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EXTENSIONAL DEFORMATION OF A SHALE-DOMINATED DELTA: TARAKAN BASIN, OFFSHORE INDONESIA

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28 **Abstract**

29 Deformation on shale-rich continental margins is commonly associated with thin-skinned
30 extension above mobile shales. Normal faulting and shale mobilization are widespread on such
31 margins, being associated with and controlled by progradation and gravitational failure of deltaic
32 sedimentary wedges. However, due to uncertainties in seismically imaging mobile shales, our
33 understanding of problems like how base mobile-shale controls deformation, and the shape, size,
34 and distribution of shale structures remain poorly understood. We here use 3D seismic reflection
35 data from the platform region of the Tarakan Basin, offshore eastern Indonesia to investigate the
36 temporal and spatial evolution of thin-skinned deformation of the Neogene sedimentary section.
37 Our detailed seismic interpretation reveals up to 74 km long, concave- and convex-into-the-basin
38 normal faults, dipping both basinward (eastwards) and locally landward (westwards), which
39 detach downwards on a basal mobile shale (Early-Middle Miocene). The base of the mobile shale
40 unit dips gently ($< 17^\circ$) seaward, although older (Eocene-Early Miocene), rift-related normal
41 faults originate local structural highs deforming the base of mobile shales. Our isochore
42 (thickness map) analysis shows that supra-shale normal faulting commenced in the Middle
43 Miocene and was accompanied by the formation of hanging-wall rollover folds and associated
44 crestal grabens, with the subsequent along- and across strike migration of the deformation
45 related to the nucleation, lateral linkage, and reactivation of individual fault systems. Updip
46 growth normal faulting was also accompanied by the downslope flow of mobile shale,
47 accompanied by parallel and perpendicular variations of the differential loading in the delta
48 system, and local contraction and mobile shale-upbuilding, resulting in the growth of large,
49 margin-parallel shale anticlines further downdip. The growth faults and anticlines are locally
50 overlain by up to 5 km tall of mud pipes and volcanoes. We suggest that variations in the rate of
51 sedimentary loading, mobile shale flow, fault growth, and gravitational failure of the delta system
52 above a seaward-dipping, but locally rugose base mobile-shale surface, controlled Neogene
53 deformation in the Tarakan Basin. We also demonstrate how variations in the trend and dip of
54 the base mobile-shale surface influences the position, timing of formation, and evolution of
55 supra-shale normal faults and their associated depocenters along shale-rich, deltaic margins.

56 **Keywords:**

57 shale tectonics; base mobile-shale surface; deltaic continental margin; gravity driven
58 deformation; mobile shale flow; normal faulting

59 **Highlight:**

- 60 • Neogene deformation in the Tarakan Basin are shown by growth normal faults, shale
61 rollers and anticlines, and mud pipes and volcanoes.
- 62 • Mobile shale flow across vary dipping of base mobile-shale surface, gravitational loading
63 and gliding, controlled the deformation.
- 64 • The growth faults grew by tip propagation and segment linkage, and late-stage tip
65 retreat and reactivation.
- 66 • Dipping of base mobile-shale controls position, timing, and evolution of growth faults
67 and their associated depocenters.

68

69 1. Introduction

70 Shale-rich, deltaic continental margins may be characterized by thin-skinned, gravity-
71 driven deformation above an unconsolidated, overpressured, buried shale (e.g. Damuth, 1994;
72 Morley and Guerin, 1996; Cohen and McClay, 1996; Briggs et al., 2006; Espurt et al., 2009; Morley
73 et al., 2011; Santos Betancor and Soto, 2012; Rowan, 2020; Zhang et al., 2021). However,
74 difficulties with seismically imaging mobilized shale bodies mean that we have a poor
75 understanding of the shape and size of these bodies, and of their mechanisms (e.g., brittle vs.
76 ductile) and involved deformation (see Hudec and Soto, 2021 and Soto et al., 2021a). For
77 example, Van Rensbergen and Morley (2000; 2003) use 2D seismic data to document chaotic
78 seismic facies, being interpreted to reflect thick, mobile shale in footwall of shale-detached listric
79 normal faults. However, in higher quality data imaging the same profile, they could interpret a
80 structurally much simpler, fault-related horst, with a large shale body being absent. Their study
81 illustrates how improvements in subsurface imaging can provide a better understanding of the
82 structural style and kinematic evolution of shale tectonics along deltaic continental margins.

83 In the proximal domain of deltaic continental margins, thin-skinned deformation is
84 typically characterized by basinward- and landward-dipping listric growth faults and mud diapir
85 and pipes (e.g. Damuth, 1994; Van Rensbergen et al., 1999; Morley, 2003a; Totterdell and
86 Krassay, 2003; Espurt et al., 2009; Sapin et al., 2012; Rowan, 2020; Ahmed et al., 2022).
87 Extensional deformation of the supra-shale overburden and the rise of diapiric shale are
88 controlled by rapid progradation of sedimentary wedges and gravitational gliding (e.g. Evamy et
89 al., 1978; Cohen and McClay, 1996; Morley, 2003a; Espurt et al., 2009). The ultimate structural
90 style and evolution are influenced by differential compaction of the progradational succession
91 (e.g. Van Rensbergen and Morley, 2000; Fazlikhani and Back, 2015a), the presence of pre-existing
92 shale structures (e.g. Sapin et al., 2012; Fazlikhani and Back, 2015b), temporal and spatial
93 variations in sediment accumulation rates (e.g. Rouby et al., 2011; Chima et al., 2022), the
94 existence of fluid expulsion structures (Back and Morley, 2016), the variation of dips on base
95 mobile-shale surfaces (Wu et al., 2015), the deep flow of mobile shale under either brittle or
96 ductile conditions (e.g. Cohen and McClay, 1996; Soto et al., 2021a), and the growth history of
97 supra-shale faults (e.g. Fazlikhani and Back, 2012). Most of studies listed above provide only two-

98 dimensional treatments of shale tectonics and only very few have inspected their three-
99 dimensional evolutions (Van Rensbergen and Morley, 2003; Fazlikhani and Back., 2012, 2015b;
100 Santos Betancor and Soto, 2012; Ahmed et al., 2022).

101 The Tarakan Basin, offshore Indonesia is an example of a deltaic continental margin
102 containing thick, mobile shale (Fig. 1). The basin is separated from the onshore region by thick-
103 skinned normal faults (MRNF; e.g. Hidayati et al., 2007). The offshore area is characterized by
104 shale-detached (i.e., thin-skinned), NE-SW-striking, basinward- and landward-dipping
105 extensional (e.g. Heriyanto et al., 1992, Lentini and Darman, 1996) or inverted (e.g. Biantoro et
106 al., 1996; Maulin et al., 2021) growth faults, and several NW-trending folds, which have been
107 traditionally called arches (e.g. Wight et al., 1993) (Fig. 1). The kinematics and origin of the growth
108 faults and folds are debated, falling into two end-member models: (i) a strike-slip faulting (e.g.
109 Wight et al., 1993; Lentini and Darman, 1996; Hidayati et al., 2007); and (ii) an uplift of pre-
110 existing rift-related topography (e.g. Sapiie et al., 2021). However, these previous studies use
111 two-dimensional seismic reflection data that have relatively poor imaging of deeper part of the
112 basin, including the interval containing mobile Neogene shale. Thus, a study based on high-
113 quality, preferably 3D seismic reflection data is needed to test these models and to underpin a
114 detailed reconstruction of the structural style and evolution of the basin.

115 We here use high-quality, 3D seismic reflection datasets imaging the shelf-edge to upper-
116 slope of the Tarakan Basin to answer the following two key questions: (i) how does Neogene
117 extensional deformation in this relatively proximal part of the Tarakan Basin relate to the broader
118 tectonic and geodynamic setting of the region?; and, (ii) what are the spatial and kinematic
119 relationships between sub- and supra-shale deformation in the proximal, extension-dominated
120 domain of a shale-dominated delta. We identify a deltaic sedimentary wedge that prograde
121 seaward into the Tarakan Basin above mobile shale that overlay several N-to-NE-trending, base
122 mobile-shale highs. The delta wedge, including its underlying mobile shale, is deformed by arrays
123 of NNE-SSW-striking, shale-detached, basinward- and landward-dipping growth fault systems
124 and shale structures (i.e. shale rollers, anticlines, mud pipes, and mud volcanoes). Using seismic-
125 stratigraphic and isochore analysis, we reconstruct six main stages in the post-Eocene structural
126 evolution of the basin.

127

128 2. Geological Setting

129 The Tarakan Basin is located offshore NE Borneo Island, within Indonesia territory
130 (Achmad and Samuel, 1984). The basin is located in a structurally complex zone of continental
131 convergence involving subduction of Northern Sulawesi (e.g. Hall, 2013; 2019; Watkinson and
132 Hall, 2017) (Fig. 1a). The western, yet still offshore part of the basin is thought to be separated
133 from the eastern part of the onshore region by a large, thick-skinned normal fault (e.g. Hidayati
134 et al., 2007). The Tarakan Basin stretches eastwards into Celebes Sea (Fig. 1a). To the north and
135 south, the basin is bounded by the Sampoerna and Mangkalihat strike-slip fault zones,
136 respectively (e.g. Lentini and Darman, 1996).

137 Borneo Island and adjacent areas were subject to three main stages of Paleogene
138 lithospheric deformation (Fig. 2): (i) a counter-clockwise rotation of Borneo of ca. 35° in Late
139 Eocene (41.2–33.9 Ma) (Advokaat et al., 2018) ; (ii) onset of rifting in Makassar Strait in Middle-
140 Late Eocene (38-36 Ma) until Early Miocene (Situmorang, 1982; Satyana, 2015), which possibly
141 simultaneous with the opening of the Celebes Sea (Lentini and Darman, 1996) and/or the
142 generation of the Tarakan Basin (Satyana et al., 1999; Krisnabudhi et al., 2021).

143 Variations of the location and magnitude of lithospheric deformation and sedimentation
144 occurred in the Borneo and adjacent areas since Early Neogene. The lithospheric deformation
145 were reflected by: (i) an additional counter-clockwise rotation of 10° occurred since Early
146 Miocene (23 Ma) (Advokaat et al., 2018), possibly being related to Banda Arc subduction (e.g.
147 Spakman and Hall, 2010); and, (ii) a progressive, Borneo uplift that was related to Sabah orogeny
148 of Hutchison (1996) since the latest Early Miocene (17 Ma) (Lunt and Madon, 2017); (iii) rifting
149 cessation and thermal subsidence of Makassar strait (Situmorang, 1982; Satyana, 2015). The
150 interaction of uplift and subsidence events since Neogene resulted in originating: (i) onset of
151 rapid sedimentation of up to 10 km thick deltaic sequence (Hall and Nichols, 2002; Lunt and
152 Madon, 2017; Lunt, 2019) that unconformably overlay Oligocene sedimentary unit in NW and N
153 Borneo (SEAU 52 in Fig. 2; e.g. Brondijk, 1962; Balaguru, 2008; Balaguru et al., 2003; Lunt and
154 Madon, 2017; Morley et al., 2021; Krisnabudhi et al., 2022); (ii) associated gravity-driven

155 deformation around offshore Borneo, such as West Luconia, Baram and Tarakan delta (e.g.
156 Morley, 2003a; Morley et al., 2011); and, (iii) several regional, Neogene unconformities that span
157 the South China sea and NW Borneo (e.g. Levell, 1987; Hutchison, 2005; Cullen, 2010, 2014;
158 Madon et al., 2013; Lunt and Madon, 2017; Krisnabudhi et al., 2022).

159 The thick deltaic sequences in NW and NE Borneo contain an Early Miocene , kaolinite-
160 and illite-rich shale unit (Morley, 2003a), which is called Setap shale (e.g. Brondijk, 1962; Balaguru
161 et al., 2003; Lunt and Madon, 2017; Jamaludin et al., 2021) and Tarakan mobile shale unit (e.g.
162 Putra et al., 2017; Maulin et al., 2021). More specifically, in the Tarakan Basin, rapid
163 sedimentation of this deltaic sequence began up to 17.3 Ma (Noon et al., 2003; Morley et al.,
164 2017; Krisnabudhi et al., 2022), and was associated with a marked increase in sediment
165 accumulation rates (from 60 to 160 m/my) (Fig. 2; Hidayati et al., 2007).

166 During the Middle-Late Miocene, the tectono-stratigraphic development of the Tarakan
167 Basin and surrounding areas was controlled by lithosphere-scale (i.e., thick-skinned) and/or
168 gravity-driven (i.e., thin-skinned) deformation. On the shelf edge of the Tarakan Basin, listric
169 growth faults formed (e.g. Wight et al., 1993; Lentini and Darman, 1996), detaching downward
170 along the Early-Middle Miocene sequences (e.g. Hidayati et al., 2007; Putra et al., 2017; Sapiie et
171 al., 2021; Maulin et al., 2021; Krisnabudhi et al., 2022). There are also deeper, rift-related normal
172 faults affecting the basement- (Biantoro et al., 1996; Krisnabudhi et al., 2022). Middle-Late
173 Miocene deformation was coeval with a progressively increasing rate of sediment accumulations
174 (from 160 to 330 m/my) and a global sea-level fall after the Middle Miocene climatic optimum
175 (MMCO) (SEA59; Fig. 2) (Hidayati et al., 2007; Morley et al., 2021). In northern Borneo, although
176 there was a pause in 12-13 Ma, the uplift broadly continued, being related to the Sabah orogeny
177 (Lunt and Madon, 2017), deep crustal flow in respond to sedimentary loading (Morley and
178 Westway, 2006), and originating the simultaneous Kinabalu magmatism (Hall, 2013). This uplift
179 was accompanied by the rapid subsidence and the sedimentary accumulation of 15 km in
180 offshore Borneo (Graves and Swauger, 1997), forming the Central Basin of eastern Sabah (see
181 inset of Fig. 1a) (Hall, 2013; Lunt and Madon, 2017).

182 Since the Pliocene, the shelf edge of the Tarakan Basin was subject to both folding and
183 reverse faulting (Fig. 1a). Two alternative models have been proposed to explain their origins:
184 (i) wrenching along the Maratua and Sampoerna strike-slip faults (Wight et al., 1993; Lentini and
185 Darman, 1996; Hidayati et al., 2007), or; (ii) distal uplift of the deeper faults (Sapiie et al., 2021).
186 These models resulted in inversion of formerly extensional listric normal faults, and the formation
187 of NW-trending arches around the shelf edge and upper slope of Tarakan Basin (e.g. Wight et al.,
188 1993; Lentini and Darman, 1996; Hidayati et al., 2007, Maulin et al., 2021). Regardless of their
189 origin, formation of these structures occurred during the Pliocene-Recent (e.g. Lentini and
190 Darman, 1996), a period characterised by a high sedimentation rate, which was as high as 820
191 m/my in shelf areas (Fig. 2). In contrast, in the distal areas of the basin the sedimentation rate
192 was <330 m/my, because much of the Plio-Pleistocene sediment supply was trapped on the shelf
193 (Hidayati et al., 2007).

194 We focus on the shelf-edge to upper slope of the Tarakan Basin, where at least five
195 different onshore-river systems supplied sediment to the offshore basin (Fig. 1). Wells in this
196 proximal area reveal also overpressure conditions within the Middle-Late Miocene sequences
197 (Putra et al., 2017; Maulin et al., 2019). Previous studies identified that the shelf-edge contains a
198 range of basinward- and landward-dipping extensional and/or inverted growth faults, and is
199 situated at the southern tip of the Bunyu Arch (e.g. Wight et al., 1993; Lentini and Darman, 1996;
200 Hidayati et al., 2007; Maulin et al., 2021; Sapiie et al., 2021).

