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Two Neoproterozoic tectonothermal events on the western edge of the North Atlantic Craton, as revealed by SIMS dating of the Saglek Block, Nain Province, Labrador

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Abstract: The Saglek Block forms the northern part of the Nain Province and underwent widespread metamorphism at *c.* 2.7 Ga, producing the dominant gneissosity and intercalation of supracrustal sequences. Zircon dating of gneiss samples collected along 80 km of the Labrador coast from Ramah Bay in the north to Hebron Fjord in the south confirms the widespread extent of high-grade metamorphism between 2750 and 2700 Ma. In addition, a distinct event between 2550 and 2510 Ma produced felsic melt with peritectic garnet in metavolcanic gneiss and granoblastic recrystallization in mafic granulite. Ductile deformation of granite emplaced at *c.* 2550 Ma indicates that this later event involved a degree of tectonism during high-*T* metamorphism. Such tectonism may be related to a hypothesized post-2.7 Ga juxtaposition of the predominantly Eoarchean Saglek Block against the Mesoproterozoic Hopedale Block, along a north–south boundary that extends from the coast near Nain to offshore of Saglek Bay. Evidence of reworking of *c.* 2.7 Ga gneisses by *c.* 2.5 Ga tectonothermal activity has been found elsewhere on the margins of the North Atlantic Craton, of which the Nain Province represents the western margin. In particular, a recent suggestion that *c.* 2.5 Ga metamorphic ages along the northern margin of the North Atlantic Craton in SW Greenland may record the final assembly of the craton could also apply to the western margin as represented by the rocks of the Nain Province.

Supplementary material: Plots and geochemical data are available at <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.c.4567934>

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The dating of gneissic complexes is commonly complicated by the effects of multiple tectonothermal events, each of which can produce belts of highly strained, plastically deformed, partially melted and strongly metamorphosed rocks, with previous geological relationships commonly obscured or obliterated. As zones of crustal weakness and/or rheological contrast, such belts are also loci for tectonic reactivation, and it is important to decipher the sequence and extent of metamorphic and tectonic events that produced the gneisses if meaningful correlations are to be attempted for disparate terranes that underwent subsequently separate geological histories. Here we present new data on the timing of high-grade metamorphism and deformation in the Archean Nain Province of the North Atlantic Craton; namely, in the Torngat Mountains region of northern Labrador.

Geological setting

The Nain Province (Fig. 1a) consists of Archean gneisses that extend for 500 km along the Labrador coast, from Makkovik to Nachvak Fjord (Taylor 1971), with a likely extension to the Avayalik Islands near the tip of the eastern Labrador Peninsula (Scott 1995). It forms the western margin of the North Atlantic Craton, conjugate to southwestern Greenland prior to the opening of the Labrador Sea (Bridgwater *et al.* 1973). To the north and west, the Nain Province was reworked at *c.* 1.8 Ga by the north–south-trending Torngat Orogen, which juxtaposed the North Atlantic Craton with Archean continental terranes in the Churchill Province

and Paleoproterozoic arc rocks in the Burwell Domain (Van Kranendonk 1996). The Nain Province has been subdivided into the Saglek and Hopedale blocks, north and south respectively of the town of Nain (Fig. 1a). In the vicinity of Saglek Bay, tonalite–trondhjemite–granodiorite (TTG) gneisses of the Saglek Block are the product of multiple episodes of high-*T* metamorphism and ductile deformation that produced a regional dome and basin pattern elongated in a north–south direction, and delineated by interspersed layers and tectonic enclaves composed of supracrustal (metavolcanic and metasedimentary) rocks (Bridgwater *et al.* 1975; Ryan & Martineau 2012). During the Torngat Orogeny, the Nain Province, along with an unconformably overlying sequence of Paleoproterozoic sediments that include the Ramah Group (Fig. 1), was overthrust by strongly reworked basement gneisses of unknown age (Van Kranendonk & Ermanovics 1990; Rivers *et al.* 1996).

A section of the Saglek Block investigated in recent studies by the same group (Kusiak *et al.* 2018; Sałacińska *et al.* 2018, 2019; Whitehouse *et al.* 2019) extends for 80 km along the Labrador coast, from Ramah Bay in the north to Hebron Fjord in the south (Fig. 1b). Gneisses in the southern part of the section formed in several stages throughout the Archean, with the oldest and most abundant TTG-type protoliths (the Uivak gneiss) formed between *c.* 3850 and 3600 Ma (Schiotte *et al.* 1989; Komiya *et al.* 2017; Kusiak *et al.* 2018; Sałacińska *et al.* 2018, 2019), with lesser episodes of felsic plutonism at *c.* 3.3–3.0, 2.7 and 2.5 Ga (Schiotte *et al.* 1990, 1992; Krogh & Kamo 2006; Komiya *et al.* 2015; Sałacińska *et al.* 2019). Krogh & Kamo (2006) suggested that TTG

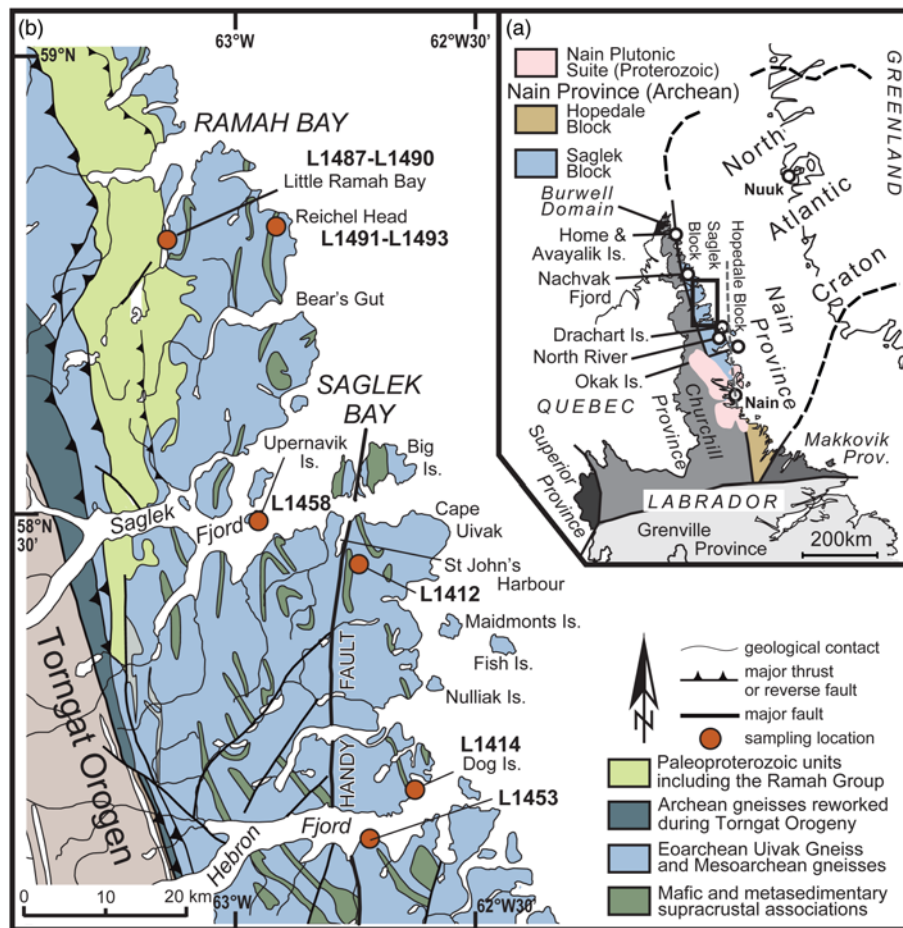


Fig. 1. (a) The western part of the North Atlantic Craton (NAC), as defined by the dashed line (after *St-Onge et al. 2009*). The location of study area within the Nain Province is shown. (b) Sketch map of part of the Saglek Block investigated in this study.

gneisses from outcrops around Saglek Bay differ in age across the Handy Fault (Fig. 1), with *c.* 3.6 Ga protoliths to the west and *c.* 3.3 Ga to the east. However, recent dating (*Komiya et al. 2015*; *Kusiak et al. 2018*; *Sałacińska et al. 2018, 2019*) revealed complicated and tectonized relationships between Eoarchean and younger TTG gneisses on both sides of the fault. Metamorphosed supracrustal assemblages of sedimentary and volcanic rocks, with associated ultramafic gneisses, occur as discontinuous layers within gneissosity typically less than 100 m thick, and have been divided into sparsely distributed pre- or syn-Uivak supracrustal rocks (the Nulliak assemblage) and post-Uivak Meso- to Neoproterozoic Uivak supracrustal rocks (*Bridgwater & Schiøtte 1991*). Isotopic U–Pb and Hf data from detrital zircon from Upernavik metasediments indicate deposition after *c.* 3.0 Ga, and it has been suggested that this unit includes unrelated supracrustal packages with various ages of deposition (*Schiøtte et al. 1992*). Similarly, there is some uncertainty about the age of deposition of volcanic rocks and sediments that in part formed the Nulliak assemblage. Detrital zircons with an age of *c.* 3850 Ma (*Nutman & Collerson 1991*) supported deposition after that time, but *Komiya et al. (2015)* and *Shimojo et al. (2016)* favoured a greater antiquity, namely, >3.9 Ga, for these rocks. *Whitehouse et al. (2019)* have recently questioned this, suggesting that there is confusion over the assignment of metasedimentary and mafic gneisses to the Nulliak or Upernavik ‘assemblages’. Graphite-bearing metasediments, claimed by *Komiya et al. (2015)* to belong to the Nulliak assemblage, contain detrital zircon that demonstrate a much younger provenance (see *Whitehouse et al. 2019*, after *Schiøtte et al. 1992*). Also, mafic tectonic enclaves near Nulliak Is. that were assigned to the Nulliak assemblage on the map by *Ryan & Martineau (2012)* have Sm–Nd isotopic signatures that show that some of these are much younger than the enclosing Uivak gneiss

(*Morino et al. 2017*). In the absence of more extensive direct dating of tectonic enclaves and belts, the true age of many of the supracrustal rocks in the Saglek Block remains in question.

The assembly of the Saglek Block, comprising the Eoarchean Uivak gneiss, Mesoarchean tonalitic to gabbroic gneisses, and supracrustal packages, may be attributed to *c.* 2.7 Ga tectonism during the widespread high-*T* metamorphism (*Schiøtte et al. 1990*; *Krogh & Kamo 2006*; *Kusiak et al. 2018*; *Sałacińska et al. 2018*). The above-cited studies were mostly focused around Saglek Bay, but *c.* 2.7 Ga metamorphic zircon was also identified as far south as Drachart Island (*Schiøtte et al. 1990*), and as far north as the Avayalik Islands near the tip of the eastern Labrador peninsula, where *Scott (1995)* proposed an extension of the Nain Province as reworked crust within the Torngat Orogen. A corresponding *c.* 2.7 Ga craton-forming event is recognized in similar gneisses on the conjugate section of southwestern Greenland (e.g. *Nutman et al. 2004, 2013*; *Kirkland et al. 2018*).

Post-dating the formation of the gneisses in the Saglek Block, 2.5 Ga mineral ages (U–Pb zircon, monazite and titanite, and K–Ar hornblende; see Discussion for references) have been attributed to the thermal and hydrothermal effects of post-tectonic granitic magmatism (*Baadsgaard et al. 1979*; *Schiøtte et al. 1992*). Alternatively, *c.* 2.5 Ga monazite and titanite ages from offshore drilling samples collected by *Wasteneys et al. (1996)*, along with *c.* 2.7 Ga ages of detrital zircon, led *Connelly & Ryan (1996)* to infer a north–south-trending tectonic boundary between the Saglek and Hopedale blocks. The Hopedale Block comprises late Paleoproterozoic to Neoproterozoic protoliths metamorphosed at *c.* 3.0–2.8 Ga. The inferred boundary with the Saglek Block extends offshore north of Nain; but has not been directly observed, being obscured by the extensive Proterozoic Nain Plutonic Suite. *Connelly & Ryan (1996)* suggested a link between the Saglek–Hopedale boundary and the

Okak shear zone (van Kranendonk & Helmstaedt 1990), to the south. The Okak shear deforms a granitic pluton on Okak Island (Fig. 1), which was inferred by Schiøtte *et al.* (1992) to have an age of *c.* 2.5 Ga (based on unpublished data of Roddick and van Kranendonk and the age of metamorphic monazite in adjacent metasediments).

More recent monazite dating by Kusiak *et al.* (2018) has increased the known extent of high-temperature metamorphism at both *c.* 2.7 and *c.* 2.5 Ga in the Saglek Block between Ramah Bay and Hebron Fjord. However, it is not clear whether these ages represent a prolonged period of high-*T* metamorphism, a gneiss-forming event with subsequent passive thermal activity and granite emplacement, or two discrete tectonothermal events. The purpose of this paper is to re-evaluate the timing and significance of deformation and metamorphism in the Saglek Block, utilizing new U–Pb isotopic dating of zircon and monazite.

