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Chalcophile elemental constraints on sulfide-saturated fractionation of Cenozoic basalts and andesites in SE China

Alexandra Yang Yang ^{a,b,c}, Tai-Ping Zhao ^{a,b,*}, Liang Qi ^d, Sheng-Hong Yang ^d, Mei-Fu Zhou ^d

a Key Laboratory of Mineralogy and Metallogeny, Guangzhou Institute of Geochemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Guangzhou 510640, China

^b Key Laboratory of Marine Hydrocarbon Resources and Environmental Geology, Ministry of Land and Resources, Qingdao 266061, China

^c Graduate University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100039, China

^d Department of Earth Sciences, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong SAR, China

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Cenozoic volcanic rocks are widespread in eastern China. These rocks have variable isotope compositions, reflecting different mantle sources under SE and NE China. In order to explore their PGE variations, chalcophile elements are determined for basalts from Leiqiong and Sanshui and andesites from Lianping in SE China. Basalts from Leiqiong have higher Ni (66–376 ppm) and Cu (30–73 ppm) contents than those from Lianping and Sanshui. All the samples have extremely low PGE contents, low Cu/Zr (<1) and high Cu/Pd ratios (19,000– 475,000), except for one olivine-rich sample with much higher PGE concentrations. All the samples have variable Pd/Ir (6.1–185) and Pt/Rh ratios (1.07–43). They are PGE-depleted relatively to Ni and Cu and have U-shaped and MORB-like primitive mantle-normalized chalcophile element patterns. Positive correlations of Ni and Cr with MgO in basalts from Leiqiong suggest fractionation of olivine and chromite. All samples have low Cu/Zr and high Cu/Pd ratios, implying that sulfides were segregated during magmatic evolution. Quantitative modeling indicates that the amounts of sulfide removed from the samples are smaller than that from MORB. Sanshui basalts are depleted in Ru and Pt, indicating fractionation of chromite with Fe–Pt alloys and/or accumulation of olivine with Ir alloys. A few Leiqiong and Lianping andesites may also have experienced fractionation of Fe–Pt alloys based on Pt depletions relative to Rh and Pd. Alternatively, the Pt depletion could also be an inherited feature of a metasomatic mantle source. Basalts from Sanshui have the highest and andesites from Lianping have the lowest Pd/Ir ratios, also consistent with a metasomatized source for the andesites in Lianping.

The volcanic rocks from SE China show no strong Ir-depletions, unlike those from NE China. The absence of strong Ir-depletions is likely due to more oxidized SCLM beneath SE.

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1. Introduction

Cenozoic magmatism in the continental margin of eastern China was associated with extensional basins related to the Indo-Asian collision ([Liu et al., 2004](#page-11-0)) and/or subduction of the Paleo-Pacific Plate [\(Northrup et al., 1995](#page-11-0)). The volcanic rocks are predominantly basalts and are thought to have been derived from variable mantle sources [\(Chung et al., 1994; Fan and Hooper, 1991; Zhou and Armstrong,](#page-11-0) [1982; Zou et al., 2000](#page-11-0)). It is commonly accepted that basalts in SE China originated from a mixed source involving asthenospheric mantle and EM2, and that those in NE China were derived from a mixed source of asthenospheric mantle and EM1 (e.g. [Ho et al., 2000; Zou](#page-11-0) [et al., 2000; Han et al., 2009\)](#page-11-0).

Platinum-group elements (PGEs) are sensitive to sulfide saturation and silicate fractionation (e.g., [Barnes et al., 1985; Barnes and](#page-11-0)

E-mail address: tpzhao@gig.ac.cn (T.-P. Zhao).

[Picard, 1993; Brügmann et al., 1987](#page-11-0)) and provide a powerful tool for examining the petrogenesis of mafic rocks (e.g., [Keays, 1995;](#page-11-0) [Lightfoot and Keays, 2005; Wang et al., 2011; Zhou, 1994](#page-11-0)). [Chu et](#page-11-0) [al. \(1999\)](#page-11-0) determined the concentrations of PGEs of basalts and peridotite xenoliths from Hannuoba, NE China, and reported an extreme depletion of Ir relative to other PGEs [\(Fig. 5](#page-6-0)d). Ir-depleted mantle xenoliths have also been found elsewhere in NE China [\(Orberger et al.,](#page-11-0) [1998; Xu et al., 1998; Zheng et al., 2005\)](#page-11-0). Such Ir depletion is thus thought to be a feature of the upper mantle in eastern China [\(Chu](#page-11-0) [et al., 1999; Orberger et al., 1998](#page-11-0)). However, mantle xenoliths found in Nushan, Anhui Province (SE China), show PGE patterns without significant Ir depletions ([Liu et al., 2010\)](#page-11-0). Because no PGE data are currently available on the volcanic rocks of SE China, it is unknown whether partial melting of different mantle sources would produce melts with different PGE characteristics and whether the petrogenesis of the volcanic rocks in SE and NE China is comparable.

