

1 **Running Head:** Stratigraphic Evolution Of Onlap

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3 **Title:** The Stratigraphic Evolution of Onlap in Siliciclastic Deep-Water Systems:
4 **Autogenic Modulation of Allogenic Signals**

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ABSTRACT

21 Seafloor topography affects the sediment gravity flows that interact with it. Understanding this interaction
22 is critical for accurate predictions of sediment distribution, paleogeography, and structural reconstructions
23 of deep-water basins. The effects of seafloor topography can be seen from the bed scale, through facies
24 transitions toward intra-basinal slopes, to the basin scale, where onlap patterns reveal the spatial evolution
25 of deep-water systems. Basin-margin onlap patterns are typically attributed to allogenic factors, such as
26 sediment supply signals or subsidence rates, with few studies emphasizing the importance of predictable
27 spatio-temporal autogenic flow evolution. This study aims to assess the autogenic controls on onlap by
28 documenting onlap styles in the confined Eocene-to-Oligocene deep-marine Annot Basin of SE France.
29 Measured sections, coupled with architectural observations, mapping, and paleogeographical
30 interpretations, are used to categorize onlap styles and place them within a generic stratigraphic model.
31 These observations are compared with a simple numerical model. The integrated stratigraphic model
32 predicts that during progradation of a deep-water system into a confined basin successive onlap
33 terminations will be partially controlled by the effect of increasing flow concentration. Initially thin-
34 bedded low-density turbidites of the distal lobe fringe are deposited and drape basinal topography. As the
35 system progrades these beds become overlain by hybrid beds and other deposits of higher-concentration
36 flows developed in the proximal lobe fringe. This transition is therefore marked by intra-formational
37 onlap against the underlying and lower-concentration lobe fringe that drapes the topography. Continued
38 progradation results in deposition of lower-concentration deposits in the lobe off-axis, resulting in either
39 further intra-formational onlap against the lobe fringe or onlap directly against the hemipelagic basin
40 margin. Basinal relief is gradually reduced as axial and higher-volume flows become more prevalent
41 during progradation, causing the basin to become a bypass zone for sediment routed down-dip. This
42 study presents an autogenic mechanism for generating complex onlap trends without the need to invoke
43 allogenic processes. This has implications for sequence-stratigraphic interpretations, basin subsidence
44 history, and forward modeling of confined deep-water basins.

INTRODUCTION

Deep-water lobes are amongst the largest sedimentary bodies on Earth and comprise terrigenous sediment shed from the adjacent continental shelf and slope (e.g., Piper et al., 1999; Talling et al., 2007; Prélat et al., 2010; Clare et al., 2014). They offer a record of Earth's climate and sediment transport history, form valuable hydrocarbon reservoirs, aquifers, and are sites of mineral accumulation (e.g., Weimer and Link, 1991; Hodgson, 2009; Sømme et al., 2011; Bell et al., 2018a). Sediment-gravity-flow evolution across unconfined deep-water settings results in a fairly uniform radial spreading and deceleration of flows, and development of elongate to lobate sedimentary bodies with predictable facies transitions (e.g., Baas, 2004; Hodgson et al., 2009; Sychala et al., 2017).

Sediment gravity flows encountering seafloor topography in confined-basin settings form a range of onlap geometries that are often associated with complicated sedimentary facies (Fig. 1) (e.g., Kneller, 1991; Haughton, 1994; Wynn et al. 2000; McCaffrey and Kneller, 2001; Smith, 2004a; Smith 2004b; Amy et al., 2004; Gervais et al. 2004; Lomas and Joseph, 2004; Smith and Joseph, 2004; Puigdefàbregas et al., 2004; Gardiner, 2006; Mayall et al. 2010; Tinterri et al. 2016; Hansen et al. 2019). The effect of seafloor topography on sediment gravity flows, their deposits, and onlap styles has been studied through outcrop data (e.g., Kneller et al. 1991; Sinclair, 1994; Bakke et al., 2013), subsurface data (e.g., Prather et al., 1998; 2012; Covault and Romans, 2009; Bakke et al., 2013), and numerical models (e.g., Smith, 2004b; Kubo, 2004; Gardiner, 2006; Sylvester et al., 2015) and physical models (e.g., Kneller, 1995; Kneller and McCaffrey; 1995; Amy et al., 2004; Brunt et al., 2004; Kubo, 2004). Seafloor topography is generated by a variety of geological processes, such as: pre-depositional tectonic deformation (e.g., Jackson et al. 2008; Kilhams et al. 2012), syn-depositional tectonic deformation (e.g., Wilson et al., 1992; Haughton, 2000; Grecula et al., 2003; Hodgson and Haughton, 2004; Tomasso and Sinclair, 2004; Kane et al. 2010; Salles et al., 2014), mass transport deposit relief (e.g. Armitage et al., 2009; Ortiz-Karpf et al., 2015; 2016; Kneller et al., 2016; Soutter et al., 2018) and salt diapirism (e.g., Hodgson et al., 1992; Kane et al. 2012; Prather et al. 2012; Oluboyo et al. 2014; Doughty-Jones et al., 2017). Improved prediction of the distribution of sediment gravity flow deposits around seafloor topography is therefore critical for both paleogeographic reconstructions (e.g., Pinter et al., 2017) and stratigraphic hydrocarbon or CO₂ trap risking (e.g., McCaffrey and Kneller, 2001).

73 The onlap geometry (3D shape of an event bed or sequence of related event beds at pinch-out)
74 and facies (internal sedimentary characteristics of an event bed at pinch-out) (Fig. 1A), herein termed
75 onlap termination, are controlled by: 1) flow magnitude, duration, velocity, thickness, concentration, and
76 sediment composition; 2) the gradient and incidence angle of the counter-slope; and 3) seafloor
77 composition and induration. Typically, high-concentration flows and steep counter-slopes cause abrupt
78 terminations, whereas low-concentration flows and shallow counter-slopes cause draped terminations
79 (Fig. 1) (Smith and Joseph, 2004; Bakke et al. 2013). Flows with a high mud content may also be more
80 prone to varying degrees of rheological transformation approaching counter-slopes, resulting in
81 complicated facies distributions at confining basin margins (Fig. 1) (Barker et al., 2008; Patacci et al.,
82 2014; Southern et al., 2015).

83 Recent field-based studies on the spatial and temporal evolution of unconfined submarine lobes
84 have used the longitudinal evolution of flows and their associated facies to establish criteria for
85 differentiating lobe sub-environments at the bed scale (e.g., Prélat et al. 2009; Grundvag et al. 2014;
86 Spychala et al. 2017). The applicability of these facies associations to confined lobes and the complex
87 system-scale stacking patterns that they may produce is only recently being investigated (e.g., Marini et al.
88 2015; Spychala et al. 2015, 2017; Bell et al. 2018b; Fonnesu et al. 2018; Liu et al. 2018). Previous flow-
89 dependant onlap models mainly focussed on end-member geometries (e.g., McCaffrey and Kneller, 2001;
90 Smith, 2004b; Smith and Joseph, 2004). As yet there is no generic model to account for how the wide
91 variety of deposits resulting from the longitudinal evolution of sediment gravity flows will manifest
92 themselves at onlap surfaces through the fill of a confined basin.

93 This study uses the well-constrained Cenozoic Annot Basin of SE France to integrate bed-scale and
94 basin-scale onlap observations into a generically applicable depositional model. The aims of this study are
95 to: i) reappraise the Annot Basin stratigraphy with respect to specific deep-water sub-environments, with
96 particular emphasis on the poorly studied eastern exposures of the basin, ii) document lateral facies
97 changes within beds approaching the basin margin and relate these facies changes to longitudinal flow
98 evolution, iii) assess how the longitudinal evolution of confined flows impacts onlap geometry and

99 stacking patterns, and iv) integrate these observations into a generic model for the evolution of onlap in
100 deep-water basins.

101 THE ANNOT BASIN

102 *Basin Structure*

103 The 160-km-long and 80-km-wide (Clark and Stanbrook, 2001) Cenozoic foreland basin of the
104 western Alps formed due to SW-directed collision of the Adria and European plates, and subsequent
105 loading of the European plate by the Alpine orogenic wedge (Figs. 2, 3) (e.g., Ford et al., 1999). This
106 orogenic deformation is represented in the foreland-basin stratigraphy by a progressive younging to the
107 southwest (e.g. Ford et al., 1999; Du Fornel et al. 2004). Sediment deposition in the basin was affected by
108 complicated basinal topography (e.g., Joseph and Lomas, 2004), which formed due to Late Cretaceous
109 northward-directed Pyrenean compression that was subsequently overprinted by Cenozoic SW-directed
110 Alpine compression (Fig. 3) (e.g., Apps et al., 2004). This resulted in NW-SE-oriented synclinal sub-
111 basins with E-W anticlinal sills. The synclines are interpreted as the surface expression of underlying
112 Alpine thrust-fault-propagation folds (Fig. 3) (e.g., Elliott et al. 1985; Apps, 1987; Ravenne et al. 1987).

113 The Annot sub-basin, herein termed the Annot Basin, is one of the exhumed synclinal Cenozoic
114 depocenters in the Alpine foreland basin, representing the proximal end of the deep-marine Annot-
115 Grand Coyer-Chalufy chain of sub-basins (Figs. 2, 3) (see Joseph and Lomas, 2004, for review). The
116 Annot Basin is bounded to the south by the SW-NE Rouaine Fault Zone, which acted as an entry point
117 for sediment gravity flows into the basin (e.g., Salles et al. 2014) (Figs. 2, 3). The SW-NE Braux normal
118 fault is related to this fault zone and created local bathymetric relief during the Late Eocene (e.g.,
119 Tomasso and Sinclair, 2004) (Figs 3, 4). The western and eastern margins of the basin are defined by
120 fault-propagation anticlines created by Mesozoic blind thrusts (Figs. 3, 4) (e.g., Apps, 1987). The eastern
121 margin is formed by the Melina anticline, or “kink zone” (Apps, 1987), and the western margin by the
122 Puy du Rent anticline (Fig. 3; 4B). These anticlines were developing during deposition of the Annot
123 turbidites, causing syn-depositional rotation of the basin depocenter towards the west (Fig. 3) (e.g., Salles
124 et al., 2014).

125 E-W-oriented Pyreneo-Provençale structures also affect the Annot Basin structure, with the
126 northern extent of the basin formed by the Aurent anticline (Fig. 3). This structure forms a gently
127 southward-dipping terminal slope (e.g., McCaffrey and Kneller, 2004). More minor basin-floor relief may
128 have been formed by the E-W Fugeret anticline, which lies between the Rouiane fault zone and the
129 Aurent anticline (Fig. 3) (Salles et al., 2014). These E-W-oriented structures show little evidence of major
130 syn-depositional movement due to compressional deformation being dominantly driven by the SW-
131 directed Alpine orogeny during the Eocene and Oligocene.

132 *Stratigraphic Evolution*

133 The Annot Basin has the same transgressive Cenozoic foreland-basin stratigraphy as is seen
134 across the western Alps (Figs. 2, 3) (e.g., Sinclair, 1997), with Oligocene shallow-marine limestones of the
135 Calcaires Nummulitique overlain by deep-marine marls of the Marnes Bleues. The Marnes Bleues records
136 the deepening of the basin, with foraminifera suggesting water depths of ~ 100 m at the base of the
137 succession, to ~ 800 m by the end of deposition (Mougin, 1978). Supply of siliciclastic sediment began
138 abruptly in the Late Eocene (35.2 Ma) as the Corsica-Sardinia massifs were uplifted via subduction-related
139 back-thrusting towards to the south (Fig. 2) (e.g., Stanley and Mutti, 1968; Apps, 1987). This resulted in a
140 depositional shift from the marls of the underlying Marnes Bleues, into south-to-north dispersing clastic
141 sediment gravity flows of the Grès d'Annot. An upwards coarsening trend in the Grès d'Annot suggests
142 progradation of the clastic system, most-likely related to fan-delta advance (Fig. 3) (e.g., Puigdefàbregas et
143 al., 2004).

144 During early clastic deposition the Annot Basin was located on the western side of a distal
145 submarine fan extending over the foreland basin, with flows entering the basin from syncline-bounded
146 fan deltas to the south (Fig. 2) (e.g., Stanley, 1980; Sinclair, 2000; Joseph and Lomas, 2004) and being
147 dispersed northwards through relay ramps in the Rouaine Fault Zone (Fig. 3) (Joseph and Lomas, 2004;
148 Salles et al., 2014). This early deposition is represented in the Annot Basin by low-density turbidites, often
149 referred to as the Marnes Brunes Inferièures (e.g., Stanbrook and Clark, 2004), which form the distal
150 equivalent of the Grès d'Annot. The lowermost Grès d'Annot member, termed Le Ray (Puigdefàbregas,
151 2004) or the A Member (Du Fornel et al., 2004), onlaps both the underlying Marnes Brunes and Marnes

152 Bleues slope (Fig. 3). Early flows were confined by the Braux Fault to the west, a combination of the
153 Braux Fault and the Fugeret anticline to the north, and the Melina anticline to the northeast (Salles et al.,
154 2014). The sediment entry point shifted throughout deposition of the Grès d'Annot, with a more easterly
155 Late Eocene entry point suggested for these early flows, as evidenced by an up-stratigraphy rotation of
156 paleocurrents from NE- to NW-directed (McCaffrey and Kneller, 2004; Salles et al., 2014). Alternatively,
157 this may be an apparent repositioning of the sediment entry point as the basin depocenter itself migrated
158 gradually westward due to Alpine compression (Salles et al., 2011; 2014). This deformation is believed to
159 have been continuous throughout the fill of the basin; however, the apparent rate of deformation is
160 suppressed in the Grès d'Annot due to the higher depositional rates associated with gravity-flow
161 deposition (Apps et al. 2004). The remaining Grès d'Annot members were confined by the major Melina
162 (east), Puy du Rent (west) and Aurent anticlines (north) as the topography of the Braux Fault and Fugeret
163 Anticline was healed relatively early in the Oligocene (Fig. 3) (Salles et al., 2014).

164 The basin gradually filled throughout the early Oligocene, with contemporaneous deposition
165 occurring in the parallel Grand Coyer sub-basin to the northeast (Salles et al., 2014). Once the basin was
166 largely filled, the Aurent Anticline ceased to terminally confine flows, and flows bypassed the Annot
167 Basin into the Grand Coyer and Chalufy sub-basins (Fig. 2) (e.g., Apps, 2004; Salles et al., 2014). Few
168 channel fills are seen within the Grès d'Annot succession, and the depositional architecture is interpreted
169 as being predominantly sheet-like (Apps, 1987).

170 DATA AND METHODS

171 The dataset comprises 50 (581 m cumulatively) sedimentary logs collected along sections predominantly
172 oriented oblique to depositional-dip along the eastern margin of the Annot Basin (Figs. 3, 4A, 5). Logs
173 were collected at 1:10 scale, and individual beds were walked out at outcrop (Figs. 6, 7). Higher resolution
174 1:2 scale logs were collected from some beds approaching onlap. Logs within thin-bedded facies were
175 collected at a 1:5 scale to allow accurate representation of their thicknesses and structures. Samples of
176 individual facies and individual beds were collected in order to quantitatively constrain lateral grain-size
177 and matrix changes. 104 3D paleocurrent measurements were collected (Fig. 5), with 2D paleocurrent
178 measurements qualitatively noted.

Margin Correlation

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Sedimentological contacts between the discrete members of the Grès d'Annot from the geological maps of Puigdefàbregas et al. (2004), Du Fornel et al. (2004), and Salles et al. (2014) were ground-truthed and compared to observations made by this study (Fig. 3). The observations of stratigraphic contacts made during this study most closely agree with those made by Puigdefàbregas et al. (2004); therefore their geological map was used for placement of sedimentary logs within members and for the intra-member correlation of sedimentary logs (Figs. 5, 6). This allows facies transitions across the basin to be assessed both spatially and temporally. Where member boundaries are unclear due to the resolution of the geological map the top of individual members is defined by either abrupt facies changes, commonly an abrupt coarsening and thickening of event beds, or lateral relationships and correlations (Fig. 5). An attempt has been made to reconcile the nomenclature used by Puigdefàbregas et al. (2004) and Salles et al. (2014) to enable comparisons to be made between the two (Fig. 3).

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Detailed correlations of the Le Ray member are based on the identification of key surfaces, such as onlap surfaces, and walking out of individual beds (Fig. 6). Where beds could not be walked out, units were correlated based on the methodology of Prélat et al. (2009) for the identification of the hierarchical elements that builds lobes, e.g., beds, lobe elements, and lobes.

FACIES ASSOCIATIONS

Facies associations (FA) have been interpreted based on the dominant lithofacies (LF) and depositional features of a given succession (Table 1). The dominant lithofacies has been described and interpreted within each facies association in order to justify their placement in that sub-environment. The lobe sub-environments of Spychala et al. (2017) are used because they best fit the observations made in this study (Figs. 8, 9). The onlap geometry of each lithofacies, and therefore the inferred onlap geometry of the facies association in which that lithofacies dominantly occurs, is summarized in Table 1. Facies associations are presented in the following section from proximal to distal positions on the lobe, in descending stratigraphic order and, broadly, in descending order of thickness.

FA 1 Lobe-axis

Observations.--- Facies association 1 is composed dominantly of one lithofacies: thick-bedded (0.5 - 2 m) sandstones (LF 1A) (Figs. 10A, B, E), with thin-bedded (0.01 m - 0.5 m) sandstones (LF 1B) and medium-bedded sandstones (0.1 - 0.8 m) (LF 3) commonly associated. LF 1B is composed of medium- to cobble-grade (most typically coarse-grained), poorly sorted, massive sandstones (Fig. 10B) and is less prevalent than LF 1A. Individual beds have erosional bases, often with groove, flute, and tool marks, and irregular tops. Beds are often lenticular, thickening and thinning from < 10 cm before pinching out over tens of meters. The beds often occur within successions of medium-bedded sandstones (LF 2) below packages of LF 1.