Field relationships

This study investigates the sequence of deformation events in the Saglek Block, based on coastal field work between Ramah Bay and Hebron Fjord (Fig. 1), conducted by our team in 2014 and 2017, and the scheme by van Kranendonk & Helmstaedt (1990) for the North River–Nutak area, 100 km south of Saglek Bay. In almost all localities, pre-deformation relationships between the diverse rock types have been transposed into a high-strain gneissosity and a multistage deformational history has long been recognized (Morgan 1975; Collerson & Bridgwater 1979; Schiøtte *et al.* 1990). Because gneissosity affects both Eoarchean and younger Archean TTG protoliths, as well as Mesoproterozoic Upernavik supracrustal rocks, and because published age data indicate widespread zircon and monazite growth during metamorphism at *c.* 2.7 Ga (Bridgwater & Schiøtte 1991), this may have been the tectonothermal event during which the Saglek Block was assembled. Commonly observed intrafolial folds of gneissic laminations are indications of high-strain ductile deformation (D_1) prior to that which produced the dominant gneissosity (D_2). The dominant gneissosity is in most places vertical to steeply dipping, with lesser domains of low-angle layering, such as that observed on the cliff face at Cape Uivak (Fig. 2a). The difference between D_1 and D_2 structures can be observed where S_2 flattens leucosome in gneisses with S_1 gneissosity and/or mineral foliation (Fig. 2b–d). Elsewhere, S_1 has been transposed into a high-strain, moderately dipping to subvertical gneissic S_2 , which trends predominantly north–south. It is unknown whether D_2 significantly postdates D_1 , but because it transposes D_1 fabrics in late Mesoproterozoic to early Neoproterozoic Upernavik supracrustal rocks, as well as older TTG gneisses, and no intrusive rocks separate D_1 and D_2 , it is likely that they represent stages of a single tectonothermal event. Dating of gneisses with Eoarchean protoliths has established an additional, much older episode of high-grade metamorphism at *c.* 3.6 Ga (Sałacińska *et al.* 2018, 2019); however, no large-scale structures have been distinguished in the field that relate to this earlier event. In outcrops *c.* 100 km to the south of Saglek Bay, van Kranendonk & Helmstaedt (1990) described ductile thrusting (F_0) in the Upernavik supracrustal rocks and recumbent folding (F_{n+1}) in both supracrustal rocks and TTG gneisses during high-*T*, high-*P* metamorphism. These are low-angle features, in contrast to the predominantly steep north–south-trending nature of S_2 gneissosity in most of the Saglek area. Although it is possible that these relate to the low-angle macrofold at Cape Uivak, the latter, along with recumbent folds on nearby Big Is., have been attributed either to nappes produced during late Archean, regional, asymmetric folding that generated the present map pattern (Bridgwater *et al.* 1975) or else to a separate recumbent folding event superimposed on the gneiss pattern produced by the aforementioned asymmetric folding (B. Ryan, pers. comm. 2019).

Post- D_2 structures tend to be localized. Upright minor folds are found with axial planes parallel to dominant gneissosity, and are interpreted as recording the waning stages of D_2 tectonism. There are abundant granitoid stocks, sills and dykes that cut the dominant gneissosity. Such granitoids have been classified by previous researchers (Bridgwater & Schiøtte 1991; Schiøtte *et al.* 1992) as ‘post-tectonic’, with metamorphism attributed to late syntectonic magmatism in the waning stages of Neoproterozoic tectonism. However, in many localities between Saglek Bay and Hebron Fjord, granitoid stocks and dykes are strongly deformed, especially on the islands and in eastern coastal regions. On Dog Is., coarse metagranite that intrudes Uivak gneiss has a steep S_3 foliation that is axial planar to open F_3 folds where granitic melt has pooled in fold noses (Fig. 2e). Intense L_3 defined by stretching of recrystallized fabrics in both pre- D_2 gneisses and post- D_2 granitoids indicates high rates of simple shear during the D_3 event. Dynamic recrystallization of granitoid produced augen gneiss 1 km to the east of St John’s Harbour (Fig. 2f), and the augen show alignment with coarse-grained biotite in quartz and orthoclase. This alignment is parallel to that in the matrix, where quartz, feldspar and biotite have recrystallized into an anastomosing S_3 foliation (Fig. 2g). This is consistent with progressive crystallization of the granitoid during a high-strain ductile event. Mylonite micro-shear zones cut across S_3 foliation. There is an increase in D_3 strain eastwards and southeastwards from Saglek Bay to the coast, with increasing development of F_3 meso-to-macro folding with variably plunging fold axes and intense L_3 stretching and recrystallization parallel to fold axes. Such features are possibly related to D_{n+3} structures described by van Kranendonk & Helmstaedt (1990) further south, which they attributed to a large amphibolite-facies shear zone that runs north–south along the coastal fringe of the Saglek Block south of Saglek Bay to Okak Island, where it deforms syntectonic granitic plutons assumed to have intruded at *c.* 2.5 Ga (Schiøtte *et al.* 1992). However, this shear zone involves retrogression of granulites to amphibolite-facies gneisses, whereas no such shear zone-related retrogression in association with D_3 structures is observed around Saglek Bay or in granulites around Hebron Fjord.

Sample selection and description

Several samples were collected for age determination between Ramah Bay and Hebron Fjord (Fig. 1b). Metamorphic grade at these localities varies from amphibolite to granulite facies (Ryan & Martineau 2012), albeit with varying degrees of later lower-grade overprinting, especially around Ramah Bay. The samples include felsic orthogneisses (L1414, L1488, L1489, L1491 and L1493), intermediate orthogneisses having the chemical characteristics of altered volcanic rocks (L1458 and L1487), mafic granulites (L1453 and L1490) and metapelitic gneiss (L1492). A sample of syn- D_3 granitoid (L1412) was also collected. Classification of orthogneisses is based on whole-rock geochemistry, using the total alkali v. silica diagram (Middlemost 1994) for igneous protoliths with <65 wt% SiO_2 , and the ternary normative feldspar classification of Barker (1979; after O’Connor 1965). Plots are provided with geochemical data in the supplementary material. Here, samples are briefly described according to structural relationship and locality (Fig. 1b). Mineral modes and major element geochemistry are presented in Tables 1 and 2, respectively.

Fine- to medium-grained grey felsic orthogneisses matching the description of Uivak I gneiss were collected from Reichel Head (L1491, L1493), Little Ramah Bay (L1488, L1489) and Dog Island (L1414). All have granoblastic fabrics with S_2 defined by millimetre- to centimetre-scale quartzofeldspathic layers (leucosome) and aligned biotite with or without hornblende. Leucosome consisting of intergrown quartz and feldspar (Fig. 3a) or quartz and mesoperthite (Fig. 2d), which is coarser than the granoblastic fabric

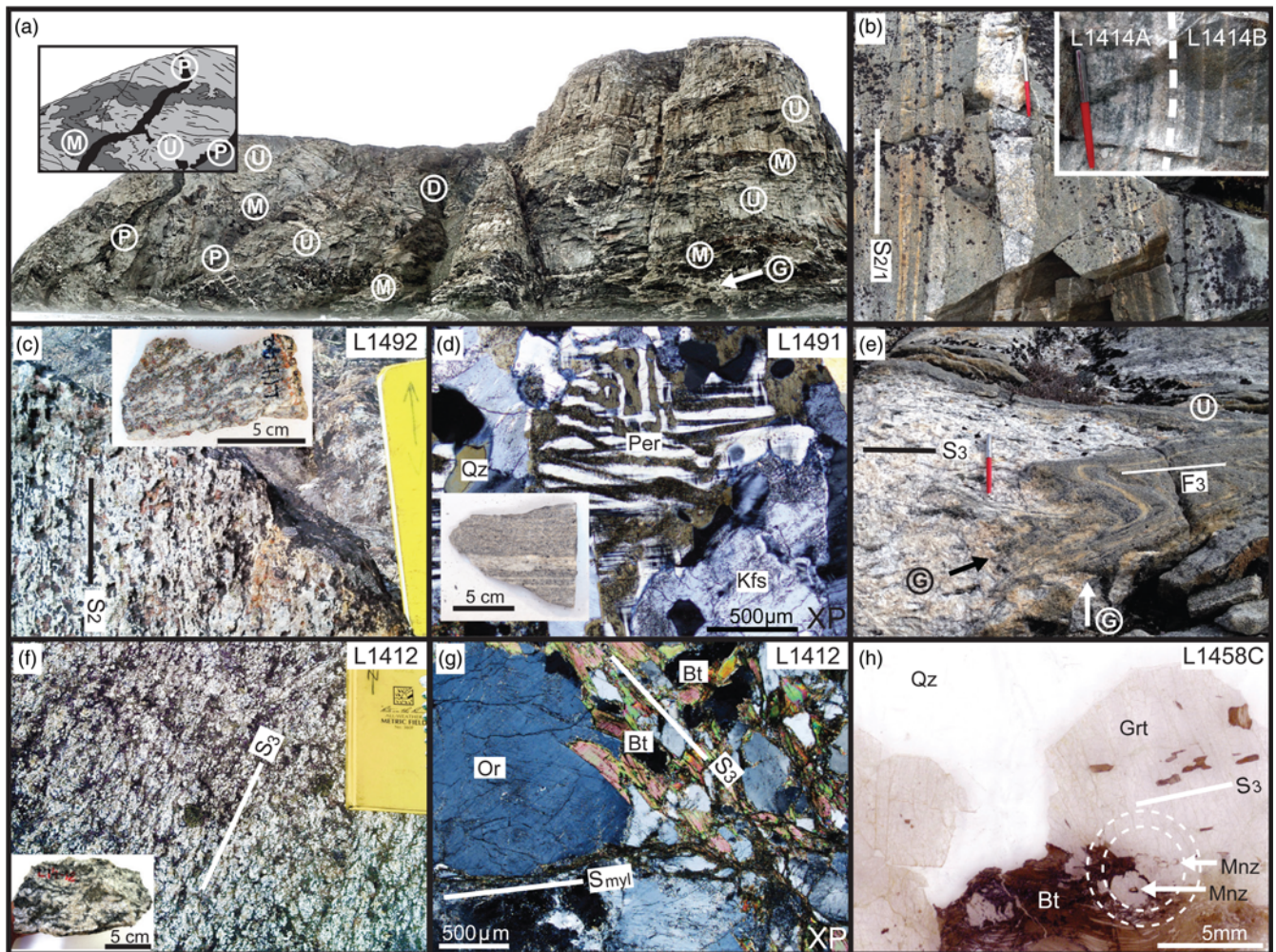


Fig. 2. Macroscopic to microscopic structural relationships in the Saglek Block. (a) View of Cape Uivak to SW, showing macroscopic recumbent fold (possibly F_2) defined by a tens of metres thick layer of mafic orthogneiss (M) and disrupted by webby networks of post- D_2 granite (G). Fold nose closes to left as shown in the inset sketch; to the right, the limbs are parallel to dominant S_2 gneissosity in Uivak gneiss (U). Gneisses are intruded by vertical Proterozoic 'Domes' (D) and Phanerozoic (P) mafic dykes. Width of view (WOV) *c.* 800 m; cliff on right is around 350 m high. (b) Intense vertical composite $S_{2/1}$ gneissosity in grey Uivak gneiss on Dog Is., with transposed S_2 granitic laminations. WOV 1 m. Inset: close-up of lower right after sampling, matching division of sample L1414 into part A (coarser metagranitic gneiss with S_2 -flattened and recrystallized patches of mafic phases) and part B (grey gneiss with stronger $S_{2/1}$ gneissosity). (c) Intense vertical S_2 gneissosity and foliation defined by biotite and sillimanite in metapelitic gneiss, Reichel Head. WOV 30 cm. Inset: sample L1492 of metapelite. (d) Crossed polars microphotograph of mesoperthite in S_2 -flattened granitic lamination from sample L1491 of grey Uivak gneiss, Reichel Head. WOV 3 mm. Inset: sample L1491, with granitic lamination in trondhjemitic grey gneiss. (e) Intrusion of coarse-grained granite (G) across gneissosity in grey Uivak gneiss, prior to or during D_3 folding and formation of axial planar S_3 . Dog Is., WOV 1 m. (f) Steep north-trending S_3 foliation and recrystallization in metagranite 1 km SE of St John's Harbour. WOV 40 cm. Inset: sample L1412 of metagranite. (g) Crossed polars microphotograph of sample L1412, showing margin of magmatic orthoclase including biotite aligned parallel to S_3 foliation defined by biotite in matrix. A mylonite microplane (S_{myl}) cuts S_3 across the lower half of the image. WOV 3 mm. (h) Polished thin section from sample L1458C of metavolcanic gneiss, Upernavik Is. Garnet porphyroblast contains inclusions of biotite, monazite and other minerals aligned with strong S_3 foliation in adjacent coarse-grained biotite. Circle shows area drilled for *in situ* monazite dating. Qz, quartz; Kfs, K-feldspar; Per, perthite; Or, orthoclase; Bt, biotite; Grt, garnet; Mnz, monazite.

in the host gneiss, has resulted from crystallization of partial melt, with minor recrystallization on grain margins providing evidence of limited subsequent deformation. Samples L1488 and L1489 are representatives of trondhjemitic orthogneisses from Little Ramah Bay that have, respectively, an abundance and a scarcity of nebulitic leucosome. These two samples were combined for the purpose of dating. The leucosome of sample L1414 felsic orthogneiss from Dog Island (Fig. 2b) is stromatic and the host gneiss varies from a patchily heterogeneous texture, interpreted as the recrystallization of a coarse-grained granitoid (L1414A), to a finer-grained, homogeneous pale grey gneiss with few laminations of leucosome (L1414B). Parts A and B were therefore dated separately.