The Leiqiong (Leizhou Pennisula and Hainan Island) volcanic field has the largest exposure of Cenozoic basalts in SE China, representing the most recent volcanism in the region [\(Fig. 1\)](#page-1-0). On the other hand, basalts and andesites in the Sanshui and Lianping basins of the

[⁎] Corresponding author at: Key Laboratory of Mineralogy and Metallogeny, Guangzhou Institute of Geochemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Guangzhou 510640, China. Tel.: $+862085290231$; fax: $+862085290130$.

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Fig. 1. a. Sketch map showing outcrops of Cenozoic volcanic rocks in eastern China, modified from the geological map of China. Rectangles mark the regions studied; b) Leiqiong area; c) Sanshui basin; d) Lianping basin. Simplified geologic maps and sampling locations of Cenozoic volcanic rocks from the three localities are shown in b, c and d.

Guangdong Province mark the beginning of Cenozoic volcanism in SE China. This paper presents new PGE data for Neogene basalts from Leiqiong and Paleogene basalts and andesites from Sanshui and Lianping. The aim of this study is to examine the roles of fractionation and sulfide saturation in the genesis of these volcanic rocks. This study has significant bearings on the mantle sources for Cenozoic volcanic rocks in SE and NE China.

2. Geological background

Eastern China is situated in the easternmost part of the Eurasian Plate. In the early Cretaceous, when the Pacific and Philippine Plates were a single continuous feature [\(Hilde et al., 1977\)](#page-11-0), the Paleo-Pacific Plate was subducted beneath eastern China ([Uyeda and Miyashiro,](#page-12-0) [1974\)](#page-12-0) and back-arc spreading locally transformed the continental crust in eastern China into oceanic crust [\(Cong et al., 1979](#page-11-0)).

The Cenozoic extensional basins in eastern China are the surface expressions of shallow mantle dynamics in the region, linked to the Indo-Asian collision [\(Liu et al., 2004\)](#page-11-0) and/or the rollback of the subducting Paleo-Pacific Plate ([Northrup et al., 1995\)](#page-11-0). By the Paleogene, a series of NE-trending fractures was activated in the north, accompanying the opening of the South China Sea in the south. Thereafter, extensive volcanism took place in NE China and in the vicinity of the South China Sea (Fig. 1).

3. Field relations and petrography

In the Leiqiong area, Cenozoic basalts crop out over an area of \sim 7000 km² with the thickness up to 224 m ([GBGMR, 1988\)](#page-11-0). The early volcanism (5.6–0.8 Ma) produced predominantly tholeiitic basalts, followed by a later phase $(< 0.8$ Ma) composed of alkali and tholeiitic basalts [\(Ho et al., 2000; Zhou et al., 1988](#page-11-0)). All types are porphyritic, containing phenocrysts of plagioclase and clinopyroxene \pm olivine. Most of the rocks are fresh with only minor alteration of olivine to iddingsite. A few samples contain olivine xenocrysts $(**0.1 wt.**% CaO, high Fo ~90) (Fig. 2a and b) and periodicly seen the$ $(**0.1 wt.**% CaO, high Fo ~90) (Fig. 2a and b) and periodicly seen the$ $(**0.1 wt.**% CaO, high Fo ~90) (Fig. 2a and b) and periodicly seen the$ Magnetite is a ubiquitous minor mineral. Detailed petrological characteristics are described in [Han et al. \(2009\)](#page-11-0).

To the northeast of Leiqiong are the Sanshui and Lianping basins bounded by NE-trending faults and containing Paleogene volcanic

Fig. 2. Photomicrographs of volcanic rocks from SE China: a and b. a basalt (HWGA) showing a large olivine xenocrysts (Fo ~90, CaO<0.1%), under plane-polarized light. c and d. BSE imagines of two basalts (sample HHLA and SY9) showing olivine phenocrysts and euhedral chromite inclusions in olivine grains. Abbreviations: Ol – olivine; Chr – chromite.

rocks (43–60 Ma, [Zhou et al., 2009\)](#page-12-0). Bimodal volcanic rocks in the Sanshui basin, including basalts, trachytes, rhyolites and corresponding pyroclastic rocks, crop out over an area of about 3300 km² with an average thickness of 2.8 km (GBGMR, 1988; [Zhang et al., 1993](#page-12-0)). The basalts are porphyritic rocks containing subhedral to euhedral phenocrysts of plagioclase (An_{32-69}), olivine (Fo_{70-85}) and clinopyroxene $(En_{64–76})$. Most of the rocks are fresh, although clinopyroxene phenocrysts may be partly altered to chlorite. The fine-grained groundmass is composed of plagioclase, clinopyroxene, olivine, magnetite and interstitial glass.

