

Characteristics of fluid inclusions in the Cenozoic volcanic-hosted Kushk-e-Bahram Manto-type Cu deposit of central Iran

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Abstract

The Kushk-e-Bahram Manto-type Cu deposit is located in central Iran, within Eocene to Oligo–Miocene volcanic strata which occur in the central part of the Uremia-Dokhtar Magmatic Arc (UDMA). Propylitization, silicification, argillization and carbonatization are the main types of alteration to have affected the pyroclastic and volcanic rocks. There are high amounts of oxide minerals, including malachite, azurite, hematite, magnetite and goethite. Three types of primary FIs have been determined in the Kushk-e-Bahram deposit, namely; I: two-phase liquid-rich FIs (L+V), II: mono-phase liquid FIs, III: two-phase vapour-rich FIs which have been identified based on petrographical studies. Based on FI studies of co-existing quartz and calcite, homogenization temperatures (Th) must have been between 67 and 228°C, with an average of 158°C. Moreover, salinity is between 14.0–30.3 wt% NaCl, equivalent to a 19.6% average. Fluid density values vary from 0.8 to 1.1 gr/cm³. Based on FI data and related diagrams, the depth of their trapping was estimated to be <200 m and ore formation occurred at pressures of <50 bars. Consequently, mineralogy, host rock and FIs characteristics in the Kushk-e-Bahram deposit are similar to the Manto-type Cu deposits in Mesozoic-Cenozoic volcanic belts of Iran and South America.

Key words: Fluid inclusion (FI), salinity, homogenization temperatures (Th), copper

1. Introduction

Iran consists of several structural/metallogenic belts that host world-class metallic deposits, especially Cu. The major Iranian Cu mineralized belt is the Uremia-Dokhtar Magmatic Arc (UDMA) with an extension between the northwesterly and southeasterly parts of the country (Berberian & King, 1981; Alavi, 1994). It hosts porphyry-Cu deposits such as Sar-Cheshmeh, Meiduk, Darreh-Zar, Dar-

ralou, Baghkhooshk, Kuhpanj and Sarkuh (McInnes et al., 2005; Alipour-Asll, 2019) and related types of copper mineralization types, especially Manto-type Cu deposit and vein mineralization (Aghazadeh et al., 2015; Rezaei et al., 2015; Jebeli et al., 2018). However, volcanic-hosted, strata-bound Cu deposits named “Manto type” are explored in many parts of the UDMA and other structural zones, as depicted in Figure 1 (Samani, 1998; Boveiri et al., 2013; Abolipour et al., 2015; Maghfouri & Movah-

ednia, 2015; Salehi & Rasa, 2016; Rajabpour et al., 2017). The Manto-type deposits have high-grade Cu and are suitable for ore excavation. Since 2000, many Manto-type Cu deposits have been studied and explored such as Buena Vista, Susana-Linace, Mantos de La Luna and El Soldado in Chile (Boric et al., 2002; Kojima et al., 2003, 2009). These deposits are the second largest copper resources of Chile, after its huge porphyry-Cu deposits (Wilson & Zentilli, 2006). Campus (1980) differentiated Mesozoic Manto-type Cu mineralization into two classes, including sediment-hosted (e.g., Carrillo-Rosua et al.,

2014) and volcanic-hosted (e.g., Wilson & Zentilli, 2006; Ramirez et al., 2006).

The most important Iranian Manto-type Cu deposits are the Kesht Mahaki (Boveiri et al., 2013), Abbas-Abad (Maghfouri & Movahednia, 2015; Salehi & Rasa, 2016), Veshnaveh, Kashkouieh, Kuh-Pang and Narbaghi in the UDMA (Abolipour et al., 2015; Fazli et al., 2015; Rajabpour et al., 2017), Varzag (Alizadeh et al., 2013) and Ghare-Tappeh (Karami & Afzal, 2015), Mari (Maghfouri et al., 2016) and Kusk-e-Bahram (Jebeli et al., 2018) (Fig. 1). The Iranian Manto-type Cu deposits occur inside Eocene volca-

