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# Kimberlitic olivine research directions, implications, and tracking mantle cargo

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*Bultfontein Kimberlite, Kimberley*

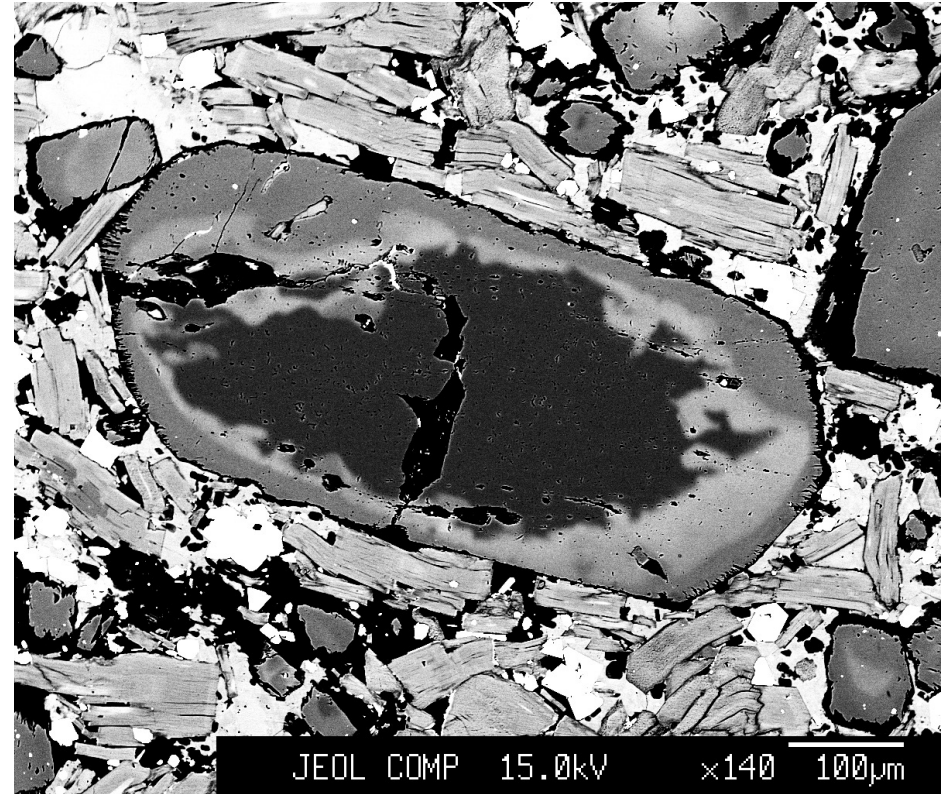
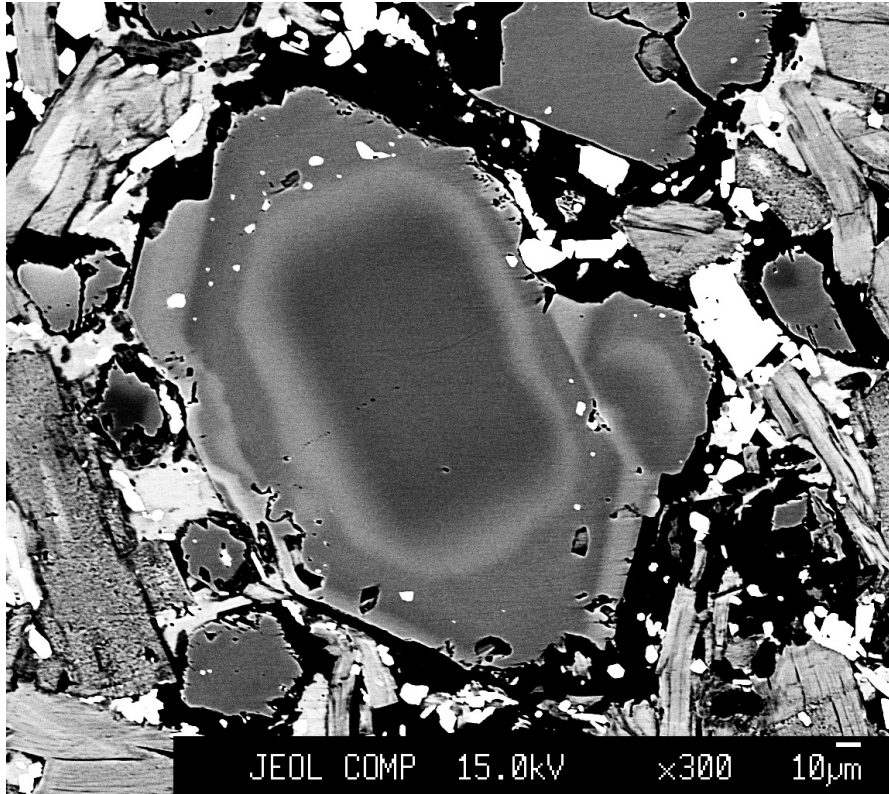
# Why has research on kimberlitic olivine become so popular?



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30 YEARS OF DIAMONDS IN CANADA  
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*Viljoen et al. (2022 – Lithos)*



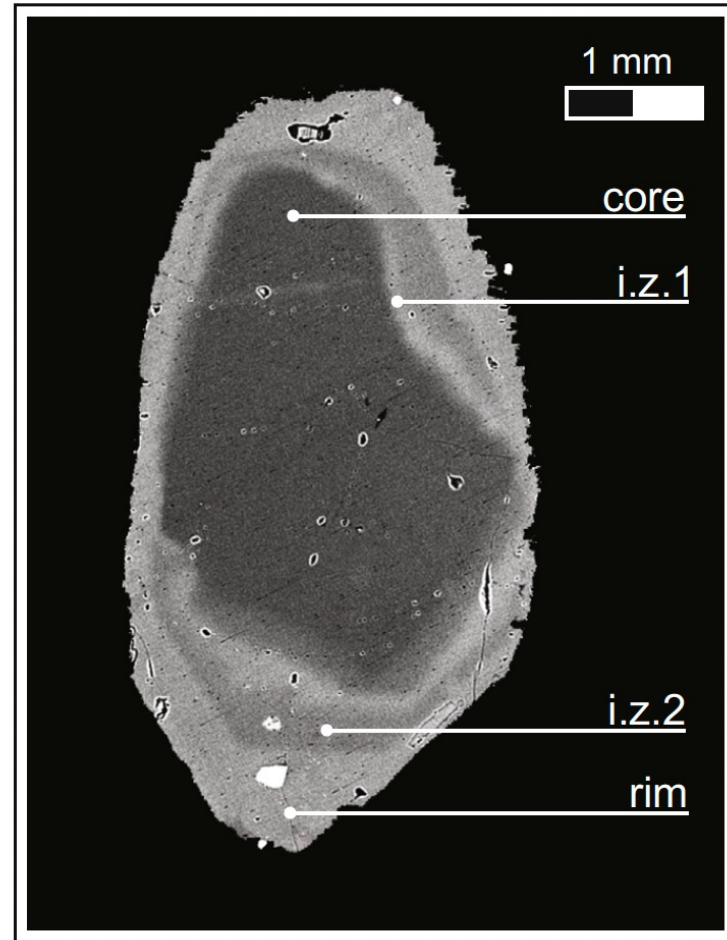
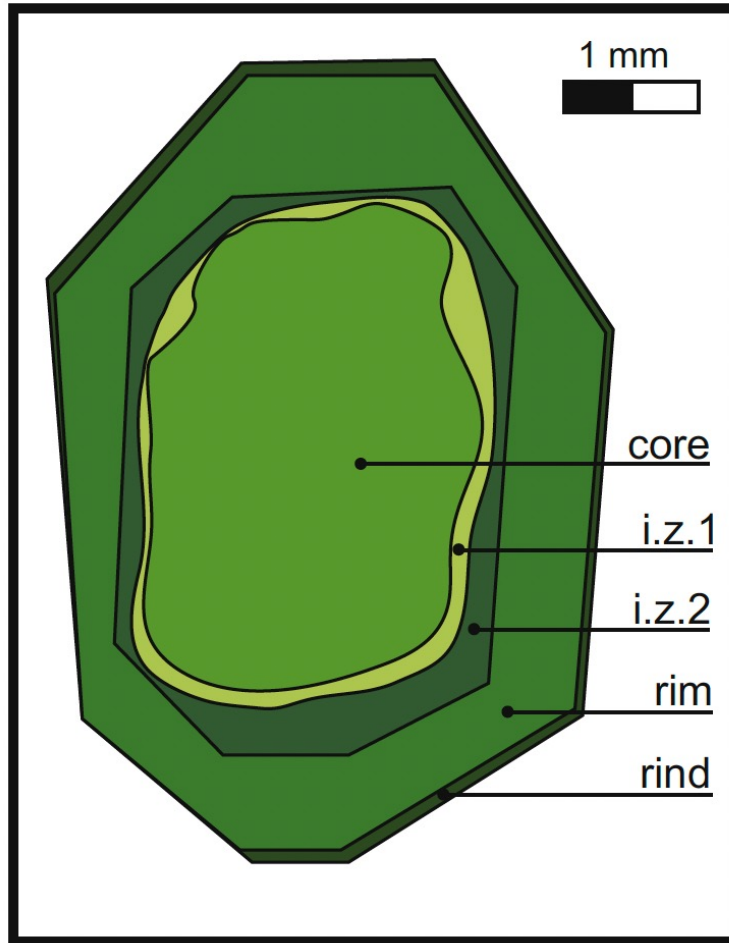
- BSE images of olivine from the Lando dike, Tongo-Tonguma, Sierra Leone



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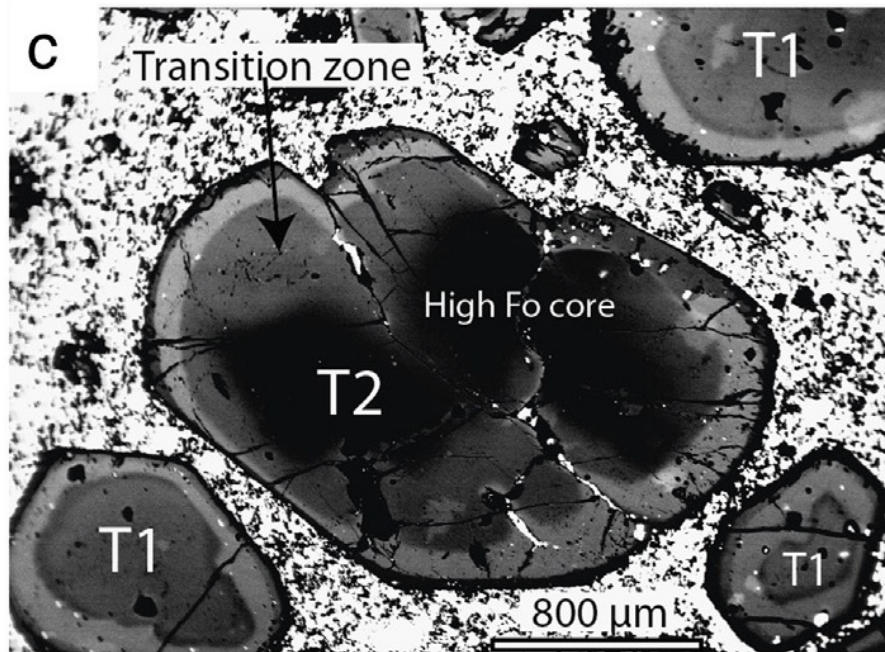
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Department Geologiese Wetenskappe