Basalts and andesites (~54 Ma, [Chung et al., 1997\)](#page-11-0), which form a sequence with a thickness of ca. 150 m, are intercalated with Early Paleogene sedimentary rocks in the center of the Lianping basin [\(Fig. 1d](#page-1-0)) ([GBGMR, 1988](#page-11-0)). The andesites are mainly porphyritic, with euhedral phenocrysts of plagioclase (An₅₉₋₆₃) and clinopyroxene $(En_{62–74})$. They are set in an intersertal matrix composed mostly of plagioclase, clinopyroxene and opaque minerals such as magnetite.

4. Analytical methods

Analyses of major and trace elements including Ni and Cu were performed at the Guangzhou Institute of Geochemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences. The major elements were analyzed by XRF and the trace elements by ICP-MS. The analytical uncertainties are \pm 1–2% for major element oxides, $\pm 5\%$ for rare-earth elements, and ± 5 –10% for other trace elements. Detailed analytical procedures are given in [Liu et al. \(1996\)](#page-11-0).

PGE concentrations were measured by isotope dilution (ID)-ICP-MS after digestion of samples using a Carius tube technique in the State Key Lab of Ore Deposit Geochemistry, Institute of Geochemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Guiyang. Eight grams of rock powder and an appropriate amount of enriched isotope spike solution containing 193 Ir, 101 Ru, 194 Pt and 105 Pd were digested with 23 ml aqua regia in a 120-ml pre-cleaned Carius tube, which was then sealed, placed in an oven and heated to 200 °C. After 10 h, the Carius tube was cooled and the contents were transferred to a 50-ml centrifuge tube. After centrifuging, the upper solution was transferred to another 50-ml centrifuge tube, and the residue was transferred to a 125-ml Savillex Teflon beaker, digested with 20-ml HF and evaporated to dryness. Following this, 3 ml of concentrated HCl was added and the solution evaporated to dryness. This procedure was repeated to remove HF from the solution, and then the upper centrifugated liquid was added and dried. In the next step, 6 ml of concentrated HCl was added and evaporated to dryness to clear the solution of $HNO₃$. The residue was dissolved with 50-ml of 3 N HCl and transferred to a 50-ml tube for centrifuging at 4000 rpm for 5 min. The upper solution was then used to pre-concentrate PGE by Te-coprecipitation following the procedure described by [Qi et al. \(2004\).](#page-12-0) The total procedural blanks were 0.009 ng for Ir, 0.007 ng for Ru, 0.009 ng for Rh, 0.022 ng for Pt and 0.036 ng for Pd. The detection limits were 0.0024 ppb for Ir, 0.003 ppb for Ru, 0.002 ppb for Rh, 0.005 ppb for Pt and 0.006 ppb for Pd. Analytical results for standard reference materials WGB-1 (gabbro) and TDB-1 (diabase) are shown in [Appen](#page-10-0)[dix 1.](#page-10-0) The PGE concentrations for Ru, Rh and Ir in WGB-1 and TDB-1 are lower than the certified values, but agree well with values reported by [Meisel and Moser \(2004\).](#page-11-0) The analytical uncertainties are within 15% for Ir and Ru, and within 10% for Rh, Pt and Pd.

5. Analytical results

5.1. Major and trace elements

Major and trace element compositions of the volcanic rocks of SE China are given in [Table 1](#page-3-0) and [Appendix 2](#page-10-0). Samples from Leiqiong include basalts, basaltic andesites and trachybasalts ([Fig. 3\)](#page-5-0). Mafic rocks in Leigiong mostly range from 46 to 54 wt.% SiO₂, 3.0–6.3 wt.% K₂O + Na₂O and 5.9-10.4 wt.% MgO [\(Fig. 3](#page-5-0) and [Table 1\)](#page-3-0). Their chondrite-normalized REE patterns are similar to those of ocean island basalts (OIB), showing strong enrichment in LREE ([Fig. 4](#page-5-0)). They have $87\text{Sr}/86\text{Sr}$ ratios ranging from 0.703176 to 0.704481 and εNd from $+2.5$ to $+6.0$ [\(Han](#page-11-0) [et al., 2009](#page-11-0)).

Table 1

Major and trace elements and PGE concentrations of representative samples from SE China.

Major and trace element data of the Leiqiong basalts are from Han et al. (2009).

Abbreviations: t. basalt — trachy basalt; b. andesite — basaltic andesite.

