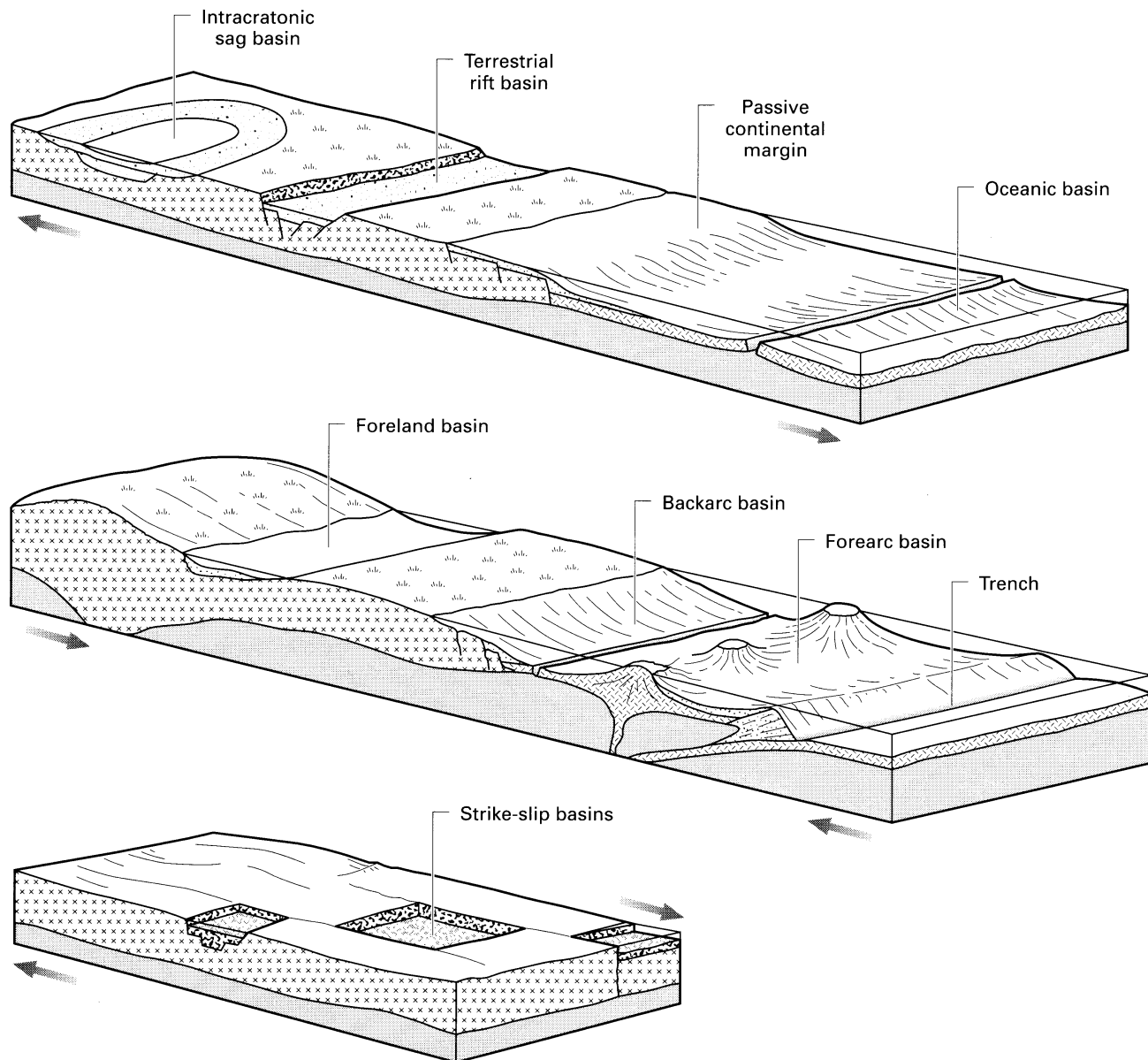
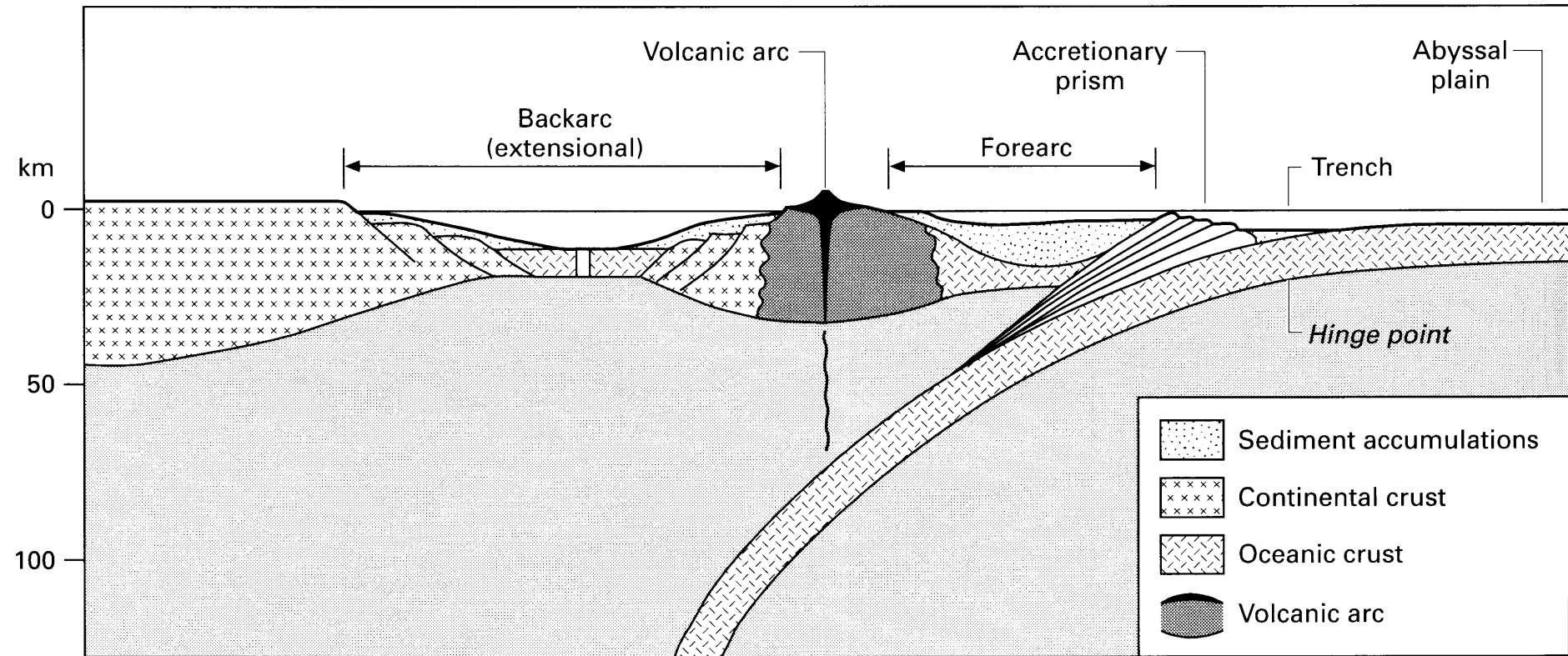


# Basin classification

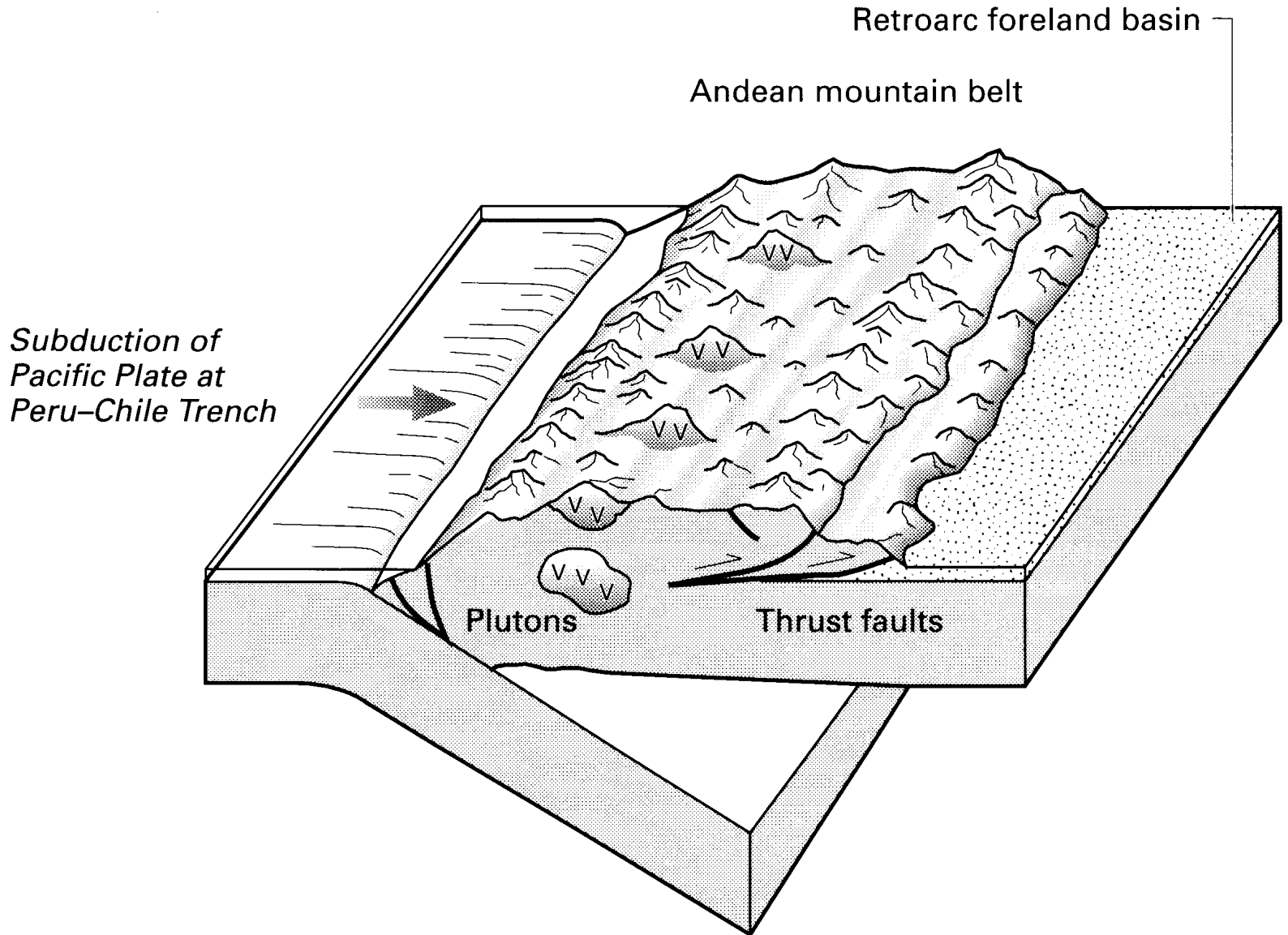
Basins are classified according to either their position within a plate, or according to their structural/ tectonic origin.



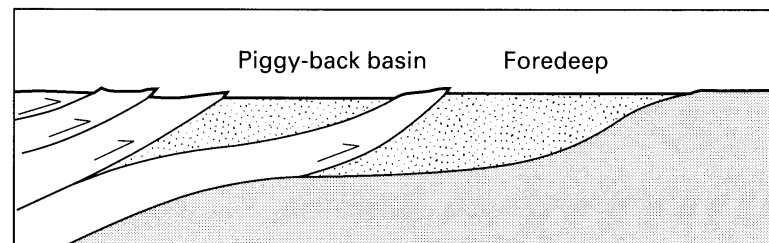
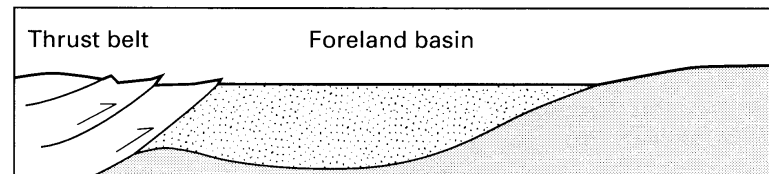
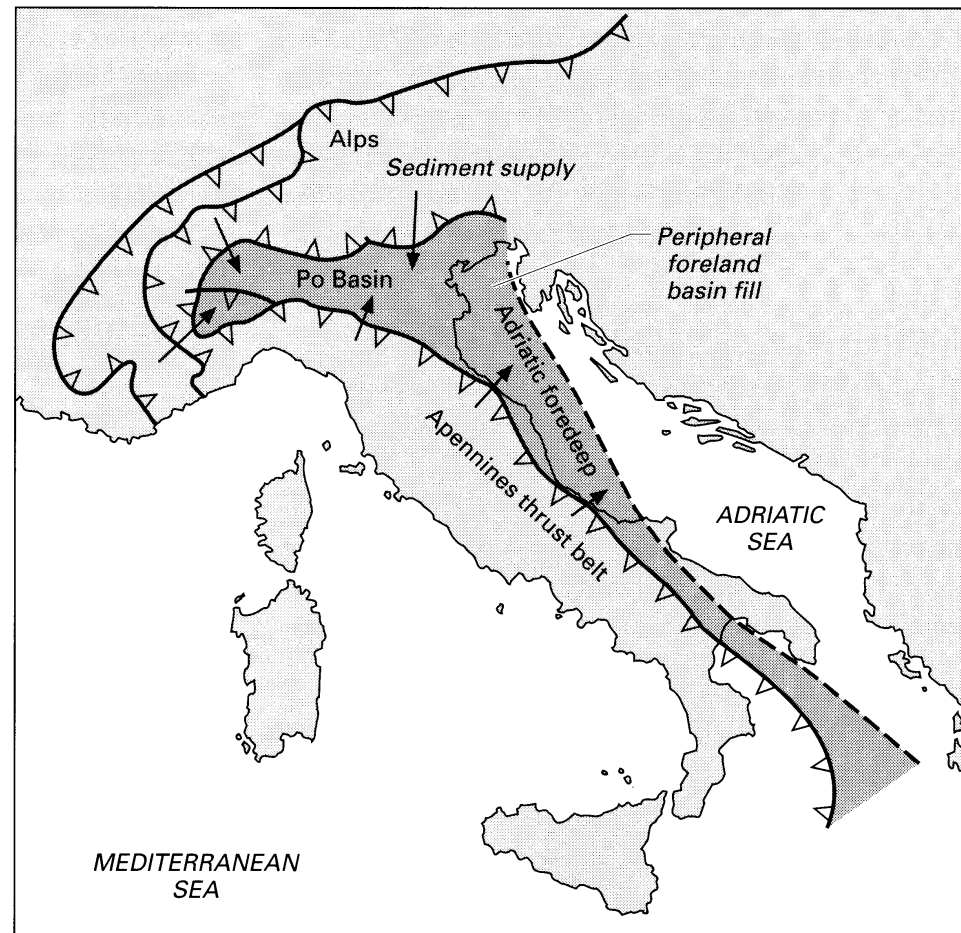
# Basins on an active margin



# Andean-type active margin



# Foredeep basin



Schematic cross-sections across foreland basins

# Alpine foredeep basin, Austria (Molasse basin)

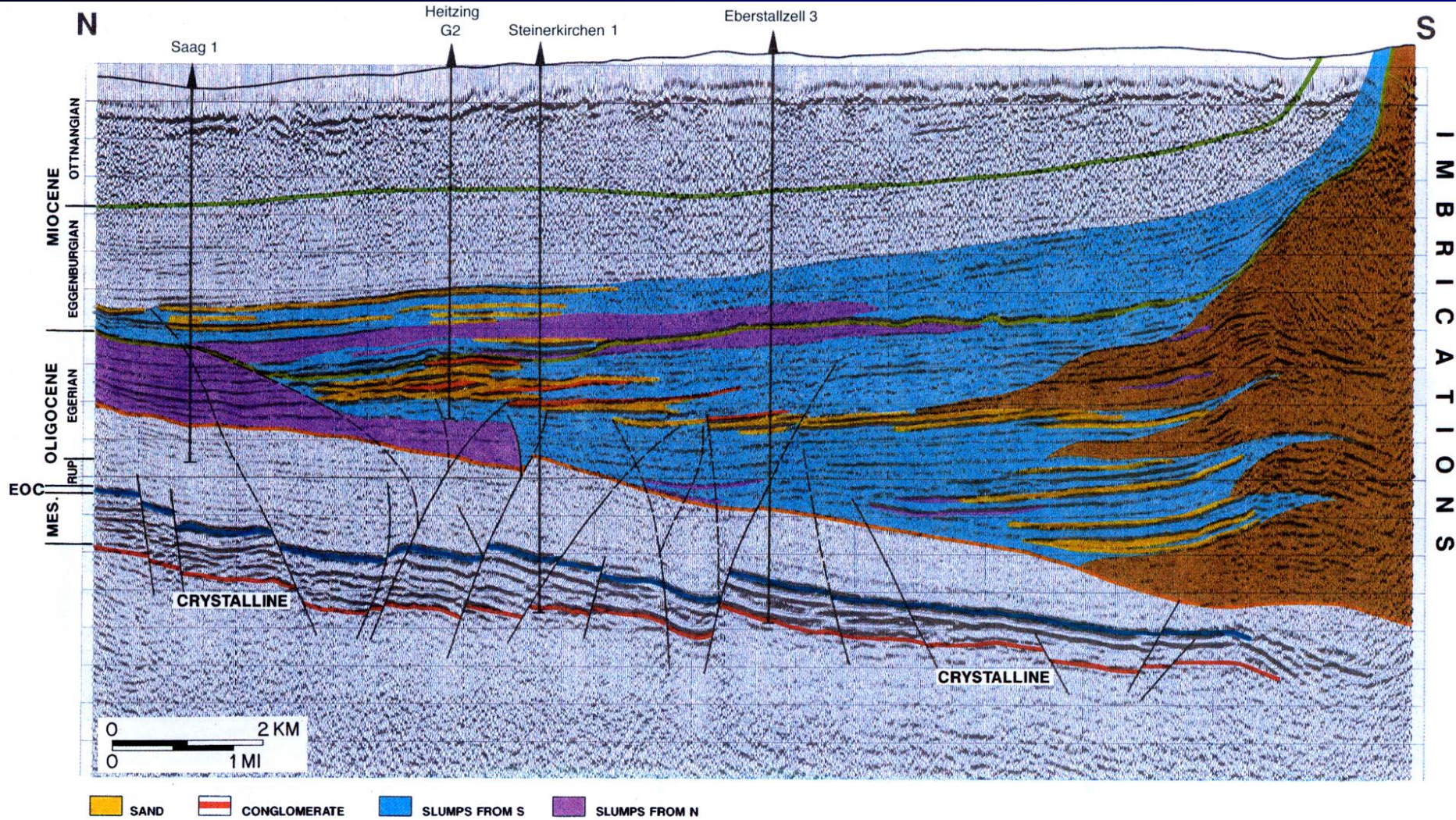
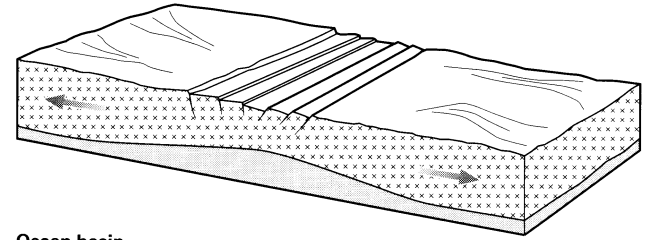


Fig. 14. N-S seismic line through the Upper Austrian Molasse Basin.

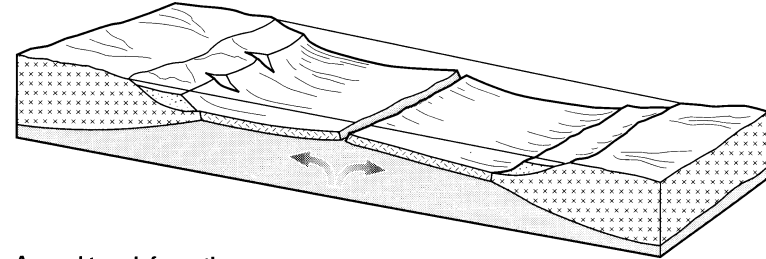
# Wilson (orogenic) cycle

As a region evolves tectonically many areas of sedimentation occur under different tectonic settings. Hence many basins have a polyphase history.

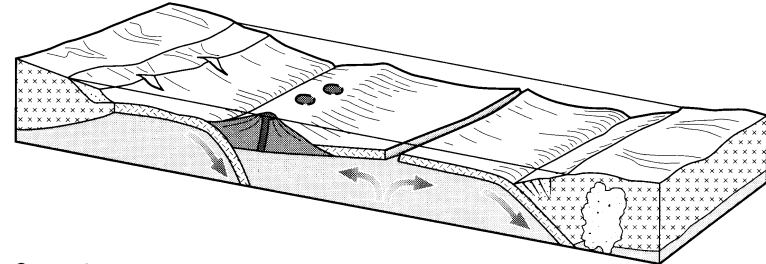
Rift basin



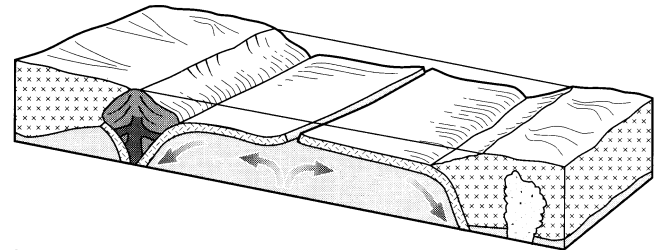
Ocean basin



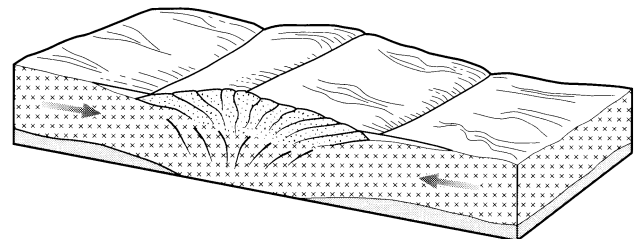
Arc and trench formation



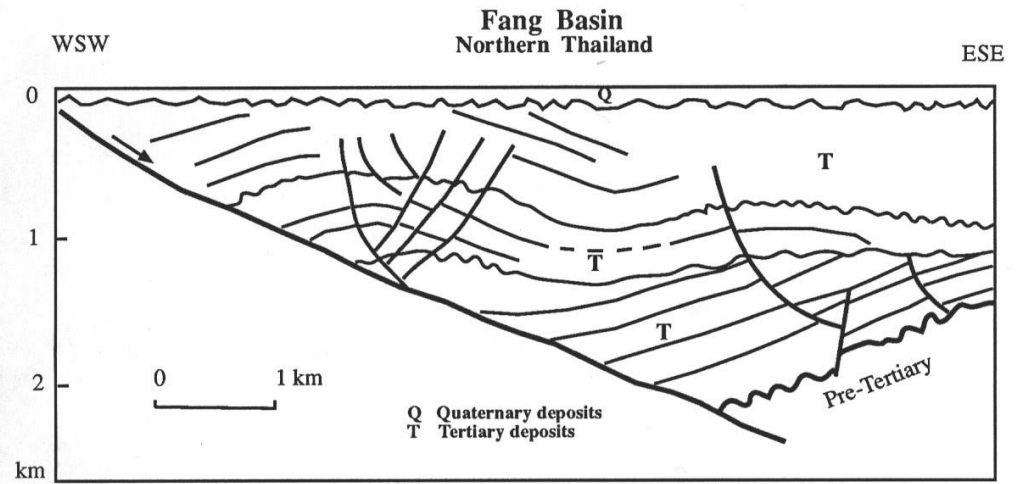
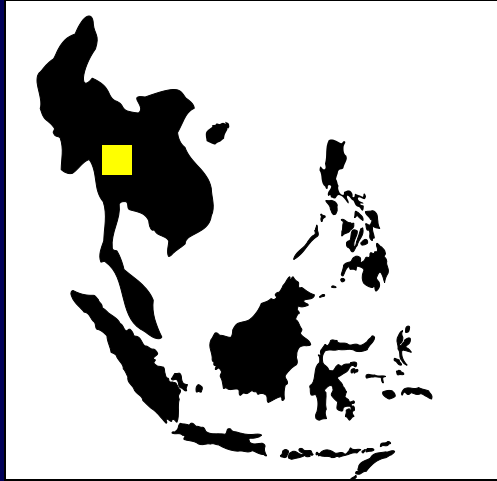
Ocean closure



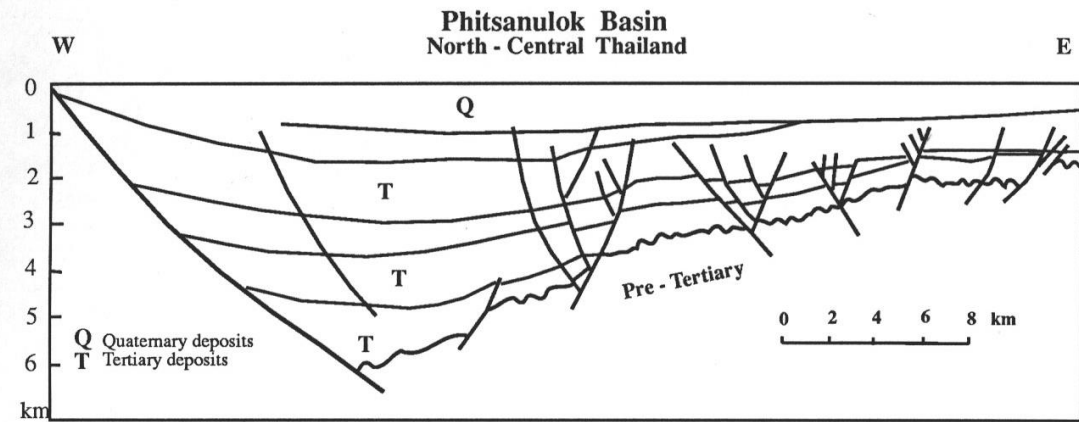
Mountain belt



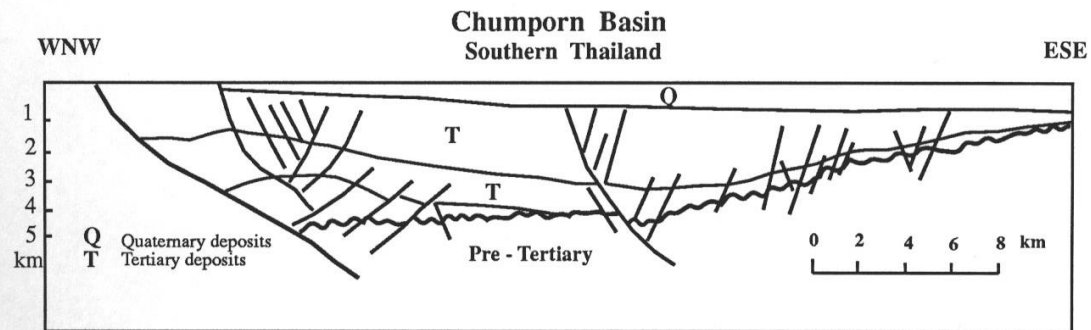
# Rift basins, Thailand



(From Settakul et al, 1990)

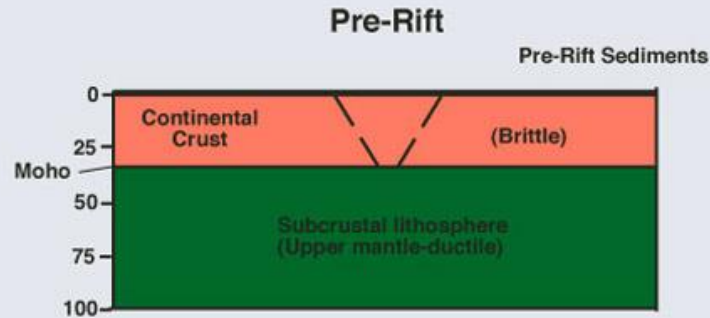


(From Burri, 1989)

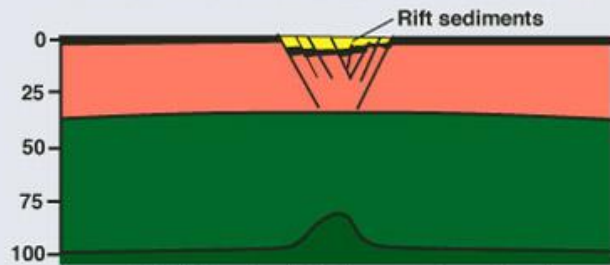


(From Burri, 1989)

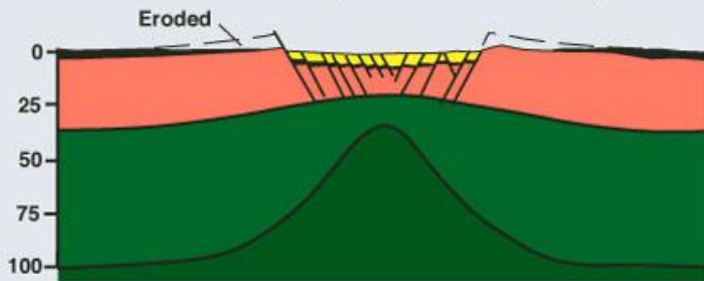
# Evolution from continental rift to passive margin



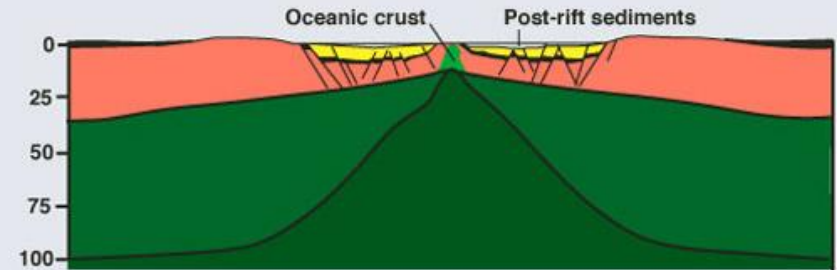
**Graben Formation (5 km extension)**



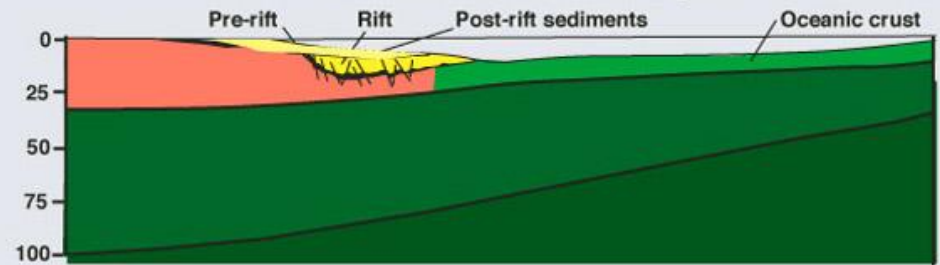
**Rift Basin (50 km extension)**



**Rift Basin (100 km extension)**



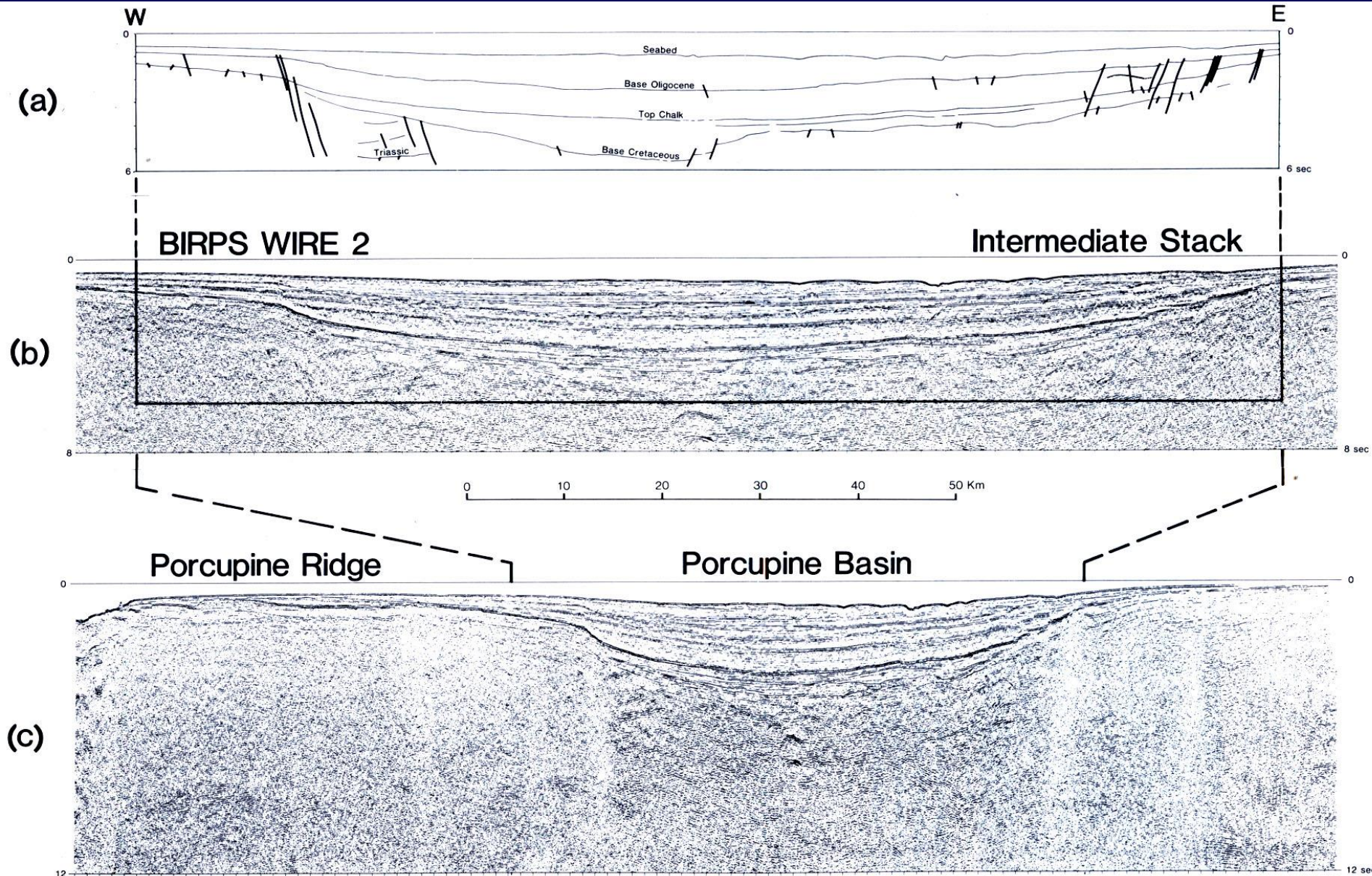
**Mature Continental Margin**



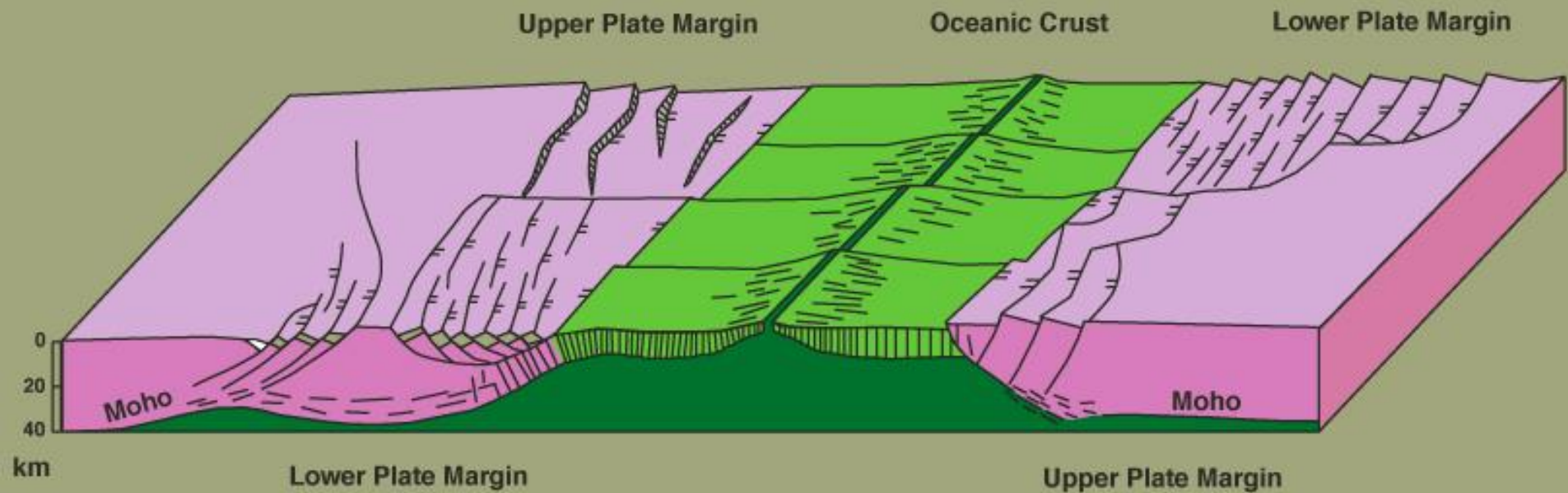
100 km



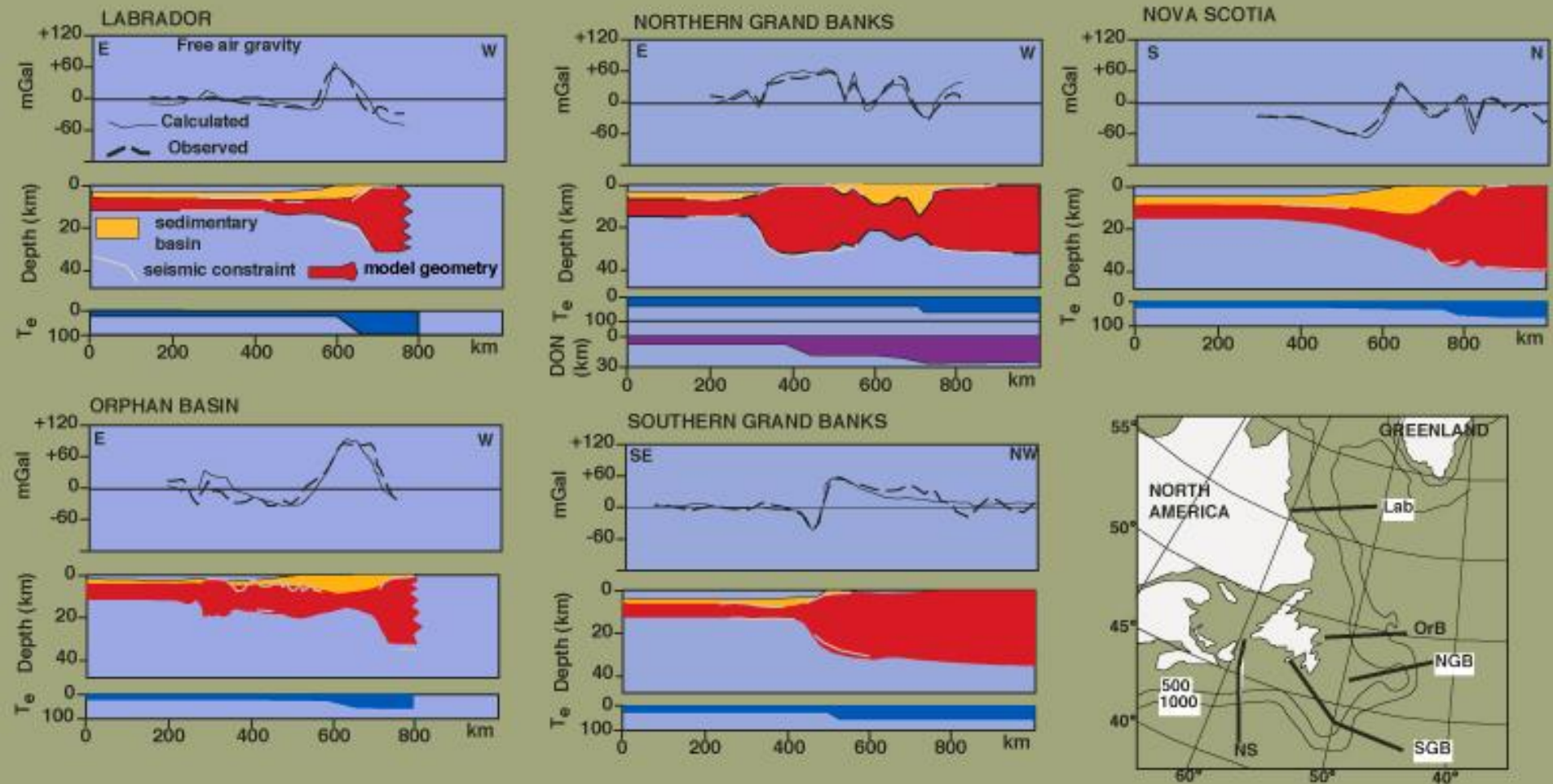
# Thermal sag basin over rift basin



# Passive margin geometry



# Stretching geometries of N Atlantic margin

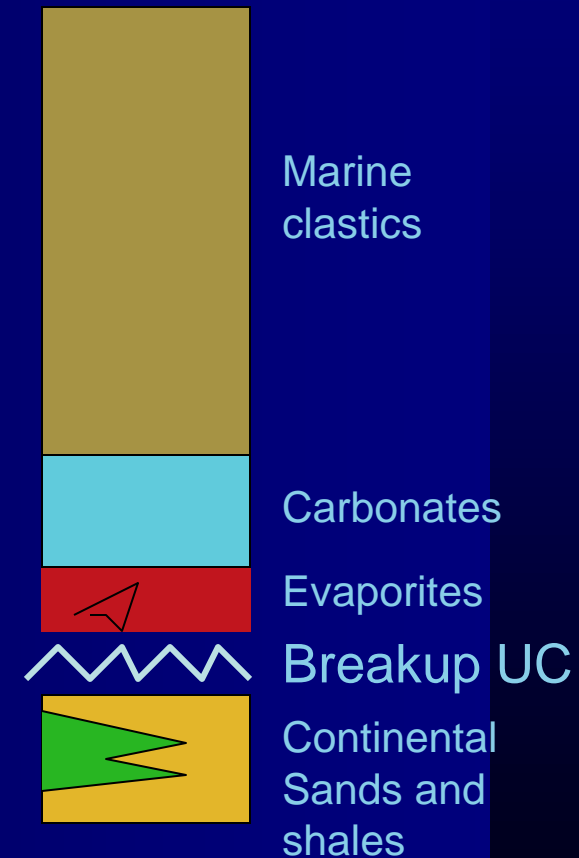
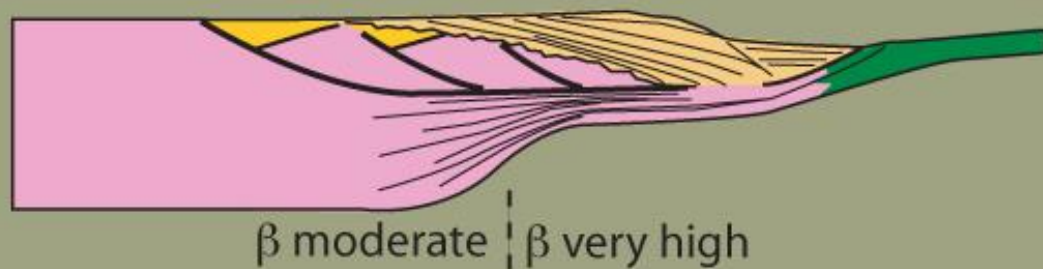
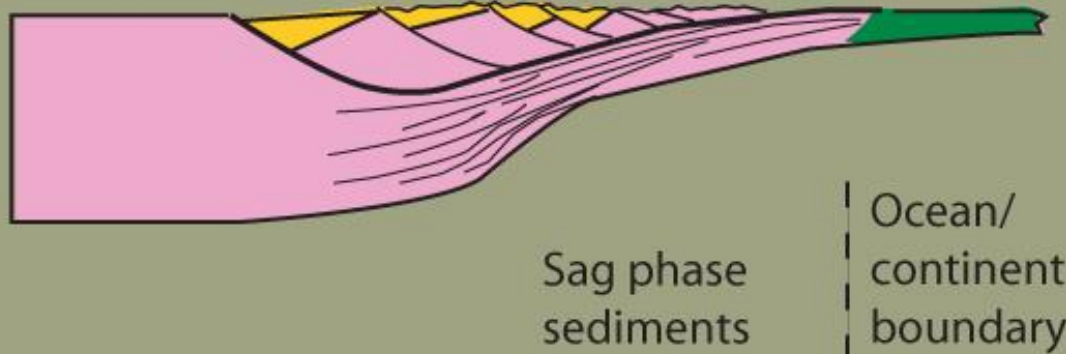


