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Geochronological, geochemical and Nd–Hf isotopic constraints on the petrogenesis of Late Cretaceous A-type granites from the southeastern coast of Fujian Province, South China

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ABSTRACT

We present comprehensive petrological, geochronological, major and trace element, and Nd–Hf isotopic data for the Baishishan, Jingangshan, and Wushan granitic plutons on the southeastern coast of Fujian Province, South China, with the aims of elucidating their origin and gaining new insights into the petrogenesis of aluminous A-type granites. Zircon U–Pb ages obtained by laser ablation–inductively coupled plasma–mass spectrometry show that the three investigated plutons were emplaced at 92–86 Ma, indicating that they were generated during a Late Cretaceous magmatic event. The granites from the three plutons are composed mainly of perthite, quartz, plagioclase, and minor biotite; they have high SiO₂ contents, and low CaO, MnO, Fe₂O^{tot}, and MgO contents, and show a metaluminous to slightly peraluminous signature. The granites are enriched in some large ion lithophile elements (e.g., Rb, Th, and U) and high field strength elements (e.g., Nb and Ta) with elevated Ga/Al ratios, and spidergrams show strong depletions in Ba, Sr, Ti, and P. Chondrite-normalized REE patterns show relative enrichments in light rare earth elements, flat heavy rare earth element profiles, and strongly negative Eu anomalies. These mineralogical and geochemical characteristics suggest that all three plutons can be classified as aluminous A-type granites. The plutons exhibit nearly identical whole-rock Nd and zircon Hf isotopic compositions, and yield Mesoproterozoic two-stage model ages (1.4–1.1 Ga) for both Nd and Hf isotopes. Based on a synthesis of the geochemical and isotopic data and petrogenetic modelling, we suggest that these A-type granitic rocks were most likely formed by variable degrees of fractional crystallization of magmas produced by the partial melting of a tonalitic to granodioritic source, with plagioclase-rich residual phases in the middle to lower crust, and emplaced at shallow crustal levels along the Changle–Nan'ao Fault. Our data on the Baishishan, Jingangshan, and Wushan granites, coupled with previous studies of Cretaceous magmatism in coastal areas of SE China, indicate that a gradually intensifying regional extension took place in the region during the late Yanshanian (Cretaceous), which peaked during the Late Cretaceous in response to the roll-back of the Palaeo-Pacific plate. Consequently, we conclude that the generation of A-type granites was related to intensive tectonic extension along the Changle–Nan'ao Fault and the induced underplating of mantle-derived magma.

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1. Introduction

A-type granites have attracted much research attention in recent decades because of their unusual mineralogical and chemical characteristics and their potential value for reconstructing the tectonic settings of ancient terranes. High Ga/Al ratios

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and enrichments in alkali and high field strength elements (HFSEs) are regarded as being diagnostic of A-type granitoids [\(Eby, 1990;](#page-20-0) [Nardi and Bitencourt, 2009; Whalen et al., 1987\)](#page-20-0). An important characteristic of A-type magmas is that they generally occur in extension-related tectonic settings, ranging from post-orogenic to anorogenic ([Bonin, 2007; Eby, 1990, 1992](#page-19-0)). Such granitoids have long been recognized as being peraluminous to peralkaline in composition ([Collins et al., 1982; Creaser et al., 1991; Eby, 1990; Karsli](#page-20-0) [et al., 2012; Mushkin et al., 2003; Poitrasson et al., 1994, 1995;](#page-20-0) [Whalen et al., 1987](#page-20-0)), and [King et al. \(1997\)](#page-20-0) first proposed that they can be further divided into aluminous and peralkaline subgroups.

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In contrast to the peralkaline A-type granites, the aluminous Atype granites are metaluminous to slightly peraluminous, commonly show higher Al₂O₃ abundances, lower alkali, HFSE and REE contents, and lower FeO^{tot}/MgO and Ga/Al ratios, and they commonly contain Al-rich minerals such as spessartine and Mn-rich muscovite [\(King et al., 1997, 2001; Wu et al., 2002; Qiu et al.,](#page-20-0) [2004](#page-20-0)). Previous studies have proposed several models to elucidate the genesis of the aluminous A-type granites. For example, [Collins](#page-20-0) [et al. \(1982\)](#page-20-0) suggested that the metaluminous to peraluminous A-type granites from the Lachlan Fold Belt, now considered to belong to the aluminous sub-group, were generated through the partial melting of a residual source after the extraction of I-type magmas. [Farahat et al. \(2007\)](#page-20-0) advocated that aluminous A-type granites from the Eastern Desert of Egypt were derived from the dehydration melting of tonalitic to granodioritic sources. In southwestern Corsica, France, the aluminous A-type granites appear to have been generated through the partial melting of amphibolebearing and $K₂O$ -rich mafic cumulates which had not experienced any previous partial melting ([Poitrasson et al., 1994, 1995](#page-20-0)). The generation of Hercynian post-collisional granitoids in southern Tien Shan, Kyrgyzstan, was thought to have involved crust–mantle interactions [\(Konopelko et al., 2007\)](#page-20-0). [Li et al. \(2007\)](#page-20-0) considered that some aluminous A-type granites had likely been produced by extreme fractionation of a mantle-derived alkaline parental magma, coupled with crustal assimilation. [Rajesh \(2000\)](#page-21-0) reported that the Pan-African Ambalavayal granite was generated by the partial melting of a charnockitic source. Evidently, the formation of aluminous A-type granites may involve multiple processes,

Fig. 1. Schematic map showing the distribution of the Yanshanian granitoids and volcanic rocks in SE China, and the location of the study area (modified after [Zhou et al.,](#page-21-0) [2006\)](#page-21-0). The localities of representative A-type granites in the coastal area are marked with black stars. Names of the fault zones: \mathbb{O} – Changle–Nan'ao fault; \mathbb{Q} – Zhenghe– Dapu fault; \Im – Jiangshan–Shaoxing fault. Major tectonic belts: I – the Early Palaeozoic fold belt; II – the Yanshanian magmatic belt; III – the Pingtan–Dongshan metamorphic belt.

Fig. 2. Simplified geological map of the southern region of Zhangzhou, coastal Fujian Province (modified after the 1:200,000 geological map of Zhangzhou and Dongshan Sheets). 1 – Yanshanian volcanic-sedimentary rocks; 2 – miarolitic alkali feldspar granite; 3 – porphyritic miarolitic alkali feldspar granite; 4 – alkali feldspar granite; 5 – biotite granite; 6 – granodiorite; 7 – quartz diorite; 8 – sampling location.

and the magmas can be generated in diverse geological settings; thus, their petrogenesis is still a subject of considerable controversy.

A-type granites in the coastal area of SE China are generally distributed along a NNE-trending belt subparallel to the Changle– Nan'ao Fault, approximately 800 km long and 60–80 km wide ([Fig. 1\)](#page-1-0). They can be further divided into two subgroups, aluminous A-types (AA types) and peralkaline A-types (PA types), according to their mineralogical and geochemical characteristics. The majority of the A-type granites in this belt are alkali feldspar granites of the AA type, and PA granites are relatively rare. These A-type granites are temporally and spatially associated with widespread I-type granitoids, forming characteristic I- and A-type composite granitic plutons, such as the Zhangzhou, Fuzhou, Qingtian, and Putuoshan– Taohuadao complexes ([Fig. 1\)](#page-1-0). Previous studies have provided mineralogical, geochemical, and whole-rock Sr–Nd isotopic constraints on the petrogenesis and evolution of the A-type granites in SE China coastal areas ([Hong et al., 1987; Martin et al., 1994; Qiu](#page-20-0) [et al., 2004; Zhou and Wu, 1994\)](#page-20-0). However, their petrogenesis is a matter of debate; in particular, their source characteristics and the geodynamic mechanisms responsible for their generation are poorly constrained. In this paper, we report new, high-precision zircon U–Pb ages, in situ zircon Hf isotopic compositions, and whole-rock elemental and Nd isotope data for three representative aluminous A-type plutons (the Baishishan, Jingangshan, and Wushan plutons) (Fig. 2) located in the coastal area of southeastern Fujian Province. The aims of the study are to identify the nature of magma sources, to elucidate their petrogenesis, and to develop a tectonomagmatic model for the origin and evolution of the A-type and associated I-type granitoids.

