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Paleomagnetism of Mesoproterozoic margins of the Anabar Shield: A hypothesized billion-year partnership of Siberia and northern Laurentia



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1. Introduction

Proterozoic continental reconstructions are crucial for understanding long-term Earth history, but their development has occurred over decades with some major components yet unresolved, including precise configurations of the supercontinents Nuna and Rodinia (reviewed by Evans, 2013). Paleomagnetic data are an integral component of such reconstructions, but the Proterozoic database has been dominated by results from Laurentia and Baltica (Buchan, 2013). The present study addresses reconstruction of Siberia, one of the major Proterozoic cratons. Siberia's paleogeographic relationship to Laurentia has been contentious, with juxtapositions ranging from Laurentia's western margin (Sears and Price, 1978, 2000, 2003) to its northern margin in a variety of orientations (Hoffman, 1991; Condie and Rosen, 1994; Frost et al., 1998; Rainbird et al., 1998).

In the past 15 years, paleomagnetic data have strongly supported a mid-Proterozoic location of Siberia near Laurentia's northern margin, such that southern Siberia faced northern Laurentia (Gallet et al., 2000; Ernst et al., 2000; Pavlov et al., 2002; Metelkin et al., 2007; Wingate et al., 2009; Didenko et al., 2009). An unresolved issue is whether such a fit is loose, in which the

ABSTRACT

Siberia and Laurentia have been suggested as near neighbors in Proterozoic supercontinents Nuna and Rodinia, but paleomagnetic evidence has been sparse and ambiguous. Here we present four new paleomagnetic poles from undeformed Paleo-Mesoproterozoic (lower Riphean) sedimentary rocks and mafic intrusions of the northwestern Anabar uplift in northern Siberia. Combining these results with other Proterozoic data from Siberia and Laurentia, we propose a tight juxtaposition of those two blocks (Euler parameters 77°, 098°, 137° for Anabar to North America) spanning the interval 1.7–0.7 Ga, constituting a long-lived connection that outlasted both the Nuna and Rodinia supercontinental assemblages. © 2016 Elsevier B.V. All rights reserved.

two cratons were separated by several thousand km (Pisarevsky and Natapov, 2003; Pisarevsky et al., 2008) or tight (Pavlov et al., 2002; Metelkin et al., 2007; Evans and Mitchell, 2011). The loose-fit hypothesis is inspired primarily due to a perceived incongruity between 1.1 and 1.0 Ga poles from the two cratons, but as will be described further, such a conclusion rests on ages of Siberian sedimentary strata with rather poor constraints. Evans and Mitchell (2011) proposed the two cratons to be tightly joined in Nuna but separating through the interval 1.38-1.27 Ga-the era of numerous mafic intrusive events throughout Laurentia, Siberia, and neighboring Baltica-to achieve the more distant relative position apparently required by the 1.1-1.0 Ga poles. Nonetheless, the matching LIP "barcode" record spanning 1.7-0.7 Ga from Laurentia and Siberia (Gladkochub et al., 2010a; Ernst et al., 2016a) may alternatively suggest a tight fit between the two blocks enduring as late as 0.7 Ga. A relative lull in tectonic activity or sedimentary record (e.g. passive margins) in southern Siberia throughout that interval could also suggest that margin's location within a continental interior (Gladkochub et al., 2010b). It is more difficult to apply the same test to northern Laurentia, because that margin is largely covered by Phanerozoic strata (e.g., Kerr, 1982).

The purpose of this paper is to report new paleomagnetic data from nearly pristine igneous and sedimentary rocks of the Anabar uplift in northern Siberia, to assess the aggregate paleomagnetic



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record of Siberia and Laurentia in Proterozoic time, and to propose a new, static configuration between the two blocks that honors both the geologic and paleomagnetic datasets. Preliminary data from some of the sites described herein were reported by Veselovskiy et al. (2009), but our present contribution supersedes the western and northern Anabar datasets reported in that earlier paper.

2. Geologic setting

The Siberian craton, which assembled at about 1900 Ma (Rosen, 2003), is largely covered by Phanerozoic sedimentary rocks. Precambrian rocks, both crystalline and sedimentary, are exposed around the craton's margins as well as two shield areas or uplifts: Anabar in the northwest, and Aldan in the southeast (Fig. 1). Both shield areas (i.e., exposed crystalline basement) are mantled by sedimentary cover and inferred to represent larger, internally coherent blocks. Whereas the Aldan block exposes much of its pre-Phanerozoic basement architecture, the Anabar block is almost entirely covered. In the north-central Anabar block, a gentle domal uplift exposes the Anabar Shield and an annular ring of Mesoproterozoic (Riphean) sedimentary rocks that are invaded by numerous mafic intrusions. Geophysical surveys (e.g., Rosen et al., 1994) extend the inferred basement architecture of the Anabar block beyond its uplifted shield regions, under its sedimentary cover (also described by Pisarevsky et al., 2008). There is increasingly compelling paleomagnetic evidence for a 20–25° relative rotation between the Anabar and Aldan blocks during Devonian formation of the Vilyuy rift system (Pavlov and Petrov, 1997; Smethurst et al., 1998; Gallet et al., 2000; Pavlov et al., 2008). Aside from this deformation, the Siberian cratonic interior has remained tectonically stable other than emplacement of Devonian-Triassic kimberlites and the particularly voluminous Permian–Triassic "traps" (largely mafic, both extrusive and intrusive; Nikishin et al., 2010).

The Anabar uplift, which is the study area of this work, is a broad cratonic arch with Paleoproterozoic crystalline basement (shield) encircled by nonconformably overlying, nearly horizontal and regionally unmetamorphosed, Paleo-Mesoproterozoic sedimentary rocks (Fig. 1). The sedimentary succession begins with clastic strata of the Mukun Group, transitioning upsection to carbonates of the Billvakh Group (Figs. 1 and 2). The lowest clastic lavers contain detrital zircons as voung as 1681 ± 28 Ma (n = 8: Khudoley et al., 2015), providing a maximum constraint for the onset of sedimentation. Mafic sills intrude the stratigraphy at several levels, and there are numerous mafic dykes as well. The most common ages for dated intrusions are ca. 1500-1470 Ma (reviewed by Gladkochub et al., 2010a; new data presented in Ernst et al., 2016b), the latter figure being shared by mafic magmatism in the Olenëk uplift about 600 km to the east (Wingate et al., 2009); but many Anabar intrusions are suspected to be related to the Permian-Triassic traps (Bogdanov et al., 1998).



Fig. 1. Regional map of Siberian craton (A), highlighting the location of Anabar Shield study areas (B, C). Paleomagnetic sampling sites are color-coded according to characteristic remanent magnetization (ChRM) group. Filled = normal polarity, open = reversed polarity.



Fig. 2. Schematic stratigraphic column (not to scale) for the northwestern flank of the Anabar Shield. Vertical lines represent unconformities. Circles represent sedimentary paleomagnetic sampling horizons. These, and approximate mafic sill levels (with U–Pb ages from Ernst et al., 2016b), are color-coded for ChRM group and polarity interpretation as in Fig. 1. Other ages are discussed in the text.

3. Methods

In this study, paleomagnetic samples were collected from both the lower clastic and upper carbonate stratigraphic units of the Riphean succession, and from numerous mafic intrusions, some of them directly dated by U–Pb ages on baddeleyite (Ernst et al., 2016b). We report data from six raft trips in the northern flank (Fomich River) and western flank (Kotuy, Dzhogdzho, Magan, Ilya, and Kotuykan Rivers) of the Anabar dome, where strata everywhere dip less than 5°. The sites were mainly block-sampled, except for portable-drilled samples on the upper reaches of the Kotuykan River. Orientation was achieved by magnetic compass and clinometer, occasionally supplemented by solar compass and indicating local magnetic variations that match expected IGRF values to within a few degrees. Representative samples from a subset of the sites were investigated by optical and scanning-electron microscopy.

