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Ore mineralogical investigation of the Mofjell deposit (Mo i Rana, Nordland, Norway) with emphasis on gold and silver distribution



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Summary:  The presence of gold has been proven in seven polished sections. Gold occurs as typically < 10 µm. This must be borne in grinding will be essential for optimum Associated minerals are tetrahedrite and c is not associated with sphalerite and Zn Mofjell ore would need to carefully considifferent sulphides (chalcopyrite, galena, Some gold is also present within the silical Silver is chiefly hosted within galena and	s electrum (both n mind when con- recovery. Gold other Sb-sulphosa -rich samples are ider the implication tetrahedrite), cause the matrix.	Au- and Ag-ric sidering alternative is chiefly associate, galena, chalce typically gold pons of the fact the sing it to report to	h varieties). The grain size is wes for processing the ore. Fine iated with Sb-rich mobilsates. opyrite, pyrite and quartz. Gold ooor. Future exploitation of the at gold is locked within several to both Pb- and Cu-concentrates.					

dyscrasite and Ag-Sb sulphosalts.

The occurrence of both gold and silver in the Mofjell deposit is consistent with other metamorphosed sulphide deposits (amphibolite grade) elsewhere in the Norwegian Caledonides (e.g., Bleikvassli, Sulitjelma). The mineralogy of the Mofjell deposit has been shown to be complex and further work will be necessary to confirm the conclusions of this report. This is especially true in the case of silver, for which a detailed and representative assessment of the silver distribution needs to be carried out prior to any test mining.

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Mineralogy	Gold	Silver

# **CONTENTS**

1. INTR	ODUCTION	4
2. PREV	/IOUS MINERALOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS OF MOFJELL ORES	4
<b>3.</b> THE	PRESENT SAMPLE SUITE - ORE TYPES AND LOCATION	5
4. MICE	ROSCOPY OF GOLD ORES: CONSTRAINTS AND LIMITATIONS	6
5. MAII	N SULPHIDE MINERALS, ORE TEXTURES AND FABRICS	7
6. GOL	D MINERALOGY	8
7. MINI	ERALOGY OF GOLD IN THE MOFJELL SUITE	9
	ER MINERALOGY	14
	ERALOGY OF SILVER IN THE MOFJELL SUITE	16
	ER MINERALOGICAL OBSERVATIONS	19
	AMORPHIC SULPHIDE REMOBILISATION - BACKGROUND &	
	ICATIONS	19
	CLUSIONS	23
	OMMENDATIONS	23
	ERENCES	30
FIGURE	SS S	
Fig. 1	Grain size distribution among the 49 identified gold grains	13
_	Compositions of tetrahedrite-tennantite minerals	16
Fig. 2	Compositions of tetrahedrite-termaintie innerals	10
PLATES	<b>S</b>	
Plate 1	Photomicrographs of gold grains observed in sample Mo 3	11
Plate 2	Photomicrographs of gold grains observed in samples Mo 7, Mo 10A, Mo	
	12, Mo 13, Mo 17A and Mo 18	12
Plate 3	Photomicrographs	24
Plate 4	Photomicrographs	25
Plate 5	Photomicrographs	26
Plate 6	Photomicrographs	27
Plate 7	Photomicrographs	28
Plate 8	Back-scattered electron images	29
TABLES	<b>S</b>	
Table 1	Index of studied polished sections	6
Table 2	Known gold minerals	8
Table 3	Gold grains identified in this study	10
Table 4	Electron probe microanalyses of electrum grains	13
Table 5	Silver minerals	15
Table 6	Microprobe analyses of tetrahedrite-tennantite minerals	17
Table 7	Microprobe analyses of ramdohrite and diaphorite	18
Table 8	Minerals identified in the present study	19
Table 9	Microprobe analyses of bournonite and boulangerite	20
Table 10	·	21
Table 11		
	dyscrasite and ullmannite	22

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

This report is designed to complement the report of Bjerkgård et al. (2001; NGU report 2000.050), in which details of geology, structure and gold distribution in the Mofjell deposit are given. The reader is referred to that report for details of location of material studied and reported here.

The main opaque minerals in the Mofjell ores are, in order of abundance, pyrite (FeS<sub>2</sub>), sphalerite (ZnS), galena (PbS), chalcopyrite (CuFeS<sub>2</sub>), monoclinic pyrrhotite (Fe<sub>1-x</sub>S), magnetite (Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>), ilmenite (FeTiO<sub>3</sub>), rutile (TiO<sub>2</sub>), hematite (Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) and arsenopyrite (FeAsS). Gangue minerals include garnet, quartz, albite, hornblende, biotite, calcite, diopside, epidote, barite and staurolite. The gangue minerals have not been studied in the present investigation.

## 2. PREVIOUS MINERALOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS OF MOFJELL ORES

Saager (1966; 1967) made numerous valuable observations on the mineralogy of the Mofiell deposit, and was the first to recognize the complexity of many of the mineral assemblages. In the main Mofiell ores, he was able to recognize numerous ore trace minerals alongside the above-mentioned phases (hereafter, the 'common sulphides'). Stannite (Cu<sub>2</sub>FeSnS<sub>4</sub>)<sup>1</sup>, cubanite (CuFe<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub>), "valleriite"<sup>2</sup>, ullmannite (NiSbS), various compositions within the tetrahedrite-tennantite solid solution series ((Cu,Ag)<sub>10</sub>(Fe,Zn)<sub>2</sub>(Sb,As)<sub>4</sub>S<sub>13</sub>), jamesonite (Pb<sub>4</sub>FeSb<sub>6</sub>S<sub>14</sub>), gudmundite (FeSbS), molybdenite (MoS<sub>2</sub>), breihauptite (NiSb), "white breithauptite"<sup>3</sup>, hessite (Ag<sub>2</sub>Te) and dyscrasite (Ag<sub>3</sub>Sb). Gold was recognized as disseminations within the silicate matrix, as inclusions within pyrite and mostly, associated with chalcopyrite. Some gold grains had characteristic Ag-enriched rims. A good correlation between the occurrence of gold and chalcopyrite was noted, with the mineral commonly occurring at grain boundaries between chalcopyrite and galena, pyrrhotite or tetrahedrite, and commonly associated with that mineral. The size of the coarsest gold grain was given as 50 µm. Saager recognized that the Sb-sulphosalt minerals were locally abundant and also that these were enriched in the Hauknestind, Umskaret and Rostafiell deposits, compared to the Mofjell deposit itself. In Hauknestind ores, several additional minerals were recognized, including bournonite (CuPbSbS<sub>3</sub>), boulangerite (Pb<sub>5</sub>Sb<sub>4</sub>S<sub>11</sub>), pyrargyrite (Ag<sub>3</sub>SbS<sub>3</sub>), native bismuth (Bi) and a rare Bi-sulphosalt, cosalite<sup>4</sup>. Saager (1966) presented some microanalytical data for tetrahedrite-tennantite, showing that some varieties of tetrahedrite are Ag-bearing and that there is a positive correlation between Ag and Fe content. He further remarks on an additional "Ag-Te-sulphosalt", that occurs as micro-scale inclusions within tetrahedrite<sup>5</sup>.

Schulze (1975) studied ores from Hauknestind and included microprobe analyses to corroborate some of the above identifications and identifying mackinawite ((Fe,Ni)<sub>9</sub>S<sub>8</sub>).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The present author believes that most of what has been called stannite is actually members of the stannite-kësterite solid solution series with a wide range of compositions (Cu<sub>2</sub>FeSnS<sub>4</sub>-Cu<sub>2</sub>ZnSnS<sub>4</sub>).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Shown by Schulze (1975) to be mackinawite.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> "White breithauptite" is almost certainly nisbite, another Ni-Sb compound. The two are both known from other Caledonide sulphide deposits, e.g. Sulitjelma.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The present author believes this is, in all likelihood, not cosalite, but other Bi-sulphosalts, probably lillianite. The optical properties are near identical.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> The present author believes, based on the description and qualitative analysis presented by Saager, that this is most probably cervelleite, Ag<sub>4</sub>TeS, a rare telluride known from just 7 deposits worldwide.

Lind (1980) undertook a detailed study of the Mofjell ores collected from underground localities. As was the case for Saager's study, most of the identifications were made based on microscopic observations, not on the basis of electron probe microanalysis<sup>6</sup>. Lind recognized a similar range of minerals as Saager. Additionally, she recognized minor amounts of bornite (Cu<sub>5</sub>FeS<sub>4</sub>), marcasite (FeS<sub>2</sub>) and covellite (CuS) and a further Pb-Sb-sulphoslt phase, occurring as inclusions in galena, and referred to as 'schulzite'. Lind did not document gold in the ores. The generally Fe-rich tetrahedrite from lens 0 was shown to be richest in Ag, followed by lens 2. Tetrahedrite from lenses 1 and 3 contained lesser amounts of Ag, and were richer in Zn. Lind also discussed the mineralogy of several smaller showings in the Mofjell area. A similar range of minerals were found in these, but also seligmannite (CuPbAsS<sub>3</sub>), geocronite (Pb<sub>14</sub>(Sb,As)<sub>6</sub>S<sub>23</sub>), altaite (PbTe) and the rare telluride rucklidgeite, (Bi,Pb)<sub>3</sub>Te<sub>4</sub><sup>7</sup>.

Eidsmo et al. (1985), in their survey of silver distributions in various Caledonide sulphide deposits remark briefly upon the likely hosts for Ag in the deposit, even though their work did not include any quantitative data for Mofjell. In particular, they note how little Ag reported to the Zn-concentrate, inferring galena and tetrahedrite-tennantite to be the principal Ag-carriers in the ore.

Karlstrøm (1990) noted the good correlation between Ag and Sb in the Mofjellet ores. Karlstrøm included Te in his suite of analysed elements. All samples were below the detection limit of 0.1 ppm, suggesting tellurides to be a very minor component.

Nixon & Rui (1988) examined 31 polished sections (from drillholes 1321, 1323 and 1326) and identified gold minerals in 11 of these. Gold was seen as tiny grains (given in abstract as 'less than 1 µm'8), chiefly associated with silicates in fractures and on grain boundaries. They, interestingly, did not observe inclusions of gold in the common sulphides (pyrite, galena, sphalerite, chalcopyrite), but noted that some of the gold grains were associated with tetrahedrite-tennantite ('fahlerts') and, in general, with fine-grained sulphide disseminations in silicate gangue.

As noted by Craig & Vokes (1992), Mofjell is, along with Bleikvassli and some deposits of the Sulijelma district (e.g. Jakobsbakken), one of those deposits with the most complex mineralogy within the Appalachian-Caledonide stratabound sulphide deposits. This is partly a result of the high metamorphic grade and resultant extensive sulphide remobilisation identified in these deposits, partly also a reflection of the more Pb- and Ag-rich character of these deposits (these elements characteristically form a number of trace minerals), but also a reflection that these deposits are among those which have been most carefully and thoroughly investigated.

#### 3. THE PRESENT SAMPLE SUITE - ORE TYPES AND LOCATION

The suite of samples studied consist of 23 polished specimens, 1 inch in diameter prepared from the Ag- and Au-rich intersections in seven drillholes (Table 1). A further 46 samples were collected from drillcore intersections in the east of the deposit. However, it was decided not to proceed with the preparation of sections for these samples because of the low to very low gold assays.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Some compositional data for tetrahedrite-tennantite minerals was shown as plots in a later publication (Lind & Makovicky 1982). Silver concentrations range from virtually zero up to about 20 wt. %, corresponding to a formula of Cu<sub>6</sub>Ag<sub>4</sub>(Fe,Zn)<sub>2</sub>(Sb,As)<sub>4</sub>S<sub>13</sub>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Lind gives microprobe data supporting the identification of rucklidgeite.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> This is not consistent with their description, in which one of the grains is said to be <0.02 mm (i.e  $<20\mu$ m).

Each polished section has been investigated in reflected light at magnifications of 40X and 100X. Gold grains have been identified in seven of these samples (shown in bold in Table 1).

**Table 1** Index of studied polished sections

Sample no.	Intersection	Description
Mo 1	DH 1321 1.42 m	Disseminated pyrite, sphalerite & galena in
		biotite-quartz gneiss.
Mo 2 & Mo 2a	DH 1321 4.30-4.32 m	Semi-massive pyrite-galena-sphalerite ore.
Mo 3	DH 1321 8.45 m	Disseminations of chalcopyrite & galena in
		biotite gneiss.
Mo 4	DH 1323 13.50-13.53 m	Pyrite & chalcopyrite disseminations along the
		schistosity planes of phyllosilicates.
Mo 5	DH 1323 13.36 m	Coarse-grained sphalerite in biotite gneiss.
Mo 6	DH 1323 11.12-11.15 m	Disseminated pyrite in biotite-quartz gneiss
Mo 7	DH 1323 17.9 m	Quartz rich ore carrying galena & sulphosalts
Mo 8	DH 1323 6.50 m	Finely disseminated chalcopyrite in gneiss.
Mo 9	DH 1324 12.05 m	Finely disseminated chalcopyrite in gneiss.
Mo 10 & <b>Mo 10a</b>	DH 1324 14.85-14.95 m	Coarse porphyroblastic pyrite carrying galena,
		sphalerite & some sulphosalts in fracture fillings.
Mo 11	DH 1326 2.14 m	Massive pyrite from micro-shear. Galena &
		chalcopyrite fill fractures in the pyrite.
Mo 12	DH 1326 1.28 m	Semi-massive dissemination of chalcopyrite &
		galena in biotite gneiss.
Mo 13	DH 1327 3.07 m	Semi-massive dissemination of chalcopyrite &
		galena in biotite gneiss.
Mo 14	DH 8004 278.7 m	Massive quartz carrying pyrite & sphalerite
		adjacent to vein.
Mo 15 & Mo 15a	DbH 8004 279.3 m	Disseminations of chalcopyrite & galena in
		biotite gneiss. Narrow veinlets.
Mo 16	DbH 1327 2.78 m	Disseminations of prite in quartz-rich gneiss.
Mo 17 & <b>Mo 17a</b>	DbH 1327 1.74 m	Disseminations of chalcopyrite & galena in biotite gneiss. Narrow veinlets.
<b>Mo 18</b> & Mo 18a	DbH 1328 1.5-1.6 m	Semi-massive ore with pyrite, galena & chalcopyrite
		Some sulphosalts.

