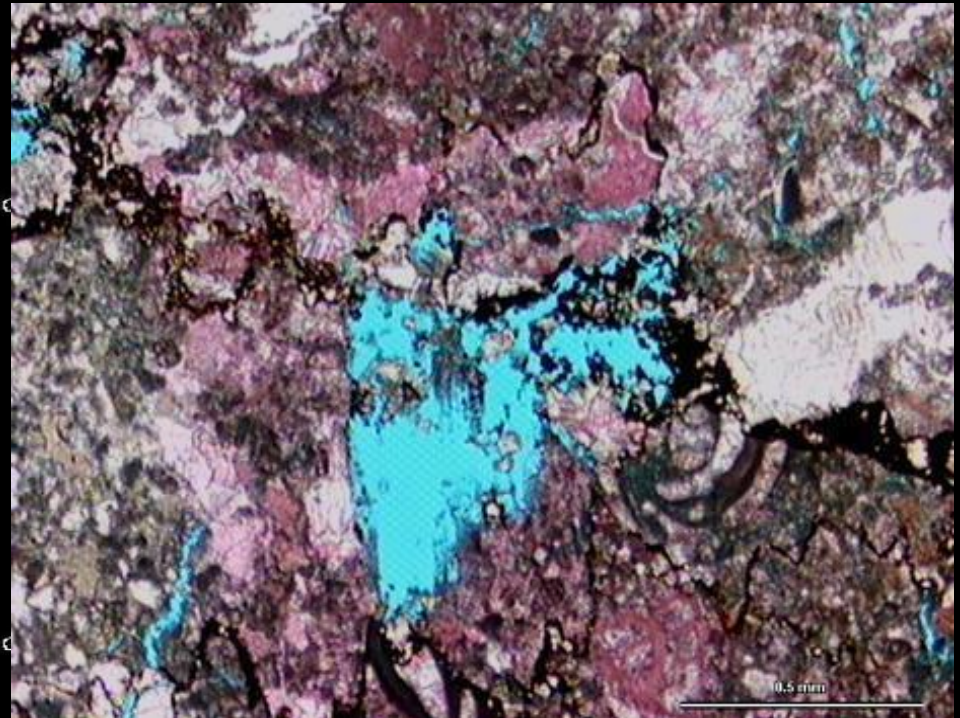
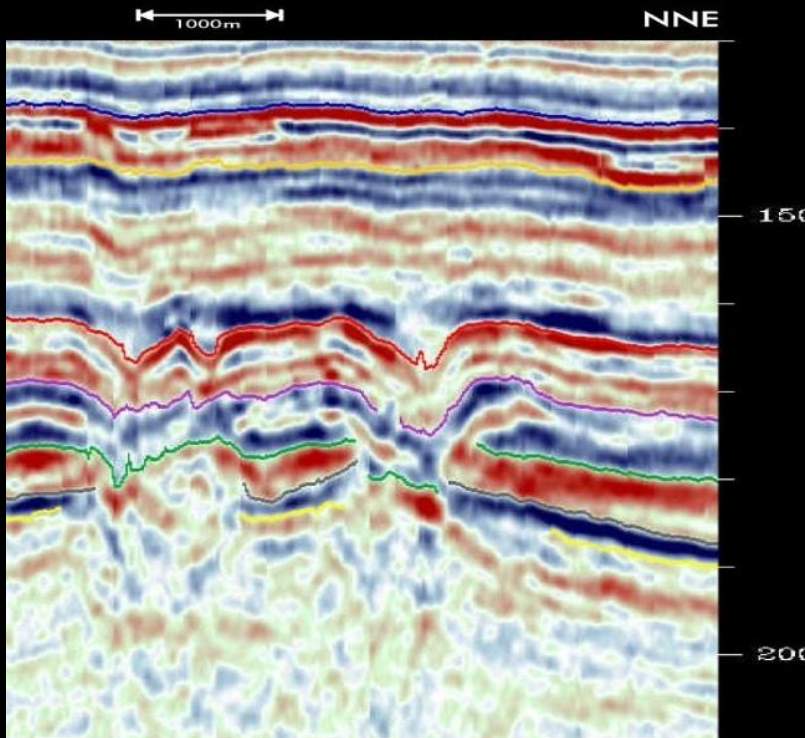


# Hypogene Palaeokarst and Burial Corrosion

*Paul Wright*  
*PW Carbonate Geoscience*



# Take away points

Significant secondary porosity formation by dissolution, from the micro-to seismic scale can take place at depths of several kilometres in carbonate reservoirs, what is termed **burial corrosion** or **mesogenetic dissolution**

There is a problem over terminology with the use of “burial” or “late” and it is more expedient to take a hydrological approach and see the key processes as due to burial fluids derived from below the reservoir – **hypogene fluids**

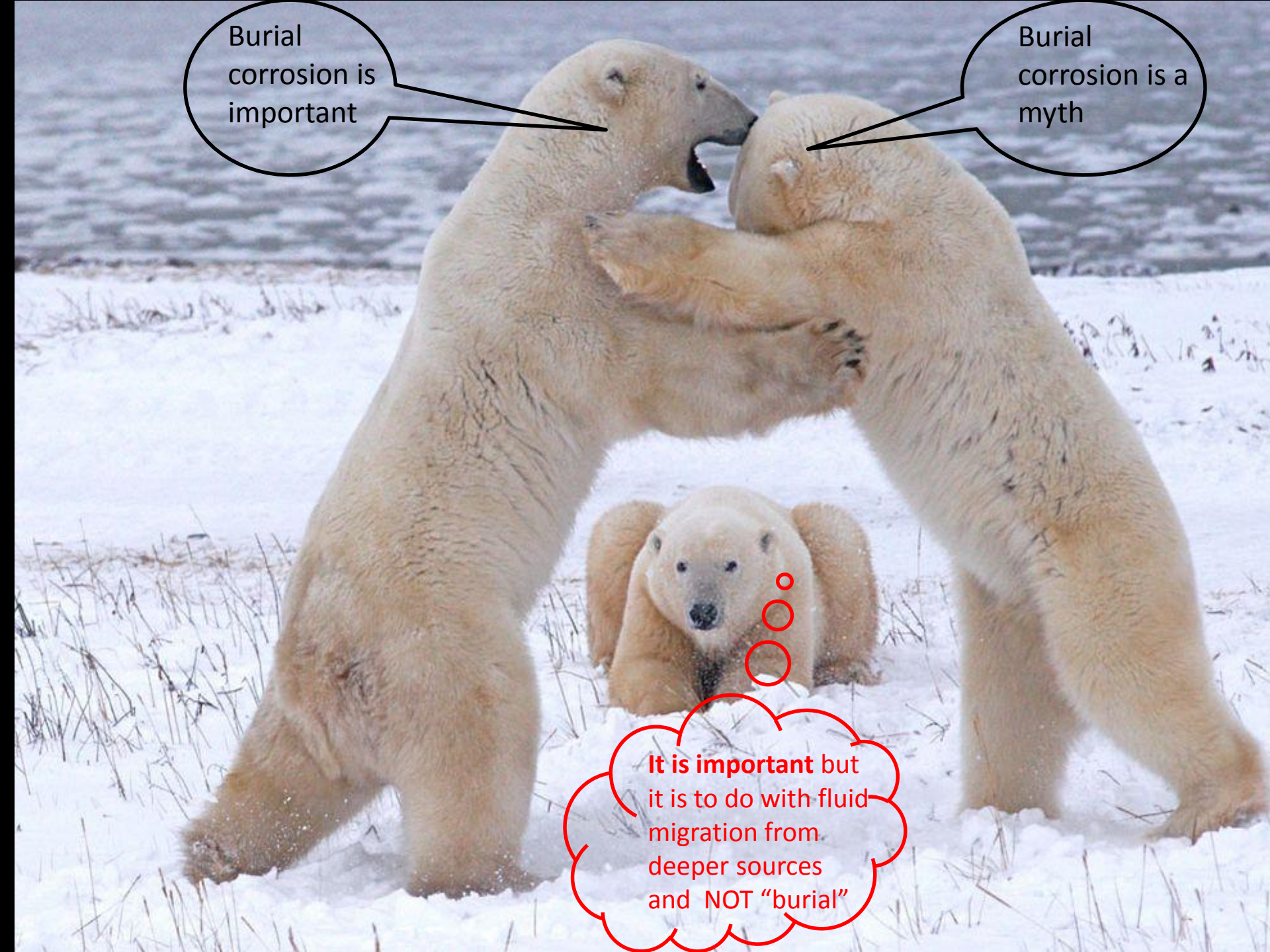
Some hypogene dissolution can occur relatively near surface

There are **many** fields proven to have been produced by this effect

There are a range of processes known to be able to cause this dissolution but identifying the process is difficult as they leave little trace

There are consistent relationships seen in hypogene diagenetic systems that may prove useful for exploration

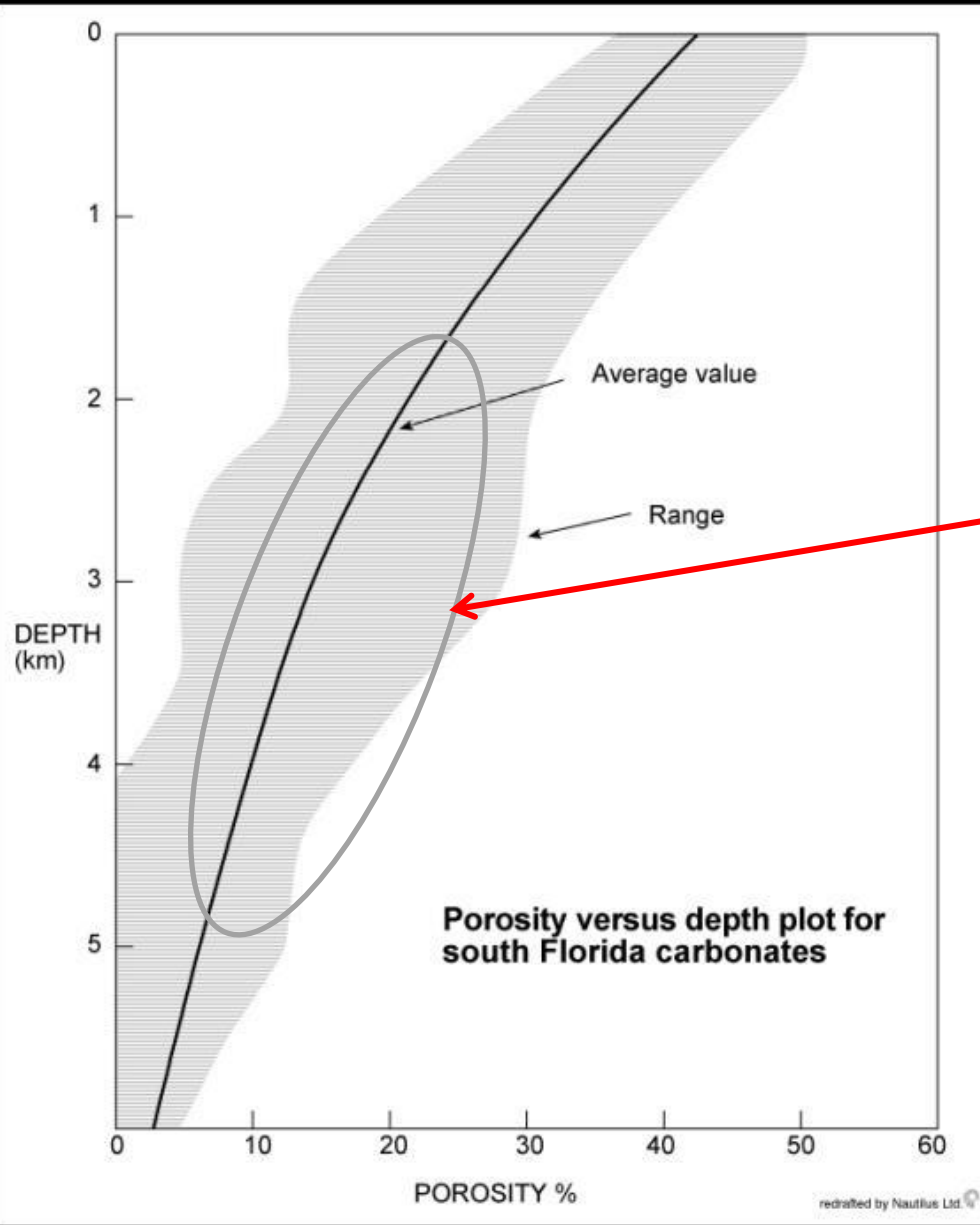
**For an alternative view see Ehrenberg, Walderhaug & Bjorlykke 2012 AAPG Bull 96, 217-233**



Burial  
corrosion is  
important

Burial  
corrosion is a  
myth

It is important but  
it is to do with fluid  
migration from  
deeper sources  
and NOT "burial"



The paradigm was - just porosity loss with depth

There is a large amount of evidence that extensive porosity formation occurs at depth, without any uplift into near surface settings

## Sadly there is a real terminological problem

Unlike those clever sandstone diagenesis workers, carbonate specialists never agreed on a strict definition of burial diagenesis

Is this dissolution that is associated with elevated temps, pressures, is “late”, or “deep”?

Does it have to be any of these?

It manifests itself as porosity that formed after burial, typically after pressure solution took place, in formations which have not been brought back to near-surface depths

But the depths at which pressure solution takes place in carbonates is unresolved

Bearguin?

Penbear?



Wright & Harris 2013\* proposed that –

“burial corrosion/dissolution refers to porosity formation caused by fluids unrelated to recharge from the overlying land surface, or adjacent water bodies, but relates typically to a confined aquifer, and where the source of the fluid is ultimately from below the formation (hypogene).”

\*AAPG Search and Discovery Article #50860

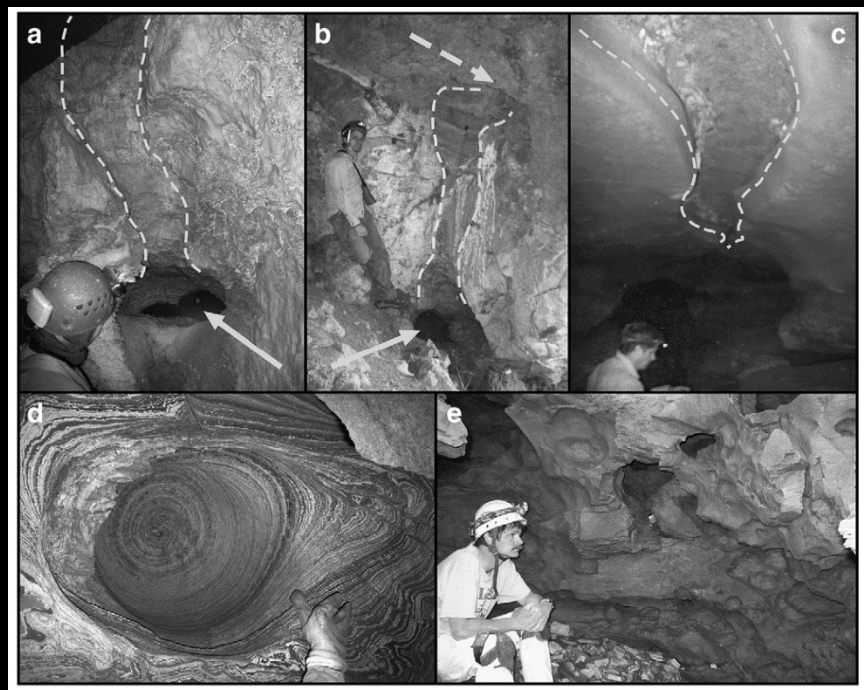
This would exclude meteoric waters driven by gravity, mixing zone processes driven by meteoric groundwater discharge in coastal areas, but includes dissolution caused by thermal convection such as Kohout convection.

This dissolution need not take place at depth but that the fluid was derived from a greater depth

The critical issue is to identify the source of the fluid and mechanism as this may provide a predictive element.

**Deep regional flow processes** we know are capable of extensive dissolution, dolomitization and mineralization. **For example 15% of accessible caves today are hypogenic (Palmer) ...no doubt many more that are inaccessible.**

Hypogene macroporosity - from many different regions

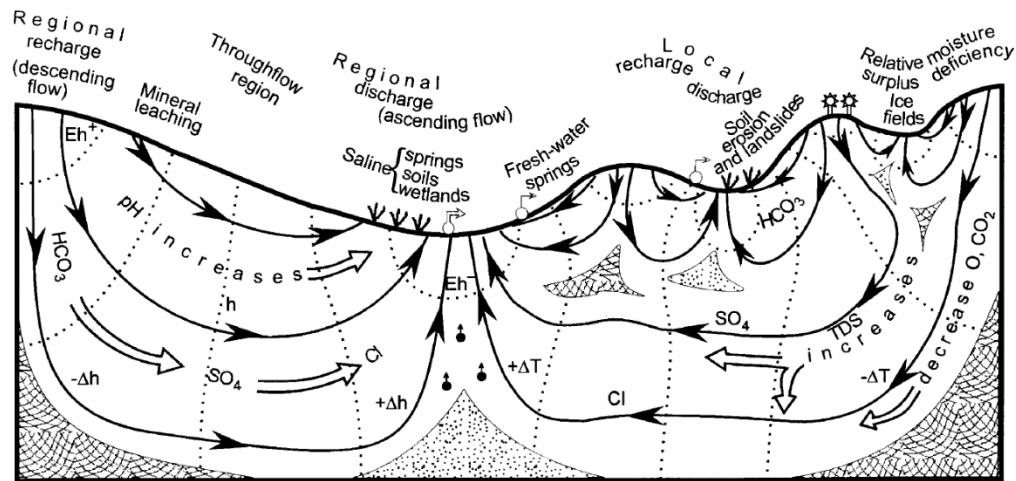


**Klimchouk, A. B. 2007.** Hypogene Speleogenesis: Hydrogeological and Morphogenetic Perspective. Special Paper no. 1, National Cave and Karst Research Institute, Carlsbad, NM, 106 pp.

Palmer A N 2011 Geomorphology  
134, 9–22



I think part of the reluctance of some specialists to invoke hypogene dissolution is best addressed by the following - “...a lack of understanding, or even awareness, of regional groundwater hydraulics by specialists of the various subdisciplines prevents them from recognizing the cause-and-effect relation between basinal groundwater flow and the particular phenomena that they may be studying.” Toth, J 1999, Hydrogeology Journal 7:1–14

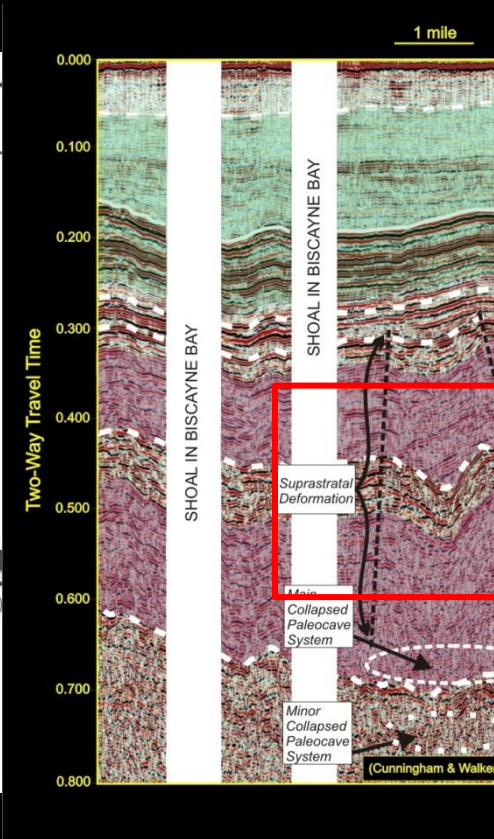
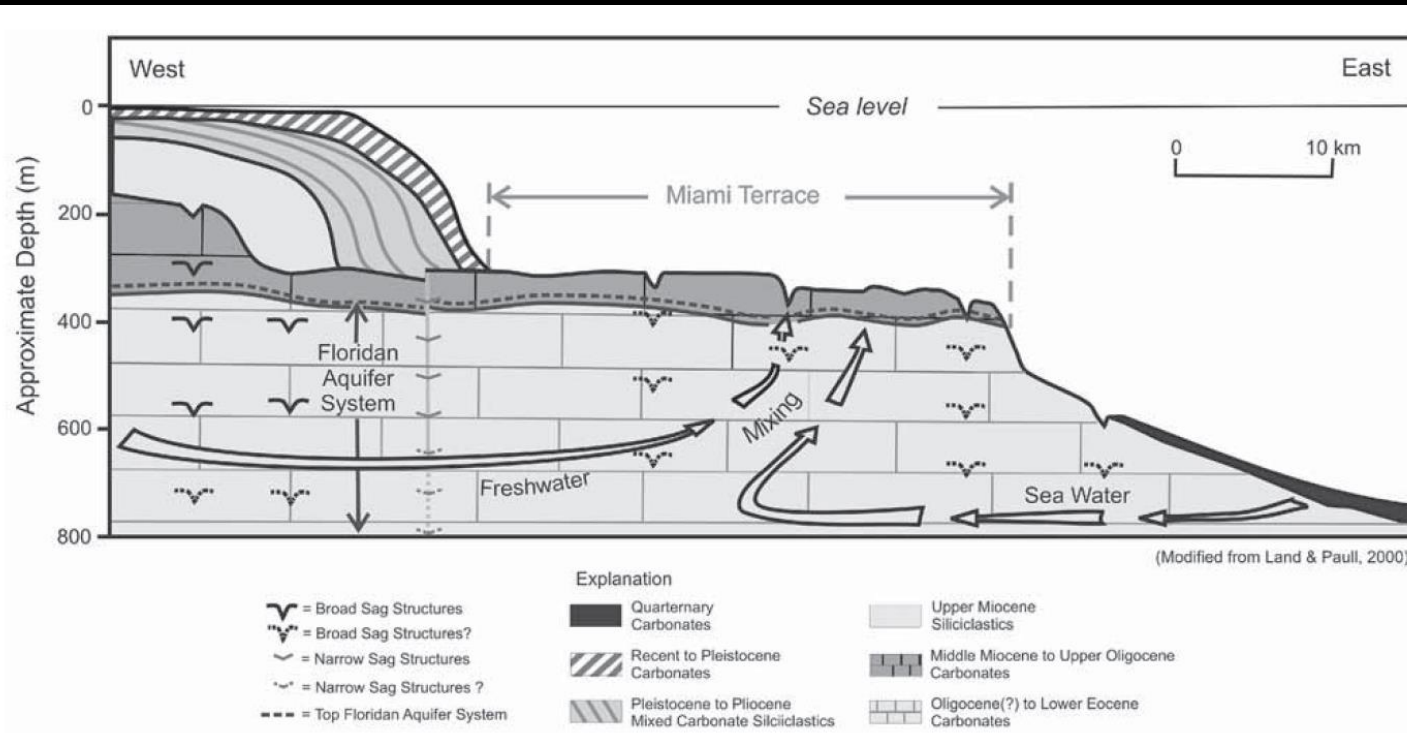


EXPLANATION

- |  |                              |  |           |  |                    |  |               |  |            |  |                                |  |          |  |   |  |   |  |                                       |  |   |
|--|------------------------------|--|-----------|--|--------------------|--|---------------|--|------------|--|--------------------------------|--|----------|--|---|--|---|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|
|  | Line of equal hydraulic head |  | Flow line |  | Spring: cold, warm |  | Phreatophytes |  | Xerophytes |  | Redox conditions:<br>oxidizing |  | reducing |  | Mineral (metallic, evaporite,<br>hydrocarbon) traces above<br>accumulations |  | Hydraulic trap: convergence and<br>accumulation of transported<br>matter and heat |  | Quasi-stagnant zone:<br>increased TDS |  | Geothermal temperature and<br>gradient anomaly:<br>positive, negative |
|  |                              |  |           |  |                    |  |               |  |            |  |                                |  |          |  |   |  |   |  |                                       |  |   |

Toth, J 1999, Hydrogeology Journal 7:1–14

# East Florida margin - Hypogenic dissolution along margin of Florida Straits linked to Kohout convection or H<sub>2</sub>S from deeper evaporites?



