Silicate-replacive high sulfidation massive sulfide orebodies in a porphyry Cu-Au system: Bor, Serbia

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Abstract
The Cu-Au deposit of Bor (Serbia) represents a continuum of mineralization styles, from porphyry-style ore occurring in quartz-magnetite-chalcopyrite veins and chalcopyrite disseminations to high-sulfidation epithermal Cu-Au ores in pyrite-chalcopyrite and anhydrite-sulfide veins. Decisive for the great economic importance of Bor is the presence of exceptionally rich high-sulfidation massive sulfide orebodies, composed of pyrite + covellite + chalcocite/digenite and minor anhydrite and enargite. They form irregular bodies measuring 0.5–10 million tons of ore grading up to 7% Cu, hosted by andesites and surrounded by intense argillic alteration. This study focuses on a small but rich underground orebody mined out recently, where limited drillcore is preserved for quantitative geochemical study. This paper documents the vein relationships within the deep porphyry-style orebody of Borska Reka, the transitional porphyry-epithermal veins, and the overlying and laterally surrounding epithermal massive sulfides of the Bor deposit. Geological observations indicate that the formation of massive sulfide orebodies concludes the ore formation. Mass balance calculations, recast into geologically realistic bulk fluid-rock reactions, confirm textural evidence that near-isovolumetric replacement of andesite host rocks is the dominant formation mechanism of massive sulfide orebodies at Bor, whereby all lithophile elements including Si are dissolved and only Ti stays relatively immobile. While net volume changes for individual mineralization styles within the massive sulfide orebody vary from −16% volume loss to +127% volume gain, overall volume change for the whole massive sulfide orebody was probably slightly negative. Brecciation is important only as means of creating channelways for reactive fluid that turns the andesite protolith into massive sulfide, whereas net breccia infill occurred only locally.

Keywords Porphyry Cu-Au · Massive sulfide · Mass balance

Introduction
Porphyry Cu-Au systems (Hedenquist and Lowenstern 1994; Sillitoe 2010) are magmatic-hydrothermal ore systems that commonly include two spatially associated and genetically linked styles of Cu-Au ore. Porphyry-style mineralization holds the bulk of the economic ore in large-tonnage but relatively low-grade orebodies dominated by chalcopyrite ± bornite in and around stockwork veinlets. Epithermal mineralization typically overlies or is adjacent to the porphyry ores and postdates them and mostly occurs in swarms of discrete veins or more diffuse fracture zones containing pyrite with high-sulfidation Fe-Cu-As-Au-S assemblages. Examples of this association include Butte, Montana (Meyer et al. 1968; Rusk et al. 2008), Far Southeast-Lepanto in the Philippines (Mancano and Campbell 1995; Arribas et al. 1995b; Hedenquist et al. 1998), La Famatina in Argentina (Losada-Calderón and McPhail 1996; Pudack et al. 2009), Elatsite – Chelopech in Bulgaria (Chambefort and Moritz 2014), Oyu Tolgoi in Mongolia (Crane et al. 2012), and Valeriano in Chile (Sillitoe et al. 2016). The high-sulfidation assemblages comprise abundant pyrite with enargite + covellite ± digenite ± native sulfur. These are typically associated with advanced argillic alteration with residual quartz + alunite ± kaolinite ±
anhydrite, giving rise to the alternative definition of the deposits as kaolinite-alunite-type epithermal deposits (Heald et al. 1987; Berger and Henley 1989). Silica-rich alteration (commonly named “vuggy quartz”) is typically generated in an early stage of the paragenetic evolution, probably by magmatic vapor in a sub-fumarolic environment (Stoffregen 1987; Arribas et al. 1995a; Heinrich et al. 2004). By contrast, later sulfide mineralization into vuggy quartz is dominated by low-salinity aqueous fluids (Mancano and Campbell 1995; Arribas et al. 1995a, b) that may have a deeper magmatic origin followed by cooling and contraction of a single-phase intermediate-density fluid (Arribas 1995; Hedenquist et al. 1998) or magmatic vapor that had condensed some brine in the porphyry environment at depth (Henley and McNabb 1978; Heinrich 2005). Thereby the low-salinity magmatic fluid becomes miscible with meteoric water (Sillitoe 1983) or seawater (Gruen et al. 2014) but also allows re-mixing with entrained magmatic brine (Hedenquist et al. 1994; Wang et al. 1999). An entirely different idea calls on direct condensation of an As-rich sulfide melt from high-temperature magmatic gas (Mavrogenes et al. 2010).

Many high-sulfidation Cu-Au ores are silica-rich and, due to their environmentally detrimental content of enargite and other As or Se-rich sulfosalts, are rarely mined for Cu and mainly gain major economic significance as easily leachable Au deposits after pervasive supergene oxidation, e.g., Yanacocha (Longo et al. 2010), Pierina (Rainbow 2009), and Zijinshan (Chen et al. 2019; Pan et al. 2019). However, a few porphyry systems contain massive high-sulfidation orebodies that are of such high copper grade that they became world-class base metal deposits in their own right and were historically mined even before the lower-grade porphyry ores became exploitable. The most important example is Butte (Montana) where a swarm of major open fractures was filled by high-sulfidation sulfide minerals forming the Main Stage Veins (Weed 1912; Meyer et al. 1968). At Cerro de Pasco, polymetallic Zn-Pb-Cu ores with massive pyrite are formed at the contact between a diatreme and the adjacent limestone by carbonate replacement, which caused the neutralization of low-pH fluids (Baumgartner et al. 2008; Rottier et al. 2016). More enigmatic deposits are dominated by massive sulfide orebodies of irregular, tabular, or pipe-like shape lacking obvious evidence of open space creation or reaction with readily dissolvable carbonate host rocks. These include Lepanto in the Philippines, Frieda River in Papua New Guinea, Reesk in Hungary, Chelopech and Radka in Bulgaria, and Bor in Serbia (Sillitoe 1983; Popov 2001; Chambefort and Moritz 2014). Bor had great historic importance as one of the largest and richest deposits of this type is formed by largely texture-preserving replacement of volcanic rocks, as suggested already by Sillitoe (1980).

The copper-gold deposit of Bor in Serbia has recently become partly accessible to research in the course of renewed exploration, based on a cooperation between international investors and the Serbian State as main owner (Jamasmie 2018). This paper is a new geological description of related ore types in the deposit, which includes a deep porphyry-style vein stockwork, as the largest remaining resource, and partly preserved higher levels accessible in exploration adits, including a recently mined massive sulfide orebody. The main focus of the paper is to combine textural evidence with mass balance data based on bulk rock analyses, to test whether the massive sulfide orebodies indeed formed by nearly isovolumetric replacement of volcanic rocks. These results will later be used to model possible fluid evolution paths that could generate such unusual, easily missed but high-value orebodies.

**Geological background**

The Apuseni-Banat-Timok-Srednogorie belt (ABTS, Fig. 1 inset) is a magmatic arc that was active during the Late Cretaceous (92–67 Ma) and formed due to the subduction of the Vardar Ocean (part of the Neo-Tethys) beneath the complex southern continental margin of the Eurasian plate. This Andean-type arc was preceded by earlier nappe emplacement and later overprinted by the effects of continental collision with the Adriatic microplate during Tertiary times (Kolb et al. 2012; Gallhofer et al. 2015). In the period from 92 to 67 Ma, arc magmatism became younger away from the European continental margin, towards the west in Serbia and towards the south in Bulgaria (Gallhofer et al. 2015), which is interpreted to reflect progressive roll-back of the subducted slab (Von Quadt et al. 2002; Von Quadt et al. 2005; Kolb...
et al. 2012). After its emplacement, the arc was bent around the European foreland as a result of syn- to post-collisional deformation (Schmid et al. 2008; Knaak et al. 2016), including more than 100 km of accumulated dextral movement along the Timok-Cerna fault system (CF – TF in Fig. 1, inset; Matenco and Radivojević 2012). Regional geology and geochronology of the Bor metallogenic zone and the Timok magmatic complex (TMC), the largest area of preserved volcanic rocks in the ABTS belt (Fig. 1), have been summarized by Antula (1909), Schumacher (1954), Janković (1977), Von Quadt et al. (2002), Banješević (2010), Gallhofer et al. (2015), Jelenković et al. (2016), and Knaak et al. (2016).

Neoproterozoic and Paleozoic metamorphic rocks constitute the basement of the TMC, which is deformed and overlain by Jurassic to Early Cretaceous limestones and sandstones. Albian glauconitic sandstone rests unconformably on Aptian limestones, overlain by the volcanic rocks that range in composition from basaltic andesites to andesites (Banješević 2010).

The volcanic activity that formed the TMC took place during the Turonian stage of the Late Cretaceous epoch, with an estimated onset around 87 Ma (Kolb 2011; Gallhofer et al. 2016). CF, Cerna fault system; TF, Timok fault system; MF, Maritsa fault system. Line A – A’ marks the position of the deposit section in Fig. 2.

Fig. 1 Southeastern area of the Timok Magmatic Complex and the location of the Timok Magmatic Complex within the Apuseni-Banat-Timok-Srednogorie belt (inset). Modified after Mioč (1983), Dordević and Banješević (1997), Knaak et al. (2016), and Pittuck and McGurk (2016).
The Bor metallogenic zone is located near the eastern margin of the TMC (Fig. 1) extending from Serbia into Romania (Grubić 1974; Janković 1977) and contains the porphyry copper deposits of Majdanpek and Veliki Krivelj, the porphyry—high-sulfidation epithermal deposits of Bor and recently discovered Cukaru Peki (Antula 1909; Schumacher 1954; Janković 1997; Karamata et al. 1997; Berza et al. 1998; Jelenković et al. 2016). The orebodies at Bor are hosted entirely by phase I andesites and pyroxene-hornblende andesite; these are referred to as phase I and phase II andesites, respectively (Đorđević and Banješević 1997; Đorđević 2005; Banješević 2010). The deposit is hosted at the base and eastern side by the Bor fault and underlying Bor conglomerate, a former late- to post-depositional graben structure that was subsequently reactivated by overthrusting of the package of mineralized volcanic rocks towards the east (Janković et al. 2002; Đorđević 2005). All deposits of the Bor metallogenic zone (Fig. 1), including the Veliki Krivelj porphyry and the new Cukaru Peki, are hosted by andesites of phase I and are overlain by epireticular layers of andesitic and dacitic composition of phase II that are intercalated with pelites (Fig. 2; Koželj 2002; Jelenković et al. 2016).

