

1 **Driven magmatism and crustal thinning of coastal South**
2 **China in response to subduction**

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7 **Abstract**

8 The late Mesozoic igneous rocks along the coastal South China Block (SCB) exhibit
9 complex parental sources involving a depleted mantle, subducted sediment-derived
10 melt, and melted crust. This period aligns with the magmatic flare-up and lull in the
11 SCB, debating with the compression or extension in coastal region. Our study employs
12 numerical models to investigate the dynamics of the ascent of underplating magma
13 along the Changle-Nan'ao Belt (CNB), simulating its intrusion and cooling processes
14 while disregarding the formational background. The rheological structure of the
15 lithospheric mantle significantly influences magma pathways, dictating the distribution
16 of magmatism. This work reveals that the ascent of magma in the presence of faults is
17 considerably faster than in the absence of faults, and contemporaneous magmatic melts
18 could produce different cooling and diagenetic processes. Additionally, the influence of
19 pre-existing magma accelerated underplating magma emplacement. The magma
20 beneath the fault ascended rapidly, reaching the lower crust within 20 million years,
21 with a cooling rate of approximately $\sim 35^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{Myr}$. Conversely, the thickened magma
22 took 40-50 million years to ascend to the lower crust, cooling at a rate of $\sim 10^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{Myr}$.
23 In contrast, magma without thickening and fault would take considerably longer time
24 to reach the lower crust. The ascent of magma formed a mush-like head, contributing
25 to magmatic circulation beneath the crust and decreasing crustal thickness. Multiphase
26 magmatism increases the geothermal gradient, reducing lithospheric viscosity and
27 promoting underplating magma ascent, leading to magmatic flare-ups and lulls. Our
28 findings suggest that the Cretaceous magmatism at different times in the coastal SCB
29 may be associated with the effects of lithospheric faults under similar subduction
30 conditions. Boundary compression forces delay magma ascent, while rising magma

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31 induces a significant circulation, decreasing the crustal thickness of the coastal SCB.
32 This study provides new insights into the complex interplay of magmatic processes
33 during subduction, emphasizing the role of lithospheric structure in shaping the
34 temporal and spatial evolution of coastal magmatism.

35 **Keywords**

36 South China; Crustal thinning; Coastal orogeny; Magmatic dynamics; Three-phase
37 flow

38 **1 Introduction**

39 Magmatism characterized by periodic flare-ups and lulls at convergent plate margins
40 usually manifests a subduction-related origin (Brown, 1994). However, there is no
41 agreement regarding the relationships between magmatism and the roles of subducted
42 slabs and the corresponding subduction styles (Morris et al., 2000; Faccenna et al.,
43 2010). Instead, a contradictory and multifaceted dynamic process emerges due to the
44 complex magmatic composition and considerable time span (Zhou et al., 2006) (Yoo
45 and Lee, 2023). Notably, the absence of high-pressure blueschist, which is typically
46 associated with subduction, has generated intense debate surrounding the accurate
47 timing of initial subduction and variations in slab dip, with proposals ranging from flat-
48 slab subduction to shallow and steep subduction (Suo et al., 2019; Xu, 2023; Su, 2023).
49 Some researchers proposed a model involving early Permian flat-slab subduction and
50 Jurassic foundering model in the SCB; however, this model lacks substantial evidence
51 of early-stage subduction-related magma (Li and Li, 2007). While most research has
52 focused on Jurassic subduction, early Jurassic intraplate igneous rocks deviate from
53 typical subduction arc-related rocks and display inconsistencies in spatiotemporal
54 distribution during coastward migration (Zhou and Li, 2000; Xu et al., 2017; Li et al.,
55 2019). Researchers contend that the SCB did not immediately experience the influence
56 of the Paleo-Pacific Plate in the Early–Middle Jurassic but experienced intensified
57 activity in the Late Jurassic to Cretaceous (Gan et al., 2021). Gradual steepening of the
58 shallowly subducting slab since the Middle Jurassic is proposed to explain the
59 corresponding flare-up of magmatism in the SCB (Zhou et al., 2006; Mao et al., 2021).
60 In contrast, Xu et al. (2023) interpreted voluminous intraplate silicic magmatism as a
61 response to slab stagnation and coastward migration, overlooking contemporaneous
62 compressional deformation in the Late Jurassic and early–Middle Cretaceous. In
63 contrast to the coastward migration model, the early–middle Cretaceous is considered

64 a magmatic lull resulting from crustal shortening due to resubduction of the slab (Wei
65 et al., 2023). The uncertainty lies in whether subduction-induced magma can migrate
66 and intrude concurrently according to these different models. The Mesozoic tectonic
67 magmatism in the SCB was intricately linked not only to lithospheric properties but
68 also to subduction rates and mantle flow (Su, 2023). The transport of intrusive magma
69 spans a significant period, and the pathways of ascending magma play a crucial role in
70 determining the distribution of magmatism during the emplacement process.
71 Unfortunately, lag magma, which is potentially misunderstood as originating from other
72 sources, has received limited attention in current discussions.