Volcanic rocks in Sanshui have relatively constant $SiO₂$ (45–48 wt.%), $K_2O + Na_2O$ (4.8–5.4 wt.%) and MgO (5.4–6.4 wt.%), are high in TiO₂ $(>2.50 \text{ wt.})$ and show moderate Na₂O/K₂O ratios (2.5–3.6) (Table 1 and [Appendix 2](#page-10-0)). In the TAS diagram, they plot in the fields of basalt and trachybasalt due to their high total alkalis ([Fig. 3](#page-5-0)). All the rocks are moderately enriched in LREE [\(Fig. 4\)](#page-5-0), and their primitive mantle-normalized spider diagrams show strong negative Pb anomalies and moderate enrichment of Nb and Ta relative to La. All of the samples are characterized by high LILE and HFSE ([Fig. 4](#page-5-0)b).

Only andesites were sampled in Lianping [\(Fig. 3\)](#page-5-0). They have relatively constant SiO_2 (60–61 wt.%) and $K_2O + Na_2O$ (4.6–5.4 wt.%), and low MgO (2.8–3.1 wt.%), TiO₂ (0.67–0.69 wt.%) and Na₂O/K₂O ratios (1.2–1.5) (Table 1 and [Appendix 2\)](#page-10-0). Their chondrite-normalized REE patterns are parallel to those of the Sanshui basalts but with lower total REE concentrations ([Fig. 4](#page-5-0)a). All samples are rich in LILE but poor in HFSE with significant negative Nb–Ta and Ti anomalies in the primitive mantle-normalized spider diagram [\(Fig. 4b](#page-5-0)). They also show slight depletion in Zr and Hf and enrichment of Pb and Sr.

5.2. Chalcophile elements

l.

5.2.1. Leiqiong basaltic rocks

display similar U-shaped patterns with depleted PGE relative to Cu and Ni in primitive mantle-normalized PGE diagrams and exhibit generally increasing trends from Ir to Pd ([Fig. 5](#page-6-0)a). All but the Mg-rich sample, HWGA, plot in the MORB field ([Fig. 5](#page-6-0)a). Most of the samples show a moderate depletion in Pt, leading to flat patterns between Rh to Pt.

Most of the Leiqiong mafic rocks have low chalcophile element abundances, but one Mg-rich sample, HWGA, is highly enriched in both PGE and Ni. The compositional ranges are 66–316 ppm Ni, 30–73 ppm Cu, 0.004–0.224 ppb Ir, and 0.114–1.797 ppb Pd [\(Table 1](#page-3-0) and [Appendix 2](#page-10-0)). The rocks have high Cu/Pd ratios (22,671 to 474,768) with moderate Pd/Ir and Pt/Rh ratios (6.1–58 and 1.07–14, respectively). They all

5.2.2. Sanshui basaltic rocks

The Sanshui lavas have generally lower chalcophile element contents than the mafic rocks of Leiqiong, with 45–58 ppm Ni, 30–

Fig. 3. TAS diagram for volcanic rocks from Leiqiong, Sanshui and Lianping, SE China, after [Le Maitre \(1989\).](#page-11-0) Data for the Leiqiong basalts are from [Han et al. \(2009\).](#page-11-0) Previous data of volcanic rocks from SE China (gray dots) are from [Zhou and Armstrong](#page-12-0) [\(1982\); Fan and Hooper \(1991\); Liu et al. \(1995\); Chung et al. \(1997\), Chung](#page-12-0) [\(1999\); Ho et al. \(2000\); Xie et al. \(2001\)](#page-12-0).

40 ppm Cu, 0.006–0.028 ppb Ir and 0.22–1.69 ppm Pd. They have higher Pt/Rh (5.14–43) and Pd/Ir ratios (13–185) and lower Cu/Pd ratios (19,600–167,700) relative to samples from Leiqiong and Lianping. The primitive mantle-normalized PGE plots of these samples show U-shaped patterns with slightly negative Ru anomalies [\(Fig. 5b](#page-6-0)).

Fig. 4. a. REE patterns for volcanic rocks from Sanshui and Lianping, SE China. Chondrite data are from [Sun and McDonough \(1989\)](#page-12-0). b. Spider diagrams for volcanic rocks from Sanshui and Lianping, SE China. Primitive mantle data are from [McDonough and Sun](#page-11-0) [\(1995\)](#page-11-0).

5.2.3. Lianping andesites

The Lianping andesites are lower in chalcophile element than the mafic rocks from Sanshui and Leiqiong, with 16–19 ppm Ni and 11– 19 ppm Cu [\(Table 1](#page-3-0)). They also show lower Pt/Rh (4.13–14) and Pd/Ir ratios (10–40) and higher Cu/Pd ratios (45,000–184,000) than the mafic rocks. The primitive mantle-normalized PGE plots of these samples show U-shaped patterns ([Fig. 5c](#page-6-0)). Both the Sanshui and Lianping volcanics have limited major and trace element compositions (Figs. 3 and 4, [Table 1](#page-3-0) and [Appendix 2](#page-10-0)) and slightly varying PGE patterns.