Mafic samples were collected from S_2 layers hosted by TTG orthogneisses at Little Ramah Bay (L1490) and the south shore of Hebron Fjord (L1453). The latter was tentatively assigned by Ryan

& Martineau (2012) to the Nulliak supracrustal assemblage; however, the outcrop also contains aluminous metasediments more typical of the Upernavik supracrustal rocks. Both samples have granoblastic texture with two-pyroxene- and hornblende-bearing assemblages typical of mafic granulite generated from basaltic protoliths (Fig. 3b), but L1453 has a stronger foliation, with stromatic leucosome and associated garnet-biotite-rich selvages. A subvertical NW-trending S_2 gneissosity at the Hebron Fjord locality is crenulated by open to tight F_3 folds with SW-dipping axial planar S_3 defined by aligned biotite and NW-plunging axes. Some patches of garnet-leucosome truncate S_2 but are deformed by D_3 structures, indicating partial melting of mafic orthogneiss during both events.

The S_2 gneissosity and stromatic leucosome found in the orthogneisses is also present in sample L1492 of metapelite from Reichel Head (Fig. 2c). The sample is rich in graphite, similar to

Table 2. Whole-rock major oxide (wt%) and normative compositions

Sample:	L1412	L1414A	L1414B	L1458B	L1487	L1488	L1489	L1490	L1491	L1492	L1493
SiO ₂	58.88	69.10	66.80	60.88	54.94	70.90	66.70	44.90	69.57	57.10	74.70
TiO ₂	0.52	0.14	0.29	0.75	0.89	0.26	0.45	3.13	0.26	0.73	0.05
Al ₂ O ₃	20.24	17.40	18.00	11.94	16.91	15.90	17.70	11.30	16.64	19.80	14.40
ΣFe ₂ O ₃	4.80	1.48	2.15	12.79	7.44	1.50	2.61	22.20	1.97	5.01	0.63
MnO	0.06	n.d.	n.d.	0.24	0.09	n.d.	n.d.	0.31	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
MgO	2.16	0.90	1.29	9.85	4.54	0.86	1.40	4.64	0.55	2.40	0.12
CaO	3.73	2.34	2.30	1.23	6.23	2.07	1.98	9.04	2.56	1.17	1.34
Na ₂ O	5.84	6.20	6.34	1.74	3.63	5.47	5.52	1.79	5.69	0.75	4.70
K ₂ O	2.50	1.43	1.94	0.25	1.49	2.19	2.30	0.93	1.66	11.10	3.62
P ₂ O ₅	0.12	n.d.	0.13	n.d.	0.36	0.08	0.12	0.30	0.06	0.12	n.d.
SO ₂	n.d.	n.d.	0.05	n.d.	0.26	n.d.	n.d.	0.29	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
LOI	1.00	0.84	0.89	0.00	3.10	0.88	1.48	0.66	0.90	1.71	0.22
Sum	99.85	99.83	100.18	99.67	99.88	100.11	100.26	99.49	99.86	99.89	99.78
Qz	2.0	20.6	15.0	25.5	6.2	24.5	18.6	–	23.0	2.1	30.2
Crm	1.4	1.5	1.6	6.6	–	1.0	2.8	–	1.0	4.7	0.3
Or	14.8	8.5	11.5	1.5	8.8	12.9	13.6	5.5	9.8	65.6	21.4
Ab	49.4	52.5	53.6	14.7	30.7	46.3	46.7	15.1	48.1	6.3	39.8
An	17.7	11.3	10.6	6.0	25.4	9.7	9.0	20.1	12.3	5.0	6.6
Di	–	–	–	–	2.5	–	–	19.3	–	–	–
Hy	10.8	3.9	5.5	40.1	17.8	3.7	6.1	24.4	3.5	11.2	1.0
Ol	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.5	–	–	–
Mag	1.0	0.3	0.5	2.8	1.6	0.3	0.6	4.8	0.4	1.1	0.1
Ilm	1.0	0.3	0.6	1.4	1.7	0.5	0.9	5.9	0.5	1.4	0.1
Ap	0.3	0.1	0.3	–	0.9	0.2	0.3	0.7	0.1	0.3	–
Py	–	–	0.1	–	0.5	–	–	0.5	–	–	–

Qz, quartz; Crm, corundum; Or, orthoclase; Ab, albite; An, anorthite; Di, diopside; Hy, hypersthene; Ol, olivine; Mag, magnetite; Ilm, ilmenite; Ap, apatite; Py, pyrite. Total Fe oxide shown as Fe₂O₃. Fe₂O₃/FeO = 0.15 assumed for normative calculations. LOI, loss on ignition.

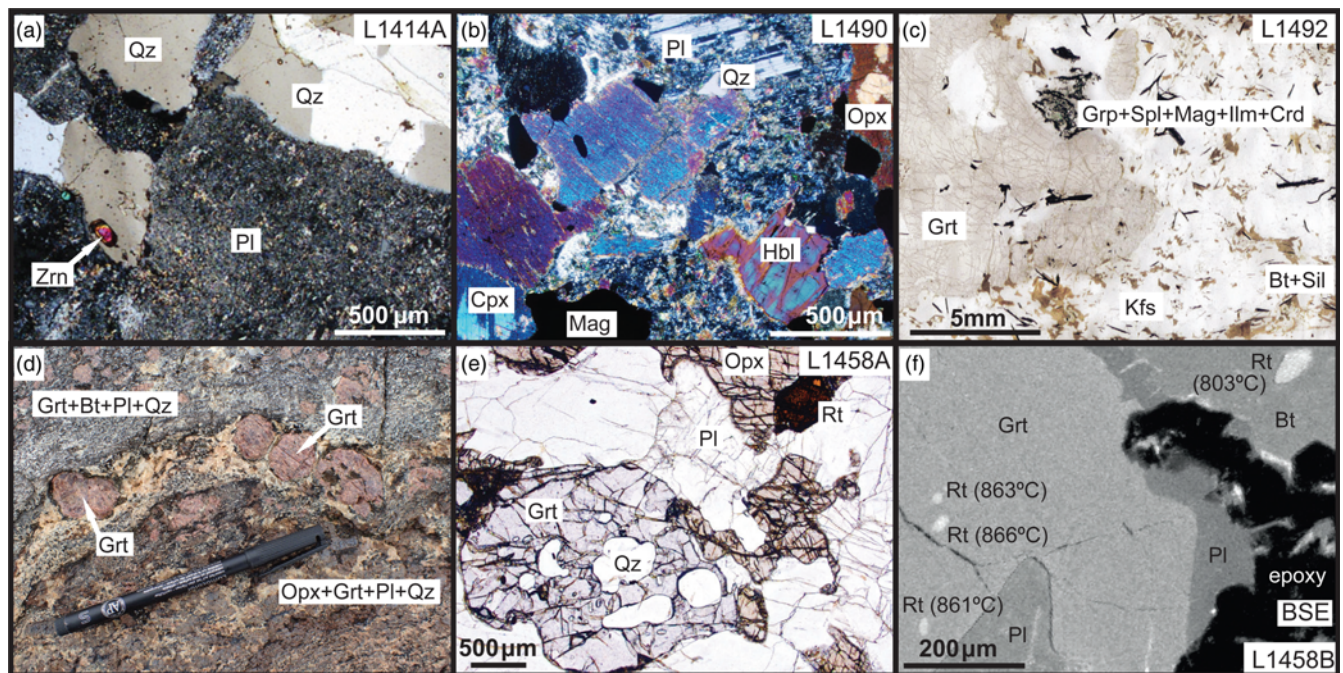


Fig. 3. Mineral relationships in gneisses of the Saglek Block. All are photomicrographs except (d). (a) Weak S₂ fabric in coarsely recrystallised metagranitic lamination from sample L1414A, Dog Is. Prismatic zircon crystal is aligned parallel to S₂. Plagioclase has been strongly sericitized. Crossed polars, WOV 4 mm. (b) Granoblastic texture in sample L1490, mafic granulite from Little Ramah Bay, with extensive alteration of mafic minerals and sericitization of plagioclase. Crossed polars, WOV 4 mm. (c) Porphyroblastic texture in sample L1492 of metapelite from Reichel Head. Dark clot is an intergrowth of graphite, spinel, magnetite, ilmenite and cordierite. Transmitted light, WOV 2 cm. (d) Outcrop photograph of metavolcanic gneiss, showing rock types (A, B and C) found in sample L1458 from Upernavik Is. Type A is granoblastic orthopyroxene- and garnet-bearing gneiss (bottom); type B is garnet- and biotite-rich gneiss (top); type C is felsic neosome with idioblastic garnet (middle). Biotite selvages around garnet idioblasts and on the margins of the neosome, formed by back-reaction during crystallization of felsic melt, should be noted. WOV 15 cm. (e) Xenoblastic garnet in sample L1458A, in granoblastic gneiss with rutile, plagioclase and orthopyroxene; the latter occurs as both xenoblasts and discontinuous rims between garnet and plagioclase. Transmitted light, WOV 4 mm. (f) BSE image of sample L1458B, showing rutile inclusions in garnet and biotite. Zirconium-in-rutile temperature estimates obtained by electron microprobe. Qz, quartz; Zrn, zircon; Pl, plagioclase; Opx, orthopyroxene; Cpx, clinopyroxene; Hbl, hornblende; Mag, magnetite; Kfs, K-feldspar; Grt, garnet; Bt, biotite; Sil, sillimanite; Grp, graphite; Spl, spinel; Ilm, ilmenite; Crd, cordierite; Rt, rutile.

Table 3. EMP analyses of Zr in rutile, sample L1458B

Analysis	Location	% ZrO ₂	Total	% atomic Zr	±2σ	T (°C)	±2σ
d1/1	In plagioclase	0.2450	100.10	0.1815	0.0045	816.8	5.7
d2/1	In plagioclase	0.1277	100.04	0.0946	0.0038	746.5	8.0
d3/1	In plagioclase	0.1511	102.78	0.1119	0.0039	761.0	7.2
d4/1	In plagioclase	0.1515	101.64	0.1122	0.0039	762.4	7.2
d7/1	In garnet	0.3394	94.50	0.2514	0.0051	862.9	5.0
d8/1	In garnet	0.3433	97.45	0.2543	0.0052	860.5	4.0
n3/1	In garnet	0.3622	98.42	0.2683	0.0052	866.0	4.8
n1/1	In biotite	0.2197	101.57	0.1627	0.0043	802.7	5.9

Errors estimated from counting statistics.

provided in Table 3. Three grains of rutile included in garnet from the garnet–biotite-rich part of the sample (L1458B, Fig. 3f) yielded ZrO₂ contents of 0.3394–0.3622 wt%, equivalent to 861–866°C, whereas grains enclosed in plagioclase or biotite yielded more variable, lower contents (0.1277–0.2450 wt%) equivalent to 747–817°C. The former temperatures are the best estimate for the temperature of garnet growth during metamorphism on Upernavik Is., and the estimate is consistent with granulite-facies metamorphism in the

Saglek Bay area, as has been suggested by various researchers (e.g. Krogh & Kamo 2006; Ryan & Martineau 2012).

Zircon dating

Zircon grains from all samples are subhedral to anhedral, with cathodoluminescence imaging (Fig. 4) revealing rims with anhedral, graduated or sector zoning typical of growth under

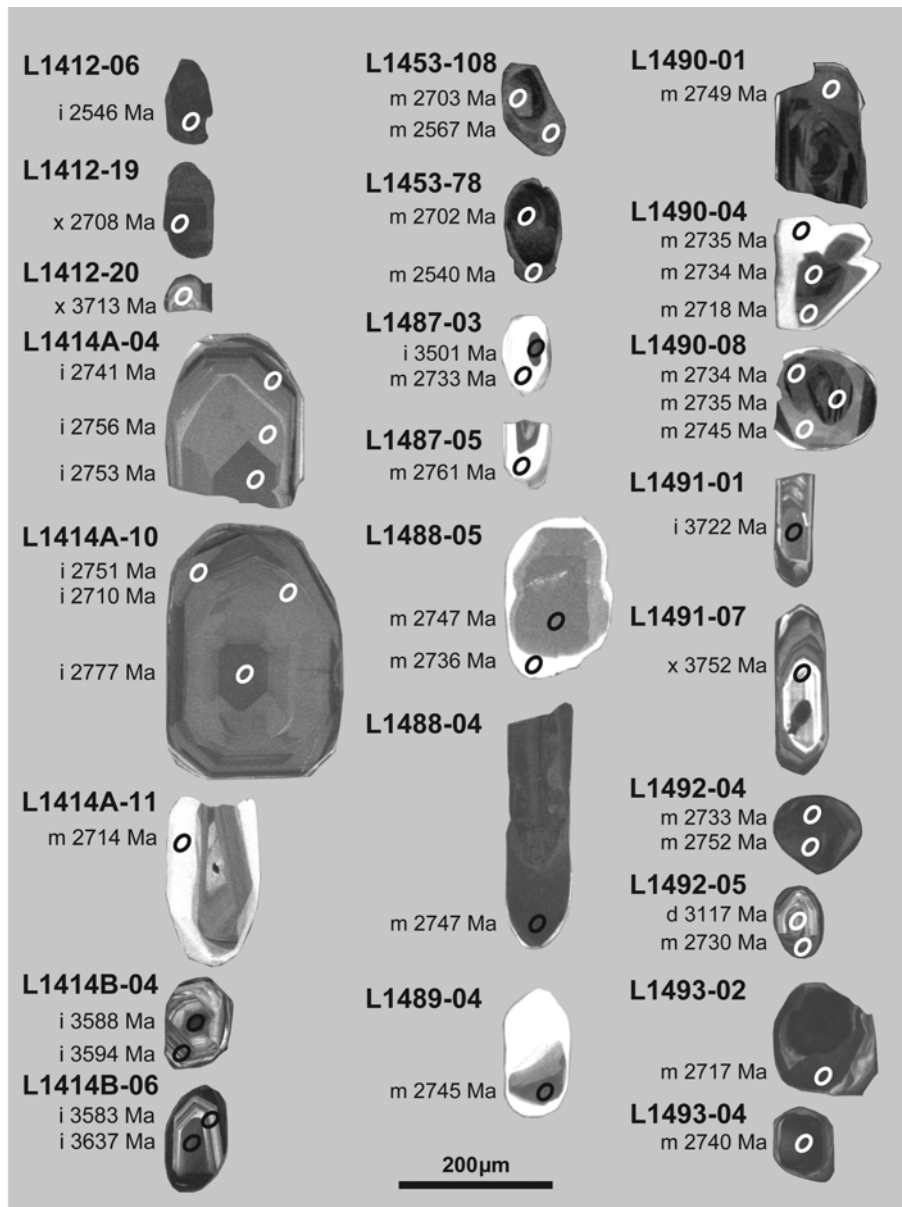


Fig. 4. Cathodoluminescence images of zircon dated by SIMS. Labels show sample and grain numbers; analytical spots labelled with type of zircon (m, metamorphic; i, igneous; x, xenocrystic; d, detrital) and ²⁰⁷Pb/²⁰⁶Pb age.

