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# U/Pb dating of geodic calcite: new insights on Western

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- 17 **Abbreviated title**: U-Pb dating of diagenetic events

# 19 Abstract

This study presents the first application of the U/Pb dating method to highly Pb-depleted 20 21 diagenetic geodic calcites of the Jurassic formations of the Paris basin that leads to a 22 reappraisal of the palaeohydrogeology history of this region. Composite U/Pb ages from multiple geodes, combined with  $\delta^{18}$ O analyses, reveal two main phases of diagenetic fluid 23 circulations linked with major regional tectonic events. Dogger formations recorded a first 24 25 diagenetic fluid episode at  $147.8 \pm 3.8$  Ma, i.e. at the very beginning of the emersion of the basin during the Tithonian period and 30Ma earlier than previously assumed.  $\delta^{18}$ O results 26 27 confirmed that most of the calcitic cement phases that closed the porosity of these formations precipitated at the beginning of the Cretaceous period. Oxfordian formations recorded another major meteoric fluid circulation at  $33.5 \pm 2.8$  Ma, which can be related to the initial stage of the European Cenozoic Rift System (ECRIS), implying that the porosity of the Mesozoic formations was closed sooner than previously thought, before the main ECRIS rifting phase of Oligocene age. This study shows that U/Pb dating of secondary geodic calcite offers a new powerful way for reconstructing the coupled palaeohydrological and diagenetic history of sedimentary basins.

# Keywords

U/Pb dating, geodic calcites, diagenetic phases, palaeohydrology, Paris Basin, ECRIS

Determining the relative and absolute timing of fluid flow events is of critical importance for understanding the past history of sedimentary basins and their geological reservoirs, but also their role on the modification of the petrophysical properties of rocks, on the formation and migration of hydrocarbons, or their stability for potential deep geological disposal of radioactive wastes. During fluid flow events, secondary carbonates commonly precipitate to fill the porosity or voids, therefore occurring as infilling cements or spar calcites in geodic form. These secondary carbonates are thus relics of main fluid circulations during sedimentary basin evolution and/or tectonic events. Fluid history in sedimentary basins is generally reconstructed by combining petrographical and geochemical approaches (fluid inclusions thermometry, stable isotopes...) allowing identification between different diagenetic phases (e.g. Evans & Zalasiewicz 1996; Neymark et al. 2002; Worden et al. 1999). However, in most cases such approaches provide only a relative chronology of the past fluid events due to the lack of appropriate absolute dating methods. One drastic point is thus to have access to a reliable way of dating these diagenetic events to reconstruct the paleohydrogeological and tectonic history of the basins.

Although lead-lead and uranium-lead methods have been extensively used for dating silicates and accessory minerals for decades, direct dating of carbonates is less developed (Rasbury & Cole 2009). Following the first study of Moorbath *et al.* (1987), Pb/Pb dating were performed on uranium and lead-enriched (>1ppm) limestones and marbles (e.g. Babinski *et al.* 1999; Jahn & Simonson 1995). The first U/Pb dating of carbonates with lower uranium contents (100-500 ppb) was then reported by Smith *et al.* (1991) followed by studies on quaternary corals (Getty *et al.* 2001) or speleothems (Cliff *et al.* 2010; de Ruiter *et al.* 2009; Pickering *et al.* 2010; Richards *et al.* 1998; Woodhead *et al.* 2006). A first study on diagenetic calcite concretions was reported by Israelson *et al.* (1996) on U and Pb-rich calcites with one of the highest  $\mu$  ratio ( $\mu = {}^{238}\text{U}/{}^{204}\text{Pb}$ ) ever registered on carbonate samples

(μ = 288 000). Further studies showed the potential of the U/Pb method for directly calibrating the geological timescale or constraining the diagenetic history of sedimentary formations (Becker *et al.* 2002; Li *et al.* 2014; Luczaj & Goldstein 2000; Neymark *et al.* 2002; Rasbury *et al.* 1997). Recent advances in LA-ICP-MS have allowed investigating U/Pb dating of secondary carbonates in calcite-mineralized faults characterized by low Pb content (Coogan *et al.* 2016; Roberts & Walker 2016) but as a matter of fact, only few studies that report U/Pb dating of Pb-depleted secondary carbonates.

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The Paris Basin is an intracratonic basin formed during the Permian rifting that affected the Cadomian-Variscan basement of Western Europe (Guillocheau et al. 2000). Its tectonic and sedimentary history began with a major transgressive phase, induced by the Pangaea fragmentation, and marked by Permian lacustrine to Jurassic carbonated platforms sedimentation at the northern part of the Tethys platform. It was followed by a main regressive phase with three major continentalization phases. First, at the upper Jurassic/lower Cretaceous, the opening of the Bay of Biscay induced a fragmentation of the Jurassic platform and the uplift of its northern Variscan border associated with continental sedimentation. This regressive trend was marked by the Late Cimmerian unconformity (LCU) at the Jurassic/Cretaceous limit (Guillocheau et al. 2000). Then, the upper Cretaceous compressional (Africa-European convergence) tectonics induced enhanced continentalization with an evolution from marine distal formations to continental depositional environments. It was accompanied by erosion processes, and increased uplift of the Variscan borders. The continentalization is then definitive at the upper Oligocene. Cenozoic formations were thus mainly influenced by the N-S compression of the Pyrenean phase of late Eocene age (40Ma) followed by E-W extension during the European Cenozoic RIft System event (ECRIS) (Dèzes et al. 2004; Guillocheau et al. 2000). The ECRIS event developed as passive rifting in the foreland of the Alps and the Pyrénées. It induced the Bresse and Eger grabens) from the North Sea to the Mediterranean sea over more than 1000 km and is strongly recorded in the eastern part of the Paris Basin (Dèzes *et al.* 2004). All these extensional events induced a major fracturation network of the Mesozoic formations allowing meteoric fluids to percolate, and the precipitation of secondary carbonated phases. ECRIS is commonly described to begin at the late Eocene, by reactivation of Variscan, Permo-carboniferous and Mesozoic faults, with a main extensional episode during the Oligocene period (Dèzes *et al.* 2004; Schumacher 2002). The exact chronology of this extensional tectonics is not precisely known but it is generally described to be younger than the Priabonian P16 zone (35.2-34 Ma) (Berggren *et al.* 1985; Guillocheau *et al.* 2000). Nevertheless, evidences of shallow depressions in the Upper Rhine or Bresse grabens with fluvio-lacustrine sediments might be attributed to an initial rifting phase at the middle Eocene period (Dèzes *et al.* 2004; Sissingh 1998) and the debate is still open as no absolute dating constraints exist.

