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**Constraining the timing of brittle deformation and sedimentation in southern
Finland: Implications for Neoproterozoic evolution of the eastern Fennoscandian
shield**

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Abstract

Sheared sedimentary clay was found in a faulted fracture in crystalline bedrock in a
tunnelling site at 60 m depth in southern Finland. Brittle faults are numerous in the
Fennoscandian Palaeoproterozoic bedrock, but only some of them have relative age
constraints, while absolute ages are nearly lacking. Sedimentary rocks altogether are
uncommon in Finland and only sparsely dated by micropaleontological studies. This study
reports K–Ar data of fresh, non-weathered authigenic illite and constrains a time
framework for the local faulting and sedimentation. The Neoproterozoic Tonian to

Cryogenian ages derived from the grains in diminishing grain-size order are c. 967, 947, 809 and 697 Ma. Results indicate that the formation of the extension fracture is related to the collapse of Sveconorwegian orogeny c. 1000 Ma; clay and mature quartz sand were deposited in this extension fracture in shallow water in an intracratonic basin followed by early diagenetic processes and neocrystallization of illite around 967–947 Ma. The Neoproterozoic 1000–700 Ma sedimentation documented in this study is rare in the Fennoscandian shield as a whole. Neocrystallization of authigenic illite in the finest 0.4 and <0.1 μm fractions c. 809–697 Ma ago is interpreted as resulting from reactivation in the fault due to the continental break-up on the western side of the craton as documented by arenite crosscutting relationships. The younger ages may also be attributed to a Caledonian thermal overprint ca. 410 Ma ago that would influence the 967 Ma age if sufficient thermal energy had been present.

Keywords: Clay, fault, K-Ar dating, Neoproterozoic, thermal event, Sveconorwegian orogeny

1. Introduction

Constraining the timing of fault zone formation is of geotectonic importance to understand structural evolutions and brittle fault processes. Early studies by Lyons and Snellenberg (1971) highlighted the applicability of isotopic dating techniques in constraining the age of brittle faults, and numerous isotopic approaches have since been applied, including the K–Ar method (e.g. Kralik et al., 1992; Vrolijk and van der Pluijm, 1999; Choo and Chang,

2000; Zwingmann and Mancktelow, 2004; Sasseville et al., 2008; Zwingmann et al., 2010a, b; Zwingmann et al., 2011; Pleuger et al., 2012; Hetzel et al., 2013; Viola et al., 2016), the ^{40}Ar – ^{39}Ar method (e.g. van der Pluijm et al., 2001; Solum et al., 2005; Haines and van der Pluijm, 2008; Duvall et al., 2011) and the Rb/Sr method (Kralik et al., 1987; 1992). Viola et al. (2013) extended this approach to date complex brittle faults in the Palaeoproterozoic basement of southwestern Finland aiming at also directly dating fault reactivation.

Brittle faulting is ubiquitous in the Fennoscandian basement, but the common lack of dated sedimentary marker horizons makes it difficult to constrain absolute timing or link the faults to specific geological events. Only limited absolute ages from a few locations have been reported in the literature. In Forsmark in central Sweden fracture fillings related to brittle deformation and hydrothermal events have been dated yielding ^{40}Ar – ^{39}Ar ages of 1.8–1.7 Ga that can be interpreted as dating the brittle-ductile transition, in addition to $1107\pm7 - 1034\pm3$ Ma and several Palaeozoic ages in the brittle realm (Sandström et al., 2009; Fig. 1; Fig. 2). In southern Finland, ^{40}Ar – ^{39}Ar geochronometry has been applied to the Porkkala–Mäntsälä fault (Heeremans and Wijbrans, 1999), which is a major polyphase shear and fault zone predating the adjacent c. 1645 Ma (Vaasjoki, 1977a) Obbnäs rapakivi granite. Fault generations crosscutting the rapakivi provided ages predominantly in the 1300 – 950 Ma range (Heeremans and Wijbrans, 1999). Viola et al. (2013) reported illite K–Ar ages (1006.2 ± 20.5 Ma and 885.8 ± 18.3 Ma) from $<0.1\mu\text{m}$ fractions from a single but reactivated gouge fault in a drill core from SW Finland. Palaeozoic faulting documented at 445 ± 9 Ma has been discussed by Torgersen et al. (2014) in northern Norway along the edge of a Palaeoproterozoic tectonic window in close proximity to the Caledonides. To summarise, the framework of brittle faulting within the Fennoscandian

shield remains limited leaving the timescales and formation history of most of the brittle structures still obscure.

The Finnish Palaeoproterozoic bedrock is mostly veneered by unconsolidated deposits of Quaternary age, which are the results of glacial and glaciofluvial depositional processes. Only a few sedimentary rock occurrences of Mesoproterozoic age exist in the Satakunta and Muhos grabens (e.g. Kohonen and Rämö, 2005; Fig. 1), and these formations extend into the Gulf of Bothnia (Winterhalter et al., 1981; Fig. 2). Minor Neoproterozoic to Palaeozoic deposits have been documented from some impact craters (Tynni, 1978; Elo et al., 1993; Pesonen et al., 1998) and as fissure fillings (Bergman, 1982). The closest known occurrences of sedimentary rocks to the study area are sedimentary dykes in the southern archipelago, approximately 115 km to the SW (Pokki, 2006).

In this study, we report K–Ar ages of a previously unreported 30-cm-wide sedimentary clay infill of a faulted fracture that was found within a tunnel site in southern Finland. The ages provide constraints for the local and regional faulting events and sedimentation at the site. The sample of the clay deposit cannot have been subject to weathering, because it was collected from a fresh deep tunnel site (see a similar approach reported by Zwingmann et al., 2010a; Yamasaki et al., 2013), and there are independent thermochronological constraints on the possible age range for the formation of the fault.

2. Geological background

The bedrock in southern Finland is part of the Fennoscandian Shield, consisting of 1.9–1.8 Ga Palaeoproterozoic Svecofennian rocks (e.g. Koistinen et al., 1996) (Fig. 1). The study area is situated within the Uusimaa belt (Vaasjoki et al., 2005). Amphibolite facies supracrustal rocks comprise mica gneisses, quartz-feldspar gneisses, amphibolites and carbonate rocks, intruded by plutonic rocks during several tectonic phases. In the study area, foliated tonalites and granodiorites dominate and coarse-grained granitic pegmatites are abundant. Migmatization is strong and lithological units frequently alternate. The dominant NE–SW structural grain formed in a transpressional tectono-thermal stage at 1.87–1.80 Ga (Pajunen et al., 2008).