Age and duration of mineralization at Bor are poorly constrained between ~84.5 and ~82 Ma (Fig. 3). Ages of phase I andesites in the vicinity of Veliki Krivelj were established by ID-TIMS of zircons at 86.29 ± 0.32 Ma and 84.17 ± 0.86 Ma, overlapping with an approximate LA-ICPMS age of 84.28 ± 0.86 Ma for a sample of dacite in close proximity to the Bor mine (Kolb 2011). A trachyte dike that cuts phase II andesites 5 km south of Bor yielded an ID-TIMS age of 82.35 ± 0.35 Ma as the only well-dated post-mineral intrusion (Kolb 2011). 40Ar-39Ar plateau ages of igneous hornblende from phase I andesite in the vicinity of Bor are reported as 83.4 ± 1.7 Ma and 84.6 ± 1.1 Ma (Lips et al. 2004). Alteration minerals at Bor were dated by 40Ar-39Ar and K-Ar methods and overlap within the analytical uncertainty with the magmatic ages of the dacite, with 84.8 ± 1.9 Ma, 86.9 ± 1.1 Ma and 85.9 ± 1.7 Ma for white mica from the Borska Reka porphyry ore and 84.6 ± 1.2 Ma for alunite from the advanced argillic alteration zone in the Bor mine (Lips et al. 2004; Lerouge et al. 2005). Re-Os dating of molybdenite from Bor yielded significantly older ages of 86.24 ± 0.5 Ma and 85.94 ± 0.4 Ma (Zimmerman et al. 2008), similar to the older ID-TIMS age at Veliki Krivelj. Magmatic and hydrothermal activity at Bor probably occurred around 84–85 Ma and was related to late Phase I magmatism, as indicated by 40Ar-39Ar and K-Ar ages of alunite and white mica and 40Ar-39Ar age of hornblende of phase I andesite from the Bor mine and U-Pb zircon age of the dacite in the vicinity of Bor mine. We suspect that Re-Os ages of molybdenite are probably overestimated.

The orebodies at Bor are hosted entirely by phase I andesites (Figs. 1 and 2). The least-altered andesites from the periphery of Borska Reka display the typical porphyritic texture defined by euhedral amphibole, plagioclase, and subhedral biotite phenocrysts, partially altered to chlorite and sericite with minor pyrite and chalcopyrite. Diorite porphyry dikes, 50–150 m wide, were logged at the deep levels of Borska Reka (Janković et al. 1980), but their true dip direction is uncertain because no core is preserved. Shallower, small-scale porphyry dikes are present in the central part of Borska Reka (T. Tončić, pers. commun.), and a single 1.5-m core interval was tentatively logged as a diorite.

The Bor metallogenic zone is sub-divided into three phases, two of which are significant for the Bor deposit geology (Fig. 1). Phase I, which hosts the deposits of Bor and Veliki Krivelj, is represented by conspicuously porphyritic-textured high potassium andesites, dominantly as lava flows but also as lava domes and some pyroclastic breccias, exposed mainly in the eastern part of the TMC. Euhedral amphibole phenocrysts are prominent and commonly reach a centimeter in size; zoned plagioclase with 40–50% anorthite component (Janković et al. 2002) is similar to amphibole in terms of abundance at about 25–35%, while biotite, magnetite, and quartz are subordinate. Occasional pyroxene represents a minor component of the phenocryst assemblage. The matrix contains fine-grained plagioclase, biotite, and quartz and amounts to 40–50% of the rock (Banješević 2010; Antonijević and Mijatović 2014).

Phase II, which comprises most of the area of the Timok complex, is represented by more matrix-rich (> 50%) pyroxene-phric basaltic andesites, which locally show evidence of submarine extrusion (Banješević 2010). Augite clinopyroxene and plagioclase with 42–93% anorthite content are prevalent among the phenocrysts and are generally smaller than the phenocrysts of the phase I andesite; enstatite and tschermakitic amphibole locally are subordinate phenocrysts of the phase I andesite; enstatite and tschermakitic amphibole locally are subordinate phenocrysts of the phase I andesite; enstatite and tschermakitic amphibole locally are subordinate phenocrysts of the phase I andesite. The matrix is defined as Campanian to Lower Maastrichtian (Karamata et al. 1997).

The least-altered andesites from the peripheral part of Borska Reka display the typical porphyritic texture defined by euhedral amphibole, plagioclase, and subhedral biotite phenocrysts, partially altered to chlorite and sericite with minor pyrite and chalcopyrite. Diorite porphyry dikes, 50–150 m wide, were logged at the deep levels of Borska Reka (Janković et al. 1980), but their true dip direction is uncertain because no core is preserved. Shallower, small-scale porphyry dikes are present in the central part of Borska Reka (T. Tončić, pers. commun.), and a single 1.5-m core interval was tentatively logged as a diorite.
dike during our field campaign. Largely texture-destructive alteration precludes reliable mapping of intrusive contacts, but an indication of crowded equigranular texture and the larger abundance of zircons compared to immediately

Fig. 2 Cross-section through the Bor deposit, showing the apparent continuum between porphyry-style ores at Borska Reka and epithermal ore types, including the former Tilva Ros massive sulfide body in the open pit, combining personal observations and unpublished mine sections. a Colored grade contours delineate the projected mineralization based on current assay data for the Borska Reka porphyry (solid lines), and approximate position of mineralization and alteration zones for Tilva Ros and Brezanik orebodies based on historic assay data and interpolation (dashed). Position, thickness, and orientation of porphyry dikes are uncertain projections from mine data. Alteration types within the phase I andesites are confirmed in the central region by partly preserved drillcore (vertical lines) and near T orebody, or interpolated and projected from other mine sections elsewhere. b Cross-section through T massive sulfide orebody, showing the zonation of the mineral assemblages, from bornite + chalcopyrite + pyrite in the bottom part of the orebody to predominantly covellite with pyrite in the central part, and chalcocite + pyrite in the rim. 

Abbreviations: bn, bornite; ccp, chalcopyrite; cct, chalcocite; cv, covellite; hm, hematite; mag, magnetite; py, pyrite. After Starostin (1970), Janković et al. (2002), and Jelenković et al. (2016), with additions based on Bor mine geologic documentation.
neighboring andesite are evidence in favor of a subvolcanic intrusive origin (sample BGM1–64.8).

The Bor conglomerates (Fig. 4) outcrop to the east and to the south of Bor and are observed in the Bor mine as footwall unit below the Bor fault (Fig. 2). The Bor conglomerate contains rounded clasts of basement gneiss, andesite with kaolinite alteration, and limestone and marls of Campanian to Maastrichtian age (~72–66 Ma) based on planktonic gypsum vein; BGM12-86.3. Sample labels indicate drill hole numbers (i.e., BGM12) and depth (i.e., 86.3 m). See Fig. 2 for the location of the drill holes.

Fig. 4 Main lithologies at Bor. a Bor conglomerates from ~155 mine level. b Pelite, base of phase II andesite overlying phase I andesite, B67-35.8. c Phase I andesite with weak chlorite-sericite alteration, anhydrite-
foraminifera (Janković et al. 2002; Ljubović-Obradović et al. 2011). To the south of Bor, conglomerates made up of mineralized clasts constitute the deposit of Novo Okno, with clasts of covellite + pyrite in the lower part, chalcopyrite + bornite in the middle, and pyrite + chalcopyrite on top and at the periphery of the deposit (Antonijević 2011), representing an inverted sequence observed within the massive sulfide bodies at Bor and indicating exposure and erosion of the deposit by Late Cretaceous time. Outside the mine area, the conglomerates are overlain by Maastrichtian sandstone and claystone with Gansserina Gansseri, which defines their youngest age as Maastrichtian (Ljubović-Obradović et al. 2011), indicating exposure of the Bor deposit some 10–15 Ma after its formation.

Geology of the Bor deposit

A range of mineralization styles is present at Bor, varying from the deep porphyry-style stockwork orebody of Borska Reka to the shallow epithermal mineralization of the Tilva Ros orebody, the former center of a large open pit mine that was closed in 1993 and is inaccessible today (Fig. 2a). Most of the massive sulfide orebodies including Tilva Ros and the smaller L, T, T1, T2, and P2A massive sulfide bodies are located in the upper and southeastern margin of the deposit (Fig. 2; Janković et al. 2002; Koželj 2002). Remnants of the massive sulfide orebody T, high-sulfidation veins in the shallow Brezanik underground mine, and parts of the transition above Borska Reka are accessible in development tunnels, and together with minor preserved core from the deeper part of Borska Reka are the basis of this study. In the following sub-sections, four main styles of mineralization with characteristic vein types (Fig. 5) and macroscopic alteration and replacement relationships (Fig. 6) are described; microscopic evidence is presented in support of the suggested mineralization sequence (Fig. 7).

