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碎屑锆石 U-Pb 年龄谱物源示踪技术 确定黄河贯通时间的质疑

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摘要: 黄河贯通时间一直是地学研究者关注的热点问题, 但未能形成共识。本文在阐明新近纪以来黄河中游及邻区古湖消亡及水系贯通过程的基础上, 剖析了运用碎屑锆石 U-Pb 年龄谱物源示踪技术约束黄河贯通时间 4 个案例研究所存在的问题。三门湖泥岩中的钙结核和钙质层表明 0.3 Ma 前该湖为咸水-半咸水内流湖, 三门峡一带的黄河沿岸阶地是古湖的湖滨或河流阶地, 三门湖沉积物源于当地河流, 黄河上游与中游贯通发生于 1.3 Ma ~ 1.5 Ma, 和 ~5 Ma 前的结论不能成立。华北平原现黄河入海口附近钻孔沉积物源于燕山和太行山的河流, 根据碎屑锆石 U-Pb 年龄谱得出的 1.5 Ma ~ 1.6 Ma 黄河贯通的结论不成立。黄土是黄河泥沙的主要来源, 黄土中碎屑锆石 U-Pb 年龄谱比较复杂, 增加了运用这一技术约束黄河贯通时间的不确定性。

关键词: 碎屑锆石 U-Pb 年龄谱; 物源示踪技术; 黄河

中图分类号: K928.42

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黄河贯通时间一直是地学研究者关注的热点问题, 但未能形成共识, 有中新世、早更新世、中更新世末和晚更新世等不同观点^[1-23, 27]。黄河流域第三纪时大小湖泊众多, 后不断萎缩, 至第四纪早、中更新世, 尚保存的湖盆有: 共和、银川、河套、汾渭等。一些研究者认为, 古湖消亡标志黄河贯通; 另一些研究者则认为, 黄河阶地是黄河贯通的证据。这两种不同研究途径得出的黄河贯通时间不尽相同。以黄河中游三门峡峡谷贯通为例, 王苏民^[13]等根据古三门湖消亡, 得出的黄河三门峡段的贯通时间是 0.125 Ma 左右; 潘宝田^[1]等根据三门峡等地的阶地研究, 认为黄河最迟在 0.865 Ma 就贯穿三门峡, 其后黄河多次下切, 先后形成了 T3, T2, T1 阶地; 而小浪底至堰师扣马的黄河阶地研究表明, 三门峡于

1.2 Ma 就已切开、贯通^[15]。

近年来, 碎屑锆石 U-Pb 年龄谱技术用于推定黄河贯通时间的研究。例如, Kong^[19]等的《Time constraints for the Yellow River traversing the Sanmen Gorge》(以下简称文献[19]) 和 Zhang^[20]等的《Heavy mineral assemblages and U-Pb detrital zircon geochronology of sediments from the Weihe and Sanmen Basins: New insights into the Pliocene-Pleistocene evolution of the Yellow River》(以下简称文献[20]) 报道了对黄河中游和渭河盆地一带开展的研究。通过阶地或钻孔中的碎屑锆石 U-Pb 年龄谱与黄河现代河道泥沙的对比, 前者认为三门峡贯通发生于 1.3 Ma ~ 1.4 Ma 前; 后者认为发生于 ~5 Ma 前。Xiao^[21]等的《Early Pleistocene

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integration of the Yellow River I: Detrital-zircon evidence from the North China Plain》(以下简称文献 [21]) 和 Yang^[22] 等的《Significance of sedimentary provenance reconstruction based on borehole records of the North China Plain for the evolution of the Yellow River》(以下简称文献 [22]) 报道了对华北平原开展的研究。根据近黄河入海口处钻孔中的碎屑锆石 U-Pb 年龄谱的变化,两文分别认为三门峡贯通发生于 1.6 Ma ~ 1.5 Ma 前和 1.6 Ma 前。

本文在阐明第三纪以来黄河古湖消亡及水系贯通过程的基础上,剖析以上案例中在运用碎屑锆石 U-Pb 年龄谱技术推定黄河贯通时间所存在的问题,以期对今后正确运用该技术开展物源示踪和河流贯通的研究有所裨益。

1 古湖消亡与黄河贯通

《黄河中游及邻区晚新生代地层特征及地表过程讨论》^[18]一文中,其依据近 30 年来各省(区)晚新生代地层最新研究成果,系统总结了晚新生代地

层的主要岩性、厚度、沉积相和分布特征,通过不同地区和不同沉积类型的区域地层对比,恢复了各时期古地理地貌(图 1)。由该文的地质图和地层表可见,新近纪和第四纪早、中更新世,黄河中游及邻区湖相沉积广泛分布。上新世区内中部高、南北低,北部古河套盆地、南部古三门盆地还未贯通,晋陕峡谷北段存在一个北流古河流将保德古湖水系与河套盆地联系起来,此时黄河还未进入宁夏银川盆地。周缘断陷盆地持续下陷,包括高原内部低洼地区湖水水质均为咸水半咸水性质,属内陆湖泊,如白于山南麓的“吴起古湖”、北麓的萨拉乌苏湖和太行山区的长治古湖。黄河中游地区在新生代期间经历了从东高西低、地形分异到西高东低的地貌演化过程。中新世灞河期,区内普遍开始接受沉积,上新世内陆湖盆发育;更新世,南北地形分异,北部仍为内陆湖泊环境,南部黄土加速堆积,内陆湖泊逐渐消亡,河谷下切,堆积阶地发育;晚更新世后期以来,地势高差加大,黄河从晋陕峡谷以近南北向穿越黄土高原。

