

Data-driven based logistic function and prediction-area plot for mineral prospectivity mapping: a case study from the eastern margin of Qinling orogenic belt, central China

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1 **Data-driven based logistic function and prediction-area plot for mineral**
2 **prospectivity mapping: a case study from the eastern margin of Qinling orogenic**
3 **belt, central China**

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11 **Abstract**

12 The present work combines data-driven based logistic function with prediction-area plot for delineating
13 target areas of orogenic gold deposits in eastern margin of Qinling metallogenic belt, central China.
14 Firstly, the values of geological and geochemical information layer were transformed into a series of
15 fuzzy numbers with a range of 0-1 through a data-driven based logistic function on the basis of
16 mineralization theory of the orogenic gold deposits. Secondly, the prediction-area(P-A) plot was
17 performed on the above evidence layers and their corresponding fuzzy overlay layers to pick out a proper
18 prediction scheme for mineral prospectivity mapping(MPM) based on the known gold occurrences.
19 What's more, to further prove the advantages of this method, we also used a knowledge-driven approach
20 for comparison purpose. Finally, with the concentration-area(C-A) fractal model, the fractal thresholds
21 were determined and a mineral prospecting map was generated. The result, five of the six known gold
22 deposits are located in high and moderate potential areas (accounts for 18.6 % of the study area), one in
23 low potential area (accounts for 38.4 % of the study area) and none in weak potential area (accounts for

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24 43 % of the study area), confirmed the joint application of data-driven based logistic function and
25 prediction-area plot a simple, effective and low-cost method for mineral prospectivity mapping, which
26 can be a guidance for further work in the research area.

27 *Keywords:* Data-driven; Logistic function; Prediction-area plot; Mineral prospectivity mapping; Qinling
28 orogenic belt.

29 **Declarations**

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36 this article.

37 *Code availability:* Not applicable.

38 **1. Introduction**

39 Mineral prospectivity mapping is a comprehensive research, during which geological engineers
40 depict metallogenic target areas with known information and data in the study area to guide further
41 exploration. It is essentially a classification technique (Yousefi and Carranza, 2015a), by which the study
42 area could be divided into areas with high, moderate and low favorability of mineralization, respectively
43 (Knox-Robinso, 2000; Abedi, 2012). Simply, its objective is to portray the smallest area where usually
44 contains the most mineral deposits in the study area. In the above process, however, two key difficulties
45 remain yet. One is to convert evidence layers with different orders of magnitude values into a same space
46 and integrate them (Yousefi and Nykänen, 2016), the other is to determine a group of reasonable
47 thresholds to demarcate the study area(Knox-Robinso, 2000).

48 Recent decades have witnessed researches on foregoing issues by many scholars. All of them could
49 be grouped into three categories(Yousefi and Nykänen, 2016; Yousefi and Carranza ,2016; Du et al.,
50 2016). One is the knowledge-driven method, which mainly assess mineralization evidences based on the
51 knowledge of geological experts and assigns different weights to each mineralization factor. It is
52 generally suitable for study areas with low exploration levels(Carranza, 2010), in which a large amount
53 of mineralization data is absent. Among them, fuzzy sets and fuzzy logic, proposed by Zadeh (1965),
54 has been widely applied and proved of great value in MPM by lots of geologists (An, 1991; Cheng and
55 Agterberg, 1999; Knox-Robinson, 2000; Carranza and Hale, 2001; Luo and Dimitrakopoulos, 2003;
56 Nykänen, 2008; Lusty, 2012; Abedi, 2013; Ford et al., 2016; Du et al., 2016). However, the method has
57 a weakness of suffering the experts' bias, thus, leading to the result that different experts often have
58 different opinions(Yousefi and Carranza, 2015a). Another is the traditional data-driven method, which
59 can better establish the relationship between known mines and various evidence layers for metallogenic
60 prediction(Porwal et al. 2003a, b; Carranza, 2008; Carranza et al., 2008a; Zuo, 2011; Liu et al. 2014,
61 2015). Nevertheless, its deficiency, requires a batch of known mines training to establish this connection,
62 leading it infeasible in areas with low exploration levels. As a result, it would be deviation from the fact
63 as unknown deposits have a lesser chance to participate in such training. Besides, there are also
64 approaches(or system) of integration (Yousefi et al., 2019) or hybridization of the two aforementioned
65 methods(Chung and Fabbri, 1993; Billa et al., 2004; Porwal et al., 2004, 2006; Roy et al., 2006; Carranza
66 et al., 2008b; Cassard et al., 2008).Whereas, most of whom still cannot get out of the above dilemma or
67 just in development (eg. exploration information system promoted by Yousefi et al.)

68 In order to solve these problems, many geologists attempted not to use training points to assign
69 weights to evidence layers(Luo, 1990; Chung and Fabbri, 1993; Carranza and Hale, 2002; Luo and

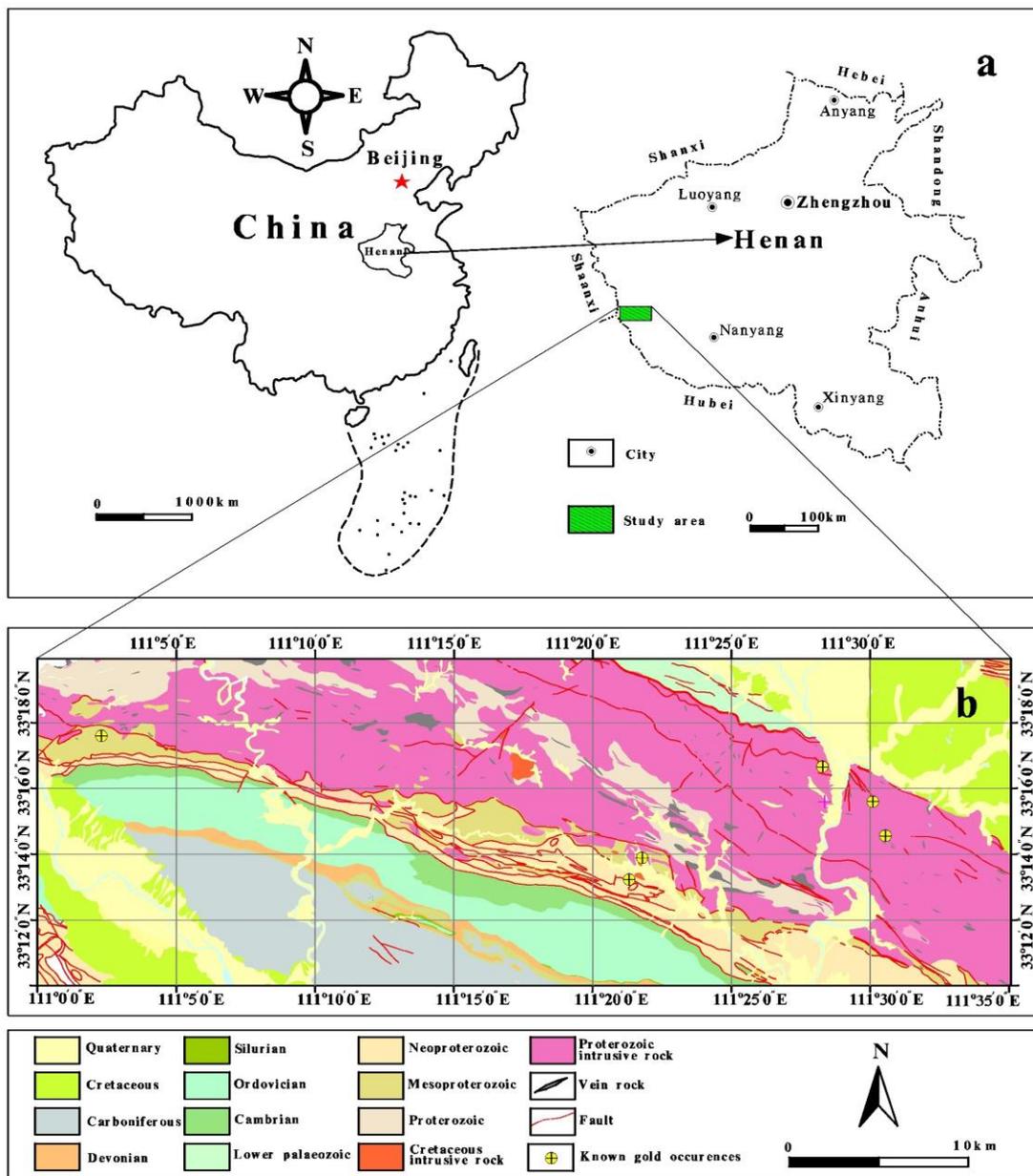
70 Dimitrakopoulos, 2003; Carranza, 2010). However, their choice of experience functions are also depend
71 on expert judgment, leading them to suffer the same limitations as knowledge-driven or data-driven
72 methods.