2. Geological background

The South China Block, located on the eastern margin of Eurasia, is surrounded by the Qinling–Dabie orogenic belt to the north, the Tibetan Block to the west, and the Indochina Block to the south. It is composed of two major Precambrian continental blocks: the Yangtze Block in the northwest and the Cathaysia Block in the southeast, separated by the Jiangshan–Shaoxing suture zone ([Fig. 1](#page-1-0), lower right inset; [Chen and Jahn, 1998; Zhang and Wang,](#page-19-0) [2007\)](#page-19-0). Mesozoic volcanic–intrusive magmatism was largely concentrated in the Cathaysia Block, and the intensity of magmatism increased toward the ocean [\(Zhou et al., 2006\)](#page-21-0). Two major NNE– SSW-trending trans-lithospheric faults in the eastern Cathaysia Block (i.e., the Zhenghe–Dapu and Changle–Nan'ao faults) separate the region into three main tectonic belts, which from west to east are the early Palaeozoic fold belt, the Yanshanian magmatic belt, and the Pingtan–Dongshan metamorphic belt [\(Fig. 1](#page-1-0); [Zhao et al.,](#page-21-0) [2004, 2007\)](#page-21-0). The early Palaeozoic fold belt, located northwest of the Zhenghe–Dapu Fault, is characterized by abundant exposures of Precambrian basement rocks, which comprise the Palaeoproterozoic Mayuan (amphibolite facies) and Neoproterozoic Mamianshan (upper-greenschist to lower-amphibolite facies) groups [\(Li,](#page-20-0) [1997; Li et al., 2005](#page-20-0)). The belt was strongly overprinted by widespread late Mesozoic magmatism and local Caledonian and Indosinian events ([Xu et al., 2007\)](#page-21-0). The Yanshanian magmatic belt is made up of Cretaceous granitoids and equivalent volcanic rocks, as well as some Jurassic granites. The granitic rock assemblages in the belt are predominantly high-K calc-alkaline I-type granitoids ranging from tonalites to alkali feldspar granites, and succeeding shallow-level A-type granites ([Hong et al., 1987; Martin et al.,](#page-20-0) [1994; Qiu et al., 1999a](#page-20-0)). Overall, the granitoids with Early Yanshanian (Jurassic) ages are mainly distributed in the Cathaysia interior and those with the Late Yanshanian (Cretaceous) ages are concentrated in the southeastern coastal area ([Fig. 1\)](#page-1-0). The Pingtan– Dongshan metamorphic belt occurs along the coastal area of Fujian Province, including Pingtan Island, Mazu Island, the Jinjiang area, and Dongshan Island. Exposed rocks in the metamorphic belt include Yanshanian regionally metamorphosed rocks, Mesozoic granites, volcanic rocks, and minor mafic rocks ([Chen et al., 2002,](#page-20-0) [2004; Shu et al., 2000; Yang et al., 2010\)](#page-20-0).

As products of Cretaceous magmatism, the Baishishan, Jingangshan, and Wushan granitic plutons in the coastal area of Fujian Province were emplaced roughly along the Changle–Nan'ao shear zone ([Fig. 1](#page-1-0)). These plutons intruded into Early Cretaceous volcanic–sedimentary rocks of the Shimaoshan Group and Late Jurassic low-grade metasedimentary rocks of the Douling Group, as well as into some early granitoids. No chilled margins are observed in the plutons. Field observations and existing zircon U–Pb ages indicate that the three plutons are spatially and temporally associated with the Zhangpu I-type composite granite pluton (Fig. 2), which is composed of the Changqiao (CQ) biotite granite (119 Ma), the Chengxi (CX) alkali feldspar granite (101 Ma), and the Huxi (HX) granodiorite (96 Ma). This I-type composite granite pluton is thought to have been derived from the mixing of juvenile mantleand crust-derived magmas [\(Qiu et al., 2012](#page-21-0)).

3. Petrography

The Baishishan pluton, located in the western part of Zhangpu County, southeastern Fujian Province, has an outcrop area of \sim 180 km² (Fig. 2). This pluton is lithologically homogeneous and consists mainly of medium-grained alkali feldspar granite and subordinate granite. The major mineral phases are perthite (45– 55 vol.%), quartz (25–35 vol.%), and plagioclase (An = 15–30, 10–15 vol.%), with less than 3 vol.% biotite. Accessory minerals are magnetite, titanite, apatite, zircon, and allanite. Biotite crystals are euhedral to subhedral, strongly pleochroic, and contain abundant fine-grained inclusions of zircon that form pleochroic haloes. Both perthite, which locally contains small euhedral to subhedral inclusions of plagioclase crystals, and quartz occur as interstitial

Fig. 3. Microphotographs of representative samples from Baishishan (a, b), Jingangshan (c, d) and Wushan (e, f) plutons. All the photos were taken under crossed nicols. Mineral abbreviation: Q – quartz; Per – perthite; Pl – plagioclase; Bt – biotite.

phases (Fig. 3a and b). Miarolitic cavities and granophyric texture are fairly common.

The Jingangshan pluton, which is located to the south of the Baishishan pluton, has an outcrop area of 165 km^2 ([Fig. 2](#page-2-0)). The granites are faint red to ashen in color, and massive with a medium-grained granitic texture. They are composed of perthite (45–55 vol.%), quartz (25–35 vol.%), plagioclase (An = 20–30, 10–15 vol.%), and biotite (<3 vol.%), with minor amounts of magnetite, zircon, apatite, and titanite. The mineral composition is typical of alkali feldspar granite. Biotite occurs as isolated subhedral to euhedral crystals (Fig. 3c). Plagioclase occurs as euhedral laths with well-developed polysynthetic twinning, and lacks oscillatory zoning (Fig. 3d). Miarolitic cavities and micrographic intergrowths of quartz and perthite are also well developed, as in the Baishishan pluton, and mafic microgranular enclaves are rarely observed.

The Wushan pluton, which is located on the border between Yunxiao and Zhao'an counties in southwestern Fujian Province, is exposed as a N–S-trending spindle-shaped batholith with an outcrop area of 145 km^2 ([Fig. 2\)](#page-2-0). Unlike the Baishishan and Jingangshan plutons, the Wushan pluton exhibits obvious lithological zoning, and consists mainly of alkali feldspar granite in the central facies and porphyritic alkali feldspar granite in the marginal facies ([Fig. 2\)](#page-2-0). The texture varies from porphyritic in the marginal facies (Fig. 3e) to medium-grained equigranular in the central facies, but otherwise, they have similar mineral assemblages. The granites of the central facies are light gray to reddish in color, and are composed mainly of perthite (50–55 vol.%), quartz (30–35 vol.%), plagioclase $(An = 20-28, 10-15 \text{ vol.}),$ and biotite $(3 \text{ vol.}),$ The granites of the marginal facies are light pink and contain phenocrysts of perthite (3–12 mm), quartz (2–5 mm), and minor plagioclase (1.5–2 mm); their groundmasses display micrographic textures (Fig. 3f) and consist mainly of fine-grained perthite, quartz, and plagioclase, with minor biotite, zircon, and titanite. As in the Jingangshan and Baishishan plutons, mafic enclaves are absent and miarolitic cavities are well developed.

Overall, the mineral assemblages and lithological features of all three plutons are similar. In contrast to spatially coexisting Zhangpu I-type granites, the granophyric textures and miarolitic cavities of the A-type granite plutons are much more well developed, suggesting shallower depth of emplacement ([Hergt et al.,](#page-20-0) [2007; Mushkin et al., 2003](#page-20-0)). Moreover, some aluminous-rich minerals (such as spessartine, muscovite, etc.) have been found in these plutons, especially in their miarolitic cavities ([Hong et al.,](#page-20-0) [1987; Qiu et al., 2004](#page-20-0)).

4. Sampling and analytical methods

4.1. Zircon U–Pb dating and Hf isotopes

Zircons from five samples (BSS-4 and BSS-8 from the Baishishan pluton, 12JGS-5 from the Jingangshan pluton, and 12WS-1 and 12WS-4 from the Wushan pluton) were separated by conventional techniques, including crushing, sieving, and magnetic and heavy liquid separation methods. Zircon grains, handpicked under a binocular stereomicroscope, were mounted in epoxy resin, and then polished to expose their centres. Cathodoluminescence (CL) and optical microscopy images were taken to ensure that the least fractured and most inclusion-free zones of the zircons were analyzed. The CL images were obtained using a Mono CL3+(Gatan, Pleasanton, CA, USA) attached to a scanning electron microscope (Quanta 400 FEG, Hillsboro, OR, USA) at the State Key Laboratory of Continental Dynamics, Northwest University, Xi'an, China.

