

# An Assessment of Fluid Inclusions Composition Using the Raman Spectroscopy at Daleishan Goldfield, Dawu County, Hubei Province, P.R. China

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**Abstract:** The purpose was to assess fluid inclusions composition in the Goldfield, Hubei province, China. The laser Raman spectroscopy was used as an analytical tool. The results show that water and carbon dioxide ( 70 %), and quartz ( 10 %) are the primary and secondary compositions of most of the inclusions, respectively. A number of three phase inclusions were low and inclusion size varies from 1 to 27 $\mu$ m. The density of CO<sub>2</sub> fluid inclusions measured in quartz mineral varied from 0.61 to 0.96 g/cm<sup>3</sup>. No traces of other gases such as hydrogen (H<sub>2</sub>), ethylene (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>), ethene (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>), benzene (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>), hydrogen sulphide (H<sub>2</sub>S) and carbon monoxide (CO) were observed, confirming epithermal origin of the deposit (quartz  $\pm$  calcite  $\pm$  adularia  $\pm$  illite assemblage). In Daleishan goldfield, according to inclusion composition, vapor and liquid may be main agent transports for gold in epithermal systems as well as for silver. [Nature and Science 2010;8(6):16-22]. (ISSN: 1545-0740).

**Keywords:** Auriferous veins, Raman spectroscopy, inclusions fluids, Daleishan Goldfield, quartz.

## 1. Introduction

Interest in study of fluid inclusions in the Earth Sciences goes back to works of the founding father of fluid inclusions, Sorby (1858) whom described samples from ore deposits containing fluid inclusions and drew conclusions concerning ore formation. The modern science of fluids inclusion geochemistry grew principally out of pioneering work on hydrothermal ore deposits more than 50 years ago (Roedder, 1958). The plethora of researches on fluid inclusions composition in mineral deposits is a testimony to this concern (K.A.A. Hein et al. (2006) have linked mineral and fluid inclusion paragenetic studies at The Batman deposit, Mt. Todd (Yimuyun Manjerr) goldfield, Australia; Yunshuen Wang et al. (1999) proved that fluid inclusion data indicate that the hydrothermal fluids are related to ore deposition of the high sulfidation Au-Cu deposits at Chinkuashih, Taiwan; Campbell and Panter (1990) showed, using infra-red microscopy, that inclusions in quartz intergrown with cassiterite and wolframite had different microthermometric properties to those hosted by the ore minerals themselves; Roedder, 1984; Van den Kerkhof et al. (2001) provided standard criteria for the recognition of primary, pseudo-secondary and secondary inclusions. However, poorly developed spectroscopic methods and microthermometry often characterized most of the methods used in field investigations. During the last 20 years, analytical techniques to include the laser Raman spectroscopy (*MOLE*, (1976) and *LABRAM* or the system 1000/2000/3000 Renishaw (1997) are the first and the newest Raman

*microspectrometers*) have improved significantly as has the quality of data obtained (Roedder, 1984; Pasteris *et al.*, 1987; Li Binglun et al., 1986; Lu Huang Zhang et al., 1990; Rosso et al., 1995; 1997; Yamamoto et al., 2006; 2007).

In geology, Raman spectroscopy is used for testing of materials, and especially for analysis of materials in inclusions; Raman spectroscopy provides an efficient, non-destructive and sensitive tool allowing for an assessment of fluid inclusions composition and estimation of the pressures (Wopenka *et al.*, 1990; Burke A.J. E., 2001, Rosso et al., 1995; Yamamoto et al., 2006; 2007).

Studies on fluid inclusions composition in mineral deposits, especially gold deposits in China have a long history (Roedder, E., 1967, 1977a, 1979; Anderson et al., 1981, 1995; M.R., Bodnar et al., 1985 T.J., Kuehn, et al., 1989, 1991, 1994; Groves, D.I. *et al.* 1992; Heinrich, C.A et al., 1992; Sheng Jify et al., 1995; Xiao Long, et al. 2005; Roedder, E., et al. 1997; Audetat, A., et al., 1985; 1998; Hedenquist, J.W., et al., 1998). In Daleishan goldfield Dawu County, many researches have been carried out since 1973. However, such studies focused on characteristics (dimension, morphology, etc) of quartz veins, texture and structure of ore minerals, genesis and model of deposit, geochemistry characteristics of lamprophyre and ore, etc. (Geological Party of Ordos Basin Northeast, Hubei Province, 1973-2009; Li Jiangzhou *et al.* 1990; Hong Hanlie *et al.* 1997; 2008; 2009 Zhou Hanwen *et al.*, 1998; Du Dengwen *et al.* 2008; 2009). Studies on compositions of fluid inclusion, are still in their

juvenile and taking into consideration the fact that climate change may upset natural processes in the crust, there is need for up to date information, to serve as guide in exploration and mining planning and improved interpretation of gold ore formation. It is within this context that this study was conducted.