73 Recently, a data-driven approach based on logistic functions proposed by Yousefi et al. (2012, 2013,
74 2014) and Yousefi and Carranza (2015a) could well overcome the defects of the above two methods. It
75 assigns weights to the evidence layers in a data-driven way without experts' bias and without using the
76 known mines. In this paper, the logistic function is applied to convert the evidence values into fuzzy
77 values with the range of 0-1. Whereafter, the P-A plot advocated by Yousefi and Carranza (2015a, 2015b,
78 2016) was applied to evaluate the prediction ability and fuzzy overlay was used to integrate these fuzzy
79 layers to generate a prospective map. Consequently, three prospective maps were obtained and assembled
80 and the best one was identified. Finally, a prospectivity map was obtained by means of concentration –
81 area (C-A) model classification. With 5 out of 6 known Au occurrences predicted in 18.6 percent of the
82 study area, a satisfactory prospectivity map was obtained. It should be noted that all the aforementioned
83 spatial analyses were based on the raster format in geographical information system (GIS).

84 **2. Geological Setting**

85 The study area lies on the southwest of Henan province, central China, covering an area about
86 1001 km². It is located tectonically in the junction between the southern margin of the north China plate
87 and the northern margin of the Yangtze Plate (the central and eastern part of the Qinling structural belt),
88 with Jingziguan-Shigang complex syncline, Xixia fault depression basin generated (Meng and Zhang,
89 2000; Bureau of geology and mineral resources of Henan province, 1989). Crossing four metallogenic
90 zones (north Qinling orogenic belt, south Qinling fold belt, Xixia-Tongbai polymetallic metallogenic belt
91 and the Danjiangkou gold-silver-vanadium-antimony metallogenic zone), the study area is characterized

92 by complex geological conditions, frequent magmatic activities, and significant structural deformation-
 93 (regional) metamorphic effects. Consequently, the metallogenic geological conditions are superior, with
 94 vanadium and gold as mainly metals as well as marbles and limestones as main non-metallic mineral,
 95 enabling it an area with rich reserves and prospecting potential(Bureau of geology and mineral resources
 96 of Henan province, 1989). Location and brief geological maps of the study area are shown in Fig.1.



97 **Fig.1.** (a)Location of the study area and (b)brief geological map of the study area(modified from Bureau
 98 of geology and mineral resources of Henan province, 1989).

99 **3. Data set**

100 *3.1 Data sources*

101 In this paper, we used the 1: 50000 regional geological map and 1: 50000 stream sediment survey
102 prepared by the second geology prospecting institute of Henan bureau of geology and mineral exploration
103 and development. A total of 4036 samples were collected, processed and analyzed with a sampling
104 density of 4-6 points per square kilometer in about 1000 square kilometers in the study area. Each of the
105 original samples weighed more than 150g with a particle size less than 60 mesh (<216 μ m).

106 A multi-element (Au, Ag, As, Sb, Cu, Pb, Zn, Mo, W, Cd) was obtained with Graphite Furnace
107 Atomic Absorption Spectrometry(Au), Atom Emission Spectrometry (Ag), Atomic Fluorescence
108 Spectrometry (As, Sb) and Inductively Coupled Plasma Optical Emission Spectrometry(Cu, Pb, Zn, Mo,
109 W, Cd). The detection limits were 0.3ppb for Au, 0.02ppm for Ag, 0.2ppm for As, 0.04ppm for Sb, 1ppm
110 for Cu, 1ppm for Pb, 5ppm for Zn, 0.3ppm for Mo, 0.3ppm for W, 0.04ppm for Cd.

111 Tight quality control was maintained at every stage of the process according to the National Standard
112 of Geochemical Survey (DZ/T 0011-1991) and Geological and Mineral Laboratory Testing Quality
113 Management (DZ01304-2006).

114 *3.2 Data preprocessing*

115 On the basis of Hengl's (2006) research, we determined a proper cell with 200m \times 200m for all of
116 the evidence maps. Subsequently, the geological data and geochemical data were processed to obtain
117 evidence values in each cell. In this way, the study area contains a total of 25,024 cells.

118 For orogenic gold deposits, the metallogenic geological conditions mainly include ore-bearing rocks,
119 ore-controlling structures, and magma activities (Kerrich and Wyman 1990; Groves et al., 1998; Kerrich

120 et al., 2000; Goldfarb et al., 2001). At the same time, as its ore-bearing rocks could not be more complex
121 and diverse, a variety of rocks can generate ore-bearing rocks when other mineralization conditions are
122 in place. As a result, only ore-controlling structures and magmatic activities are considered in actual
123 research in this paper.

124 On the basis of 1:50,000 geology survey, the main geological information related to the
125 mineralization, such as magmata and faults, were extracted as the evidence layers. Meanwhile, based on
126 the measurement of 1:50,000 stream sediment survey, Stage Factor Analysis (SFA) was performed to
127 carry out the multi-element closely related to the gold mineralization in the study area. Subsequently, the
128 corresponding multi-element factor were grid-processed to get their value in each cell.

129 3.2.1 Geological evidences, mainly heat sources and faults.

