

1 **Lanthanide tetrads in normalized rare element patterns of of zircon from the**
2 **Koktokay No. 3 granitic pegmatite, Altay, NW China**

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13 **ABSTRACT**

14 Individual crystals of zircon, from the Koktokay No.3 granitic pegmatite vein, are
15 variably altered and consist of three types of domains distinguished on the basis of
16 textures and compositions. The pristine domains possess normal chondrite-normalized
17 rare earth element (REE) patterns. Domains affected by metamictizaion are enriched in U
18 and Th. The presence of abundant fractures, dense pores and, the enrichments of
19 non-formula elements imply that these metamict domains have been altered by a later
20 hydrothermal fluid. Tetrads observed in these altered domains are likely to have been
21 generated by this alteration event.

22 **Keywords:** Zircon; REE tetrads; alteration; pegmatite; Altay

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INTRODUCTION

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Chondrite-normalized rare earth element (REE) patterns, which have three discontinuity points at Gd, between Nd and (Pm), and between Ho and Er, can be divided into four segments (La-Nd; Pm-Gd; Gd-Ho; Er-Lu). When these segments are convex upward or concave downward, this is defined as “M-type or W-type lanthanide tetrads” (Masuda et al. 1987). In past decades, many investigators focused on the lanthanide tetrads in highly evolved granitic system because the tetrads can be used as a geochemical indicator to constrain the evolution of igneous and hydrothermal systems. All these previous results indicate that granitic whole rocks and separated minerals from highly evolved granitic systems may exhibit M-type tetrads (Bau 1996, 1997; Jahn et al. 2001; Liu and Zhang 2005; Masuda and Akagi 1989; Monecke et al. 2002, 2007; Wu et al. 2011 and references in) or W-type tetrads rarely (Monecke et al. 2011). However, the geochemical processes that are responsible for the tetrads are not yet fully understood. Several genetic models have been proposed to interpret the origin of the tetrads in geological materials: (i) fractional crystallization of REE-rich accessory minerals during the crystallization of silicate melt (Foster 1998; Jolliff et al. 1989; McLennan 1994; Pan and Breaks 1997; Yurimoto et al. 1990; Zhao and Cooper 1993); (ii) fluid-melt interaction during crystallization of the silicate melt (Irber 1999); (iii) surface weathering (Takahashi et al. 2002); (iv) F-rich magmatic fluid-melt interaction (Veksler et al. 2005); (v) fluid immiscibility and preferential partitioning of REE between vapor and coexisting liquid (Monecke et al. 2011).

44 Many of the previous studies have focused on whole rocks. Compared with whole
45 rocks, the advantage of individual mineral phase is its ability to preserve geological
46 events such as formation, metamorphism and alteration through the change of texture and
47 composition. Zircon commonly occurs in magmatic, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks.
48 It is a host for significant fractions of the whole-rock abundance of some trace elements
49 such as REE ([Hoskin and Schaltegger 2003](#)). The normalized rare earth element pattern
50 of unaltered igneous zircons is characterized by a steeply-rising slope from the LREE to
51 the HREE with a positive Ce-anomaly and negative Eu-anomaly. Unusually, some
52 zircons from the Koktokay No.3 granitic pegmatite exhibit a significant M-type tetrads.
53 The aim of the present work is to investigate the possible mechanism that result in the
54 tetrads in zircons from the pegmatite via the analysis of the texture, major and trace
55 element.

56 GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

57 Koktokay No.3 pegmatite is located near the town of Koktokay and is a well-known,
58 highly fractionated and zoned granitic pegmatite which hosts the largest Li-Be-Nb-Ta-Cs
59 pegmatite-type deposit in China. This pegmatite is hosted by metagabbro which
60 embraced by gneissic biotite granite ([Fig.1](#)). Between the pegmatite and the metagabbro,
61 there is a thin contact zone with a thickness of several cm. The metagabbro and andbiotite
62 granite were dated at ca. 408 Ma and 409 Ma by SHRIMP zircon U-Pb analyses,
63 respectively ([Wang et al. 2006](#)). Koktokay No.3 pegmatite was dated using different
64 isotopic dating methods and the data ranged from 210 to 220 Ma ([Che et al. 2015](#); [Liu et](#)

65 [al. 2014; Wang et al. 2007](#)).

66 Spatially, the No.3 pegmatite has two parts: an oval-shaped cupola in the upper part
67 and a vein that dips gently at the bottom. The overall shape of this pegmatite looks like a
68 solid hat. The cupola strikes NNW and dips NE at an angle of 40~80°; it is about 250 m
69 long, 150 m wide, and reaches to depths of 250 m. The cupola outcrop is pear shaped.
70 The gently dipping vein strikes NW and dips SW at an angle 10~40°, has a thickness of
71 20~60m, and a terrace-shaped appearance; its exact boundary have yet to be determined
72 ([Zou and Li 2006](#))

73 The No.3 pegmatite has a perfectly concentric textural zonation. Based on the
74 mineral assemblages, and textural characteristics, nine distinct zones are distinguished in
75 cupola from the outermost zone inwards ([Fig.2](#)):

76 (1) Graphic zone (zone I): mainly composed of microcline and quartz with minor
77 muscovite and surrounded by quartz-muscovite shell.

78 (2) Saccharoidal albite zone (zone II): consists of dominant whit fine-grained albite
79 (60 vol.%), microcline (22 vol.%) and quartz (16 vol.%). Accessory minerals include
80 beryl, apatite, zircon, and spesartite.

81 (3) Blocky microcline zone (zone III): huge, blocky microcline with an outer contact
82 of saccharoidal albite and inner contact of muscovite-quartz.

