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2 **Late Neoproterozoic crust-mantle geodynamics: Evidence**
3 **from Pingquan Complex of the Northern Hebei**
4 **Province, North China Craton**

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25 **Abstract** A late Neoproterozoic intra-oceanic arc along the northwestern margin of Eastern Block
26 (EB), North China Craton, provides important insights into the nature of Archean mantle
27 sources and crust-mantle geodynamics. The Pingquan Complex and the entire Northern
28 Hebei Province (NHB) are located in the middle part of the arc, and overlap the northern extent
29 of the Trans-North China Orogen. Zircon U-Pb isotopic age data reveal that the Pingquan
30 Complex consists of ~2537-2515 Ma dioritic gneisses, ~2506-2503 Ma amphibolites, and
31 ~2491 Ma quartz monzodioritic to monzogranitic gneisses, and they show dominantly positive
32 zircon $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}(t)$ (-0.6 to +5.4) that are lower than coeval model depleted mantle values.

33 Geochemical data for the Pingquan rocks and synchronous metabasalts and granitoid
34 gneisses of Huai'an-Xuanhua and Dantazi complexes in the NHB are integrated. Except for
35 the monzogranitic gneisses that were derived from partial melting of juvenile metagreywackes,
36 the other rocks of the Pingquan Complex were derived from a metasomatized lithospheric
37 mantle, and subjected to variable fractionation of clinopyroxene, hornblende and plagioclase,
38 without significant crustal contamination. Moderately depleted zircon $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}(t)$, and high Sm/Hf
39 and Nb/Ta (mostly of 1.34-3.96 and 15.50-32.58) suggest that the lithospheric mantle was
40 enriched by subducted pelagic sediments metamorphosed to rutile-bearing eclogites before
41 melting.

42 Late Neoproterozoic crust-mantle geodynamic processes in the NHB are reconstructed.
43 Intra-oceanic subduction initiated offshore of the northwestern margin of the EB at ~2.55 Ga or
44 earlier. Partial melting of slab basalts occurred at ~2542-2499 Ma, with the melts contaminated
45 by mantle wedge materials forming TTGs. Meanwhile, the sub-arc lithospheric mantle was
46 enriched by fluids and melts released from slab basalts and pelagic sediments, and partial

47 melting of this moderately depleted mantle generated ~2537-2503 Ma diorites and basalts.
48 Following final accretion of the arc onto the continental margin of the EB, the slab
49 rollback/breakoff and asthenospheric mantle upwelling triggered partial melting of the
50 metasomatized lithospheric mantle and crustal anatexis, generating ~2491 Ma quartz
51 monzodioritic and monzogranitic rocks.

52 Accordingly, the NHB records Neoproterozoic crustal growth linked to oceanic subduction
53 and arc-continent accretion, and highlights the importance of resolving the nature of mantle
54 sources and crust-mantle interactions in understanding Archean crustal growth and evolution.

55
56 **Keywords:** Late Neoproterozoic crustal growth; sediment recycling and crust-mantle interaction;
57 arc-continent accretion; Pingquan Complex of Northern Hebei Province; North China Craton

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69 **1. Introduction**

70 For the Archean period, there are still many uncertainties in crustal growth and evolution
71 due to enigmatic nature and evolution of the depleted mantle, which directly influence the
72 crustal growth and reworking history established from Lu-Hf or Sm-Nd depleted mantle model
73 ages (Rollinson, 2010; Dhuime et al., 2011; Griffin et al., 2014; Payne et al., 2016; Vervoort
74 and Kemp, 2016). Short-lived ^{146}Sm - ^{142}Nd and zircon Lu-Hf isotopes revealed chondritic or
75 depleted Hadean mantle, leading to contrasting models of early crust-mantle differentiation
76 (O'Neil et al., 2008, 2016; Caro and Bourdon, 2010; Kemp et al., 2010; Zeh et al., 2014; Hiess
77 and Bennett, 2016). Eoarchean (ultra-)depleted mantle domains have been identified, but may
78 have been more extensive because they were gradually eliminated by mantle overturns or
79 crustal recycling (Hoffmann et al., 2010; Dhuime et al., 2012, 2015; Khanna et al., 2014; Wang
80 et al., 2015a). Crustal recycling at destructive plate margins could have been a common
81 feature since the onset of plate tectonics possibly at ~ 3.2 - 3.0 Ga (Dhuime et al., 2012, 2015).
82 Due to the contribution of subducted sediments, new crust produced at island arcs show $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}(t)$
83 values lower than the coeval depleted mantle values, and the calculated depleted mantle
84 model ages from the island arc rocks are apparently older than the actual timing of crustal
85 growth (Dhuime et al., 2011). In the case of a post-collisional setting, despite enriched zircon
86 $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}(t)$ values and older depleted mantle model ages of the mafic rocks and their derivatives,
87 crust-mantle interaction studies reveal that they record significant crustal growth (Couzinié et
88 al., 2016). Accordingly, the nature and evolution of regional mantle sources and crust-mantle
89 interactions are critical for unraveling Archean crustal growth and evolution as well as
90 geodynamics.

91 The North China Craton (NCC) displays a complex early Precambrian evolutionary
92 history (Fig. 1A; Zhao et al., 1998, 2005, 2012; Guo et al., 2002, 2012; Liu et al., 2008; Wan et
93 al., 2010, 2013, 2014; Zhai and Santosh, 2011, 2013). Controversies yet to be resolved are
94 whether the major ~2.6-2.5 Ga tectonothermal events record crustal growth or reworking, and
95 the nature of the associated geodynamic regime (Zhao et al., 1998, 2005; Geng et al., 2010;
96 Liu et al., 2011a, 2013; Nutman et al., 2011; Wang and Liu, 2012; Wang et al., 2015b, 2016).

97 In this contribution, we provide zircon U-Pb and Lu-Hf isotopes, and whole-rock
98 geochemical data for a suite of Neoproterozoic amphibolites, dioritic gneisses, and
99 potassium-rich granitoid gneisses from the Pingquan Complex, Northern Hebei Province,
100 along the northern margin of the NCC (Fig. 1B). Combined with crust-mantle interactions
101 deduced from the ~2.6-2.5 Ga intra-oceanic arc system along northwestern margin of Eastern
102 Block (Fig. 1B; Wang et al., 2015b), we propose that sediment recycling has contributed to
103 mantle heterogeneity beneath this ancient arc system, and this has significant implications for
104 reconstructing the Archean crustal growth and evolution of the North China Craton.

105

106 **2. Geological background**

107 The North China Craton is divided into Eastern Block (EB) and Western Block (WB)
108 which were juxtaposed along the Trans-North China Orogen (TNCO) at ~1.85 Ga (Fig. 1A;
109 Zhao et al., 1998, 2005, 2012; Guo et al., 2002, 2005; Liu et al., 2002, 2006, 2012a). The
110 Western Block was divided into the Yinshan Block and the Ordos Block that were consolidated
111 via the Khondalite Belt (or “Inner Mongolia Suture Zone”) at ~1.92 Ga, and the Eastern Block
112 witnessed Paleoproterozoic rifting and subduction-collision events, forming the Jiao-Liao-Ji

113 Belt (Li and Zhao, 2007; Santosh et al., 2007; Guo et al., 2012; Liu et al., 2014).

114 The Eastern Block is the major archive of Archean basement terranes in the NCC (Fig.
115 1B). Based on ~2.7 Ga komatiites in Western Shandong, anti-clockwise metamorphic P-T-t
116 paths of mafic granulites, and pervasive ~2.55-2.50 Ga granitoid gneisses, some researchers
117 have proposed formation of the block in a mantle plume setting (Zhao et al., 1998, 2005; Geng
118 et al., 2010; Wu et al., 2016a). Compilations of whole-rock Sm-Nd or zircon Lu-Hf isotopic
119 model ages reveal ~2.7 Ga crustal growth along with crustal reworking at ~2.5 Ga (Wu et al.,
120 2005; Geng et al., 2012; Wang and Liu, 2012). Alternatively, a Neoproterozoic subduction-related
121 arc setting was advocated for the northern margin of the EB as well as for some of the
122 Neoproterozoic complexes that have been involved in the Paleoproterozoic TNCO (Liu et al.,
123 2002, 2004, 2011a; Diwu et al., 2011; Kusky, 2011; Nutman et al., 2011; Wang et al., 2011,
124 2012a, 2013, 2015b, 2016; Guo et al., 2013, 2015a,b; Bai et al., 2014a, 2016; Deng et al.,
125 2016). In particular, a ~2.6-2.5 Ga intra-oceanic arc was proposed to have formed along
126 northwestern EB, marking a pulse of intense crustal growth within the craton (Wang et al.,
127 2015b).

128 As proposed by Wang et al. (2015b), the Northern Hebei province (NHB) is located in the
129 middle segment of the newly established Neoproterozoic intra-oceanic arc, which also overlaps
130 the northern extent of the late Paleoproterozoic TNCO (Fig. 1; Zhao et al., 2005). From
131 southwest to northeast, the Neoproterozoic basement of NHB comprises the Huai'an-Xuanhua,
132 the Dantazi, and the Pingquan complexes. The Huai'an-Xuanhua Complex consists of dioritic
133 and tonalite-trondhjemite-granodiorite (TTG) gneisses, with smaller volumes of supracrustal
134 rocks (Guo et al., 2002, 2005; Zhao et al., 2008, 2010; Liu et al., 2012b). Magmatic precursors

135 of the granitoid gneisses were emplaced at ~2.55-2.50 Ga, and they were subsequently
136 intruded by potassic granites at ~2.49 Ga, ~2.44 Ga, and ~2.0 Ga (Zhang et al., 2011; Liu et al.,
137 2012b). All these lithologies were overprinted by ~1.85 Ga granulite facies metamorphism,
138 forming high-pressure mafic granulites and charnockitic to S-type granites (Guo et al., 2002,
139 2005, 2015c; Zhao et al., 2008, 2010; Wu et al., 2016b). The Neoproterozoic Chengde Complex
140 has been commonly known as the “Dantazi Complex”, and is separated from the
141 Paleoproterozoic Hongqiyingzi Complex in the north by the Chongli-Damiao Fault (Fig. 1B; Liu
142 et al., 2007a,b, 2011b). The Dantazi Complex is composed chiefly of ~2517-2473 Ma TTG and
143 monzogranitic gneisses with minor ~2600-2530 Ma supracrustal rocks, which were subjected
144 to granulite facies metamorphism at ~2427-2404 Ma and ~1834-1793 Ma, respectively (Liu et
145 al., 2007a, 2011b; Zhang et al., 2016). Some low grade ~2502-2490 Ma basalts, andesites,
146 and dacites have also been identified in the Dantazi Complex (Ge et al., 2015).

147 The Pingquan Complex is located at the eastern part of the NHB, connecting the TNCO
148 and EB (Zhao et al., 2005). Early 1:200,000 scale geological mapping (Hebei Regional
149 Geological Survey Team) divided the early Precambrian basement rocks into the lower Qianxi
150 Group and the upper Dantazi Group, which were considered to be separated by an angular
151 unconformity. The Qianxi Group consists of amphibolites, hornblende plagioclase leptytites,
152 and biotite hornblende plagioclase gneisses, intercalated with minor marbles in the base and
153 some garnet two pyroxene plagioclase granulites and banded iron formations (BIFs) towards
154 the inferred top of succession. The Dantazi Group is composed of biotite leptytites and
155 hornblende plagioclase gneisses. However, later studies indicated that the “unconformity” is a
156 tectonic feature, invalidating the previous proposed stratigraphy (Tan et al., 1991).

157 Granulite-facies metamorphic rocks occur locally in the Wudaohu area and record a peak
158 metamorphic P-T condition of 707-790 °C and 8.56 kbar. They are marked by a gneissic dome
159 structure. Metamorphosed domains of amphibolite facies in the Pingquan Complex are
160 characterized by a series of fold belts with NW-dipping axial planes, which are punctuated by
161 Mesozoic granitoid plutons or volcano-sedimentary sequences. Peak metamorphic P-T
162 condition of 670 °C and 7 kbar was documented by Tan et al. (1991). Based on our field
163 investigation, granitoid gneisses are the main lithologies in the Pingquan Complex, and
164 supracrustal metavolcanic rocks are mainly distributed in the Chagou and Qigou areas (Fig. 2).
165 In the Chagou area, voluminous amphibolites alternate with BIFs (Fig. 3A). Dioritic gneisses
166 show intense gneissosity, and are widely intruded by gneissic monzogranitic bodies (Fig.
167 3B-C). Due to regional deformation, these monzogranitic bodies are parallel with the
168 gneissosity of dioritic gneisses (Fig. 3C). Geological relationships between supracrustal
169 amphibolites and (quartz) dioritic gneisses were obliterated by intense mylonitization. Quartz
170 monzodioritic and monzogranitic gneisses are widely developed in the Pingquan area, and
171 locally intrude the dioritic gneisses (Fig. 3D-F). They represent the latest Archean
172 tectonothermal events, and contain enclaves of dioritic gneisses and amphibolites (Fig. 3E).
173 Basement rocks of NHB are variably affected by late Paleoproterozoic to
174 Mesoproterozoic extension-related magmatism, Paleozoic orogenesis, which is focused in the
175 Central Asian Orogenic Belt to the north, and Mesozoic magmatism caused by lithospheric
176 thinning in the Eastern China. These tectonothermal events led to the formation of Proterozoic
177 mafic dykes, gabbro-anorthosite suites, and alkaline granitoids, Meso- to Neoproterozoic
178 sedimentary cover sequences, as well as Phanerozoic (volcano-)sedimentary sequences and

179 granitoid plutons (Peng et al., 2008; Zhao et al., 2012; Xu et al., 2013; Wang et al., 2015c).

180

181 3. Sampling and petrology

182 Twenty-two representative samples were collected from Pingquan Complex: nine
183 amphibolites, four dioritic gneisses, five quartz monzodioritic gneisses, and four monzogranitic
184 gneisses (Supplementary Table 1). Amphibolites consist chiefly of hornblende (45-55%) and
185 plagioclase (45-50%), with accessory epidote, magnetite, zircon, and apatite (Fig. 4A-B). They
186 display medium- to fine-grained textures and gneissic structures, and the mylonitized
187 amphibolites show banded structures defined by separate hornblende and plagioclase
188 domains (Fig. 4C). Most dioritic gneisses display fine-grained porphyroblastic textures and
189 intense gneissic structures, with fine granulation and dynamic recrystallization (Fig. 4D-E). The
190 major minerals are clinopyroxene (18-25%), orthopyroxene (12-15%), plagioclase (52-55%),
191 hornblende (5-8%), and minor quartz, with accessory zircon, magnetite, and apatite. The close
192 paragenesis of orthopyroxene and clinopyroxene suggests local granulite-facies metamorphic
193 grade (Fig. 4E). Some samples were subjected to retrograde metamorphism, and hornblende
194 and chlorite serve as the major mafic minerals. The quartz dioritic gneiss sample 13PQ18-1
195 shows coarse-grained texture and gneissic structure, and consists of plagioclase (~65%),
196 quartz (~12%), hornblende (~12%), biotite (~5%), minor orthopyroxene, and accessory
197 epidote, zoisite, apatite, zircon, and magnetite (Fig. 4F). The medium- to fine-grained quartz
198 monzodioritic gneisses are composed mainly of plagioclase (50-55%), biotite (12-15%),
199 K-feldspar (8-12%), hornblende (5-10%), and quartz (10-15%) (Fig. 4G). The monzogranitic
200 gneisses have medium- to coarse-grained textures and gneissic structures (Fig. 4H).

201 Plagioclase (35-45%), K-feldspar (25-30%, perthite and microcline), and quartz (25-30%) are
202 the major minerals, with minor biotite and hornblende. Zircon, apatite, magnetite are common
203 accessory minerals in the quartz monzodioritic and monzogranitic gneisses. Variable
204 sericitization and chloritization of feldspar and hornblende are observed especially in some
205 amphibolite and quartz monzodioritic gneiss samples (Fig. 4A and G).

206

207 4. Analytical methods

208 Whole-rock samples were trimmed to remove the weathered surfaces, and the fresh
209 portions were chipped and powdered in an agate mill to about 200 mesh for major and trace
210 element analysis. Sample powders were blended with lithium metaborate, and fused at
211 1100 °C in a Pt-Au crucible for 20-40 minutes. The melts were then cooled with resultant disks
212 prepared for analysis. Loss on ignition (LOI) values were determined by measuring the weight
213 loss after heating the samples at 1050 °C for 30 minutes. Major elements were analyzed using
214 X-ray Fluorescence (XRF, Thermo Arl Advant XP+) at the Key Laboratory of Orogenic Belts
215 and Crustal Evolution, Ministry of Education, Peking University, and were calibrated against
216 standards GSR-15 (amphibolite), GSR-9 (diorite), and GSR-14 (granitoid gneiss). The
217 analytical precision is $\leq 0.5\%$ for major element oxides (Wang et al., 2012b; Bai et al., 2014a).

218 Sample powders for trace element analyses were pre-treated at Peking University. 25
219 mg of the powders were placed into Savillex teflon beakers, and then within a high-pressure
220 bomb with a 1:1 mixture of HF-HNO₃. They were heated for 24 hours at 80°C, and then
221 evaporated. After evaporation, 1.5 ml HNO₃, 1.5 ml HF and 0.5 ml HClO₄ were added, and the
222 beakers were capped for digestion within a high-temperature oven at 180 °C for 48 hours or

223 longer until the powders were completely digested. Finally, the residue was diluted with 1%
224 HNO₃ to 50 ml. Trace elements, including rare earth elements (REEs), were measured using
225 an ELEMENT-I plasma mass spectrometer (Finnigan-MAT Ltd.) at the Key Laboratory of
226 Orogenic Belts and Crustal Evolution. Standards GSR-15, GSR-9, and GSR-14 were used for
227 analytical control, and the measurement precision of trace elements was better than 5%.

