hydrogen-oxygen isotope analysis of fluid inclusions from the main mineralization episode, with an aim to characterize the thermal and compositional evolution of hydrothermal fluids and to discuss their implications for mineralization. The evolution of hydrothermal system is discussed in terms of fluid composition and temperature, with particular emphasis on the implications for fluid sources and metal deposition mechanisms [6] [7].

2. Geologic Setting

The study area is located at the east part of eastern Kunlun orogenic belt, and the belt is characterized by the complex processes of cracking, archipelagic ocean formation, subduction, soft collision and polycyclic orogeny in tectonic evolution [8]. Its evolution history can be divided into Precambrian, Caledonian, Variscan-Indosinian and Yanshanian-Himalayan [9]. The outcropping rocks of the study area comprise the Palaeoproterozoic Baishahe Formation (Pt_1b), Paleozoic Ordovician-Silurian Nachitai Group (O-SN), Permian Ma'er'zheng Formation (P_1m), and Quaternary sediments (Q) (Figure 1). Regional-scale structures in the eastern Kunlun district are dominantly EW fractures, including northern Kunlun fault, middle Kunlun fault, and southern Kunlun fault [5] [10].

The lithologies of ore field mainly include Palaeoproterozoic Baishahe Formation (Pt_1b), the lower Paleozoic Nachitai Group (O-SN) and Quaternary sediments (Q) (Figure 2). Baishahe Formation and Nachitai Group are the main ore-hosting rocks. Baishahe formation is a set of high greenschist-granulite facies metamorphic rocks dominantly composed of mica-quartz schist, marble and amphibolite; whereas Nachitai Group is a set of epimetamorphic rock series consist of chlorite phyllite, leptynite, siliceous slate, and metacryst tuff [10].

The fault structures comprise the EW large-scale shear belt and its secondary faults which can be divided into EW, NW and SN faults. The EW shear zone exposes a large scale, and spans more than 5 km with a width of 30 - 80 m and steeply southwards with an inclination of 70° - 80° . The most significant ore-controlling structures are the EW faults, which constrain the shape of ore bodies. The late-formed NW faults with small sizes may have damage effect on ore bodies. The NS faults suffer late dynamic modification and hydrothermal alteration, and take control of the occurrence of some gold belts.

Magmatic activity in this area exhibits multicycle and multistage features, magmatic rocks are mainly Variscan-Indosinian intermediate-acid intrusions composed of plagioclase granite, adamellite and granodiorite [12].

3. Ore Body Characteristics

Ore bodies with two types of mineralization are developed in the gold deposit: the quartz vein type and the al-

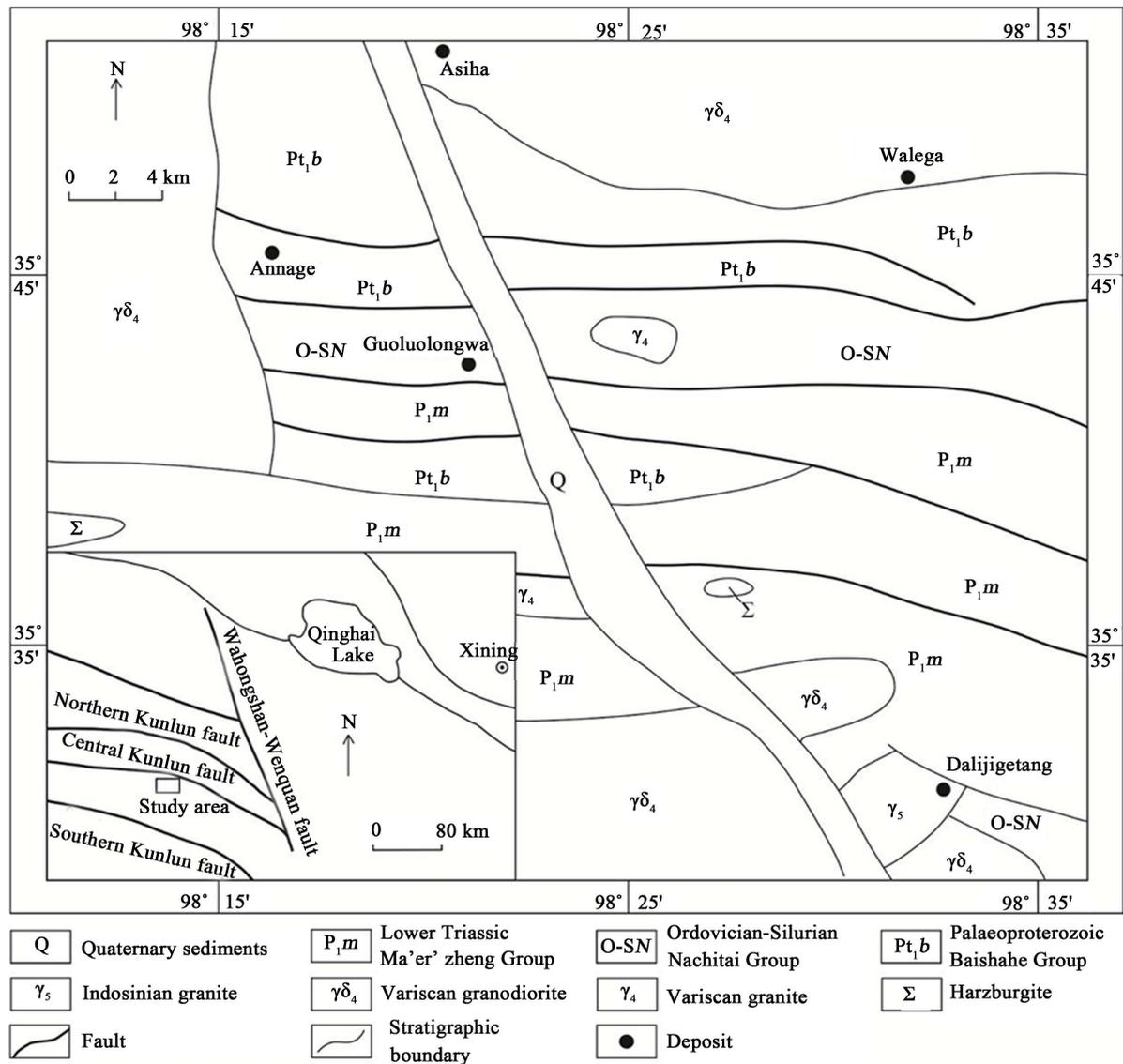


Figure 1. Regional geological map of Gouli area in Qinghai Province (modified from Zou [2]).

tered rock type, dominated by the former. Ore bodies are characterized by various sizes, and are mainly in vein and lenticular forms.

Quartz vein type ore bodies composed of multiple quartz veins are usually in parallel vein forms (Figure 3(a) and Figure 3(b)). The quartz veins are mainly in cataclastic forms with a thickness range from 1 - 2 cm to 80 cm for a single vein, and are interspersed by late quartz-sulfide veins, veinlets or stockworks. Few ankerites are visible on both sides of quartz veins and within the veins, forming quartz-carbonate-sulfide veins (Figure 3(c)).

