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# Postdated melting of subcontinental lithospheric mantle by the Emeishan mantle plume: Evidence from the Anyi intrusion, Yunnan, SW China

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#### ARTICLE INFO ABSTRACT

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The Anyi intrusion is located in the central zone of Emeishan large igneous province (ELIP), SW China. It outcrops in an area of about 0.65 km<sup>2</sup> and  $\sim$  1 km thick and dips to the southwest. The Anyi intrusion consists of a lower clinopyroxenite zone, middle gabbro zone, and an upper monzonite–syenite zone. Up to 400 m thick stratiform disseminated Fe–Ti oxide layer with grades of 16–18 wt.% total Fe is hosted in the lower clinopyroxenite zone. Zircon SHRIMP U–Pb age (247  $\pm$  3 Ma) indicates that the Anyi intrusion represents postdated mafic magmatism resulting from the ~260 Ma Emeishan mantle plume. Compared with the typical oxide-bearing intrusions (such as Panzhihua and Baima) formed at  $\sim$  260 Ma in the ELIP, the Anyi intrusion is characterized by high alkaline contents and LREE/HREE ratios, extremely low  $\varepsilon$ Nd values (−6.2 to −7.6) and moderate high ( $^{87}Sr/^{86}Sr$ )<sub>i</sub> values (0.7072 to 0.7086). These characteristics of the Anyi intrusion cannot be explained by fractional crystallization or crustal contamination, but may reflect a unique enriched continental lithospheric mantle source (a mantle source mixed between garnet pyroxenite and spinel peridotite). We propose that the postdated mafic magmatism associated with the formation of the Anyi intrusion and its Fe–Ti oxide ore may be the product of melting of a mantle source mixed between garnet pyroxenite and spinel peridotite in the shallow lithosphere caused by conductive heating combined with lithosphere thinning due to plume–lithosphere interaction.

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### 1. Introduction

Although the most extensive tholeiitic magmatism (more than 80% of the total volume) derived from mantle plume commonly occurred within 1 Myr, weakly eruptive and intrusive processes may be continued or postponed 10–30 Myrs following the main plume impact [\(Courtillot and Renne, 2003; Karlstrom and Richards, 2011; Richards](#page-12-0) [et al., 1989](#page-12-0)). For example, multistage magmatism continues from 62 Ma to 52 Ma in the North Atlantic Large Igneous Province (LIP) [\(Jerram and Widdowson, 2005; Saunders et al., 1997\)](#page-12-0). Similarly, both Paraná–Etendeka and Columbia River flood basalt eruptions occurred over a long time interval (~12 Ma) [\(Gibson et al. 2006; Hooper,](#page-12-0) [1997\)](#page-12-0). Although a lot of investigations have been carried out on the main stage of mantle plume tholeiitic magmatism, studies focused on the postdated mantle-derived magmatism are still rare. Whether or not the postponed mantle-derived magmatism is genetically associated with the plume activity, what is nature of the mantle source and how the mantle partially melts have not been well addressed.

The Permian Emeishan large igneous province (ELIP) in southwest China consists of voluminous continental flood basalts covering an area more than  $5 \times 10^5$  km<sup>2</sup> and a large number of genetically related

mafic–ultramafic and felsic intrusions [\(Song et al., 2001; Xiao et al.,](#page-13-0) [2003; Xu et al., 2001\)](#page-13-0). It is generally accepted that the main pulse of the mafic and felsic magmatism of the ELIP occurred at ~260 Ma [\(Chung](#page-12-0) [and Jahn, 1995; He et al., 2007; Zhou et al., 2002a\)](#page-12-0). However, the Cida intrusive complex and Baima mafic dykes in the central ELIP have been dated at ~242–243 Ma [\(Luo et al., 2013; Shellnutt and Zhou, 2008](#page-12-0)) [\(Fig. 1\)](#page-1-0). The rhyolitic tuff containing ~238 Ma zircons at the tops of the Emeishan basalt sequence and ~251 Ma I-type granites from Ailanghe, which were considered to be resulting from partial lower crust melting due to underplating of mafic magmas, have been discovered in the central ELIP as well [\(Xu et al., 2008, 2010; Zhong et al., 2007\)](#page-13-0). Why the delayed mafic magmas after the peak magmatism of the ELIP occurred and what the nature of the mantle source is are still not understood.

Most of the layered intrusions hosting huge Fe–Ti oxide ore deposits (such as Panzhihua, Baima, Hongge) in the central ELIP have been dated at  $\sim$ 260  $\pm$  3 Ma ([Shellnutt et al., 2009; Zhong and Zhu, 2006; Zhou](#page-13-0) [et al., 2005, 2008\)](#page-13-0). However, the new zircon U–Pb ages obtained in this study indicate that the Fe–Ti oxide mineralized Anyi intrusion was emplaced at  $\sim$  247  $\pm$  3 Ma. Combined petrological, elemental and Sr–Nd isotopic data of the Anyi intrusion permit us to propose that the associated magma may be derived from melting of a mantle source mixed between garnet pyroxenite and spinel peridotite in the shallow lithosphere caused by conductive heating combined with lithosphere thinning during plume–lithosphere interaction.

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<span id="page-1-0"></span>

Fig. 1. (a) Distribution the Emeishan flood basalts. (b) Regional geological map of the central zone of the Emeishan large igneous province and locations of the mafic–ultramafic intrusions associated with Cu–Ni–(PGE) sulfide deposits and Fe–Ti–V oxide deposits (modified from [Song et al., 2009](#page-13-0)). The ages of mafic–ultramafic intrusions are from [Zhou et al., 2005, 2008; Tao](#page-13-0) [et al., 2007; Zhong et al., 2011; Luo et al., 2013.](#page-13-0)

#### 2. Regional geological setting

Southwest China comprises the Yangtze Block in the east and the Tibetan Plateau in the west (Fig. 1). Neoproterozoic arc plutonicmetamorphic assemblages occur along the western and northern margins of the Yangtze Block, which are believed to have been related to the subduction of Rodinian oceanic lithosphere toward the Yangtze Block during a period from 860 to 760 Ma [\(Zhou et al., 2002b](#page-13-0)). Since the early Permian, thick carbonate sequences began to deposit as a response to extensive transgression and basin subsidence [\(Sichuan,](#page-13-0)

[1991; Yunnan, 1990](#page-13-0)). The Late Permian Emeishan flood basalts unconformably overlay the early Late Permian limestones and in turn are overlain by Late Permian to Triassic and Cretaceous terrestrial sandstones and conglomerates ([Sichuan, 1991; Yunnan, 1990](#page-13-0)).

