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Ultrahigh-pressure minerals and metamorphic terranes – The view from China

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ABSTRACT

Ultrahigh-pressure (UHP) metamorphism refers to mineralogical modifications of continental and oceanic crustal protoliths ± associated mafic-ultramafic rocks initially formed or emplaced in shallow levels of the lithosphere, but which subsequently have experienced *P–T* conditions within or above the coesite stability field (>~2.7 GPa, ~700 °C). Typical products include eclogite, garnet peridotite, and UHP varieties of metapelite, quartzite, marble, paragneiss, and orthogneiss. UHP metamorphic assemblages require relatively cold lithospheric subduction to mantle depths; some recrystallization even occurs under “forbidden” *P–T* conditions, characterized by a geotherm of <5 °C/km. In appropriate bulk compositions, UHP metamorphism produces coesite, microdiamond and other indicator phases such as majoritic garnet, TiO₂ with α-PbO₂ structure, supersilicic clinopyroxene, high-*P* clinoenstatite, K-cymrite and stishovite. Globally, at least 20 coesite-bearing eclogitic, eight diamond-bearing, and five majoritic garnet-bearing UHP regions have been documented thus far; they are mostly of Phanerozoic ages. The presence of majoritic garnet, and even apparent stishovite pseudomorph in supracrustal rocks suggests continental subduction to mantle depths exceeding 300 km; such UHP metamorphic terranes should be distinguished from deep-seated mantle xenoliths that contain UHP minerals. Cold subduction zones may be sites of major recycling of H₂O back into the mantle; high-*P* experiments on mafic-ultramafic bulk compositions reveal that many important hydrous and formally anhydrous phases are stable under such UHP conditions.

The current explosion of research on continental UHP terranes reflects their significance for mantle dynamics and the tectonics of continental subduction, collision, exhumation, mantle–slab interactions, and geochemical recycling. A further characterization of UHP phases and positive identification of UHP minerals requires new experimental studies coupled with state-of-the-art analyses. For example, the very rare occurrence of microdiamond inclusions in zircons from Dabie–Sulu UHP rocks may reflect high *f*_{O₂} attending recrystallization inasmuch as epidote is rather common. Rutile needles within garnets from Sulu UHP eclogitic rocks may not be the result of exsolution, so in such cases the apparent UHP pressure may have been over estimated. Hadean igneous microdiamond inclusions in Jack Hills detrital zircons could have originated from mantle xenoliths whereas abundant detrital Phanerozoic diamonds containing inclusions of coesite and other eclogitic minerals from New South Wales might have been derived from unexposed UHP metamorphic terranes. Micro-mineral intergrowth and nano-size minerals may hold important key to deciphering the actual *P–T* paths of subduction and mantle return flow. Although most exhumed terranes have returned surfaceward relatively rapidly after short time of UHP condition, the long duration of storage at great depth and slow exhumation for the largest UHP terranes remain as major problems.

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1. Introduction

The current explosion in research on continental UHP terranes reflects their significance regarding mantle dynamics and the global tectonics of continental subduction, collision, exhumation, mantle–lithospheric slab interactions, and geochemical recycling. Many comprehensive review articles and special issues related to

UHP metamorphism and plate tectonics have recently been published (e.g., Chopin, 2003; Jahn et al., 2003a; Liou et al., 2004; Green, 2005a; Ernst et al., 2007; Zhang et al., 2007g; Ernst and Liou, 2000, 2008; Guillot et al., 2008). In this review for terranes in northern Tibet prepared for the 8th International Eclogite Conference in 2009, we update some of the most recent findings of UHP minerals and terranes; both UHP rocks and lawsonite eclogites occur in northern Tibet and require very low geothermal gradients, <~7 °C/km. Some even record recrystallization under “forbidden” *P–T* conditions (Liou et al., 2000; Tsujimori et al.,

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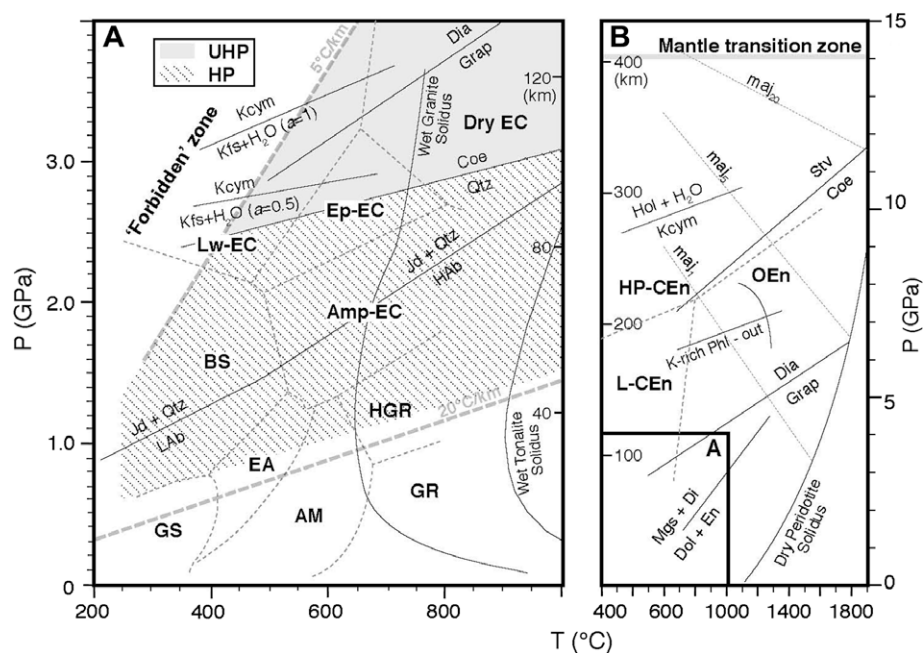


Fig. 1. (A) P - T regimes assigned to various metamorphic types: (1) ultrahigh- P , (2) high- P , (3) low- P and (4) “forbidden zone” and stabilities of coesite, diamond, jadeite and K-cymrite (modified after Liou et al. (2004)). (B) P - T stabilities of additional UHP index minerals including recently reported pseudomorphic stishovite, majoritic garnet, high- P clinoenstatite and pseudomorphic K-cymrite are shown (see text for references). Geotherms of 5 °C and 20 °C/km are indicated. P - T boundaries of various metamorphic facies [granulite (GR), amphibolite (AM), epidote amphibolite (EA), blueschist schist (BS), greenschist (GS) and subdivision of the eclogite (EC) into amphibole (Amp) eclogite, epidote (Ep) eclogite, lawsonite (Lw) eclogite and dry eclogite] are indicated (see text for explanation and references).

2006a) (Fig. 1). Occurrences of UHP minerals, including coesite and diamond have long been recognized in mantle xenoliths originating at great depths; however such occurrences should be distinguished from units formed at modest crustal levels and later subjected to UHP conditions in collisional orogens, as will be described in this review. Garnet peridotite as a new window to mantle wedge processes also requires attention. Reports of some previous findings of special UHP minerals will be reevaluated.

Among many recent exciting discoveries by Earth scientists, the following findings deserve to be highlighted: (1) stishovite pseudomorphs in a UHP pelitic gneiss from western China (Liu et al., 2007d, this issue), (2) coesite and/or clinopyroxene lamellae in ophiolitic chromite from the Luobusa ophiolite, southern Tibet, and from the classical Scottish Barrovian terrane (Yamamoto et al., 2007, 2009), (3) Hadean-age microdiamond inclusions in detrital zircons from the Jack Hills of western Australia (Menneken et al., 2007), and (4) multistage formation of majoritic garnet in a single Norwegian UHP garnet peridotite (Scambelluri et al., 2008).

Numerous UHP phases have been identified in deeply subducted supracrustal rocks since 2000. Rutile with α - PbO_2 -type TiO_2 structure has been described from diamondiferous quartzofeldspathic rocks occurring in east-central China and in Bohemia (Hwang et al., 2000; Wu et al., 2005). K-cymrite ($\text{KAlSi}_3\text{O}_8 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$) was recently inferred to be the precursor phase of inclusions of K-feldspar aggregates in eclogitic garnet from the Dulan area of the North Qaidam terrane (Zhang et al., in press-a). These phases, as well as supersilicic titanite, Si- and/or K-bearing Cpx, and aragonite + magnesite inclusions in microdiamond-bearing paragneisses from northern Kazakhstan all suggest recovered subduction depths of ~ 190 – 280 km (Katayama et al., 2000; Ogasawara et al., 2002; Dobrzhinetskaya et al., 2006). More impressive still, textures in polycrystalline quartz with oriented inclusions of kyanite and hercynite, suggesting transformation from a precursor stishovite, have been documented for a sample of pelitic gneiss occurring along the Altyn Tagh fault, western China (Liu et al., 2007d). Thus, some continental crustal lithologies might have been exhumed

from much deeper in the mantle (>350 km) than commonly accepted. Finally, diamond and coesite inferred as pseudomorphs of stishovite have been separated from chromitite layers in harzburgites from the Luobusa ophiolite, east-central Tibet (e.g., Yang et al., 2007b). Evidently, some oceanic crustal sections include UHP phases derived from deep mantle conditions.

Fig. 1 shows a subdivision of P - T regimes of the eclogite-facies into amphibole eclogite, epidote eclogite, lawsonite eclogite, and dry eclogite subfacies; UHP and high-pressure (HP) metamorphic domains are separated by the P - T boundary for the quartz–coesite equilibrium. Moreover, the equilibrium curves for (1) phase transformation of quartz–coesite, graphite–diamond and coesite–stishovite, (2) polymorphs of HP–clinoenstatite and ortho-clinoenstatite, (3) stability field of K-cymrite, and (4) isopleths of majoritic component are also shown. Mineral abbreviations are after Kretz (1983). Because this review was prepared for the 8th IEC in western China in 2009 and some participants may also visit the Dabie–Sulu UHP terrane, these regions have received the most intensive recent investigations including by the present authors; accordingly, we have used petrologic–geochemical–geochronologic data for Dabie–Sulu UHP rocks to exemplify many details discussed below.

2. Global distribution of UHP metamorphic terranes

Recognized global HP and UHP metamorphic terranes have been grouped into two types: (a) the Pacific type characterized by an oceanic assemblage consisting of first-cycle, mélangé volcanoclastic sedimentary rocks and widespread cherts \pm deep-water carbonates, intimately mixed with structurally disaggregated ophiolites and (b) the Alpine collision-type characterized by protoliths including continental shelf carbonates, bimodal volcanics, peraluminous sediments, and granite-gneiss basement rocks (Maruyama et al., 1996; Ernst, 2006; Ernst et al., 2007). Thus far, all reported lawsonite eclogites are confined to Pacific-type orogens with

typical MORB protoliths. Most UHP rocks have Alpine-type protoliths and consist mainly of felsic and intermediate gneissic rocks with minor mafic eclogites and ultramafic garnet peridotites; the mafic–ultramafic rocks appear to have originated from different tectonic settings but were subjected to coeval UHP metamorphism, deformation, and retrogression with the enclosing granitic gneisses and supracrustal rocks. Inasmuch as UHP eclogites and garnet peridotites most completely preserve petrological, geochemical and isotopic constraints on tectonic models of continental subduction, collision and subsequent exhumation, they have received the most intensive study.

Globally recognized UHP and lawsonite–eclogite terranes are shown in Fig. 2; a few examples of near-UHP terranes are also shown. Thus far, more than 20 coesite-bearing, eight diamond-bearing, five majoritic garnet-bearing UHP regions and five lawsonite eclogite-bearing HP belts have been documented in the world; most of them are of Phanerozoic ages, but a few are Neoproterozoic. These UHP and near-UHP terranes lie within major continental collision belts and extend for several hundred kilometers or more; most are in Eurasia, with rare examples in Africa, South, Central and North America and Antarctica. They share the following common structural and lithological characteristics. (1) UHP records are preserved mainly in eclogites and garnet peridotites enclosed as pods and slabs within quartzifeldspathic gneissic units. A few of those rocks contain minute inclusions of coesite in zircon, garnet and omphacite, microdiamonds in garnet, zircon and tourmaline, and inferred majoritic garnet based on exsolved lamellae of pyroxenes + Rt ± Ilm ± Ap. (2) The bulk-rock compositions of most lithologies are similar to the upper levels of the continental crust. (3) Exhumed UHP units are now present near the surface as thin sub-horizontal slabs, bounded by normal faults on the top, and reverse faults on the bottom, and are sandwiched in with HP or lower grade metamorphic units. (4) Coeval island-arc volcanic and plutonic rocks are rare, whereas post-collisional or late-stage A-type granitic plutons are common.

UHP terranes, recognized based on the occurrence of stishovite pseudomorphs, majoritic garnet, diamond and coesite, are de-

scribed below. Lithological and tectonic characteristics including index minerals, P – T conditions, size and peak metamorphic ages are summarized in Table 1. Because many of these UHP terranes have been extensively reviewed (e.g., Liou et al., 2004; Ernst et al., 2007; Ernst and Liou, 2008), only some new findings for each terrane since 2005 are described. Moreover, many of the UHP terranes contain microdiamond ± majoritic garnet in addition to coesite; in order to save space, each UHP terrane will be described only under one category.

2.1. Altun Tagh UHP terrane with possible stishovite pseudomorphs, western China

Stishovite is a HP polymorph of coesite stable at $P \sim 9$ – 10 GPa (Ono, 1998) and has been described from meteorites and impact craters (Chao et al., 1962; Sharp et al., 1999; El Goresy et al., 2000). This UHP silica phase may contain a few % Al_2O_3 in contrast to limited Al-solubility in both coesite and quartz (Irifune and Ringwood, 1993; Pawley et al., 1993). Pseudomorphs of stishovite were described recently as tiny inclusions in the Luobusa ophiolitic chromite of southern Tibet (Yang et al., 2007b) and in Altun Tagh UHP metapelites (Liu et al., 2007d), western China.

The Altun Tagh UHP terrane, about 200 km long, has been considered as a western extension of the North Qaidam belt of western China. Eclogitic lenses and blocks of various sizes together with garnet–lherzolite and clinopyroxenite are enclosed within a sequence of Early Proterozoic amphibolite, amphibole schist, garnet-bearing granitic gneiss, and pelitic gneiss. Garnet–lherzolite contains magnesite that reacted with aragonite to form dolomite; a P – T estimate of the peak magnesite-bearing assemblage yields >3.6 GPa and 850°C (Liu et al., 2002b). Garnet porphyroblasts include exsolution lamellae of clinopyroxene and rutile, and are interpreted to have had majoritic garnet as a precursor phase.

The associated eclogites contain inclusions of coesite pseudomorphs in garnet with characteristic radial fractures; this, together with exsolved quartz rods in omphacite and P – T estimates of 820 – 850°C and 2.8 – 3.2 GPa, provide additional evidence for

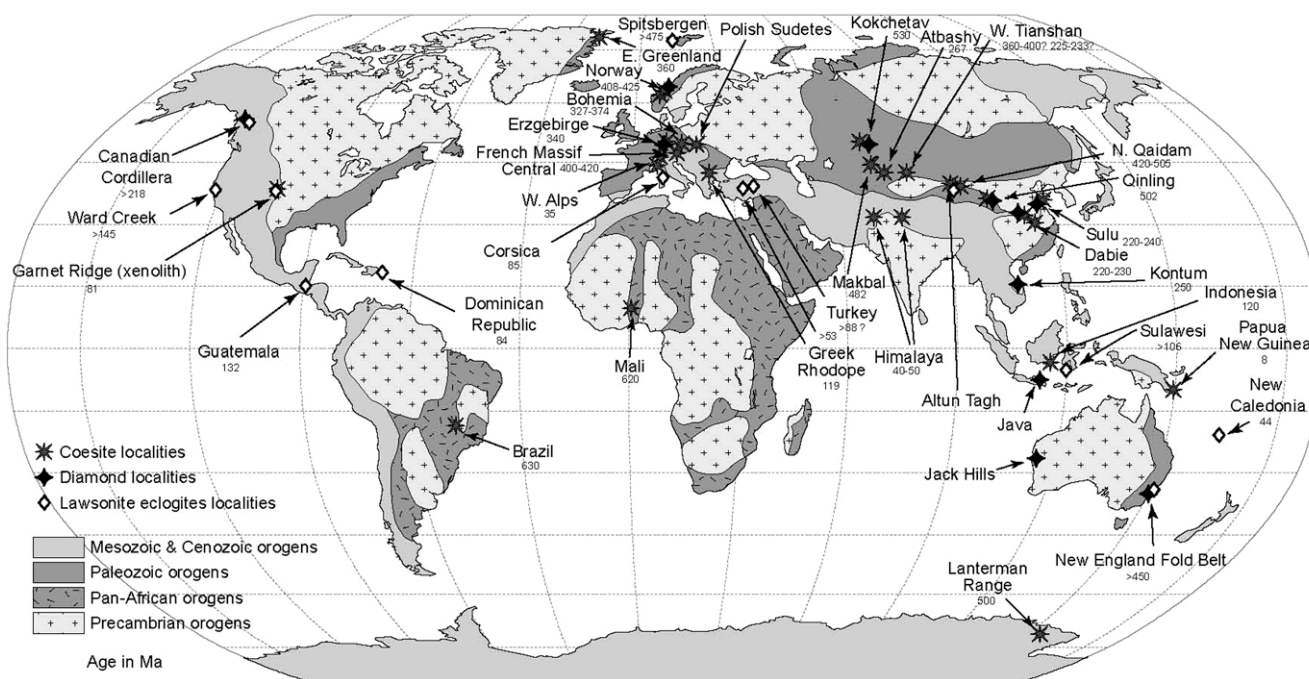


Fig. 2. Global distribution and peak metamorphic age of recognized coesite-, and diamond-bearing UHP terranes and lawsonite eclogite localities (modified after Liou et al. (2004) and Tsujimori et al. (2006a,b)).

Table 1

Worldwide occurrences of UHP metamorphic rocks (each UHP terrane is listed only once under the following four different categories).

Locality	UHP index minerals [*]	Peak-stage ^{**} (°C, GPa)	Metamorphic age in Ma	Selected recent references
<i>(a) Inferred Stishovite pseudomorph-bearing UHP terrane</i>				
Altun Tagh, western China	Coesite pseu. in Grt (eclogite); inferred stishovite pseudomorph (pelite)	820–850; 2.8–3.6	~493–504	Liu et al. (2001, 2007a,b,c,d), Zhang et al. (2001, 2005)
<i>(b) Inferred Majoritic garnet-bearing UHP Terrane</i>				
Western Gneiss Region, Norway	Coesite; diamond; majoritic Grt (peridotite)	>800; >3.2	408–425	Smith (1984), Scambelluri et al. (2008), Hacker (2007), Dobrzhinetskaya et al. (1995)
Dabie–Sulu, Eastern China	Coesite; majoritic Grt (eclogite and Grt peridotite); diamond in Grt (eclogite)	600–930; 2.7–5	220–240	Liou et al. (1998), Zheng et al. (2003a), Zhang et al. (2006a,b,c,d), Liu et al. (2008a,b)
N. Qaidam, western China	Coesite; diamond and majoritic Grt (peridotite)	620–740; 2.8–3.5	420–450	Yang et al. (2001), Song et al. (2005a,b), Mattinson et al. (2006)
Bohemian Massif	Coesite pseu.; majoritic Grt (peridotite)	>650–1100; >3.2–4.5	365–380	Massonne and Bausch (2002), Massonne and O'Brien (2003)
Rhodope, Greece	Diamond + coesite pseu. (metapelite); magnesite + aragonite (marble); majoritic Grt (peridotite)	600–900; >3.1–3.9	149, 73, 51	Mposkos and Kostopoulos (2001), Liati et al. (2002), Liati (2005), Perraki et al. (2006), Mposkos et al. (2006), Bauer et al. (2007)
<i>(c) Diamond-bearing UHP terrane</i>				
Kokchetav Massif, Kazakhstan	Diamond (gneiss, marble); coesite (gneiss, whiteschist)	800–1000; 4–6	530–537	Sobolev and Shatsky (1990), Hermann et al. (2001), Katayama et al. (2002a,b), Parkinson et al. (2002), Okamoto et al. (2006), Massone (1999, 2001), Hwang et al. (2000), Massonne et al. (2007)
Saxonian Erzgebirge, Germany	Diamond and coesite (gneiss); TiO ₂ phase with α -PbO ₂ structure	>900; >4	337	Massone (1999, 2001), Hwang et al. (2000), Massonne et al. (2007)
Maksyutov Complex, Ural Mtn	Diamond, diamond pseu., coesite pseu. (pelite)	640–690; 1.5–1.7 (annealed?)	375–400	Chesnokov and Popov (1965), Leech and Ernst (1998), Bostick et al. (2003)
Qinling, central China	Diamond in zircon (eclogite)	590–760; >2.6	507	Yang et al. (2003a)
Kontum, Vietnam	Diamond in zircon (HP granulite)	>900; 1.5–2 (>4?)	250	Nakano et al. (2006)
<i>(d) coesite-bearing UHP Terrane</i>				
Dora Maira, Italian Alps	Coesite in pyrope (whiteschist) and Cpx (eclogite); P – T – f_{O_2} estimates	>700; ~4.3 GPa	35–38	Chopin, 1984; Schertl et al. (2001), Hermann (2003), Castelli et al. (2007)
Western Tian-Shan, China	Coesite in garnet (eclogite)	500–600; 2.7–2.8	233–226	Zhang et al. (2007c,f), Lu et al. (2008)
Makbal, western Kyrgyzstan	Coesite pseu. in garnet (eclogite)	640–680; >2.6	482	Tagiri et al. (1995)
East Greenland Caledonides	Coesite in Grt, Cpx, Zrn (eclogite)	970; 3.6	330–390	Gilotti and Ravna (2002), McClelland et al. (2006), Gilotti and McClelland (2007)
Lanternman Range, Antarctica	Coesite in garnet (eclogite)	764–820; >2.9–3.3	500	Ghiribelli et al. (2002), Palmeri et al. (2003, 2007)
Gittidas, Pakistan Himalaya	Coesite in Grt, Omp, Zr (eclogite)	690–750; 2.7–2.9	40–50	O'Brien et al. (2001), Kaneko et al. (2003), Parrish et al. (2006)
Tso Morari, Himalaya	Coesite in garnet (eclogite)	700–800; >2.8	55	Sachan et al. (2004), Leech et al. (2005)
Papua New Guinea	Coesite in omphacite (eclogite)	700–750; 3.0	3–8	Baldwin et al. (2004, 2005), Monteleone et al. (2007)
Pohorje, eastern Alps	Coesite pseu. in Grt, Omp, Ky	760–820; 3.0–3.1	Cretaceous	Janak et al. (2004, 2006)
Zermatt–Saas, Switzerland	Coesite in tourmaline (quartzite)	590–630; 2.6–3.0	52	Reinecke (1991)
Massif Central, France	Coesite in garnet (kyanite eclogite)	700–800; >2.8	400–420	Lardeaux et al. (2001)
Mali, W. Africa	Coesite in omphacite (marble)	690–750; >2.9	620	Caby (1994), Jahn et al. (2001)
Sulawesi, Indonesia	Coesite in zircon (quartzite)	700–800; >4.0	20–27	Parkinson et al. (1998), Parkinson and Katayama (1999)
Sanbagawa, Japan	P – T estimate for Grt peridotite	700–810; 2.9–3.8	Cretaceous	Enami et al. (2004a,b)
Southwestern Brazil	Coesite in zircon (eclogite)	~800; >2.8	630–640	Parkinson et al. (2001)
Cuaba Gneiss, Dominican Republic	P – T estimates for both Grt peridotite + eclogite	~950; ~4.2	Cretaceous	Abbott and Draper (2007)
<i>(e) Examples of near-UHP Terrane</i>				
Chuacus complex, Guatemala	Coesite pseu. (?) in eclogitic Grt	700–750; 2–3	Cretaceous	Ortega-Gutiérrez et al. (2004)
South Motagua Fault Zone, Guatemala	P – T estimates for jadeite–lawsonite eclogite	450; ~2.7	135	Tsujimori et al. (2006a,b)
Pinchi Lake, British Columbia, Canada	P – T estimates for lawsonite eclogite	450; ~2.6	280	Ghent et al. (2009)
Qiangtang Belt, Central Tibet	P – T estimates for eclogite	480–625; 2.0–2.6	223–244	Zhang et al. (2006e), Pullen et al. (2008)

Abbreviation: pseu., pseudomorph.