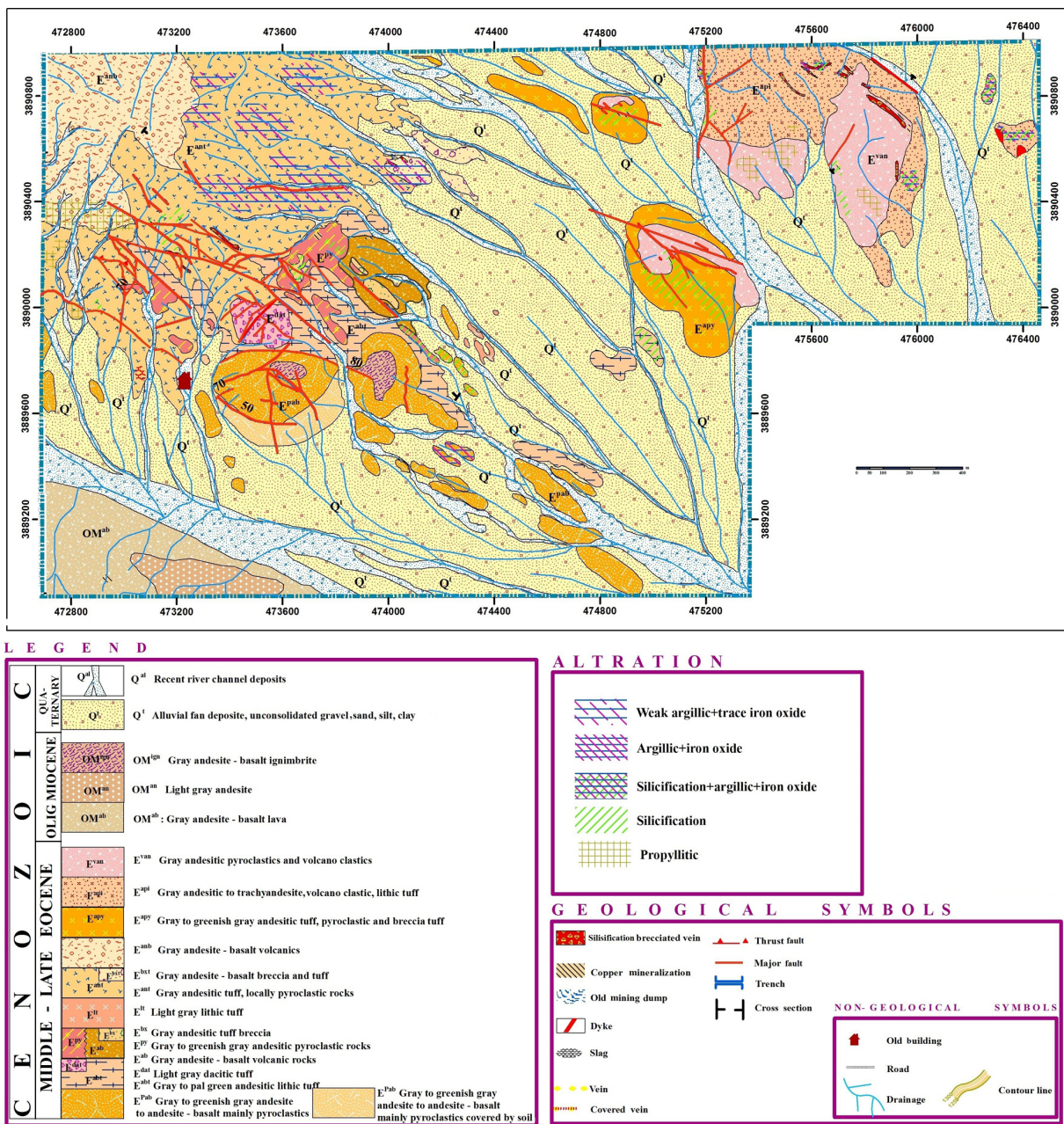


Fig. 1. Geological map of the Kusk-e-Bahram deposit (by Kazemi Mehrnia, 2012)

no-sedimentary sequences. The Eocene–Oligocene volcanic lithology in the Saveh district, about 104 km southwest of Tehran, hosts several Cu deposits within the NW–SE belt (Samani, 1998; 2003; Ghaderi et al., 2016) (Fig. 1).

Fluid Inclusion (FI) studies are essential tools for determination of the physicochemical conditions of the ore-forming processes in various copper deposits (Beane & Bodnar, 1995; Richards, 2015). In the present paper, data obtained from FIs have been collected and analysed for micro-thermometric characteristics in the Kushk-e-Bahram strata-bound deposit. The results obtained by FI have been interpreted and compared with other Manto-type Cu deposits in Iran and Latin America. The purpose of the present study is to determine ore genesis and hydrothermal evolution of the Kushk-e-Bahram Cu deposit on the basis of fluid inclusion studies and correlation with ore mineralogy, ore texture and structure and alteration zones.

2. Regional geological setting and geology of the Kushk-e-Bahram deposit

2.1. Geological characteristics

The UDMA is composed mainly of voluminous volcanic successions with minor intrusions that were emplaced during the Neo-Tethyan subduction under the Central Iranian Terrain (Berberian & King, 1981; Alavi, 1994; McQuarrie et al., 2003). The UDMA is part of the Alpine-Himalayan orogenic belt which is connected to the magmatic belts in Turkey and Pakistan (Shafiei et al., 2009; Haschke et al., 2010; Ag-hazadeh et al., 2015; Richards, 2015; Imer et al., 2016).

Most of the volcano-plutonic rocks in the UDMA were formed during the Late Paleocene and Late Eocene (McQuarrie et al., 2003; Zarasvandi et al., 2015). This magmatic belt contains andesites, trachy-andesites, subordinate basalts, latites, dacites and intrusive rocks consisting of monzonite, granodiorite, quartz diorite and quartz monzonite with ages between 50–35 Ma (Alavi, 1994; Richards, 2015).