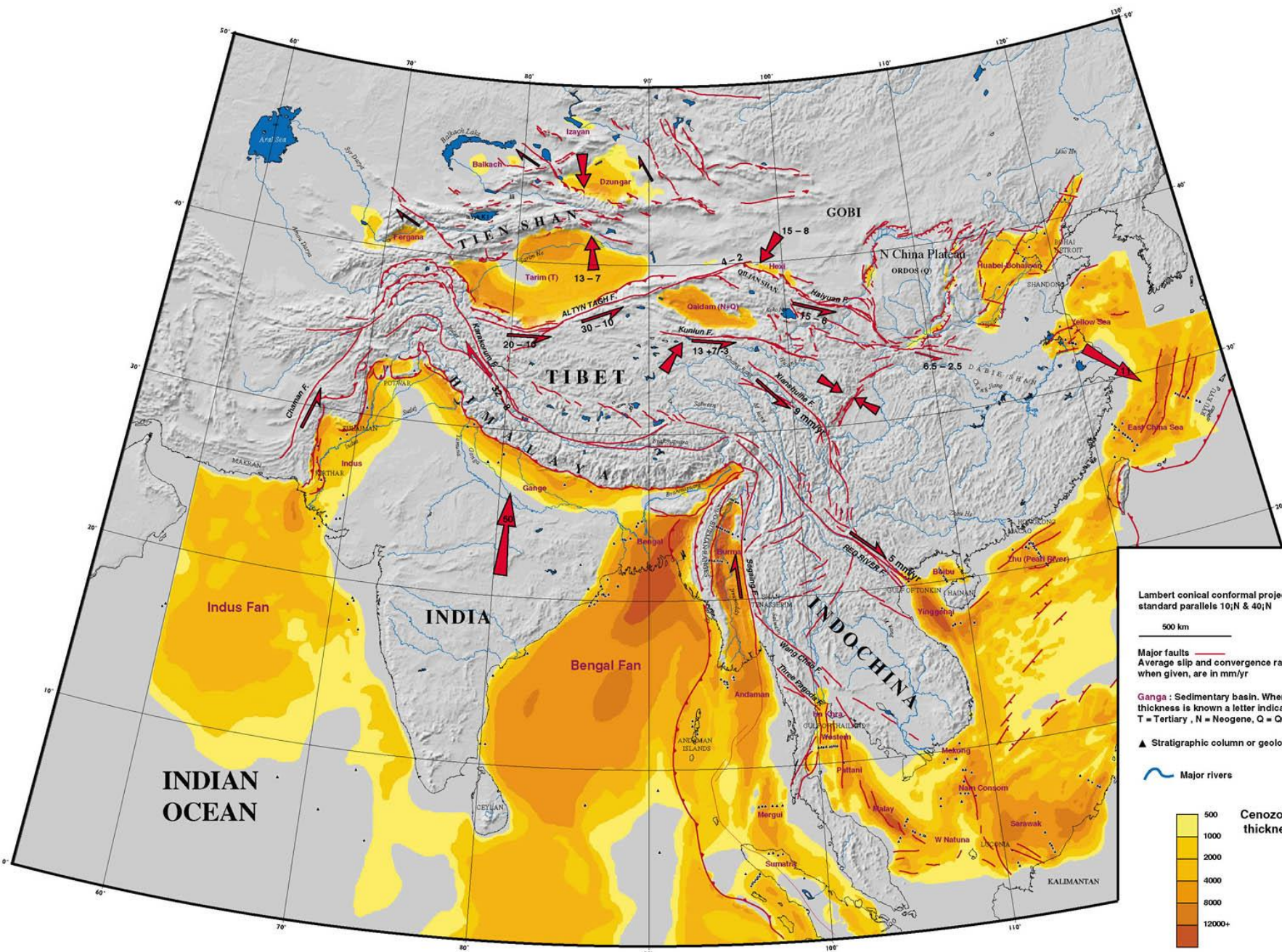
# Passive margin evolution

Early continental rifting

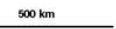


Post-rift unconformity





Lambert conical conformal projection :  
 standard parallels 10;N & 40;N

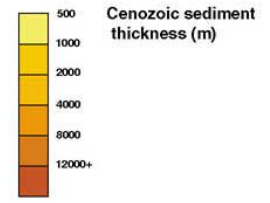


Major faults ———  
 Average slip and convergence rates,  
 when given, are in mm/yr

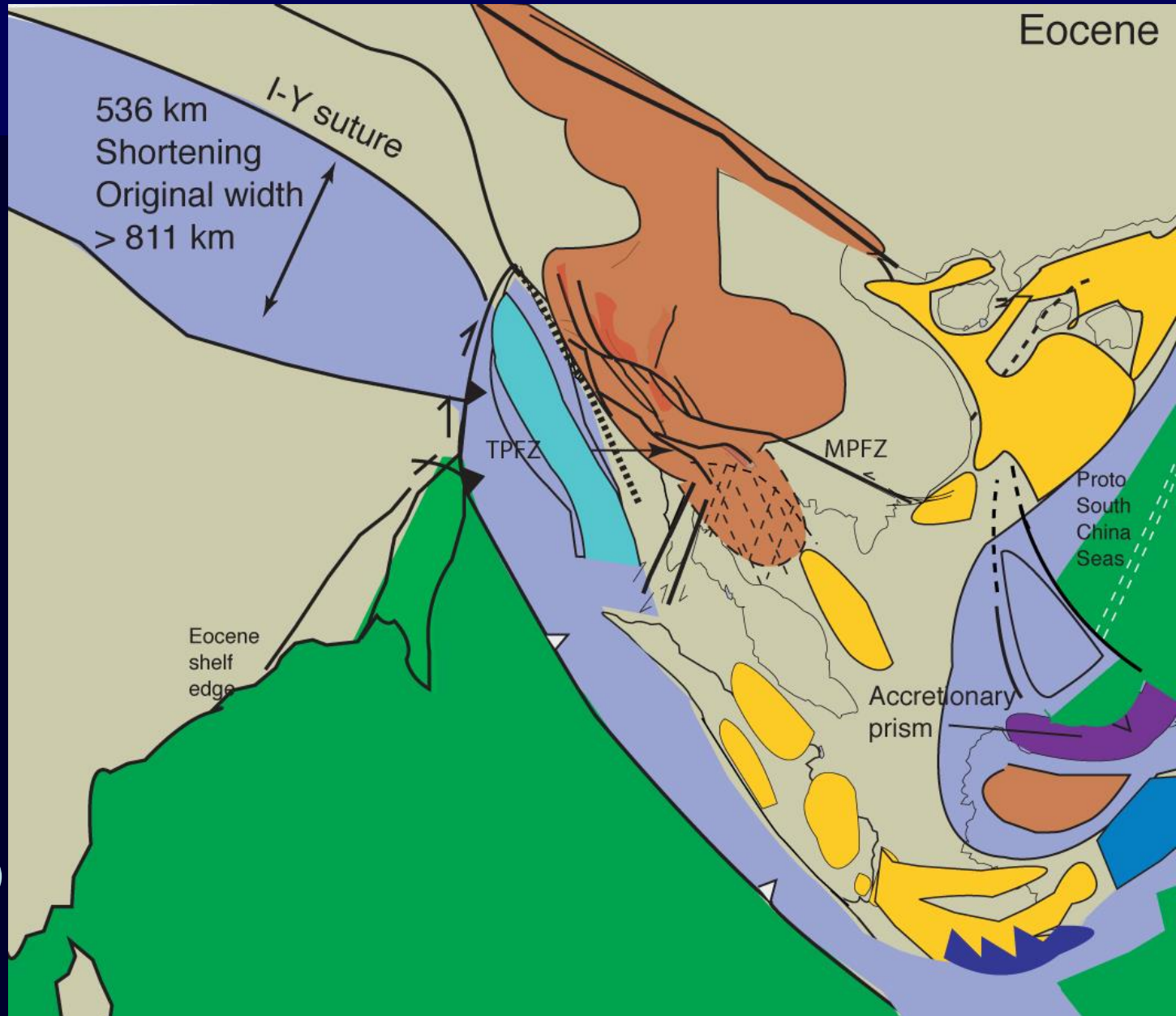
Ganga : Sedimentary basin. When not all Cenozoic  
 thickness is known a letter indicates age of strata.  
 T = Tertiary , N = Neogene, Q = Quaternary

▲ Stratigraphic column or geologic section

~ Major rivers



Eocene



Orogenic belt  
between Red  
River Fault zone  
and Myanmar

Predominantly  
continental rifts

Mae Ping and  
Three Pagodas  
Fault zones  
active (not main  
Tibetan collision)

Modified from Lee and Lawver, 1995, Hall, 1995 and Morley 2002)

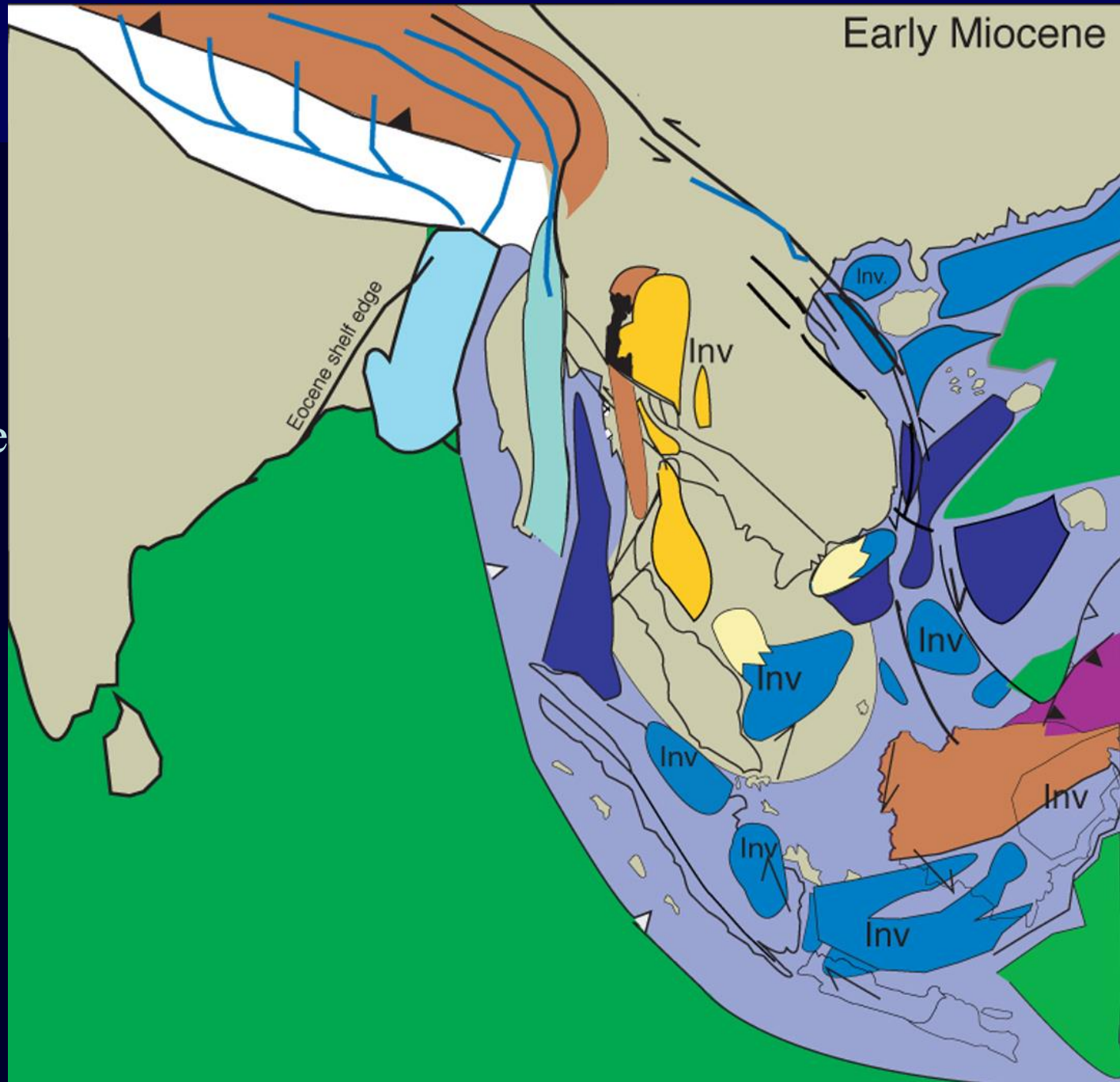
Early Miocene

Thermal  
subsidence in  
southern  
Sundaland

Extensive marine  
conditions

Uplift in west  
Thailand

Widespread  
inversion



# CENOZOIC SEA-LEVEL CHANGE

**HAQ et al. (1987)**

**LONG TERM**

3rd-order

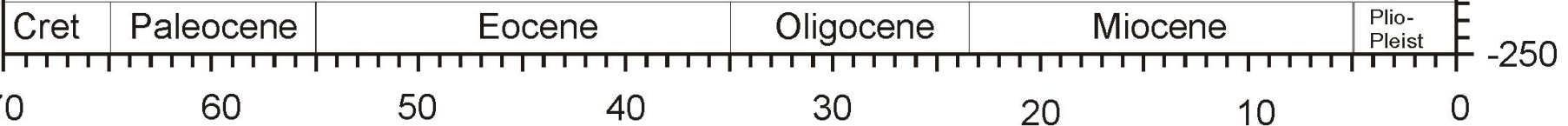
**LONG TERM**

3rd-order

**KOMINZ et al. (1998)**

TIME (Ma)

sealevel (metres)





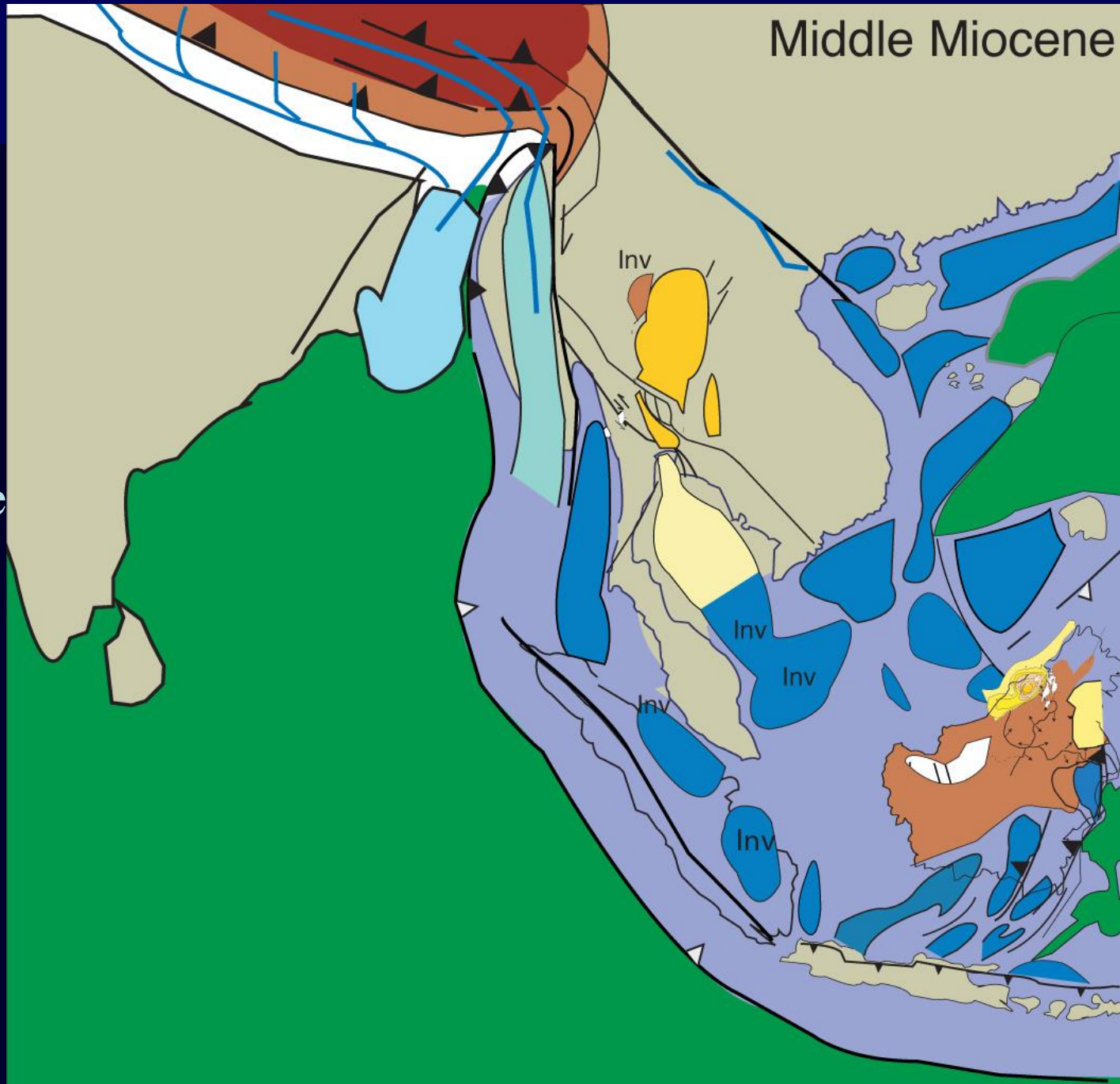
Middle Miocene

Thermal  
subsidence  
everywhere  
except onshore  
Thailand

Extensive marine  
conditions

Uplift west of  
Chiang Mai

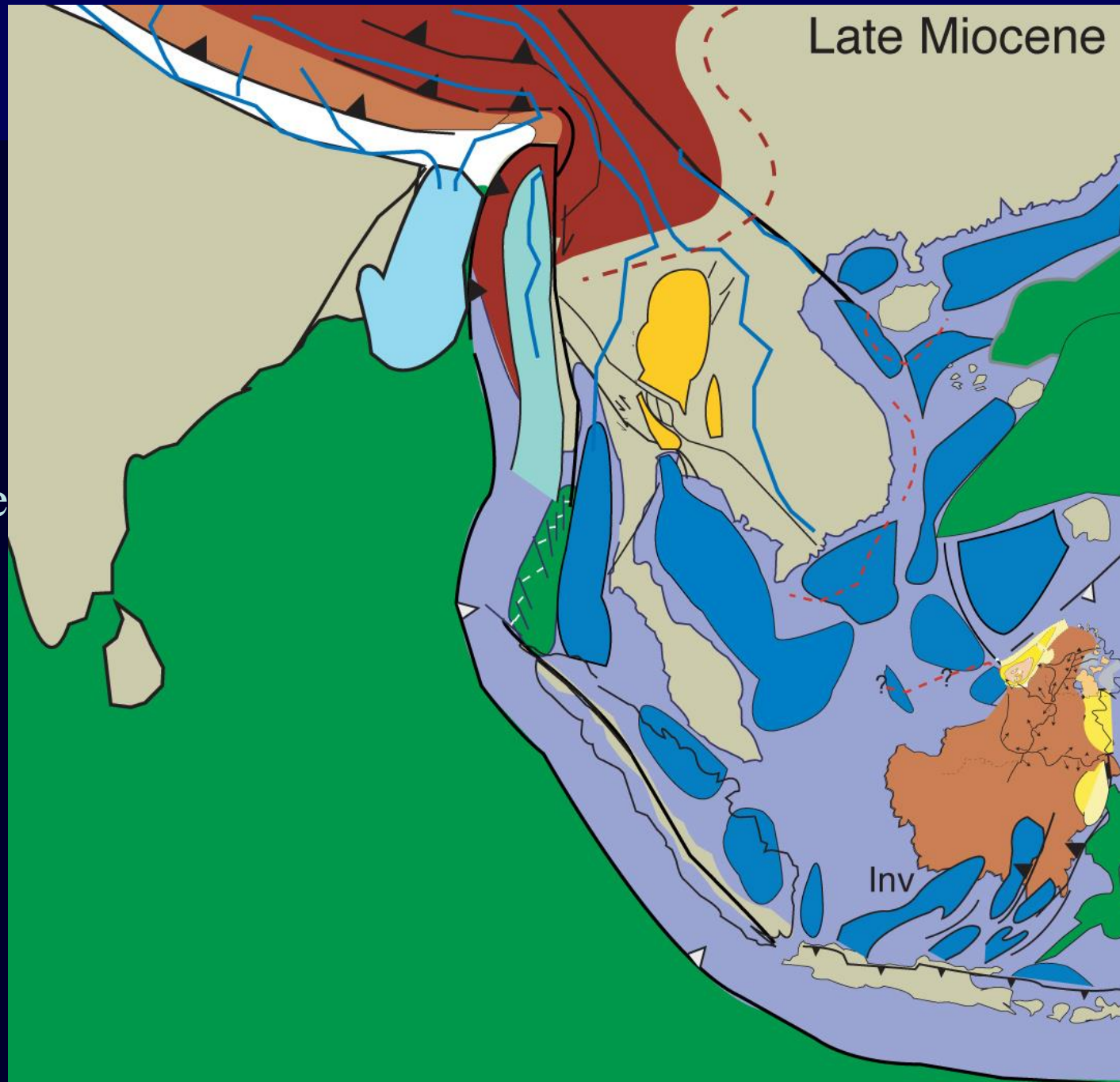
Widespread  
inversion



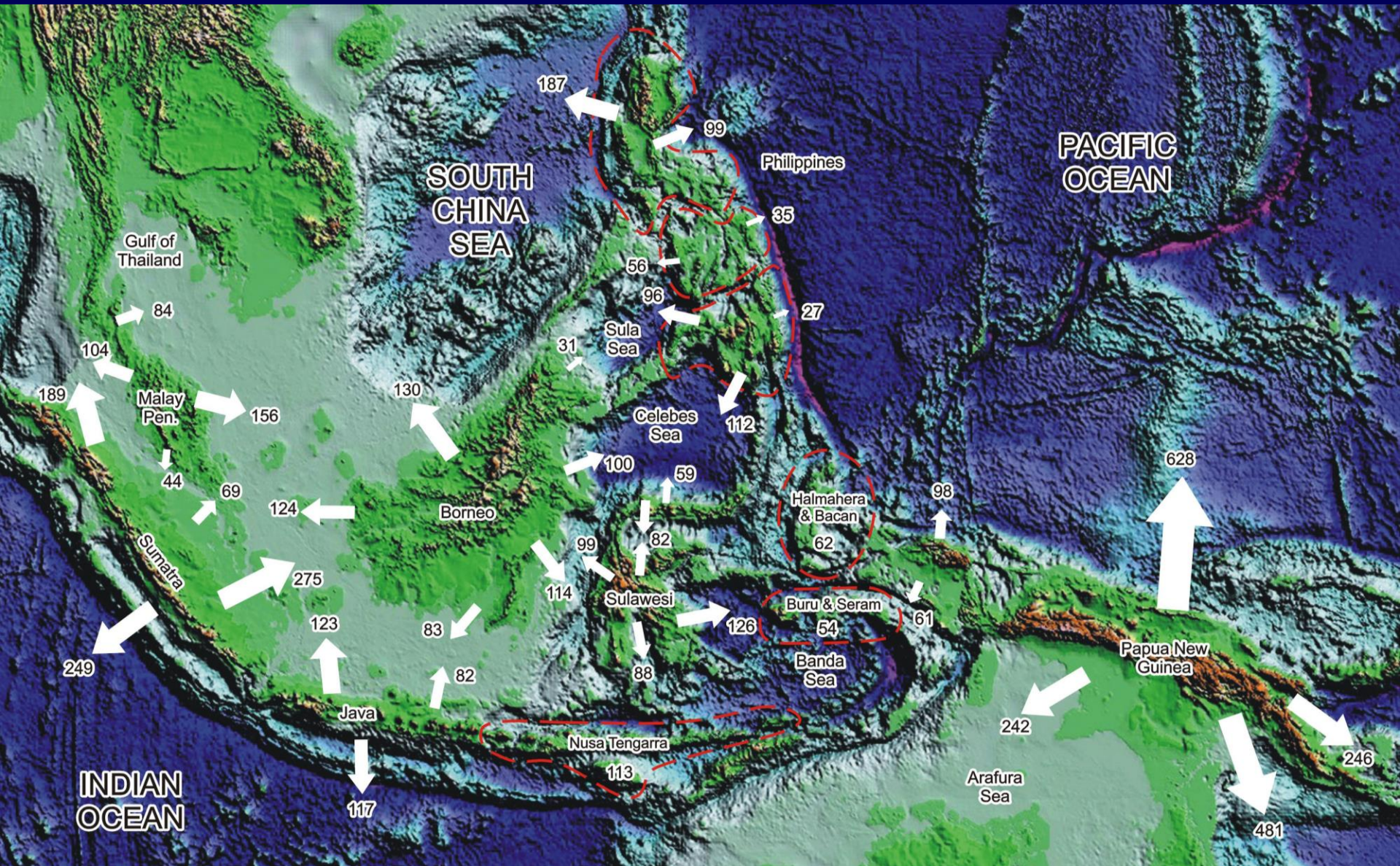
Thermal  
subsidence  
everywhere  
except onshore  
Thailand

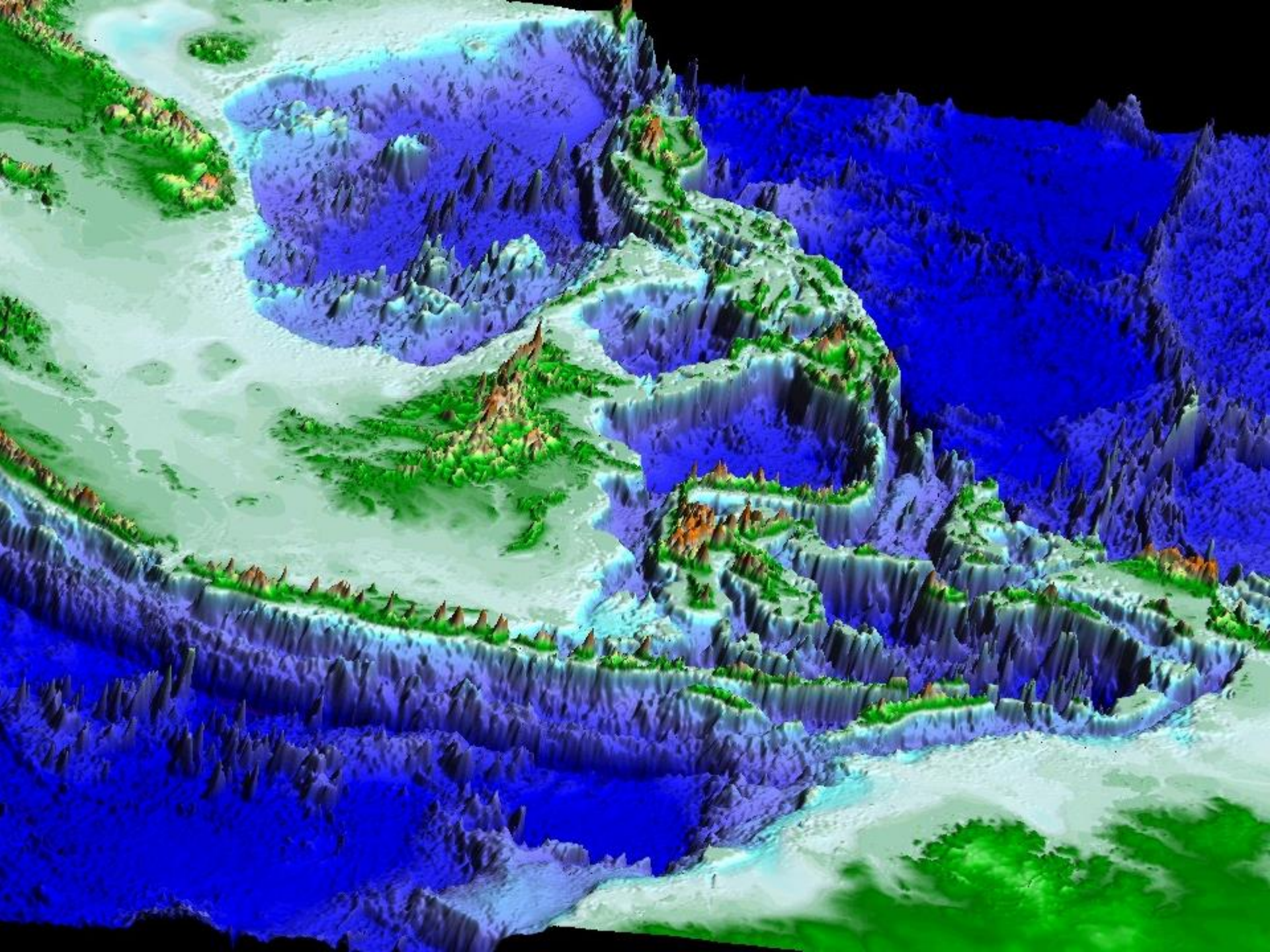
Extensive marine  
conditions

Start of Mekong  
and Salween  
rivers having  
headwaters in  
the Tibetan  
Plateau?

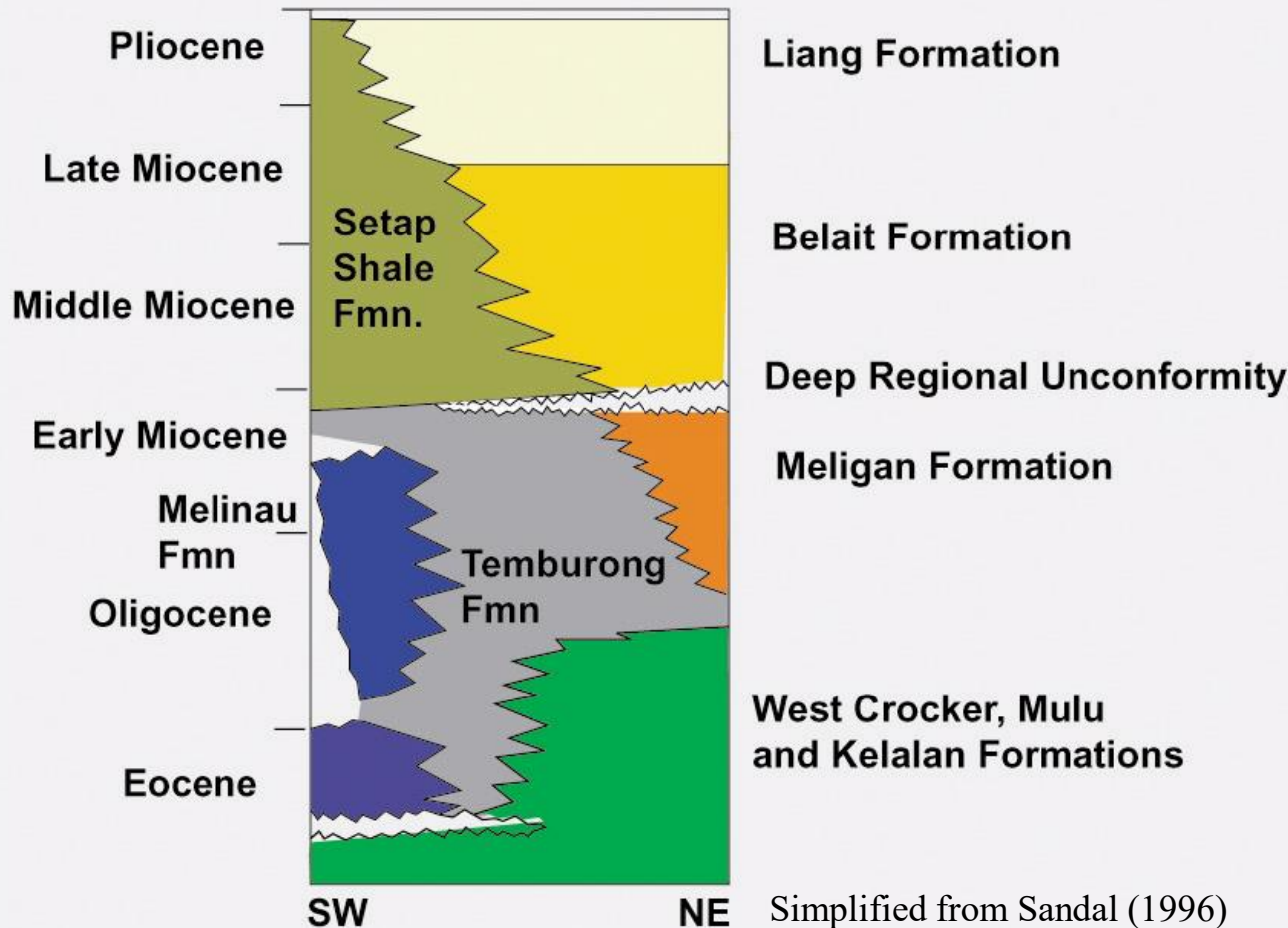


# Regional setting: DEM





# Tertiary stratigraphy of Brunei and Sarawak

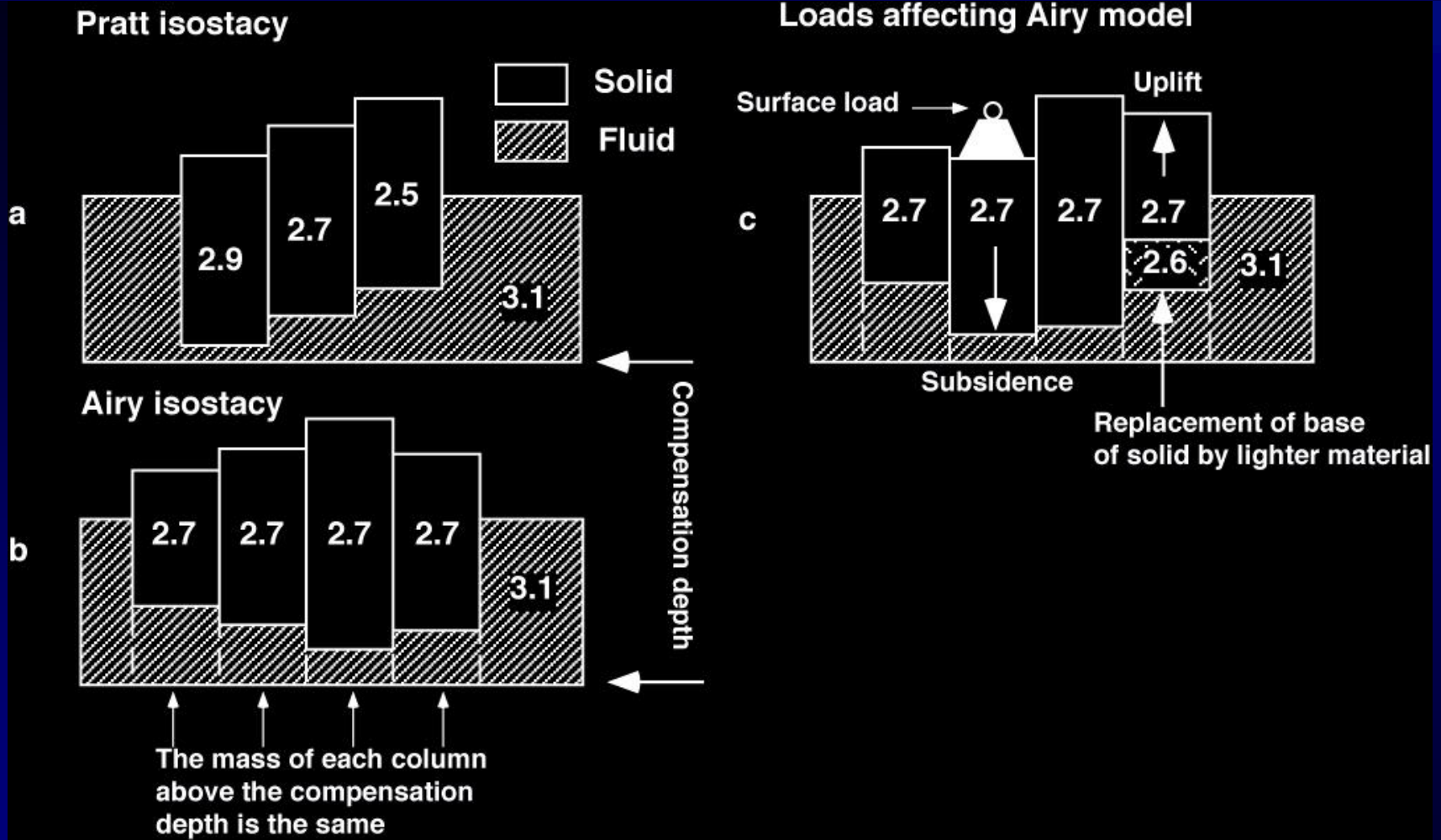


Uplift of accretionary prism, massive erosion

Jamming of Subduction zone  
Slow emergence of Islands within accretionary prism

Accretionary prism

# Models for local isostasy



# Basic principals of local isotasy

The sum of masses of different rock units in the columns must be equal:

1

$$t_w \rho_w + t_{ps} \rho_{ps} + t_c \rho_c + t_m \rho_m = \text{constant}$$

$t$  is thickness and  $\rho$  is density of  $w$  water,  $ps$  sediment  $c$  crust  $m$  mantle.

