

# Quantifying Barrovian metamorphism in the Danba Structural Culmination of eastern Tibet

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**ABSTRACT** The Danba Structural Culmination is a tectonic window into the late Triassic to early Jurassic Songpan-Garzê Fold Belt of eastern Tibet, which exposes an oblique section through a complete Barrovian-type metamorphic sequence. Systematic analysis of a suite of metapelites from this locality has enabled a general study of Barrovian metamorphism, and provided new insights into the early thermotectonic history of the Tibetan plateau. The suite was used to create a detailed petrographic framework, from which four samples ranging from staurolite to sillimanite grade were selected for thermobarometry and geochronology. Pseudosection analysis was applied to calculate  $P$ - $T$  path segments and determine peak conditions between staurolite grade at  $\sim 5.2$  kbar and  $580$  °C and sillimanite grade at  $\sim 6.0$  kbar and  $670$  °C. *In situ* U-Pb monazite geochronology reveals that staurolite-grade conditions were reached at  $191.5 \pm 2.4$  Ma, kyanite-grade conditions were attained at  $184.2 \pm 1.5$  Ma, and sillimanite-grade conditions continued until  $179.4 \pm 1.6$  Ma. Integration of the results has provided constraints on the evolution of metamorphism in the region, including a partial reconstruction of the regional metamorphic field gradient. Several key features of Barrovian metamorphism are documented, including nested  $P$ - $T$  paths and a polychronic field gradient. In addition, several atypical features are noted, such as  $P$ - $T$  path segments having similar slopes to the metamorphic field gradient, and  $T_{\max}$  and  $P_{\max}$  being reached simultaneously in some samples. These features are attributed to the effects of slow tectonic burial, which allows for thermal relaxation during compression. While nested, clockwise  $P$ - $T$ - $t$  loops provide a useful framework for Barrovian metamorphism, this study shows that the effects of slow burial can telescope this model in  $P$ - $T$  space. Finally, the study demonstrates that eastern Tibet experienced a significant phase of crustal thickening during the Mesozoic, reinforcing the notion that the plateau may have a long history of uplift and growth.

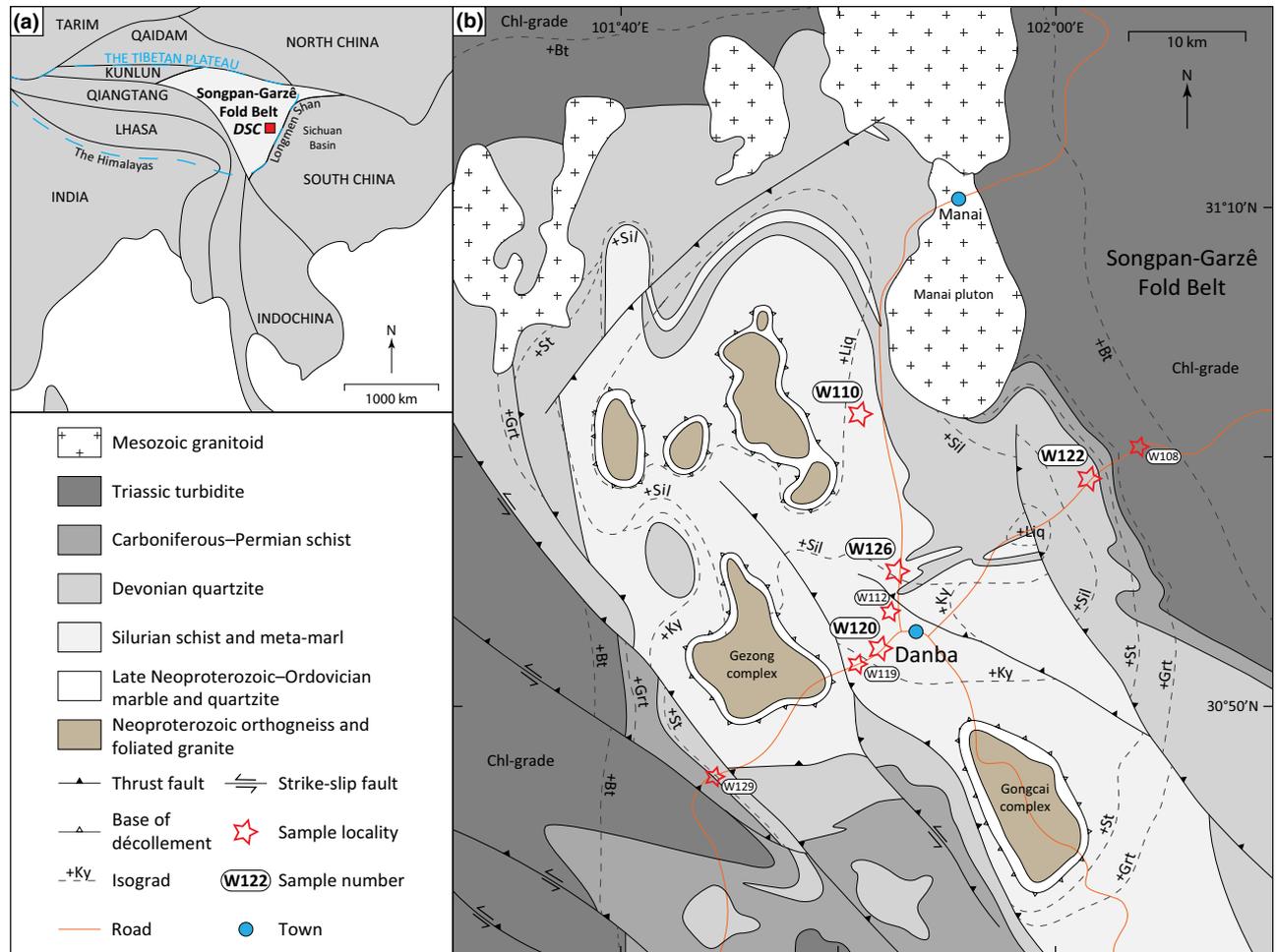
**Key words:** Barrovian metamorphism; metamorphic field gradient; *in situ* monazite geochronology;  $P$ - $T$ - $t$  path; Tibetan plateau.

## INTRODUCTION

It was the British geologist George Barrow who first documented a sequence of mineral zones—chlorite, biotite, garnet, staurolite, kyanite and sillimanite—associated with the progressive metamorphism of mudstone in the late 19th century (Barrow *et al.*, 1893, 1912). This sequence has since been observed in numerous orogenic belts, and Barrovian metamorphism has become synonymous with continental collision (e.g. England & Thompson, 1984). Thermal modelling of collisional belts has greatly developed our understanding of Barrovian metamorphism, by demonstrating how plausible burial, internal heating and erosion rates can produce clockwise pressure-temperature-time ( $P$ - $T$ - $t$ ) loops that traverse docu-

mented  $P$ - $T$  conditions (e.g. England & Richardson, 1977; Jamieson *et al.*, 1998). Advances in thermobarometry and geochronology are now furthering our knowledge, as nuanced  $P$ - $T$ - $t$  paths can be extracted from natural settings and compared with theoretical models (e.g. Gerya & Maresch, 2004).

In this contribution, the Danba Structural Culmination (DSC) in the Songpan-Garzê Fold Belt of eastern Tibet (Fig. 1) was used as a natural case study of Barrovian metamorphism. The DSC is well suited for this purpose, because it exposes a complete Barrovian sequence within a small geographical area, with high-quality outcrops and a well-established regional context (Huang *et al.*, 2003a; Roger *et al.*, 2010). Integrated pseudosection modelling and *in situ* monazite geochronology were applied to a suite of



**Fig. 1.** Field setting. (a) Tectonic block map of Asia. The location of the Danba Structural Culmination (DSC) within the Songpan-Garzê Fold Belt is shown by the red box. Modified from Roger *et al.* (2010). (b) Geological map showing the stratigraphy and metamorphic isograds of the DSC. All samples are used to develop the petrographic framework; the four large red stars denote the samples used for thermobarometry and geochronology. Modified from Huang *et al.* (2003a).

metapelites from the DSC, to quantify the petrological, thermobarometric, and temporal evolution of metamorphism in the region. The aim was to explore a series of  $P$ - $T$ - $t$  paths from different metamorphic grades, for comparison with the classic model of nested, clockwise  $P$ - $T$ - $t$  loops (Fig. 2; England & Richardson, 1977). This included consideration of the metamorphic field gradient, which is defined as the  $P$ - $T$  loci of  $T_{\max}$  for rocks from all exposed structural levels (Richardson & England, 1979; Thompson & England, 1984; Spear, 1993).

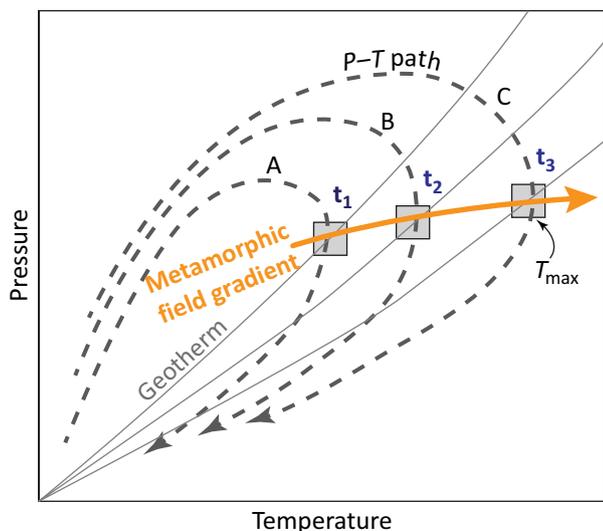
This study is also of regional relevance because the DSC represents one of the few tectonic windows into the Tibetan plateau, providing a direct means to access the crustal history of Tibet and evaluate geodynamic models of how and when the plateau formed (Clark, 2011). At present, this approach is hampered in the DSC by conflicting ages and interpretations pertaining to whether the sillimanite-grade

metamorphism was an integral part of the early Jurassic metamorphism, or a separate thermal event (Mattauer *et al.*, 1992; Huang *et al.*, 2003b; Wallis *et al.*, 2003). Our results support a model of continuous prograde metamorphism in the study area, with the implications for Barrovian metamorphism and the crustal evolution of the Tibetan plateau discussed below.

## GEOLOGICAL SETTING

### Songpan-Garzê Fold Belt

The Songpan-Garzê Fold Belt is a triangular-shaped terrane situated in the eastern part of the Tibetan plateau (Fig. 1a; Roger *et al.*, 2008). It was formed during inversion of a large sedimentary basin in the late Triassic, due to concurrent convergence between the North China, South China and Qiangtang blocks.



**Fig. 2.** Schematic showing a cogenetic suite of  $P$ - $T$ - $t$  paths for three samples (A, B & C) involved in crustal thickening. The  $P$ - $T$  loci of their respective  $T_{\max}$  positions define the metamorphic field gradient, which is typically concave to the  $T$ -axis, polychronic and at a steep angle to the  $P$ - $T$  paths of an individual sample (England & Richardson, 1977; Richardson & England, 1979; Thompson & England, 1984; Spear, 1993).

The northern and western boundaries of the Songpan-Garzê Fold Belt are northward- and eastward-dipping Triassic subduction zones, respectively (Dewey *et al.*, 1988). The eastern boundary is the transpressive, polyphase Triassic-Tertiary Longmen Shan fold-and-thrust belt, which also forms the topographic edge to the Tibetan plateau and separates the Songpan-Garzê Fold Belt from the Sichuan Basin below (Burchfiel *et al.*, 1995).

The Songpan-Garzê basin comprised a 6–8 km deep Triassic infill of turbidite, which was deposited on a 5–7 km thick late Neoproterozoic-Palaeozoic sequence underlain by a Neoproterozoic crystalline basement (Zhou *et al.*, 2002). Shortening across the basin caused the development of a NW-trending, SW-verging, regional décollement-fold belt (the Songpan-Garzê Fold Belt), which induced amphibolite facies, Barrovian-type metamorphism in the thickened sedimentary pile (Huang *et al.*, 2003a). From exposed higher to lower structural levels, the deformation style changes from upright chevron folding of Triassic strata, with a variably developed axial-planar slaty cleavage, to a flat-lying, isoclinally folded ductile décollement zone primarily located in Silurian-Devonian strata, with a penetrative axial-planar foliation (Mattauer *et al.*, 1992; Harrowfield & Wilson, 2005). The décollement zone is associated with a north-south stretching lineation, with shear criteria indicating a top-to-the-south sense of shear.

Granitic magmatism is extensive in the region, with more than one hundred plutons intruding the

Songpan-Garzê Fold Belt, ranging in age from *c.* 225 to *c.* 150 Ma. The older granites (*c.* 225–190 Ma) are interpreted to have resulted from partial melting of the basement, and are pre- to syn-kinematic with respect to formation of the Songpan-Garzê Fold Belt, whereas the younger granites are suggested to be post-orogenic and derived from partial melting of the thickened sedimentary cover sequence (Roger *et al.*, 2004).

The Songpan-Garzê Fold Belt largely retains its Triassic architecture, with extremely slow cooling ( $<1$  °C Ma $^{-1}$ ) and very little denudation and exhumation since the Jurassic (Kirby *et al.*, 2002). Tertiary deformation in the region is restricted to two fault systems. First, a suite of large sinistral strike-slip faults, associated with the lateral extrusion of the Tibetan plateau, have developed in the southern part of the Songpan-Garzê Fold Belt since the mid-Miocene (Roger *et al.*, 1995). Second, the Longmen Shan has been reactivated, most notably during the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake, and has experienced rapid denudation since the late Miocene (Xu & Kamp, 2000; Xu *et al.*, 2009). Consequently, most of the Songpan-Garzê Fold Belt outcrops in its upper structural levels, with basement sections only exposed in the Longmen Shan and the DSC (Fig. 1a; Roger *et al.*, 2010).

### Danba Structural Culmination

The DSC is a wide, Tertiary, NNW-plunging anti-formal culmination, which exposes the lower structural levels of the Songpan-Garzê Fold Belt (Fig. 1b; Burchfiel *et al.*, 1995). Within the DSC, a series of basement-cored structural domes consist of Neoproterozoic orthogneiss and foliated granite that are locally reworked near the décollement horizon (Zhou *et al.*, 2002). Igneous components within two of the basement domes, the Gongcai and Gezong complexes, have been dated at  $824 \pm 14$  Ma and  $864 \pm 8$  Ma, respectively (U-Pb zircon; Zhou *et al.*, 2002). The cover sequence comprises a lowermost marble unit with subordinate quartzite, which is overlain by Silurian-Devonian schist, meta-marl and quartzite, interlayered with minor amphibolite. Carboniferous-Permian schist and Triassic turbidite form the upper part of the sequence (Mattauer *et al.*, 1992).

Pelitic horizons are found throughout this sequence and isograd mapping documents a classic Barrovian sequence into the core of the DSC, which culminates in partial melting (Fig. 1b; Huang *et al.*, 2003a). However, there remains significant debate pertaining to whether the sillimanite-grade metamorphism (and associated anatexis) was progressive with the kyanite grade metamorphism during evolution of the Songpan-Garzê Fold Belt, or whether it represents a separate thermal event. This is fuelled by considerable scatter in published ages (see discussion below;

Hou *et al.*, 1996; Huang *et al.*, 2003b; Wallis *et al.*, 2003). Aluminosilicate-bearing quartz veins are also prevalent in the core of the DSC.

#### *Previous metamorphic studies*

Mattauer *et al.* (1992) suggested that all of the metamorphism in the DSC was contemporaneous with formation of the Songpan-Garzê Fold Belt. Wallis *et al.* (2003) made the same interpretation, noting that all of the metamorphic minerals, including sillimanite, define a similar foliation. However, Huang *et al.* (2003a) distinguished an initial  $M_1$  Barrovian metamorphism, peaking at kyanite-grade conditions of 5.3–8 kbar and 570–600 °C, from a sillimanite-grade overprint ( $M_2$ ), which was suggested to have occurred only in the northern part of the DSC (marked by the occurrence of sillimanite and local migmatization) at  $P$ – $T$  conditions of 4.8–6.3 kbar and 640–725 °C. Huang *et al.* (2003a) primarily used the  $aVPT$  method of THERMOCALC for their thermobarometric calculations (Powell & Holland, 1994). Cheng & Lai (2005) applied conventional thermobarometry to samples located across the DSC, and concluded that Barrovian metamorphism occurred at moderate pressures, with results ranging between 3.1–6.3 kbar and 430–660 °C. Their data also show  $P$ – $T$  paths that are consistently clockwise, and a variable geotherm, in the range 23–55 °C km<sup>-1</sup>. They also noted that sillimanite and migmatite lenses align with the regional foliation. Lastly, Cheng *et al.* (2009) presented an analysis of a single, compositionally zoned, poikiloblastic garnet from a kyanite-sillimanite-schist from the DSC, and calculated an anticlockwise  $P$ – $T$  growth trajectory from ~4.9 kbar and 540 °C at the core to ~5.8 kbar and 530 °C at the rim. However, the Gibbs method applied by Cheng *et al.* (2009) requires that no diffusional modification of the sillimanite-grade garnet core had occurred, and contradicts the results presented in Cheng & Lai (2005).

