

Direct dating of mid-crustal shear zones with synkinematic allanite: new in situ U-Th-Pb geochronological approaches applied to the Mont Blanc massif

Bénédicte Cenki-Tok, James R. Darling, Yann Rolland, Bruno Dhuime, Craig

D. Storey

To cite this version:

Bénédicte Cenki-Tok, James R. Darling, Yann Rolland, Bruno Dhuime, Craig D. Storey. Direct dating of mid-crustal shear zones with synkinematic allanite: new in situ U-Th-Pb geochronological approaches applied to the Mont Blanc massif. Terra Nova, 2014 , 26 (1), pp.29-37. $10.1111/\text{ter}.12066$. hal-00963545

HAL Id: hal-00963545 <https://hal.science/hal-00963545v1>

Submitted on 18 Oct 2024

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

For Review Only

Direct dating of mid-crustal shear zones with synkinematic allanite: New in-situ U-Th-Pb geochronological approaches applied to the Mont Blanc massif

Page 1 of 22 For Review Only

16 **ABSTRACT**

17 Dating the timing of motion on crustal shear zones is of tremendous importance for understanding the 18 assembly of orogenic terranes. This objective is achieved in this paper by combining petrological and 19 structural observations with novel developments in *in situ* U-Th-Pb geochronology of allanite. A 20 greenschist facies shear zone within the Mont Blanc Massif is documented. Allanite is synkinematic 21 and belongs to the mylonitic assemblage. LA-ICP-MS U-Th-Pb isotope analyses of allanite reveal 22 high contents and highly radiogenic isotopic compositions of the common-Pb component. The use of 23 measured Pb-isotope compositions of associated minerals (feldspars and chlorite) is critical for

For Review Only Page 2 of 22

24 accurate common-Pb correction, and provides a powerful mechanism for linking allanite growth to the 25 metamorphic assemblage. A mean $^{208}Pb^{232}$ Th age of 29.44 \pm 0.95 Ma is accordingly taken for 26 synkinematic allanite crystallisation under greenschist facies conditions. This age reflects the timing of 27 the Mont Blanc underthrusting below the Penninic Front and highlights the potential of directly dating 28 deformation with allanite.

29 **Introduction**

30 Resolving the timing and rates of crustal deformation is fundamental to our understanding of 31 tectonic and orogenic processes. Direct dating of deformation features by isotopic techniques has great 32 potential to provide new insights into the complexities of orogenesis and tectonics in general. Of 33 particular interest are shear zones, which can accommodate vast lateral and vertical crustal motions, 34 control the development of tectonic features, and provide important pathways for orogenic and ore-35 forming fluids.

36 In contrast to constraining deformation ages through cross-cutting structural relationships, the 37 direct-dating approach focuses upon isotopic analysis of synkinematic minerals that belong to the 38 metamorphic assemblage associated with deformation. Previous efforts at directly dating deformation 59 focused upon Rb-Sr dating of high Rb/Sr phases (e.g. Freeman *et al.*, 1997) and ⁴⁰Ar^{/39}Ar dating of 40 white mica, amphibole and feldspar (e.g. Simon-Labric *et al.*, 2009). *In situ* ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar dating of 41 recrystallised micas by laser-heating techniques has successfully been applied to mylonites in low 42 temperature conditions, but potential cm-scale mobility of Ar and excess-Ar may compromise 43 successful thermochronology (Kelley, 2002, Mulch *et al.,* 2005). Texturally controlled Rb-Sr dating 44 also has great potential, but is prone to resetting by post deformation fluid circulation (e.g. Wickman 45 *et al.*, 1983) and isotopic disequilibrium on the thin-section scale (Frey *et al.*, 1976).

46 Uranium and thorium rich accessory phases, such as zircon and monazite, provide robust ages in 47 many geological settings. Although mechanical modification of zircons in shear zones is relatively 48 common, chemical modifications, and hence age resetting, are not (e.g. Wayne and Sinha, 1992, 49 Moser *et al.,* 2009). To a lesser extent, U-Pb techniques have been successfully applied to dynamically

