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Identification of Geochemical Anomalies Using Fractal and LOLIMOT Neuro-Fuzzy modeling in Mial Area, Central Iran

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Keywords	Abstract
C C	The Urumieh-Dokhtar Magmatic Arc (UDMA) is recognized as an important porphyry,
Concentration-number	disseminated, vein-type, and polymetallic mineralization arc. In this work, we aim to
fractal model	identify and subsequently determine the geochemical anomalies for exploration of Pb, Zn,
5	and Cu mineralization in the Mial district situated in UDMA. The factor analysis,
Local linear model tree:	Concentration-Number (C-N) fractal model, and Local Linear Model Tree (LOLIMOT)
,	algorithm are used for this purpose. The factor analysis is utilized in recognition of the
Mial.	correlation between the elements and their classification. This classified data is used for
	training the LOLIMOT algorithm based on the relevant elements. The results of the
	LOLIMOT algorithm represent anomalies in the areas with no lithogeochemical samples,
	although the C-N log-log plot for target elements are generated based on the stream
	sediment and lithogeochemical samples, which can be delineated by the mineral potential
	maps of the target elements. The results obtained by the LOLIMOT and fractal modeling
	show that the SW and the Eastern parts of the area are proper for further exploration of
	Cu, Pb, and Zn.

1. Introduction

The Urumieh-Dokhtar Magmatic Arc (UDMA) was formed as a result of the sub-division of the Zagros orogenies in the Cenozoic era, and it is a thick and linear intrusive-extrusive complex. UDMA comprises several lithological units including small to large plutonic bodies (diorites, granodiorites, gabbro, and granites) and widely distributed basaltic lava flows, trachybasalt (locally shoshonitic), andesite, dacite, trachyte, ignimbrites, and pyroclastic. The youngest rocks are lava flows and pyroclastic from Quaternary and the oldest known pluton in this assemblage cuts across the Upper Jurassic formations and overlain uncomfortably by Lower Cretaceous fossiliferous [1–3].

Geochemical exploration has been used for mineral prospecting in the different types of deposits [4, 5]. The critical challenge is to identify the

geochemical anomalies from the background and separation of the highly and extremely geochemical anomalies [6–9]. The stream sediment data plays an important role in the discrimination of different anomalies with the determination of elemental thresholds in the reconnaissance and prospecting stages [10–13]. Without a correct geochemical interpretation of the datasets, defining the anomalies can lead to areas without a mineralization potential. Using the conventional statistical methods such as the histogram analysis, summation of mean, standard deviation, and box plot for defining the anomalies are required to be used cautiously because of the particular characteristics of the geochemical data [7, 14-20]. These characteristics include spatialdependence of data, range of different processes that influence the element abundances measured,

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sampling methods, and level of analytical precision. As a result, no single universally applicable statistical test has been developed for identifying the anomalies [14]. Integrating different identifying methods such as the intelligence ones can rise the degree of confidence in the identification of anomaly zones [8, 21–23]. The modern techniques of artificial intelligence (AI) has been applied in almost all the fields of the human knowledge [24, 25]. Combining different intelligent methods is an ongoing research zone in AI. The aim is to achieve a hybrid approach that benefits from all the available components. Machine learning and AI deal with the difficulties that are hard in formulating the algorithms that are needed to be translated into programs [26]. From another viewpoint, AI tries to find the hidden structures in the data, and in this case, the various classes of learning algorithm such as decision tree, support vector machines, and neural networks can be used [26–28].

The fuzzy sets theory was initiated by Lotfi Zadeh [29]. Fuzzy systems suggest a mathematic calculus to interpret the individual human information of the actual processes, and in this way, it will handle real information with a more or less level of uncertainty. The neuro-fuzzy algorithm is a kind of predictor that is a non-linear modeling and it figures out complicated patterns [25].

Due to the aforementioned subjects, determination of the elemental distribution related to the stream sediment and lithogeochemical data using some intelligent method such as neuro-fuzzy algorithm can be very useful [28, 30]. This method improves the performance in combination with the mentioned methods [27, 31, 32].