From Cunningham K J & Walker C 2009 In: HYPOGENE SPELEOGENESIS AND KARST HYDROGEOLOGY OF ARTESIAN BASINS, *Ukrainian Institute of Speleology and Karstology, Special Paper 1, 2009*

# Hypogene dissolution (corrosion) processes invoked in carbonates

- Migration of oil field gases such as CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>S, and carboxylic acids
- H<sub>2</sub>S produced by thermochemical sulphate reduction in association with evaporites
- mixing corrosion
- thermal effects - retrograde solubility
- Pressure changes?
- Deprotonation of certain clays (Brazilian Pre-Salt model)

# CO<sub>2</sub> and carboxylic acids as agents of burial corrosion?

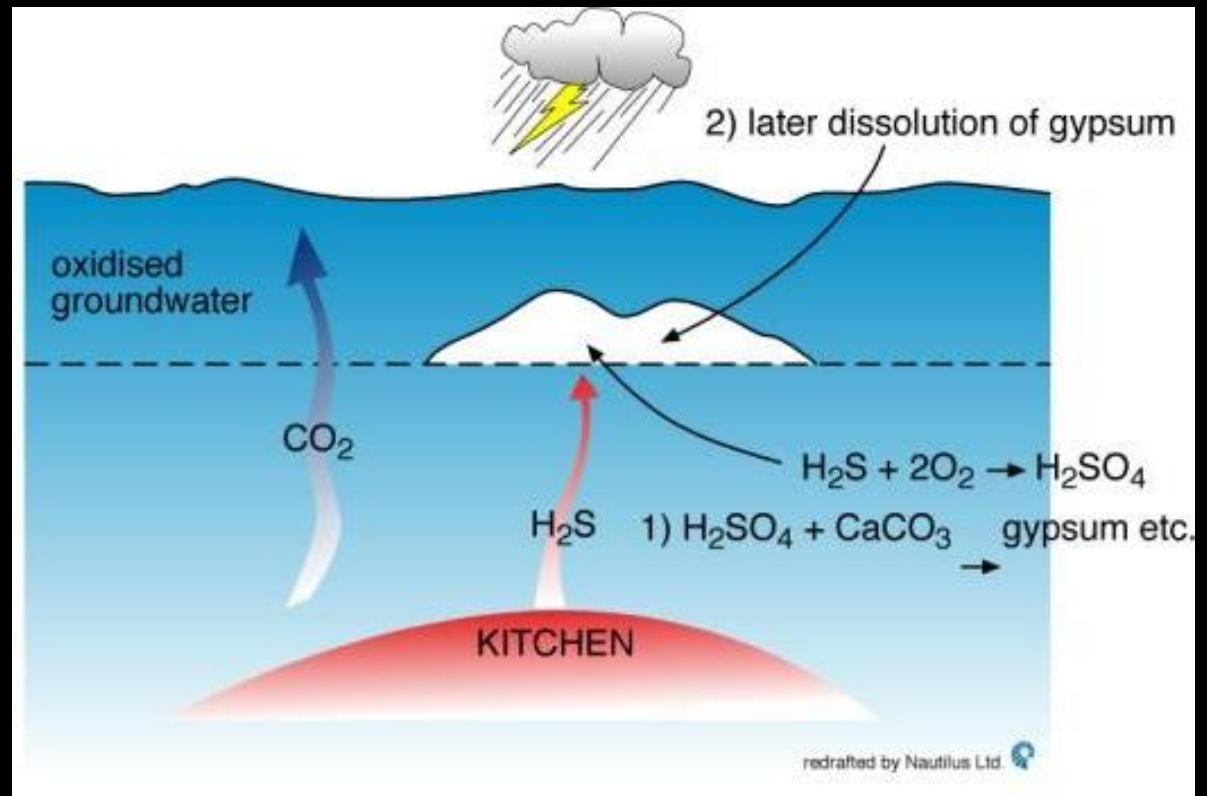
The **source rock maturation CO<sub>2</sub> model** has been discussed by Giles M R & Marshall J D (1986, Marine & Petrol. Geol., 3, 243-255) and their conclusion is that it is unlikely to have produced much secondary porosity

However, **inorganic (magmatic) CO<sub>2</sub>**, focused into the reservoir by faults related to salt movement, has been invoked in the Eocene carbonate fields of the Gulf of Gabes ( Didon, Zarat and Ashtart fields).

Or **CO<sub>2</sub> generated by hydrothermal (magmatic-related) decomposition of oil** (Pearl R Mouth Basin)

# H<sub>2</sub>S Karst

H<sub>2</sub>S (such as produced by TSR) when oxidised produces sulphuric acid but this requires mixing with oxygenated groundwater. Thus H<sub>2</sub>S-related dissolution, including caves is best developed in near-surface settings



Volcanic sources can also supply the H<sub>2</sub>S

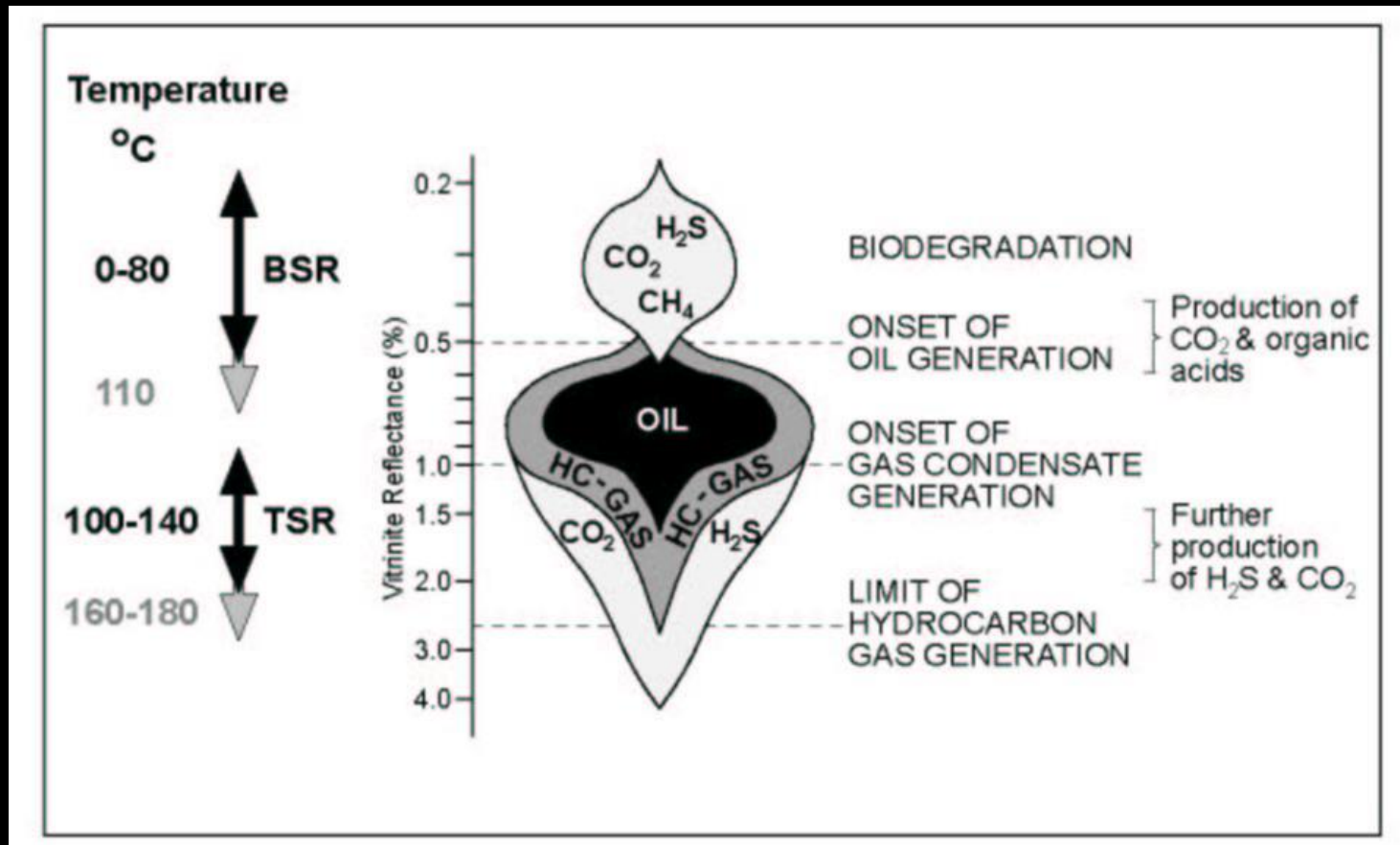
# Thermochemical sulphate reduction – TSR

In temperature range 100-140C

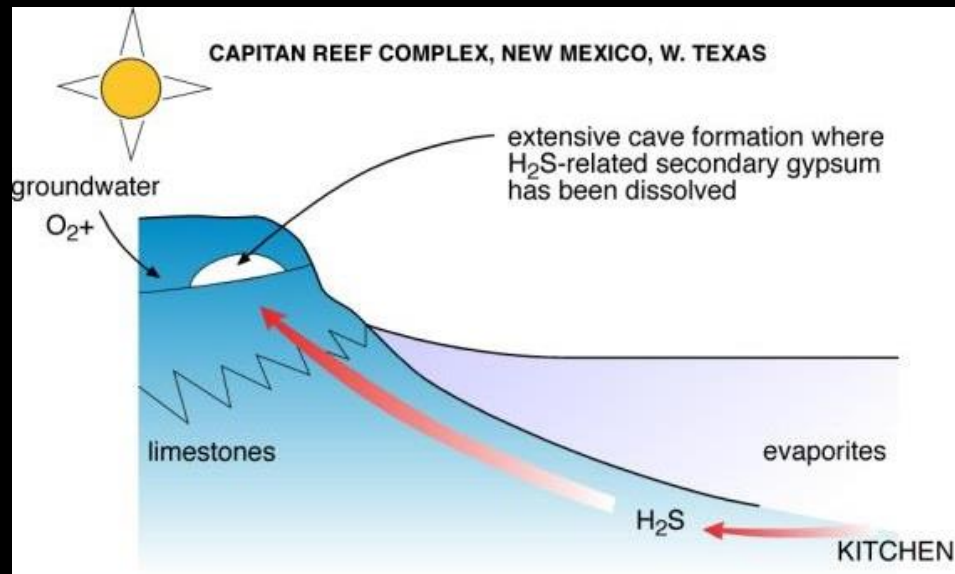
Reaction with hydrocarbons and evaporites to produce sulphide and bicarbonate.  
Sulphides can be oxidised to create acids and bicarbonate can trigger cementation  
Likely only a relatively local process?

But has been invoked as a mechanism in some Pri-Caspian super-giant fields

Machel, H. G., 2001,  
Sedimentary Geology,  
140, 143–175



# The “oil field karst” model – Permian Basin





Snotties – Cueva de Villa Luz, Mexico  
Sulphur eating bacteria that oxidize  $H_2S$  to produce sulphuric acid, which dissolves the rock – hypogenic karst

– hydrothermal  $H_2S$ -rich fluids, probably derived from an oil field 50km away in the coastal regions of southern Mexico.



## Pearl River Mouth Basin



Figure 1 – Location map of Liuhua 11-1 Field, South China Sea.

## Liuhua 11-1 Field, Pearl River Mouth Basin

## Oil Field Karst due to CO<sub>2</sub> & H<sub>2</sub>S

Miocene reef with karstic collapse features

For more information see - Story C et al., 2000. The Leading Edge; v.19, p. 834 – 844.

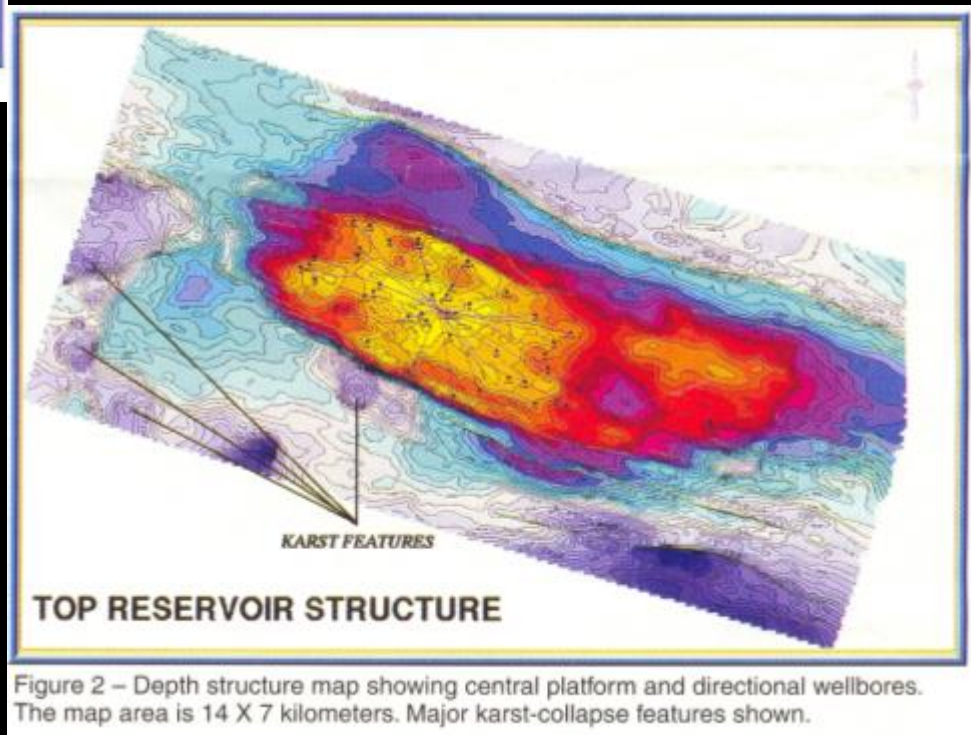
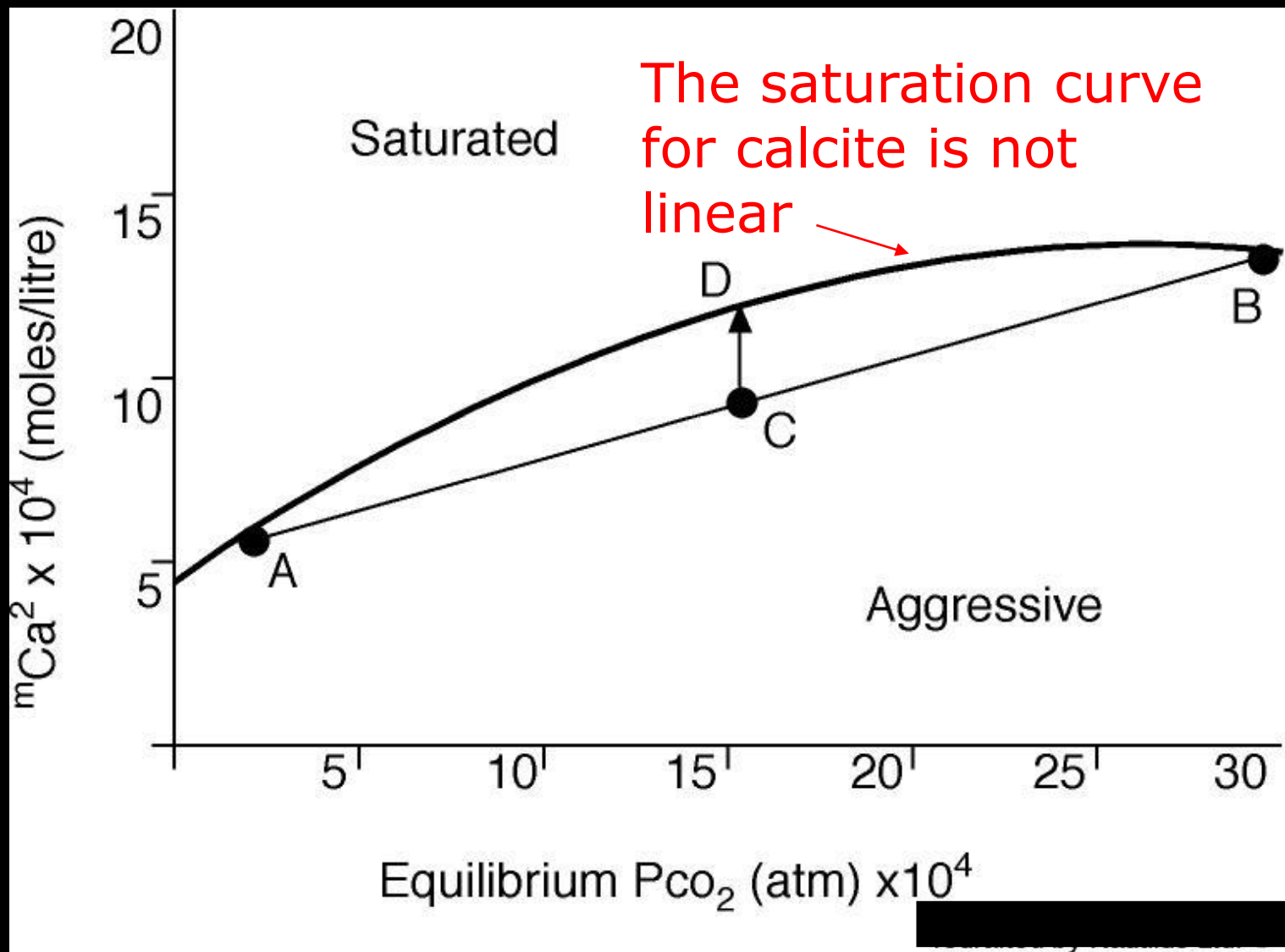


Figure 2 – Depth structure map showing central platform and directional wellbores. The map area is 14 X 7 kilometers. Major karst-collapse features shown.

# Mixing Corrosion



# Retrograde solubility

The solubility of calcite is greater at lower temperatures so as a fluid cools it could cause dissolution.

This mechanism was earlier invoked to explain large scale dissolution in the Devonian gas fields of the Western Canada (HTD hydrothermal dolomite model).