Page 3 of 22 For Review Only

50 recrystallised titanite and monazite (Resor *et al.*, 1996; Storey *et al.*, 2004). Another accessory phase 51 that is a prime target for geochronology in these environments is allanite, which is a rare earth element 52 (REE) rich end-member of the epidote solid solution series ($[Ca,REE, Th]_2[Fe,AI]_3Si_3O_{12}[OH]$). The 53 mineral is key to the storage and mobility of REE, Th and U (Hermann, 2002, Giéré and Sorensen, 54 2004), and offers geochronological information that can be linked with physico-chemical conditions 55 (e.g., pressure, temperature conditions), based upon petrological observations. Allanite is also 56 commonly found associated to monazite (Janots *et al.*, 2008). Epidote and clinozoisite generally 57 surround allanite. As thermodynamic stabilities of these phases can be calculated, it is possible to 58 make quantitative links between the timing of monazite/allanite/clinozoisite/epidote growth and *PT* 59 conditions (e.g. Smye *et al.*, 2010).

60 A number of studies have reported on the textural and chemical relationships of allanite to rock-61 forming minerals, and on evidence of its stability in *PT*-space (Gregory *et al.*, 2009; Hermann, 2002; 62 Janots *et al.*, 2008; Gregory *et al.*, 2012). Recent advances in allanite *in situ* U-Th-Pb dating yield 63 reliable ages, despite the fact that allanite contains significant amounts of common Pb (Gregory *et al.*, 64 2007; Smith *et al.*, 2009; Darling *et al.*, 2012a). Whereas the petrology and geochemistry of allanite 65 have been addressed repeatedly, little is known so far regarding the effects of deformation and 66 recrystallization on allanite U-Th-Pb systematics (Cenki-Tok *et al.*, 2011).

67 Accordingly, we have investigated allanite-bearing samples from a greenschist facies shear zone of 68 the Mont Blanc massif (MBM). The principal aims of this study are to: (a) investigate U-Th-Pb 69 isotope systematics of synkinematic allanite using newly developed methods, taking into account the 70 common-Pb composition reflecting the crystallization environment; (b) test whether allanite may be 71 used to directly date the age of deformation and metasomatism.

72 **Geological setting of the Mont Blanc shear zones**

73 The MBM belongs to a suite of Variscan external crystalline massifs of the western Alps (Fig. 1). It 74 is composed of gneisses and a granitic batholith that crystallized at 300 ± 3 Ma (Bussy and von 75 Raumer, 1994). The general deformation pattern of the MBM consists of subvertical narrow (1 to 50

For Review Only Page 4 of 22

76 m) shear zones, arranged in a fan-like geometry, separated by low strain domains (100 to 500 m). 77 Deformation, strain localization and associated upper greenschist facies metamorphism in the MBM

78 have been considered Alpine in age (Rolland *et al.*, 2008).

79 The majority of shear zones are transpressive and form a complex network of anastomosing NNE-80 SSW (N40-60°E) and N-S (N160-20°E) components with sub-vertical stretching lineations (Fig. 1). 81 These two groups of shear zones have a dextral and sinistral component, respectively, resulting in a 82 NW-SE compression regime (Rossi *et al.*, 2005). In addition, domains of distinct mineral assemblages 83 within shear zones can be recognized with an NW to SE zoning (Fig. 1). In the NW part, the dominant 84 assemblage is epidote, quartz and muscovite, in the central part, phlogopite, chlorite and quartz are 85 present, and in the SE part, phengite dominates.

86 **Microstructure and petrology of the sample**

87 This study focuses on a greenschist facies shear zone in the chlorite- and phlogopite-bearing 88 domain (central domain of Fig. 1). This shear zone may be observed along-strike inside the Mont 89 Blanc tunnel, emphasizing its regional 2-dimensional exposure. Lineations are subvertical and shear 90 sense indicators reflect exclusively pure shear: i.e. horizontal shortening. The main mylonitic foliation 91 is marked by chlorite, elongated K-feldspars and recrystallised quartz. Locally, phlogopite is present 92 as larger crystals, and albite crystals occur in low strain parts of the sections of the shear zone. 93 Thermodynamic phase equilibria indicate that shear zone recrystallisation occured at 0.51 ± 0.05 GPa 94 and 400 ± 25 °C (Rolland *et al.*, 2003).

95 The contact between high-strain domains and low-strain granite pods is anastomosing and finger-96 like. In addition, a low Fe-content of fabric minerals is associated to high bulk-rock Mg/(Mg+Fe) 97 values compared to the unaltered, undeformed granite. These evidence suggest a localized fluid 98 alteration front associated with greenschist facies metamorphism. These are Mg-rich fluids percolating 99 upwards in the core of the MBM, with high fluid/rock ratios (Rossi *et al.*, 2005).