图 1 可见,黄河中游及邻区的上新世和第四纪古湖均为咸水半咸水内流湖,湖泊之间不存在地表

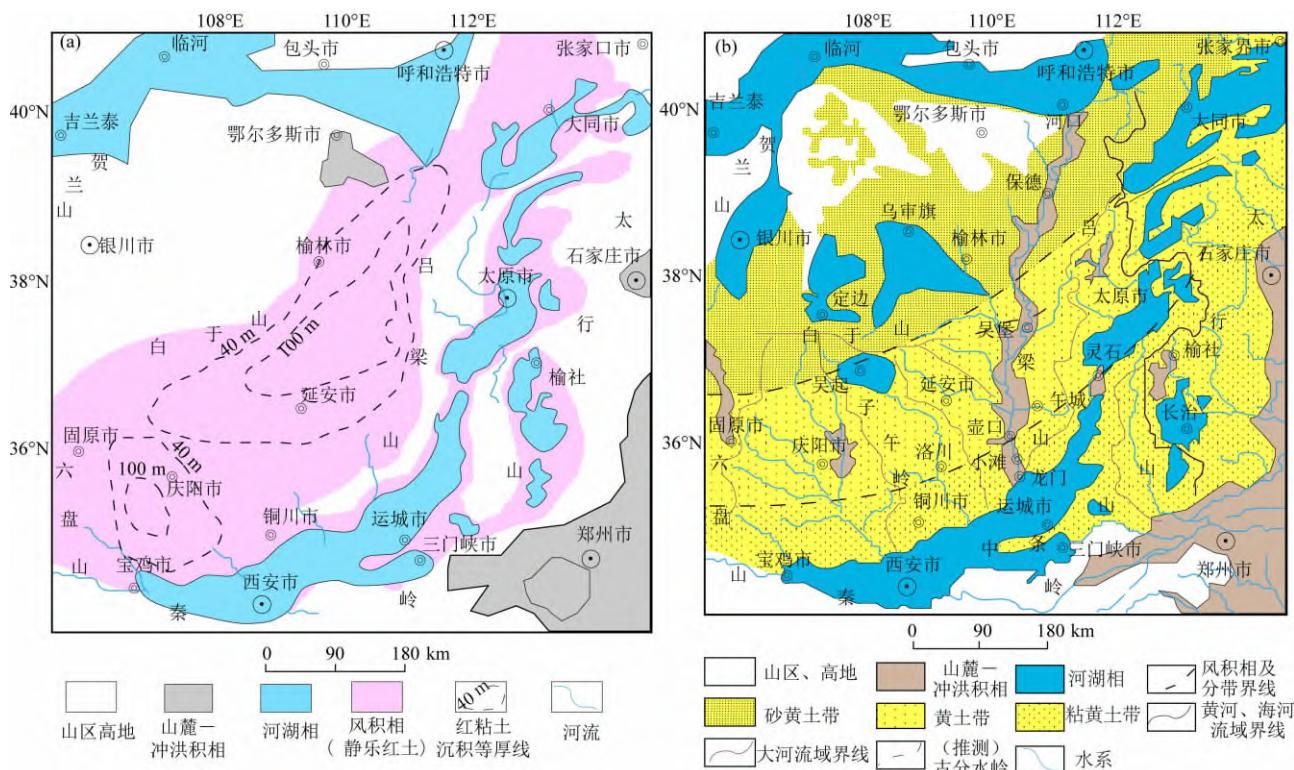


图 1 黄河中游及邻区上新世(a)和第四纪(b)岩相古地理图(据文献[18]修改)

Fig. 1 Miocene and Quaternary lithofacies-palaeogeographic map in the middle reaches of the Yellow River and adjacent areas (referred to Reference [18])

水连通。Wang^[23]等在《Science Bulletin》杂志上发表《Did the modern Yellow River form at the Mid-Pleistocene transition?》一文,该文的报道的三门湖中SMX19孔(2 Ma以来)下部泥岩层含石膏,中上部含钙结核或钙质层(Carbonate Nodule or cements),最上部含钙结核泥岩层的年龄为0.3 Ma左右(图2),很好地说明了三门湖是咸水-半咸水的内陆湖(这与该文的三门峡切开、黄河贯通发生于1.25 Ma的结论矛盾)。中更新世后期以来,湖泊之间的峡谷切开,湖水外流,湖泊消亡,黄河贯通。晚更新世中期,河套盆地仍存在古大湖,无定河上游萨拉乌苏一带在60 ka~20 ka为湖相沉积,仍为内陆湖泊阶段。这表明晋陕峡谷的贯通较三门峡贯通为晚,可能晚更新世中期以后才贯通。内陆湖泊开始外流到水系贯通,有一个连通阶段,连通阶段悬移质泥沙随径流外泄到下游河道,推移质泥沙停积在湖泊内,不能外泄到下游河道。水系贯通后,推移质泥沙可以外泄到下游河道。从黄河中游晚更新世古湖多为咸水-半咸水湖,这些湖泊外流贯通过程较快,连通阶段历时较短。

内陆湖自成水系,有自己的阶地系统。即使是相邻的湖泊,贯通之前形成的阶地也难以对比。由于黄河中游及邻区上新世和第四纪古湖均为互不连通的内陆湖,晚更新世以前的“黄河沿岸阶地”均为互不连通的内陆湖局地水系阶地。因此,以前通过“黄河沿岸阶地”研究得出的黄河贯通时间多不可信。

