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## Petrogenesis of the Mesozoic intrusive complexes from the southern Taihang Orogen, North China Craton: elemental and Sr–Nd–Pb isotopic constraints

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**Abstract** A geochemical and isotopic study was carried out for three Mesozoic intrusive suites (the Xishu, Wu'an and Hongshan suites) from the North China Craton (NCC) to understand their genesis and geodynamic implications. The Xishu and Wu'an suites are gabbroic to monzonitic in composition. They share many common geochemical features like high Mg# and minor to positive Eu anomalies in REE patterns. Initial Nd–Sr isotopic compositions for Xishu suite are  $\epsilon_{Nd}(135 \text{ Ma}) = -12.3$  to  $-16.9$  and mostly  $I_{Sr} = 0.7056-0.7071$ ; whereas those for Wu'an suite are slightly different. Pb isotopic ratios for Xishu suite are  $(^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb})_i = 16.92-17.3$ ,  $(^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb})_i = 15.32-15.42$ ,  $(^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb})_i = 37.16-37.63$ , which are slightly higher than for Wu'an suite. The Xishu–Wu'an complexes are considered to originate from partial melting of an EM1-type mantle source, followed by significant contamination of lower crustal components. The Hongshan suite (mainly syenite and granite) shows distinctly higher  $\epsilon_{Nd}(135 \text{ Ma})$  values ( $-8$  to  $-11$ ) and slightly higher Pb isotopic ratios than the Xishu–Wu'an suites. It was formed via fractionation of a *separate* parental magma that also originated from the EM1-type mantle source, with incorporation of a small amount of lower crustal components. Partial melting of the mantle sources took place in a back-arc extensional regime that is related to the subduction of the paleo-Pacific slab beneath the NCC.

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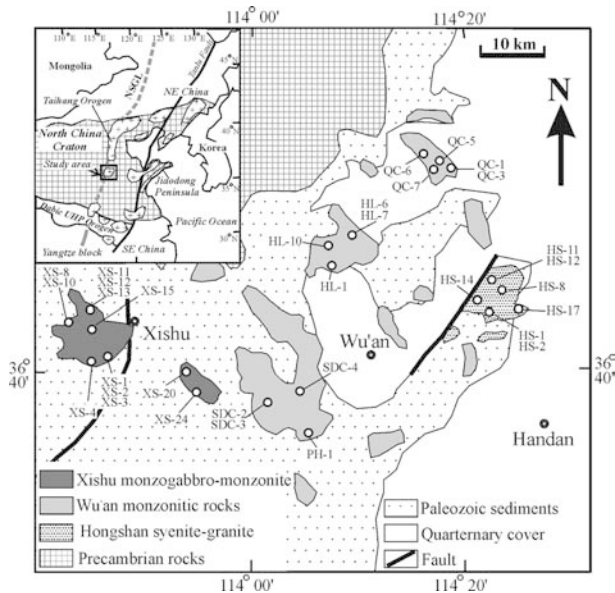
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### Introduction

Several interesting issues concerning the evolution of the subcontinental lithospheric mantle (SCLM) beneath the eastern NCC have been investigated by many workers in the last decade (Menzies et al. 1993; Menzies and Xu 1998; Xu 2001; Gao et al. 2002; Chen and Zhai 2003). The occurrence of diamonds in Paleozoic kimberlites implies the presence of a thick (150–220 km), and refractory lithospheric keel underlying the craton, while mantle xenoliths in Cenozoic basalts suggest a thin (60–120 km), and fertile oceanic-type lithosphere in the Cenozoic (Song et al. 1990; Xu 2001). Such a change of lithospheric nature implies a significant erosion of the ancient lithospheric mantle (Archaean in age; Gao et al. 2002) during the Mesozoic, and distinguishes the NCC from most other ancient cratons. The lithosphere thinning was coupled with widespread Mesozoic magmatism. What is the origin of the Mesozoic magmatism and how was it related to the lithospheric mantle evolution? What geodynamic setting change caused the sudden surge of the Mesozoic magmatism in the NCC? Understanding to these issues has been significantly hindered by lack of systematic studies on Mesozoic magmatism. In this paper, we present the results of elemental and Nd–Sr–Pb isotopic data for Mesozoic intrusive complexes from the southern Taihang orogen (Fig. 1) in eastern NCC. They will be used to trace the source of these rocks, and investigate the relationship between Mesozoic magmatism and lithospheric mantle evolution.

### Geological setting and sample description

The geological setting of the NCC has been frequently described (e.g., Jahn et al. 1988; Menzies et al. 1993). The NCC is one of the oldest continental nuclei in the world, with basement of mainly Archaean to Early Proterozoic gneisses (Jahn et al. 1988). Thick sequences



**Fig. 1** Geological sketch map of the southern Taihang orogen. *Inset* shows distribution of the Mesozoic magmatic rocks (cross) in eastern North China craton (chessboard). NSGL south–north gravity lineament

of middle to late Proterozoic sediments unconformably overlie the basement rocks, indicating that the craton was stabilized by the early Proterozoic at about 1.8 Ga, and much of the craton remained stable up to Triassic time. However, the eastern part of the NCC (to the east of a south–north gravity lineament; inset of Fig. 1) was intensely remobilized since early Mesozoic, with a thin lithosphere (60–120 km) and widespread Mesozoic magmatism and basin development. This is in contrast with a thick (150–220 km) lithosphere and rare magmatism in the region to the west of the lineament. The southern margin of the NCC is the Dabie ultra-high pressure (UHP) orogen that was formed during the process of a Triassic collision between the Yangtze block and NCC (Chen et al. 2002a; inset of Fig. 1).

Three suites of Mesozoic intrusions occur in the southern Taihang orogen: the Xishu monzogabbro–monzonite, the Wu'an monzonite–quartz monzonite, and the Hongshan syenite–granite (Fig. 1). Peridotite xenoliths occur as enclaves in the Xishu rocks (Xu and Lin 1991). Brief petrological description for the main rock types is given below.

Monzogabbros are medium-grained, dark green rocks, made up of clinopyroxene (20%), hornblende (25%), biotite (5%), plagioclase (40, with An = 59–50) and K-feldspar (8%), and accessory phases like titanomagnetite and zircon. Monzodiorites are richer in plagioclase (55%) and K-feldspar (15%), and poorer in clinopyroxene (5–10%) than monzogabbros. Monzonites mainly contain plagioclase (45%) and K-feldspar (35–40%), and small amounts of hornblende, clinopyroxene, magnetite, titanomagnetite, allanite, sphene, apatite and zircon. Syenites are pinkish-grey porphyritic rocks, containing phenocrysts of plagioclase and

K-feldspar in a medium- to fine-grained groundmass. Main constituent mineral is K-feldspar (60–85%); other minerals include plagioclase (5–15%), quartz (<5%) and mafic phases such as hornblende (5–10%), biotite (5%) and clinopyroxene (5–10%), and accessory apatite, titanomagnetite, allanite, zircon and sphene.

The emplacement time for the intrusives of the Taihang orogen was dated at 129–138 Ma using the zircon U–Pb and Rb–Sr whole-rock isochron methods (Davis et al. 1998; Cai et al. 2003). This is consistent with a new zircon U–Pb age of  $127 \pm 1$  Ma for a diorite pluton from the Xishu suite (Peng et al. 2004). Thus, emplacement of the magmatic complexes in the Taihang orogen took place in the period of 138–125 Ma.

## Analytical methods

Chemical and isotopic analyses were conducted in the Institute of Geology and Geophysics (IGG, Beijing). Major elements were analyzed using XRF, with analytical uncertainty < 3%. Trace elements were measured using ICP-MS; samples were digested by acid (HF + HClO<sub>4</sub>) in bombs. Analytical uncertainties are 10% for elements with abundances < 10 ppm, and around 5% for those > 10 ppm (Table 1).