The bedrock was peneplaned by 1650–1630 Ma, when anorogenic rapakivi plutons and related dykes intruded the crust (Laitakari et al., 1996). The closest pluton (Bodom), which is located 13 km to the west of the study area, has been dated by the zircon U-Pb to 1645 ± 12 Ma (Vaasjoki, 1977). A 1632 ± 9 Ma (Törnroos, 1984) granite porphyry dyke is situated 7.7 km from the study site, and during the mapping of the tunnel, new diabase and quartz porphyry dykes of the same orientation and probably same age group were identified 2 km from the tunnel site (Elminen et al., 2007).

The oldest non-metamorphic sedimentary rocks in Finland are Mesoproterozoic clastic sediments located in the Satakunta and Muhos grabens (Fig. 1). The Satakunta sandstone formation with fluvial arkose arenite as the main component is crosscut by 1270–1250 Ma diabbases (Suominen, 1991) and underwent a complex multiple basin development starting at c. 1600 Ma (Pokki et al. 2013; Mattila and Viola, 2014). The Muhos shales document sedimentation between 1400–1300 Ma ago as documented by K–Ar and Rb–Sr dating from the shale (Simonen, 1980). Formation ages for the graben have not been defined. Also 300

111 km to East in Russia, in a graben-like structure of Lake Ladoga, sedimentary rocks from at
112 least Middle Riphean to Early Vendian (c. 1400–650 Ma) are documented and the older
113 sequences are cut by mafic intrusions of 1250–1200 and 1100 Ma (Amantov et al., 1995;
114 Fig. 1A). Dated Mesoproterozoic to Neoproterozoic sedimentary rocks and brittle faults in
115 Finland and some parts of Fennoscandian shield are compiled in Fig. 2.

116
117 Neoproterozoic ages for the sedimentary rocks have only been estimated from
118 micropaleontological studies, providing so far only relative age constraints. The Hailuoto
119 formation, which outcrops on the Hailuoto Island in the Gulf of Bothnia, is geographically
120 close to the Muhos formation and comprises conglomerates, sandstones and mudstones, the
121 latter containing acritarch forms and blue-green algae of the filamentous type. Tynni and
122 Donner (1980) suggested the age of the Hailuoto formation to be about 600 Ma based on
123 microfossils, although older ages are possible. Comparable microfossils of possibly the
124 same age have been observed in the Taivalkoski formation (Tynni and Uutela, 1985),
125 located in the Saarijärvi impact crater 160 km to the east (Pesonen et al., 1998). The
126 formation consists of alternating clay/shale and sandstone layers (Hyypä and Pekkala,
127 1987). Another assumed impact crater with Neoproterozoic sediments is in Lake Iso-
128 Naakkima, where micropaleontological studies have suggested sedimentation between
129 1000 and 650 Ma in a fluvial and lacustrine or lagoonal environment. The sedimentary
130 succession contains conglomerates, sandstones, siltstones, shale and kaolinitic clay (Elo et
131 al., 1993).

Some younger sedimentary dykes occur on the islands of the Archipelago Sea, west of the study area (Bergman, 1982) (Fig. 1b). The dykes in Åland are usually curved and strike N 0-20 E, dips are vertical and the material varies from quartz arenite to arkose arenite (Bergman, 1982). The fossils in Åland dykes document various early Palaeozoic ages, from lower Cambrian to Middle Ordovician (Tynni, 1982).

3. Study site and material

An extension fracture with sedimentary clay in it was discovered underground during the excavation of a railway tunnel at Myras, at the Savio railway tunnel site in Vantaa, c. 25 km north of Helsinki (Fig. 1; N 60° 19.463', E 25° 6.95'). The bedrock above the tunnel has a thickness of 20 m and is in turn overlain by 35 m of Quaternary sediments. The bedrock is intensely fractured at the site, and because of geotechnical reasons and urgent tunnel stabilization, only a brief examination of the clay was possible. Additional measurements of the fault were, however, carried out by the consulting company Pöyry. The host rocks at the site contain granite, granite pegmatite and veined mica gneiss.

The clay-decorated N20E striking fracture is located at 20 m distance from a 30 m wide N45E mylonite shear zone (Fig. 3a). The ductile- semiductile mylonite is crosscut by four 2–20-cm-thick steep to moderate dipping incohesive and cohesive cataclasites, striking N41-70E. The mylonite is intensely fractured and partly altered as documented by sericite, chlorite, and Fe oxide minerals. This N45E striking fault zone can be distinguished in magnetic data set as a low magnetic anomaly continuing 11 km to the SW, discontinuously even 30 km. In topographical data, the same lineament is evidenced by a depression or step

in some parts along this anomaly. The depression is covered by Quaternary sediments and some places a mire. There are two mylonite observations on the outcrops next to the anomaly in the coast.

3.1 Sediment deposit

The clay deposit in the extension fracture was examined in the tunnel and in two drill cores (Fig. 3) drilled before excavation. The strike of the clay-filled fracture is N20E and the dip is 75° to SE, and it could be traced on the floor of the tunnel as a 30- to 70-cm-thick undulating zone of unconsolidated clay. The contact zone between the sediment and the bedrock could not be observed because of mud on the tunnel floor and ongoing construction work. The clay contained variable proportions of sand-sized clasts and was moist and mouldable at the time of excavation, drilling and at the micropaleontological study, but dry at the time of other laboratory examinations. The colour was mainly greenish grey (air-dry Munsell ® colour Gley 1 7/1; light greenish grey) (Fig. 4a), but in places it was red (air-dry Munsell ® colour 10R 5/4 – 4/4; weak red) and the sediment had a sheared appearance.

In the eastern contact, the clay deposit that outcropped in the tunnel, was cut by a parallel 5-cm-thick white quartz arenite-filled fissure cemented by carbonate and containing grey, silicified clay inclusions (Fig. 4b). Slickenlines on the clay along the contact to the arenite indicate east side down normal faulting. The clay sample for the study was taken from the

tunnel floor (Fig. 3a). An arenite sample was taken from the wall from the height of one metre.

