

Research Advances

A New Discovery of ~2.7 Ga Granitic Magmatism in Southeastern Jilin Province, China

WANG Chaoyang¹, MENG En^{1,*}, LI Yanguang², CAI Jia¹, YANG Hong¹ and LI Zhuang³

¹ Institute of Geology, Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences, Beijing 100037, China

² Xi'an Center of Geological Survey, China Geological Survey, Xi'an 710054, Shaanxi, China

³ College of Geosciences, China University of Petroleum, Beijing 102249, China

Objective

The North China Craton (NCC) is characterized by widespread tectono-thermal events at ca. 2.5 Ga, which differs from many other older cratons on Earth, which usually record tectono-thermal events at ~2.7 Ga. Therefore, the search for early crustal material, especially rocks within the NCC that record the 2.7 Ga event, is key to understanding the formation and evolution of ancient crust, and the initiation time and mechanism of plate transformation based on comparative studies of the NCC and other major cratons. There are many ancient rocks within the NCC, especially along the northeastern margin of this craton, where zircons yield ages as old as ca. 3.8 Ga. The oldest rocks are concentrated in the Anshan-Benxi area of Liaoning Province. Previous studies have shown that 2.69–2.65 Ga meta-supracrustal rocks, and 2.58–2.52 Ga granitic rocks and coeval meta-supracrustal rocks are exposed in the Jiapigou and Helong areas in the central and eastern parts of Jilin Province, which indicated the possibility of finding evidence of the 2.7 Ga event in southeastern Jilin Province. This paper first reports the discovery of ~2.7 Ga granitic gneiss in the northwest of Tonghua City, which provides information on the nature of this magmatic event within the NCC, and allows for a global comparison of the formation and evolution of early crustal materials.

Methods

With ongoing support by the National Natural Science Foundation since 2013, we have carried out field surveys and petrological, geochronological, geochemical, and isotopic studies of Precambrian rocks along the northeastern margin of the NCC. Rock samples were crushed and zircons were separated at the Langfang Regional Geological Survey Institute in Hebei Province, China. Internal structures in zircon were revealed by

cathodoluminescence (CL) imaging. The major, trace, and rare earth element compositions of the samples were analyzed at the National Research Center for Geoanalysis, Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences in Beijing, China. U–Pb dating and *in situ* Lu–Hf isotope analyses of zircons were performed by LA–MC–ICP–MS at the Laboratory Center, Xi'an Center of the Geological Survey of China.

Results

The results show, for the first time, the occurrence of Neo-Archean (2.7 Ga) granitoid gneisses in southeastern Jilin Province. Specific details and features of these rocks are as follows.

(1) The rocks were collected at Sanyuanpu Town, north of Tonghua City (Fig. 1b; 125°50'20.89"E, 41°56'13.20"N; 125°47'04.47"E, 42°01'55.66"N), and are mainly tonalite gneisses with a mineral assemblage of plagioclase (~60%), quartz (~30%), hornblende (<3%), biotite (~5%), and opaque minerals (Fig. 1d). These samples exhibit fine- to medium-grained textures, gneissic structures, and were intruded by ~2.5 Ga monzogranites (Fig. 1c).

(2) Zircons from the tonalite gneisses are long, columnar or oval-shaped, and mainly gray to white in color. They show rhythmic zoning (Fig. 1e) and high Th/U ratios (0.61–1.09), indicating a magmatic origin. Moreover, these features are similar to those of inherited or captured zircons in meta-supracrustal rocks in the same region. The age data show that the magmatic precursors of the tonalite gneiss samples formed at 2.7–2.68 Ga (Fig. 1f). We therefore consider that 2698–2683 Ma represents the age of the original formation of the granitoid gneisses.

(3) The tonalite gneisses are rich in SiO₂, CaO, and Na₂O, and they belong to the medium-K calc-alkaline series. They are enriched in LREEs and strongly depleted in HREEs and HFSEs (Nb, Ta, P, and Ti).