And might play a role in the Smackover Black Creek Field (Upper Jurassic) of Mississippi – see Heydari E 2000 Bull. AAPG, 84, 100-111

## Changes in pressure

A new mechanism used to explain corrosion and cementation (and bitumen formation) in the Tengiz reservoir in Pri-Caspian

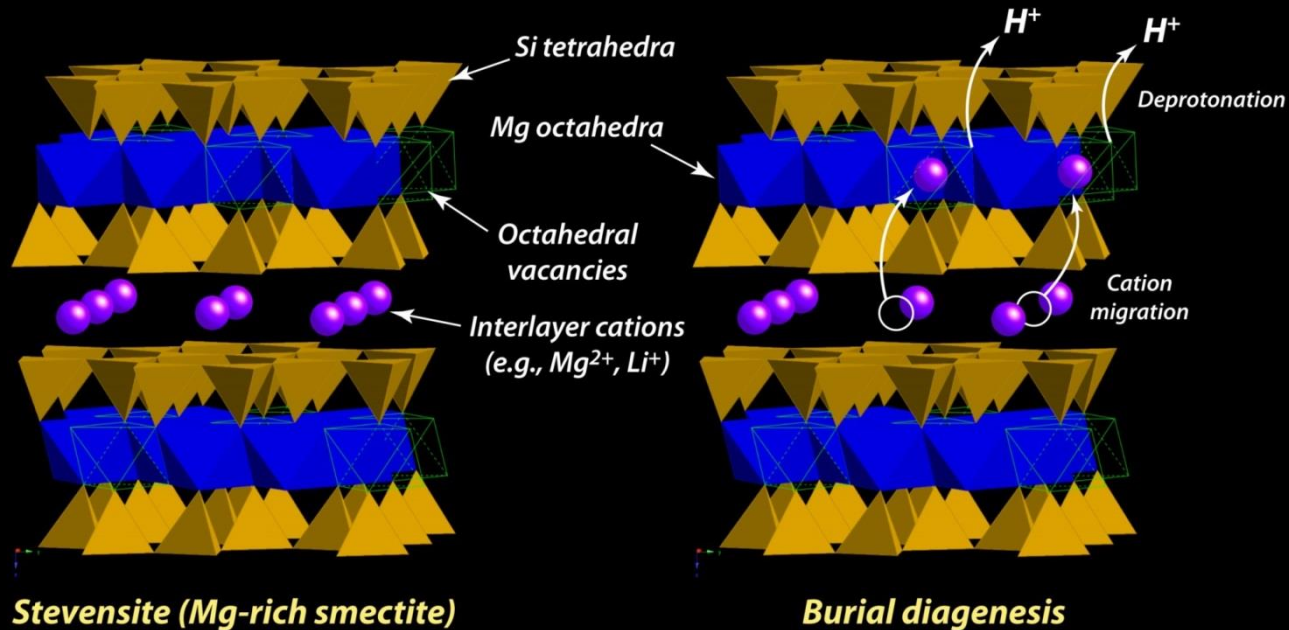
Calcite solubility in carbonate reservoir groundwater generally increases with pressure.

A geologically sudden pressure decrease at constant temperature would favour calcite precipitation due mainly to a decrease in solubility of CO<sub>2</sub>(g) at the same time as bitumen drop-out from oil.

Subsequent re-pressurization at approximately constant temperature reverses this process, promoting calcite dissolution and temporarily halting bitumen formation.

## Very specific mechanism – the Hofman-Klemen Effect

This has recently been invoked as one possible mechanisms for the late stage burial dissolution seen in the Brazilian Cretaceous Pre-Salt Barra Velha reservoirs – There is a pH decrease due to deprotonation during the decay of Mg-clays such as stevensite (which itself produces extensive clay-mouldic porosity).

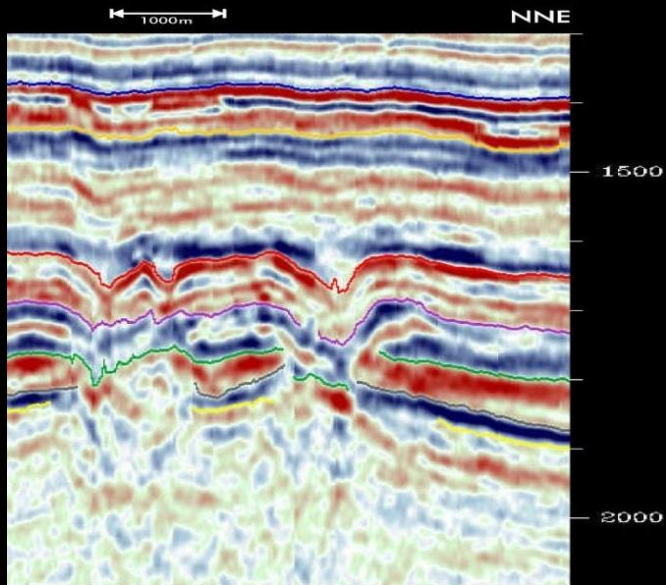


Tosca N & Wright V P 2015/16, Diagenetic pathways linked to labile Mg-clays in lacustrine carbonate reservoirs: A model for the origin of secondary porosity in the Cretaceous Pre-Salt Barra Velha Formation, offshore Brazil. In Armitage, P et al (eds) Reservoir Quality of Clastic and Carbonate Rocks: Analysis, Modelling and Prediction. Geological Society, London, Special Publication 435,

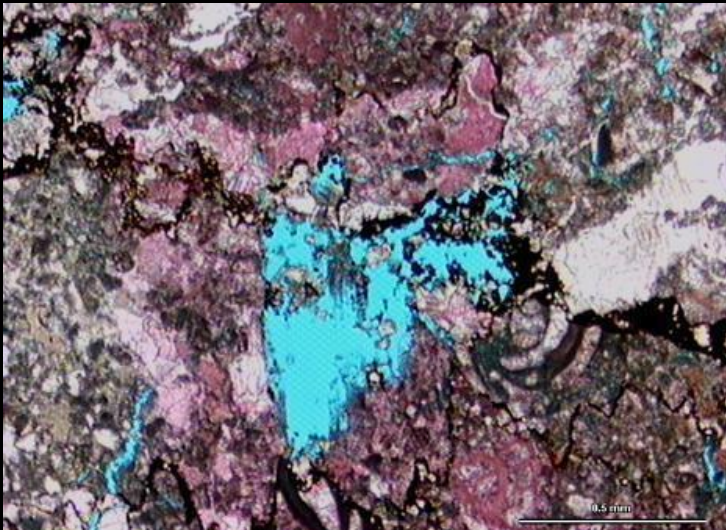
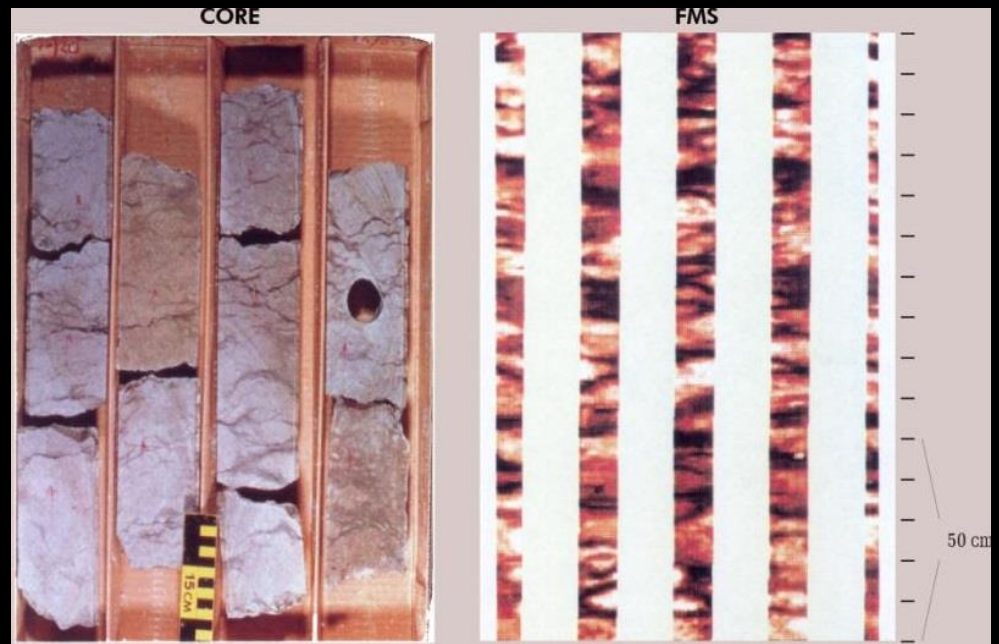
And Tosca N & Wright V P 2014 The formation and diagenesis of Mg-clay minerals in lacustrine carbonate reservoirs. AAPG Search and Discovery Article #51002

# Criteria

From the seismic scale



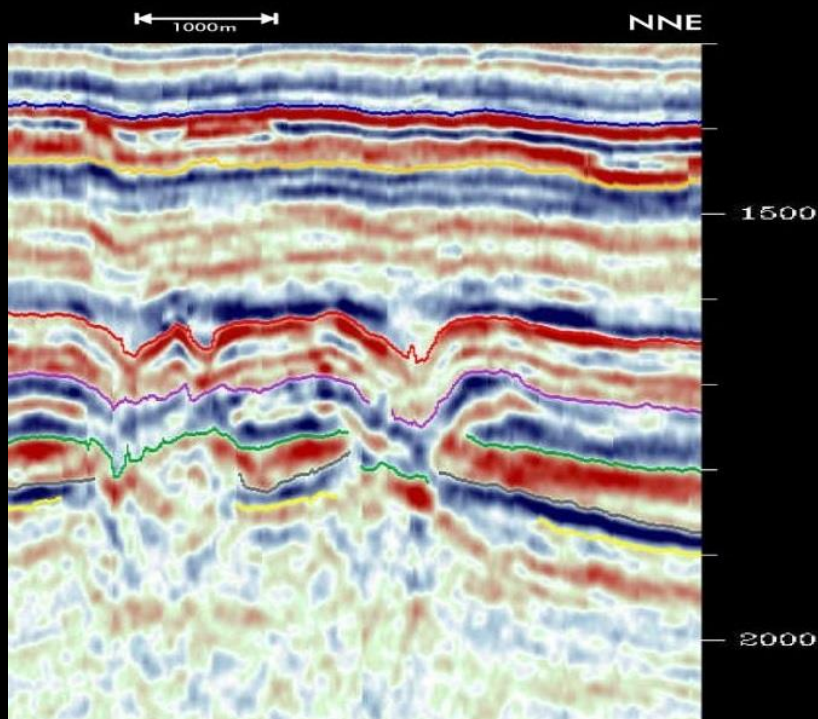
To the core scale



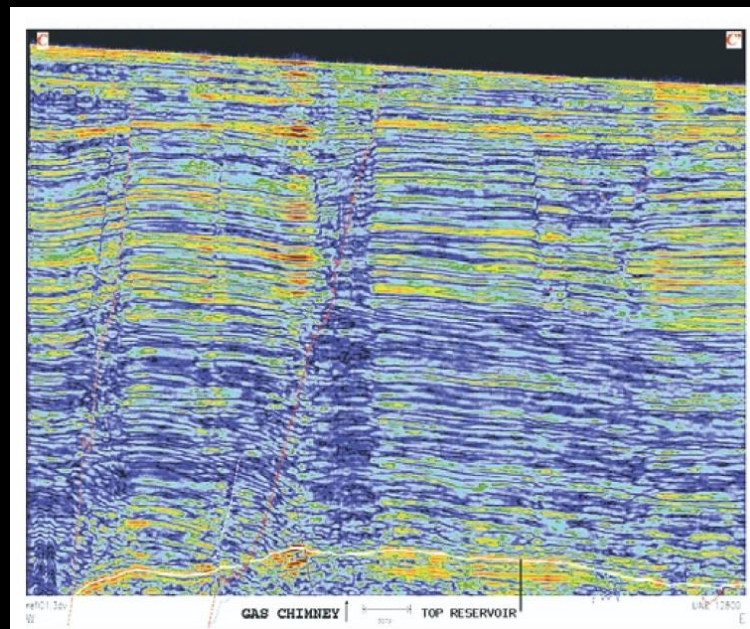
To the pore scale

# Seismic scale – sags and collapse features

*Normally hypogenic systems develop at depth and hence would not produce dolines at an unconformity. However, circular collapse features do develop and have vertical continuity in hypogenic systems and could be mistaken for surface dolines. There are means to distinguish collapse features of hypogenic from shallow meteoric karstic origins*

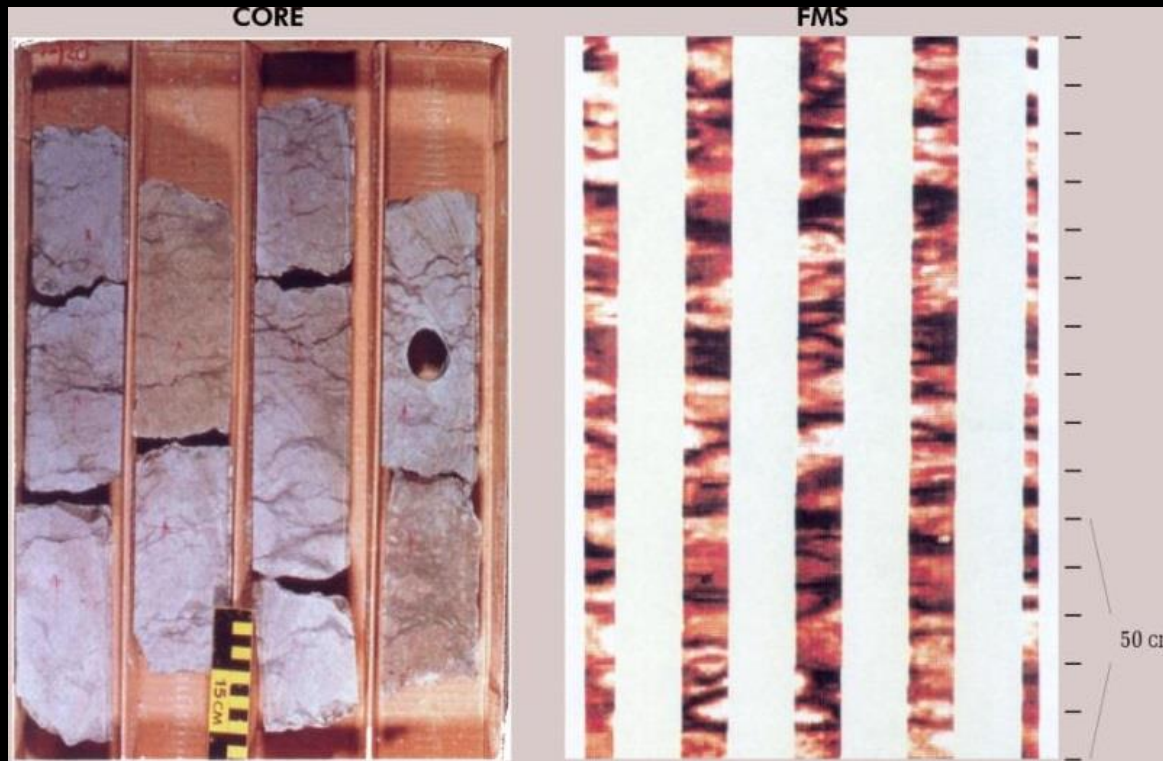


Panna Field, offshore India



Liuhua 11-1 Field, Pearl River Mouth Basin. Collapse chimneys - Oil Field Karst due to CO<sub>2</sub> & H<sub>2</sub>S. From Story C et al., 2000. The Leading Edge; v.19, p. 8

**At the core scale** - Corrosion along stylolites and fractures: Panna-Mukta fields, Bombay High, Offshore W India



Corroded stylolites – super KmD zones

Corroded stylolite –related fractures



# Petrographic and mineralogical criteria for recognition

*Mazullo, S.J. & Harris, P.M. 1992. AAPG Bulletin, 76, 607–620*

Dissolution of a phase formed after significant burial-time

- *dissolution of saddle dolomite*
- *dissolution of late cements (especially in fractures)*
- *dissolution of cements with hydrocarbon inclusions*
- *dissolution along stylolites*
- *dissolution of compacted grains*
- *dissolution of stylolite-related fractures*

Associated minerals -

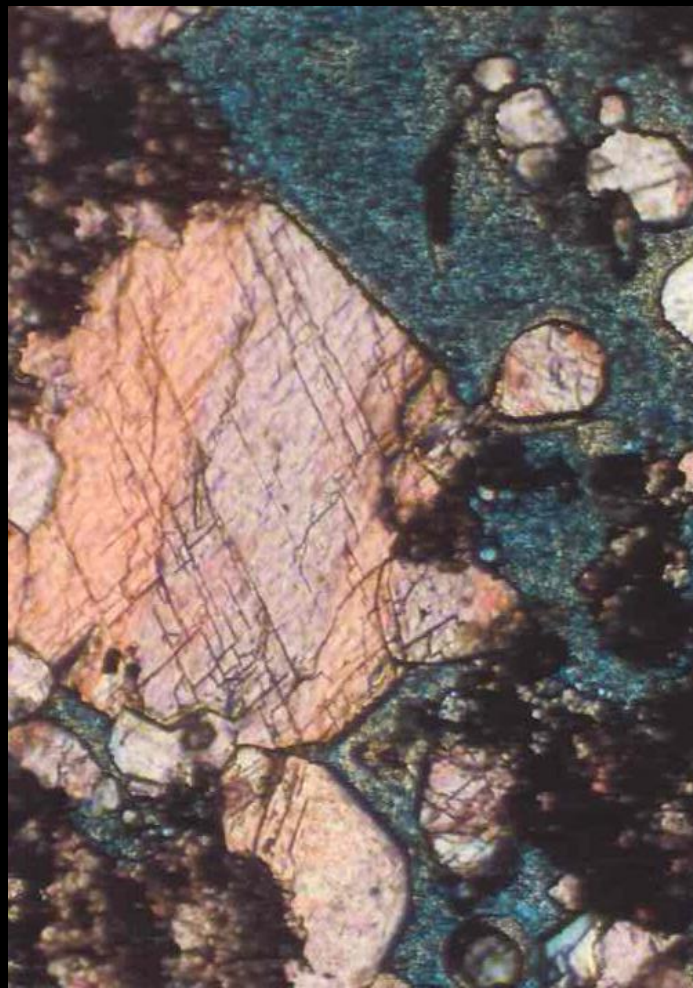
- *dickite cements*
- *association with metal sulphides (MVT's)*

Corrosion of vein calcite  
cement in a stylolite-related  
fracture



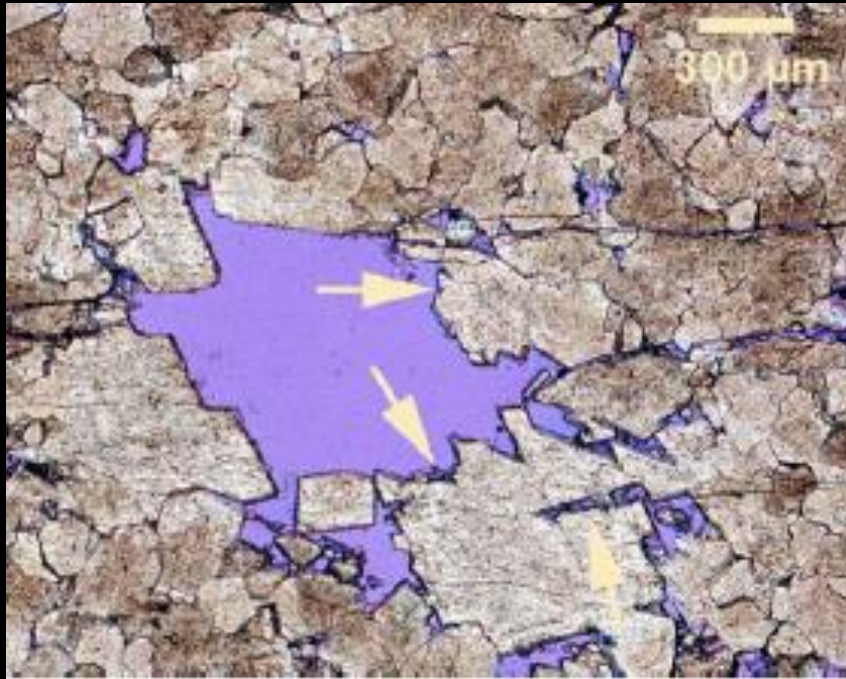
Eocene Bassein Fm, Mukta  
Field, offshore India