Table 4. Zircon SIMS U–Th–Pb data

Sample ¹ spot no.	U (ppm)	Th (ppm)	Th/U ²	Pb (ppm)	²⁰⁶ Pb/ _c ³ %	Ratios ⁴				Ages ⁴				Disc. %
						²³⁸ U/ ²⁰⁶ Pb	±σ (%)	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²⁰⁶ Pb	±σ (%)	²⁰⁶ Pb/ ²³⁸ U	±σ	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²⁰⁶ Pb	±σ	
<i>St Johns Harbour, sample L1412, n5696</i>														
Xenocrystic core														
20.1	83	53	0.59	95.8	0.32	1.298	1.5	0.35148	0.52	3683	41	3713.4	7.8	1
19.1	1030	195	0.18	666.7	0.06	1.909	1.0	0.18609	0.18	2715	22	2707.9	3.0	0
23.1	939	88	0.09	602.6	0.08	1.884	1.0	0.18576	0.20	2744	22	2705.0	3.3	–2
Igneous														
05.1	1033	304	0.29	635.2	0.06	2.030	1.0	0.16938	0.18	2582	21	2551.5	3.0	–1
07.1	502	249	0.48	319.4	0.13	2.043	1.0	0.16932	0.30	2568	22	2550.9	5.0	–1
02.1	707	531	0.73	477.7	0.12	2.021	1.0	0.16916	0.31	2591	22	2549.3	5.2	–2
22.1	681	258	0.37	429.5	0.12	2.011	1.0	0.16915	0.24	2603	22	2549.2	3.9	–3
25.1	1036	267	0.25	638.7	0.07	2.006	1.0	0.16904	0.18	2607	22	2548.1	3.1	–3
06.1	781	403	0.49	498.6	0.08	2.042	1.0	0.16885	0.22	2570	21	2546.3	3.7	–1
27.1	674	265	0.38	420.8	0.08	2.036	1.0	0.16862	0.23	2576	22	2544.0	3.8	–2
12.1	289	77	0.26	175.8	0.13	2.034	1.1	0.16852	0.34	2578	22	2543.0	5.7	–2
26.1	501	216	0.42	313.9	0.11	2.047	1.0	0.16796	0.27	2565	22	2537.4	4.5	–1
<i>Dog Island, sample L1414A, n5546</i>														
Igneous														
12.3	137	68	0.50	96.6	–	1.878	1.3	0.19171	0.44	2752	30	2756.9	7.1	0
04.2	113	75	0.66	83.2	–	1.871	1.5	0.19165	0.45	2760	33	2756.3	7.4	0
12.2	107	32	0.31	73.6	–	1.847	1.5	0.19153	0.42	2789	34	2755.3	6.8	–1
02.1	138	76	0.58	100.4	–	1.849	1.3	0.19153	0.52	2786	30	2755.3	8.5	–1
03.1	170	159	0.96	132.4	–	1.864	1.5	0.19140	0.32	2769	34	2754.3	5.3	–1
09.2	119	80	0.66	87.0	–	1.882	1.2	0.19124	0.47	2747	26	2752.9	7.7	0
04.1	195	168	0.88	149.6	–	1.864	1.5	0.19122	0.31	2769	34	2752.7	5.1	–1
01.3	130	73	0.58	93.9	–	1.877	1.5	0.19102	0.33	2753	33	2751.0	5.4	0
10.2	239	75	0.31	163.6	–	1.866	1.3	0.19100	0.34	2766	30	2750.8	5.6	–1
05.1	166	156	0.91	127.0	–	1.886	1.3	0.19063	0.37	2743	30	2747.6	6.1	0
06.2	153	65	0.42	106.9	0.11	1.862	1.4	0.19056	0.41	2771	32	2747.0	6.7	–1
01.1	76	32	0.45	52.9	–	1.878	1.6	0.19050	0.62	2752	35	2746	10	0
08.2	144	58	0.39	98.7	–	1.889	1.2	0.19036	0.46	2739	26	2745.3	7.6	0
04.2	322	61	0.17	210.0	0.01	1.894	1.6	0.18988	0.34	2733	36	2741.2	5.6	0
08.2	265	111	0.42	185.3	0.03	1.868	1.4	0.18969	0.47	2764	31	2739.5	7.7	–1
01.2	113	53	0.49	80.8	–	1.849	1.7	0.18967	0.67	2787	39	2739	11	–2
03.2	135	59	0.45	94.5	0.04	1.878	1.8	0.18909	0.36	2752	40	2734.2	5.8	–1
Excluded														
10.1	192	158	0.79	146.2	–	1.857	1.7	0.19407	0.39	2777	38	2777.0	6.3	0
12.4	125	72	0.60	93.2	–	1.822	1.6	0.19353	0.39	2820	36	2772.4	6.5	–2
11.2	34	77	2.39	32.8	–	1.892	1.8	0.18679	0.97	2735	40	2714	16	–1
10.3	134	55	0.42	91.4	–	1.906	1.4	0.18628	0.47	2719	30	2709.6	7.7	0
Discordant														
07.1	918	30	0.03	608.7	0.43	1.849	1.5	0.2173	1.7	2787	33	2961	27	7
<i>Dog Island, sample L1414B, n5541</i>														
Igneous and/or xenocrystic														
03.2	53	26	0.49	57.2	0.56	1.363	1.8	0.33968	0.44	3548	48	3661.3	6.8	4
05.1	162	99	0.66	191.8	0.02	1.271	1.4	0.33943	0.26	3741	39	3660.2	3.9	–3
05.3	75	61	0.82	87.7	0.38	1.324	1.5	0.33677	0.47	3626	41	3648.2	7.2	1
05.2	82	50	0.64	93.4	0.25	1.314	1.6	0.33649	0.53	3647	45	3646.9	8.1	0
01.1	158	56	0.36	170.6	0.02	1.322	1.6	0.33546	0.49	3631	46	3642.2	7.5	0
06.1	220	79	0.39	243.6	0.47	1.297	1.4	0.33440	0.35	3685	39	3637.4	5.4	–2
04.2	201	67	0.35	214.8	0.02	1.326	1.3	0.32502	0.26	3622	37	3593.8	3.9	–1
04.1	1131	1526	1.40	1389.5	0.97	1.384	1.3	0.32373	0.36	3506	35	3587.7	5.5	3
06.2	137	49	0.36	143.4	0.04	1.356	1.6	0.32274	0.34	3561	44	3582.9	5.2	1
07.1	341	189	0.54	366.6	0.81	1.364	1.8	0.32159	0.21	3546	50	3577.5	3.3	1
Discordant														
01.2	1991	783	0.27	1160.1	0.66	2.270	1.7	0.2240	2.2	2353	33	3009	35	26
<i>Hebron Fjord, South shore, sample L1453, n5736</i>														
Group 1 metamorphic (excluded from minimum pooled age)														
54.1	70	14	0.183	49.4	0.11	1.788	1.2	0.20276	0.60	2864	28	2848.6	9.7	–1
8.1	106	27	0.274	72.3	0.07	1.842	1.2	0.18967	0.46	2796	27	2739.3	7.6	–3
30.1	181	55	0.308	124.5	0.06	1.852	1.1	0.18917	0.38	2783	25	2735.0	6.2	–2
25.1	100	19	0.195	67.0	–	1.860	1.2	0.18871	0.50	2773	28	2730.9	8.2	–2

(continued)

Table 4. (Continued)

Sample ¹ spot no.	U (ppm)	Th (ppm)	Th/U ²	Pb (ppm)	²⁰⁶ Pb/ _c ³ %	Ratios ⁴				Ages ⁴				Disc. %
						²³⁸ U/ ²⁰⁶ Pb		²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²⁰⁶ Pb		²⁰⁶ Pb/ ²³⁸ U		²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²⁰⁶ Pb		
							±σ (%)		±σ (%)		±σ (%)		±σ (%)	
29.2	97	28	0.280	58.7	0.09	2.055	1.1	0.16909	0.57	2556	24	2548.6	9.4	0
09.1	139	48	0.355	85.6	0.04	2.059	1.1	0.16898	0.44	2552	23	2547.5	7.4	0
147.1	41	8	0.192	24.3	0.06	2.075	1.5	0.16895	0.77	2536	32	2547	13	1
32.1	86	12	0.135	49.5	0.13	2.091	1.2	0.16882	0.73	2519	25	2546	12	1
78.2	57	11	0.193	34.1	0.04	2.040	1.4	0.16819	0.64	2572	30	2540	11	-2
55.1	60	17	0.260	35.4	0.48	2.108	1.3	0.16802	0.92	2503	27	2538	15	2
48.1	124	31	0.243	74.3	0.10	2.059	1.1	0.16770	0.52	2552	24	2534.8	8.8	-1
53.2	102	12	0.114	60.1	0.09	2.036	1.2	0.16760	0.58	2575	24	2533.9	9.7	-2
35.1	85	33	0.396	53.4	0.07	2.034	1.2	0.16744	0.64	2577	25	2532	11	-2
13.2	96	41	0.428	59.6	0.04	2.083	1.1	0.16744	0.55	2527	24	2532.2	9.3	0
Group 2 metamorphic (excluded)														
13.1	64	18	0.284	39.6	0.13	2.020	1.2	0.16650	0.68	2592	26	2523	11	-3
27.1	85	23	0.269	51.6	0.06	2.049	1.2	0.16612	0.61	2562	25	2519	10	2
33.1	72	20	0.271	43.4	0.07	2.044	1.3	0.16603	0.88	2568	27	2518	15	-2
60.1	94	26	0.274	55.8	-	2.082	1.2	0.16581	0.55	2529	25	2515.8	9.3	-1
63.2	61	15	0.251	36.6	-	2.055	1.5	0.16529	0.63	2556	32	2511	11	-2
<i>Little Ramah Bay, sample L1487, n5549</i>														
Xenocrystic														
04.1*	91	23	0.26	101.6	-	1.281	1.1	0.36180	0.32	3720	32	3757.4	4.9	1
Metamorphic														
08.1*	59	21	0.36	26.6	-	1.906	1.8	0.19302	0.91	2717	41	2768	15	2
05.2	23	11	0.46	16.4	-	1.886	1.6	0.19216	0.94	2743	36	2761	15	1
09.1*	54	19	0.37	24.0	0.04	1.931	1.8	0.19159	0.97	2687	42	2756	16	3
13.1*	59	22	0.39	27.0	0.13	1.883	1.8	0.1903	1.0	2739	42	2745	17	0
11.1*	261	83	0.33	119.0	0.47	1.880	1.2	0.19020	0.54	2753	29	2743.9	8.9	0
07.1*	52	13	0.26	23.7	0.20	1.902	1.9	0.1898	1.0	2725	43	2740	17	1
05.1*	59	20	0.35	28.0	0.06	1.815	2.9	0.18973	0.87	2827	69	2740	14	-4
03.2	25	11	0.45	17.6	-	1.898	1.6	0.1889	1.0	2728	35	2733	16	0
10.1*	72	14	0.19	32.8	0.06	1.891	1.7	0.18872	0.85	2739	39	2731	14	0
03.1*	57	16	0.29	25.9	0.14	1.898	1.7	0.18782	0.93	2730	40	2723	15	0
04.1*	63	22	0.36	29.2	0.15	1.840	1.7	0.18698	0.89	2801	40	2716	15	-4
Igneous														
04.2	667	412	0.64	768.0	0.02	1.302	1.1	0.33494	0.24	3673	31	3639.9	3.7	-1
19.1*	198	131	0.68	126.2	0.17	1.347	1.3	0.33493	0.38	3580	38	3639.8	5.8	2
18.1*	373	30	0.08	236.1	0.09	1.358	1.2	0.33215	0.26	3558	32	3627.0	4.0	3
01.1*	439	41	0.10	279.7	0.75	1.349	1.2	0.3258	0.74	3576	32	3598	11	1
02.1*	730	143	0.20	472.6	0.02	1.327	1.1	0.32434	0.36	3623	31	3590.6	5.5	-1
06.1*	495	41	0.09	309.8	-	1.371	1.1	0.32361	0.59	3533	31	3587.1	9.1	2
12.1*	350	40	0.12	215.4	0.19	1.397	1.2	0.32189	0.32	3483	32	3578.9	4.9	4
17.1*	195	90	0.48	117.2	0.11	1.425	1.3	0.3154	1.0	3436	36	3547	15	4
16.1*	535	79	0.15	321.4	0.02	1.429	1.1	0.31481	0.24	3420	31	3544.7	3.7	5
14.1*	693	83	0.12	420.5	0.03	1.416	1.1	0.31323	0.38	3447	30	3536.9	5.8	3
03.1	416	48	0.10	386.5	0.08	1.438	1.0	0.30600	0.42	3404	27	3500.9	6.4	4
*	314	43	0.14	168.6	0.02	1.601	1.2	0.26401	0.34	3131	30	3270.8	5.4	5
02.1	284	100	0.28	212.1	0.33	1.749	1.4	0.22670	0.58	2915	34	3028.9	9.3	5
02.2	366	142	0.35	273.5	0.11	1.769	1.0	0.22169	0.53	2888	23	2993.0	8.6	4
Discordant														
01.1	1382	321	0.19	1017.5	0.07	1.793	1.0	0.25996	0.13	2857	24	3246.4	2.0	15
<i>Little Ramah Bay, sample L1488-89, n5550-n5551</i>														
Metamorphic														
07.2	254	23	0.09	164.3	0.05	1.884	0.99	0.19208	0.30	2745	22	2760.1	5.0	1
04.2	614	51	0.08	400.0	0.03	1.863	1.0	0.19096	0.18	2770	23	2750.5	2.9	-1
05.1	151	86	0.58	108.5	0.25	1.881	1.1	0.19050	0.38	2748	24	2746.5	6.2	0
04.1	373	128	0.32	245.5	0.68	1.948	1.1	0.19035	0.41	2671	24	2745.2	6.7	3
02.2	73	53	0.73	53.5	0.29	1.905	1.2	0.18944	0.55	2720	26	2737.3	9.1	1
05.2	70	45	0.63	47.9	0.40	1.991	1.4	0.18933	0.63	2624	29	2736	10	5
<i>Little Ramah Bay, sample L1490, n5552</i>														
Metamorphic														
03.1	51	17	0.33	35.6	0.11	1.856	1.2	0.19292	0.67	2779	27	2767	11	-1
07.1	16	4	0.28	10.6	-	1.864	1.8	0.1923	1.5	2768	40	2762	24	0
01.2	56	18	0.33	38.0	-	1.900	1.2	0.19082	0.60	2726	26	2749.2	9.8	1