The purpose of this study was therefore assessing fluid inclusions composition at Daleishan Goldfield, Dawu County, Hubei Province, China, using Raman Spectroscopy. A better understanding of information on inclusion composition, through quartz mineral, over time should elucidate effective modeling and hence, the trapping of conditions of fluid inclusions and gold transport conditions in the region and beyond.

## 2. Material and Methods

### 2.1 Study Area

The study area or Daleishan Goldfield (longitude  $114^{\circ}08'37'' N$  and latitude  $31^{\circ}29'08'' S$ ) is located in Dawu County, Hubei Province, in central China. Daleishan goldfield including two (2) gold deposits namely, Baiyun and Dapoding, is also located in Daleishan dome center, which uplifts between Dabieshan and Tongbai Mountains. Dapoding gold district is at present the biggest gold deposit discovered in northeast Ordos Basin (5.14 and 56.76 t of gold and silver, respectively, Hong Hanlie et al. 2009) whereas Baiyun gold deposit has mined out. Both deposits belong to (3) three ore zones of Hubei province: the Tongbai-Dabieshan Mountains polymetallic zone, the Dawu-Hong'an copper-silver zone, and the Daleishan Mountain goldfield. (Fig. 1).

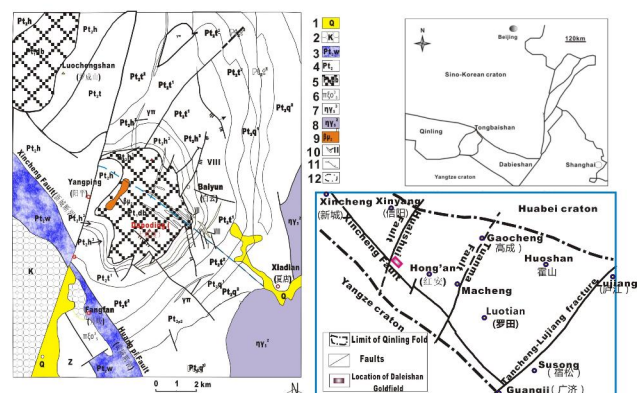


Figure 1. Simplified Geological Map of Daleishan Goldfield, modified after Du et al., 2009

#### Legend

1. Quaternary
2. Carbonaceous Series
3. Wudang Group of Middle Proterozoic
4. Hong'an Formations (Group)
5. Dabie Formation of Middle Proterozoic
6. Porphyry quartz-syenite of Late Yanshanian

7. Adamellite of Early Yanshanian.
8. Basalt of Punning Period
9. Lamprophyre veins
10. Auriferous veins
11. Discordant limits
12. Nappes.

The prospect temperate climate belongs to continental subtropical season; sun is shining adequately; rainfall is abundant and frost period is short; humidity rate and mean temperature are 0.93 and  $15.9^{\circ} C$ , respectively. Also, highest and lowest temperatures observed in June and January are 40 and  $-16.5^{\circ}$ , respectively. Although rainy season is relatively short, from mid-June to mid-July, annual mean rainfall is 328.0mm; north and south are wind directions during winter and summer respectively. Deposit district is constituted by a range of low-to high mountains, following WNW and ENE directions; peak and lowest altitudes, above sea level, are 626.2 and 65.80 m, respectively.

Main rocks distributed, in the district, are (1) Lower Proterozoic metamorphic complex rocks of Dabieshan Mountain, and (2) Middle Proterozoic rocks of Hong'an. Lower Proterozoic metamorphic complex rocks of Dabieshan Mountain cover Daleishan dome center while surrounding rocks are consisted of rocks of Hong'an; the two groups of rocks show parallel structures in conformable contact. Lamprophyre and granite porphyry dikes, distributed along faults of different directions, are developed; rocks of different magmatic periods, namely granite of Yanshanian period that is related to gold (silver) mineralization, outcrop in the gold district.