The ELIP was divided into a central zone and an outer zone (Fig. 1, [Chung and Jahn, 1995; Song et al., 2003, 2005; Xu et al., 2001](#page-12-0)), and the thickness of the Emeishan flood basalts range from more than 2000 m in the central zone to several hundred meters in the outer zone [\(Song et al., 2008a; Xu et al., 2004\)](#page-13-0). The central zone of the ELIP is characterized by low-Ti basalts overlain by high-Ti basalts,

whereas the outer zone consists dominantly of high-Ti basalts. In addition, large layered intrusions and A- and I-type syenite and granite plutons are exposed in the central zone of the ELIP [\(Zhong et al., 2002,](#page-13-0) [2003\)](#page-13-0). A few of Ni–Cu–(PGE) deposits are hosted in the small mafic–ultramafic intrusions, such as Limahe, Jinbaoshan and Zhubu deposits [\(Song et al., 2008b; Tao et al., 2007, 2008](#page-13-0)). Several giant Fe–Ti–V oxide deposits are hosted in the large layered intrusions, such as Panzhihua, Baima, Hongge, Xinjie and Taihe deposits in the central zone [\(Fig. 1](#page-1-0)) [\(Bai et al., 2012; Song et al., 2013; Zhang et al., 2012;](#page-12-0) [Zhong et al., 2002, 2003, 2004; Zhou et al., 2005\)](#page-12-0).

#### 3. Petrography of the Anyi intrusion

The Anyi intrusion is located between the Panzhihua fault and Mopanshan–Yuanmou fault in the central zone of the ELIP, about 130 km south of Panzhihua ([Fig. 1\)](#page-1-0). It outcrops an area of about  $0.65$  km<sup>2</sup> and intrudes into the Proterozoic carbon-rich talc slate (Fig. 2). The upper portion of the intrusion has been eroded and is unconformably covered by the Cretaceous mudstone and sandstone.

The Anyi intrusion can be divided into the Lower clinopyroxenite zone, Middle gabrro zone, and Upper monzonite–syenite zone according to cumulus mineral assemblage (Fig. 2). The Lower zone is 800–-1100 m thick and consists of olivine clinopyroxenite, clinopyroxenite, and magnetite clinopyroxenite (disseminated oxide ore) from the base upwards. The medium- to coarse-grained olivine clinopyroxenite consists of  $\sim$  10– 25% olivine, ~65–75% clinopyroxene and ~5–10% magnetite. When olivine content decreases to less than 5%, it is named as clinopyroxenite, which also contains ~5% biotite and minor plagioclase. The coarsegrained magnetite clinopyroxenite (disseminated Fe–Ti oxide ore) is 300–400 m thick and typically consists of ~15–25% magnetite, ~50–60% clinopyroxene, ~5–10% biotite, and minor ilmenite, plagioclase and apatite [\(Fig. 3](#page-3-0)a). Exsolution of ilmenite lamellae in the magnetite is very common in the magnetite clinopyroxenites [\(Fig. 3b](#page-3-0)). 10 million tonnes disseminated Fe–Ti oxide ores with average grades of  $\sim$ 30 wt.% Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, ~7.0 wt.% TiO<sub>2</sub>, ~0.2 wt.%V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, and 0.2–0.5 ppm (Pt + Pd) are hosted in the upper part of the Lower zone (Panxi [Geological Unit, 1984\)](#page-12-0).

The Middle zone is up to 150 m thick and consists of dominantly medium- to coarse-grained monzogabbro, which commonly contains  $\approx$  50–60% clinopyroxene,  $\approx$  5–10% orthoclase,  $\approx$  15–25% plagioclase,  $~10-15\%$  magnetite,  $~5-10\%$  biotite,  $~2-5\%$  apatite and minor hornblende occurring as reaction rims of clinopyroxene grains. The boundary between the Lower clinopyroxenite zone and the Middle gabrro zone has been defined by remarkable increase of feldspar and decreases of clinopyroxene and magnetite ([Fig. 3](#page-3-0)c).

The Upper zone is more than 160 m thick and consists of monzonite and overlying syenite. The monzonite typically contains ~30–40% clinopyroxene, ~15–30% orthoclase, ~20–25% plagioclase, ~5–10% hornblende, and ~5–10% Fe–Ti oxides, and minor biotite and apatite. The syenite consists of  $\sim$ 20–30% clinopyroxene,  $\sim$ 45–50% orthoclase,  $\sim$ 15–20% plagioclase,  $\sim$ 5–10% hornblende. The boundary between the Middle zone monzogabbro and Upper zone monzonite has been defined by remarkable increase of feldspar and hornblende and decrease of clinopyroxene ([Fig. 3](#page-3-0)d). Hornblende is most abundant in the Upper zone and poikilitically enclosing clinopyroxene and apatite grains. The gradational boundaries between the three lithologic zones indicate a fractional crystallization sequence. Rock textures suggest that the sequence of mineral crystallization in the Anyi intrusion is olivine  $\rightarrow$  clinopyroxene  $\rightarrow$  Fe–Ti oxides  $\rightarrow$ feldspar  $\rightarrow$  apatite  $\rightarrow$  biotite + hornblende.