Nd–Sr–Pb isotopic analyses were also measured at the IGG (Beijing). Some of the samples were chosen for duplicate analyses of Rb–Sr and Sm–Nd isotopes in Rennes (France) to cross-check the data quality, and the results obtained from the two laboratories appear in good agreement (Table 2). Details of the analytical methods in Rennes can be found in an earlier report (e.g., Chen et al. 2002a). In Beijing, samples were dissolved using acid (HF + HClO<sub>4</sub>) in sealed Savillex beakers on a hot plate for a week. Separation of Rb, Sr and light REE was done using a cation-exchange column (packed with Bio-Rad AG50Wx8 resin). Sm and Nd were further purified using a second cation-exchange column, conditioned and eluted with dilute HCl. Mass analyses were performed using a multi-collector VG354 mass spectrometer as described by Qiao (1988). Rb, Sr, Sm and Nd concentrations were measured using the isotopic dilution method. <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr ratios were normalized against <sup>86</sup>Sr/<sup>88</sup>Sr = 0.1194. <sup>143</sup>Nd/<sup>144</sup>Nd ratios were normalized against <sup>146</sup>Nd/<sup>144</sup>Nd = 0.7219. <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr ratios were adjusted to NBS-987 Sr standard = 0.710250, and the <sup>143</sup>Nd/<sup>144</sup>Nd ratios to La Jolla Nd standard = 0.511860. The uncertainty in concentration analyses by isotopic dilution is  $\pm 2\%$  for Rb,  $\pm 0.5$ –1% for Sr, and  $< \pm 0.5\%$  for Sm and Nd depending upon concentration levels. The overall uncertainty for Rb/Sr is  $\pm 2\%$  and Sm/Nd  $\pm 0.2$ –0.5%. Procedural blanks are: Rb = 120 pg, Sr = 200 pg, and Nd = 50–100 pg. For Pb isotope analyses, sample powder was spiked and dissolved in concentrated HF at 800°C for 72 h. Lead was separated and purified by conventional anion-exchange technique (AG1x8, 200–400 resin) with diluted HBr. Isotopic ratios were measured using the VG-354 mass



**Table 2** Rb–Sr and Sm–Nd isotope compositions for rocks from southern Taihang, North China

Sample No.	[Rb] ppm	$^{87}\text{Rb}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ppm	$^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$	$^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$	$^{86}\text{Sr}$ ppm	[Sm] ppm	[Nd] ppm	$^{147}\text{Sm}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ ppm	$^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$	$^{144}\text{Nd}$	$2\sigma_{\text{Nd}}$	$\epsilon_{\text{Nd}}(0)$	$\epsilon_{\text{Nd}}(T)$	135 Ma	f Sm/Nd	$T_{\text{DM}}$ (Ga)
HS-1	46.50	1006.0	0.1336	0.705799	20	0.70554	12.76	0.1175	0.511998	10	-12.5	-11.1	-0.40	1.82		
HS-2 <sup>a</sup>	232.8	260.4	2.5843	0.711976	6	0.70702	17.08	0.1071	0.512010	3	-12.3	-10.7	-0.46	1.63		
HS-8	94.00	697.4	0.3899	0.708094	19	0.70735	8.692	0.1025	0.512081	11	-10.9	-9.2	-0.48	1.46		
HS-14	159.8	875.8	0.5280	0.707131	18	0.70612	4.268	0.1219	0.512087	11	-10.7	-9.5	-0.38	1.76		
HS-17	342.2	948.0	1.0442	0.707170	19	0.70517	15.11	0.1125	0.512141	10	-9.7	-8.2	-0.43	1.52		
HS-11	106.5	51.86	5.9460	0.717570	32	0.70616	0.641	0.1059	0.512135	11	-9.8	-8.2	-0.46	1.43		
HS-12	140.5	39.04	10.433	0.730190	50	0.71017	0.946	0.0879	0.512057	11	-11.3	-9.5	-0.55	1.32		
QC-1 <sup>a</sup>	52.93	790.5	0.1934	0.707688	6	0.70732	28.39	0.1108	0.511644	3	-19.4	-17.9	-0.44	2.22		
QC-1	52.40	791.1	0.1914	0.707899	15	0.70753	27.45	0.1135	0.511674	9	-18.8	-17.4	-0.42	2.24		
QC-3	63.70	603.1	0.3057	0.707437	13	0.70685	14.58	0.1147	0.511747	14	-17.4	-16.0	-0.42	2.15		
QC-5	69.60	888.6	0.2267	0.708054	18	0.70762	24.94	0.1203	0.511640	10	-19.5	-18.2	-0.39	2.45		
QC-6	12.10	626.8	0.0558	0.707340	20	0.70723	3.140	0.1280	0.511783	14	-16.7	-15.5	-0.35	2.42		
QC-7	25.94	742.3	0.1015	0.706625	18	0.70643	14.84	0.1206	0.511768	10	-17.0	-15.7	-0.39	2.25		
SDC-2 <sup>a</sup>	58.04	550.6	0.3045	0.706606	7	0.70602	4.037	0.1001	0.511727	4	-17.8	-16.1	-0.49	1.90		
SDC-2	58.10	543.9	0.3089	0.706568	15	0.70598	4.246	0.1040	0.511728	10	-17.8	-16.2	-0.47	1.97		
SDC-3 <sup>a</sup>	43.67	828.2	0.1523	0.706411	7	0.70612	4.769	0.1040	0.511665	4	-19.0	-17.4	-0.47	2.06		
SDC-3	42.80	833.4	0.1487	0.706588	15	0.70630	4.490	0.1101	0.511683	12	-18.6	-17.1	-0.44	2.15		
SDC-4 <sup>a</sup>	40.09	901.0	0.1285	0.706123	7	0.70588	4.658	0.1123	0.511708	3	-18.1	-16.7	-0.43	2.16		
SDC-4	40.94	909.9	0.1302	0.706094	13	0.70584	4.279	0.1148	0.511777	20	-16.8	-15.4	-0.42	2.11		
HL-1	63.30	403.5	0.4537	0.708402	20	0.70753	5.103	0.1130	0.511715	9	-18.0	-16.6	-0.43	2.16		
HL-6 <sup>a</sup>	33.44	487.9	0.1980	0.706782	7	0.70640	27.31	0.1174	0.511664	4	-19.0	-17.6	-0.40	2.34		
HL-6	35.10	498.7	0.2036	0.706891	18	0.70650	24.85	0.1231	0.511683	9	-18.6	-17.4	-0.37	2.46		
HL-7	13.10	145.7	0.2602	0.707811	14	0.70731	3.610	0.1202	0.511861	12	-15.2	-13.8	-0.39	2.09		
HL-10	2.40	529.4	0.0130	0.707131	20	0.70711	4.270	0.1109	0.511673	11	-18.8	-17.3	-0.44	2.18		
PH-1 <sup>a</sup>	35.83	871.0	0.1188	0.706664	6	0.70644	5.087	0.1096	0.511713	3	-18.0	-16.5	-0.44	2.10		
PH-1	40.10	884.4	0.1312	0.706851	18	0.70660	5.089	0.1186	0.511723	15	-17.8	-16.5	-0.40	2.28		
XS-1 <sup>a</sup>	45.24	745.7	0.1752	0.706426	7	0.70609	4.236	0.1094	0.511831	3	-15.7	-14.2	-0.44	1.92		
XS-1	47.10	747.6	0.1822	0.706655	14	0.70631	4.420	0.1124	0.511853	10	-15.3	-13.9	-0.43	1.95		
XS-2 <sup>a</sup>	38.17	717.8	0.1536	0.706391	6	0.70610	5.213	0.1261	0.511813	3	-16.1	-14.8	-0.37	2.27		
XS-2	40.20	726.4	0.1599	0.706401	14	0.70609	4.916	0.1242	0.511851	9	-15.4	-14.1	-0.36	2.25		
XS-3 <sup>a</sup>	36.04	672.3	0.1549	0.706882	6	0.70658	5.703	0.1157	0.511852	3	-15.3	-13.9	-0.41	2.01		
XS-3	39.30	719.1	0.1577	0.706847	20	0.70654	6.455	0.1200	0.511863	11	-15.1	-13.8	-0.39	2.09		
XS-4 <sup>a</sup>	41.21	749.7	0.1588	0.706329	7	0.70602	5.081	0.1246	0.511819	3	-16.0	-14.7	-0.37	2.27		
XS-4	41.00	769.0	0.1543	0.706325	15	0.70603	5.507	0.1274	0.511866	12	-15.1	-13.9	-0.35	2.26		
XS-8	49.90	749.7	0.1927	0.706444	20	0.70607	5.032	0.1116	0.511791	11	-16.5	-15.1	-0.43	2.02		
XS-10 <sup>a</sup>	24.93	748.9	0.0961	0.706264	8	0.70608	5.431	0.1174	0.511880	3	-14.8	-13.4	-0.40	2.00		
XS-10	27.60	779.6	0.1025	0.706260	20	0.70606	5.662	0.1188	0.511895	10	-14.5	-13.2	-0.40	2.01		
XS-11	7.42	820.2	0.0262	0.706143	15	0.70609	4.096	0.1102	0.511695	10	-18.4	-16.9	-0.44	2.13		
XS-12	8.61	473.0	0.0526	0.707236	18	0.70714	3.707	0.1141	0.511912	10	-14.2	-12.7	-0.42	1.89		
XS-13	9.80	690.8	0.0410	0.707750	18	0.70767	5.569	0.1136	0.511731	7	-17.7	-16.3	-0.42	2.15		
XS-15	92.10	713.6	0.3732	0.706297	20	0.70558	4.420	0.1109	0.511865	10	-15.1	-13.6	-0.44	1.90		
XS-20	8.80	1240.1	0.0206	0.706730	13	0.70669	5.106	0.1121	0.511935	13	-13.7	-12.3	-0.43	1.82		
XS-24	6.84	584.9	0.0338	0.706112	22	0.70605	6.042	0.1194	0.511865	7	-15.1	-13.7	-0.39	2.07		