Zircon U–Pb isotopic analyses were performed using an Agilent 7500a inductively coupled plasma–mass spectrometer (ICP–MS) coupled to a New Wave Research 213-nm laser ablation system at the State Key Laboratory for Mineral Deposits Research, Nanjing University. The ablated material was transported in a He carrier gas through PVC tubing (inner diameter, 3 mm) and combined with argon in a 30-cm³ mixing chamber prior to entry into the ICP–MS. Analyses were conducted using a beam diameter of 25 μ m, a repetition rate of 5 Hz, and an energy of 10–20 J/cm². Data acquisition for each analysis took 100 s (40 s on the background signal and 60 s on the ablated signal). A homogeneous standard zircon (GEMOC GJ-1: $^{207}Pb/^{206}Pb$ age of 608.5 ± 0.4 Ma and a relatively young $^{206}Pb/^{238}U$ age of 599.8 ± 4.5 Ma; [Jackson](#page-20-0) [et al., 2004\)](#page-20-0) was used to correct the mass discrimination of the MS and the residual elemental fractionation. A well-characterized zircon standard (Mud Tank; intercept age, 732 ± 5 Ma; [Black and](#page-19-0) [Gulson, 1978\)](#page-19-0) was used as an independent control on reproducibility and instrument stability. The raw ICP–MS U–Pb isotopic data were acquired using GLITTER 4.4, using the correction method for common Pb described by [Andersen \(2002\)](#page-19-0). Mean age calculations and Concordia diagram plots were performed using Isoplot (version 2.49) ([Luding, 2001](#page-20-0)).

In situ zircon Hf isotope analyses were performed using a Thermo Scientific Neptune Plus multi-collector (MC) ICP–MS attached to a New Wave UP193 solid-state laser ablation system at the State Key Laboratory for Mineral Deposits Research, Nanjing University. Zircons were ablated with a beam diameter of $35 \mu m$, energy of 11.24–11.65 J/cm², 8-Hz laser repetition rate, and a 26s laser ablation time. Two reference standards were also measured to evaluate the reliability of the data (Mud Tank 176 Hf/ 177 Hf ratio = 0.282493 ± 0.000011, $n = 13$, 2σ and Penglai ¹⁷⁶Hf/¹⁷⁷Hf ratio = 0.282898 ± 0.000019, $n = 11$, 2σ) before the analyses of unknown samples. The measured 176 Hf/ 177 Hf ratios of the two standards agree with recommended values within 2σ errors ([Griffin et al., 2007; Li et al., 2010\)](#page-20-0).

4.2. Whole-rock major elements, trace elements, and Nd isotopes

All samples selected for chemical and isotopic analyses were fresh, and were crushed and powdered to 200 mesh using an agate mill. Whole-rock major elements, trace elements, and Nd isotopic compositions were determined at the State key Laboratory for Mineral Deposits Research, Nanjing University, China. For major element analyses, mixtures of whole-rock powders (0.5 g) and $Li₂B₄O₇ + LiBO₂ + LiBr (11 g)$ were made into glass discs and then analyzed using a Thermo Scientific ARL 9900 X-ray fluorescence (XRF) spectrometer. The analytical precision was estimated to be less than 10% for all major elements and less than 1% for the majority of elements. For trace element analyses, \sim 50 mg of powder was dissolved in high-pressure Teflon bombs using a $HF + HNO₃$ mixture; Rh was used as an internal standard to monitor for signal drift during the ICP–MS analyses. Trace element concentrations were determined using a Finnigan Element II ICP–MS. Detailed analytical procedures followed [Gao et al. \(2003\).](#page-20-0) The analytical precision was better than 10% for all trace elements, with the majority being better than 5%.

For whole-rock Nd isotope analyses, \sim 50 mg of powder was dissolved in Teflon beakers with a $HF + HNO₃$ mixture, and Nd was then separated and purified using a cation-exchange resin with HIBA as the eluent. The detailed chemical separation and isotopic measurement procedures used are described in [Pu et al. \(2004,](#page-20-0) [2005\).](#page-20-0) The isotopic compositions of the purified Nd solutions were determined on a Thermo Scientific Neptune Plus MC–ICP–MS. For the present analyses, the Nd isotopic ratios were corrected for mass fractionation by normalizing to $146Nd/144Nd = 0.7219$. During the analysis period, measurements of the Japan JNdi-1 Nd standard yielded a 143 Nd/¹⁴⁴Nd ratio of 0.512096 ± 0.000008 (n = 18, 2 σ).

5. Analytical results

5.1. Zircon U–Pb dating

The CL images of representative zircons are shown in [Fig. 4.](#page-5-0) The results of LA–ICP–MS U–Pb isotopic analyses are listed in [Table 1,](#page-6-0) and are presented graphically in [Fig. 5](#page-8-0). Because low $207Pb$ count rates result in large statistical uncertainties, the measured $^{206}Pb/^{238}$ U ages are considered to be more precise for younger zircons (<1 Ga), and the $^{207}Pb/^{206}Pb$ ages are considered to be more precise for older zircons (>1 Ga). Therefore, we used the 206 Pb/ 238 U data to represent the crystallization ages of Phanerozoic zircons. The age results for the five samples from the three plutons are discussed in turn below.

5.1.1. Baishishan pluton

Zircons of two samples from the Baishishan pluton were selected for analysis, BSS-4 in the south and BSS-8 in the north ([Fig. 2\)](#page-2-0). Most zircons are pale-yellow, transparent, euhedral, and prismatic grains with well-developed magmatic oscillatory zoning and sector zonation in CL images ([Fig. 4](#page-5-0)); their lengths range from 50 to 100 μ m and their length to width ratios from 1:1 to 2:1. No core–rim textures are observed ([Fig. 4](#page-5-0)). They have high and variable uranium (440–1485 ppm, 471–2028 ppm) and thorium (601–2402 ppm, 426–2529 ppm) concentrations, with Th/U ratios of 0.94–2.47 and 1.12–2.28, respectively, indicating a magmatic origin. Twelve analyses for BSS-4 and seventeen analyses for BSS-8 were performed, with all ages being concordant or nearly concordant, yielding weighted mean ²⁰⁶Pb/²³⁸U ages of 91.0 ± 1.0 Ma (2 σ , MSWD = 1.4, [Fig. 5](#page-8-0)a) and 91.7 ± 0.7 Ma (2σ , MSWD = 1.4, Fig. 5b). As the two ages are consistent within analytical error, we consider that the Baishishan pluton crystallized at 91 Ma.

5.1.2. Jingangshan pluton

Zircons from the sample 12JGS-5 are mostly transparent, colorless to light yellow, and euhedral, with concentric zoning under CL. The zircons are up to $50-100$ µm long, have length to width ratios of 2:1, and show high but variable contents of U (95–2713 ppm) and Th (253–4421 ppm), with Th/U ratios ranging from 1.31 to 2.72. Seventeen analyses were carried out, and all results plot on or near the Concordia curve, yielding a weighted mean $^{206}Pb/^{238}$ U age of 86.2 ± 0.6 Ma (2 σ , MSWD = 0.54; [Fig. 5c](#page-8-0)), which

Fig. 4. CL images of representative zircons from granites of Baishishan, Jingangshan and Wushan plutons. The ²⁰⁶Pb/²³⁸U ages and $\varepsilon_{\rm Hf}(t)$ values are shown.

is considered to be the crystallization age of the Jingangshan pluton.

5.1.3. Wushan pluton

Sample 12WS-1, which was collected from the northern part of the Wushan pluton, belongs lithologically to the marginal facies. Zircons from this sample are transparent, colorless to light yellow, pyramidal or prismatic, up to $50-120 \mu m$ in length, and have length to width ratios of 1:1 to 2:1. Sample 12WS-4, which was collected from the central part of the pluton, belongs to the central facies. Zircon grains from this sample are coarser, up to 80-200 µm in length, have length to width ratios varying from 1:1 to 4:1, and have other characteristics similar to those of 12WS-1. The zircon grain-size trends, combined with the petrographic observations, indicate that rocks from the central facies experienced slower cooling rates than rocks from the marginal facies. All zircon grains show typical magmatic oscillatory zoning in CL images, no inherited cores (Fig. 4), and Th/U ratios greater than 0.4, suggesting a magmatic origin. Eighteen and nineteen analyses were performed on samples 12WS-1 and 12WS-4, respectively. The results of all analyses are concordant or nearly concordant, yielding weighted mean ²⁰⁶Pb/²³⁸U ages of 92.0 ± 0.6 Ma (2σ , MSWD = 1.0; [Fig. 5d](#page-8-0)) and 92.1 \pm 0.6 Ma (2 σ , MSWD = 1.1; [Fig. 5](#page-8-0)e), respectively. The two ages are consistent within analytical uncertainties, and therefore we consider that the age of 92 Ma represents the crystallization age of the Wushan pluton.

5.2. Major and trace elements

Results of the analyses of 14 samples selected for determinations of major and trace element compositions are presented in [Table 2.](#page-9-0) As all of the samples show similar geochemical features, we describe them collectively.