The main objective of this study was thus to bring for the first time absolute age constraints on major tectonic events that affected Western Europe through U/Pb dating of secondary diagenetic geodic calcites. A precise dating of major fluid circulation episodes induced by the first emersion phase of the Paris Basin border and by the activation of the European Cenozoic RIft System event (ECRIS) was thus achieved and gave new insights on these major geological events that affected the European plate.

# **Geological Setting**

The Eastern part of the Paris Basin (France) is characterized by Carboniferous to Cenozoic sedimentary formations with a monocline structure slightly dipping westwards due to the subsidence of the center part of the basin (Guillocheau *et al.* 2000). Oxfordian and Dogger

limestones embed the Callovo-Oxfordian clayrock unit (COx) that was recognized by the French National Radioactive Waste Management Agency (Andra) as a favorable host rock formation for radioactive waste disposal for High-Level and Intermediate-Level Long-Lived Radioactive Wastes (HLW-LL and ILW-LL) (Delay et al. 2007). This area experienced various tectonic phases from the end of the Mesozoic till the Oligocene extension tectonics and the Rhine graben formation but presents limited impact of deformation (low seismicity, little deformation and vertical displacement). These formations are affected by a fracturation network, which is responsible for the compartments segmentation of the basin. Several grabens are present at the south of the Andra Underground Research Laboratory (URL) (Joinville, Gondrecourt and Neufchateau graben) as witnesses of the Oligocene extensional tectonics (Fig. 1). The sedimentary sequence was investigated by a deep borehole drilling program (Delay et al. 2007) and presents continuous deposits from Lower Cretaceous to infra-Jurassic formations. The COx formation (150-160Ma) is a low-porosity detrital claystone cemented by 25-30 wt% of microcrystalline calcite. Its diagenetic history occurred quite early in a marine environment since no major modification was noticed after. Furthermore, the calcite cements of this formation present  $\delta^{18}$ O values typical of unmodified marine calcite indicating that the COx has not been affected by further fluid circulations (Buschaert et al. 2004). The diagenetic history of the embedding Oxfordian and Dogger limestones is more complex. These formations are affected by several generations of stratiform stylolites and dissolution veins, filled with detrital clay minerals and secondary minerals such as pyrite or dolomite (Andre et al. 2010). Thorough examination of U-series disequilibrium within these stylolitized zones has shown systematic (<sup>234</sup>U/<sup>238</sup>U) activity ratio disequilibria (Deschamps et al., 2004) indicating uranium remobilization and active transfer related to these pressure/dissolution structures. Nevertheless, this uranium remobilization is limited to a few

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centimeters range apart from the stylolites and the whole carbonates present a (234U/238U) activity ratio at equilibrium. These embedding limestones have very low porosity (2-5%) and permeability (10<sup>-9</sup> to 10<sup>-10</sup> m.s<sup>-1</sup>) (Battani et al. 2011). By contrast with the COx formation, they rarely show the preservation of typical structures of early marine cements (microcrystalline cement and small euhedral crystals of micro-spar). The primary and secondary porosities, as well as macro-cavities and micro-fractures, are mainly infilled by secondary sparry calcites. The remaining inter-particle porosity is infilled by large crystals of sparite isotopically similar to those observed in macro-cavities and in fractures inherited from the Eocene-Oligocene extension (Buschaert et al. 2004). Successive generations of blocky calcites (Cal1, Cal2, Cal3 and Cal4) were identified by microscopic observations (Carpentier et al. 2014). Based on oxygen and carbon isotopic analyses, they were interpreted as precipitated from meteoric fluids with carbon of local origin (Brigaud et al. 2009; Buschaert et al. 2004; Carpentier et al. 2014; Vincent et al. 2007). This excludes an early diagenetic cementation phase by marine fluids and marks later diagenetic events. Call (former BC1 from Brigaud et al. 2009) were then assumed to precipitate at the early Cretaceous (during LCU) following the uplift of the London-Brabant massif, Cal2 (former BC2 from Brigaud et al. 2009) during the Late Aptian Unconformity (LAU) that was associated with erosion and karstification of the Paris Basin borders and Cal3 to the Pyrenean compression. Finally, Cal4 (former BC3 from Brigaud et al. 2009) was related to the Oligocene extension tectonics with the formation of main regional grabens and associated terrestrial sedimentation (Brigaud et al. 2009; Carpentier et al. 2014). Nevertheless, no absolute geochronological constraints are available for these blocky calcites and the question is still subject to debate (Andre et al. 2010; Brigaud et al. 2009; Buschaert et al. 2004; Vincent et al. 2007). The main purpose of this study was thus to date precisely these phases of fluid circulation thanks to secondary

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geodic calcites U/Pb dating in order to refine the geological history of the Paris Basin and to give new insights on the major tectonic events that affected Western Europe.

### **Material and Methods**

### Geodic calcite samples

Geodic calcites were sampled from 3 Andra boreholes (HTM102, EST205 and EST433 boreholes, Fig. 2). HTM102 core was drilled 3 km SE from the URL through upper Oxfordian to upper Bathonian formations; EST205 borehole was drilled at the URL through Kimmeridgian to Oxfordian formations and EST433 borehole was drilled 8km NNW from the URL through Kimmeridgian to Bundstandstein formations. Oxfordian calcites were sampled from HTM102 and EST205 cores and Dogger calcites from EST433 core (Table 1). Six geodes were investigated in the Oxfordian sediments from 256 m to 331 m for HTM102 (5 geodes) and at 375 m for EST205 (1 geode). 13 sub-samples were analyzed from these 6 geodes. Three geodes were investigated in the Dogger formation from 799 m to 890 m for EST433 and 9 sub-samples were analyzed. Geodic calcites were carefully sampled using clean diamond drills only devoted to this study and cleaned by successive ultrasonic baths with mQ H<sub>2</sub>O.

Geodic samples were automorphic millimetric to centrimetric semi-translucent calcite minerals with no oxidation traces. The selected geodes were not connected to stylolites to avoid any recent uranium remobilization (Deschamps *et al.* 2004).

### Chemical preparation

Prior to sample dissolution, a <sup>205</sup>Pb-<sup>236</sup>U-<sup>233</sup>U-<sup>229</sup>Th spike was added to each sample. The spike solution was primarily calibrated by analyzing the spike solution alone, with various amounts of a mixed solution of NBS-981 Pb and NBS-960 U standards, and in reference to

the nominal value of 137.88 for  $^{238}$ U/ $^{235}$ U of natural uranium and to the concentrations of NBS standards. Values of 0.95883  $\pm$  0.00059 and 5.4677  $\pm$  0.0034 pmol.g<sup>-1</sup> were determined for  $^{205}$ Pb/ $^{233}$ U ratio and Pb concentration of the spike solution, respectively.