^{*} If index mineral appears in one specific rock type, the rock name is written in (); see text for details.^{**} Peak-stage P – T estimates are from eclogite and crust-derived Grt peridotite.

UHP (Zhang et al., 2001). A Sm–Nd mineral isochron for eclogitic garnet, omphacite, and whole rock yielded an age of 500 ± 10 Ma, whereas an U–Pb isochron for zircon separates from eclogite gave 504 ± 5 Ma (Zhang et al., 2001).

Pseudomorph of possible stishovite occurs in a pelitic gneiss that consists of garnet (20–25 vol%), kyanite (25–30%), perthite

(30–35%) and quartz (10–15%) with minor retrograde biotite, plagioclase and sillimanite. Judging by oriented Al- and Fe-bearing oxide inclusions in the quartz, the single-phase precursor was interpreted as Al-bearing stishovite (Fig. 3A) based on experimental study as well as the measured tetragonal symmetry and lattice spacings consistent with those of stishovite. If such an interpreta-

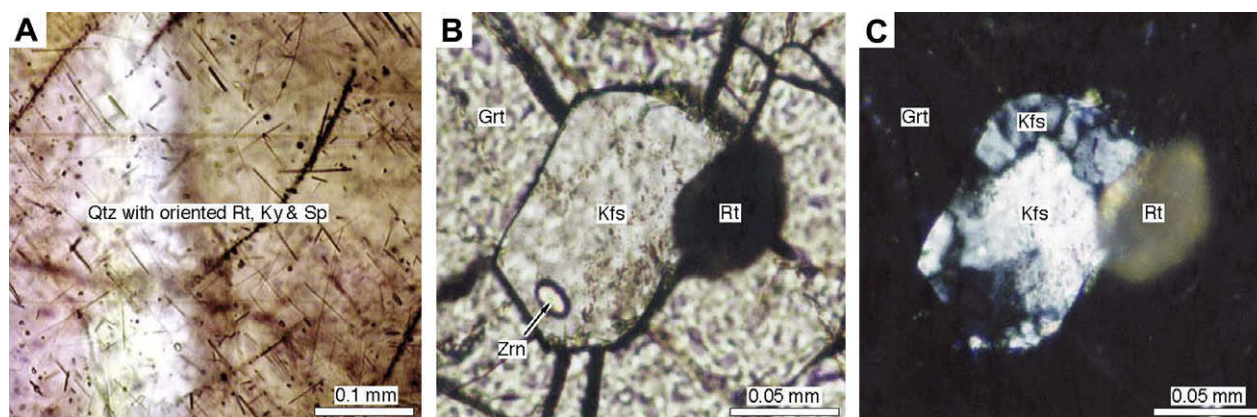


Fig. 3. Photomicrographs of newly recognized UHP minerals in western China: (A) oriented needles and rods of kyanite + hercynite + rutile in quartz interpreted as pseudomorph stishovite from Altun Tagh pelitic gneiss (Liu et al., 2007d); (B and C) euhedral prismatic-shaped inclusion of pseudomorph K-cymrite as K-feldspar polycrystalline aggregates in eclogitic garnet from Dulan associated with rutile showing palisade texture (B, plane polarized light; C, cross polarized light) (Zhang et al., 2008a).

tion is correct, the pelitic gneiss must have been subducted to depths >350 km; such depths are close to the “point of no return” where continental materials would have density comparable to the mantle, and would descend at least to the base of the mantle transition zone where they could contribute to the continental trace element signal in ocean island basalts (for details, see Liu et al. (2007d)). The occurrence of stishovite pseudomorphs in Altun Tagh UHP metapelites and recent geochronological dates about 30–80 Myr older than those of UHP rocks in North Qaidam led Liu et al. (this issue) to suggest that the Altun Tagh terrane may be a discrete separate collision orogen rather than a western extension of the North Qaidam UHP terrane displaced by the Altun Tagh strike-slip fault (e.g., Yang et al., 2001; Mattinson et al., 2007).

2.2. Inferred majoritic garnet-bearing UHP terranes

Majorite is a supersilicic garnet end-member that contains one fourth of its silicon in octahedral coordination and is stable well below depths >150 km (Ringwood and Major, 1971). Its occurrence in mantle xenoliths has been well documented (e.g., Haggerty and Sautter, 1990). It is recognized as having been an original single phase but is now present as host garnet containing toptaxially exsolved needles, rods or laths of pyroxenes \pm Rt \pm Ap. Such majoritic garnets with complex compositions have been characterized from eclogites and garnet peridotites from at least five UHP terranes as described below:

Western Gneiss Region, Norway: The Western Gneiss Region (WGR) lies within an Early Paleozoic collision zone; the gneissic unit, about 300 km long and 150 km wide, consists of interlayered pelite and migmatite, marble, quartzite, and amphibolite, with tectonic inclusions of gabbro, and peridotite. The gneissic unit exhibits mainly amphibolite-facies assemblages; eclogite boudins are widespread (e.g., Terry et al., 2000; Hacker, 2007). Since coesite was first reported by Smith in 1984, many new localities of coesite and coesite pseudomorphs have been found in both eclogites and the adjacent gneissic rocks (Wain, 1997; Carswell and Cuthbert, 2003; see Fig. 3 of Hacker, 2007). Microdiamond grains were described from residues separated from two gneisses (Dobrzhinetskaya et al., 1995) and in garnet peridotite (van Roermund et al., 2002; Brueckner et al., 2003). The suture zone occupied by WGR UHP/HP rocks reflects collision of the eclogite-bearing Greenland sialic crust-capped lithospheric plate (Laurentia) with Fennoscandia during the Caledonian orogeny (Gilotti, 1993; Krogh and Carswell, 1995; Brueckner and Medaris, 1998).

Radiometric ages for WGR eclogites are 408–425 Ma for the peak metamorphism, and 374–378 Ma for the retrogressive mid-crustal metamorphic overprinting (for reviews, see Carswell et al. (1999, 2003) and Hacker (2007)). A two-stage exhumation process is suggested: an initial exhumation to about 35 km depth by \sim 395 Ma at a mean rate of approximately 10 mm/yr, and subsequent exhumation to 8–10 km by \sim 375 Ma at a much lower rate of \sim 1.3 mm/yr. On the other hand, an exhumation rate of \sim 7 mm/yr from \sim 105 to \sim 20 km was constrained by a 390.2 ± 0.8 Ma titanite for the WGR UHP terrane (Kylander-Clark et al., 2008); these rates are slower than estimates from other, smaller UHP terranes such as the Dora Maira (Rubatto and Hermann, 2001) and Kaghan Valley terranes (Parrish et al., 2006) described below, but similar to other large UHP terranes, such as the Dabie–Sulu terrane of eastern China (>2 mm/yr, Hacker et al., 2000) (see Table 2 for a summary). This suggests that there might be a fundamental difference in the subduction and exhumation mechanisms between large and small UHP terranes.

Three generations of majoritic garnet were identified in WGR garnet peridotites on the islands of Otrøy and Flemsoy (Scambelluri et al., 2008), as shown in Fig. 4: (1) high-*T* Archean decompression melting within the mantle transition-zone (350 km; M1A) followed by upwelling and accretion to deep cratonic roots (100–125 km; M1B; van Roermund and Drury, 1998; Spengler et al., 2006); (2) isobaric cooling to 1000–1300 °C ending in Middle Proterozoic time (M2; Brueckner et al., 2003); and (3) deep subduction during the Caledonian orogeny (430–390 Ma; M3) when Baltic and Laurentian plate collision triggered the formation of microdiamond-bearing UHP rocks (van Roermund et al., 2002). Stages M1 (A–B) and M2 are recorded by the Grt peridotites and websterites where decimeter-sized garnets contain Opx and Cpx as intercrystalline grains and as intracrystalline lamellae, both exsolved from precursor majorite that contains up to 20 vol% Px component during evolution from M1A–M1B to M2 (Fig. 1 of Spengler et al., 2006). During M2, the M1B majorite exsolved intracrystalline pyroxene lamellae \sim 20–30 μ m thick and hundreds of micrometers long. Together with the intercrystalline pyroxenes (also showing Px–Grt exsolution) and cm-sized Opx \pm Cpx \pm Ol \pm spinel, they define the M2 assemblage. The resulting Cpx/Grt LREE partition coefficients indicate that exsolution occurred at 1280–1380 °C and \sim 7 GPa. The M3 assemblage consists of Grt + Opx + Cpx + Phl \pm carbonate \pm Spl. The M3 grain-boundary and vein garnets contain exsolved Cpx and Opx needles 1.5–3 μ m thick and as long as 100 μ m, much thinner than M2 Grt. The estimated abundance of

Table 2
Recent estimates of exhumation rate of selected UHP terranes.

UHP terrane	Age range (Ma)	Depth range 1st 2nd (km)	Exhumation		Data source
			1st	2nd	
			Rates (cm/years)		
WGR	408 to ~395–375	~105 to ~20	~1.0,	~0.13	Hacker (2007) Kylander-Clark et al. (2008)
Dabie	240 to ~220	~125 to ~30	>0.2		Hacker et al. (2000)
Sulu	239–225 to 219–210 to 209–207	120–60	0.3,	0.54	Liu et al. (2008a)
Qaidam					
Dora Mira	35.4–32.9–31.8–29.9	120–10	3.4–0.5		Gebauer et al. (1997)
Kokchetav	537–507–456	180–30 to ~10	~5,	0.4	Katayama et al. (2002a,b)
	535 to ~529	180–30	~10		Hacker et al. (2003)
Erzgebirge	336.8–330	>180–40	10,	~0.5	Massonne et al. (2007)
Kaghan Valley	~46	90–110 to			Kaneko et al. (2003)
Kaghan Valley	~50–46.4 to >44.0	108–36	~3.0–8.0		Kaneko et al. (2003), Parrish et al. (2006)
Tso Moriri	55 to 48–45	~105 to 30	2.3–4.5		Massonne and O'Brien (2003)
East Papu New Guinea	7.9	>80 to surface	>1.0		Baldwin et al. (2005), Monteleone et al. (2007)

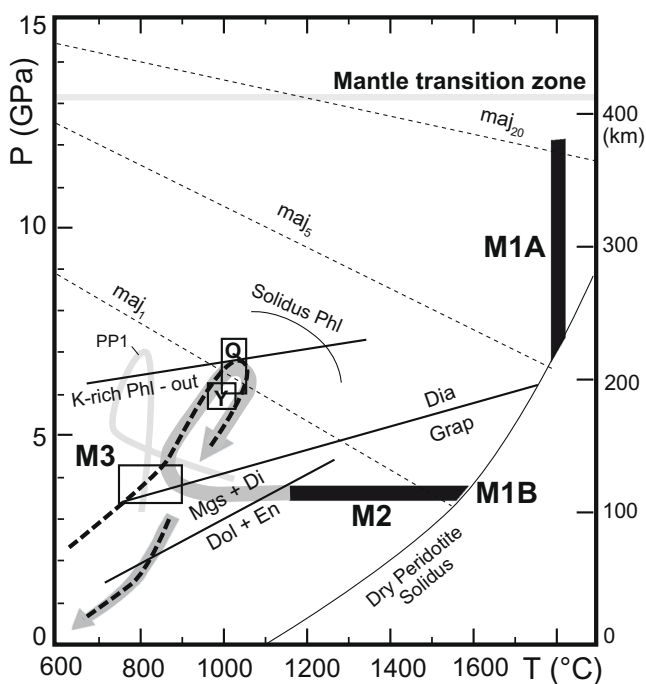


Fig. 4. *P*–*T* path of diamond- and majorite-bearing garnet websterite lens from Norway. Black path: Archean M1 (A and B) to Mid-Proterozoic M2 events. Light gray path – Scandian evolution. Dashed line – inferred *P*–*T* path of associated continental crust. White box – diamond crystallization conditions during M3. *P*–*T* conditions of majorite samples from Yangkuo (Y) (Ye et al., 2000) and North Qaidam (NQ) and *P*–*T* paths for garnet peridotite from North Qaidam (Song et al., 2005a,b) are shown. Thin solid lines labeled 1%, 5% and 20% are experimental isopleths for majorite component in garnet (modified after Fig. 1 of Scambelluri et al. (2008)).

pyroxene needles is 1–1.5 vol%; such pyroxene exsolution indicates that majoritic garnet crystallized during the M3 event at about 6.5 GPa (Dobrzhinetskaya et al., 2004; Scambelluri et al., 2008).

The M1 and M2 majoritic garnets were formed by solid-state transformation of pyroxene into garnet in a mantle setting. In contrast, M3 majorite localized in veins and along grain boundaries and its coexistence with phlogopite and carbonate suggest crystallization from aqueous-carbonate silicate fluids during deep continental subduction to >200 km. Such fluid-precipitated majoritic garnets may be similar to analogues in North Qaidam garnet peridotites described below.

Evidently, Archean (~3.5 Ga) deep-seated mantle containing majoritic garnets underwent exsolution during upwelling from a

depth of 350 km or more, and was subjected to extensive partial melting; the residue formed a garnet-bearing cratonic root. These cratonic mantle assemblages of Proterozoic age (~1.8–1.4 Ga) were then incorporated into subducting sialic crust during the Caledonian continental collision at ~400 Ma. The conclusion of pre-subduction exsolution was based on detailed Re–Os and Sm–Nd age data (Brueckner et al., 2003, 2004), and on REE concentrations and partitioning between exsolved pyroxenes and the host garnets (Spengler et al., 2006). On the other hand, the M3 majoritic garnet recrystallized at about 6 GPa and 1000 °C, coeval with Caledonian UHP metamorphism of the associated supracrustal rocks.

Dabie–Sulu terrane, east-central China: The Triassic Dabie–Sulu UHP terrane marking the collision zone between the North China and South China blocks, has received the most intensive investigations in terms of manpower and resources, including the first Chinese continental scientific 5-km drilling project, completed in 2005 (described below; for a recent comprehensive review of the Dabie–Sulu orogen, see Zheng (2008)). Blocks, boudins and layers of eclogite and garnet peridotite occur as enclaves in UHP gneisses. Ubiquitous occurrences of coesite inclusions in zircons of felsic gneisses and eclogites from both surface and core samples indicate that the supracrustal rocks (>90% felsic gneisses, <10% eclogites) were subducted to depths >100 km (e.g., Zhang et al., 1995b). Drill core samples show the Sulu UHP slab to be >5 km thick; the Dabie–Sulu UHP terrane extends for >2000 km and is about 50 km wide. SHRIMP dating of zoned zircons identified four discrete age groups: mid-Neoproterozoic protolith ages (740–780 Ma) in inherited cores (Zheng et al., 2004; Liu et al., 2004a,b; Tang et al., 2008b), a UHP event in coesite-bearing mantles at 225–240 Ma (Liu et al., 2004a,b, 2005, 2006a,b; Wu et al., 2006), eclogite-facies assemblages at 215–225 Ma (Liu et al., 2006c; Zhao et al., 2006b) and amphibolite-facies overprint in quartz-bearing rims at 215–205 Ma (Liu et al., 2004a,b). These data constrain the rate of exhumation at >5 km/Ma (e.g., Hacker et al., 2006; Ernst et al., 2007). The presence of anomalously low $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values in UHP minerals of eclogitic and felsic rocks suggests extensive meteoric water–rock interactions both prior to and under Snowball Earth conditions during the Neoproterozoic, and limited fluid infiltration during Triassic continental subduction and exhumation (Yui et al., 1995; Rumble et al., 2002; Zheng et al., 2003a, 2004; Chen et al., 2007a; Tang et al., 2008a). Such cold-climate effects also recorded in very negative $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values of magmatic minerals such as garnet (Zheng et al., 2007a) and zircons (Tang et al., 2008a).

The Dabie–Sulu UHP rocks show several special characteristics. (1) Widespread occurrences of coesite and coesite pseudomorphs as inclusions in garnet, omphacite (Fig. 5A), zircon (Fig. 5B and C), kyanite, zoisite, epidote (Fig. 5D) and dolomite (e.g., Zhang and Liou, 1996); UHP hydrous minerals such as talc, zoisite/epidote, and

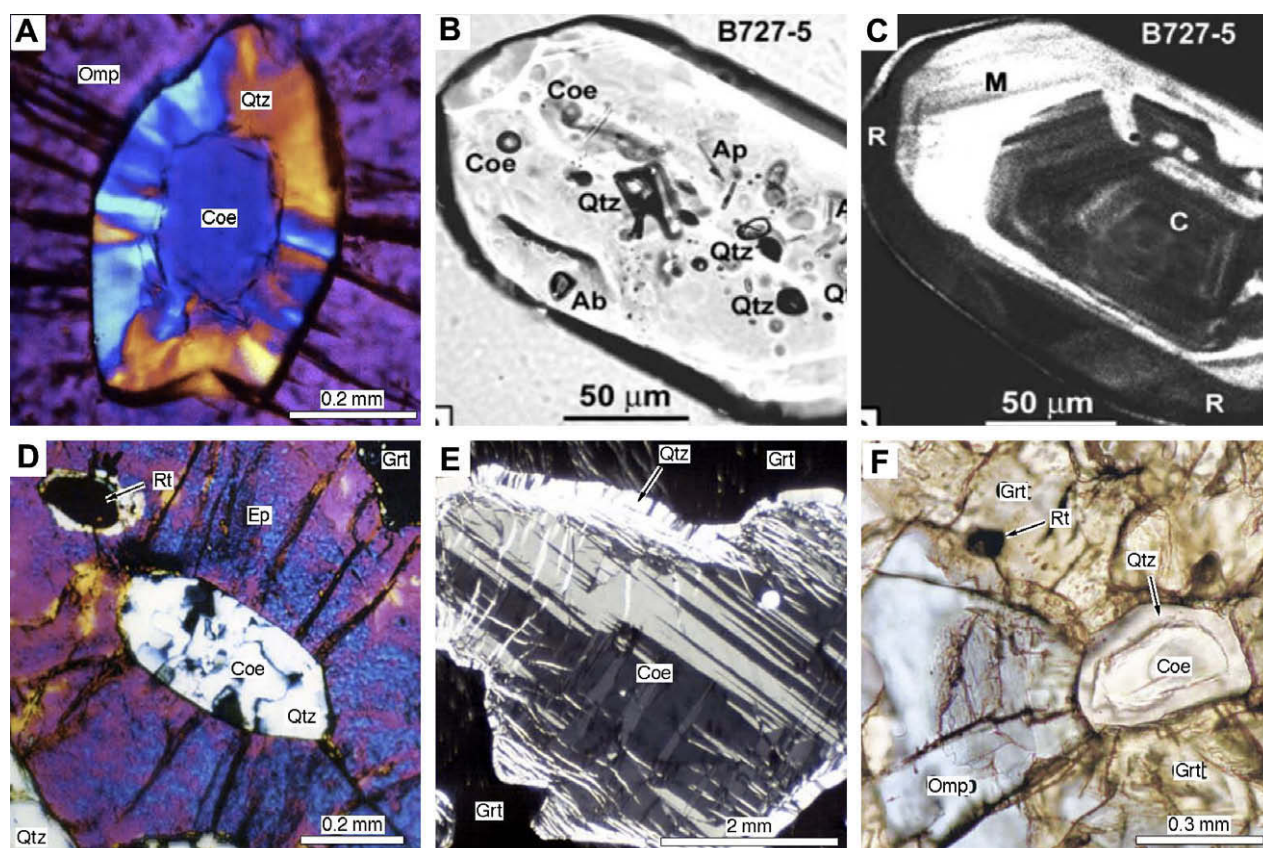


Fig. 5. Photomicrographs of coesite and coesite pseudomorphs in UHP rocks: (A) inclusion of coesite + palisade quartz in omphacite from Maowu omphacitite (Liou and Zhang, 1996), (B) plane polarized light image of mineral inclusions in zircon and (C) cathodoluminescence images of host zircon from epidote- and biotite-bearing two-feldspar granitic gneiss core of the CCSD-Main hole (B727, 1325.2 m depth). This zircon grain contains Qtz + Ap in the core, coesite in the mantle, and albite in the rim (Liu et al., 2007d), (D) inclusion of coesite pseudomorph in epidote from Qinglongshan eclogite (Zhang et al., 1995a), (E) inclusion of coarse-grained twinned coesite with palisade quartz at the margin in garnet of Dora Maira quartzite (courtesy from Werner Schreyer), and (F) intergranular coesite from Yangkou eclogite, Sulu (Zhang and Liou, 1997).

phengite are present in eclogites. (2) Both mantle-derived and crustal-hosted garnet peridotites occur (see below). (3) Abundant exsolution textures have been identified in UHP minerals from garnet peridotite and eclogite. (4) P – T estimates lie within the diamond P – T stability field, and minor diamond inclusions are contained in garnet and rare zircon from both eclogite and garnet peridotite (e.g., Okay, 1993). (4) Some garnet peridotites record much higher pressure than associated coesite-bearing eclogites, reaching 5–6 GPa (Yang et al., 1993; Zhang et al., 2000, 2003a, 2005c). (5) Various isotopic dating methods for UHP minerals and rocks including garnet peridotite yield a relatively long duration of UHP metamorphism, spanning from 240 to 220 Ma (see below for discussion).