Weakly altered phase I andesites are intersected by shallow drill holes south at the level of the Tilva Ros epithermal orebody (Figs. 4c and 6a) and are characterized by partly preserved igneous amphibole, biotite, and relict magnetite (Fig. 7a). Plagioclase displays twinning and oscillatory zoning in the rim, with An-rich cores replaced by kaolinite, sericite, and anhydrite. Magnetite preserves the original grain shape, but shows dissolution pits, and in rare cases is partly replaced by hematite. The matrix contains unaltered plagioclase laths together with quartz, some fine-grained magnetite and chalcopyrite, and chlorite and accessory rutile. No evidence for stratigraphic orientation was observed within the massive andesites, but the overlying transitional shales to phase II andesites suggest subhorizontal disposition.

Porphyry-style stockwork ore with chlorite-sericite alteration is contained in magnetite-chalcopyrite-quartz veins and chalcopyrite disseminations in the deep part of Borska Reka, where alteration of the andesite is dominated by chlorite and sericite which probably overprinted potassic alteration in some places, as indicated by relics of magnetite although no hydrothermal biotite or K-feldspar is preserved (Figs. 5a and 7b). The upright cylindrical orebody is truncated by the barren Bor fault; the Bor conglomerates intersected by deep drill holes do not contain any amount of copper sulfides. In the upper parts of Borska Reka, barren quartz veins and AB-type quartz-chalcopyrite-pyrite ± hematite veins, cross-cut by tiny pyrite ± hematite stringers, become the main vein types, in wallrocks altered to quartz and sericite with variable overprint by anhydrite and kaolinite (Fig. 5b). In the chlorite-sericite alteration assemblage, most of the amphibole phenocrysts are replaced by chlorite, with significant amount of pyrite, sometimes with inclusions of co-entrapped pyrrhotite + chalcopyrite, chalcopyrite, and magnetite (Fig. 7b). Some relict quartz phenocrysts are preserved. Rutile precipitates along the former cleavage planes of amphibole and magnetite, and rims of rutile are formed around magnetite; the fine-grained matrix consists of quartz and sericite. Magnetite-chalcopyrite-quartz veins are composed of euhedral magnetite, altered at the rims to hematite, and anhedral chalcopyrite. Outer parts of pyrite overgrow and include both magnetite and chalcopyrite. Cores of the pyrite host inclusions of pyrrhotite intergrown with chalcopyrite, followed by chalcopyrite-only inclusions towards the rim. No intersection relationships were observed between magnetite-chalcopyrite veins and other vein types, but at shallower levels tiny magnetite veins cross-cut A-type quartz veins and are cross-cut by pyrite ± chalcopyrite veins (Fig. 5c).

Chalcopyrite is present in tiny amounts as disseminations and as inclusions in pyrite, and in rare cases, chalcocite ± covellite overgrows fractured pyrite together with hematite and anhydrite. The mineral name chalcocite is used in this paper as the overarching term for chalcocite group minerals including digenite. Where coexisting with covellite + pyrite in the ore matrix or late veins, chalcocite is usually gray with a greenish tint and somewhat higher reflectance than digenite in polished section; chalcocite predominates at Bor, except for small digenite inclusions in pyrite (commonly with bornite) which have the characteristic blue-gray color and reflectance. Quartz-sericite alteration is associated with somewhat lower Cu grade (0.3–0.7 wt% Cu) than the best porphyry ore deeper in the section (0.7–1 wt% Cu), with only minor chalcocite in the lower part and small anhydrite-chalcocite-hematite veinlets in the upper part of the interval, the latter presumably a weak expression of the shallow epithermal vein style resulting from re-opening of pyrite ± hematite stringer veins. Very local monomictic clast-supported breccia is associated with the upper boundary of the quartz-sericite alteration zone, with clasts composed of quartz, pyrite with rare pyrrhotite inclusions, kaolinite, and rutile ± hematite, set in the matrix comprising
quartz, anhydrite, pyrite, rutile ± digenite, covellite, and colusite.

Low-grade high-sulfidation Cu ore with kaolinite-anhydrite alteration is transitional between the Borska Reka porphyry style and the Tilva Ros massive sulfides. This volumetrically dominant epithermal alteration in Fig. 2 corresponds to variably siliceous advanced argillic alteration including minor vuggy quartz. Compared with other epithermal deposits, it stands out due to the high abundance of anhydrite and only local occurrence minor alunite. It is characterized by 0.5–1-cm-thick veins with pyrite ± chalcopyrite, and 1–2-cm-thick anhydrite-sulfide veins with pyrite, covellite, enargite, and chalcocite, in wallrock alteration of kaolinite, anhydrite, and diaspore at the upper levels of the deposit (Figs. 5e and 7), with relict patches of chlorite-sericite alteration at the periphery. Both pyrite-chalcopyrite and anhydrite-sulfide veins cross-cut quartz A-type veins and quartz-pyrite AB-type veins. Thickness and abundance of anhydrite-sulfide veins
increase upwards; in the upper tunnels just below Tilva Ros, a 20-cm-thick anhydrite-pyrite-covellite vein was observed. Generally, anhydrite-sulfide veins cross-cut pyrite ± chalcopyrite veins (Fig. 5f), but the reverse cross-cutting relationships can occasionally be found, when anhydrite is the most important constituent in the veins and is prominent as an alteration mineral in this interval. Pyrite within anhydrite-sulfide veins is fractured and overgrown by spectacular blades of covellite, anhydrite, and chalcocite as well as minor enargite. Etching of the pyrite from high-sulfidation epithermal veins revealed at least two generations of pyrite (Fig. 8d). Apart from anhydrite-sulfide veins, copper is disseminated as covellite and as chalcopyrite inclusions in pyrite. Native sulfur was found in two samples, in the central part of anhydrite-sulfide veins (Fig. 5e). In contrast to the well-preserved phenocryst shapes in the chlorite-sericite alteration assemblage, former grain boundaries of the phenocrysts are barely discernible within the kaolinite-anhydrite alteration domain (Fig. 5e, f).

**High-grade massive sulfide ores** exemplified by the T orebody (Fig. 2b) are distinguished by the highest ore grade, with 50–90% of the host rock replaced by sulfide minerals, namely pyrite, covellite, chalcocite, and enargite in decreasing abundance (Fig. 6). The massive sulfide T orebody has an equidimensional round shape with a diameter of ~50 m, is not delineated by any conspicuous extensional structures, and shows no major breccia infill textures, but seems to be formed by wholesale hydrothermal replacement of the host andesite. A detailed description of the representative sample suite from this orebody and its vicinity is presented in Digital Appendix A. Background alteration outside of the T orebody is similar to the kaolinite-anhydrite alteration elsewhere; inside the T orebody, the alteration is advanced argillic, with increased abundance of diaspore and decreased abundance of anhydrite.

In the most sulfide-rich samples from the high-grade zone of the T orebody quartz is present only as small, 100-μm grains and fragments in the rock that is dominantly composed of chalcocite and pyrite (Fig. 6g). Relict quartz A or AB-type veins observed within the massive sulfide orebodies are deformed and fractured, the fractures being filled with chalcocite (Fig. 5h). In the central high-grade part of the T orebody, small veinlets of covellite cut through massive sulfide with about...
30–50% residual quartz, former phenocrysts of andesite protolith replaced by pyrite with inclusions of copper sulfides and overgrown by fine-grained pyrite rim (Fig. 6f). The relic texture of magnetite phenocrysts replaced by pyrite and rutile can be seen in the sample from the T orebody’s periphery (Fig. 7f). Quartz-enargite-chalcocite-covellite veinlets from the edge of the massive sulfide orebody display deformation and overgrowth of enargite by covellite and chalcocite; anhydrite-covellite veinlets exist in the proximity to the massive sulfide deposits, and quartz-covellite-enargite veins with minor anhydrite are found in the outer margins of the T orebody (Fig. 5g). One- to 2-cm-thick veins of chalcopyrite + pyrite occur at the periphery and below the massive sulfide T and T1 orebodies.

The massive sulfide T orebody is capped by a zone of vuggy residual quartz and framed by local breccias, pervasive silicification patches, and small-scale, steep-dipping fault zones, but these faults do not seem to delineate the round shape of the body (Fig. 3b). The contact breccias are matrix-supported, monomictic, with variably altered clasts including pervasively silicified clasts, as well as clasts of andesite with phyllic-argillic alteration and bornite, chalcopyrite, and enargite (Fig. 6b); clasts of vuggy quartz occur locally. Its pores constitute around 30% by volume and are partly filled with pyrite, covellite, free-standing quartz crystals and occasional barite, alunite, anhydrite, and kaolinite. In the clasts with bornite and chalcopyrite, rare euhedral
enargite crystals are fractured and overgrown by bornite and chalcopyrite. Apart from the pores, vuggy quartz also exhibits ghost phenocrysts replaced by pyrite and rutile (Fig. 6e).

Observation of partially preserved drill core suggests the following mineral zonation within the T orebody (Figs. 2b and 6). Bornite is observed only within clasts in a breccia in the bottom part of the T orebody, and also the lower part of the neighboring T1 orebody contains bornite + pyrite in appreciable amounts. The center of the T orebody is massive pyrite with covellite > chalcocite. Edges of the orebody are characterized by lesser abundance of covellite, with chalcocite being the dominant copper sulfide phase. A decrease in copper grades at the edges of the T orebody coincides with the elevated content of pyrite. Veinlets of enargite, as well as enargite in disseminations, are observed more frequently at the edges of the orebody, while pyrite-chalcopyrite mineralization is present at the outer margins of the T orebody. Digenite is present as inclusions in the outer rims of pyrite in the high-grade, chalcocite-dominated massive sulfide.