130 Magma, as the main heat source, takes an important role in the formation of gold deposits. It can
131 not only provide corresponding motive force for element migration and aggregation, but also supply the
132 matter source(Craw et al., 2006). As Mao et al.(2002) and chen et al.(2008)mentioned , most gold
133 deposits are related to Mesozoic granites in Xiaoqinling–Xiong'ershan region. In this paper, the granite
134 vein and the Yanshanian granite porphyry were extracted as the evidence layers and the distance from
135 the intrusive contact was used as the indicator criterion. However, the further from the intrusive, the less
136 the possibility of mineralization , thus, the inverse square of the distance from intrusive was taken as the
137 evidence value in each cell (Fig. 2a). It is generally accepted that faults are important channels for the
138 movement of geological fluids (Pirajno, 2010). Without faults, there could be little migration and
139 enrichment of elements, as a result, impossible to generate gold deposits as well. Consequently, we take
140 proximity to fault as the evidence value, whose acquisition way is similar to that of heat source(Fig. 2b).

141 3.2.2 Geochemical evidences

142 Stage factor analysis (SFA), proposed based on principal component analysis by Yousefi et al. (2012,
 143 2014) as an optimized method, was performed on 4036 samples of 10 elements to obtain multi-element
 144 geochemical anomalies factors based on statistical product and service solutions (SPSS) platform.

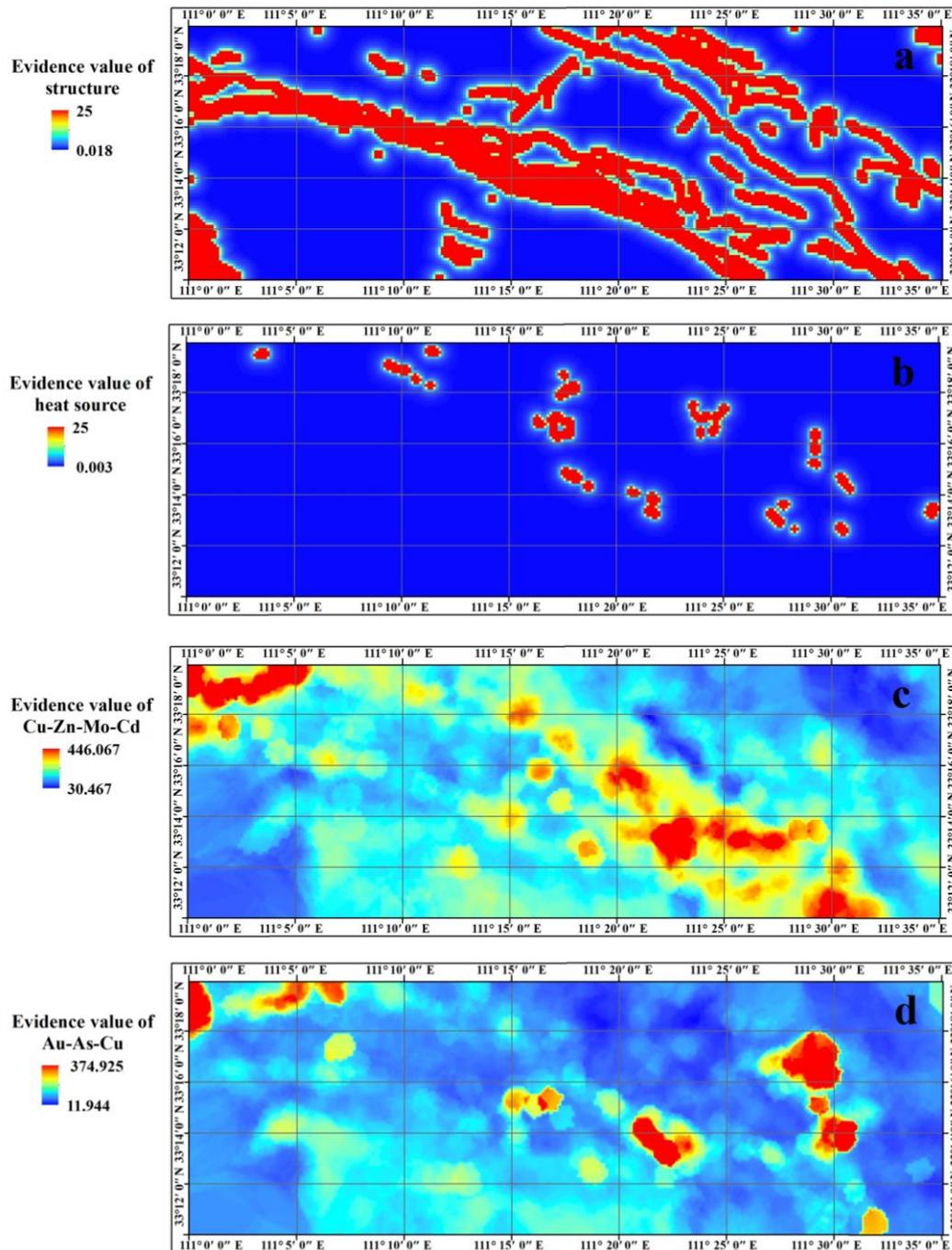
145 **Table 1**

146 Rotated factor matrix of staged factor analysis data of samples from the study area. Loadings in bold
 147 represent the selected elements based on threshold of 0.6 (the absolute threshold value) for each stage.

First main phase						Second main phase			
First stage			Second stage			Third stage		Fourth stage	
Element	F1	F2	Element	F1	F2	Element	F1	Element	F1
Au	-0.1	0.726	Au	-0.07	0.719	Cu	0.698	Au	0.681
Ag	0.48	0.592	As	0.153	0.803	Zn	0.797	As	0.819
As	0.118	0.785	Cu	0.719	-0.029	Mo	0.758	Pb	0.783
Sb	0.184	0.304	Pb	0.291	0.713	Cd	0.838		
Cu	0.723	-0.002	Zn	0.72	0.384				
Pb	0.257	0.685	Mo	0.771	0.072				
Zn	0.692	0.354	Cd	0.812	0.16				
Mo	0.761	0.1							
W	0.266	0.235							
Cd	0.803	0.195							

148 From the results of staged factor analysis (Table 1), two indicator factors (Fig. 2c and Fig.2d) were
 149 obtained to reflect the presence of orogenic gold deposits, F1 (Cu-Zn-Mo-Cd) and F2 (Au -As-Pb),
 150 respectively. Elements with high factor loading values (greater than 0.6 with bold) in third and fourth

151 stage of the two factors could be used as indicator factors based on geochemical criteria to define
152 exploration targets.



153 **Fig.2.** Evidence values of (a) structure; (b) heat source; (c) Cu-Zn-Mo-Cr factor and (d) Au-As-Pb factor.

154 **4. Method and result**

155 *4.1 Logistic function*

156 Since different evidence layers have values of diverse orders of magnitude, they are incomparable
 157 and cannot be superimposed to generate a prospecting map. Therefore, we used S-shape logistic function
 158 to transform the evidence values to obtain fuzzy numbers with a range of 0-1, which could be proper
 159 proxies of the evidence values.

$$160 \quad F_{EV} = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-s(EV - i)}} \quad (1)$$

161 S-shaped logistic function, as showed in equation (1)(Yousefi and Nykänen, 2016), where EV and
 162 F_{EV} are evidence value and fuzzy score while s and i are unknown parameters, has been used by a number
 163 of geologists as an efficient tool for mineral prospectivity mapping and most of which have obtained
 164 anticipative results. However, as Yousefi and Nykänen (2016) mentioned, the selection of the parameters
 165 s and i in logistic function is often subjective due to the fact that different experts often have different
 166 preferences. Moreover, some subjectively selected parameters cannot get continuous fuzzy numbers.
 167 That is to say, such experience-based parameters sometimes give different evidence values with similar
 168 or concentrated fuzzy numbers, thus, resulting in the fuzzy score a poor representative of the source data.