At Daleishan goldfield, with 5.14 and 56.76 tons gold and silver, respectively, two ore types are dominant: gold-hosted-quartz vein and gold-hosted-altered rocks; gold grade is 4-11.63 g/t. Vein ore mineral, according to statistics, consists of quartz (60%), k-feldspar (15%), sericite (15%), sulphide (8%) and other minerals (2%). Ore-forming phase include hydrothermal mineralization period and supergene ore-forming phase, respectively. Gold and silver are useful component of Dapoding gold deposit. Gold (silver) mineralization distribution is strictly controlled by Daleishan dome and faults of WNW and NNE directions. Even if lamprophyres have intimate relation with gold mineralization controlled by Dabie rocks, hydrothermal fluid, meteoric water and other fluids contributed significantly to formation of ore-forming mass.

### 2.2. Sampling Design

The samples studied here are from two gold deposits (1) Baiyun and (2) Dapoding that form Daleishan goldfield. Because gold mineralization is related to quartz veins, nine (9) hand picking samples, a least 1 kg weight, were collected, in July 2008,

from three (3) of thirteen (13) auriferous veins of the goldfield, from core to rim. Two veins of Baiyun gold deposit district, No I and II, and one vein (No X) of Dapoding deposit were selected. On the whole, 5, 2 and 1 samples were collected from veins No I, II and X, respectively.

Double-polished (50-150 $\mu\text{m}$ ) and ordinary standard thin sections of quartz were prepared at Sample Pre-treatment Bureau of China University of Geosciences, Wuhan, China. Five (5) double-polished sections (1-1;1-2-1; 1-3-1;2-1and 10-1-1) and 10 standard thin sections, four (4) from vein No I (1-2-1;1-3-1; 1-3-2; 1-4-1), four (4) from vein No 2 (2-2-1;2-2-2; 2-2-3;2-2-4), and two (2) from vein No X (10-1-1;10-1-2), sections were prepared using epoxy and resins.

### 2.3. Data Collection and Analyses

First, microscopic observations were done, on double-polished, thin sections on Linkam THM SG600 infra-red microscope in order to collect information such as type, morphology, size, liquid-vapor ratio, distribution, origin of inclusions. Simultaneous pictographs of inclusions were taken. Main host- mineral of inclusions were determined too. All data collected were reported in table (Table 1). Each thin section or polished section was carefully examined in paying attention to different types of inclusion present, namely (1)  $\text{CO}_2$  inclusion (2) three phase inclusion, and (3) liquid vapor phase inclusion. Representatives of each type of inclusion were selected, described, and pictures were taken under polarized-light. Infra-red microscope Linkam THM SG600 Microscope could not make composition analysis of individual inclusions, so Raman spectroscopy, Renishaw RM-1000, was selected for that. Because of limitations imposed by the minimum of sampling volume of the Raman system, only inclusions with a diameter above 5 $\mu\text{m}$  were selected for Raman analysis. Therefore, composition analysis has been carried out on a total of seven (7) inclusions, from 3 thin sections (1-2-1, 2-2-1 and 10-1-2) were selected.

Secondly, thin sections selected for Raman analysis were cleaned using ethanol in order to avoid surface fluorescence which can be due to incompletely dissolved remnants of epoxy and resins used in the preparation of samples.

Analysis of single fluid inclusions and solid inclusions were do using the Raman spectroscopy Renishaw RM-1000 System equipped with a microscope stage, built at State Key Laboratory of Geological Processes and Mineral Resources, located

at China University of Geosciences (Wuhan). Excitation was provided by 514.5nm line of Argon-ion laser at 3.4mW, focused to a spot size of 1.5 $\mu\text{m}$ . Spectra were measured with spectrometer entrance slits at 12.5 $\mu\text{m}$ . Scanning power efficiency of fluid inclusion composition and solid inclusions are 10W, 5-20nW, respectively; counting time is 20s. First scanning is carried out from 0 to 4000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , and then second and third scanning are carried out according to peak reduced resolution zone. Data consisted of wavelength ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) and Raman counts that can be processed with softwares such as Excel 2007, Origin 8.0, and SPSS 17.0 for building spectrum. Raman signal from fluid-inclusion were recorded on computer screen (Fig.4), the background subtracted using Lorenz Method. For the qualitative analysis of Raman active species (identification) in fluid inclusions, only the  $\Delta\nu$  values of their characteristics are necessary species presence can be confirmed by their particular peaks in the spectrum.