All of the analyzed samples are strongly siliceous, with a high and restricted range of $SiO₂$ contents (75.18–78.79 wt.%); this is also reflected in their high differentiation index values (D.I. > 94; [Table 2\)](#page-9-0). The samples also have relatively high alkali contents, with $K_2O + Na_2O$ values of 7.72–8.92 wt.% and K_2O/Na_2O ratios of 0.9– 1.2, and they fall within the alkaline field on an $SiO₂$ –alkalinity ratio (A.R.) diagram [\(Fig. 6](#page-11-0)a). All the granites are classified as high-K calc-alkaline rocks according to the K_2O vs. SiO₂ classifica-tion scheme ([Fig. 6b](#page-11-0)). They have moderate Al_2O_3 contents, ranging from 11.56 to 12.92 wt.%, with A/CNK ratios generally around 1.0. On an A/CNK–A/NK plot [\(Fig. 6c](#page-11-0)), nearly all the samples fall in the metaluminous or weakly peraluminous fields. According to the classification scheme for granitoids proposed by [Frost et al.](#page-20-0) [\(2001\)](#page-20-0), these granites exhibit a ferroan signature, with $FeO^{tot}/$ $(FeO^{tot} + MgO)$ ranging from 0.83 to 0.92, and fall into the A-type granite field [\(Fig. 6d](#page-11-0)). In addition, all of the rocks are characterized by low CaO (0.22-0.81 wt.%), MgO (0.06-0.17 wt.%), Fe₂O^{tot} (0.63-1.14 wt.%), MnO (0.04–0.13 wt.%), and P_2O_5 (0.01–0.04 wt.%) values, even in the samples from the marginal facies of the Wushan pluton.

The samples from the Baishishan, Jingangshan, and Wushan plutons have total rare earth element abundances (Σ REEs) of 86.9–136.6 ppm, 92.4–253.5 ppm, and 84.7–128.4 ppm, respectively. In the chondrite-normalized REE patterns, these granites show slight enrichment of light rare earth elements (LREEs) relative to heavy rare earth elements (HREEs) $[(La/Yb)_N = 3.9-13.1]$, nearly flat HREE distributions $[(Gd/Yb)_N = 0.3-1.4]$, and significant negative Eu anomalies (Eu/Eu^{*} = $0.11-0.52$; [Fig. 7a](#page-12-0), c, and e), especially in the Baishishan granites, which are similar to those reported for A-type granites ([Dahlquist et al., 2010; Konopelko](#page-20-0) [et al., 2007](#page-20-0)). A noteworthy feature of all the samples is their roughly similar REE patterns, suggesting that they have similar magma source. Moreover, all of the samples are characterized by obvious enrichments in large ion lithophile elements (LILEs; e.g., Rb, Cs, K, Th, and U), high field strength elements (HFSEs; e.g., Ta and Nb), and strong depletion of Ba, Sr, Ti, and P ([Fig. 7b](#page-12-0), d, and f), which agrees with the element compositional patterns of A-type granites [\(Whalen et al., 1987; Wu et al., 2002](#page-21-0)). In the Wushan pluton, trace element concentrations exhibit a wide range of variation

Note: uncertainties of the measured isotope ratios are absolute.

Fig. 5. Zircon U–Pb concordia diagrams of granites from Baishishan (BSS-4 and BSS-8), Jingangshan (12JGS-5) and Wushan (12WS-1 and 12WS-4) plutons.

(e.g., Ba = 29.08–538.53 ppm, Sr = 5.00–118.13 ppm, and Eu = 0.07–1.05 ppm), but the major element compositions show only slight variations; sample 12WS-3 from the marginal facies seems to be the least evolved of all the samples.

5.3. Whole-rock Nd isotopes

The whole-rock Nd isotopic compositions of representative granitic rocks from the Baishishan, Jingangshan, and Wushan plutons are listed in [Table 3](#page-13-0) and displayed in [Fig. 8](#page-13-0). All of the $\varepsilon_{Nd}(t)$ values and two-stage Nd model ages (T_{DM2}) were calculated using the crystallization ages obtained in this study. The samples from all three plutons show relatively high Sm and Nd contents, and 147 Sm/ 144 Nd ratios ranging from 0.102 to 0.150. They exhibit homogeneous Nd isotopic compositions, with initial 143 Nd/ 144 Nd ratios ranging from 0.512263 to 0.512359. The corresponding $\varepsilon_{Nd}(t)$ values and two-stage Nd model ages (T_{DM2}) are in the range of -3.3 to -5.0 and 1.16 to 1.30 Ga, respectively.

(continued on next page)

ued)

Note: LOI: loss on ignition; D.I: differentiation index; A/CNK = Al2O3/(CaO + Na2O+K2O) (mol%); A/NK = Al2O3/(Na2O+K2O) (mol%); alkalinity ratio (A.R..) = (Al2O3 + CaO + ALK)/(Al2O3 + CaO-ALK) (wt.%), notes that ALK value is

twice wt.% content of the Na₂O, when SiO₂ > 50 wt.%, 2.5 > K₂O/Na₂O > 1.
^a Data from Hong et al. [\(1987\)](#page-20-0).
^b Data from Qiu et al. [\(2004\)](#page-21-0).

Data from Hong et al. (1987). Data from Qiu et al. (2004).

whice wt.% content of the Na₂O, when $SiO₂ > 50$ wt.%, 2.5 > K₂O/Na₂O > 1.

5.4. Zircon Hf isotopes

In situ Lu–Hf isotopic analyses of zircons were performed on the same five samples selected for zircon U–Pb dating. The analytical results are given in [Table 4](#page-14-0) and graphically presented in [Figs. 9](#page-16-0) [and 10.](#page-16-0)

The Hf isotopic analyses for zircon grains from the two Baishishan pluton samples (BSS-4 and BSS-8) show homogeneous Hf isotopic compositions, with initial 176 Hf/ 177 Hf ratios of 0.282596–0.282723 and 0.282639–0.282718, corresponding to $\varepsilon_{\text{Hf}}(t)$ values of -4.2 to +0.3 (average, -1.7) and -2.7 to +0.1 (average, -0.1), respectively ([Fig. 9](#page-16-0)a and b), and T_{DM2} model ages of 1.14–1.42 Ga and 1.15–1.33 Ga, respectively.

Twenty zircon grains from Jingangshan (12JGS-5) gave initial 176 Hf/¹⁷⁷Hf ratios of 0.282605-0.282730 and ε _{Hf}(t) values of -4.0 to $+0.4$ (average, -1.0) ([Fig. 9c](#page-16-0)). The corresponding two-stage Hf model ages (T_{DM2}) vary from 1.13 Ga to 1.41 Ga.

The zircons from the two samples of the Wushan pluton (12WS-1 and 12WS-4) show almost identical Hf isotopic compositions, with initial 176 Hf/¹⁷⁷Hf ratios of 0.282622-0.282718 and 0.282631-0.282747; calculated $\varepsilon_{Hf}(t)$ values are in the range of -3.3 to +0.1 and -3.0 to +1.1, respectively [\(Fig. 9](#page-16-0)d and e), corresponding to Mesoproterozoic T_{DM2} model ages of 1.15–1.37 Ga and 1.08–1.35 Ga, respectively.

6. Discussion

6.1. Petrogenetic type: S-type, I-type or A-type?

Since the term ''A-type granite'' was first proposed by [Loiselle](#page-20-0) [and Wones \(1979\)](#page-20-0) to distinguish a special group of granites from other granites, various chemical parameters have been proposed as indicators of A-type granites, such as their high FeO^{tot}/MgO , K_2O/Na_2O , and Ga/Al ratios, high Na₂O + K₂O, Y, Nb, Ce, REE, and Ga concentrations, low Cr, V, Ni, Ba, Sr, and Eu contents, and flat HREE distribution patterns. Among them, high Ga/Al ratios and enrichment in HFSEs (e.g., Nb and Ta) are generally considered to be the most diagnostic signatures of A-type granitoids [\(Bonin,](#page-19-0) [2007; Collins et al., 1982; Eby, 1990, 1992; King et al., 1997;](#page-19-0) [Whalen et al., 1987](#page-19-0)). However, distinguishing the highly fractionated A-type granites from other types of granites is not always straightforward, as their original characteristics are obscured during magma evolution. In the case of highly evolved A-type granites, their geochemical compositions and mineralogical assemblages may be similar to those of felsic, fractionated I-type, and fractionated S-type granites. Therefore, it is necessary to comprehensively integrate petrological, mineralogical, and geochemical criteria to identify the genetic type of A-type granites ([Kemp et al., 2005;](#page-20-0) [King et al., 1997; Whalen et al., 1987; Wu et al., 2002](#page-20-0)).

Generally, A- and I-type granites have lower P_2O_5 contents, lower A/CNK ratios (<1.1), higher $Na₂O$ contents, and are more depleted in Ba, Sr, and Eu relative to S-type granites ([Chappell,](#page-19-0) [1999; Whalen et al., 1987, 1996; Wolf and London, 1994](#page-19-0)). The aforementioned geochemical data show that the three granitic plutons in this study all have low P_2O_5 contents (<0.04%) and metaluminous to weakly peraluminous signatures, with A/CNK ratios of 0.99–1.07; these characteristics are different from those of strongly peraluminous S-type granites.

