Geo-thermochronological analysis reveals transition from transverse to axial detrital inputs during Cretaceous rifting in the Songliao Basin, NE China

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Running Head

Transition from transverse to axial detrital inputs in the Songliao Basin

Significance Statement

This manuscript presents new geo-thermochronological dataset of northeastern Songliao Basin in NE China, and discusses the drainage and sedimentation patterns within the framework of published geochronology dataset. Our results show that tectonic extension and volcanism controlled the Songliao Basin sedimentation pattern during the syn-rift stage at \sim 118–103 Ma, but the thermal subsidence and southern source uplift for the post-rift stage at \sim 103–91 Ma, with the provenance change and drainage reorganization.

Abstract

The impact of tectonics, volcanism and climate in controlling temporal and spatial variations in rift basin sedimentation is still poorly understood. Here, we tackle this issue by the analysis of mid-Cretaceous sediments deposited in the Songliao Basin, northeastern China. We present new zircon U-Pb, apatite fission-track and trace-element data from the northeastern part of the basin, which are discussed within the framework of published geochronology dataset. Our results reveal a major provenance change from syn-rift tectonic extension to post-rift thermal subsidence at ~103 Ma. During the syn-rift stage, the detrital inputs were dominantly from transverse rivers sourced from the surrounding mountains including graben shoulders and volcanoes. During the post-rift stage and coeval thermal subsidence, the basin sedimentation was controlled by coexisting transverse and axial drainage systems sourced from uplifting regions in the south. We conclude that tectonics, not climate, exerted a major control in sediment provenance change in the mid-Cretaceous Songliao Basin.

1. INTRODUCTION

Rift-basin drainage and sedimentation patterns have been extensively studied worldwide (Frostick & Reid, 1989, 1990; Khalil & McClay, 2009; Muravchik et al., 2017; Olierook et al., 2019; Tiercelin, 1990) and are considered to be closely linked to tectonics, climate and volcanism (Chen et al., 2022; Gawthorpe & Leeder, 2000; Lambiase & Bosworth, 1995; Tiercelin, 1990). Many authors indicate tectonics as the primary control on drainage pattern and sedimentation (e.g., Olierook et al., 2019), other underline the effects of volcanism (Chen et al., 2022; Elia et al., 2016), whereas other authors emphasize the impact of climate (Lambiase & Bosworth, 1995; Teixeira et al., 2018) and associated changes in precipitation patterns that induce changes in erosion rate, accumulation rate and sediment provenance (Goddard & Carrapa, 2018; Jepson et al., 2021; Teixeira et al., 2018). Due to the complexity of tectonics, climate and volcanism interplay during rift-basin evolution, understanding the spatial and temporal interactions among these factors remains challenging.

The Songliao basin, located in northeastern China, is one of the major late Mesozoic intra-continental rift basins of the eastern Asia continental margin (Figure 1; Wang et al., 2016b). It experienced a Late Jurassic–Early Cretaceous syn-rift stage and a Late Cretaceous post-rift stage, with the formation of two sets of NNE and NW fault systems controlling the boundaries of the graben basins (Li et al., 2021b; Wang et al., 2016b, 2021). Previous works was mainly focused on the Late Cretaceous provenance and drainage patterns (e.g., Li et al., 2021b; Song et al., 2022; Zhang et al., 2017a, b; Zhao et al., 2013), with limited research work on the Early–mid Cretaceous basin evolution. This study is focused on the reconstruction of the drainage evolution during the mid-Cretaceous syn-rift and post-rift stages of the Songliao basin. Our results, when combined with published paleo-climate evolution indicators, shed light on the relationships between tectonics, climate and volcanism during rifting.

2. GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Regional setting

The evolution of northeastern Asia is intimately linked to the subduction of the Paleo-Pacific Plate (Figure 1; Liu et al., 2020a; Wu et al., 2021). The region experienced a tectonic transition from Early Cretaceous extension, with the development of half-graben basins (e.g., Wang et al., 2016b; Zhang et al., 2017b) and extensive magmatism (e.g., Wu et al., 2011; Xu et al., 2013), to Late Cretaceous periodical compression leading to basin inversion (e.g., Li et al., 2021b; Pang et al., 2020; Suo et al., 2020; Zhang et al., 2017b). The Songliao Basin, located along the Late Mesozoic active continental margin of the Paleo-Pacific subduction zone, evolved from a former Triassic–Middle Jurassic foreland basin (Li et al., 2021b) to become a mega-rift system during the Early Cretaceous (e.g., Ge et al., 2012; Wang et al., 2016b) and be later affected by thermal subsidence during the Late Cretaceous (Wang et al., 2016b; Zhang et al., 2017b).

2.2 The Songliao basin stratigraphic succession

The Lower Cretaceous succession of the basin, mainly distributed in the grabens related to the syn-rift stage, includes the Shahezi Fm. (K1*s*) and the Yingcheng Fm. (K1*y*) (Figures 2, 3 and S2). The Shahezi Fm. consists of conglomerates, sandstones and mudstones with interbedded coal seams and volcanic rocks (Figure S2; Li et al., 2021b). The unconformably overlying Yingcheng Fm. records a late Early Cretaceous volcanic cycle and mainly consists of volcanic and volcaniclastic rocks with minor lacustrine facies (Figure S2; e.g., Li et al., 2021b; Wang et al., 2016b).

The Upper Cretaceous post-rift succession includes the Denglouku Fm. (K₂*d*) and the Quantou Fm. (K2*q*) (Figure S2). The former contains conglomerates in the lower part and varicolored siltstone and mudstone intercalated with sandstone and coal seams (Figure S2; Wang et al., 2016b). The latter includes coarse-grained red beds intercalated with fluviatile purple-dark mudstones (Figure S2; Li et al., 2021b; Wang et al., 2016b).

2.3 Potential provenance U-Pb and fission-track signals for the Cretaceous Songliao Basin

The Songliao basin is surrounded by potential sources of detritus with distinguishable geo-thermochronologic fingerprints: the Zhangguangcai Range in the east, the Lesser Xing'an Range in the north, the Great Xing'an Range in the west, and the northern margin of the North China Craton in the south (Figure 1; Wu et al., 2011).

The Zhangguangcai Range is mainly composed of Upper Triassic–Middle Jurassic granites and minor Paleozoic granites (Liu et al., 2008; Wu et al., 2011; Xu et al., 2013), with dominant zircon U-Pb ages at ~210–170 Ma (Figures 1 and S1) and apatite fission-track ages at ~150 Ma (Figure 1). The Lesser Xing'an Range is dominated by two main stages of magmatism of Cambrian–Ordovician (~510–450 Ma) and Late Triassic–Middle Jurassic age (~210–170 Ma; Figure 1), and apatite fission-track ages peaking at ~65 Ma (Figure 1). Early Cretaceous volcanism (~150–110 Ma, peaking at ~130 Ma) is widespread and appears over a vast area throughout the Great Xing'an Range (Figure 1; Xu et al., 2013; Zhang et al., 2010), where minor amounts of granitoids were already emplaced during the Early Paleozoic (~500–460 Ma), Carboniferous–Permian (~350–250 Ma), Jurassic (~190–160 Ma) and Early Cretaceous (~145–120 Ma; Figure 1; Wu et al., 2011). Apatite fission-track data peak at ~55 Ma (Figure 1).