73 The coastal South China Block (SCB) is characterized by the development of a 40-
74 60 km wide, NE–SW-striking ductile shear zone known as the Changle-Nan’ao Belt
75 (CNB) (Cui et al., 2013). This belt comprises gneiss exhibiting evidence of
76 metamorphism at greenschist, amphibolite, and granulite facies (Li et al., 2015).
77 Intrusions of gabbro, diorite, granodiorite, monzogranite, and two-mica granite plutons
78 are also prevalent within the CNB. The U–Pb age analysis of the oldest orthogneiss in
79 the CNB yields a date of 187 ± 1 Ma, with the youngest orthogneiss dating to 130 ± 1
80 Ma. Additionally, $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ plateau ages fall within the range of 118–107 Ma (Wang
81 and Lu, 2000). The occurrence of voluminous igneous rocks spans two significant
82 periods, ranging from 143–130 Ma and 110–95 Ma. A debated magmatic lull observed
83 between 130 and 110 Ma is associated with syncollisional orogenesis (Chen et al., 2020;
84 Wei et al., 2023) or postorogenic extension (Cui et al., 2013; Li et al., 2014; Zhao et al.,
85 2015; Xu et al., 2023) according to the involved deformation and magmatic rocks.
86 Despite these insights, the relationship between intruded magma and orogenesis
87 remains uncertain, mirroring the ambiguous understanding of potential variations in
88 magma migration time in response to tectonic stress. In addressing this uncertainty, our
89 exploration focuses on understanding the emplacement and cooling processes of mantle
90 magmatism and their influence on crustal structure. Additionally, we delve into the
91 question of whether changes in the dynamic background instantaneously produce
92 magmas with different properties that can effectively intrude shallow layers.

93 **2 Emplacement and origin of Cretaceous magma**

94 Cretaceous magmatic rocks cover an area of approximately 117,190 km² on the
95 southeastern coast and in the Lower Yangtze region of the SCB (Fig. 1)(Liu et al., 2020).
96 The crustal Poisson’s ratios range from 0.22–0.26 in the interior to 0.26–0.29 in the

97 eastern coastal region (Guo et al., 2019), implying a high content of felsic minerals and
98 an increasing proportion of mafic minerals from the interior to the coast (Ji et al., 2002).
99 Seismic profiles reveal transparent reflective features of felsic rocks in the upper crust
100 and abundant high-amplitude, short isolated reflections of mafic sills in the middle-
101 lower crust (Li et al., 2023). The velocity ratio of P waves to S waves (V_p/V_s) on the
102 coast is 1.76, which is slightly greater than that in the interior SCB but lower than the
103 value of 1.79 for mafic underplating of the lower crust (Deng et al., 2019). The coastal
104 V_p values of the lower crust (~ 6.5 km/s) are not compatible with the mafic composition
105 ($V_p > 7.0$ km/s), implying that mafic magma underplating was not common or was
106 removed (Guo et al., 2019). However, high-resistivity anomalies in electrical resistivity
107 profiles indicate local mafic magma underplating (Cheng et al., 2021).