169 Therefore, Yousefi and Nykänen (2016) suggested to define the maximum and minimum values of
 170 F_{EV} as close to 1(0.99) and close to 0(0.01), which represents the most and least important evidence value
 171 separately. With EV_{max} and EV_{min} (the maximum and minimum values of EV)as well as $F_{EV_{max}}$ and $F_{EV_{min}}$
 172 (the maximum and minimum values of F_{EV}) known, Equations set (2) and (3)(Yousefi and Nykänen,
 173 2016) are easily to be solved to get s and i. In this way, a data-driven fuzzy score is obtained, which
 174 avoids the distortion of conversion caused by subjective bias of experts.

$$175 \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} F_{EV_{max}} = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-s(EV_{max} - i)}} \\ F_{EV_{min}} = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-s(EV_{min} - i)}} \end{array} \right. \quad (2)$$

177

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} s = \frac{9.2}{EV_{max} - EV_{min}} \\ i = \frac{EV_{max} + EV_{min}}{2} \end{array} \right. \quad (3)$$

180 4.2 Data transformation

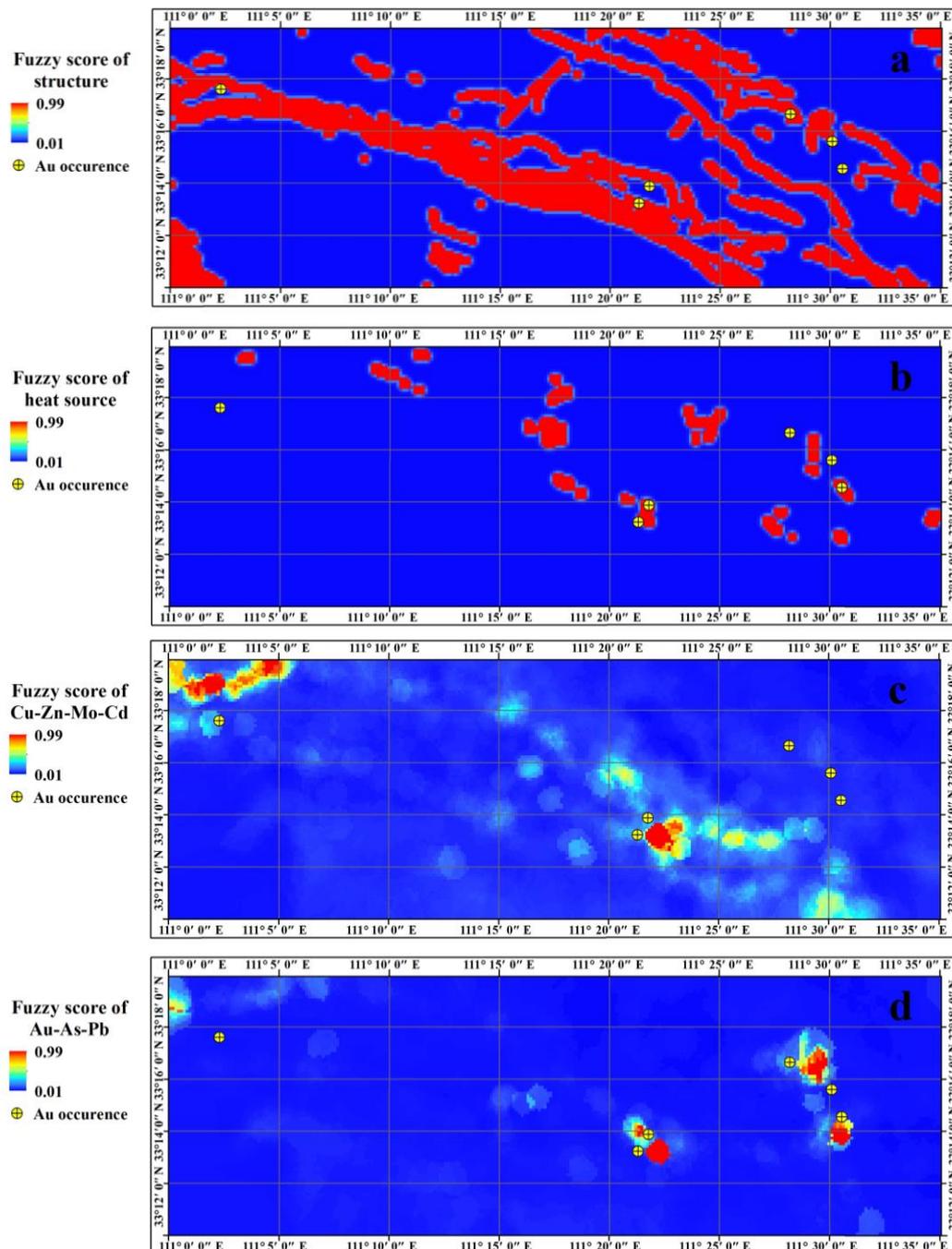
181 For Orogenic gold deposits, faults are usual play a role of activity space or even storage space for
 182 ore-containing hydrotherm (Groves et al., 2000; Herbert et al., 2014; Carranza et al., 2015). It is generally
 183 believed that the further from the fault, the lower the degree of profitability of the mineralization, so the
 184 inverse square of proximity to fault is applied as the evidence value. When the evidence value is 0(the
 185 cell contains the fault itself), its inverse square does not exist, so we manually assign it the maximum
 186 value. Based on the GIS platform, proximity to fault of each cell is computed, and the maximum and
 187 minimum of whose inverse square are calculated to be 25 and 0.018, respectively. Using equations (2)
 188 and (3), the corresponding s and i is acquired as 0.3683 and 12.5090. Proximity to intrusive is used as
 189 the data set of heat source. Since the further from the intrusive contact, the lower the degree of
 190 profitability of the mineralization, we applied the inverse square as the evidence value as well. For the
 191 nonuniformity of sampling points, the ordinary kriging interpolation method was conducted on the two
 192 multi-element (Cu-Zn-Mo-Cd factor and Au-As-Pb factor) to obtain the evidence value of each cell on
 193 the basis of verifying that they conform to the normal distribution.

194 After obtaining the evidence values of the above layers, formula (1) was performed to obtain the
 195 fuzzy score in each cell (the maximum value is 0.99, and the minimum value is 0.01), which represents
 196 the favorable degree of mineralization. The parameters used in the conversion process are shown in Table
 197 2 and the obtained fuzzy score layers are revealed in Fig.3.