# 4. MICROSCOPY OF GOLD ORES: CONSTRAINTS AND LIMITATIONS

In most sulphide ores like Mofjell, gold is present in concentrations of a few g/t at most. For this reason, a mineralogical study looking for gold in polished sections will be constrained by a number of difficulties, which should be anticipated before starting the study. Success, i.e. locating gold particles and accounting, mineralogically, for gold as has been measured by assay, is not always guaranteed.

There are several reasons for not encountering gold during a mineralogical study

• Poor selection of samples – are they truly representative of the gold-bearing intervals? A single one-inch polished block cannot necessarily duplicate the gold assayed over a 1 m

section of drillcore – especially if the gold is concentrated within a small segment of that core.

- Poor polishing causing small gold particles to be lost from the polished surface. This can be a particularly serious problem in quartz-rich ores where too heavy a weight is placed on the specimen during polishing.
- The size of gold grains is sufficiently coarse that the nugget effect is observed, with gold inhomogeneously distributed between samples.
- Gold is present as 'invisible gold' locked within the lattice of sulphide minerals and cannot be seen during microscopic study.
- (Part of the) gold is present as other gold minerals, e.g. tellurides, which by virtue of their inconspicuous appearance are not readily noted during microscopic study.

As a result, certain precautions need to be taken in mind during the microscopic work and in interpretation of the results. See relevant publications on investigation of gold-bearing samples (Gasparrini 1983; Cook 1990; Harris 1990), sample preparation and polishing (Stanley & Laflamme 1998) and problems associated with the nugget effect (Dominy et al. 2000).

# 5. MAIN SULPHIDE MINERALS, ORE TEXTURES AND FABRICS

The ore mineralogy of the Mofjell deposit is that of typical metamorphosed sulphide deposits of VMS or SEDEX type. The common sulphides, sphalerite, galena, pyrite, pyrrhotite and chalcopyrite occur as fine grained disseminated grains, rarely exceeding 2 mm in diameter, within the silicate matrix. Sulphides follow the foliation of the rock and are commonly aligned parallel with the elongation of blades of biotite. Sulphides also occur as irregular aggregates within quartz and in garnet, and filling fractures and micro-shears (chalcopyrite and galena, in particular) within the silicates.

Isolated porphyroblasts of sphalerite, pyrite and galena occur disseminated throughout the ore. In most of the samples studied, pyrite was dominant over pyrrhotite. All the common sulphides are intimately intergrown with one another, especially chalcopyrite, pyrrhotite and galena. Magnetite occurs as relict grains, overgrown or replaced by pyrrhotite or chalcopyrite. Arsenopyrite and tetrahedrite-tennantite are abundant minor minerals. Both occur intergrown with chalcopyrite and galena. Grain size of both minerals rarely exceeds  $100~\mu m$  in size. Cubanite is very abundant, as often spectacular, exsolution lamellae within chalcopyrite. Several sections (Drillholes 8004 and 1328) contained abundant molybdenite, as lath-shaped grains  $100\text{-}200~\mu m$  in size. The large number of trace minerals recognised in this study are discussed in more detail below. All of these are small and occur as sub-50  $\mu m$  grains intergrown with the common sulphides.

The ores display abundant evidence of extensive remobilisation, in which sulphides, including the precious metals, have been released from sulphide ore during metamorphic recrystallisation and subsequently re-concentrated within veinlets, deformed quartz-rich masses and as fracture fillings in pyrite and garnet. Several types of remobilisates are recognised in the sample suite, each reflecting discrete stages of the metamorphic cycle. Of relevance to the genetic history of the deposit is the observation of tetrahedrite-chalcopyrite-galena-bournonite inclusions within the cores of garnet porphyroblasts, with a later generation of mobilised minerals infilling fractures in the same garnet.

#### 6. GOLD MINERALOGY

Before discussing the gold mineralogy in the studied sections, some background information is briefly presented.

## Gold distribution in metamorphosed sulphide deposits – an introduction

Although some 31 gold minerals are known (Table X.2), the majority of these are exceptionally rare and will generally not be encountered in metamorphosed sulphide deposits.

In gold deposits, gold is typically distributed between:

- Native gold, electrum (Ag,Au) and more rarely, alloys with Hg (Au,Ag,Hg) (i.e. visible gold)
- Other Au-bearing minerals, particularly Au- and Ag-Au tellurides (calaverite, krennerite, sylvanite, petzite etc.), but also other compounds (e.g. maldonide, auripigment, aurostibite etc.; see Table 2)
- "Invisible gold" that is gold within the common sulphides, either as sub-microscopic (< 1 μm) particles not observable using a reflected light microscope at 50 or 100x magnification, or within the crystal lattice of the sulphides. Arsenopyrite and pyrite are both important hosts of invisible gold in a variety of deposit types (Cook & Chryssoulis 1990; Cabri 1992). Other Asbearing minerals, e.g. löllingite, enargite, tennantite, may, if present in the ore, also contain some invisible gold.</p>

In ore deposits regionally metamorphosed at amphibolite grade or above, gold is normally present as native gold or electrum. Although instances of invisible gold are known from metamorphosed sulphide ores, the higher the metamorphic grade, the less likely it is that invisible gold plays a significant role. This is because invisible gold, if any is present, will generally be released from the lattice of the common sulphides (chiefly pyrite and arsenopyrite) during syn-metamorphic recrystallisation (Larocque et al. 1993; 1995; Neumayr et al. 1993). That gold released from pyrite may be remobilised to form concentrations outside of the massive ore, commonly in zones of structural weakness within adjacent wallrock.

Although gold is commonly coarser in ores that have recrystallised at high metamorphic grade, the combination of major sulphide and gangue minerals and the ore fabric will impact on grain size, such that fine to very fine grain size is also observed in some metamorphosed ores.

Other gold minerals (e.g. tellurides, compounds with Sb or Bi) are typically exceptionally rare in metamorphosed massive sulphide deposits. Even though a number of other Au-bearing minerals have been recorded in Caledonide deposits (e.g. aurostibite at Sulitjelma), these are no more than a minor curiosity.

**Table 2.** Known gold minerals

# 7. MINERALOGY OF GOLD IN THE MOFJELL SUITE

Gold has been confirmed in the samples. Forty-one gold/electrum grains are identified in a total of seven polished sections. Each of these is tabulated in Table 3, with grain size and association. Each identified gold grain is shown in Plates 1 and 2. No other Au-bearing minerals have been observed in the samples.

As can be seen from the table, gold chiefly occurs as small grains, sub-10  $\mu m$  in diameter. The size distribution is shown in Fig. 1, showing a normal distribution and an average grain diameter of 6  $\mu m$ .

Gold is chiefly associated with chalcopyrite (15 grains), followed by tetrahedrite-tennantite (13 grains) and galena (8 grains). More rarely, gold is seen as inclusions within the quartz-silicate matrix (5 grains) or within pyrite (1 grain). This information is, however, somewhat subjective, however, since most gold grains occur at the mineral boundaries rather than as inclusions in a single mineral.

Conspicuously, gold is not seen associated with sphalerite, and indeed, those samples containing gold generally contained little sphalerite. Assemblages containing gold commonly also contain a range of Sb-sulphosalts, tetrahedrite being the most abundant of these. Many grains occur as very thin rims to tetrahedrite grains. Those samples containing gold grains were also those samples containing the greatest abundance of Sb-sulphosalts (tetrahedrite, bornite etc.). Pyrrhotite is commonly present as an associated mineral of those gold grains observed in chalcopyrite. Gold was not observed showing any association with arsenopyrite.

Based on their optical properties, the grains have a wide range of compositions. The majority were golden yellow in colour, suggesting fineness in excess of .750. Some however, appeared much more silver-rich. These are marked with \* on Table 3. Four of the grains were checked by electron microprobe and showed compositional variation from 47.55 to 62.26 wt. % Au (Table 4). Other coarser, golden-yellow grains are approximately 80-85 wt. % Au. Small amounts (1.3-2.6 wt. % Hg) were noted in all grains – a common feature of gold grains from metamorphosed sulphide ores.

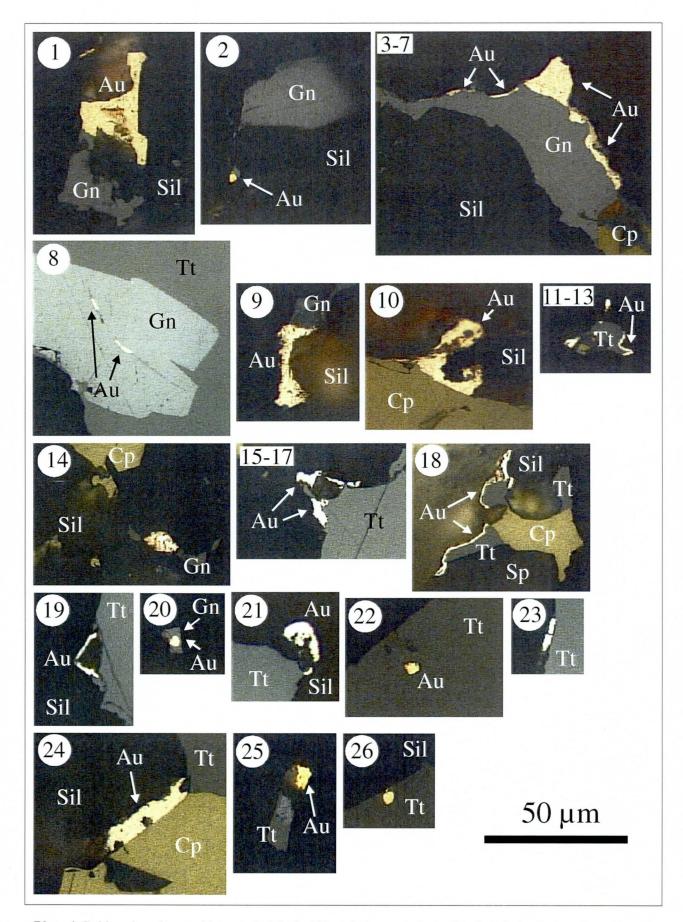
Based on these observations and knowledge on the gold distribution on other comparable deposits, it can be concluded that:

- ★ Invisible gold is unlikely to play a role in the Mofjell ores.
- ★ Gold occurs only in the form of native gold and alloys with silver (electrum), covering a relatively broad compositional range.
- ★ The observed gold is typically very fine-grained. A nugget effect, with a relatively small number of coarse grains erratically distributed within the gold-enriched ores, is considered as unlikely but cannot be ruled out.
- \* Future exploitation of the Mofjell ore would need to carefully consider the implications of the fine average grain size of gold and the fact that it is locked within several different sulphides (chalcopyrite, galena, tetrahedrite), causing it to report to both the Pb- and Cu-concentrates. A significant proportion is also present within the silicate matrix<sup>9</sup>, even if the present study did, unlike that of Nixon & Rui, indicate that the majority of gold grains are associated with sulphides rather than silicate matrix.

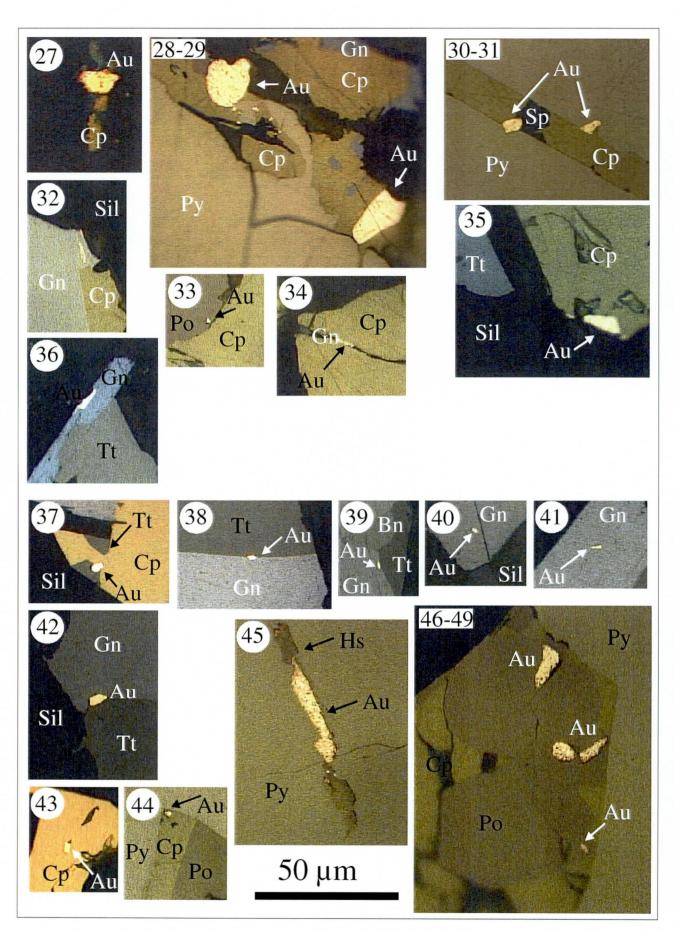
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> The relatively high proportion of Mofjell gold lost to tailings (33%) was noted in a 1971 report (rapp. 'Gull i råmalm og konsentrater'; BV 3214)

**Table 3** Gold grains identified in this study. The consecutive "grain number" given (first column indexes grains to Plates 1 and 2. Grain sizes are given as the diameter if the grain.