#### 4. Sampling and analytical methods

Samples of the Anyi intrusion were collected from a north–south surface traverse across the lower magnetite clinopyroxenite unit, middle gabbro zone and upper monzonite unit (Fig. 2a). Zircons were separated from a monzonite sample  $(AY-62)$  ( $>$ 30 kg) using conventional heavy liquid and magnetic techniques. Representative zircon grains were hand-picked under binocular microscope and mounted in an epoxy resin disk, and then polished and coated with a gold film. Zircons were investigated with transmitted and reflected light as well as cathodoluminescence (CL) to reveal their external and internal structures. The U–Pb isotopic analyses were performed using the Sensitive High-Resolution Ion Microprobe (SHRIMP-II) at the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences (Beijing) ([Table 1\)](#page-3-0). Procedures are described in detail by [Compston et al. \(1992\)](#page-12-0) and [Williams \(1998\)](#page-13-0). The U–Pb isotope data was collected after five scans and a reference zircon TEM (417 Ma) [\(Black et al., 2003\)](#page-12-0) was analyzed after every four spots. The uncertainties in ages are cited as 1σ, and the weighted mean ages are quoted at the 95% confidence level ( $2\sigma$ ). The U–Pb isotope data was treated



Fig. 2. (a) Simplified geological map of the Anyi intrusion. Sample traverse is also shown. (b) Cross section of exploration A-A' from the Anyi intrusion (after Panxi [Geological Unit, 1984\)](#page-12-0).

<span id="page-3-0"></span>

Fig. 3. Texture photos of the Anyi rocks under microscope. (a) Interstitial plagioclase (Pl) and biotite (Bi) between cumulus clinopyroxene (cpx) and magnetite (Mt) in the magnetite clinopyroxenite. Sub-rounded magnetite is enclosed by large tabular clinopyroxene, under plane-polarized light; (b) exsolution of ilmenite (Ilm) lamellae and small grains from the host magnetite, BSE image; (c) enhedral clinopyroxene with median grain size, interstitial magnetite and apatite surrounded by a large plagioclase crystal, under cross-polarized light; (d) clinopyroxene is replaced by hornblende (Hb), enhedral apatite is enclosed by hornblende or orthoclase (Or), under plane-polarized light.

### following [Compston et al. \(1992\)](#page-12-0) with the ISOPLOT program of [Ludwig](#page-12-0) [\(2001\)](#page-12-0).

Samples in this study were cut to remove weathering rinds. Relatively fresh interiors were used for bulk-rock analyses. The rocks were crushed in a steel mortar and ground in a steel mill. Major oxides were analyzed with a PANalytical Axios-advance X-ray fluorescence spectrometer (XRF) at the Institute of Geochemistry, Chinese Academy of Science (IGCAS), using fused lithum–tetraborate glass pellets, and ferric and ferrous iron were determined by wet chemical method. The analytical precision is better than 5%. Loss on ignition (LOI) was obtained using 1 g powder heated up to 1100 °C for 1 h. Trace elements were analyzed using a Perkin-Elmer Sciex ELAN 6000 ICP-MS at the IGCAS. The powdered samples (50 mg) were dissolved in high-pressure Teflon bombs using a HF + HNO<sub>3</sub> mixture for 12 h at ca. 190 °C (Oi et al., [2000](#page-13-0)). Rh was used as an internal standard to monitor signal drift during counting. The international standard, GBPG-1 was used for analytical quality control. The analytical precision was generally better than 5% for all elements.

For Sr–Nd isotopic analyses, sample powders were spiked with mixed isotope tracers, and then dissolved in Teflon capsules with  $HF + HNO<sub>3</sub>$  acid. Sr and rare earth elements (REE) were separated on columns of Eichrom Co. Sr and REE resins using  $0.1\%$ HNO<sub>3</sub> as elutant. Nd was separated from the REE fractions on HDEHP columns using 0.18 N HCl as elutant. Isotopic measurements were performed via







(1) Errors are 1σ; Pbc and Pb\* indicating the common and radiogenic portions, respectively. (2) Error in standard calibration was 0.69% (not included in above errors but required when comparing data from different mounts). (3) Common Pb corrected using measured 204Pb.

thermal ionization mass spectrometry (TIMS) at the Institute of Geochemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences. Mass fractionation corrections for Sr and Nd isotopic ratios were based on  ${}^{86}Sr/{}^{88}Sr = 0.1194$  and <sup>146</sup>Nd/<sup>144</sup>Nd = 0.7219 respectively. The <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr ratios of the NBS987 and NBS607 Sr isotopic standards and  $143$ Nd/ $144$ Nd ratios of the BCR-1 and La Jolla Nd isotopic standards determined during this study are 0.710240  $\pm$  15 (2 $\sigma$ ), 1.20032  $\pm$  30 (2 $\sigma$ ), 0.512663  $\pm$  9 (2 $\sigma$ ) and  $0.511862 \pm 7$  (2 $\sigma$ ), respectively. Detailed sample preparation and analytical procedures followed [Zhang et al. \(2001\)](#page-13-0).

#### 5. Results

#### 5.1. U–Pb zircon geochronology

Zircon crystals for age dating are separated from a monzonite sample (AY-62) of the Upper zone. The subhedral prismatic zircon grains are clear and show simple internal oscillatory zonation in CL images, an indication of magmatic origin. There is no evidence of overgrowths or inherited cores. The results of SHRIMP zircon U–Pb analysis are listed in [Table 1.](#page-3-0) The zircons have highly variable abundances of Th (81–1299 ppm) and U (86–754 ppm), with Th/U ratios of 0.68–1.72. One zircon grain (Spot 7.1) gave a disconcordant  $^{206}Pb/^{238}$ U age of 144.5  $\pm$  4.3 Ma. Another zircon grain (Spot 12) with young  $^{206}Pb/^{238}U$  age (113.2  $\pm$  9.0 Ma) displays large error of  $207Pb/235U$  [\(Table 1\)](#page-3-0). The young  $206Pb/238U$  ages of these two zircon grains are likely due to partial Pb loss or low radiogenic Pb concentrations ( $^{206}Pb = 1.69$  and 1.93 ppm, respectively, [Table 1](#page-3-0)). The remaining 10 analyses give a weighted mean  $206Pb/238U$  age of  $247 \pm 3$  Ma (Fig. 4).