#### *Previous geochronological studies*

Hou *et al.* (1996) obtained whole rock Rb–Sr mineral isochron ages of 160–150 Ma for a kyanite-schist and an amphibolite from the DSC, which they interpreted to approximate the timing of kyanite-grade metamorphism in the region. Huang *et al.* (2003b) used an array of techniques (U–Pb monazite, U–Pb titanite and Sm–Nd garnet) to analyse the high-temperature geochronology of the region. They dated  $M_1$  (as defined above for Huang *et al.*, 2003a) at *c.* 204–190 Ma, and concluded that  $M_2$  was a separate thermal event that only affected the northern part of the Danba terrane at 165–158 Ma. All of their datasets show considerable dispersion from *c.* 200 to *c.* 160 Ma, which Huang *et al.* (2003b) attributed to variable recrystallization of older monazite during the  $M_2$  overprint. They also reported Rb–Sr muscovite ages

of *c.* 138–100 Ma and Rb–Sr biotite ages of *c.* 34–24 Ma. Wallis *et al.* (2003) suggested an age of *c.* 65 Ma for sillimanite-grade metamorphism in the DSC, based on similar ages from two different methods: 65 ± 3 Ma for the chemical Th–U total lead isochron method (CHIME) dating of monazite from a sillimanite-bearing schist, and 67 ± 12 Ma for U–Pb dating of apatite from the Manai pluton. However, the Manai pluton has since been dated by U–Pb zircon at 197 ± 6 Ma (Roger *et al.*, 2004), so that the 65 ± 3 Ma CHIME age determination is considered as yet non-reproduced. Lastly, Tung *et al.* (2011) used an array of low-temperature techniques to focus on the exhumation history of the DSC, with biotite Rb–Sr ages of 34–24 Ma, zircon fission track ages of 25–19 Ma at the margin and 14–16 Ma at the core of DSC, and apatite fission track ages of 12–9 Ma at the margin and 7–5 Ma at the core of DSC. Their results suggest that the folding associated with the formation of the DSC has been ongoing since the Miocene.

## PETROGRAPHY

### Sampling strategy

Samples of metapelite were collected from each mineral zone in the DSC (red stars, Fig. 1b), allowing fabric development and mineral growth to be tracked across the full width of the Barrovian sequence. Using this framework, a subset of four study samples (W122, W120, W126 & W110; Fig. 1b) were chosen for systematic application of pseudosection modelling and *in situ* monazite geochronology. The study samples represent a prograde sequence with peak assemblages characterized by staurolite (W122), kyanite (W120), kyanite-sillimanite (W126) and sillimanite (W110). A staurolite-grade sample provides the lower temperature bound because monazite was only observed to be present from staurolite grade onwards (Table 1). All mineral abbreviations follow the guidelines given in Whitney & Evans (2010).

### Fabric development in the DSC

The DSC exposes a continuous section from chlorite-grade sedimentary rocks on the flanks of the DSC, to sillimanite-grade migmatites in the core, which allows for progressive fabric development to be monitored relative to  $S_0$ . Figure 3a,b shows the characteristic mesoscopic  $S_0$ – $S_1$  relations of the Songpan-Garzê Fold Belt, with a fold-axial-planar slaty cleavage ( $S_1$ ) developed within tight upright folds ( $F_1$ ) in response to shortening across the Songpan-Garzê basin ( $D_1$ ). The  $S_1$  foliation contains a stretching lineation ( $L_1$ ), which is manifested by alignment of disaggregated pyrite at lower grades (Fig. 3c), and by preferential growth direction of kyanite and sillimanite at higher grades. Field shear criteria and sections cut parallel the stretching lineation consistently show a top-to-

**Table 1.** X-ray fluorescence data (wt%) for all samples, sorted by grade.

Sample	Grade	SiO <sub>2</sub>	TiO <sub>2</sub>	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	MnO	MgO	CaO	Na <sub>2</sub> O	K <sub>2</sub> O	P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	LOI	Total	Aln or Mnz
W108	Bt	59.19	0.62	15.63	6.37	0.10	3.14	6.30	1.47	2.98	0.13	3.76	99.70	Aln
W129	Grt-St	60.50	0.78	19.33	7.26	0.04	3.15	0.44	0.43	5.17	0.07	2.47	99.64	Aln
W122	St	54.70	1.01	23.06	9.33	0.09	3.49	0.60	1.04	4.25	0.09	1.94	99.61	Aln + Mnz
W119	St	59.66	0.74	19.54	7.65	0.08	3.23	0.19	0.63	4.95	0.09	2.90	99.66	Aln + Mnz
W120	Ky	61.84	0.70	18.51	7.70	0.10	3.15	0.39	0.81	4.53	0.06	1.81	99.60	Mnz
W112	Ky	56.59	0.96	22.74	7.59	0.07	3.23	0.31	0.82	4.93	0.12	2.25	99.63	Mnz
W126	Ky-Sil	62.87	0.67	17.75	6.53	0.07	2.78	0.95	1.88	3.71	0.10	2.30	99.61	Mnz
W110	Sil	58.79	1.02	20.11	8.16	0.07	3.55	0.29	0.63	5.15	0.08	1.75	99.60	Mnz

the-south sense of shear. This orientation is concordant with previous studies in the DSC, and is considered to represent the transport direction of the Songpan-Garzé Fold Belt (Huang *et al.*, 2003a; Wallis *et al.*, 2003; Harrowfield & Wilson, 2005).

Figure 3d shows the corresponding microscopic S<sub>0</sub>–S<sub>1</sub> relations at biotite grade, with an incipient slaty cleavage (S<sub>1</sub>) developing axial-planar to microfolds of S<sub>0</sub>. Above garnet grade, deformation intensifies and S<sub>1</sub> becomes the dominant planar fabric observed within the metasedimentary rocks in the DSC. In finer-grained samples, the S<sub>1</sub> cleavage is penetrative, but characteristically it is spaced at 0.5–1 mm intervals, with well-defined alternating cleavage and microlithon domains (Fig. 3e). Evidence for S<sub>0</sub> becomes scarce due to realignment of mica into S<sub>1</sub> and extensive recrystallization. However, extrapolation of the S<sub>0</sub>–S<sub>1</sub> microstructural framework up grade is permissible by the observation of relict S<sub>0</sub> micro-folding within local strain shadows in sections where S<sub>1</sub> is otherwise well developed, e.g. within the arms of a staurolite cruciform twin (Fig. 3f,g).

In the centre of the DSC, an incipient, sub-vertical S<sub>2</sub> crenulation cleavage is developed. In general, S<sub>2</sub> is associated with mild crenulation of S<sub>1</sub> along a N–S axis (L<sub>2</sub>), and is interpreted to result from E–W compression (D<sub>2</sub>). D<sub>2</sub> overprints all index minerals, and is associated with microstructures indicative of relatively low temperatures, such as kink banding of mica (Fig. 3h) and bulging recrystallization in quartz (Fig. 3i). The latter has been calibrated by Stipp *et al.* (2002) to indicate temperatures of deformation between 280–400 °C, which suggests that D<sub>2</sub> was a relatively late feature of the DSC.

### Mineral growth and stability in the DSC

The graphitic nature of the pelitic samples utilized in this study provides a common textural context within which the progressive nature of mineral growth across a range of metamorphic grades can be documented.

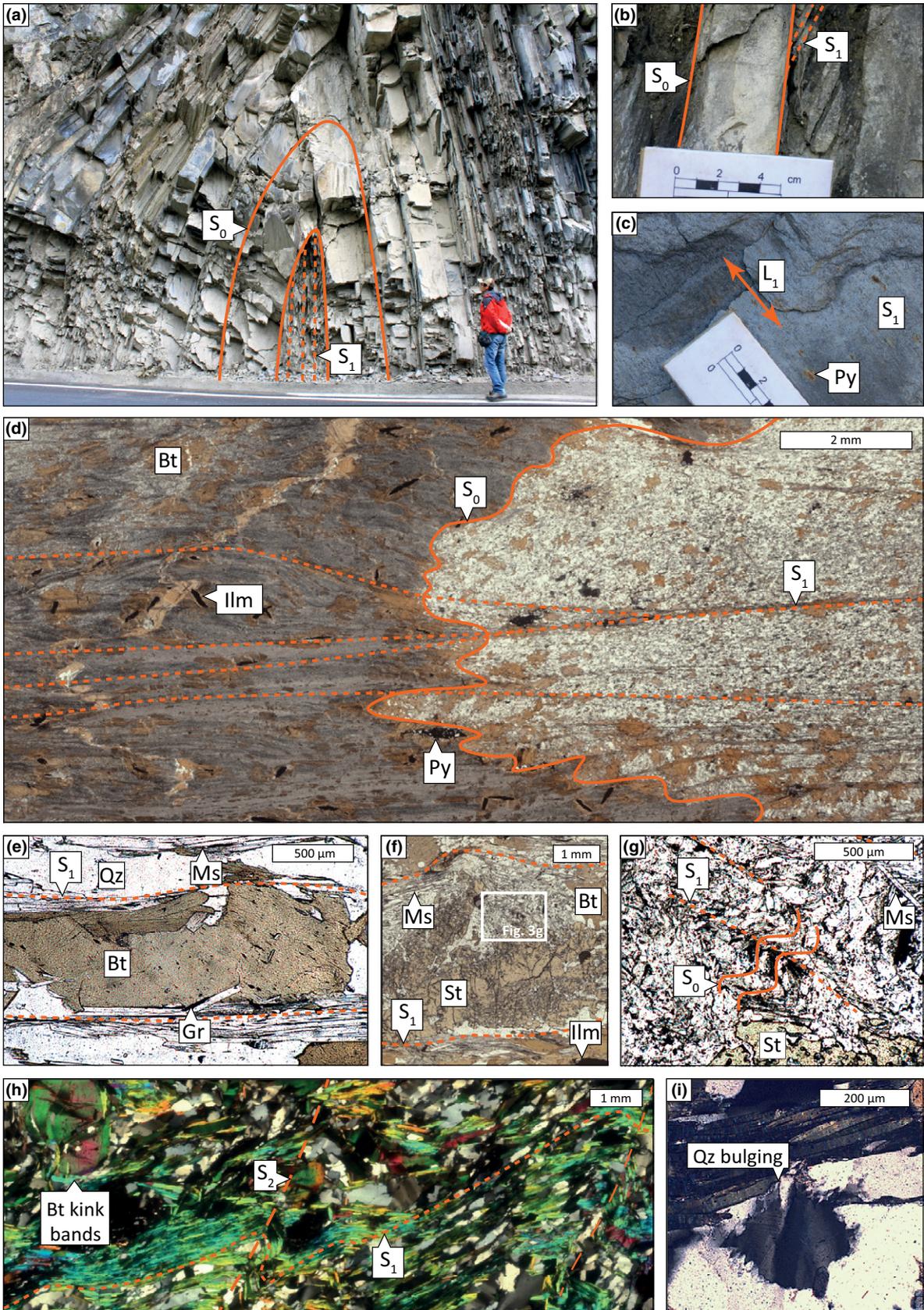
#### Barrovian minerals

Chlorite is well developed along the flanks of the DSC, occurring as small flakes throughout the matrix. Biotite is the first index mineral to appear

within the DSC, forming large poikiloblasts that commonly overgrow F<sub>1</sub> microfolds (Fig. 4a). At higher grade, biotite porphyroblasts are truncated and realigned into the dominant S<sub>1</sub> fabric (Fig. 3e). Taken as a set, these observations suggest that biotite grew after the onset of D<sub>1</sub>, but that deformation outlasted mineral growth (Passchier & Trouw, 2005). This lends a characteristic fabric element to all higher-grade samples: truncated biotite porphyroblasts that define the limits of the S<sub>1</sub> microlithon domains. Garnet, which is the second index mineral that characterizes the DSC, forms large poikiloblasts that are wrapped by S<sub>1</sub> and contain S-shaped inclusion trails, dominantly of aligned quartz grains, which are continuous with the external fabric, suggesting that garnet grew syn-D<sub>1</sub> (Fig. 4b; Passchier & Trouw, 2005). The same observations for garnet hold at staurolite grade, and staurolite poikiloblasts are also observed to be wrapped by S<sub>1</sub> and contain curved inclusion trails, consistent with syn-D<sub>1</sub> growth (Fig. 3f).

Staurolite breakdown is coincident with kyanite growth (Fig. 4c), with kyanite typically forming blades that are aligned within S<sub>1</sub> (Fig. 4d,g). Although alignment within a fabric is not in itself definitive, the observation of syn-D<sub>1</sub> garnet and staurolite growth suggests that kyanite also grew syn-D<sub>1</sub>. The kyanite-bearing S<sub>1</sub> fabric is deflected around inclusion-rich garnet cores, but is in turn overgrown by thin, inclusion-poor garnet rims (rounded black box, Fig. 4d), suggesting that the garnet rims grew post-D<sub>1</sub>. Similar aluminosilicate-garnet-matrix relations are observed at sillimanite grade, where sillimanite is aligned within the S<sub>1</sub> fabric that is deflected around garnet cores, but is truncated by thin garnet rims that overgrow S<sub>1</sub> (Fig. 4e). The inclusion-poor rims are wider at higher grades (Fig. 4f), but only partially overgrow S<sub>1</sub> at their outer margins. Analysis of garnet compositional zonation below shows that the microstructurally defined post-D<sub>1</sub> garnet rims are also chemically distinctive.

Where kyanite and sillimanite coexist, sillimanite typically nucleates in muscovite, away from resorbed kyanite blades (Fig. 4h). This texture is typical of the kyanite-sillimanite transition in the DSC and is interpreted to be the result of the sluggish reaction kinetics associated with polymorphic replacement



(Carmichael, 1969). Fibrolite mats and sillimanite blades also show strong alignment within  $S_1$ , and in places define the spaced  $S_1$  cleavage (Fig. 4i), which is consistent with syn- $D_1$  growth. At sillimanite grade, garnet is ragged in appearance, suggestive of resorption. Finally, migmatitic samples are observed to have quartzofeldspathic lenses aligned with  $S_1$ , but they are not mentioned further in this paper as their analysis is beyond the scope of this study.

#### Other minerals

In all samples, quartz, plagioclase and ilmenite are found as major phases, and graphite, tourmaline, zircon and apatite are accessory phases. Allanite is present in low-grade samples, typically rimmed by epidote, but is replaced by monazite from staurolite grade onwards (Table 1). Calcite and pyrite are also present at biotite grade. Most of the samples display little indication of retrogression, except for some minor late muscovite, which form blades that randomly cut across the  $S_1$  cleavage. The exception to this are samples that contain  $S_2$  fabrics, which show evidence of retrograde chlorite growth along the  $S_2$  planes, with shimmer aggregates after staurolite and conversion of matrix mica to chlorite. This suggests that  $D_2$  enabled localized retrogressive fluid flow.

Coarse-grained aluminosilicate-bearing quartz veins are present in the core of the DSC, and are variably, but not always completely, discordant with  $S_1$ , suggesting late- to post- $D_1$  emplacement. The aluminosilicate polymorph is the same in both the vein and matrix assemblage and the veins are interpreted to be derived from prograde dehydration reactions in the adjacent host metapelite (Allaz *et al.*, 2005).

#### Petrographic summary

Figure 5 summarizes the interpretation of fabric development *v.* mineral growth for all major mineral phases in the DSC. The key observation is that all of the index minerals are aligned within or wrapped by  $S_1$ , which suggests that Barrovian metamorphism in the DSC occurred entirely within a progressive  $D_1$  event.