Two drill cores, SK5067 and SK5037, dipping c. 45°, intercept the clay deposit. (Fig. 3). Core SK5067 crosscuts the deposit 3 m above the tunnel floor at 45 m distance from the tunnel sampling point. The width of the clay-rich zone in the core is approximately 40 cm. Within this zone, about 5–10 cm of sheared and mixed clay and rock material borders the sediment sequence on both sides. The vertical tilt-corrected thickness of the sediment sequence is about 60 cm. The sequence starts with red clay, overlain by a sharp contact with a white carbonate-cemented quartz arenite showing bedding structures (Fig. 5a). The sequence is capped by red clay containing grey patches. The individual units are 20–25 cm thick. The rock around the sediment sequence is a fractured and altered granitic rock.

Core SK5037 intercepts the clay deposit 15 m above the tunnel floor outside the tunnel, also c. 45 m north of the sampling point, and it contains a 4.8-m-thick sequence of clay-rich deposits (tilt corrected). The dip direction of the drill core is close to the fault strike. The sediments overlying the altered bedrock include a 20-cm-thick bed of sheared clay (Fig. 5b) containing lithic fragments up to 3 cm, and a decimetre-thick bed of siltstone. The remaining succession is dominated by pale white sheared clay rich in randomly oriented lithic fragments, capped above and below by thicker units of red clay.

4. Methods

4.1 K-Ar sample preparation

The procedures applied in this study are based on Zwingmann et al. (2010a). Approximately 200 g of fresh clay material was collected from the tunnel sample site. The sample was gently disaggregated using a repetitive freezing and heating technique to avoid artificial reduction of rock components with K-bearing minerals, such as micas or K-feldspars (Liewig et al. 1987). Grain size fractions <2 and $2\text{--}6\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ were separated in distilled water according to Stoke's law, and <0.4 and $<0.1\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ fractions were separated using a high-speed centrifuge. Samples were characterized by X-ray diffraction (XRD, normal and glycolated runs), scanning electron microscopy (SEM) and transmission electron microscopy (TEM).

4.2. Mineralogy

For XRD analysis, a Philips X-Pert MPD X-ray diffractometer with a Cu tube operated at 40 kV and 55 mA was used. The step size was $0.02^\circ 2\Theta$ and the time per step 1.00 s. Randomly oriented bulk clay samples were analysed to characterize all the mineral phases in the sample. They were scanned at an interval of $2\text{--}70^\circ 2\Theta$. Oriented samples were prepared to specify the clay minerals. The finest fraction was sedimented onto glass slides (grain size $<2\text{ }\mu\text{m}$) and air-dried. Ethylene glycol was added to one of the oriented samples to test the swelling properties of possible clay minerals. Another oriented sample was heated at 550°C for 1 h. They were scanned at an interval of $2\text{--}20^\circ 2\Theta$. Minerals were identified using HighScore Plus software by PANalytical with the ICDD (International Center for Diffraction Data) mineral database PDF-4/minerals 2010. Infrared

spectrophotometer (IR) analysis was obtained from the material in support of the XRD analysis. The prepared sample was analysed with a Perkin Elmer 983 G instrument using KBr as flux material.

4.3. Petrography

The bulk dry clay crumbs and the coarse fraction of the clay were examined with a JEOL JSM 5900 LV SEM equipped with an attached EDS (energy dispersive X-ray system, Oxford Instruments) analyser. SEM petrography was used for identifying minerals and for examining the surface structures of the quartz grains. Dry clay crumb samples were coated with gold, and a coarse fraction was additionally investigated without coating. INCA Point ID software was used for mineral identification. The arenite samples were investigated in thin sections via a conventional petrographic microscope and using an electron probe microanalyser (Cameca SX100).

Transmission electron microscopy (TEM) was used to identify and distinguish possible authigenic clays from finely ground protolith micas, feldspars and other fine grained clay minerals, allowing the detection of traces of potential contamination phases below the XRD detection limit. A JEOL 2010 TEM (200 KV) was used for detailed, grain-by-grain morphological characterization of the $<0.1\ \mu\text{m}$ clay fraction. The sample was prepared by placing one drop of clay solution on a micro-carbon grid film and drying under air. The chemical composition of individual particles was investigated by an attached EDS system.

4.4 K–Ar dating

The K–Ar dating technique followed standard methods described in detail by Dalrymple and Lanphere (1969). The K content was determined by atomic absorption. The pooled error of duplicate K determinations on several samples and standards was better than 2.0%. Ar isotopic determinations were performed using a procedure similar to that described by Bonhomme et al. (1975). Samples were pre-heated under vacuum at 80 °C for several hours to reduce the amount of atmospheric Ar adsorbed onto the mineral surfaces during sample preparation. Blanks for the extraction line and mass spectrometer were systematically determined and the mass discrimination factor was determined by airshots. About 10 mg of sample material was required for Ar analyses. Due to the hygroscopic nature of clays, special care was taken in the preparation of both K and Ar sample splits. For Ar analysis by noble gas spectrometry, sample splits were loaded onto clean Mo foil (Goodfellow molybdenum foil, thickness 0.0125 mm, purity 99.9%), weighed and subsequently preheated to 80 °C overnight to remove moisture, and re-weighed using a Mettler AT20 balance. The measured dry weight was used in the K–Ar age calculation. Samples were stored prior to loading into the Ar purification line in a desiccator. During the analysis, one international standard HD-B1 (Hess and Lippolt, 1994) was measured. The error for Ar analyses was below 1.00% (Table 1) and the $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{36}\text{Ar}$ value for airshots averaged 295.02 ± 0.28 ($n = 2$). The standard and airshot data are presented in Table 1. The K–Ar ages were calculated using ^{40}K abundance and decay constants recommended by Steiger and Jäger (1977).

4.5 Grain size and microfossils

The grain-size distributions in the size range of 0.15–2000 µm were determined for selected samples using a Malvern 2000 laser particle sizer. The fresh sample was analysed for microfossils by treating with acid extraction and sodium metatungstate solution, but the material was devoid of carbonaceous fossils. However the circumstances at the time of sedimentation or later may not have been favorable for the microfossils to be preserved and constraining the sedimentary origin and age by microfossils was not possible.