228 Zircon grains were separated by standard density and magnetic techniques, and
229 handpicked under a binocular microscope. These zircon grains were mounted in epoxy resin
230 discs, and polished to half the grain thickness. Prior to analyses, cathodoluminescence images
231 were obtained using a scanning electron microscope at the SEM Laboratory of Peking
232 University. Then, they were analyzed for in-situ zircon U-Pb isotopes and trace elements using
233 a laser ablation inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometer (LA-ICP-MS) at the Geological
234 Lab Center, China University of Geosciences, Beijing (Yuan et al., 2004). During analyses, the
235 laser spot diameter and frequency were 36 μm and 10 Hz, respectively. Harvard zircon 91500
236 was used as an external standard for zircon U-Th-Pb analyses, and NIST610 as an external
237 standard to calculate the contents of U, Th, Pb, and other trace elements in the analyzed
238 zircon grains. The ²⁰⁷Pb/²⁰⁶Pb and ²⁰⁶Pb/²³⁸U ratios were calculated using GLITTER program
239 (van Achterbergh et al., 2001), and common Pb was corrected using the method of Anderson
240 (2002). Age calculations and concordia plots were done using Isoplot (ver. 3.0) (Ludwig, 2003).
241 Notably, it is common to have mixed analyses (i.e., down-hole variations) during LA-ICPMS
242 U-Pb isotopic analyses because of intense laser ablation of the zircon grains. Nonetheless,
243 these effects are insignificant for the chronological data in this study because of the following
244 reasons. Firstly, the isotopic signals from the analyzed zircon spots show no apparent changes

245 of the isotopic ratios for the 35-40 seconds' multiple analyses of any single zircon spot.
246 Secondly, if heterogeneous domains of a zircon grain (e.g., magmatic core and metamorphic
247 rim) were sampled, the dating results will show extremely large errors, possibly > 30 Ma
248 (Condie et al., 2009). As shown by the data in the Supplementary Table 2, the majority of the
249 analytical data have age errors of ≤ 30 Ma. Therefore, these chronological data can be used
250 with confidence to constrain the sequences of geological events in the study region.

251 In-situ zircon Lu-Hf isotopic analyses were performed on the similar internal domains or
252 close to the original pit used for U-Pb isotopic analyses, using a Neptune Plus MC-ICP-MS
253 (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Germany) attached to a Geolas 2005 excimer ArF laser ablation
254 system (Lambda Physik, Göttingen, Germany) at the state Key Laboratory of Geological
255 Processes and Mineral Resources, China University of Geosciences in Wuhan (Hu et al.,
256 2012). Beam diameter of 44 μm and repetition rate of 6 Hz were applied, and zircon 91500 and
257 GJ-1 were used as the external standard and the unknown, respectively. During analyses,
258 every eighth analysis of an unknown was followed by analyses of 91500 and GJ-1. The
259 interference of ^{176}Yb and ^{176}Lu on ^{176}Hf could significantly affect the accuracy of $^{176}\text{Hf}/^{177}\text{Hf}$
260 ratios. $^{179}\text{Hf}/^{177}\text{Hf}$ and $^{173}\text{Yb}/^{171}\text{Yb}$ ratios were used to calculate the mass bias of Hf (β_{Hf}) and Yb
261 (β_{Yb}), which were normalized to $^{179}\text{Hf}/^{177}\text{Hf}=0.7325$ and $^{173}\text{Yb}/^{171}\text{Yb}=1.13017$ (Segal et al.,
262 2003) using an exponential correction for mass bias. Interference of ^{176}Yb on ^{176}Hf was
263 corrected by measuring the interference-free ^{173}Yb isotope and using $^{176}\text{Yb}/^{173}\text{Yb}=0.79381$
264 (Segal et al., 2003) to calculate $^{176}\text{Yb}/^{177}\text{Hf}$. The relatively minor interference of ^{176}Lu on ^{176}Hf
265 was corrected by measuring the intensity of the interference-free ^{175}Lu isotope and using the
266 recommended $^{176}\text{Lu}/^{175}\text{Lu}=0.02656$ (Blichert-Toft and Albarède, 1997) to calculate $^{176}\text{Lu}/^{177}\text{Hf}$.

267 We used the mass bias of Yb (β_{yb}) to calculate the mass fractionation of Lu because of their
268 similar physicochemical properties. The determined $^{176}\text{Hf}/^{177}\text{Hf}$ ratios for standards 91500
269 (0.282290 ± 0.000022) and GJ-1 (0.282011 ± 0.000021) are within error of the reported values
270 (Wu et al., 2006; Hu et al., 2012).

271

272 5. Results

273 5.1. Zircon U-Pb and Lu-Hf isotopes

274 Five representative samples, including two amphibolites (13PQ07-3 and 13PQ13-4), two
275 dioritic gneisses (13PQ14-3 and 13PQ16-4), and one quartz monzodioritic gneiss (13PQ11-8),
276 were analyzed for zircon U-Pb isotopes, with four of them (except for 13PQ07-3) analyzed for
277 Lu-Hf isotopes (Supplementary tables 2-3). Rare earth element (REE) data of zircon grains for
278 samples 13PQ07-3 and 13PQ13-4 are also analyzed and listed in Supplementary Table 4.

279

280 5.1.1. Zircon U-Pb isotopic dating data

281 **5.1.1.1. Amphibolites:** Sample 13PQ07-3 was collected in the Chagou area (N 41°06'24'', E

282 118°16'11'', Fig. 2). Zircon grains from this sample are small with lengths and length/width

283 ratios of 80-120 μm and 1:1-2:1. CL images reveal mostly core-rim structures, with the banded

284 or blurred oscillatory zoned or structureless cores enveloped by bright to dullish rims (Fig. 5A).

285 Twenty-nine analyses were conducted on twenty-nine zircon grains, and except for spot #04,

286 most plot on or close to the concordia with apparent $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ages of 2517 ± 25 to $1835 \pm$

287 30 Ma (Fig. 5B). They have Th and U contents ranging of 1-491 and 22-1570 ppm, yielding

288 variable Th/U ratios of 0.03-1.83. On the chondrite-normalized REE plot (Supplementary Fig.

289 1A), most dated zircon grains show parallel and magmatic zircon-like REE patterns, i.e.,
290 positive Ce and negative Eu anomalies as well as steep HREE, suggesting their original
291 crystallization from magmatic system (Supplementary Table 4; Rubatto, 2002). Some zircon
292 grains show either higher light rare earth elements (LREEs) or lower total REE contents,
293 possibly resulting from local element mobilization of the magmatic zircons (Whitehouse and
294 Kamber, 2003). Four analyses on banded or blurred oscillatory zoned cores (#10, #11, #15,
295 and #20) show the oldest apparent ages of 2517 ± 25 to 2496 ± 24 Ma with high Th/U ratios of
296 0.37-0.97. They yield a concordia age of 2503 ± 6 Ma (MSWD = 0.06) and a weighted mean
297 age of 2501 ± 24 Ma (MSWD = 0.20), which are within error of each other. Their
298 needle-shaped morphology, banded or oscillatory zoned internal structure, and high Th/U
299 ratios (Fig. 5A), suggest that they are typical zircon grains crystallized from mafic magmas, but
300 unlikely to be xenocrystic in origin (commonly eroded with subrounded shapes, Corfu et al.,
301 2003). Therefore, the concordia age (2503 ± 6 Ma) calculated from this group of analyses (#10,
302 #11, #15, and #20) can be taken as the best estimate of the crystallization age of the basaltic
303 precursors. Notably, the host metabasaltic rock has moderate MgO (5.86 wt.%) and Mg#
304 (46.81, $100\text{Mg}/(\text{Mg}+\text{Fe}_{\text{total}})$ atomic ratio) (Supplementary Table 1), suggesting that the
305 magmatic zircon grains in this sample were crystallized from an evolved basaltic magma
306 system. Except for the above four analyses, the other analyses were performed on dark cores
307 or bright structureless domains with Th/U ratios ranging of 0.03-1.83, and they yield four
308 younger age clusters: (1) nine analyses with apparent ages of 2493 ± 25 to 2457 ± 24 Ma give
309 an upper intercept age of 2468 ± 9 Ma (MSWD = 1.5), with the eight concordant analyses
310 (except spot #04) yielding a weighted mean age of 2467 ± 17 Ma (MSWD = 0.25); (2) three

311 analyses with ages of 2423 ± 27 to 2380 ± 26 Ma give a weighted mean age of 2402 ± 30 Ma
312 (MSWD = 0.65); (3) eleven analyses with ages of 2176 ± 27 to 2065 ± 27 Ma; and (4) two
313 analyses of bright structureless domains yield the youngest ages of 1845 ± 29 and 1835 ± 30
314 Ma. These younger ages are inferred to reflect effects of multiple Paleoproterozoic
315 tectonothermal events (Liu et al., 2007a, 2011a; Wang et al., 2015b).

316 Zircon grains from sample 13PQ13-4 collected in the vicinity of Qigou (N $40^{\circ}58'40''$, E
317 $118^{\circ}20'59''$, Fig. 2) are small, with lengths and length/width ratios of 80-150 μm and 1:1-2:1,
318 respectively, and display mostly core-rim structures on the CL images (Fig. 5C). Some cores
319 show needle-like shapes and banded zoning (e.g., #3 and #10), whereas others are bright or
320 dark structureless, and all are surrounded by dullish structureless rims. Thirty analyses
321 conducted on thirty grains give apparent $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ages of 2609 ± 25 to 2361 ± 23 Ma, and
322 Th and U contents of 38-626 and 49-1505 ppm, respectively, with Th/U ratios of 0.27-1.28. On
323 the chondrite-normalized REE plot (Supplementary Fig. 1B), most dated spots show parallel
324 and magmatic zircon-like REE patterns, i.e., positive Ce and negative Eu anomalies as well as
325 steep HREE, suggesting their original crystallization from magmatic system (Supplementary
326 Table 4; Rubatto, 2002). Some zircon grains (e.g., #02 and #03) show higher contents of
327 LREE, possibly resulting from local element mobilization of the magmatic zircons (Whitehouse
328 and Kamber, 2003). Spot #29 is an analysis of a bright structureless core with a rounded
329 shape, and its age of 2609 ± 25 Ma is much older than the main age mode, and is considered
330 to be a xenocrystic grain (Fig. 5D). Six analyses on banded or blurred zoned cores show ages
331 of 2519 ± 24 to 2502 ± 23 Ma, yielding a concordia age of 2506 ± 5 Ma (MSWD = 0.31) and a
332 weighted mean age of 2508 ± 19 Ma (MSWD = 0.09). Considering their needle-shaped

333 morphology, magmatic-like internal structures, and high Th/U ratios (0.87-1.05), these six
334 grains likely have been crystallized from a basaltic magma system, but not xenocrystic in origin
335 (Corfu et al., 2003). Therefore, the age of 2506 ± 5 Ma is considered to be close to the
336 crystallization age of the magmatic precursor. Nineteen analyses on dark or bright
337 structureless cores with ages of mostly 2493 ± 24 to 2481 ± 23 Ma define a discordia, yielding
338 an upper intercept age of 2488 ± 9 Ma (MSWD = 0.15). Three analyses (#05, #25, and #28) on
339 bright structureless cores show ages of 2461 ± 24 to 2442 ± 23 Ma, with a weighted mean age
340 of 2452 ± 27 Ma (MSWD = 0.16). Spot #19 on a dark core gives the youngest age of 2361 ± 23
341 Ma. Ages younger than the crystallization age are taken to reflect regional Paleoproterozoic
342 tectonothermal events (Liu et al., 2011a; Wang et al., 2015b).

343

344 **5.1.1.2. Dioritic gneisses:** Sample 13PQ14-3 (N $41^{\circ}06'54''$, E $118^{\circ}21'34''$) was collected in
345 the Shidaohe area (Fig. 2). Zircon grains are larger than those from the amphibolites, being
346 200-250 μm in length with length/width ratios of 1:1-1.5:1 (Fig. 6A). Cathodoluminescence
347 images reveal variably eroded oscillatory zoned or dark structureless cores that are enveloped
348 by bright to dullish rims. Thirty analyses were conducted on thirty zircon grains, which all plot
349 on concordia with apparent $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ages of 2543 ± 15 to 2424 ± 13 Ma (Fig. 6B). Th and U
350 contents range from 24-239 and 59-653 ppm, respectively, yielding high Th/U ratios of
351 0.33-0.83. Twelve older analyses (2543 ± 15 Ma to 2501 ± 13 Ma) mainly on the oscillatory
352 zoned cores yield a concordia age of 2515 ± 4 Ma (MSWD < 0.01) and a weighted mean age
353 of 2516 ± 7 Ma (MSWD = 1.06), and the former age is taken as the crystallization age of the
354 dioritic magmatic precursor. Twelve analyses of dark structureless cores or rims show younger

355 apparent ages of 2497 ± 11 to 2470 ± 12 Ma, yielding a concordia age of 2485 ± 4 Ma (MSWD
356 = 0.01) and a weighted mean age of 2486 ± 7 Ma (MSWD = 0.78). Six analyses on
357 structureless cores or bright rims give the youngest apparent ages of 2455 ± 12 to 2424 ± 13
358 Ma. These younger ages are considered as the effects of Paleoproterozoic tectonothermal
359 events, which are not only recorded in the nearby Dantazi Complex, but also well documented
360 along the entire northwestern margin of the Eastern Block (Liu et al., 2007a,b, 2011a,b; Wang
361 et al., 2015b).

362 Zircon grains from sample 13PQ16-4 (Qigou area; N $41^{\circ}00'21''$, E $118^{\circ}25'37''$, Fig. 2)
363 have lengths of 150-200 μm and length/width ratios of 1:1-1.5:1. On CL images, most grains
364 show core-rim structures, with prismatic or eroded oscillatory zoned cores surrounded by
365 bright rims, with some cores almost completely consumed by recrystallization (Fig. 6C).
366 Twenty-five analyses were conducted on twenty-five zircon grains, and most plot on concordia
367 with apparent $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ages of 2561 ± 18 to 2298 ± 19 Ma, except for spot #12 falling below
368 the concordia possibly due to Pb loss (Fig. 6D). They have Th and U contents of 29-572 and
369 122-828 ppm, with Th/U ratios of 0.20-0.80. Twenty analyses on oscillatory zoned cores with
370 ages of 2561 ± 18 - 2501 ± 16 Ma yield a concordia age of 2537 ± 4 Ma (MSWD = 0.02) and a
371 weighted mean age of 2538 ± 7 Ma (MSWD = 0.56). Four analyses on bright structureless
372 rims (#3, #10, #14, and #18) give younger ages of 2497 ± 17 to 2298 ± 19 Ma, and a weighted
373 mean age of 2478 ± 18 Ma (MSWD = 0.87) is obtained from the first three spots. Based on the
374 zircon internal structures, the magmatic precursor is considered to have been emplaced at
375 2537 ± 4 Ma, and subjected to later ~ 2478 and ~ 2298 Ma metamorphism.

376

377 **5.1.1.3. Quartz monzodioritic gneiss:** Sample 13PQ11-8 is from Shidaohe area (N
378 41°07'05'', E 118°19'29'', Fig. 2). Zircon grains have oval to stubby shapes with lengths and
379 length/width ratios of 150-220 μm and 1:1-1.5:1. CL images reveal oscillatory zoned or bright
380 to dark structureless cores that are enveloped by thin dullish structureless rims (Fig. 7A).
381 Twenty-five analyses conducted on twenty-five zircon grains all plot on the concordia with
382 apparent $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ages of 2495 ± 11 to 2371 ± 15 Ma (Fig. 7B). Th and U contents vary of
383 12-169 and 19-273 ppm with Th/U ratios of 0.32-0.94. Four analyses of oscillatory zoned cores
384 show the oldest apparent ages of 2495 ± 11 to 2487 ± 11 Ma, yielding a concordia age of 2491
385 ± 6 Ma (MSWD < 0.01) and a weighted mean age of 2492 ± 12 Ma (MSWD = 0.10), within
386 error of each other. Thirteen analyses of bright or dark structureless cores give younger ages
387 of 2465 ± 11 to 2421 ± 13 Ma, yielding a weighted mean age of 2447 ± 6 Ma (MSWD = 0.95).
388 Other eight analyses of bright structureless domains show the youngest ages of 2414 ± 13 to
389 2371 ± 15 Ma, with a weighted mean age of 2395 ± 12 Ma (MSWD = 1.3). On the basis of
390 zircon internal structures, the magmatic precursor was emplaced at 2491 ± 6 Ma, and then
391 subjected to later ~ 2447 Ma and ~ 2395 Ma tectonothermal events that are prevalent in the
392 Northern Hebei Province as well as the northwestern margin of the Eastern Block (Liu et al.,
393 2007a,b, 2011a,b; Wang et al., 2015b).