83 (4) Muscovite-quartz zone (zone IV): composed of 60 vol% muscovite-quartz and
84 30 vol% blocky microcline.

85 (5) Cleavelandite-spodumene zone (zone V): rich in spodumene, containing 65 vol%

86 cleavelandite-spodumene and 30 vol% quartz-spodumene.

87 (6) Quartz-spodumene zone (zone VI): contains lithium mineralization, 65 vol%
88 quartz-spodumene and 35 vol% cleavelandite-spodumene.

89 (7) Platy albite-muscovite zone (zone VII): mainly consisted of platy
90 albite-muscovite with small amount of quartz-spodumene and blocky quartz.

91 (8) Lepidolite-platy albite zone (zone VIII) : lens-shaped, mainly composed of
92 lepidolite-platy albite with small amounts of muscovite-platy albite.

93 (9) Blocky quartz (zone IX): comprised of 79 vol% blocky quartz and 21 vol%
94 blocky microcline.

95 Previous studies of fluid inclusion, mineralogy, and rare earth element geochemistry
96 have suggested that the crystallization evolution of the Koktokay No.3 pegmatite could
97 be at least divided into two stages: one magmatic stage and the other
98 hydrothermal-related one. The magmatic stage includes zones I to IV (the outer zones)
99 (Zhu et al. 2000; Liu and Zhang 2005; Zhang et al. 2004, 2008a, 2008b). The types of
100 inclusions in the outer zones include melt-inclusions and crystal-rich fluid-inclusions
101 (Zhu et al. 2000). Zircon from zone II is intergrowth with albite that is the main
102 rock-forming mineral in this zone. Therefore, zircon from this zone undoubtedly is part of
103 a primary, magmatic assemblage.

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107 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

108 Samples for zircon analyses were collected from the zone II in cupola part. About 10
109 kg of raw rocks from zone II were crushed and sieved to 60~80 mesh. Zircon grains were
110 separated by standard methods (including gravity concentration and magnetic separation).
111 10 zircon grains were finally handpicked under a binocular microscope. These selected
112 grains were mounted in epoxy, and then were polished until the cores of grains were
113 exposed.

114 Cathodoluminescence (CL) imaging was done at the State Key Laboratory of
115 Continental Dynamics, Northwest University, China, using a FEI Quanta 400 scanning
116 electron microscope equipped with an Oxford IE 350 energy dispersive spectroscopy
117 system and a Gatan MonoCL3+ detector. The operating conditions included an
118 accelerating voltage of 15 kV and a beam current beam of 20 nA.

119 Major elements analyses of zircon grains and backscattered electron images were
120 carried out with a JXA-8100 electron probe micro-analyzer (EPMA) equipped with four
121 wavelength-dispersive spectrometers at the State Key Laboratory of Geological Processes
122 and Mineral Resources, School of Earth Sciences, China University of Geosciences. The
123 EMPA was operated at an accelerating voltage of 15 KV and a beam current of 20 nA.
124 The beam diameter was ca. 1 μm . The following standards were used for quantitative
125 elemental analyses: zircon (Zr, Si), Hf metal (Hf), UO_2 (U), ThO_2 (Th), apatite (P),
126 pyrope (Al), almandine (Fe), diopside (Ca). Peaks and backgrounds for most elements
127 were measured with counting times of 20 and 10 s, respectively, apart from Si (10 s on

128 peak; 5 s on background). All data were reduced using the ZAF correction program.

129 Trace elements analyses of zircons were performed using the laser-ablation,
130 inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometer (LA-ICPMS) at the Key Laboratory of
131 Continental Dynamics, Northwest University, China. A detailed compilation of the
132 instrument and data acquisition parameters are presented in [Yuan et al. \(2004\)](#). The
133 GeoLas 200 M laser-ablation system equipped with a 193 nm ArF-excimer laser and a
134 homogenizing imaging optical system was used in connection with an Agilent 7500
135 ICP-MS. Helium was used as the carrier gas to enhance the transport efficiency of ablated
136 materials. Laser spot size and frequency were 30 μm and 8 Hz, respectively. The
137 LA-ICP-MS measurements were carried out using peak jumping mode and dwell time for
138 each isotope was set 6 ms. Raw data were processed using the ICPMSData Cal ([Liu et al.](#)
139 [2008](#)). REE concentrations were calibrated by using ^{29}Si as internal standard and
140 NIST610 as an external reference material.

141 RESULTS

142 Zircon grains are brown, opaque, stubby prismatic to dipyrnidal shapes, and in the
143 range of 200 to 500 μm in size. These zircon grains appear to be closely intergrown with
144 albite ([Fig. 3a](#)). These crystals have a low CL response, and at first glance, they are
145 typical of externally euhedral but internally patchy textured zircons ([Fig. 3b](#)). More
146 complex zoning textures are revealed by BSE imaging. There are abundant fractures in
147 all analyzed 10 zircon grains ([Fig. 3c](#)), and three different domains within a single zircon
148 grain ([Fig. 3d](#)), herein designated as A, B, and C, are identified on the basis of mean

149 atomic number and texture. As shown in [Fig.3d](#), domain A is usually located at the rim
150 and characterized by its smooth surface and uniform bright grey contrast; Domain B is
151 volumetrically most significant and, characterized by a low density of micro-pores and is
152 darker in the BSE image than domain A. Some uranium oxide inclusions are present in
153 this domain ($\text{UO}_2= 93.76 \text{ wt}\%$, $\text{ThO}_2=2.62 \text{ wt}\%$); Domain C is distinguished by dense
154 pores and a mosaic texture, and is the darkest part in the image.