2 三门峡和渭河盆地研究案例的剖析

文献[20]和文献[19]的取样位置见图3。黄河现代河道泥沙和不同源区的碎屑锆石U-Pb年龄谱见图4。黄河现代河道泥沙的锆石U-Pb年龄谱为北干流(SM17),古老的1800 Ma和2400 Ma峰组分比例高,年轻的200 Ma~500 Ma峰组分比例低;三门峡(SM11),1800 Ma,2400 Ma和200 Ma~500 Ma峰的组分比例大致相当;渭河(SM18)的谱峰比较复杂,除200 Ma~500 Ma,1800 Ma和2400 Ma峰外,还存在850 Ma和1450 Ma等峰,其中200 Ma~500 Ma组分比例高。

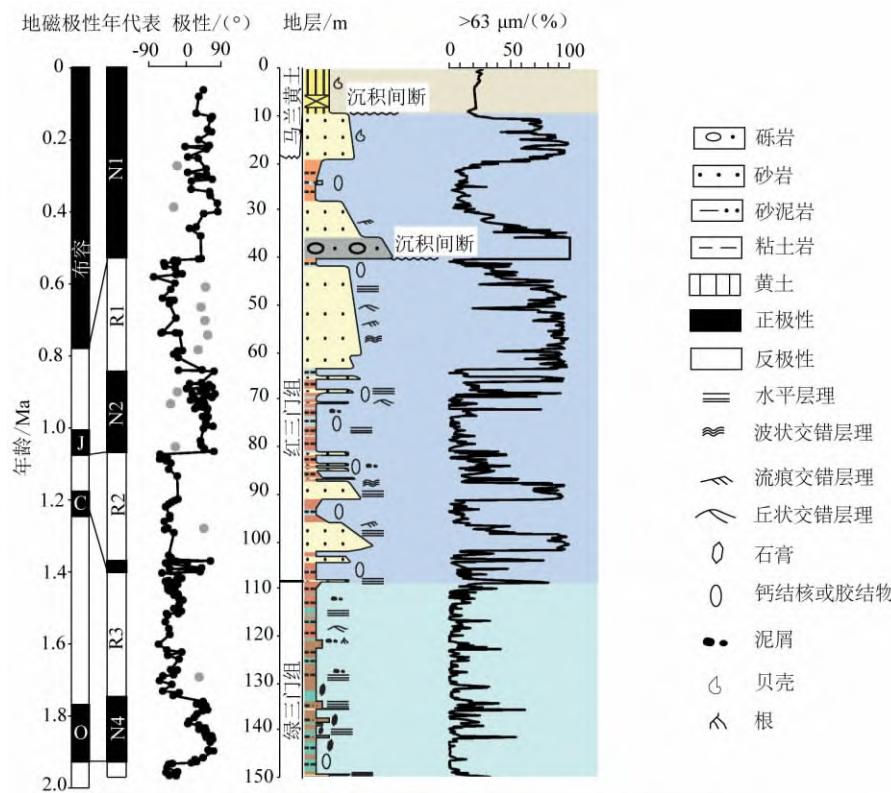


图2 三门峡 SMX19 孔年代、岩性和粒度剖面图(据文献[23]修改)

Fig. 2 Chronology, lithology and granularity of SMX19 drill core in the Sanmen Gorge

(referred to Reference [23])

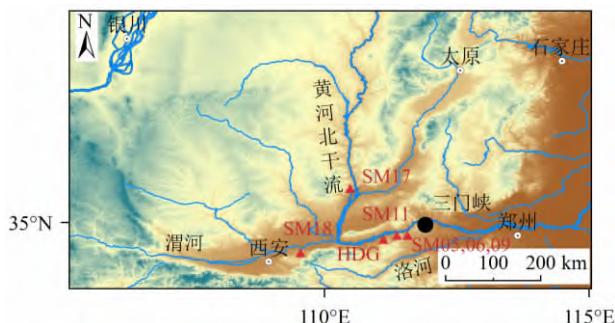


图 3 文献 [19] 中黄河现代河道(SM17、SM18、SM11)、三门峡阶地砂砾层(SM5、SM6、SM9)采样位置和文献 [20] 的三门湖(HDG)钻孔位置(据文献 [19~20] 修改)

Fig. 3 Sampling location of the Yellow River modern channel, terraces sand and gravel layer of the Sanmen Gorges and the drill core location at the Sanmen lake (HDG)
(referred to Reference [19~20])

黄河源区和黄土的碎屑锆石 U-Pb 年龄谱的特征如下: 华北克拉通典型区的吕梁山, 只存在 1800 Ma 和 2400 Ma 峰; 东鄂尔多斯地块和松潘-甘孜地块 200 Ma ~ 500 Ma 和 1800 Ma 峰都很突出, 2400 Ma 峰组分比例较低; 西鄂尔多斯地块, 谱峰复杂, 除 200 Ma ~ 500 Ma、1800 Ma 和 2400 Ma 峰外, 还出现 960 Ma 的峰; 秦岭、西秦岭和北秦岭, 没有 1800 Ma 和 2400 Ma 峰, 除 200 Ma ~ 500 Ma 峰外, 还存在 820 Ma ~ 930 Ma 的峰。黄土的碎屑锆石 U-Pb 年龄谱 200 Ma ~ 500 Ma、1800 Ma 和 2400 Ma 等三个峰段都很突出, 不同作者的这三个峰段的组分比例存在一些差异。

黄河现代河道泥沙的碎屑锆石 U-Pb 年龄谱与不同源区及黄土的基本相符, 北干流的 1800 Ma 和 2400 Ma 峰组分比例高, 表明华北克拉通来源影响大; 渭河的 200 Ma ~ 500 Ma 峰组分比例高, 表明秦岭来源影响大; 三门峡 200 Ma ~ 500 Ma 峰和 1800 Ma 和 2400 Ma 峰组分比例相当对比, 表明是北干流和渭河的混合所致。