#### 5.2. Major and trace elements

Major element abundances are listed in [Table 2](#page-5-0) and illustrated in [Fig. 5.](#page-7-0) Typical oxide-bearing intrusions in the ELIP, such as Panzhihua and Baima, are also shown for comparison. Consistent with the petrographic variation, the rocks of the Anyi intrusion exhibit variable chemical compositions. From the Lower zone magnetite clinopyroxenites to the Upper zone monzonites, contents of  $SiO<sub>2</sub>$  and  $Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$  increase from 36 to 49 wt.% and 4 to 15 wt.%, respectively, whereas contents of MgO and CaO decrease from 10 to 3.2 wt.% and 13 to 7.8 wt.%, respectively [\(Table 2](#page-5-0)). In the diagrams of  $SiO<sub>2</sub>$  versus TiO<sub>2</sub>, Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (Total) and MgO [\(Fig. 5](#page-7-0)a, b, d), the Anyi rocks plot in the domain shared by the Panzhihua and Baima intrusions, whereas in the diagrams of  $SiO<sub>2</sub>$  versus Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and K2O [\(Fig. 5](#page-7-0)c, e), they plot out of the fields of the Panzhihua and Baima intrusions. In addition, the Anyi rocks display negative correlation



Fig. 4. SHRIMP zircon U–Pb concordia diagram of a monzonite (AY-62) from the Anyi intrusion, SW China.

between  $SiO<sub>2</sub>$  and CaO ([Fig. 5](#page-7-0)f) in contrast to the positive correlation for the Panzhihua and Baima intrusions. Particularly, the Anyi rocks have contents of Zr and Nb significantly higher than the Panzhihua and Baima rocks at comparable  $SiO<sub>2</sub>$  contents [\(Fig. 5g](#page-7-0)–h). Additionally, the Anyi rocks show positive correlation between  $K_2O$  and  $Na<sub>2</sub>O$ [\(Fig. 6a](#page-7-0)), relatively high  $P_2O_5$  content (>0.6 wt.%) and extreme enrichment of rare earth element (REE) [\(Fig. 6b](#page-7-0)).

In the chondrite normalized REE diagram, the Anyi magnetite clinopyroxenites have more significant enrichment in light REE and depletion in heavy REE than both the low-Ti and high-Ti Emeishan basalts [\(Fig. 7](#page-8-0)a). Additionally, they display significant negative Sr, P and K anomalies and positive Ti anomaly in the primitive mantle normalized trace element diagram, whereas the negative Nb, Ta and Zr anomalies are very weak ([Fig. 7](#page-8-0)b). The abundances of REE and other incompatible elements of the Anyi monzogabbros and monzonites are significantly higher than those of the magnetite clinopyroxenites and display weaker Sr, P and K anomalies ([Fig. 7](#page-8-0)c, d).

#### 5.3. Sr–Nd isotope compositions

Rocks from the different zones of the Anyi intrusion display relatively homogeneous Sr–Nd isotopic values. Initial  ${}^{86}Sr/{}^{87}Sr$  ratios of the Anyi rocks range from 0.7072 to 0.7086.  $\varepsilon$ Nd (t) values range from  $-6.2$  to  $-7.6$  [\(Table 3](#page-8-0)). In the diagram of  $\varepsilon$ Nd(t) versus  ${}^{86}Sr/{}^{87}Sr$ (t) ([Fig. 8](#page-9-0)), the Sr–Nd isotope compositions of the Panzhihua and Baima intrusions are similar to those of Emeishan high-Ti basalts, whereas the Limahe, Jinbaoshan and Zhubu mafic–ultramafic rocks, similar to the low-Ti basalts, display relatively low  $\varepsilon$ Nd (t) values and high initial  ${}^{86}Sr/{}^{87}Sr$  ratios and define a crustal contamination trend. In contrast, most of the Anyi samples show very low  $\varepsilon$ Nd values and moderately high initial  ${}^{86}Sr/{}^{87}Sr$ ratios, similar to those of Dongchuan tephrites.

#### 6. Discussion

The young age (247  $\pm$  3 Ma) indicates that the Anyi intrusion was formed more than 10 Ma later than the peak magmatism of the Emeishan mantle plume (~260 Ma) [\(He et al., 2007; Zhou et al.,](#page-12-0) [2002a](#page-12-0)). As described above, compared with the ~260 Ma Panzhihua and Baima intrusions in the central ELIP, the Anyi intrusion is characterized by high concentrations of incompatible elements, high LREE/HREE ratios (La/Yb = 20.4–55.1), very low  $\varepsilon$ Nd (–6.2 to –7.6) and moderately high  $({}^{87}Sr/{}^{86}Sr)_{i}$  (0.7072 to 0.7086) ([Figs. 7](#page-8-0)–8). These characteristics cannot be simply explained by fractional crystallization combined with crustal contamination, but reflect a unique mantle source. In the following discussion, we will mainly focus on the nature of the mantle source, and possible formation mechanisms of the delayed mafic magma.

#### 6.1. Fractional crystallization and crustal contamination

The Anyi magnetite clinopyroxenites and monzogabbros have been variably altered after their emplacement. Secondary minerals, such as chlorite and albite, replace augite and plagioclase respectively. Loss on ignition (LOI) for most clinopyroxenites and monzogabbros ranges from 2.09 to 3.78 wt.%, whereas the monzonites were less altered with LOI ranging from 0.85 to 2.79 wt.% [\(Table 2](#page-5-0)). However, mobile elements of these rocks, such as Rb and Ba, show a roughly negative correlation with LOI ([Fig. 9](#page-9-0)a–b). This implies only weak effect of the alteration on the trace element composition of the Anyi rocks. Even so, the following discussions will be mainly based on the immobile elements, such as REE, high field strength elements (HFSE), Th, Y and Ti to minimize the alteration effect.

The geochemical characteristics of the mafic and ultramafic intrusions depend largely on the proportions of cumulus minerals. The negative correlations between  $SiO<sub>2</sub>$  and  $TiO<sub>2</sub>$ ,  $Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$  [\(Fig. 5](#page-7-0)a, b) are clearly due to the progressive accumulation of Fe–Ti oxides. The positive

#### <span id="page-5-0"></span>Table 2

Major oxide and trace element concentrations of the Anyi intrusion and country rocks, SW China.