Grain	Sample	ID#	Size (µm)	Location & mineral association
1	Mo 3	1	30	In silicate matrix, associated with galena
2	17	2	2	In silicate matrix, associated with galena
3	11	3	2	On margin of galena grain
4	11	4	3	On margin of galena grain
5	- 11	5	14	On margin of galena grain
6	**	6	4	On margin of galena grain
7	71	7	11	On margin of galena grain
8	11	8*	3	Filling fracture in galena, associated with tetrahedrite
9	11	9	18	In quartz matrix, associated with galena
10	77	10	15	On margin of chalcopyrite grain
11	**	11*	3	On margins of tetrahedrite grain
12	77	12*	2	On margins of tetrahedrite grain
13	77	13*	10 x 1	On margins of tetrahedrite grain
14	11	14	7	In quartz matrix, associated with galena & chalcopyrite
15	11	15*	6	On margins of tetrahedrite grain
16	11	16*	5	On margins of tetrahedrite grain
17	11	17*	3	On margins of tetrahedrite grain
18	11	18*	60 x 1	On margins of tetrahedrite grain, some chalcopyrite
19	11	19*	3	On margins of tetrahedrite grain
20	**	20	3	In quartz, associated with galena & tetrahedrite
21	"	13*	8	On margins of tetrahedrite grain
22	11	14	5	Enclosed in tetrahedrite
23	**	15*	4	On margins of tetrahedrite grain
24	**	16	19	On margin if chalcopyrite, associated with tetrahedrite
25	**	17	5	In quartz, associated with galena
26	11	18	3	Enclosed in tetrahedrite
27	Mo 7	1	10	In silicate matrix, associated with chalcopyrite
28	Mo 10A	1	15	At margin of chalcopyrite
29	Ħ	2	15	At margin of chalcopyrite
30	**	3	5	With chalcopyrite, filling fracture in pyrite
31	**	4	4	With chalcopyrite, filling fracture in pyrite
32	Mo 12	1	3	Inclusion in galena
33	"	2	1	At boundary between chalcopyrite and pyrrhotite
34	**	3	3	Within fracture in chalcopyrite
35	17	4	8	At margin of chalcopyrite, assoc. with tetrahedrite
36	11	5*	6	On margin of galena
37	Mo 13	1	3	At boundary of chalcopyrite and tetrahedrite
38	11	2	1	At margin between galena and tetrahedrite
39	!!	3	1	At margin between galena, tetrahedrite and bournonite
40	17	4	2	Inclusion in galena
41	11	5	2	Inclusion in galena
42	19	6	5	At margin between galena and tetrahedrite
43	Mo 17A	1	2	Inclusion in chalcopyrite
44	Mo 18	1	1	Inclusion in chalcopyrite, itself within pyrite
45	TŤ	2	22	Inclusion in pyrite
46	ff	3	10	Inclusion in chalcopyrite-pyrrhotite, itself within pyrite
47	Ħ	4	8	Inclusion in chalcopyrite-pyrrhotite, itself within pyrite
48	11	5	8	Inclusion in chalcopyrite-pyrrhotite, itself within pyrite
49	11	6	1	Inclusion in chalcopyrite-pyrrhotite, itself within pyrite



**Plate 1** Gold grains observed in sample Mo 3. Abbreviations are Au: gold, Cp: chalcopyrite, Gn: galena, Tt: tetrahedrite, Sp: sphalerite, Sil: silicate. All images are shown at the same scale.

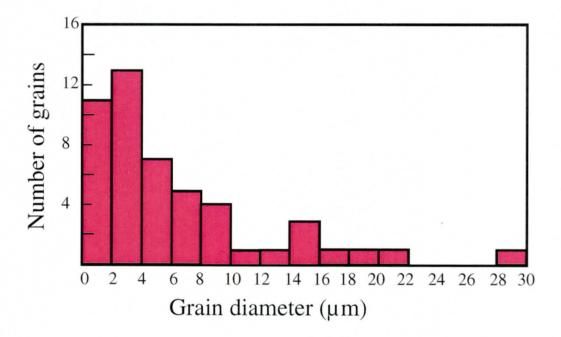


**Plate 2** Gold grains observed in samples Mo 7, -10A, -12, -13, -17A and -18. Abbreviations are Au: gold, Cp: chalcopyrite, Gn: galena, Tt: tetrahedrite, Sp: sphalerite, Py: pyrite, Po: pyrrhotite, Hs: hessite, Sil: silicate. All images are shown at the same scale.

Table 4 Electron probe microanalyses of electrum grains, normalized to 100 wt. %

Wt. %	Grain 33	Grain 32	Grain 35	Grain 34
Ag	47.55	51.04	54.16	62.26
Au	48.80	46.55	41.64	35.61
Hg	1.31	1.83	2.57	1.88
Cu	1.94	0.33	-	0.13
Sb	0.40	0.25	1.64	0.17

**Fig. 1** Grain size distribution among the 49 identified gold grains. Diameter is measured as an approximate mean of the longest and shortest dimensions of each grain.



#### 8. SILVER MINERALOGY

Silver, like gold, is a valuable minor component of various types of sulphide Cu-Zn-Pb ore deposits. The mineralogical distribution of silver depends upon the main sulphide minerals present, the concentrations of Sb and other minor elements in the deposit, with which Ag may form compounds, the grade of metamorphism, speed of re-equilibration and speed of cooling. Silver is typically distributed between:

- Galena (the major sulphide host) as a coupled substitution with Bi in the lattice  $(2Pb^{2+} \Leftrightarrow Bi^{3+} + Ag^{+})$  or as impurities of sub-microscopic silver minerals)
- Minerals of the tetrahedrite-tennantite-freibergite family (freibergite, argentian tetrahedrite) and more rarely, also argentian tennantite.
- Native silver and alloyed with gold in electrum
- Other Ag-bearing minerals (argentite-acanthite, various Ag-Sb sulphosalts, Ag-Pb-Bi sulphosalts, selenides, tellurides and many others; see Table 5).
- As lattice-bound silver in other common sulphides. Pyrite, arsenopyrite, chalcopyrite, sphalerite and pyrrhotite have all been shown to take Ag into their structures at concentrations below the minimum detection limit of the electron microprobe, but sufficiently high to account for a significant proportion of the total Ag in the deposit (Berubé et al. 1985; Chryssoulis et al. 1986; Chryssoulis & Surges 1988; Cabri 1992; Petruk & Wilson 1993; Huston et al. 1995; Larocque et al. 1995; Cook & Chryssoulis 1999). This applies to all types of deposit, including metamorphosed sulphide ores, but cases in which lattice bound Ag is more important than the other mineralogical hosts tends to be the exception rather than the rule, even though among the 'exceptions are a number of major deposits, e.g. Brunswick no. 12 (N.B. Canada), where sphalerite is the major Ag-carrier (Chryssoulis et al. 1986) or Izok Lake, where chalcopyrite is the major Ag-carrier (Harris et al. 1984).

The recovery of silver from the ores is dependant on a variety of factors, of which mineralogy is most important, but also textural association of the silver-bearing minerals with base metal sulphides and grain size (Gasparrini 1984). The considerable advances in microanalytical capability over the past decade, notably the facility to analyse Ag and other trace elements at ppm levels in sulphide minerals, have led to a much improved understanding of the mineralogical distribution of Ag in sulphide ores and thus the relative importance of key minerals as hosts for silver.

The mineralogy of Ag in sulphide ores, particularly those belonging to the VMS-SEDEX continuum is typically dominated by galena (with concentrations of typically some hundreds of ppm) and subordinately, in tetrahedrite-tennantite. The regional metamorphism of the ores is an agent for the redistribution of Ag, since the element is easily remobilised into the wallrock. In mobilised ores, other Ag-minerals (e.g. native silver or dyscrasite Ag<sub>3</sub>Sb) may be important, at least locally. Metamorphic recrystallisation of the common sulphides generally tends to reduce the concentration of impurities, including Ag, in the lattice to very low levels, such that these minerals only contribute a couple of % to the total silver balance. In a recent study of an ore comparable to Mofjell, Cook & Chryssoulis (1999) estimated that less than 5% of the total Ag was locked in the common sulphides other than galena.