## MINERAL CHEMISTRY

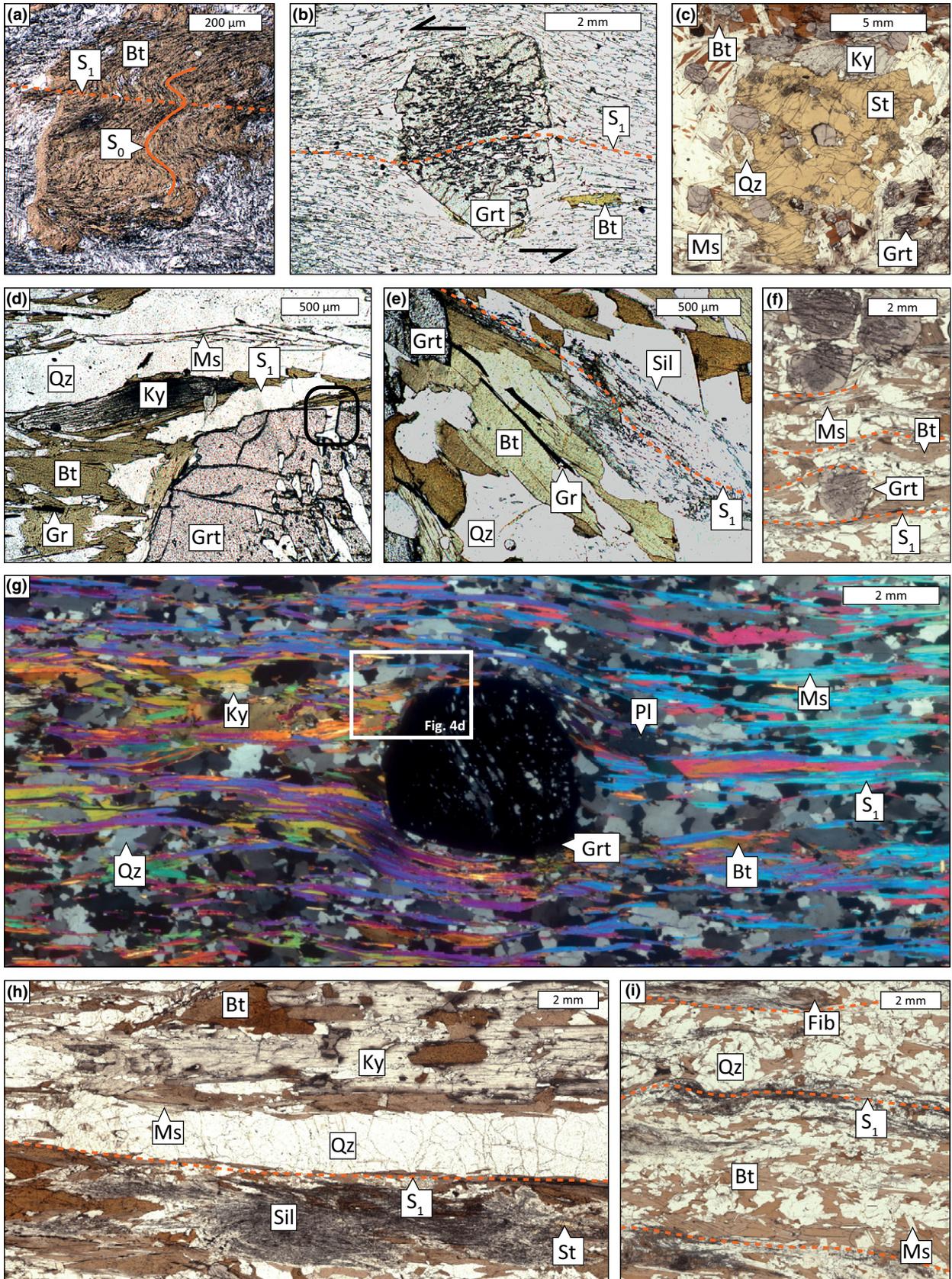
### Analytical techniques

Whole-rock major element data were acquired for all samples using XRF techniques on fused glass beads using a Rigaku<sup>®</sup> RIX-2000 spectrometer at the Department of Geosciences, National Taiwan University. The analytical procedures follow Wang (2004), yielding analytical uncertainties generally better than  $\pm 5\%$  ( $2\sigma$ ). Loss on ignition (LOI) was determined separately by routine procedures. Mineral compositional data (point analyses of individual minerals and compositional line profiles traversing garnet porphyroblasts) were acquired for each of the four study samples (W122, W120, W126 & W110) using a JEOL JSM-840A scanning electron microscope (SEM) fitted with an Oxford Instruments Isis 300 energy-dispersive analytical system at the Department of Earth Sciences, University of Oxford. Accelerating voltage was 20 kV, with a beam current of 6 nA, and a live counting time of 100. It was calibrated with a range of natural and synthetic standards, and a ZAF correction procedure was used. The beam current was checked regularly and the count rate calibrated every 120 min using a cobalt metal standard. Compositional profiles across garnet were determined by accumulating counts along a 256-channel line scan for  $\sim 30$  min. The profiles were background-corrected and calibrated against up to six full point analyses taken at known positions along the profile to calculate mole fractions of garnet end members. By convention, all Fe is reported as ferric ( $Fe^{3+}$ ) in XRF analyses, but conversely, all Fe is reported as ferrous ( $Fe^{2+}$ ) in SEM analyses.

### Sample chemistry

Table 1 displays the whole-rock major element XRF data for all samples. Alongside Table 1, a summary of whether allanite and/or monazite was present in each sample is given, which shows that monazite replaces allanite within staurolite-grade samples. Tables 2 & 3 contain representative compositional SEM analyses for suitable minerals within each of the four study samples (W122, W120, W126 & W110). The analyses are presented as the average of

**Fig. 3.** Fabric development in the DSC. All photomicrographs are from sections cut normal to  $S_1$  and parallel  $L_1$ , unless otherwise stated. (a) Field photograph taken to the east of the DSC, showing a typical view of the upper structural levels of the Songpan-Garzé Fold Belt and comprising folded Triassic turbidites with axial-planar cleavage ( $S_1$ ). (b) Field photograph taken to the east of the DSC, showing  $S_0$ - $S_1$  intersection ( $F_1$ ). (c) Field photograph taken near sample W108, showing the alignment of pyrite along the  $L_1$  stretching lineation. (d) Plane-polarized light (PPL) photomicrograph of sample W108, showing  $S_1$  axial-planar to microfolds of  $S_0$ . The competency difference between the sandstone and mudstone causes fanning of the  $S_1$  cleavage. (e) PPL photomicrograph of sample W120, showing a biotite porphyroblast that is truncated by the spaced  $S_1$  cleavage. (f) PPL photomicrograph of sample W122, showing a staurolite poikiloblast wrapped by  $S_1$ . (g) PPL photomicrograph of the boxed region in Fig. 3f, showing relict microfolding of  $S_0$  in the strain shadow of the cruciform arms of the staurolite porphyroblast. (h) Photomicrograph of sample W119 viewed under crossed polars, showing the development of an incipient  $S_2$  cleavage, from crenulation of  $S_1$ . Zones of  $S_2$  deformation are associated with kink banding in mica. Section is cut normal to  $S_1$  and perpendicular to  $L_1$ . (i) Close-up of Fig. 3h, showing characteristic quartz bulging microstructures that developed along  $S_2$ .



**Fig. 4.** Barrovian mineral growth in the DSC. All photomicrographs are from sections cut normal to  $S_1$  and parallel  $L_1$ , unless otherwise stated. (a) PPL photomicrograph of sample W108, showing a biotite porphyroblast that is helicitic with respect to early microfolding of  $S_0$ . (b) PPL photomicrograph of sample W129, showing a garnet poikiloblast with an S-shaped inclusion trail that is continuous with  $S_1$ , indicative of syn- $D_1$  growth. The sense of shear is top-to-the-south. (c) PPL photomicrograph of sample W112, showing the breakdown of a large staurolite poikiloblast to kyanite, biotite and garnet. (d) PPL photomicrograph of the boxed region in Fig. 4g, showing detailed kyanite-garnet- $S_1$  relations. The matrix and garnet core are consistent with syn- $D_1$  growth, but the garnet rim overgrows the  $S_1$  fabric (rounded black box), suggesting post- $D_1$  growth; see text for discussion. (e) PPL photomicrograph of sample W110, showing similar aluminosilicate-garnet- $S_1$  relations as for Fig. 4d, but for a sillimanite-grade sample. Sillimanite is strongly aligned within the  $S_1$  fabric, consistent with syn- $D_1$  growth. (f) PPL photomicrograph of sample W126, showing inclusion-rich garnet cores and inclusion-poor garnet rims. The highly graphitic nature of this sample makes for a strong contrast. Section is cut normal to  $S_1$  and perpendicular to  $L_1$ . (g) Photomicrograph of sample W120 viewed under crossed polars, showing the characteristic spaced  $S_1$  cleavage. Kyanite blades are strongly aligned with  $S_1$ , consistent with syn- $D_1$  growth. (h) PPL photomicrograph of sample W126, showing resorbed kyanite blades and the nucleation of sillimanite in muscovite. Relict staurolite is also observed. (i) PPL photomicrograph of sample W110, showing sillimanite preferentially within the  $S_1$  cleavage domains, suggestive of syn- $D_1$  growth. The characteristic spaced  $S_1$  fabric is still clear, despite grain size coarsening.

Deformation phase:	Early $D_1$ ( $M_1-S_1-F_1$ )	Progressive $D_1$ ( $M_1-S_1-L_1-F_1$ )	Post- $D_1$ Pre- $D_2$	$D_2$ ( $M_2-S_2-L_2$ )
<b>Mineral growth</b>				
Chlorite	_____			
Ilmenite		_____		
Plagioclase	_____			
Quartz			_____	
Muscovite			_____	
Biotite				
Garnet		Syn- $D_1$ core      Syn- $D_1$ rim	Post- $D_1$ rim	
Staurolite		_____		
Kyanite		_____	_____	
Sillimanite			_____	
		↑      ↑      ↑      ↑ W122 W120 W126 W110		
<b>Inferred events:</b>	Initial N-S compression folds $S_0$ , incipient $S_1$	Continued N-S compression within non-ideal simple shear stress regime (top-to-the-south), development slaty cleavage $S_1$ axial-planar to $F_1$ with $L_1$ stretching lineation implying N-S transport direction	Minor post-peak grt-ms growth and emplacement of qz-veins (high-T)	Late E-W compression, crenulates $S_1$ , incipient $S_2$ , localised fluid pathways cause minor retrogression, (low-T)

**Fig. 5.** Summary of fabric development v. mineral growth in the DSC.  $D_1$  columns represent absolute assemblages in a closed system, whereas post- $D_1$  columns only show minerals that join the assemblages in an open system. Secondary garnet rims and late muscovite are grouped together based on the observation that they occurred in the absence of deformation and are assumed to be high temperature features, but they are not necessarily genetically associated. The major phase assemblage for each of the study samples (W122, W120, W126 & W110) is indicated by the arrows.

multiple grains, apart from the garnet columns, which represent individual analyses along the garnet profiles detailed below.

*Garnet chemistry*

Representative garnet compositional line profiles from each study sample are presented in Fig. 6a-d. Associated X-ray compositional maps for Mn content demonstrate that zoning is approximately concentric in all cases (Fig. 6e-h). The compositional profiles for samples W122 and W120 (Fig. 6a,b) have Mn- and Ca-rich cores, and Fe- and Mg-rich rims, which are typical trends for prograde garnet in metapelites (e.g. Woodsworth, 1977). Similar trends are observed for sample W126 (Fig. 6c), but the signal is more muted. The change in the nature of the garnet compositional zoning is particularly evident from the spessartine component (dark circles, Fig.

6a-d), which defines ‘bell-shaped’ prograde growth curves up to kyanite grade that become progressively flattened into the sillimanite zone. The flatter compositional profiles are interpreted to reflect increasing homogenization (by cation diffusion) at higher metamorphic grades (Tracy, 1982). Therefore, only core compositions up to kyanite grade are considered approximately primary.

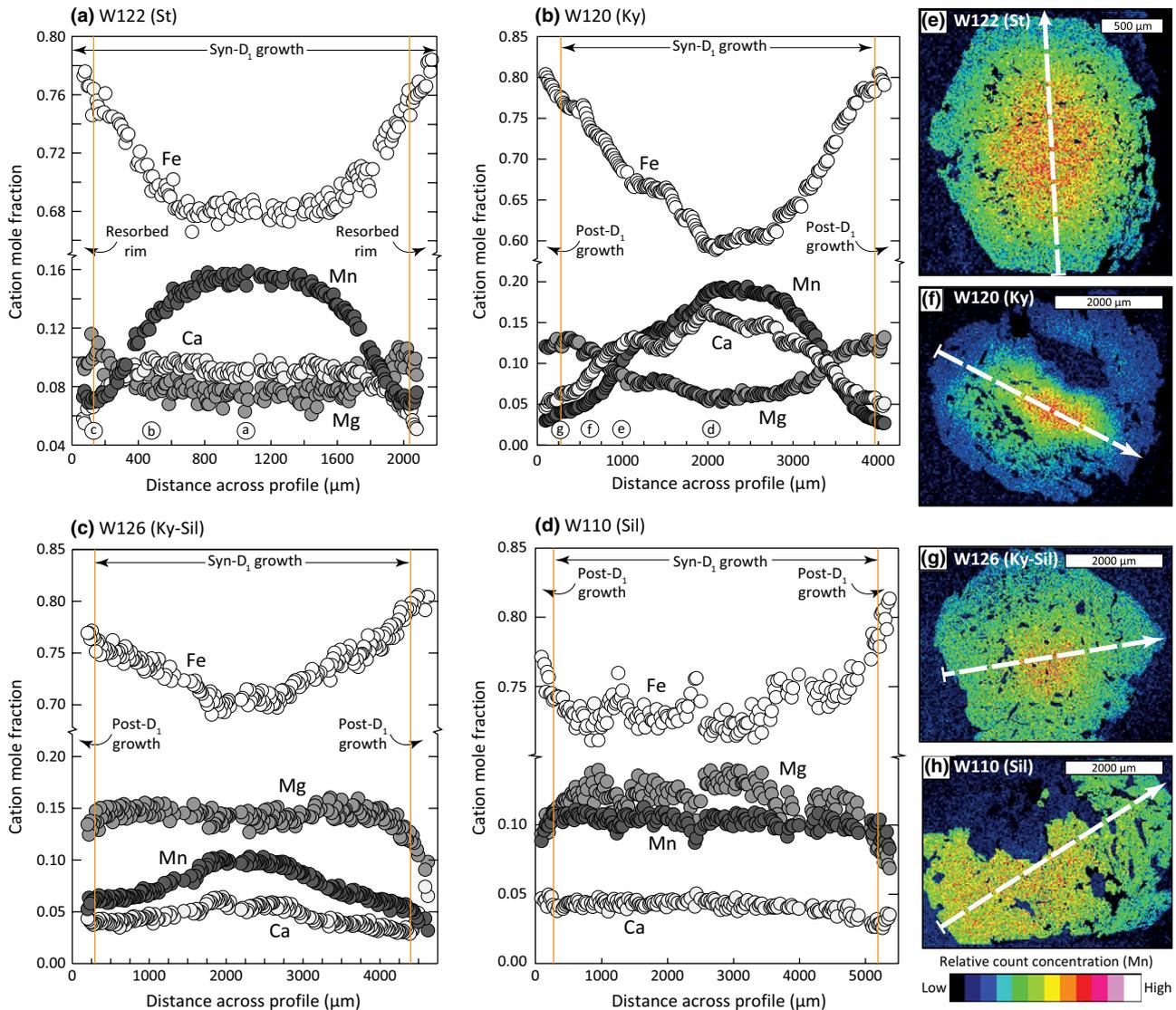
Compositional trends at the rims are more complex, with a transition in behaviour between the staurolite-grade sample (W122), which shows an upward Mn inflexion in the rim region (Fig. 6a), and the higher grade samples, which all show a downward Mn inflexion (Fig. 6b-d), regardless of neighbouring mineral or relative homogenization of the garnet core chemistry. The upward inflexion is interpreted as minor resorption, as the Fe/(Fe+Mg) ratio is also observed to increase, whereas the downward inflexion is interpreted as secondary growth, given that Mn

**Table 2.** Representative mineral compositions for samples W122 and W120.  $X_{Mg} = Mg/(Mg + Fe^{2+})$ , Ti (22O) is the Ti content per 22 oxygen, Sps =  $Mn/(Fe^{2+} + Mg + Ca + Mn)$ , Prp =  $Mg/(Fe^{2+} + Mg + Ca + Mn)$ , Grs =  $Ca/(Fe^{2+} + Mg + Ca + Mn)$ , Alm =  $Fe^{2+}/(Fe^{2+} + Mg + Ca + Mn)$ 

Sample	W122 (St)							W120 (Ky)							
	Bt	Grt	Grt	Ilm	Ms	Pl	St	Bt	Grt	Grt	Grt	Ilm	Ms	Pl	St
Location	matrix	syn-D <sub>1</sub> core	syn-D <sub>1</sub> rim	matrix	matrix	matrix	matrix	matrix	syn-D <sub>1</sub> core	syn-D <sub>1</sub> rim	post-D <sub>1</sub> rim	matrix	matrix	matrix	matrix
Analyses	10	1	1	2	5	5	4	10	1	1	1	2	6	6	4
SiO <sub>2</sub>	35.84	35.73	36.55	0.16	45.10	62.03	26.64	35.72	36.24	36.42	36.09	0.11	45.45	63.16	26.87
TiO <sub>2</sub>	1.73	0.05	0.04	53.87	0.65	0.02	0.54	2.05	0.03	0.05	0.00	52.89	0.74	0.02	0.69
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	19.06	20.49	20.73	0.22	35.36	24.05	53.21	18.67	20.52	20.69	20.61	0.21	35.12	23.07	53.42
FeO	19.19	30.42	34.12	45.49	1.10	0.06	14.05	18.15	27.67	34.67	35.75	46.69	1.15	0.03	13.58
MnO	0.06	6.97	2.94	0.75	0.02	0.00	0.16	0.02	8.49	1.47	1.21	0.22	0.01	0.00	0.05
MgO	10.03	1.82	2.67	0.25	0.53	0.00	1.58	10.31	1.16	3.60	3.32	0.17	0.68	0.00	1.83
CaO	0.05	3.24	2.50	0.04	0.04	5.42	0.00	0.02	5.84	2.07	1.52	0.02	0.01	4.25	0.01
Na <sub>2</sub> O	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.01	1.10	7.70	0.10	0.26	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.02	1.09	8.57	0.63
K <sub>2</sub> O	8.90	0.00	0.00	0.05	9.55	0.02	0.01	8.99	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.12	9.61	0.04	0.00
Total	94.99	98.72	99.54	100.83	93.45	99.29	96.29	94.18	99.97	98.98	98.49	100.45	93.87	99.14	97.09
Si	2.72	2.95	2.97	0.00	3.05	2.76	7.54	2.73	2.96	2.97	2.96	0.00	3.06	2.81	7.54
Ti	0.10	0.00	0.00	1.01	0.03	0.00	0.11	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.04	0.00	0.15
Al	1.71	1.99	1.99	0.01	2.82	1.26	17.75	1.68	1.97	1.99	2.00	0.01	2.79	1.21	17.67
Fe <sup>2+</sup>	1.22	2.10	2.32	0.94	0.06	0.00	3.33	1.16	1.89	2.36	2.46	0.98	0.06	0.00	3.19
Mn	0.00	0.49	0.20	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.59	0.10	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Mg	1.13	0.22	0.32	0.01	0.05	0.00	0.67	1.17	0.14	0.44	0.41	0.01	0.07	0.00	0.76
Ca	0.00	0.29	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.26	0.00	0.00	0.51	0.18	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.00
Na	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.66	0.06	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.74	0.34
K	0.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.82	0.00	0.00	0.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.83	0.00	0.00
Sum	7.77	8.05	8.03	1.99	6.99	4.94	29.50	7.77	8.06	8.04	8.04	2.00	6.99	4.96	29.66
Oxygen	11	12	12	3	11	8	46	11	12	12	12	3	11	8	46
$X_{Mg}$	0.48	0.10	0.12	0.01	0.46	–	0.17	0.50	0.07	0.16	0.14	–	0.51	–	0.19
Ti (22O)	0.20	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.24	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Sps	–	0.16	0.07	–	–	–	–	–	0.19	0.03	0.03	–	–	–	–
Prp	–	0.07	0.11	–	–	–	–	–	0.05	0.14	0.13	–	–	–	–
Grs	–	0.09	0.07	–	–	–	–	–	0.16	0.06	0.04	–	–	–	–
Alm	–	0.68	0.76	–	–	–	–	–	0.60	0.77	0.80	–	–	–	–