(continued on next page)

#### Table 2 (continued) Table 2 (continued)



<span id="page-7-0"></span>

Fig. 5. Harker diagrams showing the variations of major element oxides and trace elements against SiO<sub>2</sub> in rocks of the Anyi intrusion. The Panzhihua and Baima intrusions in the ELIP are from [Zhou et al. \(2005, 2008\)](#page-13-0), [Shellnutt et al. \(2009\),](#page-13-0) [Zhang et al. \(2009\).](#page-13-0)



Fig. 6. (a) Plot of Na<sub>2</sub>O versus K<sub>2</sub>O of rocks from the Anyi intrusion. (b) P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> contents versus total rare earth element (REE). References are the same as for Fig. 5.

<span id="page-8-0"></span>

Fig. 7. (a) Chondrite normalized rare earth element patterns of rocks from the Anyi intrusion. (b) Primitive mantle normalized incompatible element patterns of rocks from the Anyi intrusion. Normalization values are from [Sun and McDonough \(1989\)](#page-13-0). Low-Ti and high-Ti Emeishan basalts are shown for comparison and are from [Xu et al. \(2001\)](#page-13-0), [Xiao et al. \(2004\)](#page-13-0) and [He et al. \(2010\)](#page-12-0).

correlations between  $SiO<sub>2</sub>$  and  $Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$  can be accounted for by progressive accumulation of feldspars from magnetite clinopyroxenite to monzonite, whereas the relative lower  $Al_2O_3$  contents of the Anyi rocks at comparable  $SiO<sub>2</sub>$  compared to those of Panzhihua and Baima intrusions can be explained by less feldspar accumulation in the Anyi intrusion. This is consistent with petrographic observations that there is only ~35–55% of feldspar in the Upper zone monzonites of the Anyi intrusion, in contrast to ~50–70% of feldspar in the Upper zone of the Panzhihua intrusion [\(Zhou et al., 2005\)](#page-13-0). Besides, accumulation of both orthoclase and plagioclase result in higher  $K<sub>2</sub>O$  contents of the Anyi intrusion compared to those of Panzhihua and Baima intrusions [\(Fig. 5](#page-7-0)e). Considering apatite as the most REE-enriched mineral [\(Fujimaki, 1986\)](#page-12-0), the late accumulation of apatite results in REE enrichment in monzogabbros and monzonites ([Fig. 6](#page-7-0)b). Additionally, experiments on Fe–Ti oxide/melt partition coefficients have shown that HFSE

whereas other trace elements (such as REE, Sr, U and Th) are strongly incompatible (of the order of  $10^{-5}$ – $10^{-2}$ , [Klemme et al., 2006](#page-12-0)). It is theoretically possible that accumulation of Fe–Ti oxides could result in elevated ratios of Zr, Nb, Hf, Ta to other trace elements (such as REE Sr, U, Th). Concentrations and ratios of incompatible elements (such as Nb/La, Zr/Sm) of the Panzhihua and Baima intrusions are significantly influenced by the accumulation of Fe–Ti oxides [\(Fig. 9](#page-9-0)c–d, [Zhang et al.,](#page-13-0) [2009](#page-13-0)), whereas in the Anyi intrusion, magnetite clinopyroxenites (oxide-rich, ~15–25% Fe–Ti oxides) display similar Zr/Sm ratios with monzonites (oxide-poor, ~5–10% Fe–Ti oxides) [\(Fig. 9](#page-9-0)c). Relatively lower Zr/Sm ratios of monzogabbros are inconsistent with oxide accumulation, but may be ascribed to the effect of cumulus apatites [\(Fig. 9c](#page-9-0)). Moreover, most of the Anyi rocks display nearly constant Nb/ La and only moderate variation of Ti/Sm compared to the Panzhihua

(Zr, Hf, Nb, Ta) are moderately compatible in the oxides ( $D = -1-3$ ),

Table 3

Rb-Sr and Sm-Nd isotopic analytical results of the Anyi intrusion.														
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Measured isotope ratios (subscript 0) are age-corrected (t) to 247 Ma

<span id="page-9-0"></span>

Fig. 8. Plot of *ε*Nd values versus initial <sup>86</sup>Sr/<sup>87</sup>Sr ratios of rocks from the Anyi intrusion  $(T = 247$  Ma). Other oxide-bearing and sulfide-bearing intrusions in ELIP refer to [Zhou](#page-13-0) [et al. \(2005, 2008\)](#page-13-0), [Shellnutt et al. \(2009\)](#page-13-0), [Tao et al. \(2007, 2008\),](#page-13-0) [Zhang et al. \(2009\)](#page-13-0). The compositional range of low-Ti and high-Ti basalts in the ELIP is from [Xu et al.](#page-13-0) [\(2001\)](#page-13-0), [Xiao et al. \(2004\)](#page-13-0), [He et al. \(2010\)](#page-12-0). The Dongchuan tephrites are from [Song et al.](#page-13-0) [\(2008\)](#page-13-0).

and Baima intrusions, which suggests that the effect of cumulus Fe–Ti oxides is not significant for most of HFSE of the Anyi intrusion (Fig. 9d). The relatively good positive correlations between  $SiO<sub>2</sub>$  and Zr, Nb ([Fig. 5\)](#page-7-0) are also consistent with only weak effect of cumulus Fe–Ti oxides. Thus, ratios between HFSE and other incompatible elements can be used as tracers of crustal contamination or source of magma.