Moreover, the structural methods, specifically the fractal/multifractal models, have been used for geochemical exploration in different scales since the 1990s [33–40]. Fractal modeling, introduced by Mandelbrot (1983), is commonly applied in dealing with the elemental concentration. These methods include the concentration-number (C-N) [41, 42] concentration-area (C-A) [33] spectrumarea (S-A) [36], concentration-distance [37], and singularity technique models that can be found in numerous studies [21, 43–45].

In this work, an integrated methodology including factor analysis (FA), fractal Concentration-Number (C-N) model, and local linear model tree (LOLIMOT) was applied to identify the geochemical anomalies associated with Pb-Zn and Cu mineralization based on stream sediment, lithogeochemical, and heavy mineral data in Mial district, Central Iran. The main objective of this work was to identify the geochemical anomalies that could provide vectors to mineral resource exploration.

2. Methods

2.1. Factor analysis

One of the dimension-reduction techniques is Factor analysis (FA), which deals with the compositional data [46–48]. The aim of FA is to explain the variation in a multivariate dataset by as limited factors as possible, and also to detect the hidden multivariate data structure [20, 48–51].

2.2. Concentration–number (C-N) fractal model

The C-N fractal model has been proposed by Hassanpour and Afzal (2013) based on the Number-Size (N-S) model established by Mandelbrot (1983), which relates the frequency distribution of the elemental concentrations based on its number of samples by a power-law relation. In this model, the geochemical data has not been faced pretreatment and evaluation [38, 41, 53, 54].

A similar set of data that shows a distinct pattern can be distinguished by different straight lines fitted to the values of the results obtained from the geological, geochemical, and mineralogical information [55–58]. Geochemical background and different anomalies are separated by the breakpoints between the straight-line segments in the loglog plots that are related to the threshold values.

On the log-log plot, the optimal threshold for distinguishing the geochemical anomalies from the background is the common concentration value on both linear relationships [4, 37, 42].

2.3. LOLIMOT

One of the widespread non-linear model architectures is the local model networks, also known as the Takagi-Sugeno neuro-fuzzy systems [24], [59–64]. Generally, in order to parameterize the local model, a linear approach is used, and usually, the least squares method is used to estimate the mentioned parameters [25], [65–69]. The intelligent and highly independent systems play a great role in both the industrial and academic settings [67], [70], [59], [65], [66], [71].

LOLIMOT is an incremental tree-construction algorithm that partitions the input space by axisorthogonal splits; it is carried out by a Matlab code [66]–68], [71]–73]. The inputs and outputs of LOLIMOT are collected into a spread sheet using Microsoft Excel for the analysis and various visualizations of summaries to enhance the discussions of the results.

The divide and conquer strategy is one of the most significant factors for the accomplishment of LOLIMOT [66], [71], [72], [74], [75]. In the Local Linear Models (LLMs), the network output is calculated as a weighted summation of the outputs of each LLM, where the validity function is explained as the operating point-dependent weighting factors. The basic approach with LLM is to divide the input space into small sub-spaces with fuzzy validity functions, which are typically chosen as normalized Gaussians [26], [65], [70], [76–78]. Any created linear part with its validity function can be defined as a fuzzy neuron. Subsequently, the entire model is a neuro-fuzzy network with one hidden layer and a linear neuron in the output layer that basically computes the weighted summation of locally linear model outputs [65], [72], [79], [80].

LOLIMOT is incremental based on three iterative steps. First, the worst LLM is definite based on the local loss function. This LLM neuron is chosen to be divided. In the next step, all partitions of LLMs on the input space are checked. Finally, the best division for the new neuron is added [66], [68], [75], [81–83]. The first five iterations of the LOLIMOT algorithm for a 2D input space is shown in Figure 1.

The important methodology with LLNFM is to divide the input space into small sub-spaces with fuzzy validity functions. Using the fuzzy validity functions is important, particularly in the conjugation of two different linear models, as it helps the conjugation to be a smooth line instead of a broken one. By the results, any created linear part with its validity function can be called a fuzzy neuron. Consequently, the network structure can be described as a neuro-fuzzy network with one hidden layer and the weighted summation of the outputs of locally linear models by a linear neuron in the output layer can simply be calculated [68], [78], [84], [85].



Figure 1. Operation of the LOLIMOT algorithm in the first five iterations for a 2D input space [67].