155 Representative results of EPMA obtained from different spots within each of the
156 three domains are shown in [Table 1](#). Domain A has a normal oxide totals ($\sim 100 \text{ wt}\%$). As
157 shown in [Fig.4](#), it is characterized by very low concentrations of U, Th, and non-formula
158 elements (like Ca and Al), and has Si and Zr contents typical of normal crystalline
159 Hf-rich zircon (containing $4.85\sim 8.24 \text{ wt}\% \text{ HfO}_2$). The other two domains have much
160 lower oxide totals ($84.01 \text{ to } 96.31 \text{ wt}\%$). Domain B is characterized by relatively high
161 levels of U and Th, moderated enrichments of non-formula elements such as Al and Ca,
162 and low Si, and Zr ([Fig. 4](#)); domain C is also enriched in U and Th, meanwhile it has the
163 highest concentrations of non-formula elements, and usually contains several wt% of
164 Al_2O_3 , and CaO ([Fig. 4](#)).

165 The concentrations of REE in zircons are listed in [Table 2](#), and the
166 chondrite-normalized REE patterns are plotted in [Fig. 5](#). Domain A has the lowest total
167 REE content, ranging from 16.59 to 25.30 ppm, and domain C shows the highest REE
168 contents ($198.4\sim 390.90 \text{ ppm}$). All REE patterns are characterized by pronounce negative
169 Eu anomalies and positive Ce anomalies. Besides the Eu and Ce anomalies, the REE

170 patterns show two curves with a discontinuity point between Ho and Er, which resemble
171 M-type tetrads. The tetrads were quantified according to [Monecke et al. \(2002\)](#). As
172 shown in [Fig. 5](#), domain A shows an absence of tetrads or very weak M-type tetrads.
173 However, the low concentration of REE in domain A may lead to large analytical errors,
174 so it cannot be fully excluded that the weak tetrad effect in these areas may represent an
175 analytical artifact. In contrast, domains B and C show a significant M-type tetrads,
176 especially in the third segment (from Gd to Ho).

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178 DISCUSSION

179 **Genesis of Zircons**

180 Extreme variations in compositions and structures of zircons from zone II are
181 revealed by EMPA and BSE imaging. Three domains can be easily identified within a
182 single zircon grain ([Fig. 3d](#)). Domain B is characterized by relatively high levels of U and
183 Th. The radioactive decay of U and Th causes structural damage, which can strongly
184 affect bulk physical properties of zircon crystals ([Ewing et al. 2003](#)). Radiation damage
185 (metamictization) not only decreases the stability of zircon against aqueous solution , but
186 also create abundant fractures that enable fluid to penetrate the internal structure of zircon.
187 [Geisler et al. \(2001, 2003\)](#) confirmed via experimental methods that metamict zircon can
188 effectively be altered by various aqueous solutions. Incorporations of non-formula
189 elements such as Al and Ca into zircons are usually ascribed to alteration ([Geisler et al.](#)
190 [2007](#)). High levels of Al₂O₃ and CaO in domain B imply that these domains have

191 undergone fluid alteration. For the same reason, domain C should be the most-alteration
192 portion, because it contains the highest concentrations of Al₂O₃ and CaO.

193 Domain A is characterized by very low concentrations of U, Th, and non-formula
194 elements, has Si and Zr contents typical of normal crystalline Hf-rich zircon, and mainly
195 located at the rim. The formation of these growth rims can be ascribed to the presence of
196 an aqueous fluid or a melt. In terms of U-Pb isotopic compositions and textures, the
197 generation of domain A should be linked with the melt, due to the following evidences: 1)
198 As mentioned above, the pristine zircons from zone II were directly crystallized from
199 melt; 2) Domain A has almost same U-Pb ages to domain B that undergoes least
200 alteration (Table 2); 3) Domain A is usually broken by fractures that are created by
201 metamictization, so it is suggest that domain A should be formed prior to the beginning of
202 metamictization.

203 Judging from compositions and textures, the following processes can account for the
204 generation of zircon from zone II. Firstly, U and Th-rich zircons crystallized from a melt,
205 and then early U and Th-rich zircon was replaced by U and Th-poor zircon as a result of
206 progressive changes in melt composition during the fractional crystallization process.
207 Secondly, differential metamictization causes volume expansion of the U-rich domains
208 with consequent fracturing of the more resistant and brittle low-U domains. The
209 metamictization not only decreases the stability of zircon against aqueous solution , but
210 also create abundant fractures that enable fluid to penetrate the internal structure of zircon.
211 Finally, these metamict areas were altered by a later hydrothermal fluid.

212 **The generation of tetrads**

213 Unaltered magmatic zircons from different crustal source-rocks have very similar
214 chondrite-normalized REE pattern, which characterized by a steeply-rising slope from La
215 to Lu with a positive Ce anomaly and negative Eu-anomaly ([Hoskin and Schaltegger](#)
216 [2003](#)). In contrast, hydrothermal and hydrothermally-altered zircons vary greatly in REE
217 abundances and pattern due to differences in hydrothermal mineral assemblages, fluid
218 origins, fO_2 , as well as other factors ([Hoskin and Schaltegger 2003](#); [Pettke et al. 2005](#)).
219 As shown in Fig.3, LREE concentrations generally increase with increasing alteration,
220 while HREE is not obviously variable. Even though the tetrads in LREE (from La to Eu)
221 are difficult to recognize due to the existence of Ce anomalies and non-occurrence of Pm
222 in natural samples, the REE patterns of Domain B and C show a significant M-type
223 tetrads in the HREE (from Gd to Lu).