5. Results

5.1. Mineralogy of the clay and arenite samples

The bulk clay sample was found to consist of illite, quartz, K-feldspar and chlorite (Table 2). The median grain sizes of the clay sample varied between ca. 1 and 7.5 µm, and all were found to be poorly sorted with a distinct sand fraction mainly consisting of rounded quartz grains with small proportions of angular grit (Fig. 6). The decanted coarse fraction was dominated by quartz with a lesser amount of K-feldspar, chlorite and illite.

The modal mineral composition determined by XRD of the <2 µm clay size fractions dated in this study is summarized in Table 2. This fraction was found to contain 42% 2M1 illite (high temperature polytype), 54% 1M illite (low temperature polytype) and 5% chlorite. Due to the low amount of separated clay material from the <0.1 and <0.4 µm fractions, no XRD analyses were obtained from these fractions.

Typical SEM and TEM images are illustrated in Fig. 7. Sample characterization by SEM and TEM suggests that most illite crystallites have a preferred orientation and exhibit euhedral shapes (Fig. 7). The fibrous and hexagonal and prismatic morphologies of the illite particles suggest *in situ* neocrystallization (Clauer and Chaudhuri, 1995) but cannot be related to polytypes.

The arenite sample mainly consists of well-sorted and well-rounded quartz grains cemented by calcite exhibiting compositional and textural maturity (Fig. 8a). Feldspar and muscovite grains, a rounded illite grain and glauconite, both as a grain and cement are as minor constituents (Fig. 8b). A silicified clay chip with some illite remnants is also present in the studied thin section (EPMA) (Figs 8a, c). A microscopic cataclasite cemented by calcite crosscuts the arenite sample (Fig. 8d).

5.2 K-Ar dating

In total, four K-Ar analyses of clay fractions from <0.1 to 2–6 μm were obtained in this study (Table 3, Fig. 7). The ages of the clay fractions range from 697.3 ± 14.1 to 967.6 ± 19.7 Ma. A decrease in age with decreasing grain size is observed (Fig. 9). A total age span of 270 Ma is recorded within the clay fractions, ranging from the Neoproterozoic-Cryogenian for the finer <0.1 and <0.4 μm fraction to the Neoproterozoic-Tonian for the coarser <2 and 2–6 μm fractions. The relatively high K content of the clay fractions, ranging from 6.40 to 6.78%, is consistent with a potential authigenic origin (Clauer and Chaudhuri, 1995; Aronson and Hower, 1976). The radiogenic ^{40}Ar content ranges from

97.8 to 99.2%, indicating reliable analytical conditions for all analyses with no significant atmospheric ^{40}Ar contamination. Ages refer to the timescale of Gradstein et al. (2004).

6. Discussion

Fault gouges are common in rock cuts and widely reported in Fennoscandia but sedimentary clay filled fissures have not been identified so far in Finland. The unusual homogeneity in a 30-cm-wide clay zone and an uncommon arenite fissure in close proximity suggest preservation of a sedimentary deposit instead of a gouge. The sand-sized clasts in the clay consist of well-rounded quartz confirming a sedimentary origin as well as the arenite sections in the drill cores. The clay resembles post glacial clays that are ubiquitous in Fennoscandia but quartz grains in the clay and the arenite that post-dates the clay are more mature compared to the Quaternary sediments and suggest a deposition in a different and older environment.

The sharp-edged broken grains and the slicken-lines in the clay, sheared clay in the drill core and brecciated arenite are an evidence of later reactivations in the fissure and suggest faulting. The clay fraction morphology investigated by TEM indicates an authigenic origin and the obtained age interval can be interpreted to record the time of illite formation after deposition.

6.1 Clay fraction ages

Grain-size fractions of authigenic illite can contain mixtures of illite particles formed at different times during growth, and this growth history is usually investigated by K-Ar

dating a range of different grain-size fractions. Similarly to other fault-dating studies (for example Solum et al., 2005; Haines and van der Pluijm, 2008; Sasseville et al., 2008; Zwingmann et al., 2010a, b; Viola et al., 2013, 2016), we observed a clear age distribution of the grain size, with the smallest $<0.1\ \mu\text{m}$ fraction yielding the youngest age at $697.3 \pm 14.1\ \text{Ma}$. The ages increase to $809.3 \pm 16.4\ \text{Ma}$ for the $<0.4\ \mu\text{m}$ fraction and $947.1 \pm 19.5\ \text{Ma}$ for the $<2\ \mu\text{m}$ fraction. The oldest age is from the coarse-grained $2\text{--}6\ \mu\text{m}$ fraction, at $967.6 \pm 19.7\ \text{Ma}$, which is almost identical within error to the obtained $<2\ \mu\text{m}$ fraction. As discussed by Zwingmann et al. (2010a) for neocrystallized illite, the finest separated particle size is often derived from the ends of filamentous grains and represents the most recently grown illite in the gouge rocks. Coarser size fractions are normally formed earlier during the illite formation process, yielding older ages.

Dating authigenic clay mineral crystallization involves a fundamentally different approach from dating detrital clays (Meunier et al. 2004). As summarized by Zwingmann and Mancktelow (2004) the dating of clay minerals involves the assumption that a newly formed authigenic clay mineral can be dated by isotopic techniques independent of the concept of a closure temperature. This crystallization process can encompass different timescales. If the time interval over which an authigenic mineral has crystallized is shorter than the analytical precision of the method, described in 1 or 2 sigma values, an actual "age" is recorded. However, in some geological case studies, mineral authigenesis and crystallization can extend over extensive time periods, larger than the analytical uncertainties, and an "integrated age" is recorded (Meunier et al., 2004).