394

395 **5.1.2. Zircon Lu-Hf isotopes**

396 Twenty dated zircon spots from each sample were analyzed for Lu-Hf isotopes
397 (Supplementary Table 3). Calculated at the apparent $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ages (t_1), most analyses for
398 each sample yield nearly consistent $^{176}\text{Hf}/^{177}\text{Hf}(t_1)$ ratios: 0.281221-0.281334 for sample

399 13PQ13-4, 0.281173-0.281292 for sample 13PQ14-3, 0.281146-0.281268 for sample
400 13PQ16-4, and 0.281207-0.281307 for sample 13PQ11-8 (Fig. 8A, C, E, and G). This implies
401 that except for the xenocrystic zircon grain (13PQ13-4-01), all other igneous grains from each
402 of the four samples crystallized from the same magmatic system but were subjected to
403 different degrees of subsequent Pb loss (Zeh et al., 2007). Furthermore, the age of 2506 Ma
404 calculated from the oldest age group of amphibolite sample 13PQ13-4 could represent the
405 best estimate for the crystallization age. Two younger analyses of sample 13PQ16-4 give
406 higher $^{176}\text{Hf}/^{177}\text{Hf}(t_1)$ values of 0.281324 and 0.281289 (#02 and #15). Their Lu-Hf isotopic
407 system may have been reset by later high-grade metamorphism, and are rejected from further
408 calculation. When calculated at the crystallization ages (t_2), these samples yield almost
409 positive $\epsilon\text{Hf}(t_2)$ values of +1.4 to +5.4 (13PQ13-4), -0.1 to +4.1 (13PQ14-3), -0.6 to +3.8
410 (13PQ16-4), and +0.5 to +4.1 (13PQ11-8) (Fig. 8B, D, F, and H). The xenocrystic spot
411 13PQ13-4-01 gives a positive value of +6.4. Notably, the highest $\epsilon\text{Hf}(t_2)$ values of each sample
412 are lower than that of depleted mantle but close to the “New Crust” evolution line calculated
413 from the juvenile crust generated in modern island arcs worldwide (Dhuime et al., 2011).

414

415 5.2. Whole-rock geochemistry

416 For comprehensive understanding of Archean crust-mantle interactions of the Northern
417 Hebei Province, the Pingquan samples are integrated with published data for metabasalts
418 from Dantazi Complex, and dioritic/TTG gneisses from both Dantazi and Huai’an-Xuanhua
419 complexes (Supplementary Table 1 and Figs. 9-10).

420 The Pingquan amphibolite samples and metabasaltic rock samples from Dantazi

421 Complex show SiO₂ contents of mostly 48.45-53.19 wt.% and MgO of 3.06-13.23 wt.%. In the
422 Zr/TiO₂*0.0001 vs. Nb/Y diagram, they all plot in the basaltic field and belong to calc-alkaline
423 rock series in the La-Yb binary diagram (Fig. 9A-B). Most of them have Fe₂O₃T and TiO₂ of
424 9.35-14.06 wt.% and 0.52-1.92 wt.%, whereas samples GB30 and GB33 exhibit lower SiO₂
425 (43.60-44.30 wt.%) but higher Fe₂O₃T and TiO₂ of 18.47-18.60 wt.% and 3.49-3.51 wt.%.
426 Parental magmas for these two samples may have experienced accumulation of Fe-Ti oxides,
427 which can explain their relatively lower silica contents (Ge et al., 2015). Their Mg# values
428 (100Mg/(Mg+Fe_{total}) atomic ratio) vary widely from 33.51 to 68.40. They have parallel and
429 moderately fractionated chondrite-normalized REE patterns (Fig. 10A), with (La/Sm)_N and
430 (La/Yb)_N ratios of 1.98-4.22 and 5.50-21.75 as well as weakly negative to positive Eu
431 anomalies (Eu_N/Eu_N*=0.75-1.18). Sample 13PQ13-4 has a higher total content of rare earth
432 elements (TREE of 477 ppm vs. 82-269 ppm). On the primitive mantle-normalized diagram
433 (Fig. 10B), most of them show negative Nb, Ta, and Ti anomalies with low (Nb/La)_{PM} ratios of
434 0.15-0.48. Positive Ti anomalies of samples GB30 and GB33 could have resulted from the
435 accumulation of Fe-Ti oxides (Ge et al., 2015).

436 The dioritic and TTG gneisses have SiO₂ contents from 52.86 to 72.10 wt.%, and they all
437 belong to the calc-alkaline rock series in the total alkalis-silica (TAS) diagram (Middlemost,
438 1994; Fig. 9C-D). Dioritic gneisses show SiO₂ contents of 52.86-61.02 wt.%, MgO of 2.75-6.56
439 wt.% (mostly >3.68 wt.%) and Fe₂O₃T of 6.27-12.63 wt.%, with Mg# values of 41.23-56.95. In
440 the MgO vs. SiO₂ diagram (Fig. 9E), most samples plot in the field of low-silica adakite (LSA;
441 Martin et al., 2005). They display high Na₂O of 2.43-5.26 wt.% but low K₂O/Na₂O ratios of
442 0.22-0.71. The CaO and Al₂O₃ contents vary of 3.89-8.88 and 12.73-19.88 wt.% (mostly of

443 14.46-17.61 wt.%), with A/CNK values (molar $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/(\text{CaO}+\text{Na}_2\text{O}+\text{K}_2\text{O})$) of 0.74-1.06 (mostly of
444 0.74-0.90), and TiO_2 and P_2O_5 range of 0.51-0.95 and 0.11-0.40 wt.%, respectively. In the
445 chondrite-normalized REE diagram (Fig. 10C), dioritic gneisses are moderately fractionated
446 with $(\text{La}/\text{Sm})_N$ and $(\text{La}/\text{Yb})_N$ ratios of 1.84-5.39 and 5.26-23.05, as well as dominantly negative
447 Eu anomalies ($\text{Eu}_N/\text{Eu}_N^*$ of 0.57-1.28 (mostly <0.95)). In the primitive mantle-normalized
448 multi-element diagram (Fig. 10D), they are enriched in Rb, Ba, K, Zr and Hf, but depleted in Nb,
449 Ta, Ti, and Th, and featured by moderate to high Yb and Y contents of 1.23-2.22 and
450 13.53-25.67 ppm with Sr/Y ratios of 14.49-64.28.

451 TTG gneiss samples of the Northern Hebei Province plot chiefly in the tonalite and
452 granodiorite fields in the An-Ab-Or diagram (Fig. 9D; O'Connor, 1965), with Na_2O contents
453 (3.39-6.36 wt.%) and $\text{K}_2\text{O}/\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ ratios (0.17-0.79) comparable with those of dioritic gneisses.
454 They have Al_2O_3 contents of 14.73-17.77 wt.%, and moderate to high A/CNK values of
455 0.76-1.14. In spite of this, the TTG gneisses are characterized by chemical features apparently
456 distinct from the dioritic gneisses: (1) higher SiO_2 (62.40-72.10 wt.%), but lower MgO
457 (0.55-3.72 wt.%) and $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{T}$ (1.87-7.01 wt.%) contents, with Mg# values of 32.67-57.58; in
458 the MgO vs. SiO_2 diagram (Fig. 9E), most TTG gneisses fall in the field of
459 experimentally-derived partial melts from metabasalts, with some gneisses of lower silica
460 contents (63.02-65.54 wt.%) falling in the high-silica adakite (HSA) field (Martin et al., 2005); (2)
461 lower CaO (2.44-5.78 wt.%), TiO_2 (0.11-0.60 wt.%) and P_2O_5 (0.04-0.21 wt.%) contents; (3)
462 strongly fractionated chondrite-normalized REE patterns (Fig. 10C), with higher $(\text{La}/\text{Sm})_N$ and
463 $(\text{La}/\text{Yb})_N$ ratios of 2.11-10.54 and 10.09-56.78, and mostly positive Eu anomalies ($\text{Eu}_N/\text{Eu}_N^* =$
464 0.80-3.41); and (4) enrichment in Rb, Ba, K, Zr and Hf, but depletion in Nb, Ta, Ti, and Th in

465 the primitive mantle-normalized multi-element diagram (Fig. 10D), with lower Yb (0.14-1.03
466 ppm) and Y (2.86-12.05 ppm) contents and higher Sr/Y ratios (48.31-260.62).

467 The quartz monzodioritic and monzogranitic gneiss samples have SiO₂ contents of
468 57.45-75.17 wt.%, and MgO contents and Mg# values of 0.02-2.54 wt.% and 3.20-45.32. In
469 the An-Ab-Or diagram (Fig. 9D), they plot in the granodioritic to granitic fields, with high K₂O
470 contents of 2.70-6.27 wt.% and K₂O/Na₂O ratios of 0.89-2.45, different from those of dioritic
471 and TTG gneisses. On the MgO vs. SiO₂ diagram (Fig. 9E), all of them fall into the field of
472 experimentally derived partial melts from metabasalts (Martin et al., 2005). They are weakly to
473 strongly peraluminous (A/CNK values of 0.99-1.23), despite variable Al₂O₃ contents of
474 13.52-19.77 wt.%. In the chondrite-normalized REE diagram (Fig. 10E), the samples show
475 moderately fractionated patterns, and most of them have TREE contents of 105-221 ppm,
476 (La/Sm)_N and (La/Yb)_N ratios of 3.59-6.36 and 11.94-30.73, with weakly negative to evidently
477 positive Eu anomalies (Eu_N/Eu_N^{*} = 0.72-1.88). The most felsic sample 13PQ17-1 (SiO₂
478 content of 75.17 wt.%) has the lowest TREE content of 41 ppm, showing the most positive Eu
479 anomaly (Eu_N/Eu_N^{*} = 1.90) and a flat heavy rare earth element (HREE) pattern ((Gd/Yb)_N
480 value of 1.72; Fig. 10E). In the primitive mantle-normalized multi-element diagram (Fig. 10F),
481 they are depleted in Nb, Ta, and Ti, but enriched in Zr and Hf, with highly variable Th contents.
482 Most of them have Y and Yb contents of 8.90-20.20 and 0.73-1.94 ppm, with Sr/Y ratios of
483 18.58-77.78. Sample 13PQ17-1 has an evidently negative Sr anomaly, with lower Y and Yb
484 contents of 3.30 and 0.38 ppm, and a lower Sr/Y ratio of 10.67 (Fig. 10F).

485

486 **6. Discussion**

487 6.1. Chronological framework of the Northern Hebei Province

488 Zircon U-Pb isotopic age data reveal that the Pingquan Complex experienced three
489 magmatic episodes, generating ~2537-2515 Ma diorites, ~2506-2503 Ma basalts, and ~2491
490 Ma quartz monzodioritic to monzogranitic rocks (Figs. 5-7). These rocks were subjected to
491 regional metamorphism at ~2480 Ma ($2488 \pm 9 - 2467 \pm 17$ Ma), whereas ~2455-2395 Ma
492 metamorphic ages are variably recorded. These early Paleoproterozoic metamorphic events
493 are common along the northern margin of Eastern Block and some neighbouring Neoproterozoic
494 complexes in the TNCO, e.g., ~2485 Ma granulite facies followed by ~2450 Ma and ~2401 Ma
495 retrograde metamorphism in the adjacent Western Liaoning Province (Liu et al., 2007a, 2011a;
496 Wang et al., 2011, 2013, 2015b). Younger metamorphic ages of ~2361-2298 Ma, ~2176-2065
497 Ma and ~1845-1835 Ma imply that the Pingquan Complex was also subjected to the effects of
498 the middle to late Paleoproterozoic orogenesis that affected the TNCO (Zhao et al., 1998,
499 2005, 2012; Guo et al., 2002, 2005; Yang and Santosh, 2015).

500 Recent zircon U-Pb isotopic dating data for the NHB are compiled in Supplementary
501 Table 5, with major early Precambrian tectonothermal events summarized as follows (Fig. 11):
502 (a) traces of xenocrystic zircon grains with ages of mostly $2636 \pm 30 - 2565 \pm 16$ Ma (only one
503 age of 2799 ± 23 Ma) possibly imply some cryptic ~2600-2560 Ma metavolcanic rocks but no
504 record of substantial early Neoproterozoic (~2.7 Ga) or older geological records (Liu et al., 2007a);
505 (b) ~2542-2499 Ma dioritic and TTG gneisses are the dominant lithologies in NHB, followed by
506 eruption of basaltic rocks with minor andesitic to rhyolitic rocks at ~2506-2502 Ma in the
507 Pingquan and Dantazi complexes; (c) subsequently, quartz monzodioritic and
508 syeno-/monzogranitic rocks were emplaced at ~2493-2484 Ma; and (d) the basement rocks of

509 NHB witnessed multiple episodes of early and late Paleoproterozoic metamorphism (early
510 peaks at ~2480, ~2450, and ~2400 Ma, and a late peak at ~1850 Ma). Notably, early
511 Paleoproterozoic metamorphic imprints are respectively synchronous with (1) ~2496-2484 Ma
512 potassium-rich magmatism along the northern margin of EB as well as some quartz dioritic
513 magmatism in Northern Liaoning; (2) ~2454-2437 Ma charnockitic to granitic magmatism in
514 Huai'an-Xuanhua Complex; and (3) ~2410 Ma granitic magmatism in Huai'an-Xuanhua
515 Complex and ~2403-2399 Ma quartz dioritic and gabbroic magmatism in Western Liaoning
516 (Liu et al., 2010; Zhang et al., 2011; Wan et al., 2012; Bai et al., 2014b; Wang et al., 2015b;
517 Yang and Santosh, 2015). Whereas late Paleoproterozoic metamorphic ages reflect the
518 effects of final amalgamation of the EB and WB along the TNCO at ~1.85 Ga, and are coeval
519 with ~1859-1849 Ma mafic to felsic magmatism in Northern Hebei Province (Fig. 11A; Zhao et
520 al., 2005, 2008, 2012; Liu et al., 2007a,b). Combined with minor ~2300-1900 Ma metamorphic
521 imprints and magmatic events (Fig. 11B), we consider that Neoproterozoic basement rocks of
522 Northern Hebei Province were involved in both early Paleoproterozoic arc-continent accretion
523 along northwestern EB and middle to late Paleoproterozoic subduction-collision processes of
524 the TNCO (Fig. 1; Zhao et al., 2012; Wang et al., 2015b).

525

526 **6.2. Petrogenesis**

527 **6.2.1. Assessment of element mobility**

528 Considering the evidence for multiple episodes of metamorphism in the study area (Figs.
529 4 and 11), element mobility should be evaluated prior to any petrogenetic discussions. Firstly,
530 most samples have low loss on ignition (LOI) values of 0.32-4.43 wt.%, apart from amphibolite

531 sample 13PQ14-12 with a higher value of 7.34 wt.%. Secondly, each group of samples
532 exhibits nearly parallel normalized REE and high field strength element (HFSE; e.g., Nb, Ta, Zr,
533 and Hf) patterns (Fig. 10), implying the preservation of original compositions of these elements.
534 Lower contents of heavy rare earth elements of TTG gneisses relative to dioritic gneisses (Fig.
535 10C) can be ascribed to diverse genetic processes that will be discussed below. However,
536 large variations of Ba, Rb, and Th suggest mobility of these elements. Thirdly, negligible Ce
537 anomalies ($Ce_N/\sqrt{La_N \times Pr_N}$) ratios of mostly 0.96-1.06, and only sample 13PQ17-1 with a
538 lower value of 0.87) are consistent with those of unaltered samples (0.9-1.1; Polat and
539 Hofmann, 2003). Finally, La, Sm, and Nb show nearly linear correlations with
540 alteration-insensitive Zr for each sample group, whereas Th, Rb, and Ba vary widely
541 (Supplementary Fig. 2). Accordingly, the petrogenetic and other discussions below will rely
542 dominantly on MgO, Al₂O₃, TiO₂, REEs, HFSEs, and transition metals that are commonly
543 viewed as immobile under high grade metamorphism (Guo et al., 2013, 2015a; Pearce, 2014).

544

545 **6.2.2. Metabasaltic rocks (Pingquan amphibolites and metabasalts of Dantazi Complex)**

546 Metabasaltic rocks of the NHB show variable major element contents but parallel
547 chondrite-normalized REE patterns (Supplementary Table 1 and Fig. 10A). The positive zircon
548 $\epsilon_{Hf}(t_2)$ values (Pingquan amphibolites: +1.4 - +5.4; Dantazi metabasalts: mostly +1.3 - +4.4)
549 are lower than that of depleted mantle (Fig. 8B; Ge et al., 2015). The above data suggest that
550 their parental magmas may have experienced certain degrees of crustal contamination and/or
551 fractional crystallization. On the La/Sm vs. La diagram (Fig. 12A), most samples define a
552 roughly horizontal line reflecting effects of fractional crystallization (Treuil and Joron, 1975; Liu

553 et al., 2012a). With elevated silica contents, they display a decrease in $\text{CaO}/\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ratios (Fig.
554 12B), together with less variable $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{T}$ with decreasing TiO_2 and V contents (Fig. 12C),
555 indicating clinopyroxene and hornblende fractionation (but no plagioclase and Fe-Ti oxides;
556 Rollinson, 1993). In spite of this, the lack of negative correlation between $(\text{Nb}/\text{La})_{\text{PM}}$ and
557 $(\text{La}/\text{Sm})_{\text{N}}$ and consistently lower $(\text{Nb}/\text{La})_{\text{PM}}$ ratios (0.15-0.32) argue against significant crustal
558 contamination for the mantle-derived parental magmas. This is further evidenced by the
559 general lack of xenocrystic zircons (Fig. 5), with only one zircon grain (2609 ± 25 Ma) coeval
560 with regional ~2640-2603 Ma MORB-like tholeiites in Western Liaoning (Wang et al., 2015b).
561 Samples GB30 and GB33 display Fe-Ti enrichment and accumulation of Fe-Ti oxides, and
562 these imply an oxidized parental magma that could not be consanguineous with other samples,
563 as reflected by lower La/Sm but higher $(\text{Nb}/\text{La})_{\text{PM}}$ ratios and Zr, Nb, and P contents (Fig. 12A-D;
564 Ge et al., 2015). Accordingly, these metabasaltic rocks should have been derived from a
565 moderately depleted mantle but without participation of crustal contamination, i.e., the isotopic
566 and other geochemical features excepting the mobile Ba, Rb and Th reflect essentially the
567 nature of the mantle source region and magmatic processes.