The hypothesized occurrence of majoritic garnet has been described from two Sulu localities. (1) Ye et al. (2000) described abundant, evenly-distributed, oriented rutile needles along {111} of garnet and minor apatite inclusions in porphyroblastic garnets from a Yangkou eclogite layer within peridotite (P – T estimate shown as Y in Fig. 4). (2) Zhang and Liou (2003) found coarse Cpx grains from Rizhao garnet clinopyroxenites that contain up to 25 vol% exsolved garnet, 4 vol% ilmenite and minor amphibole (Fig. 6A). Experimental study of the Rizhao Grt clinopyroxenite at 4–15 GPa, 1000–1400 °C indicated that titanium solubility in garnet and $\text{Grt}_{\text{Ti}}/\text{Cpx}_{\text{Ti}}$ ratios exhibit pronounced positive correlations with pressure, whereas the coexisting clinopyroxene contains small amounts of TiO_2 and shows no significant pressure effect (Zhang et al., 2003c). Petrologic and experimental studies suggest that the precursor of such intergrowths was majoritic garnet in which $\text{Ca}^{2+}\text{Ti}^{4+} \rightarrow 2\text{Al}^{3+}$, $\text{Mg}^{2+}\text{Si}^{4+} \rightarrow 2\text{Al}^{3+}$ in octahedral sites, and $\text{Na}^+\text{Ti}^{4+} \rightarrow \text{Ca}^{2+}\text{Al}^{3+}$ (Zhang and Liou, 2003; Zhang et al., 2003c).

The interpretation of these intergrowths as a majoritic garnet precursor phase was based on optical and SEM observations. However, recent analytical electron microscopic data obtained by Hwang et al. (2007) indicate a lack of a topotaxial relationship between rutile needles and the host Yangkou garnet. These data, together with the presence of nano-sized thin films of an amorphous phase at the contact between rutile needles and the surrounding garnet led them to question the exsolution origin of the rutile.

North Qaidam terrane, western China: Lenses and layers of garnet peridotite and eclogite occur in an amphibolite-facies gneissic terrane in the North Qaidam Mountains along the NE rim of the Qaidam Basin. This terrane extends westward for more than 1000 km to the Altun Mountains; the latter block is offset by left-lateral displacement along the Altyn-Tagh fault. This long, discontinuous UHP terrane was first established by identification of coesite inclusions in zircon from a paragneiss and P – T estimates of both eclogite (e.g., Yang et al., 2001; Song et al., 2003a,b, 2006; Yin et al., 2007) and garnet peridotite; (Song et al., 2004, 2005a,b, 2007 and this issue for a summary). Inclusions of K-cymrite ($\text{KAlSi}_3\text{O}_8 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$) pseudomorphs as K-feldspar polycrystalline aggregates (Fig. 3B and C) have been identified in Dulan eclogites where coesite occurs as inclusions in zircons of nearby gneissic rocks (Zhang et al., 2008; also see Fig. 4D and E of Song et al. (2003a,b)).

Inasmuch as this belt is covered in detail in this special issue, only some relevant garnet peridotites containing possible majoritic garnet described by Song et al. (2004, 2005a) are briefly described here. The Luliangshan garnet peridotite is the largest block, 500–800 m across within felsic gneisses (for details, see Song et al. (2004, 2005a,b, 2007) and this issue), and consists of Grt

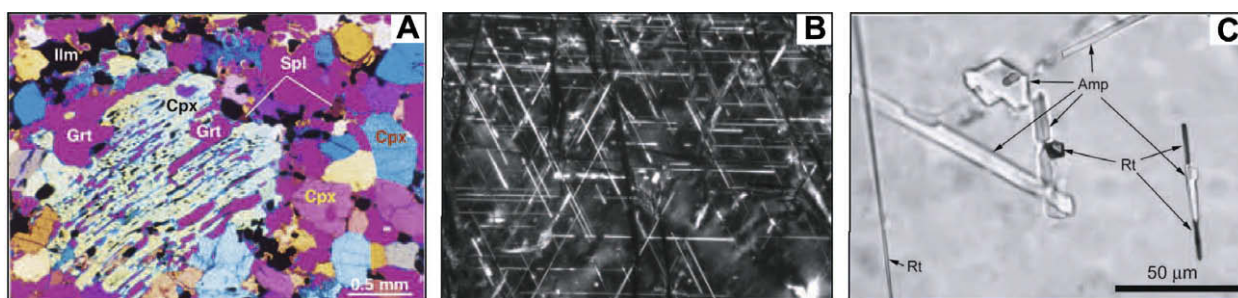


Fig. 6. Inferred majoritic garnet from the Sulu and North Qaidam UHP terranes: exsolution lamellae of (A) Grt + Ilm in relict clinopyroxene from Sulu peridotite (Zhang and Liou, 2003), (B and C) Rt + Amp in peridotitic garnet from North Qaidam (Song et al., 2005b).

(~10–20 vol%), Ol (~40–60%), Opx (~15–25%), Cpx (~5–15%) and minor Cr-rich spinel. Exsolution in porphyroblastic garnet consists of densely packed rods of Rt, Opx, Cpx, and two kinds of sodic amphibole (Fig. 6B and C). Exsolution in olivine includes rods of Ilm and Al-chromite. Pyroxene exsolution lamellae in garnet crystals suggest that the parent must have originally possessed excess silicon, i.e., they were majoritic garnets stable only at depths >150 km. Exsolution of rutile and sodic amphiboles further suggests that the inferred majoritic garnets must also have contained excess Ti, Na and hydroxyl (>1000 ppm) that are soluble only at UHP. The exsolution of ilmenite and Al-chromite rods from olivine is also consistent with the peridotite having once being equilibrated at very high pressures (>300 km). Estimation of Ti and Na contents in the reconstructed majoritic garnets yields $P > 8$ GPa. Thermobarometric calculations using matrix minerals of the peridotite yield re-equilibrium conditions of 960–1040 °C and 5.0–6.5 GPa. These observations and inferences, together with the occurrence of a microdiamond inclusion in the core of a zircon from garnet peridotite (Song et al., 2005b) and field observations, indicate that the North Qaidam garnet peridotite probably represents a mantle slice exhumed from depths >240 km. SHRIMP dating of zircon from one diamond-bearing garnet peridotite yields 457 ± 22 Ma in the cores, 423 ± 5 Ma in the outer zones and 397 ± 6 Ma in the rims representing, the cumulation, subduction and exhumation events (Song et al., 2005b).

However, recent petrologic study of mineral inclusions in porphyroblastic garnet, clinopyroxene and olivine from various ultramafic rocks of this body by Yang and Powell (2008) resulted in a very different conclusion. They described many low- P mineral inclusions such as Hbl + Chl, Spn + Opx forming symplectite after garnet in some garnet porphyroblasts, Act-Ed, calcite and lizardite in some Cpx porphyroblasts and Mg-rich olivine (Fo95–99), F-rich clinohumite, Pyx, chromite, anthophyllite-cummingtonite, Cl-rich lizardite, carbonates and “Ca-phlogopite” in olivine porphyroblasts. These findings and P – T estimates based on several pseudosections led them to suggest that these UHP ultramafic rocks were formerly mantle peridotites emplaced into the oceanic crust that was subjected to serpentinization by seawater-derived fluids near the sea floor prior to subduction to 3.0–3.5 GPa and 700 °C.

Bohemian Massif: The Bohemian Massif exposes the metamorphic core of the Variscan orogen along its eastern margin. It is a collage of several smaller basement areas differing in age and metamorphic evolution. Both eclogites and garnet peridotites have been extensively investigated (see a summary by Massonne and O'Brien (2003)). UHP rocks occur in all units characterized by HP rocks but so far, index minerals including coesite, and diamond have been found only in the Erzgebirge (see below) and coesite pseudomorphs in the Polish Sudetes (Bakun-Czubarow, 1991).

In the Bohemian Massif, Massonne and Bausch (2002) described an unusual, meter-sized garnet pyroxenite from the Granulitgebirge, Germany. This rock is embedded in serpentinized

garnet peridotite and consists of megacrysts which apparently were originally majoritic garnet from an upper portion of the mantle transition zone (>400 km). Exsolution lamellae of almost mm-wide garnet and clinopyroxene layers run parallel over several centimeters. Compositions of Grt and Cpx lamellae yield P – T estimate of ~2.5 GPa and 1000 °C for the exsolution process. REE concentrations of minerals and the whole rock suggest that the host rock consisted essentially of garnet megacrysts; it might have been transported upward within a mantle plume, with upwelling facilitated by the presence of melt that interacted with the garnet pyroxenite.

Peridotites containing majoritic garnets have also been reported in other localities of the Bohemian Massif in both the Czech Republic and the Polish Sudetes (Bakun-Czubarow, 2007). Unfortunately, description of these occurrences is only in abstract form. Garnet porphyroblasts (up to 0.8 cm in diameter) in host lherzolite contain exsolved lamellae of Rt, Ilm, Opx and Ol, mainly along their {111} planes in the cores, and have estimated compositions of $\text{Pyr}_{72}\text{Alm}_{16}(\text{Grs} + \text{Uvr})_7\text{Ti-Mj}_5$ where Ti–Mj stands for two possible Ti-equivalents of the majorite molecule: $\text{Ca}_2\text{Na}(\text{AlTi})\text{Si}_3\text{O}_{12}$ and $\text{M}_3(\text{MgTi})\text{Si}_3\text{O}_{12}$. Such majoritic garnets are not supersilicic either in terms of the amount of exsolved SiO_2 , or in terms of stoichiometry (i.e., showing more than three Si atoms pfu). This garnet-lherzolite yielded UHP conditions of 4.5 ± 0.4 GPa and 1100 ± 30 °C, and is suggested to have been exhumed from depths in excess of 200 km (Bakun-Czubarow, 2007).

Greek Rhodope: The Greek Metamorphic Province (RMP) at the border between Greece and Bulgaria represents a synmetamorphic nappe-system that formed during the Cretaceous to mid-Tertiary collision of Apulia and paleo-Europe. The intermediate nappe complex comprises eclogites, orthogneisses, pelitic gneisses and minor mantle-derived ultramafic rocks. These units contain many mineralogical indicators of UHP metamorphism, such as inclusions of diamond in garnet porphyroblasts from pelitic gneiss, coesite pseudomorph inclusions in supersilicic eclogitic garnets containing quartz lamellae (Mposkos and Kostopoulos, 2001; Perraki et al., 2006), and coexistence of magnesite + aragonite in dolomitic marble (Mposkos et al., 2006). P – T conditions for diamond-bearing UHP metapelites were estimated at >850 °C and 4.3 GPa.

Liati (2005) obtained SHRIMP ages of 149 Ma for metamorphic zircons from a paragneiss of the Central Rhodope for which (U)HP conditions have been suggested, and 51 Ma for amphibolitized eclogite of the West Rhodope. These ages together with other (U)HP ages suggest that four distinct events of Alpine (U)HP metamorphism can be distinguished: 149, 73, 51 and 42 Ma. The Rhodope consists of different terranes, which resulted from multiple subductions and collisions of microcontinents, rather similar to the presently accepted picture in the Central and Western Alps.

Associated ultramafic rocks include garnet-spinel-bearing lherzolite and layers of spinel-garnet clinopyroxenite, garnet pyroxenite and clinopyroxene garnetite. These ultramafic rocks

were subjected to UHP recrystallization at P - T conditions of ~ 1200 °C, >3.0 GPa. The occurrence of rods or needles of silica, rutile, biotite and apatite in sodic garnet suggests the former presence of majoritic garnet at ~ 7 GPa. These UHP rocks were reequilibrated at >800 °C at a SHRIMP-determined age of 171 ± 1 Ma (Bauer et al., 2007). Evidently the UHP metamorphism predated the Alpine suturing of Apulia and paleo-Europe by more than 100 Myr.

2.3. Diamond-bearing UHP terranes

Since metamorphic microdiamond was first discovered as inclusions in garnet and zircon in gneissic rocks of the Kokchetav Massif, northern Kazakhstan (Sobolev and Shatsky, 1990) (Fig. 7A and B), microdiamond inclusion has been increasingly recognized in other UHP terranes. For example microdiamond inclusions in Hadean zircons with an age range from 3058 ± 7 to 4252 ± 7 Ma were reported from the Jack Hills metasedimentary belt, western Australia (Menneken et al., 2007). This finding of the oldest known diamonds in terrestrial rocks introduces a new aspect to the debate on the origin of these zircons and the evolution of the early continental crust. The specific mineralogical features of these diamonds, including their occurrence in zircon, their association with graphite, and their Raman spectroscopic characteristics resemble UHP microdiamonds. These occurrences imply a relatively thick conti-

mental lithosphere and crust–mantle interaction at least locally in the Archean, and perhaps as long ago as 4.2 Ga.

In the Phanerozoic New England fold belt of eastern Australia, about 2 million diamonds have been mined from Tertiary alluvial deposits that are more than 1500 km from the nearest craton (Barron et al., 2005, 2008). Unlike diamonds from ancient cratons, these diamonds contain unique inclusions of eclogitic rocks of Phanerozoic ages. Some garnets exhibit unusual chemical characteristics and microstructures (oriented exsolution lamellae of rutile/apatite/ilmenite), implying the possible existence of an unexposed UHP metamorphic terrane in eastern Australia.

As shown in Table 1, at least seven terranes contain well-confirmed microdiamond occurrences in UHP rocks; these include paragneiss and marble of the Kokchetav Massif of Kazakhstan (Sobolev and Shatsky, 1990), metasedimentary rocks of the Erzgebirge Massif of Germany (Massonne, 1999), eclogites and garnet peridotites of the Dabie–Sulu (Xu et al. 1992, 2005), North Qaidam (Song et al., 2005a,b) and Qinling (Yang et al., 2003a) terranes of China, paragneiss and garnet peridotite of the Western Gneiss Region of Norway (Dobrzhinetskaya et al., 1995), metapelites of the Greek Rhodope (Mposkos and Kostopoulos, 2001), and garnet mica schist of the Maksyutov Complex of the South Ural Mountains (Leach and Ernst, 1998; Bostick et al., 2003). Other suspected diamond-bearing UHP terranes include the Central Indonesia

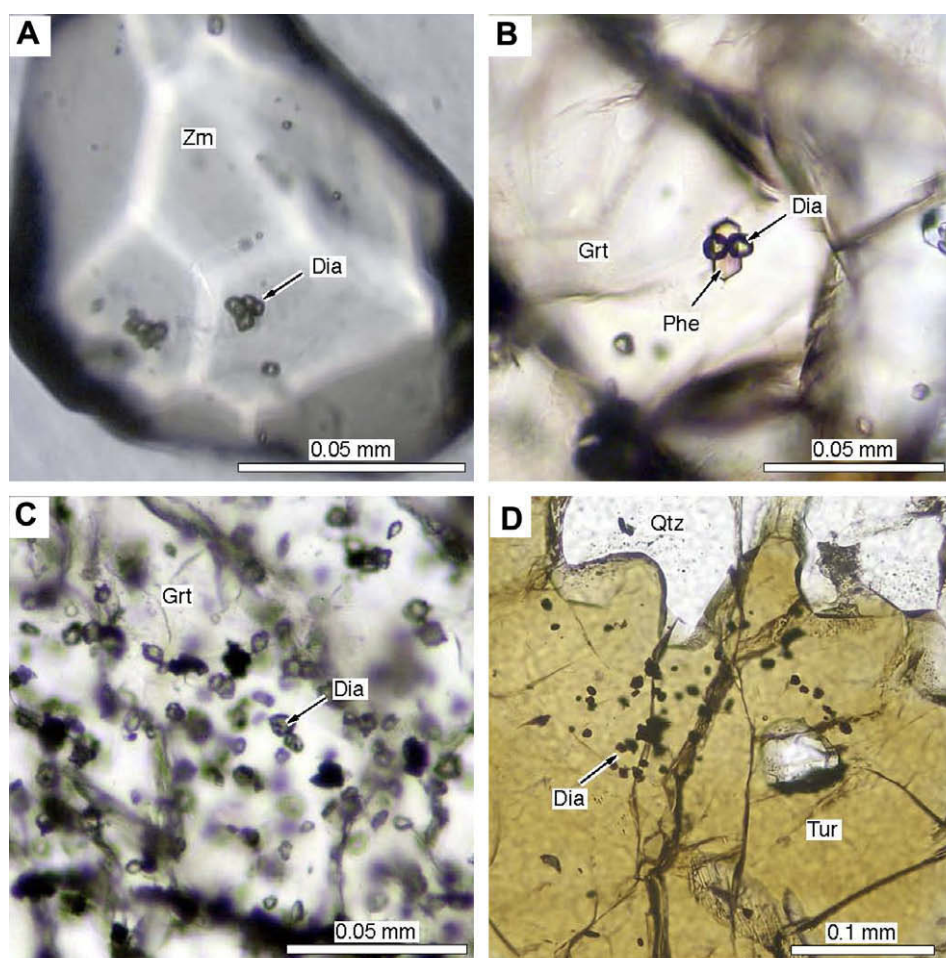


Fig. 7. Photomicrographs of microdiamonds from the Kokchetav Massif: (A) inclusions of microdiamond in zircon of Kokchetav gneiss (Sobolev and Shatsky, 1990), (B) inclusions of diamond + phengite in garnet of Kokchetav gneiss (Ragozin et al., 2009), (C) inclusions of numerous microdiamonds in garnet of Kokchetav marble (Ogasawara et al., 2002), and (D) inclusions of microdiamond in K-rich tourmaline of Kokchetav gneiss (Ota et al., 2008).

UHP terrane in Sulawesi (Parkinson and Katayama, 1999), and the Kontum Massif of central Vietnam (Nakano et al., 2006).

Kokchetav Massif, northern Kazakhstan: The Kokchetav Massif is a large, fault-bounded metamorphic complex of Proterozoic protolith age, surrounded by Caledonian rocks of the Ural-Mongolian foldbelt (Dobretsov et al., 1996). The massif has been considered to be a mega-mélange consisting of UHP, HP and low-pressure (LP) slices and blocks (Dobretsov et al., 1996) or alternatively, a stacking sequence of several fault-bounded UHP, HP and LP units (e.g., Parkinson et al., 2002). Both UHP and HP units extend for over more than 200 km, and are confined mainly to the western Kumdy-Kol and eastern Kulet areas. The UHP slab is composed of felsic paragneiss with eclogite lenses and minor orthogneiss, marble and rare garnet peridotite. The rock assemblage shows a range of Proterozoic protolith ages. Zoned zircons from diamond-bearing gneiss yield the following ages: quartz inclusion-bearing inherited cores yield 1100–1400 Ma for protolith age, coesite-bearing mantles 530 ± 7 Ma for the UHP metamorphism, and plagioclase-bearing rims 507 ± 8 Ma for the amphibolite-facies overprint (Hermann et al., 2001; Katayama et al., 2002b; Hacker et al., 2003; Katayama and Maruyama, in press). Many diamond-grade marble layers contain clinopyroxene with exsolution lamellae of quartz, K-feldspar, phengite and phlogopite (Katayama et al., 2002a); titanite contains coesite lamellae (Ogasawara et al., 2002). The mineralogy suggests that UHP metamorphism occurred at 6 GPa and 1000 °C.

Kokchetav microdiamonds occur as abundant minute inclusions in zircon (Fig. 7A), garnet (Fig. 7B and C), diopside, and K-tourmaline (Fig. 7D) from marble, pyroxene-carbonate-garnet rock, and garnet-biotite gneiss and schist in the western Kumdy-Kol area (e.g., Sobolev and Shatsky, 1990; Ogasawara et al., 2000) and from zoisite gneisses in the Bachi-Kol area. Drilling indicates that diamondiferous rocks a few hundred meters thick occur as slices in diamond-free granitic orthogneisses that lack HP phases. Microdiamond inclusions have also recently identified in the cores of tourmaline from biotite gneiss; this tourmaline contains ~ 2.7 wt% K_2O , suggesting that it was stable under UHP conditions (Shimizu and Ogasawara, 2005; Ota et al., 2008). Intergranular diamond occurs in some K-feldspar-quartz lenses and layers at Kumdy-Kol; some are partially pseudomorphed by graphite (Korsakov et al., 2004). Inclusions of coesite and its pseudomorphs also occur in garnet and zircon from eclogite and diamond-bearing gneiss.

Microdiamonds from the Kokchetav and other UHP terranes described below are characterized by small (1–80 μm) crystals of skeletal, cuboidal, subrounded and anhedral morphologies suggesting a short residence time at high- T (~ 900 – 1000 °C) (Shatsky and Sobolev, 2003). Carbon isotopic data for diamond suggest biogenic sources; inclusions of water, carbonate and nanometric oxides in diamonds indicate that the microdiamonds precipitated from C–O–H supercritical fluids (e.g., Stöckhert et al., 2001; Ogasawara, 2005; Dobrzhinetskaya et al., 2006, 2007). Ogasawara et al. (2002) suggested a two-stage growth mechanism for microdiamonds. Masago et al. (2003) report negative $\delta^{18}O$ values (-3.9 ‰) for minerals in Kokchetav eclogite and whiteschist, similar to those (-9 to -2 ‰) for regional UHP granitic gneiss throughout the Dabie-Sulu terrane (Zheng et al., 2003a, 2004; Tang et al., 2008a,b). The Kokchetav Massif is the second recognized UHP region that preserves a significant effect of the interaction of cold meteoric water with the protolith prior to subduction and closed-system UHP metamorphism.