Altered rock type ore bodies are generally formed nearby the quartz vein type ones, within the wall rocks between quartz veins or appear alone. Main alteration types are silicification, sericitization and pyritization (Figure 3(d)).

The main ore minerals are micro-, fine-grained native gold, pyrite, chalcopyrite, galena and sphalerite, supergene minerals include ceruloplasmin, limonite and malachite. Coarse-grained gold is formed through leaching and polymerization. The gangue minerals are mainly quartz, followed by calcite, muscovite, epidote, sericite. The textures of ores are mostly euhedral-subhedral, xenomorphic granular and interstitial textures, while ore structures are relatively simple, including massive, disseminated and stockwork structures.

Wall rock alterations are dominated by silicification, sericitization, pyritization, chloritization, epidotization,

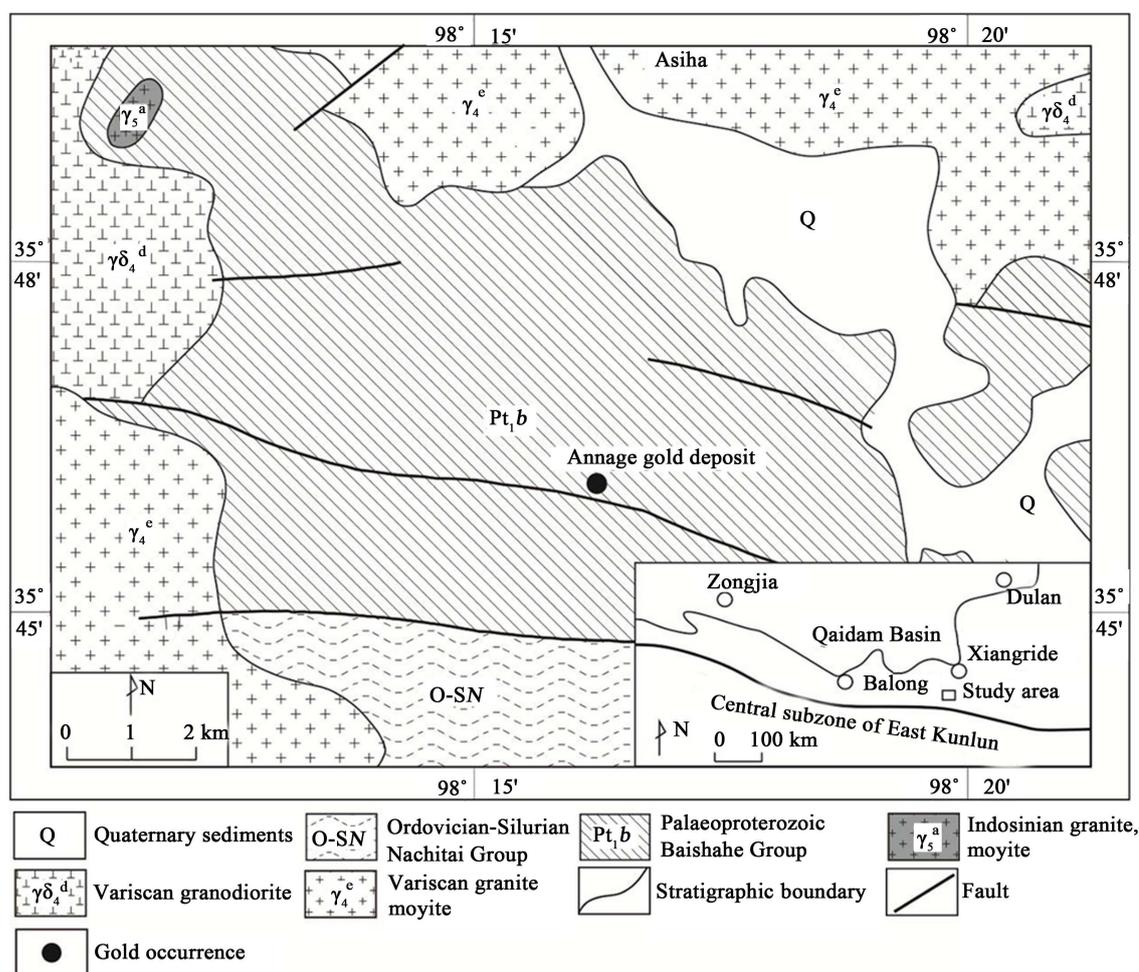


Figure 2. Geological map of the Annage gold deposit [11].

and carbonatization, among which silicification and pyritization are closely related to gold mineralization.

The Annage gold deposit experienced multiperiod mineralizations. On the basis of ore fabrics, mineralogical assemblage, and crosscutting relationships, the mineralization processes can be divided into three stages: quartz-pyrite stage (A), quartz-polymetallic-sulfide stage (B) and quartz-ankerite stage (C).

Quartz-pyrite stage (A): stage A is characterized by development of subhedral-anhedral fine-grained pyrite veinlets, and transparent quartz veinlets. In this stage, pyrite in the veins is present in coarse-grained euhedral to subhedral form, and a small amount of visible gold mineralization is observed.

Quartz-polymetallic-sulfide stage (B): stage B is the main mineralization stage and is represented by an assemblage of quartz, pyrite, chalcopyrite, galena and sphalerite. Pyrite in veins of this stage is always intergrown with other metal sulfides and is mainly in colloidal forms. Significant gold mineralization can be observed in this stage.

Quartz-ankerite stage (C): stage C is characterized by the mineralogical assemblage of calcite-ankerite-carbonate, which indicates that ore-forming fluid activities were weakening and ending. The quartz-ankerite veins sometimes contain small amount of metal sulfides. Ankerite is observed on both sides of the veinlets. Hydrothermal alterations are mainly kaolinization and carbonatization in this stage.

4. Methods

4.1. Fluid Inclusion Microthermometry

All samples used in this study were systematically collected from tunnel and trench of Annage deposit. Doubly

polished thick sections (0.06 - 0.08 mm thick), representing different locations, ore types and stages, were prepared for fluid inclusion study. These sections were studied first for petrography to establish the relative timing of minerals, and then used for fluid inclusion micro-thermometry. Twelve of them were finally selected for heating and freezing measurements. These samples, with well-developed inclusions in quartz, provide information on the conditions of mineralization during the mineralization stages A and B. Fluid inclusions were carefully observed to identify their genetic and compositional types, vapor-liquid ratios and spatial clustering. Sample features and locations are shown in **Table 1**.