(continued)

Table 4. (Continued)

Sample ¹ spot no.	U (ppm)	Th (ppm)	Th/U ²	Pb (ppm)	²⁰⁶ Pb _c ³ %	Ratios ⁴				Ages ⁴				Disc. %
						²³⁸ U/ ²⁰⁶ Pb	±σ (%)	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²⁰⁶ Pb	±σ (%)	²⁰⁶ Pb/ ²³⁸ U	±σ	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²⁰⁶ Pb	±σ	
06.2	75	28	0.38	51.4	0.11	1.877	1.1	0.19081	0.65	2753	25	2749	11	0
08.3	40	12	0.29	26.8	–	1.897	1.5	0.19032	0.71	2730	33	2745	12	1
02.2	107	47	0.44	75.0	0.06	1.870	1.1	0.18922	0.51	2762	24	2735.4	8.3	–1
08.2	103	44	0.42	70.9	0.38	1.898	1.1	0.18915	0.48	2729	24	2734.8	7.9	0
04.2	13	3	0.24	9.1	0.34	1.840	1.8	0.1891	1.3	2798	41	2734	22	–3
08.1	68	25	0.34	45.3	0.10	1.916	1.2	0.18908	0.57	2707	25	2734.2	9.3	1
04.1	69	25	0.37	47.2	0.10	1.882	1.2	0.18900	0.56	2747	26	2733.5	9.2	–1
04.2	50	17	0.32	33.6	0.10	1.913	1.3	0.18728	0.70	2710	28	2718	11	0
07.2	10	3	0.27	6.5	–	1.861	2.2	0.1872	1.4	2772	50	2717	24	–2
05.2	11	3	0.25	7.6	–	1.866	1.9	0.1842	1.4	2767	44	2691	22	–3
<i>Reichel Head, sample L1491, n5553</i>														
Xenocrystic														
07.1	77	31	0.42	88.2	0.08	1.279	1.2	0.36038	0.55	3725	34	3751.5	8.4	–1
02.1*	290	74	0.26	200.0	0.04	1.246	1.2	0.36156	0.27	3801	36	3756.4	4.1	–1
Igneous														
02.2*	503	238	0.49	334.4	0.18	1.292	1.1	0.3540	0.63	3702	34	3724	10	1
01.1	192	97	0.51	226.2	0.02	1.258	1.2	0.35340	0.28	3771	34	3721.7	4.2	2
01.1*	137	21	0.16	91.8	0.02	1.285	1.4	0.3517	0.95	3710	40	3714	14	0
03.1*	302	159	0.54	206.2	0.04	1.258	1.2	0.35115	0.53	3776	35	3712.0	8.1	–2
08.1	390	57	0.14	423.8	0.04	1.276	1.1	0.34958	0.28	3730	31	3705.2	4.3	1
Excluded														
03.2*	187	85	0.47	124.3	0.05	1.294	1.3	0.34739	0.59	3696	38	3695.6	8.9	0
05.1*	488	99	0.21	313.4	0.21	1.337	1.1	0.3457	0.72	3600	33	3688.3	11	3
07.1*	196	81	0.42	123.5	0.04	1.365	1.3	0.34290	0.36	3544	37	3675.7	5.5	5
09.1*	180	144	0.82	114.7	0.02	1.349	1.7	0.34138	0.33	3582	51	3669.0	5.1	3
18.1*	651	9	0.01	413.3	0.39	1.353	1.1	0.33501	0.53	3568	30	3640.1	8.2	3
08.1*	710	71	0.10	371.7	0.77	1.640	1.1	0.28285	0.27	3067	27	3378.7	4.2	11
<i>Reichel Head, sample L1492, n5547</i>														
Detrital														
04.1*	91	42	0.47	53.0	0.22	1.473	2.8	0.2659	2.8	3348	76	3282	43	–2
03.1*	156	84	0.56	86.3	0.06	1.550	1.9	0.2578	1.6	3212	50	3233	25	1
01.1	139	50	0.36	122.9	–	1.534	1.2	0.2563	1.0	3235	31	3224	16	0
02.1*	158	80	0.53	89.8	0.07	1.510	1.3	0.2555	1.5	3284	36	3219	23	–2
02.2	204	82	0.41	177.7	0.04	1.569	1.2	0.25392	0.26	3179	30	3209.4	4.1	1
05.1	114	57	0.47	95.6	–	1.639	1.1	0.2396	0.80	3071	27	3117	13	2
02.1	104	36	0.32	82.6	0.07	1.670	1.5	0.2329	1.1	3025	36	3072	18	2
01.2	295	53	0.17	221.9	0.03	1.697	1.2	0.2284	0.95	2986	30	3041	15	2
01.1*	86	37	0.45	42.2	0.13	1.753	1.6	0.2163	2.3	2916	39	2953	37	2
Metamorphic														
04.1	390	2	0.00	247.3	0.04	1.879	1.0	0.19110	0.27	2750	23	2751.6	4.5	0
03.1	663	4	0.01	423.7	0.01	1.864	0.96	0.19000	0.20	2769	22	2742.1	3.3	–1
04.2	1144	13	0.01	730.2	0.04	1.866	1.0	0.18895	0.14	2766	23	2733.1	2.2	–1
05.2	335	2	0.00	213.1	0.05	1.871	1.1	0.18869	0.26	2760	25	2730.8	4.2	–1
06.2	588	14	0.02	373.8	0.02	1.876	1.0	0.18796	0.19	2754	23	2724.4	3.1	–1
03.2	332	2	–	–	0.10	1.943	1.0	0.18732	0.26	2677	23	2718.8	4.3	2
<i>Reichel Head, sample L1493, n5548</i>														
Xenocrystic														
03.2	732	113	0.14	756.0	0.80	1.341	1.03	0.34695	0.17	3591	28	3693.6	2.7	4
Metamorphic grains														
04.1	524	87	0.16	344.4	0.03	1.877	1.00	0.18972	0.20	2753	22	2739.8	3.3	–1
05.2	338	133	0.40	229.8	0.11	1.909	0.96	0.18862	0.26	2715	21	2730.2	4.2	1
05.1	609	98	0.16	391.6	0.04	1.915	0.98	0.18719	0.19	2708	22	2717.7	3.1	0
02.2	471	58	0.12	306.3	0.04	1.878	0.95	0.18711	0.28	2752	21	2716.9	4.6	–2
03.2	377	53	0.14	243.4	0.23	1.895	1.00	0.18621	0.25	2732	22	2709.0	4.1	–1

¹sample labels include SIMS data from John deLaeter Centre (*) and NordSIMS (n####).²Th/U ratios presented are calculated from measured Th and U oxides.³Percentage of common ²⁰⁶Pb in measured ²⁰⁶Pb, calculated from the ²⁰⁴Pb signal assuming a present-day Stacey & Kramers (1975) model terrestrial Pb-isotope composition.⁴Values corrected for common Pb.Disc. % = (1 - (²⁰⁶Pb/²³⁸Pb age) / (²⁰⁷Pb/²⁰⁶Pb age)) * 100

high-grade metamorphic conditions. Cores having euhedral, graduated and/or oscillatory growth zoning, typical of crystallization from an evolving magma, were found in all samples except L1453 (Hebron Fjord) and L1490 (Little Ramah Bay), the latter two having rounded or irregular cores without distinct growth zoning. Sub-grain domains of zircon with features typical of growth during metamorphism were targeted for spot analysis in all samples, and zircon grains with magmatic growth features were targeted in samples L1412 (near St Johns Harbour), L1414A/B (Dog Island), L1487 (Little Ramah Bay) and L1491 (Reichel Head). Isotopic U–Pb data (Table 4) are presented in Tera–Wasserburg concordia plots (Fig. 5) along with $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ mean ages for concordant populations and Model 1 discordia intercept ages for linear arrays. Older outliers from rounded or irregular cores, which are interpreted as xenocrystic or inherited zircon, were not included in the calculation of ages and statistics from the identified populations. For cores and grains with growth zoning characteristic of igneous zircon, Model 1 discordia chords were calculated with forced lower intercepts of 2720 ± 50 Ma, approximating the time period within which granulite-facies gneisses were estimated to have formed from older magmatic protoliths in the Saglek Block (Kusiak *et al.* 2018, and references therein). Statistical test values (mean square of weighted deviates; MSWD) and other details are provided with the concordia plots in Figure 5.

For andesitic orthogneiss L1487 and trondhjemitic orthogneiss L1491, discordia chords yield upper intercept ages of 3664 ± 35 Ma and 3715 ± 26 Ma, respectively. The latter includes five concordant data with a mean $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ age of 3714 ± 11 Ma. Data from zircon in trondhjemitic orthogneiss L1414B spread between *c.* 3650 and 3590 Ma. Mean $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ages were also derived from igneous zircon in meta-trondhjemitic layer L1414A (2749 ± 3 Ma) and meta-monzonite L1412 (2547 ± 3 Ma). In all cases, the estimates are interpreted as the time of crystallization of igneous protoliths, with the exception of L1414B; in that sample, the cluster of analyses at *c.* 3590 Ma can be interpreted as a maximum age only for the protolith, assuming that they were not disturbed by later metamorphism. Igneous zircon from metapelite L1492 yielded scattered ages between *c.* 3280 and 2950 Ma, which are interpreted as dating detrital sources for the metasediment, although here again, the possibility of disturbance at *c.* 2.7 Ga cannot be discounted.

Zircon with metamorphic morphologies, either as rims with discordant boundaries to cores or as distinctly equant rounded and sector-zoned grains, yielded statistically valid ($\text{MSWD} \leq 1.3$) mean $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ages for samples of andesitic orthogneiss L1487 (2742 ± 8 Ma), trondhjemitic orthogneiss L1488 (2750 ± 7 Ma) and mafic granulite L1490 (2739 ± 9 Ma). Slightly more scattered data were derived from metapelite L1492 (*c.* 2750–2720 Ma) and metagranite L1493 (*c.* 2740–2710 Ma). Two data from light-CL rims in zircon from sample L1414A yielded *c.* 2710 Ma ages. Together, these data from six samples are interpreted as dating zircon growth during high-*T* metamorphism between *c.* 2750 and 2710 Ma. The dataset from mafic granulite sample L1453 is more complex, with 51 analyses from unzoned, concentric and sector-zoned grains and cores ranging between *c.* 2740 and 2680 Ma (group 1 ages, Fig. 5), and 25 data from unzoned or gradationally zoned rims ranging between *c.* 2570 and 2510 Ma (group 2 ages). Analyses in group 1 record variable U contents (Fig. 5), whereas those from group 2 have uniformly low U contents. The groups represent periods of zircon growth during two separate metamorphic events. To better define the gap in time between the events, subsets of statistically equivalent data were extracted from the youngest ages in group 1 and the oldest ages in group 2. The 42 youngest out of 51 data in group 1 yield a mean $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ age of 2702 ± 2 Ma, and the 20 oldest data out of 25 in group 2 yield a mean $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ age of 2551 ± 6 Ma. These mean ages provide statistically robust estimates for the minimum age of zircon growth in the first

metamorphic event, and the maximum age of growth in the second, respectively.