6.2 Brittle fault succession in Myras area

346 The brittle faults and their relative ages and kinematics have been studied in an area of c. 60
347 km x 60 km, where Myras site also is located (Elminen et al., 2008). The fault sets
348 comprise:

349 (1) Steep NE-trending ductile shear zones (Figs. 1b, 10a), formed in the latest stages of
350 Svecofennian orogeny (Pajunen et al., 2008). The NE-trending structural lines in Fig. 1b
351 indicate these major shear zones. Sinistral E-side-up reverse movement is recorded in the
352 mylonite structures in retrograde conditions (Elminen et al., 2008). Väisänen and Skyttä
353 (2007) conclude that these shear zones were formed between 1.81 and 1.79 Ga. The zones
354 have been reactivated later in brittle conditions shown by cataclasites. The 50-m-wide
355 ductile-semiductile mylonite close to the studied clay-filled extension fracture corresponds
356 to this Late Svecofennian event. (Figs. 3a, 10a)

357 (2) During the anorogenic rapakivi magmatism and its related dykes (ca. 1640 Ma) dextral
358 strike-slip reactivation occurred along the pre-existing NE-shear zones in brittle conditions
359 as well as new brittle NE strike-slip faults were formed (Elminen et al., 2008; Fig. 10b).
360 Shearing is observed in the edge of the cooling Bodom rapakivi pluton edge along one of
361 the major faults, Porkkala-Mäntsälä fault (PM in Fig. 1b and 10b). These faults and the
362 NW-SE-oriented diabase dykes document a regime where the major principal stress axis
363 was oriented NW-SE and minor principal stress axis approximately NE-SW. The NW-SE
364 normal faults crosscutting rapakivi granites have still formed in same stress field. (Fig. 10b)

365 (3) Vertical N-S-trending faults further crosscut the previous NE- and NW-trending faults
366 (Fig. 10c) and they exhibit sinistral strike-slip (Elminen et al., 2008). The shortening axis is
367 approximately NW-SE oriented in the paleostress field. Reactivation on the previous NW-

fault planes at the same time as N-S fault formation is likely. No age constraints are available in the literature.

The NNE-trending clay-filled fracture is kinematically not in concordance with either of the described faulting events. The extensional fracture and normal faulting refer to NNE-SSW shortening axis and ESE-WNW extensional axis (Fig. 10d). The new K-Ar age data with the kinematic indicators suggest that the Myras clay-filled fracture formed in an additional extensional faulting event in southern Finland.

Fig. 11 summarizes the interpretation of the obtained illite ages in the complex geological framework of the study area in the Proterozoic within 4 major simplified phases. Phase 1 highlights the basement paleostress tensors and related rapakivi plutons and diabase dykes age ranges in S-SE and SW Finland. Phase 2 is interpreted to document a minimum age for the opening of the fracture and sediment deposition with the obtained 2-6 and <2 μm ages at ca. 967.6 ± 19.7 to 947.1 ± 19.5 Ma, which are identical within error. These 2-6 and <2 μm ages are interpreted to document early diagenetic processes with involved neocrystallization of illite. Opening of the fracture in extensional conditions is consistent with the collapse of the Sveconorwegian orogeny in the West, which is estimated to have commenced 970 Ma (Bingen et al., 2008).

Phase 3 documents extension processes with the sand infill, after the initial clay infill. The clay has been compacted before the opening of the smaller fracture where the quartz sand was deposited. The slickenlines in the contact of the clay and arenite show normal faulting, likely after sand infill. Faulting after the sand cementation is documented by brecciated arenite, which was subsequently cemented. The extensional fracturing can be related to

normal faulting as illustrated in phase 3 in Fig. 9. These processes are interpreted to be attributable to continuing Sveconorwegian collapse or later extensional faulting in Phase 4.

Phase 4 causes final faulting and shearing within the sediment infill material. The finest <0.4 and 0.1 μm illite fractions yield ages around 809.3 ± 16.4 Ma to 697.3 ± 14.1 Ma. The coarser <0.4 μm illite fraction is interpreted to document onset of faulting, and the <0.1 illite age cessation of faulting. The extensional conditions shown by open fractures and normal faulting probably reflect the initial break-up of the Rodinia supercontinent around 800–700 Ma at Baltica (Kumpulainen and Nystuen, 1985), which resulted in extensive faulting and sedimentation over a long time in the Baltica basins (Fig. 9). No other tectonic activity has been recorded at the craton at that time except presumable rifting between 1350 and 650 Ma in the far NE passive margin of the craton, which has been more than 1200 km apart from the study area (Roberts and Siedlecka, 2002). Fault reactivations by isostatic movements in the crust due to Cryogenian glaciations could be possible but are difficult to assess.

Illite K–Ar dating has also been reported from drill core fault gouges from Olkiluoto, ~ 225 km NW of Myras (Viola et al., 2011, 2013) (Fig. 1b). A few centimetres wide fault gouge in a brittle deformation zone that was modelled as a SE dipping low-angle fault trending N75E reflected two deformational phases (Viola et al., 2011). The fraction ages were from c. 1240 to 1006 Ma in diminishing fraction size and c. 980–886 Ma for the crosscutting gouge (Fig. 9). Faulting was interpreted to have taken place at 1006.2 ± 20.5 Ma in an E–W shortening stress field and reactivation at 885 ± 18.3 Ma in an ESE–WNW extension (Viola et al., 2013). These faults were linked to the Sveconorwegian orogeny. As seen in Fig. 9, the bigger fractions with older age of Olkiluoto younger sample and Myras sample can be

interpreted to record the orogen collapse. Thus two separate studies where illite is of different origin indicate the effects of orogen collapse far from the Sveconorwegian front; Myras situating c. 600 km from there.

Numerous brittle faults have been observed in southern Finland, but no absolute age dating has been possible or obtained so far. The unique fresh and unweathered clay from the investigated Savio tunnel site might therefore record the timing of the brittle deformation in this area.

6.3 Caledonian overprint

The Cryogenian age of 697.3 ± 14.1 Ma obtained from the finest $<0.1 \mu\text{m}$ fraction could document neoformation of the illite crystals during fault reactivation. In addition, the fraction might contain detrital mineral phases and could be influenced by contamination. A contamination scenario is unlikely. However, despite sound separation methods this clay fraction was obtained from geological old sediments with potential numerous contamination sources of very old and trace amounts of K rich minerals (K-feldspars) below the detection limit of the XRD method. As discussed by Hamilton et al. (1989, their Fig. 4) traces of very old contamination mineral phases could influence the age value of the $<0.1 \mu\text{m}$ fraction.

