

ABSTRACT

Fluid inclusions from 6 wells in the Geysers geothermal field, previously studied by fluid inclusion microthermometry, were analyzed for their volatile contents. Volatiles were analyzed by bulk methods of crushing-fast-scan (CFS) and thermal-decrepitation-cryogenic-gas-separation (TFCGS) methods. Sample locations were divided by reservoir temperature, alteration mineral assemblage, location and fluid inclusion microthermometry data into zones of high temperature reservoir, normal reservoir, distal reservoir, and external to the reservoir.

CFS data indicates fairly homogeneous gas compositions, which is remarkable in light of the heterogeneous microthermometry data on the contained fluid inclusions. The water to gaseous species ratio is higher in the fluid inclusions than the present steam reservoir, which agrees with the fluid inclusion observations that the reservoir contained a liquid phase in the past. The gas compositions are similar to the reservoir today containing more methane and hydrogen than other geothermal fields. Gaseous species of high temperature samples are principally CO_2 , N_2 , H_2 and H_2S ; organic species are mostly of low molecular mass and alkenes. Gaseous species in the external sample are principally CH_4 ; organic species are mostly alkanes that have a higher proportion of C_4 - C_6 compounds than volatiles from high temperature samples. Nitrogen-argon ratios are well above 1000 in samples from the main reservoir indicating a magmatic component, whereas the external and distal samples have N_2/Ar ratios near air saturated water (ASW) indicating a crustal source. Calculated oxygen fugacities based on fluid inclusion gas analyses indicate reservoir fluids were more oxidized than the external sample fluid that lies on the C buffer line.

Plots of data are compatible with three sources of gaseous species, magmatic, crustal, and meteoric. The reservoir gaseous species are interpreted to be a mixture of magmatic and evolved crustal fluid sources with a decreasing magmatic contribution going outward from the high temperature part of the reservoir. Ternary plots of CH_4 , He, N_2 , and Ar indicate the distal sample from southern part of the field appears to have a contribution of volatiles from shallow circulating meteoric water.

At the time fluid inclusions were trapped the reservoir appears to have had contributions from evolved crustal fluids rich in methane from interaction with carbonaceous wall rock and a magmatic derived gas. Helium isotopic data, ratios of N_2/Ar well above ASW in the reservoir steam, and anomalous concentrations of CH_4 in the reservoir indicate this is true today as well.

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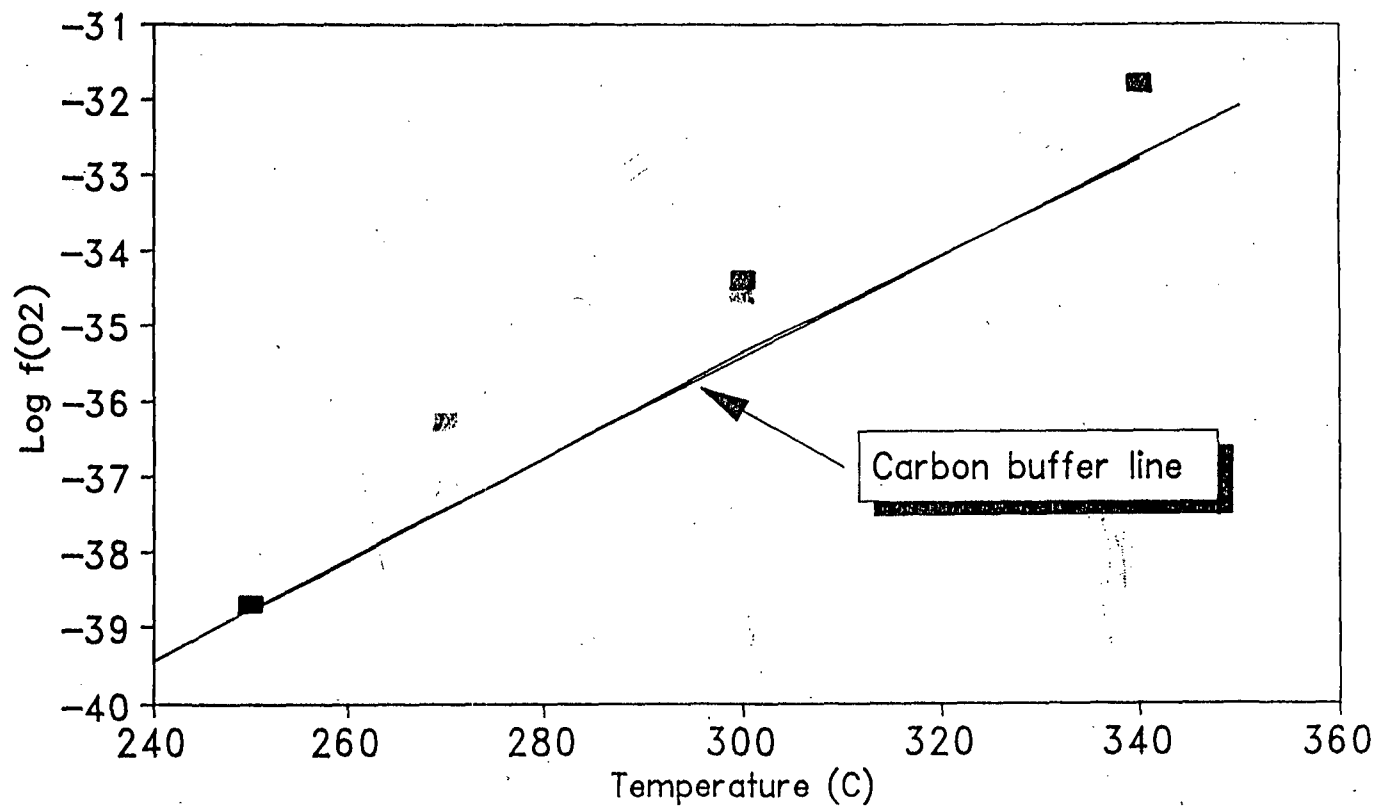
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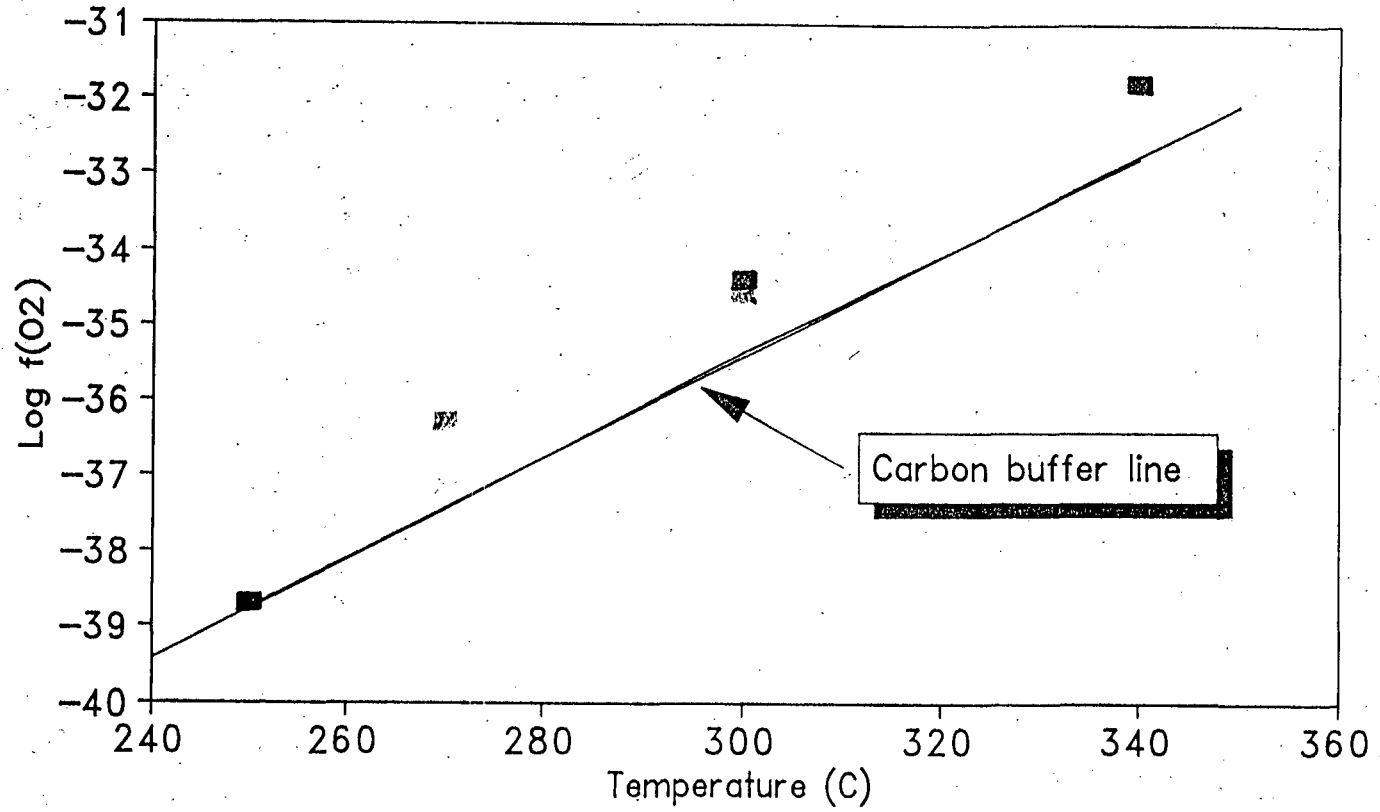
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Oxidation State of Fluids