Saxonian Erzgebirge, Germany: The Erzgebirge Crystalline Complex (ECC) on the northern margin of the Bohemian Massif is in fault contact with a low-grade Paleozoic unit at its margins. The Variscan ECC consists of abundant gneisses that include numerous eclogite lenses. The Gneiss-Eclogite Unit at the core of this massif contains UHP rocks typified by coesite pseudomorph inclusions in eclogitic garnets (Schmädicke, 1991) and inclusions of

1–25 μm microdiamond, partially graphitized diamond, and graphite pseudomorph after diamond in garnet, kyanite, and zircon from the gneisses (Massonne, 2001; Massonne and Nasdala, 2003). Some of these inclusions contain additional hydrous phases including apatite, phengitic mica, and fluid inclusions; the morphologies of inclusions and mineral associations suggest that microdiamonds from both the Erzgebirge and the Kokchetav complexes crystallized from supercritical fluids under UHP conditions (Stöckhert et al., 2001; Hwang et al., 2001; Dobrzhinetskaya et al., 2001, 2003, 2006).

Schmädicke et al. (1995) reported Grt-Cpx-whole rock Sm–Nd isochrons at 360 ± 7 Ma for eclogite and 353 ± 6 Ma for garnet pyroxenite from the Erzgebirge UHP rocks. $^{40}Ar/^{39}Ar$ spectra of phengite from two eclogite samples gave plateau ages of 348 ± 2 and 355 ± 2 Ma. The similarity in age for garnet peridotite and eclogite enclaves in gneiss suggests a Variscan UHP *in situ* metamorphism of the ECC around 340–360 Ma. Recent systematic SHRIMP dating of various domains of zircon crystals from diamondiferous quartzofeldspathic rocks yielded 337 ± 3 Ma for cores, 336.8 ± 2.8 Ma for diamond-bearing intermediate zones, 330 ± 6 Ma for rims and 332 ± 2 Ma for monazite (Massonne et al., 2007). These data were used to obtain a subduction rate at 2–5 cm/yr, an exhumation rate of the first stage from >180 to 40 km at >10 cm/yr and the second stage at the crustal level at ~ 0.5 cm/yr for the Erzgebirge UHP rocks. Such first-stage rates are comparable with that of Kokchetav (~ 5 cm/yr; Hermann et al., 2001), the Dora Maira Massif (3.4 cm/yr; Rubatto and Hermann, 2001), and the western Himalayan rocks (2.3–4.5 cm/yr; O'Brien and Sachan, 2000).

Maksyutov Complex, South Urals: This complex contains boudins of eclogite, layers of eclogitic gneiss, and rare ultramafic bodies within host metasedimentary mica schist and quartzite recrystallized at 594–637 °C at a minimum P of 1.5–1.7 GPa (Beane et al., 1995; Leech and Ernst, 1998). Documentation of UHP index minerals in the Maksyutov Complex has been more elusive (e.g., Beane and Leech, 2007). Chesnokov and Popov (1965) first interpreted quartz aggregates within garnet exhibiting radial cracks as coesite pseudomorphs, and Dobretsov and Dobretsova (1988) reported relict coesite in garnet from jadeite-quartzite. Leech and Ernst (1998) described mm- to cm-scale cuboid graphitized diamond in pelitic schist and foliation that wraps around these aggregates. Direct evidence for the presence of poorly crystallized microdiamond came from Raman spectroscopy. Bostick et al. (2003) identified what appeared to be three 2–3 μm cuboidal microdiamond inclusions in garnet from eclogite-facies gneiss samples. These microdiamonds were determined to be nanocrystalline aggregates with SEM, which accounted for the Raman broad spectral bands. Based on these spectra and kinetic data for crystallization, Bostick et al. (2003) suggested that these diamonds formed at low temperatures (~ 600 °C) relative to kimberlites or even the Kokchetav Massif described above. The UHP/HP metamorphism with peak metamorphic ages of 370–374 Ma (Shatsky et al., 1995; Beane and Connelly, 1998) may be related to Devonian collision of the Russian platform with a fragment of the Siberian craton, but was affected later by the Triassic suturing of the Kazakhstan block against the Russian platform.

Qinling belt, central China: Very small lenses and blocks of eclogite in the North Qinling terrane are enclosed in amphibolite-facies gneiss and garnet-bearing quartz and phengitic mica schist. Inclusions of coesite in eclogitic garnet (Hu et al., 1995) and of microdiamond in zircons from both eclogite and gneiss have been reported (Yang et al., 2003a). Although individual outcrops are no more than a few meters wide, the belt of eclogites extends more than 10 km. P – T estimates of amphibolitized coesite-bearing eclogite yield 590–758 °C and $P > 2.6$ GPa. U–Pb SHRIMP dating of zircons from granitic gneiss yields 507 ± 38 Ma for the peak UHP metamorphism

(Yang et al., 2003a). Since the report of microdiamond in 2003, extensive search for microdiamond by Chinese investigators has failed to confirm its presence; whether or not Qinling is a UHP terrane remains to be confirmed. The Early Paleozoic belt extends westward more than 4000 km to the North Qaidam-Altun Mountains (Yang et al., 2003a). Two discrete collision events may have occurred between the North and South China blocks: an Early Paleozoic North Qinling UHP belt, and a Triassic suture along with the Dabie-Sulu UHP-HP belt (e.g., Hacker et al., 2004 and references therein).

2.4. Coesite-bearing and new UHP terranes

More than 20 coesite-bearing UHP terranes have been described and extensively reviewed (e.g., Carswell and Compagnoni, 2003; Liou et al., 2004). Other than the UHP terranes described above and below, they include: (a) the Zermatt-Saas area, Western Alps (52 ± 18 Ma, Bowtell et al., 1994; Reinecke, 1991), (b) Mali, Africa (620 Ma, Jahn et al., 2001), (c) Makbal (480 Ma) and Atbashi (270 Ma), Kazakhstan (Tagiri et al., 1995), (d) Central Indonesian UHP terrane (Parkinson et al., 1998; Parkinson and Katayama, 1999), (e) the French Massif Central (Lardeaux et al., 2001), and (f) Neoproterozoic nappes in SE Brazil (640–630 Ma) (Parkinson et al., 2001). These UHP terranes were established by the discovery of inclusions of coesite or coesite pseudomorphs in rigid host minerals such as zircon, garnet or omphacite. Petrologic, geochemical and geochronologic data for these terranes have been described in a previous review (e.g., Liou et al. 2004; Table 1). Several recently recognized near-UHP belts are also listed in Table 1; this includes the Triassic (244–223 Ma) Qiangtang metamorphic belt in central Tibet (Zhang et al., 2006e; Pullen et al., 2008), lawsonite eclogites from Pinchi Lake, British Columbia (Ghent et al., 2009) and from the South Motagua fault zone, Guatemala (Tsujimori et al., 2006a,b). Recent significant findings of a few UHP terranes are summarized below.

Dora Maira Massif, Western Alps: This classical UHP massif (Chopin, 1984) consists of Late Paleozoic and older continental basement rocks metamorphosed under UHP and HP conditions as a result of Mesozoic–Cenozoic convergence of the European and African plates. A coesite-bearing, UHP subunit containing kyanite-eclogites (Fig. 5E) has estimated peak P - T conditions close to the diamond P - T stability field (Compagnoni and Rolfo, 2003). Hermann (2003) integrated experiments in the KCMASH model system with petrological information from white schist, metapelite and eclogite, and obtained a petrogenetic grid suggesting peak metamorphic conditions of ~730 °C and ~4.3 GPa, well within the diamond stability field for the UHP Brossasco-Isasca unit of the southern Dora Maira Massif. The lack of diamond or graphite in marbles, white schists, and other lithologies probably is due to the low temperature of metamorphism, the absence of a free fluid phase in the metapelites, oxidizing conditions, and/or the short residence time of UHP metamorphism under diamond-facies conditions. Recent petrological studies of marbles (Castelli et al., 2007) and phengite-bearing eclogites (Groppo et al., 2007) confirm such P - T conditions and provided calculated f_{O_2} conditions too high for the formation of either diamond during UHP metamorphism or graphite during exhumation.

SHRIMP dating of zircons extracted from gneiss, schist, pyrope inclusions, and pyrope quartzite indicates 240–275 Ma zircon cores and newly formed 35 Ma rims. Thus, UHP metamorphism took place during Oligocene time, with an estimated exhumation rate of 2–2.4 cm/yr (Gebauer et al., 1997). Similar data were obtained by Rubatto and Hermann (2001) who applied *in situ* ion microprobe U-Pb dating of titanite from calc-silicates. The inherited titanite core yields 253–87 Ma, whereas the UHP titanite rim formed at 35.1 ± 0.9 Ma; two distinct stages of titanite formation

during decompression are at 32.9 ± 0.9 and 31.8 ± 0.5 Ma. These data provide an unambiguous P - T - t path for the Dora-Maira UHP rocks with a two-stage exhumation rate changing from 3.4 to 0.5 cm/yr.

Western Tianshan, China: The Chinese Western Tianshan HP-UHP belt extends for about 200 km between the Central Tianshan-Yili plate and the Tarim plate; this belt continues westward to the Atbashi HP-UHP belt, where inclusions of coesite pseudomorphs occur in eclogitic garnet (Tagiri et al., 1995). Recent discovery of coesite inclusions in garnet from a Western Tianshan eclogite (Lu et al., 2008) confirms the earlier suggestion of UHP conditions (Zhang et al., 2002c, 2003d, 2005g). SHRIMP ages of zircons (310–413 Ma protolith ages, and 233–226 ± 4 Ma for UHP) from HP-UHP eclogites and metapelites indicate a Triassic collision event (Zhang et al., 2007c). P - T estimates of the peak UHP stage metamorphism are 500–600 °C and 2.6–2.7 GPa (Wei et al., 2003).

North-East Greenland Caledonides: This UHP terrane was first established by the finding of coesite pseudomorphic inclusions in eclogitic garnet and omphacite, and in garnet of the host gneisses, yielding P - T estimates of ~972 °C and 3.6 GPa (Gilotti and Ravna, 2002). Inclusions of coesite were subsequently reported in zircons from both rock types (McClelland et al., 2006). At such high- T , dehydration melting of phengitic pelites yielded minor leucosomes; metapelites retain inclusions of polycrystalline quartz aggregates, suggesting the former presence of coesite (Lang and Gilotti, 2007). SHRIMP dates for coesite-bearing zircon domains range from 330 to 390 Ma for host gneiss and 330–370 Ma for kyanite eclogite. Combining U-Pb and REE data with observed CL domains of the inclusions suggests that (1) Caledonian metamorphic zircon formed by both new zircon growth and recrystallization, (2) UHP metamorphism occurred near the end of the Caledonian collision, and (3) the 30–50 Myr span of ages records an unusually long duration of eclogite-facies conditions for the UHP rocks (McClelland et al., 2006).

Lanternman Range, Antarctica: In this range, the more than 50 km long Gateway Hills Metamorphic Complex occurs as lenses and pods of UHP eclogite and garnet peridotite within felsic gneisses. Some less-foliated eclogites have inclusions of coesite and coesite pseudomorphs in garnet (Ghiribelli et al., 2002) and were subjected to UHP metamorphism at >850 °C and >2.9 GPa, followed by an amphibolite-facies overprint. Palmeri et al. (2003, 2007) described prograde, peak and retrograde assemblages of felsic gneiss and mantle-derived garnet peridotites interlayered with coesite-bearing eclogite, and documented *in situ* UHP metamorphism for these rocks: the felsic gneiss garnets contain inclusions of coesite pseudomorphs, and the garnet peridotite mineralogy suggests estimated P - T conditions of 3.2–3.3 GPa and 764–820 °C. The UHP event was dated by Grt-Omp-whole rock Sm-Nd and zircon ^{238}U - ^{206}Pb ages at 500 Ma, and the ^{40}Ar - ^{39}Ar ages of Ca-amphibole at 490–486 Ma for the amphibolite-facies overprint. This Paleozoic UHP terrane resulted from the subduction of a paleo-Pacific plate under the pre-Gondwana continental margin.

Himalayan UHP terrane: The Himalayan orogen has long been regarded as a classic locality, reflecting ongoing continental collision between Indian and Eurasian continents since the Eocene. Inclusions of coesite in omphacite, garnet and zircon of eclogites from the Upper Kaghan Valley, Pakistan (O'Brien et al., 2001; Kaneko et al., 2003) and the Tso Moriri area, India (Mukherjee et al., 2003; Sachan et al., 2004) have been documented. Garnet-pyroxene-phengite barometry applied to the eclogites yielded peak P - T conditions of 2.7–2.9 GPa and 690–750 °C (O'Brien et al., 2001). Similar to other UHP terranes, UHP relics are volumetrically minor constituents of the metamorphic belts, which are dominated by retrograde assemblages. In these rocks, hydration related to Barrovian-zone metamorphism resulted in remarkably pervasive

recrystallization during later exhumation; this event has almost entirely masked the UHP mineralogy.

SHRIMP U–Pb dates of zoned zircons containing mineral inclusions formed at different stages indicate the ages of non-UHP mineral-bearing mantle domains of zircon and UHP mineral-bearing rims, are ~50 and ~46 Ma, respectively (Kaneko et al., 2003). New U–Pb ages of 46.4 ± 0.1 Ma for zircon growth at the peak-stage of metamorphism of coesite-bearing eclogite, and 46.4 Ma for retrogressive growth of titanite yield rapid exhumation rates of ~3–8 cm/yr within the mantle (Parrish et al., 2006). This rapid rate is similar to the diffusion modeling estimates of exhumation rate by Massonne and O'Brien (2003). The HP–UHP metamorphic age of ~55 Ma for Tso Moriri eclogites was obtained by Lu–Hf and Sm–Nd methods on garnet, omphacite, glaucophane and the whole rock (de Sigoyer et al., 2000). SHRIMP ages of zoned zircons from Tso Moriri UHP felsic gneiss are 53, 50, and 48 Ma, respectively, for zircon growth at the prograde, peak, and retrograde stages (Leech et al., 2005). However, no evidence linking zircon growth to specific metamorphic conditions (O'Brien, 2006) was presented, and the extent to which any of these ages represent UHP conditions or just three distinct phases of zircon growth remains uncertain.

2.5. Recently recognized UHP terranes

Eastern Papua New Guinea terrane: The world's youngest coesite-bearing eclogite terrane (2–8 Ma) was discovered on Fergusson Island, Eastern Papua New Guinea (Baldwin et al., 2004, 2008). A metamorphic core complex in this region lies in a zone of extension west of the Woodlark Basin spreading center; it consists of a lower plate of complexly deformed gneissic domes and an upper plate of largely undeformed mafic-ultramafic rocks. The metamorphic basement includes a core zone of eclogites, migmatites, gneisses, and mylonitic rocks. Mafic eclogite occurs as lenses in gneisses, has a MORB composition, and records near-UHP conditions of 870–930 °C and >2.4 GPa. Identification of coesite inclusions in eclogitic omphacite was reported in Baldwin et al. (2005, 2008); its occurrence in a 7.9 Ma eclogite indicates that the UHP rocks were subducted to mantle depths and exhumed very rapidly, on the order of cm per year (Baldwin et al. 2005, 2008; Monteleone et al., 2007). The occurrence of Late Miocene–Pliocene HP–UHP eclogite provides a new opportunity to examine UHP processes in the context of neotectonics in the active Australian–Woodlark plate boundary zone.

Pohorje terrane, Eastern Alps: Cretaceous eclogites (quartz-, zoisite-, and kyanite-eclogites) and garnet peridotites crop out in the Pohorje Mountains of Slovenia. Some of these rocks contain evidence of UHP metamorphism, with estimated *P–T* conditions of 3.0–3.1 GPa for eclogite and 760–820 °C, and up to 4 GPa and 900 °C for garnet peridotites (Janak et al., 2004, 2006; de Hoog et al., in press). The eclogites are enclosed in mica schists and gneisses as well as in a large ultramafic complex. UHP evidence includes inclusions of coesite pseudomorphs in garnet, omphacite and kyanite, and a high content of H₂O in Cpx.

Caribbean region: (Hispaniola, Cuba, Guatemala, etc.) A new UHP terrane has been suggested from the Chuacús metamorphic belt in central Guatemala (Ortega-Gutiérrez et al., 2004). The Chuacús complex contains blocks, lenses and layers of HP–UHP eclogites and amphibolitized eclogites in quartzofeldspathic gneiss. Evidence for UHP conditions includes radial fractures around polycrystalline quartz inclusions in garnet and kyanite, and the identification of Na-bearing garnet (0.12 wt% Na₂O). However, the Grt–Cpx–Phn thermobarometry record only near-UHP conditions at ~2.3 GPa and ~700–750 °C (Martens et al., 2007). Although the Chuacús metamorphic belt was displaced by left-lateral strike-slip along the Motagua–Polochic fault system, available geo-

chronologic data suggest the presence of Cretaceous subduction zones along the paleo-North American–Caribbean plate boundary.

Available geochronologic data indicates the presence of abundant Cretaceous subduction zones marking the North American–proto-Caribbean plate boundary, coeval with the last metamorphic event recorded in Chuacús rocks (Martens et al., 2007). The Motagua fault system has displaced the HP complex relative to other Caribbean terranes. Which of these was the collider that triggered Chuacús subduction and eclogite-facies metamorphism remains a matter of debate. It may have been thickened proto-Caribbean oceanic crust (e.g., Rosenfeld, 1993), the Cretaceous Antillean arc (Pindell et al., 2005; García-Casco et al., 2008), or the continental Chortís block (Ortega-Obregón et al., 2008).

Sutures and collisional belts that contain serpentinite-hosted eclogites occur throughout the North American–Caribbean plate boundary, including Cuba (e.g., Schneider et al., 2004), Dominican Republic (e.g., Krebs et al., 2008), and Guatemala (e.g., Harlow et al., 2004; Tsujimori et al., 2006b). Minor mantle-derived UHP garnet-peridotites and eclogites have been documented in Hispaniola (Abbott et al. 2006, 2007). Garnet clinopyroxenite and Cpx garnetite contain the only known natural occurrence of coexisting Grt + Cpx + Spl + corundum as a magmatic assemblage crystallized in a magma chamber under asthenospheric conditions (3.4 GPa, >1550 °C). These mantle-derived ultramafic rocks were subsequently isobarically cooled, included in a Cretaceous subduction-zone, and subjected to coeval UHP metamorphism with the subducted oceanic rocks. Thermobarometry for the ultramafic equilibrium assemblage Ol + Cpx + Grt + Spl suggests that UHP recrystallization took place at >4.2 GPa and ~850 °C. These UHP conditions were further constrained by the growth of symplectitic minerals (Pl + Cpx and Pl + Ep) in amphibolite-facies retrograded eclogites. The symplectitic minerals are interpreted to be the products of the decomposition of two types of omphacite with calculated *P–T* conditions between ~2.8 GPa, ~850 °C and ~4.2 GPa, ~950 °C (Abbott and Draper, 2007). These UHP rocks from the Dominican Republic are unusual inasmuch as they formed at an ocean–ocean convergent plate boundary, without the involvement of continental crust, and the garnet peridotite records in unusual detail UHP magmatic crystallization.

North America cordillera: Garnet peridotites and associated eclogites occur sparsely in some collisional orogens of the western North America cordillera. However, UHP conditions were not demonstrated until detritus of UHP (>2.8 GPa) garnet peridotite and eclogite was documented from the Lower Jurassic Laberge Group sediments in northern British Columbia (MacKenzie et al., 2005). Both coarse-grained graywackes and pebble conglomerates contain angular detrital garnet, pyroxene and olivine. Compositions of some clasts of these minerals and *P–T* estimates (>2.8 GPa; 650–1080 °C) and regional geology (distant from potential mantle xenoliths in alkaline volcanics) suggest that host garnet peridotite and eclogite were products of continental collision. This result suggests that collision in this part of the North America cordillera must have been thick skinned, involving a Proterozoic continental mass with a lithosphere >100 km thick. This finding, similarly to the one in western Australia involving detrital microdiamonds in eclogitic zircons, encourages the search for other evidence of UHP mantle and crustal rocks. Inasmuch as most global UHP terranes are confined to the Phanerozoic (Maruyama and Liou, 1998), the hypothesized Proterozoic UHP orogeny for the North American cordillera requires unambiguous age constraints.

Sanbagawa belt, Japan: The Cretaceous Sanbagawa belt is a classical HP belt of the Pacific-type. This accretionary complex hosts eclogitic metagabbro + UHP garnet peridotites in the Higashi-akashi ultramafic body (Enami et al., 2004b; Ota et al., 2004; Terabayashi et al., 2005). The massif is mainly dunite with lenses, boudins and layers of clinopyroxenite, wehrlite and websterite as a

cumulate sequence. Orthopyroxene coexisting with garnet shows bell-shaped Al zoning with a continuous decrease of Al from core to rim, consistent with rims recording peak metamorphic conditions. Estimated P – T conditions using core and rim compositions of Opx are 1.5–2.4 GPa/700–800 °C and 2.9–3.8 GPa/700–810 °C, respectively, implying a low geothermal gradient during prograde metamorphism (Enami et al., 2004b). The mafic–ultramafic body may have originated either as an ocean island or as a fragment of thick oceanic lithosphere.