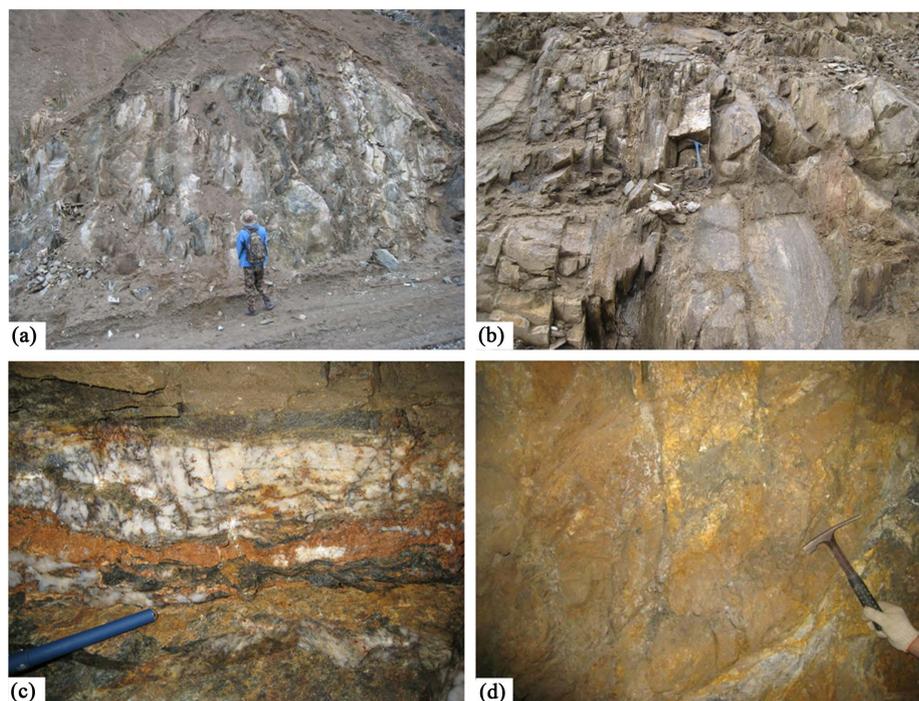


Figure 3. Ore body characteristics of Annage deposit. (a) Fracture zone of central ore vein; (b) Quartz vein type ore body; (c) Ore bodies with parallel composite morphology; (d) Altered rock type ore body.

Table 1. Characteristics and locations of samples studied for microthermometry.

No.	Sample No.	Location	Description	Stage
1	B-12	Mining tunnel of AuI belt	Ore-bearing quartz vein	B
2	B-13	Mining tunnel of AuI belt	Ore-bearing quartz vein	A
3	B-14	Mining tunnel of AuII belt	Ore-bearing quartz vein	A
4	B-15	Mining tunnel of AuII belt	Ore-bearing quartz vein	A
5	An-6	Trench of AuI belt	Pyrite-bearing quartz vein	B
6	An-8	Trench of AuII belt	Pyrite-bearing quartz vein	B
7	An-12	Trench of AuII belt	Milonitic ore-bearing quartz vein	A
8	An-14	Trench of AuII belt	Ore-bearing quartz vein	B
9	Gak-2	3710 middle of AuII belt	Quartz vein containing pyrite, galena	B
10	Gak-3	3711 middle of AuII belt	Quartz vein containing pyrite, galena	B
11	Gak-4	3712 middle of AuII belt	Quartz vein containing pyrite, galena	B
12	Gap1-12	Outcrop of AuI belt	Ore-bearing quartz vein	A

Micro-thermometric measurements were performed using the Linkam THMS 600 heating-freezing stage in the laboratory of fluid inclusions of Central South University. The stage, which was calibrated by using synthetic fluid inclusions, has a maximum temperature limit of 600°C and a minimum temperature limit of -196°C. The estimated precisions of the measurements are $\pm 0.1^\circ\text{C}$ and $\pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ for freezing and heating, respectively. The heating/freezing rate generally ranged from 0.2°C/min to 5°C/min but decreased to $<0.2^\circ\text{C}/\text{min}$ near phase transformation.

The measurements include freezing temperatures (T_f), incipient melting temperatures of ice ($T_{i\text{-ice}}$), ice melting temperatures ($T_{m\text{-ice}}$), CO₂ melting temperatures ($T_{m\text{-CO}_2}$), clathrate melting temperatures ($T_{m\text{-cla}}$), homogenization temperatures of CO₂ ($T_{h\text{-CO}_2}$), and total homogenization temperatures (T_h). Salinities of NaCl-H₂O, and CO₂-bearing FIs were estimated by the final ice melting temperatures and clathrate melting temperatures of CO₂ clathrate, respectively, by using the equation of Brown and Lamb [13] in the computer program of FLINCOR [14].

4.2. Hydrogen–Oxygen Isotope Analysis

Four samples (An-2, An-6, An-8, An-14) from quartz-polymetallic-sulfide veins in stage B were used to identify the oxygen and hydrogen isotope compositions of quartz. Hydrogen and oxygen isotope analyses were measured on a MAT-253 mass spectrometer at IGGCAS. Quartz samples were hand-picked and/or separated by using a magnetic separator. Oxygen was liberated from quartz by reaction with BrF₅ [15] and converted to CO₂ on a platinum-coated carbon rod. The hydrogen isotopic compositions of the fluid inclusions were analyzed on the samples. Samples were first degassed of labile volatiles by being heated under a vacuum at 150°C for 3 h. Water was converted to hydrogen by passage over heated zinc powder at 410°C [16]. Stable isotope data for hydrogen and oxygen are expressed in the standard δ notation as per million (‰) relative to standard mean ocean water (SMOW). The precision of measurements for stable isotopes was $\pm 0.2\text{‰}$ for $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\pm 2\text{‰}$ for δD .

5. Results

5.1. Fluid Inclusion Microthermometry

5.1.1. Fluid Inclusion Petrography

Well-developed primary inclusions are observed in mineralization quartz veins from stages A and B. According to the nature of phase relationships at room temperature and phase transitions during heating and cooling, three types of fluid inclusions can be recognized (Figure 4), namely aqueous inclusion (type I), CO₂-bearing inclusion (type II) and pure CO₂ inclusion (type III). We describe these as follows:

Type I: aqueous inclusions. Type I fluid inclusions are aqueous inclusions with a bubble at room temperature (20°C) (Figure 4(a)), homogenize to liquid phase and account for 65% of all inclusions. They are randomly distributed in quartz and coexisting with type II and type III inclusions, 2 - 21 μm in diameter, and elliptical, irregular or long strip in shape. They also have variable vapor/liquid ratios ranging from 8% to 60%, mainly in a range of 15% - 30%.

Type II: CO₂-bearing inclusions. These are present as three-phase (vapor CO₂ + liquid CO₂ + liquid H₂O; Figure 4(b)) inclusions, and account for 20% of all inclusions. These inclusions are distributed in quartz isolated or in groups, 3 - 12 μm in diameter, irregular or elliptical in shape and can be divided into two subtypes based on the phase assemblages and homogenization behavior. Subtype IIa inclusions contain two carbon dioxide phases (liquid and vapor, which homogenize to liquid or vapor) and an aqueous phase at room temperature ($C/T < 50\%$), homogenize by disappearance of the CO₂ phase, whereas subtype IIb fluid inclusions are characterized by a large carbon dioxide bubble (one or two) and a minor aqueous phase ($C/T > 50\%$), with total homogenization by expansion of the CO₂ phase.