3. Case Study

3.1. Geological setting

The Mial district is located in the central part of the major magmatic metallogenic belt in Iran, named the Urumieh-Dokhtar magmatic arc (UDMA), which contains copper porphyry deposits with other types of related mineralization such as lead and zinc and epithermal deposits [1], [86]–91]. This prospecting area is shown on the map with the main tectonic units of Iran ([92]; Figure 2).



Figure 2. The structural map of Iran [92] with location of the Mial area as a red square.

The central part of UDMA comprises the rock unit from Permian up to Quaternary and intense magmatism activity with Tertiary plutonism [86], [93–96]. The main faults have the NW-SE trend in this region [2]. The geological map of the Mial area with data locations including stream sediment, lithogeochemical data, and heavy mineral is depicted in Figure 3. This area mainly contains lapilli tuff, andesite breccia, red marl, and sandy limestone.

3.2. Dataset

In this work, three types of data were used consisting of the following data (Figure 4):

- 210 stream sediment samples at a density of one sample per 0.1 km². Choosing the sample location was based on the stream distributions, which were extracted from the 1:50,000 topographic map and also the number of stream branches. The size of each sample was -80 mesh.
- 98 lithogeochemistry samples were collected from the whole area. These

samples were taken using the chip sampling method. The samples were taken from the most potentiated areas and were unsystematic.

• 86 samples were taken from 20 to 30 cm under the stream floor and from the most potentiated areas based on the geochemical expert's opinions for the heavy minerals studied. The sample size was -20 mesh.

The following 12 elements were determined by Inductively Coupled Plasma (ICP) and represented in ppm: Pb, Fe, Al, Ca, Mg, Ag, As, Bi, Co, Cu, Zn and Mo. The remaining element (Au) was determined by fire assay and represented in ppb. The descriptive statistics of the stream sediment and the lithogeochemical data are represented in Table 1.

In order to check the analysis accuracy, 10% of the total samples were divided into two parts with two different codes, and the analysis results were acceptable based on the laboratory standard for repeated samples.



Figure 3. Geological map of the Mial area in scale of 1:25,000.

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skewness		Kurtosis		Detection
Elements	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Std. Error	Statistic	Std. Error	Limit (ppm)
				Litho	ogeochemistry d	ata				
Al	98	7873	98870	77115.13	21154.607	-1.772	.244	2.7	.483	100
Ca	98	2901	236356	52700.28	43335.920	2.282	.244	6.7	.483	100
Fe	98	11638	154182	48949.00	22514.258	2.329	.244	7	.483	100
Mg	98	686	260-03	13017.90	6308.480	328	.244	5	.483	100
Ag	98	.13	356.50	10.3427	46.33060	6.205	.244	40.8	.483	0.1
As	98	7.1	2726.1	127.399	384.2713	4.866	.244	26.2	.483	0.5
Bi	98	.29	171.30	3.7065	18.17737	8.371	.244	76.3	.483	1
Co	98	7	31	15.52	3.731	1.041	.244	2.4	.483	1
Cu	98	3	33299	797.36	3937.269	6.921	.244	52.0	.483	1
Mo	98	.63	12.86	2.0236	2.07554	2.456	.244	8.0	.483	0.5
Pb	98	10	49798	1717.55	7619.105	5.177	.244	27.3	.483	1
Zn	98	30	1782	169.90	293.981	4.018	.244	17.1	.483	1
				Stre	am sediment da	ita				
Pb	210	7.2	5160.0	128.013	423.3564	8.806	.168	97.3	.334	1
Fe	210	32800	68600	46863.33	6361.234	.462	.168	.7	.334	100
Al	210	56600	101000	79235.24	11033.628	183	.168	8	.334	100
Ca	210	16400	111000	52440.48	25908.644	.690	.168	6	.334	100
Mg	210	11300	28100	17744.29	3057.909	.688	.168	.2	.334	100
Ag	210	.27	5.03	.5701	.52314	6.521	.168	48.1	.334	0.1
As	210	5.2	71.2	18.695	10.6292	2.454	.168	8.0	.334	0.5
Bi	210	.0	1.3	.222	.1461	4.496	.168	26.2	.334	1
Co	210	10.6	26.2	16.673	2.7656	.246	.168	2	.334	1
Cu	210	14.1	138.0	36.209	15.3059	2.548	.168	10.9	.334	1
Mo	210	.3	2.5	1.005	.2496	.782	.168	5.6	.334	0.5
Zn	210	69	273	125.10	40.788	1.152	.168	.8	.334	1

