

What do we learn from considering petrological processes in subduction modeling ? Current challenges ?



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First 2D numerical geodynamic model

1406

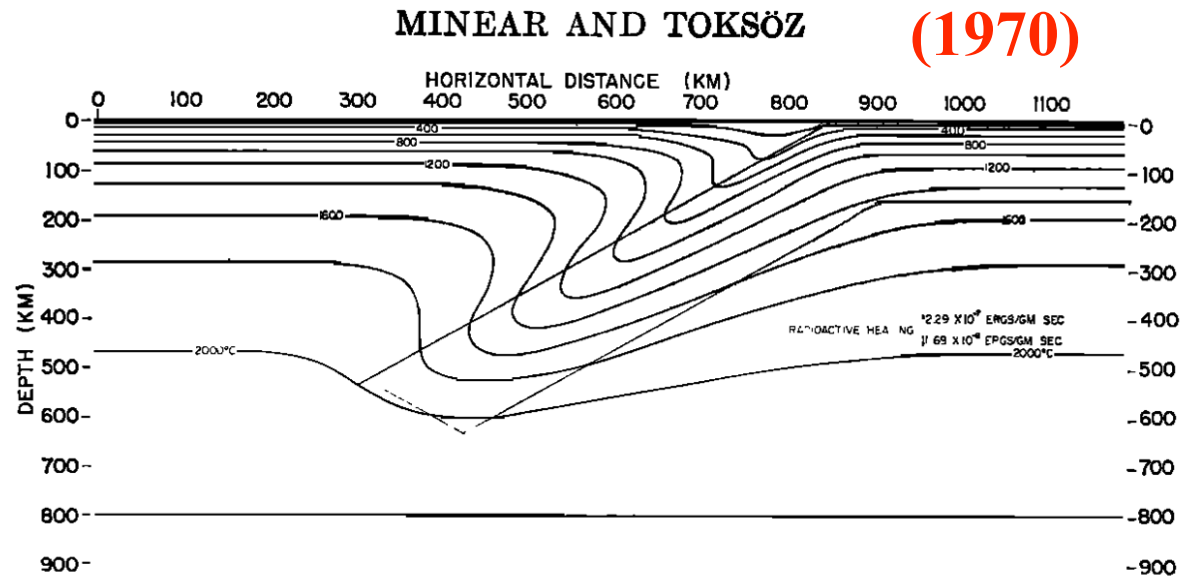
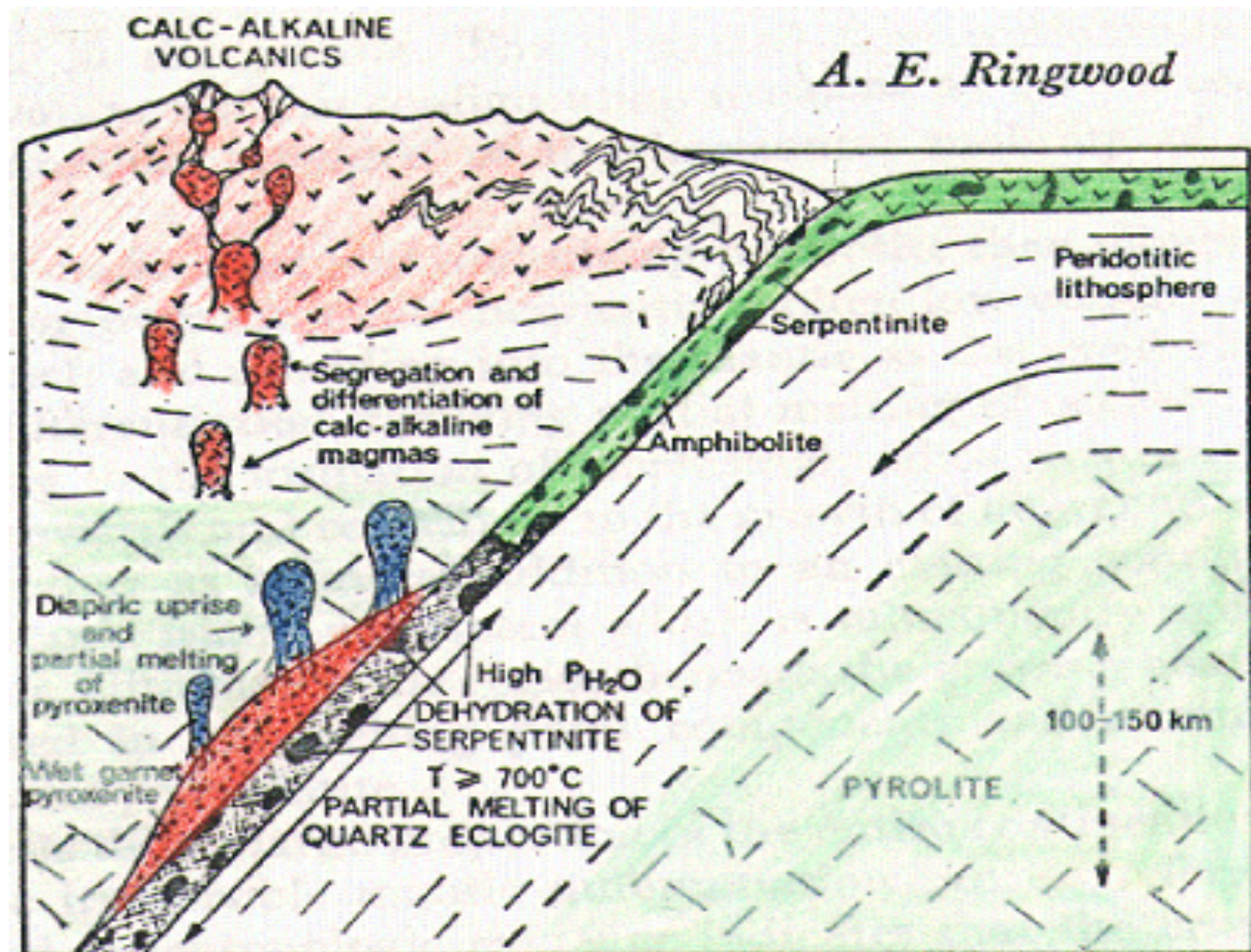


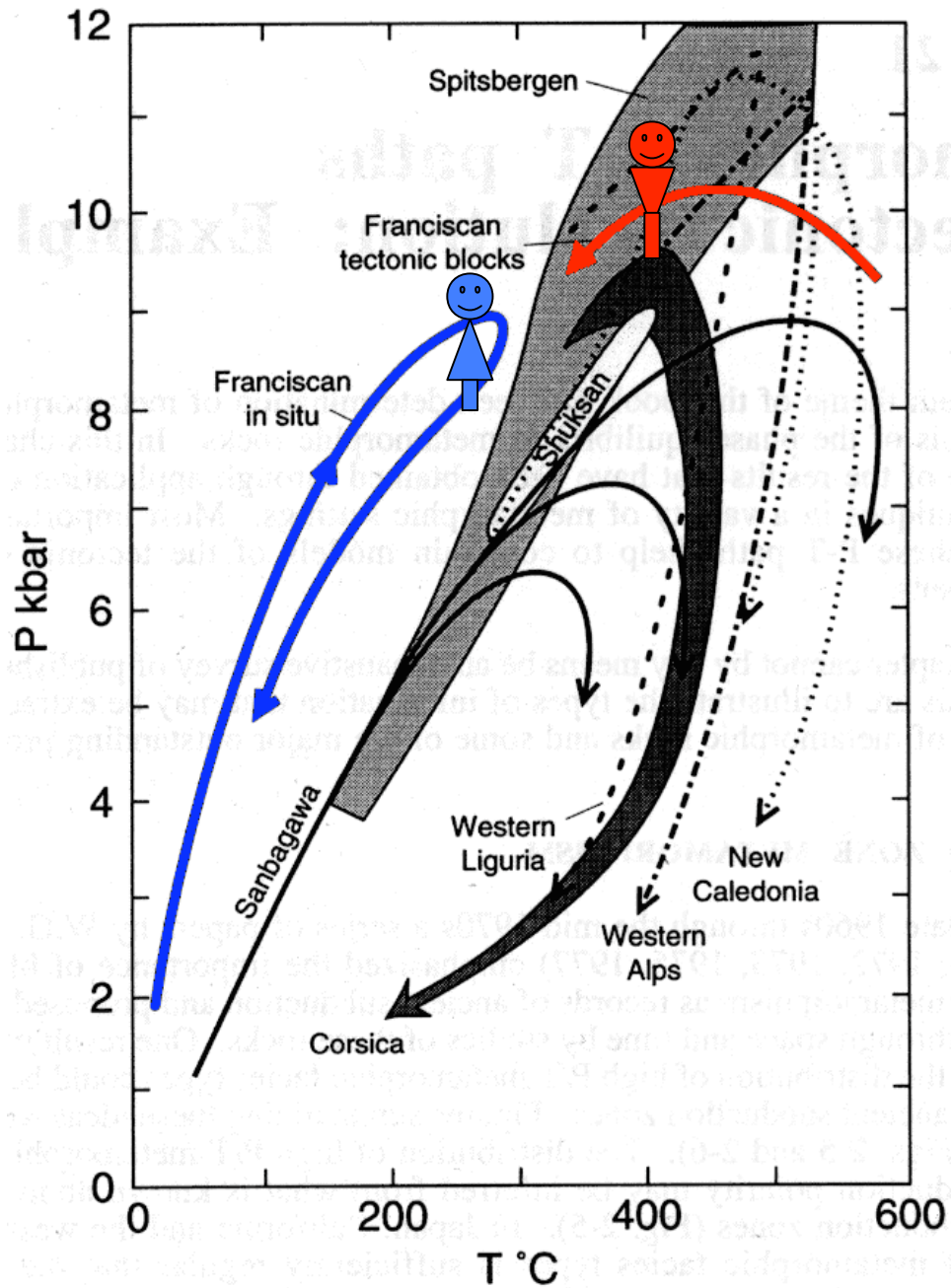
Fig. 5. Temperature regime for a spreading velocity of 1 cm/yr with conductive heat transfer only.

INTRODUCTION

The sea-floor spreading and the new global tectonic hypotheses imply the downwarping and descent of the lithosphere under island-arc regions [Isacks *et al.*, 1968]. Downwarping of the crust and upper-mantle layer into the mantle has thermal and mechanical implications and would affect observable surface-heat flux and gravity as well as seismic velocities and travel times. **The question is** just how sensitive are these observed variables to variations in the parameters that define the regime of a sinking crustal block. If these variables are sensitive to parameter variations, then they may be used to evaluate certain aspects of the sea-floor spreading and new global tectonic hypotheses.

Petrological processes in a subduction zone

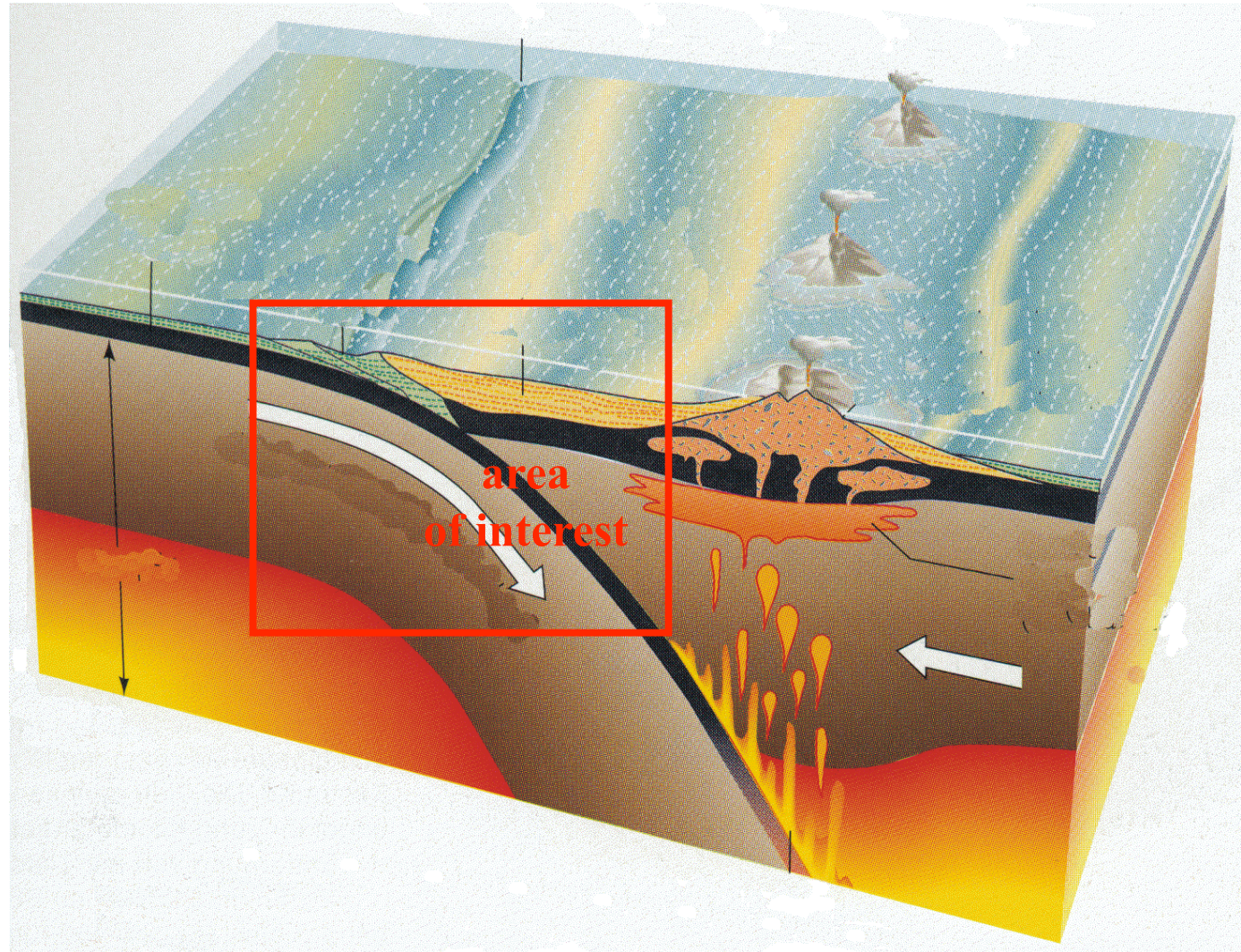




P-T paths from subduction complexes
(Ernst, 1988)

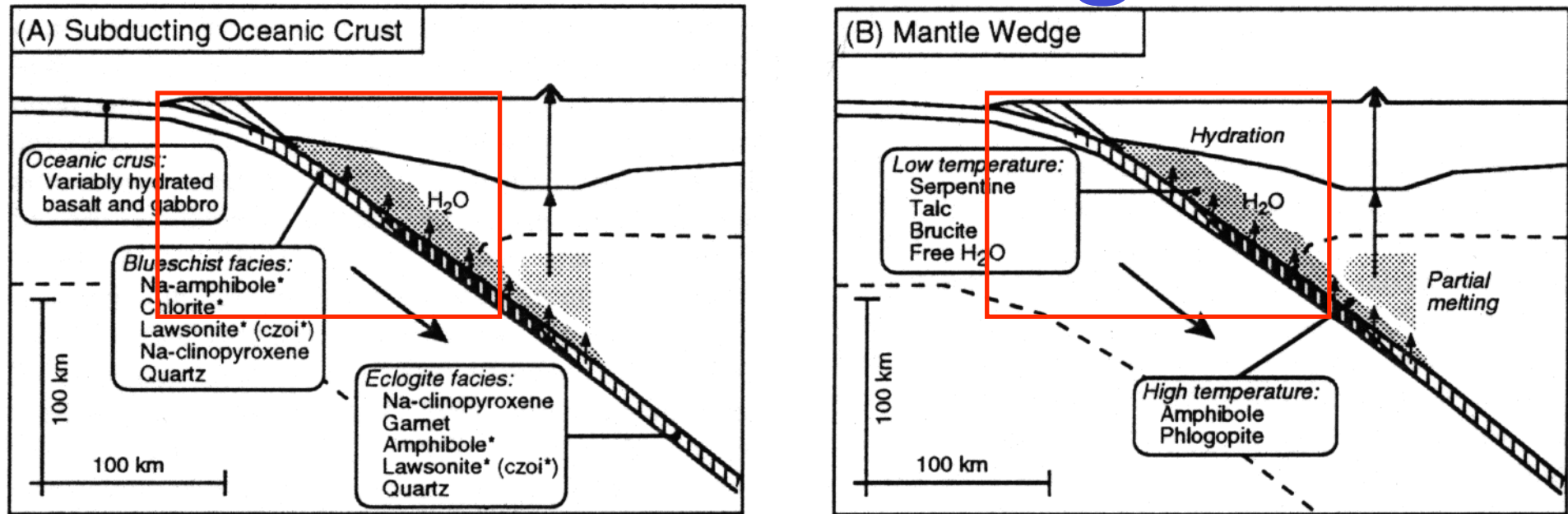
**What causes
contrasting
P-T paths
of HP rocks
in the same
subduction
complex?**

Contrasting P-T paths: result of continuous subduction?



Subduction under an oceanic arc

Hydration of mantle wedge



Peacock (1996)

Petrologic model of a mature subduction zone.

(A)

Mineralogic changes in subducting oceanic crust. Large amounts of H_2O are released by continuous dehydration reactions that occur in subducting oceanic crust during blueschist \rightarrow eclogite facies metamorphism. Proposed mineralogy of the subducting slab is shown in boxes; hydrous minerals are marked by asterisks. (B)

(B)

Mineralogic changes in mantle wedge. Integrated over time, H_2O released from the subducting oceanic crust causes extensive hydration of the mantle wedge at shallow depths and adjacent to the subducting slab. Possible hydrous minerals stable at different depths are shown in boxes. Water-rich fluids that infiltrate the core of the convecting mantle wedge may trigger partial melting.

Petrological/rheological model

M.W. Schmidt, S. Poli / *Earth and Planetary Science Letters* 163 (1998) 361–379

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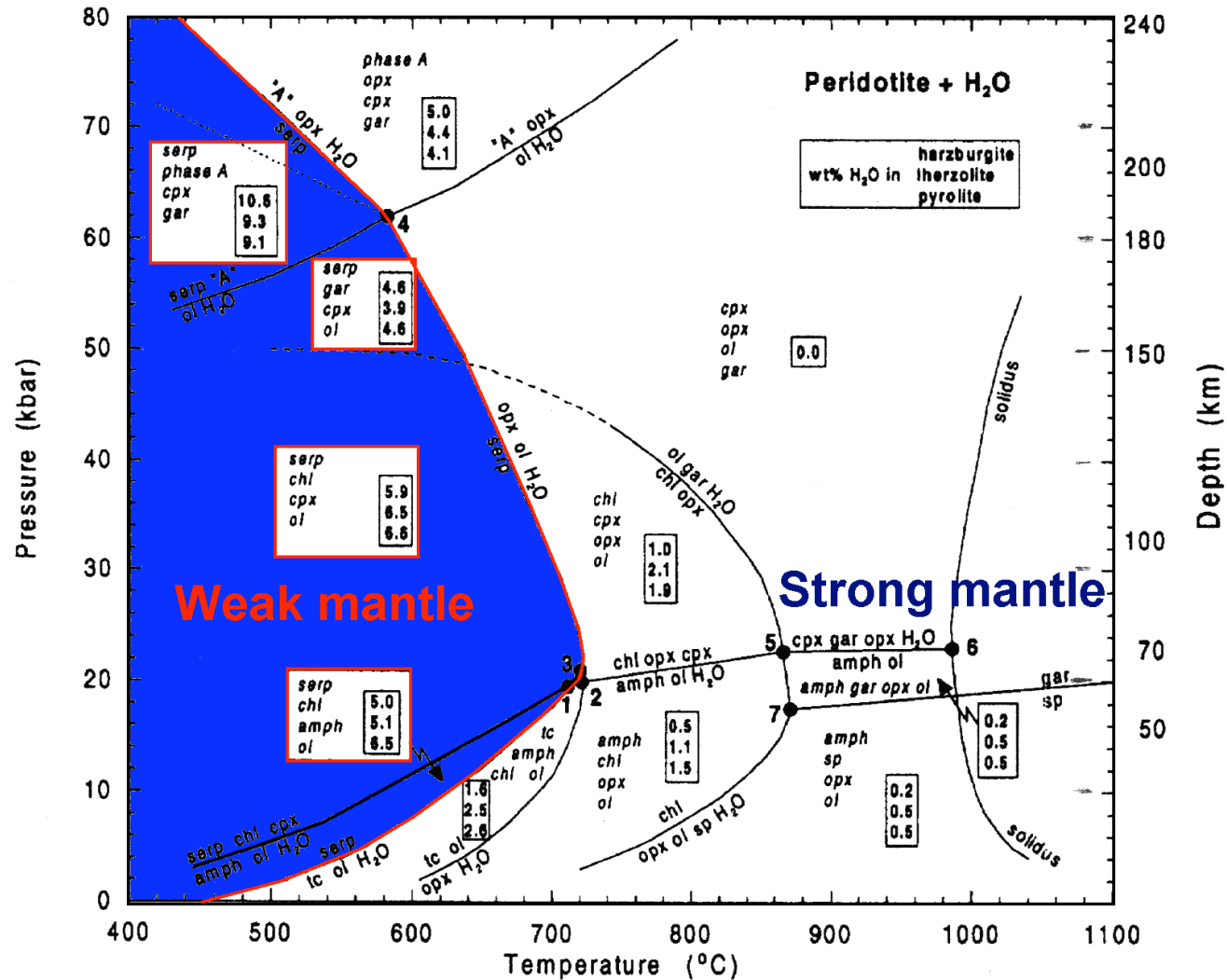
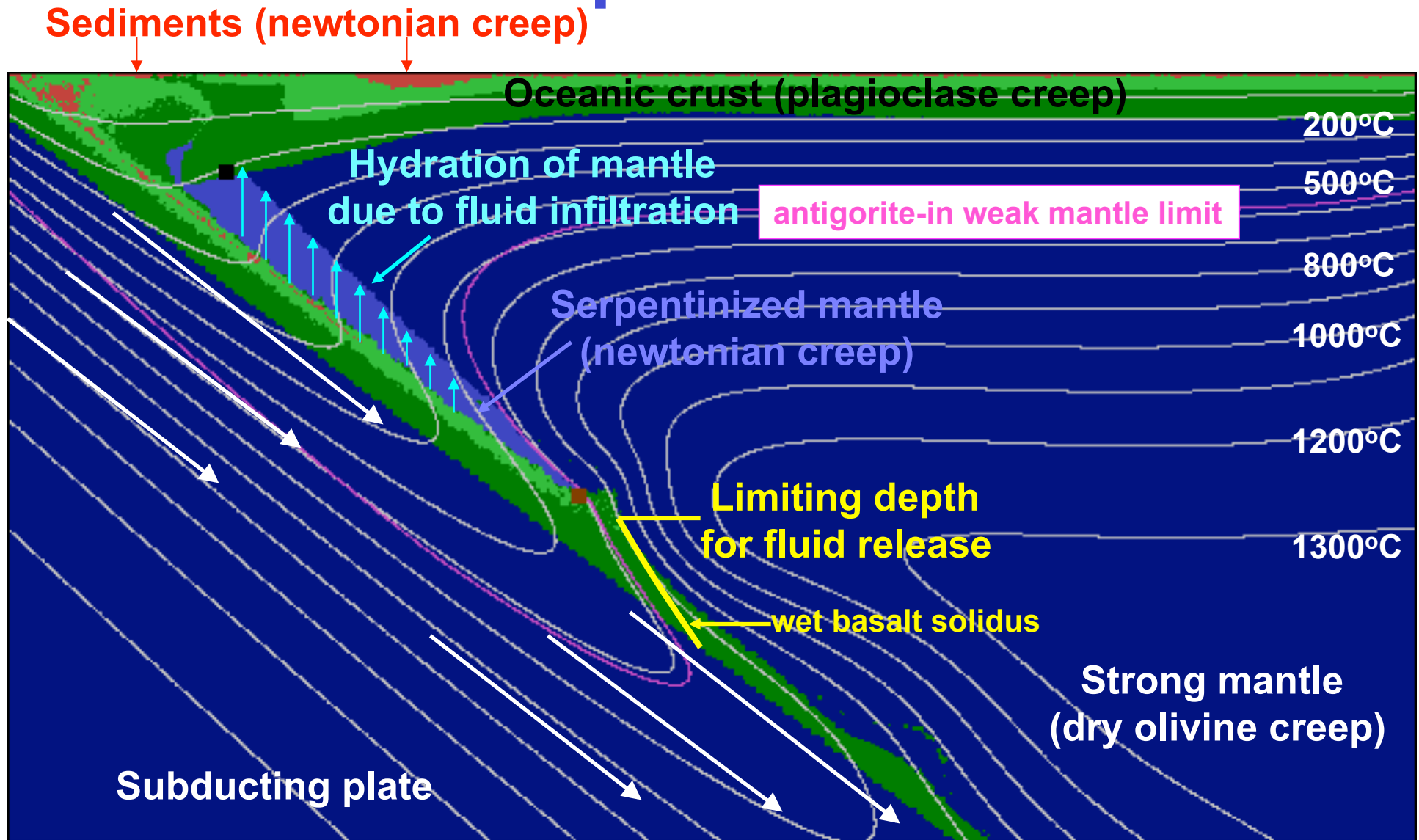


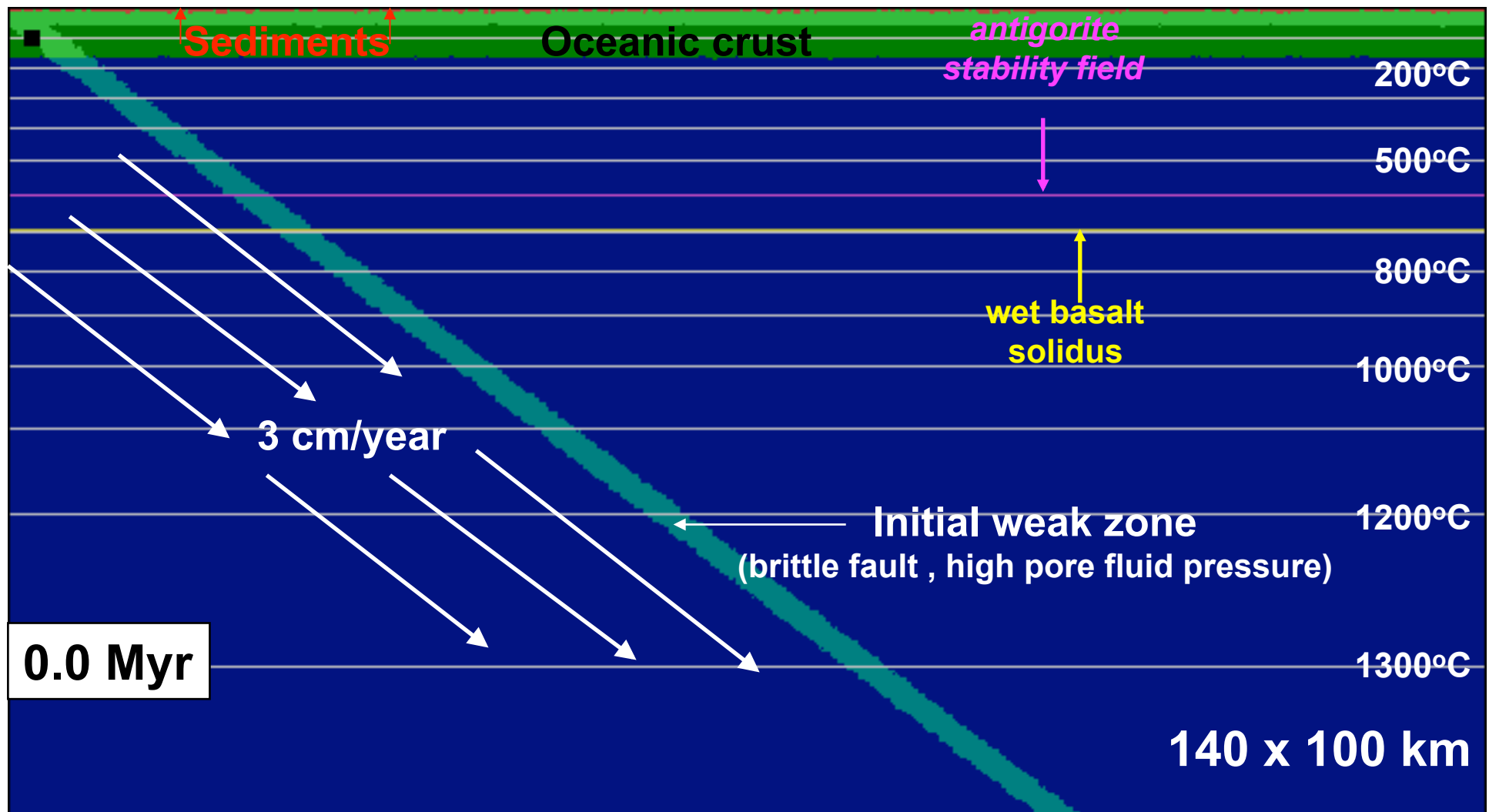
Fig. 5. Phase diagram for H₂O-saturated average mantle peridotite and maximum H₂O contents bound in hydrous phases in average peridotites. Upper value: harzburgite; middle value: lherzolite; lower value: pyrolyte. The *italic* labels are assemblages in a given stability field. 'A' = phase A, *amph* = amphibole, *chl* = chlorite, *cpx* = clinopyroxene, *gar* = garnet, *ol* = olivine, *opx* = orthopyroxene, *serp* = serpentine, *sp* = spinel, *tc* = talc.

Conceptual model



Animation

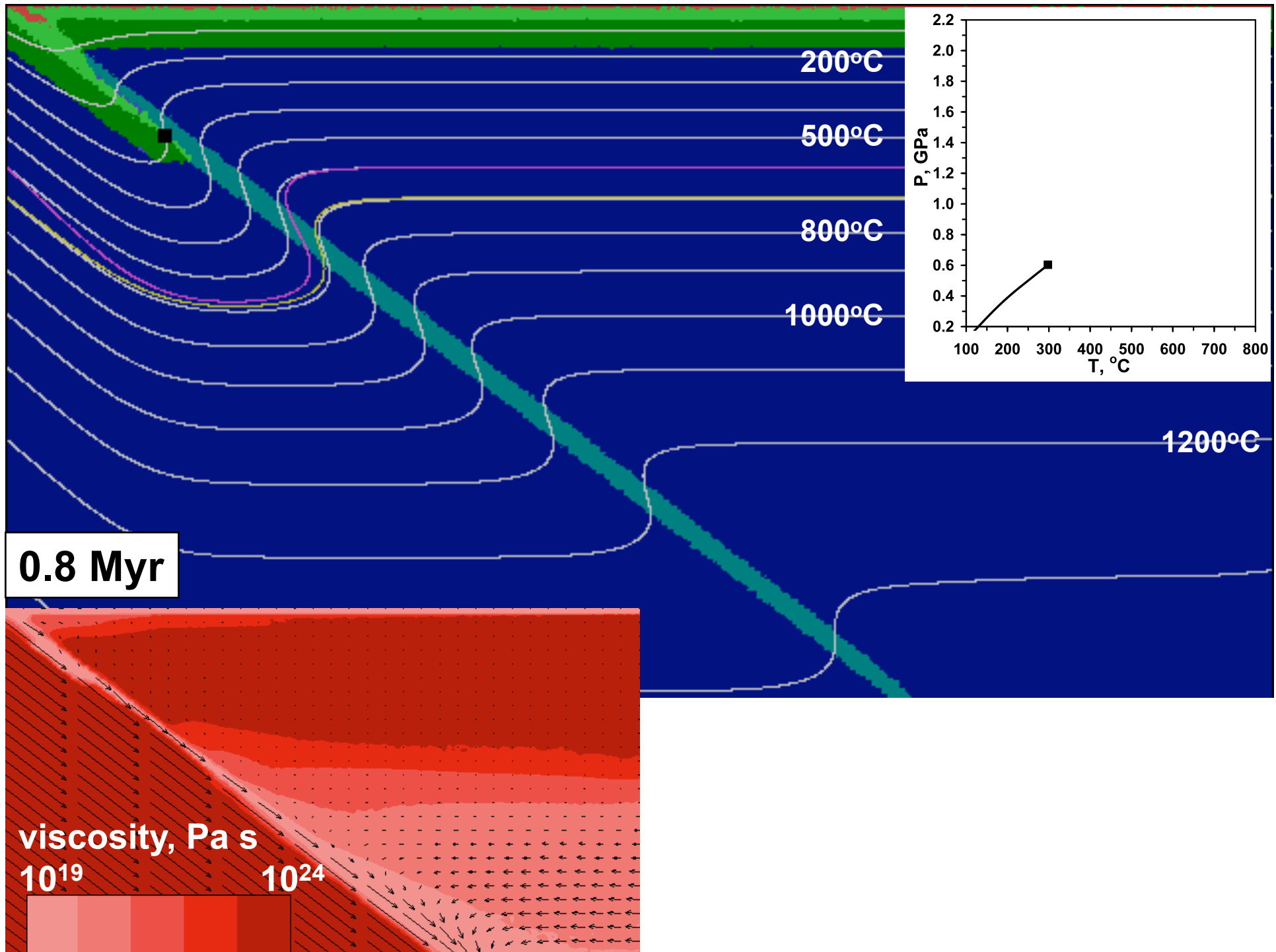
“Oceanic subduction”

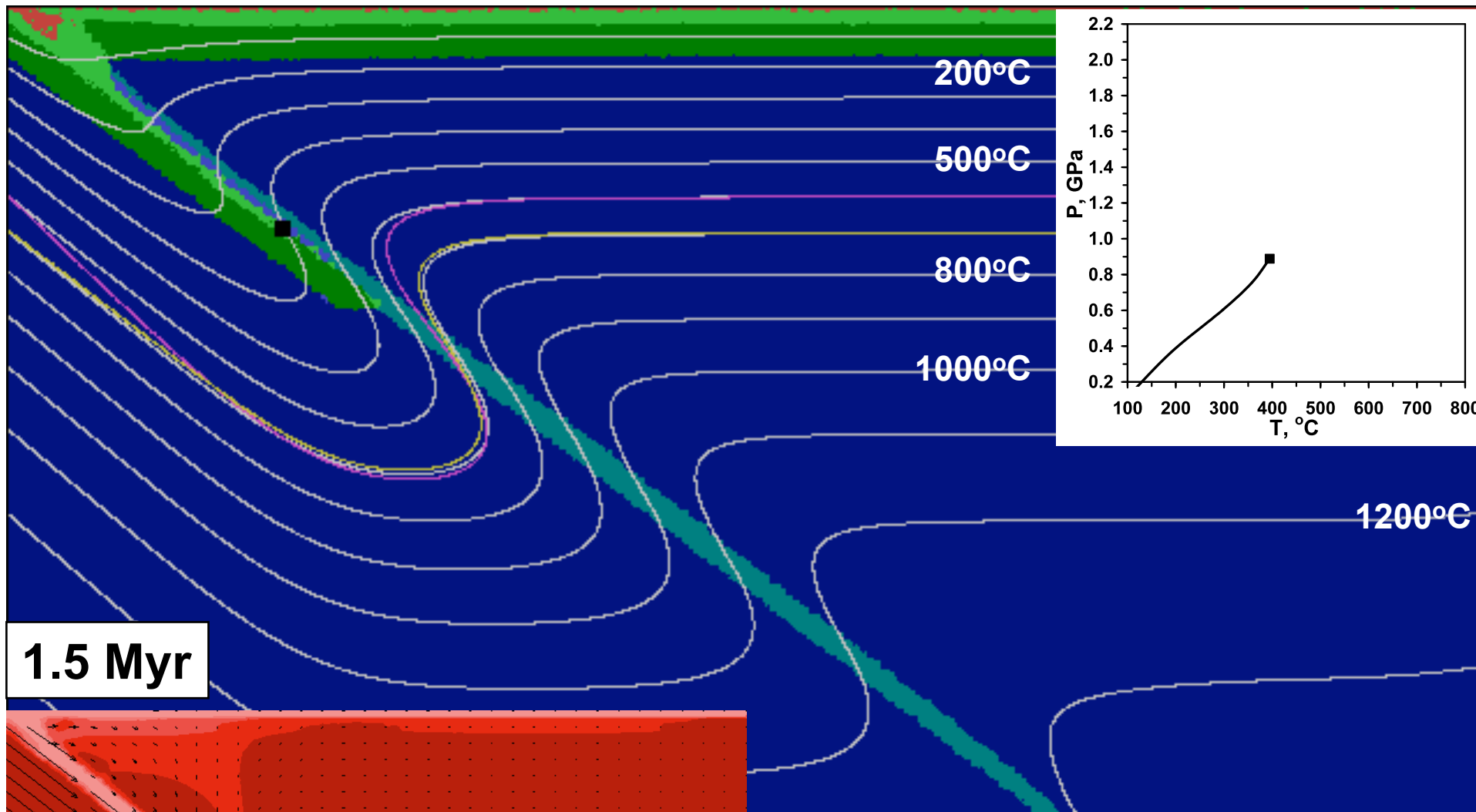


Lithosphere: 40 Myr old

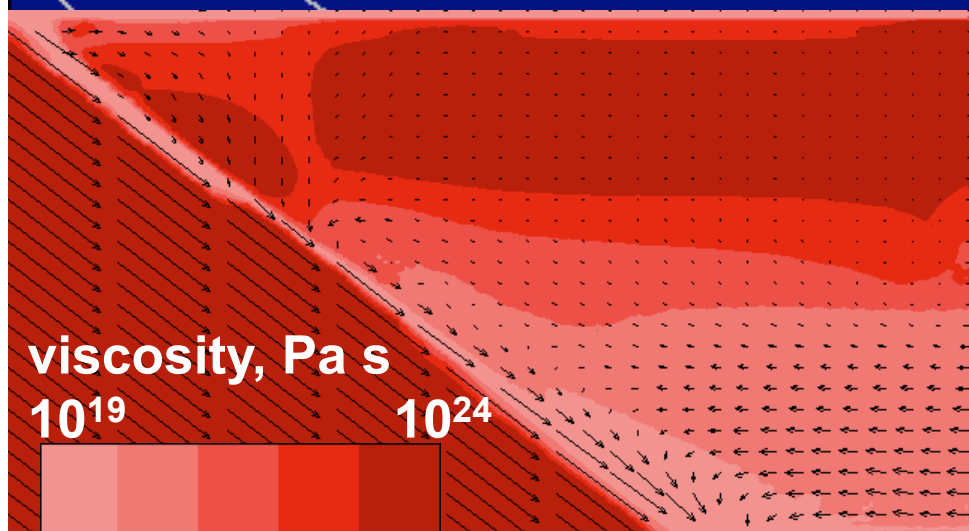
Subduction: rate 3 cm/year, angle 45°

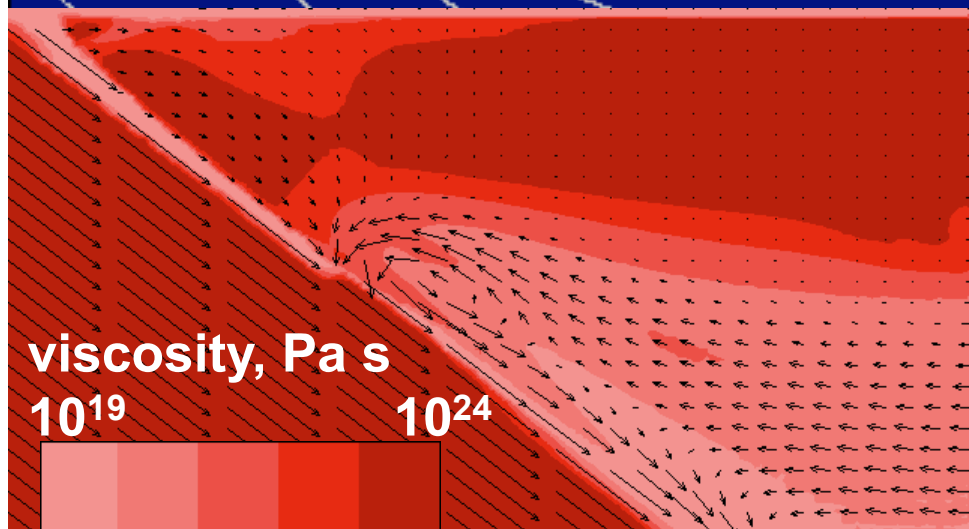
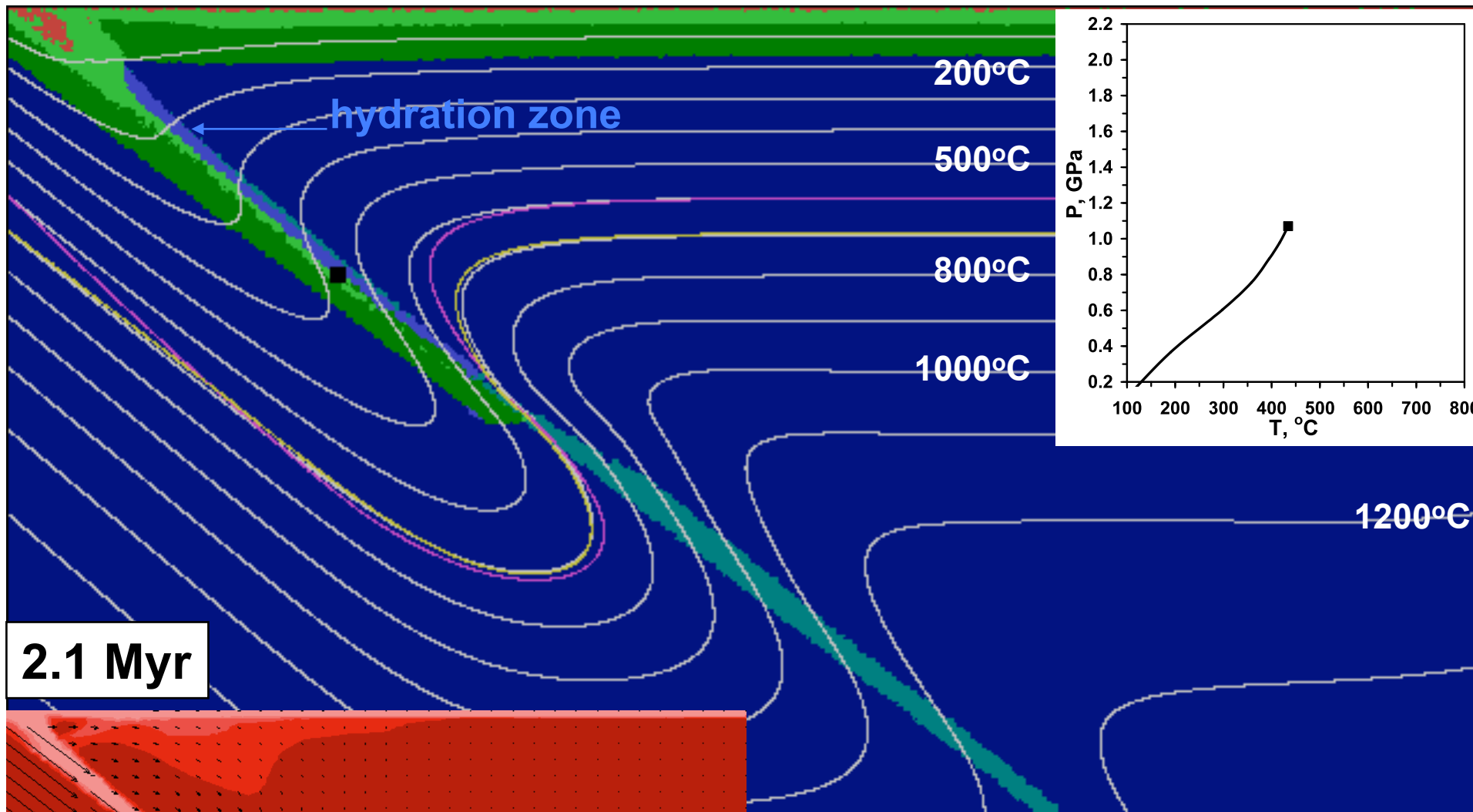
Hydration of hanging wall:
max rate 2 mm/year, max depth 90 km

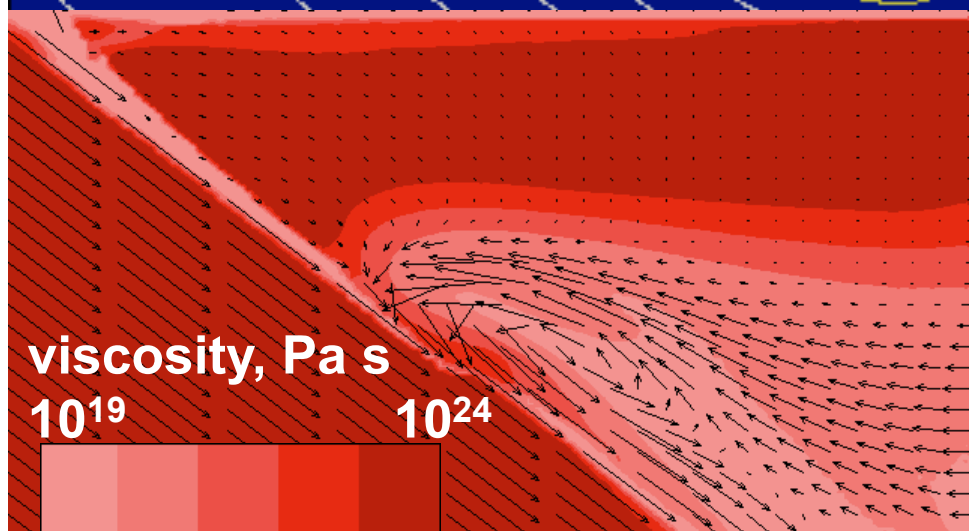
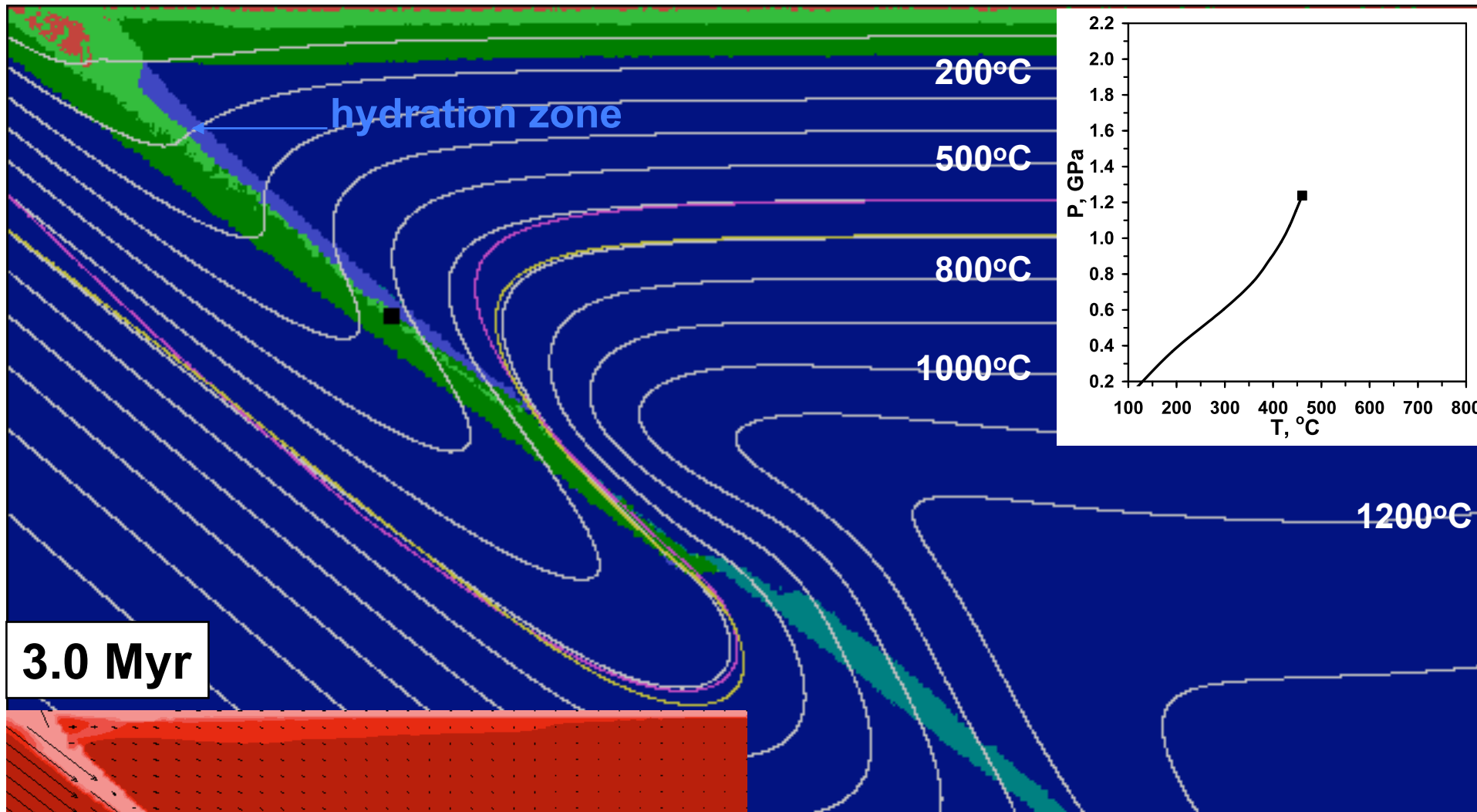


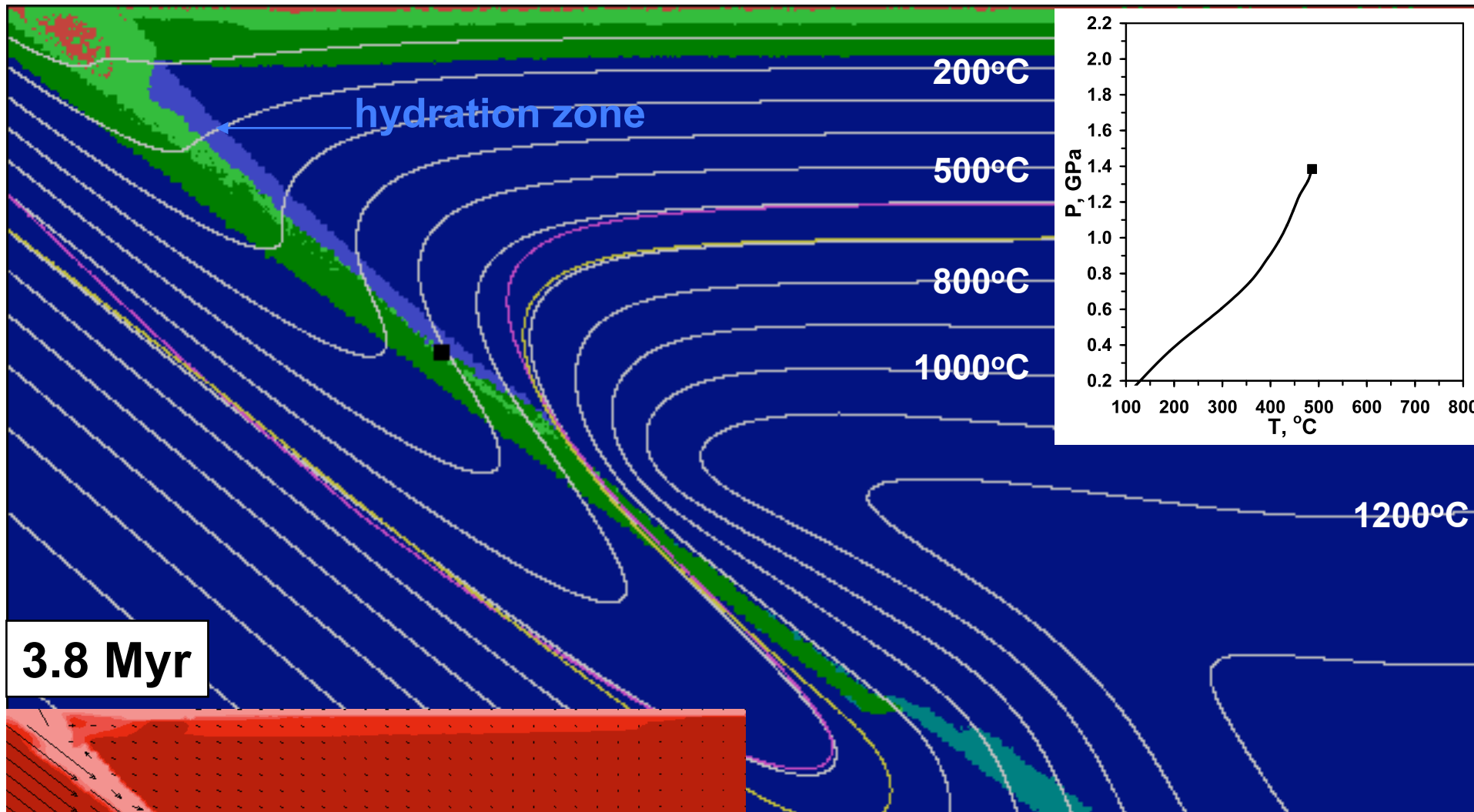


1.5 Myr

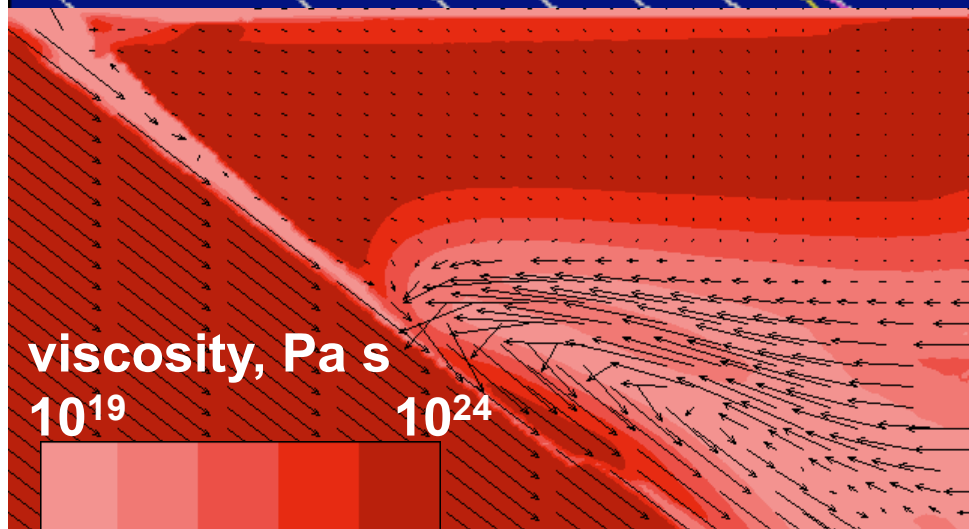


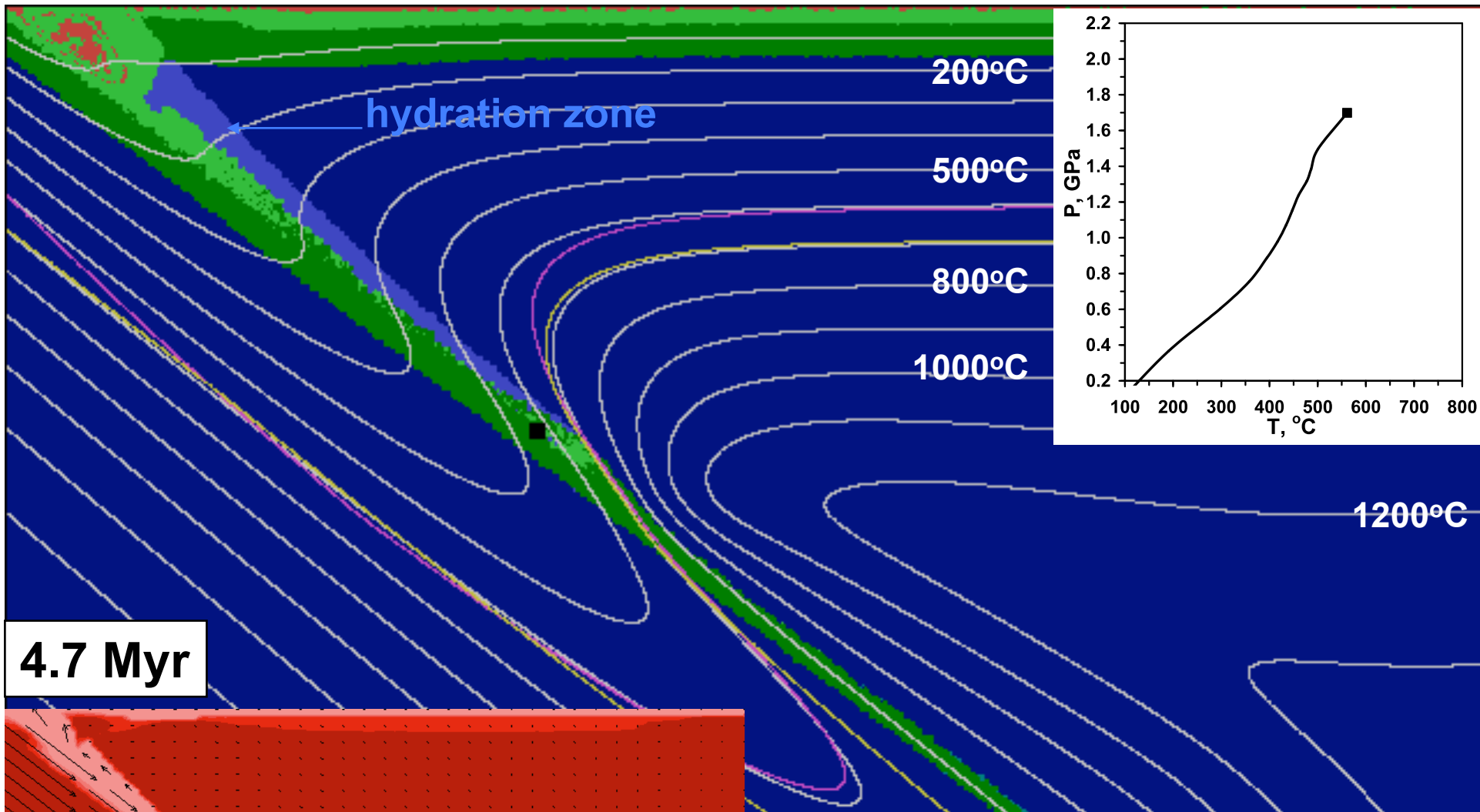




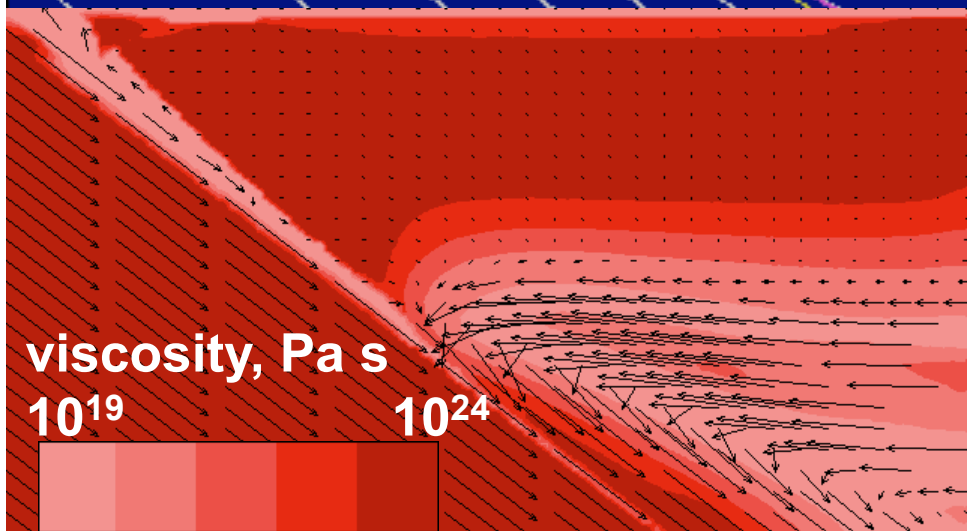


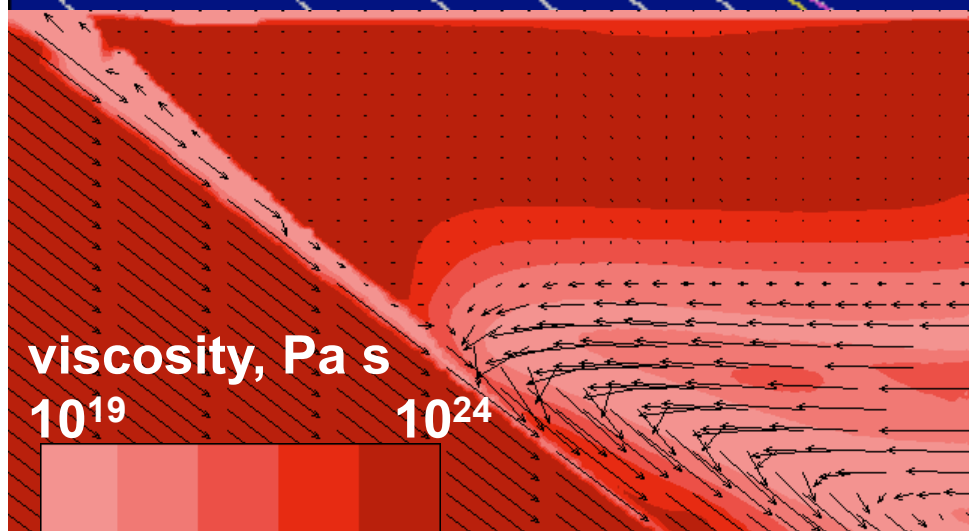
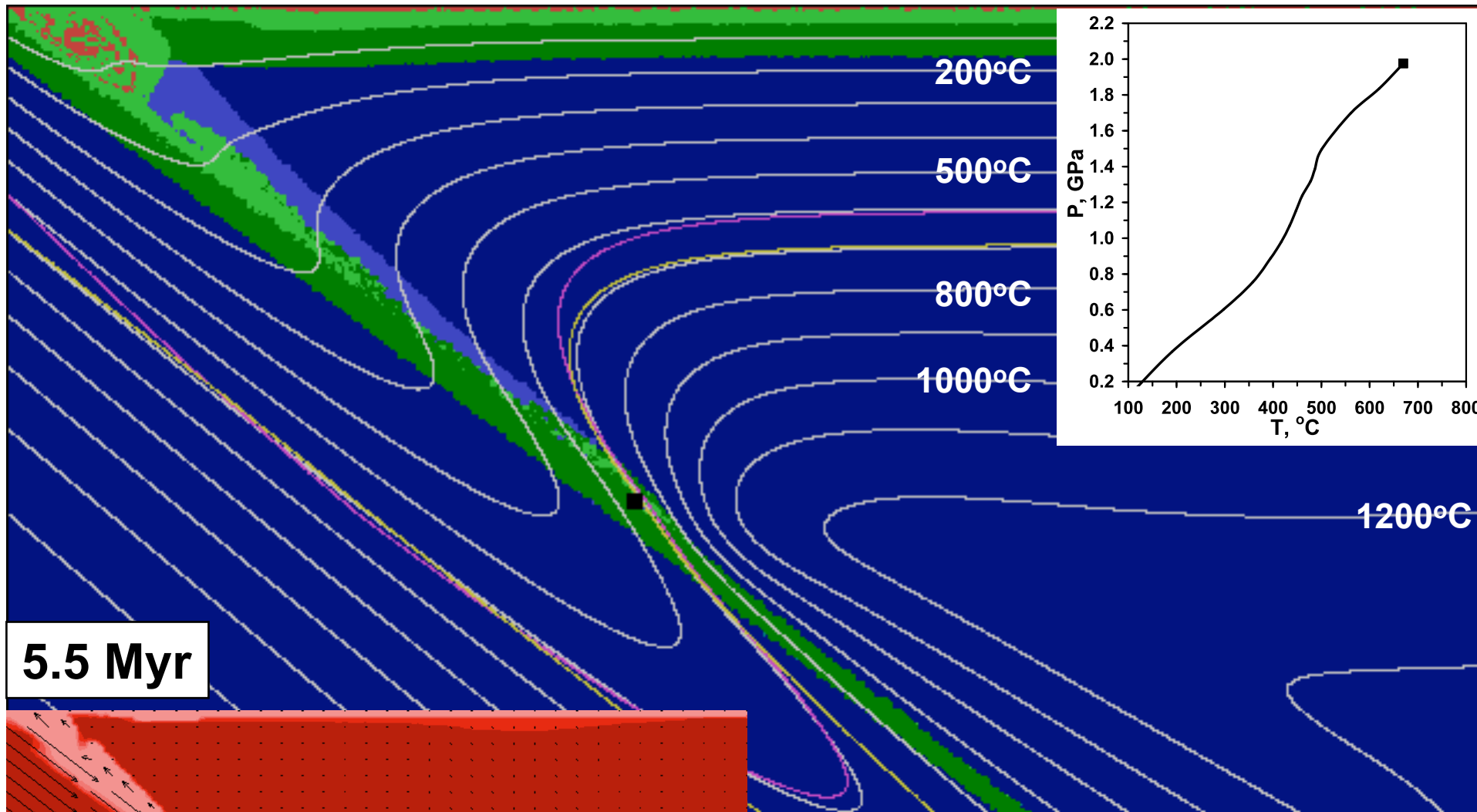
3.8 Myr

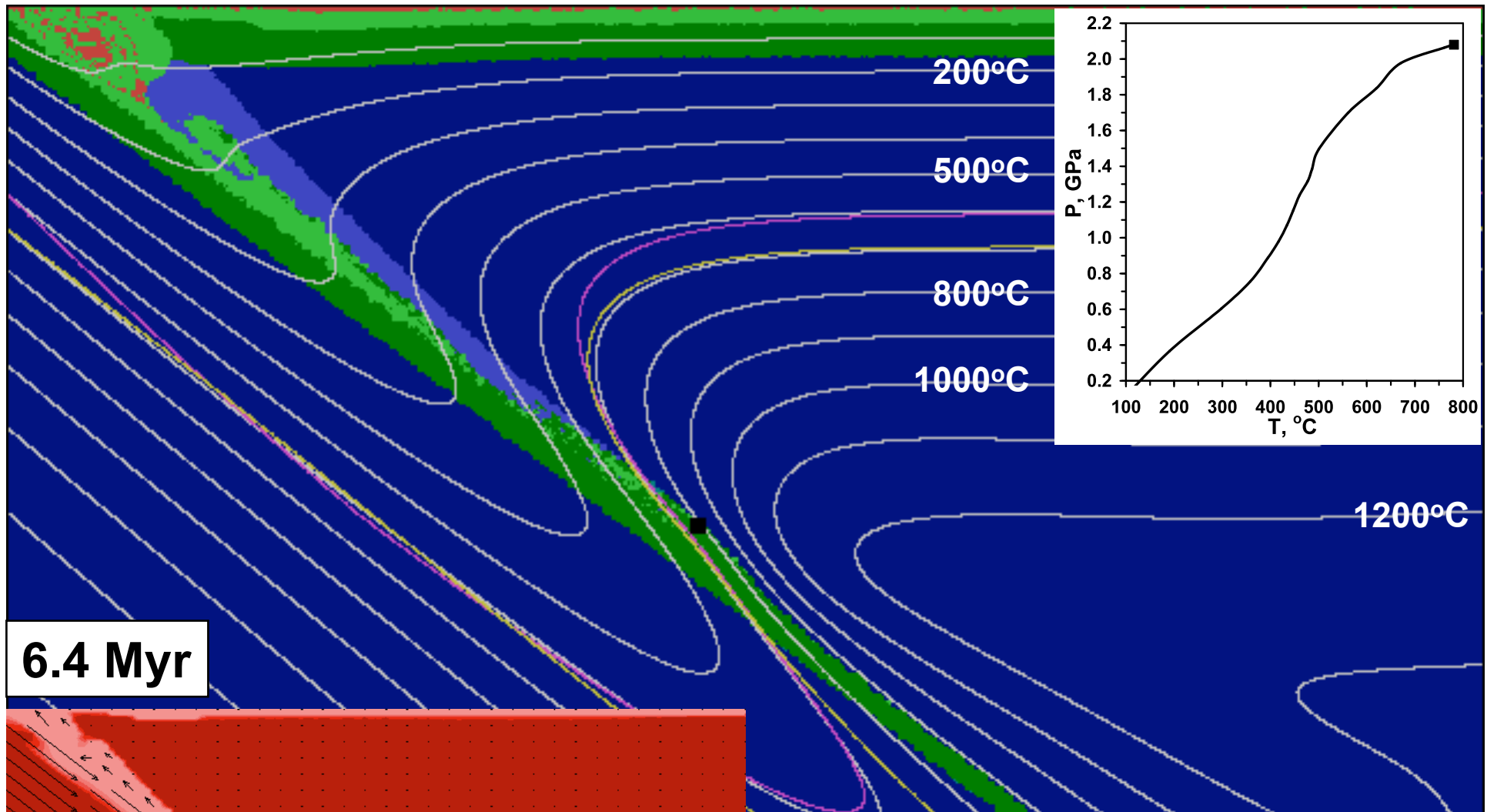




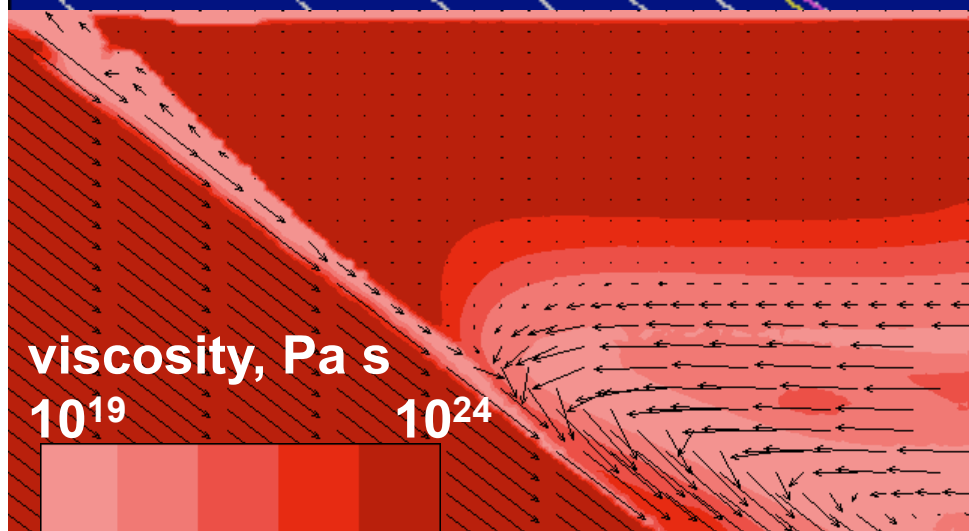
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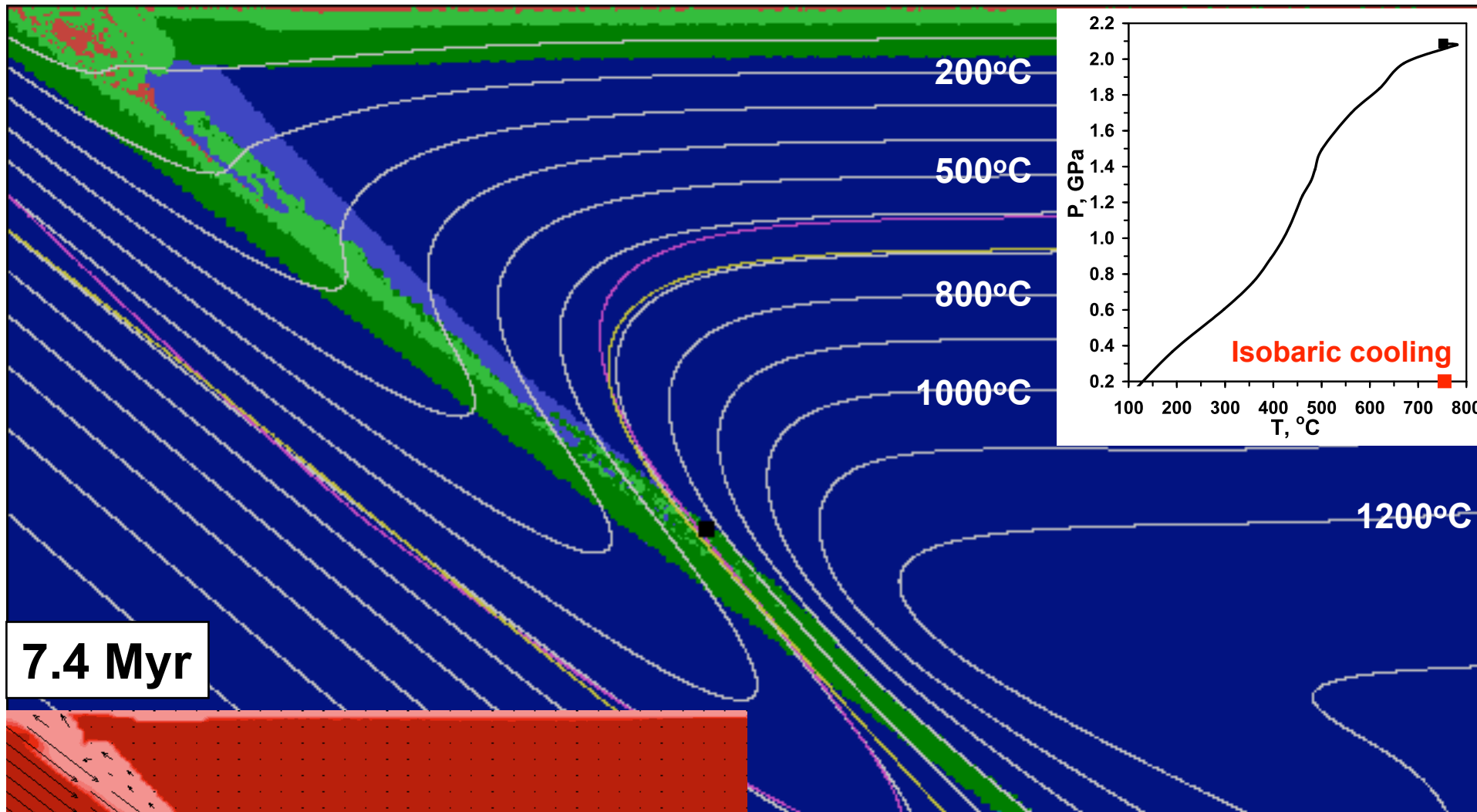




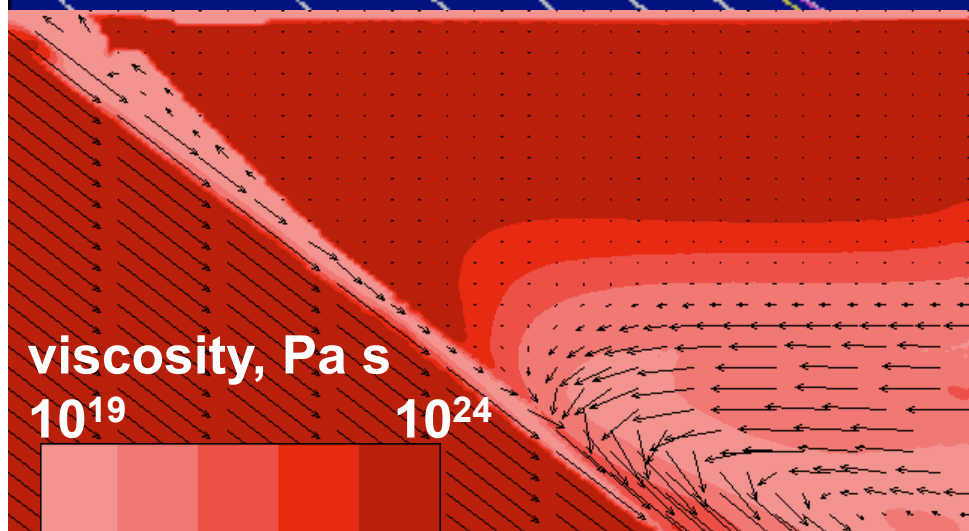


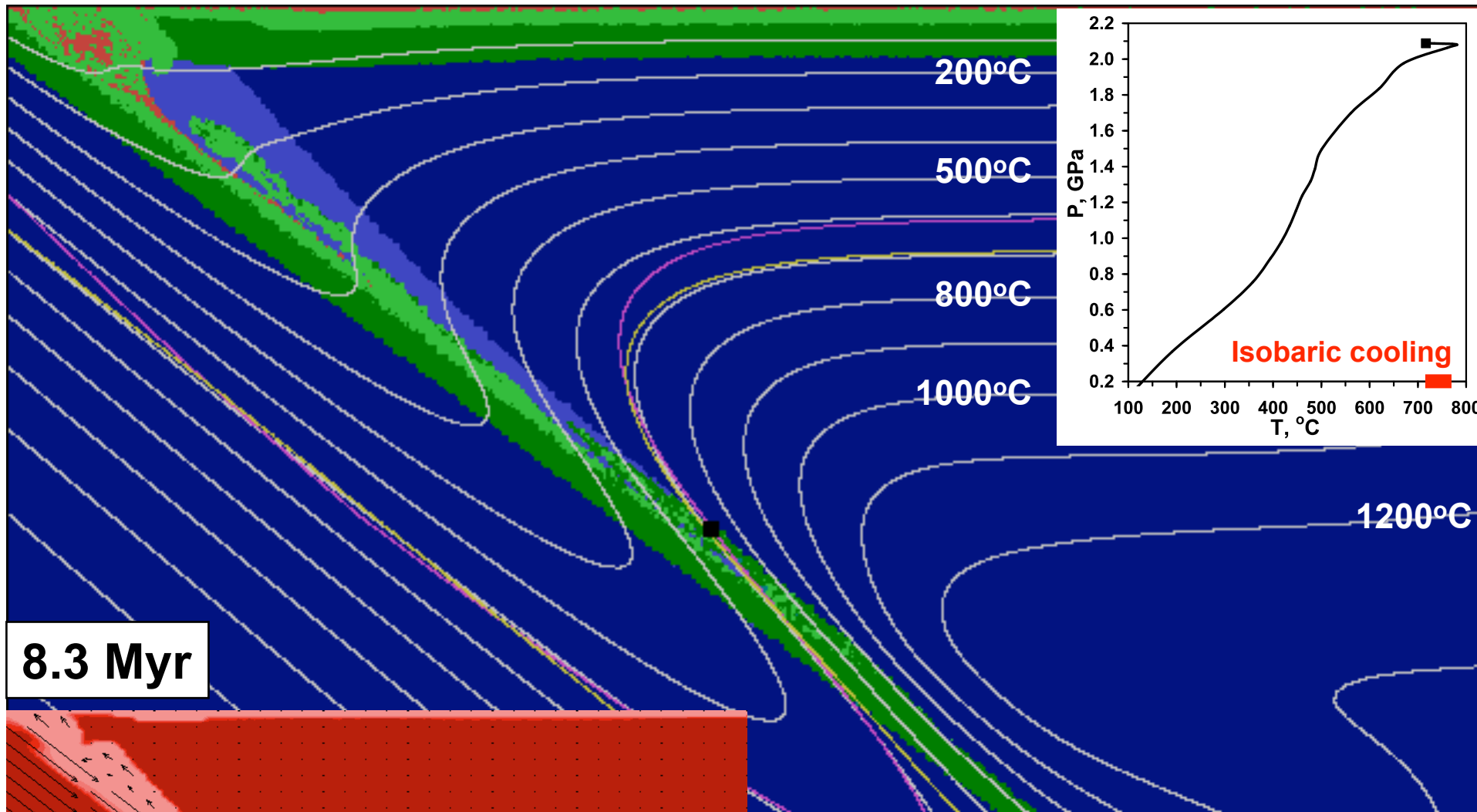
6.4 Myr



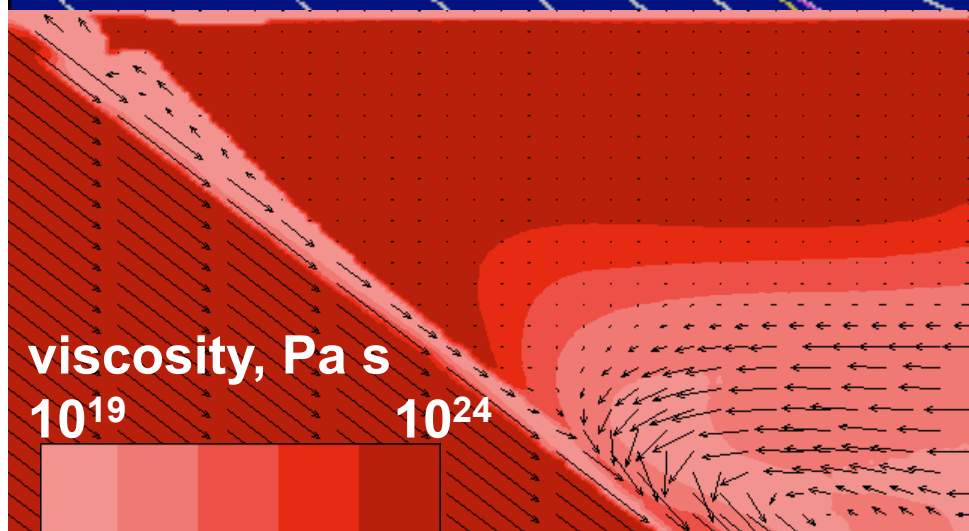


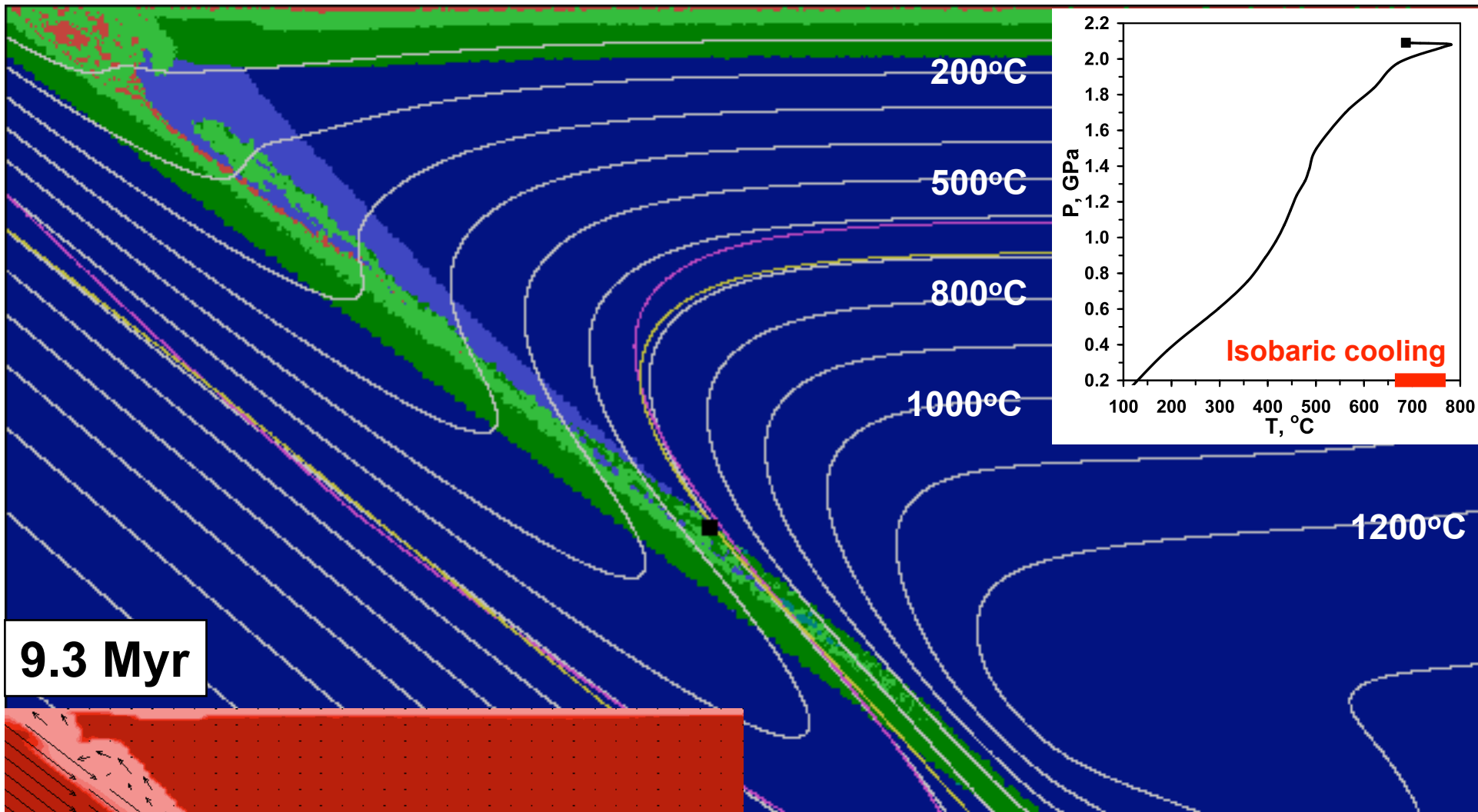
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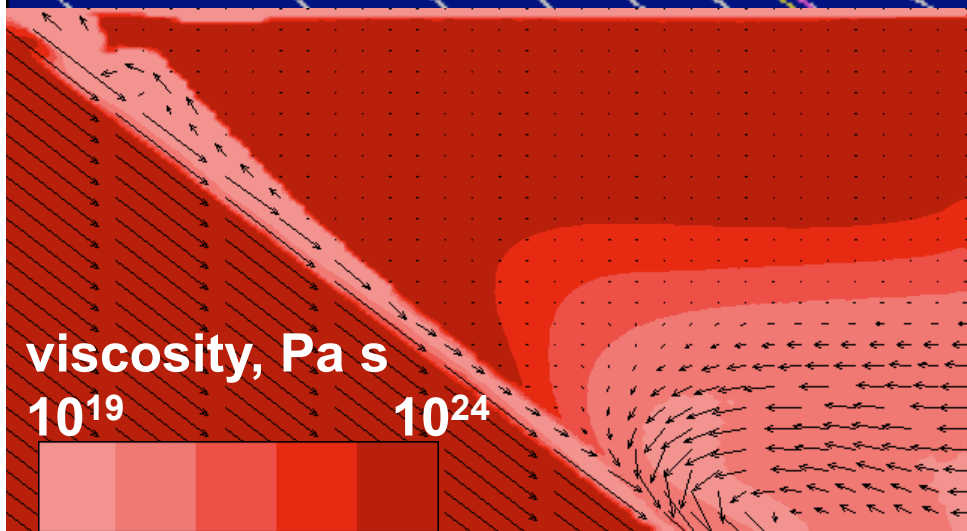


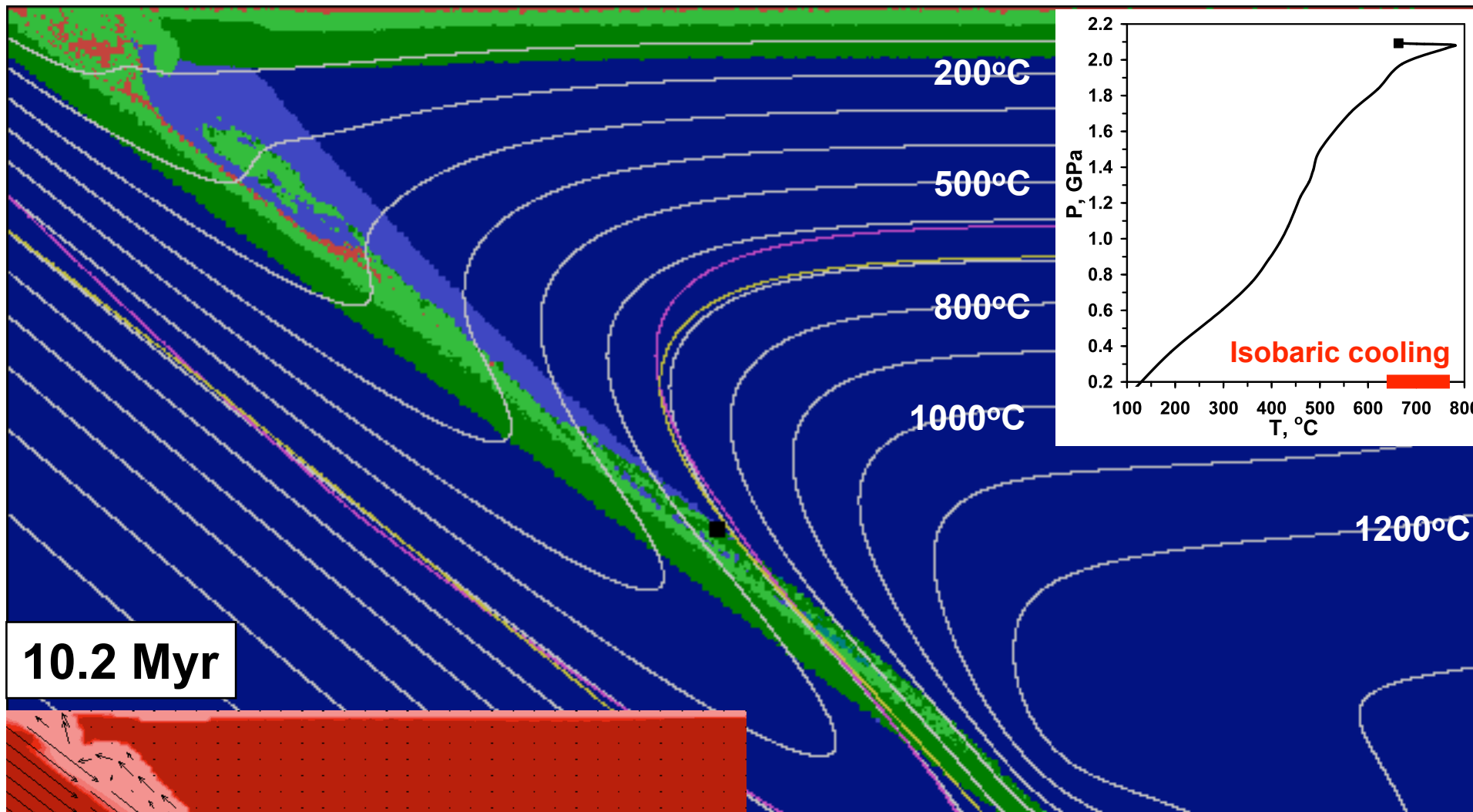
8.3 Myr



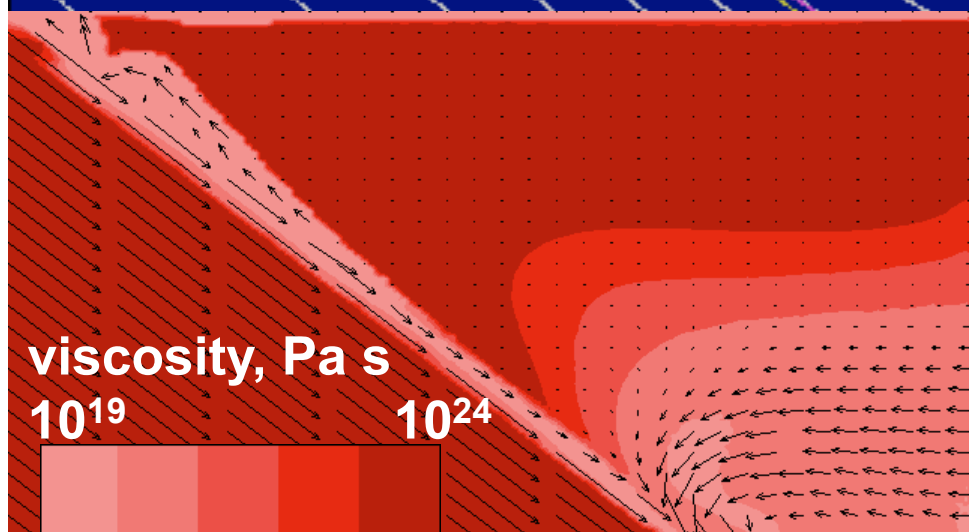


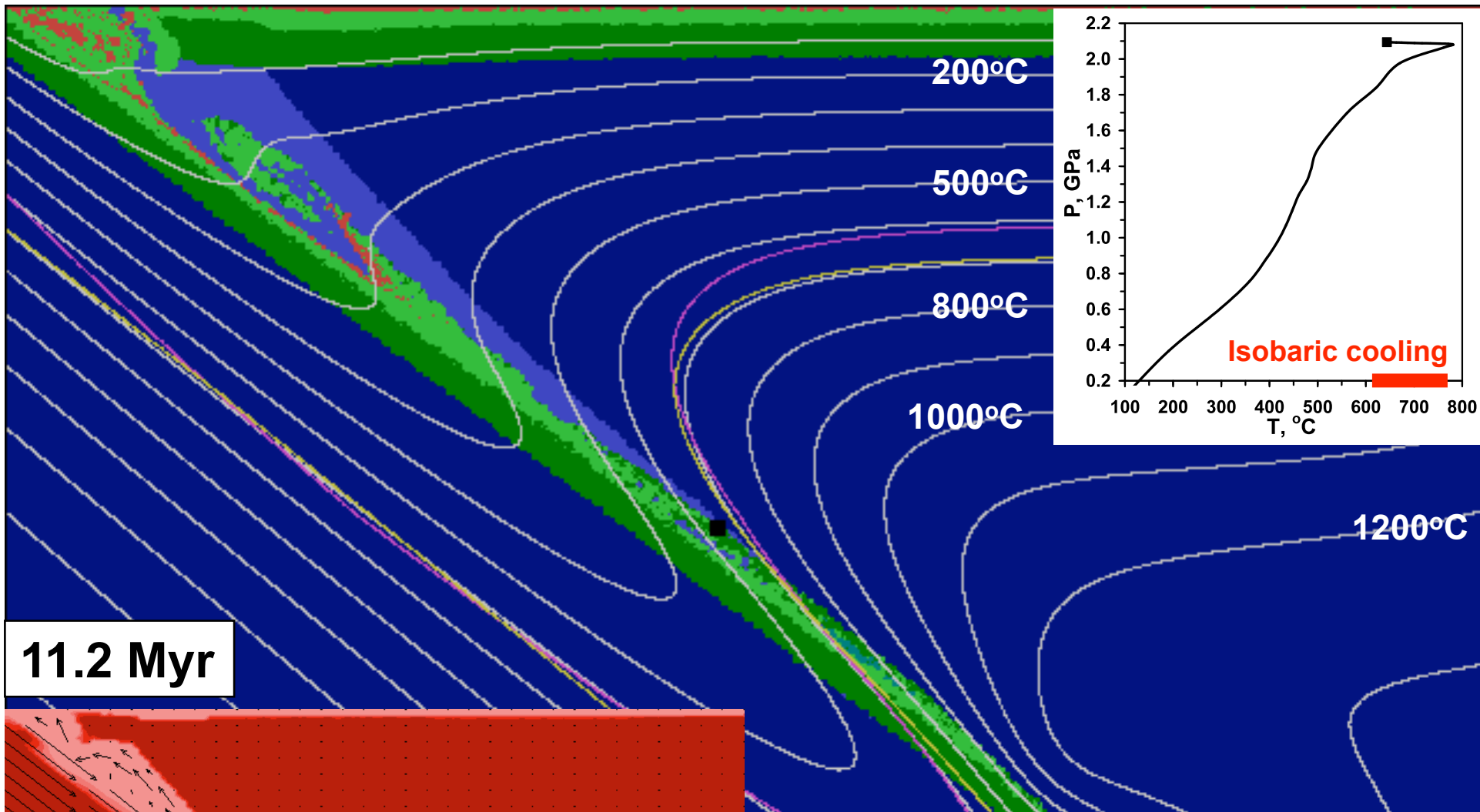
9.3 Myr



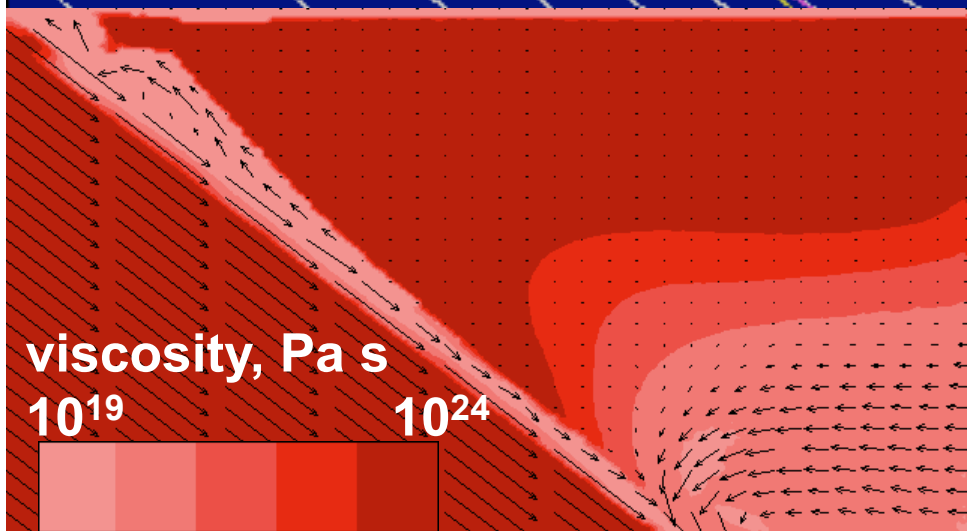


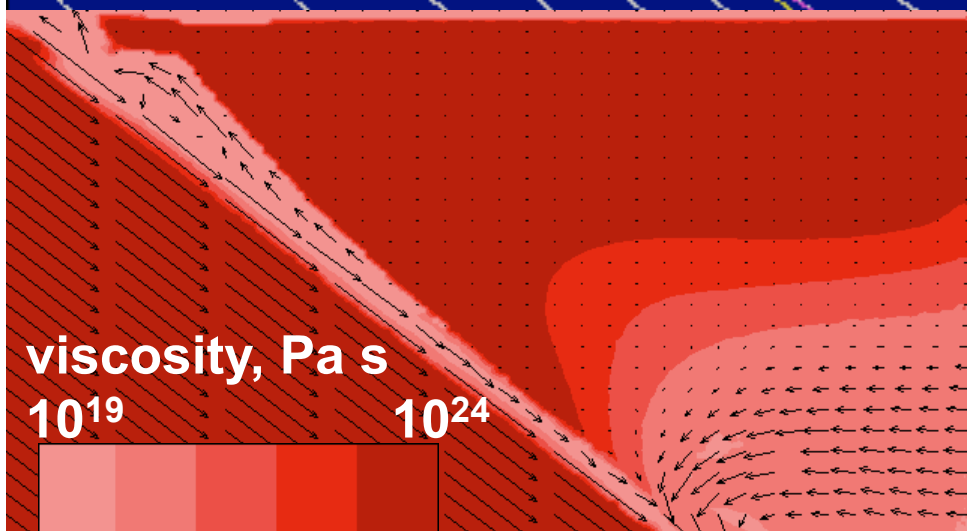
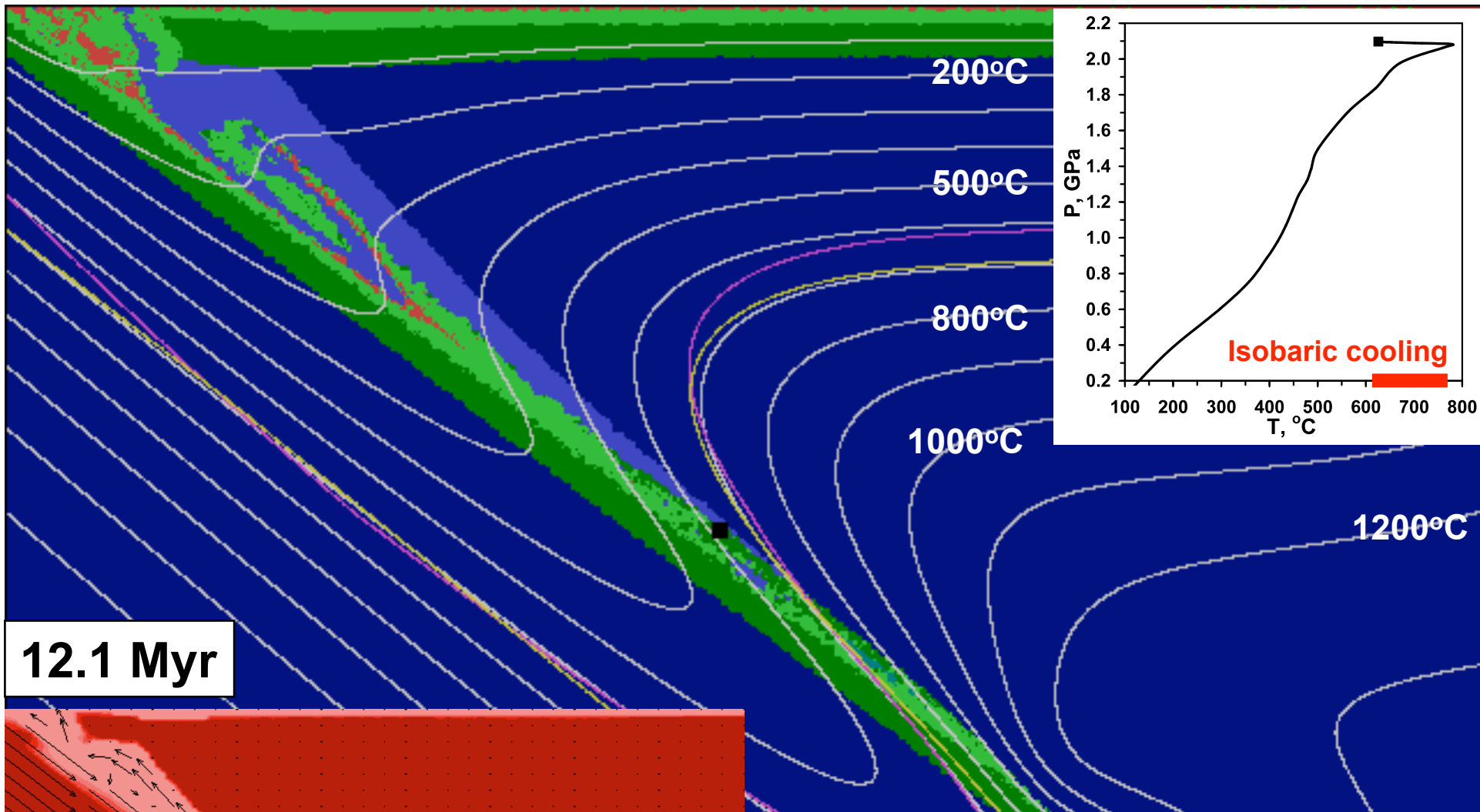
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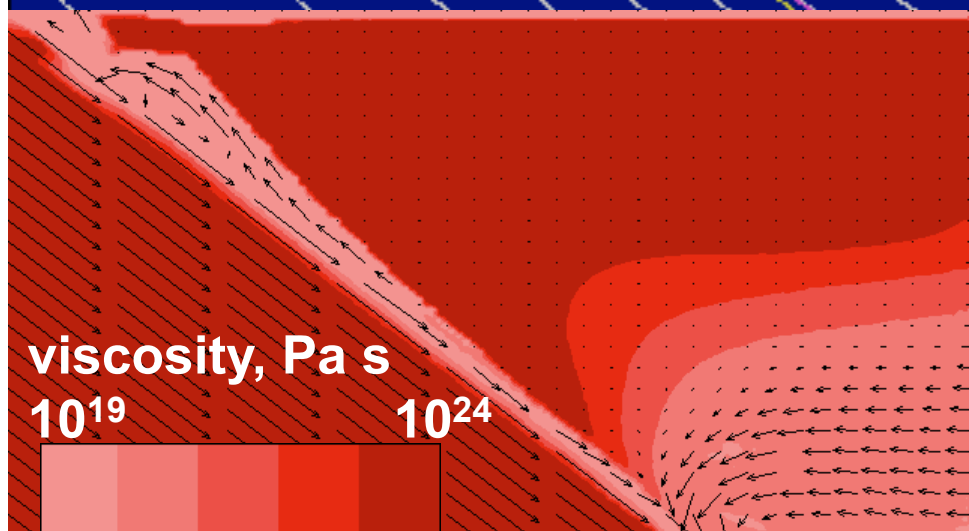
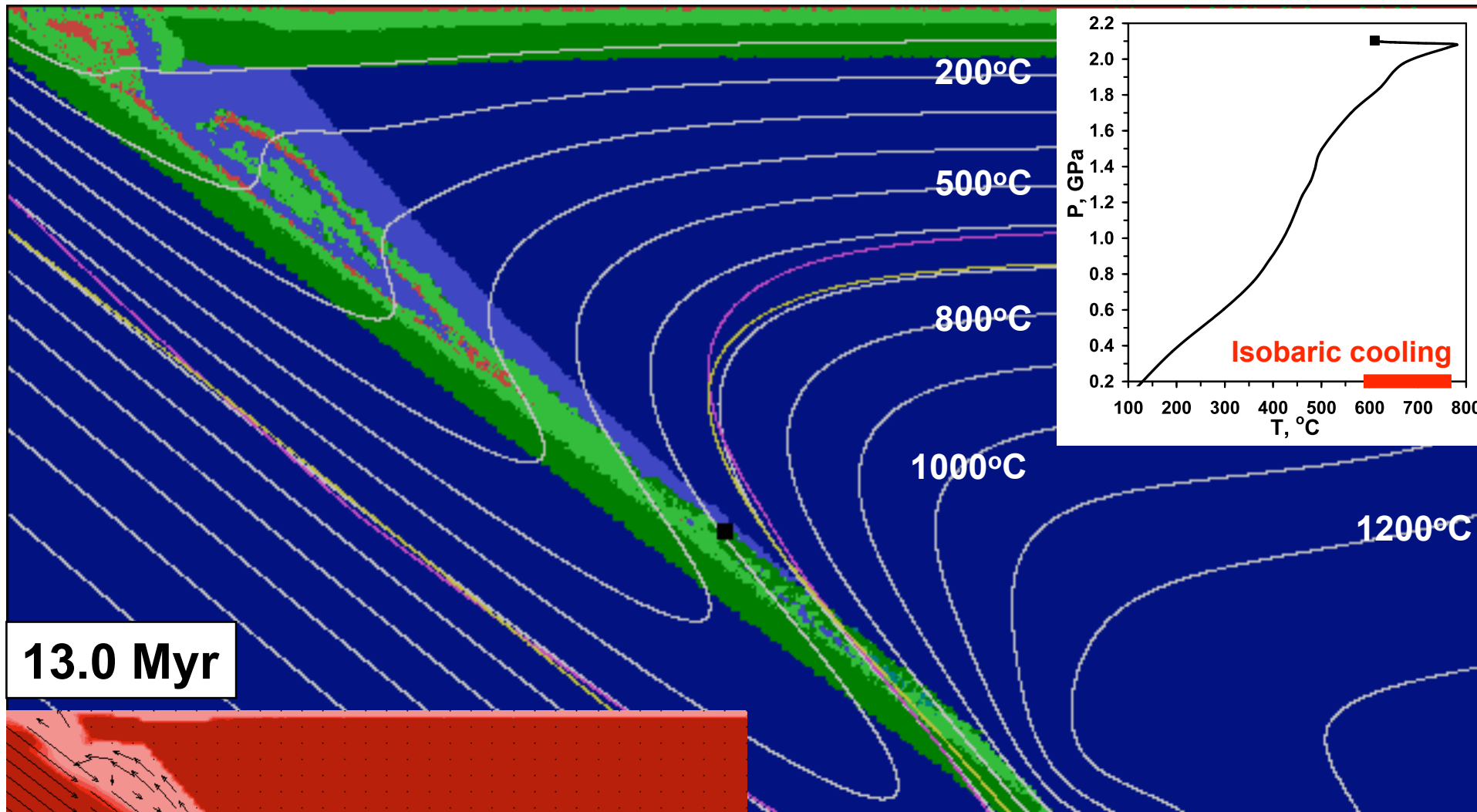


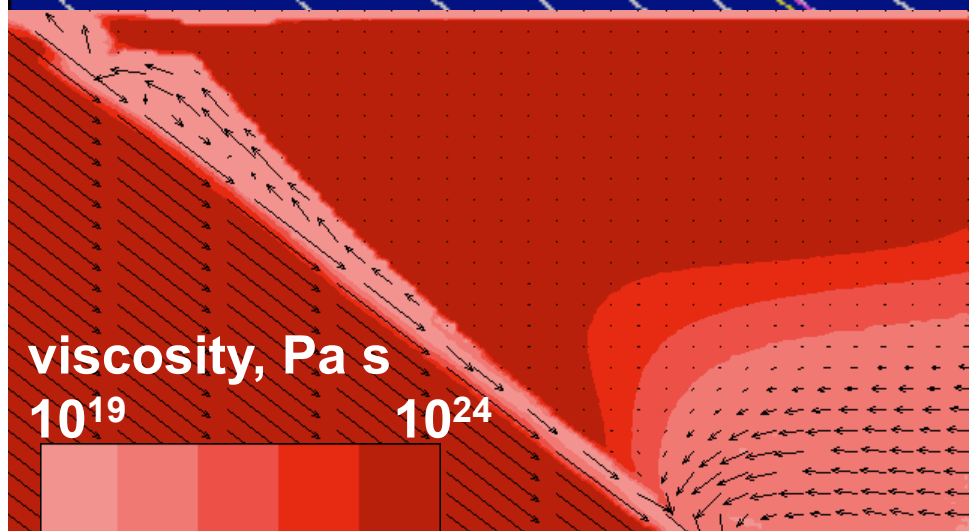
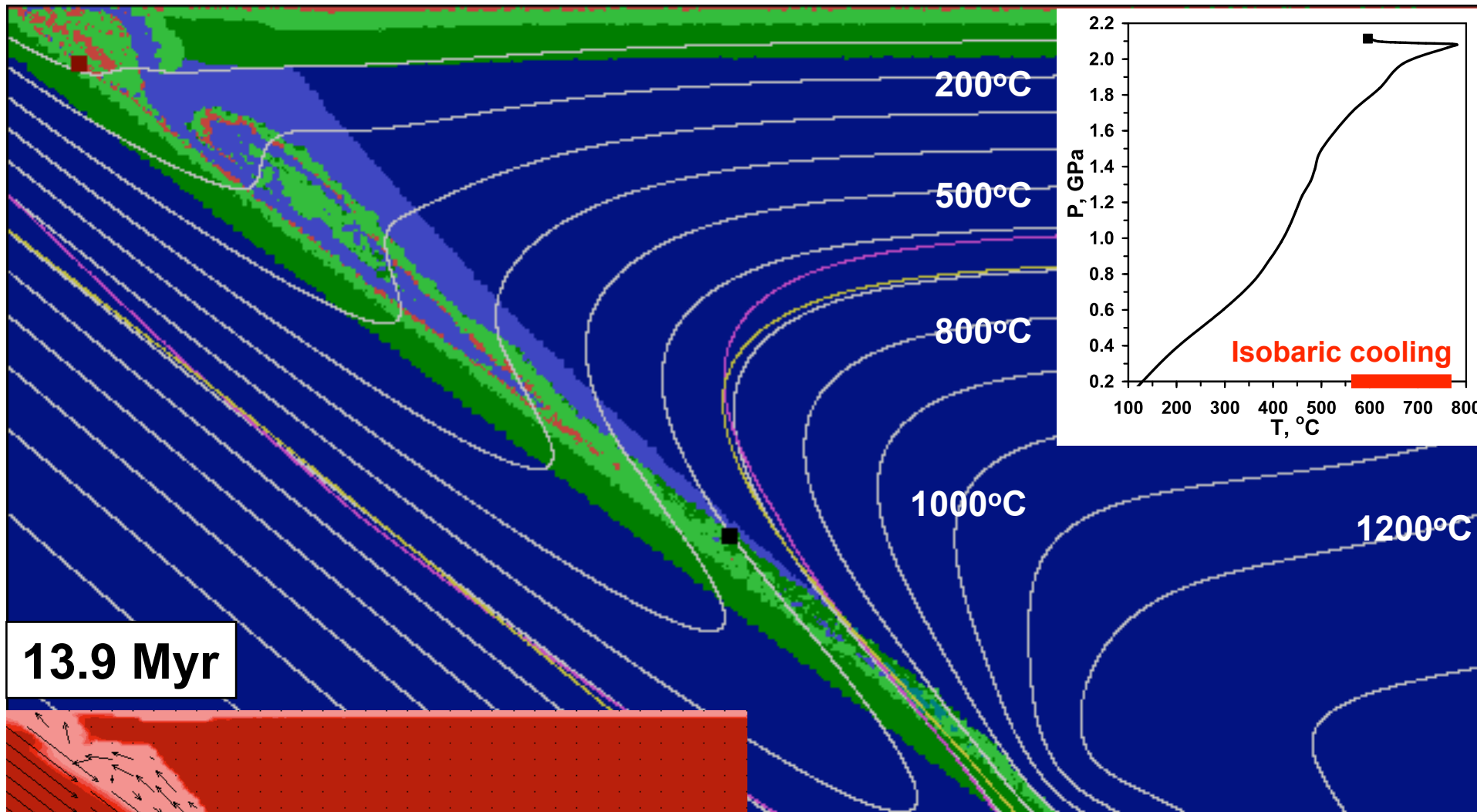


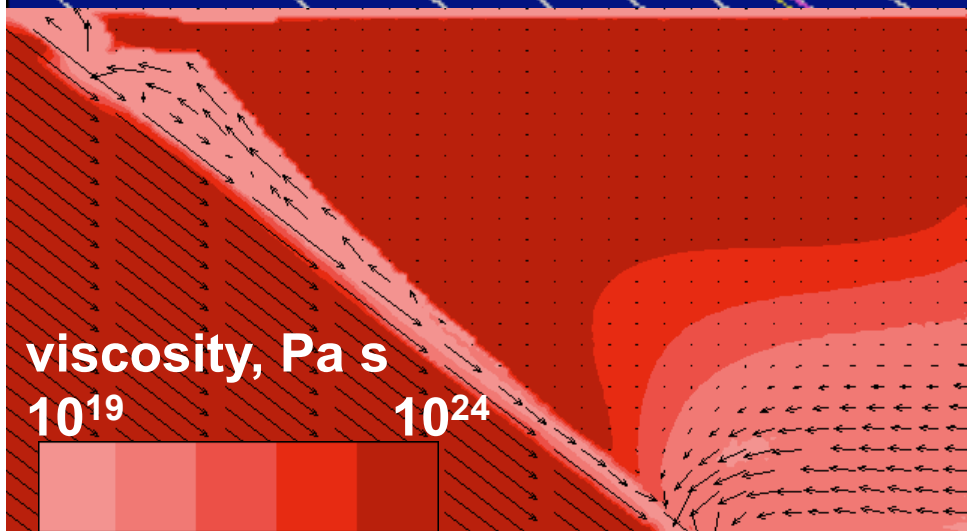
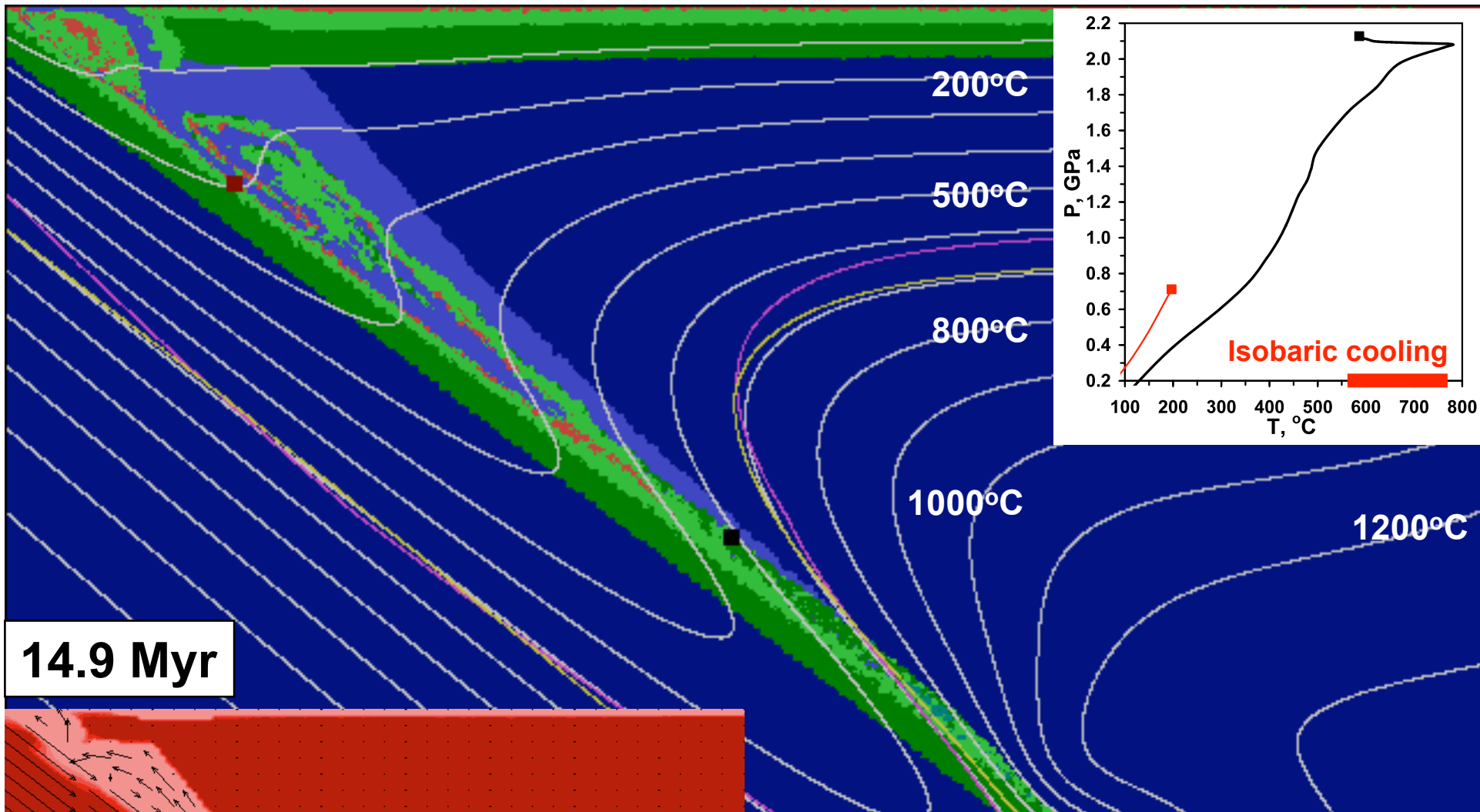
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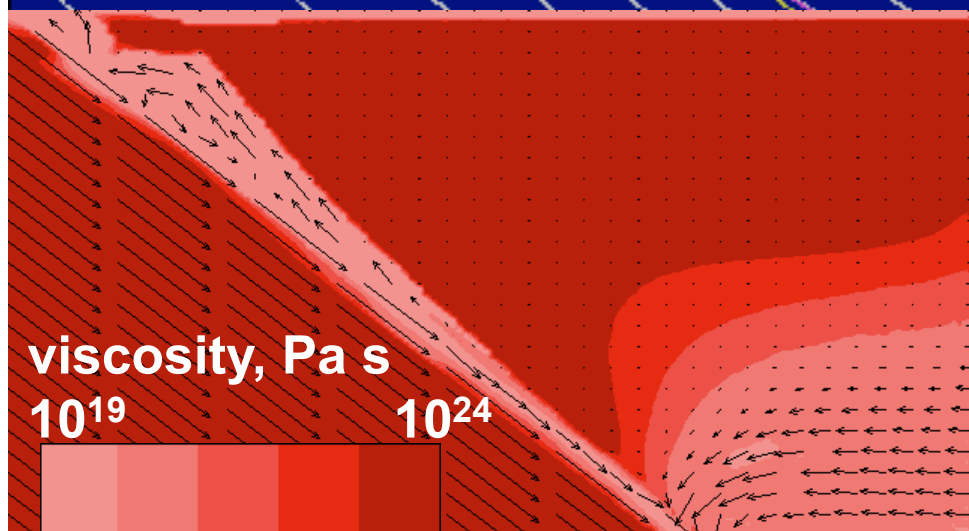
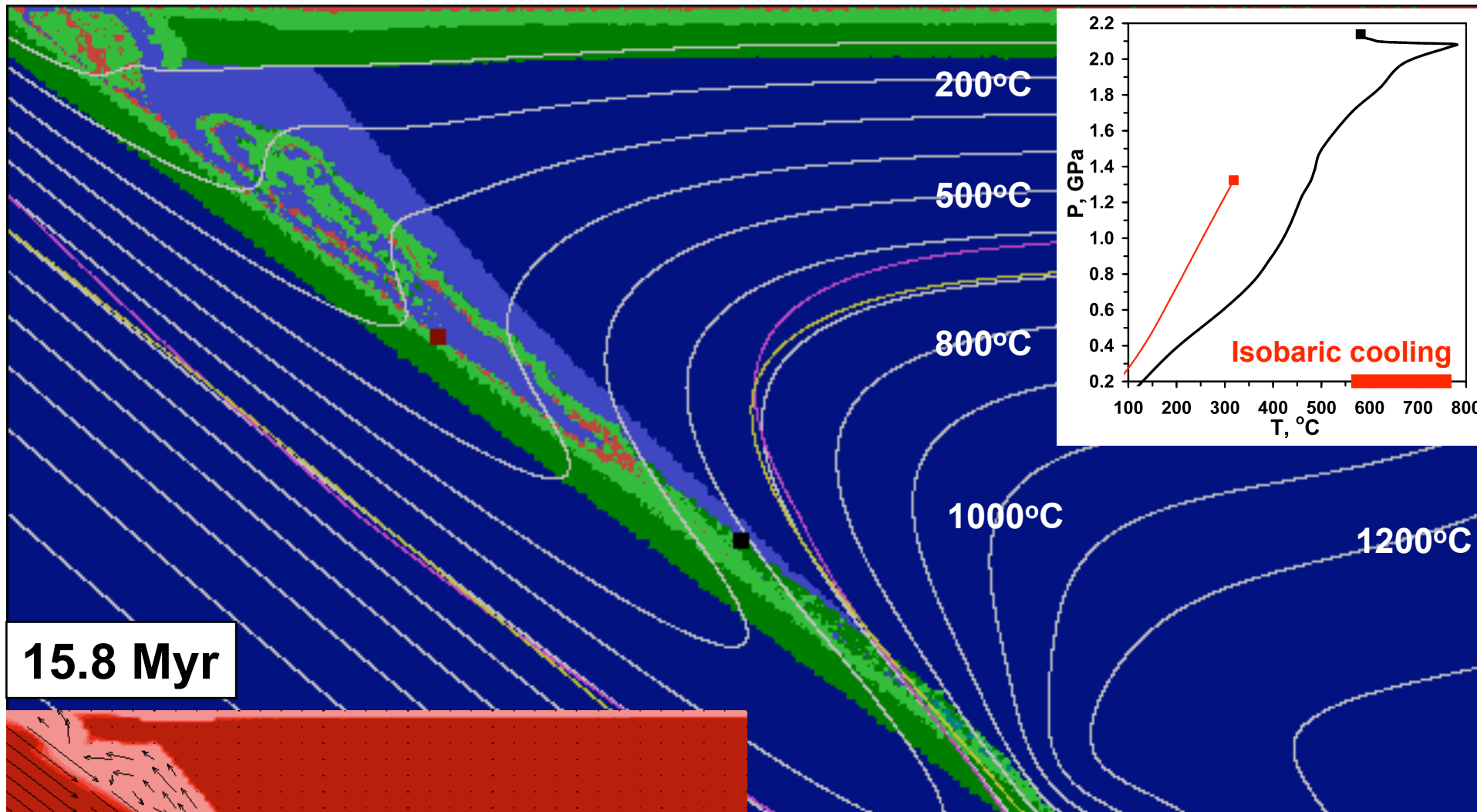


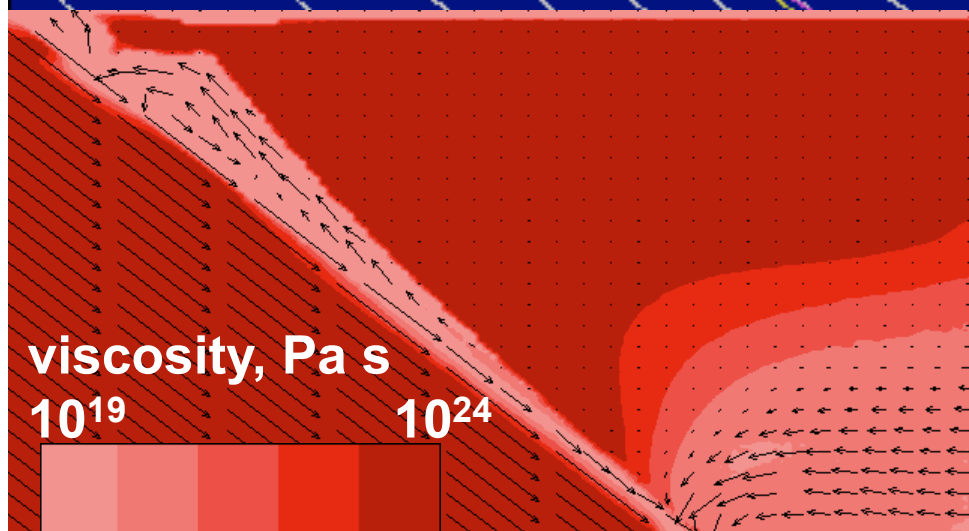
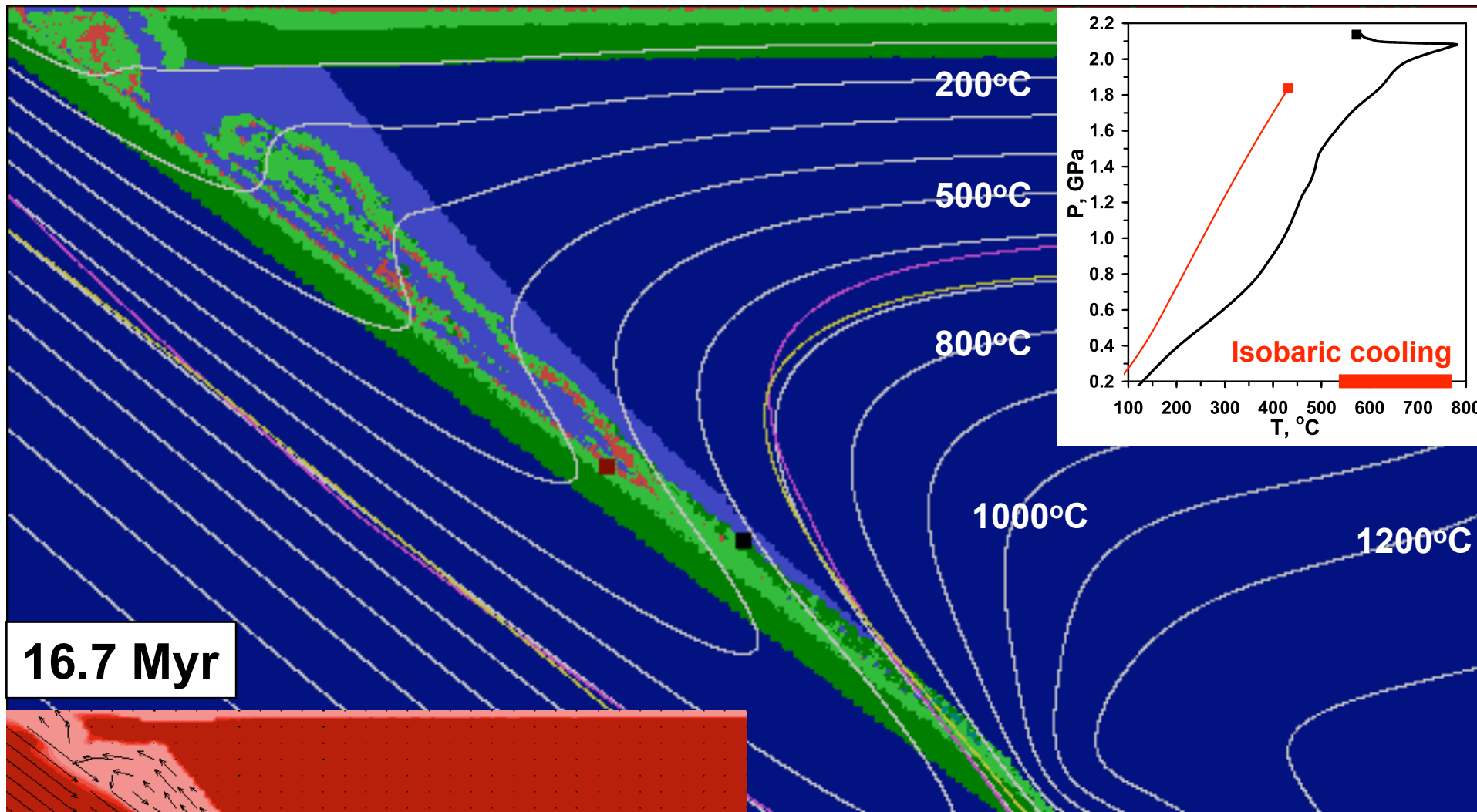


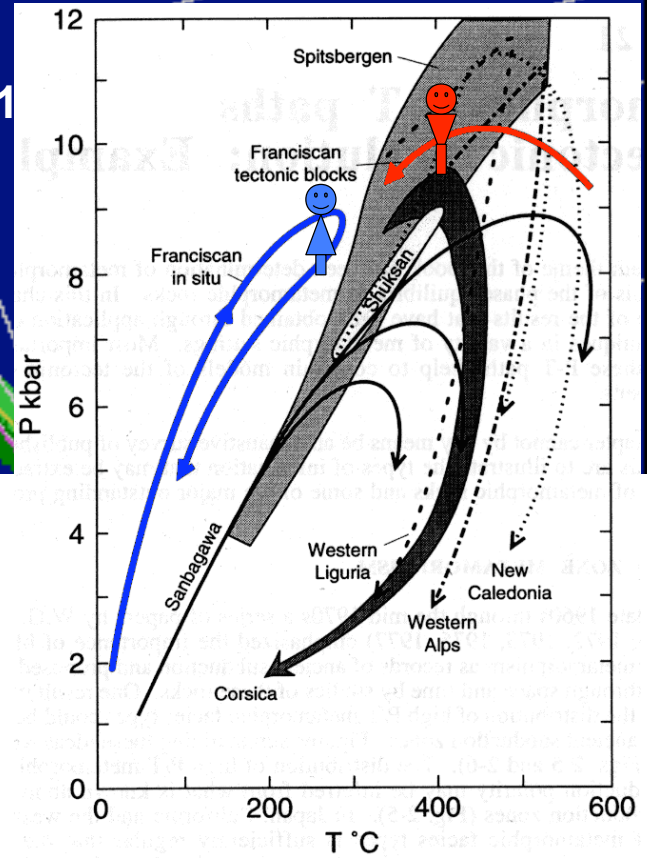
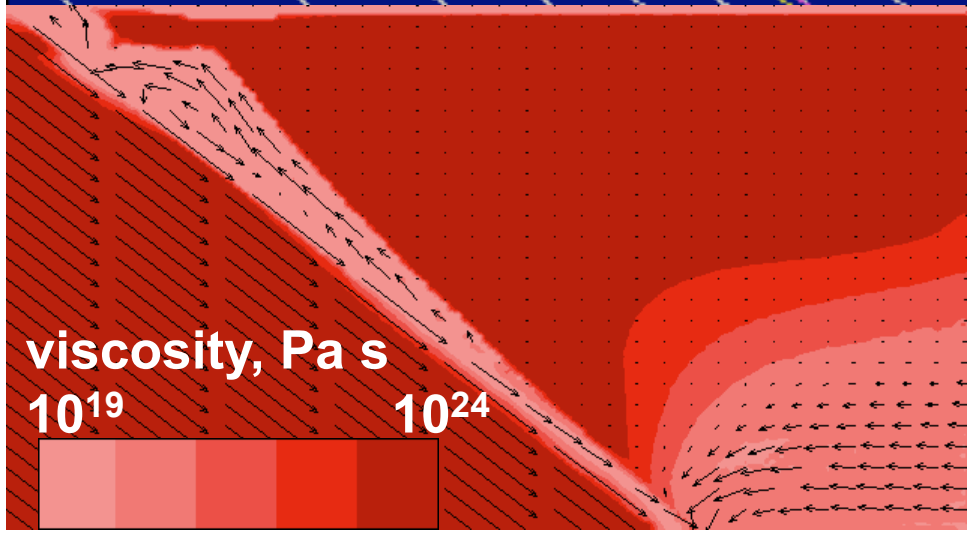
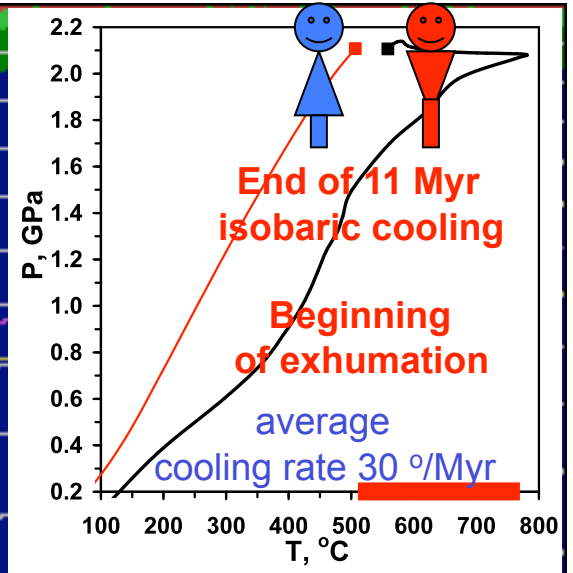
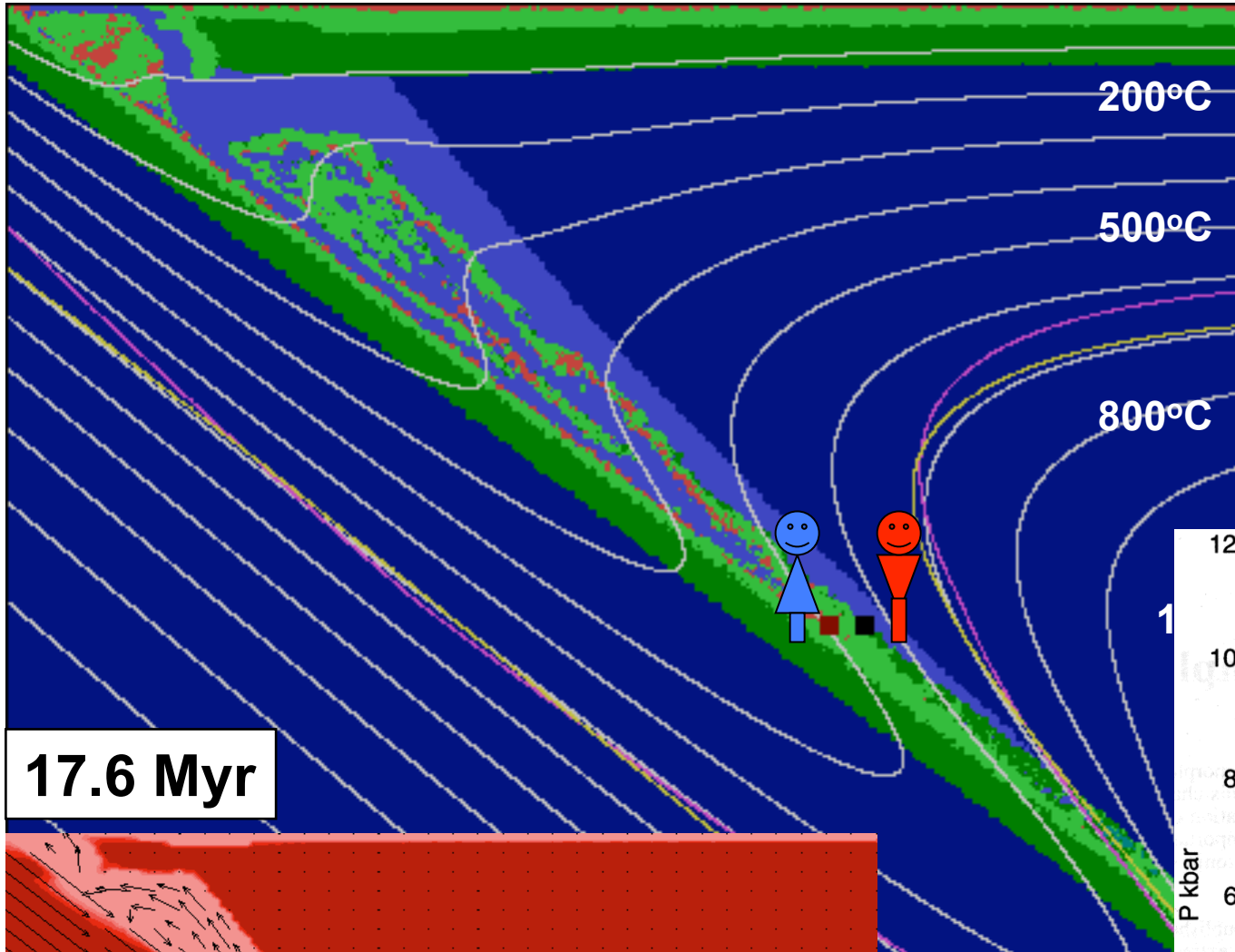