Type III: pure CO₂ inclusions. Type III inclusions are present as two CO₂ phases (liquid and vapor) at room temperature (Figure 4(c)), and account for 15% of all inclusions. These inclusions are commonly distributed in groups, and coexist with the other inclusion types (Figure 4(d)). They are variable in shape, including irregular and elliptical, with sizes mainly of 3 - 8 μm .

5.1.2. Microthermometric Results

Twelve of these samples were selected for heating and freezing measurements, and 223 fluid inclusions were

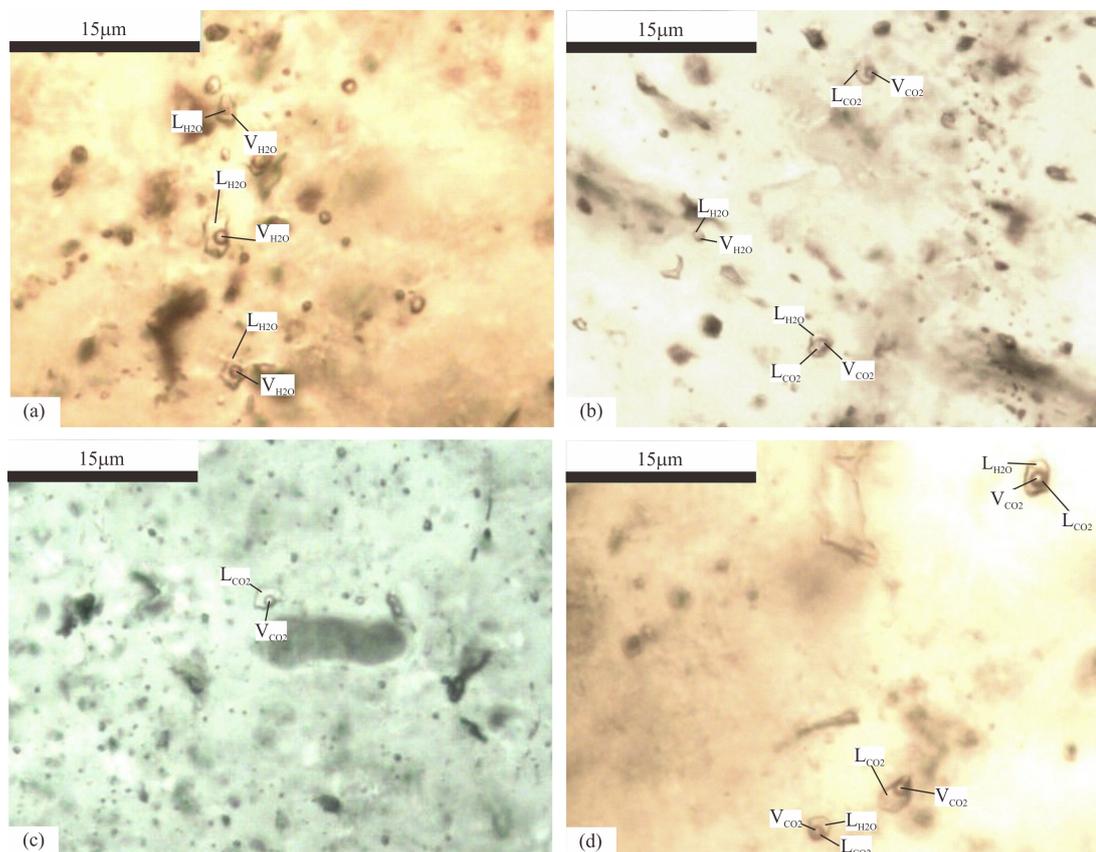


Figure 4. Microphotographs of fluid inclusions in the Anage gold deposit. (a) Aqueous inclusions (type I); (b) Type I inclusions coexist with type II, type III inclusions; (c) Pure CO₂ inclusions (type III); (d) Type II inclusions coexist with type III inclusions. Abbr: LH₂O-liquid H₂O; VH₂O-vapor H₂O; LCO₂-liquid CO₂; VCO₂-vapor CO₂.

measured. The microthermometric results for mineralization stages A and B are summarized in **Table 2** and illustrated in histograms of homogenization temperature and salinity (**Figure 5**).

(1) Stage A

All three types of inclusions are present in quartz of stage A and a total of 83 are measured, among which 64 are type I inclusions, 12 are type IIa inclusions and 7 are type III inclusions.

Type I: The freezing temperatures of type I inclusions range from -69.6°C to -37.9°C , and first melting temperatures range from -34.7°C to -21.4°C . The final ice melting temperatures range from -17.8°C to -0.3°C , with calculated salinities from 0.53% to 10.82% (wt% NaCl equiv.) (**Figure 5(b)**). The inclusions are totally homogenized to liquid at 180°C - 352°C , clustering around 180°C - 300°C (**Figure 5(a)**).

Type II: Type IIa inclusions are found in stage A. The freezing temperature of CO₂ ranges from -99.8°C to -88.7°C . All type IIa fluid inclusions are homogenized by disappearance of the CO₂ phase at temperatures ranging from 268°C to 366°C (**Figure 5(a)**), with the most carbonic phases being homogenized to liquid at temperatures from -3.2°C to 30.5°C and two to vapor at 29.6°C and 29.9°C , respectively. The melting temperatures of the solid range from -57.0°C to -59.2°C , below the triple-phase point (-56.5°C) of CO₂, suggesting minor amounts of dissolved components in the carbonic phase [17]. Clathrate melting occurs in the interval from -10.0°C to 8.8°C , with corresponding salinities between 2.39% and 21.44% (**Figure 5(b)**).

Type III: The freezing temperatures of CO₂ range from -99.5°C to -85.2°C , and melting temperatures of solid from -58.1°C to -57.6°C . Fluid inclusions are totally homogenized to liquid at temperatures ranging from 4.5°C to 25.1°C .

(2) Stage B

All three types of inclusions are well-developed in quartz of stage B and a total of 140 are measured. Type II and III inclusions are much more than those of stage A.