With respect to the trace element signatures, the granites of the three plutons show some geochemical affinities with I-type granites, such as relatively low concentrations of $Zr + Nb + Ce + Y$ (<350 ppm), Zr, Zn, and REEs [\(Table 2\)](#page-9-0), which are traditionally thought to be the main characteristics distinguishing A-type granites from highly evolved I-type granites. Numerous studies have demonstrated that Zr, Y, and REEs (except for Eu) are hosted

Fig. 6. (a) A.R vs. SiO₂ diagram (after [Wright, 1969](#page-21-0)); (b) SiO₂ vs. K₂O diagram (solid lines after [Peccerillo and Taylor, 1976](#page-20-0); dashed lines from [Middlemost, 1985\)](#page-20-0); (c) A/CNK vs. A/NK diagram (after [Manilar and Piccoli, 1989](#page-20-0)); (d) SiO₂ vs. FeO^{tot}/(FeO^{tot} + MgO) diagram (after [Frost et al., 2001\)](#page-20-0). Compositions of melts from melting experiments are after [Patiño Douce \(1997\)](#page-20-0). A-type granites (shaded area) emplaced in the coastal area of Fujian and Zhejiang Provinces are also shown in these plots, and the data sources are from [Dong and Peng \(1994\), Li et al. \(2011\), Qiu et al. \(1999a, 2004\) and Xiao et al. \(2007\).](#page-20-0)

mainly in zircon, apatite, monazite, titanite, allanite, ilmenite, and amphibole, based on the different partition coefficients of these elements ([Arth, 1976; Rollinson, 1993](#page-19-0)). The fractional crystallization of zircon and amphibole has a significant effect on the concentrations of Zr, thus leading Zr contents to decrease with increasing fractionation in both A- and I-type granites [\(King et al., 1997\)](#page-20-0). For example, it has been reported that concentrations of Zr are \sim 100 ppm in some samples of aluminous A-type granites from the Lachlan Fold Belt of Australia ([King et al., 1997\)](#page-20-0), and as low as 55 ppm in samples of A-type granites from northeastern China ([Wu et al., 2002\)](#page-21-0). The low Zr contents in the highly evolved granites in the present study may have resulted from the separation of Zr-rich minerals, such as zircon, which is a ubiquitous accessory mineral in these rocks. In addition, as the Zr contents have a direct and significant impact on $(Zr + Nb + Ce + Y)$ values, the use of chemical discrimination diagrams based on Zr contents should be treated with caution, especially in distinguishing strongly fractionated A-type granites from similarly evolved I-type granites.

However, granites of the three plutons in this study have relatively high $K_2O + Na_2O$ contents (7.72–8.92 wt.%) and high $(K₂O + Na₂O)/CaO$ (10.27-36.70), Nb/Ta (10.45-16.37), Zr/Hf (17.54-24.97), and Ga/Al ratios, and thus resemble typical differentiated A-type granites [\(Eby, 1992; King et al., 1997; Martin et al., 1994;](#page-20-0) [Whalen et al., 1987; Wong et al., 2009](#page-20-0)). As compared with the highly evolved felsic granites exposed in the coastal area of SE China ([Fig. 7\)](#page-12-0), the trace element signatures of granites from the three studied plutons are much closer to those observed in Xincun A-type granites, e.g., their high Nb and Ta concentrations ([Chen](#page-20-0) [et al., 2013; Qiu et al., 2004\)](#page-20-0). However, the trace element signatures of the studied granites are quite different from those of I-type granites ([Qiu et al., 2008, 2012; Zhao et al., 2012\)](#page-21-0). [King et al. \(1997\)](#page-20-0) found that concentrations of Ba, Sr, P, Ti, and Eu are commonly more strongly depleted in A-type granites than in I-type granites; the strong depletion of these elements is regarded as another typical signature of the A-type granites cropping out in the coastal area of SE China ([Chen et al., 2000\)](#page-19-0), which is in accordance with the patterns shown in the spidergrams for these three plutons ([Fig. 7\)](#page-12-0).

In the discrimination diagrams of $(K_2O + Na_2O)/CaO$, K_2O/MgO , and Nb vs. Ga/Al, and Ga/Al vs. Eu/Eu^{*} [\(Fig. 11](#page-17-0)), all three of the studied plutons fall in the region of A-type granites. The following features are of particular interest. Nb contents are generally unaffected by fractional crystallization in A-type magmas ([King et al.,](#page-20-0) [1997\)](#page-20-0) and are traditionally considered to be relatively insensitive to low–moderate degrees of alteration ([Whalen et al., 1987](#page-21-0)). Thus, the high Nb contents in this study are another particularly diagnostic feature of A-type granites. Moreover, all zircon grains with signatures of magmatic origins have no inherited cores. Micrographic intergrowths of quartz and alkali feldspars are common in the studied granites. These features clearly indicate a high initial magmatic temperature for these granites, belonging to another typical characteristic of A-type granites [\(King et al., 1997, 2001](#page-20-0)). In summary, both petrographic and geochemical features argue strongly that the miarolitic alkali feldspar granites from the Baishishan, Jingangshan, and Wushan plutons are evolved A-type granites rather than highly fractionated I- or S-type granites. In combination with

Fig. 7. Chondrite-normalized REE patterns (a, c and e) and primitive mantle-normalized spidergrams for the Baishishan, Jingangshan and Wushan granites (b, d and f). The normalization values for chondrite and primitive mantle are from [Boynton \(1984\) and McDonough and Sun \(1995\),](#page-19-0) respectively. Data sources: Changqiao, Chengxi and Huxi intrusions of the Zhangpu composite granite pluton from [Qiu et al. \(2012\)](#page-21-0); Xincun alkali feldspar granites from [Chen et al. \(2013\)](#page-20-0); Highly fractionated granite from [Qiu et al.](#page-21-0) [\(2008\) and Zhao et al. \(2012\)](#page-21-0).

their metaluminous to weakly peraluminous signatures, and the occurrence of aluminum-rich minerals (e.g., spessartine and muscovite; [Qiu et al., 2004\)](#page-21-0), the granites in the three plutons can be further classified as aluminous A-type granites, according to the classification scheme of [King et al. \(1997\)](#page-20-0).

6.2. Potential magma sources

Although a broad consensus has been reached concerning the tectonic setting and geochemical features of A-type granites, the origins of such granites are still quite controversial. Several petrogenetic models have been proposed to explain the origin of A-type granites, as described in the Introduction section. Among these models, the debates have focused on both the nature of the source rocks and the role of mantle-derived magma in the generation of A-type granites [\(Chen et al., 2013; Whalen et al., 1996; Wu et al.,](#page-20-0) [2002\)](#page-20-0). Likewise, for the Baishishan, Jingangshan, and Wushan granites, the two issues are also important in deciphering their petrogenesis.

As mentioned above, there are many similarities in petrography and in major and trace element compositions among the three studied granites, implying their derivation from a similar or common source, and from multiple occurrences of the same magmatic process. Moreover, they show similar whole-rock Nd isotopic composition and mutually overlapping zircon Hf isotopic compositions ([Figs. 8 and 10\)](#page-13-0), and the calculated two-stage Hf isotopic model

Note: $\varepsilon_{\text{Nd}}(t) = \{[(1^{43}\text{Nd})^{144}\text{Nd})_{\text{s}} - (1^{47}\text{Sm})^{144}\text{Nd})_{\text{s}} \times (e^{\lambda t} - 1)]/[(1^{43}\text{Nd})^{144}\text{Nd})_{\text{CHUR},0} - (1^{47}\text{Sm})^{144}\text{Nd})_{\text{CHUR},0} \times (e^{\lambda t} - 1)] - 1\} \times 10{,}000.$

 $T_{DM2} = 1/\lambda \times \ln\{1 + [(^{143}\text{Nd})^{144}\text{Nd})_\text{s} - (^{143}\text{Nd})^{144}\text{Nd})_\text{DM} - ((^{147}\text{Sm})^{144}\text{Nd})_\text{c} - (^{147}\text{Sm})^{144}\text{Nd})_\text{cc}) \times (e^{\lambda t} - 1)] / [(^{147}\text{Sm})^{144}\text{Nd})_\text{c} - (^{147}\text{Sm})^{144}\text{Nd})_\text{DM}] \}$

Chondrite uniform reservoir (CHUR) values: $(^{14}Sm)^{144}Nd)_{\text{CHUR,0}} = 0.1967, \ (^{143}Nd)^{144}Nd)_{\text{CHUR,0}} = 0.512638$ ([Miller and O'Nions, 1985](#page-20-0)); depleted mantle values: (147 Sm/ 144 Nd) $_{\rm DM}$ = 0.513151, (143 Nd/ 144 Nd) $_{\rm DM}$ = 0.513151 ([Miller and O'Nions, 1985\)](#page-20-0); (147 Sm/ 144 Nd) $_{\rm cc}$ = 0.118 ([Jahn and Condie, 1995](#page-20-0)); λ = 6.54 \times 10^{–12} year $^{-1}$ ([Lugmair](#page-20-0) [and Harti, 1978](#page-20-0)).