100 Small (< 100 µm), newly crystallised REE-rich phases are parallel to, or occasionally overgrow, 101 the main greenschist facies mylonitic foliation (Fig. 2). New aeschynite and elongate allanite crystals

Page 5 of 22 For Review Only

102 are idioblastic and contain chlorite, albite and uraninite inclusions. In addition, there are clear 103 differences in zoning, texture, composition and REE patterns between allanite in the host granite and 104 in the shear zone (Rolland *et al.*, 2003), with the shear zone grains being homogeneous in major and 105 REE elements composition (Fig. 3). These observations indicate that, texturally, allanite is not 106 inherited, is in equilibrium with the mylonitic assemblage and therefore synkinematic.

107 **Allanite dating methods**

108 Laser ablation (LA)-ICP-MS U-Th-Pb isotope analyses were undertaken at the University of 109 Portsmouth, using a New Wave 213 nm Nd:YAG laser coupled with an Agilent 7500cs ICP-MS. 110 Analytical protocols and instrument conditions are described in detail by Darling et al. (2012a). Key 111 points of the methodology are: (a) line-raster ablation, in order to minimize time-dependent elemental 112 fractionation; (b) external normalisation to the zircon standard Plešovice (Slama *et al*, 2008); (c) the 113 use of measured 204 Pb to correct for inherited common-Pb. Accuracy was monitored via analyses of 114 the allanite reference materials Tara, Mucrone, BONA and SISS (von Blanckenburg, 1992; Gregory *et* 115 *al.*, 2007; Cenki-Tok *et al.*, 2011), for each of which mean common-Pb corrected ²⁰⁸Pb/²³²Th ages are 116 within uncertainty of reference values, with uncertainties of 0.5 to 1.5 percent (2σ; Table 1).

117 Pb-isotope measurements of albite and chlorite were undertaken in a polished block of the studied 118 sample at the University of Bristol, using a New Wave Research 193 nm ArF Excimer laser coupled 119 with a ThermoFinnigan Neptune multi-collector (MC)-ICP-MS. Analytical procedures followed those 120 of Foster and Vance (2006) and Darling *et al.* (2012b). Sample measurements were normalised to the 121 NIST 610 glass standard, and NIST 612 was used to monitor accuracy and precision, yielding mean $22^{206}Pb^{204}Pb$, $207Pb^{204}Pb$ and $208Pb^{204}Pb$ values of 17.105 ± 0.008 , 15.521 ± 0.006 , and 37.035 ± 0.013 123 respectively (120 µm nominal beam diameter; $n = 12$; all uncertainties 2σ).

124 **Allanite U-Th-Pb systematics**

125 The results of allanite analyses are detailed in Table 2, and key points are summarised in Figure 4. 126 The measured grains typically have high common-Pb contents, with measured $^{206}Pb^{204}Pb$ and

For Review Only Page 6 of 22

 127 $^{208}Pb^{204}Pb$ varying from 32-184 and 60-474 respectively. A Tera-Wasserburg type concordia plot 128 (Figure 4A) highlights the dominance of common-Pb. The regression has a poorly defined lower 129 intercept of 21 \pm 18 Ma (all uncertainties 2 σ , unless otherwise stated), but interestingly has a very low 130 y-intercept (0.41 \pm 0.02), which reflects the ²⁰⁷Pb/²⁰⁶Pb composition of the common-Pb component 131 (Tera and Wasserburg, 1972). This value is far removed from model terrestrial Pb isotope evolution 132 curves (total $^{207}Pb^{206}Pb$ range 0.84 to 1.11; Stacey and Kramers, 1975).