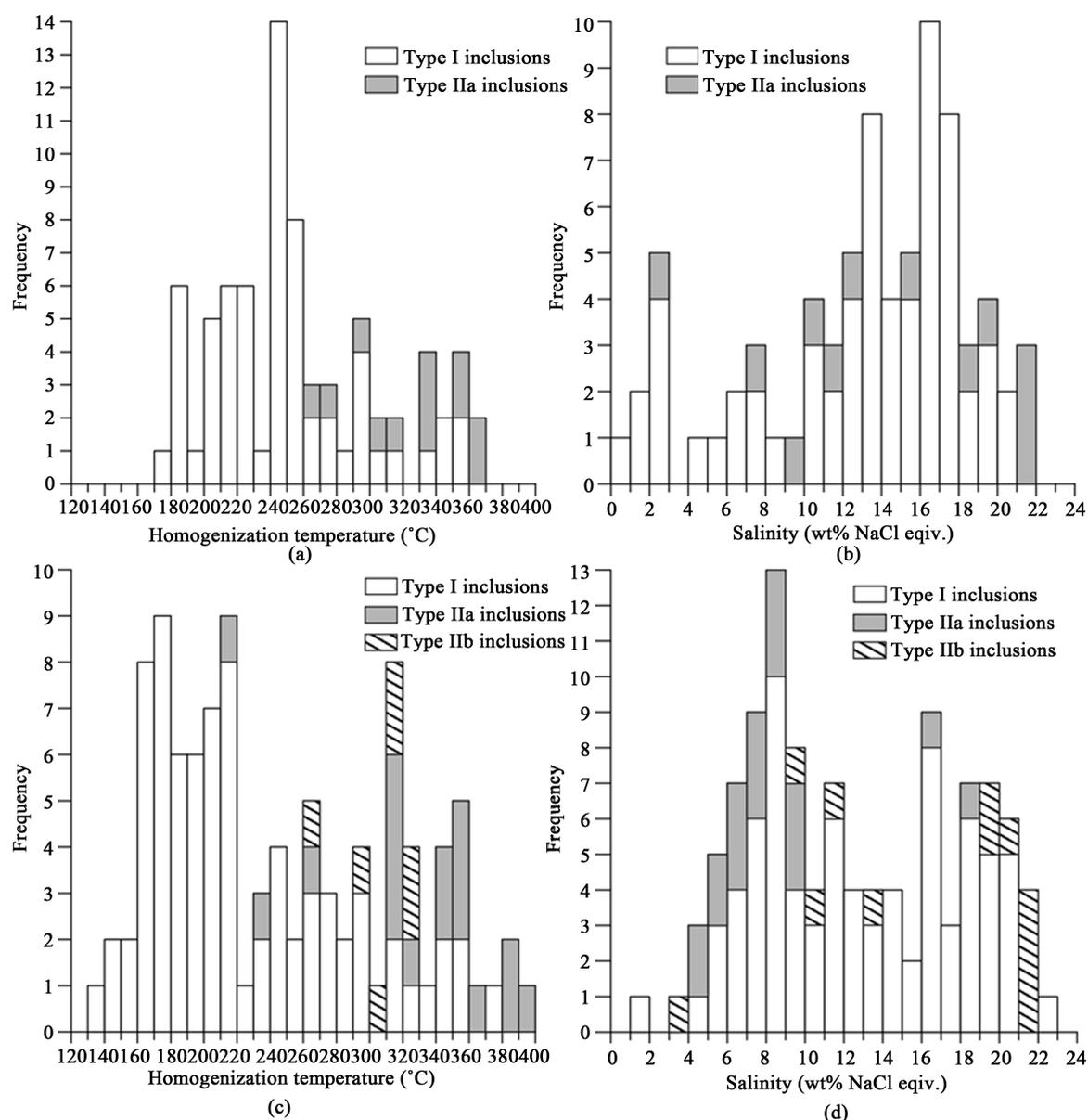


Figure 5. Histograms of homogenization temperature and salinities of fluid inclusions in different stages. (a) Quartz-pyrite stage homogenization temperatures; (b) Quartz-pyrite stage salinities; (c) Quartz-polymetallic sulfide stage homogenization temperatures; (d) Quartz-polymetallic sulfide stage salinities.

Type I: The freezing temperatures of type I inclusions range from -63.5°C to -37.7°C , and first melting temperatures range from -33.8°C to -21.3°C . Their final ice melting temperatures range from -19.5°C to -0.8°C , yielding salinities of 1.32% - 22.01% (Figure 5(d)). The inclusions are totally homogenized to liquid at 140°C - 380°C , concentrating in the range of 160–250°C (Figure 5(c)).

Type II: Type IIa and IIb inclusions are observed in stage B. The freezing temperatures of CO_2 range from -106.3°C to -87.5°C . All FIs are homogenized at temperatures ranging from 196°C to 395°C (Figure 5(c)), with the most carbonic phases being homogenized to liquid at temperatures from -3.2°C to 29.5°C and one to vapor at 29.5°C . Melting temperatures of CO_2 range from -59.6°C to -55.6°C . Clathrate melting temperatures range from -9.8°C to 8.3°C , corresponding to calculated salinities from 3.33% to 21.41% (Figure 5(d)).

Type III: The freezing temperatures of CO_2 range from -102.4°C to -81.5°C , and melting temperatures of CO_2 range from -59.6°C to -55.6°C . Fluid inclusions are homogenized to liquid from -7.9°C to 25.5°C .

Table 2. Microthermometric data of fluid inclusions in the Annage gold deposit.

Sample No.	Stage	Type	Counts	Size/ μm	V/T(C/T)/% (20°C)	T _{m(CO₂)} /°C	T _{m(ice)} /°C	T _{m(cla)} /°C	T _{h(CO₂)} /°C	T _h /°C	Salinity/(%)	Density/(g/cm ³)
B-12	B	I	20	2 - 6	10 - 30		-7.8 - -3.7			167 - 274	6.01 - 11.46	0.85 - 0.99
B-13	A	I	19	2 - 10	15 - 30		-17.8 - -2.6			182 - 343	4.34 - 20.82	0.82 - 1.04
		IIa	1	5	40	-58.6		-9.7	29.6(V)	355	21.44	0.33
B-14	A	I	25	2 - 8	15 - 30		-17.6 - -0.8			180 - 267	1.40 - 20.67	0.80 - 1.01
		IIa	2	4 - 6	40 - 50	-58.5 - -58.1		-9.3 - -10.0	12.1 - 24.8	356 - 366	21.34 - 21.44	0.72 - 0.85
		III	3	4 - 8	15 - 35	-57.8 - -57.6			4.5 - 24.1			0.73 - 0.90
B-15	A	I	15	2 - 8	15 - 60		-15.6 - -0.3			184 - 351	0.53 - 19.13	0.57 - 0.99
		IIa	7	4 - 6	45 - 75	-59.2 - -57.9		-5.0 - 8.8	29.9(V) - 30.5	298 - 364	2.39 - 19.68	0.34 - 0.60
		III	4	4 - 7	15 - 35	-58.1 - -57.8			24.2 - 25.1			0.71 - 0.72
An-6	B	I	16	5 - 17	8 - 20		-17.2 - -4.9			153 - 273	7.68 - 20.35	0.85 - 1.06
		IIa	5	5 - 8	15 - 20	-57.6 - -56.9		5.2 - 7.0	10.4 - 28.5	220 - 321	5.68 - 8.66	0.64 - 0.86
An-8	B	I	32	4 - 21	10 - 60		-19.5 - -8.2			140 - 380	11.94 - 22.01	0.77 - 1.07
		IIa	2	8 - 10	30	-56.9		-0.5 - 2.5	24.1 - 25.2	353	12.55 - 16.05	0.71 - 0.72
An-12	A	IIa	2	9 - 11	18 - 30	-58.0 - -57.0		3.0 - 5.8	27.2 - 29.5	268 - 280	7.70 - 11.88	0.62 - 0.67
An-14	B	IIa	11	7 - 12	20 - 60	-58.1 - -57.0		4.5 - 7.8	14.5 - 29.5	320 - 395	4.26 - 9.74	0.62 - 0.83
		I	6	3 - 6	20 - 45		-13.6 - -0.8			172 - 346	1.32 - 17.42	0.67 - 0.95
		IIb	3	3 - 5	50 - 75	-58.5 - -56.9		-4.0 - -0.7	22.8 - 29.5(V)	263 - 346(C)	16.26 - 19.00	0.33 - 0.74
Ak-2	B	III	3	3 - 8	20 - 35	-55.6 - -58.3			15.5 - 25.4			0.71 - 0.82
		I	2	3	25 - 55		-5.4 - -5.3			196 - 222	8.24 - 8.38	0.91 - 0.93
		IIb	4	3 - 5	50 - 70	-59.5 - -58.2		-9.8 - -8.3	-3.2 - 13.5		3.33 - 21.41	0.83 - 0.95
Ak-3	B	III	14	3 - 5	15 - 45	-59.6 - -58.1			-7.9 - 25.1			0.31 - 0.97
		IIb	8	4 - 6	45 - 85	-59.5 - -58.3		-9.8 - 4.4	6.3 - 29.5	270 - 330(C)	9.89 - 21.41	0.62 - 0.89
Ak-4	B	III	12	3 - 5	20 - 55	-59.3 - -58.3			9.5 - 25.5			0.70 - 0.87
Apl-12	A	I	4	45		-13.6				352	17.42	0.85