6. Discussion

6.1. Controls on the PGE distributions

Volcanic rocks in SE China show large variations in PGE contents [\(Table 1](#page-3-0) and [Appendix 2\)](#page-10-0), which are thought to reflect both crystal fractionation and sulfide segregation. Olivine and chromite may fractionate IPGE from PPGE, because these two minerals have different partition coefficients for these element groups [\(Barnes et al., 1985;](#page-11-0) [Brügmann et al., 1987](#page-11-0)). Crystallization of alloys or discrete metal clusters would deplete some particular PGEs [\(Merkle, 1992; Peck and](#page-11-0) [Keays, 1990a; Tredoux et al., 1995\)](#page-11-0), whereas segregation of sulfides [\(Barnes and Picard, 1993; Campbell and Naldrett, 1979; Maier et al.,](#page-11-0) [1996\)](#page-11-0) depletes all PGEs in magmas.

6.1.1. Olivine fractionation

Mafic rocks in Leiqiong show positive correlations of MgO with Ni and Cr ([Fig. 6](#page-6-0)a and b), indicating fractionation of olivine and chromite. Such fractionation is supported by the appearance of olivine phenocrysts with chromite inclusions in some of the Leiqiong samples [\(Fig. 2c](#page-2-0) and d).

Olivine-rich sample HWGA has the highest MgO $(>10 \text{ wt.})$ and PGE contents with a high IPGE/PPGE ratio [\(Fig. 5a](#page-6-0)). Abundant olivine xenocrysts and phenocrysts in the sample explain the relatively high PGE (particularly IPGE) concentrations. However, the large PGE variation of the Sanshui and Lianping samples at constant MgO and the lack of obvious correlations between PGEs and MgO ([Fig. 7](#page-7-0)) suggests that olivine fractionation may not be the main control on the PGE concentrations.

6.1.2. Chromite fractionation

Rocks from Lianping and Leiqiong show positive correlations between Ir and Ru [\(Fig. 8\)](#page-7-0), suggesting that the partition coefficients of Ir and Ru between the different phases in these rocks are similar during magmatic evolution. However, volcanic rocks from Sanshui do not show similar positive correlation between Ru and Ir, and several samples exhibit depletion of Ru relative to Ir [\(Fig. 5](#page-6-0)b), indicating removal of one or more phases that host more Ru than Ir or presence of discrete Ir-rich microphases such as Ir-rich alloy.

Crystallization of chromite during an early stage of fractionation may cause the depletion of Ru, because Ru is compatible in chromite (e.g., [Capobianco and Drake, 1990; Locmelis et al., 2011; Merkle,](#page-11-0) [1992; Righter et al., 2004\)](#page-11-0). Negative Ru anomalies of basalts and positive Ru anomalies of ultramafic rocks and chromites elsewhere in the world all suggest a close relationship between Ru and chromite [\(Angeli et al., 2001; Aulbach et al., 2004; Büchl et al., 2004; Chazey](#page-11-0) [and Neal, 2005; Fiorentini et al., 2004; Handler and Bennett, 1999;](#page-11-0) [Lorand et al., 2004; Philipp et al., 2001; Zhou et al., 1998\)](#page-11-0). On the other hand, olivine crystals in some Sanshui samples with Ir enrichment have high Fo numbers (up to 85), suggesting relatively early crystallization of olivine. Ir-rich alloy grains can be trapped very early within olivine grains to avoid interaction with evolved magmas that fall below PGM saturation after sulfide fractionation ([Barnes and](#page-11-0) [Fiorentini, 2008](#page-11-0)). Therefore, we infer that the Ru depletion relative to Ir of some samples from Sanshui [\(Fig. 5b](#page-6-0)) indicates fractionation of

Fig. 5. Primitive mantle-normalized PGE patterns for volcanic rocks from a) Leiqiong, b) Sanshui, c) Lianping, and d) Hannuoba. Data of the Hannuoba basalts are from [Chu et al.](#page-11-0) [\(1999\).](#page-11-0) Primitive mantle data are from [Taylor and McLennan \(1985\)](#page-12-0). The line at the bottom of each diagram indicates the detection limits for PGEs. The shaded area in a, b and c shows the range of PGE in MORB based on data from [Devey et al. \(1994\); Rehkämper et al. \(1999\); Tatsumi et al. \(1999\); Bézos et al. \(2005\).](#page-11-0) The shaded area in d shows the PGE patterns for volcanic rocks of SE China from this study.

chromite from the primary magma and/or accumulation of olivine with Ir-alloys.

6.1.3. Sulfide fractionation

The depletion of PGE relative to Ni and Cu (Fig. 5) suggests that the magmas were S-saturated before their eruption, because sulfide removal would deplete PGE more than Ni and Cu. Sulfide segregation may have taken place in the mantle source and/or during the evolution of the magmas.