Kontum Massif, central Vietnam: The metamorphic basement of the Kontum Massif in central Vietnam includes a variety of ultra-high- T (UHT) pelitic and mafic granulites marking Permo-Triassic (~270–249 Ma) collision between the Indochina and South China blocks. Some UHT mafic granulites record more than five stages of metamorphic recrystallization, characterized by decompression and subsequent cooling from eclogite- through UHT granulite- to amphibolite-facies conditions (Nakano et al., 2007). The mafic granulite consists of coarse-grained granoblastic Grt + Cpx + Rt + Qtz together with a fine-grained symplectite of Opx + Pl ± Mag ± Spl around garnet, and has P – T estimates of 1.3 GPa at 1050 °C and 0.8 GPa at 850 °C. Quartz rods in Cpx, and Rt needles in Grt, with recalculated supersilicic and Ti-rich compositions, respectively, for precursor Cpx and Grt, are suggested as UHP relics. Of course, the occurrence of quartz rods in omphacite is not a reliable UHP indicator as pointed by Page et al. (2005). But in support of UHP conditions, inclusions of microdiamond were identified in zircons of the associated pelitic gneiss; the P – T condition of the peak-pressure stage was estimated to be ~900–930 °C and >4 GPa (Nakano et al., 2006). Sm–Nd internal isochron ages of the host gneiss and a mafic block yield 247 and 240 Ma, respectively. In addition, a U–Pb SHRIMP age of 268 Ma was obtained for zircon from the diamond-bearing pelitic gneiss. Unfortunately, the description of latter is in abstract form only. These petrologic and geochronologic data suggest that both mafic and pelitic granulites underwent coeval UHP recrystallization during continent collision with UHT overprinting during subsequent exhumation. Such a complex multiple-stage metamorphic recrystallization may be common for many collision orogens such as the Bohemian Massif of Eastern Europe and the North Dabie complex of east-central China.

Xenoliths from the Colorado Plateau, USA: Xenoliths of jadeite, omphacite, zoisite-eclogite, kyanite-eclogite, and lawsonite eclogite occur in kimberlitic pipes at Garnet Ridge in the Colorado Plateau; they may have been generated by Cretaceous subduction of the Franciscan Complex in western California, and carried beneath the North American continent on the Fallon plate (Usui et al., 2003, 2006). Lawsonite eclogite with zircon U–Pb ages of 81–33 Ma has a MORB-like bulk-rock composition, and contains Grt + Omp (~43 mol% Jd) + Lws + Rt ± Phe (~3.8 Si pfu) + Coe. Coesite occurs as micro-inclusions in omphacite. Lawsonite is partly replaced by zoisite aggregates. Grt–Cpx–Phe thermobarometry yields ~3.5 GPa at 540 °C.

3. Chinese continental scientific drilling project (CCSD) in Sulu, east-central China

Completed in 2005, the CCSD project was established in 2001 in order to study the size, protoliths and structures of the subducted continental slab, and the formation and exhumation of Sulu UHP rocks, particularly garnet peridotites. Fig. 8 shows locations of several pilot holes drilled to depths of up to 2 km, as well as the 5-km main hole; nearly continuous core samples of felsic gneiss, eclogite and garnet peridotite were recovered. Wide ranging geophysical and geological studies of the regional and local drill sites were undertaken; the results have been or are in process of being pub-

lished in numerous special issues related to the CCSD project, both in Chinese and western journals (e.g., APS, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007). Local journals, written in Chinese, contain many non-referred papers with raw petrologic, geochemical, geochronologic, and geophysical data, plus preliminary findings and interpretations. Some of these papers were rewritten later in English and published either in Chinese or western journals using some of the same data sets and diagrams. These results provide new insights into the tectonics and geodynamics of continental collision and UHP metamorphism, especially concerning problems unresolved from study of surface outcrops. Petrologic and geochemical studies of continuous, unweathered drill core samples add important constraints on the nature and scale of fluid activity and element mobility during the continental subduction-zone metamorphism and exhumation. Many crust-hosted and mantle-derived garnet peridotite cores were recovered and will be described in a later section. The major petrologic and geochemical results for mafic and felsic rocks are outlined below:

Regional UHP metamorphism: Ubiquitous occurrence of coesite inclusions in zircons of felsic gneisses, amphibolites, and eclogites from core samples indicate that the supracrustal rocks (>90% felsic gneisses, <10% eclogites) were subducted to depths >100 km and were subjected to *in situ* UHP metamorphism; the cumulate thickness of the Sulu UHP slab is >5 km (Liu et al. 2001, 2004a,b, 2005, 2006a,b, 2007c; Zhang et al. 2006a,b; Zheng et al. in press). CL images of these zircons reveal low- P inclusions in the cores, coesite and other UHP phases in the mantles, and low- P phases in the rims (Fig. 5B and C). SHRIMP dating of zoned zircons identified three discrete age groups: latest Proterozoic protolith ages (780–750 Ma) in inherited cores, a UHP event in coesite-bearing mantles at 220–240 Ma, and an amphibolite-facies overprint in quartz-bearing rims at 210 ± 10 Ma; these data constrain the rate of exhumation to >5 km/Ma (Liu et al. 2001, 2004a,b, 2007c, 2008a) (Fig. 9). Combined with P – T estimates of mineral inclusions (732–839 °C; 3–4 GPa) and SHRIMP ages of 236–225 Ma for coesite-bearing zircon domains and Ar–Ar ages of 209–207 Ma of matrix amphibole of amphibolites from the CCSD-MH (131.6 m deep), Liu et al. (2008a) further obtained an average rate of 0.3 cm/yr for early exhumation from a mantle depth of 120–100 km to about 40 km; this rate is considerably lower than those obtained for UHP rocks in the Dora Maira and Kochetav massifs (2–3 cm/yr) described above.

Bimodal mid-Neoproterozoic protoliths of UHP rocks: Petrologic and geochemical data, zircon U–Pb ages, and Hf isotopes of UHP bimodal meta-igneous rocks suggest that they were formed during supercontinental rifting in response to the breakup of Rodinia at about 750–780 Ma (e.g., Zheng et al., 2004, 2007c, in press; Chen et al., 2007c). Both major and trace element profiles of continuous drill core segments indicate high mobility of LILE and LREE, but immobility of HFSE and HREE (Zhao et al., 2007d). Some eclogites have andesitic bulk-rock compositions with high SiO₂, alkalis, LREE, and LILE, but low CaO, MgO, and FeO contents. These features likely resulted from chemical exchange, possibly due to metasomatism of felsic melt produced by decompression partial melting of parental gneisses during exhumation. Other eclogites have geochemical affinities to refractory rocks formed by melt extraction, as indicated by strong LREE and LILE depletions and the absence of hydrous minerals (Zhao et al., 2007c). These results provide evidence for relatively dry melt-induced element mobility in UHP metamorphic rocks. Significant variations in the abundance of SiO₂, LREE, and LILE at the contact between eclogite and gneiss indicate small-scale mobility between different lithologies.

Selective and extensive Neoproterozoic meteoric water-rock interactions: The presence of anomalously low $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values in UHP minerals of eclogitic and felsic rocks and granitic minerals mentioned in previous sections suggests extensive meteoric

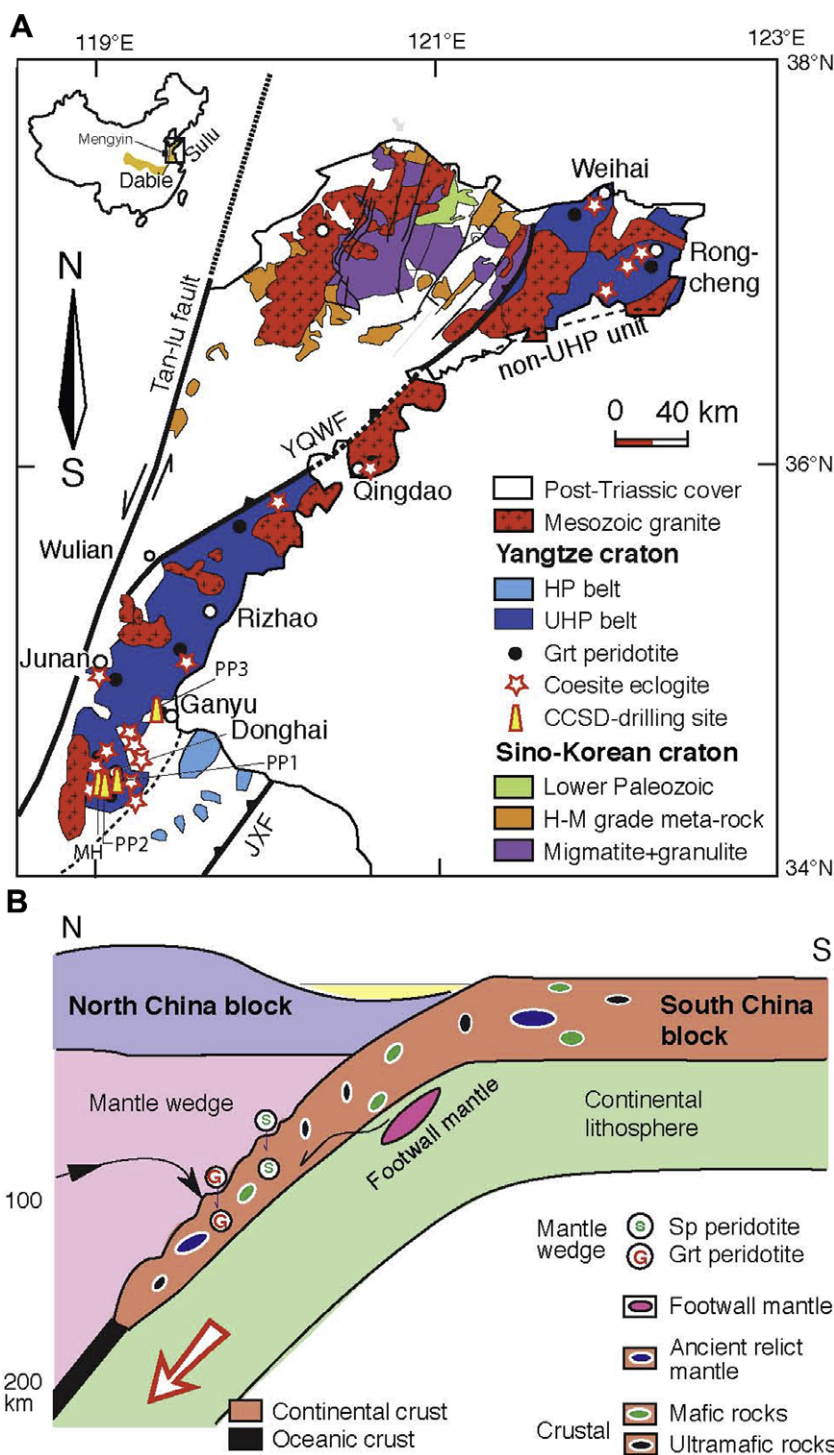


Fig. 8. (A) A schematic geologic map of the Sulu UHP and HP belts showing locations of Grt peridotite, coesite eclogite and CCSD drilling sites. Diamond-bearing kimberlite in Mengyin is about 155 km northwest of Donghai. (B) Tectonic model for Triassic subduction of the South China Block beneath the North China Block showing the tectonic setting for mantle-derived (Type A) and crust-hosted (Type B) Grt peridotite (modified after Zhang et al. (1998, 2000)).

water–rock interactions both prior to and attending Snowball Earth conditions during mid-Neoproterozoic rift magmatism, and limited fluid infiltration during Triassic continental subduction and exhumation (e.g., Yui et al., 1995; Rumble et al., 2003; Zheng et al., 2003a, Chen et al., 2007a; Zhang et al., 2005d). Established $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ profiles for UHP minerals from the depth interval 100–5000 m of the CCSD main hole, coupled with $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ depletion as deep as 3320 m (Zhang et al., 2006c; Chen et al., 2007a), and regional $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ depletion of over 30,000 km² along the Dabie–Sulu belt

(Zheng et al., 2004; Tang et al., 2008a,b; Zhao et al., 2008), have documented a three-dimensional pattern of $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ depletion in a crustal volume of over 100,000 km³ for the northern margin of the South China Block (Wu et al., 2007; Zheng et al., in press).

Extensive amphibolite-facies retrogression during exhumation: Petrologic data for both eclogite and country rocks indicate ubiquitous amphibolite-facies overprinting. Any retrograde fluid present was internally buffered in terms of stable isotope compositions, and the retrograde fluid was of deuteric origin as well as derived

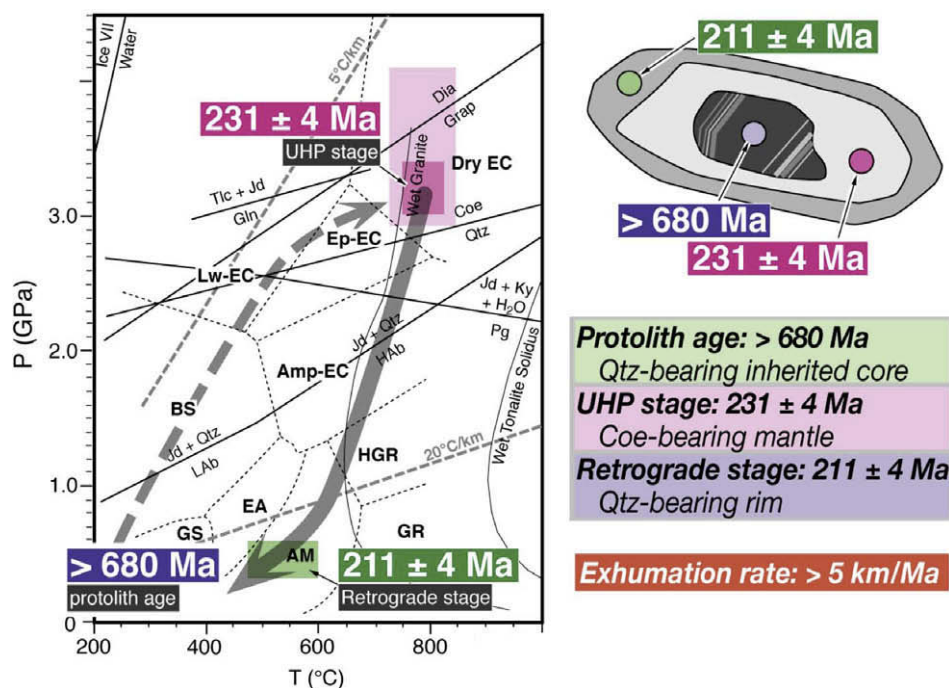


Fig. 9. A P - T path and zircon growth model for Dabie-Sulu eclogitic and gneissic rocks from the prograde stage through UHP stage to retrograde stage with estimated exhumation rate at >5 km/Ma (e.g., Liu et al., 2002a,b).

from the decomposition of structural hydroxyl and molecular water in nominally anhydrous minerals (Chen et al., 2007b; Zhao et al., 2007d). Changes in O- and H-isotopes and water contents of minerals occur at lithologic contacts; retrograde recrystallization of eclogites was principally caused by aqueous fluid from country rock gneisses. Local O isotope heterogeneities between different and similar lithologies on scales of 20–50 cm correspond to the maximum length scales of fluid mobility during exhumation (Chen et al., 2007a,b; Zhao et al., 2007d). Zhang et al. (2003b) documented metasomatic transformation of Dabie eclogite to dark-colored epidote-biotite-rich gneiss, hence the original proportion of UHP mafic eclogite exceeded than those shown on detailed geologic maps. Such features appear to be very limited in Sulu UHP rocks. The suggestion of very limited fluid mobility in Sulu is consistent with the preservation of gabbroic minerals and textures in coesite-bearing eclogite blocks (Zhang and Liou, 1998), the occurrence of matrix coesite in the Yangkou eclogite (Liou and Zhang, 1996), and the preservation of extremely high ϵ Nd values (+260) in Weihai eclogites with very low Nd concentrations (~ 0.5 ppm; Jahn et al., 1996).

Lack of microdiamond in drill hole cores: Zircon, as the most effective container for UHP minerals (e.g., Katayama and Maruyama, in press) has been separated from most core and many surface samples in Sulu, and has been subjected to intensive Raman studies for identification of coesite and microdiamond as well as for SHRIMP age dating. However, to our knowledge, except for a single report of a microdiamond inclusion in zircon from a North Dabie eclogite (Liu et al., 2007b), its *in situ* occurrence has not been documented in any other Dabie-Sulu rocks, including the thoroughly investigated CCSD core samples. Six coarse-grained diamond grains (>500 μ m size) were separated from drill cuttings of the CCSD-main hole at depths between 100–1000 m and 1000–2000 m where eclogites are common (Zhang et al., 2007d,e). These coarse-grained diamonds should be studied to obtain isotopic fingerprints (both C and N) in order to identify their origin as either products of the drilling, or naturally occurring phases (e.g., Cartigny, 2005). Dabie-Sulu microdiamond occurrences are restricted

to both eclogites and garnet peridotites as inclusions in garnet (Xu et al., 1992, 2005). The very limited occurrences of microdiamond in Sulu-Dabie UHP rocks may be related to lack of supracrustal fluids necessary for its formation (e.g., Dobrzhinetskaya and Green, 2007) or to high f_{O_2} UHP metamorphic conditions, as documented by the common occurrence of epidote in eclogites and gneissic rocks (Enami et al. 2004a; Mattinson et al. 2004; Zhang et al., 2005e). Such oxidized protoliths probably reflect the widespread Neoproterozoic meteoric water-rock interactions noted previously.

A host of unusual minerals (moissanite, wustite, kamacite, etc.) and native elements including Fe, Au, Zn, Ni and alloys such as FeSi, FeNi, SiFe and many other phases were identified in drill cuttings of garnet peridotites at depths between 603.2 and 683.5 m of the CCSD-MH (Yang et al., 2005; Zhang et al., 2007e). Several inclusions of moissanite (SiC) in garnets of retrograde eclogites from CCSD-PP2 were also identified by Raman spectroscopy; its occurrence was used to imply that some Sulu eclogites were subjected to UHP metamorphism at extremely high P - T (>1300 °C, >6.0 GPa) and extremely reduced conditions at subduction depths >200 km (Qi et al., 2007). The 1000 m core of PP2 comprises mainly gneissic rocks with minor eclogites; *in situ* UHP metamorphism was well documented by ubiquitous occurrence of coesite inclusions in zircon (Liu et al., 2001, 2002a). Natural moissanite has also been described by Xu et al. (2006a) in a southern Dabie serpentine. Because this phase has been reported mainly as inclusions in kimberlitic diamond elsewhere (e.g., Leung, 1990; Mathez et al., 1995), its possible metastable or detrital origin in Dabie-Sulu HP-UHP rocks remains to be investigated.

4. Orogenic garnet peridotites

Our knowledge concerning the composition of the subcontinental lithospheric mantle (SCLM) is mainly based on mantle xenoliths, xenocrysts and mantle-derived volcanic rocks. Detailed, integrated petrochemical, mineralogical and geochronological studies

of orogenic garnet peridotites provide additional constraints on mantle processes, and the composition and evolution of the mantle wedge lying above a subduction zone. In most of the UHP terranes described above, garnet peridotites are widespread as a minor but significant component (Fig. 10). They have been intensively investigated inasmuch as many exhibit long-preserved histories in both mantle settings and deep continental subduction zones. The discovery of deep-seated minerals in garnet peridotites from several UHP terranes mentioned in the previous sections (see Table 3 and Fig. 10 for a summary) provides important information about mantle dynamics. How are these deep (>200 km) mantle rocks transported to shallow levels of the lithosphere, and how are they incorporated into subducted continental slabs (e.g., Brueckner, 1998, 2006; Brueckner and Medaris, 2000)?

Furthermore, some garnet peridotites and their host UHP continental rocks have experienced subduction-zone UHP metamorphism under P – T “forbidden zone” conditions involving very low thermal gradients (≤ 5 °C/km) (e.g., Liou et al., 2000; Zhang et al., 2003a, 2004a,b). High-pressure experiments reveal that numerous hydrous dense magnesian silicates (HDMS) could be stable in this low- T , high- P environment (e.g., Ulmer and Trommsdorff, 1999; Komabayashi et al., 2005). Therefore, cold subduction zones are sites of major recycling of H_2O into the mantle, as described in the following sections. These findings have advanced our knowledge of the thermal structure of subduction zones, and the recycling of volatiles back into the mantle (e.g., Ohtani, 2005; Ernst and Liou, 2008, and references therein).

4.1. Mantle- vs. crust-derived garnet peridotites

The distributions, petrologic–geochemical characteristics, and origins of garnet peridotites in UHP terranes have been extensively reviewed (e.g., Brueckner and Medaris, 1998; Medaris, 1999; Zhang et al., 2004a, 2007a; Liou et al., 2007; Reverdatto et al., 2008). Most of these rocks are Mg–Cr types, derived from depleted upper mantle, but some are Fe-rich, and originated by crystallization of mafic-ultramafic complexes. The peridotites are polymetamorphic, with UHP garnet-bearing assemblages followed by a

succession of retrograde assemblages related to exhumation and cooling; some also contain evidence for a pre-UHP stage, such as spinel inclusions in garnet and the Archean-stage majoritic garnet shown in Fig. 4 (Brueckner et al., 2004; Beyer et al., 2004; Scambelluri et al., 2008).

Garnet peridotites occur as m-to-km sized blocks and lenses in gneiss, and show massive, granoblastic or porphyroblastic textures. Most garnet peridotites are partially to completely serpentized and deformed; only 0–30 vol% relict Grt-bearing assemblages are preserved in the central parts of such ultramafic bodies. The CCSZ project in Sulu has recovered many drill cores of slightly serpentized Grt peridotites. Exsolution microstructures in olivine, garnet and diopside, and high- P clinostannite are common (Zhang and Liou, 2003, 1998; Zhang et al., 1994, 1999, 2002a, 2003c; Hacker et al., 1997).

Table 3 summarizes petrologic, geochemical and geochronologic data for recognized Grt peridotites beyond that presented by Medaris (1999) and summarized by Ernst et al. (2007). Numerous tectonic origins for Grt peridotites in UHP terranes have been suggested. For simplicity, we suggested three different types based on their origin as (a) continental lithosphere, (b) low- P crustal mafic-ultramafic cumulate bodies, and (c) oceanic lithosphere.

Type A mantle-derived garnet peridotites from continental lithosphere: Type A mantle-derived peridotites are either residual mantle fragments, or peridotite and pyroxenite differentiated from mantle-derived magma in the uppermost mantle; they possess isotopic and geochemical signatures of the mantle subduction-zone hanging wall. Most Type A Grt peridotites are the Mg–Cr types of Medaris and Carswell (1990) and contain higher MgO, Cr_2O_3 and NiO and lower “fertile” elements (such as TiO_2 , Al_2O_3 , CaO, and FeO) than those of the primitive mantle as defined by Sun and McDonough (1989).

