

Changes in fluid regime in syn-orogenic sediments during the growth of the south Pyrenean fold and thrust belt

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Abstract

The eastern sector of the south Pyrenean fold and thrust belt developed during the Alpine compression and affected Upper Cretaceous to lower Oligocene foreland basin deposits.

In this study, we determine the changes in fluid regime and fluid composition during the growth of this fold and thrust belt, integrating petrographic and geochemical data obtained from fracture-filling cements.

Hydrothermal fluids at temperatures up to 154 °C, migrated from the Axial zone to the foreland basin and mixed with connate fluids in equilibrium with Eocene sea-water during lower and middle Eocene (underfilled foreland basin). As the thrust front progressively emerged, low-temperature meteoric waters migrated downwards the foreland basin and mixed at depth with the hydrothermal fluids from middle Eocene to lower Oligocene (overfilled non-marine foreland basin).

The comparison of the fluid flow models from the Southern Pyrenees with other orogens worldwide, seems to indicate that the presence or absence of thick evaporitic units highly control fluid composition during the development of fold and thrust belts. Whereas in thrusts not detached along thick evaporite units, mixed fluids are progressively more depleted in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and have a lower temperature and lower Fe and Sr contents as the thrust front emerges, in thrust detachments through thick evaporite units, the mixed fluids are enriched in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$.

33 *Keywords:* Fluid regime; Syn-orogenic sediments; Fractures; South Pyrenean fold and
34 thrust belt

35 **1. Introduction**

36 Geofluids interact with sediments during development of fold and thrust belts. These
37 interactions are responsible of ore deposits precipitation and have an important role
38 during hydrocarbon migration and diagenesis, which affects reservoir quality (Oliver,
39 1986; Qing and Mountjoy, 1992; Machel and Cavell, 1999; Bitzer et al., 2001; Dewaele
40 et al., 2004; Roure et al., 2005; Evans and Fischer, 2012; Vandeginste et al., 2012;
41 Rodríguez-Morillas et al., 2013).

42 The geochemical composition of the diagenetic products related to fluid flow (cements)
43 depends on the type of fluid, fluid/rock ratios and host rock composition (Banner, 1995;
44 Swennen et al., 2003; Travé et al., 2007; Swart, 2015). Furthermore, fluids favour
45 propagation of fractures, which act as seals or paths (Reynolds and Lister, 1987;
46 McCaig, 1988; Sibson et al., 1988; Carter et al., 1990; Shackleton et al., 2015). Fluid
47 migration along fractures and rock porosity is induced by tectonics (squeegee-type)
48 and/or topography during the successive stages of fold and thrust belts evolution (Oliver,
49 1986; Heydari, 1997; Bitzer et al., 2001; Pollyea et al., 2015). Thus, the study of fracture-
50 and porosity-filling cements provide information about changes in fluid regime (e.g.
51 temperature, pressure, burial and fluid composition) and in turn, sheds light on the
52 tectonic history of compressional belts (Banks et al., 1991; Marker and Burkhard, 1992;
53 Bitzer et al., 2001; Roure et al., 2005, 2010).

54 Studies of the relationships between fluids and deformation in fold and thrust belts
55 worldwide report two general trends regarding to fluid flow. The first trend consists of the
56 progressive depletion in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of the fluids, which has been related to the increase of the
57 temperature of fluids due to the progressive burial of the studied structures (Dewaele et
58 al., 2004; Travé et al., 2004; Breesch et al., 2009; Vilasi et al., 2009; Vilasi, 2010; Evans

59 et al., 2012; Vandeginste et al., 2012; Beaudoin et al., 2014; Fontana et al., 2014).
60 However, other works relate this depletion to the progressive input of low-temperature
61 meteoric waters into the fluid system, which mixed at depth with fluids with a higher
62 temperature and salinity (Immenhauser et al., 2007; Hausegger et al., 2010; Cruset et
63 al., 2016). The second trend consists of the enrichment in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of fluids along time due
64 to their interaction with clays (Deweever, 2008; Deweever et al., 2013), although in the
65 Larra/Eaux-chaudes thrust (Jaca Basin) and areas affected by salt tectonics, this
66 enrichment is related to the increase of fluid salinity due to the influence of evaporites
67 (Fischer et al., 2013; Crognier et al., 2017).

68 The South Pyrenean fold and thrust belt constitutes a well-known example in which the
69 relationships between sequential emplacement of thrust sheets of different ages and
70 syn-tectonic deposits are well-constrained (Muñoz et al., 1986; Vergés and Muñoz, 1990;
71 Burbank et al., 1992a, b; Vergés, 1993; Vergés et al., 2002; Beamud et al., 2010;
72 Carrigan et al., 2016; Labaume et al., 2016). In addition, works already done on fluid
73 regime evolution in the Southern Pyrenees show the same evolution trends regarding
74 fluid flow than those observed in other fold and thrust belts worldwide (Travé et al., 1997,
75 1998, 2000, 2007; Caja et al., 2006; Caja and Permanyer, 2008; Lacroix et al., 2011,
76 2014; Beaudoin et al., 2015; Cruset et al., 2016; Crognier et al., 2017). Consequently,
77 the southern Pyrenees represent an excellent laboratory for the study of the changes in
78 fluid regime during progressive deformation in fold and thrust belts.

79 In this work we define the changes in fluid regime from the beginning of the emplacement
80 of the South eastern Pyrenean thrust sheets to the end of contraction, using data from
81 the entire pile of superposed thrust sheets (Lower Pedraforca, Vallfogona, L'Escala and
82 Abocador thrusts) within the foreland basin (Vergés, 1993). We determine the origin of
83 fluids from which cements precipitated in fractures and rock porosity, their evolution
84 trends during each stage of deformation and controlling parameters using petrographic
85 and geochemical data (carbon, oxygen and strontium isotopes, clumped isotopes

86 thermometry and elemental composition). The results are integrated with previous
87 studies done in the west central Pyrenees (Ainsa Basin (Travé et al., 1997), Castillo
88 Mayor klippe and Jaca thrust (Lacroix et al., 2014), Larra/Eaux-chaudes thrust (Crognier
89 et al., 2017)) and the eastern Ebro Basin, (El Guix anticline (Travé et al., 2000) and Puig-
90 reig anticline (Cruset et al., 2016)), to constrain the evolution of fluid regime at the scale
91 of the south Pyrenean fold and thrust belt, which finally is compared to other
92 compressional belts.

93 **2. Geological setting**

94 The Pyrenees consist of a doubly verging orogenic belt generated during the continental
95 collision between Iberia and Eurasia plates, from Late Cretaceous to Miocene (Muñoz,
96 2002; Vergés et al., 2002a) (Fig. 1). This collision resulted from the partial subduction of
97 the Iberian plate beneath the Eurasian plate (Choukroune et al., 1989; Roure et al., 1989;
98 Muñoz, 1992, 2002; Vergés et al., 2002). The previous Mesozoic extensional basins
99 were inverted and an antiformal stack constituted of basement-involved thrust sheets
100 developed in the central part of the chain (Axial zone), acting as a boundary between the
101 North and south Pyrenean fold and thrust belts (Muñoz, 1992) (Fig. 1).

102 The south Pyrenean fold and thrust belt consists of a sequence of south-verging thrusts
103 emplaced in a piggy-back thrust sequence (Puigdefàbregas et al., 1992) and detached
104 predominantly above Triassic evaporites (Séguret, 1972) and Eocene evaporites
105 deposited in the foreland basin (Vergés et al., 1992; Sans, 2003) (Fig. 2).

106 The four structures selected for this study are located in the south- eastern Pyrenees
107 (Fig. 1) and are representative of the change from marine to continental conditions during
108 thrust front migration. The oldest structure studied is the Lower Pedraforca thrust sheet
109 (Fig. 2a, 3a), an allochthonous klippe detached in the Keuper facies and emplaced from
110 lower to middle Eocene (Puigdefàbregas et al., 1986; Burbank et al., 1992a). The
111 emplacement of the Lower Pedraforca thrust sheet was under marine conditions, as

112 attested by the syn-orogenic conglomerates of Queralt related to this structure (Vergés,
113 1993). The second structure is the Vallfogona thrust (Fig. 2a, b, 3a), which is the southern
114 boundary of the Cadí thrust sheet. The activity of this thrust fault started in the middle
115 Eocene under marine conditions and finished during the lower Oligocene under
116 continental conditions (Burbank et al., 1992; Vergés, 1993; Vergés and Burbank, 1996;
117 Haines, 2008). The two youngest structures are the Abocador and L'Escala thrusts (Fig.
118 2b, 3a), active from middle to upper Eocene and from upper Eocene to lower Oligocene,
119 respectively (Travé et al., 2007; Haines, 2008). These two structures affect the
120 sediments of the Ebro foreland basin, which form the footwall of the Vallfogona thrust,
121 and developed under marine-continental transitional conditions (Travé et al., 2007).

122 The sediments of the study area range in age between Upper Triassic and Oligocene
123 and consist of pre- and syn-orogenic deposits related to the emplacement of the thrust
124 sequence (Fig. 3b). The Lower Pedraforca thrust sheet is composed of the pre-orogenic
125 Keuper facies, Lias and Dogger limestones and dolostones, Santonian limestones and
126 the syn-orogenic Campanian-Maastrichtian coastal deposits of the Areny Fm.,
127 Maastrichtian-Thanelian continental deposits from the Garumnian facies, Ilerdian
128 limestones from the Cadí Fm. and Lutetian-Bartonian conglomerates of the Coubet Fm.
129 (Mey et al., 1968; Vergés, 1993; López-Martínez et al., 1999; Rosell et al., 2001; Oms et
130 al., 2007). The hangingwall of the Vallfogona thrust consists of Cuisian-Lutetian turbiditic
131 deposits of the Vallfogona Fm, which are overlain by the Lutetian evaporites of the Beuda
132 Fm. (Vergés et al., 1998). These turbidites are overthrusting the Lutetian to Bartonian
133 marls of the Banyoles and Igualada Fm. and Priabonian-Rupelian syn-tectonic alluvial
134 sediments of the Berga Fm., indicating that the Vallfogona thrust was active until the
135 lower Oligocene (Burbank et al., 1992b; Haines, 2008; Valero et al., 2014). Further south,
136 two formations are involved in the Abocador and L'Escala thrusts. The hangingwalls of
137 both thrusts are constituted of alluvial and fluvial deposits of the Bellmunt Fm. (upper
138 Lutetian; Moya et al., 1991; Serra-Kiel et al., 2003), whereas the footwalls consist of the

139 Bartonian deltaic deposits of the Puigsacalm Fm. (Mató et al., 1994; Serra-Kiel et al.,
140 2003).

141 **3. Methodology**

142 In order to characterize the evolution of the fluids involved in the emplacement of the
143 Lower Pedraforca, Vallfogona, Abocador and L'Escala thrusts, 107 polished thin
144 sections made from host rocks and fracture-filling cements precipitated during the Alpine
145 compression were studied using petrographic and geochemical methods.

146 Petrographic observations were made using optical and cathodoluminescence
147 microscopy. A CL TECHNOSYN Cathodoluminescence device Model 8200 MkII
148 operating at 23 kV and 350 μ A gun current was used to distinguish the different
149 generations of cements.

150 Fluid inclusions were examined in calcite cements to determine salinity and temperature
151 conditions of the mineral-forming fluid. Thick sections were used for petrographic
152 characterization of the fluid inclusions and for microthermometric analyses.
153 Measurements were made on a Linkam THMS-600heating-freezing stage. Fluid
154 inclusions, with a size ranging between 2 and 5 μ m, were cooled and heated to
155 temperatures around -150°C and 300°C, respectively. However, the attempt to obtain
156 ice melting and homogenization temperatures from two-phase fluid inclusions (liquid-
157 gas) failed, since changes in bubble volume were not observed.

158 Carbon-coated polished thin sections were used to analyze major, minor and trace
159 element concentrations on a JEOL JXA-8230 electron microprobe. The microprobe was
160 operated using 20 kV of excitation potential, current intensity of 6 nA for Ca and Mg and
161 40 nA for Mn, Fe and Sr with a beam diameter of 10 μ m. Detection limits are 236 ppm
162 for Ca, 131 ppm for Na, 397 ppm for Mg, 226 ppm for Mn, 78 ppm for Fe and 291 ppm
163 for Sr. Precision on major element analyses averaged a standard error of 6.15% at 2 σ
164 confidence levels.