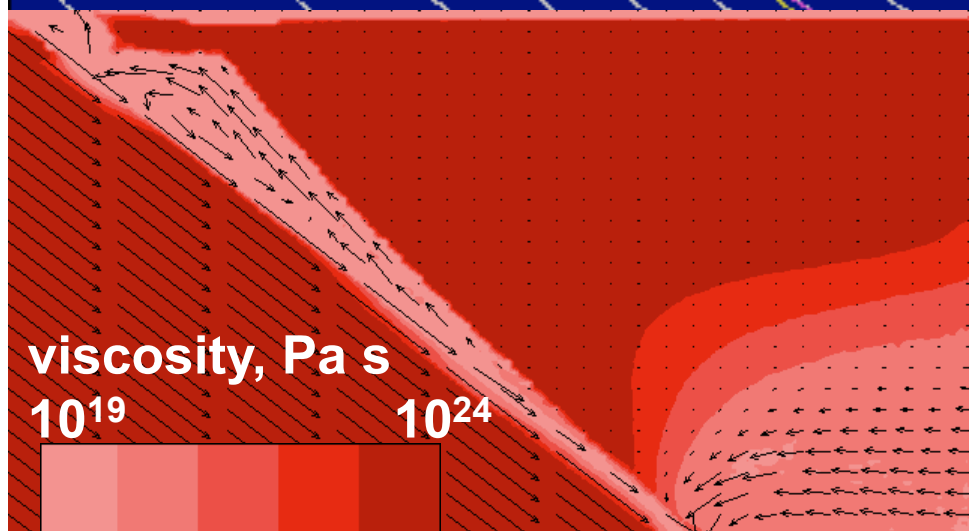
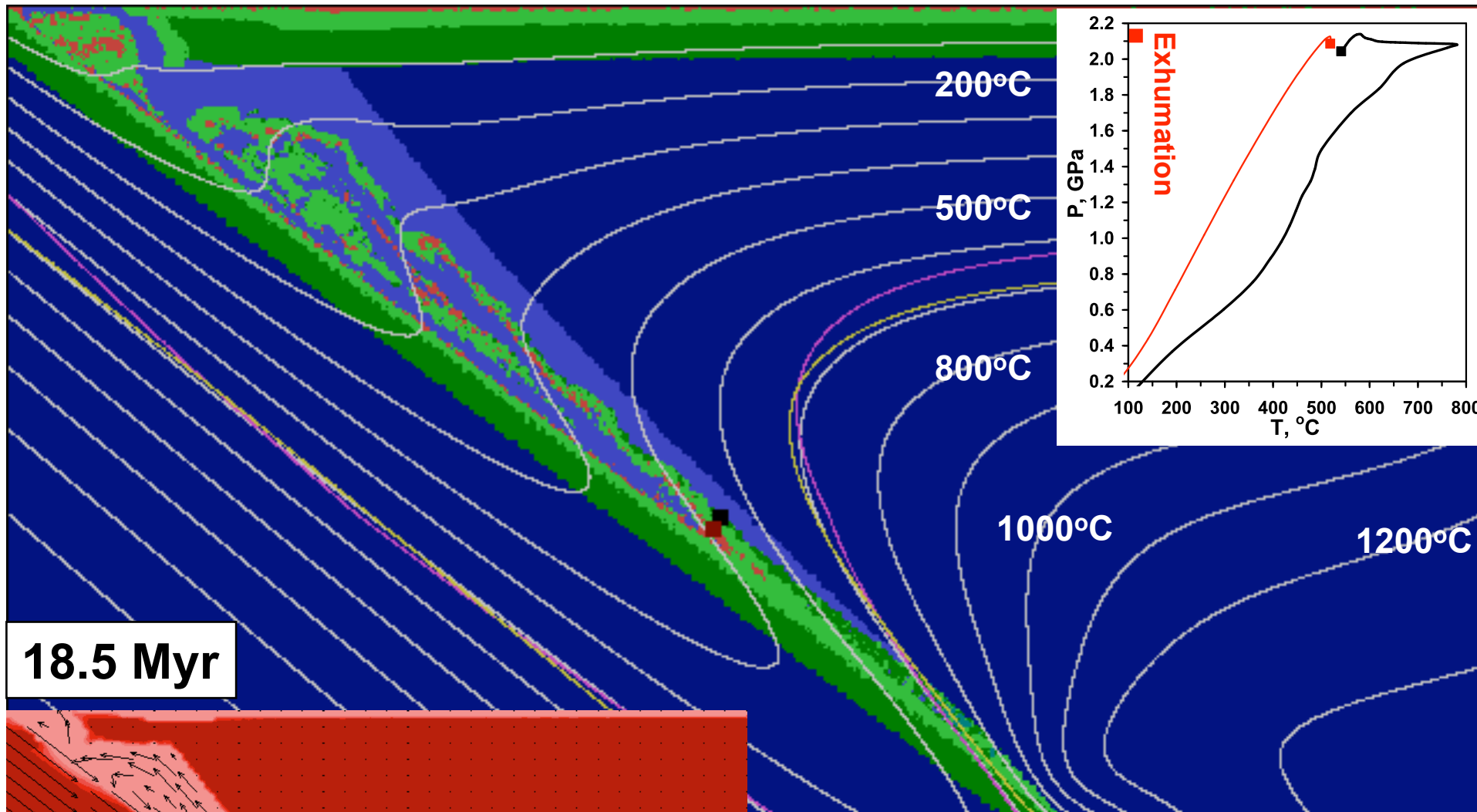


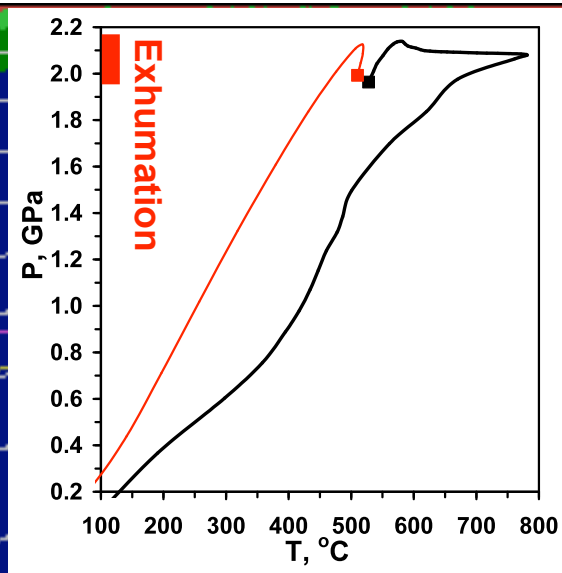
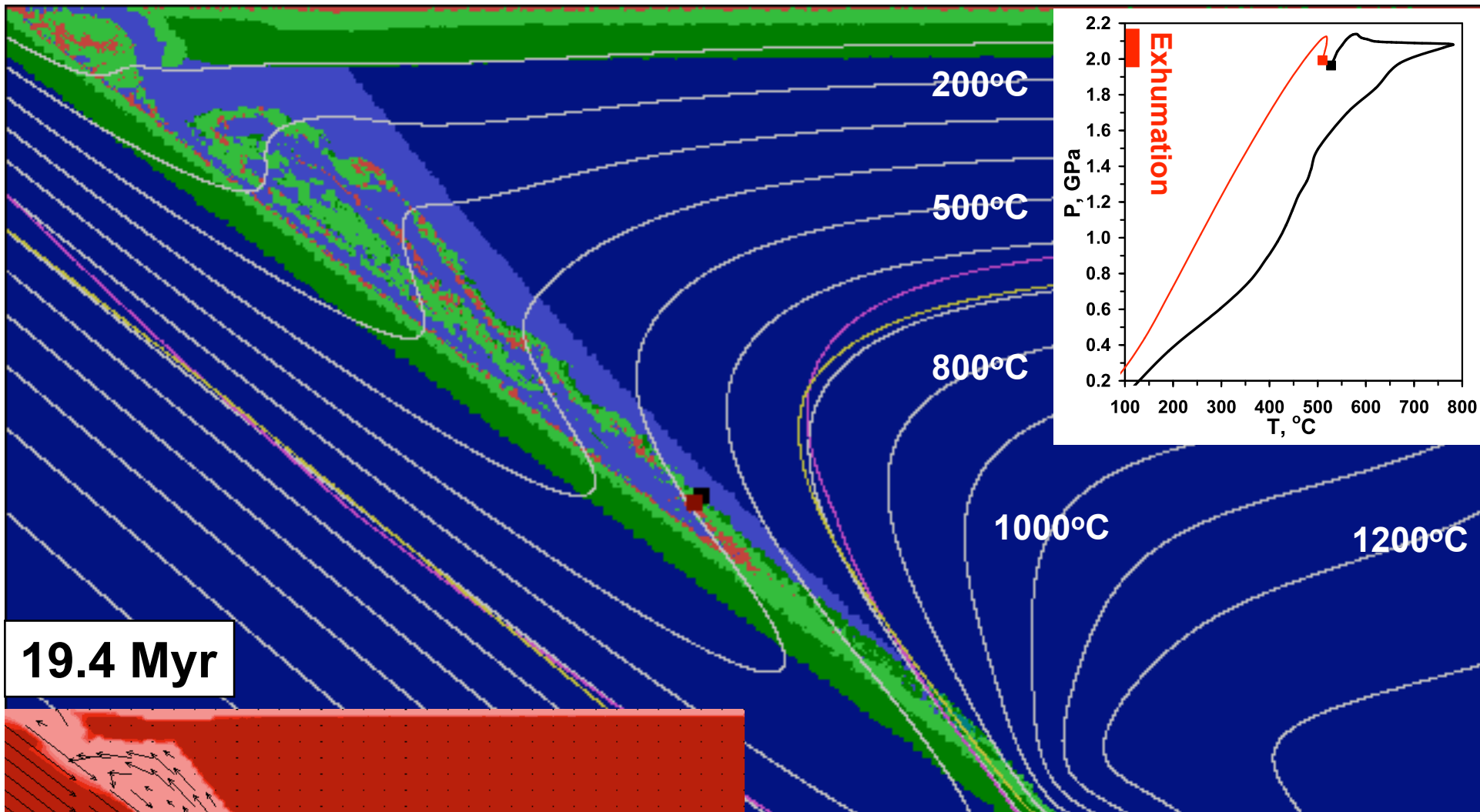




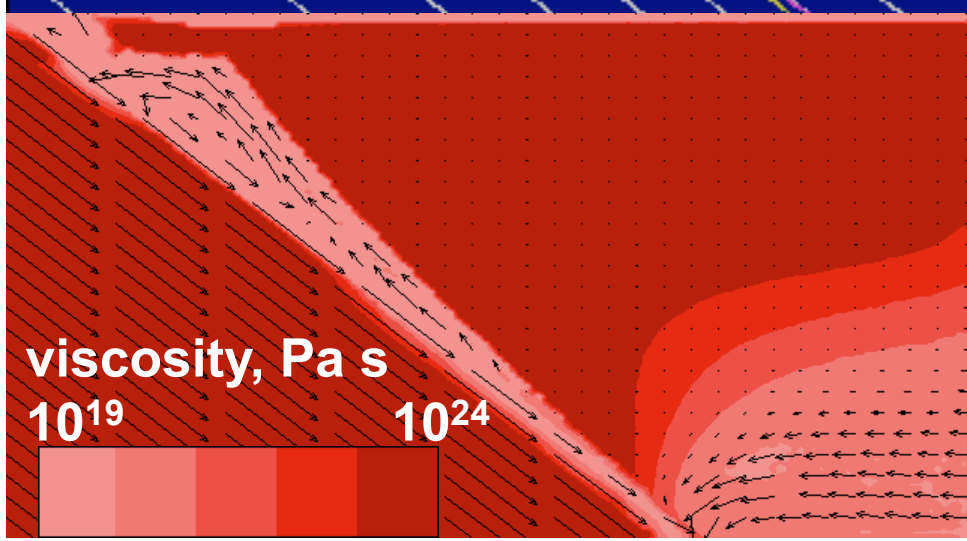


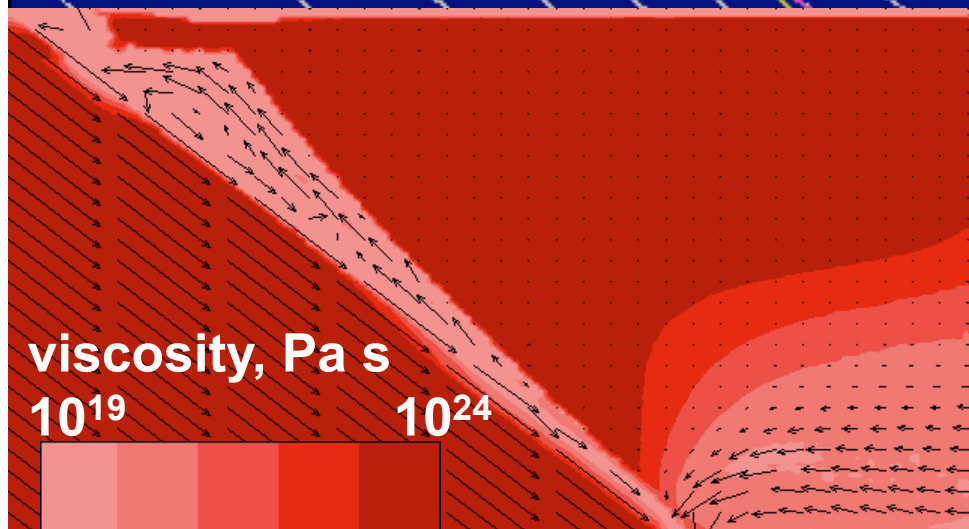
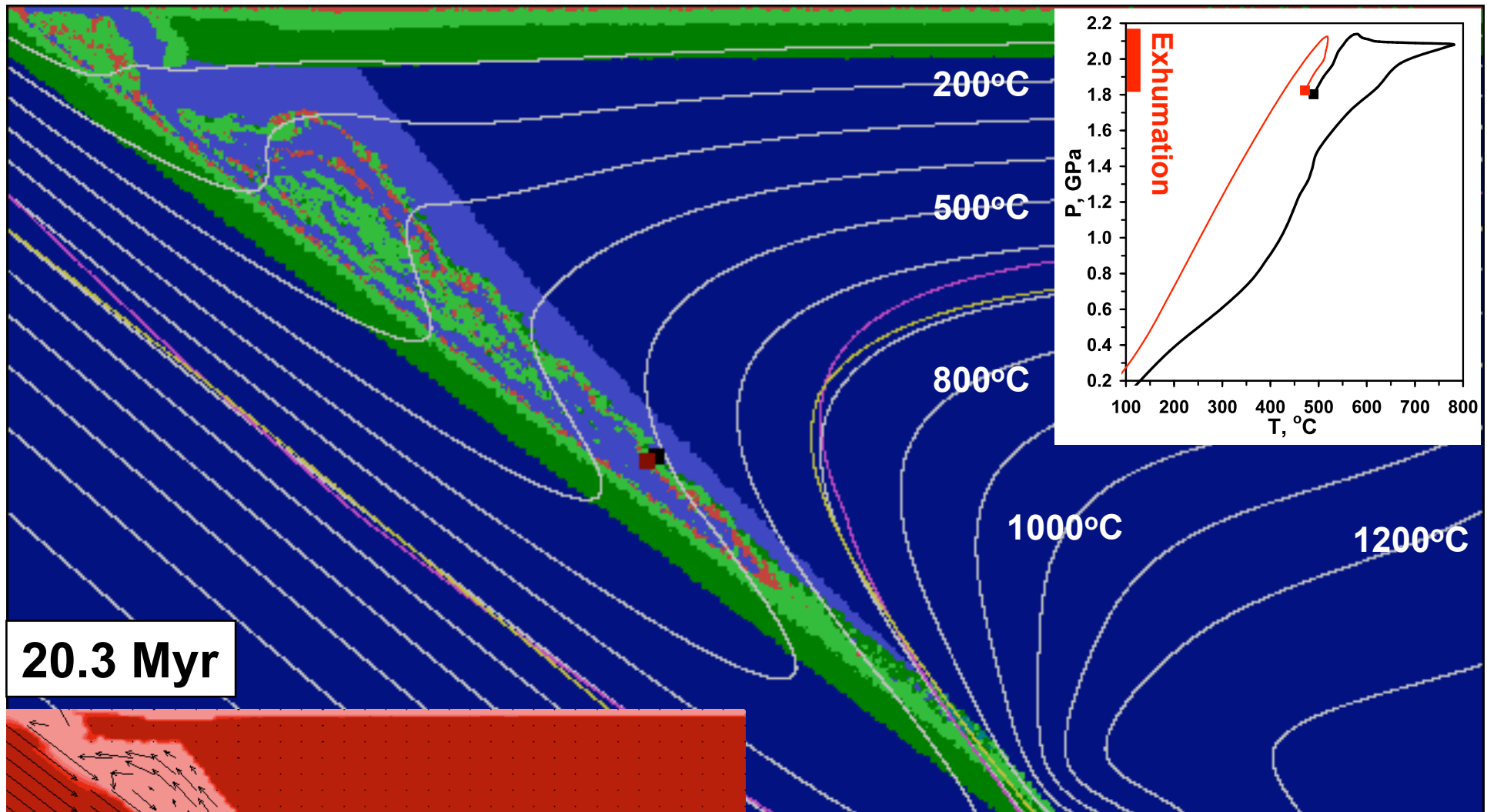


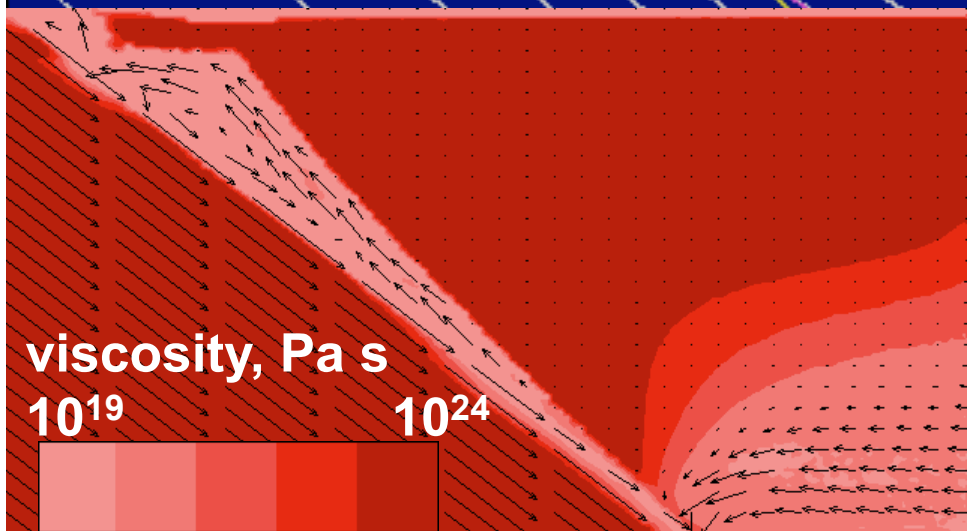
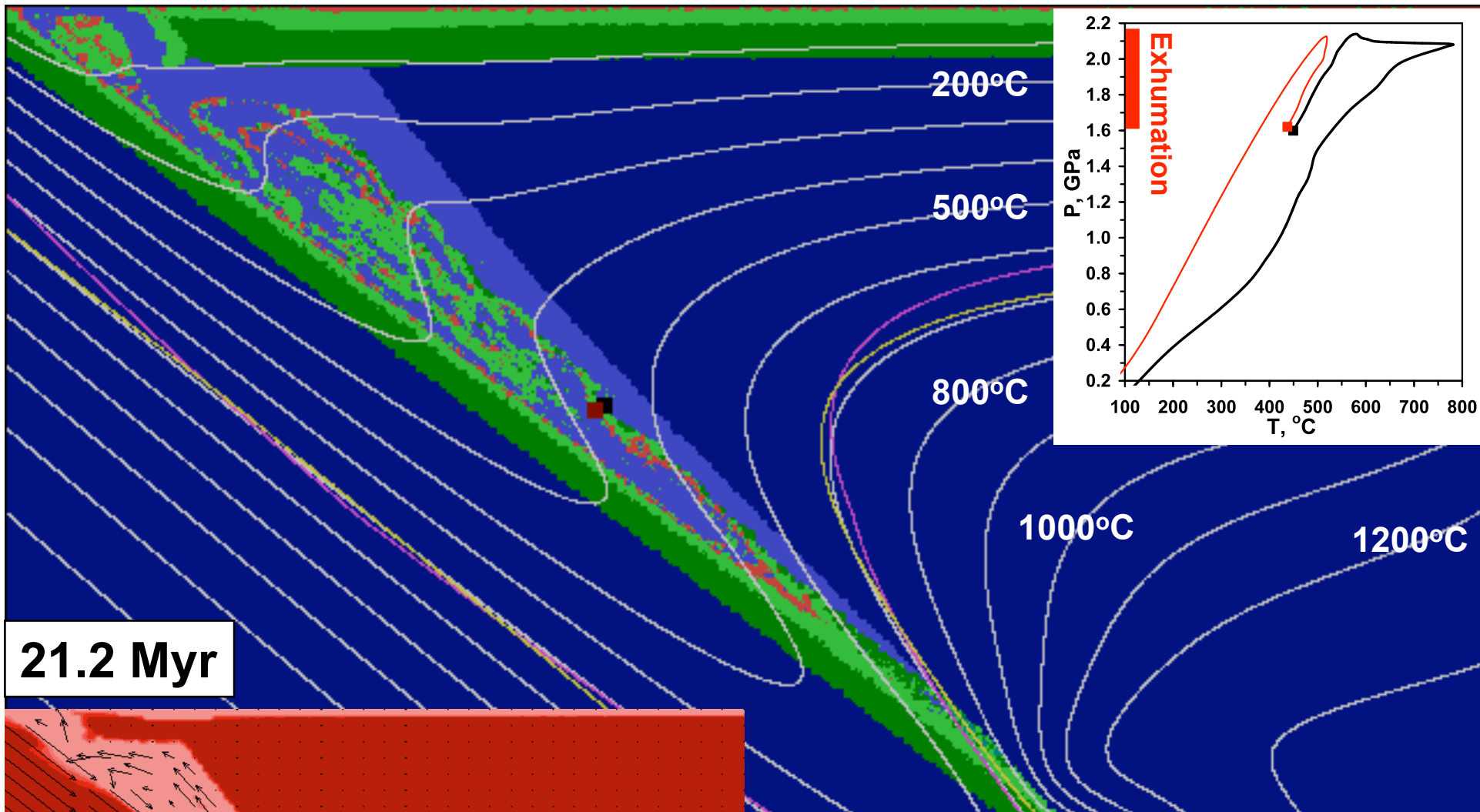


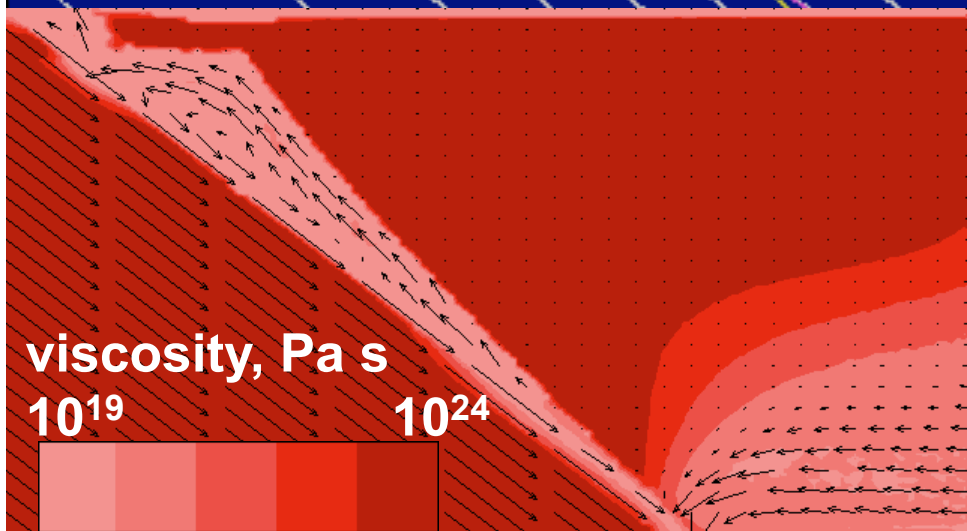
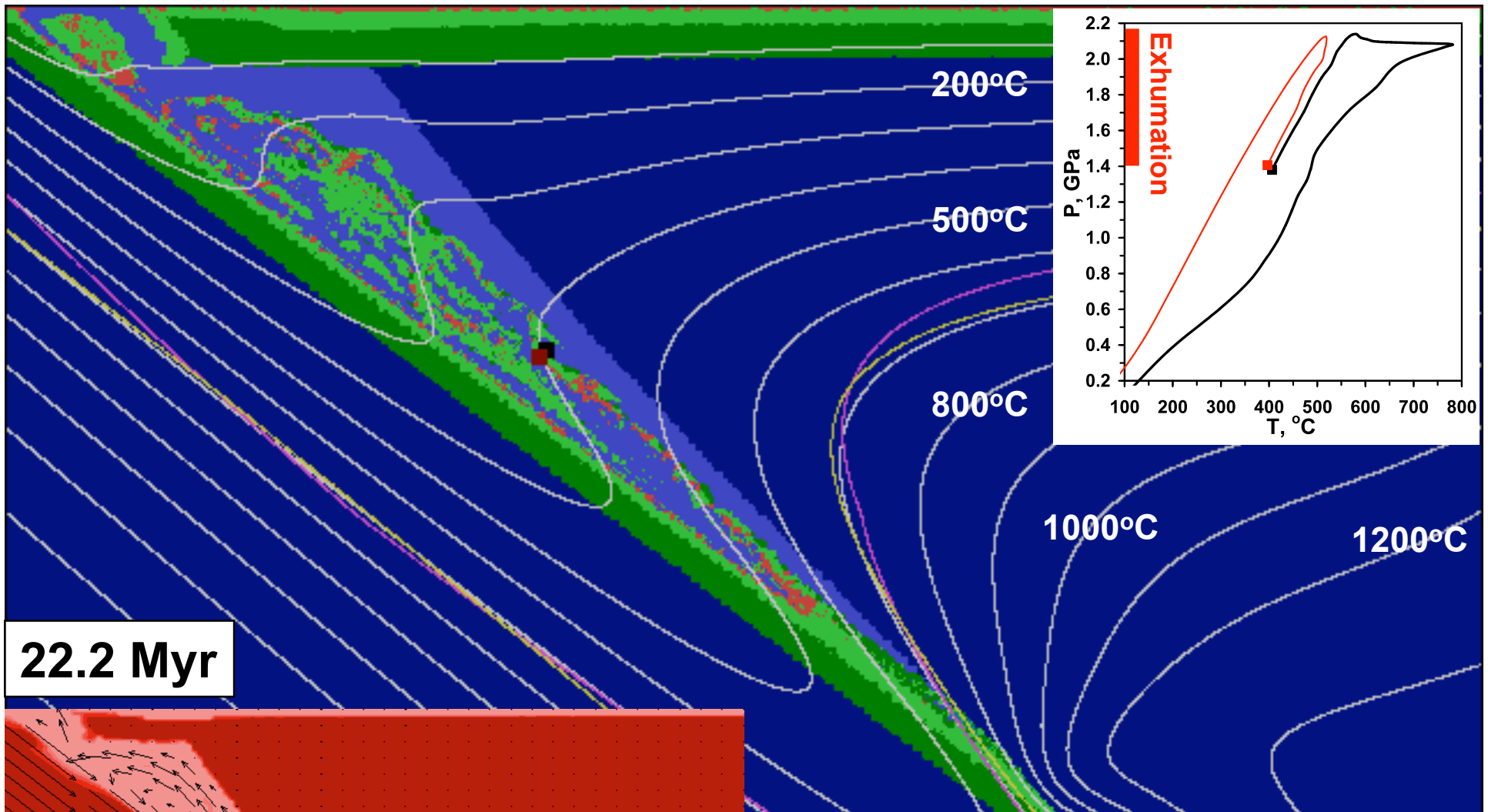


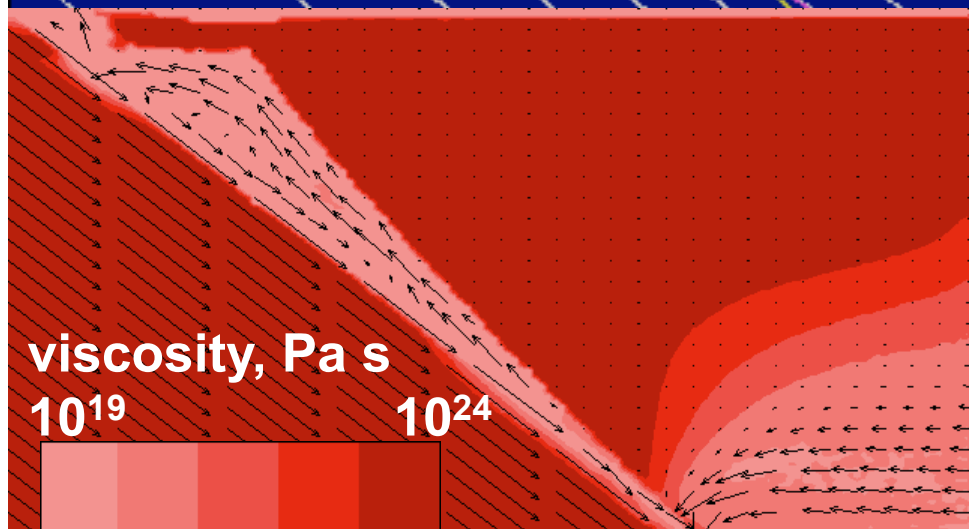
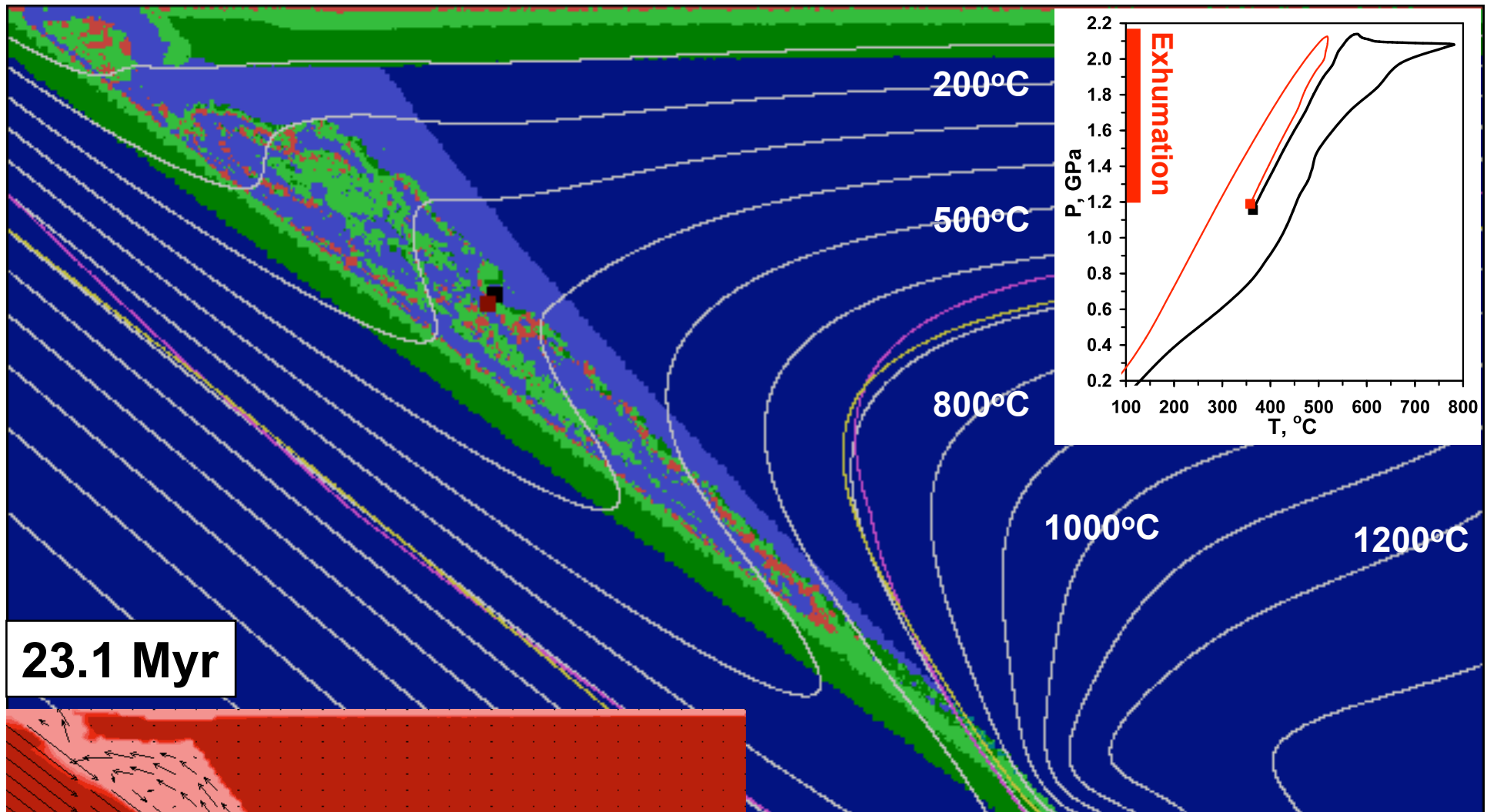
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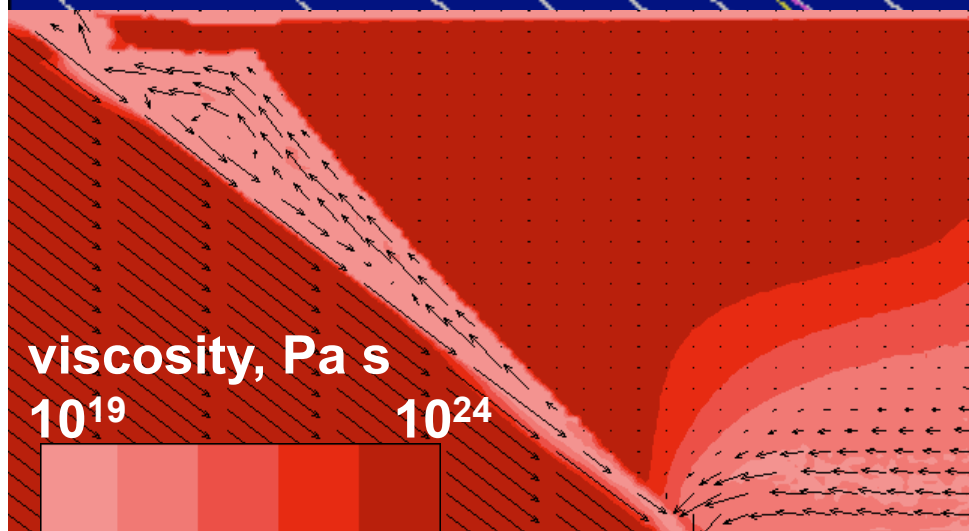
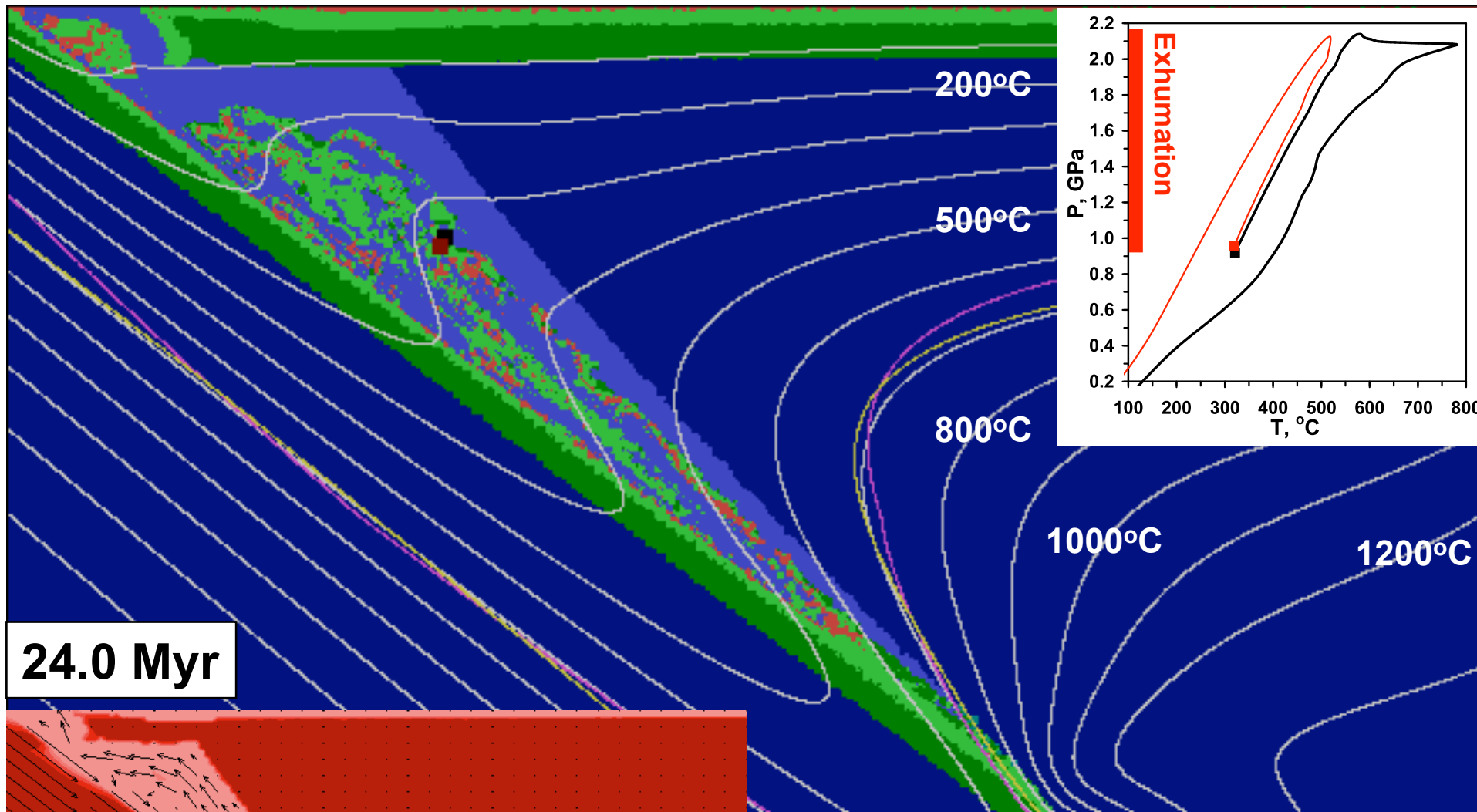


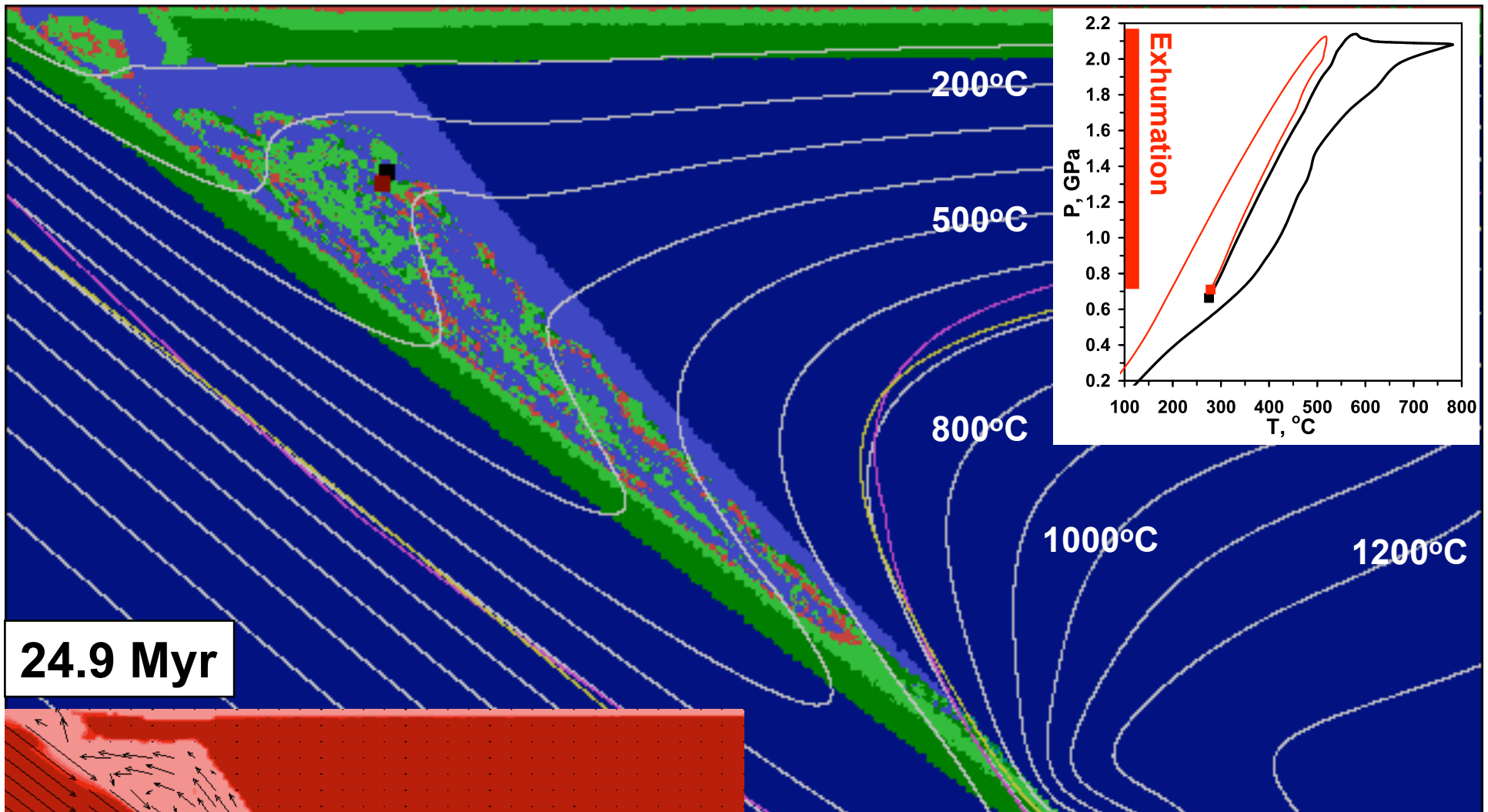




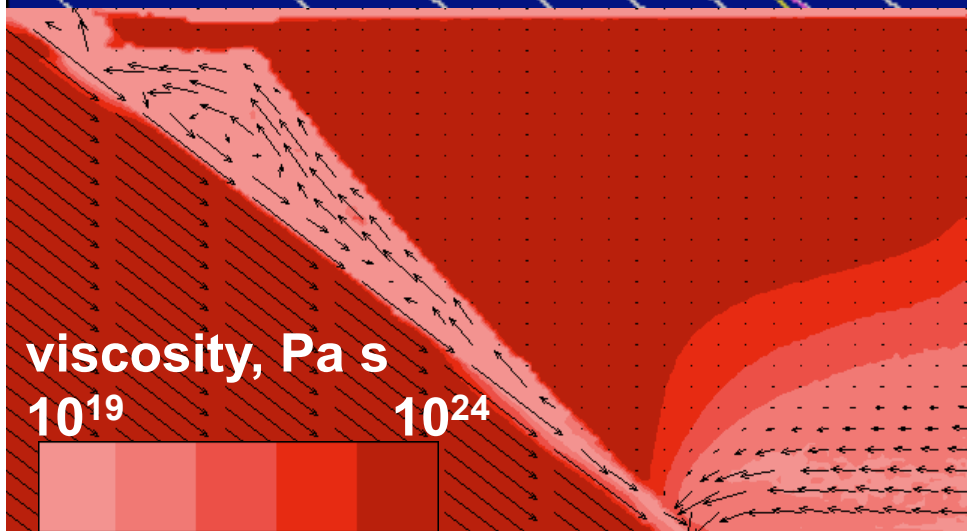


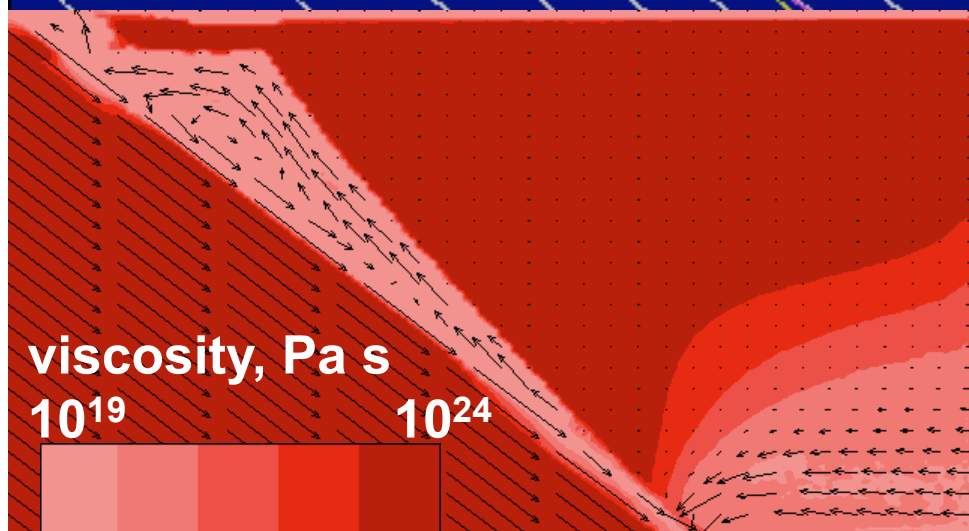
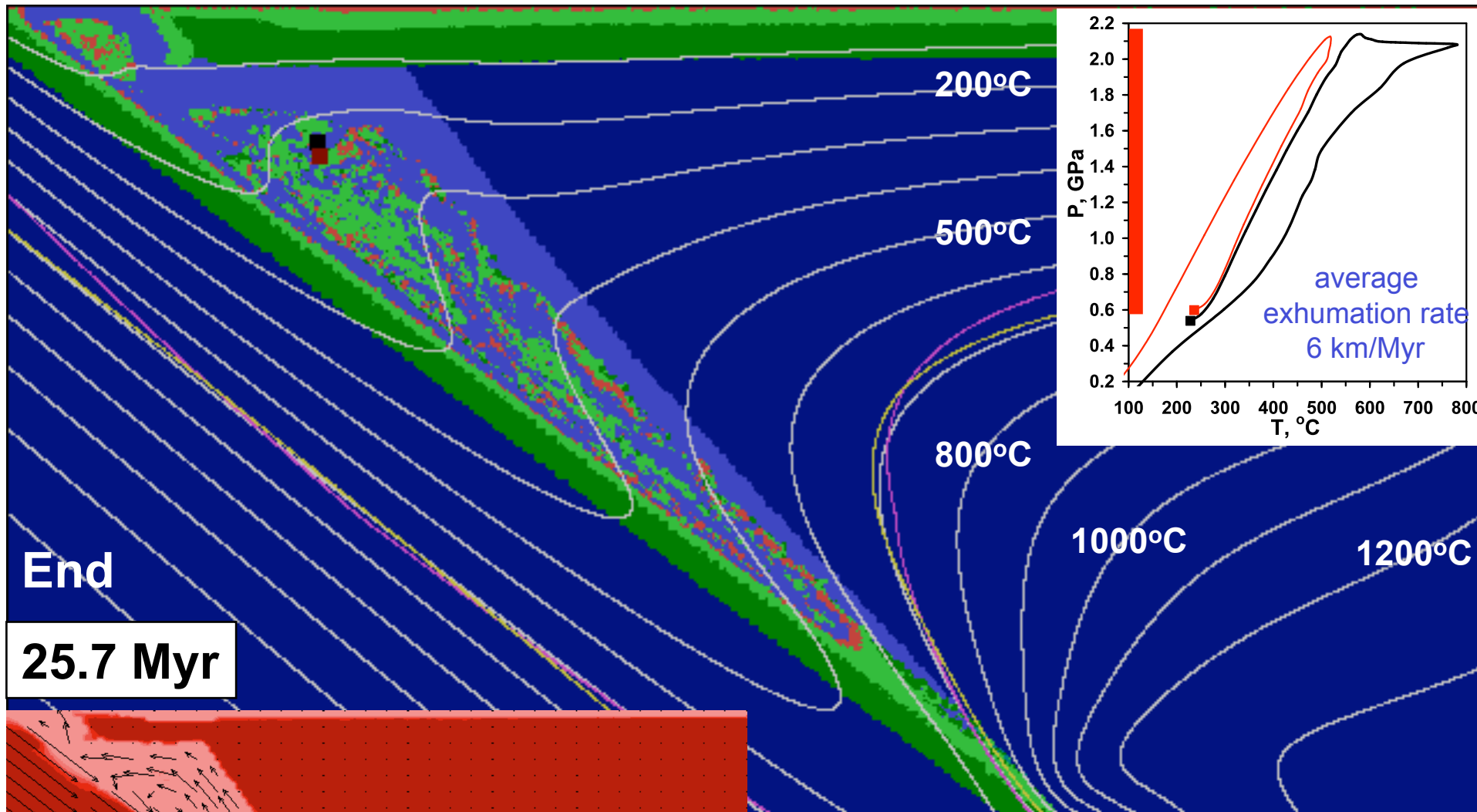


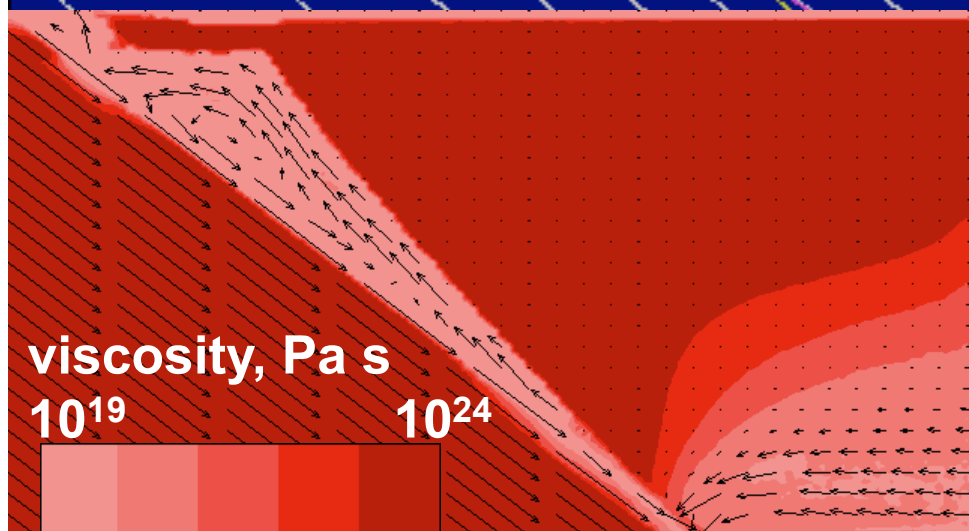
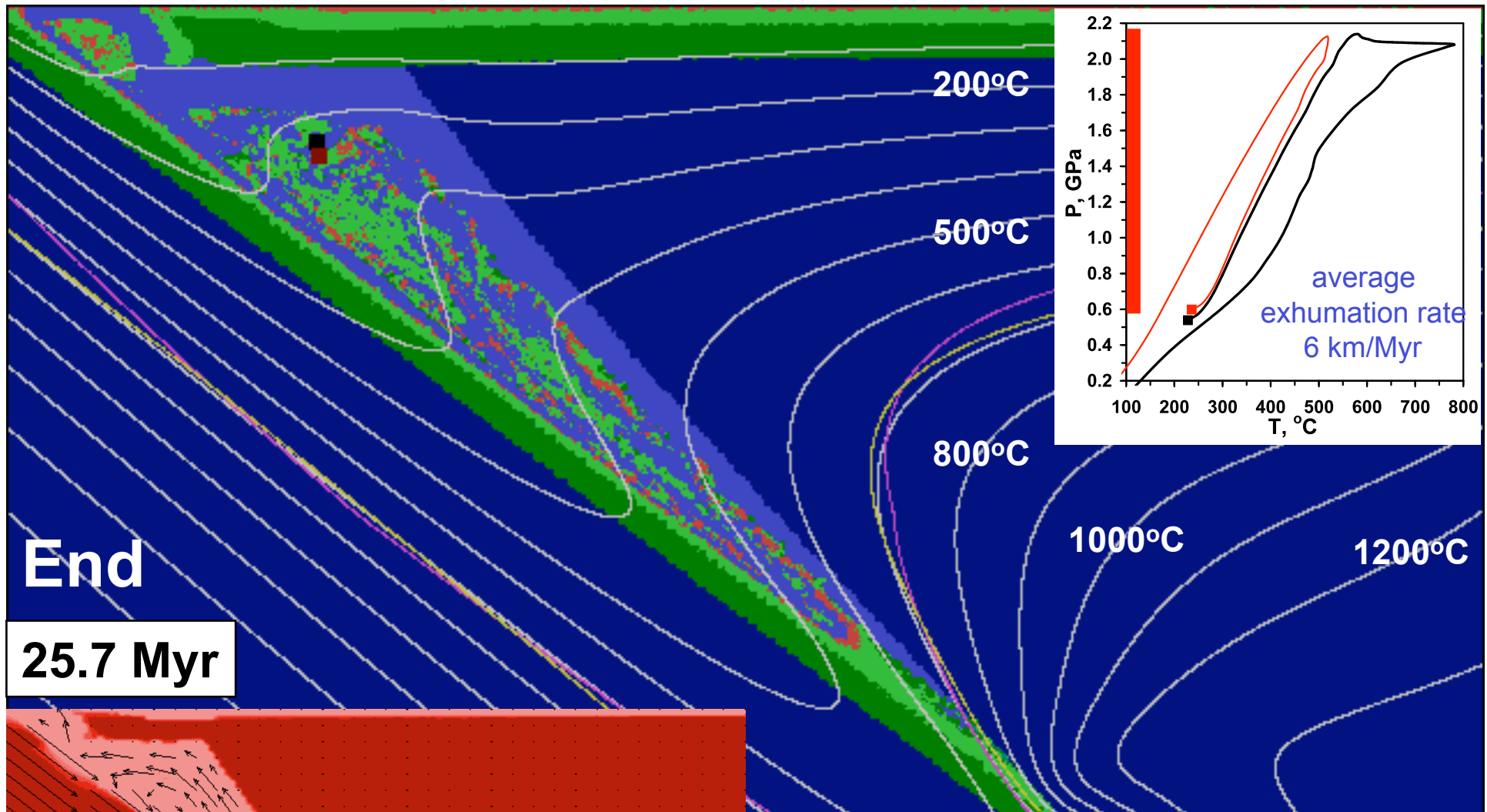


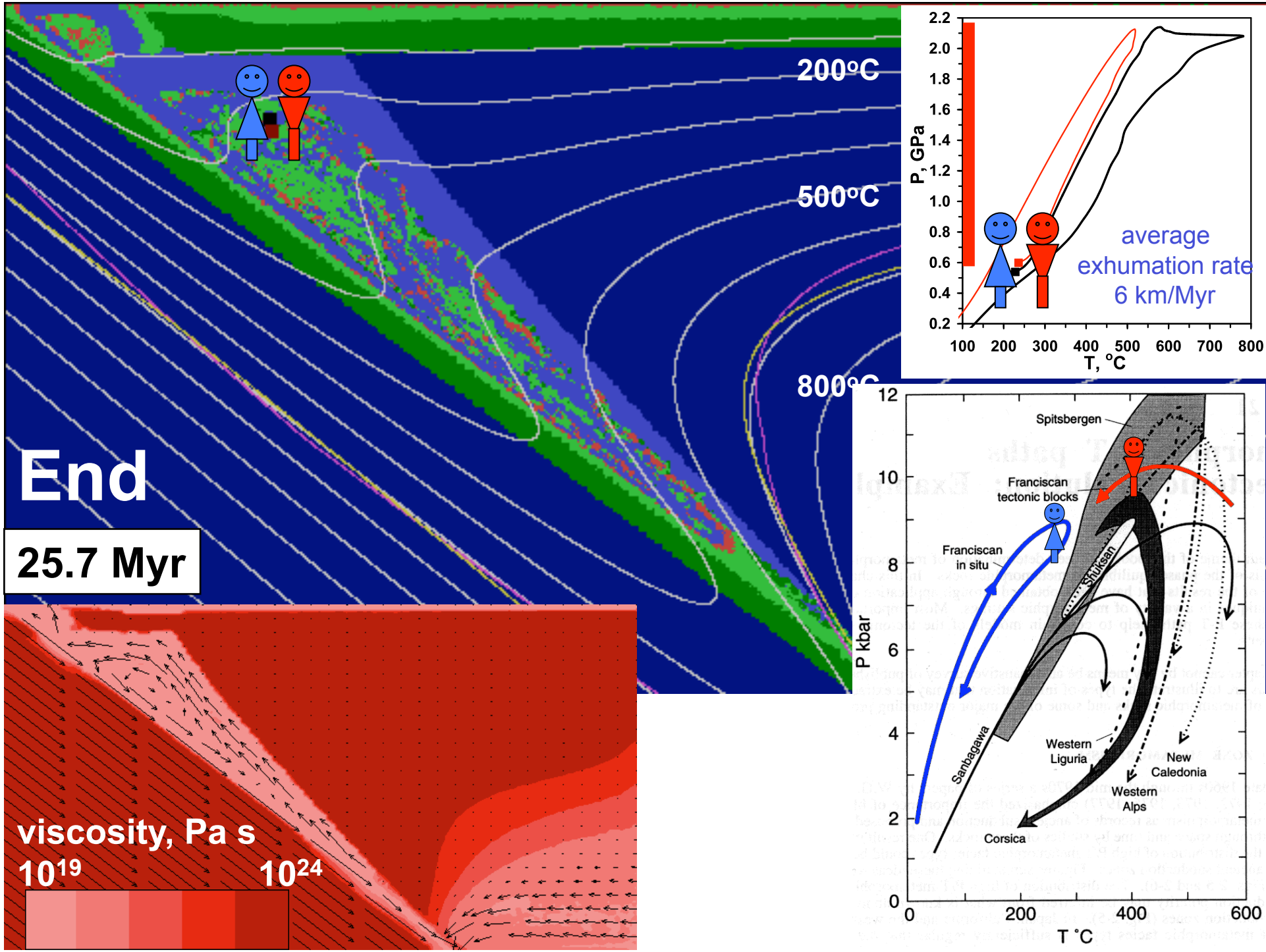


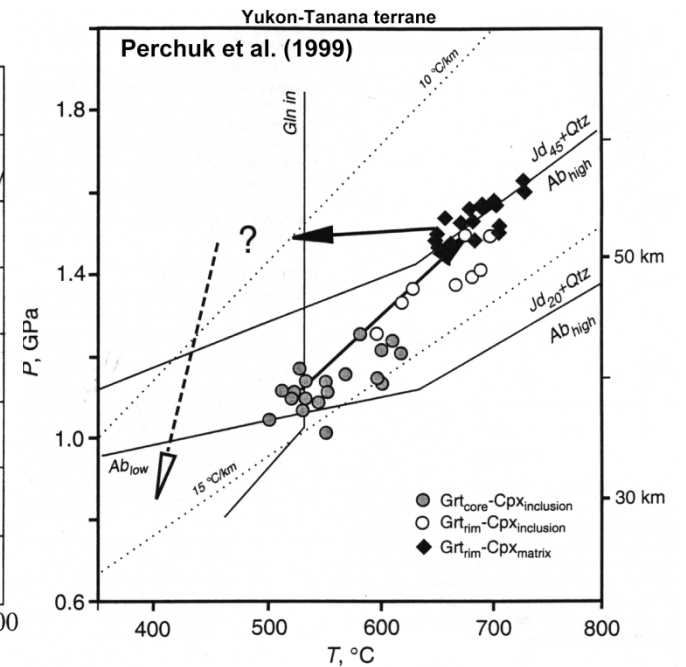
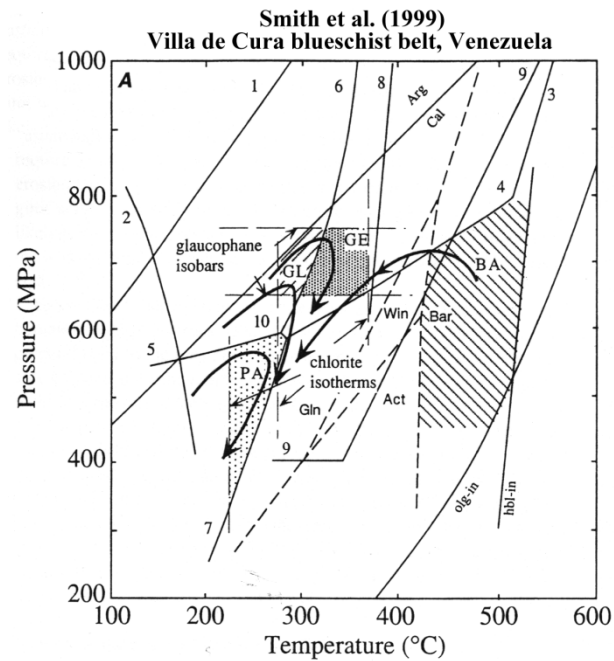
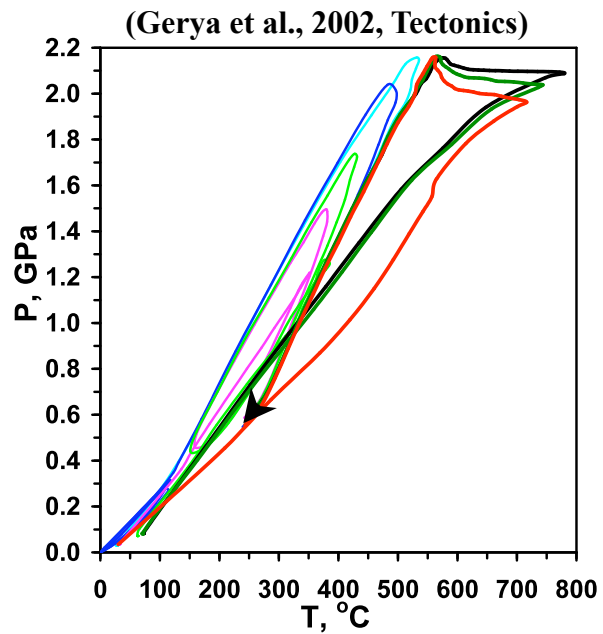
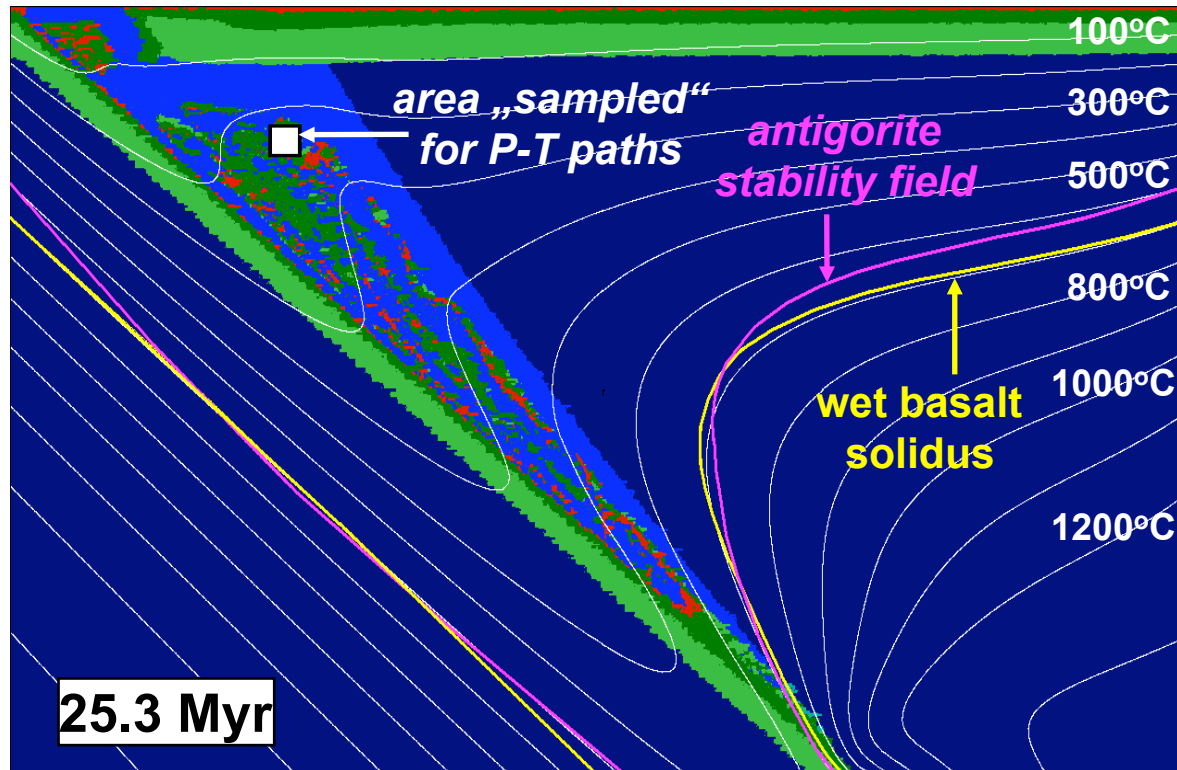
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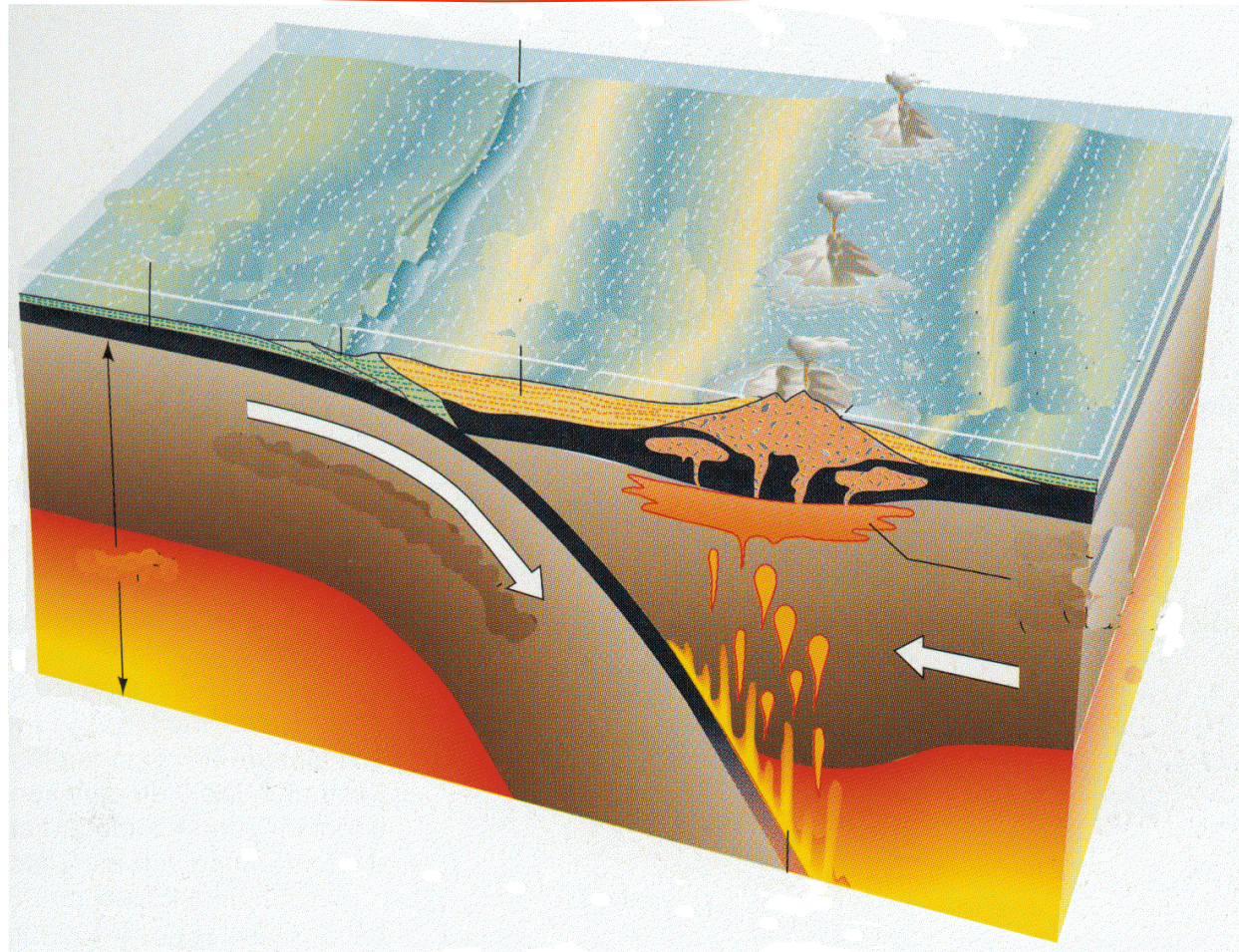




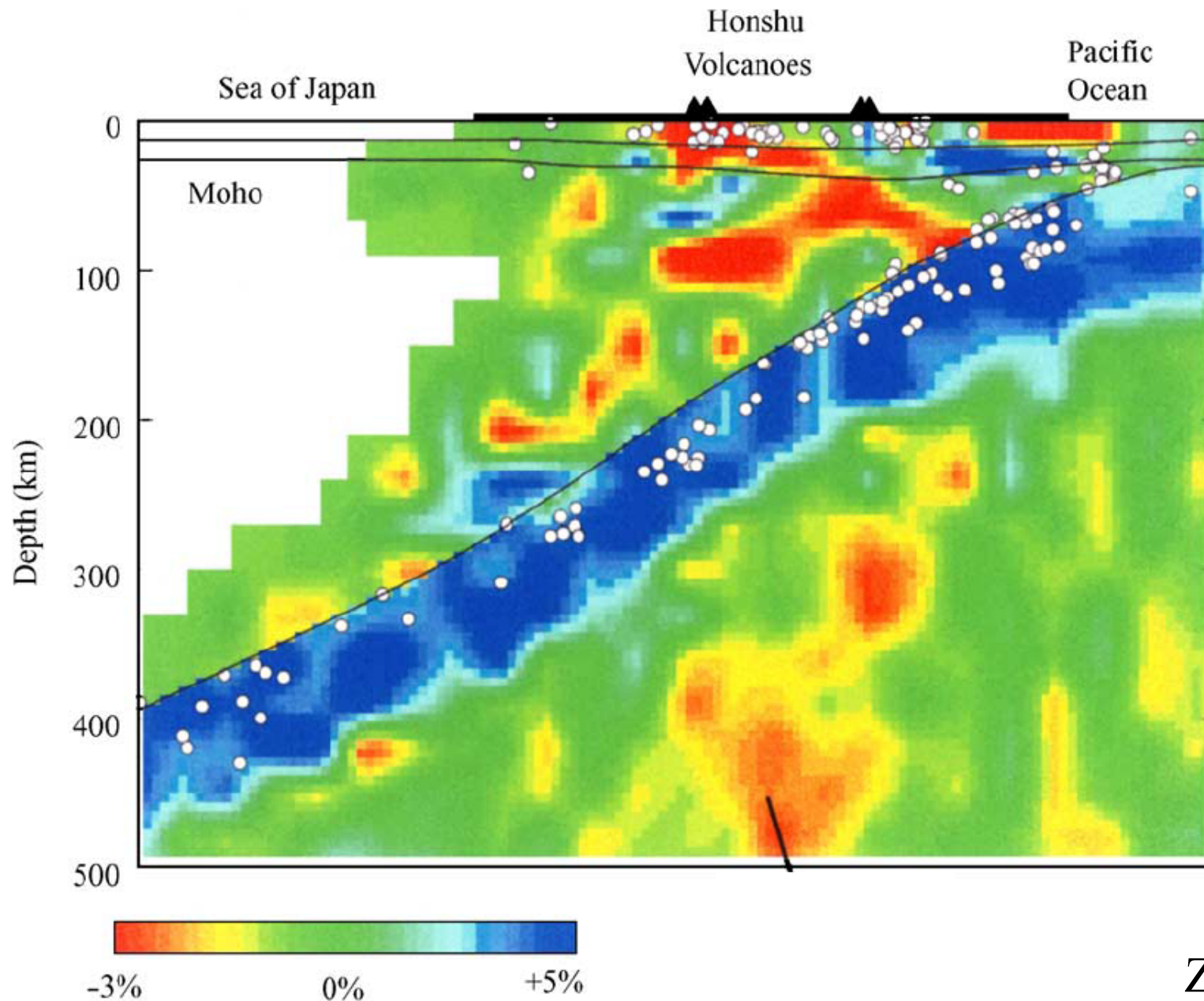


Why is subduction one-sided?

GR



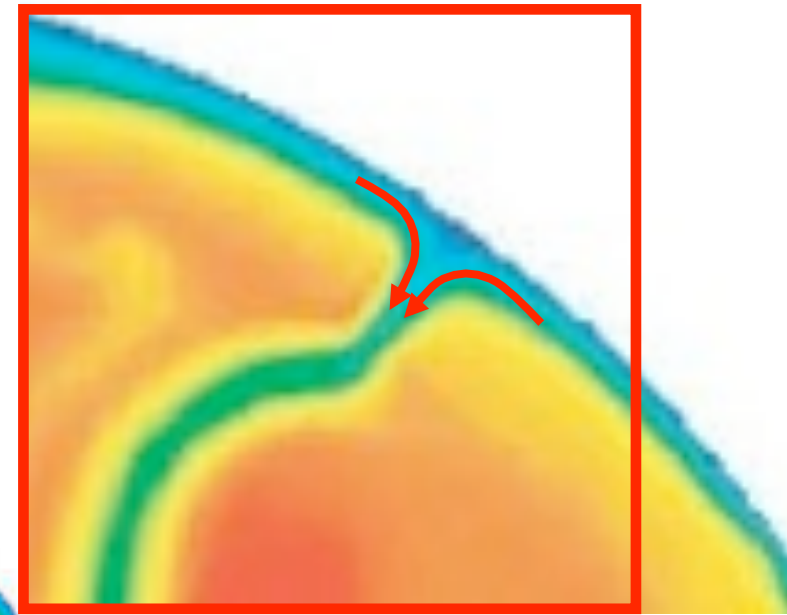
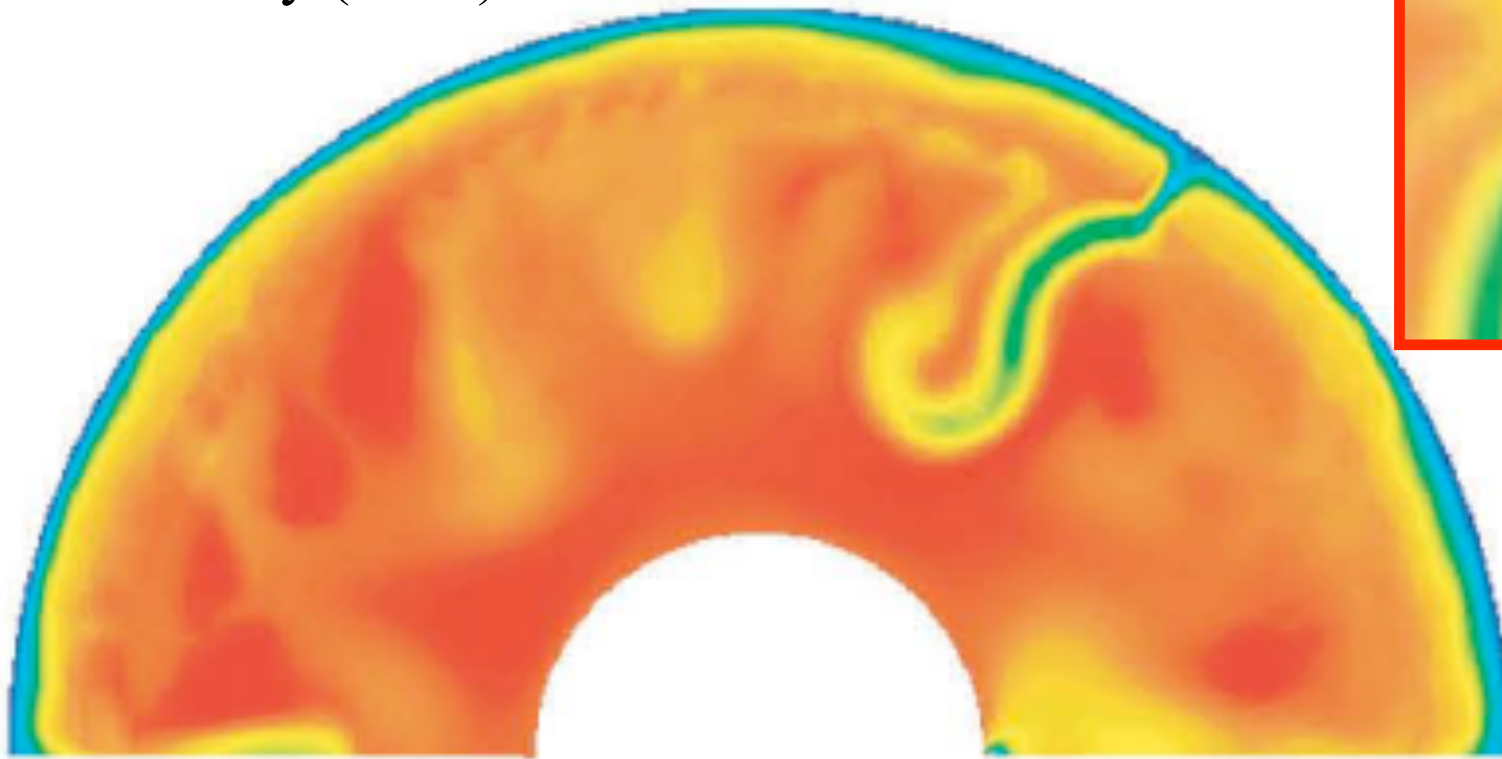
Why is subduction one-sided?



Zhao, 2004

Two-sided spontaneous numerical subduction

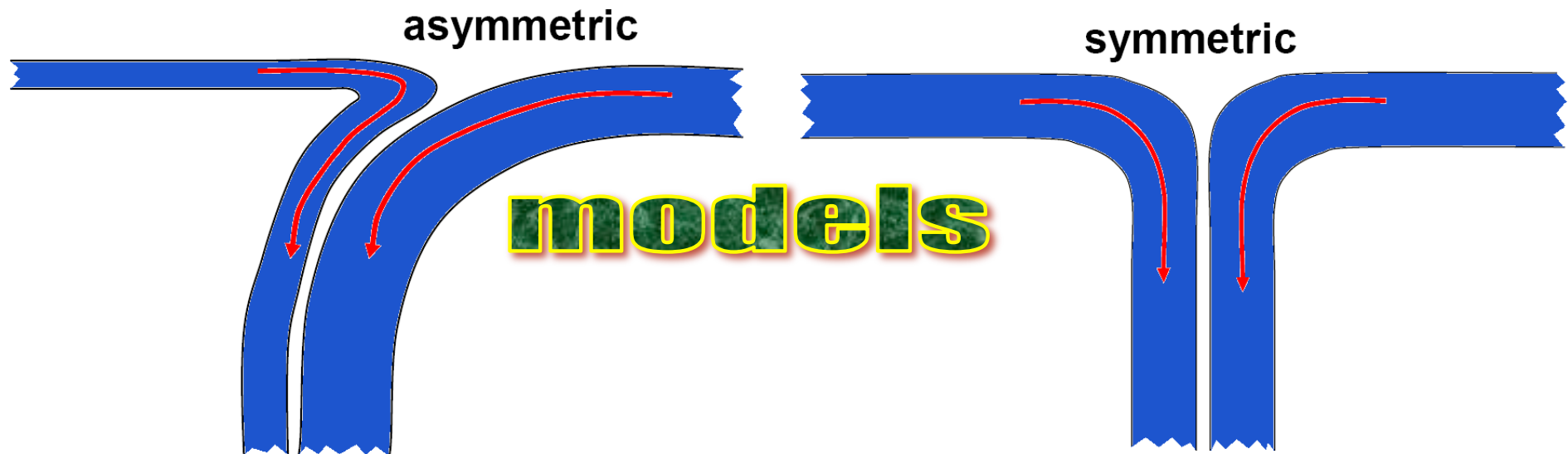
Tackley (1999)



One-sided subduction



Two-sided subduction



One-sided subduction



nature

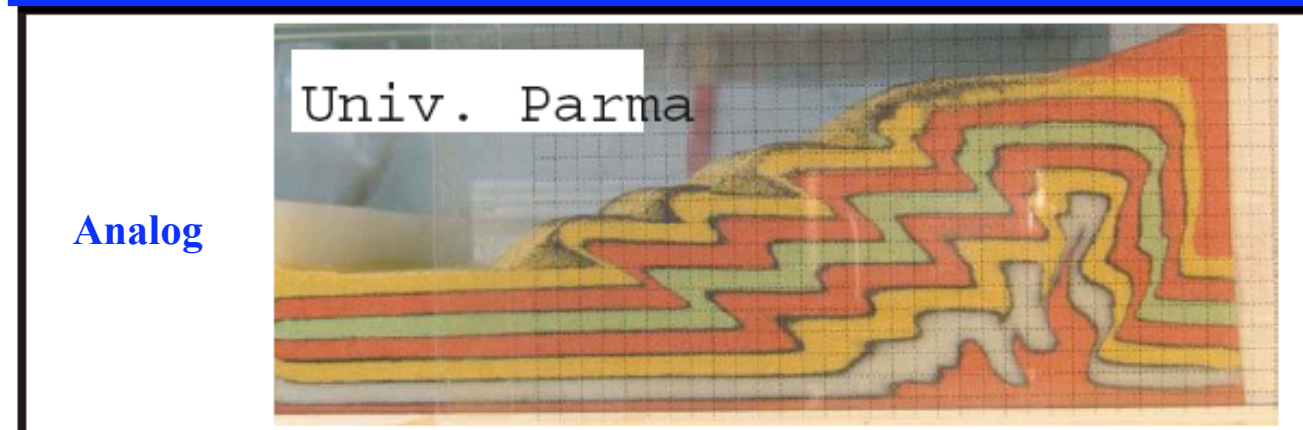
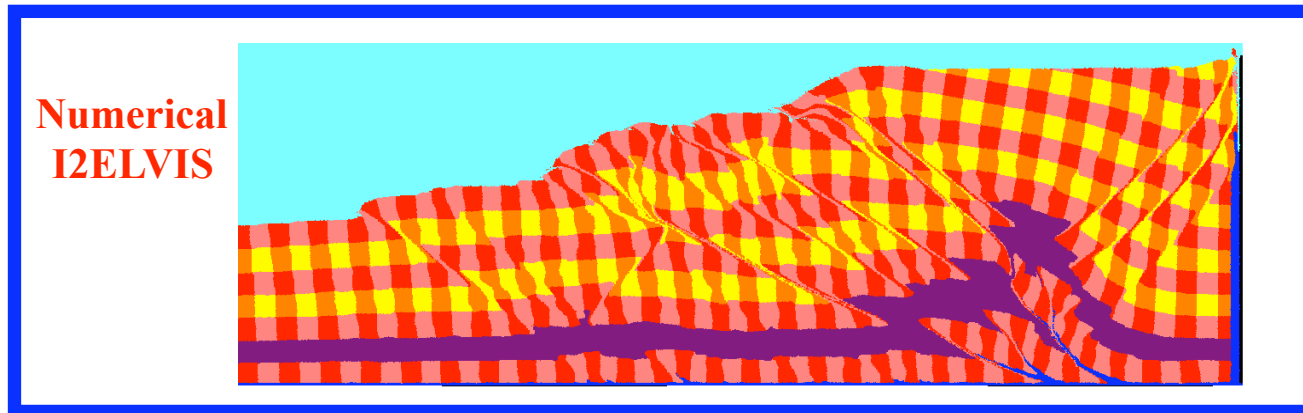
Higher resolution and better rheology are needed!

Two-sided subduction



models

High resolution and viscoelastoplastic rheology are used

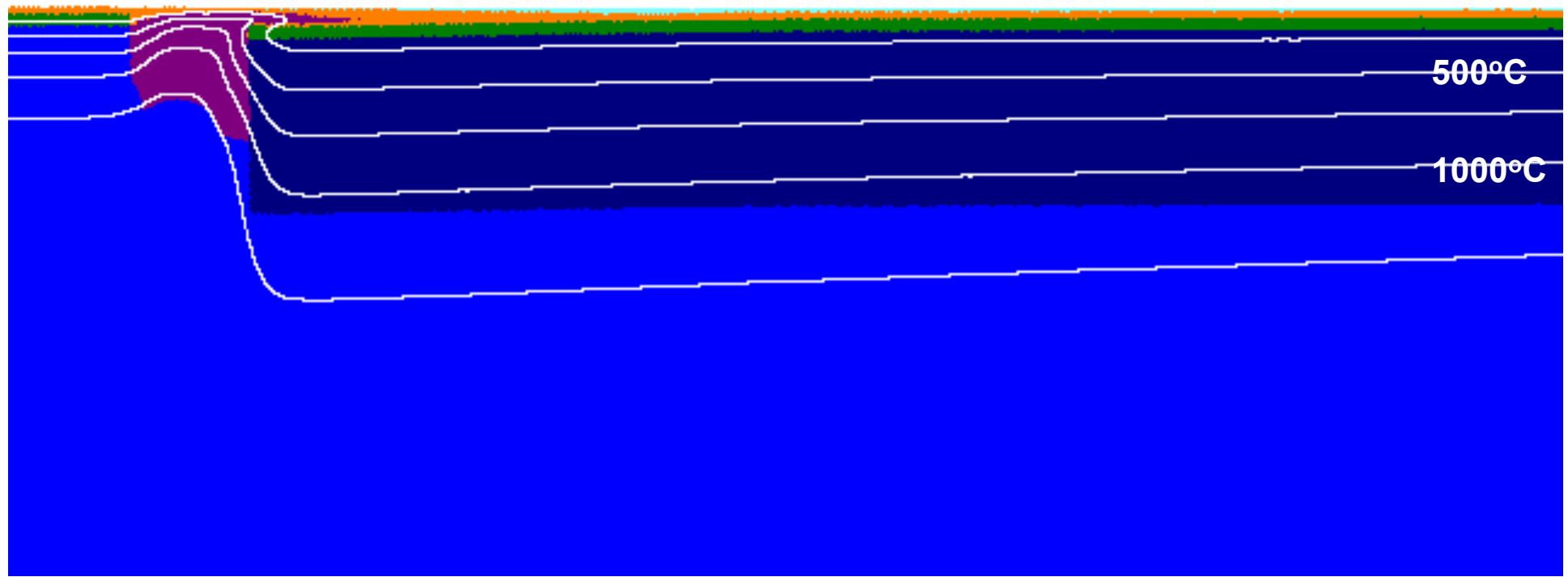


-40

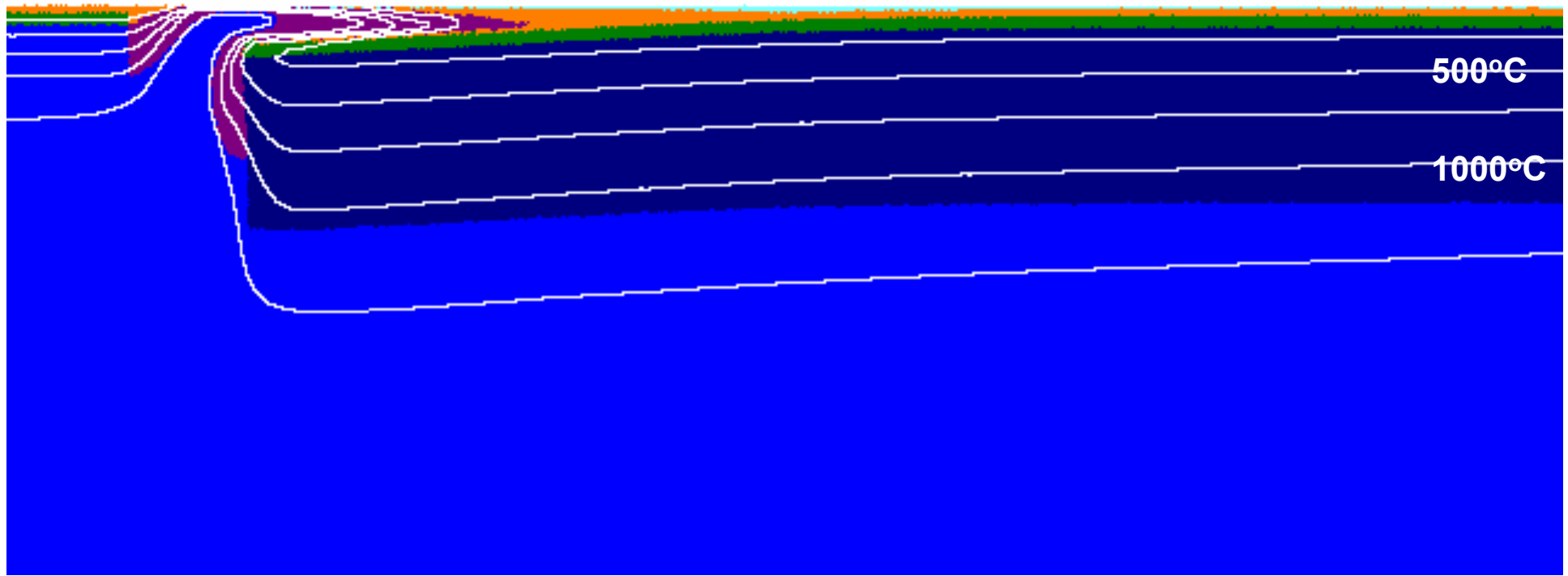
-30

-20 cm

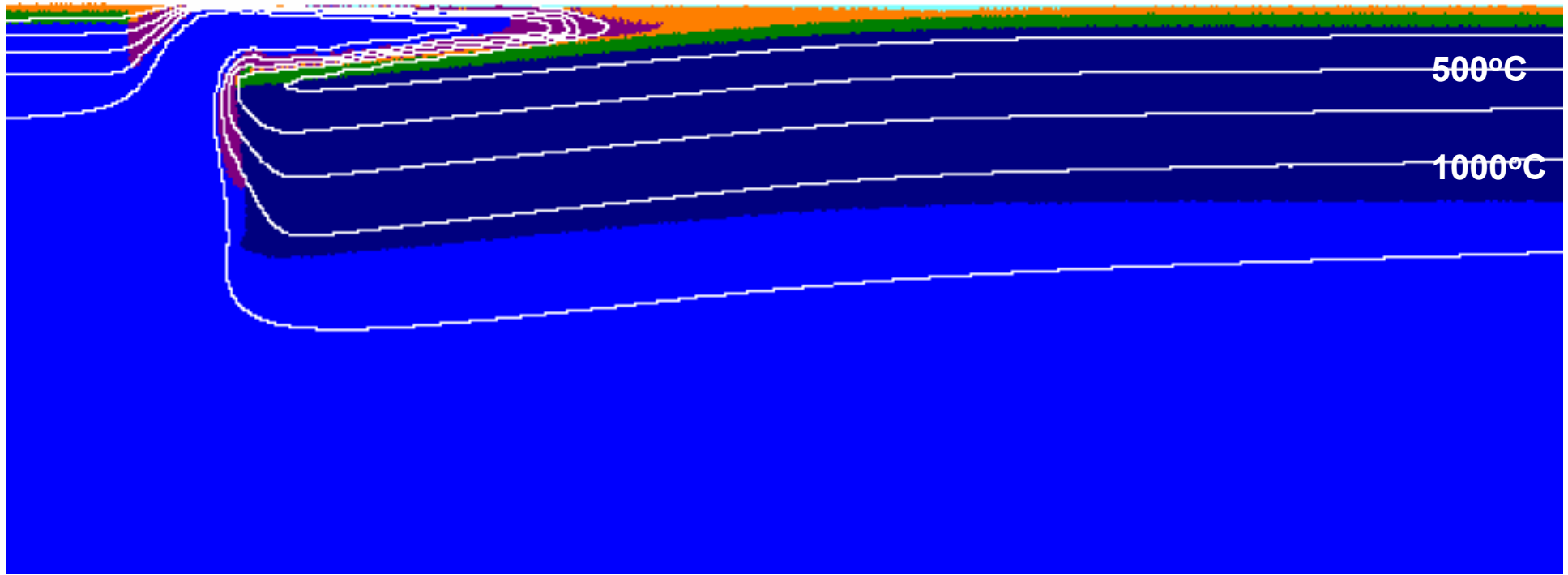
Gerya & Yuen (2007)



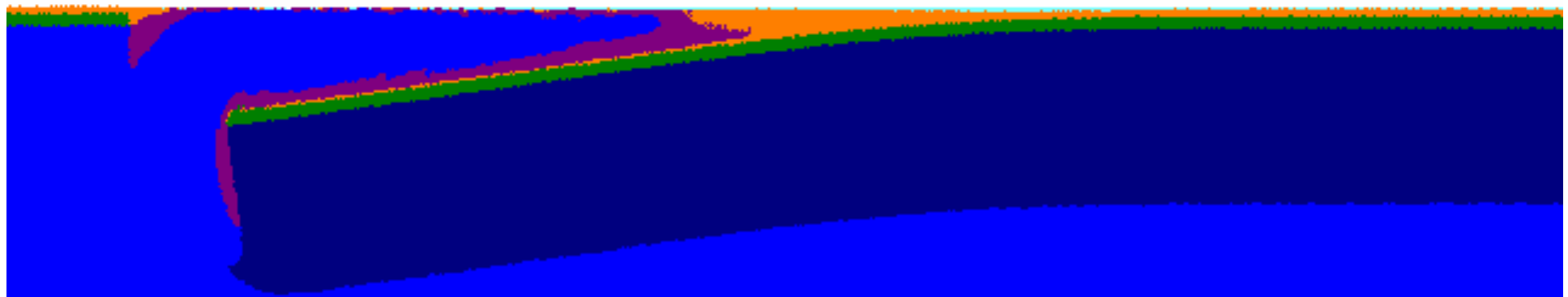
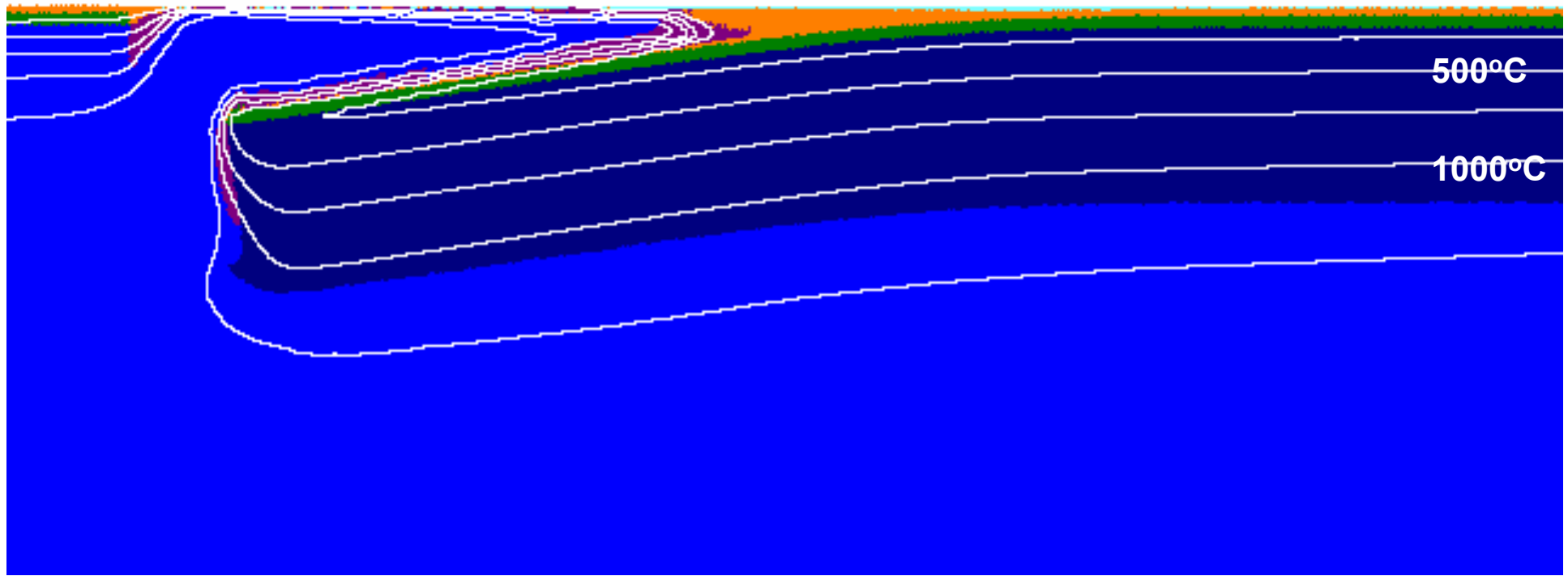
Viscoelastoplasticity is included



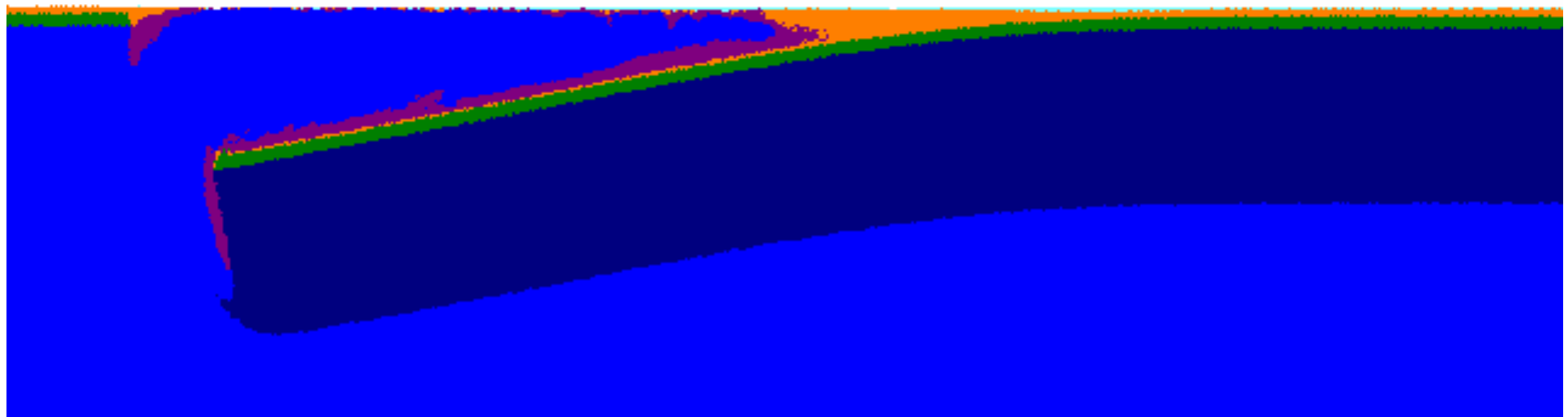
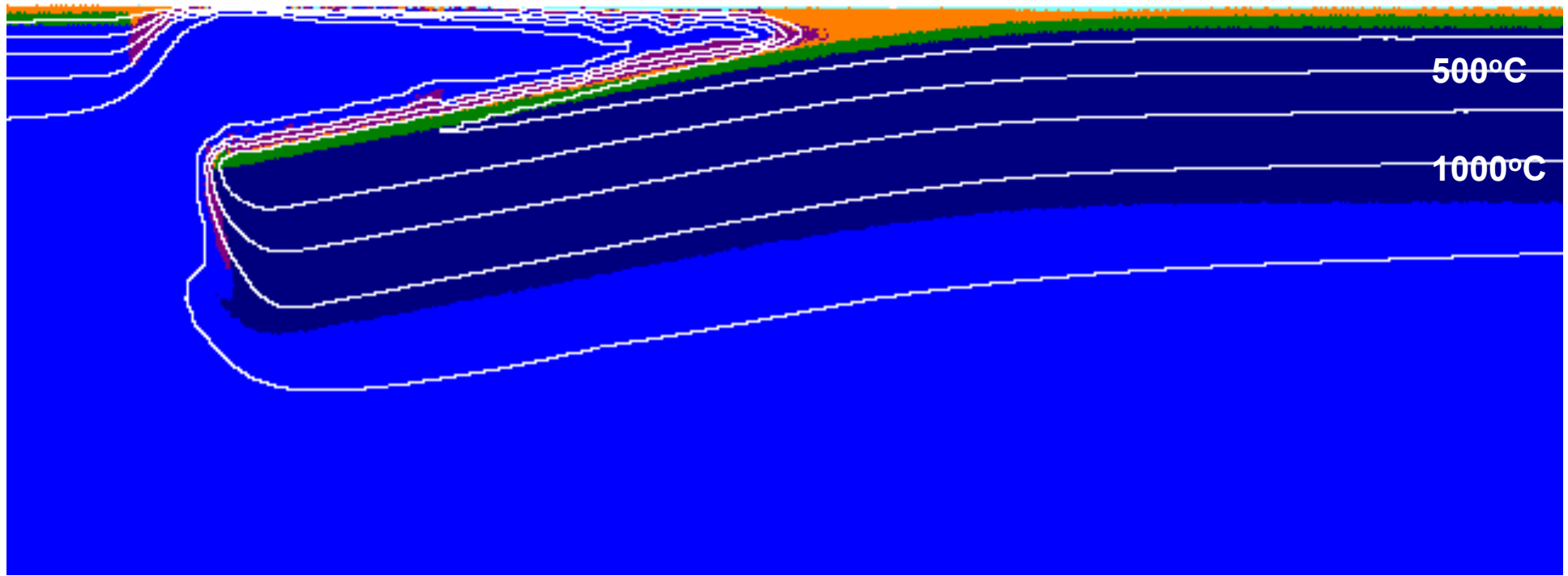
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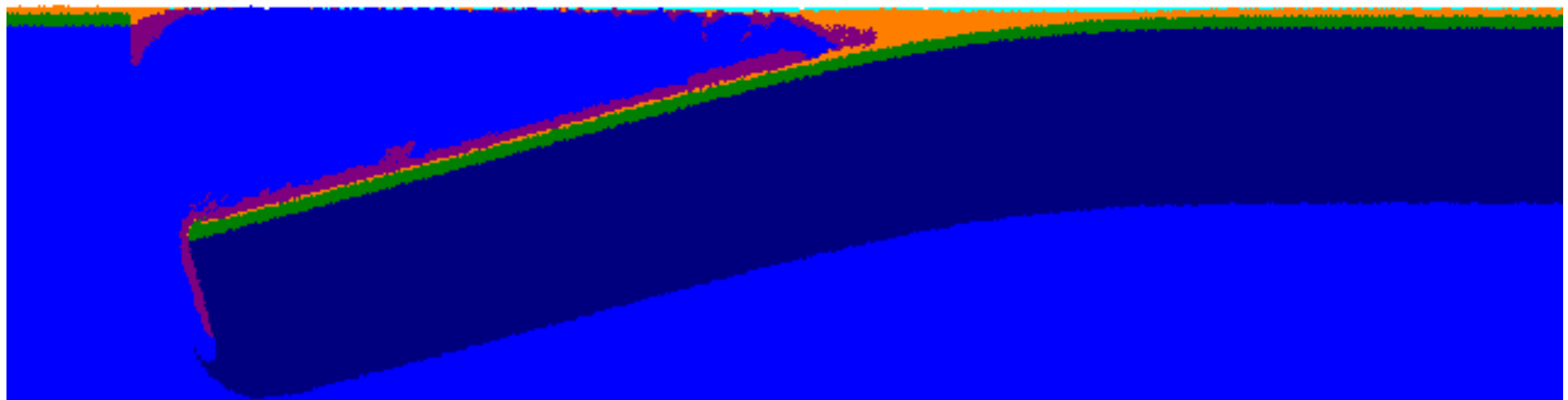
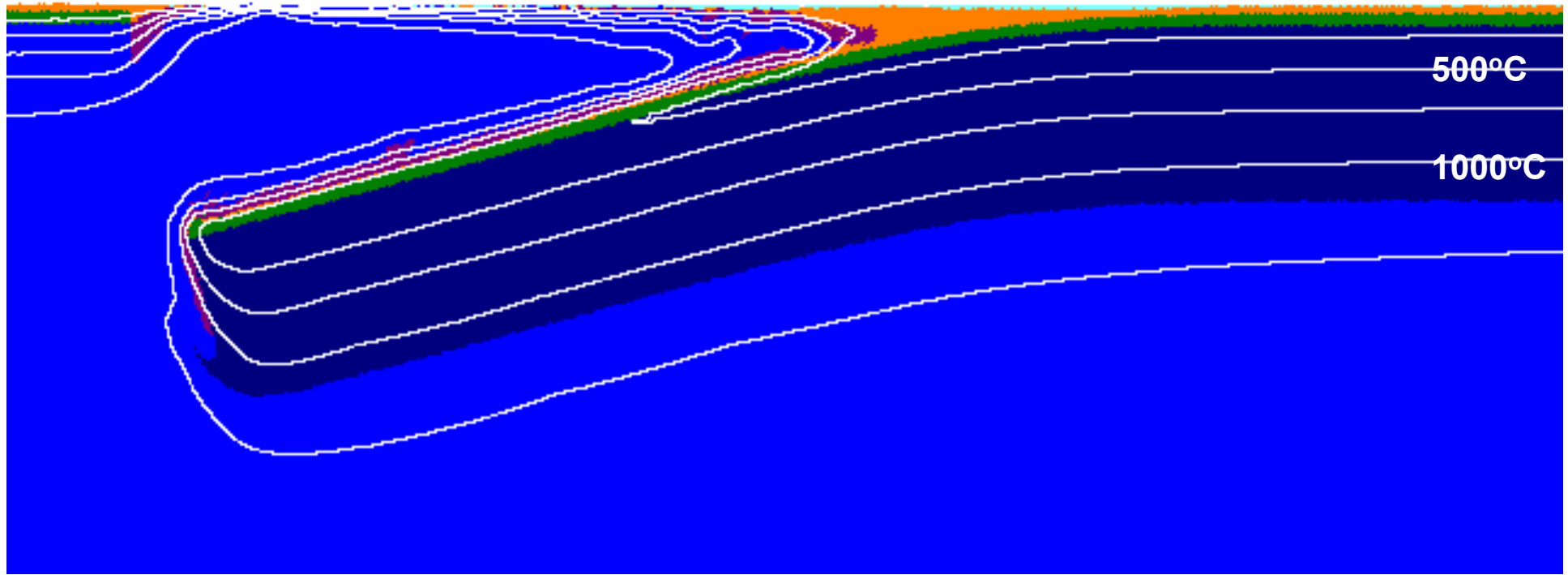
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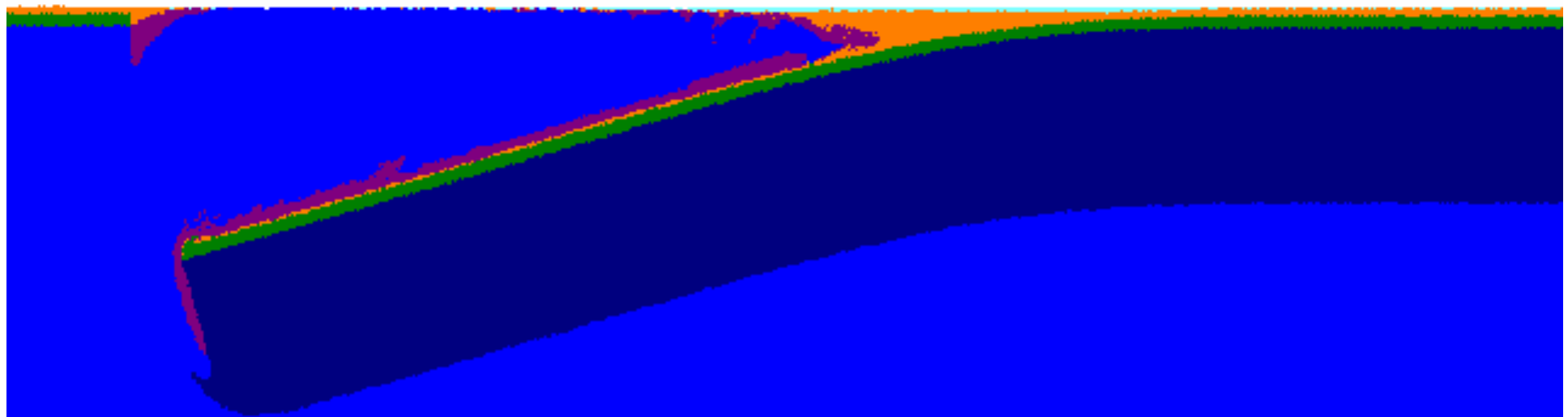
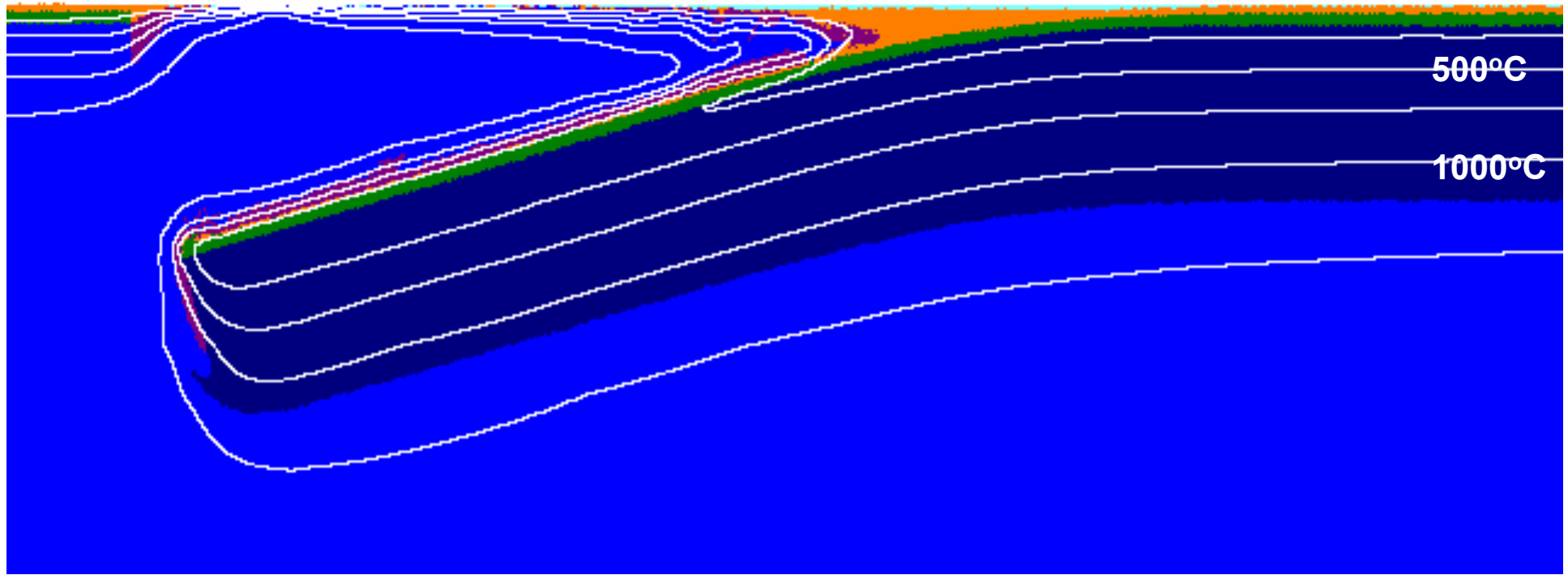
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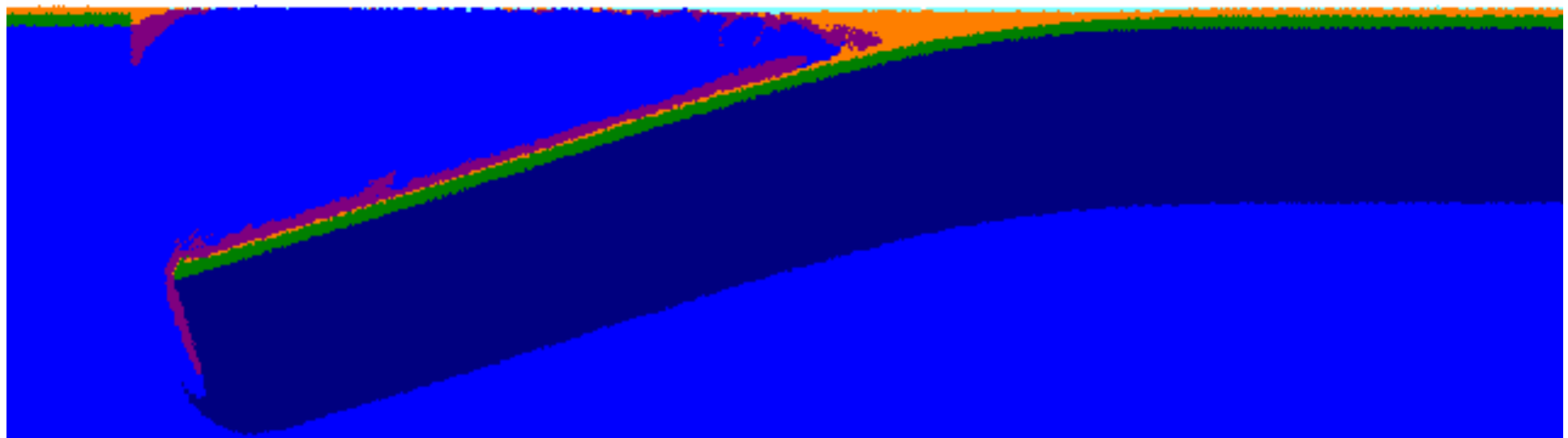
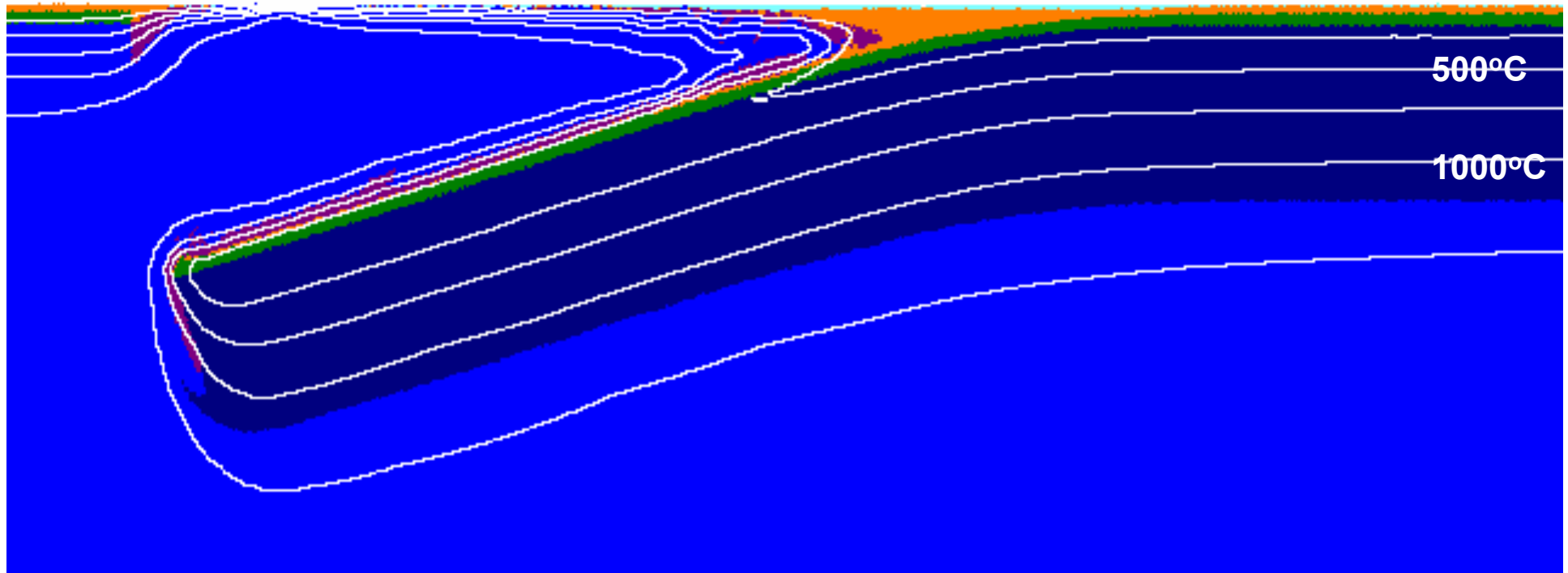
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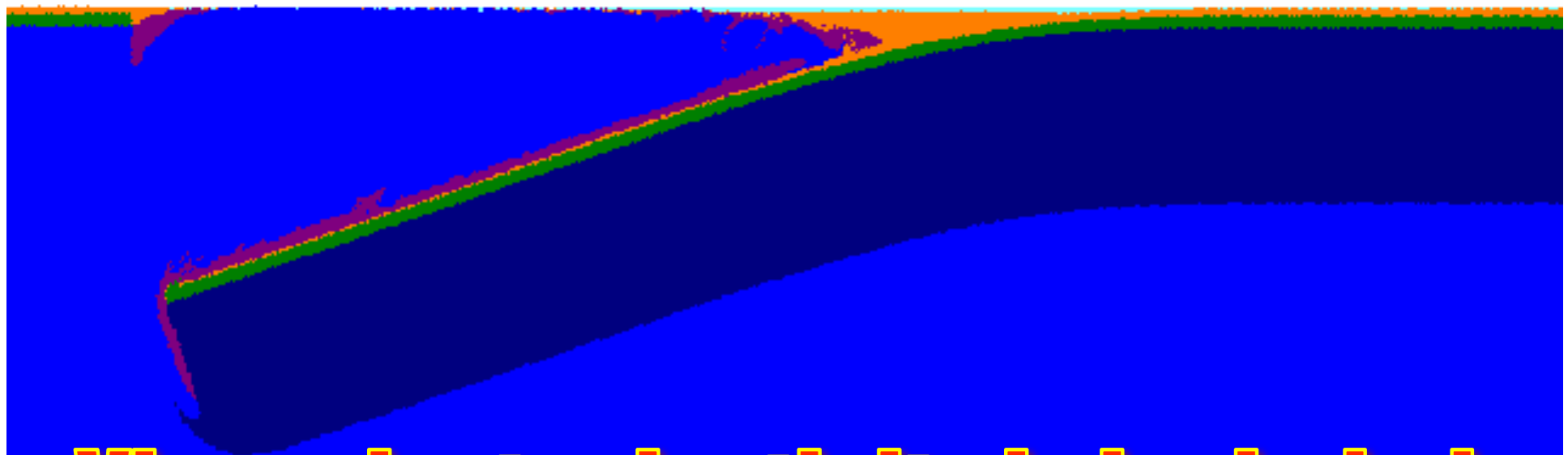
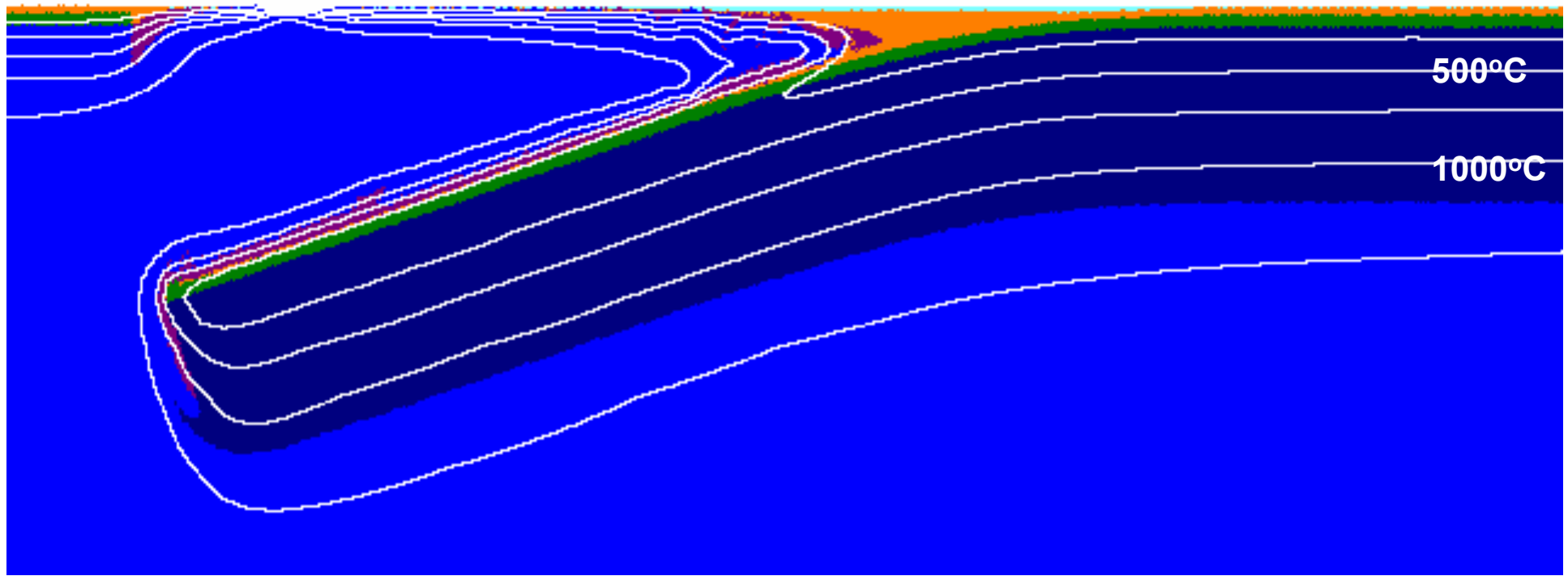
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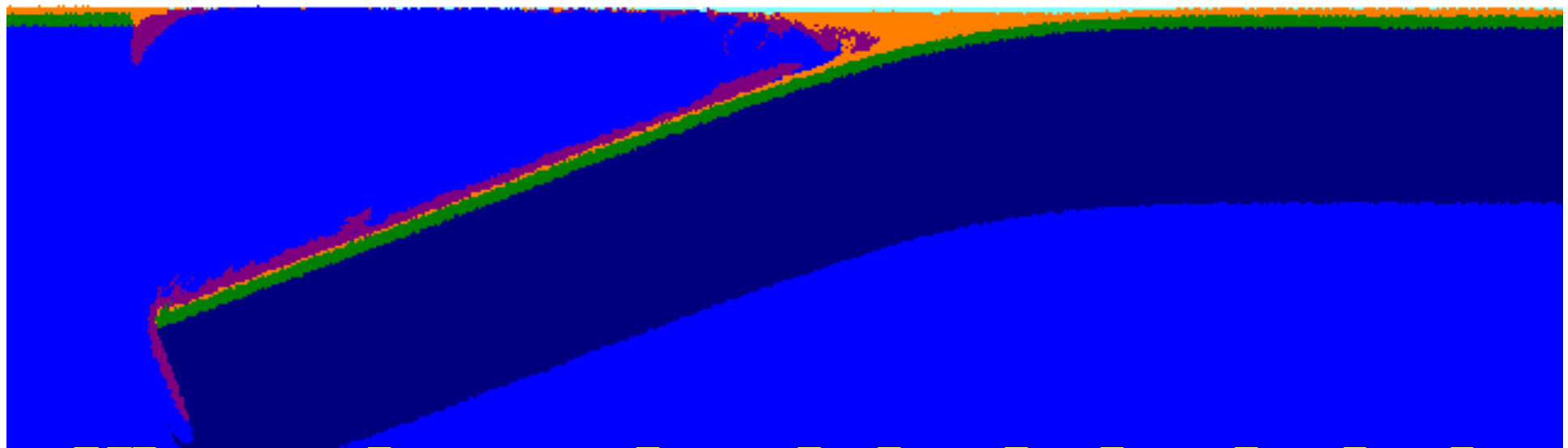
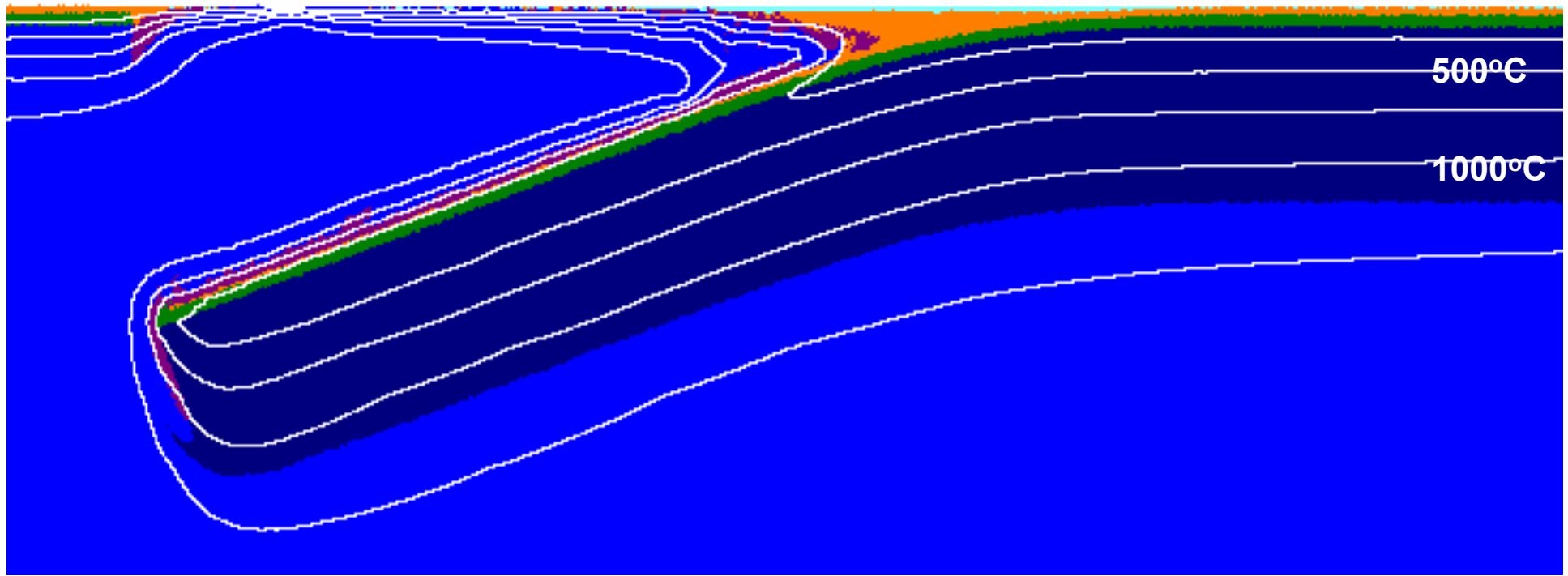
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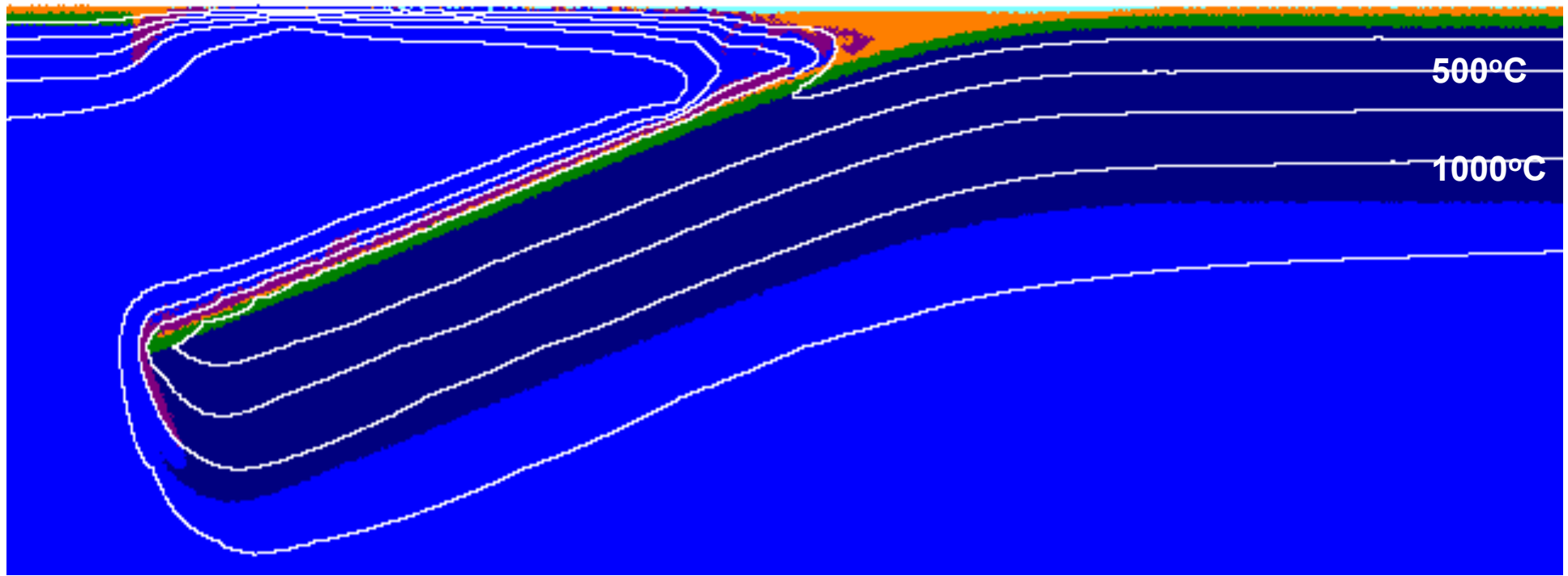
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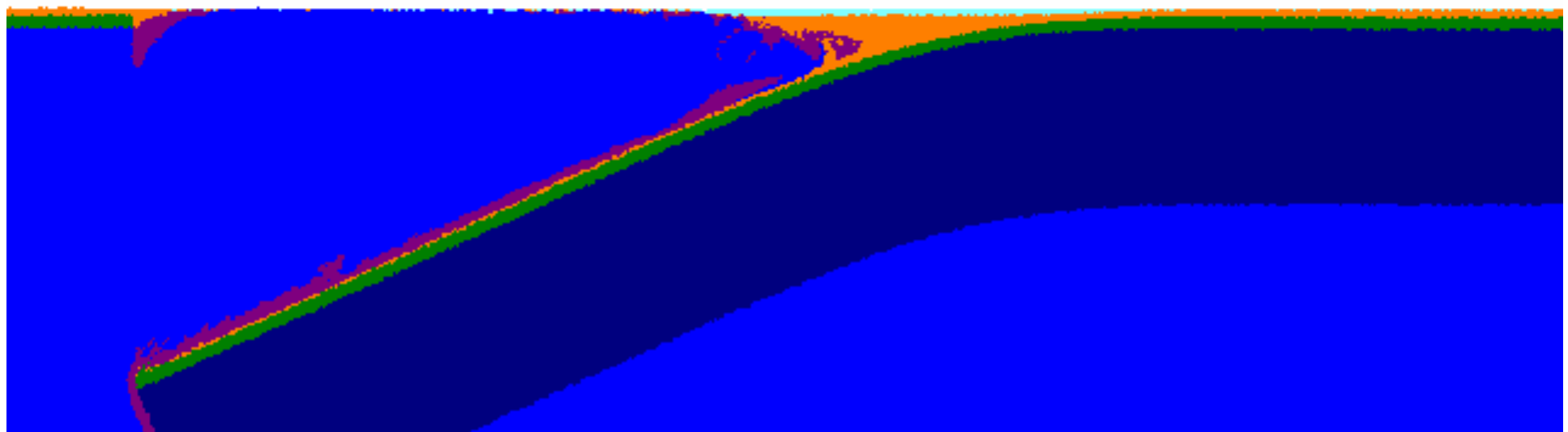
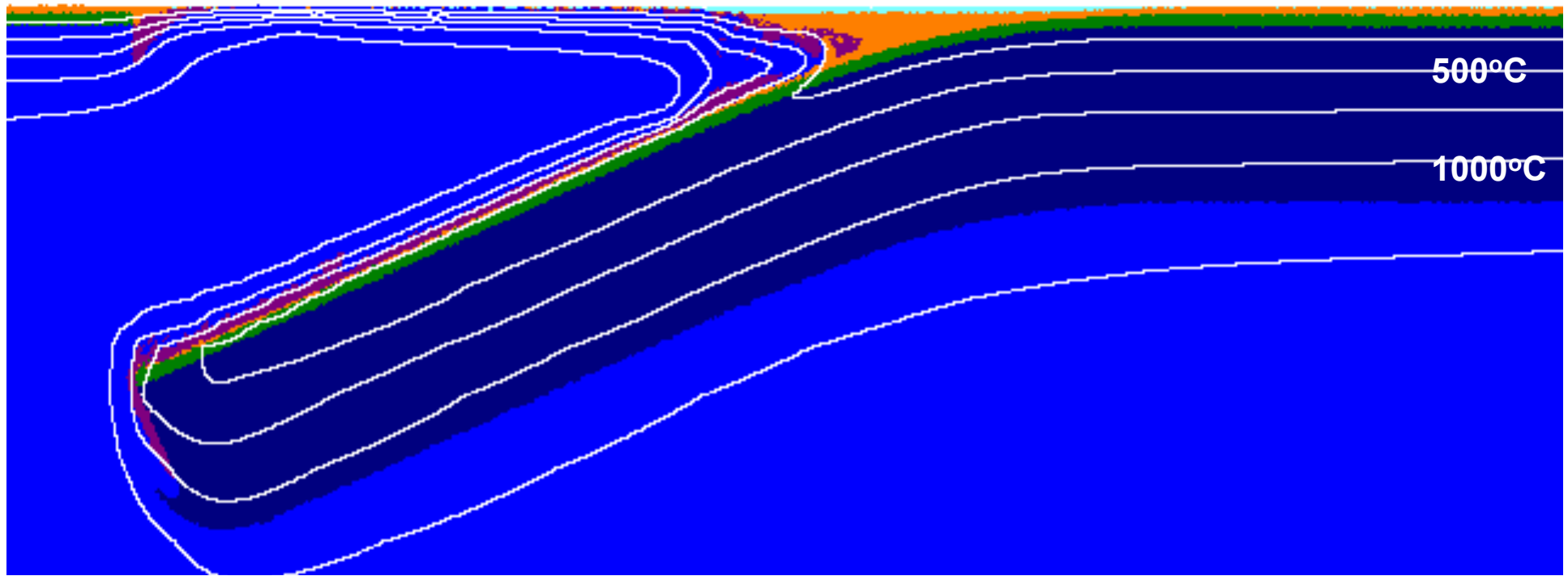