For example, massive-to-layered peridotites of the Western Gneiss Region are fragments of ancient depleted mantle, and were subsequently included in the Caledonian UHP terrane (e.g., Brueckner, 1998; Carswell et al., 2006). The early assemblages in the WGR peridotites have Sm–Nd Proterozoic ages (Brueckner and Medaris, 1998; Brueckner et al., 2003) and Archean (2.7–3.1 Ga) Re–Os ages

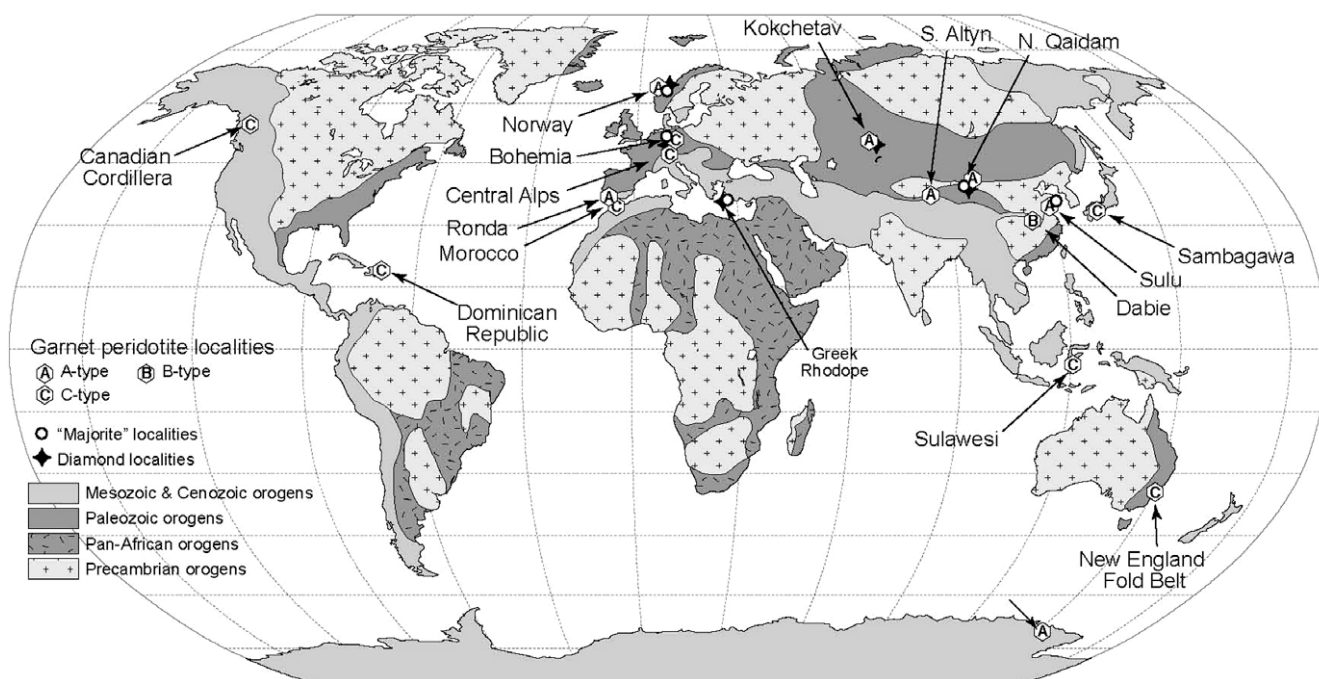


Fig. 10. Global distribution and peak metamorphic age of various types of garnet peridotites (see Table 3 and text for details) (modified after Ernst et al. (2007)).

Table 3

Characteristics of garnet peridotites in UHP metamorphic belts worldwide (mineral abbreviations after Kretz (1983)).

Terrane	Type	Modes of occurrence	Rock types ^a	Mineral assemblage	Peak-stage <i>T–P</i> (°C, GPa)	Metamorphic age in Ma ^b	References
<i>Sulu, Eastern China</i>							
Rongcheng	A	Blocks in gneiss	LZ, DN	Grt + Ol + Opx + Cpx	820–920; 4–6	242 ± 8	Zhang et al. (1994), Zhao et al. (2006)
Yangkou		Layers and blocks in gneiss	LZ, CP	Ol + Cpx + Opx + Grt + Amp	750 ± 50; >4	Triassic	Zhang et al. (2005b)
Rizhao	A	Lans and blocks in gneiss	DN, CP	Grt + Cpx + Ilm + Chl ± Ol	>820; >4	215–225 ± 2	Zhang et al. (1994, 2000), Zhang and Liou (2003), Zhao et al. (2007a,b)
Donghai: CCSD-PP1	A	118 m cores in gneiss	LZ, HZ, DN	Grt + Ol + Opx + Cpx ± Phl	~800; 4–6	221 ± 3	Zhang et al. (2005a), Yang et al. (2007a,b)
CCSD-PP3	B	480 m cores in gneiss	DN, HZ	Grt + Ol + Opx ± Cpx	~720; 5–6	240 ± 2	Chen et al. (2005), Yang et al. (2005)
CCSD-MH	B	Layered mafic–ultramafic	WR, DN	Grt + Ol + Cpx ± Opx	825; >6	220–240	Yang et al. (2007a,b), Zhang et al. (in press)
<i>Dabie, Eastern China</i>							
Bixiling	B	Layered mafic–ultramafic	LZ, WR, WB	Grt + Ol + Opx + Cpx ± Chu ± Mgs	820–950; 4.7–6.7	Triassic	Zhang et al. (1995b, 2000), Chavagnac and Jahn (1996)
Maowu	B	Layered ultramafic	HZ, CP, OP	Ol + Opx + Grt + Cpx + Rt ± Mz	750 ± 50; 4–6	~220–230	Liou and Zhang (1996), Zhang et al. (1998), Jahn et al. (2003a,b)
Raobazhai	?	Fault block	DN, HZ	Ol + Opx + Cpx + Spn ± Grt	>1100; 1.8–2.2	Triassic	Zhang et al., 1996; Tsai and Liou. (2000)
<i>Western China</i>							
Altun Tagh	A	Blocks in gneiss	LZ, WR, CP	Grt + Ol ± Opx + Cpx ± Mgs	890–970; 3.8–5.1	~493–500	Liu et al. (2002a,b), Zhang et al. (2005)
N Qaidam	A	Block, lens, layers in gneiss	LZ, DN, CP	Grt + Ol + Opx + Cpx	780–850; >2.7–4.5	420–423	Yang and Jahn (2000), Yang et al. (2003a), Song et al. (2004, 2005a,b), Zhang et al. (2004a,b)
<i>Indonesia</i>							
Sulawesi	C	Fault slice and xenolith in granite	LZ	Ol + Grt + Opx + Cpx	1025–1200; 2.6–4.8	Cretaceous	Kardarusman and Parkinson (2000)
<i>SW Japan</i>							
Sanbagawa	C	Lens, boudins or layers	DN, CP, WR, WB	Grt + Ol + Cpx + Cr–Sp ± Opx	700–810; 2.9–2.38	Cretaceous	Enami et al. (2004a,b), Mizukami et al. (2004)
<i>Northern Kazakhstan</i>							
Kokchetav	B	Block in gneiss	PD	Ol + Grt + Ti–Chu ± Ilm ± Cpx ± Phl	790–880; 4–6	554–494	Muko et al. (2002), Katayama et al. (2003)
<i>Western Gneiss Region</i>							
Kalskaret	A	Large body in gneiss	PD	Grt + Ol + Opx + Cpx	890–950; 4.2–4.4	Proterozoic – Archean	Medaris (1999, 1980, 1984), Jamtveit et al. (1991), Beyer et al. (2004)
Lien	A	Large body in gneiss	PD	Opx + Grt + Ol + Cpx	850–900; 3.6–3.9	Proterozoic – Archean	Medaris (1999, 1980, 1984)
Rodhaugen	A	Large body in gneiss	PD	Opx + Grt + Ol + Cpx	740–859; 2.3–3.6	Proterozoic – Archean	Medaris (1999), Carswell (1981)
Sandvika	A, B	Large body in gneiss	PD	Opx + Grt + Ol + Cpx	930–950; 4.4–5.0	Proterozoic – Archean	Medaris (1999), Jamtveit (1984, 1987)
Raudhaugene, Otroy, Flemsey, Fjortoft	A	Large body in gneiss		Opx + Grt + Ol + Cpx	740–890; 2.3–4.3	Proterozoic – Archean	Carswell (1986), van Roermund et al. (2002), Beyer et al. (2004), Spengler et al. (2006), Carswell et al. (2006)
<i>Bohemian Massif</i>							
Moldanubian	A, B, C	Lenses in gneiss and granulite	PD, CP	Ol + Grt + Cpx + Opx	815–1330; 2.4–5.6	~370–330	Medaris (1999), Medaris et al. (2005, 2006), O'Brien and Rötzler (2003)
Erzgebirge	A	Elongate body in gneiss and granulite	PD	Ol + Grt + Opx + Cpx	800–900; 2.9–3.2	Variscan	Schmadicke and Evans (1997)
S. Carpathians	A, B	Lenses in gneiss	PD	Opx + Grt + Ol + Cpx	1150–1300; 2.5–3.2	310–360	Medaris (1999), Medaris et al. (2005, 2006)
Ronda	A	Large massif	LZ	Grt + Ol + Opx + Cpx + Dia	1080–1240; 2.1–2.8	Alpine (21–25)	Reisberg et al. (1989), Medaris (1995, 2006)
<i>Western Alps</i>							
Lepontine Alps	C	Large boudins	PD	Grt + Ol + Opx + Cpx	775–820; 3.4–3.7	Alpine	Evans and Trommsdorff (1978)
Alpe Arami	A	Large lens	LZ	Grt + Ol + Opx + Cpx + Chu	840–1130; 3.4–5.2	Alpine	Dobrzhinetskaya et al. (1996), Brenker and Brey (1997)

(continued on next page)

Table 3 (continued)

Terrane	Type	Modes of occurrence	Rock types [*]	Mineral assemblage	Peak-stage <i>T</i> – <i>P</i> (°C, GPa)	Metamorphic age in Ma ^{**}	References
Eastern Alps Pohorje Mtns	A	Bounins in gneiss	HZ, DN	Grt + Ol + Opx + Cpx + Spn	~900; 4	Upper Cretaceous	Janak et al. (2006)
Antarctica Lantermann Range	A	Lenses in Eclogite + Gneiss	PD	Grt + Ol + Opx + Cpx	764–820; 3.2–3.4	486–490	Palmeri et al. (2007)
Dominican Republic	C	Boulders		Ol + Grt + Cpx + Spl ± Crn	1570–1540; >3.4	Late Cretaceous	Abbott et al. (2006)
British Columbia	C	Detrital Grt, Cpx and Ol in conglomerate	PD		800–950; 3–6	>192–183	MacKenzie et al. (2005)

^{*} Abbreviations for rock types: LZ, Lherzolite; DN, Dunite; HZ, Harzburgite; CP, Clinopyroxenite; OP, Orthopyroxenite; WR, Wehrlite; WB, Websterite; PD, Peridotite.

^{**} Most ages are SHRIMP data.

of sulfides (Beyer et al., 2004), close to the crystallization ages of the host gneisses. Archean ages imply a melt-extraction event in the lithospheric mantle that predated growth of the Proterozoic upper crust in the region. This finding suggests that some Proterozoic subcontinental lithospheric mantle may be refertilized Archean mantle.

On the other hand, Sulu massive, relatively homogeneous Grt peridotites from eastern China are in fault contact with country rock gneiss; they exhibit either near-equigranular or porphyroblast textures, and contain lenses of bi-mineralic coesite-bearing eclogites. Type A Sulu Grt lherzolite and pyroxenite mainly preserve mantle $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values ranging from +4.8 to +5.6, +4.7, and +4.5 to 5.6‰ for garnet, olivine and clinopyroxene, respectively (Zhang et al., 1998, 2000; Zheng et al., 2003b). The bulk rocks tend to have low $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ (0.7038–0.7044) and $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ values of 0.5123–0.5124. It should be noted that low *P/T* Grt peridotites of Medaris (1999) including those from the Bohemia Massif are included here; these bodies evolved from spinel peridotites and contain abundant inclusions of spinel in garnet, and equilibrated at temperatures ranging from 1000 to 1300 °C. SHRIMP U–Pb isotopic analyses and morphological characterization of zircon separates from surface and drill core samples of Sulu Grt peridotites provide important constraints regarding whether or not these mantle-derived rocks experienced subduction-zone metamorphism. Most zircons from Chinese Grt peridotites lack inherited magmatic cores with oscillatory zoning, implying a metamorphic origin. SHRIMP U–Pb dating of zircons from Sulu peridotites and enclosed eclogite lenses have yielded UHP metamorphic ages of 220–240 Ma (Yang et al., 2003b; Zhang et al., 2004a; Zhao et al., 2005, 2006a; Zheng et al., 2006a), consistent with the 230 ± 10 Ma UHP ages for the country rocks (Table 4).

However, reconnaissance study of Hf isotopic compositions and U–Pb upper-intercept ages of zircon separates yield Paleoproterozoic, even Archean, Hf modal ages for other Sulu Grt peridotites (Zheng et al., 2006a). This suggests that some peridotites had long residence times in the mantle wedge prior to involvement in the Triassic subduction. The peridotitic zircons have trace element characteristics similar to kimberlitic or carbonatitic zircons (Zheng et al., 2005a). Moreover, strong depletion of the CCSD-PP1 peridotite in basaltic components and the relatively non-radiogenic Hf isotopic compositions of peridotitic zircons indicate that this Sulu type A peridotite is a fragment of refractory Archean mantle that underwent Neoproterozoic metasomatism; it represents a tectonic insertion into a younger descending slab, and was subjected to UHP recrystallization involving fluids derived from the subducted continental crust (Zheng et al., 2006b). Multi-stage metasomatism was pointed out by Zhang et al. (2007b) involving a distinct parageneses of phlogopite, Ti-clinohumite, magnesite and dolomite in addition to garnet and clinopyroxene. Similarly, Malaspina et al. (2008) identified two discrete stages of UHP metamorphism and metasomatism

of PP1 garnet peridotites in the mantle-wedge and in the subduction zone, respectively. The first-stage metasomatism involved a melt with alkaline character under high-temperature conditions ($T > 1000$ °C and $P > 5.0$ GPa) whereas the second-metasomatism resulted from interactions with an incompatible element- and silicate-rich fluid during Triassic UHP metamorphism. The *P*–*T* path of Dabie–Sulu Type A Grt peridotites is illustrated in Fig. 11A.

Type B garnet peridotites from ultramafic portions of crustal mafic-ultramafic complexes: Protoliths of these Grt peridotites were differentiated from mafic magma prior to continental subduction; they are interlayered with eclogites of various compositions. Those from Dabie (e.g., Bixiling and Maowu) and from the CCSD main-hole cores are characterized by (1) a well-developed banded or layered structure, (2) occurrence of low-*P* mineral inclusions in garnets, (3) preservation of relatively light isotope composition of oxygen ($\delta^{18}\text{O} < 5$ ‰), and (4) an earlier crustal intrusion age (~300–500 Ma), and a Triassic (~220–230 Ma) UHP metamorphic age (Chavagnac and Jahn, 1996; Jahn et al., 2003b; Yang et al., 2007a). Type B mafic-ultramafic complexes exhibit a large variation in major elements, and generally contain lower MgO and higher SiO₂, CaO, TiO₂, Al₂O₃, and FeO than type A peridotites (Zhang et al., 2000). The trace element characteristics of clinopyroxene and phlogopite from the Maowu websterite and orthopyroxenite (Malaspina et al., 2008) appear to be similar to the estimated residual fluid compositions in equilibrium with the country granitic gneiss (Xia et al., 2008). Such data led Malaspina et al. (2008) to conclude that the fluids produced from reactions at the slab–mantle interactions may produce phlogopite, which plays an important role in controlling LILE characteristics of the slab-derived fluid in subduction zones. The *P*–*T* path of Dabie–Sulu Type B Grt peridotites is shown in Fig. 11B.

Petrologic and geochemical studies of a variety of eclogites and layered ultramafics from both CCSD main hole cores and adjacent drill core, trench and surface samples have concluded that the protolith of the Maobei UHP complex was a Neoproterozoic (773 ± 8.0 Ma) layered intrusive consisting of a basal peridotite, and a main body of gabbro and minor granodiorite (e.g., Zhang et al., 2006b; Chen et al., 2007c). The bulk compositions of these rocks exhibit the characteristic trends of fractional crystallization as typified by the Skaergaard intrusion. On the other hand, SHRIMP dating of zircons from a wehrlite from the CCSD-MH yielded a Paleozoic age (~346–461 Ma) for mafic-ultramafic intrusions and a Mesozoic age (~220–240 Ma) for the UHP metamorphism (Yang et al., 2007a). These protolith ages are inconsistent with its interpretation as a Neoproterozoic layered intrusion. Such disagreement may result from incorrect assignment of concordant U–Pb data for the SHRIMP spot ages (Yang et al., 2007a). Alternatively, eclogite of various types and peridotite from the CCSD-MH may have been the products of fractional crystallization of a single magma or multiple mafic intrusions of different ages.

Table 4

Summary of U–Pb ages (in Ma) of different Sulu UHP rocks.

Locality	Rock type or sample ^a	Protolith	Prograde	Peak	Retrograde	References
<i>Ultramafics</i>						
CCSD-PP1	Gr _t PD (C24)			221 ± 3 [†]		Zhang et al. (2005)
CCSD-PP1	Gr _t PD (C50)			220 ± 2 ^{**}		Zhang et al. (2005)
CCSD-PP1	Gr _t PD (C27)				212 ± 3 ^{**}	Zhang et al. (2005)
CCSD-PP3	Gr _t PD	726 ± 56		240 ± 3 [†]		Yang et al. (2005)
CCSD-MH	Gr _t WR	346–461		223.3 ± 4.1		Yang et al. (2007a,b)
Xugou	Gr _t PD (XG13)		244.6 ± 7.6	227.8 ± 7.1		Liu et al. (2006)
Rongcheng	DN			242 ± 8		Zhao et al. (2006)
Rizhao	Gr _t CP			215 ± 2		Zhao et al. (2007a,b)
Rizhao	Gr _t CP			225 ± 1.8		Li et al. (2008)
Weihai	Gr _t PD	581 ± 44		221 ± 12		Yang et al. (2003a,b)
Zhimafang	Gr _t PD			216–233*		Rumble et al. (2002)
<i>Eclogite in Gr_t peridotite</i>						
Xugou				236 ± 3		Zhao et al. (2005)
Xugou	XG07		244.8 ± 2.8	224.8 ± 2.7		Liu et al. (2006)
Xugou	XG09			242.0 ± 2.9		Liu et al. (2006)
Rongcheng	CJ4A			238 ± 3		Zhao et al. (2006)
Rongcheng	CJ4C			232 ± 7		Zhao et al. (2006)
Rongcheng	CJ4D			218 ± 5		Zhao et al. (2006a)
Rongcheng	MC		225 ± 2			Zhao et al. (2007a,b)
Rongcheng	CD01		240.5 ± 4.7	227.0 ± 2.6	207 ± 6	Liu et al. (2006)
<i>Eclogite or retrograded eclogite in gneiss</i>						
CCSD-MH	G12 (131.6 m)	695–520		229 ± 3 [†]	214 ± 3 [†]	Liu et al. (2008a)
CCSD-MH	ZN76 (249.5 m)	647–446		221.6 ± 3.8		Zhang et al. (2006a,b,c,d)
CCSD-MH	511.2 m	774–508				Zhang et al. (2006a,b,c,d)
CCSD-MH	ZN73			220 ± 11		Zhang et al. (in press)
CCSD-MH	ZN77			222.0 ± 4.7		Zhang et al. (in press)
CCSD-MH	ZG64			221.5 ± 3.3		Zhang et al. (in press)
CCSD-MH	ZG65			214.2 ± 2.7		Zhang et al. (in press)
CCSD-MH	ZK66			218.2 ± 3.3		Zhang et al. (in press)
CCSD-MH	(543.6 m)	672–458		218 ± 9		Zhang et al. (2006)
CCSD-MH	ZD83 (728.0 m)	730–557		216.8 ± 8.7		Zhang et al. (2006)
CCSD-MH	736.01 m	767 ± 28		227 ± 24		Chen et al. (2007a,b,c)
CCSD-MH	930.52 m			221 ± 2		Chen et al. (2007a,b,c)
South Sulu	G13	659–520		231 ± 3 [†]	214 ± 3 [†]	Liu et al. (2008a)
South Sulu		762 ± 28 ^{**}		217 ± 9 ^{**}		Ames et al. (1996)
Weihai	SL-91-28	1822 ± 25 ^{**}		232 ± 56 ^{**}		Yang et al. (2003a,b)
Junnan	LJ-32		243.1 ± 1.4	227.2 ± 3.6		Liu et al. (2006)
<i>Paragneiss</i>						
CCSD-MH	736.46 m	785 ± 19		228 ± 3		Chen et al. (2007a,b,c)
CCSD-MH	930.32 m	783 ± 34		220 ± 12		Chen et al. (2007a,b,c)
CCSD-PP2	Paragneiss (S1)	743–345 [®]		228 ± 5	208 ± 4	Liu et al. (2004a)
CCSD-PP2	Allanite-bearing (S27)	719 ± 12 [®]		229 ± 7	210 ± 2	Liu and Xue (2007)
CCSD-MH	Paragneiss (ZK-2304)	751 ± 29		227 ± 9		Liu et al. (2005)
<i>Paragneiss</i>						
CCSD-PP2	S2	680–574		232 ± 4	213 ± 5	Liu et al. (2004a)
CCSD-PP2	Allanite-bearing (S28)	696–760		230 ± 7	211 ± 3	Liu and Xue (2007)
CCSD-MH	S2	810–910 ^{**}		227 ± 2	209 ± 3	Liu et al. (2004b)
CCSD-MH	ZE83			220 ± 8		Zhang et al. (in press)
CCSD-MH	ZE85			220.5 ± 9.4		Zhang et al. (in press)
CCSD-MH	ZE87	777 ± 4.1 [†]		217.4 ± 3.6		Zhang et al. (in press)
CCSD-MH	ZH64			223 ± 16		Zhang et al. (in press)
CCSD-MH	ZL44	767 ± 29				Zhang et al. (in press)
CCSD-MH	ZJ66			217.2 ± 1.8		Zhang et al. (in press)
CCSD-MH	ZO71			217.3 ± 3.4		Zhang et al. (in press)
CCSD-MH	ZM75			221.2 ± 3.7		Zhang et al. (in press)
CCSD-MH	ZO77	776 ± 19		217.3 ± 3.4		Zhang et al. (in press)
Weihai, Rongcheng				226 ± 2 ^{††}	218 ± 2 ^{††}	Hacker et al. (2006)
Weihai	SU45				215 ± 6	Leech et al. (2005)
Qinglongshan		684–754		221*		Rumble et al. (2002)
Qinglongshan	99QL19	702 ± 130 ^{**}		218 ± 16 ^{**}		Zheng et al. (2004)
Rizhao	00LS17	751 ± 72 ^{**}		224 ± 27 ^{**}		Zheng et al. (2004)
Yangkou	00YK10	798 ± 75 ^{**}		224 ± 14 ^{**}		Zheng et al. (2004)
<i>Marble in gneiss</i>						
Donghai	H4	1722–503	246 ± 3	234 ± 4	213 ± 6	Liu et al. (2006)

*, ages not included in Fig. # due to the lack of uncertainty; **, Intercept age; [®], detrital; [†], weighted mean age; ^{††}, Concordia age; ^{†††}, ages for eclogite in gneiss except for that in Rongcheng (eclogite in garnetperidotite); CJ, Chijiadian; MC, Macaokuang.