224 REE tetrads are often observed in REE patterns of mineral and rock samples from
225 highly evolved peraluminous granite systems. Liquid immiscibility between fluoride melt
226 and silicate melt (e.g., [Veksler et al. 2005](#)), fractional crystallization of accessory
227 minerals (e.g., [Yurimoto et al. 1990](#)), and fluid-melt interaction (e.g., [Irber, 1999](#)) have
228 been proposed to account for the granitic melt tetrad effect.

229 *Immiscible fluoride and silicate melts*

230 Based on an experimental study, [Veksler et al. \(2005\)](#) proposed that
231 liquid immiscibility between fluoride melt and silicate melt is a probable mechanism for
232 REE tetrad effect in Li-F granites. It is known that the development of liquid

233 immiscibility might result from fluorine in granitic system, at least 3.5 ~5.9 wt% F in the
234 system should be required (Wang and Huang 2000). It is not easy for the initial granitic
235 magma originated by partial melting of sedimentary rocks to have such a high content of
236 fluorine. In fact, fluorine in whole rock of typical Li-F granites in southern China mainly
237 ranges from 1.0 wt% to 2.3 wt%, and extremely high fluorine only occurs in the last
238 evolution stage of the magmatic systems. As an example, fluorine in dike No. 431
239 topazite at Xianghualing district, southern China can reach up to 7.8 wt% (Zhu et al.
240 1993). Even for the Erzgebirge granites, Germany, its fluorine in whole rocks ranges
241 from 0.3 wt% to 1.0 wt%, and in the later pegmatitic melt from 1.1 wt% to 5.0 wt%
242 (3.5 ± 0.6 wt% F in average, determined by melt inclusions after Webster et al. 1997).
243 Thus, the mechanism for REE tetrad effect in Li-F granites proposed by Veksler et al.
244 (2005) is not suitable to explain the origin of REE tetrad effect in peraluminous magmatic
245 rocks, such as Koktokay No.3 pegmatite, which is characterized by low in fluorine in its
246 initial magma (0.3 ~ 0.4 wt% F after Zhang2001).

247 *Fractional crystallization of individual mineral phases*

248 Fractional crystallization of REE-rich accessory minerals used to be discussed to
249 generate tetrad effect, e.g., garnet (Pan 1997); apatite (Jolliff et al. 1989; McLennan,
250 1994), or monazite (Pan and Breaks 1997; Yurimoto et al. 1990). However, Irber (1999)
251 models the fractional crystallization of such minerals, and finds that the calculated REE
252 patterns show discontinuities at some rare elements, such as Nd, but these patterns lack
253 the basic characteristics of the tetrad effect. Moreover, the fractional crystallization of

254 such accessory minerals cannot simultaneously account for the existence of the tetrad
255 effect both in minerals and their host rocks.

256 *Fluid-melt interaction*

257 [Irber \(1999\)](#) proposed that the development of a M-type tetrad effect in whole rock
258 REE patterns is caused by fluid-melt interaction during crystallization of the silicate melt
259 in an open system, whereby a complementary REE pattern with W-type tetrad effect is
260 removed from the solidifying magma by coexisting (or exsolved) fluids. However,
261 [Monecke et al. \(2002, 2007\)](#) suggested that M-type tetrads in samples from magmatic
262 environment could not be explained by removal of a complementary REE pattern by
263 coexisting hydrothermal fluid, as they found that fluorite samples collected from a
264 hydrothermal vein within the endo-contact of the Li-F granite in Germany, show the
265 M-type tetrad effect instead of the W-type tetrad effect. Specifically for Koktokay No.3
266 pegmatite, the mass balance calculation by [Liu and Zhang \(2005\)](#) indicated that
267 interaction of the exsolved hydrothermal fluid with the solidified rocks at early stage
268 could not produce significantly tetrads.

269 *Fluid-vapor separation and subsolidus interaction*

270 The presence of fractures, pores, UO_x inclusions, and the enrichments of
271 non-formula elements imply that these metamict domains are altered by a later
272 hydrothermal fluid. These altered domains exhibit a significant M-type tetrad effect,
273 whereas the REE patterns got by [Geisler et al. \(2003\)](#) from metamict zircon with
274 low-temperature fluid alteration show the smooth HREE patterns, indicating that no

275 differential disturbance occurred among the HREE.

276 The SHRIMP zircon U-Pb age is 220 ± 9 Ma for pegmatite zone I (Wang et al.
277 2007). The coltan samples yield a weighted mean $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ age of 218.0 ± 2.0 Ma (Che et
278 al. 2015). In the present work, the weighted mean $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ ages of zircon from zone II is
279 215.4 Ma. Therefore, the initial time of formation of No.3 pegmatite should be ca. 220
280 Ma. Molybdenite (as a hydrothermal sulfide mineral) coexists with coarse-grained
281 tourmaline, garnet, and hydro-hornblende in the contact zone between No.3 pegmatite
282 and the wall rock. The Re-Os isochron age for Molybdenite is 208.8 ± 2.4 Ma (Liu et al.
283 2014), and these ages reflect the lower limit of the fluid phase exsolution. The Ar-Ar ages
284 of micas from No.3 pegmatite concentrate within the range of 170.0~180.0 Ma that
285 corresponds to the latest stage of hydrothermal alteration.