Corroded burial cements



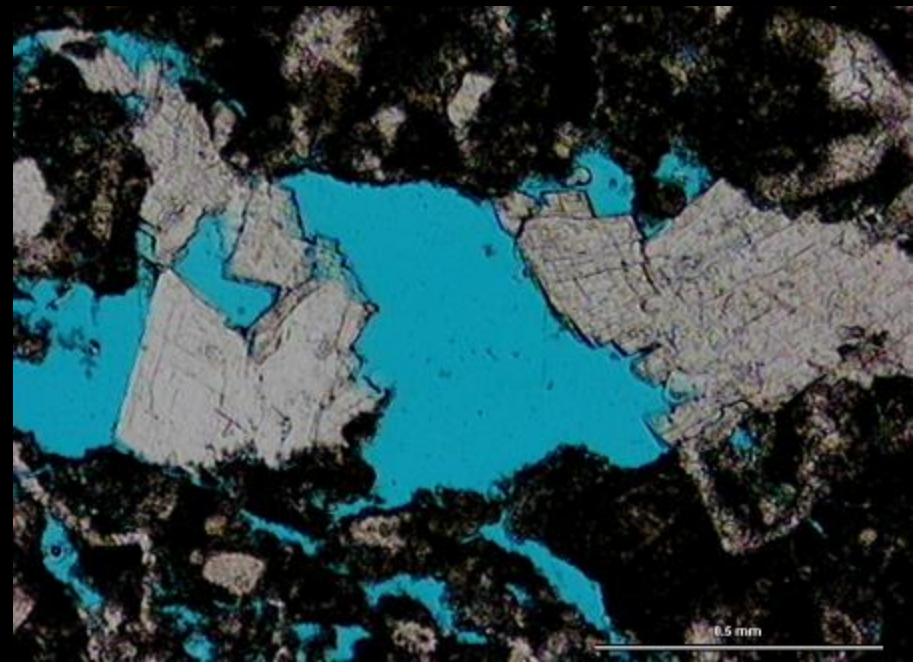
Cretaceous Mishrif Fm., Dubai FoV = 0.4mm

# Etched late stage saddle dolomites

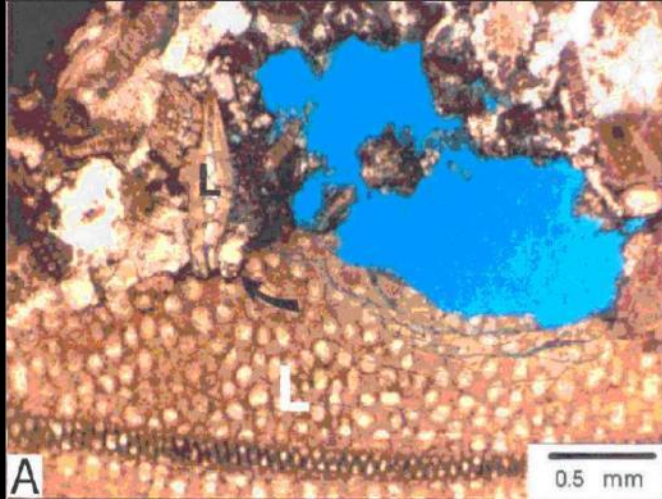


Devonian – WCSB

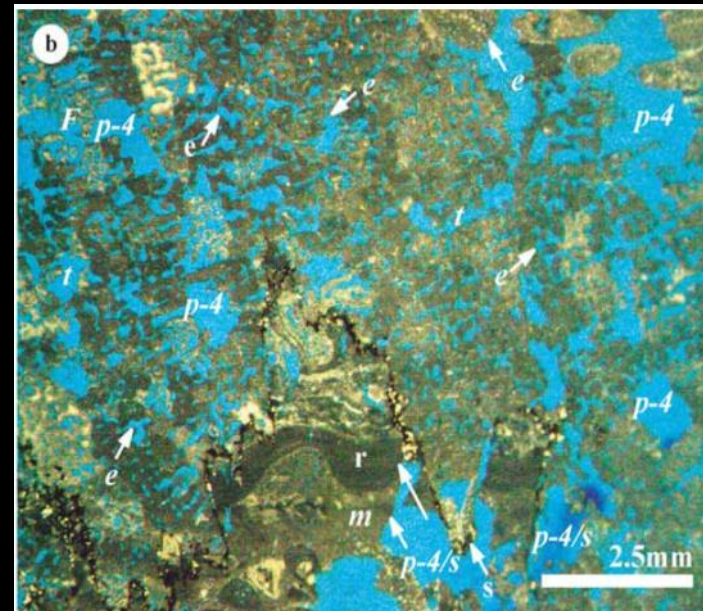
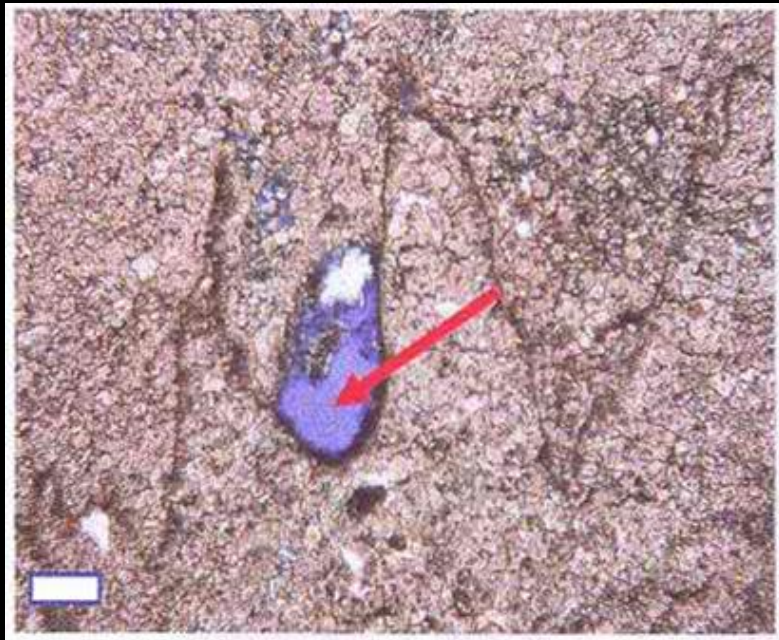
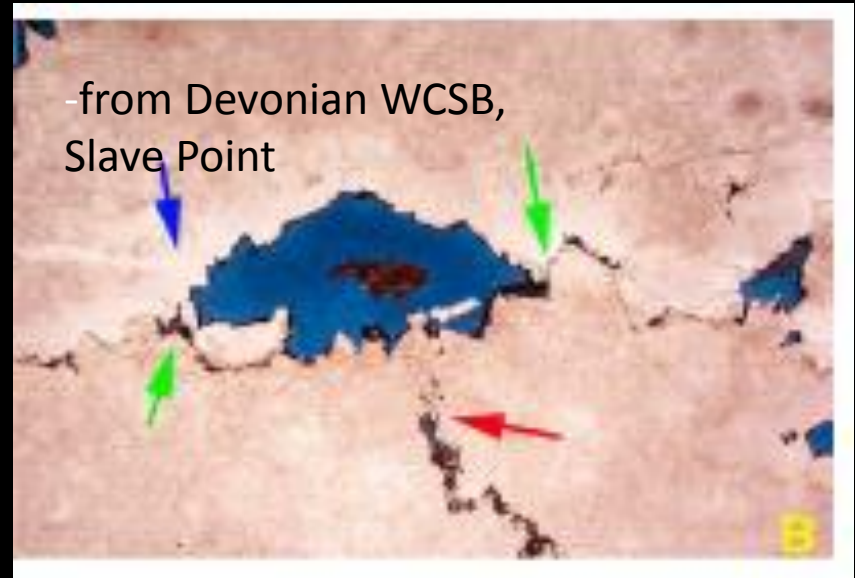
Eocene, Mukta, India



# Corrosion along stylolites



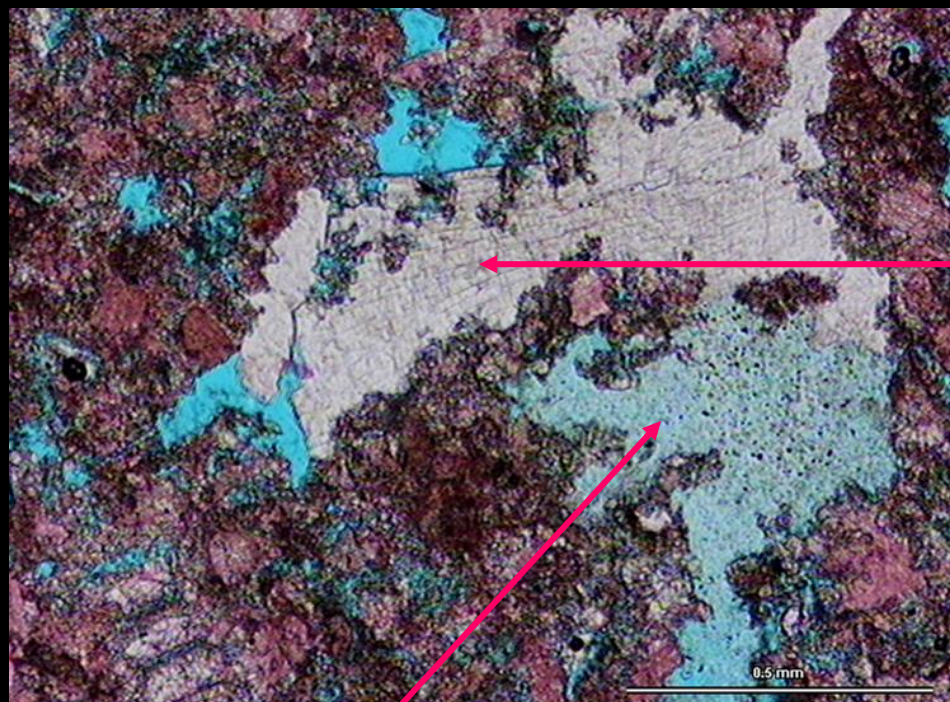
Oligocene, Kerendan Platform, Indonesia



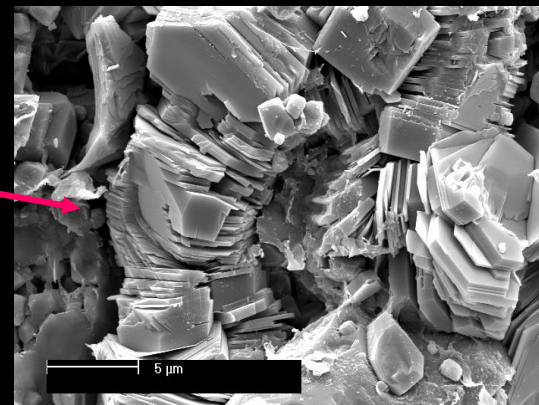
Liuhua 11-1 Field, Pearl River Mouth Basin, Miocene reef

Dickite seems to be present in a number of reservoirs affected by hypogene fluids  
– it is a kaolin mineral found in limestones and is regarded as evidence that acidic, organic -rich fluids have affected the rock, leaching Al and SiO<sub>2</sub>.

# Dickite and hypogene dissolution – Mukta Field, offshore India



dickite



Late stage diagenetic effects - saddle dolomite in a fracture has undergone corrosion followed by dickite precipitation

Can we predict the possible occurrence of hypogene dissolutional processes and porosity?

There are recurrent pathways and associations (including circulation systems) which could be a means of targeting possible hypogene reservoirs

..... but as in most carbonate exploration

... things are complicated

# Pathways

1. Common association with faults (no surprise there), especially transtensional (strike slip) faults – includes aspects of the HTD model (hydrothermal dolomite model).

Examples:

- *Devonian Slave Point of Western Canada*
- *Eocene Panna-Mukta fields, Bombay High*
- *Jurassic Deep Panuke of offshore Canada*

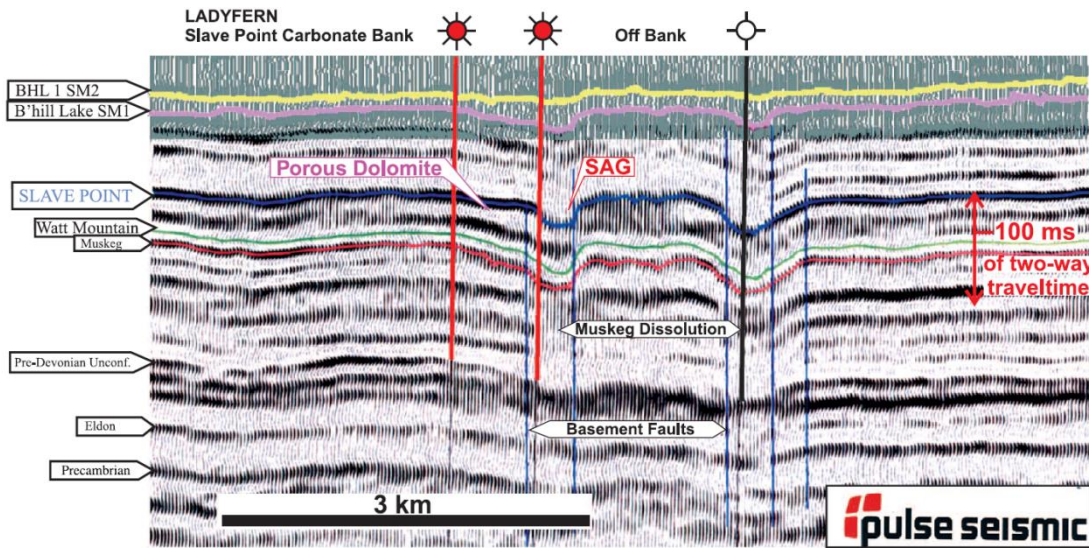
2. Platform slopes and margins form major pathways especially if have early fractures, are actually fracture-controlled, and can be close to kitchens or compacting shale basins - (squeegee-type flow mechanism)

Examples

- *Jurassic Deep Panuke (Abenaki) Eastern Canada*
- *Late Carboniferous Dagger Draw field, New Mexico*
- *Early Carboniferous of PreCaspian (Tengiz & Kashagan margins)*
- *Oligocene Kerendan platform of Indonesia*

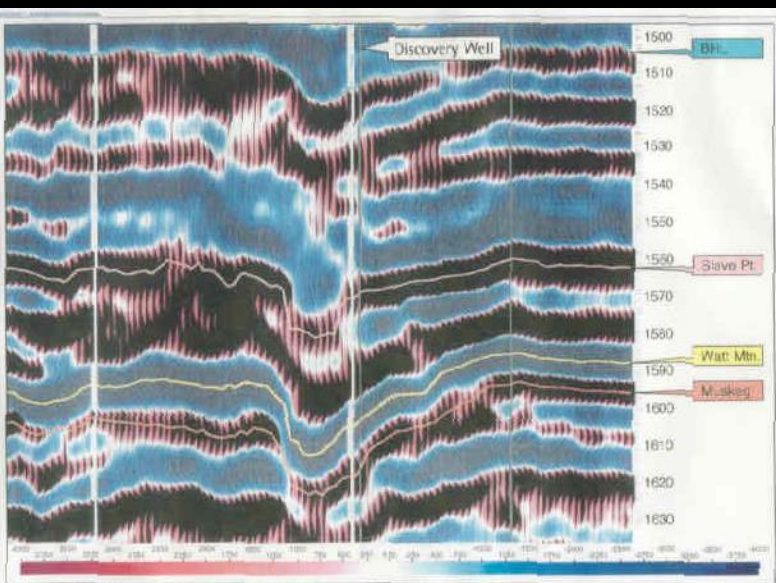


# Transtensional Faults, Sags and HTD - hydrothermal dolomite



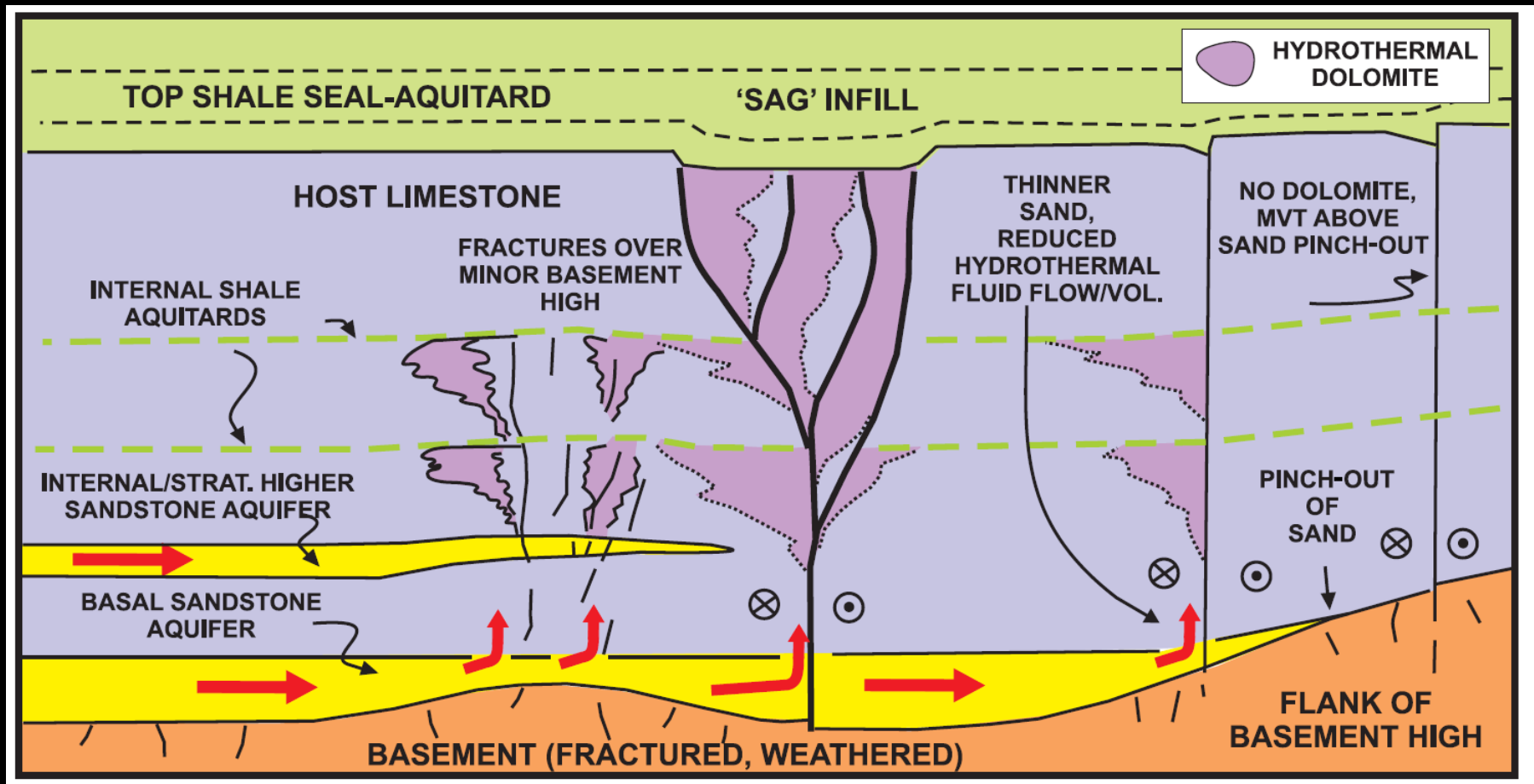
Western Canadian Devonian Slave Point fields such as Cranberry and Ladyfern

Dissolution & dolomitization linked to negative flower structures of basement-rooted strike-slip (transtensional) faults, but there are examples of hydrothermal alteration around other fault types



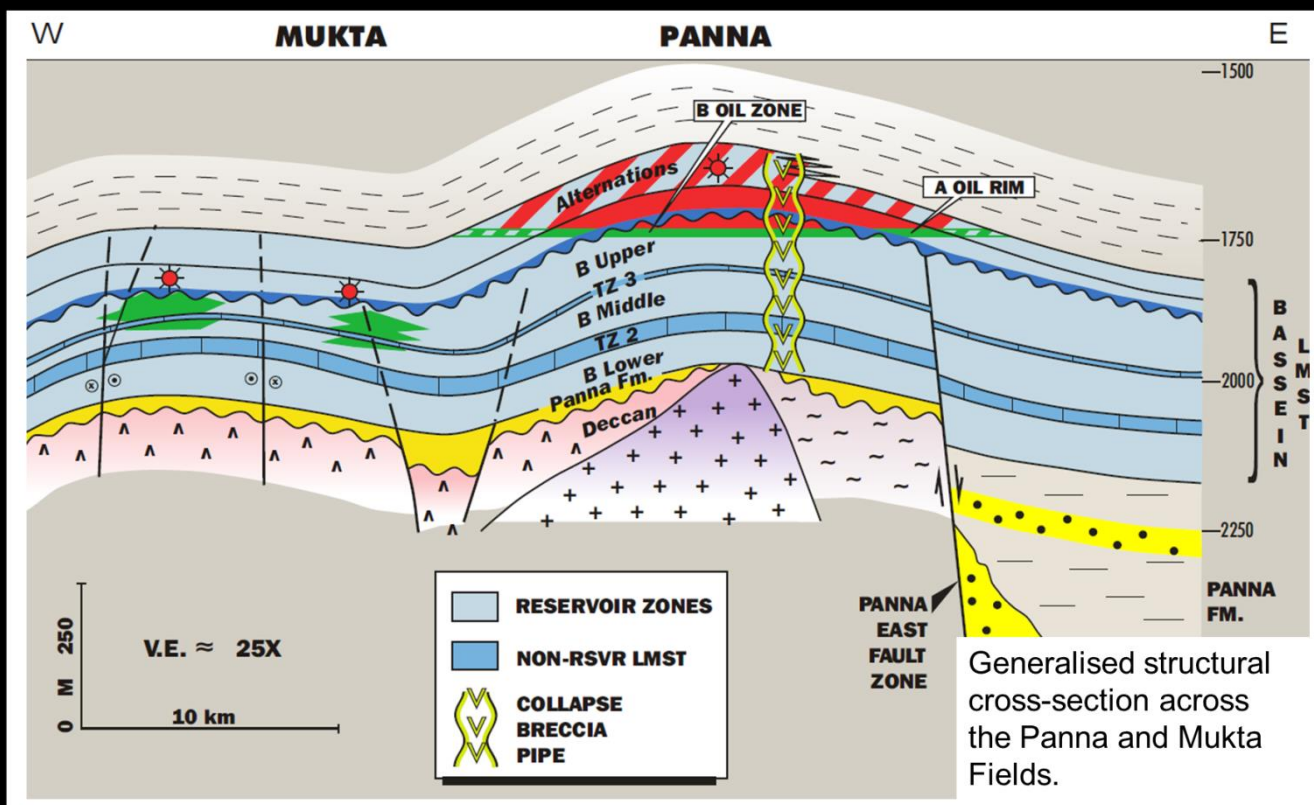
Main source – Davies G R & Smith L B Jnr 2006 AAPG Bulletin, 90, (November), 1641–1690 . This whole issue of AAPG Bulletin was focussed on HTD studies