Variable degrees of crustal assimilation are commonly expected for mantle-derived magmas migrating through continental crust to the surface [\(Carlson, 1991; Hawkesworth et al., 1984; Hergt et al.,](#page-12-0) [1991; Mahoney, 1988\)](#page-12-0). Nd and Sr isotope compositions and ratios between HFSE in mafic rocks may be indicative of crustal contamination in an open magma system. The negative εNd (247 Ma) values of the Anyi rocks ranging from  $-6.2$  to  $-7.6$  and their moderately high  ${}^{86}Sr/{}^{87}Sr(247 \text{ Ma})$  ratios varying from 0.7072 to 0.7086 ([Table 3](#page-8-0)) might reflect significant crustal contamination. However, it is evident that trace element concentrations and ratios are controlled primarily by their mantle source, rather than by crustal contamination. For example, the significantly low Th/Nb and Zr/Nb ratios (0.1–0.2 and 3.2–6.5, respectively) of the Anyi rocks compared to crustal rocks (0.08–0.42 and 9.4–40, respectively, [Rudnick and Fountain,](#page-13-0) [1995](#page-13-0)) are not compatible with extensive crustal contamination. Instead, the Th/Nb and Zr/Nb ratios of the Anyi rocks are similar to those of OIB (0.06 and 4.2, respectively) ([Sun and Mcdonough,](#page-13-0) [1989](#page-13-0)) ([Fig. 10a](#page-10-0)). The relatively high and homogenous Nb/La ratios (0.49–1.02) of the Anyi rocks also indicate only weak crustal contamination. In addition, if the negative εNd (247 Ma) values of the Anyi rocks (as much as  $-6.2$  to  $-7.6$ ) resulted from extensive crustal contamination, these rocks should display strong negative Nb anomalies in the primitive normalized trace element patterns. However, most of the Anyi samples display no or only weak negative Nb anomalies relative to Th and La as shown in [Fig. 7.](#page-8-0) Moreover, large variations of 1/Sr, La/Yb and Th/Yb and small variations of εNd(t) and  ${}^{86}Sr/{}^{87}Sr(t)$  are also inconsistent with extensive crustal assimilation ([Fig. 10](#page-10-0)b–d). Finally, both Nb/La and Th/Nb ratios of the Anyi



Fig. 9. (a-b) Plots of LOI (loss on ignition) versus Rb and Ba of rocks from the Anyi intrusion. (c) Plot of TiO<sub>2</sub> versus Zr/Sm. It is worth noting that the Anyi rocks do not follow the Fe–Ti oxide accumulation trend defined by the Panzhihua and Baima intrusion. (d) Plot of Ti/Sm versus Nb/La. The Anyi rocks also do not follow the Fe-Ti oxide accumulation trend. References are the same as for [Fig. 5](#page-7-0).

<span id="page-10-0"></span>

Fig. 10. (a) Plot of Zr/Nb versus Th/Nb of the Anyi intrusion, Upper continental crust (UCC) and lower continental crust (LCC) are from [Rudnick and Fountain \(1995\).](#page-13-0) (b) 1/Sr versus 86Sr/87Sr. (c) Plot of εNd values versus La/Yb ratios of rocks from the Anyi intrusion. (d) 86Sr/87Sr versus Th/Yb ratios of rocks from the Anyi intrusion. (e) Plot of 86Sr/87Sr versus Nb/La. (f) Plot of <sup>86</sup>Sr/<sup>87</sup>Sr versus Th/Nb. Compositional range of the low-Ti and high-Ti basalts in the ELIP is from [Xu et al. \(2001\)](#page-13-0), [Xiao et al. \(2004\)](#page-13-0), [He et al. \(2010\).](#page-12-0) The Dongchuan tephrites are from [Song et al. \(2008\).](#page-13-0) The Panzhihua and Baima intrusions in the ELIP are also shown for comparison and are from [Zhou et al. \(2005, 2008\),](#page-13-0) [Shellnutt et al. \(2009\)](#page-13-0), [Zhang et al. \(2009\)](#page-13-0),

rocks keep nearly constant with variation of  $86$ Sr $/87$ Sr (t) ratios (Fig. 10e, f). Therefore, we conclude that, although minor crustal contamination may occur, it was not an important factor controlling the trace element ratios and Sr–Nd isotope compositions of the Anyi intrusion. Instead, the trace element ratios and Sr–Nd isotope values of the Anyi rocks mainly reflect the characteristics of their mantle source.

#### 6.3. Nature of mantle source

Recent geochemical studies of the Emeishan flood basalts argued that the high-Ti basalts are products of deep melting of the plume head, whereas the low-Ti basalts were generated from shallow melting of the plume head with significant lithospheric overprint ([Chung and](#page-12-0) [Jahn, 1995; He et al., 2010; Song et al., 2001; Xiao et al., 2004; Xu](#page-12-0) [et al., 2001\)](#page-12-0). Besides, the contemporaneous Fe–Ti oxide-bearing intrusions (such as Panzhihua, Baima) are genetically related to the high-Ti basalts, and the Ni–Cu sulfide-bearing intrusions (such as Jinaoshan, Limahe and Zhubu) likely share a common mantle source with the low-Ti basalts in the ELIP ([Zhou et al., 2008](#page-13-0)). Compared with these flood basalts and intrusions, the Anyi intrusion is characterized by high concentrations of incompatible elements, high LREE/HREE ratios  $(La/Yb = 20.4-55.1$ , [Table 2](#page-5-0)), and very low  $\varepsilon$ Nd (-6.2 to -7.6) [\(Fig. 8](#page-9-0)). These characteristics suggest that the Anyi intrusion was derived from an extremely enriched mantle source, rather than the mantle plume or asthenosphere. Possible enriched mantle sources include (a) ancient metasomatized lithospheric mantle with hydrous minerals [\(Boyd and Mertzman, 1987; Boyd and Nixon, 1975; Maury et al.,](#page-12-0) 1992; O'Reilly and Griffi[n, 1988; Waters and Erlank, 1988\)](#page-12-0), or (b) a mantle source mixed between garnet pyroxenite and spinel peridotite [\(Hirschmann and Stolper, 1996](#page-12-0)). An evaluation of these two alternatives will be given below.