Demagnetization was performed within shielded chambers in the following paleomagnetic laboratories: Institute of Physics of the Earth (Moscow), Institut de Physique du Globe (Paris) and Yale University (New Haven). Following measurement of the natural remanent magnetization (NRM), all samples were thermally demagnetized up to 580–680 °C with an average of 12–15 steps to isolate the components of the natural remanent magnetization. The measurements were made using a 2G-Enterprise cryogenic magnetometer (Paris, Yale), and an AGICO JR-6 spinner magnetometer (Moscow): heating was done in homemade non-magnetic ovens (Paris), a MMTD-80 (Magnetic Measurements Ltd.) thermal demagnetizer (Moscow), and a TD-48 (ASC Scientific) thermal demagnetizer (Yale). Some specimens were pre-treated by low-temperature immersion in liquid nitrogen to remove multidomain magnetic components (Borradaile et al., 2004), but we found that such procedure had little effect on the quality of data acquired during the subsequent high-temperature demagnetization. Directional data were fit in almost all cases with leastsquares lines, but occasionally least-squares planes or great circles, according to routines developed by Kirschvink (1980) and Enkin (1994). Reconstructions were made using the GPlates freeware package (Williams et al., 2012).

4. Results

About half of the samples yielded well resolved components of the NRM (Table 1). Most of those samples contained only one or two components (Figs. 3-6), with one clearly defined characteristic remanence magnetization (ChRM). Within the sedimentary rocks distant to mapped intrusions, which were red-colored, unblocking temperatures extend as high as ~680 °C, indicating near-stoichiometric hematite as the remanence carrier (Fig. 3). Within mafic rocks, unblocking temperatures extend as high as ~580 °C, indicating low-Ti titanomagnetite as the carrier (Figs. 4-6). Some mafic specimens display two components of magnetization that are nearly antipodal, (e.g., Fomich site 17, Dzhogdzho trap sites 9-07 and 13-00) indicating either intrinsic self-reversal behavior (e.g., Krása et al., 2005; Gapeev and Gribov, 2008), remanence acquisition over a protracted interval of time spanning a geomagnetic field reversal, or a spurious artifact associated with stepwise heating (Shcherbakov et al., 2015).

Site-mean directions are listed in Table 1. We applied data quality filters on the number of least-squares lines and/or circles (the latter counting half, total per site >4) and Fisher's (1953) 95% confidence radius (a95 < 20°). Characteristic remanence directions vary according to lithology (Fig. 7). Sedimentary rocks that are distant (i.e., more than a few hectometers) to mapped intrusions, in general, yield either S-down or N-up ChRMs. There is a systematic shift in declination between the lower sedimentary horizons and the upper units, but the directional shift does not occur along the boundary between the Mukun and Billyakh Groups. Instead, the shift is localized between the Burdur and Labaztakh Formations, within the upper part of the Mukun Group, where a disconformity is recognized regionally (Fig. 2). The "older sedimentary" directional group contains only one polarity, whereas the "younger sedimentary" group contains two polarities.

Within intrusive units, ChRMs fall into four distinct groups: (1) a steep, two-polarity group with W-up and E-down directions, (2) a moderate-inclination component with mainly N-down directions but a single site of opposite S-up polarity, (3) a shallow NE direction, mainly downward, from the Fomich River, and (4) a shallow SW direction, upward, from the western Anabar region plus the stratigraphically uppermost site of Fomich River. Group 1 likely represents intrusions from the Permian-Triassic Siberian trap large igneous province, based on similarity of directions to published results (Pavlov et al., 2011). Group 2 is termed the "enigmatic" component, and will be discussed at length, below. Groups 3 and 4 are broadly antipodal, but a formal significance test (McFadden and McElhinny, 1990) reveals that antiparallelism can be rejected at the 95% confidence level (i.e., the two groups "fail" the reversal test by standard measure; although they are within antiparallelism at slightly more lax 99% confidence limits). Some of the departure

Table 1

Paleomagnetic data from the northern and western margins of the Anabar Shield, Siberia.

Site abbr.	River section	Lithology	Weight	Lat.(°N)	Long.(°E)	n/N	GDec	GInc	k	a95	Plat(N)	Plong(E)	U–Pb geochronology or geochemistry
Older sediments													
1-04	Fomich	Burdur Fm., pink sandstone	O(PLF)	71.2067	107.2928	10/15	359.3	75.1	45.7	7.2	-	-	
2-04	Fomich	Burdur Fm., pink-cherry sandstone	O(PLF)	71.2425	107.1817	15/15	351.8	78.0	43.0	5.9	-	-	
3-04(H)	Fomich	Upper Burdur Fm., distant host rocks to 04-3(D)	0(scat)	71.2767	107.1442	0/10	Unstable	-	-	-	-	-	
13sed-08	Upper Kotuvkan	Il'ya Fm., red sandstone	1	70.5016	106.1270	12/31	165.7	30.9	19.8	10.0	-02.3	119.8	
44sed-08	Upper Kotuvkan	Burdur Fm., chocolate, cherry-colored ss.	1	70.563	105.883	20/30	156.1	30.0	10.1	10.8	-01.8	128.8	
74sed-08	Upper Kotuvkan	Burdur Fm., red sandstone	1	70.5697	105.8727	6/15	173.5	30.1	28.4	12.8	-03.1	112.1	
89sed-08	Upper Kotuvkan	Burdur Fm., red sandstone	1	70.6468	105.9104	10/16	167.1	19.2	9.4	16.6	-09.0	118.8	
34-07	Ilva	II'va Fm red sandstone	0(scat)	70 31 38	105 8413	0/13	Unstable	_	_	_	_	_	
1-00	Magan	Burdur Fm., sandstone	0(scat)	69.97	105.47	0/67	Unstable	_	_	_	_	_	
		, oundotone	S(Seat)	50.07			105.0		00.0	0.0		110.0	
Mean						4 sites	165.6	27.7	92.9	9.6	-04.1 <i>K</i> = 113	A95 = 8.7	
Younger sediments													
4-04	Fomich	Labaztakh Fm., cherry-colored siltstone	1	71.3194	107.0375	20/20	016.7	-28.0	80.0	3.7	-3.0^{*}	90.9*	
24-04(H)	Fomich	Kotuykan Fm., gray limestone 100–350 m away from dyke at 04-24(D)	1	71.6403	107.7739	7/31	194.4	35.2	21.3	13.4	01.6	094.2	
25-04(H)	Fomich	Kotuykan Fm., variegated limestone 150 m away from dyke at 04-25(D)	1	71.6708	108.0250	11/22	193.0	33.5	12.5	13.4	00.4	095.7	
7-07	Dzhogdzho	Kotuvkan Fm., red dolostone	0(scat)	70.234	104.172	0/11	Scattered	_	_	_	-	-	
2-00	Magan	Labaztakh Fm., red sandstone	0(scat)	70.07	104.92	0/20	Unstable	_	_	_	-	-	
3-00	Magan	Labaztakh Fm., sandstone	0(scat)	70.05	104.95	0/7	Unstable	_	_	_	-	-	
4-00	Magan	Labaztakh Fm., sandstone	0(scat)	70.07	104.92	0/16	Unstable	_	_	_	-	-	
5-00	Magan	Labaztakh and Ust-Il'va Fms., sandstone	0(scat)	70.07	104.92	0/12	Unstable	_	_	_	-	-	
6-00	Magan	Ust-Il'va Fm.	O(scat)	70.07	104.90	0/10	Unstable	_	_	_	_	_	
7-00	Magan	Ust-II'va Fm.	O(scat)	70.07	104.88	0/14	Unstable	_	_	_	_	_	
8-00	Magan	Ust-II'va Fm., sandstone	O(scat)	70.07	104.88	0/16	Unstable	_	_	_	_	_	
9-00	Magan	Lowest part of Ust-Il'va Fm., sandstone	O(scat)	70.07	104.93	0/17	Unstable	_	_	_	_	_	
Mean	magan		o(beat)	, 010 ,	10 1100	3 sites	194.7	32.2	393.0	6.2	-00.3	093.6	
											K = 553	A95 = 5.2	
Steep W-up/E-down	"Permian-Tria	ssic" (Group 1)											
O-08(D)	Upper Kotuykan	Dolerite sill	0.5	70.6880	105.8291	8/12	271.5	-68.9	214.1	3.8	47.9*	171.4*	
O-08(C,H)	Upper Kotuykan	Exocontact and host rocks to O-08(D)	0.5	70.6880	105.8291	21/23	276.4	-72.5	136.6	2.7	51.1*	163.5*	
M-08	Upper Kotuykan	Mafic sill	1	70.7022	105.6473	13/15	257.8	-76.4	64.6	5.2	61.6*	169.3*	
5-07(D)	Dzhogdzho	3-4 m wide mafic dyke, trending 045°	0.5	70.2331	104.1851	6/10	010.9	-77.3	82.0	7.4	46.2*	97.7*	
5-07(C)	Dzhogdzho	Exocontact to 5-07(D)	0.5	70.2331	104.1851	4/10	359.5	-70.4	47.5	13.5	34.8	104.5*	
7-07	Dzhogdzho	Kotuykan Fm., red dolostone (remagnetized by nearby, unmapped P-Tr intrusion?)	1	70.234	104.172	9/10	079.7	70.5	19.6	11.9	53.4	176.7	
13-00	Dzhogdzho	Mafic dyke, trending 030°	1	70.5025	104.4367	9/15	071.2	81.0	26.5	10.2	68.6	156.1	
9-07	Dzhogdzho	Weathered mafic dyke, 15 m wide, trending 030°	1	70.5028	104.4396	17/21	118.3	79.8	51.7	5.0	56.4	137.1	
10-07	Dzhogdzho	Mafic sill, 4 m thick	1	70.5028	104.4396	6/12	222.2	-71.3	168.6	5.2	66.8	211.4*	