## Elements of this hydrological play - underlying aquifer

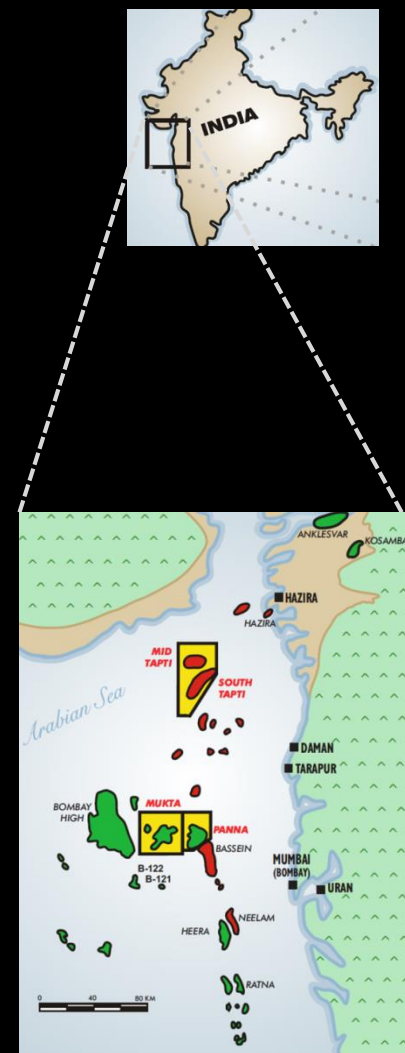


Besides the fault system other elements are needed in this play including an underlying aquifer – see attached text. From Davies G R & Smith L B Jr 2006 AAPG Bulletin, 90, (November), 1641–1690

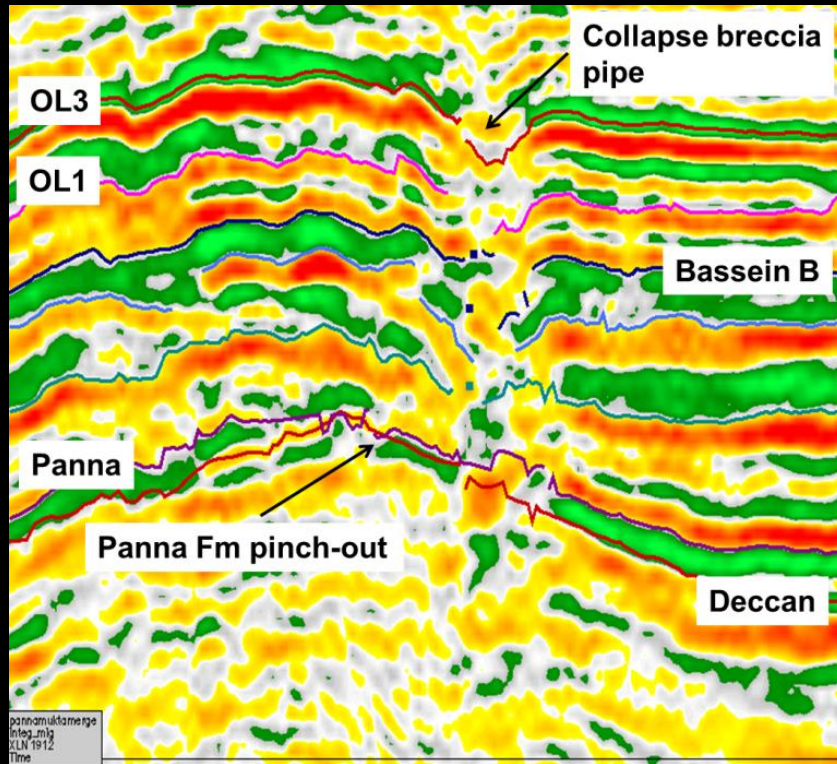
# Panna-Mukta Field, Bombay High, offshore W India



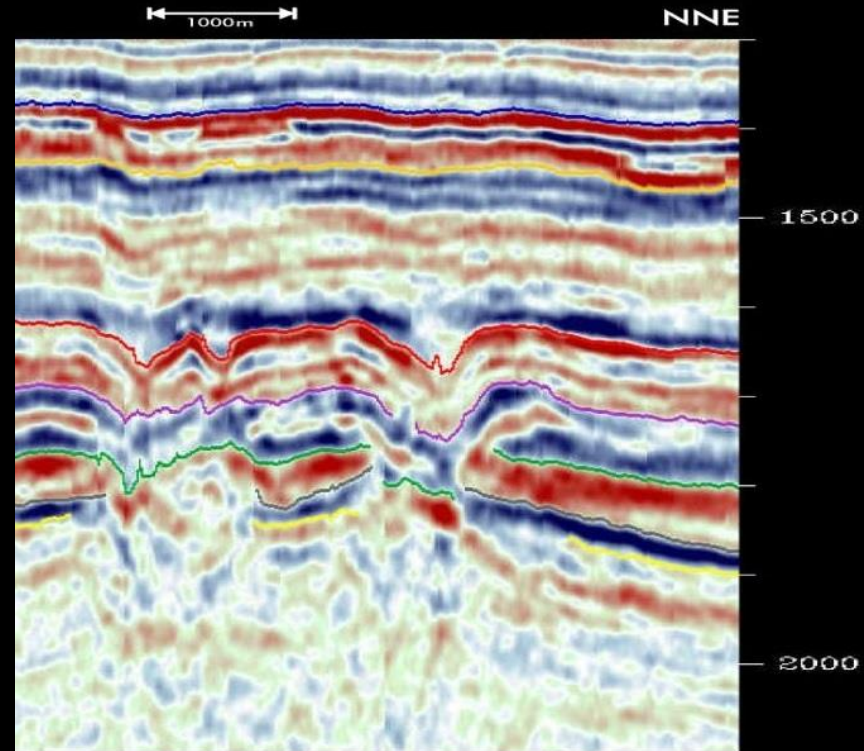
Barnett A J et al., 2015/16. Distinguishing between eogenetic, unconformity-related and meosgenetic dissolution: a case study from the Panna-Mukta Field, offshore Mumbai, India. In Armitage, P et al (eds) Reservoir Quality of Clastic and Carbonate Rocks: Analysis, Modelling and Prediction. Geological Society, London, Special Publication 435,



# Panna-Mukta fields, Eocene, offshore India - breccia pipes

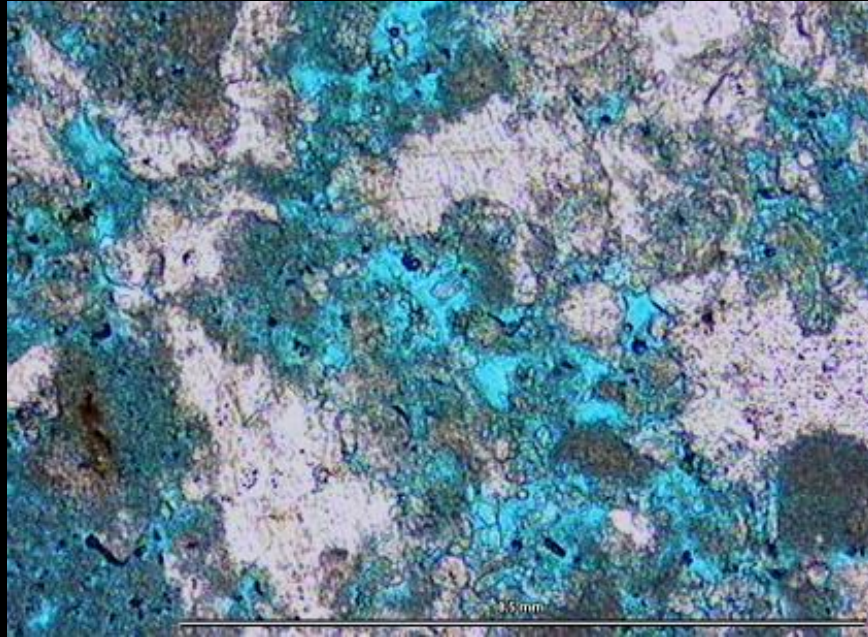


350 m



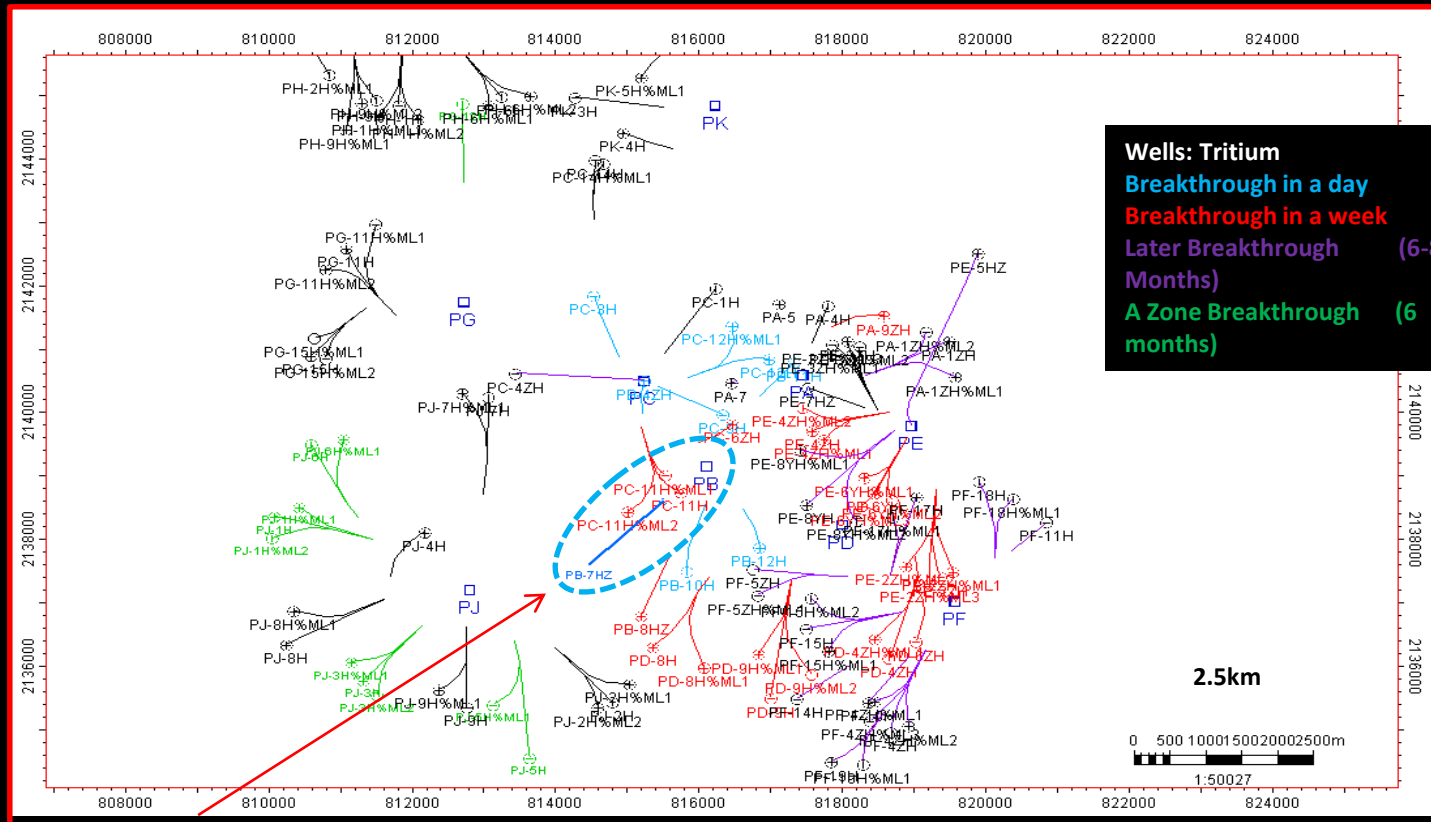
Huge breccia pipes occur around transtensional faults

# Panna-Mukta fields, Eocene, offshore India – formation scale corrosion



yet extensive corrosion many kilometres from the main strike-slip faults

# Panna-Mukta fields, Eocene, offshore India – super KmD zones



Tritiated water injected  
 in PB-7HZ well on  
 March 7<sup>th</sup> 2012

Corroded stylolites produce super-KmD zones

See Barnett A J et al., 2016. **Distinguishing between eogenetic, unconformity-related and mesogenetic dissolution: a case study from the Panna-Mukta Field, offshore Mumbai, India.** In Armitage, P et al (eds) Reservoir Quality of Clastic and Carbonate Rocks: Analysis, Modelling and Prediction. Geological Society, London, Special Publication 435, and associated cited papers by Chandra, V. et al on well bore upscaling and rock typing.

# Pathways

Common association with faults (no surprise there), especially transtensional (strike slip) faults – includes aspects of the HTD model (hydrothermal dolomite model). There are reservoirs due to both pathway types

Examples:

- *Devonian Slave Point of Western Canada*
- *Eocene Panna-Mukta fields, Bombay High*
- *Jurassic Deep Panuke of offshore Canada*

Platform slopes and margins form major pathways especially if have early fractures, are actually fracture-controlled, and can be close to kitchens or compacting shale basins (squeegee-type flow mechanism)

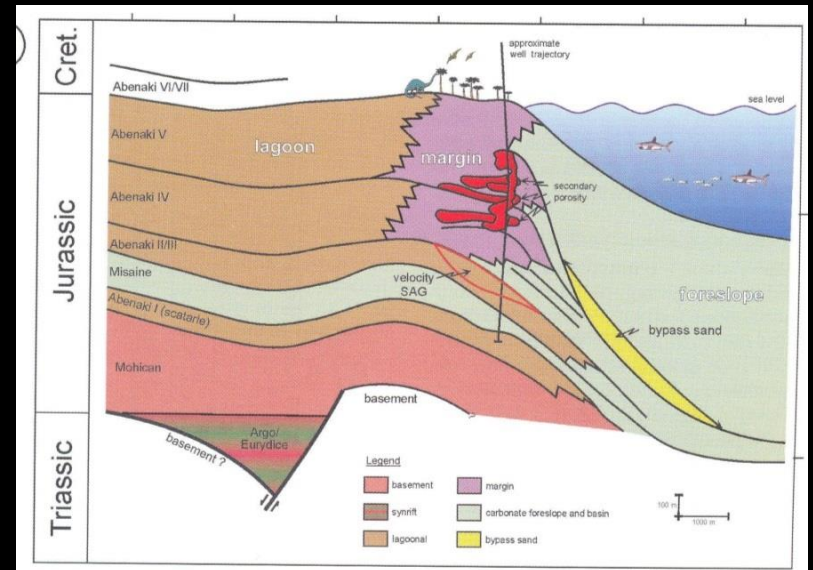
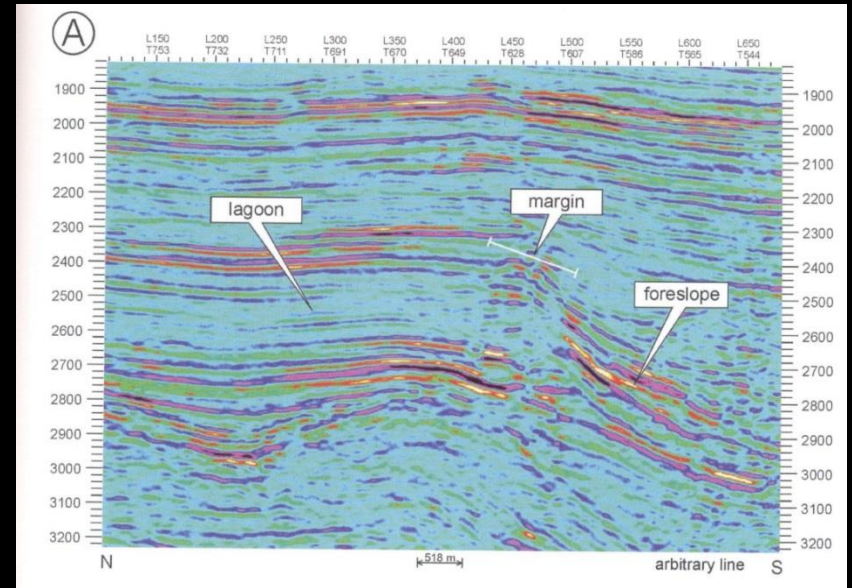
Examples

- *Jurassic Deep Panuke (Abenaki) Eastern Canada*
- *Late Carboniferous Dagger Draw field, New Mexico*
- *Early Carboniferous of PreCaspian (Tengiz & Kashagan margins)*
- *Oligocene Kerendan platform of Indonesia*

# Abenaki Jurassic margin Deep Panuke reservoir – a hybrid model

Basement structural control on reef development, and reservoir viability depends on late stage dissolution (burial corrosion) linked to **strike-slip** faults.

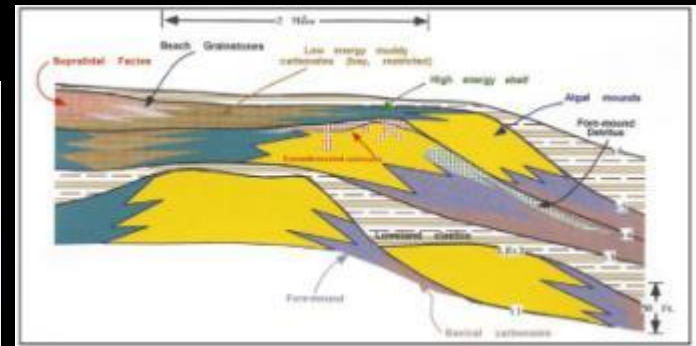
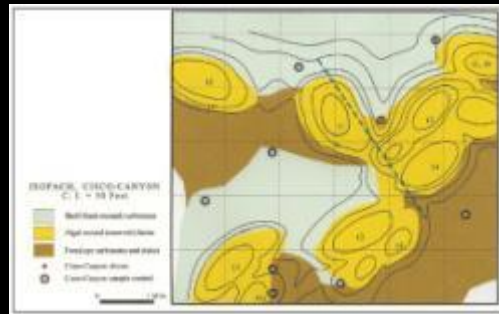
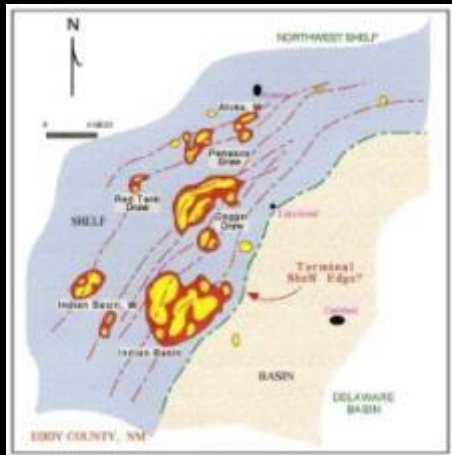
## Upper Jurassic



Source - Eliuk L 2010 AAPG Search & Discovery Article 10259 - Regional Setting of the Late Jurassic Deep Panuke Field, Offshore Nova Scotia, Canada – Cuttings Based Sequence Stratigraphy and Depositional Facies Associations - Abenaki Formation Carbonate Margin; Weissenberger J A W et al 2006, pages 395-431 In AAPG Memoir 88 Giant Hydrocarbon Reservoirs of the World, ed by P M Harris & L J Weber.