Cu, Zr and Pd behave as incompatible elements in S-undersaturated magmas resulting in mantle-like Cu/Pd ratios and constant Cu/Zr ratios

Fig. 6. a and b. Plots of Ni and Cr vs. MgO for volcanic rocks from Leiqiong, Sanshui and Lianping, SE China. The fractionation trends of $OI + Chr$ and $Py + Chr$ are from [Song et](#page-12-0) [al. \(2009\)](#page-12-0). Abbreviations: Py — pyroxene; Sul — sulfide.

of mafic rocks (e.g., Cu/Zr 1–3 in the Noril'sk basalt; [Naldrett, 2004](#page-11-0)). On the other hand, removal of sulfide in S-saturated magmas would result in Cu/Zr ratios lower than 1 ([Lightfoot et al., 1994\)](#page-11-0) and Cu/Pd ratios higher than mantle values (~7000, [Barnes and Maier, 1999\)](#page-11-0). All samples from SE China have Cu/Zr ratios less than 1 [\(Fig. 9](#page-8-0)a and b) and very high and variable Cu/Pd ratios [\(Fig. 9c](#page-8-0), and [Table 1\)](#page-3-0), indicating removal of sulfides during magmatic evolution. Cu decreases with decreasing Cu/Zr ratios, whereas Zr exhibits an opposite trend ([Fig. 9a](#page-8-0) and b), which is consistent with S-saturated fractionation. This scenario is consistent with the observed positive correlations between Ni and Cu [\(Fig. 9](#page-8-0)d), which have comparable partition coefficients between sulfide liquid and silicate magma [\(Barnes and Lightfoot, 2005](#page-11-0)).

Cu/Pd ratios of samples from Lianping and Sanshui show large variations with a small range of Cu contents ([Fig. 9c](#page-8-0)), indicating a process which exerts considerable influence on Pd contents but much less on Cu concentrations. Considering that the only host of Pd is sulfide and that the partition coefficient of Pd between sulfide liquid and silicate melt is much higher than that of Cu, the variations are most likely due to segregation of a small amount of immiscible sulfides.

Pd/Cr ratios increase with decreasing Ni/Pd during fractionation under S-undersaturated conditions, whereas Pd/Cr ratios dramatically decrease with increasing Ni/Pd ratios in S-saturated magmas ([Song](#page-12-0) [et al., 2006](#page-12-0)). Therefore, the negative correlation between Ni/Pd and Pd/Cr ratios also indicates sulfide segregation during magmatic evolution in the three volcanic suites ([Fig. 10\)](#page-8-0).

6.1.4. Quantitative modeling of immiscible sulfide removal

The geochemical data presented above indicate that the volcanic rocks from Leiqiong, Sanshui and Lianping have undergone sulfidesaturated fractionation. Because Cu and Pd are both incompatible elements in sulfide-undersaturated magmas and Pd has a much larger partition coefficients into sulfides, the depletion of Pd relative to Cu (expressed as the increase in Cu/Pd ratios) is purely caused by segregation of sulfides. Consequently, we could use Cu/Pd vs. Pd diagrams to model the mass fractions of early removed sulfides. In modeling, we adopt the sulfide/silicate melt partition coefficients of 1000 for Cu and 35,000 for Pd [\(Francis, 1990; Peach et al., 1990](#page-11-0)) and presume them to remain constant during sulfide segregation. We chose the points where the extrapolated trend lines of the samples intersect

Fig. 7. Plots of Ir, Ru, Rh, Pt, Pd and Pd/Ir vs. MgO for volcanic rocks from Leiqiong, Sanshui and Lianping, SE China.

with the primitive mantle Cu/Pd line to represent the initial compositions of the magmas [\(Fig. 11](#page-8-0)). The modeled curves indicate that the Leiqiong, Sanshui and Lianping magmas were all depleted in sulfides relative to primitive magma with mantle-like Cu/Pd ratios [\(Fig. 11](#page-8-0)). Assuming no sulfides retained in the source, 0.013%, 0.009% and 0.01% mass fractions of sulfides segregated from the primitive Leiqiong, Sanshui and Lianping magmas, respectively. Considering that sulfides might be retained in the source during partial melting, the

Fig. 8. Ru vs. Ir plots for volcanic rocks from Leiqiong, Sanshui and Lianping, SE China. Fields encompass the data for the three magmatic suites.

actual segregated amount during magmatic evolution would be smaller than the modeled results. Thus, the amount of segregated sulfides from volcanic rocks in SE China is lower compared to that from MORB (0.012–0.084%, [Bézos et al., 2005](#page-11-0))