**Table 5 Silver minerals** 

Acanthite Aguilarite Allargentum Amalgam * Andorite Antimonpearceite Aramayoite Arcubisite Argentite * Argentojarosite Argentopentlandite Argentopyrite Argentotennantite Argentodite Arsenpolybasite	$\begin{array}{l} Ag_2S \\ Ag_4SeS \\ Ag_{1-x}Sb_{x(x=0.009-0.16)} \\ Ag_2Hg_3 \\ PbAgSb_3S_6 \\ (Ag,Cu)_{16}(Sb,As)_2S_{11} \\ Ag(Sb,Bi)S_2 \\ Ag_6CuBiS_4 \\ Ag_2S \\ AgFe^{+++}_{3}(SO_4)_2(OH)_6 \end{array}$	87.06 79.53 98.87 26.39 12.36 61.02 34.18	R RR R	Lengenbachite Luanheite Makovickyite	Pb <sub>6</sub> (Ag,Cu) <sub>2</sub> As <sub>4</sub> S <sub>13</sub> Ag3Hg Ag <sub>1.5</sub> B <sub>i5.5</sub> S <sub>9</sub>	7.51 61.73 10.11	RR RRR RR
Allargentum Amalgam * Andorite Antimonpearceite Aramayoite Arcubisite Argentite * Argentopentlandite Argentopyrite Argentotennantite Argyrodite	$\begin{array}{l} Ag_{1-x}Sb_{x(x=0.009-0.16)}\\ Ag_{2}Hg_{3}\\ PbAgSb_{3}S_{6}\\ (Ag,Cu)_{16}(Sb,As)_{2}S_{11}\\ Ag(Sb,Bi)S_{2}\\ Ag_{6}CuBiS_{4}^{i}\\ Ag_{2}S\\ AgFe^{+++}_{3}(SO_{4})_{2}(OH)_{6} \end{array}$	98.87 26.39 12.36 61.02	R R	Makovickyite			
Amalgam * Andorite Antimonpearceite Aramayoite Arcubisite Argentojarosite Argentopentlandite Argentopyrite Argentotennantite Argyrodite	Ag <sub>2</sub> Hg <sub>3</sub> PbAgSb <sub>3</sub> S <sub>6</sub> (Ag,Cu) <sub>16</sub> (Sb,As) <sub>2</sub> S <sub>11</sub> Ag(Sb,Bi)S <sub>2</sub> Ag <sub>6</sub> CuBiS <sub>4</sub> Ag <sub>2</sub> S AgFe <sup>+++</sup> <sub>3</sub> (SO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> (OH) <sub>6</sub>	26.39 12.36 61.02	R	•	$Ag_{1.5}B_{i5.5}S_9$	10.11	DD
Andorite Antimonpearceite Aramayoite Aroubisite Argentite * Argentojarosite Argentopentlandite Argentopyrite Argentotennantite Argyrodite	PbAgSb <sub>3</sub> S <sub>6</sub> (Ag,Cu) <sub>16</sub> (Sb,As) <sub>2</sub> S <sub>11</sub> Ag(Sb,Bi)S <sub>2</sub> Ag <sub>6</sub> CuBiS <sub>4</sub> Ag <sub>2</sub> S AgFe <sup>+++</sup> <sub>3</sub> (SO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> (OH) <sub>6</sub>	12.36 61.02			D1 1 1 C	22 10	
Antimonpearceite Aramayoite Arcubisite Argentite * Argentojarosite Argentopentlandite Argentopyrite Argentotennantite Argyrodite	(Ag,Cu) <sub>16</sub> (Sb,As) <sub>2</sub> S <sub>11</sub> Ag(Sb,Bi)S <sub>2</sub> Ag <sub>6</sub> CuBiS <sub>4</sub> Ag <sub>2</sub> S AgFe <sup>+++</sup> <sub>3</sub> (SO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> (OH) <sub>6</sub>	61.02		Marrite	PbAgAsS <sub>3</sub>	22.19	RRR
Aramayoite Arcubisite Argentite * Argentojarosite Argentopentlandite Argentopyrite Argentotennantite Argyrodite	$\begin{array}{l} Ag(Sb,Bi)S_2 \\ Ag_6CuBiS_4 \\ Ag_2S \\ AgFe^{+++}{}_3(SO_4)_2(OH)_6 \end{array}$		RR	Matildite	$AgBiS_2$	28.31	R
Arcubisite Argentite * Argentojarosite Argentopentlandite Argentopyrite Argentotennantite Argyrodite	$Ag_6CuBiS_4$ $Ag_2S$ $AgFe^{+++}_3(SO_4)_2(OH)_6$	34.18	R	Mckinstryite	(Ag,Cu) <sub>2</sub> S	71.71 36.72	R R
Argentite * Argentojarosite Argentopentlandite Argentopyrite Argentotennantite Argyrodite	$Ag_2S$ $AgFe^{+++}_{3}(SO_4)_2(OH)_6$	61.76	RRR RRR	Miargyrite Miersite	$AgSbS_2$	36.17	RRR
Argentojarosite Argentopentlandite Argentopyrite Argentotennantite Argyrodite	$AgFe^{+++}_{3}(SO_{4})_{2}(OH)_{6}$	87.06	R	Moschellandsbergite	(Ag,Cu)I Ag <sub>2</sub> Hg <sub>3</sub>	26.39	RRR
Argentopentlandite Argentopyrite Argentotennantite Argyrodite		18.94	RR	Mummeite	$Ag_{2-3}Cu_{1-2}PbBi_6S_{13}$	14.29	RRR
Argentopyrite Argentotennantite Argyrodite	$Ag(Fe,Ni)_8S_8$	13.21	RR	Muthmannite	(Ag,Au)Te	23.87	RRR
Argentotennantite Argyrodite	AgFe <sub>2</sub> S <sub>3</sub>	34.16	RR	Naumannite	Ag <sub>2</sub> Se	73.21	RR
Argyrodite	$(Ag,Cu)_{10}Fe_2As_4S_{13}$	43.56	R	Neyite	$Pb_7(Cu,Ag)_2Bi_6S_{17}$	1.59	RRR
0.	Ag <sub>8</sub> GeS <sub>6</sub>	76.51	RR	Novakite	$(Cu,Ag)_{21}As_{10}$	9.93	RRR
	$(Ag,Cu)_{16}(As,Sb)_2S_{11}$	62.39	R	Ourayite	Pb <sub>4</sub> Ag <sub>3</sub> Bi <sub>5</sub> S <sub>13</sub>	12.96	RRR
Aurorite	(Mn,Ag,Ca)Mn <sub>3</sub> O <sub>7</sub> 3(H	I <sub>2</sub> O) 8.12	RR	Owyheeite	$Pb_7Ag_2(Sb,Bi)_8S_{20}$	6.24	RR
Balkanite	Cu <sub>9</sub> Ag <sub>5</sub> HgS <sub>8</sub>	34.39	RRR	Paderaite	AgPb <sub>2</sub> Cu <sub>6</sub> Bi <sub>11</sub> S <sub>22</sub>	2.76	RRR
Benjaminite	$(Ag,Cu)_3(Bi,Pb)_7S_{12}$	11.37	RRR	Paraschachnerite	$Ag_3Hg_2$	44.65	RRR
Benleonardite	$Ag_8(Sb,As)Te_2S_3$	65.74	RRR	Pavonite	$(Ag,Cu)(Bi,Pb)_3S_5$	9.16	RR
Berryite	$Pb_3(Ag,Cu)_5Bi_7S_{16}$	8.91	RR	Pearceite	$Ag_{16}As_2S_{11}$	77.45	R
Bideauxite	$Pb_2AgCl_3(F,OH)_2$	16.21	RRR	Penzhinite	$(Ag,Cu)_4Au(S,Se)_4$	42.62	RRR
Billingsleyite	$Ag_7AsS_6$	73.85	RR	Perroudite	$Hg_{5-x}Ag_{4+x}S_{5-x}(C1,I,B1$		27.45
Bohdanowiczite	AgBiSe <sub>2</sub>	22.72	RR	Petrovskaite	AuAg(S,Se)	31.80	RR
	$g_{10}Cu_{24}Cl_{62}(OH)_{48} 3(H_2O)$		RR	Petzite	$Ag_3AuTe_2$	32.30	R(T)
Borodaevite	$Ag_5(Bi,Sb)_9S_{16}$	19.71	RRR	Pirquitasite	$Ag_2ZnSnS_4$	40.85	RRR
Bromargyrite	AgBr	57.45	RR	Polybasite	$(Ag,Cu)_{16}Sb_2S_{11}$	60.35	C
Cameronite	AgCu <sub>7</sub> Te <sub>10</sub>	5.90	RRR	Proustite	$Ag_3AsS_3$	65.41 59.75	C
Canfieldite	Ag <sub>8</sub> SnS <sub>6</sub>	73.50 27.07	RR RRR	Pyrargyrite	Ag <sub>3</sub> SbS <sub>3</sub>	59.75	RR
Capgaronnite Cervelleite	HgAg(Cl,Br,I)S Ag <sub>4</sub> TeS	72.99	RR	Pyrostilpnite Ouadratite!	$Ag_3SbS_3$ $Ag(Cd,Pb)AsS_3$	26.29	RRR
Chlorargyrite	AgCl	75.26	RR	Ramdohrite	$Ag_3Pb_6Sb_{11}S_{24}$	8.80	RR
Chrisstanleyite!	Ag <sub>2</sub> Pd <sub>3</sub> Se <sub>4</sub>	25.36	RRR*	Rayite	$(Ag,T1)_2Pb_8Sb_8S_{21}$	4.53	RRR
Cocinerite *	Cu <sub>4</sub> AgS	27.37	RRR	Roshchinite	$Ag_{19}Pb_{10}Sb_{51}S_{96}$	15.28	RRR
Criddleite	$TlAg_2Au_3Sb_{10}S_{10}$	8.46	RRR	Samsonite	$Ag_4MnSb_2S_6$	46.78	RRR
Crookesite	Cu <sub>7</sub> (Tl,Ag)Se <sub>4</sub>	2.87	RRR	Schachnerite	$Ag_{1.1}Hg_{0.9}$	39.66	RRR
Cuboargyrite!	AgSbS	41.22	RRR	Schapbachite*	AgBiS <sub>2</sub>	28.31	R
Cupropavonite	AgPbCu <sub>2</sub> Bi <sub>5</sub> S <sub>10</sub>	5.97	RRR	Schirmerite	Ag <sub>3</sub> Pb <sub>3</sub> Bi <sub>9</sub> S <sub>18</sub>	10.84	RR
Danielsite	(Cu,Ag) <sub>14</sub> HgS <sub>8</sub>	28.31	RRR	Selenostephanite	Ag <sub>5</sub> Sb(Se,S) <sub>4</sub>	57.99	RRR
Dervillite	$Ag_2AsS_2$	60.81	RRR	Silver	Ag	100	C
Diaphorite	$Pb_2Ag_3Sb_3S_8$	23.80	RR	Smithite	$AgAsS_2$	43.69	RRR
Dyscrasite	Ag <sub>3</sub> Sb	72.66	R	Sopcheite	$Ag_4Pd_3Te_4$	34.21	RRR
Embolite *	Ag(Br,Cl)	69.85	RR	Stephanite	$Ag_5SbS_4$	68.33	R
Empressite	AgTe	45.8	RR	Sternbergite	AgFe <sub>2</sub> S <sub>3</sub>	34.16	RR
Eskimoite	$Ag_7Pb_{10}Bi_{15}S_{36}$	10.61	RRR	Sterryite	$Ag_2Pb_{10}(Sb,As)_{12}S_{29}$	4.75	RRR
Eucairite	CuAgSe	43.08	RRR	Stetefeldtite	$Ag_2Sb_2(O,OH)_7(?)$	37.65	RRR
Eugenite Fettelite	$Ag_9Hg_2$	70.76	RRR	Stromeyerite	AgCuS	53.01	R
Fischesserite	$Ag_{24}HgAs_5S_{20}$ $Ag_3AuSe_2$	68.03 47.69	RRR RRR	Stutzite Sylvanite	$Ag_7Te_4$	59.67 6.27	R P(T)
Fizelyite	$Pb_{14}Ag_5Sb_{21}S_{48}(?)$	7.16	RR	Telargpalite	$(Au,Ag)_2Te_4$ $(Pd,Ag)_3Te$	4.82	R (T) RRR
Freibergite	$(Ag,Cu,Fe)_{12}Sb_4S_{13}$	40.25	R	Tocornalite	(Ag,Hg)I(?)	31.36	RRR
Freieslebenite	AgPbSbS <sub>3</sub>	20.24	RR	Toyohaite	$Ag_2FeSn_3S_8$	24.40	RRR
Furutobeite	$(Cu,Ag)_6PbS_4$	14.17	RRR	Treasurite	$Ag_7Pb_6Bi_{15}S_{32}$	12.26	R
Geffroyite	(Ag,Cu,Fe) <sub>9</sub> (Se,S) <sub>8</sub>	43.40	RRR	Trechmannite	AgAsS <sub>2</sub>	43.69	RRR
Giraudite	(Cu,Zn,Ag) <sub>12</sub> As <sub>4</sub> Se <sub>13</sub>	6.34	RRR	Tsnigriite	Ag <sub>9</sub> SbTe <sub>3</sub> (S,Se) <sub>3</sub>	60.87	RRR
Goldamalgam *	(Au,Ag)Hg	7.19	R	Uchucchacuaite	AgPb <sub>3</sub> MnSb <sub>5</sub> S <sub>12</sub>	6.07	RRR
Gustavite	PbAgBi <sub>3</sub> S <sub>6</sub>	9.51	RR	Uytenbogaardtite	Ag <sub>3</sub> AuS <sub>2</sub>	55.35	RRR
Hatchite	(Pb,Tl)2AgAs2S5	12.9	RRR	Vikingite	Ag <sub>5</sub> Pb <sub>8</sub> Bi <sub>13</sub> S <sub>30</sub>	9.18	RRR
Henryite	Cu <sub>4</sub> Ag <sub>3</sub> Te <sub>4</sub>	29.74	RRR	Volynskite	AgBiTe <sub>2</sub>	18.86	RR
Hessite	$Ag_2Te$	45.81	R	Wallisite	PbTl(Cu,Ag)As <sub>2</sub> S <sub>5</sub>	3.39	RRR
Heyrovskyite	$Pb_{10}AgBi_5S_{18}$	2.84	RR	Weishanite	$(Au,Ag)_3Hg_2$	8.74	RRR
Hocartite	Ag <sub>2</sub> FeSnS <sub>4</sub>	41.60	RRR	Xanthoconite	$Ag_3AsS_3$	65.41	RRR
Hunchunite	$(Au,Ag)_2Pb$	9.69	RRR	Zoubekite	$AgPb_4Sb_4S_{10}$	6.18	RRR
Iltisite	HgSAg(Cl,Br)	27.87	RR		20		
Imiterite	$Ag_2HgS_2$	44.90	RRR		re, RR = very rare, RRF	c = excep	otionally rare
Iodargyrite	AgI	45.95	RR	(T) = important in go	old-telluride deposits		
Jalpaite	Ag <sub>3</sub> CuS <sub>2</sub>	71.71	RR				
Kitaibelite* Kurilite *	$15Bi_2S_3 5Ag_2S PbS$	11.74	RRR				
Kutinaite	(Ag,Au) <sub>2</sub> (Te,Se,S) Cu <sub>2</sub> AgAs	44.48 34.81	RRR				
Laffittite			RRR				
Laffittite Laforetite	AgHgAsS <sub>3</sub>	22.49	RRR				
Larosite	$AgInS_2$ $(Cu,Ag)_{21}(Pb,Bi)_2S_{13}$	37.61 9.56	RRR RRR				
Lenaite	$(Cu,Ag)_{21}(Pb,B1)_2S_{13}$ AgFeS <sub>2</sub>	9.36 47.34	RRR				

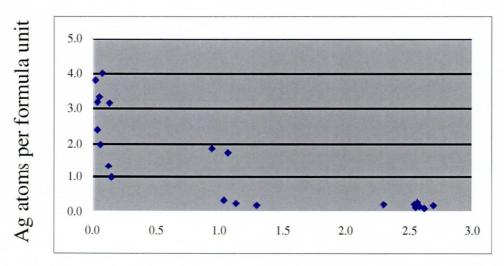
# 9. MINERALOGY OF SILVER IN THE MOFJELL SUITE

The silver mineralogy of the samples appears to be distributed between galena and tetrahedrite-tennantite,  $(Cu,Ag)_{12}(Fe,Zn)_2(Sb,As)_4S_{13}$ , with minor amounts of silver present as native silver/electrum and as discrete Ag-minerals.

Galena is a major mineral in the ores and therefore may be expected to play a significant role as a Ag-carrier, not least because of the strong positive correlation seen between Ag and Pb in bulk samples. However, quantitative data for the Ag content of galena is lacking. The concentration of Ag in galena lies under the detection limit of conventional electron microprobe techniques (ca. 300-1000 ppm). None of the 12 galena grains analysed in this study contained Ag at measurable concentrations.

**Tetrahedrite-tennantite** is shown to be a widespread mineral, especially in the most strongly mobilised ores. Optical properties and microprobe analyses have shown that a broad range of composition is present among the grains, including Ag-rich and Ag-poor tetrahedrite and also compositions closer to tennantite (Table 6; Fig. 2). There appears to be no correlation between the concentration of Ag present in the mineral and either the size of the grain or its habit (symplectitic intergrowth with galena, sulphosalts, or as inclusions in galena or chalcopyrite. Tetrahedrite is most commonly present as symplectitic intergrowths with galena, bournonite or meneghinite, but analyses of these grains have indicated both Agrich and Ag-poor varieties to be present, sometimes with two compositional varieties present within a single grain aggregate.