286 The degree of metamictization is a function of U and Th concentration and time of
287 radiation exposure, and can be assessed by simple calculation of the accumulated
288 α -dosage (Murakami et al. 1991). The problem of determining the absolute duration of
289 magmatic-hydrothermal events in magmatic systems has been addressed through time
290 needed to crystallize minerals and cooling model of intrusions. The traditional view
291 suggests that the giant crystals in pegmatites should take many, many years to grow. The
292 combination of U-Pb, Ar-Ar, Re-Os is a tool widely used by ore geologists to bracket the
293 duration of magmatic-hydrothermal events in magmatic systems (Chiaradia et al. 2013).
294 The time available for metamictization is <40 Ma if we accept 220 Ma as the initial time
295 formation of No.3 pegmatite and the 170~180 Ma for micas as the latest stage of

296 hydrothermal activity. U and Th concentrations such as in the domain B (ca. 2.5 wt% and
297 0.5 wt%, respectively), accumulate an α -dosage more than 3×10^{15} α -decay events/mg
298 within 40 Ma, and this value reaches to the amount necessary to initiate noticeable
299 changes in a typical zircon structure (e.g. [Chakoumakos et al. 1987](#); [Murakami et al.](#)
300 [1991](#)). However, the period of 40 Ma is too long according to cooling models. The
301 cooling models reveal that typical dikes of pegmatite can cool quickly below their solidus
302 temperature, and possible to glassy, in just a few days, months, or years (cf. [London](#)
303 [2008](#)). One of possible explanation for the contradiction between the mineral age and the
304 cooling model is that hydrothermal activity continues a long time after this pegmatite
305 cooling below its solidus temperature. It is more likely that before alteration, zircons
306 radiation exposure has a minimum duration of 7 Ma, ranging from zircons crystallized at
307 215.4 Ma (zircon U-Pb age) to the fluid exsolved at 208.8 Ma (Molybdenite Re-Os age).
308 Considering these zircon grains should contain higher concentrations of U and Th than
309 now, the time of <7 Ma can also accumulate an enough α -dosage to cause the transition
310 from crystalline to metamict state (the highest U and Th contents= ca. 3 wt.% and 2 wt.%,
311 respectively and α -dosage= $\sim 1 \times 10^{15}$ α -decay events/mg). In a word, radiation damage
312 plays an important role in enhancing the reactivity of zircon.

313 Based on the field observation, the main alterations types of wall rock to No.3
314 pegmatite include chloritization and carbonatization. The values of δD and $\delta^{13}C_{PDB}$ for
315 primary fluid inclusions in quartz from pegmatite are -86.6‰~-48.6‰ and -6.4‰, and
316 these values indicate the H₂O and CO₂ are derived from the pegmatitic melt ([Zou and Li](#)

317 [2006](#)). Pure CO₂ inclusions and/or CO₂+H₂O inclusions coexisting with two- and
318 three-phase inclusions are observed in quartz, spodumene and beryl ([Zhu et al. 2000](#)).
319 The observed fluid inclusion characteristics are clear evidence for the occurrence of
320 phase separation (*cf.* [Ramboz et al. 1982](#)). The separation of the originally homogeneous
321 hydrothermal fluid is probably in response to the sudden pressure drop. The pressure drop
322 may result from the break of the previous consolidation outer zone and the wall rock.
323 This is consistent with the phenomena that the inner zones can cut through the outer
324 zones and protrude into the wall rock in some local area.

325 The finding that tetrads have only been reported from fluorine-rich
326 magmatic-hydrothermal systems suggests that REE complexation with fluorine is
327 essential ([Irber 1999](#)). Except from core zone IX, minor topaz was reported in the other
328 zones; it is more commonly distributed in muscovite-quartz zone and lepidolite-platy
329 albite zone ([Zou and Li 2006](#)). This indicates a relatively high F concentration in the
330 pegmatitic melt.

331 The exsolved fluid split into a high-salinity fluid and a coexisting CO₂-rich
332 low-salinity vapor. This process results in the REE fractionation, because of the
333 preferential partitioning of REE-Cl in the fluid phase, whereas REE-F complexes
334 partitioned in the CO₂-bearing vapor phase (*e.g.* [Monecke et al. 2011](#)). The CO₂-bearing
335 vapor phase would quickly escapes; meanwhile the fractionated fluid can keep in a long
336 time and interact with the previous crystallized minerals.

337 In a word, the fluid-vapor separation and then the alteration by the fractionated fluid

338 contribute to the M-type tetrads in metamict zircon domains in the present work.

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IMPLICATIONS

340 Three domains of zircon were distinguished on the basis of textures and
341 compositions within individual crystals of zircon from the Koktokay No.3 granitic
342 pegmatite vein. Domain A is pristine and possesses normal chondrite-normalized REE
343 patterns. Domain B, and especially domain C that characterized by the most enrichment
344 of non-formula elements and REE, are enriched in U and Th, and both are affected by
345 metamictization. The presence of abundant fractures, dense pores and, and the
346 enrichments of non-formula elements imply that these metamict domains, domain B and
347 C, are altered by a later hydrothermal fluid. The M-type tetrad effect observed in these
348 altered domains is a result of the interaction between zircons and the fluid that possesses
349 tetrads.

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514 Figure captions:

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516 FIGURE 1 Geological map of Koktotay region showing the occurrence of No.3 pegmatite

517 FIGURE 2 Internal textural zonation of the Koktokay No.3 pegmatite

518 FIGURE 3 Representative CL and BSE images of zircons: (a) zircon crystals intergrown

519 with albite crystals; (b) Zircon is externally euhedral but internally patchy texture; (c) and

520 (d) abundant fractures, complex textures and alteration, occurrence of UO_x inclusion.