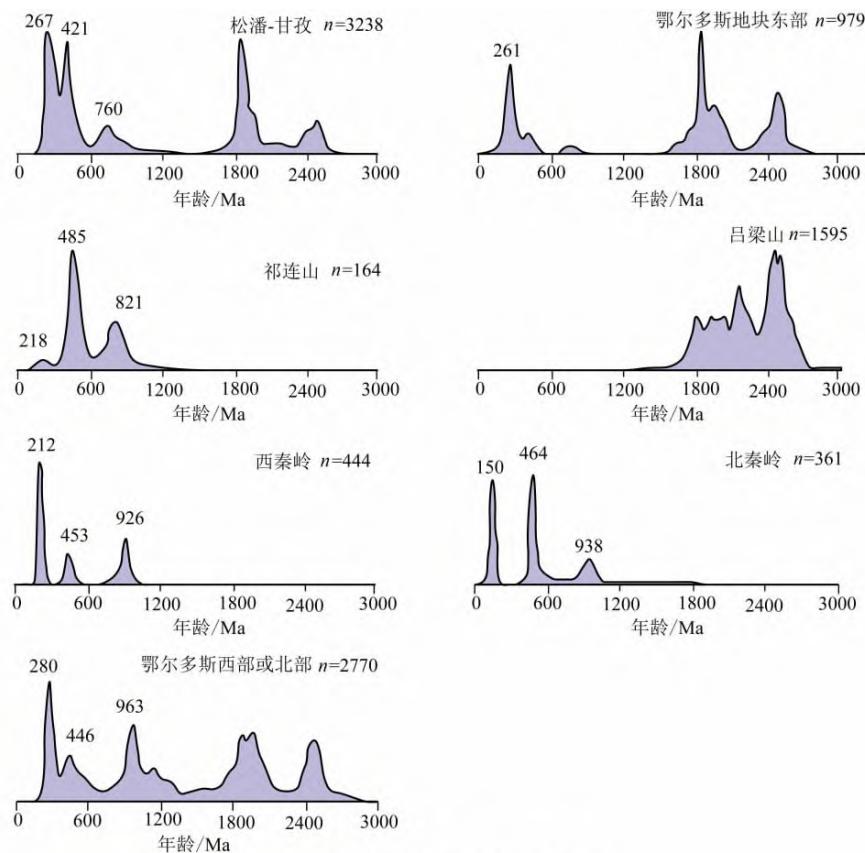
文献 [19] 根据三门峡 Liujiahou 的 T5、T4 高阶地砂砾层的碎屑锆石 U-Pb 年龄谱(图 5), 认为渭河流经三门峡和黄河切穿三门峡分别发生于 1.3 Ma ~ 1.5 Ma 之前和 1.3 Ma ~ 1.4 Ma 之前。Liujiahou 的 T5、T4 高阶地是不是黄河阶地? 如不是, 文献 [19] 根据阶地砂砾层的碎屑锆石 U-Pb 年龄谱作出的三门峡贯通时间的推断就没有任何意义!

如前所述, 三门湖是咸水半咸水内流湖,

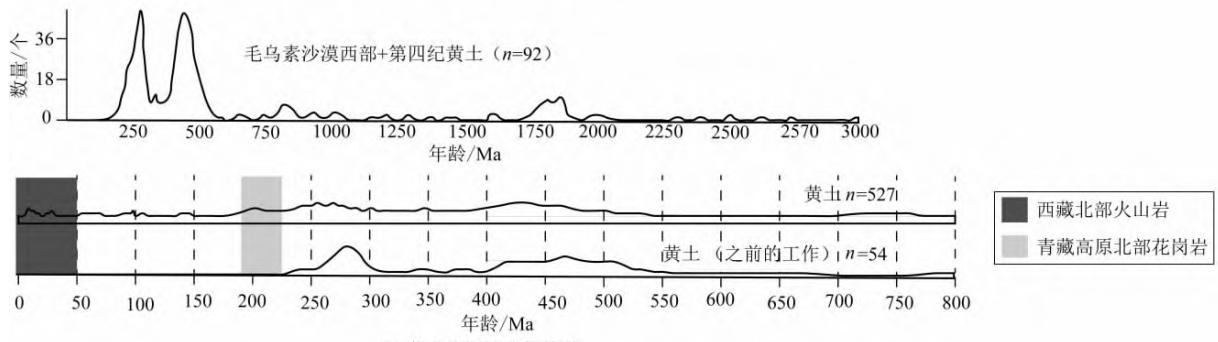
Liujiahou 的 T5、T4 高阶地不可能是黄河的阶地, 应该是三门湖水系的阶地。T5、T4 高阶地砂砾层的碎屑锆石年龄谱与现代黄河北干流、渭河和汾渭湖盆沉积物的基本一致, 都存在 200 Ma ~ 500 Ma 和 1800 Ma、2400 Ma 特征峰, 并不能说明 T5、T4 阶地的碎屑锆石一定来源于黄河。三门湖南侧的秦岭, 既有华北克拉通的元古界变质岩系, 也有中生代中酸性岩浆岩。此外还有中生代陆相碎屑岩, 新、老第三系湖相沉积和第四纪黄土(图 6)。T5、T4 阶地砂砾层的碎屑锆石 U-Pb 年龄谱存在 200 Ma ~ 500 Ma 和 1800 Ma、2400 Ma 特征峰是正常的, 不能依据碎屑锆石年龄谱与现代黄河北干流、渭河和汾渭湖盆沉积物一致就断言 T5、T4 阶地砂砾层的碎屑锆石来源于黄河北干流和渭河, 并作出三门峡贯通发生于 1.3 Ma ~ 1.5 Ma 之前的结论。