The chemical separation and purification of lead and uranium isotopes procedure were adapted from Babinski *et al.* (1995) and Horwitz *et al.* (1992), respectively. Calcites samples ranging from 140 mg to 400 mg were dissolved with a slight stoichiometric excess of 0.6N HBr. Samples were directly loaded on previously cleaned AG1X8 resin (100-200 mesh, 200 μL) converted into HBr form with 0.6N HBr. Both sample loading and rinsing steps were recovered and kept for uranium purification. Pb fraction was eluted by 6N HCl and was evaporated to dryness at 120°C. Two successive purification steps of Pb samples were performed after loading on AG1X8 (50 μL) and elution with 6N HCl. Taking into account the very low lead concentrations of the samples, the recovery yield of this protocol was carefully optimized to obtain nearly 100 %.

Uranium fractions were recovered after co-precipitation with iron hydroxide, dissolution with  $4N\ HNO_3$  and loading on previously cleaned UTEVA resin converted into nitric form with  $4N\ HNO_3$ . Uranium samples were eluted with mQ H<sub>2</sub>O and evaporated to dryness (120°C). A purification step was performed on UTEVA resin following the same protocol.

Final uranium and lead samples were evaporated to dryness with one H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> drop.

Similar procedures without calcite samples were conducted for lead and uranium blanks determination (concentration and isotopic composition).

### U and Pb isotopic analyses

Uranium and lead isotopic compositions were determined by Thermal Ionization Mass Spectrometry (VG sector-54). Lead samples (from 0.7 to 9.2 ng) were prepared with 2.8  $\mu$ L of silica gel and loaded on pre-degassed rhenium monofilaments. Uranium samples (from 6.5

214 to 307.2 ng) were dissolved with 1µL HNO<sub>3</sub> 0.05N and were loaded on individual pre-215 degassed rhenium monofilaments between two graphite lays. Uranium isotopes signals (<sup>233</sup>U, <sup>234</sup>U, <sup>235</sup>U, <sup>236</sup>U, <sup>236</sup>U) and lead isotopes signals (<sup>204</sup>Pb, <sup>205</sup>Pb, 216 <sup>206</sup>Pb, <sup>207</sup>Pb and <sup>208</sup>Pb) were measured on a Daly ion counter with a 20 ns and 22 ns dead-time 217 value, respectively. Data considered in this study formed a linear array in both <sup>207</sup>Pb/<sup>206</sup>Pb vs. 218 <sup>204</sup>Pb/<sup>206</sup>Pb and <sup>208</sup>Pb/<sup>206</sup>Pb vs. <sup>204</sup>Pb/<sup>206</sup>Pb diagrams and were aligned for both Oxfordian and 219 Dogger samples (Fig. S1). Replicates of NBS SRM-981 standard gave an external 220 reproducibility of 0.5 % for  $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$  ratio (2.1636  $\pm$  0.012) and of 2.9 % on  $^{204}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ 221 ratio (0.059292 ± 0.00018). Replicates of NBS SRM-960 standard gave an external 222 reproducibility of 1.5 % on  $^{235}\text{U}/^{234}\text{U}$  ratio (136.8892  $\pm$  0.1993). The uranium ( $^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$ ) 223 activity ratio was calculated using the decay constants  $\lambda^{234}U = 2.8263 \ 10^{-6}$  (Cheng et al. 224 2000) and  $\lambda^{238}$ U = 1.5513 10<sup>-10</sup> (Jaffey *et al.* 1971) and was checked to be at equilibrium for 225 226 the samples considered in this study. 227 Uranium and lead blank concentrations and isotopic compositions were determined for each analytical series. Uranium blanks were very good around 10 pg ( $10 \pm 3$  pg, n = 4) for all 228 229 analytical sessions except for the first session (187 pg). These values were similar and in the 230 lower range of published data in similar conditions (Getty & de Paolo 1995; Grandia et al. 231 2000; Israelson et al. 1996; Pickering et al. 2010; Smith et al. 1991). Lead blanks obtained all 232 along analytical sessions (117  $\pm$  37 pg, n = 5) were in the range of published data on similar size (100 to 400 mg) calcite samples (Becker et al. 2002; Cliff et al. 2010; Getty & de Paolo 233 234 1995; Israelson et al. 1996; Pickering et al. 2010; Polyak et al. 2008; Richards et al. 1998; 235 Smith et al. 1991). Nevertheless, the analyzed Pb amounts (from 0.8 ng to 8.1 ng for Oxfordian samples and from 1.2 ng to 5.1 ng for Dogger samples) were in the lower range of 236 237 published data on continental carbonates (Cliff et al. 2010; de Ruiter et al. 2009; Getty et al. 2001; Pickering et al. 2010; Richards et al. 1998). Consequently, Pb blanks from chemical 238

procedures were not negligible and corresponded to  $4 \pm 3\%$  in average of the sample Pb content and up to 15 % for samples with the lowest Pb content, which can significantly contribute to total final error of data. Isotopic raw data were then treated according to the data-reduction technique proposed by Schmitz & Schoene (2007). Each sample was corrected from the isotopic composition and concentration of the associated blank sample prepared and analyzed during the same analytical session, and with an additional error corresponding to the standard error of all the Pb blank concentrations. The accuracy of this correction and influence on age calculation were checked by comparing results obtained from data before and after blank corrections (Fig. S2 and Table S1).

U/Pb isochrons were constructed using Isoplot software 3.0. from Ludwig (2003). Considering that analyzed calcites came from different samples precipitated from fluids with possible different initial lead isotopic composition, model 2 and 3 solutions from Isoplot software were used to calculate ages.

### $\delta^{18}O$ and $\delta^{13}C$ analyses

Stable isotopic analyses ( $\delta^{18}O$  and  $\delta^{13}C$ ) were conducted on crushed geodic calcite samples using a mass spectrometer (Finnigan Delta Advantage) equipped with a carbonate device. Measured isotopic values were normalized against international standard NBS-19. Mean external reproducibility was better than 0.03 % for  $\delta^{13}C$  and 0.05 % for  $\delta^{18}O$ . Each geode was analyzed with 3 aliquots of  $60\mu g$  weight each.

#### **Results**

# U and Pb isotopic compositions of geodic calcites

Results obtained on calcites from geodes are summarized Table 1.