If deposition adds material to the column the mass of a compensated column before sediments ( $\rho_s$ ) are deposited is:

2a

$$t_w \rho_w + t_{ps} \rho_{ps} + t_c \rho_c + [D_c - (t_c + t_{ps} + t_w)] \rho_m$$

Where  $D_c$  = compensation depth, and  $\rho_{ps}$  is the density of sediments deposited prior to the episode of sedimentation that caused the loading.

After sediment deposition it becomes:

2b

$$(t_w + w - t_s) \rho_w + t_s \rho_s + t_{ps} \rho_{ps} + t_c \rho_c + [D_c - (t_c + t_{ps} + w + t_w)] \rho_m$$

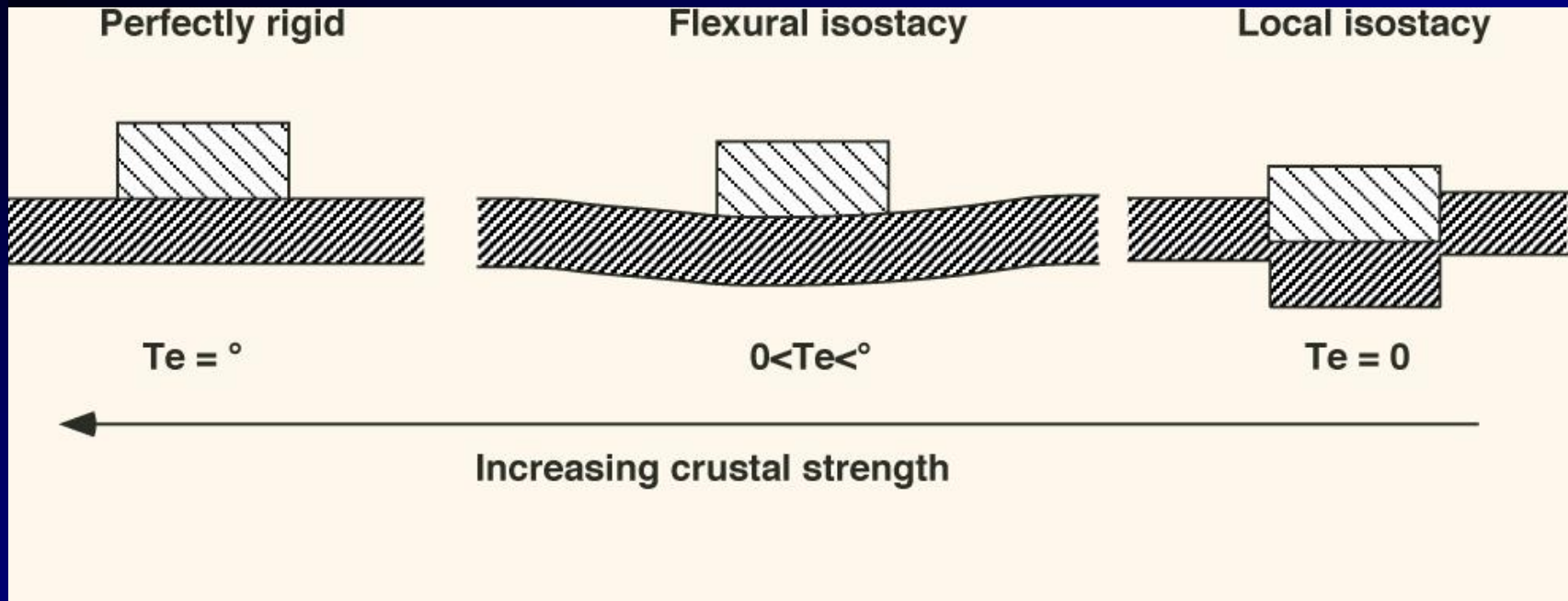
# Key assumption in Airy isostasy - no change in crust thickness

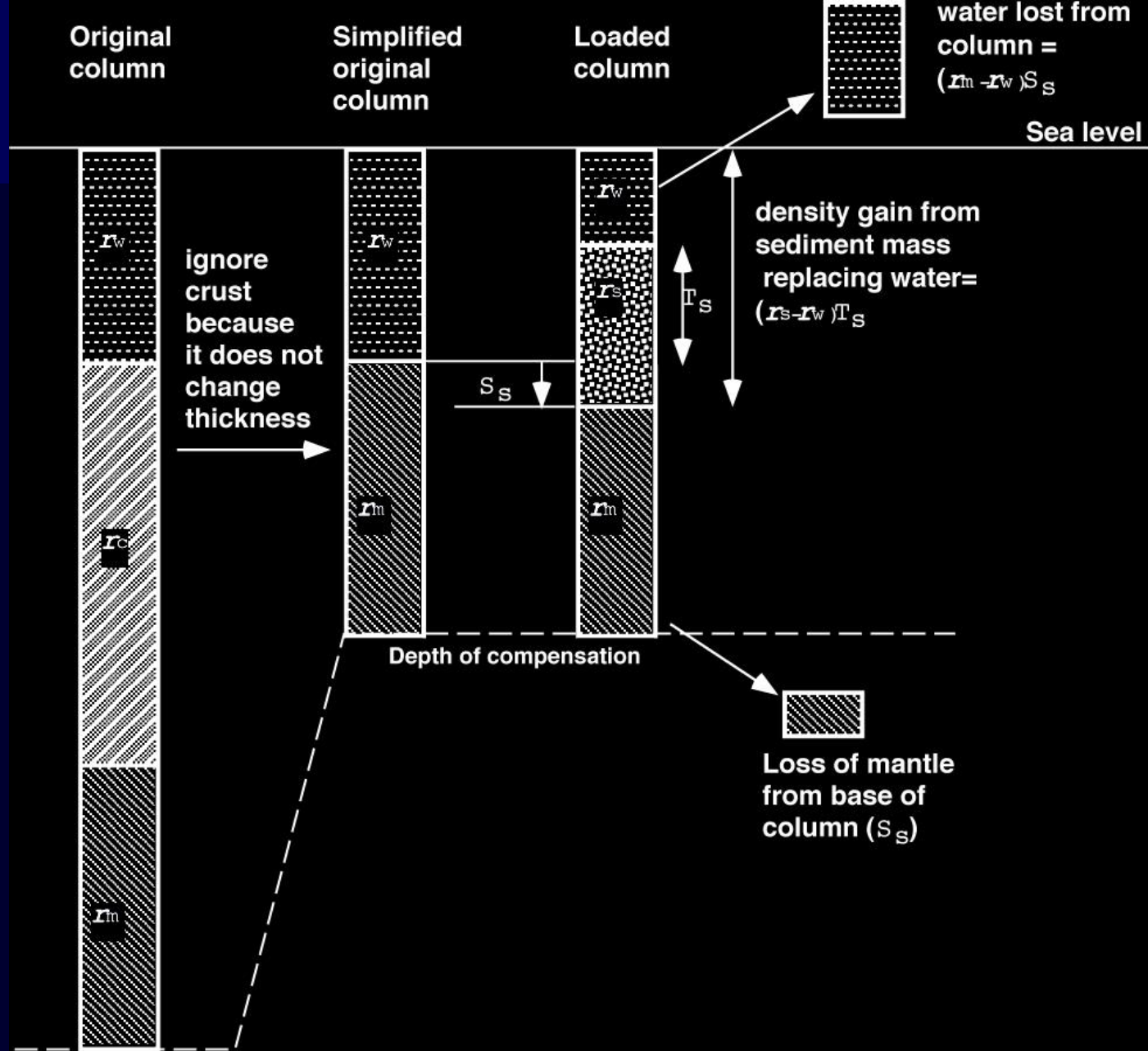
for Airy isostasy the deflection ( $w$ ) caused by a sediment load is

$$w = \left( \frac{\rho_s - \rho_w}{\rho_m - \rho_w} \right) t_s$$

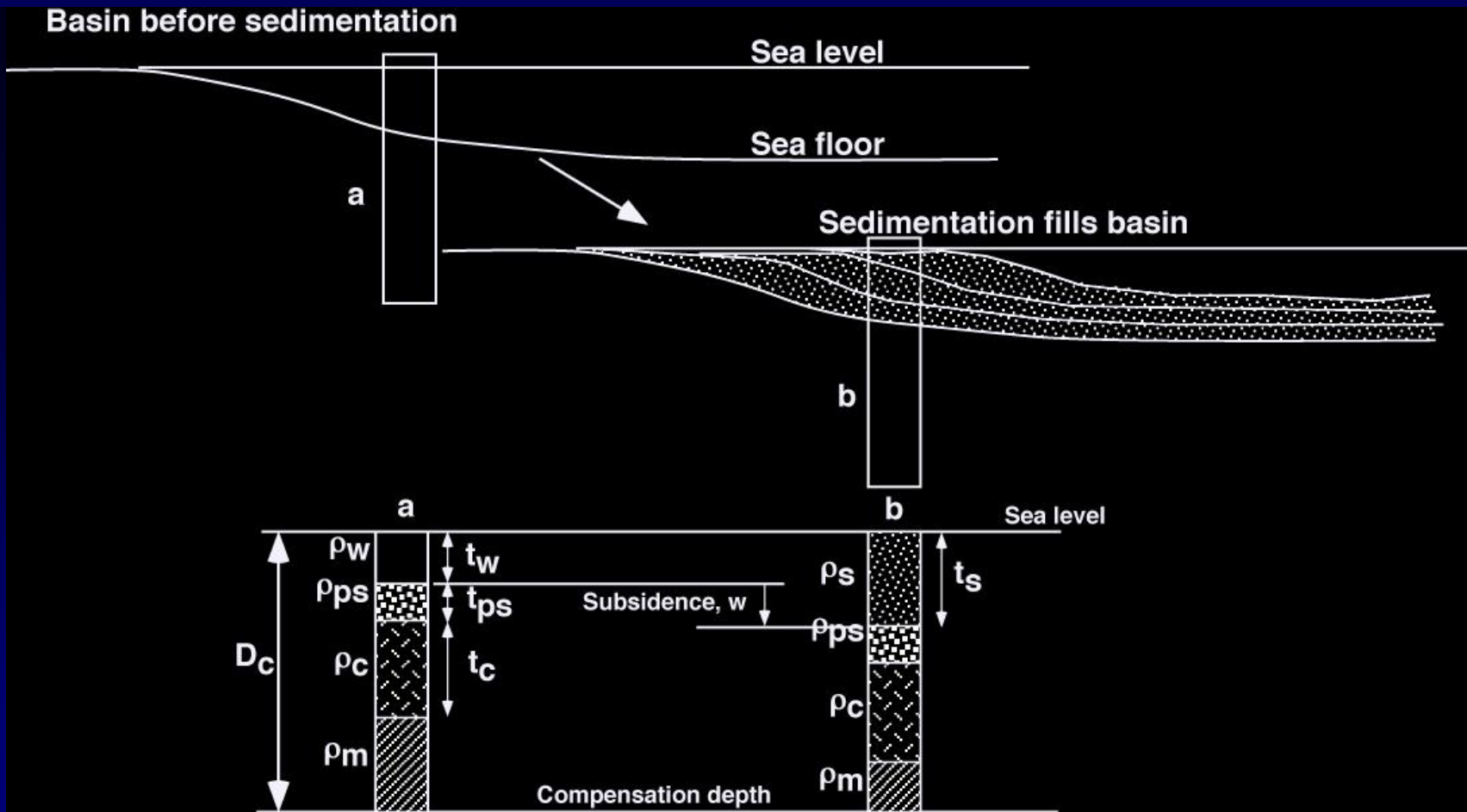


# Basic modes of load support





# Sediment loading

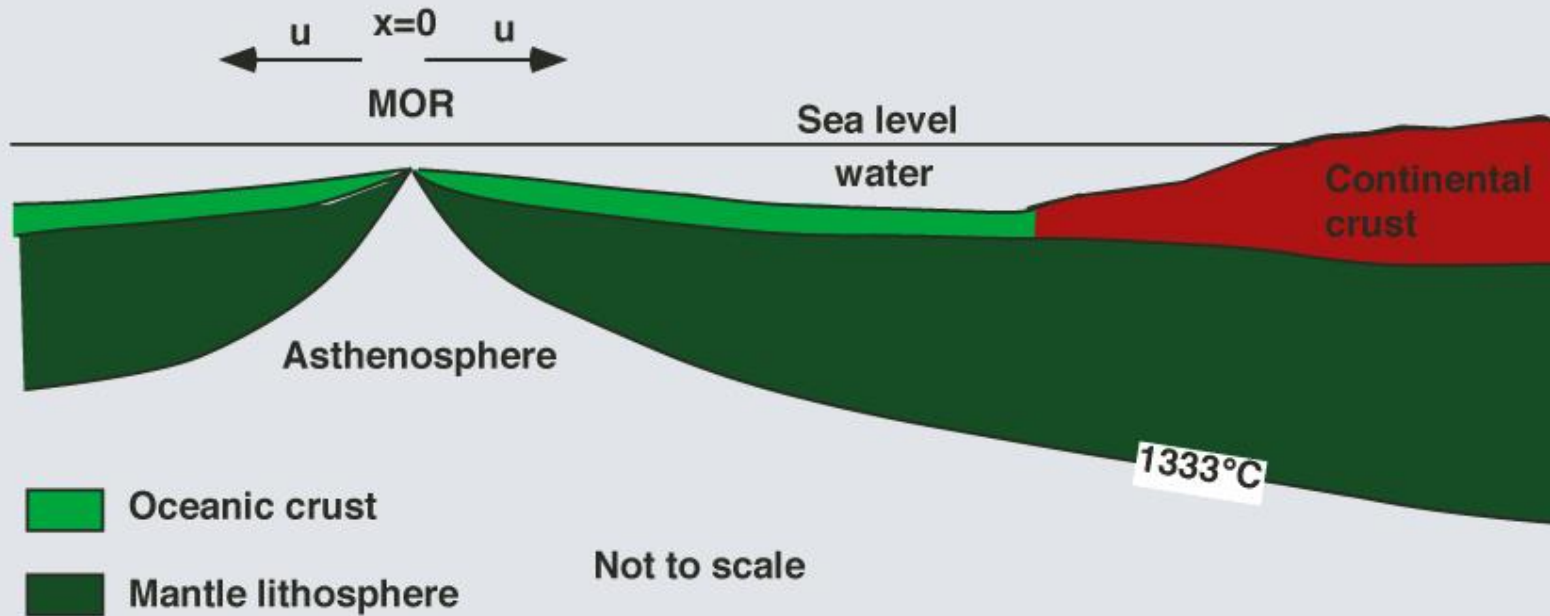
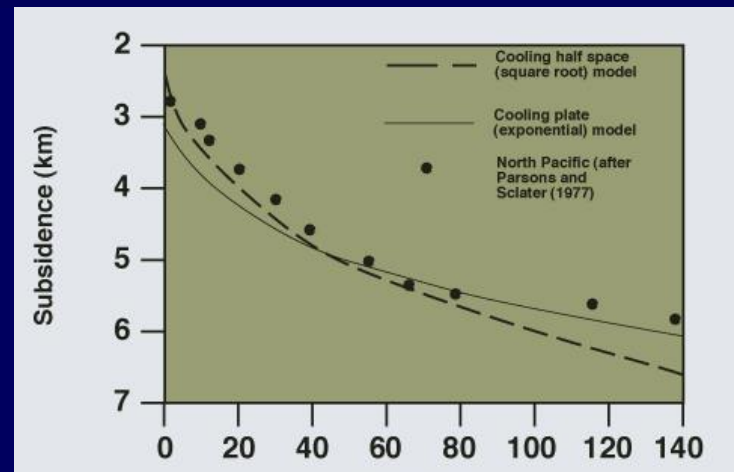


# The basics of thermal subsidence

Thermal subsidence is the isostatic result of heating the crust during extension, and the subsequent cooling of the thermal anomaly post-rifting

The models for the continental crust were based on cooling of the oceanic crust as it moved away from mid oceanic ridges

# Cooling of oceanic crust is exponential



# Rifting causes change in thermal structure of lithosphere

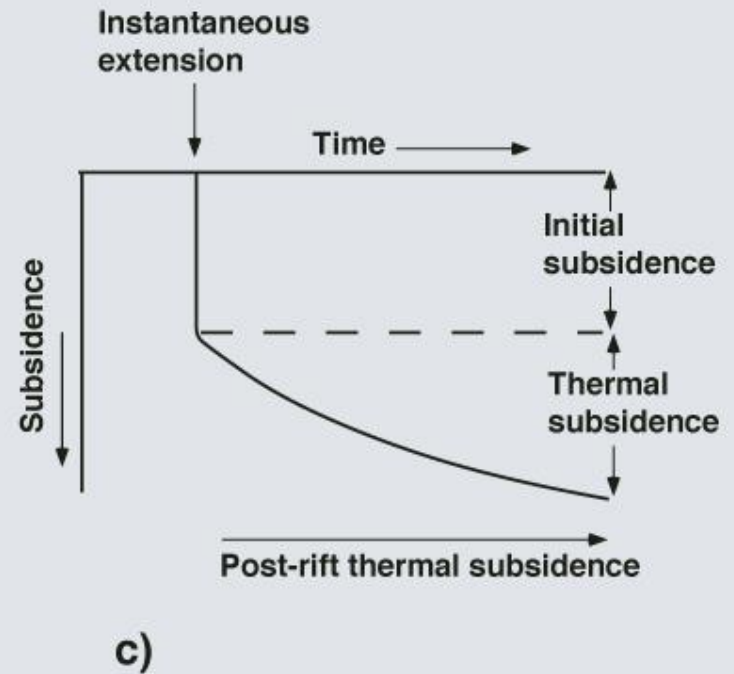
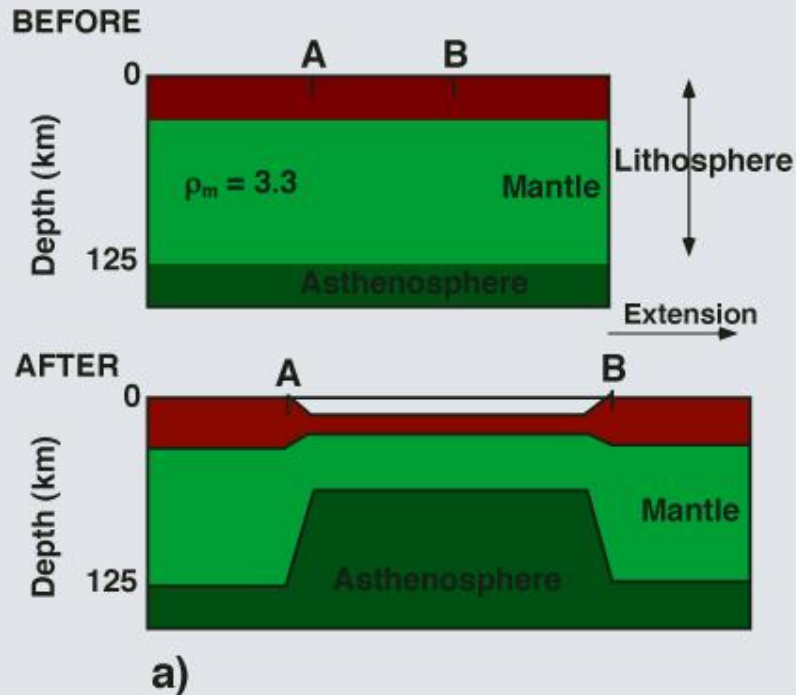
The change in temperature of extending lithosphere is commonly calculated using the one-dimensional heat transport equation (Jarvis and McKenzie 1980):

$$\frac{\delta T}{\delta t} = \kappa \frac{\delta^2 T}{\delta z^2} - v \frac{\delta T + H}{\delta z}$$

where  $T$  is temperature,  $t$  is time,  $v$  is vertical velocity (i.e. strain rate where the stretching factor  $\beta = \exp(v \Delta t)$ ),  $H$  is the radiogenic heat production, divided by density and specific heat and  $\kappa$  is the thermal diffusivity. It is assumed that in pure shear rifting lateral conduction is unimportant at the centre of a rift, except for very slow rates of extension or very narrow rifts.

# McKenzie model for passive extension

Lithospheric thinning by extension



# Temperature dependence of lithosphere density on temperature

To examine the effects of temperature changes on isostatic subsidence or uplift, it is necessary to describe the temperature dependence of crust and lithospheric mantle density:

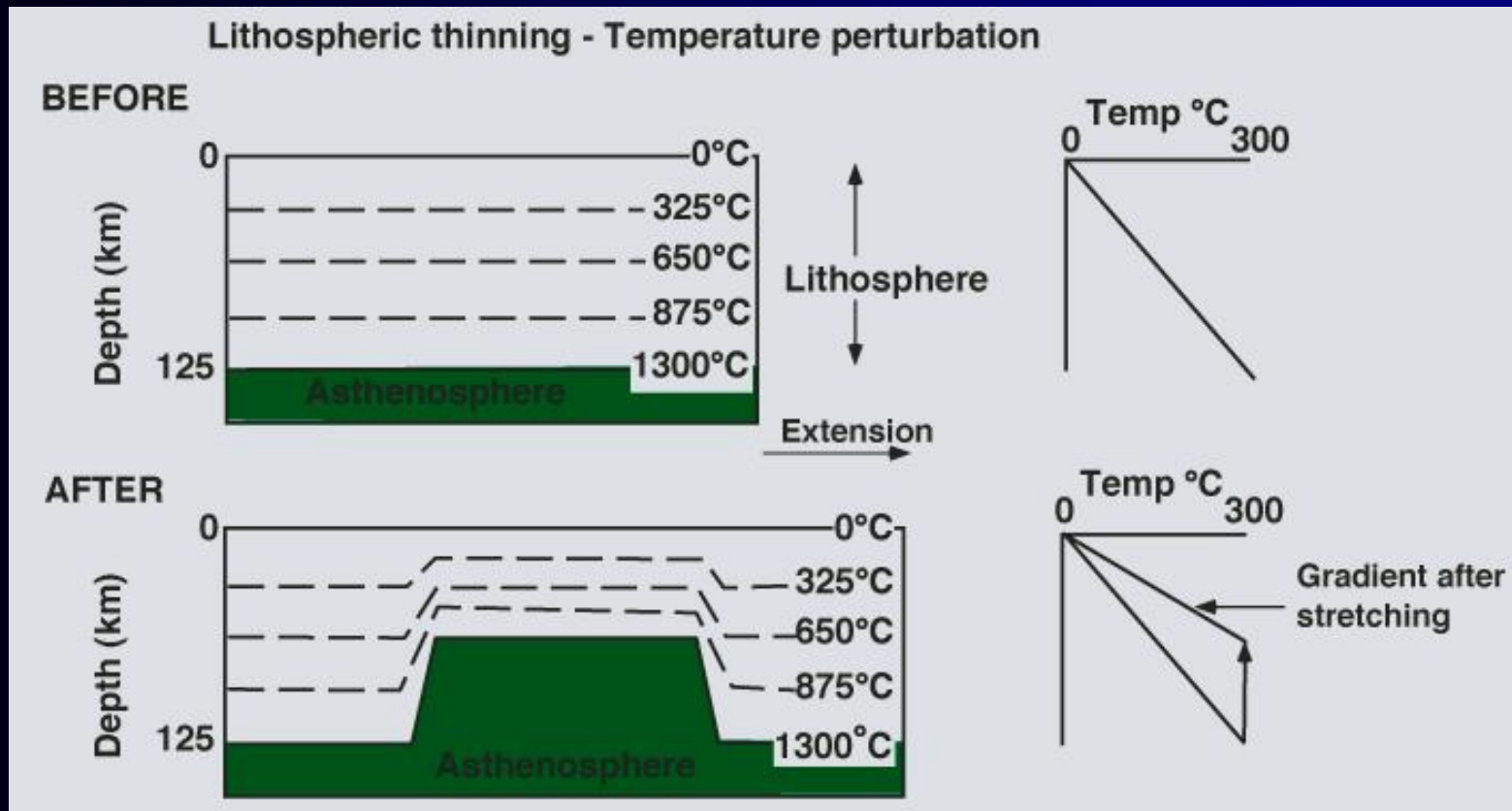
$$\rho_c(x,z,t) = \rho'_c [1 - \alpha T(x,z,t)]$$

$$\rho_m(x,z,t) = \rho'_m [1 - \alpha T(x,z,t)]$$

where  $\alpha$  is the volumetric coefficient of thermal expansion and  $T(x,z,t)$  is the average temperature of the crust or lithosphere at time  $t$ .  $\rho'_c$  and  $\rho'_m$  are the respective densities of the crust and mantle at 0 °C.

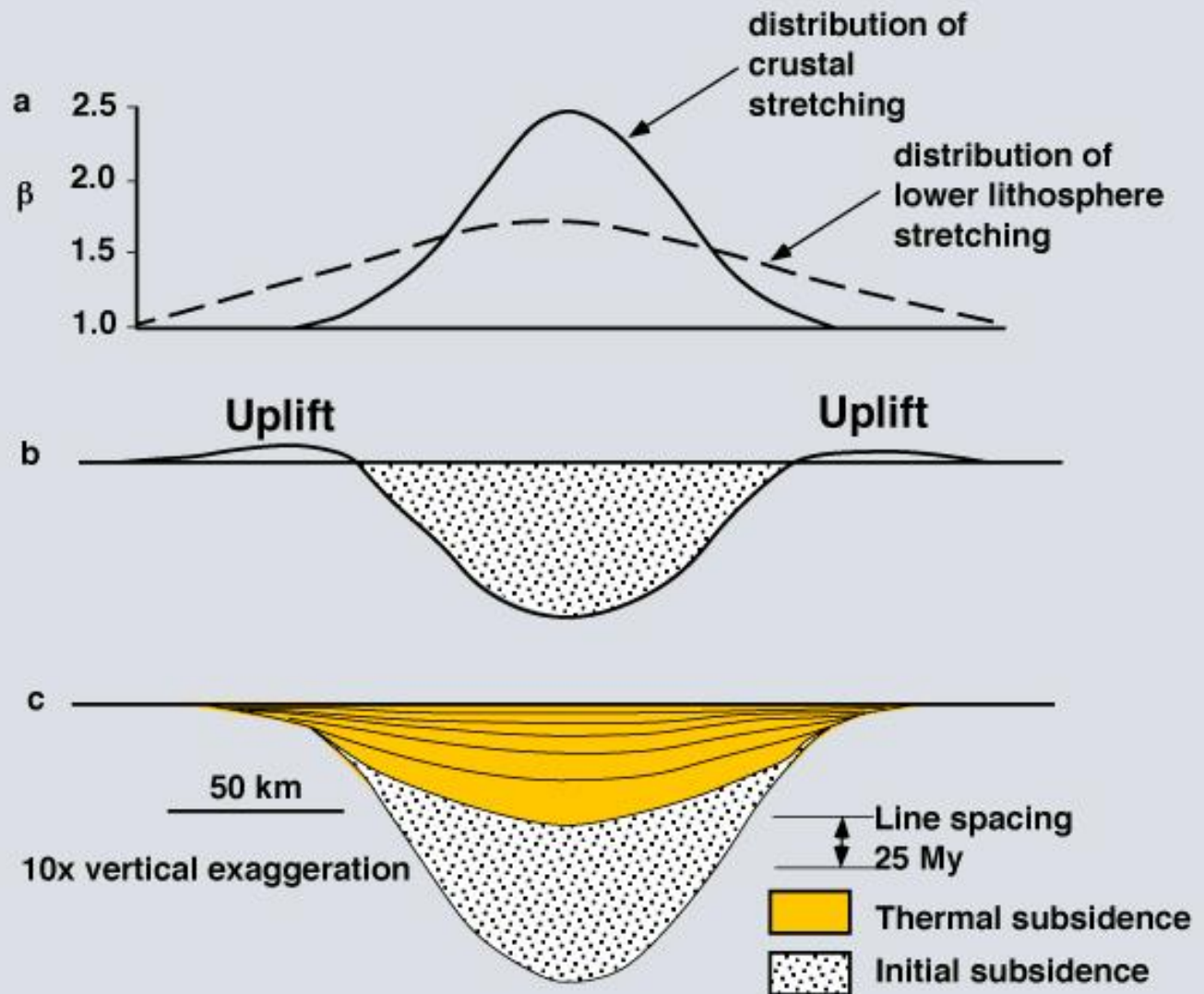


# Thermal consequences of passive rifting

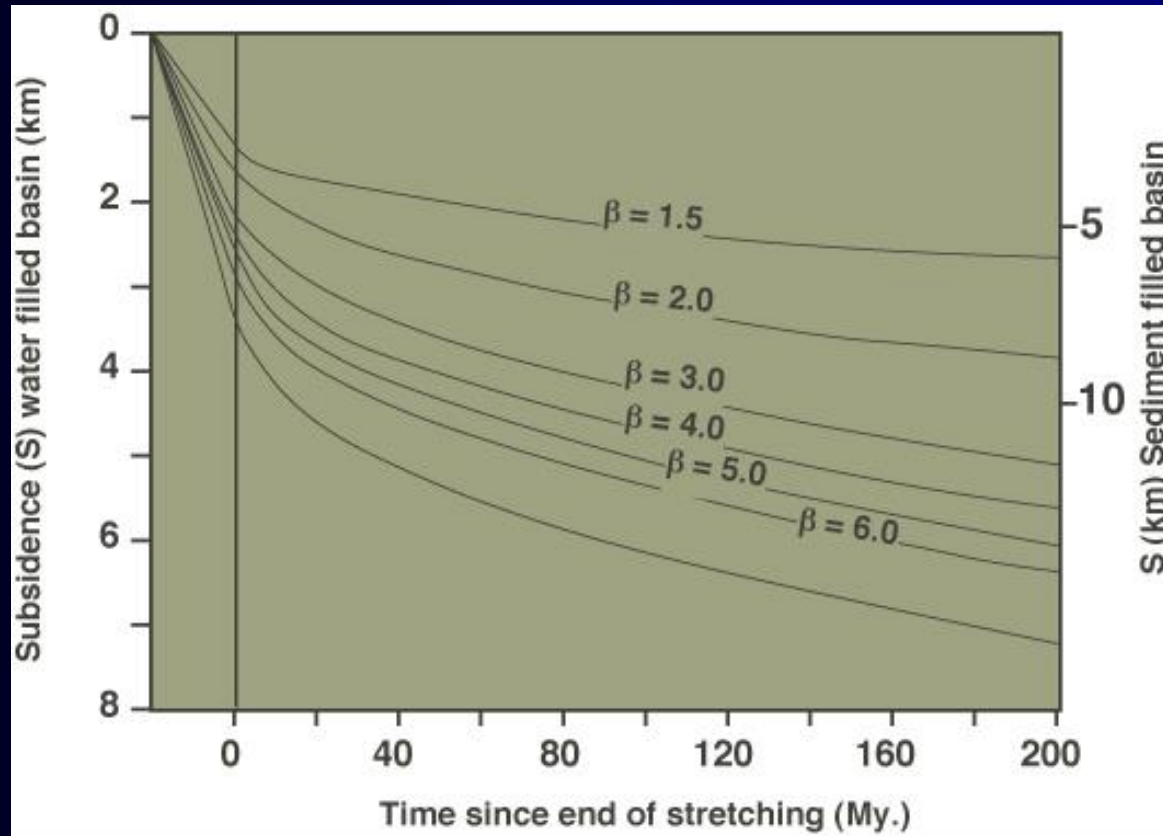


# McKenzie model extension followed by thermal subsidence

Maximum subsidence at start of post-rift basin which decreases upwards



# Relationship between syn-rift extension ( $\beta$ ) and post-rift subsidence (passive rifting)



The contribution by sediment loading cannot be fully predicted by the model

# Basic flexural isostasy equation

Equations for flexural isostasy also contain the simplifying assumption that crustal mass remains constant (e.g. Turcotte and Schubert, 1982); the vertical flexural isostatic displacement  $w$  is related to the imposed vertical load  $q(x)$  in the general term for flexural rigidity ( $D$ ) and local curvature ( $R^{-1}$ ):

$$DR^{-1} + (p_m - p_s)gw = q(x)$$

$g$  = gravitational constant,.

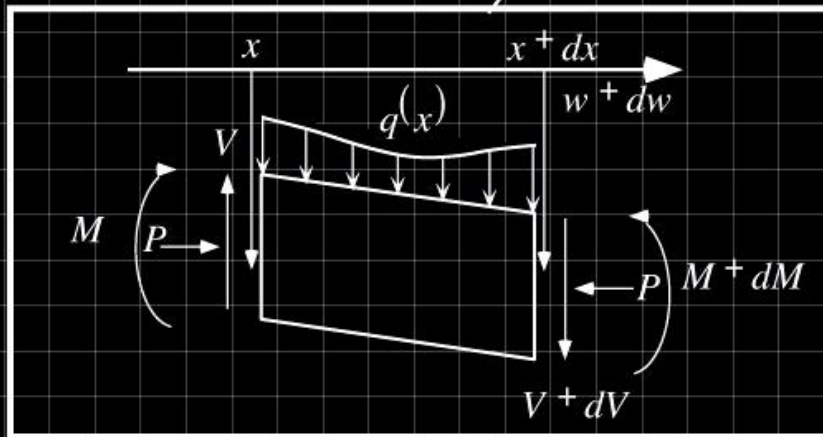
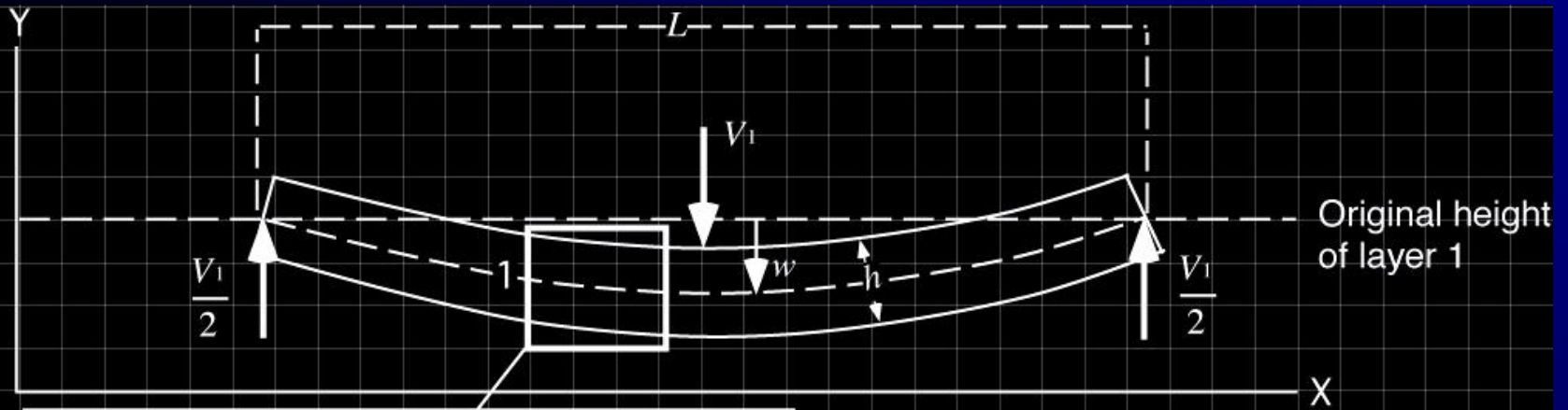
# The importance of elastic thickness to flexural behaviour

$T$  corresponds with the thickness of the plate, specifically when dealing with flexing of the lithosphere it corresponds with the effective elastic thickness ( $T_e$ )

$$D = \frac{E T_e^3}{12 (1 - \nu^2)}$$

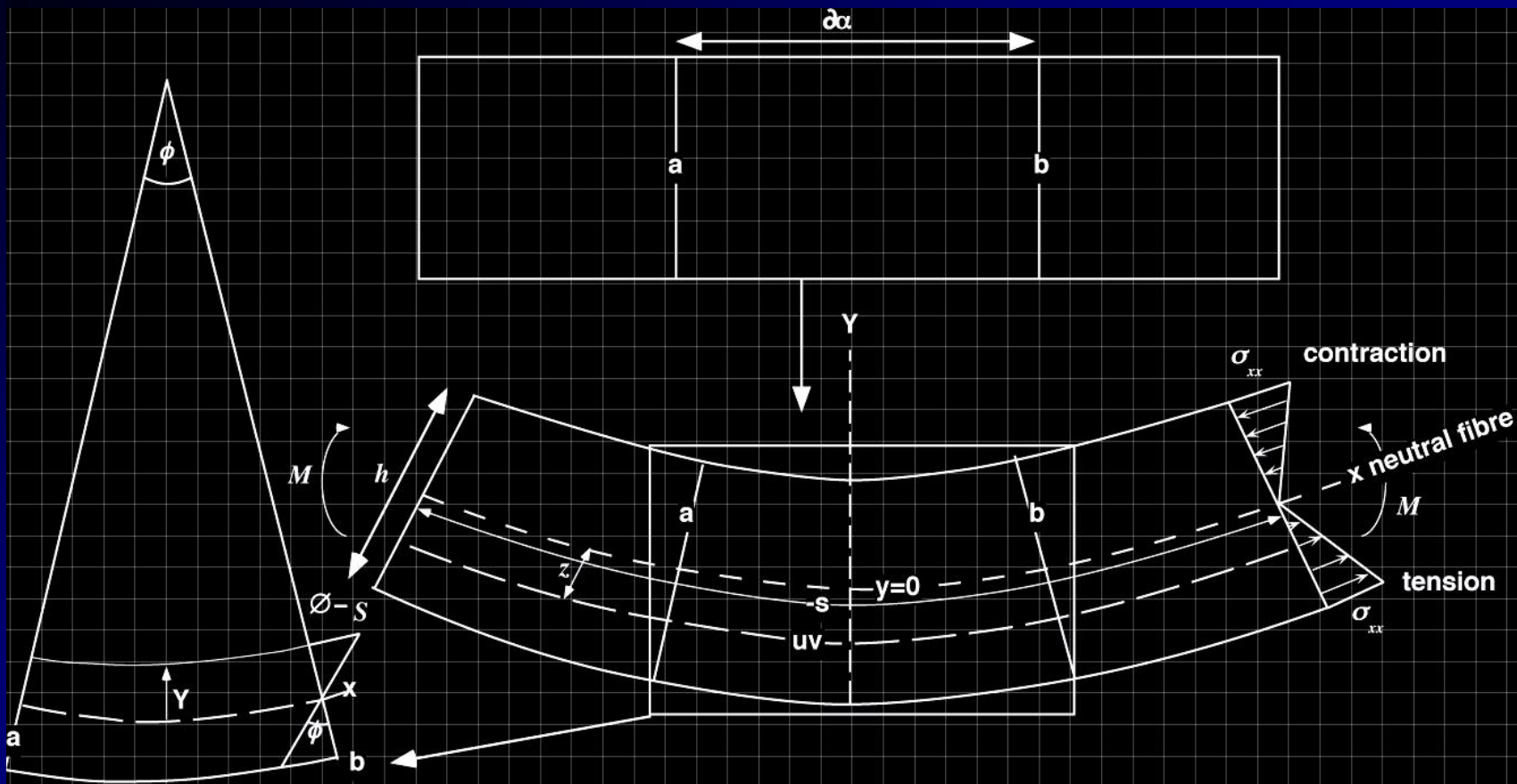
The mechanical thickness of the lithosphere, commonly termed the elastic thickness, is usually envisioned to be equivalent to the seismogenic layer. That is the layer which responds to deformation by combined brittle and elastic processes. This layer is normally the upper 10-20km of the continental crust and its thickness is largely temperature controlled