**Table 3.** Representative mineral compositions for samples W126 and W110. Syn-D<sub>1</sub> rim\* for sample W110 refers to this analysis being representative of the assumed rim composition, which is the maximum pyrope value of Fig. 6d, as the low-Mg regions are interpreted as the result of post-peak diffusional modification.  $X_{Mg} = Mg/(Mg + Fe^{2+})$ , Ti (22O) is the Ti content per 22 oxygen, Sps =  $Mn/(Fe^{2+} + Mg + Ca + Mn)$ , Prp =  $Mg/(Fe^{2+} + Mg + Ca + Mn)$ , Grs =  $Ca/(Fe^{2+} + Mg + Ca + Mn)$ , Alm =  $Fe^{2+}/(Fe^{2+} + Mg + Ca + Mn)$ 

Sample	W126 (Ky-Sil)						W110 (Sil)					
	Bt	Grt	Grt	Ilm	Ms	Pl	Bt	Grt	Grt	Ilm	Ms	Pl
Location	matrix	syn-D <sub>1</sub> rim	post-D <sub>1</sub> rim	matrix	matrix	matrix	matrix	syn-D <sub>1</sub> rim*	post-D <sub>1</sub> rim	matrix	matrix	matrix
Analyses	8	1	1	2	5	4	5	1	1	2	4	5
SiO <sub>2</sub>	35.25	36.90	36.43	0.09	46.30	63.23	35.28	36.19	35.55	0.13	44.92	62.07
TiO <sub>2</sub>	2.27	0.00	0.01	53.24	0.80	0.02	3.00	0.00	0.01	54.32	0.85	0.01
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	18.48	20.90	21.00	0.19	35.93	22.91	18.93	20.60	20.16	0.18	34.76	23.75
FeO	18.80	34.15	35.53	46.70	1.04	0.03	19.70	32.33	34.33	45.78	1.16	0.04
MnO	0.01	2.61	2.04	0.39	0.00	0.00	0.11	4.67	3.98	0.90	0.01	0.00
MgO	9.90	3.79	2.89	0.29	0.54	0.00	8.93	3.46	2.60	0.18	0.60	0.00
CaO	0.01	1.33	2.21	0.02	0.00	4.02	0.00	1.89	1.67	0.03	0.01	5.07
Na <sub>2</sub> O	0.24	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.91	8.82	0.23	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.80	7.93
K <sub>2</sub> O	9.38	0.00	0.02	0.12	9.24	0.03	9.71	0.00	0.00	0.02	10.36	0.05
Total	94.34	99.68	100.13	101.07	94.76	99.06	95.90	99.13	98.30	101.66	93.46	98.93
Si	2.71	2.98	2.95	0.00	3.07	2.81	2.68	2.95	2.95	0.00	3.05	2.77
Ti	0.13	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.04	0.00	0.17	0.00	0.00	1.01	0.04	0.00
Al	1.67	1.99	2.01	0.01	2.81	1.20	1.70	1.98	1.97	0.01	2.79	1.25
Fe <sup>2+</sup>	1.21	2.31	2.41	0.97	0.06	0.00	1.25	2.21	2.38	0.94	0.07	0.00
Mn	0.00	0.18	0.14	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.32	0.28	0.02	0.00	0.00
Mg	1.13	0.46	0.35	0.01	0.05	0.00	1.01	0.42	0.32	0.01	0.06	0.00
Ca	0.00	0.12	0.19	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.00	0.16	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.24
Na	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.76	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.69
K	0.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.78	0.00	0.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.90	0.00
Sum	7.80	8.03	8.05	2.00	6.93	4.97	7.79	8.05	8.06	1.99	7.01	4.95
Oxygens	11	12	12	3	11	8	11	12	12	3	11	8
$X_{Mg}$	0.48	0.17	0.13	–	0.48	–	0.45	0.16	0.12	–	0.48	–
Ti (22O)	0.26	–	–	–	–	–	0.34	–	–	–	–	–
Sps	–	0.06	0.05	–	–	–	–	0.10	0.09	–	–	–
Prp	–	0.15	0.11	–	–	–	–	0.14	0.10	–	–	–
Grs	–	0.04	0.06	–	–	–	–	0.05	0.05	–	–	–
Alm	–	0.75	0.78	–	–	–	–	0.71	0.76	–	–	–



**Fig. 6.** Garnet porphyroblast compositional line profiles. (a–d) Rim-to-rim garnet composition profiles for samples W122, W120, W126 and W110, respectively. Line profiles are non-continuous due to traverses crossing inclusions and fractures; these analyses are absent from the profiles. The orange lines represent the peak-D<sub>1</sub> growth increment, inbound of minor resorption (W122) or post-D<sub>1</sub> garnet growth (W120, W126 & W110). Note that for sample W110, the maximum pyrope value is considered representative of peak-D<sub>1</sub>; see text for details. The circled numbers on (a, b) correspond to the pyrope-grossular isopleth intersections used to reconstruct prograde growth history in Fig. 7b,d. (e–h) Corresponding garnet Mn X-ray maps, showing exact profile locations. The colour scale of relative counts is not comparable between images.

sequestration is a proxy for garnet growth (Kohn & Spear, 2000). The suggestion of two-stage garnet growth for the latter samples is consistent with the microstructural observations of post-D<sub>1</sub> garnet rims in kyanite- and higher grade samples (Fig. 4e).

The orange lines in Fig. 6a–d represent the inferred position of preserved peak-D<sub>1</sub> garnet composition. This is inbound of the resorbed rim for sample W122 (Fig. 6a), and marks the transition between syn- to post-D<sub>1</sub> garnet growth for samples W120, W126 and W110 in Fig. 6b–d, respectively. The orange lines are considered to best represent the peak-D<sub>1</sub> garnet

chemistry, with the exception of sample W110, which is observed to have a relatively flat Ca profile in the syn-D<sub>1</sub> growth region, compared with spikes in Fe, Mg and Mn content (Fig. 6d), which occur where the analytical profile passes close to biotite-rich matrix embayments into the garnet grain (Fig. 6h). As Ca has been shown to undergo significantly slower intracrystalline cation diffusion in garnet compared with Fe, Mg and Mn (Chernoff & Carlson, 1997), we interpret that these compositional spikes represent post-peak diffusional modification. Thus, we conclude that the garnet syn-D<sub>1</sub> growth composition in

sample W110 was homogeneous at peak conditions, typical of sillimanite-grade pelitic lithologies (Woods-worth, 1977), with the maximum value of pyrope considered representative of the peak-D<sub>1</sub> composition, because Mg is expected to increase temperature (Spear, 1993).

## THERMOBAROMETRY

### Analytical techniques

Pseudosections were constructed for each of the study samples (W122, W120, W126 & W110), to provide a framework for understanding Barrovian mineral growth, and to constrain the *P–T* conditions of metamorphism. In addition, the Ti content of biotite geothermometer (Henry *et al.*, 2005) was used as an independent check on peak conditions. This geothermometer was calibrated for graphitic metapelites that contain ilmenite or rutile as a Ti-saturating phase, so is ideally suited to this study. Compositional data used for these calculations ( $X_{\text{Mg}}$  and Ti content per 22 oxygen) are given in Tables 2 & 3.

### Model system

All *P–T* and *T–X* pseudosections were constructed using THERMOCALC v3.33 and the internally consistent dataset tc-ds55 (Holland & Powell, 1998; updated to August, 2004). Modelling was performed in the 11-component system MnO–Na<sub>2</sub>O–CaO–K<sub>2</sub>O–FeO–MgO–Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>–SiO<sub>2</sub>–H<sub>2</sub>O–TiO<sub>2</sub>–Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (MnNCKFMA SHTO) utilizing the following solid-solution models: silicate melt (White *et al.*, 2007); cordierite, staurolite and chlorite (Mahar *et al.*, 1997; Holland & Powell, 1998); garnet and biotite (Mn-bearing model, White *et al.* (2005)); chloritoid (Mahar *et al.*, 1997; White, 2000); muscovite (Coggon & Holland, 2002); K-feldspar and plagioclase (Holland & Powell, 2003); epidote (Holland & Powell, 1998); and magnetite (subsolidus model; White, 2000). Additional phases with no solid solution include andalusite, kyanite, sillimanite, rutile, quartz and H<sub>2</sub>O.

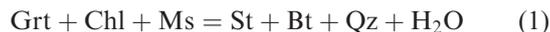
### Calculating the bulk composition

Whole-rock XRF analyses (Table 1) were modified to calculate the bulk compositions for all pseudosections (Table 4), taking into consideration the effect of

unmodelled accessory phases and oxides, fluid composition and ferric iron content. Relatively minor changes were required to convert the XRF analyses, as activity–composition models are available for all major phases in each sample in the MnNCK FMASHTO system (Fig. 5). First, P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> was removed from the bulk. This included a proportional adjustment to total CaO to correct for the contribution made by apatite (CaPO<sub>4</sub>) to the CaO total, by assuming that half of the P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> resided in apatite (with the rest derived from monazite). Second, the fluid phase was set to be in excess, as only subsolidus regions were considered in the modelling. The activity of H<sub>2</sub>O ( $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ ) was set at 0.9, because all samples contain graphite, suggesting that the coexisting metamorphic fluid would have had a reduced  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  as a result of dilution of the fluid phase with CO<sub>2</sub> (Ohmoto & Kerrick, 1977). Last, a value of  $X_{\text{Fe}^{3+}} = 0.01$  was applied, because all of the samples only contain ilmenite as an oxide, which Diener & Powell (2010) showed indicates highly reducing conditions. A fractionating bulk composition was not considered, because garnet mode is low in all samples (<3%).

## Results

Figures 7 & 8 show the combined results of the thermobarometric analysis for each of the study samples, with *P–T* pseudosections overlain by the results of the Henry *et al.* (2005) geothermometer. The general topology of all of the pseudosections is similar, with the low-variance fields bounding the staurolite stability field providing a focal point to each diagram. These fields correspond to the reactions governing the growth and breakdown of staurolite, and are essentially equivalent to the discontinuous AFM reactions (Powell *et al.*, 1998):



Isopleths of garnet modal proportion are shown on each pseudosection and quantify the degree of consumption or growth that occurs across each of these reactions. For each sample, a calculated assemblage field was determined that matched the observed peak assemblage (red assemblage labels, Figs 7 & 8). The calculated peak assemblages show an excellent fit with the Henry *et al.* (2005) geothermometer results,

Figure	Sample	SiO <sub>2</sub>	Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	CaO	MgO	FeO	K <sub>2</sub> O	Na <sub>2</sub> O	TiO <sub>2</sub>	MnO	O	$a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$	$X_{\text{Fe}^{3+}}$
7a,b	W122 (St)	63.83	15.86	0.68	6.08	8.19	3.17	1.18	0.88	0.09	0.04	0.9	0.01
7c,d	W120 (Ky)	70.33	12.41	0.42	5.34	6.59	3.28	0.90	0.60	0.10	0.03	0.9	0.01
8a,b	W126 (Ky-Sil)	71.36	11.88	1.07	4.70	5.57	2.68	2.07	0.57	0.07	0.03	0.9	0.01
8c,d	W110 (Sil)	67.51	13.61	0.29	6.07	7.05	3.77	0.70	0.88	0.07	0.04	0.9	0.01
9a	W110 (Sil)	67.51	13.61	0.29	6.07	7.05	3.77	0.70	0.88	0.07	0.04	1.0	0.01
9b	W110 (Sil)	67.54	13.62	0.29	6.08	7.05	3.78	0.70	0.88	0.07	0.00	0.9	0.00
9b	W110 (Sil)	67.30	13.57	0.29	6.06	7.03	3.76	0.69	0.88	0.07	0.35	0.9	0.10

**Table 4.** Compositions used as the input to THERMOCALC in the system MnNCKFMASHTO for all pseudosections (mol.%). H<sub>2</sub>O was considered to be present in excess in all pseudosections. Note that THERMOCALC treats Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> = 2 · FeO + O. Therefore,  $X_{\text{Fe}^{3+}} = 2 \cdot \text{O}/\text{FeO}$ .

as the calculated temperature for each sample intersects the calculated peak assemblage field (green lines, Figs 7 & 8). The peak assemblage fields are further constrained by consideration of the syn-D<sub>1</sub> garnet rim chemistry for each of the samples (Fig. 6), with the red polygons delimiting the regions that satisfy grossular and pyrope isopleth constraints ( $\pm 0.01$  of the syn-D<sub>1</sub> garnet rim values in Tables 2 & 3) and the Henry *et al.* (2005) geothermometer results (which has calculated errors of  $\pm 24$  °C below 600 °C, and  $\pm 23$  °C between 600–700 °C). These red polygons are considered to approximate the peak conditions for each of the samples. For sample W122 (Fig. 7a,b), a more conservative polygon is applied, due to considerations of garnet resorption (detailed below). Finally, segments of the prograde *P–T* path are calculated for samples W122 and W120, by matching the garnet compositional zoning in Fig. 6a, b (circled letters at the base of the profiles) to the calculated pyrope and grossular garnet isopleths in Fig. 7b,d, respectively.

#### W122 (St)

It is notable in Fig. 7a that the biotite-in reaction occurs at a higher temperature for sample W122, compared with that for kyanite-bearing sample W120 on Fig. 7c. Sample W122 has the most aluminous bulk composition, which Tinkham *et al.* (2001) showed reduces biotite stability relative to chlorite. Given that biotite is petrographically observed to predate garnet growth, this suggests an upper pressure limit of  $\sim 4.3$  kbar on the incoming of garnet for this sample (Fig. 7a). Garnet core isopleths meet this requirement (Table 2), with grossular, pyrope and garnet-in intersecting within several hundred bars in a biotite-bearing field at  $\sim 3.5$  kbar and 530 °C (point a, Fig. 7b). The proposed *P–T* path segment from this point is steep and clockwise, culminating just within the peak assemblage field at  $\sim 4.8$  kbar and 560 °C (point c, Fig. 7b). However, garnet rim chemistry is unlikely to represent peak conditions, because garnet mode decreases between the staurolite-in and chlorite-out boundaries (as required by Eq. 1), which is the likely cause of the resorbed rim observed in Fig. 6a. Even if the effects of resorption were corrected for, only certain trajectories following consumption of chlorite would result in renewed garnet growth. Therefore, the Henry *et al.* (2005) geothermometer is considered a more reliable estimate of peak temperature. Alongside pressure constraints imposed by garnet mode in the peak assemblage field, peak conditions of  $\sim 5.2$  kbar and 580 °C are suggested for sample W122.

#### W120 (Ky)

Figure 7c suggests a narrow temperature field within which sample W120 could have developed its peak

assemblage, which is in good agreement with the geothermometer calculation of Henry *et al.* (2005) (Fig. 7d). As for sample W122, garnet core isopleths (Table 2) intersect within several hundred bars of the predicted garnet-in boundary, which imposes a constraint on the start of garnet growth at 4.5 kbar and 520 °C (point d, Fig. 7d). Several waypoints are identified on Fig. 6b, which suggest a relatively linear partial *P–T* path that culminates within 10 °C of the low-pressure end of the calculated peak assemblage field (point g, Fig. 7d). Waters & Lovegrove (2002) and Powell & Holland (2008) discussed the sources of error in the calculation of pseudosections, and concluded that a realistic assessment of uncertainty on all *P–T* estimates is probably at least  $\pm 0.5$  kbar and  $\pm 25$  °C, so this point is considered within error of the peak assemblage field. The proposed *P–T* path crosses a region of predicted minor garnet resorption at pyrope = 0.10 (Fig. 7d), which was not observed on Fig. 6b. Otherwise, garnet is predicted to grow throughout the staurolite window, as it has a trajectory slightly steeper than garnet mode.