Fig. 2 Compositions of tetrahedrite-tennantite minerals. Note strong correlation between Ag and Sb contents.



Sb atoms per formula unit

Three grains of **native silver**, all < 5  $\mu$ m, have been observed. Native silver therefore only plays a minor role in the ores. Some of the Ag (probably about 5%) is hosted within electrum, since probe analyses have shown the electrum to commonly be silver-rich.

 Table 6 Microprobe analyses of tetrahedrite-tennantite minerals.

Element wt. %	13 25.2	<u>13 25.3</u>	<u>13 25.4</u>	<u>13 25.5</u>	<u>13 22a.5</u>	<u>12 13.3</u>	<u>12 7a.1</u>	<u>12 7a.4</u>	12 4.2	<u>12 4.3</u>	<u>13 17.1</u>	<u>13 17.2</u>	<u>13 16.1</u>	13 16.2	<u>13 26.3</u>	<u>13 25a.2</u>	<u>13 11.1</u>	13 22.2	13 24.1	<u>13 26a.1</u>	<u>13 26a.2</u>
Ag	1.33	0.57	1.04	0.82	5.51	17.79	18.33	17.88	21.86	21.53	11.12	10.72	1.41	1.57	0.97	1.96	11.41	7.99	13.70	1.14	1.37
Cu	33.94	40.31	34.31	40.01	29.80	23.01	20.18	20.75	18.20	19.34	26.71	28.38	38.31	33.51	39.28	33.60	25.05	28.05	25.49	36.26	37.04
Fe	5.89	7.73	6.31	8.95	3.11	5.74	5.30	5.31	4.82	5.05	5.88	5.86	6.91	6.11	7.80	6.08	5.42	3.89	4.35	7.29	6.87
Zn	0.31	0.00	1.06	0.00	1.93	0.00	0.00	0.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.27	0.16	1.58	0.00	0.25	1.23	2.65	1.48	0.13	0.00
Cd	0.23	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.65	0.49	0.92	2.08	1.17	0.29	0.95	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.21	0.05	0.00	1.06	0.07	0.01
Pb	0.00	0.83	0.00	0.57	1.72	0.30	1.35	0.32	0.65	0.46	0.31	0.73	0.25	0.12	0.16	0.84	0.32	0.00	0.36	0.77	1.10
Sb	24.33	9.39	24.16	8.95	31.19	29.36	28.85	30.90	29.88	30.86	23.18	22.73	12.34	10.96	10.12	25.46	32.28	31.52	28.57	11.17	11.24
Bi	0.89	0.00	0.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.42	0.33	0.42	0.54	0.45	0.00
As	4.55	12.52	5.82	12.50	0.60	0.52	0.22	0.15	0.30	0.10	3.95	4.60	10.67	10.49	12.71	4.61	0.26	0.52	0.17	11.98	11.74
S	20.02 0.26	26.30 0.16	24.75 0.77	27.22 0.34	20.67	20.27	20.67	20.56	19.70	21.05	23.63	23.53	25.80	21.18	28.25	24.91	21.33	23.05	21.14	24.08	25.70
Se Te	0.20	0.10	0.00	0.00	$0.47 \\ 0.17$	0.15 0.47	0.22 0.00	0.36 0.56	0.29 0.53	0.10	0.24 0.23	0.40 0.90	0.39 0.00	0.60 1.01	0.12 0.36	0.11 0.00	0.22 0.00	0.24 0.00	0.10 0.00	0.11 0.00	0.49 0.72
Total	91.75	97.84	98.66	99.36	95.17	98.26	96.02	98.15	98.31	99.66	95.85	99.07	96.24	87.13	99.97	99.45	97.90	98.33	96.96	93.45	96.28
<u>Formula</u>																					
Ag	1.23	0.53	0.96	0.76	5.11	16.49	16.99	16.58	20.27	19.96	10.31	9.94	1.31	1.46	0.90	1.82	10.58	7.41	12.70	1.06	1.27
Cu	53.41	63.43	53.99	62.96	46.89	36.21	31.75	32.65	28.64	30.43	42.03	44.66	60.28	52.73	61.81	52.87	39.42	44.14	40.11	57.06	58.28
Fe	10.55	13.84	11.30	16.03	5.57	10.28	9.49	9.51	8.63	9.04	10.53	10.49	12.37	10.94	13.97	10.89	9.71	6.97	7.79	13.05	12.30
Zn	0.47	0.00	1.62	0.00	2.95	0.00	0.00	0.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.41	0.24	2.42	0.00	0.38		4.05	2.26	0.20	0.00
Cd	0.20	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.58	0.44	0.82	1.85	1.04	0.26	0.85	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.19	0.04	0.00	0.94	0.06	0.01
Pb	0.00	0.40	0.00	0.28	0.83	0.14	0.65	0.15	0.31	0.22	0.15	0.35	0.12	0.06	0.08	0.41	0.15	0.00	0.17	0.37	0.53
Sb	19.98	7.71	19.84	7.35	25.62	24.11	23.70	25.38	24.54	25.35	19.04	18.67	10.14	9.00	8.31	20.91	26.51	25.89	23.47	9.17	9.23
Bi	0.43	0.00	0.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.68	0.16	0.20	0.26	0.22	0.00
As S	6.07 62.45	16.71 82.03	7.77 77.20	16.68 84.90	0.80 64.47	0.69 63.23	0.29 64.47	0.20 64.13	0.40 61.45	0.13 65.66	5.27 73.71	6.14 73.39	14.24 80.47	14.00 66.06	16.96 88.12	6.15 77.70	0.35 66.53	0.69 71.90	0.23 65.94	15.99 75.11	15.67 80.16
Se	0.33	0.20	0.98	0.43	0.60	03.23	0.28	0.46	0.37	0.13	0.30	0.51	0.49	0.76	0.15	0.14	0.28	0.30	0.13	0.14	0.62
Te	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.37	0.00	0.44	0.42	0.00	0.18	0.71	0.00	0.79	0.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.56
Total	155.12	184.89	173.87	189.39	152.97	152.29	148.26	150.99	146.87	151.96	161.92	166.11	179.67	158.22	190.76	172.13	155.61	161.55	154.00	172.43	178.64
Formula	to 29	to 29	to 29	to 29	to 29	to 29	to 29	to 29	to 29	to 29	to 29	to 29	to 29	to 29	to 29	to 29	to 29	to 29	to 29	to 29	to 29
Ag Cu	0.231 9.984	0.083 9.949	0.161 9.005	0.116 9.640	0.968 8.890	3.140 · 6.895	3.324 6.211	3.184 6.271	4.001 5.655	3.809 5.808	1.846 7.527	1.735 7.796	0.211 9.730	0.267 9.665	0.137 9.397	0.306 8.908	1.971 7.346	1.330 7.923	2.392 7.553	0.178 9.596	0.206 9.462
A Total	10.215	10.032	9.003 <b>9.166</b>	9.040 <b>9.757</b>	9.858	10.035	9.535	9.455	9.656	9.617	9.374	9.531	9.730 <b>9.941</b>	9.003 <b>9.932</b>	9.597 <b>9.533</b>	9.214	9.317	9.253	9.945	9.396 <b>9.774</b>	9.462 <b>9.668</b>
Fe	1.972	2.171	1.885	2.454	1.056	1.957	1.856	1.826	1.704	1.726	1.886	1.832	1.997	2.005	2.123	1.834	1.809	1.250	1.467	2.195	1.997
Zn	0.089	0.000	0.270	0.000	0.560	0.000	0.000	0.129	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.072	0.040	0.443	0.000	0.064	0.351	0.728	0.426	0.033	0.000
Cd	0.038	0.004	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.110	0.085	0.157	0.365	0.199	0.046	0.148	0.000	0.000	0.027	0.031	0.008	0.000	0.178	0.010	0.001
B Total	2.099	2.175	2.155	2.454	1.615	2.067	1.942	2.113	2.070	1.924	1.932	2.052	2.037	2.448	2.150	1.930	2.168	1.978	2.071	2.239	1.998
A+B Total	12.313	12.207	11.321	12.211	11.473	12.102	11.476	11.568	11.726	11.541	11.306	11.583	11.977	12.380	11.684	11.144	11.485	11.231	12.016	12.013	11.666
Pb	0.000	0.063	0.000	0.042	0.157	0.028	0.127	0.030	0.062	0.042	0.027	0.062	0.019	0.011	0.012	0.068	0.029	0.000	0.033	0.063	0.086
Sb	3.736	1.210	3.310	1.126	4.857	4.592	4.635	4.875	4.846	4.837	3.410	3.259	1.636	1.650	1.264	3.523	4.941	4.647	4.419	1.543	1.499
Bi	0.080	0.000	0.035	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.038	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.027	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.114	0.029	0.036	0.049	0.036	0.000
As	1.135	2.621	1.296	2.555	0.152	0.132	0.057	0.038	0.079	0.025	0.944	1.072	2.299	2.566	2.579	1.037	0.065	0.125	0.043	2.689	2.544
C Total											= =										
C Total	4.951	3.894	4.641	3.723	5.166	4.752	4.858	4.943	4.987	4.905	4.407	4.393	3.954	4.227	3.854	4.743	5.064	4.808	4.543	4.331	4.129
S	11.674	12.867	12.876	13.001	12.223	12.039	12.611	12.317	12.133	12.530	13.200	12.813	12.989	12.109	13.396	13.090	12.399	12.906	12.417	12.632	13.013
Se To	0.062 0.000	0.032	0.163 0.000	0.066	0.113 0.025	0.036 0.070	0.054	$0.088 \\ 0.084$	0.073 0.082	0.024	0.054 0.032	0.088	0.080	0.139 0.145	0.023	0.023	0.052	0.055	0.024	0.023	0.101
Te D Total		12.899	13.039	13.067	0.025 12.361			0.084 12.489	12.287	12.554	13.287		0.000 <b>13.069</b>		13.462	0.000 13.114	0.000 12.451	0.000 1 <b>2.961</b>	0.000 12,441	0.000 <b>12.656</b>	0.092 13.205
Diotal	11./30	14.077	13.037	13.007	14.301	12.140	14.003	14.707	14.40/	14.334	13.40/	13.043	13,007	14,373	13.402	13,114	14,431	14.701	14.771	14.030	13.203

Microprobe analysis has revealed minor amounts of two other Ag-bearing phases, **ramdohrite** and **diaphorite** (Table 7), both as fine exsolutions within galena. Neither of these minerals had been previously recognised in the Mofjell ores. In addition, **dyscrasite**, Ag<sub>3</sub>Sb, has been confirmed by electron probe microanalysis. A single grain of hessite, Ag<sub>2</sub>Te, was observed. Conspicuously, no pyrargyrite was observed in the present study. None of the other Sb-sulphosalts (bournonite, boulangerite, meneghinite) was found to contain silver. All of these other Ag-minerals are very minor constituents of the ore and play only very insignificant roles as Ag-carriers.

**Table 7** Microprobe analyses of ramdohrite (columns 1-5) and diaphorite (columns 6-8).

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Element wt. %	<u>12 12.1</u>	12 12.2	<u>12 12.3</u>	<u>12.15.1</u>	<u>12 15.2</u>	<u>12 15.3</u>	<u>12 15a.1</u>	12 15a.2
Ag 、	6.15	6.46	4.88	3.19	4.79	21.54	23.33	23.93
Cu	0.36	0.98	0.3	0	0.79	0.79	0.24	0
Fe	0.45	0.14	0	0.24	0.28	0.02	0.45	0
Zn	0	0	0.49	0.2	0	0	0	0.37
Cd	0.25	0.43	0.24	0.42	0.7	0.55	1.08	1.6
Pb	40.06	41.62	41.99	48.42	46.57	31.55	25.69	24.81
Sb	31.51	31.38	31.54	29.33	28.56	26.9	29.46	29.24
Bi	2.41	1.59	2.69	0.00	0	1.29	1.76	1.71
As	0.03	0	0	0	0	0	0.19	0
S	16.9	16.16	15.94	16.3	16.97	15.60	16.23	17.03
Se	0.16	0.00	0.34	0.18	0.12	0.16	0.00	0
Те	0	0.75	0.43	0.44	0	0.73	0.64	0.00
Total	98.28	99.51	98.84	98.72	98.78	99.13	99.07	98.69
<u>Formula</u>								
Ag	5.70	5.99	4.52	2.96	4.44	19.97	21.63	22.18
Cu	0.57	1.54	0.47	0.00	1.24	1.24	0.38	0.00
Fe	0.81	0.25	0.00	0.43	0.50	0.04	0.81	0.00
Zn	0.00	0.00	0.75	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.57
Cd	0.22	0.38	0.21	0.37	0.62	0.49	0.96	1.42
Pb	19.33	20.09	20.27	23.37	22.48	15.23	12.40	11.97
Sb	25.88	25.77	25.91	24.09	23.46	22.09	24.20	24.02
Bi	1.15	0.76	1.29	0.00	0.00	0.62	0.84	0.82
As	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.00
S	52.71	50.41	49.72	50.84	52.93	48.66	50.62	53.12
Se T-	0.20	0.00	0.43	0.23	0.15	0.20	0.00	0.00
Te	0.00	0.59	0.34	0.34	0.00	0.57	0.50	0.00
Total	106.62	105.78	103.91	102.94	105.83	109.11	112.59	114.10
Formula	to 44	to 6	to 6	to 6				
Ag	2.353	2.491	1.916	1.264	1.846	2.562	2.689	2.722
Cu	0.234	0.641	0.200	0.000	0.517	0.160	0.047	0.000
A Total	2.587	3.132	2.116	1.264	2.363	2.722	2.736	2.722
Fe Zn	0.333	0.104	0.000	0.184	0.208	0.005	0.100	0.000
Zn Cd	0.000 0.092	0.000	0.317 0.090	0.131	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.069
B Total	0.092	0.159 0.263	0.090	0.160 0.474	0.259 0.467	0.063	0.119 0.220	0.175 0.244
A+B Total	3.011	3.396	2.523	1.738	2.831	0.067 <b>2.789</b>	2.956	2.966
Pb	7.979	8.356	8.582	9,989	9.345	1.954	1.542	1.469
Sb	10.680	10.721	10.970	10.297	9.753	2.835	3.009	2.947
Bi	0.476	0.316	0.545	0.000	0.000	0.079	0.105	0.100
As	0.017	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.103	0.000
C Total	11.173	11.037	11.515	10.297	9.753	2.914	3.145	3.047
C Total		11.057	11.515	10.277	7.145		J-17J	5.047
S	21.754	20.967	21.054	21.731	22.008	6.243	6.295	6.518
Se	0.084	0.000	0.182	0.097	0.063	0.026	0.000	0.000
Te	0.000	0.244	0.143	0.147	0.000	0.073	0.062	0.000
D Total	21.837	21.211	21.379	21.976	22.071	6.343	6.357	6.518