Note:  $\epsilon_{\text{Nd}} = \left( \frac{{}^{143}\text{Nd}/{}^{144}\text{Nd}}{({}^{143}\text{Nd}/{}^{144}\text{Nd})_{\text{CHUR}}} - 1 \right) \times 10,000$ ,  $f_{\text{Sm}/\text{Nd}} = \left( \frac{{}^{147}\text{Sm}/{}^{144}\text{Nd}}{({}^{147}\text{Sm}/{}^{144}\text{Nd})_{\text{CHUR}}} - 1 \right)$ , where  $s = \text{sample}$ ,  $({}^{143}\text{Nd}/{}^{144}\text{Nd})_{\text{CHUR}} = 0.512638$  and  $({}^{147}\text{Sm}/{}^{144}\text{Nd})_{\text{CHUR}} = 0.1967$ . Model age ( $T_{\text{DM}}$ ) is calculated using a linear isotopic ratio growth equation:  $T_{\text{DM}} = 1/\lambda \times \ln \left( 1 + \left( \frac{{}^{143}\text{Nd}/{}^{144}\text{Nd}}{({}^{143}\text{Nd}/{}^{144}\text{Nd})_{\text{CHUR}}} - 0.51315 \right) / \left( \frac{{}^{147}\text{Sm}/{}^{144}\text{Nd}}{({}^{147}\text{Sm}/{}^{144}\text{Nd})_{\text{CHUR}}} - 0.2137 \right) \right)$ . <sup>a</sup>Samples analyzed in Rennes, and the remainders in Beijing

**Table 3** Lead isotopic analyses for magmatic rocks from southern Taihang, North China

Sample No.	$^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$	$^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$	$^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$	$^{238}\text{U}/^{204}\text{Pb}$	$^{235}\text{U}/^{204}\text{Pb}$	$^{232}\text{Th}/^{204}\text{Pb}$	$(^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb})_i$	$(^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb})_i$	$(^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb})_i$	$\Delta 7/4$	$\Delta 8/4$
HS-1	17.352	15.378	37.284	2.993	0.0216	10.265	17.288	15.375	37.216	1.0	68.7
HS-2	18.217	15.462	38.569	24.453	0.1766	110.020	17.700	15.437	37.832	2.8	80.6
HS-8	16.336	14.098	34.610	6.371	0.0460	14.299	16.201	14.092	34.514	-115.0	-70.0
HS-14	18.399	15.477	38.328	29.080	0.2100	95.941	17.783	15.447	37.685	2.9	55.8
HS-17	17.676	15.427	37.756	5.855	0.0423	28.005	17.552	15.421	37.568	2.7	72.0
HS-11	18.043	15.434	37.787	91.456	0.6606	110.715	17.370	15.401	37.414	2.7	78.7
HS-12	20.406	15.530	40.062	103.833	0.7500	510.791	17.514	15.390	38.084	0.0	128.2
QC-1	16.768	15.287	36.975	4.400	0.0318	28.804	16.675	15.283	36.782	-1.6	99.5
QC-3	17.085	15.343	37.218	8.345	0.0603	33.752	16.908	15.334	36.992	1.0	92.2
QC-5	16.775	15.304	36.996	2.892	0.0209	27.764	16.714	15.301	36.810	-0.1	97.6
QC-6	17.472	15.386	38.501	17.971	0.1298	211.448	17.091	15.368	37.084	2.4	79.4
SDC-2	17.512	15.463	37.755	27.666	0.1998	92.854	16.927	15.435	37.133	10.9	104.2
SDC-3	16.863	15.306	37.022	1.412	0.0102	27.876	16.834	15.304	36.835	-1.2	85.6
SDC-4	16.974	15.321	36.928	4.096	0.0296	12.873	16.887	15.317	36.841	-0.5	79.8
HL-1	17.360	15.377	37.567	8.064	0.0583	32.470	17.189	15.368	37.349	1.4	94.1
HL-6	19.516	15.438	42.546	13.619	0.0984	56.823	16.634	15.298	36.834	0.4	109.7
HL-7	19.973	15.523	41.187	60.593	0.4377	261.604	17.048	15.382	37.285	4.3	104.7
HL-10	20.197	15.569	40.992	127.615	0.9218	442.840	17.496	15.438	38.024	5.0	124.4
PH-1	16.965	15.330	36.899	4.752	0.0343	21.582	16.865	15.325	36.755	0.6	73.8
XS-1	17.360	15.379	37.693	9.388	0.0678	38.952	17.162	15.369	37.432	1.8	105.7
XS-2	17.493	15.420	37.895	11.867	0.0857	59.197	17.242	15.408	37.499	4.8	102.6
XS-3	17.545	15.401	37.814	15.536	0.1122	61.547	17.216	15.385	37.401	2.8	96.0
XS-4	17.177	15.323	37.306	3.857	0.0279	21.127	17.095	15.319	37.164	-2.5	87.0
XS-8	17.090	15.352	37.371	7.848	0.0567	32.114	16.924	15.344	37.156	1.8	106.8
XS-10	17.671	15.418	38.069	19.252	0.1391	85.957	17.264	15.398	37.493	3.6	99.4
XS-11	17.413	15.384	37.701	18.362	0.1326	70.166	17.024	15.365	37.230	2.9	102.1
XS-12	19.025	15.507	39.737	97.158	0.7018	374.318	17.298	15.423	37.630	5.7	109.0
XS-13	18.797	15.454	39.272	120.786	0.8724	433.041	17.231	15.378	37.494	1.9	103.4
XS-15	17.277	15.347	37.536	9.477	0.0685	40.754	17.076	15.337	37.263	-0.5	99.1
XS-20	17.951	15.391	38.408	43.429	0.3137	155.547	17.032	15.346	37.366	0.9	114.8
XS-24	17.340	15.360	37.755	9.777	0.0706	71.105	17.133	15.350	37.278	0.2	93.7

Note: Initial Pb isotope ratios were calculated by assuming  $t = 135$  Ma.  $\Delta 7/4 = ((^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb})_i - (^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb})_{\text{NHRL}}) \times 100$ ;  $\Delta 8/4 = ((^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb})_i - (^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb})_{\text{NHRL}}) \times 100$ ;  $(^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb})_{\text{NHRL}} = 0.1084 \times (^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb})_i + 13.491$ ,  $(^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb})_{\text{NHRL}} = 1.209 \times (^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb})_i + 15.627$  (Hart 1984)

spectrometer at the IGG (Beijing). Repeated analyses of NBS981 yielded  $^{204}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb} = 0.05897 \pm 15$ ,  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb} = 0.91445 \pm 80$ , and  $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb} = 2.16170 \pm 200$ . The Pb isotopic data are presented in Table 3.