108 The coastal granitic gneisses exhibit varying cooling rates during different periods.
109 These rates were $\sim 35^\circ\text{C}/\text{Myr}$ at 130–120 Ma, $13\text{--}20^\circ\text{C}/\text{Myr}$ at 126–110 Ma, $\sim 10^\circ\text{C}/\text{Myr}$
110 at 110–100 Ma, and $\sim 80^\circ\text{C}/\text{Myr}$ at 100–90 Ma (Chen et al., 2002, 2020). The structural
111 pattern of the CNB shows solid-state ductile deformation with temperatures of 300-
112 350°C in the mylonitic gneiss and deformed volcanic rocks. Syntectonic granitoids
113 exhibit subsolidus magmatic flow (Wang and Lu, 2000; Wei et al., 2015). The
114 temperature and pressure of metamorphic minerals are $540\text{--}610^\circ\text{C}$ and $0.28\text{--}0.35$ GPa,
115 respectively, on the basis of plagioclase-amphibolite, and $485\text{--}640^\circ\text{C}$ and 0.3 GPa,
116 respectively, based on a mica-quartz schist (Wang and Lu, 2000). The Cretaceous
117 magmatic rocks in the SCB belong to the I-and A-type series, with high-K calc-alkaline
118 to shoshonitic affinities and arc-like features. They are enriched in light rare earth
119 elements (LREEs) and large ion lithophile elements (LILEs) but depleted in heavy rare
120 earth elements (HREEs) and high field strength elements (HFSEs). They exhibit
121 negative $\epsilon\text{Nd}(t)$ values ranging from -10.1 to -0.3 , and variable zircon $\epsilon\text{Hf}(t)$ values
122 ranging from -29.7 to $+10.3$. The mafic rocks have $\epsilon\text{Nd}(t)$ values ranging from -14.27
123 to $+8.0$, and $\epsilon\text{Hf}(t)$ values ranging from -9.5 to $+1.9$ (Chen et al., 2020). Isotopic data
124 indicate mixed sources, including ancient crust-derived, enriched mantle-derived and
125 depleted mantle-derived material. Some mafic rocks possibly originated from the
126 melting of the mantle wedge metasomatized by melts from the subducted slab and
127 sediments.

128 The mixed magmatic source indicates that partial melting was independent of the
129 type of subduction transport across the lithosphere. Subduction-induced melts migrate

130 upwards, and their pathways change depending on the stress conditions, resulting in
 131 different time–temperature histories for emplacement and deformation of gneissic
 132 magma.

133 **3 Numerical simulation and model setup**

134 The late Mesozoic magmatism in the SCB was triggered by the subduction of the Paleo-
 135 Pacific plate (Su, 2023). A substantial volume of magma, originating from the subducted
 136 slab, asthenosphere, and the lithospheric base, ascended towards the surface and
 137 accumulated at the lower boundary of the lithosphere (Figs. 1 and 2a). To unravel the
 138 dynamics of coastal magmatism in response to subduction geometry, two end-member
 139 numerical models are considered. Our simulation focuses solely on modelling the
 140 intrusion and ascent of magma that has accumulated at the bottom of the lithosphere,
 141 without delving into the origins of magma from deeper sources (Fig. 2b). The models are
 142 two-dimensional domains, with 400 km wide and 100 km deep, representing a trench-
 143 perpendicular cross-section of a subduction zone, with the trench located to the right of
 144 the model (Deng et al., 2019). The underplating magma is represented by a 4-8 km thick
 145 body located at 100-80 km depth along the bottom of the model. The 8 km-thick magma
 146 represents the accumulation of underplating magma due to subduction. A 10 km thick
 147 square domain is assigned at 40 km depth, representing previously intruded magma in
 148 the lithospheric mantle. The upper 30 km deep rectangle is continental crust. The
 149 polygon located between the underplating magma and crust is the mantle lithosphere.
 150 A 45 km wide rectangular domain is assigned at the left of the model representing a
 151 lithospheric fault (Cui et al., 2013).

152 *3.1 Governing equations*

153 The materials of the domain are regarded as incompressible viscous fluids according
 154 to the Boussinesq approximation. The models satisfy the following mass, momentum,
 155 and energy conservation equations:

$$156 \quad \nabla \cdot \vec{u} = 0 \quad (1)$$

$$157 \quad \nabla \cdot [\eta \cdot (\nabla \vec{u} + (\nabla \vec{u})^T)] - \nabla P + \rho \vec{g} = 0 \quad (2)$$

$$158 \quad \rho C_p \cdot \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + \vec{u} \cdot \nabla T \right) = \nabla (k \nabla T) - \alpha \rho \vec{v}_z T \quad (3)$$

159 where \vec{u} is the velocity field, η is the viscosity, T is the temperature, P is the
 160 pressure, ρ is the density, \vec{g} is gravity, C_p is the specific heat, t is the time, k is the
 161 thermal conductivity, α is the thermal expansion coefficient and \vec{v}_z is the vertical
 162 velocity component (Rodríguez-González et al., 2012). The heat capacity is set to 1000

163 J/(kg·K), the ratio of specific heat (γ) is set to 1 and the thermal conductivity is
 164 set at 2.5 W/(m·K) in all domains of the models (Chapman, 2021). The density of the
 165 continental crust varies linearly with depth, increasing from 2600 kg/m³ at the surface
 166 to 2900 kg/m³ at 30 km depth. The mantle lithosphere has a fixed density of 3400 kg/m³,
 167 whereas the molten magma is modelled with a fixed density of 2800 kg/m³ (Chapman,
 168 2021; Su, 2023).

