



UNIVERSITY
OF TASMANIA

Geometallurgical Mapping and Mine Modelling - Comminution Studies: La Colosa Case Study, AMIRA P843A

by

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Submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the Master of Science in Geology

University of Tasmania February, 2014

Declaration of originality

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Statement of Ethical Conduct

The research associated with this thesis abides by the international and Australian codes on human and animal experimentation, the guidelines by the Australian Government's Office of the Gene Technology Regulator and the rulings of the Safety, Ethics and Institutional Biosafety Committees of the University.

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February 2014

Acknowledgements

This research is part of a major collaborative geometallurgical project of AMIRA P843 and P843A GEM^{III} Project being undertaken at CODES (University of Tasmania), JKMRC, BRC and CMLR (Sustainable Minerals Institute, University of Queensland) and Parker Centre (CSIRO).

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to La Colosa Project, in particular Rudolf Jahoda Geology Manager of Colosa, Vaughan Chamberlain Senior Vice President of geology and metallurgy, who have provided financial support and permission to publish. Udo Drews Metallurgy Manager of Colosa, Paul Linton Geometallurgy Manager of AngloGold Ashanti, Stacey Leichliter Senior Geologist of CC&V and all the staff at La Colosa Project. Without your help and assistance, the work in this project would not have been possible.

I would like to say many thanks to: Dr. Ron Berry and Dr Julie Hunt my principal advisors, whose encouragement, guidance and support from the initial to the final level enabled me to develop an understanding of the subject. I would also like to thank Dr. Luke Keeney, Dr. Toni Kojovic, Dr. Simon Michaux, Dr Steve Walters for their assistance and willingness to help and explain geometallurgical concepts, and Dr. Khoi Ngyuen for his programming assistance over the duration of the project.

Finally, the four pillars of my life: God, my husband and my parents, they have always supported and encouraged me to do my best in all matters of life.

Abstract

La Colosa is a world-class porphyry gold (Au) project located in Colombia, currently undergoing pre-feasibility analysis. As part of collaboration between AngloGold Ashanti and the AMIRA P843A GeM^{III} Project, the application of emerging geometallurgical characterisation testing and modelling tools has been incorporated into the early stages of project development.

The aim of the geometallurgical study is to map inherent comminution variability across the La Colosa deposit providing information critical for mine/mill design and optimisation. In this study, site-based data incorporating 17,505 multi-element assays, 275 QXRD bulk mineralogy measurements, 15,195 EQUOtip rebound hardness values, 9015 sonic velocity measurements, 16,676 density measurements and routine geological logging information from 92 diamond drill holes has been integrated with a range of geometallurgical comminution tests (i.e. 155 A*b values and 151 BMWi values).

The thesis demonstrates the integration techniques used at La Colosa to link routine data acquisition methods with comminution test results through the development of proxy support models. The integration incorporates a range of statistical techniques including principal component analysis, regression modelling and geostatistics. By creating proxy models, comminution index estimates can be propagated into the geological database enabling comminution processing domains to be defined. These domains provide the first spatial representation of comminution performance and variability at La Colosa and these can be compared with traditional geological domains.

In general, the comminution hardness of the rocks is related to proximity to structural corridors (trending 350), to topographic surface and the western contact between intramineral diorite and hornfels. The study shows that, overall, La Colosa rocks are intermediate to hard in terms of crushing and grinding. Seven hardness domains were identified for crushing and seven for grinding.

This study will provide the foundation for ongoing comminution characterisation as the La Colosa project evolves through project cycles into an operational mine.

Keywords

Geometallurgy, Comminution Modelling, Comminution Mapping, Orebody Knowledge, La Colosa

Australian and New Zealand Standard Research Classifications (ANZSRC)

091414: Mineral Processing/Beneficiation (50%)

0403: Geology (50%)

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Abbreviations Contained in this Thesis

AMIRA:	Australian Minerals Industry Research Association
CODES:	Centre of Excellence in Ore Deposit Studies (University of Tasmania)
JKMRC:	Julius Kruttschnitt Mineral Research Centre
GeM ^{III} :	Geometallurgical Mapping and Mine Modelling, the parent project of this thesis
GML:	Geometallurgical Matrix level
JKRBT:	Julius Kruttschnitt Rotary Breakage Tester
BMWi:	Bond Ball Mill Work index
kWh/t:	Kilowatt Hours per Tonne
GeMCI:	GeM Comminution Index
ICP:	Inductively Coupled Plasma
QAQC:	Quality Assurance/Quality Control
PCA:	Principal Component Analysis