The Yanshan Fold Belt and Liao-Ji Region are located along the northern margin of the eastern North China Craton (Figure 1; Wang et al., 2023). The former dominantly consists of Precambrian basement rocks, Lower Permian–Middle Triassic igneous rocks, and Lower Jurassic to Lower Cretaceous magmatic rocks yielding zircon U-Pb ages of \approx 2.5 Ga, \approx 1.6–1.8 Ga, \approx 260–240 Ma, \approx 162 Ma and ~128 Ma (Figure 1). The latter is dominated by Precambrian basement rocks, Upper Permian–Jurassic and Lower Cretaceous magmatic rocks with zircon U-Pb ages of ~2.5 Ga, ~2.2 Ga, \sim 1.8 Ga, \sim 260–150 Ma and \sim 140–110 Ma (Figure 1). In the basement underneath the Songliao basin, Triassic strata and plutons yield zircon U-Pb ages peaking at \sim 270–230 Ma and \sim 170–160 Ma (Figure 1).

3. SAMPLING, ANALYTICAL METHODS AND DATA COMPILATION

Eighteen samples, including sixteen sandstone and two volcanic rock samples, were collected from the Binxian Graben for this study (Figures 1, 2, S1 and S2; Table S1). Samples B1–B8, B12–B16 and B9–B11 are from the Quantou, Denglouku and Yingcheng Fms. respectively, whereas samples B17–B18 are from the Jurassic Ningyuancun Fm. (Figure S1; Table S1). Ten samples were selected and processed for zircon U-Pb analysis and seven samples for apatite fission-track and trace-element analyses (Tables S1 and S2). The detailed sample information, analytical procedures and result descriptions are shown in the Supporting Information and Supplementary Tables 1, 2 and 3.

Previously published detrital zircon U-Pb data, together with our new data from the Songliao Basin (3199 analyses with <10% discordance from 49 samples), were compiled in Figure 2. These samples are from the syn-rift to post-rift successions exposed in the eastern Songliao Basin (Figure 2). Samples S4, S18, S21 and S25 belong to volcanic-sedimentary successions, whereas the other samples are from sandstones and conglomerates (detailed information in Table S3).

4. RESULTS

4.1 Syn-rift stage (Shahezi and Yingcheng Fms., ~118–103 Ma)

Samples S22 and S25–S32 from the south uplift region and the Xujiaweizi Graben (Figure 2)

are dominated by late Early Cretaceous (~120–110 Ma) magmatic zircon grains, accounting for >50% of the grain-age distributions, with two secondary age groups at \sim 190–150 Ma and \sim 250–210 Ma and a minor one at ~330–280 Ma (Figure 2; An, 2018; Cheng, 2019; Song et al., 2022; Yu et al., 2020), whose major provenance could be derived from the recycling of coeval volcanogenic successions deposited at the rift shoulders (Figures 1, 2, 3c and S10). In the Changling and Lishu Grabens (S23 and S24), the dominant age groups at \sim 280–240 Ma and \sim 200–160 Ma are likely sourced from the erosion or recycling of the Songliao Basin basement (including plutons and Triassic strata; Figures 1, 2 and S10). The zircon U-Pb, Hf isotope, apatite fission-track and trace-element data from the grabens in the eastern basin margin (S20 and S21) attest to provenance from \sim 200–170 Ma juvenile magmatic rocks found in the Zhangguangcai Range and Liao-Ji Region (Figures 1, 2, 3e and S6–10; Song et al., 2022).

4.2 Post-rift stage (Denglouku and Quantou Fms., ~103–91 Ma)

Zircon U-Pb data from the southeastern basin margin (S5, S6, S12, S13) indicate detritus derived from the Liao-Ji Region, with appearance of Precambrian zircon grains in the Denglouku Fm., which further increase in the Quantou Fm. (Figures 1, 2 and S10; Li et al., 2012, 2020). Major sediment supply in the northeastern basin margin (S1–4, S14–15) was still from the Zhangguangcai Range (Figures 1, 2 and S10), however, the occurrence of minor age group at ~240–210 Ma in the Quantou Fm. (S1 and S2) possibly indicates some detrital input from southern sources (Figures 1 and 2), as confirmed by the occurrence of apatite grains with large D_{par} values (S2, Figure S9).

Three samples from the lower Denglouku Fm. (S19) and upper Quantou Fm. (S7 and S8) in the southern Songliao Basin show a remarkable provenance change from south Great Xing'an Range to Liao-Ji Region and/or Yanshan Fold Belt (Figures 1, 2 and S10; Wang et al., 2022a). Four samples from the 2nd, 3rd and 4th member of Denglouku Fm. (S16, S17, S18) and Quantou Fm. (S9) in the north graben region indicate gradually increasing proportions of zircon U-Pb ages at ~150–140 Ma, ~320–240 Ma, ~1.8 Ga and ~2.5 Ga, possibly derived from the Liao-Ji Region and/or Yanshan Fold Belt, and decreasing proportions of zircon U-Pb ages at ~130–110 Ma and ~170 Ma, possibly sourced mainly from the Great Xing'an Range and Zhangguangcai Range (Figures 1, 2 and S10). The dominance of ~130–120 Ma zircon grains in samples S10 and S11 (Quantou Fm.) that are proximal to the graben margin indicate detritus shed from the Great Xing'an Range (Figures 1, 2 and S10).

5. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

During the syn-rift stage, there are considerable differences in detrital zircon spectra of coeval sediment samples collected from different grabens of the Songliao basin (Figure 2). This observation implies the lack of an axial drainage system across the basin (Figure 4a), which was precluded by the presence of along-strike barriers formed by accommodation zones with positive topographic features (Lambiase & Bosworth, 1995). The accommodation zones segmented the rift system into grabens with depocenters isolated from each other and no sediment connection (Figures 4a and S11–S14; Lambiase & Bosworth, 1995). Besides, volcanoes located in rift topographic lows (Wang et al., 2016a, b) could also locally block any potential axial fluvial systems, thus creating isolated lakes and depocenters (Chen et al., 2022), but also significantly increasing the accumulation rate (Figure 3b). The drainage geometry in these isolated grabens characterized the limited fan delta-lacustrine-volcanic system (Figures S11 and S12; Table S4). During tectonic extension, subsidence rate is generally greater than detritus input, creating accommodation space and promoting the development of scarps on the rift shoulders (Olierook et al., 2019). In the Songliao basin, the detritus derived from the surrounding mountains and/or prominent footwall escarpments were transported by the transverse drainage towards the graben depocenters (Figures 4a and S12).

Transition from tectonic extension to thermal subsidence took place in the middle Cretaceous at ca. 103 Ma (Ge et al., 2012; Wang et al., 2016b). Collectively, the graben margins were still controlled by transverse drainage at this time (Figure 4b), and the areas more proximal to the rift axis in the north were affected sporadically by an axial drainage, with detritus from the Liao-Ji Region transported to the north basin since the middle Cretaceous (upper Denglouku Fm.; Figure 4b). Transition from dominant fan delta-lacustrine-volcanic facies deposited in the grabens, to alluvial fan-alluvial plain-lacustrine facies (Denglouku Fm.) and fluvial-floodplain-shallow lake facies across the entire basin (Quantou Fm.; Figures S11–15; Table S4; Feng et al., 2010; Yang et al., 2021), also points to a notable drainage reorganization in mid Cretaceous times.