# Bending of a beam



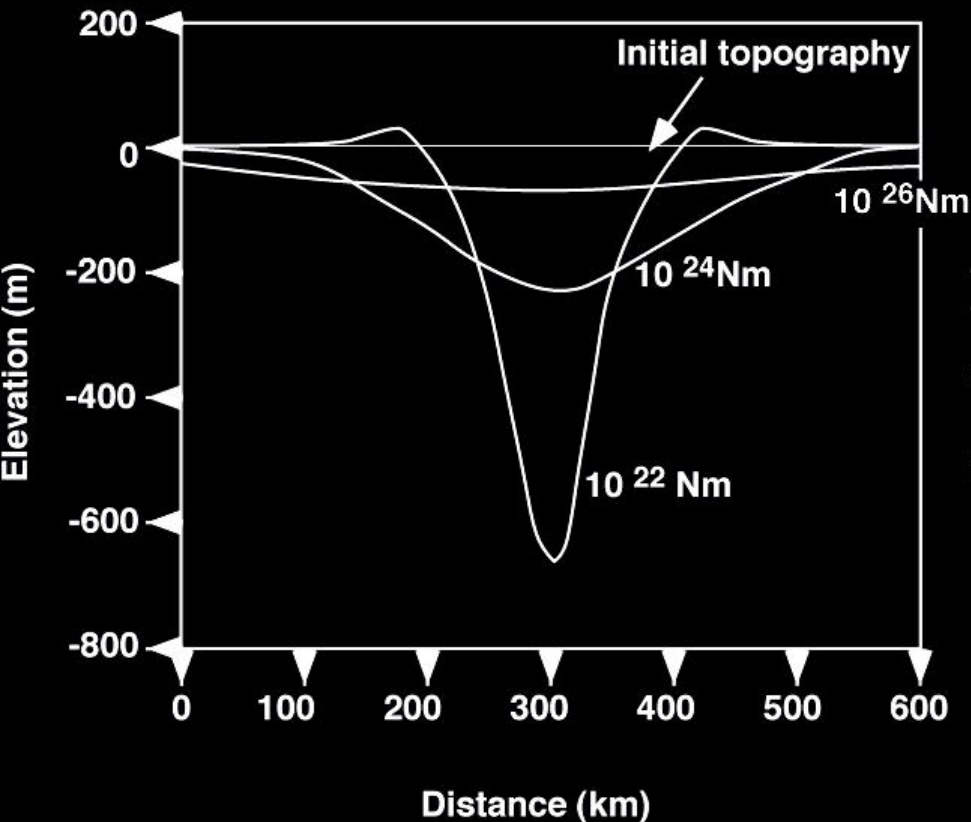
$R =$  local radius of curvature.

$$R^{-1} = \frac{\delta^2 w}{\delta x^2}$$

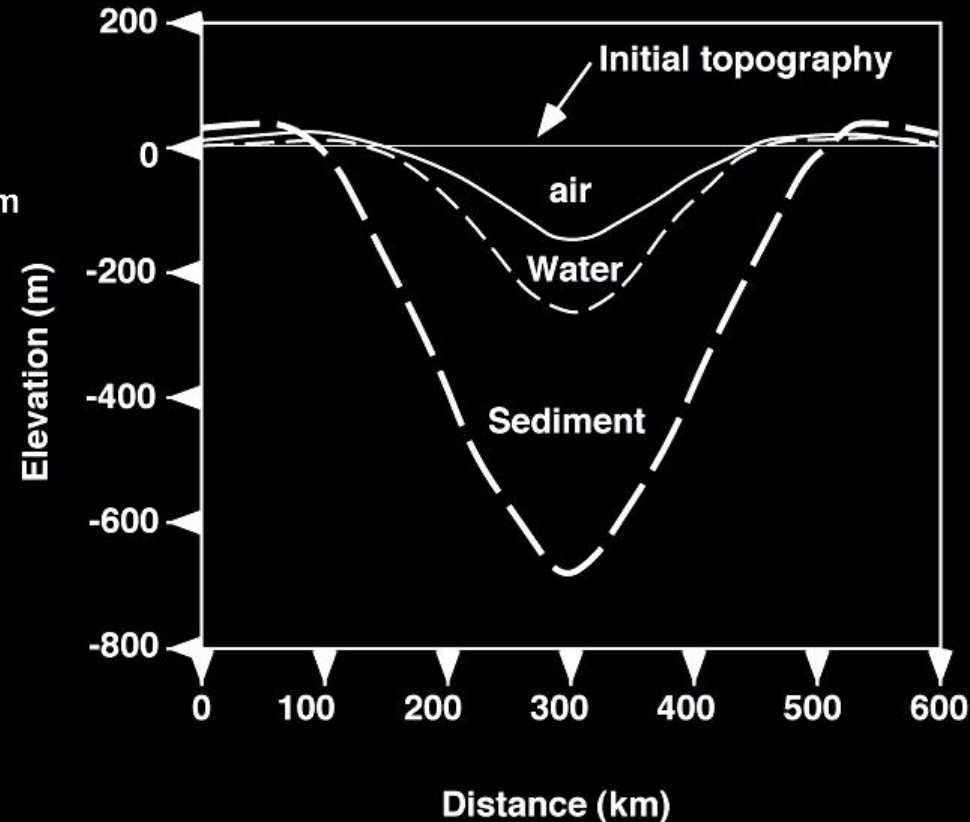


# Effects of varying $T_e$ and load mass on basin geometry

Varying flexural rigidity,  
fixed load shape and mass



Varying load mass,  
fixed flexural rigidity and load shape





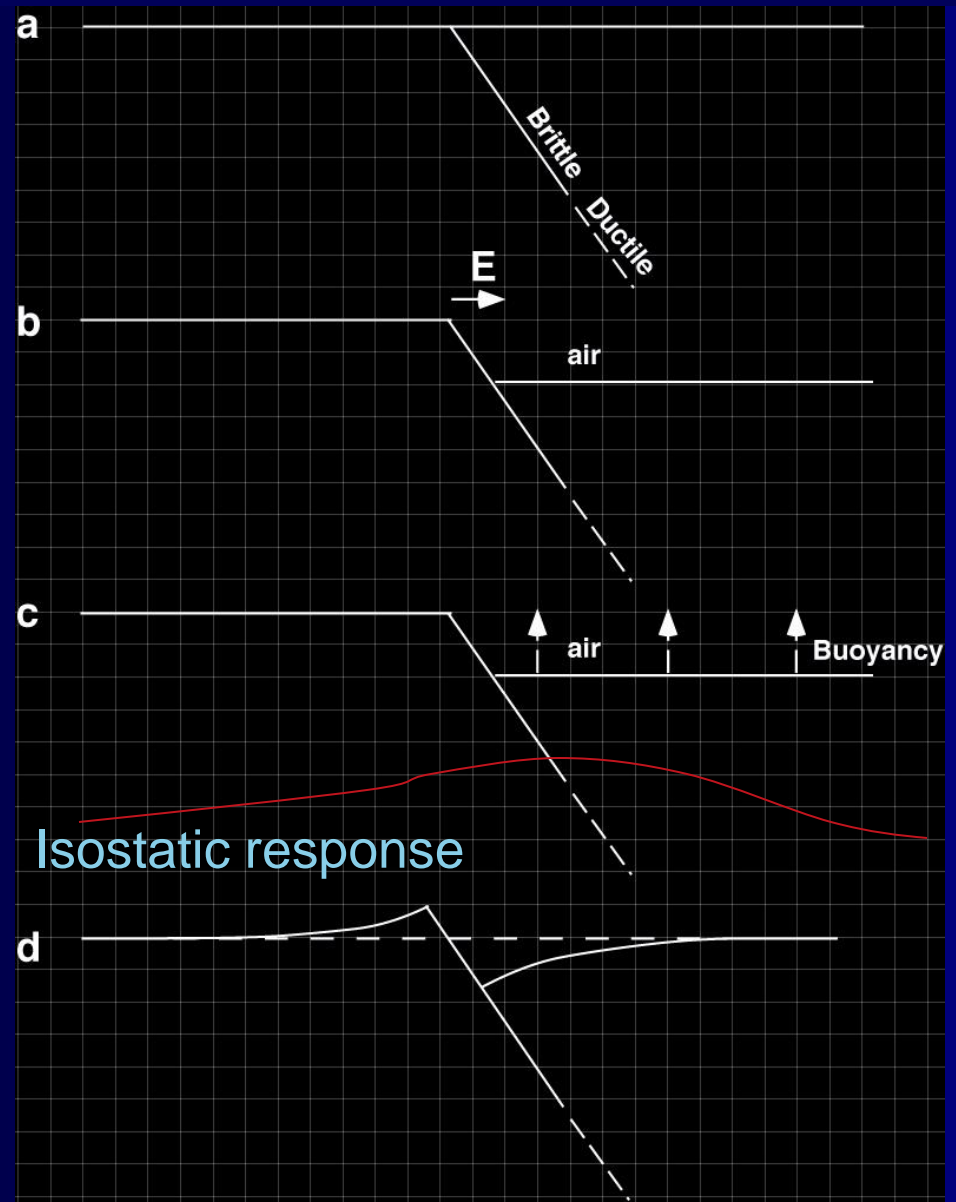
# Wavelength of crustal deflection in response to a load

The width of the crust that is deflected in response to a load is the flexural parameter ( $a$ ), it is controlled by the flexural rigidity ( $D$ ), and the mass of the replacement material:

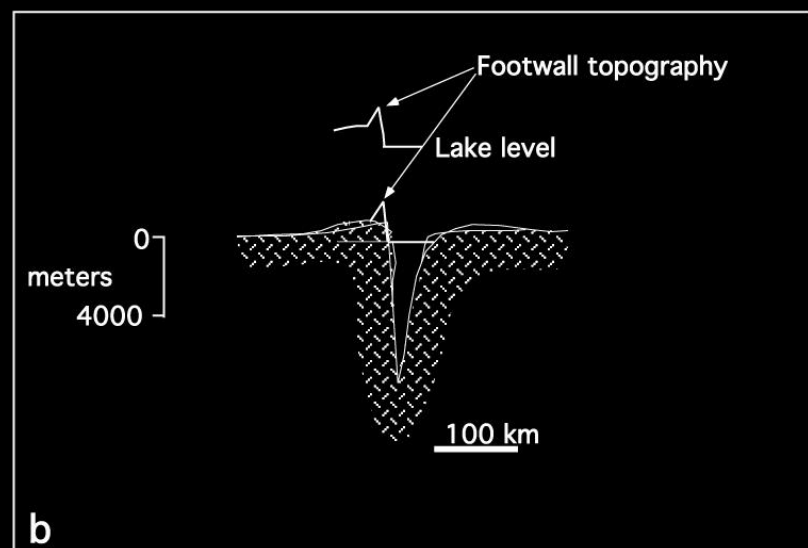
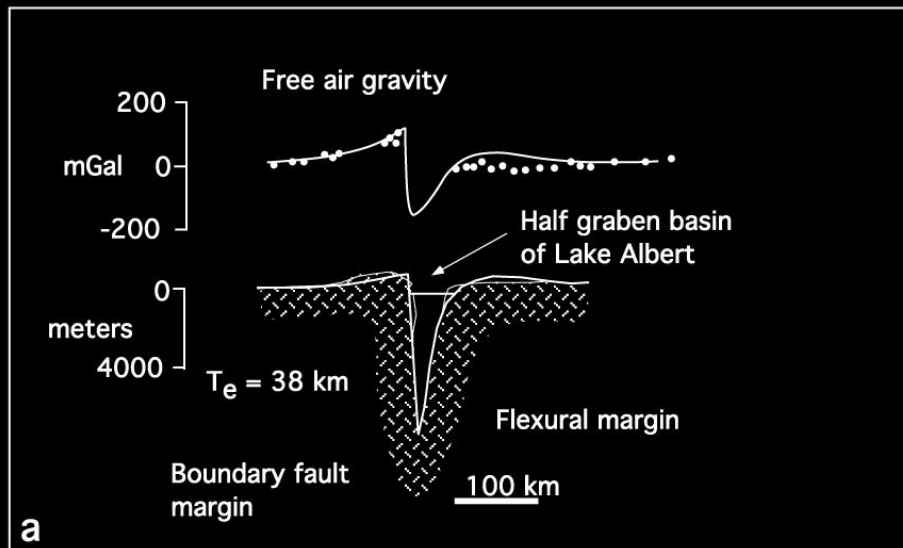
$$a = \left[ \frac{(\rho_m - \rho_i) g}{4 D} \right]^{-\frac{1}{4}}$$

The wavelength will increase as the density of the replacing mass increases. For a fixed load a basin filled by sediment will create a broader, deeper basin than a water filled basin. Under the same load but with increased flexural rigidity the basin will become wider.

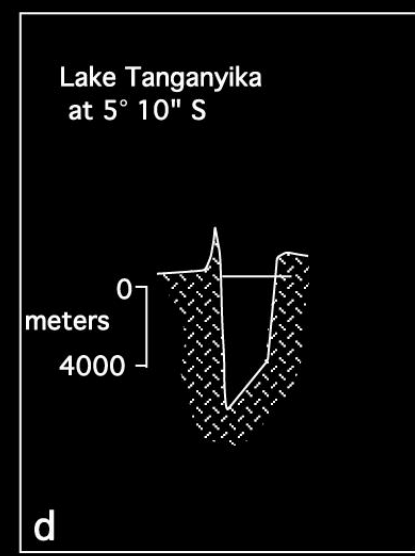
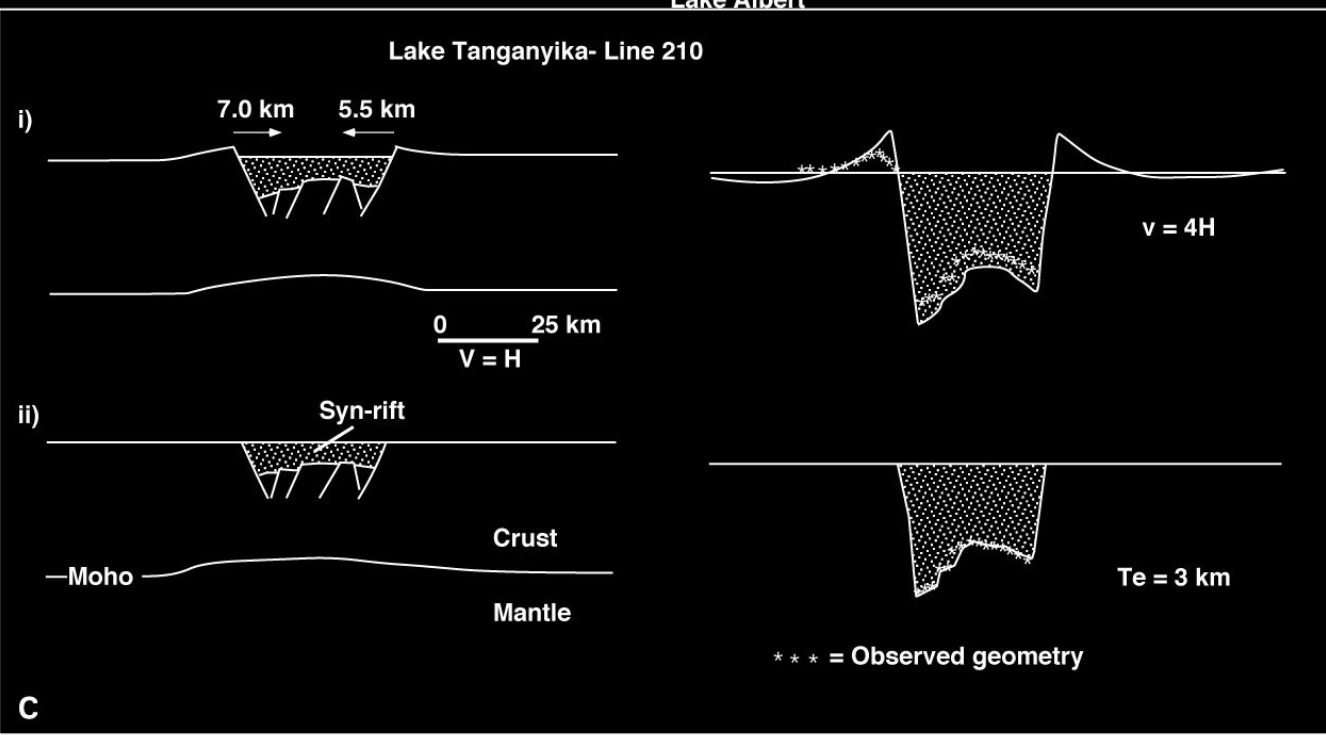
# Flexural response to faulting



# Detachment model



# Flexural cantilever model



### Crustal Structure

### Syn-rift stratigraphy

### Bending Stress

Te = 0 km

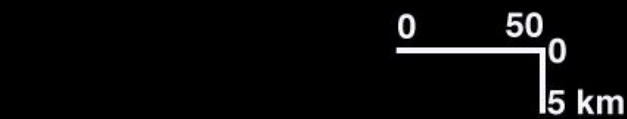


+ 10 kb

- 10 kb

Te = 1 km

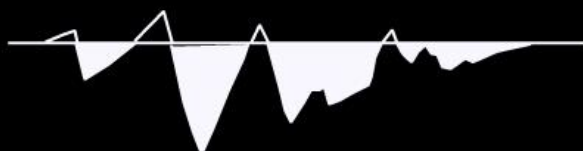
0 50 km



+ 10 kb

- 10 kb

Te = 3.5 km



+ 10 kb

- 10 kb

Te = 10 km



+ 10 kb

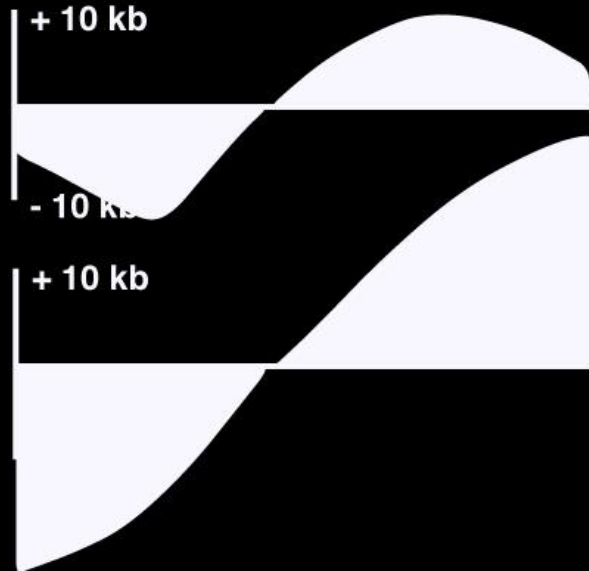
- 10 kb

Te = 25 km

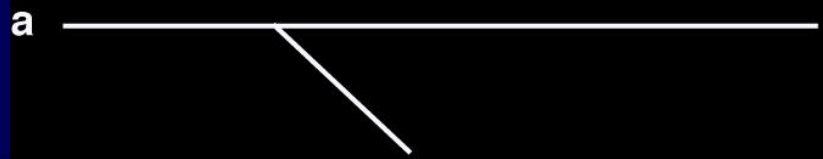


+ 10 kb

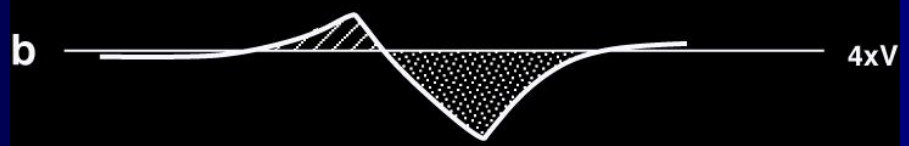
- 10 kb



Initial model configuration ( $v = h$ )



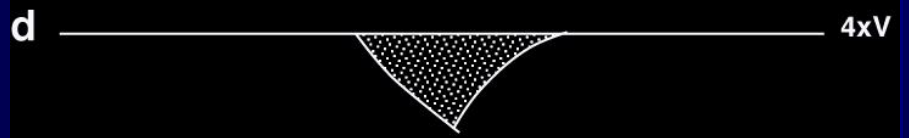
Creation of sedimentary basin and footwall uplift



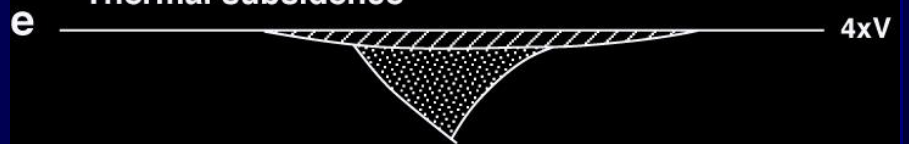
Erosionally induced uplift



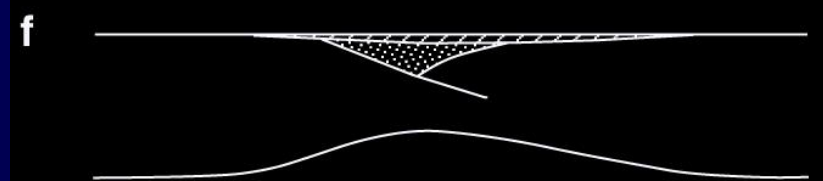
Regional erosion surface



Thermal subsidence



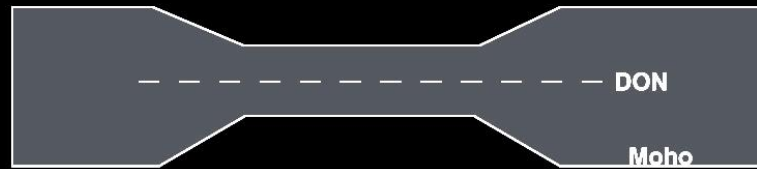
Final configuration ( $v = h$ )



# Airy and flexural models of rifts

## Kinematic model

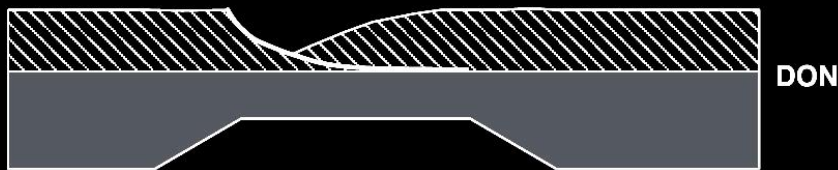
### PURE SHEAR or NECKING MODEL



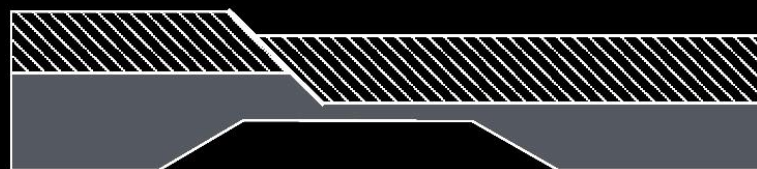
DON = depth of necking



### DETACHMENT MODEL



### FLEXURAL CANTILEVER MODEL



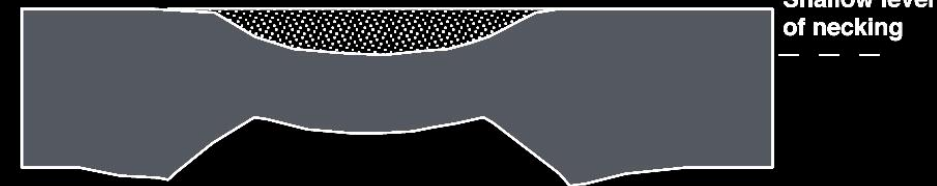
## Isostatic response



Upward flexure

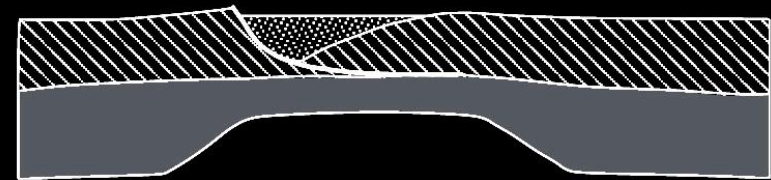
$T_e > 10$  km

Deep level of necking  
- - -

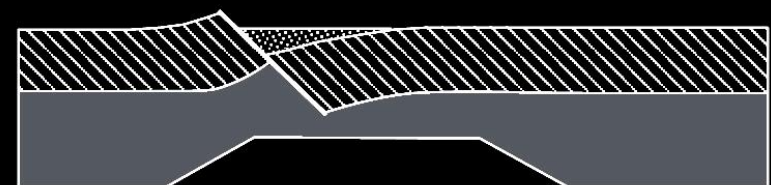


Downward flexure

Shallow level of necking  
- - -



$T_e > 10$  km

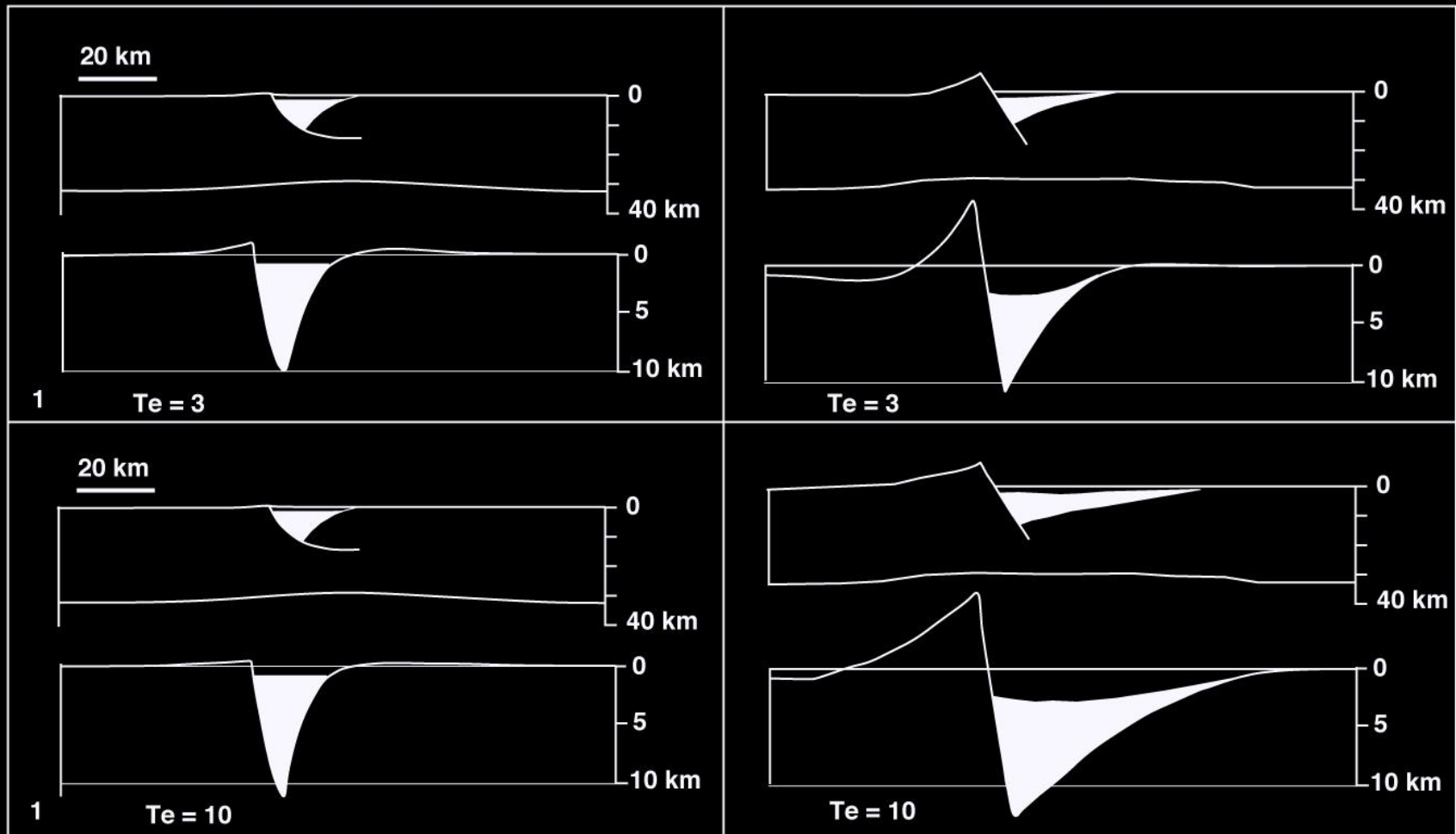


$T_e < 10$  km

# Unbroken beam and broken beam (flexural cantilever) flexural models

Listric fault model

Flexural cantilever model





***Badleys***

[http://www.badleys.co.  
uk](http://www.badleys.co.uk)

Java Stretch and Flex Decomp

**Worked examples from the  
Northern North Sea  
multiple-rift basin**

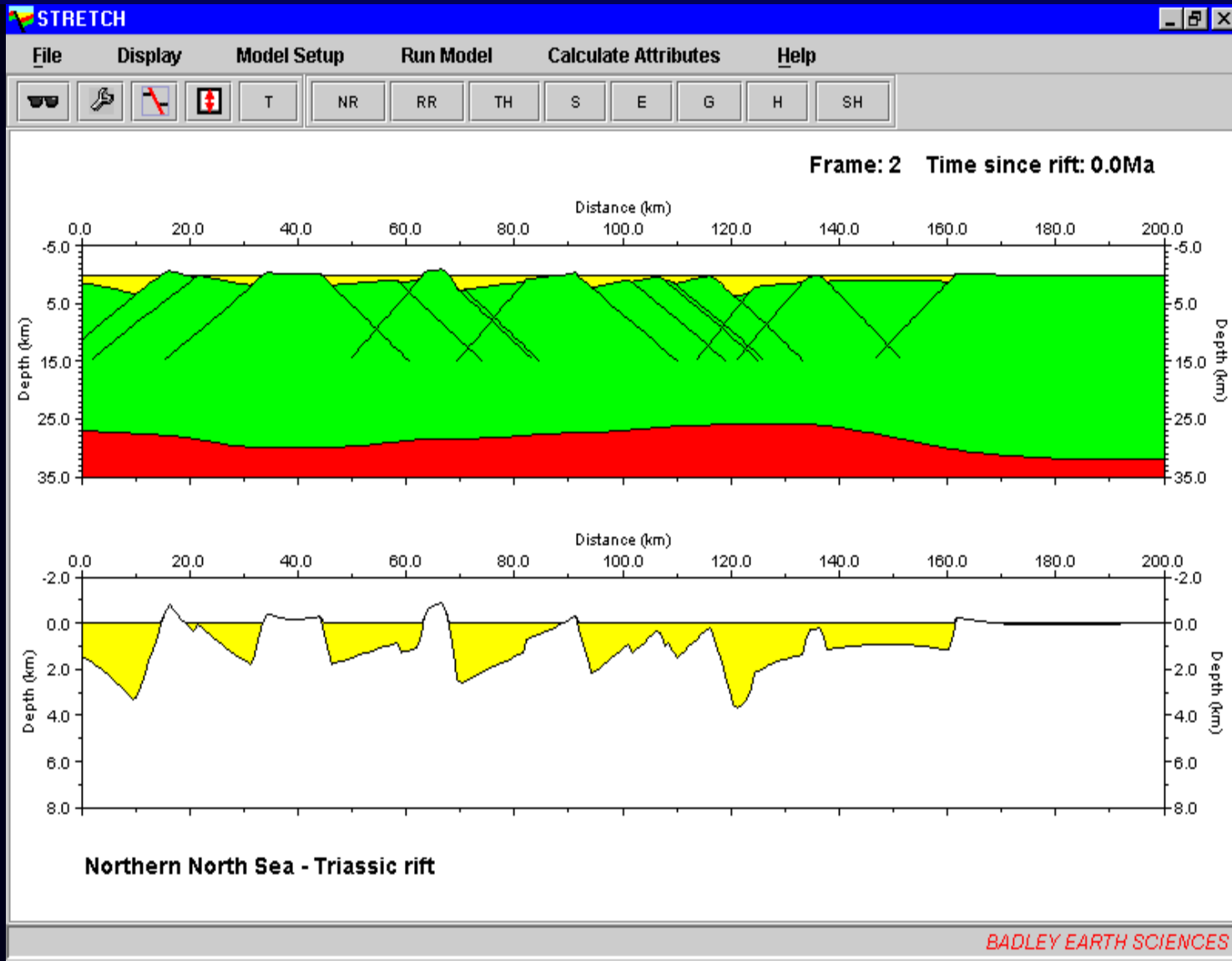


# Stretch forward model

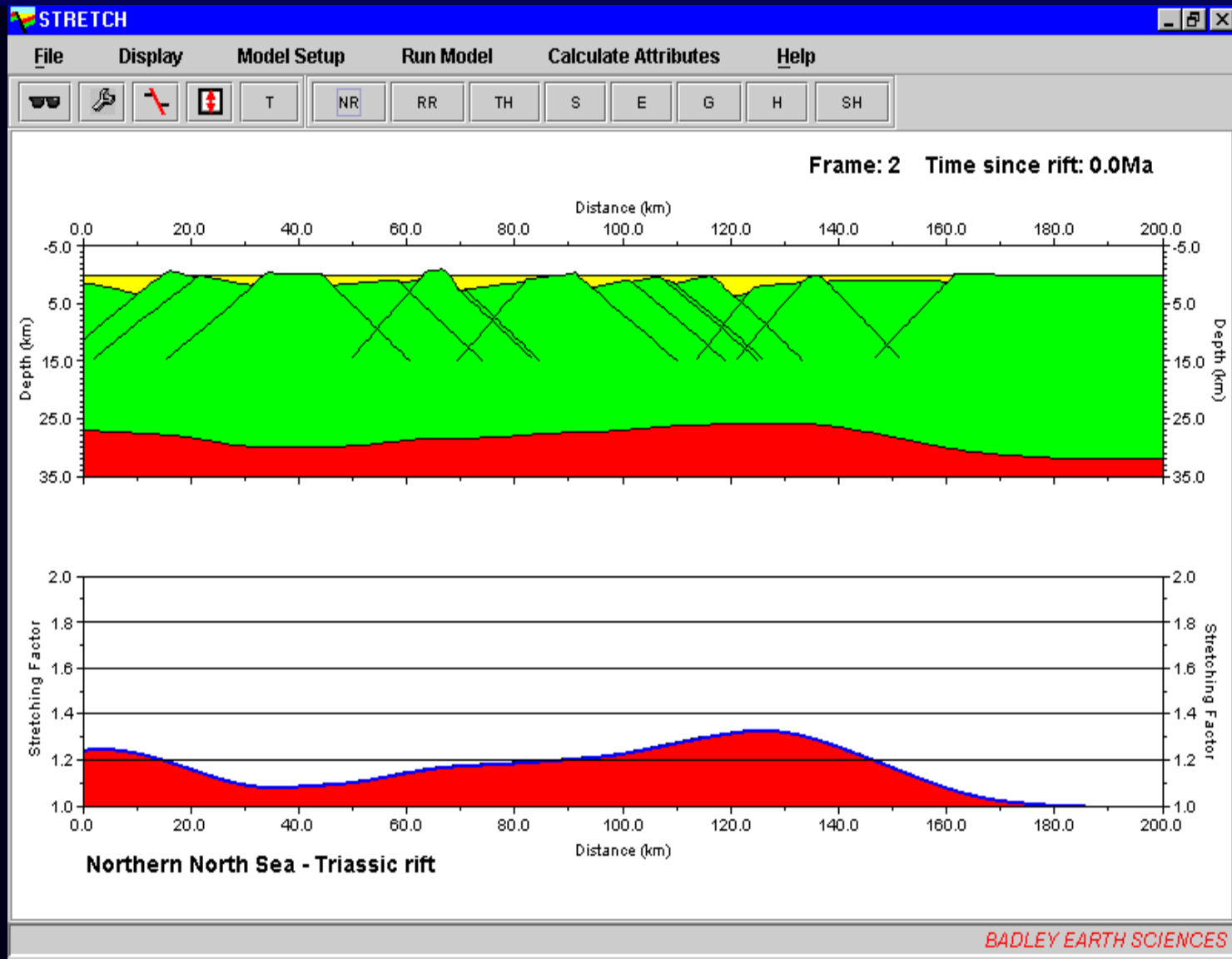
- **Triassic syn-rift at 250Ma (early Triassic)**
- **Thermal subsidence for 100Myr**
- **Re-rift at 150 Ma (late Jurassic)**
- **Thermal subsidence to present-day**

# Stretch: Triassic syn-rift basin at 250Ma

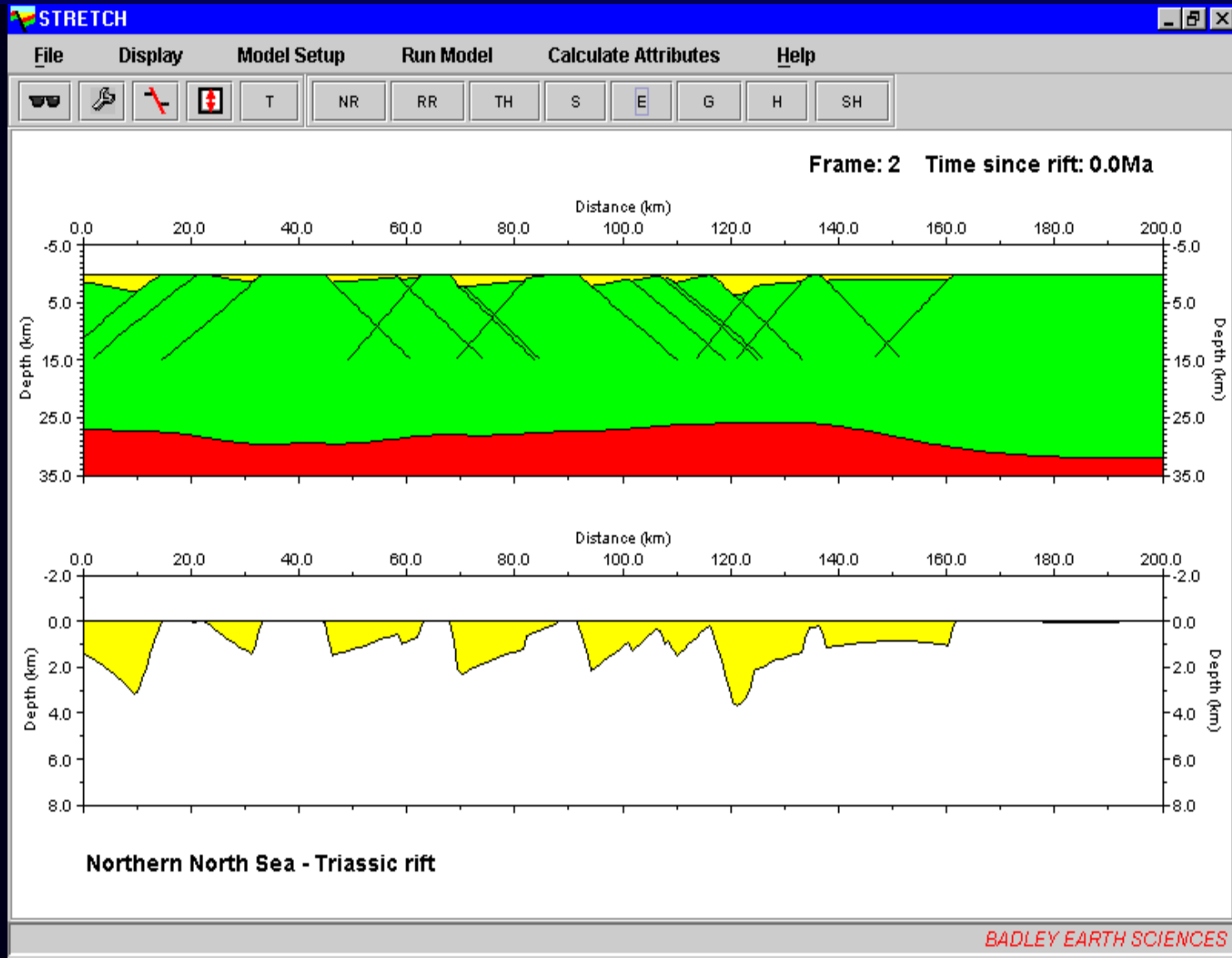
Dominantly fluvial with emergent footwalls