568 Compared to N-MORBs, these metabasaltic samples have lower Zr/Nb (5.77-21.94 vs.
569 31.76) and Hf/Nb (0.18-0.64 vs. 0.88) but higher Nb/Yb (2.05-6.61 vs. 0.76) and Zr/Yb
570 (27.81-112.82 vs. 24.26) ratios, resembling those of enriched MORBs (Fig. 12E; Sun and
571 McDonough, 1989; Pearce and Peate, 1995). Mantle enrichment can be achieved by crustal
572 recycling at convergent margins or mantle overturn/plume events (Dhuime et al., 2011;
573 Kamber, 2015; Rollinson, 2015). Imprints of Neoproterozoic mantle overturn/plume events were
574 not identified along northwestern EB, e.g., komatiites, tholeiitic to alkaline basalts, and layered

575 mafic-ultramafic intrusions (Liu et al., 2011a; Nutman et al., 2011; Bai et al., 2014a, 2015;
576 Wang et al., 2015b, 2016). Carbonatite metasomatism can also be precluded based on
577 chondrite-like Zr/Hf ratios (mostly 32.88-40.29) and lack of positive correlation between Nb/Ta
578 and Lu-Hf ratios (not shown, Dupuy et al., 1992; Pfänder et al., 2012; Wang et al., 2015c).
579 Therefore, the moderately depleted mantle sources for these metabasaltic rocks likely resulted
580 from crustal recycling at a subduction zone, compatible with the arc-like trace element patterns
581 (Fig. 10B). Sediment recycling has contributed to mantle heterogeneity and geochemical
582 complexity of arc lavas at subduction zones (Woodhead et al., 2001; Handley et al., 2011;
583 Rollinson, 2015). Notably, TTG gneisses in Huai'an-Xuanhua Complex show zircon $\epsilon\text{Hf}(t)$
584 (+2.3 - +8.2) and whole-rock $\epsilon\text{Nd}(t)$ values (+2.5 - +4.3) close to those of depleted mantle, and
585 were considered to have been derived from partial melting of subducted slabs (Liu et al., 2009,
586 2012b). This implies that isotopically enriched materials (i.e., oceanic sediments) could have
587 been recycled so as to form the moderately depleted mantle sources (Fig. 8B). Subducted
588 sediments exhibit diverse geochemical features (i.e., zircon effects): detrital-rich turbidites
589 show lower Sm/Hf ratios and $\epsilon\text{Hf}(t)$ values than those of clay-rich pelagic sediments
590 (Carpentier et al., 2009). Though clinopyroxene or hornblende fractionation ($D_{\text{Sm}/\text{Hf}} > 1$) may
591 decrease Sm/Hf ratios of arc lavas, these metabasaltic rocks display high Sm/Hf ratios
592 (1.59-2.55) (Fig. 12F). Coupled with lower $(^{176}\text{Hf}/^{177}\text{Hf})_{\text{initial}}$ ratios relative to those of ~2.5 Ga
593 depleted MORB mantle (calculated from Chauvel and Blichert-Toft (2001)), metabasaltic rocks
594 in the NHB could have been derived from a lithospheric mantle metasomatized by pelagic
595 sediments, and experienced some clinopyroxene and hornblende fractionation (Handley et al.,
596 2011).

597 **6.2.3. Dioritic and TTG gneisses**

598 Both the Huai'an-Xuanhua dioritic and TTG gneisses were previously considered to be
599 generated by partial melting of oceanic slabs with melts contaminated by the mantle wedge
600 (Liu et al., 2012b). High Na₂O contents, low K₂O/Na₂O ratios, moderate to high MgO and Mg#
601 values, and strongly fractionated chondrite-normalized REE patterns of the TTG gneisses are
602 indeed analogous to those of high-silica adakites (Figs. 9D-E and 10C; Martin et al., 2005;
603 Wang et al., 2013). In contrast, integrated with samples from Pingquan and Dantazi complexes,
604 dioritic gneisses of the NHB exhibit contrasting geochemical features to those of TTG gneisses,
605 including: (1) higher TiO₂ and Nb contents (0.51-0.95 vs. 0.11-0.60 wt.% and 2.36-9.71 (half
606 samples >6.10) vs. 1.31-5.86 ppm); (2) lower (La/Yb)_N and higher Yb and Y contents
607 resembling Phanerozoic arc basaltic-andesitic-dacitic-rhyolitic rocks (Fig. 13A); and (3) lower
608 whole-rock εNd(t) values (+0.8-+1.7 vs. +2.5-+4.3) (Liu et al., 2009). On the La/Sm vs. La
609 diagram (Fig. 13B), dioritic gneisses define a horizontal line that is an indicator of petrogenetic
610 processes controlled by fractional crystallization, which deviates from the roughly positive
611 slope line of TTG gneisses. Samples 05LF04, 05LF52, and JB050-1 possess high La/Sm, low
612 La and positive Eu anomalies ($Eu_N/Eu_N^* = 1.79-3.41$), possibly caused by plagioclase
613 accumulation ($D_{La}(PI) < 1$; $D_{La/Sm}(PI) > 1$; Rollinson, 1993). Comparable Gd/Yb ratios suggest
614 that the TTG magmas could not have been derived from hornblende fractionation from a
615 dioritic magma (Fig. 13C; Rollinson, 1993; Wang et al., 2015b). In fact, dioritic gneisses have
616 low SiO₂ (low to 52.86 wt.%) and high MgO contents (up to 6.56 wt.%) analogous to those of
617 high magnesian andesites (HMAs), suggesting derivation from a mantle source (Fig. 9D;
618 Kelemen et al., 2004; Tatsumi, 2006). Specifically, the adakite-like model was assigned to the

619 dioritic gneisses based mainly on low TiO_2 contents (0.51-0.95 wt.%), just like low-Ti
620 sanukitoids (<1.0 wt.%; Liu et al., 2012b). Nevertheless, Phanerozoic primitive HMAs show
621 TiO_2 contents of mostly <1.0 wt.% (Grove et al., 2012), and low-Ti sanukitoids may also be
622 formed by high degree partial melting of a mantle source (with low degree of metasomatism;
623 Martin et al., 2010). Therefore, parental magmas of dioritic gneisses in this study likely have
624 been derived from a metasomatized mantle source, and a single slab-melting model cannot
625 explain the geochemical discrepancies between dioritic and TTG gneisses (Martin et al., 2005;
626 Wang et al., 2012a, 2016). In other words, the dioritic magmas should have originated from a
627 different source region from those of TTG magmas, and may be derived from either partial
628 melting of a depleted mantle source metasomatized by slab fluids/melts or fractional
629 crystallization of the basaltic magmas that formed metabasaltic rocks in the NHB.

630 The dioritic gneisses show variable major element compositions (e.g., SiO_2 and MgO ;
631 Supplementary Table 1), and these can be explained by clinopyroxene fractionation based on
632 positive correlation between $\text{CaO}/\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ratios and MgO contents (Fig. 13D). Weakly positive
633 to negative Eu anomalies ($\text{Eu}_N/\text{Eu}_N^* = 0.57-1.28$) suggest some plagioclase fractionation (Fig.
634 10C). Although moderately depleted zircon $\epsilon\text{Hf}(t_2)$ values of the Pingquan dioritic gneisses (Fig.
635 8C and E), significant crustal contamination can be precluded by the absence of xenocrystic
636 zircon grains (Fig. 6) as well as consistently low $(\text{Nb}/\text{La})_{\text{PM}}$ ratios (mostly of 0.11-0.39; only
637 sample 05LF51 shows a higher value of 0.55; Fig. 13E). In comparison, the Huai'an-Xuanhua
638 dioritic gneisses have high zircon $\epsilon\text{Hf}(t_2)$ values close to those of depleted mantle (Liu et al.,
639 2009), but decoupled from the moderately depleted whole-rock $\epsilon\text{Nd}(t)$ values (+0.8-+1.7) (note
640 that parallel normalized REE patterns in Fig. 10C imply general preservation of original Sm, Nd

641 contents and $\epsilon\text{Nd}(t)$ values). Similar Hf-Nd decoupling has been well established in island arc
642 lavas and ocean-island basalts, indicating recycling of “zircon-free” pelagic sediments into the
643 mantle sources (Nebel et al., 2011). Therefore, similar to the metabasaltic rocks, these dioritic
644 gneisses could also have been derived from a moderately depleted lithospheric mantle
645 metasomatized by melts from recycled pelagic sediments (Figs. 8 and 12E-F). This is further
646 evidenced from moderate to high Sm/Hf (mostly of 1.15-2.47) and low ($^{176}\text{Hf}/^{177}\text{Hf}$)_i ratios (Fig.
647 13F; Handley et al., 2011). Lower Sm/Hf ratio of sample 13PQ16-4 is better ascribed to
648 clinopyroxene fractionation as discussed above (Fig. 13D).

649

650 **6.2.4. Quartz monzodioritic and monzogranitic gneisses**

651 Archean K-rich granitoid gneisses are commonly considered to be derived from partial
652 melting of either metasomatized lithospheric mantle (sanukitoid series) or crustal materials
653 (granodioritic-monzogranitic series), though asthenospheric mantle may be involved in some
654 Fe-K granitoid gneisses (Moyen et al., 2003; Martin et al., 2005; Laurent et al., 2014a). Quartz
655 monzodioritic gneisses in the Pingquan Complex are characterized by low SiO_2 , high K_2O and
656 ferromagnesian oxides ($\text{FeO}_T + \text{MgO} + \text{MnO} + \text{TiO}_2 = 6.80\text{-}8.97$ wt.%), as well as moderately
657 fractionated chondrite-normalized REE patterns (Figs. 9D-E and 10E). These features
658 resemble those of sanukitoid rocks or Closepet-type granites, despite slightly lower MgO and
659 Mg# values (Fig. 14A; Heilimo et al., 2013). Entrainment of peritectic clinopyroxene/garnet
660 may explain geochemical diversity and high maficity (maficity = atomic (Fe+Mg) per 100 g rock)
661 of crust-derived granitoids (Clemens and Stevens, 2012). Nevertheless, the lack of correlation
662 between A/CNK values (0.99-1.20) and maficity (0.02-0.14) and low SiO_2 contents suggest

663 that the quartz monzodioritic gneisses cannot be formed solely by crustal reworking (Fig. 14B;
664 Rapp and Watson, 1995). With increasing SiO_2 contents, they show constant or increasing
665 $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{T}$, TiO_2 , and P_2O_5 contents (Supplementary Table 1), together with the paucity of
666 regionally coeval (~2491 Ma) mafic rocks, precluding magma mixing as a viable genetic model
667 (Nutman et al., 2011; Wang et al., 2016). Crustal contamination is also unlikely since no
668 xenocrystic zircon grains are detected in the dated sample (Fig. 7) as well as similarly low
669 $(\text{Nb/La})_{\text{PM}}$ (0.12-0.33) at variable $(\text{La/Sm})_{\text{N}}$ ratios (3.59-6.36). Furthermore, these samples
670 have higher Al_2O_3 (>15.84 vs. <15 wt.%) and lower FeO_T (4.54-6.04 vs. >7 wt.% at ~60 wt.%
671 silica) that are distinct from those of late Archean Matok Fe-K granitoids (South Africa) with
672 imprints of asthenospheric mantle (Laurent et al., 2014a). Accordingly, magmatic precursors of
673 these quartz monzodioritic gneisses were likely derived from a metasomatized lithospheric
674 mantle source. Dated sample 13PQ11-8 shows a moderately depleted zircon $\epsilon\text{Hf}(t_2)$ values
675 (+0.5 - +4.1) (Fig. 8H), with initial $^{176}\text{Hf}/^{177}\text{Hf}$ values lower than those of depleted mantle (Fig.
676 14C). Notably, the quartz monzodioritic gneisses are clearly differentiated relative to primitive
677 sanukitoid melts (Fig. 9D; $\text{MgO} > 6$ wt.% and $\text{Mg\#} > 60$; Laurent et al., 2013), which can
678 explain the large scatter of Sm/Hf ratios (0.53-2.27). Considering mostly peraluminous
679 features ($A/\text{CNK} = 0.99$ -1.20) and comparable zircon Lu-Hf isotopic compositions to
680 metabasaltic rocks and dioritic gneisses (Figs. 8 and 14B), a similar lithospheric mantle source
681 with recycled pelagic sediments is favored for these quartz monzodioritic gneisses.

682 Compared to quartz monzodioritic gneisses, monzogranitic gneisses display higher SiO_2
683 and K_2O contents and lower ferromagnesian oxides ($\text{FeO}_\text{T} + \text{MgO} + \text{MnO} + \text{TiO}_2 = 1.25$ -6.48
684 wt.%), marking probable derivation from crustal materials without significant involvement of

685 mantle components (Fig. 9D; Martin et al., 2005; Wan et al., 2012). Low Zr and V contents
686 (64-279 and 10.3-62 ppm) also resemble those of crust-derived late Archean biotite granites
687 (Laurent et al., 2014b). Generation of monzogranitic rocks by hornblende fractionation from a
688 quartz monzodioritic magma was unlikely, due to roughly comparable Gd/Yb ratios (Fig. 14D).
689 Synchronous Huai'an-Xuanhua granitic rocks show moderately depleted zircon $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}(t)$ values
690 of +1.3 - +5.8, indicating derivation from a juvenile crustal source (Zhang et al., 2011). In the
691 AFM (molar $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/(\text{FeO}_T+\text{MgO})$) vs. CFM (molar $\text{CaO}/(\text{FeO}_T+\text{MgO})$) diagram (Fig. 14E; Altherr
692 et al., 2000), most of them plot in the field of partial melting products from metagreywackes.
693 Similarly, they fall in the intervening areas of melting products from high-K mafic rocks,
694 tonalites, and metasediments in the $3\text{CaO}-\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/(\text{FeO}_T+\text{MgO})-5\text{K}_2\text{O}/\text{Na}_2\text{O}$ diagram (Fig. 14F),
695 reflecting a metagreywacke-like source (Patiño Douce, 1999). Fractionated normalized REE
696 patterns, high total REE contents and negligible Eu anomalies of samples 13PQ10-1,
697 13PQ12-1, and 13PQ13-3 suggest a lower crust source below the stability field of plagioclase
698 (>8kbar; Fig. 10E; Moyen and Martin, 2012). Sample 13PQ17-1 has the lowest TREE content
699 and a concave-upward normalized REE pattern with positive Eu and negative Sr anomalies
700 (Fig. 10E-F). This may be ascribed to the combined effects of residual plagioclase and
701 hornblende, i.e., plagioclase triggers negative Sr and Eu anomalies, whereas hornblende
702 contributes to low TREE contents ($D_{\text{TREE}}(\text{Hb}) \gg 1$), which can further offset the negative Eu
703 anomalies caused by plagioclase in the residue (Rollinson, 1993). Therefore, parental
704 magmas of sample 13PQ17-1 could have been derived from a middle crust source within
705 stability field of plagioclase (Fig. 10E-F). Neoproterozoic granitic rocks from different crustal levels
706 have been reported in Northern Liaoning and Western Shandong (Wan et al., 2012; Wang et

707 al., 2016).

708

709 **6.3. Late Neoproterozoic crust-mantle geodynamics of Northern Hebei Province**

710 Compared to the Nb/Ta ratios of chondrite and average continental crust (~12-17.6),
711 most Pingquan samples have moderate to high Nb/Ta ratios of 15.50-32.58, similar to those of
712 the Huai'an-Xuanhua granitoid gneisses (13.10-27.13, Fig. 15A; Weyer et al., 2002; Liu et al.,
713 2012b). Except for the monzogranitic gneisses, the other basement rocks in the Pingquan
714 Complex were differentiated from a lithospheric mantle metasomatized by recycled pelagic
715 sediments (Fig. 8). Mantle melting and fractional crystallization cannot significantly fractionate
716 Nb and Ta (Rollinson, 1993). The nearly chondrite-like Zr/Hf ratios argue against the
717 involvement of carbonatite melts in the mantle source as a cause of the high Nb/Ta lithospheric
718 mantle (Fig. 15B; Dupuy et al., 1992; Pfänder et al., 2012). Considering the above
719 petrogenetic factors, we propose that partial melting of the subducted sediments (and/or
720 oceanic basalts) within the stability field of rutile likely generated the high Nb/Ta melts that
721 metasomatized the mantle wedge, serving as the sources of the Pingquan samples (Foley et
722 al., 2002). The presence of rutile in the residue indicates a pressure of > 1.5 GPa (Xiong et al.,
723 2005). A relatively lower slab surface temperature (~700-800 °C) is favored to fulfill Nb/Ta ratios
724 up to ~30 of the samples, implying a low thermal gradient of ~12-15 °C/km (Hermann and
725 Rubatto, 2009; Xiong et al., 2011; Fig. 15A). The lack of correlation between Zr/Hf and Lu/Hf
726 suggests the involvement of partial melts from "zircon-free" pelagic sediments (Fig. 15B; Nebel
727 et al., 2011).