Figure 8 summarizes the temporal overprinting relations observed at Bor at the sample to thin section scale, but despite searching, we found no large-scale structural timelines (e.g. dikes truncating veins) to exclude the possibility that this alteration evolution progressed essentially together in a single zoned hydrothermal system. As the earliest hydrothermal product, sinuous granular A-type quartz veins formed, practically free of sulfides and cross-cut by all the other vein types. Magnetite-chalcopyrite-quartz veins were probably formed due to the re-opening of the early granular A-type quartz veins (Fig. 5a) and represent the earliest mineralization contemporaneous with potassic alteration, later overprinted by chlorite-sericite. Chlorite-sericite alteration is overprinted first by quartz-sericite and later by kaolinite-anhydrite alteration, which is well expressed in the shallow part of Borska Reka zone between Borska Reka porphyry and Tilva Ros epithermal orebody and in the marginal parts of the T orebody, where local zones of vuggy quartz occur (Fig. 6d, e). Pyrite-chalcopyrite veinlets post-date quartz veins, form centerlines of AB-type veins and were probably re-opened during the later ore precipitation event, when anhydrite-sulfide veins formed. Although no clear cross-cutting relationships are observed between chalcopyrite-pyrite veins and the massive sulfide mineralization, the spatial association of breccias to the local silicification zones overprinted later by pyrite-chalcocite (Fig. 6e) and the presence of quartz-pyrite AB-type vein clasts, as well as clasts with bornite, enargite, and chalcopyrite, place the timing of these breccias after the pyrite-chalcopyrite ± bornite mineralization, but before the massive pyrite-chalcocite-covellite. Relict A or AB-type quartz veins, deformed and cracked, with chalcocite filling in the cracks (Fig. 6g) are found in the high-grade part of the T orebody, and quartz-covellite-enargite veins with minor anhydrite, enargite fractured and overgrown by covellite similar to the covellite that constitutes the matrix with residual quartz (Fig. 7i) are present at the periphery, suggesting that the massive sulfide replacement overprints all other mineralization styles and represent the terminal stage of ore formation or the most distal parts of telescoped magmatic-hydrothermal system.

Whole-rock geochemistry and alteration mass balance

Motivation and analytical approach

The purpose of this section is to test whether the textural evidence for progressive massive sulfide formation by wholesale replacement of an andesitic protolith is supported by chemical mass balance, to assess the overall volume change associated with this process, and to derive bulk fluid-mineral reactions describing the main types of alteration and mineralization. Samples from the high-grade core of the T orebody and from the edges with advanced argillic alteration and a
minimally altered andesite 900 m to the side of it were used for this comparison (Digital Appendix A).

Quantifying mass changes requires analyses of all major elements, including Si and Al as well as Fe and S in very different rock types, from the silicate protolith containing minor amount of sulfides to the massive sulfide-dominated sample containing only minor silicates. Such analyses are not obtained by conventional XRF bulk rock analysis nor by commercial four-acid digestion used by industry for multi-element sulfide ores, which in particular fails to provide reliable Si analyses. Therefore, a modified procedure for the preparation of XRF beads was used to quantify all required elements in a consistent way (Willis 2010). Approximately 50–70 g of each sample was crushed in an agate mill. A 0.5 g aliquot of sample powder was mixed with 1.5 g of LiNO3 and 6.6 g of Li2O3B7 in precisely weighed proportions. The mixture was first gradually heated from 300 to 800 °C during 1 h, to allow for complete oxidation of sulfide minerals (mostly pyrite) by the nitrate to sulfates. In the absence of a strong smell, we assume that this sulfide oxidation was complete and did not involve significant H2S loss (Willis 2010). Subsequently, the oxidized mixture was molten and fully homogenized at 1000 °C. Quenched glass beads were analyzed for major elements (Si, Ti, Al, Fe, Mn, Mg, Ca, Na, K, P, S, Cu) by X-ray fluorescence (XRF) using an Axios PANalytical WD-XRF spectrometer at ETH Zürich and quantified with 34 standard reference materials and an advanced matrix correction scheme implemented in the PANalytical software (Brouwer 2006). Trace elements were subsequently determined by laser ablation – inductively coupled plasma – mass spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS) at ETH Zürich (Switzerland) on small shards of broken glass beads, using at least 3 ablation spots of 115 μm diameter, a repetition rate of 10 Hz, and a laser energy density of 8–10 J cm−2. NIST 610 glass reference material served as an external calibration standard, and the TiO2 content of the sample obtained by XRF was used as internal standard for the LA-ICP-MS traces. LA-ICP-MS intensities were processed using the MatLab-based SILLS software (Guillong et al. 2008). Concentrations of gold were taken from concentrated in precisely weighed proportions. The mixture was first gradually heated from 300 to 800 °C during 1 h, to allow for complete oxidation of sulfide minerals (mostly pyrite) by the nitrate to sulfates. In the absence of a strong smell, we assume that this sulfide oxidation was complete and did not involve significant H2S loss (Willis 2010). Subsequently, the oxidized mixture was molten and fully homogenized at 1000 °C. Quenched glass beads were analyzed for major elements (Si, Ti, Al, Fe, Mn, Mg, Ca, Na, K, P, S, Cu) by X-ray fluorescence (XRF) using an Axios PANalytical WD-XRF spectrometer at ETH Zürich and quantified with 34 standard reference materials and an advanced matrix correction scheme implemented in the PANalytical software (Brouwer 2006). Trace elements were subsequently determined by laser ablation – inductively coupled plasma – mass spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS) at ETH Zürich (Switzerland) on small shards of broken glass beads, using at least 3 ablation spots of 115 μm diameter, a repetition rate of 10 Hz, and a laser energy density of 8–10 J cm−2. NIST 610 glass reference material served as an external calibration standard, and the TiO2 content of the sample obtained by XRF was used as internal standard for the LA-ICP-MS traces. LA-ICP-MS intensities were processed using the MatLab-based SILLS software (Guillong et al. 2008). Concentrations of gold were taken from conventional XRF bulk rock anal...
### Table 1  Composite bulk rock analyses combining XRF and LA-ICP-MS, expressed in wt units of elements

Whole-rock data for geochemical mass balance calculation. See Digital Appendix A for raw data and calculation.

| Rock type                  | Proolith          | Monomictic breccia with phyllic-argillic altered clasts | Silicified advanced argillic breccia | Advanced argillic alteration | Vuggy residual quartz | Massive sulfide with residual quartz | Massive sulfide |
|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Sample Location            | Location (see Fig. 2) | Rock description                                      | Density, g/cm$^3$ | Si       | Ti       | Al        | Fe       | Mn       | Mg       | Ca       | Na       | K        | Cu       | S        | H$^+$    | O$^-$    | Total$^a$ | P        | Sc       | V        | Co       | Ni       | Zn       | Ge       | As       | Sr       |
| Sample B67-258             | Drill hole B67, 258 m | Amp and bt replaced by chl and ser in qz-pl matrix; amp 20%, pl 30%, chl 15%, bt 10%, qz 10%; accessory py, ccp, mag | 2.46                  | 28.35   | 0.27     | 8.94     | 3.53     | 0.07     | 1.63     | 4.23     | 2.12     | 0.84     | 0.01     | 0.43     | 0.09     | 45.34    | 95.84    | 120      | 25       | 226      | 13.1     | 395      | 43       | 18       | 12.3     | 887      |
Table 1 (continued)

Whole-rock data for geochemical mass balance calculation. See Digital Appendix A for raw data and calculation.

| Rock type                         | Protolith                  | Monomictic breccia with phyllic-argillic altered clasts | Silicified advanced argillic breccia | Advanced argillic alteration | Vuggy residual quartz | Massive sulfide with residual quartz | Massive sulfide |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Y                                 | 12.6                       | 1.82                                                    | 2.4                                  | 3.3                           | 1.03                 | 0.14                                | 0.28           |
| Zr                                | 44                         | 39.8                                                   | 37                                   | 40                            | 40                   | 24                                  | 26             |
| Nb                                | 3.0                        | 2.5                                                    | 2.0                                  | 2.3                           | 2.5                  | 0.65                                | 1.22           |
| Mo                                | 5.1                        | 2.8                                                    | 3.1                                  | 1.54                          | 2.1                  | 2.8                                 | 16.4           |
| Ag                                | dl                         | 1.01                                                   | 4.7                                  | 0.35                          | 1.23                 | 5.7                                 | 24             |
| Sn                                | 2.1                        | 9.0                                                    | 47                                   | 14.3                          | 4.2                  | 171                                 | 96             |
| Ba                                | 329                        | 584                                                    | 7250                                 | 4910                          | 1670                 | 3.4                                 | 261            |
| La                                | 4.4                        | 5.8                                                    | 3.7                                  | 5.4                           | 4.1                  | 1.60                                | 1.36           |
| Ce                                | 10.4                       | 7.7                                                    | 3.9                                  | 12.5                          | 6.8                  | 0.68                                | 0.38           |
| Pr                                | 1.32                       | 0.93                                                   | 0.44                                 | 1.54                          | 0.84                 | 0.08                                | 0.03           |
| Nd                                | 7.1                        | 3.7                                                    | 1.91                                 | 7.9                           | 3.1                  | 0.38                                | 0.21           |
| Gd                                | 1.53                       | 0.81                                                   | 3.8                                  | 1.04                          | 1.03                 | 0.19                                | 0.24           |
| Dy                                | 1.57                       | 0.27                                                   | 0.16                                 | 0.30                          | 0.04                 | 0.04                                | 0.01           |
| Yb                                | 0.95                       | 0.31                                                   | 0.26                                 | 0.36                          | 0.09                 | 0.06                                | 0.07           |
| Lu                                | 0.07                       | 0.06                                                   | 0.05                                 | dl                            | dl                   | 0.02                                | dl             |
| Hf                                | 0.95                       | 1.08                                                   | 1.00                                 | 0.83                          | 1.30                 | 0.64                                | 0.87           |
| Au\(^{a}\)                        | 0.10                       | 1.00                                                   | 1.20                                 | 3.3                           | 7.8                  | 9.3                                 | 25             |
| Tl                                | 0.05                       | 0.06                                                   | 0.43                                 | 1.09                          | dl                   | 0.11                                | dl             |
| Pb                                | 1.45                       | 59                                                     | 79                                   | 26                            | 14.7                 | 17.5                                | 6.6            |
| Th                                | 1.28                       | 1.50                                                   | 0.76                                 | 1.07                          | 1.19                 | 0.16                                | 0.21           |
| U                                 | 0.36                       | 0.41                                                   | 0.23                                 | 0.28                          | 0.32                 | 0.09                                | 0.06           |