The thick-bedded LF 1A sandstones are medium-grained to granular sandstones with bed bases that are flat (at exposure scale) or erosional (Figs. 7, 11B). Flat bases are most prominent when overlying mudstones, while erosional bases are most commonly expressed as amalgamation surfaces (Fig. 9B, C, D). Both bedding-parallel and erosional bases are associated with decimeters of deformation in the underlying beds. This deformation obscures the primary depositional characteristics of the underlying beds, making interpretation of the deformed beds difficult. Bed bases with steeper dips than the bed top are observed at pinch-out of these beds (Fig. 11B), with bed bases steepening towards the pinch-out. Amalgamation surfaces are identified by mudstone-clast-rich rugose horizons, abrupt grain-size breaks, and truncated trace-fossil burrows. Bed tops are flat and exhibit little depositional relief. Beds are typically

222 structureless, with rarely preserved faint parallel lamination and tractional structures, and ungraded,
223 though some beds show weak normal grading (Figs. 7, 9B, C, D).

224 **Interpretations.**--- The presence of erosional bed bases with tool marks and grooves indicates
225 that LF 1A beds were deposited by high-concentration flows that initially carried large clasts and other
226 detritus at the base of the flow. Superimposed flute marks, normal grading, and tractional structures are
227 indicative of evolution to a less concentrated, more turbulent flow. The rarity of tractional structures and
228 commonly massive and poorly sorted beds, however, indicates that these beds were deposited rapidly
229 (*sensu* Lowe, 1982). This is most likely due to a reduction in flow capacity (*sensu* Hiscott, 1994), preventing
230 the formation of grading and the preservation of bedforms. These turbidites are therefore interpreted as
231 high-density turbidites (*sensu* Lowe, 1982). The presence of deformation structures beneath these flows
232 has been attributed to high shear stresses acting on the seabed (e.g. Clark and Stanbrook, 2001;
233 Puigdefàbregas et al. 2004). These laterally extensive (up to 1 km where outcrop allows) high-density
234 turbidites, which are commonly amalgamated, are interpreted to be analogous to lobe axis deposits
235 observed elsewhere (e.g., Prélat et al. 2009).

236 The coarse grain size and thin-bedded nature of LF 1B suggests that these beds were deposited
237 as a coarse-grained lag in a bypass-dominated part of the system. The lenticular geometry suggests that
238 either i) flow energy, and therefore bypass potential, was not homogeneous laterally within the flow or ii)
239 erosion by later flows or waxing of the flow (Kane et al., 2009), scoured the bed top (Fig. 10B). Because
240 this lithofacies is confined stratigraphically to sequences underlying thick-bedded and amalgamated
241 sandstones of similar grain sizes, they are inferred to be laterally related. These lags are interpreted to
242 represent a mostly bypassing equivalent of the thick-bedded sandstones in the lobe axis.

243 *FA 2: Lobe off-axis*

244 **Observations.**--- Facies association 2 is composed primarily of normally graded medium-bedded
245 (0.1 - 0.8 m) fine- to medium-grained sandstones (LF 2) with flat to slightly erosional bed bases and flat
246 bed tops (Figs 7, 10A, 12). Flutes and grooves are often seen at bed bases. Ripples at bed tops commonly
247 show opposing paleoflow directions to those measured from flutes and grooves on individual event beds
248 (Fig. 5). Beds pinch out abruptly towards the basin margin, and often can be traced away from the onlap

249 surface to a parent thick-bedded sandstone (Fig. 7). In the uppermost stratigraphy of the basin, LF 2
250 commonly has highly irregular bed tops with abundant tractional structures, such as climbing ripples and
251 convolute lamination (Figs. 10E, 12). These beds are termed LF 2B.

252 **Interpretations.**--- The presence of flutes, normal grading, and tractional structures indicate
253 that the LF 2 beds were deposited by waning, turbulent flows which were able to rework the aggrading
254 deposit (Bouma, 1962). This suggests that these flows were more dilute than the parent flows of the
255 thick-bedded sandstones (LF 1). These medium-bedded sandstones are therefore interpreted as medium-
256 density turbidites and are differentiated from low-density turbidites by bed thicknesses being greater than
257 10 cm and a coarser grain size. These medium-density turbidites also have a thicker massive interval at
258 their base compared to low-density turbidites. Opposing paleocurrent directions within event beds is
259 characteristic of flows encountering topography (e.g., Kneller et al., 1991), indicating that many of these
260 beds were deposited close to a basin margin. Coarser, denser parts of the flow may be more strongly
261 influenced by topography than the upper more dilute part of the same flow (Bakke et al., 2013).

262 The finer, better sorted and thinner-bedded nature of this lithofacies compared to thick-bedded
263 sandstones indicates that these beds were deposited beyond the axis of the lobe (off-axis) (Prélat et al.
264 2009; Bell et al., 2018a) (Fig. 8). LF 2B is interpreted as representing flows that were deposited close to
265 the basin margin or possibly within slump scars on the basin margin. Bypassing flows deflected by the
266 margin or trapped in scars caused complicated oscillatory-flow patterns to develop which deformed the
267 aggrading deposits (Pickering and Hiscott, 1985; Tinterri et al. 2016; Cunha et al. 2017). An example of
268 this can be seen at Tête de Ruch, where this facies dominates a ~ 10 m thick scar fill (Puigdefàbregas et
269 al. 2004) and is overlain by thin beds showing simple uniformly directed ripples and plane-parallel
270 lamination (Figs. 5, 11C). These thin beds were deposited over the scar fill where flows were relatively
271 unconfined, allowing more uniform and waning flow deposition to dominate.

272 *FA 3: Proximal fringe*

273 **Observations.**--- Facies association 3 is dominated by medium- to thick- bedded (0.1 m - 1.2 m)
274 bipartite or tripartite event beds (LF 3) (Figs. 9, 11C, D, G). These beds are composed of a lower division
275 of medium- to thick-bedded sandstone (LF 1 and LF 2) with an irregular top which is loaded and/or

276 eroded into by an overlying argillaceous sandstone (Fig. 10D). The middle division is an argillaceous
277 sandstone, poorly sorted and often deformed, which appears as a sheared fabric (Fig. 10D). The
278 argillaceous sandstone can either contain clasts of the underlying sandstone or be clast-poor. Organic
279 matter (< 70 cm in length) may be present in this bed, with organic-rich sandstones typically thicker than
280 the more argillaceous sandstones. Elongate organic matter is usually aligned with its long axis
281 approximately parallel to paleoflow recorded on the bed base (Fig. 10C).

282 Argillaceous sandstones, which are rich in cleaner sandstone clasts, commonly occur where the
283 lower, cleaner sandstone is coarser-grained; thus most sandstone clasts seen tend to be coarse-grained than
284 the argillaceous matrix. This deposit can show variable sand-to-mud ratios. Higher sand contents within
285 this middle division are associated with increased prevalence of lamination, with centimeter-scale layering
286 (mud-concentrated laminae) sometimes evident, and higher mud contents associated with more sheared
287 and poorly sorted deposits. Both of these divisions may contain coarse-sand to granule-size quartz grains
288 supported within the matrix.

289 Overlying this argillaceous sandstone, medium-bedded, often muddy sandstone may occur,
290 although it is sometimes difficult to assess whether this sandstone is part of the underlying event bed or
291 represents a separate event bed (Fig. 10D). This sandstone has an irregular base and can show loading
292 and foundering into the underlying argillaceous sandstone (Fig. 10D). The bed top is typically flat or
293 mounded. Approaching basin margins these beds can be seen to transition laterally from thick-bedded
294 sandstones (Fig. 13A, B).

295 The middle division of the bed may pinch out between the underlying and overlying sandstones,
296 which then amalgamate at the onlap surface (Fig. 13C), forming a complicated and often muddy pinch-
297 out (Fig. 14). Stratigraphically this lithofacies dominantly occurs following the thin-bed-dominated
298 sequence and underlying the medium- to thick-bedded sandstones (Fig. 9).

299 **Interpretations.**--- The basal and upper sandstones within these bipartite or tripartite event beds
300 are interpreted as either high-density or medium-density turbidites. The massive, poorly sorted, and mud-
301 rich nature of the division encased by these turbidites is interpreted as being caused by en-masse
302 deposition of a laminar and cohesive flow (e.g., Middleton and Hampton, 1973; Mulder and Alexander,

2001). This bed division is therefore interpreted as a debrite. The irregular contact seen between these divisions has been attributed to complex short-wavelength soft-sediment deformation and erosion (e.g., Fonnesu et al. 2015). Where the overlying turbidite is relatively thick it is difficult to differentiate between a debritic or deformed (see LF 1 basal deformation) origin for the middle division, particularly when the overlying turbidite has foundered into the underlying division (e.g., Fonnesu et al. 2015). Where the middle sandstone division is slightly cleaner, with lamination and/or layering, the sandstone is interpreted as having been deposited by flows transitional between laminar and turbulent and therefore termed a transitional-flow deposit (Baas et al., 2011; Kane and Pontén, 2012). These tripartite event beds therefore contain deposits of both turbulent and laminar flow regimes and are subsequently interpreted as hybrid beds (*sensu* Haughton et al., 2003; 2009).

It is suggested that the more organic-rich linked debrites, with decimeter clasts of terrestrial debris, are derived from flows which originated from events in the hinterland that carried significant amounts of terrestrial debris into the marine environment (see also Hodgson, 2009). These beds are therefore deposits from particularly high-magnitude flows; this may explain their greater average thickness compared with the more argillaceous hybrid-beds. It is also possible that the organic material was staged for significant periods of time on the shelf, making terrestrial debris a poor indicator of flow magnitude. The close association of terrestrial debris and coarse grain sizes in these relatively distal environments, however, indicates that these beds were the result of high-magnitude or “outsize” flows that were capable of significant substrate erosion (Fonnesu et al. 2018). Incorporation and disaggregation of this eroded substrate will have primed these flows for rheological transformation (Kane et al. 2017; Fonnesu et al. 2018). LF 1 can be seen to transform into these hybrid beds over tens of meters approaching the slope, further indicating that these beds were highly erosive and prone to rheological transformation, even in proximal positions, due to forced deceleration against the basin margin (e.g., Patacci et al. 2014). The presence of large amounts of erodible and muddy draping substrate on the basin margin will aid in short-length-scale flow transformation in these high-magnitude flows (Fig. 14) (e.g., Fonnesu et al. 2018).

It is possible that the debritic division of these beds represents high-concentration turbidity currents hitting the counter-slope, causing intra-basinal slope instability and failure. The turbidity current

330 will then have aggraded around this failure, represented depositionally by a sandwiched debrite (e.g.,
331 McCaffrey and Kneller, 2001). It is difficult to differentiate between a flow-transformation or slope-
332 failure origin for the co-genetic debrite at outcrop; however, the presence of large organic clasts within an
333 identified debritic division may favor a flow-transformation origin.

334 Because these beds dominantly underlie the thicker-bedded and more sandy turbidites of FA 1
335 and 2, they are interpreted as being depositionally adjacent (*sensu* Walther, 1894) (Figs. 8, 9). An
336 abundance of hybrid beds indicates a more distal lobe sub-environment compared with the axis and off-
337 axis deposits of FA 1 and FA 2 (e.g., Hodgson, 2009; Jackson et al. 2009; Kane et al., 2017; Fongnesu et al.
338 2018). This sub-environment is termed the lobe fringe. FA 3 is therefore interpreted as being analogous
339 to lobe-fringe deposition seen in unconfined systems (e.g., Spychala et al. 2017). The lobe fringe can be
340 further subdivided into a lateral and frontal fringe, with the lateral fringe having a lower proportion of
341 hybrid beds compared to the frontal fringe (Spychala et al. 2017). In confined settings this definition is
342 complicated because flow deceleration against lateral slopes cause flow transformations and subsequent
343 enrichment of hybrid beds in the lateral fringe (Figs. 8, 15, 16, 17). This relationship is also evident in the
344 Late Cretaceous Britannia Sandstones of the North Sea, where flows underwent rheological
345 transformation against a lateral slope (Lowe and Guy, 2000; Barker et al. 2008). This study thus uses the
346 general term proximal fringe because the frontal and lateral fringe are expected to be similar due to the
347 counter-slope causing a prevalence of hybrid beds in both settings (Figs. 8, 14, 17).

348 It should also be noted that particularly erosive flows in the lobe axis and off-axis also generate
349 hybrid beds at the onlap surface (e.g., Patacci et al. 2014; Fongnesu et al. 2018). This can make lobe-sub-
350 environment interpretation challenging when adjacent to a steep basin margin because much of the
351 succession may be margin-affected over short length scales (tens of metres) (Fig. 14) and therefore not
352 represent their primary lobe-scale paleogeographic position (e.g., Southern et al. 2015). This is enhanced
353 in tectonically active basins where flow types can be highly variable (e.g., Mutti et al. 2009). Facies back-
354 stripping may therefore need to be attempted to assess the lobe-scale sub-environment (Fig. 16). These
355 short-length-scale margin effects and attempts at back-stripping are summarized in Figure 16 and 17.

356 *FA 4: Distal fringe*

357 **Observations.**--- Facies association 4 is dominated by thin-bedded (0.01 – 0.1 m) siltstones to
358 fine-grained sandstones (LF 4) that form laterally continuous event beds (Figs. 7, 11A, 14). Parallel and
359 convolute lamination is common (Fig. 10F). Beds are normally graded, with ripples common on bed tops
360 (Fig. 10F). Ripples may show multiple and opposing paleocurrent directions within single beds. Beds tend
361 to pinch out over tens to hundreds of meters towards the basin margin (Fig. 15), with amalgamation of
362 event beds sometimes observed towards the onlap surface, causing local bed thickness increases in a
363 regional thinning trend. Slumping and folding of beds (LF 5) is evident in this FA, particularly
364 immediately underlying the abrupt transition to dominantly medium- and thick-bedded sandstone
365 sequences (Fig. 10G). Fold-axis measurements indicate that deformation was both oblique and
366 perpendicular to paleo-slopes. Stratigraphically, these beds immediately overlie the Marnes Bleues,
367 forming a distinct sequence that significantly drapes the Marnes Bleues slope (11A). This lithofacies
368 becomes less common up stratigraphy (Fig. 9).

369 **Interpretations.**--- The fine grain-size, abundance of tractional structures, and dominance of
370 thin beds within LF 4 indicates deposition from dilute, low-density turbidity currents (*sensu* Lowe, 1982).
371 The narrow grain-size range (dominantly silt) of these slope-draping beds is numerically predicted because
372 of the quadratic decrease in settling velocity of silt and mud and the consequent increase in likelihood of
373 flow inflation far above the initial flow depth in silt- and mud-rich flows (Dorrell et al. 2019). Because
374 these beds are able to drape the existing relief they are suggested to have healed much of the initial relief
375 present on the Marnes Bleues slopes (Figs. 7, 11A). Slumping in these successions (LF 5) is interpreted to
376 represent slope failure on the steep basin margins (Fig. 10G). Progressive deformation and seismicity
377 along the Alpine thrust front is suggested as the primary reason for slope failure (Fig. 2). Failure scars
378 may contribute to some of the heterogeneity seen within the overlying medium- and thick-bedded
379 sandstones by creating a rugose topography high on the slope (Fig. 11C).

380 The lateral continuity, fine grain-size and thin-bedded character of the thin beds is consistent with both
381 levee deposition and lobe-fringe deposition. Because of the few long-lived channels identified and the low
382 stratigraphic position of these beds in a prograding lobe (Fig. 9), they are not interpreted to be levee
383 deposits, but are instead attributed to the distal fringe of a submarine lobe on the basin floor (e.g.,

384 Boulesteix et al. 2019a, b) (Fig. 8), which caused termination of Marnes Bleues carbonate deposition. This
385 is supported by the published paleogeographic position of the lowermost Grès d'Annot (Fig. 2) (Apps et
386 al., 2004; Joseph and Lomas, 2004; Salles et al., 2014). The relative lack of hybrid beds in the LF5
387 sequence also supports a distal lobe fringe interpretation (Figs. 8, 9A, 13) (Spychala et al., 2017).

388 STACKING PATTERNS

389 *Le Ray*

390 Confined basins have previously been associated with sheet-like deposition, where incoming
391 flows are entirely confined by the basin margins, resulting in tabular stratigraphy with little or no
392 autogenic compensational stacking (e.g., Sinclair and Tomasso, 2002). Numerical studies (Dorrell et al.
393 2018), subsurface studies (e.g., Beaubouef and Friedmann, 2000), and outcrop studies (e.g., Spychala et al.
394 2016; Bell et al. 2018b; Liu et al. 2018), however, have shown the stacking-pattern complexity that may
395 arise in basins that display variable degrees of confinement. This study uses data from the lowermost
396 member of the Grès d'Annot, the Le Ray member (Figs 5, 6), to build on these studies. Le Ray
397 (Puigdefàbregas et al., 2004), or member A (Du Fornel et al. 2004), was fully confined by the basin
398 margins during its deposition (Callec, 2004; Salles et al. 2014).

399 **Unit 1.**--- This unit comprises a sequence of thin-bedded low-density turbidites (LF 4) overlain
400 abruptly by medium- and thick-bedded high-density turbidites (LF 1 and 2). These thick-bedded
401 sandstones correlate with a thick sequence of thin-bedded turbidites ~ 800 m to the NW adjacent to the
402 Braux Fault footwall (Figs 3, 6). This transition is caused either by flow over-spill across the
403 paleobathymetry of the Braux Fault or draping of the lower-density part of the flow up the Braux Fault
404 topography. Correlation of this unit toward the NE is hindered by lack of exposure; however, it is
405 possible that the distal Unit 1 correlates with some of the early Unit 2B deposition (Fig. 6).