728 For the entire Northern Hebei Province, though rare xenocrystic zircons (~2.7 Ga) were

729 detected (Liu et al., 2007a; Wan et al., 2014, 2015), the lack of significant amounts of older
730 crustal components (≥ 2.7 Ga) supports an oceanic setting for the evolution of the NHB
731 (Supplementary Table 5 and Figs. 5, 12 and 13). Combined with the petrogenesis of
732 representative lithologies and the low thermal gradient calculated above, the late Neoproterozoic
733 (~ 2.55 - 2.50 Ga) crust-mantle geodynamic processes of the Northern Hebei Province can be
734 summarized as follows. Intra-oceanic subduction was initiated offshore of the northwestern
735 margin of the EB at ~ 2.55 Ga or earlier. With descending of the oceanic slabs, partial melting
736 of the slab basalts occurred within the stability field of garnet and rutile, and the ascending
737 melts were contaminated by the mantle wedge, which formed the ~ 2542 - 2499 Ma TTGs.
738 Meanwhile, the sub-arc oceanic lithospheric mantle was metasomatized by fluids and melts
739 derived from both the slab basalts and covered pelagic sediments. Partial melting of this
740 moderately depleted lithospheric mantle generated both the ~ 2537 - 2508 Ma diorites and
741 ~ 2506 - 2502 Ma (or older) basalts, and they experienced different degrees of fractional
742 crystallization of clinopyroxene and/or hornblende. Notably, similar long-term subduction with a
743 life span of ~ 50 Ma or more is characteristic of modern subduction zones (e.g., pan-African
744 orogenic system and Hercynian Belt of W. Europe), implying that modern-style plate tectonics
745 may have operated locally in the NCC during the late Neoproterozoic (Zhao, 2007; Moyen and
746 Hunen, 2012 and references therein).

747 Development of the intra-oceanic arc resulted in gradual consumption of the ocean and
748 final accretion of the arc terrane onto the continental margin of EB (Wang et al., 2015b, 2016).
749 Subsequently, slab rollback/breakoff and asthenospheric mantle upwelling brought about high
750 heat flux within the accreted arc-continent system. This triggered partial melting of the

751 metasomatized lithospheric mantle and anatexis of the juvenile arc crust (metagreywackes) at
752 ~2491 Ma, generating the quartz monzodioritic and the monzogranitic rocks. Although the
753 monzogranitic gneisses show high Nb/Ta ratios, residual rutile was unnecessary as similarly
754 high Nb/Ta ratios for possible protolith of early metabasaltic rocks and dioritic/TTG gneisses
755 (Fig. 15A; Qian and Hermann, 2013).

756

757 **6.4. Implications for late Neoproterozoic subduction-related crustal growth**

758 Numerous zircon U-Pb and Lu-Hf isotopes have been obtained for early Precambrian
759 basement rocks of NCC (e.g., Geng et al., 2012; Wang and Liu, 2012). While there is
760 increasing accuracy of the temporal framework for the Archean geological events in the NCC,
761 the timing of formation and evolution of continental crust remain debated due to reliance on
762 isotopic model ages. In particular, the choice of different depleted mantle values may cause
763 equivocal zircon Lu-Hf isotopic model ages (Vervoort and Kemp, 2016). In this study, the
764 Pingquan basement rocks show zircon $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}(t_2)$ values lower than the depleted mantle line (Fig.
765 8). Calculation of model ages according to the empirical $^{176}\text{Lu}/^{177}\text{Hf}$ value of the depleted
766 mantle (0.0387; Blichert-Toft and Albarède, 1997) yield ages of ~2.7 Ga or older
767 (Supplementary Table 3), which are widely taken as timing of crustal growth. However, as
768 argued by Dhuime et al. (2011), new crust formed at intra-oceanic arcs show obviously lower
769 $\epsilon_{\text{Hf}}(t)$ values than that of depleted mantle, resulting possibly from recycling of preexisting
770 crustal materials to the mantle ever since ~3.0 Ga. Similarly, basement rocks of the NHB were
771 derived from partial melting of either a moderately depleted mantle source (Fig. 8) with
772 recycled pelagic sediments (metabasalts/dioritic/quartz monzodioritic gneisses) or juvenile

773 oceanic slabs and metagreywackes (TTG and monzogranitic gneisses), recording apparent
774 late Neoproterozoic (~2.6-2.5 Ga) crustal growth (Wang et al., 2015b). Phanerozoic subduction
775 zones appear to be characterized by a balance between crustal growth and recycling, with
776 zero net crustal growth (e.g., Scholl and Huene, 2009). However, Archean oceanic arcs could
777 be thicker and more buoyant, which may have been accreted onto each other and resistant
778 from being completely subducted (Condie and Kröner, 2013). Moreover, the Archean oceanic
779 lithosphere is thick and buoyant (showing high Mg/Fe ratios), and its upper section, together
780 with other buoyant subducted materials (e.g., pelagic sediments and arc lavas and plutons),
781 may have “relaminated” back to the base of continental/arc crust instead of recycling to the
782 deep mantle at the convergent margin setting (Hoffman and Ranalli, 1988; De Wit, 1998;
783 Hacker et al., 2011; Kelemen and Behn, 2016; Maunder et al., 2016).

784 The geodynamic regimes responsible for the Archean crustal growth remain enigmatic
785 (Bédard, 2006, 2013, 2017; Cawood et al., 2006, 2013; Korenaga, 2013; Turner et al., 2014;
786 Condie, 2016). Recent thermomechanical modeling reveals that plate tectonics could initiate
787 at mantle temperatures ~175-250 °C higher than those of the present mantle, suggesting that
788 the late Archean (< 3.2-3.0 Ga) may represent the transitional period from early
789 stagnant-lid/plume tectonics to lateral plate tectonics (Herzberg, 2010; Gerya, 2014;
790 Hawkesworth et al., 2017). These are further endorsed by the emergence of Meso- to
791 Neoproterozoic paired metamorphic belts and especially eclogites, rapid development of potassic
792 granitoids and decreasing production of komatiites, and increasing degree of crustal recycling
793 (Condie and O'Neill, 2010; Mints et al., 2010; Dhuime et al., 2012, 2015; Laurent et al., 2014a).
794 Similarly in the North China Craton, preliminary studies reveal that the geochemical features of

795 ~3.8-2.5 Ga granitoids in Anshan changed during the Mesoarchean, possibly implying the
796 transition from vertical processes (e.g., mantle overturn) to plate tectonics (Wan et al., 2015).
797 The association of ~2.9 Ga intermediate-felsic volcanic rocks and TTG gneisses in the Jiaobei
798 Terrane of the Eastern Block was considered to have been formed in an island arc setting
799 (Jahn et al., 2008). However, whether subduction-accretion or mantle plume processes are the
800 major tectonic regimes for the Neoproterozoic crustal growth and evolution of the Eastern Block is
801 still hotly debated (Liu et al., 2002, 2004, 2011a; Geng et al., 2010; Wang et al., 2011, 2015b,
802 2016; Zhao et al., 2012; Wu et al., 2016a). As documented above, basement rocks of the
803 Pingquan Complex were mainly formed by the partial melting of a moderately depleted
804 lithospheric mantle metasomatized by subducted pelagic sediments, and record prolonged
805 late Neoproterozoic crust-mantle geodynamic processes probably related to oceanic subduction
806 and lateral arc-continent accretion. MORB-type metabasaltic rocks (i.e., fragments of oceanic
807 crust) were not recognized in the metavolcanic rock assemblages of Northern Hebei (Figs. 3A
808 and 10A-B). Some MORB-type metabasaltic rocks were identified in the Saheqiao area of
809 Eastern Hebei (Guo et al., 2013). They yield a younger age (~2525 Ma) than the arc-related
810 rocks (~2614-2518 Ma), and were interpreted to be generated in a back-arc environment.
811 Nonetheless, apparent temporal and compositional variations of basement rocks are observed
812 along the northern part of the Eastern Block (Liu et al., 2015; Fig. 1B), i.e., from northwest to
813 southeast: (1) MORB-like metabasaltic rocks (~2.64-2.60 Ga) in the Fuxin area of the
814 northernmost part of Western Liaoning; (2) in the southern part of Western Liaoning,
815 Zunhua-Qinglong Block of Eastern Hebei, as well as Northern Hebei Province in this study,
816 voluminous ~2.55-2.50 Ga dioritic to TTG gneisses and subordinate island arc tholeiitic to

817 calc-alkaline metavolcanic rocks are dominated; and (3) ~2.52-2.48 Ga potassium-rich quartz
818 monzodiorites, granodiorites, monzogranites, and K-feldspar granites are prevalent along the
819 northern coast of Bohai Sea, i.e., Jinzhou-Qinhuangdao areas in Eastern Hebei and Western
820 Liaoning. The above lateral variation of late Neoproterozoic basement rocks appears to be more
821 compatible with subduction-related geodynamic regimes (Liu et al., 2015). This is further
822 supported by the paired type of metamorphism established in the Eastern Hebei, recording
823 contrasting geothermal gradients of ~40 °C/km and ~20 °C/km, respectively (Yang and Wei,
824 2017).

825 The Neoproterozoic intra-oceanic arc system of EB shows the following along-arc variations
826 in character (Liu et al., 2004, 2012b, 2016; Wan et al., 2005; Wang, 2009; Wang et al., 2011,
827 2015b, 2016; Guo et al., 2013, 2015a; Peng et al., 2015; Wu et al., 2016a): (1) mafic to
828 intermediate rocks in the NHB and Northern Liaoning have moderately depleted zircon $\epsilon\text{Hf}(t)$
829 and/or whole-rock $\epsilon\text{Nd}(t)$ values, distinct from those of Western Liaoning, Eastern Hebei, and
830 Wutai Complex where island-arc tholeiitic to calc-alkaline basalts show isotopic compositions
831 more close to those of the depleted mantle (Supplementary Table 6); and (2) basement rocks
832 of the NHB and Northern Liaoning are mainly granitoid gneisses with intermediate to felsic
833 compositions, whereas more meta-basaltic/andesitic rocks outcrop in Western Liaoning,
834 Eastern Hebei, and Wutai Complex, associated with prolific gold and BIF-type iron deposits
835 (Zhai and Santosh, 2013). Accordingly, a linkage between the nature of sub-arc lithospheric
836 mantle and average compositions of arc crust can be established: arc segment coupled with
837 more enriched lithospheric mantle tends to produce more felsic crust. Therefore, crustal
838 recycling (especially sediment subduction) via plate tectonics may potentially lead to the

839 formation of more felsic juvenile Archean crust (Dhuime et al., 2015; Tang et al., 2016).

840 In summary, the NHB records subduction-related crustal growth in the late Neoproterozoic.

841 Intra-oceanic arc magmatism and arc-continent accretion could be an effective crust-mantle

842 geodynamic regime responsible for Neoproterozoic crustal growth along northwestern margin of

843 EB (Condie and Kröner, 2013; Santosh et al., 2013; Nutman et al., 2015; Wang et al., 2015b).

844

845 7. Conclusions

846 (1) The Pingquan Complex in the eastern part of Northern Hebei Province (NHB)

847 consists of ~2537-2515 Ma dioritic gneisses, ~2506-2503 Ma amphibolites, and ~2491 Ma

848 quartz monzodioritic to monzogranitic gneisses.

849 (2) Integrated with granitoid gneisses and metabasalts from Huai'an-Xuanhua and

850 Dantazi complexes of whole NHB, it is suggested that metabasalts were derived from partial

851 melting of a moderately depleted mantle source, with melts subjected to clinopyroxene and

852 hornblende fractionation. Dioritic gneisses were produced by partial melting of a similar

853 moderately depleted mantle source, and experienced fractionation of clinopyroxene and minor

854 plagioclase. Quartz monzodioritic and monzogranitic gneisses were generated respectively by

855 partial melting of a moderately depleted mantle source and juvenile metagreywackes.

856 (3) Neoproterozoic crust-mantle geodynamic processes of the NHB are summarized as

857 follows. Intra-oceanic subduction initiated offshore of the continental margin of EB at ~2.55 Ga

858 or earlier. At ~2542-2499 Ma, partial melting of slab basalts occurred, with the melts

859 contaminated by mantle wedge materials forming TTG rocks. Meanwhile, sub-arc lithospheric

860 mantle was enriched by fluids and melts derived from both slab basalts and pelagic sediments,

861 and partial melting of this moderately depleted mantle generated ~2537-2508 Ma dioritic and
862 ~2506-2502 Ma basaltic rocks. The pelagic sediments should have been metamorphosed to
863 rutile-bearing eclogites before melting. With consumption of the intervening ocean, the oceanic
864 arc finally accreted onto continental margin of EB, and the resultant slab rollback/breakoff and
865 asthenospheric mantle upwelling induced partial melting of the metasomatized lithospheric
866 mantle and crustal anatexis, forming ~2491 Ma quartz monzodioritic and monzogranitic rocks.

867 (4) The NHB was evolved under a late Neoproterozoic subduction-related tectonic setting,
868 and records significant Neoproterozoic crustal growth linked to lateral intra-oceanic subduction
869 and arc-continent accretion.

870

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882

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1392

1393 **Figure Captions:**

1394 **Fig. 1.** (A) Geological sketch map of the North China Craton illustrating major early

1395 Precambrian basement terranes and late Paleoproterozoic tectonic framework (Zhao et al.,

1396 2005, 2012; Santosh, 2010). The Northern Hebei Province is marked by the rectangle. (B)

1397 Archean crust-mantle geodynamic model for the Eastern Block (EB) proposed by Wang et al.

1398 (2015b). The ~2.6-2.5 Ga intra-oceanic arc system established along the northwestern margin

1399 of EB records a major late Neoproterozoic episode of crustal growth linked to arc-continent

1400 accretion. Both Pingquan Complex (Fig. 2) and Northern Hebei Province (NHB) are marked by

1401 the rectangles. The distribution scopes of early Neoproterozoic and pre-Neoproterozoic basement

1402 terranes within EB are delineated. Abbreviations: CD-Chengde; DF-Dengfeng; EH-Eastern

1403 Hebei; FP-Fuping; HA-Huai'an; HS-Hengshan; JD-Jiaodong; LL-Lvliang; NL-Northern

1404 Liaoning; SJ-Southern Jilin; SL-Southern Liaoning; TH-Taihua; WL-Western Liaoning;

1405 WT-Wutai; WS-Western Shandong; XH-Xuanhua; ZH-Zanhuang; ZT-Zhongtiao.

1406

1407 **Fig. 2.** Detailed geological map of the Pingquan Complex showing regional geological setting

1408 and sampling locations (dated samples are marked by the red squares).

1409

1410 **Fig. 3.** Field photographs of Archean crystalline basement in the Pingquan Complex, showing

1411 (A) intercalated supracrustal rocks of amphibolites and banded iron formations (BIFs); (B-C)
1412 dioritic gneisses that were locally intruded by monzogranitic gneisses; (D) dioritic gneisses that
1413 were emplaced by quartz monzodioritic gneisses, with local preservation of dioritic gneisses
1414 within quartz monzodioritic gneisses (E); and (F) pink monzogranitic gneisses. The scale bars
1415 of geologist, hammer, pencil, and card are ~175, ~30, ~15, and ~10 cm, respectively.

1416

1417 **Fig. 4.** Photomicrographs for representative late Neoproterozoic rock samples in the Pingquan
1418 Complex: amphibolite samples with (A-B) gneissic (sample 13PQ07-1) and (C) mylonitic
1419 structures (sample 13PQ16-3; leucocratic and melanocratic domains are hornblende and
1420 plagioclase, respectively); (D-E) dioritic gneiss sample 13PQ14-3 showing fine granulation and
1421 dynamic recrystallization, and pyroxene crystals constitute the porphyroblasts; (F) quartz
1422 dioritic gneiss sample 13PQ18-1; (G) quartz monzodioritic gneiss sample 13PQ11-8; and (H)
1423 monzogranitic gneiss sample 13PQ13-3. (+) – viewed under crossed polarized light; (–) –
1424 viewed under plane polarized light. Abbreviations: Cpx - clinopyroxene; Opx - orthopyroxene;
1425 Hb - hornblende; Bt - biotite; Pl - plagioclase; Kfs - potassic feldspar; Qz - quartz.

1426

1427 **Fig. 5.** Cathodoluminescence images (A and C) and concordia diagrams for LA-ICPMS zircon
1428 U-Pb isotopic age data (B and D) showing internal structures of zircon grains, analyzed
1429 domains, apparent $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ages and calculated ages of each zircon group for
1430 representative amphibolite samples 13PQ07-3 and 13PQ13-4.

1431

1432 **Fig. 6.** Cathodoluminescence images (A and C) and concordia diagrams for LA-ICPMS zircon

1433 U-Pb isotopic age data (B and D) showing internal structures of zircon grains, analyzed
1434 domains, apparent $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ages and calculated ages of each zircon group for
1435 representative dioritic gneiss samples 13PQ14-3 and 13PQ16-4.

1436

1437 **Fig. 7.** Cathodoluminescence images (A) and concordia diagram for LA-ICPMS zircon U-Pb
1438 isotopic age data (B) showing internal structures of zircon grains, analyzed domains, apparent
1439 $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ages and calculated ages of each zircon group for representative quartz
1440 monzodioritic gneiss sample 13PQ11-8.

1441

1442 **Fig. 8.** Diagrams of initial $^{176}\text{Hf}/^{177}\text{Hf}(t_1)$ vs. apparent $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ages (t_1) (A, C, E, and G) and
1443 $\epsilon\text{Hf}(t_2)$ values vs. crystallization ages (t_2) (B, D, F, and H) for samples 13PQ13-4, 13PQ14-3,
1444 13PQ16-4, and 13PQ11-8. Comparable initial $^{176}\text{Hf}/^{177}\text{Hf}(t_1)$ values of most analyzed zircon
1445 domains for each sample (shaded areas) imply that they were originally crystallized from the
1446 same magmatic system, but subjected to different degrees of Pb loss (Zeh et al., 2007).
1447 $^{176}\text{Lu}/^{177}\text{Hf}$ ratios of depleted mantle and chondrite are 0.0384 and 0.0332, respectively
1448 (Blichert-Toft and Albarède, 1997; Griffin et al., 2000), whereas the “New Crust” evolution line
1449 indicates lower $\epsilon\text{Hf}(t)$ values of juvenile crust generated in island arc settings, emphasizing the
1450 role of recycled sediments (Dhuime et al., 2011).