文献 [20] 认为, 三门盆地 ~5 Ma 以来的碎屑锆石 U-Pb 年龄谱(图 7)与黄河上、中游不同年代沉积物(图 8)基本一致, 认为黄河上游和中游 ~5 Ma 前就已经贯通。如前所述, 黄河中游及邻区的上新世和第四纪古湖均为咸水-半咸水内流湖, 湖泊之间不存在地表水连通, 三门古湖盆的沉积泥沙不可能来源于黄河上、中游。同文献 [19] 的 Liujiahou 的 T5、T4 阶地砂砾层, 三门古湖沉积泥沙来源于当地。该文“黄河上游和中游 ~5 Ma 前就已经贯通”的结论不可能成立。文献 [20] 还发现黄河上游、中游的 5 Ma 以来沉积物碎屑锆石 U-Pb 年龄谱均与对应河段的现代河床的相似, 用以佐证黄河上、中游 5 Ma 以来一直贯通(图 7)。由于晚更新世黄河贯通前, 黄河中游和邻区为咸水-半咸水内流湖环境, 这一证据同样不能推测黄河上、中游的贯通时间。

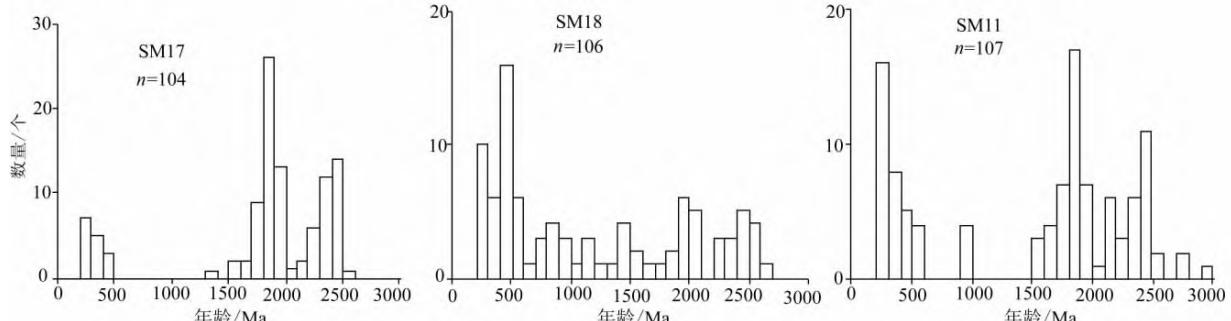
文献 [27] 在《Entrenchment of the Yellow River since the late Miocene under changing tectonics and climate》此文中, 根据黄河中上游的沿河阶地对比和阶地砂砾层和现代黄河河床泥沙的碎屑锆石 U-Pb 年龄谱, 认为保德一带发育有上新世晚期黄河唐县期宽谷以下的晋陕峡谷晚更新世前已经形成。如前所述, 黄河的“沿河阶地”往往不是黄河的阶地; 华北克拉通的元古界变质岩系的碎屑锆石 U-Pb 年龄谱特征峰为 1800 Ma、2400 Ma。松潘地块、秦岭的中生代中酸性岩浆岩的为 200 Ma ~ 500 Ma, 中生代、新生代湖相地层和黄土等二次搬运沉积物往往同时存在这些特征峰; 晚更新世前黄河中上游



(a) 不同源区的碎屑锆石年龄谱



(b) 黄土碎屑锆石年龄谱



(c) 黄河现代河道泥沙(北干流, SM17)、(渭河, SM18)和(三门峡, SM11)碎屑锆石年龄谱

图4 黄河现代河道泥沙(北干流 SM17)、(渭河 SM18)和(三门峡 SM11)和不同源区及
黄土的碎屑锆石 U-Pb 年龄谱(据文献[19–20, 24–25]修改)

Fig. 4 U-Pb detrital zircon age spectra of sediments (north main stream , SM17) , (the Weihe river , SM18) and (the Sanmen Gorge , SM11) from modern channels of the Yellow River , different source regions and loess (referred to Reference [19–20 , 24–25])