Mean						7 sites	089.3	78.4	48.9	8.7	61.0	155.6	
											K = 15.1	A95 = 16.1	
N-down/S-up "enigme	atic componen	t" (Group 2)											
VR1-08	Upper Kotuykan	Large (>10 m thick), fresh mafic sill at river level	0.2	70.5155	106.1041	8/8	023.0	67.7	65.0	6.9	67.5	245.8	
VR2-08	Upper Kotuvkan	Same sill as VR1, sampled \sim 3 m higher	0.2	70.515	106.102	8/8	032.8	67.3	98.3	5.6	64.6	232.1	
VR3-08	Upper Kotuvkan	Same sill as VR2, sampled ${\sim}2$ m higher	0.2	70.515	106.101	8/8	044.2	63.8	41.8	8.7	57.1	221.9	
VR4-08	Upper Kotuvkan	Same sill as VR3, sampled ${\sim}2$ m higher	0.2	70.515	106.099	7/8	013.9	64.7	46.6	8.9	65.2	263.0	1493 ± 6 Ma (same sill, 400 m away)
VR5-08	Upper Kotuykan	Same sill as VR4, at its fine-grained margin	0.2	70.5192	106.0625	8/8	028.7	65.8	91.5	5.8	63.7	239.6	1493 ± 6 Ma (same sill, 1100 m away)
105sed-08	Upper Kotuykan	llya and Burdur Formations, redbeds	1	70.653	105.932	10/12	028.5	42.8	124.3	4.3	41.3	250.7	
E-08	Upper Kotuykan	Mafic sill or dyke, trending E-W, crossing river valley	1	70.697	105.642	14/15	026.7	53.3	35.7	6.7	50.4	249.8	
36-07	Ilya	Coarse, dark green mafic body, 50 m of exposure	1	70.4240	105.5732	10/15	022.2	60.0	91.2	5.1	58.4	252.6	
38-07	Ilva	Mafic sill(?) at least 18 m thick	1	70.4851	105.4752	9/10	008.6	52.0	41.7	8.1	51.8	273.7	
11-00	Magan	Mafic sill, mapped as P-Tr	1	70.3111	104.4033	11/11	356.9	57.7	108.4	4.4	58.0	289.0	
2-07	Dzhogdzho	Fine, green-black gabbro-dolerite sill >15 m thick	1	70,1953	104,1407	13/16	186.5	-54.2	20.4	9.4	54.4*	275.0*	
5-07(H)	Dzhogdzho	Kotuvkan Fm., red dolostone host to 5-07(D)	1	70.2331	104,1851	3/28	352.6	60.0	10.6	16.6	60.4	295.6	
6-07	Dzhogdzho	Kotuykan Fm, red dolostone	1	70 2346	104 1749	9/9	329.2	583	35.4	11.4	54.9	327.9	
15-00	Dzhogdzho	Same large mafic sill as 11-07 and 16-00 (Group 4)	1	70.4878	104.5219	5/15	037.7	56.2	46.7	11.3	50.9	233.6	
18-00	Dzhogdzho	Weathered dyke trending 025°	0(scat)	70 5228	104 4242	0/15	Unstable	_	_	_	_	_	
4-01	Dzhogdzho	Mafic dyke <1 m wide trending 025°	1	70.53	104 37	8/8	316.4	701	68.0	68	64 9	356 5	
19-00	Dzhogdzho	Mafic dyke, trending 030°	0(scat)	70.5417	104.3683	0/15	Unstable	_	_	_	_	_	
			-()						~ -				
Mean						11 sites	009.6	59.4	30.7	8.4	60.1	271.9	
											K - 13.0	A93 - 11.0	
NE-shallow (Group 3))												
3-04(D)	Fomich	50 m wide dolerite dyke, trending 300°	0.5	71.2767	107.1442	14/15	032.3	-05.0	59.7	5.2	13.3	253.9	
3-04(C)	Fomich	Contact rocks to 04-3(D) upper Burdur Fm	0.5	71 2767	107 1442	9/15	034.2	-03.2	56.0	69	13.8	251.8	
5-04	Fomich	Dolerite sill	0.5	71.3422	106.9244	10/15	024.5	22.6	16.9	12.1	28.6	259.4	Geochemistry group I; 1483 ± 17 Ma
6-04	Fomich	Dolerite sill (same as 04-6)	0.5	71.3408	106.9278	14/14	024.3	17.9	16.2	10.2	26.0	260.0	
7-04	Fomich	Dolerite sill	0.25	71.3772	106.8511	13/15	024.1	07.0	26.5	8.2	20.4	261.1	
8-04	Fomich	Dolerite sill (same as 04-7)	0.25	71 3786	106 8400	14/15	020.9	167	16.5	10.1	25.8	263.8	
9-04	Fomich	Dolerite sill (same as 04-7)	0.25	71 3636	106 8056	15/15	020.6	04.0	23.6	8.0	19.4	264.9	Geochemistry group I
10-04	Fomich	Dolerite sill (same as $04-7$)	0.25	71 3658	106.8142	9/15	009.1	16.5	14.6	13.9	26.8	276.7	debenemistry group i
11_04	Fomich	Dolerite sill	0.2.5	71 3747	106.7314	10/15	015.8	00.0	21.0	10.9	20.0	260.7	
12-04	Fomich	Dolerite sill (same as $04-11$)	0.5	71 3717	106 7281	10/10	013.8	03.0	21.0 83.1	53	16.4	261.5	
12-04	Fomich	Dolorito sill (samo as 04-11)	0.5	71.3717	106.7261	0/10	024.1	-01.2	70	20.0	15.5	201.5	
13-04	Formich	Dolerite Sili (Sallie as 04-12)	0(SCal)	71.3722	106.7101	5/10 7/11	001.7	-00.5	7.0	20.9	13.5	265.0	
14-04	Formiah	Dolerite cill	1	71.5926	100.3330	//11	025.5	12.0	27.1	11.0	23.4	201.2	Casabamiatmu anaun II
15/16-04	Fomicii	Dolerite sill	1	71.409	105.380	9/22	039.3	07.2	9.4	1/./	17.8	244.8	Geochemistry group II
24-04(D)	Fomich	30 m wide dolerite dyke, trending 005°	U(scat)	71.6403	107.7739	//15	024.6	-08.6	11.5	18.6	12.4	262.6	Geochemistry group II
D-08	Upper Kotuykan	Gabbro-dolerite sill	1	/0./005	105.6013	11/11	039.7	09.1	13.4	12.9	19.2	243.2	
39-07(D)	Upper Kotuykan	20 m wide dolerite dyke, trending 320°	1	70.6059	104.9124	14/14	035.7	34.8	27.9	7.7	34.4	243.0	
39-07(C)	Upper Kotuykan	Baked contact rocks to 39-07(D)	0(scat)	70.6059	104.9124	4/12	010.8	56.3	16.8	23.1	55.8	269.5	
39-07(H)	Upper Kotuykan	Host rocks to 39-07(D), Kotuykan Fm.	1	70.6059	104.9124	6/9	020.0	30.6	29.7	12.5	34.5	261.5	