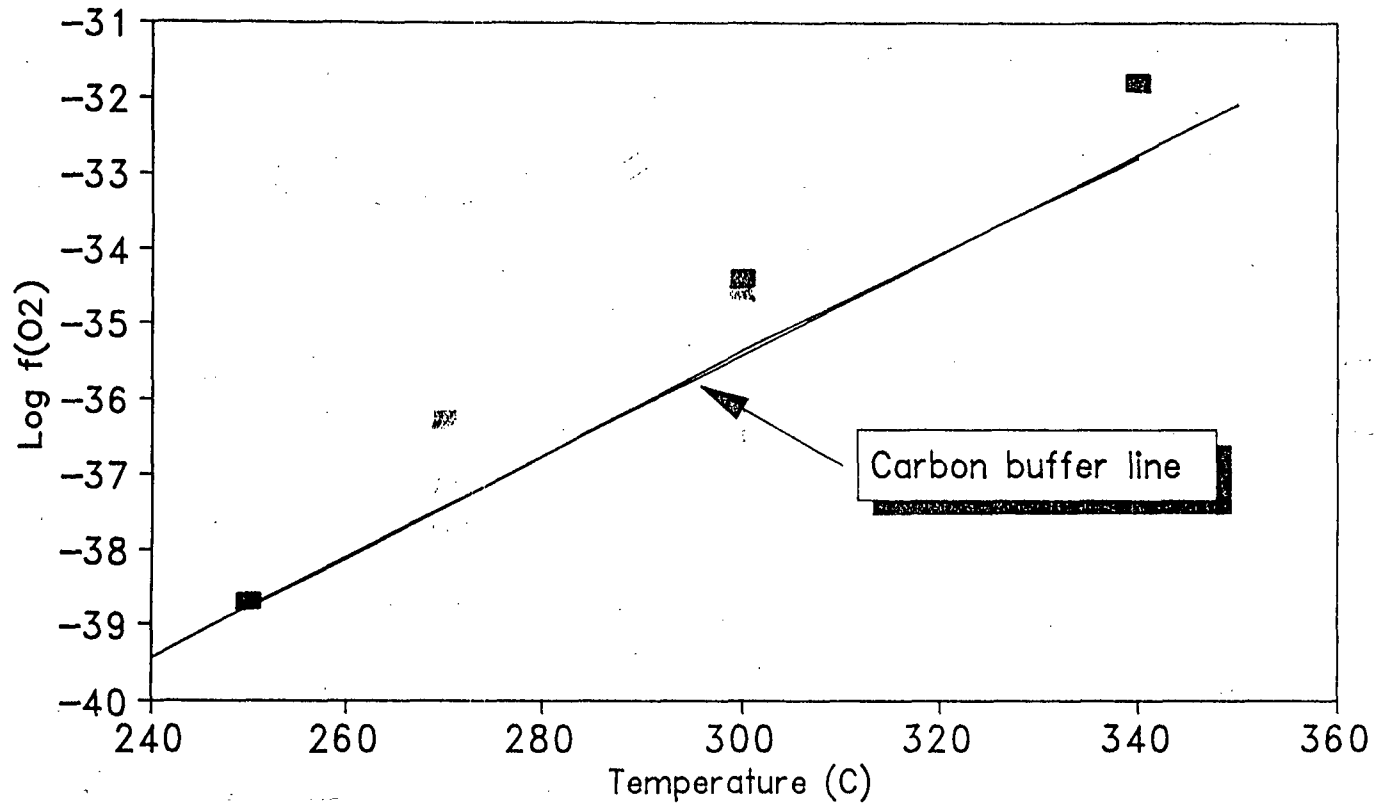
■ High T ■ Normal ■ Distal ■ External

Oxidation State of Fluids



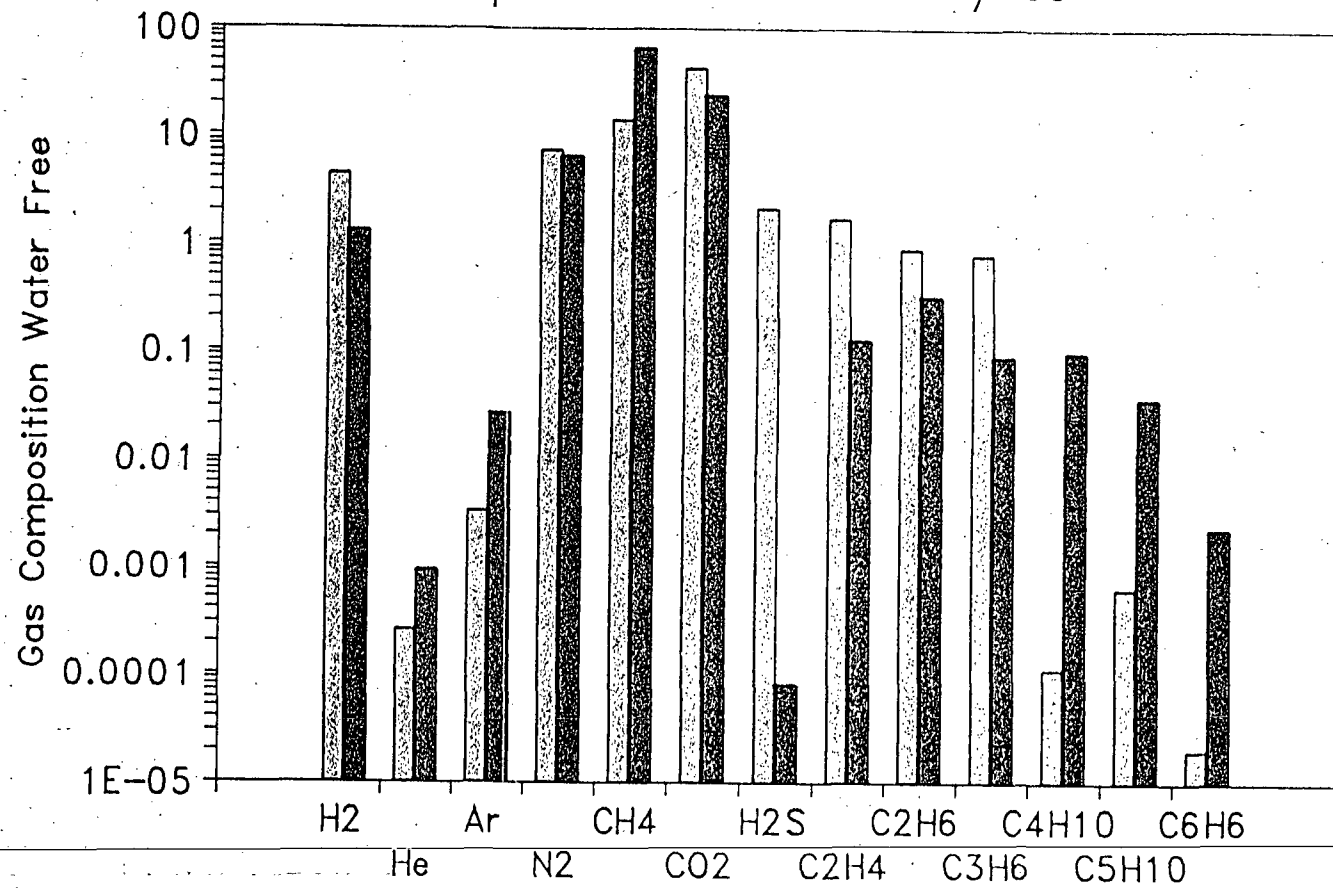
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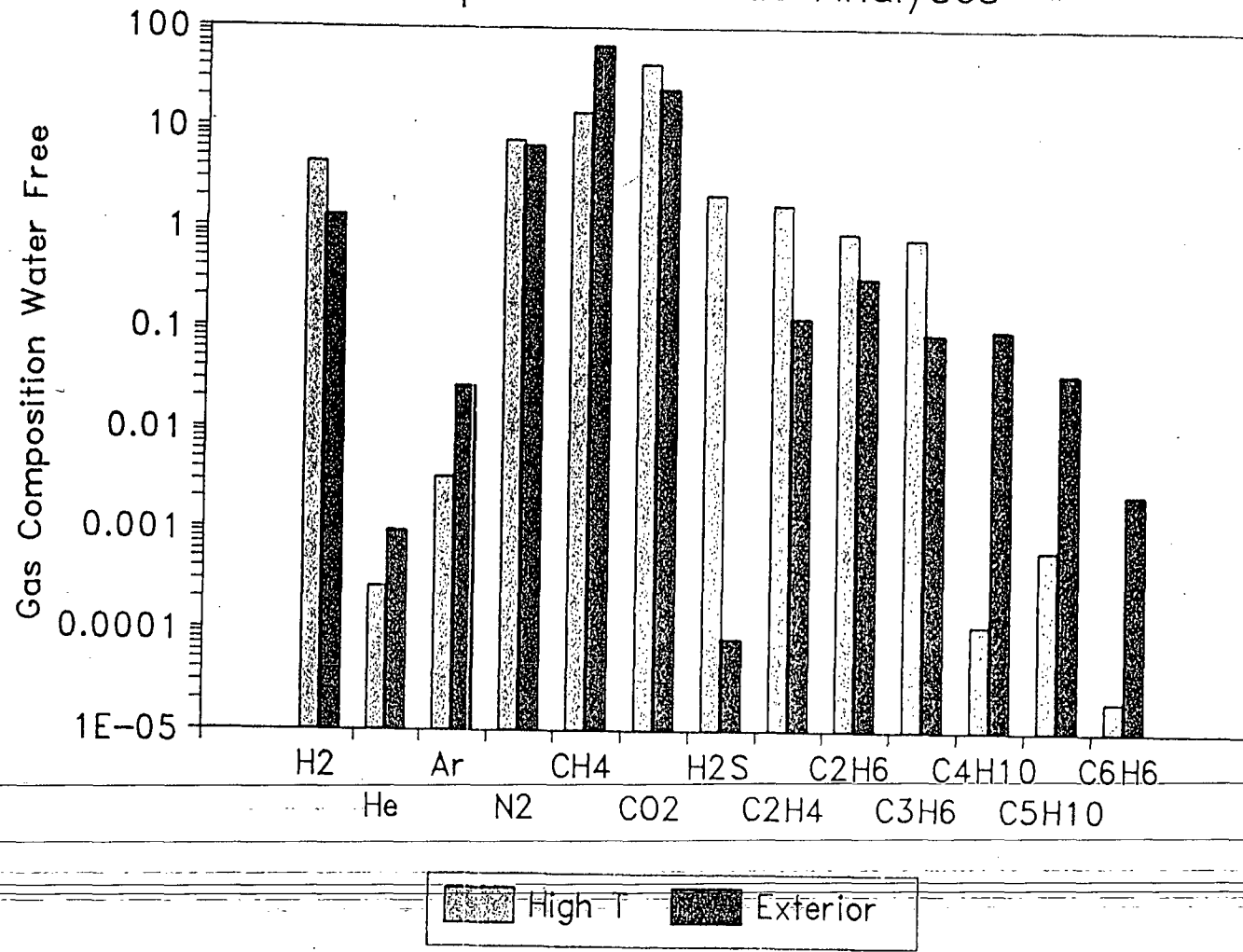
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Comparison of Gas Analyses