The metasomatism model involves infiltration of the depleted upper mantle by small-degree metasomatic melts leading to enrichment of incompatible elements [\(Pilet et al., 2005, 2008](#page-13-0)). Metasomatism processes would generate enriched peridotite sources with hydrous minerals

(such as amphibole and phlogopite), which can develop low εNd and high  $(^{87}Sr)^{86}Sr$ ); comparable to those of the Anyi intrusion, provided that there is enough time for the evolution of isotopic signatures after the metasomatic event. However, this metasomatized model encountered the following problems when applied to the Anyi intrusion. (1) Experiments on phlogopite/melt partition coefficients have shown that Rb, Ba and K are moderately compatible for phlogopite ( $D = -2-4$ ), whereas other trace elements (such as Th, U and REE) are strongly incompatible (of the order of 10−<sup>2</sup> , [LaTourrette et al., 1995](#page-12-0)). In addition, most trace elements are moderately incompatible for amphibole. Therefore, concentrations of trace elements in amphibole are generally higher than those in anhydrous minerals, such as olivine and pyroxene, in the metasomatized mantle. If the ancient metasomatized lithospheric mantle with hydrous minerals is the direct source of the Anyi intrusion, residues of amphibole and phlogopite after a small degree of partial melting may account for the negative K anomalies of the Anyi intrusion on multi-element spider diagrams [\(Fig. 7](#page-8-0)b, d, [Class and Goldstein, 1997; Ionov et al., 1997](#page-12-0)). However, amphibole and phlogopite residues in magma source can equally generate depletion of Rb and Ba in the melts because of the high partition coefficients of Rb and Ba in phlogopite ( $D = -2-4$ , [LaTourrette et al., 1995\)](#page-12-0), a feature not observed in the Anyi intrusion. (2) The Anyi intrusion was formed after the peak of tholeiitic volcanism in the ELIP (~260 Ma) and displays depletion of heavy REE (Sm/Yb  $= 6.0-8.2$ ), suggesting a garnet-bearing mantle source. If a garnet-bearing metasomatized lithospheric mantle is the source of the Anyi intrusion, it is difficult to explain how this metasomatized lithospheric mantle could have survived from the large scale plume-related magma activity (~260 Ma), because most of the fusible constituents in the lower part of sub-continental lithospheric mantle (SCLM) would be melted and extracted due to underplating (or ascending) of mantle plume.

Another possible resolution of this conflict is that the Anyi intrusion may be associated with the melting of a mantle source mixed between garnet pyroxenite and spinel peridotite. Partial melting of garnet pyroxenite blocks or veins also resulted in melting of ambient spinel peridotite inevitably. However, the "garnet signature" in the Anyi intrusion shows more significant melting of the garnet pyroxenites. Garnet is a solidus phase to substantially lower pressure  $(-1.5 \text{ GPa})$  in the pyroxenite, which may occur as blocks or veins in the spinel peridotite subcontinental lithospheric mantle at shallow depth ([Hirschmann and](#page-12-0) [Stolper, 1996\)](#page-12-0). The garnet pyroxenite blocks or veins in the shallow lithospheric mantle may be produced by the reaction of subduction-related melts with lithospheric peridotites [\(Herzberg, 2006; Sobolev et al.,](#page-12-0) [2005; Yaxley and Green, 1998\)](#page-12-0). Partial melting of subducted oceanic slab in the Neoproterozoic resulted in adakitic plutons, such as the Datian and Dajianshan plutons, along the west margin of the Yangtze Block subduction, and left garnet as a residue in the source [\(Zhao](#page-13-0) [et al., 2008; Zhou et al., 2002b\)](#page-13-0). Such ascending adakitic melts would react with olivine and produce garnet pyroxenites within the lithospheric mantle [\(Herzberg, 2006; Rapp et al., 1999; Sobolev et al.,](#page-12-0) [2005; Yaxley and Green, 1998](#page-12-0)). This kind of garnet pyroxenite is predicted to be enriched in most incompatible trace elements (e.g., Rb, K, Na, and LREE) and can develop enriched Sr, Nd isotopic compositions after long-term radiogenic decay. Melting of such ancient garnet pyroxenite blocks or veins in the lithospheric mantle would produce Fe-rich melts with enriched incompatible trace elements and Sr–Nd isotopic compositions [\(Yaxley and Green, 1998\)](#page-13-0). We speculate that the Anyi intrusion is associated with partial melting of a mantle source mixed between garnet pyroxenite and spinel peridotite in the lithospheric mantle beneath the Yangtze Block. This hypothesis is supported by highly enriched incompatible trace elements and Sr–Nd isotope compositions and Fe–Ti enriched parental magma of the Anyi intrusion. This hypothesis is also consistent with the low <sup>3</sup>He/<sup>4</sup>He and <sup>40</sup>Ar/<sup>36</sup>Ar ratios of Fe–Ti oxide-bearing layered intrusions in the central ELIP, which are also considered to be related to the infiltration of subduction-related melts and fluids into lithospheric peridotites during the Neoproterozoic [\(Hou et al., 2011](#page-12-0)).

However, it is still an open question how these Neoproterozoic garnet pyroxenites survived from the main pulse of tholeiitic volcanism of the ELIP that occurred at ~260 Ma. [Xiao et al. \(2004\)](#page-13-0) proposed that SCLM melting was terminated after the peak tholeiitic magmatism at ~260 Ma, because SCLM would become depleted and refractory after extraction of the low-Ti basalts. However, it is difficult that the fusible constituents within the SCLM were extracted completely during such a short time  $(-1 \text{ Ma})$ , because SCLM is commonly very thick  $(>100 \text{ km})$ .

#### 6.4. Origin of the delayed mafic magmatism and its significance

Comparative studies have indicated that the large igneous provinces genetically associated with mantle plumes commonly have three eruptive phases: (1) an initial eruptions of relatively small volume transitional-alkaline basalts, (2) the main phase of rapid eruptions of large volume tholeiitic basalt magma and in some cases, silicic magma, and (3) a waning and protracted activity of mafic magmas, in many cases, with increasing silicic components [\(Bryan and Ernst,](#page-12-0) [2008; Bryan et al., 2002; Jerram and Widdowson, 2005; White and](#page-12-0) [McKenzie, 1995\)](#page-12-0).