(4) Lu–Hf isotope analyses yield ages of 2698 to 2683 Ma, corresponding $\varepsilon_{\text{Hf}}(t)$ values of 4.25 to 7.96, and T_{DM}^c

* Corresponding author. E-mail: mengen0416@126.com

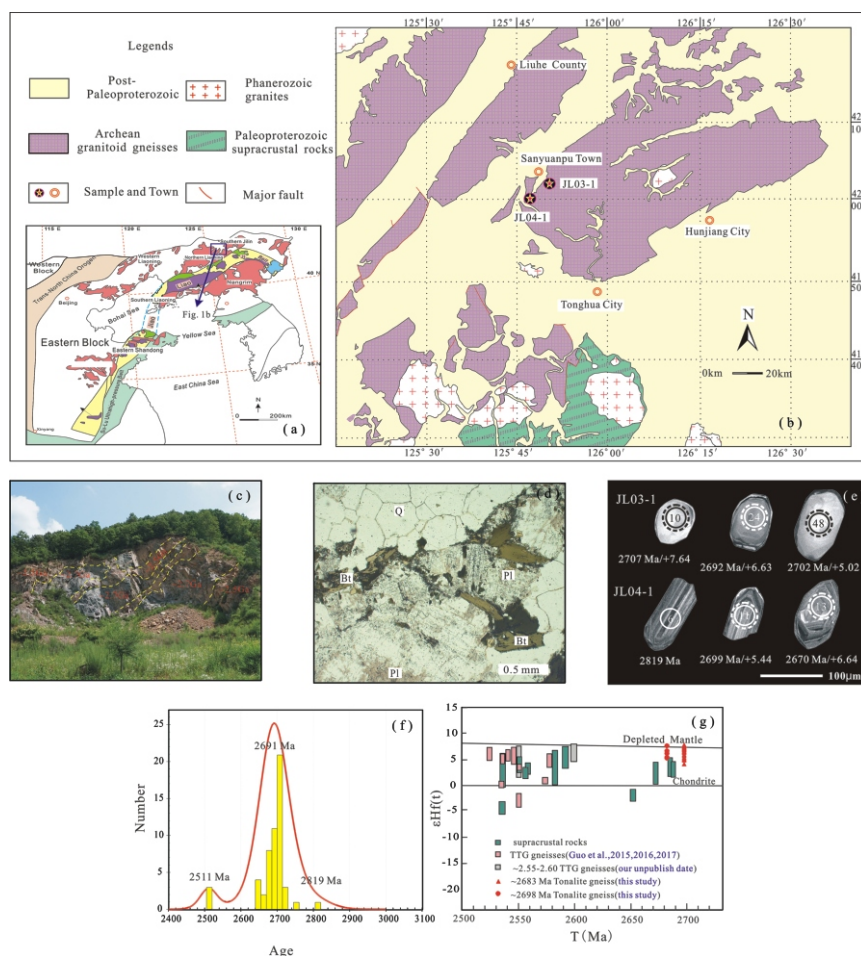


Fig. 1. (a–b), Geological map of Precambrian rocks showing ~2.7 Ga granitoid gneisses in southeastern Jilin Province; (c–d), Field photographs and photomicrographs of the tonalite gneiss; (e), Cathodoluminescence (CL) images of zircons from the tonalite gneiss samples; (f), Age spectra (age in Ma) versus number of zircons for zircons in the tonalite gneiss; (g), $\varepsilon_{\text{Hf}}(t)$ vs. T (Ma) diagram.

Q, Quartz; Pl, Plagioclase; Bt, Biotite.

model ages of 2.65 to 2.93 Ga (Fig. 1g), indicating the parental magma of these tonalite gneisses originated from partial melting of juvenile crustal materials and represents an episode of crustal growth in southern Jilin Province at 2.9–2.7 Ga.

(5) Previous studies reported that basement rocks in southern Jilin Province are characterized by the continuous development of 2.6–2.5 Ga rocks (Fig. 1g). This result, combined with the observation that most of these rocks have positive $\varepsilon_{\text{Hf}}(t)$ values (Fig. 1g), raised the possibility that 2.6–2.5 Ga was the most important period of crustal growth in southern Jilin Province. However, the ~2.7 Ga granitoid gneisses of the present study yield $\varepsilon_{\text{Hf}}(t)$ values of 4.25 to 7.96, representing the early Neoproterozoic (~2.7 Ga). These results indicate that ~2.7 Ga was also the main stage of crustal growth in southern Jilin Province.

Conclusions

Neo-Archean granitic basement rocks to the northwest

of Tonghua formed at 2.70–2.68 Ga rather than 2.5 Ga as previously thought. Geochemical and Lu–Hf data indicate that these rocks were derived by partial melting of juvenile crustal materials, suggesting a ~2.7 Ga magmatic event in southeastern Jilin Province, which was previously unknown. The results contribute to research on the northeastern margin of the NCC and provide a new basis for comparisons between the NCC and other ancient cratons.