165 Fracture-filling calcite and carbonate host rocks were sampled for carbon- and oxygen-
166 isotope analysis employing a 400 μm -thick dental drill to extract $60 \pm 10 \mu\text{g}$ of powder
167 from trims. The calcite powder was reacted with 100% phosphoric acid for two minutes
168 at 70°C . The resultant CO_2 was analyzed using an automated Kiel Carbonate Device
169 attached to a Thermal Ionization Mass Spectrometer Thermo Electron (Finnigan) MAT-
170 252 following the method of McCrea (1950). The results were corrected using the
171 standard technique (Craig and Gordon, 1965; Claypool et al., 1980), expressed in ‰
172 with respect to the VPDB (Vienna Pee Dee Belemnite) standard.

173 For clumped isotopes thermometry, aliquots (replicates) of three carbonate samples
174 weighing 2-3 mg were measured for three out of five samples (GDV20, GDV30, GDV13,
175 table 1) using an automated line developed at Imperial College (The IBEX: Imperial
176 Batch EXtraction system). In addition, two single measurements of two additional
177 samples (TAB9, STn(3)(2), Table 1) were measured using a manual vacuum line
178 described in Dale et al. (2014). In both cases, samples are dropped in 105 % phosphoric
179 acid maintained at 90°C , and reacted for 10 minutes. The reactant CO_2 is separated from
180 contaminants using a poropak-Q column, and transferred into the bellows of a MAT 253
181 mass spectrometer from Thermo Scientific. Full characterization of a replicate consists
182 of 8 acquisitions in dual inlet mode with 7 cycles per acquisition. All post-acquisition
183 processing were performed using Easotope, a dedicated software for clumped isotope
184 analysis (John and Bowen, 2016). Δ_{47} values are corrected for isotope fractionation
185 during phosphoric acid digestion using a phosphoric acid correction of 0.069‰ at 90°C
186 for calcite following Guo et al. (2009), the data is corrected for non-linearity using the
187 heated gas method (Huntington et al., 2009) and projected into the absolute reference
188 frame of Dennis et al. (2011). Carbonate $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values are calculated using the acid
189 fractionation factors of Kim and O'Neil (1997). Most of the samples were measured at
190 least three times, and the results averaged before being converted to temperatures using
191 the calibration of Kluge et al. (2015); in this case, the error reported represents ± 1

192 standard error of the means. For two samples (TAB9, STn(3)(2), Table 1), only one
193 measurement was performed and the error reported is ± 1 external standard deviation
194 of a measurement.

195 For $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ analyses, samples of 100% calcite from veins and host rocks were fully
196 dissolved in 0.5M acetic acid, dried and redissolved in 3M HNO_3 . The solid residue
197 resulting from reprecipitation was centrifuged at 4000 rpm during 10 minutes before
198 being charged in chromatographic columns. Samples were analyzed on Re single
199 filament with 1 μl of H_3PO_4 1M and 2 μl of Ta_2O_5 on a TIMS-Phoenix mass spectrometer.
200 The data acquisition method consists of dynamic multicollection during 10 blocks of 16
201 cycles each one, with a beam intensity in the ^{88}Sr mass of 3V. Analyses have been
202 corrected for possible interferences of ^{87}Rb .

203 **4. Structural and stratigraphic location of the samples**

204 Seven outcrops were studied and sampled to determine the fluid flow regime in the
205 Lower Pedraforca and Vallfogona thrusts and in the Abocador and L'Escala foreland
206 thrusts (Fig. 3).

207 In the Lower Pedraforca thrust sheet, two different outcrops were sampled along a 1.5
208 km long transect composed of the Campanian-Maastrichtian coastal deposits of the
209 Areny Fm. and Maastrichtian-Thanelian continental deposits from the Garumnian facies
210 (Q, Fig.3a, b). This transect consists of three south-verging anticlines formed in the
211 southern sector of the imbricated thrust system forming the Lower Pedraforca thrust
212 sheet. The limbs and hinges of these folds are affected by vug porosity and intense
213 fracturing, which consists of bed-perpendicular joints and reverse and strike-slip faults
214 formed as a result of the background deformation related to the Lower Pedraforca thrust
215 sheet. Fault zones related to the major thrusts forming the imbricate system of the Lower
216 Pedraforca thrust sheet do not outcrop in the studied area.

217 The Vallfogona thrust was sampled in three different outcrops along its strike (GDV,
218 GDB1-2; Fig. 3). Outcrops GDV and GDB1 are formed of up to 450 m-thick fault zones
219 affecting the Cuisian-Lutetian turbidites of the Vallfogona Fm. and the alluvial sediments
220 of the Berga Fm. (Fig. 3b). Outcrop GDB2 is formed of an up to 40 m-thick fault zone
221 affecting only the Berga Fm (Fig. 3b) and consists of a minor thrust fault related to the
222 activity of the Vallfogona thrust. In the three outcrops, the fault zones are mainly
223 composed of damage zones both in the hangingwall and footwall of the Vallfogona thrust
224 in which vug porosity, bed-parallel slip surfaces and reverse and strike-slip faults are
225 concentrated and filled with calcite cement. Sampled fault cores consist of cm-thick
226 gouges with very scarce calcite veins.

227 The Abocador thrust (TAB) has been studied in a 200 m-thick fault zone with a 7 meters
228 thick fault core whereas the L'Escala thrust (TES) has been studied in a 150 m-thick fault
229 zone, with less than 1 m thick fault core, in both cases cutting through the alluvial
230 sediments of the Lutetian Bellmunt Fm. and Bartonian deltaic deposits of the Puigsacalm
231 Fm (Fig. 3a, b). The fault cores of both thrusts are composed of clay-rich gouges with
232 small calcite veins. Damage zones comprise almost all the volume of the sampled
233 outcrops and are intensively affected by bed-perpendicular joints and reverse and strike-
234 slip faults filled by calcite cement.

235 **5. Fracture analysis**

236 Rocks involved in the studied structures are affected by bed-parallel slip surfaces, joints,
237 E-W to WSW-ENE trending reverse faults and predominantly NW-SE and NE-SW
238 trending strike-slip faults (Fig. 4). Joints are mostly bed-perpendicular, indicating that
239 they formed during layer-parallel shortening together with bed-parallel slip surfaces
240 (Casini et al., 2011). However, some of the joints in L'Escala thrust cut the Bellmunt and
241 Puigsacalm formations at a constant angle regardless bedding dips, indicating that these
242 fractures formed after folding and thrusting. The high trend and dip dispersion of joints in

243 the Lower Pedraforca thrust sheet in contrast to the Abocador and L'Escala thrusts (Fig.
244 4) is interpreted that deformation was more intense in the former structure or that it
245 extended during a longer period. Reverse and strike-slip faults in the Lower Pedraforca
246 thrust sheet and in the Vallfogona, Abocador and L'Escala thrusts cut stratification at a
247 high angle regardless bedding dips, suggesting that these fractures formed once strata
248 was already folded and therefore, after development of bed-perpendicular joints. The
249 concentration of these faults in the fault zones of major thrusts and the striae sets
250 measured on their planes (Fig. 4), indicating a tectonic displacement to the south in
251 agreement with the regional trend (Vergés, 1993), suggest that they formed during the
252 activity of the major thrusts.

253 **6. Calcite cements**

254 The integration of textural, petrographic and geochemical data obtained from fracture-
255 filling cements allows to identify three generations of calcite cement for the Lower
256 Pedraforca thrust sheet (Cc1 to Cc3), seven for the Vallfogona thrust (Cc1 to Cc7) and
257 two for the Abocador thrust (Cc1 and Cc2) (Fig. 5). In the L'Escala thrust, three calcite
258 cement generations (Cc1 to Cc3) were already identified (Travé et al., 2007) (Fig. 5).

259 **6.1. Petrology**

260 In the Lower Pedraforca thrust sheet, Cc1 cement is formed of up to 30 μm in size of
261 non-luminescent blocky calcite crystals precipitated in the intergranular and intragranular
262 porosity of the Upper Cretaceous Areny Fm. (Fig. 5). Cement Cc2 consists of up to 1
263 mm of non- to dull orange luminescent sparite calcite crystals precipitated in vug porosity,
264 joints and reverse and strike-slip faults postdating Cc1 (Fig. 5) and affecting both the
265 Areny Fm. and Paleocene Garumnian facies. Calcite cement Cc3 consists of up to 3 mm
266 of zoned dull brown and dull orange blocky sparite calcite crystals precipitated in vug
267 porosity, reverse and strike-slip faults cutting the previous fractures and vugs (Fig. 5).

268 In the Vallfogona thrust, calcite cements Cc1, Cc2, Cc3 and Cc4 consist of dull brown to
269 non-luminescent calcite, precipitated in fractures and porosity of the Lutetian Vallfogona
270 turbidites from the hangingwall (Fig. 5). Cement Cc1 is formed of 10-20 μm in size blocky
271 sparite precipitated in the intergranular and intragranular porosity of the turbidite
272 sandstones (Fig. 5). Cc2 is formed of 200 μm to 2 mm blocky and up to 1 mm long fibrous
273 sparite precipitated in bed-parallel slip surfaces, bed-perpendicular joints and vug
274 porosity postdating Cc1 (Fig. 5). Calcite cement Cc3 is formed of up to 1 mm long fibrous
275 calcite precipitated parallel to the walls of thrust faults postdating Cc2 (Fig. 5). Cc4 is
276 formed of 100 μm to 2 mm blocky and up to 1mm long fibrous sparite precipitated in
277 strike-slip and thrust faults postdating Cc3 (Fig. 5). Calcite cement Cc5 precipitated in
278 strike-slip and reverse faults and intergranular porosity of Upper Eocene to Oligocene
279 syn-orogenic alluvial sediments of the Berga Fm. from the thrust footwall (Fig. 5). This
280 cement is formed of up to 100 μm blocky and up to 1 mm long fibrous sparite crystals of
281 bright orange calcite (Fig. 5). The presence of Cc5 cement in sediments younger than
282 those in the hangingwall accounts for a later precipitation with respect to Cc1 to Cc4
283 cements. Cements Cc6 and Cc7 are formed of up to 10 μm of zoned non-luminescent to
284 bright blocky calcite crystals precipitated in vug porosity cross-cutting Cc4 and Cc5
285 cements, respectively (Fig. 5). The difference between these two last cements lies in
286 their elemental composition (Fig. 6).

287 In the Abocador thrust, cement Cc1 precipitated in rock porosity and strike-slip and thrust
288 faults affecting the Lutetian alluvial sediments of the Bellmunt Fm. in the hangingwall and
289 Bartonian marls of the Puigsacalm Fm. in the footwall. Cement Cc2 postdates cement
290 Cc1 and precipitated in some reactivated thrust faults (Fig. 5). Both cements consist of
291 orange to bright orange up to 6 μm blocky calcite and up to 10 μm long and 2 μm thick
292 fibrous calcite associated with celestite and barite (Fig. 5).

293 In L'Escala thrust, calcite cements Cc1, Cc2 and Cc3 consist of orange to bright orange
294 calcite precipitated in fractures affecting the Bellmunt and Puigsacalm Fms. (Fig. 5). Cc1

295 cement is formed of up to 2 mm blocky crystals and up to 0.7 mm long and 200 µm thick
296 fibrous sparite precipitated in bed-perpendicular pre-thrust joints and thrust faults (Fig.
297 5). Calcite cements Cc2 and Cc3 are formed of up to 5 mm long and 2 mm thick fibrous
298 sparite filling post-thrust strike-slip faults and post-thrust NW-SE joints respectively (Fig.
299 5).

300 **6.2. Geochemistry**

301 6.2.1. Elemental composition

302 Minimum, maximum and mean Fe, Mg, Sr and Mn contents of the calcite cements
303 precipitated in fractures and rock porosity in the Vallfogona, Abocador and L'Escala
304 thrusts, and together with already published data of the Ainsa Basin (Travé et al., 1997),
305 El Guix anticline (Travé et al., 2000) and Puig-reig anticline (Cruset et al., 2016), are
306 plotted in figure 6 (details in supplementary data), summarizing up to 39 analyzed
307 samples and 747 measures.