^a Abbreviations for ultramafics are the same as Table 3; MH: main hole.

Type C garnet peridotites from oceanic lithosphere: Protoliths of footwall mantle of a subducted slab could have been serpentinized

prior to HP–UHP metamorphism. These ultramafics may be part of an ophiolitic sequence that was emplaced in the crust prior to sub-

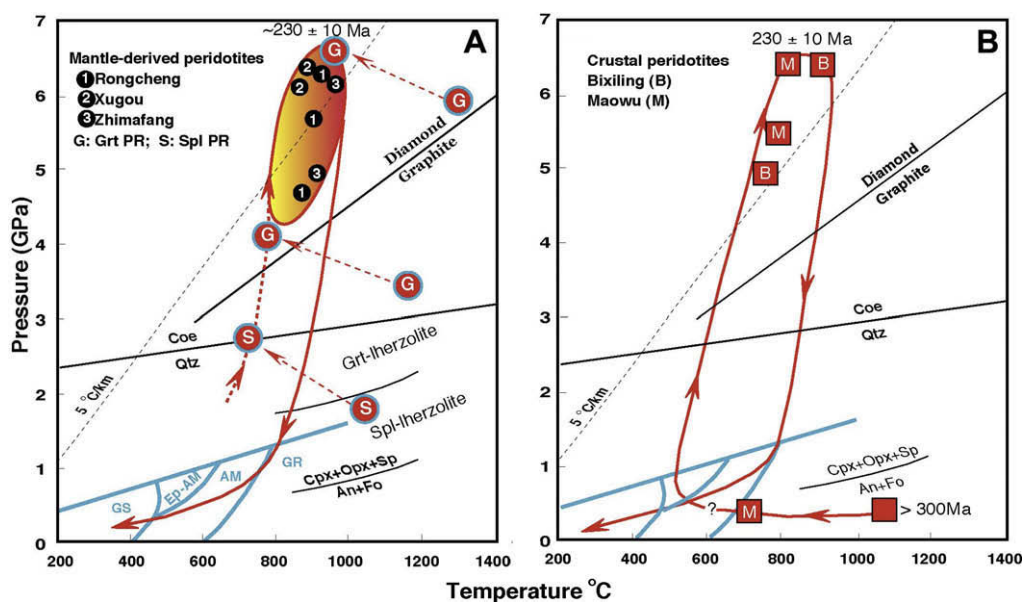


Fig. 11. *P*–*T* path of Types A (A) and B (B) garnet peridotites from the Dabie–Sulu terrane (after Zhang et al. (2004a,b)).

duction. Thus some Grt peridotites of the Western and Ligurian Alps may be associated with eclogites of HP transformed rodingitized gabbros and have geochemical evidence of seawater alteration. Geochemically, such Grt peridotites are difficult to differentiate from Type A mantle-derived from the hanging wall. Therefore, only a very few global Grt peridotites, chiefly from the Central Alps (e.g., Cima di Gagnone and Monte Duria bodies) have been assigned to this group. Similarly some North Qaidam Grt peridotites described by Song et al. (2007, this issue) and those in the Caribbean regions (Abbott et al., 2006) are of ophiolitic origin.

4.2. Microstructures of UHP minerals in garnet peridotites and other UHP rocks

Exsolution of anhydrous mineral lamellae: Studies of microminerals and exsolution structures have revealed numerous preserved deep-seated features formed at much higher *P* than values estimated using the conventional (e.g., Grt–Opx) geobarometer (Liou et al., 1998; Zhang and Liou, 1998). The best example was the report by Dobrzhinetskaya et al. (1996) of micron-sized FeTiO₃ rods and plates of chromite in olivine from the Alpe Arami garnet–Iherzolite, Central Alps. These authors hypothesized that the lamellae exsolved from perovskite originally formed at 10–15 GPa (300–450 km). From the abundance, morphology, crystallography, and topotaxy of these oxides, they argued that the inferred very high solubility of highly-charged cations (Ti and Cr) represented previously unrecognized mantle conditions at *P* > 10 GPa. Subsequent UHP experiments (Dobrzhinetskaya et al., 2000) and observations of exsolved Ca-poor pyroxene displaying antiphase domains in diopside (Green et al., 1997; Bozilov et al., 1999, 2003) supported the idea of an extremely deep origin (>300 km) for the Alpe Arami Grt peridotite (Brenker and Brey, 1997). On the other hand, Ulmer and Trommsdorff (1997, 1999), Risold et al. (2001) and Hermann et al. (2005) interpreted the oriented ilmenite lamellae in olivine to indicate a prograde history for the host peridotite, in which Ti–clinohumite broke down to form olivine and ilmenite.

Precursor majoritic garnet that formed prior to and during UHP metamorphism was discussed in a previous section for Grt peridotites from the West Gneiss Region (Fig. 4; van Roermund et al., 2000; Spengler et al., 2006; Scambelluri et al., 2008), China (Zhang and Liou, 2003; Zhang et al. 2003a,c; Song et al., 2004, this issue),

and the Bohemian Massif (Massonne and Bautsch, 2002). However, formation of such UHP solid-solution phases may have taken place either in the deep upper mantle, then sequestered in the mantle wedge such as in Norway, or in a subduction-zone such as in eastern China. The mechanism for the insertion of mantle–wedge fragments into a subducting slab remains to be further investigated.

Exsolution of hydrous phases: K-bearing pargasite lamellae in clinopyroxene inclusions within garnet megacrysts from the Rizhao Grt clinopyroxenite (Fig. 6A), and phlogopite lamellae in Donghai Iherzolitic diopside show topotaxial intergrowths, and are confined to cores of the host clinopyroxene (Zhang et al., 2003c; Chen and Xu, 2005). These K- and OH-bearing exsolved phases suggest that the primary clinopyroxene could have incorporated a considerable amount of K₂O and H₂O under UHP conditions, as documented in clinopyroxene inclusions in Kokchetav zircons (Katayama et al., 2003). This conclusion is consistent with UHP experiments demonstrating the solubility of K in clinopyroxene (Luth, 1997; Harlow, 1997). Similar exsolution lamellae of sodic Amp + Rt in garnet from the North Qaidam Grt peridotite, western China, have been interpreted (Song et al., 2005b, this issue) to represent decompression products from depths >200 km of supersilicic majorite typified by high concentrations of Na₂O (0.3 wt%) and hydroxyl (up to 1000 ppm). Thus, majoritic garnet and supersilicic clinopyroxene could be important reservoirs of H₂O at mantle depths in addition to HDMS and other nominally anhydrous silicates. However, based on the observed inclusions of low-*P* minerals in porphyroblastic olivine, garnet and pyroxene of Grt peridotites described in previous sections, Yang and Powell (2008) argued against the exsolution model for the oriented amphibole lamellae in garnet and ultra-deep origin of Grt peridotites described by Song et al. (2004). Yang and Powell (2008) further posed an important question regarding the interpretation of oriented Rt + pyroxene ± Amp lamellae in garnet as ultra-deep origin (also see Hwang et al. (2007)).

Polymorphic transformations: Clinoenstatite lamellae (low-*P* P2₁/c structure) in orthoenstatite may have formed either by inversion from Opx or by a displacive transformation from UHP Cpx during decompression of Chinese Grt peridotites. Low-*P* clinoenstatite lamellae have a composition identical with host enstatite from some Sulu–Dabie ultramafics (Zhang et al., 2002a, 2003a). Those in the Alpe Arami Grt peridotite apparently formed during mantle

upwelling prior to Alpine subduction, and those in the Dabie Bixiling Type B Grt peridotite (Liu et al., 2007a) formed during exhumation of the UHP terrane. Experiments indicate that Opx transforms to UHP Cpx at $P > 8$ GPa, 900 °C, corresponding to a mantle depth of ~300 km (e.g., Ulmer and Stalder, 2001). Growth of UHP clinoenstatite and inferred precursor majoritic garnets may have formed at great depth in the mantle wedge long before insertion into the downgoing continental lithospheric plate, and then recrystallized during subduction-zone metamorphism. In Bixiling, lamellae of low- P Cpx with $P2_1/c$ space group symmetry present in diopside contain nanoscale antiphase domains indicating an original formation with $C2/c$ symmetry as high- P Cpx stable at $P > 9$ GPa. The Bixiling complex is a crustal cumulate; its occurrence extends the minimum depth of subduction of continental crust in the Dabie–Sulu orogen to >300 km (Liu et al. 2007a). However, this interpretation is based on Ca-free end-member experiments; natural clinoenstatite lamellae have a pigeonite composition, so this conclusion should be regarded with caution.

Nanometer-thick (<2 nm) lamellae of α - PbO_2 -type TiO_2 occur between multiple twinned rutile crystals in both diamond-bearing felsic rocks from the Saxonian Erzgebirge (Hwang et al., 2000) and coesite-bearing Dabie eclogite (Wu et al., 2005); occurrence of this polymorph implies subduction of continental materials to a depth exceeding 200 km. Furthermore, possible former stishovite in metasediments exhumed from >300 km has been conjectured recently, based on the occurrence of Al- and Fe-bearing oxide inclusions (oriented kyanite and hercynite) in quartz from UHP pelitic rocks from the Altyn Tagh, western China (Liu et al., 2007d, this issue). These observations together with inferred supersilicic titanite in Kokchetav marble allow the conclusion that some continental supercrustal rocks have been subducted to depths of at least 300 km before being returned to the surface.

5. Discussion

5.1. *In situ* UHP recrystallization

The predominant rocks of UHP terranes are felsic gneisses and schists lacking obvious evidence of unusual metamorphism. Field observations indicate that not all Grt peridotites and eclogites are fault bounded, and that many contacts with gneissic rocks have retained structural coherence throughout subduction, metamorphism, and exhumation. Mineralogic indicators of UHP metamorphism are present in a variety of lithologies for wall rocks of eclogites and Grt peridotites, including gneisses, quartzites, and marbles. Detailed studies of mineral compositions and SHRIMP ages of zoned zircons in felsic gneisses + schists show that they were metamorphosed under P – T conditions and ages similar to those of the intercalated coesite-bearing eclogite and Grt peridotite bodies.

Evidence of UHP metamorphism is typically preserved as rare mineral inclusions and relict phase assemblages within host rocks that later reequilibrated under crustal conditions. Among the various types of evidence, zircons from UHP rocks provide the most useful information with regard to the P – T –time path of a subduction complex inasmuch as this mineral is extremely stable and mechanically–chemically resistant over a wide range of P – T conditions. During growth stages, individual zircon zonal domains may include and preserve inclusions of minerals in equilibrium with the matrix phase assemblage. Moreover, zircons which crystallized at mantle depths in equilibrium with garnet display characteristic HREE depletions and lack Eu anomalies, whereas those grown at crustal depths in equilibrium with plagioclase have pronounced HREE enrichments and marked negative Eu anomalies (Hermann et al., 2001; Rubatto and Hermann, 2001; Rubatto, 2002). Conse-

quently, identification of mineral inclusions and characterization of REE patterns of zoned zircons have been used in conjunction with ion microprobe U–Pb dating in order to elucidate the P – T –time paths for some UHP terranes (e.g., Gebauer et al., 1997; Katayama et al., 2003; Hermann et al. 2001; Mattinson et al., 2006; McClelland et al., 2006; Katayama and Maruyama, in press).

For example, many new SHRIMP U–Pb ages support the hypothesis that Dabie–Sulu eclogites, Grt peridotites, and the surrounding wall rocks were subjected to coeval Triassic UHP metamorphism (Table 4). Metamorphic overgrowths on zircons from eclogites, Grt peridotites, and country rock gneisses and schists give virtually identical ranges of U–Pb Triassic ages (e.g., Liu et al., 2004a,b, 2005, 2006a,b; Zhang et al., 2005a, in press-b; Zhao et al., 2005, 2006a), demonstrating that all units were metamorphosed at the same time. Zircon separates from Dabie–Sulu UHP rocks retain low- P mineral-bearing (e.g., Qtz, Pl) inherited cores, UHP mineral-bearing (e.g., coesite) mantles, and low- P mineral-bearing (e.g., Qtz, Pl) rims (Liu et al., 2001, 2002a,b, 2005). Ion microprobe U–Pb analyses of these zoned zircons have identified three discrete age groups, shown schematically in Fig. 9. The presence of anomalously low $\delta^{18}O$ in UHP minerals, not only in coesite eclogites, but also in the wall rocks, suggests that both Dabie–Sulu mafic–ultramafic and felsic rocks remained in contact throughout subduction and underwent regional Triassic *in situ* UHP metamorphism (e.g., Rumble et al., 2003; Zheng et al., 2003a; Chen et al., 2007a).

5.2. Return of H_2O to the deep mantle attending subduction

Laboratory phase equilibrium studies have quantified the P – T stability fields for a wide range of hydrous minerals in peridotites, basalts, granites, and sedimentary rocks for conditions appropriate to the upper mantle (e.g., Schmidt and Poli, 1998; Poli and Schmidt, 2002). Under extremely low subduction-zone geothermal gradients (<5 °C/km), UHP hydrous phases such as lawsonite, micas, K-cymrite, OH-rich Topaz, Ti-clinohumite, serpentine and epidote group minerals (e.g., Wunder et al., 1993; Liou et al. 1998; Zhang et al., 2002b; Litasov and Ohtani, 2007; Tsujimori, 2006a,b; Frezzotti et al., 2007) can return H_2O to the deep upper mantle. For appropriate bulk-rock compositions, dense hydrous Mg-silicates may also transport a substantial quantity of H_2O to the mantle transition zone and perhaps into the lower mantle (Litasov and Ohtani, 2003; Maruyama and Liou, 2005; Komabayashi et al., 2005; Katayama et al., 2006). In addition, many nominally anhydrous minerals that make up the Earth's crust and mantle may accommodate small but measurable amounts of H_2O (Katayama and Nakashima, 2003; Zheng et al., 2003a; Keppler and Smyth, 2006; Chen et al., 2007b). For example, the β and γ polymorphs of olivine (wadsleyite and ringwoodite) can carry up to 2–3 wt% H_2O under UHP conditions, and are stable to depths of 510 and 660 km, respectively (e.g., Kohlstedt et al., 1996; Inoue et al., 1995, 1998). The potential storage capacity of the mantle transition zone is roughly five times that of the volume of seawater on the present-day Earth (Murakami et al., 2002; Ohtani, 2005; Maruyama and Liou, 2005). Transport of H_2O back into the deep mantle drastically lowers solidus temperatures and viscosities, both of which promote more rapid mantle circulation, overturn, and enhanced differential plate and plume tectonic processes (Bercovici and Karato, 2003; Ohtani, 2005).

However, double seismic wedge zones within subducting slabs at mantle depths between 300 and 600 km are related to the transformation of metastable olivine to wadsleyite and ringwoodite, suggesting that the downgoing plate has to be dry at depths >300 km (e.g., Green, 2005a). This observation requires that only inappreciable H_2O can be transported to the mantle transition zone and the lower mantle. Similarly, recent experimental data on the

conductivity of wadsleyite and ringwoodite indicate that the contributions of proton (H⁺) conduction are small at *P*–*T* conditions of the mantle transition zone and that of wadsleyite is considerably lower than that of ringwoodite (Yoshino et al., 2006, 2008). The dry model mantle shows considerable conductivity jumps associated with the olivine–wadsleyite and wadsleyite–ringwoodite transitions. Such a dry mantle model adequately explains the currently available conductivity–depth profiles obtained from geo-electromagnetic studies, and suggested that the water content of the mantle may not exceed 0.1 wt% (e.g., Kuvshinov et al., 2005; Yoshino et al., 2008). This conclusion is inconsistent with the idea of significant amount of water transport to the deep mantle. Further studies on the fate of subducted H₂O, the rupture mechanism of deep seismic zones, and conductivity of the mantle transition zone are necessary.

5.3. Duration of Dabie–Sulu UHP metamorphism

Storage times for crustal lithologies subducted into the deep upper mantle are largely unknown, but may be approximated by several ways: (1) kinetics of mineral O isotope exchange at mantle depths (Zheng et al., 2003a, 1998), (2) kinetics of radiogenic isotope diffusion between metamorphosed minerals (Zheng et al., 2003b; Zhao et al., 2006a,b), and (3) the measured age range of UHP mineral assemblages characterizing a particular terrane (Zheng et al., in press, this review). Geochronologic data indicate that most recognizable UHP terranes have experienced brief periods of maximum pressure. Ultrahigh-pressure durations lie in the range of 2–5 Myr for the exhumated complexes of northern Kazakhstan, the Western + Central Alps, the western Himalayas, and Eastern Papua, New Guinea (Sobolev and Shatsky, 1990; Gebauer et al., 1997; Katayama et al., 2003; Hermann et al., 2001;

Rubatto and Hermann, 2001; Hacker et al., 2003; Massonne and O'Brien, 2003; Treloar et al., 2003; Baldwin et al., 2004, 2008; Leech et al., 2005; Massonne et al., 2007). In contrast, the largest UHP terranes, including those of east-central China, western China, East Greenland and coastal Norway appear to have been sequestered at great depth for ~15–20 Myr (Hacker et al., 2000, 2006; Wu et al., 2006; Hacker, 2007; Zhang et al., 2008a; Mattinson et al., 2006, 2007, this issue; McClelland et al., 2006; Gilotti and McClelland, 2007; Yin et al., 2007; Kylander-Clark et al., 2008). One example is described below for Sulu UHP rocks.

Numerous geochronological data for Sulu (±some Dabie) felsic, mafic and ultramafic rocks are summarized in Table 4 and Fig. 12. (1) U–Pb zircon studies have yielded Triassic ages (245–205 Ma) from a variety of Sulu gneisses and eclogites (Yang et al., 2003a,b; Li et al., 2004; Liu et al., 2004a,b, 2005, 2006a,b; Zheng et al., 2004, 2005a,b, 2006a,b,c, 2007b; Chen et al., 2007c; Wu et al., 2006; Zhao et al., 2006b; Tang et al., 2008b). This 245–205 Ma interval has also been confirmed by Sm–Nd isochron ages (228–209 Ma) on eclogites (Li et al., 1993) and on the Maowu Grt clinopyroxenite (221–236 Ma) (Jahn et al., 2003b). (2) Zircon rims that contain low-*P* inclusions such as Qtz and Ab from gneisses yield Late Triassic ages (213–208 Ma) (Liu et al., 2004a,b, 2005) representing the late amphibolite-facies retrograde event. On the other hand, Schmidt et al. (2008) report high precision Grt–Cpx Lu–Hf ages of 219.6 and 224.4 Ma for six Dabie–Sulu eclogites; such narrow and uniform Lu–Hf (and Sm–Nd) ages suggest rapid HP eclogitization of the Dabie–Sulu UHP terrane during exhumation.

SHRIMP U–Pb ages of Sulu Grt peridotites and their enclosing eclogites have been determined in spite of the scarcity of zircons in these rocks. Available ages for the mafic–ultramafic bodies range from 238 to 218 Ma (e.g., Zhao et al., 2006a; Zhang et al., 2005a,

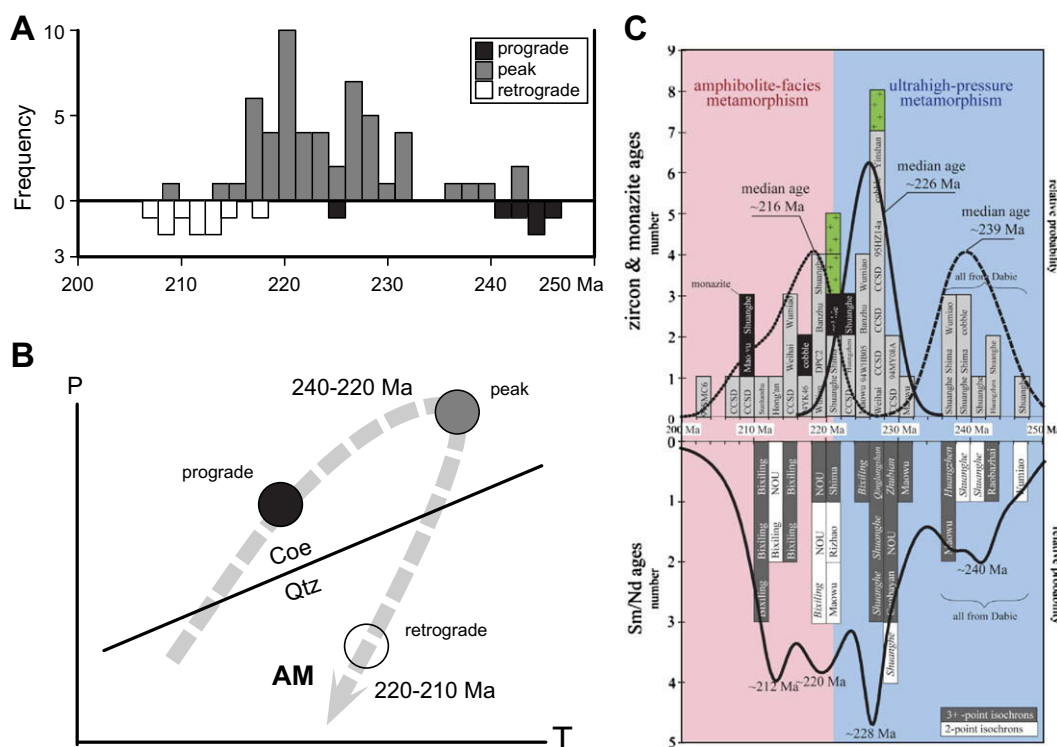


Fig. 12. Compilation of ages for Dabie–Sulu UHP rocks showing long duration of prograde, peak and retrograde metamorphism at UHP conditions: (A) histograms showing ages of Sulu rocks listed in Table 3, (B) schematic *P*–*T* path for Sulu UHP rocks with the prograde, peak and retrograde stages within the coesite stability for ~30 Myr (250–220) and the retrograde stage within the quartz stability between 220 and 210 Ma. (C) Histogram of ages for three-stage recrystallization of Dabie–Sulu UHP rocks (from Hacker et al. (2006)).