Normative composition\(^{b}\): moles of minerals per 1 kg of rock

| Mineral            | Moles/1 kg |
|--------------------|------------|
| Quartz            | 4.4        |
| Albite            | 0.95       |
| Anorthite         | 0.56       |
| Tremolite         | 0.25       |
| Phlogopite        | 0.21       |
| Magnetite         | 0.003      |
| Hematite          | 0.09       |
| Rutile            | 0.06       |
| Clinohlore        | 0.03       |
| Tak               | 0.03       |
Table 1 (continued)

Whole-rock data for geochemical mass balance calculation. See Digital Appendix A for raw data and calculation.

| Rock type                        | Protolith | Monomictic breccia with phyllic-argillic altered clasts | Silicified advanced argillic breccia | Advanced argillic alteration | Vuggy residual quartz | Massive sulfide with residual quartz | Massive sulfide |
|----------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Muscovite                        | 0.02      | 0.002                                                    | 0.02                                | 0.01                         | 0.001                 | 0.001                               |
| Anhydrite                        | 0.38      | 0.15                                                    | 0.03                                | 0.22                         | 0.03                  | 0.04                                |
| Kaolinite                        | 1.36      | 0.01                                                    | 0.62                                | 0.03                         | 0.01                  | 0.02                                |
| Diaspore                         | 0.13      | 0.13                                                    | 1.09                                | 0.04                         | 0.001                 | 0.001                               |
| Pyrite                           | 0.07      | 1.96                                                    | 2.87                                | 2.98                         | 3.93                  | 4.37                                |
| Chalcopyrite                     | 0.002     | 0.04                                                    | 0.02                                | 1.61                         | 0.29                  |
| Bornite                          | 0.01      | 0.02                                                    |                                     |                              |
| Covellite                        | 0.29      | 0.01                                                    |                                     |                              |
| Chalcopyrite                     | 0.001     | 0.17                                                    |                                     |                              |
| Fe-Mg-exchange                   | 0.59      | 0.09                                                    |                                     |                              |
| Tschermak exchange               | 0.59      | 0.01                                                    |                                     |                              |

a Major elements (metals, S) in weight percent measured by XRF, trace elements in ppm measured by LA-ICP-MS of tetraborate pills, except Au from company assays
b H estimated from the content of OH-bearing minerals based on the norm calculation in the lower part of the table (Appendix A)
c O estimated from the content of silicate and oxide minerals based on the norm calculation in the lower part of the table (Appendix A)
d Element totals including O and H obtained by norm calculation
e Au content from company assay data, RTB Bor, averaged over 2 m of core neighboring our analyzed smaller sample
f Estimated mineral norm calculated from the analyzed metal and S concentrations, based on observed mineralogy and optimization procedure explained in the text and the Digital Repository file Appendix A

Mineral formulae: albite = NaAlSi3O8, anhydrite = CaSO4, anorthite = CaAl2Si2O8, bornite = Cu5FeS4, chalcocite = Cu2S, chalcopyrite = CuFeS2, clinochlore = Mg5Al(Si3Al)O10(OH)8, covellite = CuS, diaspore = AlO(OH), hematite = Fe2O3, kaolinite = Al2Si2O5(OH)4, magnetite = Fe3O4, muscovite = KAl2(AlSi3O10)(OH)2, phlogopite = KMg3AlSi3O10(F,OH)2, pyrite = FeS2, quartz = SiO2, rutile = TiO2, tremolite = Ca2Mg5Si8O22(OH)2, talc = Mg3Si4O10(OH)2. Ferromagnesian minerals (amphibole, biotite, chlorite) are approximated by Mg endmembers, and Fe, Si, and Al distributed over several solid solution phases are expressed as exchange components, FeMg−1 and Al2Si−1Mg−1 (Tschermak exchange).
Fig. 9 a-f Re-scaled concentrations of major and trace elements, emphasizing main ore elements (red symbols), minor chalcophile and siderophile elements (blue), main rock-forming and lithophile elements (green), and potentially immobile trace elements (black). The black line is the reference line assuming that Ti remained conserved (Ti isocon line), the red line based on measured densities represents the reference if alteration would involve zero volume change. With Ti as reference assumption, elements above the black line experienced gains, elements below the line experienced loss during alteration. Rescaling is done by normalizing to the sum of squares of the measured elements: \[ X = \frac{X_a}{X_a^2 + X_s^2}; \quad Y = \frac{Y_a}{Y_a^2 + Y_s^2}; \] where \( X_a \) and \( X_s \) refer to analyzed and re-scaled content of an element for the protolith, and \( Y_a \) and \( Y_s \) refer to analyzed and re-scaled element content for the altered sample. Each diagram also shows the reciprocal ratio of measured rock densities (red lines) to illustrate the alternative assumption of isovolumetric replacement (Gresens 1967). Assuming that Ti remained conserved, red lines above the Ti isocon (black line) indicate net volume gain, those below indicate net volume loss during alteration.

Gains, losses, and volume change

We chose a modified version of the procedure of Grant (2005) to compare each altered sample on the vertical scale of the isocon diagrams in Fig. 9 with the same protolith plotted on the horizontal. This is the basis for interpreting the relative mobility of elements during the different types of alteration, including massive sulfide formation. To avoid visual bias, element concentrations were normalized to the sum of squares for each sample pair of altered rock and protolith (Humphris et al. 1998). Consequently, when plotting each normalized concentration in the altered rock against the normalized concentrations of the element in the protolith, the resulting point lies on a circle with radius 1 (Fig. 9). Elements that group closely together along this circle have maintained the same element ratio, and this can be taken as an indication that this group of elements was not significantly mobile during alteration (Grant 2005). Only a few elements occur close together along the circle for all rock pairs, but these include typically immobile Ti, Zr, Hf, U, and Th. Rutile is present in every altered sample, its textural character does not vary much from sample to sample; even in the massive sulfide ore with only a small amount of residual quartz, rutile is still visible as distinct grain aggregates. Therefore, in situ precipitation of rutile after magnetite and amphibole phenocrysts supports the assumption that Ti is our best approximation for a conserved component despite the widespread evidence of its mobility in the general case of high-sulfidation epithermal deposits. Whenever a Ti-bearing phase was subject to alteration and leaching, the liberated Ti precipitated as rutile and was transported at a scale not much greater than that of the original mineral grains (few mm or less). Zircon is the only phase that incorporates Zr and Hf in significant quantities and is also robust to alteration, but the abundance of zircon is much less than the abundance of Ti and is probably subject to greater analytical uncertainty and random scatter. We therefore selected Ti as a reference element for the calculation of gains and losses, as indicated by the reference line in the isocon plots of Fig. 9.

The two breccia types from the bottom of the T orebody (Fig. 9a, b) indicate close agreement between the Ti conservation and isovolumetric reference lines. The assumption of Ti immobility agrees with other candidates for immobile behavior (Hf, Zr, Th, U); i.e., the ratios among these elements did not change so that the assumption that they were all immobile is plausible. The Ti isocon line for both breccias close to the line of isovolumetric replacement is consistent with the high degree of textural preservation. Silicon is mobilized to a small degree only: slightly lost from the monomictic breccia (Fig. 9a) or slightly gained by the silicified advanced argillitic breccia (Fig. 9b). Aluminum is approximately conserved in the monomictic breccia but severely lost from the silicified advanced argillitic breccia. Major alkali and earth alkali elements were significantly depleted during alteration of both breccias, whereas Cu, S, Au, and a number of minor ore elements (Pb, As, Sn, and also Fe) were consistently gained as precipitating sulfide minerals, consistent with abundant disseminated pyrite and the economic ore grade of these rocks (0.6 and 1.7% Cu, ~ 1 ppm Au).

Advanced argillitic alteration sample and vuggy residual quartz (Fig. 9c, d) are also characterized by close correspondence between the location of the Ti reference line, comparable ratios to weakly mobile Th, U, Zr, and Hf, as well as the constant volume line. In the vuggy residual quartz sample (Fig. 9d), only gold and pyrite (Fe, S) are visibly enriched, while all other ore-forming metals are either insignificantly enriched (notably Cu) or even depleted (As). Silicon plots close to the isocon line in the advanced argillitic alteration sample (Fig. 9c) but is significantly enriched in the vuggy residual quartz sample (Fig. 9d). Aluminum is conserved in the advanced argillic alteration sample but is lost, together with all other rock-forming elements other than Si, in the vuggy residual quartz sample.