308 The graphic (Fig. 6) shows that the Fe content decreases from the activity of the Molinos
309 thrust (23780 ppm) to the last stages of evolution of the Vallfogona thrust (below the
310 detection limit in cement Cc7), that is, from lower Eocene to lower Oligocene (Fig. 6).
311 However, a final increase in the Fe content (up to 7731 ppm) is observed during the
312 lower Oligocene in calcite cements precipitated in the Guix anticline (Fig. 6). The Sr
313 content also shows a depletion from lower Eocene to lower Oligocene, with values
314 ranging from 8090 ppm in the Arro syncline and Atiart thrust to below the detection limit
315 in the El Guix anticline (Fig. 6). Contrarily, the Mg and Mn contents do not show a specific
316 trend during this time span, with values ranging from 4135 to 1452 ppm and from 4239
317 to below the detection limit, respectively (Fig. 6).

318 6.2.2. Carbon and oxygen isotopes

319 The carbon and oxygen composition of the calcite cements precipitated in the Lower
320 Pedraforca thrust sheet, Vallfogona, Abocador and L'Escala thrusts, together with

321 already published data from the Ainsa Basin (Travé et al., 1997), Castillo Mayor klippe
322 and Jaca thrust (Lacroix et al., 2014), El Guix anticline (Travé et al., 2000) and Puig-reig
323 anticline (Cruset et al., 2016) is presented in Fig. 7, summarizing up to 153 analyzed
324 samples.

325 6.2.2.1. Lower Pedraforca thrust sheet

326 Upper Cretaceous marine carbonates from the Areny Fm. show $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values ranging
327 between +1.45 and +1.68 ‰ VPDB and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values ranging between -4.48 and ‰ -3.20
328 VPDB (Fig. 7). Palustrine limestones from the Paleocene (Garumnian facies) show $\delta^{13}\text{C}$
329 values ranging between -17.47 and -3.65 ‰ VPDB and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values ranging between -
330 8.20 and -4.77 ‰ VPDB (Fig. 7).

331 Due to the small size of calcite cement Cc1, only cements Cc2 and Cc3 were analyzed
332 for carbon and oxygen isotopes analysis. Calcite cement Cc2 shows $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values ranging
333 between -15.18 and -0.38 ‰ VPDB and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values between -9.21 and -2.61 ‰ VPDB
334 (Fig. 7), similar to its adjacent host rock (Fig. 8). Calcite cement Cc3 shows $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values
335 ranging between +0.84 and +1.71 ‰ VPDB and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values ranging between -9.86 and
336 -4.39 ‰ VPDB (Fig. 7). Calcite cement Cc3 has $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ similar to the Upper Cretaceous
337 Areny Fm. and the Paleocene Garumnian Facies, whereas has $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ slightly depleted
338 with respect these host rocks (Fig. 8).

339 6.2.2.2. Vallfogona thrust

340 Cuisian marine marls from the hangingwall of the Vallfogona thrust (Vallfogona Fm.)
341 show $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values between -2.56 and -0.26 ‰ VPDB and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values between -6.94 and
342 -4.72 ‰ VPDB (Fig. 7). One sample of Priabonian-Rupelian palustrine limestones from
343 the footwall of the Vallfogona thrust (Berga Fm.) shows $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values of -2.95 ‰ VPDB
344 and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values of -7.19 ‰ VPDB (Fig. 7).

345 Due to the small size of Cc1, Cc6 and Cc7 calcite cements, only Cc2, Cc3, Cc4 and Cc5
346 calcite cements were analyzed for carbon and oxygen isotopes (Fig. 7). These calcite

347 cements show a progressive depletion in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ from Cc2 to Cc5 (Fig.7). Cc2
348 calcite cement shows $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values ranging between -3.86 and -1.08 ‰ VPDB and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$
349 ranging between -6.24 and -4.74 ‰ VPDB. Cc3 shows $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values ranging between -
350 0.9 and +0.21 ‰ VPDB and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ between -7.55 and -6.04 ‰ VPDB. Calcite cement Cc4
351 shows $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values ranging between -1.74 and -1.38 ‰ VPDB and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ between -7.34
352 and -6.74 ‰ VPDB. Calcite cement Cc5 has $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values between -3.05 and -0.57 ‰
353 VPDB and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ between -9.95 and -7.56 ‰ VPDB. Calcite cements Cc2 to Cc5 have
354 $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ progressively more depleted with respect their adjacent host rocks, whereas the
355 $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ do not show a clear trend (Fig. 8).

356 6.2.2.3. *Abocador thrust*

357 Due to their small size, carbonate clasts from the Bellmunt Fm. were not sampled. A
358 detrital carbonate clast from the Bartonian Puigsacalm Fm. (footwall) shows $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of -
359 1.69 ‰ VPDB and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of -8.05 ‰ VPDB. The carbonate fraction from marls from the
360 Puigsacalm Fm. shows $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of +0.45 ‰ VPDB and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of -6.73 ‰ VPDB (Fig. 7).

361 Contrarily to the Vallfogona thrust, calcite cements show depletion in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and
362 enrichment in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ from Cc1 to Cc2 (Fig. 7, 8). Cc1 calcite cement has $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values
363 between -2.72 and -1.05 ‰ VPDB and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values between -8.81 and -7.61‰ VPDB
364 (Fig. 7). Calcite cement Cc2 has $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values between -4.19 and -1.46 ‰ VPDB and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$
365 values between -6.9 and -4.98 ‰ VPDB (Fig. 7).

366 6.2.5.4. *L'Escala thrust*

367 The carbonate fraction of marls from the Puigsacalm Fm. (footwall) show $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values
368 between -0.80 and 0 ‰ VPDB and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values between -7.40 and -6.50 ‰ VPDB (Fig.
369 7).

370 In the L'Escala thrust, calcite cements show a progressive depletion in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$
371 from Cc1 to Cc3, like in the Vallfogona thrust (Fig.7, 8). Calcite cement Cc1 has $\delta^{13}\text{C}$
372 values between -2.8 and -1.90 ‰ VPDB and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values between -8.80 and -8.30 ‰

373 VPDB (Fig. 7). Calcite cement Cc2 has $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values between -0.60 and -0.50 ‰ VPDB
374 and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values between -9.50 and -9.20 ‰ VPDB (Fig. 7). Calcite cement Cc3 has $\delta^{13}\text{C}$
375 values between -4 and -3.10 ‰ VPDB and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values between -14.40 and -12.60 ‰
376 VPDB (Fig. 7).

377 6.2.3. Clumped isotopes

378 For this study, clumped isotopes thermometry has been measured in three calcite
379 cements from the Vallfogona thrust (Fig. 9; Table 1). The results are presented together
380 with data already published from the Puig-reig anticline (Cruset et al., 2016) and two
381 preliminary data from the Abocador thrust and El Guix anticline (Fig. 9; Table 1).

382 For the Vallfogona thrust, the Δ_{47} values for calcite cements Cc2, Cc4 and Cc5 are 0.463
383 ± 0.002 ‰, 0.532 ± 0.010 ‰ and 0.527 ± 0.023 ‰, respectively. These values translate
384 into temperatures of $154^\circ \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ (Cc2), $101^\circ \pm 6^\circ\text{C}$ (Cc4) and $105^\circ \pm 14^\circ\text{C}$ (Cc5) using
385 the equation of Kluge et al. (2015) (Fig. 9). Thus, from clumped isotopes temperatures
386 and the equation of Friedman and O'Neil (1977), the $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{fluid}}$ for Cc2, Cc4 and Cc5 is
387 $+12.12 \pm 0.14$ ‰, $+6.37 \pm 0.63$ ‰ and $+4.22 \pm 1.37$ ‰ VSMOW respectively (Fig. 9).

388 In the Puig-reig anticline, the measured Δ_{47} values in calcite cements Cc1 and Cc2 are
389 between 0.548 ± 0.009 ‰ and 0.493 ± 0.0010 ‰ and between 0.574 ± 0.010 ‰ and
390 0.551 ± 0.004 ‰, respectively. With these values, and from the equations mentioned
391 above, we obtain temperatures ranging between $92^\circ \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$ and $129^\circ \pm 8^\circ\text{C}$ for Cc1 and
392 between $77 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$ and $93^\circ \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ for Cc2 (Fig. 9) and $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{fluid}}$ for Cc1 and Cc2 is between
393 $+4.7 \pm 0.6$ and $+9.2 \pm 0.7$ ‰ VSMOW and between -1.7 ± 0.7 and -0.7 ± 0.3 ‰ VSMOW
394 respectively (Fig. 9).

395 In the Abocador thrust, a preliminary measured Δ_{47} of 0.423 ± 0.03 is obtained for calcite
396 cement Cc2, which translates into a temperature of 177 ± 40 °C and a $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{fluid}}$ of $+14.1$
397 ± 4.7 ‰ VSMOW (Fig. 9).

398 In the El Guix anticline, a preliminary measured Δ_{47} of 0.487 ± 0.03 is obtained for calcite
399 cement precipitated in a thrust fault affecting the sediments forming this fold (micro
400 fracture stage 2 (mfs2) in Travé et al., 2000). This value translates into a temperature of
401 117 ± 25 °C and a $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{fluid}}$ of $+7.1 \pm 2.5\%$ VSMOW (Fig. 9).

402 6.2.4. Strontium isotopes

403 The $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ratios of the calcite cements, celestite, host carbonates and evaporites from
404 the Ainsa Basin (Travé et al., 1997), Vallfogona and L'Escala thrusts, El Guix anticline
405 (Travé et al., 2000) and Puig-reig anticline (Cruset et al., 2016) are presented in Fig.
406 10(for details see supplementary data). The $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ratios of the Cuisian evaporites of
407 the eastern sector of the south Pyrenean foreland basin (Carrillo, 2012) and the
408 LOWESS curve (McArthur et al., 2001) are also plotted.

409 From Lower Eocene to Lower Oligocene an increase of the $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ratios of calcite
410 cements (from 0.707744 to 0.70933) is observed (Fig. 10). At outcrop scale, the $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$
411 ratios from older to younger cements in the Ainsa Basin and the Vallfogona and L'Escala
412 thrusts also show an increment of the $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ratios (Fig. 10). In contrast, in the Puig-
413 reig anticline this trend is overturned and in El Guix anticline trends are not observed
414 (Fig. 10).

415 **8. Discussion**

416 In this section, we discuss 1) the type and origin of fluids from which calcite cements
417 precipitated in each structure; 2) the changes of fluid regime at the scale of the south
418 Pyrenean fold and thrust belt from lower Eocene to lower Oligocene; and 3) a conceptual
419 model of fluid flow in fold and thrust belts.

420 **8.1. Type of fluids**

421 The type of fluids that flowed through rock porosity and fractures in the south Pyrenean
422 fold and thrust belt can be determined by using the elemental and isotopic composition
423 of the studied calcite cements (Meyers and Lohman, 1985; Banner and Hanson, 1990).

424 The $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of the calcite cements in the Lower Pedraforca thrust, Vallfogona thrust, cement
425 Cc2 in L'Escala thrust, Ainsa Basin (Travé et al., 1997), El Guix anticline (Travé et al.,
426 2000), Castillo Mayor klippe and Jaca thrust (Lacroix et al., 2014) and Puig-reig anticline
427 (Cruset et al., 2016) are similar to their adjacent host rocks (Fig. 7, 8), indicating that the
428 fluid system was rock-buffered. In contrast, in the Abocador thrust and in cements Cc1
429 and Cc3 in L'Escala thrust, the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of calcite cements shows depletion with respect to
430 their adjacent host rocks up to 3.42‰ VPDB and 3.8‰ VPDB respectively (Fig. 7, 8).
431 This depletion can be explained by the input of organogenic or soil-derived carbon into
432 the fluid system (Irwin et al., 1977; Cerling et al., 1989).