## 10. OTHER MINERALOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

Minerals identified in the mineralogical study are summarised in Table 8. Microprobe analysis was carried out in some cases to confirm the optical interpretation, indicated with \* on the table. Probe analyses for these other minerals are given in Table 9 (bournonite, boulangerite), Table 10 (meneghinite) and 11 (dyscrasite, ullmannite, native-Sb, arsenopyrite, gudmundite). Typical associations of these minerals are shown in the images on Plates 3-7. Back-scattered electron images are shown in Plate 8.

Table 8 Minerals identified in the present study

	•		, 1
*Arsenopyrite	FeAsS	*Meneghinite	Pb <sub>13</sub> CuSb <sub>7</sub> S <sub>24</sub>
*Boulangerite	Pb <sub>5</sub> Sb <sub>4</sub> S <sub>11</sub>	Molybdenite	$MoS_2$
*Bournonite	CuPbSbS <sub>3</sub>	*Native Sb	(Sb,As)
Cubanite	$CuFe_2S_3$	Pyrite	FeS <sub>2</sub>
*Diaphorite	$Pb_2Ag_3SbS_8$	Pyrrhotite	Fe <sub>1-x</sub> S
*Dyscrasite	Ag <sub>3</sub> Sb	*Ramdohrite	$Ag_3Pb_6Sb_{11}S_{24}$
*Galena	PbS	Sphalerite	ZnS
*Gold/electrum	(Au,Ag)	Stannite	Cu <sub>2</sub> FeSnS <sub>4</sub>
*Gudmundite	FeSbS	*Tennantite	$Cu_{10}(Fe,Zn)_2(As,Sb)_4S_{13}$
Hessite	$Ag_2Te$	*Tetrahedrite	$(Cu,Ag)_{10}(Fe,Zn)_2(Sb,As)_4S_{13}$
Mackinawite	(Ni,Fe) <sub>9</sub> S <sub>8</sub>	*Ullmannite	NiSbS

Meneghinite, not previously recognised in Mofjell, was found to be very abundant in the studied samples, occurring in symplectitic intergrowths with both galena and bournonite and also a common accessory mineral in tetrahedrite-bearing assemblages. Native antimony was confirmed, as small, bright grains exsolved on the margins of Sb-sulphosalts. Microanalysis showed that these grains also contain appreciable As. We did not find native Bi or the Bi-sulphosalts mentioned by Saager (1966). A single grain of what is suspected as a Bi-telluride (tsumoite, BiTe or hedleyite, Bi<sub>7</sub>Te<sub>3</sub>) was noted.

## 11. METAMORPHIC SULPHIDE REMOBILISATION - BACKGROUND & IMPLICATIONS

Remobilisation has long been recognised as a feature of many of the Norwegian deposits; the first contributions on remobilised assemblages appearing more than 60 years ago (Ramdohr, 1938). Remobilisation phenomena, in which ore components have been transported and re-concentrated have now been documented from most major metamorphosed deposits in the Scandinavian Caledonides (e.g. Sulitjelma; Cook 1992; 1994; 1996; Bleikvassli; Cook et al. 1998; Moralev et al. under review) as well as from smaller, yet often spectacularly illustrative deposits such as Gressli (Vokes & Craig 1993). In the past decade there has been a growing understanding of the principles behind, and processes involved in remobilisation. The reader is referred to the following publications on the subject: Cox et al. (1987), Gilligan & Marshall (1987), Marshall & Gilligan (1987, 1993), Marshall & Spry (2000) and Marshall et al. (2000).

Generally speaking, remobilisation can be divided into 'internal' and 'external' remobilisation. In internal remobilisation, ore components are redistributed, either in the solid- or fluid-phase, within the massive ore itself. A good example is the filling of fractures in deformed pyrite porphyroblasts by chalcopyrite. External remobilisation, on the other hand, means that ore components are reconcentrated outside of the massive ore, within wallrock. Typically these will occur as small (cm-scale or less) veinlets and pods, displaying local structural control, emplaced in zones of relative weakness, such as pressure shadows. Mobilisates are commonly associated with quartz. The scale of external remobilisation is rarely more than a few metres, in rare cases a few tens of metres.

**Table 9** Microprobe analyses of bournonite and boulangerite (last column to the right).

Element wt. %	<u>13 27.3</u>	13_26.1	<u>13 25a.1</u>	13 11.2	13 25.1	<u>13 22.1</u>	13 22.3	13 22a.2	<u>13 22b.1</u>	13.24.3
Ag	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.16	0.48	0.18	0.05
Cu	10.60	11.44	10.30	12.35	10.66	10.54	12.15	10.82	11.78	0.78
Fe	0.00	0.16	0.22	0.00	0.17	0.15	0.11	0.00	0.12	0.00
Zn	0.00	0.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.08	1.67
Cd	0.21	0.25	1.24	0.39	0.27	0.39	0.04	0.58	0.24	0.29
Pb	40.34	43.95	40.77	38.30	40.90	39.91	38.33	41.65	42.45	52.97
Sb	27.55	25.05	27.97	26.29	28.95	26.79	27.65	27.45	22.13	28.13
Bi	2.45	0.00	1.46	3.41	0.95	2.61	2.83	1.07	1.88	0.00
As	0.08	0.28	0.67	0.19	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.24	2.71	0.00
S	16.83	17.20	14.70	17.96	16.93	17.11	17.65	15.85	18.88	16.29
Se	0.16	0.23	0.00	0.27	0.05	0.07	0.00	0.56	0.31	0.16
Te	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.62	0.00	0.47	0.82	0.02	0.19
		1								
Total	98.22	99.23	97.52	99.16	99.50	97.72	99.39	99.52	101.78	100.53
Formula										
Ag	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.15	0.44	0.17	0.05
Cu	16.68	18:00	16.21	19.43	16.77	16.59	19.12	17.03	18.54	1.23
Fe	0.00	0.29	0.39	0.00	0.30	0.27	0.20	0.00	0.21	0.00
Zn	0.00	1.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.65	2.55
Cd	0.19	0.22	1.10	0.35	0.24	0.35	0.04	0.52	0.21	0.26
Pb	19.47	21.21	19.68	18.49	19.74	19.26	18.50	20.10	20.49	25.57
Sb	22.63	20.57	22.97	21.59	23.78	22.00	22.71	22.55	18.18	23.10
Bi	1.17	0.00	0.70	1.63	0.45	1.25	1.35	0.51	0.90	0.00
As	0.11	0.37	0.89	0.25	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.32	3.62	0.00
S	52.50	53.65	45.85	56.02	52.81	53.37	55.05	49.44	58.89	50.81
Se	0.20	0.29	0.00	0.34	0.06	0.09	0.00	0.71	0.39	0.20
Te	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.49	0.00	0.37	0.64	0.02	0.15
Total	112.94	115.64	107.98	118.11	114.65	113.35	117.49	112.26	123.26	103.92
Formula	to 6	to 6	to 6	to 6	to 6	to 6	to 6	to 6	to 6	to 6
Ag	0.000	0.000	0.010	0.000	0.000	0.003	0.008	0.024	0.008	0.009
Cu	0.886	0.934	0.901	0.987	0.878	0.878	0.976	0.910	0.902	0.236
A Total	0.886	0.934	0.910	0.987	0.878	0.881	0.984	0.934	0.910	0.245
Fe	0.000	0.015	0.022	0.000	0.016	0.014	0.010	0.000	0.010	0.000
Zn	0.000	0.053	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.080	0.492
Cd	0.010	0.012	0.061	0.018	0.013	0.018	0.002	0.028	0.010	0.050
B Total	0.010	0.080	0.083	0.018	0.029	0.033	0.012	0.028	0.101	0.541
A+B Total	0.896	1.014	0.994	1.005	0.906	0.914	0.996	0.961	1.012	0.786
Pb	1.034	1.101	1.093	0.939	1.033	1.020	0.945	1.074	0.997	4.920
Sb	1.202	1.068	1.277	1.097	1.244	1.165	1.160	1.205	0.885	4.447
Bi	0.062	0.000	0.039	0.083	0.024	0.066	0.069	0.027	0.044	0.000
As	0.006	0.019	0.050	0.013	0.000	0.006	0.000	0.017	0.176	0.000
C Total	1.270	1.087	1.365	1.193	1.268	1.237	1.229	1.250	1.105	4.447
C Total	2.500								<b>.</b>	
S	2.789	2.784	2.548	2.846	2.764	2.825	2.812	2.642	2.867	9.779
Se	0.011	0.015	0.000	0.017	0.003	0.005	0.000	0.038	0.019	0.039
Te	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.025	0.000	0.019	0.034	0.001	0.029
D Total	2.800	2.799	2.548	2.863	2.792	2.830	2.830	2.715	2.886	9.847

Since some metals are more readily mobilised than others, mobilisates will have a characteristic mineralogy. Generally, copper is enriched and Pb to a subordinate degree. The precious metals (Au, Ag) are easily mobilised and together with other highly mobile trace elements (Sb, As) are strongly enriched in external mobilisates.

Remobilisation has the affect of actually diluting the grade of an ore deposit in total, since the same amount of metals are concentrated into a greater volume of rock. At the same time, however, the process may actually significantly upgrade portions of the deposit to make them economically viable for exploitation (Marshall et al. 2000).

An understanding of remobilisation at Mofjell can be grained by drawing a direct analogy with the Bleikvassli deposit. The mineralisation of that deposit has been relatively well studied and the constraints on mineralisation and remobilisation are partially understood. At Bleikvassli, rocks adjacent to the massive ore (particularly those in the hanging wall) contain abundant sulphides, the 'wall-rock mineralisation' of Vokes (1963). Irregular patches, veins and disseminations of sulphides, commonly together with quartz, are characterised by an abundance of arsenopyrite, tetrahedrite, a range of Pb-Sb and Pb-As sulphosalts and minerals containing both Ag and Au (Vokes 1963, Moralev

et al. 1995, Cook et al. 1998). The distribution of precious metals at Bleikvassli appears closely related to such irregular patches and to disseminated sulphide mineralisations hosted by quartz ± feldspar veins, quartzose rocks, and muscovite schists within the wall-rock to the massive ore. All these wall-rock mineralisations are ascribed to localised ore remobilisation accompanying regional metamorphism and deformation, but at different stages of the metamorphic cycle.

Table 10 Microprobe analyses of meneghinite.