201

202 **3. Datasets and Methods**

203 We focused on an area imaged by two 3-D Kirchhoff pre-stack time migration (PSTM)
204 seismic reflection datasets (TBN-10 in the north and TBB-11 in the south; Table 1). These two
205 datasets overlap by ~ 70 km², and have similar inline and cross line spacings of 25 m (see complete
206 details of the seismic datasets in Table 1). Inlines (NE and N) and crosslines (NW and W) trend
207 broadly normal and parallel to the bulk SE tectonic translation direction of the supra-shale cover,
208 respectively. The seismic data are displayed with the Society of Exploration Geophysics (SEG)

209 reverse polarity, whereby a downward increase and decrease in acoustic impedance are
210 represented by a negative and positive reflection events, respectively.

211 Kirchhoff PSTM data has some disadvantages when attempting to image structurally and
212 stratigraphically complex areas. For example, such data might contain fault shadows, and they
213 may not image shale structures as well as other seismic reflection data types (e.g. Fagin, 1996;
214 Elsley and Tieman, 2010; Soto et al., 2021b). Still, our PSTM data are of sufficient quality to
215 distinguish the main shale and supra-shale structures (Tables 2-4; see also table S1-S2). These
216 data are in time, therefore the height of shale structures and/or the calculation of dip on base
217 mobile-shale surface, for example, are converted from two-way time (TWT) to kilometres using
218 seismic velocity data (e.g. Johnson and Hansen, 1987), ranging from 3500 m/s at seismic horizon
219 H1 to 1500 m/s at seabed (Table 2).

220 The seismic data were provided by TGS and are commercially sensitive. As such, we
221 cannot provide the precise geographic location of seismic profiles (although the dataset is located
222 along a delta-fed part of NE Borneo; Fig. 1) or the specific locations of wells on the profiles. NW-
223 to-W-trending seismic profiles (i.e., crosslines) normal to the broadly north-easterly margin trend
224 are displayed from north to south (Figs 3 and 4; see also appendix S1 for uninterpreted profiles),
225 and these accompanied by a margin-parallel profile trending north-east (Fig. 5). In the profiles,
226 we also include an estimate of the dip of the base mobile-shale surface (Figs 3-5). However, given
227 that the profiles are in time, dips are approximate and relative values.

228 We map eight key seismic horizons (H1, TMB, H2-7) by identifying distinctive reflections
229 and their terminations (i.e. onlap, toplap, and unconformities; Mitchum et al., 1977) (Table 2 and
230 Fig. 6). The critical top mobile shale (TMB) is not constrained by well data, given no wells drill that
231 deeply in the Tarakan Basin. As such, we infer the presence of deep shale using the seismic-
232 reflection criteria established by previous shale tectonic studies (Table 2). The ages of other key
233 horizons are established by integrating: (i) the regional tectonic events affecting Borneo since the
234 Oligocene; and (ii) published data from the Vanda-1 well (Netherwood and Wight, 1992; Wight
235 et al., 1993) (Figs 1-2). These show that H1 is Lower Miocene(?) (using age of regional
236 unconformities identified in Borneo; i.e., DRU of Levell, 1987; SCSU of Cullen, 2010, 2014; EMU

237 of Madon et al., 2013; SEA52U of Morley et al., 2021), whereas TMB and H2-H3 are early Middle-
238 Upper Miocene(?). The age of younger seismic horizons (i.e., H4-H7; uppermost Miocene to
239 Upper Pleistocene) are directly constrained by the Vanda-1 well.

240 We use our seismic interpretations to generate isochore (i.e. vertical thickness) maps for
241 the mobile shale and six overburden units. We realized that the base mobile-shale (H1) locally
242 extends below the depth imaged by our seismic data (> 8.0 s TWT or 14 km in TBN-10; [Table 1](#)),
243 resulting in an underestimation of mobile shale thickness in this area ([Fig. 7](#)). However, our data
244 and derived maps clearly reveal the main shale structures present within the basin. Because of:
245 (i) limitations of seismic velocity data to undertake a regionally consistent depth conversion (e.g.
246 Johnson and Hansen, 1987; Francis, 2018); and (ii) our primary interest being in the relative
247 rather than absolute changes of fault length along strike (cf. Fazlikhani and Back, 2012), we
248 present the structure and isochore map in time (ms TWT), rather than depth ([Figs 8-9](#)). Along
249 strike change of fault throw for supra-shale faults, however, are qualitatively illustrated by
250 change of size of fault surface in maps ([Figs 8-9](#)).

251

252 **4. Base mobile-shale structural style**

253 The base mobile-shale (H1) is, although locally speculative near the bottom edge of
254 dataset, can be defined by a continuous, weak, positive reflection, located immediately above
255 the upper tips of sub-shale faults and below chaotic weak-to-moderate reflections ([Figs 3-5; Table](#)
256 [2](#)). These faults are apparently planar, and dip speculatively steep ($\sim 70^\circ$) basinward- and
257 landward. The largest throw on these faults (≤ 1 s TWT or 1 km) is observed in the southwestern
258 and southern area that cut the H1 ([Fig. 4b](#)). The lower tips of these faults are below the depth
259 imaged by these seismic data ([Table 1](#)).

260 The base mobile-shale dips gently basinwards ($1-17^\circ$); i.e., SE ([Figs 3-5](#)). This surface is
261 broadly convex-upward, being characterized by a large structural low in the centre of the study
262 area, and, in the north and south, local, N-to-NE-trending structural-highs (ca. 1.5 s TWT or up to
263 2 km high; labelled "SH" of [Figs 3-5, 7b](#)). These highs is broadly coincided to long (< 27 km), NNE-

264 SSW-striking normal faults (Fig. 7b). Most of these faults dip basinwards, although some
265 segments, which are more abundant in the south, dip landward.

266

267 5. Shale Structures

268 The top-mobile shale horizon is defined by a strong, negative reflection (TMB; Figs 3-5
269 and 6a-b). Given that the presence of methane in undercompacted shales can produced a strong,
270 negative reflection (e.g. Soto et al., 2021b), we speculate that the negative reflection observed
271 here defines the contact between normally compacted shales and overlying, methane-rich
272 (possibly undercompacted) mobile shales. The seismic sequence below the TMB reflection
273 contains various diffractions and noise, although we locally observe continuous, weak-to-
274 moderate amplitude reflections (label “x”; Figs. 4-5 and 6a). Internal reflections similar to these
275 have been observed in other shale regions, for example the Gulf of Mexico, being interpreted
276 either as a pre-existing, now-deformed stratigraphic fabrics, or a new deformation fabric formed
277 by the flow of mobile shales under critical-state conditions (Soto et al., 2021b).

278 Mobile shale thickness map (< 2.75 s TWT or 3.5 km thick) shows how thickness of this
279 unit *presently* varies across the study area, being thickest in the centre and east, thinning
280 northward and southward (Fig. 7c). The thickest mobile shale coincides with the structural low
281 seen on the base mobile shale map in the centre of the area, whereas the thinner areas coincide
282 with the base mobile-shale structural-highs identified in the north and south (cf. Figs 7a-b and
283 7c).

284 5.1 Shale rollers

285 These structures are defined by broadly asymmetrical, triangular zones of mobile shale
286 that have a pointed crest and are flanked on one side by basinward-dipping, shale-detached
287 normal faults (label SR; Table 3 and Figs 3-5, 6a, 7c). These structures are interpreted as shale
288 rollers, with their geometry and relationship to normal faults suggesting they formed via reactive
289 diapirism during thin-skinned extension (e.g. Morley and Guerin, 1996; Hudec and Soto, 2021).
290 They are thus comparable to salt rollers formed in salt basins (e.g. Brun and Mauduit, 2009;

291 Jackson and Hudec, 2017). Shale rollers are broadly distributed across the study area, typically
292 trending N-to-NE, sub-parallel to the sub-shale normal faults (cf. [Figs 7a-b and 7c](#)).

293 5.2 Shale anticlines

294 These structures are characterised by broadly symmetric, low-amplitude, long-
295 wavelength anticlines, and with a single, angular-to-rounded hinge line (label SA; [Figs 4b, 6b and](#)
296 [7c](#)). They usually verge basinward (i.e. SE), with a sub-horizontal eastern limb and a more steeply-
297 dipping western limb ($\leq 55^\circ$ dip). These structures are restricted to the distal, eastern part of the
298 study area, and their axes trend parallel to the shale rollers (i.e. N-NE; [Fig. 7c](#)).

299 5.3 Mud pipes

300 Mud pipes (s. Kopf, 2002) are defined by cylindrical domains with some isolated, low-
301 amplitude, very low reflectivity of some isolated, sub-vertical, chaotic reflections (label MP; [Table](#)
302 [3, Figs 4b and 6c](#)). The external boundaries of these structures are sub-vertical, crosscutting the
303 adjacent, layered sequences that loss progressively their reflectivity towards the pipe (label “iii”
304 in MP; [Table 3](#)). Mud pipes occurs as deep as the H2 reflection, with their shallower heads
305 deforming sequences near the H4 reflection (label MP; [Table 3, Figs 4b and 6c](#)).

306 The upper parts of some of the mud pipes are characterised by a broad (up to 4.3 km
307 wide), tear drop-shaped area of low reflectivity, which may contain isolated, internal reflections
308 (MP; [Fig. 4b](#)). These reflections may reflect remnant fragments of the host rock, imbedded within
309 the ascending diapiric material, which itself is poorly reflective. The lower part of the mud pipes
310 is more difficult to identify, and is commonly defined by a narrow, sub-vertical domain with
311 crosscutting reflections that connect with the crest of deeper, shale-cored anticlines (label “i” in
312 MP; [Table 3](#)). The mud pipe seen in the distal area affects H2-H4, defining an elongated structure
313 parallel to the underlying shale anticlines ([Fig. 8a-b](#)).

314 The seismic characteristics of the mud pipes, their cylindrical 3D geometry, their position
315 at the anticline crests, as well as the nature of their contacts with the host rock suggest the
316 existence of pervasive fluid migration from the mobilized, overpressured muds along these
317 conduits piercing the country sediments (e.g. Kopf, 2002; Santos Betancor and Soto, 2015).

318 5.4 Mud volcanoes

319 These structures are defined by conical mounds (e.g. Kopf, 2002) that are identified as
320 deep as the H4 reflection structural level, and which can affect younger sequences up to the
321 seabed (Fig. 3b; Table 3). The deeper domains of mud volcanoes, i.e., below H4, are accompanied
322 by chaotic reflections that are seen on the hanging-wall of normal faults (F6; Fig. 3b). At the
323 shallower level, near H7, they form elliptical edifices parallel to the deeper and adjacent normal
324 faults (Figs 8c-d). Given their vertical distributions, we suggest that mud volcanoes are formed by
325 injection of fluidized material along hydro-fractures (e.g. Morley, 2003a; Hudec and Soto, 2021).

326

327 6. Supra-shale Structures

328 The supra-shale structural framework is characterized by two main types of structures
329 (Table 4; Figs 3-6). The first type is defined by major basinward (F1-F16)- and landward (C1-C9)-
330 dipping listric faults that die-out downward into the mobile shales and which tip-out upward
331 between H4 and the seabed. The basinward-dipping listric faults detach downward onto the
332 flanks of shale rollers and are flanked by hanging-wall growth strata (Figs 3-6). These faults are
333 common on the shelf margin-to-upper slope (Fig. 1b), suggesting they formed in response to
334 overburden extension due to gravitational failure of the deltaic wedge within which they
335 developed (e.g. Morley, 2003a; Soto et al., 2010; Hudec and Soto, 2021), and/or extension driven
336 by differential compaction and fluid expulsion (e.g. Van Rensbergen and Morley, 2000; 2003;
337 Back and Morley, 2016). Similar to the basinward-dipping, the landward-dipping listric faults in
338 the south are flanked by hanging-wall growth strata. However, these hanging-wall-related
339 growth strata show progressively younger basinward, suggesting they formed in response to
340 sedimentary loading during delta progradation (Fig. 4) (e.g. Morley and Guerin, 1996; Ge et al.,
341 1997; McClay et al., 2003; Sapin et al., 2012). The basinward- and landward-dipping listric faults
342 are associated with synthetic and antithetic normal faults that formed within the damage zones
343 of the larger faults (e.g. McGrath and Davison, 1996), or that developed to accommodate locally
344 high stresses occurring within relay zones between the major growth faults (Imber et al., 2003)

345 (e.g. F7; Fig. 3b or C1-C3 and C6-C9; Fig. 4d). These faults have maximum displacement of up to
346 2.86 km on H2-H4 (Table 5), indicating their time of nucleation.

347 The second type of supra-shale structure is defined by NE-trending folds that are best-
348 developed between H2 and H7, flanking the basinward- and landward-dipping listric normal
349 faults (e.g., F1 in the north, and C3-C5 and C8-C9 in the south; Figs 3c, 4 and 9b-c, h-i; Table 4).
350 Given their relationship to shale-detached faults, we interpret them as hanging-wall rollover folds
351 (e.g. Dula, 1991; Imber et al., 2003; Brun and Mauduit, 2008). We observe these NE-trending
352 roller folds and their associated listric faults, rather than NW-trending isoclinal fold, in the
353 southern tip of Bunyu Arch (e.g. Wight et al., 1993; Lentini and Darman, 1996), a NW-trending
354 roller fold (F1, F7 and F9; Figs 3c and 8-9). Above the crests of roller folds, we observe symmetrical
355 grabens bounded by basinward- and landward-planar normal faults that either physically link
356 with the deeper major faults with which the folds are associated, or detach downward within the
357 overburden. For example, on the hanging-wall of C3-C4, several basinward- and landward-
358 dipping normal fault arrays form a symmetrical graben (Fig. 4b-d). Based on their location above
359 the fold crest, we infer that these minor normal faults reflect crestal extension and faulting in
360 response of outer-arc bending of strata (e.g. McClay, 1990; Dula, 1991; Morley, 2007; Erdi and
361 Jackson, 2021).

362 H2, H4 and H7 illustrate the geometry of the various supra-shale normal faults (Fig. 8).
363 Basinward-dipping normal faults occur across the study area, whereas the landward-dipping
364 normal faults are restricted to the south. Some fault segments are separated by NNE- or SSW-
365 dipping, largely undeformed relay zones, such as C5 and C9 in the southeast (label RZ; Fig. 8).
366 Many faults show broadly convex- and concave-landward geometries, such as F7-F12. More
367 specifically, throw on the basinward-dipping normal faults broadly decreases southward (Table
368 5; Fig. 8).

369

370 7. Temporal evolution of supra-shale deformation

371 Having described the various shale structures and supra-shale structural styles, we now
372 explore how these structures evolved in the shelf-edge to upper slope of the Tarakan Basin. We

373 interpret the evolution based on observations from maximum displacement of faults (Table 5),
374 and time-structure and isochore maps (Figs 7-9; see also S2 for a larger version). Isochore maps
375 show temporal changes in sediment thickness, which we infer record changes in accommodation
376 driven by the migration of deformation (Fig. 9a-f) (e.g. Wu et al., 2015; Erdi and Jackson, 2021).

377

378 7.1 Base mobile-shale detachment (Eocene-Early Miocene?)

379 The base mobile-shale is an unconformity that detaches sub-shale faults from the
380 overlying mobile shale unit. Base mobile-shale surface is inferred to represent the 17 Ma
381 unconformity that separates syn-rift from post-rift successions in the South China, Sulu seas (e.g.
382 Madon et al., 2013; Cullen, 2010, 2014; Morley et al., 2021) and rifting cessation in Makassar
383 strait (Situmorang, 1981; Satyana, 2015). Given that the geometries of the sub-shale faults (e.g.,
384 planar, basement-involved) are broadly consistent with the geometry of syn-rift faults in the
385 regions (e.g. Schlüter et al., 1996; Nur' Aini et al., 2005; Franke et al., 2008), we speculate that
386 sub-shale extensional faults are related to (i) the Eocene-Early Miocene(?), thick-skinned (i.e.,
387 lithosphere-involved) extensional event; (ii) a c. 45° of anticlockwise, post-Eocene rotation of the
388 Borneo Island (Advokaat et al., 2018). Although a component of oblique-slip cannot be ruled out,
389 we speculate that this faulting was dominated by dip-slip movements. The general seaward dip
390 of the base mobile-shale surface above these faults (Figs 3-4) likely reflects post-Miocene
391 tectonic uplift of northern Borneo and its immediately offshore region (Fig. 2) (e.g. Hall., 2013).