A few studies have suggested a thermal imprint related to the Caledonian orogeny (490–400 Ma) in the Precambrian basement. The palaeo-sedimentary cover on the present surface in Fennoscandia has been suggested to have caused heating and it would have been strongest during the Caledonian foreland sedimentation (Tullborg et al., 1995). Using $\delta^{18}\text{O}$

435 and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$, Tullborg et al. (1995) calculated temperatures in Ordovician limestones in
 436 Sweden and Norway and concluded that raised temperatures of ca. 125 °C persisted for at
 437 least 100 Ma due to the burial under 2-4 km thick cover. Fission-track thermochronology
 438 similarly suggest >2.5 km thick Devonian sediments in the foreland basin in Sweden
 439 thinning to the east (Larson et al., 1999). However, significant temperature effects can be
 440 excluded for the Myras site, based on the long distance from the assumed foredeep basin.
 441 The sedimentary environment at Myras region was more like in a back-bulge setting in a
 442 lower depth and with a thinner sedimentary cover. Murrel (2003) applied apatite fission-
 443 track thermochronometry to investigate the low-T thermal history in Finland. According to
 444 the results, reheating to 75 °C could be interpreted at 430 Ma. However, AFTA and ZFTA
 445 dating remains controversial in Scandinavia, as apatite and zircon fission track data, which
 446 are often used to constrain the timing of shallow faulting histories, might be questionable or
 447 inconclusive in old and convoluted terranes (Redfield, 2010; Viola et al., 2013).

448 Alm et al. (2005) reported 407 ± 54 Ma Sm-Nd isotope age for fluorite veins in SE Finland,
 449 indicating fracturing and hydrothermal activity at that time (Fig. 1). U–Pb analyses of
 450 uraninites and allanites in sheared rock in east Uusimaa suggested enrichment of uranium
 451 ca. 450 Ma (Vaasjoki et al., 2002). Palaeomagnetic studies also indicate that
 452 remagnetization might have taken place around 415 Ma (Mertanen et al., 2008). The
 453 formation of fluorite veins (Alm et al., 2005) and remagnetization processes do not require
 454 high temperatures, and an influence on or thermal overprinting of the illite ages can
 455 therefore be ruled out.

456 Based on the complex geological and unknown thermal history of the study area, a
 457 potential thermal overprint on the ages of the illite fractions was evaluated by basic illite Ar

diffusion calculations similar to the approach by Zwingmann et al. (2010b). As outlined by these authors, K–Ar dating assumes closed system behaviour, which is not always satisfied in fault rocks. If a mineral is exposed to a given temperature close to or slightly above the formation temperature over a distinct time interval, the system might be affected or even partially or completely reset (Clauer and Chaudhuri, 1995). We evaluated the influence of potential Ar diffusion on the illite fractions by a thermal overprint via a basic Ar diffusion model described by Huon et al. (1993) using four maximum grain sizes comprising 2–6, 2, <0.4 and 0.1 μm , a temperature range from 200 to 350 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ and a time frame of 1 My and in addition for a low temperature range from 50 to 150 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ and a time frame of 100 My to investigate a potential influence of a low temperature but long lasting Caledonian thermal overprint. Because the shape of fine-grained clay minerals (fibres vs. plates) will strongly influence diffusion, cylindrical and plane geometric shapes were applied. We used the original parameters listed in Huon et al. (1993, p. 174) in the present study, with D_0 and E_a values of $6.03 \times 10^{-7} \text{ cm}^2/\text{s}$ and $40 \times 10^3 \text{ cal/mol}$, respectively (Wijbrans and McDougall, 1986).

The results of these calculations are summarized in Tables 4, 5 and Fig. 12. The smallest <0.1 μm fractions can be affected by a thermal overprint by up to 64% if the temperature is as low as 200 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ during a 1-My overprint time window (Fig. 12a). A potential thermal overprint on the 2 μm grain-size fraction is negligible if the temperature is 200 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ during 1 My (Fig. 12c). In the 300 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ range, Ar diffusion will significantly reduce the ages of the <0.1- μm fraction and reset the illite age after ~ 0.1 My (Fig. 12a). The 2 μm fraction will, in addition, suffer significant radiogenic ^{40}Ar loss of up to 83% over a 1-My time frame. If the temperature increases to a hypothetical 350 $^{\circ}\text{C}$, the <0.1 μm fraction would start to

recrystallize to muscovite and experience reset and complete Ar loss in short time periods of 0.05 Ma. Calculations indicate that an elevated temperature of 250–350 °C over 0.05–1 My would thermally disturb ages of the <0.1 or <0.4 µm illite fractions (Fig. 12d). An elevated and heterogeneous thermal history within the study area could therefore modify the illite ages if secondary heating is persistent for an extended time period of 0.05 to 1 Ma, but the measured illite age data do not document these trends, as the ages of <2 and 2–6 µm illite fractions were found to be identical within error, and the data document an age spread of 112 My between the <0.1 and <0.4 µm fractions. However, with the limited data, we cannot unequivocally conclude whether the <0.1 µm fraction might have been influenced by a thermal overprint or documents the cessation of faulting in the study area. As no influence of a thermal overprint has been documented within the coarser clay fractions, we interpret the <0.1 µm fraction to document the cessation of faulting. A suggested long lasting Caledonian 100 My low temperature 100 and 150 °C overprint was modelled and the diffusion results are summarized in Fig. 12e for a 100 °C temperature range indicating negligible Argon diffusion with only the finest 0.1 µm fraction showing very minor diffusion effects. The results of an increased 150 °C temperature range is summarized in Fig. 12f again indicating negligible diffusion in the coarser 2–6 and <2 µm fractions. The <0.4 µm fraction would experience only very minor Argon diffusion of around 10 % whereas the <0.1 µm fraction could lose up to 40% of its radiogenic Argon. As the obtained illite age data do not show age variations in this range, a potential long lasting low temperature Caledonian thermal overprint seems not to have affected the illite fractions and is not a plausible scenario.

6.4 Inferences for Neoproterozoic sedimentation

The sediments in the fracture are interpreted as resulting from an in-situ deposition instead of a collapse due to the primary sedimentary structures present in the drill-core. Clay-sized glauconite was identified as a common constituent in the arenite samples. The formation of glauconite takes place at a shallow water depth with a low terrigenous sedimentation rate (Porrenga, 1967). Formation takes place during the deposition of sediment, at the water–sediment interface, thus becoming an attractive process for isotopic dating of the deposition time of sedimentary rocks (i.e. Odin, 1975). The relative textural and compositional maturity of the sand fraction in the clay, as well as in the intervening quartz arenite, appears to be compatible with a continental shallow marine depositional setting, probably in an intracratonic basin. Assuming that the formation of authigenic clay by diagenesis or shearing occurred soon after deposition, the sediments are c. 300–400 Ma younger than the previously known Satakunta and Muhos graben formations (c. 1300 Ma) and c. 400 Ma older than the Hailuoto and Taivalkoski formations (Fig. 2).