Acknowledgments

This research was supported by the National Science Foundation of China (grants No. 41572169 and 41202136), China Geological Survey (grant No. 12120114021601), and the Outlay Research Fund of the Institute of Geology, CAGS (grants No. J1507 and J1301).

Table 1 LA-ICP-MS U-Pb age data for zircons in the Early Neoproterozoic granitoid gneisses of southeastern Jilin Province, China

Sample No.	Th/U	Isotopic ratios				Ages (Ma)				Dis. (%)
		$^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$	ratio	1σ	$^{207}\text{Pb}/^{235}\text{U}$	$^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$	age	1σ	$^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$	
JL03-1-01	0.73	0.17978	0.00526	0.001344	0.35783	0.50830	2651	47	2651	36
JL03-1-02	0.67	0.17991	0.00545	0.002833	0.35297	0.48437	2652	49	2652	35
JL03-1-03	0.67	0.18048	0.00769	0.002225	0.51883	0.50709	2657	69	2653	48
JL03-1-04	0.81	0.18765	0.00424	0.005972	0.29971	0.52507	2722	37	2722	32
JL03-1-05	0.79	0.18817	0.00539	0.00609	0.37882	0.52542	2726	46	2726	37
JL03-1-06	0.88	0.18567	0.00524	0.003827	0.36682	0.52248	2704	46	2708	36
JL03-1-07	0.84	0.18455	0.00530	0.003762	0.36736	0.51729	2694	47	2692	36
JL03-1-08	0.50	0.17462	0.00421	0.003365	0.22781	0.40428	2602	40	2411	22
JL03-1-09	0.91	0.18635	0.00530	0.003374	0.36823	0.51856	2710	46	2704	26
JL03-1-10	0.80	0.18601	0.01111	0.004804	0.77554	0.52539	2707	95	2714	54
JL03-1-11	0.77	0.18581	0.00482	0.003555	0.33499	0.51807	2705	42	2700	34
JL03-1-12	0.90	0.18288	0.00407	0.003483	0.28299	0.51565	2679	36	2681	31
JL03-1-13	0.62	0.18443	0.00762	0.002157	0.52673	0.51920	2693	67	2695	38
JL03-1-14	0.65	0.18371	0.00495	0.003389	0.34675	0.52216	2687	44	2697	25
JL03-1-15	0.61	0.18324	0.00379	0.003641	0.26430	0.51662	2682	34	2684	19
JL03-1-16	0.70	0.18522	0.00922	0.003034	0.63801	0.52045	2700	80	2701	45
JL03-1-17	0.20	0.09661	0.00133	0.001378	0.01709	0.09292	1559	26	818	8
JL03-1-18	0.24	0.13373	0.00165	0.003571	0.04283	0.18617	2147	21	1512	10
JL03-1-19	0.18	0.12142	0.00164	0.002396	0.03018	0.13366	1977	24	1193	9
JL03-1-20	0.67	0.18345	0.00406	0.003527	0.28460	0.51957	2684	36	2691	20
JL03-1-21	0.65	0.18632	0.00468	0.003462	0.32886	0.52297	2709	41	2712	23
JL03-1-22	0.67	0.16481	0.00234	0.003001	0.15304	0.47500	2505	24	2506	13
JL03-1-23	1.09	0.16576	0.00306	0.003051	0.19848	0.47669	2515	31	2515	17
JL03-1-24	0.74	0.18426	0.00519	0.003098	0.36132	0.51952	2691	46	2695	26
JL03-1-25	0.67	0.18307	0.00416	0.003716	0.29084	0.51845	2680	37	2687	21
JL03-1-26	0.36	0.15044	0.00187	0.00496	0.06496	0.24958	2351	21	1850	11
JL03-1-27	0.17	0.11560	0.00173	0.00418	0.02460	0.10370	1889	27	991	9
JL03-1-28	0.70	0.18624	0.00429	0.003478	0.30197	0.52214	2709	38	2710	21
JL03-1-29	0.65	0.19190	0.00739	0.004706	0.52622	0.53427	2759	62	2760	35
JL03-1-30	0.72	0.18418	0.00490	0.003277	0.34204	0.52010	2691	43	2695	24
JL03-1-31	0.10	0.14349	0.00185	0.003072	0.05565	0.21737	2270	22	1694	11
JL03-1-32	0.03	0.15860	0.00182	0.003740	0.09203	0.35983	2441	19	2217	11
JL03-1-33	0.79	0.18489	0.00465	0.003045	0.32441	0.51863	2697	41	2696	23
JL03-1-34	0.29	0.11642	0.00174	0.003183	0.03499	0.14642	1902	27	1228	11
JL03-1-35	1.05	0.18581	0.00421	0.003663	0.29545	0.52133	2706	37	2706	21
JL03-1-36	0.93	0.18408	0.00675	0.003700	0.46687	0.51867	2690	59	2692	33
JL03-1-37	0.76	0.18641	0.00567	0.003413	0.39549	0.52183	2711	49	2710	28
JL03-1-38	0.67	0.18578	0.00512	0.003702	0.35776	0.52161	2705	45	2706	25
JL03-1-39	0.71	0.16556	0.00197	0.003598	0.13143	0.47517	2513	20	2511	11
JL03-1-40	0.88	0.18500	0.00458	0.003292	0.32017	0.51967	2698	40	2699	23
JL03-1-41	0.90	0.18620	0.00540	0.003955	0.37658	0.52127	2709	47	2708	27