4. Discussion

4.1. Classification of data by FA

The stream sediment and geochemical data is required to be pre-processed before FA because of the data closure problem [20, 49, 97]. Using the principal component analysis (PCA) can be helpful in challenge with a large dataset [48, 51, 98–101]. The concentration dataset is divided into subsets, and this is revealed by different factors [102]. The components in each subset are correlated with one another, and are fundamentally independent from the components in the other subsets ([51], Table 2). Here, the factors involved should be representative of the underlying and prior geological and metallogenic process that created the correlations among these variables [57]. Ln transformation is applied to pre-process the data by the PCA method using the SPSS statistical software package in order to find the elemental correlation coefficients.

Table 2. Rotated component matrix for extraction	n of the factors using PCA.
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	Component						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
LnCr	152	.130	.483	107	710	230	.149
LnMn	.557	213	.058	.644	.176	135	111
LnNi	044	127	.840	041	292	013	020
LnPb	.303	.341	200	.723	.185	.285	.108
LnFe	.811	003	238	.137	282	077	.020
LnAl	.867	.030	073	.143	.281	.037	207
LnCa	832	242	111	012	259	.061	.004
LnLi	.088	163	.426	190	381	.174	567
LnP	.324	.131	.576	.170	.460	124	.117
LnMg	.816	331	101	.209	061	.115	.008
LnK	245	078	.819	.163	.209	.125	205
LnNa	.694	.085	178	.099	.259	475	101
LnZr	.002	486	.451	.453	130	.325	.168
LnAg	046	.248	.014	.714	180	.234	003
LnAs	.152	.817	.038	007	.072	040	188
LnBi	.023	.676	.134	.304	081	.118	.239
LnCo	.942	.032	048	.006	105	.015	.075
LnCu	.742	.391	.057	.242	.168	.229	.088
LnMo	188	.714	.282	.096	145	322	151
LnSb	.434	.461	055	.436	.235	.343	.013
LnZn	.239	.073	024	.876	.171	028	118
LnCd	.405	.381	.212	.421	.415	037	122

4.2. Fractal modeling

According to the C-N log-log plots of the stream sediment data, there are four, three, and five geochemical populations for Pb, Zn, and Cu, respectively (Table 3 and Figure 4). These geochemical populations are achieved from the added trendline to the C-N log-log plot, and where there is an abvious change in the data distribution, the trendline will break. Each element (Pb, Zn, and Cu) grade can be divided in to different groups based on these breaks using a simple antilog for 10 to the A power, where A is equal to the number in the x-axis where the break point is located. The grade classification in the corresponding anomaly maps is based on these break points. Moreover, the elemental symbol maps were created by the ArcGIS 10.3.1 software and correlated with geological units, as shown in Figure 4. However, the Pb high-intensity anomalies commence from 977 ppm in the intercalation of red marl, sandy limestone, lapilli tuff, and andesitic breccia rock, which are close to the andesitic dikes and lineament aggregation in the Southern, Eastern,

and Western parts of the area (Figure 4). The moderate-intensity Zn anomalies occurred in association with red marl, sandy limestone, lapilli tuff, and andesitic breccia rock, and began from 231 ppm (Figure 4). The moderate-intensity Cu anomal samples have values higher than 95 ppm, which are located in the lapilli tuff and andesitic breccia rock in the Western part of the area (Figure 4).

Regarding the elemental log-log plots for the lithogeochemical data, two geochemical populations for Pb and Zn and three geochemical populations for Cu were distinguished (Table 3 and Figure 5). The lithogeochemical symbol maps were created by the ArcGIS software and correlated with rock types, as depicted in Figure 5. High-intensity anomalies in the lithogeochemical samples for Pb occurred from 25118 ppm. These anomalies are located in lapilli tuff, andesitic breccia, and near lineament aggregation in the SW part of the area (Figure 5). Highly intensive anomalies for Zn (1445 ppm) are spread in the Western part of the Mial area in the lapilli tuff, andesitic breccia, and mostly near one of the biggest andesitic dike and one of the lineaments shown in Figure 6. The highintensity Cu anomal samples have values higher than 1995 ppm, which are located in the intercalation of red marl, sandy limestone, lapilli tuff, and andesitic breccia in the NW and Southern parts of the area. These anomalies are mostly located near one of the biggest andesitic dikes (Figure 5).