This belt hosts the main porphyry deposits of Iran, in particular Sarcheshmeh, Sungun, Meiduk and Kahang (e.g., Shahabpour & Kramers, 1987; Hezarkhani, 2006; Afzal et al., 2010; Richards, 2015; Alirezaei et al., 2017). However, there are other types of copper deposits such as epithermal, copper veins and Manto-type deposits, especially in the UDMA central section. Many plutonic/volcanic bodies exist in the Saveh region and the central part

of the UDMA (Rezaei-Kahkhaei et al., 2011; Rezaei et al., 2015; Rajabpour et al., 2017). There are several Manto-type Cu occurrences within the volcanic and pyroclastic rocks.

2.2. Geology of the Kushk-e-Bahram deposit

Copper mineralization in the Kushk-e-Bahram deposit occurs as veins within Eocene-Oligocene volcanic rocks hosted by pyroclastic and andesitic units (Jebeli et al., 2018). The main mineralized veins are hosted by andesites and rhyolites. The geological characteristics of the Kushk-e-Bahram deposit, including its host rocks, mineralization geometry, ores and hydrothermal alteration zones resemble Manto-type Cu mineralization elsewhere in the Saveh region (Rajabpour et al., 2017; Jebeli et al., 2018). Several works, inclusive of geological map generation, XRD and XRF analysis, petrographical and mineralogical studies, have been carried out in this area. In the past, there were some small-scale mining activities; currently, exploration is under way. In addition, there are nine boreholes for subsurface exploration (Jebeli et al., 2018).

On the basis of geological data, including surface and subsurface data for this deposit, the main rock types are pyroclastic tuff, andesite tuff and pyroclastic andesites (Fig. 1). The quartz-sulphide veins are small and include chalcopyrite, pyrite and bornite, whereas the gangue minerals include calcite, quartz, chlorite and sericite. In addition, oxidized copper ores, characterised by malachites and minor azurite, occurs in veins in this area. Ore textures include microgranular, intergranular, porphyritic, glomeroporphyritic, microporphyritic, microlithic, spheroidal, vein-veinlet, open-space filling, replacement and laminated, colloidal and comb textures.

This Manto-type Cu deposit occurs within Eocene-Oligocene volcanic rocks of the UDMA and regional faults consisting of the Takhte-Chaman, Abbas-Abad and Kushk-e-Nosrat affected this mineralization (Fig. 1). The trend of the major faults is WNW to ESE, with several associated small faults trending NW to SE (Amidi et al., 2006).

2.3. Mineralization

The Kushk-e-Bahram deposit is strata bound and occurs within the upper member of the Eocene volcanic series. Cu and Ag means are equal to 6310 ppm and 0.263 ppm, respectively (Jebeli et al., 2018). Major ore minerals are chalcopyrite, chalcocite, bornite, covellite and digenite. Main and high-grade ore bodies

are related to hydrothermal breccias which are associated with silicic and argillic alteration zones. These breccias consist of hydrothermal features with a matrix that is composed mainly of ore/gangue minerals and altered angular to subrounded rhyodacite fragments (Fig. 2F). Low-grade copper mineralization extends from structures into the altered host rocks as fillings of voids. Three mineralization stages have been recognised in the Kushk-e-Bahram deposit. In the first stage, pyrite formed under decreasing conditions in the host rock. In the main mineralization (i.e., second) stage, pyrite was replaced by primary copper sulphide minerals such as chalcopyrite and bornite. Finally, in the third (supergene) stage, copper sulphide minerals were replaced by secondary copper sulphide minerals (chalcocite, covellite and digenite) and oxide minerals (malachite, azurite, goethite and hematite).

2.4. Alteration

The main mineralized zones are associated with high intensity silicification which extends into the rhyolitic and andesitic rocks. Silicification consists of quartz and local advanced argillic alteration. They are surrounded by an intermediate argillic

alteration zone. These quartzs consist of a ground-mass of microcrystalline anhedral to subhedral grains with disseminated pyrite, chalcopyrite and bornite (Fig. 2A–C). The argillic alteration including kaolinite, pyrophyllite and dickite, is extensive within the mineralized zones. This generated secondary porosity in the form of irregular voids and cavities, which are generally infilled by alunite, pyrite, chalcopyrite, bornite and barytes (Fig. 2D). Petrographical studies show that this material is an admixture of alunite with quartz, dickite and kaolinite/pyrophyllite. There are hydrothermal disseminations of secondary quartz crystals with comb texture and quartz aggregates were replaced instead of feldspar phenocrysts (Fig. 2E). Carbonatization alteration developed in the form of both carbonate veins and fine-grained disseminated carbonates in all host rocks (Fig. 2F). Propylitic alteration is present throughout the Kushk-e-Bahram deposit with replacement of mafic minerals by chlorite, as depicted in Figure 2F.