521 FIGURE 4 Diagrams showing the chemical compositions of three domains within zircons

522 FIGURE 5 Chondrite-normalized REE patterns of three domains within zircons.

523 Chondrite values are taken from [McDonough and Sun \(1995\)](#).

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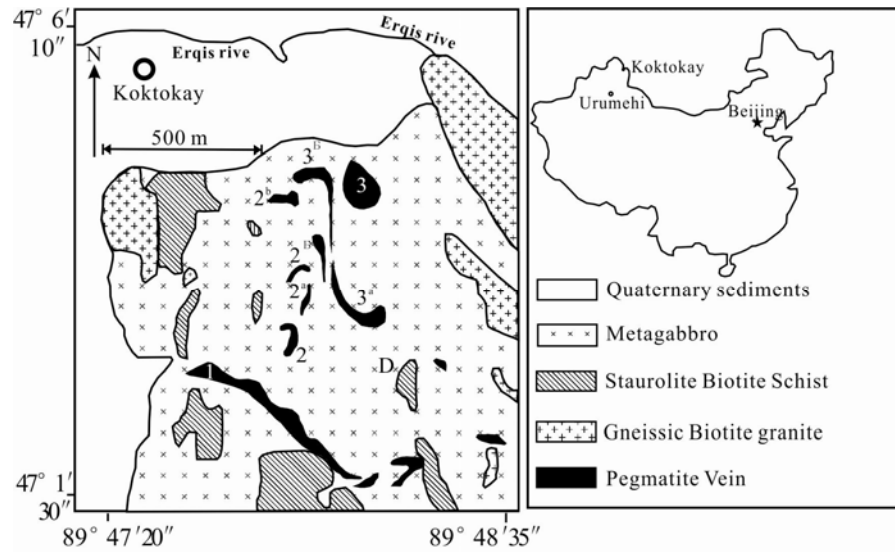
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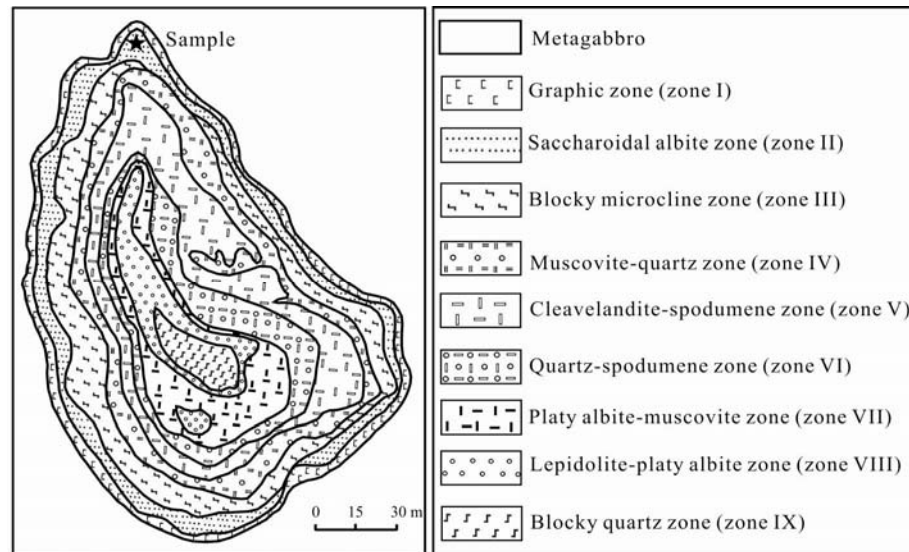
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FIGURE 1

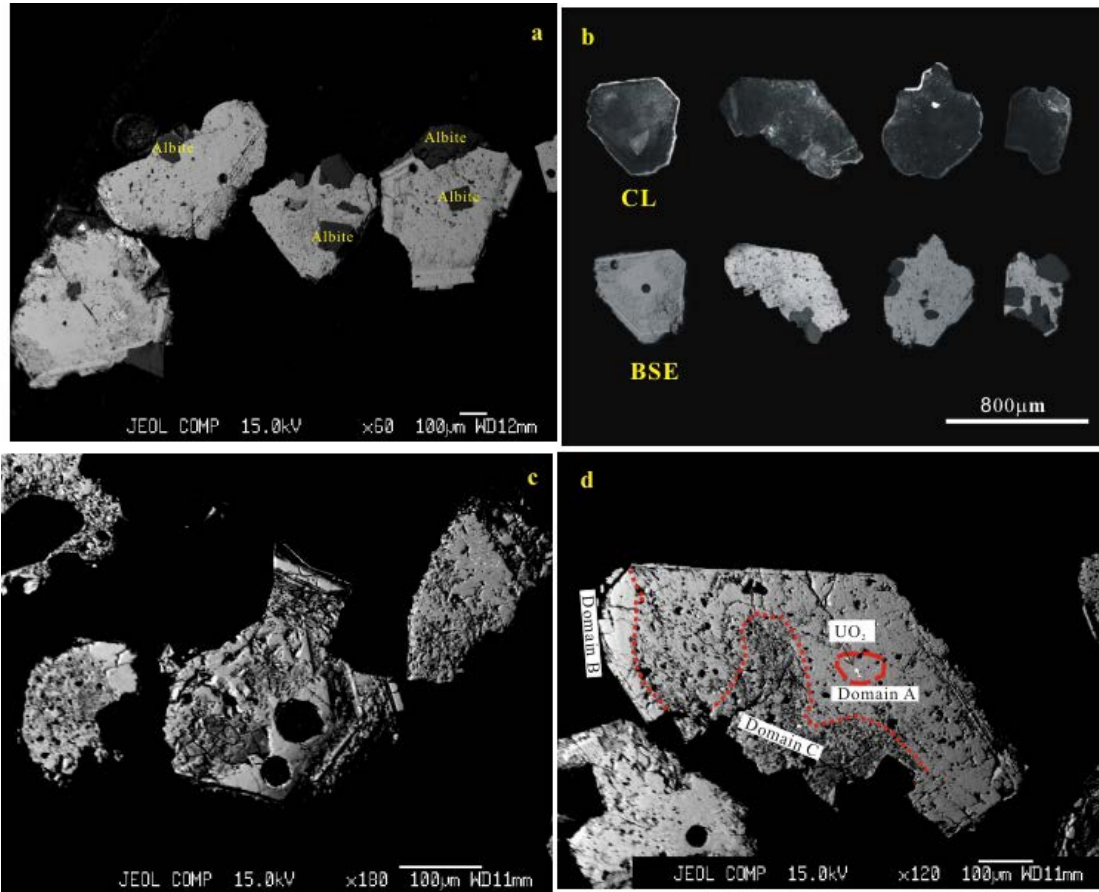
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FIGURE 2