198 **Table 2**

199 Parameter values calculated for each evidence layer.

Evidential layer	s	i
Structure	0.3683	12.5090
Heat source	0.3680	12.5015
Cu-Zn-Mo-Cd-	0.0221	238.2672
Au -As- Pb	0.0253	193.4347



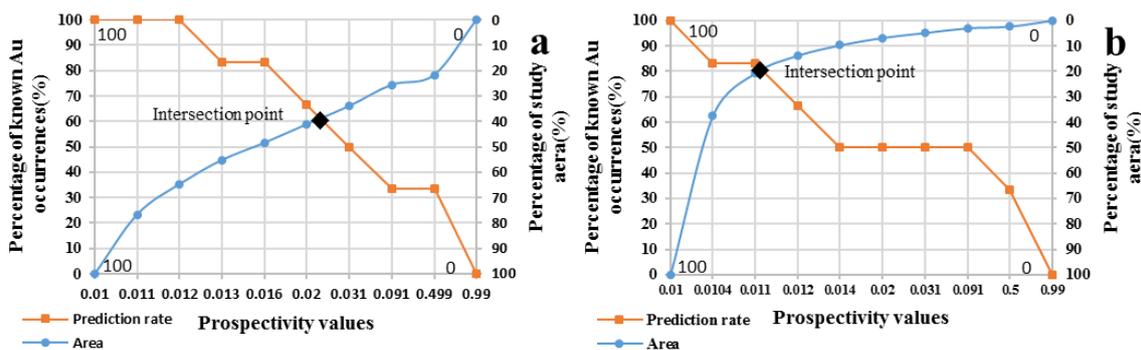
200 **Fig.3.** Fuzzy score of: (a)structure; (b)heat source; (c) Cu-Zn-Mo-Cd factor and (d) Au-As-Pb factor.

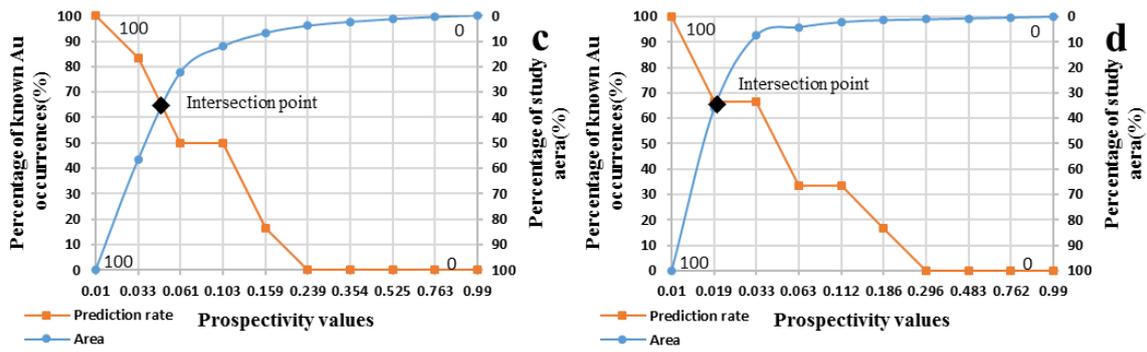
201 In order to check whether the fuzzy score could be a good representation of the mineralization
 202 favorability, the obtained Fuzzy score layers (Fig.3a, 3b, 3c and 3d) were compared with the evidence
 203 values layers (Fig2a, 2b, 2c and 2d) for a comparable purpose, respectively. The comparison revealed
 204 both of them are highly similar and the former have a slight convergence than the latter only in areas
 205 where the evidence values have unobvious anomaly, therefore better to identify the real anomalies.

206 This is consistent with research of Bishop (2006) and Yousefi et al.(2014) that non-linear
 207 transformation(like logistic function)gains an optimal decision boundary between different classes of a
 208 variable for classification, thus boosts stronger discrimination between anomaly and background
 209 values.So we believe that the data-driven logistic function used in this paper is appropriate for its ability
 210 of transforming evidence values of different magnitudes to be fuzzy scores with 0 to 1 range and retaining
 211 the relative importance.

212 *4.3 Evaluation of fuzzy evidence layers*

213 Before conducting fuzzy overlay, we performed P-A plot, which is able to evaluate the
 214 mineralization advantage of each layer objectively, to quantify their prediction ability. This method
 215 employs the ratio of predicted gold deposits to total versus the ratio of the accumulated area to total as
 216 indicators based on the known gold deposits (Yousefi and Carranza, 2016).





217 **Fig.4.** Prediction rate-Area(P-A) plot of each layer: (a)structure; (b)heat source; (c) Cu-Zn-Mo-Cr factor
 218 and (d) Au-As-Pb factor.

219 The P-A plot of evidence layer were shown in Fig.4.The intersection of the two curves represents
 220 the prediction ability of the evidence layer. The higher the intersection, the stronger the prediction ability,
 221 and the closer it is to mineralization.

222 *4.4 Integration*

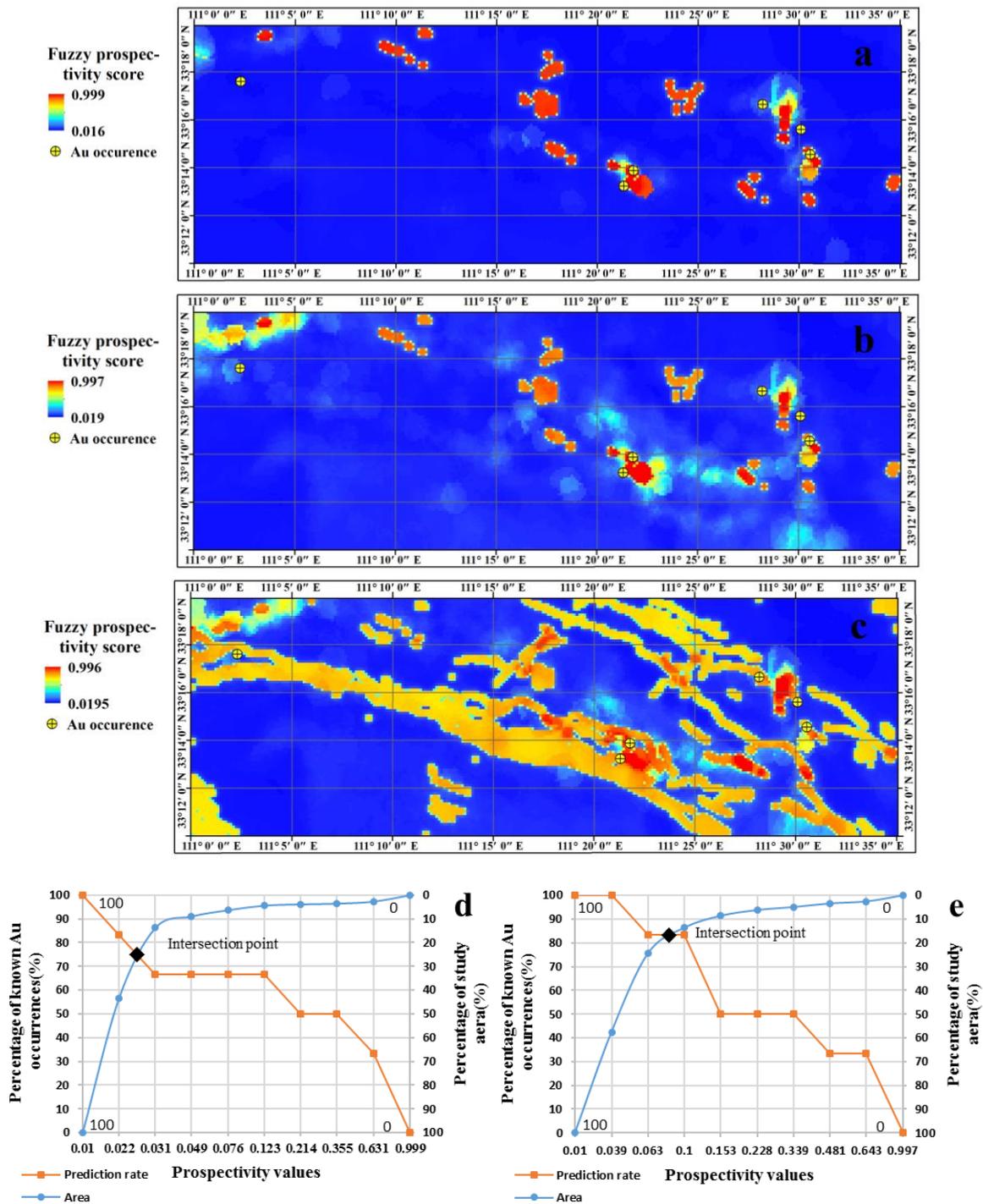
223 As can be seen from Table 3, the prediction capability of each fuzzy evidence layers was quite
 224 different. The best one is the heat source, with a value of 81, significantly exceeds other layers. In order
 225 to better find out the relationship between each fuzzy evidence layer and mineralization, we conducted
 226 fuzzy overlay with a γ value of 0.95 (Bonham-Carter, 1995) to integrate these layers.