2.5. Paragenetic sequence

The initial hydrothermal activity included argillic alteration and deposition of pyrites and chalcopy-

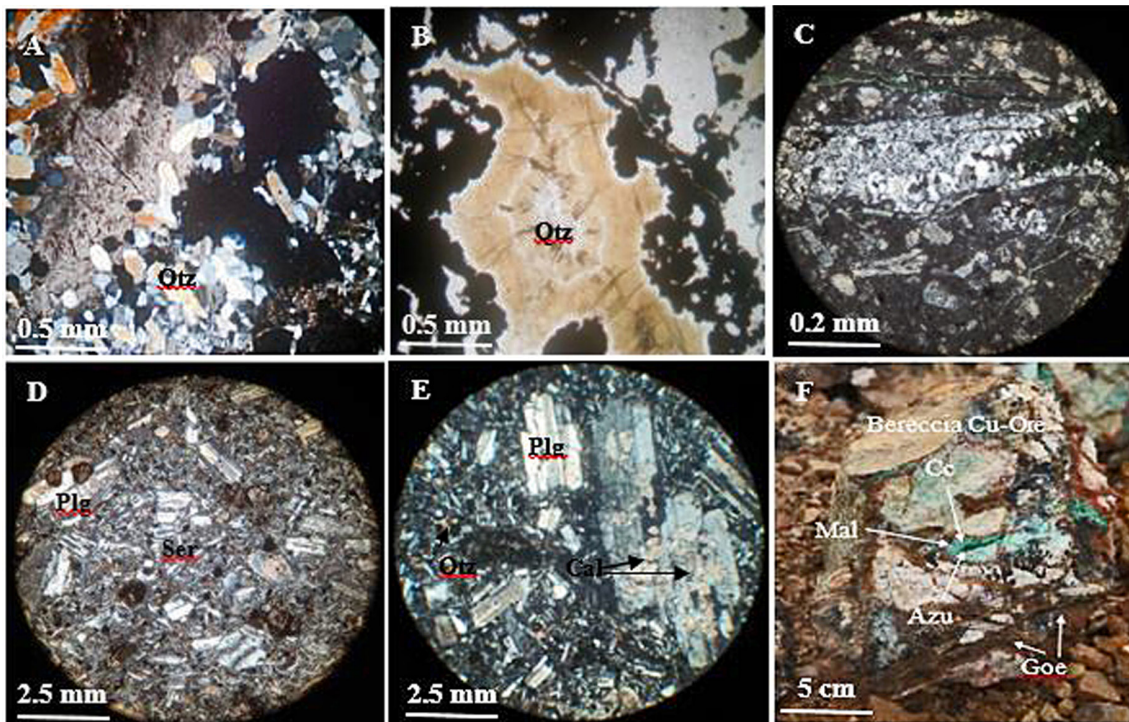


Fig. 2. A - Association of intergranular quartz grains with disseminated pyrite and chalcopyrite; B - Quartz crystals in vesicular texture; C - Secondary quartz crystals in comb texture; D - Fine-grained sericite crystals along fractures with pyrite and chalcopyrite; E, F - Replacement of plagioclase crystal with calcite. Abbreviations: Cal = calcite, Cc = chalcocite, Goe = goethite, Plg = plagioclase, Qtz = quartz, Ser = sericite, Azu = azurite

Table 1. Mineral assemblages and paragenetic sequence in the Kushk-e-Bahram deposit

Minerals/Texture	Pre-Mineralization		Mineralization		Post-Mineralization	
	Volcanism	Diagenesis		Supergene		
		Early	Late	Sulphide	Oxide	
Bornite			●			
Chalcocite			●		●	
Chalcopyrite			●			
Covellite					●	
Digenite				●	●	
Hematite						●
Azurite						●
Malachite						●
Zeolite				●		
Calcite		●	●			
Chlorite						
Pyrite	●	●				
Silica		●	●	●	●	●
Disseminated	●	●	●	●	●	●
Vein-Veinlet				●		
Open Space Filling		●	●	●	●	●
Replacement				●	●	

rites. The chalcopyrite replaced pre-existing pyrite and also it was replaced by Cu-rich ores especially bornite and chalcocite at this stage. The major mineralization stage was followed by an overprint of the propylitic alteration zone. The process of supergene enrichment created an extensive replacement of sulphidic copper minerals by malachite, azurite and oxidic copper ores (Jebeli et al., 2018) (Table 1).

3. Analytical methods

In the present study, fluid inclusion (FI) micro-thermometric characteristics have been analysed on the basis of eight samples collected from the silicic ore-bearing veins of drill cores in the Kushk-e-Bahram deposit. Eight double-polished sections (100 μm thickness) have been selected as based on sulphide-quartz veins in cores within andesitic and pyroclastic rocks. These samples have been prepared for micro-thermometric analysis in order to achieve a preliminary estimate of the temperatures and salinities of the ore-forming fluid. Conventional methods (Roedder, 1971) and a Linkam THMS 600 heating-freezing stage (between -196°C and $+600^\circ\text{C}$) installed on an Olympus TH4-200 microscope stage have been used in the Mineral Processing Research Centre (IMPRC) at Karaj (Iran). The precision is estimated to be $\pm 0.2^\circ\text{C}$ on freezing, \pm

2°C below -94.3°C and about $\pm 6^\circ\text{C}$ above $+414^\circ\text{C}$ for heating. This stage has been calibrated at low temperatures with n-Hexane (-94.3°C) and calibration at ($+414^\circ\text{C}$) by Cesium nitrate. The FI salinity was calculated by the final ice melting temperature ($T_{m_{ice}}$) and formula of Bodnar (1993).