# Terminology based on zoning



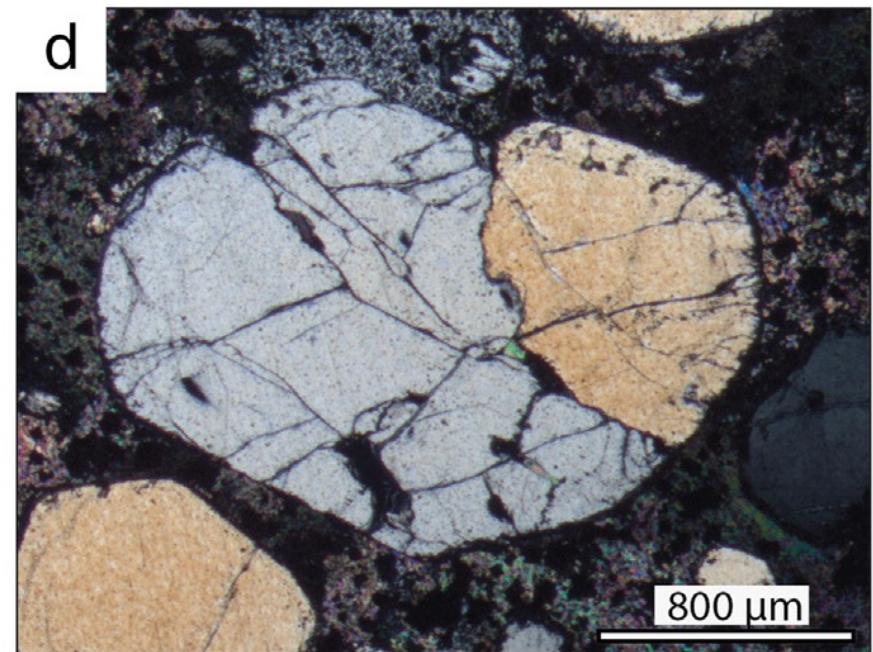
*Giuliani (2018 – Lithos)*

# Complexity of zoning



BSE image

*Howarth and Taylor (2016 – Lithos)*

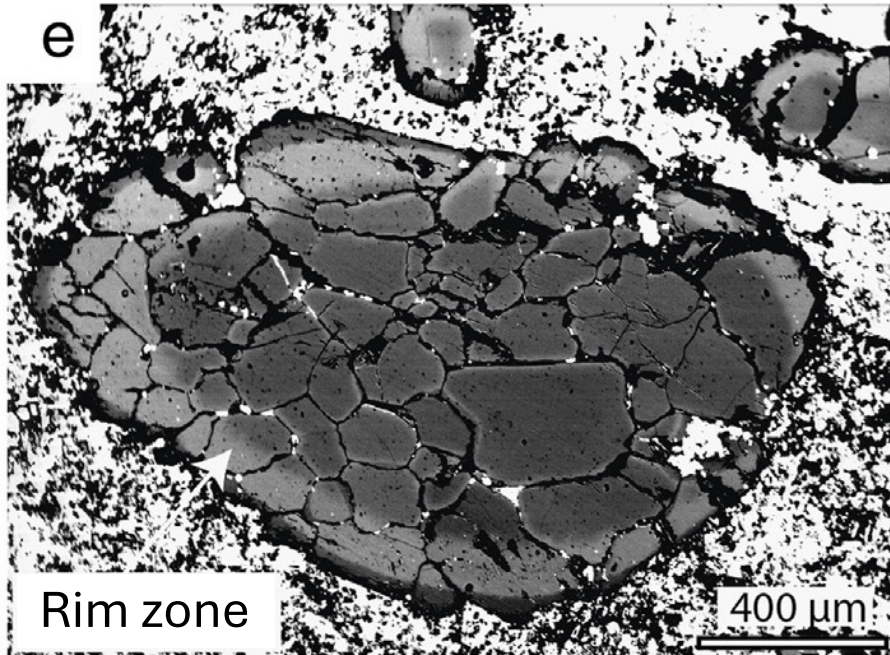


XPL image

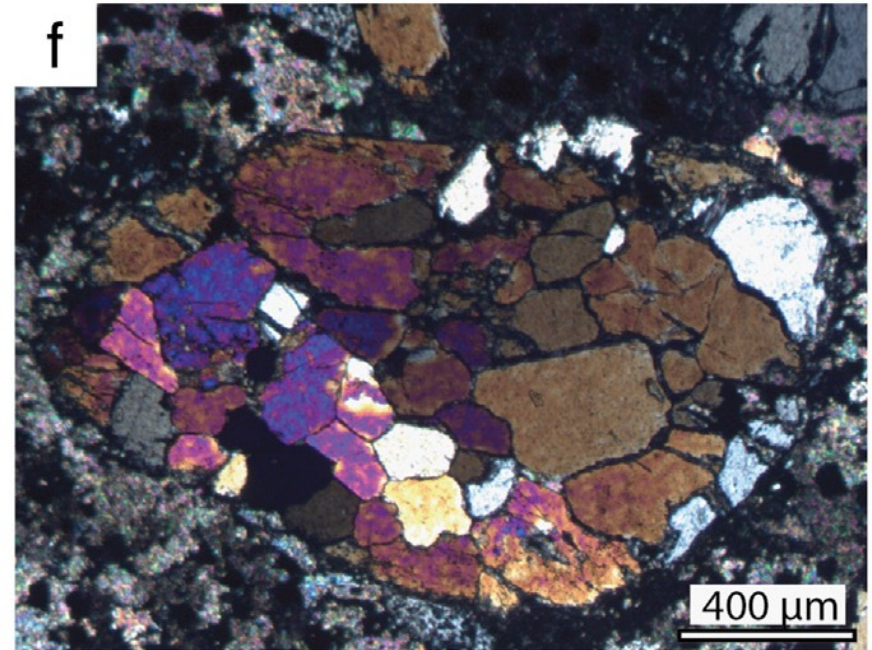
# Complexity of zoning



*Howarth and Taylor (2016 – Lithos)*

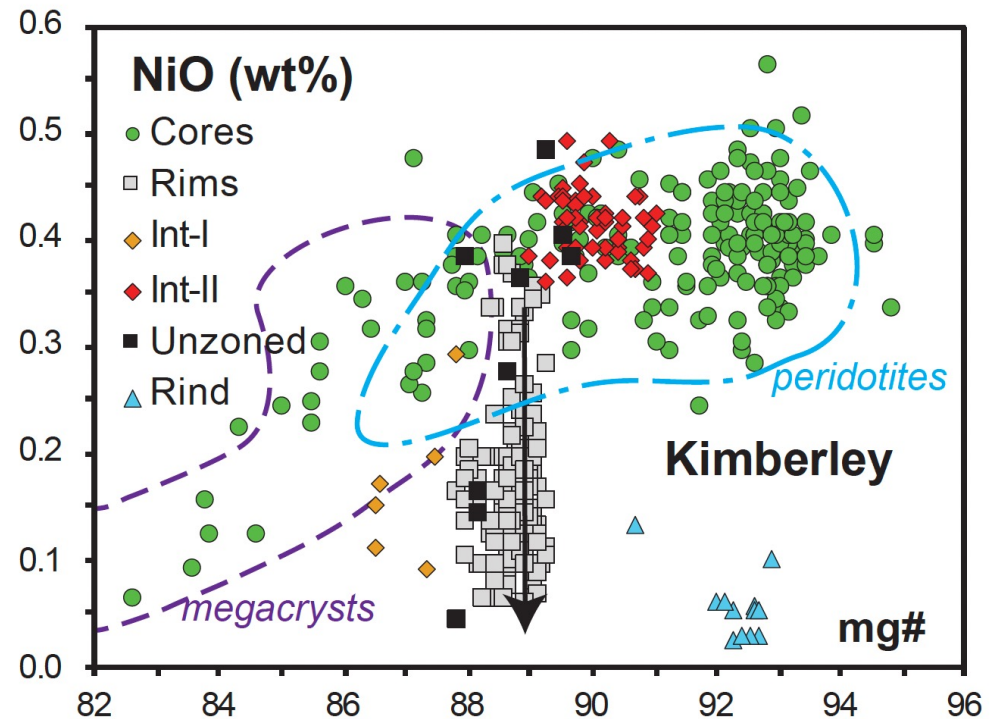
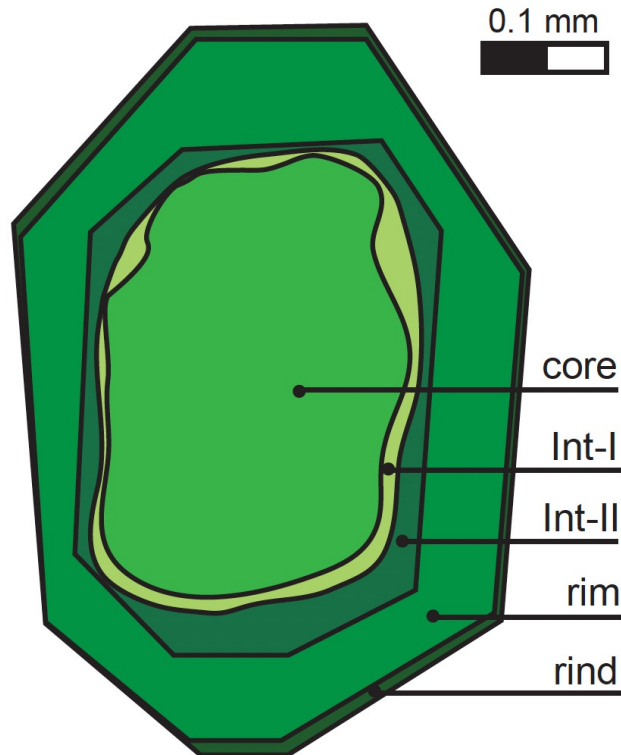


BSE image



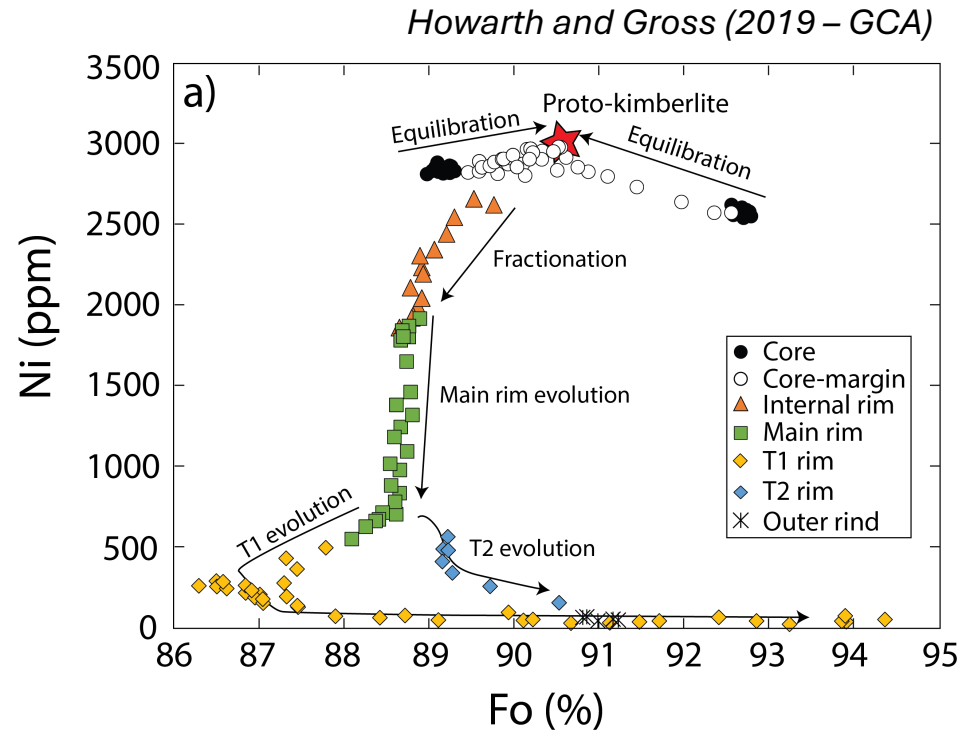
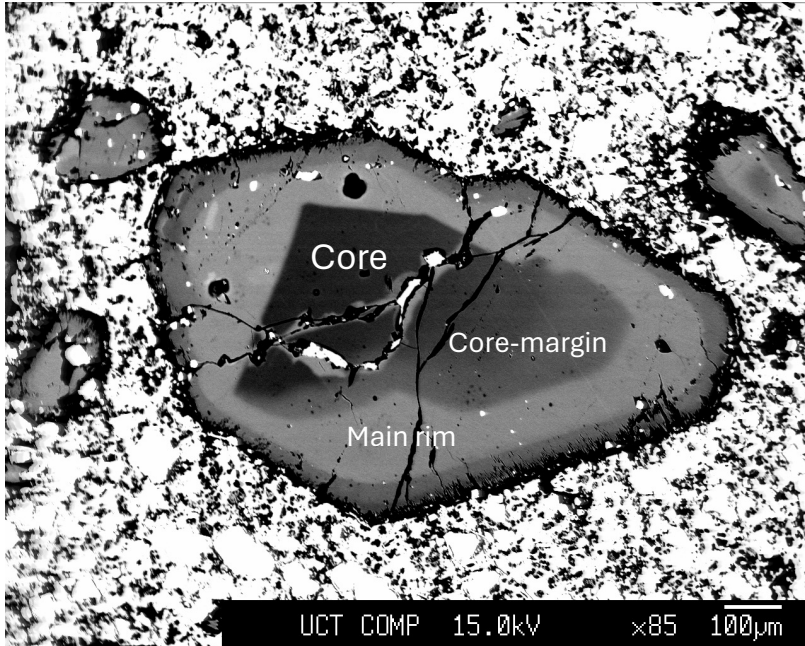
XPL image

# Compositional zoning of olivine



Mitchell et al. (2019 – Elements)

# Electron probe microanalyser

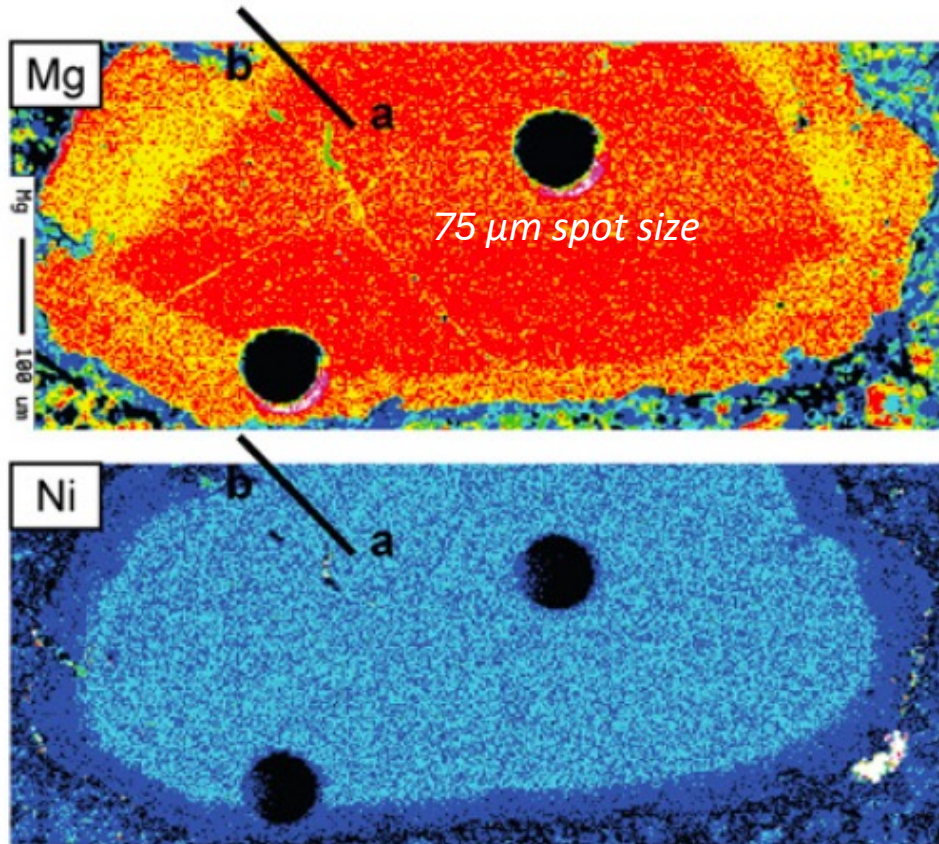


- High resolution but cannot accurately analyse full suite of trace elements

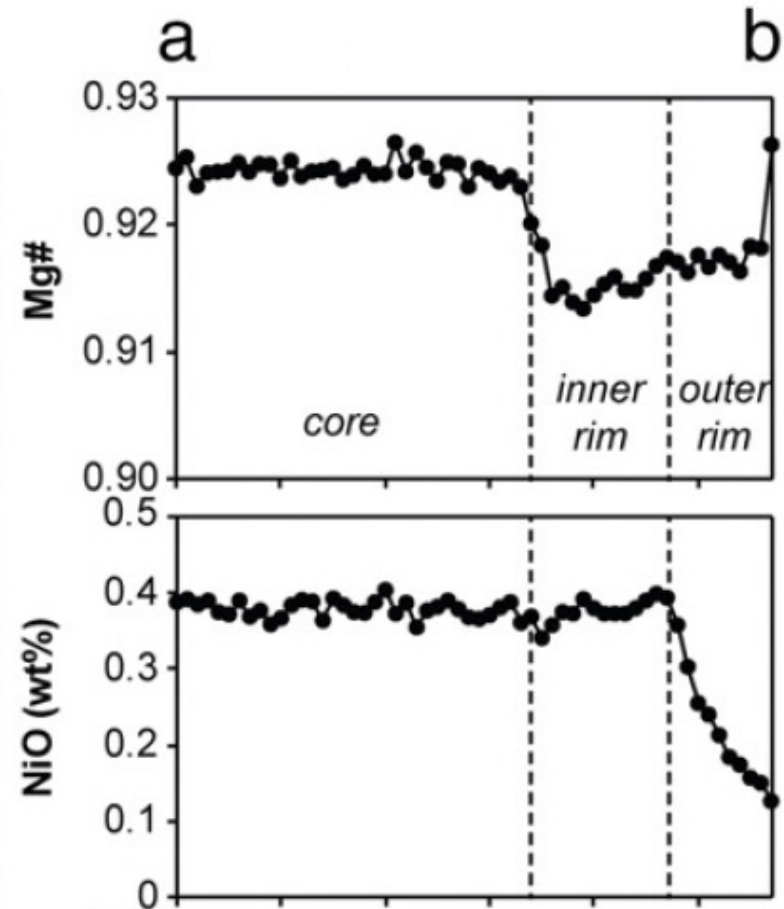
# Laser ablation ICP-MS



## Laser



## EPMA



*Bussweiler et al. (2015 – Lithos)*



# Recent research directions



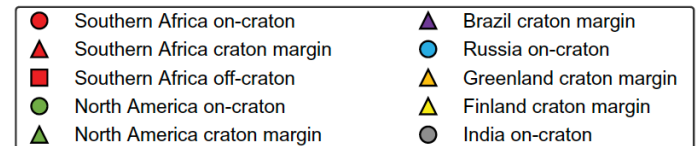
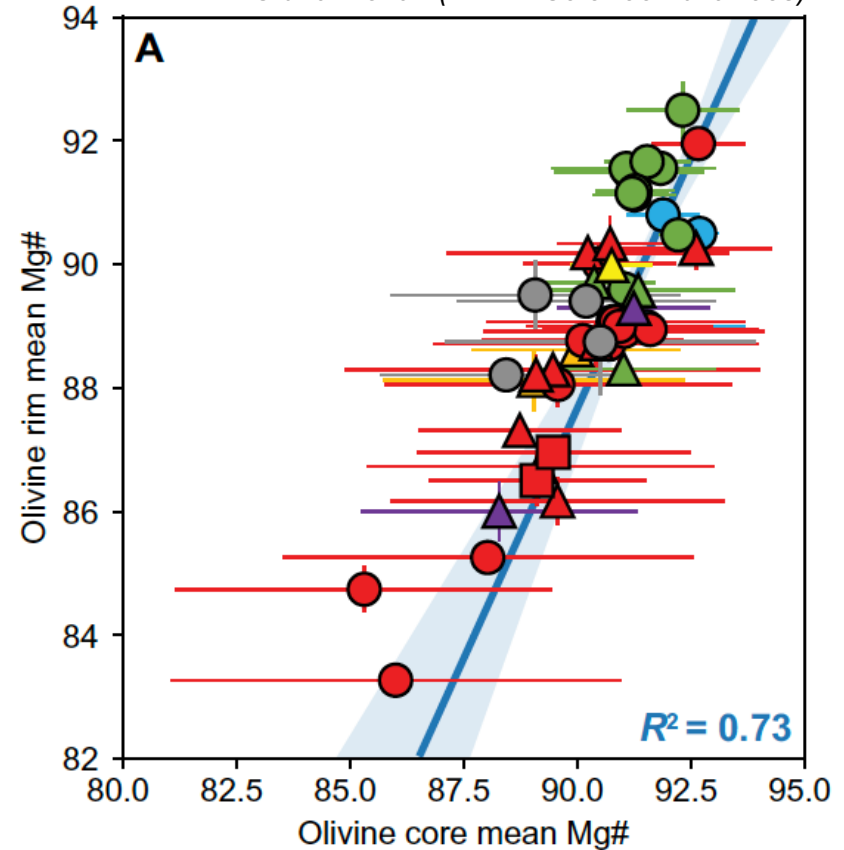
1. Al-in-olivine thermometry used to understand SCLM sampling depths
2. Correlations between core and rim compositions indicate kimberlite melt influenced by SCLM assimilation
3. Complex rim zoning used to constrain kimberlite petrogenesis from source to surface
4. Melt/fluid inclusions can be used to understand kimberlite melt compositions and evolution

# Global olivine core-rim correlation



- Olivine core-rim correlations indicate kimberlite melt is influenced by the mantle material sampled

Giuliani et al. (2020 – Science Advances)





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# Tips on use of the Al-in-olivine thermometer

$$T[^\circ\text{C}] = (11245 + 46.0 * P[\text{kbar}]) / (13.68 - \ln(\text{Al}[\text{ppm}])) - 273$$

Bussweiler et al. (2017 - *Lithos*)