^a Data came from [Qiu et al. \(2004\)](#page-21-0).

Fig. 8. Age vs. $\varepsilon_{Nd}(t)$ values diagram for samples from the Baishishan, Jingangshan and Wushan granites. DM–depleted mantle; CHUR – chondritic uniform reservoir. The Preoterozoic crustal evolutionary area of South China Block is after [Shen et al.](#page-21-0) [\(1993\).](#page-21-0) Data sources: Changqiao, Chengxi and Huxi intrusion from the Zhangpu composite granite pluton ([Qiu et al., 2012](#page-21-0)); Xincun alkli feldspar granites [\(Chen](#page-20-0) [et al., 2013](#page-20-0)); part of the data of the Baishishan, Jingangshan and Wushan granites after [Qiu et al. \(2004\);](#page-21-0) mafic dykes from [Qin et al. \(2010\), Dong et al. \(2006, 2011\),](#page-21-0) [Zhang et al. \(2007\);](#page-21-0) regional I-type granitoids from [Chen et al. \(2013\), Martin et al.](#page-20-0) [\(1994\), Qiu et al. \(1999a, 2008\), Zhou and Chen \(2001\)](#page-20-0).

ages are broadly consistent with corresponding whole-rock Nd isotopic model ages, further suggesting their origination from a common source.

In the coastal area of Zhejiang and Fujian Provinces, SE China, A-type granites are always spatially associated with earlier emplaced I-type granitoids, and exhibit more fractionated geochemical characteristics than do the latter, usually with $SiO₂$ contents of more than 74 wt.% (e.g., the Kuiqi, Qingtian, Taohuadao, and Xincun plutons). There is now a general consensus among geologists that a significant amount of mantle-derived magma was involved in the generation of these I-type granites, resulting in their high radiogenic Nd–Hf isotopic compositions and the occurrence of mafic microgranular enclaves ([Griffin et al., 2002; Qiu et al., 2008,](#page-20-0) [2012; Xu et al., 1999; Zhou et al., 2006](#page-20-0)). Such a magma-mixing model has also been used to explain the origins of A-type granites, based on the close field relationships and similar isotopic characteristics of the A- and I-type granites in the coastal area of SE China ([Li et al., 2011; Xiao et al., 2007\)](#page-20-0). However, it is difficult to reconcile the absence of mingling structures and mafic microgranular enclaves in the A-type plutons exposed in the coastal area of SE China, as these features are considered to be good indicators of the mixed origin of A-type granites ([Karsli et al., 2012; Yang](#page-20-0) [et al., 2006\)](#page-20-0). Moreover, a distinctive isotopic feature commonly observed in the Baishishan, Jingangshan, and Wushan granites is their homogeneous zircon Hf isotopic compositions, with $\varepsilon_{\text{Hf}}(t)$ values ranging mostly from -3.0 to $+1.1$, which differs from the $\varepsilon_{\text{Hf}}(t)$ values of the coexisting Zhangpu composite granite pluton and the coeval highly fractionated I-type plutons in coastal areas of Fujian Province. It is reported that in these I-type granitoids, zircon $\varepsilon_{Hf}(t)$ values vary over a range of 6 units, and even up to 14.8 units, and show bimodal or multi-peak distribution patterns ([Figs. 9 and 10;](#page-16-0) [Qiu et al., 2008, 2012](#page-21-0)). It should be especially noted that Hf isotopes in zircon can record the details of isotopic signatures inherited from primary magmas more faithfully than can whole-rock Sm–Nd and Rb–Sr isotope systems, meaning that Hf isotope data are the best indicator of the nature of magma sources and the role of magma mixing processes in the generation of granitoids ([Belousova et al., 2006; Kemp et al., 2005; Shaw et al., 2011\)](#page-19-0), as the closure temperature of Hf isotopes is higher than those of the Sm–Nd and Rb–Sr systems. Thus, the homogeneous Hf isotopic compositions, comprising narrow and unimodal distribution patterns of $\varepsilon_H(t)$ values ([Fig. 9\)](#page-16-0), further indicate that magma mixing may not be the major process for generation of the studied A-type granites.

The three studied A-type granite plutons, with a total outcrop area of over 490 km², are marked by weakly negative Nb-Ta anomalies and significant positive Pb anomalies in the spidergrams ([Fig. 7](#page-12-0)), extremely high $SiO₂$ and low MgO, FeO^{tot}, and MnO concentrations, negative $\varepsilon_{Nd}(t)$ values, and low $\varepsilon_{Hf}(t)$ values, indicating that they were likely formed by partial melting of crustal materials. Moreover, the Ce/Pb and Nb/Ta ratios of these A-type granites are in the range of 1.3–2.3 and 10.4–16.4, respectively (averages of 1.6 and 12.1, respectively), which are lower than those of primitive mantle (Ce/Pb \approx 9 and Nb/Ta \approx 17.5) and close to those for continental crust $(Ce/Pb \approx 4$ and Nb/Ta $\approx 11-12$) ([Green, 1995;](#page-20-0) [Hofmann et al., 1986](#page-20-0)), suggesting their derivation from a crustal source. Based on zircon oxygen isotopic data, [Wei et al. \(2008\)](#page-21-0) also indicated that A-type granites from eastern China were dominantly derived from crustal igneous rocks, as their zircon δ^{18} O values sharply conflict with a mantle origin. Accordingly, we conclude that the studied A-type granites were derived from the partial melting of pre-existing crustal rocks.

Detailed U–Pb dating and Lu–Hf analyses of detrital zircons from SE China have revealed that there were two important episodes of juvenile crustal formation (1.85–1.87 Ga, and

Table 4

Zircon in-situ Hf isotopic compositions for the Baishishan, Jingangshan and Wushan plutons.

Table 4 (continued)

Note: $\varepsilon_{Hf}(t) = \{[(1^{76}Hf|^{177}Hf)_s - (1^{76}Lu/^{177}Hf)_s \times (e^{\lambda t} - 1)]/[(1^{76}Hf|^{177}Hf)_{CHUR,0} - (1^{76}Lu/^{177}Hf)_{CHUR,0} \times (e^{\lambda t} - 1)] - 1\} \times 10000$

 $T_{\rm DM1}$ = 1/ $\lambda \times$ In{1 + [(¹⁷⁶Hf/¹⁷⁷Hf)_s – (¹⁷⁶Hf/¹⁷⁷Hf)_{DM}])/[(¹⁷⁶Lu/¹⁷⁷Hf)_s – (¹⁷⁶Lu/¹⁷⁷Hf)_{DM}]).

 T_{DM2} = 1/ $\lambda \times \text{In}$ {1 + [(¹⁷⁶Hf/¹⁷⁷Hf)_{s,t} = (¹⁷⁶Hf/¹⁷⁷Hf)_{DM,t}]/[(¹⁷⁶Lu/¹⁷⁷Hf)_{cc} = (¹⁷⁶Lu/¹⁷⁷Hf)_{DM}]} + t.

Data sources: $(176 \text{Li})^{177}$ Hf)_{CHUR,0} = 0.0332 and $(176 \text{Hi})^{177}$ Hf)_{CHUR,0} = 0.828772 [\(Blichert-Toft and Albarède, 1997](#page-19-0)); $(176 \text{Li})^{177}$ Hf)_{DM} = 0.0384 and $(176 \text{Hi})^{177}$ Hf)_{DM} = 0.28325 ([Vervoort and Blichert-Toft, 1999](#page-21-0)); $(^{176}$ Lu/¹⁷⁷Hf)_{cc} = 0.015([Griffin et al., 2000\)](#page-20-0); λ = 1.867 \times 10⁻¹¹/year ([Söderlund et al., 2004](#page-21-0)).

2.10–2.40 Ga) in eastern Cathaysia ([Xu et al., 2007\)](#page-21-0). However, as mentioned above, the Baishishan, Jingangshan, and Wushan granites show relatively young model ages (1.14–1.42 Ga) that do not coincide with the episodes of regional crustal generation. This indicates the three A-type plutons were unlikely originated via partial melting of Mesoproterozoic juvenile crust in the area.