433 The $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{fluid}}$ calculated from clumped isotopes temperatures for the Vallfogona thrust
434 (+12.12 ‰ VSMOW for Cc2, +6.37 ‰ VSMOW for Cc4 and +4.22 ‰ VSMOW for Cc5),
435 calcite cement Cc1 in Puig-reig anticline (between +4.7 and +9.2 ‰ VSMOW), calcite
436 cement Cc2 in the Abocador thrust (+14.083 ‰ VSMOW) and El Guix anticline (+7.09
437 ‰ VSMOW) are within the range of magmatic, metamorphic and formation waters
438 (Taylor, 1987). In the Ainsa Basin, a $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{fluid}}$ within the same range of composition
439 (between +9.51 and +16 ‰ VSMOW) is calculated from fluid inclusion data of celestite
440 formed within calcite cements precipitated in the Arro syncline (Travé et al., 1998) and
441 from the Equation of Friedman and O'Neil (1977). A magmatic origin for these fluids is
442 discarded since magmatism did not develop during the formation of the Pyrenees.
443 Nevertheless, we have no evidence to differentiate between metamorphic and formation
444 waters. The sulfur isotope composition of celestite crystals formed within calcite cements
445 in the Ainsa Basin indicates the influence of marine connate waters trapped in the rock
446 porosity (Travé et al., 1997). This influence has also been reported in calcite veins in the
447 Castillo Mayor klippe, which are time-equivalent to the first stages of deformation of the
448 Ainsa basin (Lacroix et al., 2014). However, the $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ratios of all the studied calcite
449 cements are higher than those of Eocene seawater (Fig. 10). This fact can be explained
450 by fluids in contact with clay minerals, the input of an external fluid in contact with

451 Paleozoic crystalline rocks located at depth of the Axial zone and diluted by connate
452 marine waters with low $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ratios or from the dissolution of emerged rocks by
453 meteoric fluids (McCaig et al., 1995; Travé et al., 1997). The temperatures measured in
454 the Vallfogona thrust (154°C for Cc2, 101°C for Cc4 and 105°C for Cc5), Puig-reig
455 anticline (between 92°C and 129°C for Cc1 and between 77°C and 90°C for Cc2) and
456 Arro syncline (between 157°C and 183°C) were never reached by burial according to
457 cross sections (Vergés, 1993) and vitrinite reflectance data (Clavell, 1992; Vergés et al.,
458 1998) assuming a geothermal gradient of 25°C km⁻¹, thus indicating a thermal anomaly.
459 Preliminary temperature data from the Abocador thrust (177°C) and El Guix anticline
460 (117°C) also seem to point to the presence of high temperature fluids. These results
461 suggest hydrothermal fluid flow along fault zones in the Vallfogona, Abocador and
462 L'Escala thrusts, background fractures in the Lower Pedraforca thrust sheet and fold-
463 related fractures and intergranular porosity in the Puig-reig and el Guix anticlines, which
464 were connected at depth with basement-involved thrusts in the inner part of the
465 Pyrenees, as has been already reported (Bradbury and Woodwell, 1987; McCaig et al.,
466 1995; Travé et al., 2007). However, the progressive decrease in Sr content (Table 1; Fig.
467 6) and increase of the $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ratios (Fig. 10) in the thrust front from the lower Eocene
468 to lower Oligocene, together with the depletion in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ (Fig. 7) and decrease in
469 temperature at outcrop scale in the Ainsa Basin, Vallfogona and L'Escala thrusts and
470 Puig-reig anticline, account for the input of meteoric waters, which mixed at depth with
471 the hydrothermal fluids. The depletion in Fe content and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ from older to younger
472 calcite cements related to the input of meteoric waters has been also observed in the
473 Jaca thrust (Lacroix et al., 2014). The progressive depletion in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ is related to the
474 mixing between hydrothermal and meteoric fluids (Immenhauser et al., 2007), whereas
475 the decrease in Fe content (Fig. 6) could be related to the progressive input of oxidizing
476 meteoric fluids into the system (Froelich et al., 1979; Tucker and Wright, 1990), which
477 may have flowed downwards along faults and joints by topography-driven fluid flow
478 (Bitzer et al., 2001).

479 By contrast, in the Abocador thrust, there is enrichment in the $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{calcite}}$ from older to
480 younger cements (Fig. 7). This trend has also been observed in the Santo Domingo
481 anticline (Sierras Exteriores, south western Pyrenees) with $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{fluid}}$ values between -5
482 and 0 ‰ VSMOW in Bartonian-Priabonian veins and between +5 and +10 ‰ VSMOW
483 in upper Priabonian-lower Rupelian veins (Crognier et al. 2016). These authors interpret
484 the highest $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{fluid}}$ values as a strong interaction between meteoric waters and host
485 rocks or by the input of strongly evaporated fluids. In the same area, in the Pico del
486 Águila anticline, post-folding calcite veins precipitated from low-temperature meteoric
487 waters (Beaudoin et al., 2015). From the $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{calcite}}$ of these veins (from -2.2 to 0 ‰ VPDB)
488 together with the temperatures reported by these authors (below $80 \pm 20^\circ\text{C}$) a $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{fluid}}$
489 between -4 and +11 ‰ VSMOW is obtained, suggesting that these meteoric waters could
490 be highly $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ -enriched brines. In the Larra/Eaux-chaudes thrust (Jaca Basin), a positive
491 correlation between the $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{fluid}}$, temperature and salinity is observed from older to
492 younger stages without enrichment in the $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{calcite}}$ (Crognier et al., 2017). These authors
493 suggest that hydrothermal fluids interacted with Triassic evaporites which acted as the
494 detachment level of the Larra/Eaux-chaudes thrust. A positive correlation between the
495 $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{calcite}}$ and fluid salinity has also been observed in fracture-filling calcites precipitated
496 in worldwide areas affected by salt tectonics (Fischer et al., 2013).

497 The same scenario could be suggested for: 1) the Abocador thrust, where preliminary
498 results on clumped isotopes thermometry ($177 \pm 40^\circ\text{C}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{fluid}}$ of +14.1 ‰ VSMOW)
499 and the presence of barite and celestite associated to calcite cements favor the
500 hypothesis of hydrothermal fluids interacting with brines released from the underlying
501 Eocene evaporites of the Beuda Fm., which acted as the detachment of this structure
502 (Fig. 2b); 2) the El Guix anticline, with calcite cements without systematic $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ variation,
503 temperature around $117 \pm 25^\circ\text{C}$, $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{fluid}}$ of +7.1 ‰ VSMOW and halite precipitation in
504 thrust zones also favoring the hypothesis of a fluid derived from the underlying Eocene
505 Cardona Salt Formation (Travé et al., 2000) and; 3) the Larra/Eaux chaudes thrust and

506 Sierras Exteriores with Triassic evaporites acting as the detachment level of the major
507 thrust faults (Labaume et al., 2016). Consequently, we suggest that when evaporitic units
508 are present, the presence of high salinity fluids derived from them, highly controls the
509 $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of the calcite cements.

510 The presence of the thermal anomalies discussed above, with fluids in disequilibrium
511 with their adjacent host rocks during millions of years, indicate the occurrence of thermal
512 convection controlling fluid flow (Lipsey et al., 2016). According to this mechanism, large
513 volumes of fluids are driven to the reaction site through fractures and permeable host
514 rocks during long time periods (Person et al., 1996; Morrow, 1998). Other scenarios,
515 which involve fluid release by heating or decompression of interstitial fluids by seal
516 breaking are ruled out, since these mechanisms provide low volumes of fluids and they
517 do not generate thermal anomalies (Gomez-Rivas et al., 2014).

518 **8.2. Changes in fluid regime in the south Pyrenean fold and thrust belt from** 519 **lower Eocene to lower Oligocene**

520 The geochemical signatures of the calcite cements in the Lower Pedraforca thrust sheet,
521 Vallfogona, Abocador and L'Escala thrusts, Ainsa Basin (Travé et al., 1997), Castillo
522 Mayor klippe and Jaca thrust (Lacroix et al., 2014), El Guix anticline (Travé et al., 2000)
523 and Puig-reig anticline (Cruset et al., 2016) with respect to their timing of precipitation
524 (Fig. 11) highlights that hydrothermal fluids have migrated along the south Pyrenean fold
525 and thrust belt from the lower Eocene to lower Oligocene (Fig. 12).

526 From the lower to middle Eocene, hydrothermal fluids migrated during thrusting along
527 reverse faults, strike-slip faults and joints from the crystalline basement to the syn-
528 orogenic marine sediments deposited in the foreland basin (Fig. 12). During this period,
529 hydrothermal fluids mixed with connate marine waters expelled from rock porosity by
530 sediment compaction during the early stages of evolution of the foreland basin (Bitzer et
531 al., 2001). The resultant fluid had a sulfur isotope composition in equilibrium with Eocene

532 marine waters (Travé et al. 1997), high Fe and Sr contents (Fig. 6), enriched $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ (Fig.
533 7) and had $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ratios slightly higher than Eocene seawater (Fig. 10).

534 From the middle Eocene to lower Oligocene, as the foreland basin changed from
535 underfilled to overfilled, the thrust front progressively emerged from deep water to
536 endorheic domains (Fig. 11 and 12). The relative sea-level fall and related change in
537 topographic elevation initiated topography-driven fluid flow (Bitzer et al., 2001) and as a
538 consequence, the influence of meteoric waters, that mixed at depth with hydrothermal
539 ascending fluids, increased progressively and changed the fluid composition (Fig. 12).
540 This change in fluid flow conditions is reflected in the progressive decrease in Fe and Sr
541 contents (Fig. 6), temperature (Table 1), depletion in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ (Fig. 7) and high $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$
542 ratios with respect calcite cements precipitated previously (Fig. 10). However, in other
543 areas such as the Abocador thrust, El Guix anticline (Travé et al., 2000) and the Sierras
544 Exteriores and Larra/Eaux-chaudes thrust (Beaudoin et al., 2015; Crognier, 2016;
545 Crognier et al., 2017), brines derived from the underlying thick evaporite units interacted
546 with hydrothermal and meteoric fluids and controlled fluid composition even when these
547 structures grew under continental conditions.

548 Assuming that hydrothermal fluid flow was continuous during the activity of the studied
549 structures, the minimum fluid flow rate has been roughly estimated considering that fluids
550 migrated from the basement hanging-wall cut-off to the frontal part of the Lower
551 Pedraforca thrust sheet (30 km), the Vallfogona thrust (20 km where it has been studied;
552 Fig. 2A), the Abocador thrust (24 km) and the L'Escala thrust (24 km) during 6, 11, 5 and
553 8 Ma, respectively. These ranges of time are based on magnetostratigraphy and $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$
554 dating on authigenic illite on fault planes (Vergés, 1993; Haines, 2008). Thus, for the
555 Lower Pedraforca thrust sheet and the Abocador thrust, a minimum fluid flow rate of 5
556 km Ma^{-1} is obtained, whereas for the Vallfogona and the L'Escala thrusts the minimum
557 calculated rate is 2 and 3 km Ma^{-1} , respectively. These values are consistent with the
558 lowest rates calculated in other forelands such as in the Canadian and eastern

559 Venezuelan foothills (Schneider, 2003) and in the Bighorn Basin (Beaudoin et al., 2014).
560 This large-scale migration of hydrothermal fluids along the south Pyrenean fold and
561 thrust belt was probably controlled by different driving forces such as squeegee-type fluid
562 flow, which induces rates between 1 and 100 km Ma⁻¹ (Ge and Garven, 1989) but only
563 during short time periods (Schneider, 2003), coupled with topography and thermal
564 gradients (Lyubetskaya and Ague, 2009).

565 **8.3. Conceptual model of fluid flow in fold and thrust belts**

566 The fluid flow model established for the southern Pyrenees in the previous section
567 together with previous works done by other authors in other orogens worldwide (Ferket
568 et al., 2000; Van Geet et al., 2002; Breesch, 2008; Vilasi, 2010; Vandeginste et al., 2012;
569 Dewever et al., 2013), indicate that the presence or absence of thick evaporitic units
570 highly control the final fluid composition. In all cases, ascending hydrothermal fluids
571 mixed with low-temperature meteoric fluids (Fig. 13).

572 However, whereas in thrust sheets not detached along evaporite units (Fig. 13a), the
573 mixed fluid was progressively more depleted in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and had lower Fe and Sr contents
574 with respect to the former, not mixed, hydrothermal fluid (Fig. 13a), in thrust sheets
575 detached along evaporite successions (Fig. 13b), brines derived from these evaporites
576 were responsible for the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ enrichment of the mixed fluid, without a systematic
577 increase in Fe and Sr contents (Warren, 2006).