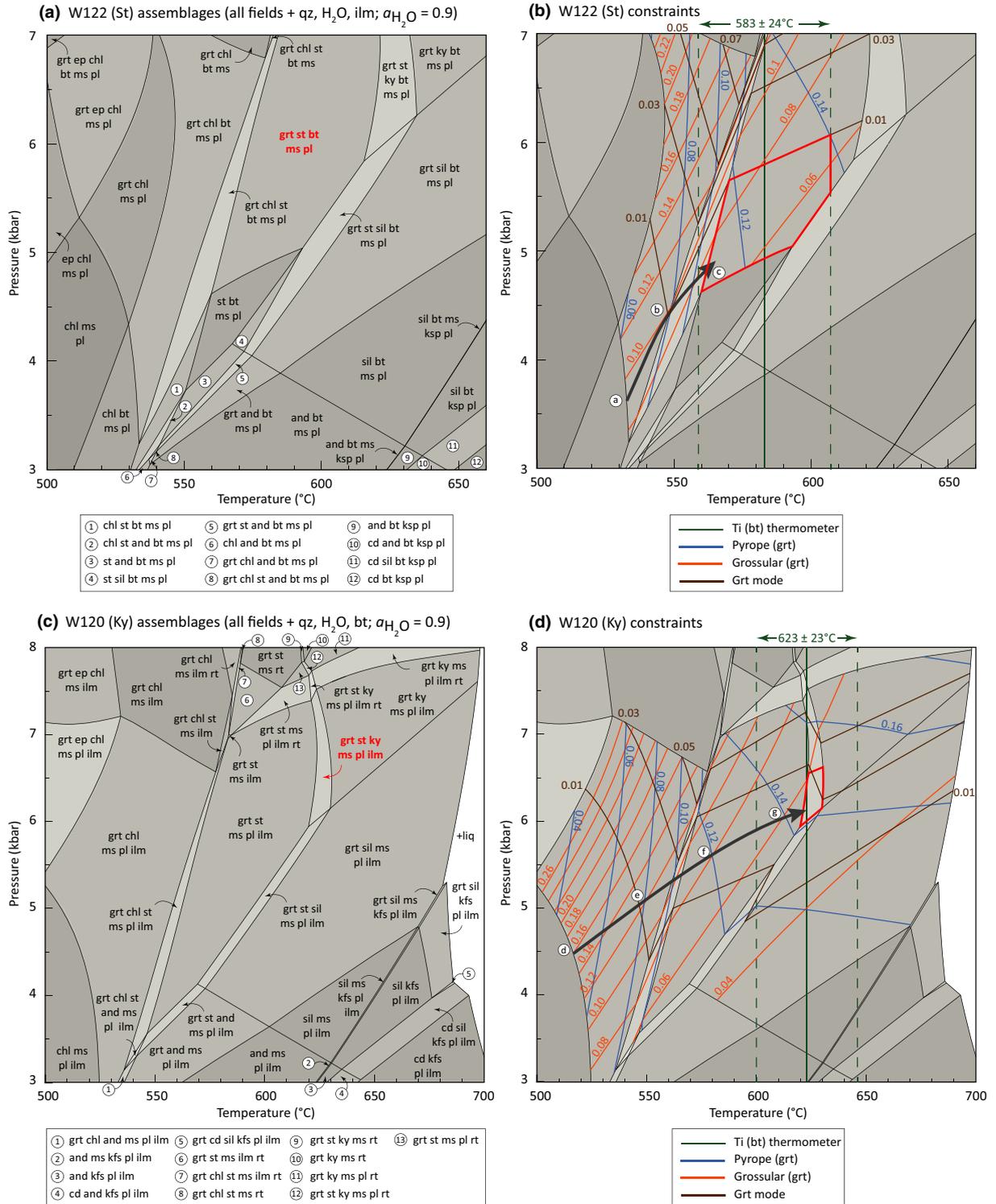
#### W126 (Ky-Sil) and W110 (Sil)

Given that garnet in the higher grade samples is variably homogenized, only peak estimates of  $\sim 6.3$  kbar at 650 °C (Fig. 8b) and  $\sim 6.0$  kbar at 670 °C (Fig. 8d) are calculated for samples W126 and W110, respectively.

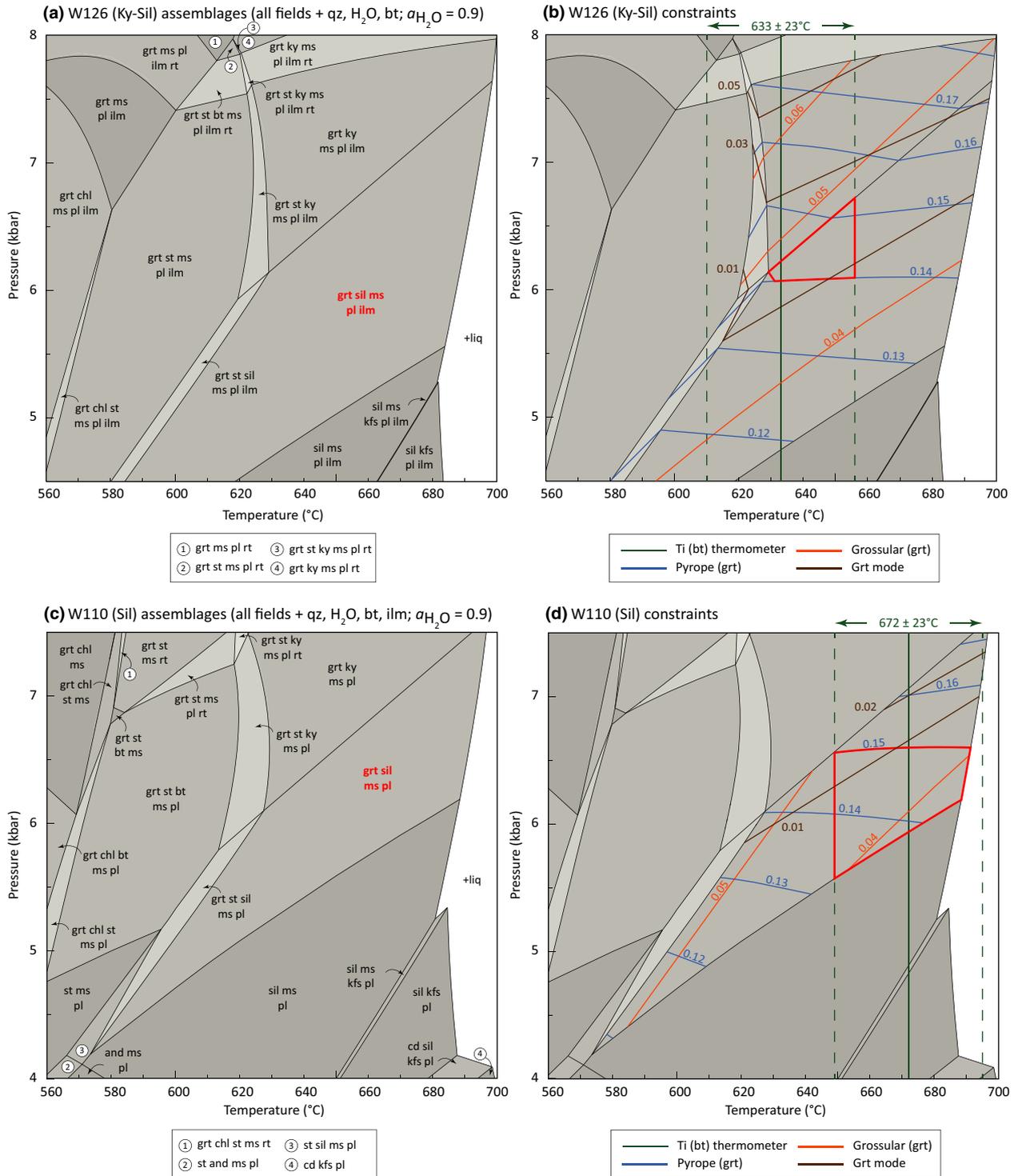
#### Changing model parameters for sample W110

The effects of variable  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  and  $X_{\text{Fe}^{3+}}$  are explored for sample W110 to assess the dependency of the results on the bulk composition and to explore the implications for Barrovian sequences (Fig. 9). Figure 9a was calculated with the same bulk composition as Fig. 8c, but with an  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  of unity. Comparison between the two figures shows that the general effect of reduced  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  is to lower the temperature of most of the mineral assemblage boundaries and increase the solidus temperature. The net effect is to widen the sub-solidus aluminosilicate stability window from  $\sim 20$  °C width at  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} = 1.0$  to  $\sim 60$  °C at  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} = 0.9$ . This implies that variable  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  could have an important effect on the spacing of isograds, and influence which aluminosilicate is present at the onset of anatexis.

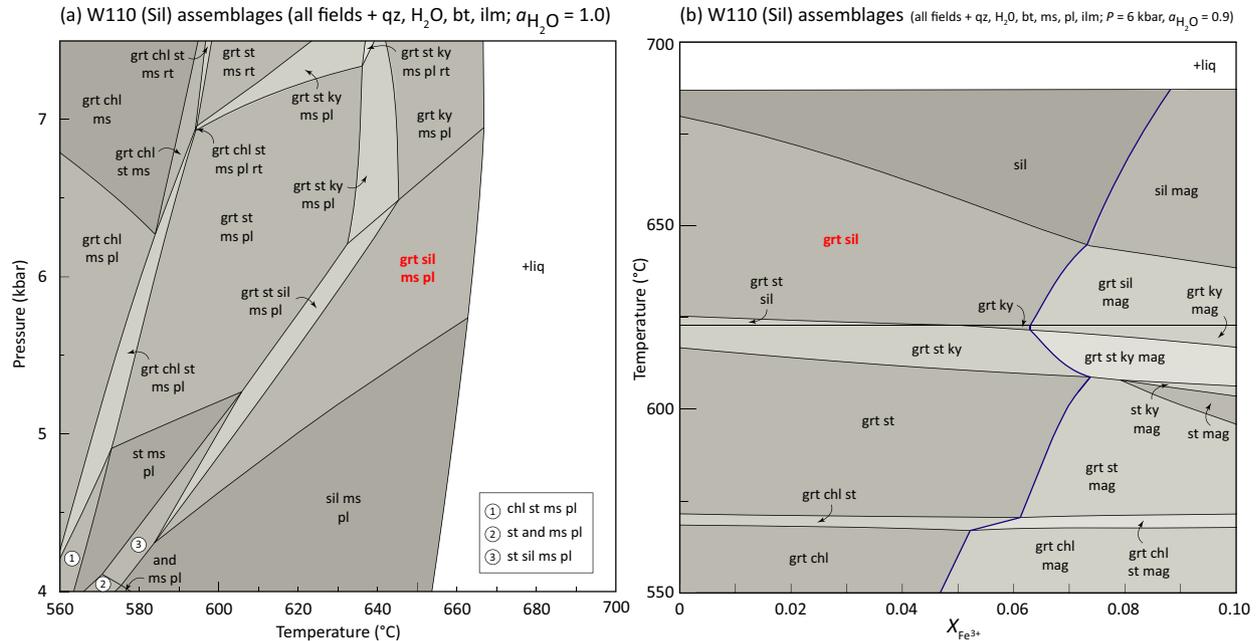
The effect of  $X_{\text{Fe}^{3+}}$  is quantified in a *T–X<sub>Fe<sup>3+</sup></sub>* pseudosection for sample W110 at 6 kbar that spans  $X_{\text{Fe}^{3+}} = 0.0–0.1$  (Fig. 9b). Magnetite is calculated to join all assemblages at  $X_{\text{Fe}^{3+}} = 0.05–0.09$ , which indicates that oxides are a good indicator of redox state (Diener & Powell, 2010). While most pelitic metamorphic minerals are relatively unaffected by oxidation state (White, 2000; Diener & Powell, 2010), Fig. 9b shows that more oxidized bulk compositions reduce the stability of garnet, with garnet-out



**Fig. 7.** Pseudosection analysis for samples W122 and W120. Supra-solidus regions are not shown for clarity. All diagrams have the same aspect ratio, so gradients are comparable. (a) Sample W122 pseudosection, with all assemblage fields labelled. The observed peak assemblage is shown in red. (b) Corresponding diagram showing constraints for sample W122. Relevant fields are contoured for pyrope and grossular isopleths and garnet mode, and the diagram is overlain by the Henry *et al.* (2005) Ti-in-biotite thermometer calculation (legend, bottom right). Garnet compositions from Fig. 6a and Table 2 are used to draw a partial prograde *P–T* path, and to delimit the peak assemblage field. The red polygon represents the region where all constraints are met, and is considered to represent the peak conditions for this sample. (c) Sample W120 pseudosection, with all assemblage fields labelled. The observed peak assemblage is shown in red. (d) Logic as Fig. 7b, but for sample W120 and using garnet compositional constraints from Fig. 6b.



**Fig. 8.** Pseudosection analysis for samples W126 and W110. Supra-solidus regions are not shown for clarity. All diagrams have the same aspect ratio, so gradients are comparable. (a) Sample W126 pseudosection, with all assemblage fields labelled. The observed peak assemblage is shown in red. (b) Corresponding diagram showing constraints for sample W126. Relevant fields are contoured for pyrope and grossular isopleths and garnet mode, and the diagram is overlain by the Henry *et al.* (2005) Ti-in-biotite thermometer calculation (legend, bottom right). Garnet compositions from Table 3 are used to delimit the peak assemblage field. The red polygon represents the region where all constraints are met, and is considered to represent the peak conditions for this sample. (c) Sample W110 pseudosection, with all assemblage fields labelled. The observed peak assemblage is shown in bold. (d) Logic as Fig. 8b, but for sample W110. Note that for sample W110, the maximum pyrope value of Fig. 6d is considered representative of the peak-D<sub>1</sub> value in Table 3, as the low-Mg regions are interpreted as the result of post-peak diffusional modification.



**Fig. 9.** Changing model parameters for sample W110. (a) Sample W110 pseudosection, with all assemblage fields labelled. The observed W110 assemblage is shown in red. The bulk composition is the same as the pseudosection in Fig. 7c, except that  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  has increased from 0.9 to unity. (b)  $T$ - $X_{\text{Fe}^{3+}}$  diagram for sample W110 at 6 kbar, with  $X_{\text{Fe}^{3+}} = 0$ –0.1. The observed W110 assemblage is shown in red. As  $X_{\text{Fe}^{3+}}$  increases, garnet is observed to be less stable, and magnetite (blue line) is calculated to join all assemblages.

decreasing from  $\sim 680$  °C to  $\sim 640$  °C as  $X_{\text{Fe}^{3+}}$  increases from 0 to 0.1. This is likely due to the increased amount of Fe locked up in oxides and the consequent increase of  $X_{\text{Mg}}$  in the normal ferromagnesian minerals (Chinner, 1960).

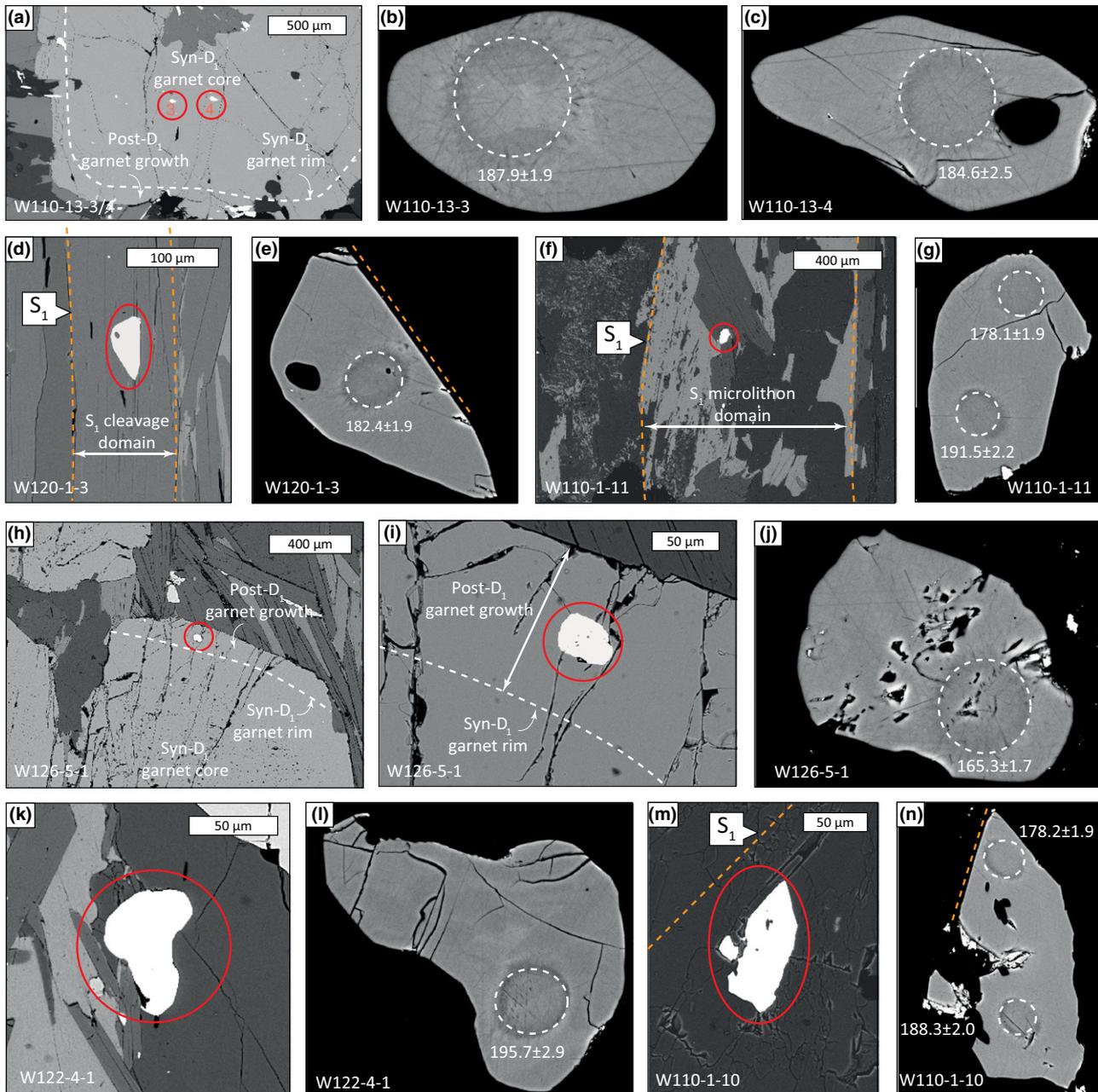
#### U–Th–Pb MONAZITE GEOCHRONOLOGY

U–Th–Pb dating of monazite was conducted for each of the study samples (W122, W120, W126 & W110), to investigate the relative timing of metamorphic mineral growth between samples, to resolve the timing of the sillimanite-grade metamorphism and ultimately to reveal the timescales of Barrovian metamorphism in the DSC. In general, monazite occurs in pelitic bulk compositions both at low and high grades, with allanite more stable at intermediate  $P$ – $T$  conditions (Janots *et al.*, 2008). For example, allanite has been observed to form at the expense of low-grade monazite roughly coincidental with the biotite isograd (Wing *et al.*, 2003), and several studies have documented the growth of high-grade monazite at staurolite-grade  $P$ – $T$  conditions (e.g. Smith & Barreiro, 1990; Kohn & Malloy, 2004; Berman *et al.*, 2005). However, the allanite–monazite transitions are thought to be strongly dependent on bulk composition, with CaO and  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  in particular cited as important variables (Wing *et al.*, 2003; Janots *et al.*, 2007; Spear, 2010). This study has the advantage that chemically similar metapelites were

sampled from different metamorphic grades, which is reflected by a consistent pattern of allanite–monazite relations with grade in the DSC, with allanite observed to be stable from biotite grade, but replaced by monazite from staurolite grade onwards (Table 1).