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FIGURE 3

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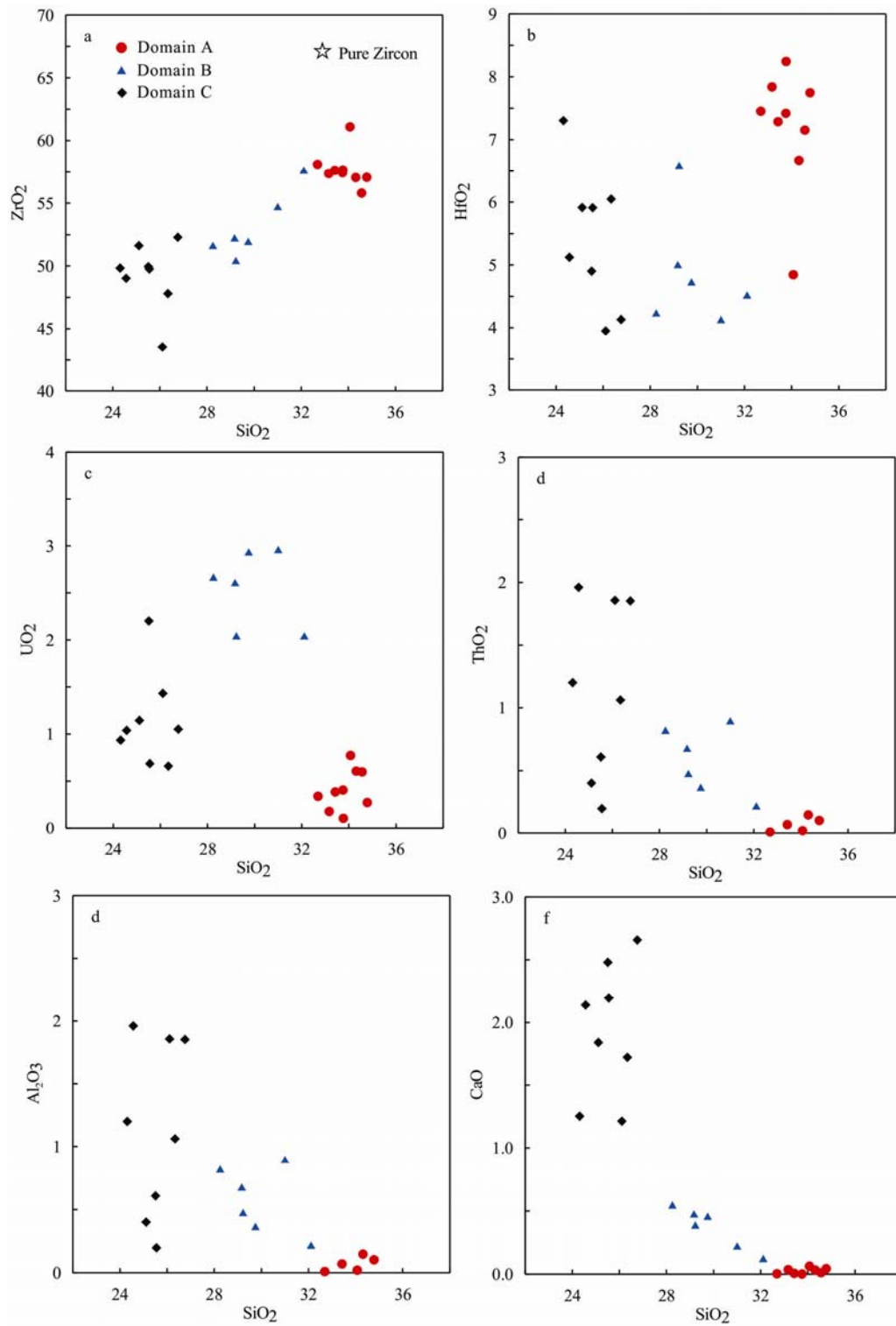
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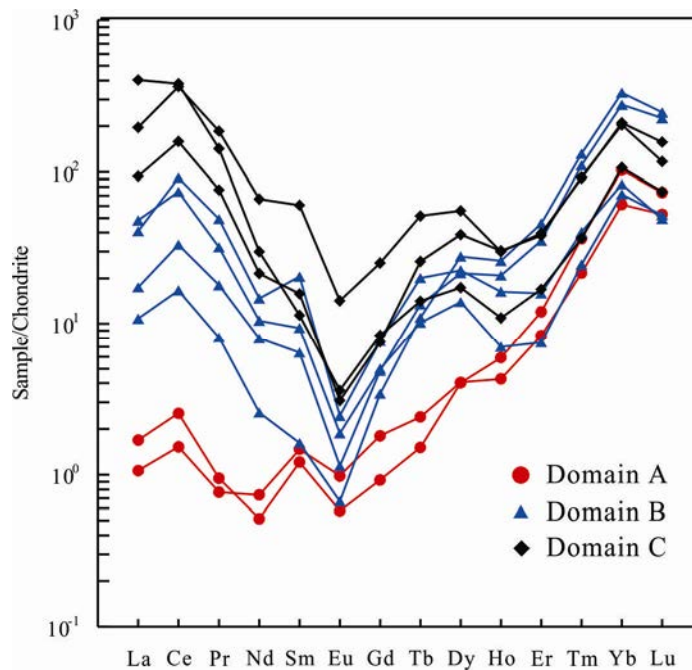
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FIGURE 4