264 All geodic calcites considered for this study presented very low concentration of Pb, ranging from 3.4 to 21.7 ppb and from 4.2 to 17.5 ppb for Oxfordian and Dogger samples, 265 respectively. They also presented relatively low radiogenic <sup>206</sup>Pb signals with <sup>206</sup>Pb/<sup>204</sup>Pb 266 267 ratio from 23.1  $\pm$  0.3 to 95.6  $\pm$  18.8 for Oxfordian geodes and from 26.0  $\pm$  0.3 to 110.8  $\pm$  4.1 268 for Dogger geodes. 269 Samples presented more variable concentrations of U (from 43.8 to 782.4 ppb and from 22.2 to 331.8 ppb for Oxfordian and Dogger geodes, respectively) with  $\mu$  ratios ( $^{238}$ U/ $^{204}$ Pb) from 270  $256.3 \pm 4.2$  to  $13258.6 \pm 2849.6$  and from  $243.5 \pm 1.8$  to  $3916.4 \pm 155.6$  for Oxfordian and 271 272 Dogger geodes, respectively (Table 1). 273 Oxfordian and Dogger samples were then used for isochron reconstructions with Isoplot 3.0 274 software (Ludwig 2003). In both cases, absolute dating was achieved from composite 275 isochrons obtained from several sub-samples from different geodes sampled at different 276 depths and from several drill cores. The calculated ages are then likely to represent regional 277 fluid flow episodes. Two distinct patterns were observed for Oxfordian and Dogger samples. Data were plotted on Tera-Wasserburg diagrams (Fig. 3) and gave an age of  $33.5 \pm 2.8$  Ma 278 279 for the Oxfordian samples (MSWD = 23, model 2 solution, 95% confidence) and of 147.8  $\pm$ 3.8 Ma (MSWD = 41, model 2 solution, 95% confidence) for the Dogger samples. 280 281 Considering the limited size of each geode, sub-sampling was not sufficient to achieve a 282 complete dating of each geode. It was only possible to determine an isochron age for a single 283 geode (G10) from the Dogger formation. The 6 sub-samples of this geode exhibited an age of  $144.6 \pm 9.2$  Ma (MSWD = 27, model 2 solution, 95% confidence) on a Tera-Wasserburg 284 diagram and of  $145.2 \pm 8.9$  Ma (MSWD = 32, model 3 solution, 95% confidence) on a  $^{238}$ U-285 <sup>206</sup>Pb plot (Fig. 4). These results were consistent with the calculated ages from the global 286 287 composite isochrons obtained for Dogger samples (Figs. 3b and S3b,d).

The initial lead isotopic compositions were calculated to be  $20.7 \pm 2.2$  for  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$  and  $15.8 \pm 0.2$  for  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$  for the Oxfordian geodes and of  $20.4 \pm 1.2$  for  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$  and  $15.8 \pm 0.1$  for  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$  for the Dogger geodes, thus indistinguishable from each other.

# Geodic calcites $\delta^{18}O$ and $\delta^{13}C$ composition

Results from stable isotopes are summarized Table 2 and Fig. 5 for all geodes. They were reproducible from one aliquot to another for each geode and between different analytical sessions. The  $\delta^{18}$ O and  $\delta^{13}$ C data (Fig. 5) were in agreement and within the range of previous published data on spar cements, vugs or fracture infillings of Mesozoic carbonated formations of the Eastern part of the Paris Basin (Andre *et al.* 2010; Brigaud *et al.* 2009; Buschaert *et al.* 2004; Carpentier *et al.* 2014; Vincent *et al.* 2007). Similarly to U/Pb dating, two patterns were observed between Oxfordian and Dogger samples. All geodes from Oxfordian sediments (G1 to G6) presented the same  $\delta^{18}$ O range values between -10.24 ‰<sub>PDB</sub> and -8.95 ‰<sub>PDB</sub> (mean  $\delta^{18}$ O<sub>PDB</sub> = -9.28 ± 0.46 ‰) and  $\delta^{13}$ C values between +2.22 ‰<sub>PDB</sub> and +2.70 ‰<sub>PDB</sub> (mean  $\delta^{13}$ C<sub>PDB</sub> = +2.5 ± 0.2 ‰). These data fell into the range of the previously described Cal4 blocky calcite (Fig. 5). Similarly, all geodes from Dogger samples (G8 to G10) had the same  $\delta^{18}$ O range values between -6.72 ‰<sub>PDB</sub> and -6.42 ‰<sub>PDB</sub> (mean  $\delta^{18}$ O<sub>PDB</sub> = -6.54 ± 0.15 ‰) and  $\delta^{13}$ C values between +1.92 ‰<sub>PDB</sub> and +2.49 ‰<sub>PDB</sub> (mean  $\delta^{13}$ C<sub>PDB</sub> = +2.2 ± 0.3‰) corresponding to the Cal2 blocky calcite range (Fig. 5).

# Discussion

# U/Pb dating of Pb-depleted geodic calcites

To our knowledge, this is the first time that U-Pb dating was made directly on highly Pb-depleted diagenetic geodic calcite samples for paleohydrogeology reconstructions in a sedimentary basin. As mentioned by Rasbury and Cole (2009), U-Pb dating of carbonate

samples require a particular attention during the analytical steps (choice of sample, chemical procedure and blanks contribution, isotopic analyses). The main bias when dating Pbdepleted carbonates samples resides in the chemical procedure and blanks correction. As explained before, our data were then carefully corrected from Pb blanks using the datareduction technique from Schmitz & Schoene (2007). Isochron reconstructions gave MSWD higher than 1 in all cases (Fig. 3). We have thus to consider our results as errochrons, which is commonly observed for carbonate samples (e.g. de Ruiter et al. 2009; Getty et al. 2001; Pickering et al. 2010; Rasbury & Cole 2009). Part of this high MSWD might be explained by analytical errors. Notably internal errors on our data were very low, inducing small error ellipses and artificially increasing MSWD values as previously evoked by Cole et al. (2005). This point was confirmed by the small MSWD obtained on <sup>235</sup>U-<sup>207</sup>Pb plots (0.15 and 0.56 for Oxfordian and Dogger samples, respectively, Fig. S3) with larger analytical errors and error ellipses. Similarly, it is confirmed by the strong influence of Pb blank correction and error propagations on MSWD values (Table S1). We observed a great decrease of MSWD values after age calculations from data corrected from Pb blanks relative to calculations from data not corrected from Pb blanks, whereas no influence was observed on calculated ages. But, the high MSWD obtained from the Terra-Wasserburg plots might not be totally explained by analytical errors. This high scatter of the isochron data may be induced by (i) variation in the initial disequilibrium (mainly <sup>234</sup>U/<sup>238</sup>U) between the intermediate daughters of uranium series, (ii) open-system conditions with gain or loss of intermediate compounds or (iii) heterogeneity of initial Pb isotopic composition (Cole et al. 2005). This last point was also evoked by Rasbury & Cole (2009) who have shown that slight variations of the initial lead isotopic compositions may induce nonnegligible MSWD variations. In this study, the great concordance of the calculated ages for  $^{238}$ U and  $^{235}$ U decay series and Tera-Wasserburg Concordia (34.6 ± 3.1 Ma, 29.7 ± 9.2 Ma