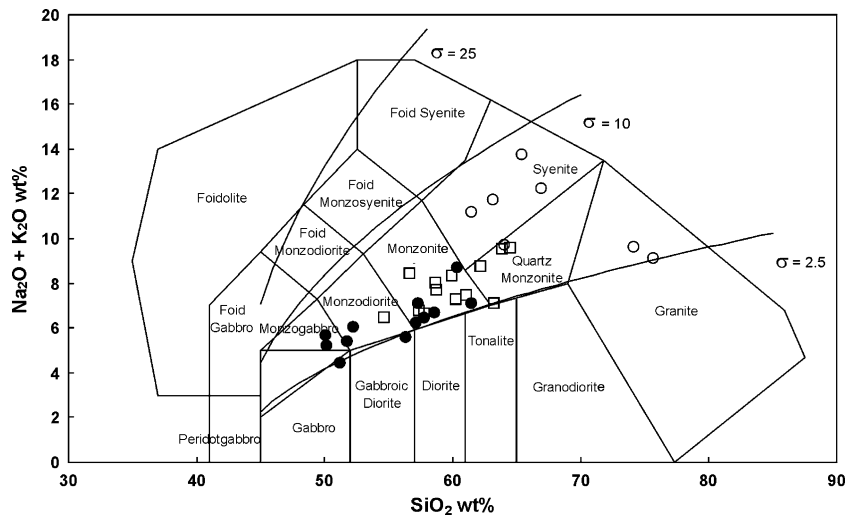
## Results

### Major and trace elements

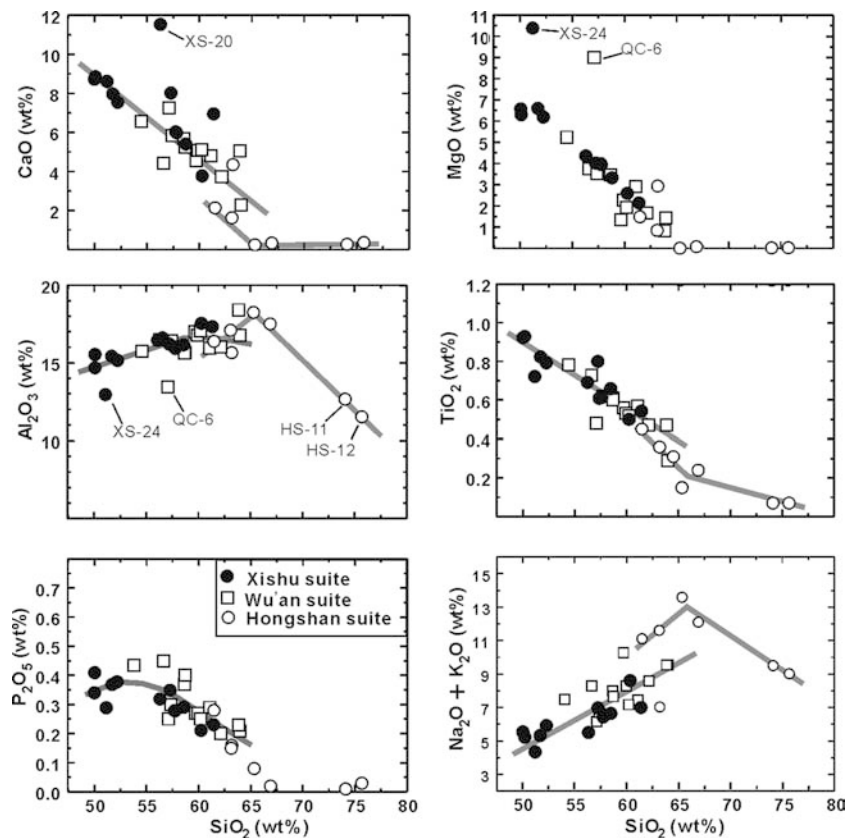
As shown in a classification diagram  $\text{K}_2\text{O} + \text{Na}_2\text{O}$  versus  $\text{SiO}_2$  (Fig. 2; Middlemost 1994), the Xishu suite is dominated by gabbroic diorite and monzonite, Wu'an suite by monzonite and quartz monzonite, and Hongshan suite by syenite-granite. The Xishu and Wu'an suites show large variations in chemical compositions (Fig. 3), but the former (with  $\text{SiO}_2 = 50\text{--}61\%$ ,  $\text{Mg}\# = 73\text{--}46$ ) are slightly less differentiated than the latter (with  $\text{SiO}_2 = 54\text{--}64\%$ ,  $\text{Mg}\# = 79\text{--}40$ ; Table 1). Both Xishu and Wu'an rocks are alkali-rich with  $\text{Na}_2\text{O} > \text{K}_2\text{O}$ . The Wu'an rocks show similar variation trends to the Xishu rocks in most Harker plots (Fig. 3). This could be interpreted as reflecting a genetic link between the two. Except for  $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$  that shows a convex

curve,  $\text{CaO}$ ,  $\text{MgO}$ ,  $\text{FeO}$  and  $\text{TiO}_2$  are negatively linearly correlated with  $\text{SiO}_2$ , but  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  positively correlated (Fig. 3). This indicates a significant fractionation of ferromagnesian phases during magma evolution. However, XS-20 is exceptionally  $\text{CaO}$ -rich (11.54%; Fig. 3). This could reflect a plagioclase cumulate character, which is consistent with its high Sr (1,240 ppm; Fig. 4) and high modal proportion of plagioclase. Similarly, QC-6 and XS-24 deviate from the evolution trends in plots of  $\text{SiO}_2$  vs.  $\text{MgO}$  and  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  by lower  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  and higher  $\text{MgO}$  when compared with samples with similar  $\text{SiO}_2$  contents (Fig. 3). This is likely attributed to hornblende and Cpx cumulate in the two, as is supported by the very high Cr abundances (508 ppm for QC-6 and 502 ppm for XS-24; Table 1) and relatively high  $\text{CaO}$  (7.46 and 8.62%; Table 1) as well as our petrographical observations (main rock-forming minerals for QC-6 are hornblende 35% + Cpx 25% + plagioclase 27% + quartz 10%, and for XS-24 hornblende 30% + Cpx 38% + biotite 5% + plagioclase 20% + quartz 3%). The co-magmatic nature of the Xishu and Wuan rocks can also be seen from the plots of trace elements vs.  $\text{SiO}_2$  (Fig. 4), where they exhibit regular variations with increasing  $\text{SiO}_2$ , approximately linear

**Fig. 2** Classification diagram (Middlemost 1994) for the Xishu (filled circle), Wu'an (open square) and Hongshan (open circle) suites



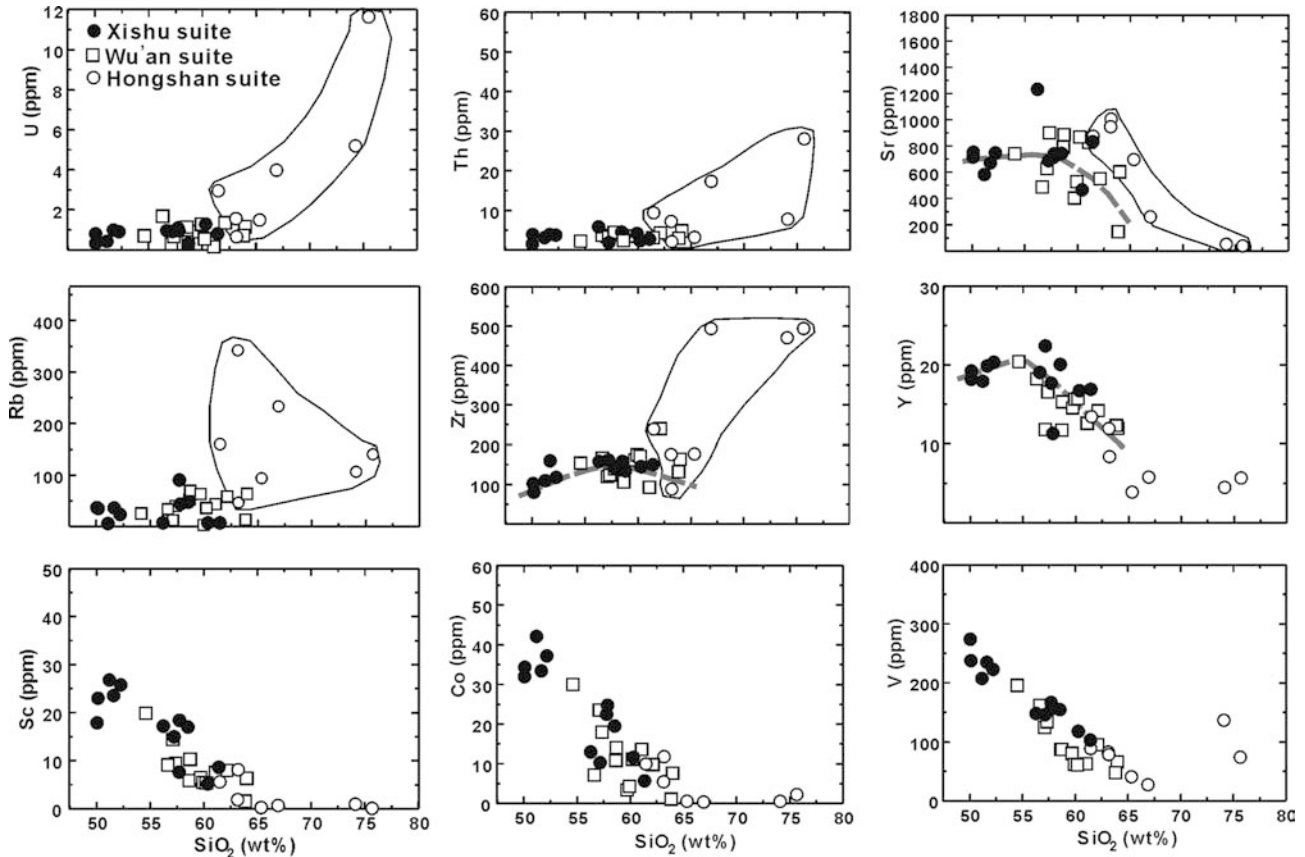
**Fig. 3** Harker diagrams for the Xishu (filled circle), Wu'an (open square) and Hongshan (open circle) suites



(U, Th, Sc, Co, and V), or curvilinear (Zr and Y), but showing scattering in Sr and Rb. All rock types of the Xishu and Wu'an suites show rather similar REE patterns (Fig. 5a, b), with highly enriched LREE and positive- to minor Eu anomalies ( $\text{Eu}/\text{Eu}^* = 1.39\text{--}0.92$ ; Table 1). In the primitive mantle-normalized spidergrams (Fig. 5d, e), they are characterized by spikes in LILEs (e.g., Sr, Ba, Th, K) and LREE, and troughs in HFSEs (e.g., Nb and Ti).