Continued Table 1

Sample No.	Th/U	Isotopic ratios						Ages (Ma)						Dis. (%)
		$^{207}\text{Pb}/^{235}\text{U}$			$^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$			$^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$			$^{207}\text{Pb}/^{235}\text{U}$			
		ratio	1σ	ratio	1σ	ratio	1σ	age	1σ	age	1σ	age	1σ	
JL03-1-42	1.03	0.18595	0.00377	0.26544	0.51977	0.00695	2707	33	2704	19	2698	29	0.3	
JL03-1-43	0.86	0.18340	0.00342	0.24101	0.51892	0.00664	2684	31	2689	17	2695	28	-0.4	
JL03-1-44	0.99	0.18540	0.00402	0.28198	0.51944	0.00720	2702	35	2700	20	2697	31	0.2	
JL03-1-45	0.83	0.18586	0.00439	0.30771	0.52006	0.00751	2706	38	2704	22	2700	32	0.2	
JL03-1-46	0.74	0.18599	0.00470	0.32963	0.52143	0.00789	2707	41	2707	23	2705	33	0.1	
JL03-1-47	0.83	0.18567	0.00566	0.37146	0.49111	0.00841	2704	49	2649	28	2576	36	4.8	
JL03-1-48	0.72	0.18538	0.00585	0.40901	0.52248	0.00924	2702	51	2706	29	2710	39	-0.3	
JL03-1-49	1.05	0.18853	0.00742	0.51899	0.52492	0.01110	2729	63	2726	36	2720	47	0.3	
JL03-1-50	0.73	0.18554	0.00586	0.37927	0.48550	0.00853	2703	51	2637	29	2551	37	5.6	
JL04-1-01	0.17	0.16494	0.00277	0.04640	0.12308	0.00147	2507	28	1356	12	748	8	70.2	
JL04-1-02	0.36	0.35756	0.00429	0.16799	0.27808	0.00315	3740	18	2731	12	1582	16	57.7	
JL04-1-03	0.31	0.17426	0.00251	0.12206	0.34895	0.00405	2599	24	2274	13	1930	19	25.8	
JL04-1-04	0.54	0.19976	0.00269	0.06438	0.17184	0.00196	2824	22	1774	11	1022	11	63.8	
JL04-1-05	0.87	0.18258	0.00236	0.15439	0.46255	0.00524	2677	21	2577	12	2451	23	8.4	
JL04-1-06	0.24	0.19914	0.00452	0.33318	0.54475	0.00803	2819	37	2813	21	2803	34	0.6	
JL04-1-07	0.55	0.19006	0.00364	0.19968	0.40438	0.00530	2743	31	2489	17	2189	24	20.2	
JL04-1-08	0.20	0.18026	0.00309	0.21642	0.50928	0.00638	2655	28	2655	16	2654	27	0.1	
JL04-1-09	0.13	0.24058	0.00361	0.15682	0.31683	0.00381	3124	24	2482	14	1774	19	43.2	
JL04-1-10	0.69	0.18380	0.00298	0.21299	0.51678	0.00635	2688	27	2687	15	2686	27	0.1	
JL04-1-11	0.90	0.18503	0.00268	0.19406	0.51796	0.00610	2699	24	2696	14	2691	26	0.3	
JL04-1-12	0.62	0.18525	0.00262	0.19096	0.52143	0.00609	2701	23	2703	14	2705	26	-0.2	
JL04-1-13	0.50	0.18187	0.00281	0.20032	0.51394	0.00618	2670	25	2672	15	2673	26	-0.1	
JL04-1-14	0.52	0.18275	0.00316	0.22368	0.51554	0.00649	2678	28	2680	16	2680	28	-0.1	
JL04-1-15	0.43	0.18294	0.00276	0.19784	0.51546	0.00615	2680	25	2681	14	2680	26	0.0	
JL04-1-16	0.48	0.18591	0.00344	0.24498	0.52121	0.00678	2706	30	2706	17	2704	29	0.1	
JL04-1-17	0.29	0.17992	0.00293	0.20610	0.50961	0.00624	2652	27	2654	15	2655	27	-0.1	
JL04-1-18	0.59	0.18469	0.00305	0.21734	0.51696	0.00639	2695	27	2692	16	2686	27	0.3	
JL04-1-19	0.83	0.18430	0.00234	0.12922	0.39210	0.00440	2692	21	2432	12	2133	20	20.8	
JL04-1-20	0.53	0.17990	0.00385	0.26157	0.50078	0.00696	2652	35	2638	20	2617	30	1.3	
JL04-1-21	1.24	0.18556	0.00379	0.26906	0.52197	0.00714	2703	33	2706	19	2708	30	-0.2	
JL04-1-22	0.40	0.16925	0.00254	0.11430	0.32571	0.00381	2550	25	2186	13	1818	19	28.7	
JL04-1-23	0.60	0.17348	0.00309	0.06193	0.14855	0.00182	2592	29	1540	14	893	10	65.5	
JL04-1-24	0.33	0.17488	0.00228	0.11676	0.36391	0.00410	2605	22	2316	12	2001	19	23.2	
JL04-1-25	0.32	0.17501	0.00228	0.08979	0.28053	0.00315	2606	22	2083	12	1594	16	38.8	
JL04-1-26	0.24	0.16463	0.00223	0.04838	0.15596	0.00175	2504	23	1537	11	934	10	62.7	
JL04-1-27	0.65	0.23124	0.00390	0.18485	0.34958	0.00440	3061	27	2536	15	1933	21	36.9	
JL04-1-28	0.58	0.16015	0.00205	0.05594	0.19422	0.00215	2457	22	1692	11	1144	12	53.4	
JL04-1-29	0.23	0.17539	0.00253	0.10627	0.30336	0.00350	2610	24	2154	13	1708	17	34.6	
JL04-1-30	0.17	0.16335	0.00219	0.03793	0.12463	0.00139	2491	22	1358	10	757	8	69.6	

