A Potential New Zircon Reference Material for Micro-beam Analysis

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In this study, we introduce natural zircon SA01 as potential new working reference materials for the micro-beam analysis of U-Pb geochronology, O and Hf isotope geochemistry. The SA01 zircon megacrysts were found to be fairly homogeneous in U-Pb age, O and Hf isotopes based on large numbers of measurements by laser ablation-inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS) and secondary ion mass spectrometry (SIMS).

Zircon SA01 has TIMS-determined mean $^{206}Pb/^{238}U$ age of 535.73 \pm 0.33Ma (uncertainty quoted at the 95% confidence level), the best reference values for SA01 zircon. Returned results of assessment by SIMS and LA-ICP-MS from individual crystals are within uncertainty equivalent to the TIMS ages. The $\delta^{18}O$ value determined by laser fluorination is 6.17 \pm 0.38% VSMOW (2s), and the mean ^{176}Hf / ^{177}Hf ratio determined by solution MC-ICP-MS is 0.282292 \pm 0.000003 (2s), which are in good agreement with the statistical mean of micro-beam analysis. The SIMS-determined δ^7Li value ranged from -5.49 to +7.94%, making the SA01 zircons unsuitable as a lithium isotope determination reference material for calibration of unknown samples by micro-beam analysis.

SA01 are stored in the MC-ICP-MS laboratory at the Institute of Geology and Geophysics, Chinese Academy of Science in Beijing, and are available on request from the lead author of this article.

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