The Hongshan syenites also exhibit a significant variation in chemical compositions, with  $\text{SiO}_2 = 61\text{--}67\%$

(Table 1). Most of them have high  $\text{K}_2\text{O}$  (5.5–7.6%) and  $\text{Na}_2\text{O}$  (5.5–6.0%). Granites (HS-11 and HS-12) differ from syenites by higher  $\text{SiO}_2$  (> 74%) and lower  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  (11.5–12.6%) and alkalis (Fig. 3). A striking feature is that the Hongshan syenites–granites plot in different fields and show variation trends independent of the Xishu–Wu'an complexes. This is particularly true in plots CaO,  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{TiO}_2$  and alkalis (Fig. 3) and U, Th, Sr, Rb and Zr (Fig. 4). All syenites REE patterns are LREE-enriched, with minor to positive Eu anomalies and highly depleted HREE (Fig. 5c) and Y (Fig. 4),



**Fig. 4** Plots of selected trace elements vs. silica for the Xishu (filled circle), Wu'an (open square) and Hongshan (open circle) suites. Note that Hongshan syenite–granites plot in different fields from the Xishu–Wu'an monzonitic rocks

implying an important role of residual garnet in the source. The two granites, however, show remarkable middle REE depletion and negligible Eu anomalies, with concave-shaped REE patterns (Fig. 5c). In the spidergrams (Fig. 5f), Hongshan rocks display positive anomalies of Rb, Th, K, Sr, Zr and LREE, and negative anomalies of Ba, Ti and Nb.

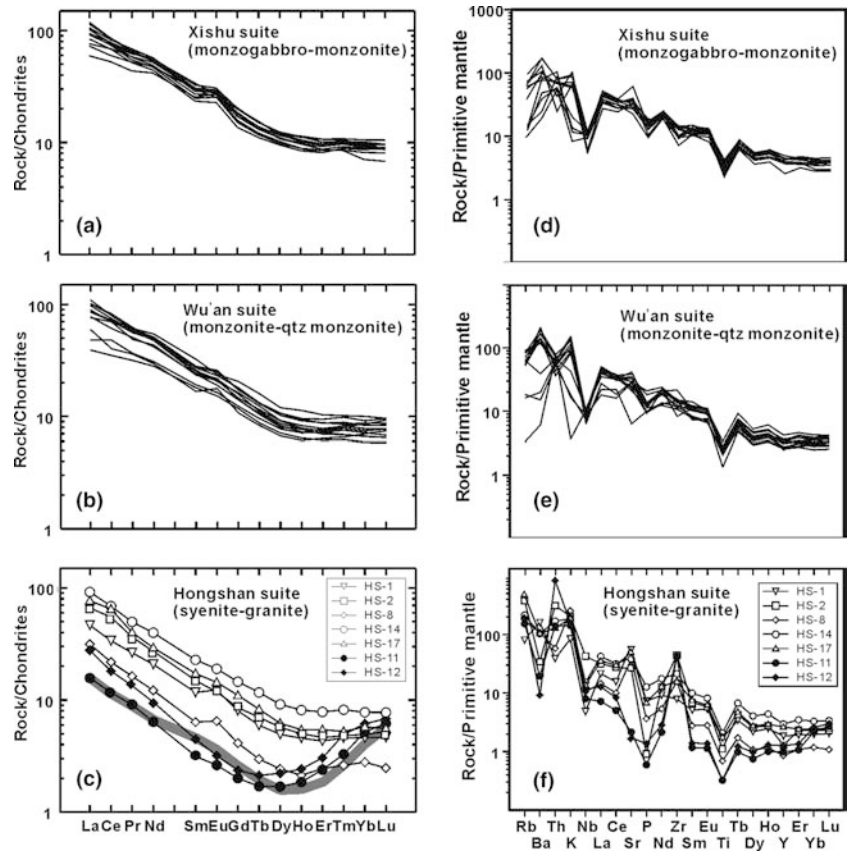
#### Sr–Nd–Pb isotopes

Most Xishu rocks have moderately high initial  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ratios ( $I_{\text{Sr}}$ ) ranging from 0.7056 to 0.7071, and low  $\varepsilon_{\text{Nd}}(135 \text{ Ma})$  values from  $-12.3$  to  $-16.9$ . However, their data rather scatter in a plot  $I_{\text{Sr}}$  vs.  $\varepsilon_{\text{Nd}}(135 \text{ Ma})$  (Fig. 6a). The Wu'an monzonitic rocks have  $I_{\text{Sr}}$  from 0.7059 to 0.7076 and  $\varepsilon_{\text{Nd}}(135 \text{ Ma})$  from  $-13.8$  to  $-18$ . The fields for the two suites cannot be completely separated, but they show some difference (Fig. 6a). By contrast, the Hongshan syenites–granites differ from Xishu–Wu'an monzonitic rocks by obviously higher  $\varepsilon_{\text{Nd}}(135 \text{ Ma})$  values (from  $-8.2$  to  $-11$ ), and rather varied  $I_{\text{Sr}}$  (from 0.7052 to 0.7102), and roughly a flat trend can be seen for the syenite–granite suite (Fig. 6a). The very high  $I_{\text{Sr}}$  of HS-12 (0.7102) is only a face value;

its high  $^{87}\text{Rb}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ratio (10.4) would produce a large uncertainty in the calculated  $I_{\text{Sr}}$  (Jahn et al. 2000).

Lead isotopic ratios of the three suites are shown in Fig. 6b, c.  $^{208}\text{Pb}$  data are slightly more radiogenic than  $^{206}\text{Pb}$ , so that these rocks plot to the left of the north hemisphere reference line (NHRL). Also plotted for comparison are EM1 (enriched mantle with intermediate  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ , low  $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$  and low  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ ), EM2 (enriched mantle with high  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ , high  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$ , and intermediate  $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ ; Zindler and Hart 1986) and LCC (lower continental crust of the NCC with low Pb isotopic ratios  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb} = 14\text{--}17.5$ ,  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb} = 14.6\text{--}15.4$ ,  $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb} = 34.3\text{--}36.5$ ; Zhu 1991). Lead isotopic data of the Mesozoic Fangcheng basalts (within the NCC; Zhang et al. 2002) were shown for reference, which were thought to reflect the Pb isotopic signature of the enriched mantle beneath NCC. All three rock suites plot between the fields of the EM1 and of LCC, suggesting a mixing process between LCC and EM1 components for their genesis. Xishu and Wu'an rocks form continuous variation trends in the Pb isotopic ratio plots, with the Xishu rocks ( $(^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb})_i = 16.92\text{--}17.3$ ,  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb} = 15.32\text{--}15.42$ ,  $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb} = 37.16\text{--}37.63$ ) having faintly higher Pb isotopic ratios than the Wu'an rocks (mostly  $16.63\text{--}17.4$ ,  $15.28\text{--}15.44$ ,  $36.78\text{--}37.3$ , respectively). Hongshan syenites–granites show Pb isotopic ratios higher than Xishu–Wu'an rocks (Fig. 6b, c), plotting close to the EM1 field. But sample HS-8 has very low Pb isotope ratios (Fig. 6c), and the reason is unclear.

**Fig. 5** Chondrites-normalized REE patterns and primitive mantle-normalized spidergrams for the Xishu, Wu'an and Hongshan suites. Chondrite values are from Masuda et al. (1973), further divided by 1.2; primitive mantle values from Sun and McDonough (1989). The grey curve in (c) represents calculated pattern for the residual melt after 22% hornblende–feldspar dominated fractionation (plus minor apatite and allanite) from a syenitic parent (HS-14) based on the Rayleigh fractionation law. REE distribution coefficients for hornblende and apatite are from Arth (1976), feldspar from Nash and Crecraft (1985), and allanite from Brooks et al. (1981). Calculated bulk distribution coefficients are: La = 8.33, Ce = 8.41, Nd = 8.30, Sm = 7.33, Eu = 7.32, Gd = 7.54, Dy = 8.08, Er = 6.86, Yb = 3.56 and Lu = 2.48