Thermal-subsidence periods are typically characterized by equilibrium between generation of long-wavelength accommodation space and sediment supply, which would promote axial drainage development and incorporation of materials from distal sources (Friedmann & Burbank, 1995; Gawthorpe & Leeder, 2000; Olierook et al., 2019). Besides, mountain uplifting could be another important player leading to basin drainage reorganization, as attested in the Songliao Basin by depocenter migration towards the northwest (Zhang et al., 2017b), and by thermochronological evidence of detrital supply from southern sources (Figure S16). This is also consistent with the occurrence of high-elevation coastal mountains along the eastern Asian margin during the early Late Cretaceous (Zhang et al., 2016, 2021). This suggests that tectonics promoting mountain uplift coupled with thermal subsidence in the basin favored the establishment of an axial northward-directed transport of detritus (Figure 4b).

Climate is another important factor generally affecting erosion and accumulation rates. Humid climate with high precipitation amplifies tectonic signals by increasing erosion rates recorded in sedimentary successions, whereas arid climate inhibits erosion thus masking any contemporaneous tectonic signals (e.g., Goddard & Carrapa, 2018; Jepson et al., 2021). There is a pronounced climate variation recorded from the lower Denglouku Fm., associated with a humid and relatively high temperature climate, to the upper Denglouku and Quantou Fms. associated with dry and cold climate (Figure 3d). However, the steadily increasing accumulation rate documented through the Denglouku and Quantou Fms. (Figure 3b) suggests that the effects of climate are less important than tectonics and volcanism in shaping the evolution of the basin.

In summary: (i) During the Songliao basin syn-rift stage, the fault-bounded graben basin sedimentation was controlled by tectonic extension and volcanism, and detritus input from the surrounding mountains, including graben shoulders and volcanoes, were transported by the transverse drainage systems into the basin; (ii) During the post-rift stage, the basin sedimentation was controlled by thermal subsidence and uplift of southern source area, with consequent drainage reorganization and provenance changes with the development of an axial drainage system.

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FIGURE 1

(a) Schematic diagram showing the relative contributions between rift axially-derived and shoulder-derived detritus. (b) Schematic tectonic subdivision of the Eurasian continent, modified after Liu et al. (2017). (c) Topographic map of the northeast China, showing the location of the Songliao basin and surrounding mountain ranges. (d) Zircon U-Pb and AFT kernel density estimations (KDE) from different potential provenances surrounding the Songliao Basin. Abbreviations: YSFB–Yanshan Fold Belt; SGXR–South Great Xing'an Range; NGXR–Nouth Great Xing'an Range; LXR–Lesser Xing'an Range; ZGR–Zhangguangcai Range; SB–Songliao Basin; LJR–Liao-Ji Region. References and data related to zircon U-Pb data and apatite fission track of the Songliao basin and surrounding mountains are presented in the Supporting Information or refer to Ma and Xu (2021); Wu et al. (2011); Zhang et al. (2014), and Supplementary Tables 4, 5, and 7.

FIGURE 2

Summarized detrital zircon U-Pb KDEs or PDPs from the Shahezi, Yingcheng, Denglouku and Quantou Fms. in the Songliao Basin (An, 2018; Cheng, 2019; Li et al., 2012, 2020, 2021a; Liu, 2020b; Song et al., 2022; Wang et al., 2022a; Yang et al., 2014; Yu et al., 2020; Zhang et al., 2017b; Zhang, 2018, and this study). The Songliao basin map showing Lower Cretaceous segmented volcanogenic grabens (in pink), which is covered by the basin-wide post-rift sedimentary sequence of the Upper Cretaceous (white), modified after Wang et al. (2016). Sample locations are also indicated in this map. Detailed zircon U-Pb and Hf isotope, apatite fission track and trace element compositions description and data see in the Supporting Information and Supplementary Table 6. Abbreviations: YSFB–Yanshan Fold Belt; GXR–Great Xing'an Range; LXR–Lesser Xing'an Range; ZGR–Zhangguangcai Range; SBB–Songliao Basin Basement (including Triassic strata and plutons); LJR–Liao-Ji Region.

FIGURE 3

(a) The depositional age constraints of the Shahezi, Yingcheng, Denglouku and Quantou Fms..

References: a–An (2018); b–Yu et al. (2020); c–Liu et al. (2021); d–Wang et al. (2022b); e–Ma et al. (2020). (b) Accumulation rate estimated by the depositional age constrains and thickness from the SK2E well. It shows the steadily increasing accumulation rate from the Denglouku Fm. to Quantou Fm.. (c) The summarized zircon U-Pb ages from late Early Cretaceous volcanic rocks deposited in the Songliao Basin (Data see in the Supplementary Table 8). (d) The Paleo-climate evolution indicators modified after Wang et al. (2013). The results indicate a pronounced climate change between the Denglouku Fm. and Quantou Fm.. (e) AFT KDE of the Zhangguangcai Range and thermochronology age trends in the northeastern Songliao basin.

FIGURE 4

(a)–(b) 3D conceptual models of sedimentation and drainage evolution of the Shahezi, Yingcheng, Denglouku and Quantou Fms., modified after Cheng (2019); Feng et al. (2010); Wang et al. (2016), and sample locations are also indicated in Figure 2.

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Supporting Information

Geo-thermochronological analysis reveals transition from transverse to axial detrital inputs during Cretaceous rifting in the Songliao Basin, NE China

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1. Sample description

The study area, also known as Binxian depression, is located at the northeastern margin of the Songliao Basin (Figure 1c), where late Early Cretaceous sedimentary successions are sporadically outcropped in several regions (Figure S1). Eighteen samples, including sixteen sandstone and two volcanics samples, were collected for this study (Figure S1; Table S1).

Samples B1 and B2 were collected from the outcrop at the Yonggan village of Qingan county (Figure S1), which changes up from brown coarse sandstone with interbedded grayish mudstone and gravels, to the brown conglomerate and pebbly sandstone couplets (Figures S2, S3, and S4). It indicates a fluvial delta plain facies environment. Samples B1 and B2 were taken from the brown coarse sandstone and conglomerate layers respectively, with an occurrence of 62°∠9° (Figures S2, S3, and S4).

The outcrop for sample B3 was exposed at the Sujia village, Bin county (Figure S1), and is dominated by brown coarse thick sandstone and conglomerate couplets (Figures S2, S3, and S4). Sample B3 was taken from the coarse sandstone layer (Figures S2, S3, and S4).

Samples B4, B5, B6, B7, and B8 were taken from a small section outcropped at the Hengtai village of Qingan county (Figure S1). This section ranges upwards from thick grayish greywacke with interbedded thin amaranth mudstone, through thin gray tuff layer, to grayish tuffaceous greywacke and amaranth mudstone couplets (Figures S2, S3, and S4) and represents the fluvial facies. This section has an occurrence of 353°∠9° at the lower part and 345°∠9° at the upper part, respectively (Figure S3). Samples B7 and B8 were collected from the greywacke layers at the bottom (Figures S2, S3, and S4), whereas samples B4, B5, and B6 are the tuffaceous greywacke or tuff at the top (Figures S2, S3, and S4). Abundant volcanic quartz grains and a small number of lithic grains were observed in samples B4, B7, and B8 (Figure S4).

A series of volcanic-sedimentary strata were exposed at the Mengjia village of Bin county (Figure S1), which is composed mainly of the dark-red basalt andesite, yellow-green basalt andesite, and darkred andesitic crystal tuff, with the occurrence of 271°∠29° (Figures S2, S3, and S4). Samples B9, B10, and B11 were sampled from the dark-red basalt andesite, yellow-green basalt andesite, and dark-red andesitic crystal tuff layers, respectively (Figures S2, S3, and S4).