4. Discussion and results

4.1. Fluid inclusion types and occurrence

Roedder (1984) and Shepherd et al. (1985) classified FIs into primary, secondary and pseudo-secondary. The FIs formed in quartz crystals were delineated both as primary in origin, and secondary occurring in micro-fractures of the quartz veins which collected from mineralized cores (Roedder, 1984; Esmali et al., 2015). The results obtained by petrographical data, microthermometric studies and phases detected at room temperatures indicate three types of FIs in these samples. These samples have been collected from andesitic and rhyolitic rocks with sulphidic minerals, including pyrite, chalcopyrite, covellite and chalcocite. The FIs types are expressed in the following forms (Fig. 3):

- I: two-phase liquid-rich (L + V)
- II: mono-phase liquid
- III: two-phase vapour-rich (V+L).

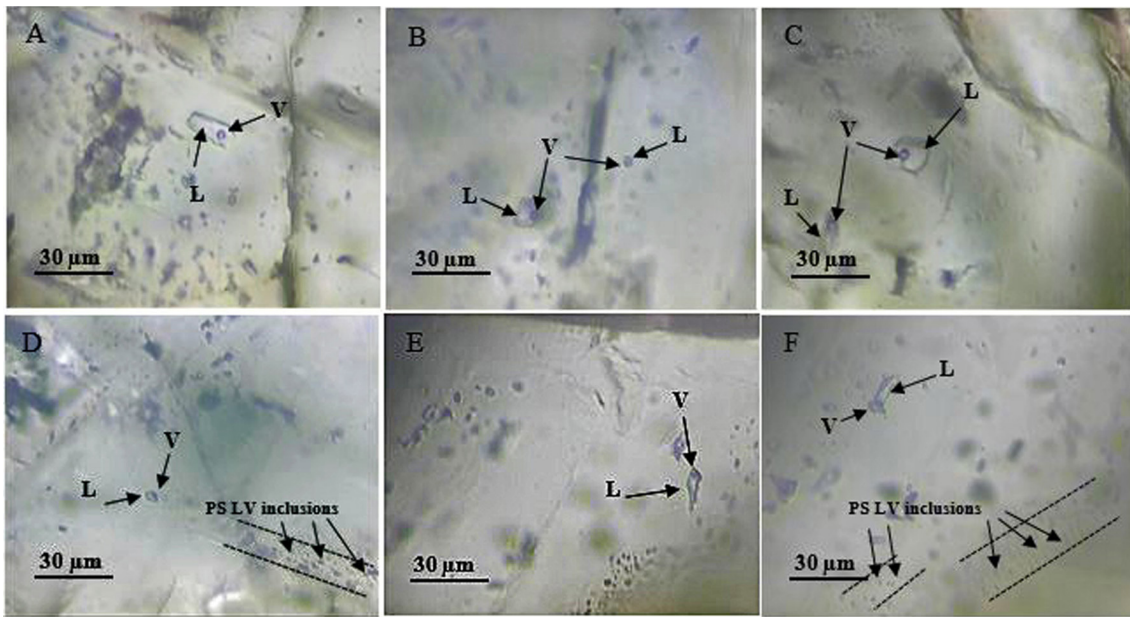


Fig. 3. Photomicrographs of fluid inclusion assemblages (FIs) of the three stages of mineralization (at room temperatures, in plane-polarized light)

A - Primary two-phase liquid-rich ($L > V$) FIs hosted by quartz; **B, C** - Co-existing primary vapour- and liquid-rich FIs in quartz, indicating boiling; **D** - Densely distributed pseudo-secondary liquid-rich type inclusions restricted to recrystallized quartz and primary two-phase liquid-rich ($L > V$) FIs; **E** - Primary two-phase liquid-rich fluid inclusion hosted by quartz; **F** - Pseudo-secondary liquid-rich type inclusions trapped in quartz ($L > V$) FIs. Abbreviations: L = liquid, V = vapour, PS = pseudo-secondary fluid inclusions

Type I FIs are more abundant ($\approx 85\%$) than the other types in the quartz veins of the study area. The liquid volume of type I FIs are between 75 and 80% of their content. The FIs featured in both irregular and regular shapes such as ellipsoids with sizes of 5–20 μm (maximum dimension) without any differences for salinity, homogenization temperatures and gas/liquid ratio.

4.1.1. Fluid inclusion petrography

The Fluid Inclusion Assemblage (FIA) method is applied on quartz (Qz) samples in order to calculate temperatures during formation of the deposit. Two types of FIs have been investigated in the Kushk-e-Bahram deposit: liquid-rich (LV) and vapour-rich (VL) at room temperatures, without detectable CO_2 or CH_4 . Primary FIs are scattered along growth zones and denote the fluid from which the host mineral precipitated, as depicted in Figure 3. Inclusions introduced to be pseudo-secondary FIs are inaccessible or existed in clusters along trails in random distribution. Furthermore, these FIs occurred within crack planes that end abruptly against grain boundaries (Fig. 3A–F). About 90% of the FIs are of the LV type. They were generated in rounded shapes and negative crystal in many cases but some of them have polygonal shapes, including irregular to tabular, as illustrated in Figures

3A–B. The LV inclusions, with 60 to 90 vol% of liquid at room temperatures, homogenise to a liquid phase. The LV type has been observed in quartz and calcite. A co-existence of the VL and LV types would indicate that boiling occurred generally, as depicted in Figure 3D–F. Micrometric measurements have been performed on the LV FIs. It shows necking down and leakage which did not occur and had almost the same ratio. The VL inclusions contain 70–90 vol% vapour bubbles with rounded shapes (oval and elongate), ranging in sizes between 5 and 25 μm inclusion and homogenise to a vapour phase.