# South Dagger Draw Field, Late Penn., faulted ramp margin phylloid mounds near Carlsbad



Cisco-Canyon in age (uppermost Pennsylvanian = Missourian-Bursumian or Gzhelian-Kasimovian); Tinker S W et al., 2004, AAPG Mem 81, p.91-105

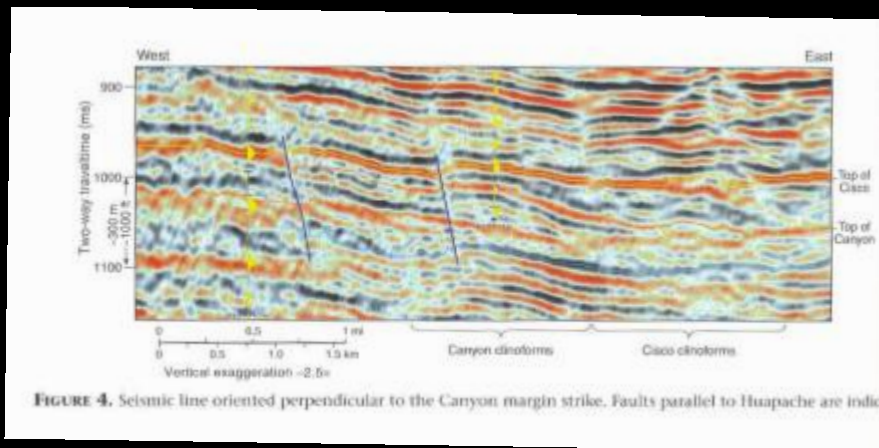
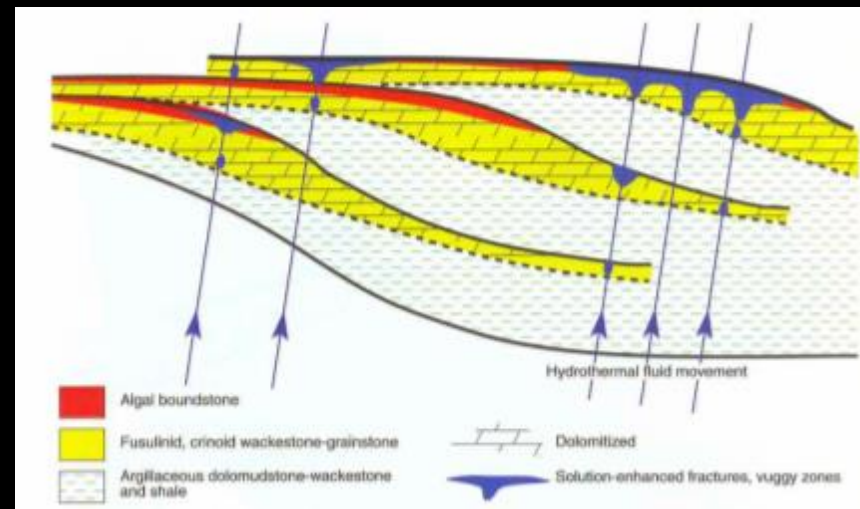
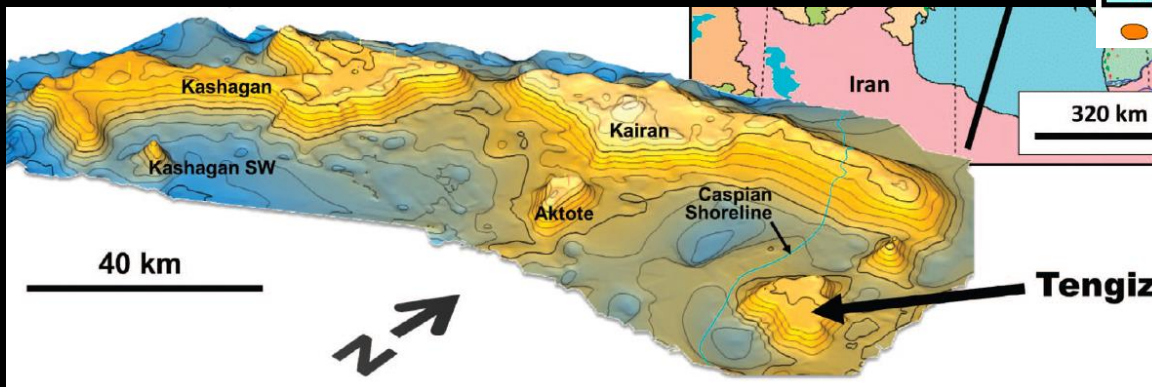
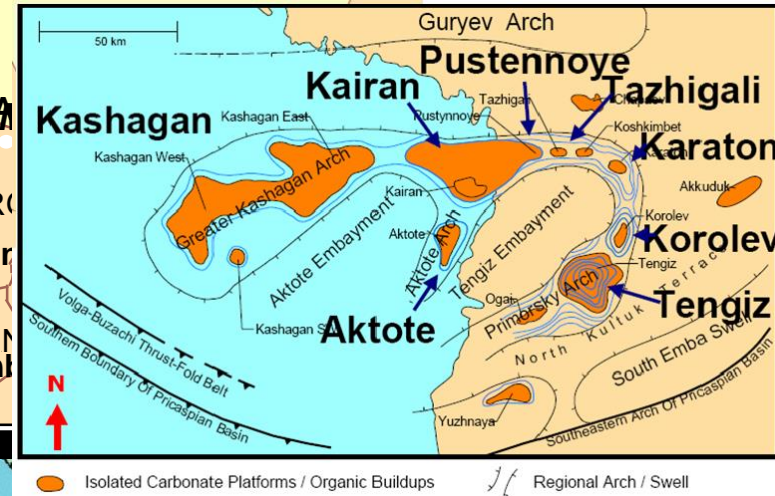


FIGURE 4. Seismic line oriented perpendicular to the Canyon margin strike. Faults parallel to Huapache are indicated.



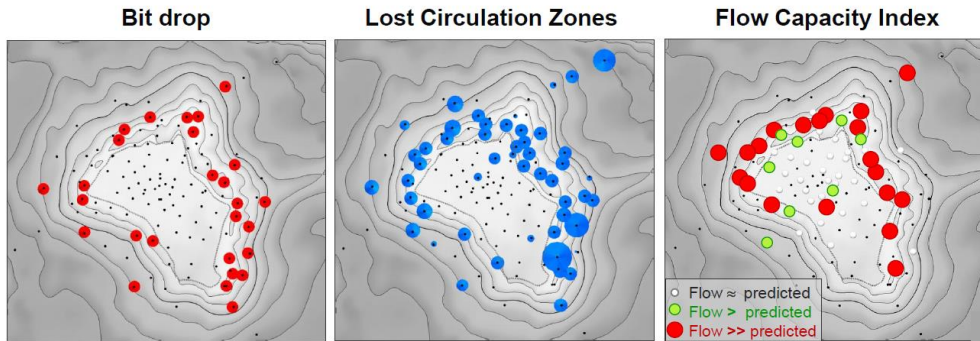
# Hypogene fluids and dissolution in platform slopes and margins of the super-giant Tengiz and Kashagan fields, Pri-Caspian of Kazakhstan



# Tengiz

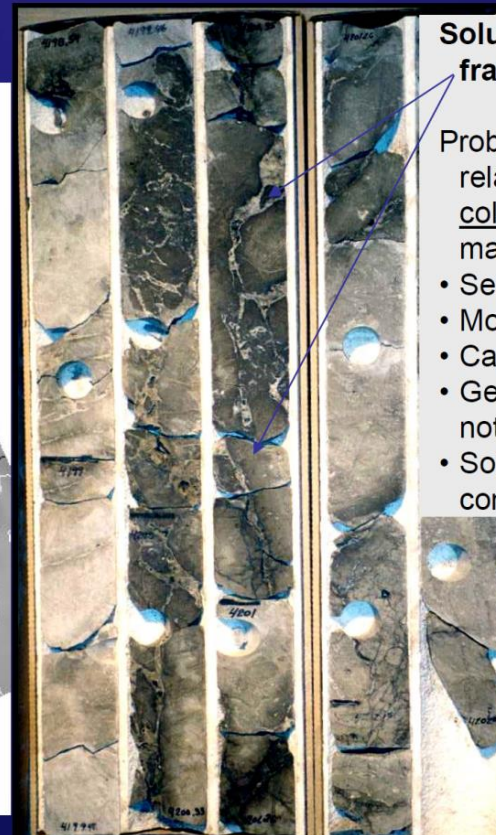
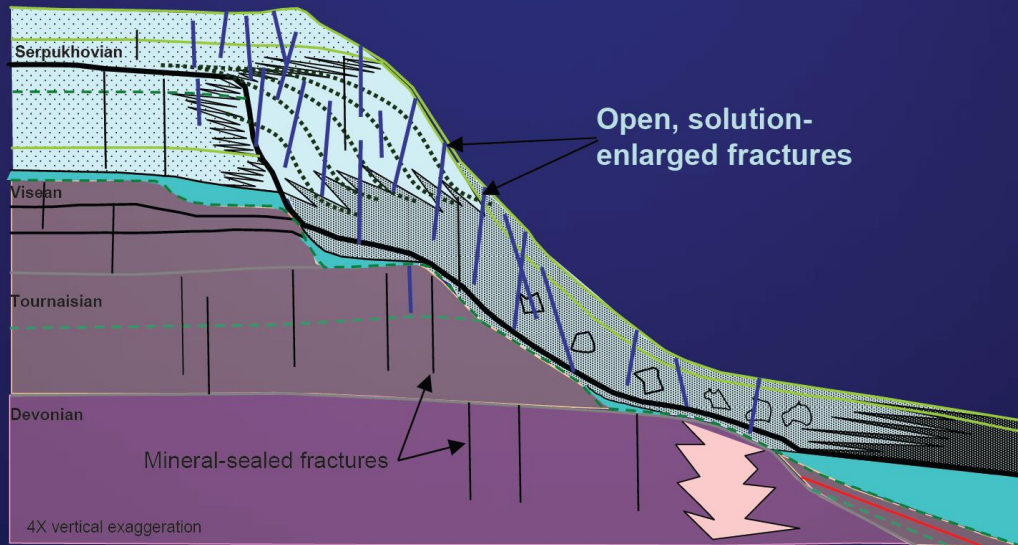
Burial solution enhanced early platform margin fractures play a key role in creating the high permeability zones

## Evidence of fractures from operational data



$$FCI = \frac{\text{Observed performance}}{\text{Predicted performance}}$$

Narr W & Flodin E 2012 Fractures in Steep-rimmed Carbonate Platforms: Comparison of Tengiz Reservoir, Kazakhstan, and Outcrops in Canning Basin, NW Australia. Search and Discovery Article #20161 (2012)

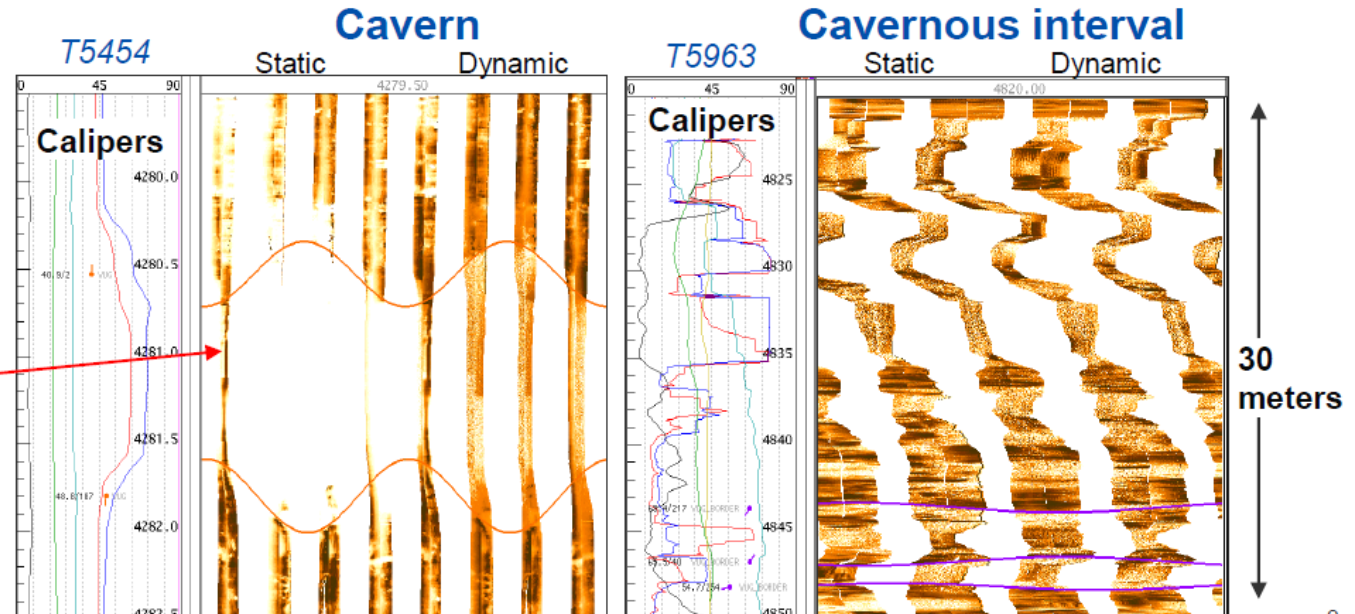
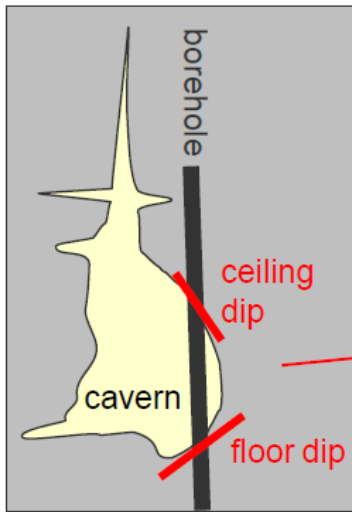


### Solution-enhanced fractures

Probably formed early, related to syndepositional collapse of the platform margin.

- Semi-planar.
- Moderate to steep dip.
- Can have wide aperture.
- Generally mineralized but not necessarily healed.
- Solution-enlargement common.

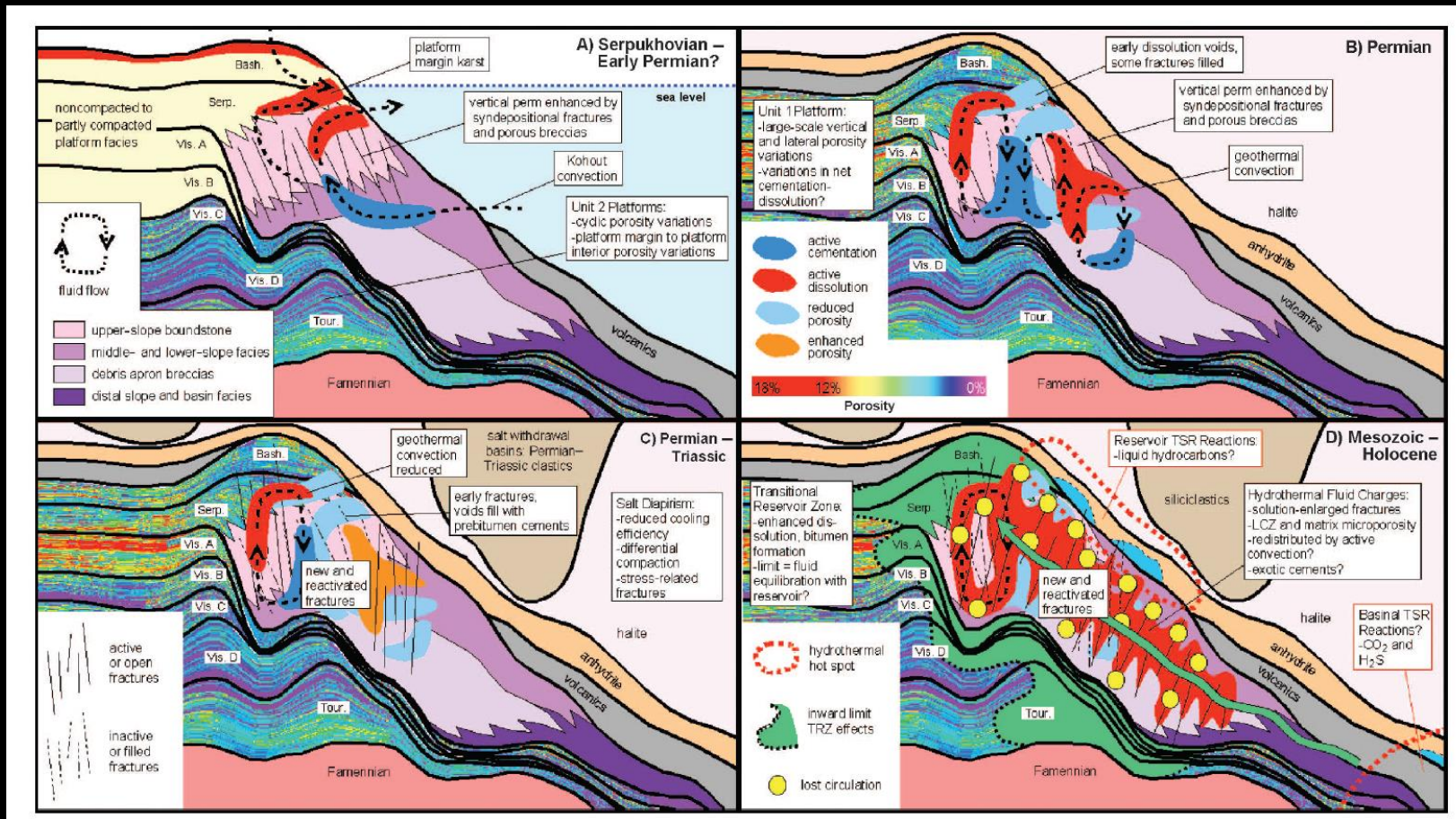
# Tengiz – caverns including 6m cavern at 4kms depth



- Conventional FMI, oil-based mud. Open fractures are resistive.
- Fractures range from narrow-aperture opening-mode to significant caverns.

Narr W & Flodin E 2012 Fractures in Steep-rimmed Carbonate Platforms: Comparison of Tengiz Reservoir, Kazakhstan, and Outcrops in Canning Basin, NW Australia. Search and Discovery Article #20161 (2012)

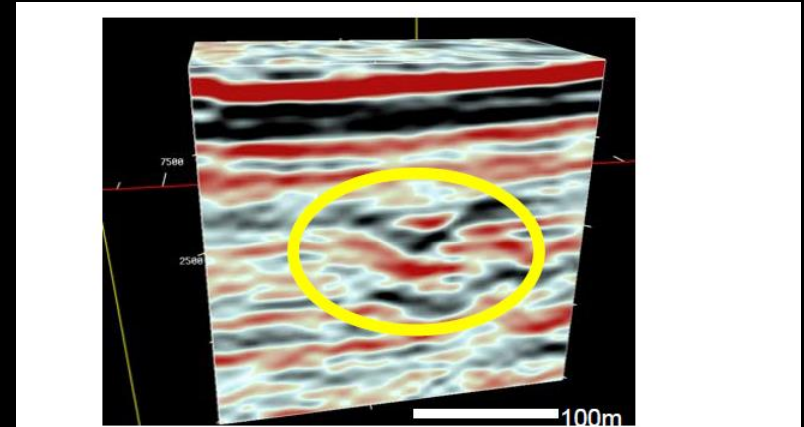
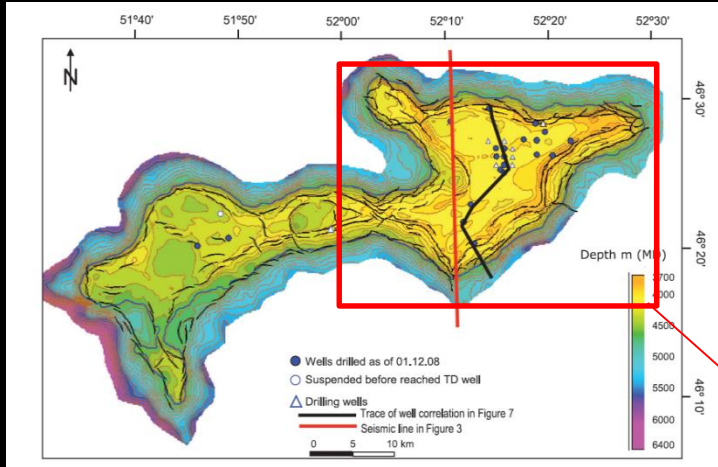
# Tengiz - Evolution of the Tengiz rim and flank high-permeability reservoir



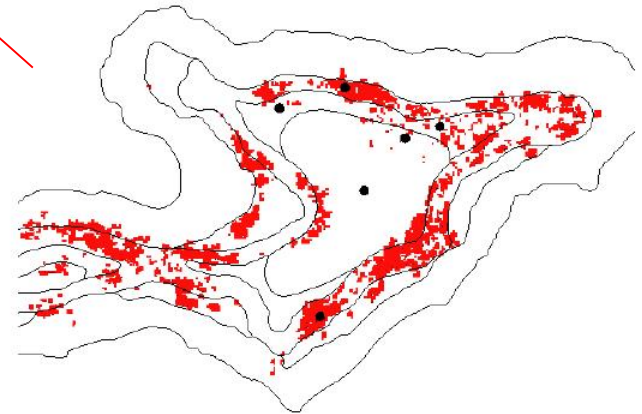
TSR & hydrothermal convection

From: Collins, J. F. et al., 2006, Facies and reservoir-quality variations in the late Visean to Bashkirian outer platform, rim, and flank of the Tengiz buildup, Precaspian Basin, Kazakhstan. AAPG Memoir 88/SEPM Special Publication, p. 55–95.