169 The crustal material has a power-law stress-strain rate relationship (Chapman, 2021).

170 η is the dynamic viscosity and its expression is:

$$171 \quad \eta = \left(\frac{d^p}{A \cdot f_{H_2O}} \right)^{\frac{1}{n}} \cdot \varepsilon_{\dot{\Pi}}^{\frac{1-n}{n}} \cdot \exp \left(\frac{E + P_{lit} \cdot V}{n \cdot R \cdot T} \right) \quad (4)$$

172 where A is the pre-exponential factor; E and V are the activation energy and volume,
 173 respectively; P_{lit} is the lithostatic pressure; R is the gas constant; and n is the stress
 174 exponent. The dynamic viscosity was calculated via the wet quartz flow law of Hirth
 175 et al. (2001). The viscosity was calculated at each time step using the temperatures
 176 returned from the model, a quartz material parameter (A) of 1.36742x10⁻⁵ MPa⁻ⁿ/s
 177 with a stress exponent (n) of 4, a quartz activation energy (E) of 135 kJ/mol, a water
 178 fugacity (f_{H_2O}) of 1,000 MPa, and a strain rate of 10⁻¹⁵ s⁻¹ (Chapman, 2021). The strain
 179 applied in the modelling takes a 2D approximation and is based on slab subduction
 180 studies (Liu and Currie, 2019). The viscosity was updated after each time step based
 181 on the temperature. The mantle lithosphere and the molten magma are modelled with
 182 constant dynamic viscosities of 1e21 Pa·s and 1e20 Pa·s, respectively. The model
 183 fault was assigned a low viscosity of 1e19 Pa·s to represent the CNB (Vissers et al.,
 184 1995; Columbu et al., 2015).

185 The models are run using the three-phase flow, phase field interface option, which
 186 accounts for the surface tension between immiscible phases, the contact angles with
 187 the walls, and the density and viscosity of each fluid. The three-phase flow model
 188 obeys the Cahn-Hilliard equation (Boyer et al., 2010). The fluid motion causes the phase
 189 field variable to change from phase to phase, but the sum of all phase field variables ϕ_i
 190 at each point in the space is 1. Its expression consists of the order parameter of each phase
 191 as in equation

$$192 \quad \begin{cases} \phi_i = \text{phi } i \\ \phi_a + \phi_b + \phi_c = 1 \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

193 The three phases are continental crust ϕ_a , mantle lithosphere ϕ_b and magma ϕ_c . Three-
194 phase flow is automatically computed via a phase initialization study step by solving for
195 the geometrical distance to the initial interface. The initialized three-phase flow function
196 is then defined from the analytical steady state solution for a straight fluid-fluid interface.

197 *3.2 Model setup*

198 The resolution of the model is physically controlled but generally represented by a
199 triangular mesh, with side lengths of 2-5 km, a minimum area of 1.8 km² and a
200 maximum area of 3.2 km². The top and sides of the model are no-slip boundaries and
201 are fixed, whereas the bottom of the model is a free-slip boundary in Model 1. The
202 sides of the model are thermally insulated and the top and bottom are held at constant
203 temperatures of 0°C and 950°C, respectively. The initial temperature of the
204 underplating magma is 1250°C. The geothermal gradient was assumed to be 3°C/100
205 m (Fig. 2b).

206 In Model 1, magma underplating at varying depths and a lithospheric fault are
207 included to simulate the ascent of magma originating from subduction. In contrast,
208 Model 2 has similar boundary conditions and is assigned a 2e9 Pa horizontal force on
209 the right side, representing the compression effect induced by subduction. Model 2
210 includes a boundary force to simulate magmatism influenced by compression during
211 subduction. The numerical experiments were conducted utilizing the finite-element
212 software COMSOL Multiphysics, which is accessible at <https://www.comsol.com>. The
213 lithospheric thickness was estimated based on the current thickness derived from P-
214 wave velocity measurements (Deng et al., 2019). The density and viscosity of magma
215 were coupled to the thermal model and allowed to vary according to the wet quartz flow
216 law (Chapman, 2021).