6.2. Nature of mantle sources

Some samples from SE China show Pt depletion relative to Rh and Pd with Pt/Rh ratios ranging from 1.07 to 43 ([Table 1](#page-3-0) and [Appendix 2](#page-10-0)). In particular, rocks from Lianping and Leiqiong have low Pt/Rh ratios with strong Pt depletion. A possible explanation for the Pt depletion is that the magmas underwent fractionation of Fe–Pt alloys during an early stage of crystallization of chromite ([Bai et al., 2000; Cabri,](#page-11-0) [1992; Nixon and Hammack, 1991; Peck and Keays, 1990a, b\)](#page-11-0). The early separation of Fe–Pt alloys included in chromites could possibly account for the Pt-depletion in some of Sanshui samples due to the concurrent depletion of Ru. However, linear correlations of Pt with Ir and Ru of samples from Lianping and Leiqiong [\(Fig. 12](#page-9-0)) indicate that Pt may not be depleted during magmatic evolution. Some other mechanism is required to deplete the magmas in Pt and thus the Ptdepleted signature was probably inherited from their mantle sources. **Example 1988**
 Example 1988
 Example 1989
 Example 1999
 Example 1999

Depletion of Pt in mantle peridotites implies a unique mode of mobility of Pt during melt-rock interaction relative to other PGEs. It is thought to be due to selective Pt loss from sulfides via the exsolution of Pt–Te–Bi-rich phases from primary sulfides during serpentinization and interaction with melts ([Ackerman et al., 2009; Alard et al.,](#page-11-0) [2000; Luguet et al., 2004\)](#page-11-0). Thus, possibly partial melting of such a

Fig. 9. Plots of Cu and Zr vs. Cu/Zr and Cu/Pd and Ni vs. Cu for volcanic rocks from Leiqiong, Sanshui and Lianping, SE China.

generated the volcanic rocks in Lianping and Leiqiong with varying degrees of Pt depletion.

If some sulfides remain in the mantle during partial melting, high Pd/Ir ratios of the magma are often attributed to relatively "dry" melting conditions. Under "dry" conditions, Os–Ir–Ru–Rh-enriched Mss behaves in a refractory manner, resulting in super-chondritic Pd/Ir ratios in the magma. Under fluid-rich melting conditions, alloys and Mss are more fusible, resulting in PGE ratios closer to chondrite [\(Maier and Barnes, 2004](#page-11-0)). The Pd/Ir ratios are very low in the Lianping andesites (10.1–40.0) and Leiqiong basalts (6.1–58) but relatively high in the Sanshui basalts (13.0–184.5). This suggests that the Sanshui magmas with high Pd/Ir ratios may have formed under "dry" melting conditions, whereas the Lianping and Leiqiong mantle sources underwent stronger melt/fluid metasomatism.

The negative Nb–Ta and Zr–Hf anomalies of andesites in Lianping may reflect a depleted nature of the mantle source which was

Fig. 10. Plots of Ni/(Pd*10,000) vs. Pd*100,000/Cr for volcanic rocks from Leiqiong, Sanshui and Lianping, SE China.

affected by subduction-related fluids. Isotopic studies on basalts from Leiqiong suggest an EMII component in their source, which is believed to be pyroxenite formed by melt-metasomatism of the lithospheric mantle (e.g. [Han et al., 2009; Xu., 1999\)](#page-11-0). Such fluid/melt metasomatism in the lithospheric mantle below SE China is also documented in mantle xenoliths (e.g. [Fan and Menzies, 1992; Tatsu](#page-11-0)[moto et al., 1992; Xu et al., 2003; Yu et al., 2006\)](#page-11-0). Possible metasomatic media include fluids/melts associated with the subduction of the Paleo-Pacific Plate [\(Tatsumoto et al., 1992\)](#page-12-0), and/or melts related

Fig. 11. Cu/(Pd*10,000) vs. Pd plots for volcanic rocks from Leiqiong, Sanshui and Lianping, SE China. Models 1, 2 and 3 (for Leiqiong, Sanshui and Lianping, respectively) show the trends of silicate magmas, starting with 8.9 ppb Pd and 62.3 ppm Cu, 5 ppb Pd and 35 ppm Cu and 2 ppb Pd and 14 ppm Cu. Small circles on the curves correspond to intervals representing 0.001% sulfide segregation of the original liquid. See text for details.

Fig. 12. Ir, Ru and Rh vs. Pt plots for volcanic rocks from Leiqiong, Sanshui and Lianping, SE China.

to the opening and post-spreading of the South China Sea ([Yu et al.,](#page-12-0) [2006\)](#page-12-0).