High T
 Exterior

Comparison of Gas Analyses



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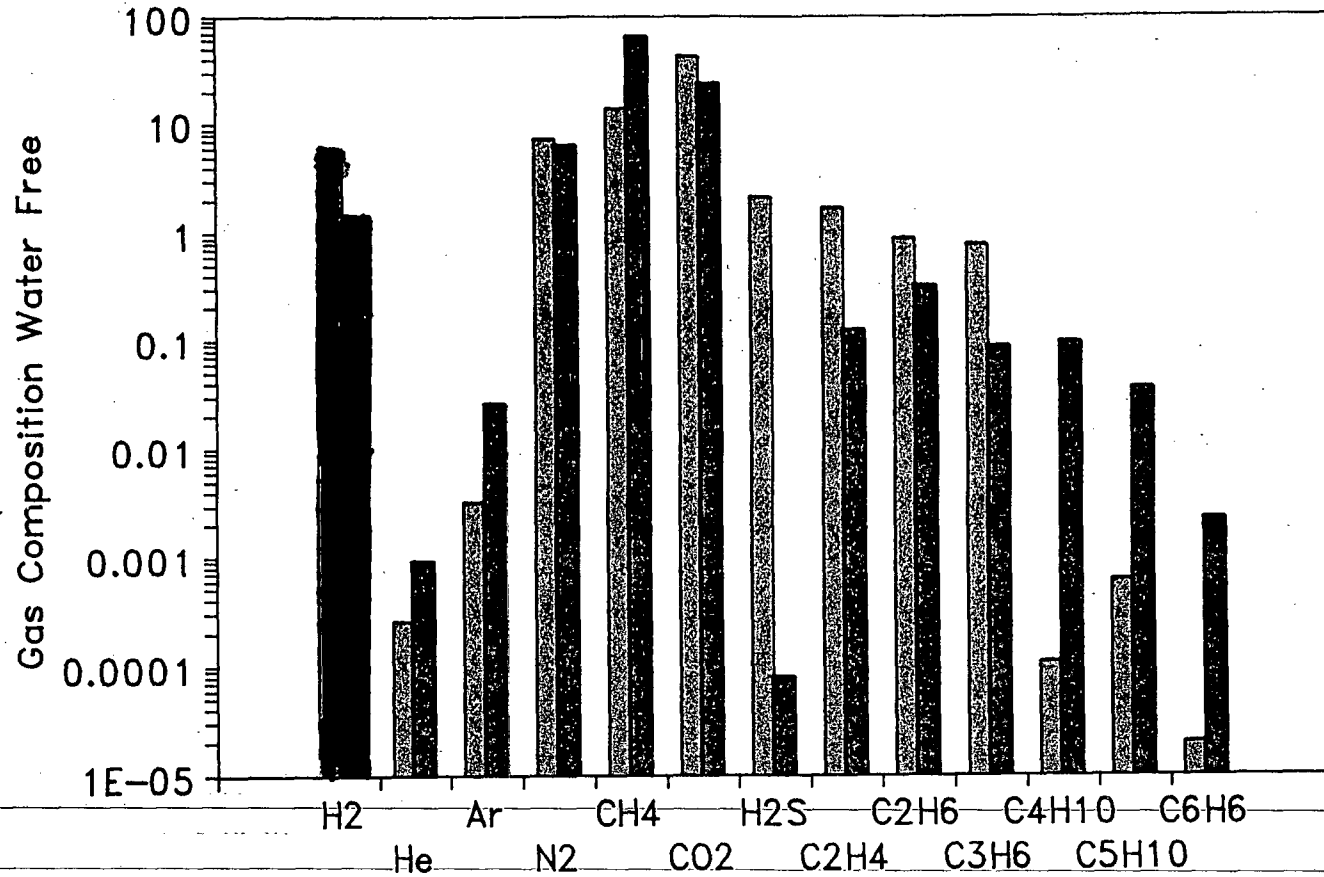
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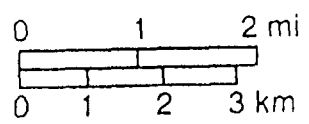
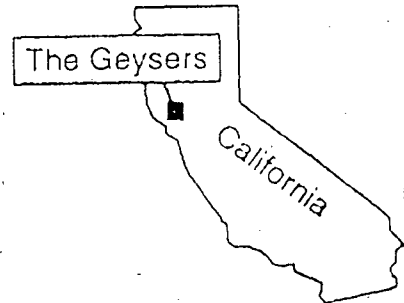
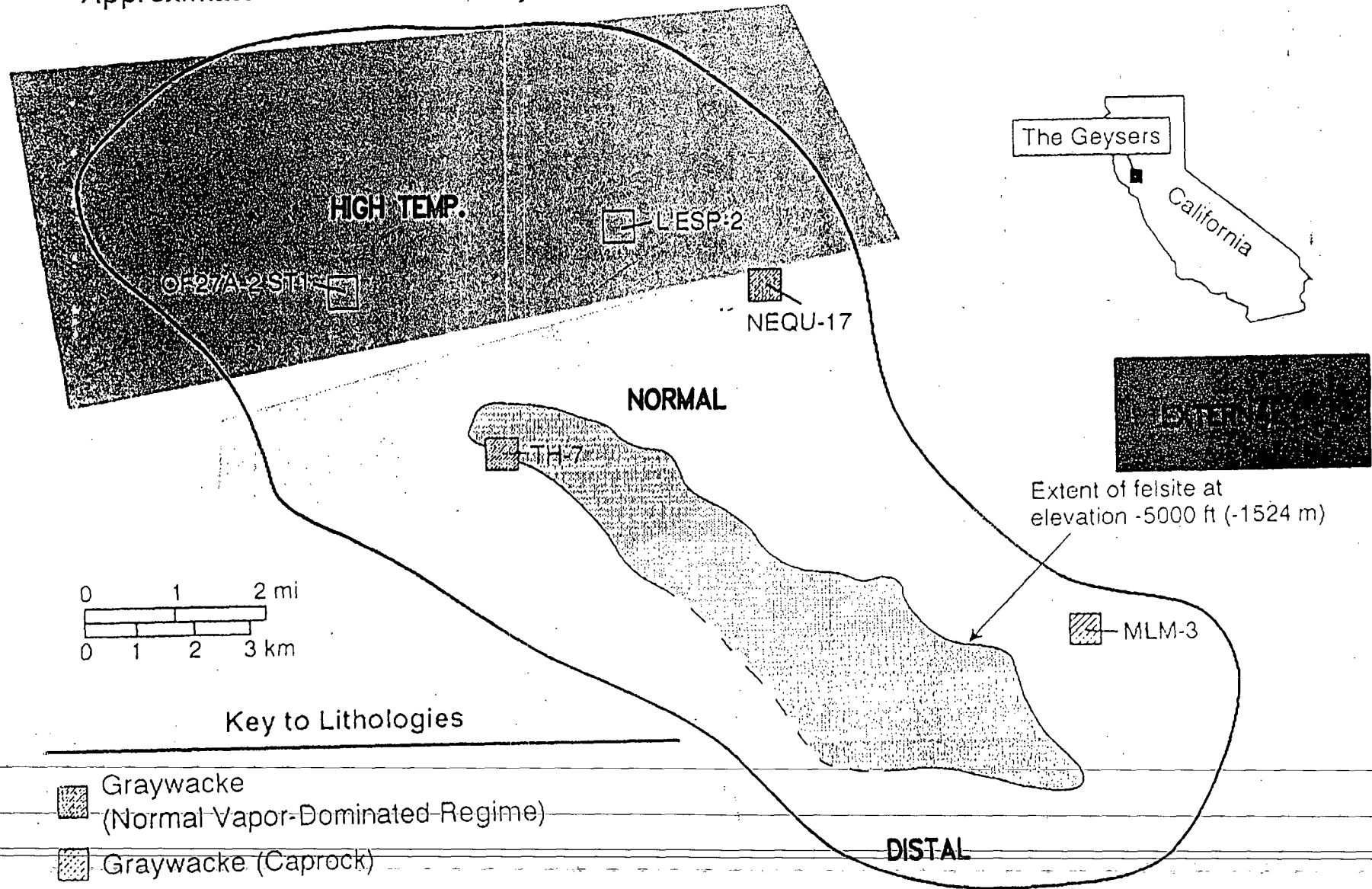
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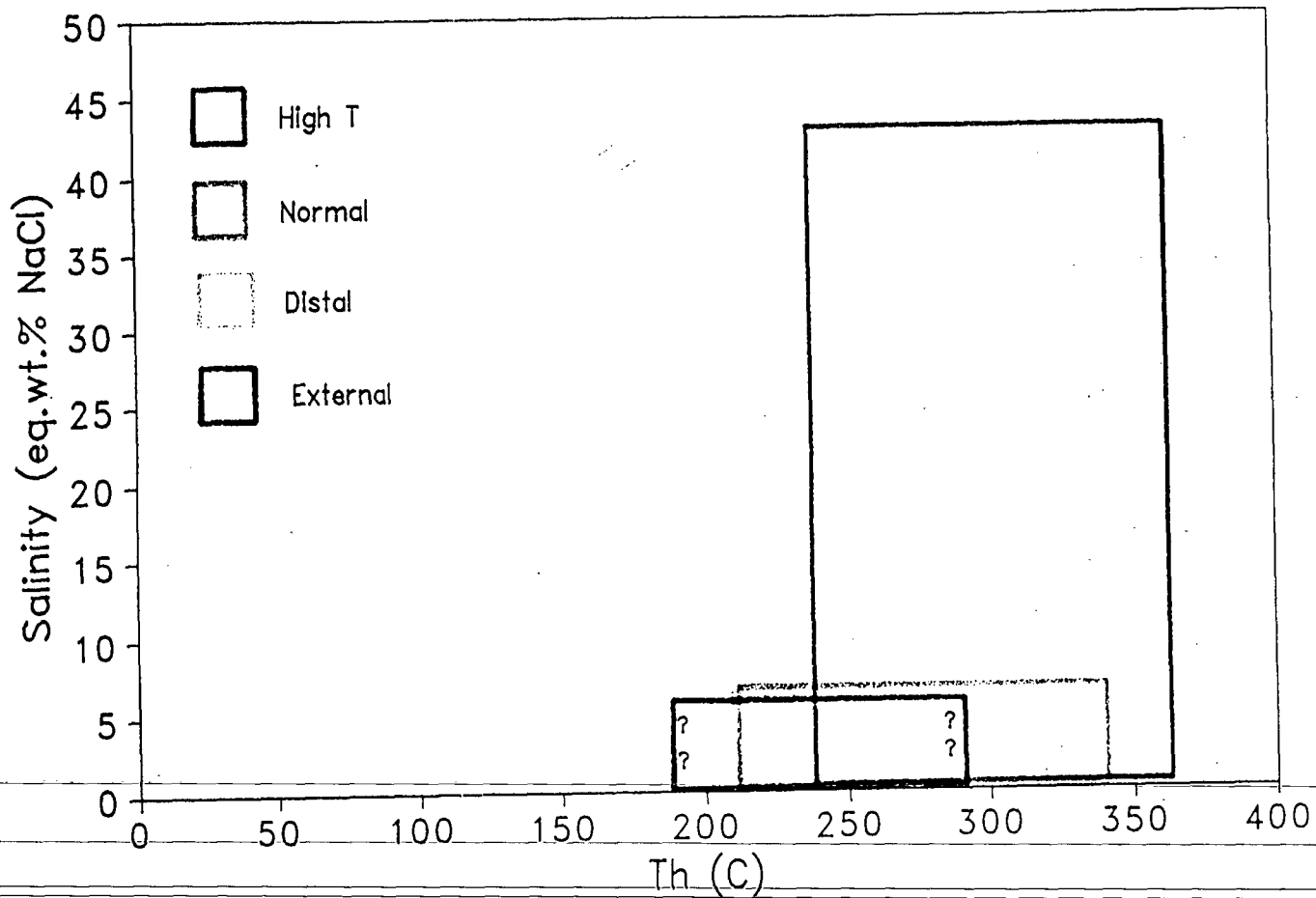
Approximate Reservoir Boundary