Table 1 (continued)													
Site abbr.	River section	Lithology	Weight	Lat.(°N)	Long.(°E)	n/N	GDec	GInc	k	a95	Plat(N)	Plong(E)	U–Pb geochronology or geochemistry
Mean						9 sites	028.3	14.1	27.4	10.0	23.9 <i>K</i> = 48.0	255.3 A95 = 7.5	
SW-shallow (Gro	ıp 4)												
17-04	Fomich	Dolerite sill (Tunbl > 500 °C)	1	71.4317	106.2567	7/11	217.6	-35.0	58.4	8.0	-33.5	062.6	
25-04(D)	Fomich	10 m wide dolerite dyke, trending 045°	0(scat)	71.6708	108.0250	(4 + 2c)/10	225.0	19.8	11.9	21.0	-02.9	063.8	
25-04(C)	Fomich	Exocontact to 25–04(D); green limestone	0 (anom)	71.6708	108.0250	9/9	251.6	06.1	195.5	3.7	-02.8	036.5	
181-08(DC)	Upper Kotuykan	Dolerite dyke (trending NNW) and baked contact rocks	1	70.6333	105.2690	12/32	206.9	-11.6	24.3	9.0	-23.0	076.0	
I-08	Upper Kotuvkan	5 m wide dolerite dyke	1	70.5895	104.9653	11/12	215.7	-19.7	77.3	5.2	-25.6	065.4	
40-07	Upper Kotuykan	Dolerite sill, at least 18 m thick	0.5	70.5670	104.5259	14/16	223.9	-24.2	80.2	4.5	-26.1	055.6	
41-07	Upper	Dolerite sill, same as 40–07	0.5	70.5634	104.5381	10/12	223.1	-27.6	26.1	9.6	-28.3	055.9	
37-07(D)	Ilva	12 m wide dolerite dyke trending 290°	1	70 4206	105 5630	11/12	232.8	-171	364	77	-201	048.6	
37-07(C)	Ilva	Baked contact rocks to $37-07(D)$	0(scat)	70.4206	105 5630	4/7	231.4	_21.8	25.0	187	-22.9	049.2	
37-07(H)	Ilva	Host rocks to $37-07(D)$ lower Burdur Fm	0(few)	70.4206	105 5630	(1 + 3c)/9	230.5	-25.6	1943	9.0	-25.3	049.5	
10-00	Magan	Mafic intrusion	1	70,2358	104 6681	7/15	227.8	-18.8	17.0	15.1	_22.5	052.5	
1-07	Dzhogdzho	Dolerite sill at least 10 m thick	1	70.1847	104 1219	13/15	214.1	_22.3	51.6	5.8	-27.6	065.8	
3-07	Dzhogdzho	Dolerite sill with differentiated center	1	70.1929	104.1194	16/24	224.0	-20.3	44.8	5.6	-24.3	055.6	ca.1770 Ma, zircon
4-07	Dzhogdzho	Fine-grained matic sill	1	70 2281	104 1778	17/27	211 7	-17.8	323	64	-25.7	069.0	(xenoer.)
12_00	Dzhogdzho	Mafic dyke trending 300°	$\Omega(scat)$	70,2201	104.1778	0/12	Linstable	- 17.0	-	-	- 25.7	-	
8-07	Dzhogdzho	Mafic intrusion	0(few)	70 3094	104 3128	(3 + 2c)/15	212.1	-18.2	52.3	114	-257	068 7	
3-01	Dzhogdzho	Dolerite sill	1	70.47	104 45	13/15	219.0	_33.9	44.8	63	-33.1	059.0	
14-00	Dzhogdzho	Dolerite sill maybe same as $11-07$ and $16-002$	1	70 4878	104 4889	5/16	222.5	-20.2	108 7	74	-24.4	057.6	
11-07(S)	Dzhogdzho	Dolerite sill, same as 16–00	0.333	70.4964	104.5335	9/10	246.3	-30.4	79.7	5.8	-23.2	031.6	Transitional geochemistry;
													1502 ± 2 Ma
11-07(C)	Dzhogdzho	Baked contact rocks to 11–07(S)	0.333	70.4964	104.5335	5/11	246.9	-31.9	44.0	11.7	-23.9	030.7	
16-00	Dzhogdzho	Dolerite sill, same as 11–07 and perhaps 14–00	0.333	70.5117	104.5292	6/15	251.1	-32.1	66.2	7.5	-22.7	026.5	
17-00	Dzhogdzho	Dolerite dyke (mapped as P–Tr), trending 030°	1	70.5153	104.5022	12/15	228.9	-28.5	40.0	6.9	-27.3	049.6	
20-00	Lower Kotuykan	Dolerite	0(few)	70.5761	104.2278	(2 + 1c)/11	223.5	-35.6	40.7	23.0	-33.0	053.6	
12-07	Lower Kotuykan	Dolerite sill	1	70.5626	104.0303	7/15	219.9	-06.8	112.1	5.7	-18.1	061.7	
13-07	Lower Kotuykan	5 m thick dolerite sill intruding Ust-Mastakh dolostone	1	70.5634	103.8909	16/25	212.6	18.4	22.9	7.9	-07.0	071.5	
6-01	Lower Kotuvkan	~10 m thick dolerite sill intruding Ust-Mastakh dolostone	1	70.53	103.91	9/20	224.2	-19.2	40.5	8.2	-23.4	055.5	
7-01	Lower Kotuykan	5–10 m thick dolerite sill intruding Ust-Mastakh dolostone	0(scat)	70.53	103.91	0/15	Unstable	-	-	-	-	-	
8-01	Lower	Dolerite sill at base of high cliff	1	70.52	103.88	9/15	213.6	-15.6	18.5	12.3	-23.9	067.0	
14-07	Lower	Dolerite sill, 40 m above river level	1	70.5194	103.8554	10/11	214.5	-15.6	68.0	5.9	-23.7	066.1	Geochemistry group I
16-07	Kotuv	Large, continuous dolerite sill	0.1	70,3088	103,5395	8/8	212.2	-24.9	129.1	4.9	-29.4	067.0	
17-07	Kotuv	Large, continuous dolerite sill	0.1	70.3115	103,5385	4/8	219.0	-22.1	130.1	8.1	-26.4	060.0	
18-07	Kotuv	Large continuous dolerite sill	0.1	70 3149	103 5373	6/8	208.3	-21.4	27.4	13	-28.2	0717	

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	1503 ± 2 Ma	Geochemistry group I		
076.4 065.3 073.5	061.6 083.9	062.7 075.5	072.9 078.7	061.4 A95 = 4.6
-31.5 -28.2 -31.1	-27.5 -30.4	-27.1 -27.1	31.0 29.4	–25.3 K = 48.6
9.6 9.5 7.9	12.4 15.9	10 9.7	6.5 12.5	5.8
40.2 65.4 72.2	55.8 19.3	59.7 40.0	73.8 38.3	30.7
-26.0 -23.5 -26.0	-23.5 -22.5	-22.4 -18.4	-26.0 -21.9	-20.0
203.6 213.9 206.2	217.4 197.2	216.5 205.1	206.6 201.8	218.7
2 7/8 5 5/8 4 6/8	0 4/11 1 (5 + 1c)/8	9 5/8 3 7/8	7 8/15 7 5/15	21 sites
103.5392 103.5416 103.5424	103.5430 103.5411	103.5369 103.5363	103.4287 103.4277	
70.3170 70.3214 70.3238	70.3271 70.3311	70.3378 70.3443	70.3926 70.4261	
0.1 0.1 0.1	0.1 0.1	0.1 0.1		
Large, continuous dolerite sill Large, continuous dolerite sill Large, continuous dolerite sill	Large, continuous dolerite sill Large, continuous dolerite sill	Large, continuous dolerite sill Large, continuous dolerite sill	Dolerite sill 15 m wide alkaline dyke, trending 060°	
Kotuy Kotuy Kotuy	Kotuy Kotuy	Kotuy Kotuy	Kotuy Kotuy	
19-07 20-07 21-07	22-07 23-07	24-07 25-07	26-07 27-07	Mean