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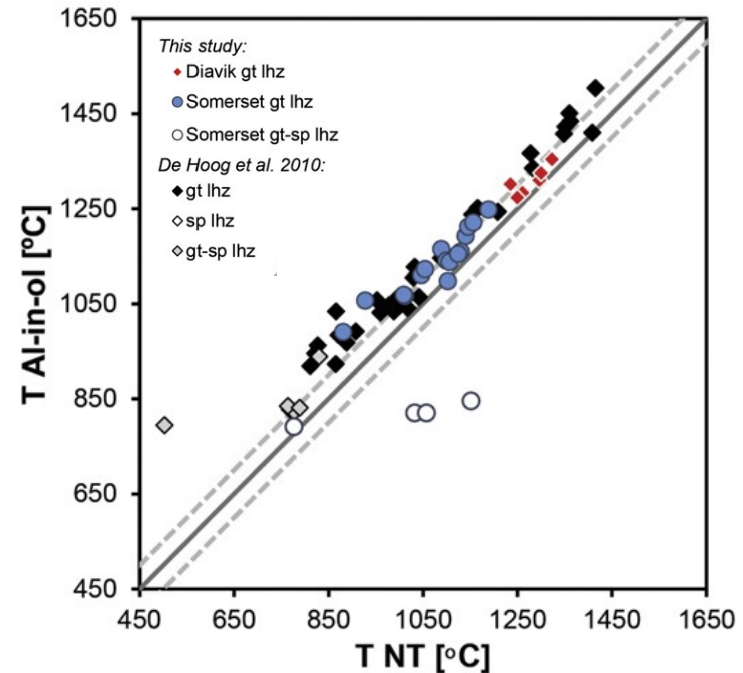
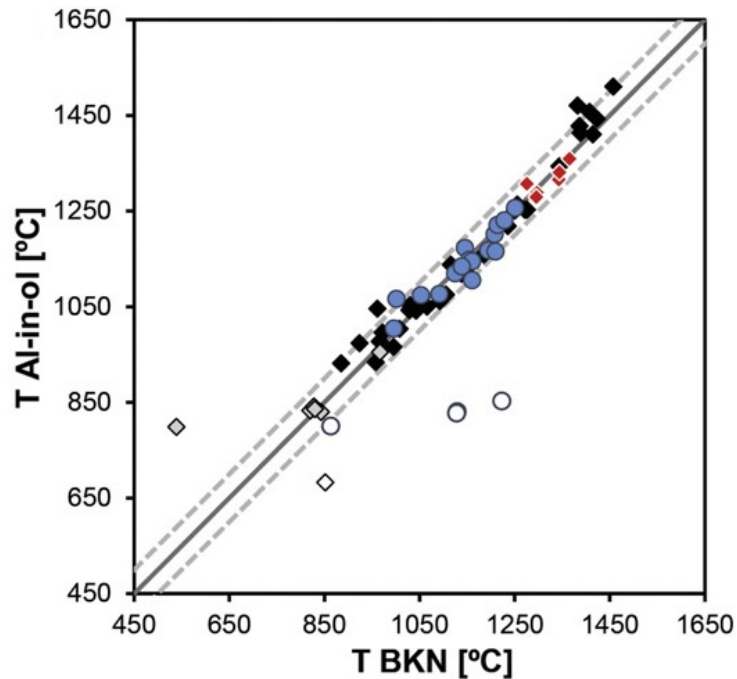


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# Al-in-olivine thermometry



- Performs well compared to two pyroxene thermometer of Brey and Köhler (1990)
- Slight overestimation of T relative to single cpx thermometer of Nimis and Taylor (2000)



Bussweiler et al. (2017 - *Lithos*)



# Data filtering



## Step 1:

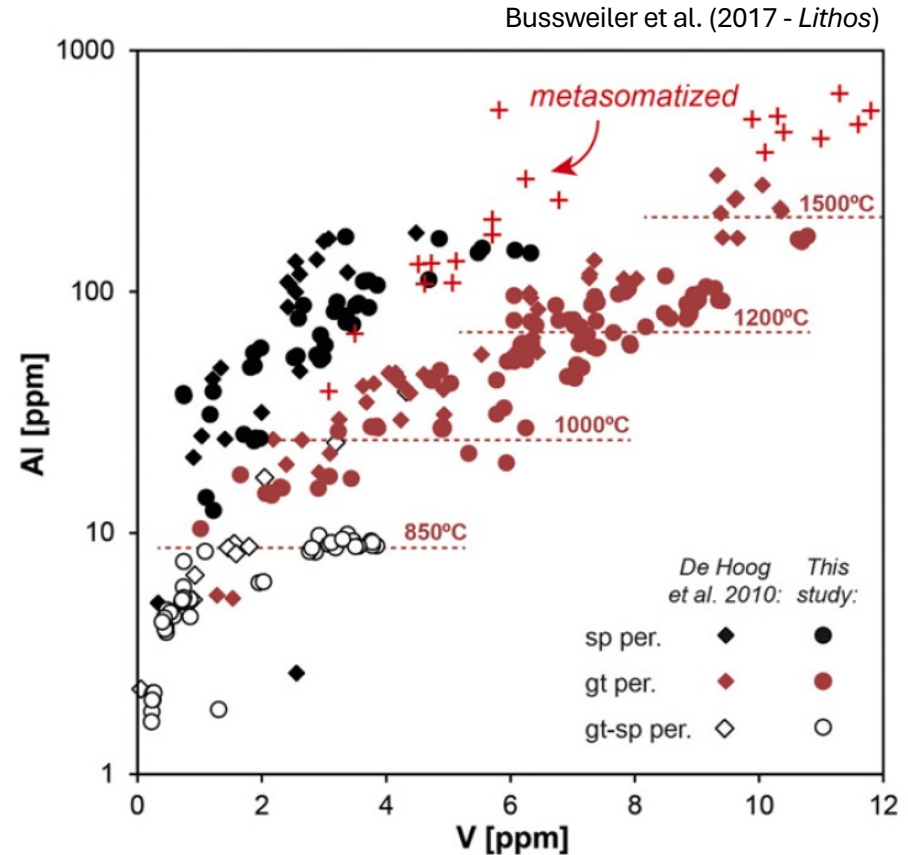
### Olivine xenocryst filtering

- Mg# >90
- Ni >2350 ppm
- Ca <715 ppm
- Mn <1160 ppm

## Step 2:

### Al-V discrimination diagram

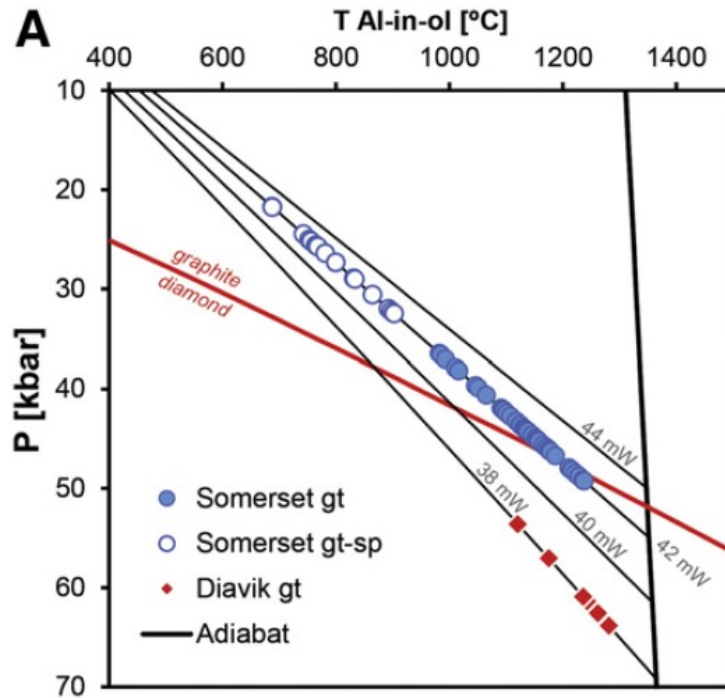
- Al-in-olivine thermometry only applicable to gt-peridotite



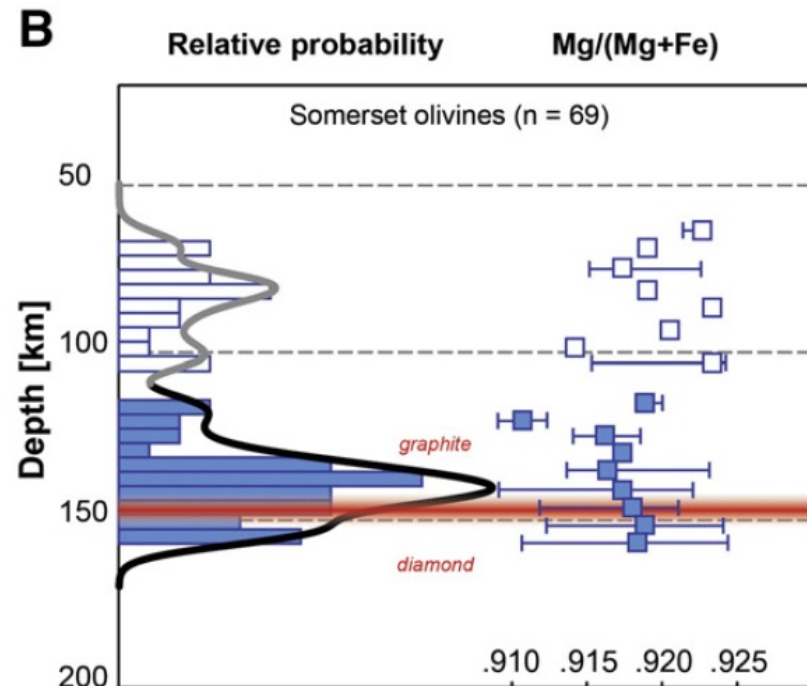
# Al-in-olivine thermometry



- Al-in-olivine thermometry can be used to calculate equilibration P-T-depth
- Team diamond - <https://cms.eas.ualberta.ca/team-diamond/downloads/>



Bussweiler et al. (2017 - *Lithos*)



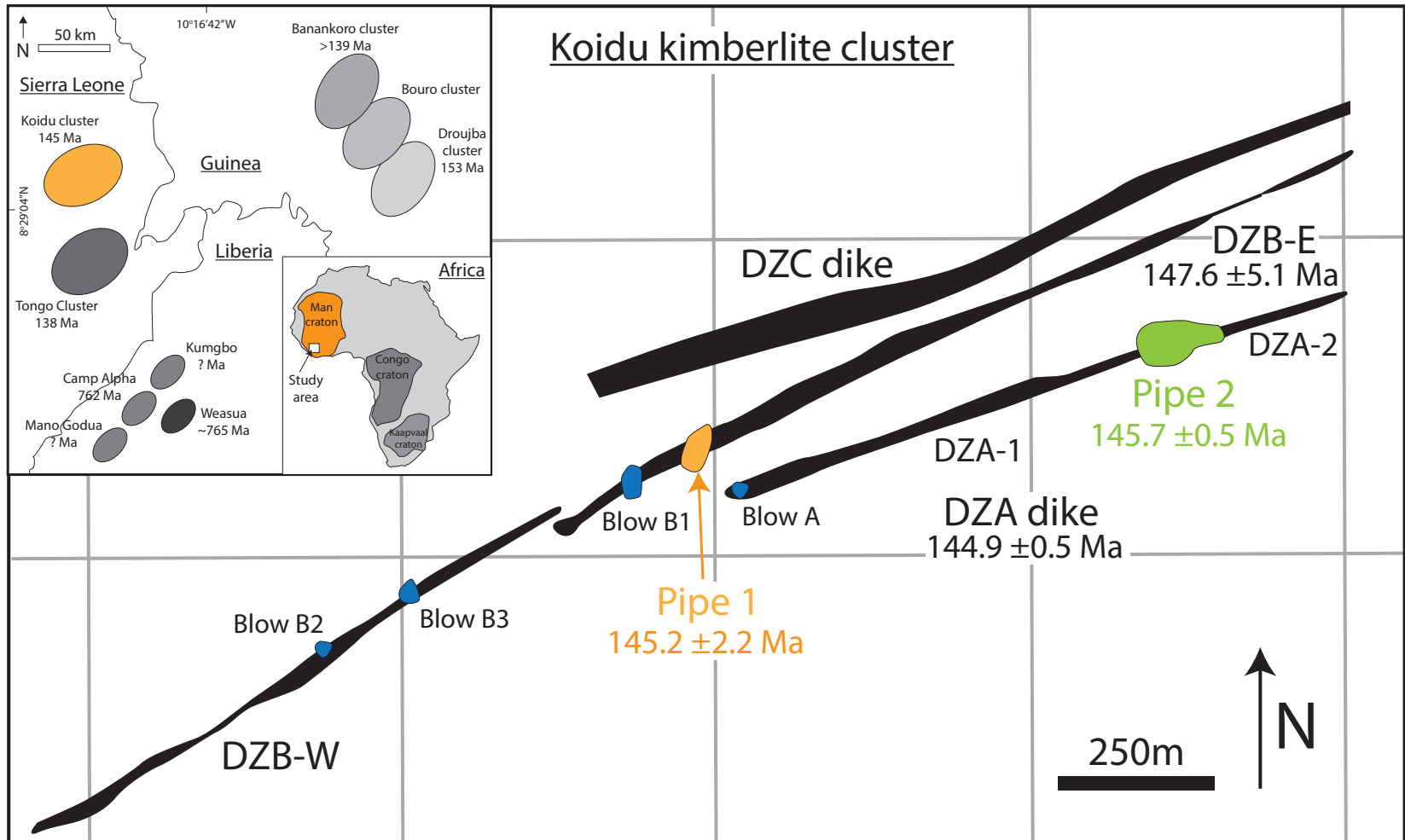


# Practical application of the Al-in-olivine thermometer – Koidu kimberlites

Andrea Giuliani, Yannick Bussweiler, Merrily Tau, Sinelethu Hashibi, Phil Janney, and Tom Nowicki



# Mantle sampling – Koidu example



Howarth et al. (in revision – *Min. deposita*)





# Mantle sampling – Koidu example



DZA dike

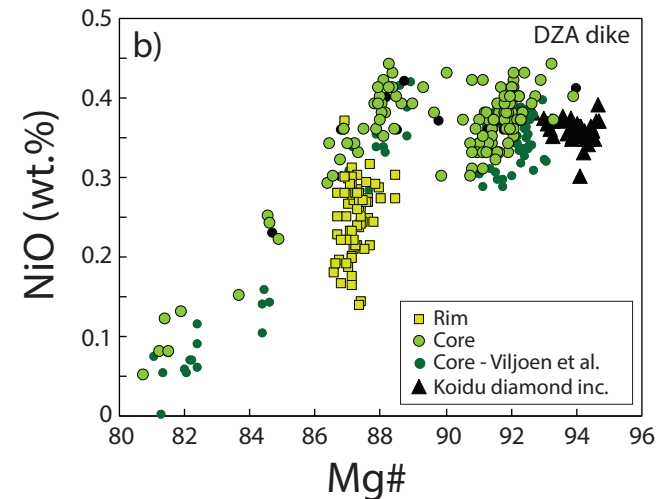
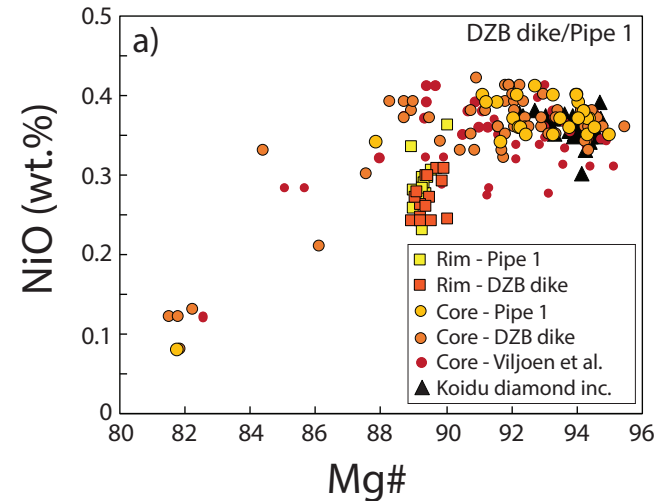


Howarth et al. (in revision – *Min. deposita*)

# Mantle sampling – Koidu example



- EPMA data for kimberlite phases
- DZA dike has notable break in Mg# ~90



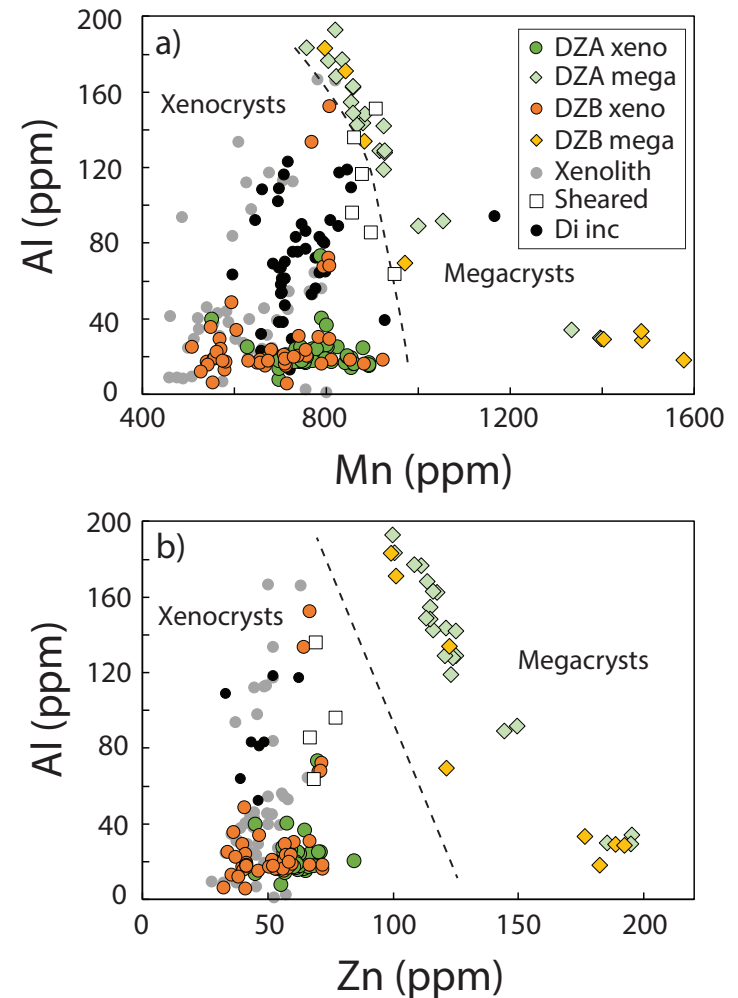
Howarth et al. (in revision – *Min. deposita*)