217 **4 Underplating magma and circulation**

218 The modeling results elucidated the temporal evolution and migration pathway of
219 magmatism originating from the subsurface. In Model 1 (Fig. 3a-e), underplating
220 magma accumulates at the lithospheric fault and locations of initial thickened magma
221 along the bottom. In Model 1, after 10 Myr, the bottom magma was divided into five
222 upwelling magma bodies: 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6. Magma body 1 corresponds to the fault
223 location, bodies 1, 2 and 5 correspond to pre-existing thickened magma bodies, body 4
224 corresponds to relatively shallow pre-existing magma, and body 3 is located below
225 body 4. At this stage, bodies 1, 2, and 5 are uplifted higher than bodies 3 and 6. As

226 evolution progresses, body 3 reaches the position of body 4 and rapidly achieves heights
227 comparable to those of bodies 2 and 5 (Fig. 3e), whereas body 6 is significantly less
228 uplifted. In Model 2, under compressive stress, four rising magma bodies formed at the
229 bottom. No rising magma bodies formed at the bottom right. The formed magma bodies
230 tilted and ascended to the left (Figs. 3f-j).

231 The magma rises upwards, generating mush-like features in the mantle, and grows
232 laterally beneath the location of initial thickened and shallowly assigned magma (Fig.
233 3). The ascent of magma follows an up-and-down circulation pattern, driving lower
234 crustal thickening and subsidence in front of the growing magma mush. The
235 underplating magma ascends rapidly from the bottom to the lower crust, crossing a
236 distance of approximately 70-80 km within 20 Myr through the lithospheric fault (Fig.
237 3), whereas, without a fault, the magma ascends a distance of only 50-60 km. In Model
238 2 (Fig. 3f-j), under the influence of compression from the right boundary, the diapiric
239 magma slightly migrates to the left, causing thinning of the crust to the right.

240 The migration of magma and its temporal pattern are significantly influenced by
241 lithospheric viscosity and temperature (Chapman, 2021). In our models, we specifically
242 examine the effects of pre-existing magma and a lithospheric fault. The models provide
243 cooling histories for five diapiric underplating magmas, which are then compared with
244 observed coastal magmatism (Fig. 4a). The results indicate a more rapid cooling rate
245 for the ascending magma through the fault ($\sim 35^\circ\text{C}/\text{Myr}$) and a slower cooling rate for
246 underplating magma ($\sim 10^\circ\text{C}/\text{Myr}$)(Fig. 4a). The cooling history of other magmas is
247 inconsistent with that of actual igneous rocks, emphasizing the influence of faults in
248 this region. Moreover, the ascent of magma to the location of pre-existing magma is
249 also faster than that without pre-existing magma (e.g., magma 3 and magma 6 in Fig.
250 3a-e).

251

252 **5 Discussion**

253 The $\epsilon\text{Hf}(t)$ values of the late Mesozoic igneous rocks along the coastal South China
254 Block (SCB) tend to increase, peaking at positive values during 110-130 Ma (Fig. 4b).
255 These values suggest that these rocks were derived from depleted mantle, subducted
256 sediment-derived melt, and melting crust (Zhao et al., 2015). This period corresponds
257 to the magmatic lull in the SCB, which coincided with a compression phase in the CNB
258 during 130-105 Ma (Wei et al., 2023). Previous researchers attributed this phase to a

259 transitional stage in subduction involving slab foundering, break-off, or steepening (Xu
260 et al., 2023). Intriguingly, they demonstrate the potential for producing underplating
261 magma beneath the lithospheric mantle, resulting in different compositions rising into
262 the crust. Therefore, our models adopt underplating magma to simulate upwards
263 magmatic intrusion and cooling processes, irrespective of the formational background.
264 The rheological structure inevitably influences the pathway of underplating magma as
265 it traverses the thick lithospheric mantle, ultimately dictating the distribution of
266 widespread magmatism (Fig. 3). High viscosities in the lithospheric mantle may limit
267 magma transport, with the effective viscosity of the upper mantle estimated at
268 approximately $1e20$ - $1e22$ Pa·s in continental China (Shi and Cao, 2008), which
269 decreases with increasing temperature. Considering the widespread magmatism and
270 geothermal activity in the coastal SCB during the Cretaceous, an effective viscosity of
271 $1e21$ Pa·s for the lithospheric mantle is plausible.

272 It was suggested that once the shear zone network went through, the shear strength
273 of the lithospheric mantle drastically decreased (Vissers et al., 1995). The CNB
274 indicates long-term tectonic shearing activity, which would result in a lower viscosity
275 than that in the interior of the SCB. Therefore, we assigned a low viscosity of $1e19$ Pa·s
276 to represent the active fault in the model. If the fault only changes in viscosity and the
277 bottom magma is not thickened, then the magma at the bottom will not upflow. Shear
278 zones control the ascent and emplacement of magmas (Weinberg et al., 2004). This
279 implies that the shear zone should be a pathway for thermal fluid and have higher
280 thermal expansivity (Afonso et al., 2005). Therefore, the weak CNB compared with
281 that of the interior SCB facilitated the emplacement of mantle magma during the
282 magmatic lull.