Notes: In site abbreviations, (D) = dyke, (S) = sill, (C) = exocontact, (H) = distant host; for zero weights, (aniso = anisotropic), (few) = n < 5, (PLF) = present local field, (scat) = $a_{\rm S} > 18^{\circ}$; n/N = number of samples in mean direction/ number analyzed (c = great circles); Gbec, Glnc = mean ChRM in geographic coordinates (degrees); k, $a_{\rm S} = Fisher's$ (1953) precision parameter, radius(°) of the 95% cone of confidence about the mean direction; Plat, Plong = virtual geomagnetic local fitude, longitude (* = pointly inverted); Geochemistry groups and U-Pb baddeleyite ages are from Ernst et al. (2016b).

listed as antipole of the mean direction given in the table. Plat, Plong D.A.D. Evans et al. / Precambrian Research 281 (2016) 639-655

from antipolarity is due to a declination offset, which may be tempting to interpret as due to vertical-axis rotation between the west Anabar and Fomich areas, but continuity of exposure and near-horizontality of strata in both regions argue against such an interpretation. In addition, the lone Group 4 direction (SW-up) from Fomich has similar declination to the remainder of Group 4 directions from west Anabar. An alternative explanation for the negative reversal test is a significant age difference between the two polarities of remanence, with Siberian plate motion during the intervening time interval. Two U-Pb dated sills with the Group 4 remanence in west Anabar have ages of 1503 ± 2 and 1502 ± 2 Ma, whereas the Group 3 sill in Fomich area has a U-Pb age of 1483 ± 17 Ma (Ernst et al., 2016b). Following this interpretation, we treat the Group 3 and 4 directions as distinct from each other in our analysis.

5. Baked-contact tests

We performed several baked-contact tests (BCTs), to the extent allowable by available outcrops along the rivers.

- (1) Fomich River, site 3-04. A 50 m-wide dyke, and Burdur Formation sedimentary rocks in the exocontact, both give NEshallow up Group 3 directions. Burdur host rocks at this site are magnetically unstable. However, site 4-04, only six km away, has the "younger sedimentary" Labaztakh direction. This is not a complete BCT, though it is suggestive of primary remanences. The baked sediment direction matches precisely the dyke direction, not the Group 3 mean, suggestive of instantaneous baking of the host rocks rather than recording a regional magnetic overprint.
- (2) Fomich River, site 24-04. A 30 m-wide dolerite dyke has a direction that is clearly within Group 3, but has scatter slightly larger than our cutoff filter (a95 > 18°). Contact rocks were altered and thus were not sampled, but fresh Kotuykan Formation limestone 100-350 m away yielded a stable "younger sedimentary" direction. Although not a complete baked-contact test, the data suggest lack of pervasive remagnetization in the region.
- (3) Fomich River, site 25-04. A 10 m-wide dyke carries the SWshallow, Group 4 direction (determined by 4 least-squares lines plus 2 planes), but Kotuykan Formation green and red variegated limestone strata 40 m and 150 m away bear the S-down younger sedimentary direction. The dyke's exocontact rocks are green limestone yielding an anomalous WSW-shallow direction. Although this direction is closer to the dyke remanence than that of the distant host rocks, the aggregate data are only suggestive of a positive BCT.
- (4) Upper Kotuykan River, site O-08. A subvertical dyke with exposed (i.e., minimum) width of 25 m intrudes Mukun Group sediments that were sampled at distances of 5 m, 10 m, and 20 m from the contact; all subsites share a Permian-Triassic Group 1 direction. No distant host rock was sampled, so the test is incomplete.
- (5) Upper Kotuykan River, site 181-08. A \sim 15 m-wide dyke and its exocontact have the same SW-shallow Group 4 direction. Distant host rocks were sampled about 500 m away, but their response to thermal demagnetization was chaotic; so the test is incomplete.
- (6) Ilya River, site 37-07. A 12 m-wide dyke plus exocontact, plus distant Burdur Fm host rock, all give the SW-up Group 4 direction. The "distant" host rock samples were collected at 2 m and 10 m away from the contact, so the zone of directional concordance only slightly exceeds the canonical halfdyke-width rule for contact remagnetization. The presence



Fig. 3. Orthogonal demagnetization diagrams and equal-angle stereonet plots of sedimentary samples from sites distant to mapped intrusions. Upper row: younger sedimentary succession from Fomich River valley, Labastakh Formation (left) and Kotuykan Formation (right). Lower row: older sedimentary succession from the Western Anabar region, Ust-II'ya Formation (left) and Burdur Formation (right). In all orthogonal demagnetization plots, closed symbols lie within the horizontal projection and open symbols lie within the vertical projection. NRM = natural remanent magnetization. All temperatures are in °C.



Fig. 4. Representative orthogonal demagnetization diagrams and equal-area stereonet plots of (A) sites inferred to be of Permian-Triassic age based on steep west-up or eastdown Group 1 remanence direction, and (B) sites carrying the enigmatic north-down or south-up Group 2 direction. Symbols as in Fig. 3.

of a N-down Group 2 direction at site 36-07, only 1.2 km away, argues against widespread regional overprinting.

(7) Middle Kotuykan River, site 39-07. A 20 m-wide dyke has a NE-shallow Group 3 direction shared by the distant host rock (Kotuykan Formation gray siltstone, 720 m away from the contact). The dyke's exocontact has a direction intermediary between the Group 2 and 3 directions, but with a large a95 value so it is excluded from both means. The baked-contact test is considered to be inconclusive.

(8) Dzhogdzho River, site 5-07. A 3-4 m wide mafic dyke has a steep-up Group 1 (Permian–Triassic) direction. Its exocontact has the same steep-up direction, but the distant host



Fig. 5. Representative orthogonal demagnetization diagrams and equal-area stereonet plots of sites carrying the northeast-shallow Group 3 characteristic remanence direction. Symbols as in Fig. 3.

rock (Kotuykan red dolomite) has a N-down Group 2 direction, as does the red dolomite at the next site, ~400 m away. In addition, site 4-07 (dolerite sill) is also only ~600 m distant from the baked-contact test, and has a SW-up Group 4 ChRM. The combined results from these sites suggest that both the N-down Group 2 direction and the SW-up Group 4 direction pre-date the Permian–Triassic intrusion, which itself carries a primary Group 1 remanence.

(9) Dhzogdzho River, site 11-07 (sill with U–Pb age of 1501.6 ± 1.9 Ma). Both intrusion and exocontact have same SW-up Group 4 direction. Mafic intrusions of various ages are pervasive in this region of the lower Dzhogdzho River, so it was not possible to find host sedimentary rocks unaffected by their influence and the test is thus incomplete.

To summarize, none of the baked-contact tests conclusively demonstrate a primary remanence for either the N-D "enigmatic" Group 2 ChRM direction or the NE/SW shallow ChRM directions of Groups 3 and 4. However, there are strong suggestions of primary remanence in Group 3 (Fomich River sites 3 and 24); and Groups 2 and 4 are both likely older than Permian–Triassic (Dzhogdzho River site 5-07)—assuming that each group contains a pure, uncontaminated representation of the local geomagnetic field at some time in the past. There remains the possibility that

any of those non-trap ChRM groups, particularly the N-down Group 2 direction, could be a mixture of other components, as discussed next.

6. Interpretation of characteristic remanence directions

Based on the information presented above, either the dominantly N-down Group 2 direction or the nearly antipodal Group 3 and 4 directions could plausibly be primary. The Group 3 and 4 data are similar to those reported from nearly coeval rocks in the Olenëk uplift in northeastern Siberia (Wingate et al., 2009) and to some directions obtained from dykes of the eastern Anabar uplift (Ernst et al., 2000). Among all groups, multiply sampled intrusions yield site-mean directions that are well clustered relative to the entire spread of data, implying a positive "secular variation test" as one would expect from sampling thermal-remanent magnetizations (TRMs) from quickly cooled intrusions (Halls, 1986). Groups 2-4 are distributed throughout large areas of our sampling region, although Group 2 is restricted to the west Anabar subregion (upper Kotuykan to Dzhogdzho Rivers). Within Groups 3 and 4, a rough correlation with stratigraphy may be evident, with Group 3 among the lower levels of sill intrusion, and Group 4 among the higher levels (Figs. 1 and 2).