6.3. Implications for the genesis of eastern China basalts

The Cenozoic volcanic rocks in SE and NE China show different isotopic compositions due to varied SCLM compositions beneath the two regions (e.g., [Zou et al., 2000\)](#page-12-0). SE China is underlain by relatively young, middle to late Proterozoic continental lithosphere, whereas NE China is underlain by Archaean to early Proterozoic continental lithosphere (e.g., [Chen and Jahn, 1998\)](#page-11-0). PGE geochemistry of volcanic rocks in SE China, with significantly lower PGE concentrations, is also distinctly different from that of the Hannuoba basalts, NE China ([Chu](#page-11-0) [et al., 1999](#page-11-0)). Sample HWGA has PGE contents comparable with those of the Hannuoba basalts but shows no strong Ir-depletion ([Fig. 5](#page-6-0)). The PGE differences may also reflect varied source natures.

Due to the high metal/silicate distribution coefficient of Ir at low $fO₂$ conditions, strong depletion of Ir relative to other PGEs in basalts and mantle xenoliths of NE China is commonly attributed to the retention of an Ir-rich phase in the deep mantle during partial melting [\(Amossé et al., 1990; Chu et al., 1999; Orberger et al., 1998; Xu et](#page-11-0) [al., 1998](#page-11-0)). Previous studies show that the redox state of the SCLM beneath SE China is similar to that of peridotite xenoliths from other continental regions ([Qi et al., 1995\)](#page-12-0) and higher than that of NE China ([Li and Wang, 2002; Xu, 1994](#page-11-0)). Therefore, the more oxidized SCLM beneath SE China may have prevented Ir retention in the deep mantle, which can account for the absence of strong Ir-depletion in the volcanic rocks in SE China.

The PGE concentrations of volcanic rocks from NE China are much higher than those from SE China, which may be explained by two factors. First, most mantle xenoliths discovered in NE China have relatively low S contents near or less than 100 ppm [\(Reisberg et al.,](#page-12-0) [2005; Zheng et al., 2005\)](#page-12-0). Therefore, moderate degrees (~10%) of partial melting would exhaust all the sulfides in the mantle and produce magmas with high PGE concentrations. Second, experimental and empirical studies (see review by [Carrol and Webster, 1994; Naldrett,](#page-11-0) [2004\)](#page-11-0) have shown that the solubility of sulfide at sulfide saturation in mafic magmas increases with decreasing $fO₂$. Therefore, under relatively low redox state in the SCLM under NE China, magma may have not reached sulfide saturation during its evolution, preventing depletion of PGEs by segregation of immiscible sulfides.

From Mesozoic to Cenozoic, the SCLM beneath SE China has continuously suffered from metasomatism associated with the subduction of the Paleo-Pacific Plate and magmatism during the spreading and post-spreading of the South China Sea and became heterogeneous. In the early Paleogene, eastern China has experienced extension due to the Indo-Asian collision and/or the rollback of the subducting Paleo-Pacific Plate, leading to thinning of the lithosphere, upwelling of the asthenospheric mantle and widespread Cenozoic volcanism ([Liu et al., 2004; Northrup et al., 1995\)](#page-11-0). Upwelling of the asthenospheric mantle in NE China incorporated the ancient EM1 component in the SCLM and generated Ir-depleted basalts, such as those in Hannuoba, whereas asthenospheric upwelling under SE China incorporated the heterogeneously metasomatized SCLM and produced basalts with MORB-like PGE patterns such as the Leiqiong basalts.

However, there is a lack of complete chalcophile element data for basalts from NE China in the literature. Further studies on PGEs in basalts of NE China are needed to clarify the differences between the volcanic rocks from NE and SE China.

7. Conclusions

Cenozoic basalts and andesites in SE China do not display strong Ir-depletion that is common in basalts and associated mantle xenoliths in NE China. The lack of strong Ir depletion in the volcanic rocks of SE China is attributed to increased solubility of Ir in silicate phases under higher $fO₂$ conditions, implying more oxidized SCLM beneath SE China than NE China. The generally lower total PGE in the volcanic rocks of SE China resulted from sulfide retention in the source and/or S-saturated crystal fractionation.

Basalts at Leiqiong evolved by fractionating olivine and chromite, whereas those at Sanshui fractionated olivine, chromite and an Fe– Pt alloy. Volcanic rocks from SE China underwent sulfide segregation during magmatic evolution, but the amount of segregated sulfides was small compared to that in the case of MORB.

Depletion of Pt relative to other PGEs in volcanic rocks from Leiqiong and Lianping most likely reflects derivation from a Ptdepleted mantle source. Pt depletion in the mantle source was due to fluid/melt-metasomatism of the SCLM.

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Appendix 1. Analytical results of PGE for reference materials WGB-1 (gabbro) and TDB-1 (diabase).

 $\overline{\text{Meisel}} = (\text{Meisel} \text{ and Moser}, 2004)$. Certified = [\(Govindaraju, 1994](#page-11-0)).

Appendix 2. Major and trace elements and PGE concentrations of additional samples from SE China.

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