Notes: All host minerals are quartz; V/T(C/T)-vapor (CO₂)/total ratio; T_{m(CO₂)}-melting temperature of CO₂; T_{m(ice)}-melting temperature of ice; T_{m(cla)}-melting temperature of clathrate CO₂; T_{h(CO₂)}-homogenization temperature of CO₂, V-homogenize to CO₂ vapor phase, others all homogenize to CO₂ liquid phase; T_h-homogenization temperature, C-homogenize to carbon phase, others all homogenize to aqueous phase.

5.2. Hydrogen–Oxygen Isotope Characteristics

The hydrogen-oxygen isotope analysis results of four quartz samples from stage B are present in **Table 3**. The $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values of quartz and δD values of fluids are from 10.6×10^{-3} to 12.9×10^{-3} and from -83.8×10^{-3} to -72.3×10^{-3} , respectively (**Figure 6**).

Using the equation $1000\ln\alpha = 3.38 \times (10^6/T^2) - 3.40$ of Clayton [19] and the corresponding fluid inclusions homogenization temperatures T of the samples, we can calculate oxygen isotopic compositions of the ore-forming fluids from quartz and the $\delta\text{D}_{\text{V-SMOW}}$ values of the extracted waters for quartz samples. Overall average homogenization temperature of FIs in Annage deposit was measured as 330°C, taking $T = 603$ K. The calculated $\delta^{18}\text{OH}_2\text{O}$ values of fluids are from 4.2×10^{-3} to 6.5×10^{-3} .

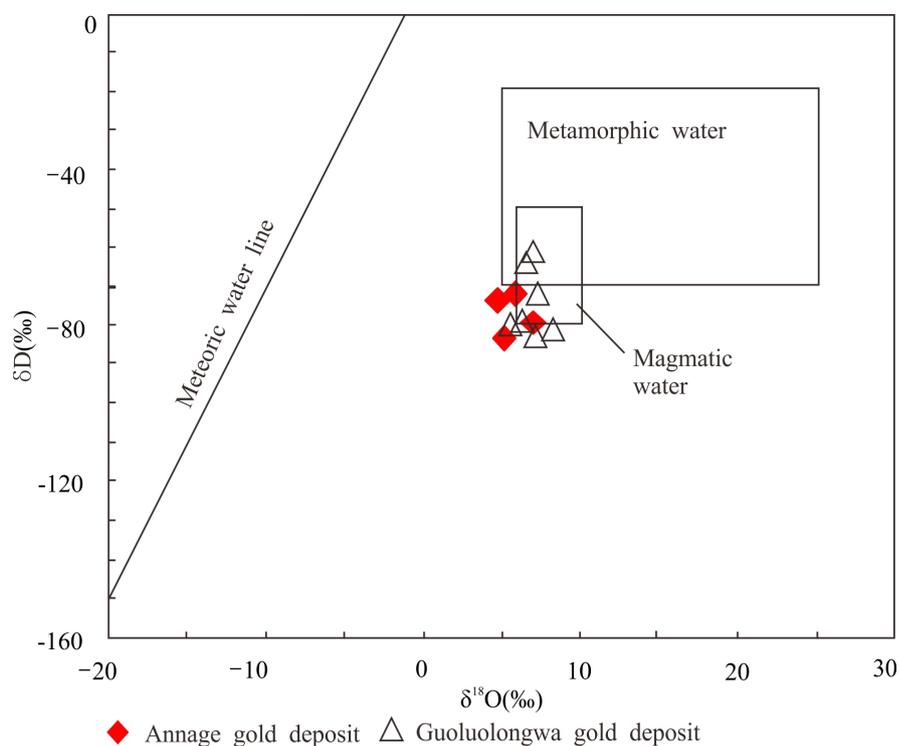


Figure 6. δD - $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ diagram of the ore-forming fluids in Annage deposit (According to Sheppard [18]) (Data of Guoluolongwa gold deposit is from Ding [3]).

Table 3. Hydrogen-oxygen isotope compositions of Annage gold deposit.

Sample No.	Mineral	Location	Description	$\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{V-SMOW}}$ (‰)	$\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ (‰)	$\delta^{18}\text{D}_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ (‰)
An-2	Quartz	AuIII belt	Ore-bearing quartz vein	12.9	7.0	-79.2
An-6	Quartz	AuI belt	Ore-bearing quartz vein	11.0	5.1	-83.3
An-8	Quartz	AuII belt	Ore-bearing quartz vein	10.6	4.7	-74.0
An-14	Quartz	AuII belt	Ore-bearing quartz vein	11.7	5.8	-72.3

6. Discussion

6.1. Characteristics of Ore-Forming Fluid

According to microthermometric data, different types of inclusions with variable vapor/total ratios coexist in the mineralized quartz veins of Annage deposit, reflecting the heterogeneous state of fluid during inclusions capture [19] [20].