Table 2 Lu–Hf isotopic data for zircons in the early Neoproterozoic granitoid gneisses of southeastern Jilin Province, China

Sample No.	t (Ma)	$\pm 1\sigma$	Dis. (%)	$^{176}\text{Yb}/^{177}\text{Hf}$	$^{176}\text{Lu}/^{177}\text{Hf}$	$^{176}\text{Lu}/^{177}\text{Hf}$	$^{176}\text{Lu}/^{177}\text{Hf}$	Hf_i	$\varepsilon_{\text{Hf}}(t)$	$T_{\text{DM}}(\text{Ga})$	$\pm 1\sigma$	$T_{\text{DM}}^C(\text{Ga})$	$\pm 1\sigma$
JL03-1.01	2651	48	0.1	0.012830	0.000492	0.281271	0.000034	0.281246	5.57	2.73	0.05	2.79	0.05
JL03-1.03	2657	69	0.5	0.017503	0.000696	0.281240	0.000049	0.281205	4.25	2.78	0.07	2.88	0.07
JL03-1.04	2722	37	0.0	0.013187	0.000481	0.281278	0.000031	0.281253	7.45	2.72	0.04	2.72	0.04
JL03-1.05	2726	46	0.2	0.013895	0.000548	0.281287	0.000028	0.281258	7.75	2.71	0.04	2.70	0.04
JL03-1.07	2694	47	0.2	0.013963	0.000524	0.281235	0.000033	0.281208	5.24	2.78	0.04	2.84	0.04
JL03-1.08	2602	40	15.9	0.014834	0.000537	0.281329	0.000031	0.281302	6.45	2.65	0.04	2.69	0.04
JL03-1.09	2710	46	0.6	0.013715	0.000491	0.281292	0.000031	0.281266	7.66	2.70	0.04	2.70	0.04
JL03-1.10	2707	95	-0.5	0.016402	0.000625	0.281300	0.000043	0.281267	7.64	2.70	0.06	2.70	0.06
JL03-1.11	2705	42	0.5	0.015465	0.000558	0.281276	0.000032	0.281247	6.88	2.73	0.04	2.74	0.04
JL03-1.12	2679	36	-0.1	0.014646	0.000543	0.281238	0.000033	0.281210	4.95	2.78	0.04	2.85	0.04
JL03-1.13	2693	67	-0.1	0.009460	0.000364	0.281279	0.000030	0.281260	7.05	2.71	0.04	2.72	0.04
JL03-1.14	2687	44	-0.8	0.013509	0.000498	0.281272	0.000035	0.281247	6.43	2.73	0.05	2.76	0.05
JL03-1.15	2682	34	-0.1	0.011760	0.000491	0.281266	0.000029	0.281240	6.10	2.74	0.04	2.78	0.04
JL03-1.16	2700	80	0.0	0.014751	0.000545	0.281279	0.000037	0.281251	6.90	2.72	0.05	2.74	0.05
JL03-1.20	2684	36	-0.5	0.009147	0.000402	0.281299	0.000037	0.281279	7.51	2.68	0.05	2.69	0.05
JL03-1.21	2710	41	-0.1	0.004896	0.000201	0.281268	0.000022	0.281258	7.37	2.71	0.03	2.72	0.03