Another outcrop, ~2.5 km east of the previous sampling location (B9, B10 and B11), is located at the Moshigang village of Bin county (Figure S1). This small outcrop varies from alternating of thick brown greywacke and thin grayish tuffaceous siltstone, to thick brown tuffaceous sandstone (Figures S2, S3, and S4). The general occurrence of the sedimentary rocks is about 191°∠10°. Samples B15, B14, B13, and B12 were taken from greywacke, tuffaceous siltstone, greywacke, and tuffaceous sandstone layers of this outcrop, respectively (Figures S2, S3, and S4). Volcanic quartz grains were observed from the tuffaceous sandstone, whereas greywacke contains few volcanic grains (Figure S4).

Sample B16 was collected from the sandstone outcrop situated at \sim 15 km northeast of the previous sample location (Figure S1). It mainly consists of alternating of brown coarse sandstone and fine sandstone with the occurrence of 356°∠46°, and sample B16 is the medium sandstone from this outcrop (Figures S2, S3, and S4).

Samples B17 and B18 are the amaranth welded tuff and grey welded tuff exposed at ~1 km north of the Yongcai village of Bin county (Figure S1).

2. Methodology

2.1 Zircon U-Pb dating analysis

Zircon U-Pb analyses for the Batch 1 and 3 were analyzed at the Beijing Quick-Thermo Science & Technology Co., Ltd, using an ESI New Wave NWR 193^{UC} (TwoVol2) laser ablation system connected to an Agilent 8900 ICP-QQQ, following analytical procedures described in Ji et al. (2020). Data reduction was conducted off-line using Iolite package which runs within the Igor Pro program (Paton, Hellstrom, Paul, Woodhead, & Hergt, 2011). Batch 2 were performed on an Agilent 7500a quadrupole ICP-MS equipped with a 193 nm Excimer ArF laser ablation system at the Beijing Createch Testing Technology Co., Ltd. Data reduction was conducted off-line by ICPMSDataCal program (Y. Liu et al., 2009). Zircon 91500 (Wiedenbeck et al., 1995) was used as primary reference material for all U-Pb age determinations. The weighted mean U-Pb ages and concordia plots were processed using Isoplot 4.15. Adaptive kernel density estimate and corresponding histograms were processed by the Isoplot R (Vermeesch, 2018). For these zircons with the U-Pb ages younger than 1500 Ma, the ²⁰⁶Pb/²³⁸U ages were used, whereas the ²⁰⁷Pb/²⁰⁶Pb ages were used for these zircons older than 1500 Ma, according to (Spencer, Kirkland, & Taylor, 2016).

2.2 Apatite fission track (FT) and trace element (TE) compositions analyses

Apatite FT analysis was performed at the Institute of Geology and Geophysics, Chinese Academy of Sciences (IGGCAS). Polished mounts embedded with apatite grains were etched in 5M nitric acid at 20°C for 20 seconds to reveal the spontaneous fission tracks. Gold coating (~5–7 nm thickness) was applied to the etched mounts within a vacuum chamber in order to strengthen the reflectivity of the polished surface and minimize internal reflections under the microscope (Gleadow et al., 2009). Apatite crystals with polished surfaces parallel to prismatic crystal faces and homogeneous track distributions were selected and imaged using a Zeiss Axio Imager M2m Autoscan System. The TrackWorks software was used to capture stacks of high-resolution digital images with a $\times 100$ dry objective under both transmitted and reflected light using a highly-sensitive and fast iDS camera. The dimensions of the images were precisely calibrated using a graticule. Manual counting of fission tracks was carried out using the accompanying FastTracks software using the coincidence mapping technique (Gleadow et al., 2009). FastTracks was also used to manually measure true confined track lengths, track etch pit diameters parallel to the crystallographic c-axis (D_{par}) and their orientation with respect to the crystallographic c-axis direction.

The *in situ* quantification of ²³⁸U concentrations and trace elements for each counted grain was measured simultaneously from the same sampled aliquots through 30 μm spot analyses using an Agilent 8900 ICP-QQQ coupled with an ESI New Wave NWR 193^{UC} (TwoVol2) laser ablation system, at the Beijing Quick-Thermo Science & Technology Co., Ltd. Ablation was carried out over 20 seconds on the selected grains and reference materials (primary NIST SRM 612 glass and secondary apatite Mud Tank) with a 30 μm diameter beam size, ~3.0 J/cm² energy and 5 Hz repetition rate. Background subtraction and correction for laser downhole elemental fractionation for the time-resolved LA-ICPMS data were performed using the Iolite data reduction package within the Wavemetrics Igor Pro data analysis software (Paton et al., 2011). Single grain AFT ages were calculated using an absolute calibration based on primary constants (aggregate $\xi = 2.001 \times 10^{-3}$). Isoplot R (Vermeesch, 2018) was used to prepare radial plots and illustrate the distribution of individual grain ages together with the corresponding Dpar values, and to deconvolve grain-age distributions into statistically meaningful grain-age populations. The detailed analytical procedures were described in Guo et al. (2022), N. Wang et al. (2021), Zhang et al. (2023).

3. Results

3.1 Zircon U-Pb dating results

628 zircon grains from eight samples collected from the Quantou Formation (B1, B3, B4, and B8), Denglouku Formation (B12, B15, and B16), and Yingcheng Formation (B11) were performed for zircon U-Pb dating analysis. Except for 78 grains with discordance ages (discordance $> 10\%$), the remaining 550 zircon grains are adequate for the evaluation of provenance. Also in the case, two volcanic rock samples were also analyzed by the zircon U-Pb dating technique. All zircon U-Pb data obtained in this study are listed in the Supplementary Table 1. Cumulative age distribution, adaptive kernel density estimation plots and corresponding histograms, as well as pie charts are exhibited in Figure S6. Representative cathodoluminesce (CL) images and concordia diagrams are shown in Figures S5 and S7.

The detrital zircon U-Pb data of the eight samples show the age range from 99 to 904 Ma (Figures S6 and S7; Table S1), and most of the zircons record the Late Triassic–Middle Jurassic ages and fall in the 220–160 Ma age range with primary age peak at 200–165 Ma (Figures S6 and S7; Table S1). Some early Paleozoic zircons exist in samples B1, B4 and B8 of the Quantou Formation, which could be framed into subordinate groups of 430–409 and 528–446 Ma (Figures S6 and S7; Table S1). Besides, sample B3 also show a relatively large proportion of the Late Paleozoic–Early Mesozoic ages, peaking at ~228 Ma and ~266 Ma (Figures S6 and S7; Table S1). Most zircons from these samples are subhedral to euhedral in shape and show oscillatory zoning in CL images (Figure S5), suggesting a predominantly detrital input from magmatic origin.

Detrital zircons from sample B1 are mostly subhedral to euhedral and variable in size with length/width ratios of ~1:1–1:3. In CL images, most of zircons show banded internal structures, suggesting a predominantly detrital input from magmatic origin (Figure S5). 54 usable ages were obtained from the 74 analyzed zircons. Zircon U-Pb ages range from 99 to 684 Ma, with two main peaks at ~179 Ma and ~195 Ma, and one minor peak at ~495 Ma (Figures S6 and S7; Table S1). A youngest age of 98.5 ± 2.9 Ma could define a limit on the maximum depositional age of this sample (Figures S6 and S7; Table S1), indicating the sample collected from the Quantou Formation.