578 The trend from high $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ to more depleted values along with, where documented, the
579 progressive decrease in Fe and Sr contents (Fig. 13a) during the emersion of the thrust
580 front has been observed in the Vallfogona and L'Escala thrust, Ainsa Basin (Travé et al.,
581 1997), Veracruz Basin (Ferket et al., 2000), North Oman Mountains (Breesch, 2008),
582 south Ionian zone (Vilasi, 2010), Canadian Rocky Mountains (Vandeginste et al., 2012),
583 Bighorn Basin (Beaudoin et al., 2011, 2014), Castillo Mayor klippe and Jaca thrust
584 (Lacroix et al., 2014) and Puig-reig anticline (Cruset et al., 2016), which are structures

585 not detached through thick evaporite units. As these structures emerged, the input of
586 oxidizing meteoric waters depleted in Sr controlled the decrease in Fe content (Froelich
587 et al., 1979; Tucker and Wright, 1990), whereas their mixing with hydrothermal fluids
588 induced $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ depletion (Immenhauser et al., 2007). The trend from low $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ to more
589 enriched values (Fig. 13b) has been observed in the Abocador thrust, El Guix anticline
590 (Travé et al., 2000), Central Ionian Zone (Van Geet et al., 2002), Sicilian fold and thrust
591 belt (Deweever et al., 2013), Sierras Exteriores (Beaudoin et al., 2015; Crognier et al.,
592 2015; Crognier, 2016) and Larra/Eaux chaudes thrust (Crognier et al., 2017), where
593 thrusts are detached along thick evaporitic units. In the Iudica-Scalpello area (Sicilian
594 fold and thrust belt), based on the low salinity of the fluid inclusions, this trend is
595 explained by smectite-illite transformations (Deweever et al., 2013).

596 **9. Conclusions**

597 A multidisciplinary study has been carried out to determine the changes in fluid regime
598 and composition during the growth of the south Pyrenean fold and thrust belt from lower
599 Eocene to lower Oligocene.

600 Integration of petrographic and geochemical data obtained from fracture-filling calcite
601 cements reveals that hydrothermal fluids migrated from the Axial zone of the Pyrenees
602 to its related foreland basin during Paleogene compression.

603 From Lower to Middle Eocene, ascending hydrothermal fluids migrated from the Axial
604 zone to the foreland basin and mixed with connate marine waters trapped in rock
605 porosity. The mixed fluid had temperatures up to 154 °C, enriched $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ slightly
606 higher than Eocene seawater and high Fe and Sr contents. From Middle Eocene to
607 Lower Oligocene, as the thrust front progressively emerged, meteoric waters migrated
608 downwards the foreland basin by topography-driven fluid flow and mixed at depth with
609 the hydrothermal fluids. The mixed fluid was progressively more depleted in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, with

610 temperatures between 77 and 129°C, lower Fe and Sr contents and more radiogenic
611 $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ratios than the former fluid.

612 The comparison of southern Pyrenees to other orogens worldwide, suggests that the
613 presence or absence of thick evaporitic units had a fundamental role in the fluid
614 composition during fold and thrust belt evolution. In all cases, hydrothermal fluids
615 migrated along fractures within thrust sheets and mixed with low-temperature meteoric
616 waters. When thrusts were not detached through thick evaporite units, the resultant fluid
617 was progressively more radiogenic, more depleted in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and had a lower temperature
618 and lower Sr and Fe content, as the thrust front emerged. In contrast, when thrusts were
619 detached along thick evaporitic units, the resulting fluid was enriched in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$.

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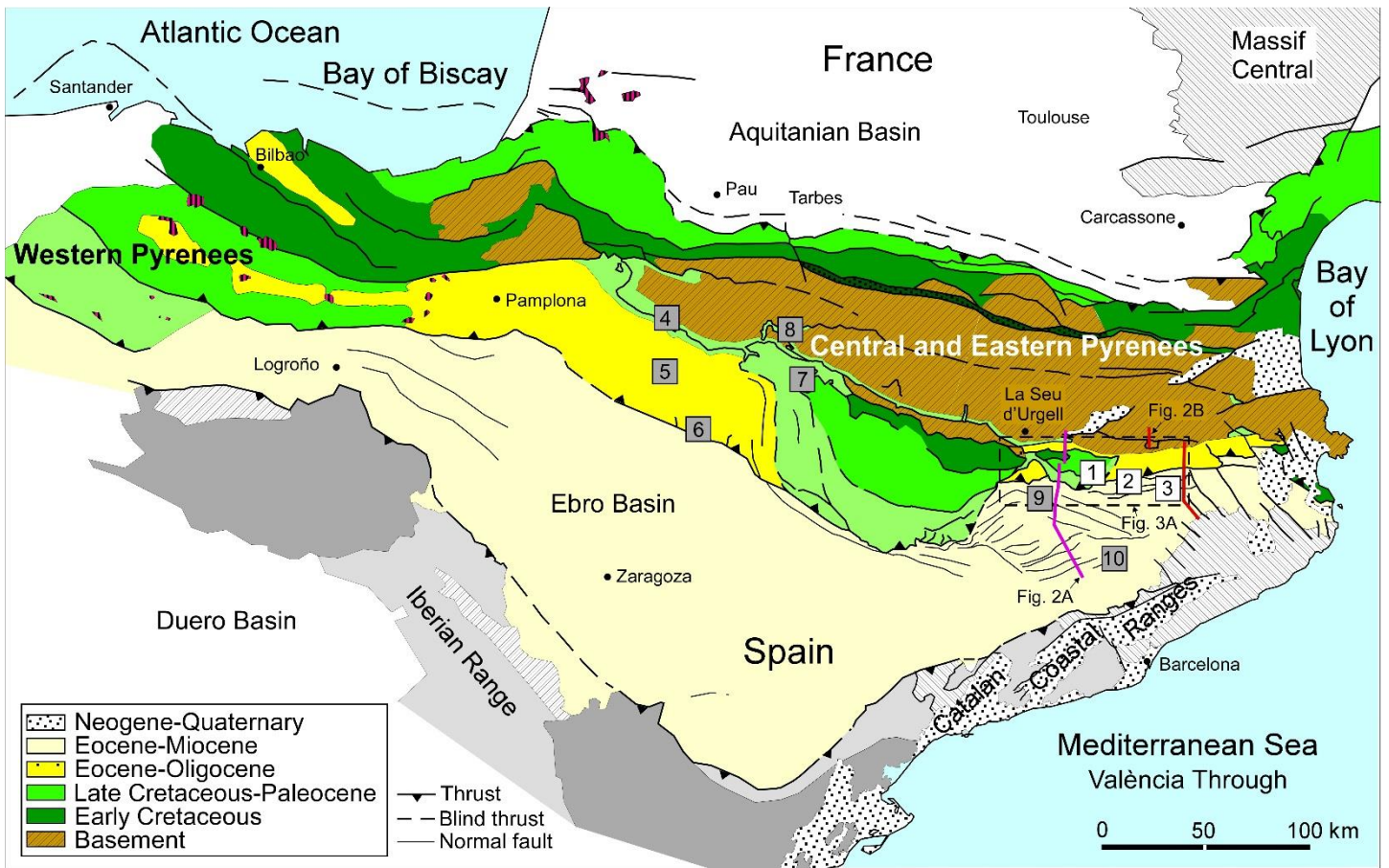
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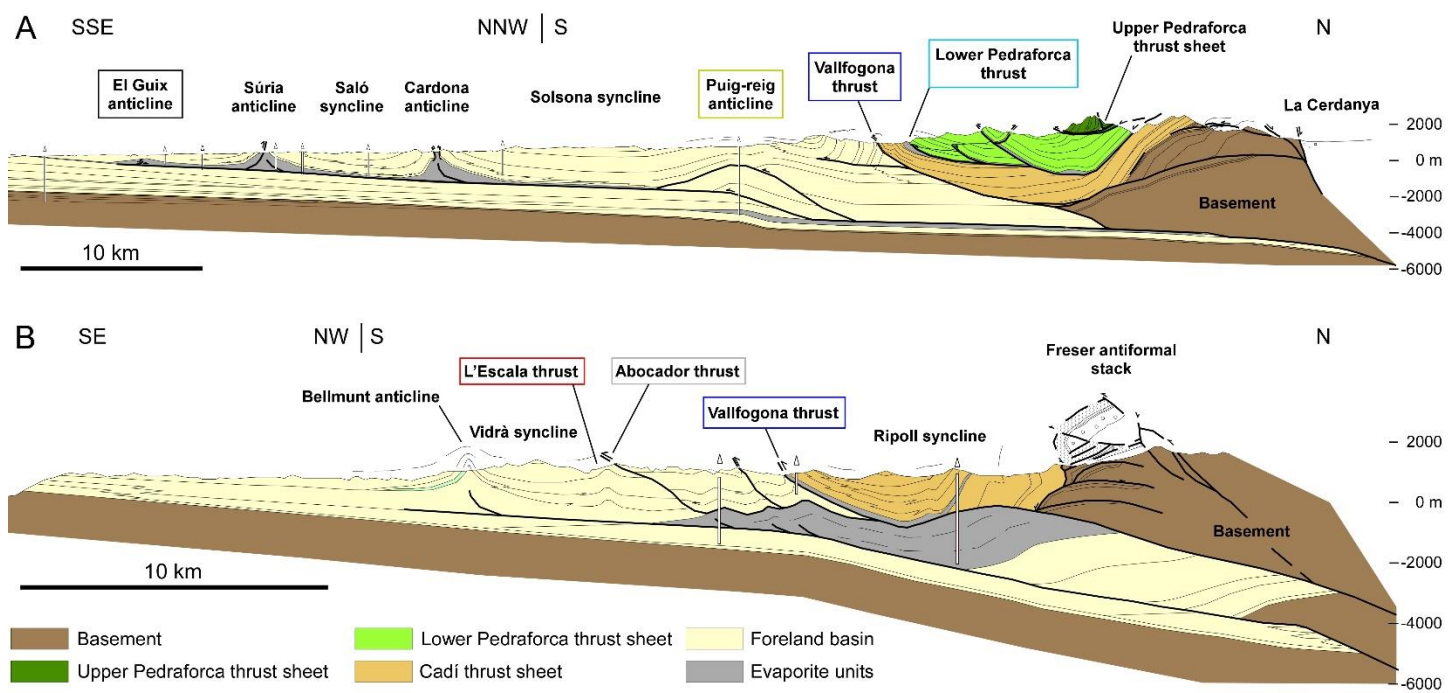
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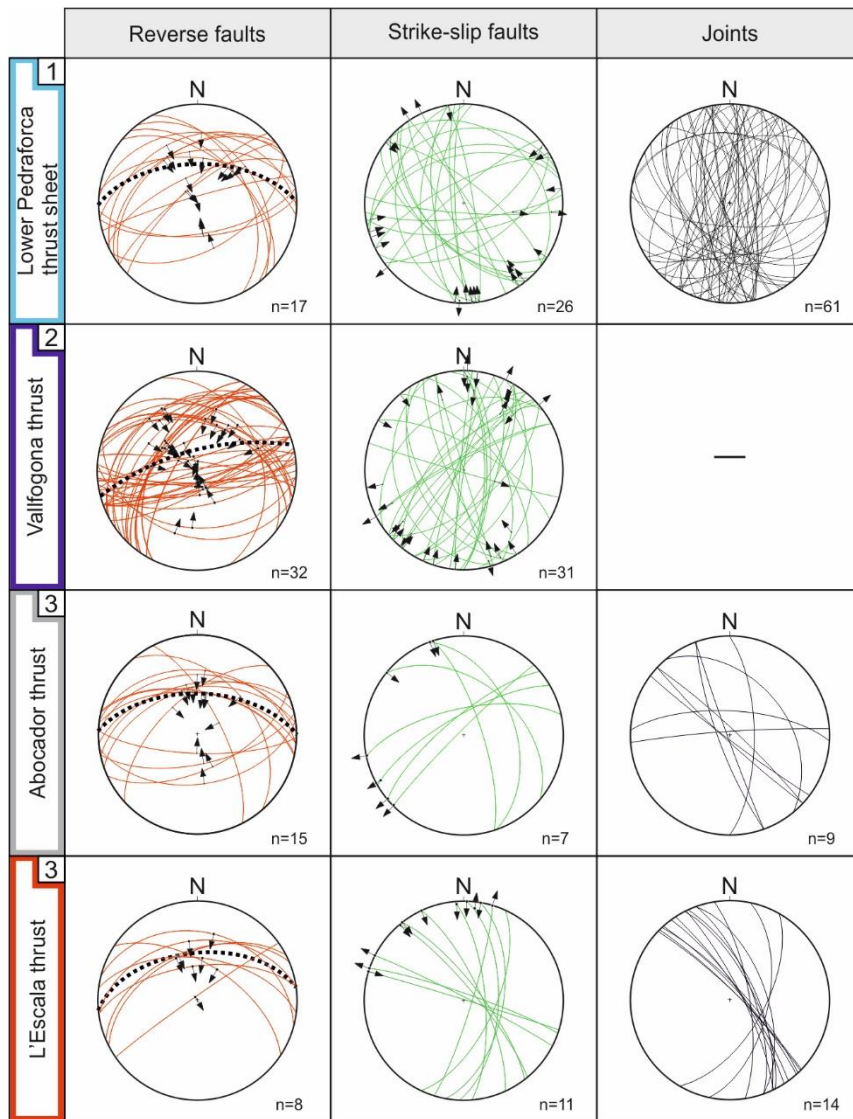


