ProspecTIR V-S Hyperspectral Imagery Mineral Mapping from Airborne, Outcrop, and Drill-Core Perspectives

C. Wright\textsuperscript{1}, F. A. Kruse\textsuperscript{2}, O. Weatherbee\textsuperscript{1}, W. Peppin\textsuperscript{1}, R. Bedell\textsuperscript{3}, W. Calvin\textsuperscript{2}, and J.V. Taranik\textsuperscript{2}

\textsuperscript{1} SpectTIR LLC, Reno, NV, \textsuperscript{2} Arthur Brant Laboratory for Exploration Geophysics, and Department of Geological Sciences and Engineering, University of Nevada, Reno \textsuperscript{3} AuEx Ventures, Reno, NV

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• Motivation
• ProSpecTIR HSI Instrument
• Trinity Mine Location and Overview
• Trinity Overflight Analysis
• Trinity Core Scan Analysis
• Trinity Mine Wall Scans
• Synthesis and Summary
In field and drilling need for distance measurements

- During field checking of airborne data understanding of distant walls and rock outcrops were difficult

- **ProSpecTIR HSI Scanner & Data Overview**
  
  - ProSpecTIR (AISA) Dual HSI
    - 367 bands total (0.4 – 2.45 μm)
    - ~5-nm spacing
    - Data calibrated to radiance using a NIST-traceable integrating sphere and for wavelength accuracy using a monochromator

- **Three different ProSpecTIR Data Sets collected**
  
  - Overflight data at approximately 1m spatial resolution
  - Core scans utilizing a custom scanning bed at ~2mm resolution
  - Mine wall scans using a truck-mounted configuration to ~4cm resolution
Trinity Mine True-Color Image (Google Earth)

Location: Pershing County, NEVADA, Approximately 150km NE of Reno
The Trinity Silver Deposit was mined in the late 1980's by US Borax and actively mined for only 18 months. For one quarter it was the biggest silver producer in the USA.

Geologically it is hosted in a high Sn rhyolite with silver selenides in breccias. This is very similar in occurrence to silver deposits in the Bolivian Tin Belt that includes some of the largest silver deposits in the world (Bedell, written communication, 2009).

The age of mineralization was dated to be Oligocene (40Ar/39Ar age of 25.111 ± 0.064 Ma) which is the same age as the Majuba Hill porphyry deposit to the north (John and Muntean, 2006).

Structure in the pit is complex and not all relationships are understood. There are many faults at a variety of attitudes and orientations (Hudson, 2006).
• Several flightlines of VNIR/SWIR ProSpecTIR V-S data collected on 2 Sept 2009
• Calibrated to radiance using standard SpecTIR Process™
• Corrected to reflectance using ACORN atmospheric model
• VNIR/SWIR analyzed separately using end member extraction and MTMF to produce mineral maps
• Additional analysis of SWIR band depths and MF Abundance
• Geocorrected and mosaicked
Trinity Mine SpecTIR VNIR Mineral Map

- SWIR (not shown)
- VNIR (see map)
SWIR shows principally illite-muscovite alteration with some jarosite
- Evidence for possible Al substitution in illite-muscovite (short wavelength)
- SWIR minerals mostly limited to the mined exposures on benches, but some possible extensions away from the mine

VNIR shows Goethite, Jarosite

Mixed, low concentration jarosite seen in SWIR data

Jarosote correlation w/probable sulfide ore?
ProSpecTIR Scanner in custom configuration with scanning bed
Scan core in boxes and acquire scan of Spectralon in same scan. (VNIR/SWIR test scans (357 bands 0.4–2.45 micrometer), and several SWIR-only (236 bands, 0.98–2.45 micrometer) core scans performed
Calibrate to radiance using standard SpecTIR Process™
Correct to reflectance using the Spectra Ion Panel

Analyze full core boxes and/or stacked cores using endmember extraction and MTMF
Trinity Mine Exploration Drill Locations
Trinity Mine Exploration Rock Chips

Scans, Band 2.196 m
Rock Chip Boxes show known mineralization at a depth of identified ore body.
Core Results – SWIR – TS07-25:

Illite-Muscovite Correlated w/selected elements (Ag)

Lesser correlations with: Sr, Sn, Sb, Pb, Zn, U, Tl
Scans, Boxed Core
Band 2.196
Trinity Mine Comparison of Drill Core Scans and ASD FieldSpecPro Spectra
SpecTIR

SWIR Scan, Boxed Core, TSD-006

[Diagram of SWIR scan and core images with wavelength and absorption curves]
Core Results – SWIR – TSD-006