Element wt. %	13 24.2	12 13.1	<u>12 13.2</u> .	<u>12 4.1</u>	<u>12 7.1</u>	<u>12 7.3</u>	<u>13 17.3</u>	13 17.4	<u>13 17a.1</u>	<u>13 17a.2</u>
Ag	0.02	0.56	0.35	0.31	0.06	0.41	0	0.32	0	0.44
Cu	1.31	0.20	1.04	1.03	1.36	0.76	0.66	1.29	1.75	0.73
Fe	0.00	0.67	0	0.05	0.03	0.03	0.12	0.13		
Zn	0.00	0.00	1.47	0	0.41	0.08	0.36	0.18	0 0.88	0
Cd	0.10	0.10	0.12	0.62	0.12	0.6	0.13	0.46	0	ő
Pb	59.96	64.79	54.76	59.61	59.49	55.65	55.47	58.74	57.77	60.26
Sb	22.75	16.08	20.78	21.59	22.21	21.99	22.1	22.27	20.61	22.65
Bi	0.00	0	3.83	0	0	0	0.34	0	0	0
As	0.00	0.45	0	0	Õ	Ö	0	ō	o '	Ö
S	14.75	14.00	15.15	15.48	15.43	13.69	13.41	15.15	17.21	15.64
Se	0.00	0.12	0.2	0	0.25	0	0	0	0.16	0
Te	0.67	0.00	0.17	0.37	0	0.21	0.64	ő	0	0.23
10	0.07	0.00	0.17	0.57	Ŭ	0.21	0.01	ŭ	ŭ	0.25
Total	99.56	96.97	97.87	99.06	99.36	93.42	93.23	98.54	98.38	99.95
Formula										
Ag	0.02	0.52	0.32	0.29	0.06	0.38	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.41
Cu	2.06	0.31	1.64	1.62	2.14	1.20	1.04	2.03	2.75	1.15
Fe	0.00	1.20	0.00	0.09	0.05	0.05	0.21	0.23	0.00	0.00
Zn	0.00	0.00	2.25	0.00	0.63	0.12	0.55	0.28	1.35	0.00
Cd	0.27	0.27	0.73	0.55	0.11	0.53	0.12	0.41	0.00	0.00
Pb	28.94	31.27	26.43	28.77	28.71	26.86	26.77	28.35	27.88	29.08
Sb	18.69	13.21	17.07	17.73	18.24	18.06	18.15	18.29	16.93	18.60
Bi	0.00	0.00	1.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.00
As	0.00	0.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
S	46.01	43.67	47.26	48.28	48.13	42.70	41.83	47.26	53.68	48.78
Se	0.00	0.15	0.25	0.00	0.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.00
Te	0.53	0.00	0.13	0.29	0.00	0.16	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.18
Total	96.51	91.20	97.91	97.63	98.38	90.07	89.34	97.14	102.79	98.21
Formula	to 45	to 45	to 45	to 45	to 45	to 45	to 45	to 45	to 45	to 45
Ag	0.009	0.256	0.149	0.132	0.025	0.190	0.000	0.137	0.000	0.187
Cu	0.961	0.155	0.752	0.747	0.979	0.597	0.523	0.940	1.206	0.526
A Total	0.970	0.411	0.901	0.880	1.004	0.787	0.523	1.078	1.206	0.713
Fe	0.000	0.592	0.000	0.041	0.025	0.027	0.108	0.108	0.000	0.000
Zn	0.000	0.000	1.034	0.000	0.287	0.061	0.277	0.128	0.589	0.000
Cd	0.126	0.133	0.336	0.254	0.049	0.267	0.058	0.190	0.000	0.000
B Total	0.126	0.725	1.369	0.296	0.360	0.355	0.444	0.425	0.589	0.000
A+B Total	1.096	1.137	2.270	1.175	1.365	1.142	0.967	1.503	1.795	0.713
Pb	13.494	15.429	12.147	13.261	13.133	13.419	13.486	13.133	12.206	13.327
Sb	8.713	6.517	7.844	8.174	8.344	9.024	9.143	8.473	7.411	8.524
Bi	0.000	0.000	0.842	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.082	0.000	0.000	0.000
As	0.000	0.296	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
C Total	8.713	6.813	8.687	8.174	8.344	9.024	9.225	8.473	7.411	8.524
C Total										
S	21.453	21.546	21.718	22.256	22.014	21.333	21.069	21.891	23.500	22.353
Se	0.000	0.075	0.116	0.000	0.145	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.089	0.000
Te	0.245	0.000	0.061	0.134	0.000	0.082	0.253	0.000	0.000	0.083
D Total	21.697	21.621	21.896	22.390	22.158	21.416	21.322	21.891	23.588	22.436

Table 11 Microprobe analyses of arsenopyrite (column 1), gudmundite (columns 2-3), native bismuth-arsenic (columns 4-6), dyscrasite (columns 7-8) and ullmannite (columns 9-11).

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
Element wt. %	13 27.1	<u>13 14.1</u>	<u>13 14.2</u>	<u>12 16.1</u>	<u>12 16.2</u>	<u>13 11.1</u>	13.11.2	13_11.3	Element wt. %	12 9.1	<u>12 9.2</u>	<u>12 9.3</u>
Ag	0.00	0.11	0.00	70.86	66.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	Ag	0	0	0.24
Cu	0.90	0.43	0.12	0.40	0.37	0.36	0.07	0.00	Cu	0.73	0.31	0.06
Fe	33.58	21.62	23.16	0.10	0.00	0.36	0.03	0.26	Ni	23.35	24.33	22.75
Zn	0.32	1.00	0.30	0.54	0.96	0.21	0.52	0.00	Fe	0.48	0.19	0.51
Cd	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Zn	0.15	0	0.29
Pb	1.80	0.85	0.45	0.00	0.37	0.74	0.88	1.68	Cd	0.00	0.24	0
Sb	0.62	57.52	59.23	25.88	27.98	79.25	73.30	72.94	Pb	0.98	1.33	0.75
Bi	0.45	0.00	0.51	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.21	4.72	Sb	60.25	60.38	59.71
As	37.44	0.00	0.16	0.00	0.00	16.09	22.08	17.66	Bi	0	0	0
S	16.65	10.86	10.98	0.16	0.00	0.10	0.09	0.00	As	0.08	0	0.3
Se	0.61	0.19	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.45	0.84	0.00	S	13.55	12.62	12.93
Te	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.68	0.78	0.00	0.26	Se	0.13	0.06	0.32
					!-				Te	0.13	0	1.15
Total	92.77	92.62	95.04	97.96	97.13	98.34	98.02	97.52				
									Total	99.83	99.46	99.01
<u>Formula</u>	0.00	0.10	0.00	(5.60	C1 00	0.00	0.00	0.00	F 1			
Ag	0.00	0.10	0.00	65.69	61.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	<u>Formula</u>	0.00	0.00	0.22
Cu	1.42	0.68	0.19	0.63	0.58	0.57	0.11	0.00	Ag	0.00	0.00	0.22
Fe Zn	60.13 0.49	38.71 1.53	41.47 0.46	0.18 0.83	0.00 1.47	0.64 0.32	0.05 0.80	0.47 0.00	Cu Ni	1.15 39.77	0.49 41.44	0.09 38.75
Cd	0.49	0.04	0.46	0.00	0.00	0.32	0.80	0.00	Fe	0.86	0.34	0.91
Pb	0.87	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.36	0.42	0.81	Zn	0.86	0.00	0.44
Sb	0.51	47.24	48.65	21.26	22.98	65.09	60.21	59.91	Cd	0.23	0.21	0.00
Bi	0.31	0.00	0.24	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.10	2.26	Pb	0.47	0.64	0.36
As	49.97	0.00	0.24	0.00	0.00	21.48	29.47	23.57	Sb	49.49	49.59	49.04
S	51.93	33.87	34.25	0.50	0.00	0.31	0.28	0.00	Bi	0.00	0.00	0.00
Se	0.77	0.24	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.57	1.06	0.00	As	0.11	0.00	0.40
Te	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.53	0.61	0.00	0.20	S	42.26	39.36	40.33
Total	166.62	122.83	125.85	89.09	87.64	89.95	92.51	87.22	Se	0.16	0.08	0.41
									Te	0.10	0.00	0.90
Formula	to 3	to 3	to 3	to 4	to 4	to 1	to 1	to I	Total	134.61	132.16	131.87
Ag	0.000	0.002	0.000	2.949	2.825	0.000	0.000	0.000				
Cu	0.025	0.017	0.005	0.028	0.027	0.006	0.001	0.000	Formula	to 3	to 3	to 3
A Total	0.025	0.019	0.005	2.978	2.852	0.006	0.001	0.000	Ag	0.000	0.000	0.005
Fe	1.083	0.946	0.989	0.008	0.000	0.007	0.001	0.005	Cu	0.077	0.033	0.006
Zn	0.009	0.037	0.011	0.037	0.067	0.004	0.009	0.000	Ni	0.886	0.941	0.882
Cd	0.000	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	Fe	0.019	0.008	0.021
B Total	1.091	0.984	0.999	0.045	0.067	0.011	0.009	0.005	Zn	0.005	0.000	0.010
A+B Total	1.117	1.003	1.004	3.023	2.919	0.017	0.010	0.005	Cd	0.000	0.005	0.000
Pb	0.016	0.010	0.005	0.000	0.008	0.004	0.005	0.009	A Total	0.987	0.987	0.924
Sb	0.009	1.154	1.160	0.954	1.049	0.724	0.651	0.687	Pb	0.011	0.015	0.008
Bi	0.004	0.000	0.006	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.026	Sb	1.103	1.126	1.116
As	0.900	0.000	0.005	0.000	0.000	0.239	0.319	0.270	Bi	0.000	0.000	0.000
C Total	0.913	1.154	1.171	0.955	1.049	0.962	0.971	0.983	As	0.002	0.000	0.009
C Total	0.005	0.00=	0.011	0.000	0.000	0.00=	0.005	0.000	C Total	1.116	1.140	1.133
S	0.935	0.827	0.816	0.022	0.000	0.003	0.003	0.000	S	0.942	0.894	0.918
Se	0.014	0.006	0.004	0.000	0.000	0.006	0.012	0.000	Se	0.004	0.002	0.009
Te	0.006	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.024	0.007	0.000	0.002	Te	0.002	0.000	0.021
D Total	0.955	0.833	0.820	0.022	0.024	0.017	0.015	0.002	D Total	0.948	0.895	0.947

The mineralogy of mobilised ores from Mofjell strongly resembles those from Bleikvassli. However, remobilisates at Mofjell only have rather minor amounts of arsenopyrite, and the size of the mobilisate aggregates is generally much lower - a few mm, instead of several cm as in Bleikvassli. However, the mobilisates contain the same minerals (e.g. Ag-tetrahedrite, bournonite, meneghinite, arsenopyrite, gudmundite and native antimony<sup>10</sup>) and are just as rich in gold – and possibly richer in silver and are in all respects very reminiscent of such assemblages in remobilised ores within the Bleikvassli deposit, which are also enriched in gold. Additionally, other trace minerals identified in the Bleikvassli deposit (e.g. stannite) have also been identified in the Mofiell samples.

<sup>10</sup> Jordanite, a very abundant sulphosalt in Bleikvassli has, conspicuously, not been observed in Mofjell.

#### 12. CONCLUSIONS

- 1. The presence of gold is proven in the Mofjell ores
- 2. Gold occurs as electrum (both Au- and Ag-rich varieties)
- 3. Grain size is typically  $< 10 \mu m$ . This must be borne in mind when considering alternatives for processing the ore. Fine grinding will be essential for optimum recovery.
- 4. Gold is chiefly associated with Sb-rich mobilsates. Associated minerals are tetrahedrite and other Sb-sulphosalts, galena, chalcopyrite, pyrite and quartz. Gold is not associated with sphalerite and Zn-rich samples are typically gold poor.
- 5. The occurrence of gold in the Mofjell deposit is consistent with other metamorphosed sulphide deposits (amphibolite grade) elsewhere in the Norwegian Caledonides (e.g., Bleikvassli, Sulitjelma).
- 6. Silver is chiefly hosted within galena and tetrahedrite. Minor amounts may be present in electrum, dyscrasite and Ag-Sb sulphosalts.

## 13. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. The mineralogy of the Mofjell deposit is undeniably complex and further work is necessary to corroborate the findings of this study. The author believes that additional work on relevant material from other parts of the deposit will reveal still more complex mineral intergrowths and microscopic amounts of unusual minerals, which although not affecting the overall findings, may have some implications for the global gold and silver distribution in the deposit.
- 2. A detailed and representative assessment of the silver distribution must be carried out prior to any test mining, to allow planning of an appropriate processing flowsheet.

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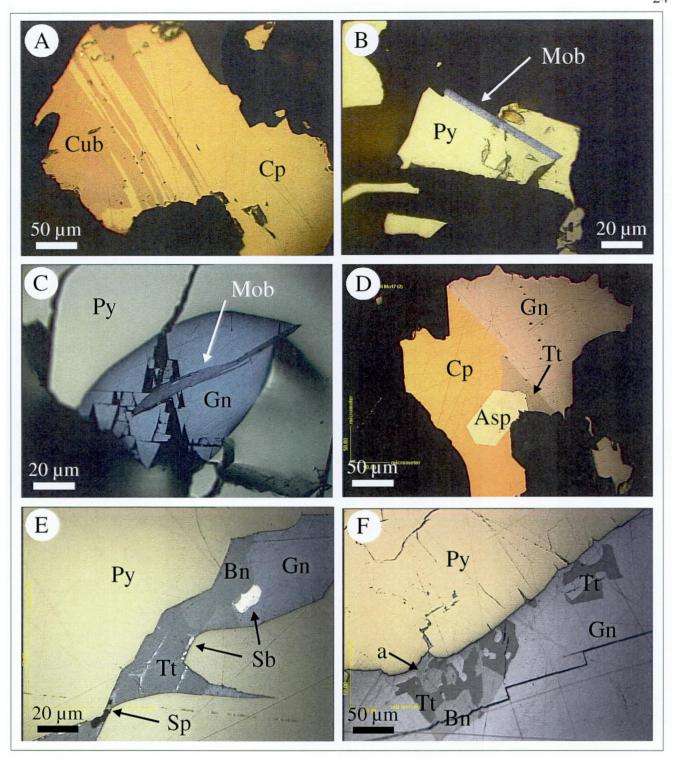


Plate 3 A. Lamellae of cubanite (Cub) exsolved in chalcopyrite (Cp). SampleMo 10. B. Lath of molybdenite (Mob) within pyrite (Py). Gold grains observed in samples Sample Mo 18. C. Molybdenite (Mob) associated with galena (Gn) and pyrite (Py). Sample Mo 18A. D. Rhomb-shaped grain of arsenopyrite (Asp) within chalcopyrite (Cp) in association with tetrahedrite (Tt) and galena (Gn). Sample Mo 17. E. Assemblages containing Sb-minerals are commonly found in fractures within pyrite (Py). Here, tetrahedrite (Tt) and bournonite (Bn) are associated with galena (Gn) and minor sphalerite (Sp). Native antimony (Sb, bright white) has exsolved from the sulphosalts. Sample Mo 11. F. Assemblage of tetrahedrite (Tt) and bournonite at the margin of a coarse pyrite porphyroblast (Py). Gn: galena. An additional Sb-sulphosalt, possibly jordanite, is indicated by 'a'. Sample Mo 11.