#### Analytical techniques

*In situ* U–Th–Pb analysis of monazite was carried out on the Sensitive High Resolution Ion Microprobe (SHRIMP) at the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC). Automated full thin section scans with a 5  $\mu\text{m}$  step size were performed on the GSC's Zeiss Evo SEM to locate monazite suitable for geochronological analysis. Targets from petrographically significant areas were then prepared for analysis according to the methods of Rayner & Stern (2002). Three petrographic positions were analysed: syn- $D_1$  garnet, matrix and post- $D_1$  garnet (using the terminology developed above). Examples of each of these positions are shown in Fig. 10a–j. Enhanced contrast back scattered electron (BSE) images were generated for each monazite grain to identify internal compositional domains, where present, and to guide analytical spot localities. Monazite analysis employed the method described in Stern & Berman (2000). Analytical details regarding spot size, data reduction protocol and U–Th–Pb calibration are reported in Table 5. Isoplot (Ex version 3.00; Ludwig, 2003) was used to



**Fig. 10.** Back-scattered electron (BSE) images of monazite. Spot sizes have a diameter of  $16\ \mu\text{m}$  (dotted white circles). The monazite grains are labelled following the convention w-x-y; where w = sample number, x = slide number, y = grain number. (a) Example of monazite inclusions in syn- $D_1$  garnet, with a close-up of the grains shown in (b, c). (d) Example of a monazite grain in the  $S_1$  cleavage domain of the matrix, with a close-up of the grain in (e). The grain is aligned within the  $S_1$  fabric (dotted orange line). (f) Example of a monazite grain in the  $S_1$  microlithon domain of the matrix, with a close-up of the grain in (g). (h) Example of a monazite inclusion in post- $D_1$  garnet, with close-ups in (i) and (j). The post- $D_1$  garnet rims overgrow the  $S_1$  fabric and have a distinct chemistry; see text for details. (k, l) Example of a monazite grain that is homogeneous in BSE, but displays significant variation in age. The younger spot is in the part of the grain that is strongly faceted adjacent a sillimanite needle, which aligns with  $S_1$ . (m, n) Example of a monazite grain from W122, with a characteristic slightly mottled appearance in BSE.

generate all Tera-Wasserburg diagrams and regressed ages with related statistics. Major and trace element compositions of analysed monazite grains are presented in Table S1 following the methods given above for mineral analyses.

## Results

Results are presented as Tera-Wasserburg plots and as probability density diagrams plus histograms (Fig. 11), with the underlying data shown in Table 5. The

**Table 5.** U–Th–Pb monazite geochronology data for samples W122, W120, W126 and W110. Notes: analysis name follows the convention w-x-y-z; where w = sample number, x = slide number, y = grain number and z = spot number. Uncertainties reported at 1 $\sigma$ , calculated using SQUID 2.22.08.04.30. f(206)<sup>207</sup> refers to the mole percent of total <sup>206</sup>Pb that is due to common Pb, calculated using the <sup>207</sup>Pb-method; Stacey & Kramers (1975) model common Pb composition (t = 220 Ma) was used. \* refers to radiogenic Pb (corrected for common Pb). Calibration standard 8153; U–Pb age = 512 Ma; Th–Pb age = 507 Ma. Error in <sup>208</sup>Pb/<sup>232</sup>Th calibration 1.35% (included); error in <sup>206</sup>Pb/<sup>238</sup>U calibration 1.02% (included). Analytical details: mounts IP643 and IP644, 16  $\mu$ m diameter spot, 1.0 nA O<sup>2+</sup> primary beam, six scans. Standard error in calibration was 0.6% for Th–Pb and 0.5% for U–Pb (not included in above errors but required when comparing data from different mounts).

Analysis	Petrographic position	U (ppm)	Th (ppm)	<sup>206</sup> Pb* (ppm)	Ratios										Ages (Ma)								
					Uncorrected					<sup>206</sup> Pb corr.					<sup>207</sup> Pb corr.								
					<sup>206</sup> Pb/ <sup>238</sup> U	1 $\sigma$ (%)	<sup>206</sup> Pb/ <sup>238</sup> U	1 $\sigma$ (%)	<sup>206</sup> Pb/ <sup>238</sup> U	1 $\sigma$ (%)	<sup>206</sup> Pb/ <sup>238</sup> U	1 $\sigma$ (%)	<sup>206</sup> Pb/ <sup>238</sup> U	1 $\sigma$ (%)	<sup>206</sup> Pb/ <sup>238</sup> U	1 $\sigma$ (abs)	<sup>207</sup> Pb/ <sup>235</sup> U	1 $\sigma$ (abs)					
W122-1-4-2	matrix	4195	40903	10.1	3.2E-3	5.1	3.19	0.44	5.9	3.26	0.43	32.542	1.4	0.09294	2.10	0.0097	1.6	0.00936	1.6	188.3	2.9	184.7	2.7
W122-1-5-2	matrix	3523	46340	13.6	5.9E-4	15.8	4.36	0.43	1.1	4.39	0.44	33.791	1.4	0.05567	1.26	0.0095	1.6	0.00945	1.6	190.1	3.0	186.6	2.7
W122-5-3-1	matrix	3264	35726	11.3	2.9E-4	58.4	3.55	0.45	0.5	3.55	0.45	33.284	1.4	0.05402	1.25	0.0094	1.6	0.00939	1.6	188.9	3.0	189.9	2.7
W122-1-4-1	matrix	4213	39212	9.6	1.1E-3	8.4	3.09	0.41	2.0	3.11	0.41	32.699	1.5	0.06211	1.03	0.0098	1.9	0.00968	1.9	194.8	3.7	191.3	2.9
W122-1-5-1	matrix	3688	44546	12.5	1.0E-3	10.1	3.85	0.41	1.9	3.89	0.41	32.228	1.4	0.06232	1.10	0.0096	1.6	0.00949	1.6	190.9	3.0	194.0	2.8
W122-4-1-1	matrix	4093	38922	9.8	6.0E-4	12.5	3.15	0.41	1.1	3.16	0.41	32.169	1.5	0.05664	1.07	0.0100	1.6	0.00989	1.6	199.0	3.1	195.7	2.9
W120-2-24-1	post-D <sub>1</sub> garnet	5054	35452	7.2	5.5E-4	13.8	2.35	0.46	1.0	2.35	0.46	39.998	1.0	0.05369	1.13	0.0081	1.1	0.00802	1.1	161.6	1.7	158.3	1.6
W120-1-1-1	post-D <sub>1</sub> garnet	4805	32789	7.1	1.08	7.8E-4	12.0	2.34	0.50	1.4	2.34	37.709	1.0	0.05929	1.17	0.0088	1.1	0.00867	1.1	174.5	1.9	166.7	1.7
W120-5-2-1	post-D <sub>1</sub> garnet	4819	38768	8.3	1.14	7.9E-4	13.4	2.64	0.51	1.5	2.65	35.636	1.1	0.05725	2.11	0.0089	1.1	0.00881	1.1	177.3	1.9	176.7	1.9
W120-1-2-3	matrix	3631	32609	9.3	9.7E-4	11.9	2.99	0.49	1.8	3.00	0.49	34.605	1.0	0.05891	1.24	0.0093	1.1	0.00918	1.1	184.7	2.0	181.6	1.9
W120-1-3-1	matrix	2863	31306	11.3	6.3E-4	17.5	3.57	0.49	1.2	3.59	0.49	34.613	1.0	0.05501	1.35	0.0091	1.1	0.00907	1.1	182.6	2.0	182.4	1.9
W120-1-6-1	matrix	3309	34197	10.7	8.1	5.4E-4	16.0	3.41	0.45	1.0	3.42	34.533	1.0	0.05528	1.25	0.0092	1.2	0.00919	1.2	184.8	2.2	183.5	1.9
W120-1-2-2	matrix	3699	35854	10.0	9.2	5.2E-4	16.5	3.18	0.47	1.0	3.19	34.100	1.1	0.05534	1.26	0.0093	1.1	0.00926	1.1	186.4	2.0	185.0	2.1
W120-1-2-1	matrix	3349	28626	8.8	8.4	4.0E-4	23.6	2.74	0.50	0.7	2.74	33.951	1.0	0.05323	1.29	0.0091	1.1	0.00908	1.1	182.7	2.0	186.3	1.9
W120-1-6-2	matrix	3348	39632	11.6	8.9	4.6E-4	20.1	3.66	0.46	0.9	3.67	33.832	1.0	0.05489	1.27	0.0093	1.2	0.00927	1.2	186.5	2.3	186.6	1.9
W120-5-1-1	syn-D <sub>1</sub> garnet	3879	38808	10.3	9.7	6.0E-4	13.7	3.31	0.43	1.1	3.32	33.814	1.0	0.05209	1.20	0.0095	1.3	0.00941	1.3	189.2	2.5	187.4	1.9
W126-5-1-1	post-D <sub>1</sub> garnet	4886	30281	6.4	10.9	4.6E-4	14.2	2.05	0.47	0.9	2.05	38.245	1.0	0.05474	1.08	0.0084	1.1	0.00832	1.1	167.4	1.8	165.3	1.7
W126-2-7-1	matrix	6762	26316	4.0	15.5	4.3E-4	15.5	1.28	0.92	0.8	1.27	37.286	1.0	0.05629	1.07	0.0085	1.2	0.00840	1.2	169.0	2.0	169.2	1.7
W126-2-4-1	matrix	7880	27181	3.6	18.3	3.7E-4	17.1	1.14	0.55	0.7	1.13	36.711	1.0	0.05457	1.01	0.0087	1.1	0.00857	1.1	172.5	1.8	172.5	1.8
W126-3-3-1	matrix	6894	35154	5.3	16.6	3.6E-4	12.8	1.66	0.41	0.7	1.66	35.341	1.0	0.05362	0.89	0.0089	1.1	0.00884	1.1	177.8	1.9	179.2	1.8
W126-2-4-2	matrix	6856	29912	3.9	16.7	2.0E-4	19.7	1.27	0.49	0.4	1.26	35.038	1.0	0.05303	0.95	0.0092	1.0	0.00919	1.1	184.8	1.9	180.6	1.8
W126-3-2-1	syn-D <sub>1</sub> garnet	8138	46124	5.9	20.2	4.6E-4	11.1	1.75	0.41	0.9	1.74	34.343	1.0	0.05297	0.91	0.0087	1.0	0.00860	1.1	173.1	1.8	184.3	1.9
W126-2-8-1	matrix	5043	28917	5.9	12.6	3.3E-4	22.3	1.92	0.53	0.6	1.92	34.204	1.0	0.05341	1.20	0.0095	1.1	0.00942	1.1	189.5	2.0	184.9	1.9
W126-2-5-1	matrix	3987	24128	6.3	10.0	6.4E-4	21.5	1.92	0.57	1.2	1.92	33.931	1.0	0.05647	2.86	0.0091	1.1	0.00895	1.1	180.2	2.0	185.7	2.0
W126-2-7-2	matrix	4609	26722	6.0	11.7	4.9E-4	15.6	1.85	0.51	0.9	1.84	33.495	1.0	0.05888	1.10	0.0092	1.1	0.00911	1.1	183.3	2.0	187.5	1.9
W126-5-3-1	matrix	3897	41984	11.1	9.8	1.6E-3	8.6	3.51	0.49	2.9	3.56	33.008	1.2	0.06338	1.20	0.0096	1.1	0.00940	1.1	189.1	2.1	188.0	2.2
W126-5-2-1	syn-D <sub>1</sub> garnet	4999	47398	9.8	12.8	7.0E-4	10.7	3.27	0.39	1.3	3.28	33.060	1.0	0.05906	2.52	0.0101	1.1	0.01001	1.1	201.3	2.1	189.9	2.0
W126-2-6-1	matrix	4606	27863	6.3	11.9	3.5E-4	20.2	1.96	0.52	0.6	1.96	33.088	1.0	0.05328	1.01	0.0095	1.1	0.00943	1.1	189.7	2.1	191.1	2.0
W126-1-1-1	syn-D <sub>1</sub> garnet	4771	56532	12.2	12.4	4.9E-4	14.9	4.02	0.38	0.9	4.04	32.689	1.0	0.05353	1.09	0.0101	1.1	0.01001	1.1	201.3	2.1	193.4	2.0
W110-13-1-1	matrix	4236	34919	8.5	9.9	3.3E-4	20.2	2.68	0.51	0.6	2.69	36.696	1.0	0.05296	1.31	0.0086	1.1	0.00855	1.1	172.0	1.9	172.6	1.8
W110-1-11-2	matrix	3290	43037	13.5	7.9	6.9E-4	13.0	4.08	0.50	1.3	4.11	35.503	1.1	0.05393	1.45	0.0085	1.1	0.00845	1.1	170.1	1.9	178.1	1.9
W110-1-10-2	matrix	3328	36785	11.4	8.0	5.8E-4	20.1	3.59	0.51	1.1	3.61	35.422	1.0	0.05549	1.39	0.0089	1.1	0.00883	1.1	177.7	1.9	178.2	1.9
W110-8-6-2	matrix	4257	35103	8.5	10.3	4.0E-4	19.2	2.74	0.47	0.7	2.75	35.351	1.0	0.05158	1.24	0.0091	1.1	0.00905	1.1	182.1	1.9	179.4	1.9
W110-8-2-1	matrix	2559	34729	14.0	6.2	8.0E-4	15.0	4.50	0.54	1.5	4.54	35.052	1.1	0.05529	1.60	0.0092	1.1	0.00910	1.1	183.0	2.0	180.1	1.9
W110-1-9-1	matrix	5899	34692	6.4	14.4	4.7E-4	14.6	2.01	0.47	0.9	2.01	34.808	1.0	0.05562	1.06	0.0090	1.1	0.00895	1.1	180.2	2.0	181.3	1.9
W110-1-6-1	syn-D <sub>1</sub> garnet	3223	38929	12.5	8.0	5.3E-4	16.6	3.94	0.48	1.0	3.95	34.433	1.0	0.05568	1.34	0.0092	1.3	0.00911	1.3	183.4	2.3	183.4	1.9
W110-8-5-1	syn-D <sub>1</sub> garnet	3047	32922	11.0	7.6	4.0E-3	5.0	3.51	0.47	7.4	3.62	32.007	1.0	0.10934	1.58	0.0100	1.2	0.00958	1.2	192.6	2.4	183.7	2.0
W110-13-4-1	syn-D <sub>1</sub> garnet	2742	36758	13.9	6.8	6.6E-4	22.6	4.31	0.73	1.2	4.34	34.253	1.4	0.05369	1.47	0.0091	1.3	0.00903	1.3	181.6	2.3	184.6	2.5
W110-13-1-2	matrix	2996	36600	14.6	6.5	6.3E-4	17.9	4.49	0.55	1.2	4.52	33.962	1.1	0.05360	1.63	0.0091	1.1	0.00904	1.1	181.8	2.0	186.2	2.0
W110-1-5-1	syn-D <sub>1</sub> garnet	6913	26667	4.0	17.5	2.5E-4	18.7	1.24	0.70	0.5	1.23	33.855	1.0	0.05280	1.63	0.0092	1.0	0.00910	1.1	183.1	1.9	187.0	1.9
W110-8-6-1	matrix	3131	36854	12.2	7.9	8.9E-4	13.1	3.73	0.51	1.6	3.76	33.601	1.1	0.05829	1.40	0.0091	1.1	0.00904	1.1	181.9	2.0	187.1	2.0
W110-11-2-1	syn-D <sub>1</sub> garnet	3295	34822	10.1	8.3	4.5E-4	17.8	3.32	0.50	0.8	3.33	33.694	1.1	0.05438	1.35	0.0090	1.1	0.00897	1.1	180.6	2.0	187.5	2.0
W110-13-2-1	matrix	3230	34622	11.1	8.2	4.9E-4	22.2	3.51	0.51	0.9	3.53	33.629	1.1	0.05385	1.41	0.0094	1.1	0.0094	1.1	188.5	2.1	187.5	2.0
W110-13-3-1	syn-D <sub>1</sub> garnet	3863	35608	9.5	9.8	5.9E-4	13.9	3.03	0.46	1.1	3.04	33.554	1.0	0.05480	1.19	0.0095	1.1	0.00940	1.1	189.1	2.0	187.9	1.9
W110-8-4-1	matrix	4852	36137	7.7	12.3	5.3E-4	12.1	2.48	0.41	1.0	2.48	33.589	1.0	0.05481	1.02	0.0096	1.1	0.00950	1.1	191.1	2.0	188.0	1.9
W110-1-10-1	matrix	2252	32822	15.1	5.7	3.8E-4	30.2	4.80	0.53	0.7	4.82	33.599	1.0	0.05328	1.62	0.0095	1.1	0.00946	1.1	190.3	2.1	188.3	2.0
W110-1-11-1	matrix	5850	36045	6.4	15.1	4.9E-4	14.5	1.93	0.82	0.9	1.93	32.944	1.2	0.05521	1.04	0.0092	1.1	0.00909	1.1	183.0	1.9	191.5	2.2

$^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  ages are not observed to be systematically older than  $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{232}\text{Th}$  ages, suggesting that excess  $^{206}\text{Pb}$  is not significant (Schärer, 1984).  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  ages are used for subsequent analysis because of smaller associated analytical errors than  $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{232}\text{Th}$  ages (Table 5).