[Collins et al. \(1982\) and Clemens et al. \(1986\)](#page-20-0) suggested that the partial melting of a residual granulitic source in the lower crust, which was previously depleted by extraction of a hydrous I-type felsic melt, may result in the generation of some A-type granites. Coincidentally, in previous studies, a similar model was also invoked by [Chen et al. \(2000, 2004\)](#page-19-0) to account for the genetic relationship between I- and A-type granites exposed in the southeastern coast of Fujian Province. However, the observed enrichments in LILEs (especially Th, Cs, U, and Rb), and the high $SiO₂$ and alkali contents in the investigated A-type granites, preclude their derivation from a depleted granulitic residue in the lower crust, although such a residual model could provide a reasonable explanation for the existence of strong Ba, Sr, Eu, P, and Ti depletions in the A-type granites and the occurrence of the ca. 5-Myr intervals between spatially coexisting I- and A-type granites in coastal Fujian Province [\(Chen et al., 2000, 2013; Qiu et al., 2004\)](#page-19-0). Experimental work has also suggested that the remelting of these residues cannot produce granitic magma with A-type geochemical signatures, for example, high $(Na_2O + K_2O)/A_2O_3$ and TiO_2/MgO ratios ([Patiño Douce, 1997](#page-20-0)). More importantly, the Palaeoproterozoic was the main period of crustal growth in eastern Cathaysia ([Chen and Jahn, 1998; Shen et al., 1993](#page-19-0)). Magmas generated by the partial melting of lower-crustal granulitic residues, from which the acid end-member component of the coexisting I-type granitoids was previously extracted, are expected to have similar Nd isotopic compositions to those of the basement rocks. However, this proposal is inconsistent with our isotopic data for the A-type granites in the present study ($Fig. 8$). Therefore, the remelting of a residual source from the lower crust is unlikely to produce the A-type magmas.

[Creaser et al. \(1991\)](#page-20-0) systematically suggested that the partial melting of crustal magmatic rocks with tonalitic or granodioritic compositions may generate granitic magmas with A-type affinities. This viewpoint was corroborated by subsequent experimental studies [\(Patiño Douce, 1997; Skjerlie and Johnston, 1993](#page-20-0)), although it was emphasized that low-pressure conditions are another key factor controlling the generation of high-silica aluminous A-type granites, in addition to source composition. [King et al. \(1997\)](#page-20-0) proposed that aluminous A-type granites were likely derived from the high-temperature partial melting of a felsic infracrustal source. Field investigations show that the studied A-type granites intruded the Zhangpu I-type granitoids, forming a composite batholith. They show similar Nd isotopic compositions to those of the I-type granitoids from Zhangpu and adjacent areas [\(Fig. 8](#page-13-0)), suggesting that the pre-existing I-type calc-alkaline granitoids can provide a suitable protolith for the studied A-type granites. Moreover, ratios between LILEs and HFSEs (e.g., Rb/Nb, Th/Ta, and La/Ta) are slightly higher in the A-type granites than in the I-type granitoids from Zhangpu and adjacent areas. This also provides support for our speculation, because LILEs are generally more incompatible than HFSEs during crustal melting, and thus melts generated by the partial melting of crustal rocks preserve or increase LILE/HFSE ratios ([Barboni and](#page-19-0)

Fig. 9. Histogram of $\varepsilon_{\text{Hf}}(t)$ values of zircons from Baishishan (a and b), Jingangshan (c), Wushan (d and e) and related Zhangpu composite granite pluton (including Changqiao (f), Chengxi (g) and Huxi (h) intrusions). The data of Zhangpu composite granite pluton are from [Qiu et al. \(2012\)](#page-21-0).

[Bussy, 2013; Beard et al., 1994\)](#page-19-0). More recently, [Frost and Frost](#page-20-0) [\(2011\)](#page-20-0) suggested that such aluminous A-type granites formed by the partial melting of tonalitic or granodioritic sources should be high-silica, calc-alkalic rocks. The silica-enriched, calc-alkalic signatures of the aluminous A-type granites in the Baishishan, Jingangshan, and Wushan plutons indicate that their formation was most likely related to partial melting of a tonalitic to granodioritic source. More importantly, the granites in the three plutons are compositionally characterized by relatively high total alkali contents and NK/A ratios, low A/CNK ratios, and depletion in both Al_2O_3 and CaO, which is in agreement with the compositions of

Fig. 10. Diagram of $\varepsilon_{Hf}(t)$ values vs. U-Pb ages for zircons from A- and I-type granitic rocks in the southeast coast of Fujian Province. The Hf isotopic evolutionary area shown for the crustal basement of the Cathaysia Block is after [Xu et al. \(2007\)](#page-21-0). Data of the Changqiao (CO), Chenxi (CX) and Huxi (HX) granites are from [Qiu et al.](#page-21-0) [\(2012\),](#page-21-0) and those of Xincun granite (Jh312, Jh324) are from [Chen et al. \(2013\)](#page-20-0). Data of highly fractionated I-type granites are from [Qiu et al. \(2008\).](#page-21-0) DM – depleted mantle; CHUR – chondritic uniform reservoir.

experimental melts produced by the melting of tonalite and grano-diorite at 950 °C and 4 kbar [\(Fig. 6c](#page-11-0) and d, [Patiño Douce, 1997\)](#page-20-0), implying their derivation from a tonalitic to granodioritic source. In summary, we propose that the Baishishan, Jingangshan, and Wushan aluminous A-type granites were generated by the partial melting of pre-existing I-type calc-alkaline granitoids. Such a genetic relationship between aluminous A-type and I-type granitoids has been widely reported in many previous studies (e.g., [Farahat et al., 2007; Chen et al., 2013](#page-20-0)).

6.3. An integrated petrogenetic model

To examine our assumptions regarding the generation of the investigated A-type granites via the partial melting of a tonalitic or granodioritic magma source, a non-modal partial melting simulation was conducted using the least evolved granodiorite sample from the Huxi intrusion as a source [\(Qiu et al., 2012](#page-21-0)). The modal mineralogical composition of the source rocks was taken to be 25% quartz, 45% plagioclase, 15% K-feldspar, 5% amphibole, and 10% biotite. The calculated compositions of the melts produced by 40%, 50%, and 60% partial melting, together with the calculation procedure and related parameters used for modelling the trace elements (Rb, Ba, K, Sr, and Nb) are given in [Table 5](#page-17-0). The obtained results indicate that the Rb, K, and Nb concentrations of the investigated A-type granites could be well reproduced by high degrees of batch partial melting [\(Table 5](#page-17-0)), whereas the calculated Ba and Sr abundances are distinctly higher than the values observed in the studied A-type granites. Considering the possible crystal fractionation of plagioclase, biotite, and K-feldspar during magma evolution, the relatively high simulation values for Ba and Sr may be considered reasonable. The simulation results also suggest that the A-type granites can be formed by high degrees of partial melting of tonalitic or granodioritic sources. However, whether the generation of these A-type granites was related to the Huxi granodiorite still requires further investigation.

The Baishishan, Jingangshan, and Wushan granites show relatively high HREE contents and flat HREE patterns, which argues for the absence of garnet in residual phases [\(Mushkin et al., 2003\)](#page-20-0). In addition, the granites commonly show intensive depletion of Sr,

Fig. 11. Various chemical discrimination diagrams for Baishishan, Jingangshan and Wushan granites. Base maps of (a), (b) and (c) are after [Whalen et al. \(1987\)](#page-21-0), and (d) is after [Eby \(1992\)](#page-20-0). Part of the data for Jingangshan and Wushan granites are from [Hong et al. \(1987\) and Qiu et al. \(2004\)](#page-20-0), respectively, Symbols are the same as those in [Fig. 6.](#page-11-0)

Table 5 Simulation results of trace elements using non-modal partial melting model.

	Source	D_0	P	Calculated melt			Measured
				$F = 0.4$	$F = 0.5$ $F = 0.6$		melt
Rb (ppm) Sr (ppm) Ba (ppm) K ₂ O $(wt \mathcal{X})$	128.7 411.2 1175.4 3.14	0.31 2.57 1.72 0.45	0.45 2.53 2.62 0.62	243 209 1091 5.22	220 227 1284 4.92	201 248 1559 4.64	169-381 $4 - 118$ $15 - 539$ $4.67 - 3.88$
Nb (ppm)	16.58	0.89	1.21	21	21	22	$22 - 35$

Mineral/melt partition coefficients are from [Rollinson \(1993\), Philpotts and](#page-21-0) [Schnetzler \(1970\), Ewart and Griffin \(1994\)](#page-21-0) and GERM (Geochemical Earth Reference Model; [http://www.earthref.org/GERM\)](http://www.earthref.org/GERM). Equation for the non-modal batch partial melting is $C_L = C_0/[D_0 + F(1 - P)]$ ([Shaw, 1970](#page-21-0)), where C_L and C_0 are the concentration of a trace element in the melt and in the source, respectively, F represents the melt fraction, D_0 is the bulk distribution coefficient for the starting assemblage, and P is the bulk distribution coefficient of the minerals that make up the melt.

strongly negative Eu anomalies, and high Rb/Sr ratios, even in the least evolved sample (12WS-3). These characteristics imply that the partial melting of source rocks likely took place within the stability field of plagioclase, further pointing to a shallow source depth. Some elemental variations (e.g., $SiO₂$ vs. Na₂O + CaO and Sr vs. Ba; [Fig. 12a](#page-18-0) and b) imply that the primary magma generated from the partial melting of a granodioritic source subsequently underwent further fractionation of plagioclase and K-feldspar. These results lead us to further conclude that the investigated A-type granites were produced by the dehydration melting of hornblende- and biotite-bearing granitoids, with plagioclase-rich residual phases in the middle to lower crust, followed by variable degrees of differentiation.