392

393 7.2 Deposition and origin of the mobile shale unit (Early Miocene-early Middle Miocene?)

394 Tectonic of Borneo and surrounding area suggest deposition and origin of mobile shale in
395 Tarakan during Early Miocene. At ca. 17 Ma, onset rapid sedimentation of clay-rich deltaic
396 sequence occurred in Tarakan (e.g. Noon et al., 2003; Hidayati et al. 2007; Sudarmono et al.,
397 2017; Morley et al., 2017), including mobile shale unit in Tarakan (Putra et al., 2017; Maulin et
398 al., 2021) (Fig. 2). We suggest this unit deposited above the base mobile-shale unconformity (Figs
399 3-5). Several studies suggest that North Borneo underwent rapid uplift and erosion during this
400 time due to the Sabah Orogeny (e.g. Hall and Nichols, 2002; Hall, 2013), providing fluvio-deltaic

401 sediment in this area (van Hattum, 2013). As such, we infer the northern Borneo as a provenance
402 area for the mobile shale unit in Tarakan.

403 Although we cannot conclusively resolve the exact nature of the processes mobilizing the
404 shales, we speculate that combination of smectite-illite transformation, compaction, and
405 increasing shear stresses by supra-shale normal faulting created overpressure conditions in this
406 shaly unit (e.g. Soto et al., 2021a; Li et al., 2022). This interpretation is supported by (i)
407 predominantly composition of kaolinite and/or illite on mudstone intrusion (36-54% kaolinite and
408 illite; Morley, 2003b) and weathering of parent rock across rivers sediments around N-to-NE
409 Borneo (41-55% kaolinite, 47-77% illite, <5-18%; s. Liu et al., 2012); (ii) scarce available
410 information in the offshore area show that the Neogene sediments are rich in kaolinite and illite
411 (5-18%) (Abdullah et al., 2016); (ii) disequilibrium compaction of base-deltaic sequence in North
412 Borneo (Tingay et al., 2009). Rapid sedimentation of this shaly unit likely lead to fluid entrapment,
413 making it possible to achieve the critical-state conditions to permit essentially solid-state flow at
414 relatively lower shear stresses.

415

416 7.3 Stratal unit 1 (early Middle Miocene?)

417 7.3.1 Description

418 SU1 was deposited immediately above the mobile shale and thickens across some supra-
419 shale listric faults (F1, F8, F10-F16, C1-C3, and C6-C7; Figs 3c, 4-5 and 9a). We identify the
420 following three key thickness patterns within SU1; (i) fault-controlled depocenters spanning the
421 entire present-day trace length (e.g., F1, F14-F16 and C1 in the northwest and the southeast; Figs
422 9a and 10); (ii) fault-controlled depocenters only span a short portion of the present-day fault
423 traces (e.g., F8, F11, F3, C2-C3 and C6-C7; Figs 9a and 10); and (iii) fault-controlled depocenters
424 flank onto normal fault traces that are physical contact with each other (F10-F11; Fig. 9a). These
425 indicate that the F1, F14-F15 and C1 reach their final length during deposition of the SU1, while
426 others reach it relatively later.

427 7.3.2 Interpretation

428 SU1 records 1 Myr time span of the ~16 Myr post-rift history, indicating listric fault arrays
429 began to grow during deposition of the SU1 (Figs. 9g, 10 and Table 5). Following a synoptic plot,
430 which compare fault length on the SU1 with overlying thickness maps, the faults grew in two
431 different ways, either by: (i) a synchronous increase in fault throw and length, with associated
432 fault segment linkage (i.e. in cases where SU1 depocenters flank only a portion of the fault trace
433 length; e.g. F10-F11, F13, C2-C3, and C6-C7) (e.g. Walsh and Watterson, 1988; Dawers et al.,
434 1993; Cartwright et al., 1995; Mansfield and Cartwright, 1996); or (ii) rapidly attaining their near-
435 final lengths via lateral tip propagation (i.e. in the cases where SU1 depocenters span the entire
436 fault traces, e.g. F1 and F14-F16; e.g. Morley, 2002; Walsh et al., 2003) (Figs 9g and 10).

437 More generally, nucleation of the supra-shale listric faults indicate establishment and
438 progradation of one or several deltaic systems during the first 2.4 Myr post-rift history of the
439 Tarakan Basin (cf. Morley and Guerin, 1996; Sapin et al., 2012; Back and Morley, 2016) (Fig. 9g).
440 This interpretation is consistent with an increasing sediment accumulation rate (i.e. from 60 to
441 160 m/my) in the onshore Tarakan Basin during Early-Middle Miocene (Hidayati et al., 2007), and
442 with global events of sea-level falls related to the MMCO at SEA59 (Morley et al., 2021) (Fig. 2).

443 7.4 Stratal unit 2 (Middle-Upper Miocene?)

444 7.4.1 Description

445 Thickness patterns in the SU2 shows that fault-controlled depocenters broadly persisted
446 adjacent to the F1, F8, F10-F16, C1-C3, and C6-C7 (Fig. 9b), although in detail we note that: (i)
447 across fault-thickening now occurred along or at the lateral tips of the present day traces of the
448 F2-F5, F7, F10-F12, southern portion of F13, F15 and C2-C3, and C5-C7 (Figs 4b-c and 9b); (ii) C5
449 cross-cut fault-related thickening on the upper tip of F15 (Fig. 4b-c); and (iii) the SU2 displays no
450 thickness variation across the northeastern portion and southeastern of F1 and F16 respectively
451 (Fig. 9b).

452 Along the normal fault array in the southeast, SU2 displays thickness variations toward
453 the axis of the mud pipe (MP; Fig. 9b). This unit shows a wedge-shape geometry and thicken
454 toward F16, while upturned, and truncated on intra-SU2 against the mud pipe flanks above the

455 underlying limb of shale anticline (label E2; Figs 4b and 6b). We also note that mud pipe-related
456 thickness variations in SU2 appear inversely related to thickness variations associated with the
457 F15-F16 and the underlying mobile shale (Figs 4a-c and 9b). For example, across fault thickening
458 of SU2 toward the F15 occurs above an area where the underlying mobile shale is thin, whereas
459 thinning of SU2 toward the pipe flank occurs where the underlying mobile shale is thick (Fig. 4b-
460 c).

461 7.4.2 Interpretation

462 SU2 records thin-skinned, gravity-driven deformation during the subsequent ca. 5.6 Myr
463 post-rift history of the Tarakan Basin, recording the complex growth and death of the supra-shale
464 fault array. First, some normal faults continue to grow via tip propagation, relay breaching, and
465 segment linkage (F8, F10-F12, C1-C3, and C5-C7; Figs. 9h and 10). This interpretation is supported
466 by the observation that depocenters are distributed along the established faults (Fig. 9b). Second,
467 following comparison between thickness patterns of the SU2 and SU1, new normal faults
468 nucleated (F2-F5, F7, C5; Fig. 9h and Table 5). Finally, some fault segments became inactive (F1,
469 F15-F16; Figs 4b-c, 9h and 10). More specifically to the F15, this fault speculatively death due to
470 grew of the younger fault of C5 (Fig. 4b-c).

471 The normal fault growth during the Middle-Upper Miocene was coeval with the onset of
472 shale anticlines growth in the southeast (SA; Figs 4b and 9b). The local truncation (E2) above the
473 fold limbs indicates that rates of fold-related uplift were even higher than the increasing and
474 relatively high sediment accumulation rate (from 100 to 220 m/my; Fig. 2). Two possible
475 mechanisms can explain the shale folding at this time: (a) downslope gliding of the mobile shale
476 producing distal contraction (i.e. Van Bemmelen, 1947; Evamy et al., 1978; Ramberg, 1981;
477 Wight, 1993; Totterdell and Krassay, 2003), (b) combination of margin-parallel and perpendicular
478 differential loading, compaction, fluid expulsion and slip along normal faults (cf. Mourgues et al.,
479 2009; Ings and Beaumont, 2010; Lacoste et al., 2012; Back and Morley, 2016). The first
480 mechanism is supported by the orientation of fold axes being parallel to the shale rollers and
481 their associated normal faults (Figs 7c and 9b), indicating the fold is related to distal contractional
482 folds that are kinematically linked to up-dip extension (Figs 2 and 9h). The second mechanism is
483 supported by the inverse relationship between thickness patterns in the mobile shale and SU2.

484 For example, SU2 thickens onto the F15-F16 where the mobile shale is relatively thin to adjacent
485 area (Figs 4b-c, and cf. Figs 7c and 9b), suggesting the existence of syn-kinematic differential
486 loading by normal faulting and shale-withdrawal that promoted mobile shale upbuilding at the
487 core of the distal fold. This mechanism is also supported by fault-controlled depocenter on the
488 SU2 that are distributed relatively basinward to that observed in underlying stratal unit (Fig. 9b),
489 suggesting a basinward migration of the prograding wedge. This basinward progradation of the
490 wedge might produce differential margin-perpendicular sedimentary loading and a basinward
491 migration and evacuation of the mobile shale creating horizontal (tectonic) compaction and fluid
492 expulsion (e.g. Van Rensbergen and Morley, 2000; Mourgues et al., 2009; Ings and Beaumont,
493 2010; Lacoste et al., 2012; Back and Morley, 2016). Still, given that the base mobile-shale horizon
494 show a larger structural low in the centre domain (Fig. 7a-b), differential margin-parallel
495 sedimentary loading could also occur, resulting in an additional northeast-southwest flow of the
496 mobile shales to fill that trough.

497

498 7.5 Stratal unit 3 (Upper?-uppermost Miocene)

499 7.5.1 Description

500 There are several important observations regarding SU3. First, SU3 thickens (by up to 2.25
501 s TWT or 3 km) across many of the major normal faults (F3-F4, F6, F7a, c-e, F8-F11 and C1a-d, C2,
502 C3a, c-d; Fig. 9c). Second, SU3 broadly thickens towards and has a wedge-shaped geometry in
503 the hanging-wall of some listric faults, which are located relatively basinward of those active
504 during deposition of SU2 (F6, southern portion of C3, C4 and C8-C9; Figs 4b-d, 5 and 9c). Third,
505 SU3 also has a wedge-shaped geometry adjacent to and thickens towards the lateral tips of F2-
506 F4, northern portion of F7, and F9 (Figs 3 and 9c). Fourth, SU3 thickens down relay zones
507 developed between fault segments, such as observed along C5 and C9 in the southeast (Fig. 9c).
508 Fifth, in the south, SU3 diverge toward and shows subtle thickening across the crestal faults
509 between the F14 and C3-C4 (Fig. 4b-d). Sixth, lower part of SU3 has a wedge-shaped geometry
510 and thickens toward C1-C2, while the upper part of the unit is cross-cut by the crestal faults above
511 the C1-C2 (Fig. 4d). Seventh, although SU3 generally thickens across the faults, this unit shows a
512 constant thickness and a tabular geometry across the lateral tips of some major basinward-

513 dipping normal faults situated in the western area (F2, F8; Fig. 9c). Finally, SU3 thins, being
514 upturned towards the mud pipe flanks and eroded within intra-SU3 and at the base of the
515 overlying SU4 (E4-E5; Figs 4b, 6b and 9c).

516 7.5.2 Interpretation

517 Using thickness patterns in and the overall seismic-stratigraphic architecture of SU3, we
518 can reconstruct the tectonic processes during the subsequent ca. 1.9 Myr post-rift history of the
519 basin. Four key tectonic processes related to supra-shale extensional faulting occurred at this
520 time. First, the existing normal faults continued to grow (F10-F14) via tip propagation (F2, F3-F4,
521 F7 and C3) and locally, hard-linkage by relay-breaching (F3-F5, F7 and F9; Figs 9i and 10). As a
522 result, both basinward- and landward-dipping normal faults have a final concave and convex-
523 towards-the-basin geometry (Fig. 9i). Second, following thickness pattern and maximum
524 displacements, formation of relay zone along C5, C8-C9 and nucleation of F4 and F6 occurred
525 (Figs 9i, 10 and Table 5). Third, following growth of the F14, C3 and C4 and the subtle thickness
526 pattern of the crestal faults, these crestal faults above rollover anticline nucleated in response to
527 clockwise tilting of these listric faults (Fig. 9i). We interpret that the crestal faults were formed
528 due to shearing above and during formation of the hanging-wall rollover associated with listric
529 supra-shale faults (e.g. Dula, 1991; McClay, 1990). Fourth, during this time, some established
530 faults like F2, F8, C1-C2, and C6-C7 underwent tip retreat or became inactive (Figs 9i and 10).
531 More specifically, some faults are inactive due to: (i) cross-cutting by listric and crestal fault
532 formations that are relatively younger (C1-C2; Fig. 4d), or; (ii) strain migration toward an incipient
533 new footwall breaching of C8-C9 within a large soft-linked relay zone (C5-C9; Figs 4 and 8) (cf.
534 Walsh et al., 1999; Imber et al., 2003).

535 These processes of fault growth and decay result in complex structural styles and
536 evolution during the Upper?-uppermost Miocene in the shelf-edge of Tarakan Basin. We also
537 noted a difference in the style of growth faulting during the Upper?-uppermost Miocene, being
538 shown by: (i) a relatively simple series of basinward-dipping listric faults in the north, and a
539 complex series of roller folds, basinward- and landward-dipping listric, with associated crestal,
540 faults in the south (Fig. 9i); (ii) active listric faults, to that observed in Middle-Upper Miocene age,
541 are located relatively landward in the north and basinward in the south (cf. Fig. 9h and 9i).

542 Four processes could explain these along-strike differences in structural style and
543 kinematics. First, the landward-dipping listric fault may occurred due to reactivation of deeper
544 thrust (e.g. Sapin et al., 2012). Yet, in Tarakan, we cannot see any thrust faults, underlying the
545 landward-dipping listric faults (Fig. 4).

546 Second, the difference in overburden structural styles reflects along margin change of
547 shelf breaks, given that the landward-dipping listric fault tend to form near them (Ings and
548 Beaumont, 2010). This interpretation appears consistent with along strike change of seabed
549 scarp, reflecting by concave towards-the-basin geometry (Fig. 8d). This interpretation also infers
550 that the distribution of landward-dipping listric faults and their flanking folds might continue
551 northeastward beyond our dataset (Fig. 7). However, we exclude this model because, rather than
552 the presence of the landward-dipping listric faults, a previous 2D seismic-based study document
553 either basinward-dipping listric faults or landward-dipping shale-detached thrusts (Hidayati et
554 al., 2007) (Fig. 1b).

555 Third, the process of horizontal compaction and fluid expulsion may have migrated along
556 the margin. This interpretation is supported by: (i) base mobile-shale surface being deeper in the
557 centre; and, (ii) mobile shale being thicker in the centre (Fig. 7). This interpretation seems to
558 perhaps consistent with the interpretation of higher sediment accumulation rates in the north
559 (120-500 m/my) than the south (100-330 m/my) (Fig. 2). In our view, the existence of higher
560 sediment accumulation rates in the north relatively to the south indicate southward ductile flow
561 of mobile shales.

562 The fourth explanation is that the difference in the styles reflects along-strike differences
563 in the timing and magnitude of tilting of the mobile shales and their basal surface. Seaward tilting
564 of this surface is up to 17° in the north, whereas it is lower in the south (4-7°) (cf. Figs 3 and 4).
565 This interpretation is consistent, for example, with the study of Wu et al. (2015) and with the
566 results from several physical models of shale-rich deltas (e.g. Mourgues et al., 2009), which
567 suggest that landward-dipping listric fault systems are better developed when the dip of the
568 mobile shales and their basal surface is relatively gentle.