Table 3. Elemental thresholds derived via the C-N model based on the stream sediment samples.

Elements	Low-intensity thresholds	High-intensity thresholds
Pb (ppm)	794	977
Zn (ppm)	208	231
Cu (ppm)	87	95



Figure 4. Log-log plots and geochemical anomaly maps resulting from the C-N model for Pb, Zn, and Cu based on the stream sediment samples.



Table 4. C-N elemental thresholds based on the lithogeochemical samples.

Figure 5. Log-log plots and geochemical anomaly maps resulting from the C-N model for Pb, Zn, and Cu based on the lithogeochemical samples. *LOLIMOT algorithm*

The stream sediment and lithogeochemical samples were studied to evaluate a neuro-fuzzy method in order to estimate the associated mineralization with Pb, Zn, and Cu. The LLM Tree was applied in the Pb, Zn, and Cu mineralization in

the studied area based on the stream sediment and lithogeochemical samples.

As mentioned earlier, the factor analysis was used to reduce the data dimensions and classify them into specific groups. For this purpose, first, the Ln function was used to homogenize the data, and then the FA method was applied. Based on the rotated component matrix (Table 3), 7 different groups were identified. The first group included the Fe, Al, Ca, Mg, Na, Co, and Cu elements, probably related to the host rock and fourth group with Pb, Zn, Mn, and Ag based on the geological evidence of the studied area related to mineralization [1], [43], [93].

After recognition of the elements with most similar behaviors, the whole area was estimated for Pb, Zn, and Cu based on the stream sediment and lithological data. In order to train the LOLIMOT system, the stream sediment data was used as the input (the elements in the mentioned factors) and the lithogeochemical data (Pb, Zn, and Cu) as the output. In the Mial area, the sampling network is irregular for both the stream sediment and lithogeochemical samples, so finding the equivalent samples is very important.

Fishnet in ArcGIS was generated, and the pairs in the same net with the lowest distance were selected according to the assign stream sediment input data to their suitable lithological output data, as they were not exactly from the same coordinate. In this work, 800 m \times 600 m cells were applied to assign the input and output data. Moreover, totally 32 data was selected, 70% of the selected data was allocated for training, and the rest for test. For Cu estimation, Fe, Al, Ca, Mg, Na, Co, and Cu in the stream sediment were used as the inputs, and the output was the Cu grade in the lithological data. Furthermore, Pb, Zn, Ag, and Cs from the stream sediment data were inputs, and the outputs were Pb and Zn from the lithological data, respectively. Then these three separate groups of data were used to train the LOLIMOT network. There was only one output, and the neuro-fuzzy network was trained.

The correlation coefficient and accuracy coefficient for the train and test data are shown in Table 5 and Figure 6. The results obtained were acceptable, and the LOLIMOT network was proper for the training process.

 Table 5. Correlation coefficient and accuracy coefficient for the train and test data.



Figure 6. Estimated a) Pb, b) Zn, and c) Cu from the train and test steps using the LOLIMOT algorithm.

In order to evaluate the LOLIMOT operation, the heavy mineral data was applied to validate the predicted anomalies. The results obtained by integration of the estimated Pb, Zn, and Cu grades and the heavy mineral data for each element, respectively, are shown in Figures. 8 to 10. Due to the achieved results, there are two main groups of mineralization, one is in the lapilli tuff and andesitic breccia rock in the SW part of the Mial area and the other one is in the intercalation of red marl and sandy limestone in the Eastern part of the area.



Figure 7. Heavy mineral anomaly map integrated with Pb estimated by LOLIMOT.



Figure 8. Heavy mineral anomaly map integrated with Zn estimated by LOLIMOT.



Figure 9. Heavy mineral anomaly map integrated with Cu estimated by LOLIMOT.