Fig. 6. Representative orthogonal demagnetization diagrams and equal-area stereonet plots of sites carrying the southwest-shallow Group 4 characteristic remanence direction. Symbols as in Fig. 3.

The first class of explanations for the difference between the N-down "enigmatic" Group 2 component and the NE/SW shallow Groups 3 and 4 components assumes that they all accurately record the local geomagnetic field at the time of remanence acquisition, recording excursions of either Siberian APW or the mid-Proterozoic geodynamo. We suspect an APW explanation is unlikely, because Group 2 is identified in the Upper Kotuykan River sill site VR1-5 (1493 ± 9 Ma) whereas Group 4 is found in sills of the same age, within error: Dzhogdzho River site 11-07 (1502 ± 2 Ma) and Kotuy River sites 16-07 to 25-07 (1503 ± 2 Ma). Stretching the age uncertainties to their limits, one would require 49° of APW in a span of only 21 million years, corresponding to a minimum 26 cm/yr rate of continental motion. A slight age difference between directional groups could perhaps in principle be detectable by subtle geochemical variations, and indeed there are two distinct trace-element geochemical groups of intrusions described by Ernst et al. (2016b); however, those two groups do not correspond to the paleomagnetic directional groups (Table 1). If the paleomagnetic discrepancy is to be explained by a geomagnetic excursion, then the enigmatic Group 2 more likely records the anomalous field because it is less abundant across the field area. Nonetheless, it then becomes puzzling why the excursion would be observed in so many rocks spread across ~3000 km², including not only mafic intrusions but also redbeds, the latter presumably bearing a thermochemical remanence unlikely to be acquired at precisely the same time. Most troubling for this class of explanation, however, is the fact that both Group 2 and Group 4 directions are found at different sites within the same intrusion, for example Dzhogdzho sites 15-00 (Gr. 2), 11-07(Gr. 4) and 16-00 (Gr. 4). A similar discrepancy exists at Dzhogdzho sites 1-07 (Gr. 4) and 2-07 (Gr. 2), both from the same intrusion, although the 2-07 ChRM is the only southerly-upward polarization of the Group 2 set—one could choose to consider it as a marginal member of Group 4, but then the discrepancy between it and 1-07 from the same intrusion remains a challenge for APW or geomagnetic explanations of all the directional discordances in our dataset.

A second class of explanations for the Group 2-4 directional discordance invokes rock-magnetic artifacts of either anisotropy or component mixing. Anisotropic effects are unlikely because none of the sampled rocks are visibly anisotropic as would be necessary to account for the \sim 30° directional discordance. The Group 2 direction, being N-down directed at Northern Hemisphere sites, is inherently suspect as being contaminated by a viscous remanent magnetization (VRM) acquired in the present Earth field, perhaps partially overprinting Group 3 northeasterly ChRMs. This seems unlikely, however, because (a) Group 2 samples exhibited straight-line demagnetization trajectories that would require coincidentally identical unblocking spectra between the two components, (b) Group 2 sites were typically Fisher-distributed, with no preferred elongation direction at either the within-site or between-site hierarchical level, (c) Site 15-00 has a Group 2 direction but the adjacent sites 14-00 and 16-00 (the former possibly and the latter definitely from the same intrusion) have SW-seeking ChRM directions (Group 4) rather than NE-seeking Group 3 directions, and (d) Group 2 directions in red dolomite (sites 5-07 and 6-07) and red sandstones (site 105sed-08) render



Fig. 7. Equal-area stereographic projection of all site means reported in this study, color coded by remanence grouping as in Table 1 (color-coded as in Fig. 1). Solid symbols are in the lower hemisphere; open symbols are in the upper hemisphere. Each irregular envelope surrounds multiple sites collected from the same intrusion. U–Pb baddeleyite ages are in Ma (Ernst et al., 2016b). Site 2-07 is discussed in text. S = sedimentary site within Group 2. Star is the present dipole field direction for the sampling area.

a VRM interpretation unlikely because those redbed sites are unlikely to contain multi-domain magnetite, the typical carrier of VRMs.

The enigmatic Group 2 direction could alternatively be interpreted as a contaminated partial overprint from Permian–Triassic traps. It is noted that 8 out of 11 of the Group 2 sites are located within 7 km of a site bearing a Permian–Triassic Group 1 direction. However, the polarity of nearest Group 1 site does not always match that of the proximal Group 2 site. Also, it seems improbable that all five sites in the single sill at the base of the succession along the upper Kotuykan River (VR1-5, dated by U–Pb on baddeleyite at 1493 ± 9 Ma) would be partially remagnetized by a trap intrusion where none is recognized in that area.

Although most samples yielded single-component behavior, some examples were observed of Group 2 partial overprinting on either a sedimentary ChRM (Fig. 3, sample 99), or one the Group 3 or Group 4 characteristic remanences (Fig. 5, sample 185; Fig. 6, sample 7247). There were only rare instances of a Group 3 or Group 4 component unblocking at lower temperatures than a Group 2 component (Fig. 6, sample 7247).

Petrographic and rock-magnetic results (Fig. 8) may shed some additional light on the origin of Group 2 remanence, although the data are far from definitive. Group 2 samples tend to be finergrained than those of Groups 3 and 4, with pyroxene and glassy matter completely overprinted by epidote and chlorite, and creation of fine-grained opaque minerals on the chloritized pyroxene. Groups 3 and 4 tend to be coarser-grained, with ophitic and poikilo-ophitic textures. Partial to complete saussuritization affects plagioclase, and pyroxene is variably altered along grain boundaries to amphibole, chlorite, and epidote. On the whole, samples from Groups 3 and 4 tend to be less altered than samples from Group 2.

In backscattered scanning electron microprobe (SEM) imagery, Groups 3 and 4 show variability of Fe-oxide phases, both in grain size and in morphology. Group 2 samples tend to have larger amalgamations of Fe-oxide-bearing grains with oxy-exsolution features. Group 1 Fe-oxide grains are smaller and lack distinctive internal structure. In all samples, the presence of hightemperature oxidation and solid solution decay is supported by SEM observations and microprobe analyses, and these can be considered as evidence for a primary magmatic origin of the most of magnetic minerals. Groups 3 and 4 show sufficient variability of magnetic mineralogy to corroborate the idea that recording of the ambient geomagnetic field occurred over enough time to average paleosecular variation.

Hysteresis parameters of studied samples, summarized on the plotting convention of Day et al. (1977), show that they contain single-domain and pseudo-single-domain (SD/PSD) magnetic particles, and can be considered as stable magnetic carriers over geological timescales (Fig. 8A). The Group 3 and 4 samples exhibit the greatest variability in hysteresis parameters, whereas Groups 1 and 2 are confined to the central part of the PSD field. This may indicate support for briefly emplaced and relatively homogeneous magnetic mineralogy for each of those two directional groups (Permian–Triassic and the enigmatic group). Thermomagnetic curves of bulk susceptibility versus temperature (Fig. 8B) all indicate dominant presence of near-stoichiometric magnetite, with Hopkinson peaks at temperatures immediately below 580 °C.



Fig. 8. Rock-magnetic data from representative samples of the four directional groups, color-coded as in Fig. 1. (A) Plot of hysteresis parameters (Mrs/Ms = ratio of saturation remanence to saturation magnetization; Bcr/Bc = ratio of coercivity of remanence to coercivity) from samples plotted against the canonical fields (Day et al., 1977) of single-domain (SD), pseudo-single-domain (PSD) and multi-domain (MD) magnetite. (B) Selected samples from each of the four characteristic remanence (ChRM) directional groups, showing SEM backscattered imagery (scale bar = $20 \,\mu$ m wide for all images; the bar for VR1-08 is almost too narrow to see, as the field of view is ~3 mm wide), and bulk susceptibility versus temperature for heating and cooling.

These curves show more variable behavior for Groups 3 and 4, with some curves largely reversible and others irreversible. Group 2 samples are dominated by nearly reversible thermomagnetic behavior, whereas Group 1 shows consistently irreversible behavior.