133 The isotopic composition of common-Pb in the metamorphic assemblage associated with allanite 134 was further investigated via LA-MC-ICP-MS Pb isotope measurements of albite and chlorite from the 135 same sample (Table 3). The measured albite crystals have highly radiogenic age-corrected Pb-isotope 136 values, with weighted mean ²⁰⁶Pb/²⁰⁴Pb_i, ²⁰⁷Pb/²⁰⁴Pb_i and ²⁰⁸Pb/²⁰⁴Pb_i values of 29.75 \pm 0.39, 16.08 \pm 137 0.12 and 46.05 ± 0.34 respectively (Figure 4B). These ratios were age corrected to 28.2 ± 2.6 Ma (the 138 allanite Th-Pb isochron age; Fig. 4C) using measured ²³⁸U/²⁰⁴Pb and ²³²Th/²⁰⁴Pb, although the 139 magnitude of this correction is less than analytical uncertainty in albites due to low ²³⁸U/²⁰⁴Pb (<5.1) 140 and ²³²Th/²⁰⁴Pb (<0.11). The single measurement of chlorite has ²⁰⁶Pb/²⁰⁴Pb_i, ²⁰⁷Pb/²⁰⁴Pb_i and 141 ²⁰⁸Pb/²⁰⁴Pb_i values within uncertainty of the albite mean. Two further analyses of chlorite were 142 rejected due to ablation through Pb-rich inclusions and very low Pb concentration in one case. 143 Importantly, these measured albite and chlorite values are within uncertainty of the initial $^{208}Pb/^{204}Pb$ 144 and $^{206}Pb^{204}Pb$ values provided by the Th-Pb and U-Pb isochrons (Fig. 4C-D). As suggested by 145 textural and geochemical evidence, this indicates that allanite is in equilibrium with the mylonitic 146 assemblage and offers new opportunities for accurate common-Pb correction.

147 Previous studies have advocated the use of assumed common-Pb compositions taken from model 148 terrestrial Pb-isotope evolution curves (Stacey and Kramers, 1975), in order to correct Pb isotope 149 signals for common-Pb in magmatic allanite (e.g. Gregory *et al.*, 2007). However, as shown in Figure 150 4E, Th/Pb ages corrected using a Stacey and Kramers (1975) composition are scattered and do not 151 define a single age population. In contrast, when the measured Pb-isotope composition is used for 152 correction, the data define a single age population, with a weighted mean of 29.44 ± 0.95 Ma (MSWD $153 = 0.85$; n = 30; Figure 4F). This value is within uncertainty of the Th-Pb isochron age for these data

Page 7 of 22 For Review Only

 154 (28.2 \pm 2.6 Ma; Figure 5), which is independent of common-Pb correction. A necessary pre-requisite 155 for this approach is that metamorphic allanite, chlorite and albite have equilibrated in the same 156 common-Pb reservoir. In this case, this condition is fulfilled as i) allanites contain chlorite and albite inclusions; ii) initial ²⁰⁸Pb/²⁰⁴Pb from the allanite Th-Pb isochron (47.1 \pm 2.3) is within error of the 158 measured albite and chlorite values. There is minor variability in the initial Pb-isotope values of 159 matrix phases that is greater than analytical precision. For example $^{206}Pb/^{204}Pb_i$ in albites range from 160 29.53 \pm 0.28 to 30.40 \pm 0.31. Further analyses are required to test the scale of Pb-isotope heterogeneity 161 in such metamorphic systems, although this range of variability has a minor effect on calculated ages 162 compared to uncertainty in measurement of $204Pb$ in this study. In combination, this analysis of Pb-163 isotope systematics in allanite and other phases of the metamorphic assemblage provides confidence 164 that the weighted-mean $^{208}Pb/^{232}$ Th age represents the best estimate of crystallization age of allanites in 165 the studied sample.

166 Common Pb corrected ²⁰⁶Pb/²³⁸U ages are highly variable, and significantly older than Th-Pb ages. 167 The slope of the U-Pb isochron (Fig. 4D) also provides a significantly older age (122 ± 32 Ma). Two 168 lines of evidence suggest that the ²³⁸U-²⁰⁶Pb system is compromised by excess ²⁰⁶Pb, either from ²³⁰Th 169 disequilibrium (e.g. Scharer, 1984; von Blankenburg, 1992), inherited radiogenic Pb from a U rich 170 precursor (Romer and Siegesmund, 2003), labile ²⁰⁶Pb from another source, or a combination of these 171 factors: (1) the initial $^{206}Pb^{204}Pb$ provided by the U-Pb regression is within uncertainty of the 172 composition of albite and chlorite, suggesting variable levels of $206Pb$ incorporation into different 173 grains of allanite; (b) the low ²⁰⁷Pb/²⁰⁶Pb intercept of the Tera-Wasserburg regression (0.41 \pm 0.02) 174 compared to the albite-chlorite initial value (0.540 ± 0.014) . Furthermore, there is a positive 175 correlation between the Th/U ratios and $^{206}Pb^{238}U$ ages of the allanite population, which suggests that 176 U-Th fractionation during crystallization of allanite, causing initial ²³⁰Th disequilibrium (t_{1/2} = 75 kyr; 177 e.g. Scharer, 1984; von Blankenburg, 1992), may be the dominant control on excess ²⁰⁶Pb.