406 **Unit 2.**--- Proximal Unit 2 is characterized by a thick 33 m amalgamated sandstone body
407 interpreted as being deposited by high-concentration turbidity currents. Indicators of erosion, such as
408 scours and decimeter-scale mud-clasts, indicate that this was a region of significant bypass (e.g.,
409 Stevenson et al. 2015) and is interpreted to represent the lobe axis (FA 1) through Le Ray deposition.
410 Down-dip this unit has been subdivided into Unit 2A and 2B based on facies and stacking. Unit 2B is

411 composed of thin-bedded turbidites that drape the frontal confinement of the early Annot Basin and
412 stack aggradationally (Fig. 11A). This confinement was caused by a combination of the basin closure due
413 to the NW-SE Melina anticline, the E-W Fuguret anticline, and the NE-SW Braux Fault (Fig. 3). Unit 2A
414 represents an abrupt transition into thicker-bedded sandstones that pinch out against the underlying Unit
415 2B. These sandstones can be subdivided into various lobes based on the correlation of intervening
416 packages comprising low-density turbidites (LF 4) overlain by hybrid beds (LF 3), medium-density
417 turbidites (LF 2), and amalgamated high-density turbidites (LF 1), which are interpreted to represent the
418 sequential stacking of distal-fringe (FA 4), proximal-fringe (FA 3), off-axis (FA 2), and axis deposits (FA
419 1). These lobes represent the depositional products of the bypassing flows from the proximal thick
420 sandstone body, forming the lobe axis.

421 The axis of each of these lobes steps farther into the basin, suggesting allogenic progradation
422 through increasing sediment flux from the uplifting Corsica-Sardinia hinterland (e.g., Apps et al. 1987).
423 This pattern is not uniform, however, and a degree of compensational stacking is clearly visible, with the
424 axes of successive lobes (represented by amalgamated high-density turbidites) overlying the fringes of
425 underlying lobes, which represented lows on the seafloor (e.g. Deptuck et al. 2008; Prélat et al. 2009).
426 These stacked lobes could also represent lobe “fingers” that were focussed between the lows of the
427 previous axial deposits (e.g., Groenenberg et al. 2010). In this case the apparent basinward stepping of the
428 Le Ray lobes may be autogenically-driven, as flows are focussed between the lows and build passively into
429 the basin. This explanation may operate in tandem with allogenic progradation, particularly during early
430 deposition, due to the prevalence of these finger-like geometries in the basal stratigraphy of lobe
431 complexes (e.g., Prélat et al. 2009; Groenenberg et al. 2010). These indicators of compensational stacking
432 are at odds with the prevailing suggestion that basins generically described as “confined” can be assumed
433 to have a sheet-like architecture, and fit with the recent work indicating that lobes deposited within basins
434 with varying degrees of confinement are characterized by more complicated stratigraphic relationships
435 (e.g., Marini et al. 2015; Bell et al. 2018b; Liu et al. 2018).

436 The presence of thick and coarse sandstones in distal positions has also been described in
437 subsurface datasets of submarine lobes and lobe elements and has been attributed to flow stripping of the

438 upper dilute parts of flows over the basin's confining topography, leaving behind the coarser parts of the
439 flow (e.g., Marini et al. 2016; Jobe et al. 2017). This process may also contribute to the preservation of the
440 thick and abruptly terminating sandstones within Unit 2A of the Le Ray member.

441 **Unit 3.**--- This unit has been differentiated because it cannot be reliably correlated to another
442 unit. It is possible that Unit 3 represents the distal expression of the upper parts of Unit 2, however the
443 lack of exposure between the proximal and distal parts of the upper Le Ray prevents reliable correlation.

444 **Alternative Interpretations.**--- The observed intra-formational onlap against the low-density
445 fringe (Unit 2B) at the Col du Fa locality is likely caused by the inferred proximity of the basin margin. An
446 alternative explanation for this stratigraphic relationship may be the presence of a large erosional feature,
447 such as a scour, at the Col du Fa margin. Such scours are interpreted higher in the basin stratigraphy at
448 Tête du Ruch (e.g., Puigdefàbregas et al. 2004), and show the same intra-formational onlap relationship
449 (Fig. 11C). Decameter-thick scour fills are also suggested to be present in the Grès d'Annot at Peira Cava
450 (Lee et al. 2004). The scour would have created accommodation space to be filled by the incoming flows,
451 resulting in the onlap geometries described by this study. Exposure limits further analysis of this problem,
452 however, a scour interpretation is not believed to affect the underlying principles of this study as the low-
453 density turbidites still drape the scour and are onlapped by the later higher-density turbidites.

454 Another explanation for the observed intra-formational onlap may be that the low-density fringe
455 (Unit 2B) was tilted (e.g., Salles et al. 2014) and subsequently onlapped by higher-density flows when the
456 basin was relatively static or depositional rates were higher, resulting in the wedge-shaped geometry
457 observed (Apps et al. 2004). Unit 2B may therefore represent the distal extents of early Le Ray (i.e., Unit
458 1), while the onlapping Unit 2A is either more proximal and late-stage Le Ray or early La Barre (i.e., Unit
459 3) (Figs. 3, 5). Differential compaction between the basin center and the basin margin may have also acted
460 to enhance the tilting effect (Sinclair, 1994). The inability to walk out individual units between outcrop
461 localities again makes further analysis of this problem difficult. If tectonism or differential compaction is
462 the reason for the observed relationship, then run-up of the low-density turbidites that characterize Unit
463 2B would have acted to exaggerate the intra-formational onlap that was caused by tilting, and the
464 underlying principles of this study are maintained. Unit 1 would therefore be analogous to the ponded

465 aprons identified in intra-slope basins of the Gulf of Mexico, while Unit 2 would similar to a perched
466 apron (Prather et al. 2017).

467 *Turbidity-Current Run-Up and Onlap Geometry*

468 Sediment gravity flows are able to deposit high on confining slopes through flow run-up and/or
469 inflation (e.g., Muck and Underwood, 1990; Lamb et al. 2008; Dorrell et al. 2019). The distance a turbidity
470 current runs up topography is termed the run-up height (H) and, in its simplest form (following Straub et
471 al. 2008), can be represented by,

$$472 \quad H = h + \frac{\rho_c U^2}{(\rho_c - \rho_a) 2g} \quad (1)$$

473 Where h = flow thickness, U = flow velocity, ρ_c = bulk density of the flow (composed of quartz at 2650
474 kg m⁻³), ρ_a = density of the ambient water (seawater at 1020 kg m⁻³), g = acceleration due to gravity (9.81
475 m s⁻¹). In order to assign a single value for sediment concentration there is an assumption that there is no
476 density stratification within the flow. A 30-m-deep channel-form at Chambre du Roi (Sinclair, 2000) has
477 been used as the basis for estimating minimum flow height. This is slightly arbitrary but serves the
478 purpose of this thought-experiment. In order to correct for channel-related superelevation, this flow
479 height has been multiplied by 1.3 (see Mohrig and Buttles, 2007), giving a h value of 39 m. This height
480 represents the minimum height of the flow at the lobe apex, disregards compaction, and is assumed
481 constant. It should be noted that due to a lack of flow height proxies preserved at outcrop this value is
482 used purely to demonstrate the underlying principles of the model, i.e., the model does not attempt to
483 fully reconstruct the turbidity currents entering the Annot Basin. The depth-averaged flow velocities used
484 range from 5 m s⁻¹ to 0.5 m s⁻¹. The upper limit of 5 m s⁻¹ is derived from the maximum flow velocities (4
485 - 6 m s⁻¹) reached by sand-rich flows in the Monterey Canyon (Symons et al. 2017), while the lower limit
486 of 0.5 m s⁻¹ is derived from average measurements of finer-grained flows in the Congo Canyon (Azpiroz-
487 Zabala et al. 2017). The Annot system is sand-rich; therefore the faster Monterey flows are likely the most
488 analogous, at least close to the input. Flow velocity will decrease with decreasing concentration, making
489 the use of a constant velocity problematic. This is suggested to be less important for small and confined
490 basins, such as the Annot Basin, where flows may be prevented from significant velocity decay between

491 the axis and pinch-out. If velocities do decay significantly, then plotting single velocity values through the
492 height of an individual flow will be required; for example, the 5 ms⁻¹ and 10% concentration basal part of
493 a hypothetical flow will run-up 9.2 m above the flow height, while its 1 ms⁻¹ and 0.1% concentration tail
494 will run-up 32 m above the flow height. This decameter scale difference may explain the ~ 15 m of slope
495 drape at Col du Fa (Figs. 6, 8). This parameter is further complicated by the possible presence of low-
496 velocity dense basal layers within highly-concentrated stratified flows (e.g., Stevenson et al. 2018).
497 Turbulence is suppressed in these basal layers; this reduces velocity and run-up heights, resulting in the
498 increased likelihood of an abrupt pinch-out of the sand-rich basal layer and bypass of the upper and low-
499 concentration parts of the flow. The wedged high-density turbidites identified at onlap by this study (Fig.
500 11B) may be the depositional products of such basal layers.

501 By varying flow concentration in equation (1), a clear trend is developed, with lower sediment
502 concentrations resulting in greater run-up heights (Fig. 18A). In prograding lobe systems turbidity
503 currents with lower sediment concentrations (well below 10%), forming low- or medium-density
504 turbidites, are typically found in the distal or basal stratigraphy and flows with higher sediment
505 concentrations (> 10%), forming high-density turbidites, are typically found in the proximal or upper
506 stratigraphy (e.g., Hodgson et al. 2006, 2009; this study). This therefore suggests that earliest turbulent
507 flows into a receiving basin should have the greatest run-up heights, assuming all of these flows are of
508 similar thickness, with run-up heights decreasing through time as flows become more concentrated (Fig.
509 18A). It should be noted that the effect of increasing concentration through time will be counteracted by
510 increasing velocities, as discussed previously. Suspended-sediment concentrations of > ~ 8% have been
511 shown to suppress the generation of current ripples and cause transformation from turbulent to
512 transitional flow, where flows decelerate sufficiently, forming transitional or hybrid-flow deposits (Baas et
513 al. 2011). This concentration (> ~ 8%) has therefore informed the placement of hybrid beds along the x-
514 axis of the run-up height trend (Fig. 18A), giving hybrid beds a similar run-up potential as high-density
515 turbidites. It should be noted that Baas et al. (2011) emphasize that this value is dependent on flow
516 velocity, grain size, and sediment composition, and that the dimensionless Reynolds number is a much
517 better predictor of flow phase. The results of this analysis fit with facies-dependant thinning rates
518 compiled from 18 outcrop studies by Tórkés and Patacci (2018), with hybrid-beds having 1.3 to 2.8 times

519 higher thinning rates than turbidites. Data collected in this study also support the compiled data of Tó kés
520 and Patacci (2018), with thinner-bedded turbidites having lower thinning rates than thicker-bedded
521 turbidites and consequently draping topography (Figs. 6, 7, 15). Similar thinning trends have been
522 reported from levee sandstones (DeVries and Lindholm. 1994).

523 *Lateral vs. Frontal Onlap*

524 To assess the run-up variation between frontal and lateral onlap the velocity of the modeled flow
525 (at 5% concentration) was varied according to the incidence angle of the flow with the slope. It is
526 assumed that the flow velocity will be at its maximum (5 m s⁻¹ in this case) in the principal direction of
527 travel, or an angle of incidence of 90° with respect to the slope, and that the flow velocity will fall to 0 ms⁻¹
528 perpendicular to its axis at an angle of incidence of 0°, i.e., when the flow is running perpendicular to the
529 topography. In reality there will still be some lateral velocity; however, for the purposes of this simple
530 analysis it is assumed that this is negligible. The fastest flows occur at an angle of incidence of 0° or
531 perpendicular to the slope (Fig. 18B). These flows therefore run farther up the counter-slope. Deposits of
532 these flows would pinch out higher up the frontal slope than the lateral slope (Fig. 18B, C). In the 5 ms⁻¹
533 case, for example, the difference in run-up height between the frontal and lateral part of the flow is 17 m.
534 The difference will be increased in lower-density flows and reduced in slower flows.

535 DISCUSSION

536 *Stratigraphic Evolution of Onlap*

537 Based on the similarity between facies transitions and associations seen in this confined basin and
538 those in unconfined or weakly confined submarine lobes (Figs. 8, 9) (e.g., Hodgson, 2009; Spychala et al.,
539 2016, 2017), and the onlap termination styles shown by this study to be produced by the parent flows of
540 these facies (Figs. 16, 17), a predictable stratigraphic evolution of onlap at confined basin margins is
541 proposed (Fig. 19).

542 **Distal Fringe.**---Initially, onlap terminations will be characterized by draping of the slope as
543 low-density turbidites of the lobe fringe are deposited (Figs. 17, 19). This low-density turbidite drape is
544 likely to be composed predominantly of silt or mud, because fine-grained flows are much more capable of
545 flow inflation and deposition high on the slope (Dorrell et al. 2018). It is also suggested that much of the

546 poorly-exposed hemipelagic sediment in deep-marine basins is composed of millimeter-scale and
547 centimeter-scale event beds (Fig. 10F) (Boulestex et al. 2019a, b), and consequently represents the distal
548 lobe fringe. Lobe-fringe deposition is therefore likely to be more widespread than previously appreciated
549 (Boulestex et al. 2019b; Sychala et al. 2019) and results in the healing of substantial amounts of basinal
550 topography, forming a dominantly aggradational sequence of thin beds on the basin margin (Figs. 11A,
551 17, 19).

552 **Proximal Fringe.**---Hybrid beds and low-density turbidites of the proximal lobe fringe are then
553 deposited into the basin as the system progrades (Fig. 19). These hybrid flows are more concentrated and
554 will therefore have lower flow efficiencies when they encounter the slope, so will be unable to deposit as
555 far up the slope as the underlying low-density turbidites of the distal lobe fringe (Figs. 17, 18A). This will
556 cause abrupt intra-formational onlap of these higher-concentration flows against the underlying lobe-
557 fringe deposits (Fig. 19). In the Annot Basin this is represented by proximal-fringe deposits wedging out
558 against the underlying distal-fringe deposits (Figs. 11A, 15). The abruptness and complex 3D geometry of
559 these terminations is enhanced by the combined potential for hybrid-bed development through long-run-
560 out cohesive flow transformation (e.g., Haughton et al. 2009), slope-induced flow transformation (e.g.,
561 Barker et al. 2008; Patacci et al. 2014; Bell et al. 2018b), and flow-induced slope failures (e.g., McCaffrey
562 and Kneller, 2001) (Fig. 16). This depositional pattern will be seen in cross sections as a progressive
563 migration of termination points towards the basin center (offlap) (Fig. 19) or a reduction in distance
564 between successive onlapping termination points towards the basin margin. Sylvester et al. (2015)
565 generated similar onlap trends using a geometric approach with subsidence and sediment supply as the
566 variables.

567 **Off-Axis.**---As progradation continues, these hybrid-bed-prone proximal-fringe deposits will
568 become overlain by deposits of more proximal flows which have not decelerated to the same degree and
569 hence are more turbulent and of lower concentration, but sand-rich (Figs. 17, 19). The off-axis deposits
570 will be able to drape the slope more effectively than the underlying hybrid beds owing to their lower
571 sediment concentrations (Fig. 19). This will result in progressive termination of their deposits higher up

572 on the slope and either intra-formational onlap against the now thinner veneer of the low-density fringe
573 or onlap directly against the hemipelagic basin margin (Figs. 17, 19, 20, 21).

574 **Axis.**---As higher-concentration flows begin to dominate, intra-formational onlap may occur
575 against the underlying fringe or off-axis deposits that were able to run up the hemipelagic slope (Fig. 19).
576 The highly concentrated basal layers of these flows will be preserved as abruptly onlapping high-density
577 turbidites, with the low-density tail of the flow bypassed down-dip. These axial flows will also be more
578 erosive and able to incorporate mud-rich substrate, resulting in an increasing likelihood of intra-
579 formational onlap through short-length-scale rheological flow transformation and consequent higher
580 thinning rates adjacent to the basin margin (Fig. 14). The scours formed by these erosive events close to
581 onlap will promote further autocyclic modulation of stacking patterns adjacent to the basin margin (e.g.,
582 Eggenhuisen et al. 2011). This relationship will also be exaggerated in coarser-grained systems because
583 higher concentration flows will be less able to deposit farther up the slope, particularly at lateral margins if
584 these high-concentration flows are narrower (Al-Jaidi et al. 2004).

585 A critical point in the basin fill will then be reached when these deposits heal the confining
586 topography sufficiently to allow bypass of the coarser components of flows over the confining slope,
587 forming a stepped, instead of a ponded, basin (Prather et al. 2017). Until this level is reached the finer-
588 grained parts of the flows were stripped, thus increasing the sand proportion in the up-dip basin (Prather
589 et al. 2017). This transition is represented toward the sill of the Annot Basin, where proximal lobe-axis
590 deposits bypass down-dip to the Grand Coyer minibasin (Fig. 2), where this stratigraphic evolution
591 repeats in the next confined depocenter.

592 In the case that the topography is sufficient so as not to be healed by the underlying deposits, the
593 lobe-axis deposits will continue to onlap against the underlying deposits until the accommodation is
594 healed sufficiently to allow the axial deposits to onlap against the hemipelagic basin margin or completely
595 fill the basinal relief and behave as essentially unconfined deposits, resulting in downlapping terminations
596 (Fig. 19). Apparent unconfinement in a vertical section may also occur if allogenic progradation (e.g.,
597 increasing sediment flux) does not keep pace with topographic healing. This will result in the axial

598 sandstones rarely onlapping directly against the constantly retreating basin margin and instead depositing
599 away from the slope and on the basin floor (e.g., Kneller and McCaffrey, 1999).