#### W122 (St)

Monazite grains in staurolite-grade sample W122 are located only in the matrix and are typically anhedral, with a slightly mottled appearance in BSE (Fig. 10k, l). A regression through five analyses of four separate grains from sample W122 yields a lower intercept age of  $191.5 \pm 2.4$  Ma (Fig. 11a). Analysis W122-1-4.2 was excluded from the regression as it contains high common Pb (5.9%).

#### W120 (Ky)

Monazite grains in kyanite-grade sample W120 reside in all three petrographic locations (syn- $D_1$  garnet, matrix and post- $D_1$  garnet) and appear generally homogeneous, with no zoning visible with BSE imaging (Fig. 10d,e). Monazite inclusions in syn- and post- $D_1$  garnet are typically anhedral, whereas matrix monazite grains are typically subhedral and aligned within the  $S_1$  foliation (Fig. 10d). Sample W120 has a single matrix population, with a lower intercept of  $184.2 \pm 1.5$  Ma (Fig. 11b). Scatter in excess of analytical uncertainty is present when the single (older) monazite inclusion in syn- $D_1$  garnet is included with the matrix population. The three monazite grains from within post- $D_1$  garnet yield non-reproducible younger ages of *c.* 179–158 Ma.

#### W126 (Ky-Sil)

Monazite grains in kyanite- and sillimanite-bearing sample W126 are also found in all three petrographic settings and appear generally homogeneous in BSE (Fig. 10j). Monazite inclusions in syn- and post- $D_1$  garnet are typically anhedral, whereas matrix monazite grains are typically subhedral and aligned within the  $S_1$  foliation. Sample W126 monazite data do not cluster into clear age populations (Fig. 11c). Older ages are preserved in syn- $D_1$  garnet (*c.* 193–184 Ma), overlapping and younger ages are preserved in the matrix (*c.* 191–169 Ma) and the youngest age is preserved in the post- $D_1$  garnet (*c.* 165 Ma).

#### W110 (Sil)

Monazite grains in sillimanite-grade sample W110 are located in syn- $D_1$  garnet and the matrix. The grains are typically homogeneous in BSE (Fig. 10n), with the exception of some inclusions in syn- $D_1$  garnet, which have bright, high-Th cores (Fig. 10b). Monazite inclusions in syn- $D_1$  garnet are typically

anhedral, whereas matrix monazite grains are typically subhedral and aligned within the  $S_1$  foliation (Fig. 10n). Sample W110 has a well-defined syn- $D_1$  garnet age ( $186.2 \pm 1.8$  Ma,  $n = 5$ ) enveloped by a spread in matrix ages, between *c.* 192–173 Ma (Fig. 11d). These matrix ages form two groups at  $188.0 \pm 1.6$  Ma and  $179.4 \pm 1.6$  Ma. Analysis W110-8-5.1 was excluded from the syn- $D_1$  garnet regression as it contains high common Pb (7.4%), and analysis W110-13-1.1 was excluded as an outlier from the younger monazite population.

## Interpretation

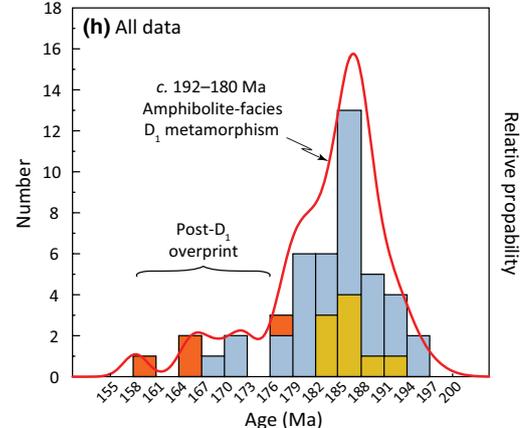
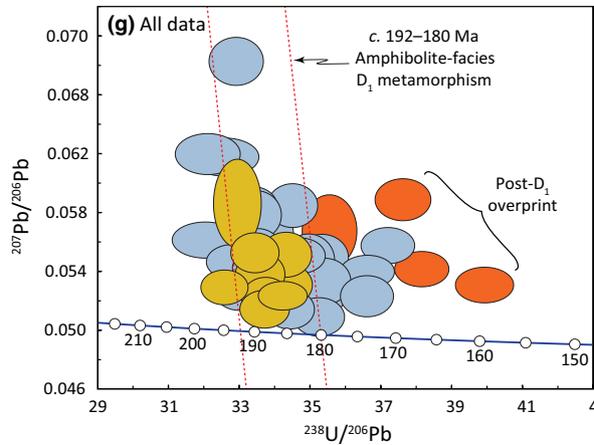
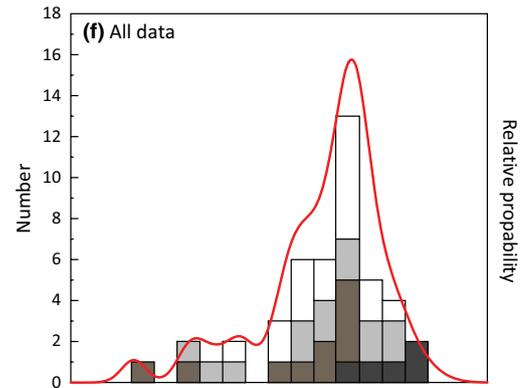
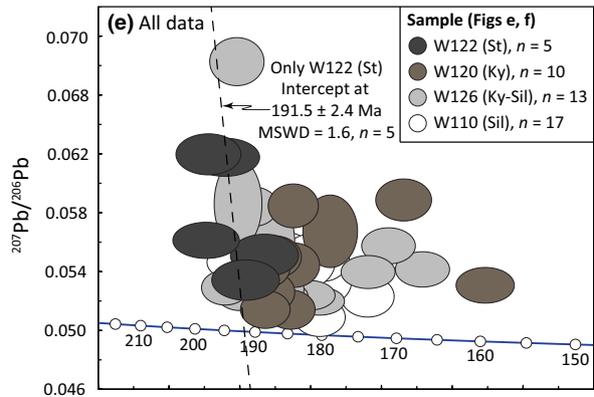
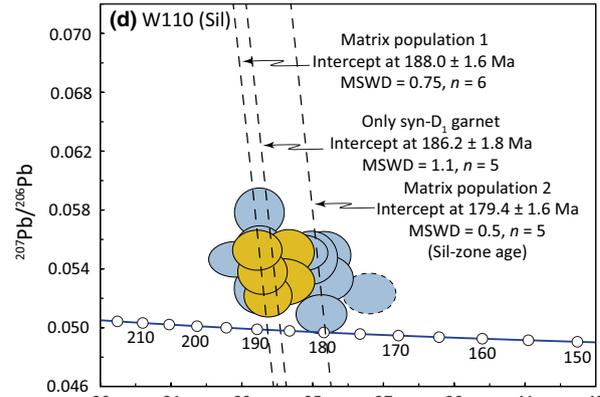
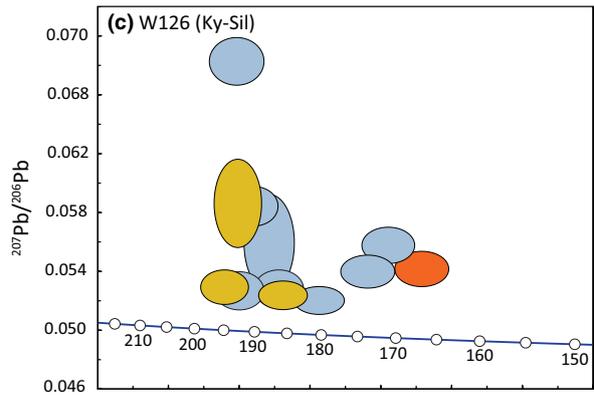
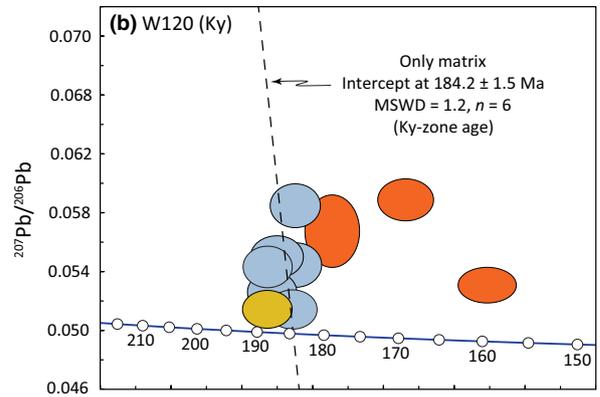
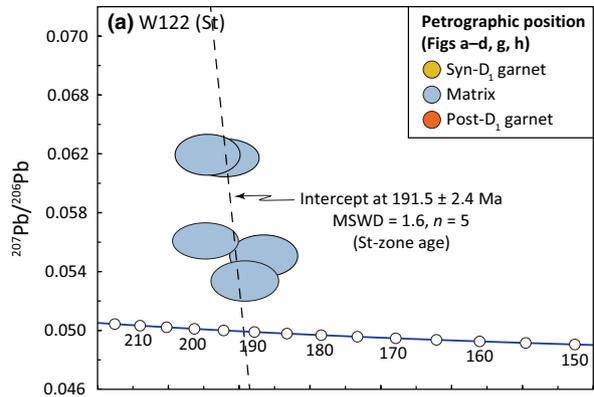
#### W122 (St)

As discussed above, staurolite-grade sample W122 was chosen as the lower bound for the present study, because it was the lowest-grade sample collected from the DSC that contained monazite (Table 1). Sample W122 is also notable for being the only sample that has a single monazite population, with the oldest intercept age of  $191.5 \pm 2.4$  Ma (Fig. 11e). Given the similar chemistry between all of the samples, and the consistent allanite-monzite systematics (Table 1), initial monazite growth appears coincident with staurolite-grade  $P$ – $T$  conditions for metapelites in the DSC. Therefore, the  $191.5 \pm 2.4$  Ma intercept for sample W122 is interpreted to represent a near-peak age for this sample, and to define a staurolite-zone age for the DSC. The lack of monazite inclusions in garnet is also consistent with monazite growth at near-peak conditions after crystallization of most of the garnet.

By contrast, the three higher grade samples show variability in their monazite age populations to younger values. While many studies have shown the benefit of using monazite chemistry to interpret age variation (e.g. Foster *et al.*, 2000; Gibson *et al.*, 2004; Kohn *et al.*, 2005), such an approach seems better suited for distinguishing between sub- and supra-solidus monazite that has grown variably in the presence of garnet. Monazite from the DSC exhibits a weak correlation between older grains having a slightly higher Th content, but, in general, its chemistry is not clearly correlated with age (Table S1). Thus, we have focused on textural and contextual constraints to analyse the monazite results for the higher grade samples in this study.

#### W120 (Ky)

Kyanite-grade sample W120 has a single matrix age of  $184.2 \pm 1.5$  Ma. This could be interpreted to approximate the age at which sample W120 experienced initial monazite growth, which, for the average DSC metapelite bulk rock chemistry, is argued above to correlate with reaching staurolite-grade  $P$ – $T$  conditions (Table 1). However, a simple model of crustal



thickening predicts that higher grade samples would reach staurolite-grade  $P$ - $T$  conditions before lower grade samples, which is inconsistent with the relative ages of W122 and W120. Instead, it is noted that the W120 matrix monazite are strongly aligned within the kyanite-bearing  $S_1$ -fabric (Fig. 10d), and it is suggested that the monazite experienced further growth and/or recrystallization with continued deformation into the kyanite zone. Therefore, the  $184.2 \pm 1.5$  Ma is considered to represent a near-peak age for sample W120 and, by extension, a kyanite-zone age for the DSC. This could also explain the observation of the older age of the monazite inclusion in syn- $D_1$  garnet, which may be part of a slightly older population associated with initial monazite growth that has been reset in the matrix by subsequent reaction and/or deformation. The possible meanings of the young post- $D_1$  garnet ages are discussed below.

#### W110 (Sil)

Sillimanite-bearing sample W110 has two populations of matrix monazite: an older population ( $188.0 \pm 1.6$  Ma) that overlaps with the monazite inclusions in syn- $D_1$  garnet ( $186.2 \pm 1.8$  Ma), and a younger  $179.4 \pm 1.6$  Ma group. Matrix monazite in this sample is notable for having multiple age domains (Fig. 10g), with no obvious chemical variations (Table S1). These observations suggest that matrix monazite experienced near-isochemical growth and/or recrystallization episodes. The younger domains are typically within the more faceted part of the grains, which align with  $S_1$  (Fig. 10n). Continuing the logic from sample W120, the older matrix population and syn- $D_1$  garnet population are considered as part of an earlier phase of monazite growth on the prograde path, and the younger matrix monazite population ( $179.4 \pm 1.6$  Ma) is interpreted to reflect further growth and/or recrystallization of the monazite with continued deformation into the sillimanite zone. Consequently, the  $179.4 \pm 1.6$  Ma age is interpreted to represent a near-peak age for this sample and, by extension, sillimanite-grade metamorphism in the DSC.

#### W126 (Ky-Sil)

A feature of this dataset is the reproducibility of the relative age ranges for the textural contexts within

each sample, as suggested by the common signal that emerges in Fig. 11g,h of older syn- $D_1$  garnet ages, a spread in matrix ages and younger ages associated with the post- $D_1$  garnet. Therefore, although kyanite- and sillimanite-bearing sample W126 does not contain any clear populations (Fig. 11c), the sample appears to be consistent with overall dataset systematics.

#### Post- $D_1$ garnet inclusions

Figure 11h shows that the monazite data are primarily clustered from *c.* 194 to *c.* 179 Ma, below which a 'tail' of younger ages contains non-reproducible ages down to *c.* 158 Ma. Monazite inclusions within post- $D_1$  garnet are the dominant component of this young tail, and these ages are interpreted to represent post-peak monazite growth and/or crystallization in the DSC. Fluid flow is commonly cited as a driver of post-peak monazite recrystallization (e.g. Ayers *et al.*, 1999), and the extensive post-tectonic magmatism in the region provides a possible post- $D_1$  fluid source (Roger *et al.*, 2004). However, this is considered an unlikely mechanism, because the young ages are dominantly found in the post- $D_1$  garnet rather than the matrix, which might be expected to be more prone to late fluid flow and recrystallization. Several authors have noted a fundamental reaction coupling between garnet and monazite during metamorphism, with, for example, resorption of garnet being commonly associated with new monazite growth (Pyle & Spear, 2003). Therefore, it is suggested that the post- $D_1$  garnet monazite inclusions could represent the products of the partial resorption of the syn- $D_1$  garnet, with growth of the youngest monazite occurring in the immediate vicinity of the resorbing garnet (e.g. Gibson *et al.*, 2004). Monazite grains thus formed could then be trapped passively by subsequent post- $D_1$  garnet growth. In this scenario, the ages represent a maximum age for the post- $D_1$  garnet growth.

#### Summary

Integration of the results for staurolite-grade sample W122 ( $191.5 \pm 2.4$  Ma), kyanite-grade sample W120 ( $184.2 \pm 1.5$  Ma) and sillimanite-grade sample W110 ( $179.4 \pm 1.6$ ) suggests a 12 Ma period of thermal peak amphibolite facies conditions in the DSC. Over-

**Fig. 11.** Geochronology results. Tera-Wasserburg diagrams (TW) uncorrected for common Pb display error ellipses at the  $2\sigma$  level. Regressions are anchored at a  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$  ratio of  $0.83 \pm 0.02$ , which is a composition representing that acquired during mineral growth over the last *c.* 220 Ma (Stacey & Kramers, 1975). (a–d, g, h) are shaded by petrographic position and (e, f) are shaded by sample, with the legends shown in (a) and (e), respectively. (a) TW for sample W122 data. Regression for all data points. (b) TW for sample W120 data. Regression for monazite located in the matrix. (c) TW for sample W126 data. (d) TW for sample W110 data. Regressions for monazite located in syn- $D_1$  garnet and for two matrix populations. The dashed ellipse corresponds to a single data point that is excluded from the younger matrix population. (e) TW showing all data. Regression for monazite from sample W122. (f) Histogram with 3 Ma bins showing all data. (g) TW showing all data. (h) Histogram with 3 Ma bins showing all data.

all, the data are interpreted to be extremely consistent with the petrographic framework developed above, which predicts that Barrovian metamorphism in the DSC occurred predominantly during  $D_1$  with some subtle post- $D_1$  overprinting.