# Mantle sampling – Koidu example



## Megacryst filtering:

- LA-ICP-MS trace element data
- Al-Zn-Mn discriminate megacrysts

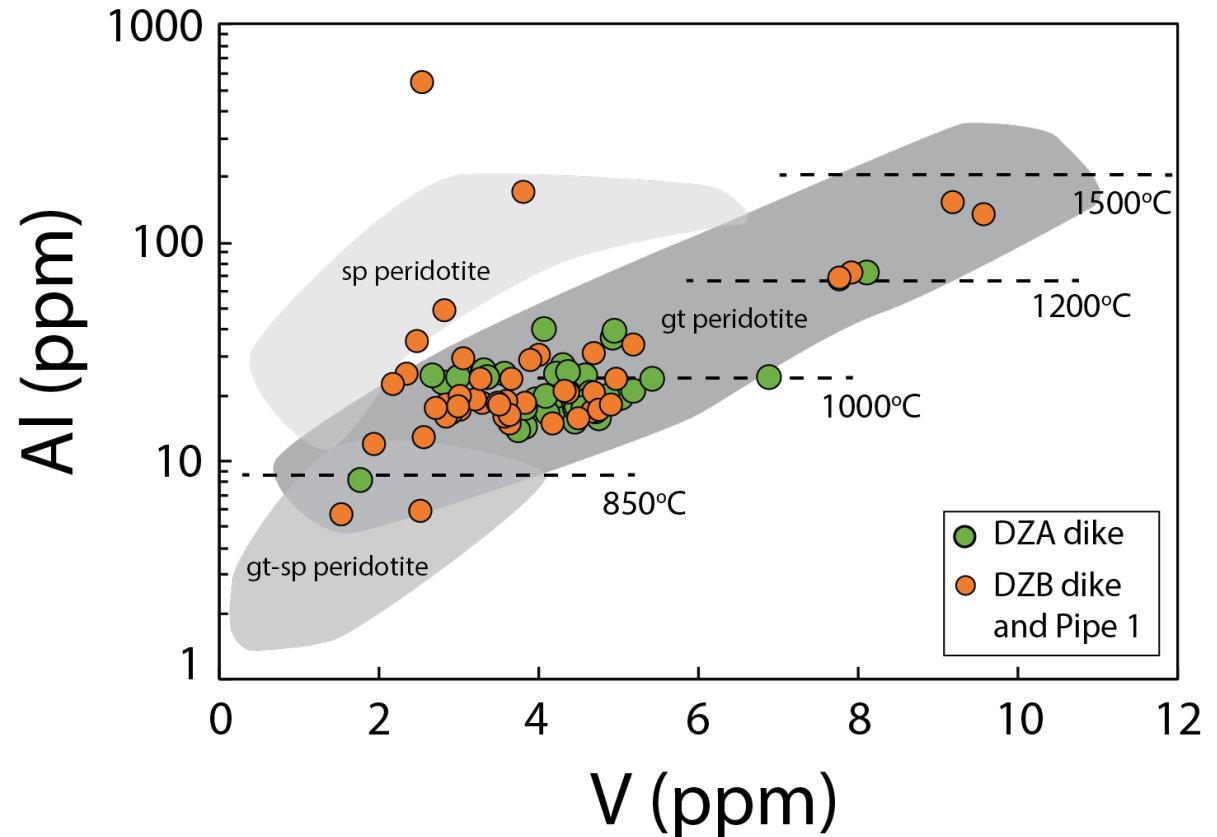


Howarth et al. (in revision – *Min. deposita*)

# Mantle sampling – Koidu example



- Spinel peridotite  
filtering
- Al-V  
discriminate  
spinel  
peridotites



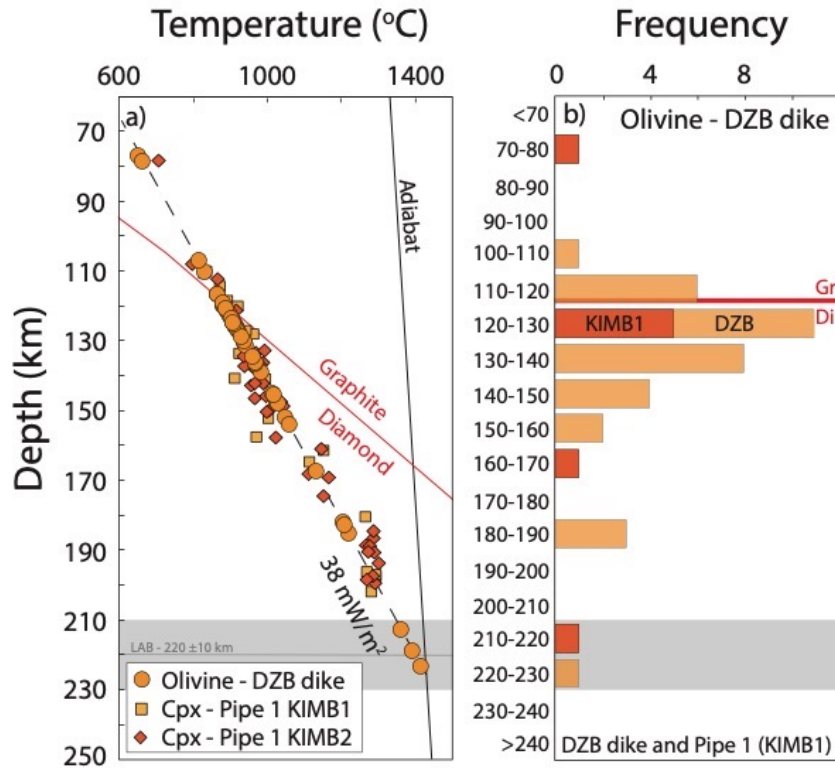
Howarth et al. (in revision – *Min. deposita*)



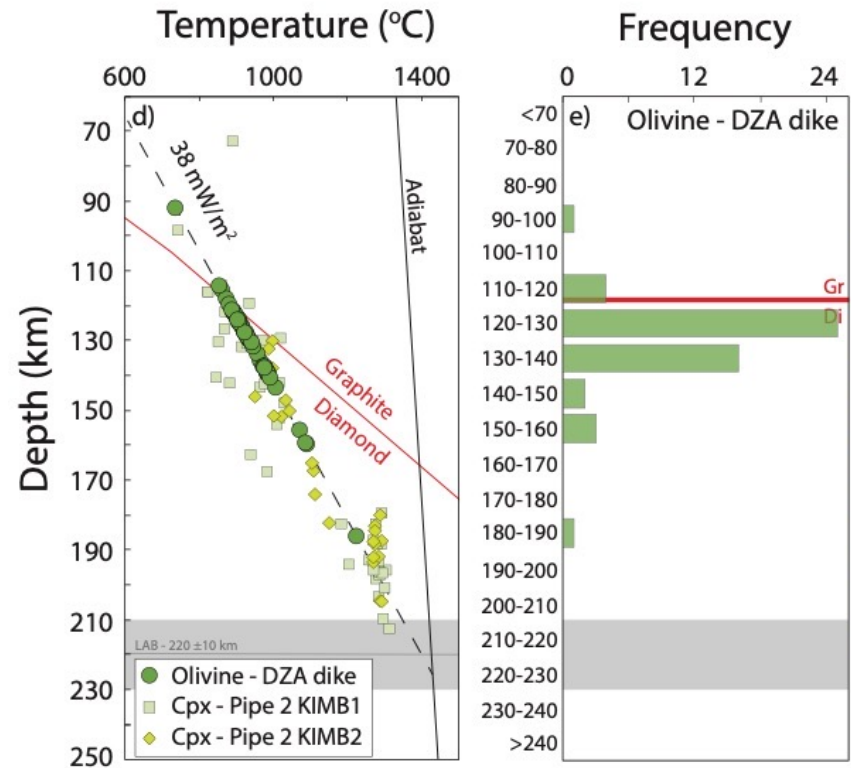
# Mantle sampling – Koidu example



## DZB dike/Pipe 1



## DZA dike



Olivine data – Howarth et al. (in review)

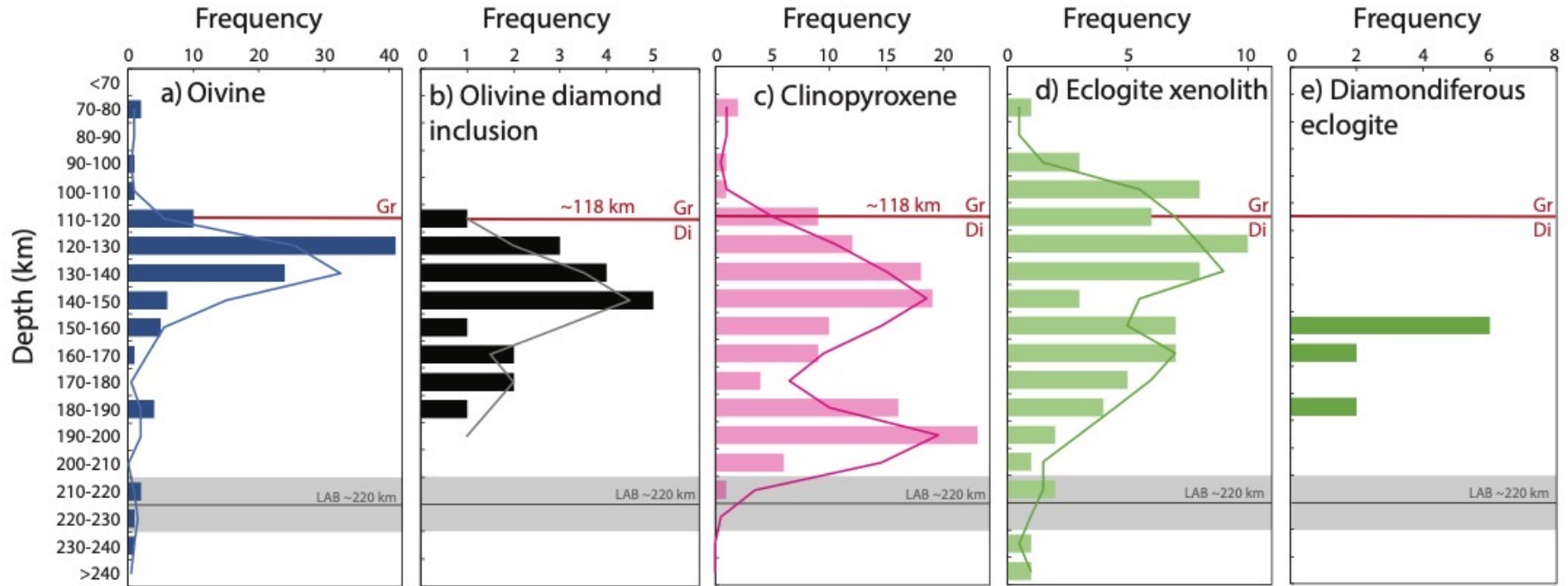
Cpx from Koidu Ltd. using single cpx thermometer of Nimis and Taylor (2000)

Diamond stability and geotherm from Smit et al. (2016; Precambrian research)

Howarth et al. (in revision – *Min. deposita*)



# Mantle sampling – Koidu example



*Olivine data – Howarth et al. (in review)*

*Diamond inclusion data – Lai et al. (in review)*

*Eclogite xenolith data from Aulbach et al. (2019; J. Pet.) using gt-cpx thermometer of Krogh (1988)*

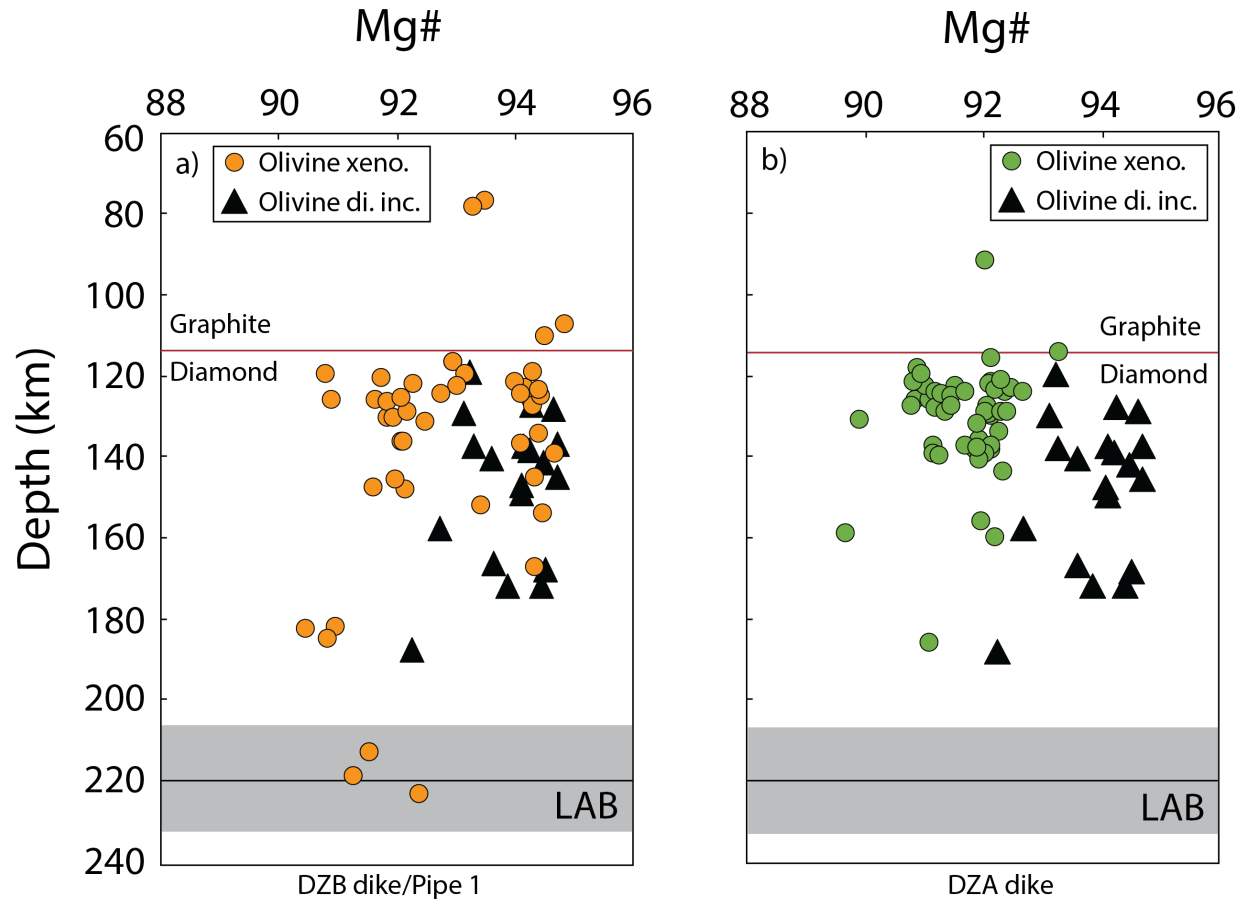
*Diamondiferous eclogite data from Hills and Haggerty (1989; Contributions) and Lai et al. (in review) using Krogh (1988)*

*Cpx from Koidu Ltd. using single cpx thermometer of Nimis and Taylor (2000)*

*Diamond stability and geotherm from Smit et al. (2016; Precambrian research)*



# Mantle sampling – Koidu example

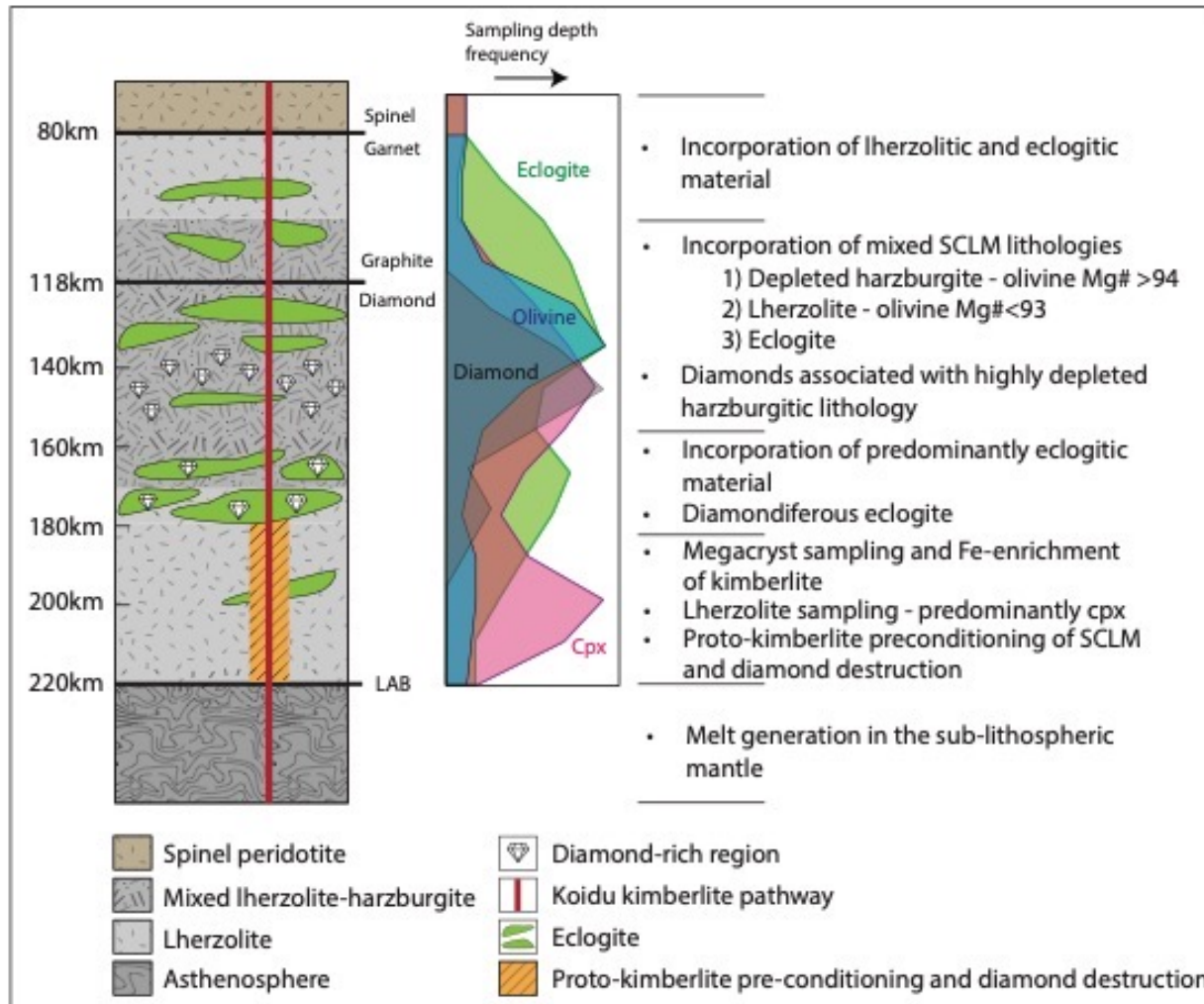


Howarth et al. (in revision – *Min. deposita*)

Olivine data – Howarth et al. (in review)  
Diamond inclusion data – Lai et al. (in review)  
Diamond stability and geotherm from Smit et al. (2016; Precambrian research)



# Mantle sampling – Koidu example



Howarth et al. (in revision – *Min. deposita*)





# Summary/future directions



1. We need a trace element in olivine dataset for mantle xenoliths and diamond inclusions
  - e.g., Korolev et al. (2018); Meyer (2021; PhD); Lai (2022; PhD)
2. Olivine xenocryst and mantle xenolith data from single locations
  - e.g., Greene et al. (2023)
3. Olivine xenocryst data from more kimberlites where traditional indicator mineral data is available
  - e.g., Tau et al. (2024; IKC)



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# Questions

Do you want to ask an  
anonymous question?