The origin and geodynamic mechanism of the widespread Late Mesozoic magmatic rocks in SE China is an important topic of international research interest. Despite some controversy, a growing number of researchers consider that Cretaceous magmatism along the coastal area of SE China was formed in an active continental margin due to subduction of the Palaeo-Pacific plate ([Chen et al., 2008; Li et al., 2007; Li and Li, 2007; Zhou et al.,](#page-20-0) [2006](#page-20-0)). The Baishishan, Jingangshan, and Wushan granites were emplaced during the Late Cretaceous (92–86 Ma), and are nearly contemporaneous with other A-type granites in the region (101– 92 Ma; [Lin et al., 2011; Qiu et al., 1999a, 2004; Xiao et al., 2007\)](#page-20-0), suggesting a wide back-arc extensional setting in the coastal region of SE China. In addition, numerous lines of geochemical and geological evidence also demonstrate that Cretaceous I-type granites in the Fujian coastal area formed in an extensional tectonic environment [\(Jiang et al., 2011; Li et al., 2014; Wong et al.,](#page-20-0) [2009](#page-20-0)). These observations indicate that the intimately associated A- and I-type granites were produced in the same extensional tectonic setting, despite the fact that they had distinct sources and were formed by different processes. It is worth noting that large amounts of extension-related rocks in the coastal areas of Zhejiang and Fujian Provinces, such as A-type granites, bimodal volcanic rock associations (101–83 Ma; [Chen et al., 2008; Qiu et al.,](#page-20-0) [1999b; Zhou et al., 1994\)](#page-20-0), and basic dikes (96–84 Ma; [Dong et al.,](#page-20-0) [2011; Qin et al., 2010; Yang et al., 2010; Zhang et al., 2007](#page-20-0)), were

Fig. 12. (a) $SiO₂$ vs. Na₂O + CaO, (b) Sr vs. Ba diagrams, showing that fractional crystallization of plagioclase, biotite and K-feldspar plays an important role in the generation of the Baishishan, Jingangshan and Wushan granites. Partition coefficients of Ba and Sr are from [Arth \(1976\)](#page-19-0) for plagioclase and K-feldspar, and from [Philpotts and Schnetzler \(1970\)](#page-20-0) for biotite. Pl: plagioclase; Kf: K-feldspar; Bt: biotite. Symbols are the same as those in [Fig. 6.](#page-11-0)

developed during a narrow time interval of 101–83 Ma, indicating a peak in regional lithospheric extension during the Late Cretaceous in response to rollback of the Palaeo-Pacific plate, as suggested by [Jiang et al. \(2011\) and Li et al. \(2014\).](#page-20-0) Thus, gradually intensifying regional extension in the coastal region of SE China may have been a major dynamic mechanism responsible for the emplacement of I-type granites (122–96 Ma; [Li et al., 2014](#page-20-0)) and subsequently A-type granites (92–86 Ma) in the Zhangpu region.

Tectonically, the emplacement of the Baishishan, Jingangshan, and Wushan A-type granitic plutons, as well as the associated Zhangpu I-type composite granite pluton, were along the NE– NNE-trending Changle–Nan'ao Fault, which is commonly considered to be a transcrustal sinistral fault associated with multi-stage ductile deformation and metamorphism ([Chen et al., 2002; Shu](#page-20-0) [et al., 2000](#page-20-0)). The key role of fault systems in the generation, ascent, and emplacement of granitic magmas has been emphasized by [Abdel Rahman \(2006\) and Konopelko et al. \(2007\).](#page-19-0) It is notable that Cretaceous volcano–magmatic activity is widely distributed along the Changle–Nan'ao Fault, which is nearly parallel to the coastline of SE China, forming a nearly NNE-trending granitoid belt [\(Fig. 1\)](#page-1-0). Such a distribution of the granitoids with nearly uniform emplacement ages, low Nd isotopic model ages [\(Chen and Jahn, 1998; Zhou](#page-19-0) [et al., 2006\)](#page-19-0), and similar geochemical characteristics may indicate their formation was triggered by tectonic factors rather than local crustal melting. A series of studies have suggested that the generation of granitoids in coastal Fujian and Zhejiang provinces is not directly related to subduction of the Palaeo-Pacific plate but more likely to activity of the Changle–Nan'ao Fault, which may have been a potential channel for the underplating of mantle-derived mafic magmas [\(Martin et al., 1994; Zhou et al., 2006\)](#page-20-0). Consequently, extensional activation of the Changle–Nan'ao Fault may play an important role in the derivation of regional granitoids.

Based on this review of the data, we propose an integrated model to explain the generation of A-type and coexisting I-type granitoids, as shown schematically in [Fig. 13.](#page-19-0) From the early stage of regional extension (\sim 125 Ma; [Li et al., 2014\)](#page-20-0), underplating of mantle-derived basaltic magmas resulted in the large-scale partial melting of lower-crustal materials that produced felsic magmas. These magmas then mixed extensively with mantle-derived mafic magmas, thus generating the I-type granitic magma in the Zhangpu area. During this process, some I-type hybrid magma might have been stranded in the middle–lower crust, forming a localized A-type source region that was separated vertically from other granite sources in the region ([Fig. 13a](#page-19-0)). Subsequently, ongoing lithospheric extension and crustal attenuation, especially during the Late Cretaceous, induced more intensive underplating of the mantle-derived mafic magma. The shearing and extension enabled the fault planes of regional faults to propagate to greater depths and resulted in opening of the fault zones. Thus, the fault systems likely provided a suitable conduit for ascending mantlederived melts, and resulted in the influx of heat into the crust. In this scenario, the uninterrupted underplated magma migrated upward, crossing the fault and reaching the middle–lower crust. The ascent of mafic magma triggered decompression melting of the overlying middle–lower crustal tonalitic–granodioritic source rocks to produce the A-type parental magmas [\(Fig. 13](#page-19-0)b). After further removal of plagioclase and K-feldspar, the remaining melt was emplaced in relatively shallow crust as a result of lithospheric extension, and finally formed the Baishishan, Jingangshan, and Wushan plutons.

7. Conclusions

- (1) The granites from the Baishishan, Jingangshan, and Wushan plutons share common petrographic and geochemical features. Geochemically, they belong to a metaluminous to slightly peraluminous high-K calc-alkaline series and are characterized by high contents of $SiO₂$ and $K₂O + Na₂O$, high Ga/Al, FeO^{tot}/MgO, and $(K_2O + Na_2O)/CaO$ ratios, enrichments in some LILEs (e.g., Cs, K, U, and Th) and HFSEs (e.g., Nb and Ta), and significant depletions in Ba, Sr, P, Ti, and Eu, and show aluminous A-type affinities.
- (2) Petrographic, geochemical, and Nd–Hf isotopic studies, together with constraints from experimental petrology, suggest that the Baishishan, Jingangshan, and Wushan granites were likely derived from a tonalitic to granodioritic source with plagioclase residual phases at middle–lower crustal levels, coupled with further differentiation during their ascent and emplacement. Accordingly, the pre-existing Itype calc-alkaline granitoids provided a suitable protolith for the investigated aluminous A-type granites, based on their close genetic relationship.
- (3) The zircon U–Pb dating results indicate that the Baishishan, Jingangshan, and Wushan granites were emplaced at 92– 86 Ma, which is slightly younger than the I-type granitoids in the Zhangpu region (122–96 Ma), but coeval with the Atype granites, bimodal volcanic rock associations, and mafic dykes exposed in the coastal area of Zhejiang and Fujian Provinces, SE China. These observations suggest a gradual intensification of regional extension in SE China during the late Yanshanian. The induced underplating of mantlederived magma was probably the heat source for the generation of regional granitic rocks, regardless of whether they were A-type or I-type granites. Continuous Cretaceous

Crustal mel

ARICATE

Rollback

Basaltic underplating

lithospheric extension and possible activation of deep faults related to the subduction of the Palaeo-Pacific plate may have exerted a significant role in the origin of I-type granites (122–96 Ma) and subsequently A-type granites.

Continental

lithospheric mantle

Asthenosphere

 (b)

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