## Discussion

### Petrogenesis of the Xishu–Wu'an monzonitic rocks

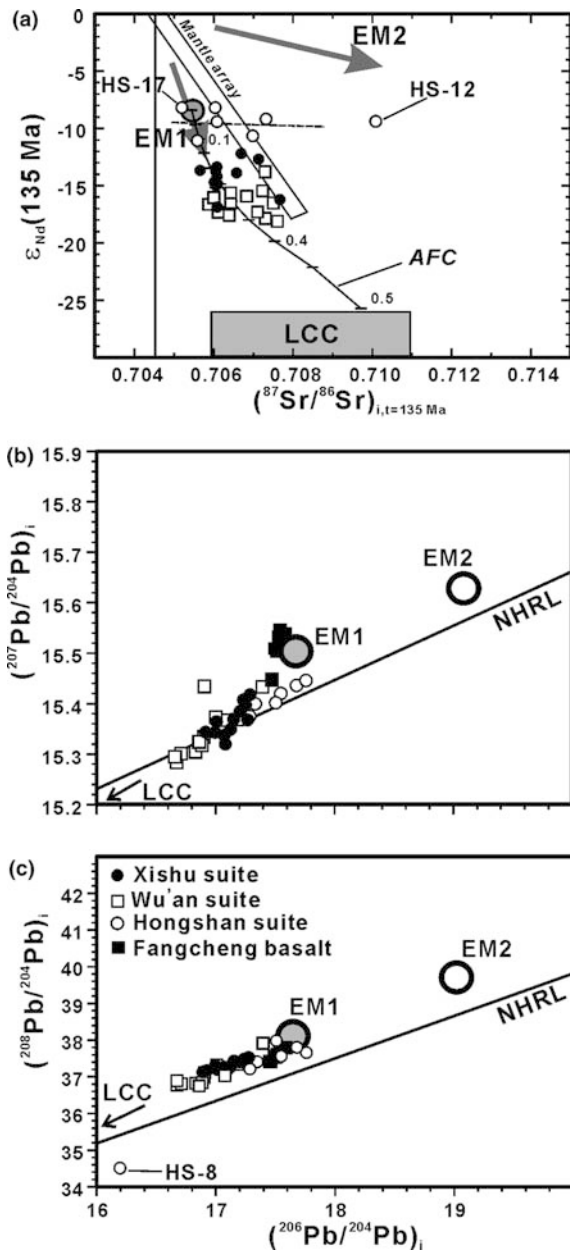
The Xishu rocks are characterized by comparatively low  $\text{SiO}_2$  (mostly  $< 58\%$ ) and high  $\text{Mg}\#$  (mostly  $> 50$ ). Theoretically, these rocks could originate from partial melting of a basic lower crust, or of a mantle source. However, recent experimental data (Rapp and Watson 1995; Wolf and Wyllie 1994) have shown that extremely high temperatures ( $\sim 1,100^\circ\text{C}$ ) are required to produce metaluminous low-silica ( $< 58\%$ ) melts by dehydration melting of metabasalts in the lower crust. Regardless of the degree of partial melting, such melts are generally characterized by low  $\text{Mg}\#$  ( $< 42$ ), which is not the case for Xishu rocks. Therefore, Xishu rocks cannot be generated by melting of basic lower crustal rocks, and a mantle source is required. This conclusion is supported by the occasional occurrence of peridotite xenoliths within the complex (Xu and Lin 1991).

The Wu'an monzonitic rocks are slightly more evolved than the Xishu rocks, but are also characterized by relatively low silica contents (54–64%, mostly  $< 60\%$ ) and elevated  $\text{Mg}\#$  (79–40). Consequently, they are unlikely pure crustal melts and a considerable amount of mantle-derived magma is required in their genesis. In fact, the co-magmatic nature of the Wu'an and Xishu rocks is readily suggested by the close

temporal and spatial relationship of the two and the chemical trends shown in Figs. 3 and 4, as well as their similar REE patterns and spidergrams (Fig. 5). Therefore, the Wu'an rocks could originate from the Xishu rocks through coupled fractionation of ferromagnesian phases and assimilation of lower crustal components (= AFC process). This model is further verified in Fig. 7 where the two suites are closely associated as shown by the linear variation trends in  $I_{\text{Sr}}$  vs.  $1/\text{Sr}$  (Fig. 7a),  $\epsilon_{\text{Nd}}(135 \text{ Ma})$  vs.  $1/\text{Nd}$  (Fig. 7b) and  $\text{Rb}/\text{Sr}$  vs.  $\text{Rb}$  (Fig. 7c). However, another possibility cannot be precluded that the Xishu and Wu'an suites were formed corresponding to different batch of melting of the same mantle source, with the internal differentiation by AFC more developed in the latter, as suggested by Xu and Lin (1991).

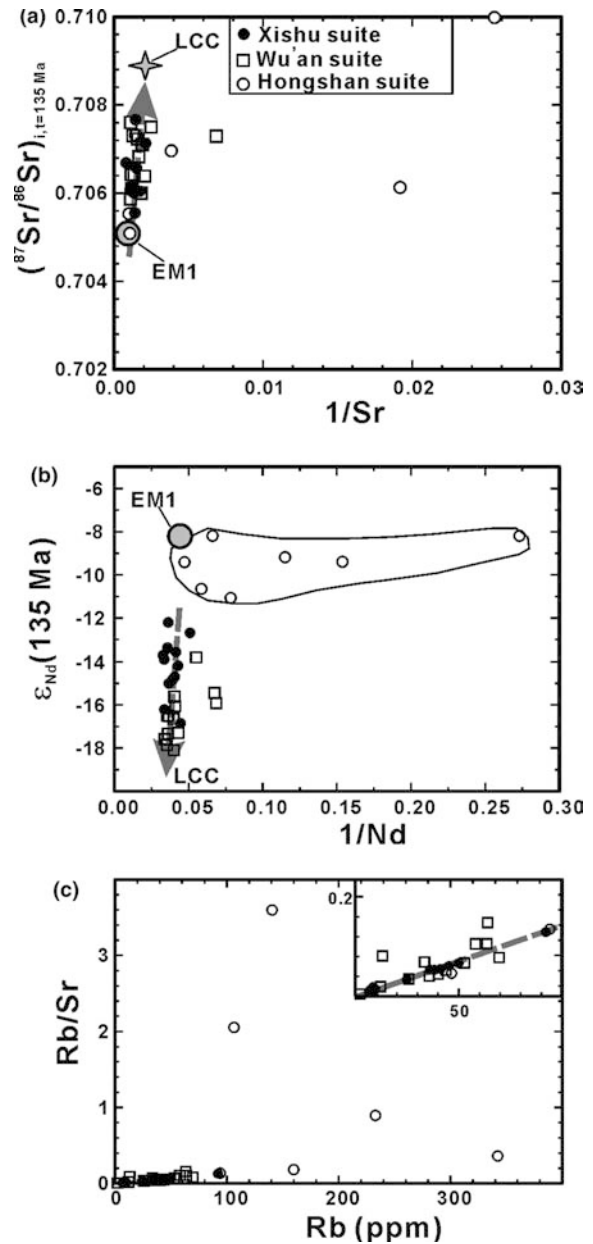
The sharp depletion of  $\text{CaO}$ ,  $\text{MgO}$ ,  $\text{FeO}$  and  $\text{TiO}_2$  with increasing  $\text{SiO}_2$  (Fig. 3) indicates a significant fractionation of ferromagnesian phases like pyroxene and hornblende during magma evolution, which is also supported by the negative correlation of  $\text{SiO}_2$  with Sc, Co and V (Fig. 4). Separation of feldspar in Xishu rocks appears minor, as suggested by a positive correlation between  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{SiO}_2$  (Fig. 3) and positive Eu anomalies (Fig. 5a). However, it is complicated for Wu'an rocks with respect to feldspar removal, as revealed by the highly varied  $\text{Eu}/\text{Eu}^*$  ratios ranging from 0.92 to 1.32 (Table 1), and the kinks in plots  $\text{SiO}_2$  vs.





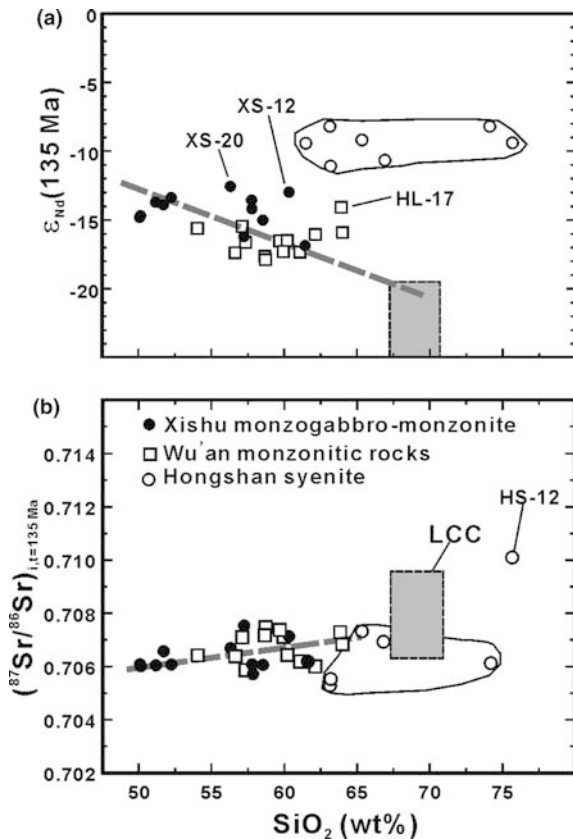
**Fig. 6** **a** Plot of  $\epsilon_{\text{Nd}}(135 \text{ Ma})$  vs.  $I_{\text{Sr}}$  ratios. Two end members assumed for the isotopic modeling based on an AFC model (DePaolo 1981) are the EM1-type mantle ( $I_{\text{Sr}}=0.7055$ ,  $\text{Sr}=1,100 \text{ ppm}$ ,  $\epsilon_{\text{Nd}}=-8.5$ ,  $\text{Nd}=24 \text{ ppm}$ ; Chen et al. 2003; Chen and Zhai 2003) and LCC ( $I_{\text{Sr}}=0.710$ ,  $\text{Sr}=350 \text{ ppm}$ ,  $\epsilon_{\text{Nd}}=-30$ ,  $\text{Nd}=26 \text{ ppm}$ ; Jahn et al. 1988); other parameters are  $D_{\text{Nd}}=0.9$ ,  $D_{\text{Sr}}=1.4$ ,  $r=0.34$ . The dashed line represents a roughly lateral variation trend for the Hongshan suite. **b** Plot of  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}_i$  vs.  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}_i$ . **c** Plot of  $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}_i$  vs.  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}_i$ . The Mesozoic Fangcheng basalts (Zhang et al. 2002) were plotted for reference. *NHRL* north hemisphere reference line. Location of EM1 and EM2 is from Zindler and Hart (1986)

$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  (Fig. 3) and  $\text{SiO}_2$  vs. Sr (Fig. 4). The above argument suggests that feldspar removal is minor in an earlier stage, but significant in a later stage of magma evolution. Fractionation of accessory phases like zircon is important only in evolved rock types as is shown by the decreasing Zr and Y with increasing  $\text{SiO}_2$  (Fig. 4).