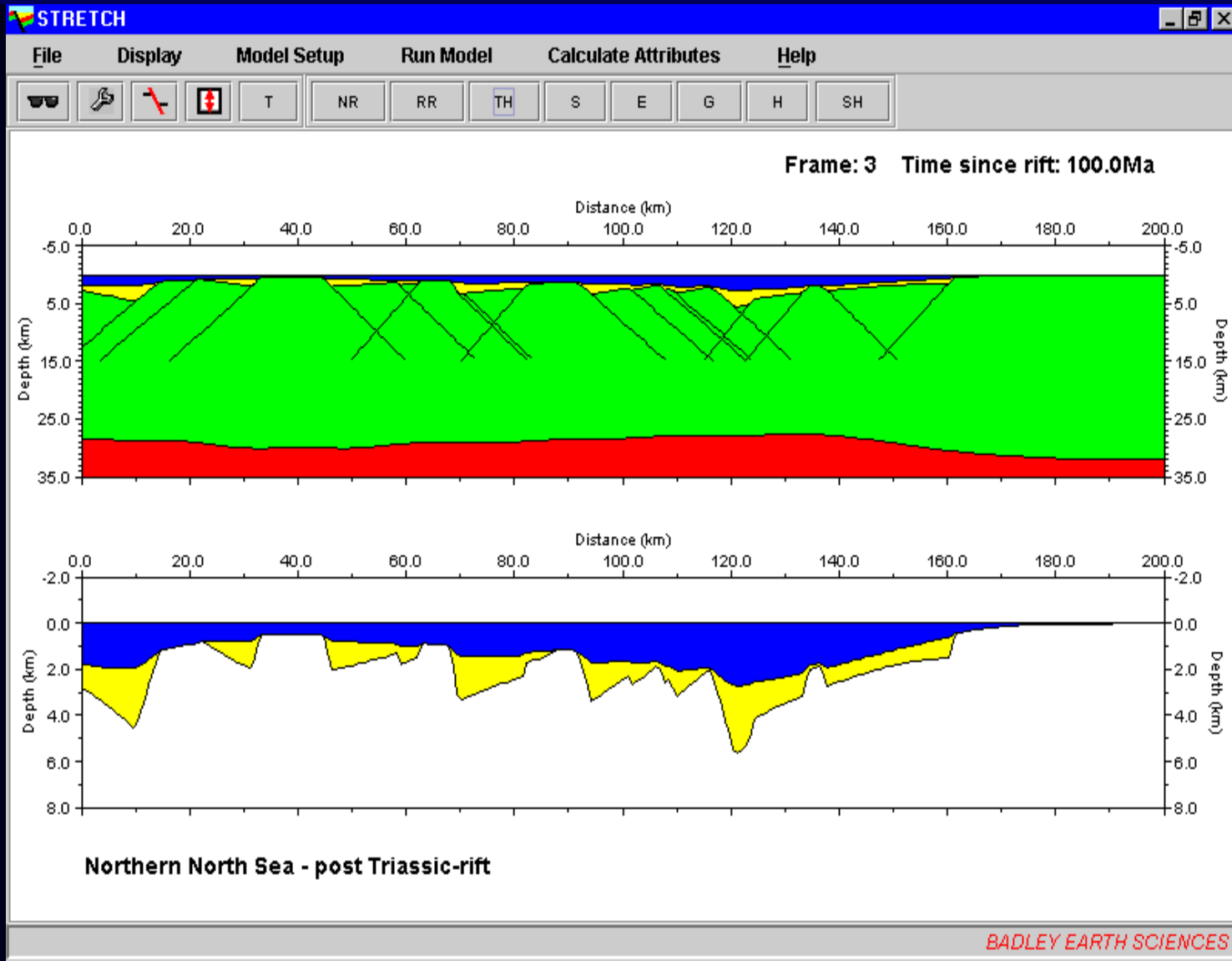
# Stretch: Triassic rift and beta profile



# Stretch: Erode syn-rift topography

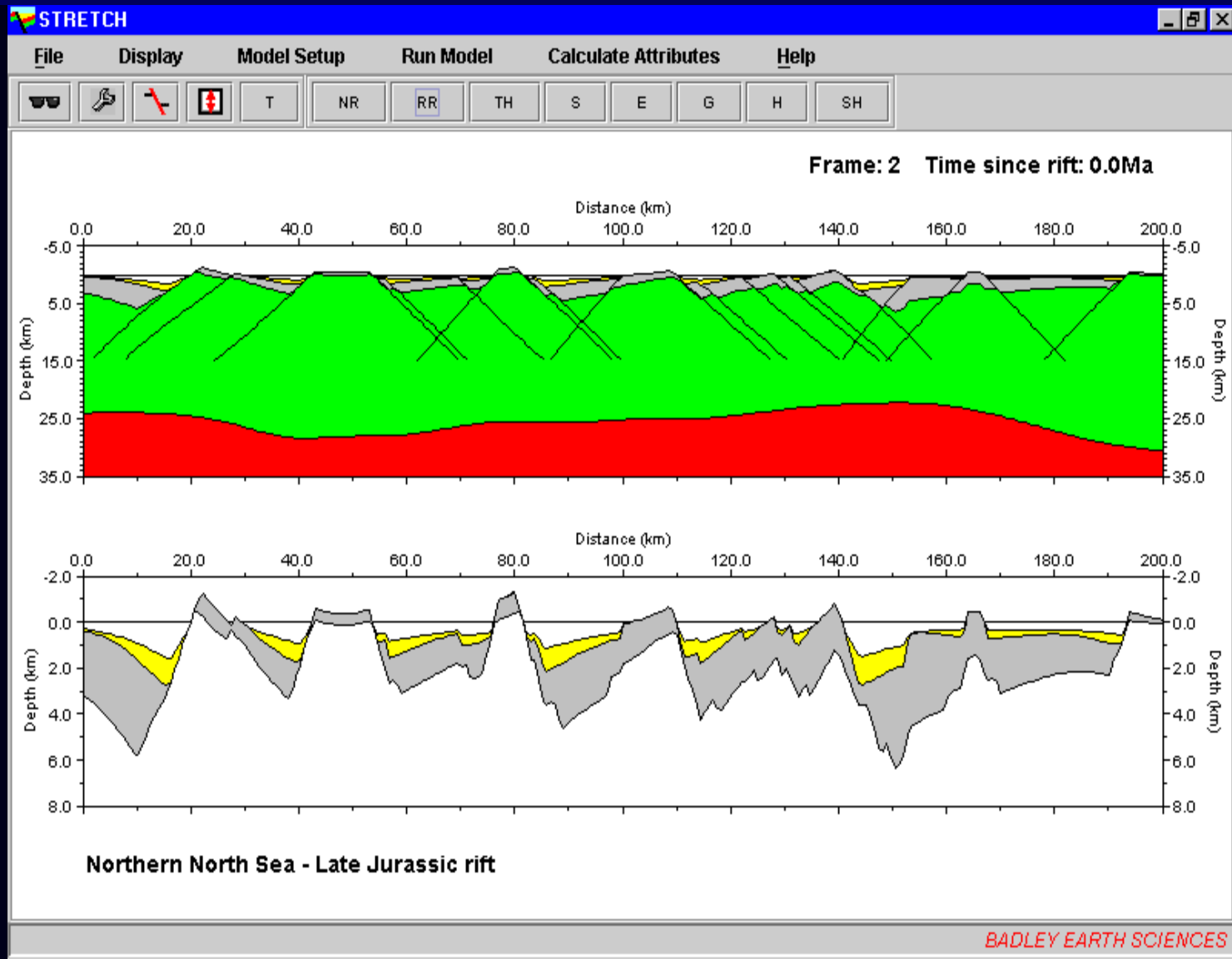


# Stretch: 100Myr thermal subsidence Jurassic delta plain at 150Ma

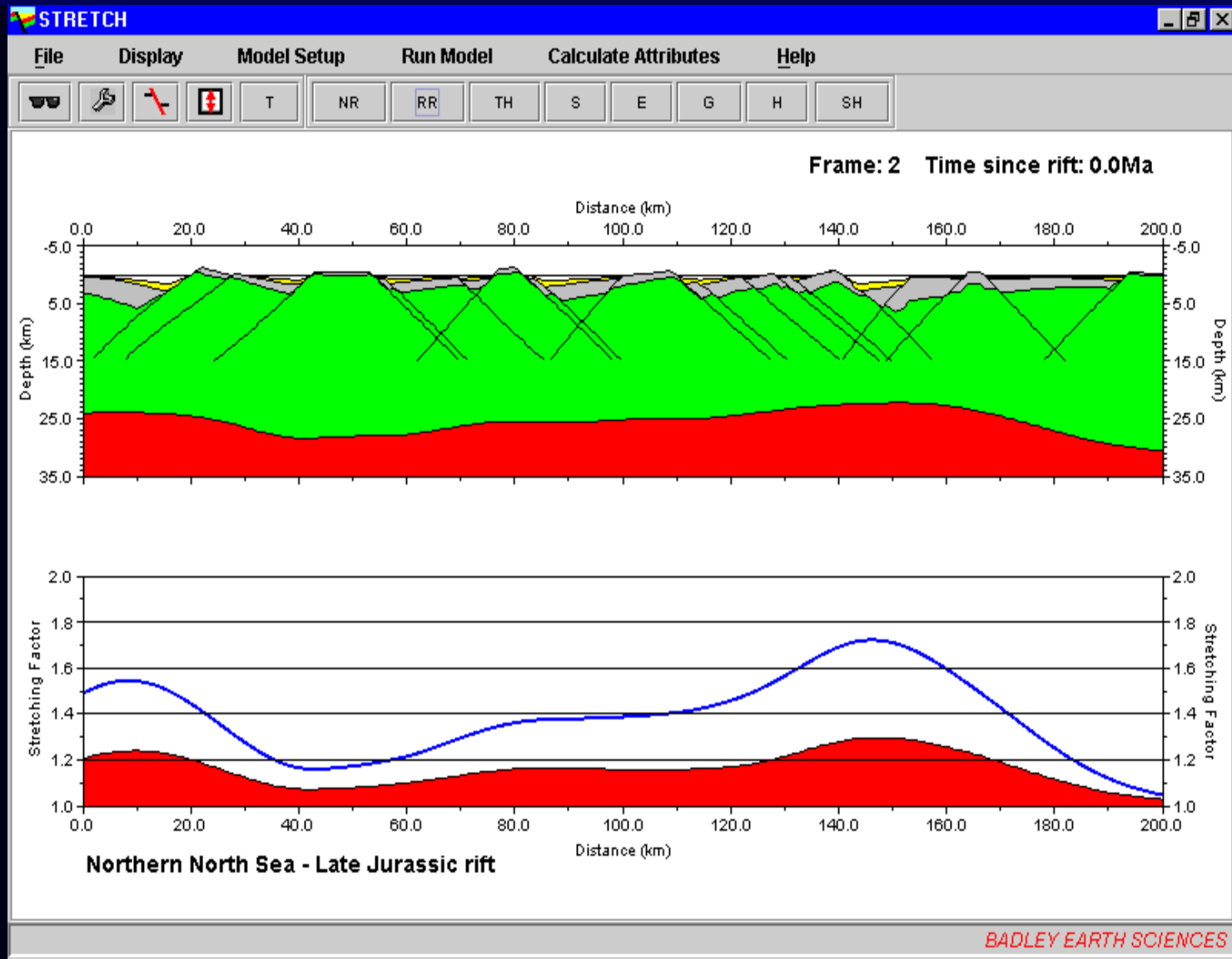


# Stretch: Re-rift in the late Jurassic

## Marine basin with island archipelago

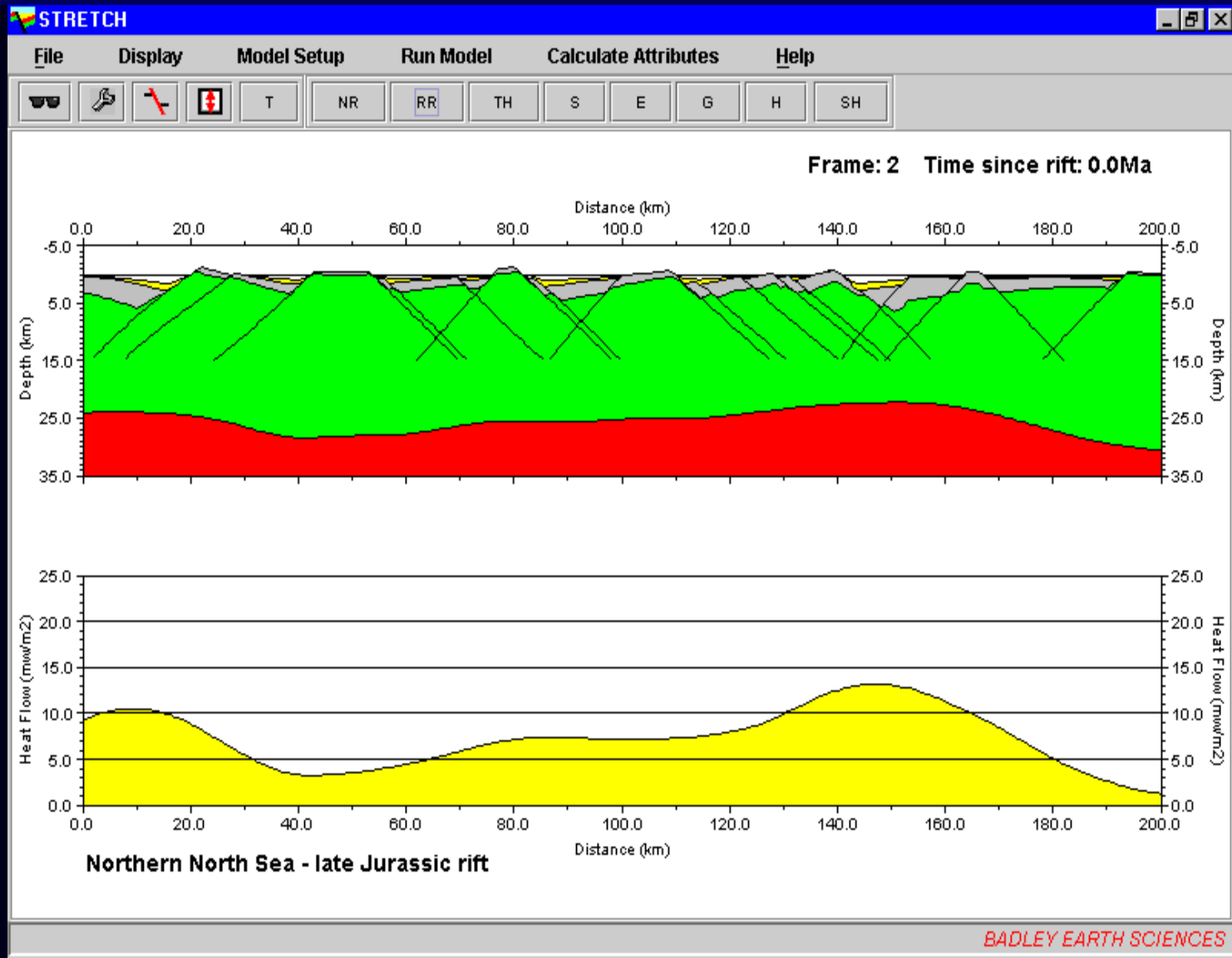


# Stretch: 2nd-rift & composite beta profiles



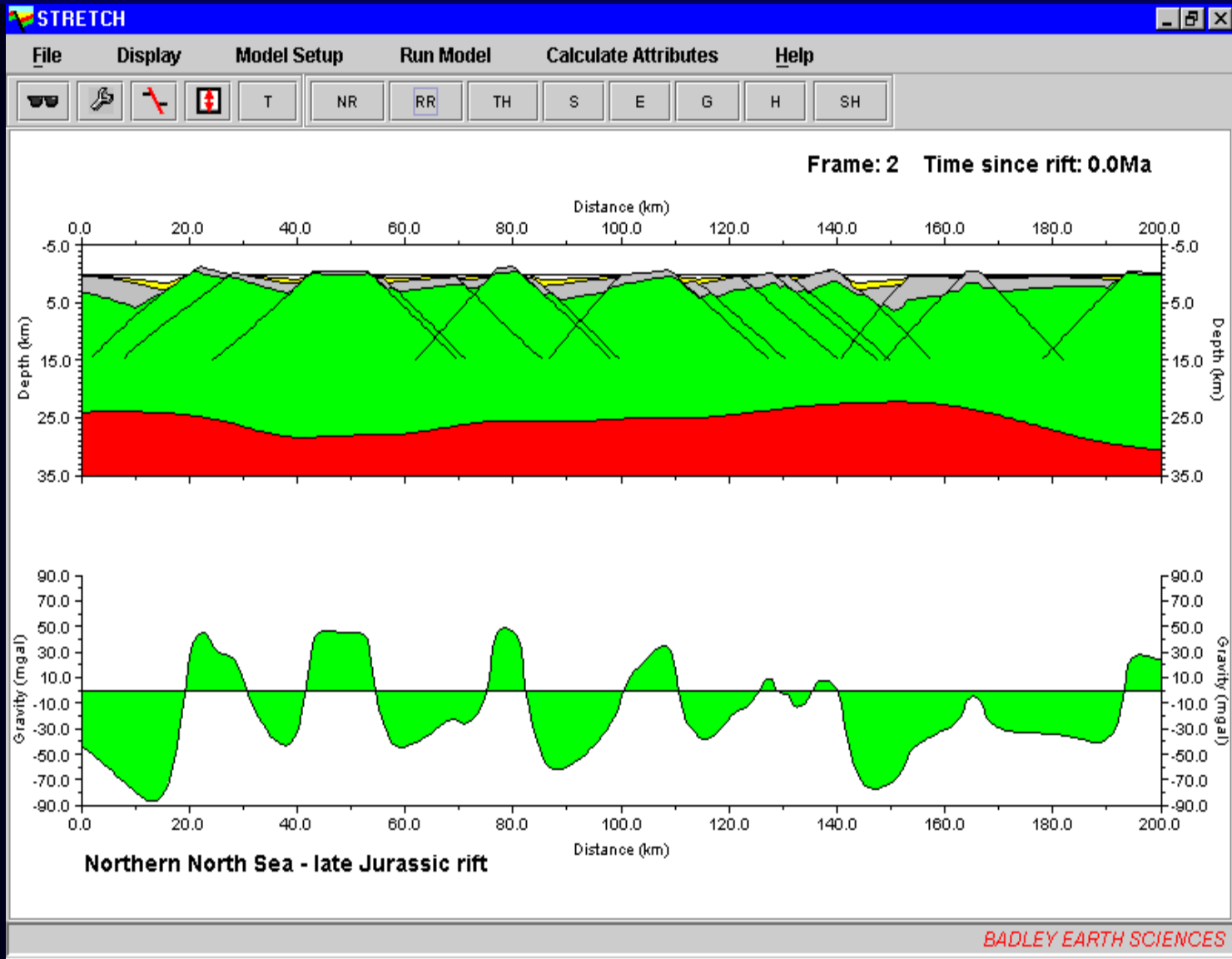
# Stretch: Late Jurassic heat-flow anomaly