600 *Applicability and Limitations*

601 **Syn-Depositional Deformation.**---This general stratigraphic evolution applies most readily to
602 static basins with little syn-depositional deformation, where onlap trends are not modified by changes in
603 subsidence or depocenter migration (Figs. 19, 21). The Annot Basin was subject to syn-depositional
604 movement of the depocenter (e.g., Salles et al., 2014); however stratigraphic units of the basin fill show
605 the same conceptual evolution as hypothesized for a static basin (Fig. 6), with the only difference being
606 that the onlap is exaggerated on the tilted eastern exposures because of the increasing slope angle during
607 deposition (Fig. 11A) (Salles et al. 2014). In salt-deformed basins, where syn-depositional subsidence can
608 be rapid, this onlap evolution will be also be exaggerated. The general model for onlap evolution (Fig. 19)
609 may therefore broadly apply to actively deforming basins (Fig. 21). It may be difficult, however, to
610 differentiate between allogenic onlap patterns caused by syn-depositional subsidence or sediment flux
611 (e.g., Sylvester et al., 2015) and those caused by autogenic variations in flow properties (Fig. 21). Care
612 therefore needs to be taken when reconstructing tectonic histories from onlap trends alone, especially in
613 datasets without lithological control.

614 **Onlap Incidence Angle.**---Frontal onlap causes greater turbidity current run-up than lateral
615 onlap (Fig. 18B, C). This in turn makes the model presented here more applicable for dip sections against
616 a confining slope. This is further reinforced by the Le Ray dip-oblique correlation (Fig. 6), which is
617 interpreted to record the stratigraphic evolution of onlap described. The lack of a significant thin-bedded
618 slope drape at the lateral onlap of Grès d'Annot at Chalufy (e.g., Puigdefàbregas et al. 2004; Smith and
619 Joseph, 2004) may be an example of the importance of incidence angle, with run-up decreased against the
620 lateral slope (Fig. 18B, C).

621 A minor thin-bedded slope drape does exist at Chalufy, however, and intra-formational onlap
622 does occur against these thin beds (e.g., Bakke et al. 2013). This relationship may occur against lateral
623 margins because flows become increasingly elongate with increasing sediment concentrations (Al-Jaidi et
624 al. 2004). In strike sections this will result in a similar onlap termination pattern, with thicker and lower-

625 concentration flows of the lobe fringe depositing higher on the lateral slope than higher-concentration
626 flows of the lobe axis, which are elongated in the dip direction and more prone to bypass down-dip. This
627 relationship may therefore apply to both strike and dip exposures; however, greater understanding of
628 frontal vs. lateral onlap in exposed or subsurface deep-water systems is required for further analysis.

629 The lack of a substantial thin-bedded drape at Chalufy may also be caused by its relatively distal
630 position compared to the Annot Basin (Fig. 2), resulting in lower-velocity and lower-concentration flows
631 being unable to maintain enough energy during their longer passage down the slope to deposit significant
632 thicknesses of sediment high on the confining slopes (Fig. 20).

633 **Hierarchical Scale.**--- The onlap patterns observed in this study are seen mainly on the scale of
634 tens of meters, similar to typical lobe or possibly lobe-complex dimensions (Prélat et al. 2009). Above the
635 spatio-temporal scale of lobe complexes the morphology of the depositional element is less likely to be
636 the result of autogenic processes acting on individual events and more likely to be controlled by allogenic
637 factors, such as the interplay of basin subsidence and sediment supply (see stratigraphic interval scale of
638 Sheets et al. 2002; Jobe et al. 2017) (Fig. 21). It should be noted that in confined basins established
639 morphometric ranges for unconfined depositional element thicknesses break down due to variable
640 degrees of confinement across systems (Prélat et al. 2010). The lobe-scale applicability of the model is
641 therefore purely a hierarchical observation because lobe thicknesses will vary across systems.

642 **Stratigraphic Position.**--- Lobe progradation is unlikely to be constant; fluctuations in sediment
643 supply, relative sea-level or changes in routing may result in small-scale backstepping. This backstepping
644 creates discrete boundaries between successive members in the Annot Basin (Callec, 2004; Euzen et al.
645 2004) (Figs. 3, 5). These fluctuations will result in a non-uniform evolution of flow concentration during
646 progradation, however on the basin-scale the overall trend of increasing flow concentration and
647 subsequent onlap style will be maintained, with higher-density flows becoming more prevalent in the
648 basin through progradation. These observations make the model most applicable to the early fill of
649 confined deep-water systems, where confinement is greatest and distal thin-bedded turbidites will be most
650 prevalent.

651 Low-density and thin-bedded turbidites also tend to form thinner successions than high-density
652 and thick-bedded turbidites. This is because sediment volume and sedimentation rates are greater in
653 higher-density flows and because differential compaction more heavily affects finer-grained successions.
654 This has implications for the evolution of onlap because the distal lobe fringe will be thinner than the
655 lobe axis. As a result, the intra-formational onlap against the underlying fringe will be much more difficult
656 to detect through time as the draping low-density turbidites gradually become thinner as the basin fills,
657 eventually resulting in the higher-density flows onlapping directly against the hemipelagic basin margin
658 (Fig. 17). This relationship is seen in the Le Ray member (Fig. 6), where the thin-bedded fringe is
659 gradually surmounted by later flows.

660 **Other Variables.**---This conceptual model aims to describe in simple terms the effect that
661 autogenic flow evolution may have on onlap patterns in confined basins. Variables such as a waxing-
662 waning sediment supply, hemipelagic aggradation rates, and the dominant grain size of the system are not
663 discussed fully; however they will act to alter the autogenic processes that affect onlap and should be
664 explored in future studies.

665 CONCLUSION

666 Understanding flow interaction with, and bed termination against, confining topography is
667 critical for reconstructing the structural and sedimentological evolution of deep-water basins. This study
668 presents a review of onlap styles in deep-water settings based on detailed field investigations and
669 compares these results against those from a simple numerical model. Onlap terminations are shown to
670 evolve in a predictable way through the progradation of a submarine lobe succession, with different lobe
671 sub-environments identified at the basin margin through the migration of successive termination points
672 and facies trends.

673 Initially termination points migrate towards the basin margins as low-density turbidites
674 significantly drape the inherited basinal topography. Progressively higher-magnitude flows with greater
675 sediment concentrations of the hybrid-bed-rich proximal fan fringe onlap these underlying deposits,
676 causing the development of an intra-formational onlap surface that is characterized by either a basinward
677 shift in termination points or a reduced distance between successive termination points towards the basin

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1061

FIGURE CAPTIONS

1062 **Fig. 1: A)** Examples of onlap termination styles (modified from Al-Jaidi et al. 2004; Bakke et al. 2013;
1063 Patacci et al. 2014). **B)** Generalized relationship between flow concentration and onlap geometry
1064 (modified from Bakke et al. 2013). $t = \text{time}$.

1065 **Fig. 2:** Location and geological setting of the Cenozoic foreland basin of the Western Alps. The
1066 generalized Late Eocene paleogeography is overlaid (modified from Joseph and Lomas, 2004 and Salles et
1067 al. 2014) and shows the Annot Basin (red box) situated in a clastic deep-marine environment. Red line
1068 indicates boundary between terrestrial and marine environments. RFZ, Rouaine Fault Zone. Blue arrows
1069 indicate paleoflow, and blue lines indicate schematic fluvial systems.

1070 **Fig. 3:** Structure, chronostratigraphy, and geological map of the Annot Basin (modified from
1071 Puigdefàbregas et al., 2004; Du Fornel et al. 2004; Salles et al. 2014). The various anticlines confine
1072 deposition across the Basin. The clastic sequence has been divided into members based on aerial and

1073 outcrop mapping (modified from Puigdefàbregas et al., 2004; Salles et al., 2014). An attempt has been
1074 made to reconcile the member subdivisions used by Puigdefàbregas et al. (2004) and Salles et al. (2014).
1075 White boxes indicate logged localities. White lines indicate correlation panels in Fig. 5 and Fig. 6. RFZ,
1076 Rouaine Fault Zone; BF, Braux Fault. Black dashed lines indicate exhumed syn-sedimentary fault
1077 escarpments.

1078 **Fig. 4:** A) Dip and B) strike field sketches of the stratigraphy and structure of the Annot Basin. Logged
1079 localities are shown as red traverses in part A.

1080
1081 **Fig. 5:** Dip-oblique correlation panel along the eastern margin of the Annot Basin. No horizontal scale.
1082 Localities and panel orientation are shown in Fig. 3. Members have been correlated based on published
1083 maps and lithological observations. Paleocurrent data are associated with one sedimentary log or series of
1084 logs from one locality. The vertical thickness represents the exposed stratigraphy along the correlated
1085 margin (see Fig. 3 for location) and does not represent the accommodation of the entire basin, which had
1086 a westward-migrating depocenter. This migration is represented in the eastern exposures by decreasing
1087 member thicknesses through time. It should also be noted that due to the oblique nature of the
1088 correlation the margin position is a representation of the relative confinement at the member scale and
1089 does not indicate onlap angle.

1090 **Fig. 6:** Correlation panel for the Le Ray member in the Annot Basin. Paleoflow is from the left to right
1091 (south to north). Inset shows 3D orientation of panel. BF, Braux Fault; SB, Saint-Benoît; LM, Le Marc;
1092 CF, Col du Fa.

1093 **Fig. 7:** Correlation panel from the Col du Fa outcrop. The thinner-bedded low-density turbidites drape
1094 and heal the topography of the Marnes Bleues basin margin onlap surface, while the higher-density and
1095 thicker-bedded turbidites initially onlap against these distal deposits, forming an intra-formational onlap
1096 surface. Red lines on the horizontal axis indicate exact log position. Log key on Fig. 6.

1097 **Fig. 8: A)** Nomenclature comparison between unconfined lobe sub-environments (Spychala et al. 2017)
1098 and **B)** confined lobe sub-environments. The only difference is that hybrid beds are more prevalent in
1099 lateral positions in confined systems due to rapid flow deceleration and transformation at basin margins.
1100 LDT = low-density turbidite; HEB = hybrid (event) bed; MDT = medium-density turbidite; HDT =
1101 high-density turbidite. Unconfined and confined lobe dimensions are from Prelat et al. (2010).

1102 **Fig. 9:** Sedimentary logs with facies and paleogeographical interpretations. Each member contains
1103 elements of each lobe sub-environment; however, there is an increasing prevalence of higher-density
1104 deposits upwards through stratigraphy. This pattern is interpreted as representing overall lobe
1105 progradation. Colored bars next to logs represent facies on sub-environment key.

1106 **Fig. 10 A)** Medium-density turbidite (MDT) at Col du Fa. **B)** Low-density turbidite (LDT) onlapping a
1107 gravel lag deposit at Tête du Ruch (Lower). **C)** Organic material in the debritic division of a hybrid bed at
1108 Le Marc. **D)** Pinch-out amalgamation zone at Col du Fa. Debitic (Db) and turbiditic (Tb) sections can be
1109 identified and correlate with thick- and medium-bedded turbidites up-dip. It is difficult to differentiate
1110 groups of event-beds in these slope proximal units. **E)** Highly tractionally r-worked LDT. **F)** Typical
1111 thin-bedded LDT facies. **G)** Slumped thin-bedded turbidites at Argenton. Fold hinges indicate failure
1112 perpendicular to the slope.

1113 **Fig. 11: A)** Contact between the thin beds and high-density turbidites at Col du Fa. The high-density
1114 turbidites onlap against the low-density turbidite slope drape at an incidence angle almost perpendicular
1115 to the slope (arrow is paleoflow). **B)** Example of a high-density turbidite with a wedged base onlapping
1116 the underlying slope drape. Restoring the bed top to horizontal allows a rough estimate of the paleo-slope
1117 angle. **C)** Scar fill at Tête de Ruch (upper). The higher-density flows either onlap the scar drape abruptly
1118 or transform to low-density turbidites up the counter-slope. **D)** Laterally continuous hybrid beds at Le
1119 Marc. These beds are interpreted to have been deposited away from the basin margin and cohesively
1120 transformed through distal run-out. 7 cm camera lens (black circle) for scale.

1121 **Fig. 12:** High-resolution log of one medium-density turbidite approaching onlap at Col du Fa showing
1122 the short length-scale variability seen in these beds.

1123 **Fig. 13: A)** Hybrid-bed evolution approaching topography at Argenton. **B)** Hybrid evolution at Tête de
1124 Ruch (lower) **C)** Hybrid-bed evolution at the Tête de Ruch (upper). The complex interaction between the
1125 debritic and turbiditic intervals are suggested to result from either differential interaction with the slope
1126 between rheologically distinct flow phases or erosion at the onlap surface. Letters in blacked boxes =
1127 correlated bed label. Log key on Fig. 6.

1128 **Fig. 14:** Outcrop sketch from the Col du Fa locality. **A)** Low-density turbidites drape the slope and are
1129 onlapped by hybrid beds and higher-density turbidites. **B)** Flow transformation can be seen to occur in
1130 the proximal fringe deposits over 10 - 15 m approaching the onlap surface to the NW, resulting in
1131 complex amalgamation zones at pinch-out (see Fig. 10D for pinch-out detail).

1132 **Fig. 15:** Example of correlated low-density turbidites approaching the Col du Fa basin margin. Very little
1133 facies variation is seen in these beds and thinning rates are lower than those seen within thicker-bedded
1134 turbidites approaching the basin margin.

1135 **Fig. 16:** Summary logs showing facies transition approaching pinch-out toward basin margins for given
1136 lobe sub-environments and their dominant facies. The right-hand petrographic images are taken from
1137 representative beds in the Annot Basin approaching onlap. The corresponding letter (white text in black
1138 box) on the logs indicates the point in the bed where the sample was taken. Onlap to right.

1139 **Fig. 17:** Synthesis of facies evolutions seen in the Grès d'Annot towards the basin margins and their
1140 stratigraphic position. Flow concentration at the point of sedimentation largely controls the style of the
1141 onlap termination. Lobe sub-environments are often obscured adjacent to onlap surfaces due to
1142 topographic interaction between the flow and the slope, but can be back-stripped.

1143 **Fig. 18: A)** Run-up height versus flow sediment concentration for flows of varying velocities. Flows with
1144 high concentrations are less able to run up topography than low-concentration flows if all other
1145 parameters are equal. **B)** Run-up height versus the angle of incidence between the flow and the slope for
1146 flows of varying velocities. Lower angles of incidence cause higher run-up of flows. **C)** Schematic
1147 diagram showing the relationship between frontal and lateral onlap (modified from Al A'jaidi et al. 2004).

1148 **Fig. 19:** Model for the stratigraphic evolution of flow terminations in a static confined deep-water basin.
1149 It is suggested that the pattern of termination trends may be used to predict the termination style
1150 expected at a given point on the onlap surface. Flow transformation, which increases flow concentration,
1151 results can result in offlap. Similarly, bypass of the upper parts of axial flows results in offlap of the
1152 deposits of the highly concentrated basal layers of these flows against the underlying deposits. Concurrent
1153 hemipelagic deposition has been ignored for simplicity.

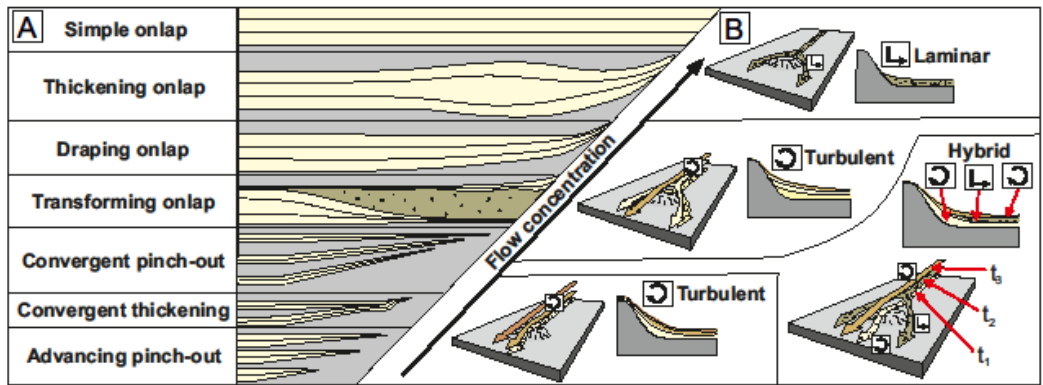
1154 **Fig. 20:** Model for the progradation of a clastic system into an intra-slope minibasin. Representative logs
1155 (A, B, and C) of the various sub-environments are indicated.

1156 **Fig. 21:** Types of intra-formational onlap that can be recognized in confined deep-water basins (modified
1157 from Sinclair and Tomasso, 2002). A distinction is made between autogenic onlap, caused by longitudinal
1158 flow evolution over shorter timescales, and allogenic onlap, caused by tectonic subsidence over longer
1159 timescales. Autogenic processes will create short-length-scale heterogeneities in larger-scale and
1160 allogenicly controlled sequences.