984 Fig. 2

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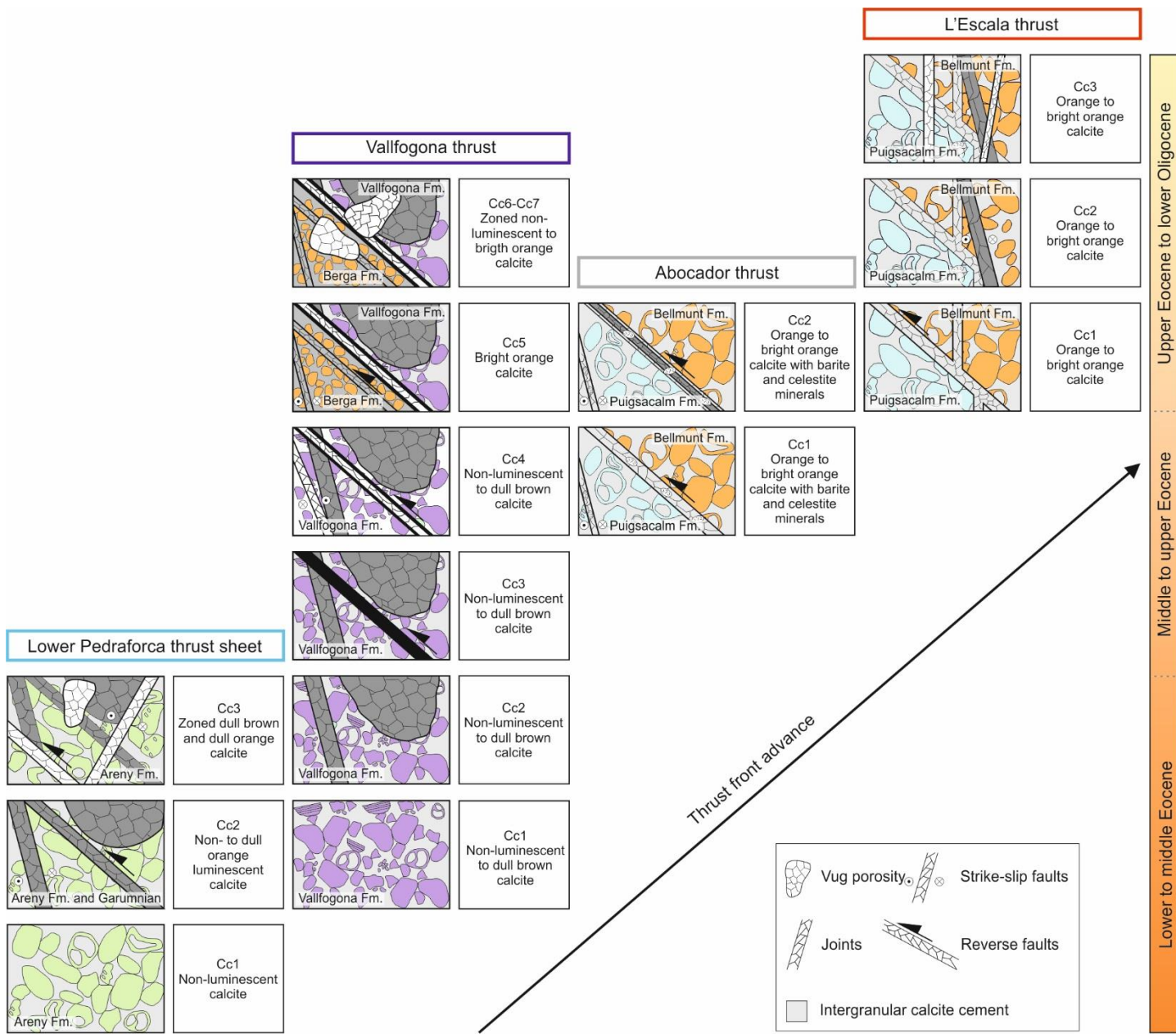


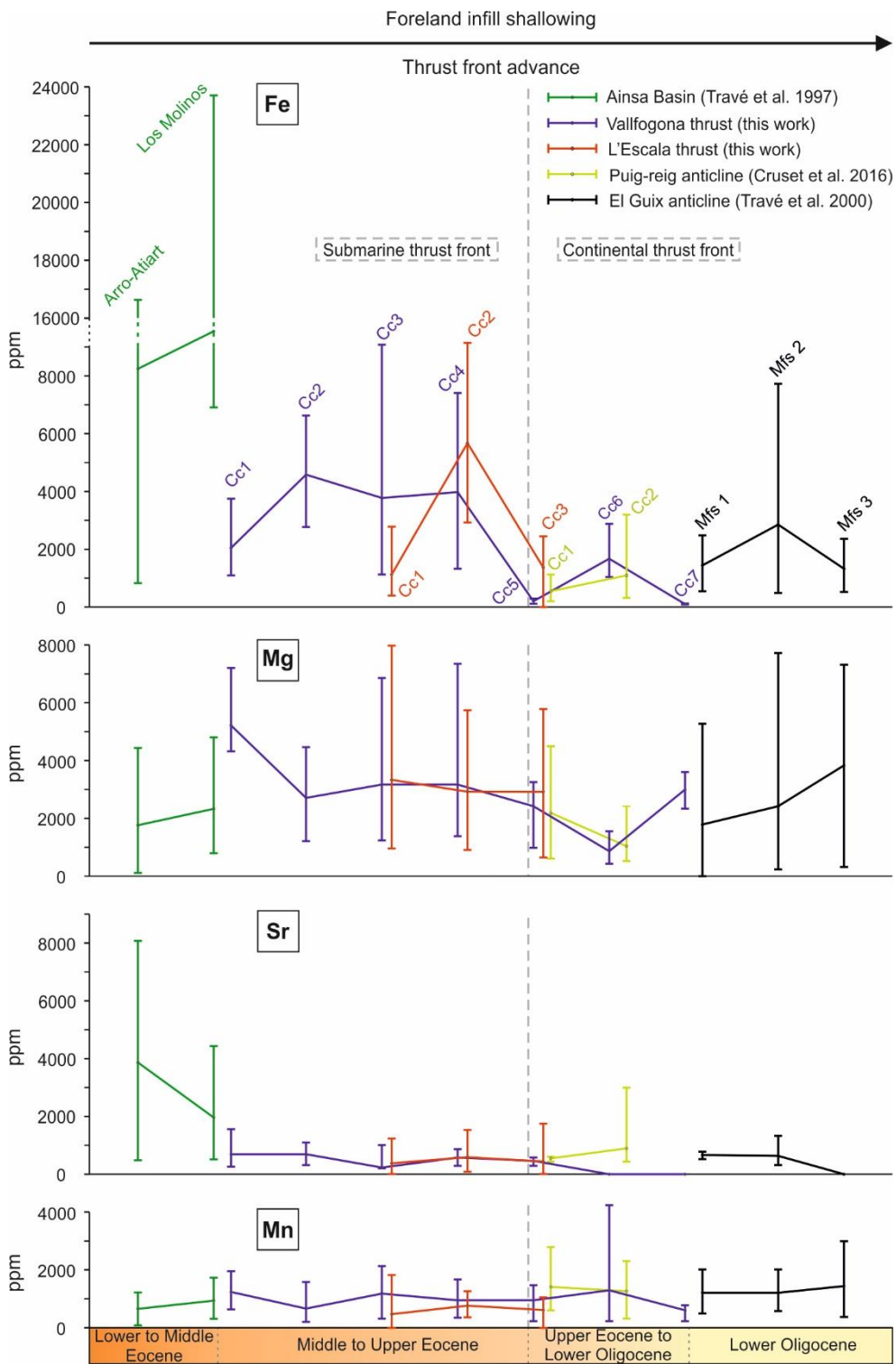
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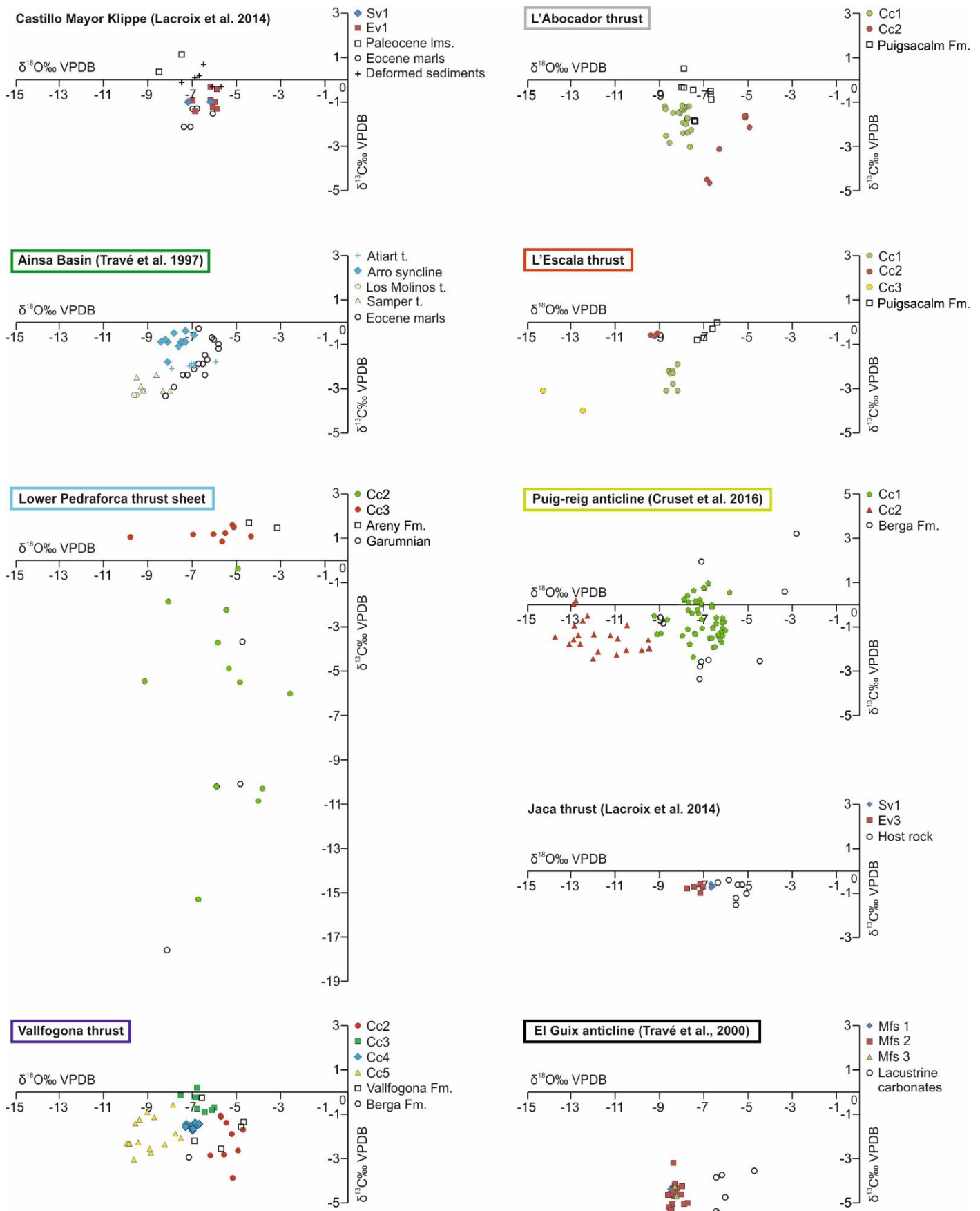