## 3. Results

### 3.1. Inclusion Studies

Inclusion petrography, according to data collected from various inclusions under microscope, indicates that inclusions inside quartz grains are usually developed; 3 types of inclusions are notified according to their characteristics (1)  $\text{CO}_2$  inclusion (2) three phase inclusion, and (3) liquid vapor phase inclusion., occupying large proportion, Liquid vapor two-phase is followed by single  $\text{CO}_2$  phase, whereas a few numbers of three phase inclusion have been reported, particularly in inclusions from veins no I and II. Inclusions are, inside quartz mineral, usually are grouped, aligned or randomly distributed; their morphology is regular and present primary origin (Fig.2).

Table 1: Documentation Table of Inclusions

Vein No	Sample Code	Phase Type	Size ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	Vapor-Liquid Ratio	Distribution	Genesis	Photo No
X	FI-10-1-2	3 phases	5-7	3:2:5	Group	primary	10-1-2k
II	FI-2-2-1	3 phases	6-8	3:1:6	Group	primary	2-2-1a
I	FI-1-2-1	Thunder vapor phase	4	6:4	Group	primary	1-2-1a
I	FI-1-2-1	Pure liquid phase	2	6:4	Group	primary	2-2-1b

N.B: Quartz is a main mineral; for vapor-liquid ratio.3:2:5 means 30, 20, and 50%

$\text{CO}_2$  inclusions present two (2) phases, with 40 to 70 % of total inclusion occupied by vapor; their sizes vary from 4 to 8  $\mu\text{m}$  and this type of inclusions present circular form.

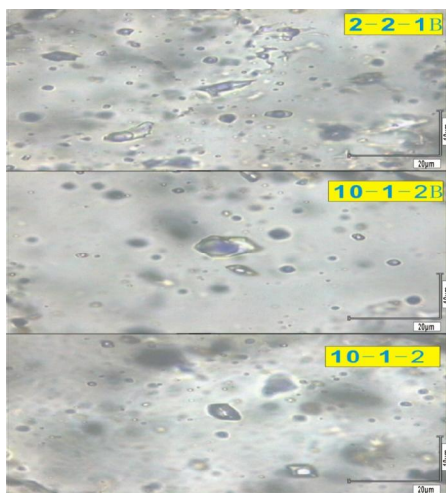


Figure 2. Photomicrographs of Fluid Inclusions in Quartz, during Raman Spectrometry Analysis, from The Daleishan Goldfield, Hubei Province, China.

Three phase inclusion usually present  $H_2O$  (l) +  $CO_2$  (l) +  $CO_2$  (g) (Fig.2D); its size varies from 7 to  $25\mu m$ . Even though spherical, ellipsoidal, and lozenge shapes characterize most of three phase inclusion, a few numbers present regular forms.  $CO_2$  volume, occupies at least 50% of total volume, numerous  $CO_2$  volume up to 80% are also found.

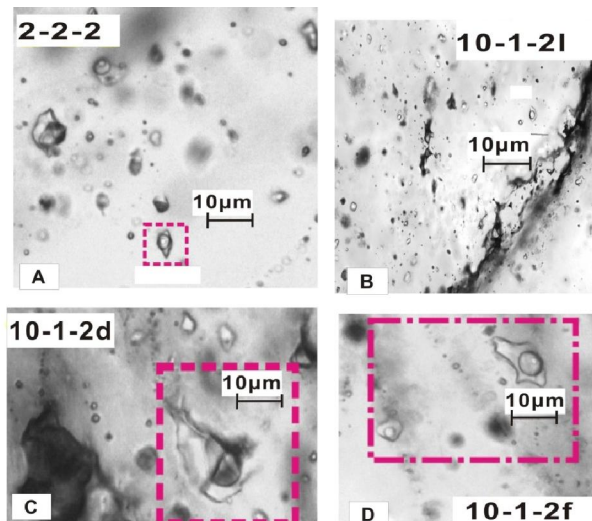


Figure 3. Examples of Fluid Inclusions in Quartz from Daleishan Goldfield. (A) sample 2-2-2; isolated three phase primary inclusions with negative crystal faces; some are connected (right corner). (B) Sample 10-1-2i;  $CO_2$  inclusion, liquid vapor, and three phases located along fractures; some inclusions are connected. (C), (D) and Samples 10-1-2d; 10-1-2f, large primary three phase inclusions with negative crystal faces, in the background- minute trails of

planar inclusions for (D). All pictographs are from polarized light of Linkam THM-SG 600.