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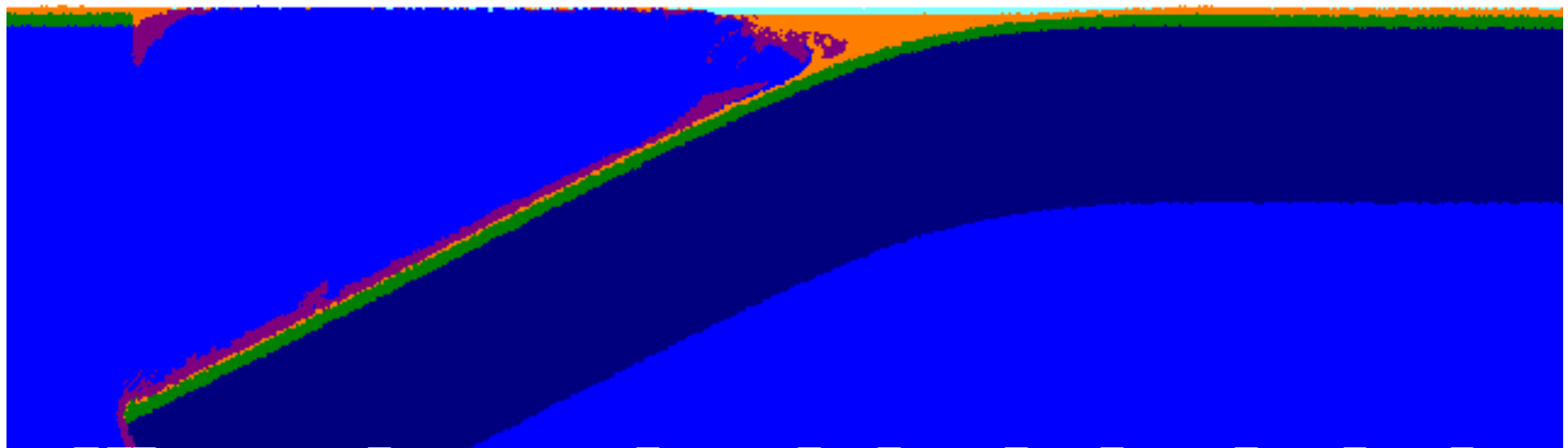
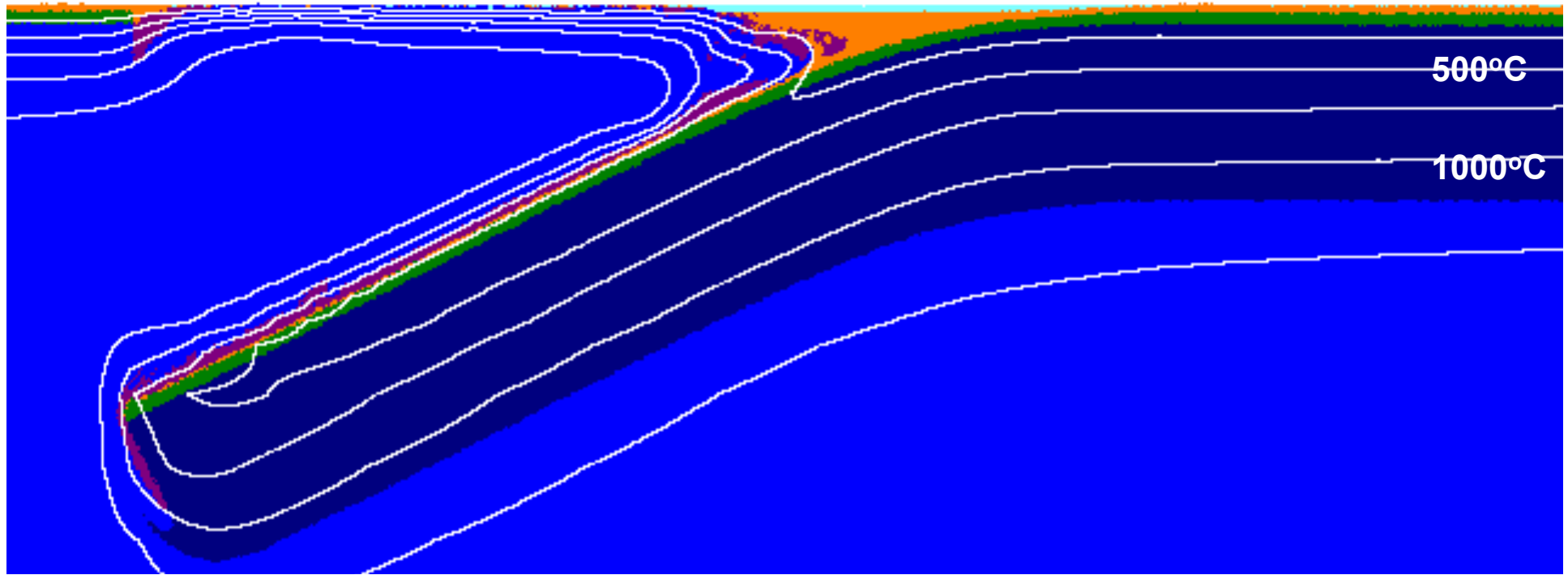


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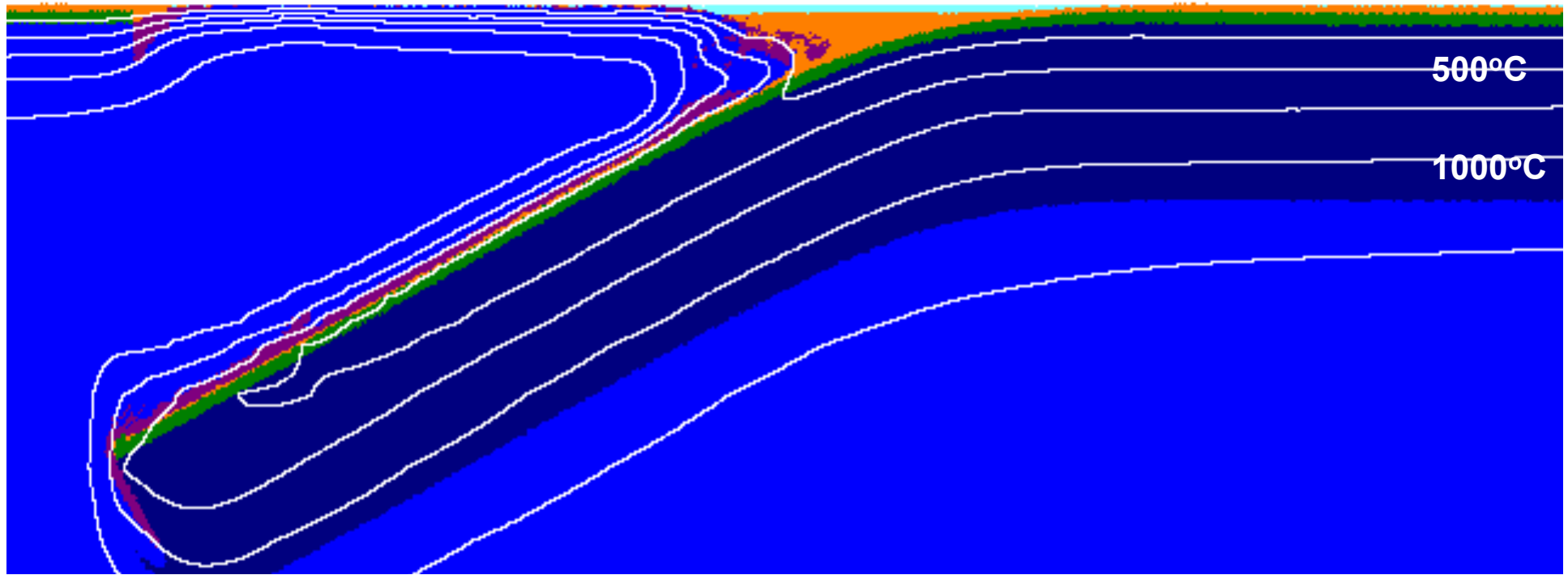




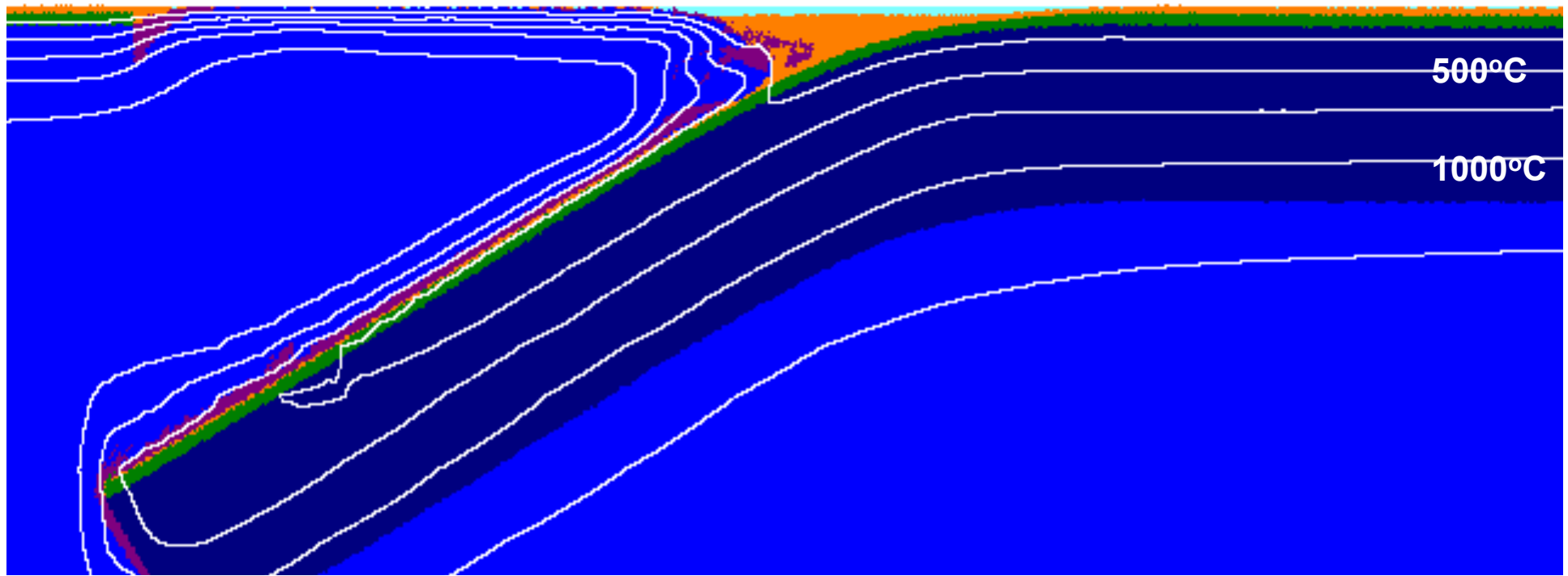
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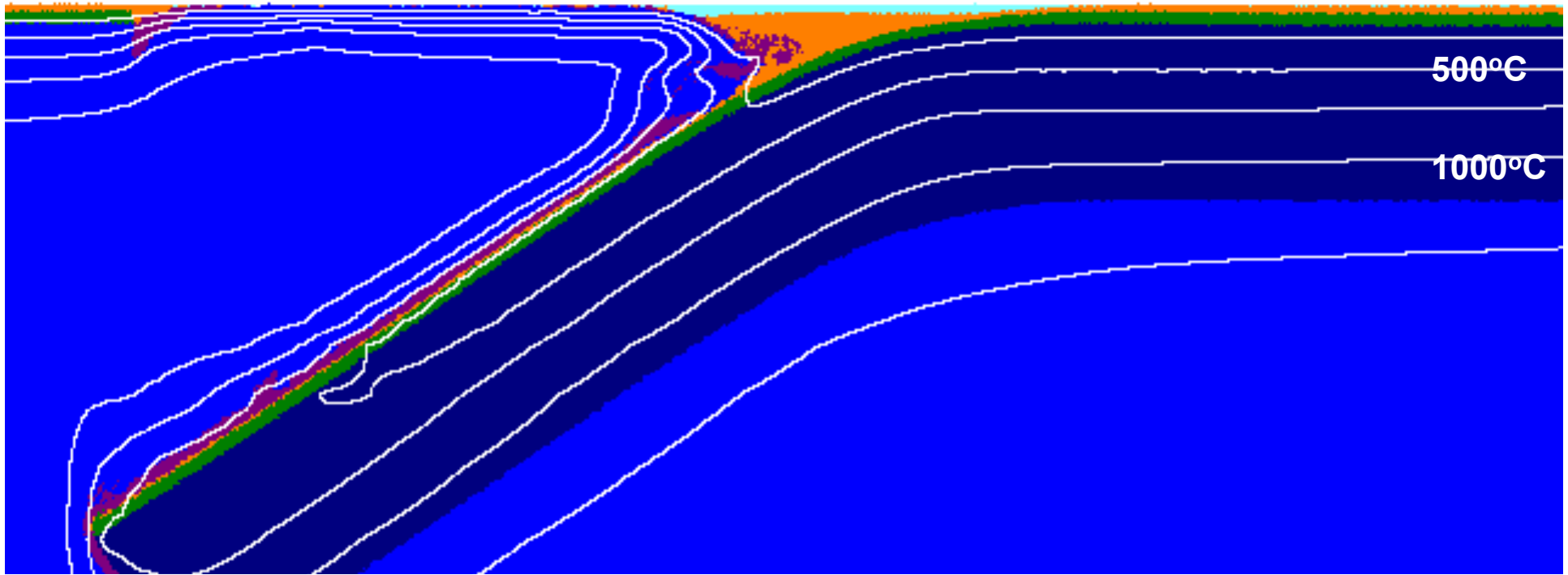
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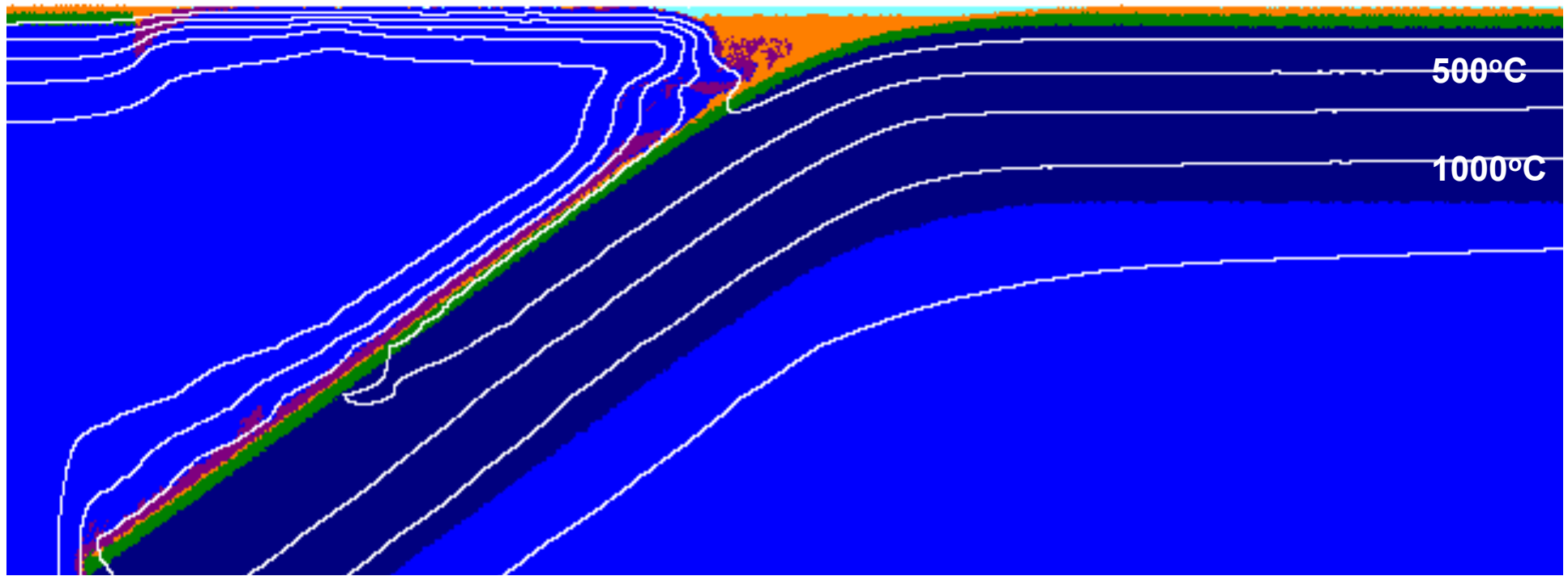
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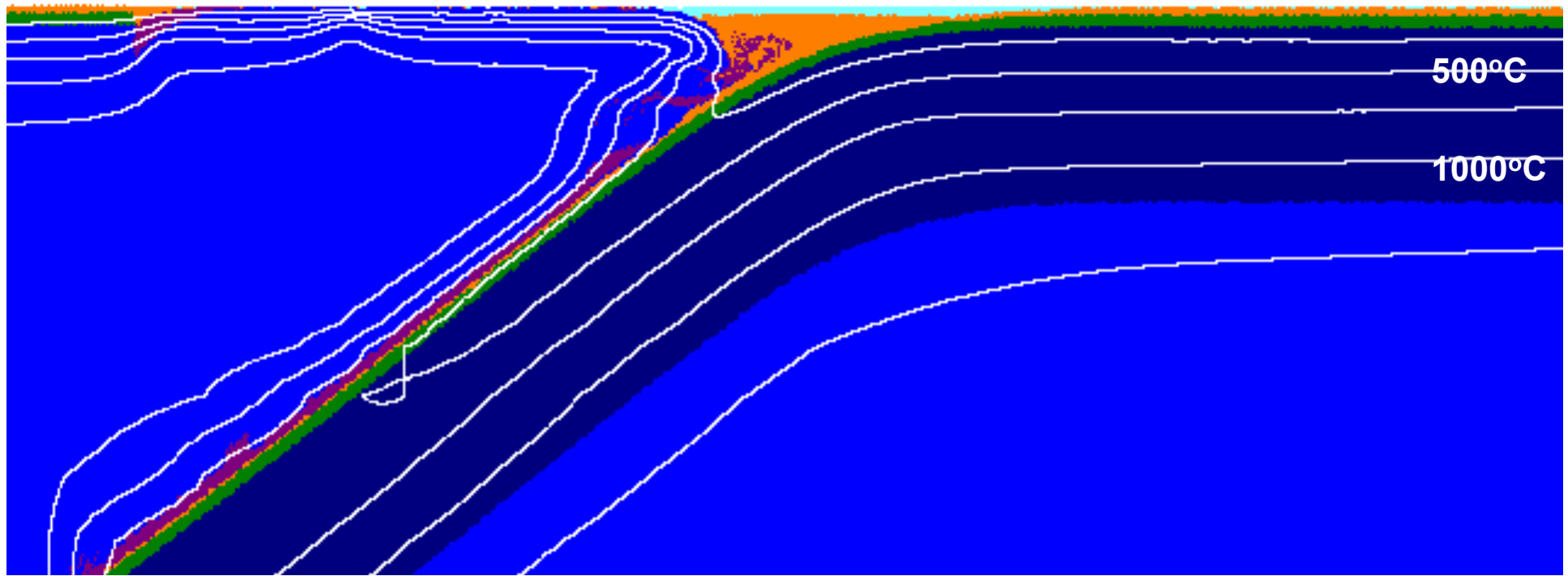
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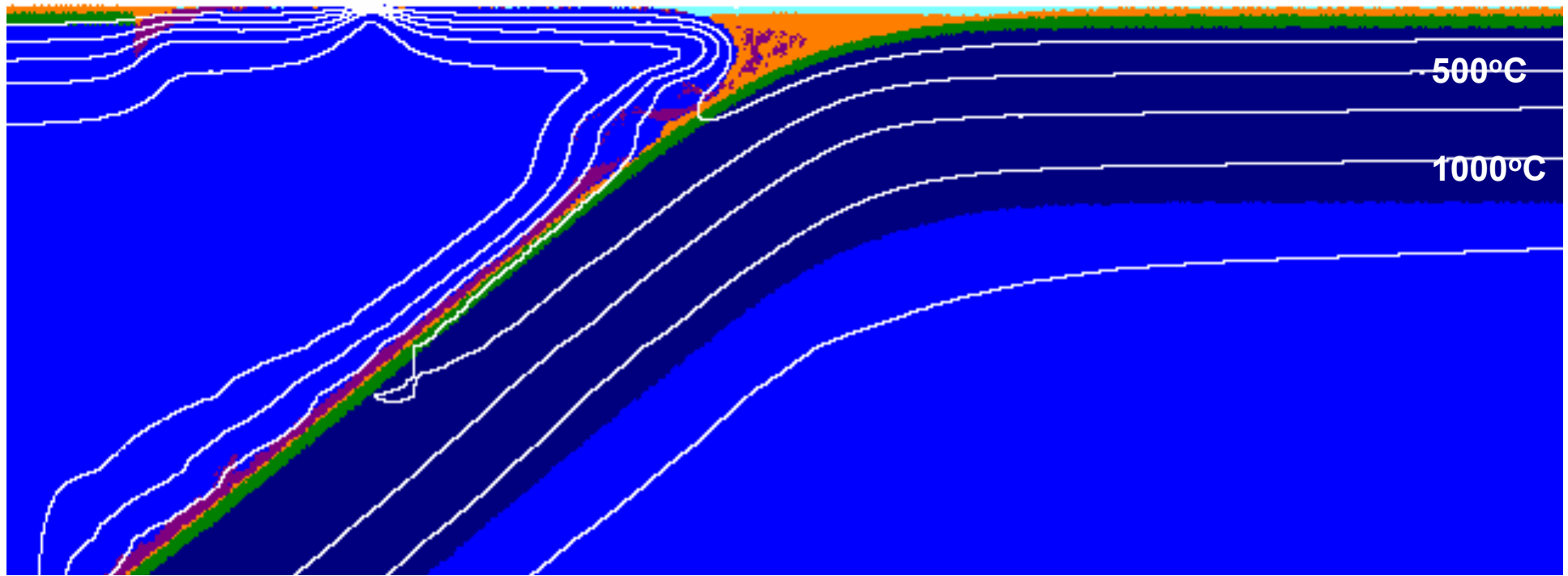
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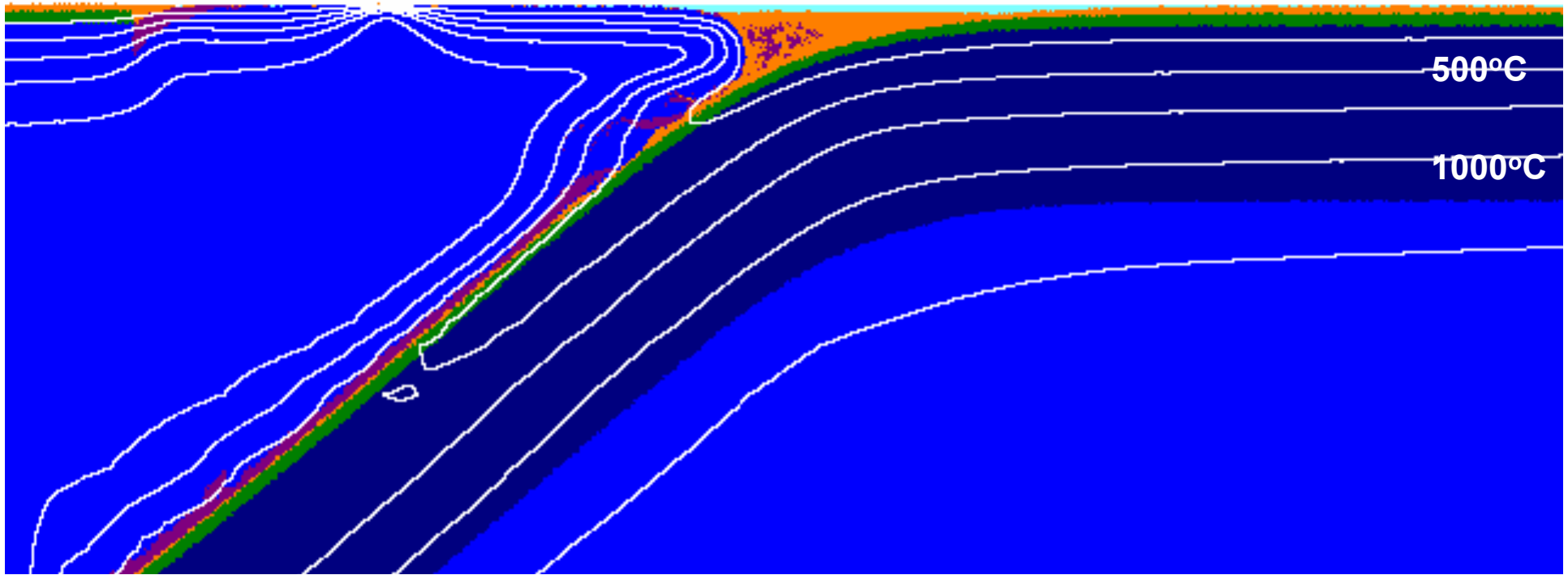
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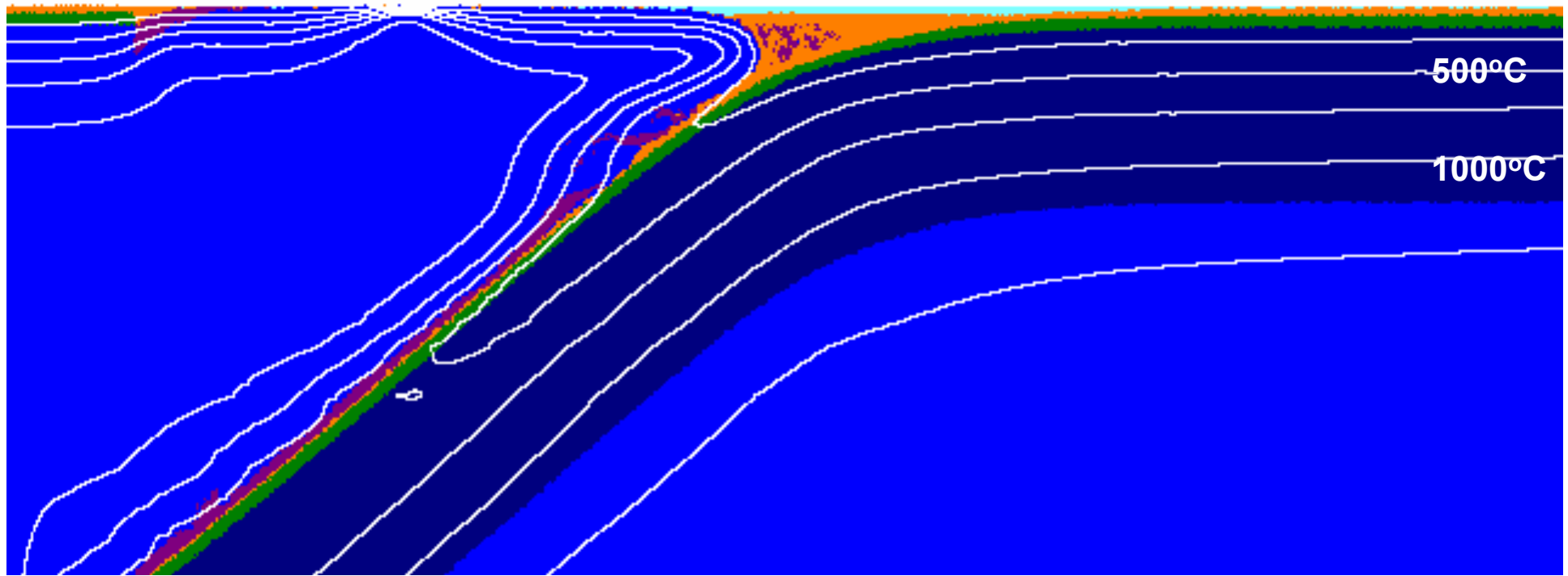
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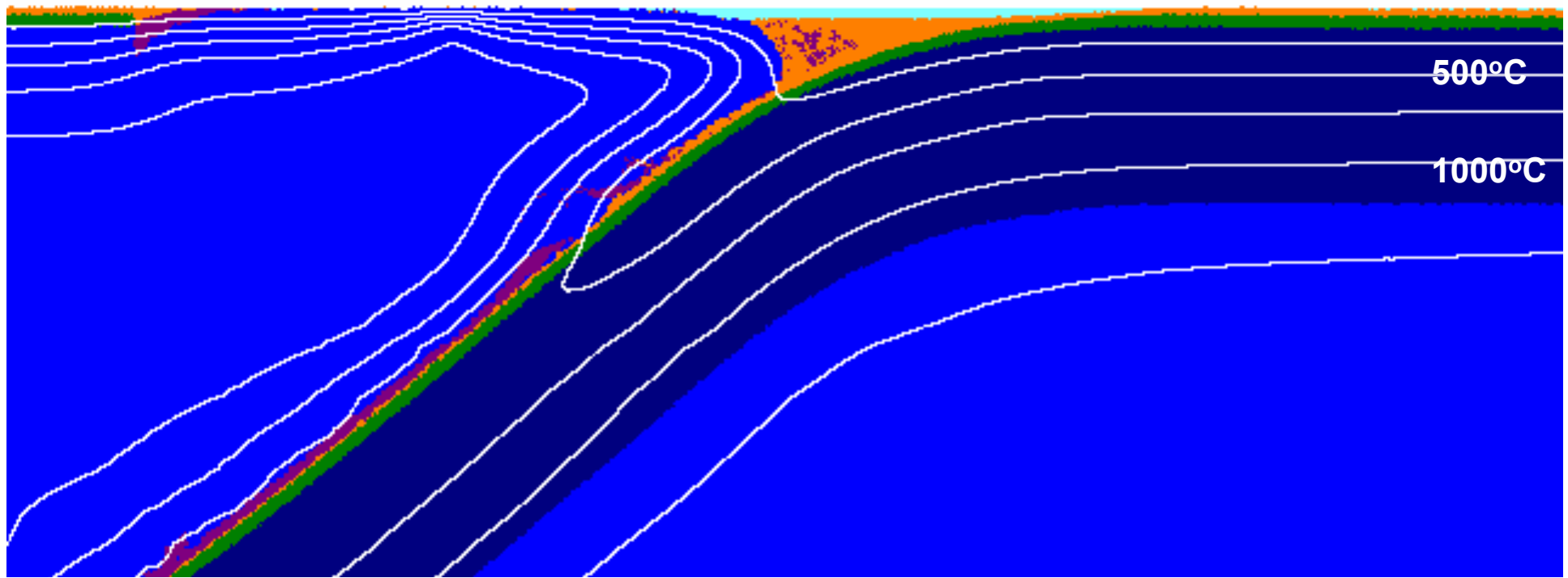
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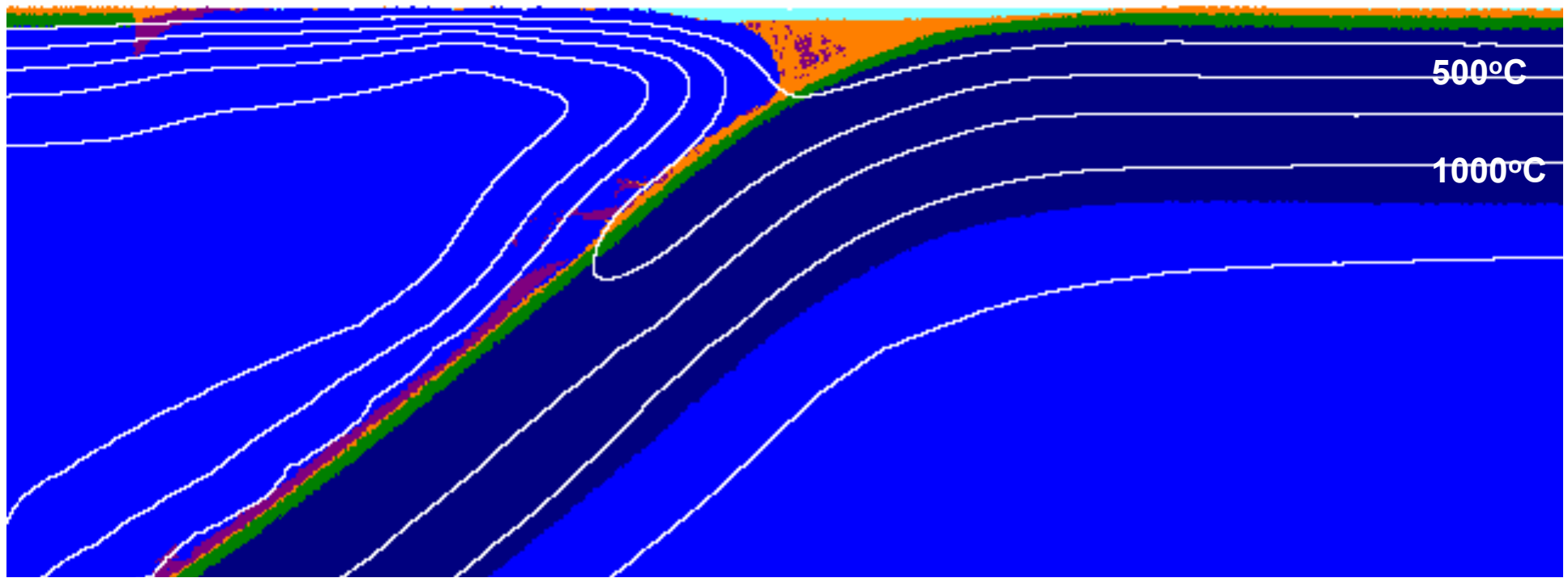
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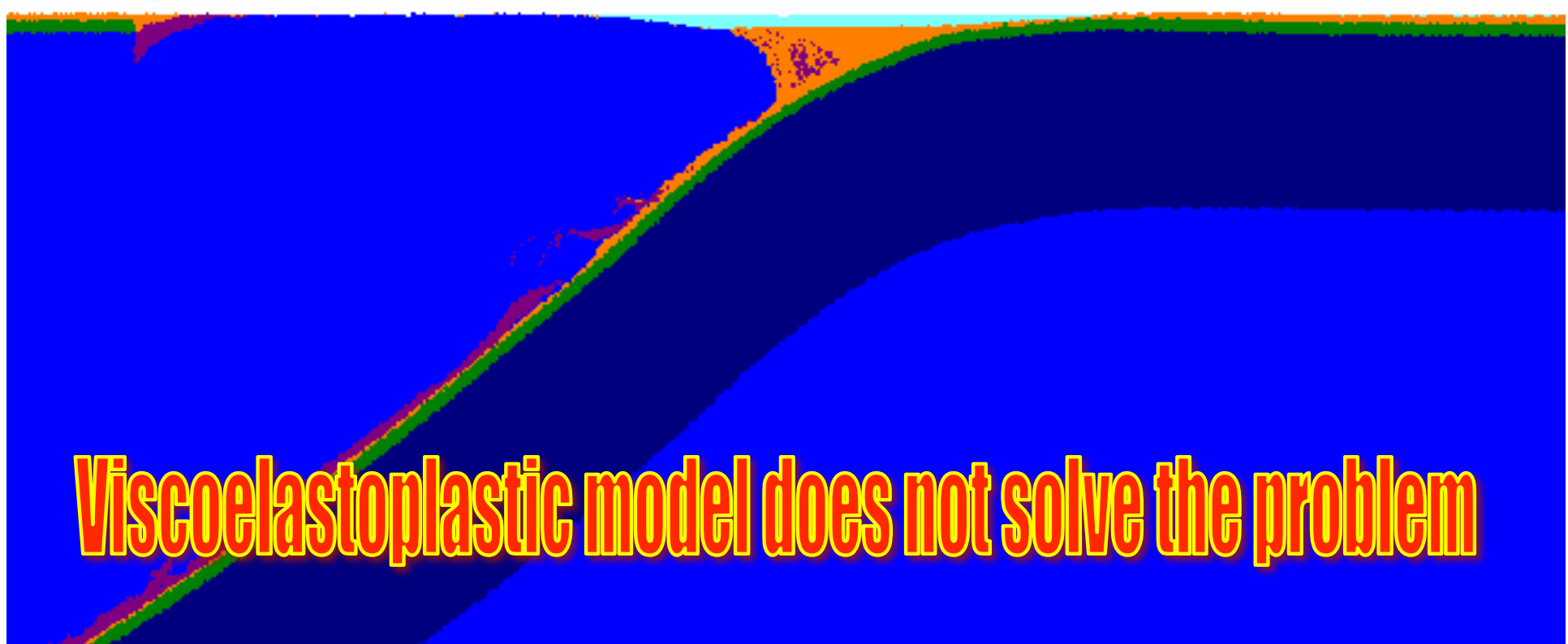
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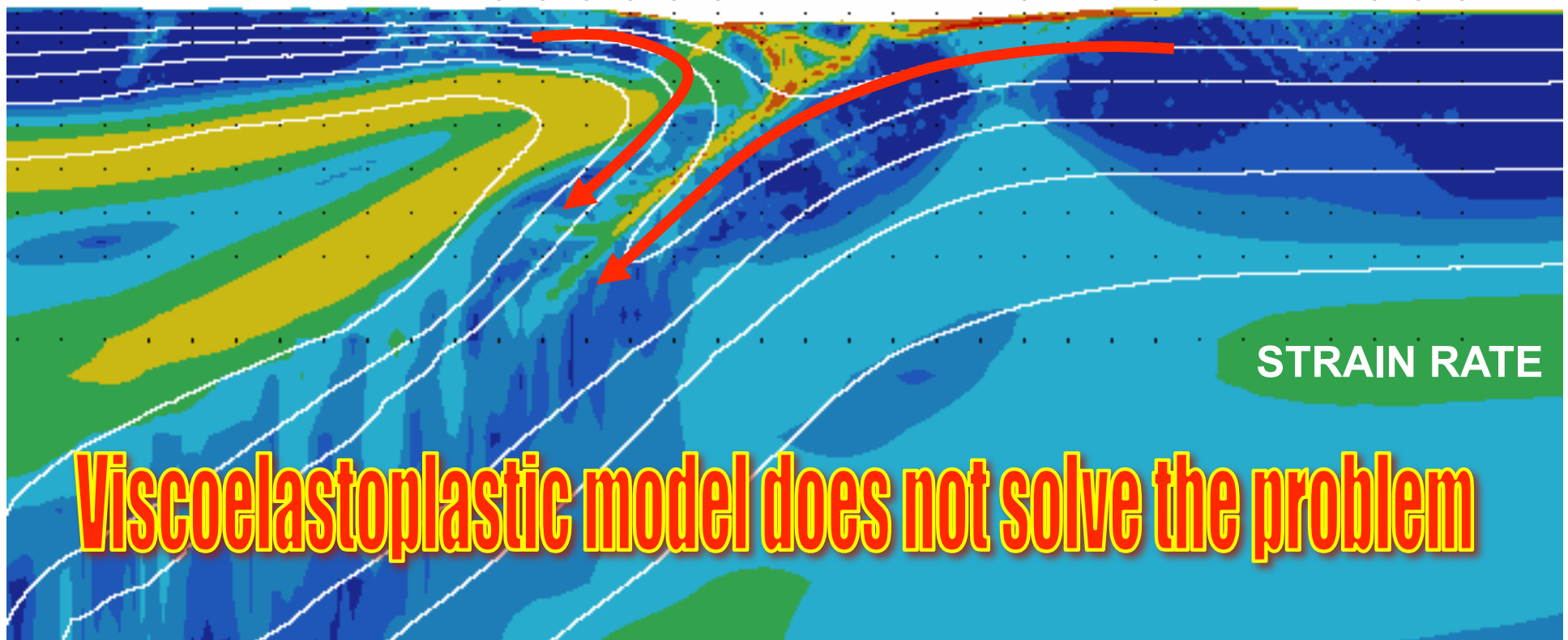


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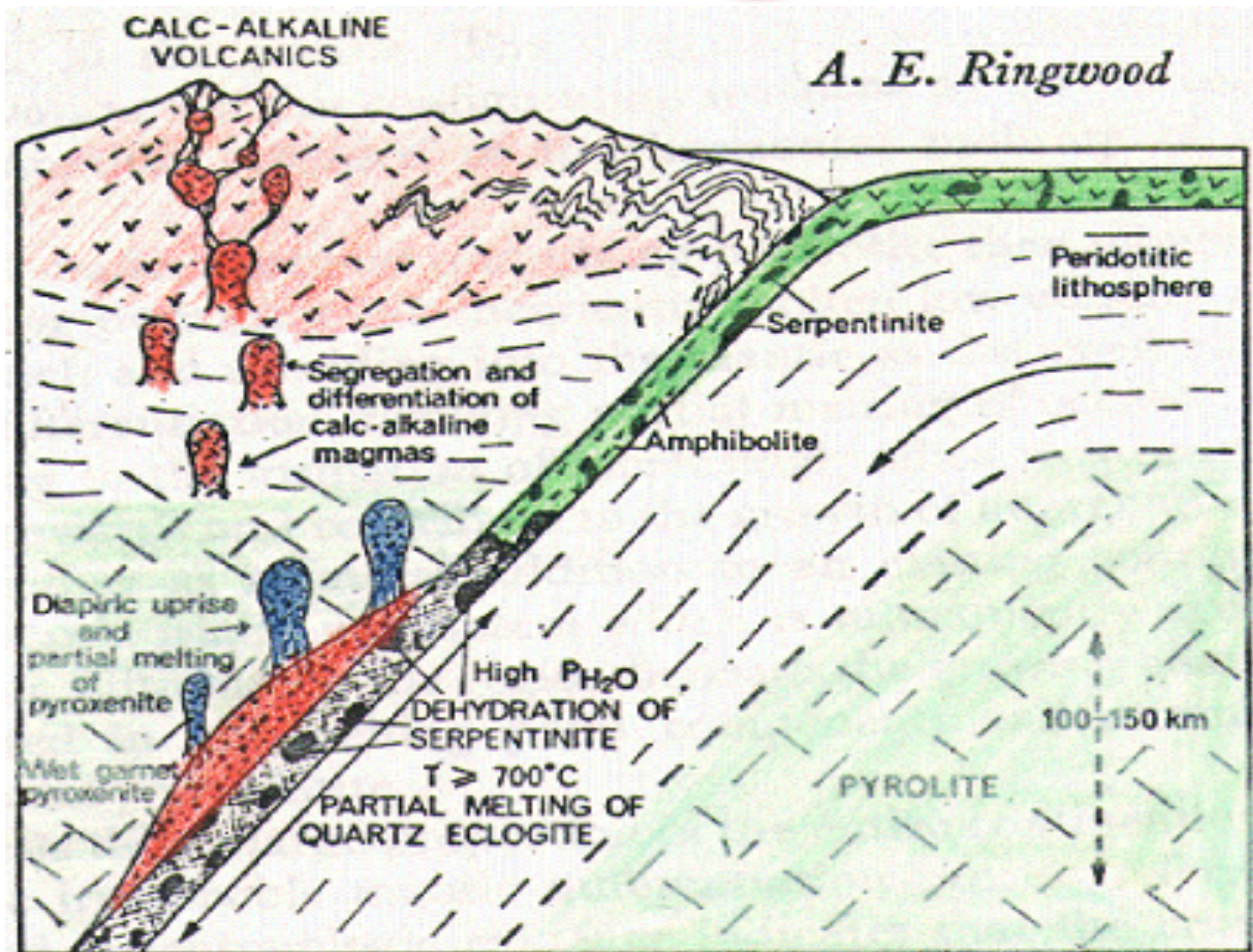


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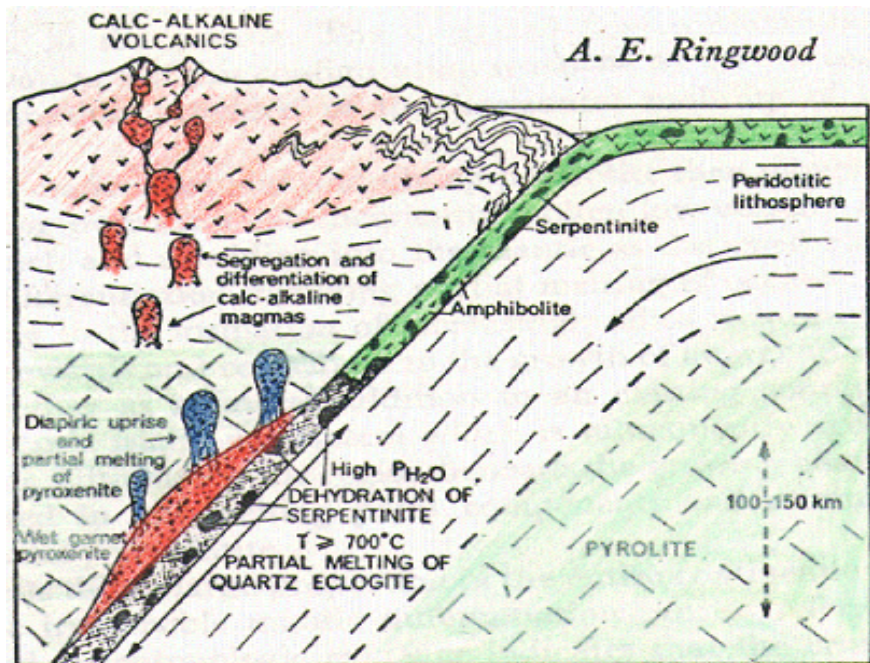




What is forgotten ?



Fluids and melts!



Fluids and melts

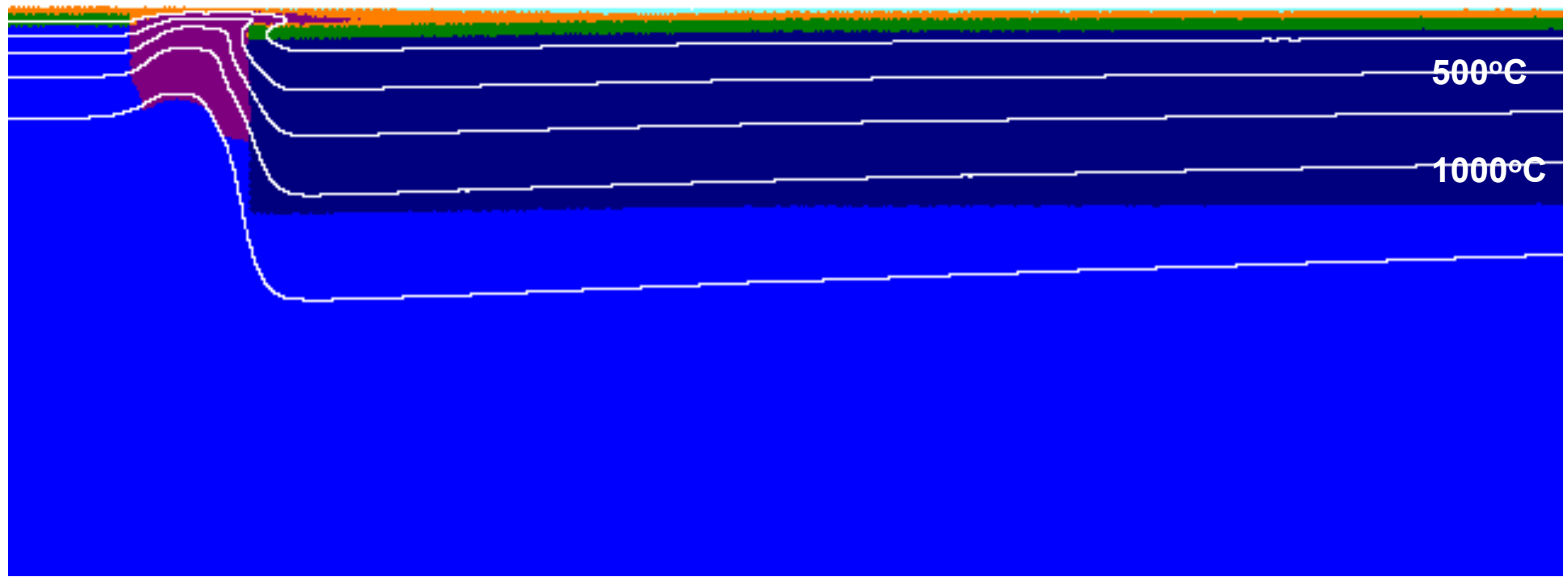
We employ a visco-elasto-plastic rheology with experimentally calibrated flow laws and elastic shear moduli computed from stable phase assemblages for each lithology (8). The plastic strength is taken to be dependent on pore fluid pressure P_{fluid} such that (13):

$$\sigma_{yield} = \cos(\varphi)C + \sin(\varphi)P^*(1-\lambda) \quad (3)$$

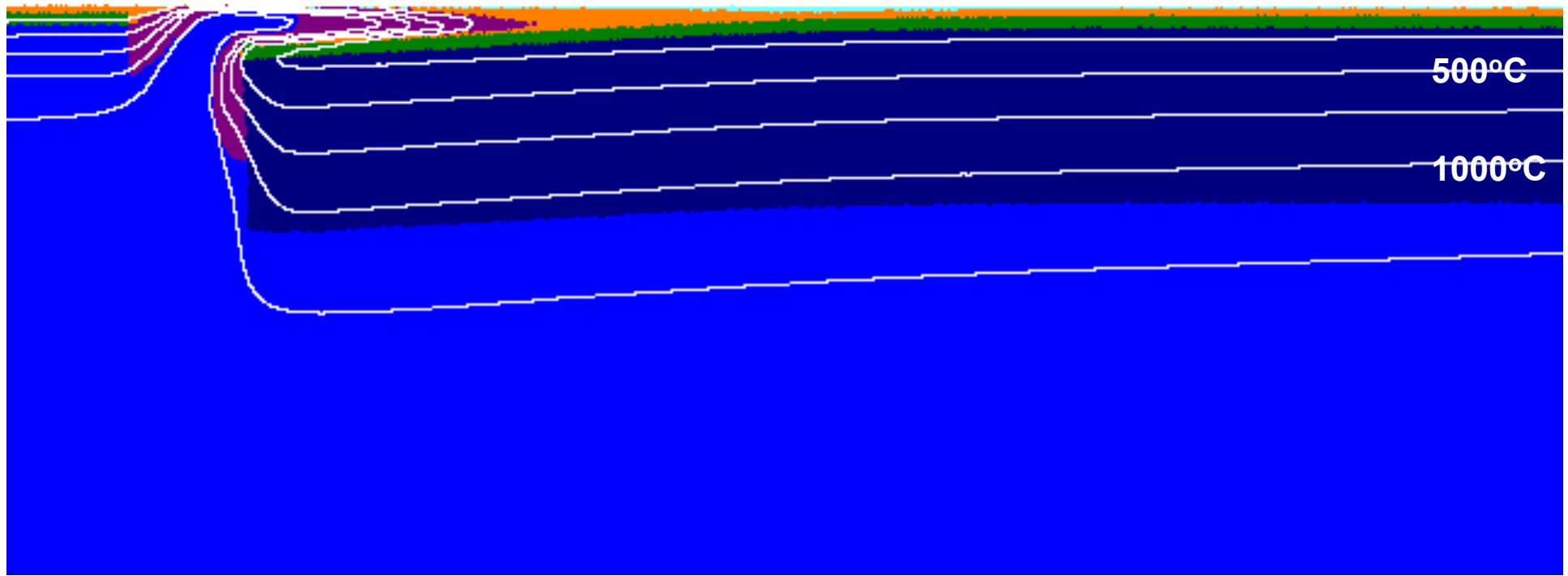
Plastic strength of the crust decreases with increasing pore fluid pressure (4)

where C is cohesion (residual strength at $P=0$), φ is effective internal friction angle (φ_{dry} stands for dry

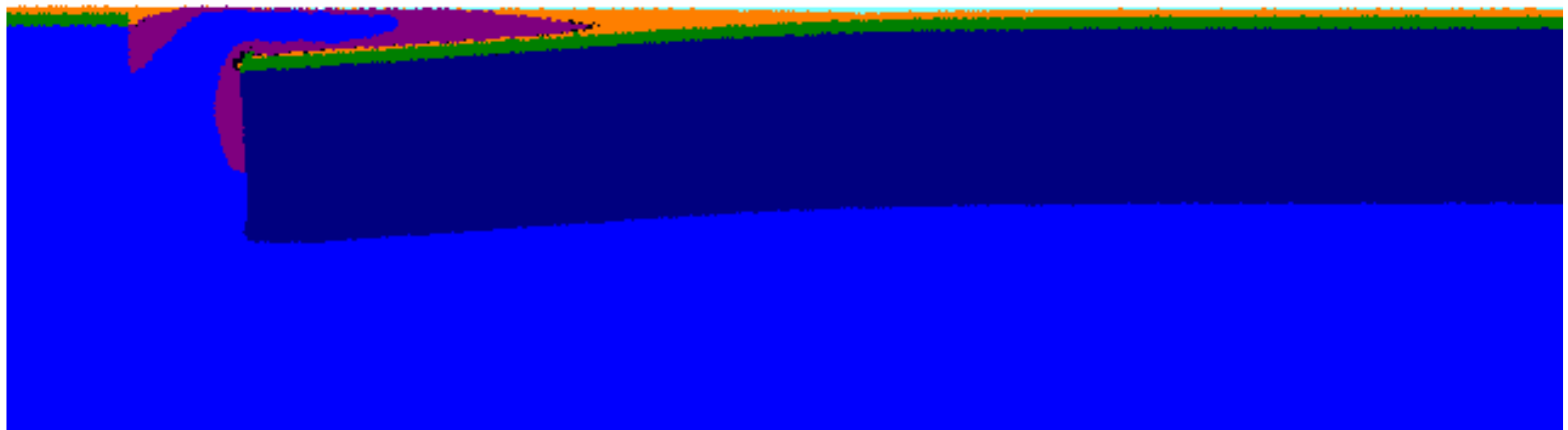
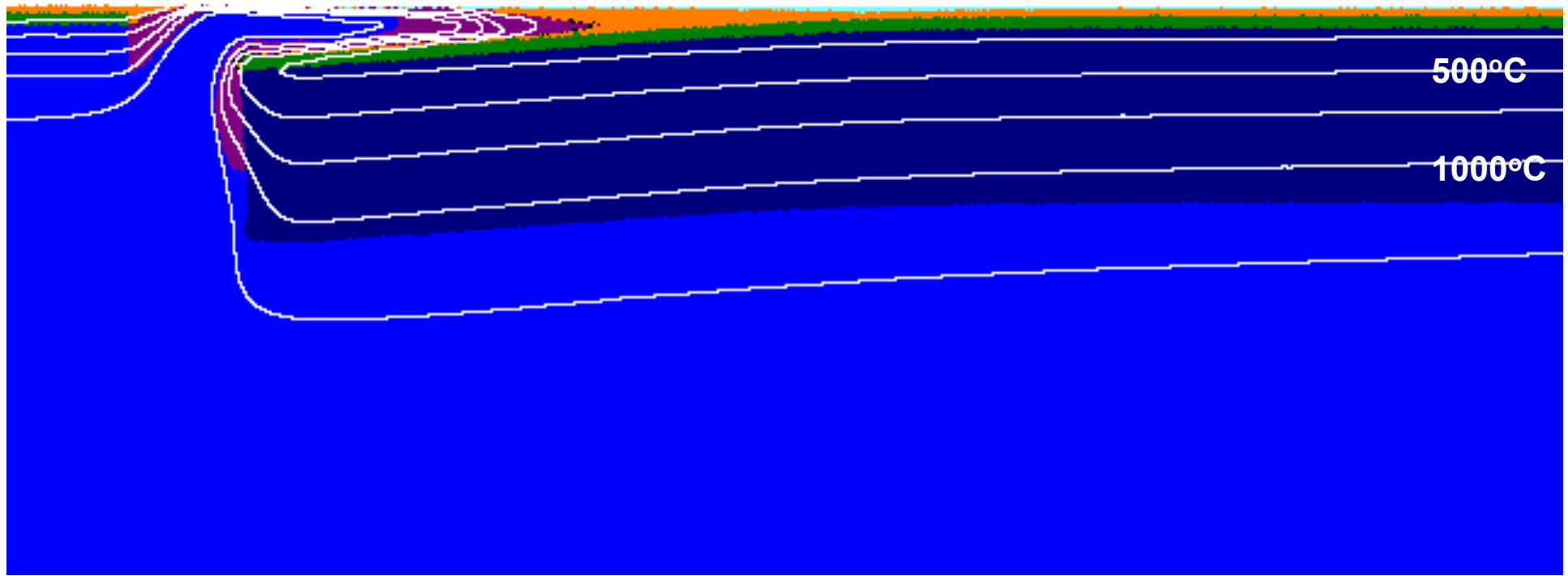
rocks) and $\lambda = \frac{P_{fluid}}{P_{solid}}$ is the pore fluid pressure factor, $P_{solid} = P$ corresponds to mean stress on solids.



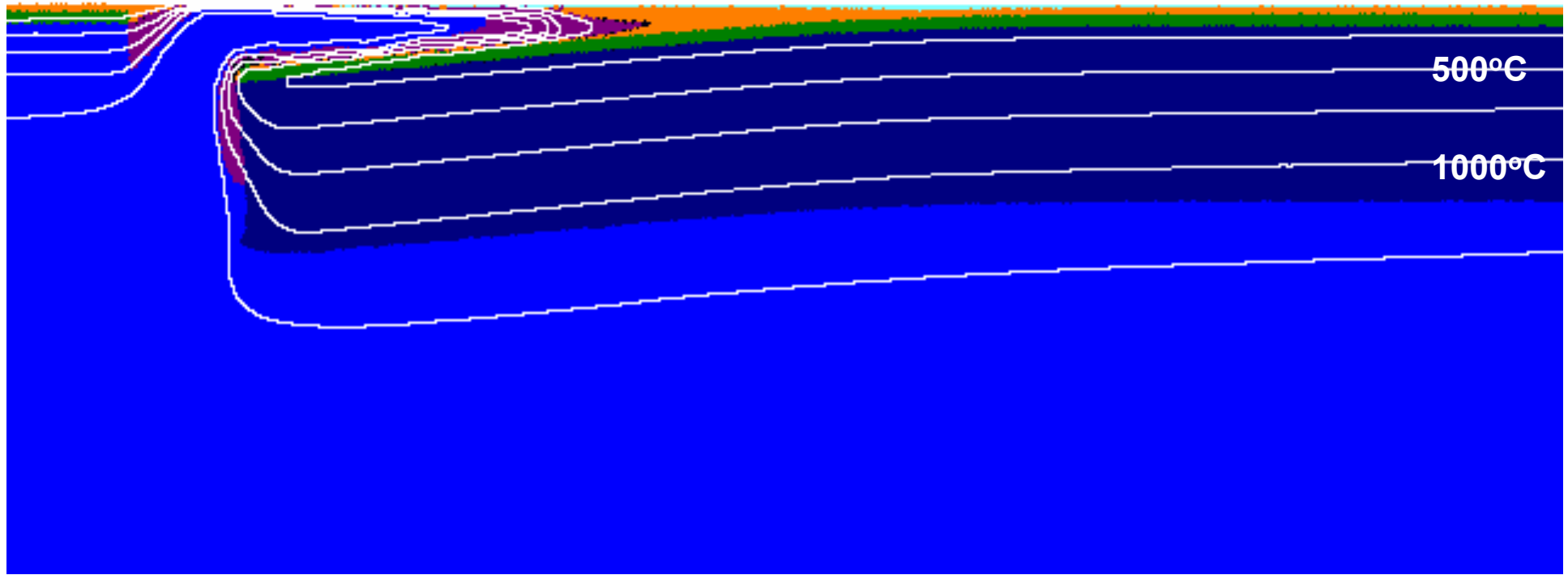
Water transport is included



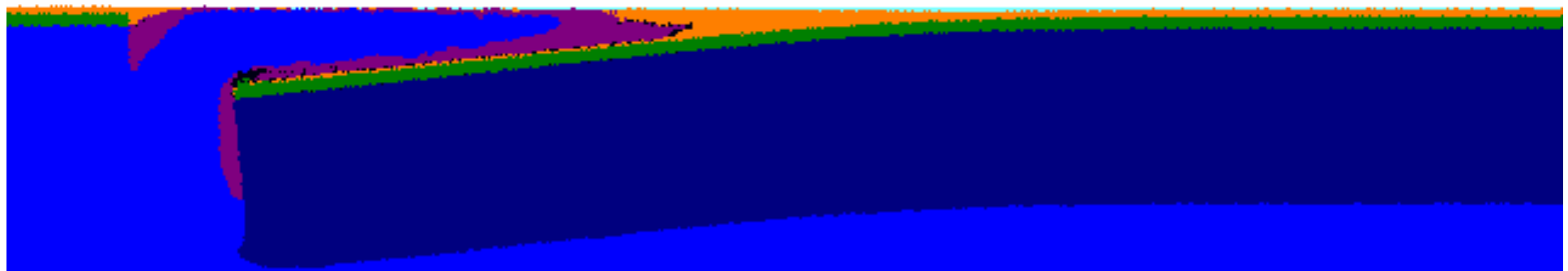
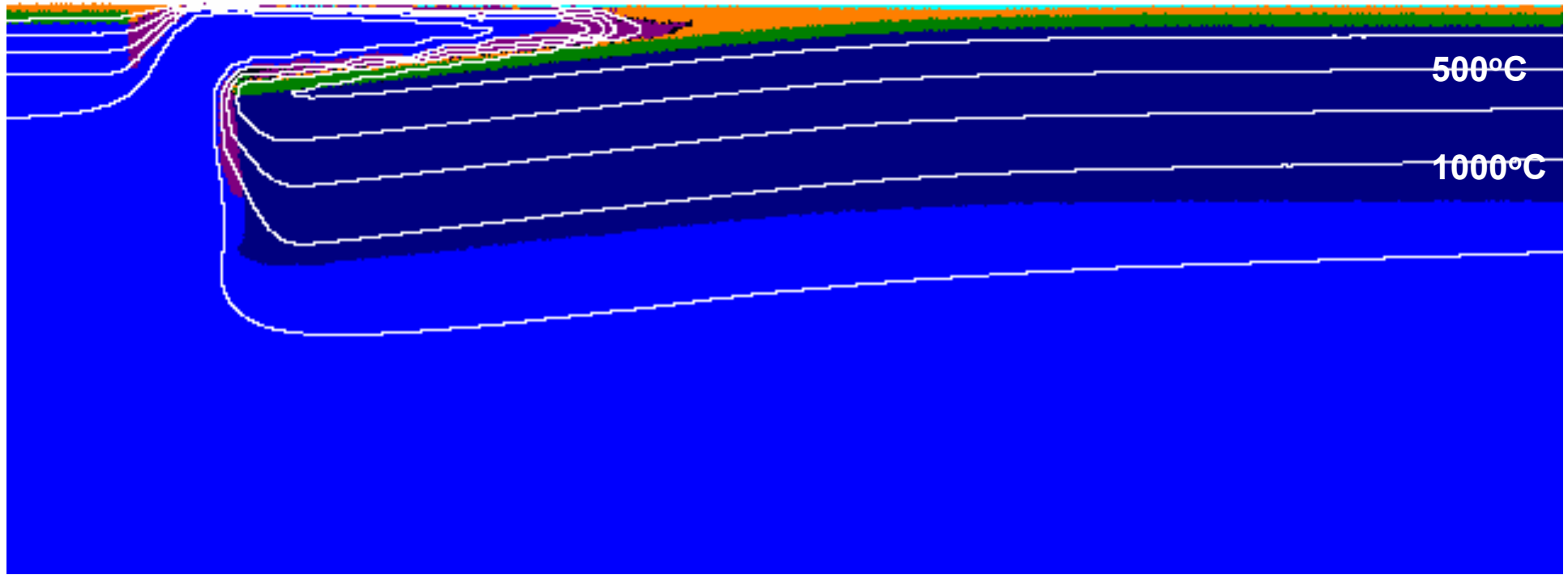
Water transport is included



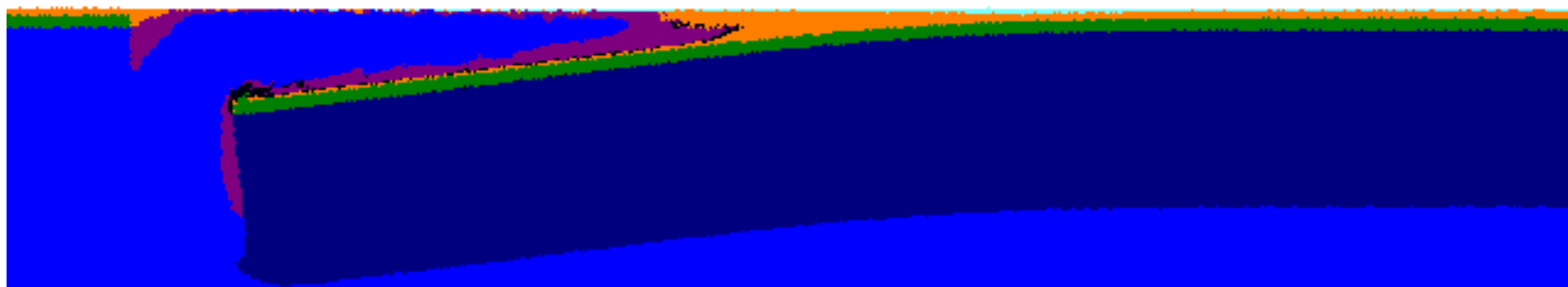
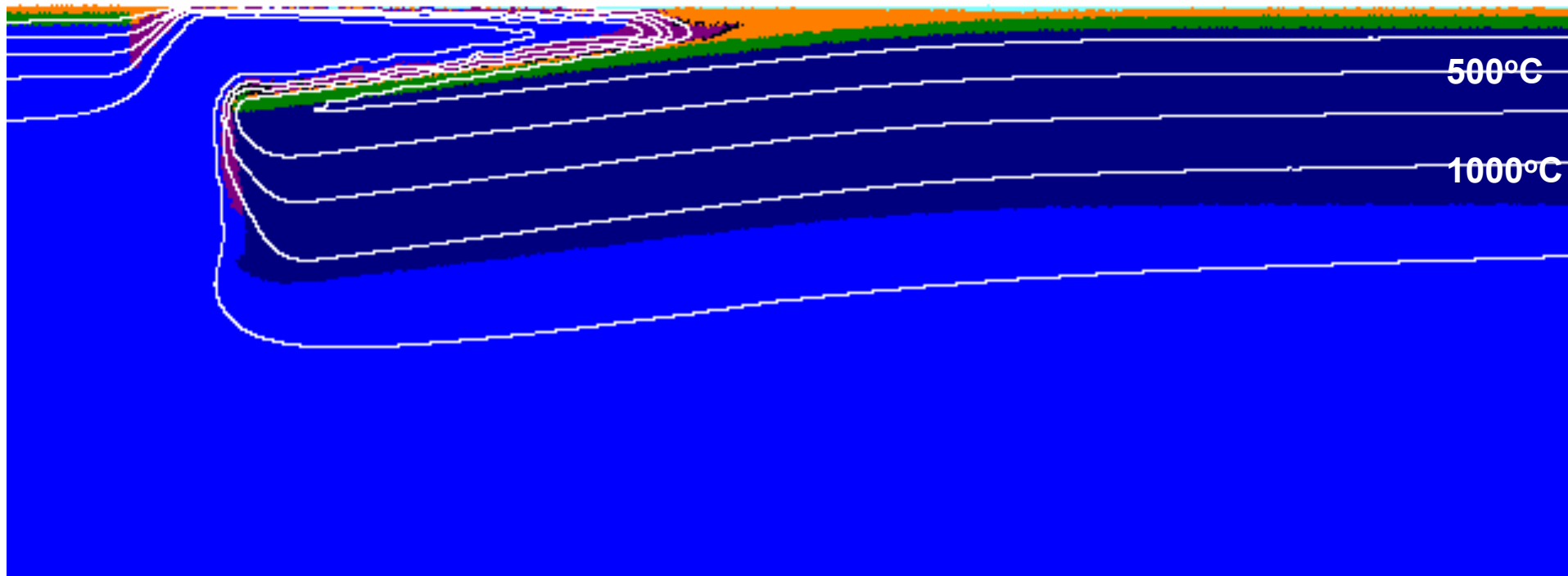
Water transport is included



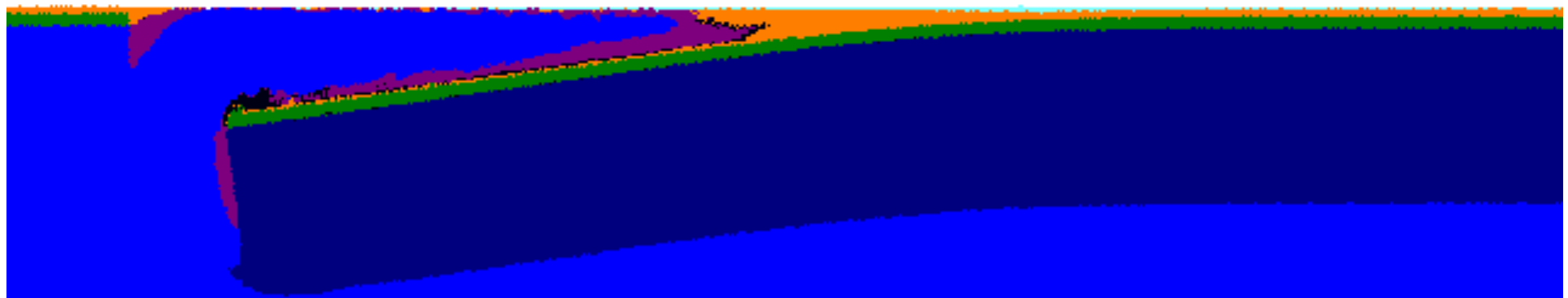
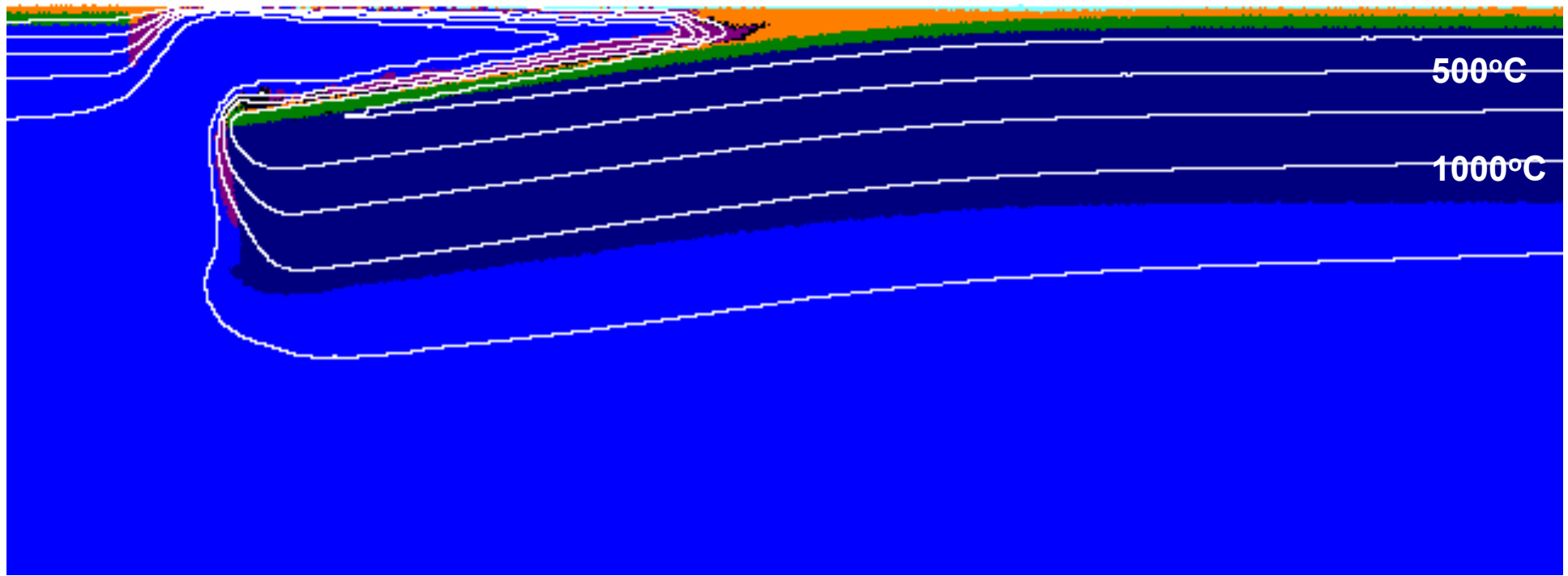
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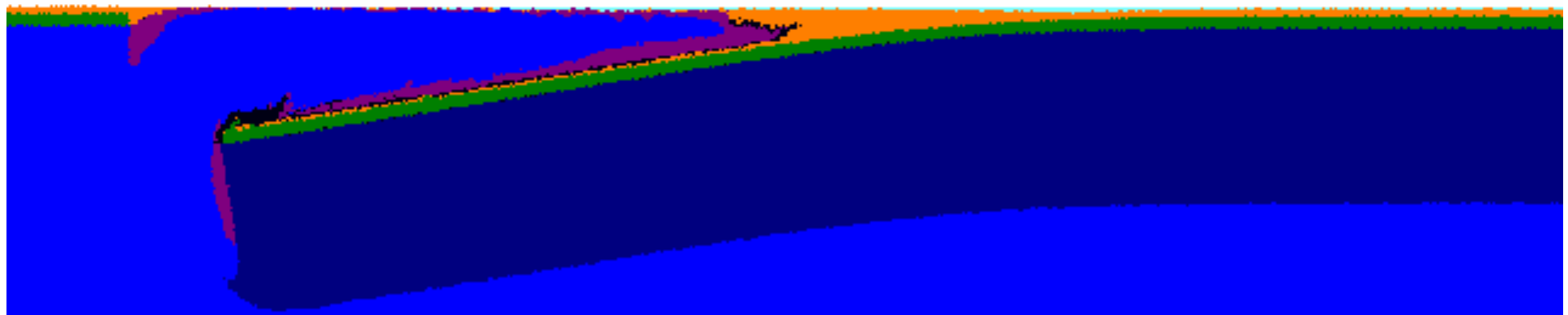
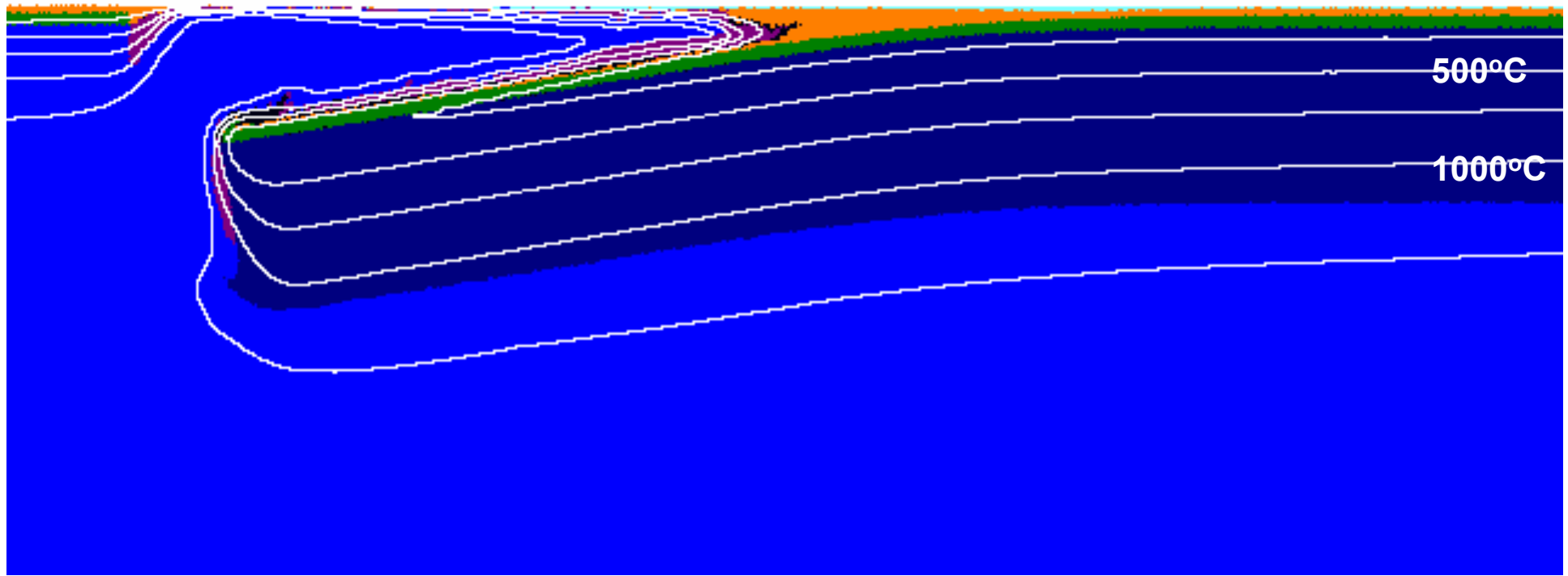
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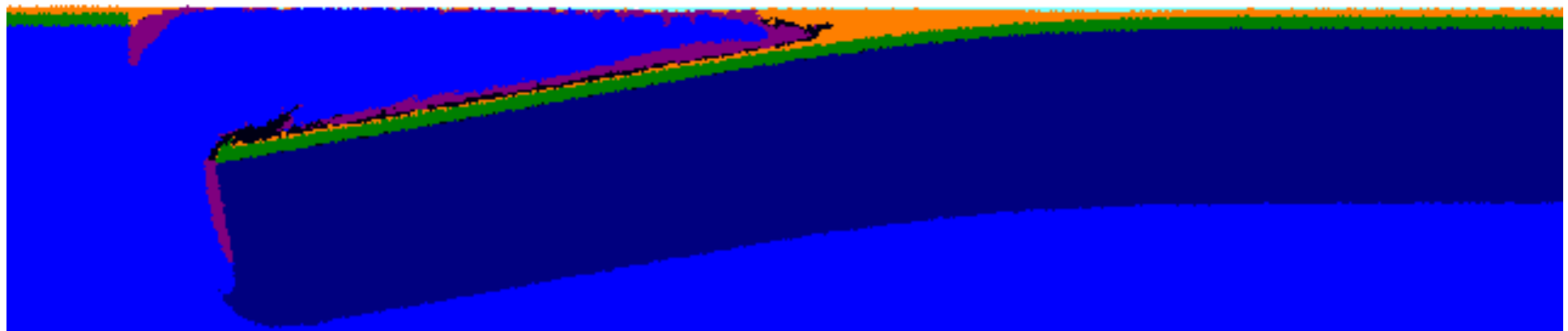
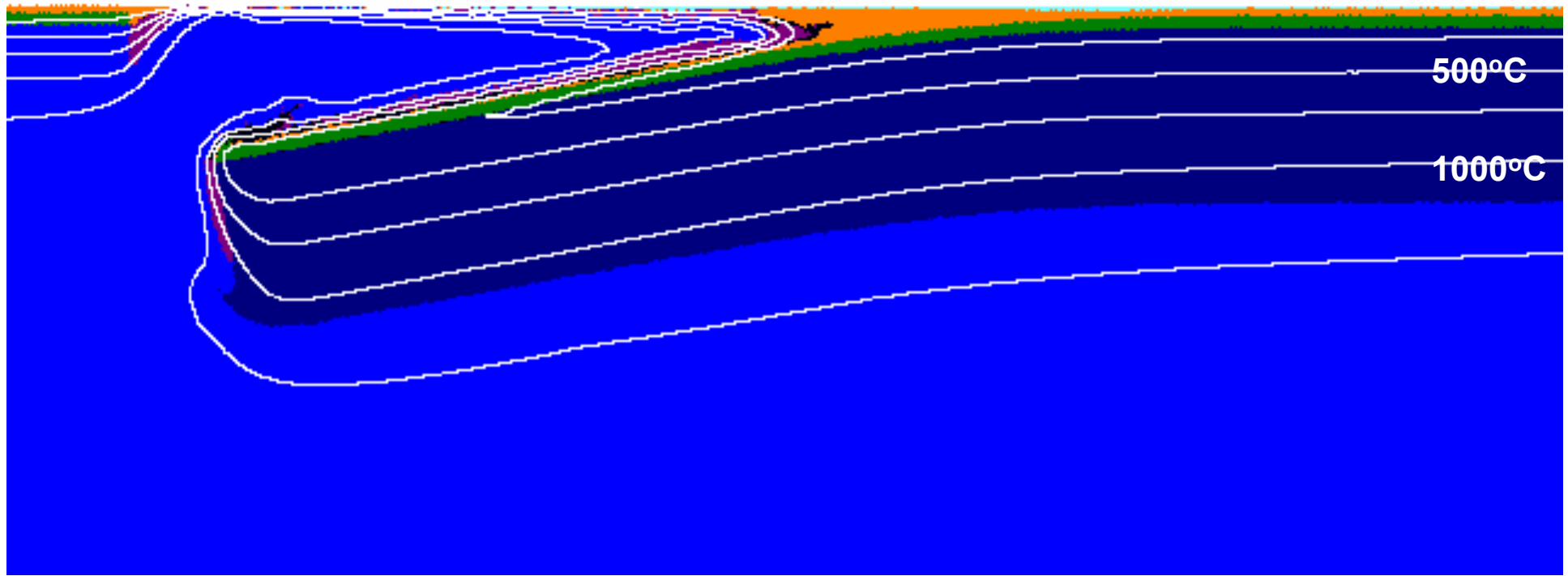
Water transport is included



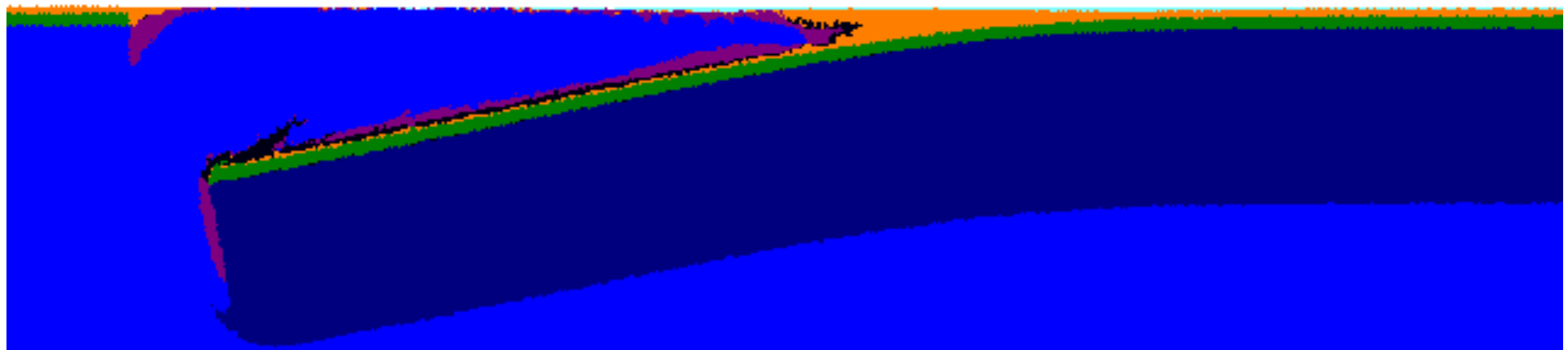
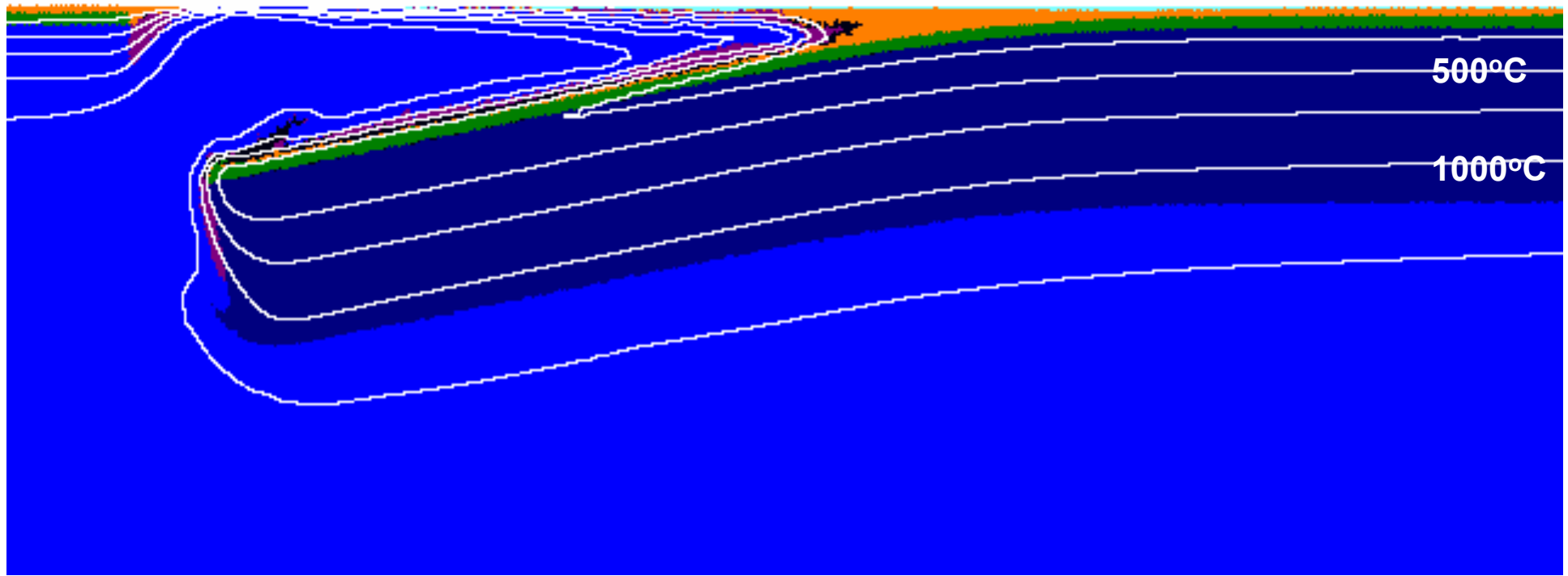
Water transport is included



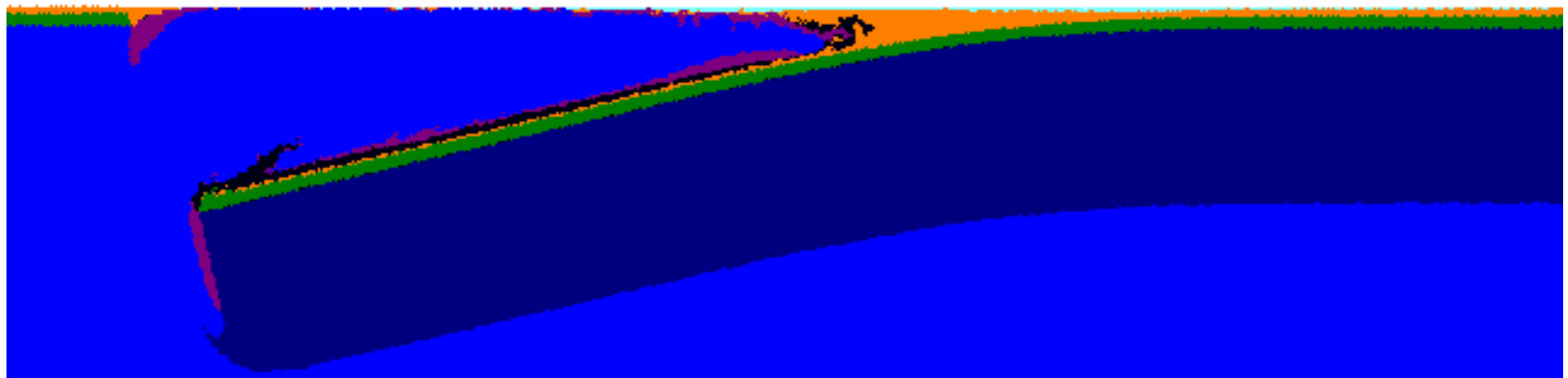
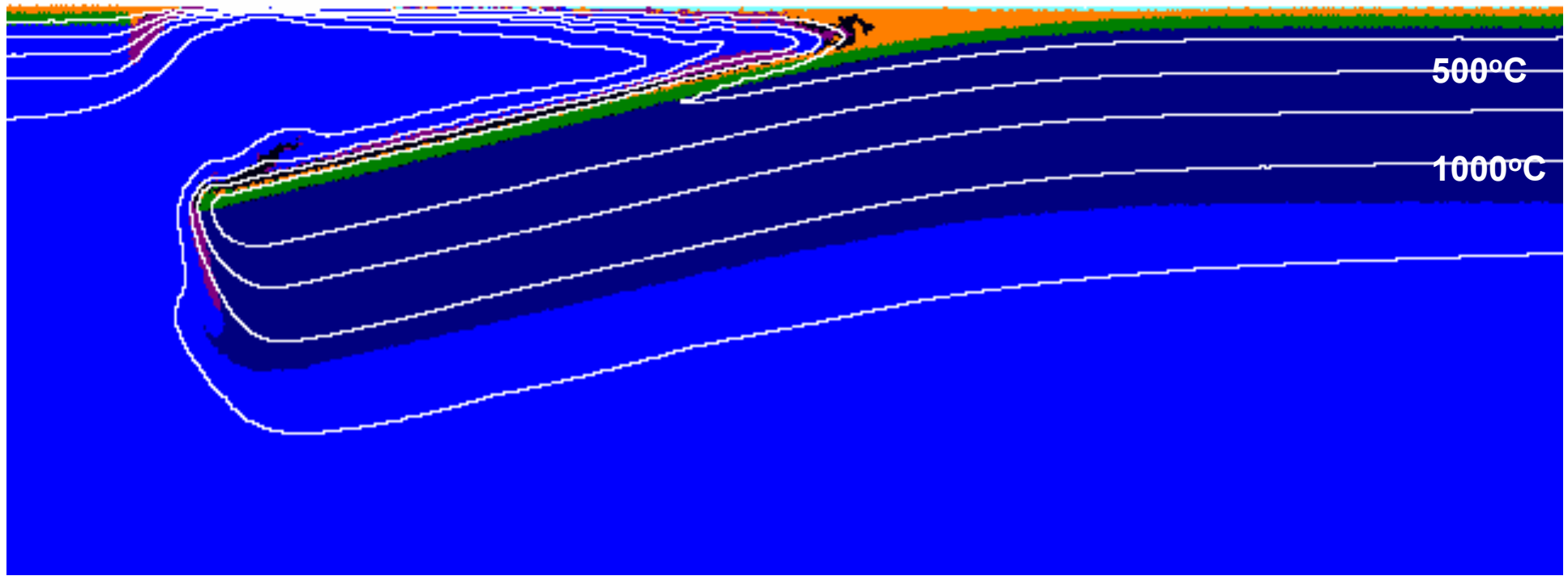
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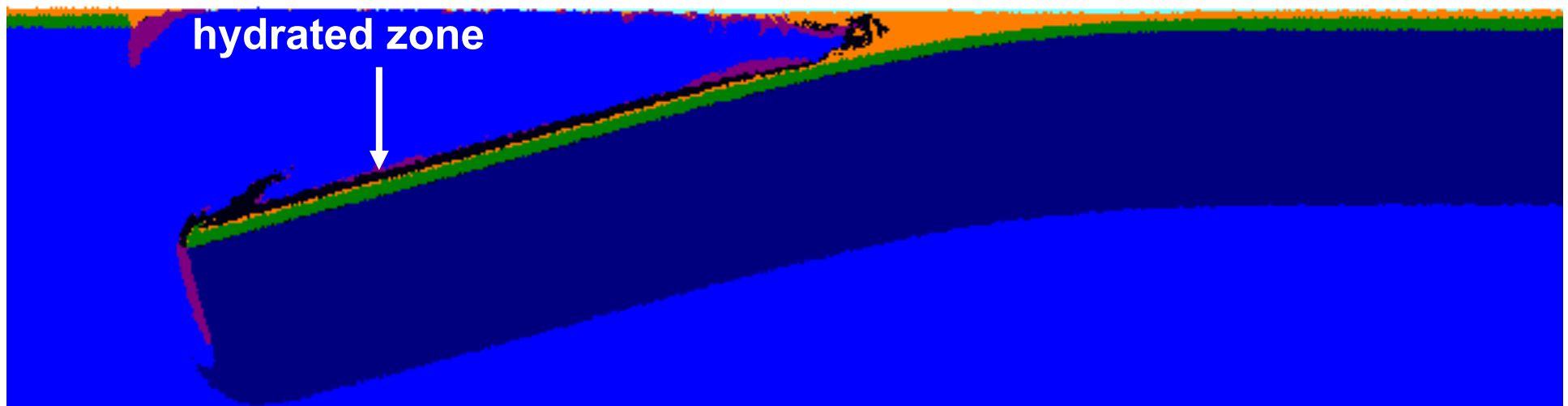
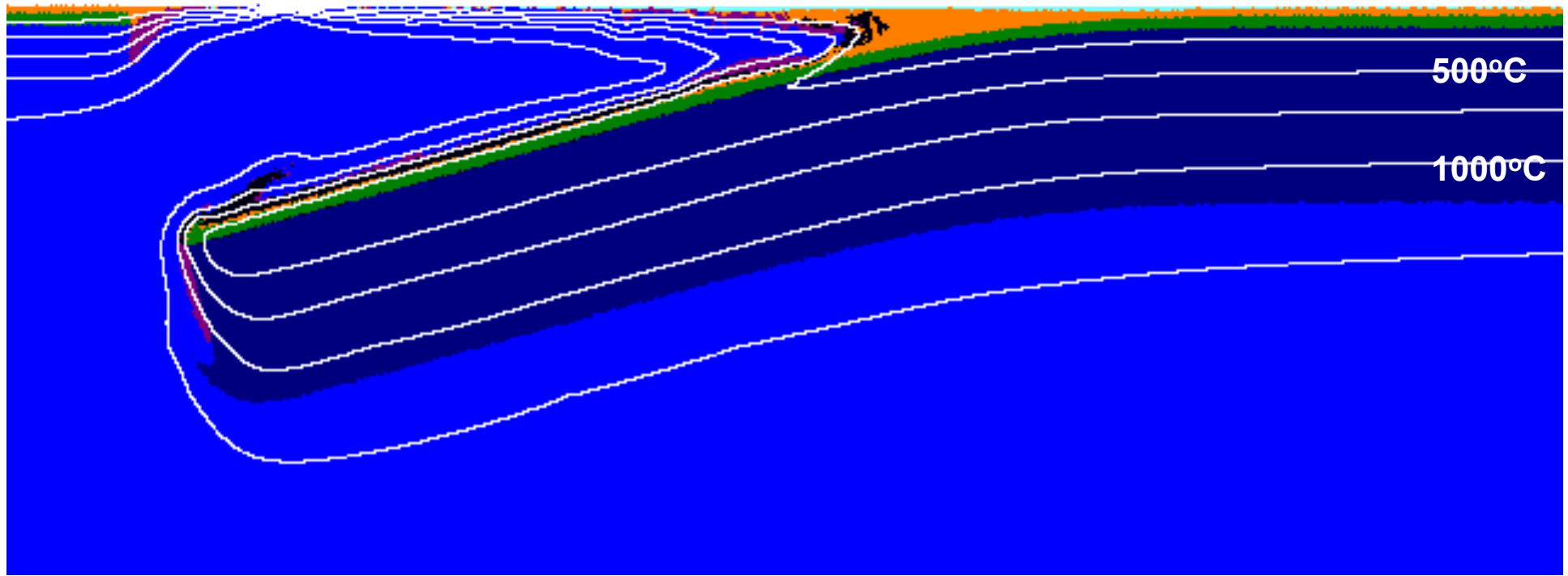
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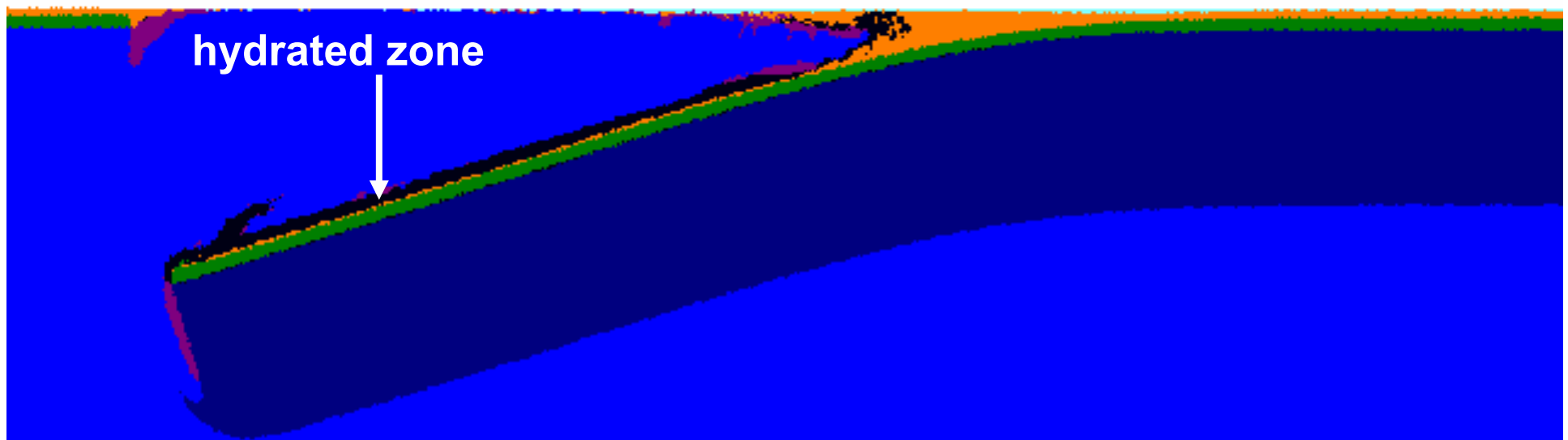
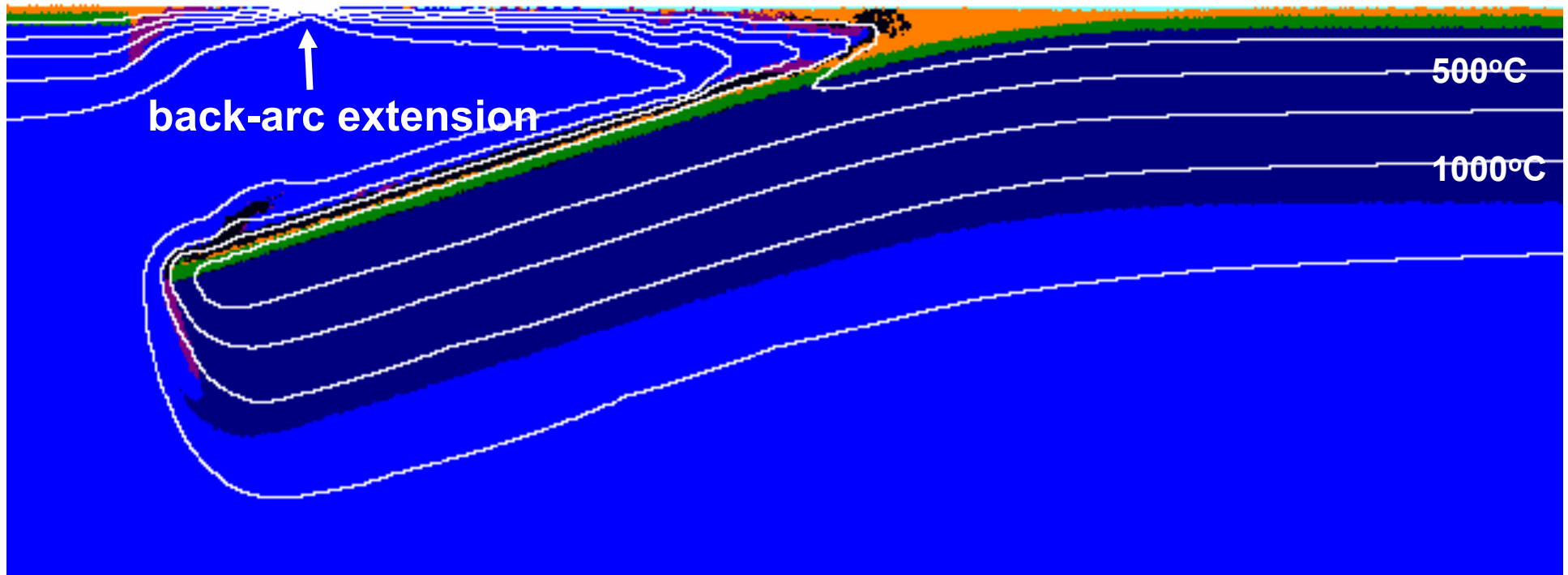
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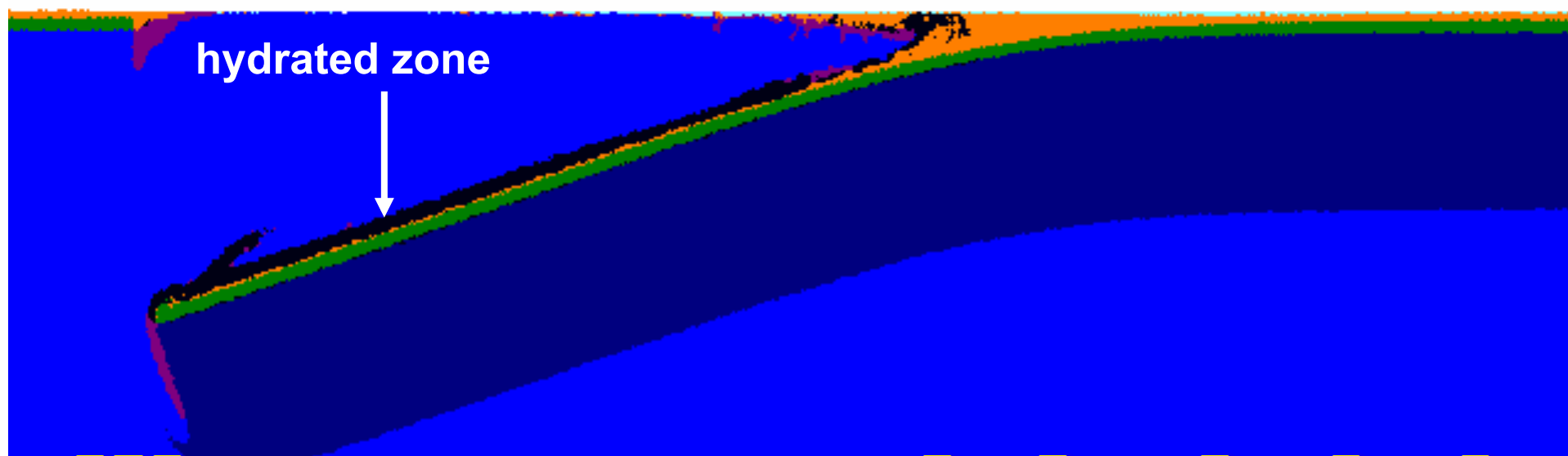
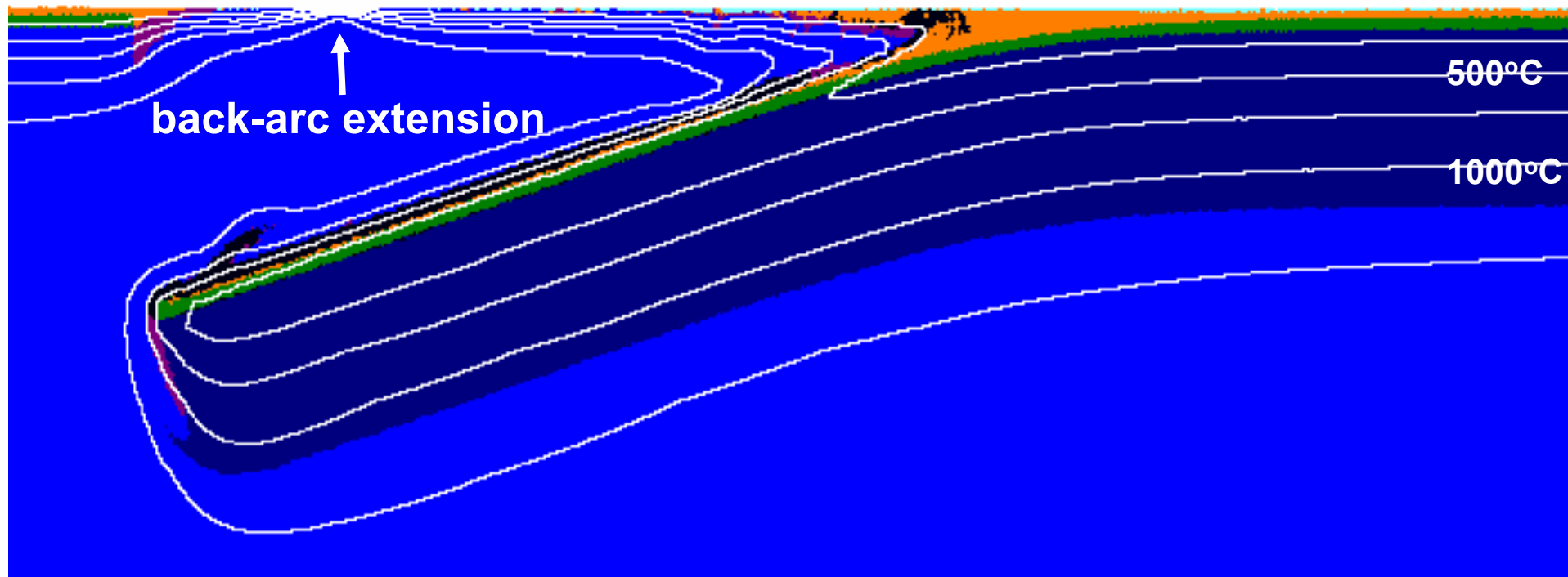
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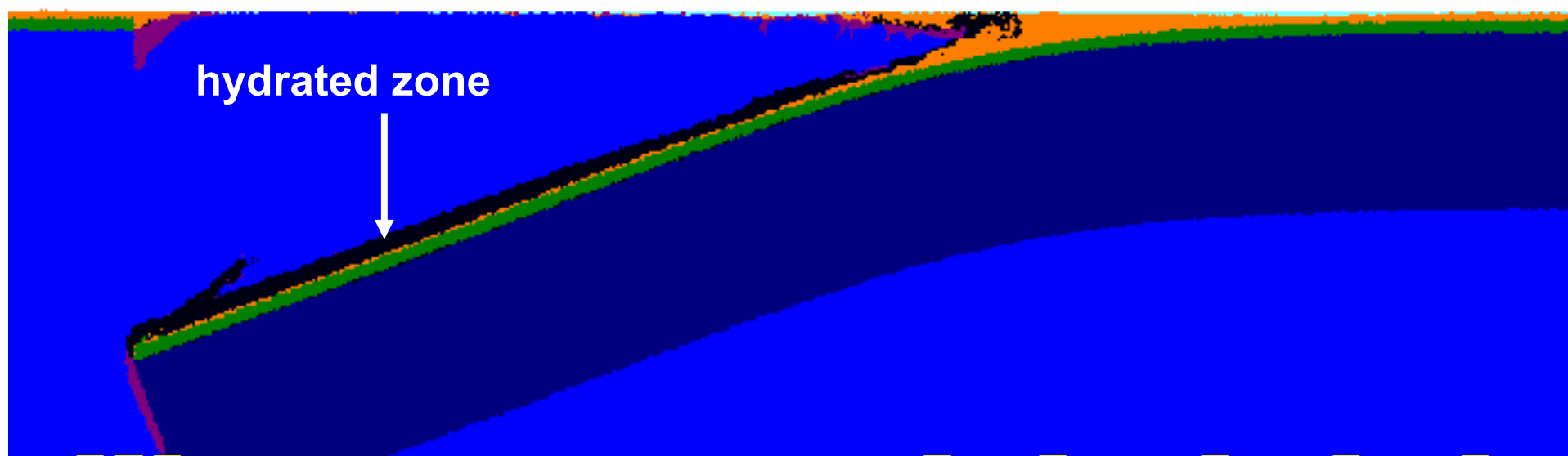
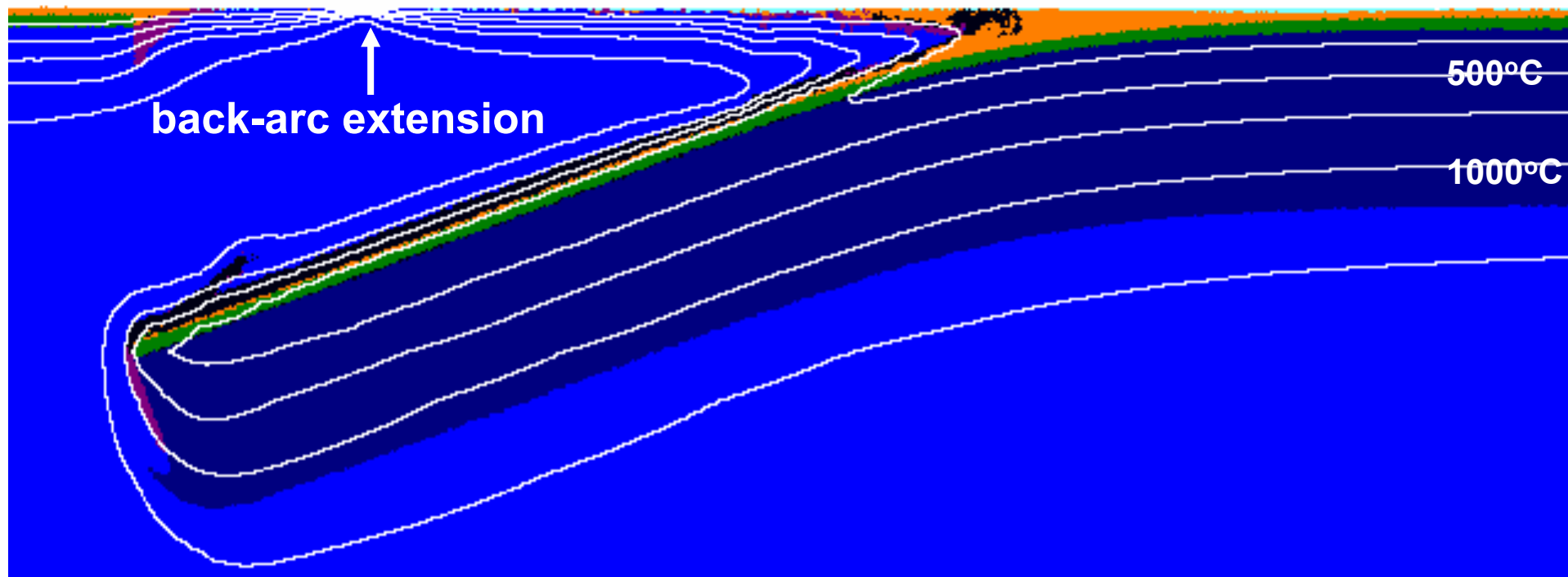
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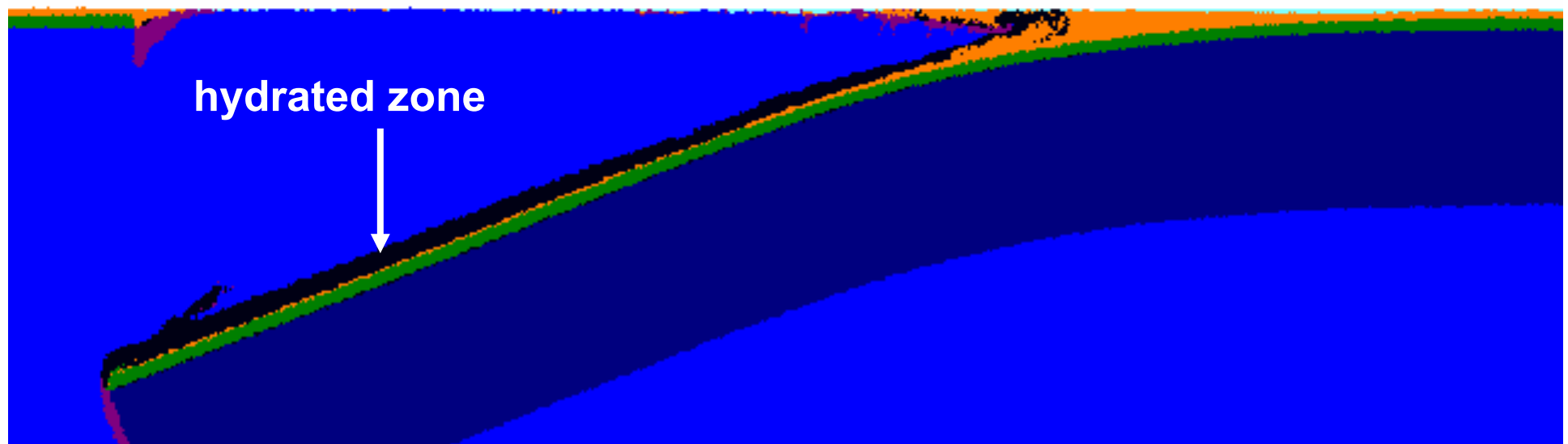
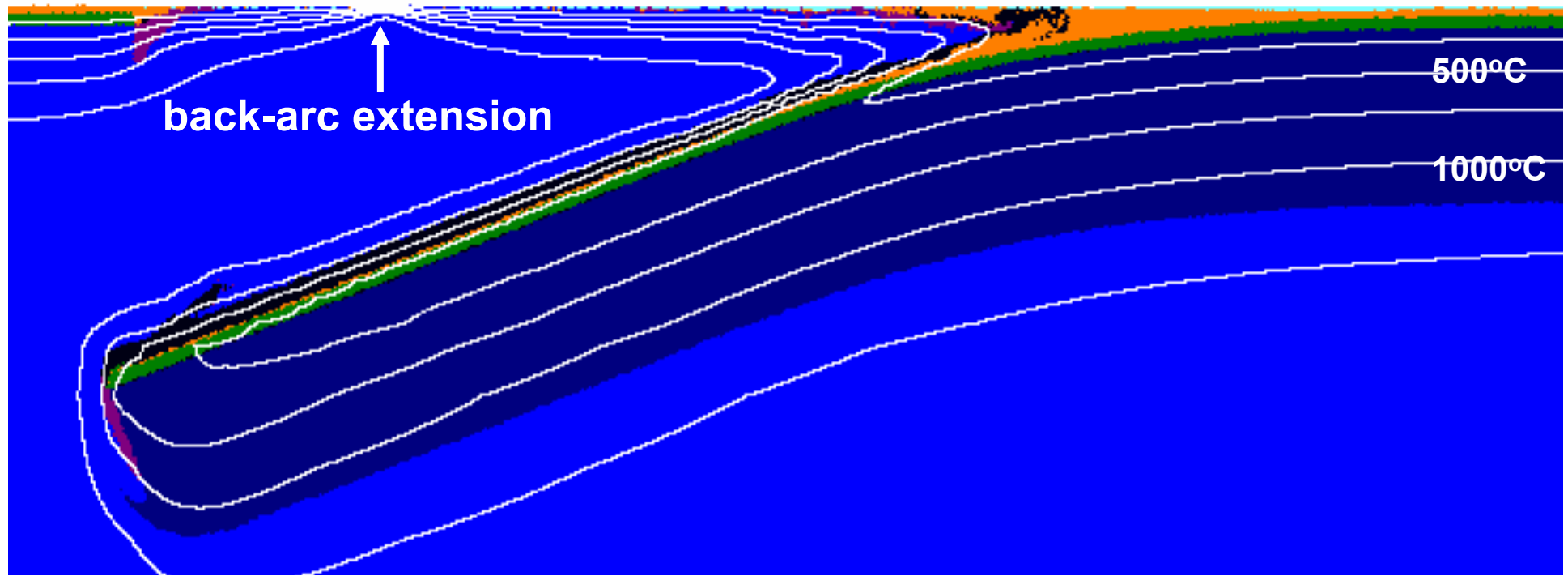
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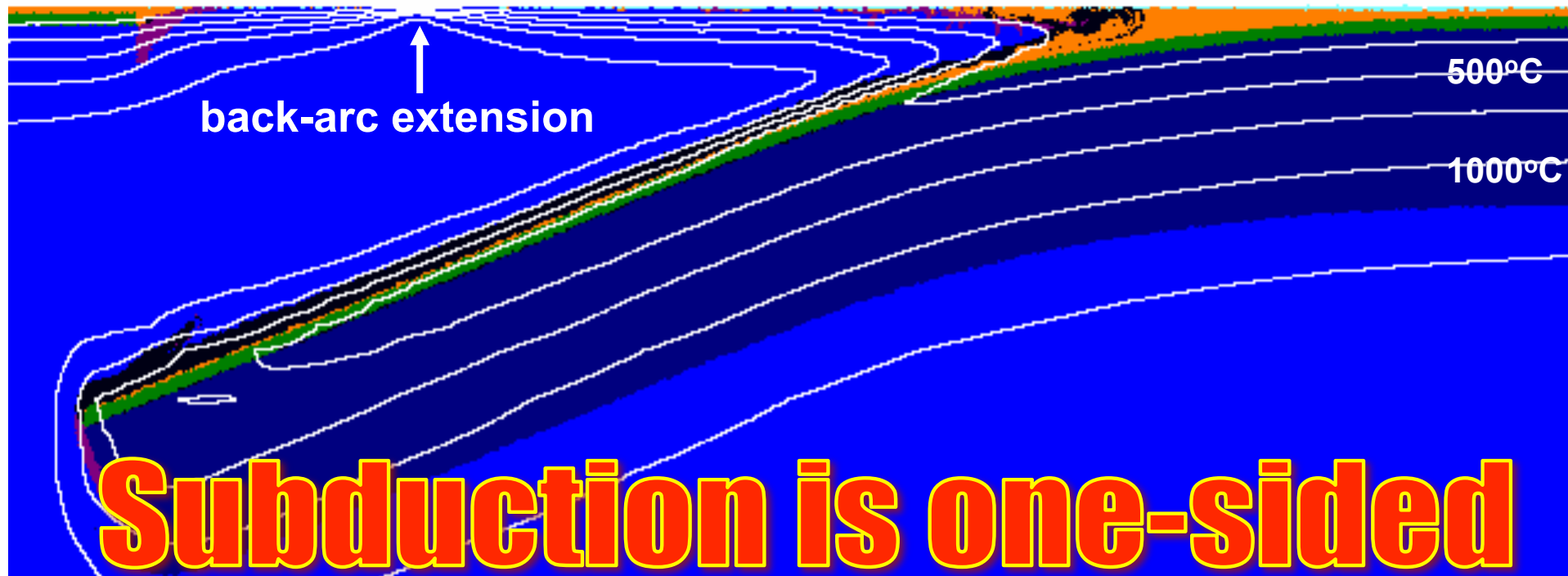
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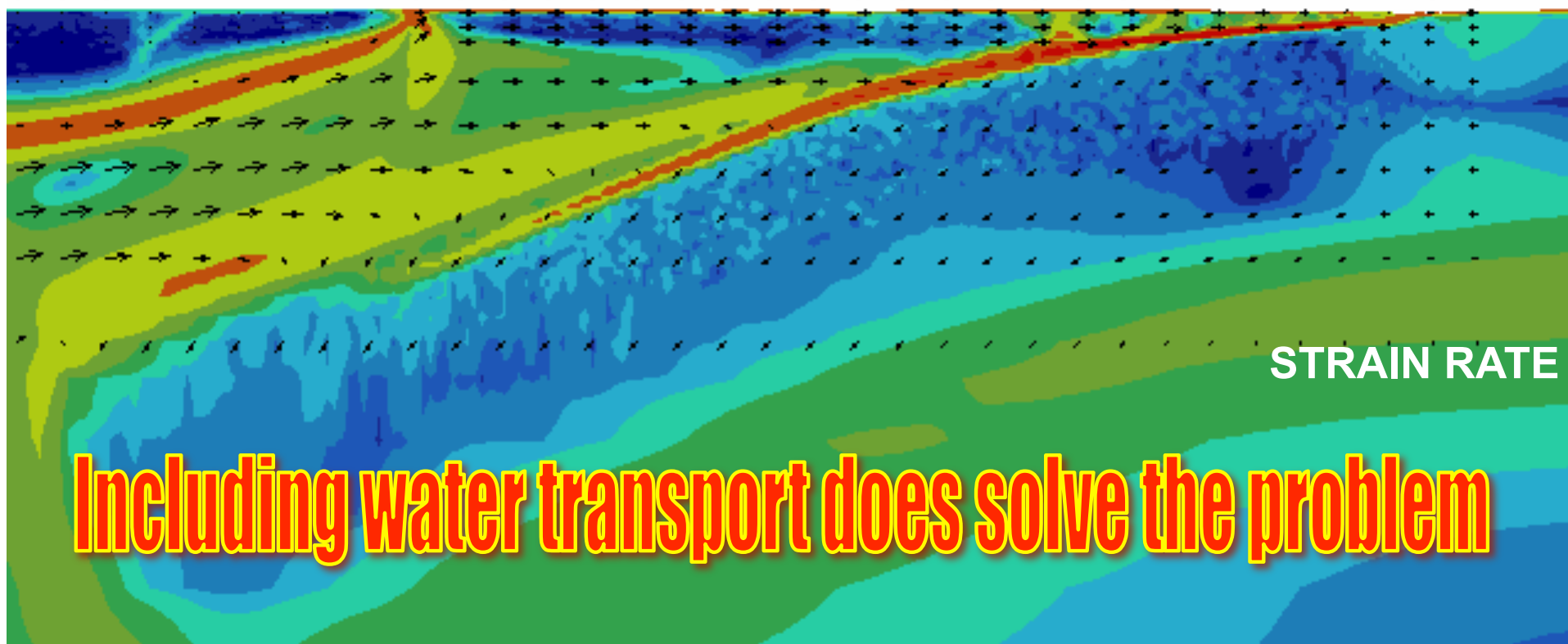
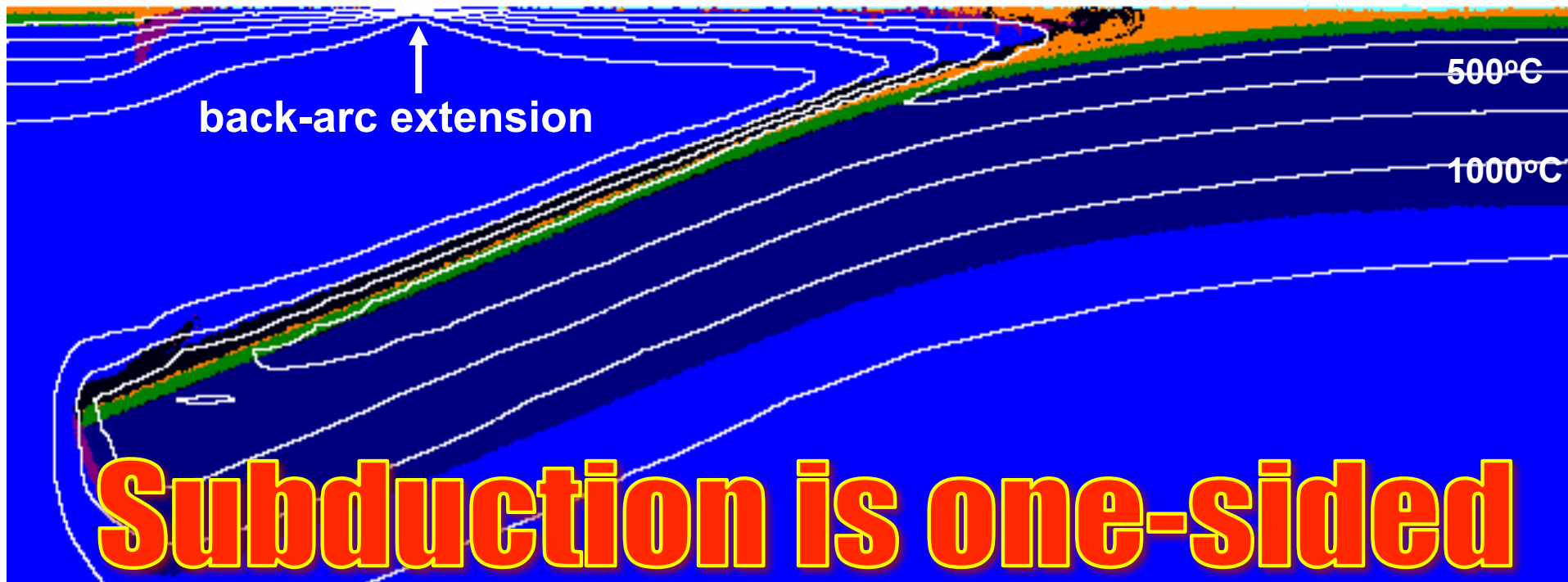


Water transport is included

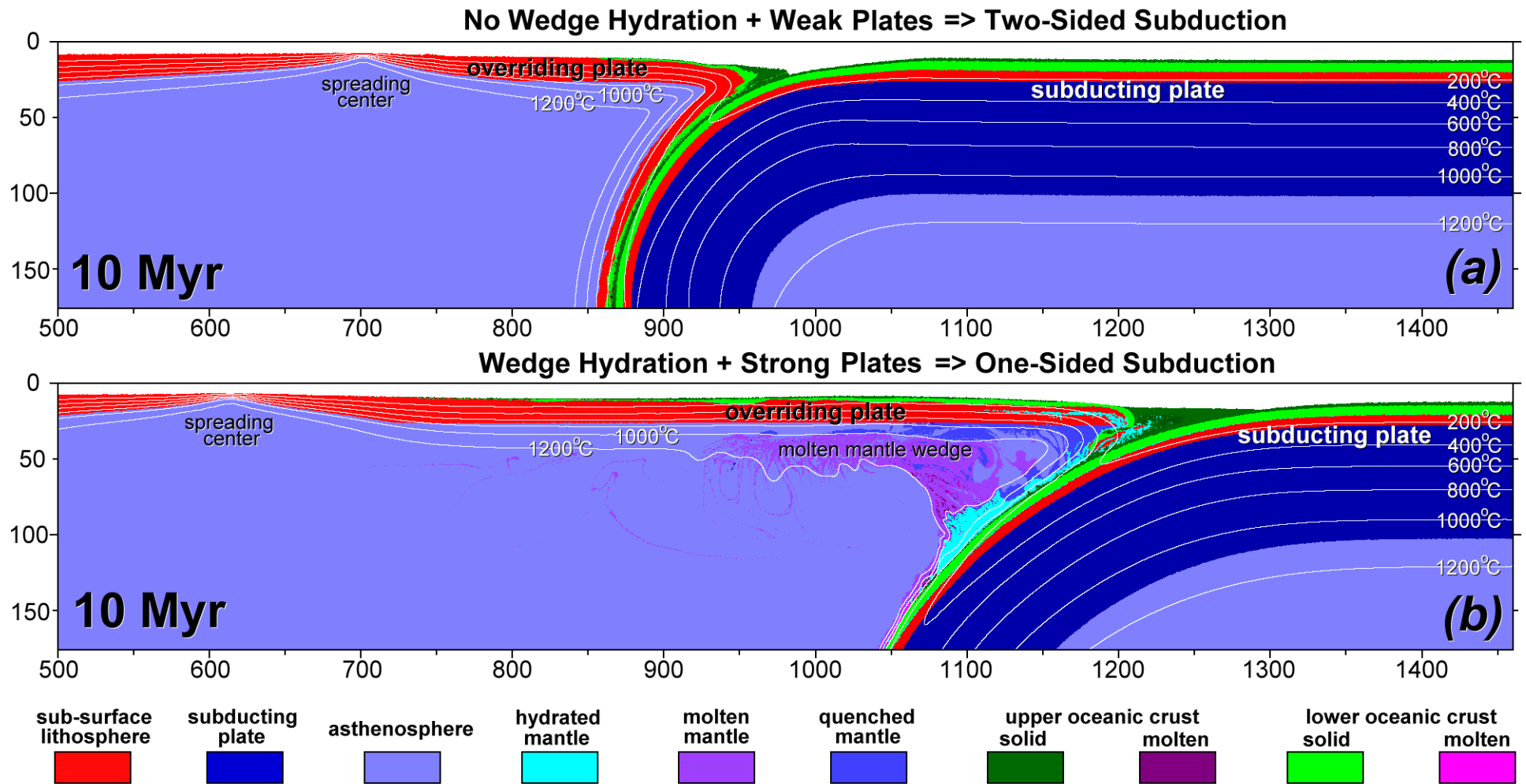


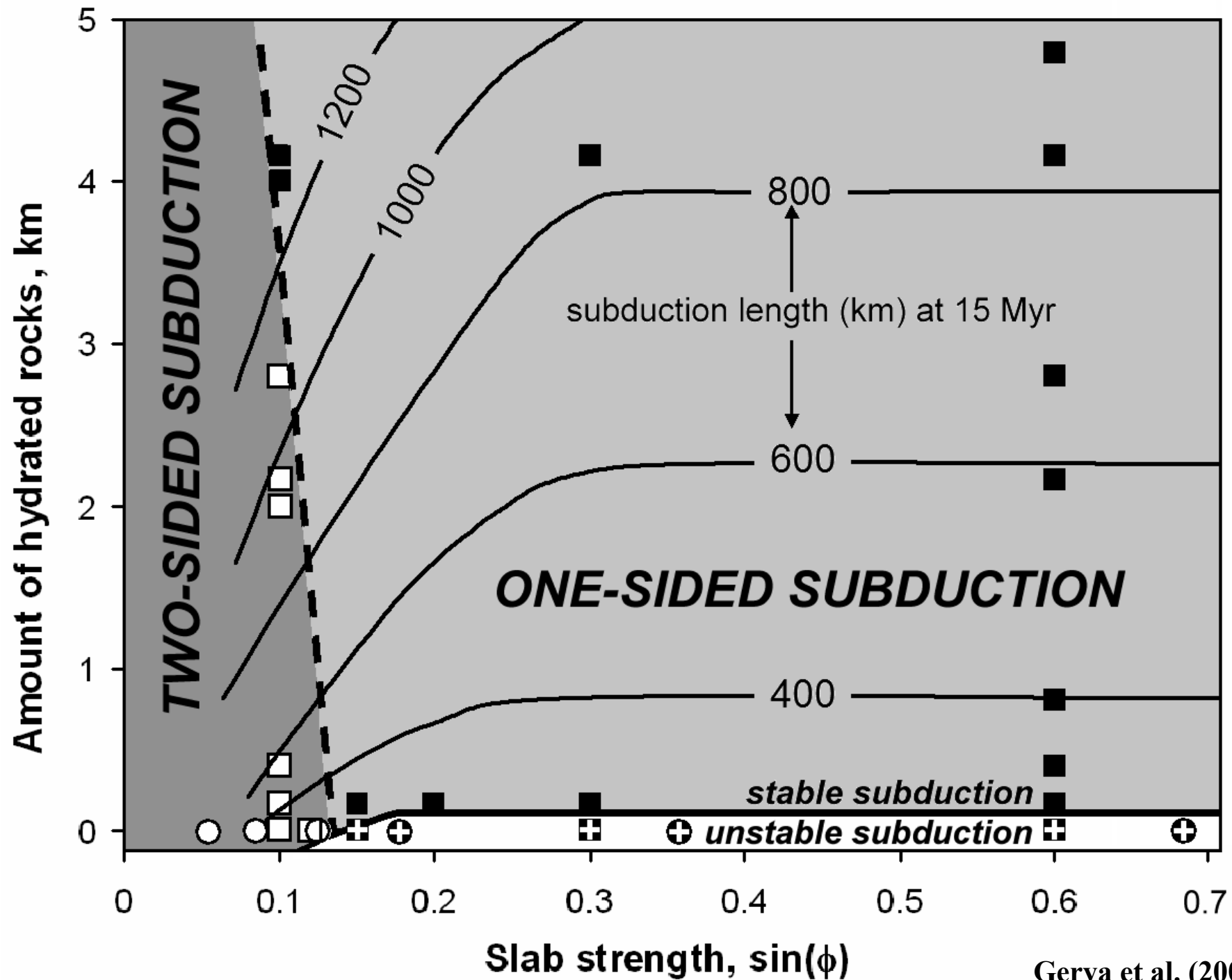
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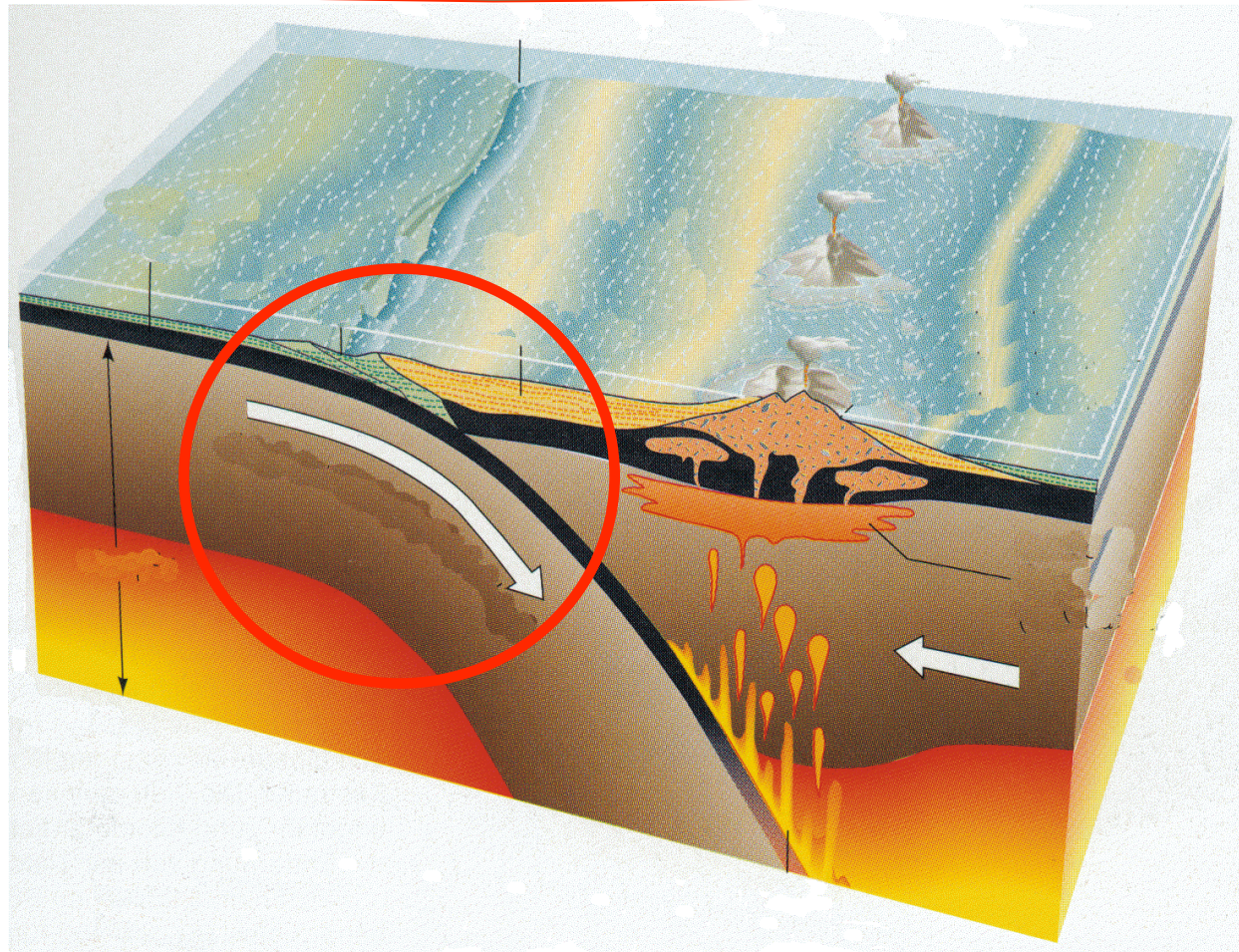
Two subduction modes: one-sided and two-sided

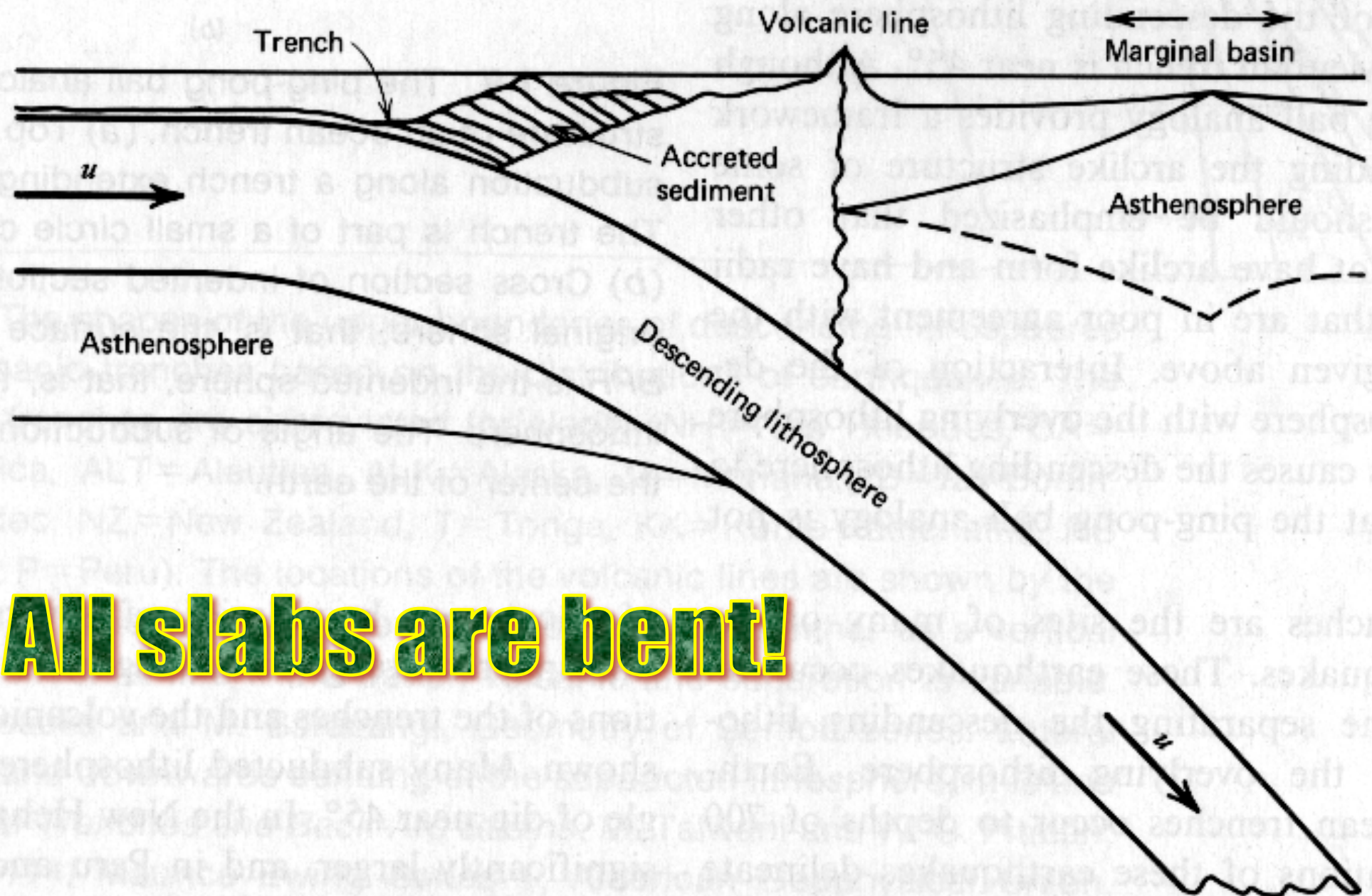




How strong slabs are indeed bending?