Massive sulfide samples (Fig. 9e, f) show the greatest deviation of the constant volume line from the Ti reference line (Fig. 9e), as well as the largest scatter of other potentially immobile Th, U, Zr, and Hf (Fig. 9e, f). Nevertheless, Ti conservation is the most plausible reference considering the textural preservation of rutile clusters even in these extremely altered rocks (Fig. 7f and g). Si and Zn, as well as Zr, plot between the Ti reference line and the constant volume line in the massive sulfide sample with a significant amount of residual quartz (Fig. 9e). All ore-forming elements are enriched, which is illustrated by large amount of copper sulfides, dominantly covellite for the massive sulfide sample with residual quartz, and chalcocite in the case of truly massive sulfide sample, consistent with extremely high copper and gold.
grades (11 and 30% Cu, 9 and 25 ppm Au). Most rock-forming elements are extremely depleted (Fig. 9e), in line with the complete destruction of rock-forming minerals. Massive sulfide with only small amount of residual quartz displays a coincidence between the constant volume line and the Ti reference line; Zr plots close to the isocon, but Hf, Th, and U deviate from both reference lines (Fig. 9f). Main rock-forming elements are depleted in the same manner as for the massive sulfide with residual quartz, except that Si is completely lost in the truly massive sulfide sample together with other rock-forming elements (Fig. 9f).

Assuming the conservation of Ti, gains and losses for each element during each type of alteration were calculated according to the formula (Grant 2005):

$$\Delta C = (C_{\text{immobile}}^P - C_{\text{immobile}}^A)C^A - C^P$$

where $C^P$ is the concentration of element in the least-altered protolith, and $C^A$ is the concentration in the altered sample. All altered and mineralized samples are compared to the fresh andesite protolith, on the initial assumption that each is derived directly from the same andesite. The resulting gains or losses (positive or negative $\Delta C$) of each mobile element are initially expressed in weight percent of major or in ppm of trace elements (Table 1).

### Bulk fluid-rock reactions

Mass gains and losses in units of elements (or oxides such as Na$_2$O) are far from a geologically realistic description of fluid-rock reaction, which in reality involves mineral phases in the rock and aqueous components in the fluid. In this section, we therefore recalculate the mass balance results of Table 1 into more plausible bulk fluid-mineral reactions, using the minerals that make up the norms of the protolith and the variably altered rocks (Table 1) and a set of simplified aqueous components (cf. Heinrich et al. 1995; Ulrich and Heinrich 2002; Halley 2020). All reactions are expressed in mole units and scaled to changes experienced by 1 kg of protolith.

The stoichiometric coefficient $\Delta N_{\text{min}}^R$ of each mineral component (subscript min) in the reaction R is the difference between the molar abundance of each mineral making up the altered rock (A), minus the corresponding moles making up the protolith (P), whereby the altered rock is scaled to preserve the total quantity of Ti, assumed to be conserved:

$$\Delta N_{\text{min}}^R = \left( \frac{C^A_{Ti}}{C^P_{Ti}} \right) N^A_{\text{min}} - N^P_{\text{min}}$$

Thus, minerals only existing in the protolith are completely consumed, and their abundance in the protolith equals their stoichiometric coefficient on the left-hand side (educts) of the reaction. Conversely, minerals only present in the altered rock appear on the right-hand side (products) of the reaction, with stoichiometric coefficients corresponding to their abundance in the new rock, scaled to constant Ti. The digital Appendix A explains the details of the calculation and includes a forward calculation of gains and losses in weight% of elements, to check the accuracy in terms of the analyzed concentrations (Eq. 2).

The aqueous reaction partners represent gains by the reacting fluid compensating the element losses experienced by the reacting rock. Conversely, element gains by the rock must be provided by the fluid, which therefore experiences a corresponding loss of elements. The stoichiometric coefficients of the chosen aqueous species are calculated by converting the gains and losses in grams of analyzed elements per 1000-g protolith (Eq. 1) to the corresponding molar quantities, using the same matrix inversion as used in the norm calculations of mineral components (see Appendix A). As aqueous solutions containing ionic components need to be charge-balanced, an additional element must be included to constrain this base transformation, i.e., electrons. Alternatively, we here use neutral species including chloride salts for most metals that are chloride-complexed in saline solutions, thus requiring Cl as additional, conserved component. We introduce HCl as the charge-compensating aqueous component, which provides a useful measure of net acid gain or loss attending alteration. This acid balance includes the hydrolysis of anhydrous minerals such as K-feldspar to OH-bearing minerals such as muscovite and kaolinite, as well as the net acidity produced by any metal precipitation reaction (cf. Hemley and Hunt 1992; Reed et al. 2013). Sulfate and sulfide are the likely dominant pair of oxidized and reduced species in the fluid and we therefore use H$_2$SO$_4$ and H$_2$S as aqueous components to account for redox balance. Total sulfate and sulfide in the fluid thus express the net redox changes among Fe-silicates of variable Fe valency and of sulfates and sulfides in the rock (Drummond and Ohmoto 1985; Giggenbach 1992; Ohmoto and Goldhaber 1997).

To obtain stoichiometrically balanced reactions, we calculate gains and losses based on the idealized composition that correspond exactly to the mineral norm. Appendix A contains an extra sheet for the sample pair BB4-2.5/B67-258 to demonstrate that deviations never exceed 5% of the analyzed concentration of each element. Nevertheless, some reactions appear slightly unbalanced on their last digit of stoichiometric coefficients, due to rounding (correct values see Appendix A).

For simplicity, minor Mn and P were omitted. Mn is smaller than the likely analytical uncertainty of major element concentrations, but is consistently lost during all alteration types. Phosphorus is contained in apatite, which occurs in the heavy mineral fraction but was not seen in thin section; it is lost from most alteration types, except for the monominic brecia with phyllic-argillic altered clasts (BB4-2.5), where gain of P potentially indicates the presence of alunite or some undetected aluminum-phosphate-sulfate minerals. In the following, we will present each bulk reaction obtained in this manner and assess its geological significance with regard to major reaction partners.
Table 2  Gains and losses of mineralized samples in comparison to weakly altered andesite protolith

| Rock type | Monomictic breccia with phyllic-argillic altered clasts | Silicified advanced argillic breccia | Advanced argillic alteration | Vuggy residual quartz | Massive sulfide with residual quartz | Massive sulfide |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Sample pair | BB4-2.5 / B67-258 | BB1-b2 / B67-258 | BA2-85.5/B67-258 | BB4-55.8/B67-258 | BB3-23/B67-258 | BB4-48/B67-258 |
| Si | −60 | 56 | −23 | 78 | 276 | −280 |
| Ti | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Al | −14.7 | −85.0 | −9.2 | −89.3 | −91.4 | −92.9 |
| Fe | 82 | 183 | 175 | 55 | 756 | 390 |
| Mg | −15.9 | −14.7 | −15.7 | −15.2 | −10.2 | −13.9 |
| Ca | −27 | −34 | −41 | −33 | −38 | −40 |
| Na | −22 | −21 | −20 | −22 | −22 | −22 |
| K | −7.5 | −8.2 | −7.4 | −8.2 | −8.3 | −8.3 |
| Cu | 4.2 | 24 | 9.1 | 0.22 | 449 | 614 |
| S | 140 | 252 | 242 | 109 | 1117 | 649 |
| H | 4.9 | −0.5 | 3.8 | −0.6 | −0.6 | −0.8 |
| O | −61 | −43 | −47 | −27 | 192 | −448 |
| P | 227 | −59.0 | 13.7 | −78 | −94 | −80 |
| Sc | −15.3 | −19.8 | −6.9 | −21 | −23 | −23 |
| V | −88 | −201 | 3.8 | −202 | −132 | −164 |
| Co | 4.3 | 0.15 | 24 | 3.4 | −9.4 | −8.3 |
| Ni | 521 | −266 | −388 | −383 | −389 | −376 |
| Zn | −37 | −22 | −23 | −38 | −27 | −33 |
| Ge | −13.7 | −10.4 | 3.8 | −12.7 | −1.9 | −6.0 |
| As | 288 | 1290 | 30 | −8.6 | 279 | 132 |
| Sr | 543 | −60 | −211 | −530 | −880 | −870 |
| Y | −10.6 | −9.9 | −9.0 | −11.4 | −12.4 | −12.3 |
| Zr | −1.42 | −4.8 | −0.92 | −1.58 | −18.6 | −16.2 |
| Nb | −0.27 | −0.79 | −0.44 | −0.30 | −2.3 | −1.65 |
| Mo | −2.0 | −1.72 | −3.4 | −2.8 | −2.1 | 12.6 |
| Sn | 7.6 | 49 | 13.3 | 2.5 | 181 | 101 |
| Ba | 300 | 7460 | 4950 | 1470 | −326 | −49 |
| La | 1.83 | −0.43 | 1.39 | 0.002 | −2.7 | −3.0 |
| Ce | −2.1 | −6.2 | 3.1 | −3.1 | −9.6 | −10.0 |
| Pr | −0.32 | −0.84 | 0.33 | −0.41 | −1.23 | −1.28 |
| Nd | −3.1 | −5.0 | 1.42 | −3.8 | −6.7 | −6.8 |
| Gd | −0.66 | 2.5 | −0.41 | −0.42 | −1.33 | −1.27 |
| Yb | −0.62 | −0.67 | −0.56 | −0.86 | −0.88 | −0.87 |
| Hf | 0.21 | 0.13 | −0.06 | 0.45 | −0.26 | −0.01 |
| Au | 0.98 | 1.19 | 3.4 | 8.3 | 9.9 | 27 |
| Pb | 62 | 84 | 26 | 14.3 | 17.4 | 5.7 |
| Th | 0.33 | −0.46 | −0.13 | 0.01 | −1.10 | −1.05 |
| U | 0.08 | −0.12 | −0.06 | −0.02 | −0.26 | −0.30 |

Gains (positive values) and losses (negative) of major elements and trace elements in comparison to the protolith sample B67-258