178

179 **Discussion and conclusion**

For Review Only Page 8 of 22

180 Significant improvement in understanding the petrology and geochemistry of allanite were made in 181 the past decade (e.g. Janots *et al.*, 2008), but the effects of deformation and recrystallization on allanite 182 U-Th-Pb systematics have as yet been little studied. A first attempt to test whether allanite may be 183 used to infer the age of mylonitisation revealed that the mineral can be remarkably resistant to 184 deformation in relatively dry conditions at eclogite facies due to mechanical shielding that prevents 185 chemical equilibration (Cenki-Tok *et al.*, 2011). This study shows that new crystallisation of allanite 186 may occur in shear zones associated to fluid flux, which can efficiently reset U-Th-Pb isotopic ratios. 187 In the studied shear zone, allanite texturally belongs to the greenschist-facies assemblage. As shown 188 by recent studies (e.g. Janots *et al.*, 2008), allanite is expected to be stable at these PT conditions (ca. 189 0.5 GPa and 400 °C, Rolland *et al.*, 2003).

190 The U-Th-Pb closure temperature of allanite is estimated to be above 700 °C (Heaman and Parrish, 191 1991), because i) allanite has been shown to remain closed to Pb loss and retain trace element and Sr-192 Nd isotope zonation during prolonged magmatic conditions (Oberli *et al.*, 2004; Gregory *et al.*, 2009); 193 ii) in general zoning patterns developed in allanites during prograde metamorphic growth may be 194 retained through peak conditions (Janots *et al.*, 2008). Due to the high closure temperature of allanite, 195 the age of this study is interpreted as a crystallization age that records shear zone activation under 196 greenschist facies conditions.

197 The allanite U-Th-Pb *in situ* isotope data from this study also highlights the importance of using 198 measured Pb-isotope compositions for common-Pb, particularly in metamorphic rocks in which 199 several processes may fractionate Th/Pb, U/Pb or Th/U. Measured albite and chlorite indicate that 200 fluids associated with the metasomatic event (Rossi *et al.*, 2005) had highly radiogenic Pb-isotope 201 compositions. Similar fluid compositions have already been recognised in this zone of the MBM 202 (Marshall *et al.*, 1998). These were interpreted as being related to the emplacement of the Penninic 203 Front that tapped fluid from deep crustal and mantle sources (Rossi *et al.*, 2005). Indeed, 204 metasomatised rocks with similar δ^{13} C calcite ratios may also be found at the Penninic Front itself 205 (Rossi *et al.*, 2005).

Page 9 of 22 For Review Only

206 In summary, the mean Th-Pb age of 29.4 ± 1.0 Ma is taken as the crystallisation age of allanites in 207 the studied shear zone, and hence the age of deformation and fluid percolation. In the SE domain of 208 the MBM (Fig. 1), shear zones yielded younger ⁴⁰Ar-³⁹Ar crystallization ages (16 Ma; Rolland *et al.*, 209 2008). The diachroneity revealed by these two studies highlights a succession of previously 210 unrecognized events in the MBM including: i) ductile deformation and fluid percolation at ca. 29 Ma 211 ascribed to activation of the Penninic Front, which is also recognised further to the South in the 212 Pelvoux Massif (Simon-Labric *et al.* 2009); ii) reactivation of the shear zones at 16-14 Ma is ascribed 213 to the onset of exhumation in relation with the rotation of Apulia (Rolland *et al.*, 2012).

214 More generally, allanite may be found in a wide variety of lithologies (felsic, pelitic and mafic). It 215 is a petrologically important mineral in greenschist to amphibolite grade rocks typical of the upper-216 mid crust, particularly when found together with monazite. As its closure temperature is well above 217 these moderate mid-crustal temperatures (ca. 700 °C; Oberli, 1994), allanite ages in these 218 environments are likely to record crystallization rather than cooling. Allanite therefore helps us 219 understand the timing and rates of low to medium temperature processes, which are known to be 220 difficult to date.