1451

1452 **Fig. 9.** Petrochemical classification and major geochemical features of representative samples
1453 of the Pingquan Complex. Late Neoproterozoic metabasaltic rocks and dioritic/TTG gneisses
1454 from the Dantazi and Huai'an-Xuanhua complexes of Northern Hebei Province are plotted for

1455 comparison (Liu et al., 2011b, 2012b; Ge et al., 2015). (A) $Zr/TiO_2 \cdot 0.0001$ vs. Nb/Y diagram
1456 (Winchester and Floyd, 1976) and (B) La vs. Yb discrimination diagram (Ross and Bédard,
1457 2009) for metabasaltic rocks. Total alkalis vs. silica (TAS; Middlemost, 1994) (C); An-Ab-Or
1458 (O'Connor, 1965) (D); and MgO vs. SiO_2 (E) diagrams (PMB: experimentally-derived partial
1459 melts from metabasalts; LSA-low silica adakite; HSA-high silica adakite; Martin et al., 2005) for
1460 granitoid gneisses. Symbols: solid diamonds - amphibolites of Pingquan Complex; open
1461 diamonds - metabasaltic rocks of Dantazi Complex; solid squares - dioritic gneisses of
1462 Pingquan Complex; large/small open squares - dioritic/TTG gneisses of Huai'an-Xuanhua and
1463 Dantazi complexes; Solid triangles - quartz monzodioritic gneisses, and solid circles -
1464 monzogranitic gneisses of Pingquan Complex.

1465

1466 **Fig. 10.** Chondrite-normalized REE and primitive mantle-normalized multi-element patterns for
1467 (A-B) metabasaltic rocks; (C-D) dioritic and TTG gneisses; and (E-F) quartz monzodioritic and
1468 monzogranitic gneisses of Northern Hebei Province. Symbols are the same as Fig. 9, and
1469 chondrite and primitive mantle values after Sun and McDonough (1989).

1470

1471 **Fig. 11.** Summary of early Precambrian tectonothermal events in the Northern Hebei Province
1472 (detailed age data in Supplementary Table 5). (A) Histogram of major magmatic events,
1473 showing magmatic precursors of most supracrustal metavolcanic rocks and plutonic granitoid
1474 gneisses formed earlier than 2491 Ma. The inset illustrates detailed temporal framework of late
1475 Neoproterozoic to early Paleoproterozoic magmatic events. Magmatic precursors of sporadic
1476 granitic rocks were emplaced at ~2454-2410 and ~2003-1977 Ma, followed by the formation of

1477 minor ~1859 Ma gabbroic rocks (two-pyroxene granulites); (B) histogram of major
1478 metamorphic events, showing early Paleoproterozoic age peaks at ~2480, ~2450, and ~2400
1479 Ma and late Paleoproterozoic age peak at ~1850 Ma, with minor metamorphic zircon grains at
1480 ~2176-2065 Ma. Notably, eruption of ~2506-2502 Ma basaltic rocks (with subordinate
1481 andesitic to rhyolitic rocks) was earlier than the first episode of metamorphism (≤ 2488 Ma).

1482

1483 **Fig. 12.** Petrogenetic diagrams for metabasaltic rocks of Northern Hebei Province. (A) La/Sm
1484 vs. La diagram (Treuil and Joron, 1975), illustrating both partial melting and fractional
1485 crystallization trends; (B) CaO/Al₂O₃ vs. SiO₂ diagram, showing effects of clinopyroxene (Cpx)
1486 fractionation; (C) Fe₂O₃T vs. TiO₂ diagram (the inset is Fe₂O₃T vs. V diagram), precluding the
1487 involvement of magnetite fractionation; (D) (Nb/La)_{PM} vs. (La/Sm)_N diagram (Sun and
1488 McDonough, 1989); (E) Zr/Yb vs. Nb/Yb diagram (Pearce and Peate, 1995), showing the
1489 nature of mantle sources compared with those of N-MORBs and E-MORBs; and (F) Sm/Hf vs.
1490 initial ¹⁷⁶Hf/¹⁷⁷Hf diagram, depicting different trends for addition of partial melts from pelagic
1491 sediments and detrital-rich turbidites in the depleted mantle sources (Handley et al., 2011).
1492 Initial ¹⁷⁶Hf/¹⁷⁷Hf values for depleted mantle (0.281324-0.281459) are compiled from modern
1493 Atalantic, Pacific, and Indian N-MORBs of Chauvel and Blichert-Toft (2001) (C&B, 2001),
1494 which are calculated back to 2.5 Ga using a ¹⁷⁶Lu/¹⁷⁷Hf ratio of 0.0387 (Griffin et al., 2000).
1495 Sm/Hf ratios of 1.28-1.31 for depleted mantle are used here, considering average Sm/Hf ratio
1496 of 1.28 for modern N-MORBs (C&B, 2001) and 1.31 for N-MORB of Sun and McDonough
1497 (1989) (S&M, 1989). Clinopyroxene and/or hornblende fractionation from basaltic to andesitic
1498 magmas can decrease the Sm/Hf ratios (Handley et al., 2011). Samples GB30 and GB33 with

1499 higher $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3\text{T}$ contents and magnetite accumulation display lower La/Sm but higher $(\text{Nb/La})_{\text{PM}}$
 1500 ratios, suggesting a distinct mantle source (see main text for explanation).

1501

1502 **Fig. 13.** Petrogenetic diagrams for dioritic and TTG gneisses of Northern Hebei Province. (A)

1503 $(\text{La/Yb})_{\text{N}}$ vs. $(\text{La})_{\text{N}}$ diagram, discriminating adakitic rocks from Phanerozoic arc

1504 basaltic-andesitic-dacitic-rhyolitic rocks (Martin, 1986); (B) La/Sm vs. La diagram (Treuil and

1505 Joron, 1975), with dioritic and TTG gneisses respectively controlled by partial melting and

1506 fractional crystallization. High La/Sm ratios and low La contents of some samples may be

1507 ascribed to plagioclase accumulation (Rollinson, 1993); (C) Gd/Yb vs. MgO diagram (Wang et

1508 al., 2015b). Similar Gd/Yb ratios precludes a genetic link between dioritic and TTG gneisses by

1509 hornblende fractionation; (D) $\text{CaO/Al}_2\text{O}_3$ vs. SiO_2 diagram, emphasizing clinopyroxene (Cpx)

1510 fractionation for dioritic magmas; (E) $(\text{Nb/La})_{\text{PM}}$ vs. $(\text{La/Sm})_{\text{N}}$ diagram (Sun and McDonough,

1511 1989); and (F) Sm/Hf vs. initial $^{176}\text{Hf}/^{177}\text{Hf}$ diagram, indicating involvement of partial melts from

1512 subducted pelagic sediments in the mantle source of dioritic gneisses. Low Sm/Hf ratio of

1513 sample 13PQ16-4 is better explained by Cpx fractionation (Handley et al., 2011).

1514

1515 **Fig. 14.** Petrogenetic diagrams for quartz monzodioritic and monzogranitic gneisses of

1516 Pingquan Complex. (A) $\text{K}_2\text{O-Na}_2\text{O-CaO}$ diagram, showing a sodium-rich trend (1) for TTG

1517 gneisses) and a potassium-rich trend (2) for sanukitoids, closepet-type granites, biotite

1518 granites, and two mica-granites (Moyen et al., 2003); (B) A/CNK vs. maficity (atomic $(\text{Fe} +$

1519 $\text{Mg})/100\text{g}$ samples) diagram (Clemens and Stevens, 2012); entrainment of peritectic garnet

1520 (Gt) and clinopyroxene (Cpx) in granitic magmas are marked by different trends; (C) Sm/Hf vs.

1521 initial $^{176}\text{Hf}/^{177}\text{Hf}$ diagram (Handley et al., 2011); large scatter of Sm/Hf ratios (0.53-2.27) of all
1522 quartz monzodioritic gneisses may be ascribed to Cpx crystallization (Wang et al., 2016); (D)
1523 Gd/Yb vs. MgO diagram, precluding effects of hornblende fractionation (Wang et al., 2015b);
1524 (E) molar $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/(\text{MgO} + \text{FeO}_T)$ (AFM) vs. molar $\text{CaO}/(\text{MgO} + \text{FeO}_T)$ (CFM) diagram (Altherr et
1525 al., 2000); and (F) $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/(\text{FeO}_T + \text{MgO}) - 3 \cdot \text{CaO} - 5 \cdot (\text{K}_2\text{O}/\text{Na}_2\text{O})$ ternary diagram (Patiño Douce,
1526 1999), showing source composition of monzogranitic gneisses.

1527

1528 **Fig. 15.** (A) Nb/Ta vs. Zr/Sm diagram (Foley et al., 2002), showing mostly moderate to high
1529 Nb/Ta ratios for major lithologies of Northern Hebei Province. The horizontal and vertical lines
1530 are chondritic Nb/Ta and Zr/Sm ratios of 17.6 and 25, respectively. (B) Zr/Hf vs. Lu/Hf diagram.
1531 Nearly constant and chondrite-like Zr/Hf ratios (36.3; Sun and McDonough, 1989) for most
1532 mantle-derived rocks of NHB suggest neither involvement of carbonatite metasomatism nor
1533 addition of partial melts from zircon/detrital-rich sediments (with zircon breakdown) in the
1534 lithospheric mantle sources (Dupuy et al., 1992; Carpentier et al., 2009).

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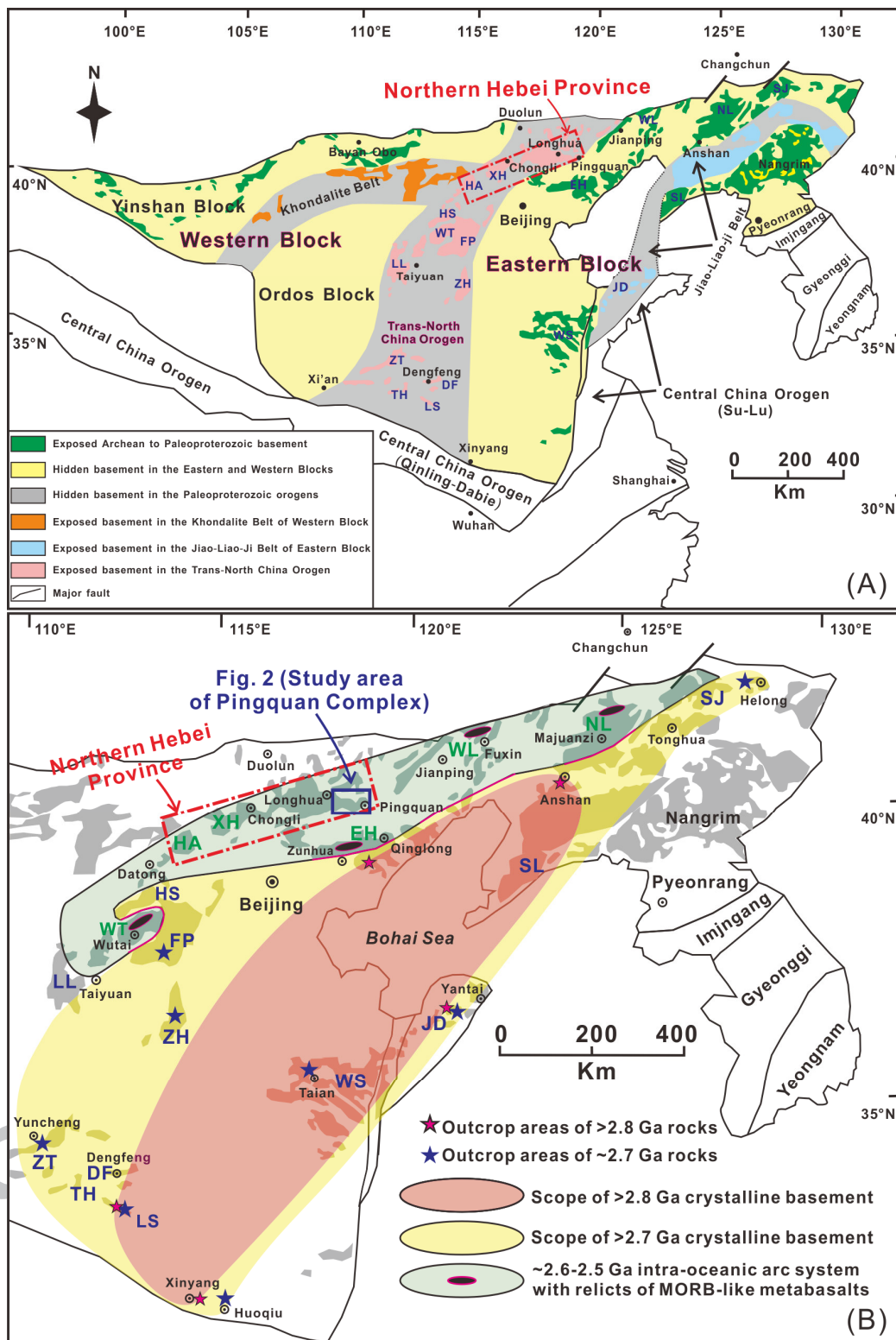
1536 **Supplementary Fig. 1.** Chondrite-normalized rare earth element (REE) patterns of the dated
1537 zircon grains from amphibolite samples 13PQ07-3 (A) and 13PQ13-4 (B). Most zircon grains
1538 show parallel and magmatic zircon-like REE patterns (positive Ce and negative Eu anomalies
1539 as well as steep HREE), suggesting their crystallization from magmatic systems (Rubatto,
1540 2002). Minor zircon grains show either higher light rare earth elements (LREEs) or lower total
1541 REE contents, possibly resulting from local element mobilization of the original magmatic
1542 zircons triggered by regional Paleoproterozoic tectonothermal events (Whitehouse and

1543 Kamber, 2003; Wang et al., 2015b). Analyses with solid symbols are those used to calculate
1544 the crystallization ages of the magmatic precursors. The chondrite normalized values are after
1545 Sun and McDonough (1989).

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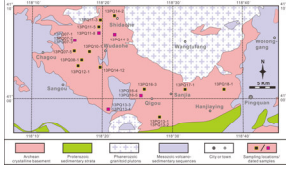
1547 **Supplementary Fig. 2.** Covariation diagrams of Zr versus representative (A–B) LREEs (La
1548 and Sm), (C) HFSEs (Nb), and (D–F) LILEs (Th, Ba, and Rb) for late Neoproterozoic basement
1549 rocks of Pingquan Complex. Generally positive correlations between Zr and La, Sm, and Nb
1550 indicate that primary igneous LREE and HFSE contents are generally preserved, whereas
1551 large scatters of Th, Ba, and Rb suggest that LILEs have been mobilized and cannot be used
1552 for petrogenetic discussions.