Other Tonian-Cryogenian isotope ages for sedimentary rocks that are related to faulting in the Fennoscandian Shield have been dated in the Visingsö group, in the uppermost unit (663 Ma) in Lake Vättern, Sweden, close to the Sveconorwegian front (Bonhomme and Welin 1983), and in the Vadsø Group (825 ± 19 My) and Vestertana Group (668 ± 7 My) in the Varanger peninsula, Norway, the northeastern margin of the Fennoscandian Shield (Pringle, 1972; Sturt et al., 1975) (Figs 1 and 2). These are Rb–Sr ages and interpreted as ages for diagenesis.

7. Conclusions

This study reports a unique fresh and unweathered authigenic clay from a tunnel site to record the timing of brittle faulting in southern Finland. Fig. 2 highlights an age compilation of the complex time constraints of the Fennoscandian basement including brittle fault, paleontological (microfossil), seismic and drilling data to constrain the new obtained clay isotope data.

A NNE-trending fracture opened in the Palaeoproterozoic basement in the Tonian period before c. 967 Ma. The age is documented by the 2–6 μm K–Ar illite age from the clay that filled the 30-cm-wide crevasse. The neocrystallization took place in diagenesis or reactivation of the fracture/fault after deposition. E–W-oriented extensional conditions prevailed locally, and the opening of the fracture is linked with the collapse of the Sveconorwegian orogeny in the west. Similar ages have been reported from fault gouges from Olkiluoto drill cores, and many of the brittle faults in the basement can probably be attributable to the orogen collapse. The similar geometry and shear sense indicators of other brittle faults may henceforth be related to this event.

The smaller illite crystals ($<0.4 \mu\text{m}$) in Myras clay with a K–Ar age of c. 809–697 Ma may record:

- a) Reactivation of the fault. No known tectonic activity in the area has previously been documented, but continental break-up of the Rodinia supercontinent started at that time in the west and may have caused the reactivation and formation of new faults in the crust far from its proximal areas;

b) Less probable thermal overprint related to the Caledonian orogeny at ≥ 400 Ma. The previously studied Caledonian ages suggesting thermal effect in Finland have formed in much lower temperatures than required for illite neocrystallization. Clay Argon diffusion calculations indicate that diffusion might influence the $<0.1 \mu\text{m}$ fraction, but is unlikely to impact on the coarser clay fractions ($0.1\text{--}0.4 \mu\text{m}$) within 800 Ma. Furthermore, the thick clay deposit is compact and has a low permeability for hydrothermal fluids.

The clay deposit and intervening quartz arenite are interpreted as being deposited in a shallow marine intracratonic basin. The age estimation of c. 967 Ma provides evidence for deposition within a time interval where sedimentary records from Fennoscandian shield are scarce, and related geochronological data are almost non-existent.

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806

872 **Highlights**

- 873 • Investigation of fresh clay originating from a tunnel fracture site in Finland.
- 874 • The clay was deposited in a shallow marine basin in Paleoproterozoic bedrock.
- 875 • K-Ar dating of illite documents neocrystallization at c. 967 Ma after brittle faulting.
- 876 • Reactivation of the fracture occurred at c. 697 Ma.
- 877 • Brittle deformations are linked to Sveconorwegian orogeny and continental break-up.

807 **Figure captions**

808

809 Figure 1. (A) A schematic geological map of the Fennoscandian shield and locations of the
810 Myras study site and sedimentary rock formations in Finland and Fennoscandia and other
811 locations mentioned in the text. (B) A bedrock map of southwestern Finland. The yellow
812 circle (MYR) indicates the Myras sampling point. Orange squares denote Olkiluoto (OLK),
813 the uraninite dating point (LAK), and a fluorite vein (LOV). Green diamonds indicate
814 palaeomagnetic measurements; (PM) Porkkala-Mäntsälä fault; small blue dots arenite dyke
815 locations and (S) Satakunta Graben.

816 Figure 2. Age compilation summary figure with paleontological (microfossil), seismic,
817 drilling, dated brittle fault and clay isotope data of Fennoscandia for the Mesoproterozoic
818 and Neoproterozoic. For Finland all data from 1400 Ma to 542 Ma are presented and from
819 Sweden and Norway essential data based on Suominen (1991), Winterhalter et al. (1981),
820 Thorslund and Axberg (1979), Simonen (1980), Tynni and Uutela (1984, 1985), Tynni and
821 Donner (1980), Wannäs and Flodén (1994), Söderberg (1993), Hagenfeldt (1995),
822 Amantov et al. (1995), Bonhomme and Welin (1983), Sturt et al. (1975), Tynni (1982),
823 Patchett (1978), Tynni and Hokkanen (1982), Lehtovaara (1995), Elo et al. (1993),
824 Bergman (1982), Winterhalter (1982), Uutela (1990, 2001), Tynni (1978), Heeremans and
825 Wijbrans (1999), Sandström et al. (2009), Torgersen et al. (2014), Mulch et al. (2005),
826 Viola et al. (2013). Porkkala-M=Porkkala- Mäntsälä shear zone and fault, Porsgrunn-
827 K=Porsgrunn-Kristiansand shear zone.

828 Figure 3. (A) A sketch of 220 m tunnel floor showing the Myras clay, the fault structures,
829 the drill cores and the sampling points. (B) A sketch of the clay-filled fracture with the
830 tunnel cross section, drill cores and drill core sections with sedimentary rocks. Not to scale.

831 Figure 4. (A) K–Ar clay samples. (B) The sampling site at Myras with white arenite, the
832 clay deposit and clay/gouge exposed on the tunnel wall. SL = slickenline. The red material
833 is quarrying dirt.

834 Figure 5. Close-ups from drill cores. (A) Bedding structure in quartz sand. (B) Sheared clay
835 with quartz grains.

836 Figure 6. Quartz grains decanted from the clay sample.

837 Figure 7. Petrographic SEM and TEM images of authigenic illite with representative EDS
838 spectra. (A, B) images of the clay surface of sample TU4-38040 by SEM. (C, D) TEM
839 images of sample 1710 <0.1 μm fraction. Typical illite morphology confirmed by EDS is
840 indicated by circles.