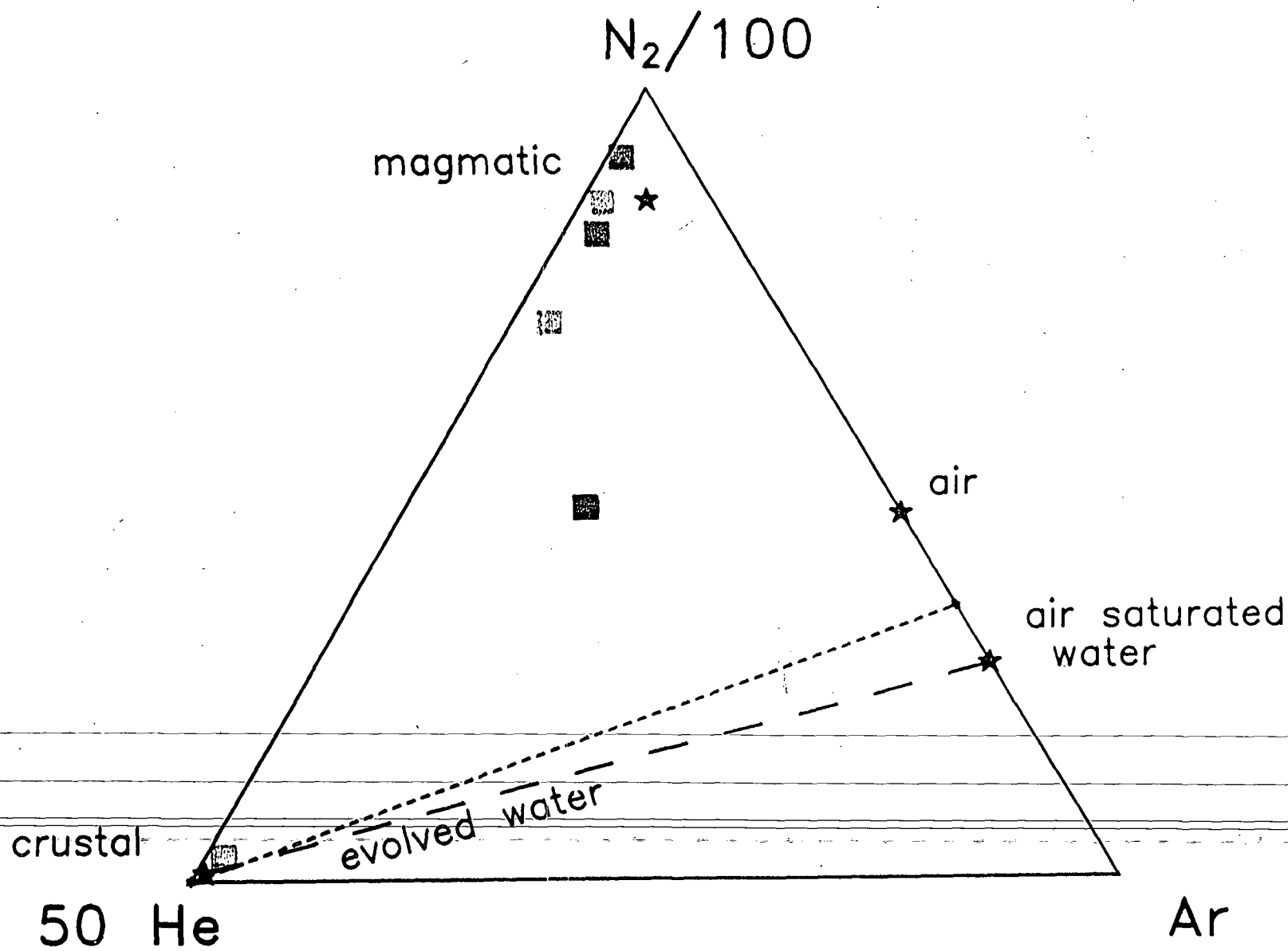


Key to Lithologies

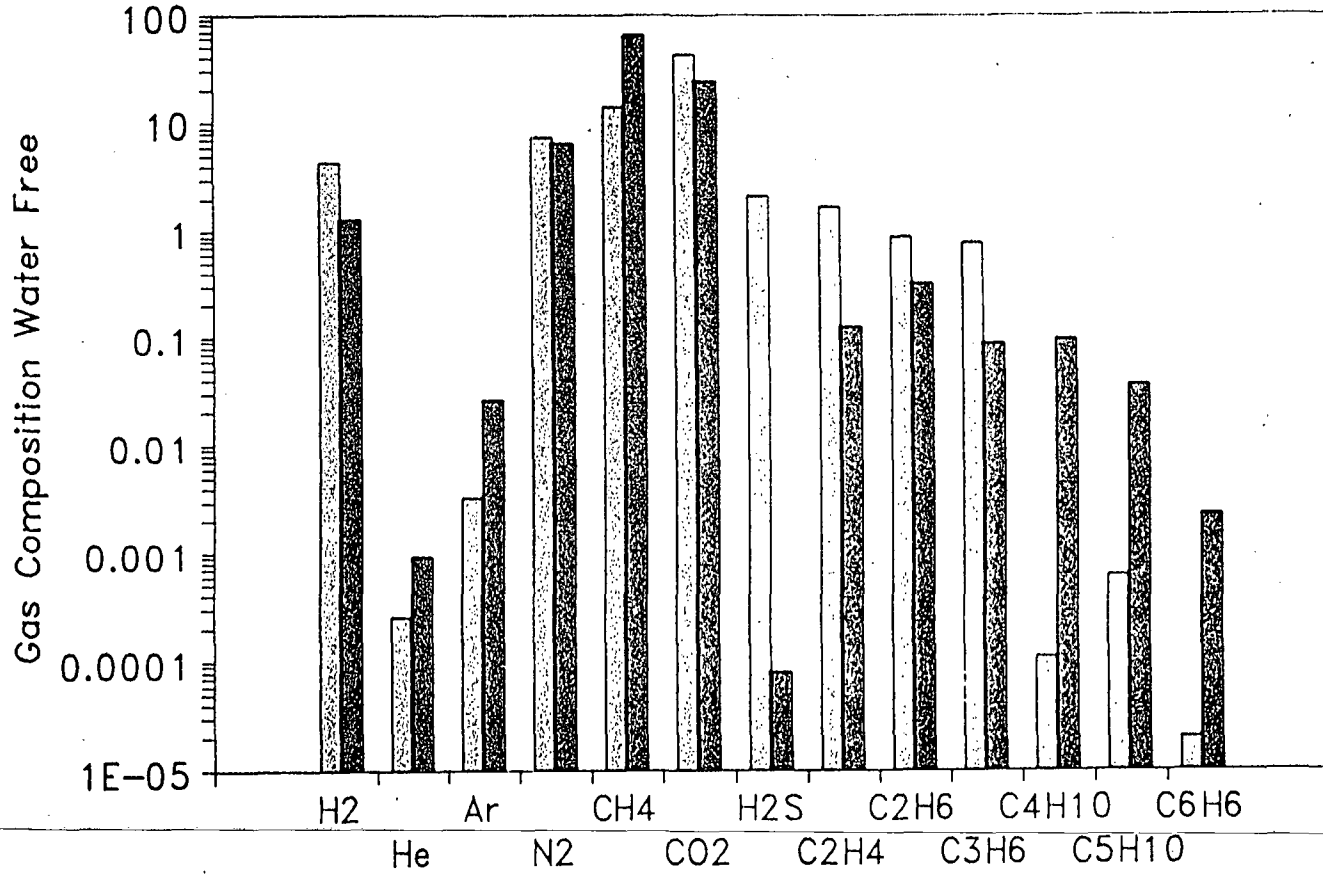
- Graywacke (Normal Vapor-Dominated-Regime)
- Graywacke (Caprock)
- Graywacke (High-Temperature Vapor-Dominated Regime)