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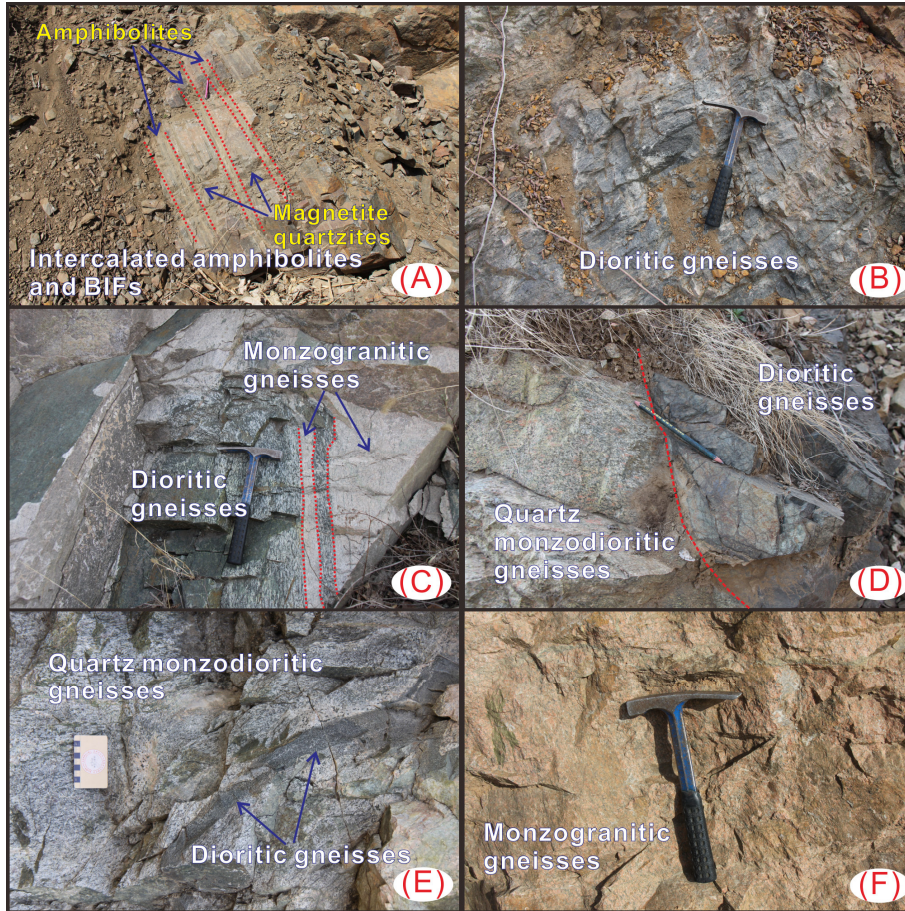
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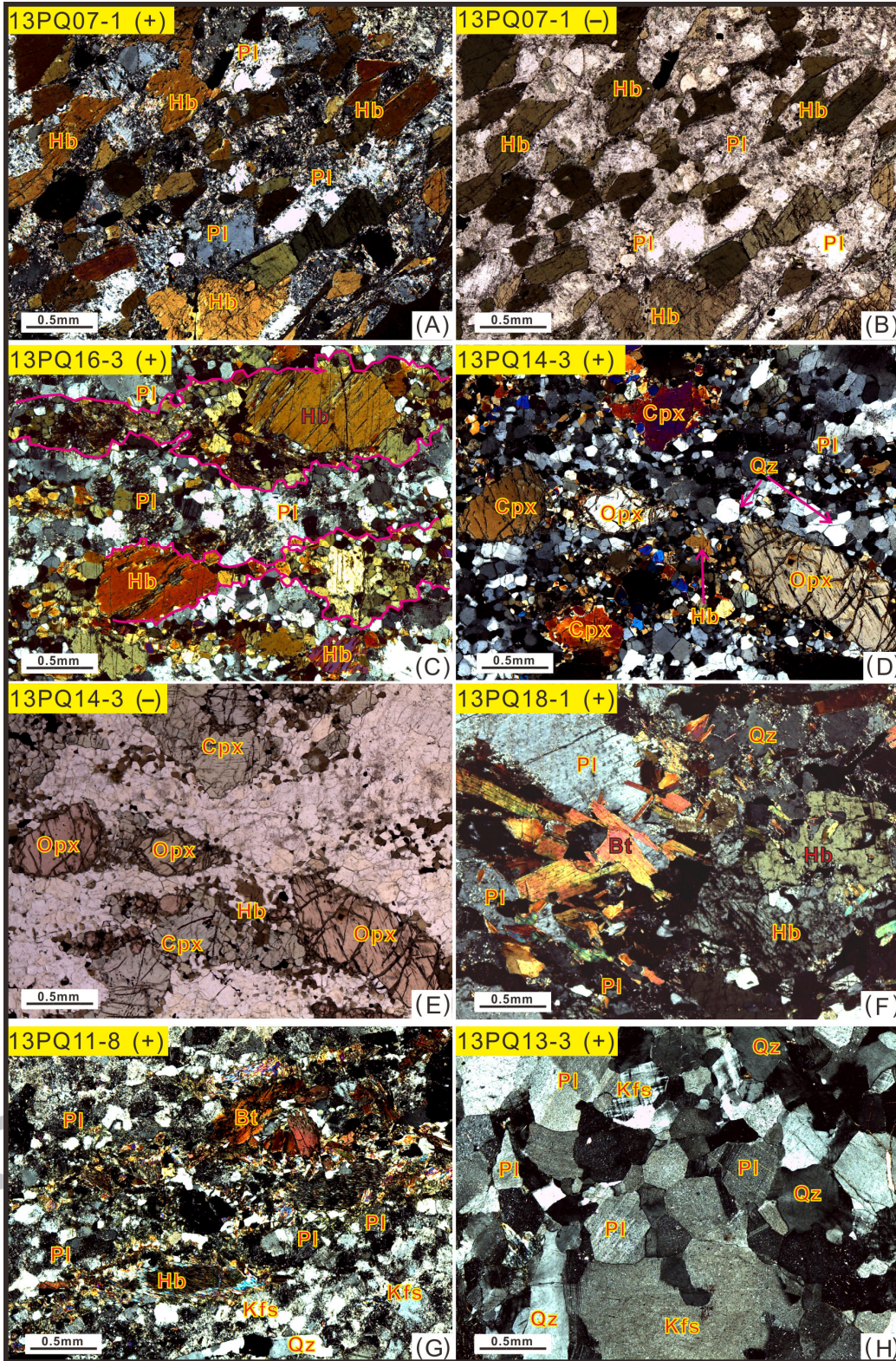
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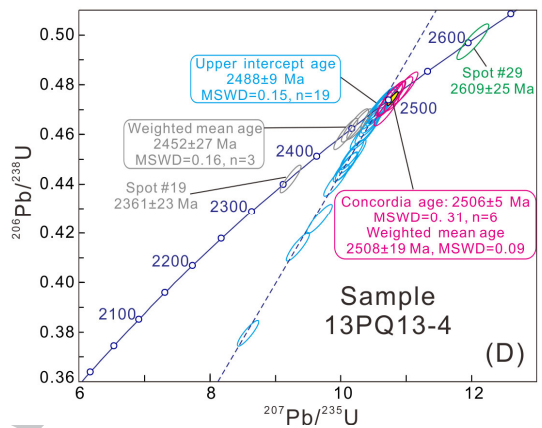
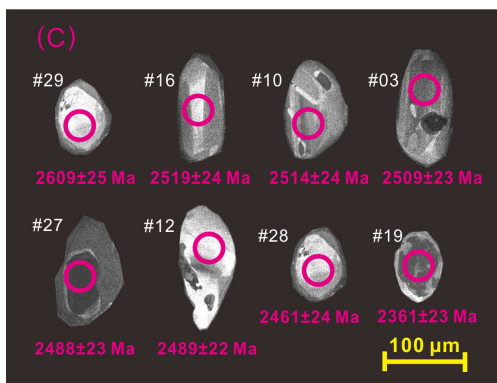
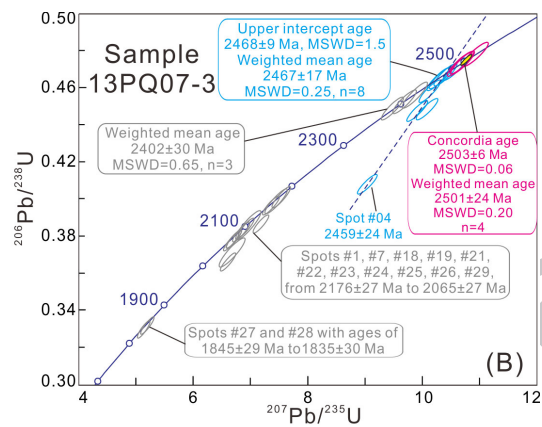
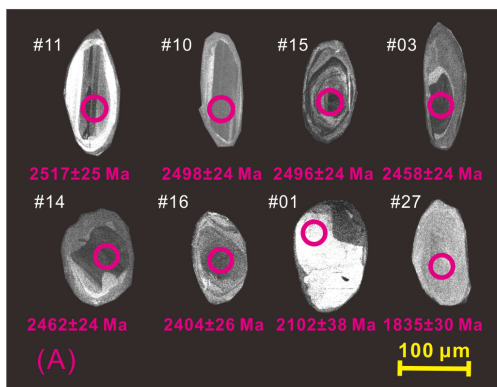
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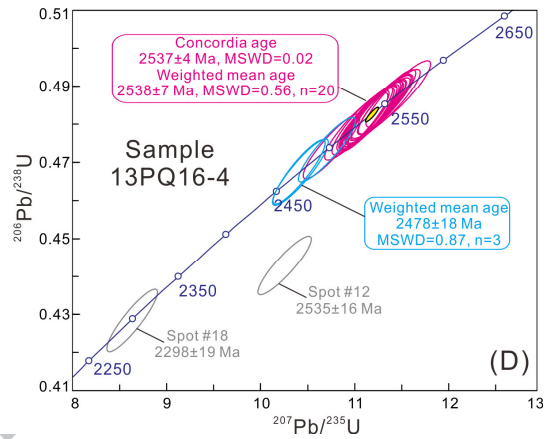
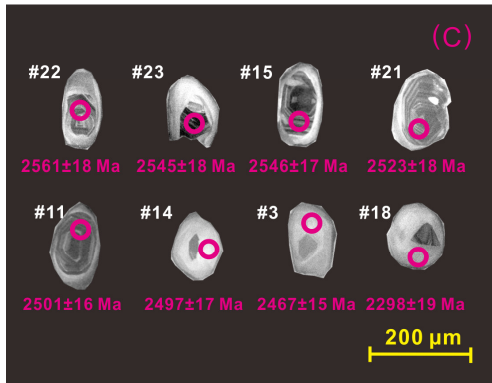
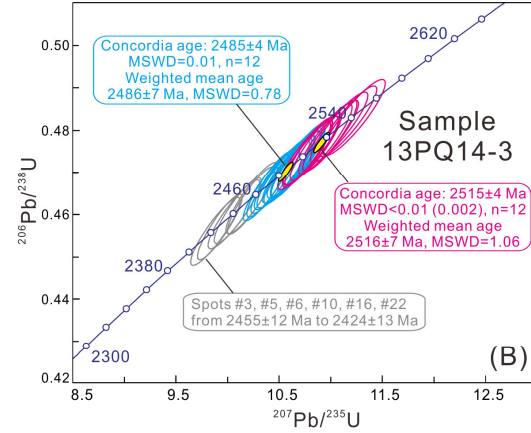
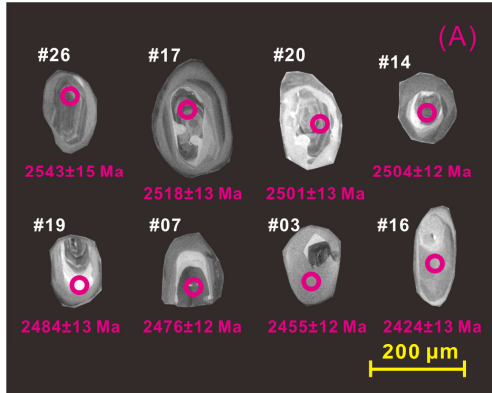
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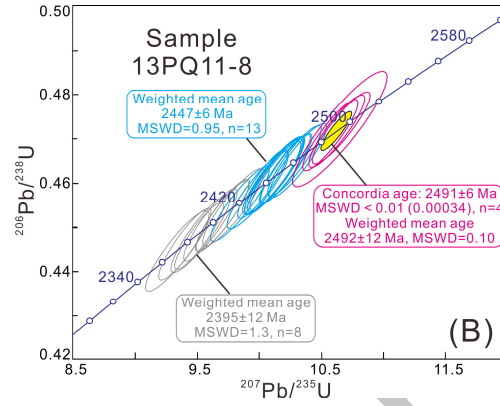
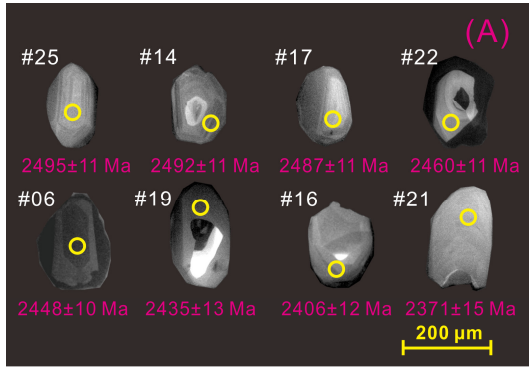
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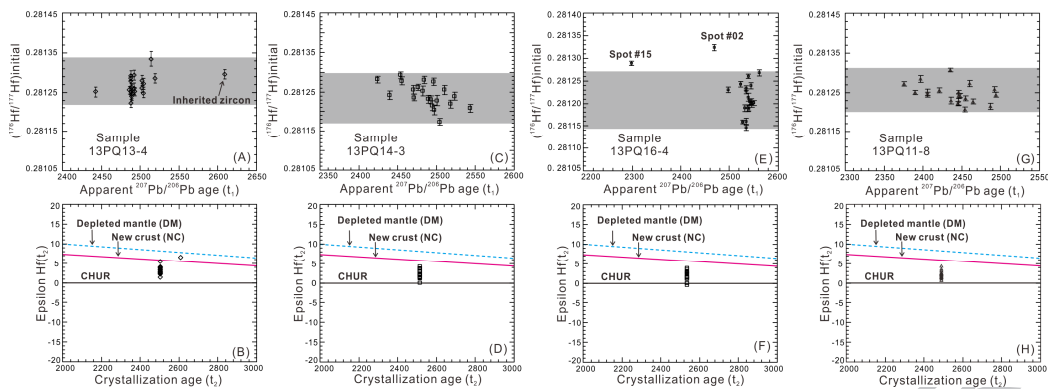
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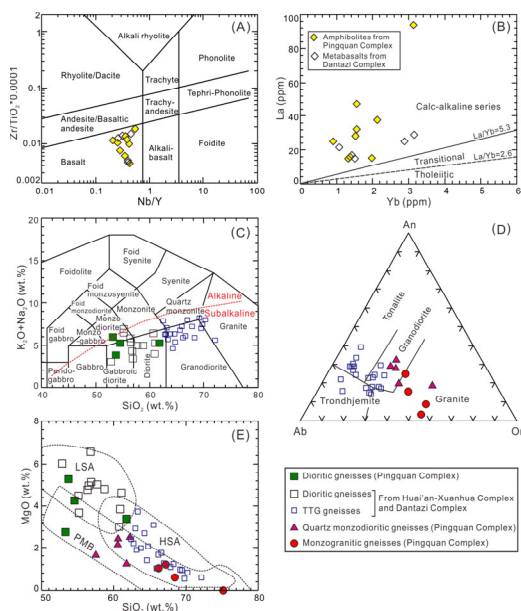
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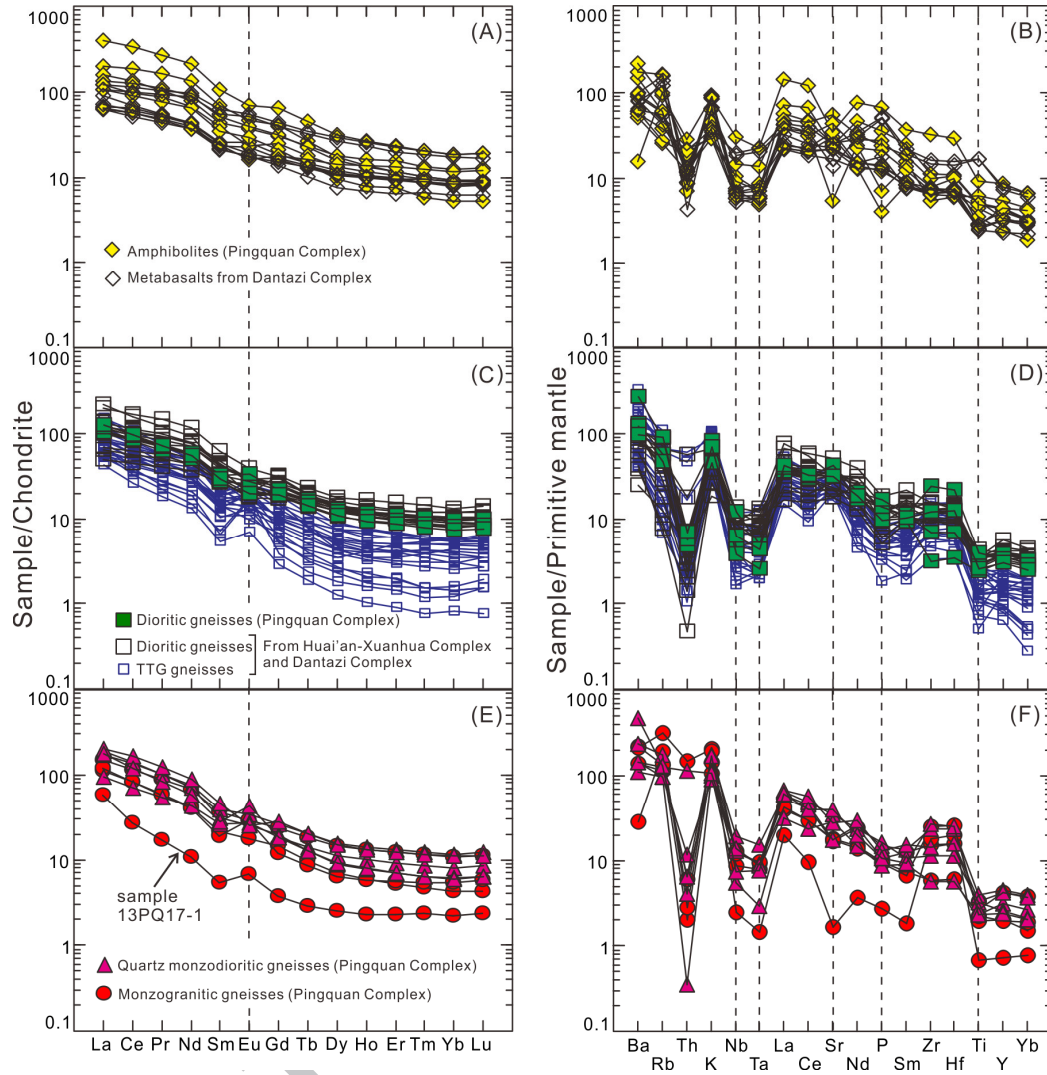
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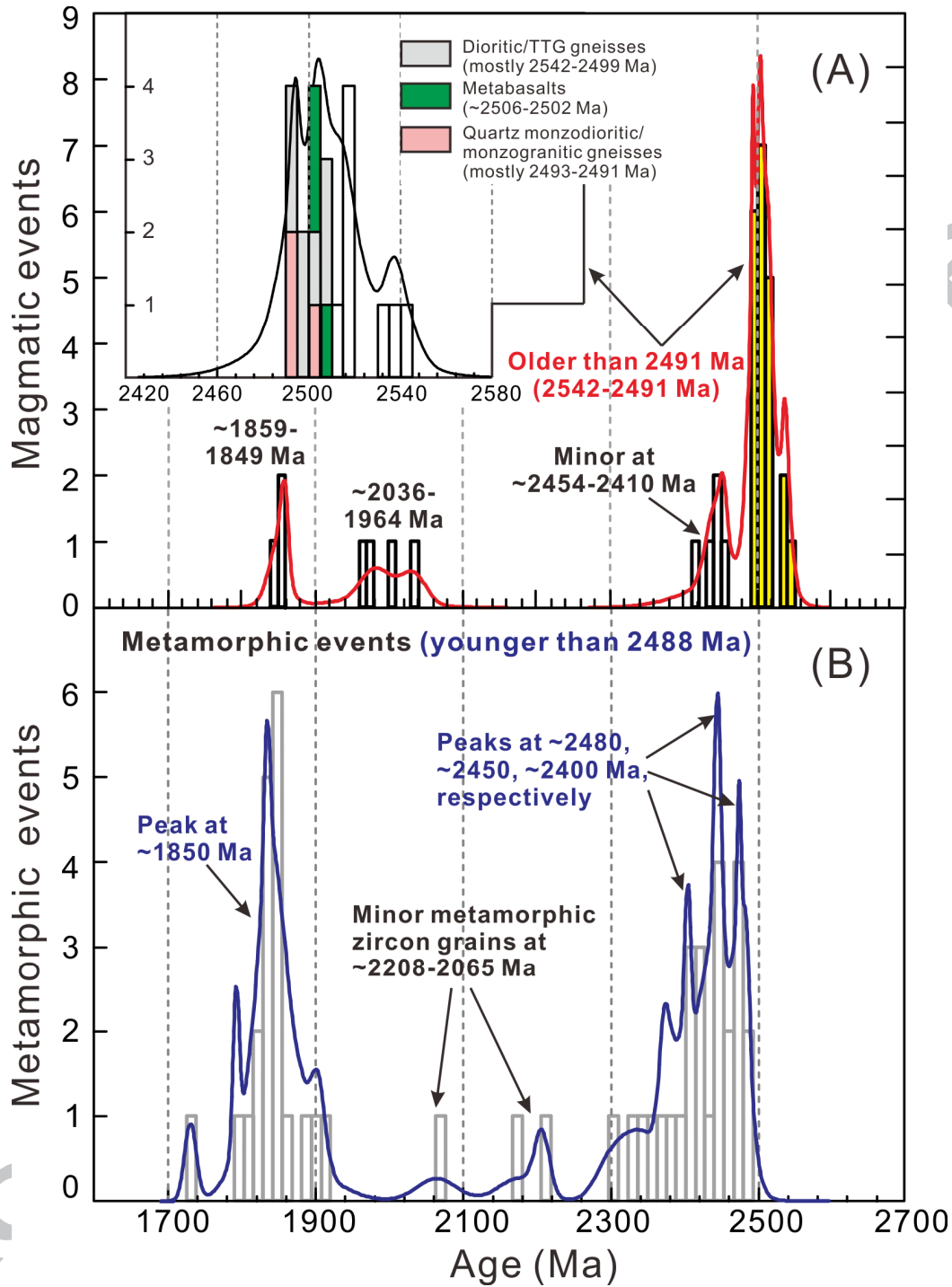
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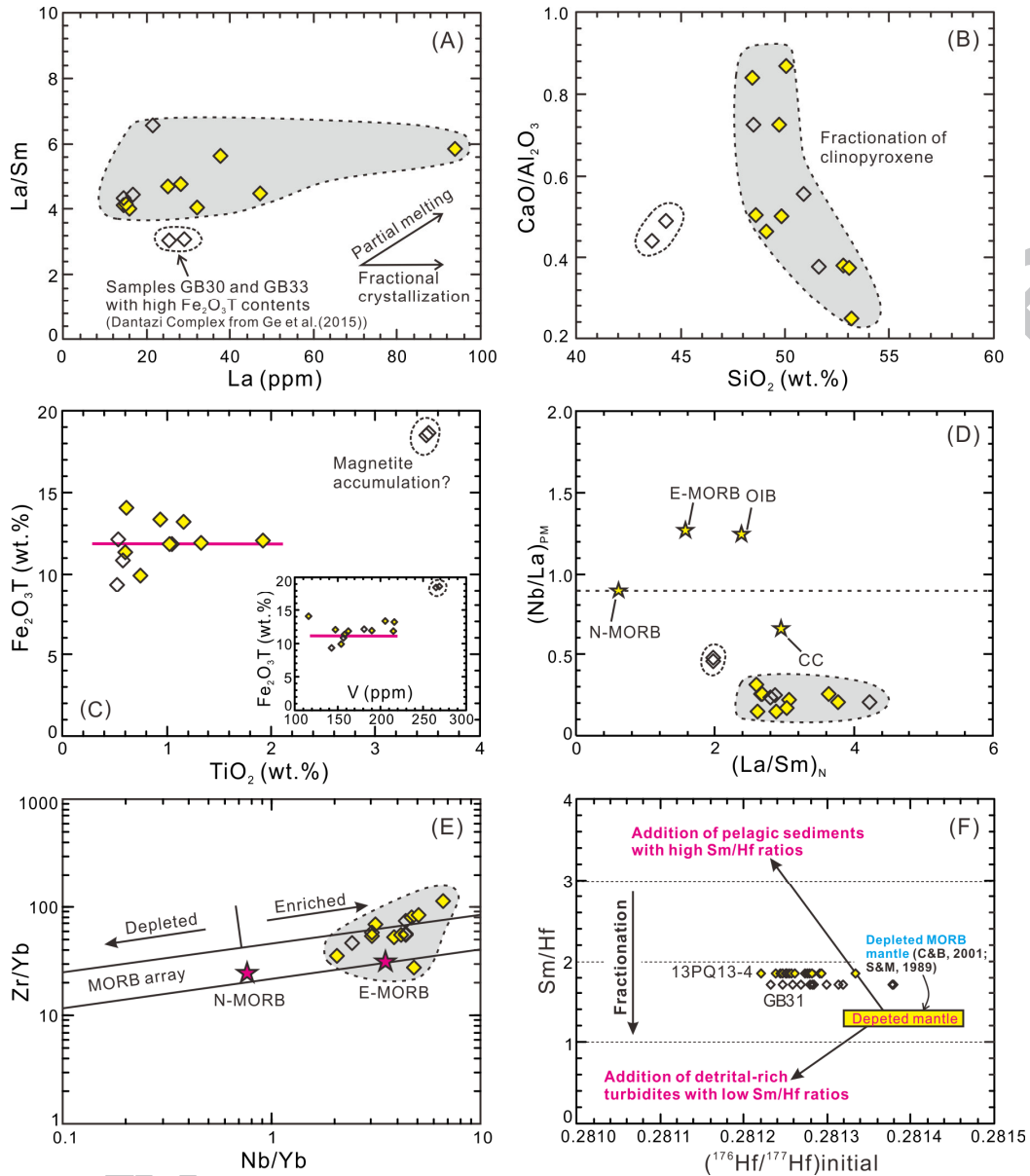
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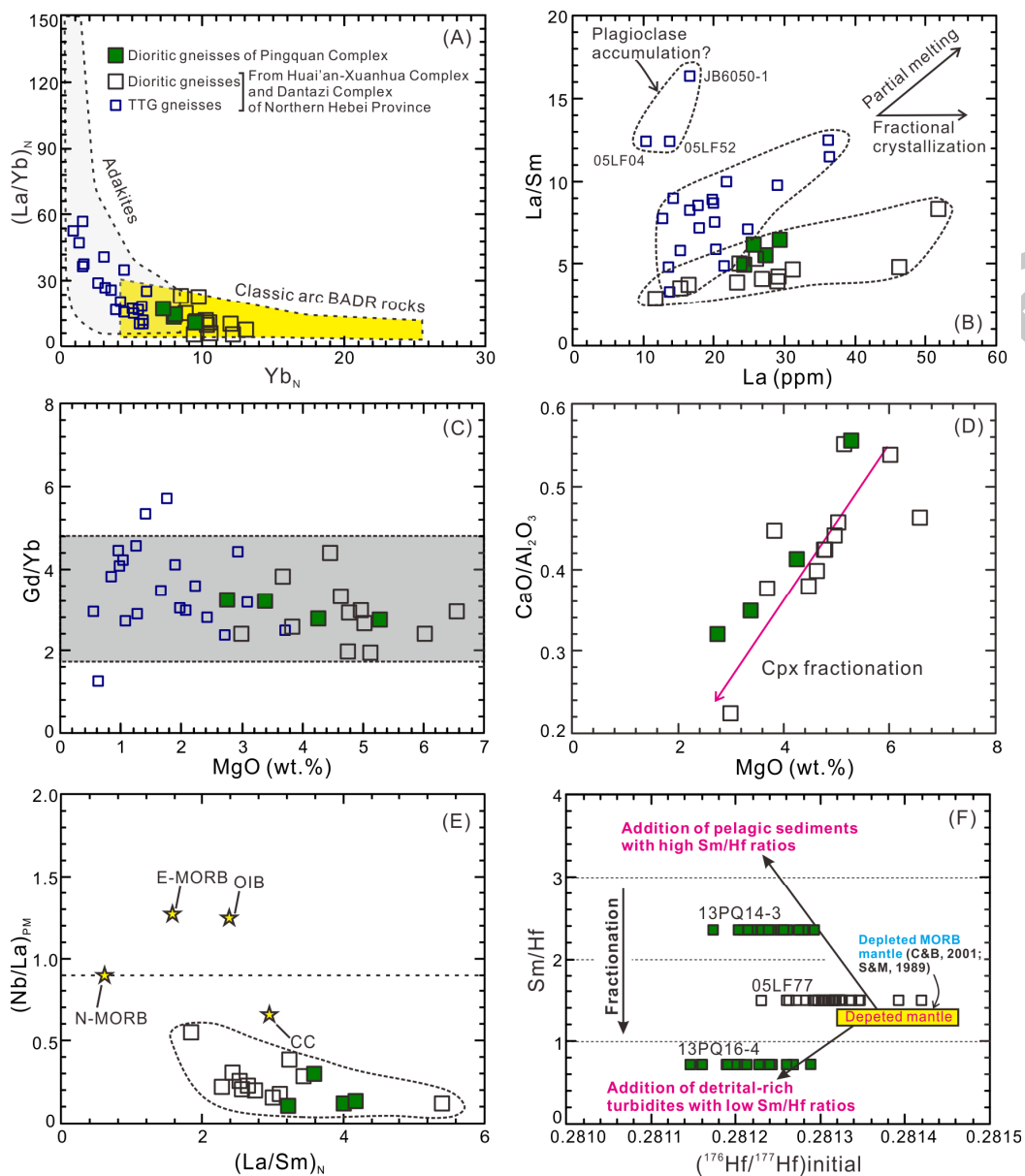
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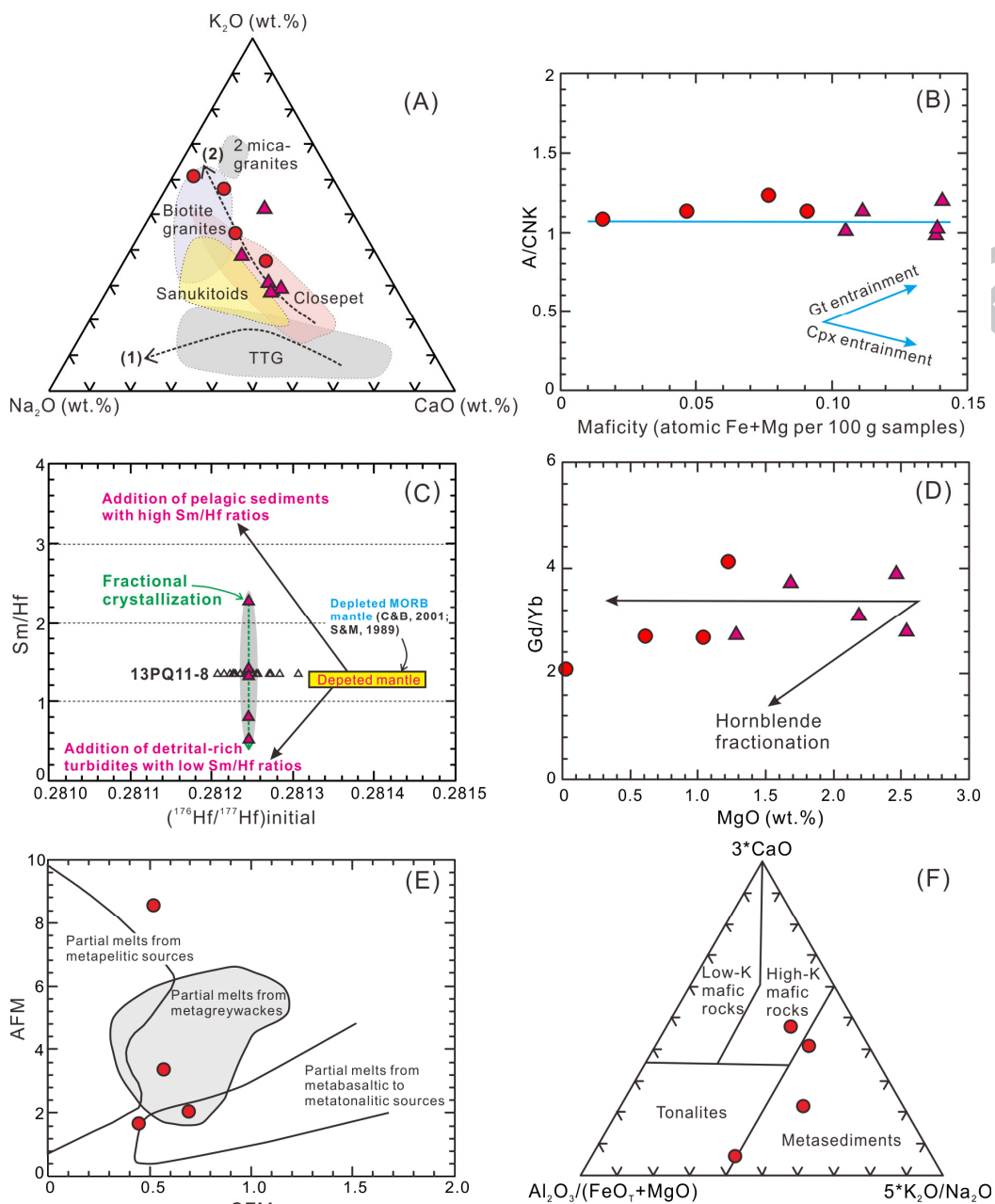
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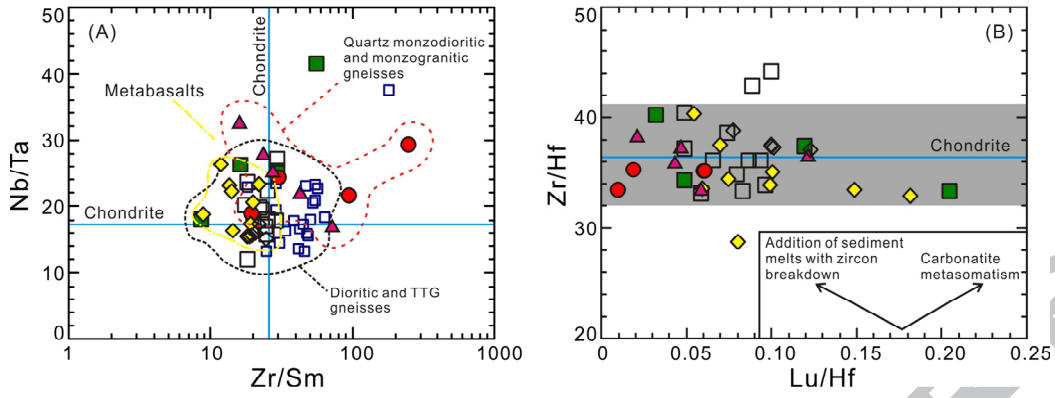
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1584 **Research Highlights:**