## Composite anomaly from both rifts



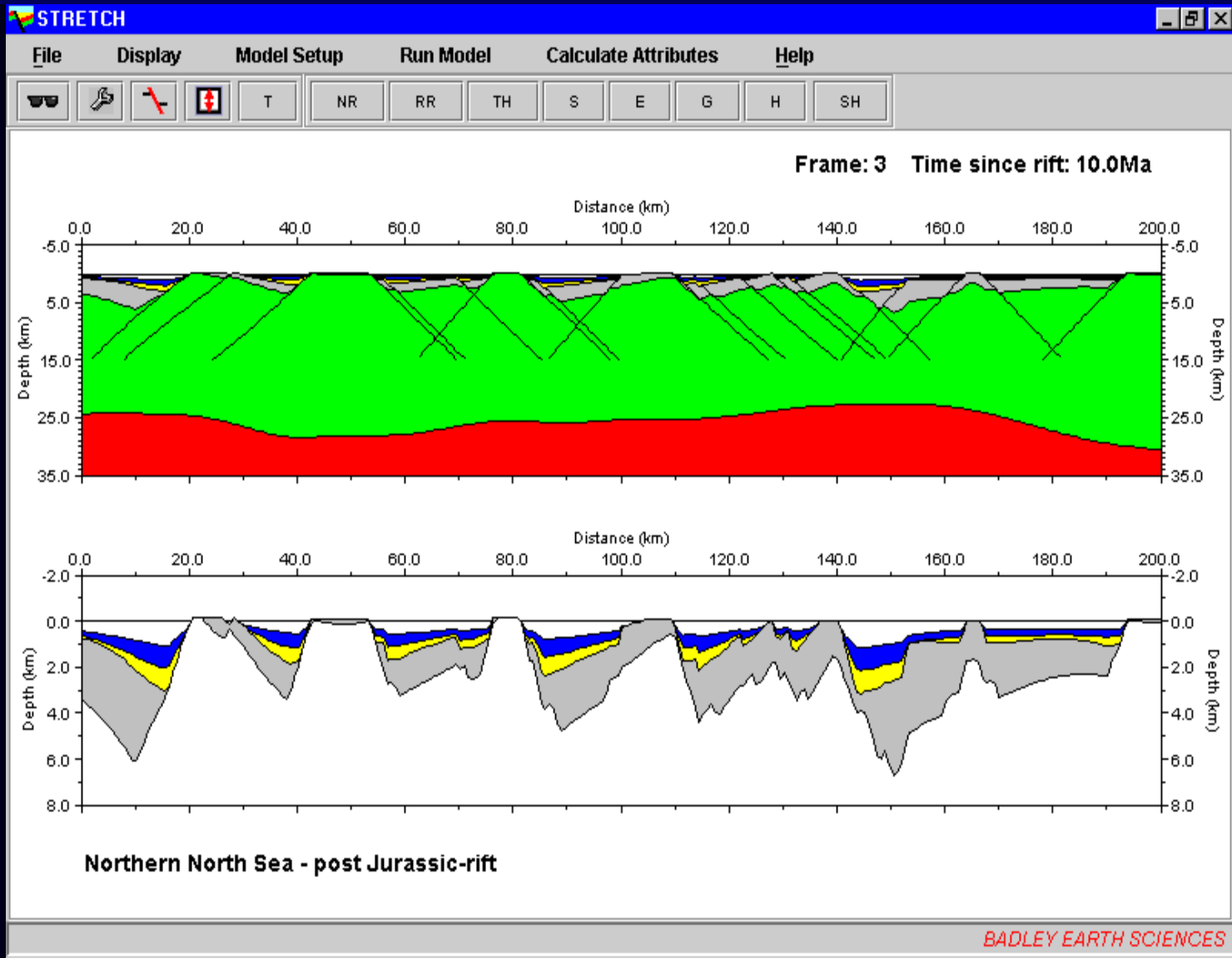


# Stretch: Jurassic syn-rift gravity anomaly

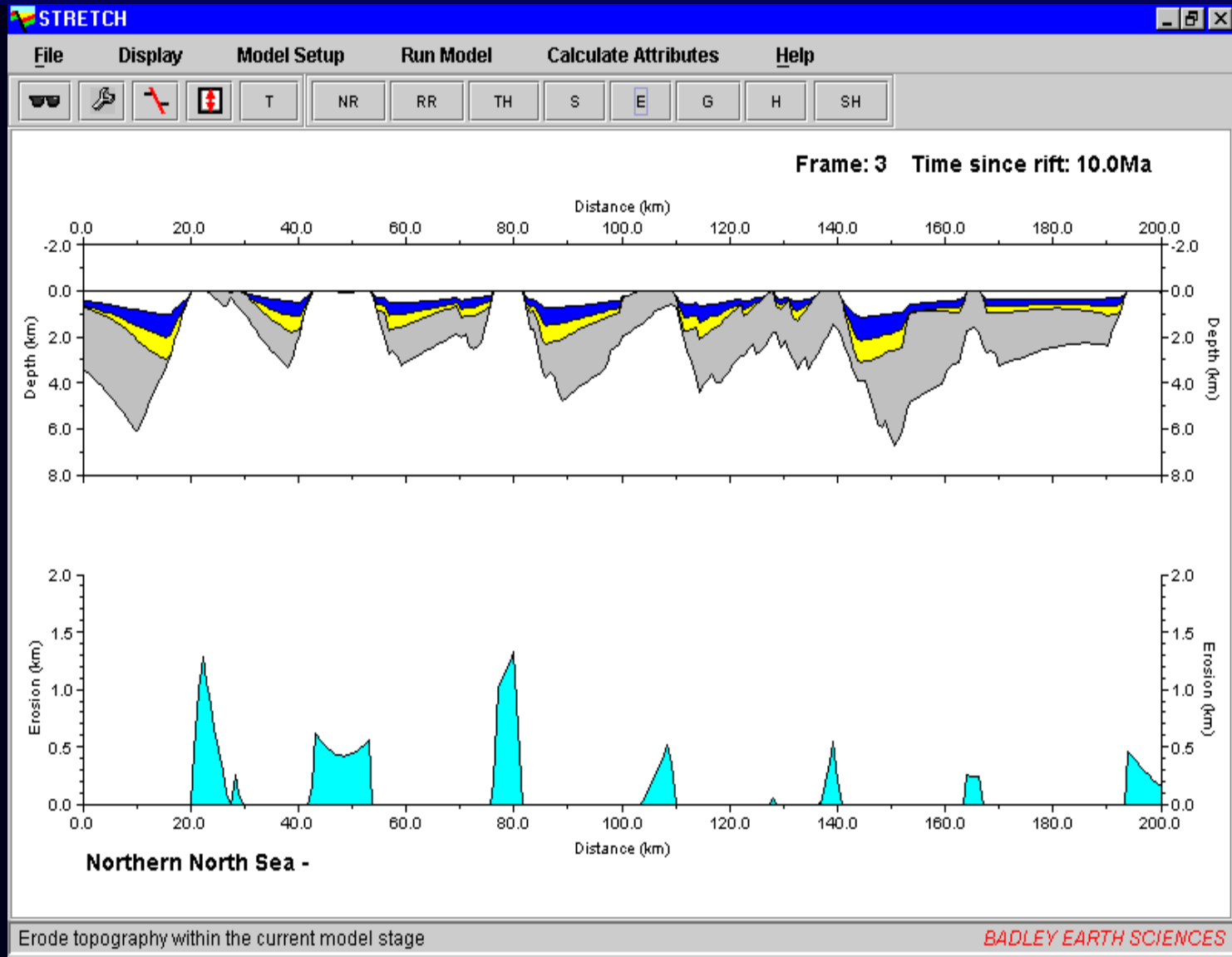


# Stretch: 10Myr post-rift and erosion

## Base Cretaceous seismic marker at 140Ma

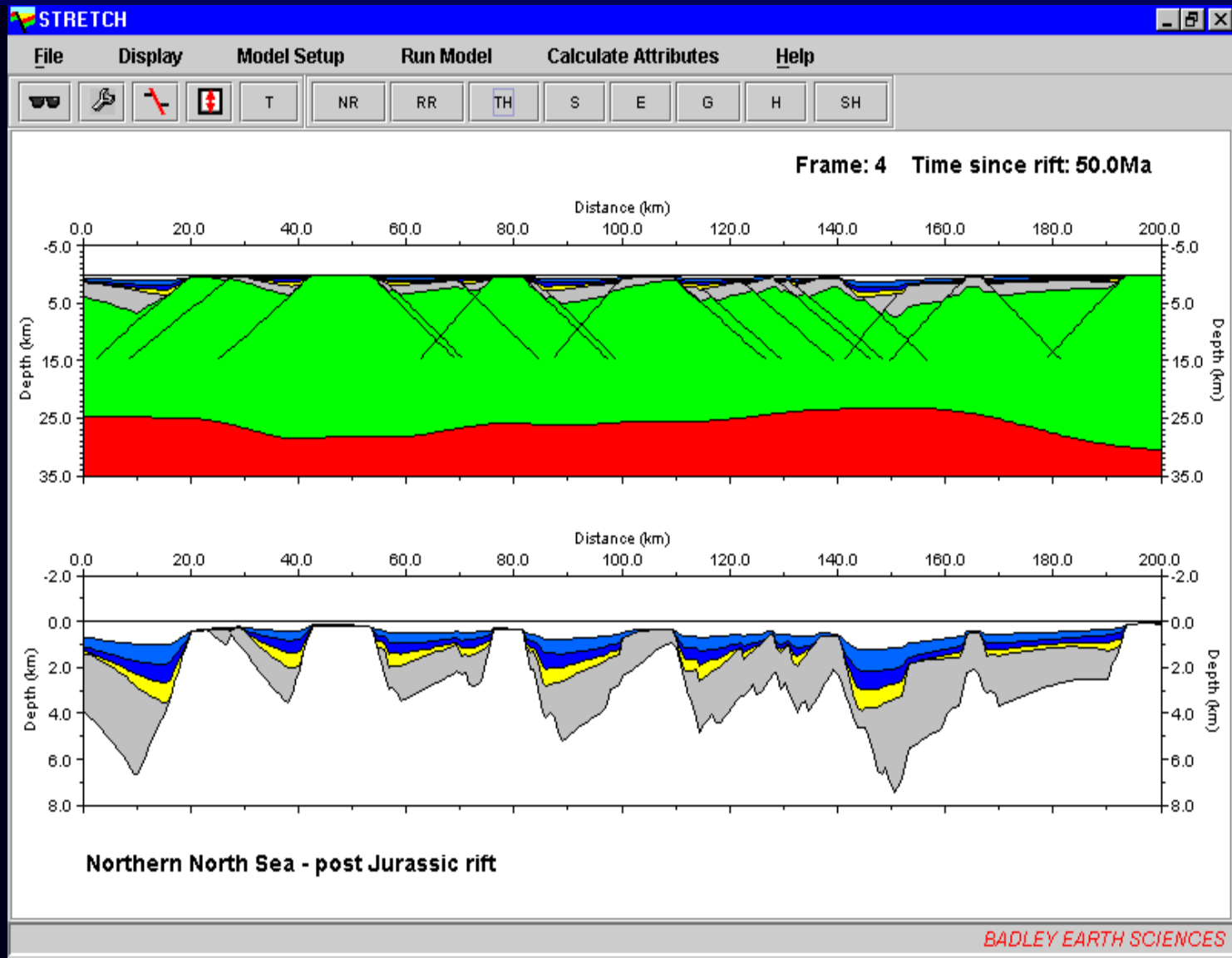


# Stretch: Base Cret erosion at sea-level



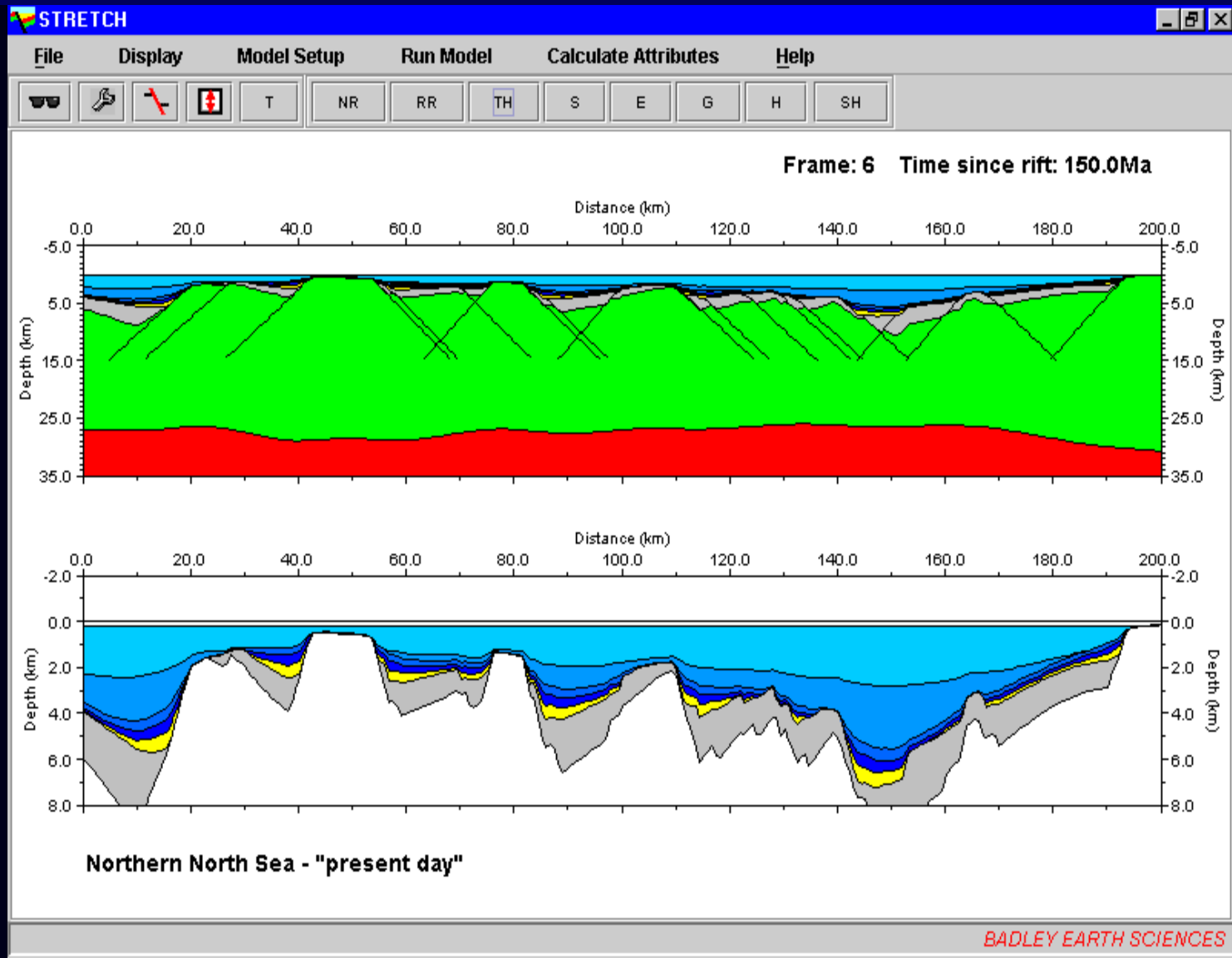
# Stretch: 50Myr post-rift subsidence

Marine basin at end Early Cretaceous, 100Ma

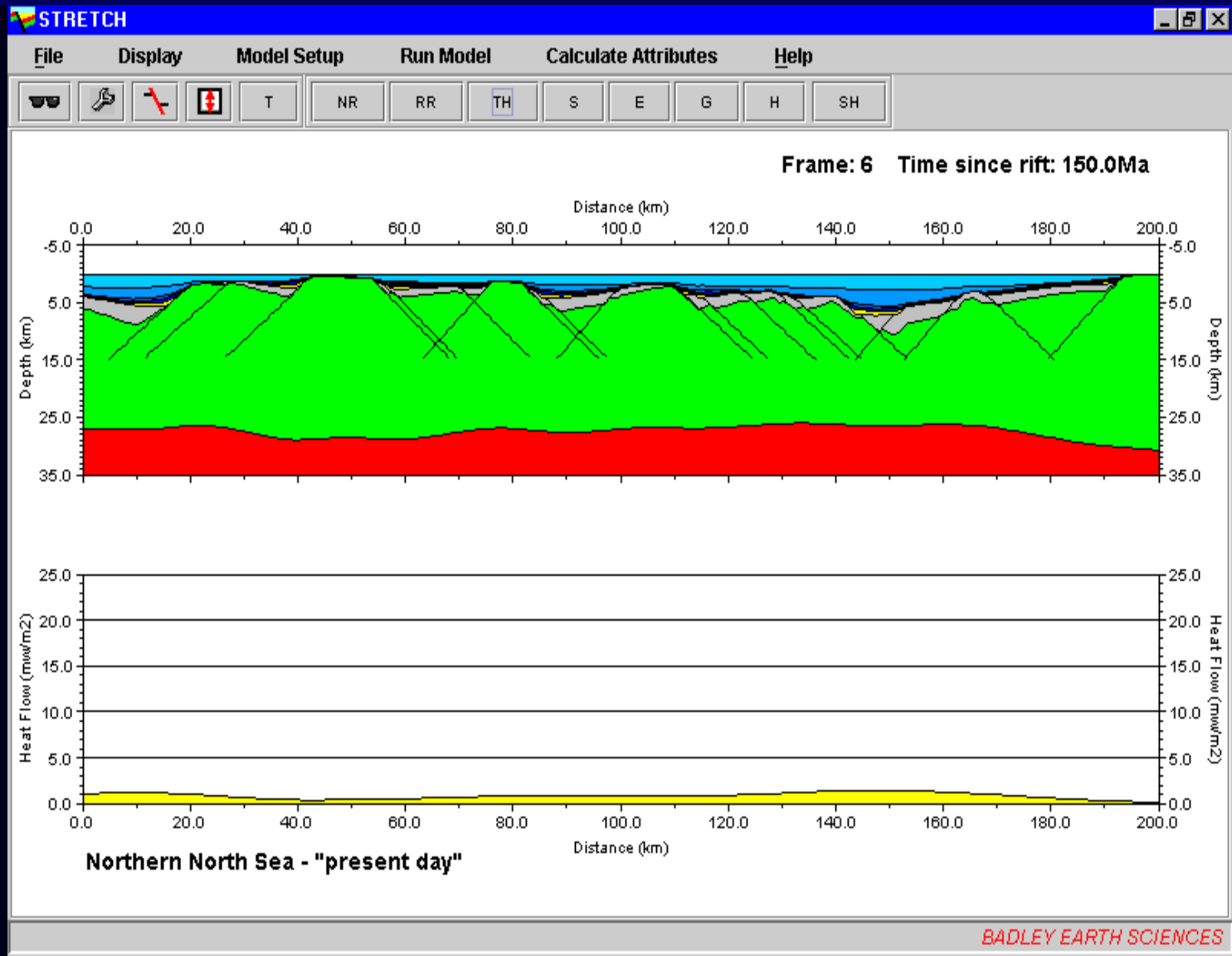


# Stretch: 150Myr post-rift subsidence

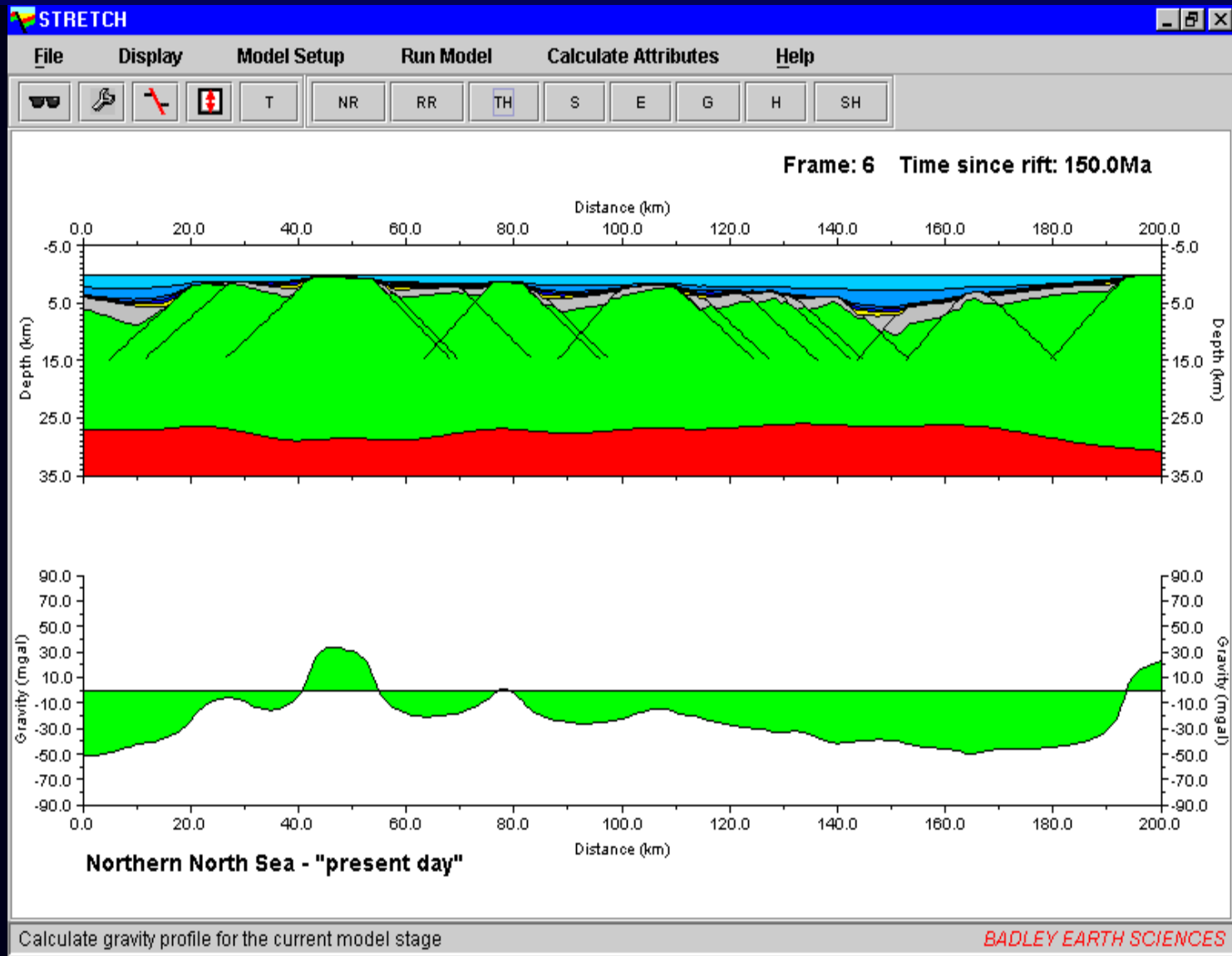
The "present-day" multiple rift model



# Stretch: Present-day heat-flow anomaly



# Stretch: Gravity anomaly for present-day model

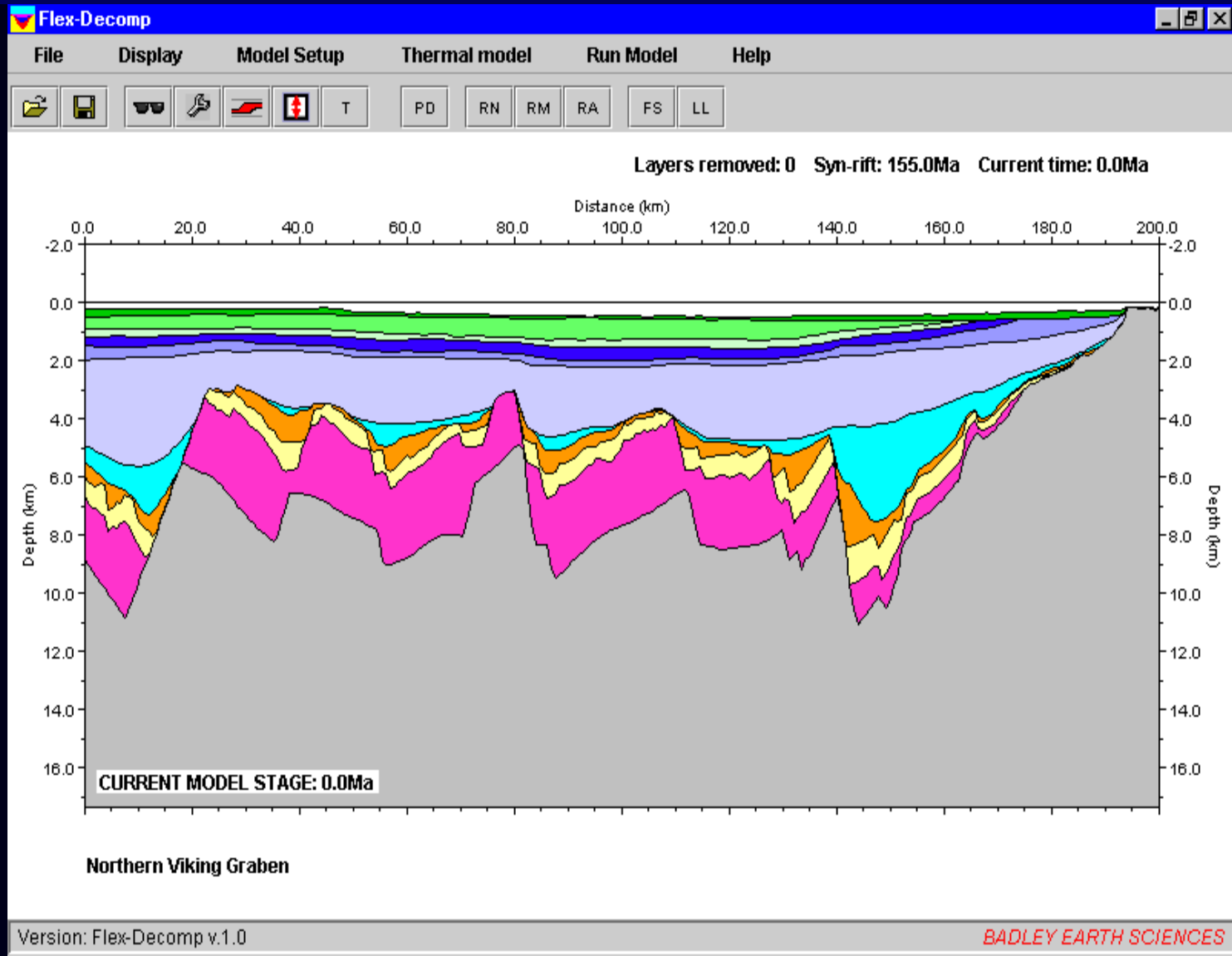


# Flexural Decompaction backstripped model

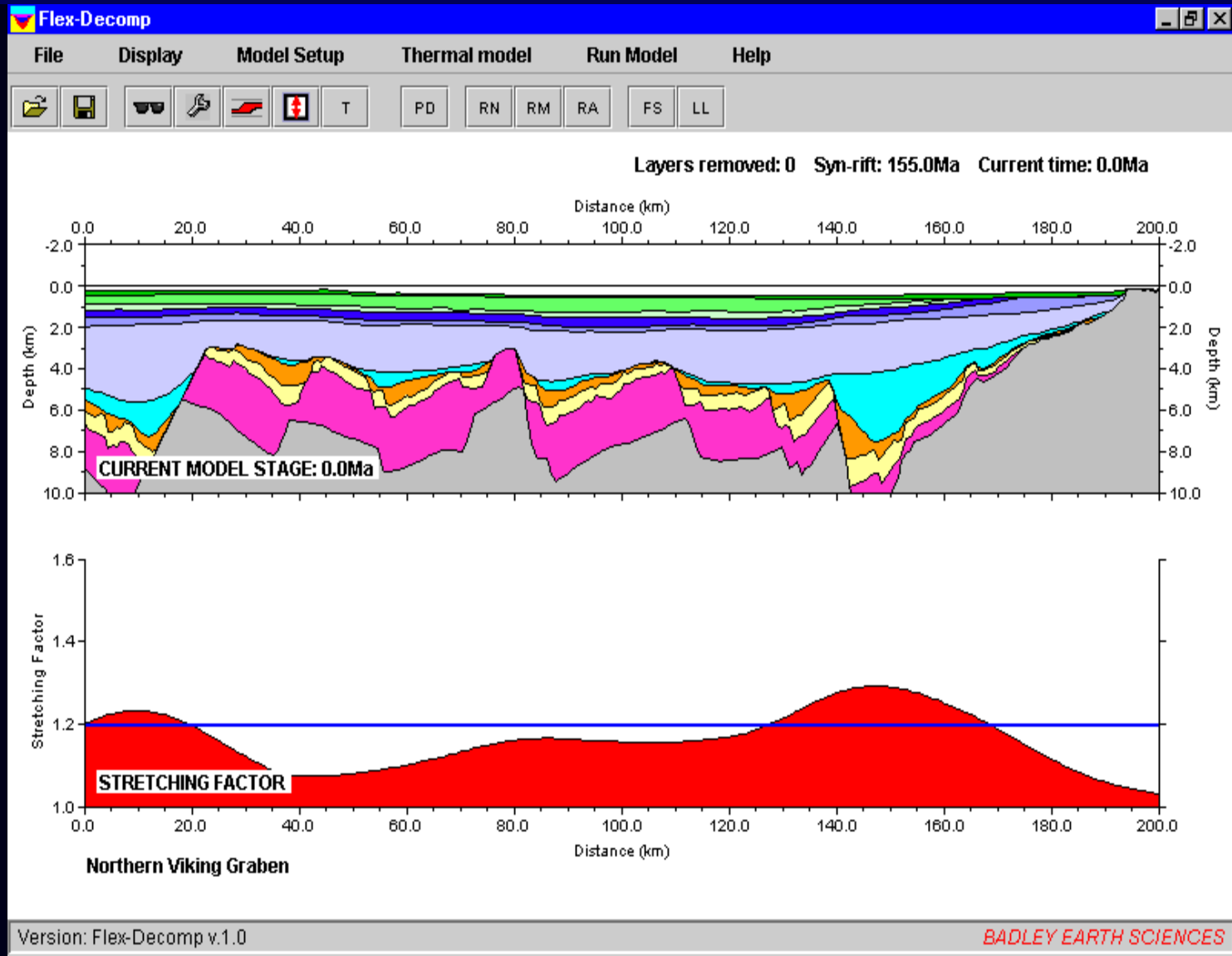
- **Backstrip from present to near syn-rift**
- **Acknowledge two rift events**
- **Jurassic (150Ma) beta profile from Stretch**
- **Constant value for Triassic (250Ma) beta**
- **Allow for Palaeocene uplift by Iceland plume**



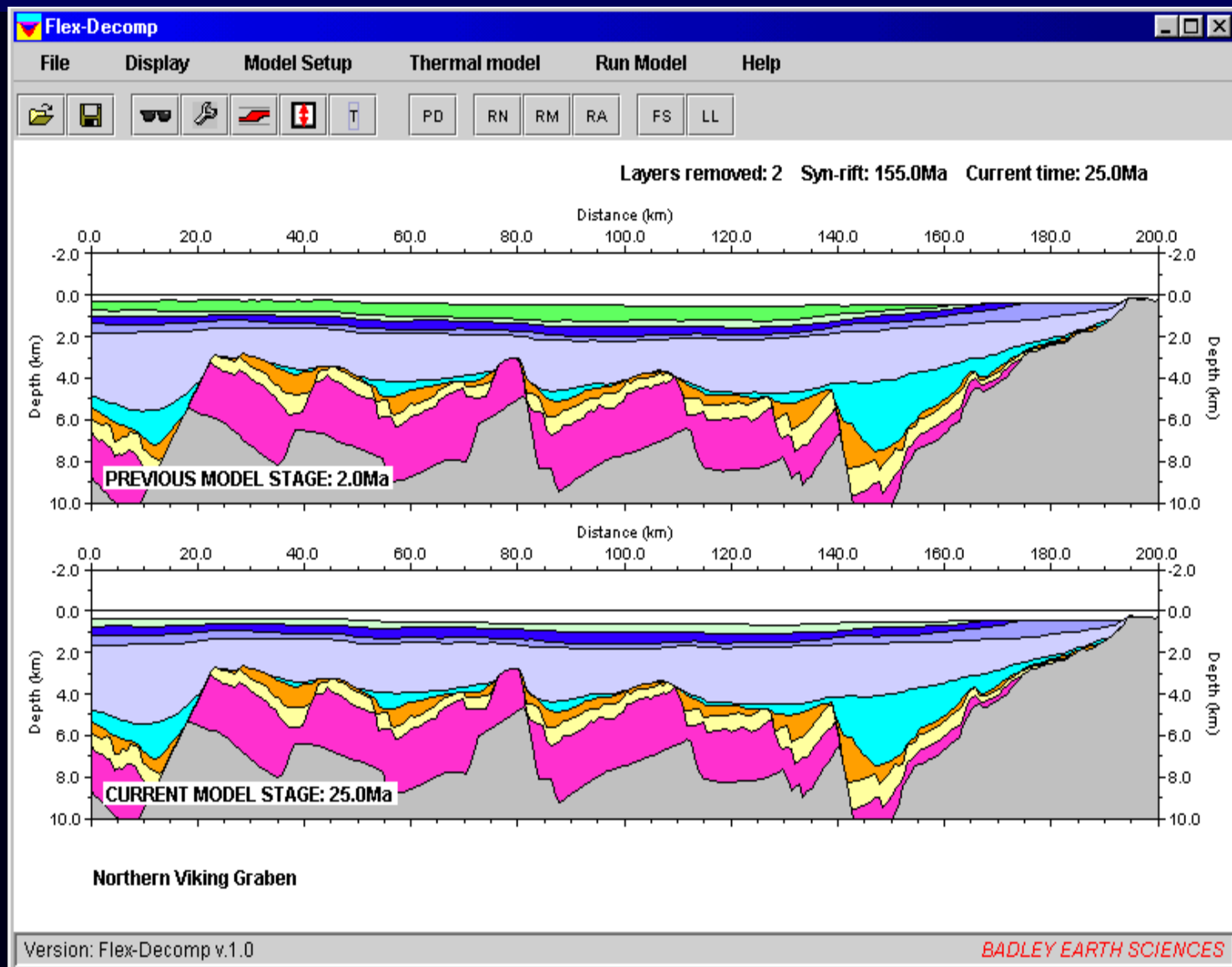
# Flex Decomp: Present-day cross-section



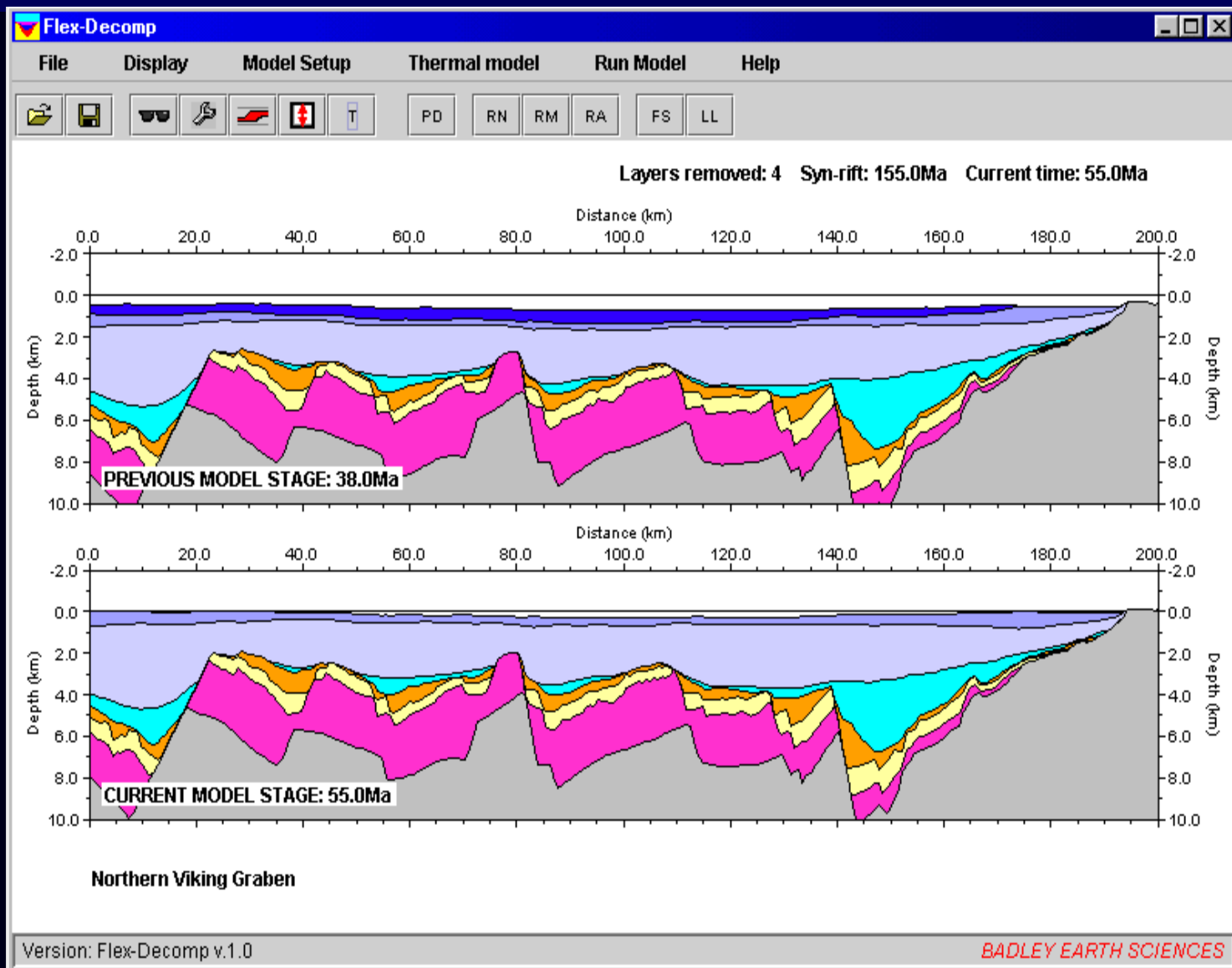
# Flex: Present section and beta profiles



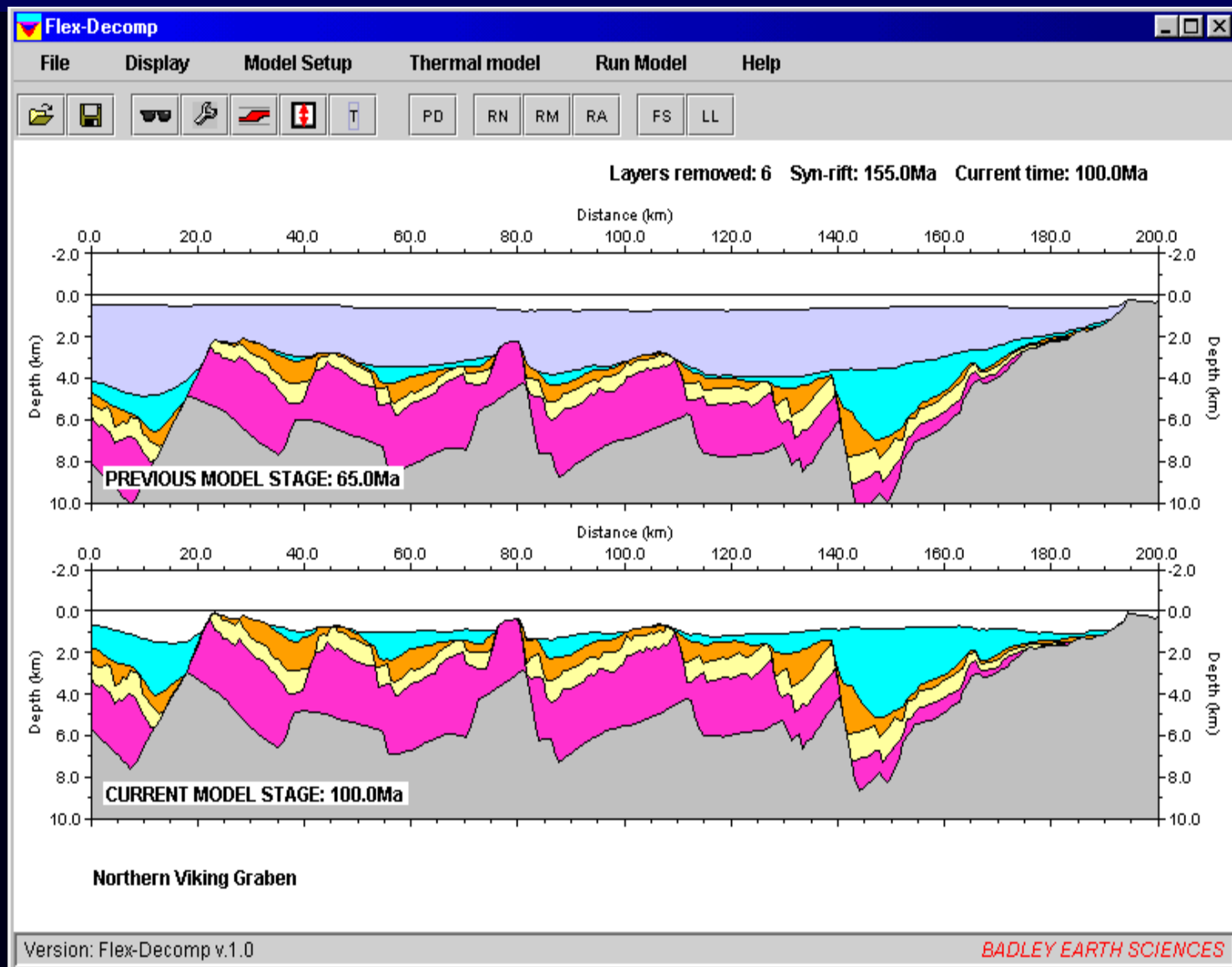
# Flex Decomp: Layers 1 and 2 removed



# Flex Decomp: Layers 3 and 4 removed 460m Iceland Plume support applied at 55Ma

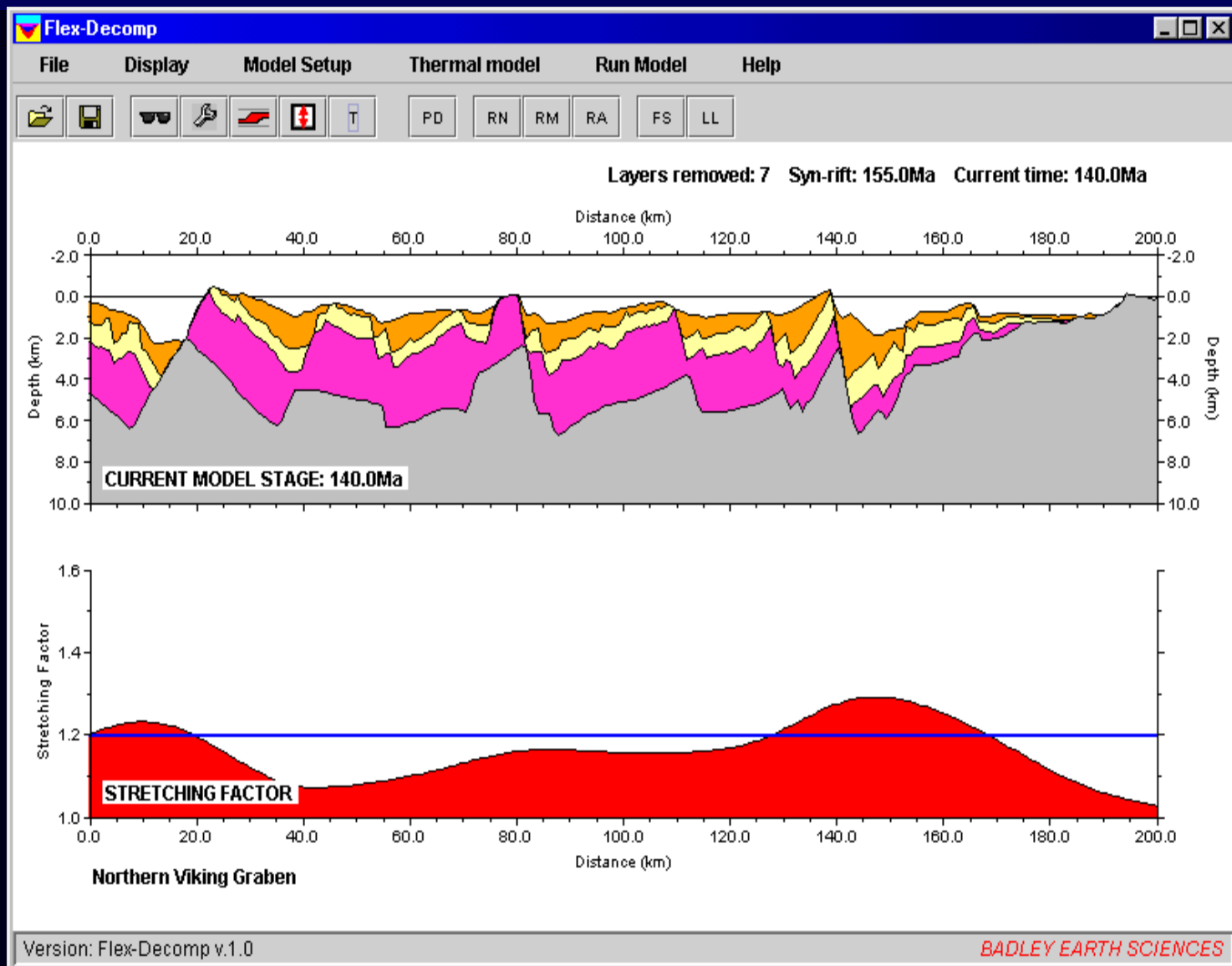


# Flex Decomp: Layers 5 and 6 removed

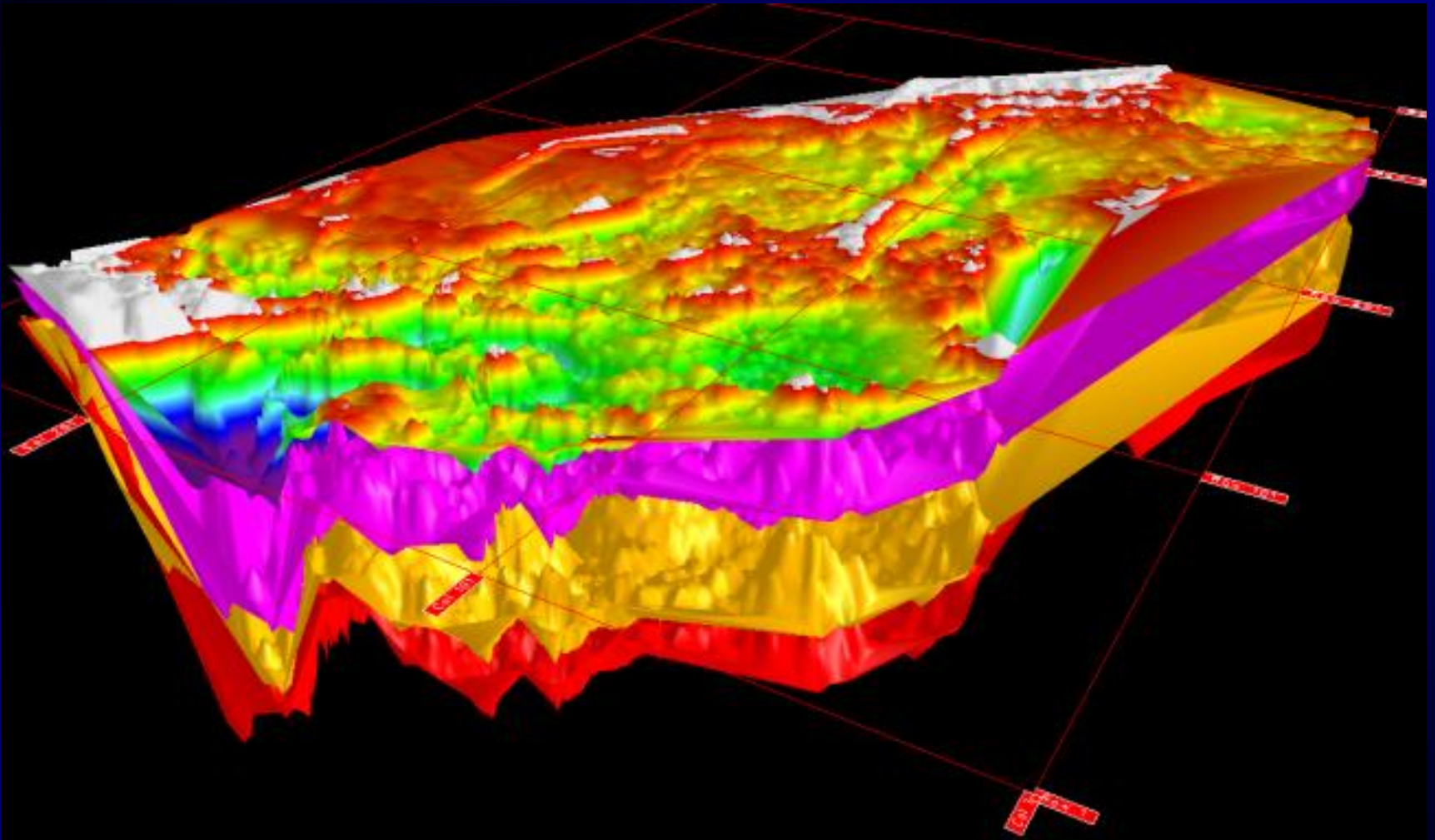


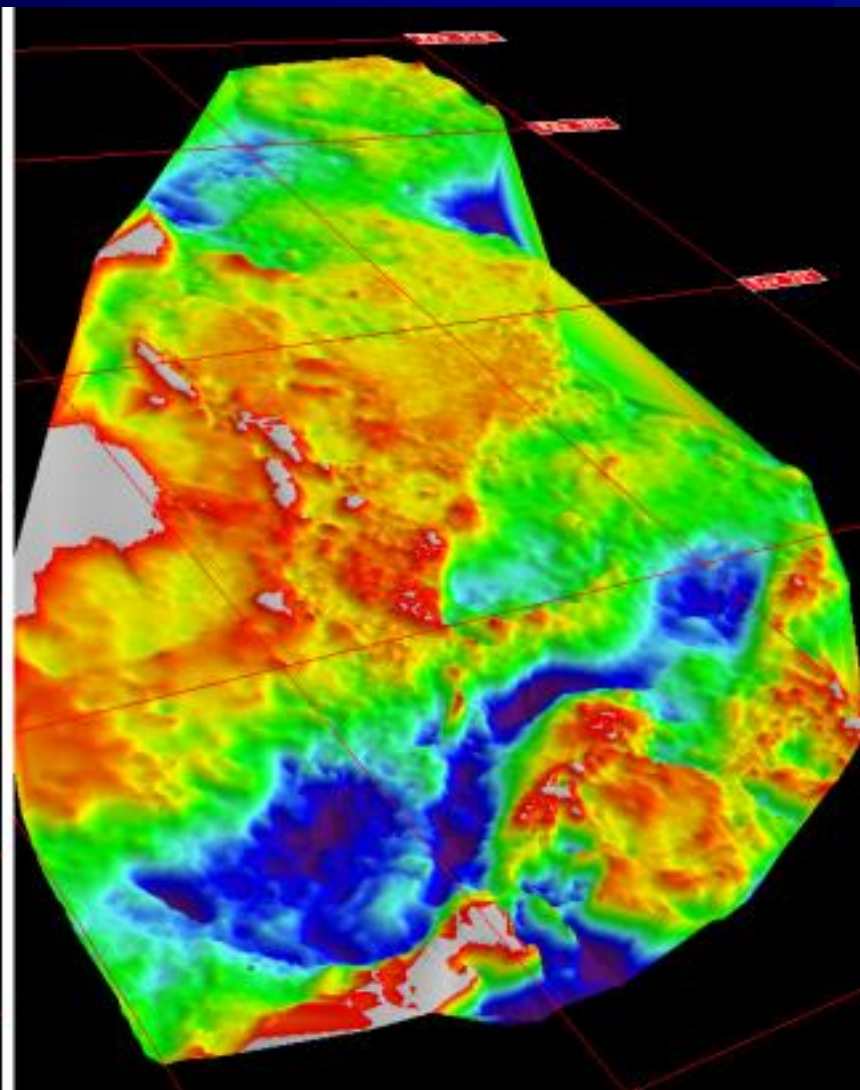
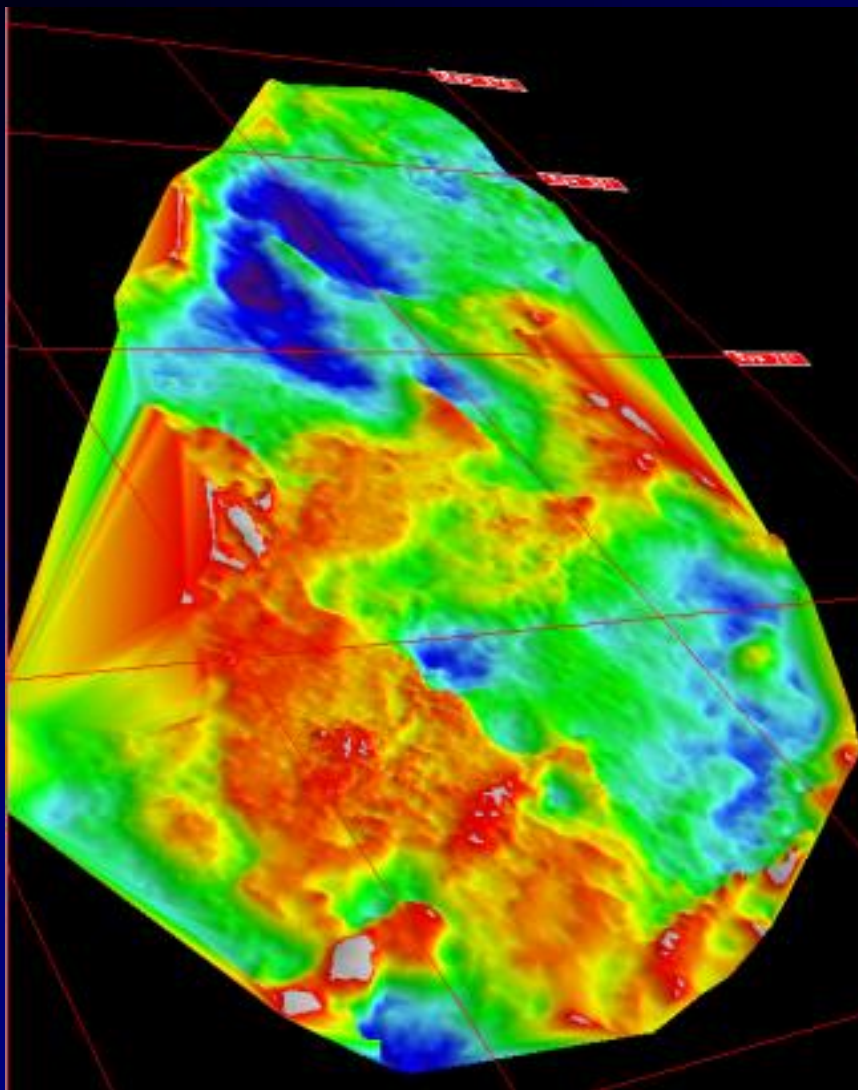
# Flex Decomp: Layer 7 removed

Base Cretaceous at 140Ma close to syn-rift

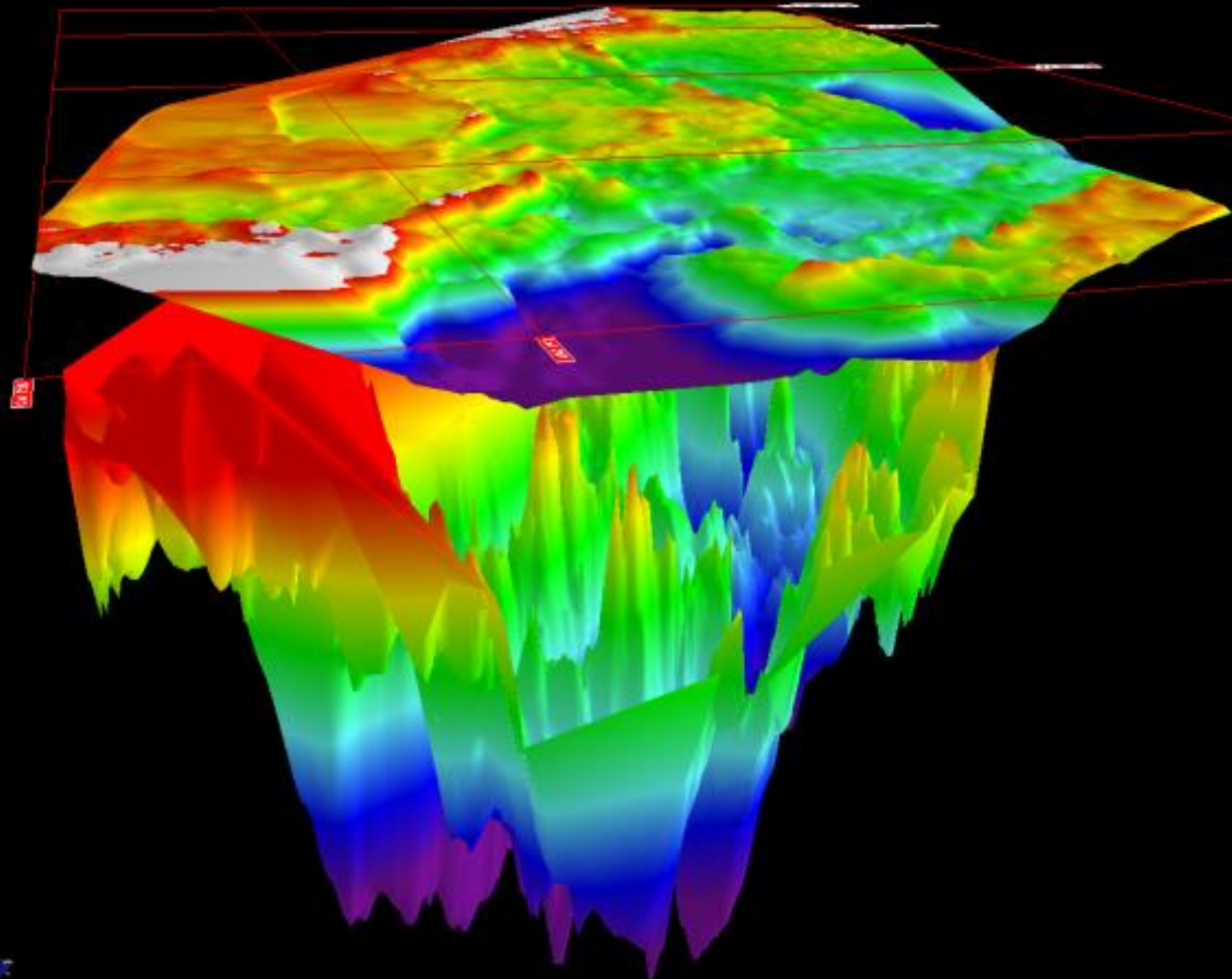


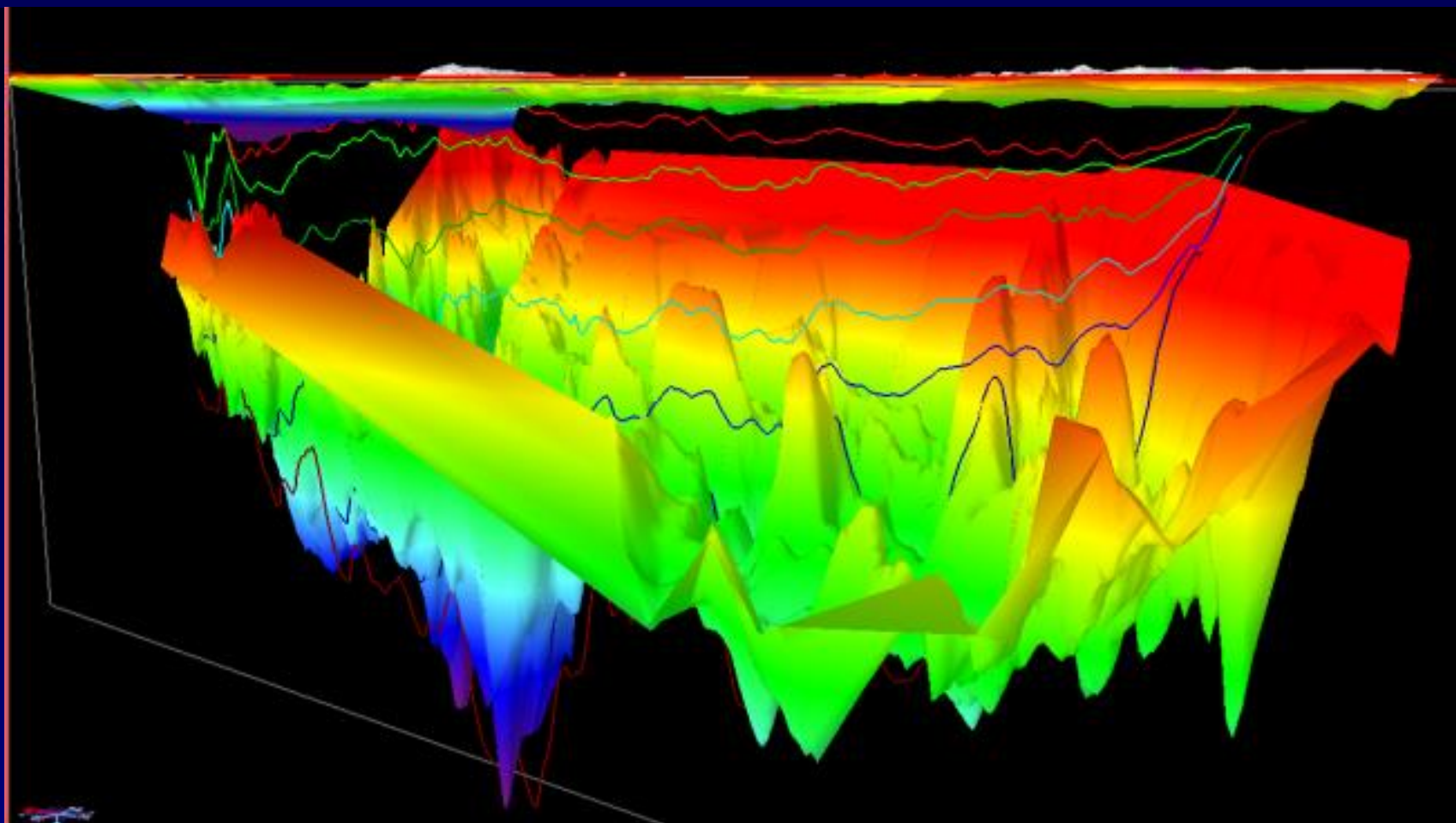
# Flexural backstripping in 3D:Base Tertiary sequence, N Sea

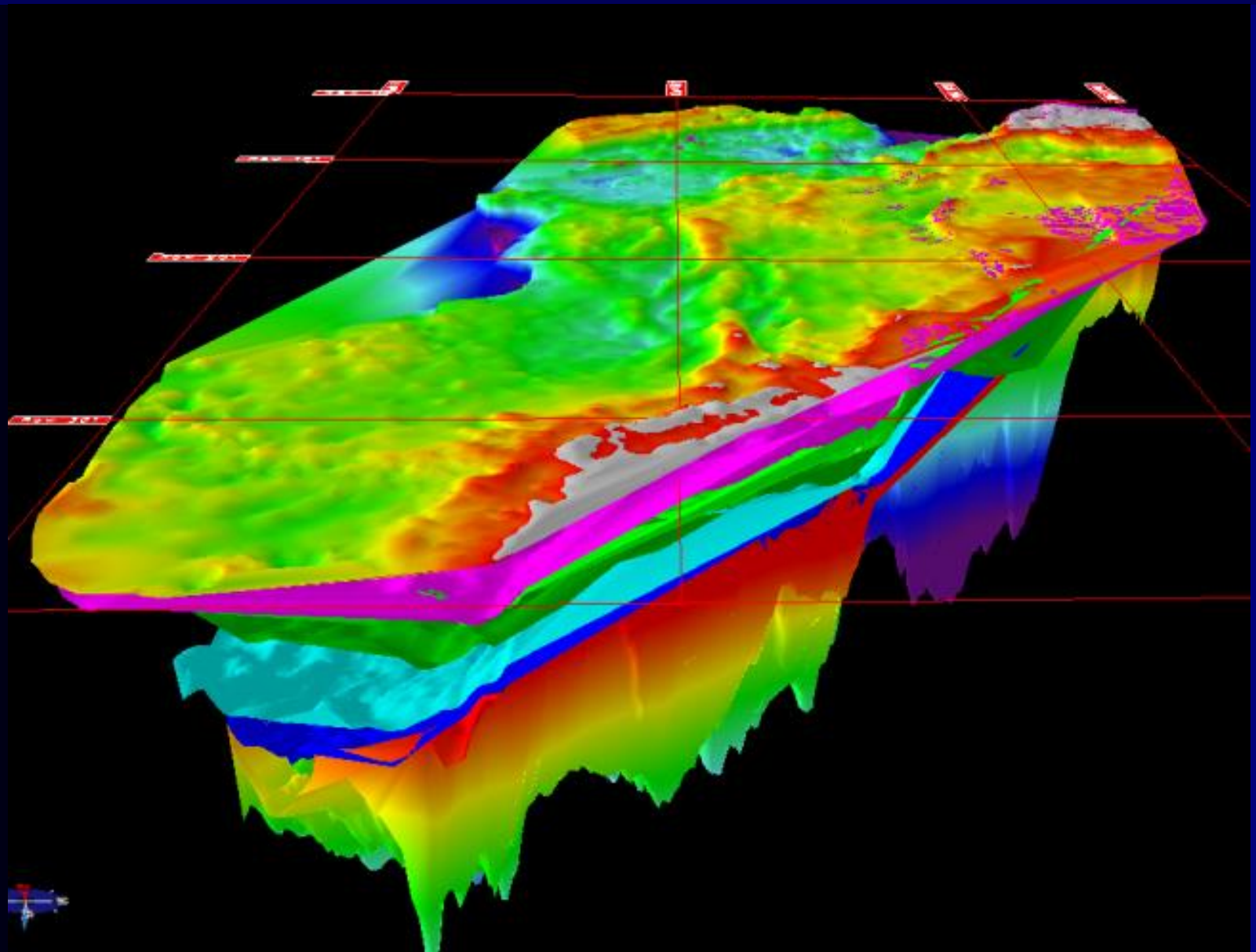












# Variations in timing and subsidence amount of post-rift basins

How does the syn-rift to post-rift transition occur?