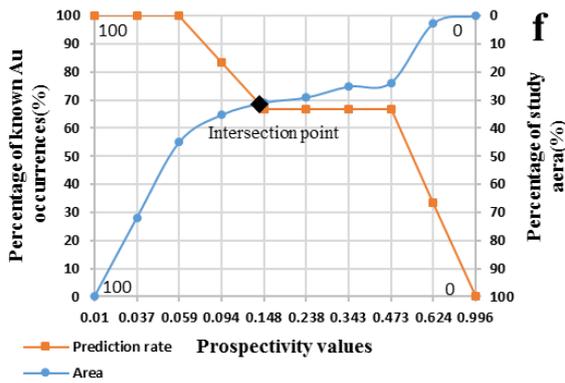
227 **Table 3**

228 Prediction ability of each evidence layers.

Evidential layer	% of known Au occurrences	% of study area
Fig.3a (structure)	61	39
Fig.3b (heat source)	81	19
Fig.3c (Cu-Zn-Mo-Cr)	65	35
Fig.3d (Au-As-Pb)	67	33

229 The fuzzy evidence layers with prediction ability greater than or equal to 81, 67, 65 and 61 are
 230 integrated separately to obtain 3 overlay maps (Fig.5), which were then estimated by P-A plot and their
 231 evaluation results are shown in Table 4.





232 **Fig.5.** Perspectivity score of (a) integrated by Fig.3b and 3d, (b) integrated by Fig.3b, 3d and 3c, and (c)
 233 integrated by Fig.3b, 3d, 3c and 3a as well as P-A plot of Fig.5a, 5b and 5c.

234 Though there are many similarities between the Fig.5a and 5b, the latter has slightly stronger
 235 predictive value Fig.5d, 5e and Table 4). However, we also noticed that the corresponding forecasting
 236 capacity from Fig. 5d to 5f possessed a trend of increasing first and then declining. Among them, Fig.5e
 237 reached a maximum with a prediction rate of 84%, at this point, the evidence layers for integration were
 238 Fig.3b, 3c and 3d with prediction rate of 81%, 65% and 67%, respectively. This phenomenon is weird,
 239 because several layers with lower prediction ability have a better result when integrated. In spite of this,
 240 it is in line with previous study (Yousefi, 2015). What is interesting is that the prediction rate of Fig.5c
 241 dropped significantly when fault is added for integrating. This may be caused by the multi-phase
 242 superposition of tectonic movements in this area, leading to the development of a large number of faults,
 243 while there is no magmatic hydrothermal activity in some faults.

244 **Table 4**

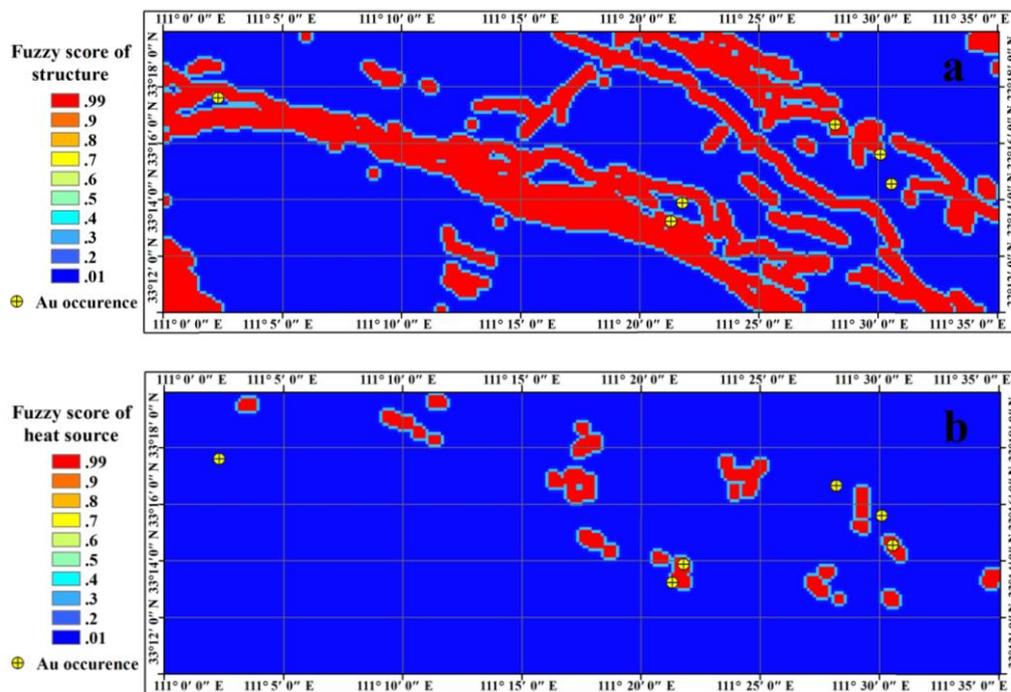
245 Prediction ability of each integrated layers.