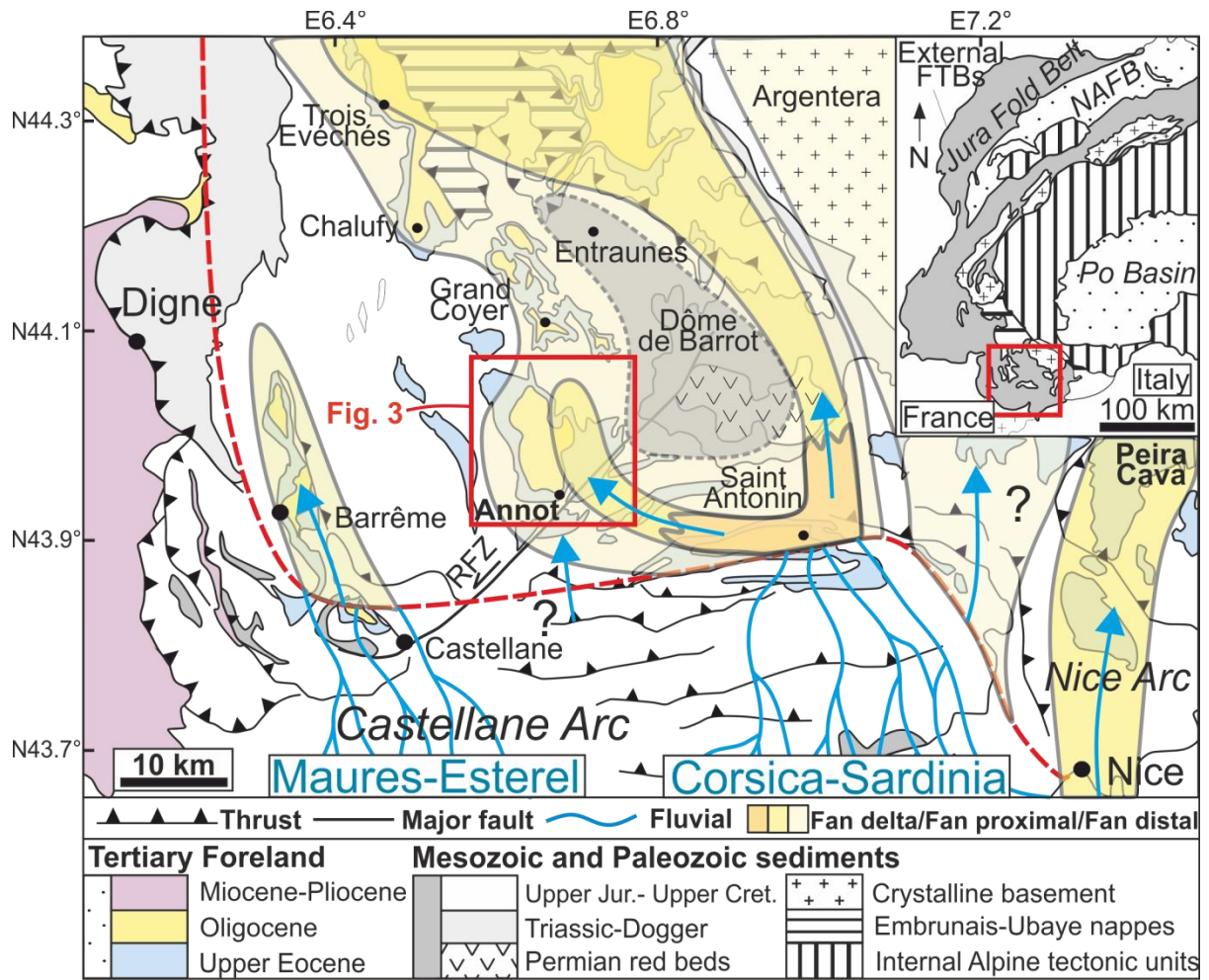
1161 **Table 1:** Key lithofacies, facies associations, and onlap geometries seen in the Grès d'Annot of the Annot
1162 Basin.

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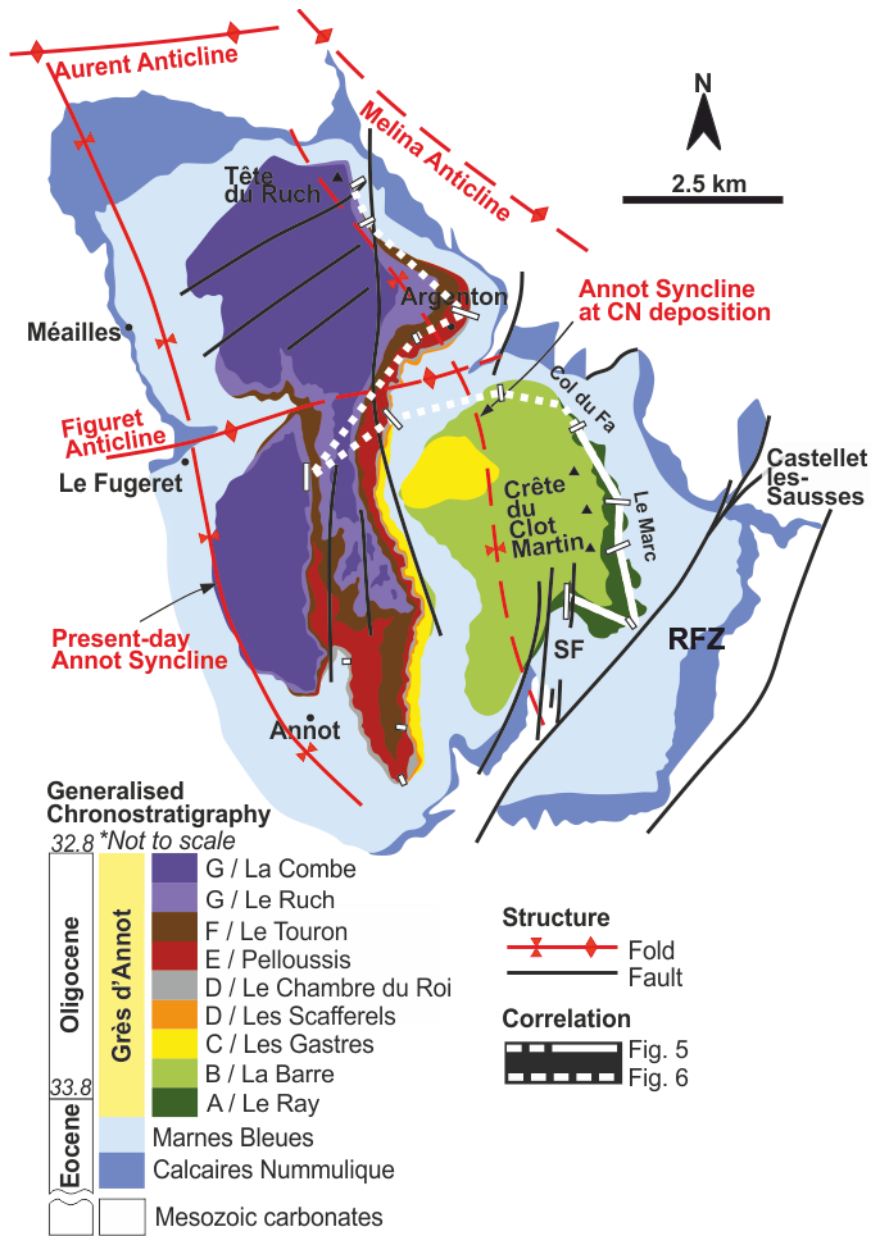
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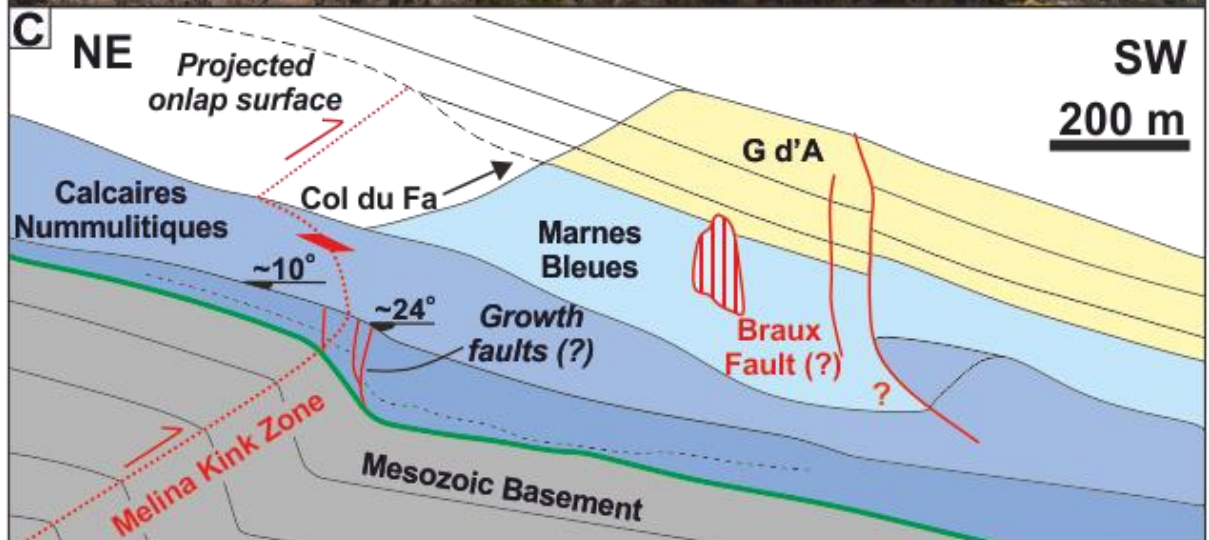
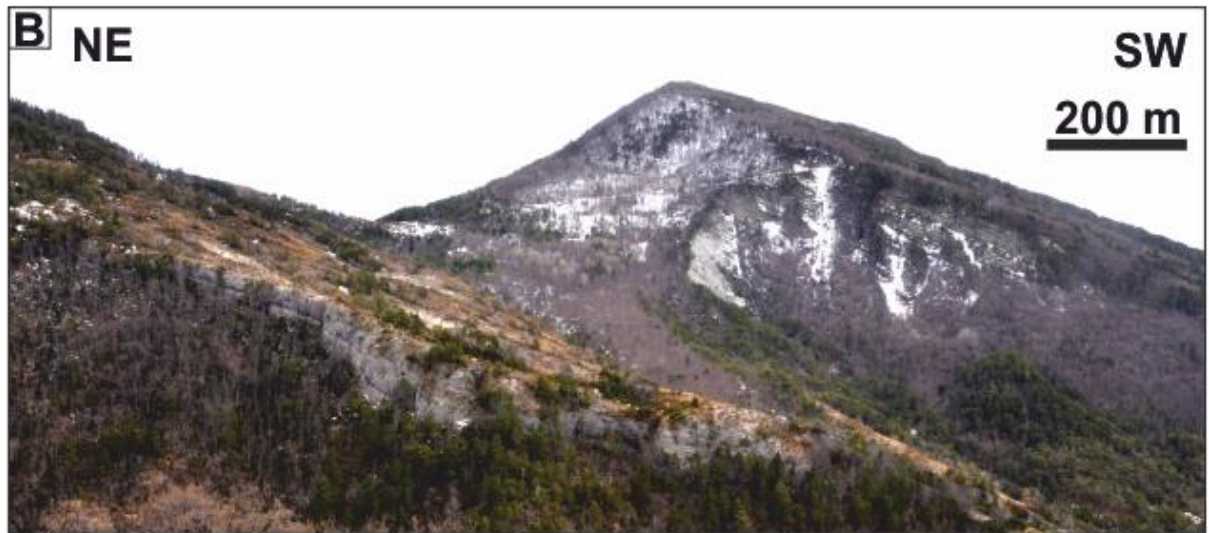
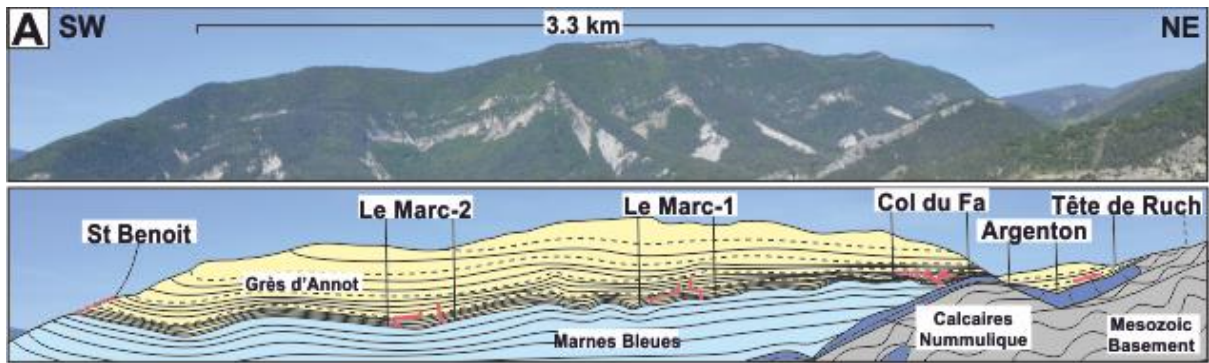
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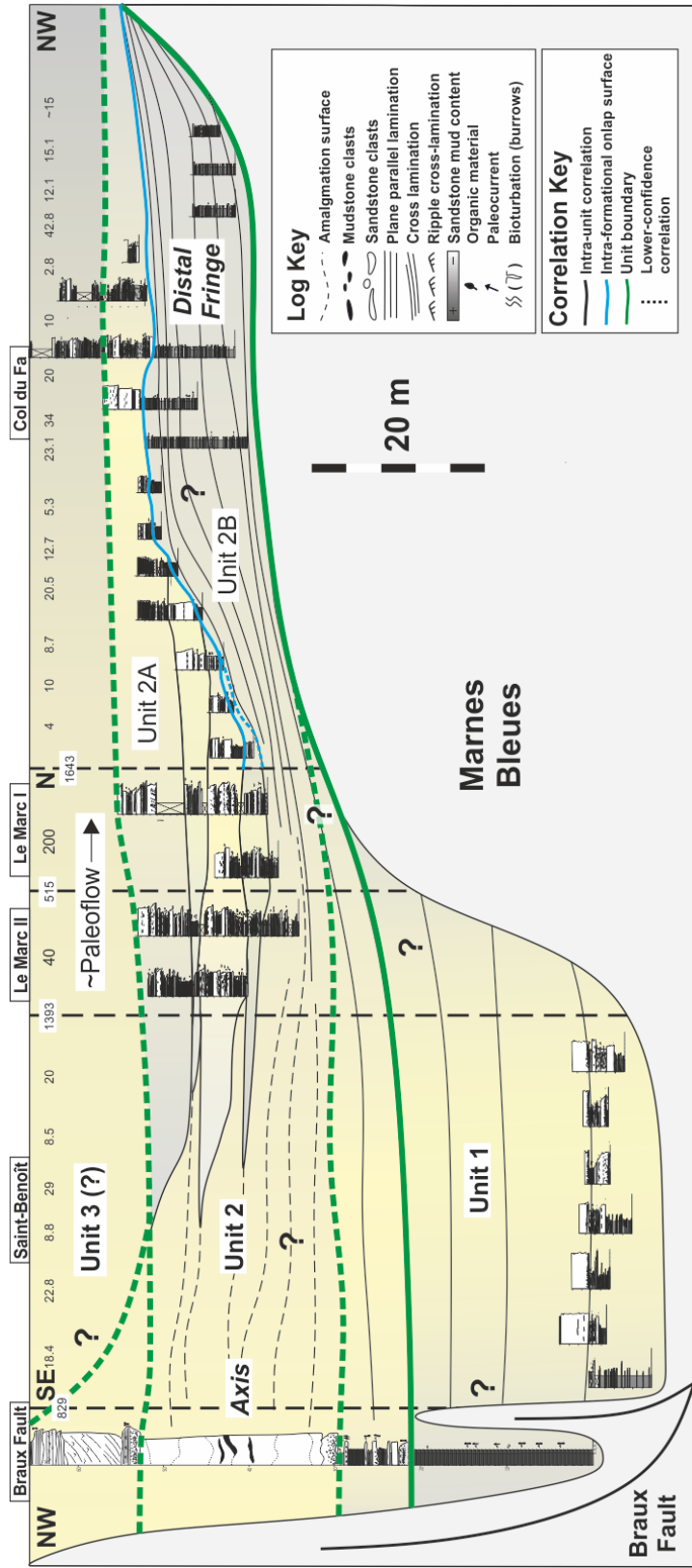