Histograms of homogenization temperatures and salinities (Figure 5) and diagram of homogenization temperatures versus salinities (Figure 7) indicate a wide range of homogenization temperatures from 140°C to 395°C, and medium-low salinities from 0.53% to 22.01%, respectively. Type I inclusions, along with minor type II and type III inclusions are present in stage A. Homogenization temperatures for type I inclusions range from 180°C to 300°C, whereas that of type II inclusions are from 268°C to 366°C, with calculated salinities from 0.53% to 21.44%. In addition to development of type I inclusions, type II and III inclusions increased significantly in stage B. Homogenization temperatures of type I inclusions range from 160°C to 250°C, and that of type II inclusions are of 260°C - 360°C, with calculated salinities from 1.32% to 22.01%. Based on microthermometric results, no obvious decrease of salinities is observed along with a decrease in temperature from stage A to stage B, showing a natural cooling process of the system, indicating that the mineralization occurred during the internal fluid evolution, however, the large range of salinity indicates a wide source of fluid, maybe mixed with low-salinity exotic fluid.

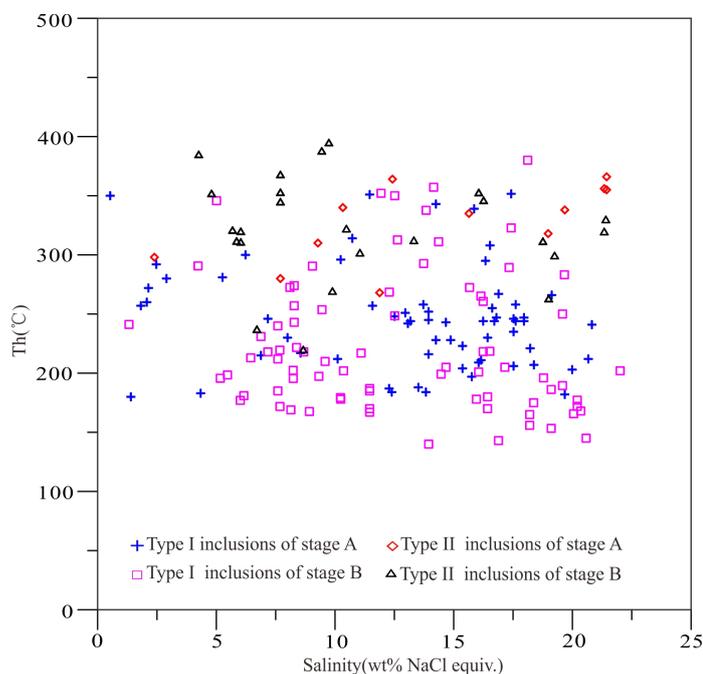


Figure 7. Correlation between homogenization temperatures and salinities of inclusions in Annage deposit.

On the δD - $\delta^{18}O_{H_2O}$ diagram (Figure 6), samples of main mineralization stage in Guoluolongwa deposit mostly plot in magmatic/metamorphic water area, reflecting that ore-forming fluid in the area mainly derived from magmatic/metamorphic water [3]; whereas most samples of Annage plot between left side of magmatic water box and metamorphic water line, and one is located in magmatic water area, indicating a primary magmatic origin for the mineralizing process and mixed with other fluids (maybe metamorphic hydrothermal). High density of SO_4^{2-} , representing all phases of sulfur, including S^{2-} , HS^- , SO_4^{2-} and etc [21], has effectively indicates the existence of magmatic water in ore-forming fluids. Abundance of SO_4^{2-} in ore-forming fluids of main mineralization stage speculated the presence of magmatic hydrothermal, corresponding to the fact that one projection point is situated at the magmatic water area on the hydrogen-oxygen isotope diagram.

Based on diagram of homogenization temperatures versus salinities (Figure 7), homogenization temperatures of most type I inclusions are from 140°C to 300°C, which may reflect the ore-forming temperature, whereas that of type II inclusions and some type I inclusions are slightly higher, showing characteristics of heterogeneous capture, and are of no significance. Salinities of fluid inclusions are mostly medium-low values, clustering around 7% - 22%. However, occurrence of low salinity inclusions, namely 0.53%, reflects the addition of low salinity fluid during mineralization process. Besides, a continuous decrease in temperature may indicate a natural cooling process of the fluid, inferring that the mixed water maybe high-temperature, low-salinity water (probably metamorphic hydrothermal) derived from the deep, or underground water.

To sum up, ore-forming fluids in Annage gold deposit are of CO_2 -rich, H_2O - $NaCl$ - CO_2 type with medium-high temperatures (140°C→300°C) and medium-low salinities (0.53% - 22.01%) and experienced immiscibility during the mineralization process [22]. The original H_2O - $NaCl$ - CO_2 fluid with medium-high temperature and medium salinity separated into $NaCl$ - H_2O -rich (with few CO_2) fluid and CO_2 -rich, medium-low salinity fluid, and mixed with high-temperature metamorphic hydrothermal or groundwater in the late.

6.2. Pressure Conditions of Mineralization

Inclusion trapping pressure could be obtained from the homogeneous temperature of pure CO_2 and pure water inclusions at the P-T diagram of H_2O and CO_2 combined systems if pure CO_2 inclusions and pure water inclusions were simultaneously trapped. In this study, the two end compositions trapped by the inclusions in stage B were used to estimate pressure by the isometric intersection method. The trapping pressures of inclusions obtained from the isometric intersection in the two ends are shown in Figure 8, with the pressure ranging from 79

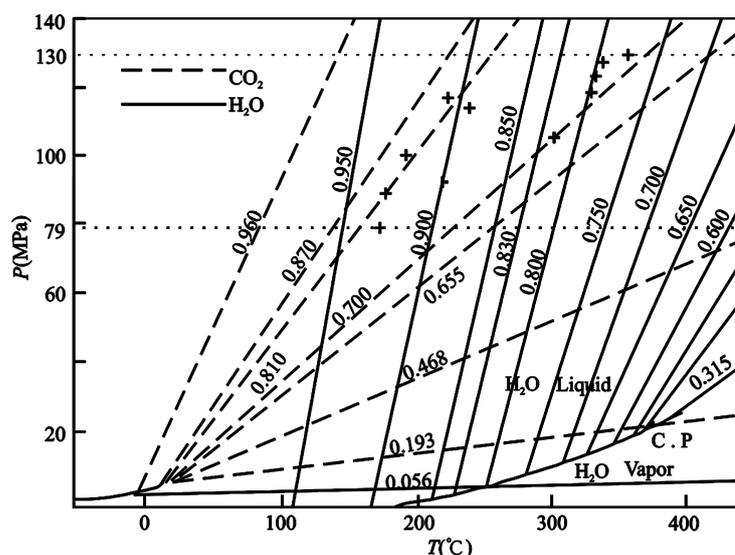


Figure 8. P-T diagrams of H₂O-CO₂ system (Modified from Roedder and Bodnar [7]).