Altogether, we favor the Group 3 and Group 4 magnetizations as most likely to represent primary magnetizations among the ca. 1500 Ma intrusions around the Anabar Shield. This interpretation is mainly due to (a) greater abundance relative to the enigmatic Group 2 component, (b) various possible explanations for the Group 2 component including modest degrees of remagnetization or acquisition during geomagnetic excursions, and (c) an overall smooth progression of paleomagnetic poles through the



Fig. 9. New paleomagnetic poles generated in this study, compared to selected published results. Pole abbreviations follow Table 2, plus P–Tr (Permian–Triassic). Aldan block and its generalized ca. 1070–1000 Ma pole path (pink) have been restored to the Anabar reference frame in pre-Devonian time (Pavlov et al., 2008; Euler parameters from Evans, 2009). The individual site-mean virtual geomagnetic poles from Ernst et al. (2000) have italicized numeric labels and U–Pb ages. Dark squares are selected Paleozoic running-mean Siberian (Anabar frame) poles from Cocks and Torsvik (2007).

stratigraphic succession, from the older Riphean sedimentary units, to the younger sedimentary units, and finally to the Group 3 and 4 results (Fig. 9).

In addition to these arguments in favor of the Group 3 and 4 data representing the Siberian craton at ca. 1500 Ma, we note the consistency of the Group 3 and 4 poles with that of the nearly coeval Sololi-Kyutingde pole from the Olenëk area to the east (Wingate et al., 2009; Fig. 9). Our new data are similar to some results from eastern Anabar dykes (Ernst et al., 2000; Fig. 9), but our poles differ from the Kuonamka mean pole of the same study, which was assigned an age of 1503 ± 5 Ma based on U-Pb dating of one of the dykes. Fig. 9 shows how the five-dyke Kuonamka mean lies between the dated dyke's VGP and both the Olenëk pole and our new results. We follow Evans and Mitchell (2011) in interpreting the dated Kuonamka dyke's anomalous remanence-relative to the vastly more abundant Olenëk dataset of Wingate et al. (2009) and now also our northern and western Anabar results-as representing either a geomagnetic excursion or, perhaps, hitherto unrecognized (and if so, dramatic) rotations of Siberia at ca. 1500 Ma.

7. Tectonic reconstruction

As noted above, the primary goal of this study is to determine whether new paleomagnetic data from Siberia can elucidate its position relative to Laurentia during mid-Proterozoic time. Our new Group 3 and Group 4 poles, dated at 1483 ± 17 and 1503 ± 2 Ma, respectively, can be compared to mid-Proterozoic poles from Laurentia (Table 2), in particular the St. Francois Mountains igneous province result from Meert and Stuckey (2002). Our new poles conform to earlier suggestions of a juxtaposition between the southern Siberian and northern Laurentian margins (Fig. 10). Our new poles are substantially discordant to the St. Francois Mountains pole in the Siberia-Laurentia reconstruction models of Sears and Price (1978, 2000, 2003).

The question of whether the Siberia-Laurentia fit was loose (Pisarevsky and Natapov, 2003; Pisarevsky et al., 2008) or tight (Pavlov et al., 2002; Metelkin et al., 2007; Evans and Mitchell, 2011) during mid-Proterozoic time is not addressed directly by our new poles, because they fall atop the coeval Laurentian poles about equally well in either of the two reconstructions (compare Fig. 10a and b). Other Proterozoic poles from Siberia may aid in answering this question, however. Fig. 10 shows Siberian and Laurentian poles from the interval 1750–700 Ma (Table 2). Either reconstruction accommodates the poles in a single APW path with reasonable consistency, but the most important difference occurs in the 1100–1000 Ma datasets. In a loose-fitting reconstruction (Fig. 10a), the Linok and Uchur-Maya poles (Malgina to Kandyk) fall along the 1090–1000 Ma portion of the Laurentian APW path; whereas in the tight-fitting reconstruction (Fig. 10b), the same

Table	2
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Paleomagnetic poles shown in Figs. 9 and 10.

Craton/rock unit	Code	Age (Ma)	Pole(°N,°E)	A ₉₅ (°)	1234567 Q	References
Siberia (Anabar Ref. frame)						
Nersa complex A	Nersa	1641 ± 8	-23, 130	12	1111110 6	Metelkin et al. (2005) and Ernst et al. (2016a)
Ilya-Burdur	Ily-Bur	1690-1500	-04, 120	9	0110100 3	This study, Khudoley et al. (2015)
Labaztakh-Kotuykan	Lab-Kot	<ily-bur< td=""><td>-00,094</td><td>5</td><td>0110111 5</td><td>This study</td></ily-bur<>	-00,094	5	0110111 5	This study
West Anabar intrusions	WAnab	1503 ± 2	-25, 061	5	1111100 5	This study. Ernst et al. (2016b)
North Anabar intrusions	NAnab	1483 ± 17	-24, 075	8	1110100 4	This study. Ernst et al. (2016b)
Sololi-Kyutingde	Sol-Kvu	1473 ± 24	-34,073	10	1111100 5	Wingate et al. (2009)
Malgina Fm	Malg	<1120	15. 070 [†]	3	0111111 6	Gallet et al. (2000) and Khudolev et al. (2015)
Linok Fm	Linok	=Malgina	15,076	8	01111116	Gallet et al. (2000), age from correlation
Kartochka Em*	Kart	ca 1050?	19 036	12	0111101 5	Gallet et al. (2012) age interpolated from APWP
Mil'kon Fm	Milk	ca 1050?	-06.039	3	0111101 5	Payloy and Gallet (2010) age interpolated
Kandyk Fm	Kand	ca 990	$-09,019^{\dagger}$	4	1111100 5	Pavlov et al. (2002)
Kitoi mafic sheets	Kitoi	758 + 4	01 022	7	1111101 6	Pisarevsky et al. (2013)
Ritor mane sheets	idioi	750 1 1	01, 022	,	1111101 0	Fishevsky et al. (2013)
Laurentia						
Cleaver dykes	Cleav	1740 + 5/-4	19, 277	6	1111101 6	Irving et al. (2004)
Melville Bugt dykes	Melv	1638-1619	03, 261††	9	1110111 6	Halls et al. (2011)
Western Channel diabase	WCh	ca. 1592	09, 245	7	1101101 5	Irving et al. (1972) and Hamilton and Buchan (2010)
St Francois Mtns	StFr	1476 ± 16	-13, 219	6	1111101 6	Meert and Stuckey (2002)
Michikamau intr. comb.	Mich	1460 ± 5	-02, 218	5	1111011 6	Emslie et al. (1976)
Spokane Fm	Spok	1470-1445	-25, 216	5	1111101 6	Elston et al. (2002)
Snowslip Fm	Snow	1463-1436	-25, 210	4	1111111 7	Elston et al. (2002)
Purcell lava	Purc	1443 ± 7	-24, 216	5	1111101 6	Elston et al. (2002)
Abitibi dikes	Abit	1141 ± 2	49, 216	14	1111111 7	Ernst and Buchan (1993), excl. A1 Halls et al. (2008)
Logan sills	Logan	1111 ± 3	47, 218	4	1111111 7	Lulea Working Group (2009)
Osler R – lower 3rd	OsR1	1111-1108	41, 219	4	1110111 6	Swanson-Hysell et al. (2014a)
Mamainse Point R1a	MPR1a	1111-1105	50, 227	5	1111111 7	Swanson-Hysell et al. (2014b)
Osler R – middle 3rd	OsR2	1110-1103	43, 211	8	1111111 7	Swanson-Hysell et al. (2014a)
Osler R – upper 3rd	OsR3	1105 ± 2	43, 202	4	1111111 7	Swanson-Hysell et al. (2014a)
Mamainse Point R1b	MPR1b	1110-1100	38,206	4	1111111 7	Swanson-Hysell et al. (2014b)
Mamainse Point N1 + $R2$	MPmid	11004+03	36, 190	5	1111111 7	Swanson-Hysell et al. (2014b)
North Shore Volcanics N	NSVN	1102-1095	36 182	3	1110111 6	Tauxe and Kodama (2009)
Chengwatana Volcanics	Cheng	1095 + 2	31 186	8	1110111 6	Kean et al (1997) and Zartman et al (1997)
Portage Lake Volcanics	PLV	1095 + 3	27 178	5	1111101 6	Hnat et al. (2006)
Mamainse Point N2	MPN2	1100-1094	31 183	3	111111117	Swanson-Hysell et al. (2014b)
Cardenas basalts + intrus	Card	1091 + 5	32, 185	8	1110101 5	Weil et al (2003)
Lake Shore Trans	IST	1087 + 2	23, 186	4	1111101 6	Kulakov et al. (2013)
Nonesuch Fm	None	ca 10652	08 178	6	0110100 3	Symons et al. (2013) age interpolated from APWP
Freda Fm	Freda	ca 10552	02 179	4	0110100 3	Henry et al. (1977) age interpolated
Jacobsville Fm $(A + B)$	IacAB	ca 10402	-09 183	4	0110110 4	Roy and Robertson (1978) age interpolated
Chequameron Em	Chea	ca. 1040?	12 178	5	0110110 3	McCabe and Van der Voo (1983) are interpolated
Haliburton A	Hal_A	1015 ± 15	33 1/2	6	1110000 3	Warnock et al. (2000)
Adirondack favalite granite	Ad fav	1013 ± 13	-55, 142	7	1110000 J	Prown and McEnroe (2012)
Adirondack motam aporth	Ad mot	ca. 550	-26, 155	12	1110010 4	Brown and McEnroe (2012)
Adirondack microcl gneiss	Ad-mic	ca. 970	-23, 149	12	1110010 4	Brown and McEnroe (2012)
Trezotene sills	Tzoc	780 ± 2	-10, 131	5	1110111	Dark at al. (1080)
Wyoming Cupbarrel dikes	W/vCB	780 ± 2	1/ 120	Q	1110101 5	Lules Working Croup (2000)
Wyonning Guilbarrer dikes	Uinta	700 ± 5	01 161	5	1110101 5	Woil at al (2006)
Eraphin LID (authorith)	Eraple	ca. 730	01, 101	2	1111110	$\frac{1}{2000}$
FIANKIIII LIP (AULIIOCIILII.)	FIGIIK	(d. 720	07, 102	2	11111100	Denyszyn et di. (2009)