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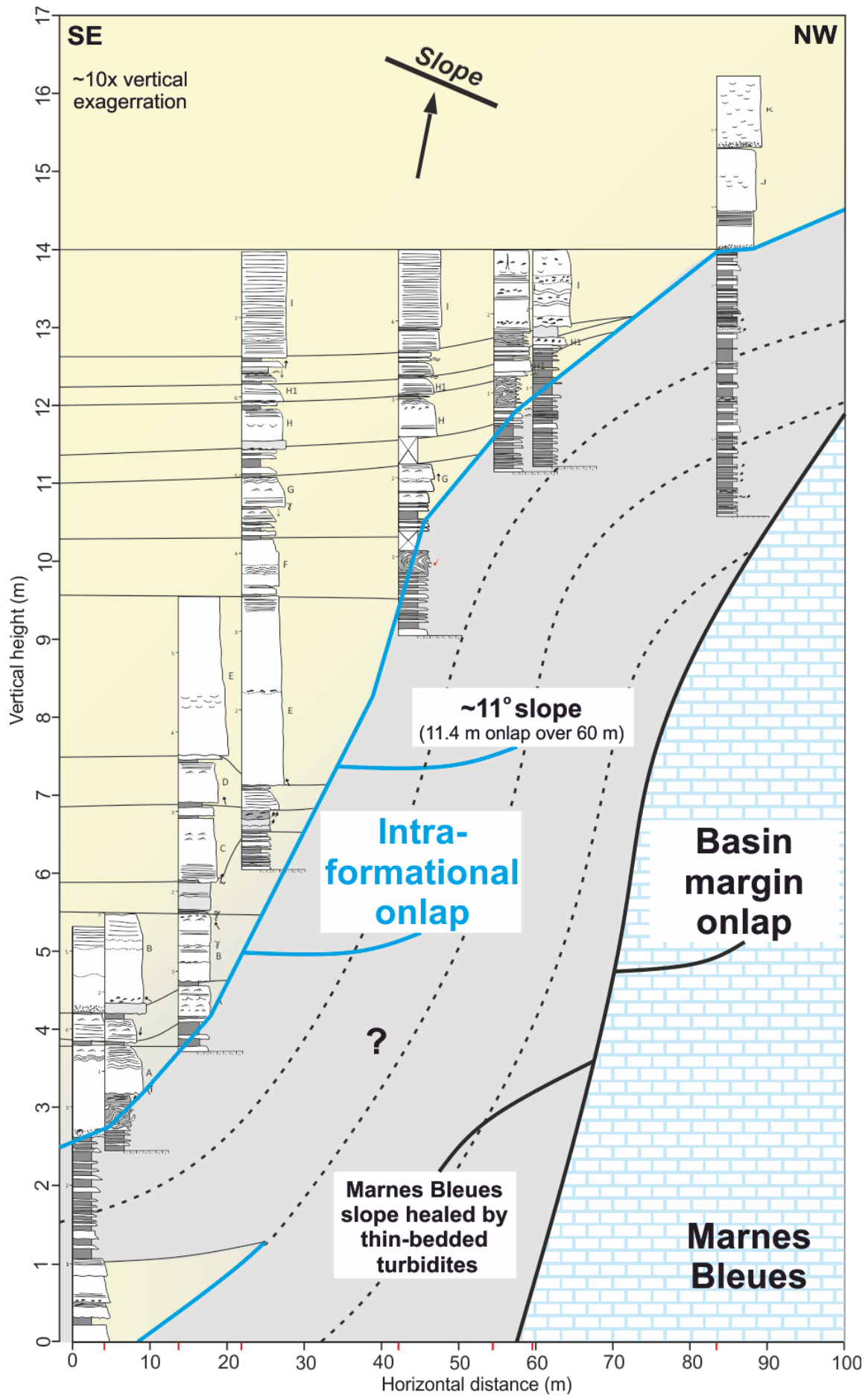
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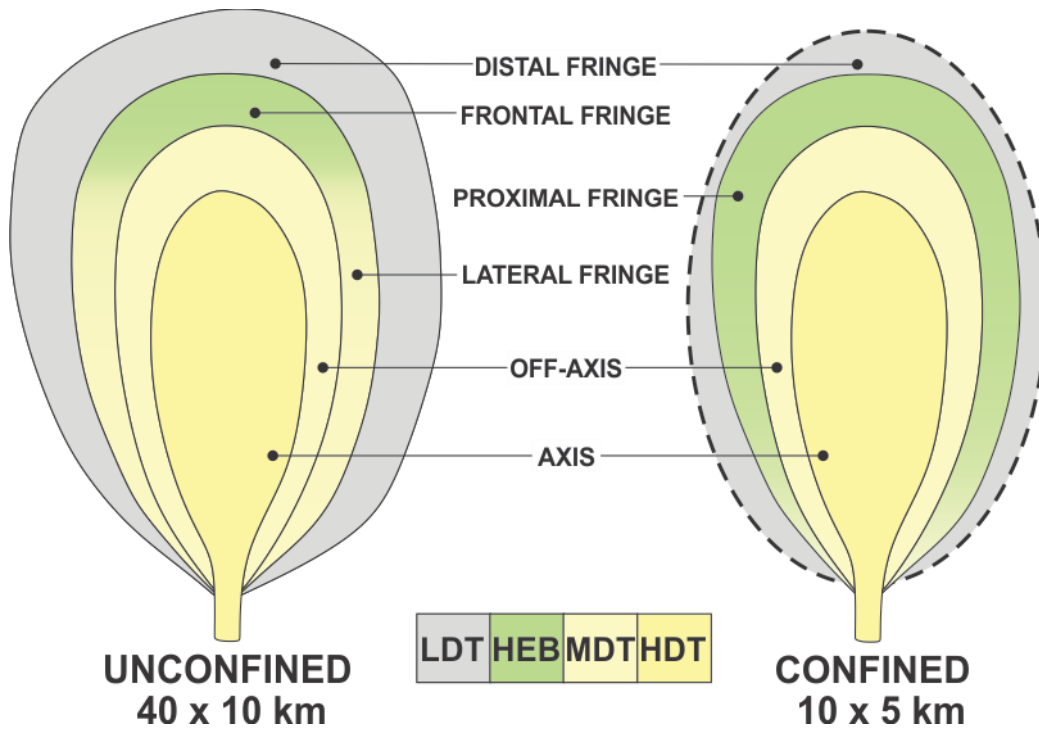
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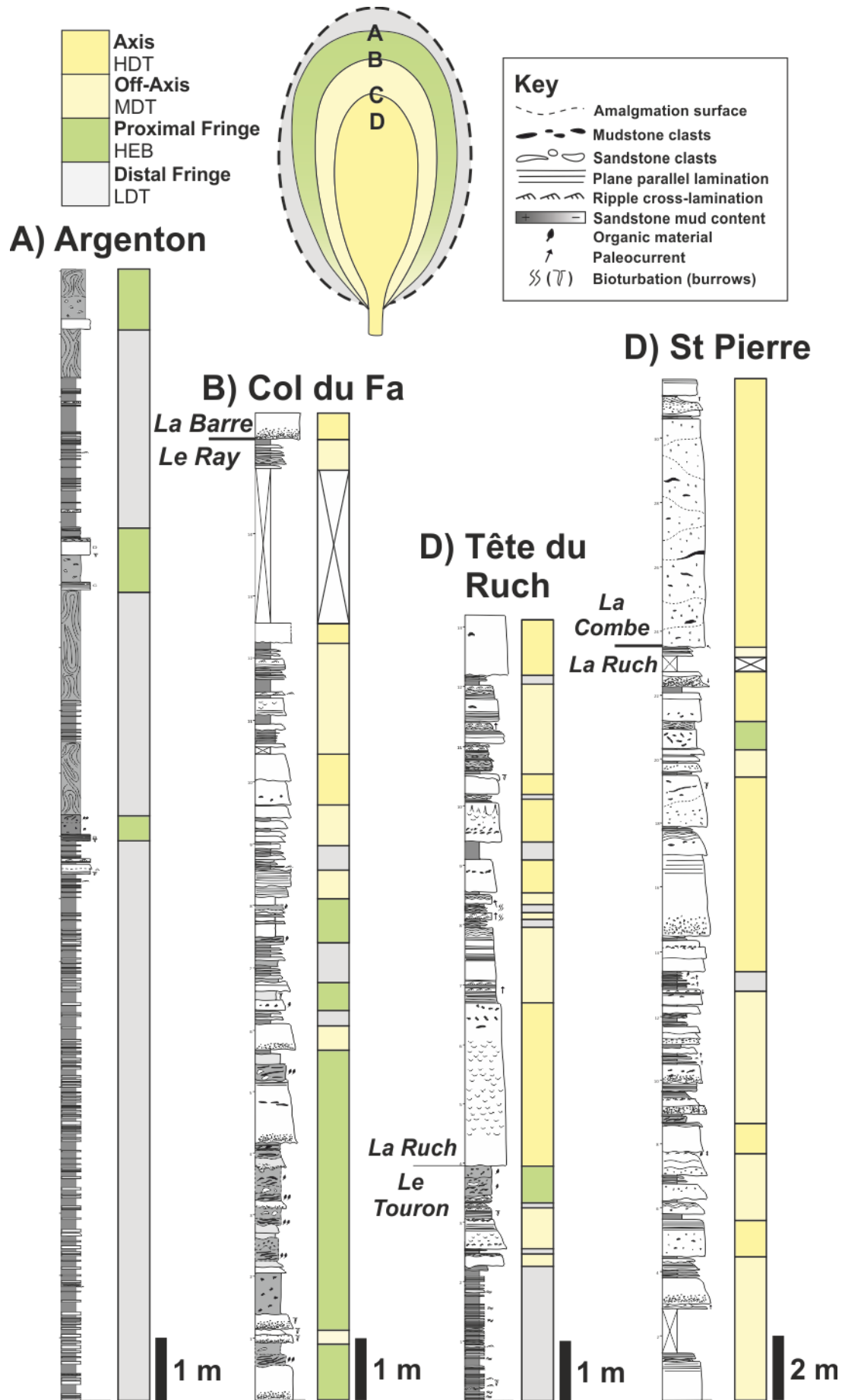


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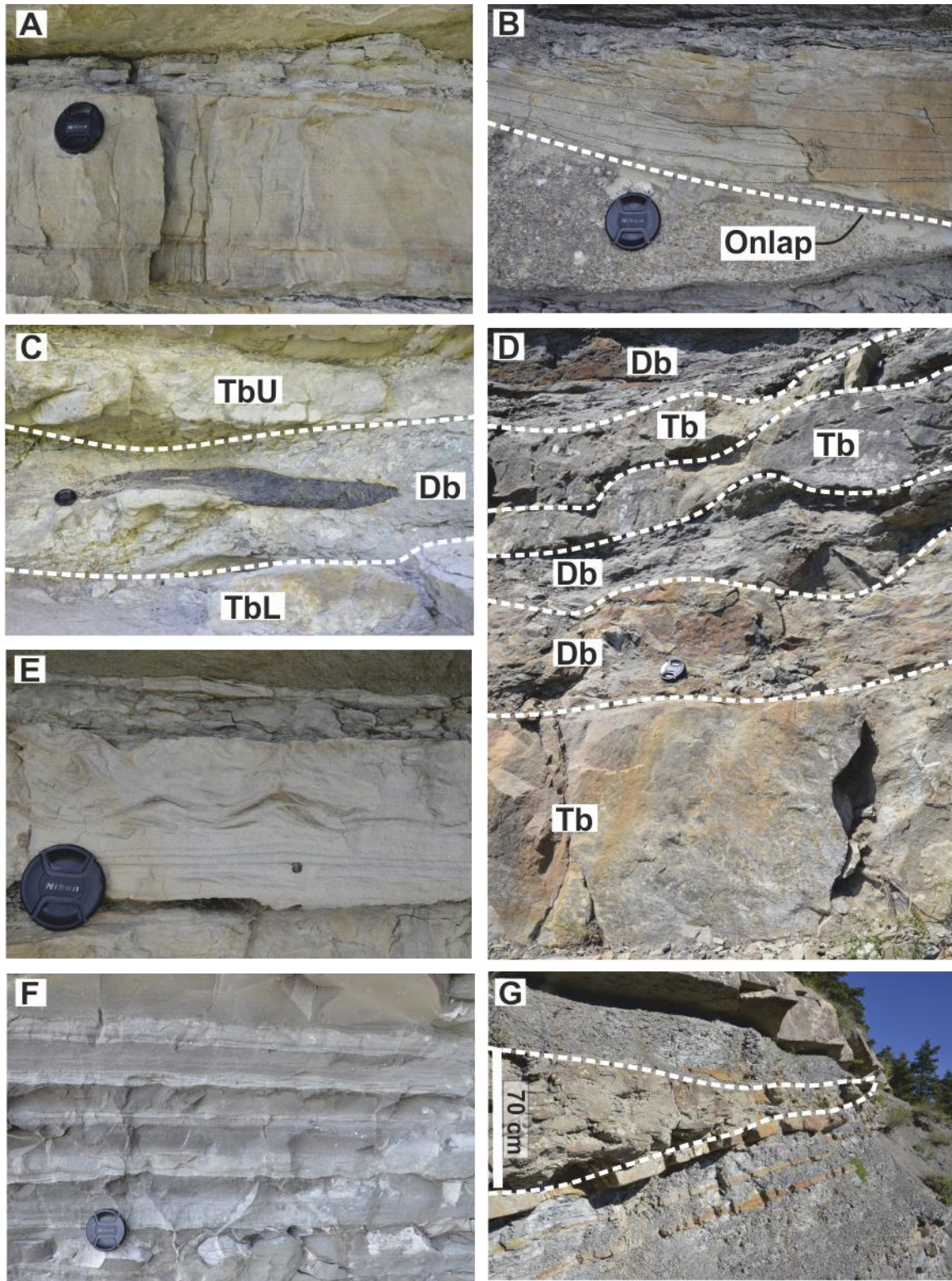




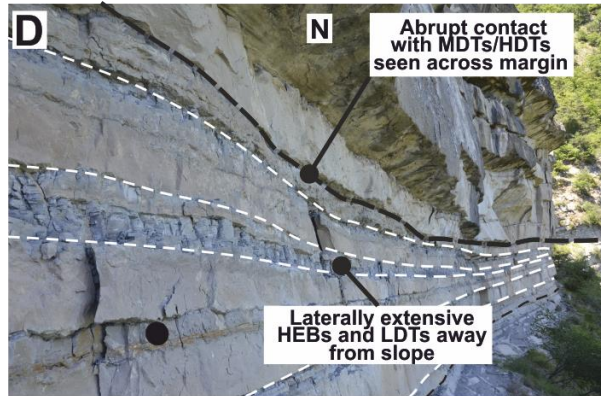
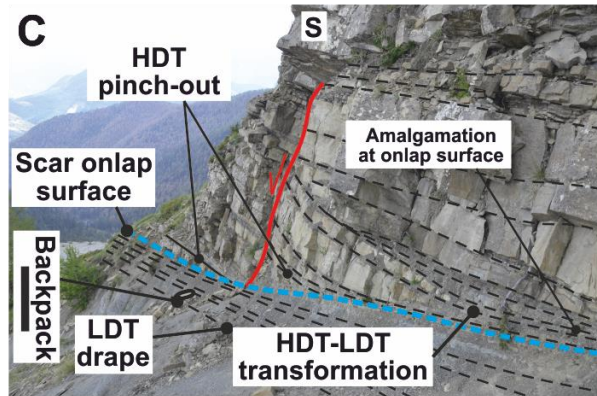
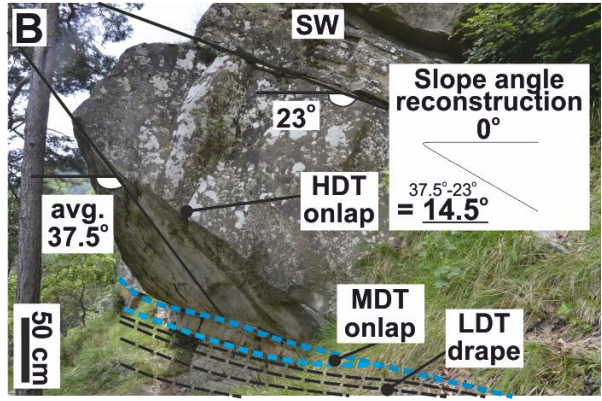
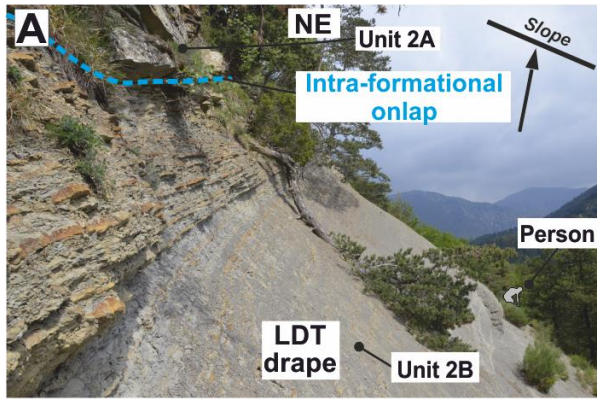
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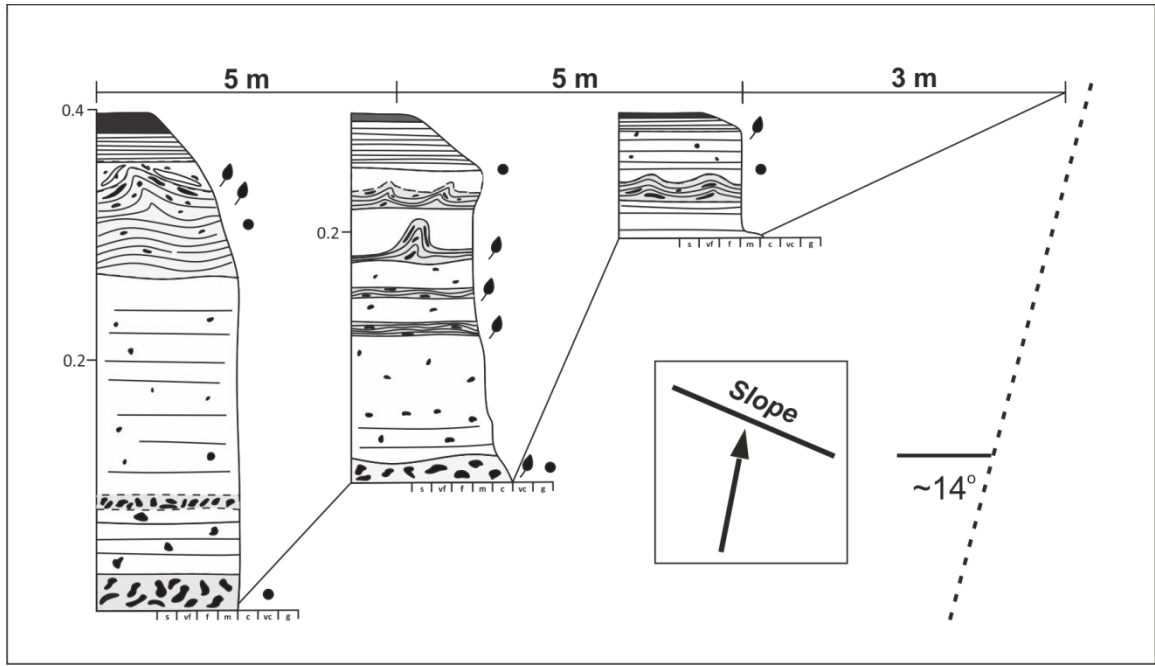