4.2. Microthermometry results

The FIs of Type I were homogenised to a liquid state at temperatures between 67 and 228°C (with a mean of 158°C), as documented in Table 2 and Figure 4. The salinity values varied between 14.0 and 30.3 wt% equivalent of NaCl (see Fig. 5). The first ice melting temperatures (T_e) were between -45 and -60°C , with a mean of -54°C . Based on these temperatures, these T_e/T_{fm} data do not reflect the H_2O -NaCl system. The T_e of H_2O -NaCl is -21.2°C . Furthermore, below -49°C the dominant components are Mg and Ca, which accompany Na (Shep-

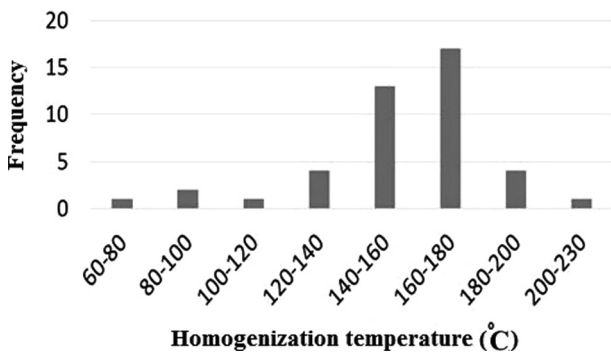


Fig. 4. Histogram of homogenization temperatures of fluid inclusions in quartz of the Kushk-e-Bahram deposit

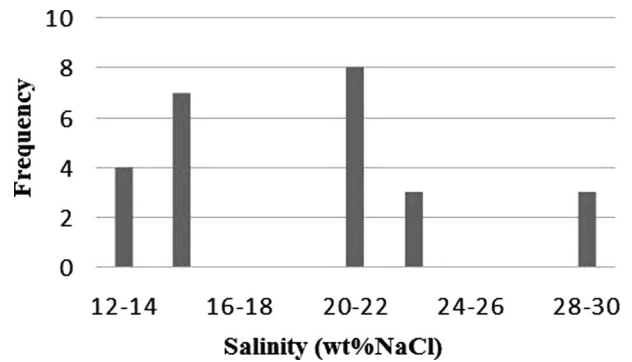


Fig. 5. Histogram of salinity of fluid inclusions in quartz of the Kushk-e-Bahram deposit

Table 2. Microthermometric results of FIs from the Kushk-e-Bahram Cu deposit

Host mineral	Size (µm)	Type	Origin	T _e	T _m	T _h	Salinity (wt% NaCl)
Quartz	5-35	Liquid+vapor	Primary	-45 to -60	-10 to -42.5	67-228	13.9-30.29

herd et al., 1985). Furthermore, this temperature is close to eutectic temperatures of H₂O-NaCl- CaCl₂ (Shepherd et al., 1985). In addition, these T_e values have revealed the presence of Na⁺ and Ca²⁺ as major cations in the ore-forming fluid with Cu²⁺. Type II inclusions are very low in samples; there are no microthermometric data.

4.3. Evolution path of ore-forming fluids and deposition mechanism

Mixing and boiling processes can be introduced as major factors in controlling fluid evolution for ore deposition in this deposit (Fig. 6). One of the essential pieces of evidence for boiling is the existence of FIS of types I and III in these samples (Roedder, 1984; Calagari, 2004; Yao et al., 2012). Moreover, flu-

id mixing (Simmons et al., 2005) and cooling (Ulrich et al., 2002; Redmond et al., 2004) could be another important factor for copper deposition based on a high range of salinities and Th (Oyarzun et al., 1998; Wang et al., 2013). Based on homogenization temperatures (Th) and salinities, the density of fluids varied between 0.8 and 1.1 gr/cm³ and increased in direct relationship with salinity values (Roedder, 1984).

The boiling represented by microthermometric data in ore fluids is crucial for the determination of predominant pressure and temperature during the ore formation process. Low temperatures have been detected in a quartz sample as 67, 83 and 89°C. Furthermore, mono-phase fluid inclusion associated with necking off has been seen in a single sample only; this is not proper for detection of temperature. The total pressure determined from fluid inclusion may be hydrostatic, derived via the weight of the column of overlying fluid. This pressure can be lithostatic, as obtained by the weight of the overburden. The pressure for aqueous inclusions with a NaCl solution was discussed by Roedder (1980). Vapour pressure for fluid has been determined to be less than 50 bars, according to the wt% of salinity and Th diagram (Ramdohr, 1980) (Fig. 7A). The fluids with low pressure indicate most likely a shallow environment under hydrostatic conditions. However, the depth of entrapment of FIs is lower than 200 metres, as based on the diagram of Haas (1971) (see Fig. 7B). If fluid denotes boiling conditions, assuming a hydrological system that is accessible to the surface, vapour pressure can be used to estimate the trapping depth, as shown in Figure 2. Based on this assumption, the depth of the FIs trapping is lower than 200 metres.