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and 33.5  $\pm$  2.8 Ma, respectively for Oxfordian samples and 147.1  $\pm$  3.5 Ma, 152.8  $\pm$  7.7 Ma and 147.8 ± 3.8 Ma, respectively for Dogger samples, Figs. 3 and S1) advocates for a minimal influence of <sup>234</sup>U/<sup>238</sup>U disequilibria and allows to rule out any secondary opening of the system (Cole et al. 2005). At the contrary, age calculations were done from composite isochrons using geodic calcites sampled at different depths and from different cores a few kilometers away in the basin (Figs. 1 and 2). They are representative of fluid flow events at a regional scale. Geodes used for these calculations may then have been precipitated from fluids with slight fluctuations of the initial lead isotopic composition. These latter, inherent to natural carbonated environments, were similarly often assumed to be responsible for quite large MSWD of calculated isochrons (de Ruiter et al. 2009; Getty et al. 2001; Pickering et al. 2010). Moreover, we cannot also rule out that part of the scatter around the isochron lines reflected in high MSWD is tied to the duration of the precipitation of calcite in vugs. Inherent to the use of U/Pb isochrons is that formation of the analyzed phase is instantaneous. This assumption is very likely no longer valid when the method is applied to geodic calcites that witness to processes such as fluid circulations and porosity sealing which might have occurred during time-laps of a few million years. Consequently, in this study, high MSWD might then reflect geological processes such as heterogeneity of natural fluids or duration of diagenetic events as well as low data internal errors. For these reasons, we can reasonably consider that the calculated ages reflect major geological events occurring at a regional scale in the investigated area.

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# Paleofluids circulations and major related tectonic events.

#### Fluids composition and origin

The stable isotopic composition in oxygen and carbon of the analyzed geodes indicated two patterns in agreement with previous published data (Andre *et al.* 2010; Brigaud

et al. 2009; Buschaert et al. 2004; Carpentier et al. 2014; Vincent et al. 2007). Indeed, except Vincent et al. (2007) who obtained a -9 %  $\delta^{18}O_{/PDB}$  value for all spar cements, Brigaud et al. (2009), Buschaert et al. (2004) and Carpentier et al. (2014) reported a wider range for  $\delta^{18}O$  values of spar cements and vugs in both Oxfordian and Dogger formations. The different identified blocky calcites presented distinct  $\delta^{18}O_{/PDB}$  values while their  $\delta^{13}C_{/PDB}$  were similar (see Fig. 5). All geodes from Oxfordian formations presented the same range of  $\delta^{18}O$  and  $\delta^{13}C$  values than Cal4 blocky calcites. Similarly, all geodes from Dogger samples presented  $\delta^{18}O$  and  $\delta^{13}C$  data related to Cal2 blocky calcites.

As previously mentioned by Buschaert *et al.* (2004), the  $\delta^{13}$ C values of the blocky calcites directly reflect and vary with the ones of the host limestones indicating a local origin of the carbon. Similarly, the  $\delta^{13}$ C values of geodic calcites obtained in this study (Fig. 5) were similar for both Oxfordian and Dogger samples, and consistent with those of the limestones (from 2.04 % to 3.39 %) implying a similar local source of the carbon. Based on  $\delta^{18}$ O data and microthermometry calculations from primary fluid inclusions analyses, Brigaud *et al.* (2009), Buschaert *et al.* (2004), Carpentier *et al.* (2014) and Vincent *et al.* (2007) also demonstrated that the blocky calcites, jointly with calcites from vugs and macrocavities, were precipitated from the input of fresh meteoric waters. These fluids may have circulated thanks to the direct connection of the limestone aquifers with surface water or to the circulation of water through regional fault system (Buschaert *et al.* 2004). Similarly,  $\delta^{18}$ O values of geodic calcites were consistent with those of blocky calcites. It highly suggested that geodes might also have been precipitated from meteoric water without any seawater mixing. This tends to confirm that the fluids that precipitated all geodes were of local meteoric origin.

Paleohydrological history of the eastern part of the Paris Basin

Two major events were clearly identified from both U/Pb and stable isotopic data of geodic calcites. Considering that analyzed geodes for both Oxfordian and Dogger formations came from different cores and at different depth, we may consider that these two events were related to major phases of fluid circulations and then to regional tectonic events. We can then replace these two events into the tectonic and diagenetic history of the sedimentary basin.

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The first phase of fluid circulation occurred at  $147.8 \pm 3.8$  Ma and deeply affected the Dogger formations, as determined thanks to global composite isochron (Fig. 3) and to individual geode age calculation (Fig. 4). These geodes from Dogger formations clearly presented the same  $\delta^{18}O_{PDR}$  range (-6.5 ± 0.2 %) than blocky calcites Cal2. We then assume that both analyzed geodes and Cal2 were synchronous in Dogger formations. As the blocky calcites (Cal1 to Cal4) were supposed to be witnesses of major phases of fluid circulations, Brigaud et al. (2009) and Carpentier et al. (2014) correlated these diagenetic phases to major regional tectonic events and emersion phases. They assumed that Call precipitated during the Late Cimmerian Unconformity (LCU) during early Cretaceous, which is commonly associated to a widespread erosional event in western Europe and to the uplift of the London-Brabant massif and of the Paris Basin borders (Guillocheau et al. 2000). They also postulated that Cal2 precipitated later during the Late Aptian Unconformity (LAU) at the Albian/Aptian transition (≈113 Ma) that induced a major erosion episode with karstification and ferricrete soil formation. However according to our absolute U/Pb dating of geodes from the Dogger formations at  $147.8 \pm 3.8$  Ma, all the secondary mineral precipitations from Cal1 to Cal2 occurred during the Tithonian period, which means ~30Ma sooner than initially proposed by Brigaud et al. (2009) and Carpentier et al. (2014). This also means that most of the porosity of the Dogger formations was closed at the beginning of the Cretaceous period considering that Cal1 and Cal2 may represent up to 90% of total volume cement in Middle Jurassic limestones (Brigaud et al. 2009; Carpentier et al. 2014). It is usually postulated that the