2006a; Yang et al., 2007a), and overlap the UHP metamorphic age range (240–220 Ma) for Dabie–Sulu gneisses and eclogites. Such consistent ages from mafic–ultramafic rocks and country rock gneisses demonstrate that the entire section was subjected to coeval UHP–HP metamorphism. The morphology, internal structure, and Th–U chemistry of analyzed mafic–ultramafic zircon grains are also consistent with metamorphic growth under UHP–HP conditions.

However, a large age range exists in samples from different areas and even in adjacent samples of the same body, resulting from several factors: (1) An insufficient number of spot analyses may result in a bias when calculating weighted mean ages of mafic–ultramafic rocks. (2) Absence of inclusions in most zircons makes it difficult to pin down the metamorphic conditions for each zircon growth zone. (3) Zircons may have recrystallized under different *P–T* conditions in the subduction zone, and their inclusions may or may not reflect the *P–T* conditions that reset the U–Pb system. (4) Zircons may have grown at different times during protracted residence of these mafic–ultramafic bodies at UHP–HP conditions. The close proximity and similar petrologic–geochemical characteristics of analyzed mafic–ultramafic rocks exclude the possibility that they record different metamorphic events and were later juxtaposed. Instead, the mafic–ultramafic rocks have experienced prolonged HP–UHP metamorphism between 238 and 218 Ma, similar to the country rock gneisses and eclogites. The long residence times of the mafic–ultramafic bodies at UHP conditions may be supported by the fact that each sample shows a similar range of spot ages in spite of different weighted mean ages. Moreover, probability diagrams that plot all spot analyses from the studied samples suggest a single population with a normal age distribution.

Evidence for 15–20 Myr duration under UHP conditions (Fig. 12) has been suggested by a growing number of U–Pb, Sm–Nd, and Rb–Sr ages from Dabie–Sulu UHP rocks (Hacker et al., 2004; Leech et al., 2005; Wu et al., 2006; Zheng et al., in press). A possible explanation for such a long duration is the episodic growth of zoned zircons during prograde and retrograde stages at UHP conditions in the presence of an aqueous fluid (e.g., Zheng et al., 2005a,b, 2007b, in press; Wu et al., 2006; Liu et al., 2006c; Rubatto and Hermann, 2007). Internal structures, mineral inclusions, U–Pb ages, and Lu–Hf isotope compositions of Dabie–Sulu zircons indicate that the zoned crystals may have grown during prograde and retrograde paths as shown, respectively, in the mantle and rim domains (Wan et al., 2005; Wu et al., 2006; Zheng et al., 2007b) (Fig. 12B). Inasmuch as some of these domains contain inclusions of coesite, they were formed at UHP conditions. Yet, they are different in terms of CL patterns, U and Th contents, Th/U ratios, abundance of mineral inclusions, and compositions of omphacite inclusions. One example of the proposed *P–T* paths is shown in Fig. 12B (modified from Wan et al. (2005)), based on SHRIMP U–Pb ages of zoned zircon and monazite; the exhumation rate is estimated at >6 km/Ma. The linking of zircon growth to specific metamorphic conditions is not an easy task. Inasmuch as the *P–T* path for recrystallization of UHP rocks from prograde, peak and retrograde stages could pass through the coesite stability field for a considerable length of time, unless the specific *P–T* conditions for each stage could be determined, the extent to which any of these ages represent prograde, peak and retrograde UHP stages of zircon growth remains uncertain (e.g., O'Brien, 2006).

The role of fluid in the growth of Dabie–Sulu zircons has been detailed by Zheng et al. (2004, 2005a,b, 2007b). For a very dry UHP eclogite block at Yangkou Beach of the Sulu terrane, both gabbroic minerals and textures (Zhang and Liou, 1997; Mosenfelder et al., 2005) and intergranular coesite (Fig. 5F) (Liou and Zhang, 1996) coexist. In such a dry eclogite body, zircons are fine-grained showing no metamorphic growth, and have Neoproterozoic U–Pb

ages and isotopic compositions (Zheng et al., 2004). Depending on both *P–T* conditions and the amount of fluid, zircon overgrowth in some UHP rocks is generally too small to be analyzed by the ion microprobe. Some grains did not even grow under the peak metamorphic conditions. Hence, spot SHRIMP dating of “peak-stage” metamorphism should be used with caution, unless growth conditions are demonstrated by inclusions, trace element patterns, and/or Ti-thermometry. This is true particularly for the Dabie–Sulu eclogites because they have formed at relatively lower temperatures and much dryer conditions than those from some other UHP terranes (see Table 1).

The large range of SHRIMP ages for Sulu UHP rocks may also imply the juxtaposition of several UHP slices during exhumation from mantle to crustal depths. In fact, a multiple subduction–exhumation model was used to explain about 30 Myr period of successive exhumation of HP–UHP rocks in the western Dabie (Liu et al., 2004c). Slices of the subducting South China slab reached different depths and the successive descent of underlying slabs was accompanied by nearly concomitant uplift of overlying slabs.

6. Future study of UHP metamorphic minerals and rocks

The above review concludes that some sections of continental crust, involving passive-margin lithologies, including carbonate, felsic, pelitic, and minor mafic–ultramafic protoliths, have reached subduction depths approaching or even exceeding 300 km. However, the positive assignment of exsolution lamellae in minerals of mantle-derived garnet peridotites as resulting from decompression in a mantle–wedge setting, or as due to exhumation in a subduction zone remains to be confirmed, except in cases for which age constraints—such as those in the WGR of Norway—are conclusive. With recent breakthroughs in UHP technology and new-generation synchrotron, neutron, and laser facilities for characterization of nano-sized materials, in-depth researches on UHP minerals and rocks are now within reach; such studies are just beginning (see Dobrzhinetskaya et al. (2005, 2006, 2007) and Hwang et al. (2004, 2006, 2007)). Three general fields of mineral physics research are highlighted below to illustrate some of the challenges.

6.1. Identification of micron- and nano-sized minerals

Numerous peculiar minerals and mineral compositions have been identified since UHP metamorphism was first recognized (Chopin, 1984; Smith, 1984). Since then, many novel techniques have been developed for the study of UHP phases with high spatial, temporal, and energy resolutions; they should be applied in the microanalysis of solid and fluid inclusions in UHP minerals, including unexplored trace but widespread opaque (e.g., Fe–Ni sulfide) phases in garnet peridotites (Zhang et al., 2004b; Dobrzhinetskaya et al., 2005) and nano-sized diamond inclusions in eclogitic garnet from Maksyutov (Bostick et al., 2003). Similarly, isotopic characterization of reported microdiamonds (e.g., N-content and N-isotope) and moissanite (C-isotope) from Dabie–Sulu by nano-SIMS is essential because these occurrences are unique in UHP rocks that crystallized briefly at relatively low *T* compared with those in mantle xenoliths.

Nano- to micro-sized mineral and fluid inclusions are rare but ubiquitous in tough, rigid UHP mineral hosts including zircon, diamond, garnet, and pyroxenes (e.g., Langenhorst and Poirier, 2002; Langenhorst, 2003; Dobrzhinetskaya et al., 2005; Hwang et al., 2004, 2005; Zhang et al., 2005c, 2006d, 2007d,e, 2008b); they require *in situ* X-ray microprobe and/or Raman techniques employing synchrotron radiation, or analytical electron microscopy to characterize their structures and compositions. For example, kokchetavite, a new hexagonal polymorph of K-feldspar was dis-

covered as a metastable phase together with α -cristobalite + phengite + siliceous glass \pm phlogopite, titanite, calcite, and/or zircon as multiphase cloudy inclusions in Cpx and Grt from a diamond-grade Kokchetav garnet-pyroxene rock (Hwang et al., 2004, 2005). This phase (2–7 μm -sized plates) could be misidentified as K-feldspar by conventional techniques, and misinterpreted as an exsolved phase.

Available studies indicate that microstructures, micro- and nano-phases preserved in host minerals have provided useful information regarding petrotectonic processes of UHP rocks. However, such features are extremely difficult to study due to their submicron size. Moreover, the contribution of interface energies to their stabilities becomes substantial; for example, anatase nano-crystals are more stable than rutile, although rutile is the stable TiO_2 polymorph according to bulk-phase properties (e.g., Barnard and Zapol, 2004). The thermodynamic stabilities of nano-phase clinoenstatite lamellae and α - PbO_2 -type TiO_2 within host pyroxene and rutile, respectively, and of nano-size diamond inclusion in garnet may be much different from the stabilities of the bulk phases that have been employed for P - T estimates. Clearly, the contribution of interface energies for nano-phases should be considered for occurrences in UHP rocks.

6.2. Characterization of mineral exsolution and phase transformations

Exsolution intergrowths are common in minerals of decompressed UHP rocks; however, exsolution mechanisms in UHP phases are poorly known. Each lamellae-bearing host mineral preserves information concerning the composition and physical conditions of formation of the homogeneous precursor phase, as well as a portion of the P - T path during decompression. Compositional and structural characterization of lamellae-host mineral pairs will provide important new constraints on the physical conditions of crystallization/recrystallization. Such studies could guide subsequent experimentation to delineate the P - T conditions and mechanisms for formation of the primary UHP minerals. However, the significance of oriented mineral inclusions in host UHP minerals remains unclear. The interpretation of several examples, includ-

ing ilmenite rods in Alpe Arami olivine [e.g., Dobrzhinetskaya et al. (1996) vs. Hermann et al. (2005)], rutile lamellae in Yangkou eclogitic garnet [e.g., Ye et al. (2000) vs. Hwang et al. (2007)], amphibole lamellae in Qaidam peridotitic garnet [e.g., Song et al. (2005a,b) vs. Yang and Powell (2008)], and quartz rods in eclogitic omphacite of many UHP terranes (Page et al., 2005) remain problematic.

6.3. Experimental phase relations and compositional variations

Experimental investigations of the systems of KMAASH, CMASH, and KNCMAASH have revealed possible occurrences of hydrous phases in UHP pelitic and peridotitic rocks (Domanik and Hollway, 1996; Ulmer and Trommsdorff, 1999). Experimental investigation of hydroxyl solubility in clinopyroxene, orthopyroxene and olivine (e.g., Grant et al., 2006) indicates that OH content in these minerals is highly dependent on pressure and temperature. Many OH-bearing phases, such as OH-topaz and phase A, are stable only under “forbidden zone” P - T conditions (geotherms considerably less than $5^\circ\text{C}/\text{km}$) (e.g., Wunder et al., 1993; Wunder, 1998). Because such conditions are essentially transient and inevitably are followed by thermal relaxation, these low- T phases have little chance to survive decompression accompanying return to the surface through tectonic and erosional processes. However, one possibility for their preservation is as minute inclusions in high-mechanical-strength, impervious containers like garnet, zircon, or diamond (e.g., O'Brien and Ziemann, 2008; Katayama and Maruyama, in press).

Interpretation of the occurrence of majoritic garnets in orogenic peridotites requires more complete experimental data. For example, as shown in Fig. 13, depths for their formation are based on reconnaissance experiments in the pseudobinary system MgSiO_3 - $\text{Mg}_3\text{Al}_2\text{Si}_3\text{O}_{12}$. Although some experiments involve evaluating the effects of Fe and Ca, that of Ti has not been explored. Solubilities of Ti, K, OH, and other trace elements in olivine, garnet and pyroxene in mafic-ultramafic systems need to be examined inasmuch as these phases exhibit numerous microstructures. They also contain minute, as yet unidentified inclusions that may turn out to be UHP phases or DHMS previously synthesized only in diamond-

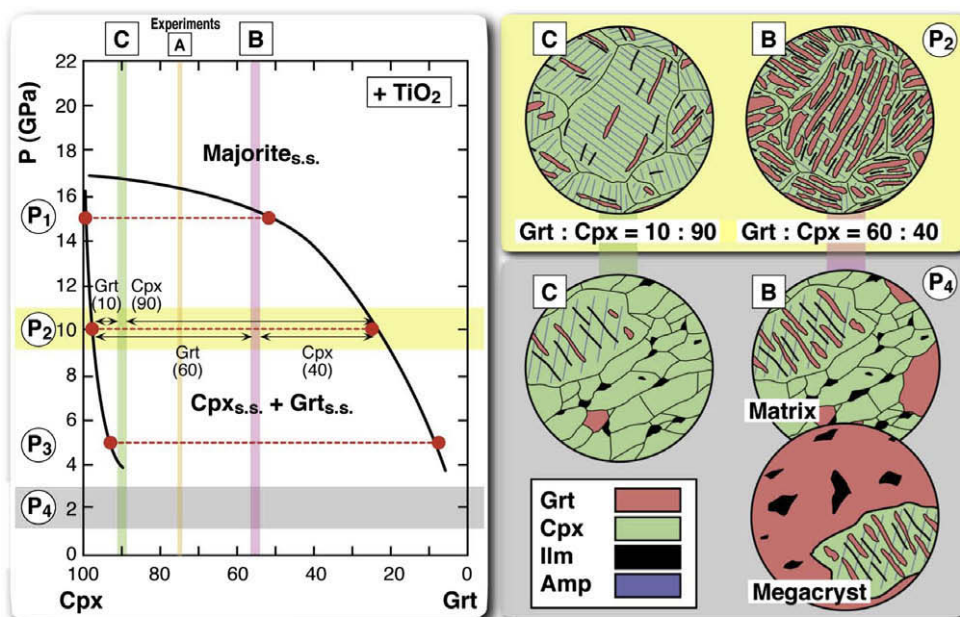


Fig. 13. Schematic P - X (Cpx-Grt) diagram and model proportions Grt and Cpx in the presence of ilmenite for isothermal decompression of majoritic garnet to form garnet + ilmenite lamellae in a clinopyroxene host. Path A is based on experiments using starting material of Fig. 6A (see Zhang et al., 2003c, for details); Paths B and C are, respectively, for high- and low-Al content, for Grt-rich and Grt-poor clinopyroxenites.

cell or multi-anvil experiments (e.g., see Bose and Navrotsky (1998)). Discovery of natural representatives of these synthetic phases would be a major step in understanding mantle processes, including the role of hydrous phases as storage sites for H₂O.

6.4. Subcontinental lithospheric mantle (SCLM)

The roots of subcontinental lithospheric mantle vary in thickness, composition and thermal state, all of which depend on the age and tectonothermal history of the overlying crust (e.g., Griffin, 2008; O'Reilly et al., 2001). Archean SCLM is typically strongly depleted in basaltic constituents, highly magnesian, thick (160–250 km), and has a low geotherm; Phanerozoic SCLM is typical fertile, Fe-rich, thin (50–100 km) and exhibits a range of relatively high geotherms; Proterozoic SCLM tends to be intermediate in most respects (O'Reilly and Griffin, 2006). Isotopic compositions and dating of mantle xenoliths and orogenic peridotites employing Lu–Hf and Re–Os system coupled with geochemical bulk-rock data are critical to understanding the processes effecting the secular and spatial variation of SCLM.

Comparison of petrologic, geochemical and isotopic compositions and ages of rocks and zircons from Sulu UHP peridotites and those from mantle xenoliths in east-central China should provide useful information for the evolution of the SCLM. Extensive studies of Sulu peridotites indicated that most Sulu garnet peridotites were derived from a depleted mantle (Type A peridotite), underwent metasomatism, and were subjected to Triassic subduction-zone UHP metamorphism at >150 km depth with a very low thermal gradient (Liou et al., 1998; Zhang and Liou, 1998; Zhang et al., 2000, 2003a, 2005b, 2007b; Malaspina et al., 2008). However, advanced isotope studies of the peridotites required to understand the age and evolution of the SCLM beneath the North and South China blocks are very limited. We are the first to have separated zircons from PP1 peridotites (Zhang et al., 2005a), and subsequently from surface exposures of Sulu peridotites for SHRIMP dates (Zhao et al., 2005, 2006a, 2007a,b; Zheng et al., 2006a).

P–T-time estimates and geochemical characteristics of Sulu mantle-derived Grt peridotites described above were compared with those from nearby diamond-bearing kimberlite (\pm Grt peridotite) xenoliths (457–500 Ma) in Mengyin, and Grt peridotite xenoliths from Neogene volcanics (16–18 Ma) in Shanwang (see Fig. 8 for locations) (Zheng et al., 2006a,b). Results indicate that a buoyant, refractory lithospheric keel present beneath the eastern North China Block in Paleozoic times was partly replaced by younger, hotter, more fertile lithospheric mantle during the Mesozoic–Cenozoic. Protoliths of UHP Grt peridotites were subjected to complex metasomatism by asthenosphere-derived melts or fluids and subsolidus re-equilibration involving fluids/melts derived from the subducted South China continental crust during Early Mesozoic UHP metamorphism. Tectonic extension of the SCLM of the North China Block and exhumation of the Sulu UHP terrane induced upwelling of the asthenosphere. Peridotites sampled by Neogene basalts represent new lithosphere derived by cooling of the ascending asthenospheric mantle in Jurassic–Cretaceous and Paleogene time (see Fig. 12 of Zheng et al., 2006b) for a model of lithospheric mantle evolution in eastern China).

However, our model of Type A peridotites from the North China mantle wedge (Fig. 8B) was recently challenged by Yuan et al. (2007), who reported preliminary whole-rock Re–Os modal ages of \sim 2.0 Ga for Xugou peridotites, Sulu terrane; the Paleoproterozoic ages suggest derivation of these Dabie–Sulu mantle peridotites from the South China Block. Systematic Hf isotope study of PP1 peridotite cores and Re–Os isotopic study of Ni–Fe sulfides in peridotites are necessary to better constrain the time and evolution of the SCLM, the dynamics of continental subduction and collision,

and the geochemical affinity with the North and South China blocks (e.g., Xu et al., 2006b; Jahn and Chen, 2007; Yuan et al., 2007; Zheng, 2008).

7. Epilogue

Since the first findings of coesite in eclogites by Christian Chopin and Dave Smith in 1984, many UHP terranes have been identified in orogenic belts typified by the occurrence of coesite and/or micro-diamond inclusions in garnet, omphacite and/or zircons. During the last 25 years, much effort has been focused on the characterization of UHP rocks through petrologic, geochemical, and geochronologic studies. Zircon has been found to represent the best container recording the *P–T*-time path of UHP rocks. Fortunately, zircon occurs at least sparsely in almost all UHP rocks, including ultramafics. Many new micro-size phases including fluids and microtextures have been identified; subduction depths of supracrustal rocks are now recognized to extend from the coesite through diamond stability fields at \sim 150 km to majoritic garnet and possibly to stishovite as deep as 300 km. With new analytical tools characterized by high spatial, temporal, and energy resolutions, many new petrologic, geochemical, and isotopic surprises are expected.

Integrated approaches continue to provide better answers for some old but persistent questions, such as: (1) how are the UHP terranes formed and exhumed? What are the specific exhumation mechanisms that bring these deep-seated rocks from mantle depths back to the surface, and how have UHP minerals survived such long *P–T–t* journeys? (2) Is there a unique or a unified model to explain different terranes with different protoliths, formed at different subduction depths, and subjected to different durations of UHP conditions? (3) What are the effects of subducted continental materials and the effect of crust–mantle interactions on the geodynamics and heterogeneities of the upper mantle? (4) What are the effects of interface energy on the stabilities of nano- and micro-size phases as inclusions as well as lamellae or rods in common UHP minerals?

At the same time, new questions are being raised. For example: do UHP rocks occur in every continental collisional orogeny? What is the role of minor UHP fluids for the generation and preservation of UHP index minerals? When did UHP metamorphism first occur, and why? Geodynamic modeling for subduction, collision, and exhumation of UHP rocks with better thermal, temporal and spatial constraint is proceeding with a better exhumation model for UHP terranes (e.g., Boutelier and Chemenda, 2008; O'Brien and Ziemann, 2008; Yamato et al., 2008).

Green (2005b) concluded that “the story of ultrahigh-pressure metamorphism is a confused mixture of surprising, sometimes spectacular, discoveries and emotional reactions. Surprisingly, the process has been a repeating cycle of disbelief followed by confirmation, with little evidence that the community response in a given cycle has learned from the previous cycles”. The explosion of research workshops and special sessions in many national and international meetings leads us to anticipate that UHP research will continue to flourish for the foreseeable future. Many new findings and manuscripts are being published each year. However, it is critical for Earth scientists to pay attention to the basic principles – precise field, mineralogical and petrologic data are essential for interpretations of geotectonic model and mantle dynamics.

This review has undoubtedly overlooked many important published papers inasmuch as more than dozen relevant papers/month and special issues appear in regional and international journals. For this we apologize, but hope that our review will spur additional research on this exciting and evolving topic.

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