In situ monazite dating

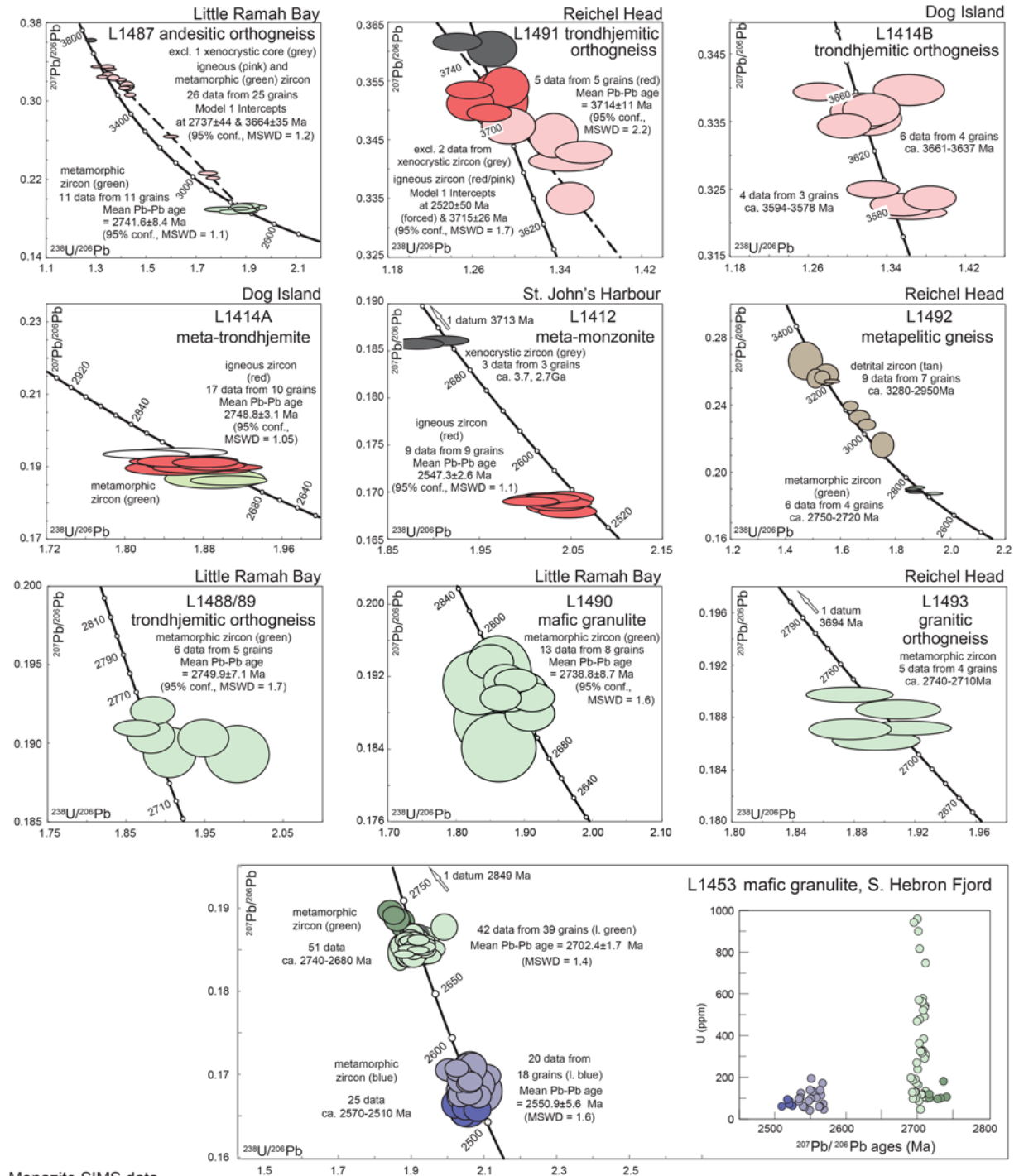
To constrain the timing of mineral growth in high-grade metamorphic assemblages, plugs containing monazite and surrounding minerals were drilled from polished thin sections, mounted and analysed by secondary ion mass spectrometry (SIMS; Table 5, Fig. 5). Monazite in andesitic orthogneiss L1487 occurs as xenoblastic grains in a granoblastic assemblage that is strongly retrogressed, as described by Kusiak *et al.* (2018). Owing to the marginal alteration of monazite grains in thin section (Fig. 6a), data were also taken from unaltered fragments of monazite separated from the orthogneiss and mounted in a polished epoxy plug. Excluding three slightly younger, discordant data points, 12 analyses from a combination of grains in drilled thin sections and separates yielded a mean $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ age of 2709 ± 14 Ma. Monazite in metapelite sample L1492 is unaltered and has polygonal grain boundaries with other metamorphic phases (Fig. 6b), and yields a mean $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ age of 2727 ± 6 Ma. Ages were also collected from each part of metavolcanic rock L1458 (A, B and C). Two 10 μm wide monazite inclusions in garnet porphyroblasts from the garnet–biotite-rich part (L1458B) yield spot ages of *c.* 2680 and *c.* 2670 Ma. Monazite occurs more abundantly in association with garnet–leucosome L1458C, in which millimetre-scale preferentially aligned inclusions in garnet poikiloblasts are parallel to S_3 defined by biotite inclusions (Fig. 6c). Four inclusions of monazite yield ages that range from 2550 to 2510 Ma. Excluding the two oldest analyses, nine data yield a mean $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ age of 2522 ± 7 Ma, which can be considered as a robust statistical minimum age for the period of metamorphism. Age data were also obtained from monazite separated from the orthopyroxene-rich part (L1458A) and yielded a mean $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ age of 2551 ± 5 Ma. Mean ages from samples L1487 and L1492 are attributed to monazite growth during the first period of high-*T* metamorphism. Monazite from sample L1458, dated as inclusions in garnet from parts B and C, indicates multiple stages of mineral growth. Those grains present in cross-cutting garnet–leucosome (L1458C) fall within the second period of mineral growth at 2.5 Ga identified in zircon from other samples in this study, as does monazite in the matrix of part A. The two monazite inclusions in the garnet–biotite-rich part (B) fall between the two stages of zircon growth in other samples, but agree with some monazite age estimates obtained by Kusiak *et al.* (2018). This may be an indication of monazite growth and/or disturbance continuing after 2700 Ma, but as a separate generation from the second stage of growth from 2550 to 2510 Ma.

Discussion

Significance and correlation between Labrador and Greenland

The new results from monazite and zircon associated with metamorphic assemblages and deformation fabrics, especially where supported by dating structurally constrained meta-granitoids, provide evidence of two distinct high-temperature tectonothermal events: at 2750–2700 Ma and 2550–2510 Ma (Fig. 7). The separation of the two episodes of high-*T* mineral growth is clearer than that observed in EMP monazite dating by Kusiak *et al.* (2018). There is evidence of partial melting and crystallization of anatectic melt in both the earlier and later stages of each of the events. Therefore, the growth of zircon and monazite after 2550 Ma is probably not due to the ‘thermal effects’ of granitic emplacement, as suggested by Schiøtte *et al.* (1992); rather, it is more likely that

Zircon SIMS data



Monazite SIMS data

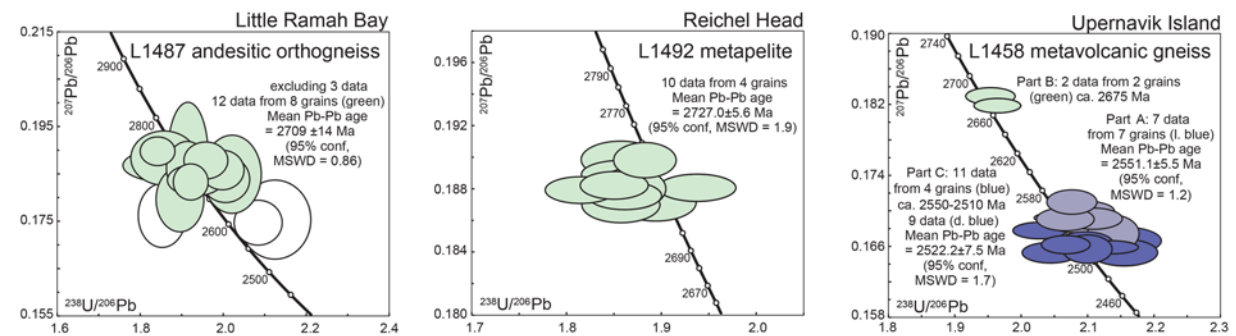


Fig. 5. Tera-Wasserburg concordia plots of SIMS age data from zircon and monazite. Spot ages represented by error ellipses are colour-coded according to type: green, c. 2.7 Ga metamorphic; blue, c. 2.5 Ga metamorphic; red or pink, igneous; grey, xenocrystic or inherited; tan, detrital.

Table 5. Monazite SIMS U–Th–Pb data

Sample and spot no.	U (ppm)	Th (ppm)	Th/U ¹	²⁰⁶ Pb _c ² %	Ratios ³				Age ³		Disc. %
					²³⁸ U/ ²⁰⁶ Pb	±σ (%)	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²⁰⁶ Pb	±σ (%)	²⁰⁷ Pb/ ²⁰⁶ Pb	±σ	
<i>Upernavik Island, sample L1458</i>											
Part A, mineral separate, metamorphic											
08.1	511	54753	107	0.055	2.075	1.2	0.17103	0.53	2567.7	8.9	1
05.1	726	45827	63	0.048	2.094	1.4	0.17001	0.45	2557.7	7.6	2
02.1	4733	41569	9	0.005	2.073	1.7	0.16925	0.28	2550.2	4.8	0
09.1	701	32556	46	0.039	2.107	1.4	0.16916	0.47	2549.4	7.8	2
03.1	562	45054	80	0.054	2.082	1.4	0.16887	0.51	2546.5	8.5	1
01.1	732	36398	50	0.024	2.108	1.5	0.16876	0.44	2545.4	7.4	2
06.1	501	56462	113	0.125	2.138	1.2	0.1675	0.82	2533	14	2
Part B, inclusions in garnet, metamorphic											
14.1	1918	46264	24	0.030	1.953	1.3	0.18296	0.35	2679.9	5.7	1
15.1	5811	31893	5	0.016	1.964	1.2	0.18187	0.30	2670.0	4.9	1
Part C, inclusions in garnet, metamorphic, used for pooled minimum age											
11.2	607	61328	101	0.048	2.1165	1.2	0.1681	0.52	2538.5	8.7	2
12.3	1829	53425	29	0.095	2.0273	1.3	0.1678	0.37	2536.1	6.1	–2
16.1	1916	42995	22	0.038	2.1538	1.7	0.1667	0.61	2525	10	3
11.3	674	58064	86	0.088	2.0957	1.3	0.1664	0.51	2521.8	8.6	0
12.1	3628	49372	14	0.041	2.0667	1.2	0.1662	0.40	2520.2	6.7	–1
12.2	4673	54453	12	0.019	2.1335	1.3	0.1659	0.30	2517.0	5.0	2
16.2	662	43635	66	0.662	2.0992	1.2	0.1657	0.64	2515	11	0
10.1	549	54711	100	0.320	2.1545	1.5	0.1654	0.60	2511	10	2
11.4	884	58627	66	0.087	2.0434	1.4	0.1653	0.46	2511.0	7.8	–2
Excluded from pooled age											
12.4	809	55352	68	0.037	2.1093	1.3	0.1692	0.64	2550	11	2
11.1	596	63598	107	–	2.0661	1.4	0.1691	0.51	2548.8	8.5	0
<i>Little Ramah Bay, sample L1487</i>											
Metamorphic											
01.1	167	22472	134	0.49	1.841	1.5	0.1898	1.0	2741	17	–2
03.1	116	10079	87	0.47	1.914	1.7	0.1889	3.9	2733	65	1
01.2	68	16731	248	1.22	1.857	2.8	0.1884	2.0	2728	33	–2
09.1	86	3171	37	0.32	1.958	1.8	0.1879	1.4	2724	23	2
08.1	78	1982	25	0.13	1.859	3.6	0.1868	1.2	2714	20	–2
09.2	86	2698	31	0.35	1.913	1.7	0.1862	2.0	2709	33	0
02.1	103	2487	24	0.60	1.997	1.7	0.1859	1.5	2706	24	3
07.1	53	9264	174	2.02	2.021	2.3	0.1850	2.9	2698	49	4
08.2	92	2666	29	0.71	2.005	1.9	0.1839	1.7	2688	29	3
05.2	173	19891	115	0.66	1.933	2.3	0.1838	1.2	2687	20	0
07.2	262	14716	56	0.71	1.921	1.4	0.1834	1.4	2684	23	–1
10.1	62	9731	158	2.00	1.895	2.0	0.1797	2.5	2650	42	–3
Discordant, outliers											
10.2	62	10591	171	1.75	1.852	2.1	0.1763	2.5	2618	42	–6
04.1	114	8348	73	0.52	2.124	2.7	0.1754	3.1	2610	52	5
02.2	85	2027	24	0.76	2.084	1.8	0.1748	1.8	2604	30	3
<i>Reichel Head, sample L1492</i>											
Metamorphic											
02.2	3099	33150	11	0.009	1.857	1.5	0.18987	0.41	2741.0	6.7	–1
04.2	3489	27359	8	0.012	1.882	1.2	0.18983	0.39	2740.7	6.4	0
04.4	2939	34681	12	–	1.856	1.4	0.18893	0.31	2732.9	5.1	–2
03.2	3028	35113	12	0.000	1.850	1.3	0.18824	0.30	2726.9	5.0	–2
02.3	3292	34864	11	–	1.937	1.4	0.18810	0.30	2725.6	5.0	2
04.3	2725	33525	12	0.020	1.868	1.3	0.18804	0.45	2725.1	7.5	–1
04.1	3695	27895	8	0.000	1.815	1.3	0.18795	0.30	2724.3	4.9	–4
03.1	2548	33441	13	0.019	1.861	1.4	0.18760	0.31	2721.2	5.2	–2
01.1	3147	31700	10	–	1.894	1.5	0.18716	0.42	2717.4	6.9	–1
02.1	3391	28271	8	0.018	1.857	1.5	0.18701	0.40	2716.1	6.6	–2

¹Th/U ratios presented are calculated from measured Th and U oxides.²Percentage of common ²⁰⁶Pb in measured ²⁰⁶Pb, calculated from the ²⁰⁴Pb signal assuming a present-day Stacey & Kramers (1975) model terrestrial Pb-isotope composition.³Values corrected for common Pb.Disc. % = (1 – (²⁰⁶Pb/²³⁸Pb age) / (²⁰⁷Pb/²⁰⁶Pb age)) * 100.