It has been demonstrated that the main pulse of tholeiitic volcanism of the ELIP occurred at ~260 Ma within no more than one million years [\(Ali et al., 2002; He et al., 2007\)](#page-12-0). Several spatially associated mafic– ultramafic intrusions (such as Panzhihua, Baima, Hongge, Xinjie, Limahe, Jinbaoshan, Baimazhai, Zhubu) contemporaneous with the Emeishan basalts (~260 Ma) were regarded as the results of the same igneous event [\(Fig. 1](#page-1-0)) ([Wang and Zhou, 2006; Zhong and Zhu, 2006;](#page-13-0) [Zhou et al., 2002c, 2005, 2008\)](#page-13-0). The tephrites at the base of the Dongchuan Emeishan basalt sequence represent the earliest eruption resulting from the melting of the metasomatized base of the Yangtze continental lithospheric mantle during plume–lithosphere interaction [\(Song et al., 2008a\)](#page-13-0). A-type granites and syenites with ages of  $\sim$ 260 Ma are contemporaneous with the mafic–ultramafic layered intrusions, and are attributed to thorough differentiation of underplated basaltic magmas [\(Xu et al., 2010; Zhong et al., 2007, 2009](#page-13-0)), By contrast, ~238 Ma rhyolitic tuff at the top of the Emeishan flood basalt sequence (Binchuan) and ~251 Ma Ailanghe I-type granites occurring in the central ELIP were considered to have been formed by the melting of the lower crust of the Yangtze Block [\(Xu et al., 2008; Zhong et al., 2007\)](#page-13-0). Obviously, such delayed felsic magmatism needs episodic basaltic magma underplating to provide enough heat for crustal melting. The Anyi (~247 Ma) and Cida mafic–ultramafic intrusion (~243 Ma) and Baima mafic dykes (~242 Ma) clearly demonstrate that a weak mantlederived magmatism indeed occurred in the central ELIP after the peak magmatism of the Emeishan mantle plume [\(Fig. 1](#page-1-0)) [\(Luo et al., 2013;](#page-12-0) [Shellnutt et al., 2008\)](#page-12-0). The postdated mafic magma associated with the Anyi and Cida intrusions likely played an important role in supplying heat for crustal melting and generation of the delayed I-type magmas. However, how the postdated mafic magmas were generated is still not well understood.

The OIB-like trace element patterns, coupled with near primitive εNd (0.32–2.7) and  $({}^{87}Sr/{}^{86}Sr)_{i}$  (0.70485–0.7064) of Baima mafic and Cida mafic–ultramafic rocks suggest a plume head origin ([Luo et al.,](#page-12-0) [2013; Shellnutt et al., 2008](#page-12-0)). It implies that the Emeishan plume persisted for ~20 Myrs beneath the western Yangtze Block. Similarly, we speculate that the mantle plume is the potential heat source that produced the magma associated with the Anyi intrusion by partial melting of the mantle source mixed between garnet pyroxenite and spinel peridotite in the shallow lithospheric mantle beneath the Yangtze Block. The possible mechanisms to cause shallow melting of the lithosphere include (a) simple conductive heating from the deep-seated plume to the shallow lithosphere, and (b) conductive heating combined with lithosphere thinning due to upwelling of the Emeishan mantle plume. According to the conductive heating modeling performed by [Gibson et al. \(2006\)](#page-12-0), conductive heating is a relatively slow process, and only the base of the lithosphere  $(>100 \text{ km})$  can be heated on

<span id="page-12-0"></span>timescales of 20 Myrs if the initial lithosphere thicknesses were 130 and 165 km, respectively. A similar conclusion reached by [Xu et al \(2008\)](#page-13-0) shows that conductive heating at the base of 150 km thick lithosphere raises the temperature of lithosphere over a depth of only ~40 km in a 20 Myr time interval. Therefore, we propose that simple conductive heating from the deep seated mantle plume to the lithosphere is not enough to induce melting of the shallow lithosphere.

Davies (1994) conducted a simplified semianalytic theory which describes the process of lithosphere thinning through thermomechanical erosion by a hot mantle upwelling or plume. His results demonstrated that if the upwelling persists for 10–20 Myrs under 120 km thick continental lithosphere, a substantial thinning by thermal erosion can occur. This mechanism may indeed have operated in the Emeishan LIP. It has been postulated that a lens-shaped seismically anomalous body at the depth of 80–120 km may represent the head of the fossil mantle plume [\(Xu and He, 2007; Xu et al., 2004\)](#page-13-0). If this is true, the plume head must have risen to a depth of ~80 km. This implies that the mantle lithosphere beneath the west Yangtze Block is significantly thinned since the initial lithosphere thickness was likely greater than 100 km. The relatively "thin" lithosphere  $($  < 100 km) is more effectively warmed up in 20 Myrs by conductive heating [\(Xu et al., 2008](#page-13-0)). Therefore, we prefer the model of conductive heating combined with lithosphere thinning to explain the delayed mafic magmatism of the Anyi intrusion. In this model, the plume–lithosphere interaction process may persist for more than 10 Myrs. The removal of the lower part of lithospheric materials through thermomechanical erosion enhanced the conduction of heat from the plume into the overlying shallow lithosphere. The shallow lithosphere is warmed up after a short time lag (13 Ma) relative to the plume impact (~260 Ma) during plume–lithosphere interaction. Melting of the mixed garnet pyroxenite/spinel peridotite source would result in the generation of Fe-rich melts and formation of the Anyi intrusion and its Fe–Ti oxide ore. On the other hand, the delayed melting of the plume-head resulted in the formation of the Baima mafic dykes (~242 Ma) and Cida mafic–ultramafic rocks (~243 Ma) in the central ELIP (Luo et al., 2013; Shellnutt et al., 2008).

#### 7. Conclusions

The Anyi intrusion display relatively younger emplacement age  $(247 \pm 3 \text{ Ma})$  and may represent the postdated mafic magmatism after the main pulse of tholeiitic volcanism of the ELIP  $(-260$  Ma). The high LREE/HREE ratios (La/Yb = 20.4-55.1) and extremely low  $\varepsilon$ Nd values ( $-6.2$  to  $-7.6$ ) of the Anyi intrusion can be explained by the partial melting of the mantle source mixed between garnet pyroxenite and spinel peridotite in the shallow lithosphere caused by conductive heating combined with lithosphere thinning during plume–lithosphere interaction. The delayed mafic magma associated with the formation of the Anyi intrusion may play an important role in supplying heat for crustal melting and the generation of the delayed I-type magma in the ELIP.

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