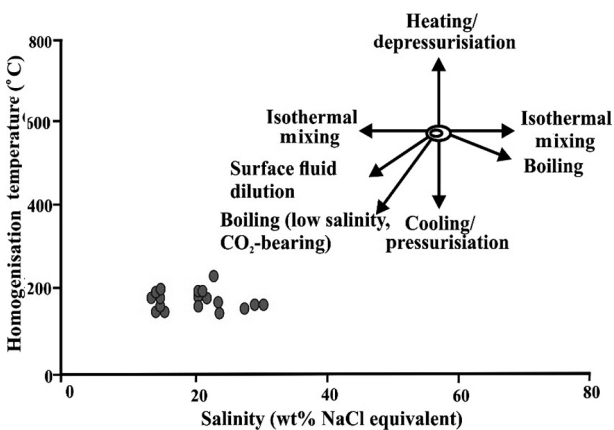


Fig. 6. Correlation between salinity and homogenization temperature, showing boiling and isothermal mixing for ore-forming processes

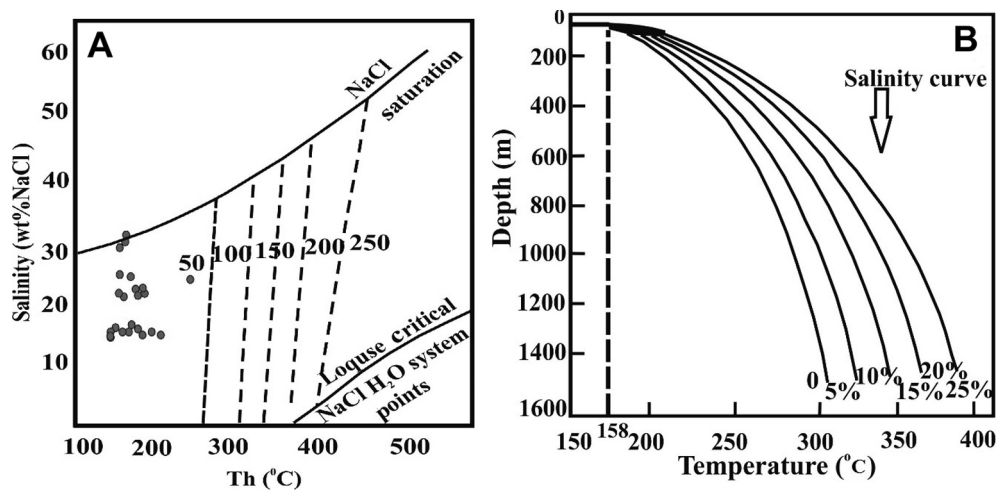


Fig. 7. A - Diagrams for vapour pressure of FIs on the basis of salinity and homogenization temperature (graph from Romdohr, 1980); B - Depth of FIs trapping (graph from Hass, 1971)

4.4. Comparison between FI characteristics of Kushk-e-Bahram and Manto-type Cu deposits

At this stage, the particulars of the FIs from the deposit studied are compared with several Manto-type Cu deposits in Iran and Latin America, in-

cluding Madan Bozorg in northeast Iran (Salehi & Rasa, 2016) and Chilean deposits including Buena Vista, El Soldado, Suasana-Lince and Mantos de la Iona (Boric et al., 2002; Kojima et al., 2003, 2009) (Fig. 8; Table 3). The homogenization temperature in Manto-type Cu deposits changes from 64° to 601° (Kojima et al., 2003); these deposits have low pressure conditions close to the boiling curve. Evidence

Table 3. Comparison of the Kushk-e-Bahram Cu deposit and Chilean Manto-type deposits

Deposit characteristics	Chilean Manto-type Cu deposits	Kushk-e-Bahram Cu deposit
Age of sequence	Jurassic - Lower Cretaceous	Late Eocene
Tectonic setting	Back-arc basins, island-arc, continental-arc	Back-arc basins
Depositional environment	Shallow marine, submarine, subaerial	Shallow marine, submarine, volcanic
Age of mineralization	Epigenetic	Epigenetic
Host/associated rock types	Amygdaloidal andesite flow, basaltic lava	Andesitic basalt, andesitic tuff and rhyolite, tuff, latite andesite
Deposit form	Vein-veinlets, strata-bound (restricted to particular units)	Strata-bound, vein-veinlets restricted to andesite, but discordant to the strata
Texture	Disseminations, open-space fillings, veins and replacement textures	Disseminations, open-space fillings, veins and replacement
Ore mineralogy	Chalcocite, bornite, chalcopyrite, pyrite, hematite, native copper	Pyrite, chalcopyrite, chalcocite, covellite, bornite, hematite
Gangue mineralogy	Calcite, quartz, epidote, hematite, chlorite and zeolite	Calcite, quartz, epidote, hematite, chlorite (zeolite)
Alteration	Silicification, sericitization, propylitic and carbonates	Propylitic, argillic, sericitization, carbonates
Genesis	1 - Syngenetically formed volcanogenic deposits; 2 - Epigenetically formed by magmatic emanation of associated plutonic intrusions; 3 - Epigenetic - diagenetic	Epigenetic - diagenetic
Homogenization	64-601°C (150-300°C)	67-228°C (158°C)
Salinities	1.5-62 (15-30)	14.0-30.3 (15-30)
References	Wilson et al. (2003); Wilson & Zentilli (2006); Kojima et al. (2009)	Jebeli et al. (2017); this study