JL03-1.23	2515	31	0.1	0.015995	0.000547	0.281360	0.000038	0.281334	5.56	2.61	0.05	2.68	0.05
JL03-1.24	2692	46	-0.2	0.015020	0.000542	0.281277	0.000030	0.281249	6.63	2.72	0.04	2.75	0.04
JL03-1.25	2681	37	-0.4	0.011453	0.000420	0.281293	0.000025	0.281272	7.18	2.69	0.03	2.70	0.03
JL03-1.29	2759	62	0.0	0.013540	0.000481	0.281268	0.000032	0.281243	7.96	2.73	0.04	2.71	0.04
JL03-1.30	2691	43	-0.3	0.017427	0.000674	0.281296	0.000035	0.281261	7.03	2.71	0.05	2.72	0.05
JL03-1.33	2697	41	0.1	0.014482	0.000545	0.281291	0.000037	0.281262	7.23	2.71	0.05	2.71	0.05
JL03-1.35	2706	37	0.0	0.018109	0.000652	0.281288	0.000033	0.281254	7.14	2.72	0.04	2.73	0.04
JL03-1.36	2690	59	-0.1	0.014569	0.000552	0.281255	0.000033	0.281227	5.79	2.75	0.04	2.80	0.04
JL03-1.37	2711	49	0.1	0.014908	0.000556	0.281243	0.000039	0.281214	5.81	2.77	0.05	2.82	0.05
JL03-1.42	2707	33	0.3	0.031430	0.001114	0.281311	0.000039	0.281253	7.13	2.72	0.05	2.73	0.05
JL03-1.43	2684	31	-0.4	0.013297	0.000488	0.281246	0.000032	0.281221	5.46	2.76	0.04	2.82	0.04
JL03-1.44	2702	35	0.2	0.015947	0.000579	0.281273	0.000041	0.281243	6.65	2.73	0.06	2.76	0.06
JL03-1.46	2707	41	0.1	0.010839	0.000403	0.281257	0.000054	0.281236	6.51	2.74	0.07	2.77	0.07
JL03-1.48	2702	51	-0.3	0.010902	0.000409	0.281219	0.000052	0.281197	5.02	2.79	0.07	2.86	0.07
JL04-1.10	2688	27	0.1	0.013731	0.000490	0.281263	0.000039	0.281238	6.12	2.74	0.05	2.78	0.05
JL04-1.11	2699	24	0.3	0.010261	0.000403	0.281232	0.000032	0.281211	5.44	2.77	0.04	2.83	0.04
JL04-1.12	2701	23	-0.2	0.008080	0.000317	0.281289	0.000030	0.281272	7.66	2.69	0.04	2.69	0.04
JL04-1.13	2670	25	-0.1	0.013284	0.000500	0.281289	0.000028	0.281264	6.64	2.70	0.04	2.73	0.04
JL04-1.15	2680	25	0.0	0.011518	0.000410	0.281315	0.000033	0.281294	7.96	2.66	0.04	2.65	0.04
JL04-1.18	2695	27	0.3	0.015857	0.000560	0.281312	0.000030	0.281283	7.94	2.68	0.04	2.67	0.04
JL04-1.20	2652	35	1.3	0.019669	0.000690	0.281272	0.000044	0.281237	5.28	2.74	0.06	2.81	0.06