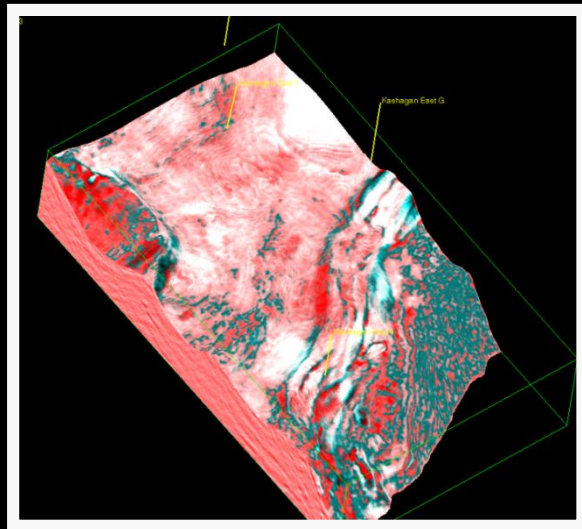
# Kashagan - extensive loss of circulation around the platform margin with evidence of meteoric, mixing zone and hypogenic processes



■ V structure body at Top Upper Visean

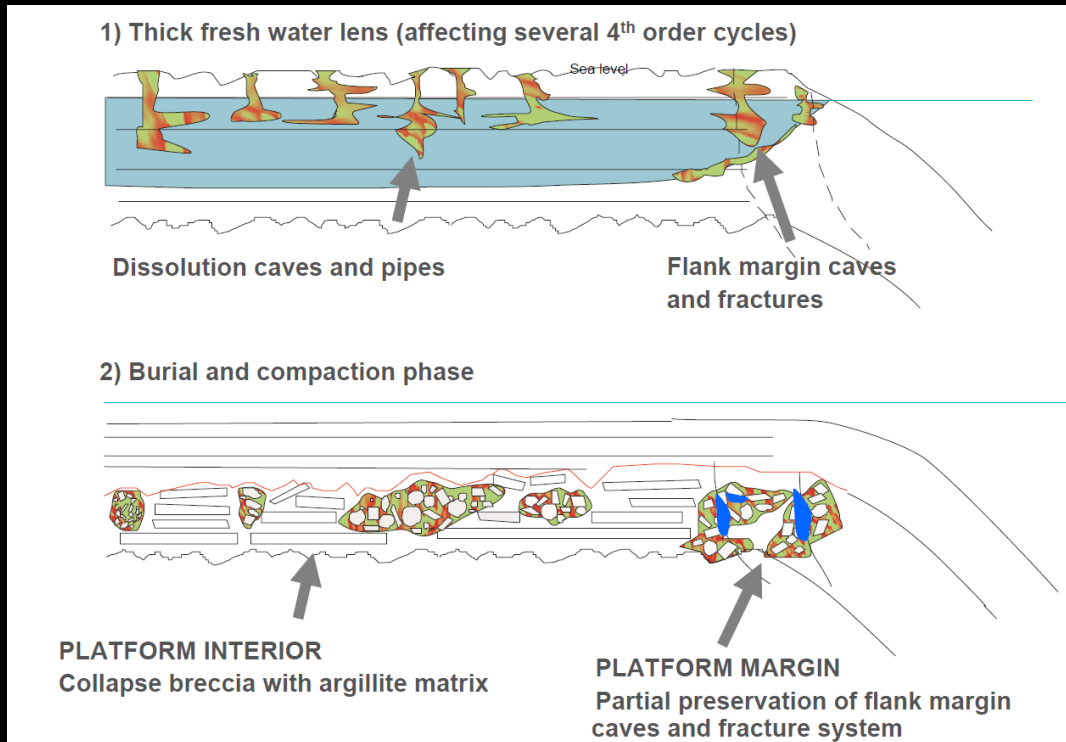


■ Seismic "geobodies" correspond to lost circulation zones



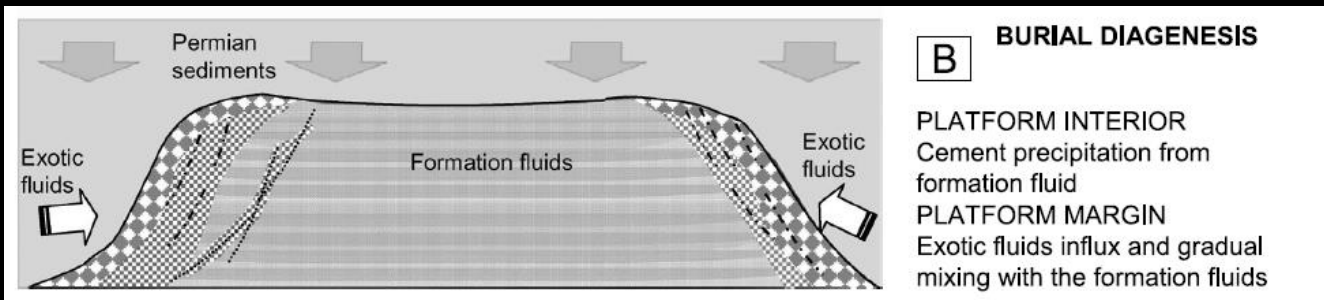
Platform-margin-parallel lineaments

# Kashagan - fractures and partially porous flank margin caves were conduits for extensive later burial corrosion



By a squeegee-type flow mechanism or simply by deep regional flow caused by the hydraulic head related to the Cimmerian orogenic belt?

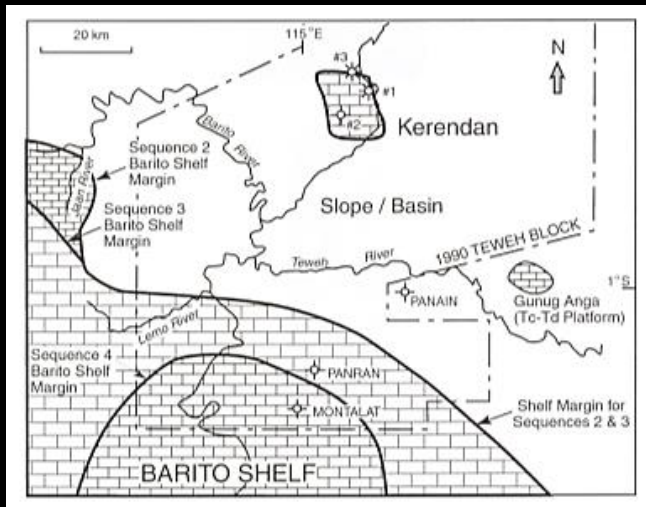
No evidence for TSR was found, unlike the case of Tengiz



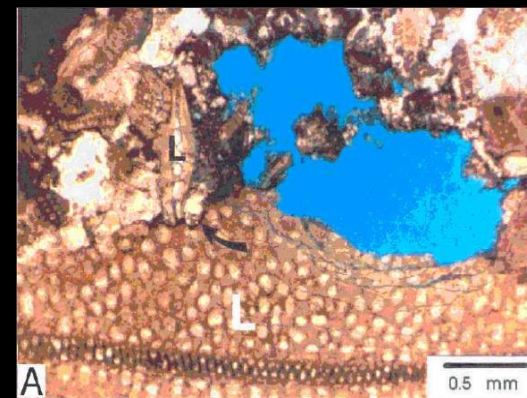
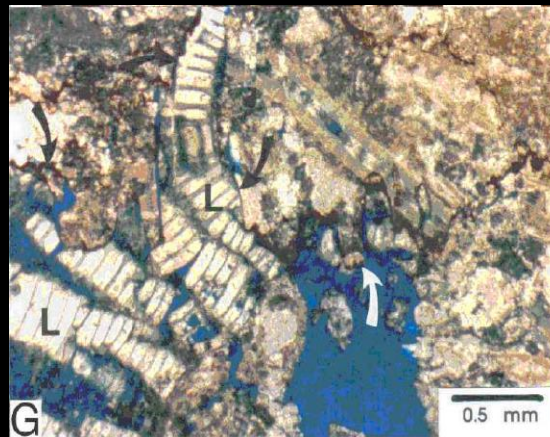
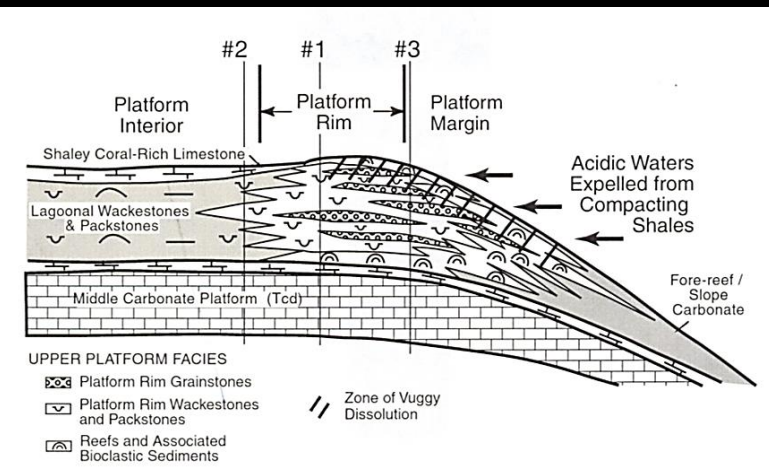
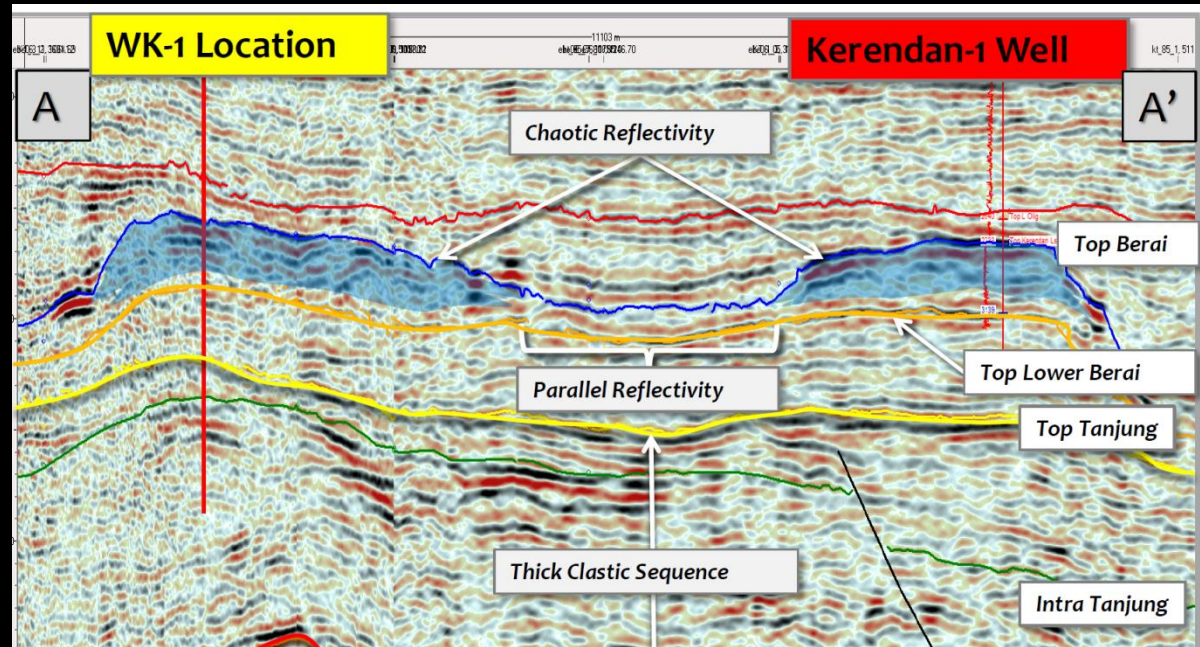
From: Ronchi et al., 2009. AAPG Search and Discovery Article #50231 and From Ronchi P et al. 2010 AAPG Bulletin, v. 94, no. 9 , pp. 1313–1348

# Kerendan platforms of offshore Indonesia

- porosity related to platform margin & caused by burial dissolution



Saller A H & Vijaya S 2002, J Petrol Geol., 25, 123-150





# Associations

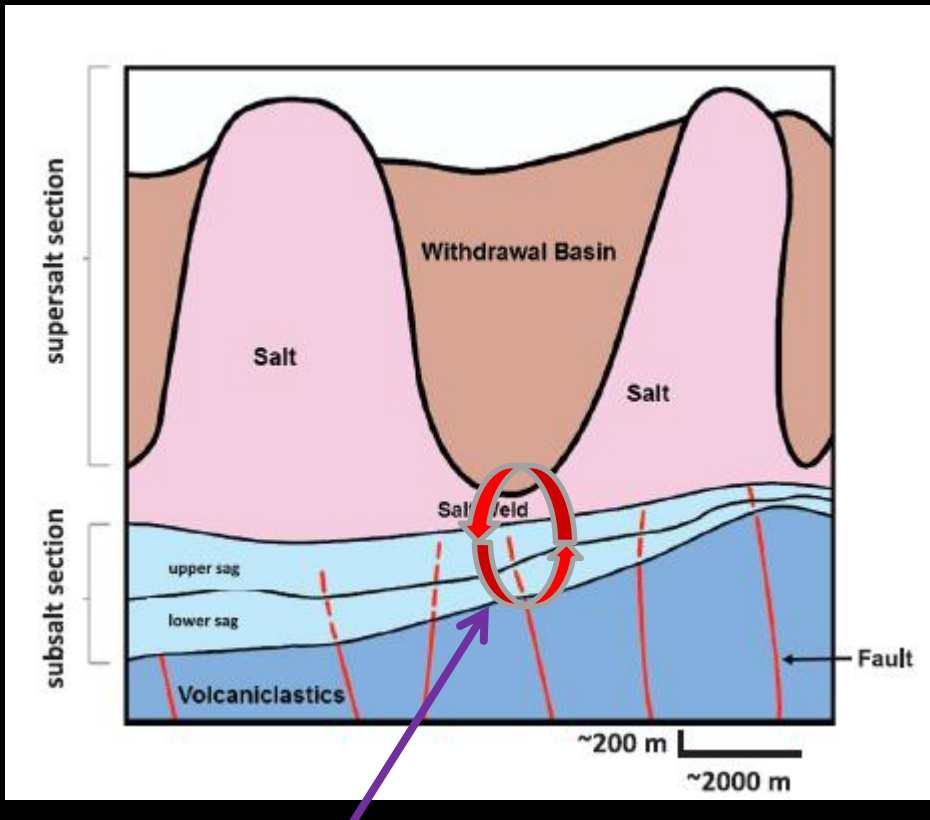
**Kitchens** – close proximity to the kitchen with  $H_2S$ ,  $CO_2$  and organic acid activity

**Salt** – salt causes increased circulation due to thermal conductivity and can theoretically cause dissolution by retrograde solubility or by increasing circulation of fluids with other properties

- Pre-Salt of Brazil?
- Eocene of Gulf of Gabes? - Didon, Zarat and Ashtart fields.

**Intrusions** – Pearl River Mouth Basin (and Gulf of Gabes?)

## Modelling salt-generated convection and retrograde solubility - Pre-Salt, South Atlantic



Variations in temperature from contrasts in thermal conductivity between the evaporite and the underlying carbonates generate fluid density gradients that drive convective flow.

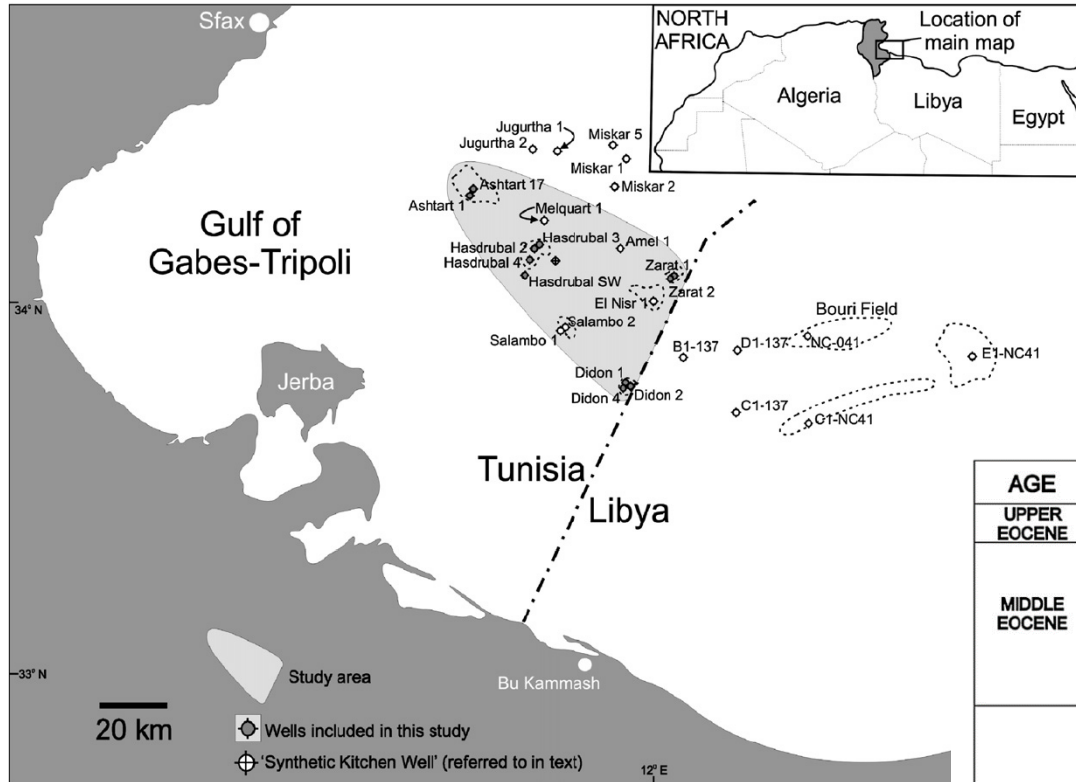
Conceptual South Atlantic half-graben tilted fault block model. Reaction transport modelling results demonstrate that geothermal convection persists in the subsalt carbonate reservoirs during and after evaporite deposition.

Simulations predict the greatest potential for dissolution at rates of 0.1 to 1 vol. %/m.y. occurs where salt welds, overlying permeable carbonates thin to 500 m (1640 ft) or less. With tens of million years residence times feasible, convection under these conditions could locally result in reservoir sweet spots with porosity modification of 1% to 10% and potentially an order of magnitude or more in reservoir permeability.

# Salt-related (and magmatic CO<sub>2</sub>?) burial dissolution: Eocene El Garia Formation, offshore Tunisia

S.J. Beavington-Penney et al / Sedimentary Geology 209 (2008) 42–57

43



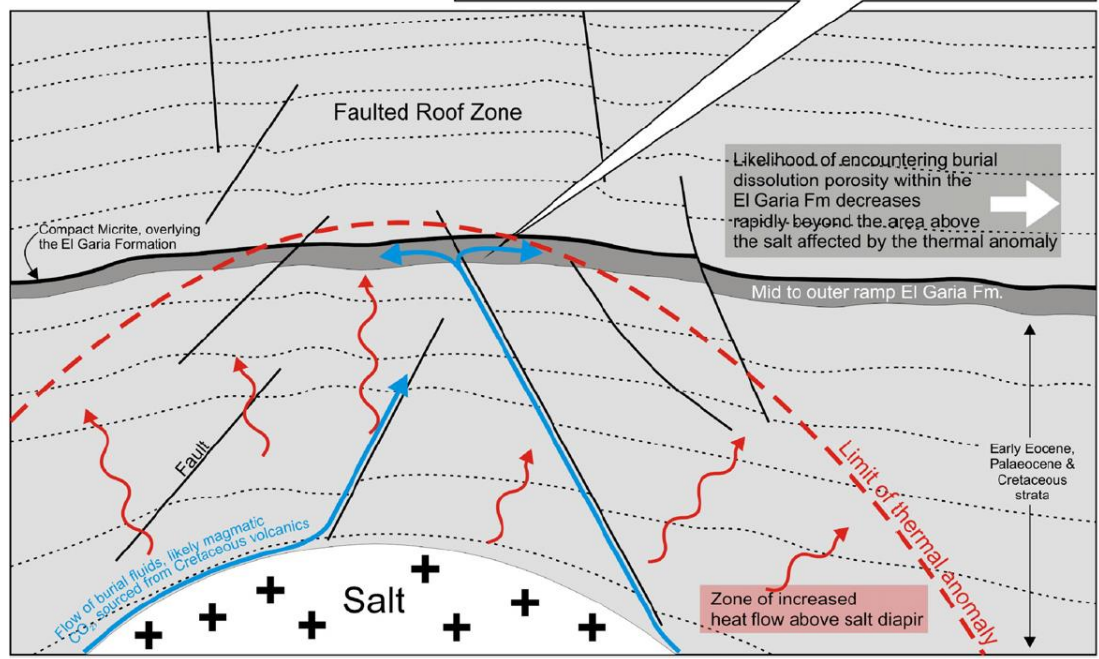
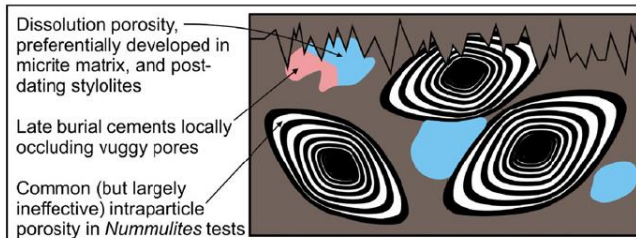
Didon, Zarat and Ashtart fields.