Consisting main inclusion in quartz mineral grain, liquid vapor inclusions regroup vapor bubble. Vapor liquid ratio varies between 40 and 60 % and can reach 80 %. Liquid vapor two phase inclusions present ellipsoidal, spherical and circular shapes whereas a few numbers, of the same type of inclusions present irregular shapes with size varying from 4 to  $7\mu m$ .

Inclusions sizes of samples collected from veins no I and II are smaller than those of auriferous vein no X. Auriferous vein no X was mined, when samples were collected meanwhile veins no I and II were been mined out.

### 3.2. Inclusion Composition by Raman Spectroscopy Analysis

Tests have been carried out on different types of inclusions ( $CO_2$  vapor, vapor liquid and three phase inclusions) collected from different auriferous quartz veins of the deposit. Results indicated that water and dioxide carbon ( $CO_2$ ) (Fig.2) are and main contents of all types of inclusions, namely three phase inclusions, liquid vapor two phase inclusion, liquid phase inclusion and vapor phase inclusion. The Raman spectra of water (broad bands of several hundred  $cm^{-1}$ ) present two peaks at 3219 and at  $3657\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , representing  $H_2O$  liquid and  $H_2O$  vapor, respectively (Dubessy *et al.*, 1992; Chen *et al.* 1990). Raman spectra showed no trace of other gases such as  $H_2$ ,  $C_2H_2$ ,  $C_2H_4$ ,  $C_6H_6$ ,  $H_2S$  and  $CO$ , etc as well as  $SO_4^{2-}$  and  $HCO_3$  ions. Fluid inclusions studied here are almost all primary inclusions.

According to Raman spectroscopy analysis on inclusions, high content of water and dioxide ( $CO_2$ ) is one characteristic of ore-fluid composition at Daleishan goldfield (Dapoding and Baiyun gold deposits). Obtained Raman spectra of  $CO_2$  ( $\nu_1$ :  $1383\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $2\nu_2$ :  $1279\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) have a downshift, from common Fermi diad of  $CO_2$  ( $\nu_1$ :  $1388\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $2\nu_2$ :  $1285\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ), of 5 and  $6\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , respectively.

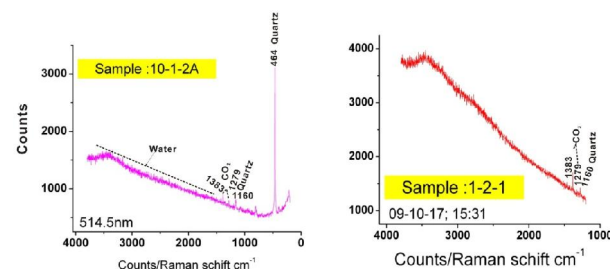


Figure 4. Raman Spectrum of Some Inclusions

However, one inclusion, from sample 10-1-2A, in addition of CO<sub>2</sub> spectra, shows spectra of quartz inclusion at 464 and at 1160 cm<sup>-1</sup>. The first spectrum of quartz, at 464 cm<sup>-1</sup>, have only a downshift of 1cm<sup>-1</sup> of the strongest peak of quartz, 466 cm<sup>-1</sup> whereas the second spectrum of quartz (1160 cm<sup>-1</sup>) represents one of the relatively strongest peaks of quartz (128, 206, 1082, and 1160 cm<sup>-1</sup>). CO<sub>2</sub> spectra obtained with multi-channel from small inclusions (<20μm) in quartz always contain the Δv= 1160cm<sup>-1</sup> peak of quartz.

Raman spectra, of seven (7) fluid inclusions, selected according to their types (CO<sub>2</sub> inclusions, three phase inclusion, and liquid vapor inclusions), provided water, CO<sub>2</sub> and quartz. Dominant Raman shift of dioxide carbon in relic inclusion assemblage of quartz ranged between 1383 cm<sup>-1</sup> and 1279cm<sup>-1</sup>, and 464 cm<sup>-1</sup> in quartz ( Fig.4 ). A large proportion of inclusions, examined under Raman spectroscopy, contain water and CO<sub>2</sub> ( 70 % ), and quartz ( 10 % ) of total inclusions meanwhile a few inclusions, in addition to water and dioxide carbon (CO<sub>2</sub>), are quartz. A total of 45 inclusions were examined under a microscope and data about size, type, morphology, liquid-vapor ratio, distribution and origin of inclusions, collected (Table 1). The sizes vary from 1 to 27μm (Fig. 5).