Samples B8 and B4 were collected from a small sedimentary section of Quantou Formation (Figure S1), and yielded the similar age spectrums of detrital zircons (Figures S6 and S7). These zircons from sample B8 are mostly uniform in grain-size, euhedral in shape, with length/width ratios of 1:1–1:3. Most of them show oscillatory zoning in CL images and Th/U ratios for these grains range from 0.23 to 2.09, indicating a predominant detrital input from magmatic rocks (Figure S5). 71 usable zircon U-Pb analyses were obtained from 78 analyses, and yielded four age groups of 199–168 Ma, 226–215 Ma, 311–293 Ma and 527–428 Ma, with peaks at ~175 Ma, ~187 Ma, ~220 Ma, ~301 Ma, \sim 461 Ma, \sim 496 Ma, and \sim 518 Ma, respectively (Figures S6 and S7; Table S1). Similar with sample B8, zircons from sample B4 are euhedral and uniform in size, with an average length of ~100 μm (Figure S5). The banded internal structures also can be recognized from their CL images (Figure S5), indicating a magmatic origin. The Th/U ratios of these zircons also show high values and vary from 0.26 to 1.21, except for one analysis with a low value of 0.09. 69 concordant and near concordant ages from 79 analyses show an age range from 528 to 104 Ma, and form a principal group at 202–171 Ma, with major peaks at ~175 and ~187 Ma, and three subordinate groups of 109–104 Ma, 260–225 Ma and 528–458 Ma (Figures S6 and S7; Table S1). The three youngest grains give a weighted mean age limiting the maximum depositional age of two samples from the Quantou Formation to 107.5 ± 3.0 Ma (Figures S6 and S7; Table S1).

These zircons from sample B3 show some variations in size and the largest grains have a length of ~200 μm, but most of these grains range between 50 and 100 μm in length. Some small zircon grains are rounded in shape, perhaps implying a longer transport distance from their source. However, most grains express euhedral or subhedral forms and oscillatory zoning in CL images, indicating a dominantly magmatic origin (Figure S5). In Figure S6, detrital zircons preserve a more restricted range of old U-Pb ages. Out of 91 grains analyzed, 79 zircon ages are usable and range widely from 904 to 107 Ma, which have four primary peaks at ~176 Ma, ~191 Ma, ~218 Ma, ~244 Ma, and several secondary age peaks at ~107 Ma, ~120 Ma, ~266 Ma and ~426 Ma (Figures S6 and S7; Table S1). Maximum depositional age for this sandstone sample is defined by the weighted mean age of the three youngest zircon grains at 107.1 ± 4.4 Ma (Figures S6 and S7; Table S1), implying the sample from the Quantou Formation.

Samples B15 and B12 were collected from the lower greywacke and upper tuffaceous sandstone layers of the same outcrop, respectively (Figure S1). Zircons from sample B15 are mostly subhedral to euhedral and almost all display oscillatory zoning (Figure S5). These zircons are mostly uniform in grain-size with length/width ratios of 1:1–1:2. Among the 67 usable ages from 73 analyses, almost all zircons are Late Triassic–Middle Jurassic ranging from 216 to 176 Ma except for several Paleozoic ages, with the main peaks at ~182 Ma, ~191 Ma and ~208 Ma (Figures S6 and S7; Table S1). However, these zircons from sample B12 show somewhat variations in size, some crystals have a length of \sim 200– 100 μm, but most of these crystals are <100 μm in length. These grains mostly are subhedral to euhedral in shape and show distinct oscillatory growth zoning under CL images (Figure S5). Out of 84 grains analyzed, 73 zircon ages are usable and show a wide range from 493 to 112 Ma (Figure S6; Table S1).

There are abundant zircons forming an age cluster between 211 and 165 Ma, with major peaks at ~176 Ma, ~194 Ma and ~208 Ma (Figures S6 and S7; Table S1). The two youngest zircons show a weighted mean ²⁰⁶Pb/²³⁸U age of 115.4 \pm 2.7 Ma and provide a limit on the maximum depositional age (Figures S6 and S7; Table S1), indicating the two samples collected from the Denglouku Formation.

Sample B11 shows somewhat variation in detrital zircon age pattern (Figures S6 and S7; Table S1). These zircons are mostly uniform in grain-size and most of these are euhedral in grain-shape, characterized by banded internal structures (Figure S5). The majority of Th/U ratios vary from 0.22 to 1.79, implying a dominant majority of magmatic zircons. 68 U-Pb analysis spots were obtained from 68 zircon crystals, 64 of which are concordant (Figures S6 and S7; Table S1). These ages show a range from 350 to 112 Ma, and cluster around 120–112 Ma, 198–161 Ma and 309–289 Ma, with the main peaks at ~167 Ma, ~178 Ma, and the minor peaks at ~118 Ma, ~195 Ma and ~301 Ma, respectively (Figures S6 and S7; Table S1). The five youngest zircon grains show a weighted mean $^{206}Pb/^{238}U$ age of 117.6 \pm 4.5 Ma, which could be used to limit the deposition age, corresponding to the Yingcheng Formation.

For the sample B16, 73 usable zircon U-Pb ages were obtained from 81 analyses and preserve a less restricted range of detrital zircon ages. These zircons are variable in size, subhedral to euhedral in shape and most zircons show oscillatory zoning (Figure S5). All concordant analyses record the Late Triassic–Middle Jurassic ages and cluster around 224–166 Ma, with the main peaks at ~181 Ma, ~200 Ma, ~213 Ma, and minor peaks at ~167 Ma and ~223 Ma (Figures S6 and S7; Table S1).

Two volcanic rock samples (B17, B18) are the welded tuff and yielded the weighted mean ²⁰⁶Pb/²³⁸U age of 179 \pm 1 Ma (n = 26, MSWD = 0.69, Figure S8) with Th/U ratios ranging from 0.46 to 1.13, and the weighted mean ²⁰⁶Pb/²³⁸U age of 182 ± 2 Ma (n = 21, MSWD = 1.4, Figure S8) with Th/U ratio ranging from 0.47 to 0.98, respectively. These results support an Early Jurassic eruption age for the volcanics of the Ningyuancun Formation.

3.2 Apatite fission track (FT) and trace element compositions results

The summarized AFT data and radial plots for the analyzed samples are shown in Table S2 and Figure 9, respectively. Trace element chemistry of detrital apatite grains is a useful approach to extract host rock-type information (G. O'Sullivan, Chew, Kenny, Henrichs, & Mulligan, 2020). To attain this, trace element compositions information for every unknown detrital apatite is required to be plotted on Sr/Y versus ΣLREE (La, Ce, Pr, Nd) discriminant biplots (G. O'Sullivan et al., 2020), which is superposed on the large bedrock reference dataset (G. O'Sullivan et al., 2020; G. J. O'Sullivan, Chew, Morton, Mark, & Henrichs, 2018), categorized by the machine-learning algorithm (support vector machine, SVM). Low-or high-grade metamorphic rocks, or several sub-categories of igneous rocks origin for the apatite unknowns could be determined from the biplot. The support vector machine (SVM) apatite classification diagrams are also displayed in Figure 9. The detailed apatite fission track and trace element data from the analyzed apatite unknowns are available in the Supplementary Tables 2 and 3.