Fuzzy prospectivity map	% of known Au occurrences	% of study area
Fig.5a	75	25
Fig.5b	83	17

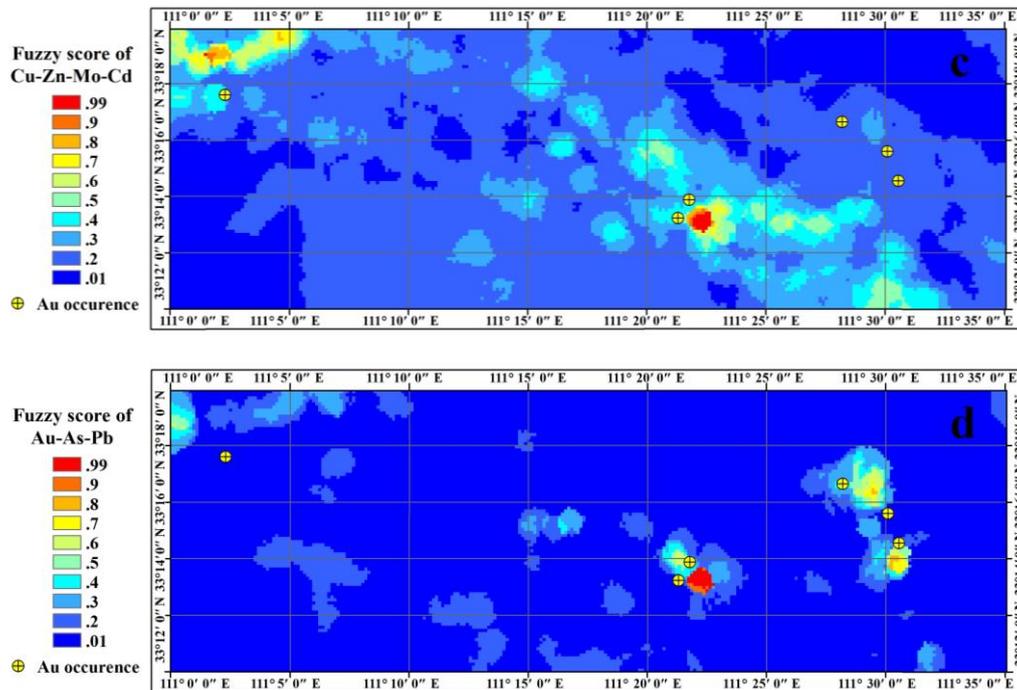
246 In summary, it is manifest that the heat sources, Cu-Zn-Mo-Cd factor and Au-As-Pb factor are the
 247 most important factors in the mineralization process. Consequently, the corresponding Fig.5b could be
 248 used as the ideal prospectivity map in the study area.

249 *4.5 Fuzzy prospectivity score obtained in knowledge-driven way*

250 Carranza (2008) suggested that two or more methods should be conducted in MPM to get a proper
 251 metallogenic target area. Thus, in order to further demonstrate the superiority of logistic functions, we
 252 employed the knowledge-driven method to divide the evidence layers on the four evidence layers of
 253 Fig.2 into 10 classes at specific intervals, and assigned a mineralization favorability weight to each class
 254 in a linear way based on expert judgment for comparison purpose (Fig. 6).

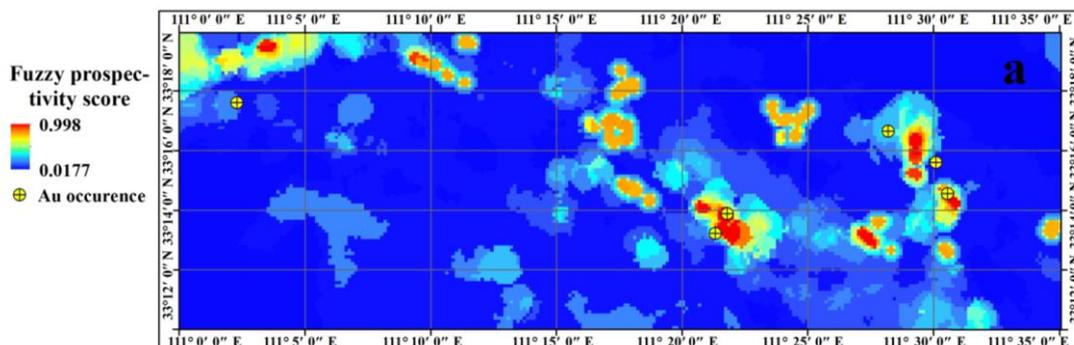


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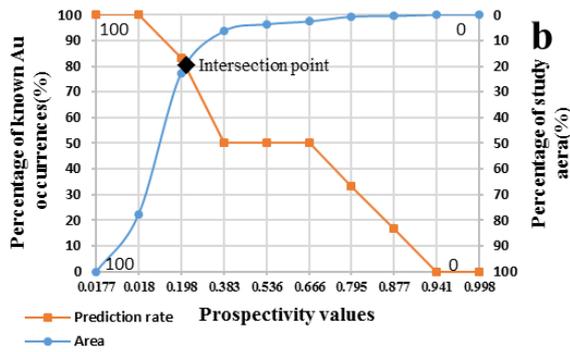


256 **Fig.6.** Fuzzy score obtained by knowledge-driven way: (a) structure; (b)heat source; (c) Cu-Zn-Mo-Cr
 257 factor and (d) Au-As-Pb factor.

258 Subsequently, with fuzzy gamma($\gamma = 0.95$) operation was performed, the fuzzy prospectivity score
 259 and the matching P-A plot were obtained (Fig.7a, 7b). According to Fig. 7b, the intersection value is 77,
 260 obviously lower than that of Fig.5b (83). The above results indicate that that the weighting of the evidence
 261 layer by using the logistic function not only avoids subjective judgment but also has a higher prediction
 262 rate compared with the traditional discrete linear method. This is consistent with the findings of Yousefi
 263 and Carranza (2015a).



264



265 **Fig.7.** (a) Fuzzy prospectivity score integrated by Fig 6b, 6c and 6d; (b) P-A plot of Fig. 7a.