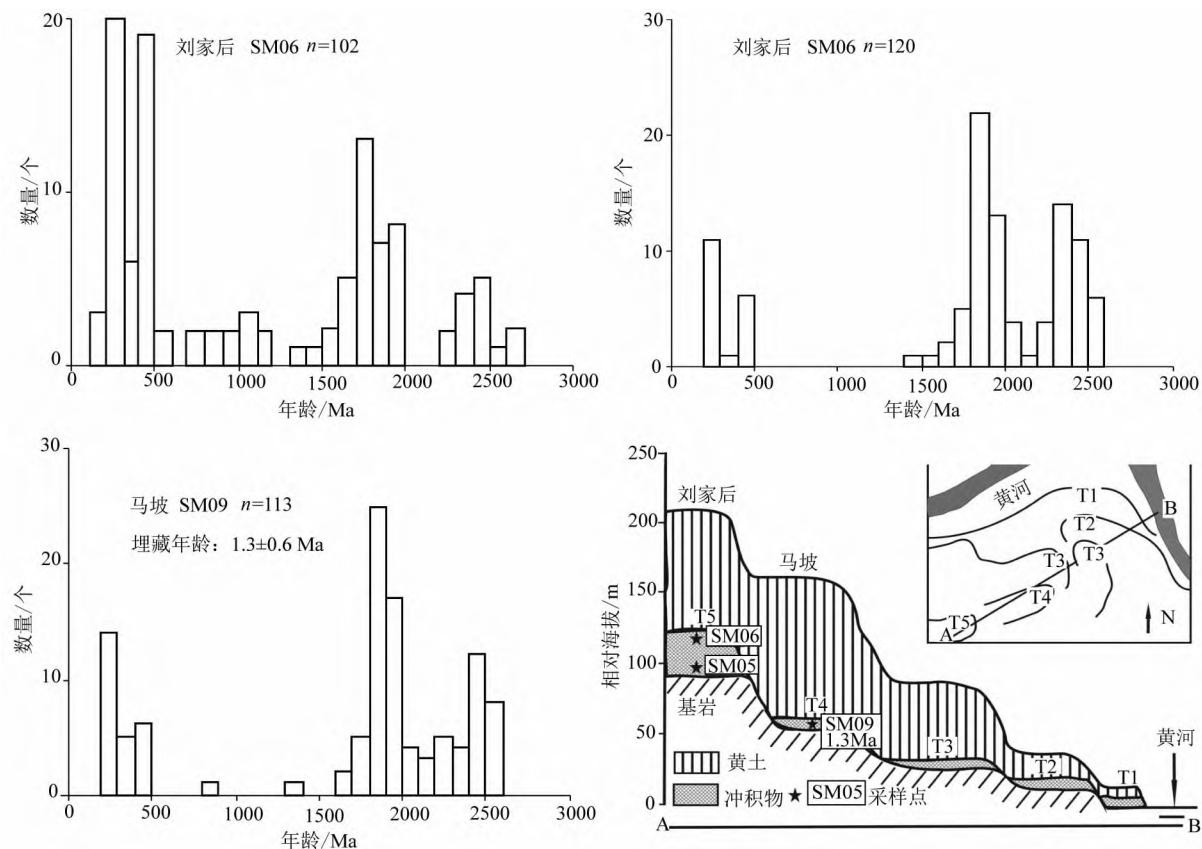


图5 黄河三门峡T4、T5阶地砂砾层的碎屑锆石年龄谱(据文献[19]修改)

Fig. 5 U-Pb detrital zircon age spectra of sand and gravel layer of T4, T5 terraces in the Sanmen Gorge, the Yellow River(referred to Reference [19])

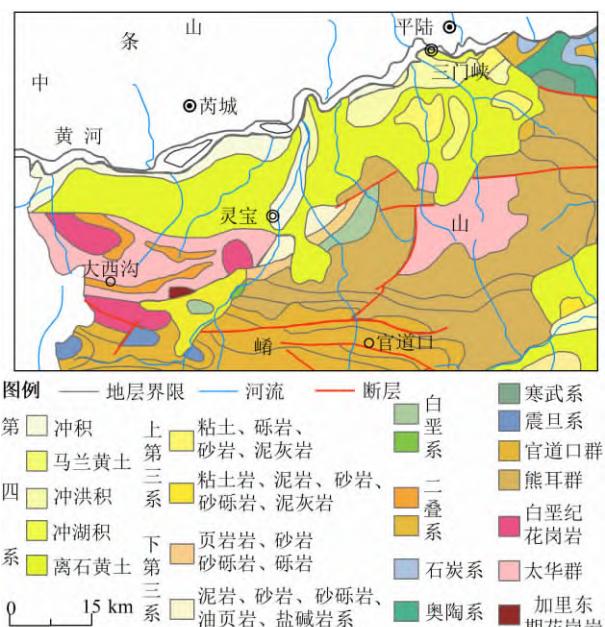


图6 三门湖南侧秦岭地区地质略图(据文献[26]修改)

Fig. 6 Geological map of the Qinling area in the north side of the Sanmen lake (referred to Reference [26])

地区广泛分布的湖泊多为内流水系的咸水-半咸水湖。因此,该文的黄河上新世晚期贯通的结论不能成立。

3 华北平原黄河入海口处研究案例的剖析

文献[21]一文中G2、G3和CK3孔和文献[22]的G4孔的碎屑锆石U-Pb年龄谱见图9,G4孔和CK3孔位置接近。G2、G3和CK3孔的8 Ma以来不同层位的碎屑锆石存在120 Ma~180 Ma、200 Ma~360 Ma、1800 Ma、2400 Ma的峰,与黄河现代和古沉积物基本一致。除以上峰外,文献[22]发现≤1.5 Ma以后的沉积物出现360 Ma~540 Ma峰。文献[22]的G4孔(5.2 Ma)的U-Pb年龄谱与文献[21]的3个孔,基本一致,≤1.5 Ma以后的沉积物也出现360 Ma~540 Ma峰。文献[21]和文献[22]都认为360 Ma~540 Ma峰来源于青藏高原东