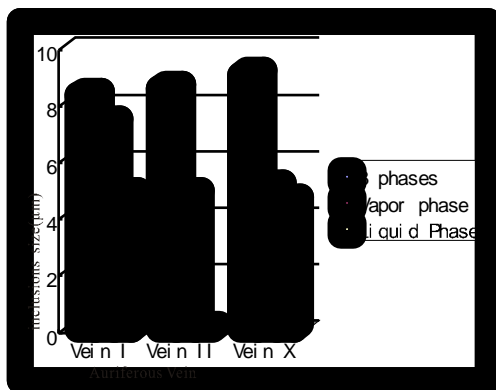


Figure 5. Mean Size of Different Types of Inclusions from Different Auriferous Veins

The  $\nu$  value of CO<sub>2</sub> was 104 cm<sup>-1</sup> ( $2\nu_2 - \nu_{1L}$ ; Yamamoto and Kagi, 2006; 2007), making the densities of CO<sub>2</sub> fluid inclusion vary from 0.61 to 0.96 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.

#### 4. Discussion

According to previous research achievements, Daleishan goldfield is an epithermal deposit that ore-forming depth is from 0.5 to 1.65 km below the water table (Geological Bureau in charge of Ordos Basin Northeast, Hubei Province,

1995). The deposit is principally linked to magmatism of Yanshanian period adamellite, where the magmatic input is entrained in and diluted by a structurally controlled or topographically driven large scale geothermal system. Epithermal deposits composed of this assemblage form in geothermal systems in volcanic arcs and rifts and result from the deep circulation of meteoric water, in Dabie Group rocks and Hong'an Group formations driven principally by a shallow intrusion. Deep down, the chloride-dominated waters are near neutral and contain reduced S-species adularia and platy calcites as deposits. During boiling of the ascending fluid, dissolved CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>S are partitioned into e vapor, which rises to the surface and condenses into the cool ground water, forming CO<sub>2</sub>-rich ground water, forming CO<sub>2</sub>-rich or H<sub>2</sub>S-rich steam-heated water. The CO<sub>2</sub>-rich or H<sub>2</sub>S ground water is concentrated along the shallow margins of the up flow zones, where carbonate mineral-rich assemblage forms. In addition, because molecular interactions are stronger between CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O for the system H<sub>2</sub>O-CO<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>4</sub> (Dubessy *et al.* 1999) may evaporate during magmatic process.

Co/Ni ratio of pyrite, superior to 1, suggests that gold mineralization is related to deep process. Only a limited number of species in fluid inclusions can be analyzed quantitatively, namely the polyatomic gas species and very few polyatomic gas species and polynuclear species in solution (<sup>12</sup>CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>S, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, CO, NH<sub>3</sub>, etc.) (Roedder, 1990). Therefore, further analyses such as LA-ICP-MS or PIXE, of inclusions, are needed for tracking other components like major and minor ions (Na, k, Ca, Mg, Cl, Mg, Li, Al, Fe, B, Ba, P) in liquid species or for quantitative analyses of solid species. Fluid inclusion composition provided by Raman spectroscopy suggests that dioxide carbon (CO<sub>2</sub>), consisting main component, may play important role in gold (silver) mobilization and transport, from deep to the near-surface at Daleishan goldfield.

#### 5. Conclusion

Raman spectra, of seven (7) fluid inclusions, present peaks of water, dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and quartz species. A large proportion of inclusions, examined under Raman spectroscopy, contain water and CO<sub>2</sub> (> 70% of total inclusions) whereas a few inclusions, in addition to water and CO<sub>2</sub>, have quartz. Fluid, transporting gold (silver) mineralization may induced by intrusion of adamellite and syenite dated Yanshanian period, and has reached Daleishan dome, consisted mainly by Dabie metamorphic rocks through Hong'an formation. Sizes of inclusion from mined out veins (vein No I and II) are smaller than those from a mined vein (Vein No X), confirming an

ultimate relationship between gold mineralization mobilization, transport and deposition, and inclusion sizes.

In Daleishan goldfield, according to inclusion composition, vapor and liquid may be main agent transport for gold silver in epithermal systems like at concentration (Bajo de la Alumbrera (Argentina) and Grasberg (Indonesia) porphyry copper-gold deposits (Ulrich et al. 1999) where parts-per-million levels of gold have been discovered in vapor.

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