Mosaicked Scans, Boxed Core, Band 2.196
• Core measured in two configurations
  – Reverse Circulating, Rock chips in trays
  – Core in boxes
• Endmember spectra extracted for each core
• Mineral mapping using MTMF
• Scan Mineralogy
  – Illite/Muscovite
  – Kaolinite – Jarosite
  – Illite/Muscovite Mixed with Jarosite
• Comparison with core logs shows general correspondence eg: scan clay and scan jarosite correlated with log clay and log sulfides respectively)
• Increased information from scans – eg: jarosite mapped by scans, not noted in logs. Higher sampling rate (resolution).
• Variability of mineralogy clearly shown
• Some correlation with elemental analysis
  – TS0725: Ag, Fe, S, Se, Cd, Sr, Sn, Sb, Pb, Zn, U, Tl and Illite/Muscovite (Kaolinite/no Jarosite=no correlation)
  – TSD006: Ag and Kaolinite with Mixed Illite/Muscovite w/Jarosite
Truck-mounted ProSpecTIR Scanner in custom configuration, GPS positions noted, and distances to mine walls measured using laser rangefinder

- Spectralon standard included in scan field of view
- Collection of VNIR/SWIR data scans for multiple locations inside the pit
- **ProSpecTIR (AISA) Dual HSI**
  - 367 bands (0.4–2.5 m) – 5-nm spacing
- Imager placed on rotating turntable – SWIR instrument left showing lens
  - VNIR instrument right, lens within the rectangular port to the right
- ~45-degree scan indicated by lines on white base plate
  - "along-track" left to right
  - "cross-track" top to bottom
- Computer control behind the instrument
- View screen top center facing right
- 31 x 62 cm Spectra Ion™ reference panel on tripod
- ~30 min/site including setup
Calibrate to radiance using standard SpecTIR approaches
Correct to reflectance using the Spectralon Panel average divided into each mine wall spectrum
Analyze using endmember extraction and MTMF
ProSpecTIR Mine Wall Locations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Mine Wall Scan ID</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Site 1</td>
<td>1145 (38m) to NNW</td>
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<tr>
<td>Site 2</td>
<td>1223 (19m) (same as 1, closer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site 3</td>
<td>1241 (56m) to SE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site 4</td>
<td>1254 (160m), 1256 (80m) NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site 5</td>
<td>1417, 1430, to NNW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site 6</td>
<td>1541, 1548 (250m) ?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Site 5: Mine Wall Scan

1417 SWIR Results

Variable Spatial Resolution Across Pit
Site 4: Mine Wall Scan

#1256 SWIR Results

(~8 cm Spatial Resolution @80m)
Site 1: Mine Wall Scan

#1145 SWIR (sulfide body)

(~4cm Spatial Resolution @38m)
Detailed mineral mapping and view not available from any other source (3cm – 8cm resolution)

Shows distribution of illite-muscovite, jarosite, montmorillonite, kaolinite. Mineralogy at depth along benches similar to core observations

Possible Al substitution in illite-muscovite based on shift of 2.2 micrometer band

Association of jarosite with known sulfides and clear mineral zoning around sulfide ore

Association of some mineral boundaries with apparent structural boundaries (Kaolinite alteration along fractures)
• Technology demonstration of ProspecTIR scanner data applied to several levels of mineral mapping for geological characterization

• Standardized analysis approaches applied to overflight data, core scans, and mine wall scans

  – Overflight mapping results show distribution of surface mineralogy, highlighting association of most alteration with pit exposures. Some areas of interest outside the pit.
  
  – Core mapping allows detailed mineral characterization with depth for specific locations. There appears to be an association of specific minerals (Illite-Muscovite and Kaolinite-Jarosite) with elevated Ag.
  
  – Mine wall scans show relationships between structure and mineralogy & association of jarosite with known sulfide ore

• Synthesis of all datasets shows consistent mineralogy. Alteration mapping for all 3 modalities is much improved over previously available information.

• Results provide new insight to relations between alteration, structure, and ore. Future exploration and production?
SpecTIR's Future Plans

- Development of automated approaches for analysis of core in depth spatial context
- Analysis of additional cores and mine wall scans, including additional VNIR and SWIR analysis and combined VNIR/SWIR analysis
- Application of other (feature-based) methods to data analysis of all three modalities
- Additional integration of HSI datasets with ancillary information (geologic maps, core logs, elemental analysis)
- Further field verification using ASD spectrometer and conventional methods
- Development of combined visualization and analysis approaches