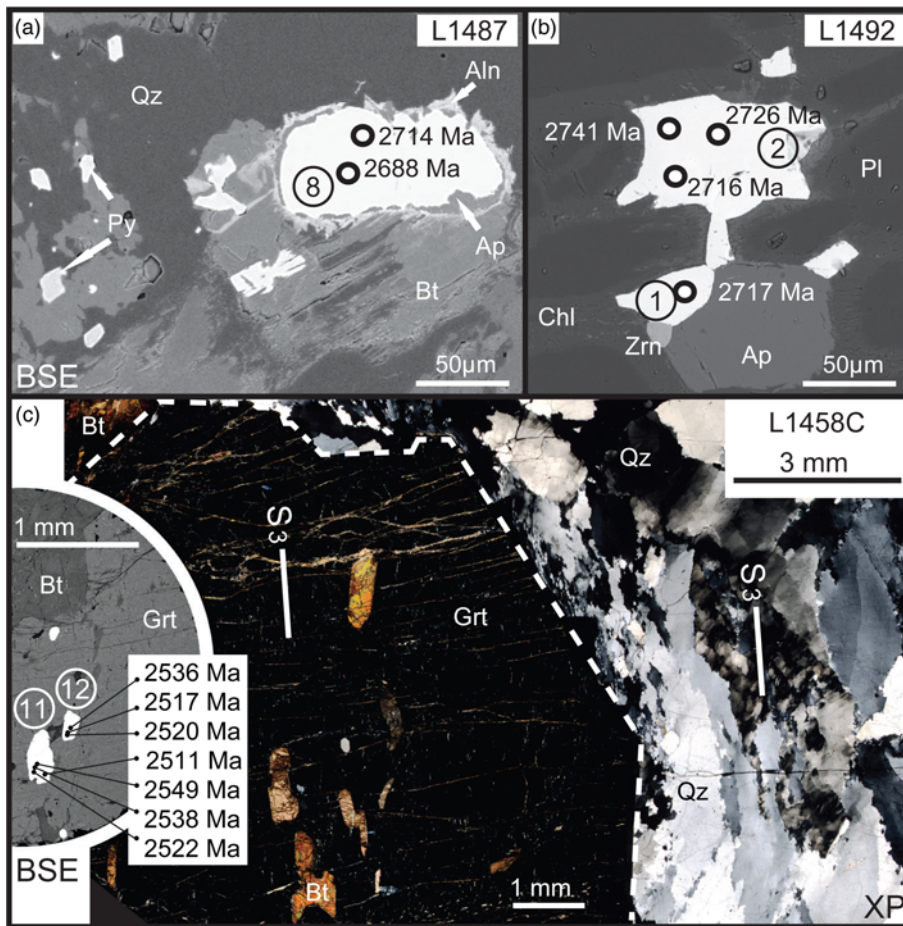


Fig. 6. Microimaging of monazite dated *in situ* by SIMS. In backscattered electron (BSE) images, monazite appears white, with grains analysed for isotopic dating identified by numbers in circles. (a) Grain 8 in sample L1487 of andesitic orthogneiss, Little Ramah Bay, with thin dual corona of apatite and allanite or epidote against enclosing assemblage of biotite (altered to chlorite), plagioclase, quartz and pyrite. BSE image, WOV 0.3 mm. (b) Grains 1 and 2 in sample L1492 of metapelite, Reichel Head, with polygonal and interstitial relationships to plagioclase, apatite and zircon. Chlorite replaces biotite. BSE image, WOV 0.2 mm. (c) S_3 -aligned grains 11 and 12 in garnet idioblast, sample L1458C of neosome vein in metavolcanic gneiss, Upernavik Is. Biotite and monazite grains included in garnet are aligned with S_3 ; marginal recrystallization in quartzose neosome and orthogonal fracturing in idioblastic garnet indicate deformation after crystallization of melt, possibly during late D_3 . Crossed polars, WOV 12 mm. Inset: *in situ* BSE image of disc drilled for SIMS analysis (compare with Fig. 2h). Qz, quartz; Py, pyrite; Bt, biotite; Aln, allanite; Ap, apatite; Zrn, zircon; Pl, plagioclase; Chl, chlorite; Grt, garnet.

tectonothermal activity is the progenitor of granitic melts that were emplaced both during and after high-strain deformation. These include the *c.* 2530 Ma major granitic stockworks described by Baadsgaard *et al.* (1979) on the coast and islands outside Saglek Bay. A re-examination of localities in which *c.* 2.5 Ga magmatism and mineral growth occurs shows that such ages are scattered along

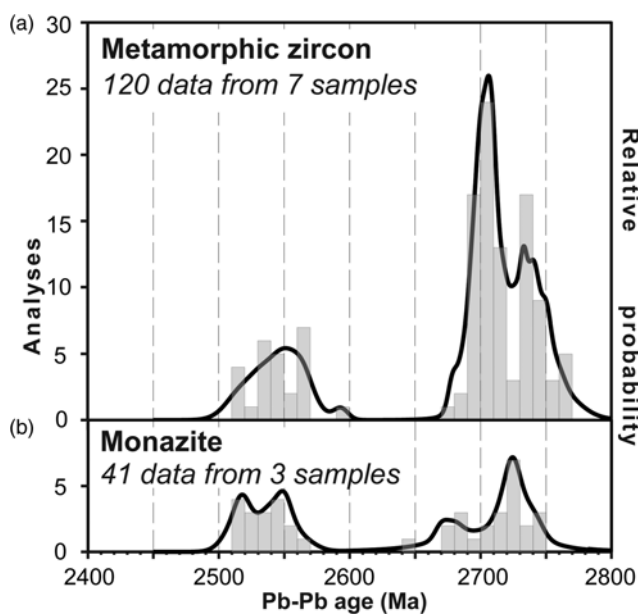


Fig. 7. Histogram of combined $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ spot ages from SIMS analysis of metamorphic zircon and monazite in multiple samples. (a) L1412, L14014A-B, L1453, L1487, L1488/89, L1492; (b) L1458, L1487, L1492.

the Saglek Block from Saglek Bay to Nain, and on both sides of the Handy Fault (Fig. 8). Further north there is a lack of data; however, zircon growth during metamorphic events at *c.* 2.7 and 2.5 Ga have been recognized by Scott (1995) in meta-tonalites at Home and Avayalik Islands, which may be part of the Nain Province. Nevertheless, it is likely that the effects of the 2.5 Ga event increase towards the south and east, as such ages were also obtained from zircon and monazite in drill-core samples taken *c.* 40 km outside Saglek Bay (Wasteneys *et al.* 1996; see Fig. 8). In that study, the authors hypothesized a north–south-trending tectonic boundary between the Saglek and Hopedale blocks that extends southward from offshore of Saglek Bay to the coast near Okak Island. The Saglek Block comprises *c.* 3.7 Ga protoliths metamorphosed at *c.* 2.7 Ga and the Hopedale Block contains *c.* 3.2 Ga protoliths metamorphosed at *c.* 2.5 Ga. Anomalies, such as the presence in the Saglek Block of the *c.* 3.2 Ga Lister gneiss, from which a migmatized sample yielded *c.* 2.5 Ga zircon and titanite, have been attributed to tectonic intercalation of fragments of the Hopedale block within the Saglek Block at *c.* 2.5 Ga (Schiotte *et al.* 1992; Wasteneys *et al.* 1996). However, the presence of *c.* 2680 Ma granitoid sheets cutting folded and metamorphosed Lister gneiss constrains gneiss formation to *c.* 2.7 Ga (Schiotte *et al.* 1989). This, along with the evidence for *c.* 2.7 and *c.* 2.5 Ga metamorphism in samples from the Saglek area in our study and in that of Kusiak *et al.* (2018), does not contradict the terrane boundary proposed by Wasteneys *et al.* (1996), but does suggest that the assembly of the Saglek and Hopedale blocks was earlier than *c.* 2.5 Ga.

The late Archean metamorphic events and the assembly of two different crustal blocks in northern Labrador may be analogous to the juxtaposition of terranes having differing structural and metamorphic histories in the Archean of southwestern Greenland

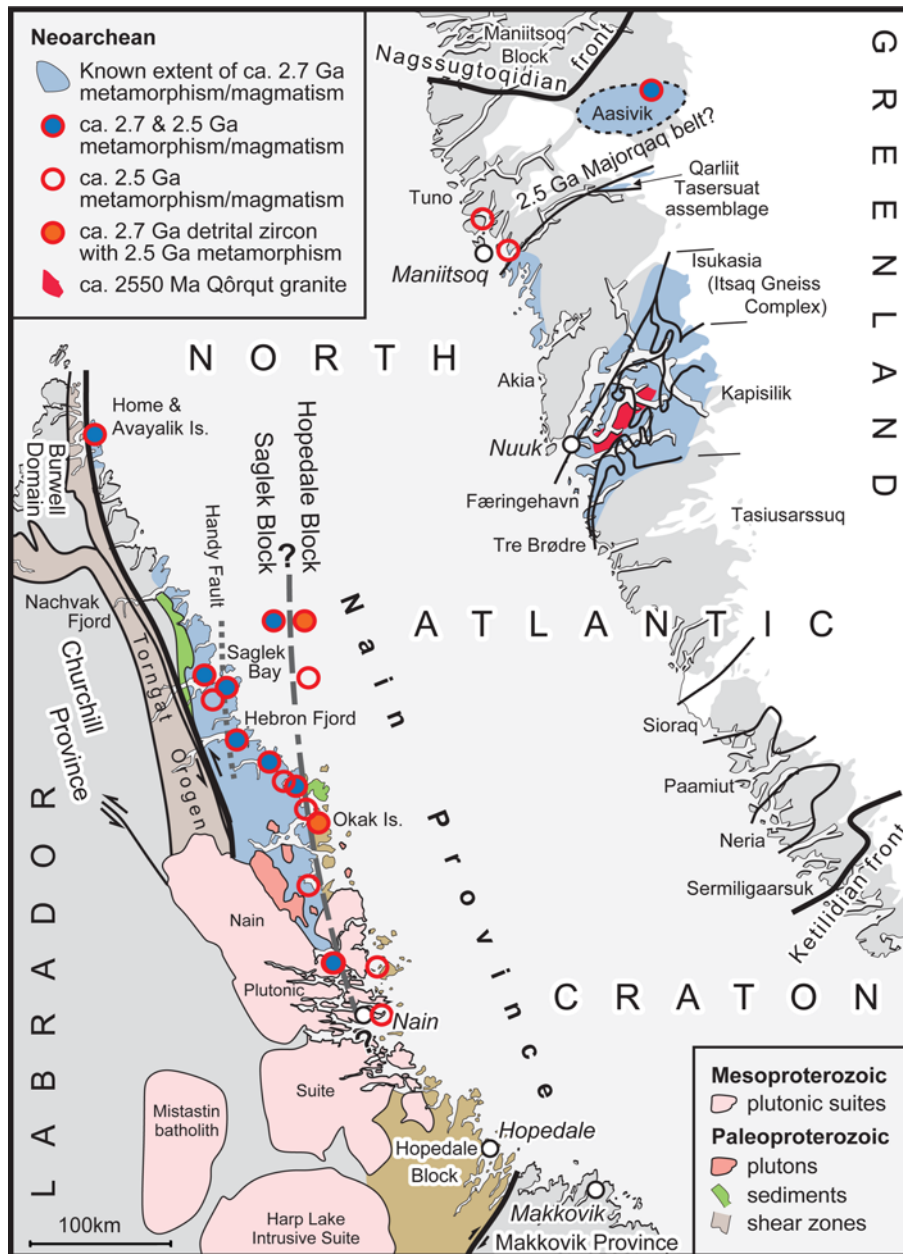


Fig. 8. Reconstruction of the western part of the North Atlantic Craton before the opening of the Labrador Sea, modified after *St-Onge et al. (2009)*, and showing the location of magmatic and metamorphic mineral ages (U–Pb zircon, monazite and titanite ages, and K–Ar hornblende ages) that fall within the c. 2.7 and 2.5 Ga events, and the approximate known extent of c. 2.7 Ga metamorphism in the Nain Province and southwestern Greenland. A hypothetical boundary between the Hopedale and Saglek blocks, slightly modified from that proposed by *Connelly & Ryan (1996)* and *Wasteneys et al. (1996)*, is shown by dashed line, parallel to the Handy Fault. Terranes in southwestern Greenland (bound by black lines) and the extent of Proterozoic orogenic fronts (thick black lines) are from *Henriksen et al. (2009)*. Age data are from *Wanless et al. (1970, 1974)*, *Barton (1975)*, *Collerson et al. (1982)*, *Schiøtte et al. (1990, 1992)*, *Scott (1995)*, *Connelly & Ryan (1996)*, *Wasteneys et al. (1996)*, *Wendt & Collerson (1999)*, *Connelly (2001)*, *Rosing et al. (2001)*, *Nutman et al. (2004, 2011, 2013)*, *Krogh & Kamo (2006)*, *Nutman & Friend (2007)*, *Næraa et al. (2014)*, *Dyck et al. (2015)*, *Dziggel et al. (2017)*, *Kirkland et al. (2018)*, *Kusiak et al. (2018)* and *Śałaćińska et al. (2018)*.