**Fig. 7** Plots of **a**  $I_{\text{Sr}}$  vs.  $1/\text{Sr}$ , **b**  $\epsilon_{\text{Nd}}(135 \text{ Ma})$  vs.  $1/\text{Nd}$ , and **c**  $\text{Rb}/\text{Sr}$  vs. Rb for the Xishu, Wu'an and Hongshan suites, showing the Xishu and Wu'an rocks are co-magmatic, plotting on the extension from EM1 (Chen and Zhai 2003; Chen et al. 2003) to LCC (Jahn et al. 1988) and Hongshan syenites–granites derived from a separate magma chamber

On the other hand, our isotopic data indicate that Xishu–Wu'an rocks were not simply produced via fractionation of mantle-derived magmas in a closed system. The least differentiated members ( $\text{SiO}_2=50\text{--}52\%$ ) of the Xishu suite have high Sr concentrations (570–790 ppm), highly enriched LREE patterns (Fig. 5a) and distinctive Sr–Nd isotopic signatures ( $I_{\text{Sr}}=0.706\text{--}0.7066$ ,  $\epsilon_{\text{Nd}}(135 \text{ Ma})=-13$  to  $-15$ ). These features point to a long-term enriched SCLM source. Previous work on Mesozoic lamprophyres (Chen and Zhai 2003) and gabbros (Chen et al. 2003) revealed that



**Fig. 8** Plots of **a**  $\epsilon_{Nd}(135 \text{ Ma})$  vs.  $\text{SiO}_2$ , and **b**  $I_{Sr}$  vs.  $\text{SiO}_2$ , showing negative correlation of  $\epsilon_{Nd}$  and positive correlation of  $I_{Sr}$  with increasing  $\text{SiO}_2$  for the Xishu–Wu’an suites and lateral trends for Hongshan suite. HS-12 is ignored in **b** due to its large uncertainty of calculated  $I_{Sr}$ . Field of LCC is from Jahn et al. (1988)

the enriched SCLM source beneath the area is typically of EM1-type, with  $\epsilon_{Nd}(135 \text{ Ma}) = -8.2$  and  $I_{Sr} = 0.7054$ – $0.7058$ . These isotopic compositions are significantly different from those of the Xishu rocks, indicating a significant contamination of these rocks by the lower crust. As shown in Fig. 6a, the Xishu rocks plot dispersedly between the EM1 source and LCC, reflecting variable degrees of contamination by LCC. The Wu’an rocks also plot between the EM1 mantle source and LCC, with data points distributing slightly farther away from the EM1 field than Xishu rocks, and more contamination by LCC is implied. Specifically, the  $\epsilon_{Nd}(135 \text{ Ma})$  and  $I_{Sr}$  of the Xishu–Wu’an rocks are roughly inversely correlated (Fig. 6a), pointing to an important lower crustal incorporation. The scatter of data points is probably caused by the isotopic heterogeneity of LCC. Fan et al. (1998) suggested that the Mesozoic lower crust beneath the NCC was likely a mixture of Archaean TTG ( $\epsilon_{Nd} = -30$ ; Jahn et al. 1988) and Mesozoic underplated “basaltic” rocks ( $\epsilon_{Nd} = -8$  to  $-15$ ; Zhang et al. 2002; Chen et al. 2003) from enriched mantle sources. The important input of lower crustal components in the Xishu–Wu’an rocks is evidenced by the linear evolution lines in plots  $I_{Sr}$  vs.  $1/Sr$  (Fig. 7a)

and  $\epsilon_{Nd}(135 \text{ Ma})$  vs.  $1/Nd$  (Fig. 7b), which evolve from the EM1 source to LCC.

Plots of  $\text{SiO}_2$  vs.  $\epsilon_{Nd}(135 \text{ Ma})$  (Fig. 8a) and  $\text{SiO}_2$  vs.  $I_{Sr}$  (Fig. 8b) are used to further evaluate the role of LCC contamination. A roughly negative correlation is observed in Fig. 8a, whereas a positive trend is seen in Fig. 8b. Again, this indicates a significant contamination of the Xishu–Wu’an rocks by LCC. Samples XS-20, XS-12 and HL-7 plot off the evolution line in Fig. 8a, which may be attributed to contamination by the coeval Hongshan suite that has significantly higher  $\epsilon_{Nd}(135 \text{ Ma})$  values, or, to the LCC’s isotopic heterogeneity as discussed above. The Xishu rocks show higher  $\epsilon_{Nd}(135 \text{ Ma})$  values than the Wu’an rocks (Fig. 8a), which, together with their lower silica contents, suggests a lower proportions of LCC components in them. Isotopic modeling was conducted based on an AFC model of DePaolo (1981; see Fig. 6a for parameters used) assuming the EM1 mantle ( $\epsilon_{Nd}(t) = -8.5$ ,  $I_{Sr} = 0.7055$ ; Chen et al. 2003; Chen and Zhai 2003) and the LCC ( $\epsilon_{Nd}(t) = -30$ ,  $I_{Sr} = 0.710$ ; Jahn et al. 1988) as two end-members. The result suggests 15–30% LCC contamination for the Xishu rocks, and 20–35% for the Wu’an rocks (Fig. 6a).

This model also agrees with our Pb isotopic data. As seen in Fig. 6, the data points of Xishu–Wu’an suites form linear variation between the EM1-type mantle and LCC fields; the Xishu rocks show slightly higher Pb isotopic ratios than the Wu’an rocks. Thus, the Xishu–Wu’an suites could have originated from partial melting of EM1-type mantle sources, but variably contaminated by LCC components en route to crustal levels.

#### Petrogenesis of Hongshan syenite–granites

The chemical variation trends (Fig. 3) of the Hongshan syenite–granites suggest they are genetically linked. In Fig. 3, kinks are observed at  $\text{SiO}_2 = \sim 65\%$  in plots of  $\text{SiO}_2$  vs.  $\text{CaO}$ ,  $\text{MgO}$ ,  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{FeO}$ ,  $\text{K}_2\text{O} + \text{Na}_2\text{O}$ , and, to a lesser extent,  $\text{TiO}_2$ . This can be interpreted by a two-stage fractionation process. The earlier stage is characterized by fractionation of ferromagnesian phases (e.g., pyroxene and hornblende), producing the syenites, as is inferred from the negative relationship of  $\text{SiO}_2$  vs.  $\text{CaO}$ ,  $\text{MgO}$  and  $\text{TiO}_2$ . Feldspar removal is negligible during this stage, because  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  is positively correlated with  $\text{SiO}_2$  (Fig. 3), and, particularly, all syenites show minor to positive Eu anomalies (Fig. 5c). The later stage fractionation is probably dominated by a combined removal of feldspar and hornblende, producing the granites. This is suggested by the sharp depletion of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{TiO}_2$  and Sr with increasing  $\text{SiO}_2$  (Fig. 3, 4). The important hornblende removal is indicated by granites’ concave-shaped REE patterns with minor Eu anomalies (Fig. 5c), because hornblende removal tends to counteract the negative Eu anomaly caused by feldspar removal and result in middle REE depletion as well. Fractionation of apatite could also have partially con-

tributed to the middle REE depletion. Granites' LREE depletion (compared with syenites) probably reflects removal of allanite with large distribution coefficient for LREE. To prove this, we conducted a REE modeling based on the Rayleigh fractionation law. Sample HS-14 was chosen to represent the parental magma to granites. As shown in Fig. 5c, the calculated REE compositions of a residual melt after 22% fractionation of a cumulate assemblage of hornblende 51% + plagioclase 21% + K-feldspar 25% + apatite 1.7% + allanite 1.1% from the syenitic magma roughly match those for the granites (see legend of Fig. 5c for bulk distribution coefficients of the cumulate). Thus, the granites represent residual melts after a significant differentiation of syenitic magma. This is supported by the comparable Nd isotopic compositions of the two (Fig. 6a).