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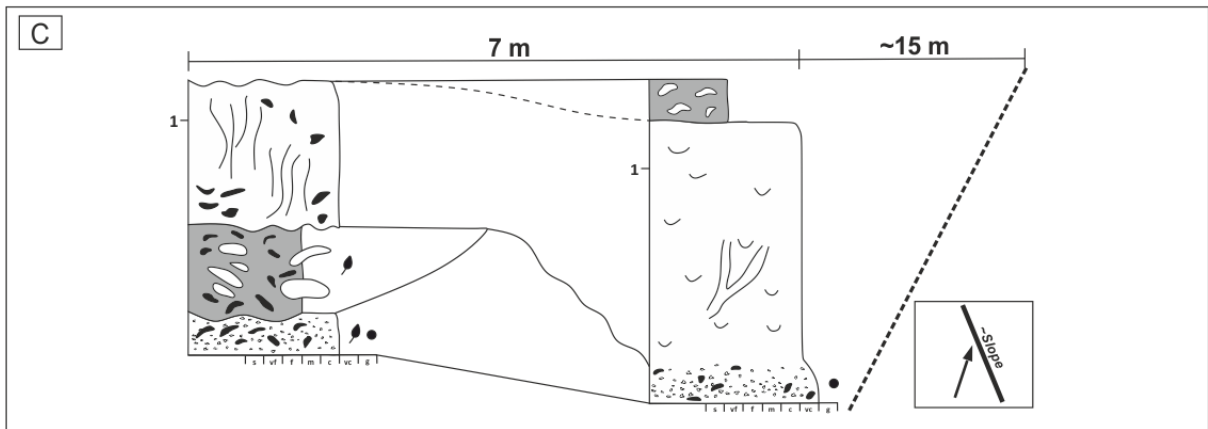
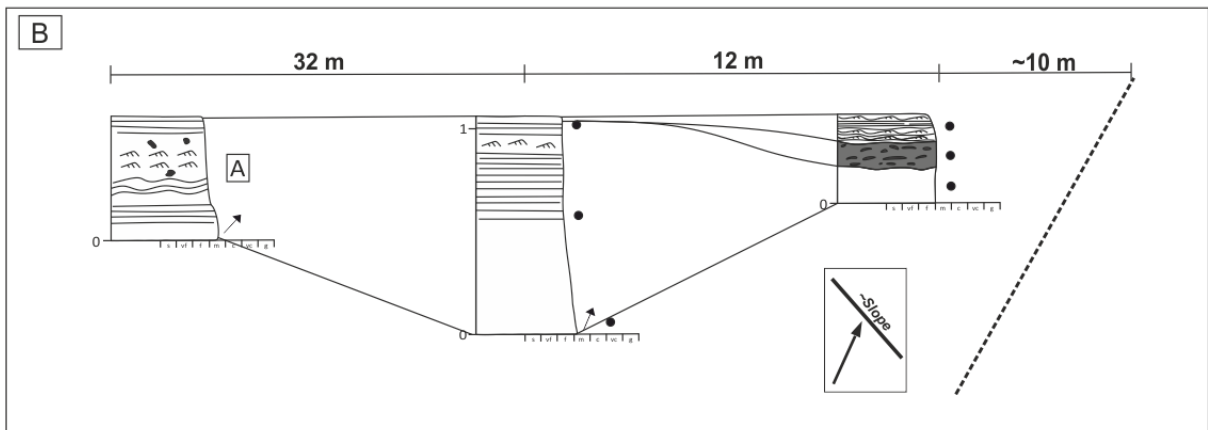
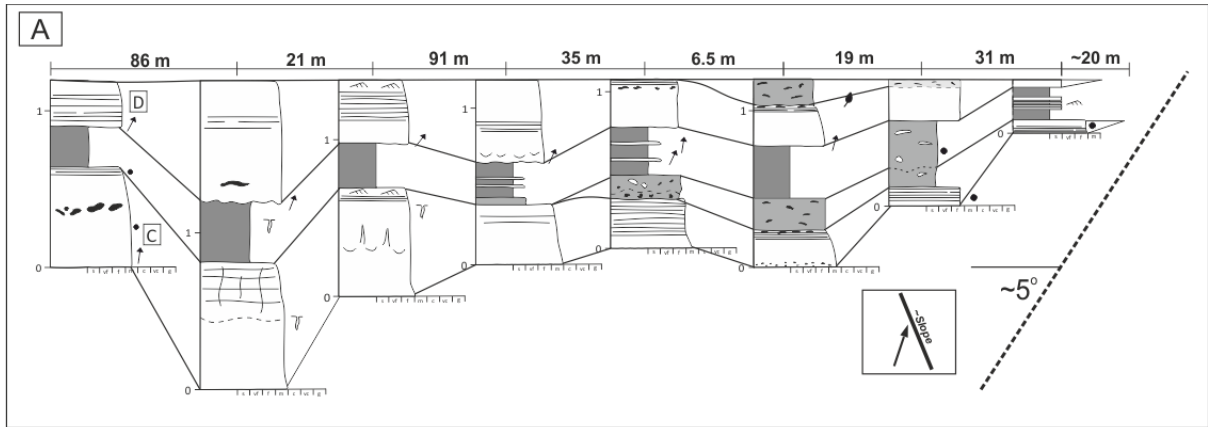


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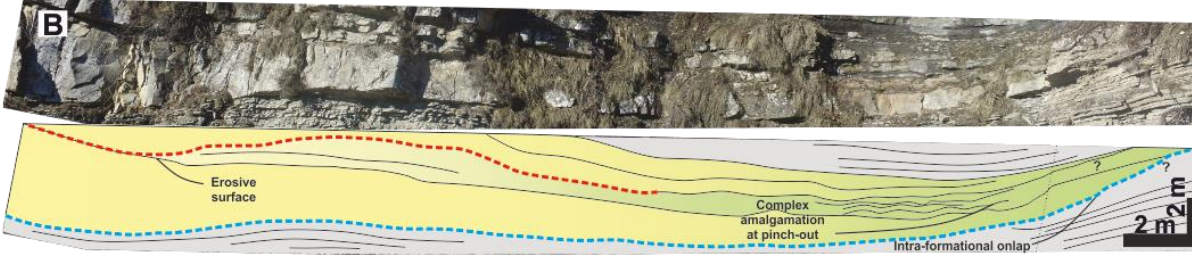
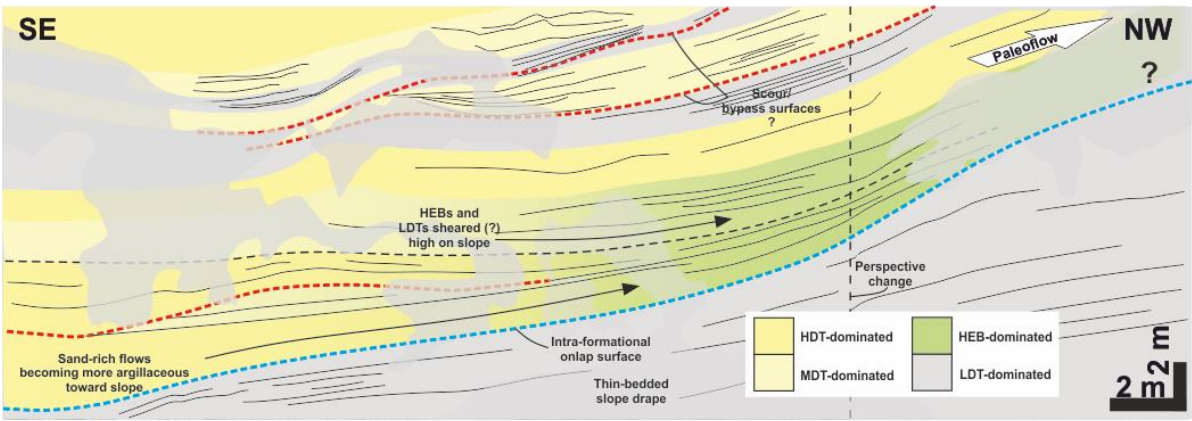
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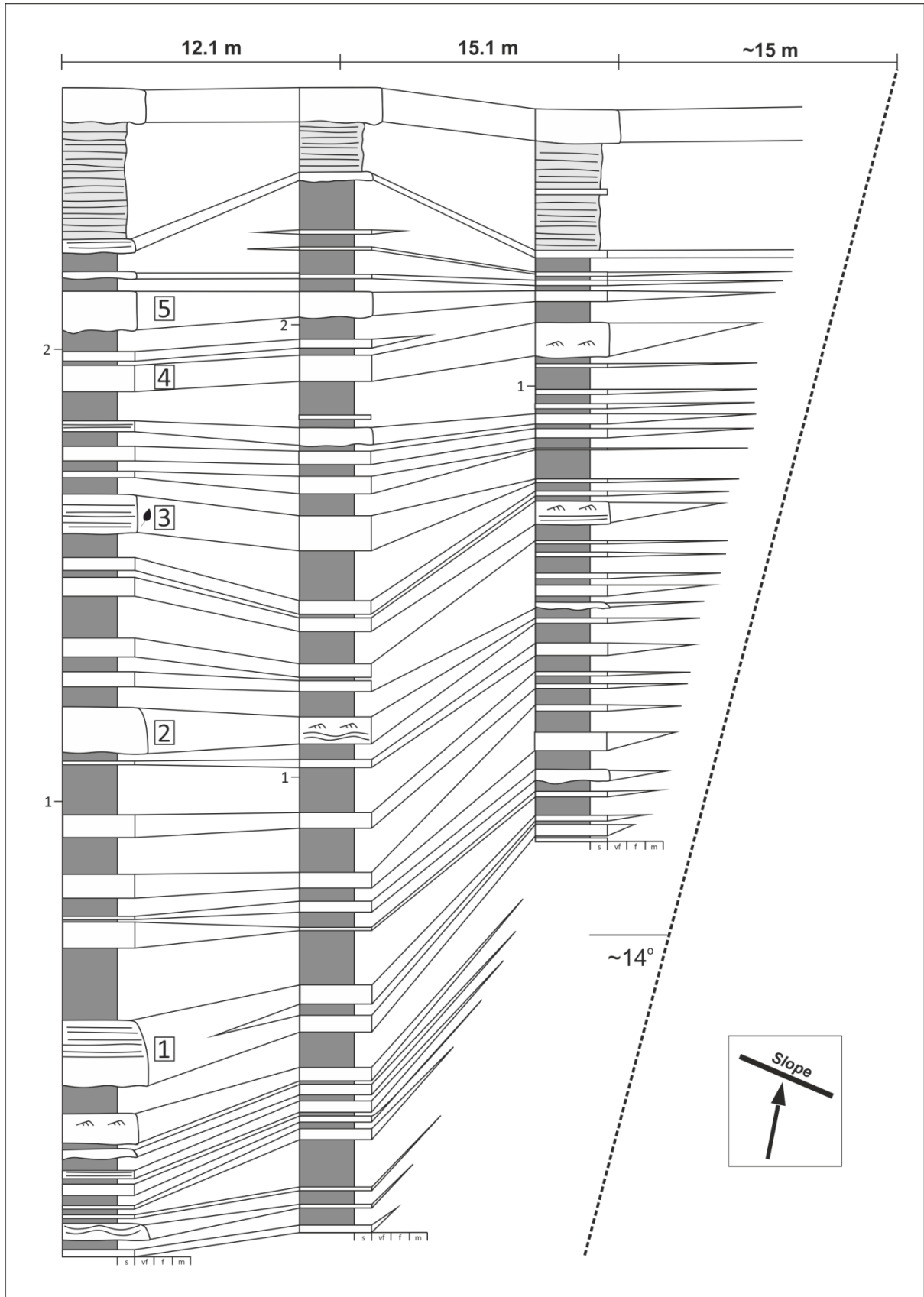
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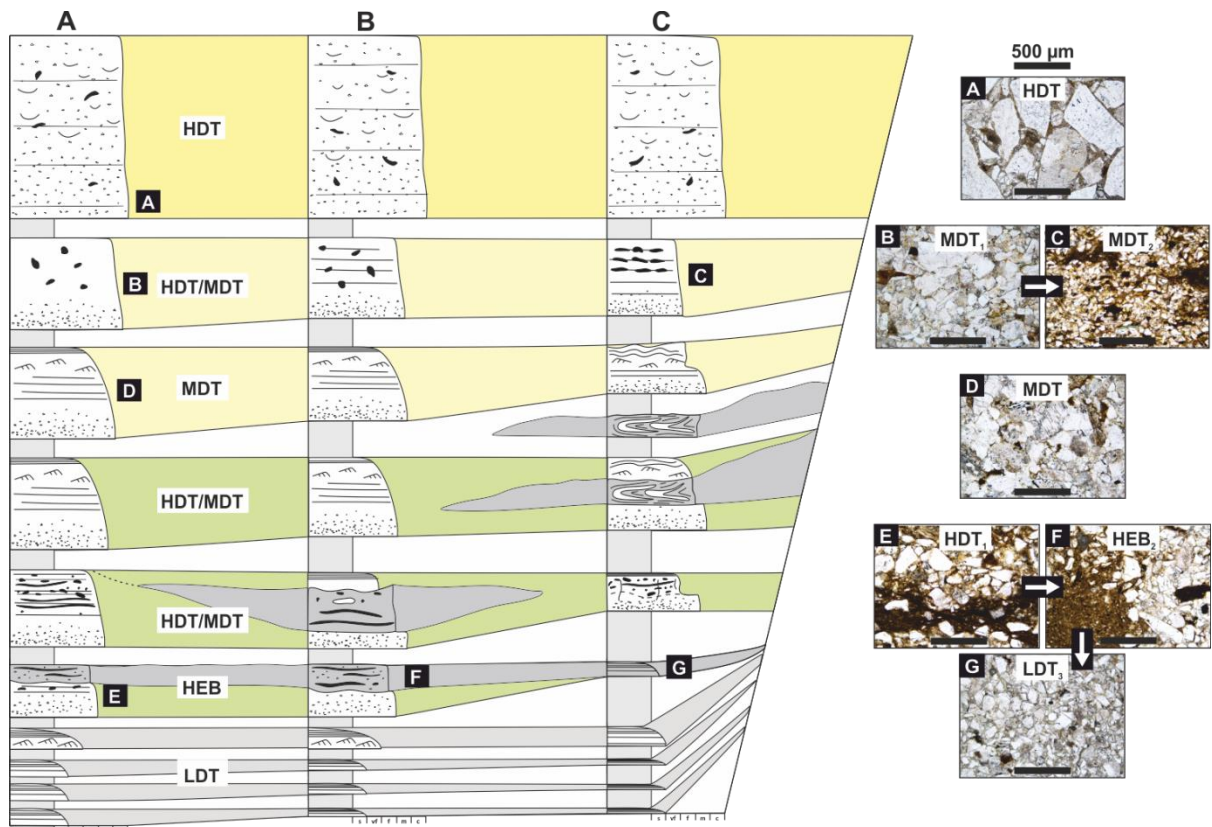
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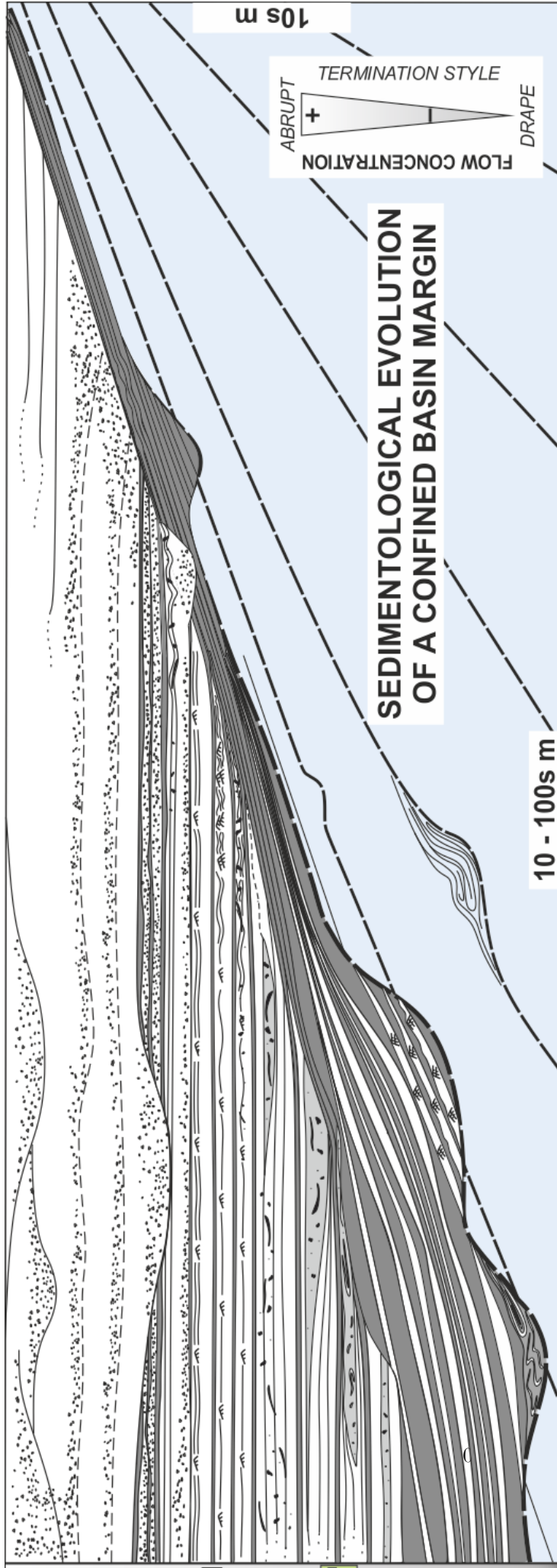