FLUID INCLUSION MICROTHERMOMETRY

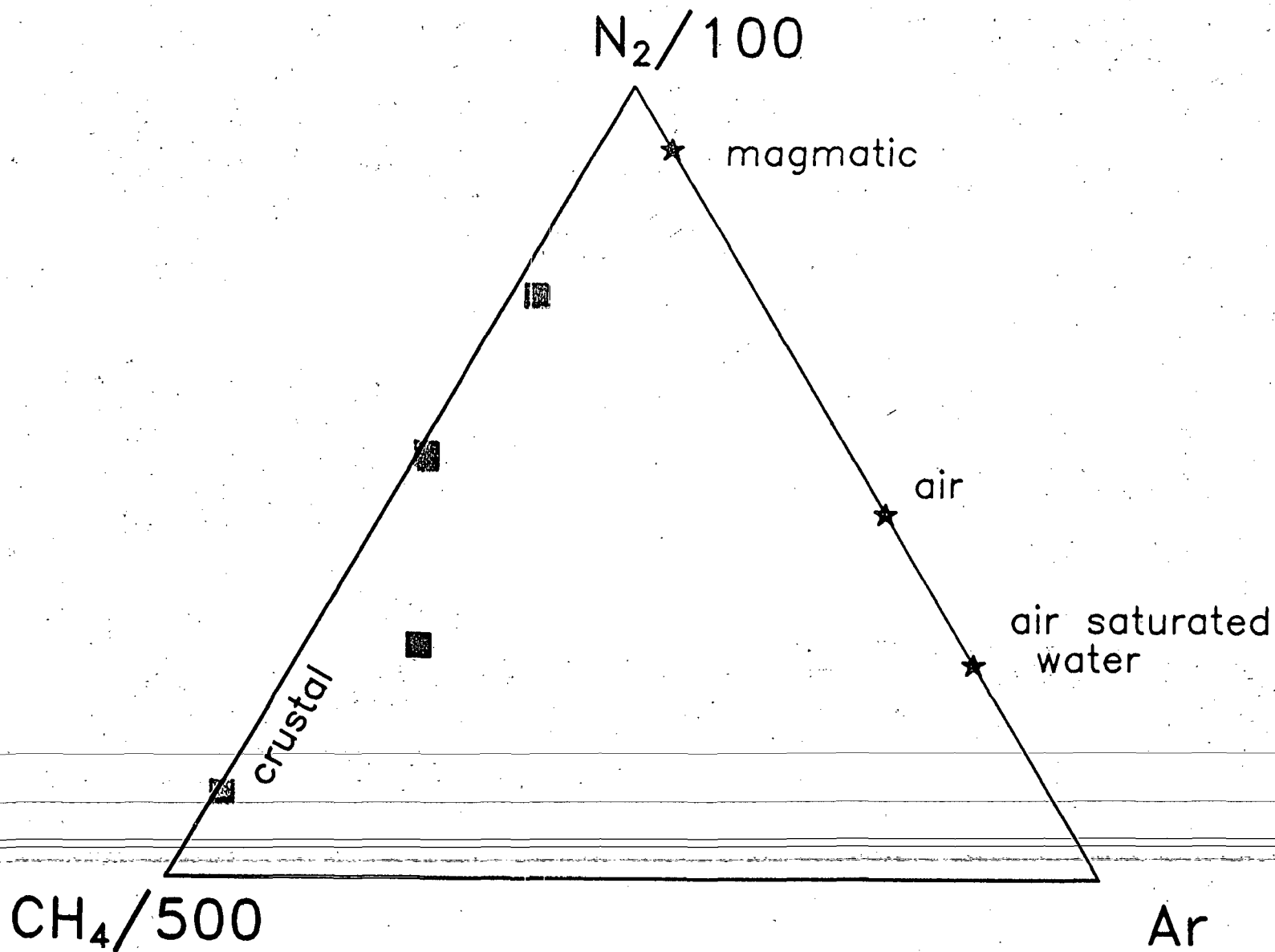


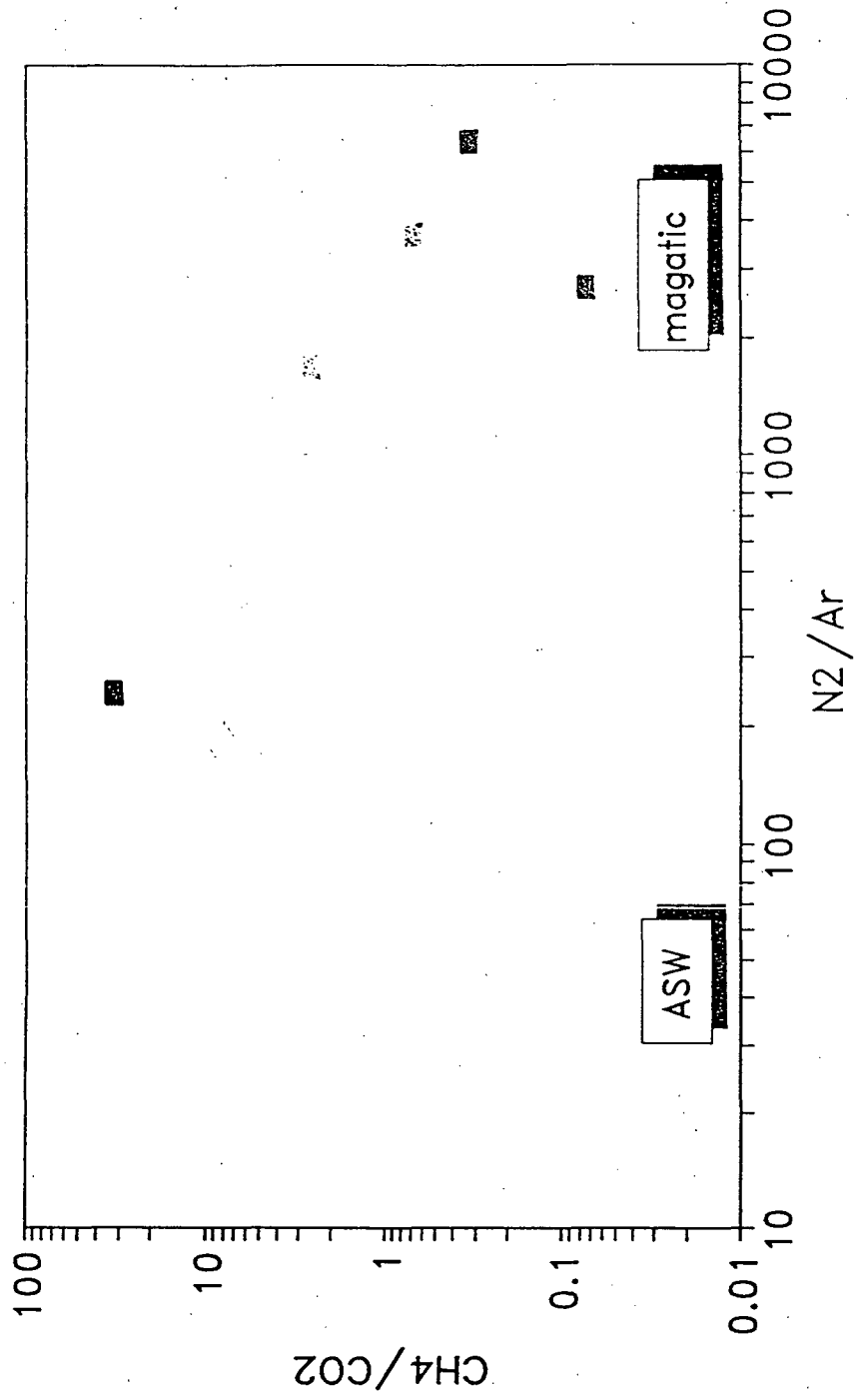


Comparison of Gas Analyses

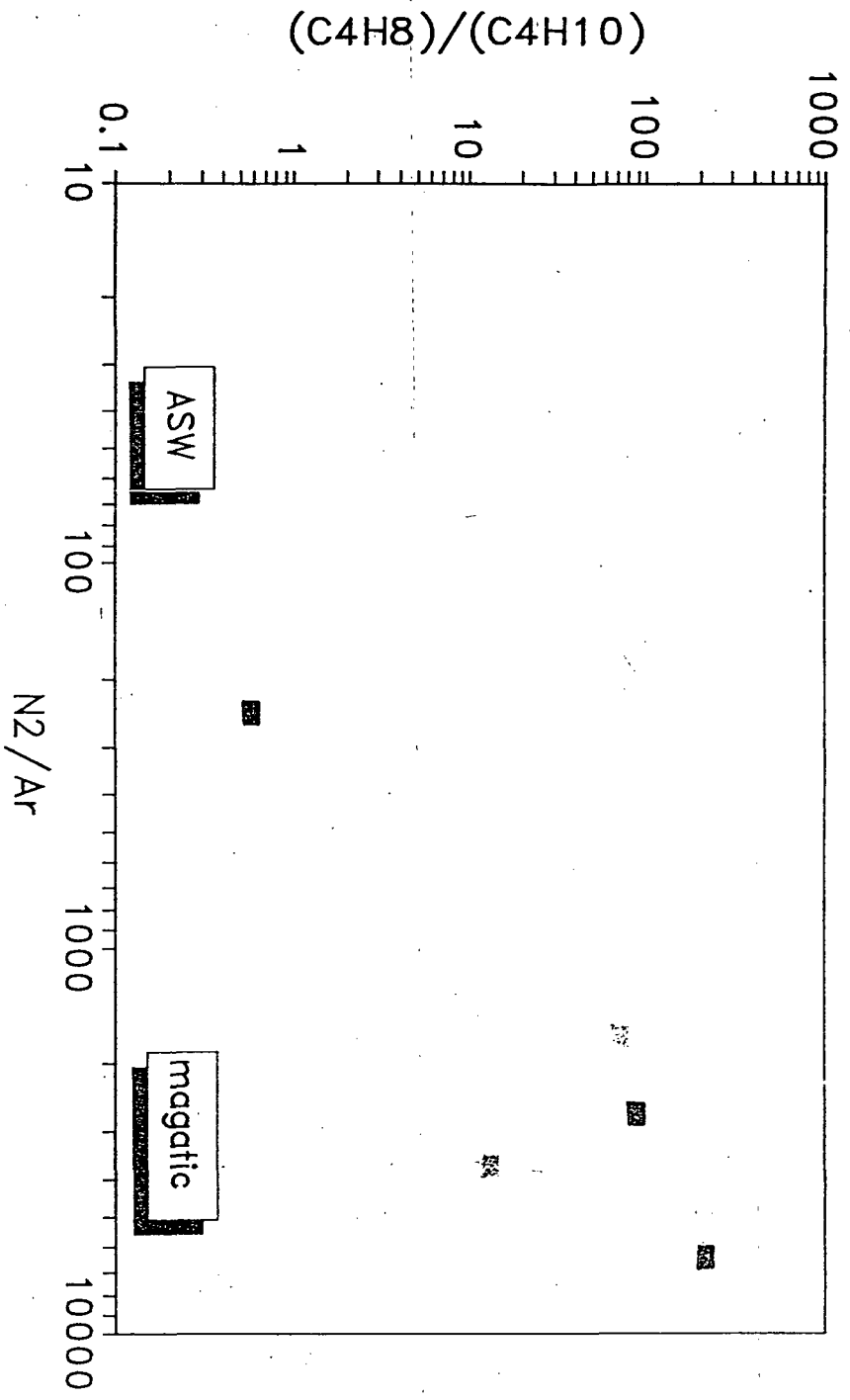