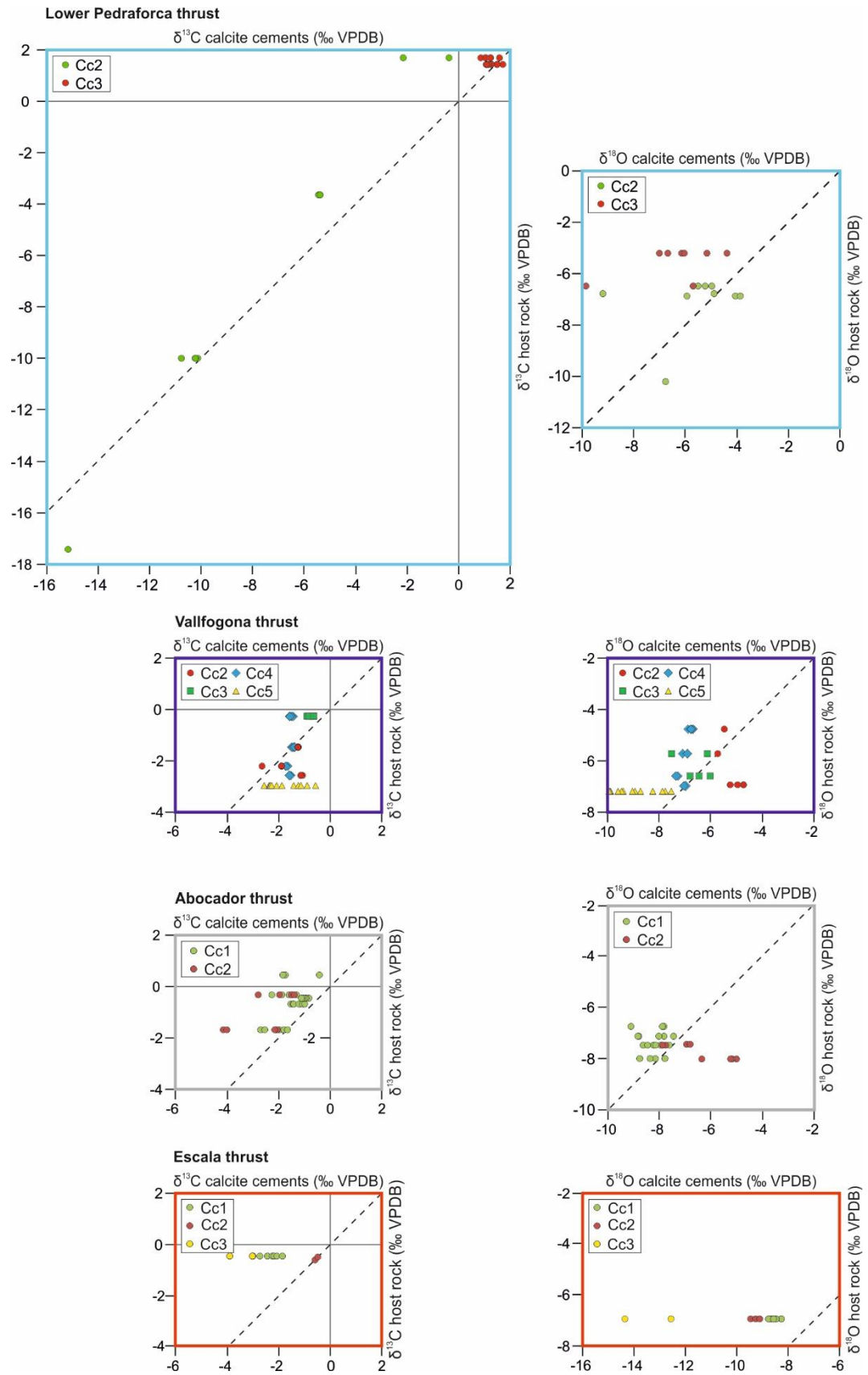


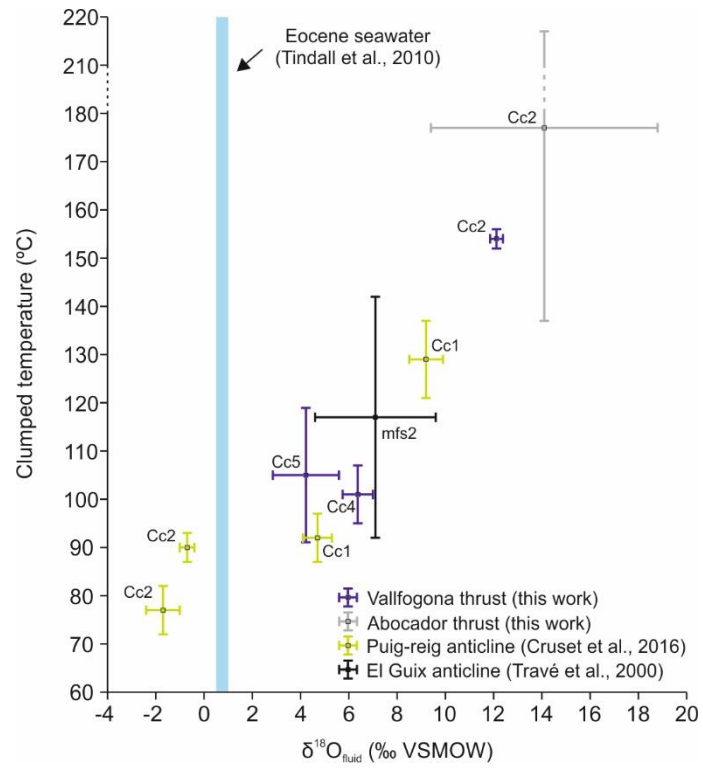
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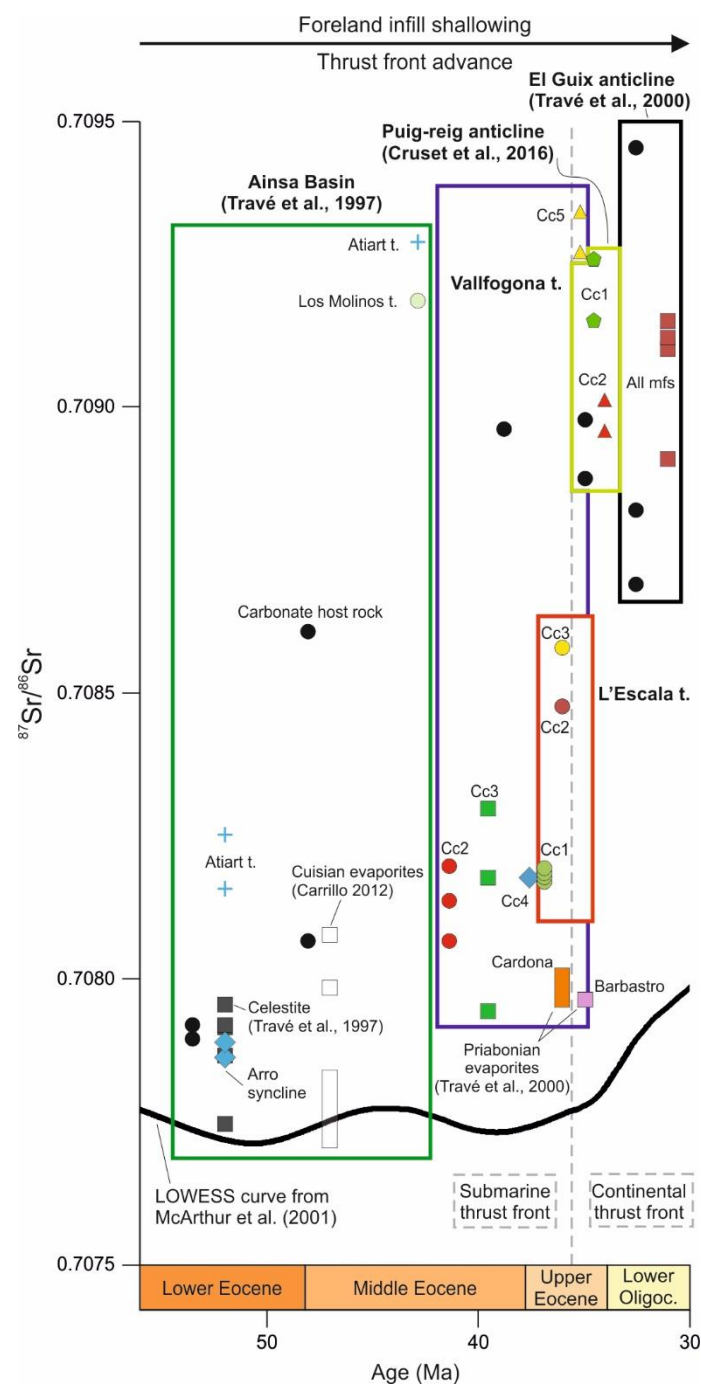
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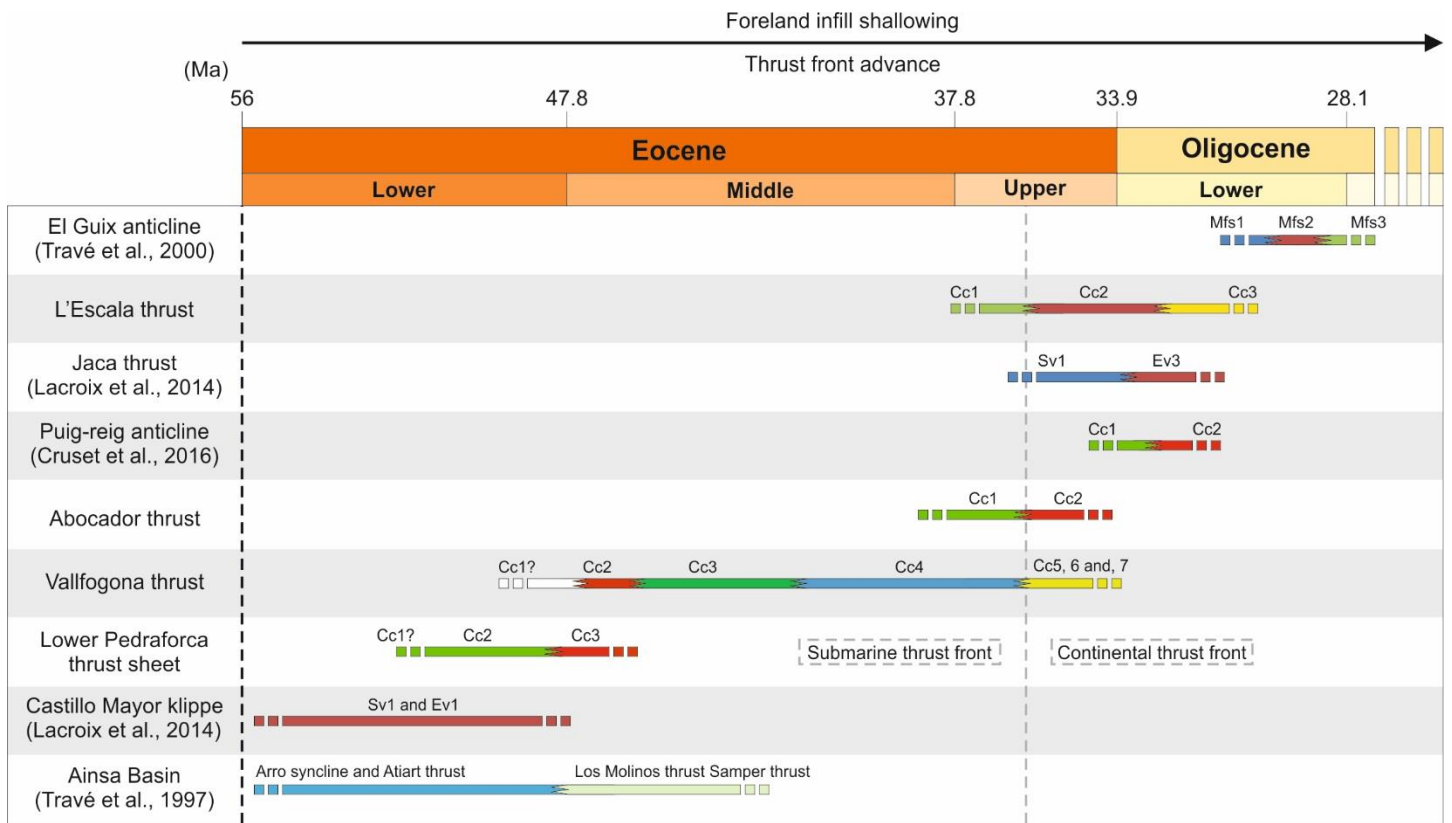
Fig. 7