3.2.1 Yingcheng Formation

Sample B11 from the andesitic crystal tuff layer of Yingcheng Formation (~125–105 Ma; P. Wang et al., 2016), whose maximum depositional age is constrained at ~118 Ma by the youngest zircon U-Pb age group (Figure S6; Table S1), yielded two AFT age populations at ~89 Ma (77% data) and ~179 Ma (23% data) (Figure S9; Table S2). The dominant younger AFT age population is younger than its depositional age, indicative of significant residence in the AFT partial annealing zone (PAZ) after the deposition. It is also evidenced by the broad confined track lengths distribution with a MTL of 12.6 \pm 1.6 μm (Figure S9; Table S2).

3.2.2 Denglouku Formation

Sample B16 was collected from the sandstone layer of lower member of Denglouku Formation (~103–96 Ma, Figure 3), whose 82 individual AFT ages can be separated into three populations of ~99 Ma (55% data), ~165 Ma (33% data), and ~334 Ma (12% data) (Figure S9; Table S2). The youngest AFT population is younger than its depositional age estimated at less than 118 Ma (Figure S6), indicating significant residence in the AFT PAZ after the deposition. The confined track lengths distribution shows a MTL of 12.7 ± 2.0 μm (Table S2).

Sample B15 was collected from the greywacke layer of Denglouku Formation (~103–96 Ma, Figure 3), and its depositional age can be constrained at ~115 Ma by the youngest zircon U-Pb age group from the above tuffaceous sandstone layer (Figure S6; Table S1). An Early Cretaceous age population of ~85 Ma (P1, 17% data), a Middle Jurassic age population of ~161 Ma (P2, 70% data) and a Carboniferous age population of ~313 Ma (P3, 13% data) are distinguished from these 65 AFT single-grain ages (Figure S9; Table S2). The Early Cretaceous AFT age population of ~85 Ma is also younger than its estimated depositional age, possibly indicating significant residence within the AFT PAZ after the deposition.

3.2.3 Quantou Formation

Sample B3 was deposited at \sim 100–94 Ma, whose 67 analyzed apatite crystals can be clearly separated into two AFT populations of $~81$ Ma (P1, 38 %) and $~162$ Ma (P2, 62 %), with a MTL distribution of 12.7 ± 2.0 μm (Figure S9; Table S2). The existence of younger AFT population that is younger than its depositional age indicates significant residence within the AFT PAZ after the deposition. Most of these apatite grains were plotted in the 'I+M' field, whereas some apatite crystals lying in the 'LM' and 'HM' field are also detected (Figure S9).

For sample B1, 13 individual AFT ages range from 198 Ma to 64 Ma and can be statistically decomposed into two age populations: a Late Cretaceous age of 79.9 ± 11.3 Ma (P1, 51 % data) and a Middle Jurassic age of 164.4 ± 36.1 Ma (P2, 49% data) (Figure S9; Table S2). The younger population is younger than the corresponding stratigraphic age (~100–94 Ma; P. Wang et al., 2016), possibly suggesting partially resetting of the AFT system after the deposition. Almost all apatite grains were plotted in the 'HM' and 'I + M' fields of the SVM apatite classification diagram (Figure S9).

3.2.4 Early Jurassic volcanic rocks

Samples B17 and B18 were collected from the Early Jurassic welded tuffs of the Ningyuancun Formation (Figure S1). Sample B17 yielded Middle Jurassic AFT central age (164 \pm 7 Ma, Figure S9), younger than its zircon U-Pb age (179 \pm 1 Ma, Figure S8), with an insufficient MTL distribution of 12.5 ± 1.2 μm. It possibly implies slightly annealing since then. Samples B18 yielded Early Jurassic AFT central ages (174 \pm 9 Ma, Figure S9) overlapping within error with the corresponding zircon U-Pb ages (182 \pm 2 Ma, Figure S8), with a MTL of 12.3 \pm 1.3 µm (Table S2). This AFT age constrains the timing of magmatic crystallization (Malusà & Fitzgerald, 2020), indicative of no significant annealing due to burial or other reheating event. All apatite grains cluster in the 'I+M' and 'ALK' regions in the SVM apatite classification diagram (Figure S9).

4. A brief summary of zircon U-Pb and Hf isotope, apatite FT and TE compositions data of mid-Cretaceous Songliao Basin

4.1 Syn-rift stage (Shahezi and Yingcheng Formations)

Shahezi Formation

Samples S26–S32 are from the third or fourth member of Shahezi Fm. (SK-IIE well) at the Xujiaweizi Graben (Figure 2). Most of zircons show oscillatory growth zoning with relatively high Th/U ratios, suggesting a magmatic origin (An, 2018; Song et al., 2022; Yu et al., 2020). These samples consistently reveal a major Early Cretaceous age group at ~130–110 Ma, two secondary age groups at \sim 190–150 Ma and \sim 250–210 Ma and a weak age group at \sim 330–280 Ma (Figure 2). Sample S26 has a juvenile magmatic origin inferred by Hf isotopic analysis (Song et al., 2022). Sample S25 was also collected from the Shahezi Fm. at the south uplift region. Most of zircons are derived from the magmatic origin characteristic of clear oscillatory zones, and define a dominant age group at ~130– 110 Ma, and two minor groups at ~170–140 Ma and ~260–230 Ma (Figure 2) (Cheng, 2019).

Yingcheng Formation

Samples S20 and S21 were collected from the Yingcheng Fm. that outcropped at the northeastern and southeastern basin margin, respectively. Most of zircons in sample S21 are derived from the magmatic origin (Figure S5) and yielded a dominant age group at ~200–160 Ma, with minor groups at ~120–110 Ma and ~310–280 Ma (Figure 2). Sample S21 yielded two AFT age populations at ~89 Ma (77% data) and ~179 Ma (23% data)(Figures 3e and S9; Table S2). However, these zircons in sample S20 showed a clear magmatic origin and a unimodal signature at ~230–190 Ma (Figure 2), and its Hf signature from all 10 grains analyzed is juvenile (Song et al., 2022).

Samples S24, S23 and S22 were collected from the Changling, Lishu and Xujiaweizi Grabens, respectively (Figure 2). Sample S24 yielded two major age groups at ~200–160 Ma and ~280–240 Ma, whereas sample S23 shows a major discrete age group at ~320–240 Ma and a secondary discrete age group at ~210–160 Ma (Figure 2). Sample S22 was also collected from the SK-IIE well at the Xujiaweizi Graben, yielded a similar age pattern with these samples from the Shahezi Fm. and defines three major age groups at \sim 130–105 Ma, \sim 190–160 Ma, and \sim 250–210 Ma, with a weak age group at \sim 310–280 Ma (Figure 2). Most of zircons are from the juvenile magmatic origin confirmed by the typical magmatic oscillatory zones in CL images, high Th/U ratios and Hf isotope analysis (Song et al., 2022).

4.2 Post-rift stage (Denglouku and Quantou Formations)

Denglouku Formation

Samples S12, S13, S14, and S15 were collected from the Denglouku Fm. that outcropped at the southeastern and northeastern basin margin, respectively (Figure 2). Sample S12 (including three samples) was collected from the lower, middle and upper members of the Denglouku Fm, respectively. and yielded two Mesozoic age groups at ~200–160 Ma and ~270–230 Ma, with two minor groups at ~1.8 Ga and ~2.5 Ga (Figure 2). Sample S13 yielded a similar age spectrum with sample S12 with two major age groups at \sim 200–160 Ma and \sim 280–240 Ma, and a minor age group at \sim 2.5–2.4 Ga (Figure 2). The clear oscillatory growth zonation and high Th/U ratios confirm that most of zircons of two samples are derived from the magmatic origin (S. Li et al., 2012; S. Li, He, & Chen, 2020). Samples S14 and S15 are located at the Bin Graben and almost all zircons are from the magmatic origin and yielded a single age group at ~220–170 Ma (Figures 2 and S5). These apatite fission track ages can be separated into three populations of ~99–85 Ma, ~165–161 Ma and ~334–313 Ma (Figures 3e and S9; Table S2).