569 Besides the overburden deformation, the SU3 growth strata also record a deformation
570 linked to the mobilization of the shale unit in the southeast (E4-E5 and MP; Fig. 4b, 6b and 9c).
571 Although it is not very clear, we suggest that the growth of the anticline in the southeast during
572 the deposition of SU3 led to crestal collapse of overburden above the anticline, with the collapse
573 providing pathways for the ascent of mobile shale, resulting in the emplacement of mud pipe (cf.
574 a fluidized mud pipe of Morley, 2003a; Bonini and Mazzarini, 2010; Bonini, 2012) (SA and MP;
575 Fig. 4b). This interpretation explains the spatial relationship between the fold hinge and the pipe,
576 as well as the basinward and the northward (i.e., along-strike) flow of mobile shale.

577

578 7.6 Stratal unit 4 (Uppermost Miocene-Pliocene)

579 7.6.1 Description

580 SU4 thickens across F3-F7, F9, F12, F14, C3-C5, C8-C9 and down the associated relay zones
581 (Fig. 9d). Although this unit shows local thickening in the hanging-wall of normal faults, relatively
582 to that observed on underlying strata, we also observe: (i) a constant thickness along the trace
583 of many shale-detached (southern tips of F2, F8, F10-11, and F13) and crestal normal faults
584 (along C3-C4; cf. Fig. 9c-d); and, (ii) thinning onto hanging-wall of C5 and C9 due to erosion at the
585 base of the overlying unit, SU5 (E6; Figs 4 and 6b-c). The area of erosion trends sub-parallel to
586 these faults (Fig. 9d).

587 SU4 varies in thickness adjacent to mud pipes and volcanoes in the southeast and the
588 north of the study area (MP and MV; Fig. 9d). In the southeast, this unit is upturned towards and
589 thins above the pipe crest (MP; Fig. 4b and Table 3). However, in the north, the upper interval of
590 this unit shows chaotic reflections above the F5 (Fig. 3b and Table 3).

591 7.6.2 Interpretation

592 The seismic-stratigraphic patterns in SU4 are used to reconstruct the tectonic processes
593 during the subsequent ca. 3.7 Myr post-rift history of the basin. The processes are illustrated by
594 active listric faults during this time is located relatively landward in the north to that observed in
595 Upper-Uppermost Miocene, while the faults continue to grow in the south (cf. Fig. 9i and 9j).
596 These faults are shown by the on-going growth of F9, F3-F8, F14, C3, and C9 (Fig. 8j and 10). More

597 specifically to the F4-F5, and F9, thickness patterns of the SU3 and SU4 show they grew via
598 lengthening, and the later subsequently being followed by a hard-linkage (cf. Fig. 9c-d and 10).
599 Fault growth and hanging-wall tilting was also associated with the erosion of previously deposited
600 strata (e.g. C5 and C9; Fig. 9d, j). The erosion above the faults are consistent with the presence
601 of Pliocene unconformity in NW Borneo (Kessler and Jong., 2017; Morley et al., 2021) (SEA91U;
602 Fig. 2). We interpret that faults grew in response to continued progradation of the sedimentary
603 wedge and related differential compaction of and fluid expulsion from the mobile shales (e.g.
604 Van Rensbergen and Morley, 2000, 2003), with the latter process being particularly important in
605 the south (i.e. F12, F13-F14; Fig. 9j). Some faults also underwent tip retreat and/or became
606 inactive (e.g. F2, F8, F10-F11, F13; Fig. 9j and 10).

607 Variations in mobile shale-related deformation continued to occur along the margin
608 during Upper Miocene-Pliocene, being illustrated by ongoing growth and initiation of mud
609 diapirism in the southeast and north respectively (MP and MV; Fig. 9j).

610

611 7.7 Stratal unit 5 (Pliocene-Pleistocene)

612 7.7.1. Description

613 SU5 is broadly tabular, thickening locally towards F9, F10-F14 , and showing a wedge-
614 shaped geometry toward the hanging-walls of F2-F7, C4-C5, and C9 (Figs 3-4). There are further
615 local variations in thickness compared to what we observe in underlying strata. First, SU5 displays
616 subtle thickening towards and along C4 and fault-related crestal grabens along C3 (Figs 4b-d and
617 9e). Second, this unit has a constant thickness across the southern tip of F2 and along hanging-
618 wall of F3-F4 (Fig. 9e). Third, SU5 varies in thickness around F3-F4, F13, and along the crestal
619 faults C3-C4 (Fig. 9e). These variations consistently appear with erosion of the top of the unit,
620 being located in the hanging-wall of listric and crestal normal faults, and/or at the base of SU6
621 (label E7-E8; Figs 3a-b and 4).

622 SU5 also varies in thickness around mud pipes and volcanoes (Fig. 9e). In the southeast,
623 the lower part of this unit thins and onlaps above SU4 toward the crest of a mud pipe, whereas

624 the upper part of the unit thickens and wedges eastward (Figs 4b and 6b). In the north, however,
625 SU5 show continuous mound shape geometries above the F6 (label MV; Fig. 3b).

626 7.7.2. Interpretation

627 The geometry of SU5 records the tectonic processes during the subsequent ca. 2.58 Myr
628 post-rift history of the basin. Overburden extension continued as shown by the continued growth
629 of F2-F7, F10-14, C3-C5 and C9, and the reactivation of some crestal normal faults above the C3-
630 C4 (Figs 9k and 10). More specifically to the variations of thickness on F3-F4, F6-F7, F13 and along
631 the crestal faults, their tilting was accompanied by erosion (label E7-E8; Figs 3a-b, 4 and 6c-d).
632 The reactivation of crestal faults, however, are inferred due to another pulse of strata bending in
633 response to clockwise hanging-wall rotation of the C3-C4 fault (Figs 4b-d and 9e). This
634 reactivation shows that locus of faulting in the south, relatively to that observed in Uppermost
635 Miocene-Pliocene, move basinward.

636 During the Pliocene-Pleistocene, the mud pipe in the south were buried (Fig. 9k). In the
637 north, however, a mud volcano occurred (MV; Fig. 3b).

638

639 7.8 Stratal unit 6 (Pleistocene-Holocene)

640 7.8.1 Description

641 SU6, although show tabular and constant thickness adjacent many supra shale faults, still
642 thickens across and/or is wedge-shaped in and diverges towards the hanging-walls of F3, F5-F7,
643 F9, C3, C5 and C9 (Figs 4 and 9f). This unit also thins toward and onlap onto the mud volcano (Figs
644 3b and 9f).

645 7.8.2 Interpretation

646 SU6 record the latest tectonic activity in the margin, during the last 0.012 Myr. Tip retreat
647 of many supra-shale faults occurred during this time (Fig. 9l), with many faults dying-out (Figs 3-
648 5). However, some faults remained active (e.g. F3, F5-F6, C5 and C9; Fig. 9l), coincident with and
649 possibly driven by, an increase in the rate of sediment accumulation (from 130 to 820 m/my) (Fig.
650 2). The mud volcano in the north, however, continued to grow via shale fed along fractures (MV;
651 Fig. 9l).

652

653 8. Discussion

654 8.1 Structural styles in the Tarakan Basin

655 Previous 2D seismic-based studies show that NW-trending arches (e.g. Wight et al., 1993),
656 NE-SW-striking thin-skinned normal and inverted listric, rollover folds, thick-skinned normal (e.g.
657 Wight et al., 1993; Biantoro et al., 1996), and/or NW-SE-striking strike-slip faults (e.g. Lentini and
658 Darman, 1996; Hidayati et al., 2007) are all developed in the Tarakan Basin (Fig. 1). All previous
659 studies agree that Miocene gravity-driven failure led to listric faulting and related folding (e.g.
660 Van Bemmelen, 1949; Hidayati et al., 2007). However, the post-Pliocene kinematic development
661 of the arches and inverted listric faults mentioned above is debated, with two-end member
662 models proposed: (i) the strike-slip faulting (Wight et al., 1993; Lentini and Darman, 1996;
663 Balaguru et al., 2003; Hidayati et al., 2007); or (ii) the uplift of pre-existing rift-related topography
664 (Sapiie et al., 2021; cf. Ahmed et al., 2022). These previous studies have, however, some
665 important limitations. For example, (i) they lack a comprehensive map-view reconstruction of the
666 base-mobile and supra-shale structures, characterizing key structures like fault tip lines and
667 branch lines, sedimentary facies boundaries, and fold axes (e.g. Sylvester, 1988; Erdi and Jackson,
668 2022), which collectively make it possible to evaluate geometry and kinematic of the faults and
669 the folds (e.g. Harding, 1990); and (ii) widely spaced (> 62.5 m) 2D seismic data mean it is hard to
670 determine the geometry and evolution of inherently 3D structures such as segmented normal
671 faults and geometrically complex shale structures (e.g. Tearpock and Bischke, 2002; Groshong,
672 2006; Ze and Alves, 2019).

673 Our detailed 3D seismic interpretation constrains the structural style and distribution of
674 shale and supra-shale structures, showing many occur above NE-trending base mobile-shale
675 surface that inferably has a concave-basinward geometry, and which are superimposed on a
676 generally seaward-dipping surface (Fig. 11). Above this surface, the basal mobile shale unit shows
677 extensional (e.g. shale rollers and shale-detached normal faults) and contractional (anticlines)
678 structures. We also interpret that the mobile shale flowed upward, forming mud pipes and
679 volcanoes that pierced a few kilometers of overburden strata and that were active until recently

680 (i.e. they are locally expressed at the seabed). Supra-shale deformation consist of concave- and
681 convex-basinward arrays of extensional listric growth faults, and related hanging-wall rollover
682 folds and outer-arc bending-related crestal faults.

683 In our dataset we also observe the southern tip of the Bunyu Arch; this is a major structure
684 previously described as a series of NW-trending folds (Figs 1 and 8; Wight et al., 1993; Lentini and
685 Darman, 1996). In our view, rather than comprising several NW-trending folds, this structure is
686 represented by several NE-trending rollover folds associated with large, shale-detached listric
687 growth faults (Figs 8 and 9). Thus, in contrast to the previous interpretations, we suggest that
688 other similar NW-trending folds or arches in the Tarakan Basin are *en echelon*, basement-
689 detached rollover folds (Fig. 1).

690 In summary, we propose that the Neogene structural style of the Tarakan Basin reflects
691 (Fig. 11): (i) variations in sediment accumulation rates and the progradation of deltaic
692 sedimentary wedges from northeastern Borneo; (ii) the dominantly seaward flow of the basal
693 shale unit (lowermost Middle Miocene) to induce inflation and diapirism of mobile shale unit in
694 the distal domain, possibly with a contribution of margin-parallel flow to generate the large,
695 central depocenter and drive mud pipes and volcanism in the south and north, respectively (Figs
696 6-7); (iii) the growth and linkage of the supra-shale extensional fault systems (Fig. 9); and (iv)
697 associated gravitational failure of the Neogene sedimentary wedge, induced by irregular seaward
698 tilting of the entire margin (Fig. 7a-b), driven by plate-scale uplift of Borneo (e.g. Hall, 2013).

699

700 8.2 Deltaic growth faulting: geometry, timing, and tectonic significance

701 Previous studies demonstrate that the geometry, distribution, and kinematics of growth
702 faulting in shale-rich deltas are controlled by the interaction between gravity gliding downslope
703 associated with margin uplift (e.g. Garfunkel, 1984; Gawthorpe et al., 1994; Wu and Bally, 2000)
704 and sediment loading during delta progradation (e.g. Evamy, 1978; Cohen and McClay, 1996;
705 McClay et al., 2003) above an overpressured shale (e.g. Mandl and Crans, 1981; Espurt et al.,
706 2009; Mourgues et al., 2009; Lacoste et al, 2012; Fernández-Ibañez and Soto, 2017) and/or
707 differential compaction (e.g. Fazlikhani and Back, 2015) and associated fluid expulsion (e.g.

708 Totterdell and Krassay, 2003; Van Rensbergen and Morley, 2000, 2003; Back and Morley, 2016).
709 Still, fault growth and linkage (e.g. Fazlikhani and Back, 2012; 2017) and base mobile-shale slope
710 angle (e.g. Wu et al, 2015; Lacoste et al., 2012) can also contribute to development of the growth
711 faulting. Fault-related deformation can migrate basinward as the causal sedimentary wedge
712 prograde (e.g. Evamy, 1978; Cohen and McClay, 1996; McClay et al., 2003; Espurt et al., 2009).
713 The fault-related deformation can also migrate landward via either lateral fault-linkage (e.g.
714 Imber et al., 2003; Fazlikhani and Back, 2012) or seaward tilting of the margin (e.g. Lacoste et al.,
715 2012). Along margin change of shelf break and shale flow (Ings and Beaumont, 2010), reactivation
716 of deeper thrust (Sapin et al., 2012), and/or variations in the dip of the seaward tilted base
717 mobile-shale (Espurt et al., 2009; Wu et al., 2015) also controls the locus of faulting and the dip
718 direction of the growth faults. More specifically to the tilting, an increase in the dip of base
719 mobile-shales tends to produce basinward-dipping growth faults, whereas a relatively gently-
720 dipping shale base usually promotes the formation of landward-dipping growth faults (e.g. Wu
721 et al., 2015). Sediment loading can also promote the local escape of fluids and mud, forming the
722 intrusion (e.g. pipes) and extrusion (e.g. volcanoes) of mobilized shales (e.g. Van Rensbergen and
723 Morley, 2000; Back and Morley, 2016).

724 Our study shows that the distribution of landward- and basinward-dipping deltaic growth
725 faulting varies in time and space along-strike change of the concave, shelf-edge region of the
726 Tarakan Basin. The basinward-dipping listric faults are broadly developed across the study area,
727 whereas the landward-dipping listric faults are preferentially developed above the surface that
728 is defined by a relatively gentle dip (4-7°) steps (Figs 3-4 and 10). The locus of basinward growth
729 faulting is consistent with the study of Wu et al. (2015), given they show how domains with a
730 gentle dip of the shale base tend to nucleate landward-dipping growth faults. Here we also
731 demonstrate that active growth faulting migrates landward and basinward during the Neogene-
732 to-Recent, possibly in response to varying sedimentation rates of the delta systems prograding
733 from the eastern margin of Borneo (Figs 9 and 11). Landward migration of extensional faulting
734 occurred above relatively steep-dipping base mobile-shale surface in the north, whereas
735 basinward migration occurred above the relatively gentle-dipping base mobile-shale surface in
736 the south. These inferences are also in agreement with (i) the lateral propagation and linkage of

737 basinward-dipping listric faults in the north, and basinward- and landward-dipping listric faults in
738 the south; and, (ii) uplift in north Borneo since Miocene (e.g. Hall, 2013).

739

740 **9. Conclusions**

741 We conducted a seismic-stratigraphic analysis of 3D seismic reflection data from the
742 shelf-edge to upper slope of Tarakan Basin, offshore Indonesia to unravel the lateral variability
743 in the structural style, distribution, and kinematics of thin-skinned, shale-related deformation.
744 We showed that the Tarakan delta system, including its underlying basal mobile shale, is
745 deformed by a range of shale structures (i.e. shale anticlines, mud pipes and volcanoes), and
746 basinward-and landward-dipping growth faults located above and trending parallel to NE-
747 trending base mobile-shale highs. Using seismic stratigraphy and isochore (thickness) maps we
748 identified four main tectono-stratigraphic stages: (i) Eocene-early Middle Miocene? – continental
749 rifting and deposition of the mobile shale unit; (ii) Middle-Upper Miocene? – fault nucleation,
750 growth, and linkage in the proximal domain, and formation of a shale-cored anticline in a more
751 distal area; (iii) Upper Miocene-Pliocene – lateral propagation and eventual retreat of the
752 extensional faults, and mud diapirism; and (iv) Pleistocene-Holocene – extensional faults
753 reactivation, decay and death, and mud volcanism. Our study suggests the temporal and spatial
754 evolution of Neogene deformation in the shelf-edge to upper slope region of the Tarakan Basin
755 reflects the interaction between variations in sediment accumulation rate and the progradation
756 of deltaic sedimentary wedges, mobile shale flows, the growth and linkage of extensional fault,
757 and the associated gravitational failure of the shale-rich delta above base mobile-shale surface.
758 More specifically our study further highlights the key relationship between the direction of strain
759 migration and the geometry of the base mobile-shale in gravity-driven deformation systems, with
760 landward-directed migration occurring above regions defined by steeply seaward-dipping
761 surface, and basinward-directed fault migration above relatively gentle basal surface. These
762 learnings can provide insights into the structural styles and kinematics observed on other shale-
763 rich margins, such as that characterizing the Mahakam and Niger deltas, and the Ceduna sub-
764 basin in offshore South Australia.