emerged islands at the end of the Jurassic period were not sufficient to induce large meteoric fluid percolations into Mesozoic formations. Nevertheless, several massif at the northern and southern borders of the Paris Basin (i.e. Rhenish, Bohemian and London Brabant massif to the north and Morvan to the south) were shown to uplift as soon as the upper Jurassic linked to the Late-Cimmerian phase tectonics and to the rifting and oceanic accretion of the Bay of Biscay (Beccaletto et al. 2011; Schumacher 2002; Thiry et al. 2006; Vercoutere & Van den Houte 1993). This induced an erosion of their Paleozoic to early Mesozoic sedimentary cover between the end of the Jurassic and the late Cretaceous (Thiry et al. 2006; Vercoutere & Van den Houte 1993). This erosion was recorded through karstifications, paleosoils and paleosurfaces that were representative of a residual infra-Cretaceous relief (Quesnel 2003) and were dated from 120 to 140 Ma and up to 160 Ma (Théveniaut et al. 2007; Thiry et al. 2006). Consequently the uplift of these massifs may have favored the emersion of Mesozoic formations and then percolation of meteoric fluids. Nevertheless, if the emersion of the Tithonian formations at the end of the Jurassic period was established, there is no evidence for the emersion of Dogger at that time. It is mainly due to the Late Aptian Unconformity that had truncated LCU and Jurassic formations (Guillocheau et al. 2000), but it does not preclude a possible emersion of Dogger formations associated with meteoric fluid percolation at that time. Our U/Pb absolute dating seems to corroborate this hypothesis, and gives new information about the initiation of the infra-cretaceous unconformity at the Tithonian period. It may imply marked concomitant uplift and erosion processes at that time, bringing Dogger formations at the surface. These data may then indicate that a major phase of meteoric fluid circulation and diagenetic precipitation could have occurred as soon as the Tithonian period inducing the formation of main geodes and all blocky sparites from Call to Cal2 into Dogger formations, and of Cal1 and Cal2 cements in Oxfordian formations. It is also consistent with the microscopic observations that both Cal1 and Cal2 infill F1 fractures

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assumed to be of Kimmeridgian/Tithonian age and that mainly affected Middle Jurassic formations (Carpentier *et al.* 2014).

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The second main phase of fluid circulation at  $33.5 \pm 2.8$  Ma was solely recorded in geodic calcites from the Oxfordian formations. It was clearly related to BC3/Cal4 calcites evoked by Brigaud et al. (2009), Buschaert et al. (2004) and Carpentier et al. (2014) with similar mean  $\delta^{18}O_{PDB}$  values ( $\delta^{18}O_{PDB} = -9.3 \pm 0.5$  %, Fig. 5). Previous studies attributed BC3/Cal4 precipitation to the Eocene/Oligocene extension tectonics, during the ECRIS, considering that BC3/Cal4  $\delta^{18}$ O values were similar to the ones of the infilling calcites of Eocene/Oligocene fractures. The absolute U/Pb dating of geodic calcites at  $33.5 \pm 2.8$  Ma is consistent with this conclusion. It is also in agreement with the U/Th-He dating attempts of fracture-infilling calcites from the ECRIS-induced fractures at the Gondrecourt graben (Cros et al. 2014). Due to He diffusion, U/Th-He dating gave highly variable ages (from 0.2Ma to 204Ma) that were not reproducible among 63 samples except for one sample at 29-36Ma. U/Pb dating of geodic calcites shows then accurately the existence of a main phase of meteoric fluid circulation induced by the fracturation of the carbonate formations of the eastern part of the Paris Basin during the ECRIS tectonics. This tectonic event that affected western and central Europe was activated during the late Eocene and was followed by a main rifting phase at the Oligocene. During the Late Eocene, the Alpine foreland was subjected to intra-plate compressional stresses induced by Alpine and Pyrenean collision zones (Dèzes et al. 2004; Ziegler 1992). These stresses reactivated late Variscan, Permo-Carboniferous and Mesozoic fracture systems that controlled the localization of the main individual grabens such as the Rhine graben in the eastern part of the Paris Basin (Schumacher 2002; Ziegler 1992). This area was marked by a widespread Bartonian phase of progressive regional uplift of the graben shoulders accompanied by meteoric fluid circulations and erosion (Sissingh, 1998). Our results indicate that large regional meteoric fluid circulations and subsequent precipitation of secondary calcites occurred as soon as late Eocene during the initial phases of rifting. It affected all the Oxfordian formations and finally closed the porosity of the limestones. We cannot exclude that this main phase of fluid circulation could also have affected Dogger formations but to a lesser extent considering that only a few BC3/Cal4 samples were identified in Dogger rocks (Brigaud *et al.* 2009; Buschaert *et al.* 2004; Carpentier *et al.* 2014). We can also assume that the porosity of the Dogger formations was already largely closed following the late Jurassic/early Cretaceous diagenetic event. This is the first time that a reliable absolute age is given for ECRIS event. It tends to confirm that this major tectonic phase that affect all Western Europe may have begun from the Late Eocene as soon as 34Ma.

These results do not preclude the existence of phases of fluids circulations between 148Ma and 34Ma (*i.e.* during the LAU). But we can assume that these potential events, if they occurred, should have been limited by the closure of the porosity of the formations at 148Ma and might not have induced major dissolution/reprecipitation of secondary geodic calcites in the carbonated formations of the Eastern part of the Paris Basin.

#### Conclusion

This study presents and discusses the first U/Pb dating of diagenetic geodic calcites, highly depleted in lead, of the Mesozoic formations of the eastern part of the Paris Basin. We have shown that composite isochrons realized from different geodic calcites can allow determining the absolute age of main regional fluid flow events. We also showed that, when geodes are large enough, individual age of one geode can also be determined. In the present study, the obtained results on one geode were consistent with global composite isochron age. These U/Pb analyses, jointly with oxygen and carbon isotopic analyses clearly indicated two main phases of fluid circulation: at 148 Ma and 34 Ma. We have correlated these two phases

of fluid circulation and precipitation of calcite to the blocky calcite phases previously described in the literature. The absolute chronology obtained for the two major diagenetic events allow us to revisit the history of the eastern part of the Paris Basin and to demonstrate that the first phases of diagenetic closure of the porosity may have occurred sooner than previously thought. In Dogger formations, most of the spar cements were precipitated earlier than 148Ma. Nevertheless, a more recent major phase of fluid circulation occurred at 34Ma linked with the major ECRIS extension tectonics of the Eocene/Oligocene period that affected Western Europe. These results tend to indicate that meteoric fluid percolation induced by the ECRIS tectonics were important from its first stages during late Eocene, sooner than previously thought.