Samples S19, S17, S16, and S18 were collected from the south uplift region, Yingshan, and Xujiaweizi Grabens, respectively (Figure 2). Sample S19 was collected from the lower part of the Denglouku Fm. at the south uplift region and yielded two discrete age groups at ~180–120 Ma and ~250–210 Ma (Figure 2). Sample S18 was collected from the second member of the Denglouku Fm. at the Xujiaweizi Graben, and these zircons were derived from the magmatic origin and yielded two major age groups at \sim 120–100 Ma and \sim 190–150 Ma (Figure 2) (S. Liu, 2020). Sample S17 was collected from the third member of the Denglouku Fm. at the Yingshan Graben and defines two discrete major age groups at ~150–100 Ma and ~170–150 Ma, with a minor group at ~350–270 Ma (Figure 2). Sample S16 was collected from the fourth member of the Denglouku Fm. at the Yingshan Graben and these zircons yielded four discrete age groups at \sim 160–120 Ma, \sim 310–240 Ma, \sim 2.1–1.6 Ga, and \sim 2.7– 2.3 Ga (Figure 2). In CL images, more than half of these zircon grains show magmatic oscillatory zones, while a considerable proportion of zircons have either a core-rim, or dark and other complicated structures (Song et al., 2022). Hf isotope analyses suggested that Late Paleoproterozoic zircons experienced reworking of pre-existing crust material, while Phanerozoic zircons is hybrid origin between mantle-derived juvenile magmas and crust-derived materials (Song et al., 2022).

Quantou Formation

Samples S1–S6 were collected from the eastern basin margin (Figure 2). Sample S2 was located at the Bin Graben and yielded a dominant age group at ~210–180 Ma and two minor groups at ~120– 110 and ~240–220 Ma (Figure 2). Similarly, samples S3 and S4 were collected from the northern Bin Graben and also yielded a dominant age group at ~210–180 Ma with a minor discrete age group at ~530–450 Ma (Figure 2). Most of zircons from three samples are derived from magmatic origin (Figure S5). Sample S2 can be clearly separated into two AFT populations of ~81 Ma (38 % data) and ~162 Ma (62 % data) (Figures 3e and S9; Table S2). Most of these apatite grains were plotted in the 'I+M' field, whereas some apatite crystals lying in the 'LM' and 'HM' fields were also detected (Figure S9). Sample S3 can be statistically decomposed into two age populations at ~ 80 Ma (51% data) and ~ 164 Ma (49% data) (Figures 3e and S9; Table S2). Almost all apatite grains were plotted in the 'HM' and $T+M'$ fields in the SVM apatite classification diagram (Figure S9). Most of zircons from sample S1 are also derived from magmatic origin and define a dominant age group at ~190–150 Ma and a minor group at ~230–200 Ma (Figure 2) (T. Li et al., 2021). Samples S5 and S6 from the southeastern basin margin show a considerable proportion of Precambrian zircons with two groups at \sim 1.8 Ga and \sim 2.6– 2.3 Ga (Figure 2). For the two samples, some zircons displayed oscillatory growth zoning consistent with a primary magmatic origin, while other zircons showed typical fir-tree zoning, sector or planar internal textures (S. Li et al., 2012; S. Li et al., 2020).

Samples S7 and S8 were collected from the south uplift region, whereas samples S9, S10, and S11 were collected from the horst or graben regions in the north basin (Figure 2). Samples S7 and S8 display a dominant magmatic origin and yielded a major age group at ~250–210 Ma and a minor age group at ~130–110 Ma (Figure 2). Sample S10 yielded a unimodal age group at ~130 Ma, whereas sample S11 yielded a major age group at \sim 150–110 Ma with two secondary age groups at \sim 190–160 Ma and ~300–270 Ma, and a minor age group at ~240–200 Ma (Figure 2). Sample S9 yielded a major age group at ~150–110 Ma and two secondary age groups at ~1.8 Ga and ~2.5 Ga, with a discrete age range at ~350–210 Ma (Figure 2).

Figure S1 (a) Geological sketch map of northeastern Songliao Basin, showing the spatial distribution of major rock units (Anonymous, 1969, 1970; 1991; and northeast China-related 1:1000000 geological map). The sample locations in this study are also indicated. The previously zircon U-Pb age data for granites and volcanic rocks are sourced from J. Liu et al. (2008); N. Wang et al. (2021); F. Wu et al. (2011); F. Wu, Sun, Li, Jahn, and Wilde (2002); Xu et al. (2013). (b) Stratigraphic column for the Jurassic volcanics in the central Zhangguangcai Range, northeast China, modified from Anonymous (1969, 1970, 1991); Xu et al. (2013).

Figure S2 (a) Vertical basin fill sequence of the Songliao Basin, modified after P. Wang et al. (2016). (b) The stratigraphic column of Haerbin-Suihua region in the northeastern Songliao Basin, retrieved after Cui (2007). (c) The stratigraphic column in the study area. These samples analyzed by detrital zircon U-Pb dating analysis are denoted by the blue lozenge, whereas other samples by thin section observation are denoted by the yellow lozenge.

Figure S3 Outcrop photographs showing the main observed lithologies and facies of the sedimentary rocks in the northeastern Songliao Basin, northeast China. (a)–(b) The field outcrop of the Quantou Formation, the upper and lower segments of this formation with the dip direction and dip angle of 345°/9° and 353°/9°, respectively. (d) $62^{\circ}/9^{\circ}$ = dip direction and dip angle of the Quantou Formation. (e) The field outcrop of the Quantou Formation. (c) Dip direction and dip angle of the Denglouku Formation = $191^{\circ}/10^{\circ}$. (f) $356^{\circ}/46^{\circ}$ = dip direction and dip angle of the Yingcheng Formation. (g)–(h) The field outcrop of the Yingcheng Formation with a dip direction of 271° and dip angle of 29°.

Figure S4 Microscopy photographs (taken under crossed polarizers) displaying petrographic features of sedimentary rocks samples in the northeastern Songliao Basin, northeast China.

Figure S5 Representative cathodoluminescence (CL) images of zircons from sedimentary rocks in the northeastern Songliao Basin, northeast China. Orange circles indicate the positions of laser spots for age analyses. The sample number (white number), analytical number (orange number), and apparent age (orange number) are also denoted.

Figure S6 (a) Cumulative zircon U-Pb age distributions for the samples in the northeastern Songliao Basin, northeast China. (b)–(l) Frequency histograms, kernel density estimations and pie charts showing the variation of the samples and different potential provenances in the Songliao Basin, sampling locations seen from Figure S1. For data sources of the potential sources see Supplementary Table 4. Cumulative age distributions for these samples exhibit roughly the same tendency when $Fn <$ 0.6, indicative of no significant change of provenance in study area. However, when $Fn > 0.6$, these sample slops have relatively differences and could be classified into three groups: B1, B4 and B8; B3; B11, B12, B15 and B16, implying the subtle differences of provenance.