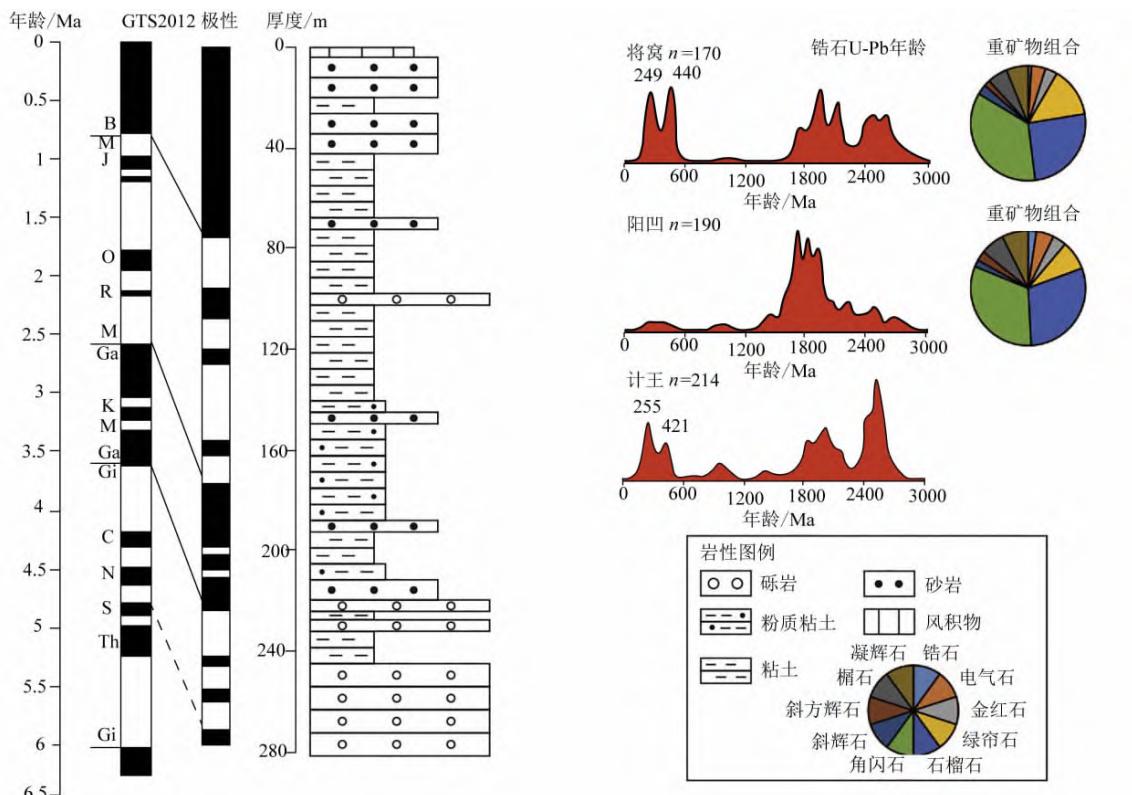


图 7 三门湖 HDG 钻孔岩性剖面、碎屑锆石 U-Pb 年龄谱和重矿物组合(据文献[20]修改)

Fig. 7 Lithology profile, detrital zircon U-Pb age and heavy mineral assemblages at HDG drill core in the Sanmen lake (referred to Reference [20])

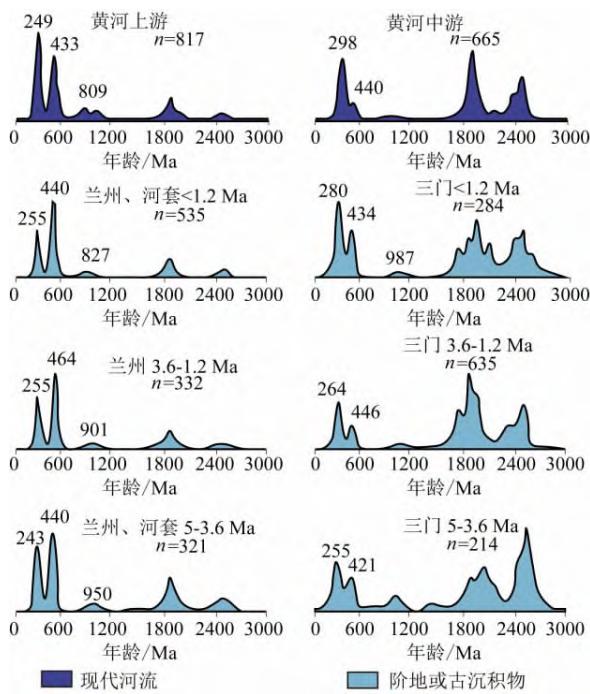


图 8 黄河上游、中游现代河床和不同时代沉积物碎屑锆石 U-Pb 年龄谱对比(据文献[20]修改)

Fig. 8 Comparison of detrital zircon U-Pb age about the upstream and the midstream of the Yellow River bed and the sediments in different years (referred to Reference [20])

北部和鄂尔多斯 此峰的出现表征三门峡切开贯通发生于 1.5 Ma ~ 1.6 Ma 左右。笔者不敢苟同文献 [21] 和文献 [22] 的解释, 1.5 Ma 前三门湖是一个咸水半咸水湖, 华北平原也是湖泊, 何谈现在黄河口附近百万年前的沉积物源于黄河, 应该是源于燕山和太行山河流的沉积物。至于 360 Ma ~ 540 Ma 峰的锆石, 不能排除来源于黄土的可能。≤1.5 Ma 以后的沉积物出现 360 Ma ~ 540 Ma 峰, 可能是由于气候变化, 1.5 Ma 后华北平原风成黄土沉积明显增加的结果。

4 结语

黄河中游及邻区上新世和第四纪早—中更新世时期 咸水半咸水内流湖泊分布广泛, 水系相互独立, 无泥沙联系。中更新世后期以来, 黄河连通、贯通。短暂的连通期间, 湖泊为淡水湖, 悬移质泥沙可通过湖泊输移到下游河段。湖泊消亡、黄河贯通后, 推移质泥沙可输移到下游河段。上新统和第四纪早—中更新统期间的“黄河阶地”, 是内流湖的湖滨