## DISCUSSION

### Barrovian metamorphism in the DSC

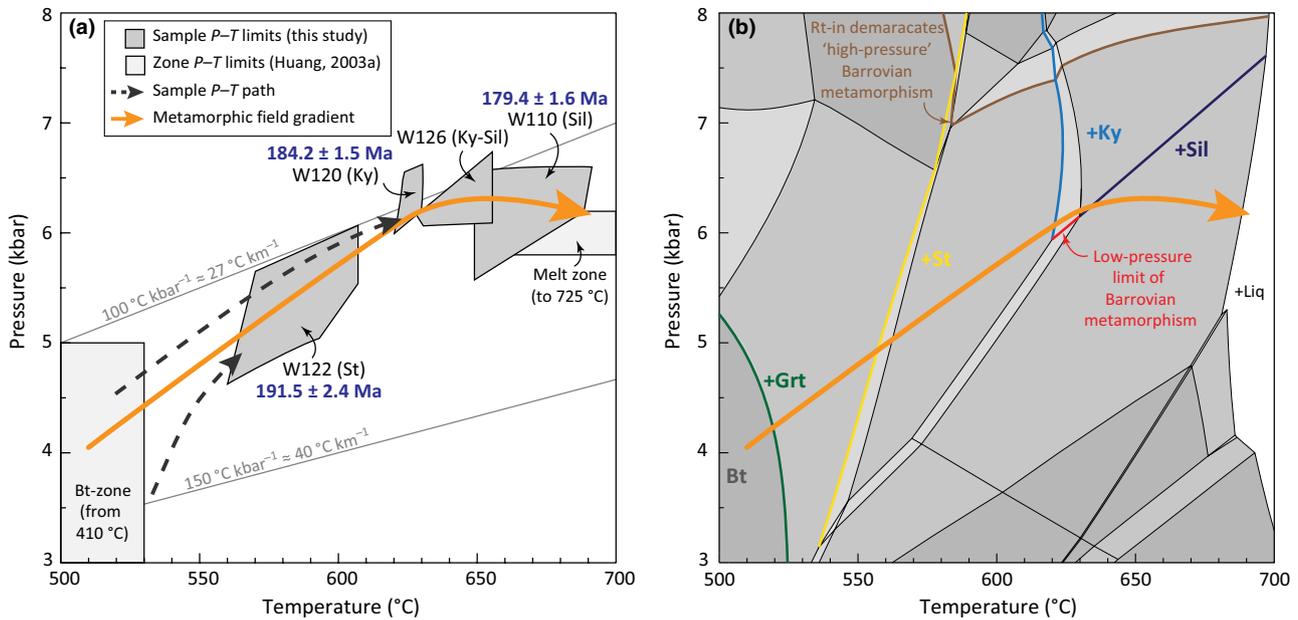
Figure 2 shows a theoretical example of  $P$ - $T$ - $t$  paths for a suite of cogenetic samples involved in crustal thickening. Figure 12a shows an equivalent documentation of metamorphism in the DSC, and summarizes the main results of this study. Biotite- and melt-zone limits from Huang *et al.* (2003a) are included to extend the scope of this study, and help further define the metamorphic field gradient (Richardson & England, 1979; Thompson & England, 1984; Spear, 1993). Calculating a field gradient from an obliquely exposed crustal section requires a constancy of thermal and tectonic characteristics across the section being considered, in which case the gradient is a simple function of depth (Harte & Dempster, 1987). The observation that isograds occur at variable stratigraphic levels through the DSC (Fig. 1b) suggests that this is not an assumption that can be simply made for the DSC. Nevertheless, for the purposes of discussion, this assumption is initially made, prior to evaluating the simplification.

Several features of Fig. 12a coincide with those shown on Fig. 2: the partial  $P$ - $T$  paths are nested and have a clockwise sense; higher grade samples reach peak conditions at sequentially younger ages; the array of peak conditions form a metamorphic field gradient concave to the  $T$ -axis; the field gradient is polychronic, with a 12 Ma duration of thermal peak amphibolite facies conditions; and the geotherms are transient. There are also some clear differences. Most notably, in Fig. 12a the  $P$ - $T$  path segments and the field gradient have similar slopes and peak  $P$  and  $T$  coincide for samples W122 and W120. These differences stem from a fundamental assumption in the thermal models used to generate the curves in Fig. 2, namely that rapid burial is followed by erosion. Under such conditions,  $T_{\max}$  is necessarily reached during decompression, due to the time lag of thermal relaxation. In contrast, if a given rock pile undergoes sustained slow burial, then thermal equilibrium is approached during compression, causing the  $P$ - $T$  paths and the metamorphic field gradient to progressively merge (England & Thompson, 1984). Figure 12a is suggested to be more consistent with the latter scenario, implying that the DSC, and by extension the Songpan-Garzé Fold Belt, experienced slow tectonic burial, without extensive concomitant erosion.

Two geotherms are shown on Fig. 12a that bracket the  $P$ - $T$  path segments for samples W122 and W120,

which suggest that the geotherm evolved from 150 °C  $\text{kbar}^{-1}$  ( $\sim 40$  °C  $\text{km}^{-1}$ ) at the start of garnet growth in sample W122, to 100 °C  $\text{kbar}^{-1}$  ( $\sim 27$  °C  $\text{km}^{-1}$ ) at the end of garnet growth in sample W120 (Fig. 12).  $T_{\max}$  positions for samples W126 and W110 suggest that an inflexion is reached around the kyanite-sillimanite transition, at which point the geotherm reaches a minimum (i.e. coldest) and starts to sweep to steeper gradients, as per Fig. 2. The melt-zone limits from Huang *et al.* (2003a) would continue this extrapolation back towards hotter gradients of  $\sim 120$  °C  $\text{kbar}^{-1}$  ( $\sim 32$  °C  $\text{km}^{-1}$ ). Beyond the inflexion point,  $P$ - $T$  paths should start to approach  $T_{\max}$  from slightly higher pressures. The effect of slow burial is to delay the point at which the samples decompress during heating, so that the recorded pressures of the Danba field gradient are close to  $P_{\max}$ . This is in contrast with Fig. 2, whereby the metamorphic field gradient is not representative of the peak pressure reached by any given sample (England & Richardson, 1977).

Figure 12b considers the required trajectories of a metamorphic field gradient in developing a Barrovian sequence, using the pseudosection from sample W122 (Fig. 7c) as a template (because this pseudosection considers the largest  $P$ - $T$  space). As the pseudosection reaction topology of pelitic bulk compositions is fairly consistent (Caddick & Thompson, 2008), this discussion is broadly generic to metapelites. The Barrovian isograds are highlighted and a low-pressure limit to Barrovian metamorphism is identified, below which no kyanite would be observed. This corresponds to the kyanite-sillimanite transition in the presence of staurolite, and is equivalent to the bathograd 4/5 boundary identified by Carmichael (1978). Above this limit, a wide range of broadly concave field gradients would generate Barrovian sequences. Carmichael (1978) split this range into two bathozones, using the intersection of the solidus and the kyanite-sillimanite transition as the boundary. However, White *et al.* (2001) noted that the wet solidus can produce fairly cryptic volumes of melt in metapelites, and suggested that reaching muscovite dehydration is the 'effective solidus'. Also, this study shows that variable  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  can have a large effect on the pressure of this intersection. Therefore, an alternative demarcation is suggested. Based on the fairly constant nature of the rutile-ilmenite shelf in metapelitic systems under reducing conditions (White, 2000; Caddick & Thompson, 2008), rutile-present and rutile-absent could be considered a useful subdivision of Barrovian sequences into high- and low-pressure varieties. Under this scheme, the DSC is an example of low-pressure Barrovian metamorphism. The calculated Danba field gradient is in fact observed to traverse near the low-pressure limit of Barrovian metamorphism (Fig. 12b). This is consistent with the fact that the metamorphism was generated solely within a thickened cover sequence, as opposed to



**Fig. 12.** Amalgamated results of this study. (a) In the style of Fig. 2, but quantified for the DSC. The  $P$ - $T$  path segments and sample  $T_{\max}$  limits are taken from Figs 7 & 8. Biotite- and melt-zone  $P$ - $T$  limits are from Huang *et al.* (2003a) and extend the scope of this study. These estimates were calculated using the  $aVPT$  function of THERMOCALC (Powell & Holland, 1994) at a similarly reduced  $a_{H_2O}$  to this study. The  $t$  constraints are shown in Fig. 11. Geotherms are drawn as a straight line that goes through the origin. Conversion from °C kbar<sup>-1</sup> to °C km<sup>-1</sup> assumes a crustal density of 2750 kg m<sup>-3</sup>. The results suggest slow burial of the DSC during the early Jurassic, which caused a single, extended episode of relatively low-pressure, Barrovian-type metamorphism; see text for discussion. (b) The Danba metamorphic field gradient is overlain on the pseudosection shown in Fig. 7c for sample W120, with Barrovian isograds highlighted. The Danba field gradient is observed to lie at the low-pressure end of possible trajectories that would give a Barrovian sequence for this bulk composition; see text for discussion.

beneath an overthrusting continental plate, where higher pressure regional metamorphism would be induced (e.g. Searle *et al.*, 2006).

As stated above, the variations in the distribution of isograds in the DSC (e.g. no kyanite zone is observed on the eastern transect of the DSC; Fig. 1b) suggest some thermotectonic variation. This implies that no one field gradient could characterize the whole DSC. Nevertheless, the one shown on Fig. 12 is considered coarsely representative of the thermal structure of the DSC for two reasons. First, it is notable that the Danba field gradient lies close to the low-pressure limit of Barrovian metamorphism, below which no kyanite zone would be expected (Fig. 12b). Therefore, it would only take a slight increase in temperature or decrease in pressure to transition directly from staurolite- to sillimanite-bearing assemblages (as seen in the eastern DSC). Second, the relative consistency of the mapped mineral isograd sequence in the DSC (bar the one variation noted above) points to a relatively consistent thermal architecture at the regional scale. Nevertheless, this highlights the complexities of using natural case studies and it is likely that only the ideal condition of small geographical area and significant variation in structural relief is capable of revealing a single metamorphic field gradient for a given area (England & Richardson, 1977). Finally, it is clear that any given field gradient will only have a finite extent, as lateral

variation in heat flow and age of metamorphism are features of many orogenic belts, and indeed are a feature of the type area for Barrovian metamorphism in the Scottish Highlands, which transitions to Buchan-style metamorphism to the northeast (Harte & Hudson, 1979).

#### Timing of sillimanite-grade metamorphism in the DSC

One objective of this study was to resolve whether the sillimanite-grade metamorphism in the DSC was continuous with the kyanite-grade metamorphism during formation of the Songpan-Garzê Fold Belt, or whether it represents a thermal overprint. The petrography, pseudosection modelling and geochronology presented strongly suggest that all high-grade metamorphism in the DSC was progressive with, and solely caused by, slow thickening of the Songpan-Garzê Fold Belt during the late Triassic to early Jurassic. This is evidenced by all index minerals aligning within  $S_1$  fabrics, the  $T_{\max}$  positions of all of the study samples defining a smooth array, and the sequential nature of the monazite ages.

Ambiguity surrounding metamorphism in the DSC primarily stems from conflicting published ages for the sillimanite-grade metamorphism (see Introduction). The monazite age data in this study are interpreted above to reflect sillimanite-grade conditions being

reached at  $179.4 \pm 1.6$  Ma, as part of a continuum of metamorphism from staurolite-grade conditions at  $191.5 \pm 2.4$  Ma. No evidence was found in this study to support the *c.* 65 Ma age presented by Wallis *et al.* (2003), and it is unclear what event is recorded by this date. The high-temperature age data presented by Huang *et al.* (2003b) have a similar age range to this study of *c.* 200–160 Ma. However, the present study disagrees with the interpretations made by Huang *et al.* (2003b), which distinguished kyanite-grade metamorphism at *c.* 204–190 Ma and a sillimanite-grade thermal overprint at *c.* 168–158 Ma, for three reasons.

First, the interpretation of the data in Huang *et al.* (2003b) was partly based on their petrographic interpretation that sillimanite growth was part of a second fabric forming event ( $D_2$ ; same orientation as this study) in the DSC. This observation is counter to many other studies, which observed that all Barrovian minerals were contained within  $D_1$  fabrics (Mattauer *et al.*, 1992; Wallis *et al.*, 2003; Cheng & Lai, 2005). Furthermore, it seems at odds with their own observations, which detailed that  $D_2$  folded the sillimanite-in isograd. The present study also notes that  $D_2$  is associated with low-temperature microstructures and emphatically places sillimanite growth during  $D_1$ . Second, the U–Pb monazite data presented by Huang *et al.* (2003b) do not seem to support their conclusions as they recorded their youngest ages in a kyanite-grade sample, and their sillimanite-grade sample had ages of *c.* 197–180 Ma. Third, the conclusions made by Huang *et al.* (2003b) included results from U–Pb titanite and garnet Sm–Nd techniques together with the U–Pb monazite data. However, the former two techniques have closure temperatures below peak temperatures in the region (Mezger *et al.*, 1992; Scott & St-Onge, 1995), so are considered unsuitable for dating peak metamorphism, particularly in the context of the DSC where slow burial and exhumation are suggested to have sustained high temperatures. Instead, it is suggested that many of the observations made by Huang *et al.* (2003b) are more consistent with the notion of a progressive  $D_1$  event, and the noted age dispersion is due to the combined effects of sustained high temperatures in the region, partial post-peak overprinting and real dispersion in ages reflecting resolvable timescales of prograde metamorphism.

### Regional tectonic implications

The results of the present study seem applicable to the whole of the Songpan-Garzê Fold Belt, as similar low-pressure (5–7 kbar), kyanite-grade Barrovian metamorphism is reported from the Xuelongbao region of the central Longmen Shan mountains, with an age of 210–196 Ma (Dirks *et al.*, 1994; Worley *et al.*, 1997). Assuming a crustal density of  $2750 \text{ kg m}^{-3}$ , this suggests that the sedimentary pile reached up to  $\sim 26$  km, indicating a doubling of

thickness during formation of the Songpan-Garzê Fold Belt. Although it is unclear how thick the crust was prior to shortening, and how much shortening there was in the basement during inversion of the Songpan-Garzê basin, clearly, the Songpan-Garzê Fold Belt was a region of thickened crust in the early Jurassic.

More broadly, the timing of crustal thickening and uplift of the plateau remains contentious (Clark, 2011). This study adds to the burgeoning evidence that Tibet experienced a widespread episode of crustal thickening during the late Triassic to early Jurassic (e.g. Yang *et al.*, 2009). This overlaps in time with the Indosinian orogeny, which is sporadically exposed in south-east Asia. Although the term Indosinian is *sensu stricto* only applicable to events within Vietnam (Carter & Clift, 2008), increasing numbers of Indosinian-epoch events are being documented in the wider region, suggesting that this was a major phase of continental accretion in Asia.

### CONCLUSIONS

- 1 Petrographic, thermobarometric and geochronological results indicate that Barrovian metamorphism in the DSC was continuous and related to slow thickening of the Songpan-Garzê Fold Belt during the late Triassic to early Jurassic.
- 2 Fabrics in the DSC record a range of states in progressive cleavage development ( $S_1$ ), associated with compression of the Songpan-Garzê Fold Belt ( $D_1$ ). All index minerals align within or are wrapped by  $S_1$ , indicating that Barrovian metamorphism was developed during  $D_1$ . In the core of the DSC, an incipient crenulation cleavage ( $S_2$ ) is developed that is associated with low-temperature microstructures (280–400 °C).
- 3 Calculated peak metamorphic conditions range from  $\sim 5.2$  kbar and 580 °C at staurolite grade, to  $\sim 6.0$  kbar and 670 °C at sillimanite grade, and effectively constrain a metamorphic field gradient.  $P$ – $T$  path segments and the field gradient are approximately collinear. Slow burial concomitant with thermal relaxation is suggested to have collapsed the textbook schematic of broad, clockwise  $P$ – $T$ – $t$  loops that are typically associated with Barrovian metamorphism.
- 4 Monazite replaces allanite as the major REE-bearing mineral from staurolite grade onwards in the DSC. Given the similar bulk-rock chemistry between analysed samples, this suggests a link between initial monazite growth and staurolite-grade  $P$ – $T$  conditions. Only the staurolite-grade sample rendered a single monazite population. All higher grade samples show evidence of multiple episodes of monazite growth and/or recrystallization. Staurolite-grade conditions were reached at  $191.5 \pm 2.4$  Ma. Kyanite-grade conditions were attained at  $184.2 \pm 1.5$  Ma. Sillimanite-grade con-

ditions continued until  $179.4 \pm 1.6$  Ma. Overall, thermal peak amphibolite facies metamorphism in the DSC lasted at least 12 Ma.

- 5 Petrographically and chemically defined post-D<sub>1</sub> garnet growth is associated with young monazite inclusions that have ages of *c.* 180–160 Ma. The growth of these monazite is suggested to be coupled with partial resorption of garnet.
- 6 Pseudosection modelling shows that  $a_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  can be an important control on the spacing of Barrovian index mineral isograds and  $X_{\text{Fe}^{3+}}$  can have a moderate effect on garnet stability. The presence or absence of rutile from a Barrovian suite is suggested to differentiate between high- and low-pressure Barrovian metamorphism, respectively. In this context, Barrovian metamorphism was low pressure in the DSC.
- 7 Eastern Tibet experienced a significant phase of crustal thickening in the late Triassic to early Jurassic that is temporally associated with widespread Indosinian-epoch events throughout Asia.

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## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional Supporting Information may be found in the online version of this article at the publisher's web site:

**Table S1.** Monazite compositions at each of the SHRIMP analysis locations. Totals are normalized to 100% to assist comparison between grains.

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