?



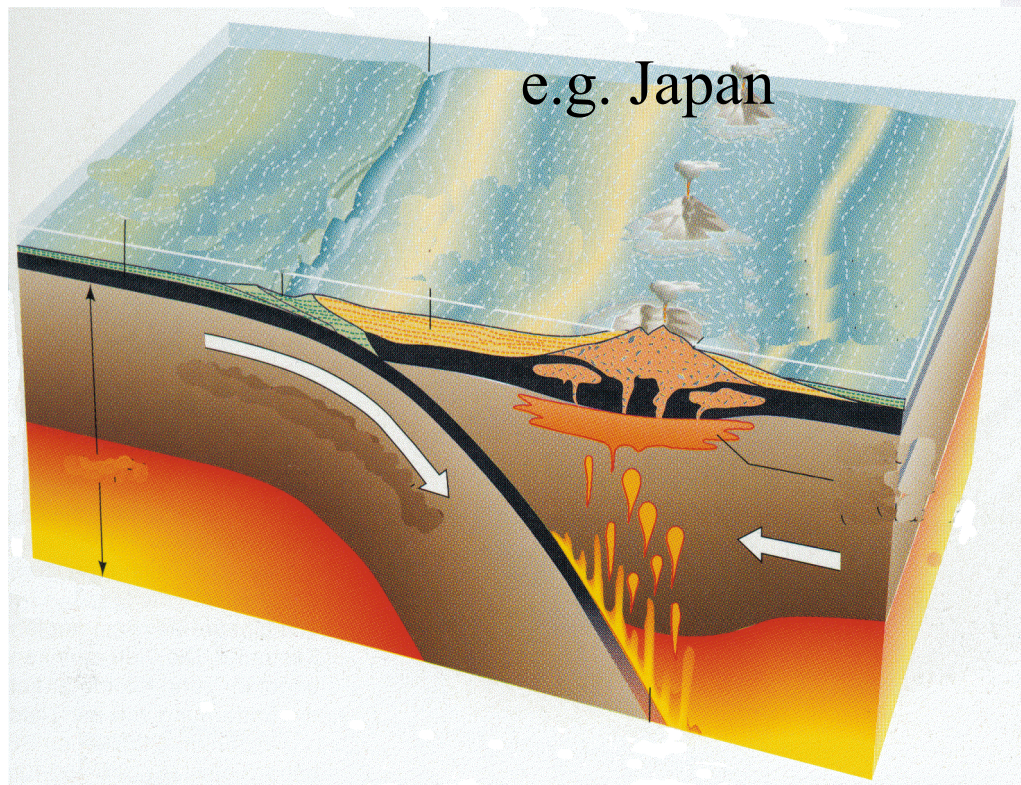
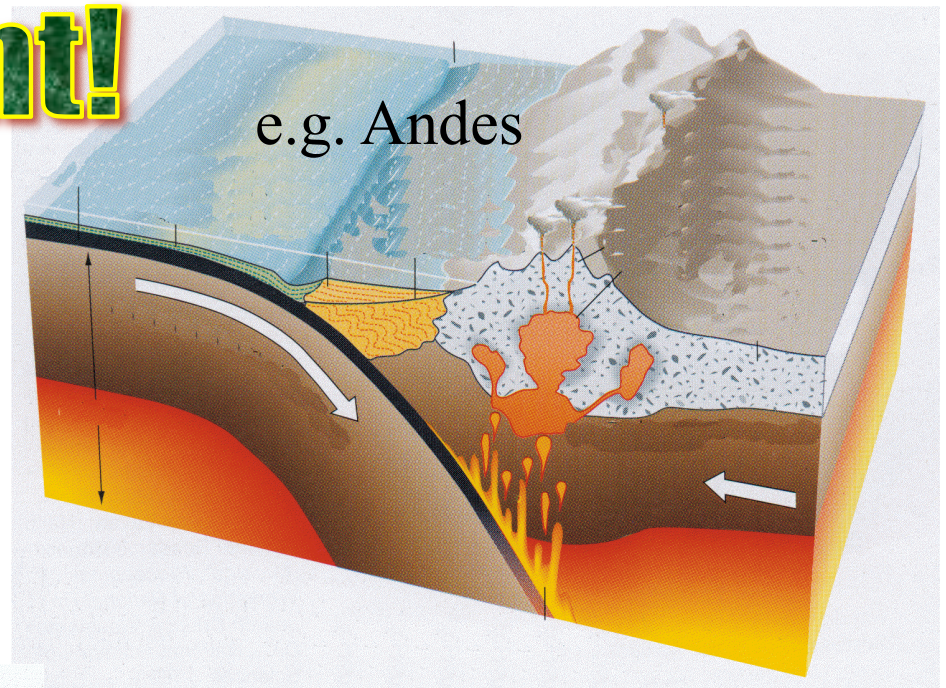


All slabs are bent!

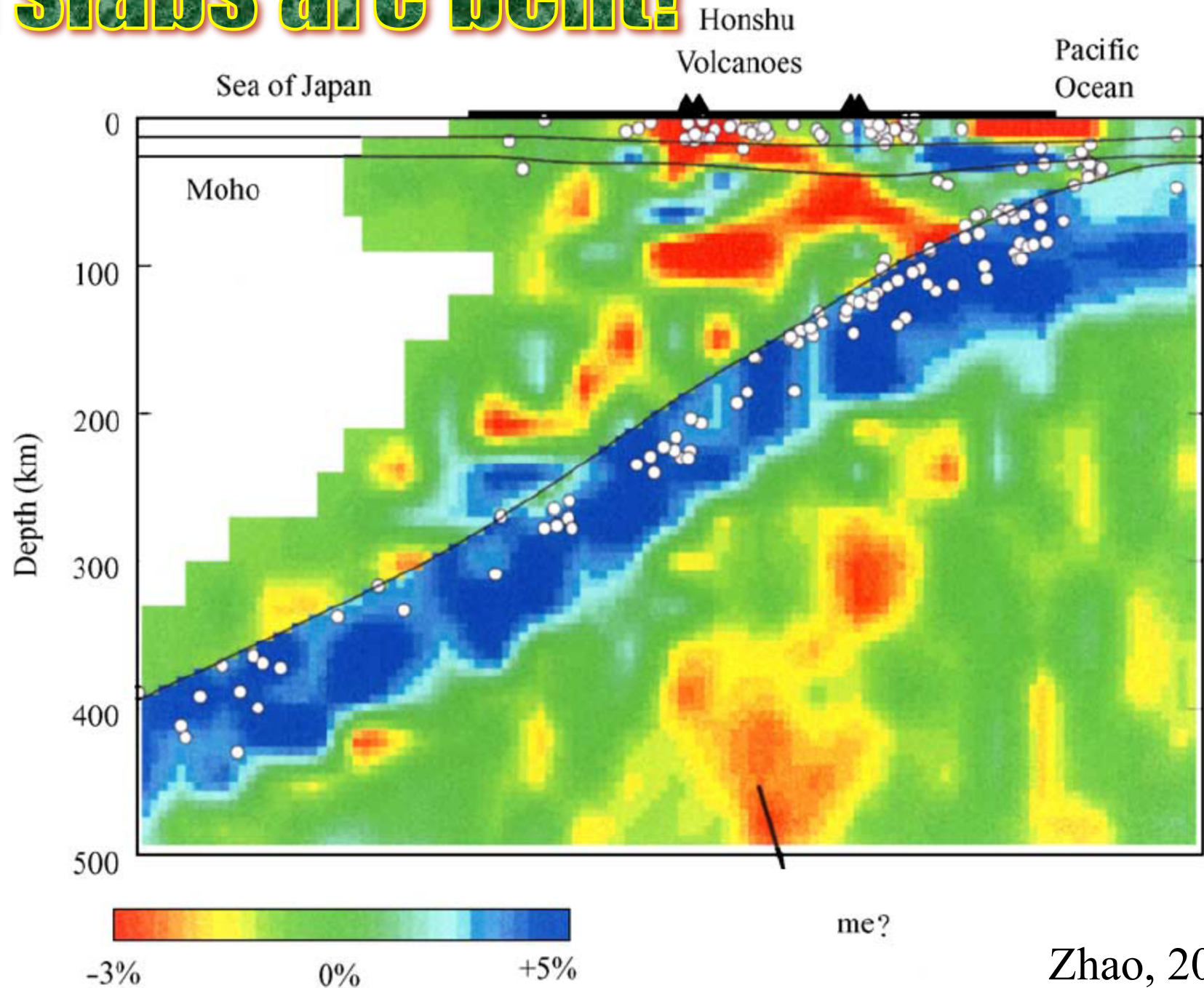
Figure 1-8 Subduction of oceanic lithosphere at an ocean trench.
 (Turcotte & Schubert, 1982)

All slabs are bent!

Subduction under
a volcanic arc / an active margin →



All slabs are bent!



Zhao, 2004

All slabs are bent!

Turcotte & Schubert (1982)

But some slabs are bent more than the other...

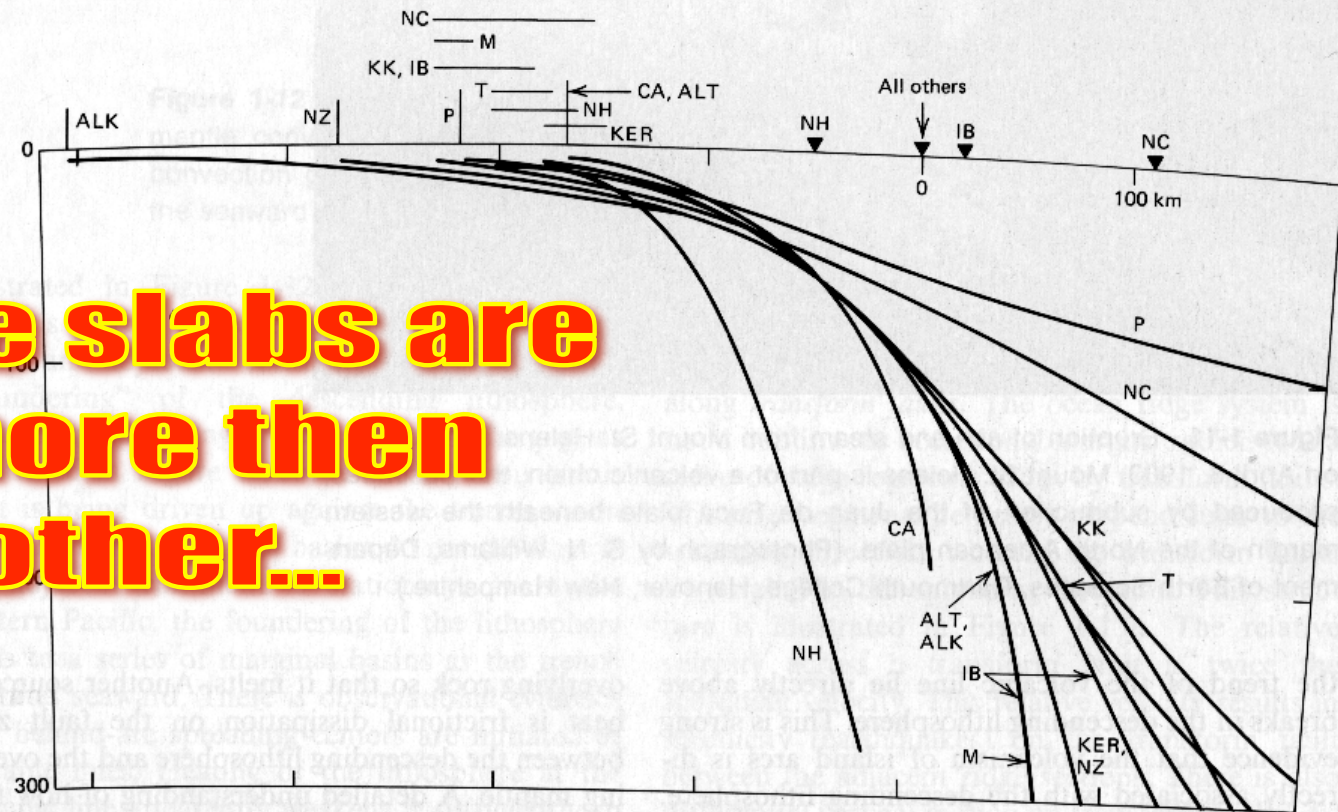
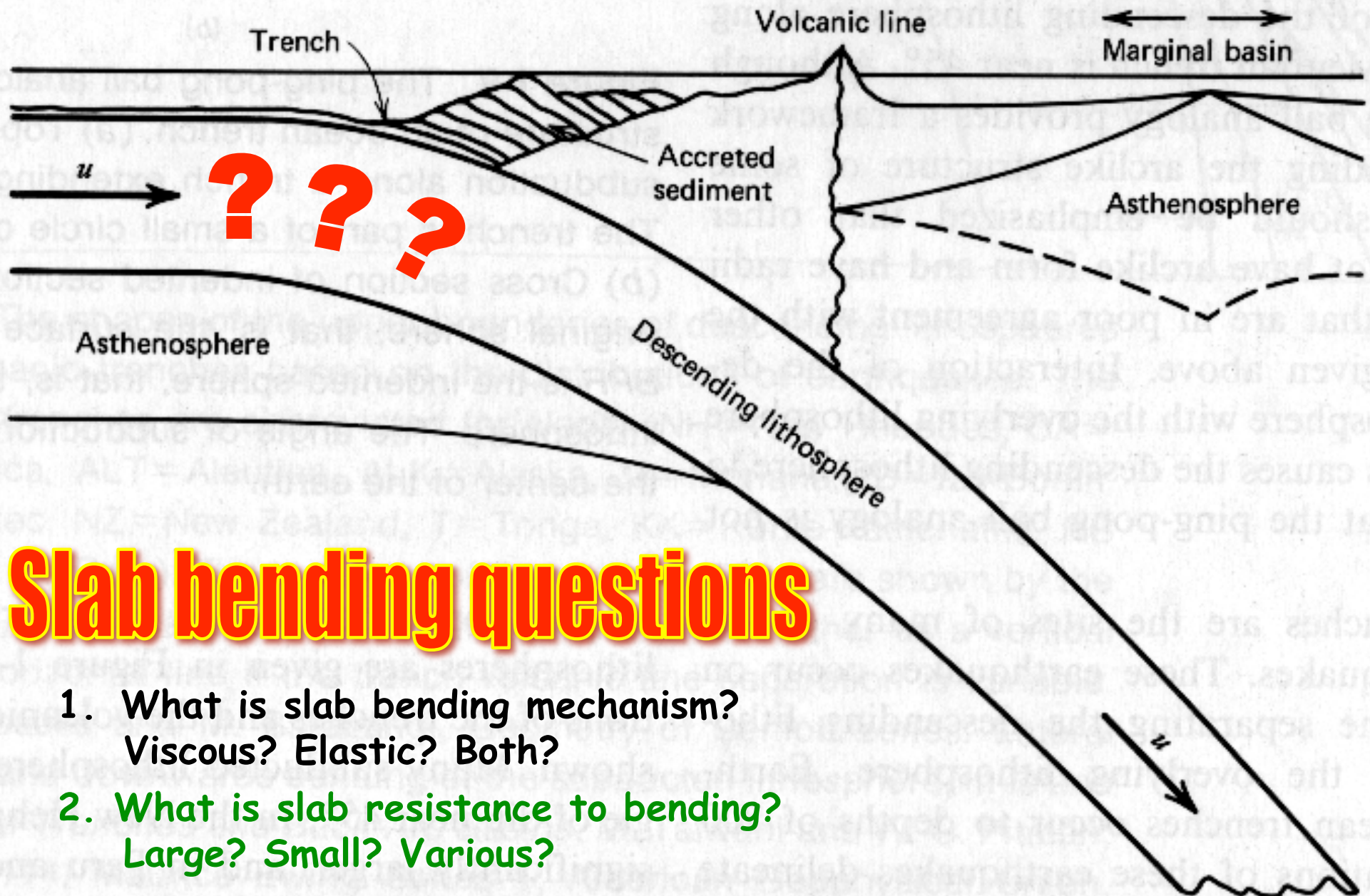


Figure 1-10 The shapes of the upper boundaries of descending lithospheres at several oceanic trenches based on the distributions of earthquakes. The names of the trenches are abbreviated for clarity (NH=New Hebrides, CA=Central America, ALT=Aleutian, ALK=Alaska, M=Mariana, IB=Izu-Bonin, KER=Kermadec, NZ=New Zealand, T=Tonga, KK=Kurile-Kamchatka, NC=North Chile, P=Peru). The locations of the volcanic lines are shown by the solid triangles. The locations of the trenches are shown either as a vertical line or as a horizontal line if the trench-volcanic line separation is variable. (From B. L. Isacks and M. Barazangi, *Geometry of Benioff zones: Lateral segmentation and downwards bending of the subducted lithosphere*, in *Island Arcs, Deep Sea Trenches and Back-Arc Basins*, M. Talwani and W. C. Pitman, eds., pp. 99-114, Maurice Ewing Series 1, American Geophysical Union, Washington, D.C., 1977.)

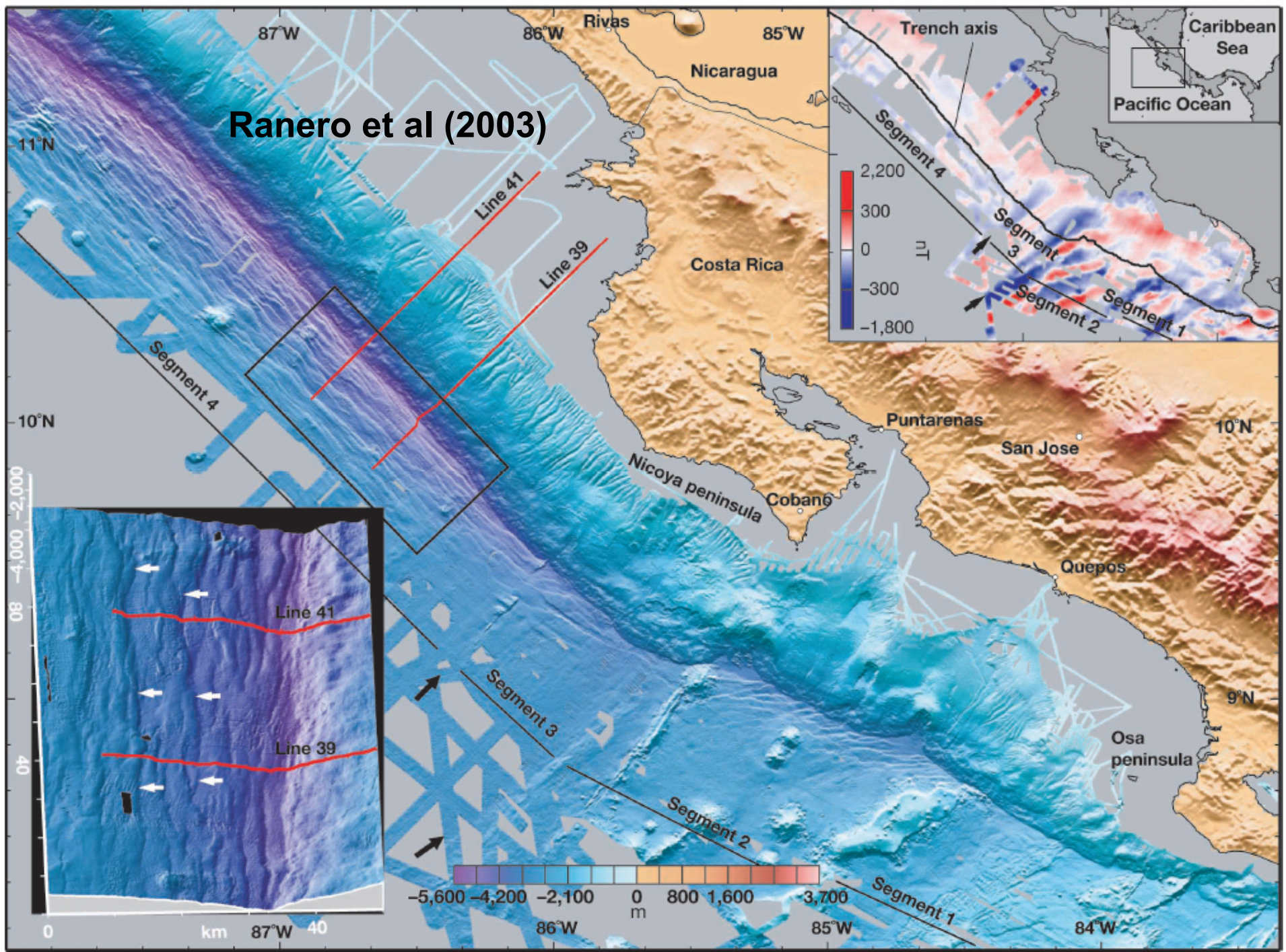


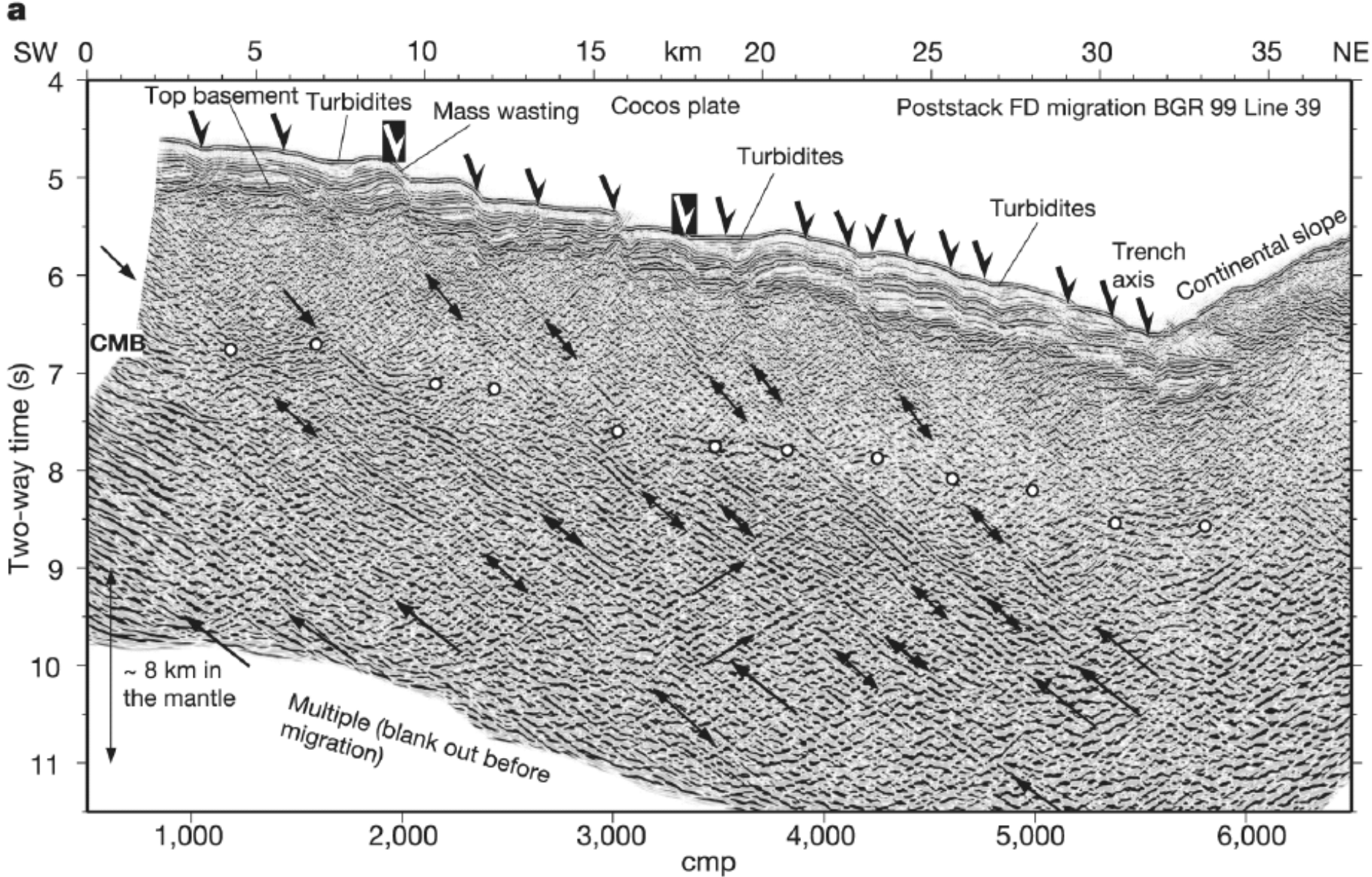
Slab bending questions

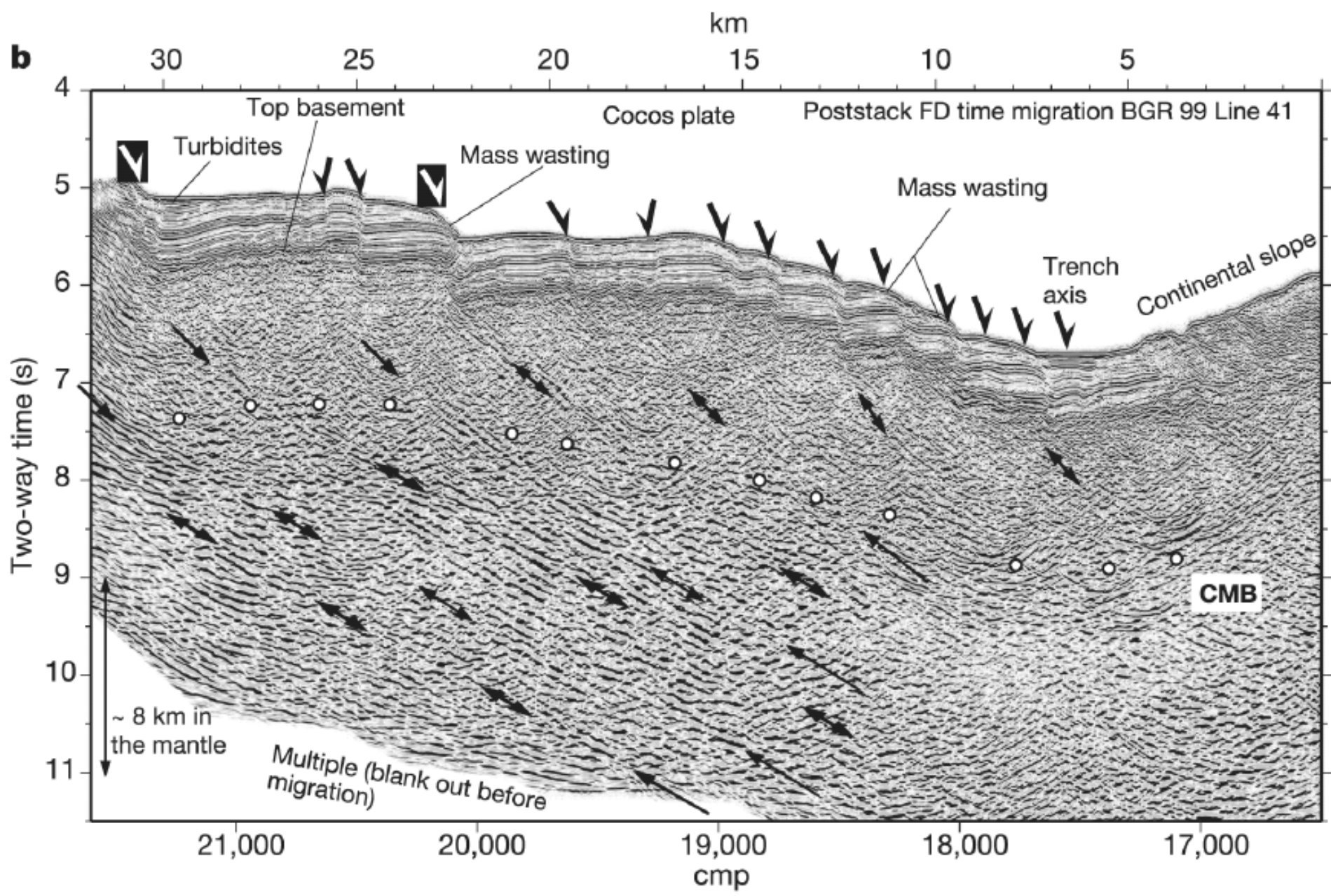
1. What is slab bending mechanism?
Viscous? Elastic? Both?
2. What is slab resistance to bending?
Large? Small? Various?

Figure 1-8 Subduction of oceanic lithosphere at an ocean trench.

Ranero et al (2003)







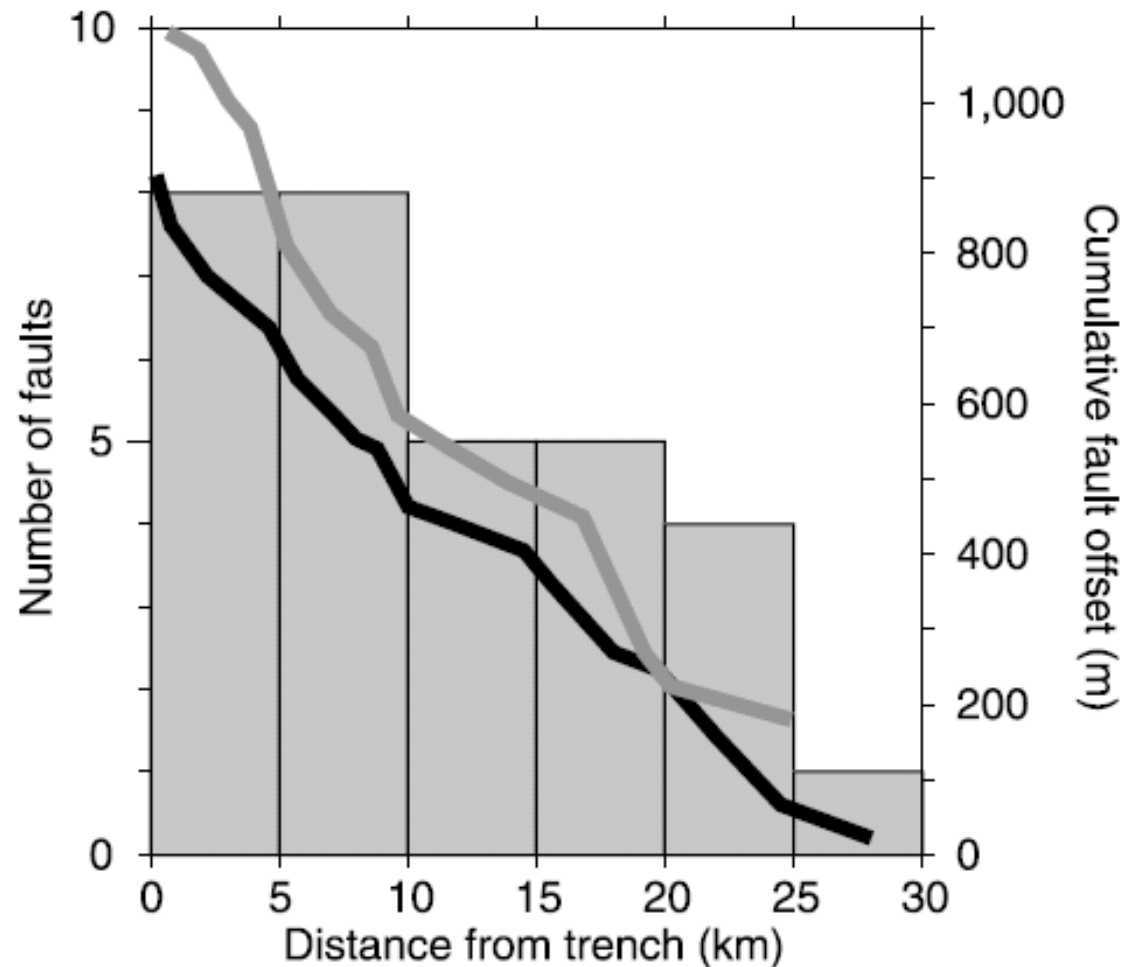
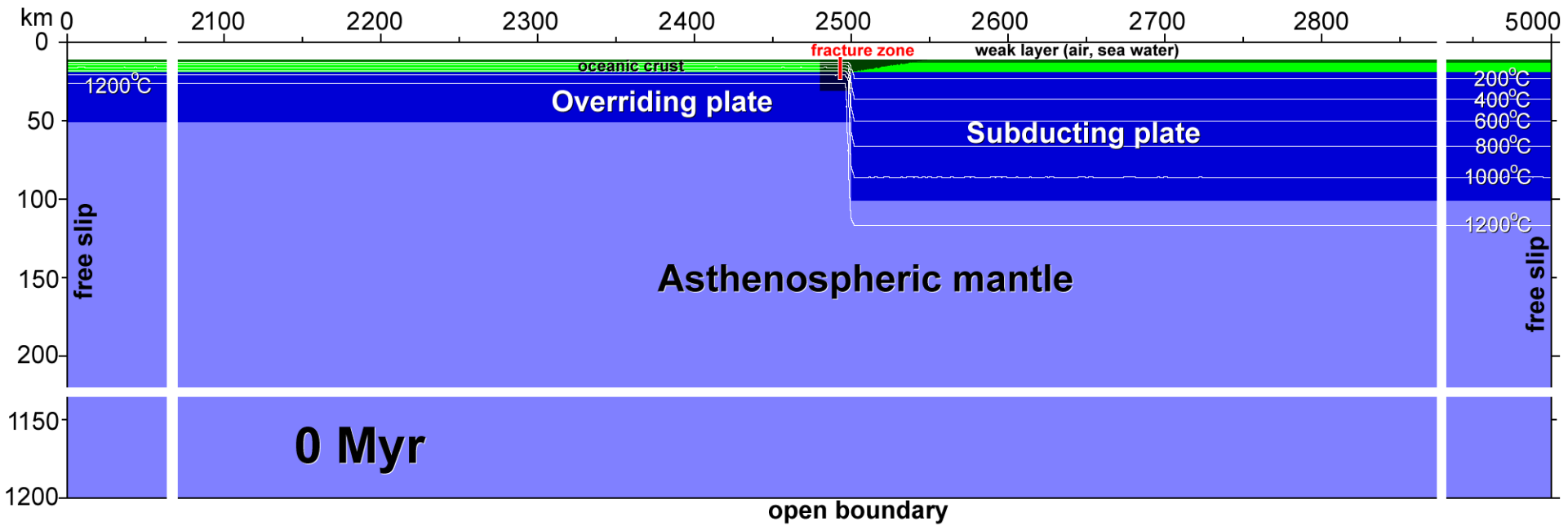


Figure 4 Histogram of fault density versus distance to the trench axis. The number of faults increases towards the axis, indicating that new faults continue to form as the plate approaches the trench axis. Lines indicate the cumulative fault offset measured at top basement for line BGR99-39 (black line) and BGR99-41 (grey line). There is a tendency to larger fault offset towards the trench.

Numerical setup

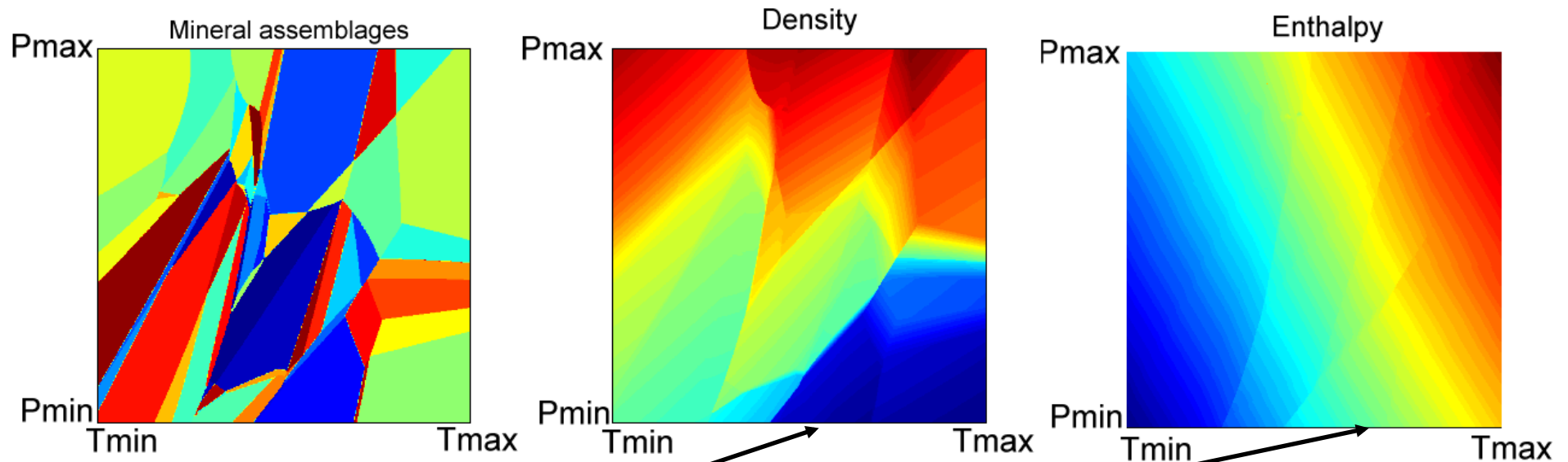


Petrological-thermomechanical

numerical modeling

1. Mapping of density and enthalpy in the P-T space

Gibbs free energy minimization



$$H = H(\text{Pressure}, \text{Temperature}, \text{Composition}, \text{Mineralogy})$$

$$\rho = \rho(\text{Pressure}, \text{Temperature}, \text{Composition}, \text{Mineralogy})$$

(Gerya et al., 2001, 2004, Connolly & Pettrini, 2002, Vasiliev et al., 2004)

2. Latent heating

Latent heating is implemented via effective heat capacity (C_p)

and effective adiabatic heating (Q_p)

computed numerically from the enthalpy and density maps

standard thermodynamic relations

$$C_p = (\partial H / \partial T)_P \quad Q_p = (DP/Dt)[1 - \rho (\partial H / \partial P)_T]$$

Lagrangian temperature equation

$$\rho C_p (DT/Dt) = \partial(k \partial T / \partial x) / \partial x + \partial(k \partial T / \partial z) / \partial z + Q_p + Q_{shear} + Q_{radioactive}$$

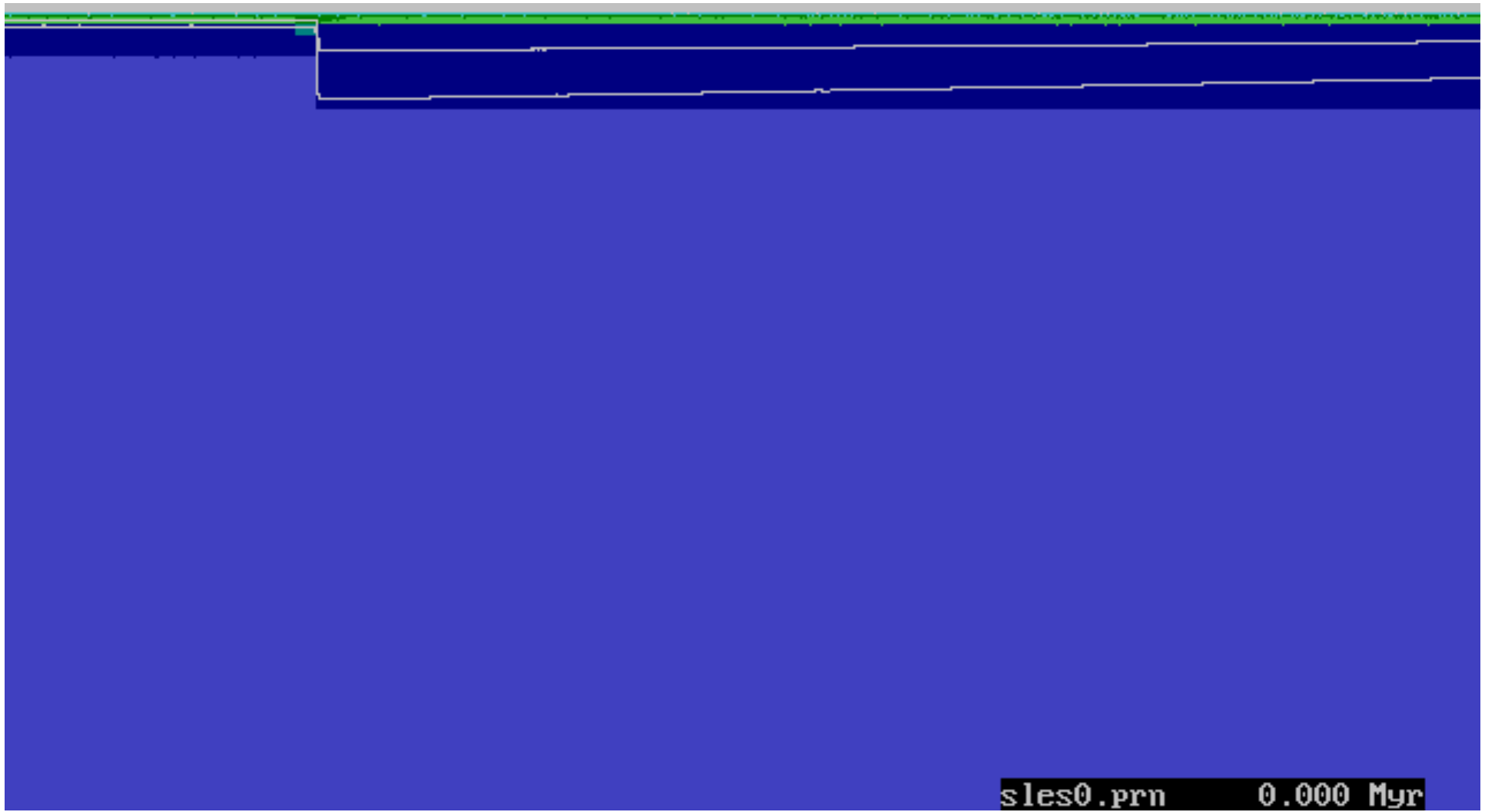
3. Volume changes

Volumetric effects of phase transformations

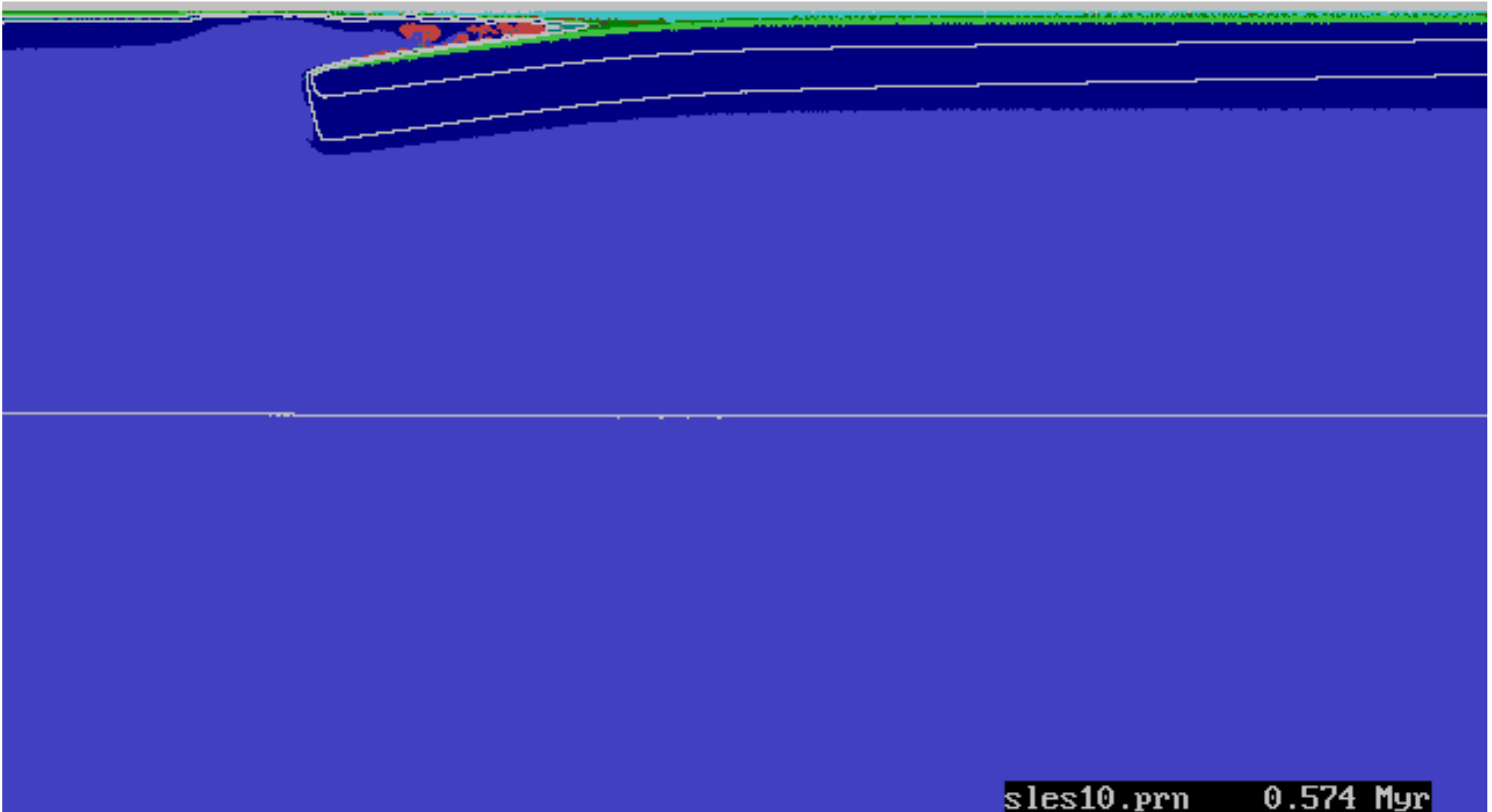
are taken into account in both the momentum and the continuity equations

Lagrangian continuity equation for compressible flow

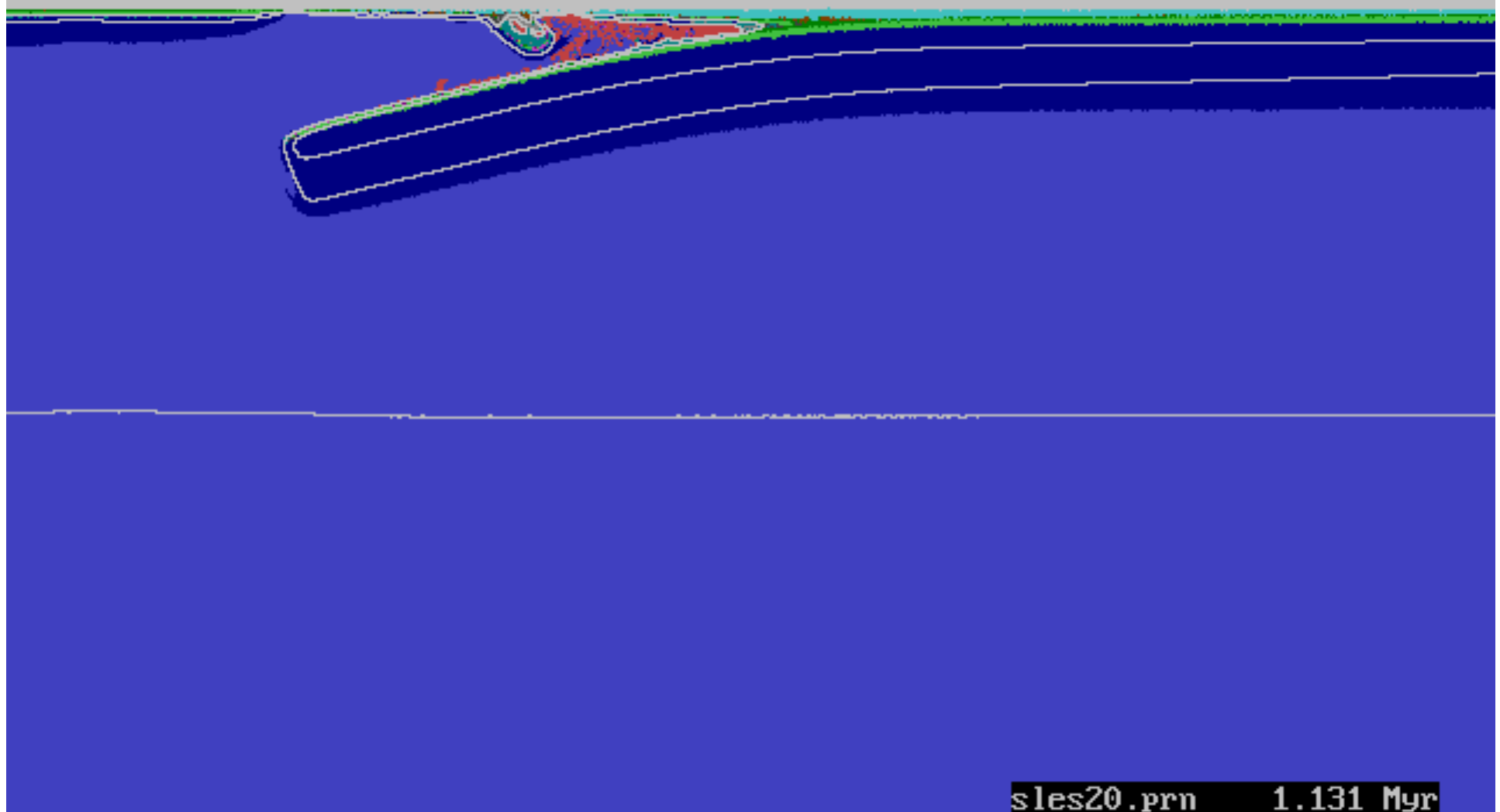
$$D(\ln \rho) / Dt + \text{div}(\underline{v}) = 0$$



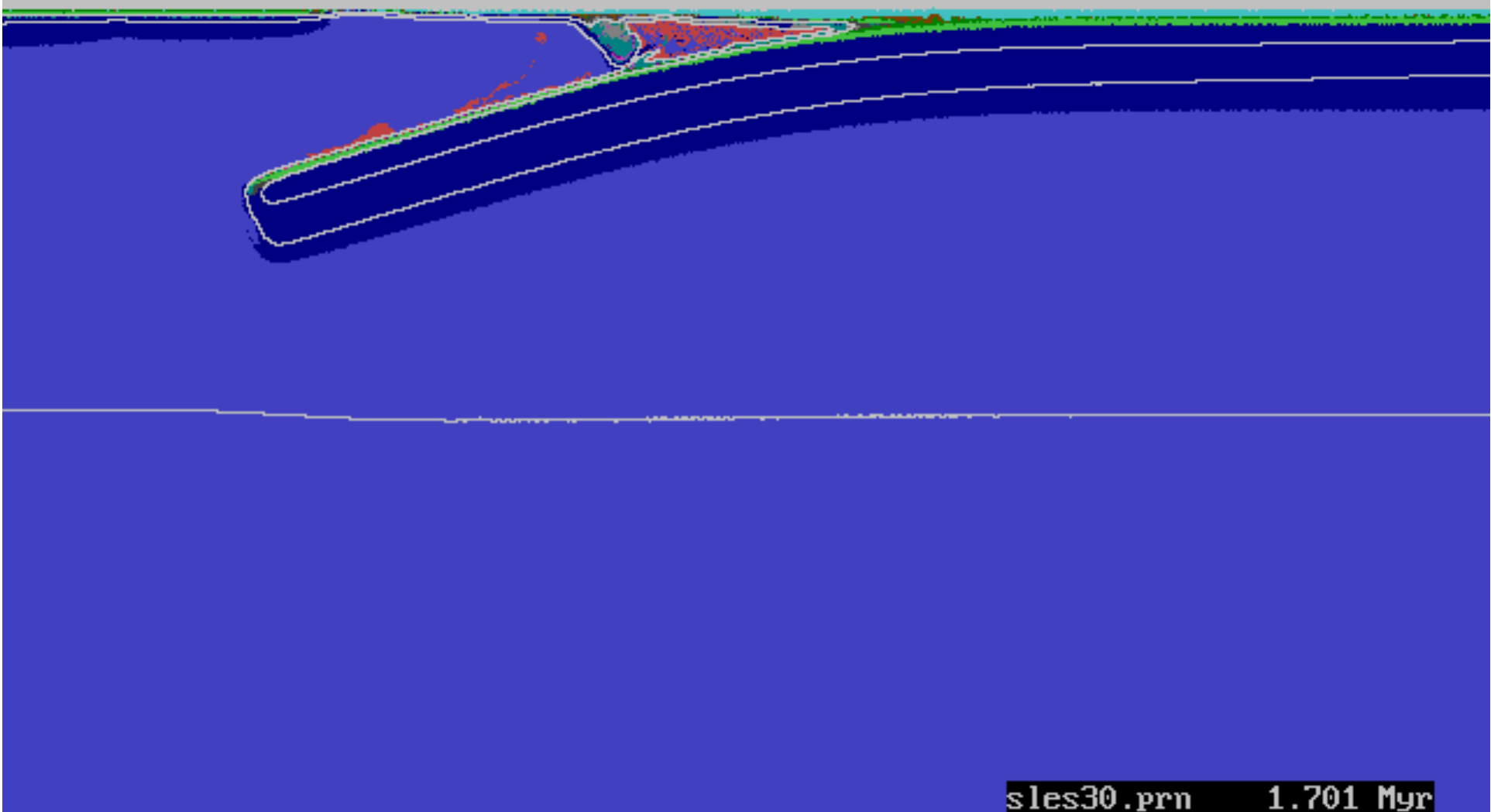
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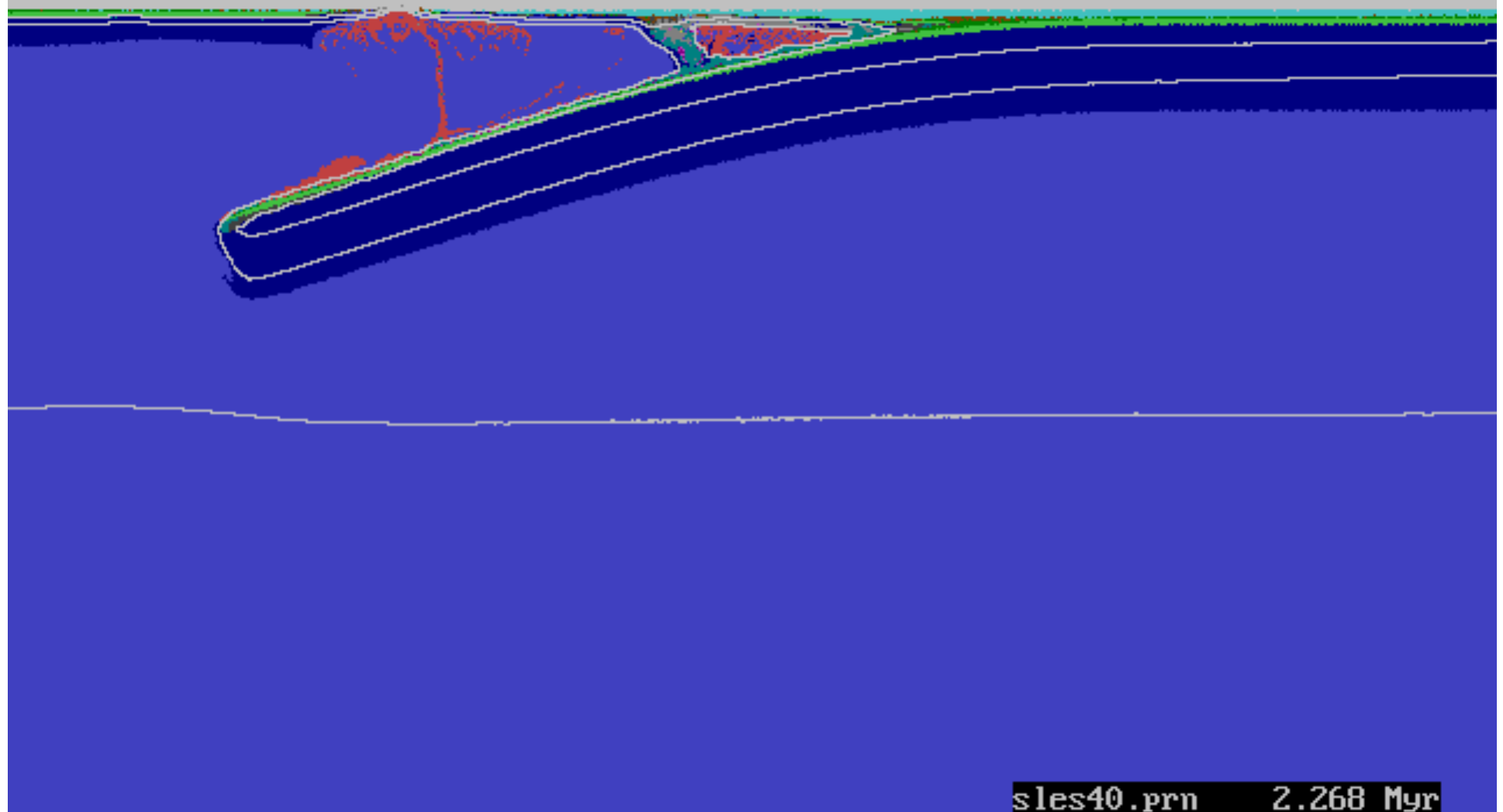
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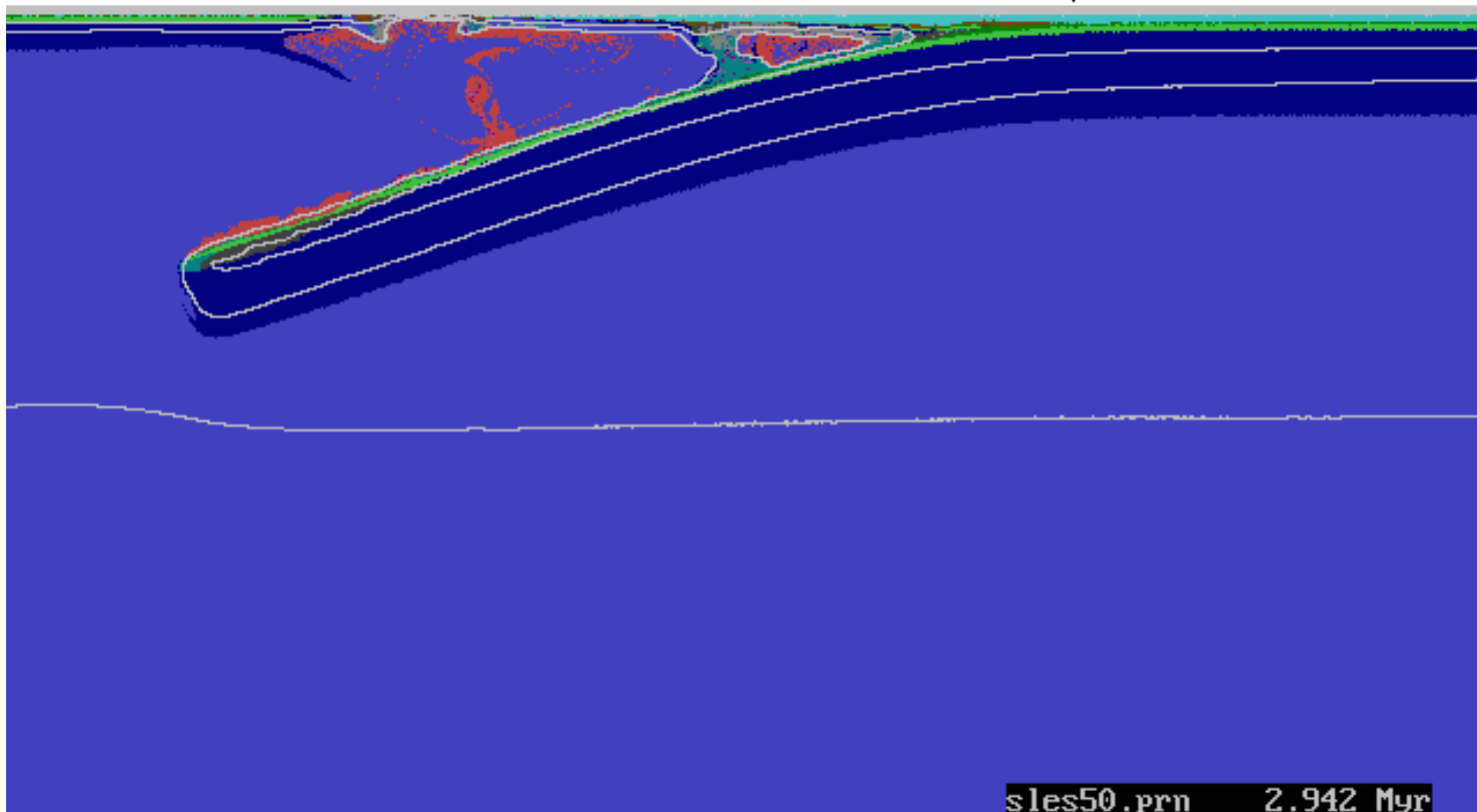
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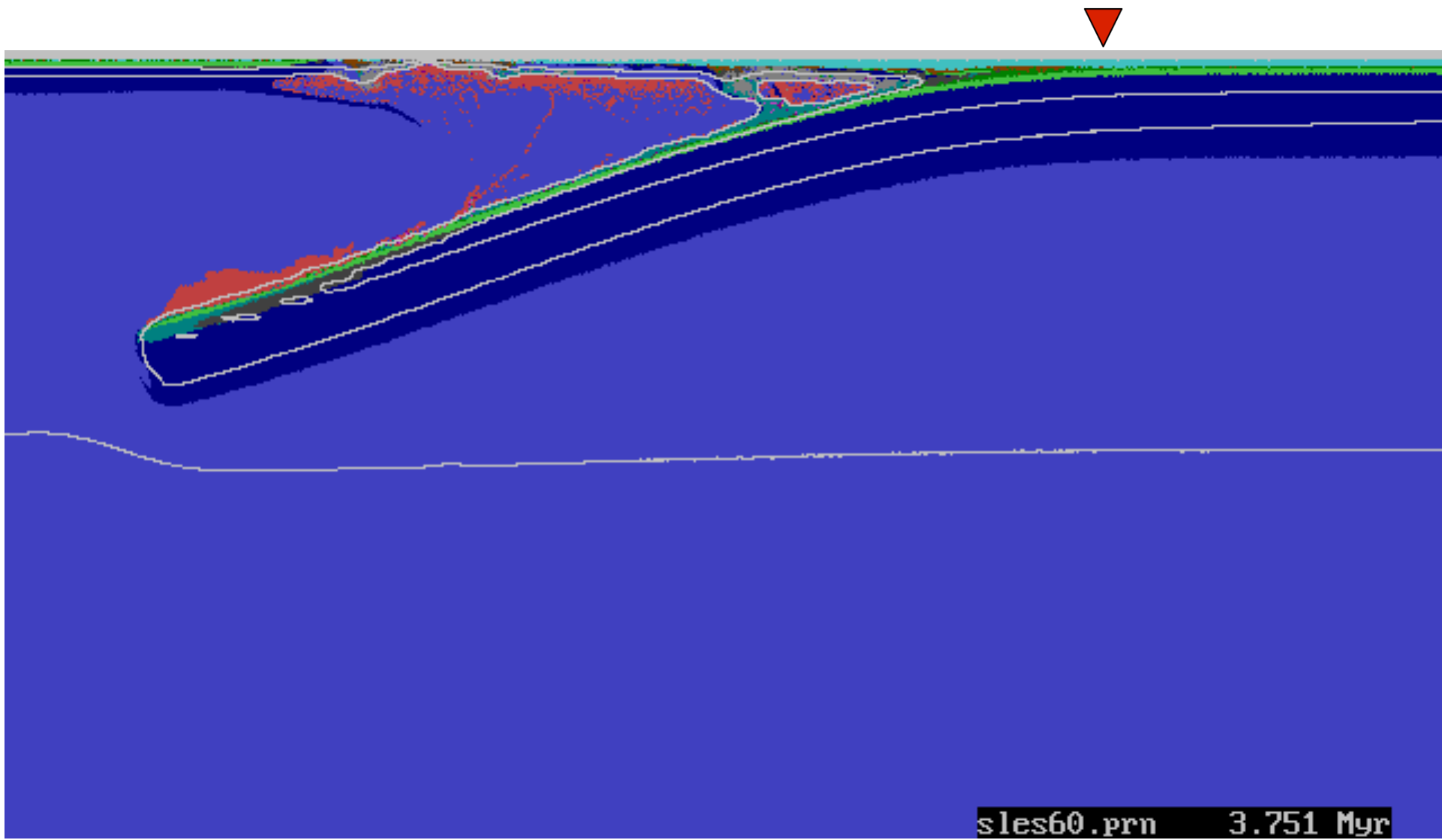
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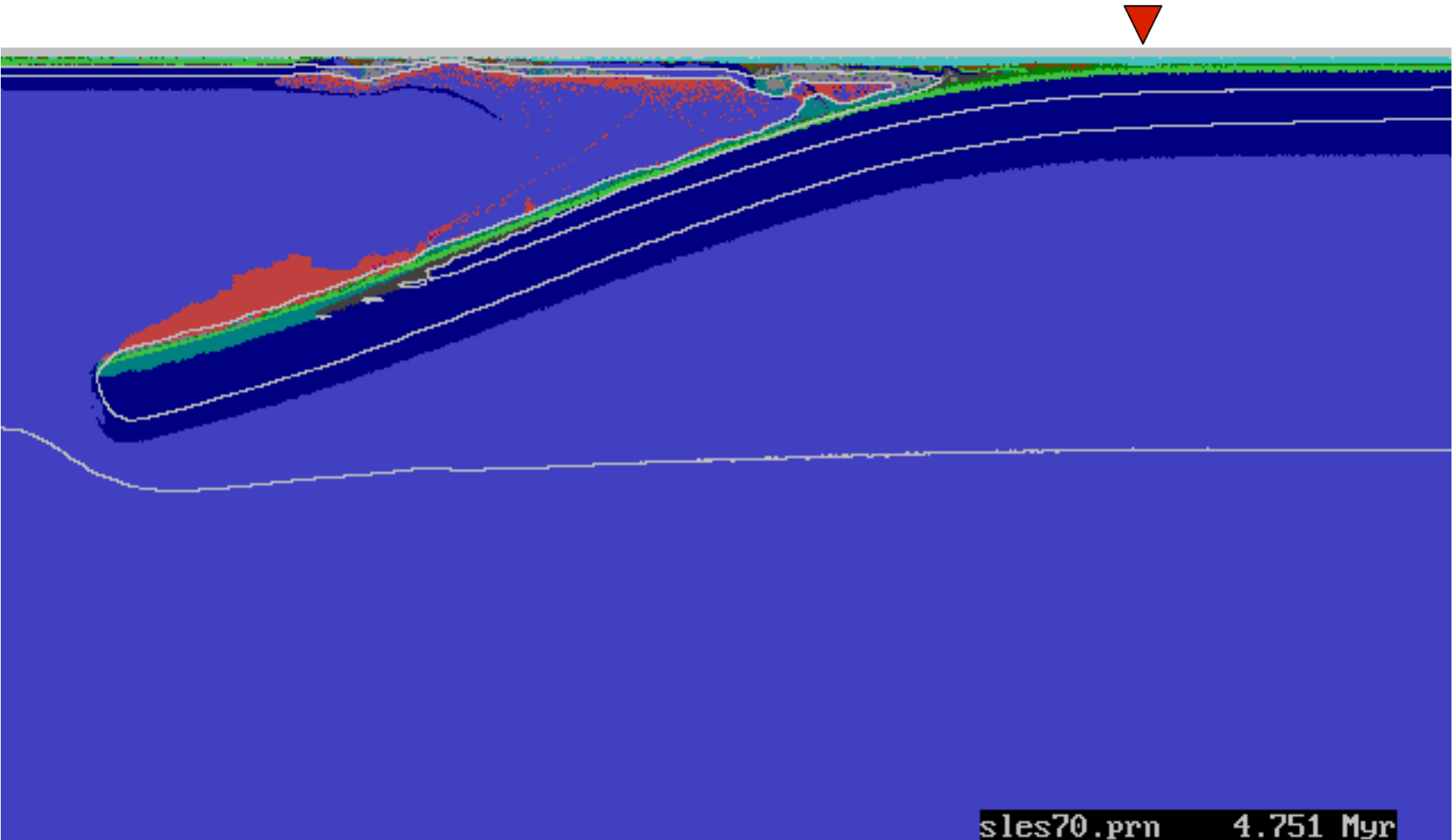


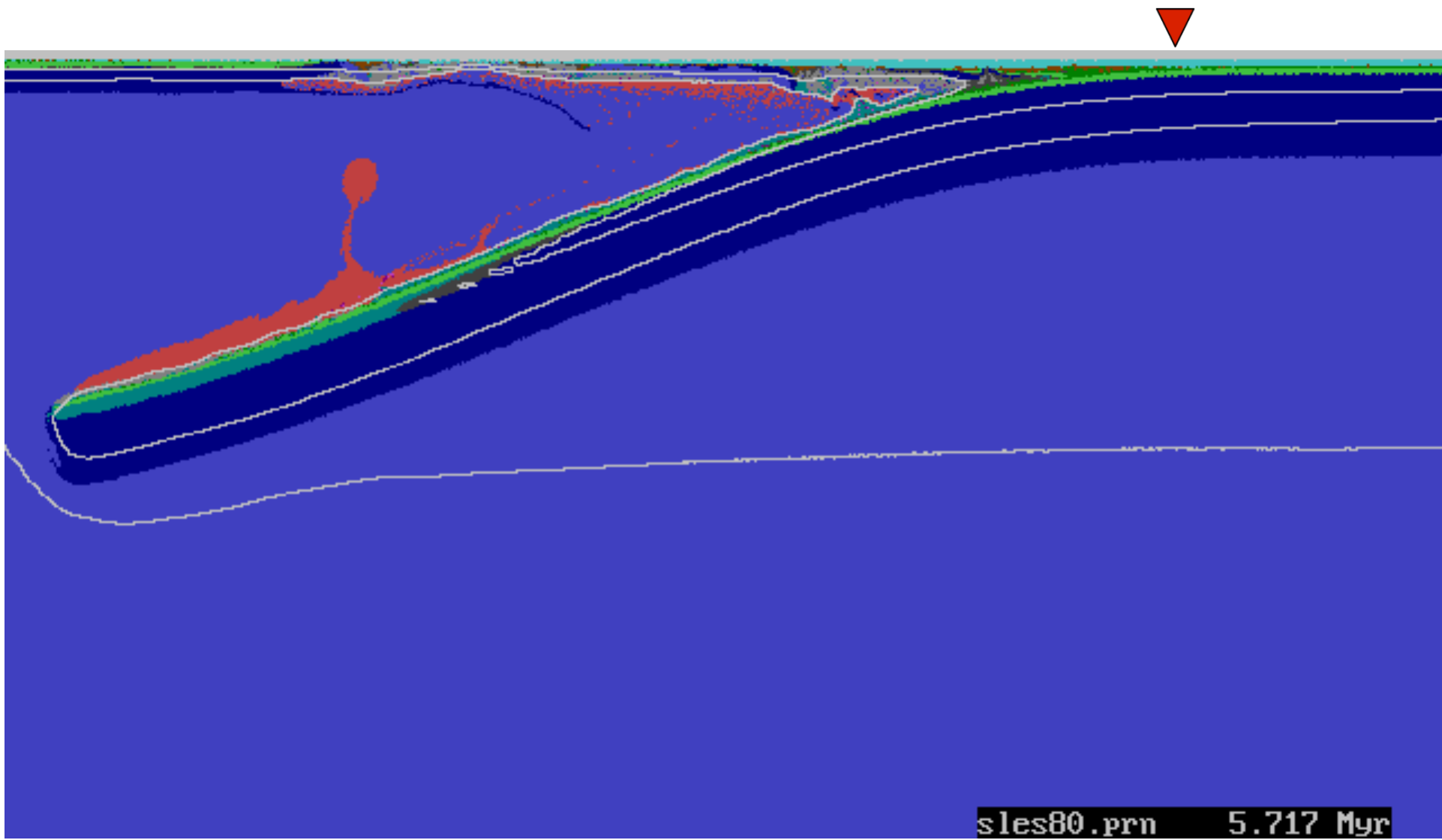
sles40.prn 2.268 Myr



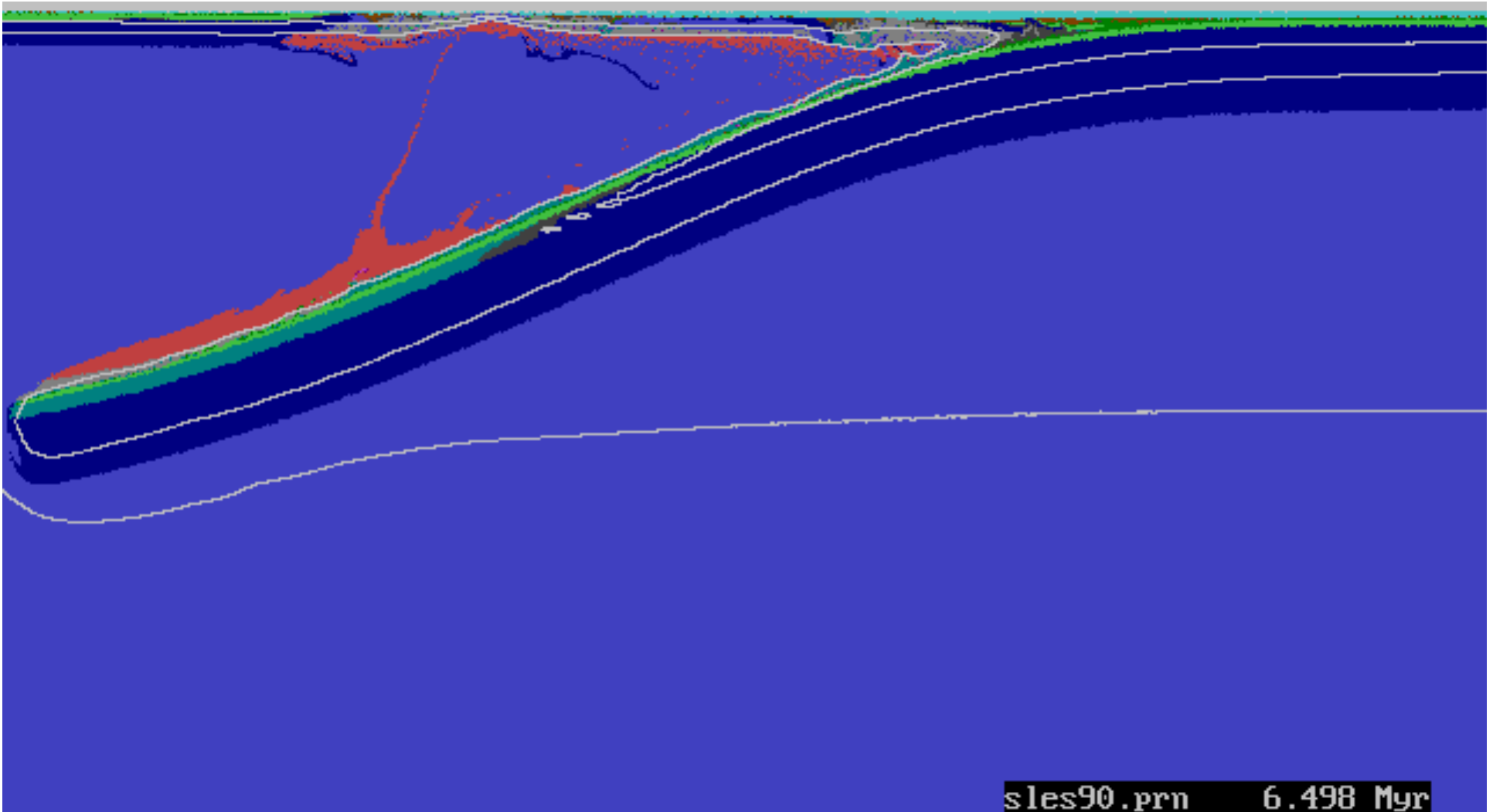
sles50.prn 2.942 Myr



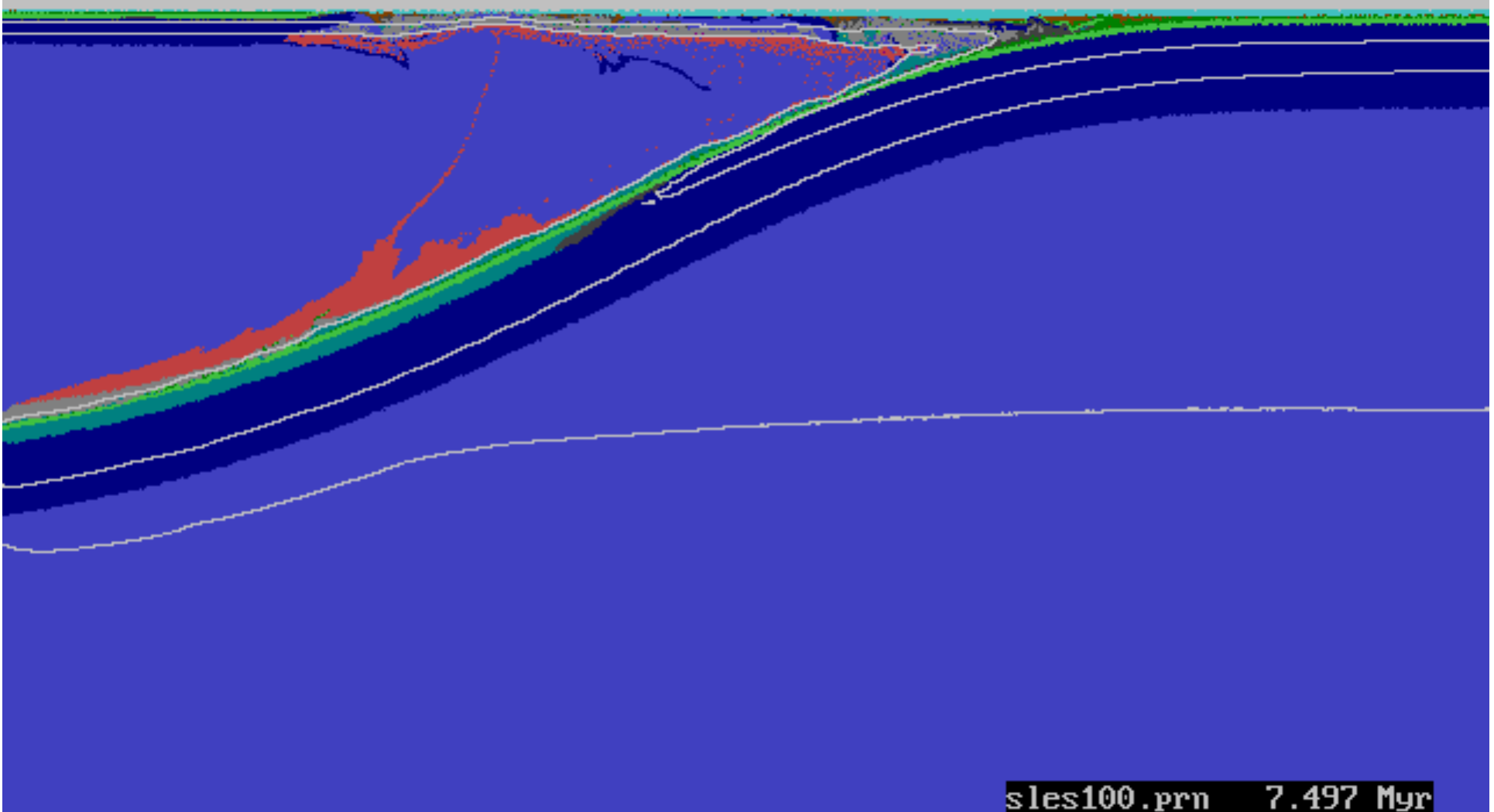




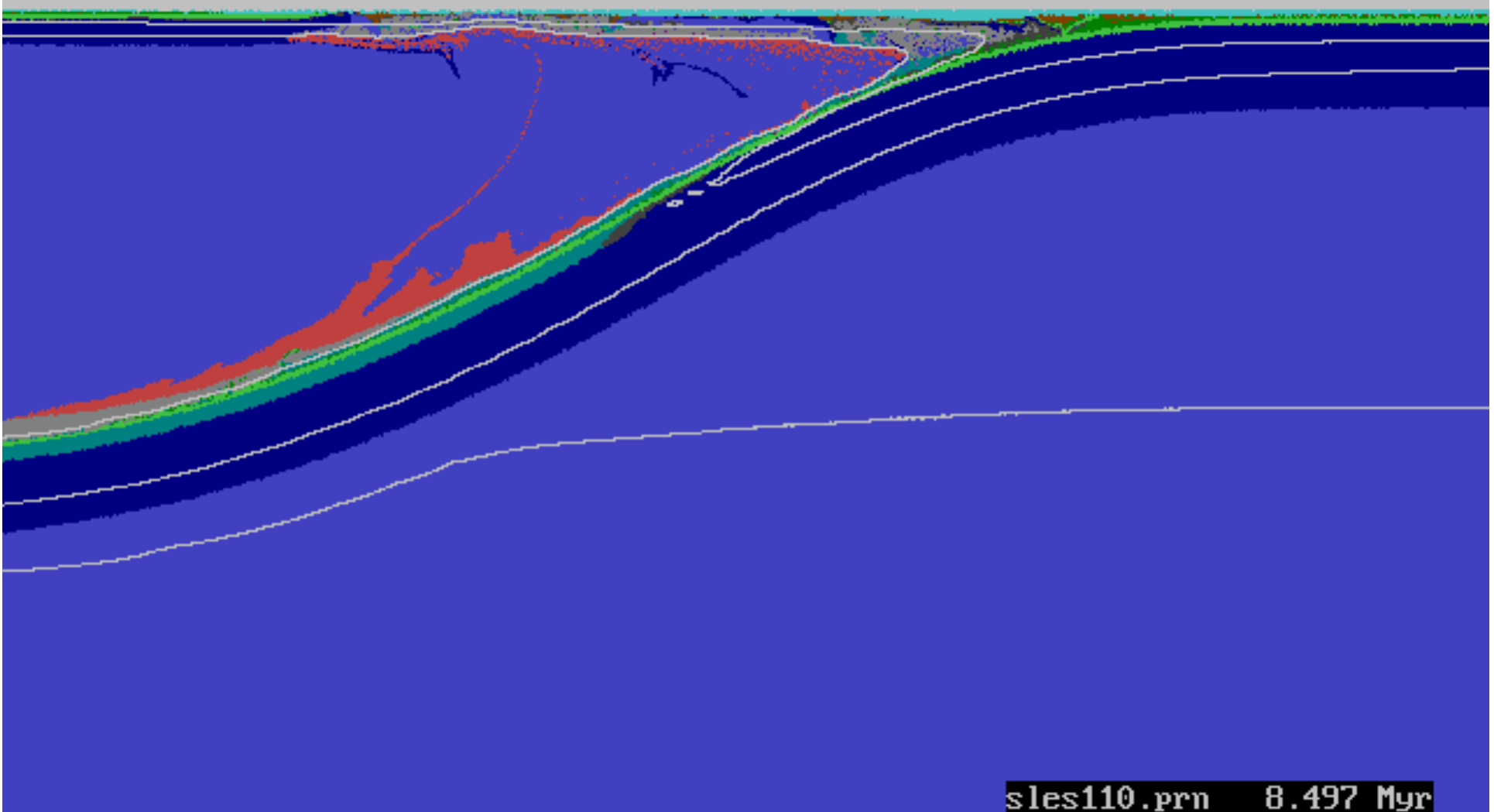
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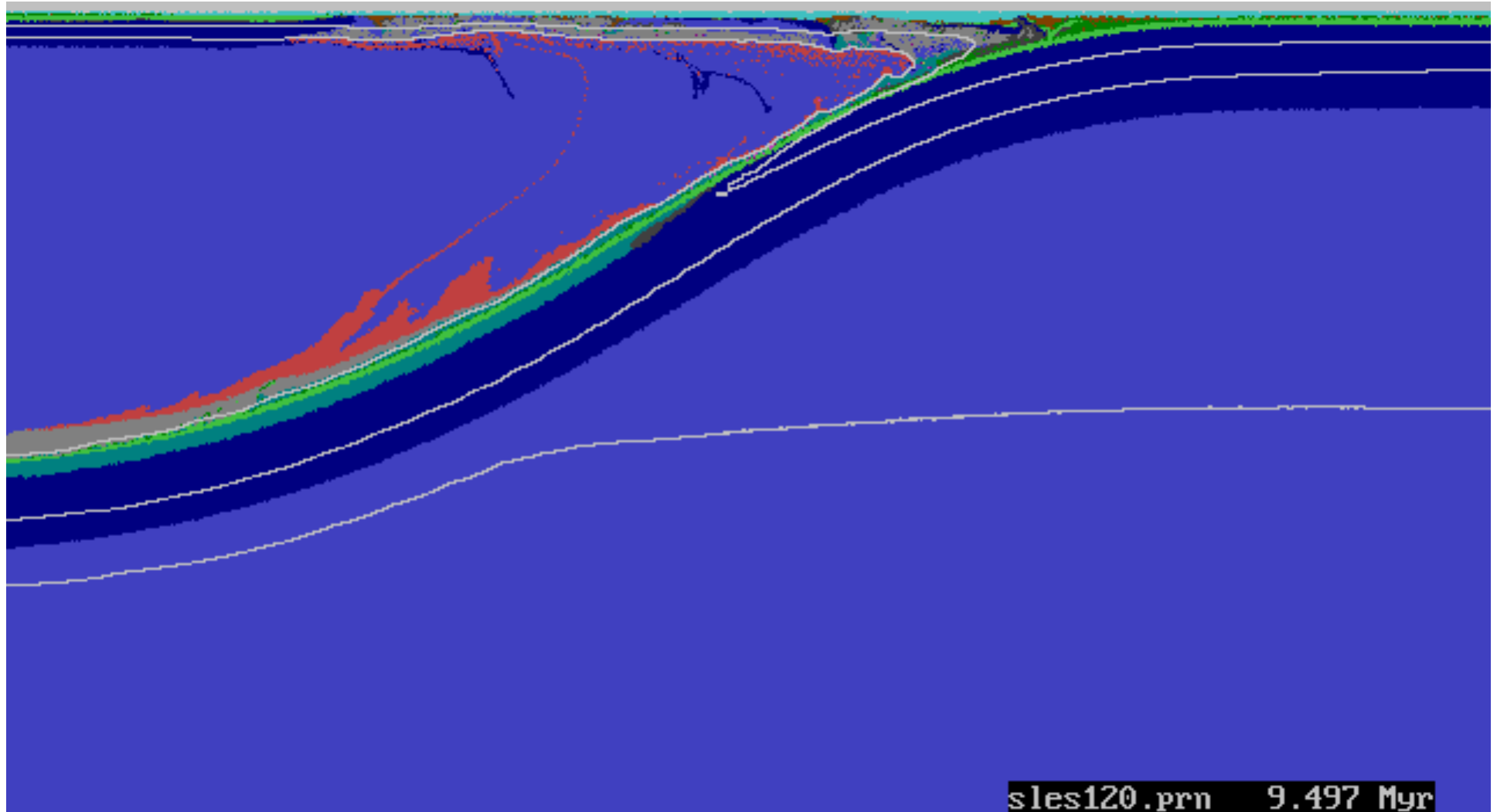
sles90.prn 6.498 Myr



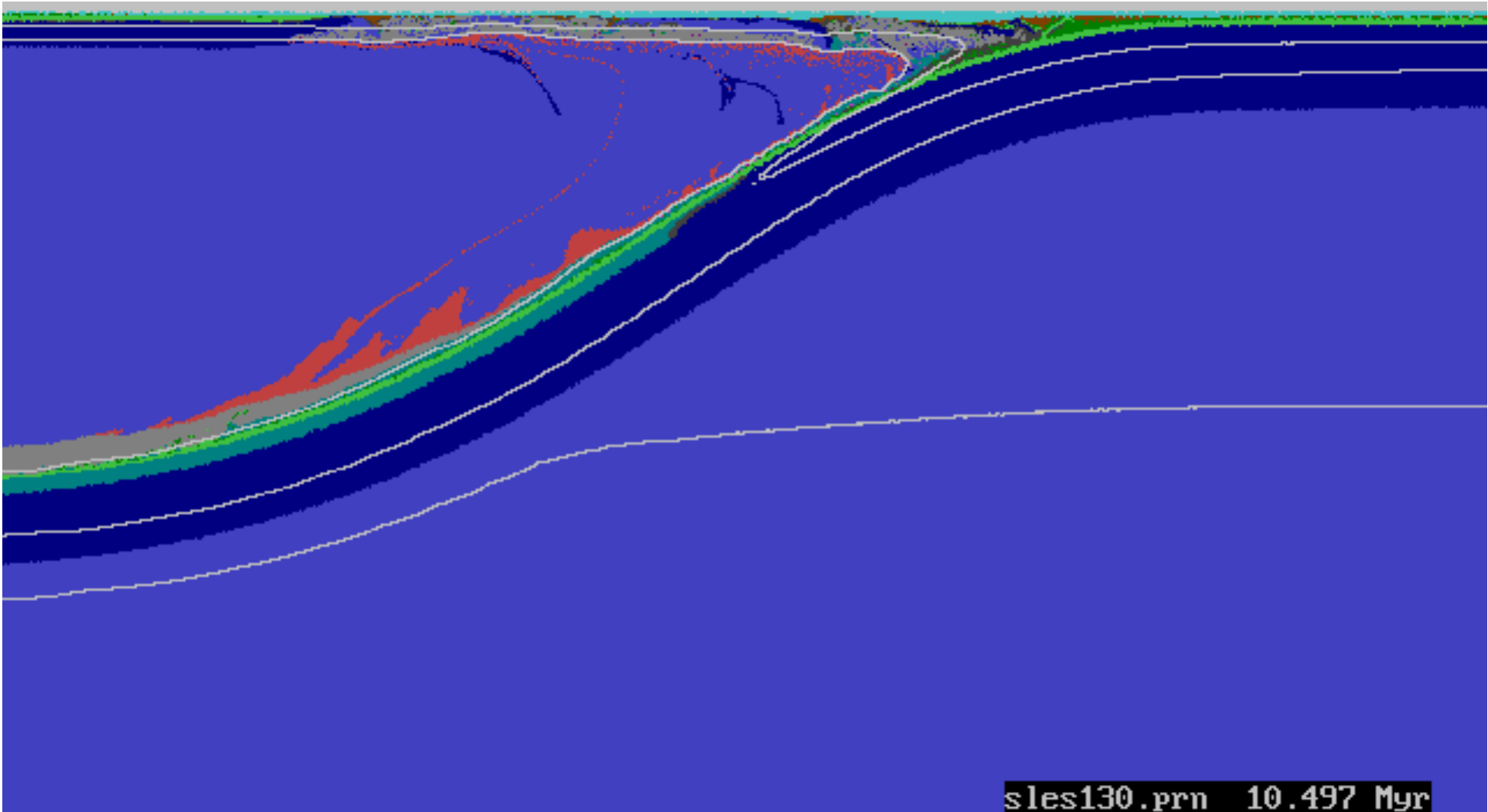
sles100.prn 7.497 Myr



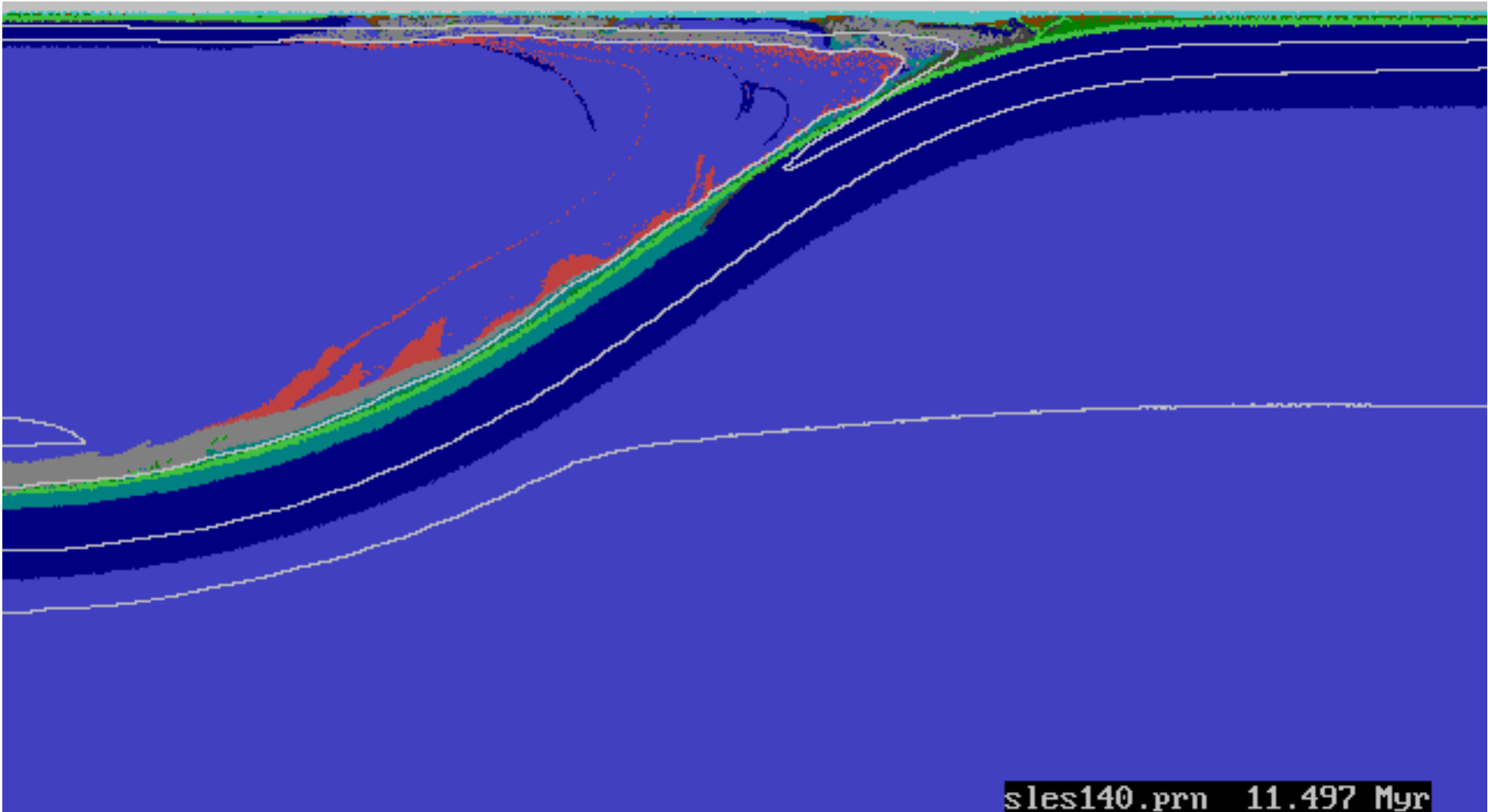
sles110.prn 8.497 Myr



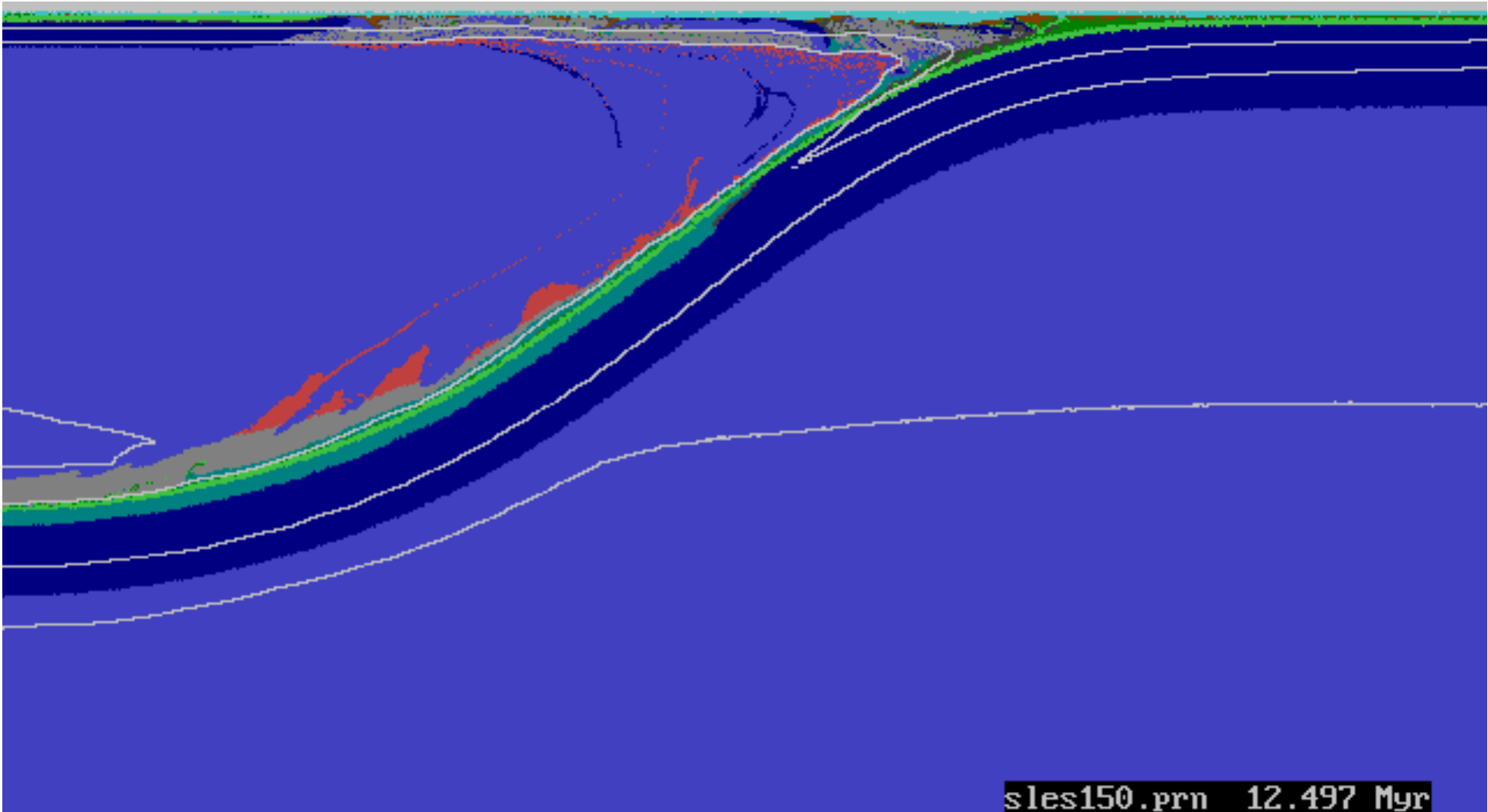
sles120.prn 9.497 Myr



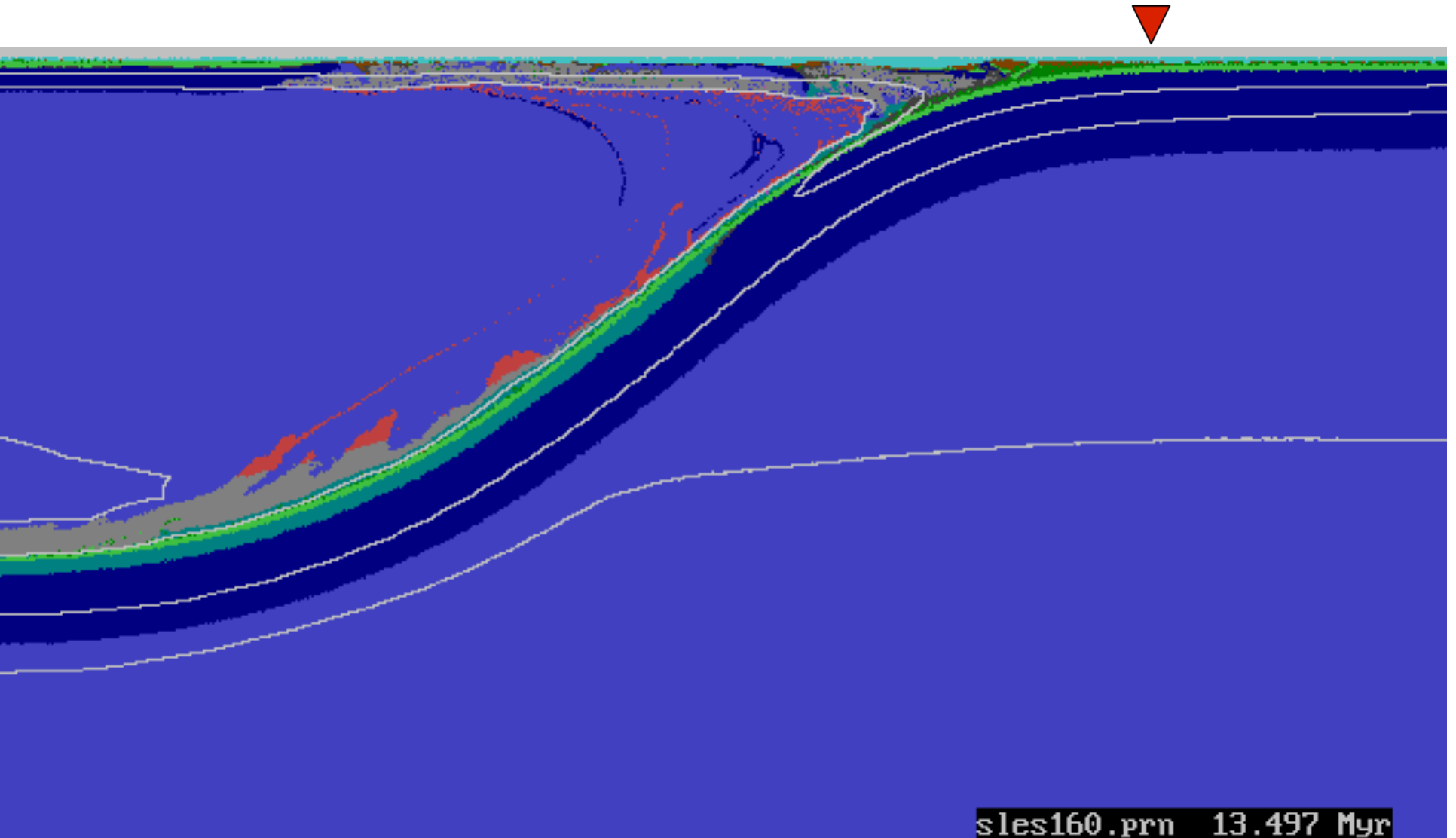
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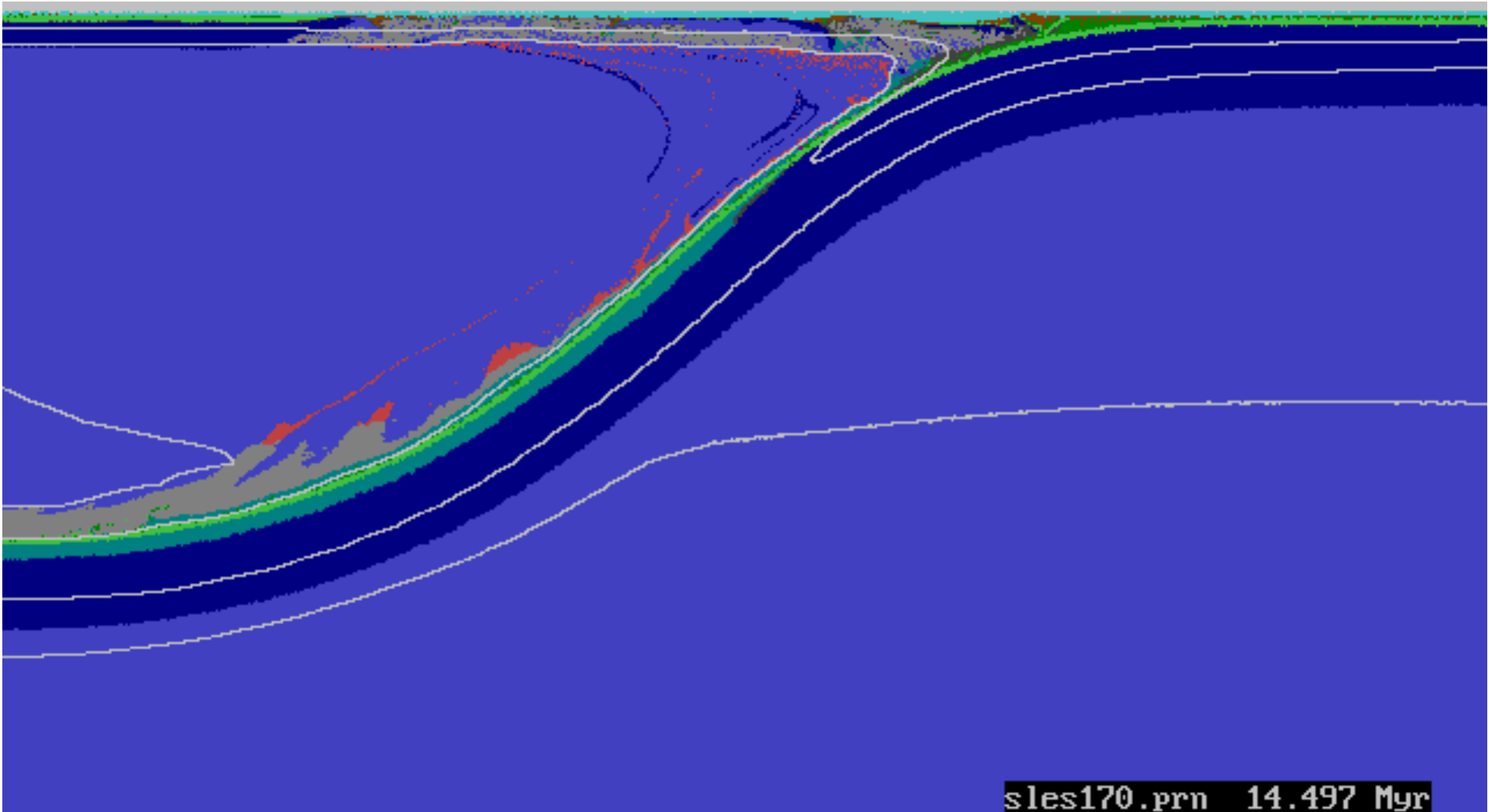


sles140.prn 11.497 Myr

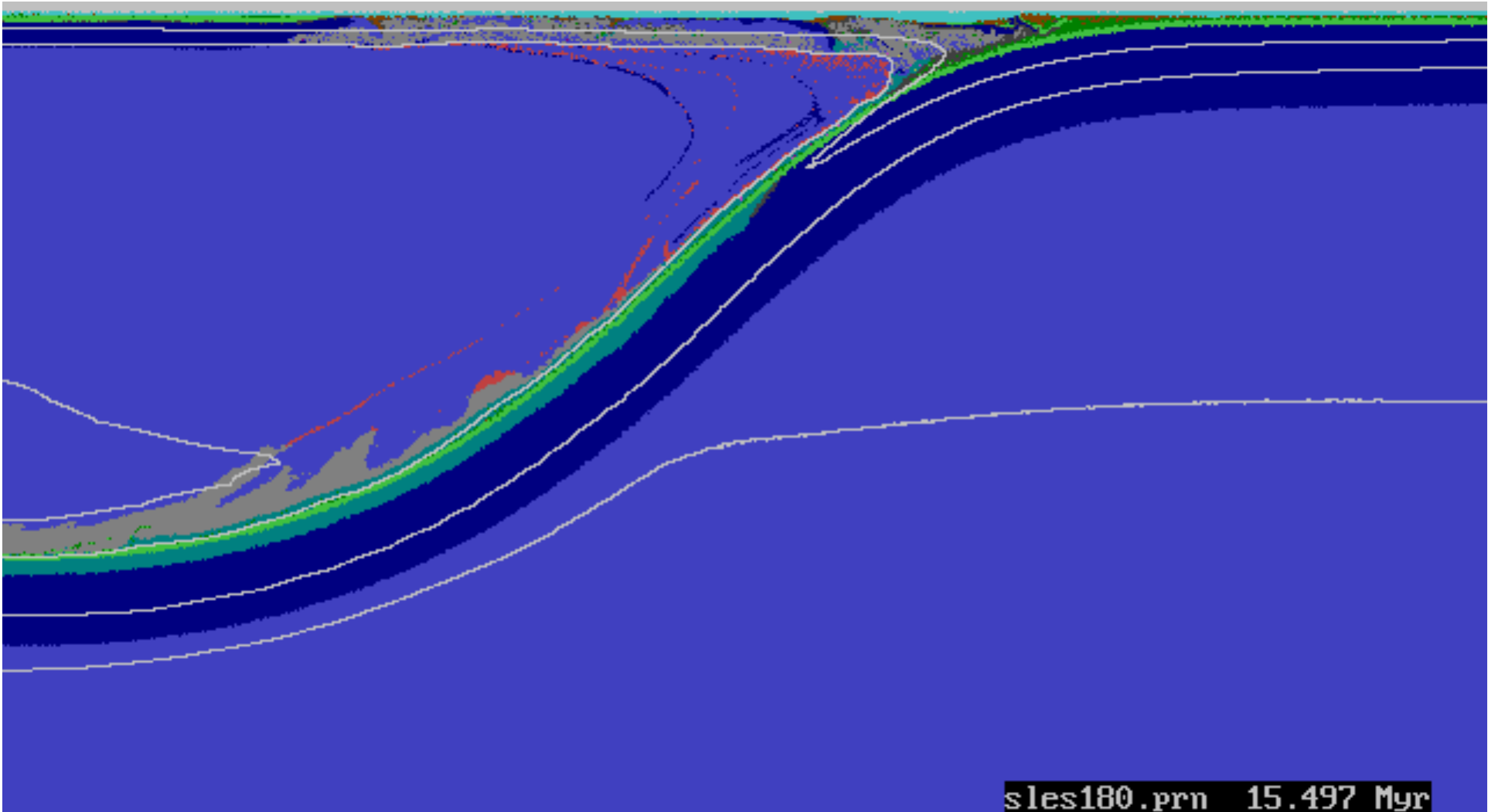


sles150.prn 12.497 Myr

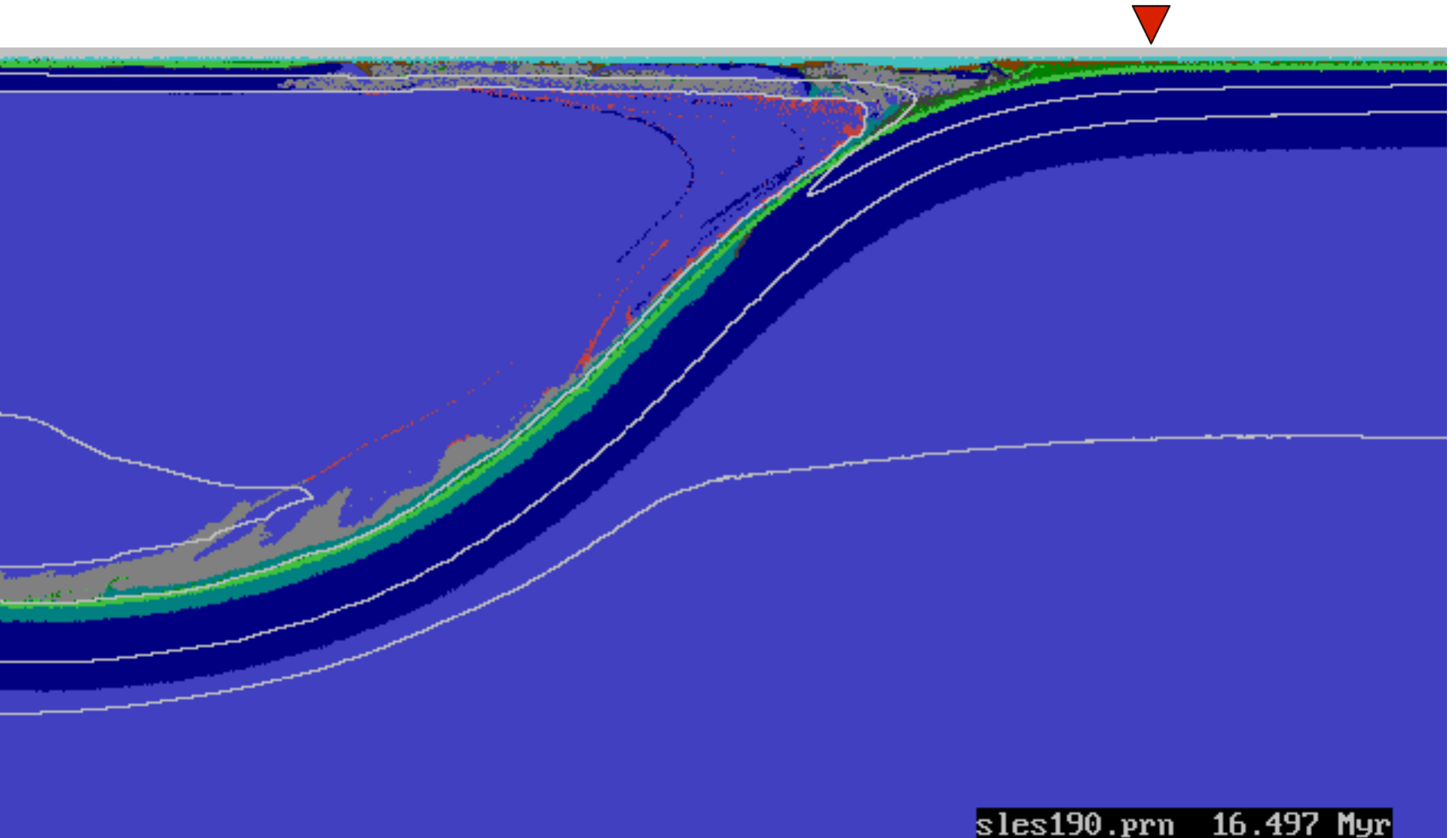


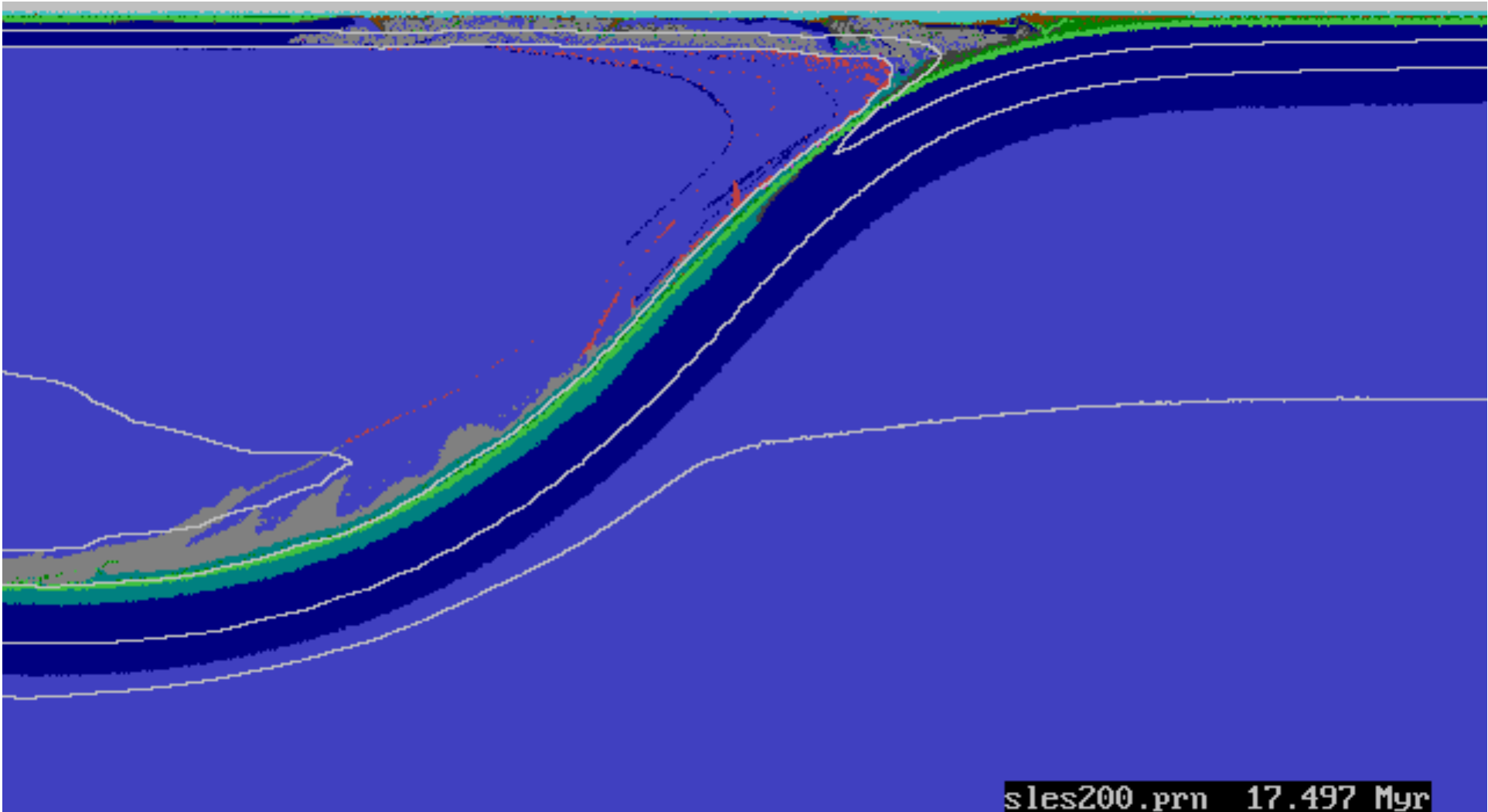


sles170.prn 14.497 Myr

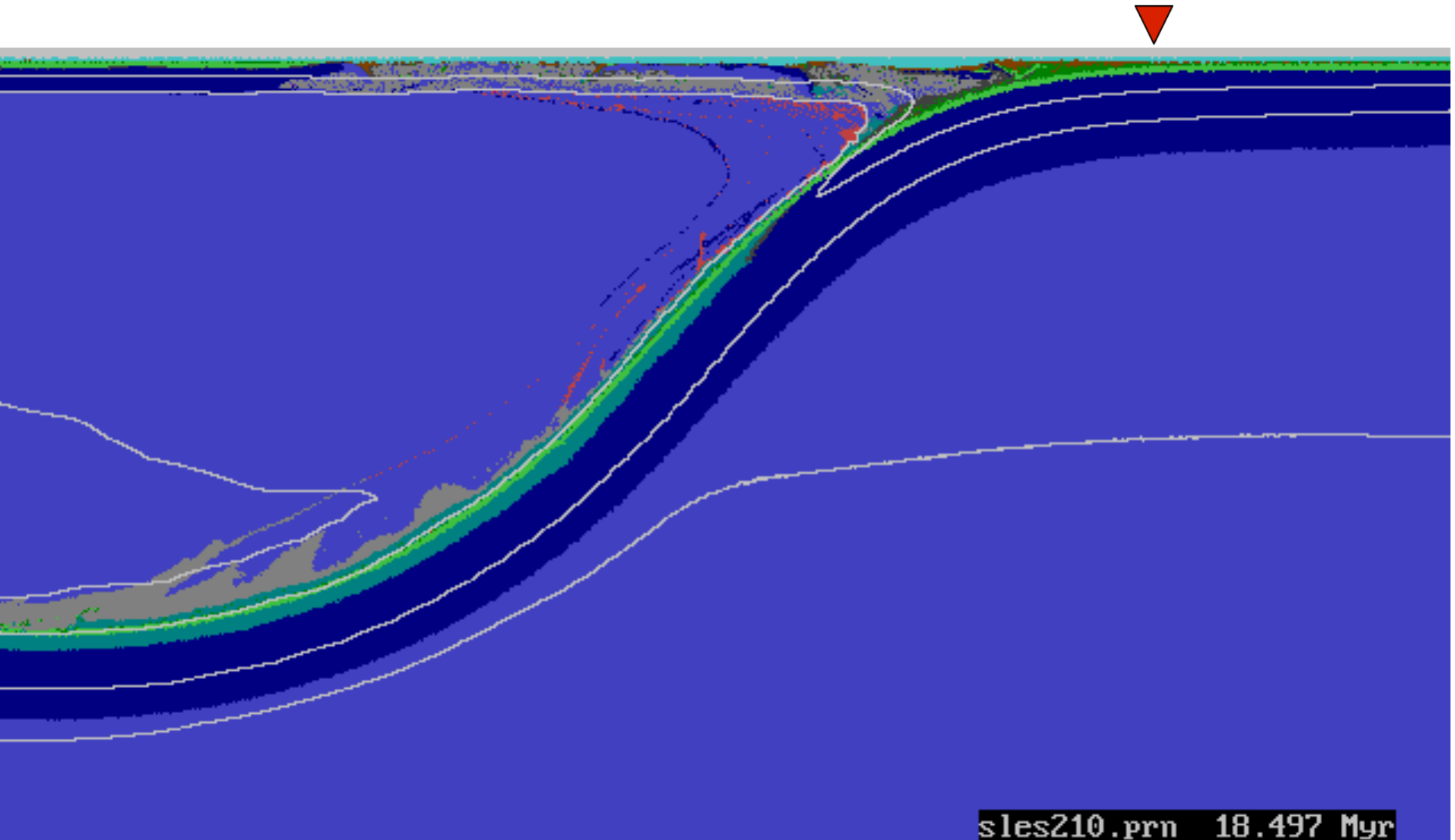


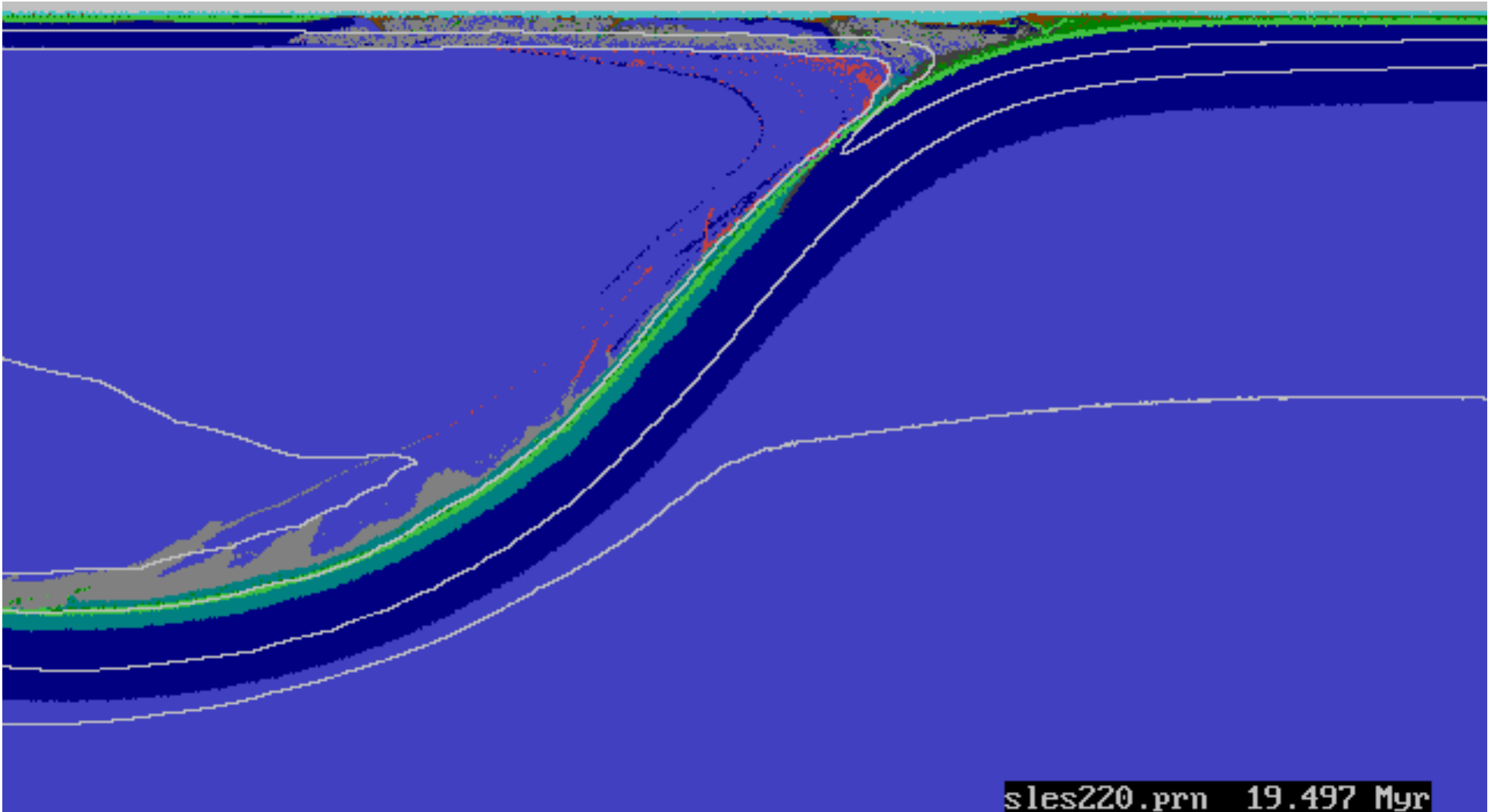
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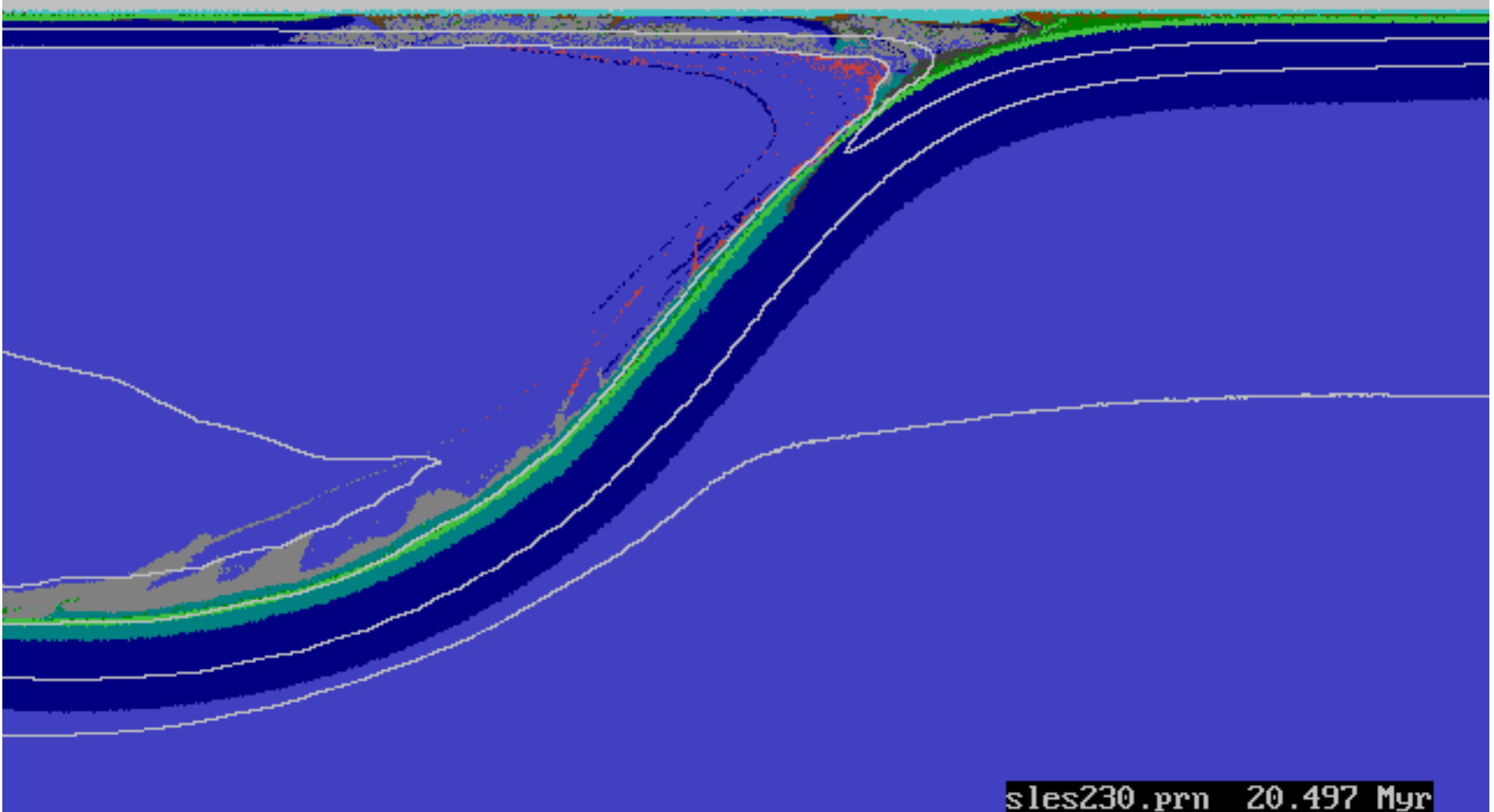