Text it to +1 778 883 7422

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*University of Cape Town*

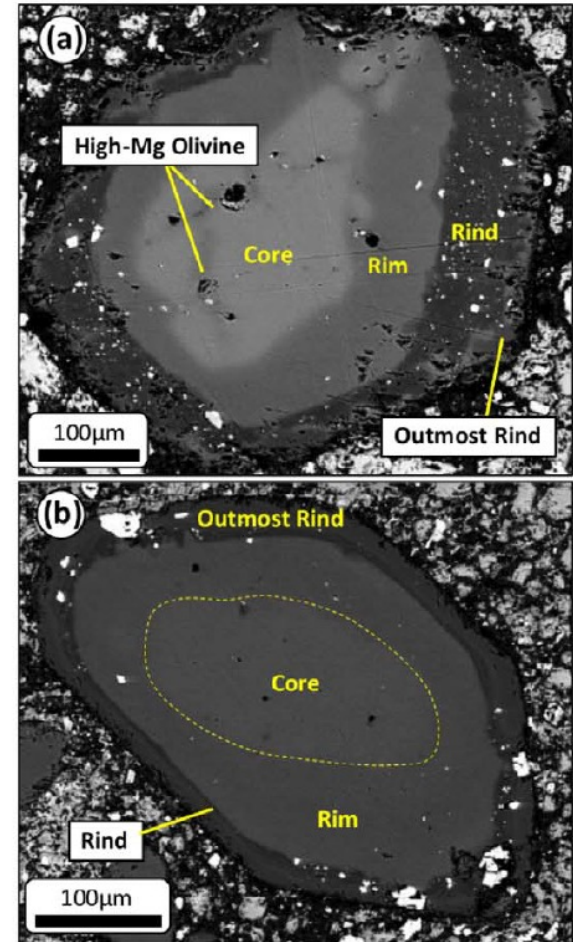
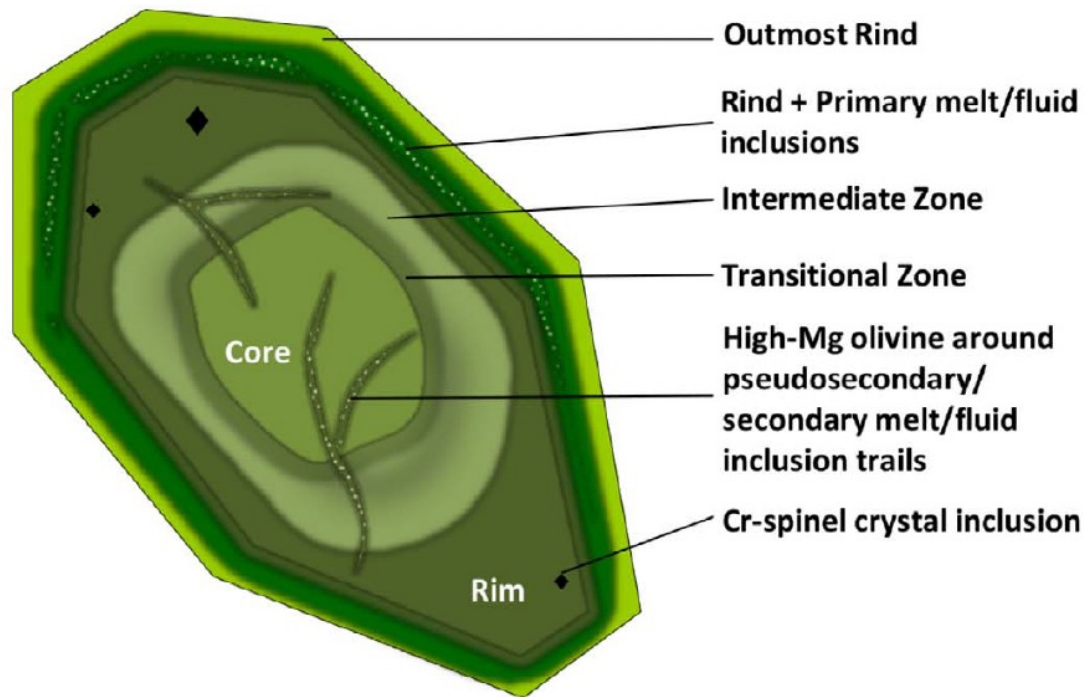
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*Bultfontein Kimberlite, Kimberley*

# Terminology based on zoning






*Abersteiner et al. (2022 – J.Pet)*

# Complexity of olivine zoning

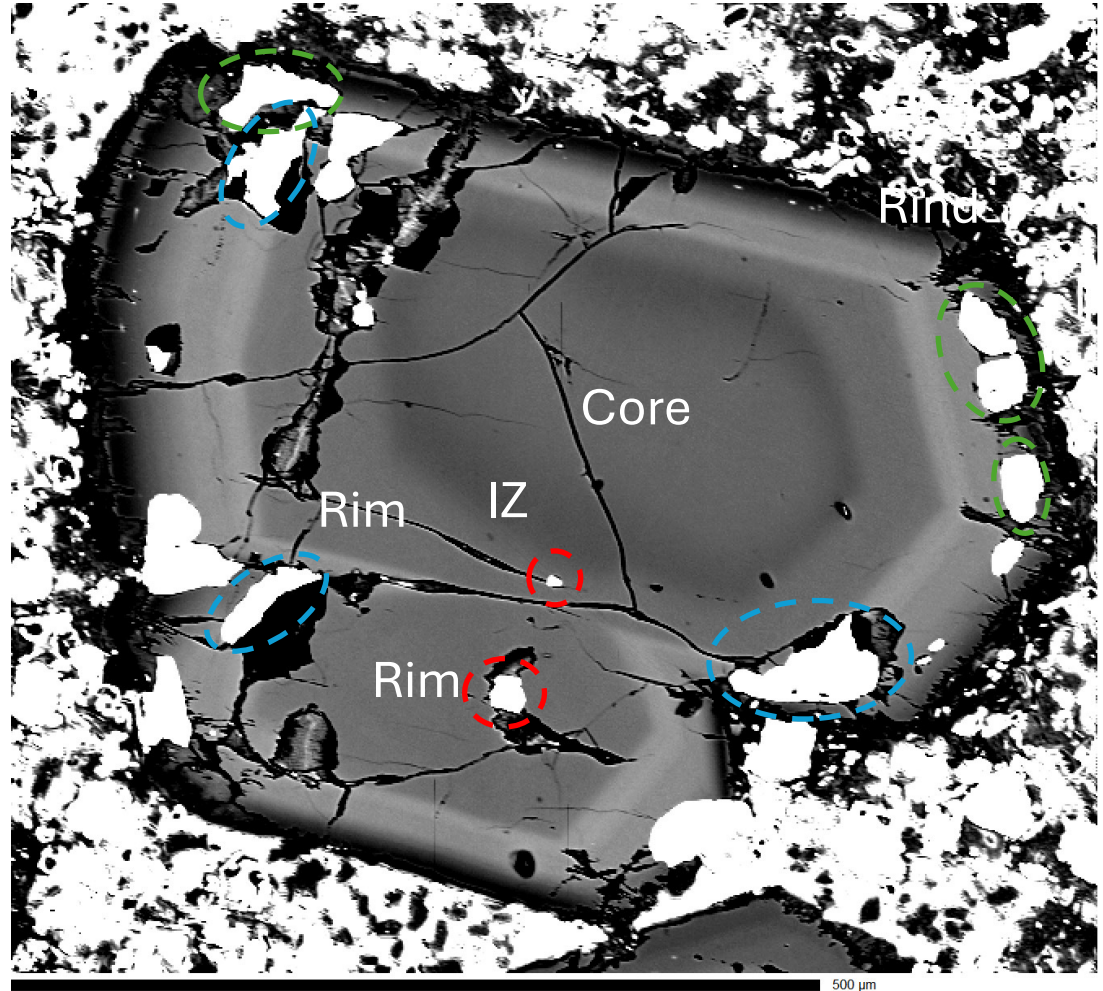


## Macrocryst and true phenocryst

### Oxide inclusions in olivine:

-  Chromite
-  Ilmenite
-  MUM

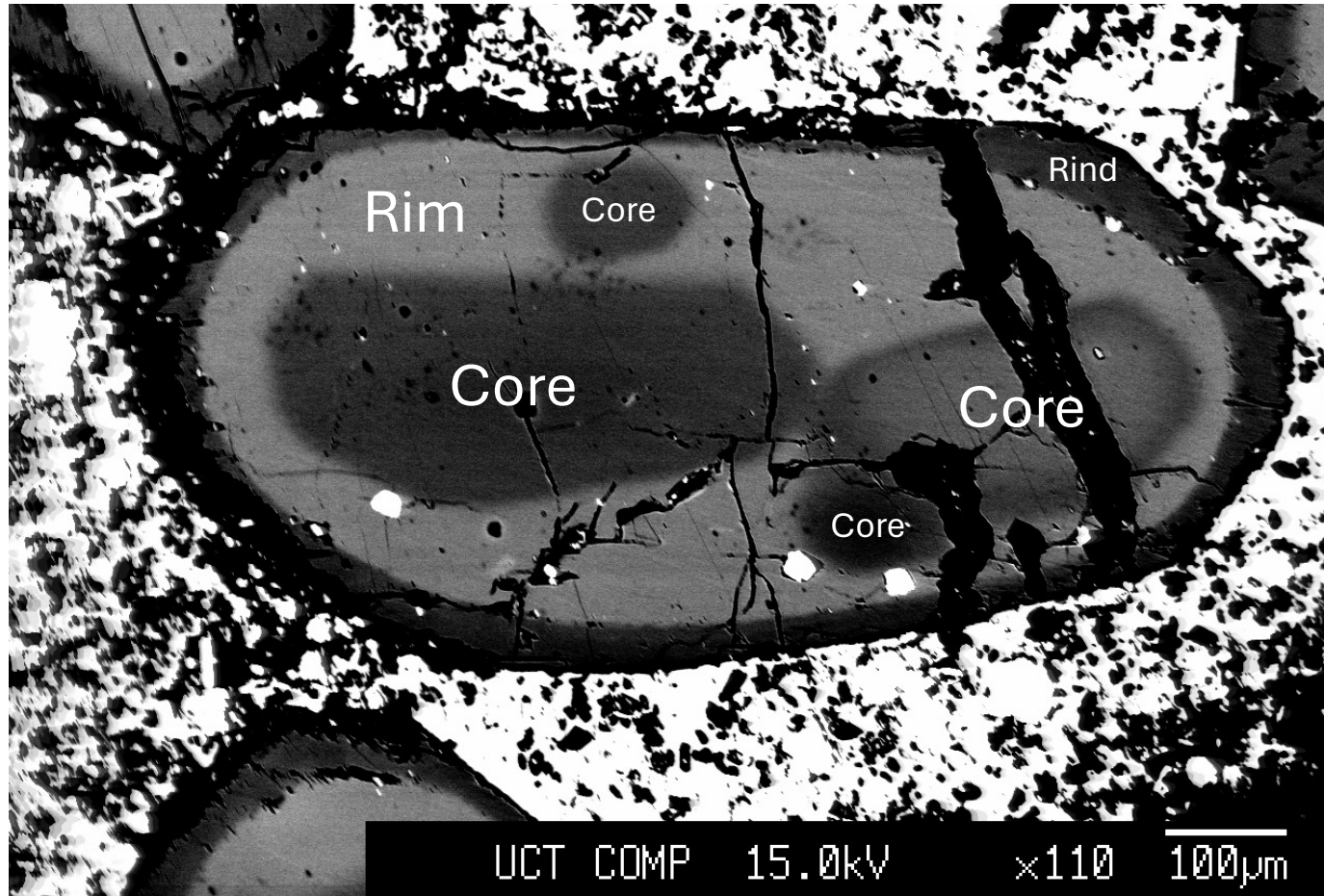
Howarth and Gross (2019 – GCA)