1585 ➤ ~2537-2491 Ma Pingquan amphibolites and granitoid gneisses, Northern Hebei Province;

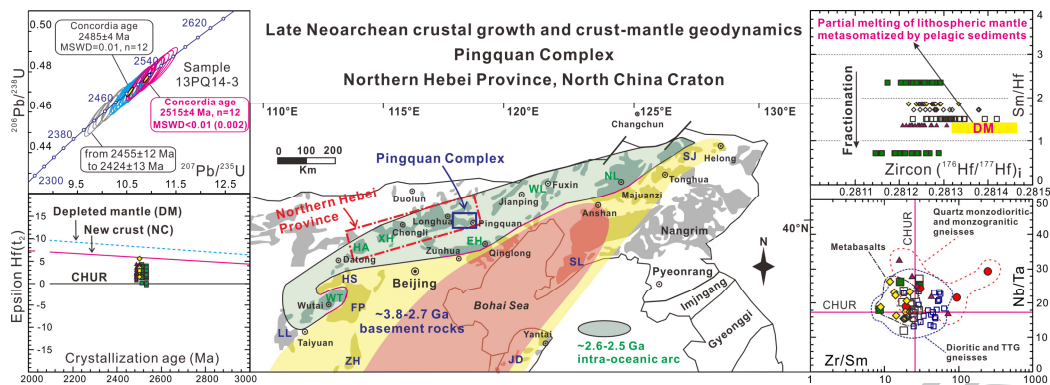
1586 ➤ Derivation from a moderately depleted mantle enriched by subducted pelagic sediments;

1587 ➤ Mantle heterogeneity beneath ~2.6-2.5 Ga oceanic arc along northwestern margin of EB;

1588 ➤ Late Neoproterozoic crustal growth linked to oceanic subduction and arc-continent accretion.

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