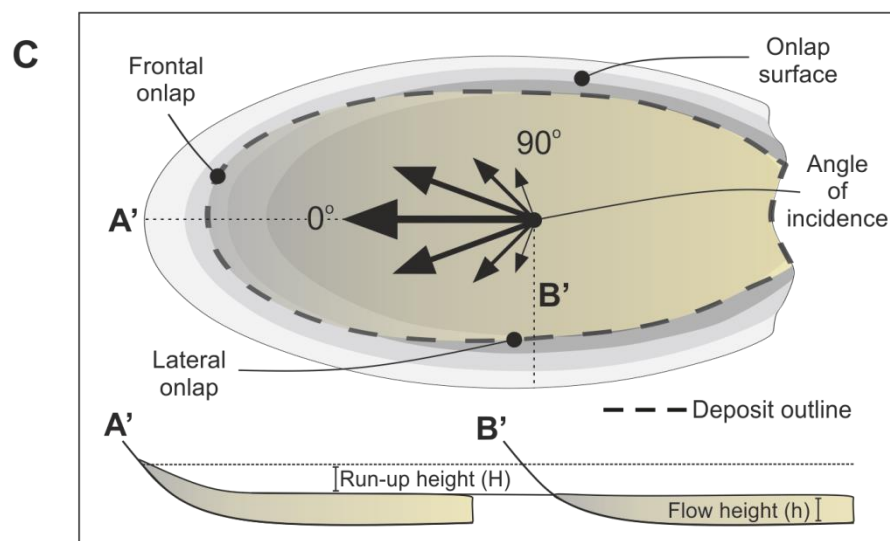
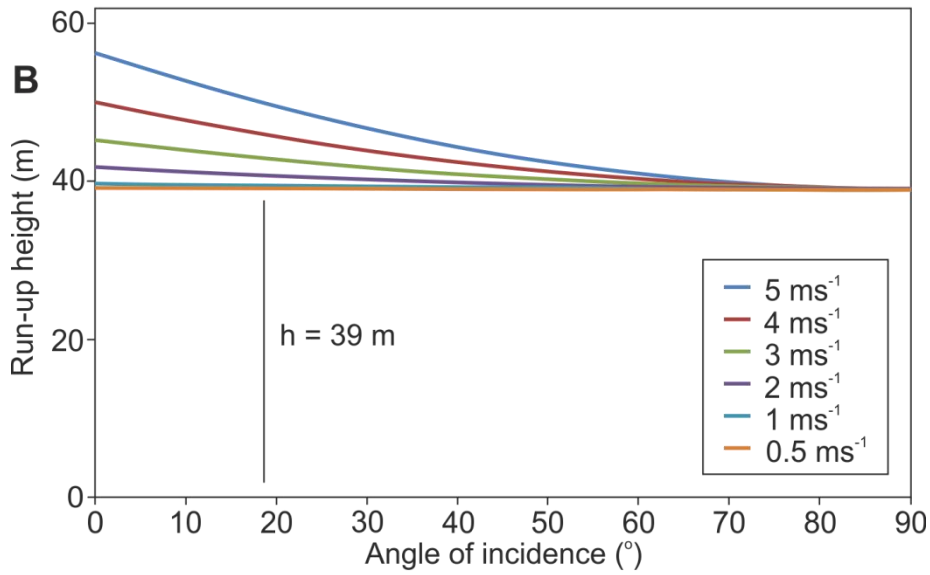
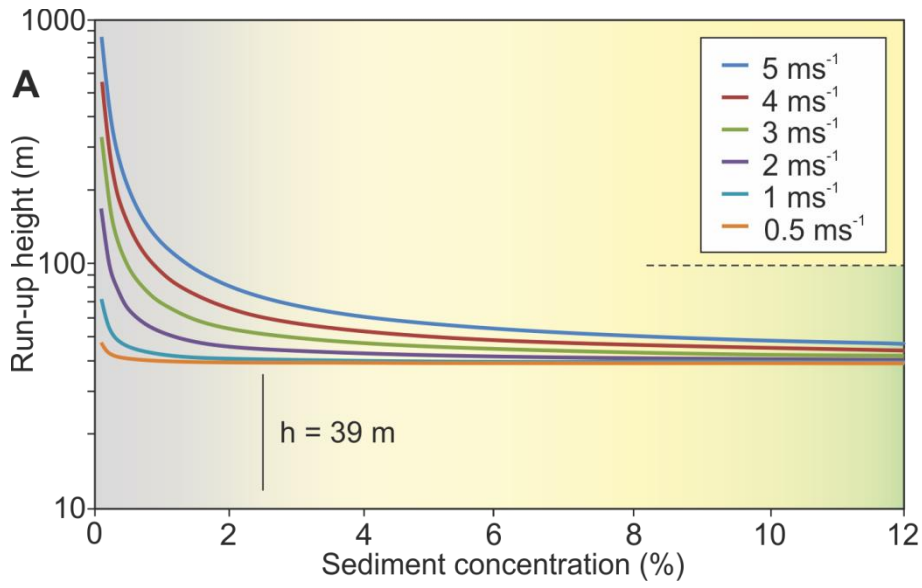
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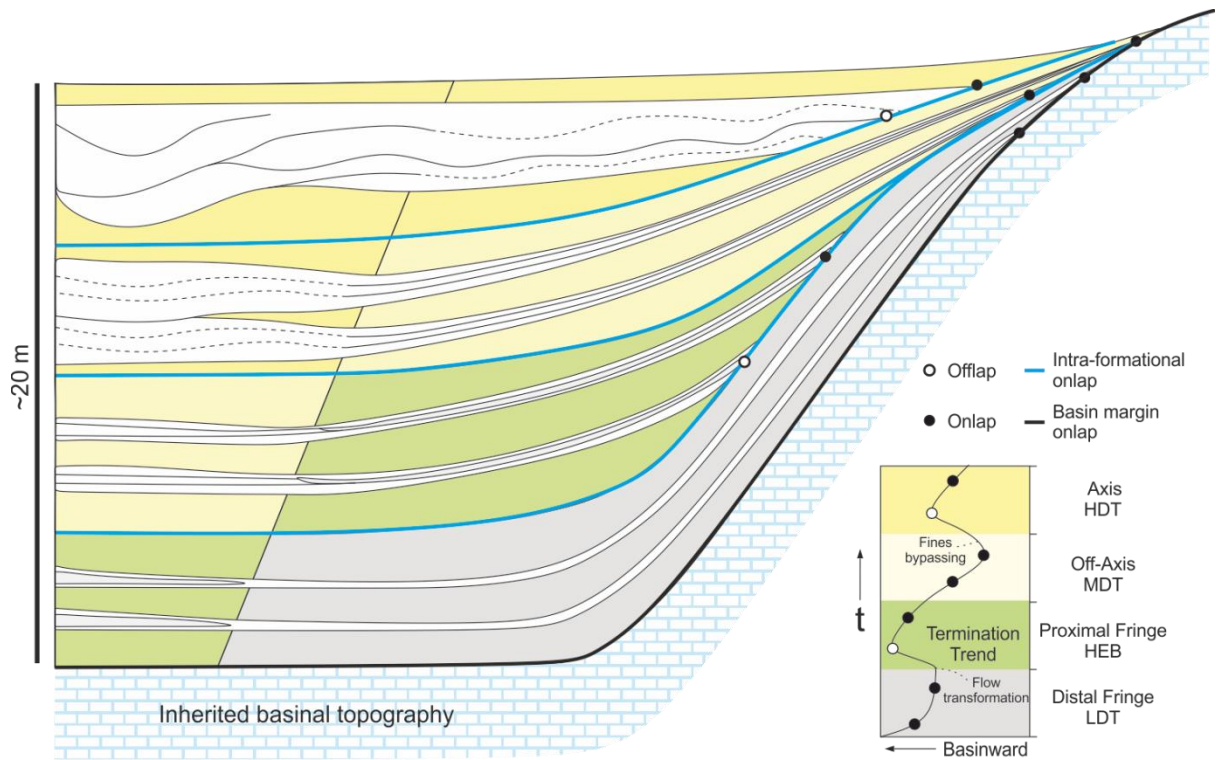


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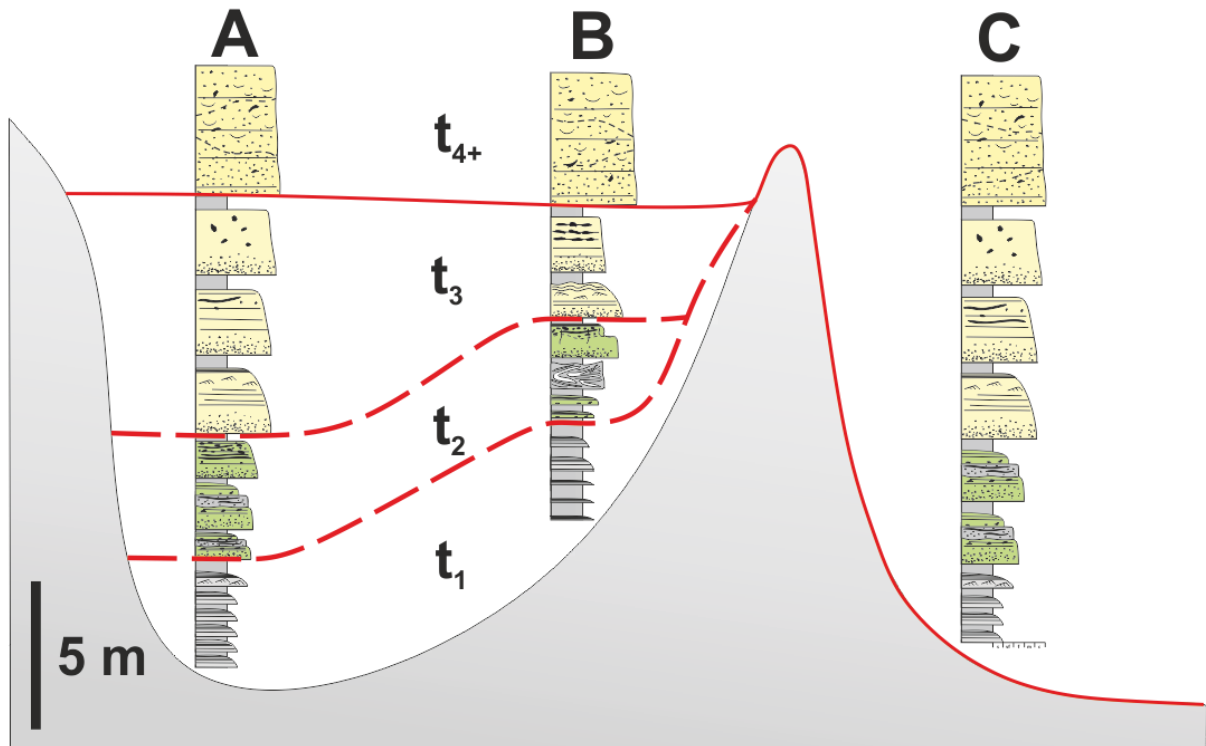
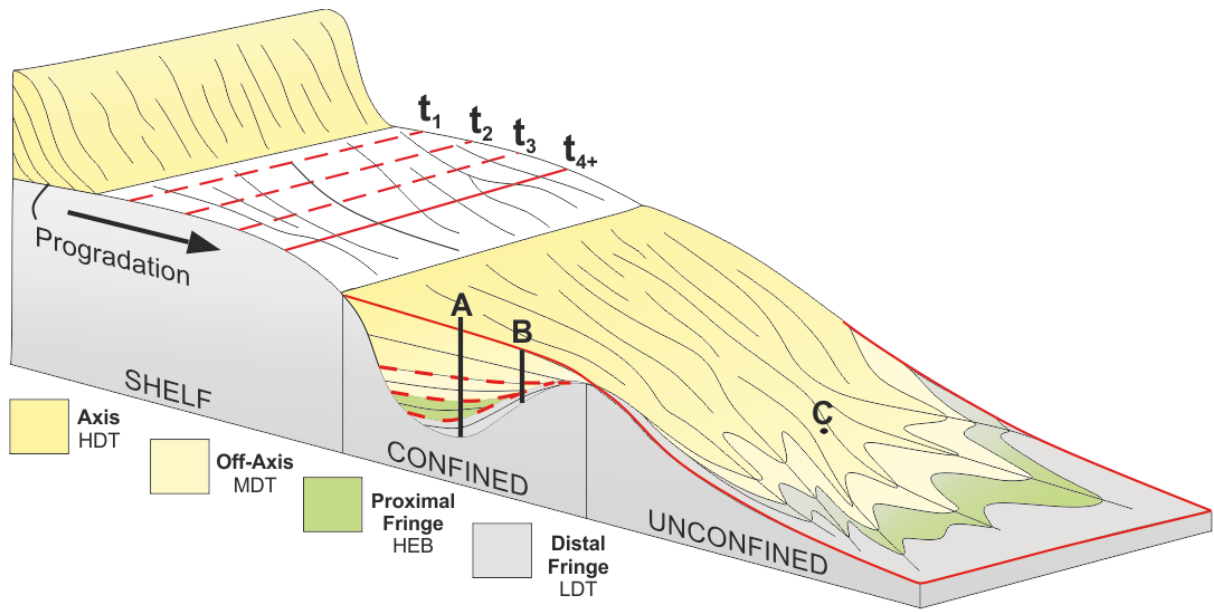






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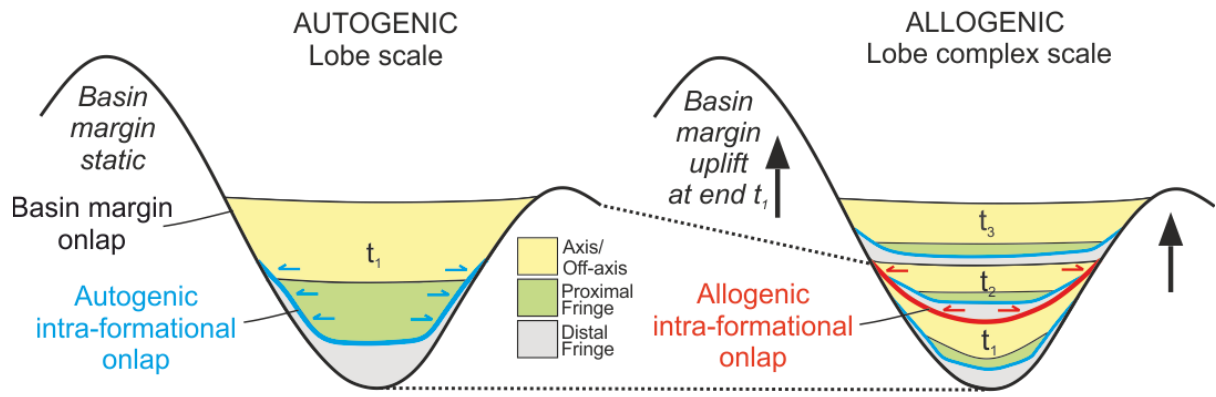
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INTRA-FORMATIONAL ONLAP



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Lithofacies	Description	Interpretation	Facies Association	Onlap Geometry
Thick-bedded sandstone (LF 1)	Forms 1 - 20 m amalgamated packages or 0.5 - 2 m beds, Medium - granule grain size. Flat or erosional bed bases and flat bed tops. Mostly structureless with some planar laminae. Often contains mud clasts (<5 cm) and soft-sediment deformation, e.g. flames and dishes.	Rapid aggradation beneath a highly concentrated flow. Planar-spaced laminae indicate traction-carpet deposition (<i>sensu</i> Lowe, 1982).	Lobe axis (FA 1) Lobe off-axis	Abrupt termination High-density flows deposit abruptly at counter-slope due to loss of capacity, compared to lower-concentration flows with otherwise similar flow properties (e.g. Hiscott, 1994). The slope may be draped by deposition from the overriding and dilute tail of the same flow.
Medium-bedded sandstone (LF 2)	0.1 - 0.8 m beds. Fine - coarse grain size. Flat or weakly erosional bed bases and flat or convolute bed tops. Flutes and grooves on bed bases. Sporadic granules sometimes present and associated with structureless lower bed divisions. Mostly normally graded with planar and convolute laminae. Ripples at bed tops.	Presence of flutes, normal grading, and tractional structures indicates deposition from a dilute turbidity current. These beds are interpreted as medium-density turbidites due to their often structureless basal divisions and thicknesses greater than 10 cm.	Lobe off-axis (FA 2) Lobe axis Proximal fringe	Abrupt to draped termination More capable of surmounting topography than higher-density flows because they are more able to maintain turbulent energy while flowing up the counter-slope (e.g., Bakke et al., 2013; Eggenhuisen et al. 2017). Wide variety of sediment concentrations in these flows causes drape to extend from meters to tens of meters up the slope.
Hybrid beds (LF 3)	0.1 - 1.2 m bipartite or tripartite beds. Lower medium-coarse sandstones (division 1) overlain sharply or loaded by argillaceous sandstones (division 2). Argillaceous sandstones often have a sheared fabric. Cleaner, often finer, and tractionally reworked sandstone sometimes present capping these divisions with a sharp or foundered base (division 3). Decimeter scale organic material sometimes present in middle division.	Beds containing deposits of both turbulent and transitional/ laminar flows interpreted as hybrid beds (<i>sensu</i> Haughton et al. 2009). Flow transformation occurs through increasing concentration of fines during run-out (e.g., Kane et al. 2017) or through forced deceleration (Barker et al. 2008; Patacci et al. 2014).	Proximal fringe (FA 3) Lobe off-axis Distal fringe Lobe axis	Abrupt to draped termination Debritic or argillaceous middle divisions are highly concentrated so terminate abruptly. Draping of the middle division may occur if the slope is shallow enough to allow run-up of the debritic middle division. The turbulent lower part of the flow may drape the slope and amalgamate with the overlying sandstone or deposit abruptly if high-density.
Thin-bedded sandstone (LF 4)	0.01 - 0.1 m siltstones and fine sandstones. Parallel and convolute laminae, normal grading. Flutes rarely preserved. Ripples occasionally show opposing paleoflow directions.	Fine grain size, thin event beds, and abundance of tractional structures indicates that these beds were deposited by low-density/concentration turbidity current and are therefore interpreted as low-density turbidites.	Distal fringe (FA 4) Proximal fringe Lobe off-axis	Draped termination Low-concentration flows are less affected by changes in slope angle and are thus able to surmount basin topography and drape topography for substantial distances up the counter-slope (e.g., Muck and Underwood, 1990). Low-density turbidites are therefore able to dominate much of the sediment thickness on the upper parts of the confining slope.