765

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782 Economic Geology, The University of Texas at Austin.

783 **Table Captions**

784 Table 1: Description of seismic datasets used in our study in Tarakan Basin, Offshore Indonesia.

785 Table 2: Characterization, seismic velocity, and tectonic significance of the interpreted seismic
786 horizons of the Neogene section of the Tarakan Basin, offshore Indonesia, as seen in the shelf-
787 edge and upper slope of the basin.

788 Table 3: Summary of the diagnostic seismic characteristics of the shale structures identified
789 between the shelf-edge and upper slope of Tarakan Basin, offshore Indonesia. See also Table
790 S1 in Appendix for a larger version of this table. Seismic data courtesy of TGS.

791 Table 4: Summary of principal characteristics of the supra-shale faults as are seen in the area
792 between the shelf-edge and upper slope of Tarakan Basin, offshore Indonesia. See also Table
793 S2 in Appendix for a larger version of this table. Seismic data courtesy of TGS.

794 Table 5: Maximum length and displacement of the studied faults in the Tarakan Basin, offshore
795 Indonesia.

796 **Figure captions**

797 Figure 1: Regional tectonic map and profile of Tarakan Basin in offshore Indonesia (inset shows
798 the general location of the area). Although precise location cannot be released due to
799 confidentiality, the study is around the shelf-edge to upper slope of the extensional domain
800 of this basin. (a) Simplified regional structural map illustrating key tectonic features in the
801 north-east Borneo, consisting of Ahus (AA), Bunyu (BA), Tarakan (TA), Latih (LA) and Sebatik
802 (SA) arches; major regional normal fault (MRNF), like the Maratua (MFZ) and Sampurna (SFZ)
803 fault zones. Map compiling information from Wight et al. (1993), Lentini and Darman (1996),
804 Moss et al. (1998), Hidayati et al. (2007), and Balaguru and Hall (2009). Well locations are
805 taken from Wight et al. (1993), Corelab (2007), Chakhmakhchev and Rushworth (2010), and
806 Rosary et al. (2014). Base elevation map is derived from GEBCO (2020). (b) Regional profile
807 across the offshore Tarakan Basin (modified from Hidayati et al., 2007).

808 Figure 2: Regional tectono-stratigraphic framework chart of the Paleogene to Quaternary (Q)
809 section in north-west and north-east Borneo (modified and simplified with information from

810 Hall, 2012, 2013, 2019). In this chart, the lithostratigraphy of Tarakan Basin (modified from
811 Achmad and Samuel, 1984; Heriyanto et al., 1992) is simplified into syn-rift, mobile shale, and
812 supra mobile-shale unit. The syn-rift and mobile shale unit are separated by a regional
813 unconformity, which is called as the Deep Regional (DRU), South China Sea (SCSU) or Early
814 Miocene (EMU) unconformity that have an Early-Middle Miocene age (Levell, 1987; Cullen,
815 2010, 2014; Madon et al., 2013). This chart is compared with the South East Asia eustatic sea
816 level curve that records a global sea level drop (SEA59), and includes the position of two
817 regional unconformities (SEA52U and SEA91U) (Morley et al., 2021) and the sediment
818 accumulation rates for the Tarakan Basin derived according to well data (modified from
819 Hidayati et al., 2007). It is also included our seismic horizons and units differentiated in the
820 Neogene sequence of the shelf-edge of Tarakan Basin, offshore Indonesia. Well locations and
821 source area of sediment budget are shown in Fig. 1. Noted that sediment accumulation rates
822 have not been corrected for post-depositional, burial-related compaction, and in consequence
823 they should be considered as minimum values.

824 Figure 3: Selected seismic profiles showing the configuration of the Tarakan Basin in a direction
825 parallel to the regional dip (approximately 1-17°) of the mobile-shale base, which is parallel to
826 bulk translation direction of the supra-shale cover. It is also illustrated the style of growth
827 faulting and how it varies laterally in the northern part of the study area. Note that "E" marks
828 the location of local unconformities and/or erosional truncations (see Fig. 6 for details). More
829 specifically to Figure 3a, this profile is located close to the Vanda-1 well in the southeast of the
830 profile, although due to confidentiality, the exact position of the well is omitted here.
831 Uninterpreted version of the three seismic profiles are shown in Appendix S1. Seismic data
832 courtesy of TGS.

833 Figure 4: Margin-perpendicular seismic profiles illustrating the styles of growth fault systems in
834 the southern part of the study area. The W-E orientation of the four seismic lines (a-d) is sub-
835 parallel to the regional dip (approximately 4-5°) of the base mobile-shale, and to the bulk
836 translation direction of the supra-shale cover. Notes of "x" show layering of seismic facies that
837 may reflect relict or new, deformation-related internal fabrics in the mobile shales. Notes of
838 "E", however, reflect unconformities and/or erosional truncations (see Fig. 6 for details). Due

839 to confidentiality, the exact position of the seismic profiles (a–c) is omitted here.
840 Uninterpreted version of the four seismic profile is shown in Appendix S1. Seismic data
841 courtesy of TGS.

842 Figure 5: Composite, SW-NE margin-parallel seismic profile illustrating shale and supra-shale
843 structural styles. This orientation is normal to the regional dip of the base of mobile shale and
844 to the bulk translation direction of the sedimentary cover. This profile also shows the present
845 relationship of the basin with the sub-shale sequences, which are deformed by high-angle
846 normal faults related to the Paleogene continental rifting (Fig. 2). Notes of “x” show layering
847 of seismic facies that may reflect relict or new, deformation-related internal fabrics in the
848 mobile shales. Notes of “E”, however, reflect unconformities and/or erosional truncations (see
849 Fig. 6 for details). This profile is situated in the northeast, close to the position of the Vanda-1
850 well. Due to confidentiality, the exact position of well are omitted here. Uninterpreted version
851 of the seismic profile is shown in Appendix S1. Seismic data courtesy of TGS.

852 Figure 6: Unconformities and truncations within study area. (a) Zoom in of Fig. 5 that highlights
853 the occurrence of E1 unconformities at the top of H2. (b) Detailed window of Fig. 4a
854 documenting the existence of various unconformities and/or erosional truncations (e.g. E3
855 and E6-E8 at the top of H4 toH7, respectively) in the hanging-wall of listric faults. (c) Detailed
856 window of Fig. 4b showing diverse unconformities (e.g. E2 and E3, within SU2 and SU3,
857 respectively) related to the fold growth of a shale anticline (SA) that contains a mud pipe (MP)
858 in the crest. Note top of H4 is eroded by H5 above the MP, as shown by E4. (d) Detailed zoom
859 in Fig. 3a highlighting the existence of unconformities (E8) in the hanging-wall of a listric fault
860 in the north. Uninterpreted version of the seismic profile is shown in Appendix S1. Seismic
861 data courtesy of TGS.

862 Figure 7: Base mobile-shale surface and mobile shale isochore maps. (a) Base mobile-shale
863 structural map and (b) its interpretative sketch map, illustrating spatial geometry of base
864 mobile-shale surface that reflects the inherited rift topography. The interpretative map (Fig.
865 7b) illustrates the geometry and distribution of N-S sub-shale faults, being drawn based on the
866 map-view (Fig. 7a) and seismic profiles (Figs 3-5). (c) Mobile shale isochore map (in s TWT),
867 illustrating morphology and distribution of shale in the basin. To compare, it is included the

868 distribution and type of structures affecting the top of mobile shale (TMB), including shale
869 roller and anticline (see Table 3 for description of these shale structures).

870 Figure 8: Overburden structural maps of the main supra-shale seismic reflections: (a) H2 – Middle
871 Miocene, (b) H4 – Uppermost Miocene, (c) H7 – Upper Pleistocene, and (d) seabed (Fig. 2).
872 These maps contain information regarding structures affecting the supra-shale sequences, as
873 basinward and landward normal faults, but also mobile shale structures like mud pipes and
874 mud volcanoes. Table 3 and 4 contain a detailed description of the seismic expression and the
875 differentiating characteristics of these structures.

876 Figure 9: Overburden isochore maps of all the supra-shale seismic units differentiated in this
877 study (Fig. 2): (a) SU1 – Middle Miocene; (b) SU2 – Middle-Upper Miocene; (c) SU3 – Upper-
878 Uppermost Miocene; (d) SU4 – Uppermost Miocene-Pliocene; (e) SU5 – Pliocene-Pleistocene;
879 (f) SU6 – Pleistocene-Holocene, accompanied in (g-l) by their tectonic interpretation. These
880 interpretative sketches illustrate the Neogene tectonic evolution of the Tarakan Basin in the
881 study area, detailing the activity of shale and supra-shale structures at every particular time.
882 Note on these maps, we also drawn erosional truncation that are observed from Figs 3-6. See
883 also Appendix of S2 for a larger version of overburden isochore and their interpretative
884 sketches.

885 Figure 10: Synoptic plot illustrating length development of active and inactive (i.e. n/a) faults over
886 fault history, being measured from isochore data (Fig. 9). Some faults established their
887 maximum length early (e.g. F1-F2, F14-16, and C4), while other increased their length via
888 lengthening/tip propagations (e.g. F13, C1 and C7) and/or lateral hard-linkage (e.g. F3-F12,
889 C2-C3, C5-C6 and C8-C9). More specifically to C4, active lengths is separated by inactivity,
890 showing fault reactivation.

891 Figure 11: Regional map summarizing the main findings of our study and the structural elements
892 that controlled the Neogene evolution of the offshore area of Tarakan Basin, north-east
893 Borneo. The main findings include the distribution and role played of supra-shale growth
894 faulting (basinward and/or landward normal faults), the inferred flow pattern of mobile
895 shales, the distal shale inflation and contraction, as well as the occurrence of steps in the base

896 of mobile shales that delineate structural highs. The inferred shale trough reflects structural
897 low of base mobile-shale, where the local thickest mobile shale present in shelf-edge of the
898 offshore area. The inferred seaward boundary of shale-detached thrust and landward
899 boundary of growth faults is taken from Hidayati et al. (2007).

900 **Data Availability Statement**

901 The seismic data supporting the findings of this study are available from TGS. However,
902 restrictions apply to the availability of these data, which were used under license for this study.

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1283 **Table**
 1284 Table 1
 1285

Data	TBB-11 (Southern area)	TBN-10 (Northern area)
Date of acquisition and processing	2011-2012	2011-2012
Type/Processing	3D Kirchhoff Pre-Stack Time Migration (PSTM) seismic data	
Total area (km ²)	1316	1625
Water depth (m)	200-500	15-400
Inline orientation	N-S trending	NE-SE trending
Seismic dimension (m)	49039 x 60036	45290 x 70909
Vertical sample rate (ms)	2	2
Line spacing (m)	25	25
Vertical resolution	25 m at seabed	21 m at seabed
	250 m at 8710 ms	208 m at 7069 ms

1286

1287 Table 2

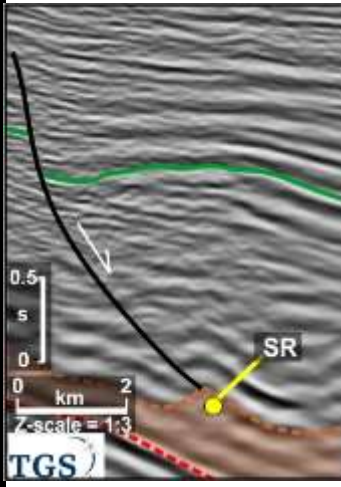
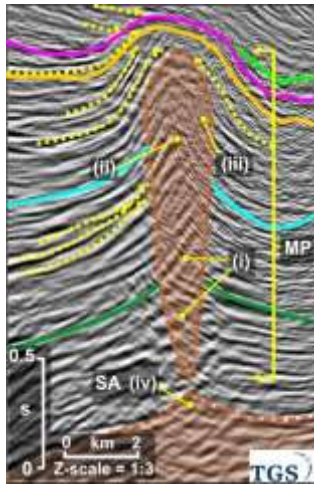
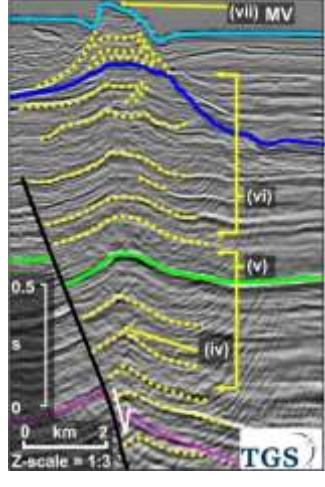
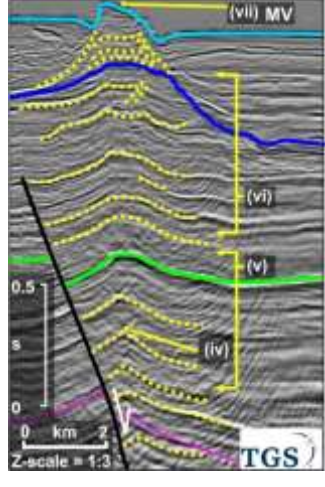
Horizon	Interval Velocity (m/s)	Time	Seismic Character	Interpretation
H7	1500- 3010	Upper Pleistocene (~0.012 Ma)	Parallel, very strong positive amplitude reflector observed in the S. It is locally as a chaotic, moderately medium-to-weak reflector in the NE.	H7 illustrating top of the youngest angular unconformity, being shown by truncation (labelled E8; Figs 3-4 and 6b-c). Associated to rollover folds within strata in the S (Fig. 9e, k).
H6	1700- 3100	Lower Pleistocene (~1.8 Ma)	Parallel-to-sub parallel, low-to-medium positive amplitude reflector across the study area. It shows locally diverge eastward in the SE.	H6 illustrating angular unconformity in the SE, being shown by truncation (labelled E7; Figs 4 and 6c; cf. Unconformity II of Maulin et al., 2019).
H5	2100- 3100	Pliocene (~2.6 Ma)	Parallel-to-wavy, very strong positive amplitude reflector in the S. Moderately chaotic reflector in the NE, and weak reflector and diverge eastward in the NE and SE.	H5 illustrating angular unconformity in the SE, being shown by truncation (labelled E6; Figs 4 and 6b-c; cf. Horizon II; Levell, 1987; Horizon A ; Franke et al., 2008; SEA91U of Morley et al., 2021).
H4	2400- 3200	Upper most Miocene (~6.3 Ma)	Parallel strong positive amplitude reflector in the S. A moderate medium-weak, wavy and chaotic reflector in the NE and SE.	H4 illustrating angular unconformity in the SE, being shown truncation (labelled E3; Figs 3-4 and 6b-c; cf. unconformity I of Maulin et al., 2019). Associated to

				rollover folds in the S (Fig. 9c, i).
H3	3000-3200	Upper Miocene? (~8.2 Ma?)	Parallel-to-wavy, strong negative amplitude reflector.	H3 recording distribution rollover fold within strata in the northwest area (Fig. 9b, h).
H2	2900-3300	Middle Miocene? (~13.8 Ma?)	Parallel-to-sub parallel, strong positive amplitude reflector in the N. It is a chaotic, moderate medium-strong reflector in the S.	H2 illustrating angular unconformity in the central part, being shown by onlap or downlap of overlying stratal (labelled E1; Fig 5 and 6a).
TMB (Mobile shale)	3100-3500	Middle Miocene? (~14.8 Ma?)	Parallel-to-sub parallel negative amplitude reflector that marks transition between overburden and underlying mobile-shales. The mobile shales are seen as chaotic, weak-to-moderate amplitude reflections or as a domain with loss of reflectivity. Locally, its internal fabric shows cross-cutting reflections (label X in Figs 4 and 5).	Seismic facies of the mobile-shales (TMB) are either interpreted due to overpressure and/or to severe destruction of the fabric by deformation at critical-state conditions (Soto et al., 2021b). It cannot be excluded the existence of relict fabrics and/or seismic noise due to inaccurate seismic processing and acquisition (Elsley and Tieman, 2011; Li and Mitra, 2020).