(*Nutman & Friend 2007*; *Friend & Nutman 2019*). Major late Archean terrane boundaries along the coast of southwestern Greenland tend to run NE into the glacial cap, rather than following the general north–south trend of gneisses in the Saglek area. *Circa* 2.8–2.7 Ga high-grade metamorphism that strongly affects the Nain Province also does so in the vicinity of Nuuk, with grade decreasing towards the east (e.g. *Nutman & Friend 2007*; *Dziggel et al. 2017*). This part of the North Atlantic Craton contains a complex mixture of Eoarchean and Paleoarchean terranes, and Mesoarchean arc assemblages, and has many similarities in timing and composition to the gneisses of the Saglek Block. The extensive c. 2560 Ma Qôrqt Granite Complex that intrudes gneisses inland from Nuuk (*Nutman et al. 2011*; *Næraa et al. 2014*) is a potential correlative of syn- to late- D_3 magmatism in the Saglek block, as marginal tectonic reworking of the Qôrqt has been observed (*Nutman et al. 2011*). However, no significant granite metamorphic event at c. 2.5 Ga is recognized in this part of Greenland. Some 100 km to the north, dating of c. 2.5 Ga metamorphic monazite in gneisses near Maniitsoq and inland led *Dyck et al. (2015)* to define the Majorqaq Belt, a NE-trending mobile belt between the main 2.7 Ga assembled part of the North Atlantic Craton and the

Mesoarchean Maniitsoq block further north. *Dyck et al. (2015)* suggested that the belt resulted from the collision of the Maniitsoq block subsequent to southward subduction of an ocean basin beneath the North Atlantic Craton, and that the Qôrqt Granite Complex is the product of slab dewatering. The Majorqaq Belt might well correlate with c. 2.5 Ga tectonothermal activity in the Saglek Block. In this case, the Qôrqt Granite Complex would correlate well with large plutons of the same age found to the south of Saglek in the Okak area (*Schiøtte et al. 1992*). Indeed, the Maniitsoq block itself was subjected to marginal reworking to the north by Paleoproterozoic tectonism, similar to the northern and western margins of the Nain Province (*St-Onge et al. 2009*). However, there is a lack of data from the Labrador coast north of Ramah Bay that would allow any clear correlation to be made with the hypothesized ‘Majorqaq’ Belt. In addition, this would dissociate the Eoarchean Uivak gneiss from terranes of similar age in the Itsaq Gneiss Complex (*Fig. 8*). The latter has complicated ductile structural relationships with Paleo- to Mesoarchean terranes (*Hoffmann et al. 2014*). If such relationships are similarly complicated in the Saglek Block, the intercalation of older and younger crust there may also be a product of amalgamation at c.

2.7 Ga. A simpler correlation would place *c.* 2.5 Ga tectonothermal activity as a reworking of *c.* 2.7 Ga gneisses in association with the Okak and Qôrqt granitic complexes, on the eastern and southern margins of a composite Eoarchean–Mesoproterozoic continent. To test this hypothesis, geochronological work needs to be extended further north along the Labrador coast, and to little-studied parts of southwestern Greenland.

Conclusion

In situ U–Pb ion microprobe dating of monazite and sub-grain dating of zircon and monazite provide clear evidence of high-*T* metamorphism at both *c.* 2.7 and *c.* 2.5 Ga in the Saglek Block. Both events involved ductile deformation, with the former producing the dominant gneissosity in the Uivak and other gneisses, including supracrustal metasedimentary and metavolcanic varieties. The effects of tectonothermal activity at *c.* 2.7 Ga are widespread in the Saglek Block, as they are in the parts of southwestern Greenland conjugate to the Nain Province before the opening of the Labrador Sea. The known extent of *c.* 2.5 Ga high-*T* metamorphism and deformation is more limited, and may be restricted to reworking of the margins of the North Atlantic Craton in both Greenland and Labrador. However, given the emplacement of large amounts of *c.* 2.5 Ga granitoid in both Labrador and southwestern Greenland, it is possible that parts of the North Atlantic Craton were assembled at this time, involving the juxtaposition of pre-existing continental crust in Labrador (the Saglek and Hopedale blocks of the Nain Province) and Greenland (between the Maniitsoq block and others to the south). The evidence for late Neoproterozoic final assembly is still very limited, and will require extensive new geochronological studies in both Labrador and Greenland.

This study also provides zircon ages for the formation of supracrustal precursors to gneisses in the Saglek Block 30 km to the north of Saglek Bay. A protolith age of *c.* 3.7 Ga for andesitic orthogneiss at Little Ramah Bay is comparable with Eoarchean ages for the Uivak gneiss that have been well established by many earlier studies. *Circa* 3 Ga ages from detrital zircon in graphite-bearing metapelitic gneiss from Reichel Head are comparable with those obtained from similar gneiss at St John's Harbour, and support the conclusion of Whitehouse *et al.* (2019) that such graphite-bearing gneisses were not deposited at the beginning of the Archean, as proposed by Tashiro *et al.* (2017). These ages provide new evidence for the northward continuation of the Saglek Block, and demonstrate the potential for new discoveries of Eoarchean crust along the Labrador coast.

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Author contributions DJD: Conceptualization (Lead), Formal analysis (Equal), Writing – Original Draft (Lead); MAK: Conceptualization (Equal), Formal analysis (Equal), Writing – Original Draft (Supporting); SAW: Conceptualization (Equal), Data curation (Supporting), Writing – Review & Editing (Supporting); MJW: Conceptualization (Equal), Data curation (Supporting), Methodology (Supporting), Writing – Review & Editing (Supporting); AS: Formal analysis (Supporting); RK: Formal analysis (Supporting); PK: Formal analysis (Equal).

Appendix: Analytical protocols

Polished thin sections from all samples were prepared and examined by optical microscope and SEM at the John de Laeter Centre, Curtin University, Western Australia. For *in situ* monazite analysis (samples L1458 and L1487), 3 and 5 mm discs were drilled out of thin sections and mounted in epoxy discs. For mineral grain dating, samples were crushed and sieved, and then processed by wet panning, magnetic separation and hand picking to isolate zircon and monazite grains. The grains were mounted, along with reference materials, in epoxy discs that were then polished to expose the mid-sections of grains. All grains were imaged for internal structure before and after analysis using an SEM fitted with BSE and CL detectors. The mounts were cleaned and gold coated prior to analysis by SIMS.

Initial dating of mounted zircon grains was carried out by SHRIMP II at the John de Laeter Centre, Curtin University in Perth, Western Australia. A spot size of 20–25 μm was used with an O_2^- primary beam intensity of 3–4 nA. The secondary ion beam was focused through a 100 μm collector slit onto an electron multiplier to produce mass peaks with flat tops and a mass resolution (1% peak height) better than 5100 $M/\Delta M$. Data were collected in sets of six scans, with reference standards analysed after every five sample analyses. Count times per scan for Pb isotopes 204, background position 204.1, 206, 207 and 208, were 10, 10, 10, 30 and 10 s, respectively. U–Th–Pb ratios and absolute abundances were determined relative to the zircon reference standard BR266 (559 Ma, 903 ppm U; Stern (2001)). Instrumental mass fractionation (IMF) of $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ was monitored during each session by repeated analysis of the zircon reference standard OGC (Stern *et al.* 2009). No IMF correction was required because the measured values of OGC were in agreement with the reference value within 2σ uncertainty. Raw data were processed using the SQUID 2 add-in (v. 2.50.12.03.08) for Excel 2003 (Ludwig 2009) and plotted using the ISOPLOT 3.70 add-in of Ludwig (2001). Measured compositions were corrected for common Pb using measured ^{204}Pb and contemporaneous common Pb composition according to the terrestrial Pb evolution model of Stacey & Kramers (1975). Owing to the low proportion of common Pb detected in standards and samples (<1% of measured ^{206}Pb , as estimated from ^{204}Pb measurement), the choice of modelling age for common Pb composition did not have a statistically significant effect on age estimates. Mean ages are quoted with 95% confidence levels.

Further analysis of zircon in samples L1412, L1414, L1453, L1488–89, L1490, L1491, L1492 and L1493 was carried out by CAMECA IMS 1280 ion microprobe at the NordSIMS facility, Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm. Protocols for U–Pb data closely follow published methods (Whitehouse & Kamber 2005). Zircon grains were analysed using a *c.* 15 μm , 6 nA O_2^- primary beam, and peak-hopping monocollection in an ion counting electron multiplier (EM) at a mass resolution of *c.* 5400 $M/\Delta M$. Reference material 91500 (1065 Ma, 80 ppm of U; Wiedenbeck *et al.* 1995) was used for calibration of Pb/U ratios using the Pb/UO v. UO₂/UO calibration protocol of Jeon & Whitehouse (2015). Common Pb was corrected using the ^{204}Pb counts assuming a present-day terrestrial Pb-isotope composition model (Stacey & Kramers 1975) following the rationale of Zeck & Whitehouse (1999) that this is largely surface contamination introduced during sample preparation and not common Pb residing

in zircon and/or micro-inclusions. Very low amounts of common Pb were detected during the spot analyses with (<0.1% of total ^{206}Pb), in many cases below detection limit for ^{204}Pb based on the electron multiplier background. Where common Pb corrections were deemed necessary on the basis of measurable ^{204}Pb (>3× standard deviation on the average background), these were small and therefore insensitive to the precise composition of common Pb. Data reduction was performed using the NordSIMS-developed suite of software of M. J. Whitehouse. All ion microprobe data are quoted with 1 σ analytical errors, whereas weighted mean and discordia intercept ages are quoted at 95% confidence levels, and include the decay-constant error of the concordia curve.

For *in situ* (i.e. within polished thin section) and grain mount monazite analysis, the SHRIMP II was operated with a primary beam of O_2^- ions focused through a 50 μm Köhler aperture to produce an oval 10 μm wide spot with a surface current of 0.2–0.4 nA. Secondary ionization was measured without energy filtering on a single electron multiplier on 13 mass stations from 202 (LaPO_2) to 270 (UO_2), with a mass resolution of >5200 for the latter. Secondary ion retardation was used to eliminate ion scatter. Mass stations 202 (LaPO_2), 203 (CePO_2), 205.9 (NdPO_2), 232 (Th), 244.8 (YCeO) and 264 (ThO_2) were analysed for matrix corrections and interference on ^{204}Pb , following the protocols outlined by Fletcher *et al.* (2010). Mass stations were measured through six cycles, with typical count times of 10 s per cycle for ^{204}Pb , background (at 204.04 a.m.u.) and ^{206}Pb , 30 s for ^{207}Pb and 5 s for ^{208}Pb . Reduction of raw data for standards and samples was performed using the SQUID 2.5 and Isoplot 3.70 add-ins for Microsoft Excel 2003 (Ludwig 2001, 2009). Age ($^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$) and abundance of U were calibrated against reference monazite French (514 Ma; 1000 ppm U). High La and high Y–Nd–U standards Z2234 and Z2908, respectively, were used for matrix and interference corrections, following the method described by Fletcher *et al.* (2010). Corrections for common Pb on isotopic U/Pb values and ages were carried out with common Pb estimated from ^{204}Pb counts and the composition of Broken Hill lead.

For Zr-in-rutile thermometry, electron microprobe analysis was undertaken at the Electron Microprobe Laboratory, State Geological Institute of Dionýza Štúra, Bratislava, Slovakia, utilizing a Cameca SX-100 electron microprobe equipped with four wavelength-dispersive spectrometers. Large high-sensitivity, LPET and LLIF crystals and a conventional TAP crystal were used for analysis. Analytical conditions were chosen to balance the best analytical conditions against reasonable acquisition times. An accelerating voltage of 15 kV was used, with a probe current of 200 nA. Zirconium contents were calibrated against an in-house standard.

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Correction notice: The copyright has been updated to Open Access.

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