283 The rise of underplating magma into the middle crust, with an ascent of 70-80 km,
284 takes 20-25 Myr through a lower-viscosity lithospheric fault, while it takes more than
285 40-50 Myr without a fault. This time discrepancy aligns with the magmatic lull in the
286 coastal SCB. Thus, magmatism with different ages in the Cretaceous coastal SCB
287 potentially formed through the exploitation of distinct ascent pathways under the same
288 subduction conditions, rather than contemporaneously varying with steepening
289 subduction geometry. Partially molten magma can persist for at least 25 Myr at
290 temperatures exceeding 700°C (Cavalcante et al., 2018), contributing to the
291 heterogeneous and mixed magmatism observed in the coastal SCB.

292 The ascent of magma generates a mush-like head, accommodating the rheological
293 structure of the lithospheric mantle and leading to magmatic circulation. These magmas
294 underplate beneath the crust, decreasing the crustal thickness at the head and causing
295 crustal subsidence on both sides. Importantly, pre-existing magma can accelerate the
296 emplacement of underplating magma (Fig. 3). The underplating magma beneath the
297 lithospheric mantle ascends rapidly when pre-existing magma is present. It is possible
298 that multiphase magmatism increases the geothermal gradient in the SCB, reducing
299 lithospheric viscosity and further promoting the ascent of underplating magma and the
300 occurrence of a subsequent magmatic flare-up. In addition, the ascent pathways of
301 magma change under the influence of a boundary force, resulting in increased transport
302 time and delayed magmatic emplacement into the crust (Fig. 4c). Continued
303 compression also contributes to the uplift of the lithospheric mantle, which is associated
304 with the removal of crust, thereby decreasing the crustal thickness (Fig. 4c). This
305 provides a new perspective on the crustal thinning of the coastal regions during
306 subduction.

307 The deep structure of the late Mesozoic SCB is poorly constrained, resulting in
308 speculative assumptions about key parameters such as fault depth and magma thickness.
309 The model might oversimplify the complex geological features, potentially leading to
310 inaccurate results. Additionally, assuming a uniform crustal thickness may not capture the
311 true variability of the crust. The geometry of the lithospheric faults in the model is
312 simplified, and important details that could affect magmatic processes are neglected.
313 Variations in interpretations of fault characteristics and magma properties contribute to
314 the idealized nature of our model results, which may differ significantly from actual
315 geological conditions. This study aims to use these idealized scenarios to illustrate the
316 complexity and diverse interpretations of magma evolution processes along the South
317 China coast. Moreover, given the model's two-dimensional nature, it simplifies the
318 intricate three-dimensional processes that likely influence magmatic evolution. Future
319 research will focus on addressing these complexities to provide a more comprehensive
320 understanding.

321

322 **6 Conclusions**

323 The model results describe the pathways and time spans of underplating magma
324 rising into the crust under the influence of a lithospheric fault, pre-existing magma, and

325 boundary stress. Magmatic flare-ups or lulls are not controlled solely by the slab
326 subduction conditions. The Cretaceous magmatism along the coastal SCB could have
327 occurred under the same subduction conditions, with the CNB facilitating the upwelling
328 and intrusion of underplating magma under various regional stresses. A boundary force
329 delays the ascent of underplating magma, whereas rising magma induces a significant
330 circulation, which decreases the crustal thickness of the coastal SCB.

331

332 **7 Acknowledgments**

333 This work was supported by grants from the National Key R&D Program of China
334 (2022YFF0800403) and the Natural Science Foundation of China (42272236). We are
335 grateful to three anonymous reviewers for their constructive and useful suggestions.

336

337 **Competing interests**

338 The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication
339 of this article.

340 **Data availability**

341 The data used in this study are available in the references and Supplementary
342 Material. The finite-element software COMSOL Multiphysics is accessible at
343 <https://www.comsol.com>.

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490 **Figure captions**

491 Fig. 1 (A) Regional geological map of Southeast China showing distribution of
492 Mesozoic magma; (B) geological magmatism of the Changle-Nan'ao Belt and
493 corresponding ages (refer to Wei et al. 2023).

494

495 Fig. 2 (A) Schematic cross section illustrating the subduction of the Paleo-Pacific plate.
496 (B) Reference model geometry depicting temperature, density and viscosity variations
497 with depth (see location in Fig. 1). The boundary conditions are the same between
498 Model 1 and Model 2, except that Model 2 is assigned a horizontal force on the right
499 side.