How much variation in subsidence is there between rifts of similar upper crustal extension amount

Evolution of post-rift basins- single rifting events, combination events

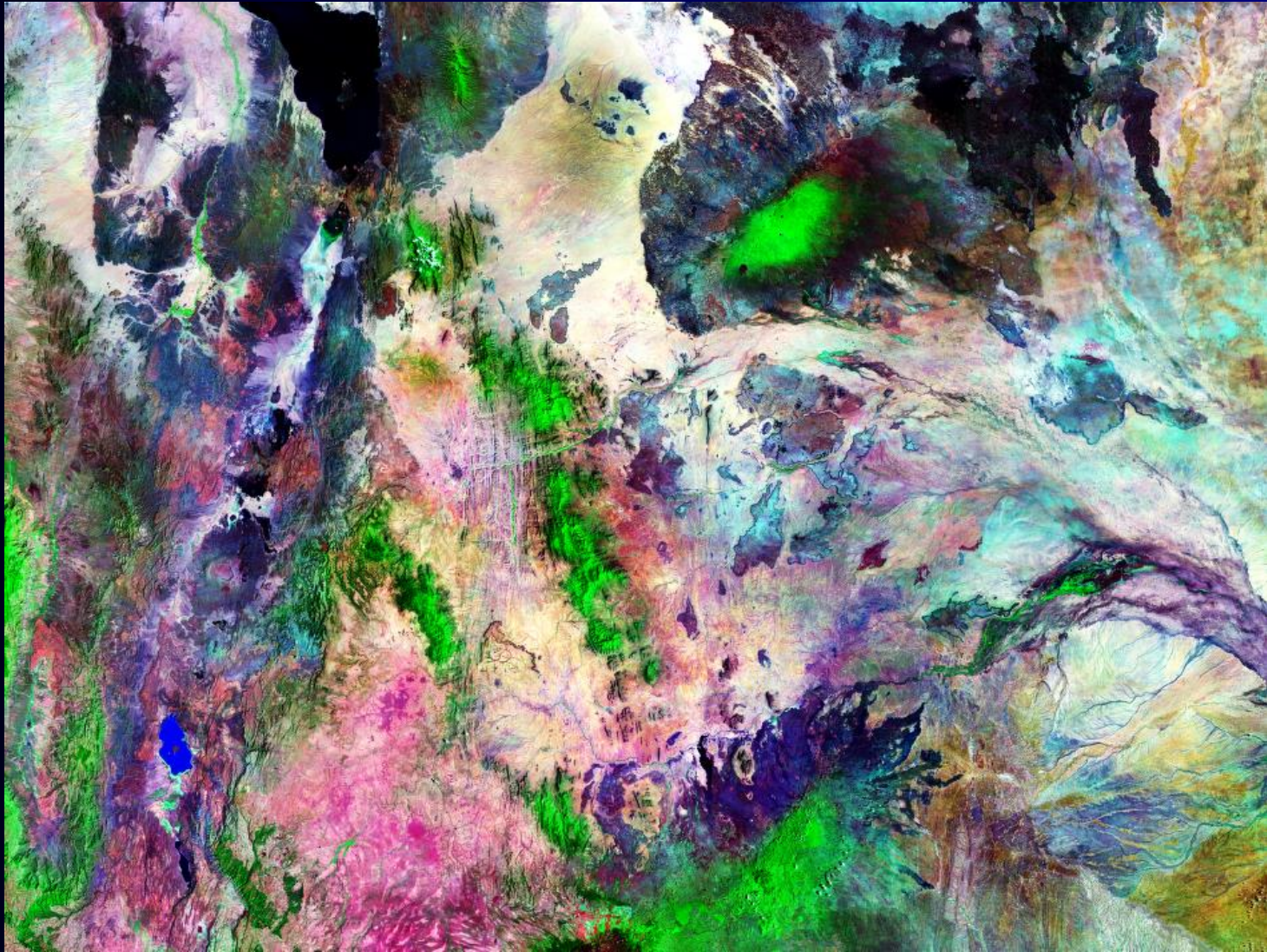
Lateral variations in onset of post-rift subsidence

## How to explain the discrepancy between back-stripped subsidence and observed upper crustal extension?

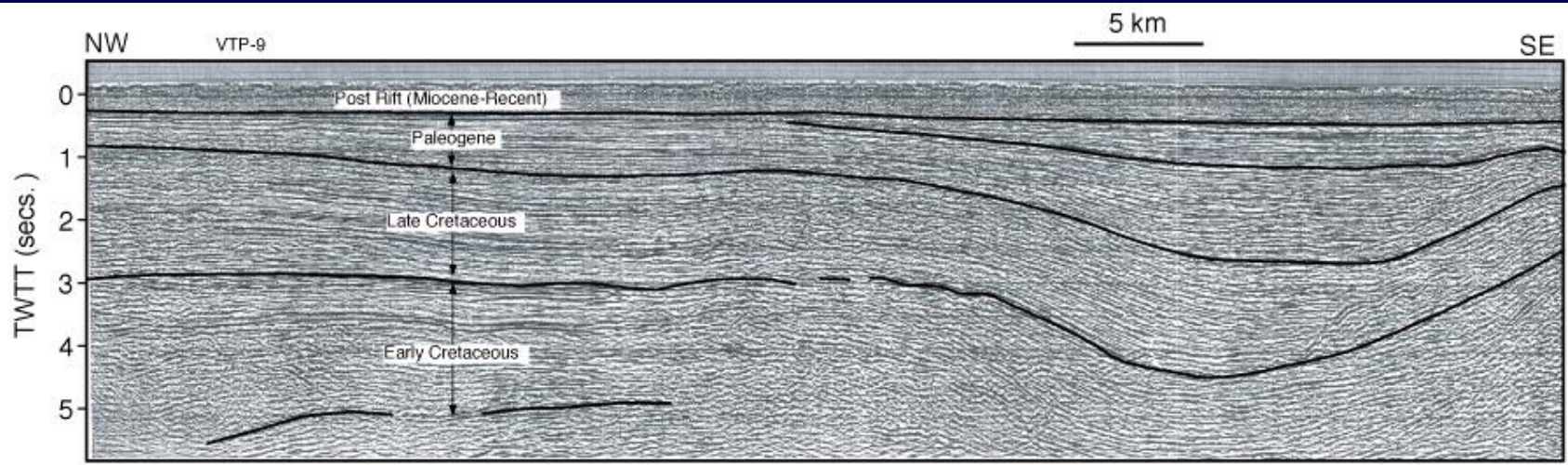
- Non-uniform stretching - extension increases downwards in the lithosphere
- Numerous seismically invisible faults contributing to upper crustal extension
- Active mantle processes (e.g. plume)
- Errors in calculation (e.g. water loads)
- Important heat source within sedimentary basin

# Onset of thermal subsidence in marine vs continental depositional settings

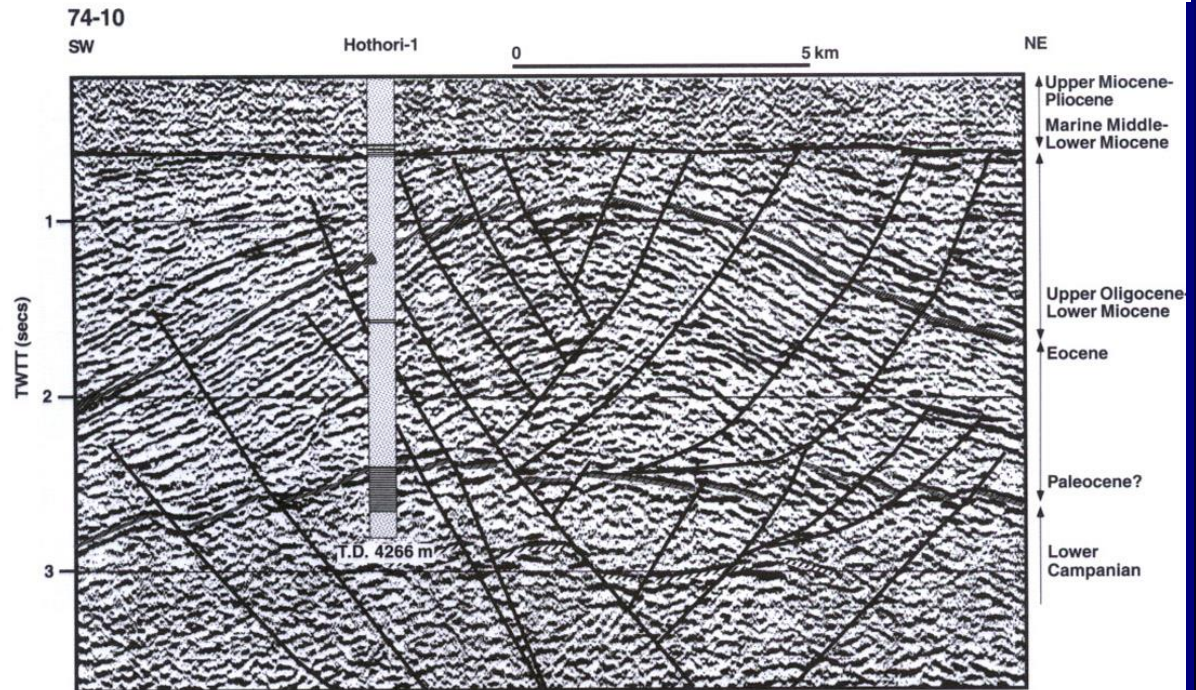
Typically the syn-rift post-rift unconformity in continental filled rifts is planar, and the syn-rift topography largely infilled and eroded flat



# Thermal subsidence in the Anza graben

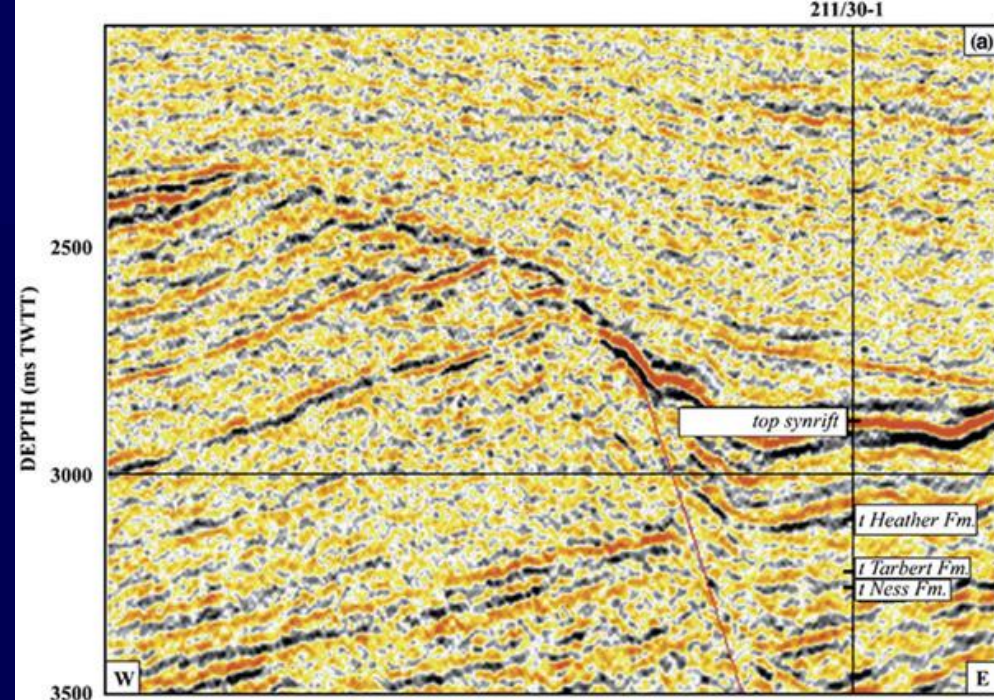


In continental filled rifts the post-rift unconformity tends to be an almost peneplaned surface

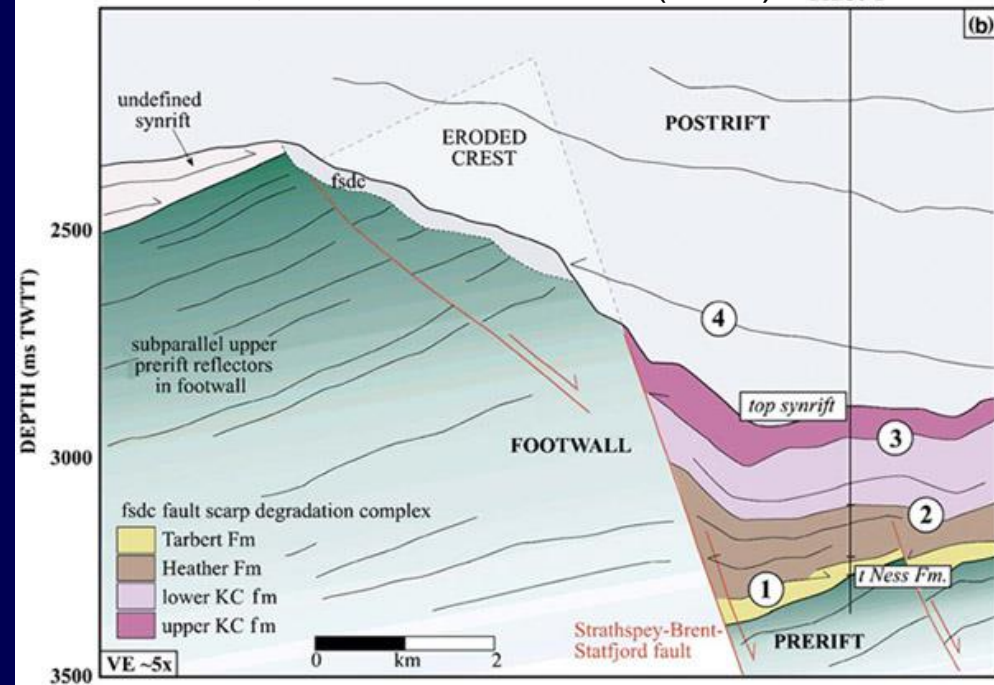


# Marine rifts

- In deep marine rifts such as the North Sea substantial submarine syn-rift topography is preserved into the post-rift phase.
- Infill of the marine topography by post-rift sediments is effectively infilling of accommodation space created by syn-rift not post-rift processes. Hence inclusion of the section that onlaps topography will create an overestimate of the thermal anomaly and hence overestimate the beta factor.



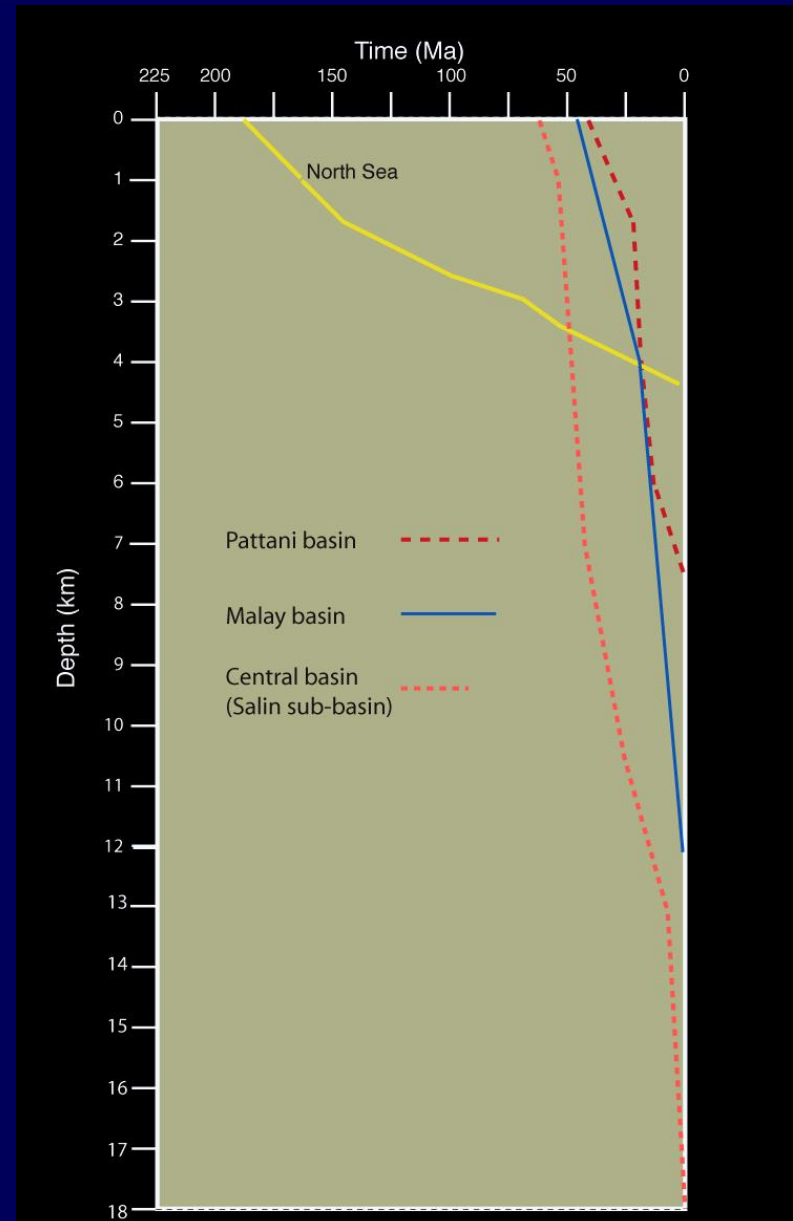
North Sea, Stewart and Reeds (2003) 211/30-1



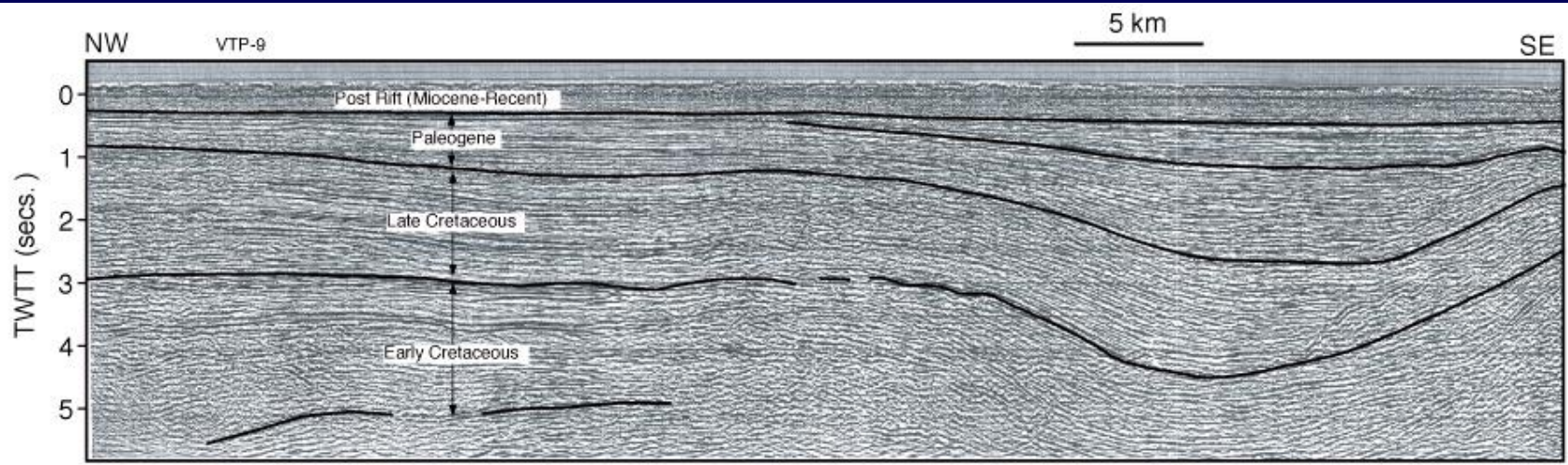


# Subsidence rates for the North Sea and SE Asian basins

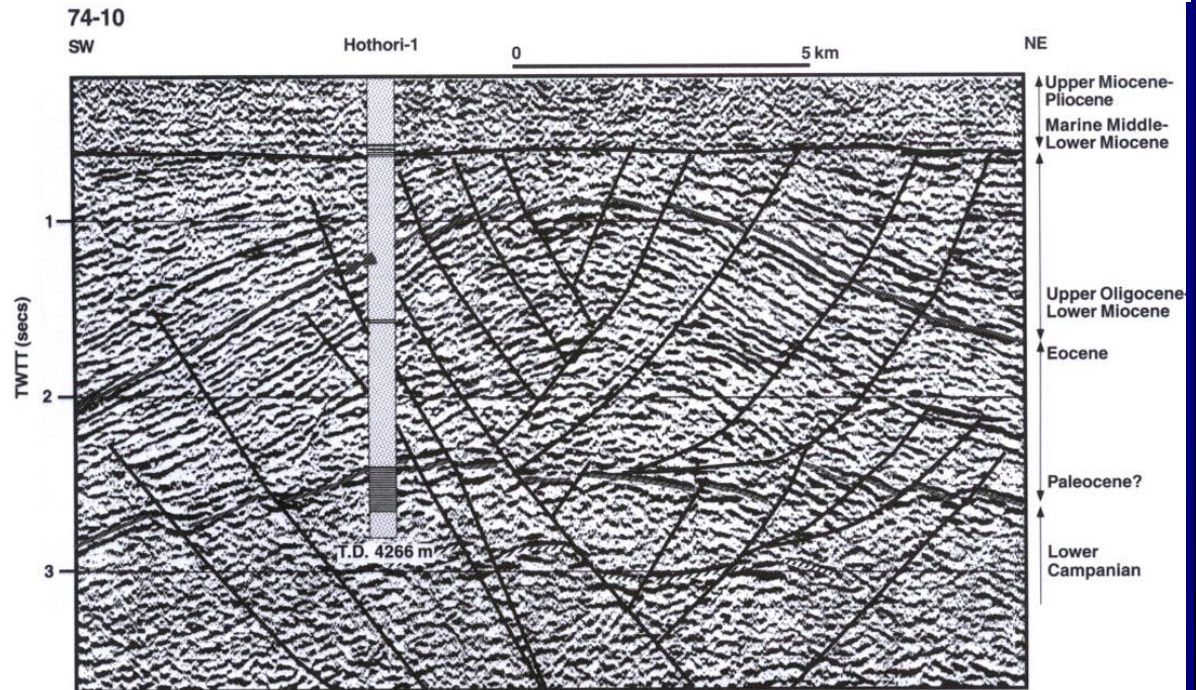
There is almost an order of magnitude difference in subsidence rates between post-rift subsidence in the North Sea and that of the Malay and Pattani basins, yet the three rifts all display upper crustal extension of  $\beta < 1.5$



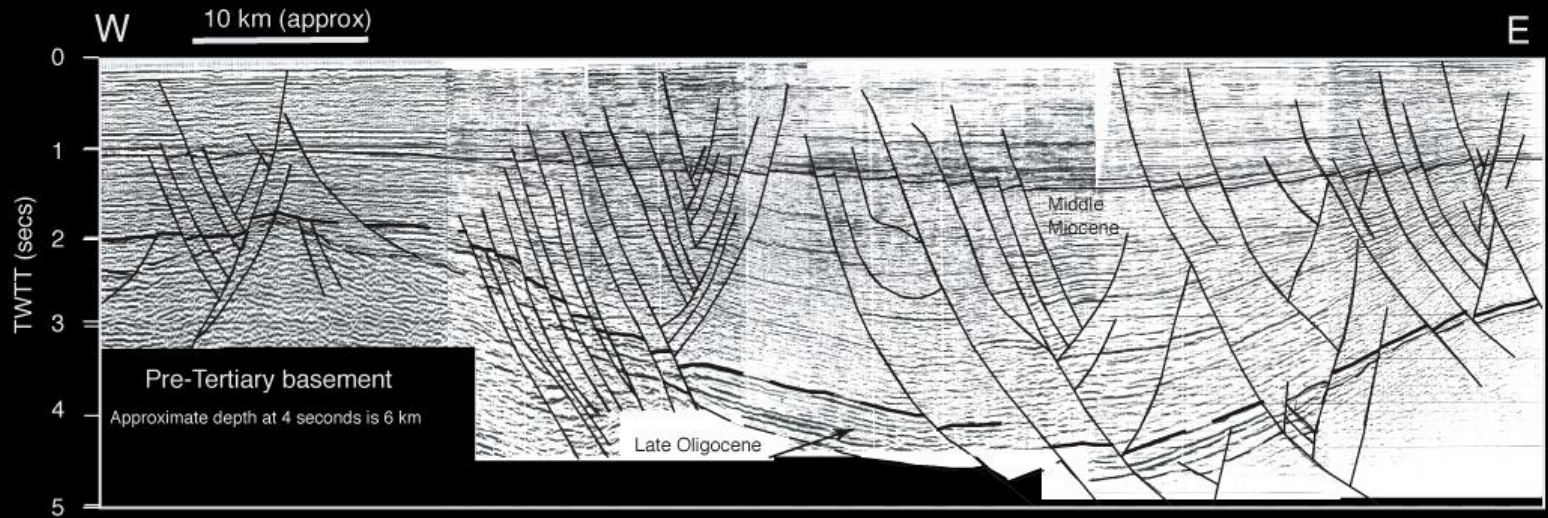
# Thermal subsidence in the Anza graben



Miocene-Recent thermal subsidence in the southern Anza Graben is only about 700 m



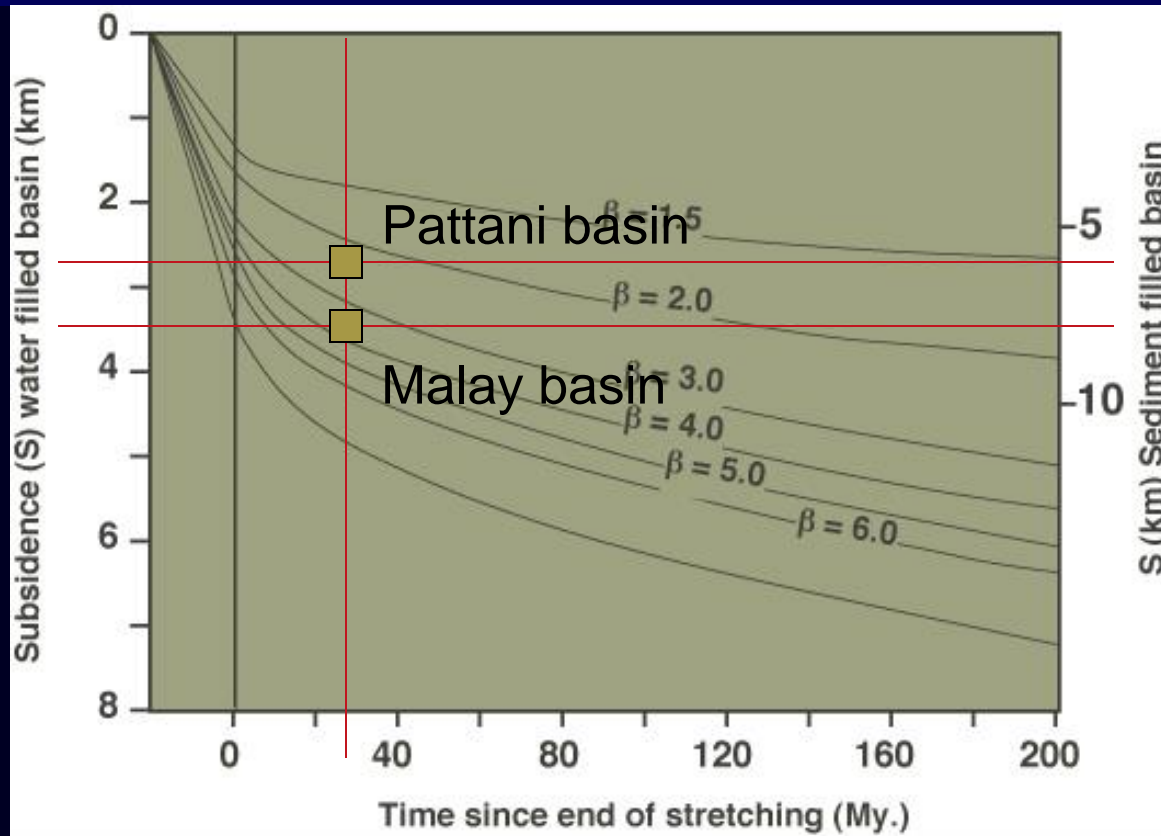
# Thermal subsidence in the Pattani basin



Miocene-  
Recent post-  
rift fill in the  
Pattani basin  
is 5-6 km  
thick



# Relationship between syn-rift extension ( $\beta$ ) and post-rift subsidence (passive rifting)



The backstripped extension for the Pattani and Malay basins is considerably greater ( $\beta$  2-3) than the upper crustal extension estimated from seismic lines ( $\beta < 1.5$ )

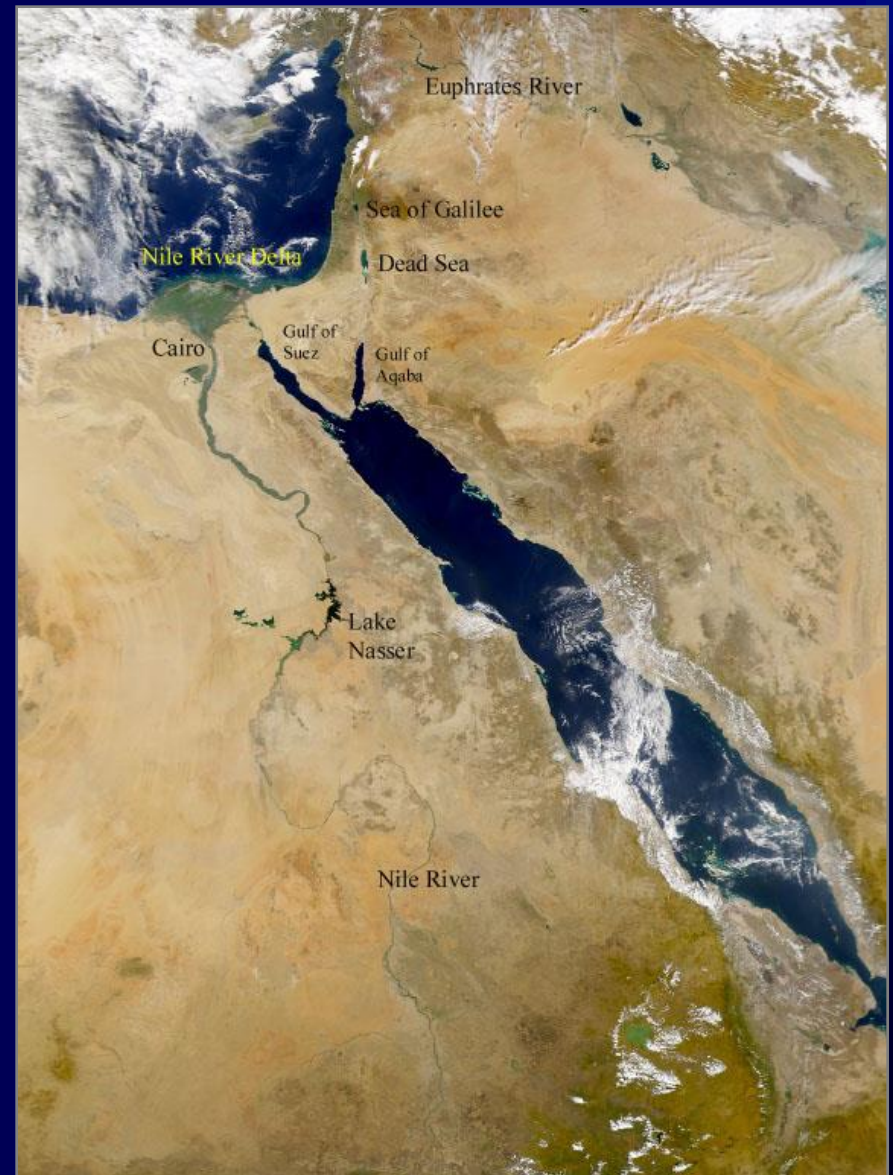
# Timing of onset of post-rift: Gulf of Suez

Just when did post-rift subsidence begin?