Major elements in grams, trace elements in μg per 1 kg of protolith

Monomictic breccia with phyllic-argillic altered clasts (BB4-2.5) This breccia from the edge of the orebody was formed by the destruction of magmatic amphibole + biotite + plagioclase with intermediate Ab/An (andesine-labradorite) to a slightly smaller volume of denser rock in which quartz + pyrite + kaolinite formed together with anhydrite, chlorite, and minor chalcopyrite. This alteration involved a slight removal of Si and Al but required a major introduction of FeCl₂ (Fig. 9a). It also
required input of oxidized, as well as reduced sulfur and acidity, whereas most of the alkali and earth alkali metals were lost as chloride salts (Fig. 9a), apart from the small fraction of Ca incorporated into anhydrite. The net introduction of HCl, but stoichiometric loss of H2O, means that the increase in contained water bound in kaolinite was mainly due to hydrolysis of less hydrous igneous minerals (cation exchange), requiring an acid fluid that also is capable of net Al removal. Even though the rock experienced the formation of 1.4 mol of quartz, the production of SiO2,aq was somewhat larger at 2.1 mol, as observed by the net Si loss during destruction of the magmatic silicate minerals (Table 2, Fig. 9a). The rock changed from almost barren to low economic ore grade with net addition of Cu to form chalcopyrite, consistent with petrography.

| 1000 g or 407 cm³ of andesite protolith with ρ = 2.46 g/cm³ | 1019 g or 342 cm³ monomictic breccia with phyllic-argillic altered clasts, BB4–2.5 with ρ = 2.98 g/cm³ |
|---|---|
| 0.249 Trem + 0.938 Ab + 0.558 An + 0.214 Phl + 0.003 Mt + 0.496 FeMg1−x+x + 0.588 Al2Si1−x+2x + 1.471 FeCl2 + 0.866 CuCl + 3.475 H2S + 0.879 H2SO4 + 0.761 HCl | → 0.03 Chncl + 0.392 Anh + 0.022 Mus + 0.929 Qtz + 0.039 Ccp + 0.005 Bn + 2.122 SiO2,aq + 0.545 Al(OH)3 + 0.654 MgCl2 + 0.665 CaCl2 + 0.938 NaCl + 0.192 KCl + 1.467 H2O |

Ni and Co are enriched in the mildly altered rocks, by transfer from igneous rocks to relatively minor pyrite under acid-neutralizing conditions (Fig. 9a); Mo and Zn experienced a net loss. Loss of Zn in this sample and in all other samples from the T orebody is probably due to elevated level of Zn that is explained by weak chlorite alteration of the protolith; overprinting of chlorite by other alteration types would result in the destruction of chlorite and Zn loss. Minor and trace element composition changes include the addition of P, Ba, and Sr (Table 2, Fig. 9a), which may be incorporated into anhydrite. Many lithophile trace elements including most REE, experienced net loss, probably by the destruction of igneous minerals, especially magnetite, without the formation of new host accessories. Gain of P and simultaneous loss of most REE can be explained by the formation of minor aluminum-phosphate-sulfate minerals not identified in the sample but common in Bor (Janković et al. 2002).

**Silicified advanced argillic breccia (BB1-b2)** This breccia is formed by converting the protolith into a denser rock, which occupies almost the same volume due to net mass gain. Ore formation is expressed by the production of larger amount of chalcopyrite and pyrite compared to the monomictic breccia with phyllic-argillic altered clasts BB4-2.5 and is accompanied by smaller amounts of anhydrite formed and more significant loss of Al. This alteration requires further addition of oxidized and reduced sulfur as well as FeCl2. The Cu-Fe-sulfide addition and net oxidation of the rock by sulfuric acid are accompanied by liberation of additional HCl into the fluid.

As, Pb, and Sn are significantly enriched and are probably incorporated into pyrite and covellite; Co shows weak enrichment, and Mo is lost in this sample. Loss of P accompanied by loss of Ca, as well as most REE, can indicate destruction of igneous apatite, and gains of minor chalcophile elements are reflected by a more pronounced sulfide enrichment of this breccia compared to the BB4-2.5 sample (Fig. 9b).

**Advanced argillic alteration (BA2-85.5)** This sample is formed by almost complete replacement of former hornblende and biotite phenocrysts by quartz, pyrite, sericite, and kaolinite + diaspore, with a smaller amount of anhydrite compared to what is found in the breccias, as well as the complete destruction of magnetite. The resulting volume differs from the protolith by 3%, due to the effect of counterbalancing the mass gains expressed in formation of denser minerals like Cu sulfides and diaspore. This alteration requires the addition of both oxidized and reduced sulfur, but sees losses of H2O and HCl due to the drastic amounts of rock-forming elements that need to be removed in the form of chloride complexes, which prevails compared to the addition of ore-forming element chlorides.

| 1000 g or 407 cm³ of andesite protolith with ρ = 2.46 g/cm³ | 1262 g or 399 cm³ advanced argillic alteration, BA2–85.5 with ρ = 3.17 g/cm³ |
|---|---|
| 0.249 Trem + 0.908 Ab + 0.558 An + 0.214 Phl + 0.03 Mt + 0.002 Ccp + 0.588 Al2Si1−x+2x + 1.998 SiO2,aq + 3.27 FeCl2 + 0.381 CuCl + 6.663 H2S + 1.18 H2SO4 | → 0.024 Chncl + 0.197 Anh + 0.015 Kln + 0.174 Dias + 0.03 Mus + 3.635 Py + 0.023 Bn + 1.232 Al(OH)3 + 0.38 Cu + 0.001 Cc + 3.152 Al(OH)3 + 0.604 MgCl2 + 0.86 CaCl2 + 0.908 NaCl + 0.211 KCl + 1.926 H2O + 2.875 HCl |

All minor chalcophile elements except Zn show considerable enrichment; Mo is moderately depleted, and Ni is lost completely. Minor gain of Co (Table 2) can reflect its incorporation into pyrite that developed after magnetite (Fig. 9c), or
into chalcopyrite. Moderate enrichment of P is similar to the enrichment of Ce, La, Pr, and Nd.

**Vuggy residual quartz (BB4-55.8)** In this sample, the effect of leaching of original plagioclase and hornblende phenocrysts and formation of vugs is partly counterbalanced by the increased amount of pyrite, illustrating the close-to-isovolumetric replacement of the andesite protolith. Based on the following reaction of converting the protolith to vuggy residual quartz, the required addition of SiO₂ is not large: conversion of the matrix of the protolith to quartz serves as the most important source of silica, which is accompanied by complete destruction of all rock-forming minerals and removal of alkalis, Ca and Al into solution. The addition of reduced sulfur is necessary, as well as acidity, to leach all the rock-forming oxides and leave the carcass of residual quartz with pyrite and kaolinite. Net addition of water is insignificant, which shows that for this pair of samples all the hydroxides that were contained in the rock-forming minerals could be incorporated into kaolinite or else required for the removal of Al.

\[
\begin{align*}
1000 \, \text{g or 407 cm}^3 \text{ of andesite} & \rightarrow 1047 \, \text{g or 395 cm}^3 \text{ Vuggy residual quartz, BB4-55.8 with } \\
0.249 \, \text{Trem} + 0.951 \, \text{Ab} + 0.558 \, \text{An} + 0.214 \, \text{Phl} + 0.003 \, \text{Mt} + 0.002 \, \text{Ccp} + 0.59 \, \text{FeMg}_{-1} + 0.588 \, \text{Al}_2\text{Si}_{1-1} \text{Mg}_{-1} + 2.783 \, \text{SiO}_2\text{aq} + 0.004 \, \text{CuCl} + 2.779 \, \text{H}_2\text{S} + 0.201 \, \text{H}_2\text{O} + 0.622 \, \text{H}_2\text{SO}_4 + 2.101 \, \text{KCl} & \rightarrow 0.017 \, \text{Clnchl} + 0.225 \, \text{Anh} + 0.029 \, \text{Kln} + 0.04 \, \text{Dia} + 0.005 \, \text{Mus} + 1.587 \, \text{Py} + 8.677 \, \text{Qtz} + 0.006 \, \text{Cv} + 3.308 \, \text{Al(OH)}_3 + 0.626 \, \text{MgCl}_2 + 0.832 \, \text{CaCl}_2 + 0.951 \, \text{NaCl} + 0.209 \, \text{KCl} + 0.1 \, \text{Anh} + 0.029 \, \text{Kln} + 0.003 \, \text{Dia} + 0.001 \, \text{Mus} + 0.005 \, \text{Py} + 0.003 \, \text{Qtz} + 0.002 \, \text{Ccp} + 0.59 \, \text{FeMg}_{-1} + 0.588 \, \text{Al}_2\text{Si}_{1-1} \text{Mg}_{-1} + 2.783 \, \text{SiO}_2\text{aq} + 0.004 \, \text{CuCl} + 2.779 \, \text{H}_2\text{S} + 0.201 \, \text{H}_2\text{O} + 0.622 \, \text{H}_2\text{SO}_4 + 2.101 \, \text{KCl}. \\
\end{align*}
\]

Virtually all minor chalcophile and siderophile elements are depleted, with notable exceptions of Sn, Pb, and Co (Fig. 9d). All trace elements are lost, reflecting the leaching of pyrite-enriched rock by highly reactive, corrosive fluid that left nothing behind but vuggy residual quartz with significant amount of pyrite and minor amount of copper sulfides.