500

501 Fig. 3 Results of Models 1 and 2, illustrating magma upwelling for 10-50 myr,
502 respectively. (a)-(e): Underplating magma rising, forming five magma bodies of
503 varying heights in Model 1; (f)-(j): Underplating magma tilting under right-sided
504 compression in Model 2. The crust, mantle and magma materials are modelled as phases
505 (fluids) on a dimensionless scale, with values of 0, 0.5 and 1, respectively. The contours
506 denote the flow distribution of mantle fluid.

507

508 Fig. 4 (a) Comparison of the observed cooling histories of the CNB magmatic plutons
509 (data from Chen et al. 2020) with time–temperature paths generated by models of rising
510 magma; the green shadow represents the actual cooling age of the CNB magmatic
511 plutons. (b) Zircon Hf isotopes and ages of coastal magmatic rocks in the SCB (data
512 from Li et al., 2023). (c) Sketch illustrating the formation stage of the underplating
513 magma and tectonic background during 80-110 Ma, 110-130 Ma and 130-160 Ma. The
514 olive shadow crossing sections (a) and (b) denote the age range of 110-130 Ma.

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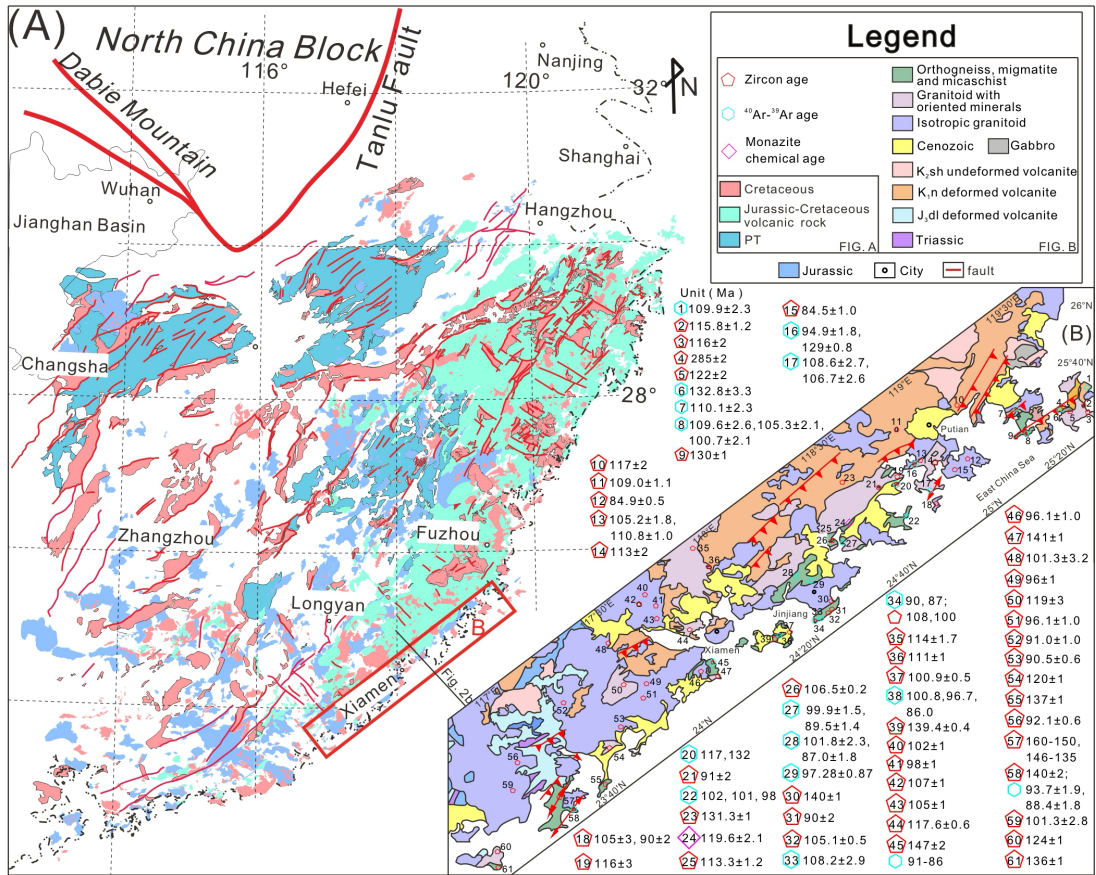