of boiling has also been observed in Manto-type deposits. The salinity of these deposits is between 1.5 and 62 wt% equivalent of NaCl. The Kushk-e-Bahram Cu deposit indicates homogenization temperatures between 67 and 228°C (with a mean of 158°C) and the salinity values vary between 14 and 30.3 wt% equivalent of NaCl. Based on salinity and Th values, the Kushk-e-Bahram copper deposit is similar to Madan Bozorg and El Soldado, which are volcanic-hosted Manto-type Cu deposits (Fig. 8). The Th and salinity values of Kushk-e-Bahram deposit is like that of the Chilean deposits (see Table 3).

Most microthermometric data of fluid inclusions from the Kushk-e-Bahram deposit plot in the basal fluid field (compare Kesler, 2005) (Fig. 9). Therefore, the source can be the basal fluid that led to copper mineralization by leaching the volcanic rocks in the area.

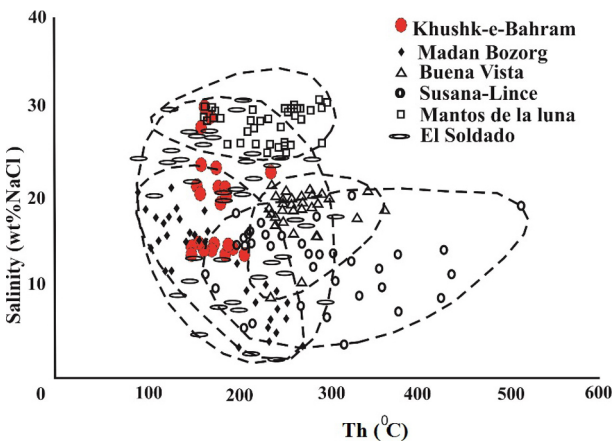


Fig. 8. Salinity and homogenization temperature (Th), illustrating the distribution pattern of data points in the Kushk-e-Bahram deposit (red dots). Comparison with Iranian and Chilean Manto-type deposits (Boric et al., 2002; Kojima et al., 2003, 2009; Salehi & Rasa, 2016)

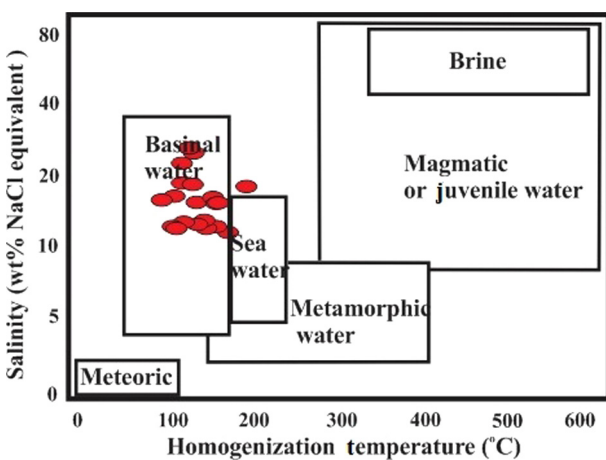


Fig. 9. Homogenization temperature/salinity diagram illustrating mineralizing fluids in the Kushk-e-Bahram deposit (areas of genetic factors by Kesler, 2005)

5. Conclusions

The Kushk-e-Bahram Manto-type Cu deposit is strata bound and occurs in the central part of Uremia-Dokhtar Magmatic Arc. The copper deposit contains ore-bearing quartz veins in Eocene to Oligo–Miocene pyroclastic and volcanic rocks, especially tuffs and andesitic units. The main sulphide minerals are chalcopyrite, pyrite, bornite, chalcocite and covellite, which are accompanied by hematite. In the early stage of mineralization, pyrite formed in a reduction state in the host rock. In the main mineralization stage, pyrite was replaced by primary copper sulphide minerals such as chalcopyrite and bornite. Finally, copper sulphide minerals were replaced by secondary copper sulphide minerals and oxide minerals in the supergene stage. FIs data indicate homogenization temperatures of 67 to 228°C with an average of 158°C and a salinity range between 13.99 and 30.29 (average, 19.5) wt% NaCl equivalent, with pressure and trapping depth lower than 50 bars and 200 metres, respectively. The results obtained by the FIs indicate that boiling and mixing can be the main factors for controlling of quartz and sulphide mineral precipitation. Fluid mixing could also have occurred, particularly in the late mineralization stage. The homogenization temperatures and salinity of FIs suggest basin brines as probable source of mineralizing fluids. The fluid inclusion studies, copper mineral association with abundant gangue minerals and the development of alteration halos, including argillic, silicic and propylitic zones, suggest that the Kushk-e-Bahram deposit is best compared to Chilean Manto-type deposits.

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