221

222 **Acknowledgements**

223 BCT thanks M. Engi and M. Rossi for discussion. Financial support from Swiss National Fund 224 (Grants 200020-109637, 200021-117996/1, 200021-103479/1) is gratefully acknowledged. We thank 225 C. Hetherington and two anonymous reviewers for their constructive comments as well as Klaus 226 Mezger for editorial handling.

227

228 **References**

229 Bussy, F. and von Raumer, J.F., 1994. U-Pb geochronology of Paleozoic magmatic events in the Mont 230 Blanc crystalline massif, Western Alps. *Schweizerische Mineralogische Und Petrographische* 231 *Mitteilungen*, **74**, 514-515.

- 249 Gieré, R. and Sorensen, S.S., 2004. Allanite and other REE-rich epidote-group minerals. *Reviews in* 250 *Mineralogy and Geochemistry,* **56**, 431**–**493.
- 251 Gregory, C.J., Rubatto, D., Allen, C.M., Williams, I.S., Hermann, J., and Ireland, T., 2007. Allanite 252 micro-geochronology: A LA-ICP-MS and SHRIMP U-Th-Pb study. *Chemical Geology*, **245**, 253 162-182.
- 254 Gregory, C.J., Buick, I.S., Hermann, J. and Rubatto, D., 2009. Mineral-scale Trace Element and 255 UThPb Age Constraints on Metamorphism and Melting during the Petermann Orogeny 256 (Central Australia). *Journal of Petrology*, **50(2)**, 251-287.

Page 11 of 22 For Review Only

- 257 Gregory, C.J., Rubatto, D., Hermann, J., Berger, A. a,d Engi, M., 2012. Allanite behaviour during 258 incipient melting in the southern Central Alps. *Geochimica Cosmochimica Acta*, **84**, 433-458.
- 259 Heaman, L. and R. Parrish, 1991, "U-Pb Geochronology of Accessory Minerals," chapter 3 in L.
- 260 Heaman and J.N. Ludden, *Applications of Radiogenic Isotope Systems to Problems in* 261 *Geology*, Short Course Handbook, v. 19.
- 262 Hermann, J., 2002. Allanite: thorium and light rare earth element carrier in subducted crust. *Chemical* 263 *Geology*, **192 (3-4)**.
- 264 Jaffey, A., Flynn, K., Glendenin, L., Bentley, W., Essling, A., 1971. Precision Measurement of Half-265 Lives and Specific Activities of 235U and 238U. Phys. Rev. C 4, 1889-1906
- 266 Janots, E., Engi, M., Berger, A., Allaz, J., Schwarz, J.-O., and Spandler, C., 2008. Prograde 267 metamorphic sequence of REE minerals in pelitic rocks of the Central Alps: implications for 268 allanite-monazite-xenotime phase relations from 250 to 610 degrees C. *Journal of* 269 *Metamorphic Geology*, **26 (5)**, 509-526.
- 270 Kelley, S., 2002. Excess argon in K-Ar and Ar-Ar geochronology. *Chemical Geology*, **188**, 1-22.
- 271 Marshall, D., Pfeifer, H.-R., Hunziker, J.C. and Kirschner, D., 1998. A pressure-temperature-time path 272 for the NE Mont-Blanc massif: Fluid-inclusion, isotopic and thermobarometric evidence. 273 *European Journal of Mineralogy*, **10**, 1227-1240.
- 274 Moser, D.E., Davis, W.J., Reddy, S.M., Flemming, R.L. and Hart, R.J., 2009. Zircon U-Pb strain 275 chronometry reveals deep impact-triggered flow. *Earth and Planetary Sciences Letters*, **277**, 276 73-79.
- 277 Mulch, A., Cosca, M.A., Andersen, A. and Fiebig, J., 2005. Time scales of deformation and 278 exhumation in extensional detachement systems determined by high-spatial resolution *in situ* UV-laser ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹ 279 Ar dating. *Earth and Planetary Sciences Letters*, **233**, 375-390.
- 280 Oberli, F., Meier, M., Berger, A., Rosenberg, C., and Giere, R., 2004. U–Th–Pb and Th-230/U-238 281 disequilibrium isotope systematics: precise accessory mineral chronology and melt evolution 282 tracing in the Alpine Bergell intrusion. *Geochimica Cosmochimica Acta*, **68**, 2543–2560.