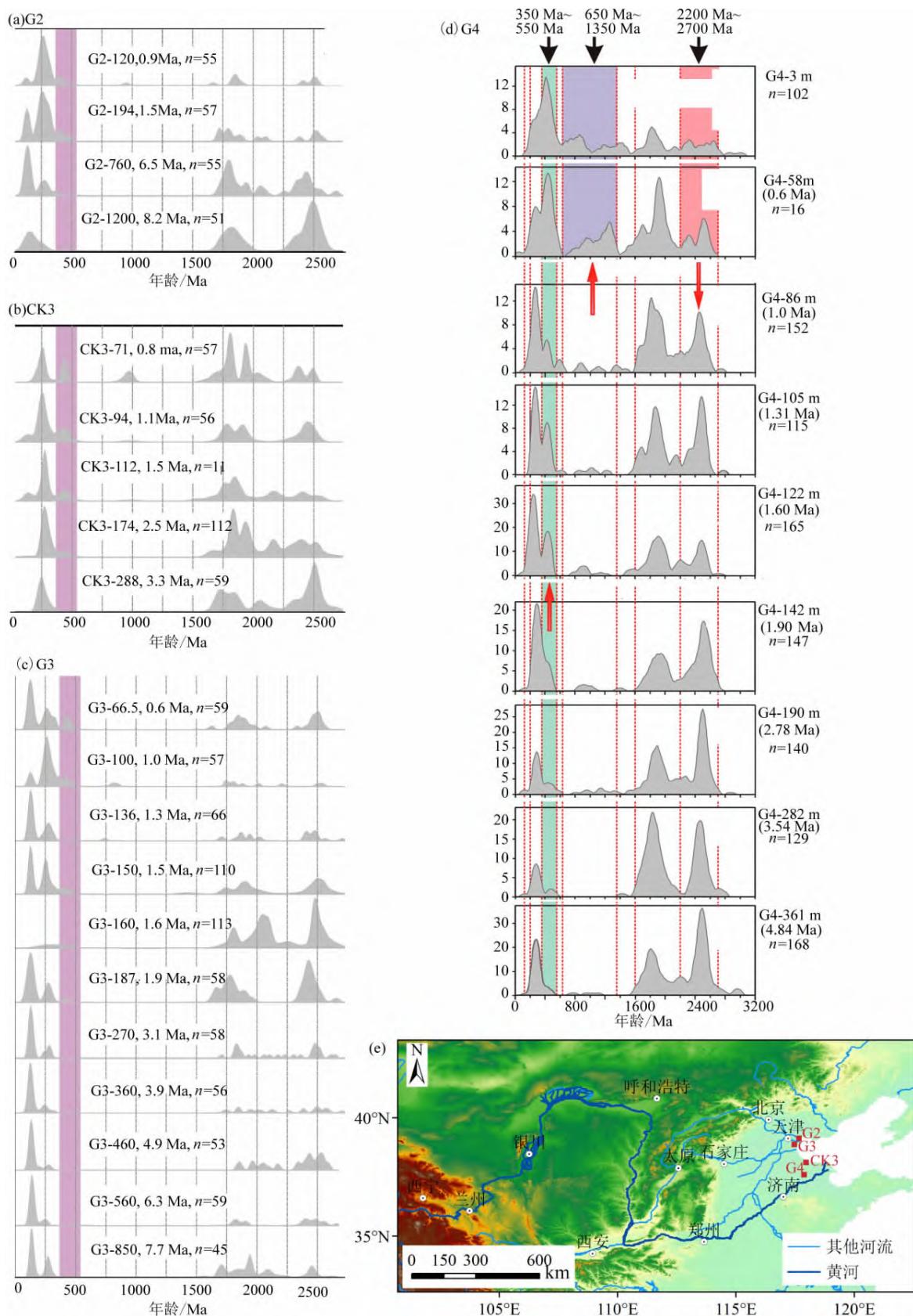


图 9 华北平原黄河入海口附近 G2, G3, CK3(据文献[21]修改) 和 G4 孔的碎屑锆石 U-Pb 年龄谱(据文献[22]修改)

Fig. 9 The detrital zircon U-Pb ages of cores G2, G3, CK3 (referred to Reference [21]) and G4 near the Yellow River Estuary, North China Plain (referred to Reference [22]).

或河流产物,不是真正的黄河阶地,不能表征黄河的贯通!

四个研究案例中的钻孔和阶地古沉积物,分别是内流古湖和其湖滨或河流的产物,由于案例研究沉积物的古湖流域与现代上游黄河流域源地岩层的碎屑锆石 U-Pb 年龄峰差别不大和黄土锆石影响的缘故,碎屑锆石 U-Pb 年龄谱物源示踪技术不适用于约束黄河贯通时间的研究。

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A Query on the Determination of the Cutting-Through Period of the Yellow River of China by the Tracing Technique of U-Pb Age Spectrum of Detrital Zircons

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Abstract: Although the cutting-through period of the Yellow River of China has always been a hot issue for geoscience researchers, no consensus had been reached. In this study, we elucidated the extinction of ancient lakes and the penetrating process of the middle reaches of the Yellow River and its adjacent areas since Neogene; then

the issues in four case studies was picked up for examination of the use of tracing technology of U-Pb detrital zircon geochronology , which were used in four case studies for rebuilding the cutting-through period of the Yellow River in the middle reach. As reported in the referred case studies , there were calcium nodules and calcareous layers to be formed in the mudstone of the Sanmen Lake , indicating it is an endorheic lake of saltwater-brackish water before 0.3 Ma; the terraces along the Yellow River in the Sanmen Gorges were lakeside of the ancient lake or river terraces. Therefore , the sediments of the Sanmen lake originated from local rivers other than the later Yellow River. The conclusion that the Yellow River united the upper reaches with the middle reaches occurred at 1.3 Ma ~ 1.5 Ma or ~5 Ma cannot be established. Also as justified in the aforesaid cases , the borehole sediments near the present mouth of the Yellow River in the North China Plain originated from the rivers of the Yanshan Mountains as well as the Taihang Mountains; consequently , the advocated conclusion that the Yellow River run through in the upper and middle reach at 1.5 ~1.6 Ma in terms of the U-Pb age spectrum of detrital zircons is not convincing. In conclusion , loess is primary source of sediments in the Yellow River. The age spectrum of U-Pb detrital zircon in loess is too complicated for application , which increases the uncertainty about using U-Pb detrital zircon age spectrum to determine the period of channel connection of the Yellow River.

Key words: U-Pb detrital zircon geochronology; tracing technology; the Yellow River