High-T Exterior



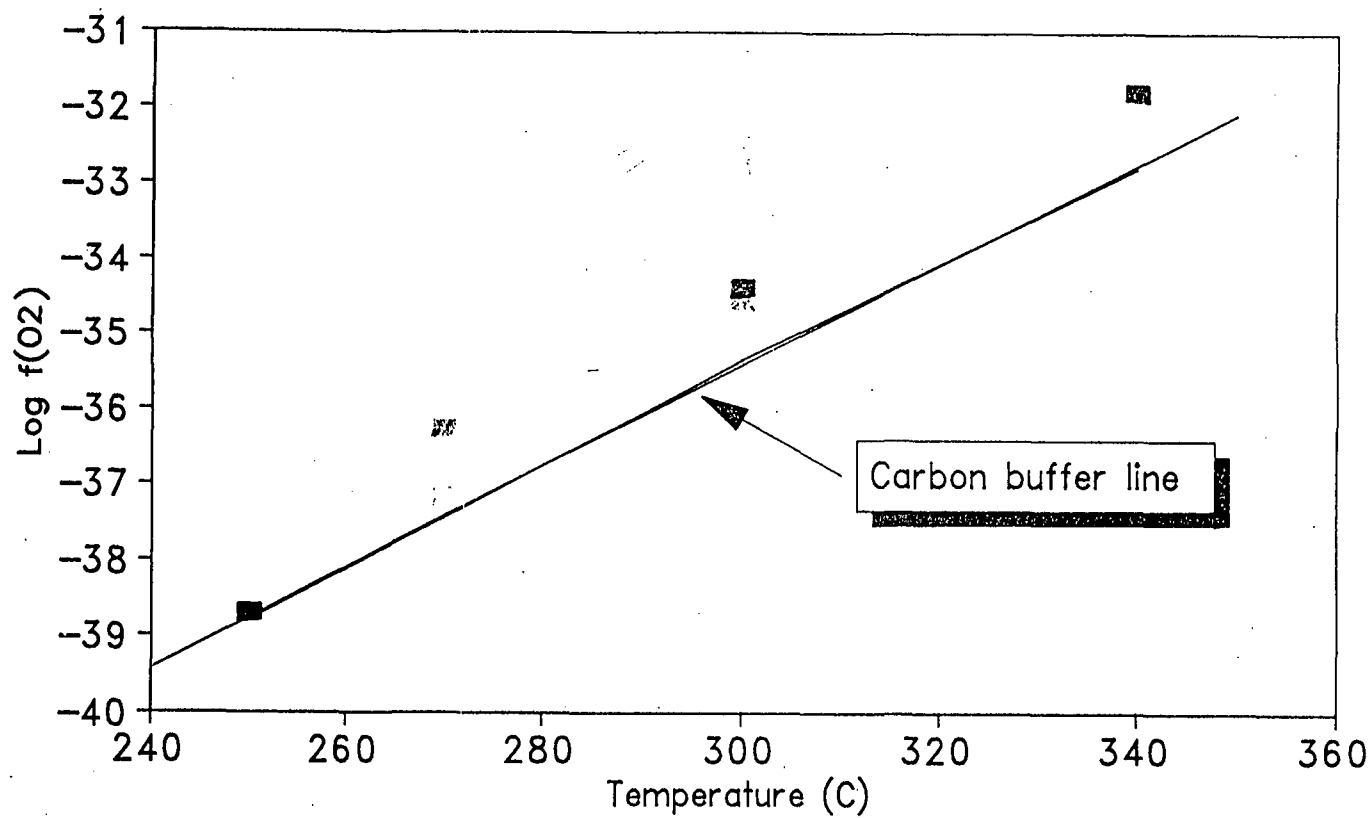


High T Normal Distal External



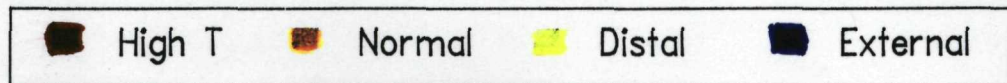
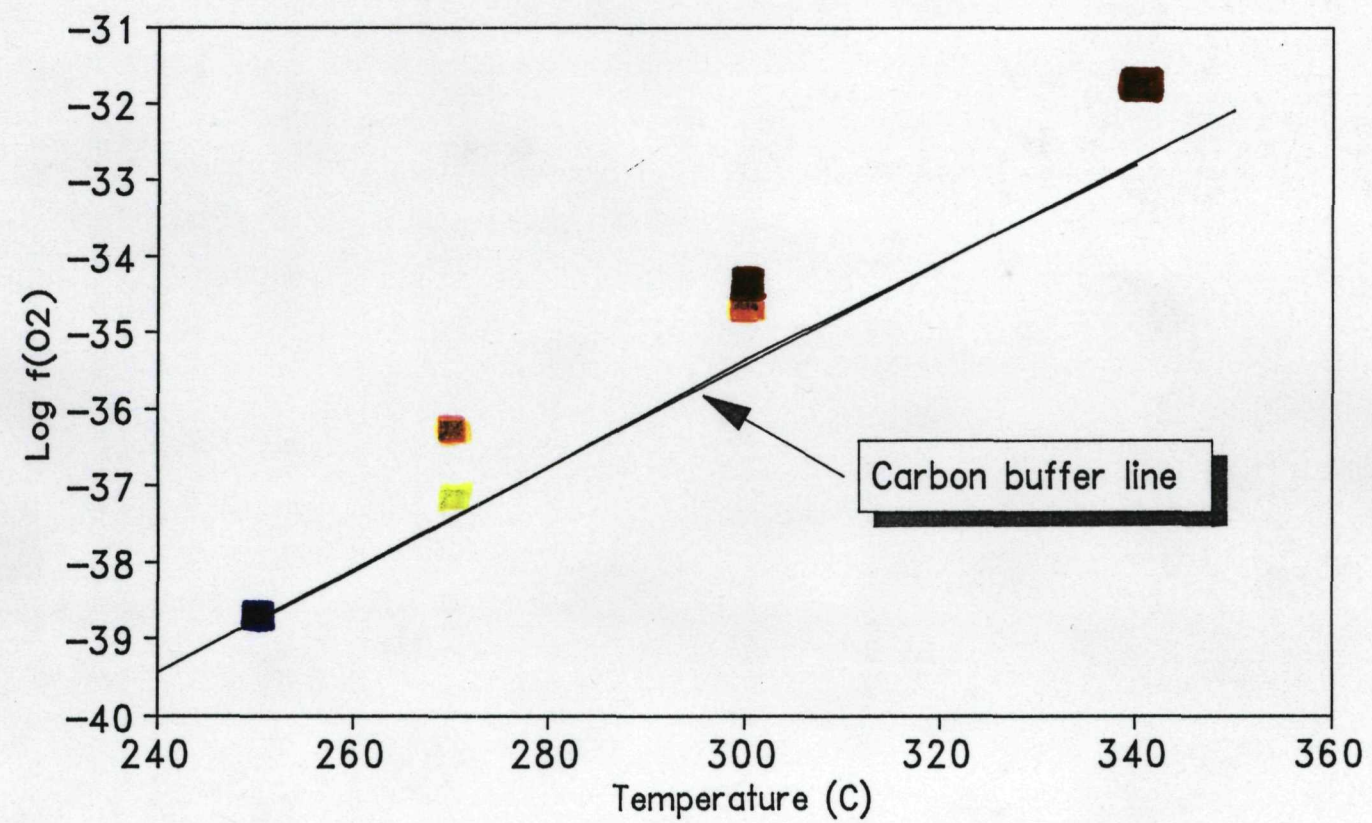
High T Normal Distal External