Fig. 1. Map of the Gulf of Gabes–Tripoli, showing the location of wells along the El Garia/Jeir Formation trend. Modified from and BG C

AGE	TUNISIA		NW LIBYA OFFSHORE				
UPPER EOCENE			TELLIL GROUP	SAMDUM FM.		GHALIL FM.	
MIDDLE EOCENE	CHERAHIL FM.	SOUAR FM.		DAHMAN LST.		HARSHA FM.	
EARLY EOCENE	METLAOUI GROUP	FAID FM.	FARWAH GROUP	TALJAH FM.	JDEIR FM.	TAJOURA FM.	
		AN NERHOUTA FM.			JIRANI DOLOMITE		HALLAB FM.
		EL GARIA FM.					
		CHOUABINE FM.					
		TSELJA FM.		BILAL FM.			
PALAEO-CENE		EL HARIA FM.				AL JURF FM.	
				VOLCANICS			

From: Beavington-Penney, S J et al. (2008) Reservoir quality variation on an Eocene carbonate ramp, El Garia Formation, offshore Tunisia: Structural control of burial corrosion and dolomitisation. *Sedimentary Geology* 209 42–57

# Eocene El Garia Formation, offshore Tunisia



- For the Eocene El Garia Fm reservoirs in the Tunisian Gulf of Gabes–Tripoli area dissolution has been interpreted as due to inorganic CO<sub>2</sub>, focused into the reservoir by faults related to salt movement, is the most likely candidate responsible for the burial dissolution porosity observed in the Didon, Zarat and Ashtart fields.
- This burial dissolution porosity appears to be developed only in El Garia Formation sediments within the faulted roof zone immediately overlying salt diapirs.

From: Beavington-Penney, S J et al. (2008) Reservoir quality variation on an Eocene carbonate ramp, El Garia Formation, offshore Tunisia: Structural control of burial corrosion and dolomitisation. *Sedimentary Geology* 209 42–57

# Liuhua 11-1 Field, Pearl River Mouth Basin -Oil Field

## Karst due to CO<sub>2</sub> & H<sub>2</sub>S, Miocene reef

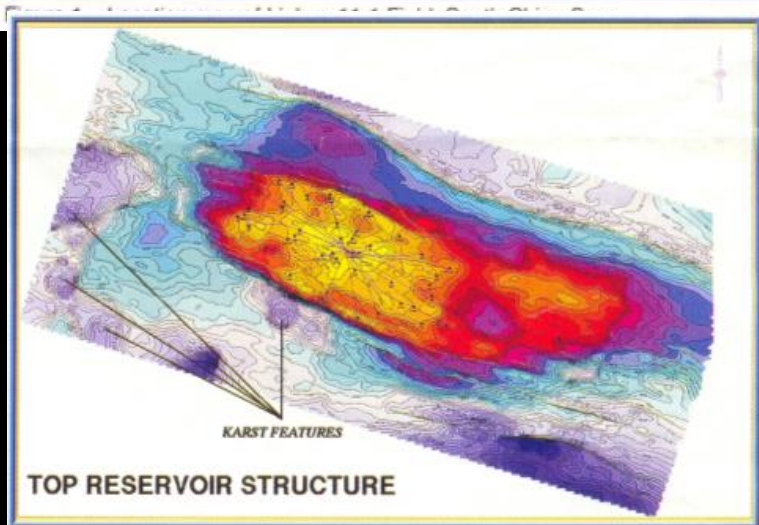
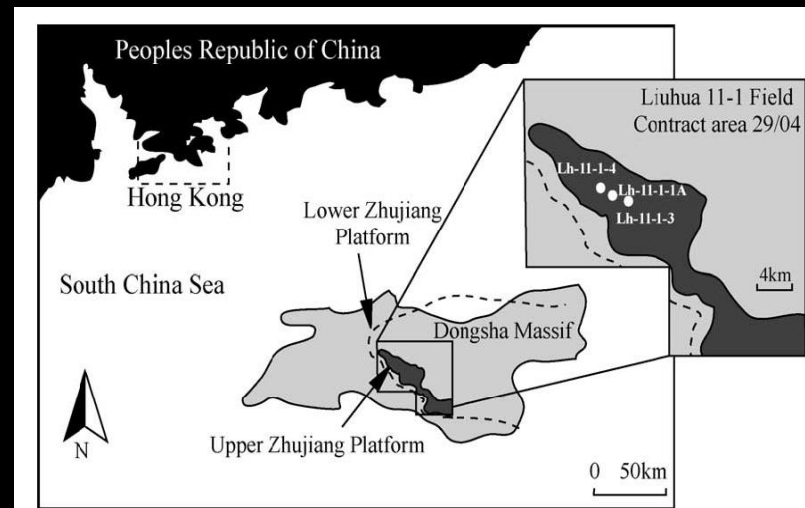
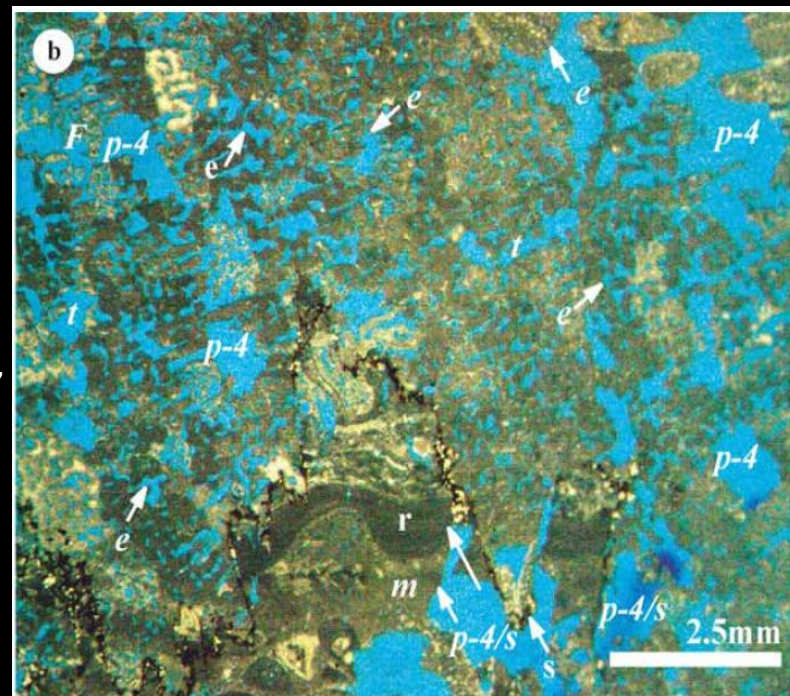
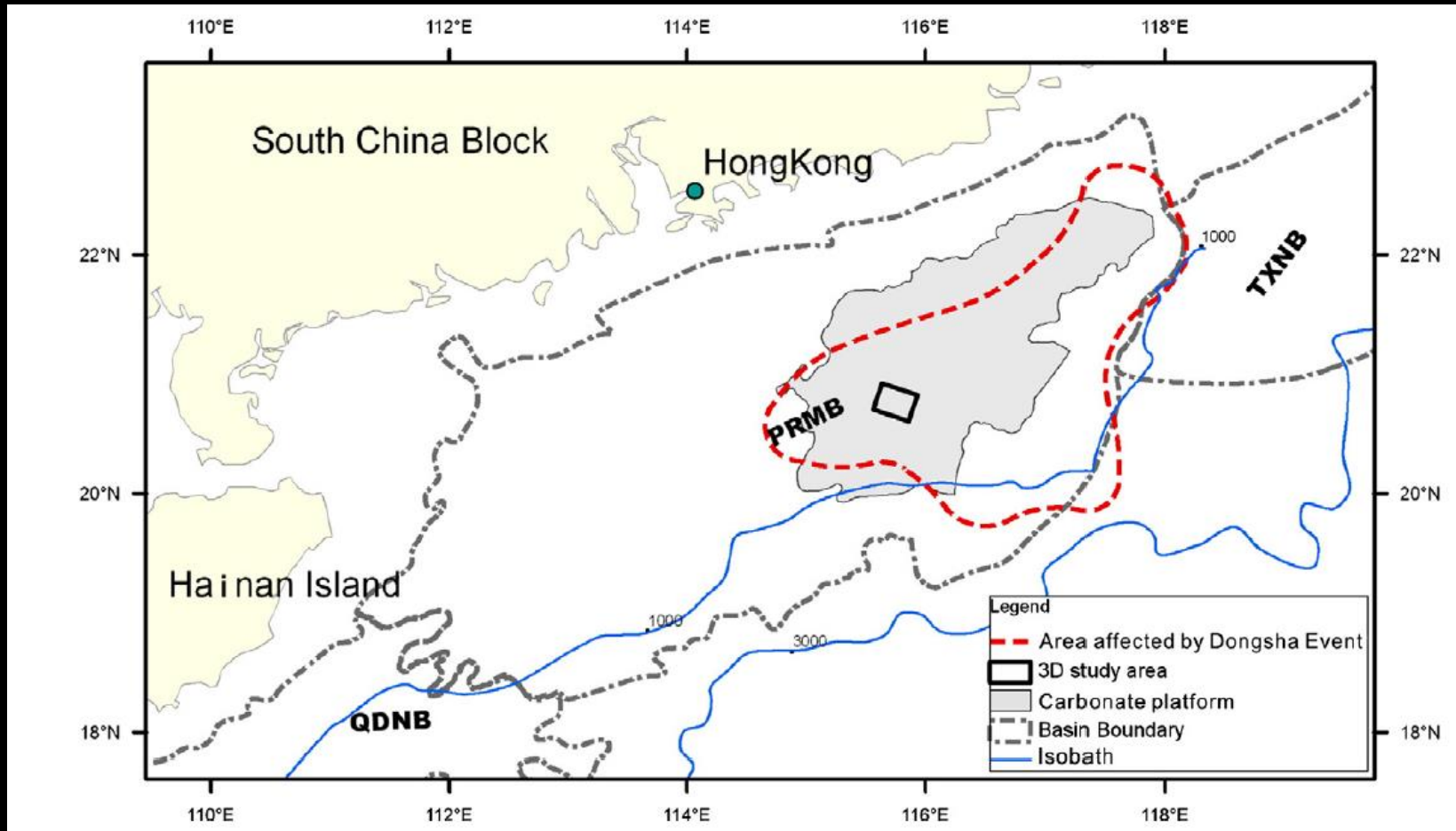


Figure 2 – Depth structure map showing central platform and directional wellbores. The map area is 14 X 7 kilometers. Major karst-collapse features shown.

Sattler, U et al.  
2004, Mar &  
Petrol Geol., 21,  
977-992



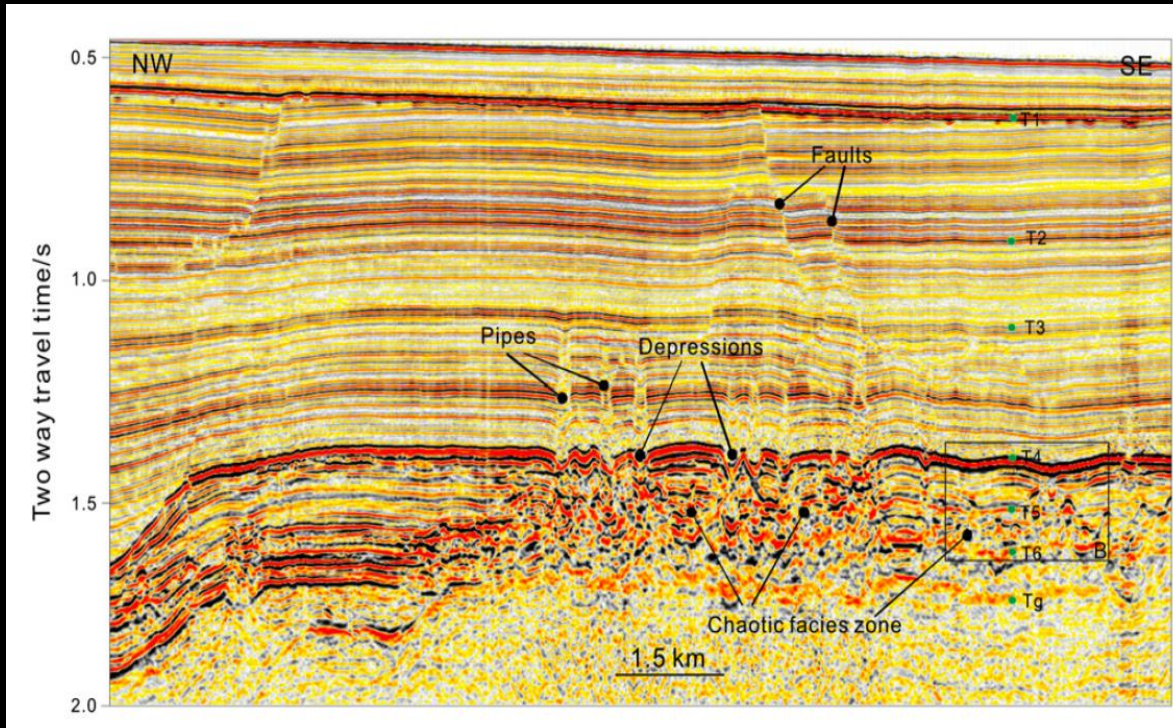
# Hydrothermal Karst in Miocene, Pearl River Mouth Basin, South China Sea



Regional setting of the study area. PRMB: Pearl River Mouth Basin, QDNB: Qiongdongnan Basin, TXNB: Taixinan Basin. The area affected by the Dongsha Event and carbonate platform is From: Sun, Q. et al., 2013. Marine Geology 337, 171–181

# Hypogene Karst in Miocene, South China Sea

Hypogene karst where either dissolution was caused by the hydrothermal fluids or from acid pore waters resulting from hydrocarbon degradation by the intrusion



Dissolution related to major intrusion in Miocene

221 dissolution-collapse pipe structures identified with diameters and heights of from c. 100 m to 710 m and c. 134 m to 1010 m, respectively. These pipes vary from cylindrical to a steep conical geometry, narrowing upwards.

# Take away points

Significant secondary porosity formation by dissolution, from the micro-to seismic scale can take place at depths of several kilometres in carbonate reservoirs, what is termed **burial corrosion** or **mesogenetic dissolution**

There is a problem over terminology with the use of “burial” or “late” and it is more expedient to take a hydrological approach and see the key processes as due to burial fluids derived from below the reservoir – **hypogene fluids**

Some hypogene dissolution can occur relatively near surface

There are **many** fields proven to have been produced by this effect

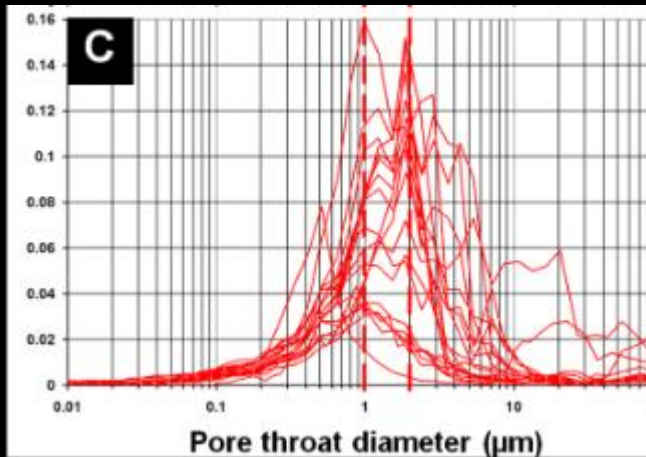
There are a range of processes known to be able to cause this dissolution but identifying the process is difficult as they leave little trace

There are consistent relationships seen in hypogene diagenetic systems that may prove useful for exploration

**For an alternative view see Ehrenberg, Walderhaug & Bjorlykke 2012 AAPG Bull 96, 217-233**

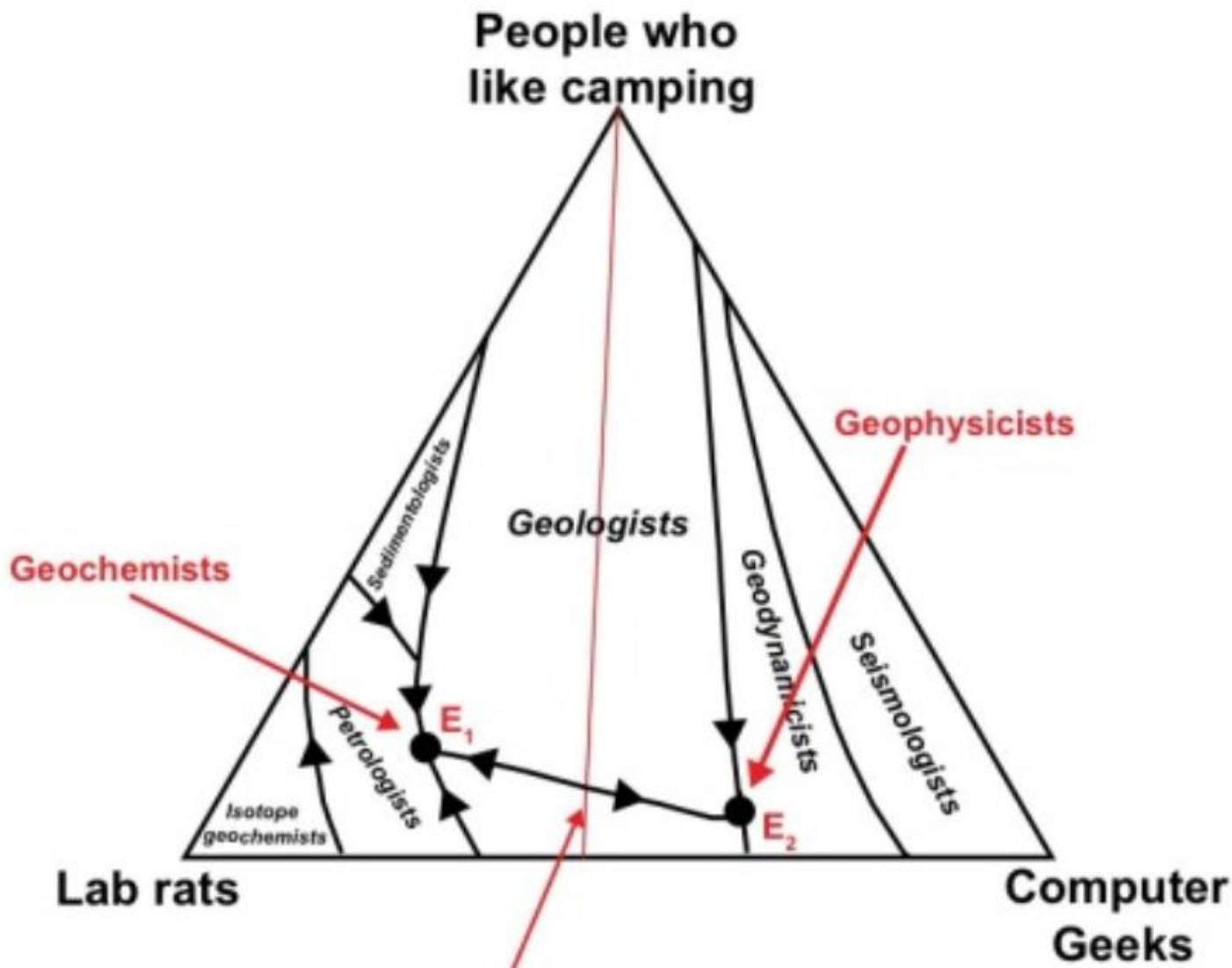


Is there a link between burial dissolution and certain types of microporosity?



Eocene Bassein Fm, offshore India, burial corrosion in shallow ramp facies





Experiments at 1 atm, 298 K



# Kashagan: Late Stage Corrosion

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Several hypothesis have been proposed regarding the origin of these exotic, hydrothermal fluids:

1. By a squeegee-type flow mechanism or simply by deep regional flow caused by the hydraulic head related to the Cimmerian orogenic belt located to the south , as suggested by the fact that the late-burial dissolution and cements are more abundant in the southern Kashagan area.
2. Generation of low-salinity water from thermal sulfate reduction (TSR) but no evidence for TSR was found, unlike the case of Tengiz. The high amount of H<sub>2</sub>S in the reservoir could have been produced by this process. A possible explanation is that TSR occurred along the migration path and/or in the deeper, uncored parts of the Kashagan slope.

Ronchi P et al. 2010 AAPG Bulletin, v. 94, no. 9 , pp. 1313–1348

# Sandstone Diagenesis - a mainly temperature-based classification

Morad et al. 2000

Eogenesis - 30-70C

**Mesogenesis** - >30-70C and <200C

- Shallow mesogenesis = 2-3km burial, 70-100C
- Deep mesogenesis = >3km, >100C but before onset of low grade metamorphism at >200C