Figure 10. Pb anomaly map resulting from integration of the LOLIMOT and C-N fractal methods with heavy mineral data.

In the SW part of the area, the Pb-Zn and Cu anomalies mostly occurred near an andesitic dike and lineaments, which can show the relation between the mineralization and the structural feature. The mineralization in the Eastern part of the area is mostly related to the Pb and Zn grade and, in a less degree, to Cu anomalies located in the limestone rock. The source of the mineralization based on evidences was not clear but it could be related to Skarn-type of the deposit. The results derived from the LOLIMOT algorithm and the fractal model were integrated to show the most potentialed area for the Pb-Zn and Cu mineralizations in the SW, SE, and central parts of the studied area (Figures. 10-12).







mineral data.

5. Conclusions

In this work, the FA, C-N, and LOLIMOT models were implemented to detect the geochemical anomalies associated with Pb, Zn, and Cu mineralization. The consequences of this work lead to the following conclusions:

1) The hybrid methodology integrating the FA and C-N multi-fractal modeling is a valuable approach for recognizing

geochemical anomalies. FA for the stream sediment and lithogeochemical data was applied to combine the multi-element concentration values, whereas F1 and F4 could describe the main Pb, Zn, and Cu mineralization processes successfully in this region. The C-N fractal model was utilized to decompose the mixed Pb, Zn, and Cu geochemical pattern in a complex geological and structural setting. The results obtained suggest that places with the most fault accumulation and conjugation are highly potentiated areas for mineralization. Also the contact of igneous and sedimentary rocks is another important factor for mineralization occurrence.

- 2) The neuro-fuzzy LOLIMOT approach was successfully used to establish the accurate geochemical characterization in the Pb, Zn, and Cu anomalies. In order to achieve reliable predictive models, and choose the elements with the most similar behaviors, the FA results were used. The elements in F1 and F4 were applied as the input data to estimate the Cu and Pb-Zn potentials as the output, respectively. The results of this work show that the NFLLM algorithm can be a suitable tool for examining the relationships between the different datasets and geochemical variables to identify the mineral anomalies.
- 3) The hybrid methodology combining the FA, C-N, and LOLIMOT methods engaged in this work can be used not only to use fine geochemical anomalies where probable mineral resources are presented but also to further improve the factors that control the mineralization and their associated geochemical anomalies.

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شناسایی آنومالیهای ژئوشیمیایی با استفاده از مدلسازی عصبی-فازی لولیموت و فرکتال در منطقه میال، ایران مرکزی

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چکیدہ:

کمان ماگمایی ارومیه- دختر به عنوان یک کمان کانیزایی مهم برای انواع کانی سازیهای پرفیری، پراکنده، رگهای و پلیمتال به شمار میرود. هدف از انجام این مطالعه شناسایی و تعیین آنومالیهای ژئوشیمیایی برای اکتشافات سرب، روی و مس در محدوده میال واقع در کمان ماگمایی ارومیه- دختر است. آنالیز فاکتوری، مدل فرکتالی عیار- تعداد و الگوریتم درخت مدل خطی محلی (لولیموت) بدین منظور مورد استفاده قرار گرفته است. آنالیز فاکتوری به منظور شنا سایی ارتباط بین عناصر و دستهبندی آنها به کار گرفته شد. دادههای دستهبندی شده، براساس عناصر مرتبط به منظور آموزش الگوریتم لولیموت به کار گرفته شدند. نتایج بدست آمده از الگوریتم لولیموت نمایانگر وجود آنومالی در مناطقی است که در آن نمونهبرداری ژئوشیمیایی صورت نگرفته است. علاوه بر این، نمودارهای عیار-تعداد براساس نمونههای لیتوژئوشیمیایی و رسوبات آبراههای، برای عناصر هدف ترسیم شدند که میتواند نمایانگر پتانسیلهای کانیزایی از عناصر مطلوب باشند. نتایج بدست آمده از مدل سازیهای لولیموت و فرکتال حاکی از وجود مناطقی در بخشهای جنوب شرقی و شرق منطقه هستند که میتوانند برای اکتشافات آتی عناصر مس، سرب و روی مورد بررسی قرار بگیرند.

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