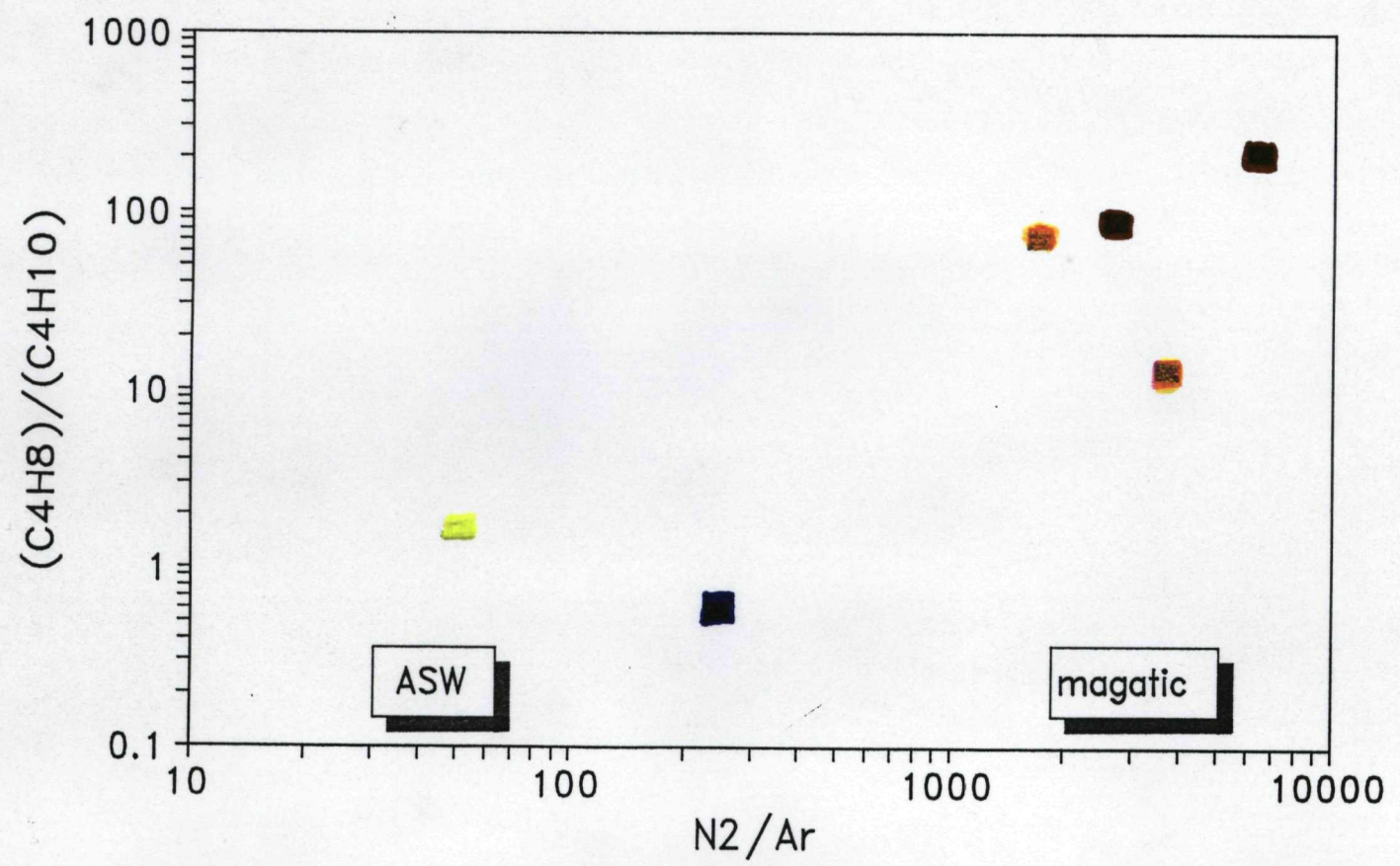
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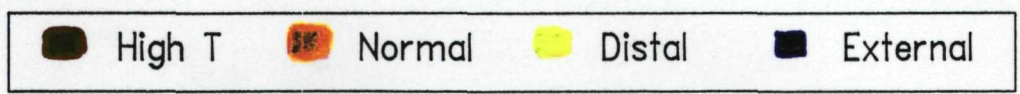
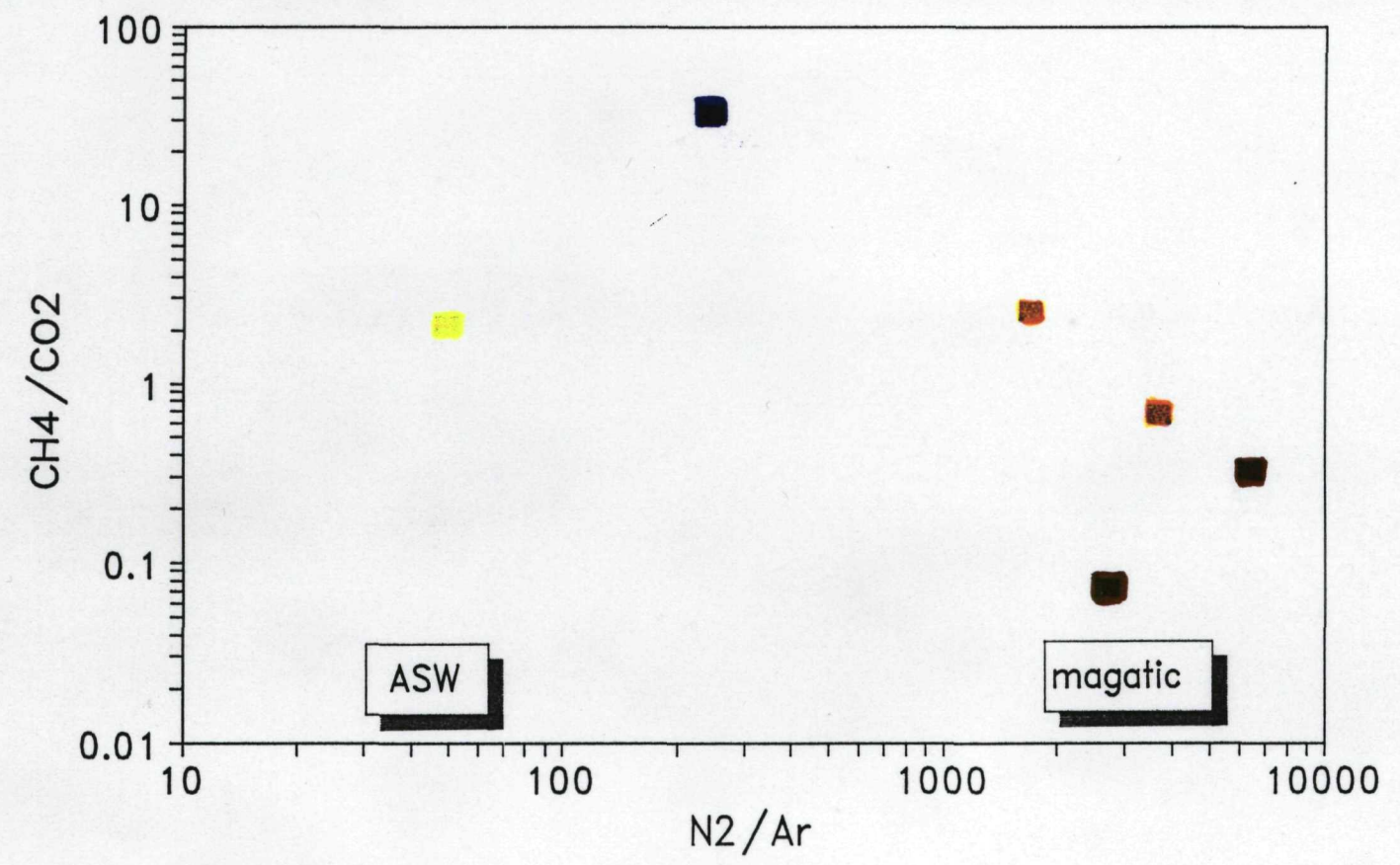
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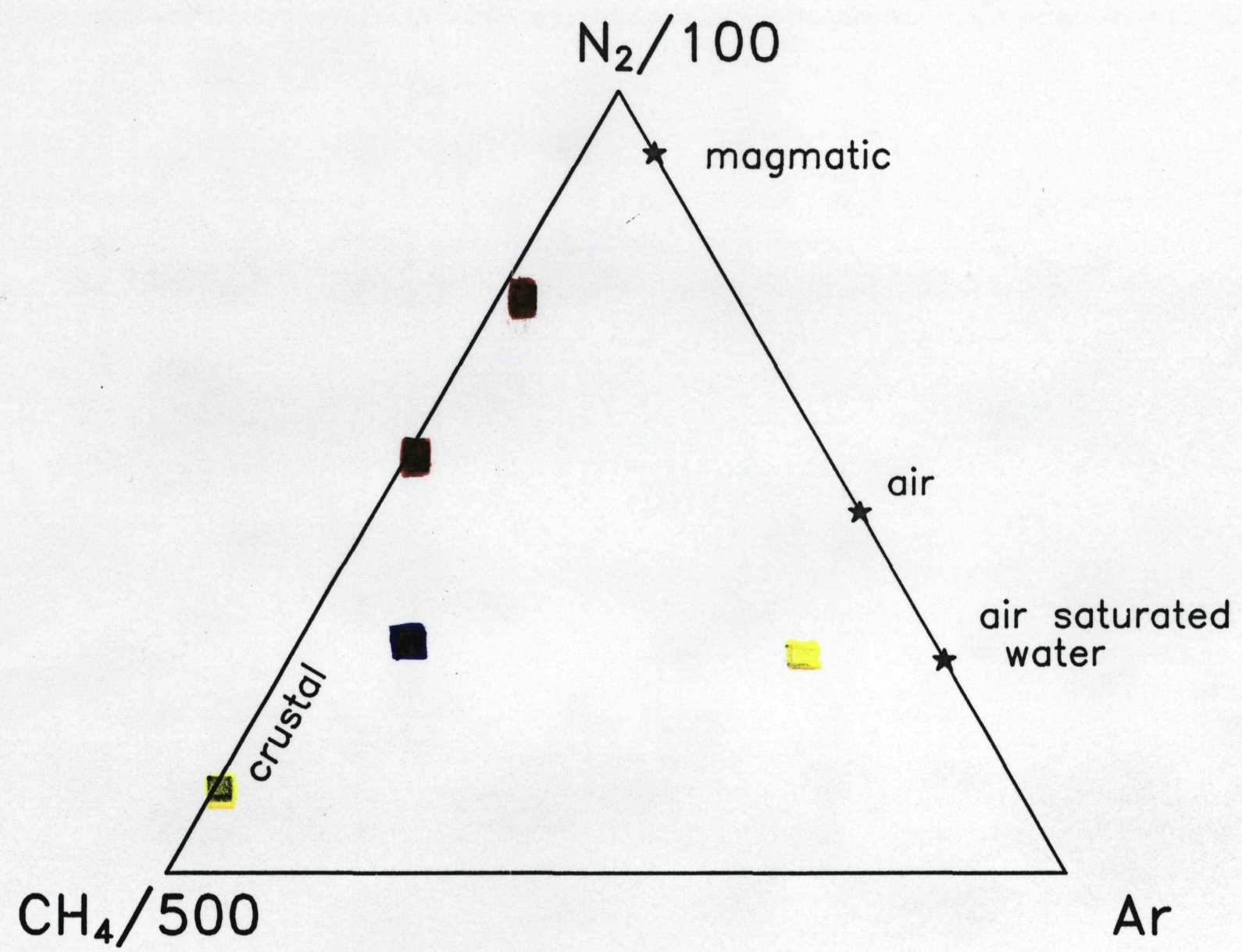
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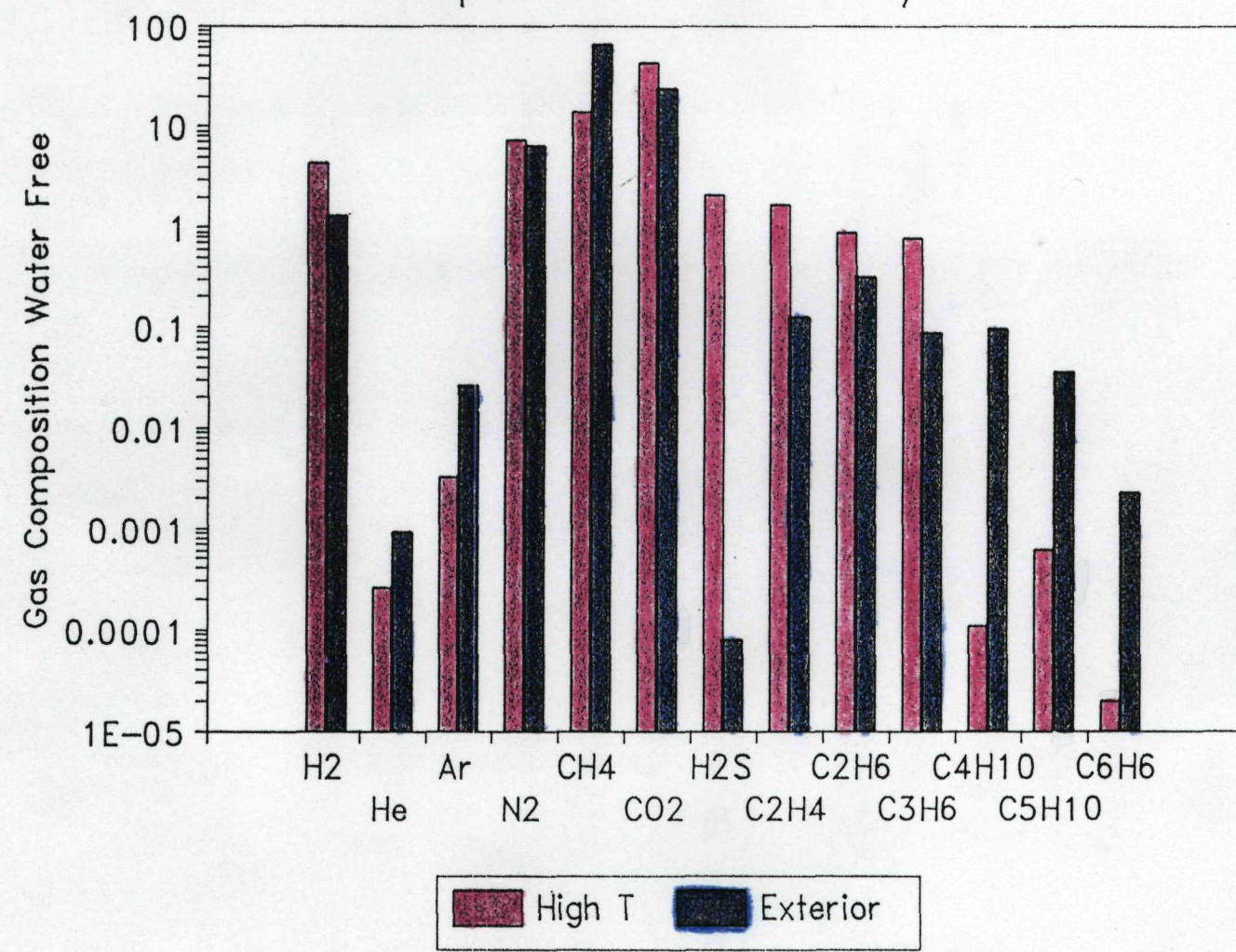