*Benfontein sill*

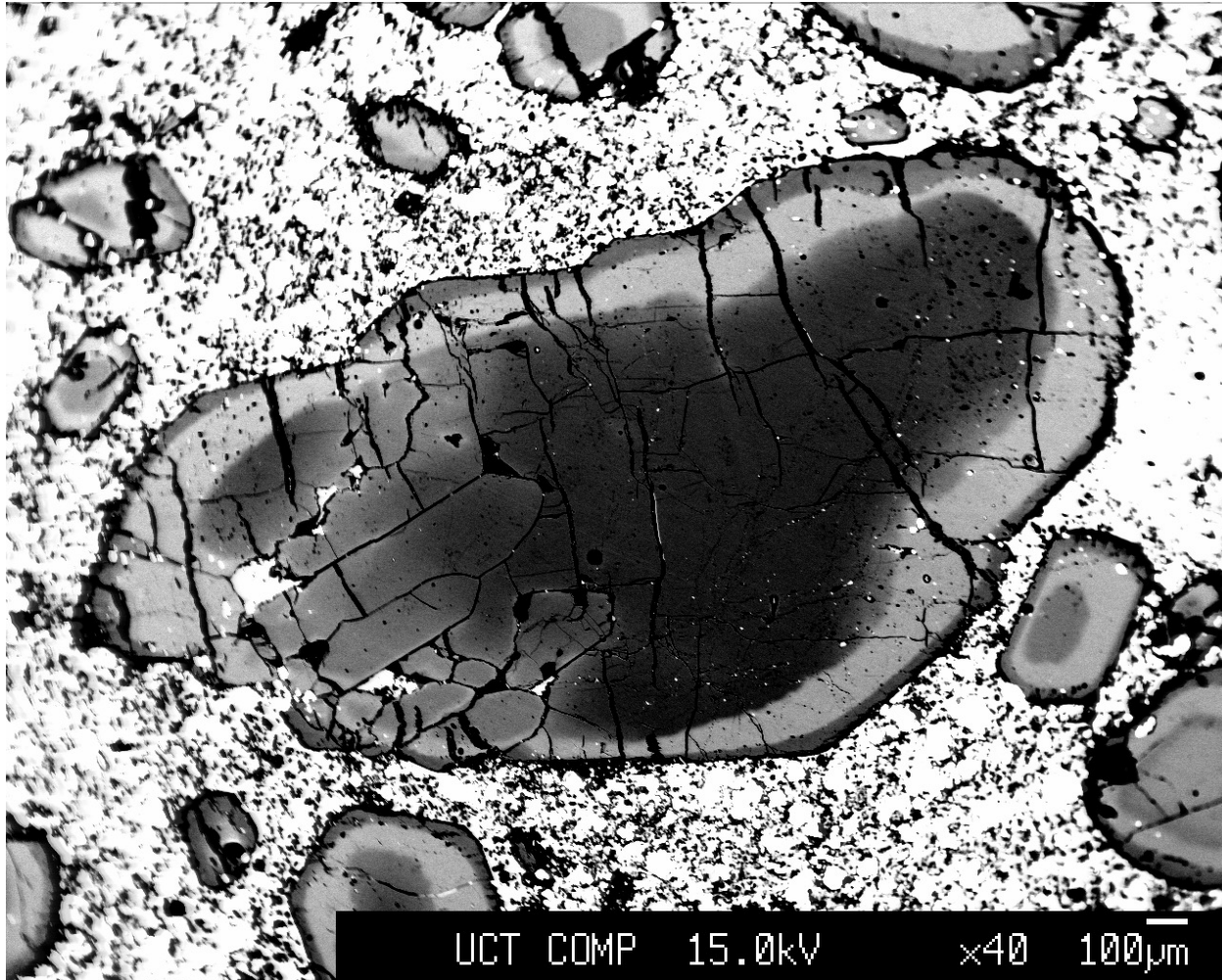


# Complexity of zoning



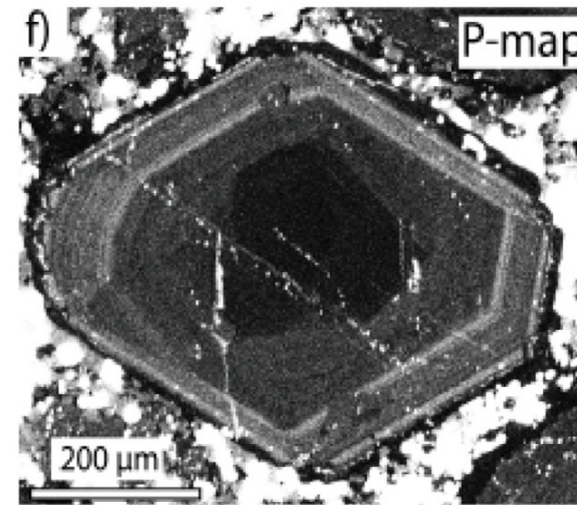
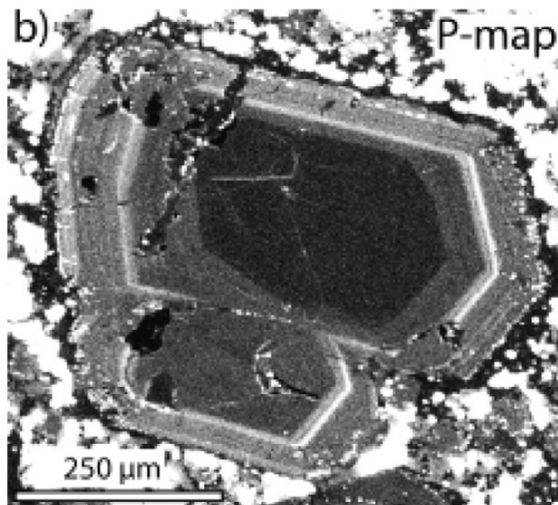
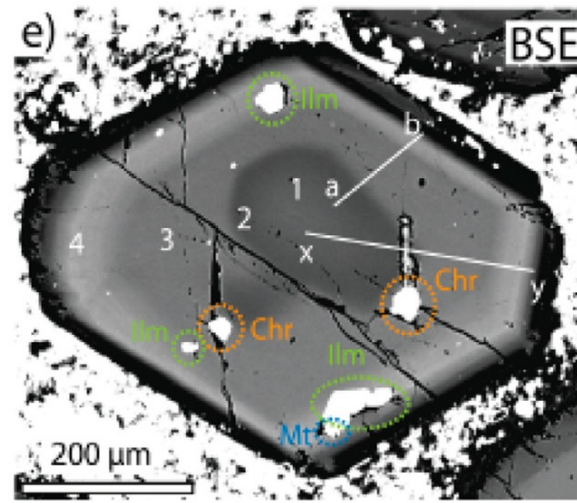
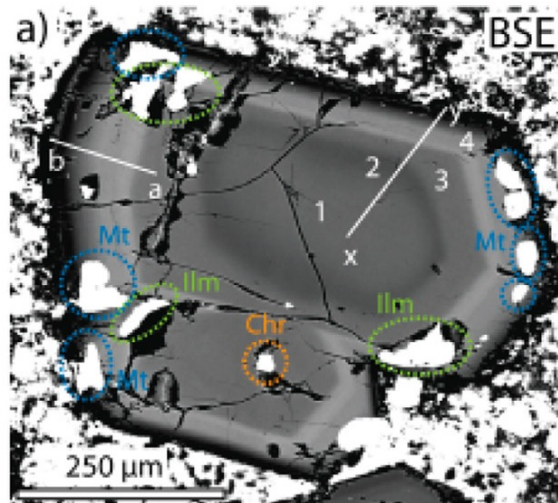
*Benfontein kimberlite, Kimberley*

# Complexity of olivine zoning



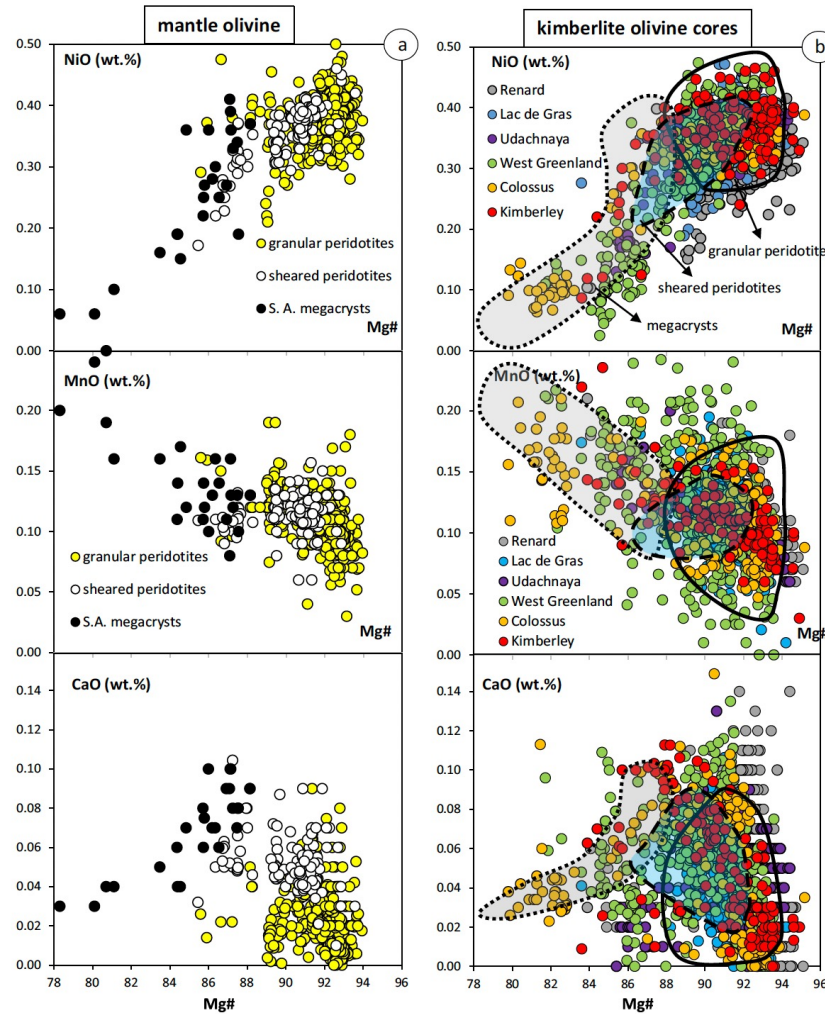
*Benfontein kimberlite, Kimberley*

# Phosphorus zoning



Howarth and Gross (2019 – GCA)

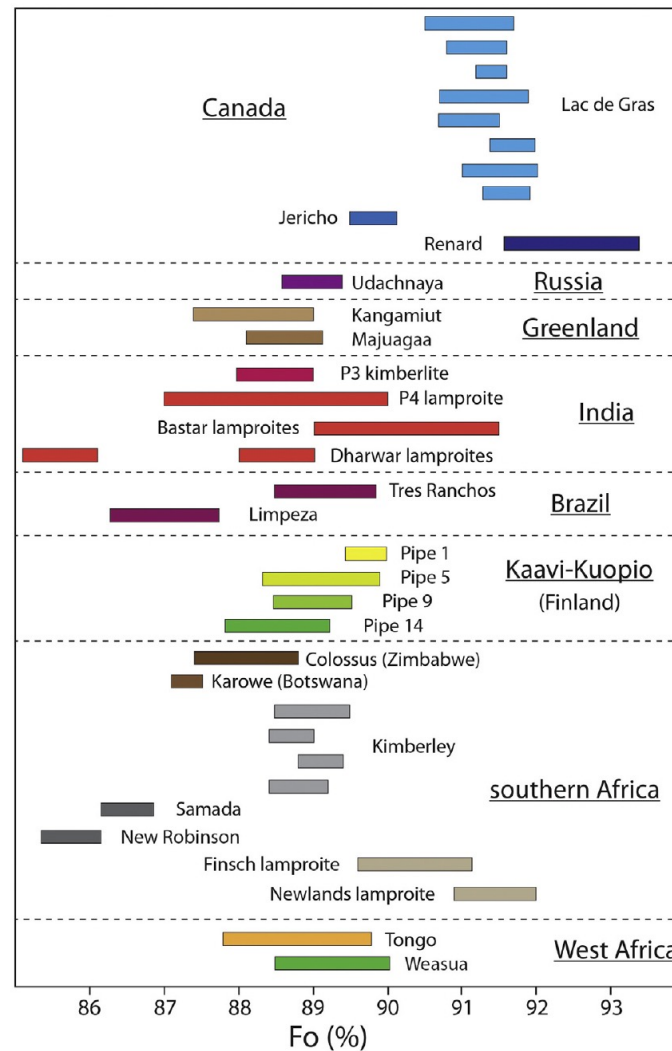
# Global olivine core compositions



Giuliani (2018 – *Lithos*)



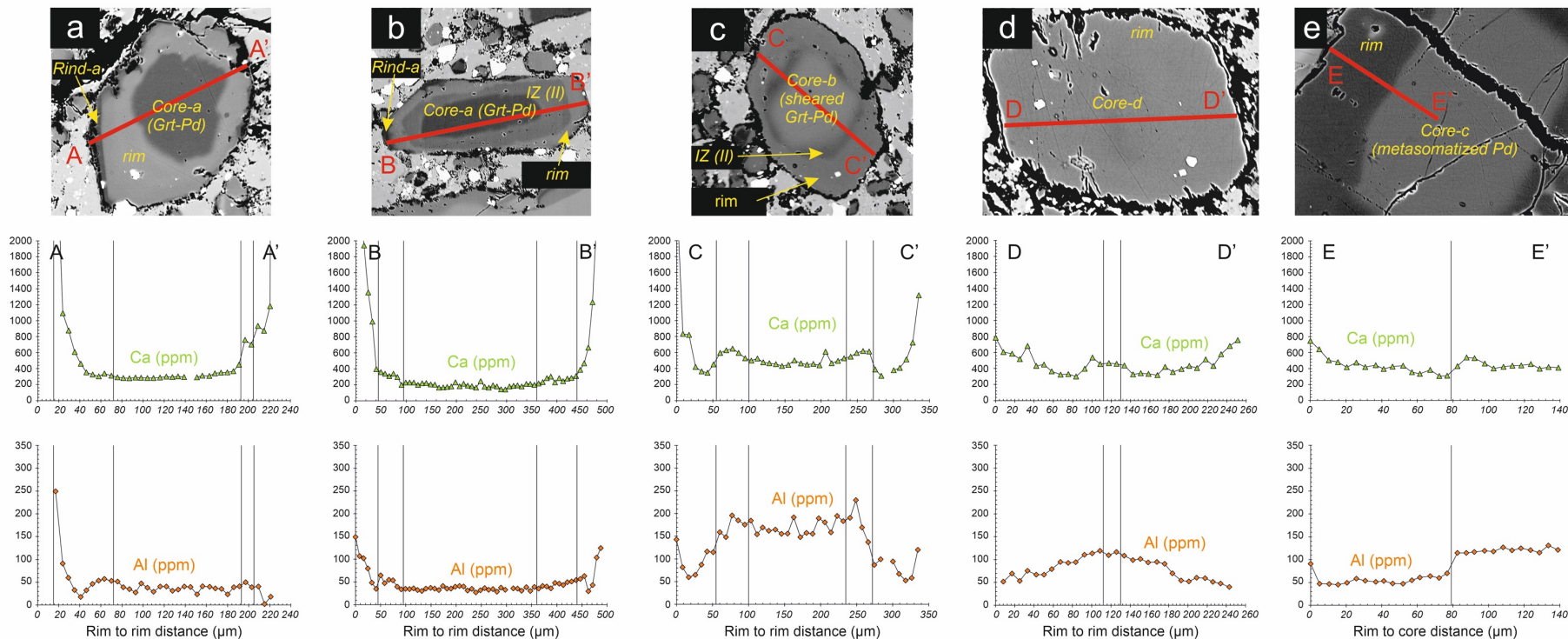
# Global olivine rim compositions



Howarth and Giuliani (2020 – *Lithos*)



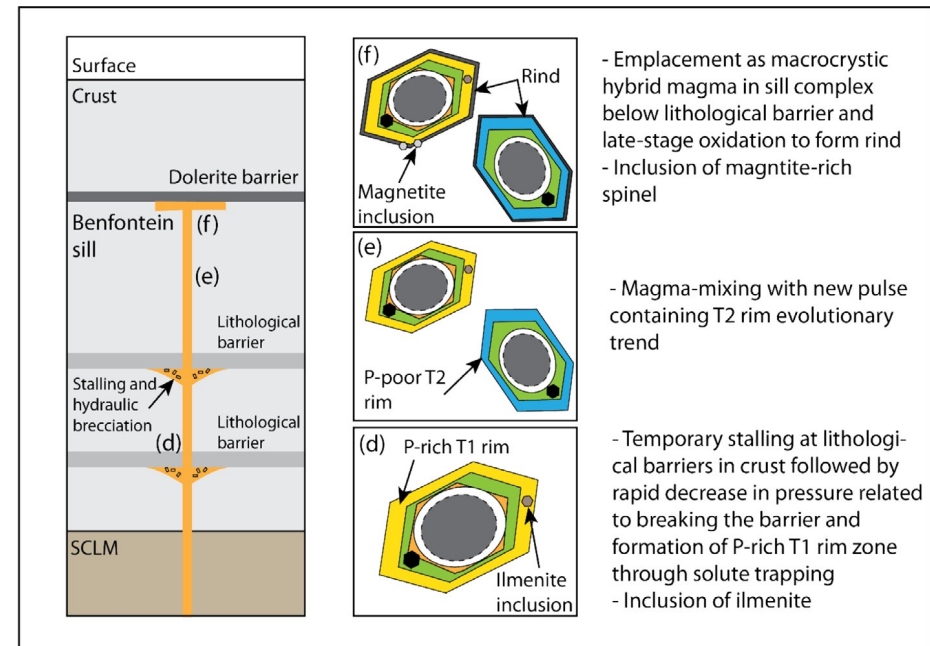
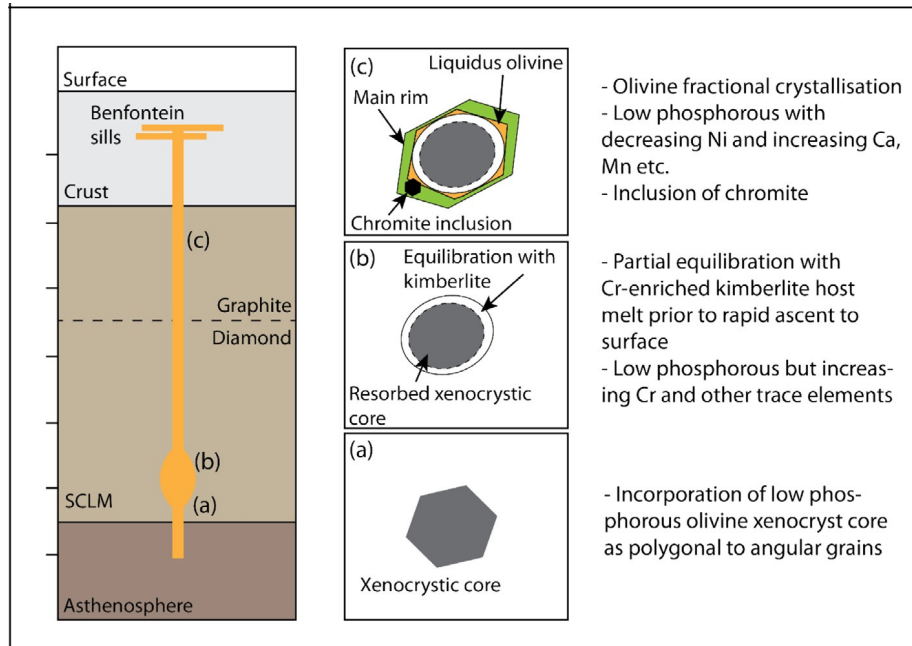
# Global olivine rim compositions



Casetta et al. (2023 - EPSL)