Notes:

The seven quality criteria and "Q" factor are described by Van der Voo (1990).

* Unit weight given to each section (N = 2).

[†] Euler rotation parameters of pre-Devonian Aldan block to Anabar-Angara: 60, 115, 25 (Evans, 2009).

^{††} Euler rotation parameters of Greenland to North America: 67.5, 241.5, -13.8 (Roest and Srivastava, 1989).

^{†††} See Pisarevsky et al. (2014).

Siberian poles correspond to slightly older Laurentian APW ages beginning closer to 1100 Ma. The youngest of these Siberian poles, Kandyk sills (Pavlov et al., 2002) is well dated at ca. 990 Ma, and accords moderately well with Grenvillian intrusive poles of about the same age from Laurentia (Warnock et al., 2000; Brown and McEnroe, 2012)—especially when considering that the paleohorizontal datums of Grenvillian intrusions are not well established—and also recognizing the caveat that internal Grenville terranes may be substantially allochthonous (Halls, 2015). The older Siberian poles from that interval, Linok and Malgina, are not precisely dated. The Malgina Formation (within the Kerpyl Group) has a Pb/Pb isochron age of 1043 ± 14 Ma (Ovchinnikova et al., 2001), but it is recognized that such a value represents early diagenesis rather than deposition (Kaurova et al., 2010). Recent U–Pb detrital zircon results provide firm maximum constraints on sedimentation, with the youngest population in basal strata of the Kerpyl Group dated at 1120 ± 17 Ma (Khudoley et al., 2015). With such age constraints, both the loose-fitting and tight-fitting reconstruction options remain viable.

We are left, then, with the somewhat unsatisfactory conclusion that according to Mesoproterozoic paleomagnetic poles, both the loose-fitting and tight-fitting reconstructions of Siberia and Laurentia are possible. Each has its prediction of the ages of Kerpyl Group strata, via comparison to well dated Laurentian poles. However, there is one more pole comparison that may shed additional light on this dichotomy of ideas. Recent paleomagnetic study of 758 ± 4 Ma Kitoi dykes, in SW Siberia (Pisarevsky et al., 2013), produced an excellent match with Laurentian poles in a tight-fitting reconstruction, and a rather poor match in the loose-fitting reconstruction (Fig. 10). According to the authors of that study, Siberia



Fig. 10. Alternative reconstructions of Siberia in the present North American reference frame. In both models, Aldan is first restored to Anabar for pre-Devonian time (Euler parameters 60°, 115°, 25°) according to Evans (2009). (A) Loose fit adopted from Pisarevsky et al. (2014) (Anabar to North America 70°, 133°, 127°). (B) Long-lived, tight fit proposed in this study (Anabar to North America 77°, 098°, 137°). Pole abbreviations are identified in Table 2. Baltica is restored to Laurentia (47.5°, 001.5°, 49°) according to Evans and Pisarevsky (2008).

migrated from a loose fit to a tight fit during ca. 780-760 Ma dextral transform motion associated with Rodinia breakup. The model helps explain synchroneity of ca. 725-Ma mafic magmatism in both southern Siberia and northern Laurentia (Ernst et al., 2016a), but it calls for mid-Neoproterozoic strike-slip relative motion that is not particularly evident along either margin. We propose a simpler model in which the coincidence of Kitoi poles with those of mid-Neoproterozoic Laurentia merely represents the near-final stages of the long-lived pairing between the two cratons in their tight juxtaposition, and that the cratons began separating at the time of the 725-Ma magmatism. Our preferred reconstruction (Fig. 10b) is chosen to optimize both the cratonic marginal outlines and paleomagnetic poles from the entire 1.7-0.7 Ga interval, and to honor many geological comparisons between the two cratons throughout that history (Evans and Mitchell, 2011; Ernst et al., 2016a).

If our model of billion-year tectonic stability (within the resolution of paleomagnetic data) between Siberia and northern Laurentia is correct, then all high-quality paleomagnetic poles must conform to a common APW path between the two blocks for that interval of time. As shown in Fig. 10, our model accommodates the Mesoproterozoic-Neoproterozoic poles from both cratons. Several recent paleomagnetic and geochronologic results from late Paleoproterozoic rocks, however, warrant additional discussion. In the Ulkan graben, rocks from both volcanosedimentary units and intrusive granitoids yielded paleomagnetic poles (Didenko et al., 2015). The volcanosedimentary pole from the Elgetey Formation, dated at 1732 ± 4 Ma, passes both fold and intraformational conglomerate tests, but it is highly discordant to other poles from the Siberian craton and is thus interpreted by the authors as having been deflected by local rotations during graben development. The granitoid pole, with an estimated age of 1719 Ma (Didenko et al., 2015) is more consistent with other granitoid-derived poles from southern Siberia (Didenko et al., 2009), but none of those granitoid-based data have reliable estimates of paleohorizontal. Due to this lack of structural control, neither Ulkan result can be

considered as a robust estimate of Siberia's paleogeography at ca. 1730–1720 Ma. In southwestern Siberia, mafic rocks of the Nersa complex were once considered entirely Neoproterozoic–Cambrian in age (Gladkochub et al., 2006), but one mafic sill that yielded a paleomagnetic pole (Metelkin et al., 2005) is now dated by U–Pb on baddeleyite at ca. 1640 Ma (Ernst et al., 2016a). That pole, with its new age constraint, actually fits well atop the common Siberia-Laurentia APW path in either the loose or tight fit (Fig. 10).

8. Conclusions

We produce new paleomagnetic poles from the northern and western margins of the Anabar Shield, Siberia. Our data, when compared to similarly aged poles from Laurentia, allow a tightfitting juxtaposition between the two cratons, slightly modified from that of Rainbird et al. (1998) and Evans and Mitchell (2011) and internally stable for about a billion years (1.7-0.7 Ga). The alternative, loose-fitting reconstruction between southern Siberia and northern Laurentia (e.g., Pisarevsky and Natapov, 2003; Pisarevsky et al., 2008) requires transform motion between the cratons during Rodinia breakup (Pisarevsky et al., 2013); whereas our model accommodates all of the high-quality poles from both cratons without any internal motions. Both models make specific predictions regarding the ages of sedimentation of Riphean strata that have yielded high-quality paleomagnetic poles, and thus further geochronology of those successions may assist in distinguishing which reconstruction is viable.

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