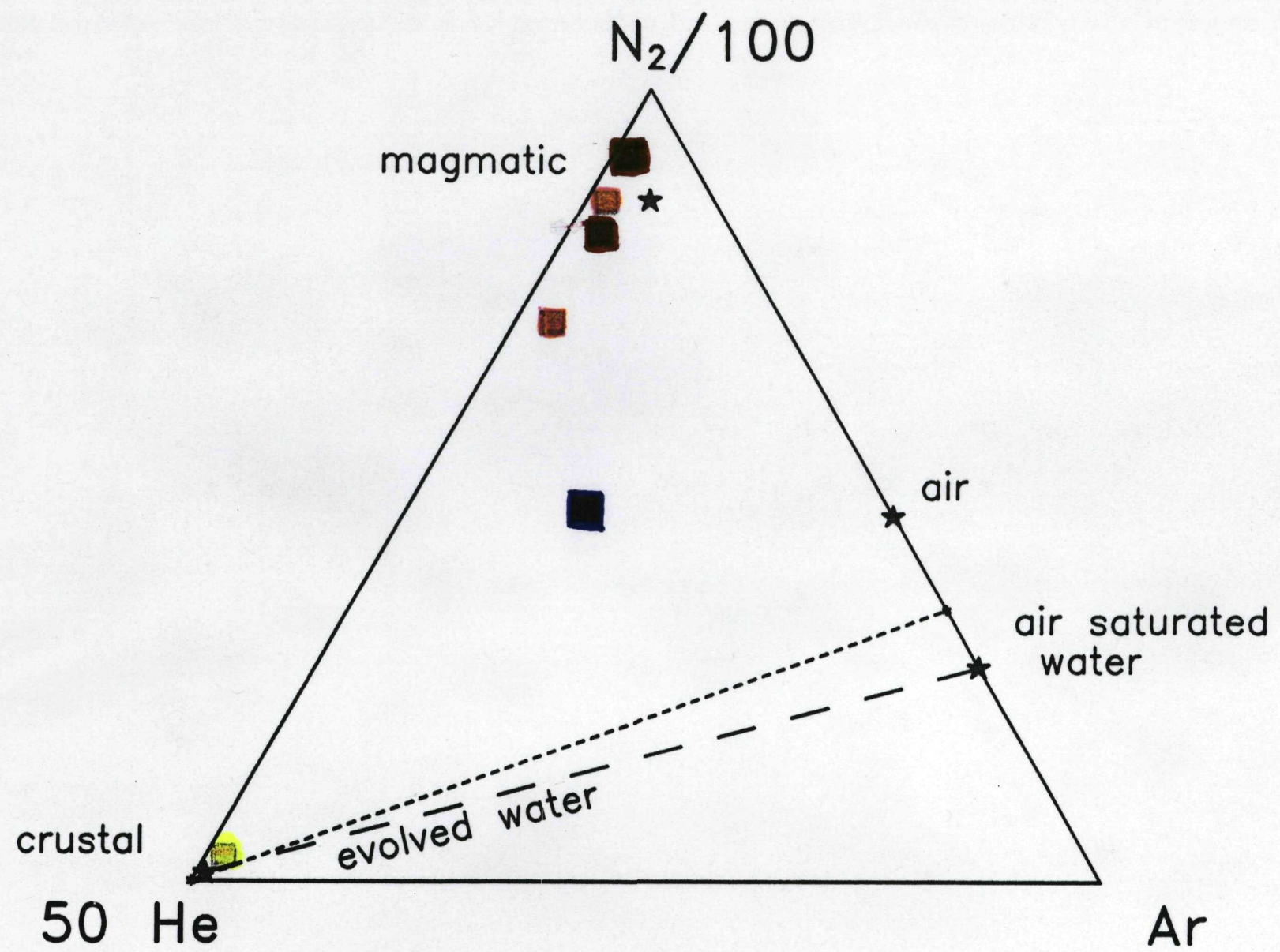
High T Normal Distal External





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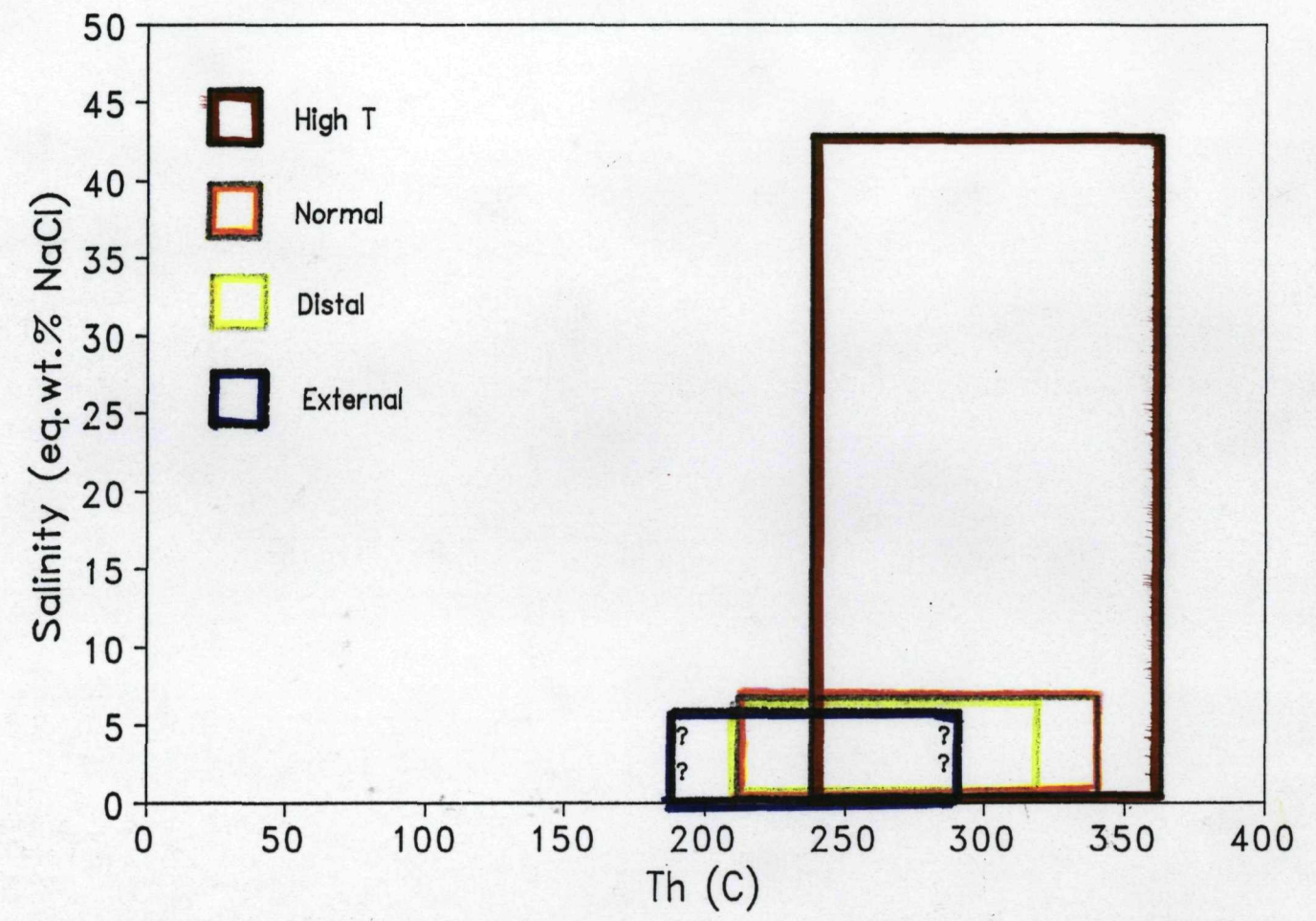
Fluid inclusion characteristics. See footnote for abbreviations.

Sample	Th (l-v) (L + V)	Ave. (no (L + V)	Salinity (L + V)	Ave. (no (L + V)	Th (t) (L + V + H)	Ave. (no (L + V + H)	Salinity (L + V + H)	Ave. (no (L + V + H)	Depth (msl)	Dis fel.	T Trap.
L'ESP - 2	269 - 363	326 (26)	0 - 16.8	14.2 (6)	319 - 333	326 (2)	29-31	30 (2)	-2462	282	329 - 438
MLM - 3	211 - 320	249 (82)	0.2 - 6.9	3.2 (87)					-676	1306	220 - 325
NEGU - 17	257 - 340	299 (29)	1.2 - 6.9	3.6 (15)					-1599	1145	273 - 354
OF27A - 2 ST1	238 - 343	306 (87)			238 - 308	322 (8)	34-43	38 (38)	-2203	236	290 - 409
TH - 7	212 - 276	251 (34)	0 - 3.5	1.3 (19)					226	1598	216 - 278

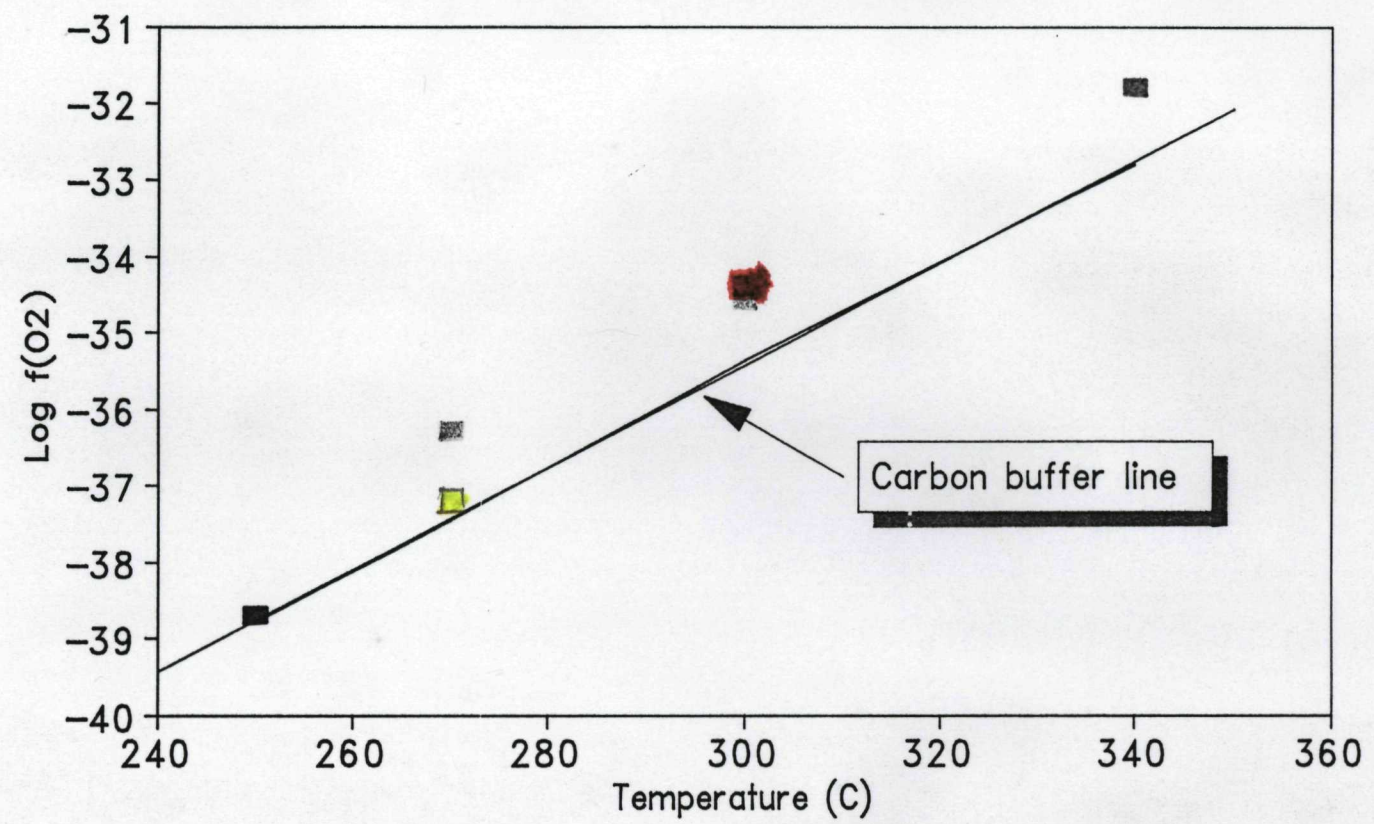
Abbreviations:

Th (l-v) (L+V): temperature in degrees Celsius of vapor disappearance in two phase (liquid + vapor) inclusions;
 Ave. (no): average and number of analyses;
 Salinity: expressed as weight percent NaCl equivalent;
 Th(t) (L + V + H): total homogenization temperature in degrees Celsius of three phase (liquid + vapor + halite) inclusions;
 Depth (msl): depth in meters relative to mean sea level;
 P (bars): trapping pressure in bars based on a surface elevation of 940 m above sea level.
 Pressures calculated for L'ESP-2 and OF27A-2 ST1 assume lithostatic conditions; pressures calculated for the remaining samples are based on hydrostatic conditions;
 Dis fel. m.: vertical distance from the felsite in meters;
 T Trap.: trapping temperature in degrees Celsius.

FLUID INCLUSION MICROTHERMOMETRY



Oxidation State of Fluids



High T Normal Distal External

MODEL