H1	3300-3500	Eocene-to-late Early Miocene (~16-33 Ma)	Positive reflection in the S and N, while it is discontinuously imaged in the centre due to data coverage.	H1 illustrating top of syn-rift unit that mark unconformity (Deep Regional Unconformity; Levell, 1987 or South China Sea Unconformity; Cullen, 2010, 2014; SEA52U of Morley et al., 2021) of Early Miocene or Middle Miocene age (Hutchison, 2005; Madon et al., 2013). This reflection marks the base of mobile-shales and is also the top of deep half grabens bounded by thick-skinned extensional faults.
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1289 Table 3

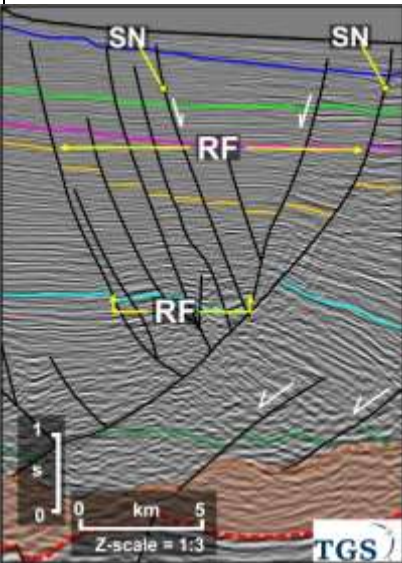
Name	Shale Roller (SR)	Shale Anticline (SA)	Mud Pipe (MP)	Mud Volcano (MV)
Example				
Seismic character	Broadly weak, sub-parallel-to-dipping chaotic reflector above mobile shale.	Chaotic, weak-to-moderate, amplitude reflections of mobile shale forming a structural high (label iv) with continuous supra shale reflections.	Cross-cutting chaotic reflections rise from the high (label i), being overlaid by significantly upturn, isolated low-amplitude, chaotic reflections (label ii). The chaotic reflections limited by a transitional zone of weak reflections (label iii).	Conical edifice with some internal reflectivity. Not clear feeders, although high angle normal faults and roller folds are commonly seen below the mud volcano.
Diagnostic description	An asymmetric, low amplitude triangular profile, comprising of a gentle and a relative steep-dipping flank that bound depocenter. On map view, it is reflected by an elongated thick mobile shale, parallel to the bounding normal fault (Figs 7c).	A low amplitude, large wavelength anticline. On map view, it is accompanied by an elongated domain of thick mobile shales.	H2-H3 are pierced by a mud-pipe body. On map view, it is seen as an elliptical domain that is defined by folding that affect H2-H4 (Figs 8a-b).	The reflections form a mounded structure between intra H5 and seabed (label v-vii). On map view, it is reflected by an asymmetric elliptical conical edifice usually seen between H5 and seabed in the north (Figs 8c-d).
Trend	NE-to-N			
Length (km)	≤ 80	≤ 12	≤ 11	≤ 3
Width (km)	≤ 5	≤ 4.3	≤ 2	≤ 1.5
Height (s)	≤ 1.2 (2.8 km)	≤ 0.6 (1.5 km)	≤ 3 (5 km)	≤ 1.9 (2.6 km)
Supra-shale faults association	Rollover and basinward-dipping or counter-regional normal fault with a listric and planar geometry.	N/A	N/A	Normal faults below the mud volcano

<p>Driving mechanism</p>	<p>Reactive piercement (e.g. Hudec and Soto, 2021).</p>	<p>Contraction and/or horizontal flow of mobile shale (cf. Santos Betancor and Soto, 2015; Back and Morley, 2016).</p>	<p>Piercement produced by fluid migration along fractures, generated above the fold crest (H3-H4) (e.g. Santos Betancor and Soto, 2015; Hudec and Soto, 2021).</p>	<p>Piercement produced by fluid and shale migration along fractures in the lower interval (H5-intra H7) (e.g. Hudec and Soto, 2021), being followed upward by H7-seabed (e.g. Hansen et al., 2005).</p>
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Key: (H7) Upper Pleistocene (H6) Lower Pleistocene (H5) Pliocene (H4) Upper most Miocene (H3) Upper Miocene (H2) Middle Miocene --- Top Mobile Shale (TMB) --- (H1) Early Miocene

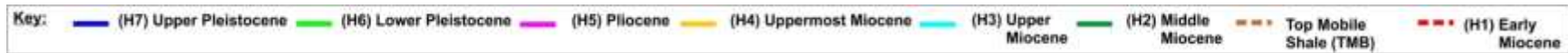
1290

1291 Table 4

Name	Example	Diagnostic description	Dip/Plunge direction	Length (km)	Dip (°)	Max. throw (s)	Fault	Stratigraphic Architecture	Processes
Shale-detached normal fault (labelled SN)		<p>Listric or planar normal growth faults:</p> <p>Listric faults are detached along a surface below nearly horizontal stratum. In map view, they have both concave and convex geometries.</p>	Basinward and landward (counter-regional)	≤ 53 (see Table 5 for more detailed)	30-86	≤ 2.8 (see Table 5 for more detailed)	Normal offset generally at H2-H6. The lower fault tips are within the mobile shales	SU1-SU6 thicken toward fault plane, forming a fault-bound depocenter.	<p>Reactive piercement (e.g. Morley and Guerin, 1996; Hudec and Soto, 2021).</p> <p>Progressive prograding sedimentary loading (sedimentary-driven mechanism; e.g. Ge et al., 1997; Jackson et al., 2015, Back and Morley, 2016)</p>
		<p>Planar normal faults form symmetric and asymmetric grabens, above roll-over folds. In map view, the faults are parallel to the master listric faults.</p>	Basinward and landward	≥ 1.9	60-85	≤ 0.1	Normal offset at H2-H6. The lower fault tips either die out downward into the supra shale sequence or form a physical-linkage with the listric fault	SU3-SU6 subtle thicken toward fault plane	Outer arc bending due to folding (e.g. Hongbin and Suppe, 1992; Imber et al., 2003; Erdi and Jackson, 2021).

Rollover fold (labelled RF)		Anticlines affecting an asymmetric wedge thickening toward the master fault. In map view, they are characterized by a broad-to-wide geometry (i.e. ratio of amplitude and half-wavelength=0.21-0.53) where axial fold surface is oriented parallel to the shale-detached normal fault. Locally, they have oblique linkage folds.	Basinward and landward	≤ 43	≤ 8 away and ≤ 13 toward master faults	N/A	N/A	SU2-5 thicken and bend toward the listric fault, and commonly thin outward.	Differential rate between sedimentation and fault slip (e.g. Dula, 1991; Hongbin and Suppe, 1992; Imber et al, 2003; Fazlikhani and Back, 2015a).
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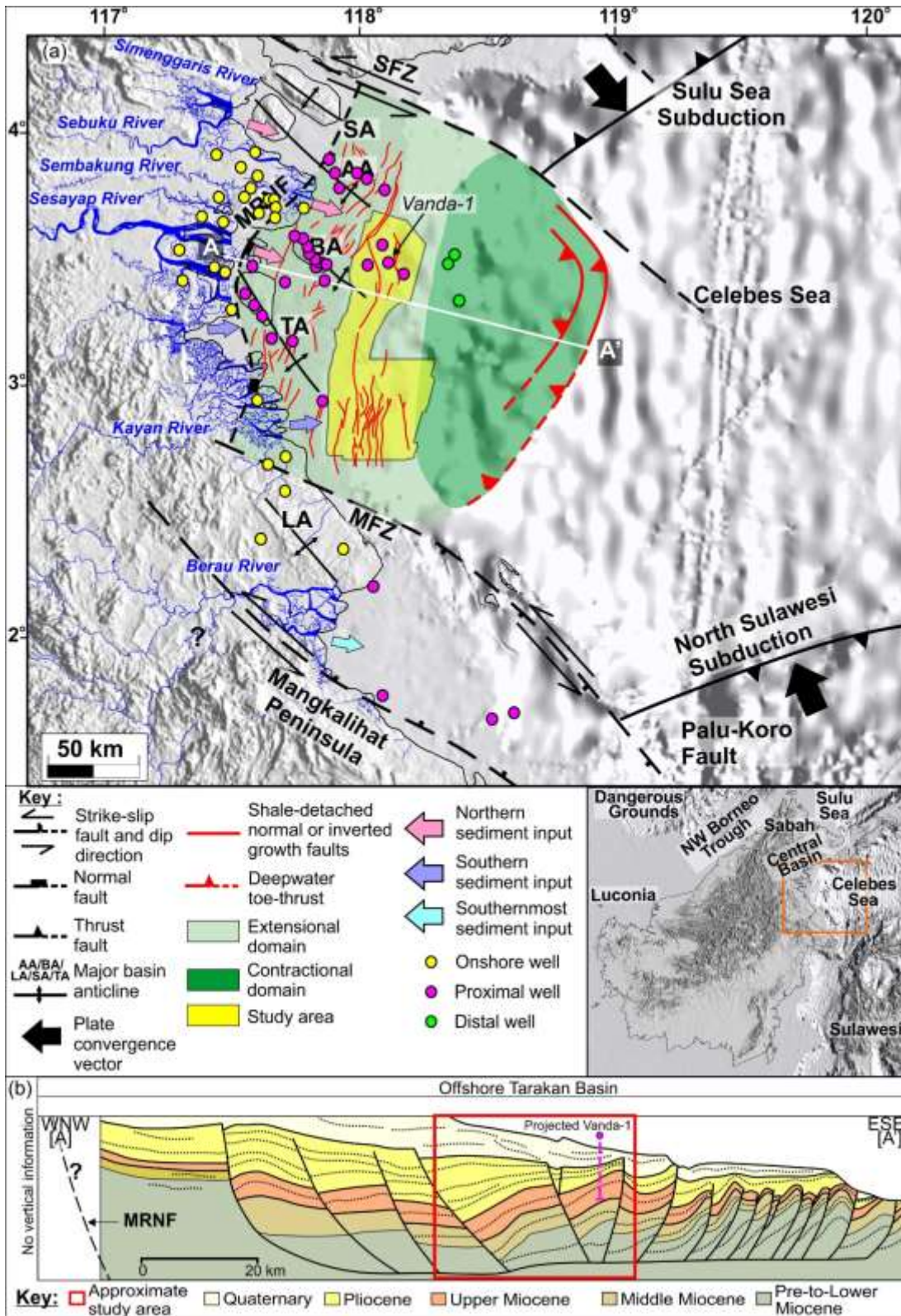


1293 Table 5
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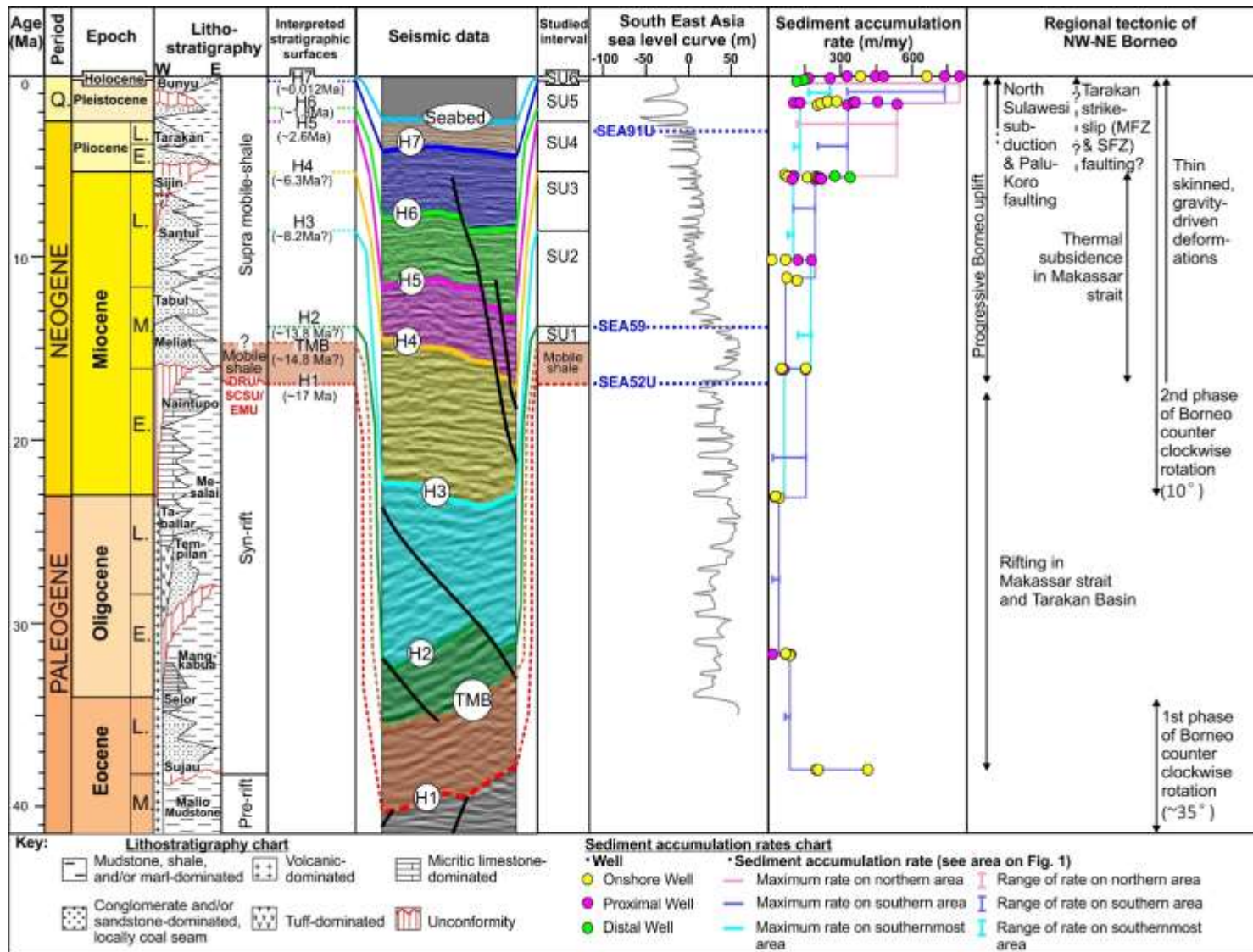
Fault Name	Locations in the study area	Maximum Length	Maximum throws (ms TWT)	Figures
F1	North	40.1 km at SU1	1553 ms TWT (2.86 km) at top of H2	3c, 8a, 9a, 9g
F2	North	20.38 km at SU2	1000 ms TWT (1.5 km) at top of H3	3a-b, 8, 9a-e, 9h-l
F3	North	44.35 km at SU4	1554 ms TWT (2.3 km) at top of H3	3a-b, 6d, 8, 9a-f, 9h-l
F4	North		892 ms TWT (1.3 km) at top of H3	3c, 5, 8a-b, 9a-e, 9h-l
F5	North	35.13 km at SU4	488 ms TWT (0.73 km) at top of H3	3b-c, 5, 8, 9a-f, 9h-l
F6	North		951 ms TWT (1.14 km) at top of H4	3a-b, 5, 8, 9a-f, 9i-l
F7	North	63.12 km at SU3	1559 ms TWT (2.3 km) at top of H3	3b-c, 5, 6a, 8, 9a-f, 9h-l
F8	North		1250 ms TWT (2.06 km) at top of H2	4a, 5, 6a, 8a-b, 9a-e, 9g-l
F9	North		1125 ms TWT (1.35 km) at top of H4	3a-b, 8, 9a-f, 9i-l
F10	South	53 km at SU2	875 ms TWT (1.44 km) at top of H2	4a, 8a-b, 9a-e, 9g-l
F11	South		776 ms TWT (1.28 km) at top of H2	4b-c, 5, 8a-b, 9a-e, 9g-l
F12	South		255 ms TWT (0.4 km) at top of H2	4d, 8a-b, 9a-e, 9g-l
F13	South	24.25 km at SU3	780 ms TWT (1.28 km) at top of H2	4b-c, 8-9
F14	South	9.5 km at SU1	375 ms TWT (0.6 km) at top of H2	4d, 8, 9a-e, 9g-l
F15	South	10.78 km at SU1	316 ms TWT (0.52 km) at top of H2	4b-c, 6b, 8a, 9a-b, 9g-h
F16	South	9.1 km at SU1	194 ms TWT (0.32 km) at top of H2	4c, 8a, 9a-b, 9g-h
C1	South	8.73 km at SU2	226 ms TWT (0.37 km) at top of H2	4d, 8a-b, 9a-c, 9g-i
C2	South	29.81 km at SU2	247 ms TWT (0.4 km) at top of H2	4d, 8a-b, 9a-c, 9g-i
C3	South		430 ms TWT (0.7 km) at top of H2	4b-d, 8-9
C4	South	19.77 km at SU5	360 ms TWT (0.4 km) at top of H4	4d, 8b, 9c-e, 9i-l
C5	South	28 km at SU2	230 ms TWT (0.34 km) at top of H3	4a-c, 8, 9a-f, 9h-l
C6	South		365 ms TWT (0.6 km) at top of H2	4d, 8a, 9a-b, 9g-i
C7	South	16.3 km at SU2	427 ms TWT (0.7 km) at top of H2	4d, 8a, 9a-b, 9g-h
C8	South	23.76 km at SU3	648 ms TWT (0.7 km) at top of H4	4d, 8a-b, 9a-e, 9i-l
C9	South		344 ms TWT (0.4 km) at top of H4	4c-d, 8, 9c-f, 9i-l