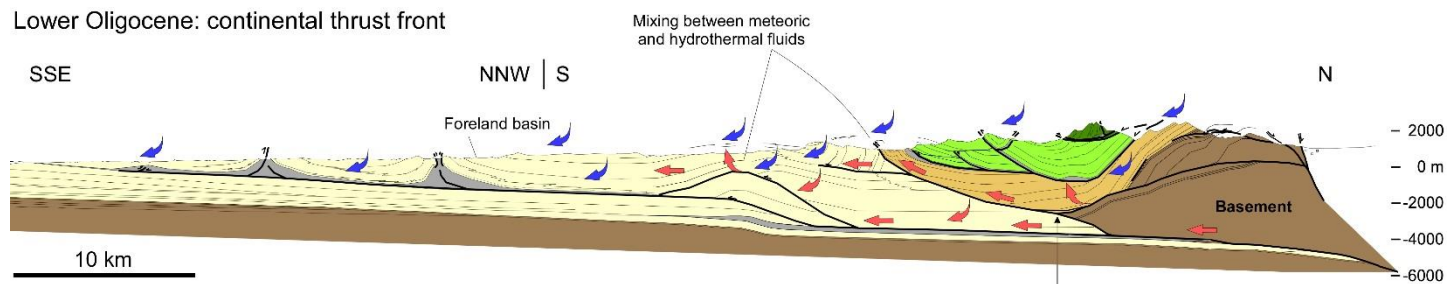








Lower Oligocene: continental thrust front



- Connate marine waters
- Hydrothermal fluids
- Meteoric fluids

56 47.8 37.8 33.9 28.1

Eocene			Oligoc.
Lower	Middle	Upp.	Lower

$\delta^{18}O_{\text{fluid}}$ VSMOW

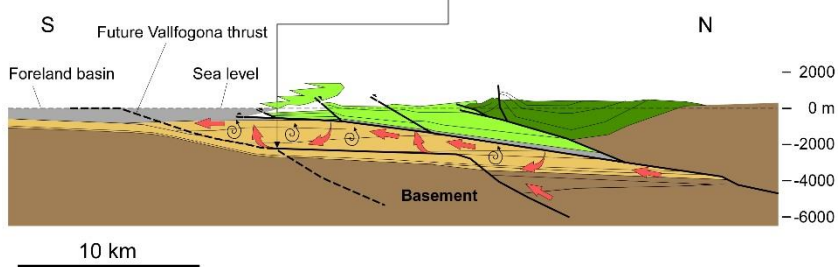
+12.12 -1.7

23780 Fe ppm d.l

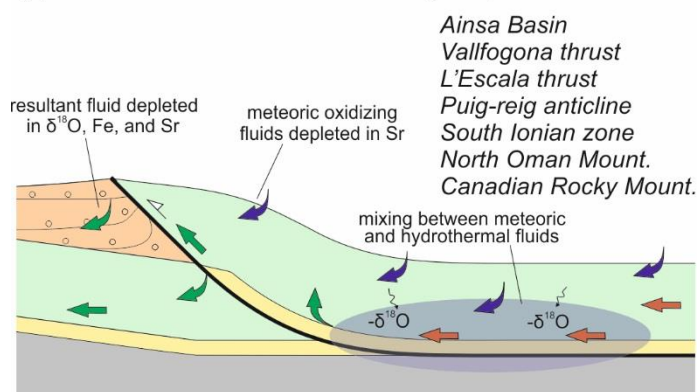
8090 Sr ppm d.l

0.707744 $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ 0.70933

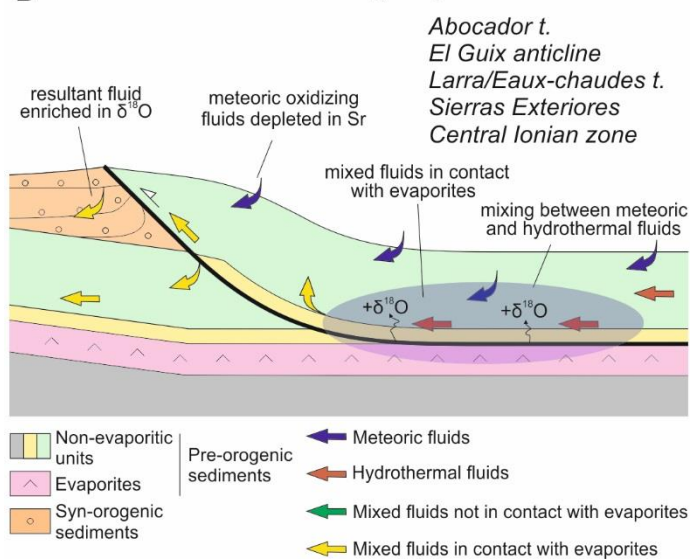
Middle Eocene: submarine thrust front



A Thrust sheet not detached along evaporites



B Thrust sheet detached along evaporites



1014 **Fig. 1** Structural sketch of the Pyrenees from Vergés (1993). The white squares show the location
1015 of the studied structures in this work: 1) Lower Pedraforca thrust sheet; 2) Vallfogona thrust; 3)
1016 Abocador and L'Escala thrusts. The grey squares show the location of the structures previously
1017 studied by other authors that have been compared with our structures: 4) Larra/Eaux-chaudes
1018 thrust (Crognier et al., 2017); 5) Jaca Basin (Lacroix, et al., 2014; Crognier et al., 2017); 6) Sierras
1019 Exteriores (Beaudoin et al., 2015; Crognier, 2016); 7) Ainsa Basin (Travé et al., 1997); 8)
1020 Gavarnie thrust (McCaig et al., 1995); 9) Puig-reig anticline (Cruset et al., 2016); 10) El Guix
1021 anticline (Travé et al., 2000). The purple and red lines indicate the location of cross-sections
1022 shown in Figs. 2a and b, respectively.

1023 **Fig. 2** Cross sections of the studied areas (Vergés, 1993). The color boxes indicate the structural
1024 position of the studied outcrops in SE Pyrenees also shown in Fig. 1. Each color is equivalent to
1025 the color of lines and boxes in Figs. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

1026 **Fig. 3** A) Structural sketch of the studied area with outcrop locations. Q samples are referred to
1027 the Lower Pedraforca thrust sheet, GDV and GDB to the Vallfogona thrust and TAB and TES to
1028 the Abocador and L'Escala thrusts, respectively. B) N-S stratigraphic panel of the Lower
1029 Pedraforca thrust sheet, Cadí thrust sheet and eastern Ebro Foreland Basin modified from Vergés
1030 et al. (1998). The age of sedimentary units has been defined according to Burbank et al. (1992a,
1031 b), López-Martínez et al. (1999), Oms et al. (2007), Costa et al. (2010) and Valero et al. (2014).
1032 Shallow Benthic Zones (SBZ) from Serra-Kiel et al. (1998a and b). The color boxes with
1033 references Q, GDV, GDB, TAB and TES indicate the stratigraphic location of the studied outcrops.

1034 **Fig. 4** Lower hemisphere Schmidt stereoplots representing fracture data from the different studied
1035 outcrops. The dotted thick black lines indicate the main plane orientation for thrust faults. The
1036 boxes with numbers represent the structure location in Fig. 1.

1037 **Fig. 5** Cross-cutting relationships between fractures and related calcite cements in the Lower
1038 Pedraforca thrust sheet and Vallfogona, Abocador and L'Escala thrusts. The different cement
1039 generations and their main petrographic features as well as host rock formations are indicated.
1040

1041 **Fig. 6** Elemental composition of the calcite cements for the Vallfogona and L'Escala thrusts, Ainsa
1042 Basin (Travé et al., 1997), El Guix anticline (Travé et al., 2000) and Puig-reig anticline (Cruset
1043 et al., 2016). For each structure Mg, Mn, Fe and Sr minimum, maximum and mean contents are
1044 given. Each of the different color lines represent one single structure. Equivalent colors are used
1045 in figures 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10. The dashed grey line indicates the change from marine to
1046 continental conditions of thrust emplacement. The age of each calcite cement generation is
1047 approximated.

1048 **Fig. 7** $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ vs $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ cross-plots of carbonate host rocks and calcite cements from the Lower
1049 Pedraforca thrust sheet, Vallfogona, Abocador and L'Escala thrusts, Ainsa Basin (Travé et al.,
1050 1997), Castillo Mayor klippe and Jaca thrust (Lacroix et al., 2014), El Guix anticline (Travé et al.,
1051 2000) and Puig-reig anticline (Cruset et al., 2016). Empty symbols represent the different host
1052 rocks.

1053 **Fig. 8** $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{calcite veins}}$ vs $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{host rocks}}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{calcite veins}}$ vs $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{host rocks}}$ cross-plots from the Lower
1054 Pedraforca thrust sheet, Vallfogona, Abocador and L'Escala thrusts. The dashed black line
1055 represents the equilibrium between calcite veins and their adjacent host rocks.

1056 **Fig. 9** Clumped isotopes temperatures ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) vs calculated $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{fluid}}$ (‰ VSMOW) for The Vallfogona
1057 and Abocador thrusts, Puig-reig anticline (Cruset et al., 2016) and El Guix anticline (Travé et al.,
1058 2000). $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ Eocene seawater in ‰ VSMOW is from Tindall et al. (2010).
1059

1060 **Fig. 10** $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ composition of calcite cements, carbonate host rocks and celestite minerals from
1061 the Vallfogona and L'Escala thrusts, Ainsa Basin (Travé et al., 1997), El Guix anticline (Travé
1062 et al., 2000) and Puig-reig anticline (Cruset et al., 2016). The age of each calcite cement generation
1063 is approximated. The $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ratios of the Cuisian evaporites of the eastern sector of the south
1064 Pyrenean foreland basin from Carrillo (2012) and the LOWESS curve from McArthur et al. (2001)

1065 are also plotted. The dashed grey line indicates the change from marine to continental conditions
1066 of thrust emplacement.

1067 **Fig. 11** Chronogram of the approximate ages of the different calcite cements in the Lower
1068 Pedraforca thrust sheet, Vallfogona, Abocador and L'Escala thrusts, Ainsa Basin (Travé et al.,
1069 1997), Castillo Mayor klippe and Jaca thrust (Lacroix et al., 2014), El Guix anticline (Travé et al.,
1070 2000) and Puig-reig anticline (Cruset et al., 2016). The dashed grey line indicates the change
1071 from marine to continental conditions of thrust emplacement.

1072 **Fig. 12** Fluid flow evolution in the south Pyrenean fold and thrust belt from submarine to
1073 continental conditions during thrust front emplacement. The shifts in $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{fluid}}$ VSMOW, Fe and Sr
1074 content and $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ratio from Lower Eocene to Lower Oligocene are also included. The middle
1075 Eocene stage is redrawn from Vergés et al. (1995) and the lower Oligocene stage is redrawn from
1076 Vergés (1993). Legend units are in Fig. 2.

1077 **Fig. 13** Sketches of two possible scenarios for fluid flow regime in fold and thrust belts. A) Thrust
1078 sheet not detached through evaporites. B) Thrust sheet detached through evaporites. Not to
1079 scale.

1080 Table 1

Structure	Sample	Cement type	n	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ VPDB	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$ VPDB	Δ_{47}	T °C	$\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{fluid}}$ VSMOW
Vallfogona thrust	GDV20	Cc2	3	-1.06	-6.04	0.463 ± 0.002	154 ± 2	$+12.12 \pm 0.1434$
	GDV30	Cc4	3	-1.66	-7.11	0.532 ± 0.010	101 ± 6	$+6.37 \pm 0.626$
	GDV13	Cc5	3	-2.29	-9.64	0.527 ± 0.023	105 ± 14	$+4.22 \pm 1.37$
Puig-reig anticline (Cruset et al., 2016)	309B1	Cc1	3	-0.44	-7.77	0.548 ± 0.009	92 ± 5	$+4.7 \pm 0.6$
	317	Cc1	3	-0.99	-6.95	0.494 ± 0.010	129 ± 8	$+9.2 \pm 0.7$
	311A	Cc2	3	-0.77	-12.32	0.574 ± 0.010	77 ± 5	-1.7 ± 0.7
	311D	Cc2	3	-0.73	-12.85	0.551 ± 0.004	90 ± 3	-0.7 ± 0.3
Abocador thrust	TAB9	Cc2	1	-1.69	-8.22	0.423 ± 0.03	177 ± 40	$+14.1 \pm 4,7$
El Guix anticline	STn(3)(2)	Mfs2	1	-4.48	-8.62	0.487 ± 0.03	117 ± 25	$+7.1 \pm 2.5$

1081

Table 1 Calcite cement $\delta^{13}\text{C}$, $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, Δ_{47} and $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{fluid}}$ of the Vallfogona thrust and Puig-reig anticline. Preliminary Δ_{47} and $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{fluid}}$ for the Abocador thrust and El Guix anticline are also included. n represents the number of analyses per sample.