**Massive sulfide with residual quartz (BB3-23)** This high-grade massive sulfide sample is formed by bringing most of the rock-forming elements except Si into solution, except for the small amount taken up by talc and muscovite. Talc is not observed petrographically, but is arbitrarily introduced as a possible mineral phase that could incorporate the minor amount of analyzed Mg. Added sulfur is predominantly in the reduced form, and both HCl and H₂O losses are required to balance the effect of addition of ore metals as chloride complexes and to bring Al into solution. The net gain of Si in this sample is higher than in the vuggy residual quartz sample, suggesting net silicification in addition to filling of the vuggy quartz carcass with Cu and Fe sulfides. However, this sample displays maximum deviation of the Ti conservation line from the constant volume line, which is closer to Zr (Fig. 9e), suggesting that Ti is not entirely conserved on a local scale.

| 1000 g or 407 cm³ of andesite protolith with ρ = 2.46 g/cm³ | 3557 g or 925 cm³ Massive sulfide with residual quartz, BB3-23 with ρ = 3.85 g/cm³ |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0.249 Trem + 0.951 Ab + 0.558 An + 0.214 Phl + 0.003 Mt + 0.002 Ccp + 0.59 FeMg₁⁻ + 0.588 Al₂Si₁⁻Mg₁⁻ + 2.783 SiO₂aq + 0.004 CuCl + 2.779 H₂S + 0.201 H₂O + 0.622 H₂SO₄ + 2.101 KCl | 0.1 Anh + 0.029 Kln + 0.003 Dia + 0.001 Mus + 0.005 Py + 0.003 Qtz + 0.002 Ccp + 0.59 FeMg₁⁻ + 0.588 Al₂Si₁⁻Mg₁⁻ + 2.783 SiO₂aq + 0.004 CuCl + 2.779 H₂S + 0.201 H₂O + 0.622 H₂SO₄ + 2.101 KCl + 0.062 Anh + 0.003 Dia + 0.001 Mus + 0.005 Py + 0.003 Qtz + 0.002 Ccp + 0.59 FeMg₁⁻ + 0.588 Al₂Si₁⁻Mg₁⁻ + 2.783 SiO₂aq + 0.004 CuCl + 2.779 H₂S + 0.201 H₂O + 0.622 H₂SO₄ + 2.101 KCl |

Minor chalcophile elements are all enriched except Zn and can be incorporated into pyrite and covellite (Table 1); Sn is added as a trace component to the massive sulfides, possibly as accessory sulfide such as Sn-bearing colusite (Fig. 9e). Minor siderophile elements are either lost like Ni, display near-conservative behavior like Co, or insignificantly enriched (Mo). All trace elements except La are depleted.

**Massive sulfide (BB4-48)** This high-grade sample with a small amount of residual quartz represents a truly massive sulfide from the high-grade (7% Cu average) zone of the T orebody. All rock-forming elements including silica are brought into solution and removed; addition of large amount of dominantly reduced sulfur is needed to provide for precipitation of pyrite and chalcopyrite. This sample is characterized by a close coincidence of the isocon line with the constant volume line (Fig. 9f), which in fact suggests a small volume shrinkage (~12%) that accompanies conversion of the protolith to the massive sulfide. The measured density is lower than the density calculated from mineral proportions, which could be due to the presence of pores and cracks in pyrite that constitute around 5% of the grain area or the fact that all chalcocite group minerals are considered chalcocite in the calculation with an average density of 5.65, while the actual density of digenite can be lower.

| 1000 g or 407 cm³ of andesite protolith with ρ = 2.46 g/cm³ | 1723 g or 342 cm³ massive sulfide, BB4-48 with ρ = 4.89 g/cm³ |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0.249 Trem + 0.951 Ab + 0.558 An + 0.214 Phl + 0.003 Mt + 0.002 Ccp + 0.59 FeMg₁⁻ + 0.588 Al₂Si₁⁻Mg₁⁻ + 2.783 SiO₂aq + 0.004 CuCl + 2.779 H₂S + 0.201 H₂O + 0.622 H₂SO₄ + 2.101 KCl | 0.062 Anh + 0.003 Dia + 0.001 Mus + 0.005 Py + 4.58 Cc + 0.003 Mt + 0.002 Ccp + 0.59 FeMg₁⁻ + 0.588 Al₂Si₁⁻Mg₁⁻ + 2.783 SiO₂aq + 0.004 CuCl + 2.779 H₂S + 0.201 H₂O + 0.622 H₂SO₄ + 2.101 KCl |

Minor chalcophile elements are all enriched except Zn and can be incorporated into pyrite and covellite (Table 1); Sn is added as a trace component to the massive sulfides, possibly as accessory sulfide such as Sn-bearing colusite (Fig. 9e). Minor siderophile elements are either lost like Ni, display near-conservative behavior like Co, or insignificantly enriched (Mo). All trace elements except La are depleted.
Like in the massive sulfide with residual quartz, all minor chalcophile elements are enriched except Zn (Table 2, Fig. 9f). Minor siderophile elements, Ni and Co, are depleted. Loss of trace elements in the massive sulfide is greater for almost all elements in comparison to any other sample from the T orebody, reflecting complete replacement of the protolith by the massive sulfide ore.

The overall mass transfer and volume change involved in the process that generated the entire massive sulfide orebody can only be discussed subjectively, because we cannot measure the volume fractions of each rock type in three dimensions from the incompletely mapped two-dimensional cross-section of the T orebody and the data from our small samples (Fig. 2b). Breccias are restricted to the margins of the T orebody and probably constitute a thin outer shell including an even smaller fraction of locally silicified breccia. Likewise, the vuggy residual quartz zone overlying the high-grade core takes up a small fraction of the volume compared with that of the massive sulfides, the red region in Fig. 2b. Despite breccia textures indicating interstitial infilling by hydrothermal minerals, the chemical mass balance of all these rocks (as well as the advanced argillic alteration) indicates minor net volume reduction relative to the protolith andesite (between −1 and −15%), which means that alteration led to the creation of net open space. The massive sulfides indicate net volume expansion in the covellite-dominated sample with relict quartz (Fig. 2b), but we infer from the texture of these quartz relics (Fig. 7i) that this extra space creation may have been the result of earlier quartz stockwork veining associated with porphyry-style alteration. The true massive sulfide sample shows a net volume reduction of 12% and is more representative for the overall process of massive sulfide replacement, as this ore type is prevalent in the T orebody, as well as in historic samples from Tilva Ros. These observations suggest that the massive sulfide orebody did not form by precipitation into extra space (e.g., opening of large extensional jogs) but rather involved minor volume reduction by chemical dissolution of andesite.

Discussion and conclusion

This study quantifies the enrichment processes from weakly altered andesite protolith to extremely Cu-Au rich massive sulfide ore. Based on the pieces of evidence such as the presence of the relict quartz A or AB-type veins in the central part of the massive sulfide orebody and the absence of anhydrite-sulfide veins inside the massive sulfide, as well as similarity of inclusions in pyrite from epithermal veins and massive sulfide orebody, we conclude that massive sulfide T orebody presents the final mineralization stage of a single telescoped magmatic-hydrothermal system at a deep level, superimposed over porphyry mineralization style. Mass balance calculation based on bulk rock analyses, recast into idealized fluid-rock reactions using observed minerals and plausible aqueous reaction partners added and removed by hydrothermal fluid, indicates that the process of formation of almost all mineralization types within the T orebody can be explained by near-isovolumetric replacement of a common protolith rather than large-scale open-space infilling. Although breccias usually are poor candidates for demonstrating the direct link to the protolith, we observe clasts of the same lithology with different degree of alteration, as well as clasts of veins similar to those observed in the host andesite, and quite consistent behavior of several typically immobile elements, hence confirming that even the breccias can be derived from the same single andesite protolith. The only mineralization type that cannot be confidently explained by isovolumetric replacement is the massive sulfide with residual quartz, where either the assumption of Ti conservation is invalid or open-space infill is more important than replacement, but this may have happened at an earlier stage, most plausibly intense porphyry-style quartz veining. Considering that the most extreme alteration, pure massive sulfide, as well as all milder types of alteration satisfies the parameters consistent with replacement with a small but significant degree of volume loss, the overall process probably included minor net volume loss.

Removal of alkali and alkaline-earth elements in high-sulfidation epithermal systems results from the acidity generated by disproportionation of SO2 (Stoffregen 1987; Einaudi et al. 2003), which normally leaves a residual carcass of vuggy quartz. What presents a challenge for the formation of the massive orebodies at Bor is the unusual wholesale removal of quartz during replacive mineralization (Fournier et al. 1982; Akinfiev and Diamond 2009; Monecke et al. 2018). In porphyry stockwork veins, small-scale but widespread quartz dissolution can be facilitated by contraction of a cooling single-phase magmatic fluid leading to synchronous quartz dissolution and sulfide precipitation (Landtwing et al. 2010; Fekete et al. 2016). An alternative possibility for large-scale quartz dissolution could be provided by hot magmatic vapor reaching a seawater or meteoric water horizon, thereby heating up a large amount of non-magmatic water. Removal of silica and re-precipitation of quartz in the silicified advanced argillic breccia at the flanks of the massive sulfide orebody supports the hypothesis of highly reactive, corrosive fluid that could turn the protolith into the massive sulfide. Breccias at the bottom of the T orebody could represent channelways for the fluid that formed the massive sulfides with rich covellite and chalcopyrite mineralization. The small but notably negative volume change of the dominant massive sulfide in the T orebody implies that, after initial brecciation allowing fluid access, the andesite replacement was a self-perpetuating process: the net creation of minor open space would have increased rock permeability, thereby contributing to even stronger focusing of additional fluids into the same...
area. This interpretation is consistent with the fact that the rather sharply defined massive sulfide orebodies are not delineated by major extensional structures.

To further discriminate between the fluid mechanisms leading to the wholesale replacement of an ordinary andesite protolith and its texture-preserving replacement by massive Fe and Cu sulfides, we will require evidence from fluid inclusions, especially in opaque minerals. Geochemical changes discussed in this paper can be used as a starting point for future work on modeling fluid compositions and finding temperature, pressure, chemical, and hydrological conditions that favor the process of formation of high-grade massive sulfide orebodies. Broader geological context, including comparison with the recently discovered neighboring deposit of Cukaru Peki, could further contribute to the understanding of the process that creates massive sulfide orebodies, as a basis for future exploration of these small but extremely valuable orebodies.

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Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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