Fig 1

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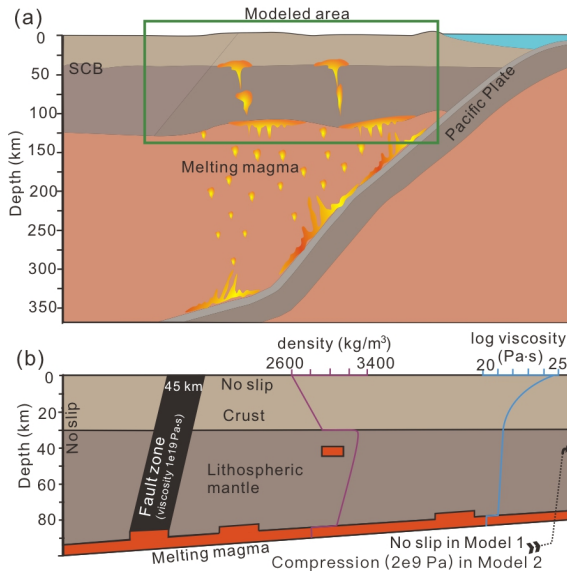
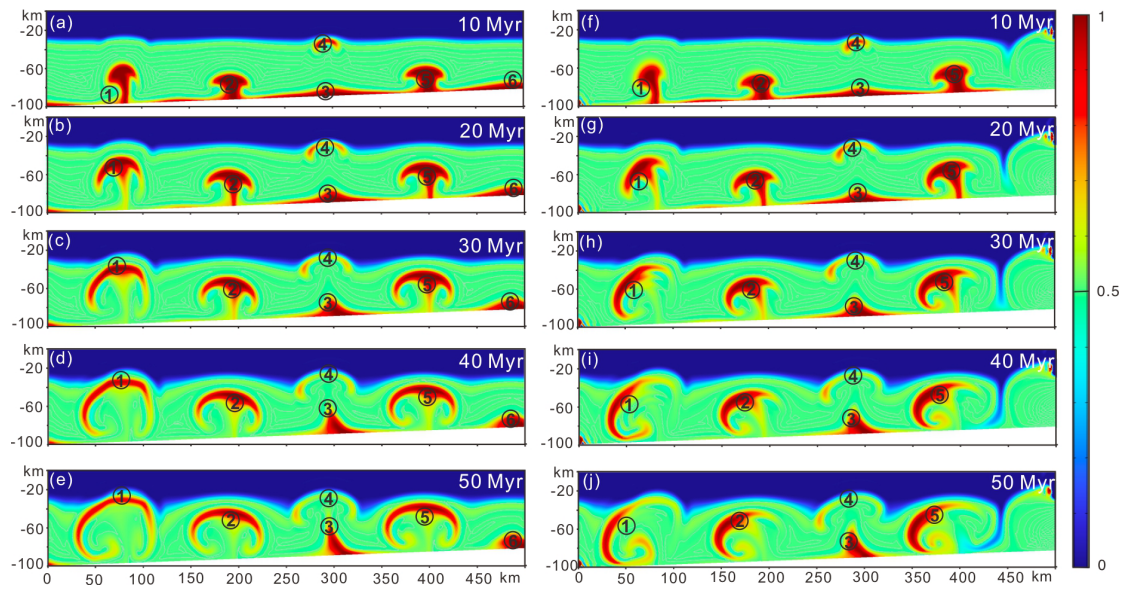


Fig. 2

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Fig. 3

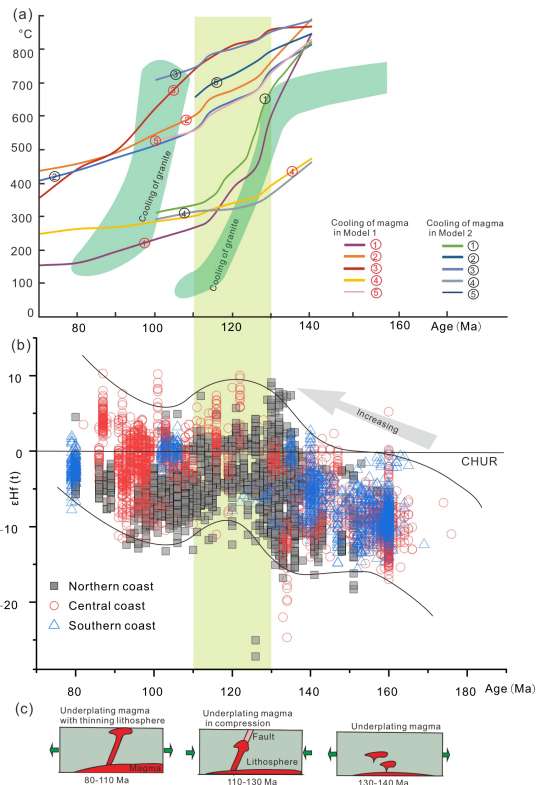


Fig. 4

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