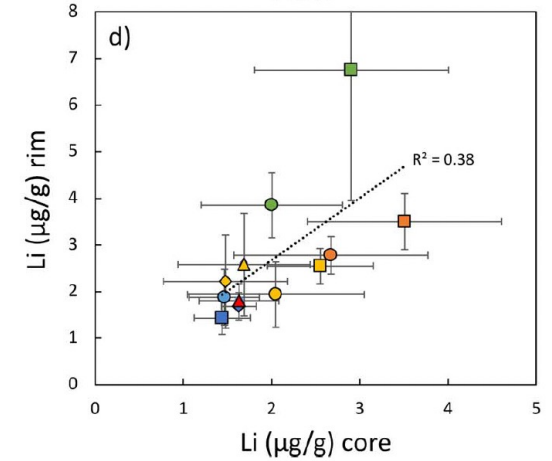
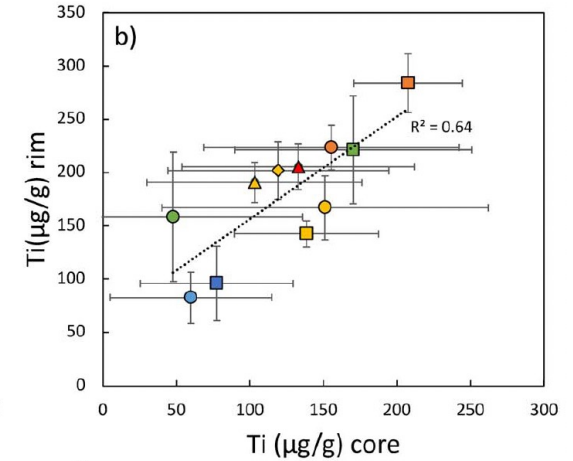
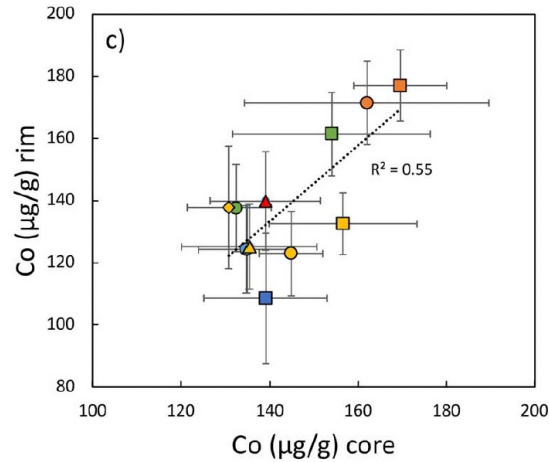
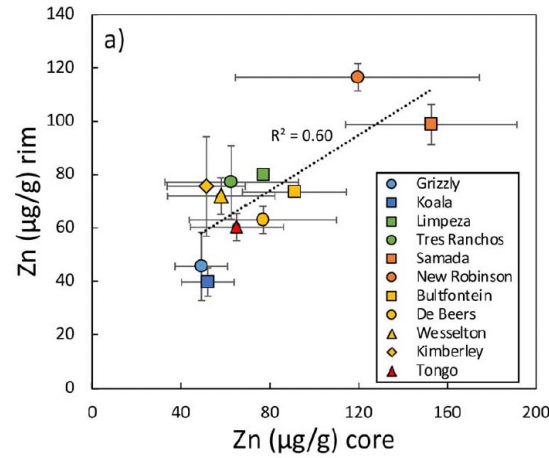
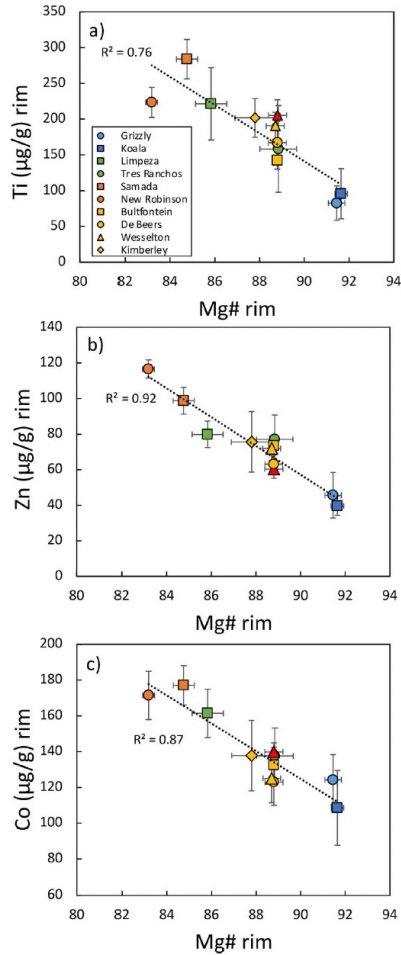


# Olivine evolution stages - Benfontein



Howarth and Gross (2019 – GCA)

# Global olivine core-rim correlation

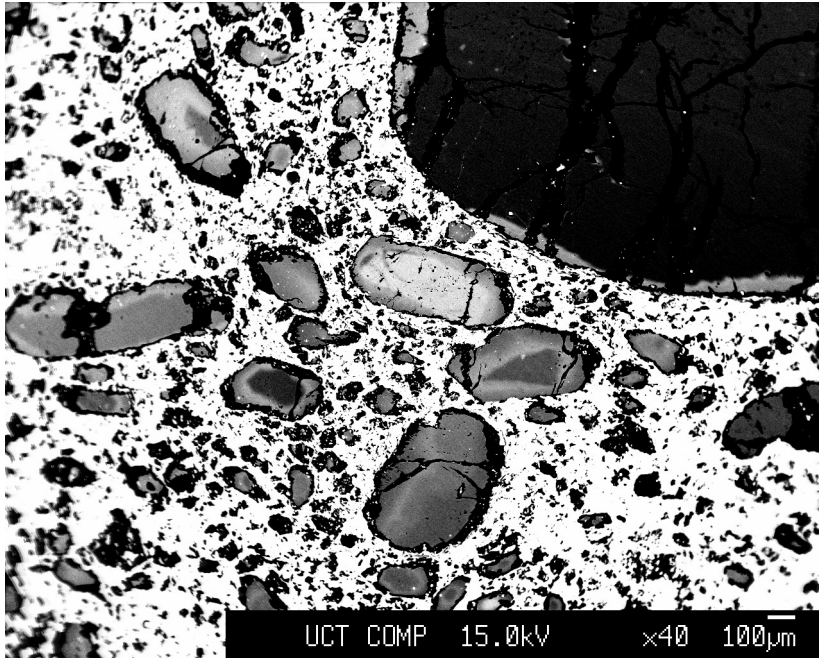


Howarth et al. (2022 – *J. Petrology*)

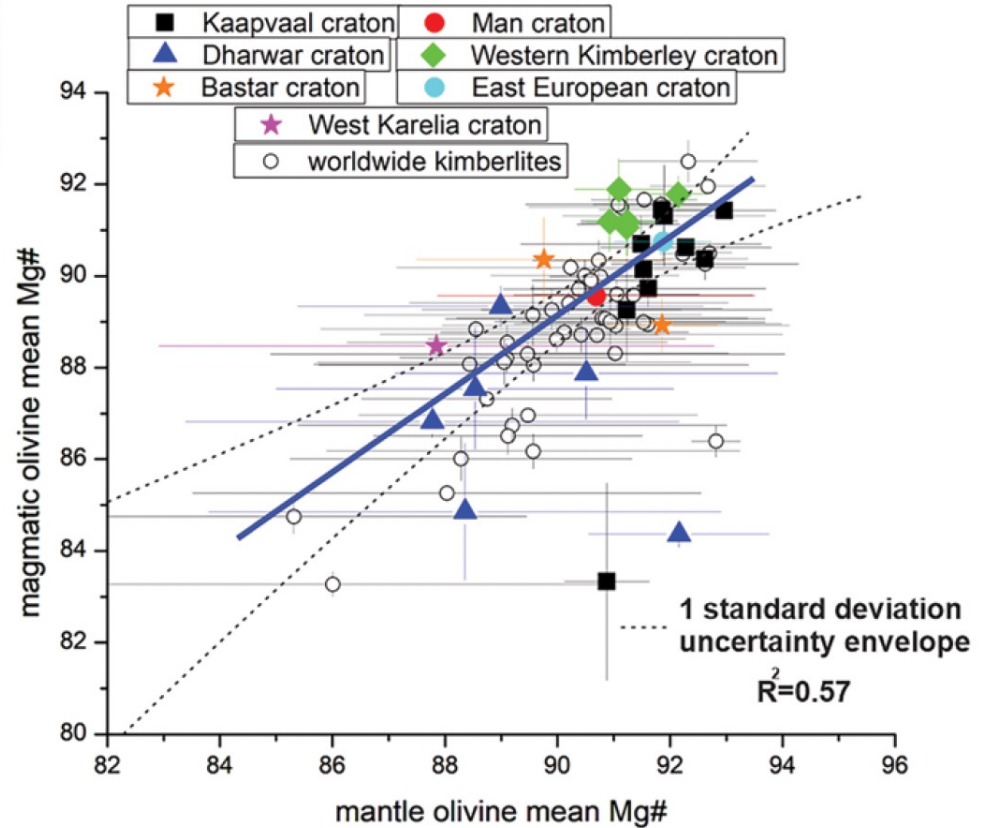


# Cratonic lamproite olivine core-rim correlation

Finsch olivine lamproite, South Africa

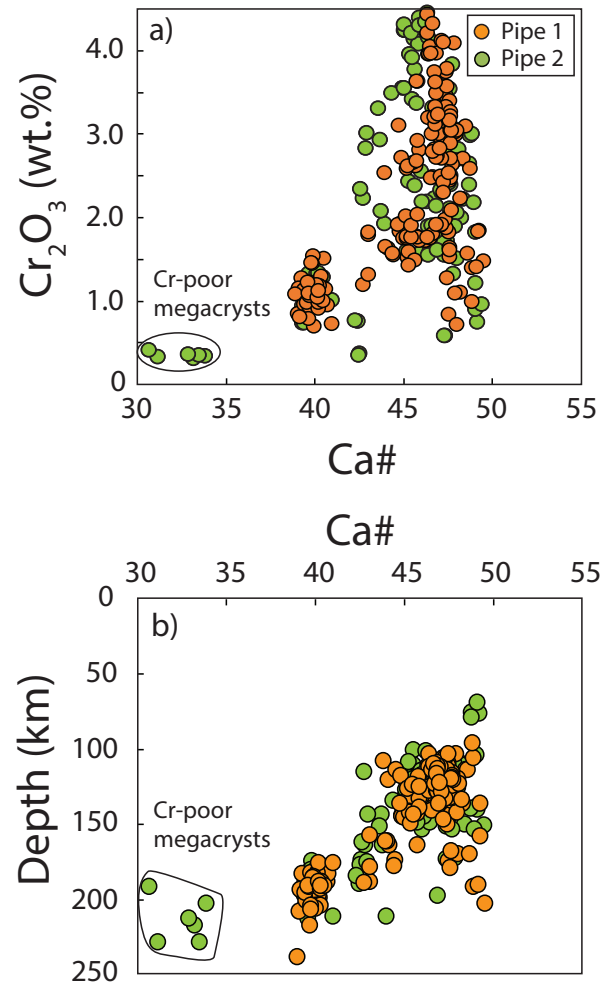


Howarth and Nembambula (2021 – *Lithos*)

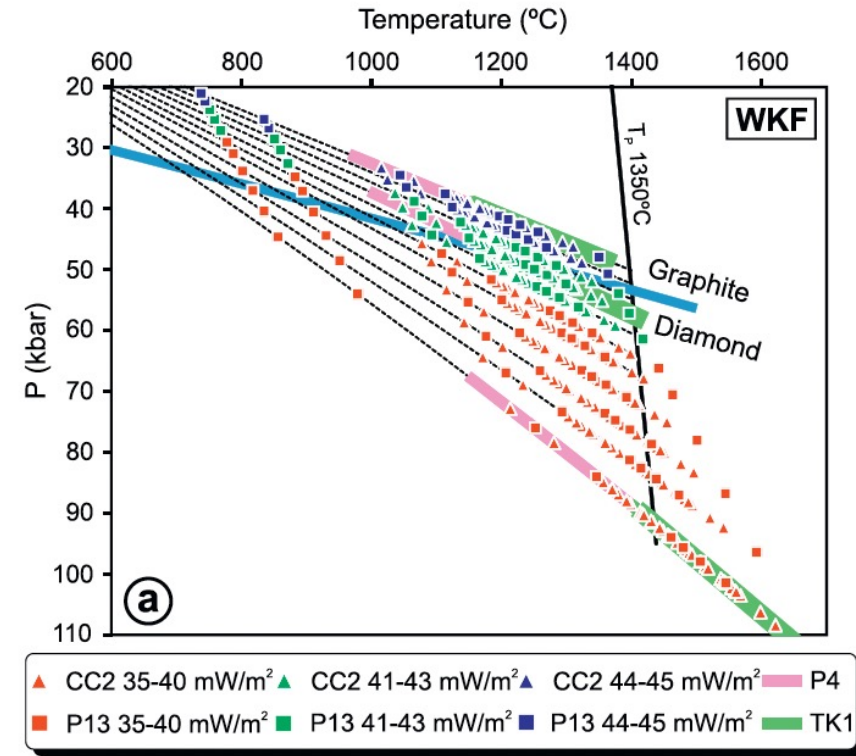
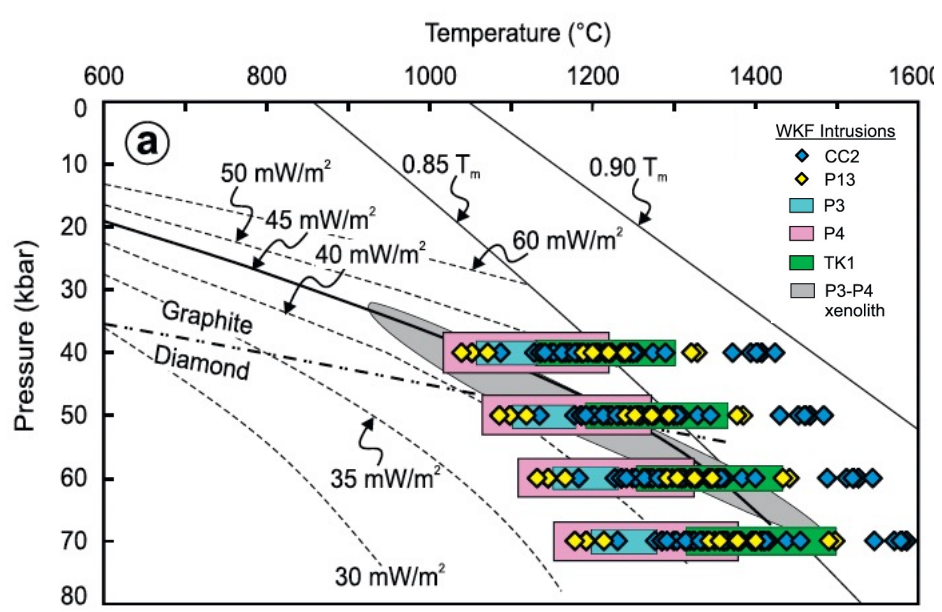


Sarkar et al. (2023 – *GEOLOGY*)

# Mantle sampling – Koidu example



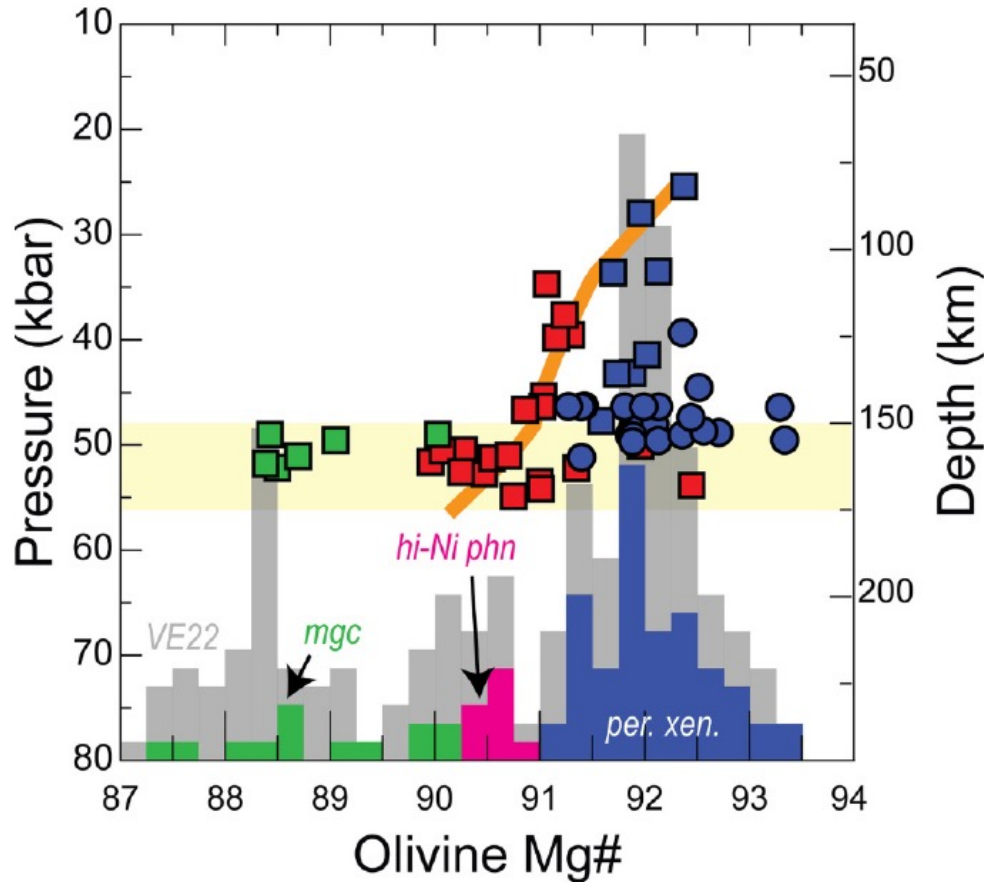
# Diamondiferous lamproites - India



Shaikh et al. (2019 – Lithos)