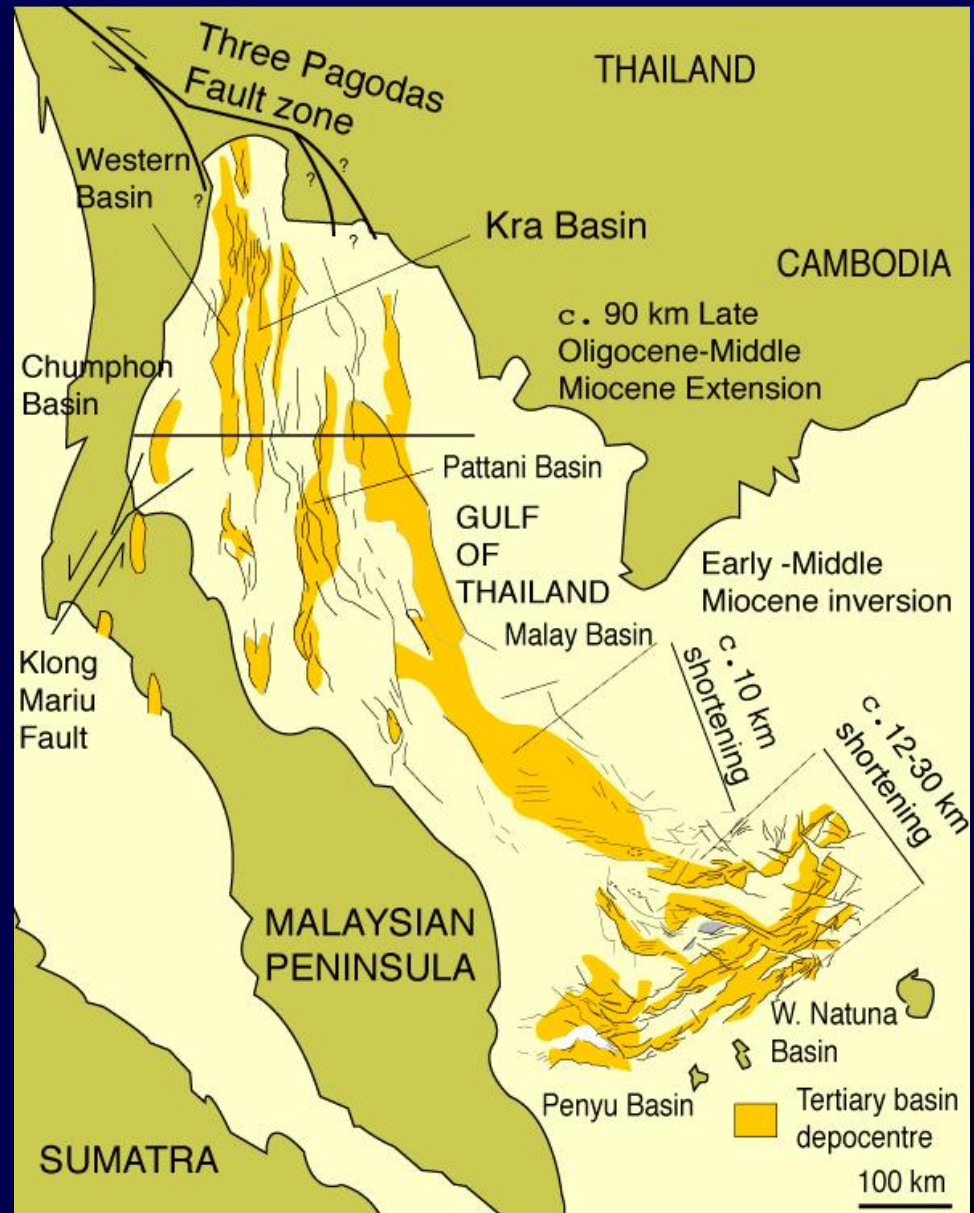
Middle Miocene mid Rudeis event - Wescott et al. (1998), - onset Aqaba-Dead Sea shear zone

3 Ma later - Top Kareem - marked unconformity, slowing of subsidence, onset evaporites - Patton et al. (1994)

Period of tectonic quiescence for ~7 ma, but Late Miocene-Present extension has occurred. McClay et al. (1998)  
Oligocene-Recent is syn-rift

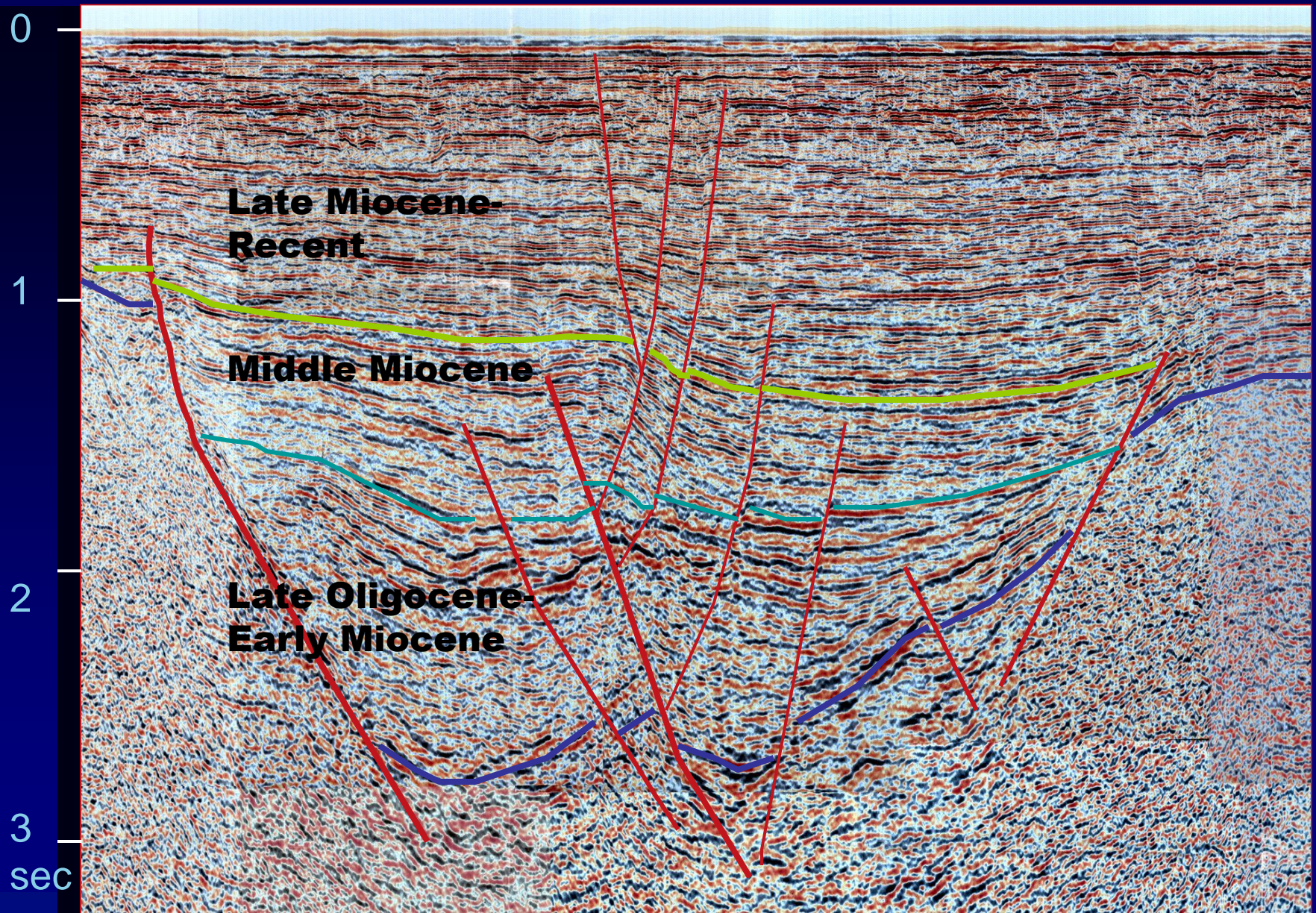


# Gulf of Thailand Tertiary basins



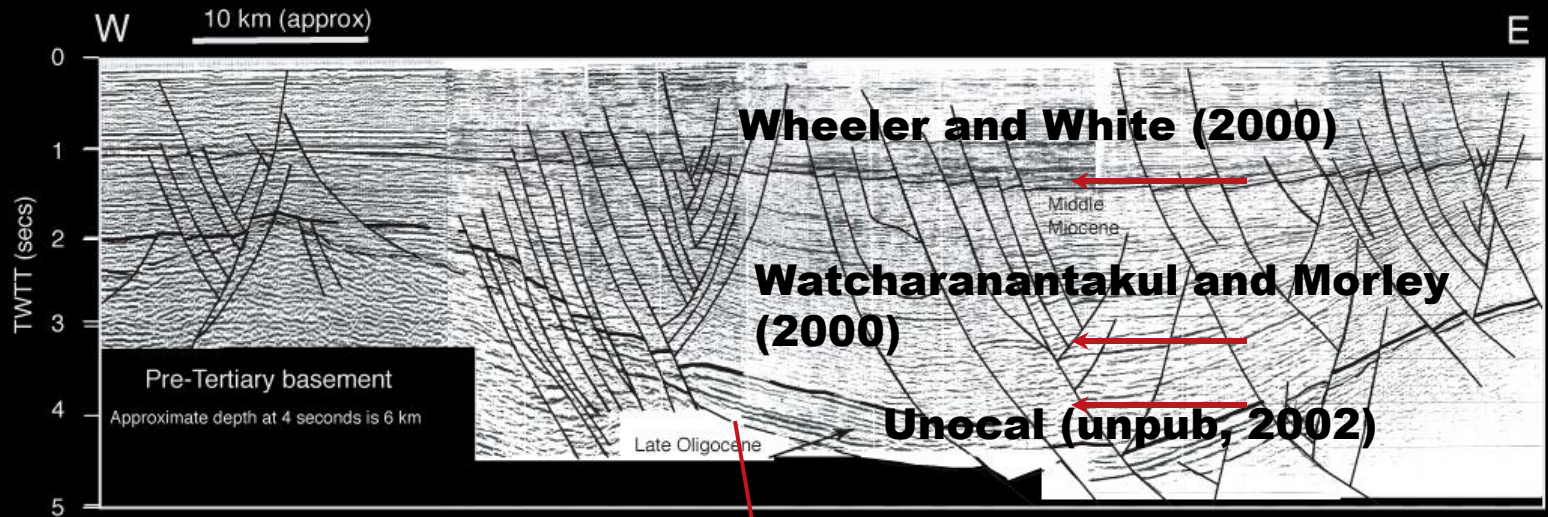


# Half graben geometry in western Gulf of Thailand

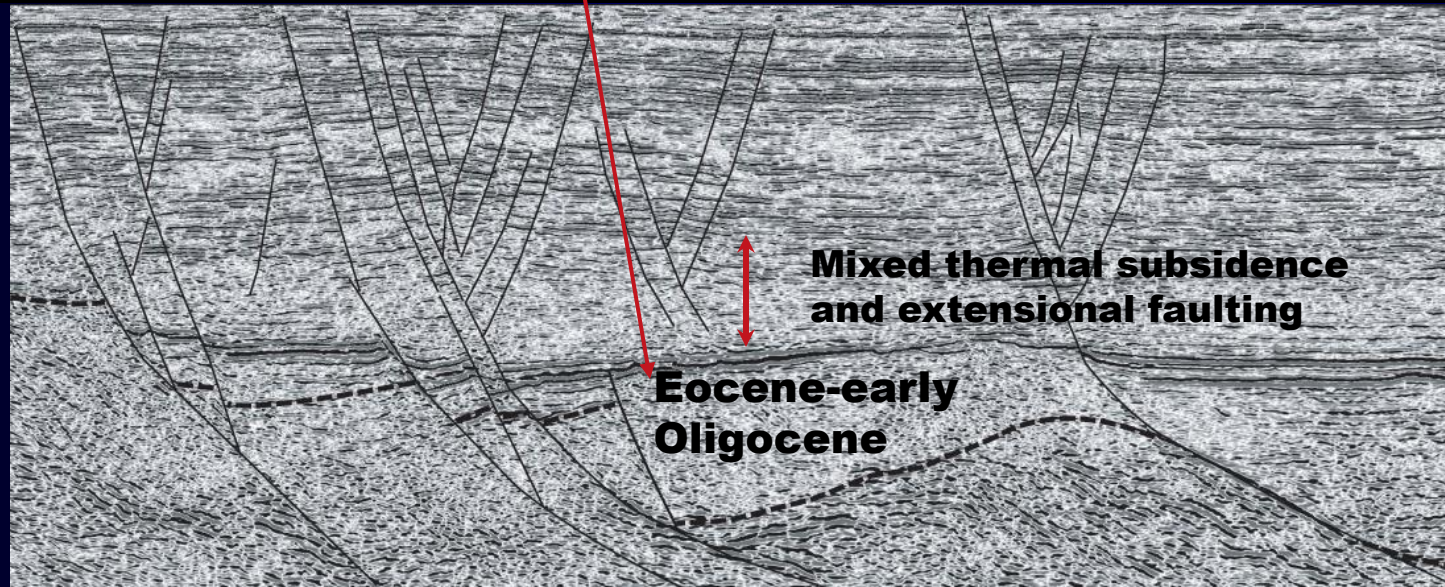




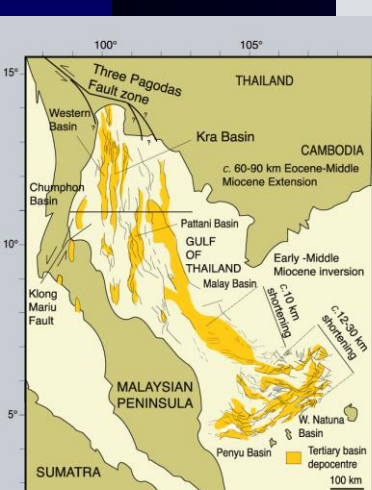
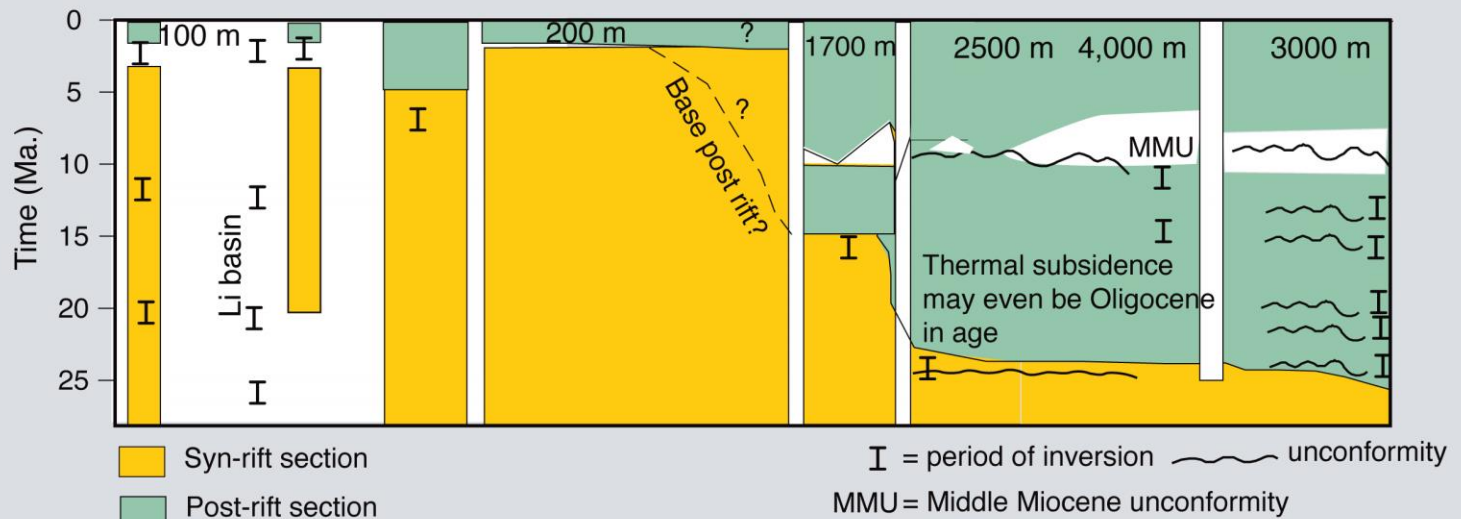
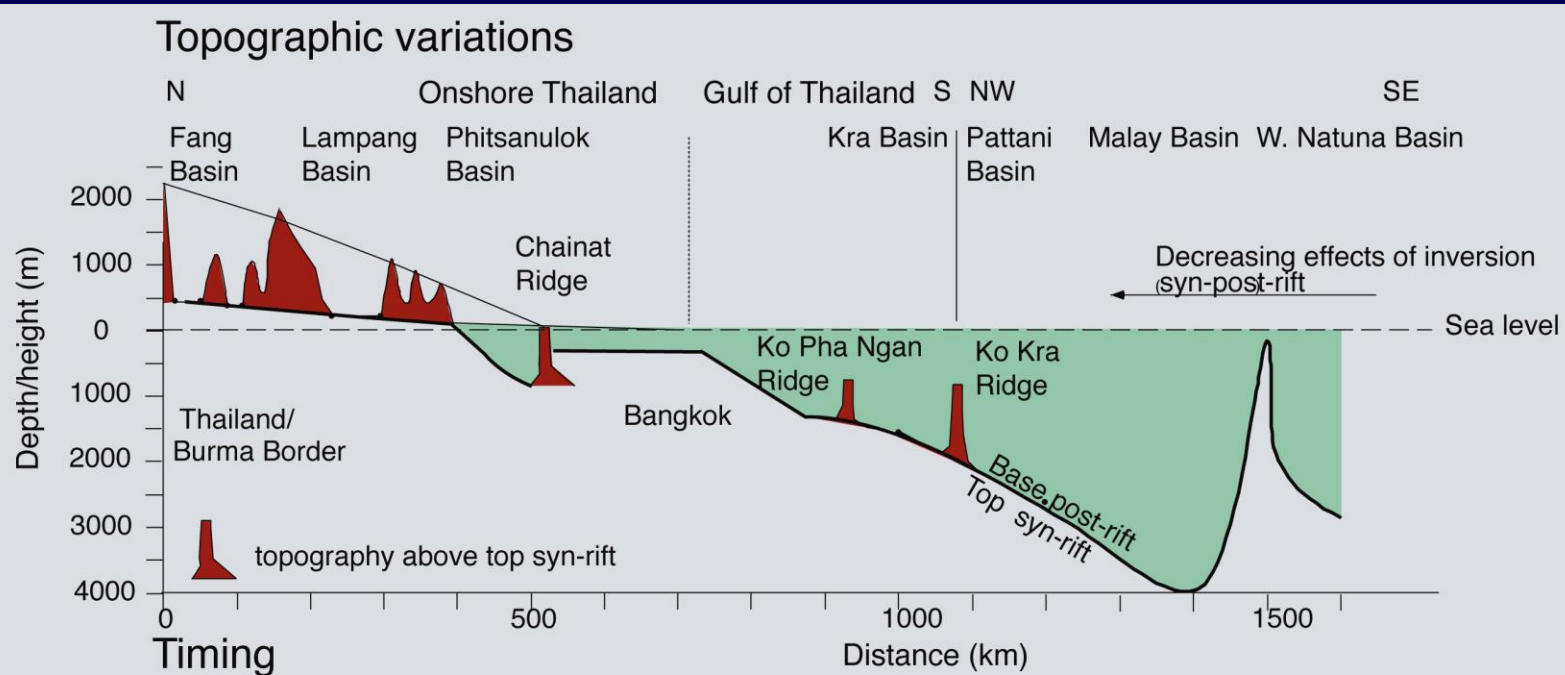
# Thermal subsidence in the Pattani basin



Miocene-Recent post-rift fill in the Pattani basin is 5-6 km thick



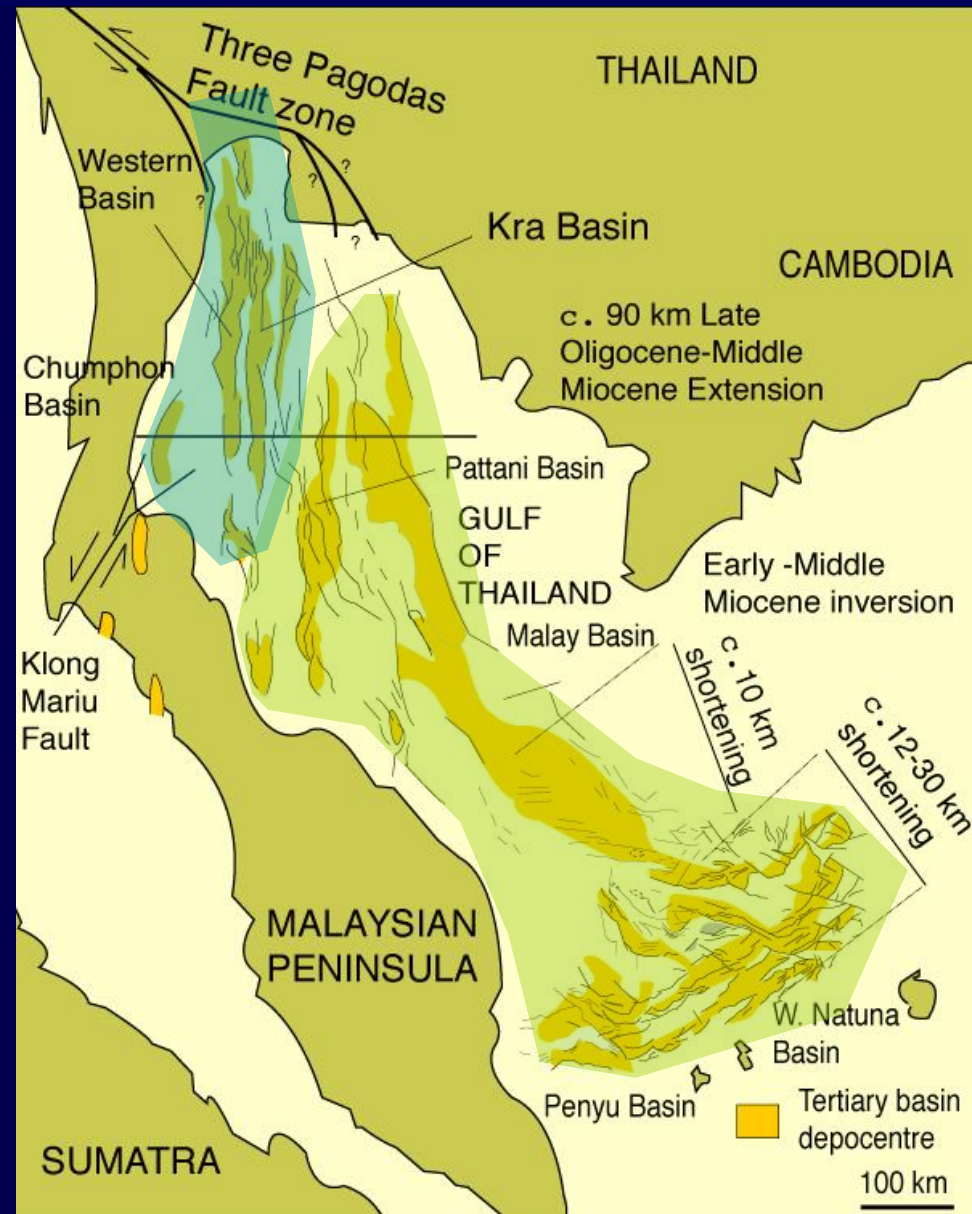
# Lateral variations in timing of post-rift subsidence, W. Natuna basin to N. Thailand



# Gulf of Thailand Tertiary basins

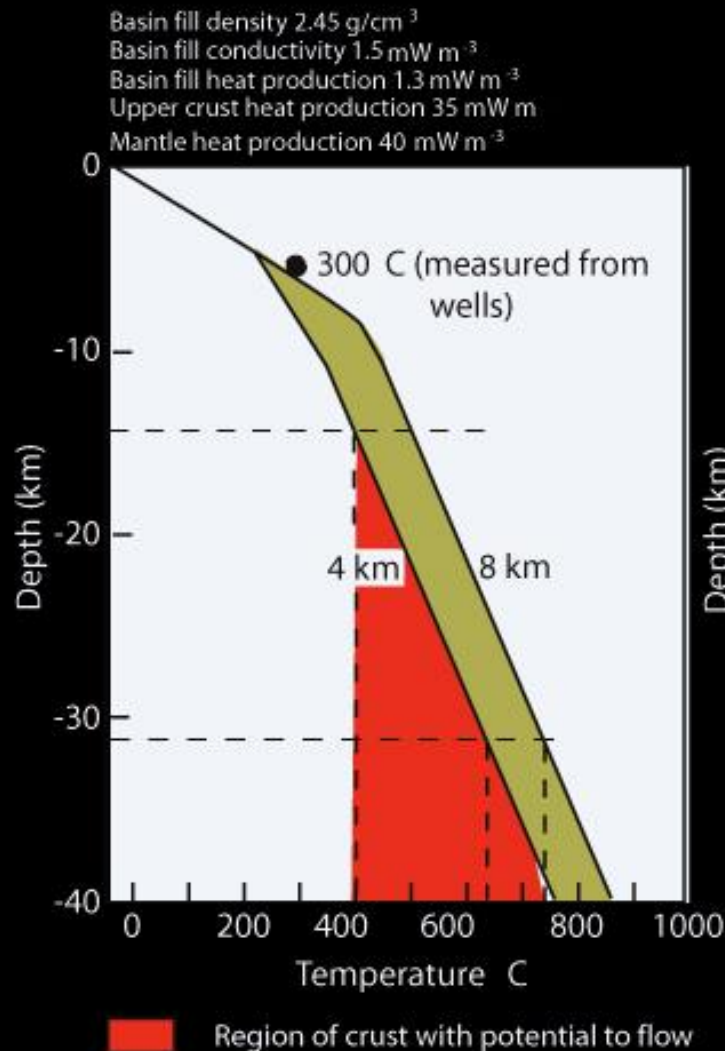
Oligocene -Middle  
Miocene extension  
Middle-Late Miocene thermal  
subsidence

Eocene-Oligocene major  
extension,  
Mixed Oligocene-Early  
Miocene thermal subsidence  
and extension  
Middle-Late Miocene thermal  
subsidence, conjugate faulting,  
Or in the southern half Miocene  
inversion during thermal  
subsidence

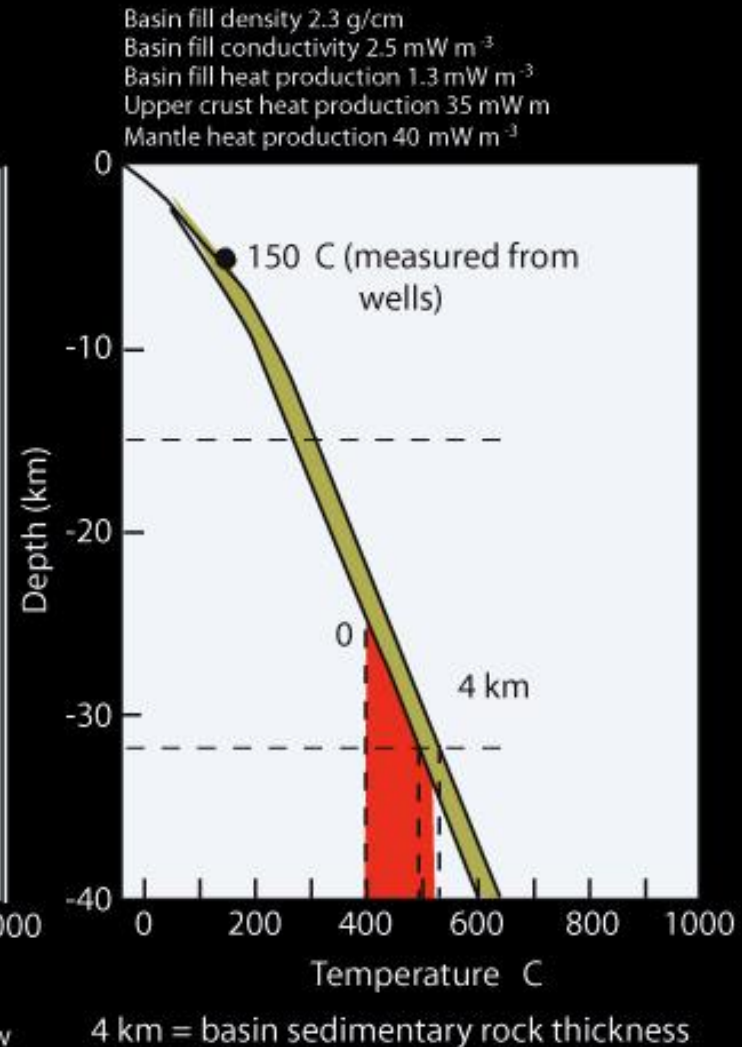


# Modelling of heat flow in the Pattani basin

## Basin centre heat flow model



## Basin Flank heat flow model



# Inhibition of cooling in the Pattani and Malay basins

Possible causes:

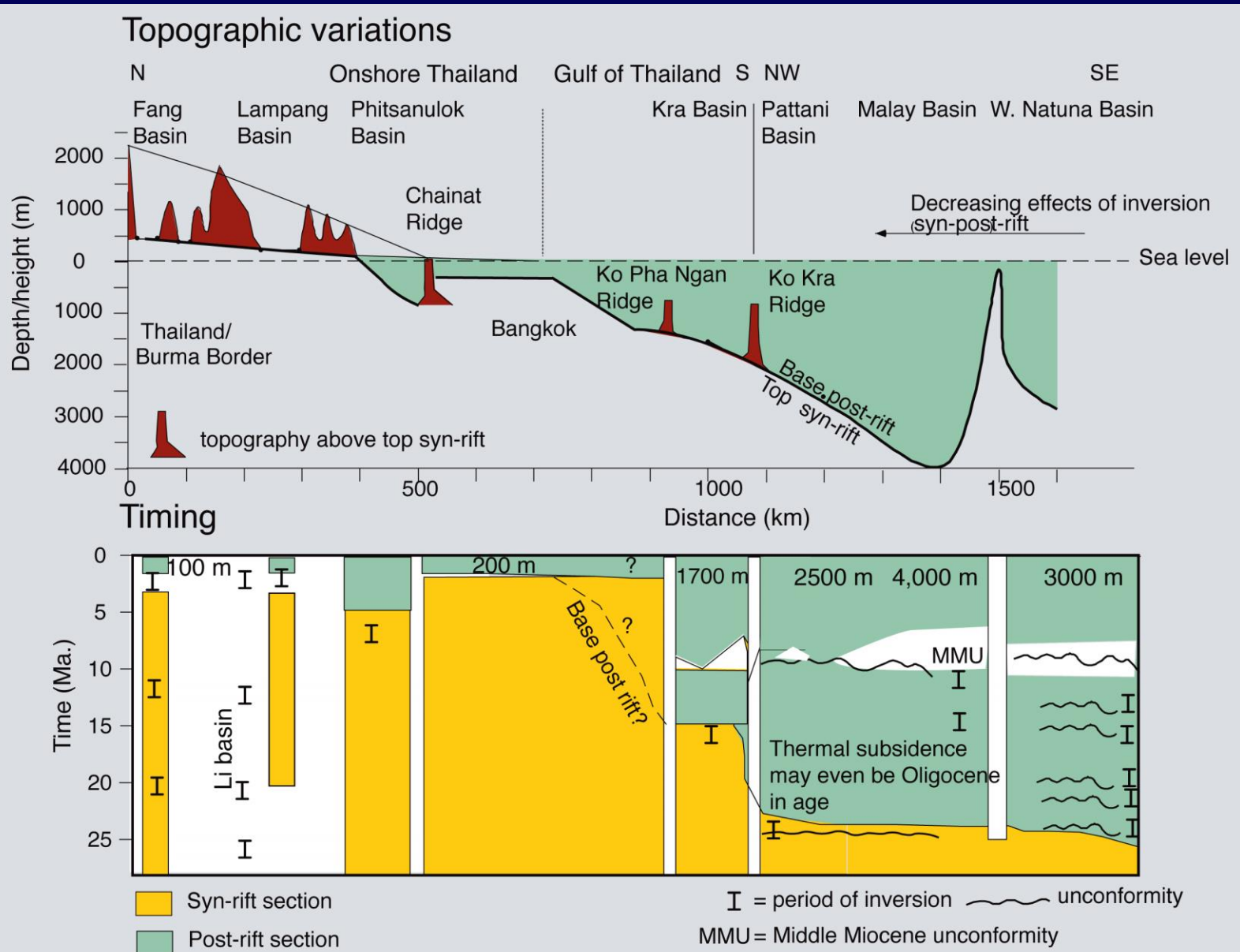
Insulation by shale sequences within the thick basinal sequences

Erosion of radiogenic sediment source areas (granites)

Fluids appear to have redistributed some of the radiogenic material - high gamma ray readings are sometimes associated with calcite cemented layers

Diagenetic history of high temperature dickite formation prior to hydrocarbon generation indicates temperatures have been high for a long period, not just a short, late episode

# N-S variations in timing of thermal subsidence W Natuna basin-North Thailand



# Summary

Commonly in rifts the observed upper crustal extension amount does not match the amount of lithospheric thinning predicted by backstripping of the post-rift basin

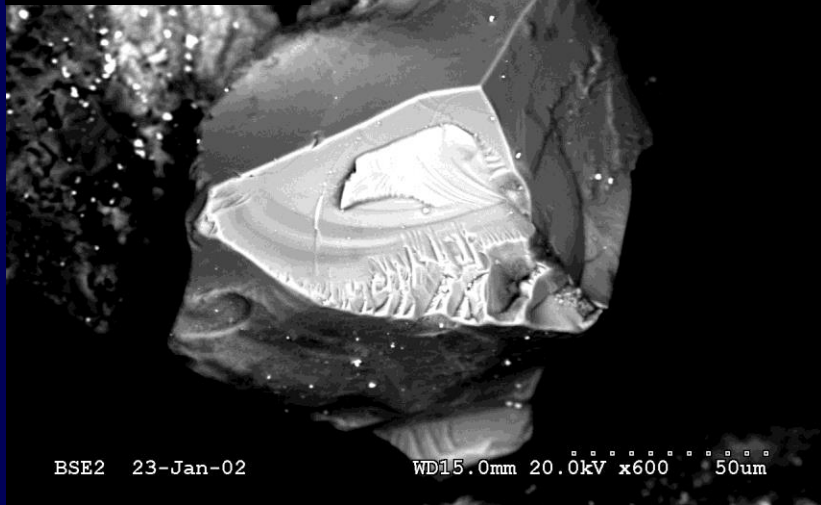
The onset of post-rift subsidence is commonly regarded as a simple event to define

Consequently confusion in basin terminology can arise as there are attempts to force a simple model on areas where the simple model is inappropriate

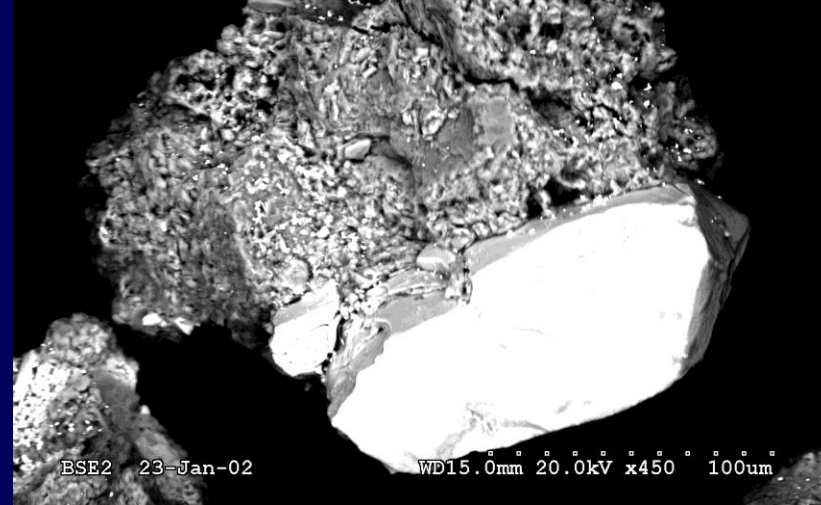
There are a number of factors that can make the onset of subsidence difficult to define, and post rift subsidence difficult to model, these factors include:

- 1) Continental vs marine depositional setting
- 2) Tectonic setting (e.g. propagating tip of spreading centre, GOS)
- 3) Duration of extension
- 4) Radiogenic sediment source

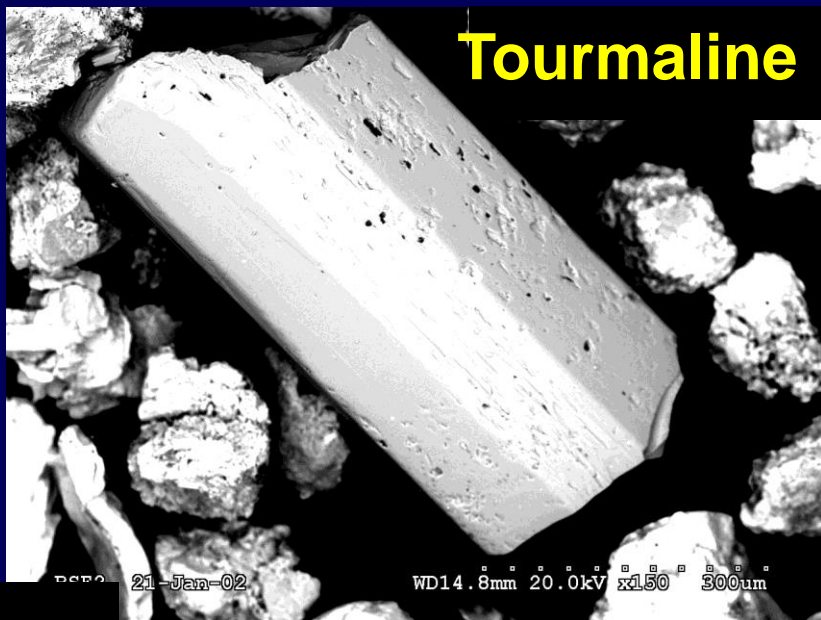
# Cr spinel



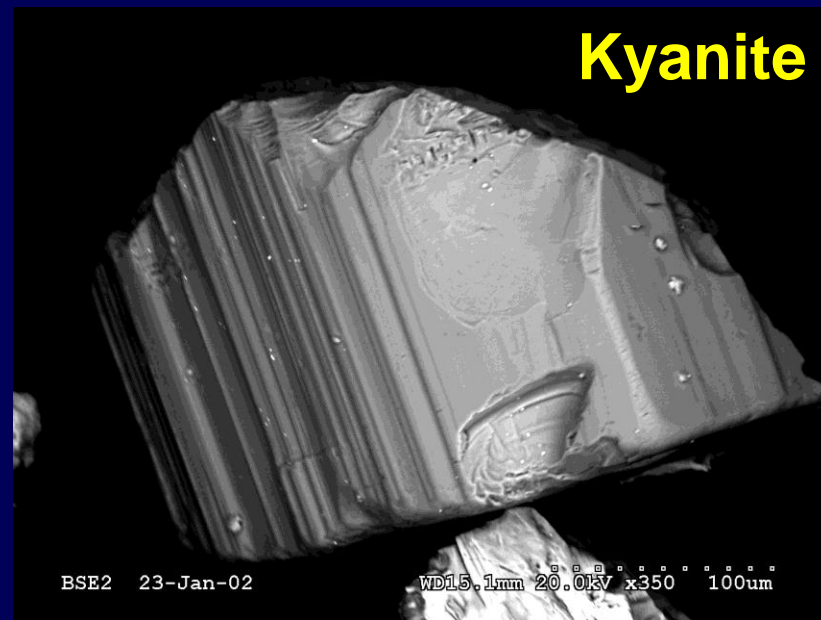
# Cr spinel



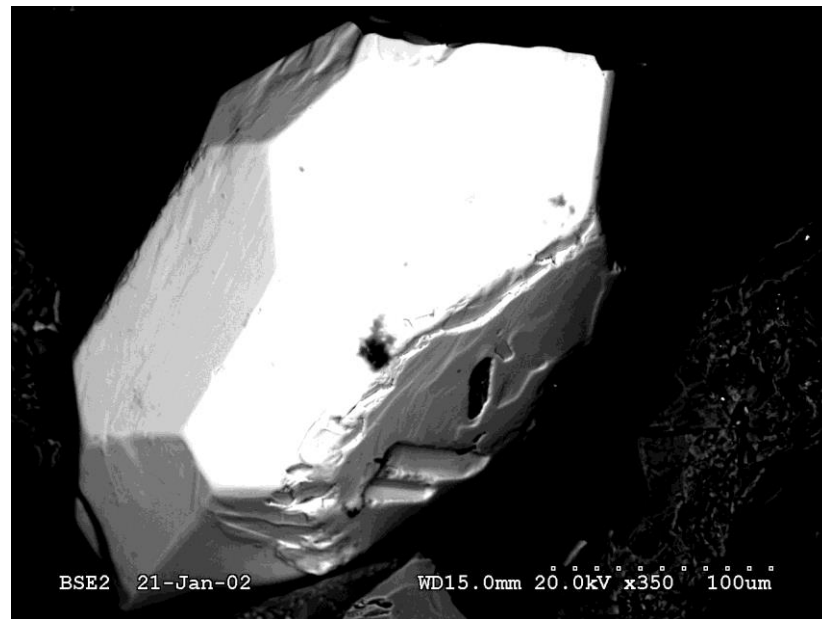
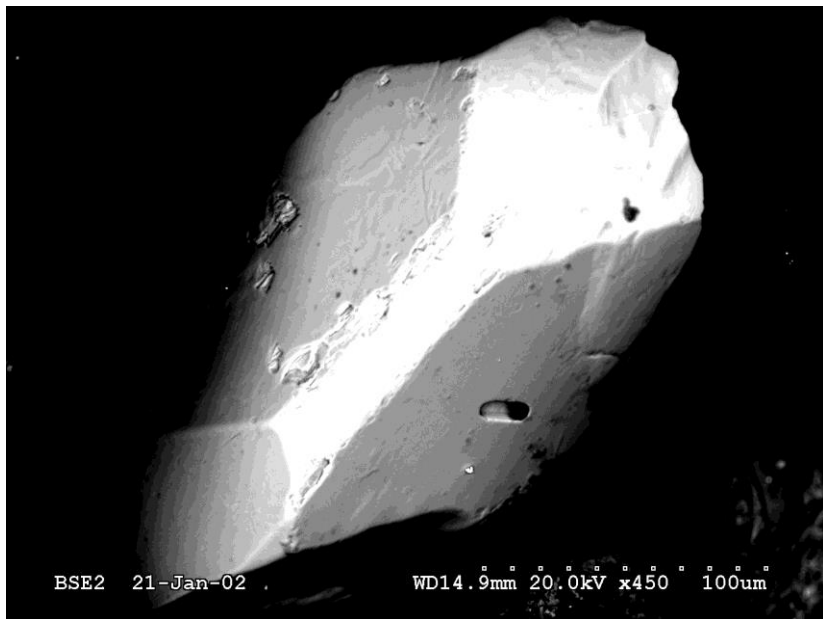
# Tourmaline



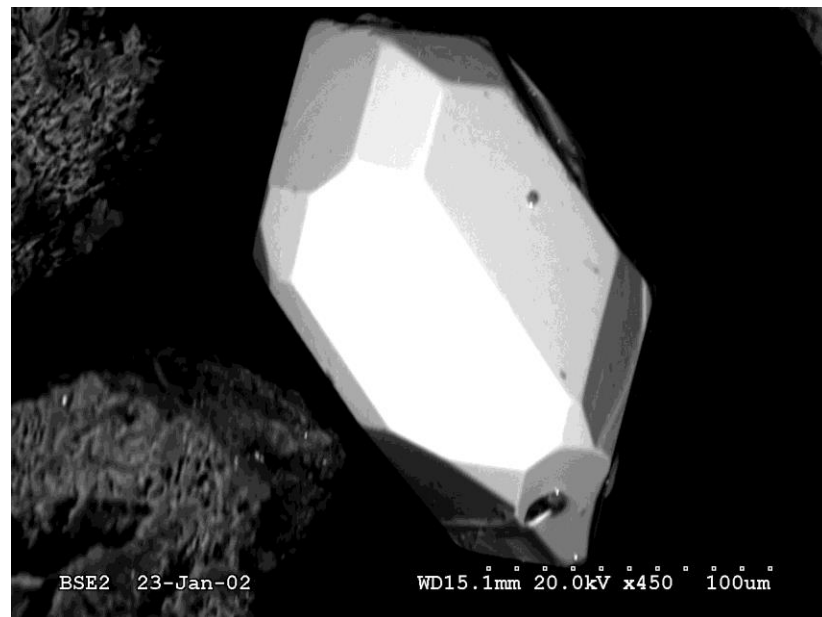
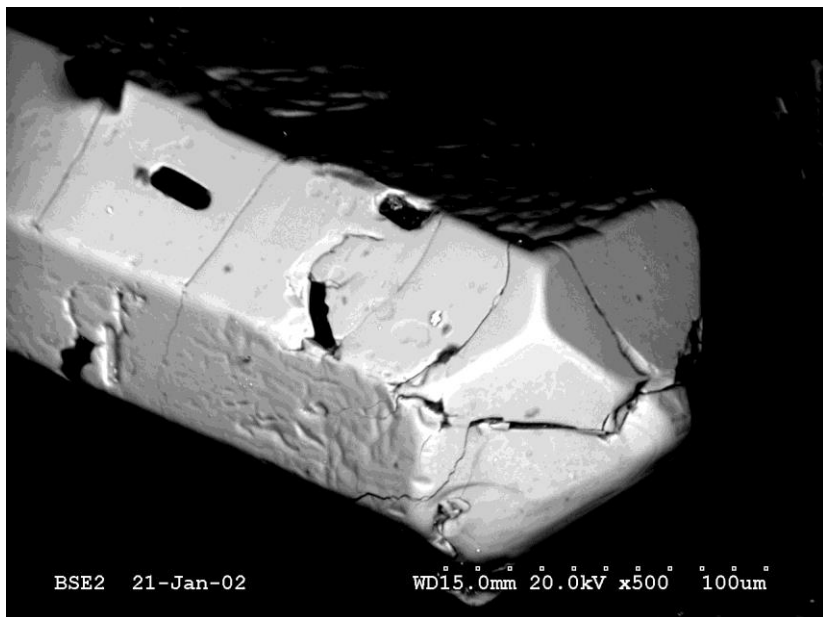
# Kyanite







## Zircons



# Post-rift subsidence can be split into different components