The U/Pb dating method of secondary calcites may then be a powerful tool for diagenetic, paleohydrological and tectonic reconstructions. This study opens new perspectives for diagenetic minerals dating and especially for future cement analyses or fault-formed carbonates.

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### **Conflict of interest statement**

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Author contribution

C. Pisapia made the analyses, data treatment and interpretation, and wrote the paper. P.

Deschamps, A. Guihou, B. Hamelin participated to sample analyses and/or data treatment.

All co-authors discussed the results and co-wrote the paper.

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Table Captions
Table 1: Synthesis of U and Pb elemental and isotopic data obtained on geodic calcites
from the eastern part of the Paris Basin for Oxfordian and Dogger samples.
Table 2: Stable isotopic data for geodic calcites analyzed in this study. δ<sup>18</sup>O and δ<sup>13</sup>C values
are reported for the 3 aliquotes of each geode.

# 685 686 Figure 1: Simplified geological map of the studied area with the localization of EST 205, 687 EST 433 and HTM 102 cores (modified from Buschaert et al. 2004). 688 Figure 2: Synthetic logs of EST 205, HTM 102 and EST433 cores. The sampling positions 689 of the analyzed geodes for Oxfordian and Dogger samples are specified and optical 690 photographs of two typical analyzed geodes (G2 and G3 from HTM 102 borehole) are given. 691 Figure 3: Tera-Wasserburg Concordia diagrams for Oxfordian (a) and Dogger (b) 692 samples using Isoplot software 3.0 (Ludwig 2003) (model 2, 95% confidence) and calculated 693 ages obtained. Figure 4: <sup>206</sup>Pb/<sup>204</sup>Pb vs. <sup>238</sup>U/<sup>204</sup>Pb isochron (a) and Tera-Wasserburg Concordia (b) 694 695 obtained for 6 sub-samples of one geode (G10) using Isoplot software 3.0 (Ludwig 2003) and 696 calculated ages obtained. Figure 5: $\delta^{18}$ O and $\delta^{13}$ C compositions of geodic calcites analyzed in this study. Error bars 697 698 are within the points. Data from Oxfordian limestones, COx claystones and Dogger limestones from Buschaert et al. (2004) are specified ( $\delta^{18}$ O data were converted from SMOW 699 to PDB thanks to the equation from Coplen et al. 1983: $\delta^{18}O_{SMOW} = 1.03091*\delta^{18}O_{PDB} +$ 700 701 30.91). Grey squares summarize Blocky Calcites mean data (Cal1, Cal2, Cal3 and Cal4) from 702 Brigaud et al. (2009) and Carpentier et al. (2014).

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**Figure Captions** 

Table 1

Sample name	Weight (mg)	U (ppb)	Pb (ppb)	μ ( <sup>238</sup> U/ <sup>2</sup> ± 2σ [	-	<sup>206</sup> Pb/ <sup>204</sup> Pb ± 2σ [%]		<sup>235</sup> U/ <sup>204</sup> Pb ± 2σ [%]		<sup>207</sup> Pb/ <sup>204</sup> Pb ± 2σ [%]		<sup>238</sup> U/ <sup>206</sup> Pb ± 2σ [%]		<sup>207</sup> Pb/ <sup>206</sup> Pb ± 2σ [%]	
Oxfordian															
G1-1	395	266.2	5.8	3935.6	4.4	39.3	3.5	28.5	4.4	16.6	4.1	100.08	1.5	0.423	3.1
G1-2	407	284.8	4.2	6947.9	7.0	56.9	6.0	50.4	7.0	17.5	6.5	122.03	1.6	0.308	5.0
G1-3	324	331.3	6.2	4769.8	3.6	44.4	2.9	34.6	3.6	16.8	3.4	107.44	1.1	0.379	2.6
G1-4	144	577.8	11.1	4910.1	6.8	48.6	5.1	35.6	5.0	17.0	4.8	100.95	1.3	0.350	3.7
G2-1	378	420.7	7.2	5379.2	4.0	47.4	3.3	39.0	4.0	17.0	3.7	113.55	1.2	0.358	2.8
G2-2	402	254.8	6.8	3050.1	3.5	35.7	2.7	22.1	3.5	16.4	3.3	85.34	1.3	0.460	2.5
G2-3	118	247.4	8.1	3516.6	5.8	43.1	4.8	25.5	5.8	16.8	5.6	81.62	1.7	0.389	4.4
G3-1	237	301.3	3.4	13258.6	21.5	95.6	19.6	96.2	21.5	19.5	19.5	138.67	2.8	0.204	14.7
G3-2	261	336.2	6.8	4512.7	4.1	46.1	3.4	32.7	4.1	16.9	3.9	97.93	1.1	0.367	3.1
G4-1	372	782.4	21.7	2856.6	1.3	35.5	0.9	20.7	1.3	16.4	1.1	80.43	0.7	0.462	8.0
G5-1	348	43.8	3.7	872.3	4.6	26.0	3.4	6.3	4.6	16.0	4.5	33.56	2.2	0.614	3.3
G5-2	251	50.9	4.4	830.5	1.9	26.3	1.4	6.0	1.9	16.0	1.9	31.62	1.0	0.608	1.3
G6-1	362	35.0	9.4	256.3	1.7	23.1	1.2	1.9	1.7	16.0	1.6	11.10	0.9	0.691	1.1
Dogger															
G8-1	246	39.0	11.6	243.5	0.7	26.1	0.5	1.8	0.7	16.1	0.7	9.33	0.4	0.615	0.5
G9-1	269	22.2	5.8	272.7	1.3	26.0	1.0	2.0	1.3	16.1	1.3	10.50	0.7	0.619	0.9
G9-2	295	25.8	4.2	474.8	1.9	31.6	1.5	3.4	1.9	16.4	1.8	15.02	8.0	0.518	1.3
G10-1	279	230.3	11.2	2398.8	1.1	76.1	1.0	17.4	1.1	18.6	1.0	31.53	0.2	0.244	8.0
G10-2	289	243.1	17.5	1297.9	0.6	51.4	0.5	9.4	0.6	17.4	0.5	25.26	0.3	0.339	0.4
G10-3	224	281.6	9.8	2626.1	1.2	82.3	1.1	19.0	1.2	18.9	1.1	31.90	0.2	0.230	0.9
G10-4	250	331.8	12.7	3916.4	4.0	110.8	3.7	28.4	4.0	20.3	3.6	35.34	0.5	0.183	2.7
G10-5	244	324.7	13.3	3328.3	3.5	96.3	3.2	24.1	3.5	19.5	3.2	34.56	0.6	0.202	2.5
G10-6	260	156.6	8.7	1938.0	4.0	64.0	3.5	14.1	4.0	17.9	3.8	30.27	0.9	0.280	3.0