MPa to 130 MPa, corresponding to trapped temperatures from 185°C to 350°C. Sulfides are formed later than quartz, with slightly lower temperatures than that of quartz. Therefore, the range of 185°C - 350°C represents the upper limit of mineralization temperature, indicating that ore-forming temperature is of medium-high type.

Based on the estimated pressure, we calculated the mineralization depth. Considering that the study area is in compressive orogenic environment, metallogenic depth can be estimated via lithostatic pressure using the formula: $H = P/(\rho \times g)$ (ρ represents average density of rocks, namely 2.70 g/cm³). The maximum pressure of 130 MPa corresponds to an upper limit depth of 4.8 km.

6.3. Ore-Forming Fluid Evolution

Ore-forming fluids in the deposit area are characterized by wide range of homogenization temperatures and salinities as well as high density of CO₂ and CH₄. Wall rock alterations are dominated by silicification, sericitization and carbonation, indicating that ore-bearing hydrothermal is rich in Si, CO₂ and alkali. CO₂ in the fluids may be mainly from mantle, medium-high grade metamorphic fluid from lower crust and magmatic fluid, whereas CH₄ may be derived from deep-source fluids and organic-rich sedimentary metamorphism. On basis of micro-thermometry, ore-forming fluids are mainly deep-source magmatic hydrothermal fluid at the early stage [23], and then mix with low-salinity metamorphic hydrothermal or underground water in the late. Evolution of fluids experienced multistages.

At the early mineralization stage, ore-forming fluids are CO₂-rich magmatic hydrothermal which may be derived from high salinity intermediate-acid magmatic hydrothermal, and form high-salinity high-temperature fluid inclusions.

At the main mineralization stage, natural cooling occurs in the ore-forming fluids. Upward intrusion of fluids to the shallow crust along EW fracture zone brings about the mineralization pressure transition from lithostatic to hydrostatic, causing repeated fluid immiscibility. Fluid immiscibility has been reported as one of the most important mechanisms for mineralization in many hydrothermal deposits [6] [24], and the H₂O-NaCl-CO₂ fluid immiscibility is closely related to gold mineralization [25]. H₂O-NaCl-CO₂ fluid immiscibility can cause phase separation, resulting in the escape of volatiles, such as CO₂, CH₄ and N₂. The original NaCl-H₂O-CO₂ fluids of Annage deposit separated into CO₂-rich fluids and H₂O-rich fluids, resulting in capture of low-salinity CO₂-bearing inclusions and slightly higher-salinity aqueous inclusions. During phase separation, escape of CO₂ and CH₄, concentration of ore-forming fluid and decomposition of carbonate ion and bicarbonate ion lead to huge changes in fluid composition and physical and chemical conditions, leading to decrease of Au solubility in ore-forming fluids and the rapid precipitation of gold in the favorable ore-hosting structures.

At the late mineralization stage, a sudden reduction of CO₂-bearing inclusions occurs due to escape of CO₂. Ore-forming fluid system transits from a relatively closed state to an open state, which is beneficial to addition

of other fluids. Based on the above discussion, deep-source low-salinity high-temperature metamorphic hydrothermal or underground water are speculated to mix with magmatic fluid, resulting in decrease of fluid salinities and capture of low-salinity inclusions..

6.4. Ore Genesis

Annage gold deposit is located at east section of eastern Kunlun belt. The eastern Kunlun orogenic belt experienced multicycle evolution, and the late Variscan-Indosinian tectonic cycle is the most closely related to gold mineralization [26]. Intensive tectonic and magmatic activities occurred in the late Variscan-Indosinian period, formed a series of deep faults, shear zone and fracture-fissure structures, as well as large-scale magmatite intrusion, and provided metallogenic dynamics and mineral sources. The metallogenic mechanism is as follows.

In Caledonian period, intracontinental subduction took place in eastern Kunlun belt, led to the ore-forming fluid activation and initial enrichment of ore-forming materials. Few intermediate-acidic magmatite of this period was developed in Annage deposit.

In Variscan-Indosinian period, strong subduction and collision, intensive tectonic deformation and metamorphism occurred, forming the EW shear zone. The dynamic metamorphism is obviously observed along the fracture zone. Besides, subduction and collision provides thermal and power for migration of CO₂-rich magmatic hydrothermal along the EW shear zone. During the migration, water-rock interaction between wall rock and hydrothermal fluid contributes to further enrichment of minerals, forming ore-bearing hydrothermal solution with higher temperature.

In Indosinian-Yanshanian period, secondary tensional faults and shear fractures are formed on both sides of the nearly EW shear zone, and ultramafic rocks are developed near the shear zone. Fluids rich in ore minerals moved upward along the shallow tensional fault system. Addition of shallow underground water destroyed balance of ore-bearing hydrothermal, resulted in fluid immiscibility and escape of large amounts of CO₂, CH₄, thus forming the residual fluids containing large amounts of Au, Ag and other minerals. Decrease of pressure and fluid temperature, addition of extraneous fluid reduced the solubility of ore-forming minerals in the fluid, bringing about precipitation of minerals in the EW shear zone and the SN tensional fault. Furthermore, metasomatism between metallogenic hydrothermal and fracture zone or wall rocks formed quartz-vein and altered rocks, and then finally formed gold ore bodies.

To sum up, Annage gold deposit is a medium-high temperature magmatic hydrothermal quartz vein type deposit formed in intracontinental orogenic environment.

7. Conclusions

Two types of ore bodies, namely quartz vein type and altered rock type are produced in EW and NS faults. Mineralization in the deposit area is classified into three stages: quartz-pyrite stage (A), quartz-polymetallic-sulfide stage (B) and quartz-ankerite stage (C).

Three types of fluid inclusions, aqueous inclusions (type I), CO₂-bearing inclusions (type II) and pure CO₂ inclusions (type III) are well developed in stages A and B, having homogenization temperatures range from 140°C to 395°C, and salinities from 0.53% to 22.01%. Based on hydrogen-oxygen isotope analysis, values of $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{V-SMOW}}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{D}$ range from 10.6×10^{-3} to 12.9×10^{-3} and -83.8×10^{-3} to -72.3×10^{-3} . Ore-forming fluids of Annage gold deposit are dominated by magmatic hydrothermal at the early, and mix with metamorphic hydrothermal or underground water in the late.

Formation of Annage gold deposit is closely related to late Variscan-Indosinian orogenic movement, and ore-forming fluids of the deposit are deep-source magmatic fluids rich in Si, CO₂ and alkali. With the power of subduction and collision, ore-bearing fluids moved upward along the deep fault, extracted ore minerals, and caused a decrease of pressure. Addition of underground water or metamorphic thermal in the late led to fluid immiscibility and escape of large amounts of CO₂, CH₄ and etc., resulting in precipitation of metallogenic minerals in the favorable ore-hosting space. The Annage gold deposit, with estimated metallogenic pressures of 79 - 130 MPa, which corresponds to a calculated upper limit depth of 4.8 km, belongs to magmatic hydrothermal quartz vein type.

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