sles200.prn 17.497 Myr

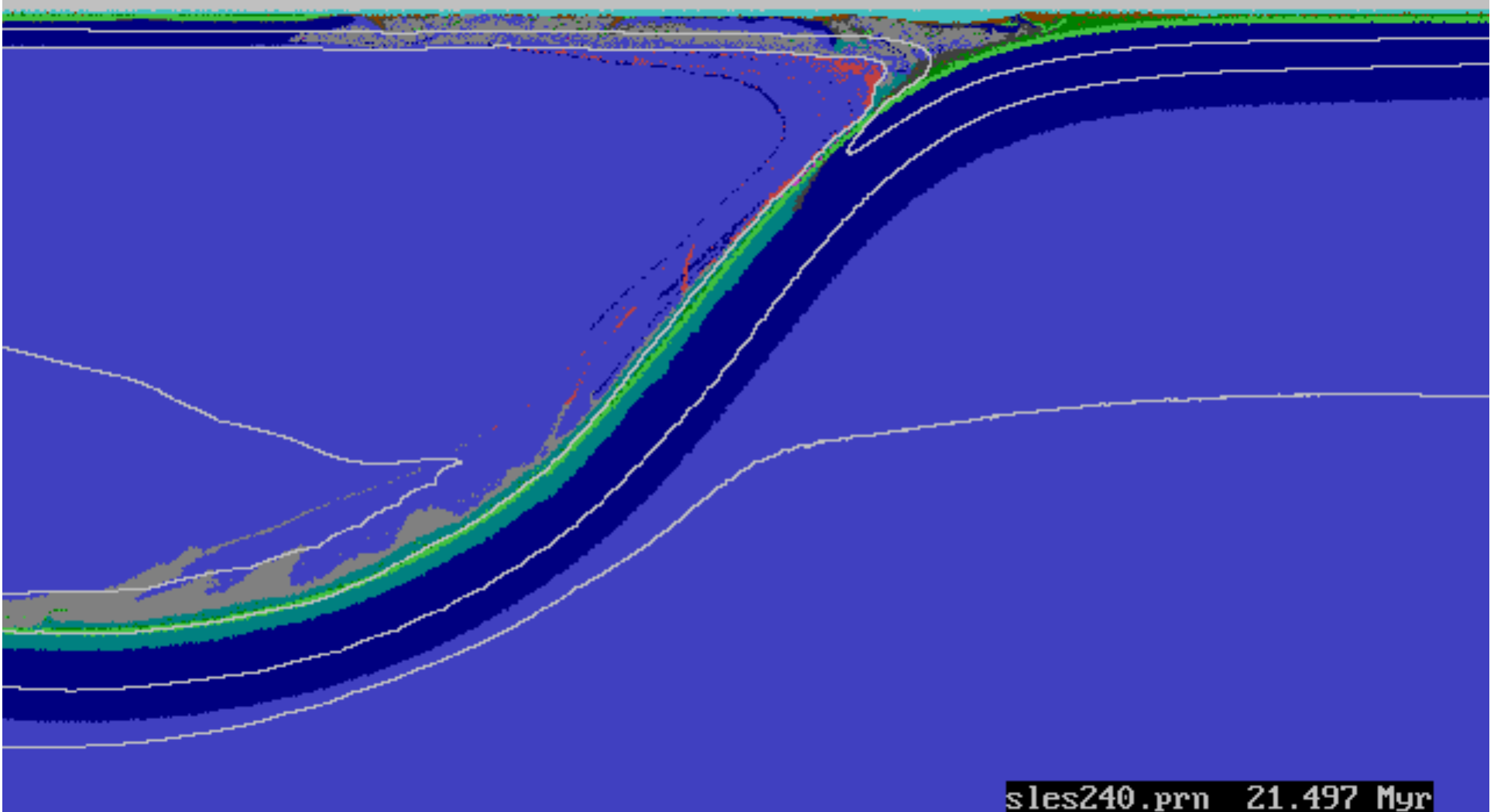




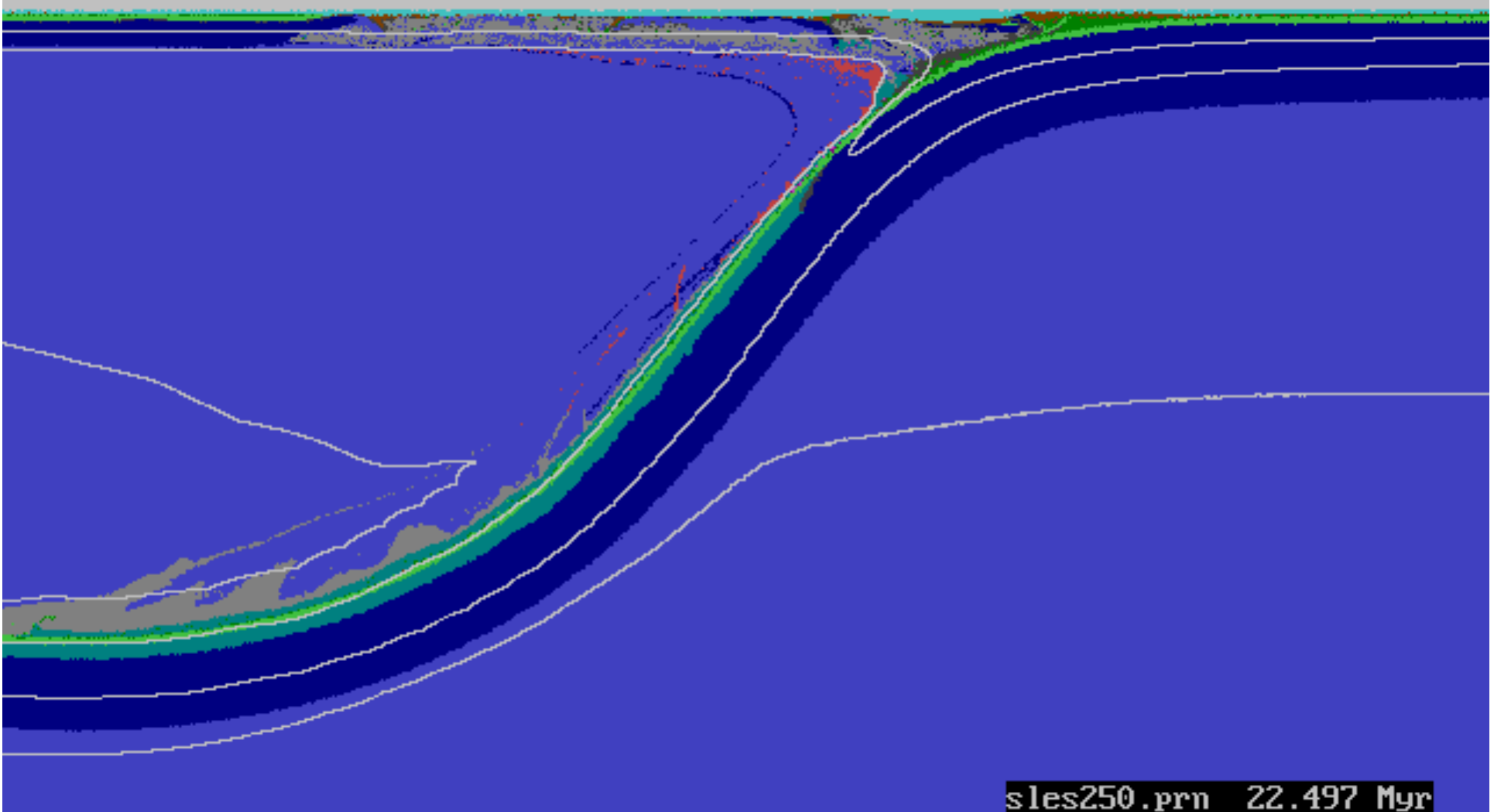
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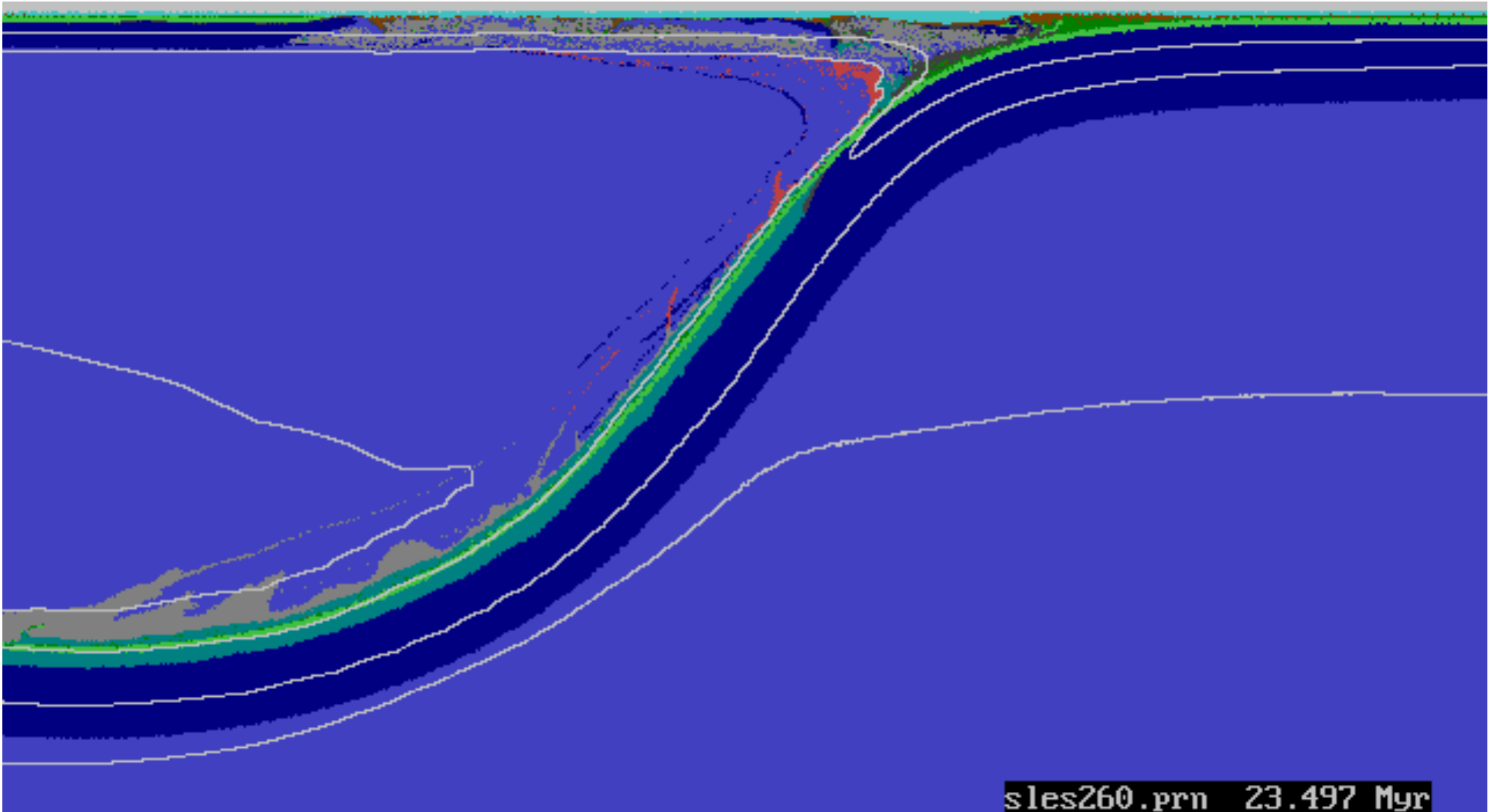
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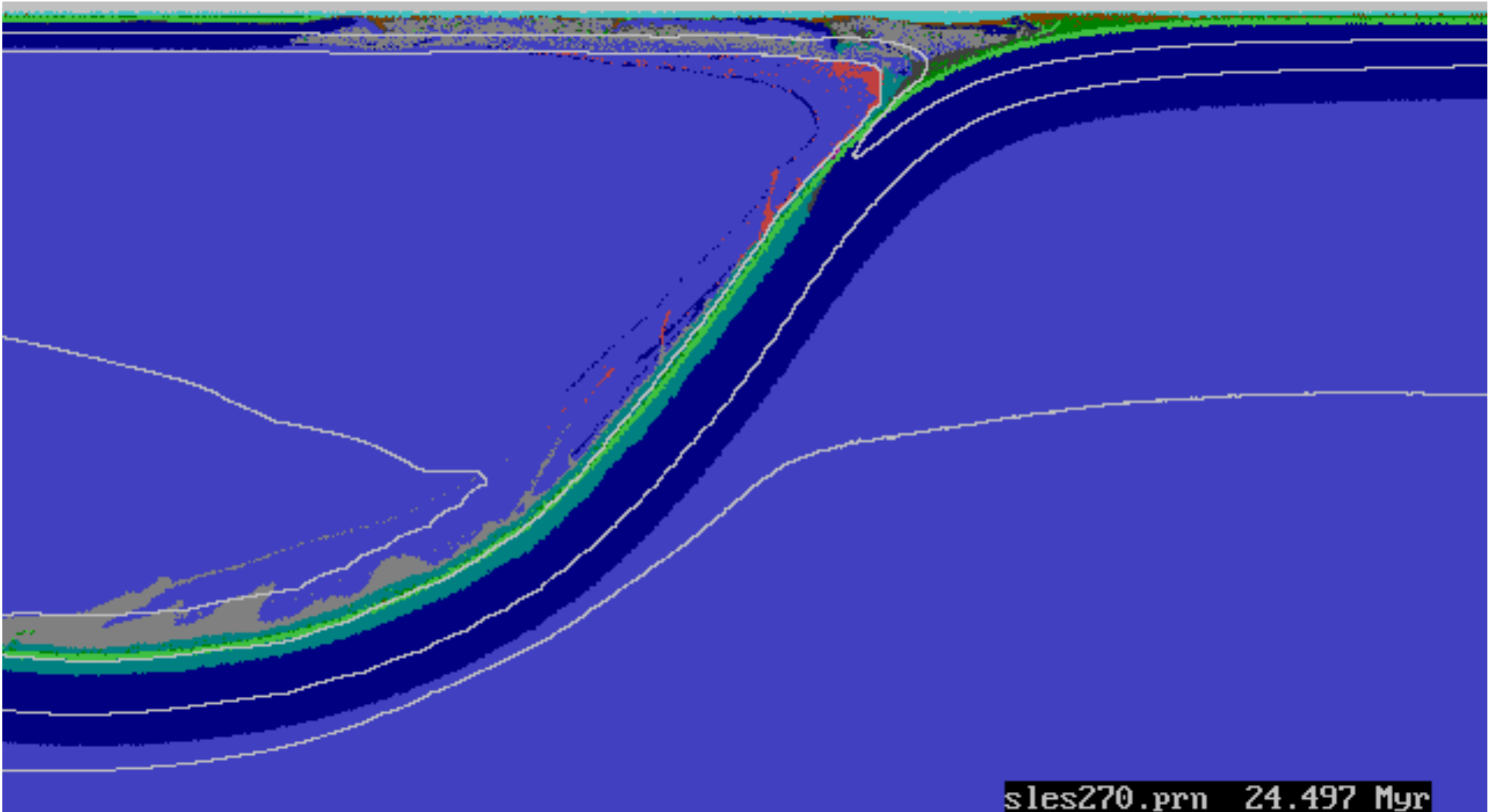
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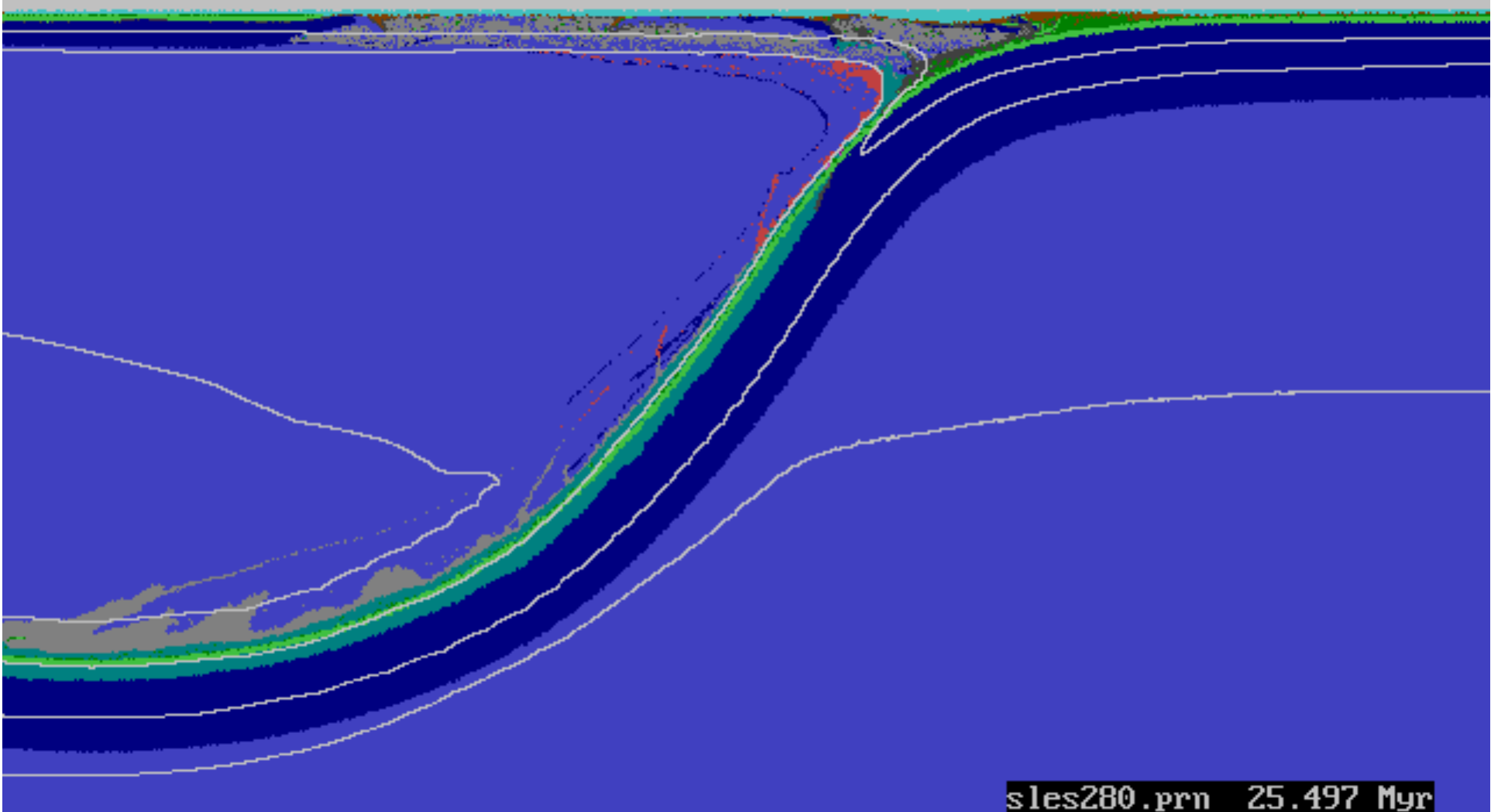
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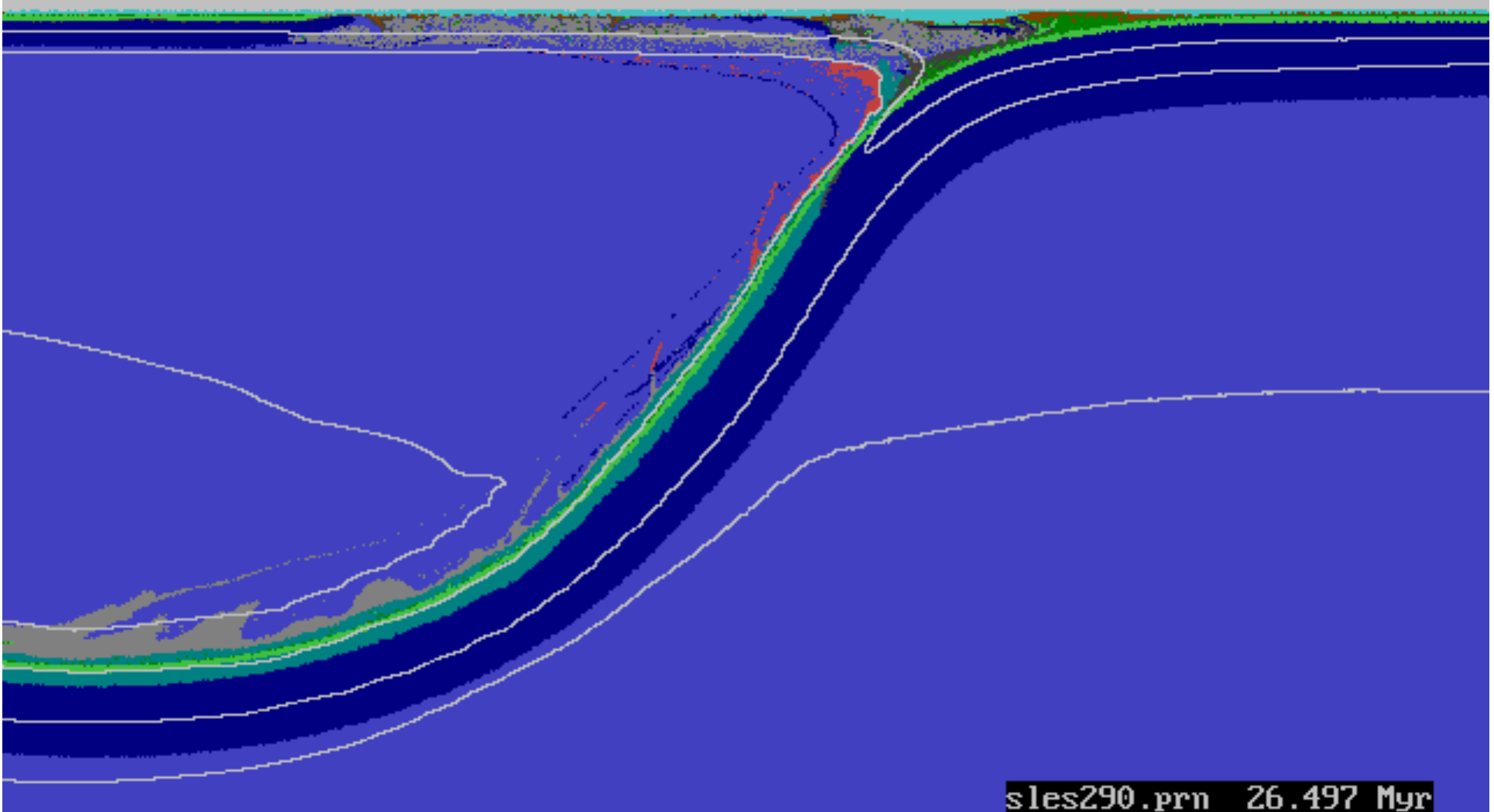
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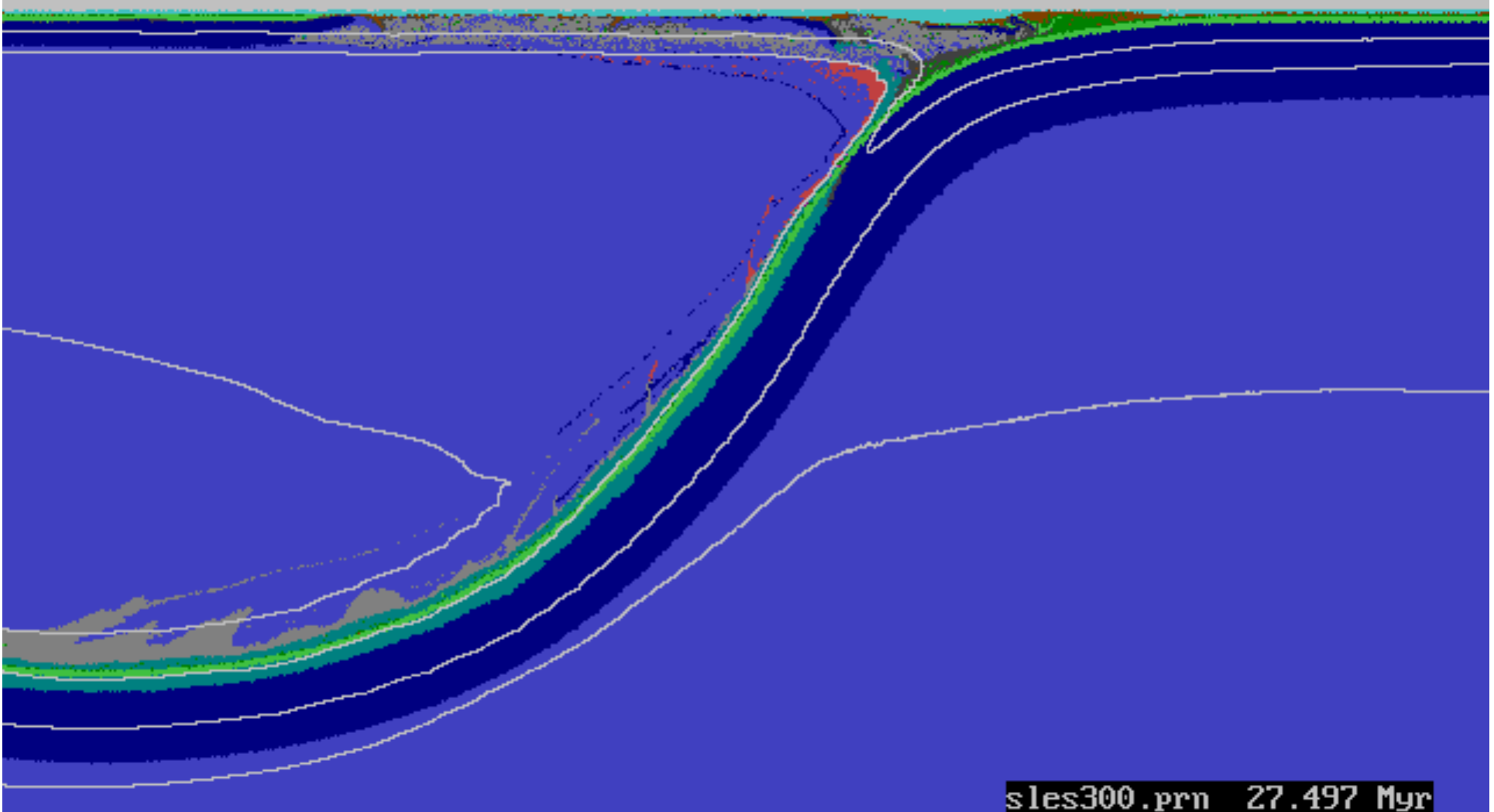
sles270.prn 24.497 Myr



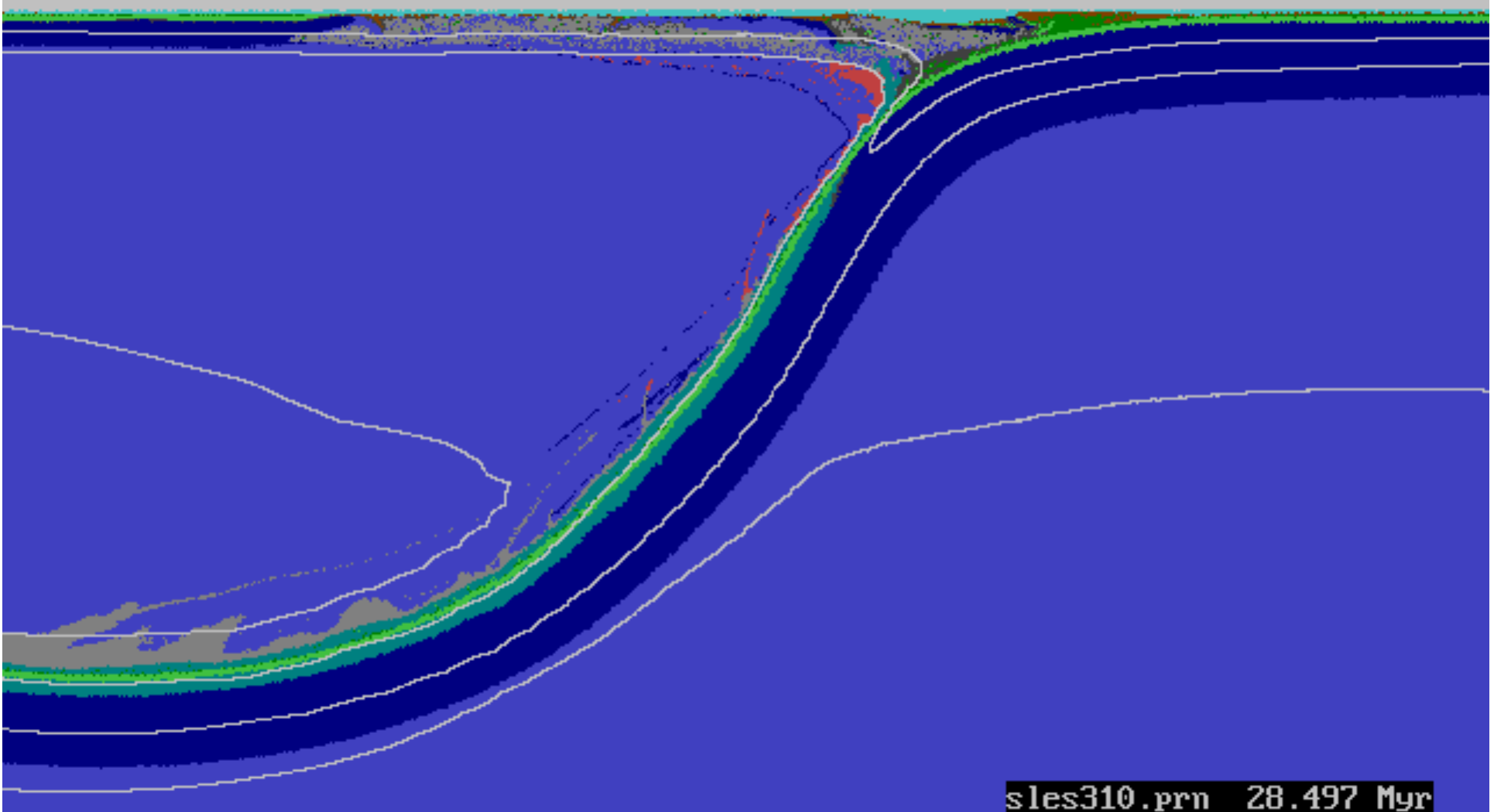
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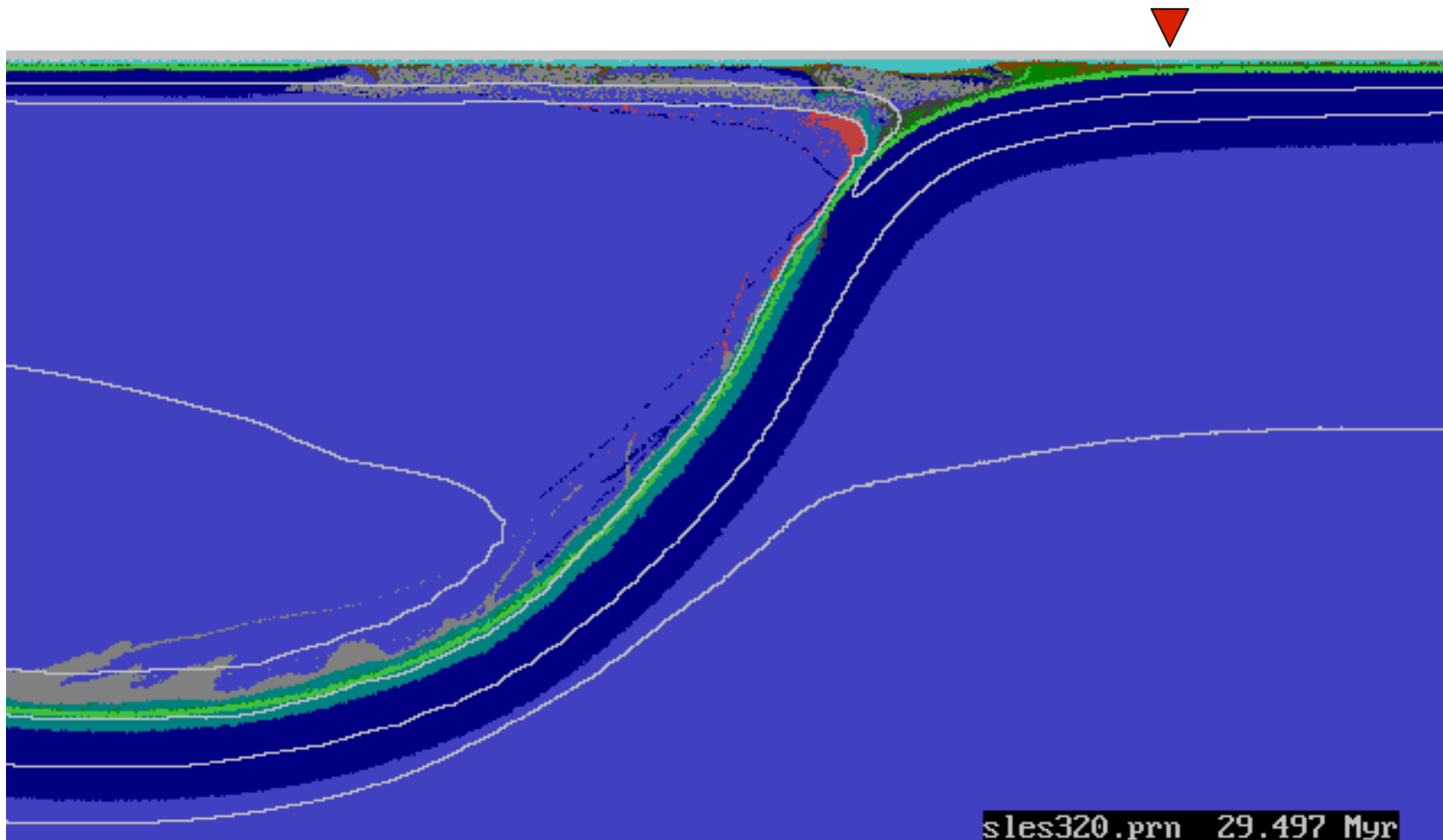
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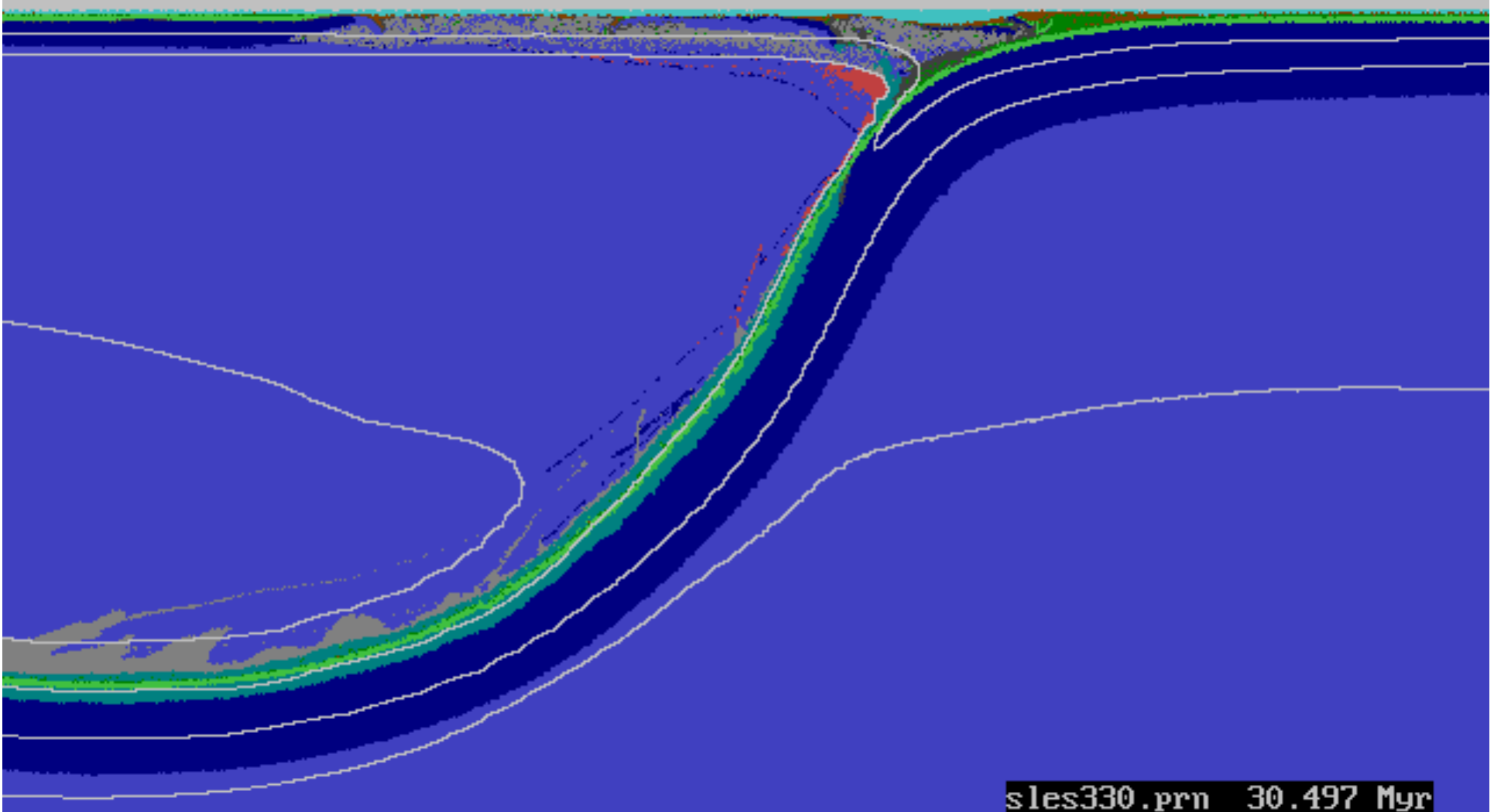


sles300.prn 27.497 Myr

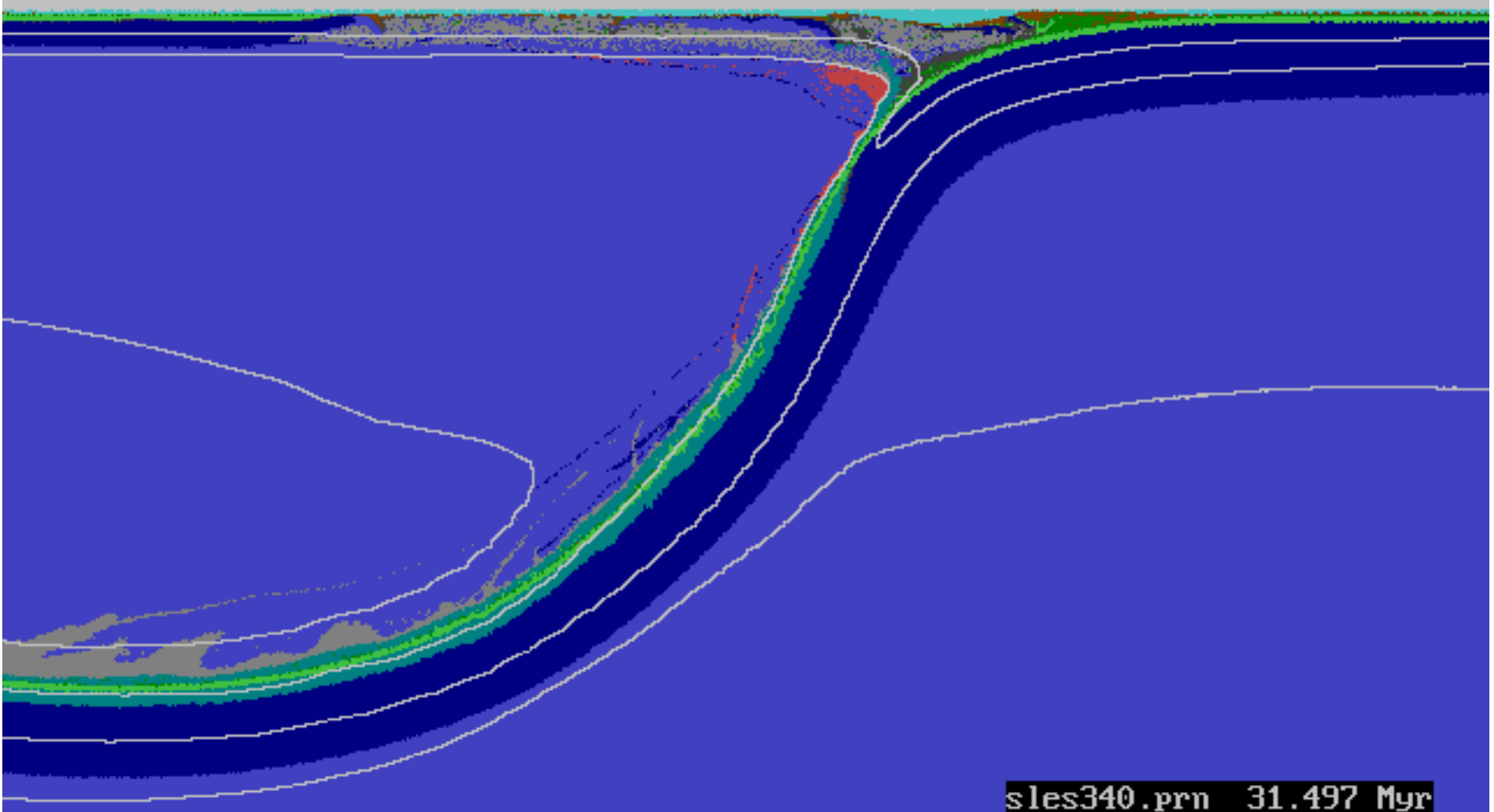


sles310.prn 28.497 Myr

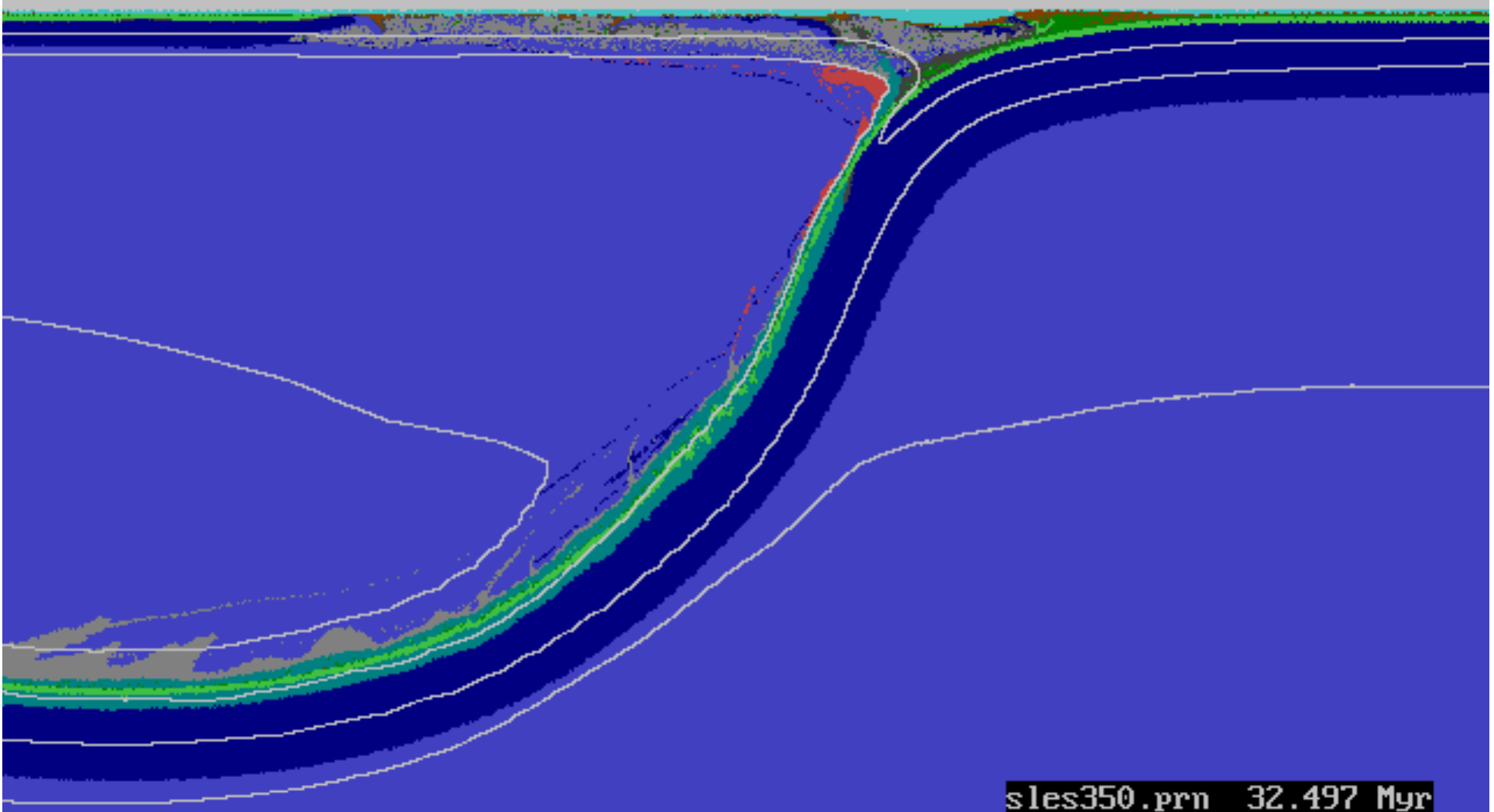




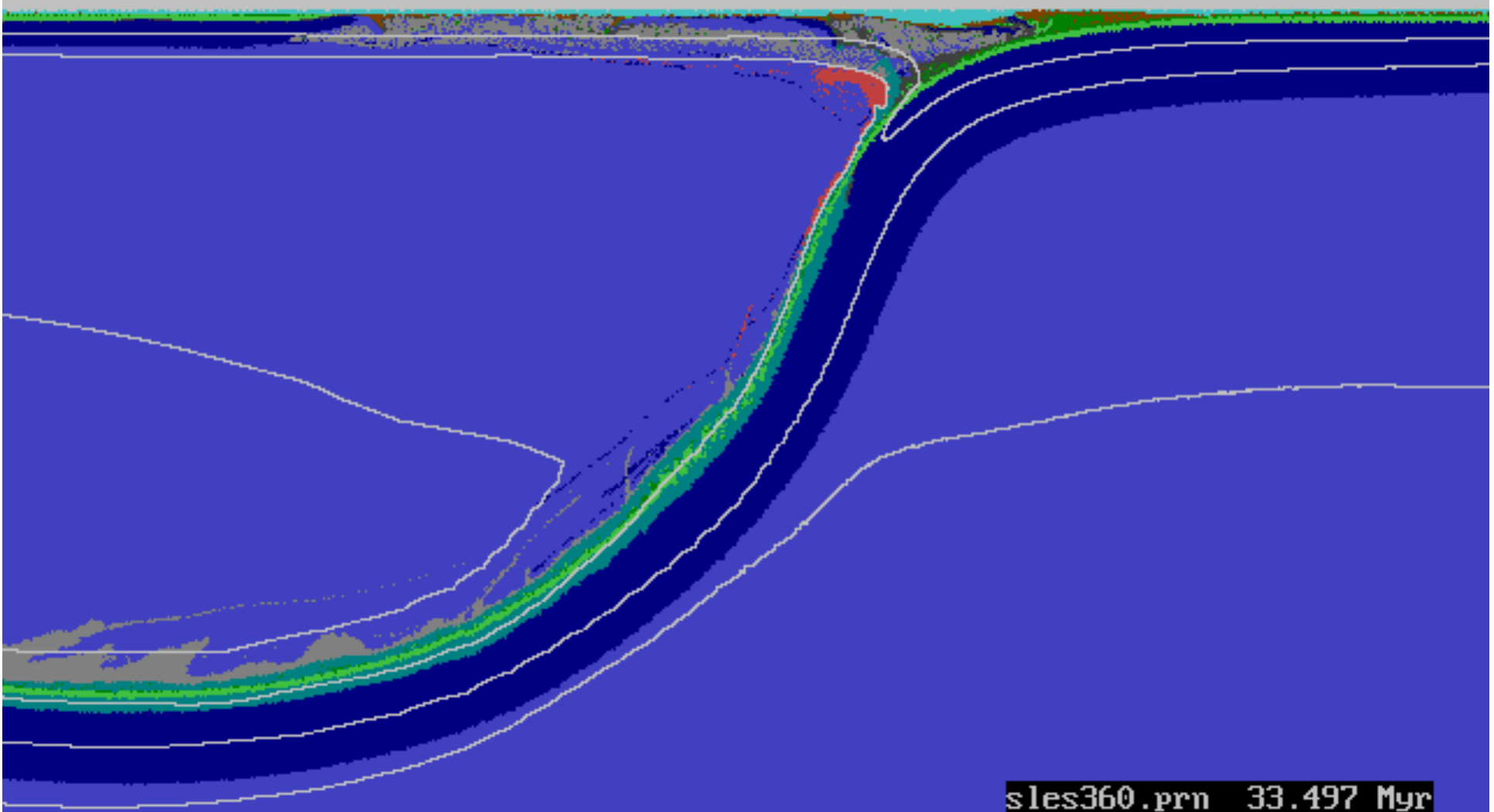
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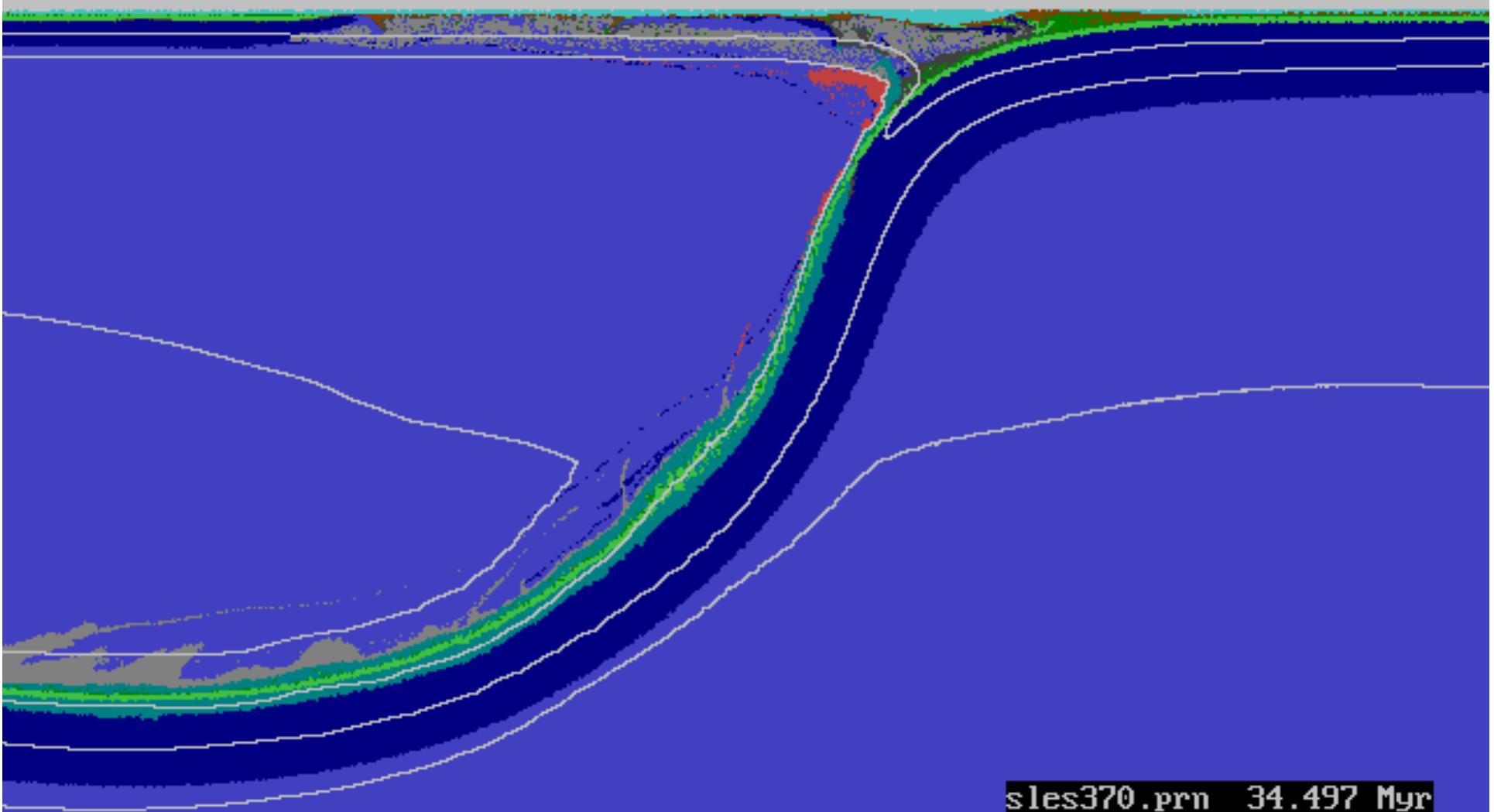
sles340.prn 31.497 Myr



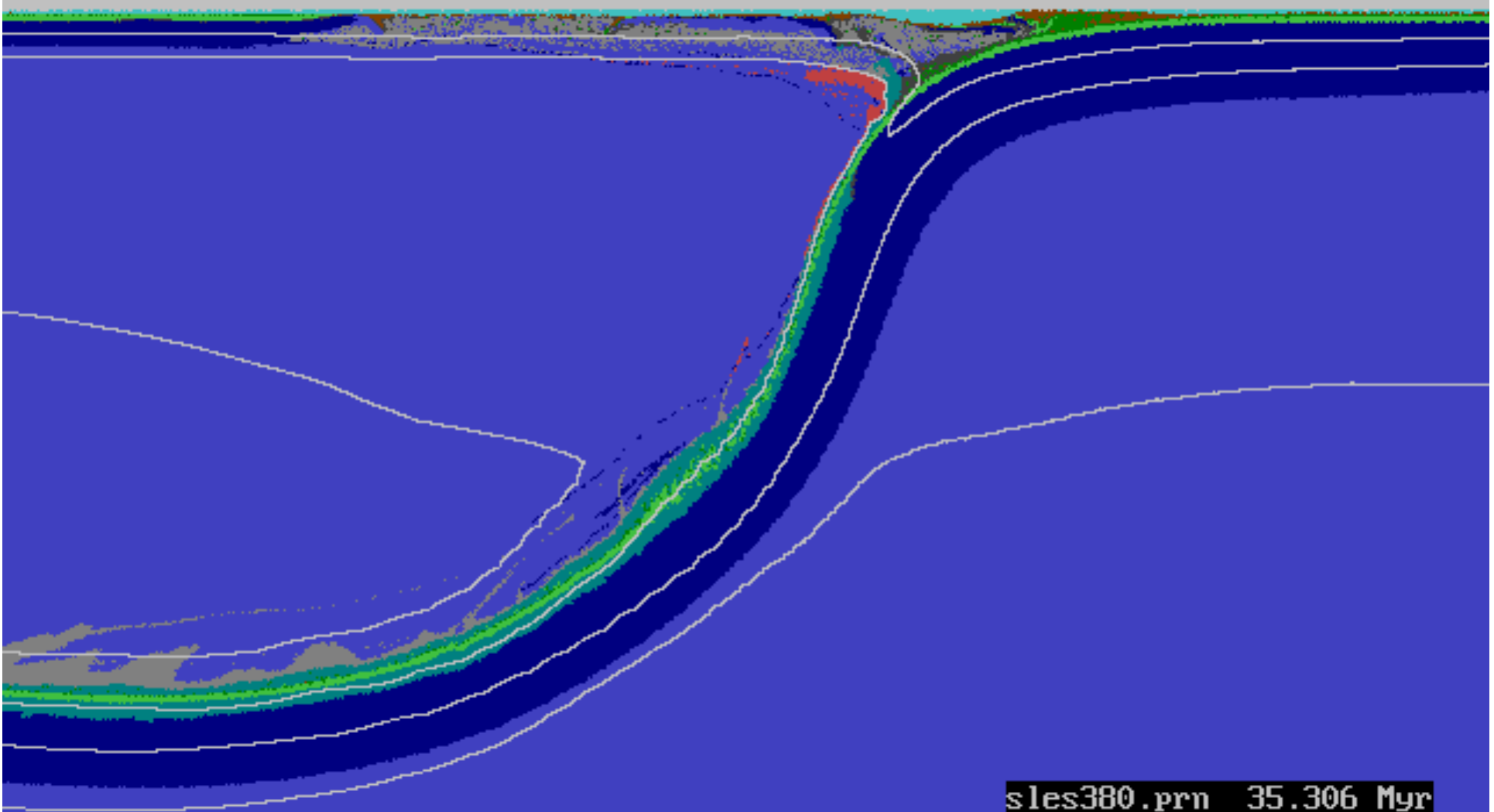
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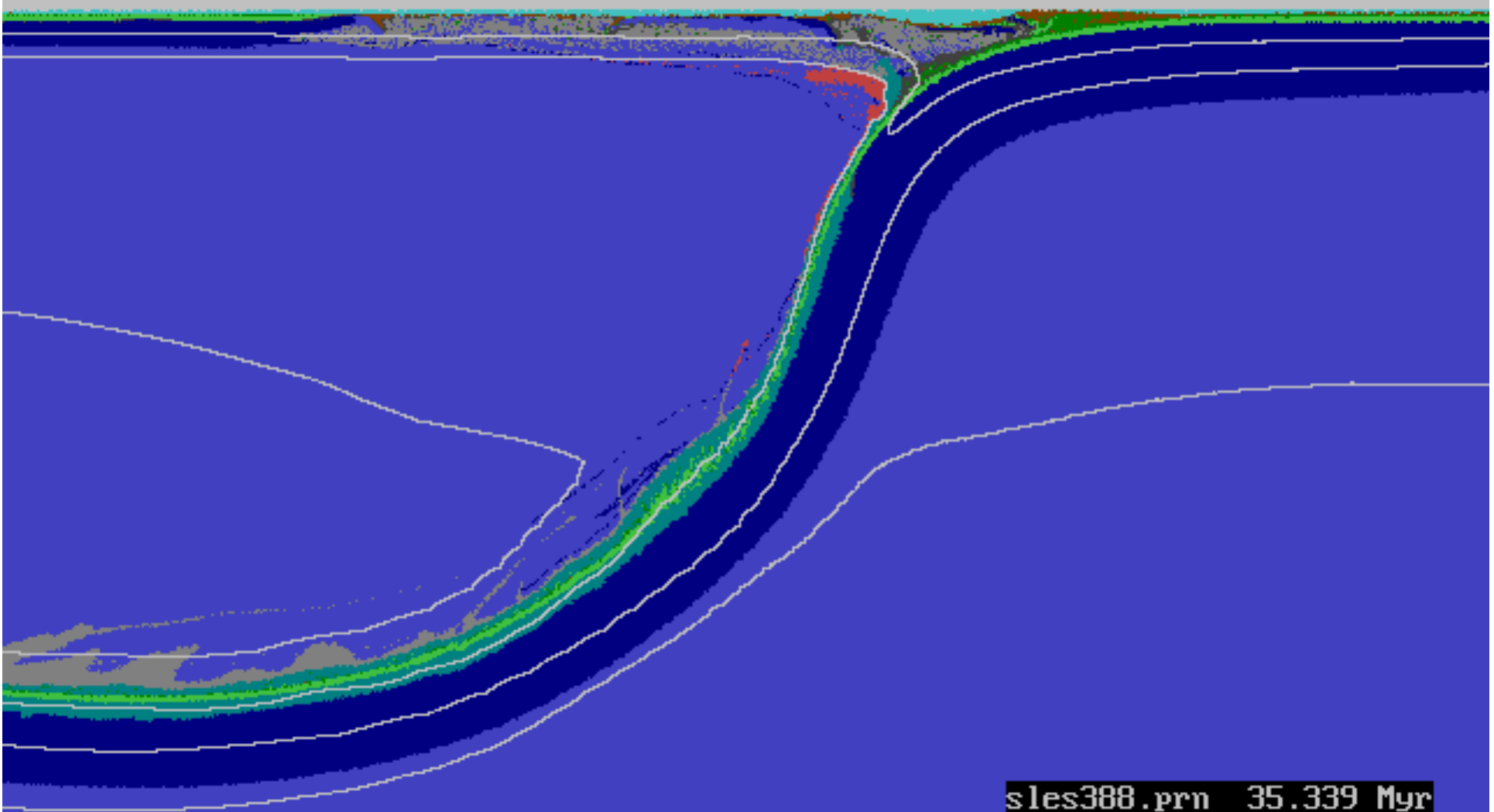
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sles370.prn 34.497 Myr



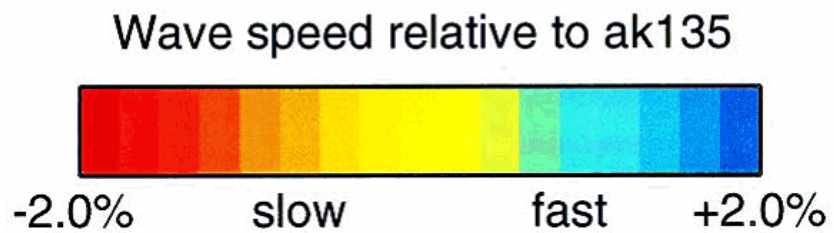
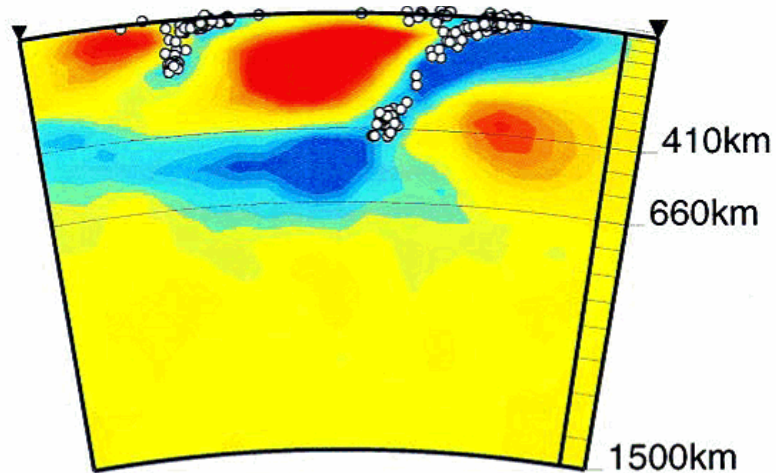
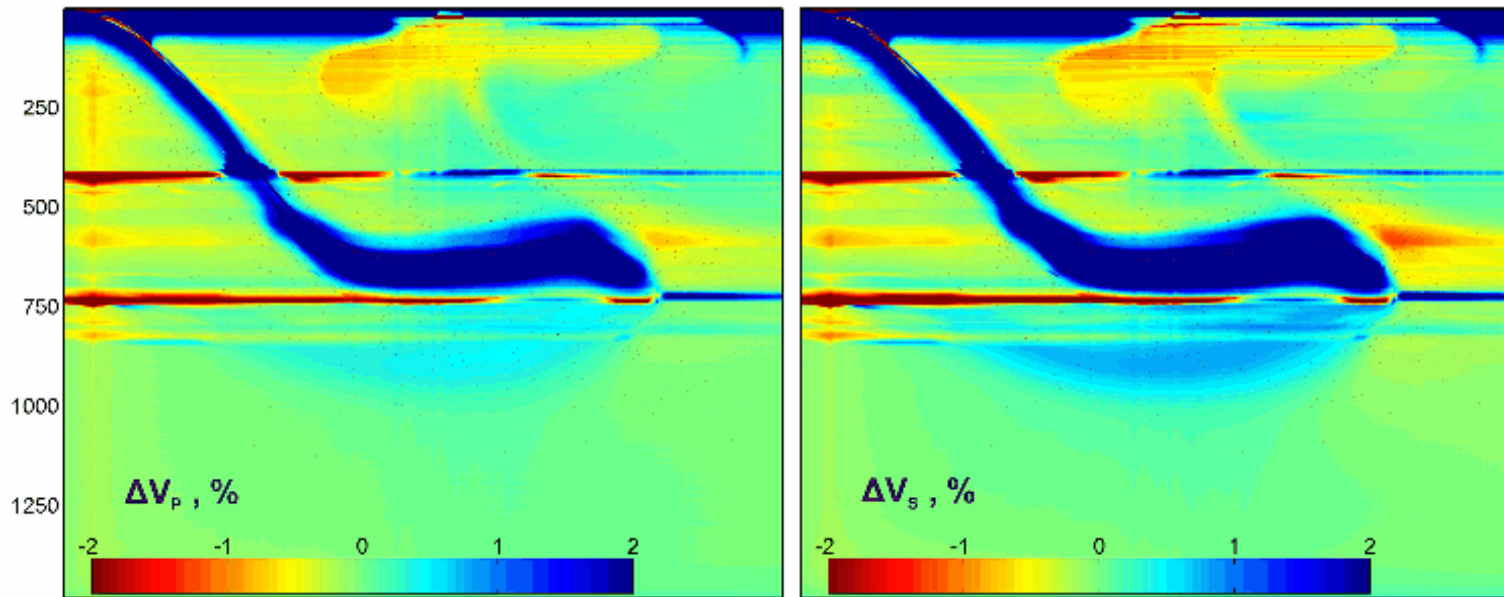
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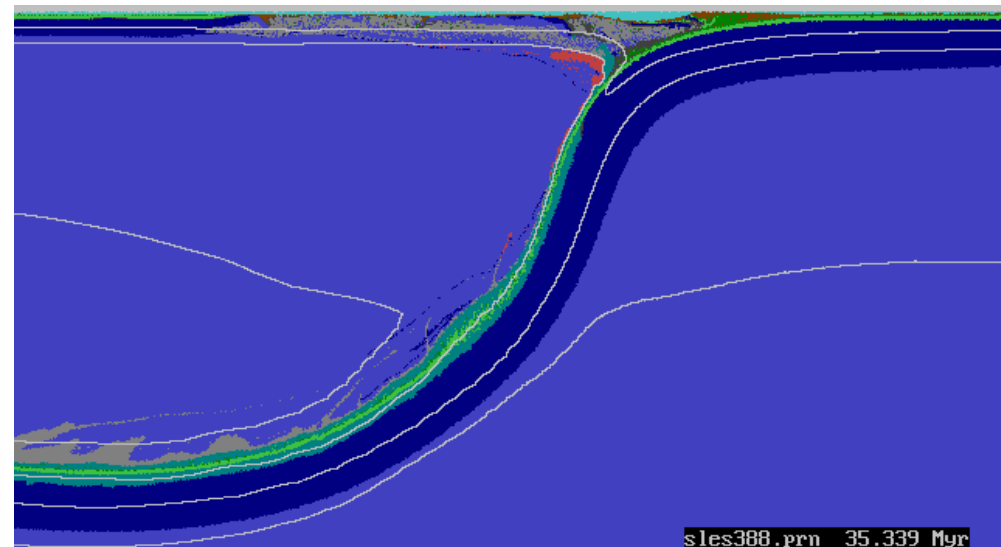
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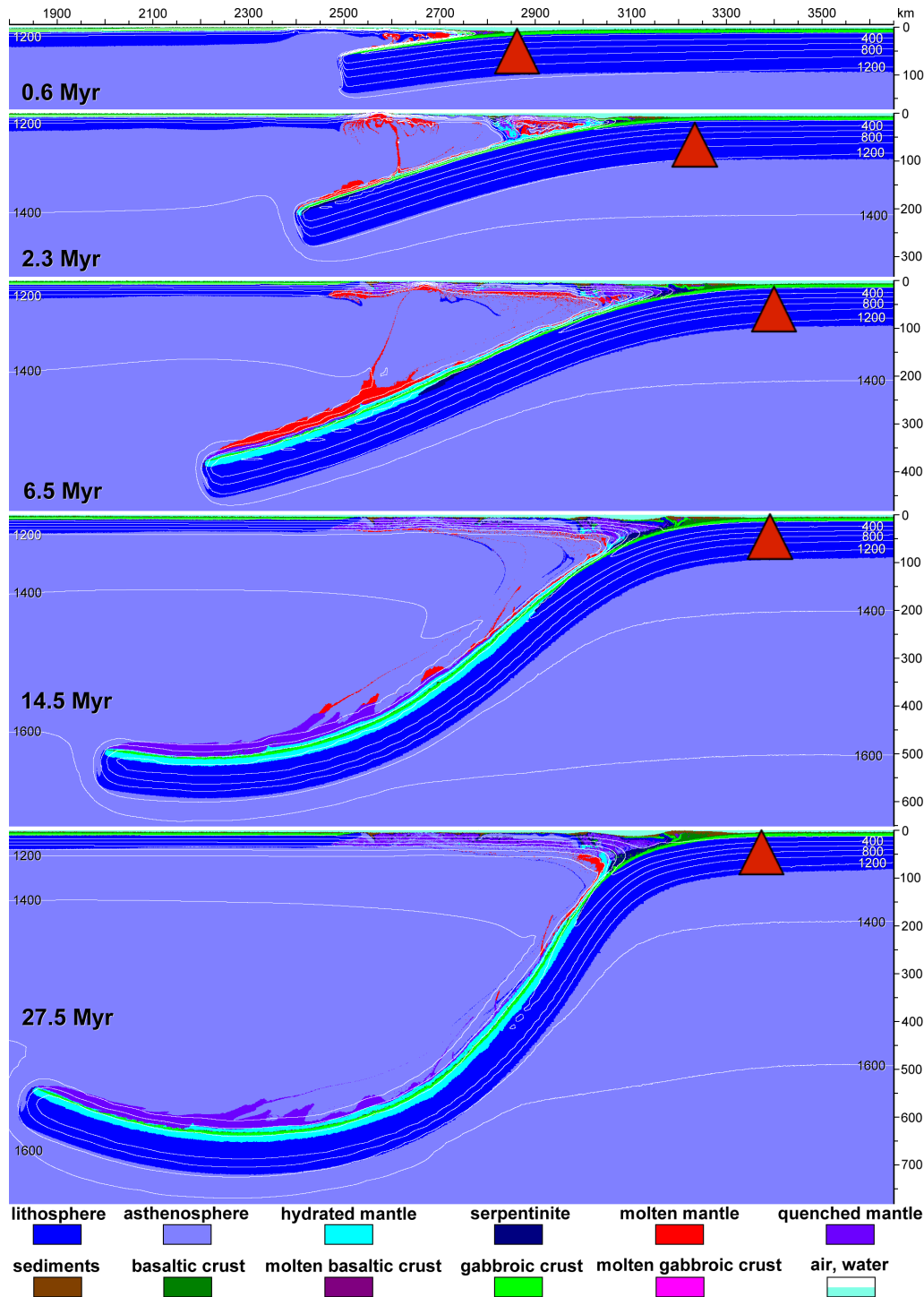


Mishin et al.
(2008)



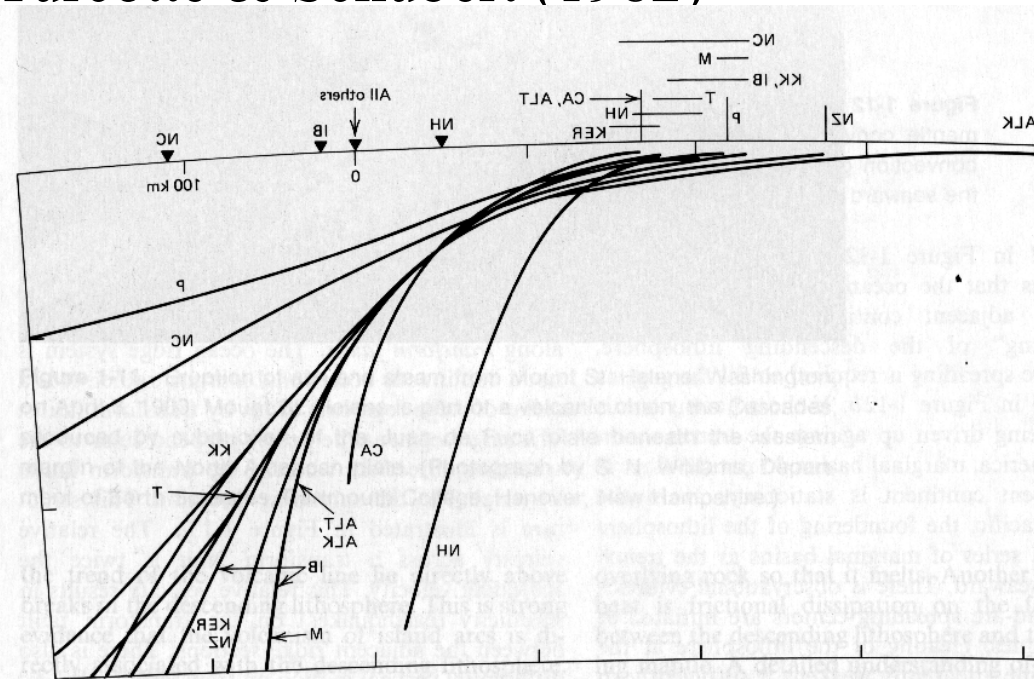
Widiyantoro et al. (1999)





Intensity of slab bending changes with time

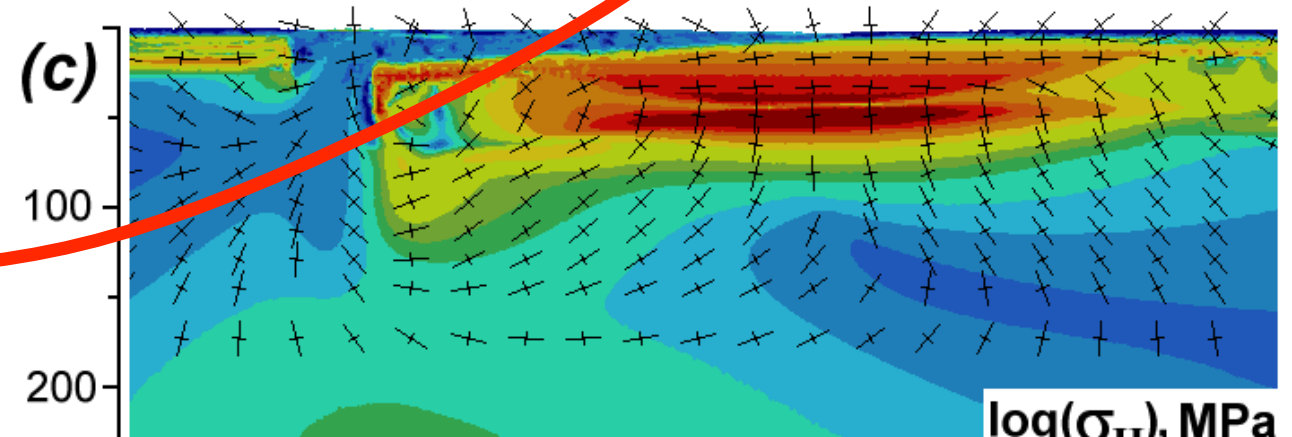
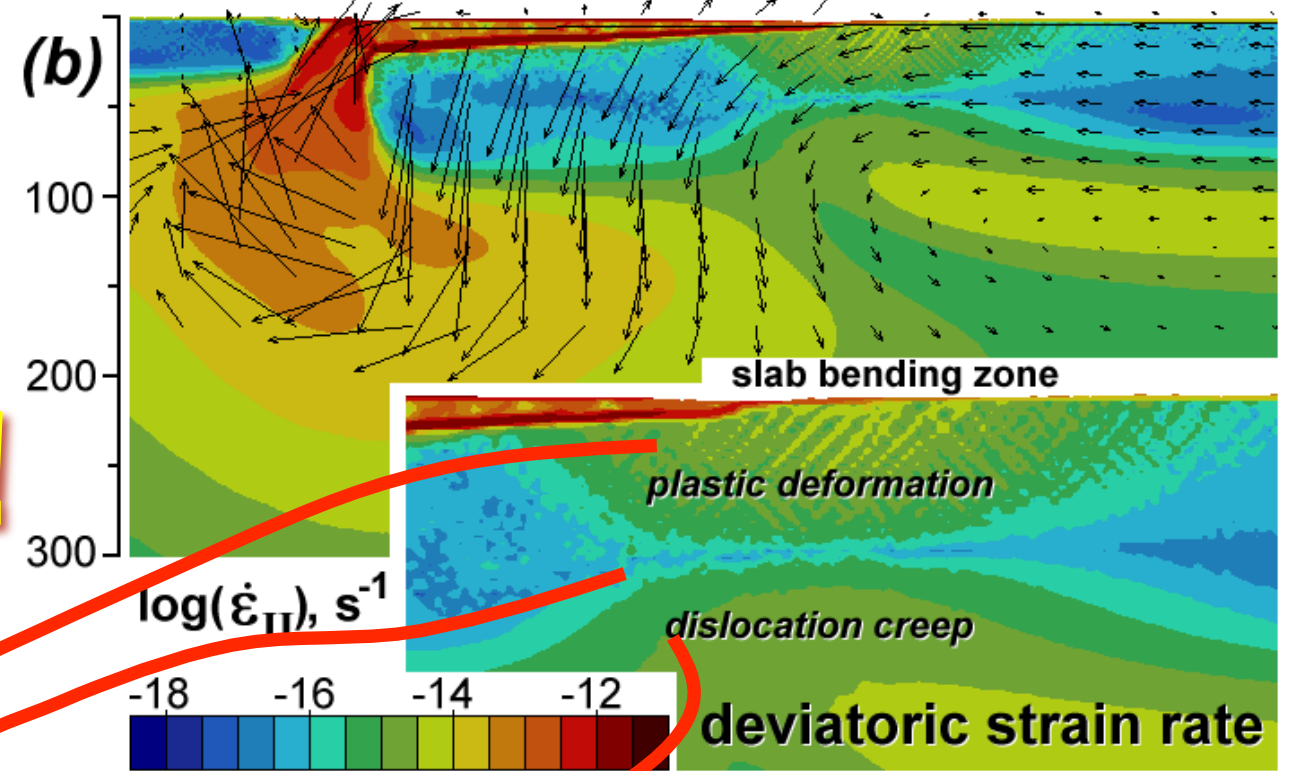
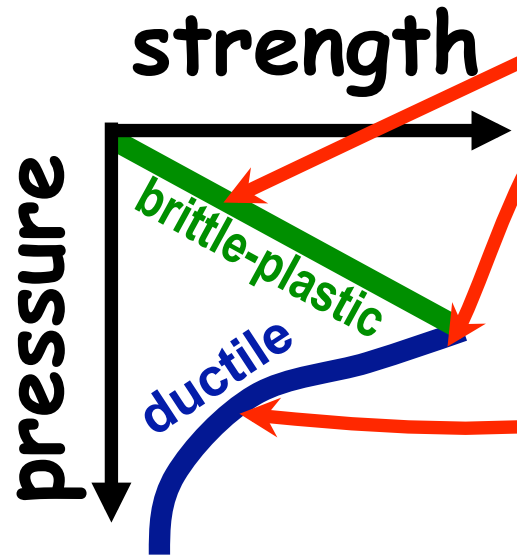
Turcotte & Schubert (1982)

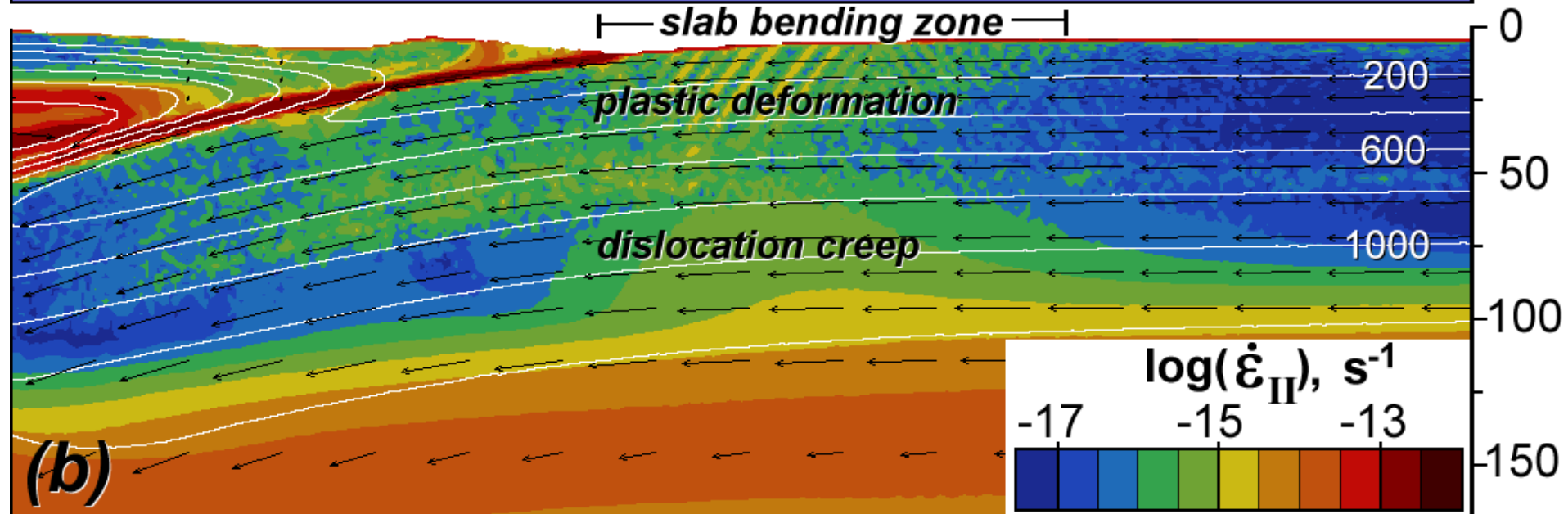
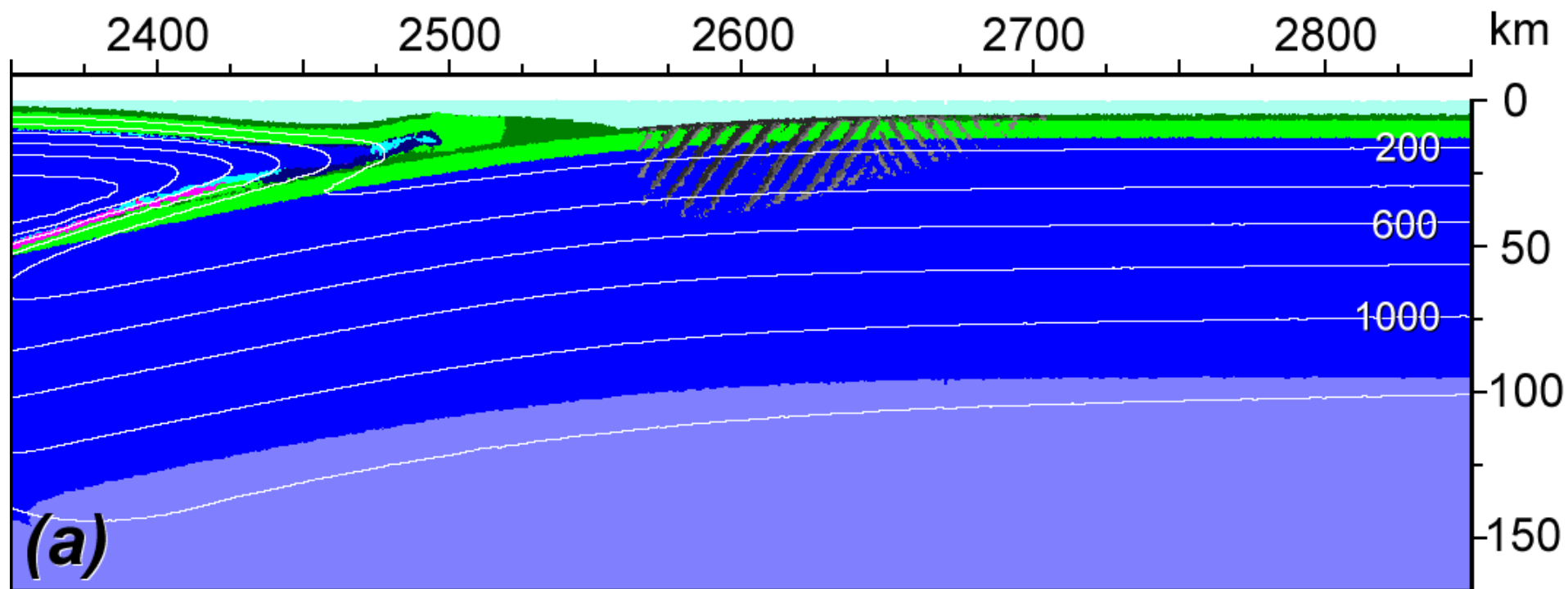


The shapes of the upper boundaries of descending lithospheres oceanic trenches based on the distributions of earthquakes. The trenches are abbreviated for clarity (NH=New Hebrides, CA =

Why is it so easy to bend slabs?

Because bending is natural!





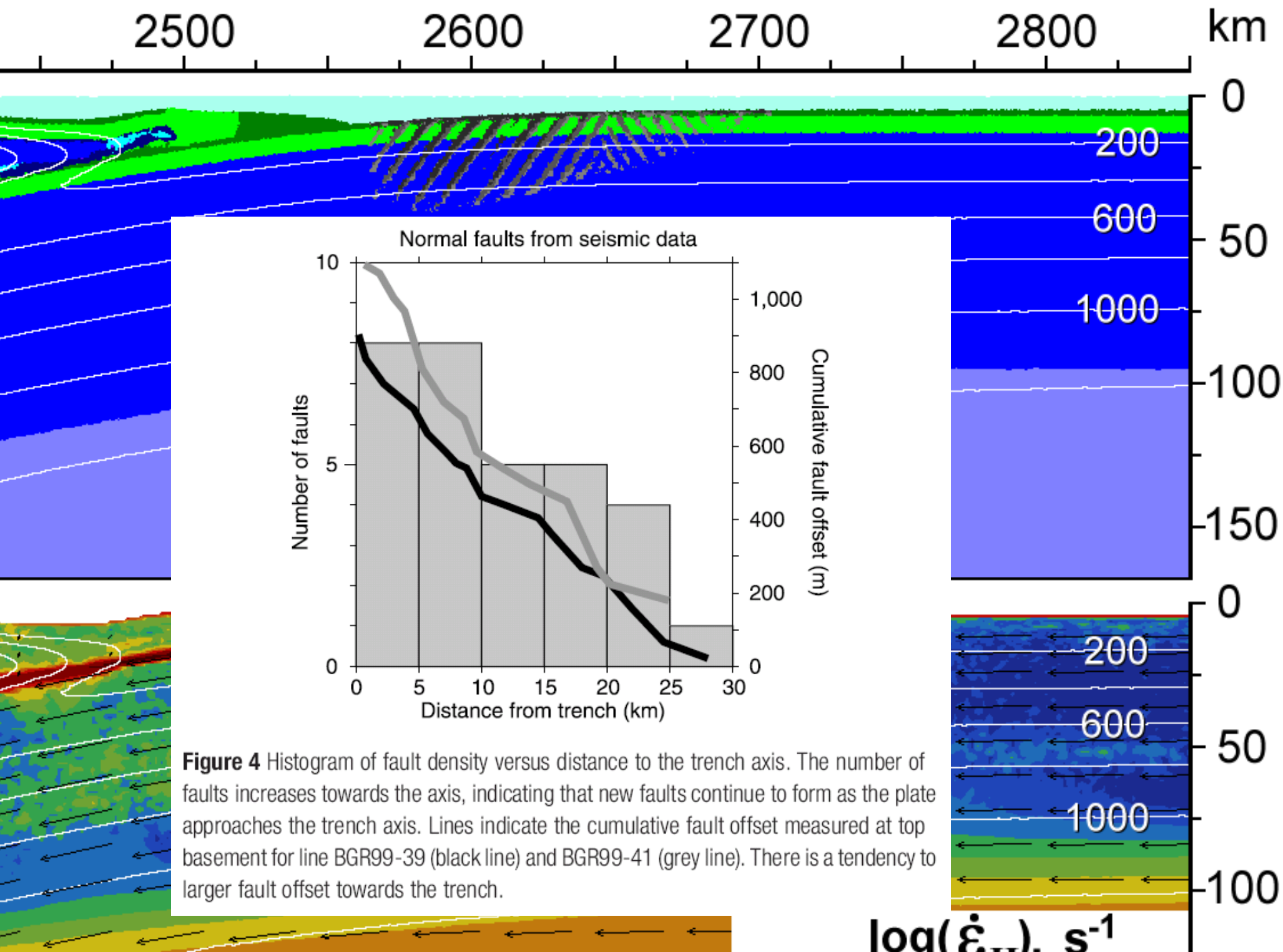
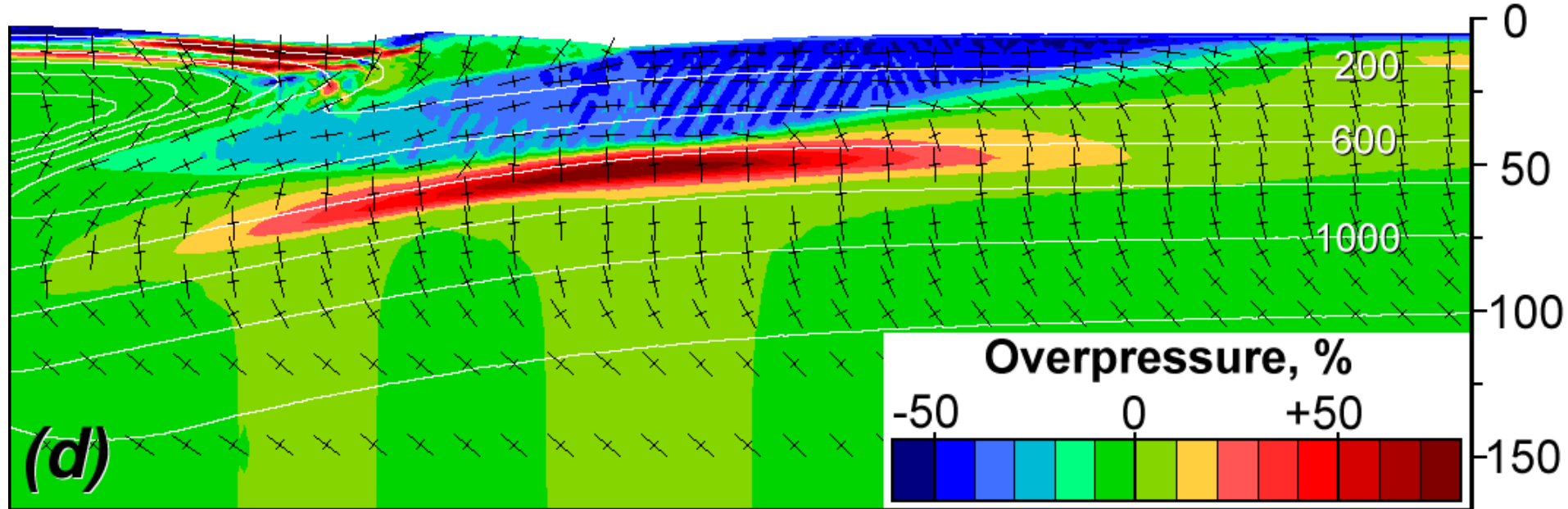
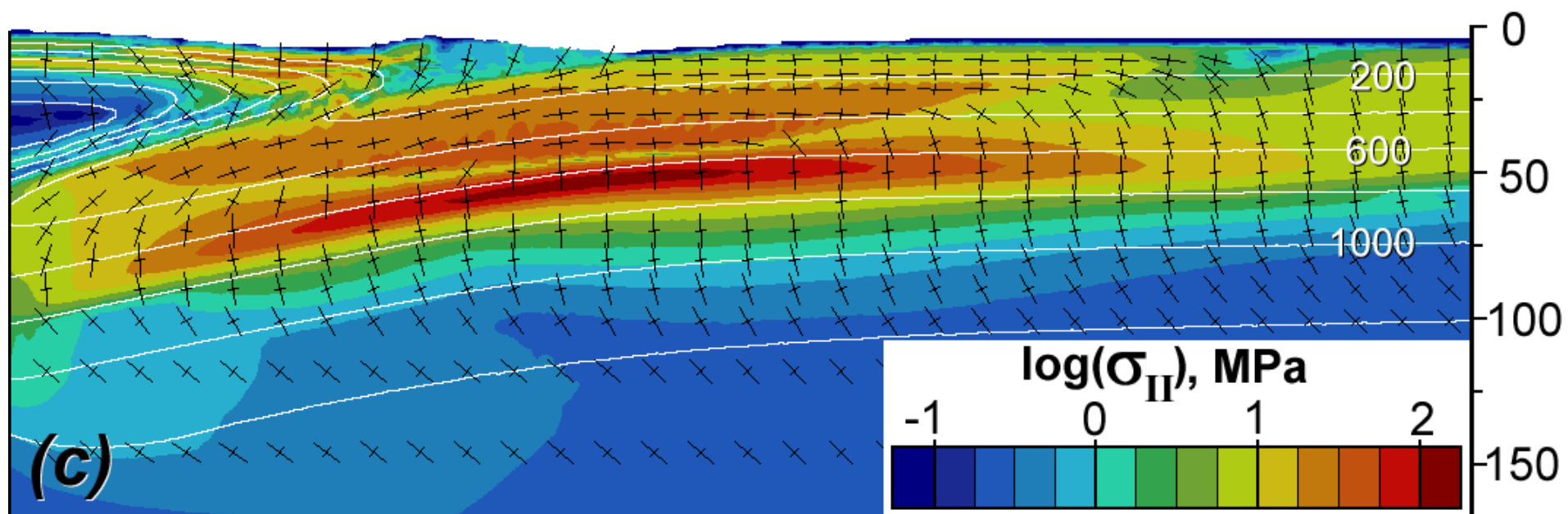
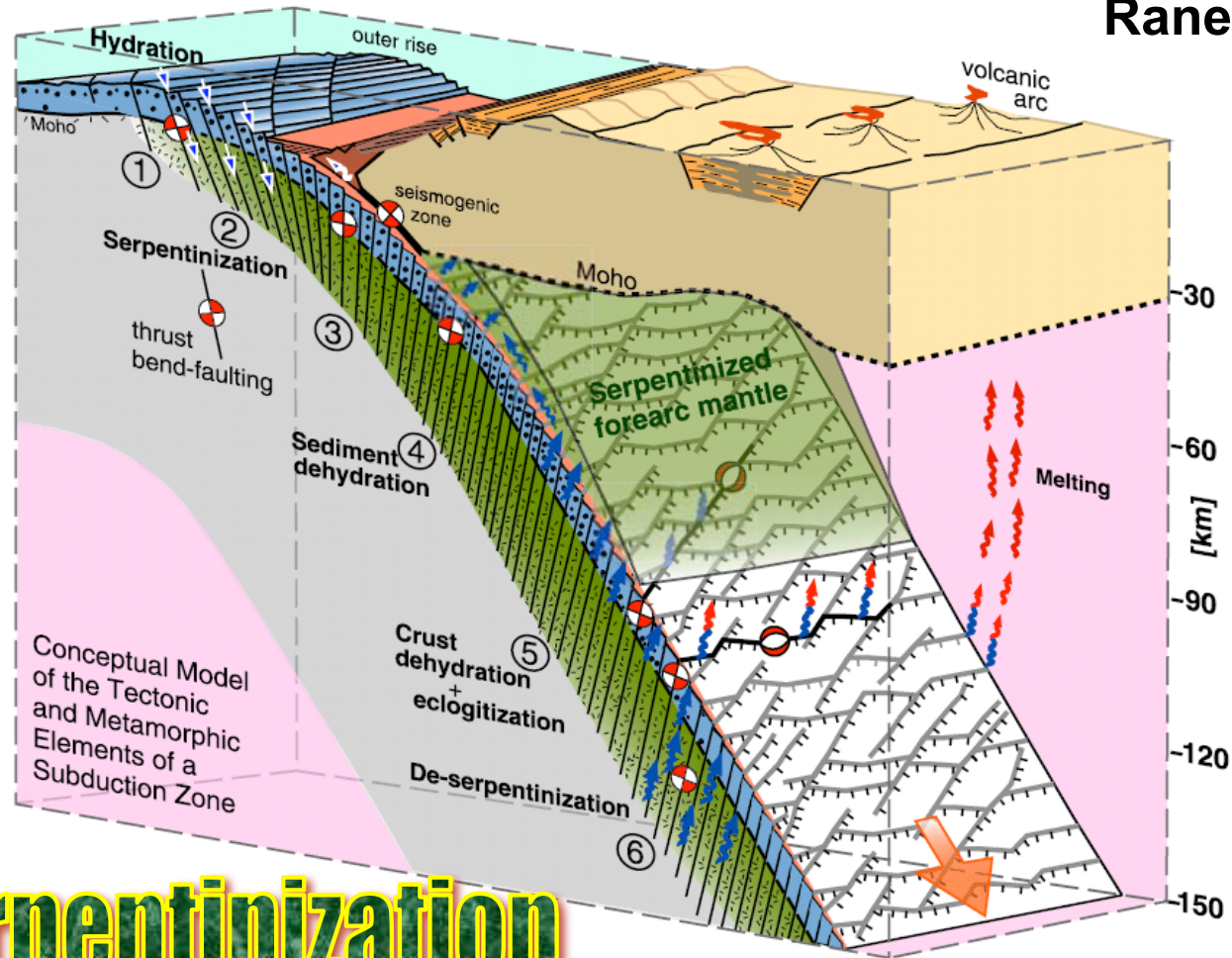


Figure 4 Histogram of fault density versus distance to the trench axis. The number of faults increases towards the axis, indicating that new faults continue to form as the plate approaches the trench axis. Lines indicate the cumulative fault offset measured at top basement for line BGR99-39 (black line) and BGR99-41 (grey line). There is a tendency to larger fault offset towards the trench.





Ranero et al (2007)

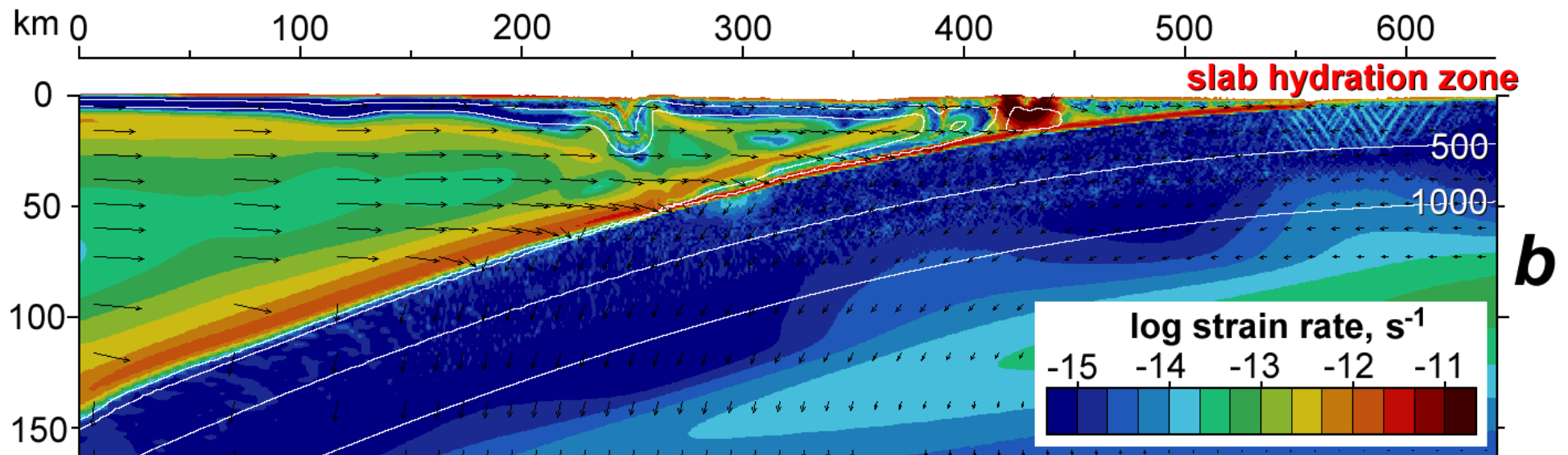
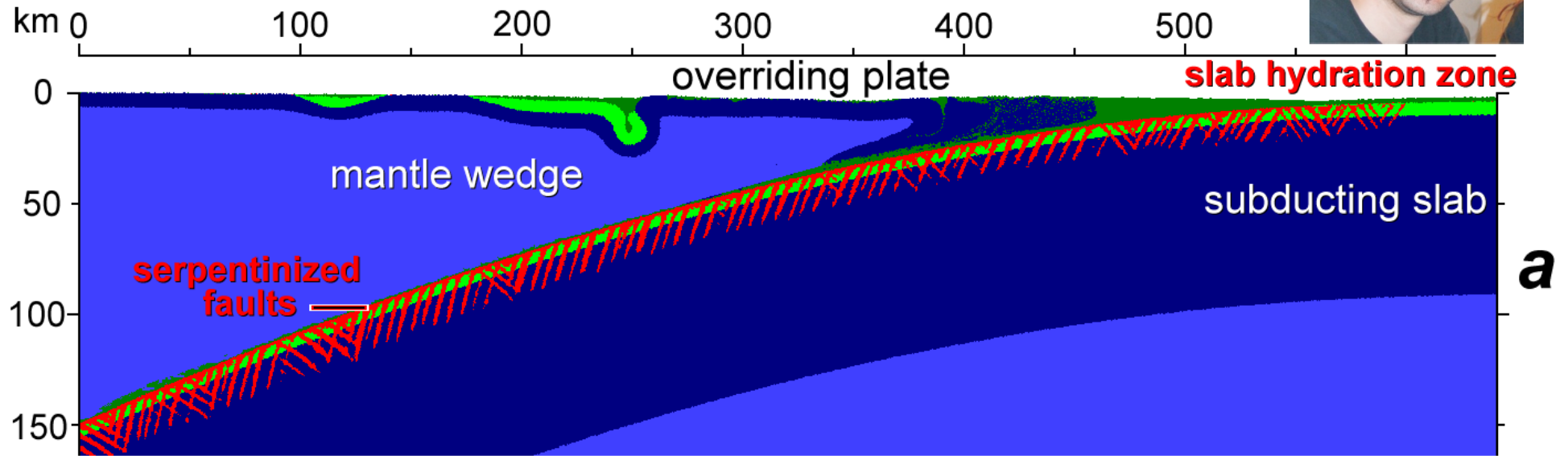


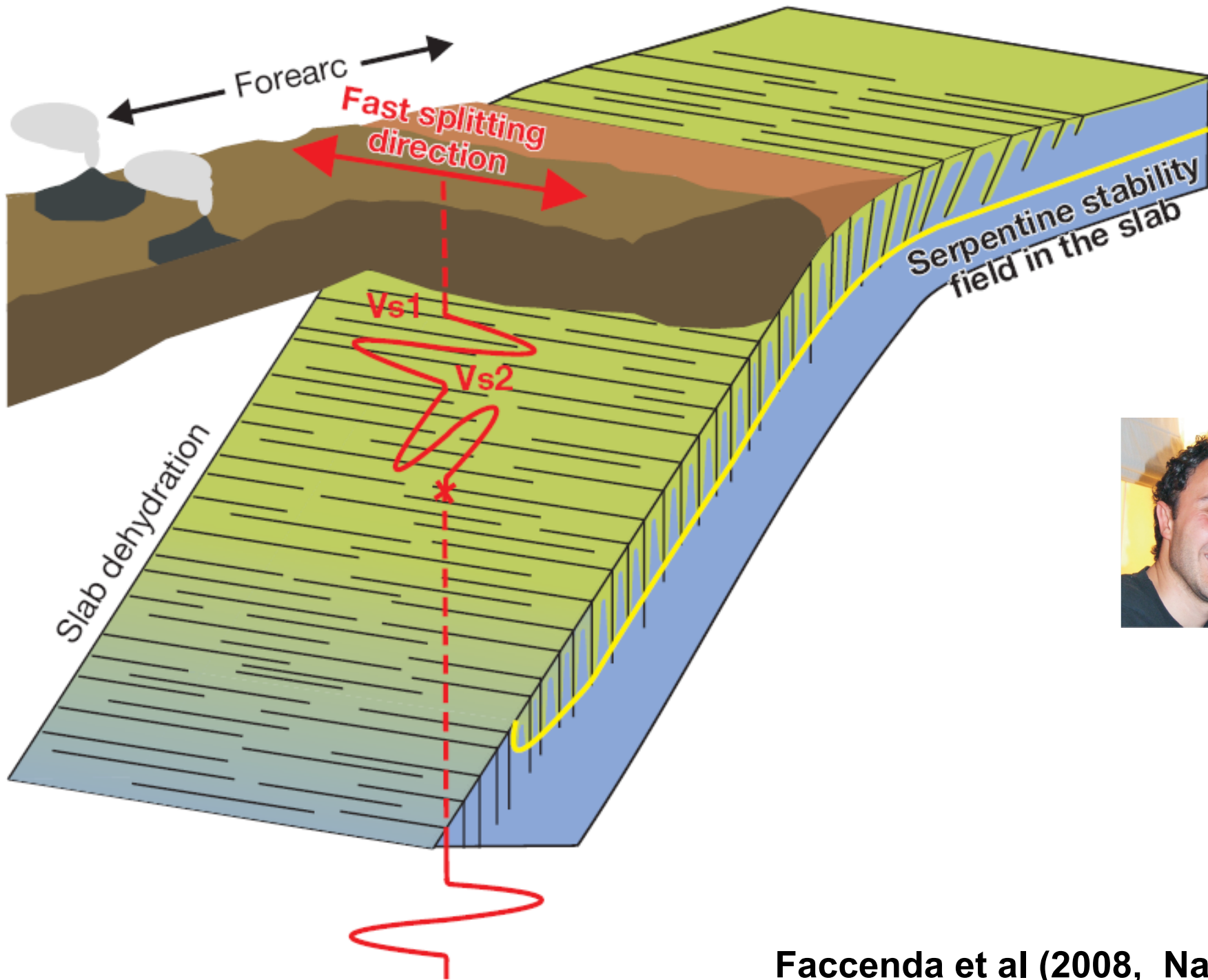
Slab serpentinization

Figure 13. Cartoon showing a conceptual model of the structure and metamorphic evolution of subducting lithosphere formed at a fast spreading center. The topography of the plate in the outer-rise/trench region has been exaggerated to show better the deformation associated to plate bending. Scale is approximate everywhere else. Fault plane solutions of earthquakes are projected into the top of the slab and the plane of the cross section. Black filled circles in oceanic crust indicate hydration. See section 6 for discussion of model.

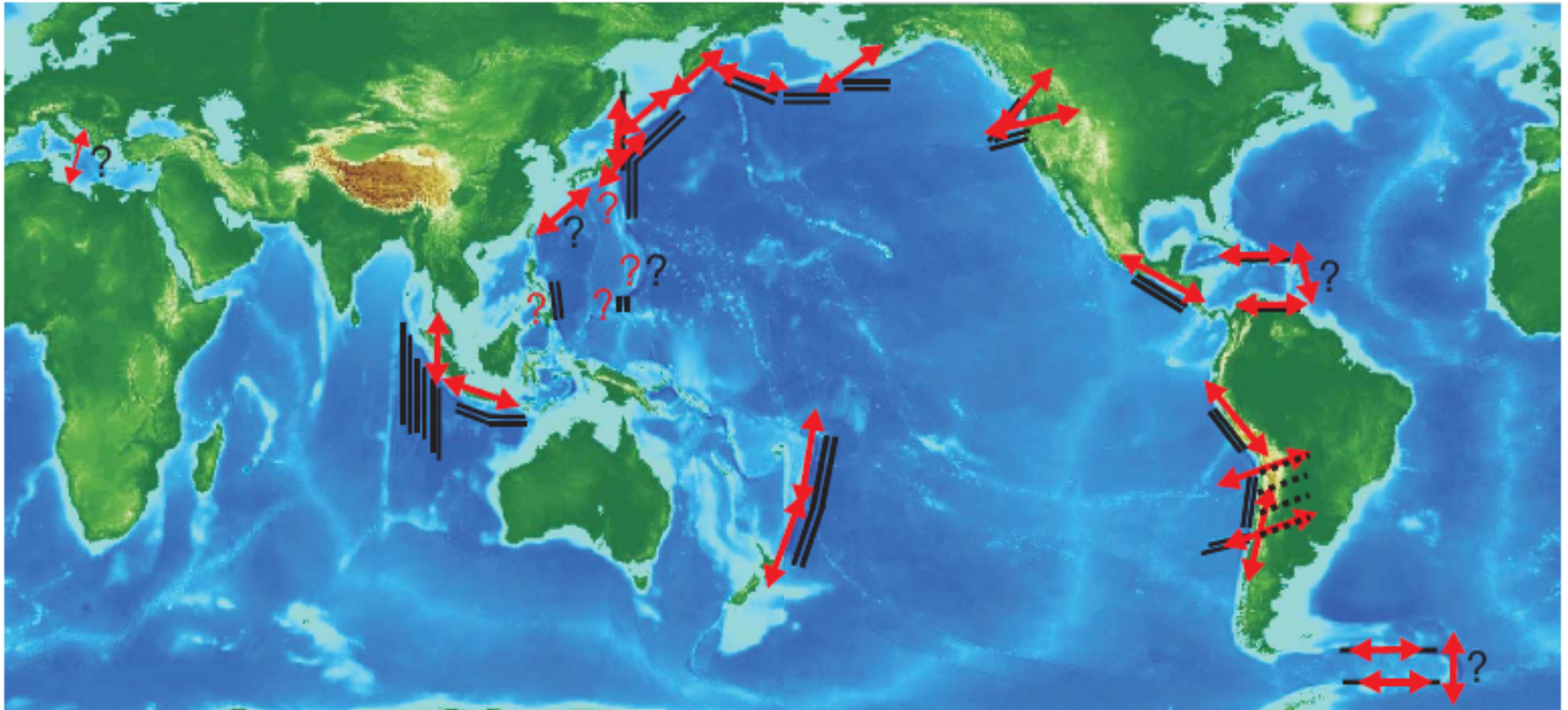
Serpentinized normal faults

Faccenda et al (2008, Nature)





Faccenda et al (2008, Nature)

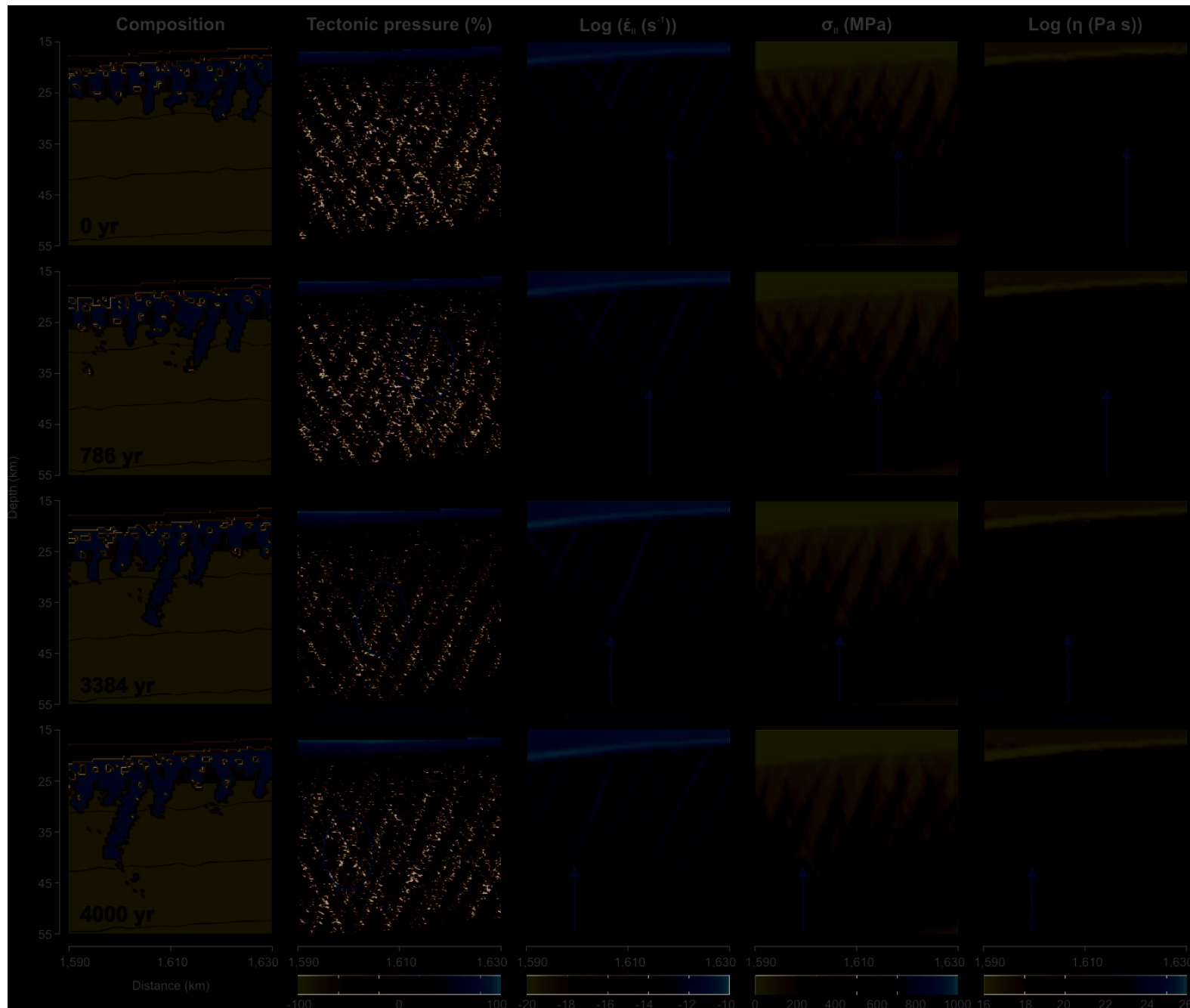


↔ SKS fast direction
 == Fault set orientation
 Earthquake elongated cluster

? Unknown SKS fast direction
 ? Unknown fault set orientation



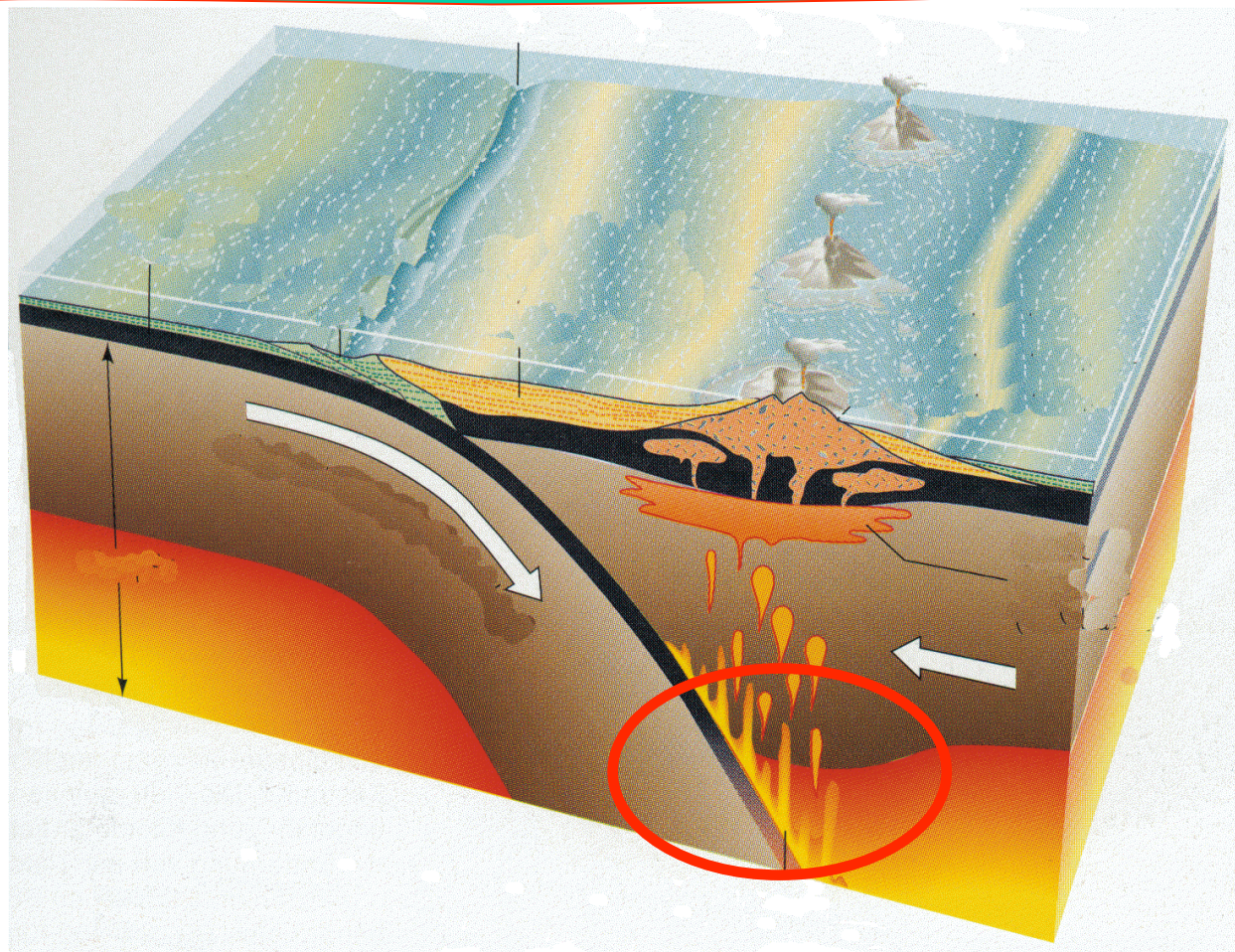
Faccenda et al (2008, Nature)



Faccenda et al (2009, accepted to Nature Geosciences)

Can plumes rising in the mantle wedge
be cold ?

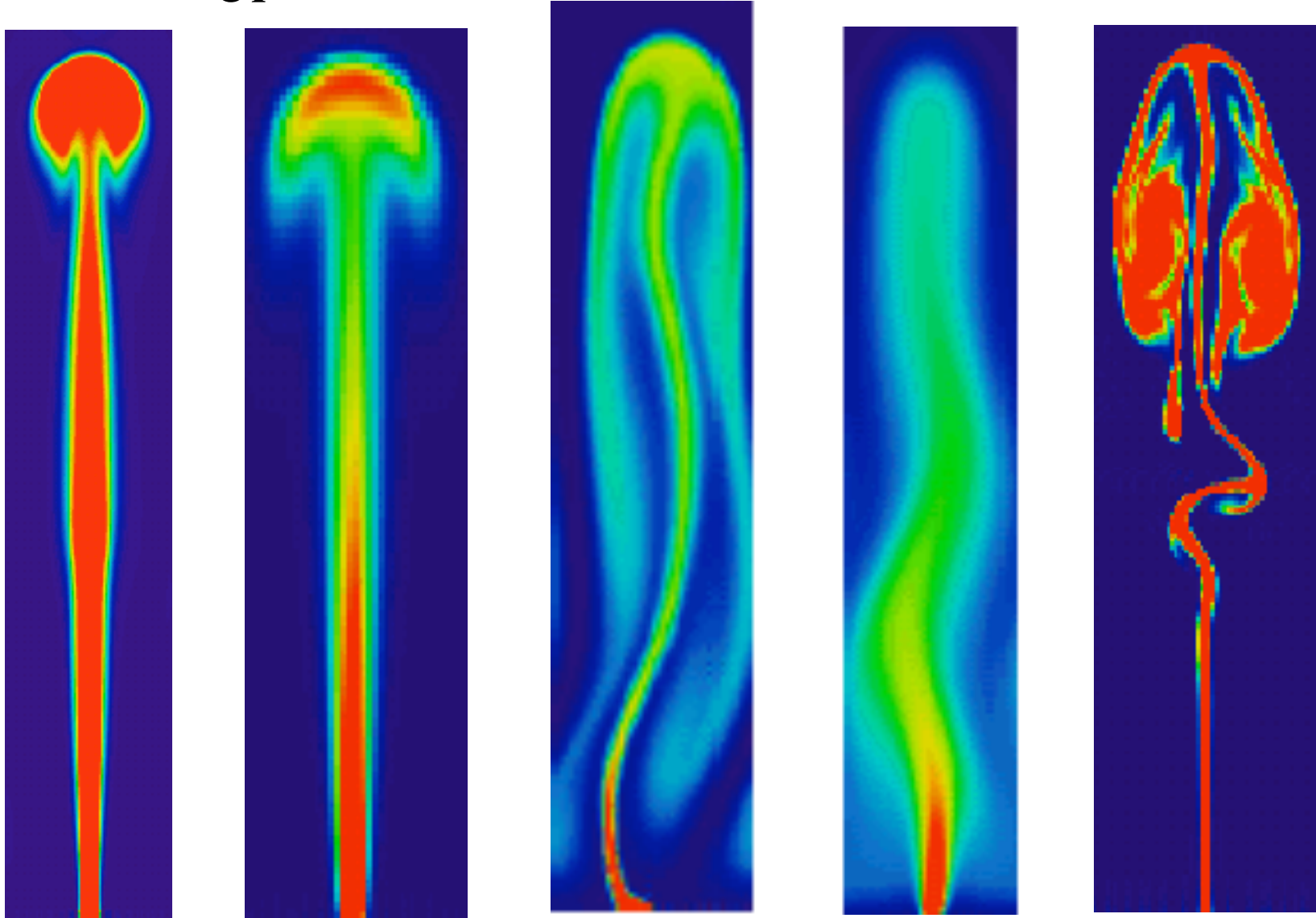
?



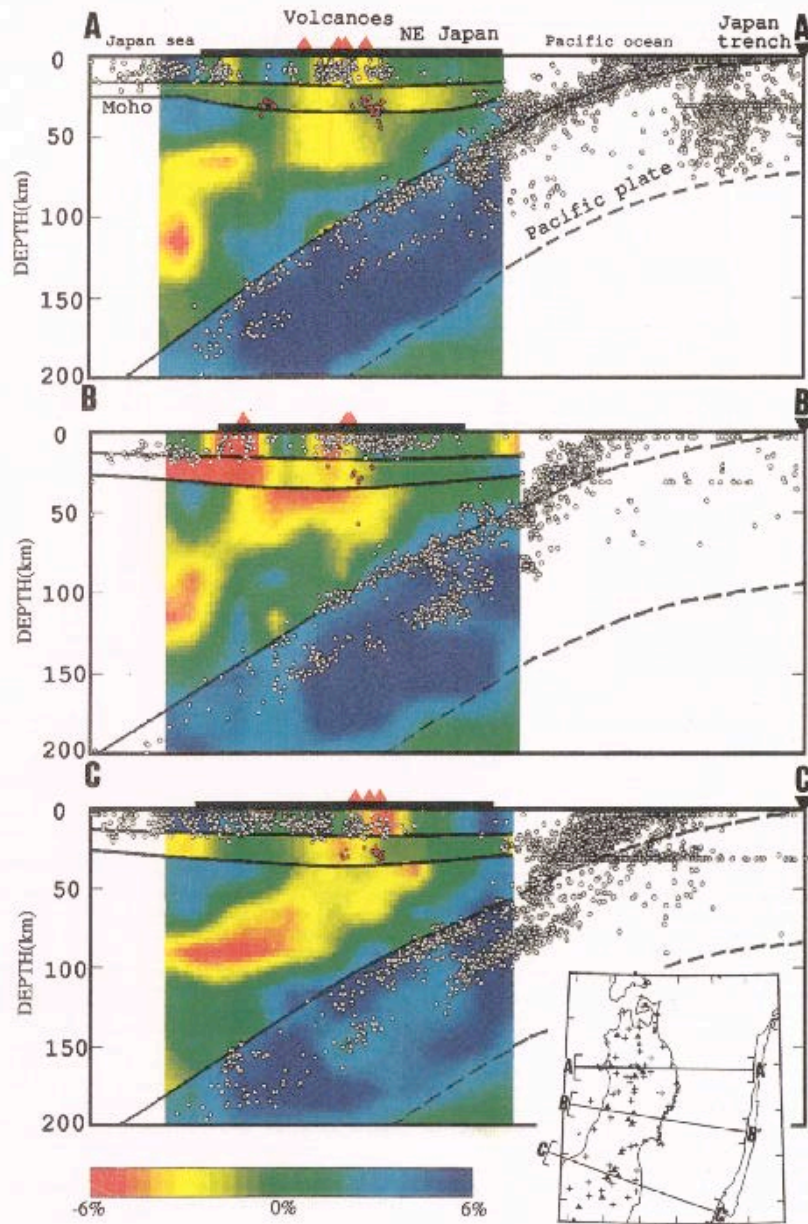
No exceptions?!

Thermal norm:

rising *plumes* are *hotter* than their *environment*



Typical thermal structures of mantle plumes (Hier Majumder et al., 2002)



Zhao et al. (1992)

Seismic tomography of Japan trench region

Zhao & Kayal, (2000)

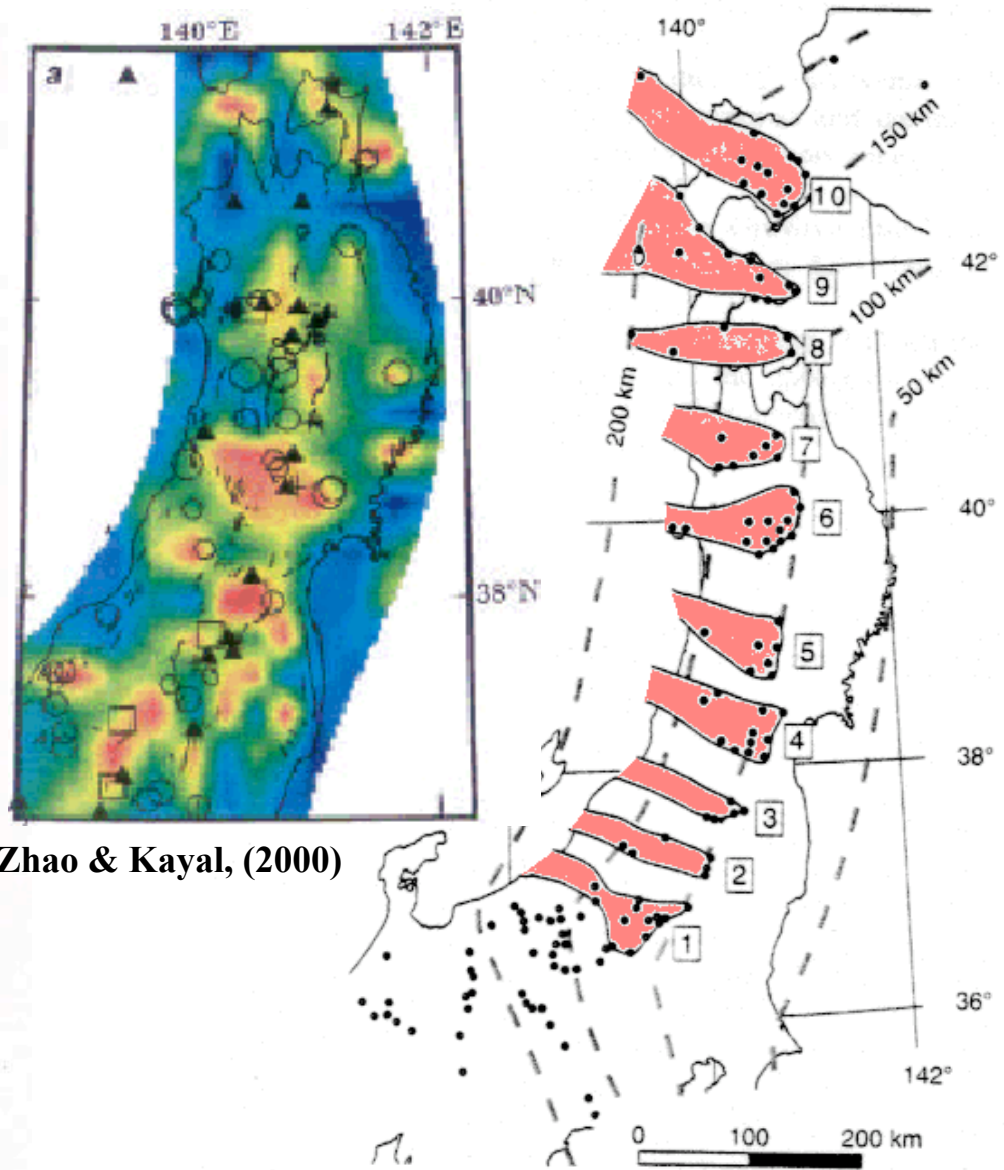


Fig. 9. Hot fingers in the mantle wedge beneath Northeast Japan. Dashed lines show depth contours to the surface of the dipping seismic zones. Quaternary volcanoes lie above the hot mantle fingers.