Table 2

Core	Samp	ole name	δ <sup>18</sup> Ο	± 2σ	δ <sup>13</sup> C	± 2σ
			(‰/PDB)	(‰/PDB)		
Oxfordian						
EST 205	G4	EST 07057	-8.98	0.02	2.68	0.012
			-8.90	0.04	2.70	0.03
			-8.98	0.01	2.72	0.039
HTM 102	G1	HTM 00544	-9.36	0.03	2.69	0.04
			-9.21	0.01	2.73	0.04
			-9.23	0.02	2.66	0.05
	G2	HTM 00595	-9.24	0.02	2.41	0.06
			-9.18	0.03	2.43	0.02
			-9.28	0.02	2.33	0.02
	G3	HTM 80513	-8.98	0.02	2.55	0.02
			-9.02	0.02	2.54	0.03
			-8.99	0.04	2.60	0.04
	G5	HTM 02854	-10.26	0.02	2.35	0.06
			-10.20	0.02	2.36	0.02
	-		-10.26	0.04	2.38	0.04
	G6c	HTM 331	-8.96	0.01	2.68	0.02
			-8.95	0.02	2.70	0.02
			-9.05	0.02	2.72	0.01
Dogger						
EST 433	G8	EST 29185	-6.67	0.04	2.28	0.03
			-6.80	0.04	2.26	0,04
			-6.69	0.02	2.25	0,01
	G9	EST 29192	-6.47	0.04	2.47	0.03
			-6.33	0.02	2.51	0.03
			-6.47	0.02	2.50	0.02
	G10	EST 30904	-6.44	0.02	1.82	0.01
			-6.56	0.02	1.92	0.02
			-6.42	0.03	1.91	0.02
	G11	EST 34826	-9.37	0.05	0.39	0,02
			-9.37	0.04	0.39	0.02
			-9.36	0.03	0.41	0.02

Figure 1

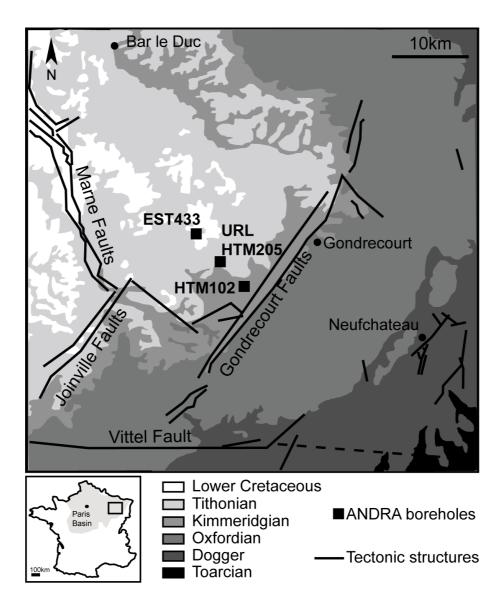


Figure 2

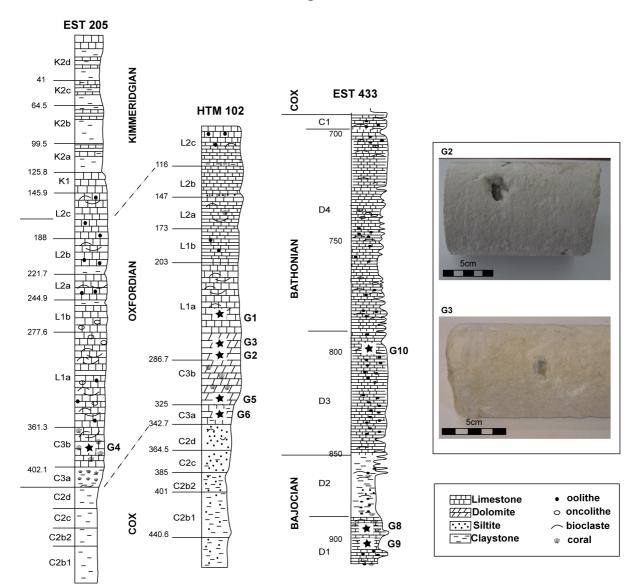


Figure 3

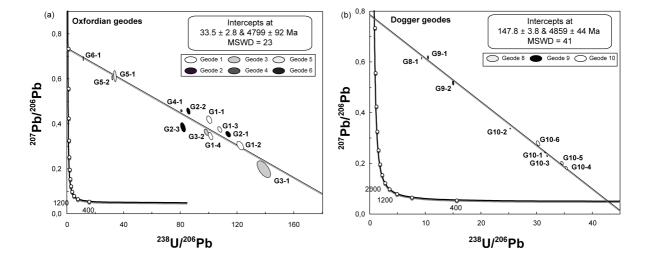
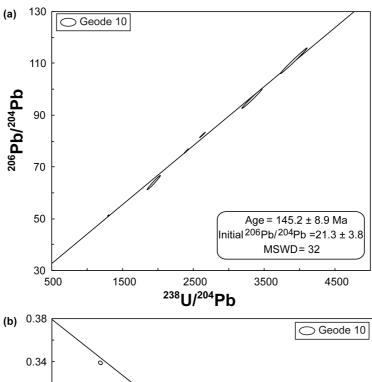


Figure 4



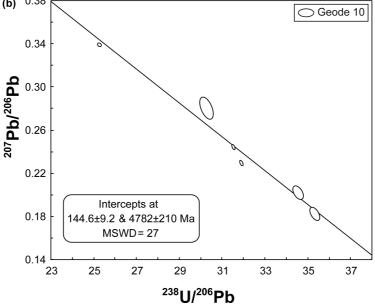
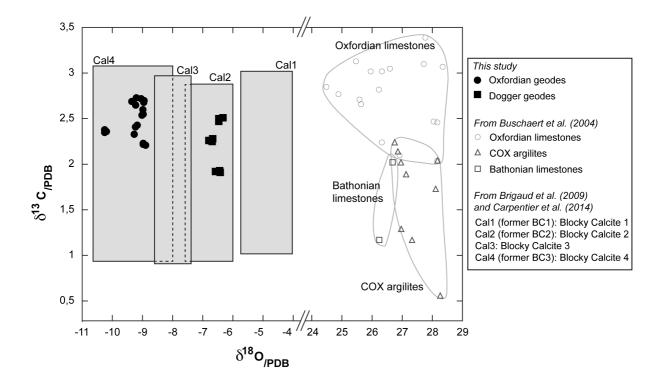


Figure 5



Supplementary material (not datasets)

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