- 293 Boullier, A.M., 2008. $40Ar^{39}Ar$ dating of synkinematic white mica: insights from fluid-rock 294 reaction in low-grade shear zones (Mont Blanc Massif) and constraints on timing of 295 deformation in the NW external Alps. *Geological Society, London, Special Publications*, **299**, 296 293-315.
- 297 Rolland, Y., Lardeaux, J.-M. and Jolivet, L., 2012. Deciphering orogenic evolution. *Journal of* 298 *Geodynamics*, **56-57**, 1-6.
- 299 Romer, R. L., and Siegesmund, S., 2003. Why allanite may swindle about its true age. *Contributions* 300 *to Mineralogy and Petrology*, **146**, 3, 297-307.
- 301 Rossi, M., Rolland, Y., Vidal, O. and Cox, S.F., 2005. Geochemical variations and element transfer 302 during shear-zone development and related episyenites at middle crust depths: insights from 303 the Mont Blanc granite (French-Italian Alps). *Geological Society, London, Special* 304 *Publications*, **245**, 373-396.
- 305 Schärer, U., 1984. The effect of initial ²³⁰Th disequilibrium on young U-Pb ages: the Makalu case, 306 Himalaya. *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*, **67**, 191-204.

Page 13 of 22 **For Review Only**

335 **Figure and table caption :**

336 Figure 1: Simplified geological map and cross-section (without vertical exaggeration) of the Mont

337 Blanc Massif with main structural features and mineral assemblages (modified from Rolland *et al.*,

338 2008). UTM Coordinates of studied sample : (WGS84): N5084.005; E343.502.

339 Figure 2: Plane polarized light microphotographs of allanite crystals within the studied greenschist 340 facies shear zone.

341 Figure 3: REE versus Al diagram (after Petrík *et al.*, 1995), showing the compositions of allanites 342 measured by electron microprobe in this study.

343 Figure 4: Allanite U-Th-Pb ICP-MS isotope data for sample C33. (A): Tera-Wasserburg plot of 344 allanite analyses uncorrected for common Pb. (B): Age corrected Pb isotope compositions of albites 345 and chlorite. (C) Th-Pb and (D) U-Pb isochron plots for the allanite analyses of this study. A 346 calculated U-Pb isochron corresponding to an age of 30 Ma, and using the albite and chlorite 347 measured Pb isotope composition, is also shown in B for comparison. Data are not corrected for 348 common-Pb. All uncertainties are at the 95% confidence level. (E)-(F): Common-Pb corrected Pb/Th 349 ages of allanites, showing the importance of using measured Pb isotope ratios for common Pb 350 correction.

351

352 Table 1: Summary of allanite U-Th-Pb isotope data for reference materials. The reference ages 353 were measured by Thermal Ionisation Mass Spectrometry (TIMS; von Blanckenburg, 1992) or 354 Sensitive High Resolution Ion Microprobe (SHRIMP; Gregory *et al.*, 2007; Cenki-Tok *et al.*, 2011).

355 Table 2: Allanite U-Th-Pb isotope data for Mont Blanc sample C33

Table 1:Summary of allanite U-Th-Pb isotope data for reference materials

All analyses at the School of Earth and Environmental Science, University of Portsmouth, United Kingdom

For Review Only

Table 2: Allanite U-Th-Pb isotope data for Mont Blanc sample C33

All analyses at the School of Earth and Environmental Science, University of Portsmouth, United Kingdom

¹ Nominal beam diameter and line raster length.
² Ratio of common-Pb to total Pb signal, given as percentage.
³ Data not corrected for common-Pb.
⁴ Common-Pb corrected using measured Pb isotope ratios from feldspa

Table 3: Laser ablation MC-ICPMS Pb isotope data

Analyses at the Department of Earth Sciences, University of Bristol, United Kingdom

 $¹$ Nominal beam diameter</sup>

² Total Pb signal in volts, using 10¹¹ Ω resistors for all isotopes.
³ U-Th-Pb concentrations and ratios measured at the University of Bern, utilising a GeoLas 193nm excimer laser coupled with a Elan DRC-e (quadrupol

⁴ Pb isotope ratios corrected for in-growth of radiogenic Pb to 30 Ma. Note that the magnitude of correction is small compared to analytical uncertainties on Pb isotope ratio measurements.

Figure 1: Cenki-Tok et al.

187x167mm (300 x 300 DPI)

Figure 2: Cenki-Tok et al.

136x137mm (300 x 300 DPI)

Figure 3: Cenki-Tok et al.

106x80mm (300 x 300 DPI)

113x110mm (300 x 300 DPI)