Structural Control on the Distribution of Hydrothermal Alteration Zones and Mineralization in Dastjerdeh Area Based on Remote Sensing Data, NW Iran

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ABSTRACT. The Dastjerdeh area is a part of Tarom volcano-plutonic zone which hosts many hydrothermal base metal deposits located in Zanjan, NW Iran. Understanding the tectonic events that can cause mineralization and hydrothermal alteration is a significant factor in assessing the exploration potential of different structures. In this research, hydrothermal alteration such as iron oxide, argillic, phyllitic, and propylitic zones were determined by Spectral Angle Method (SAM) and also lineaments identified by high pass filters and hill-shade DEM techniques on Advanced Space Borne Thermal Emission and Reflection Radiometer (ASTER) data. Field studies revealed that most alteration and mineralization occurred in NE-SW fractures. © 2015 Bull. Georg. Natl. Acad. Sci.

Key words: lineament, structure, mineralization, remote sensing, Dastjerdeh, Iran.

Introduction

The use of satellite images for mineral exploration is very successful in pointing out the presence of some minerals [1]. In addition, satellite remote sensing provides synoptic view, which is helpful in identification and delineation of various land forms, linear features and structural elements [2, 3]. Hence, in primary stages, mapping geologic lineaments is important for mineral exploration, because of their potentials for harboring ore bodies that are carried and deposited by ascending hydrothermal fluids [4, 5]. Iran is located in the Alpine-Himalayan orogenic and metalogenic belt and has high potentials for gold and copper and other base metal deposits. Satellite images are used by many Iranian geologist researchers as the cheapest method for interpretation of the structural features and exploration purposes [6, 7]. The aim of the present study is tectonic control on distribution of hydrothermal alteration zones and mineralization in Dastjerdeh Area Based on Remote Sensing Data, NW Iran.
Materials and Methods

Geologic setting

Dastjerdeh area (Fig. 1) is located between longitudes E48°52′30″–49°00′00″ and latitudes N36°41′28″–36°49′00″ in the eastern Zanjan Province, NW Iran. This area belongs to West-Central Alborz and lesser Caucasus hinterland [8, 9] that formed on the inverted back arc intra-continental rift since Oligocene. Dominant structural trend in West-Central Alborz and lesser Caucasus province is NW-SE (Fig. 2). From tectonics view, it contains deformed zone (fold and thrust belt) of Cimmerian miniplate that formed in northern active margin until late Triassic. Then it rifted by tension in a back arc basin of Neotethyan subduction zone in the south margin of Cimmerician miniplate. Development of that rift stopped in the late Cretaceous and then, renewed in the Eocene by spreading in submarine arc basin of
Neotethyan subduction zone. In the other word, this hinterland is the result of a magmatic arc system spreading in the evolutional back arc basin. After that, this region converted to back arc regime again and West-Central Alborz and lesser Caucasus hinterland is formed by its deformation and regional uplift from SW part of Caspian Sea to Black sea. Recently, Damavand and Sebalan cones were formed by late volcanism that related to final subduction of oceanic slab (Neotethys) toward the north and north-east [10].

This area has an active tectonics regime [11-24] compared to the Central Iran[25-33] and Zagros in the southern Iran[34-40]. Also, some concept of its metal mineralization, investigated by [41-44] Tarom volcanic rocks are changing from rhyodacite, dacite to basalt.

Lava rocks such as tuff and tuffite, andesite -
basalt, andesite, trachyte, latite, trachyandesitic, dacite, rhyodacite, ignimbrite and moderate acidic tuff volcanic rocks in the Tarom zone have been observed. Also, in the Tarom zone, sericite, propylitic, silica, chlorite, alunitic, zeolite alteration zones were identified. Zanjan province has a particular mineral resource position among the structural domains of Iran. All kinds of metamorphic basement rocks, ophiolites (ancient oceanic lithosphere), and magmatic arcs can be observed in this province.

As a result, various types of mineral resources exist in this territory, which have made this province a high-potential mineral resource domain in Iran [45]. Based on 1:100000 geological map of Tarom, the most
impressive geological feature in studied area is the Eocene sequences which composite of quartz-monzonite that spread northwest to southeast of investigated area. Sandstone, tuffaceous sandstone, and andesite lava flows formed other part of studied area. The conglomerate, gypsiferous marl and young terraces are in the north west of investigated area [46].

**ASTER Data**

The ASTER is an advanced optical sensor comprised of 14 spectral channels ranging from the visible to thermal infrared region. It will provide scientific and also practical data regarding various fields related to the study of the earth [47]. Various factors affect the signal measured at the sensor, such as drift of the sensor radiometric calibration, atmospheric and topographical effects. For accurate analysis, all of these corrections are necessary for remote sensing imagery.

To this end, at the beginning of the path, data set AST_L1B_010_8200745110108311331 in hierarchical data format (HDF) was used for this research and radiance correlation such as wavelength, dark subtract and log residual by ENVI4.4 software which is essential for multispectral images, were implemented.

**Results and Discussion**

**Hydrothermal alteration detection**

By using of spectral angle mapper method alteration zones were determined. SAM method is a classification technique that permits rapid mapping by calculating the spectral similarity between the image spectrums to reference reflectance spectra. SAM measures the spectral similarity by calculating the angle between the two spectra, treating them as vectors in n-dimensional space [48, 49]. The image spectra were compared with USGS Digital Spectral Library.

**Lineament Extraction**

Lineament extraction in this study is performed in manual method. In manual extraction method, the lineaments are extracted from satellite image by using visual interpretation. False color images are produced for manual lineament extraction because they increase
Ground-Truth Verification

To evaluate the ASTER satellite data, discriminate alteration zones and lineaments, field-checks were verified. In almost all cases, our fieldwork confirmed in showing real alteration and detection of area of lineament by the interpreted remote sensing imagery. The field photographs of the hydrothermally altered rocks are shown in Fig. 4. Microscopic photographs of the study areas are shown in Fig. 5.

Conclusions

The use of remote sensing data in the early stages of mineral exploration was very successful for recognition of the hydrothermal alterations. Moreover, ASTER multi spectral images could be used for the identification of lineaments possibly related to faults. The performance of conventional image processing techniques were evaluated on ASTER bands. Results show that the integration of the image processing techniques has great ability to detect iron oxide, argillie, phyllitic and propylitic. Field checks also confirmed in showing real alteration and detection of area of lineament by the interpreted remote sensing imagery.

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გეოლოგია

საქართველოს კართესიული პოლონიისათვის შეკრული ქალაქის განვითარების და ჰიდრო-თერმული ზონების გავრცელებაში და ისტორიული-კულტურული ფაქტორის ისტორიული საქმიანობის მონაცემებით. გადაწყვიტებით, განმახორციელებით, ჰიდრო-თერმული ქალაქის არანომური ზონები და ისტორიული ქალაქის საქმიანობის მონაცემებით. გადაწყვიტებით, განმახორციელებით, ჰიდრო-თერმული ქალაქის არანომური ზონები და ისტორიული ქალაქის საქმიანობის მონაცემებით. გადაწყვიტებით, განმახორციელებით, ჰიდრო-თერმული ქალაქის არანომური ზონები და ისტორიული ქალაქის საქმიანობის მონაცემებით. გადაწყვიტებით, განმახორციელებით, ჰიდრო-თერმული ქალაქის არანომური ზონები და ისტორიული ქალაქის საქმიანობის მონაცემებით. გადაწყვიტებით, განმახორციელებით, ჰიდრო-თერმული ქალაქის არანომური ზონები და ისტორიული ქალაქის საქმიანობის მონაცემებით.
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