Figure S7 U-Pb concordia diagrams of sedimentary samples collected from the northeastern Songliao Basin, northeastern China. Ages are in Ma and ellipses show 1σ errors. Highly discordant analyses are excluded.

Figure S8 U-Pb concordia diagrams of volcanic rock samples collected from the northeastern Songliao Basin, northeastern China.

Figure S9 (a)–(b), (e)–(f), (g) and (h)–(i) AFT radial plots for the sedimentary rock and volcanic samples from the northeastern Songliao Basin in this study. The colour of single-grain AFT ages correspond to their D_{par} value (in μ m). The black lines indicate statistically AFT population ages decomposed by Isoplot R (Vermeesch, 2018). (c)–(d) and (j)–(k) Support vector machine (SVM) apatite categorization scheme (Sr/Y versus LREE [La, Ce, Pr, Nd]) for the northeastern Songliao Basin apatite detritus. Acronyms for groups on SVM biplots: $ALK = alkali$ -rich igneous rocks; $I + M = I$ type granitoids and mafic igneous rocks; LM = low- and medium-grade metamorphic and metasomatic; $HM = high\text{-}grade metamorphic; S = S\text{-type granitoids; UM} = ultramafic igneous.$

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Figure S10
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Figure S10 The classic multidimensional scaling plot for zircon U-Pb ages of the Songliao Basin and surrounding potential provenance. ZGR = Zhangguangcai Range. LXR = Lesser Xing'an Range. NGXR = North Great Xing'an Range. SGXR = South Great Xing'an Range. YSFB = Yanshan Fold Belt. LJR = Liaoning-Jilin Region. The solid and dashed lines link the first and second closet neighbors, respectively.

Figure S11 (a) Cretaceous stratigraphy column of the Binxian depression from the Miaoshen 1 and Binshen 1 (Cui, 2007). (b)–(c) Depositional facies map of the Quantou and Yingcheng Formations in the Haerbin-Binxian Depression (Cui, 2007).

Figure S12

Figure S12 (a) Depositional facies map of the Yingcheng and Shahezi Formations in the Shuangliao, Lishu and Xujiaweizi Grabens (J. Wang, 2017; Yang, Wang, Li, Guan, & Wang, 2021; Zhong & Zhou, 2020).

Figure S13 Grabens distribution and tectonic evolution of A-A' seismic reflection profiles in study area exhibiting extension deformation record of the sedimentary rocks during the Early Cretaceous, modified after Cui (2007); Feng et al. (2010).

Figure S14 Regional seismic interpreted profile across the northern Songliao Basin reflecting the structure of the basin, modified after P. Wang et al. (2016). See Figure 1c for the section AB location.

Figure S15 Key period 4D reconstruction of mid-Cretaceous tectonic evolution in the northeastern Songliao Basin, as described in this work.

Figure S16 (a), (c) and (f) ZHe age-elevation relationships from Dahaituo plutons of the eastmost YSFB and Fenghuangshan granite and Xiemashan granite of the LJR (Chen, 2019; Y. Wang et al., 2022). (b), (d) and (e) Cooling curves for several plutons from the north NCC (L. Wu et al., 2018; L. Wu et al., 2014). These results consistently reveal an episode of rapid cooling at ~85–110 Ma.

Table S1

Summarized characteristics of samples from the northeastern Songliao Basin, northeast China.

Table S2

Apatite FT data of sedimentary and volcanic rocks samples from the northeastern Songliao Basin, northeast China. No. of grains = number of grains analyzed. ρ_s = spontaneous fission track density. ²³⁸U = average uranium concentration. P (χ^2) = the value of chi-squared probability test. P_n = AFT population ages. MTL = mean confined track length. N_L = number of confined track lengths measured. **Table S3**

Summarized information of previous published detrital zircon U-Pb and Hf isotopic samples from the Songliao Basin, northeast China.

Table S4

Summary of axial direction, sedimentary facies and major faults of major grabens from the Songliao Basin, northeast China.

Laboratory number	Published number	GPS coordinate	Lithology	Maximum depositional age (Ma)	Major age peaks
Quantou Formation					
18SB-39a	B1	N46° 38' 2" E127° 46' 44"	Coarse sandstone	98.5 ± 2.9 (n=1)	165 Ma (21%) 187 Ma (62%) 495 Ma (15%) 687 Ma (2%)
18SB-39b	B2		Conglomerate		
18SB-7	B ₃	N45° 48' 47" E127° 6' 47"	Coarse sandstone	107.2 ± 1.7 (n=5)	116 Ma (15%) 179 Ma (38%) 228 Ma (36%) 349 Ma (9%) 891 Ma (2%)
18SB-40c	B4		Tuffaceous greywacke		103 Ma (5%) 186 Ma (60%) 278 Ma (15%) 491 Ma (20%)
18SB-40d	B ₅		Tuff		
18SB-40e	B6	N46° 47' 52" E127° 55' 14"	Tuffacous greywacke	107.5 ± 3.0 (n=3)	
18SB-40b	B7		Greywacke		
18SB-40a	B8		Greywacke		183 Ma (59%) 217 Ma (10%) 307 Ma (4%) 496 Ma (27%)
Denglouku Formation					
18SB-19d	B12		Tuffaceous standstone		110 Ma (3%) 188 Ma (92%) 250 Ma (2%) 494 Ma (3%)
18SB-19b	B13	N45° 50' 5" E127° 51'17"	Greywacke	115.4 ± 2.7 (n=2)	
18SB-19c	B14		Tuffaceous siltstone		
18SB-19a	B15		Greywacke		188 Ma (88%) 263 Ma (8%) 472 Ma (4%)
18SB-20	B16	N45° 53' 15" E128° 0' 59"	Medium standstone	Unknown	194 Ma (22%) 201 Ma (78%)
Yingcheng Formation					
18SB-18a	B9	N45° 50' 42" E127° 49' 33"	Basalt andesite		
18SB-18b	B10		Basalt andesite	117.6 ± 4.5 (n=5)	
18SB-18c	B11		Andesitic crystal tuff		116 Ma (5%) 175 Ma (79%) 290 Ma (16%)
Ningyuancun Formation					
19SB-19a	B17	N45° 41' 12" E127° 53' 28"	Welded tuff	178.9 ± 1.0 (n=26)	
19SB-19b	B18		Welded tuff	181.6 ± 1.5 (n=21)	

Table S1 Summarized characteristics of samples from the northeastern Songliao basin, northeast China.

Table S3 Summarized information of previous published detrital zircon U-Pb and Hf isotopic samples from the Songliao Basin, northeast China.

Table S4 Summary of axial direction, sedimentary facies and major faults of major grabens from the Songliao Basin, northeast China.

Supplementary Table 1

Data of single-grain zircon U-Pb dating.

Supplementary Table 2

Data of single-grain apatite fission track analysis.

Supplementary Table 3

Data of single-grain apatite trace element.

Supplementary Table 4

Summarized magmatism crystallization ages from the potential provenance surrounding the Songliao Basin.

Supplementary Table 5

Summarized apatite fission track ages data of the basement of the Great Xing'an Range, Zhangguangcai Range and Lesser Xing'an Range.

Supplementary Table 6

Summarized detrital zircon U-Pb ages data of the Shahezi, Yingcheng, Denglouku and Quantou Formations.

Supplementary Table 7

Zircon U-Pb ages of the Songliao Basin basement plutons and strata.

Supplementary Table 8

Zircon U-Pb and Ar-Ar ages of the late Early Cretaceous volcanic rocks in and around the Songliao Basin.

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