Tamura et al., (2002)

Animation

“Cold plumes

&

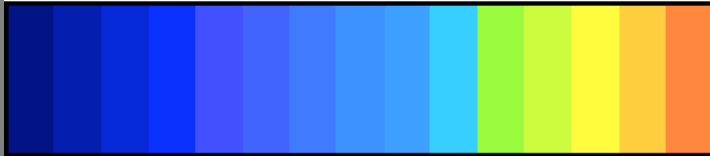
Cold waves”

Lithosphere: 40 Myr old

Subduction: rate 2 cm/year

Temperature, °C

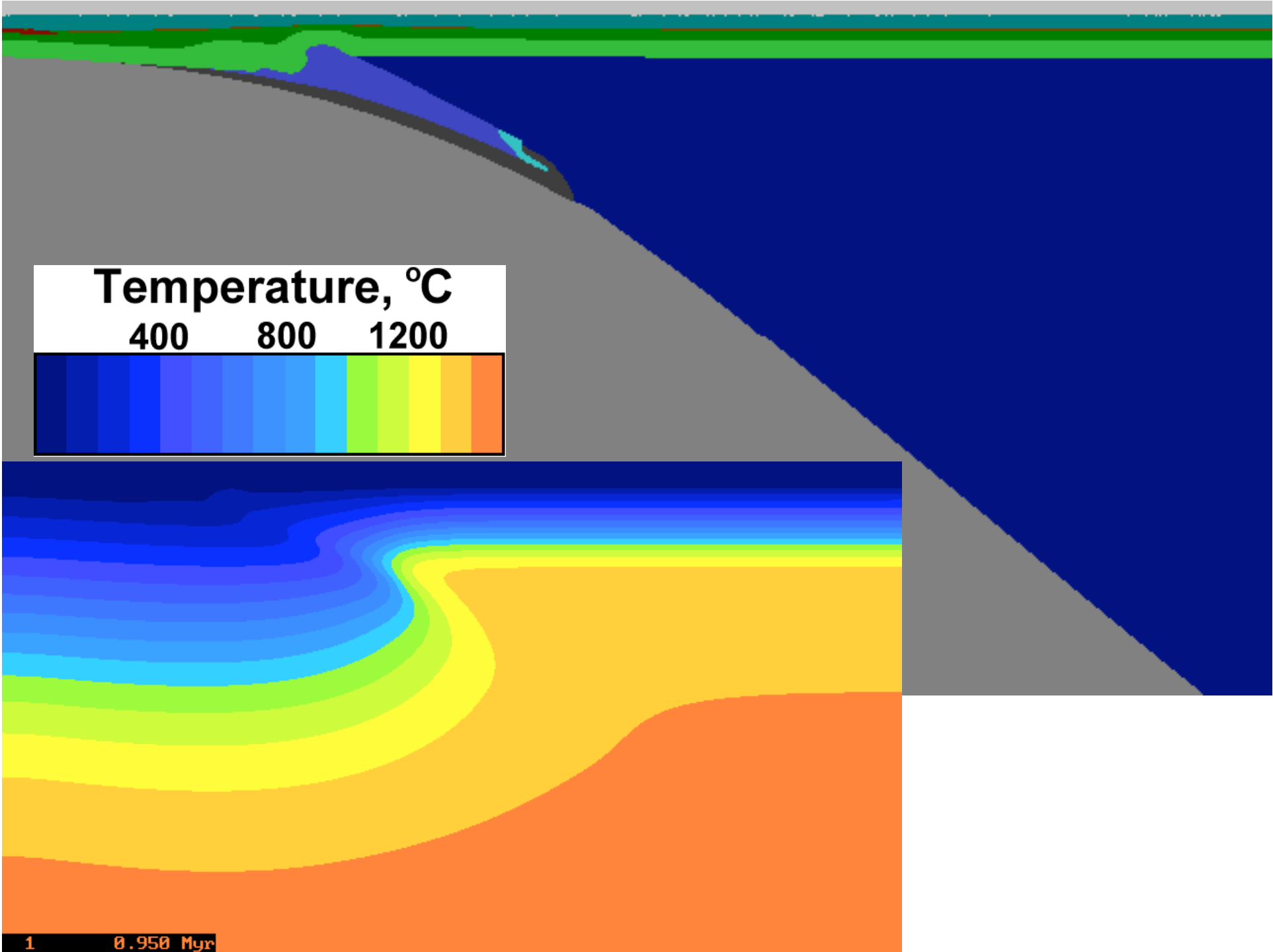
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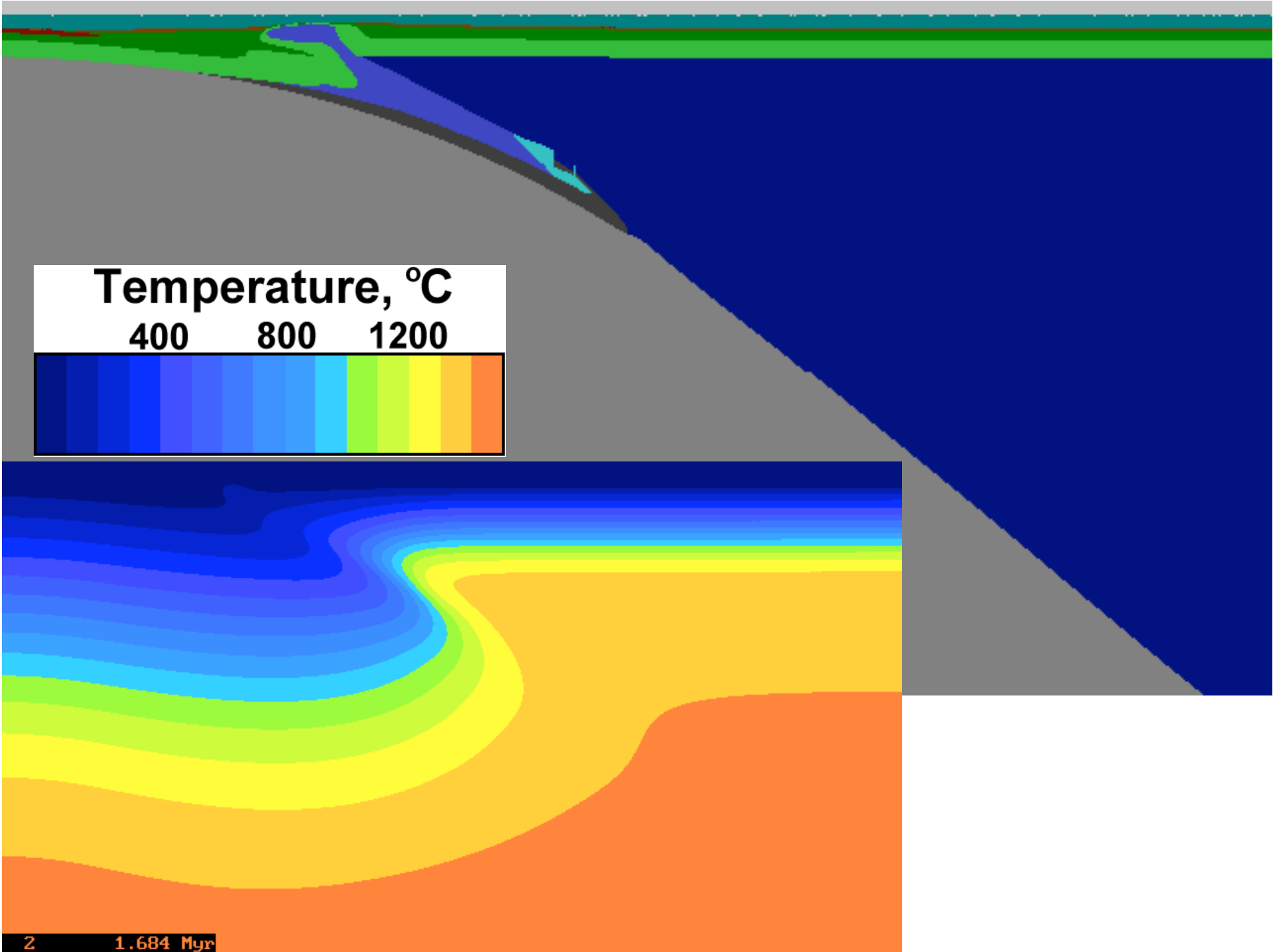


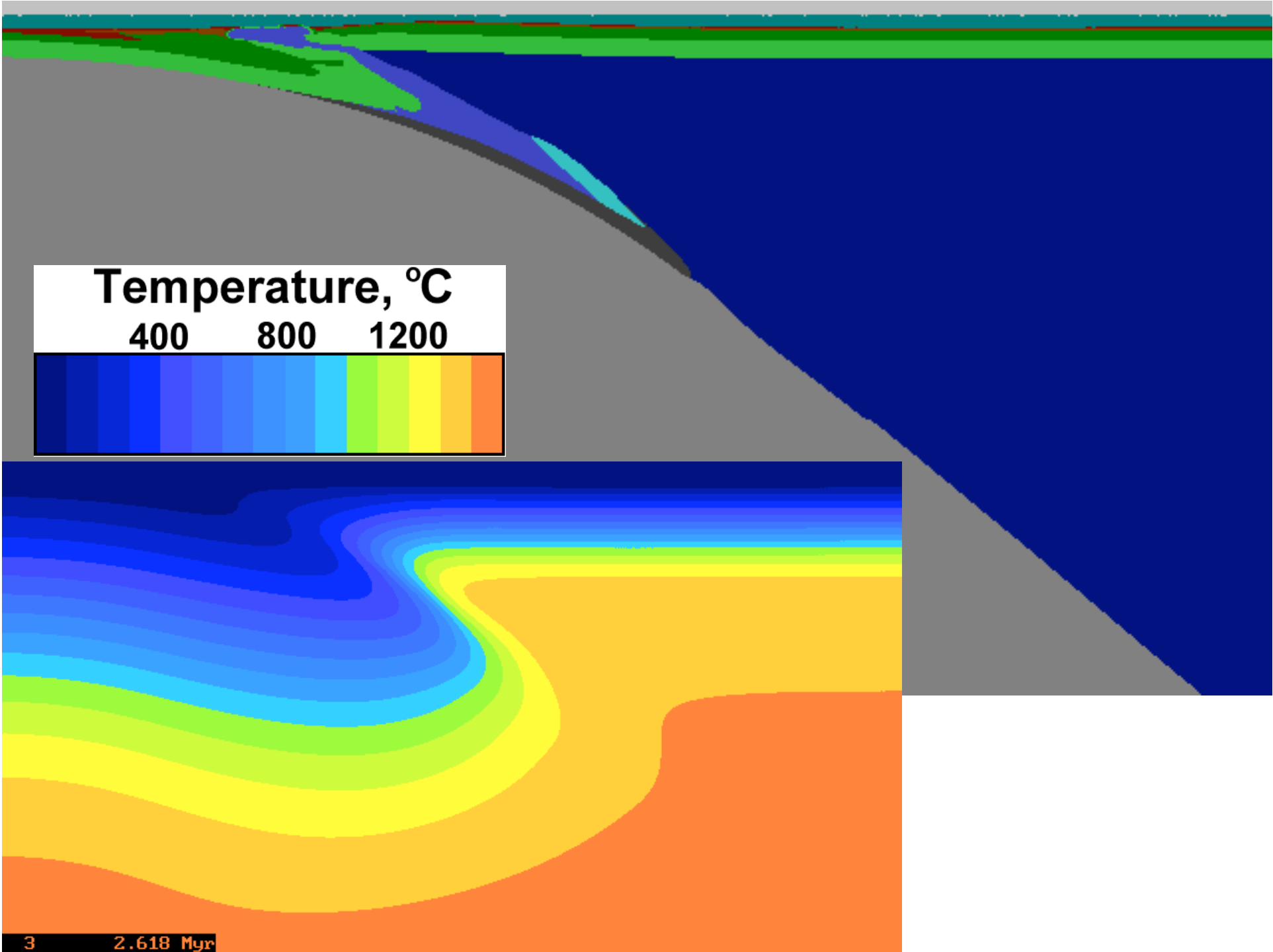
320 x 200 km

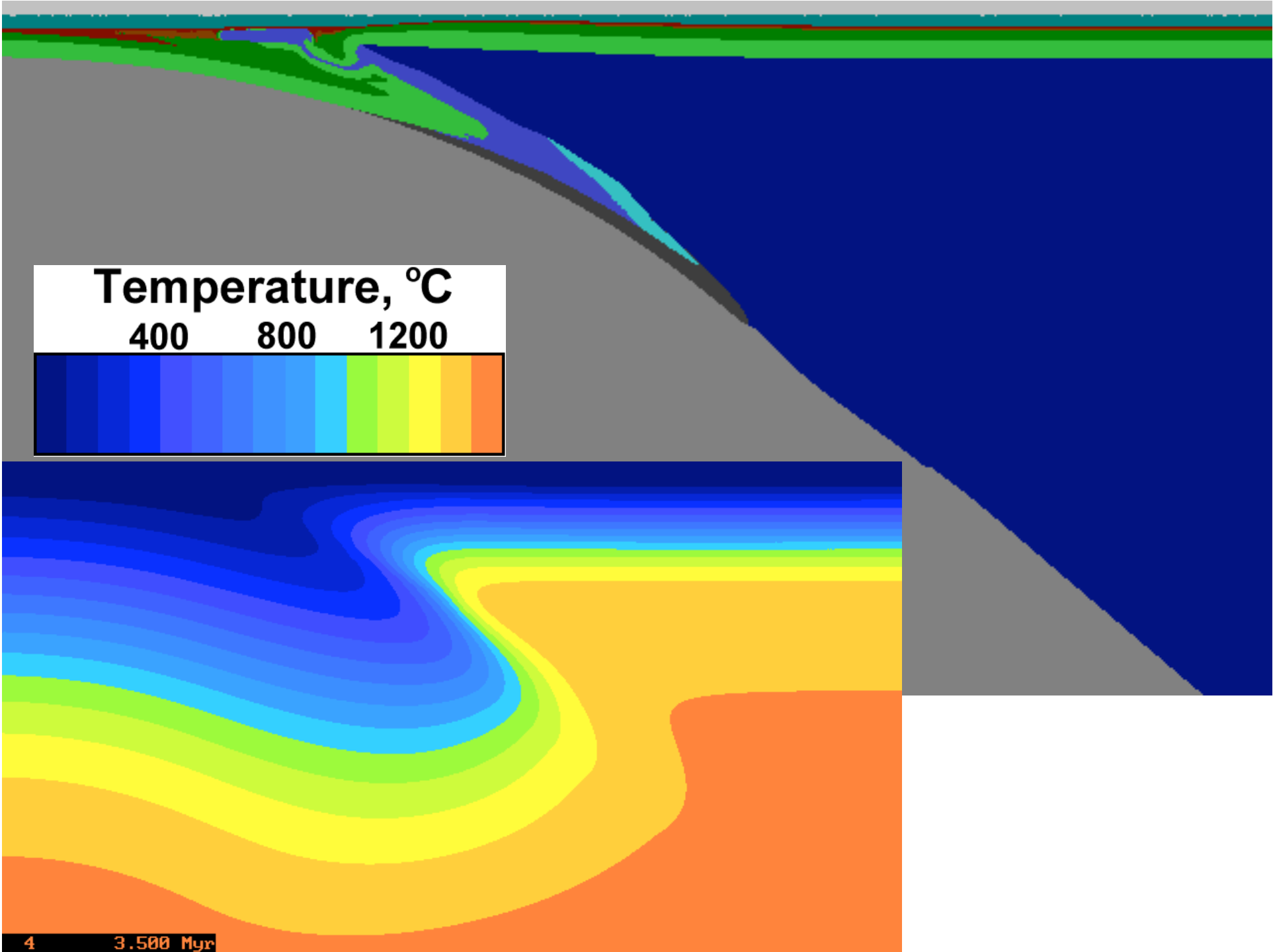
Oceanic subduction
model

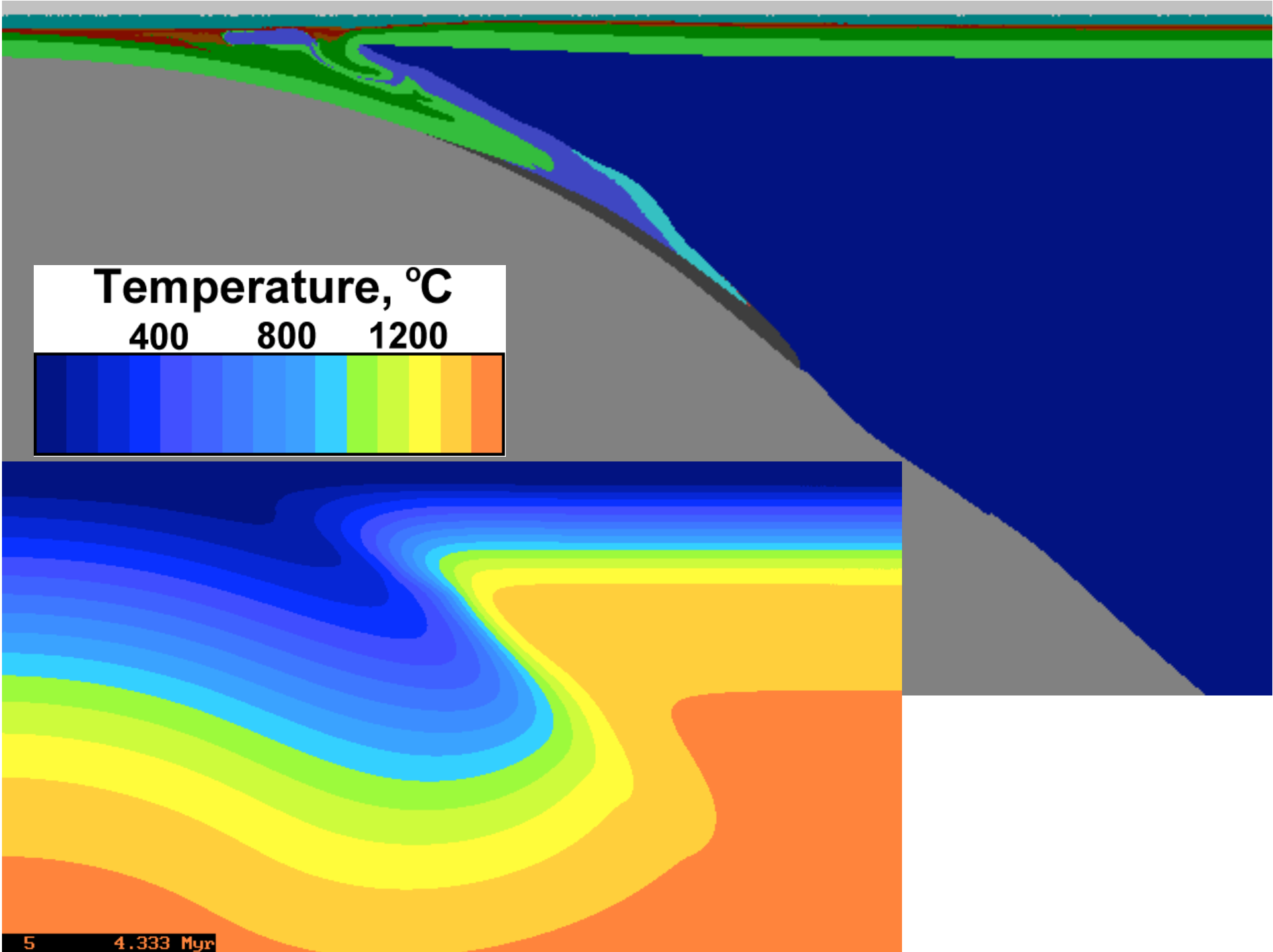
0 0.000 Myr

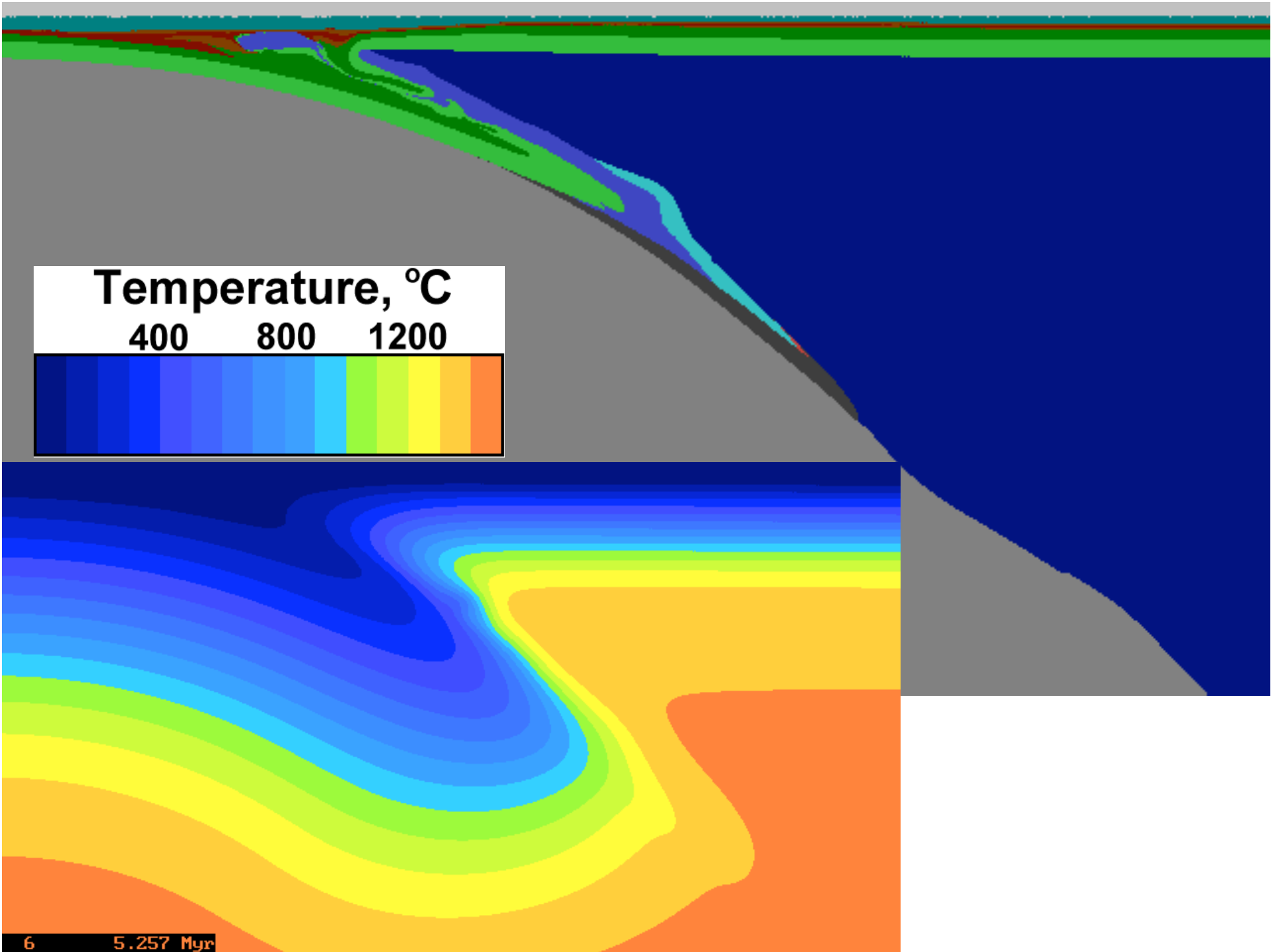


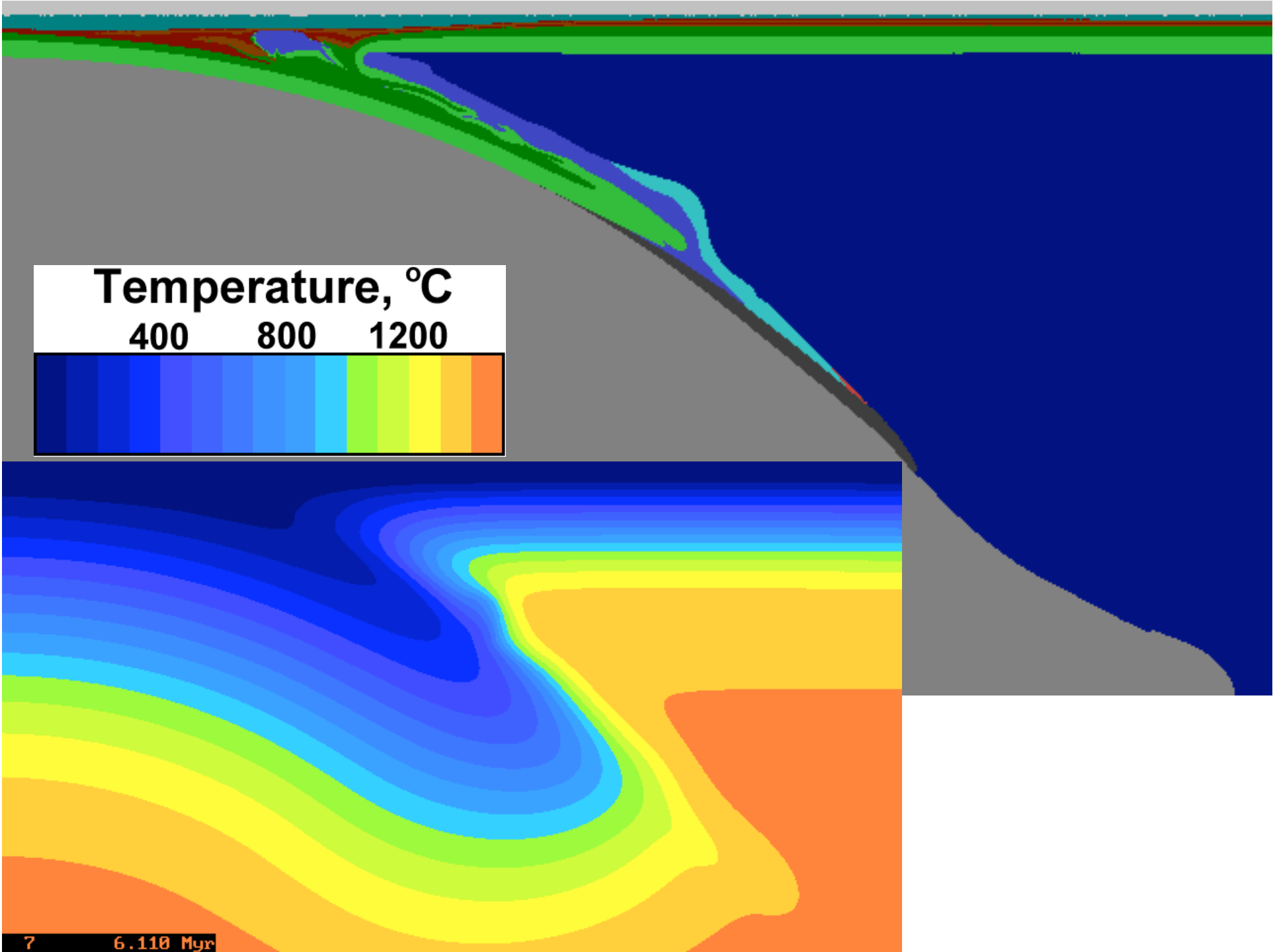


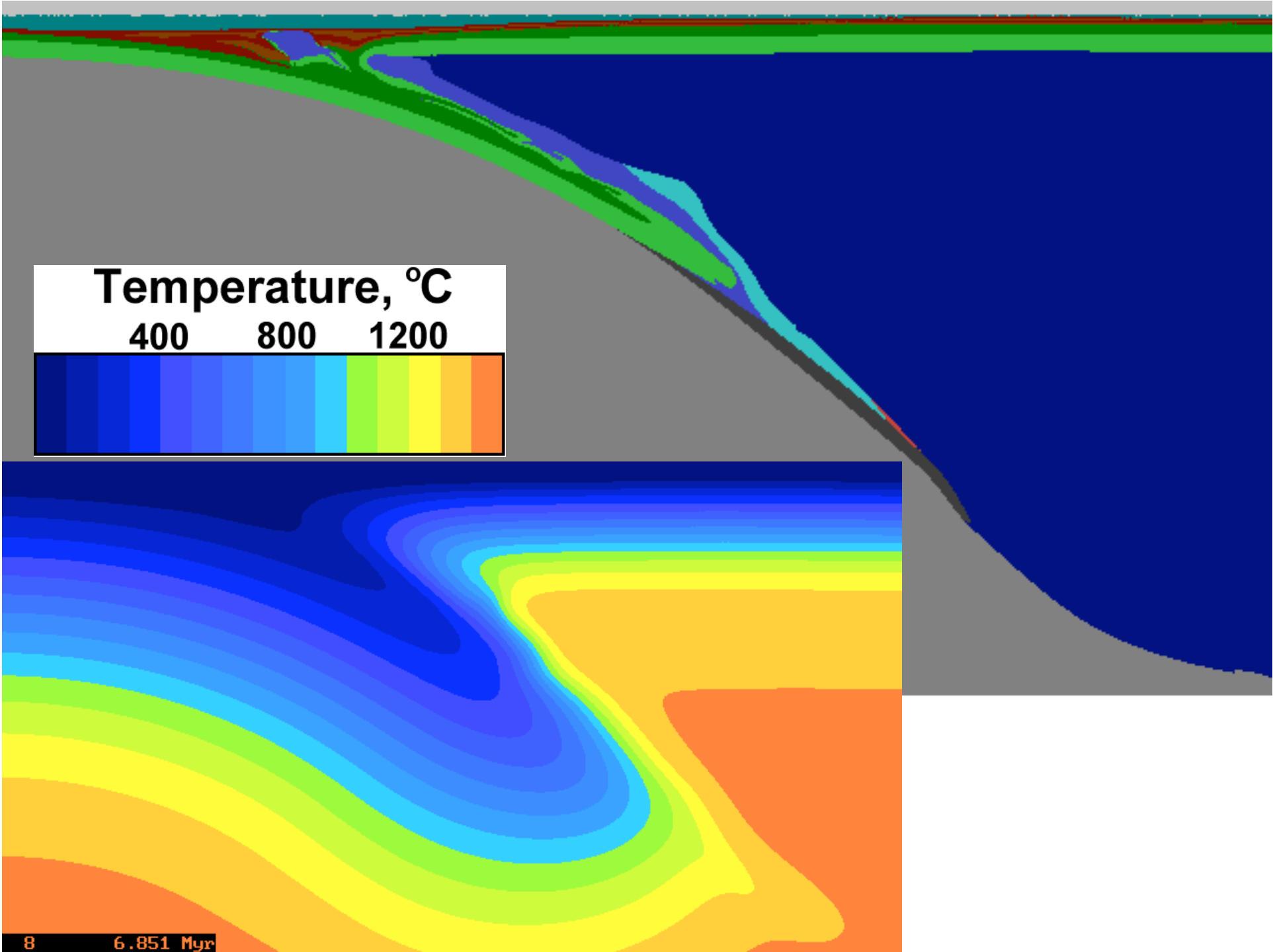


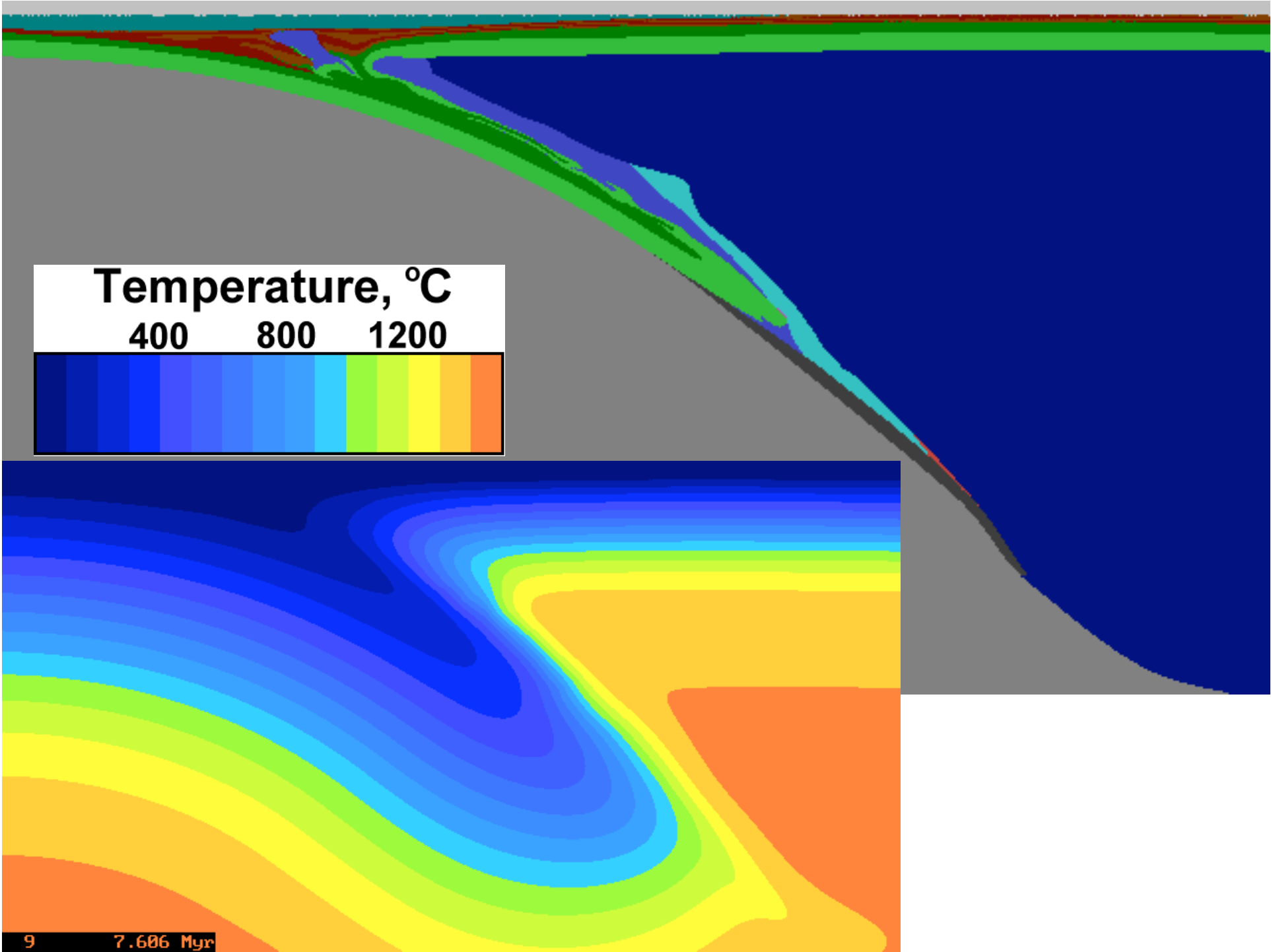


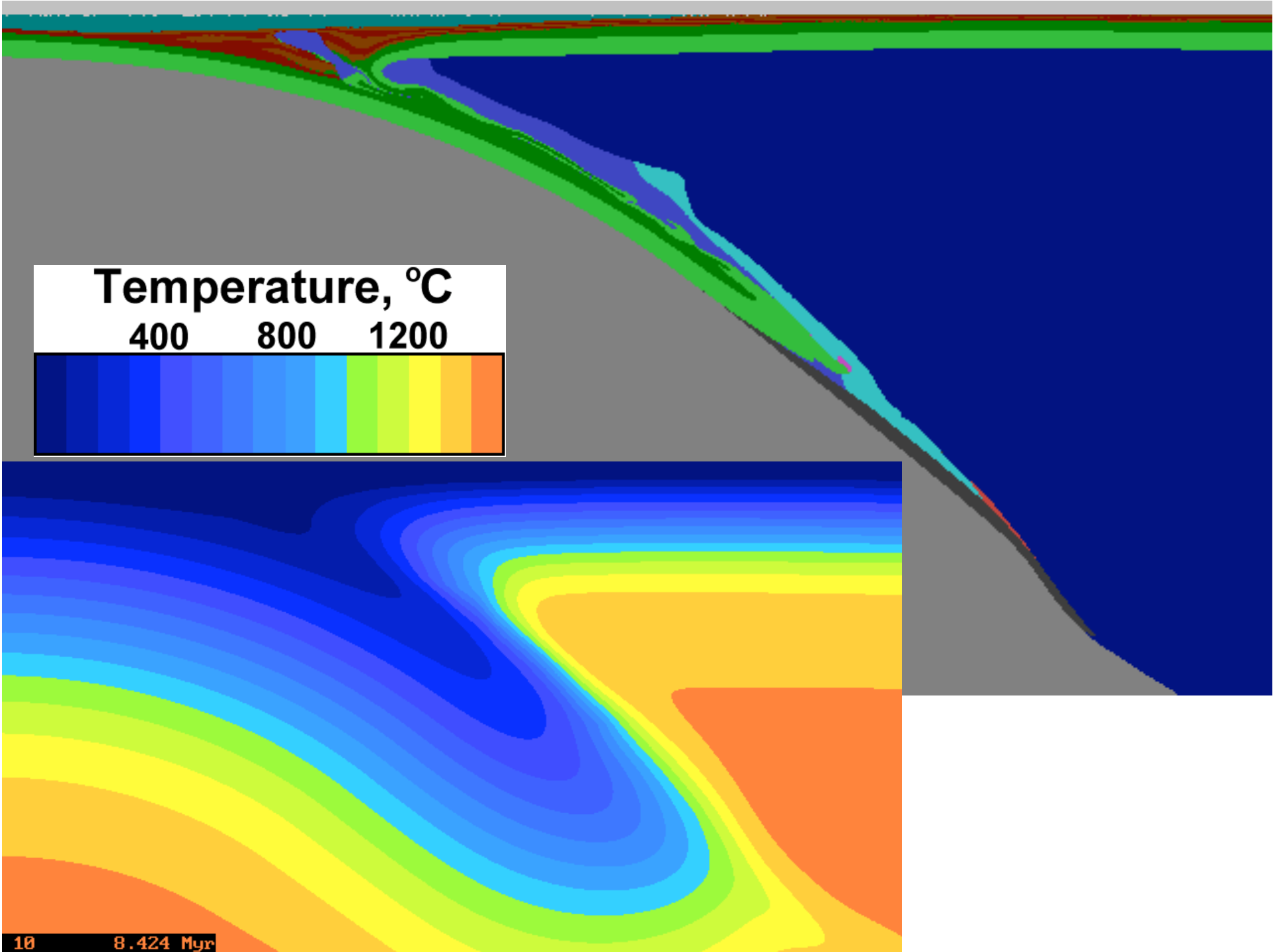


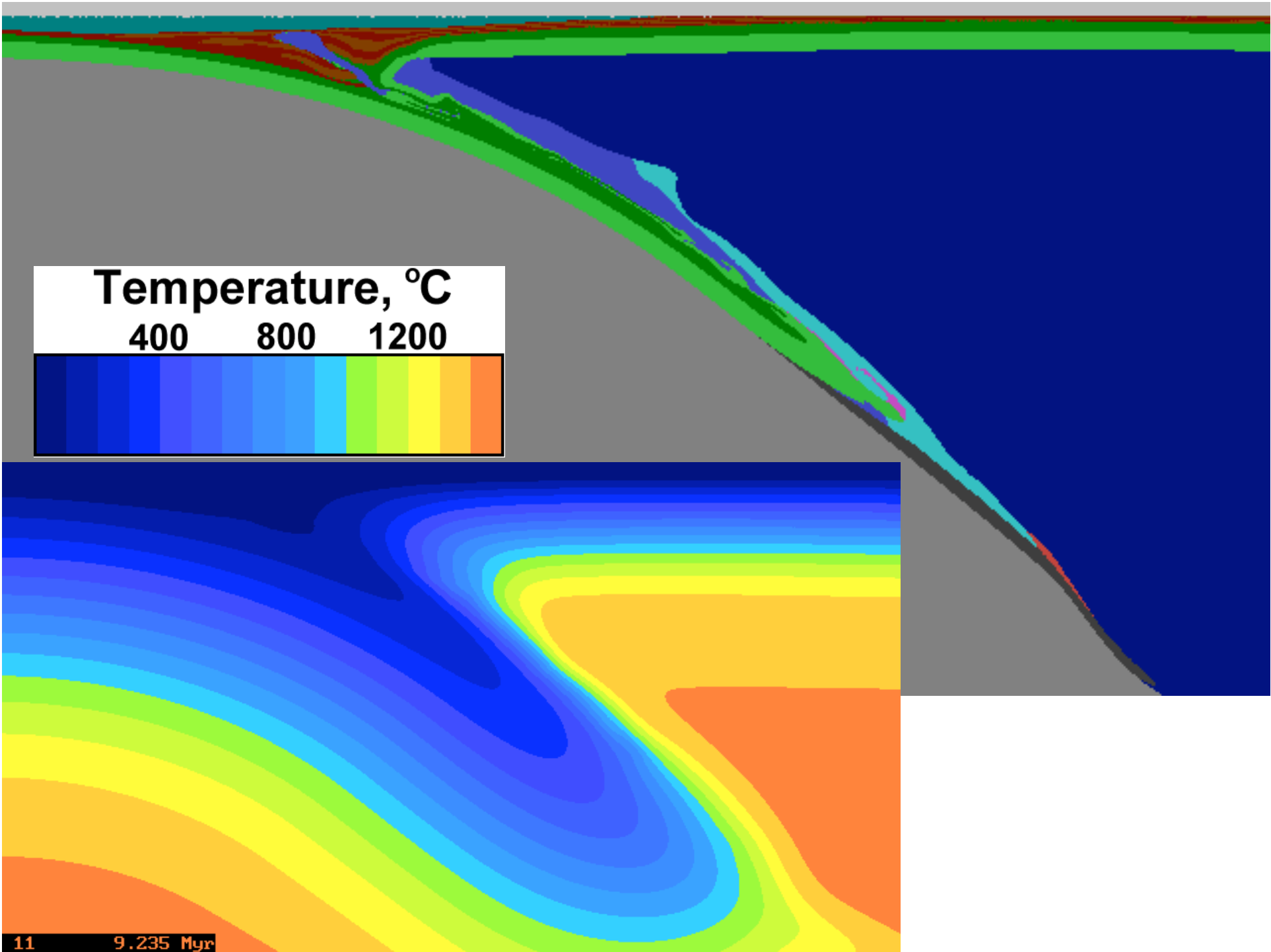


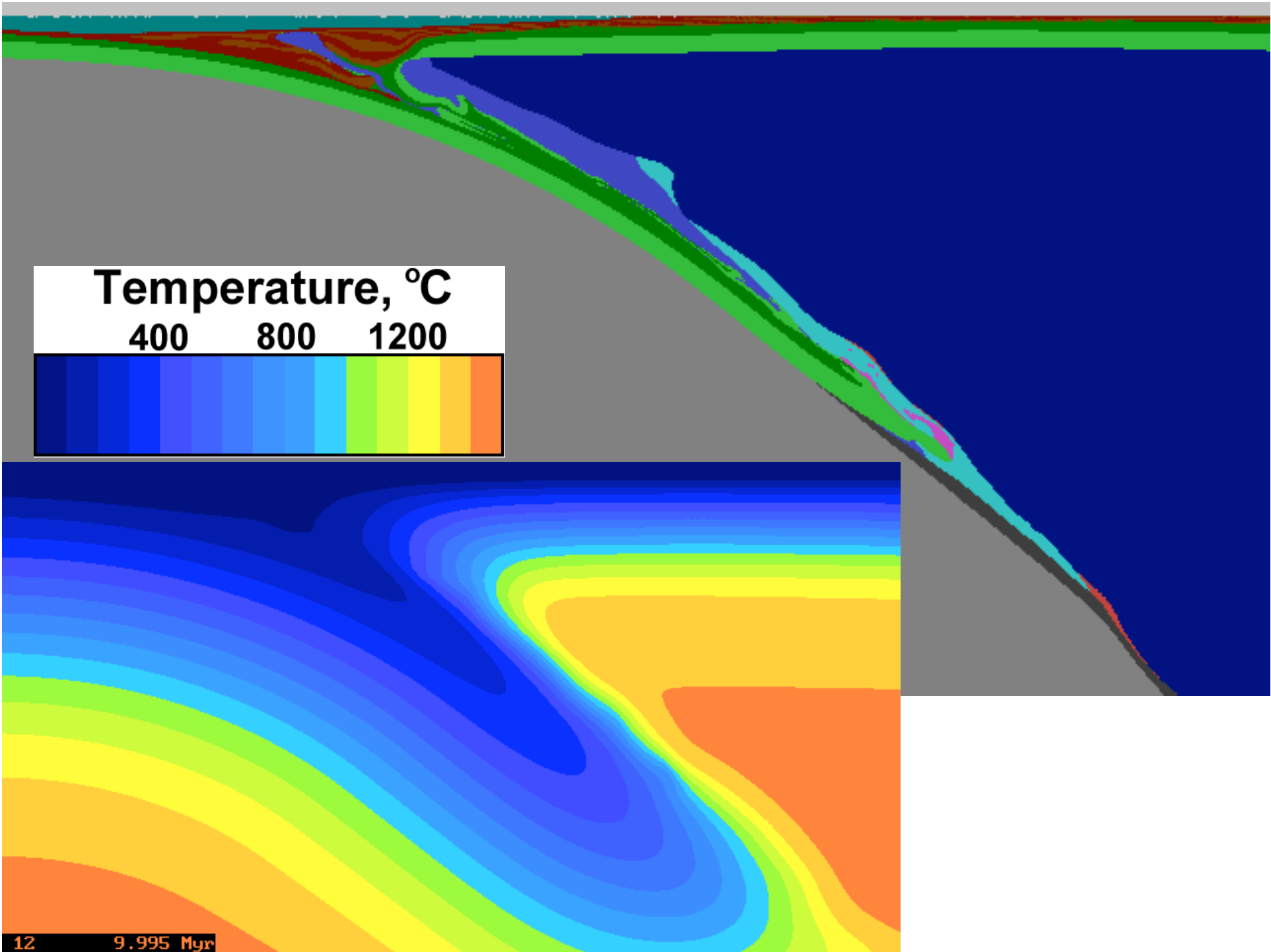


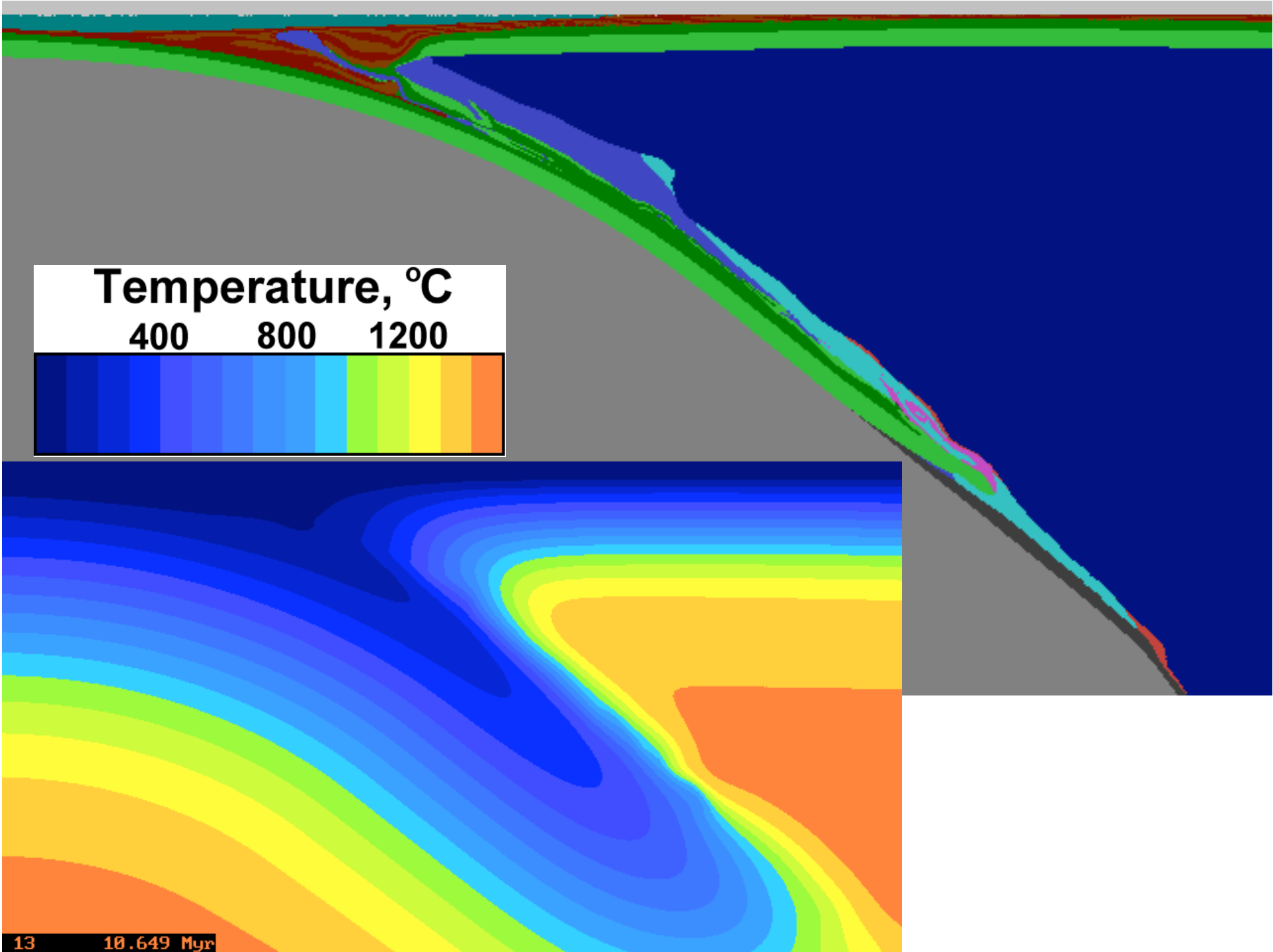


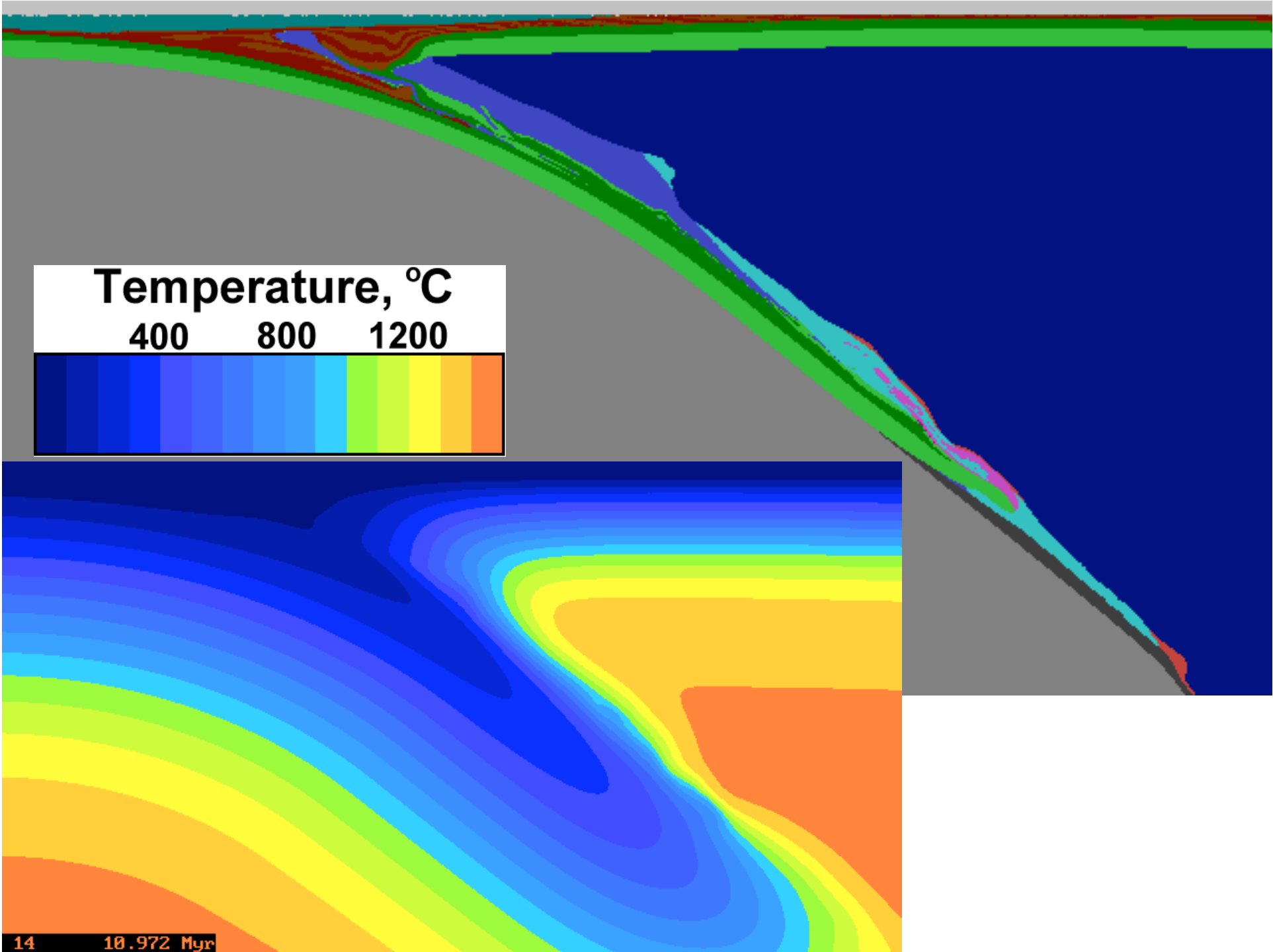


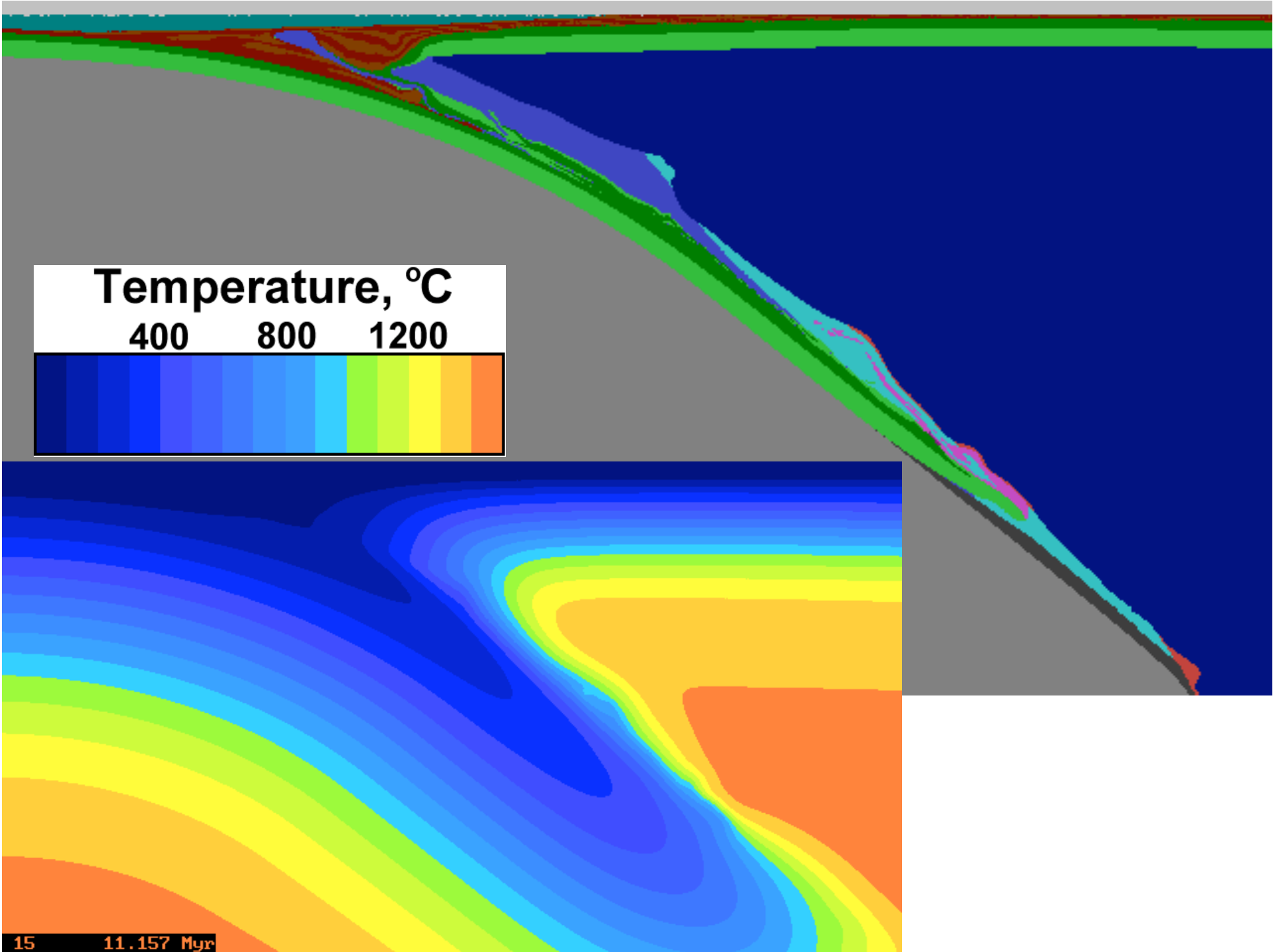


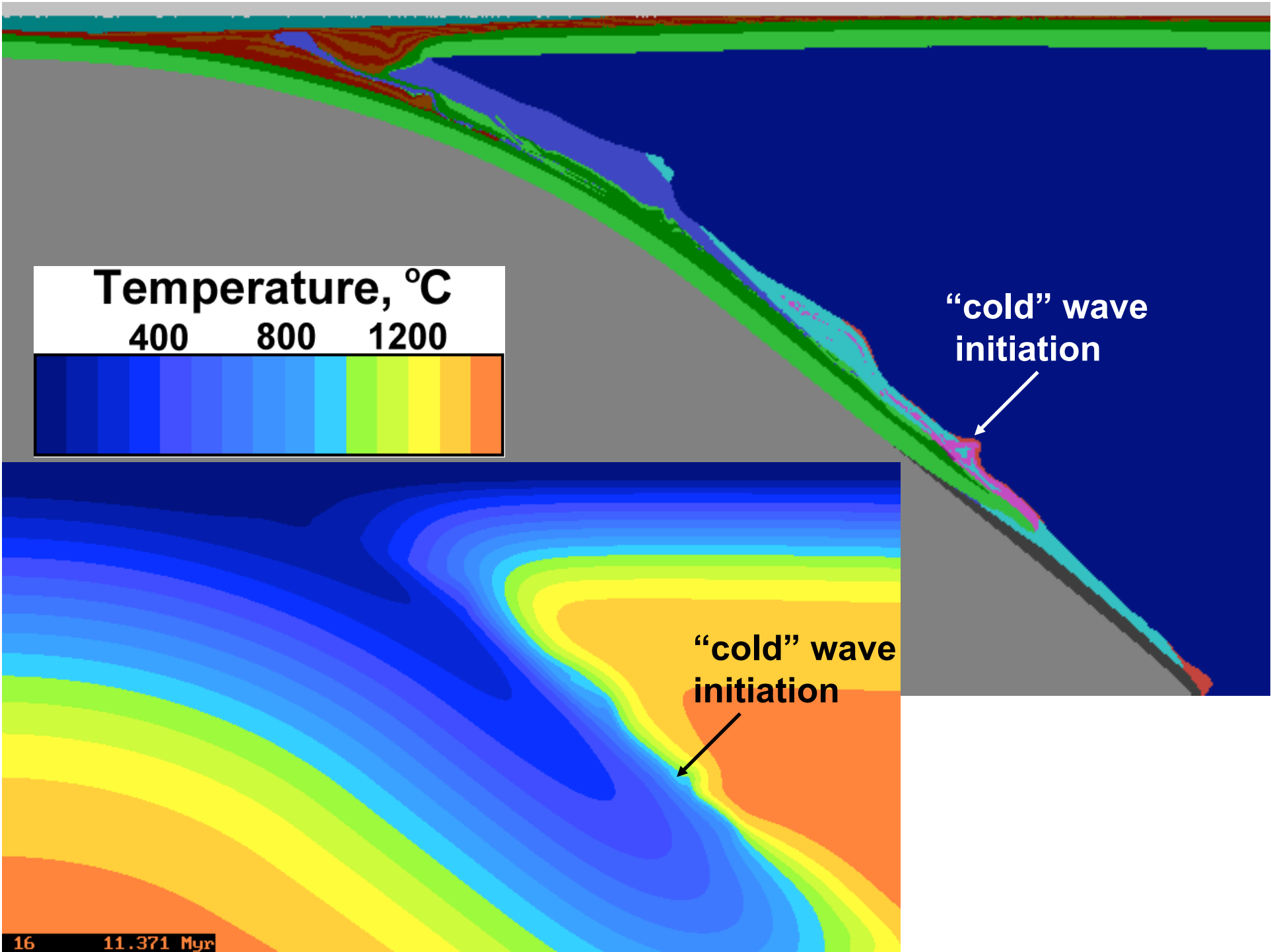


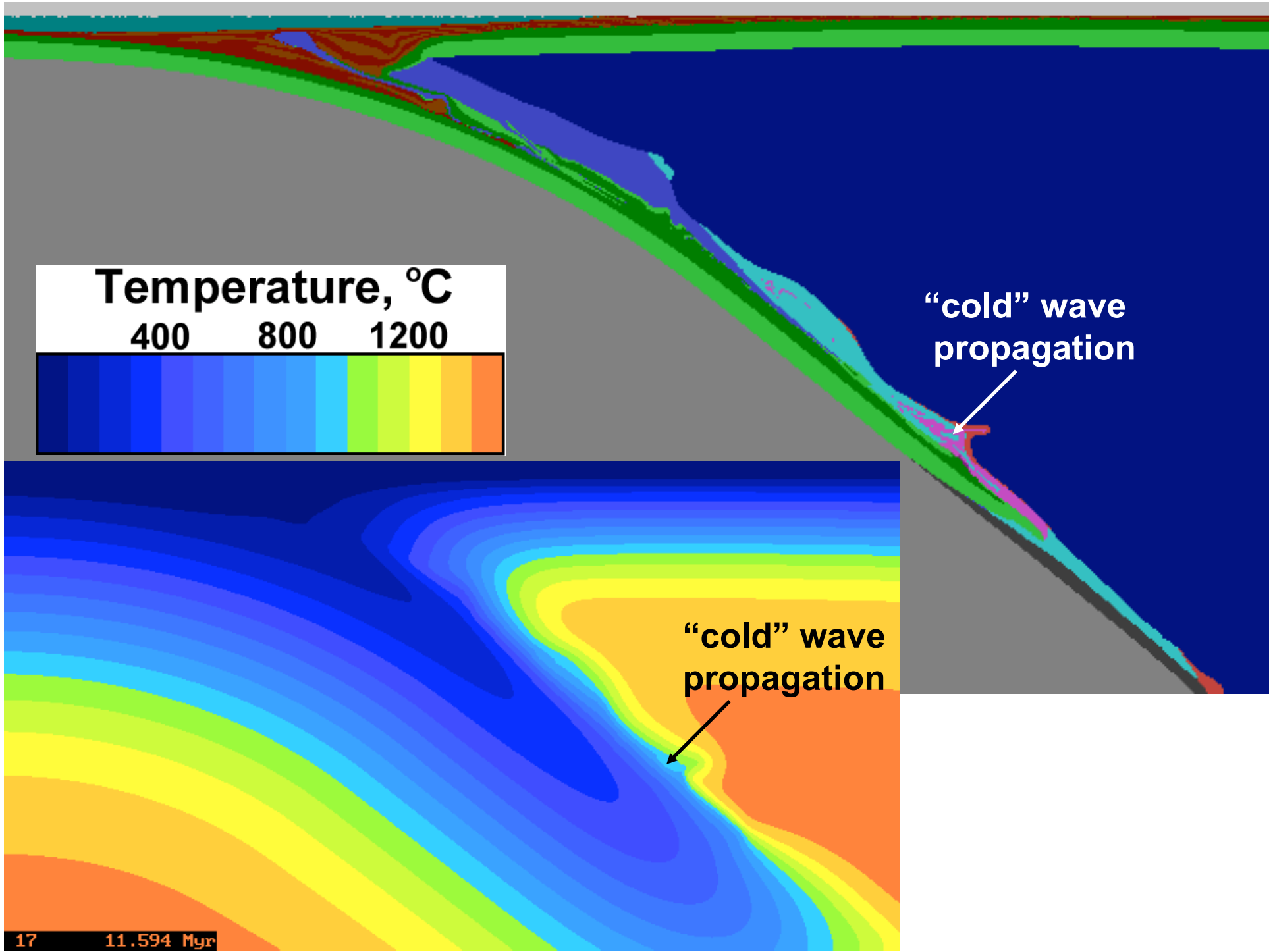


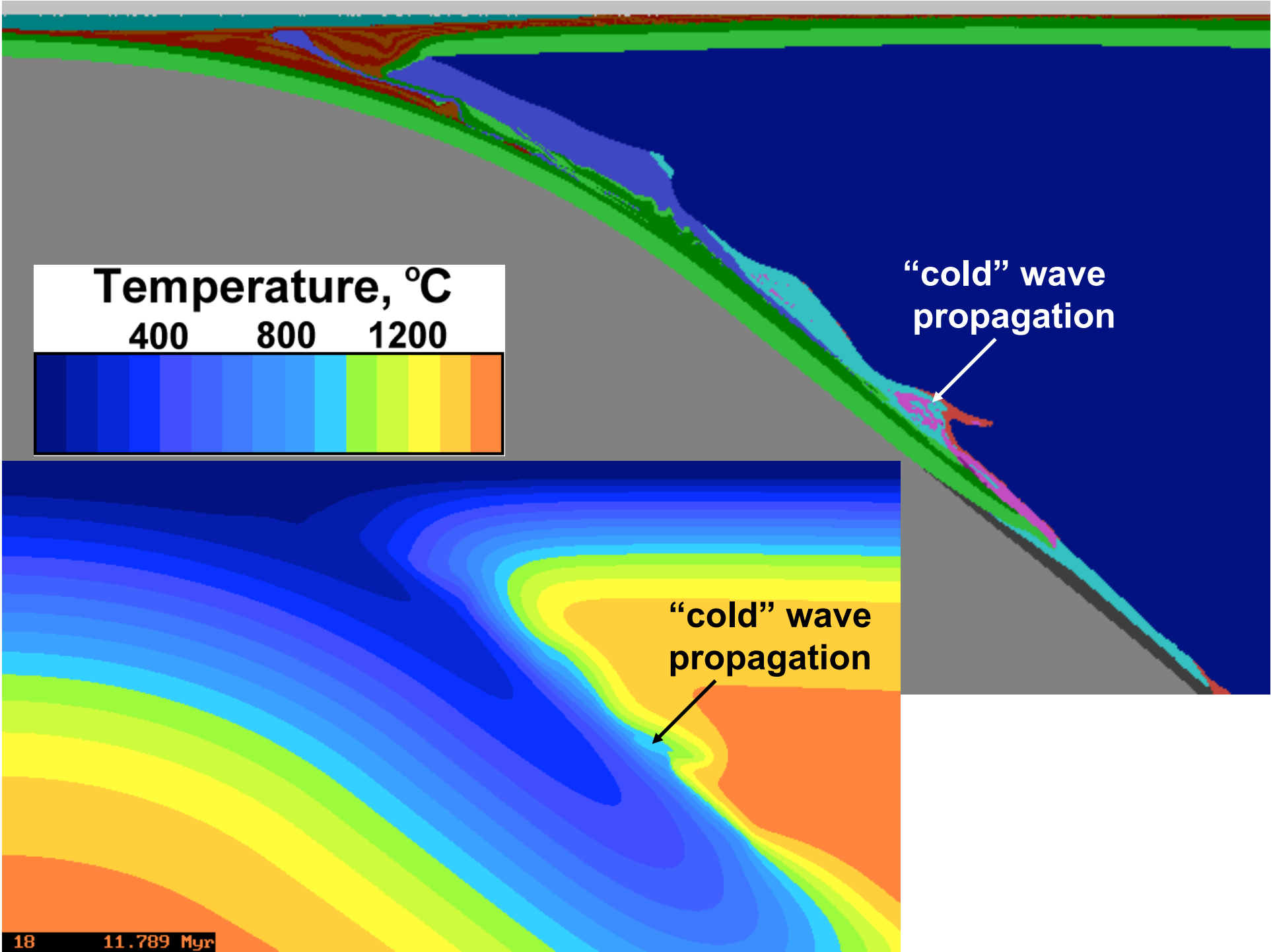


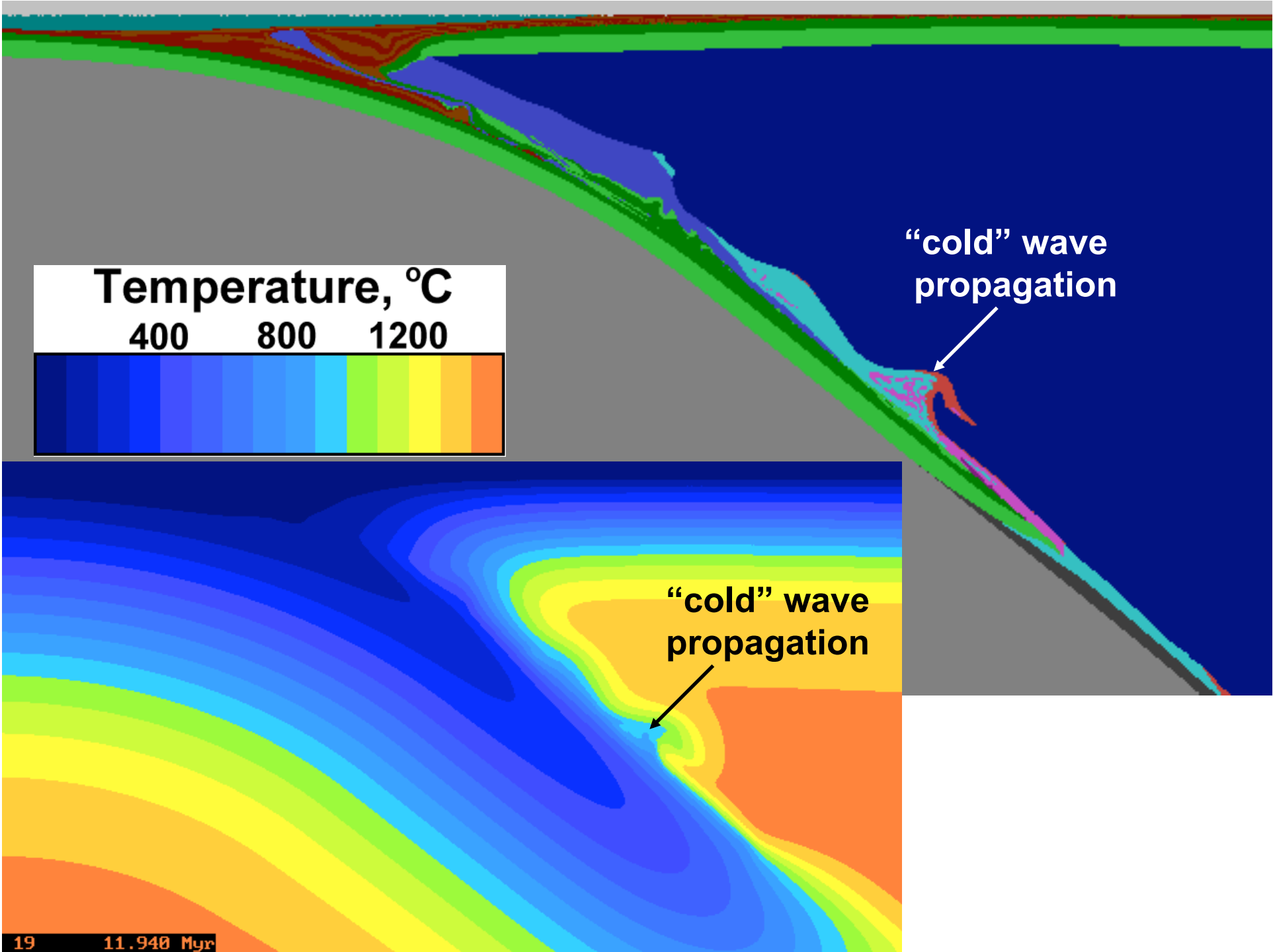


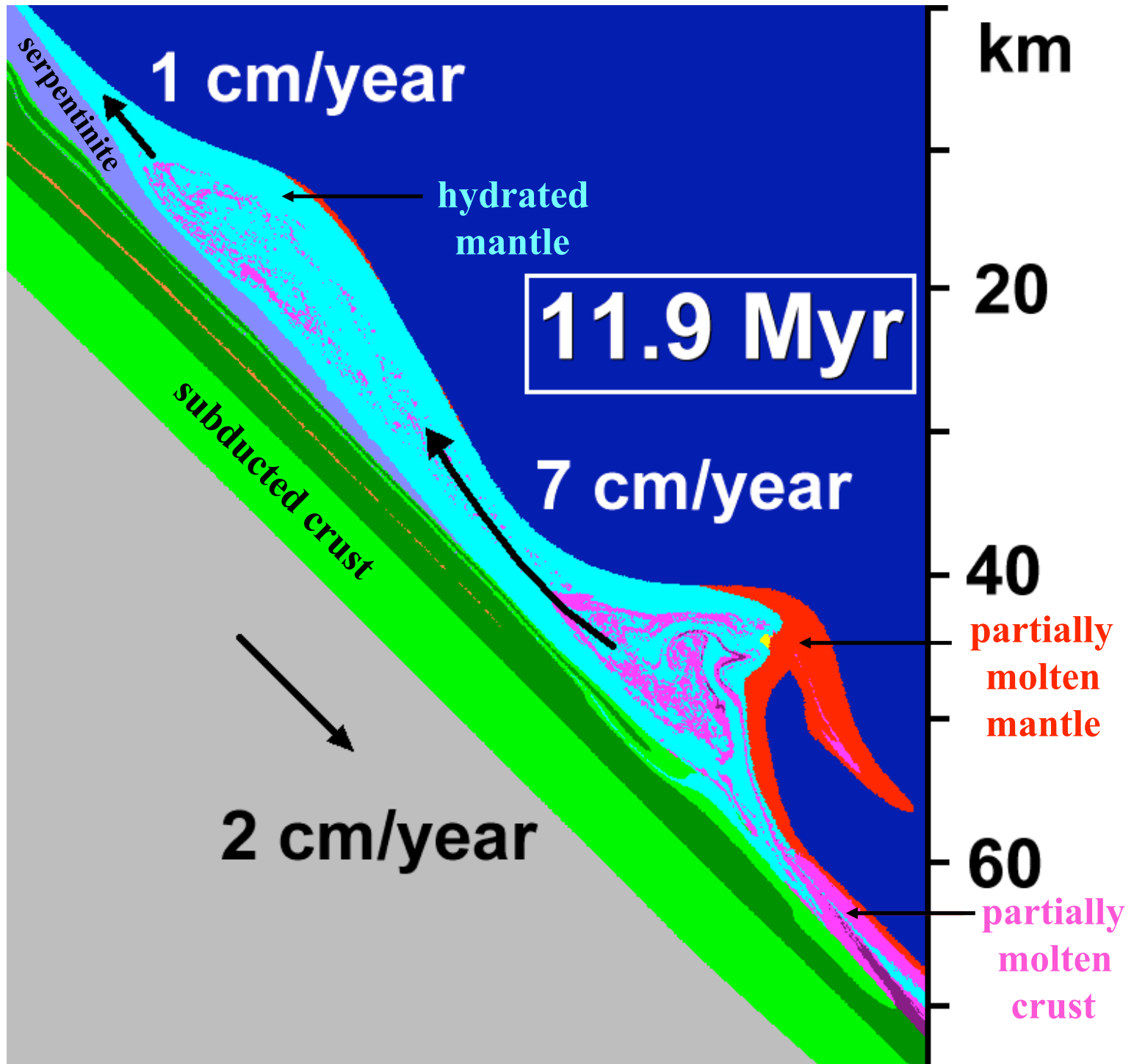


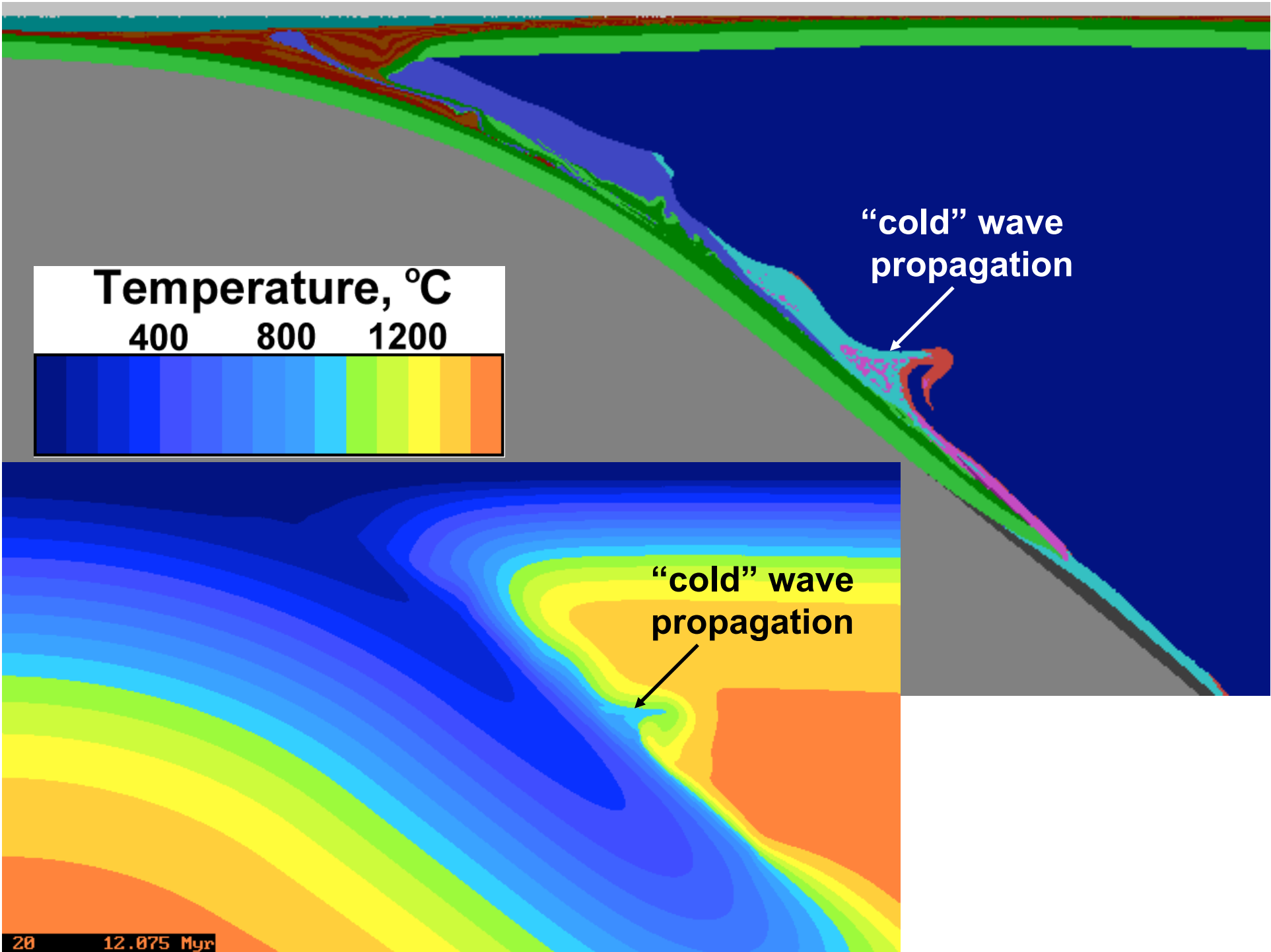


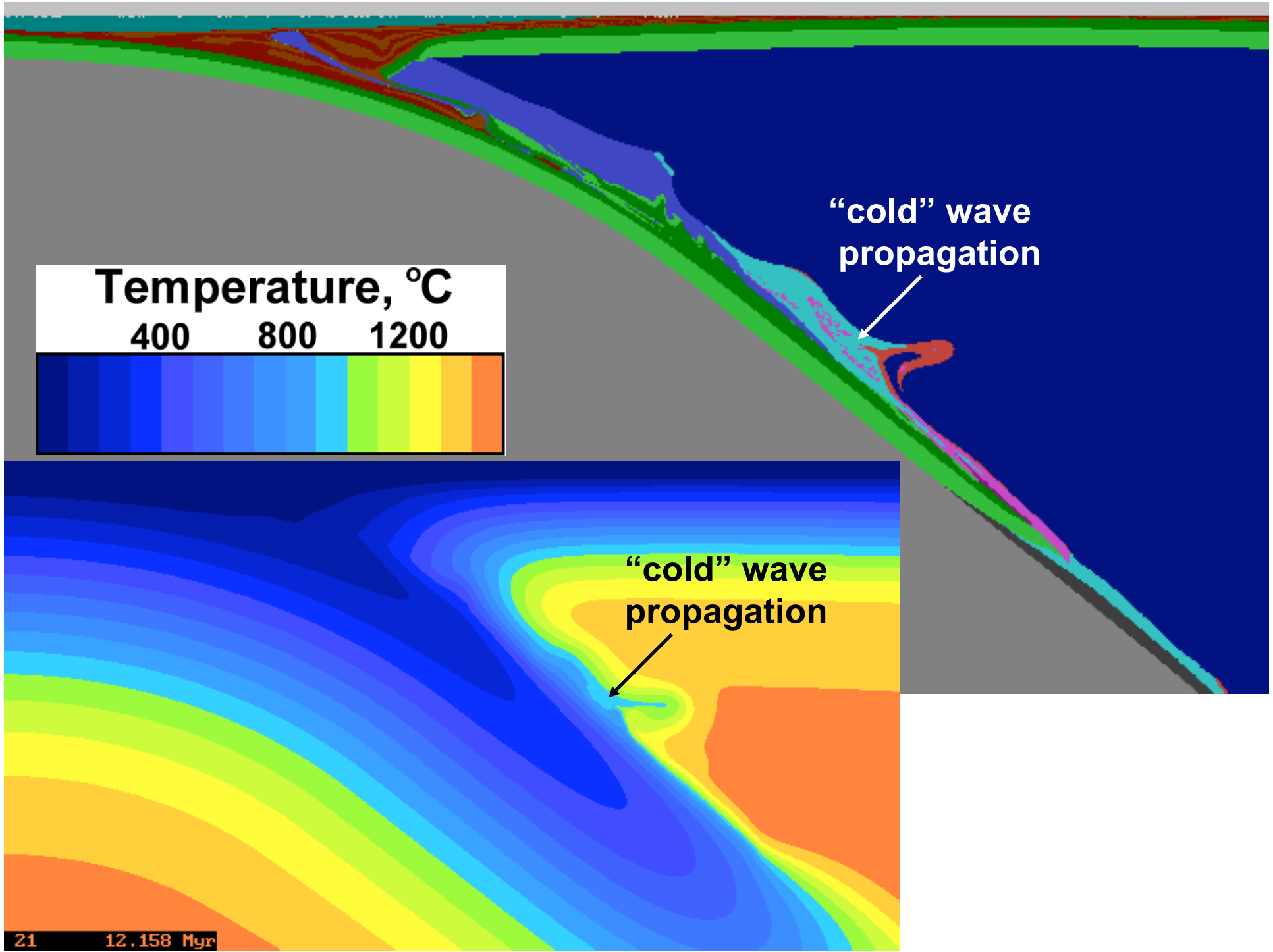


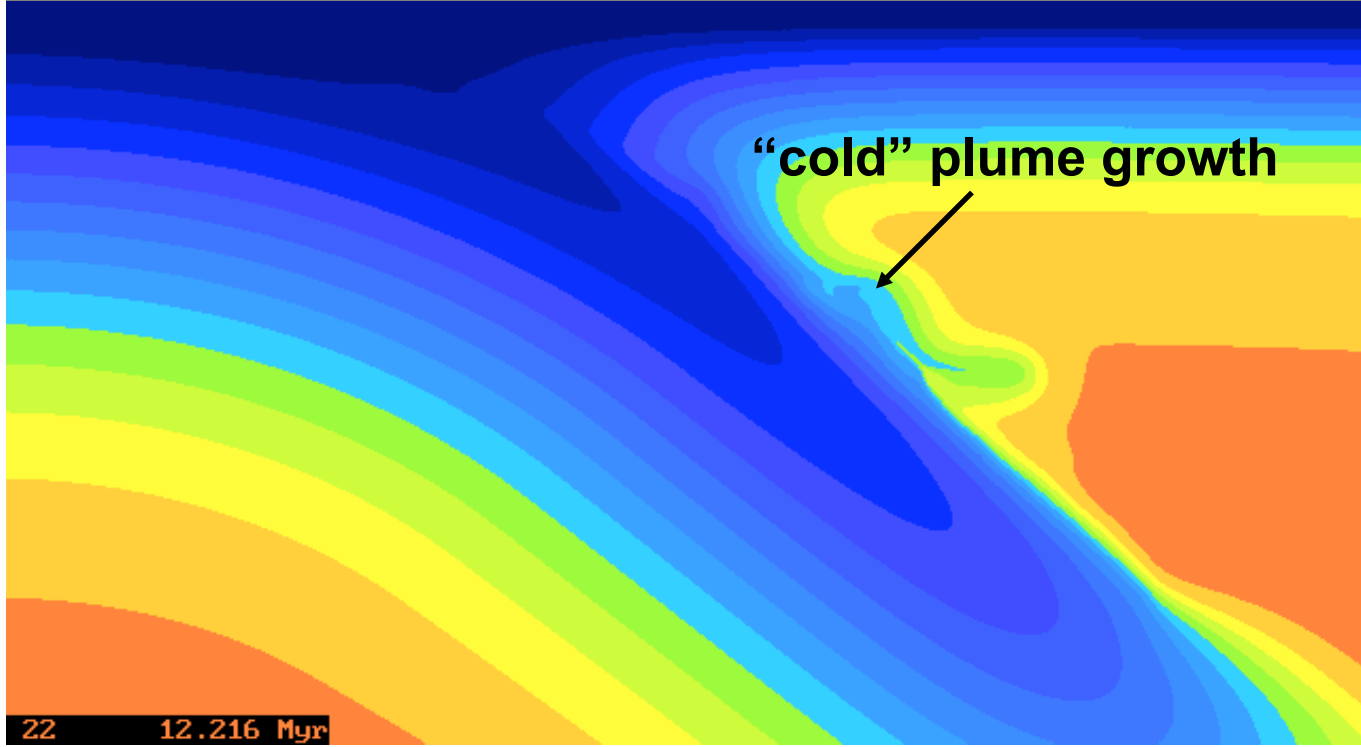
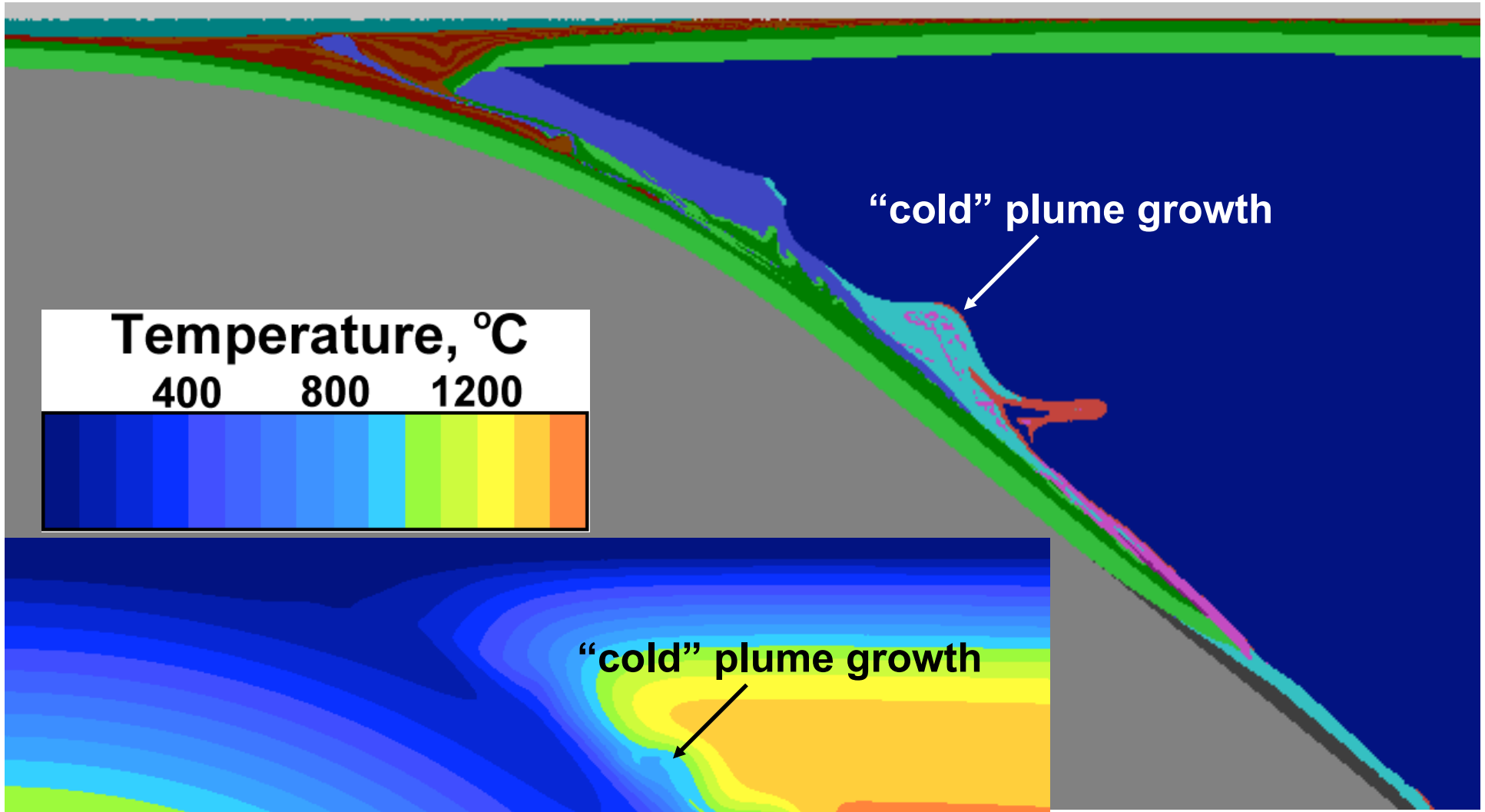


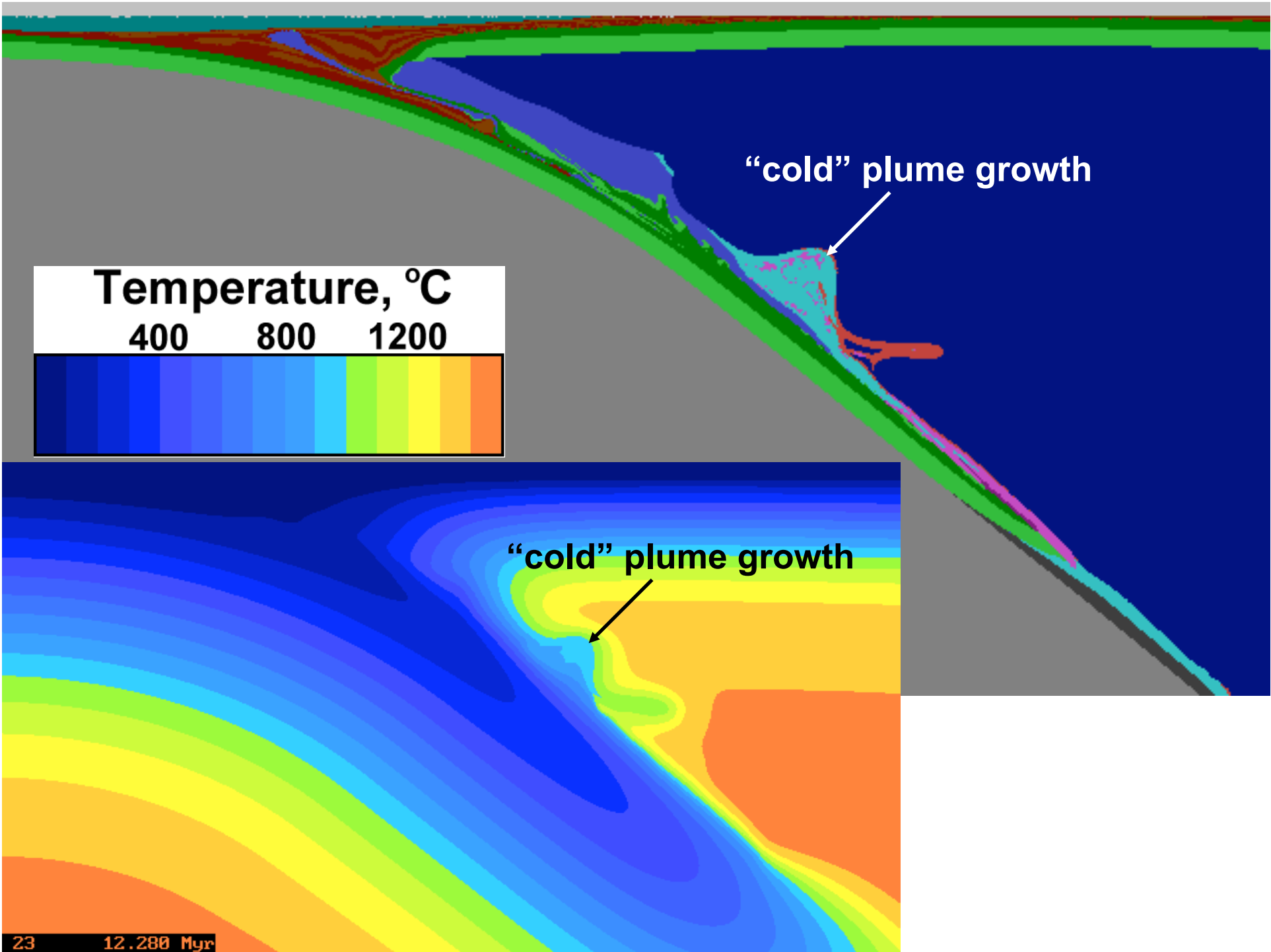


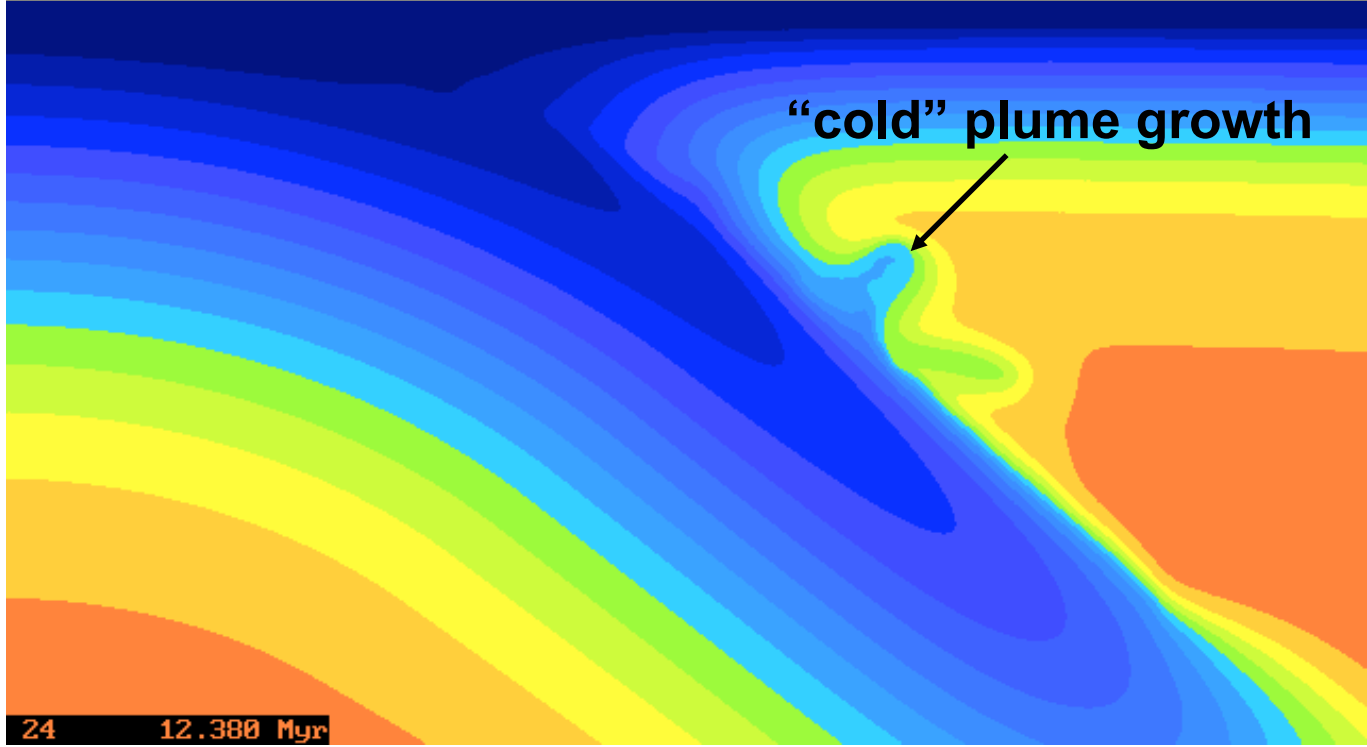
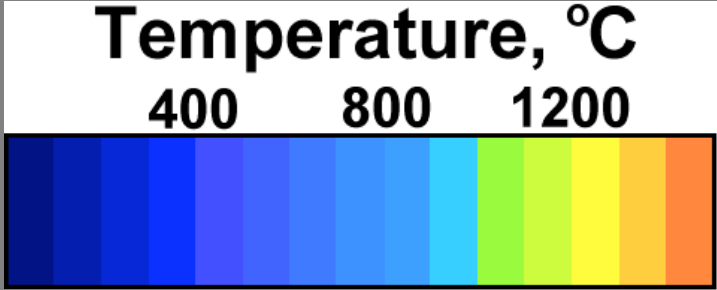
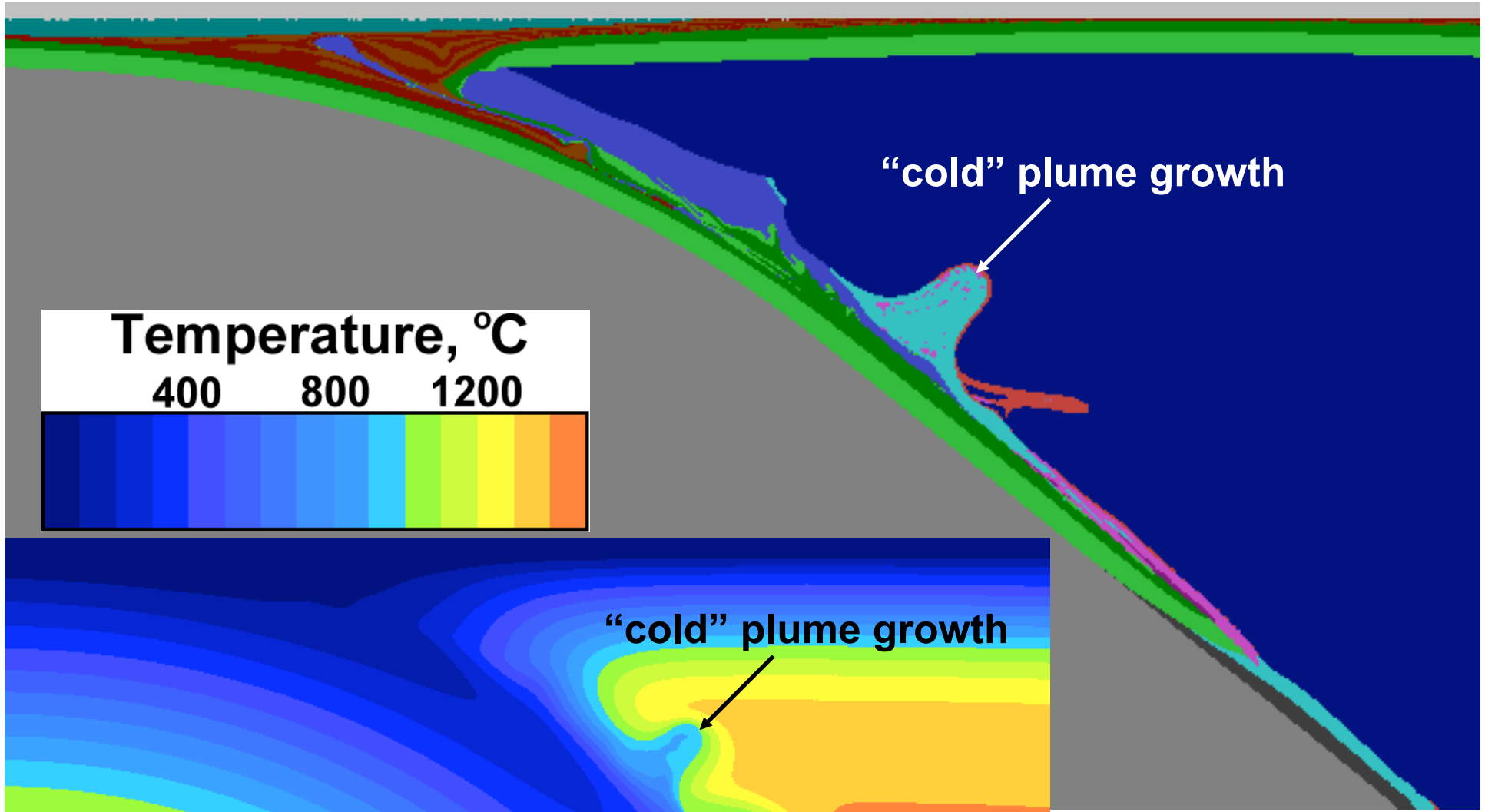


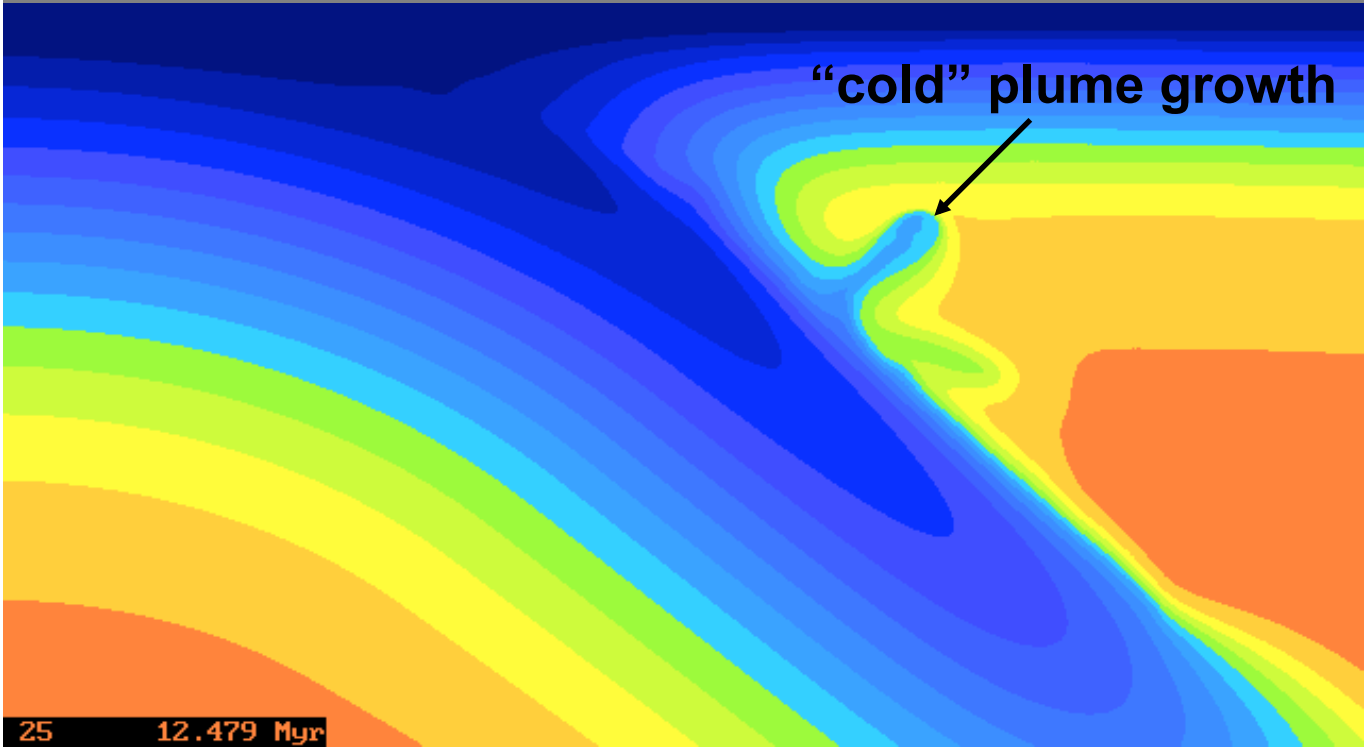
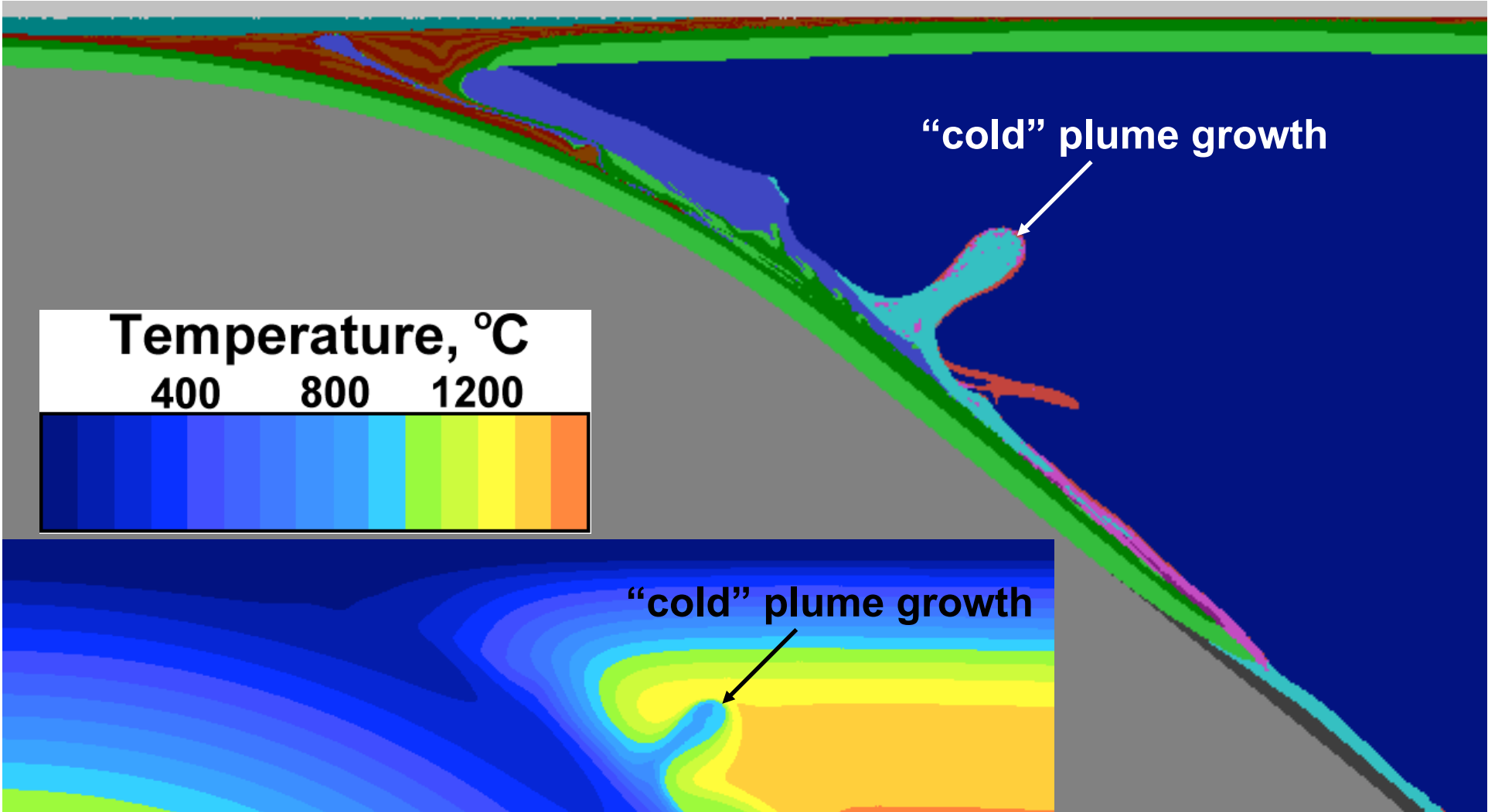


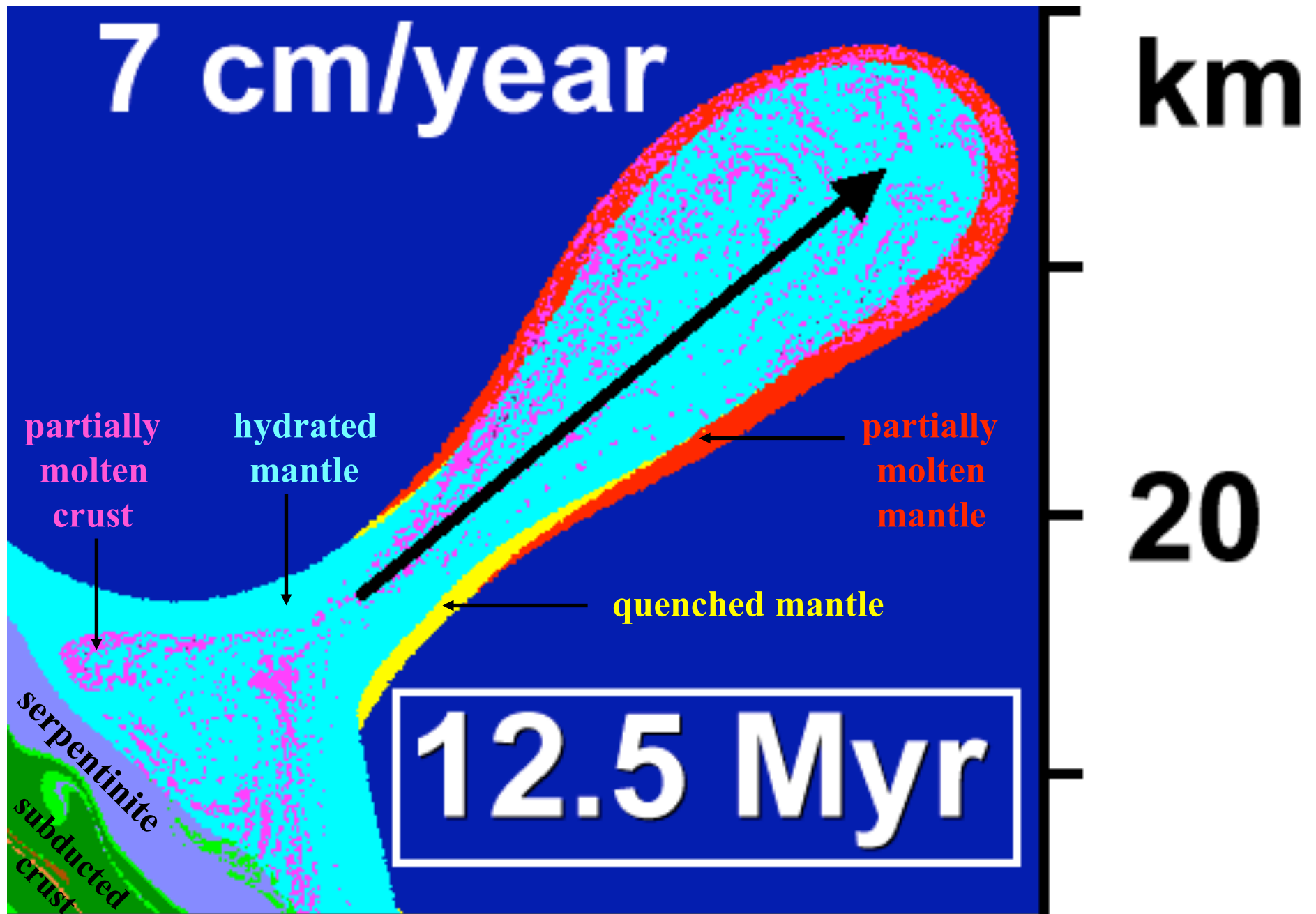


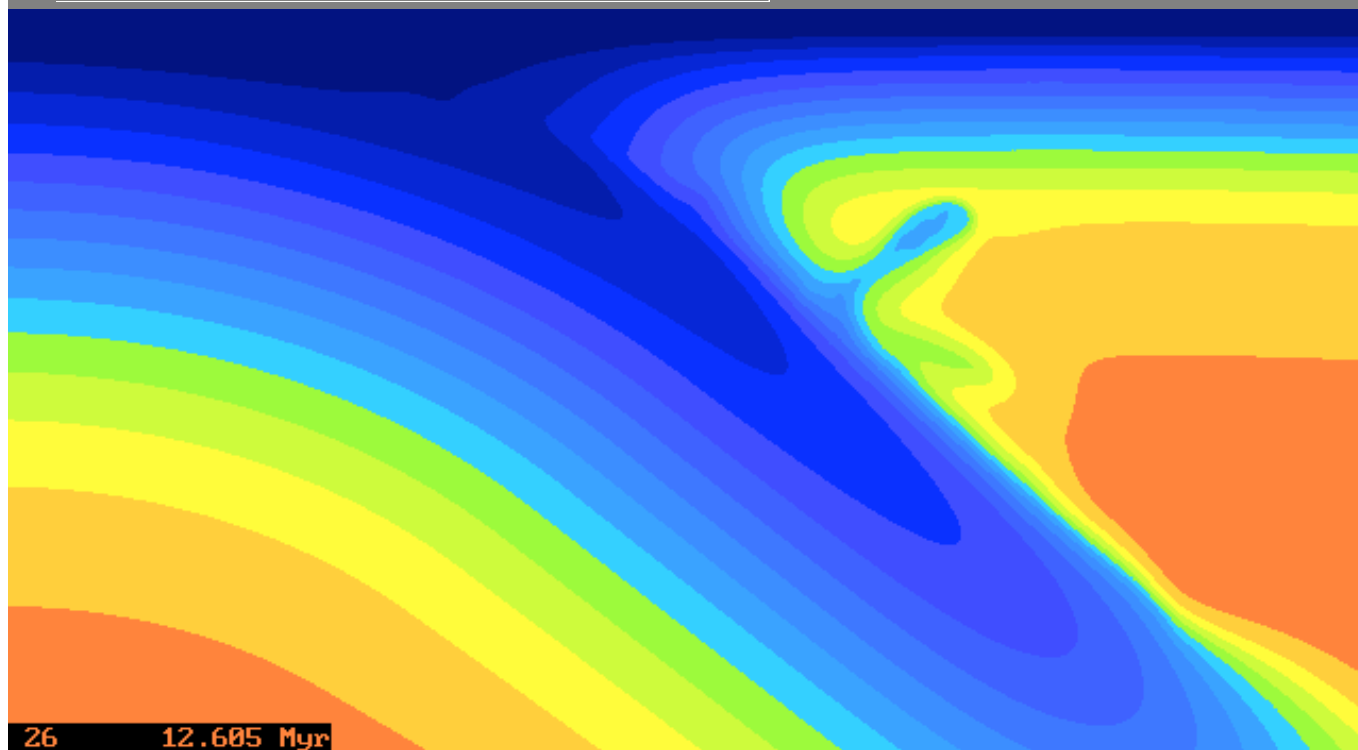
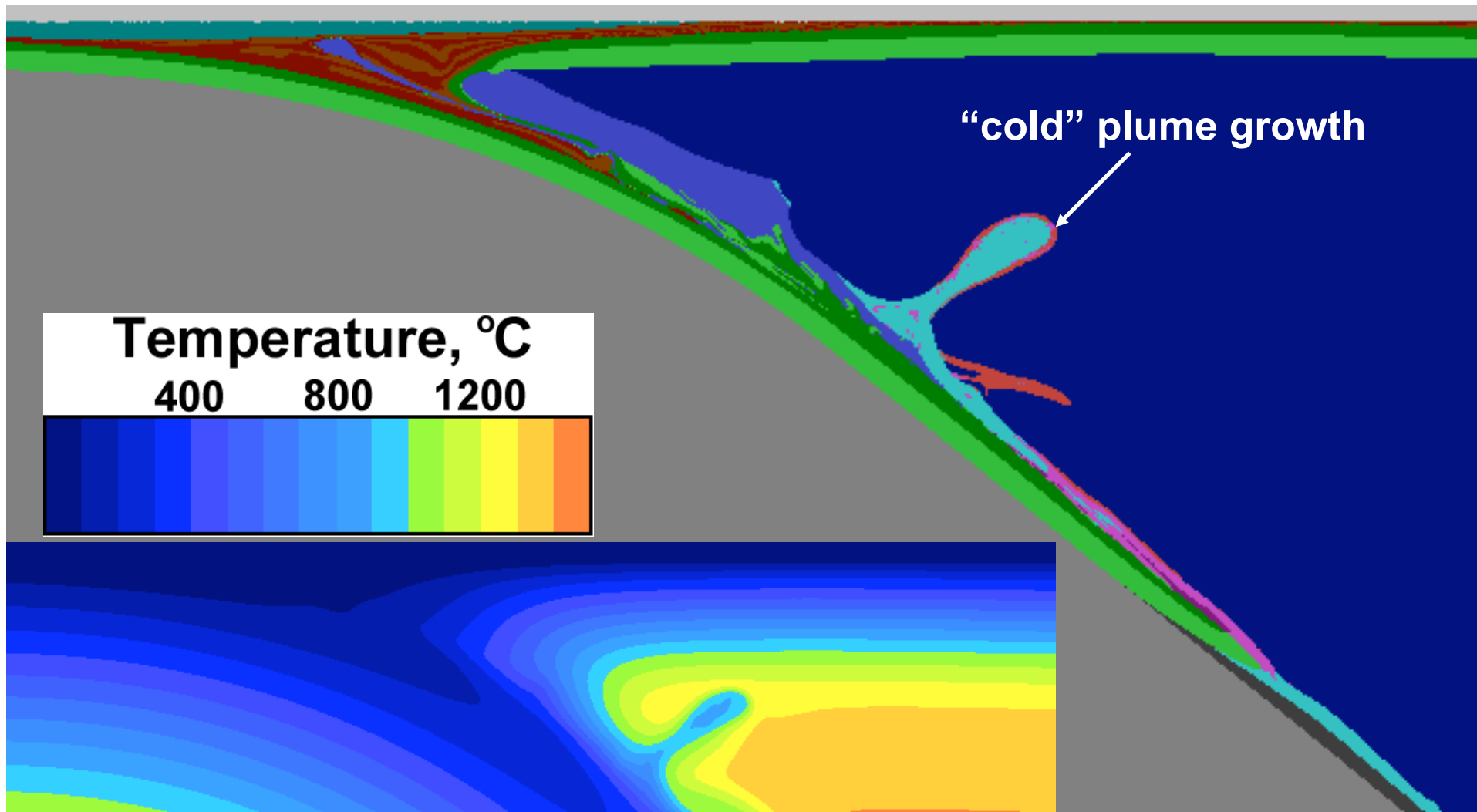


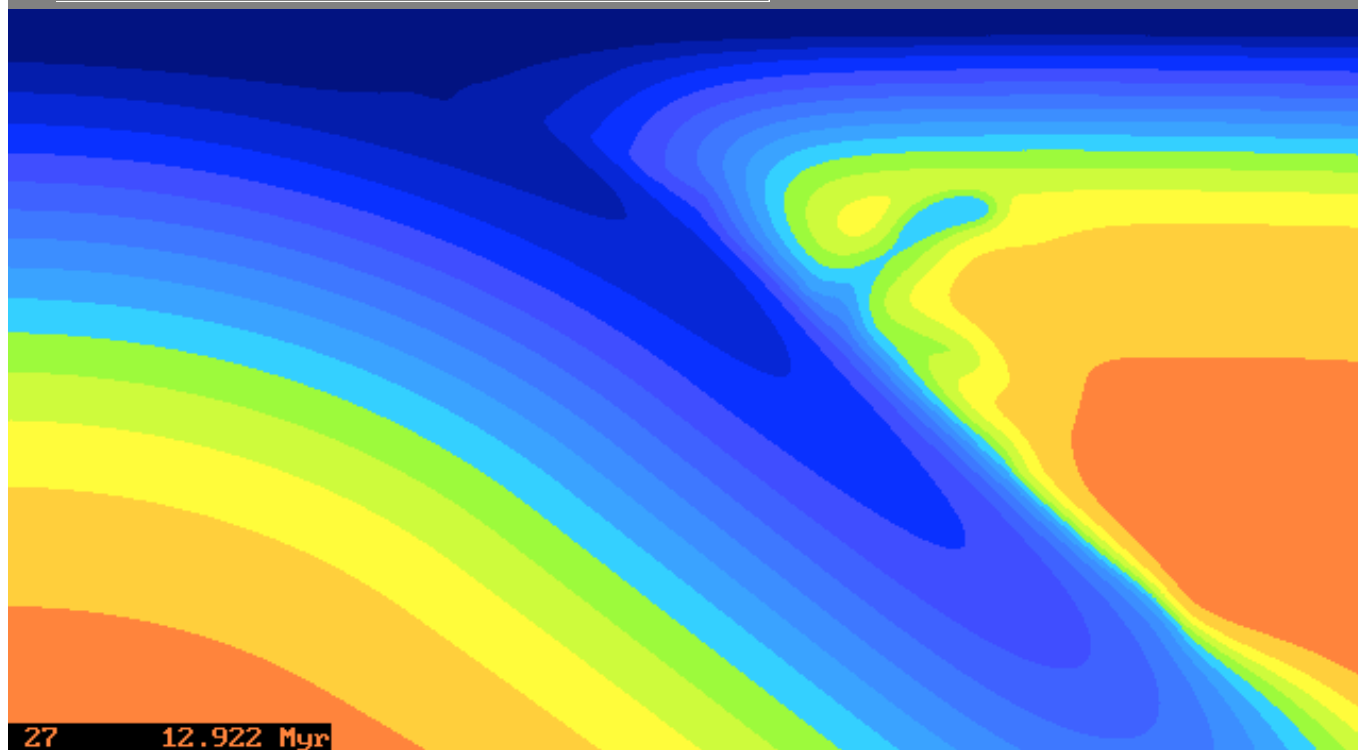
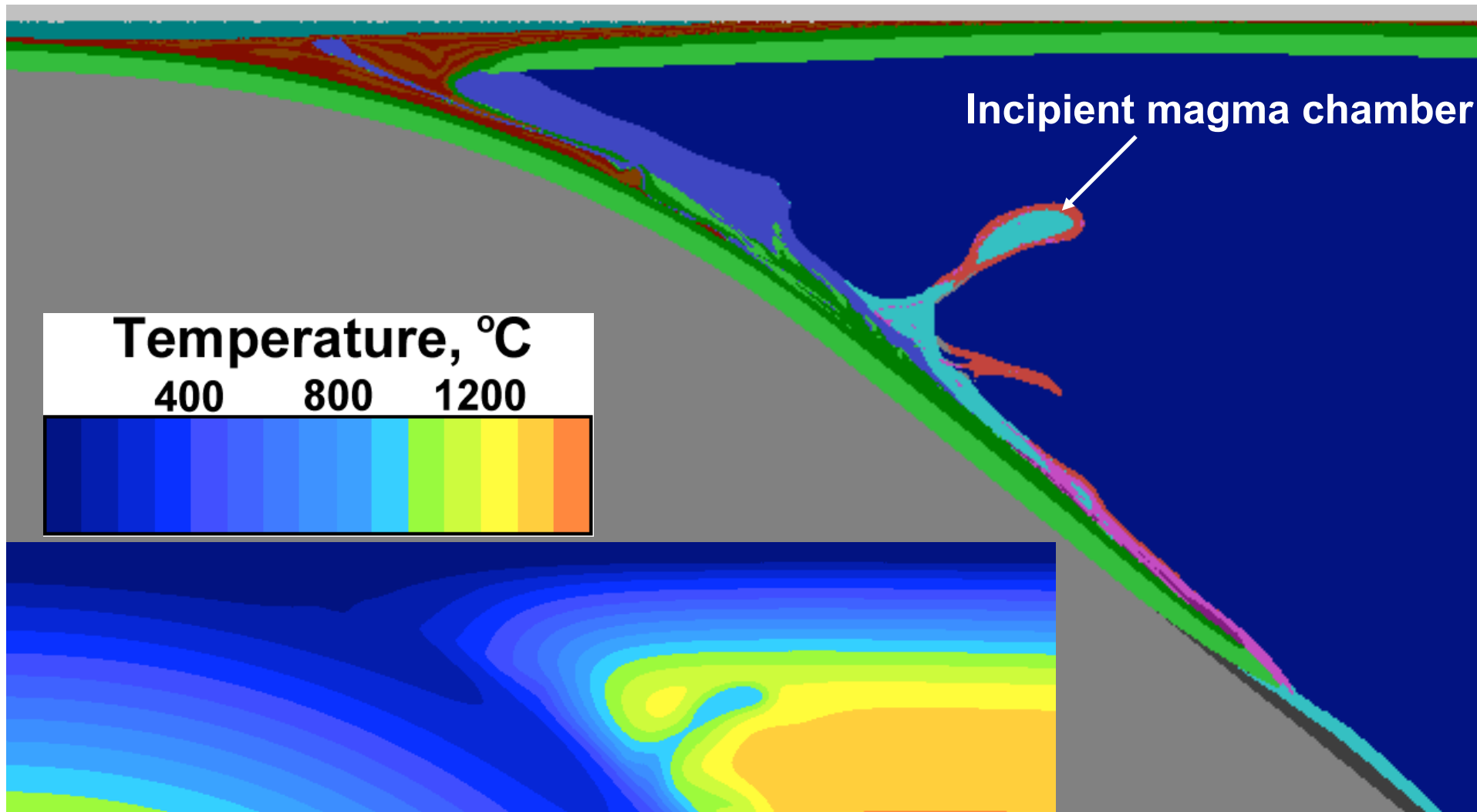


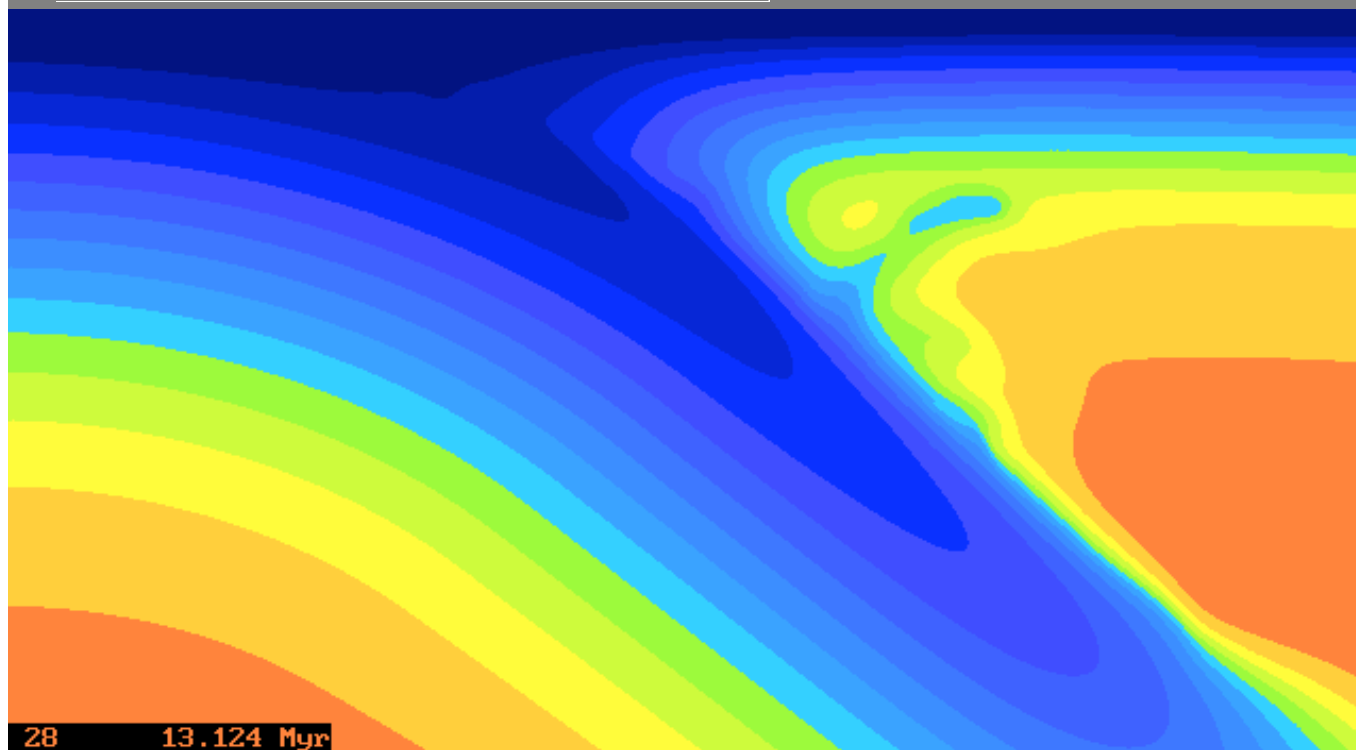
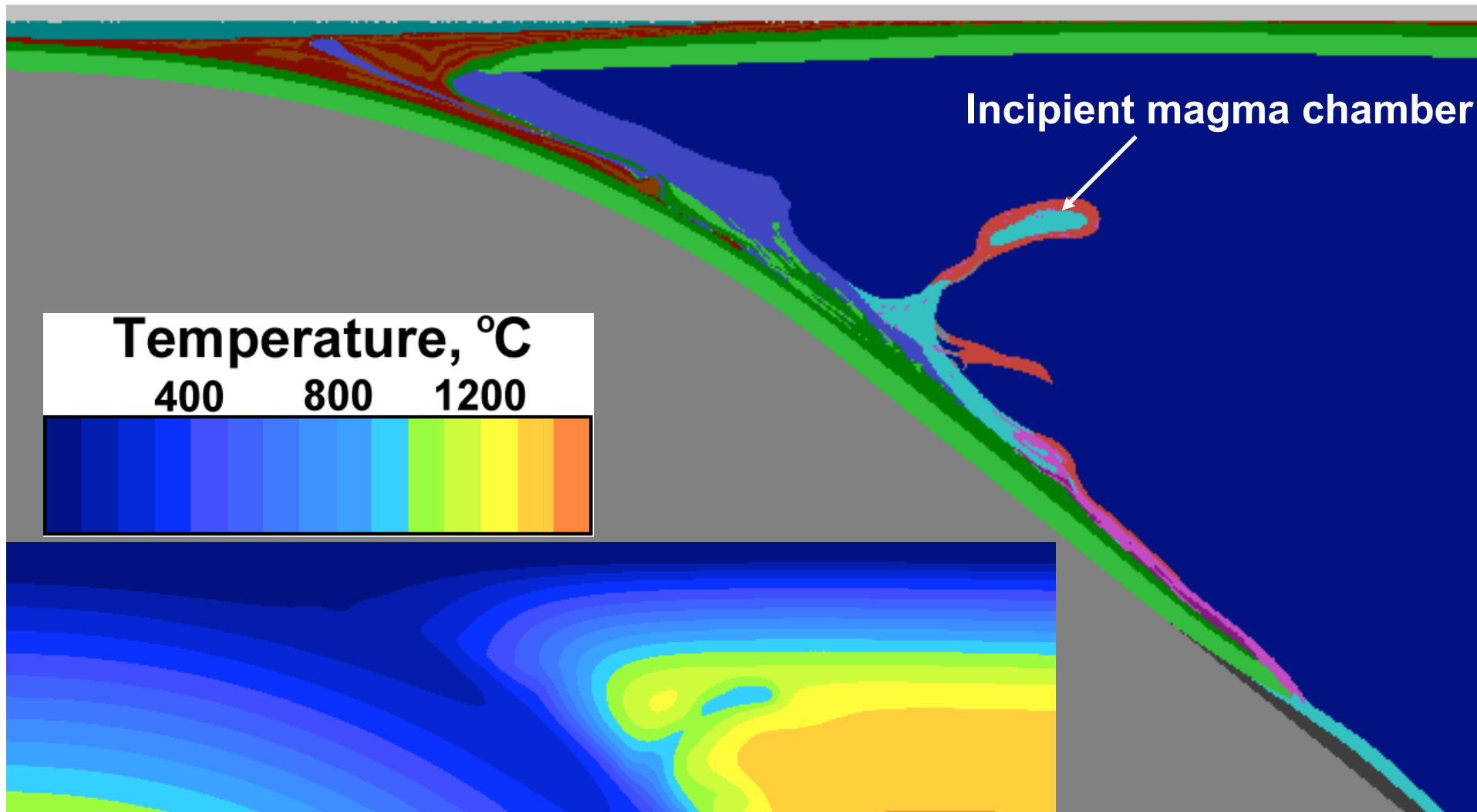


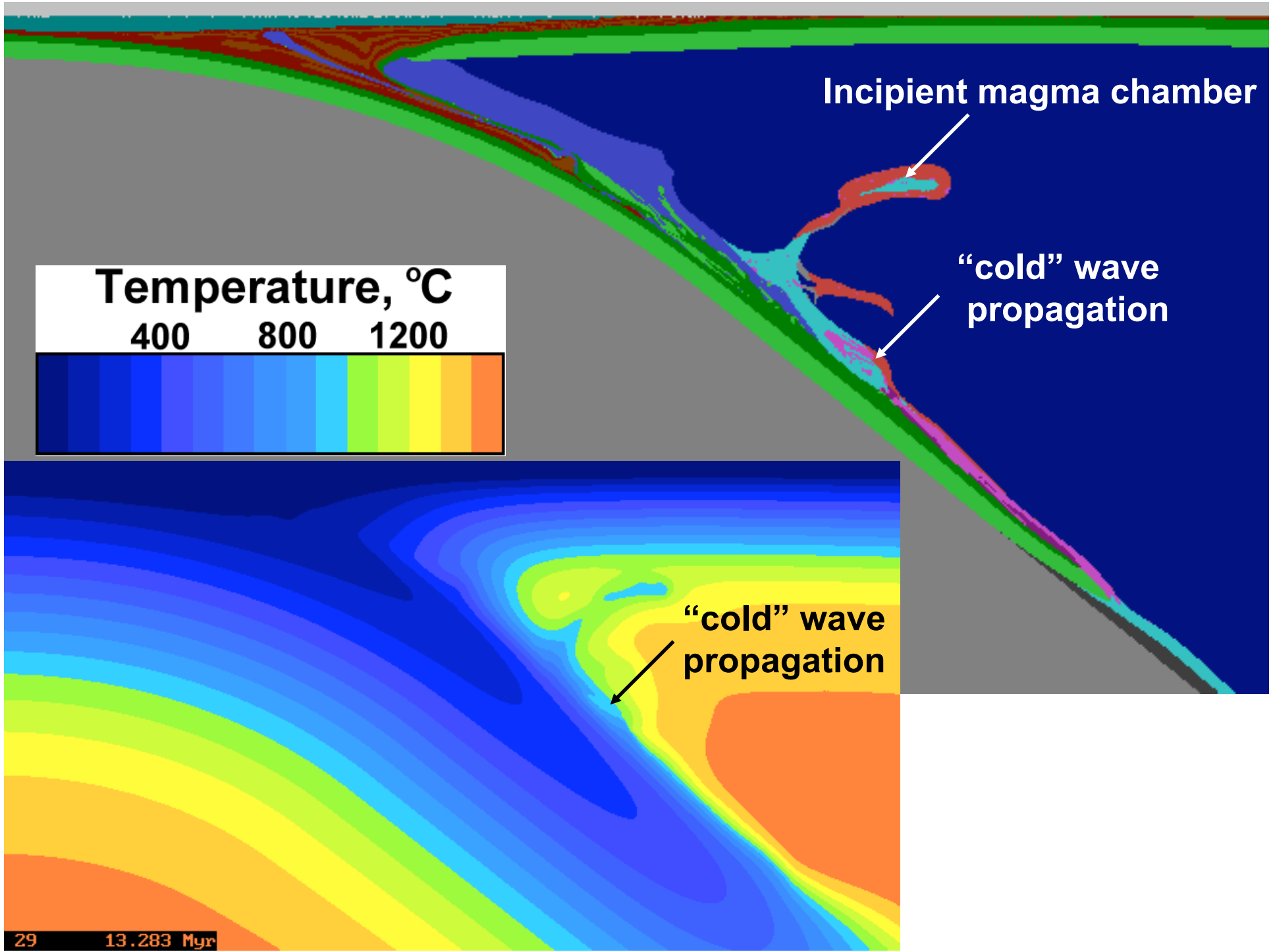


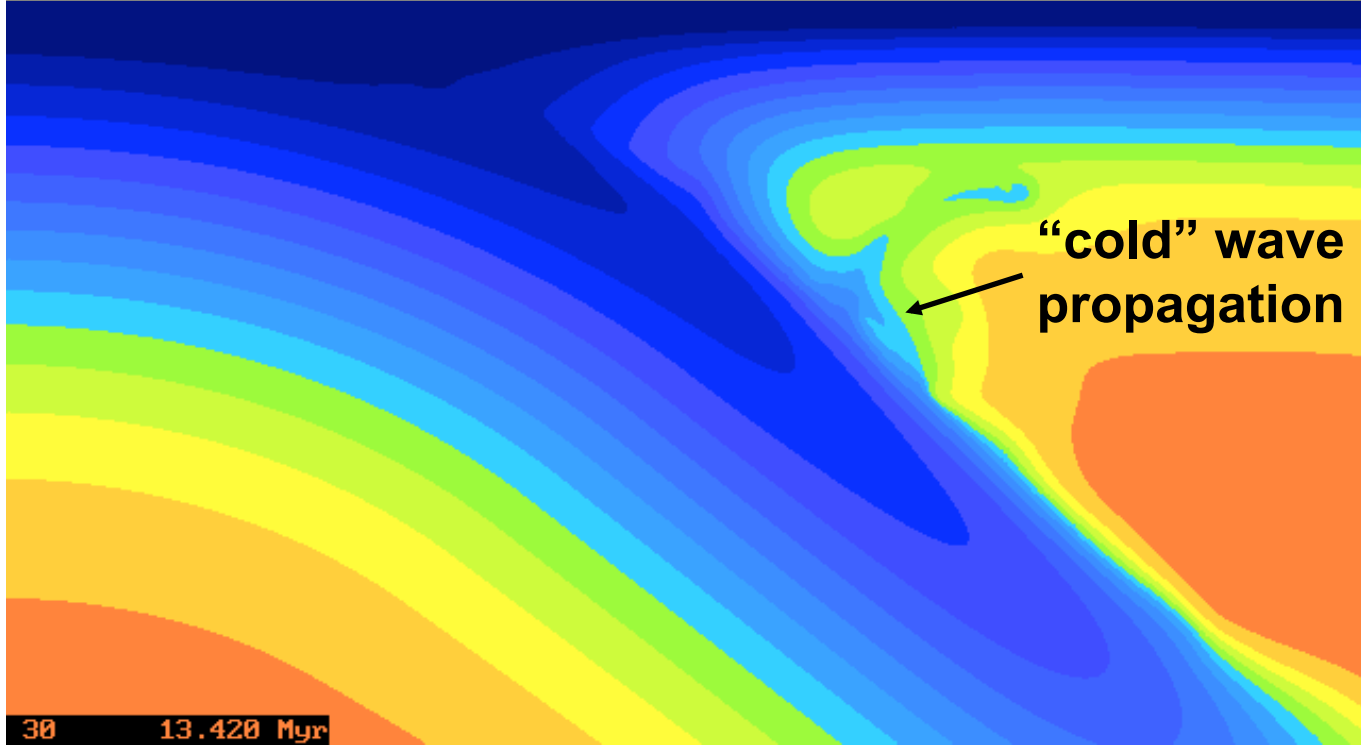
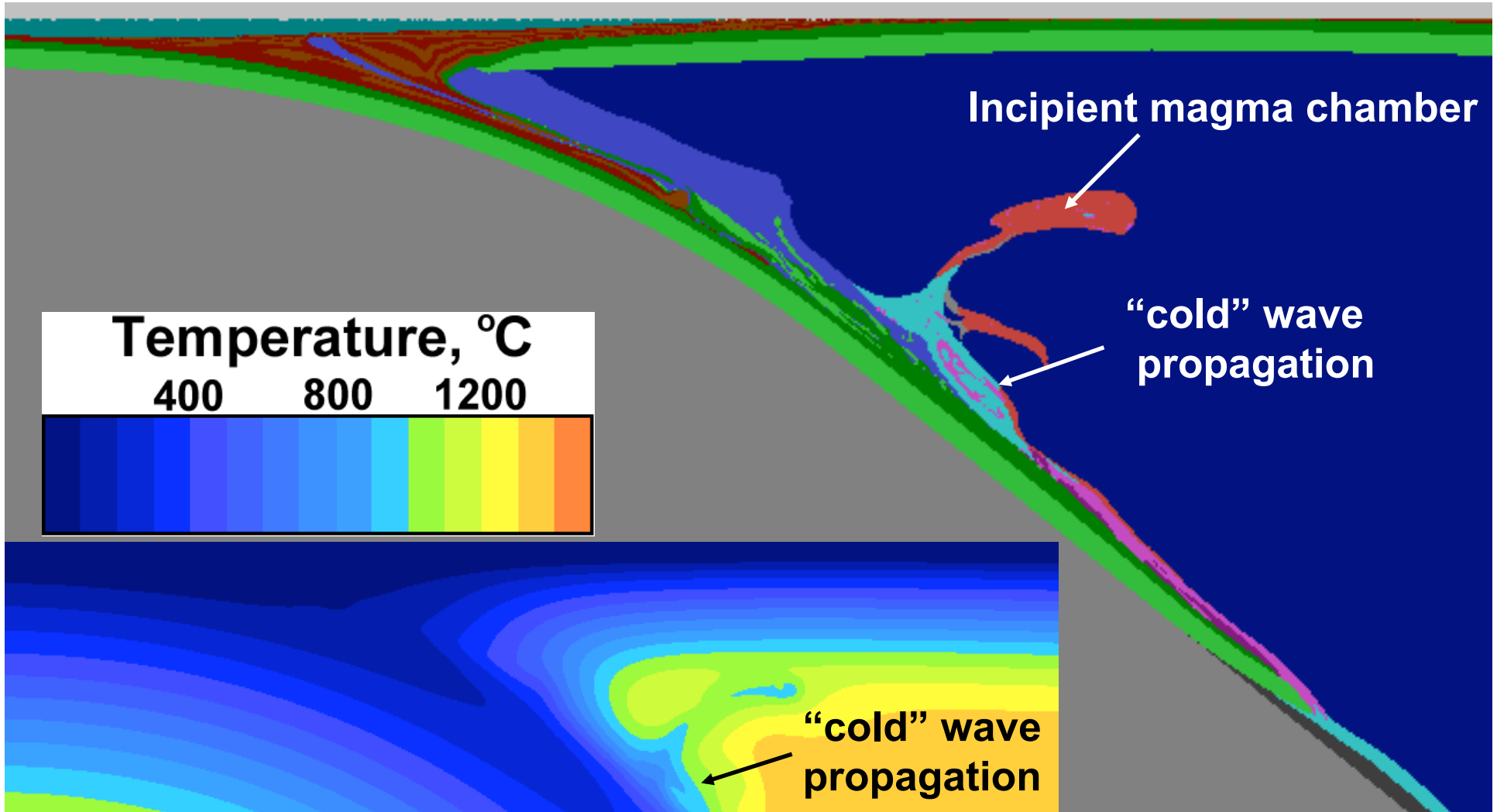