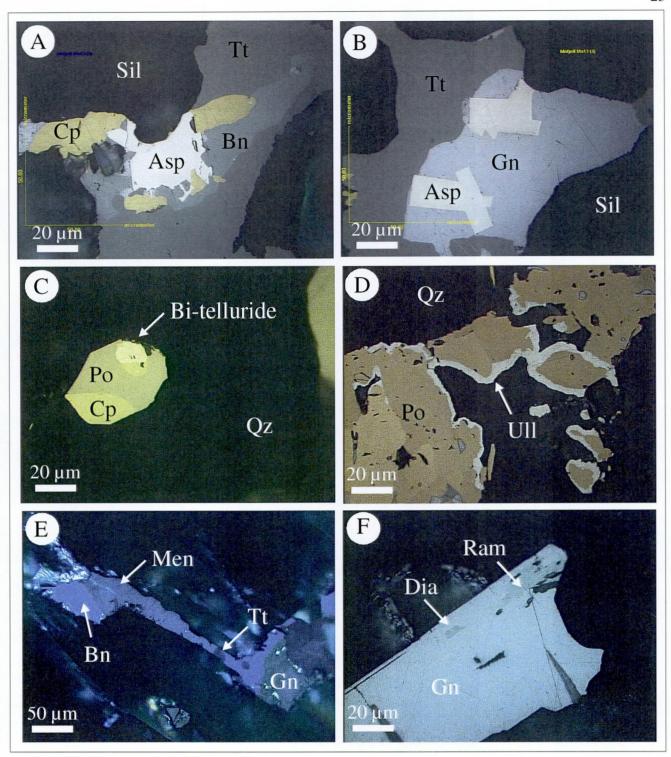


Plate 4 A. Assemblage of arsenopyrite (Asp), bournonite (Bn), tetrahedrite (Tt) and chalcopyrite /Cp). Sil: silicate matrix. Sample Mo 13. B. Twinned crystals of arsenopyrite (Asp) within galena (Gn). Dark grey: argentian tetrahedrite (Tt), silicate matrix is quartz (Sil). Sample Mo 13. C. Inclusion of chalcopyrite (Cp) and pyrrhotite (Po) within quartz (Qz) hosting a small bright grain identified as a Bi-telluride, possibly rucklidgeite. Sample Mo 8. D.Coarse-grained pyrrhotite (Po) surrounded by a rim of ullmannite (Ull). Sample Mo 12. E Aggregate grains consisting of meneghinite (Men), bournonite (Bn), tetrahedrite (Tt) and galena (Gn). The minerals are hosted within a quartz matrix. The photograph, taken under half-crossed nicols shows the strong anisotropy of meneghinite. Sample Mo 12. F Inclusions of Ag-Sb sulphosalts in galena (Gn). Ram: ramdohrite, Dia: diaphorite.

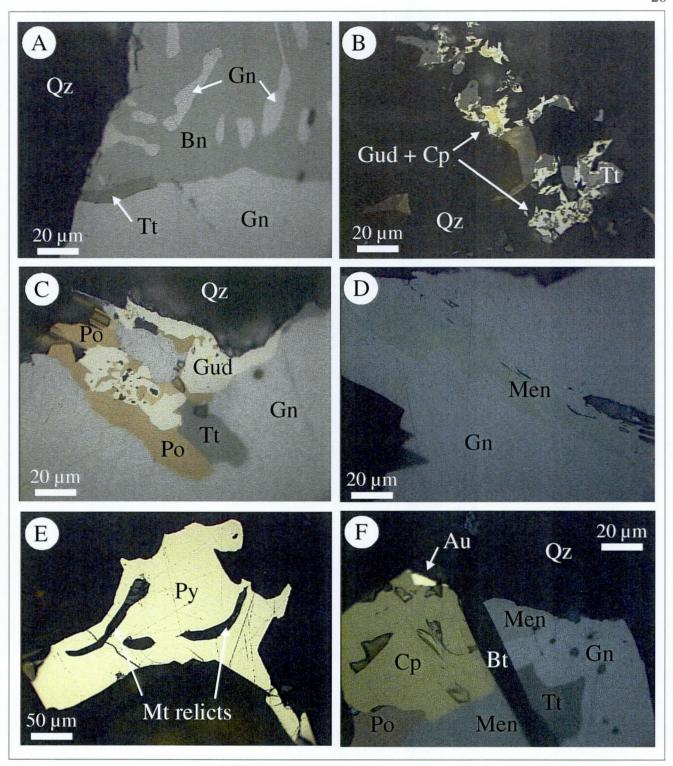


Plate 5 A. Myrmekitic intergrowth of galena (Gn) and bournonite (Bn), within quartz (Qz), with small grain of tetrahedrite (Tt) at margin to coarse galena. Sample Mo 13. B. Fine-grained skeletal aggregate of gudmundite (Gud) and chalcopyrite (Cp) formed by decomposition of tetrahedrite (Tt). Sample Mo 13. C. Assemblage of pyrrhotite (Po), gudmundite (Gud), tetrahedrite (Tt) and galena (Gn). Sample Mo 12. D. Exsolution of greenish-grey meneghinite (Men) within galena (Gn). Sample Mo 12. E. Relicts of magnetite (Mt) in pyrite (Py). Sample Mo 12. F. Gold-bearing assemblage, consisting of native gold (Au), meneghinite (Men), tetrahedrite (Tt), galena (Gn) and pyrrhotite (Po). Bt: biotite, Qz: quartz. Sample Mo 12.

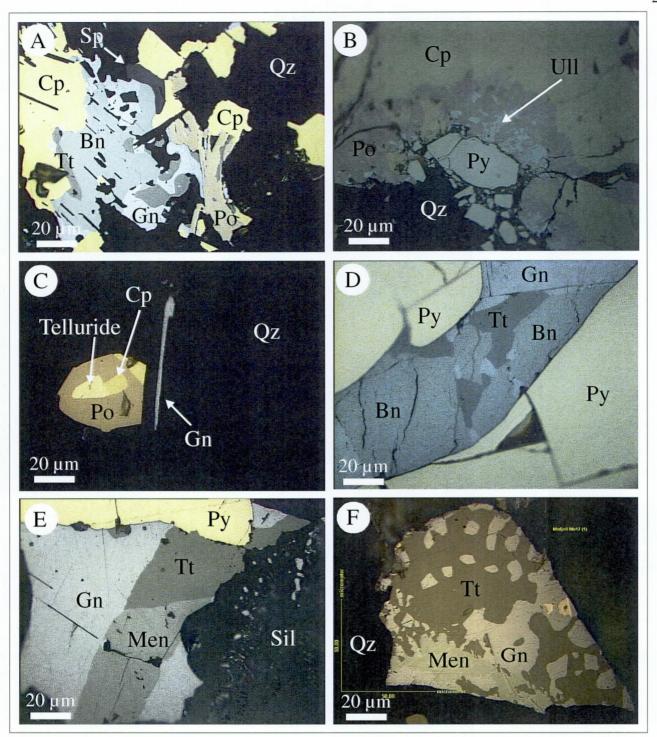


Plate 6 A. Complex assemblage of bournonite (Bn), tetrahedrite (Tt), pyrrhotite (Po) and galena (Gn) associated with chalcopyrite (Cp) within quartz (Qz). Note the characteristic grain shape of the monoclinic pyrrhotite. Sample Mo 13. B. Fine-grained exsolutions (?) of ullmannite(Ull) within pyrrhotite (Po) at the margin of coarse chalcopyrite (Cp). Note small, new-formed pyrite grains. This assemblage appears to have resulted from decomposition of a higher temperature mineral. Sample Mo 13 C. Small grain of pyrrhotite (Po) in quartz (Qz) with exsolved chalcopyrite (Cp) and an unknown telluride phase.Gn: galena. Sample Mo 8. D. Intergrowth of bournonite (Bn) with galena (Gn) and tetrahedrite (Tt). Sample Mo 11. E. Equilibrium crystallisation of galena (Gn), tetrahedrite (Tt) and meneghinite (Men) with characteristic 120 degree triple junction between the grains. Py: pyrite. Sample Mo 12. F. Semi-symplectitiic intergrowth of tetrahedrite (Tt) and galena (Gn), also with exsolved meneghinite (Men). Sample Mo 17.

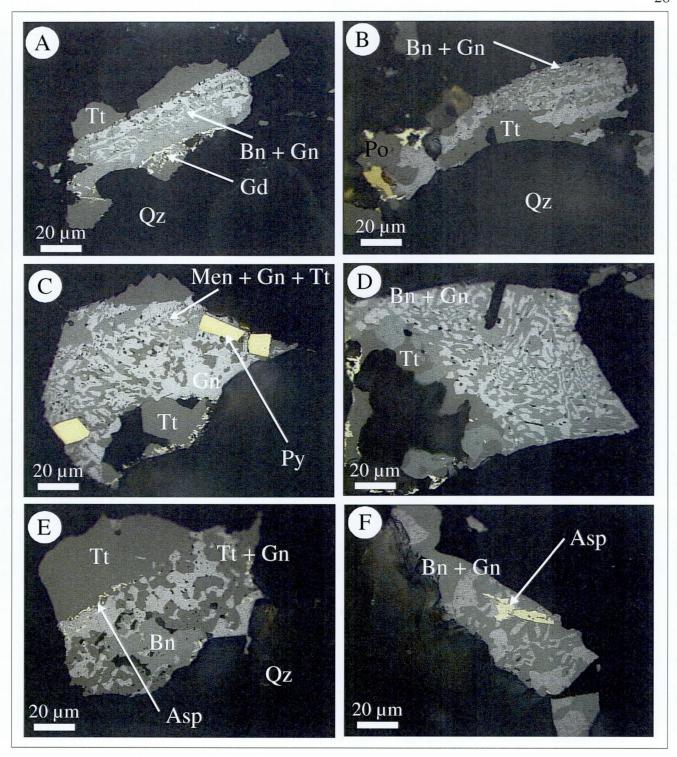
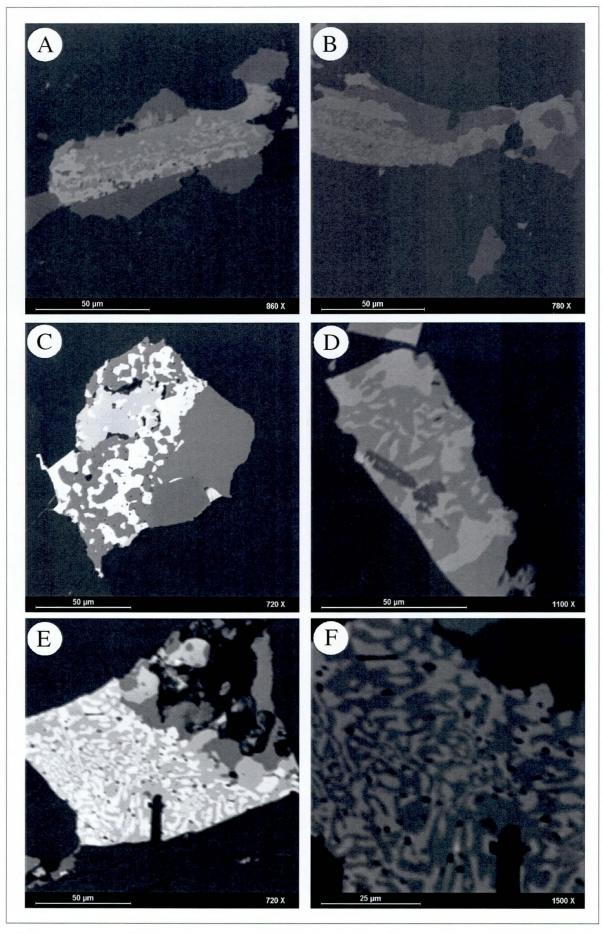


Plate 7 Series of photomicrographs illustrating the complex symplectitic intergrowths of Sb-sulphosalt minerals in the Mofjellet ore. A. Symplectite of bournonite and galena (Bn + Gn), with marginal tetrahedrite (Tt) and small bodies of exsolved gudmundite (Gd). Sample Mo 13. B..Similar symplectite as in A. Sample Mo 13. C.Complex ternary symplectite of meneghinite, galena and tetrahedrite (Men + Gn + Tt), with inclusions of pyrite (Py). Sample Mo 13. D.Symplectite of bournonite and galena (Bn + Gn). Sample Mo 13. E. Symplectite of tetrahedrite and galena (Tt + Gn) and larger body of bournonite (Bn). Small grains of arsenopyrite (Asp) at margin of symplectite with tetrahedrite. Sample Mo 13. F. Symplectite of bournonite and galena (Bn + Gn), and coarser bodies of exsolved arsenopyrite. Sample Mo 13.



**Plate 8** Series of back-scattered electron images showing the complex symplectitic intergrowths from Plate 7. Minerals with higher (total) atomic weights appear as brighter colours, those with lower mean atomic weights, as darker areas.

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