841 Figure 8. Thin section images of quartz arenite. (A) Well rounded quartz grains and a
842 silicified clay chip in the lower part. (B) The arrow points to intersitial glauconite. The
843 trace is left by the EPMA beam. (C) BSE image from the clay chip in Figure A. Most of the
844 material is silicified (Q), some illite (I) is left. (D) Microcataclasite in the arenite.

845 Figure 9. A K–Ar age plot; ages are summarized within the geological and
846 geochronological context of the study area.

847 Figure 10. Brittle fault succession in Myras area with assumed stress fields. (A) Ductile
848 NE-trending steep shear zones that later have developed to semi-brittle and brittle faults.

849 PM Porkkala-Mäntsälä shear/fault zone. (B) Brittle faulting following ca. 1650 Ma rapakivi
850 magmatism. B indicates Bodom rapakivi granite, D diabase dykes, P granite porphyry
851 dykes. NW-SE normal faults and dextral strike-slip along NE-SW faults. (C) N-S oriented
852 vertical sinistral strike-slip faults crosscutting faults in figure B. (D) Myras fracture (M) in
853 an exaggerated scale. The stress field for NNE-trending fracture differs from that of the
854 other fault structures.

855 Figure 11. Summary of the interpretation of the obtained illite ages in the geological
856 framework of the study area. Mesoproterozoic magmatic events and known stress tensors in
857 Southern Finland are indicated. Myras fracture development is linked to Sveconorwegian
858 collapse and continental break-up in the west.

859 Figure 12. Clay argon diffusion plots temperature range 150 to 350 °C versus grain size in
860 µm. (A) 0.1 µm, (B) 0.4 µm, (C) 2 µm, (D) 6 µm listing temperature legend. (E) 100 °C
861 overprint of grain sizes from 0.05, 0.1, 0.2, 2 and 6 µm over a 100 Ma timescale, (F) 150
862 °C overprint of grain sizes from 0.05, 0.1, 0.2, 2 and 6 µm over a 100 Ma timescale.

863 **Tables**

864 Table 1. K–Ar age standard and airshot data.

865 Table 2. XRD data for the bulk sample and for separated $<2\ \mu\text{m}$ clay-size fractions.

866 Table 3. K–Ar age data.

867 Table 4. Argon diffusion data with parameters (1) grain-sizes $0.1\text{--}6\ \mu\text{m}$, (2) temperature

868 range $200\text{--}350\ ^\circ\text{C}$ and (3) 1 My timeframe.

869 Table 5. Argon diffusion data with parameters (1) grain-sizes 0.1 to $6\ \mu\text{m}$, (2) temperature

870 range 100 and $150\ ^\circ\text{C}$ and (3) 100 My timeframe.

871

Fig. 1

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Fig. 12

Table 1. K–Ar age standard and airshot data.

Sample ID	CSIRO ID	K [%]	Rad. 40Ar [mol/g]	Rad. 40Ar [%]	Age [Ma]	Error [Ma]	Remark
Standard	HD-B1-105	7.96	3.378E-10	93.12	24.31	0.38	Error to ref.: +0.41%
airshot	40Ar/36Ar	+/-					
AS101-AirS-1	297.06	0.37					
AS101-AirS-2	294.03	0.50					

Table 2. XRD data for the bulk sample and for separated <2 µm clay-size fractions.

Sample ID	Quartz [%]	Illite 2M1 [%]	Illite 1M [%]	Chlorite [%]	Orthoclase/Microcline [%]
TU4-38040 bulk	55	10		5	30
1710 <2µm	-	42	54	5	-

Table 3. K–Ar age data.

Sample ID [µm]	K [%]	Rad. 40Ar [mol/g]	Rad. 40Ar [%]	Age [Ma]	Error [Ma]	Period-Epoch-Stage Gradstein et al. (2004)
TU4-38040 <0.1	6.40	9.4498E-09	97.80	697.3	14.1	Neoproterozoic-Cryogenian
TU4-38040 <0.4	6.70	1.1868E-08	98.48	809.3	16.4	Neoproterozoic-Cryogenian
TU4-38040 <2	6.56	1.4172E-08	98.85	947.1	19.5	Neoproterozoic-Tonian
TU4-38040 2-6	6.78	1.5057E-08	99.15	967.6	19.7	Neoproterozoic-Tonian

Table 4. Argon diffusion data with parameters (1) grain-sizes 0.1 to 6 μm , (2) range 200–350 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ and (3) 1 My timeframe.

200 $^{\circ}\text{C}$	2-6 μm	< 2 μm	<0.4 μm	<0.1 μm
0.1 Ma	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.21
0.5 Ma	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.47
1.0 Ma	0.00	0.01	0.16	0.64
250 $^{\circ}\text{C}$				
0.1 Ma	0.01	0.04	0.41	0.99
0.5 Ma	0.02	0.12	0.80	1.00
1.0 Ma	0.04	0.18	0.94	1.00
300 $^{\circ}\text{C}$				
0.1 Ma	0.09	0.31	0.98	1.00
0.5 Ma	0.23	0.65	1.00	1.00
1.0 Ma	0.33	0.83	1.00	1.00
350 $^{\circ}\text{C}$				
0.1 Ma	0.42	0.94	1.00	1.00
0.5 Ma	0.82	1.00	1.00	1.00
1.0 Ma	0.94	1.00	1.00	1.00

Table 4. Argon diffusion data with parameters (1) grain-sizes 0.1 to 6 μm , (2) temperature range 150 to 350 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ and (3) 1 My timeframe.

200 $^{\circ}\text{C}$	2-6 μm	< 2 μm	<0.4 μm	<0.1 μm
0.1 Ma	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.21
0.5 Ma	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.47
1.0 Ma	0.00	0.01	0.16	0.64

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250°C				
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0.1 Ma	0.01	0.04	0.41	0.99
0.5 Ma	0.02	0.12	0.80	1.00
1.0 Ma	0.04	0.18	0.94	1.00
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300°C				
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0.1 Ma	0.09	0.31	0.98	1.00
0.5 Ma	0.23	0.65	1.00	1.00
1.0 Ma	0.33	0.83	1.00	1.00
<hr/>				
350°C				
<hr/>				
0.1 Ma	0.42	0.94	1.00	1.00
0.5 Ma	0.82	1.00	1.00	1.00
1.0 Ma	0.94	1.00	1.00	1.00
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