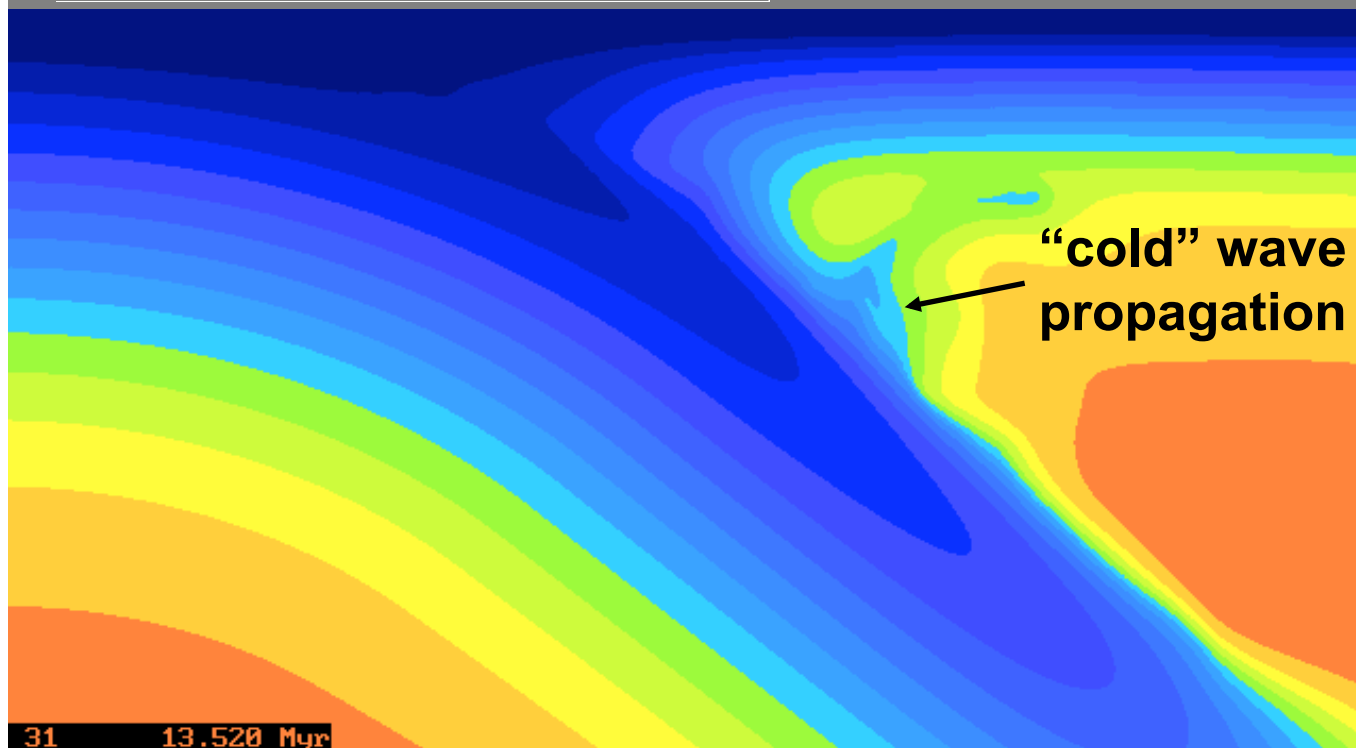
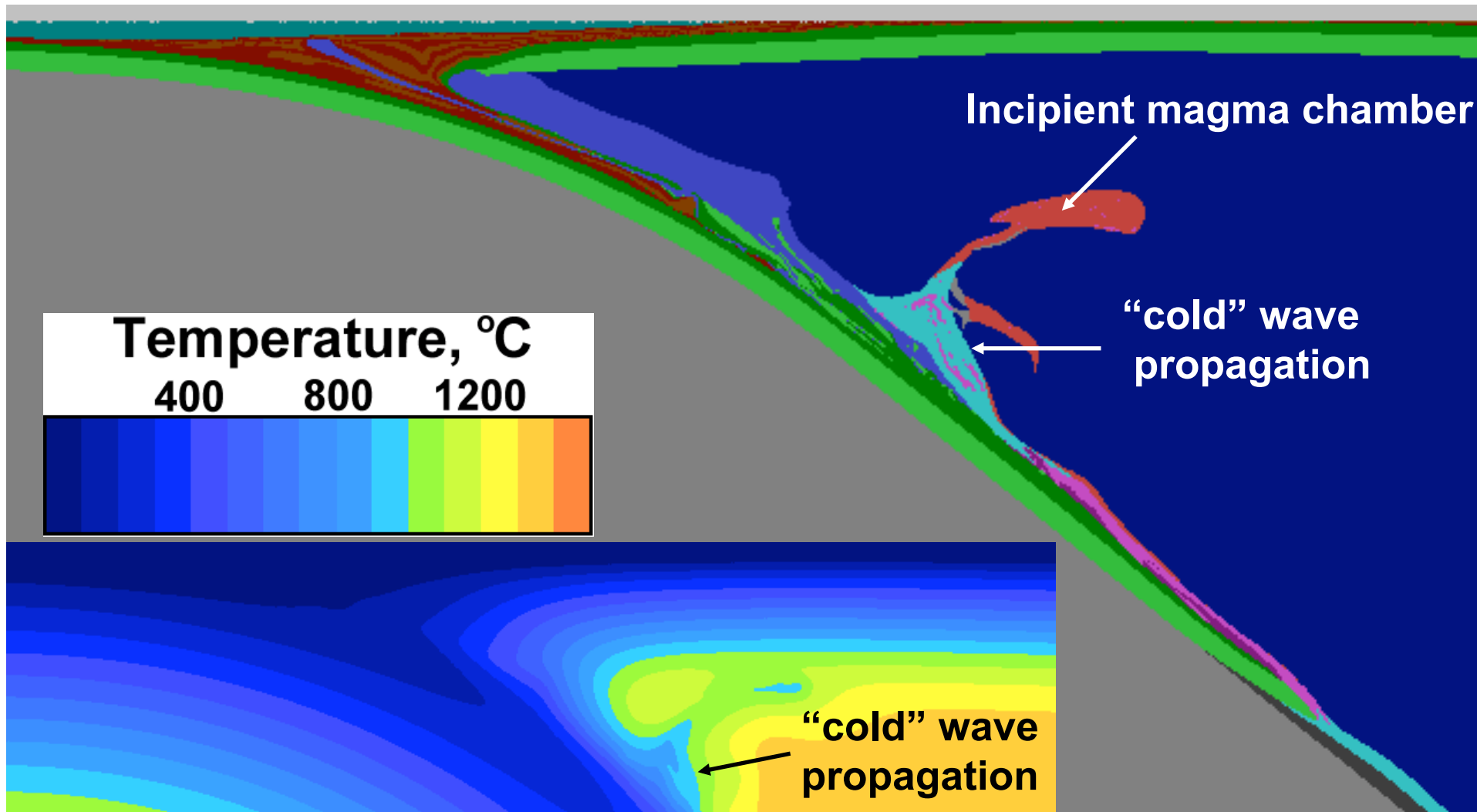


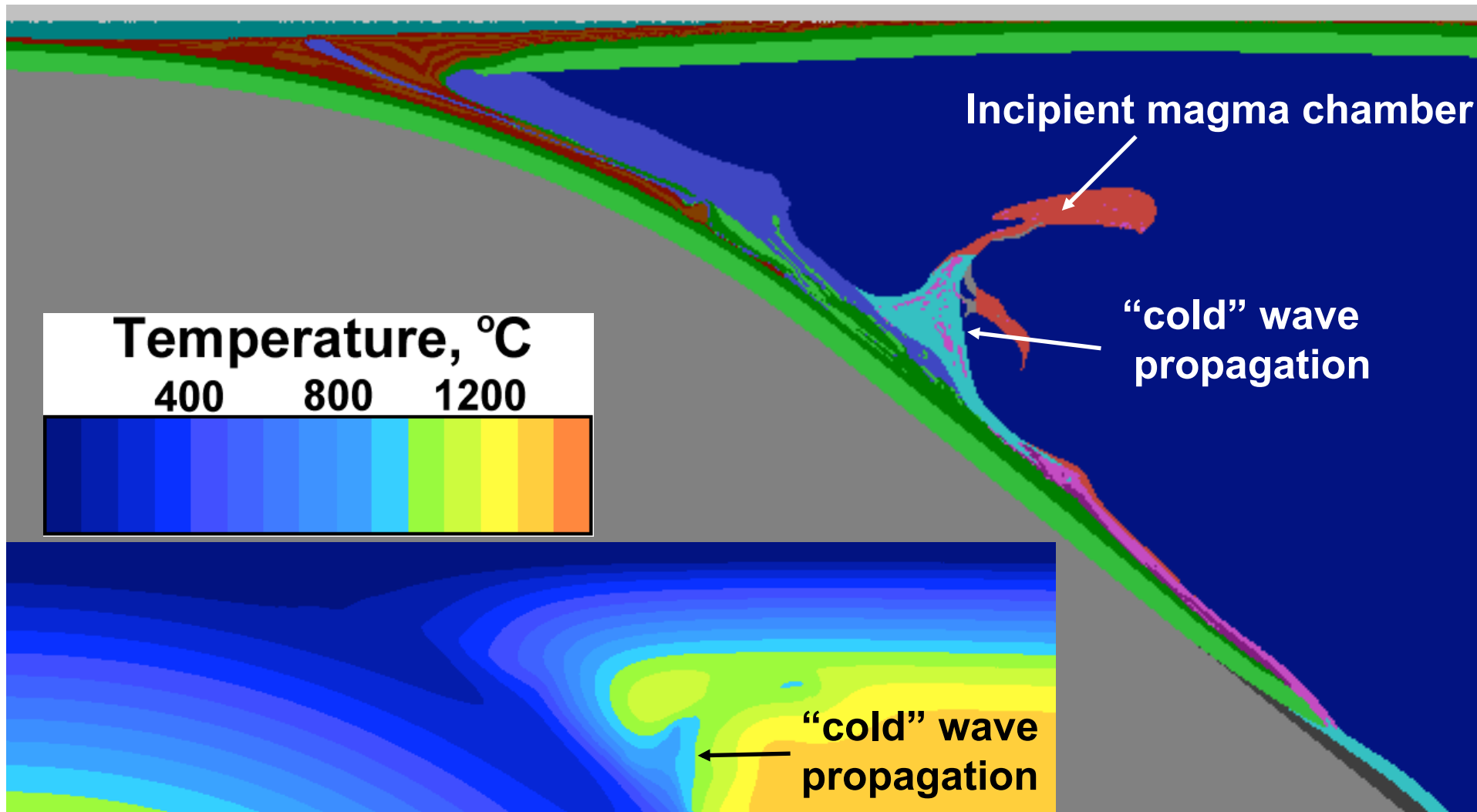


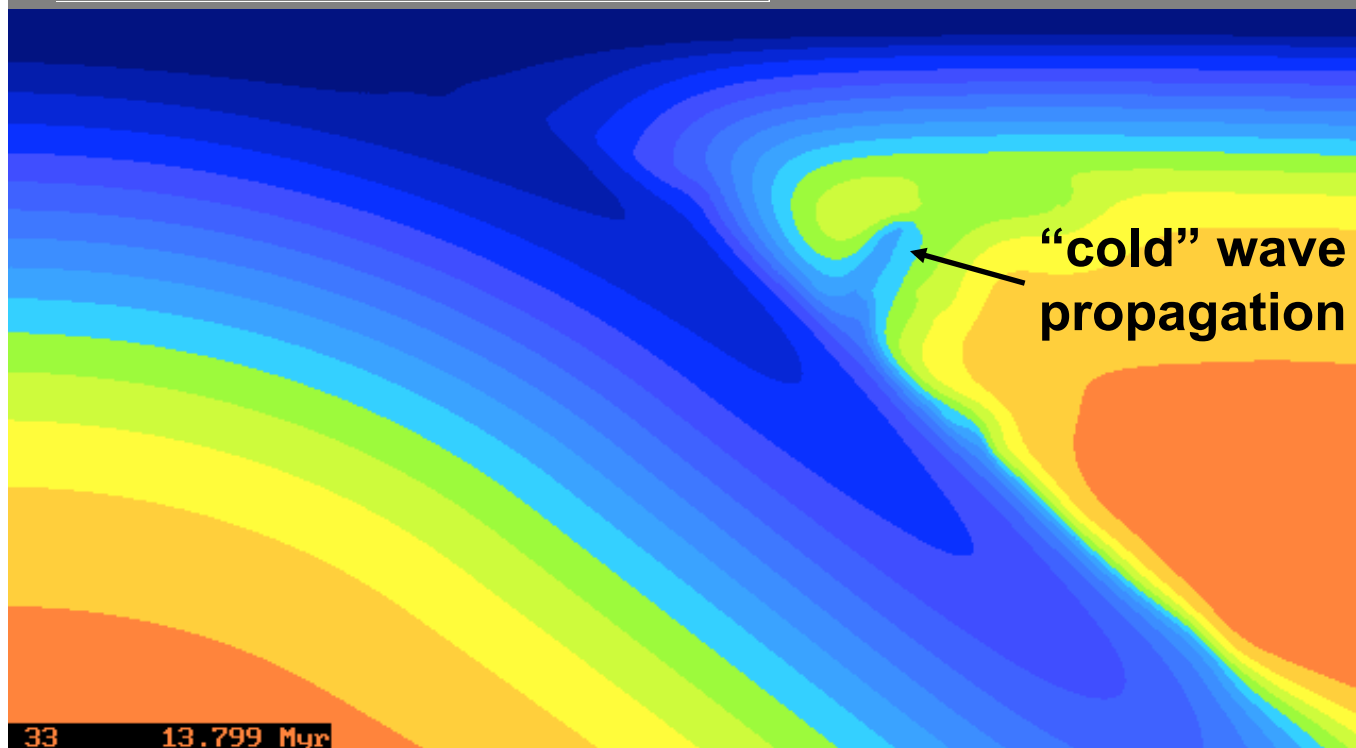
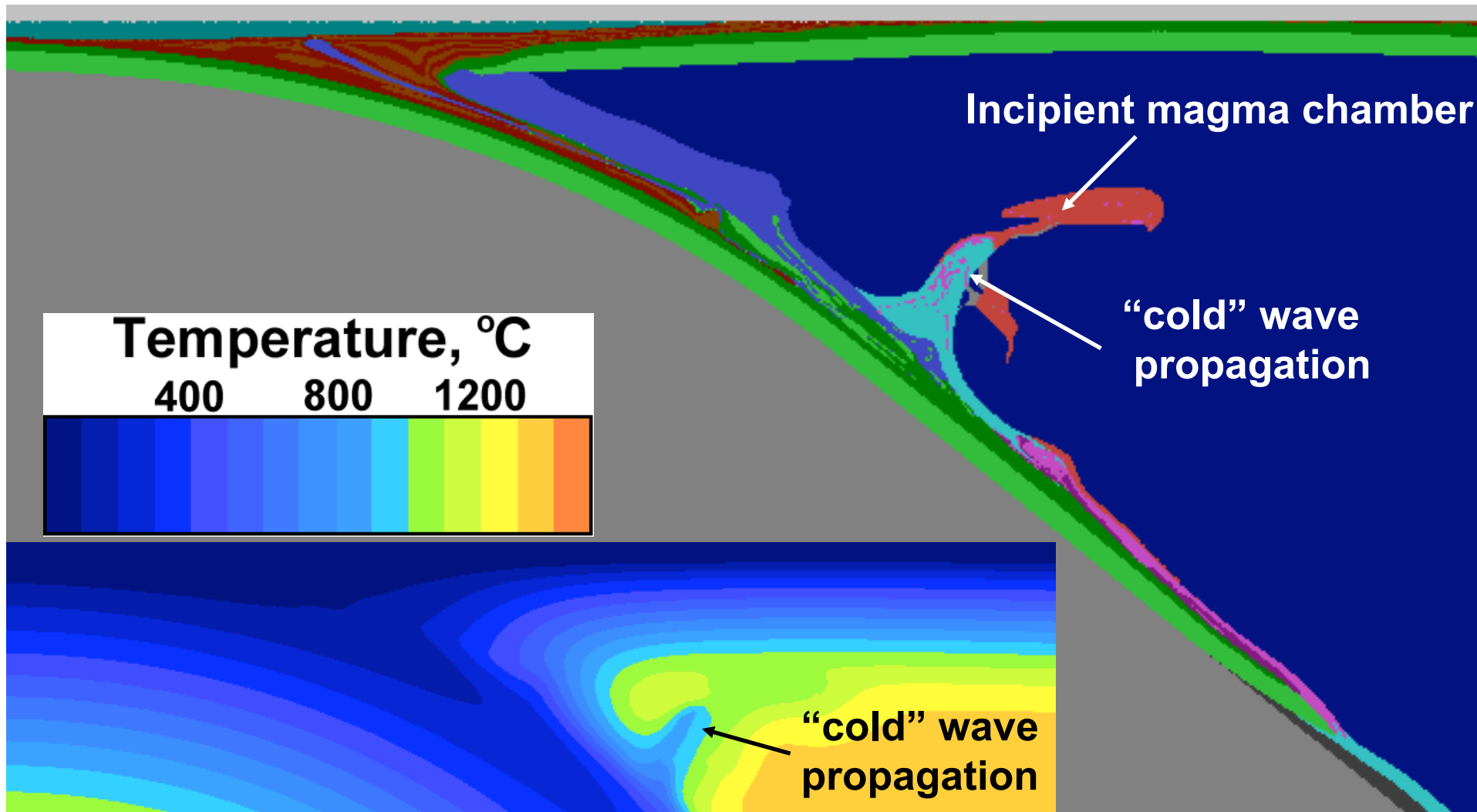


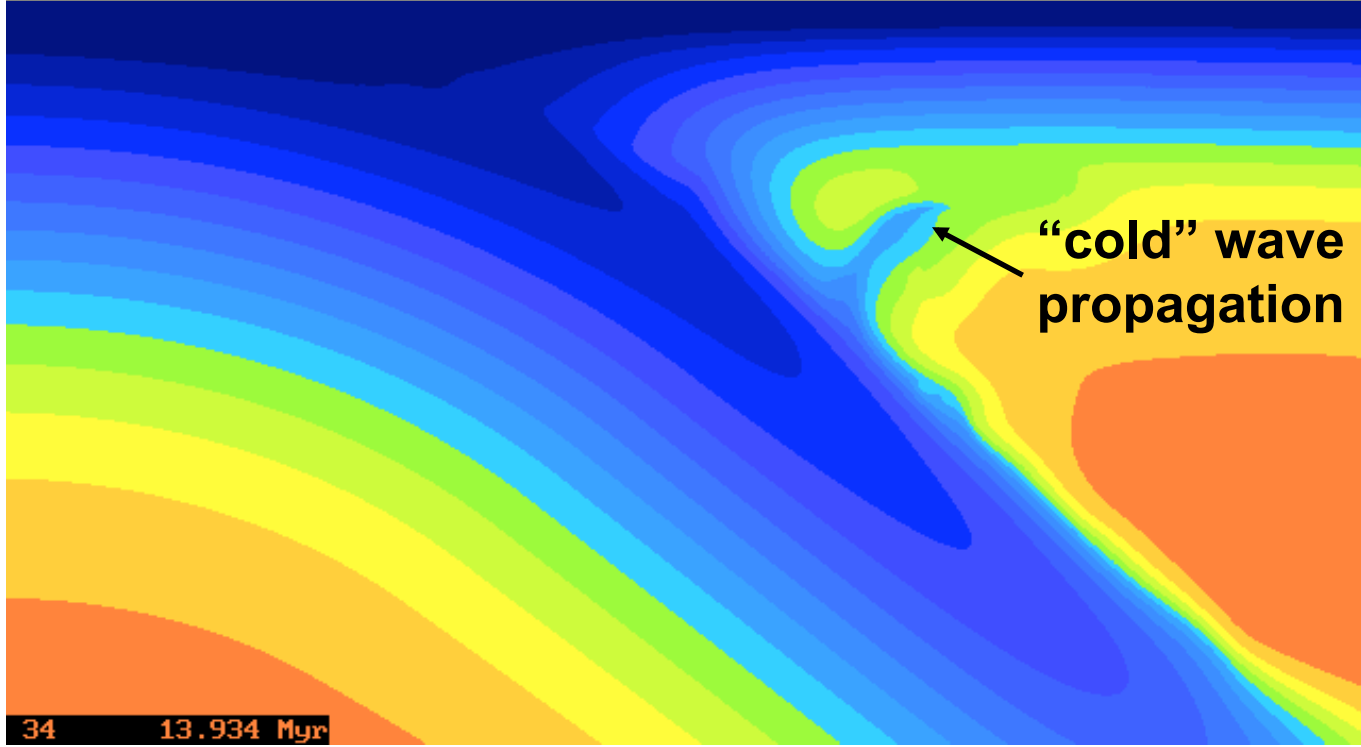
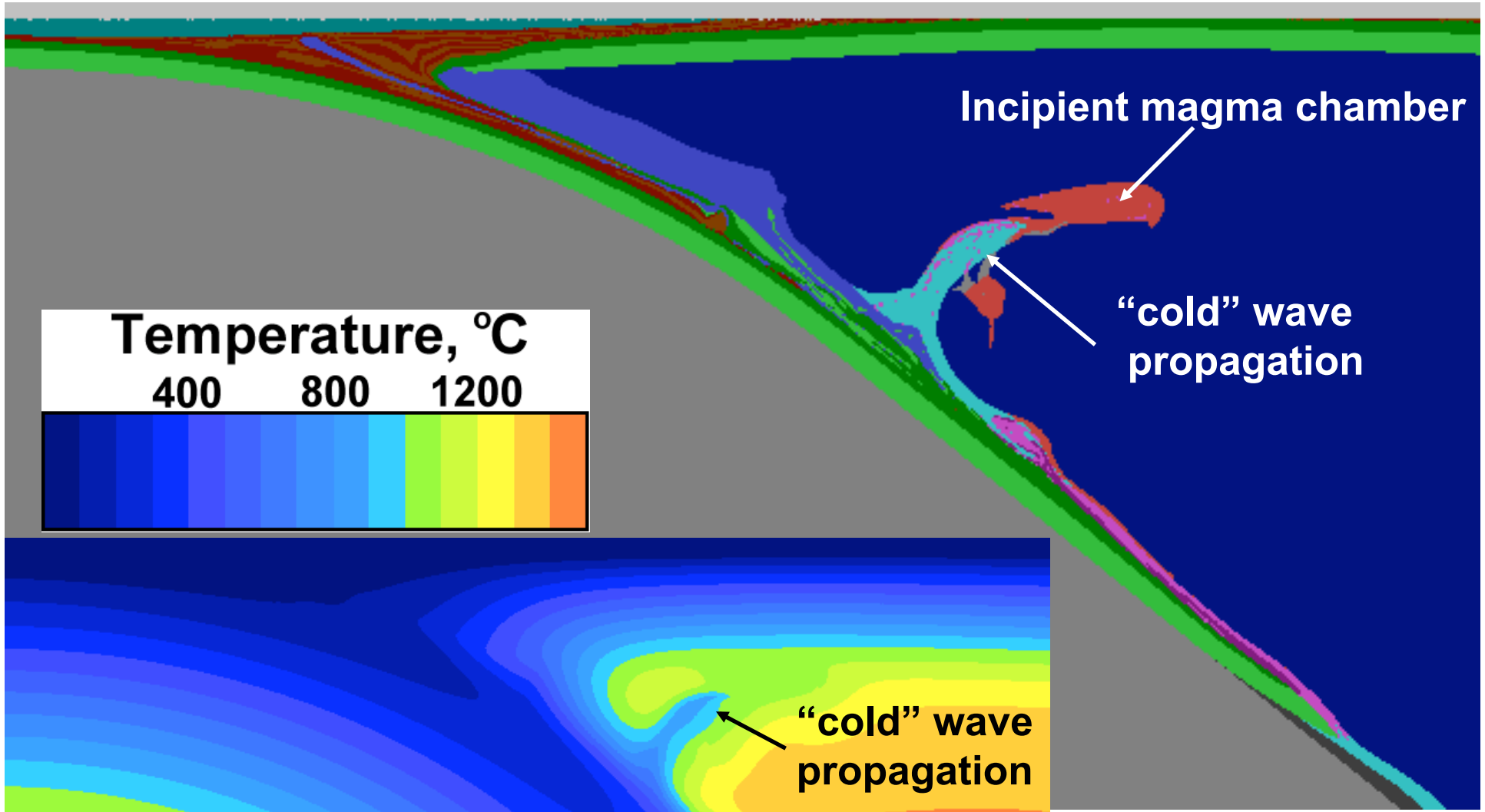


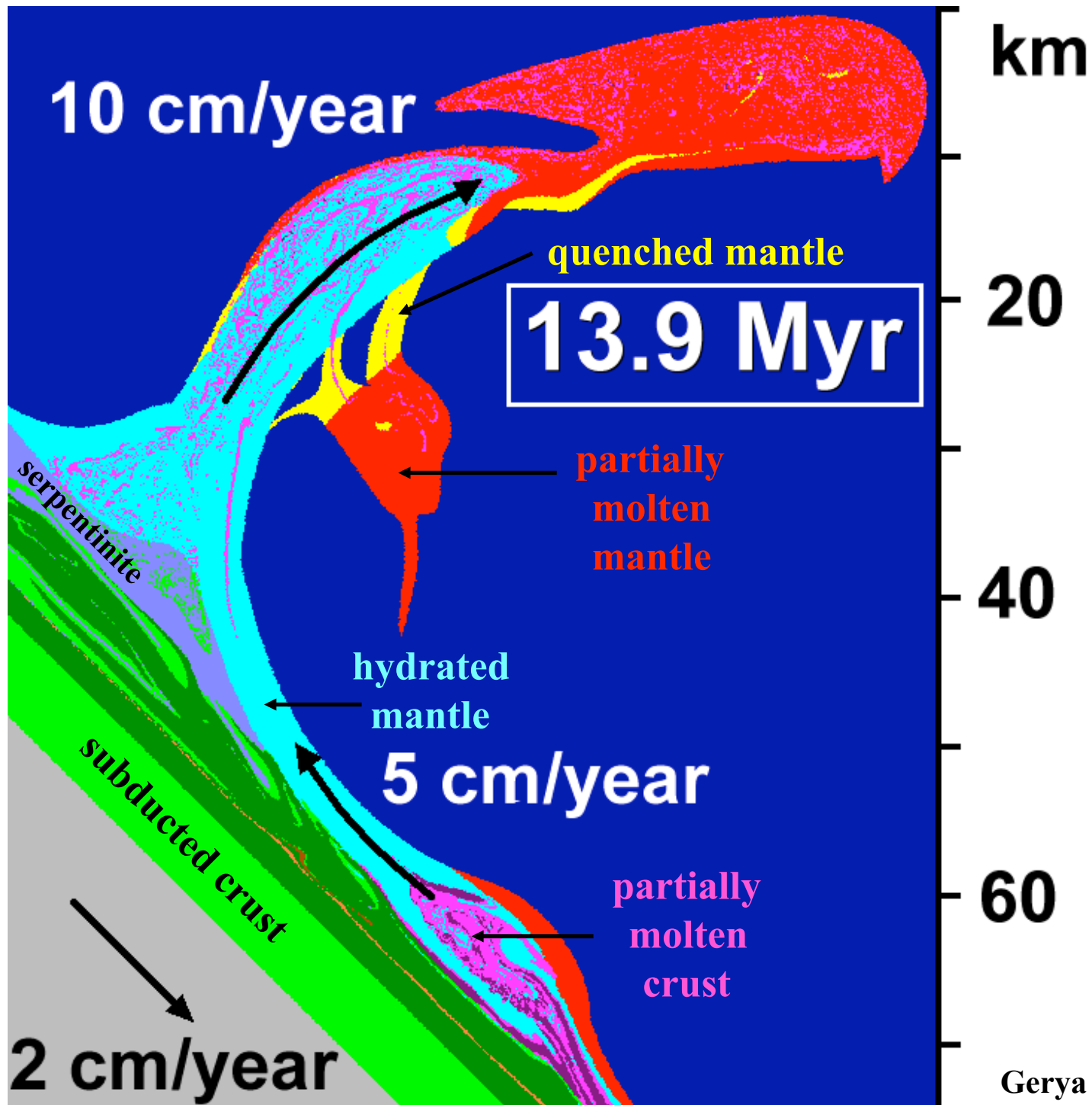




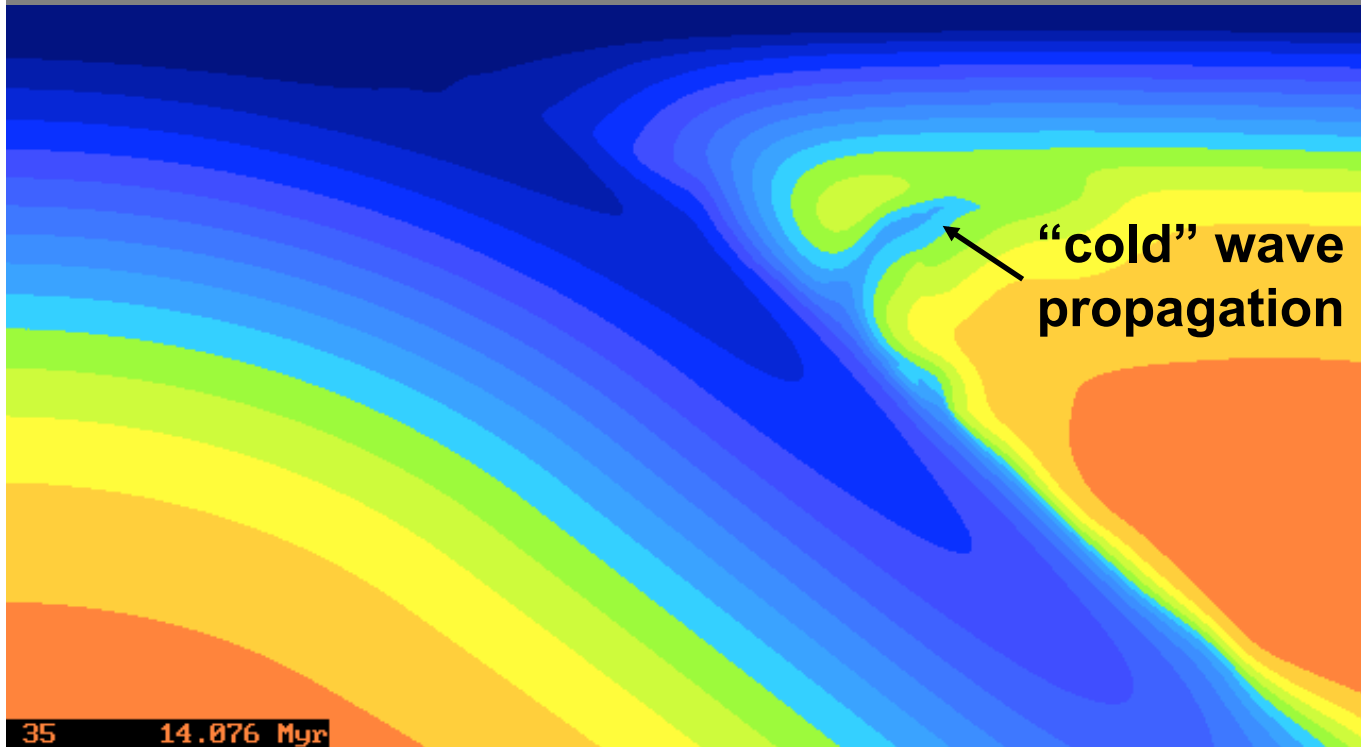
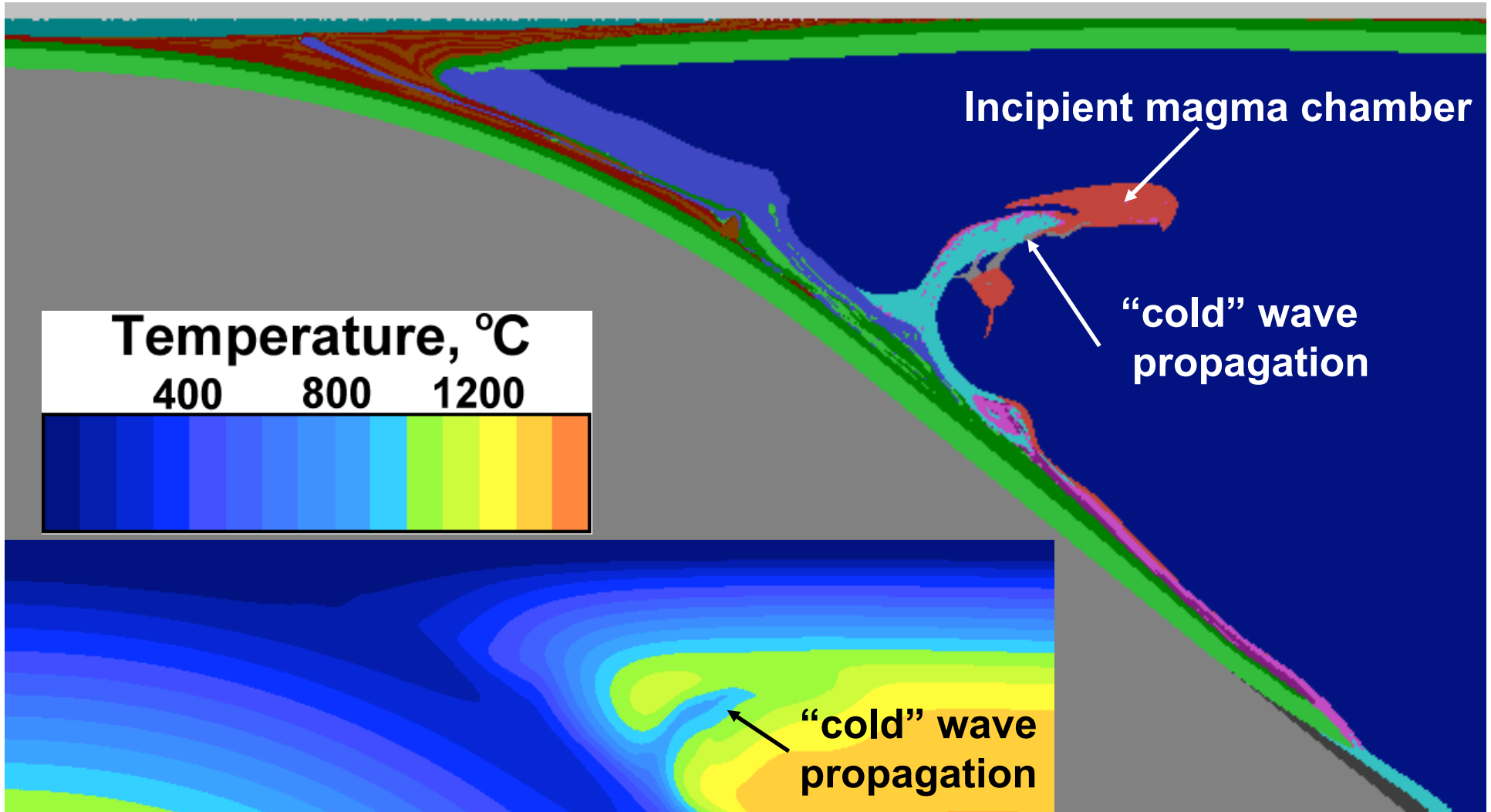


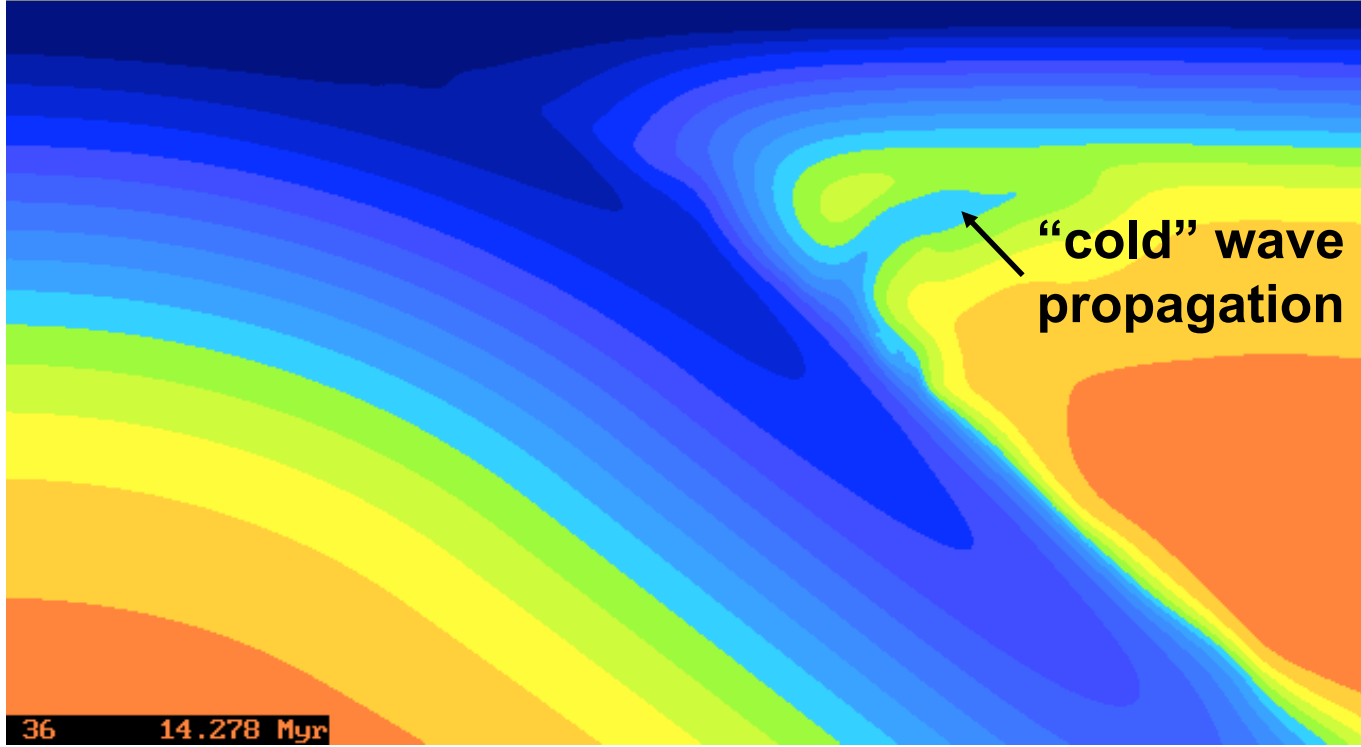
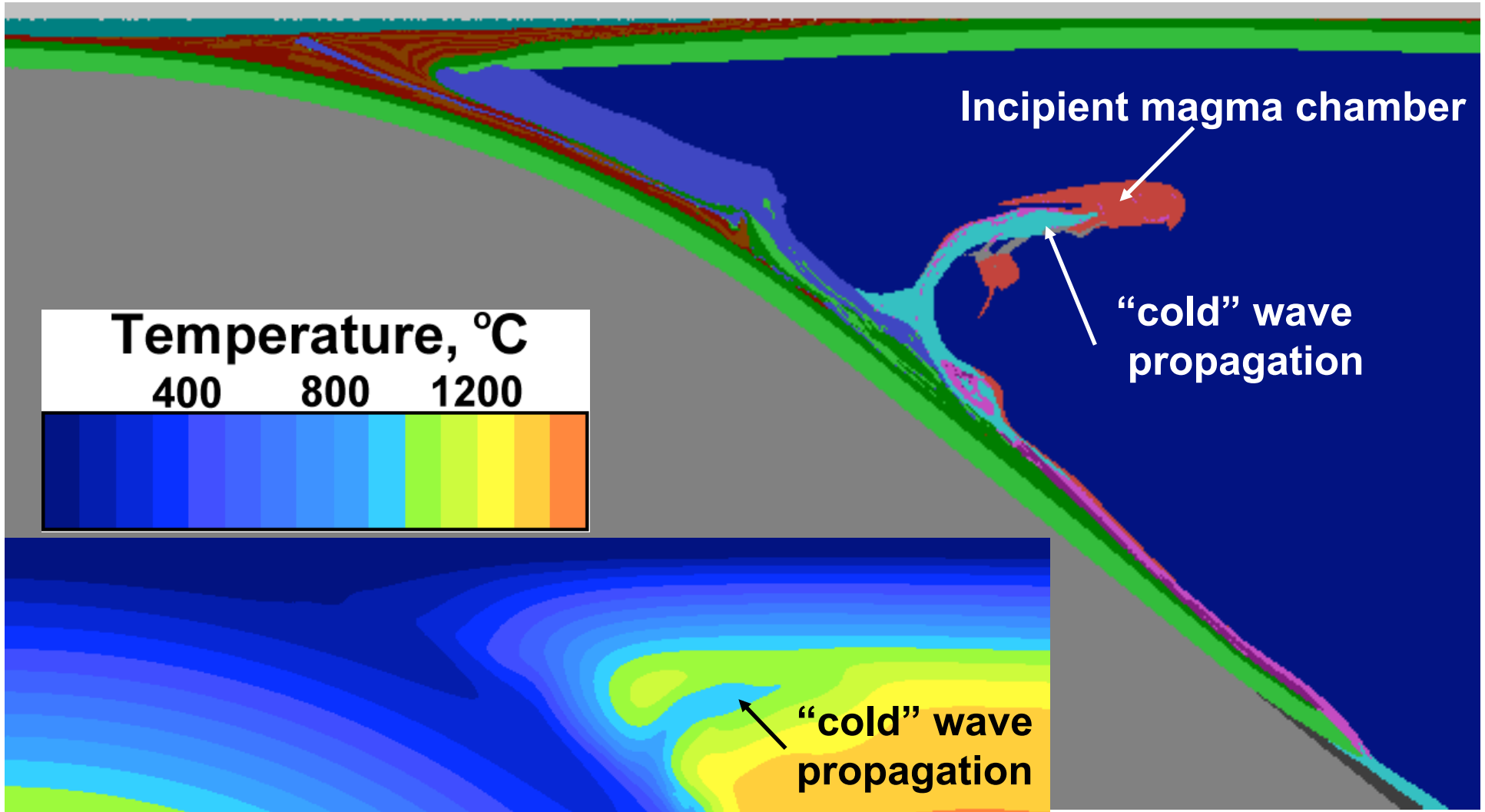


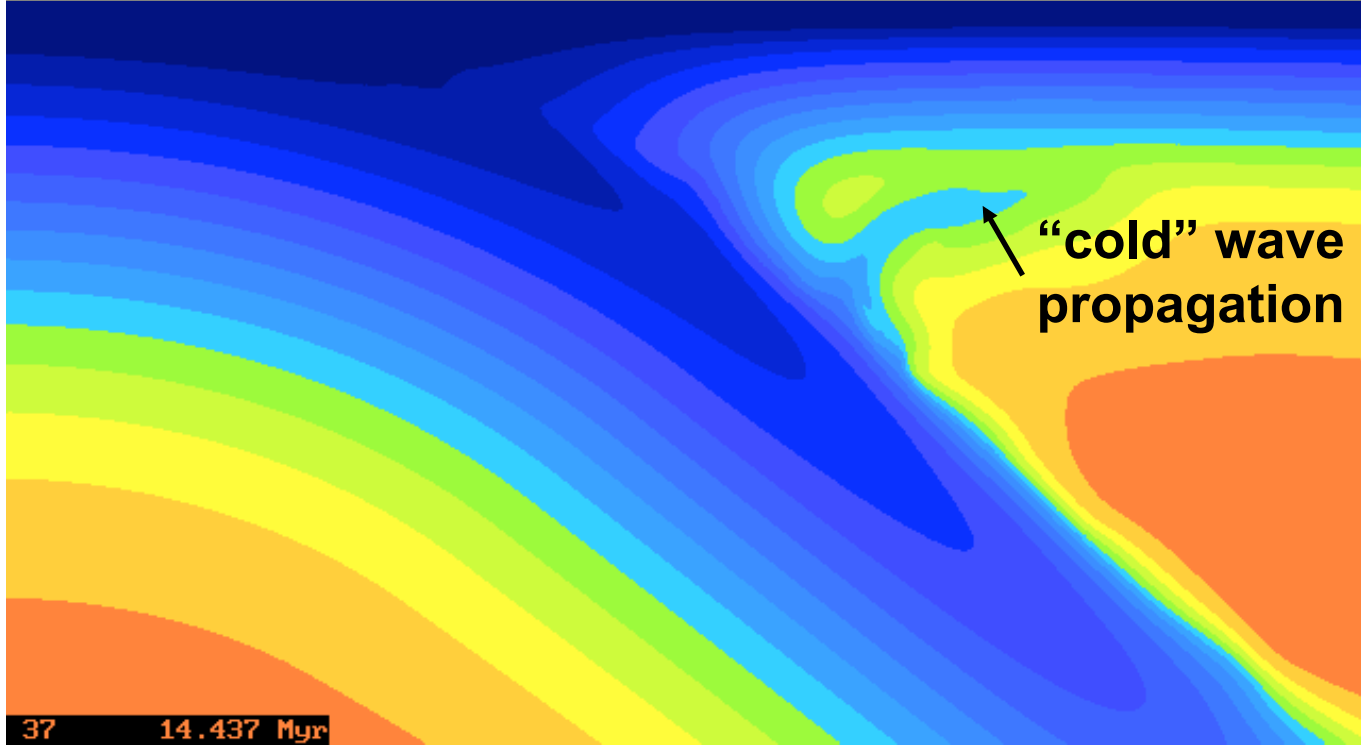
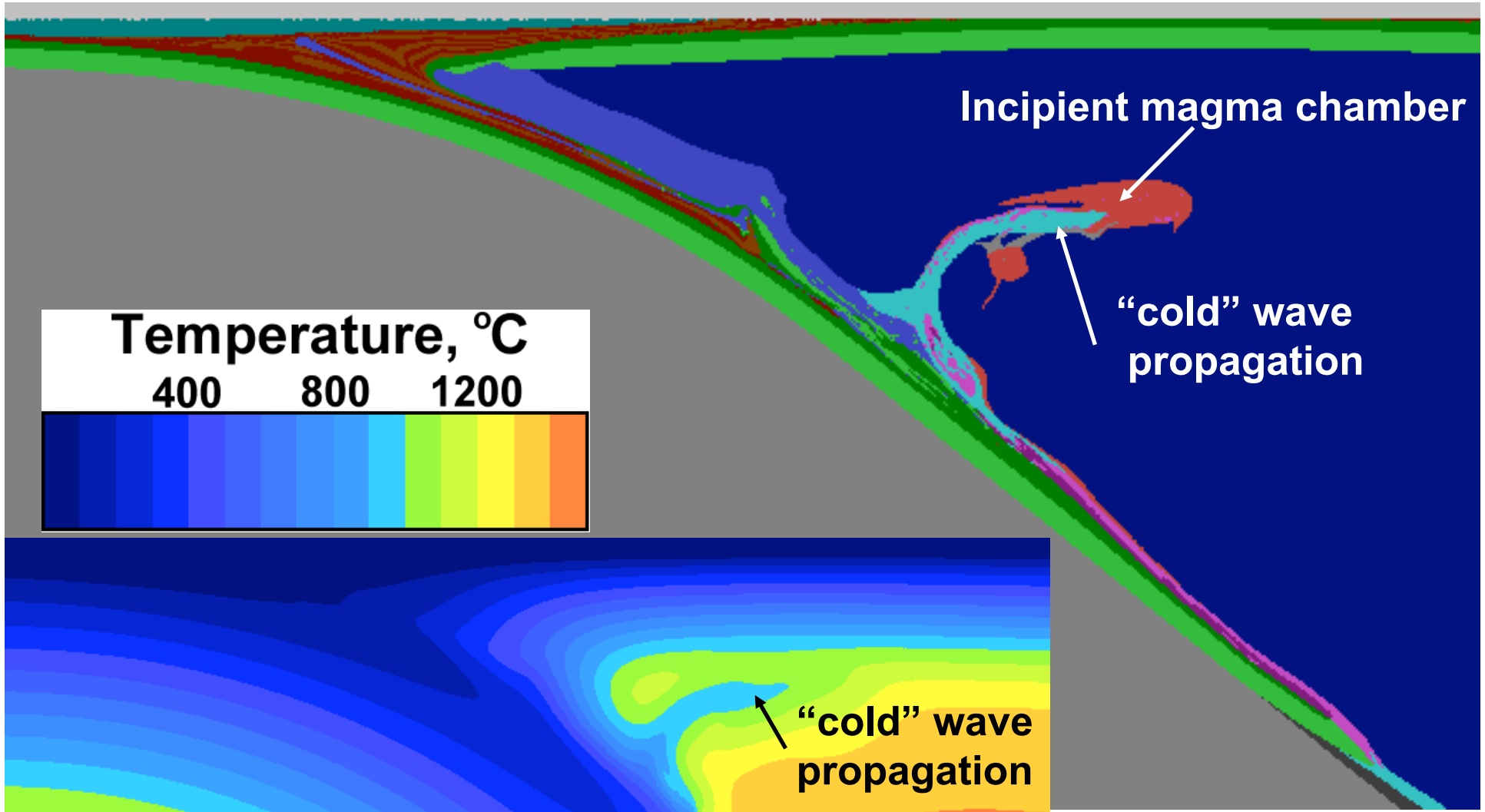


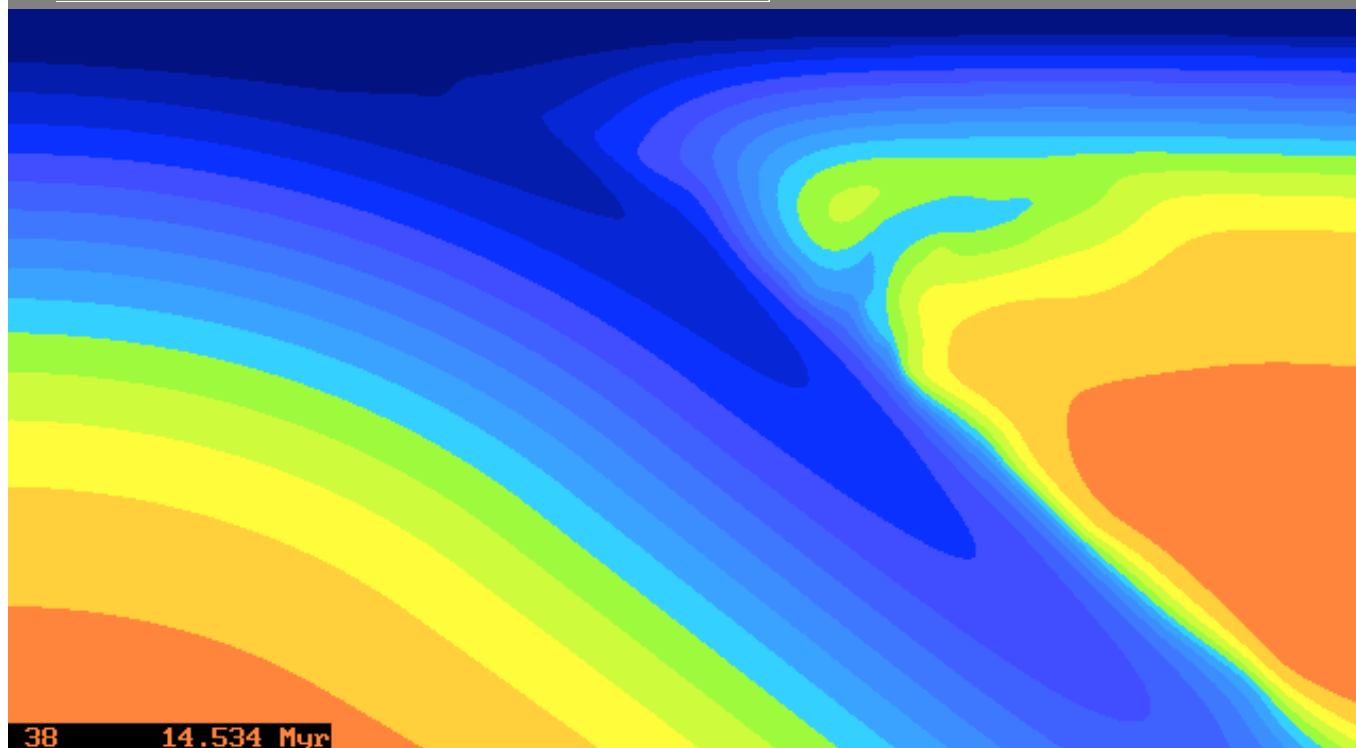
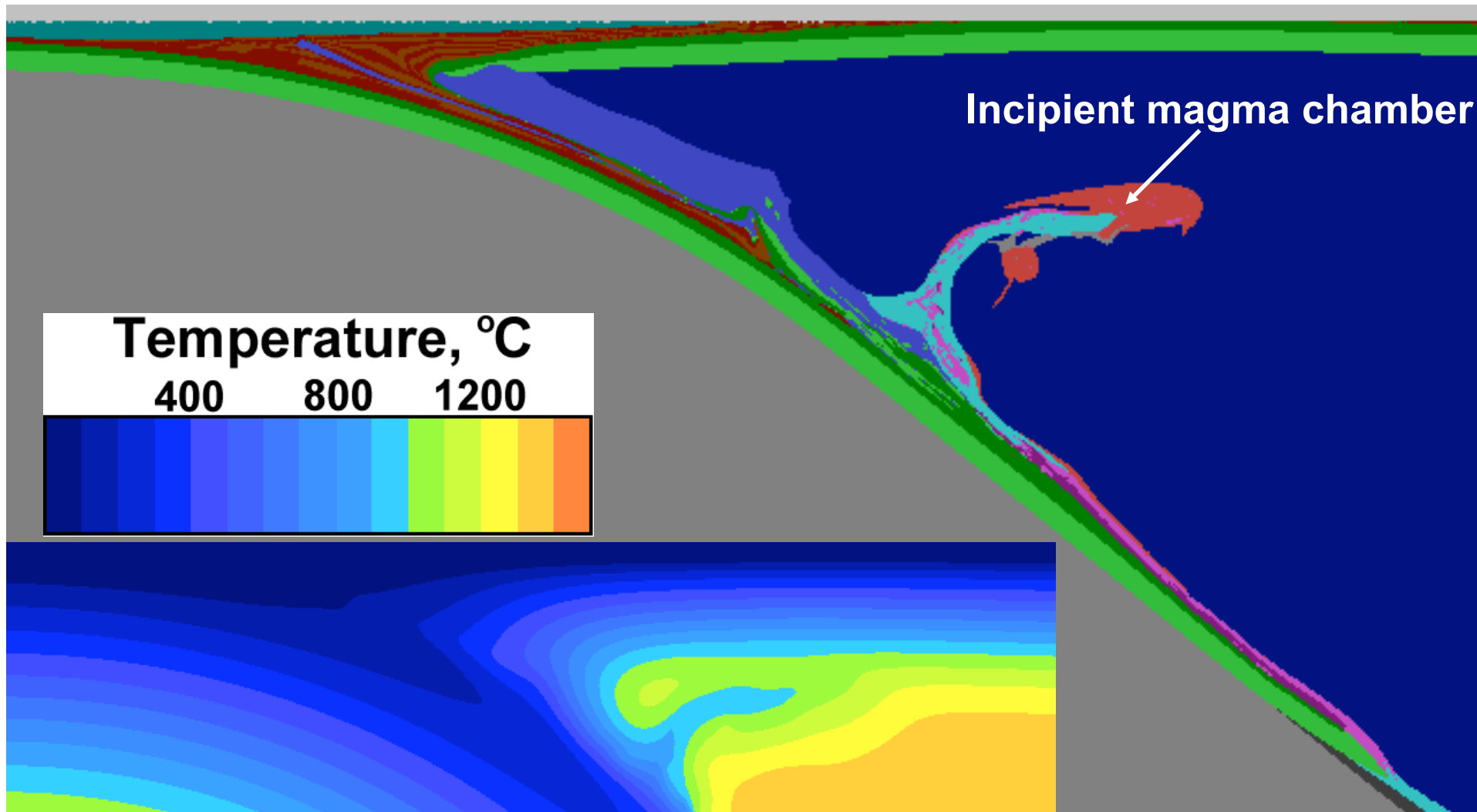


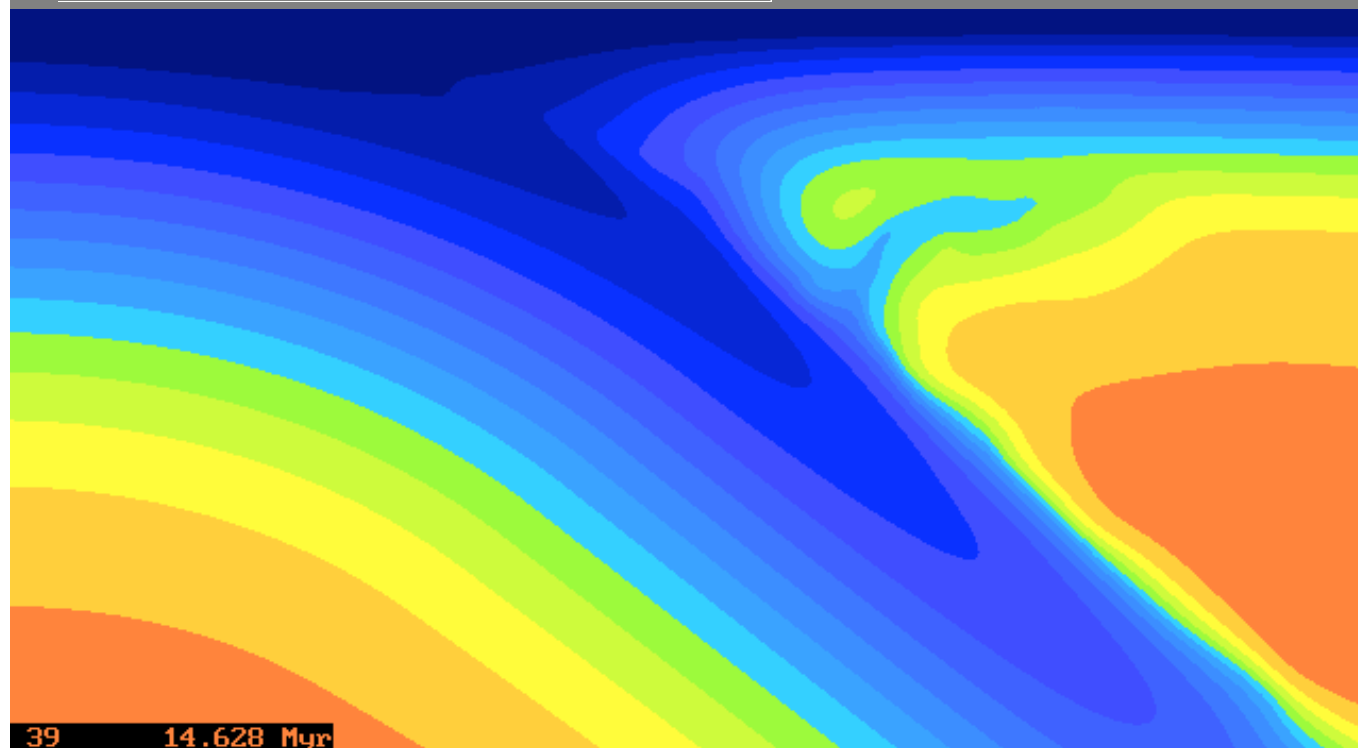
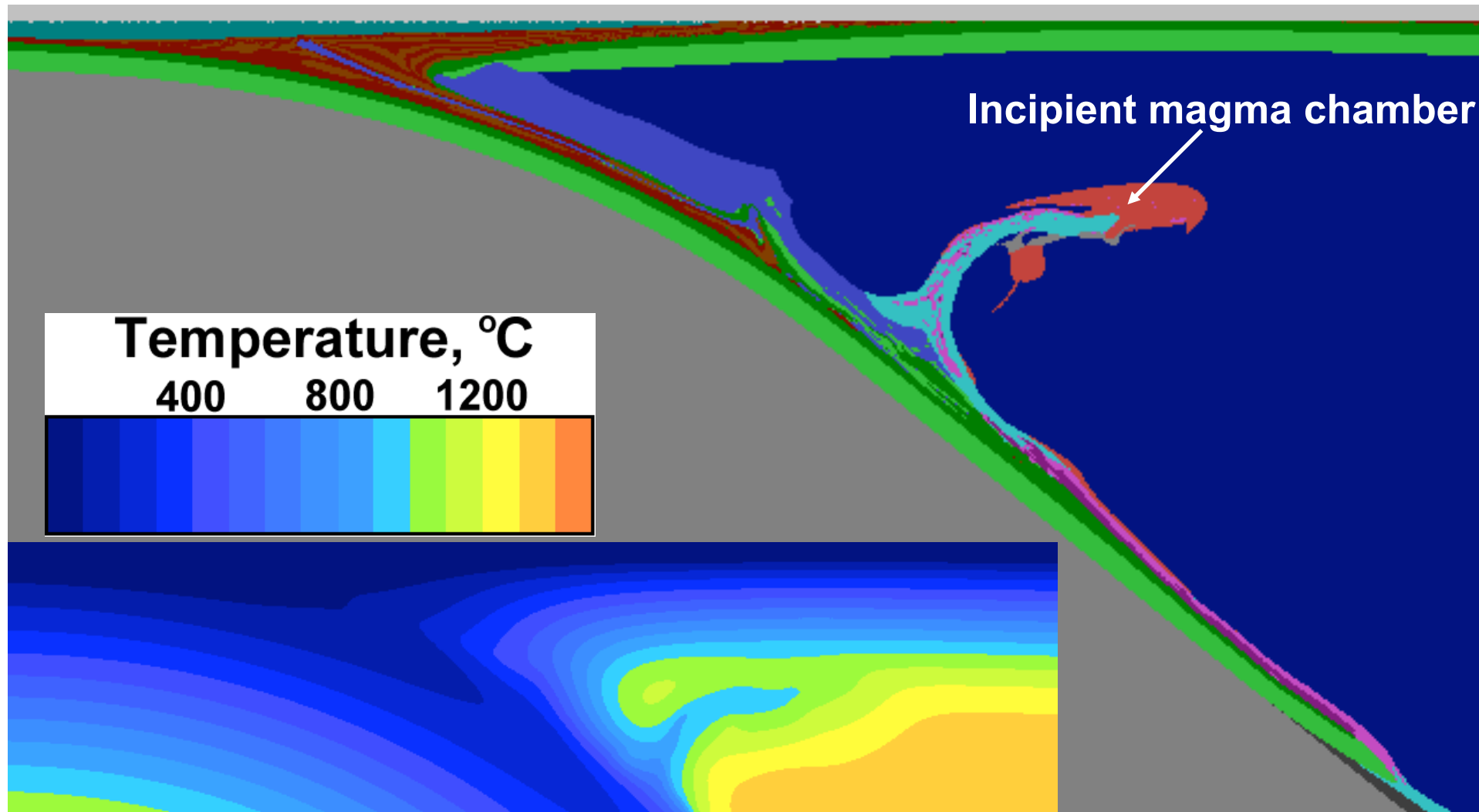
Gerya et al. (2004)

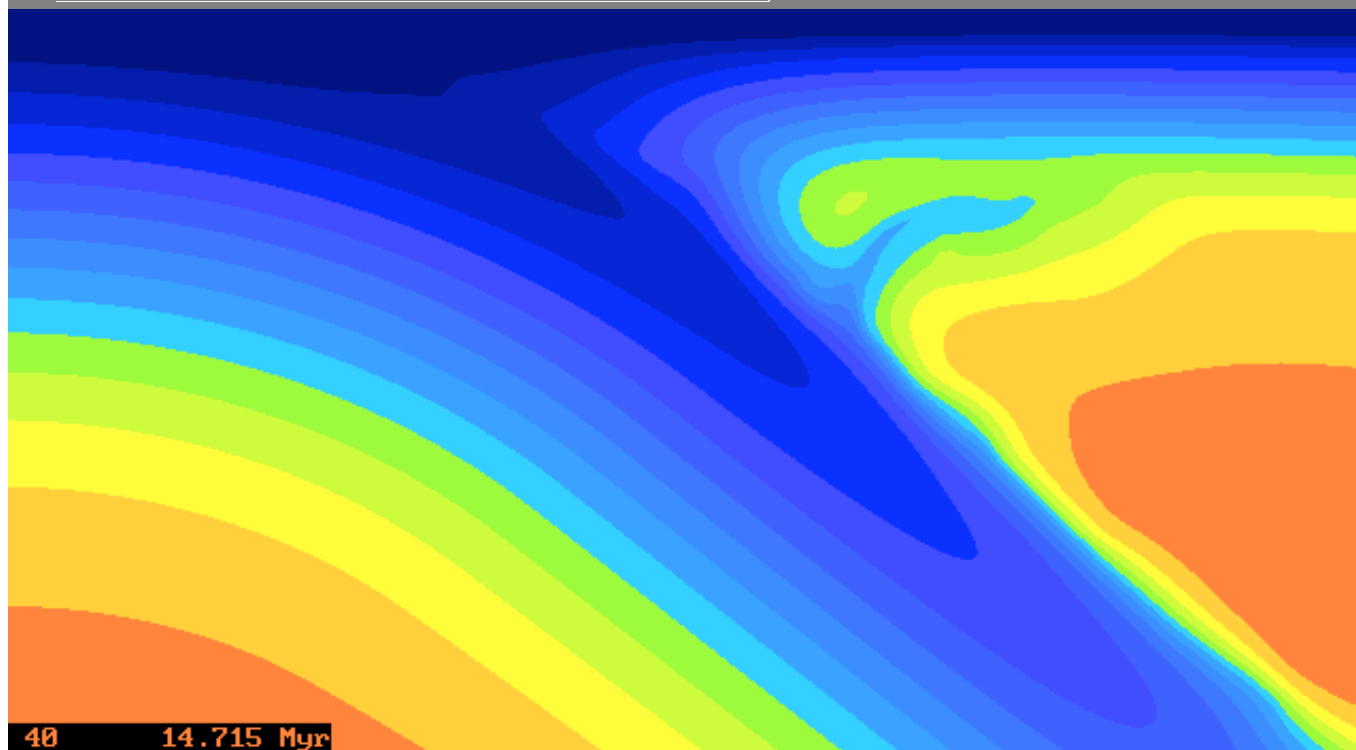
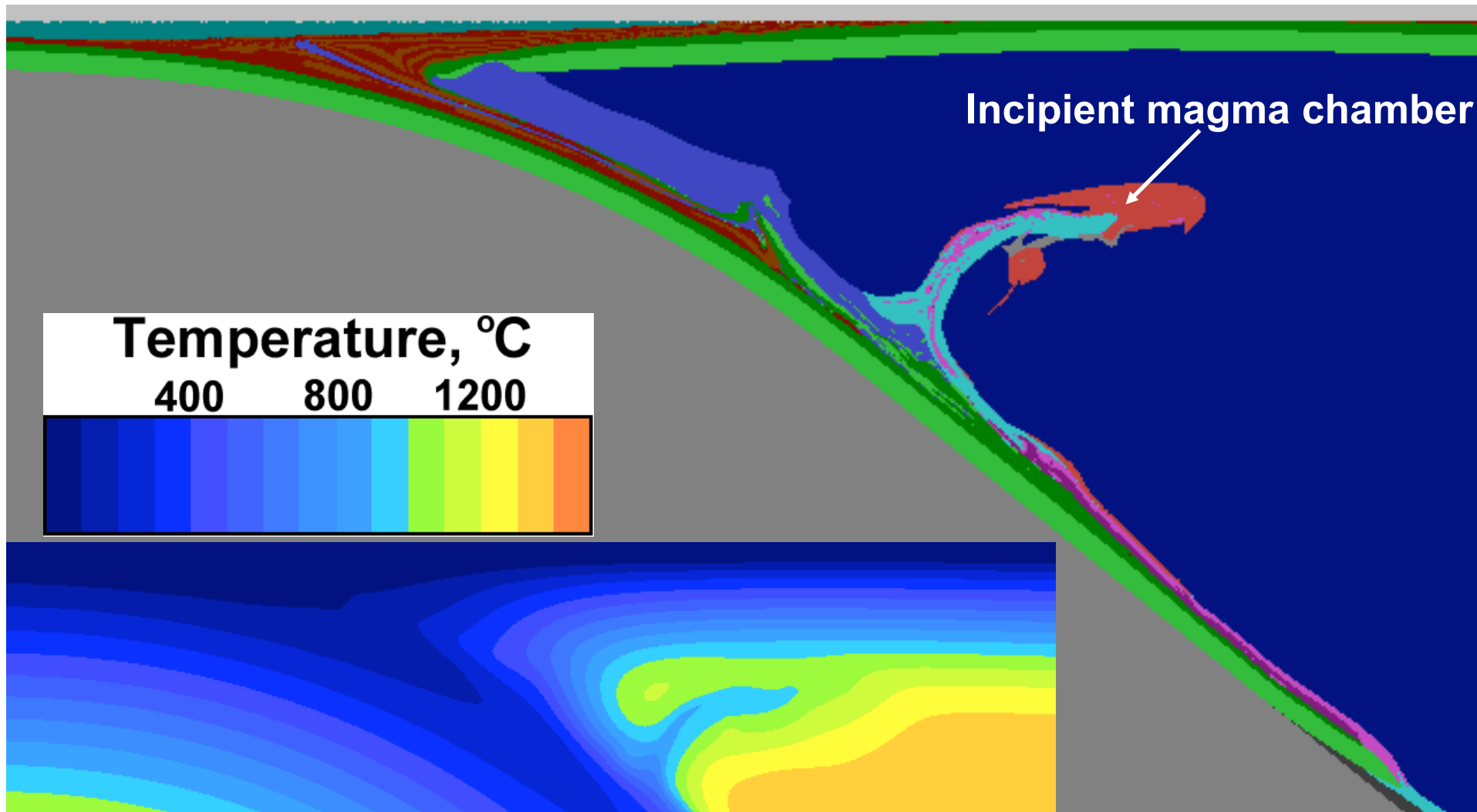


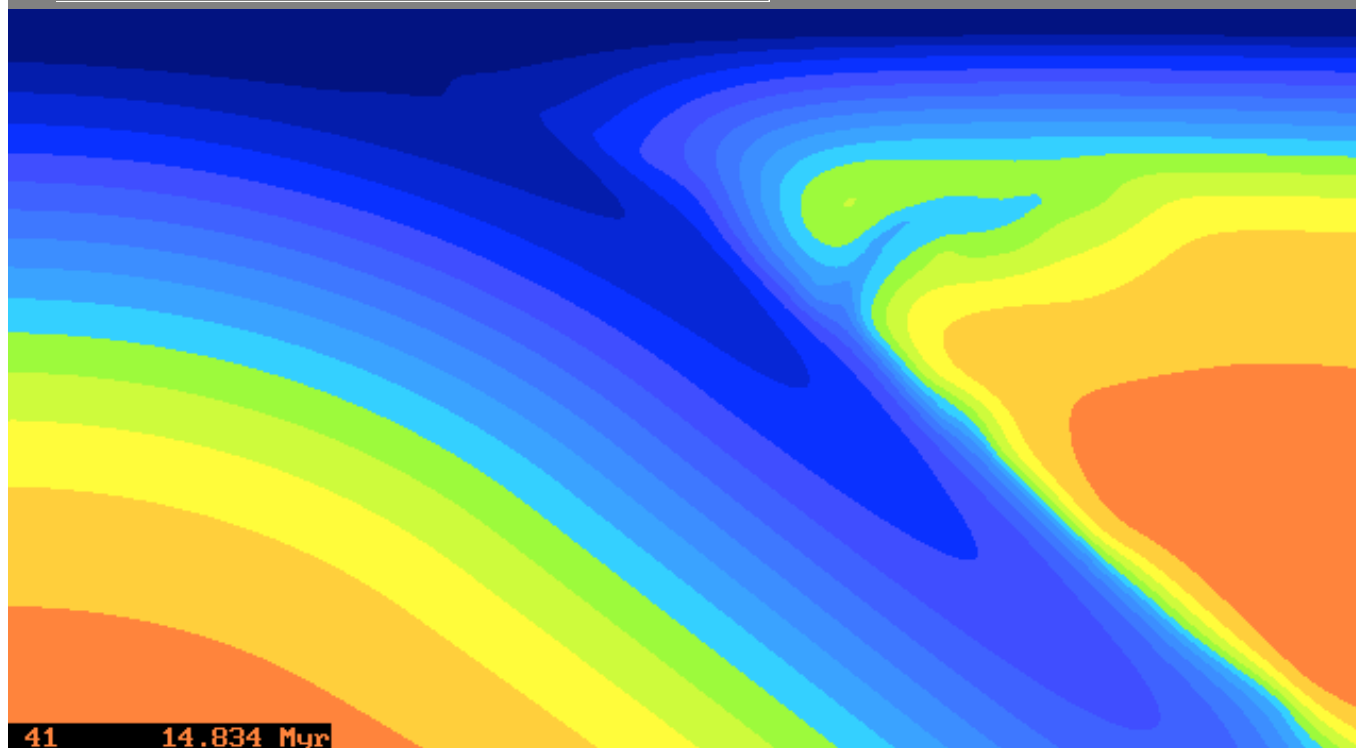
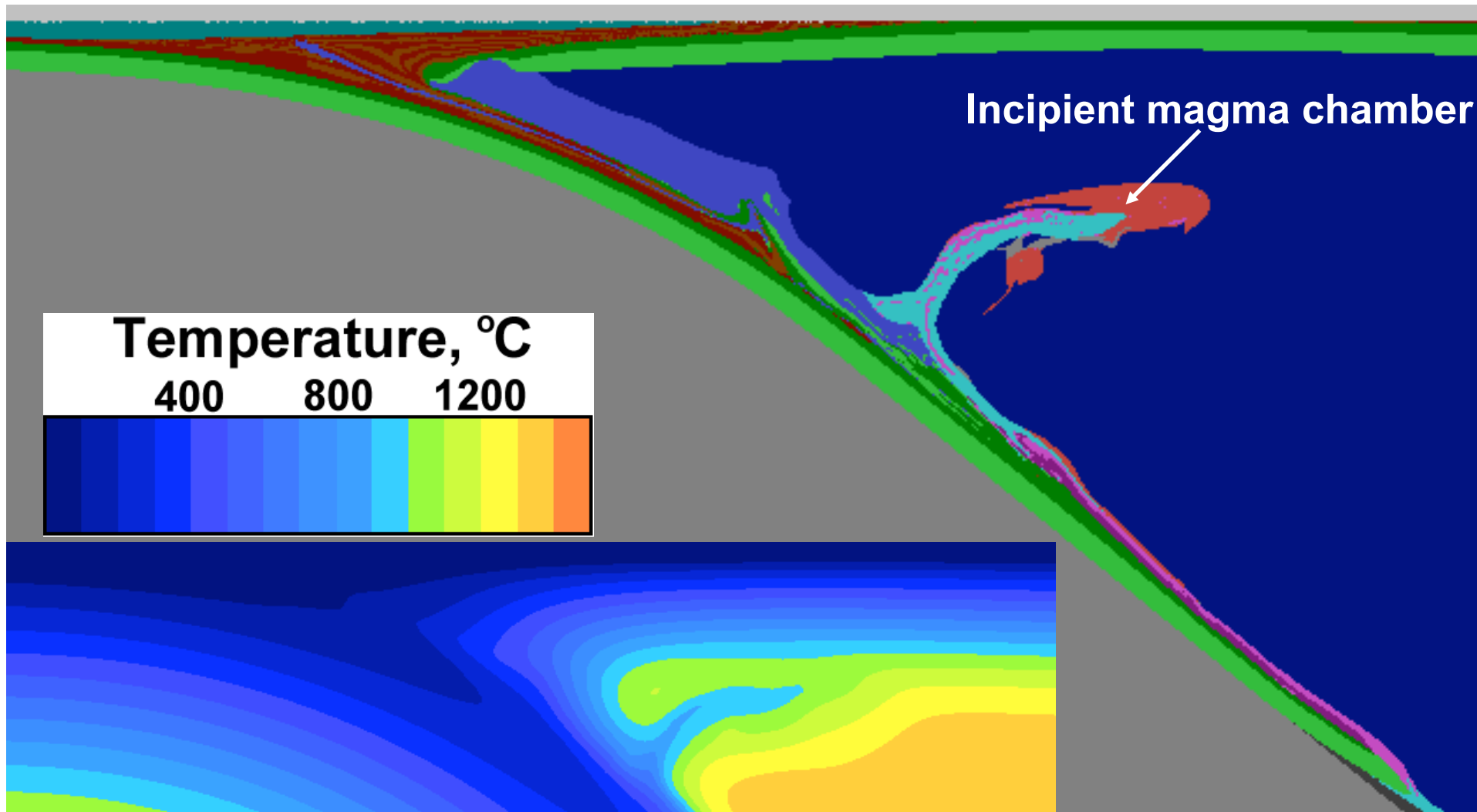


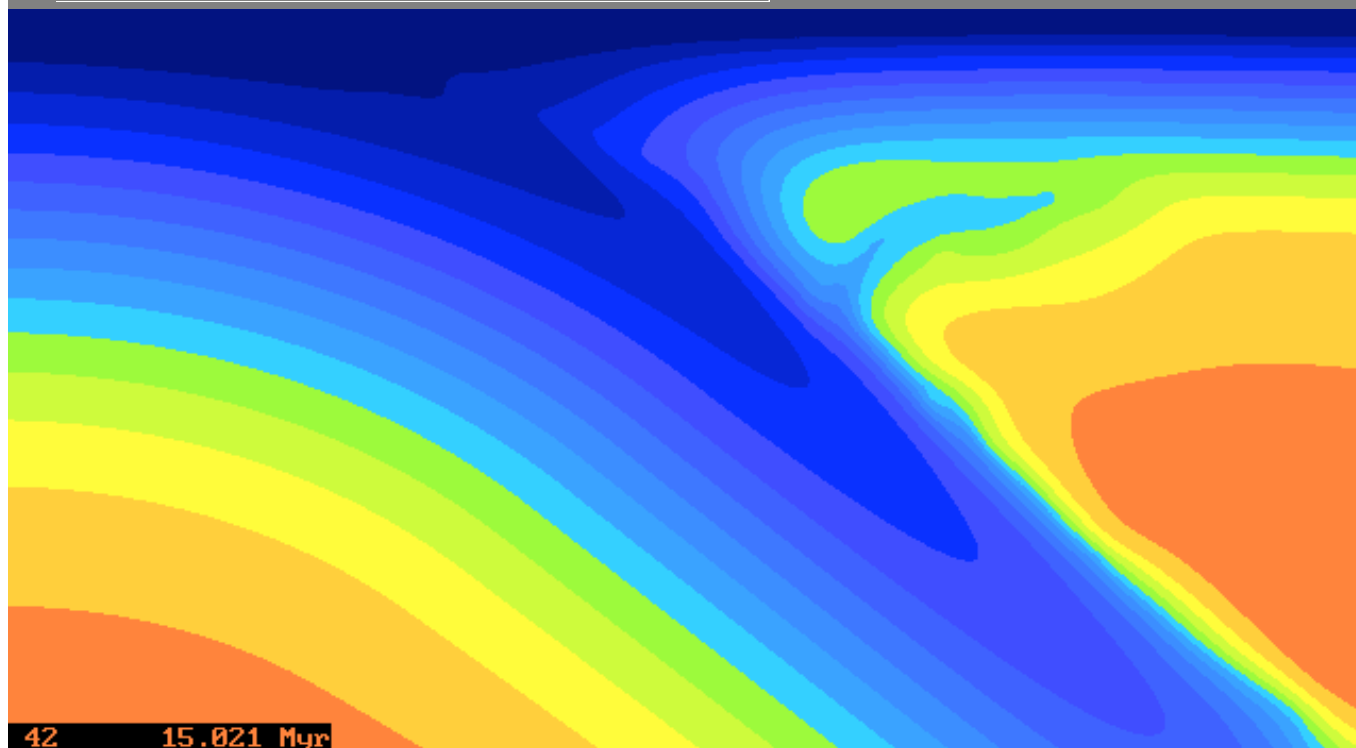
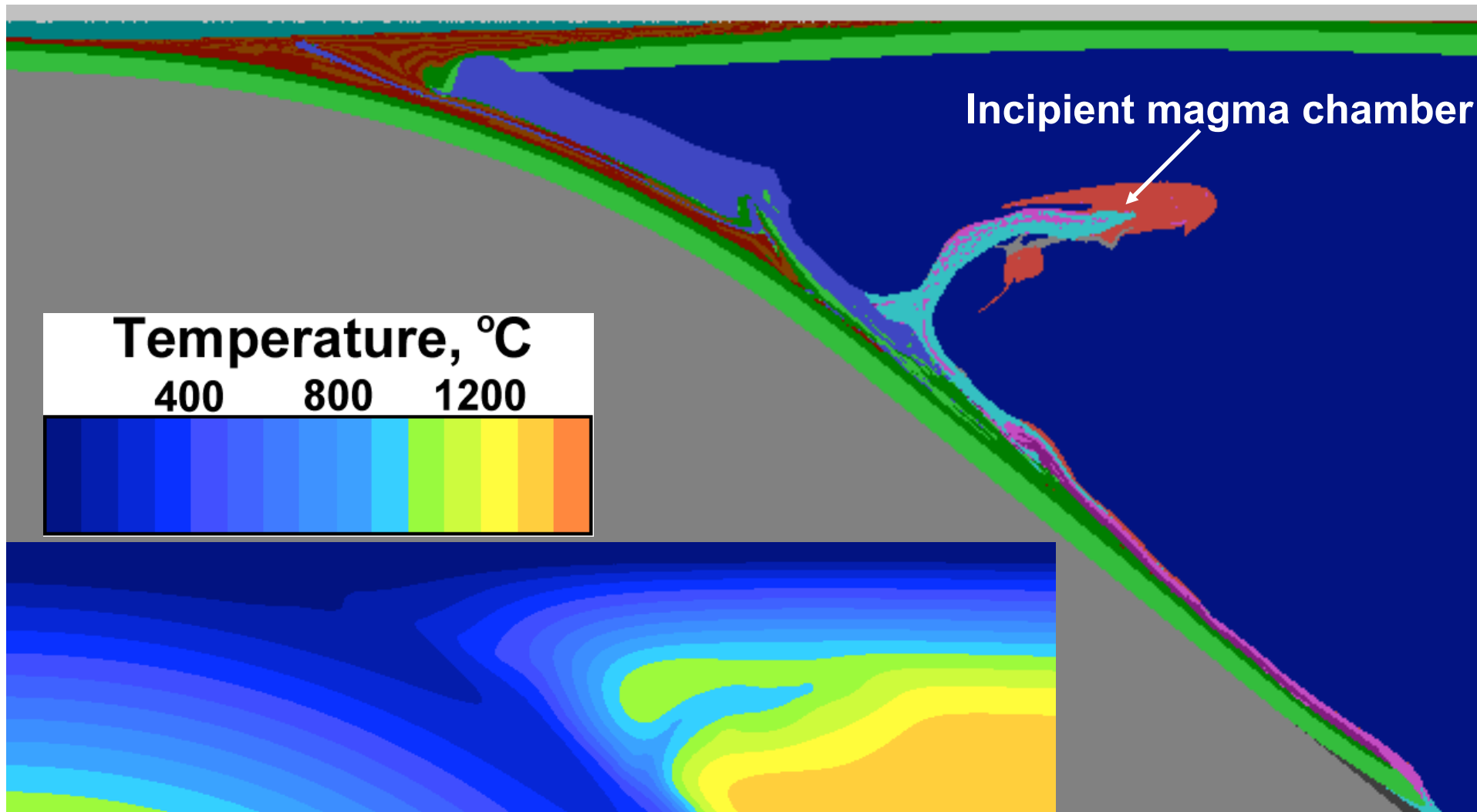


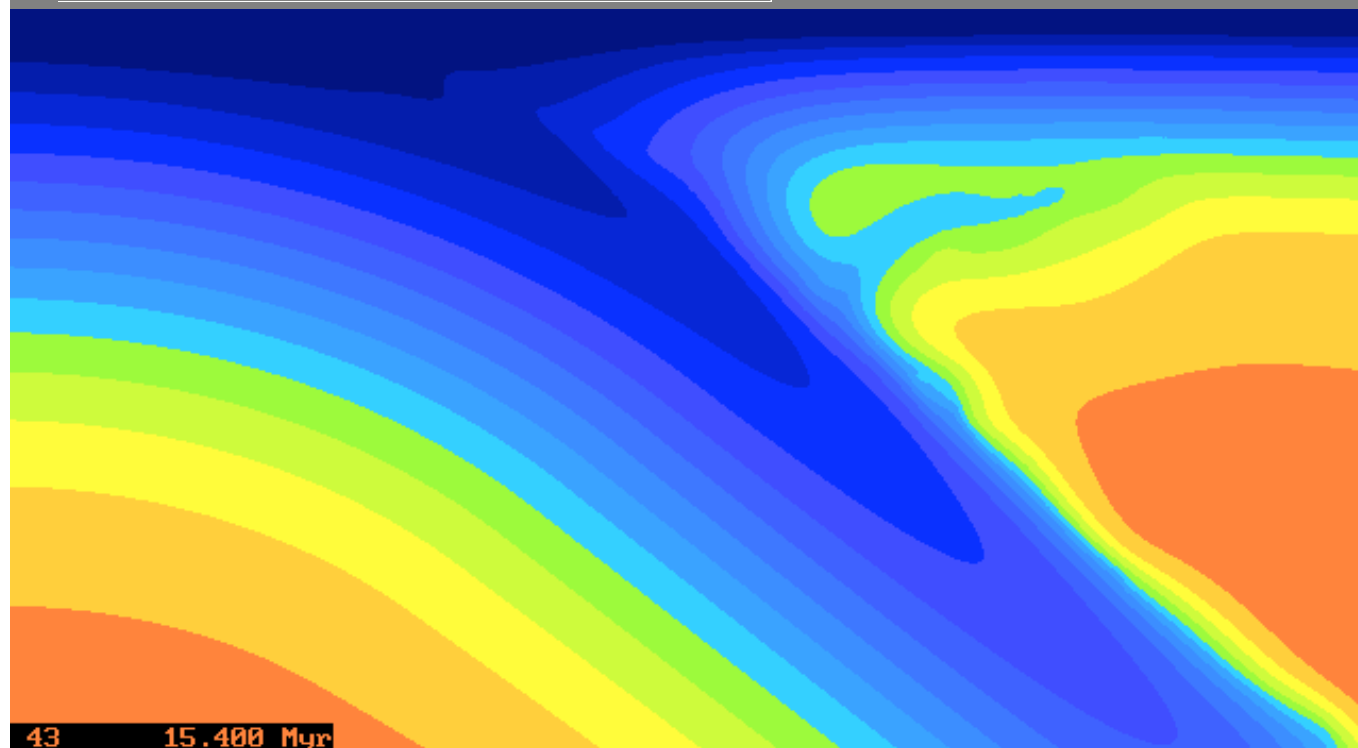
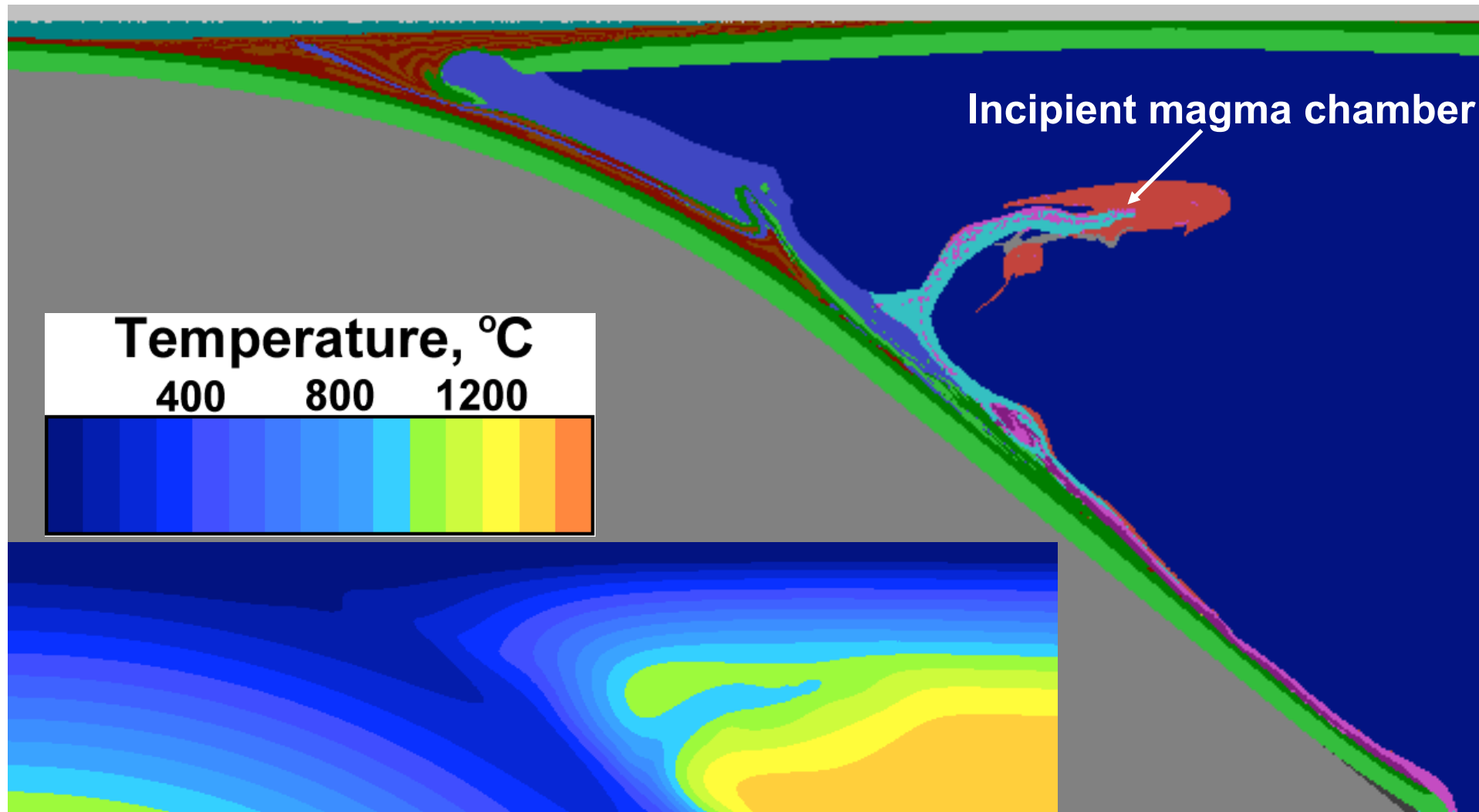


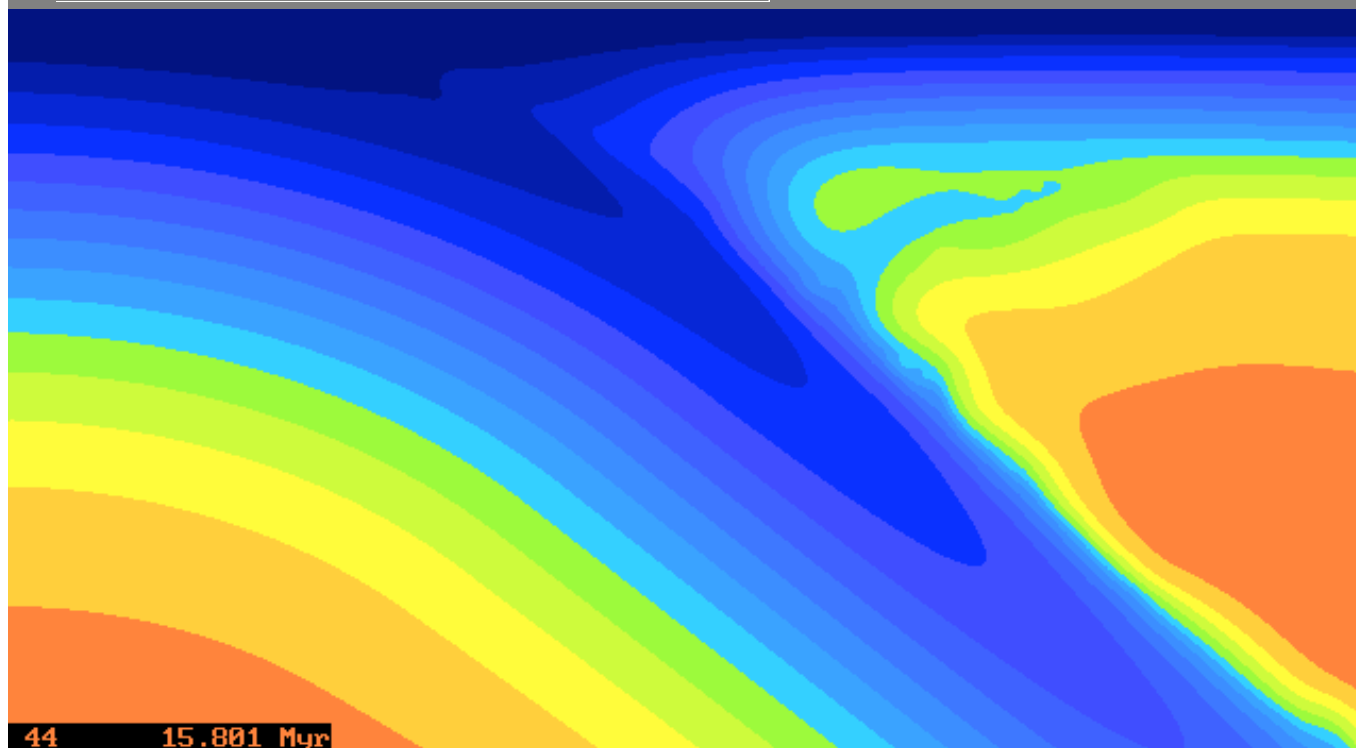
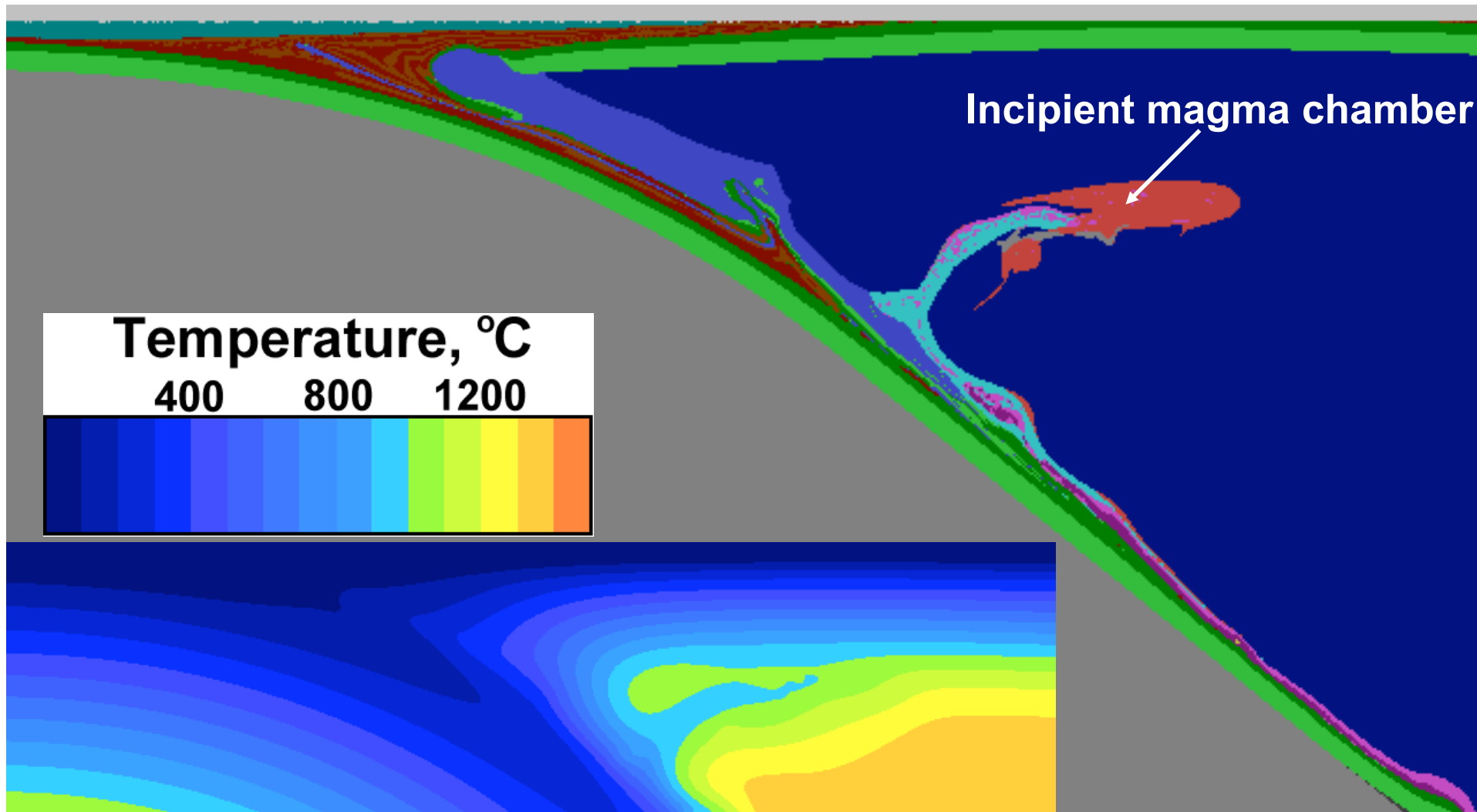


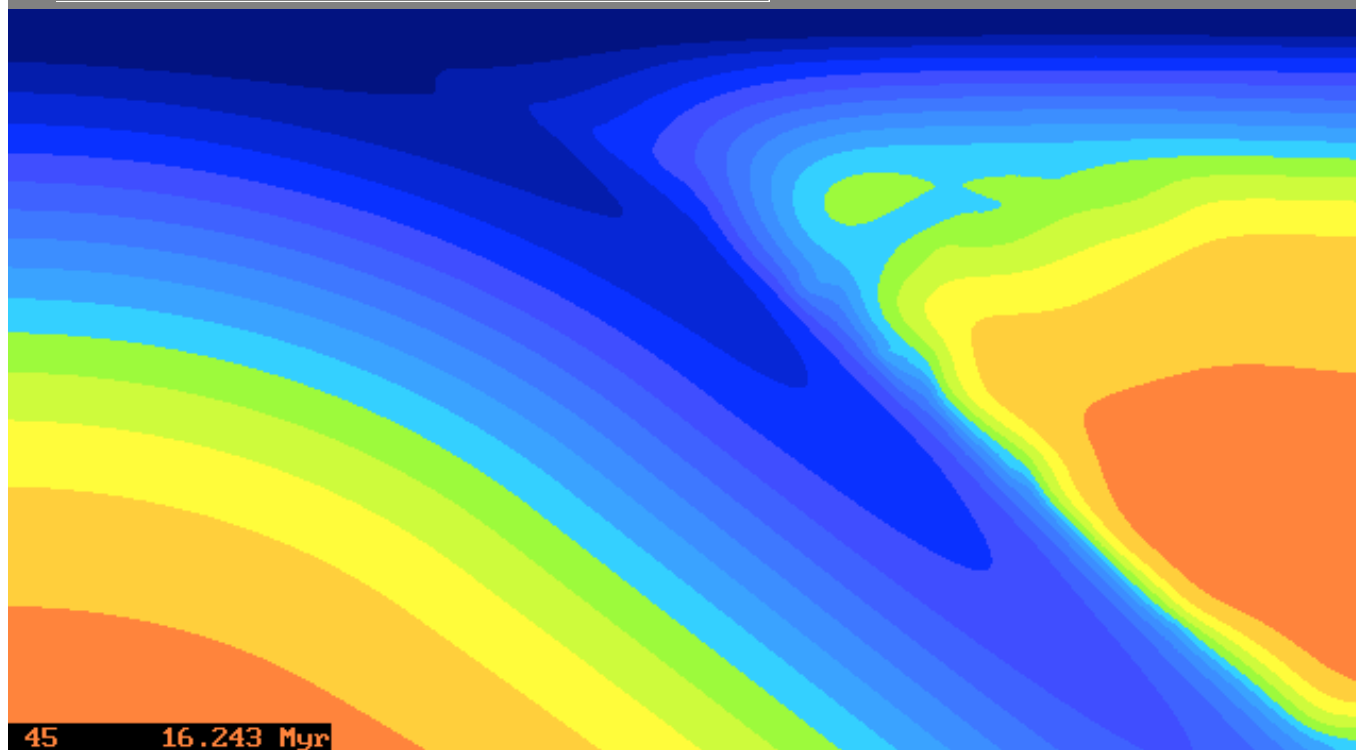
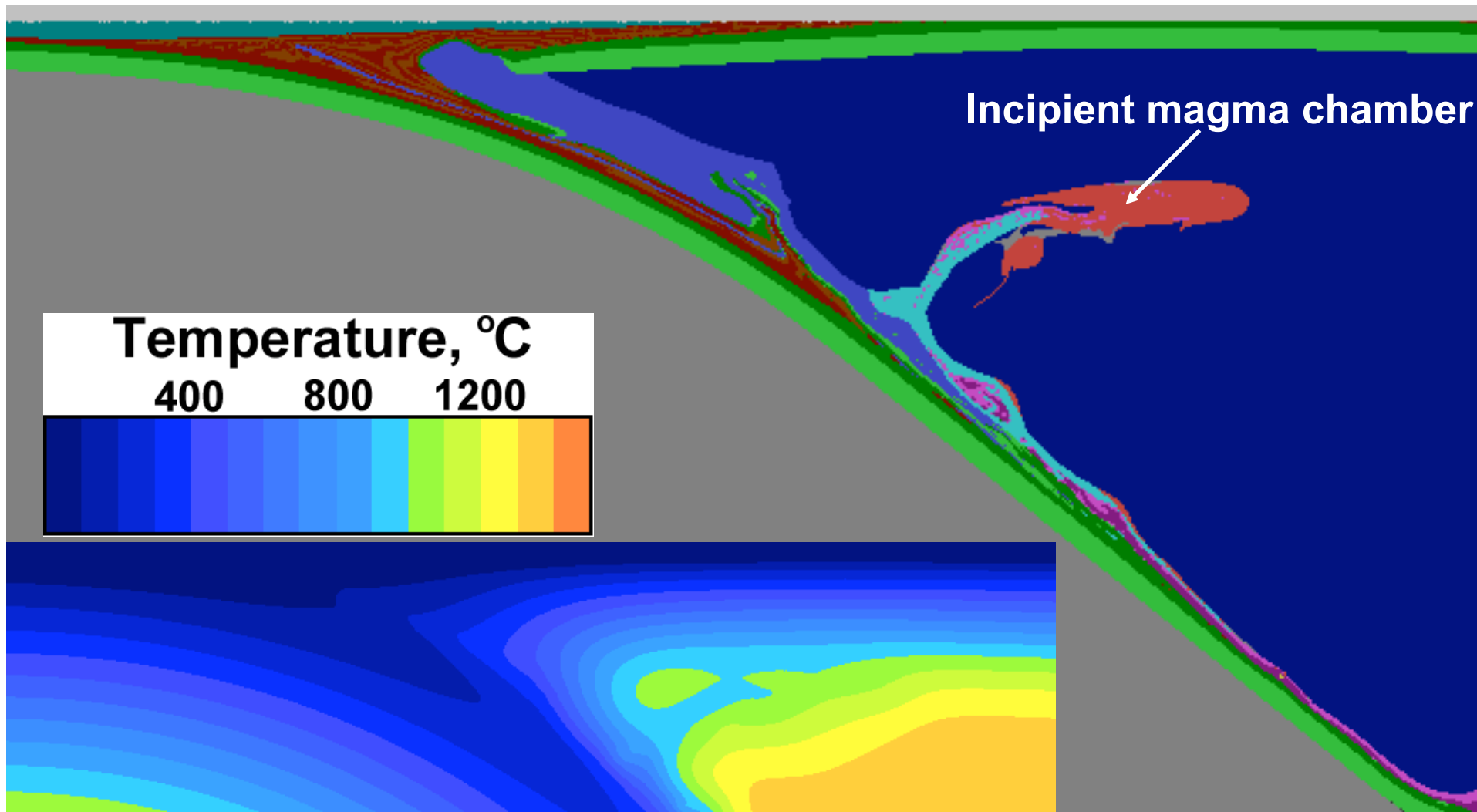


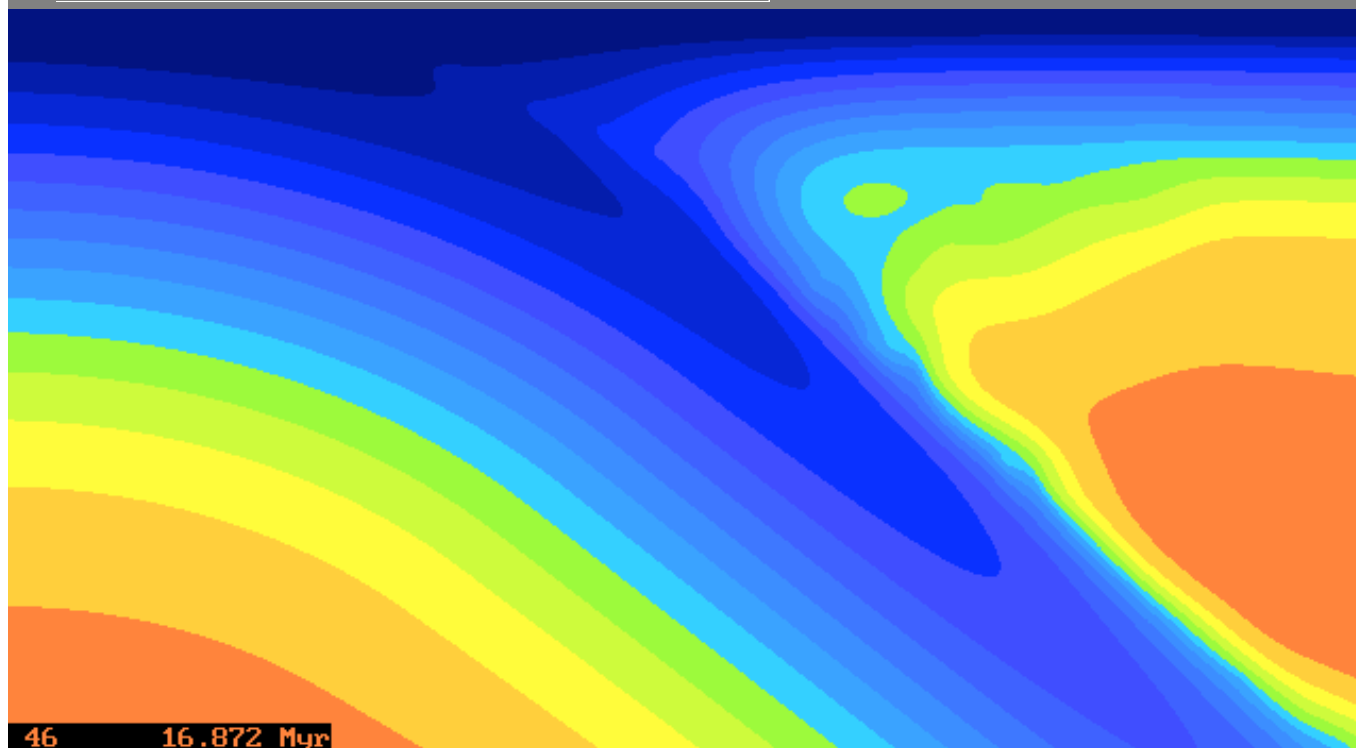
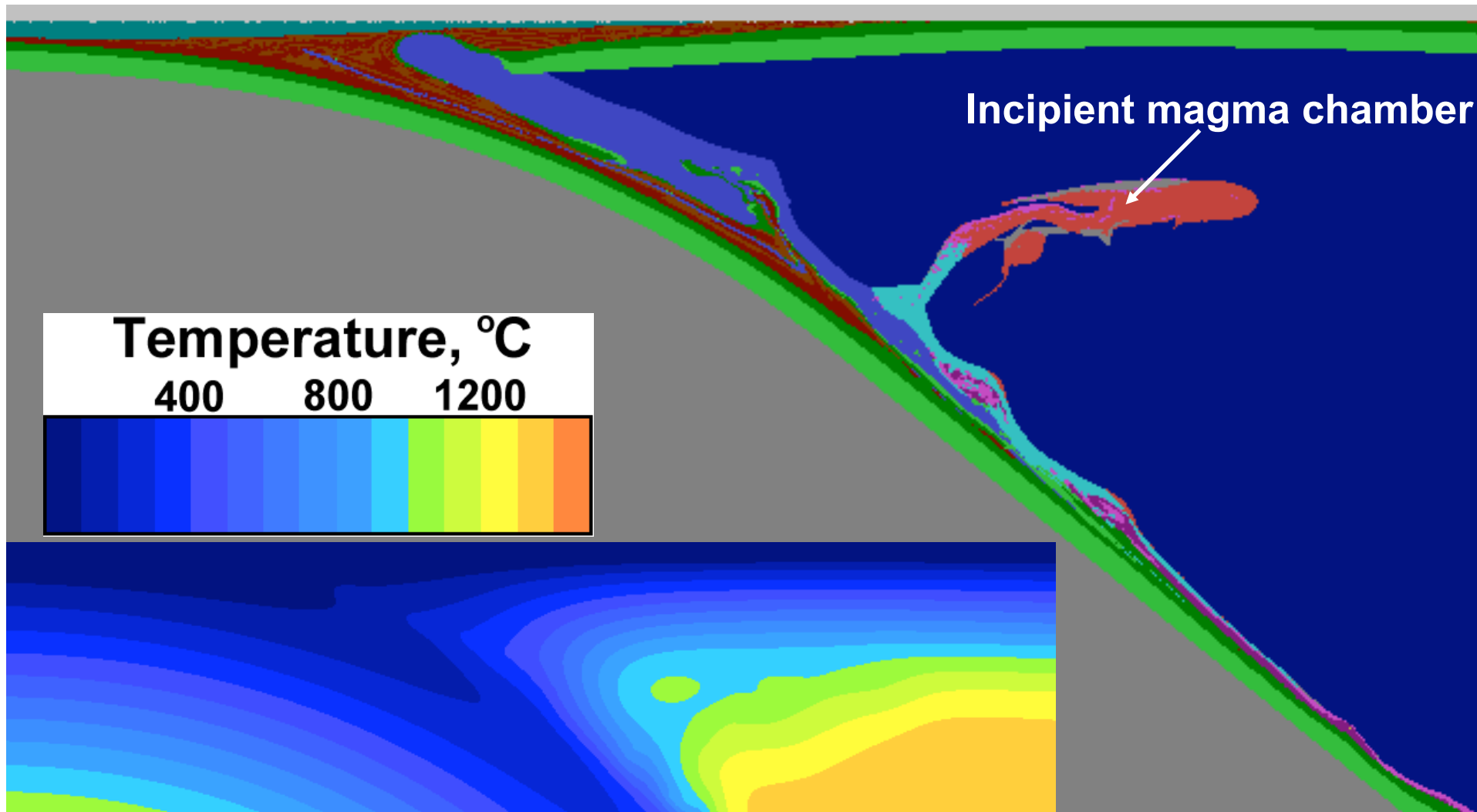


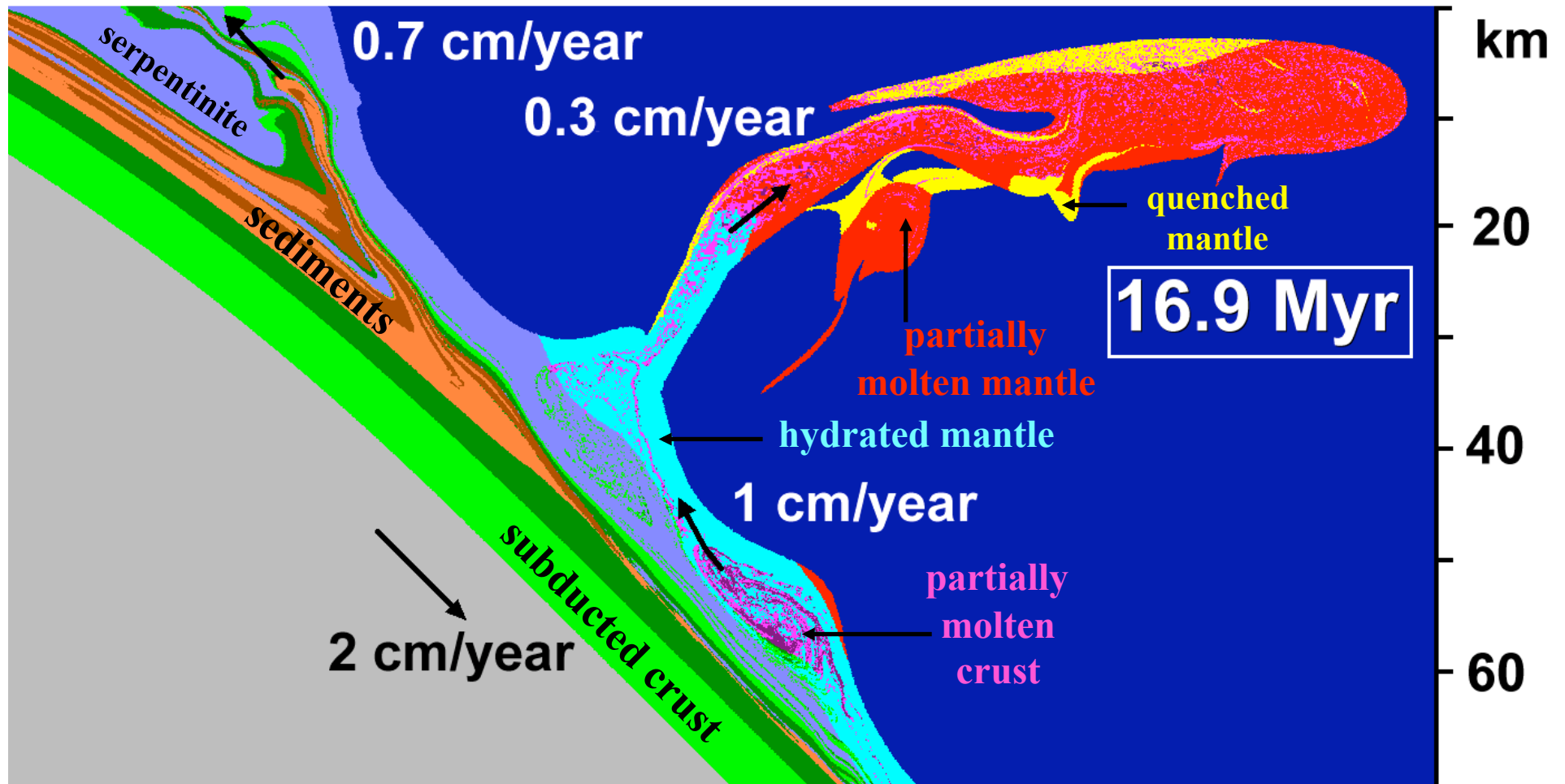






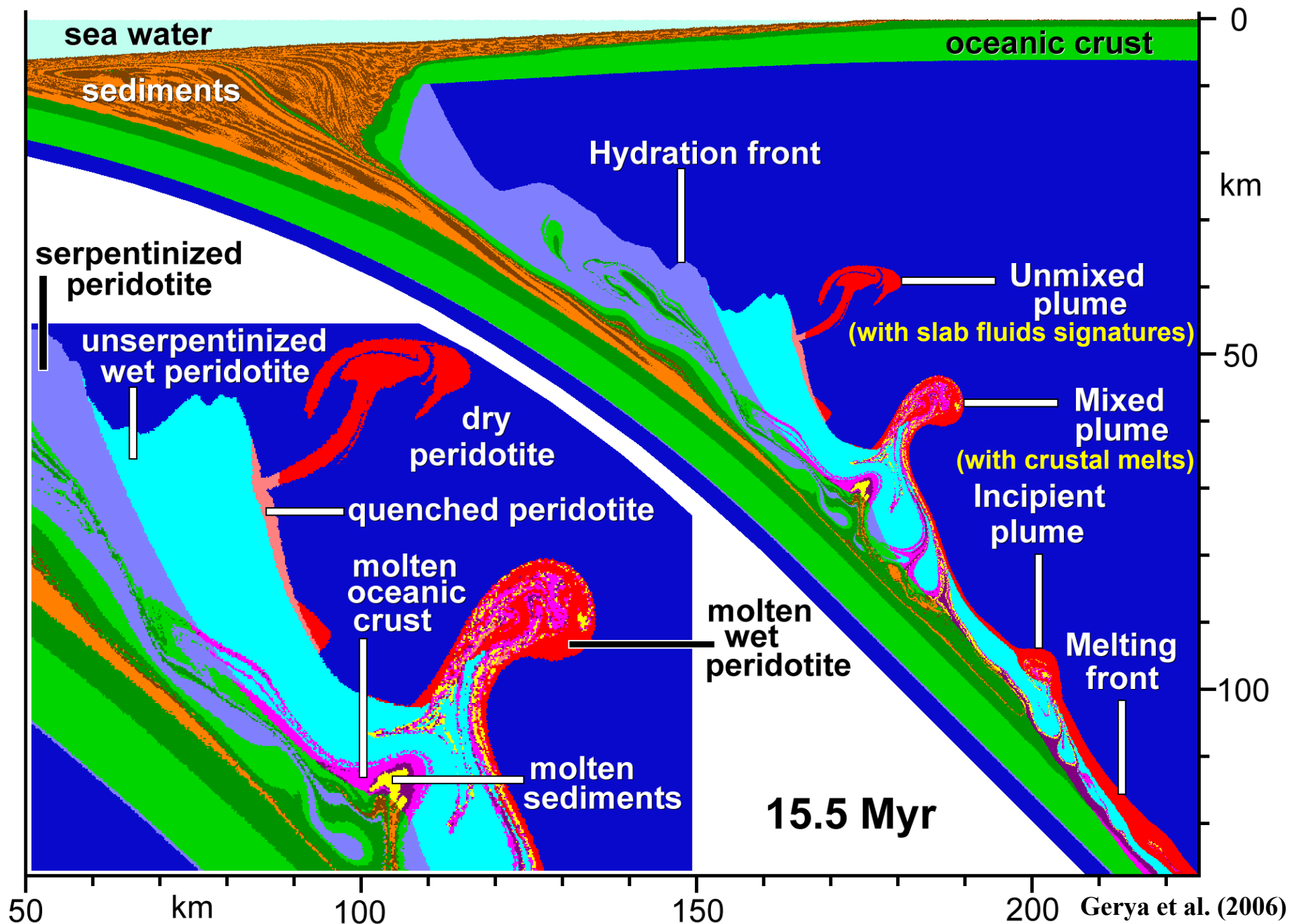






Mixed and unmixed cold plumes

10 million markers

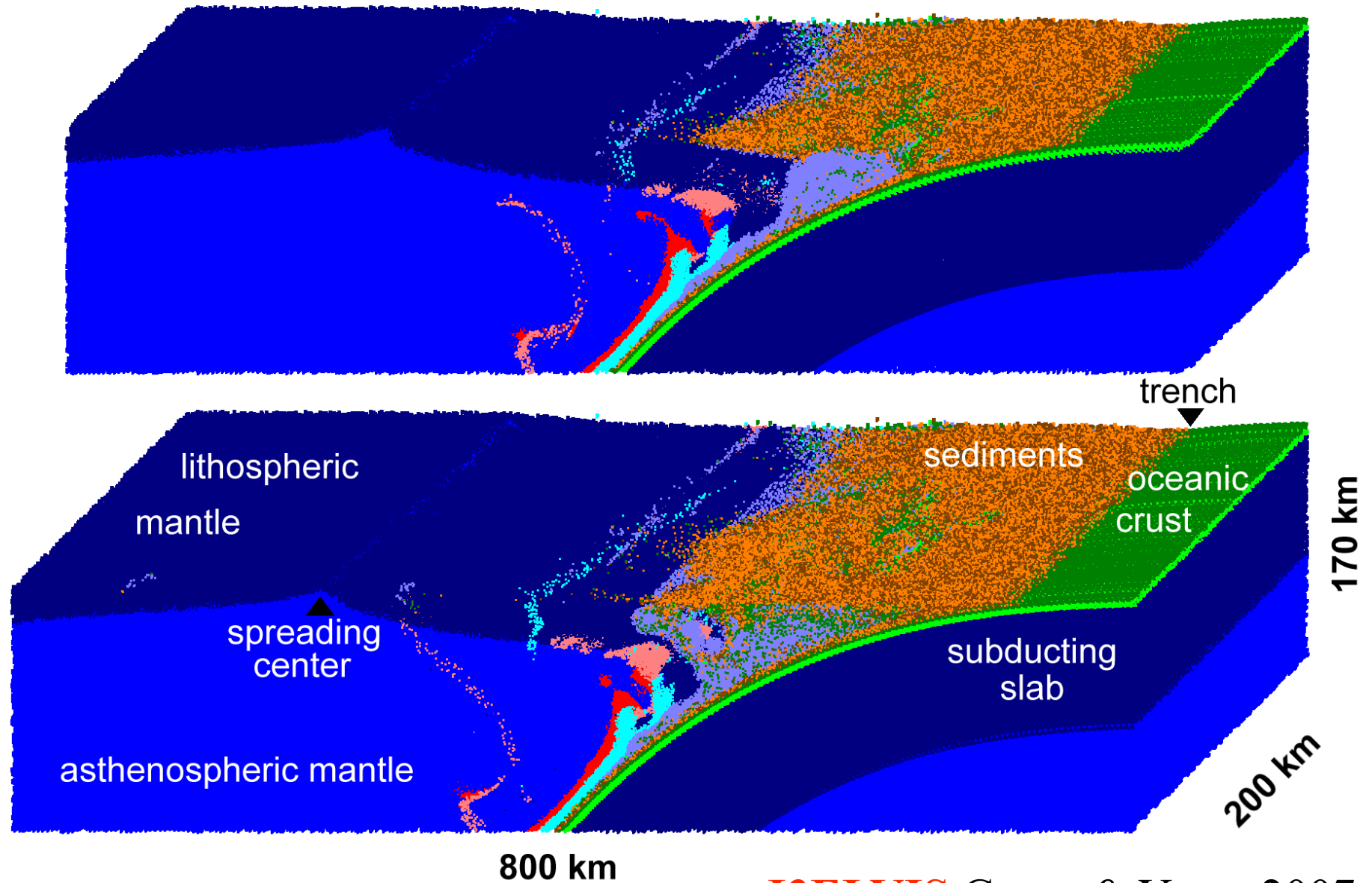


3D cold plumes



**Guizhi
Zhu**

High-resolution 3D subduction models

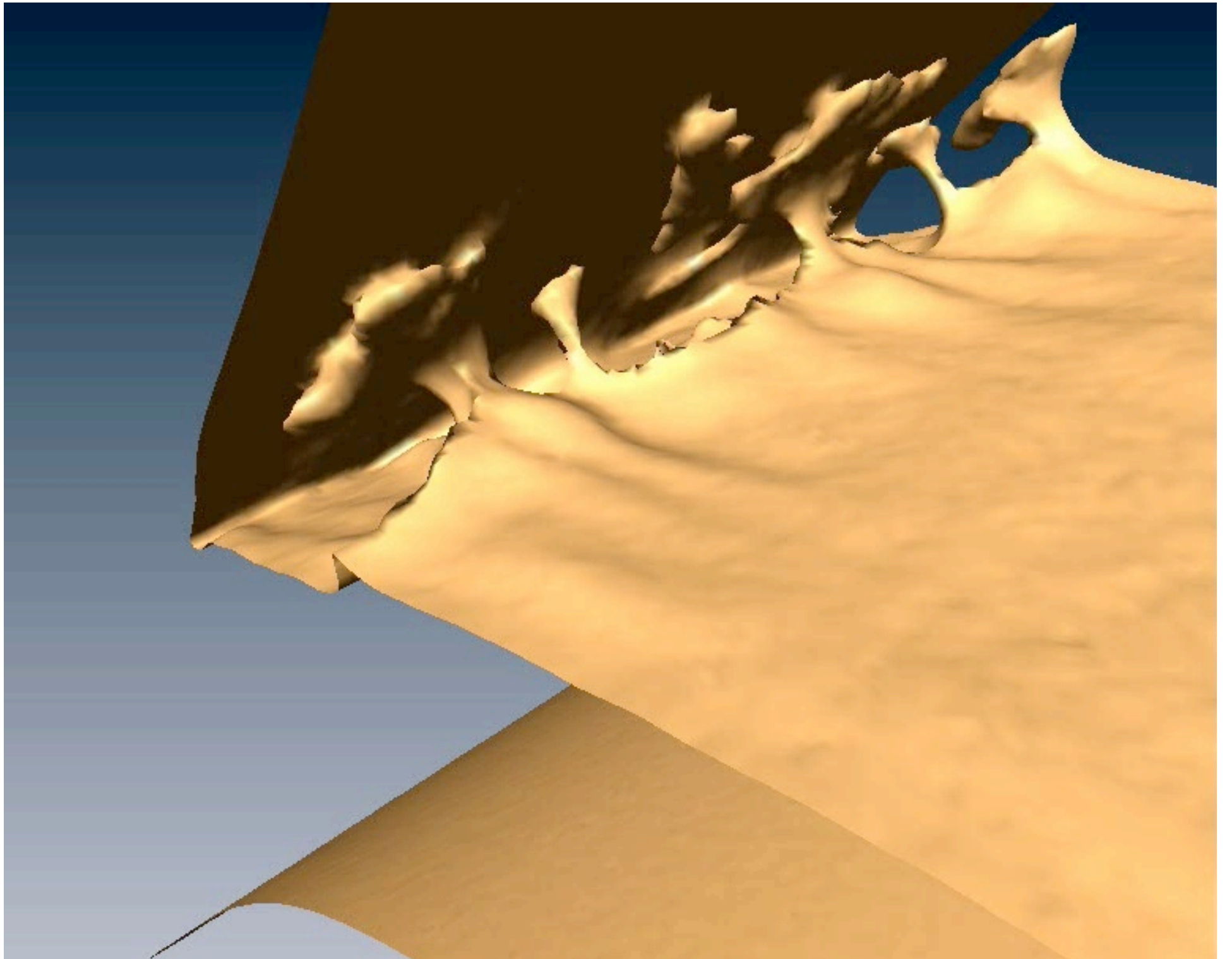


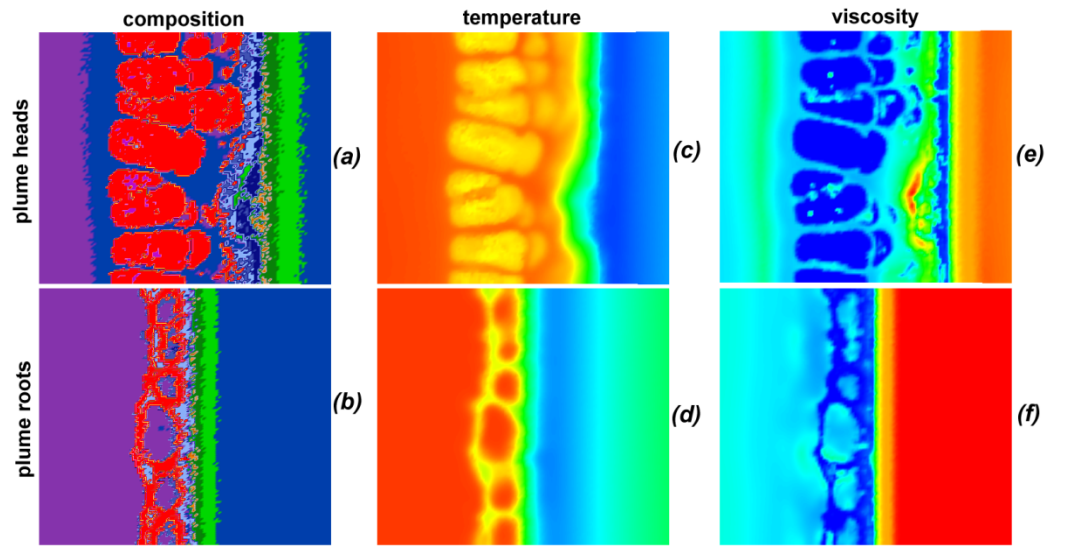
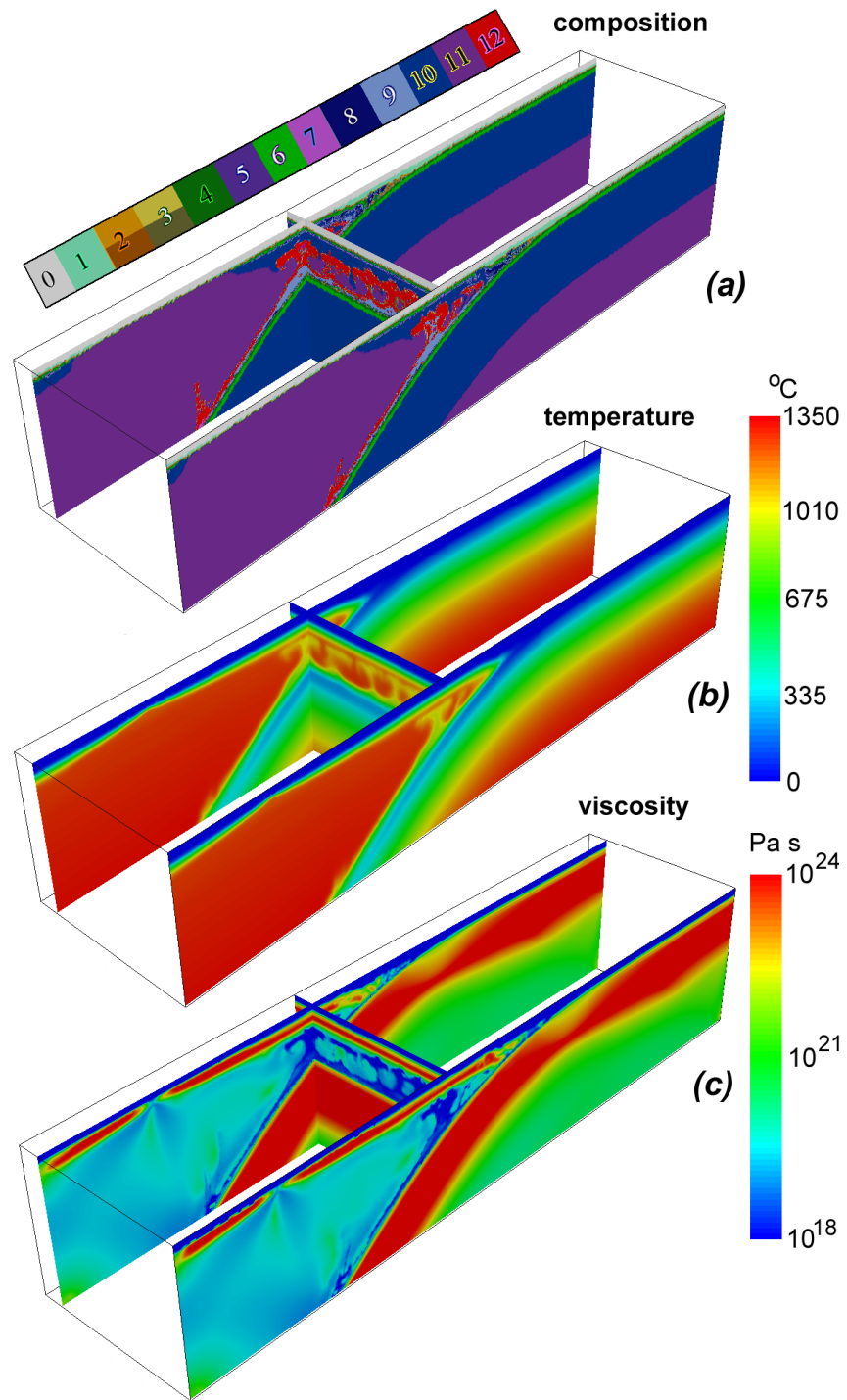
I3ELVIS Gerya & Yuen, 2007



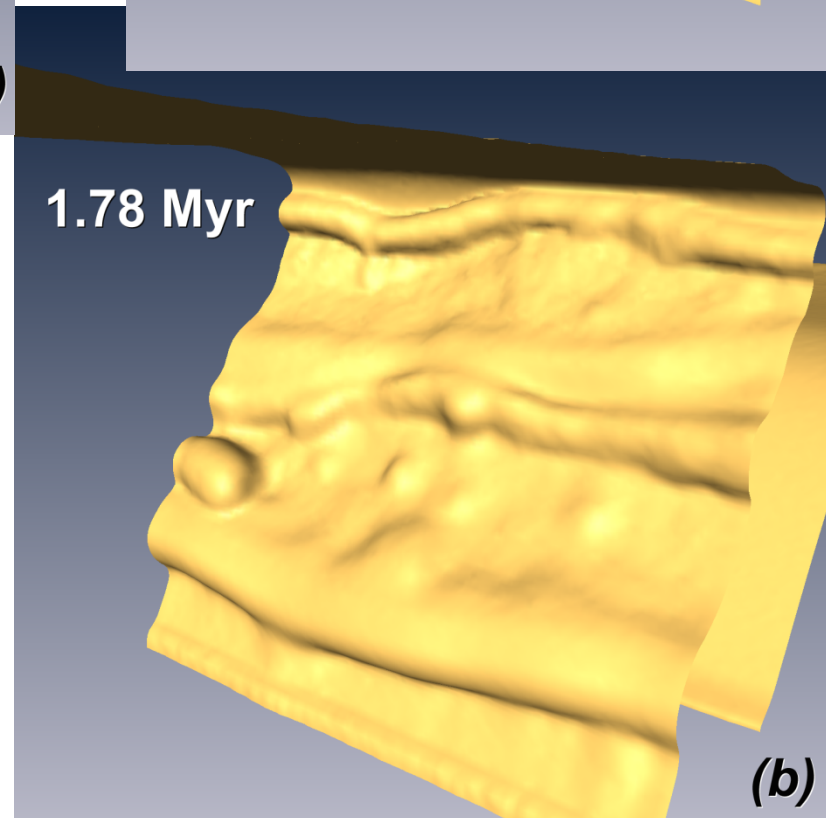
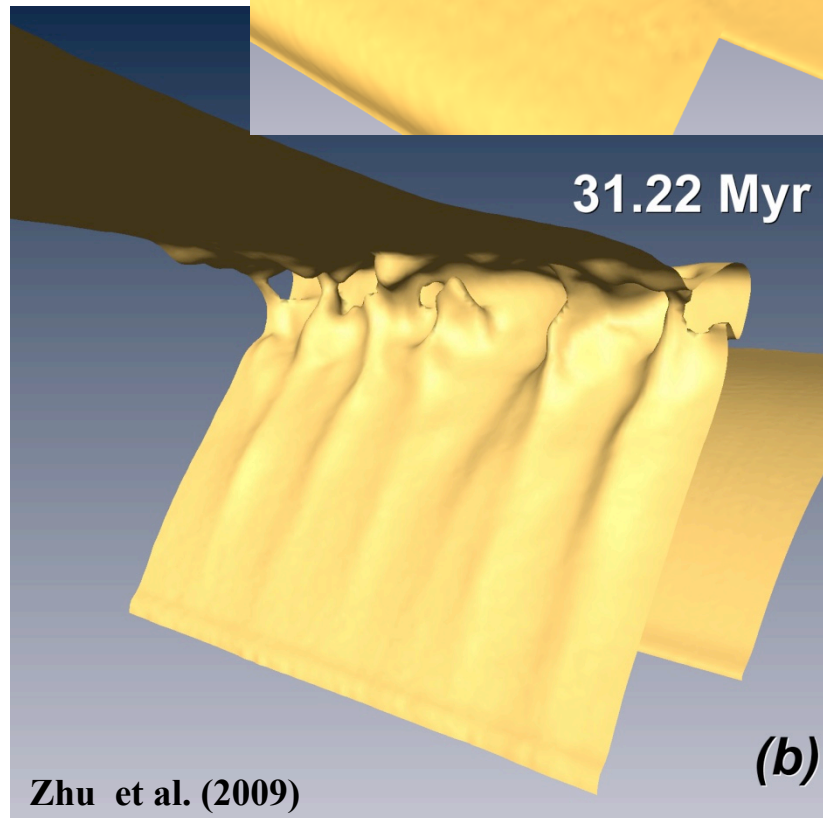
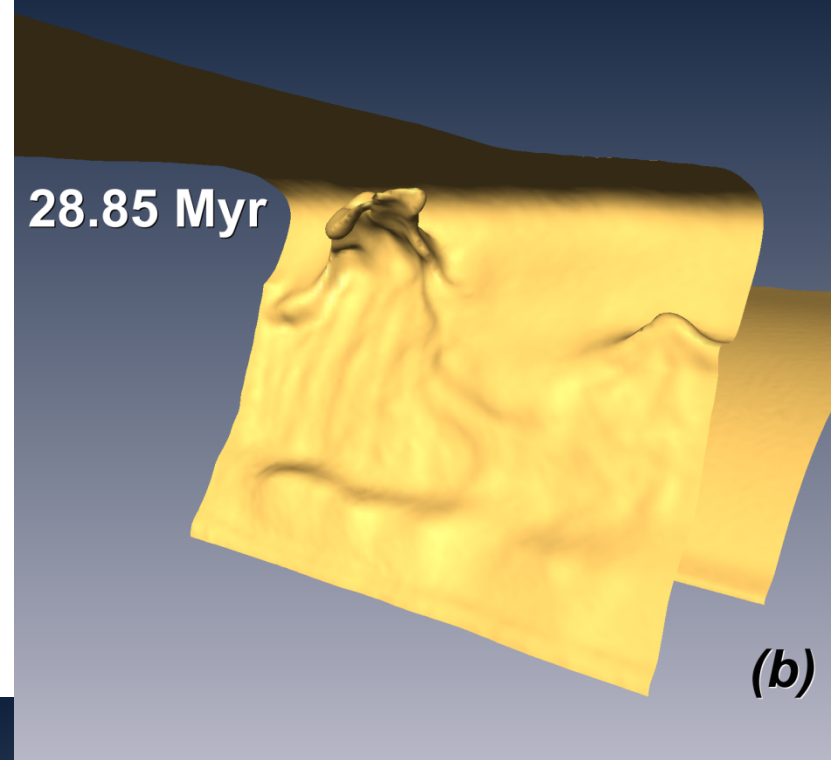
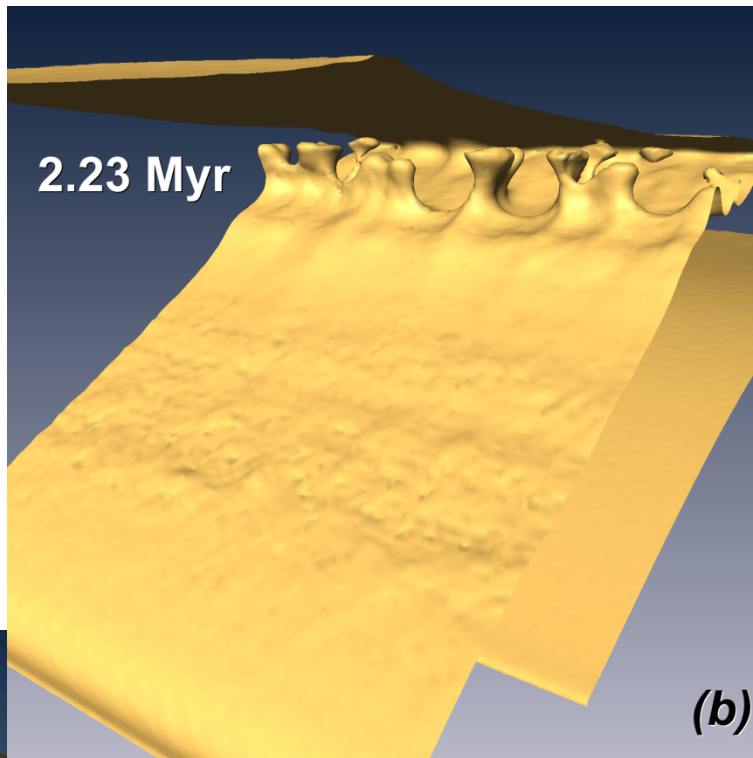
3D