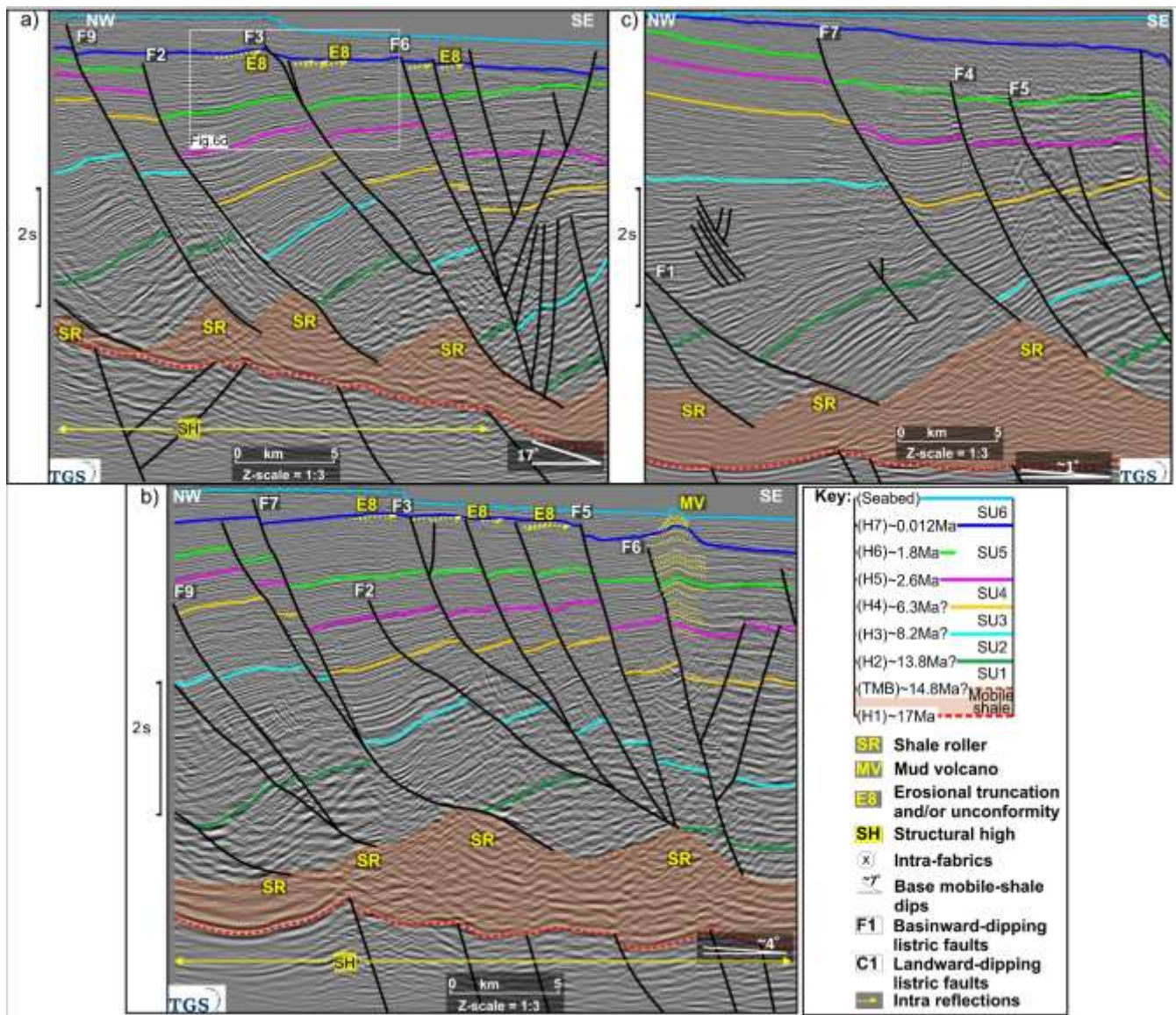
1295

1296 Figures
 1297 Figure 1

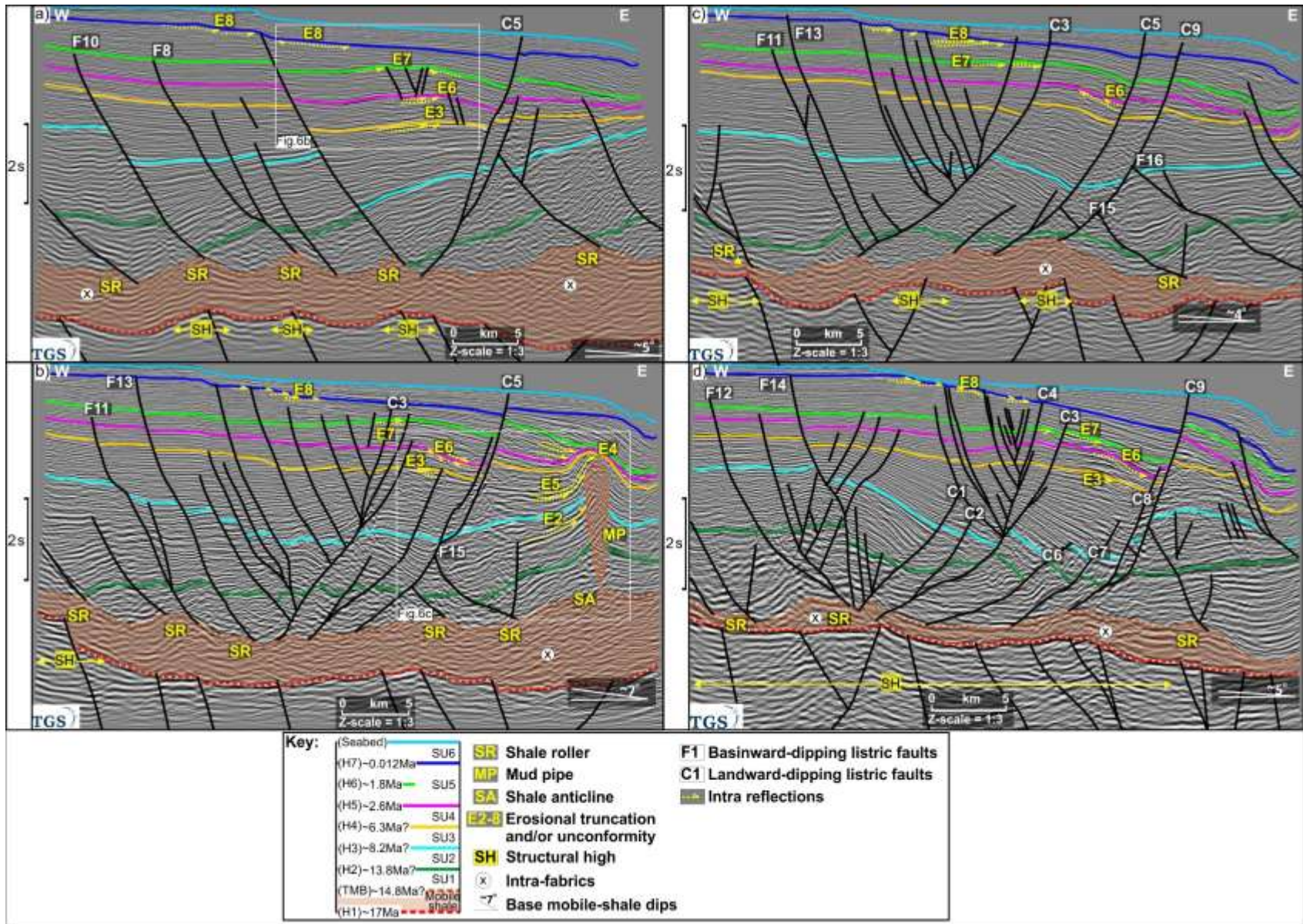


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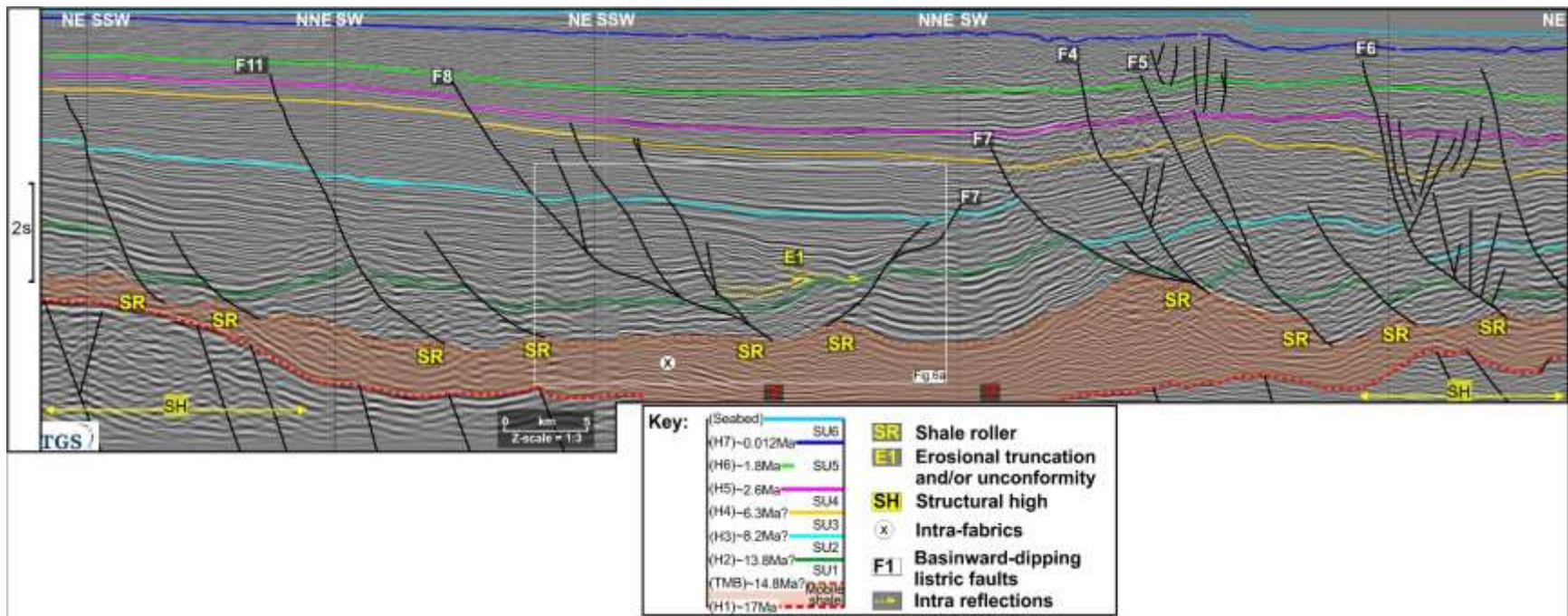