# Jericho kimberlite example



● Peridotite xenocrysts

## Xenoliths

■ Sp-gt peridotite; KO99

■ Garnet peridotite; KO99

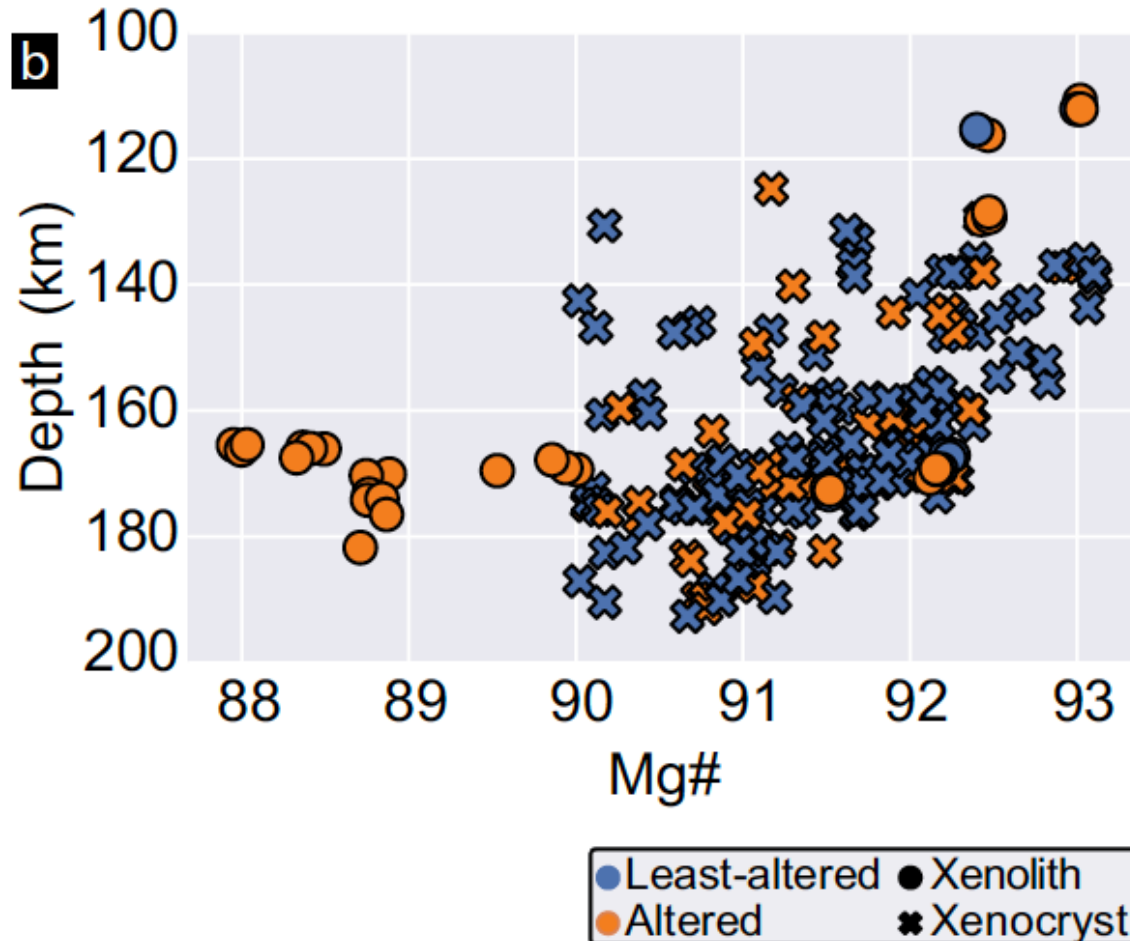
■ Megacryst; KO99, KO09

Greene et al. (2023 – *Lithos*)



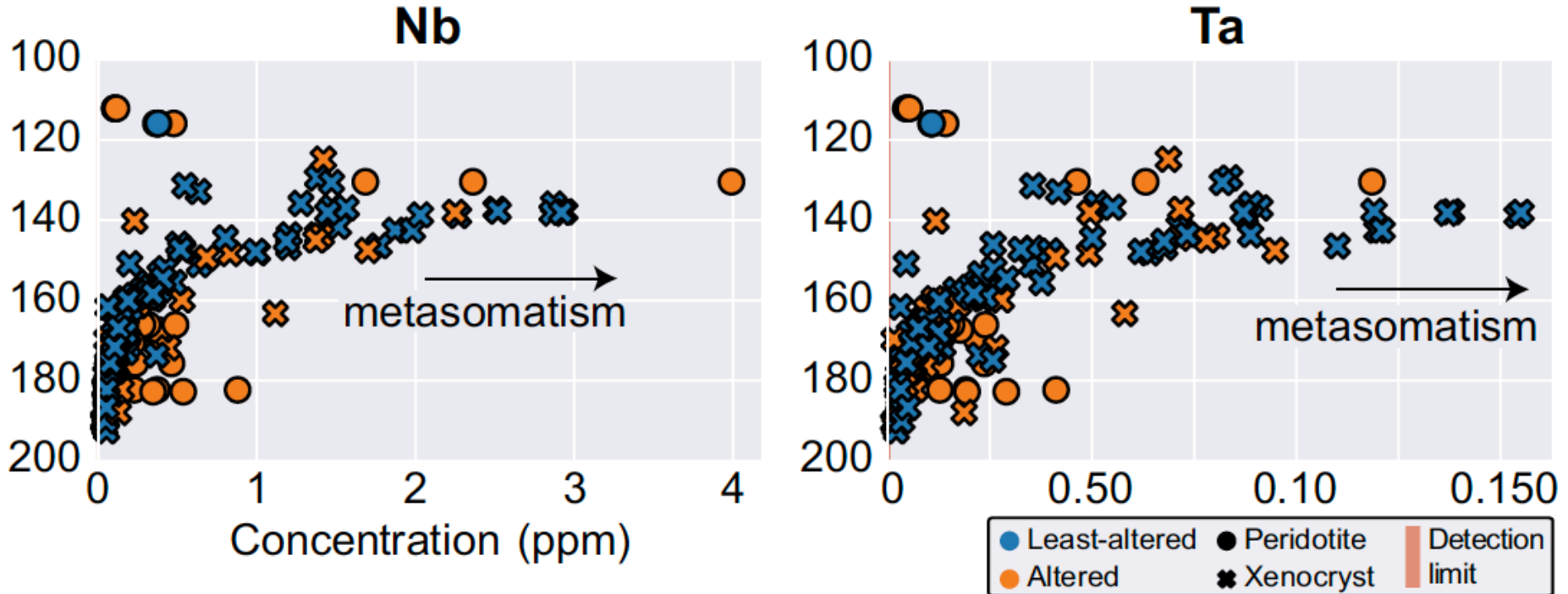


# Jericho kimberlite example



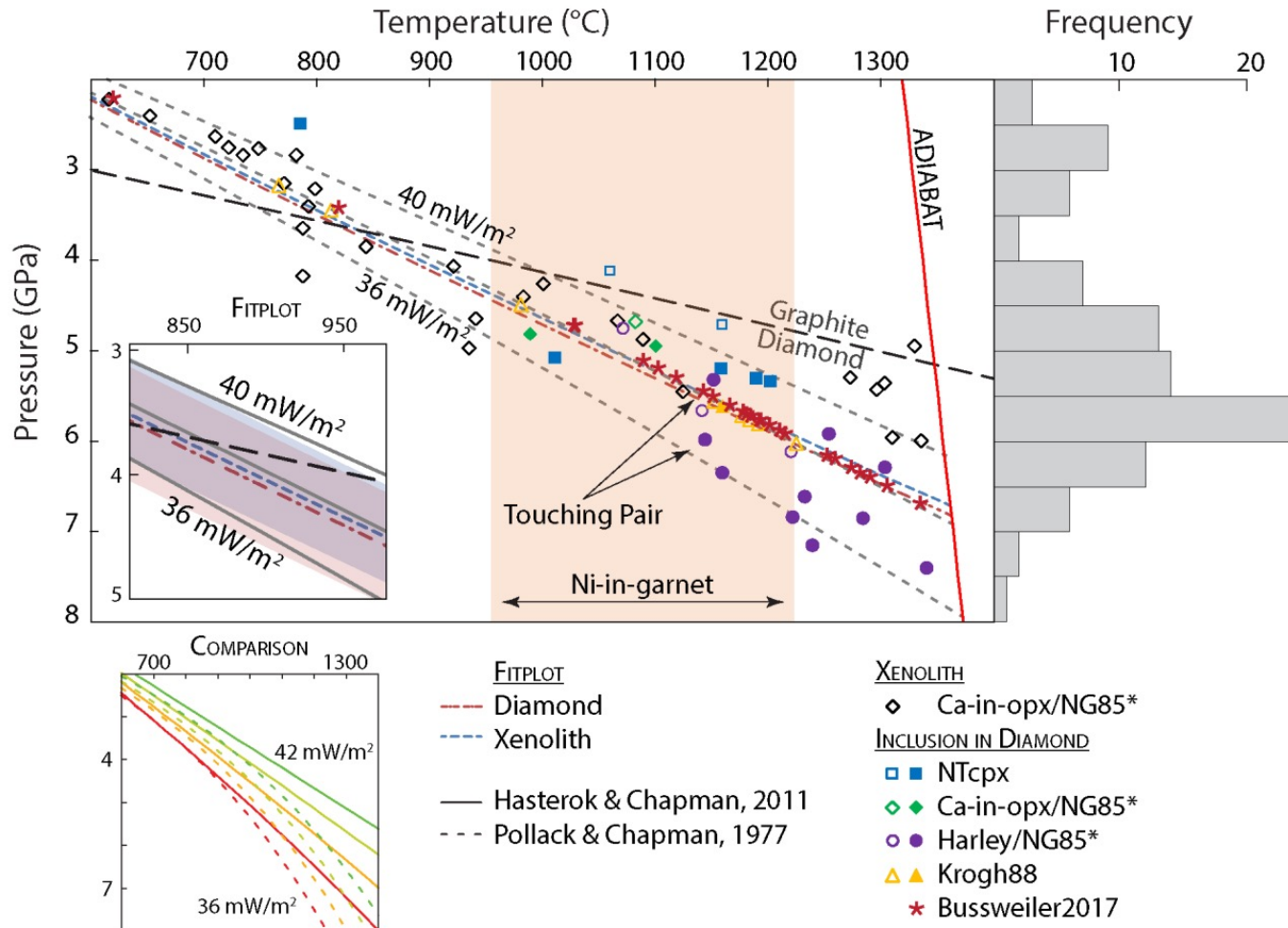
Veglio et al. (2022 – *Lithos*)

# Jericho kimberlite example



Veglio et al. (2022 – *Lithos*)

# Koffiefontein kimberlite



Meyer (2021 – PhD, University of Alberta)

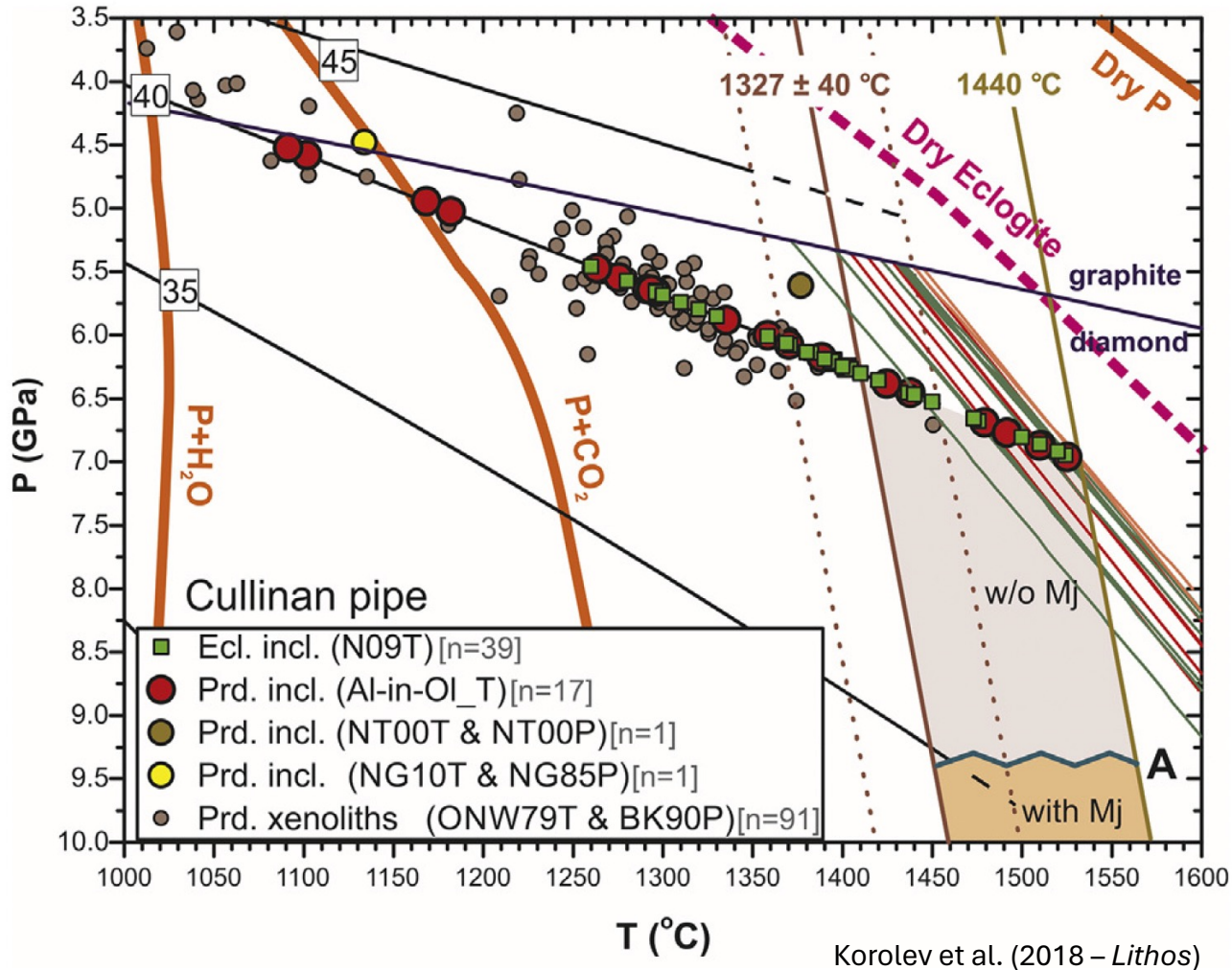


# Cullinan diamond inclusions



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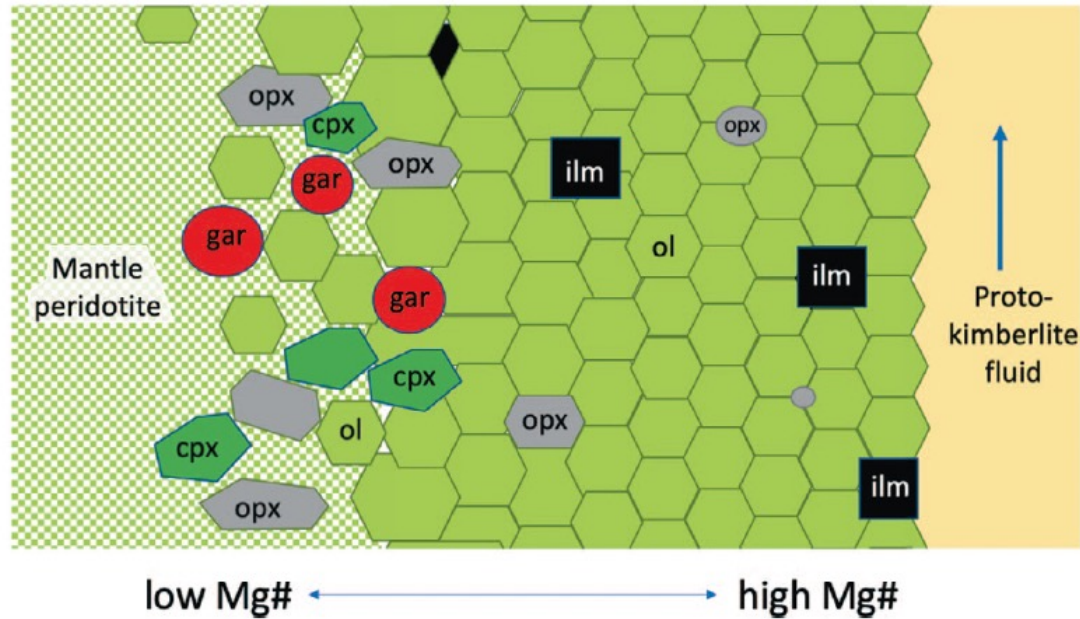
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# Origin of dunitic nodules



**Fig. 14.** Diagram illustrating a possible mechanism for the formation of megacrysts, macrocrysts and dunitic nodules in kimberlites. Reaction between protokimberlite fluid and mantle peridotite extracts pyroxene and garnet from zone closest to conduit leaving dunitic with rare ilmenite crystals. Farther from the conduit, interaction between fluid and peridotite facilitates the growth of large crystals of olivine, pyroxene and garnet. The Mg# is higher than in mantle peridotite close to the conduit and lower far from the conduit.

Arndt et al. (2022 – *J.Pet.*)