WAXI- West African Exploration Initiative

P934A West African eXploration Initiative

Regional-scale lithostratigraphic correlation of the Paleoproterozoic Baoulé-Mossi domain

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Geochronology

New and historical zircon age distribution across the WAC



Geochronology



Geochronology

Starting to image assembly of the terrane



Felsic Geochemistry





Felsic Geochemistry

- From the previously described patterns it is possible to identify two main magma compositional types:
 - magmas derived from sources with residual garnet, associated with higher pressures and slightly less degrees of differentiation (more prevalent in older samples)
 - magmas derived from source with residual plagioclase, related to lower pressure of melting and increasing magmatic differentiation and/or source enrichment (dominant in younger samples)
 - Most belts show both types

Isotopes Lu-Hf, O (zircon)



Epsilon Hf.... Two possible interpretations....

Either way, the data require a contribution from material >2.5Ga



Depleted Ma

Bulk Silicate Earth

Hf Isotope Data by Latitude

Variability of the epsilon Hf signature, notice it is larger particularly along the Yanfolila and Morila Belts

Reflects variable proportion or age of older material incorporated into melt source zone



Oxygen Isotopes

No clear correlation between Hf and O data

Require variable (but strong) input from material altered by surface fluids



So how we create the magmas?

Need: (1) arc-like trace elements, (2) older lithosphere, (3) significant surface material; (4) variably fractionated HREE in each belt

- melts of hydrated mafic crust interacting through relatively thick (>35 km) continental lithosphere (variable garnet-plag signature, surface oxygen); and/or
- Fractionation/melting across a range of pressures (across gnt-plag stability field)
- Partial melting of older shallowly-subducting slab interacting with mantle wedge (old Hf, variable surface oxygen);
- Partial melting of metasomatised mantle wedge at relatively shallow depths (garnet-plag variation) contaminated with subducted sediments (old Hf, variable surface oxygen).

WAXI3 (in progress...)

- Detrital U-Pb, Lu-Hf,-O isotope study of zircons from Birimian sedimentary rocks
- Guinea transect across Birimian-Archaean boundary for U-Pb, Lu-Hf,-O isotope study of zircons.
- Cote-D'Ivoire, KKI filling in the blanks
- Isotopic maps of lithospheric architecture through time
- Chemistry mapped to architecture
- Mineral systems mapped to isotopic maps