1304 Figure 4



1305

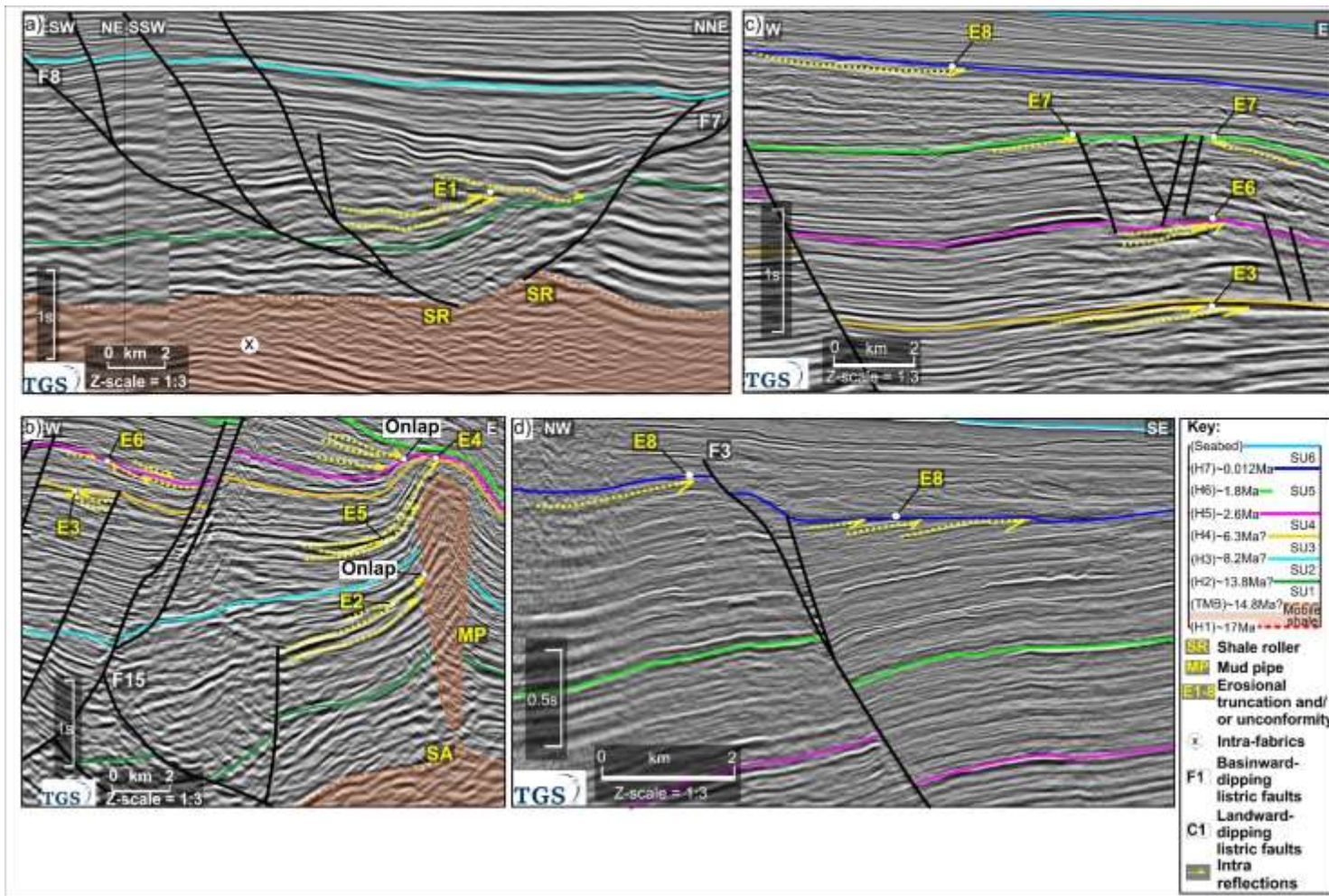
1306 Figure 5



1307

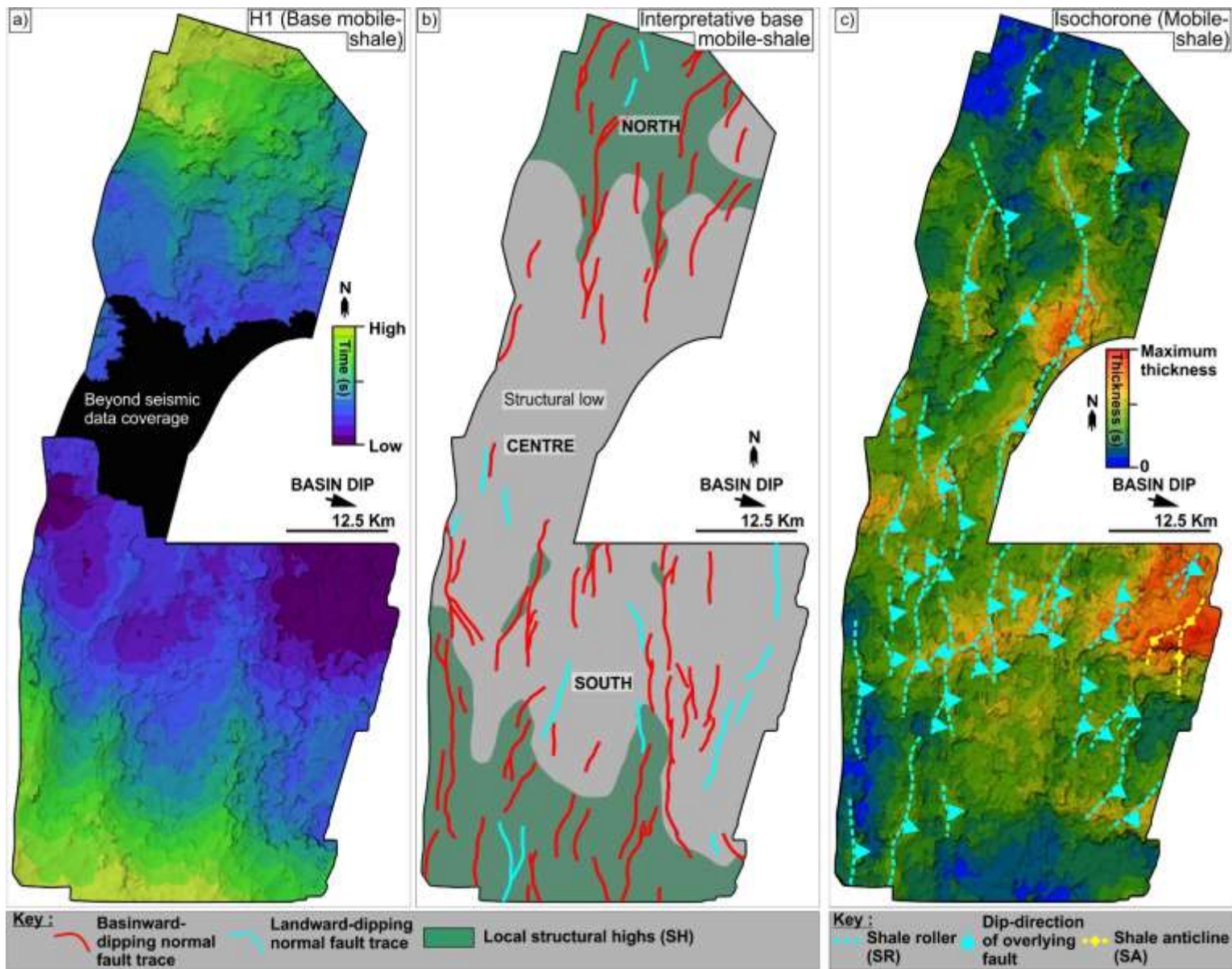
1308 Figure 6

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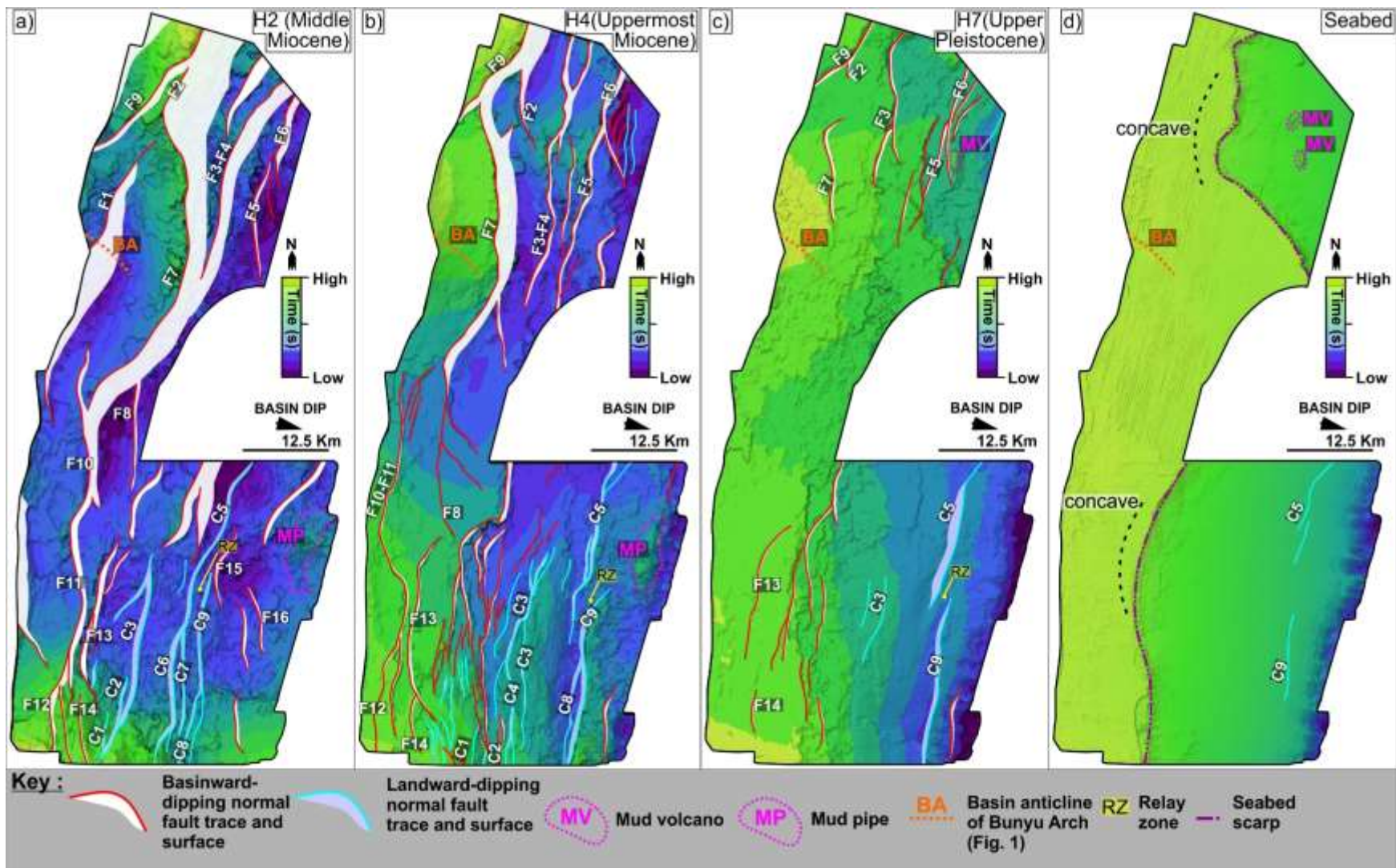
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1311 Figure 7



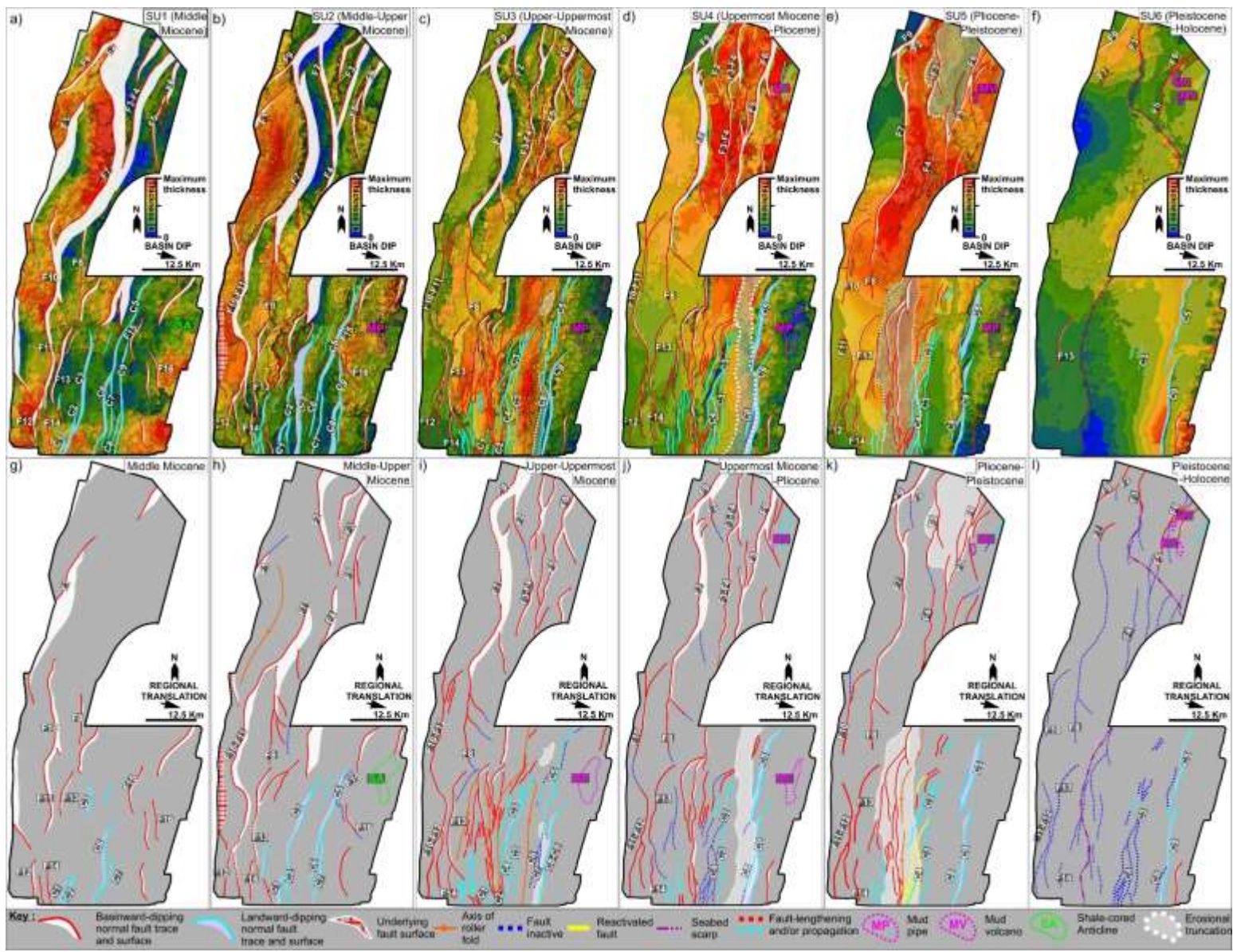
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1313 Figure 8



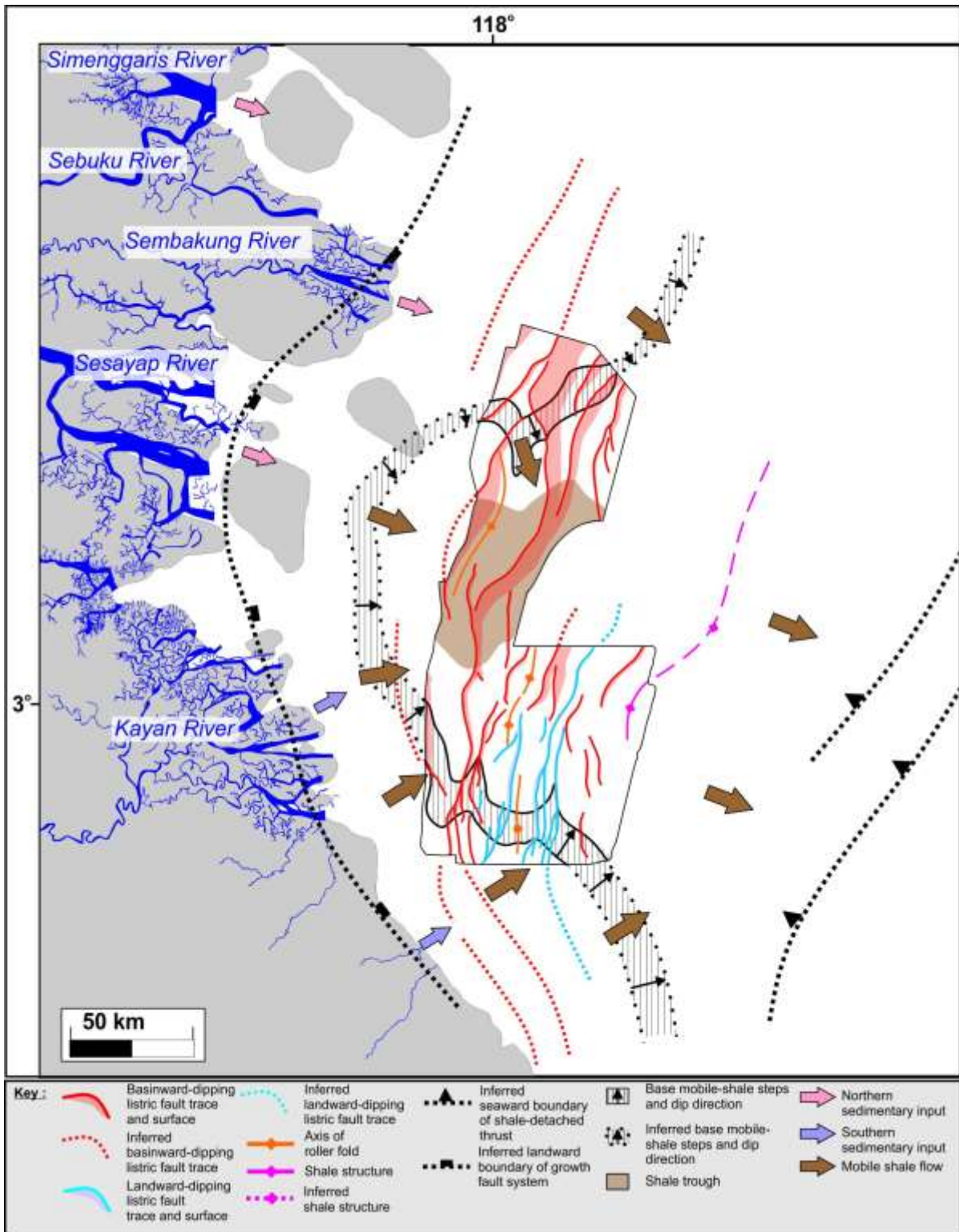
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1315 Figure 9



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1320 Figure 11



1321