Traditionally, Hongshan syenites were considered to form by fractional crystallization from the nearby Xishu–Wu'an monzonitic rocks (Huang and Xue 1990). However, this model is not supported by our new data. As shown in Fig. 6a, the Hongshan syenites have  $\epsilon_{\text{Nd}}(\text{T})$  values significantly higher than those for the Xishu–Wu'an rocks. Taking into account the different evolution trends of the Hongshan rocks in Figs. 3 and 4, it can be concluded that the Xishu–Wu'an monzonitic rocks were unlikely parental to the Hongshan syenites. This is further disclosed in Figs. 7 and 8 that the Hongshan syenites do not lie on the extension defined by Xishu–Wu'an suites. Other authors (e.g., Deng et al. 1996) advocated that the syenites were derived from partial melting of lower crustal rocks at high pressures (over-thickened crust). However, recent experimental data by Litvinovsky et al. (2000) demonstrate that partial melting of quartzofeldspathic rocks in the over-thickened lower crust produces granitic melts with 72–73%  $\text{SiO}_2$ , rather than syenitic liquids. Similarly, the melting experiments of Montel and Vielzeuf (1997) on a wide range of crustal materials show that syenitic melts are unlikely to be produced directly by anatexis.

We note from the plot  $I_{\text{Sr}}$  vs.  $\epsilon_{\text{Nd}}(135 \text{ Ma})$  (Fig. 6a) that the Hongshan syenites have Sr–Nd isotopic compositions comparable to the EM1-type mantle. Sample HS-17 almost falls in the field of the mantle source, and the remainder (except HS-12 with imprecise  $I_{\text{Sr}}$  ratio) plot on the extension toward the LCC field. Similarly, the data points of these rocks lie near the EM1 mantle source in Pb isotopic plots (Fig. 6b, c), with extension towards the LCC field. Therefore, we suggest that the parental magma (not exposed) of the Hongshan syenites-granites also originated from partial melting of the EM1-type mantle source from which the Xishu–Wu'an rocks were derived, but in a *separate* magmatic event and were much less contaminated by LCC than the latter. Isotopic modeling suggests that less than 10% LCC components has been incorporated in the Hongshan rocks (Fig. 6a). Actually many syenites were reported to originate from enriched mantle sources, or form via a process of hybridization between mantle-

derived basaltic magmas and crustal materials, like the Bryansky syenite–granite suite from Russia (Litvinovsky et al. 2002) and the Mesozoic syenitic magmas from Namibia (Harris et al. 1999).

The evolution of the syenite–granite complex appears to occur in a system with involvement of only a small amount of LCC. This is compatible with the roughly lateral variation trends of Nd–Sr isotopic ratios with  $\text{SiO}_2$  (Fig. 8). Although the parental magma (likely an alkali-rich basalt) to the syenites is not exposed, the isotopic signature of the EM1-type source could be approximately reflected by the isotopically most “primitive” sample HS-17, with  $\epsilon_{\text{Nd}}(135 \text{ Ma}) = -8.2$  and  $I_{\text{Sr}} = 0.7052$ . The mantle source must have long been enriched in incompatible elements prior to partial melting, as suggested by the rather low  $\epsilon_{\text{Nd}}$  value, and high Sr (948 ppm) and Rb (342 ppm) of the sample. In addition, the sample has relatively low  $(^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb})_i$  ratios ( $< 17.6$ ), with high, positive  $\Delta 8/4$  ( $> 70$ ) and relatively low  $\Delta 7/4$  values (2.7; Table 3). These isotopic signatures agree with an EM1 source, suggesting a long-term low- $\mu$  mantle source (low U/Pb), and their positive  $\Delta 8/4$  values suggest a long-term high Th/U source. Mantle enrichment may be caused by interaction of normal mantle peridotite with (1) fluids derived from a subducting slab (Maury et al. 1992) or (2) volatile-rich melts migrated from the asthenosphere (McKenzie 1989). The depletion of HFSEs (Nb, Ti) of the “primitive” sample in the spidergrams (Fig. 5f) suggests that the mantle enrichment is subduction-related, which probably happened in the early to middle Proterozoic as suggested by its high Nd model age (1.52 Ga).

#### Implications for lithosphere thinning

Voluminous Mesozoic igneous rocks were emplaced in East China. Their origin and the relationship with the eminent loss of lithospheric mantle during Mesozoic times has long been a disputed issue. We proposed in previous papers (Chen et al. 2002a, b, 2003; Chen and Zhai 2003) that enriched SCLM could be the main source for the Mesozoic magmas. The proportion of lower crustal material involved in their genesis was considered as less than 35% based on isotopic modeling; they thus represent significant addition of juvenile continental crust in Mesozoic times. This model is supported by our new data as well as some recent works (e.g., Qian et al. 2002). Therefore, the enriched mantle portions could be significantly consumed by melting to produce the Mesozoic magmas, triggered by upwelling of asthenosphere. This, together with thermo-mechanical and chemical erosion within the gradually upward moving lithosphere–asthenosphere interface, played an important role in thinning the lithosphere (Menzies et al. 1993; Xu 2001). The residual lithospheric mantle could be penetrated by, and mixed with, hot and dense asthenosphere, and then be removed through delamination.

What is the cause of the sudden surge of magmatism in the Mesozoic? A popular model holds that the lithospheric destruction was related to the loss of physical integrity of the craton, caused by the Triassic collision between the NCC and Yangtze block (Menzies et al. 1993; Xu 2001; Gao et al. 2002). The Mesozoic magmatism was thus considered by many (e.g., Zhang et al. 2002; Mao et al. 2003) as post-collisional magmatism developed in an intra-continental extensional regime. We alternatively suggest that the Mesozoic magmatism was probably related to subduction of the paleo-Pacific slab based on the following two pieces of evidence: (1) The *earliest* Mesozoic intrusion in the Jiaodong Peninsula (easternmost margin of the NCC; inset of Fig. 1) was dated at  $\sim 170$  Ma (zircon U–Pb; Wang et al. 1998) although many younger intrusions with ages ranging from 157 to 120 Ma are also present in the area. However, the magmatism in the Taihang orogen happened in a short time span from 138 to 125 Ma (Davis et al. 1998; Cai et al. 2003; Peng et al. 2004), with the earliest intrusion emplaced at  $\sim 138$  Ma. A younging trend of magmatism from  $\sim 170$  Ma in coastal area to  $\sim 138$  Ma in inland NCC is thus noted, suggesting an inlandward movement of continental arc magmatism. This is consistent with the context of the northwestwards subduction of the paleo-Pacific slab beneath East Asia, which started in late Triassic (Arakawa and Shinmura 1995). And (2) The Mesozoic magmatic belts in the NCC are NE-trending (inset of Fig. 1), approximately parallel to the subduction zone (Maruyama 1997). Moreover, these rocks show strong arc magma signatures (Wang et al. 1998; Chen et al. 2002b). This model is particularly supported by the extensive accretion of arc complexes in the eastern margin of the East Asian continent during Jurassic times (Maruyama 1997). Taking into account previous work that the Mesozoic magmatism in NE China (Wu et al. 2003) and SE China (Zhou and Li 2000; inset of Fig. 1) was linked to the subduction of the paleo-Pacific slab, we propose that entire Eastern China is part of the East Asian continental arc, a model also advocated by Sengor and Natal'in (1996).

The genesis of the Mesozoic magmatism in southern Taihang can be described briefly as below. Subduction of the paleo-Pacific slab beneath the East Asian continent transformed the eastern part of NCC into an active continental margin. As a consequence, a back-arc extensional setting was developed in Taihang area (Fig. 1). This, in turn, induced the upwelling of asthenosphere. Meanwhile, fluids released from subducting slab penetrated and interacted with the overlying enriched portions of SCLM, lowering the solidus significantly. This, in conjunction with the high heat flow from the asthenosphere, triggered intense melting of the enriched SCLM, producing voluminous basaltic magmas. These mantle-derived magmas underplated in the lower crust, followed by differentiation and some contamination of lower crustal components, generating the magmatic complexes in the southern Taihang orogen.

## Conclusions

1. The Xishu and Wu'an suites show many similar geochemical features such as LREE-enriched REE patterns with minor to positive Eu anomalies, and highly enriched isotopic compositions, pointing to their co-magmatic origin. They originated from partial melting of an EM1-type mantle source, followed by a coupled fractionation of ferromagnesian phases and significant contamination by LCC. The Wu'an rocks are chemically more evolved and isotopically slightly more enriched than the Xishu rocks, reflecting more involvement of crustal components.
2. The Hongshan syenites–granites show higher  $\epsilon_{\text{Nd}}(135 \text{ Ma})$  and Pb isotopic ratios than the Xishu–Wu'an rocks though their  $I_{\text{Sr}}$  ratios are similar. They were formed from a *separate* parental magma that also originated from the EM1-type mantle source, but with minor incorporation of lower crust components during magma evolution. The granites are residual melts from the syenitic magma via a feldspar–hornblende-dominated fractionation.
3. A back-arc extensional regime was developed in the eastern part of NCC responding to the subduction of the paleo-Pacific slab beneath East China. Fusion of the enriched SCLM portions was induced by upwelling of asthenosphere and infiltration of slab-derived fluids. This, along with mechanical and chemical erosion within lithosphere–asthenosphere boundary contributed to the Mesozoic lithosphere thinning.

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