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FIGURE 5

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619 Table Captions

620 Table 1 Representative EMPA compositions of different domains within zircons from

621 Zone II

622 Table 2 The REE concentrations of different domains within zircons from Zone II

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Table 1 Representative EMPA compositions of different domains within zircons from Zone II

	Domain A					Domain B						Domain C						
	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
SiO ₂	33.75	32.69	33.42	33.76	34.31	32.11	31.00	29.23	29.17	29.75	28.25	25.55	25.11	26.11	26.76	24.31	26.34	25.51
Al ₂ O ₃	0.02	0.01	0.04	0.01	0.11	0.19	0.24	0.47	0.50	0.50	0.53	1.07	1.22	0.90	1.63	1.60	1.57	1.47
FeO	0.06	0.02	0.04	-	-	0.27	0.79	0.79	0.88	0.69	1.09	0.44	0.58	2.96	0.67	0.67	0.52	0.49
CaO	0.00	0.00	0.01	-	0.03	0.12	0.21	0.38	0.47	0.45	0.54	2.20	1.84	1.21	2.66	1.25	1.72	2.48
Na ₂ O	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.11	0.23	0.38	0.37	0.29	0.42	0.05	0.08	0.09	0.05	0.07	0.17	0.03
ZrO ₂	57.44	58.10	57.62	57.65	57.05	57.55	54.64	50.34	52.14	51.86	51.55	49.76	51.62	43.52	52.29	49.83	47.80	49.95
HfO ₂	7.42	7.45	7.29	8.24	6.67	4.50	4.11	6.57	4.99	4.71	4.22	5.91	5.91	3.95	4.13	7.30	6.05	4.90
UO ₂	0.41	0.34	0.39	0.11	0.61	1.03	2.95	2.03	2.60	1.92	2.66	0.69	1.14	1.43	1.05	0.94	0.66	2.20
ThO ₂	-	0.01	0.07	-	0.15	0.21	0.89	0.47	0.67	0.36	0.81	0.20	0.40	1.86	1.85	1.20	1.06	0.61
P ₂ O ₅	0.02	-	-	-	-	0.22	0.59	0.72	0.84	0.68	0.88	2.44	2.56	1.98	1.99	2.83	2.71	2.66
total	99.13	98.64	98.86	99.77	98.97	96.31	95.65	91.39	92.63	91.21	90.93	88.30	90.46	84.01	93.07	90.01	88.60	90.30

Dash (-) denotes below the detection limite.

633 Table 2 the REE concentrations of different domains within zircons from Zone II

	Domain A		Domain B				Domain C		
	1	2	1	2	3	4	1	2	3
La	0.40	0.25	4.09	2.54	11.27	9.58	22.07	94.41	46.1
Ce	1.53	0.92	20.10	10.04	44.68	55.20	95.87	229.86	220.0
Pr	0.08	0.07	1.60	0.72	2.85	4.37	6.79	12.70	16.5
Nd	0.23	0.33	3.60	1.16	4.75	6.66	9.74	13.55	30.1
Sm	0.18	0.22	0.94	0.24	1.38	3.02	2.32	1.67	8.9
Eu	0.03	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.10	0.14	0.17	0.20	0.8
Gd	0.18	0.35	0.95	0.67	0.98	1.50	1.49	1.64	5.0
Tb	0.05	0.09	0.49	0.40	0.37	0.73	0.94	0.51	1.9
Dy	0.98	0.99	5.25	6.75	3.38	5.47	9.42	4.21	13.5
Ho	0.33	0.24	1.16	1.45	0.39	0.91	1.69	0.61	1.7
Er	1.91	1.32	5.63	7.29	1.19	2.53	6.09	2.69	6.3
Tm	0.88	0.52	2.68	3.19	0.60	0.98	2.25	0.89	2.2
Yb	16.73	9.96	44.94	53.97	11.63	13.49	33.12	17.35	34.1
Lu	1.78	1.28	5.48	5.99	1.27	1.19	2.86	1.80	3.8
Σ REE	25.30	16.59	96.97	94.45	84.84	105.75	194.80	382.11	390.90
δ Eu	0.55	0.60	0.20	0.28	0.27	0.20	0.28	0.37	0.36
δ Ce	2.01	1.69	1.88	1.74	1.89	2.05	1.88	1.59	1.91
t ₃	0.21	0.19	0.70	0.90	1.04	0.92	1.09	0.65	0.95
t ₄	1.20	0.17	0.20	0.18	0.40	0.33	0.25	0.27	0.25

T _{3,4}	0.59	0.30	0.47	0.52	0.60	0.56	0.58	0.48	0.55
U-Pb ages(Ma)	215.2	212.2	218.8	215.7	215.0	200.2	160.3	173.9	143.5

634 The third tetrad (t3), the fourth tetrad (t4), and the degree of the tetrad effect (TE3.4), were
635 calculated according to the method of [Monecke et al. \(2002\)](#). U-Pb ages were expressed by
636 $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$ ages.

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