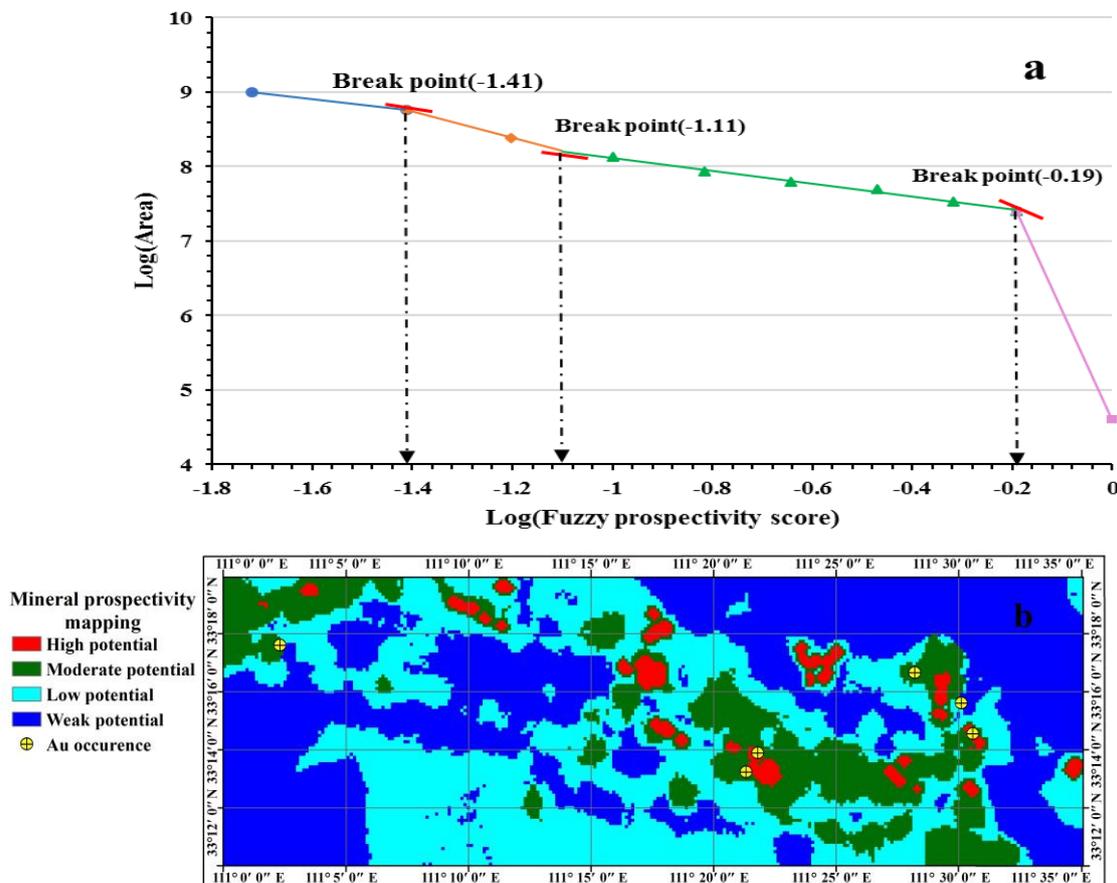
266 *4.6 To determine the thresholds*

267 As Mandelbrot, B.B.(1962,1983,1985) and Carlson(1991) mentioned, in many cases, ore deposits are
 268 characterized by aggregation and fractal distribution. Therefore, in order to figure out the high, moderate,
 269 low and weak areas of the mineralization more accurately, we conducted the C-A method to defuzzify
 270 Fig. 5b so as to obtain a prospectivity map. This method was proposed by Cheng (1994) and has been
 271 used and approved by a number of geologists (Cheng et al., 1994, 1996; Cheng and Agterberg, 1995;
 272 Xiang et al., Wei and Pengda, 2002; Weiberg et al., 2004; Hodkiewicz et al., 2005; Ford and Blenkinsop,
 273 2008; Raines, 2008; Satyabrata Behera,2019; Chen, 2019). It applies the logarithm of the concentration
 274 and the logarithm of the corresponding area greater or equal to concentration as the X-axis and Y-axis
 275 separately, which can reflect the fractal characteristics inherent in the prediction map. According to this
 276 method, in the log-log graph, the consistent slope represents a fractal dimension, and the concentration
 277 value corresponding to the fractal point could be used as the threshold for differentiating the favorable,
 278 unfavorable and intermediate areas of mineralization (Yousefi and Nykänen, 2016).

279 In this paper, the logarithm of the fuzzy score and the logarithm of the cumulative area were taken
 280 as the X-axis and Y-axis, respectively (Fig. 8a). Three inflection points were obtained (-1.41, -1.11, -0.19)
 281 and the corresponding fuzzy prediction values (0.039, 0.078, 0.643) were acquired, which then were used

282 to divide the study area into four parts (Fig.8b). The result, high potential area accounts for 2.5% of the
 283 study area with 2 known Au occurrences contained, moderate potential area accounts for 16.1% of the
 284 study area with 3, low potential area accounts for 38.4% of the study area with 1 and low potential area
 285 accounts for 43% of the study area with none, would be an ideal metallogenic prediction map.

286 Although there was a known Au occurrence located in the low potential area, we noticed it was so
 287 close to the moderate potential area. This may be attribute to the substitution of point position for area
 288 projection. This Au occurrence was, actually, an alteration zone about 0.76km in length with a trend near
 289 east-west, while projected only its center on the horizontal. Therefore, it can be seen from the
 290 prospectivity map that the gold occurrence is away from the favorable metallogenic area less than 2 cells
 291 (400). In reality, the gold occurrence was partially contained by the moderate areas.



292 **Fig.8.** (a) Concentration-Area (C-A) model and (b) prospectivity map generated by Fig.5b.

293 **5. Discussion**

294 Different evidence layers cannot be directly compared and integrated when used for mineral
295 prospectivity mapping because of their different dimensions. Data-driven based logistic function, which
296 is able to transform the evidence values of different magnitude into fuzzy values with the range of 0-1 so
297 as to represent their relative importance of mineralization, could be a suitable means. There is an
298 assumption in this process that the largest and smallest evidence values are set a fuzzy score close to 1
299 (0.99) and close to 0 (0.01), respectively. This assumption is based on practical experience, in which
300 experts assign weight to evidence values in fuzzy prospective predictions (Yousefi and Nykänen, 2016).
301 Obtaining s and i by solving equations, as a data-driven method, is able to factually reflect the relative
302 importance of evidence values.

303 In this paper, a total of 4 fuzzy layers of geology and geochemistry were evaluated by P-A plot. The
304 results demonstrate that the heat source possess the highest prediction rate, which is consistent with the
305 strong control of orogenic gold deposits by geological hydrothermal. The prediction rate of faults also
306 reaches 61%, which has obvious positive correlation of mineralization. At the same time, both the two
307 multi-element geochemistry I evidence layers have a prediction rates greater than 65%, which is in line
308 with the SFA analysis.

309 When overlying, a fuzzy gamma operation is used with a recommended value of 0.95 (Bonham-
310 Carter, 1995). The results revealed that the heat source, Au-As-Pb factor and Cu-Zn-Mo-Cd factor had a
311 relatively high prediction rate, which was then integrated to get a prospectivity map with a maximum
312 prediction rate of 83%. This is higher than each of the evidence layers or integrating all of them. However,
313 the prediction ability from Fig.5a to 5c has a tendency of going up first and declining latter. We wonder
314 whether there would be a specific prediction rate, elevates the final prediction ability with evidence layer

315 integrated over it and vice versa.

316 **6. Conclusions**

317 (1)The data-driven based logistic function has an excellent ability of converting evidence values
318 of different scales into fuzzy scores with a range of 0-1, and the relative importance of the obtained fuzzy
319 scores are approximately in line with the original evidence values. Meanwhile, Due to the fact of reducing
320 the influence of subjective preferences, data-driven based logistic function has a better prediction effect
321 than that of traditional knowledge-driven method.

322 (2) In this paper, the data-driven logistic function and the P-A evaluation were jointly applied to
323 mineralization prediction .The result, heat source P-A plot has the highest predictive ability (81%),
324 indicating the strong correlation between mineralization and the intermediate-acid intrusive rock (vein),
325 which is in line with the general characteristics of orogenic gold deposits.

326 (3) The mineralization prediction map was generated for the study area. The metallogenic target
327 spread roughly along the northwest – southeast (consistent with the regional tectonic), which shows the
328 high correlation between gold mineralization and tectonic activities, and provides guidance for further
329 large-scale exploration .

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