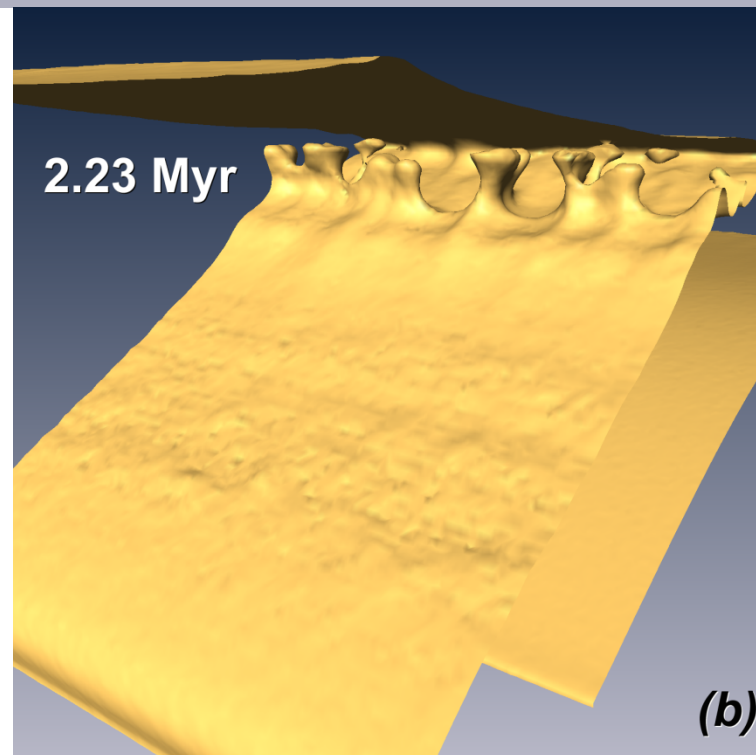
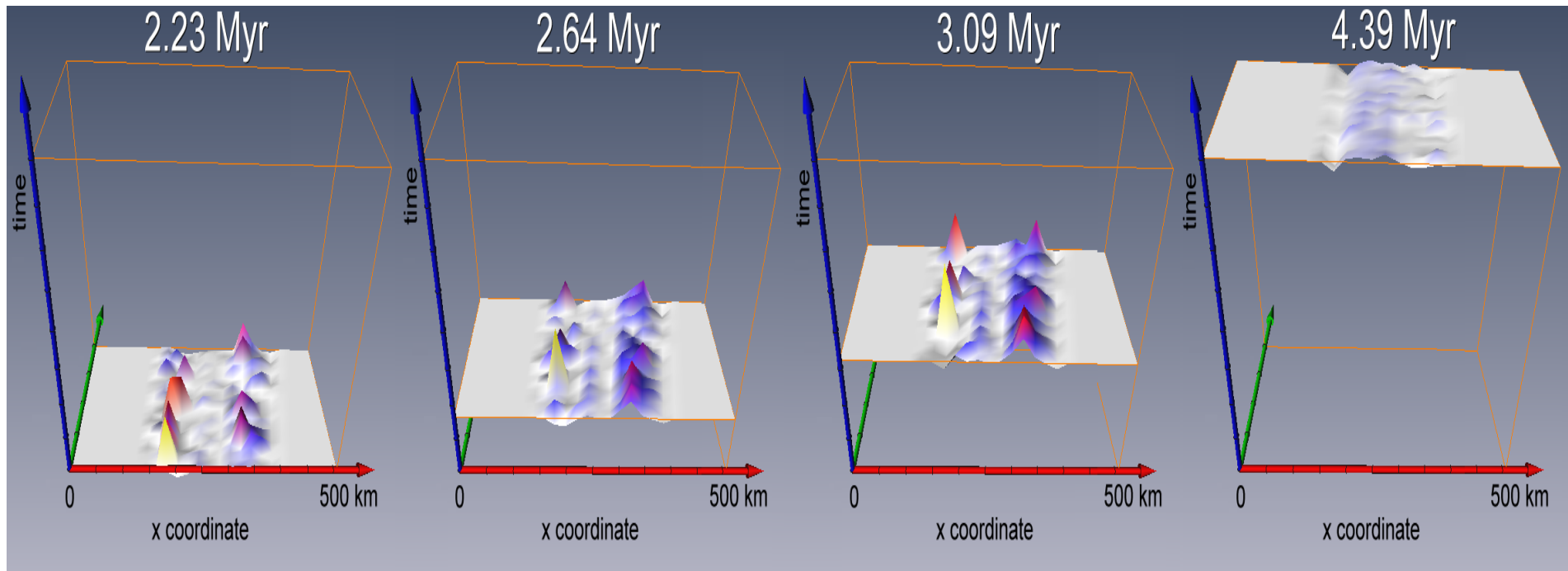
Zhu et al. (2009)

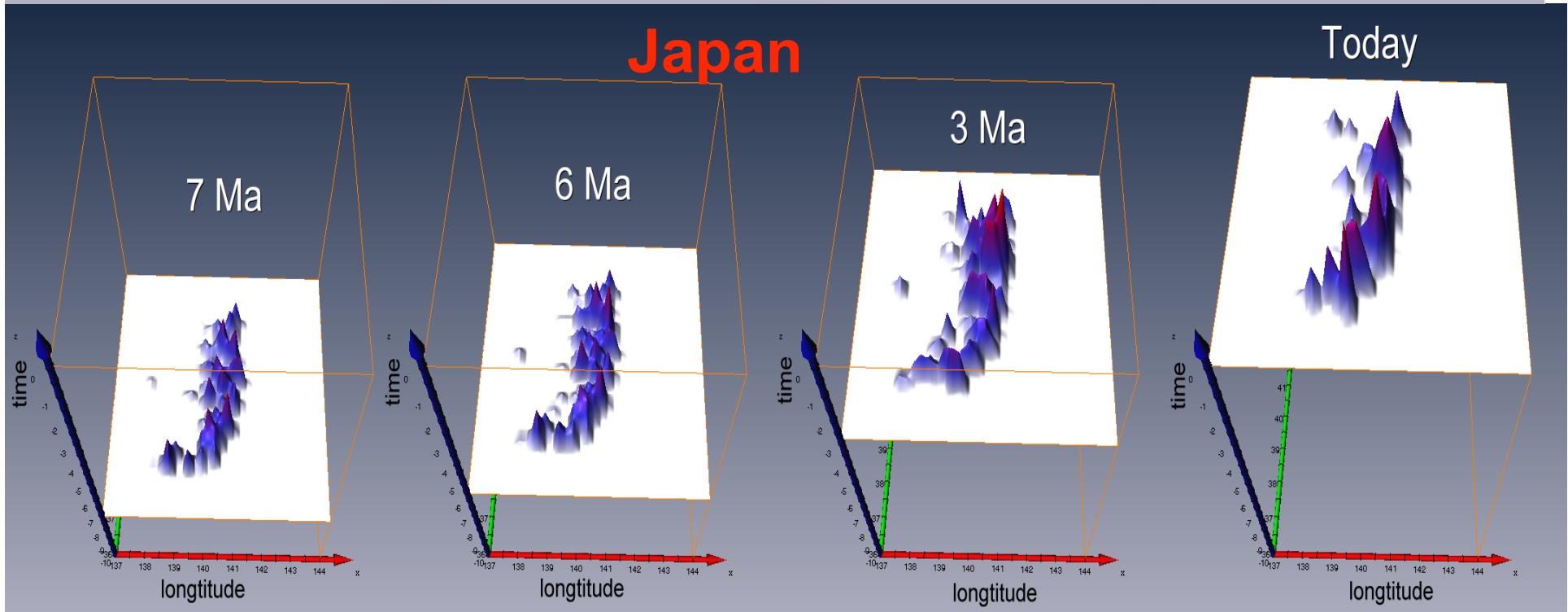
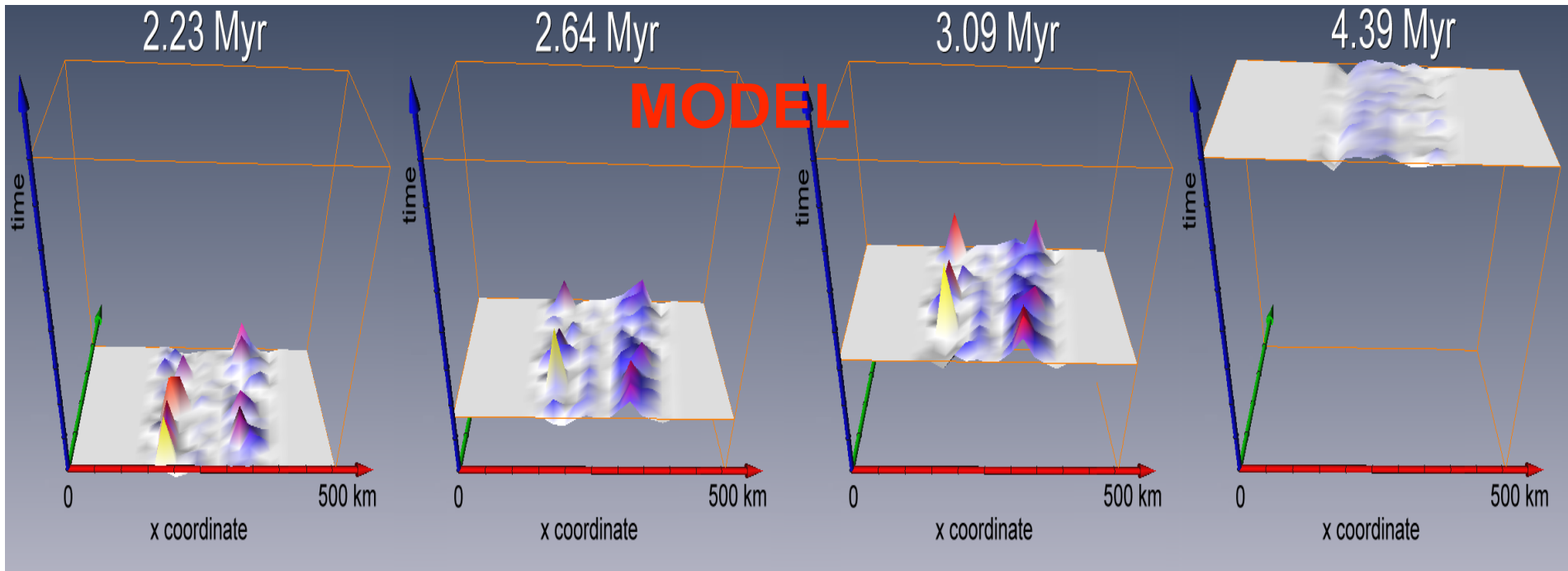


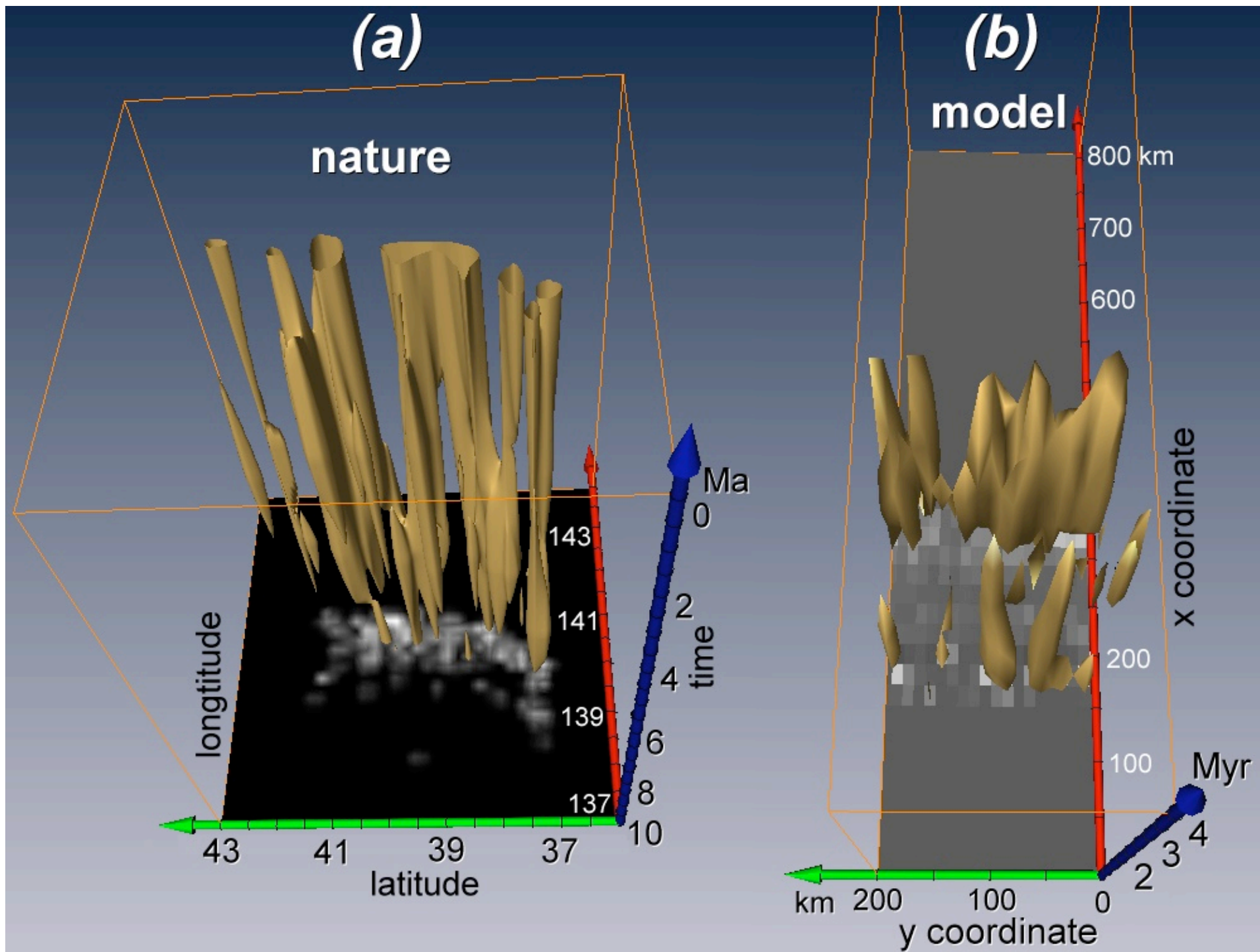


Zhu et al. (2009)



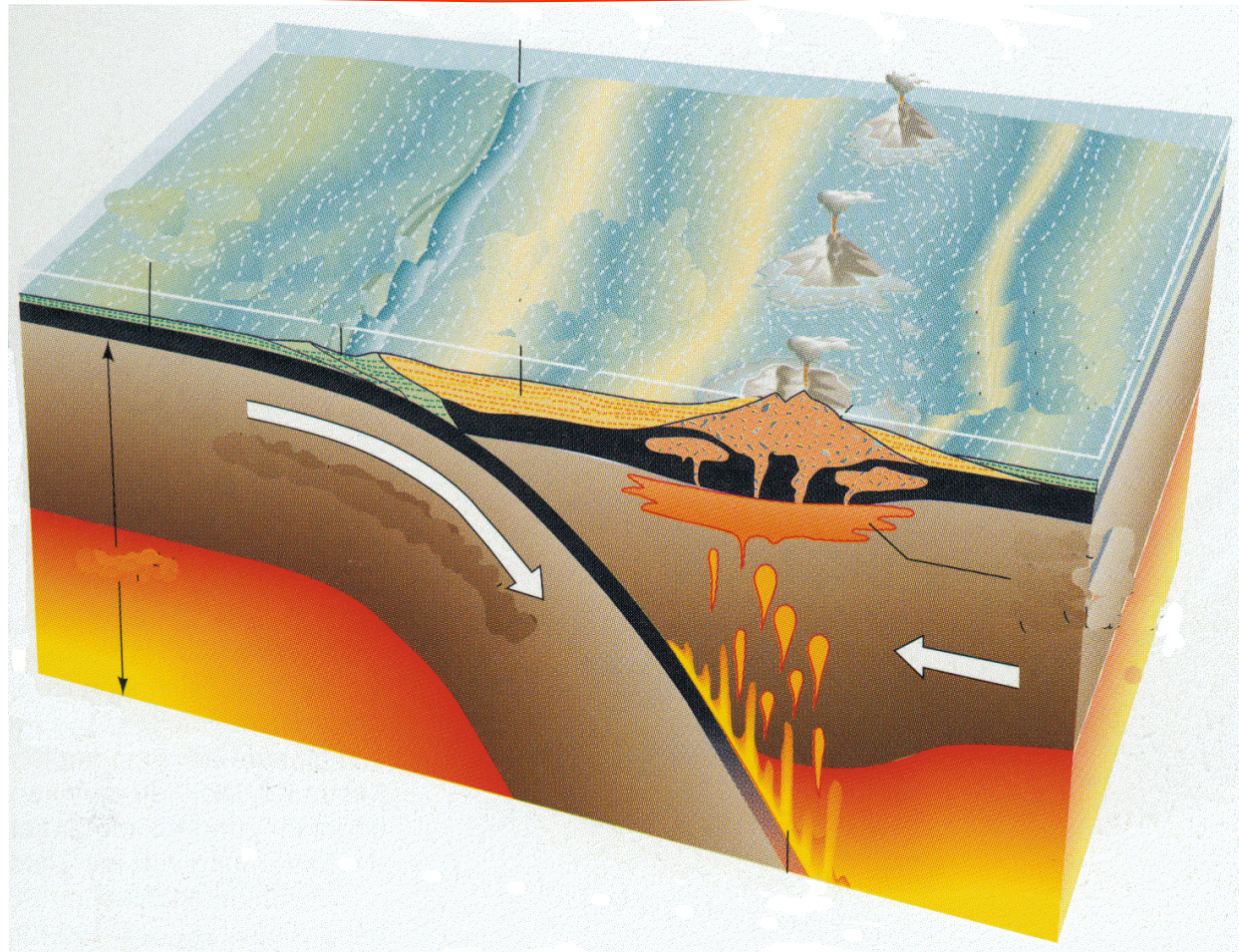






Can numerical modelling predict
new subduction related phenomena?

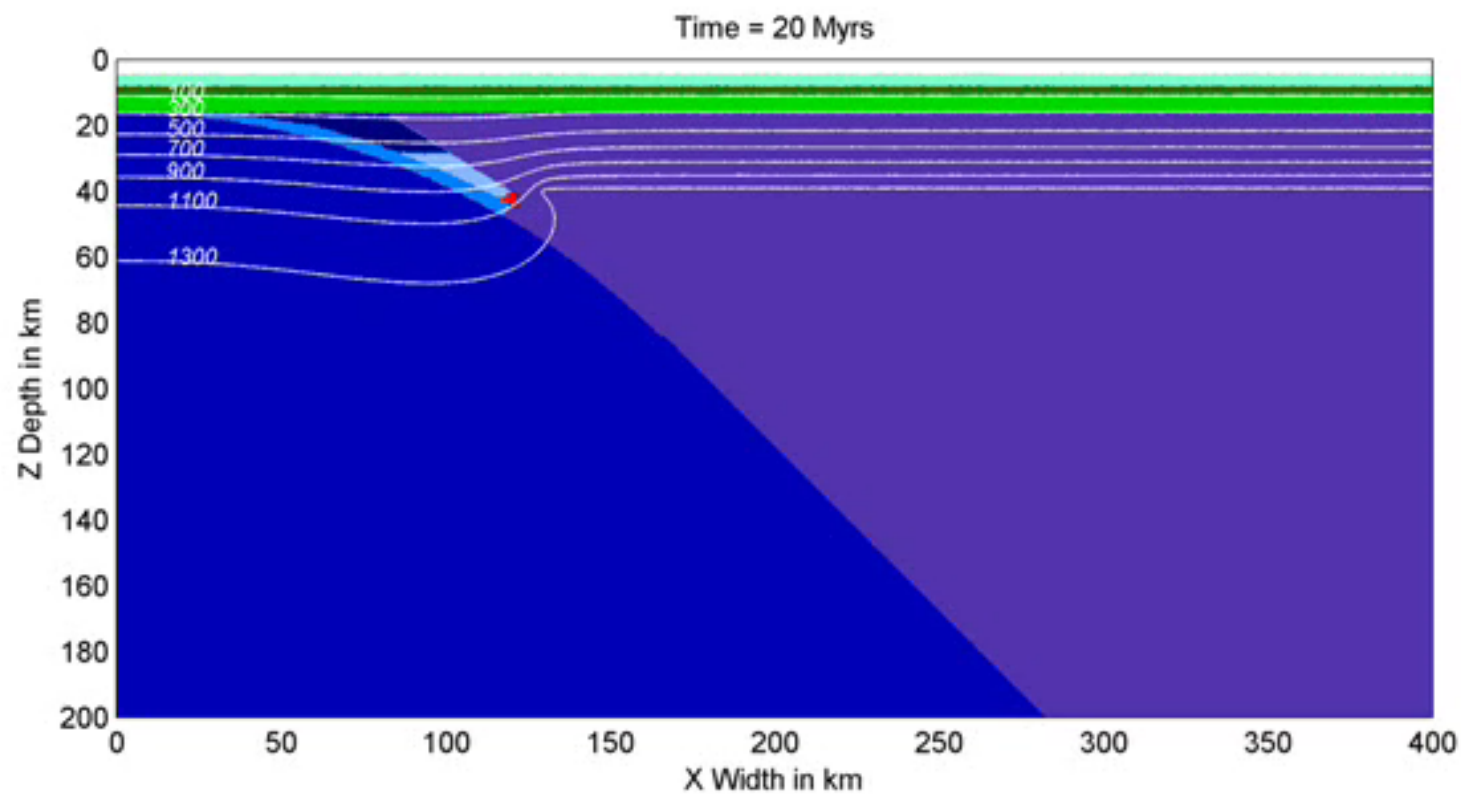
?

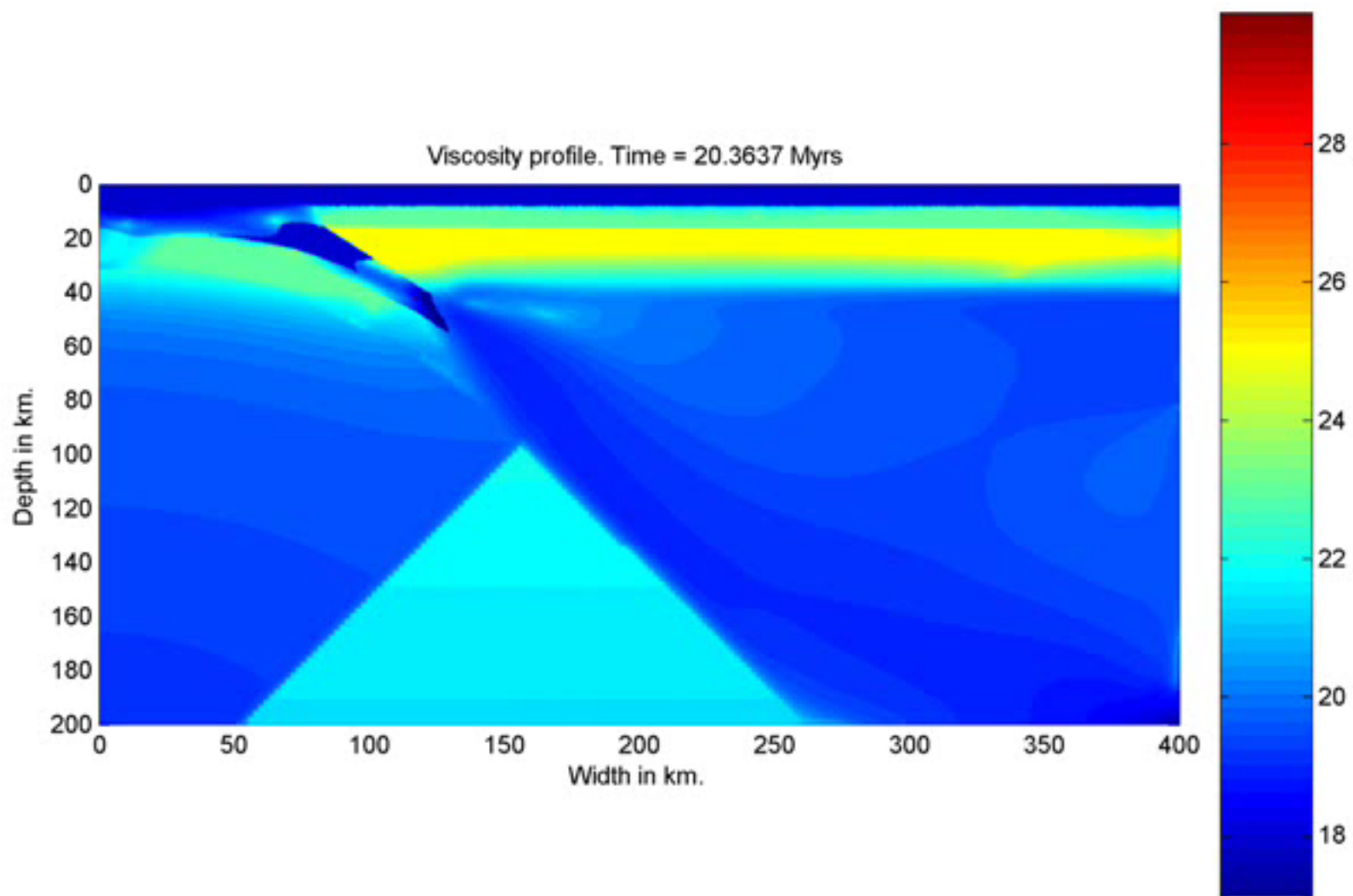


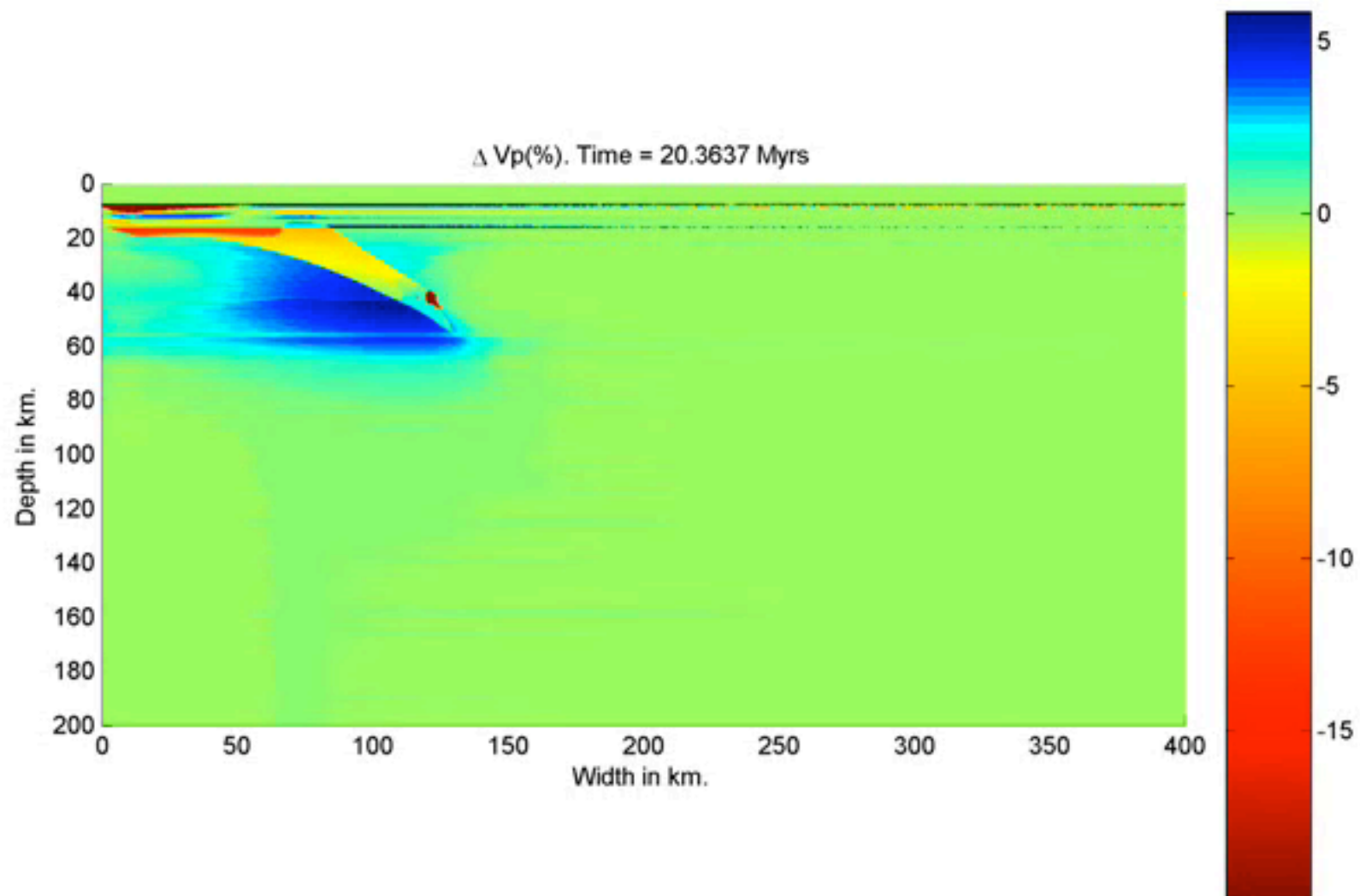


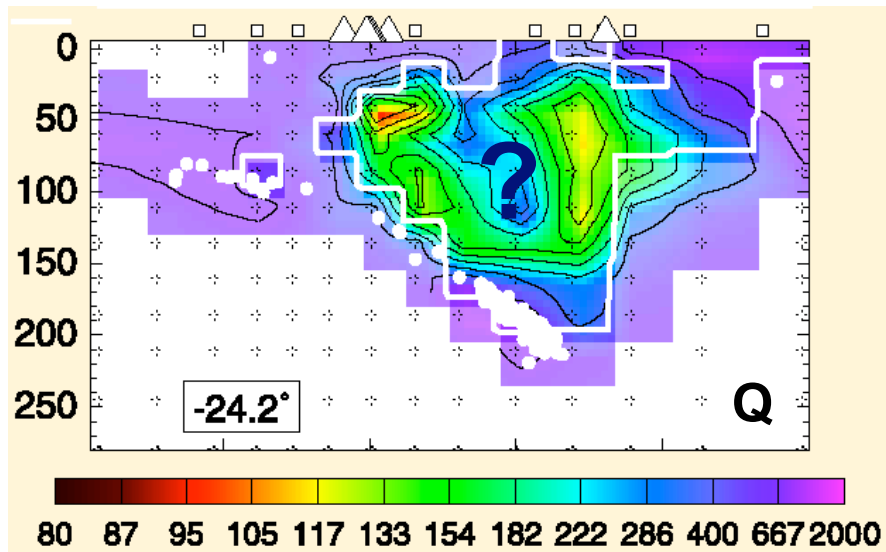
Gorczyk et al. (2006)

Inventing of subduction wheel

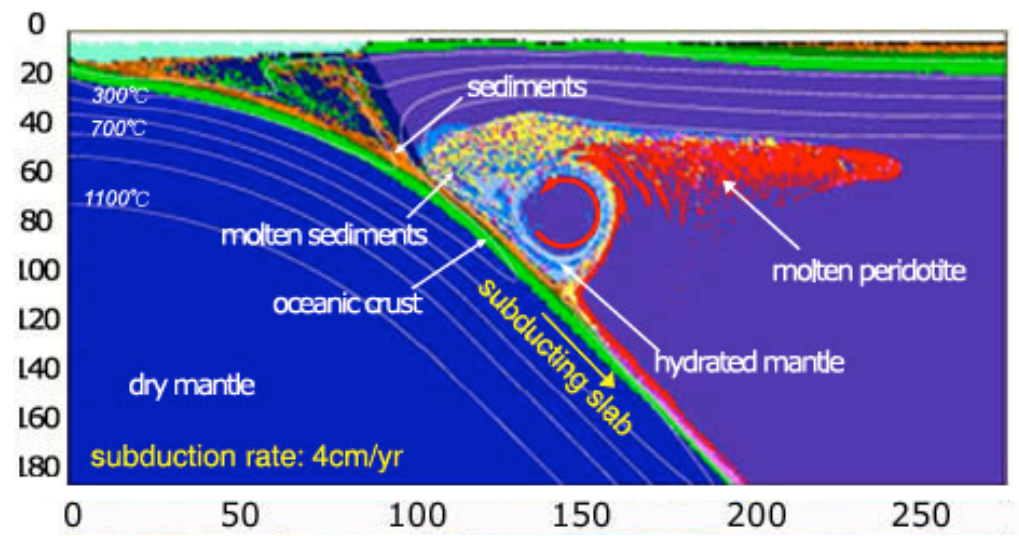




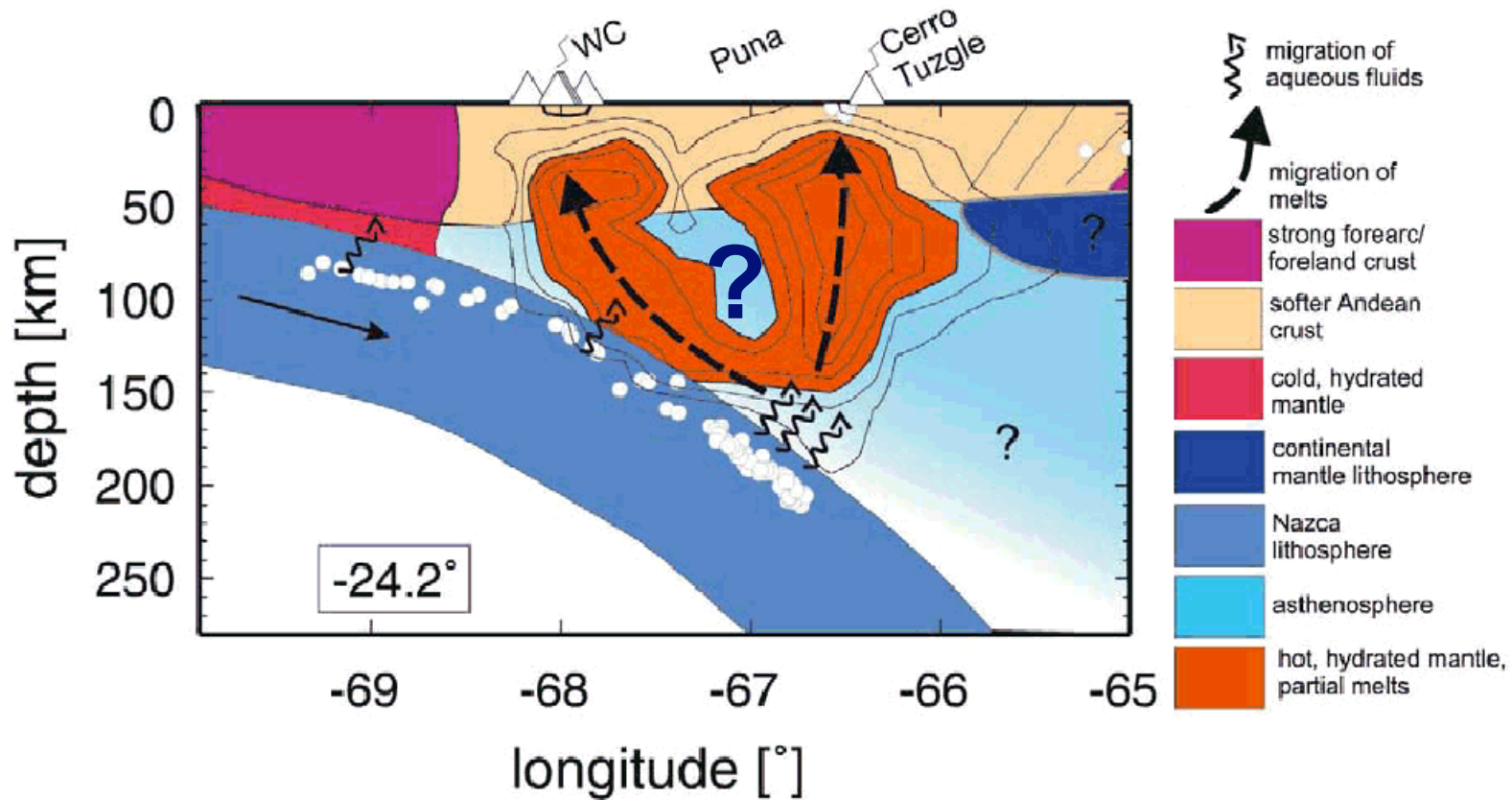




B. Schurr et al. / *Earth and Planetary Science Letters* 215 (2003) 105–119

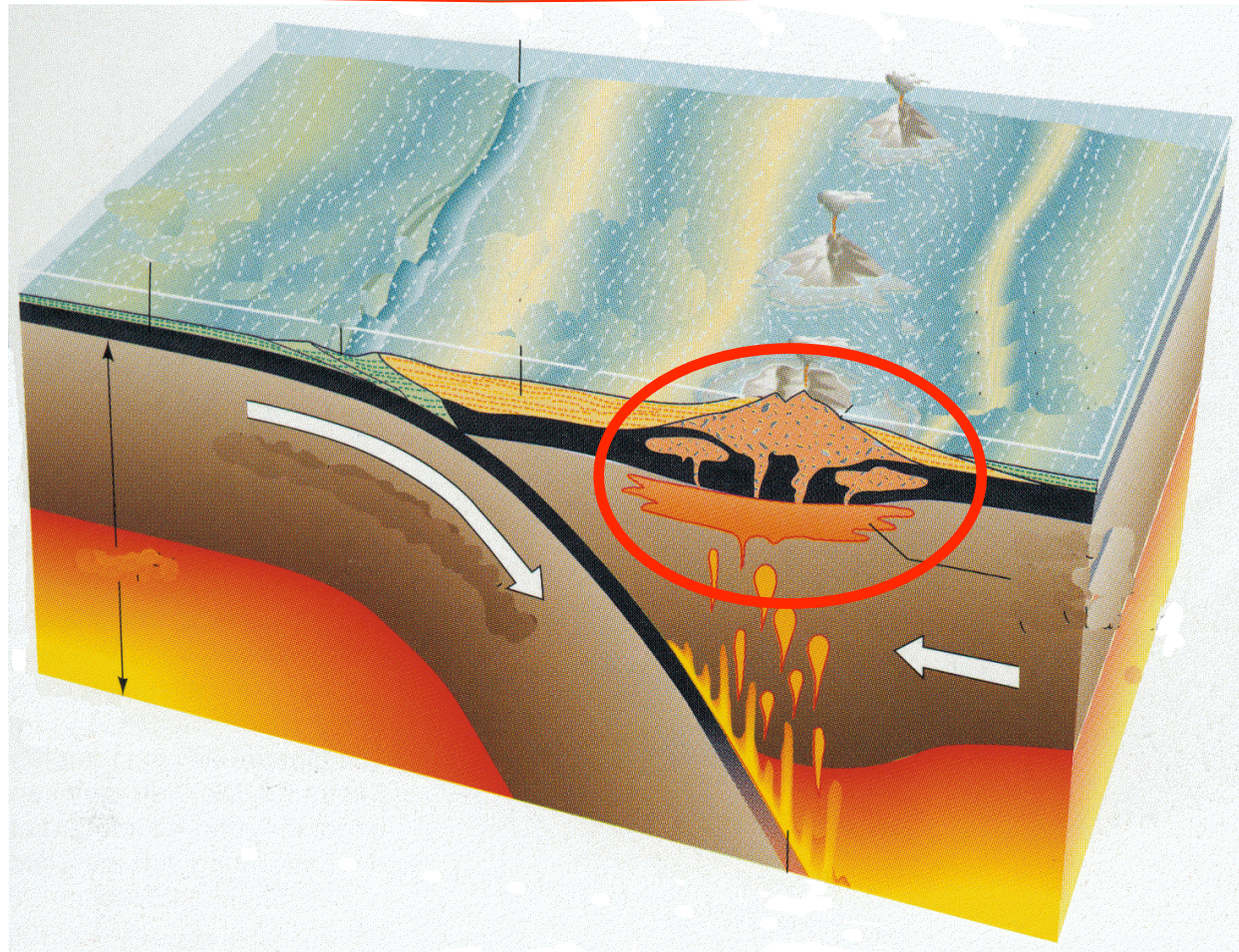


Gorczyk et al. (2006)



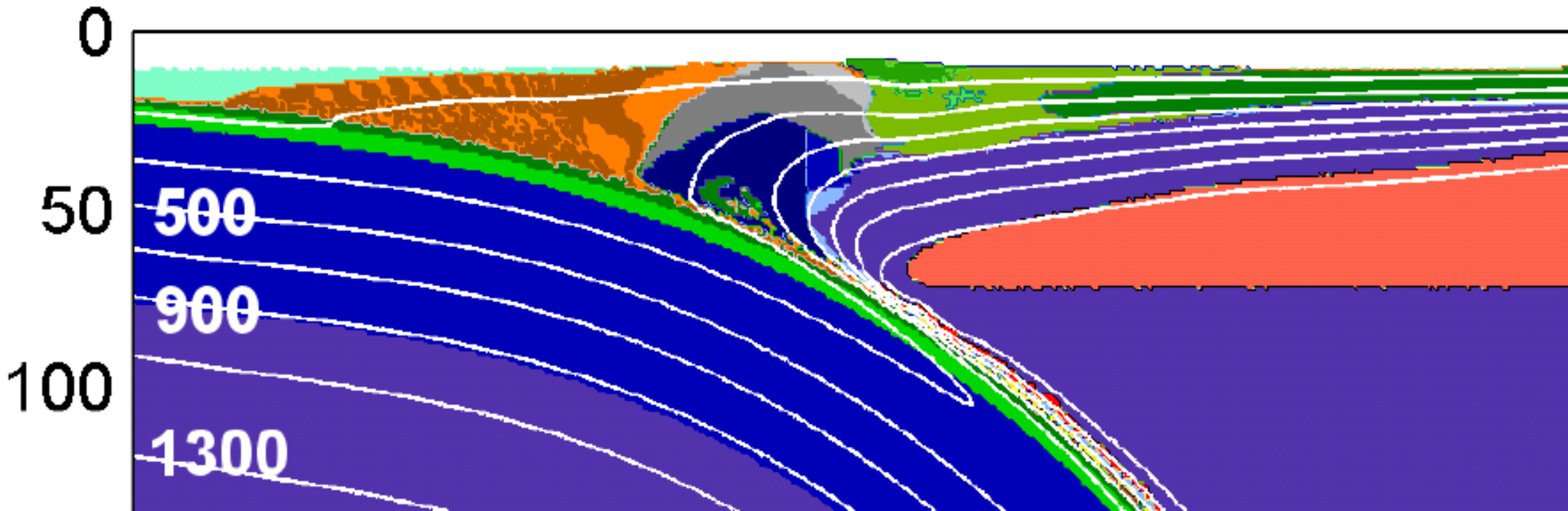
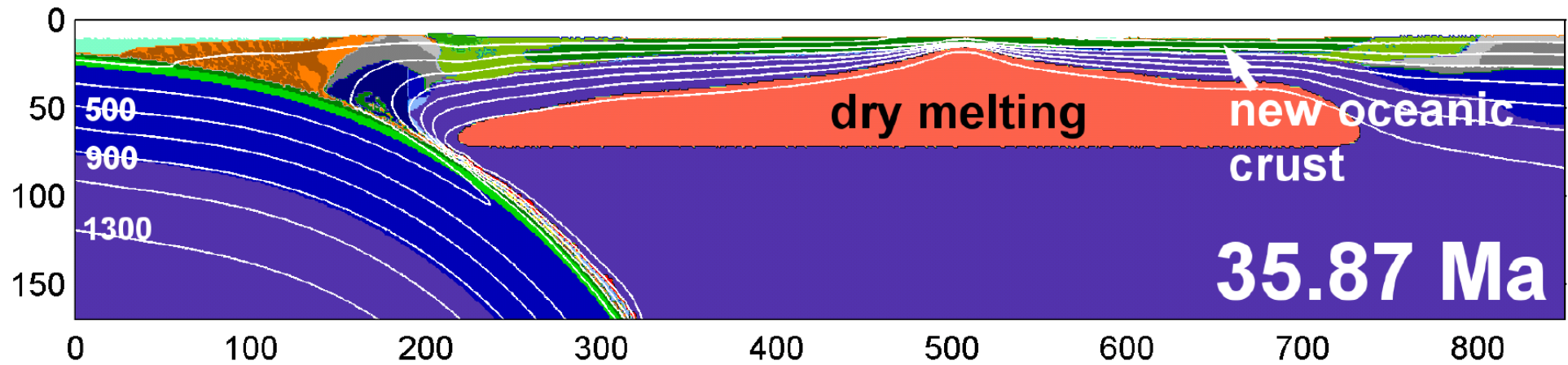
What are physical controls of magmatic productivity in volcanic arcs

?

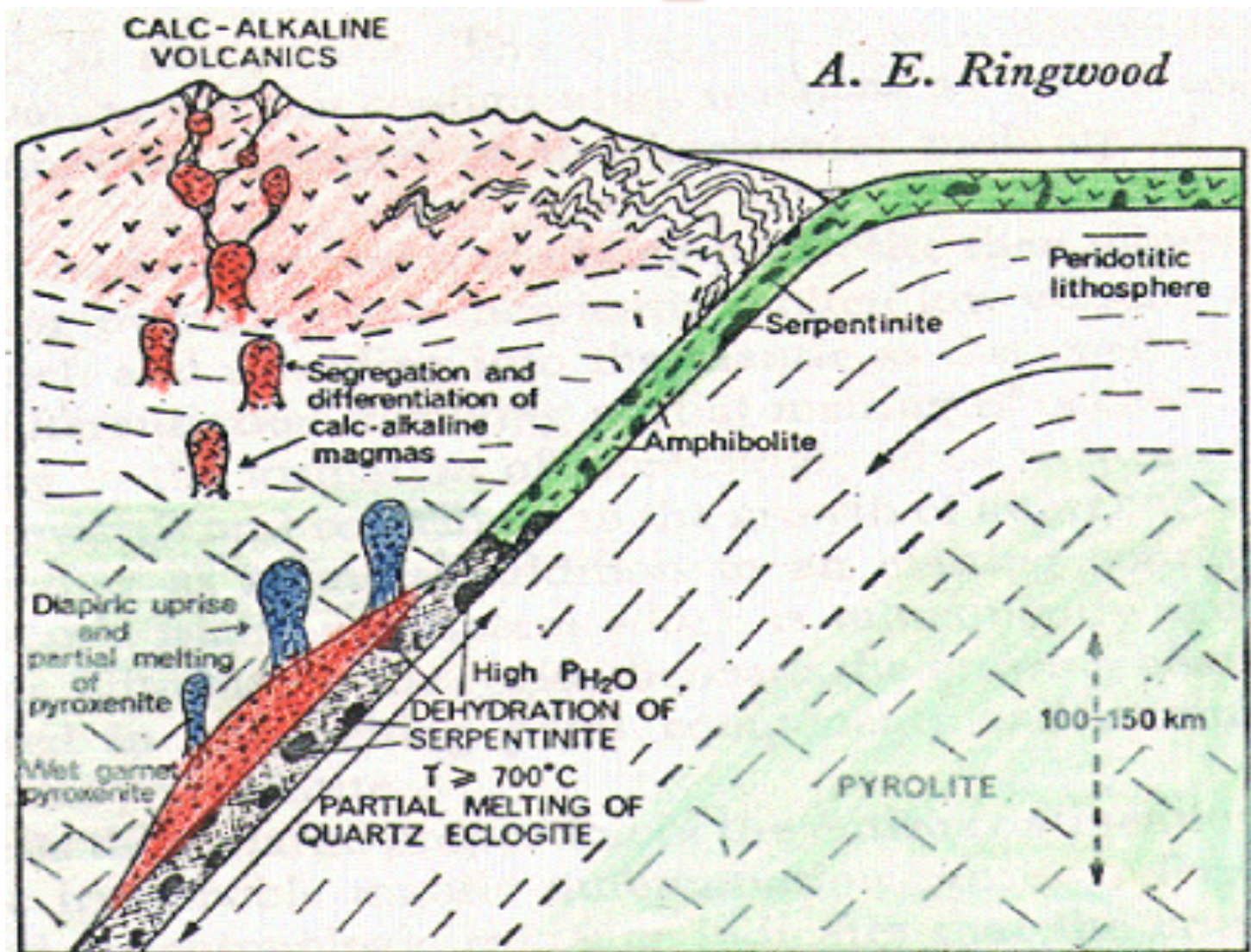


active margin

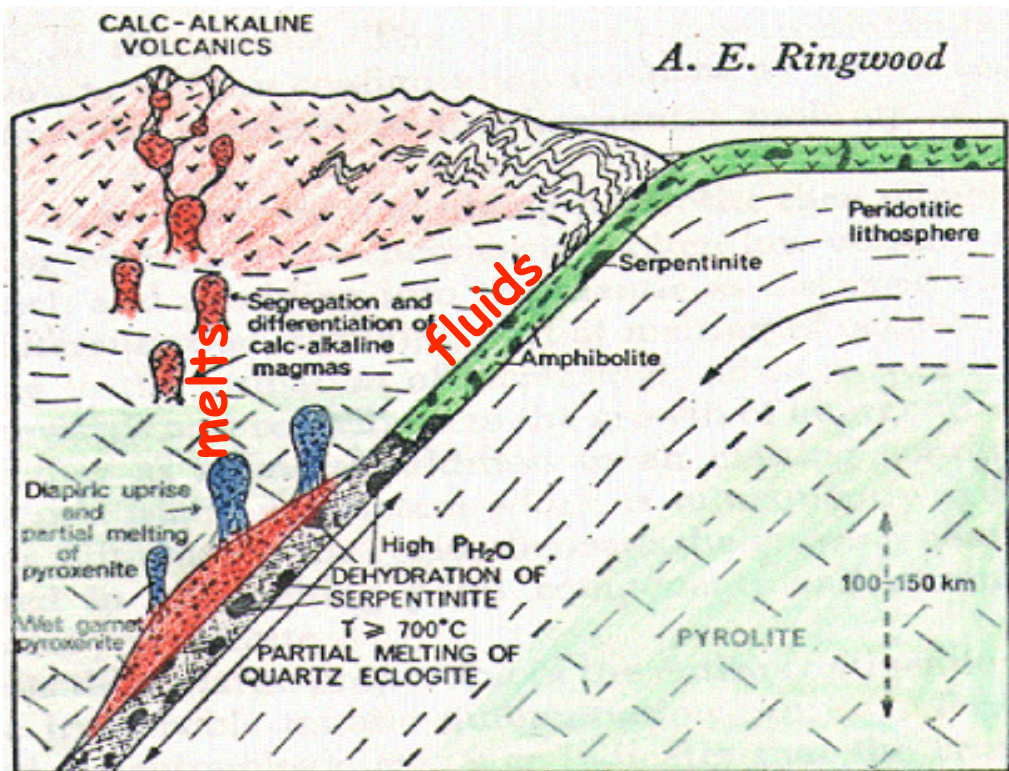
Gerya and Löw (in preparation)



What is important ?



Effects of moving fluids and melt on rock rheology



Fluids and melts

We explored two weakening parameters:

λ_{fluid}

λ_{melt}

Plastic strength of rocks decreases with increasing pore fluid/melt pressure

$$\sigma_{yield} = c + p \cdot \sin(\psi_{dry}) \cdot \lambda$$

σ_{yield} yield strength

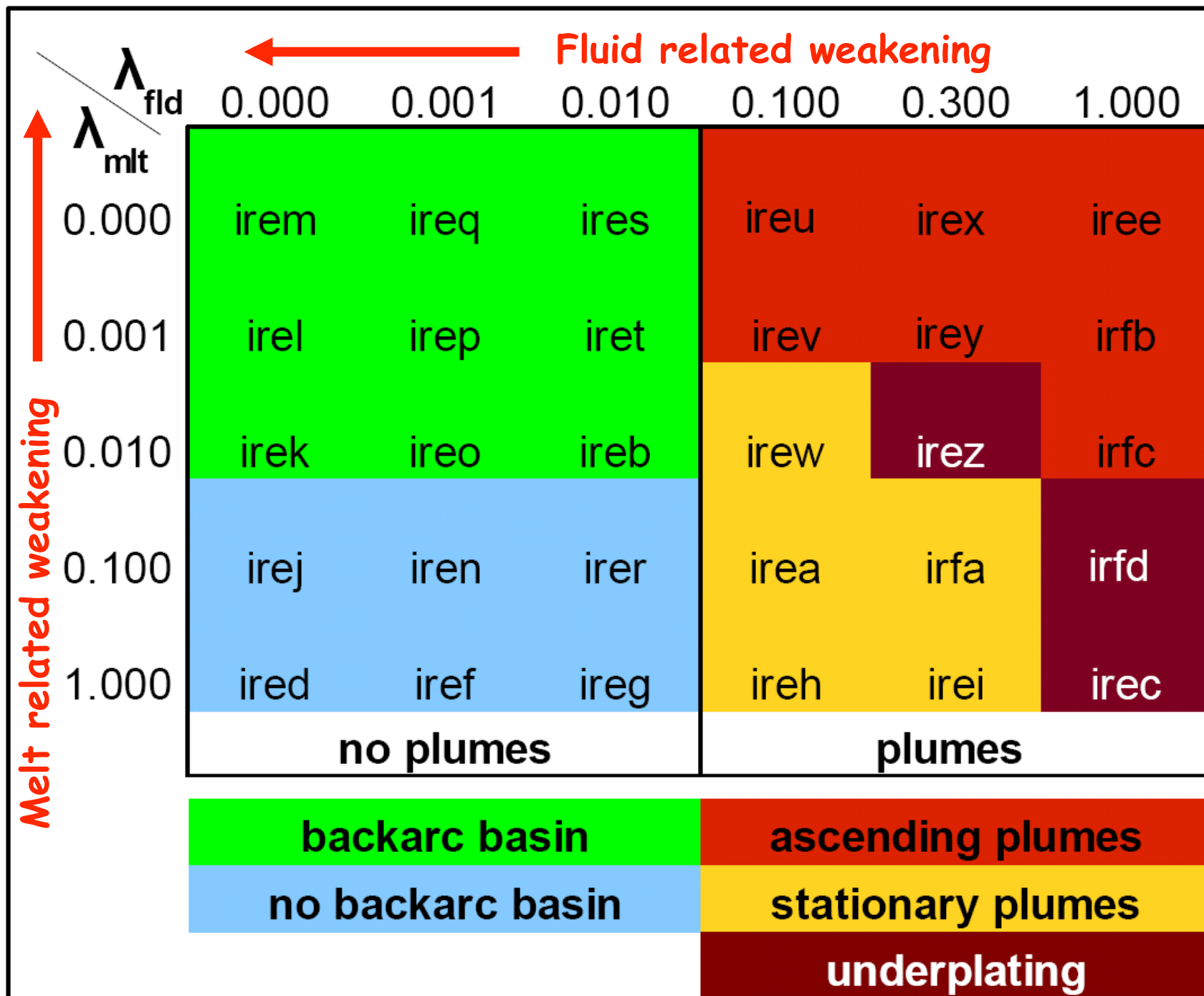
c cohesion

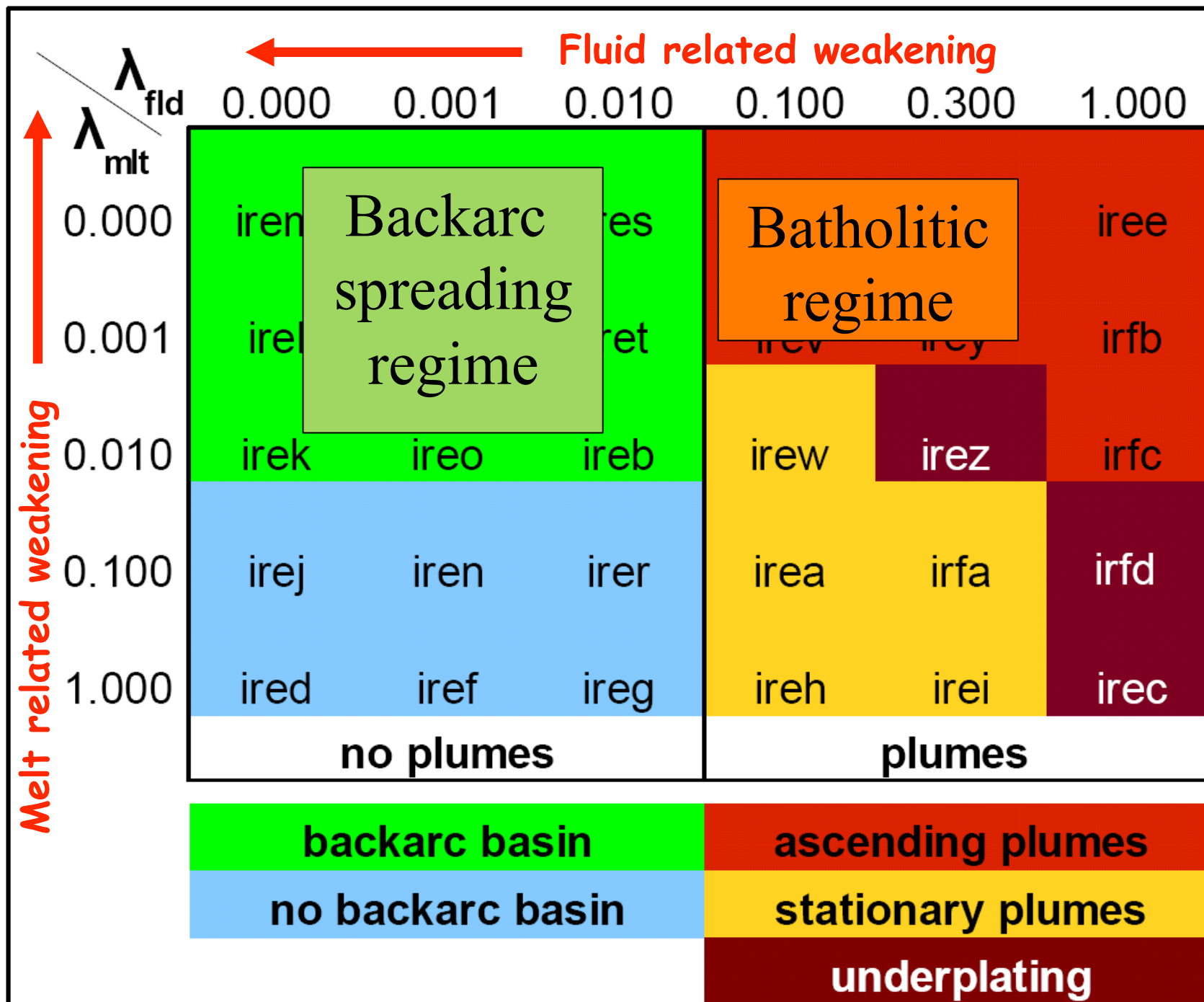
p pressure

ψ friction angle

$$\lambda_{fluid} = 1 - \frac{P_{fluid}}{P_{solid}}$$

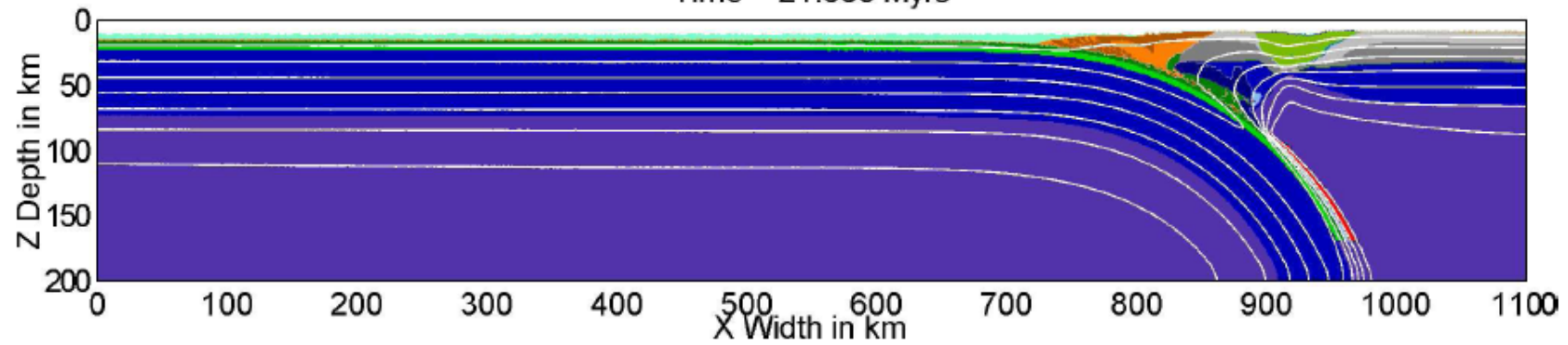
$$\lambda_{melt} = 1 - \frac{P_{melt}}{P_{solid}}$$



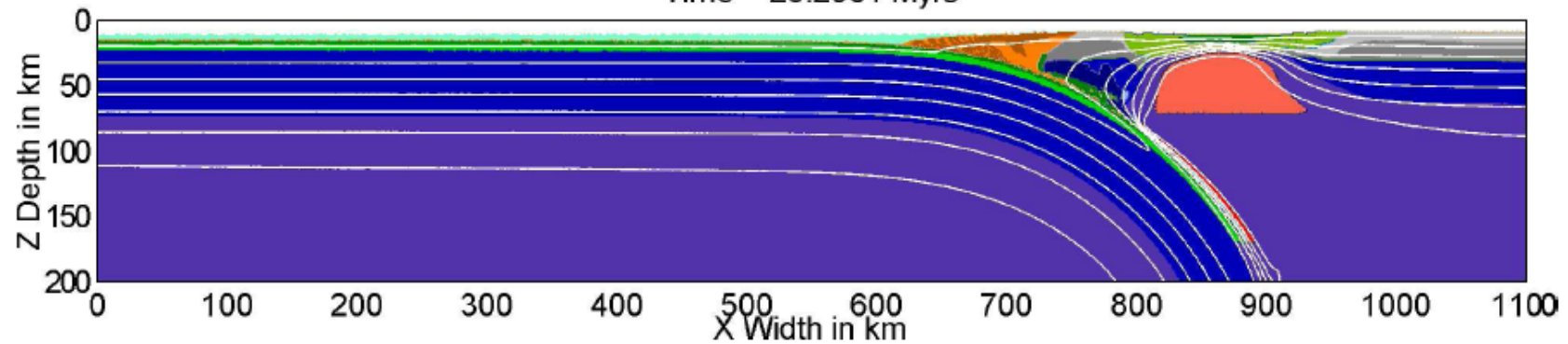


backarc spreading regime

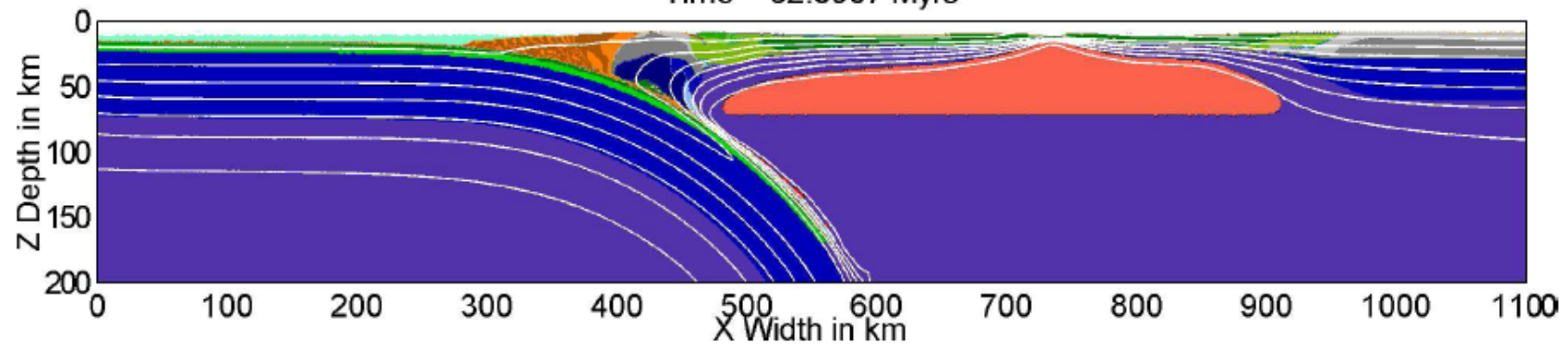
Time = 21.368 Myrs



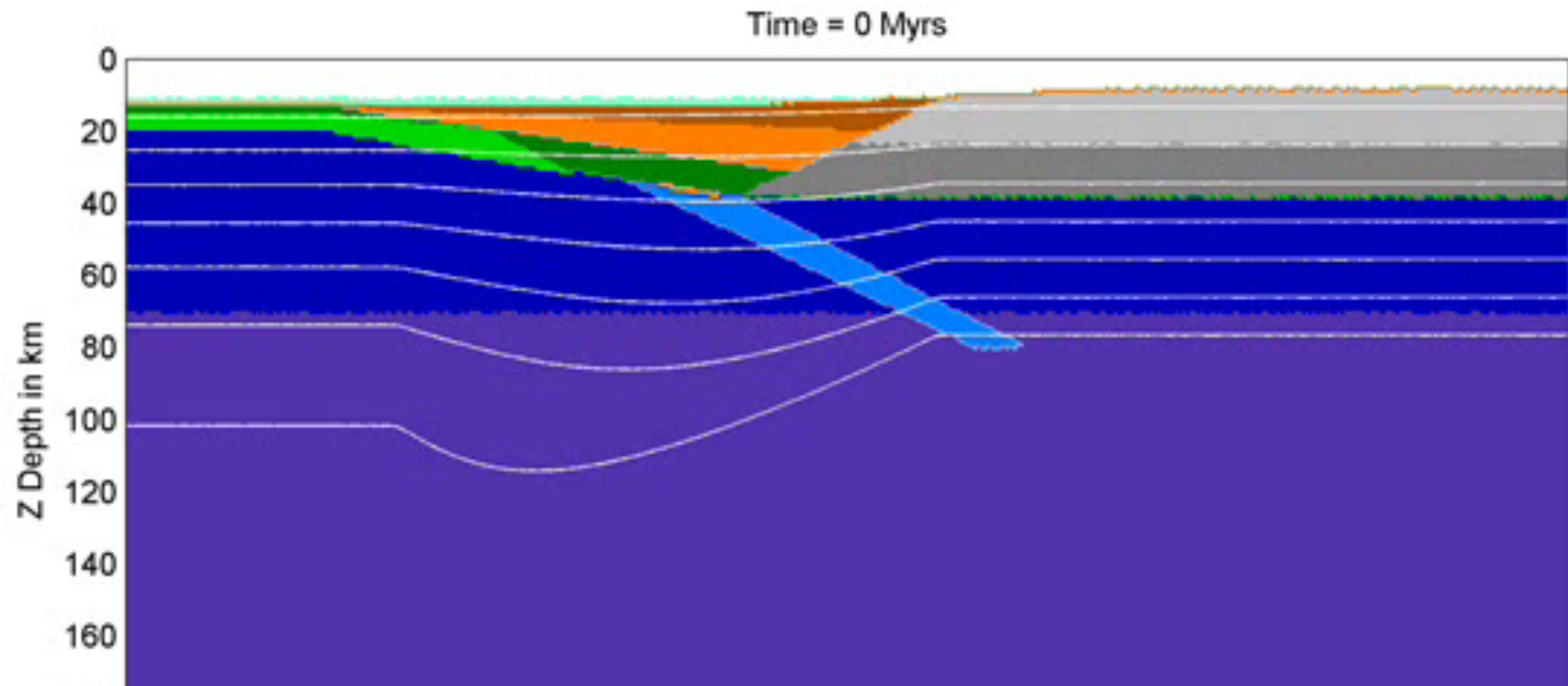
Time = 25.2981 Myrs



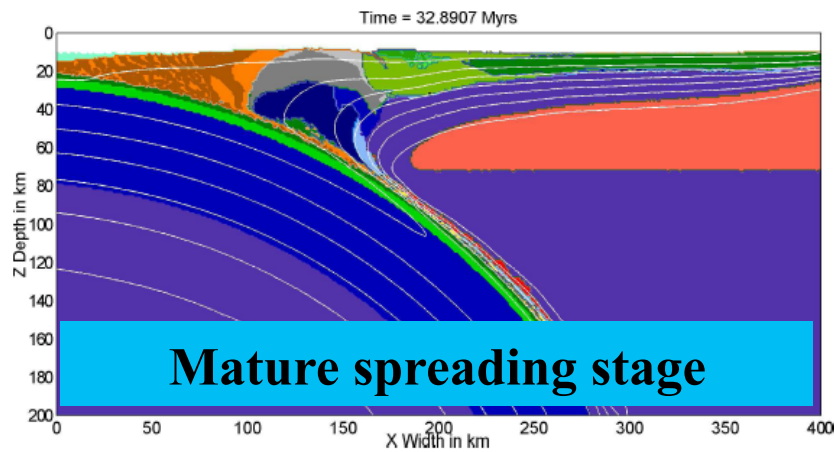
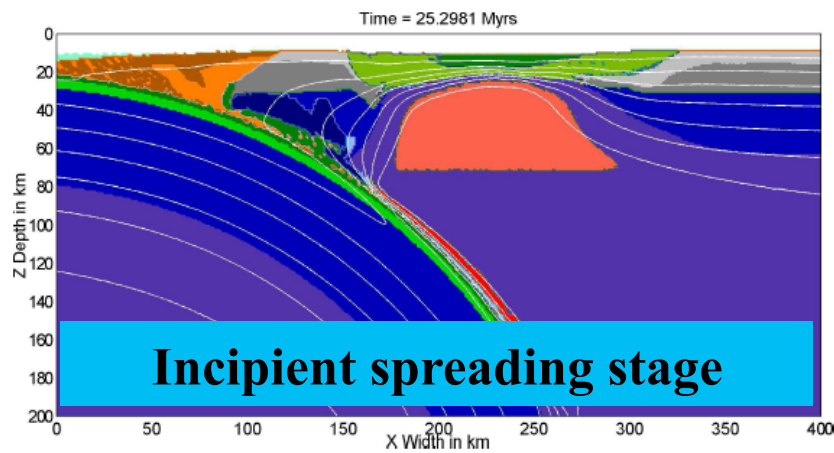
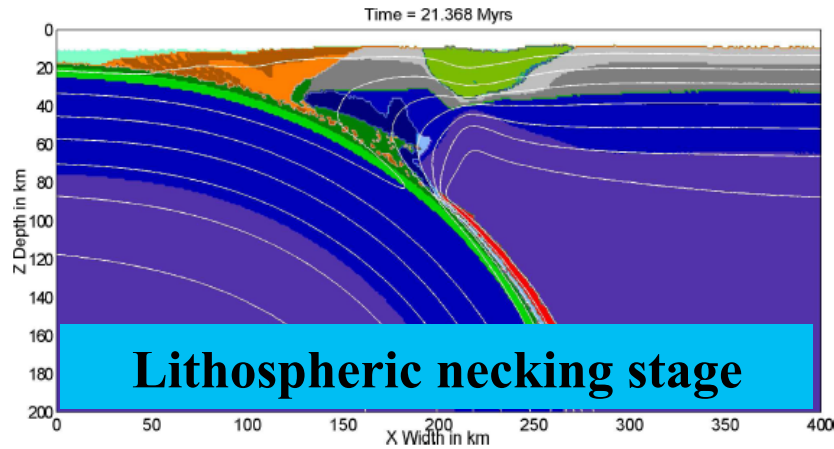
Time = 32.8907 Myrs



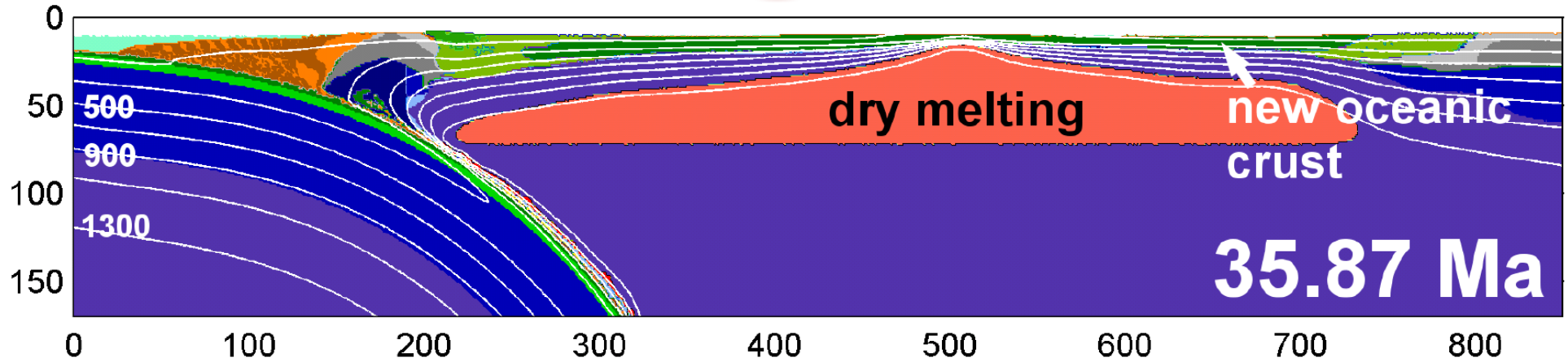
backarc spreading regime



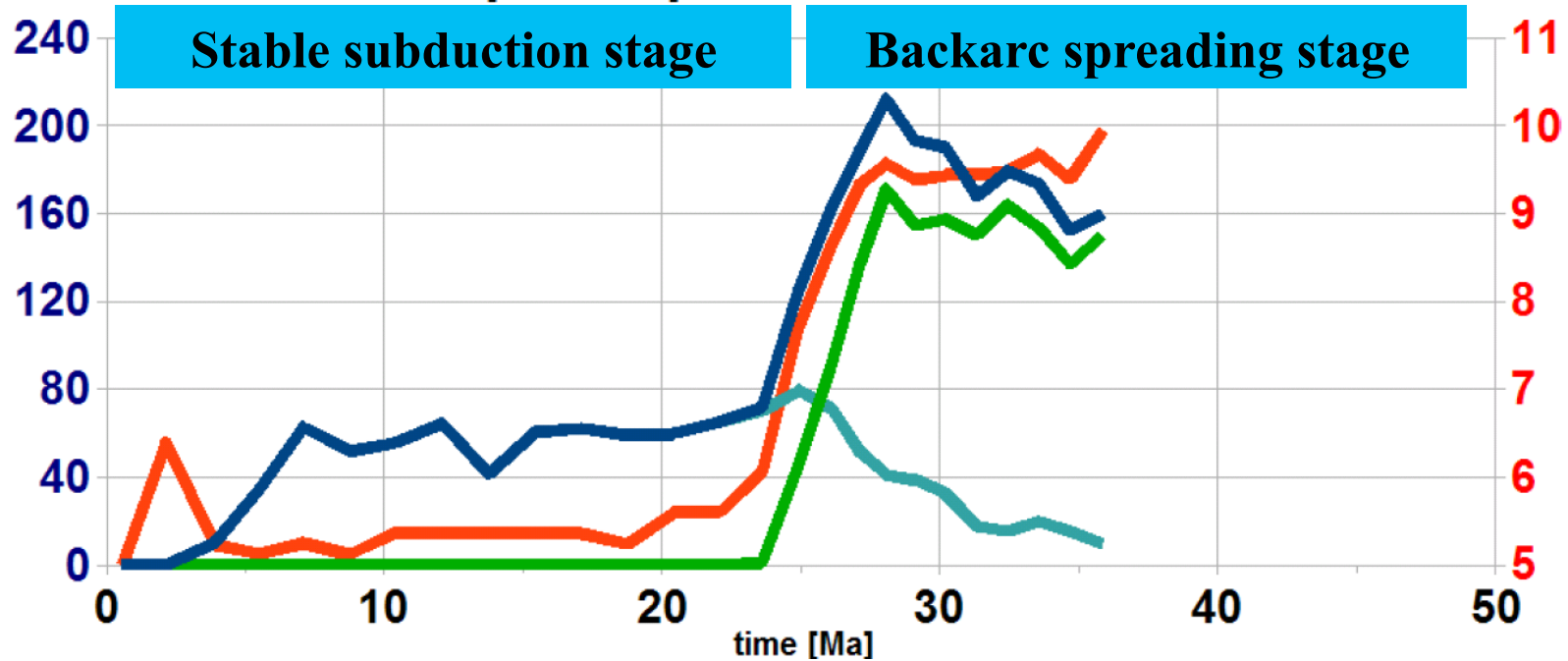
backarc spreading regime



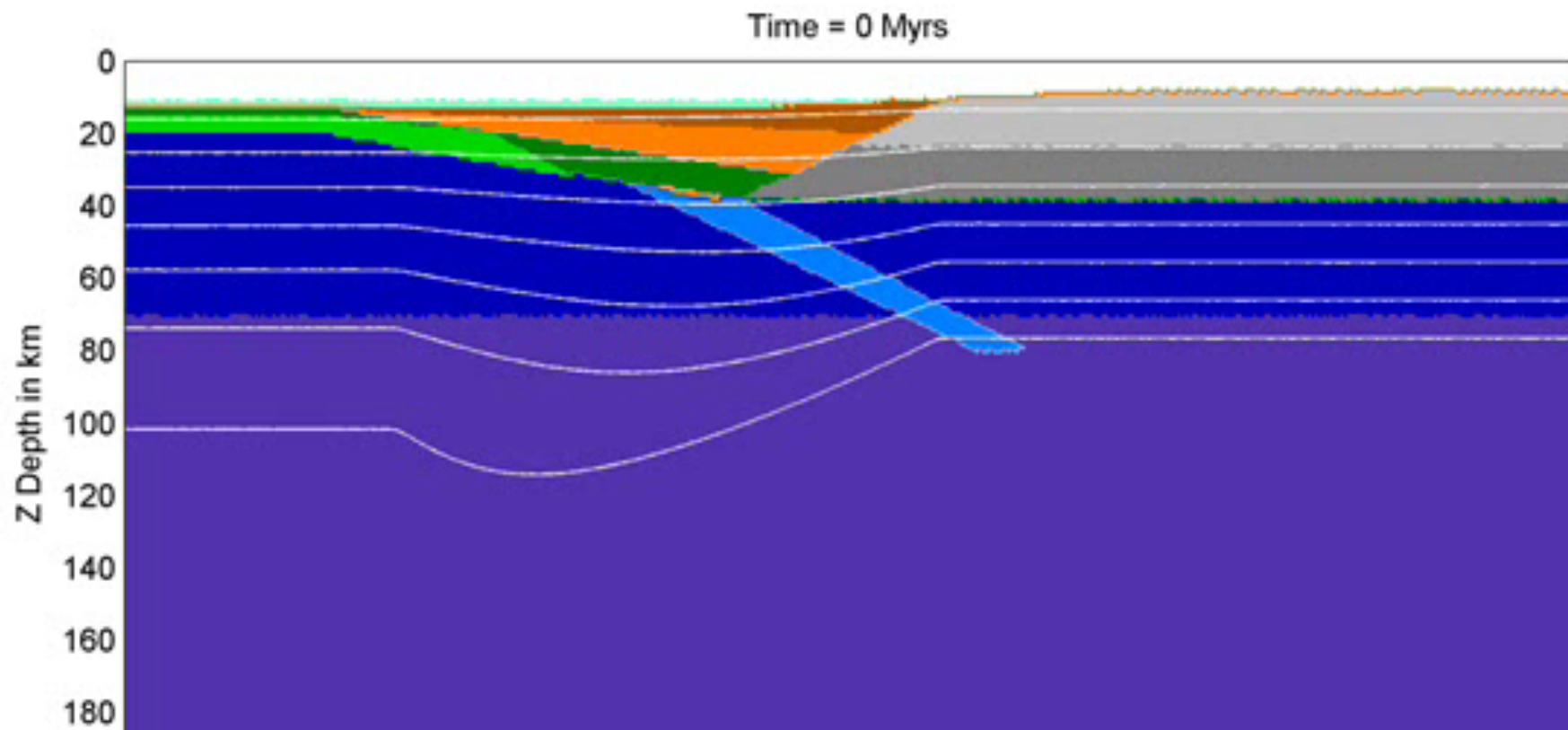
Crustal growth rate

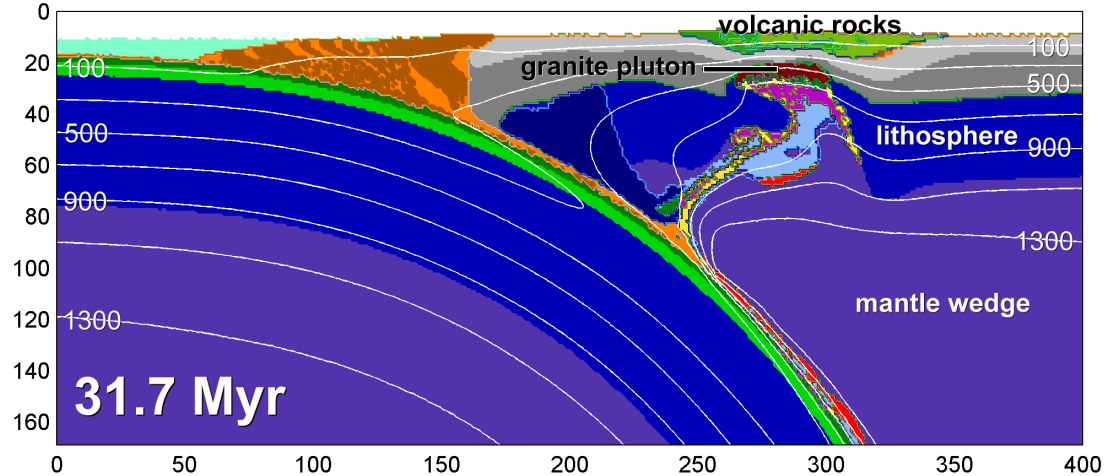
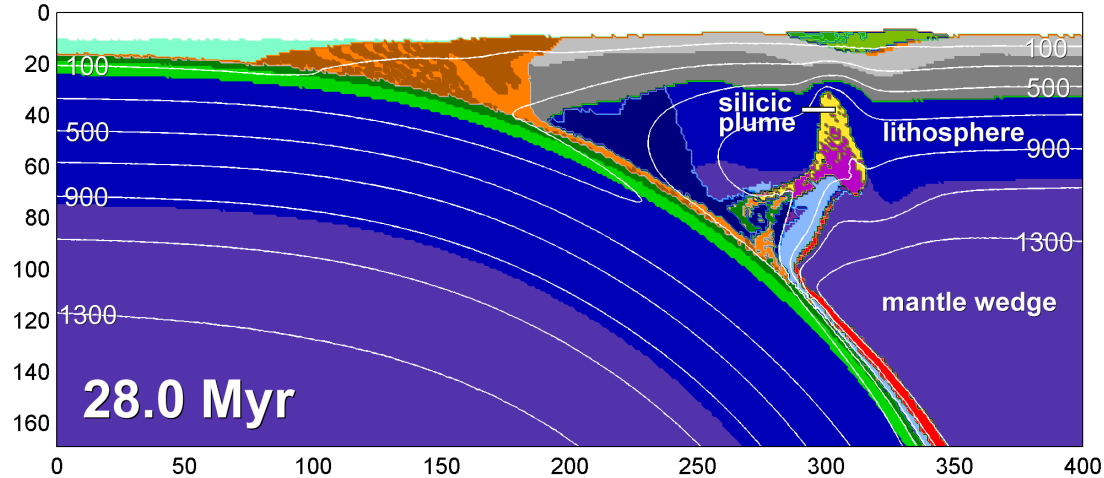
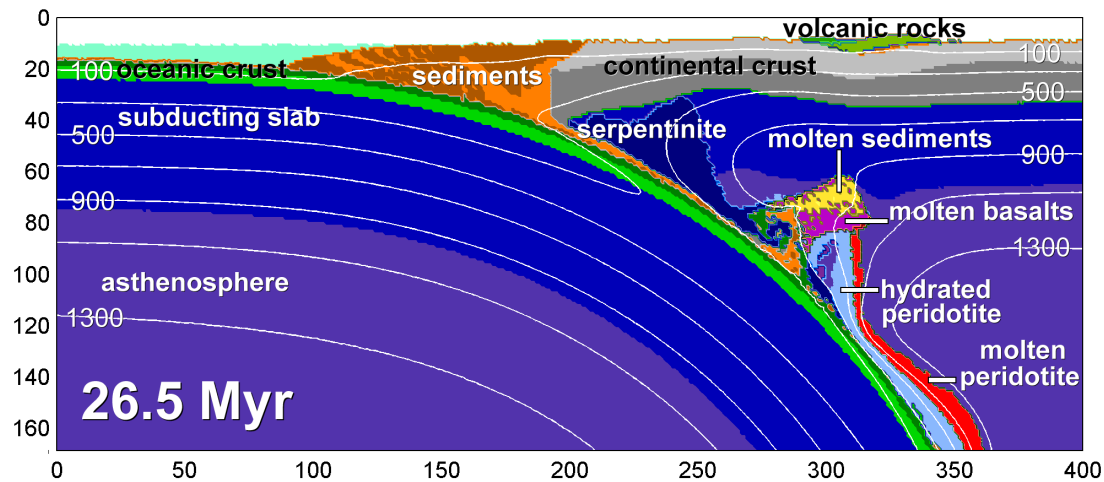


■ production rate (total) [km³/km/Ma]
 ■ production rate of dry decompression melting [km³/km/Ma]
 ■ production rate of subduction related melts [km³/km/Ma]
 ■ trench retreat [cm/a] + subduction rate (5cm/a)



batholithic regime





Prediction:
batholiths should grow
from thermal-chemical
sublithospheric plumes

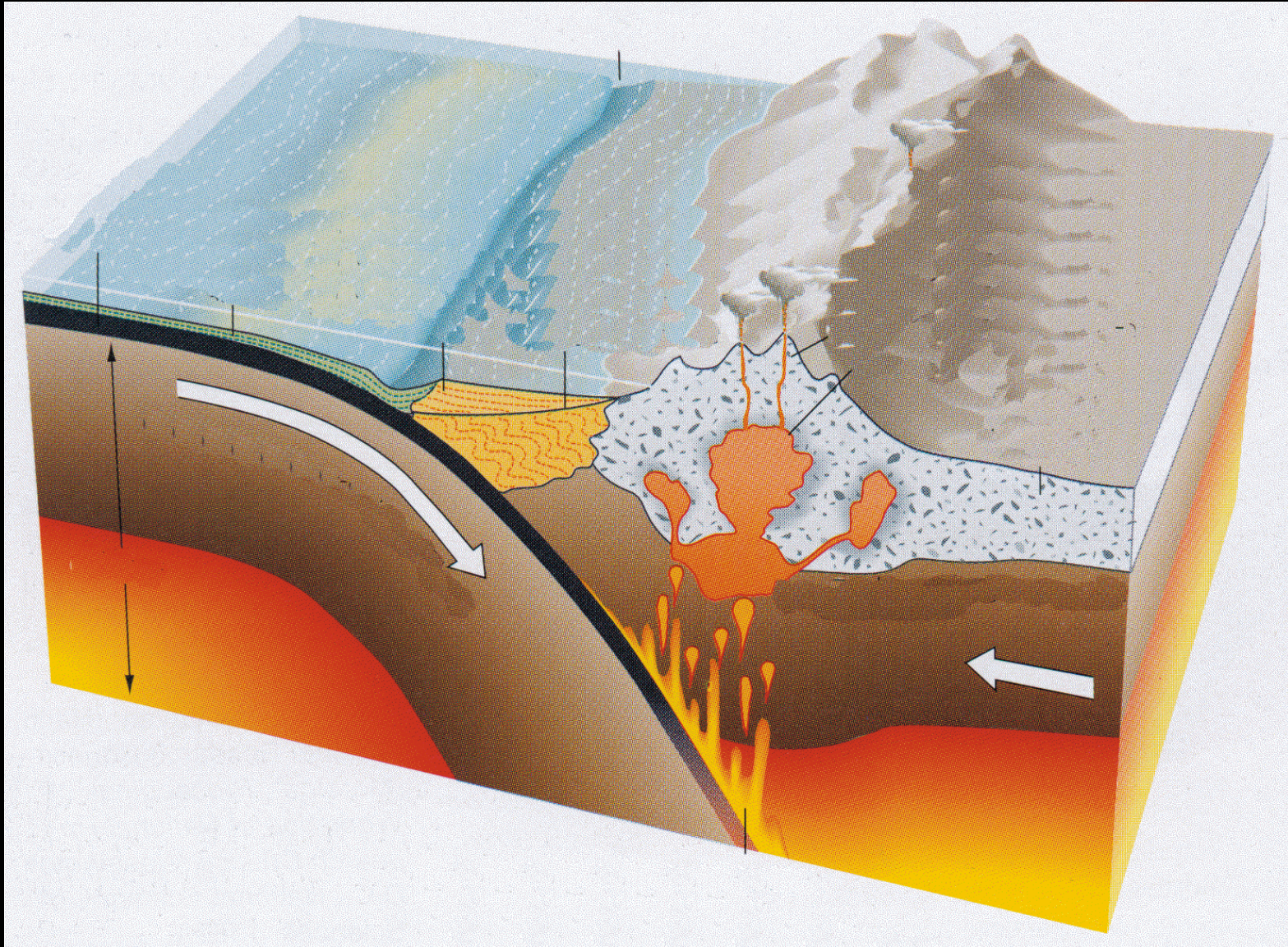
Castro et al. (2009)

What was with subduction in the early Earth



Sizova et al. (2009)

Subduction under active margin



Numerical experiments (different mantle temperature and radiogenic heating)

present day

	$\Delta T=0^{\circ}\text{C}$	$\Delta T=50^{\circ}\text{C}$	$\Delta T=100^{\circ}\text{C}$	$\Delta T=150^{\circ}\text{C}$	$\Delta T=160^{\circ}\text{C}$	$\Delta T=175^{\circ}\text{C}$	$\Delta T=200^{\circ}\text{C}$	$\Delta T=250^{\circ}\text{C}$
H	normal subduction	normal subduction	normal subduction	normal subduction	normal subduction	underthrusting	underthrusting	no subduction
Hx1.5	normal subduction	normal subduction	normal subduction	normal subduction	normal subduction	underthrusting	underthrusting	no subduction
Hx2	normal subduction	normal subduction	normal subduction	normal subduction	normal subduction	underthrusting	underthrusting	no subduction
Hx2.5	normal subduction	normal subduction	normal subduction	normal subduction	normal subduction	underthrusting	underthrusting	no subduction
Hx3	normal subduction	normal subduction	normal subduction	normal subduction	normal subduction	underthrusting	underthrusting	no subduction
Hx5	normal subduction	normal subduction	normal subduction	normal subduction	normal subduction	underthrusting	underthrusting	no subduction

“normal subduction” regime

“pre-subduction” regime

“no subduction” regime

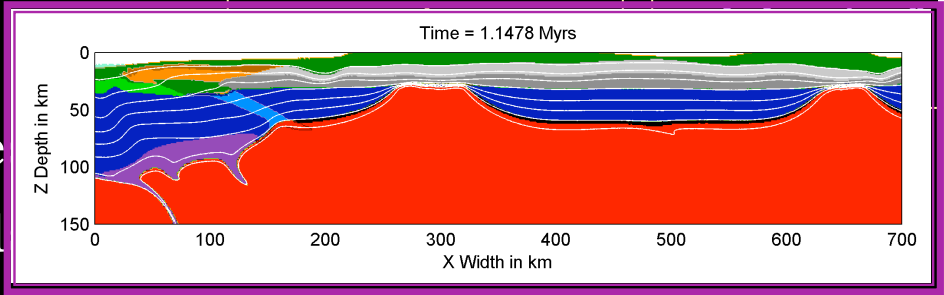
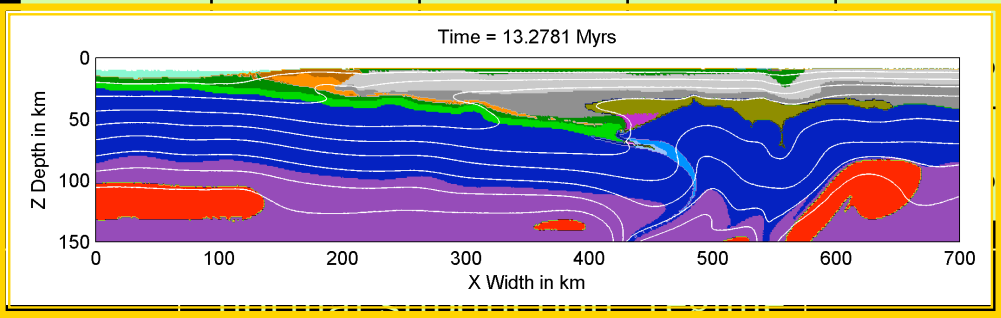
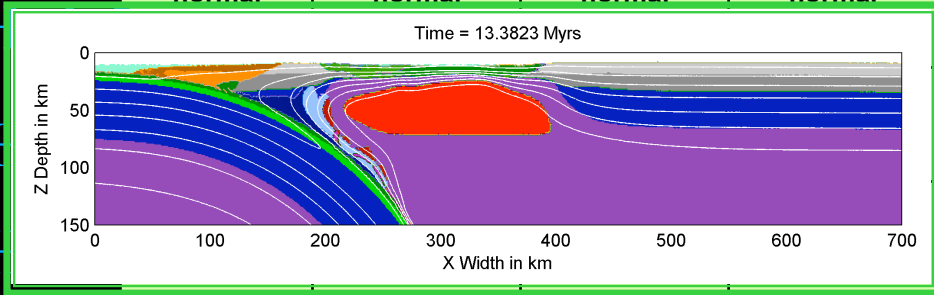
$\Delta T = T_m - T_m^0$; $T_m^0 = 1360^{\circ}\text{C}$ (present mantle temperature at 70 km)

H – radiogenic heating (present day)

Numerical experiments (different mantle temperature and radiogenic heating)

present day

	$\Delta T = 0^\circ\text{C}$	$\Delta T = 50^\circ\text{C}$	$\Delta T = 100^\circ\text{C}$	$\Delta T = 150^\circ\text{C}$	$\Delta T = 160^\circ\text{C}$	$\Delta T = 175^\circ\text{C}$	$\Delta T = 200^\circ\text{C}$	$\Delta T = 250^\circ\text{C}$
H	normal subduction	normal subduction	normal subduction	normal subduction	normal subduction	underthrusting	underthrusting	no subduction
H	normal	normal	normal	normal	normal subduction	underthrusting	underthrusting	no subduction
H					normal subduction	underthrusting	underthrusting	no subduction
H					normal subduction	underthrusting	underthrusting	no subduction
Hx3						underthrusting	underthrusting	no subduction
Hx5						underthrusting	underthrusting	no subduction



$\Delta T = T_m - T_m^0; T_m^0 = 1360^\circ\text{C}$ (pre)

H – radiogenic heating (present d

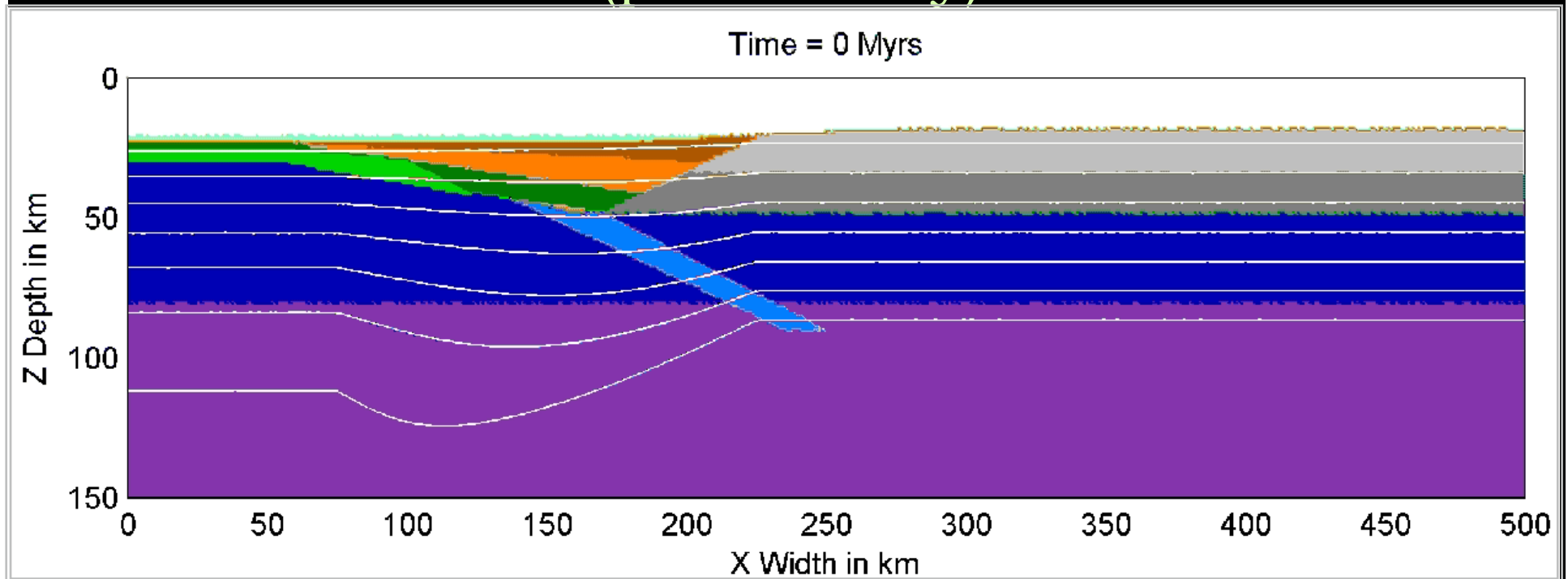
“pre-subduction”

“no

Normal subduction

$\Delta T = 0 - 175 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$

Initial experiment (present day)

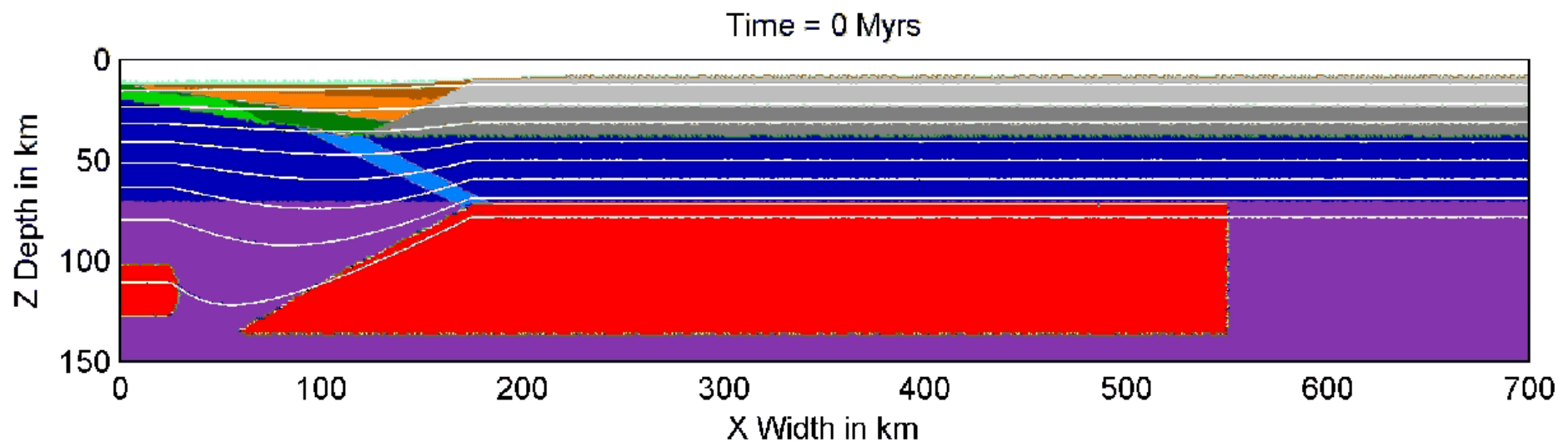


Formation of mantle wedge, arc, backarc basin

Underthrusting (“pre-subduction” regime)

$\Delta T = 175 - 250 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$

Hx2.5



Plates are very weak.

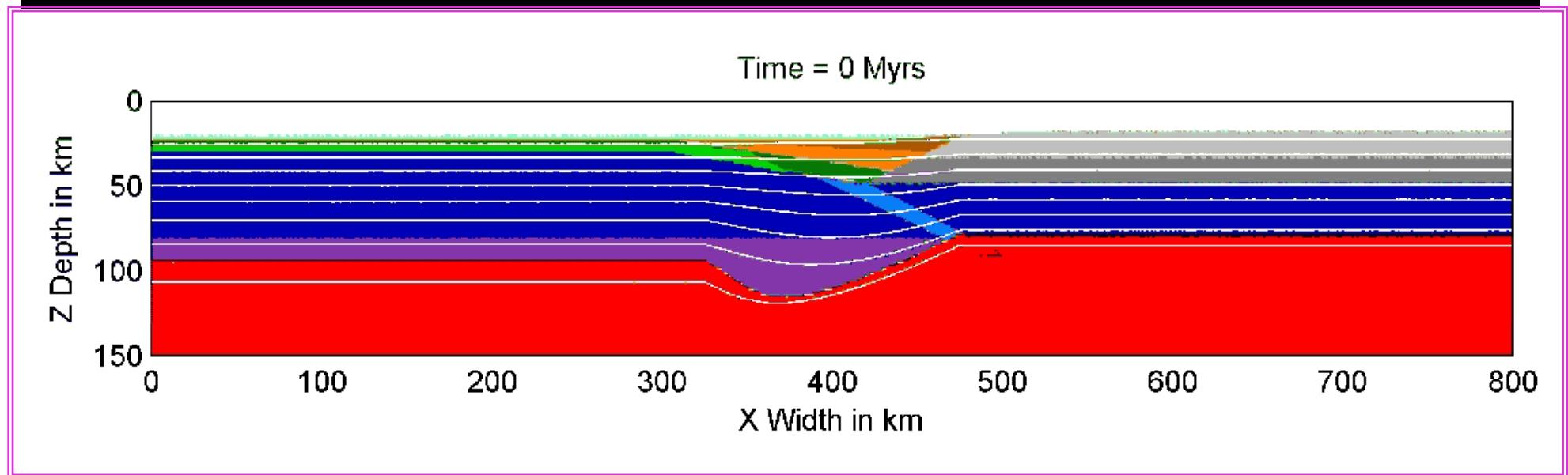
They have strong tendency of horizontal buckling.
Both slab and lower continental crust start to melt.

No mantle wedge, no arc, no backarc basin.

“No subduction” regime

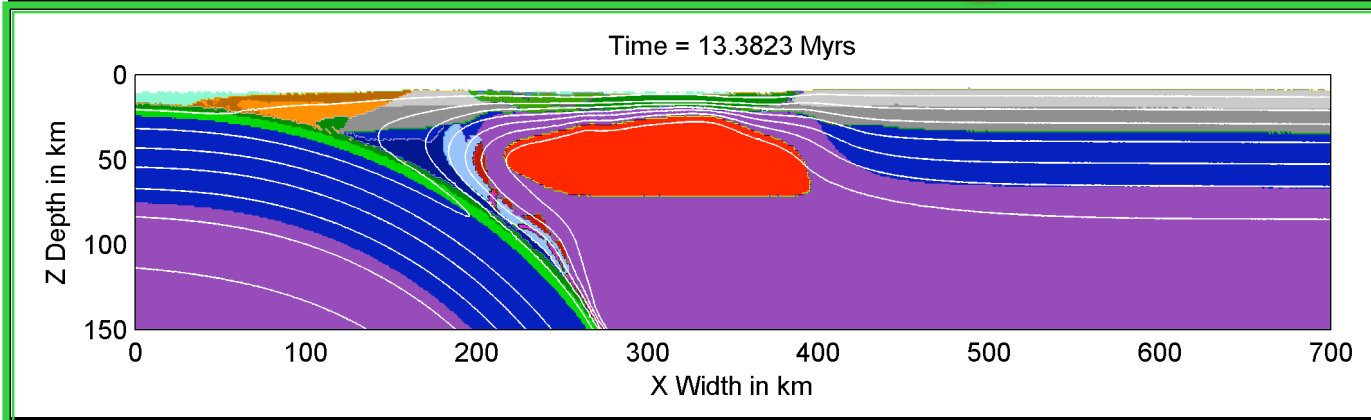
$\Delta T > 250 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$

Hx3

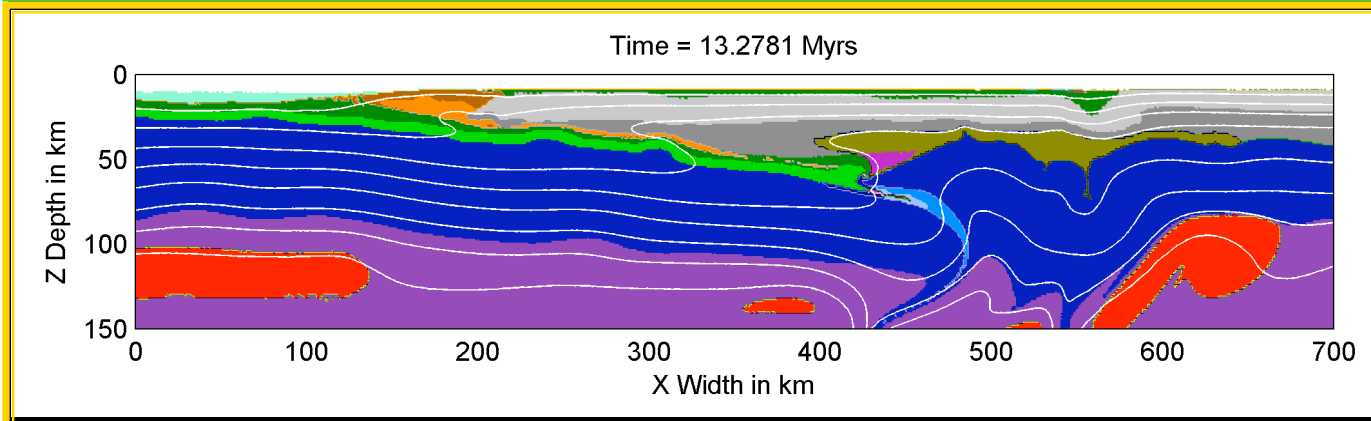


Only horizontal movements

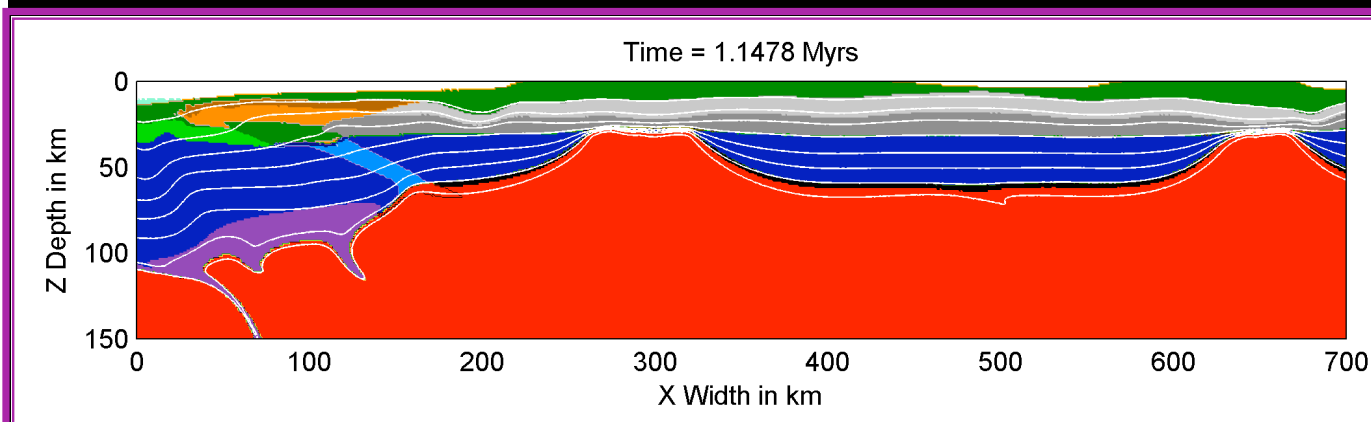
Prediction: three regimes for the Earth



“normal
subduction”
regime



“pre-subduction”
regime



“no subduction”
regime

Sizova et al. (2009)

Transitions from numerical experiments

$\Delta T = 160^\circ\text{C}$

“normal subduction”
regime

$\Delta T = 175^\circ\text{C}$ $\Delta T = 200^\circ\text{C}$

“pre-subduction”
regime

$H > H \times 1.5$

$\Delta T = 250^\circ\text{C}$

“no subduction”
regime

?

Petrological data:

Neoproterozoic time (2.5-3Ga):

$\Delta T = 100 - 200^\circ\text{C}$

(Grove, Parman, 2004; Komia et al., 1999)

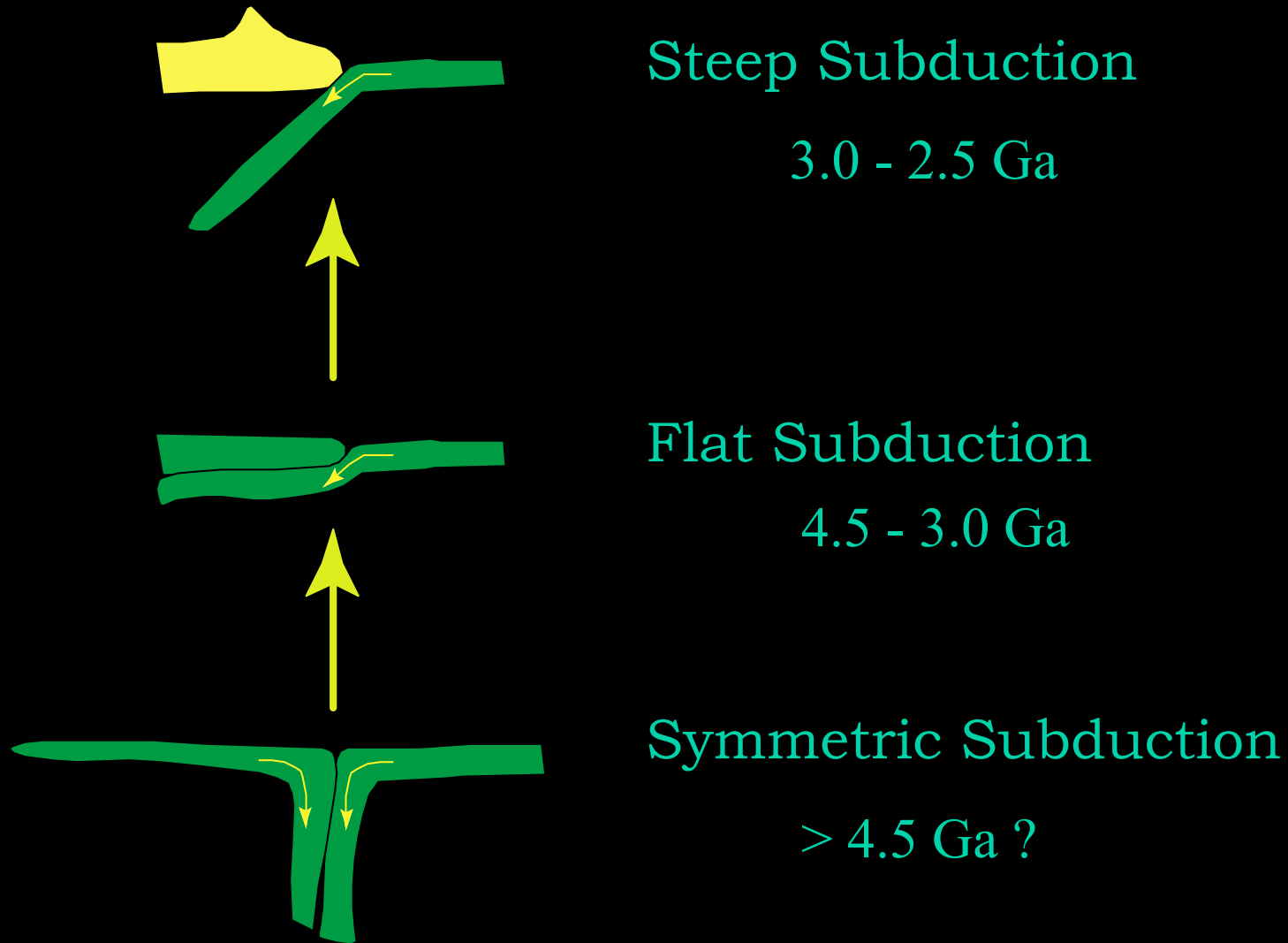
$H: H \times 2 - H \times 3$

(Chacko, 2003; Hynes, 2001; Davies, 1992)

Evolving tectonic regimes

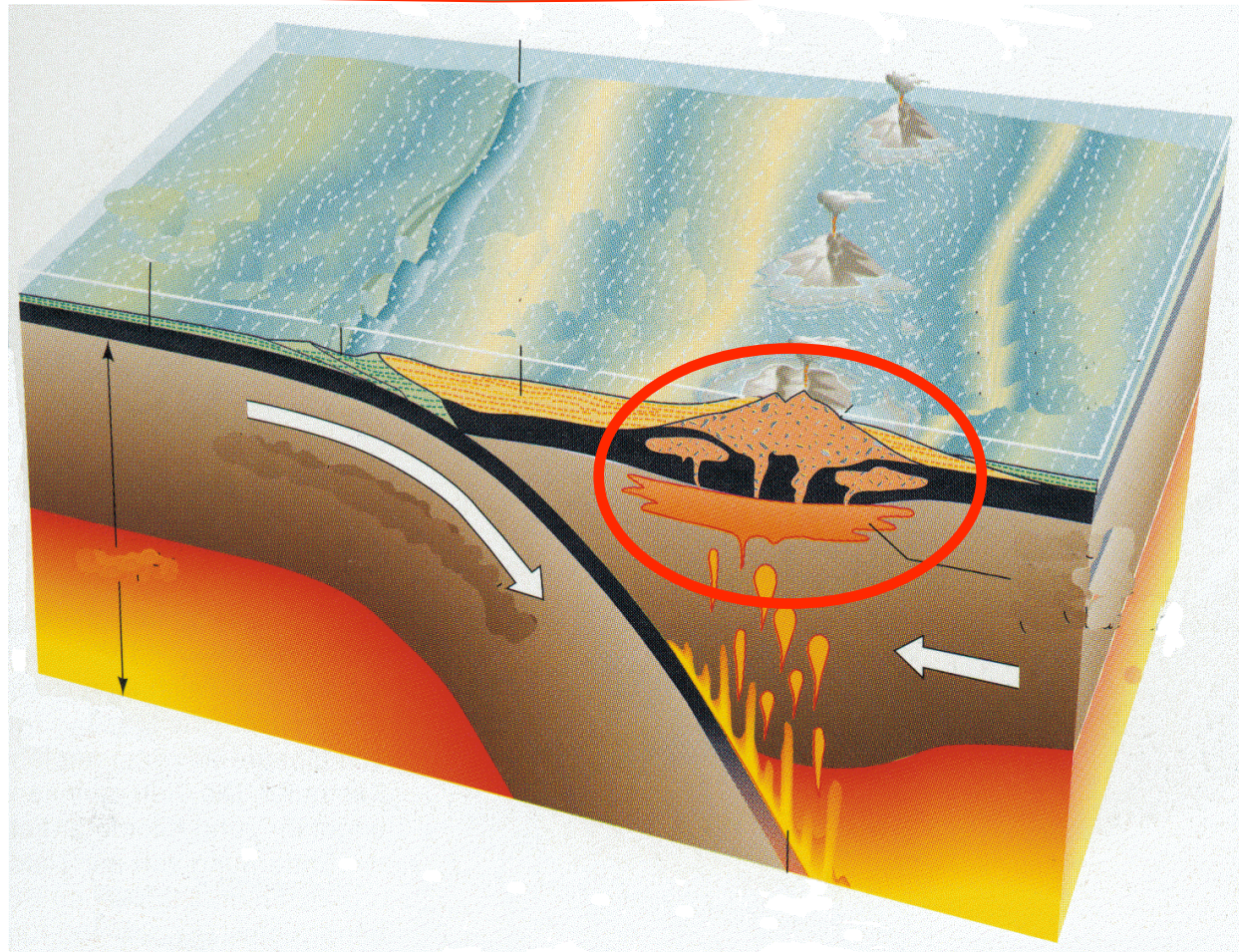
Kent C. Condie

Presentation on Geological Society of America
Penrose Conference



What factors control subduction initiation at passive margins?

?

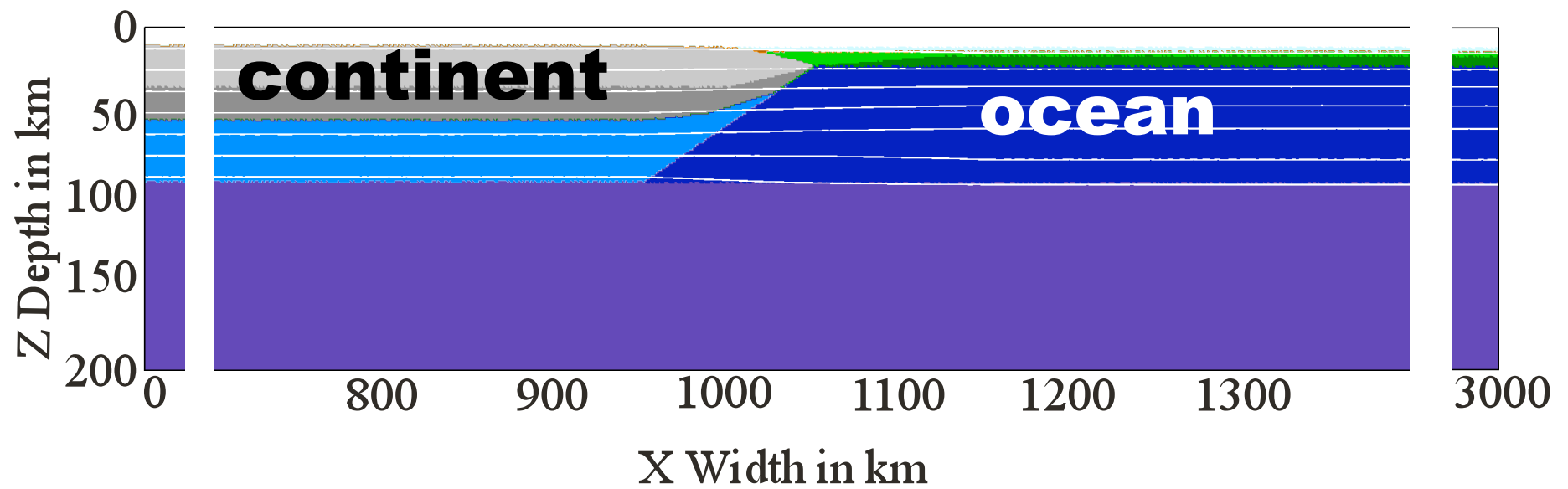


Subduction initiation controversy

A combination of **slab pull** (mostly) and **ridge-push** has been shown to be the dominant driving mechanism of plate tectonics (e.g. Elsasser, 1967; McKenzie, 1969; Forsyth and Uyeda, 1975). It is also known that an oceanic lithosphere older than 20-50 Ma becomes denser than the underlying asthenosphere. However, McKenzie (1977) showed that, despite the favourable gravitational instability and ridge-push, **elastic and frictional forces prevent subduction from arising spontaneously.**

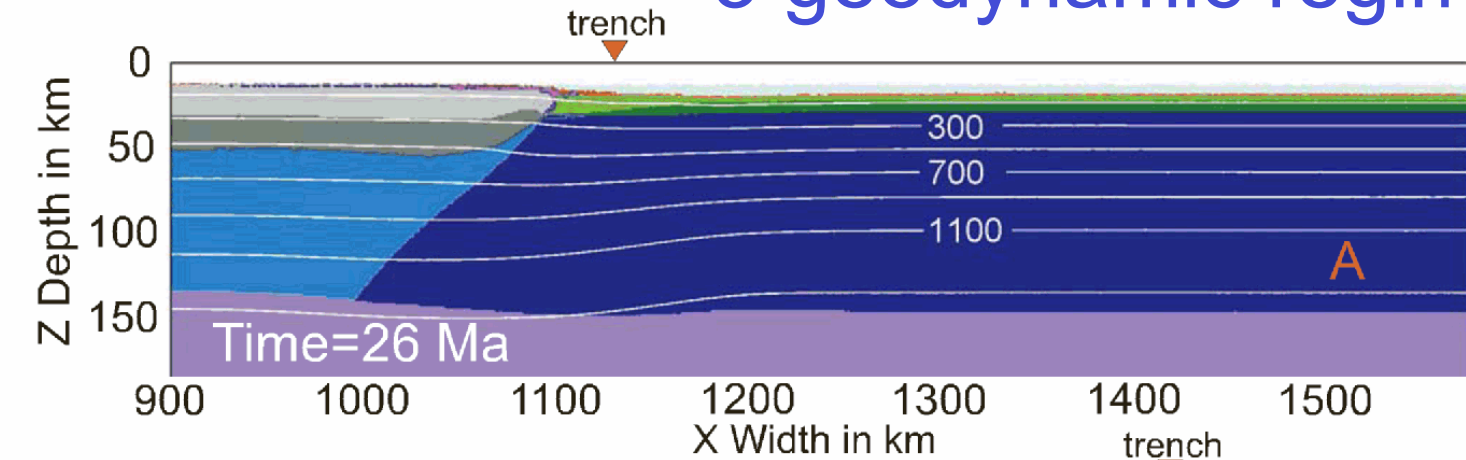
Therefore the twofold question: **what forces can trigger subduction** (other than negative buoyancy and ridge-push), and **where can it nucleate?** Several mechanisms have been proposed to try and answer this double question:

- (1) plate rupture within an oceanic plate or at a passive margin (e.g. McKenzie, 1977; Dickinson and Seely, 1979; Mitchell, 1984; Müller and Phillips, 1991).
- (2) Reversal of the polarity of an existing subduction zone (e.g. Dickinson and Seely, 1979; Mitchell, 1984).
- (3) Change of transform faults into trenches (e.g. Uyeda and Ben-Avraham, 1972; Hilde et al., 1976; Cooper et al., 1977; Karson and Dewey, 1978; Casey and Dewey, 1984; Müller and Phillips, 1991).
- (4) Sediment loading at passive margins of old or young lithosphere (e.g. Dewey, 1969; Fyfe and Leonardos, 1977; Karig, 1982; Cloetingh et al., 1982; Erickson, 1993; Regenauer-Lieb et al., 2001).
- (5) Forced convergence at oceanic fracture zones (e.g. Mueller and Phillips, 1991; Toth and Gurnis, 1998; Doin and Henry, 2001; Hall et al., 2003; Gurnis et al., 2004).
- (6) Tensile decoupling of the continental and oceanic lithosphere due to rifting (Kemp and Stevenson, 1996).
- (7) Lateral compositional buoyancy contrast within the lithosphere (Niu et al., 2003).
- (8) Addition of water (Regenauer-Lieb et al., 2001).
- (9) Small-scale convection in the sub-lithospheric mantle (Solomatov, 2004).
- (10) Thermal-chemical plumes (Ueda et al., 2008).
- (11) **Spontaneous thrusting of the buoyant continental crust over the oceanic (Mart et al., 2005).**

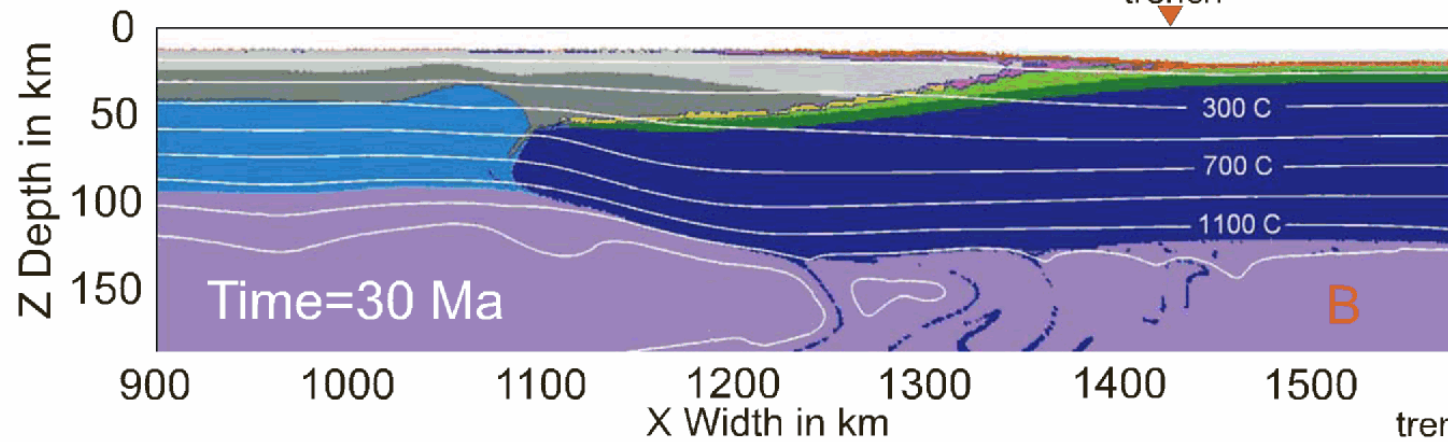


Nikolaeva et al. (in revision)

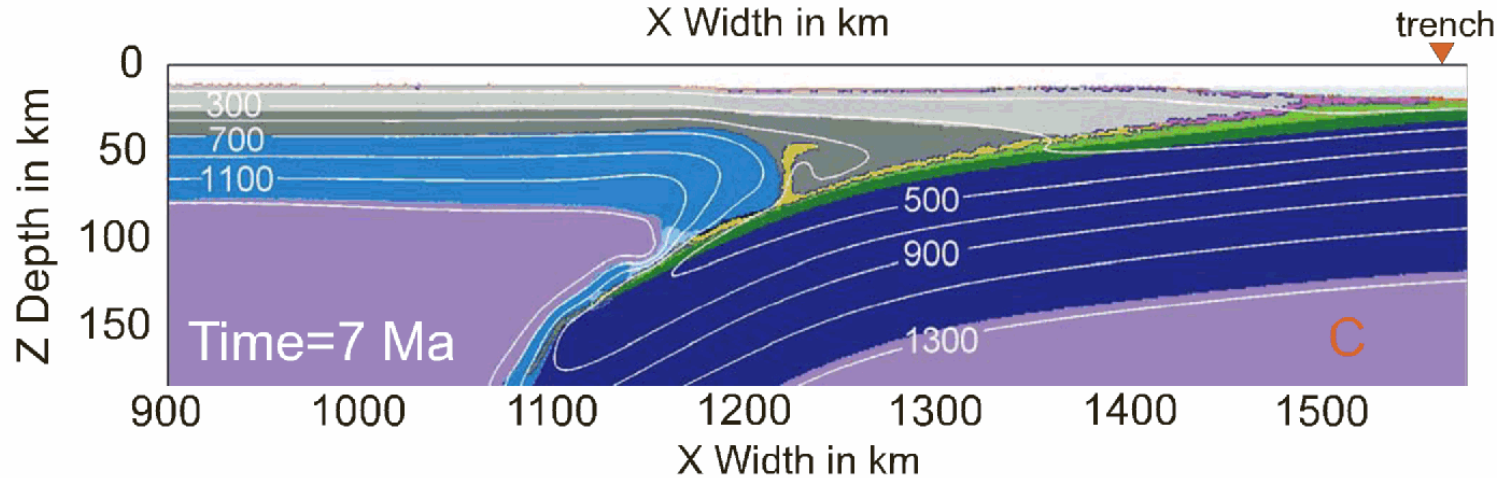
3 geodynamic regimes



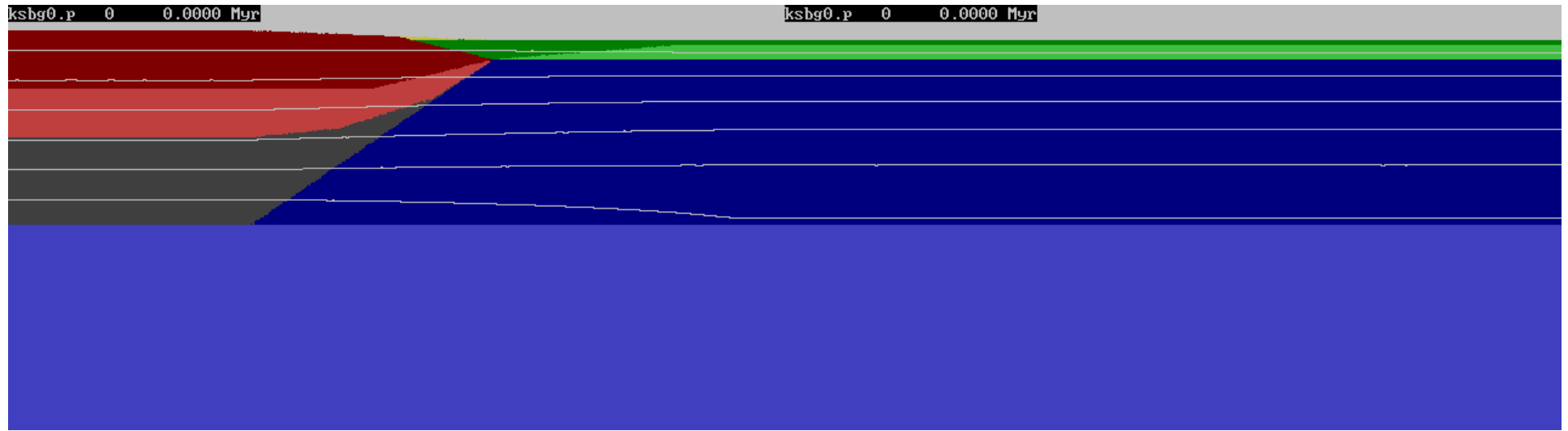
stable margin



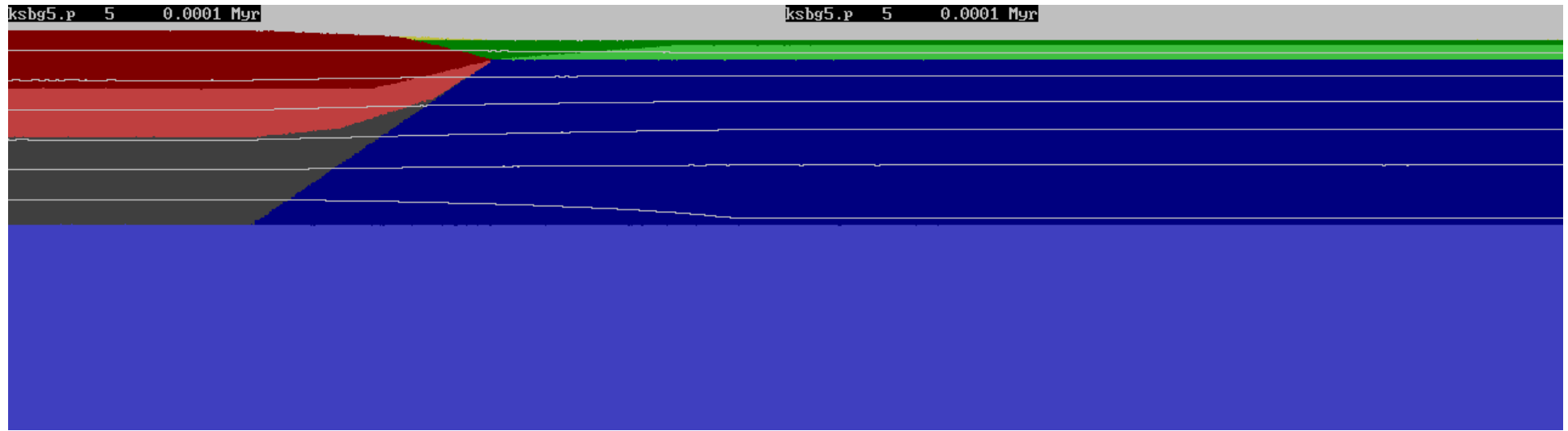
overthrusting



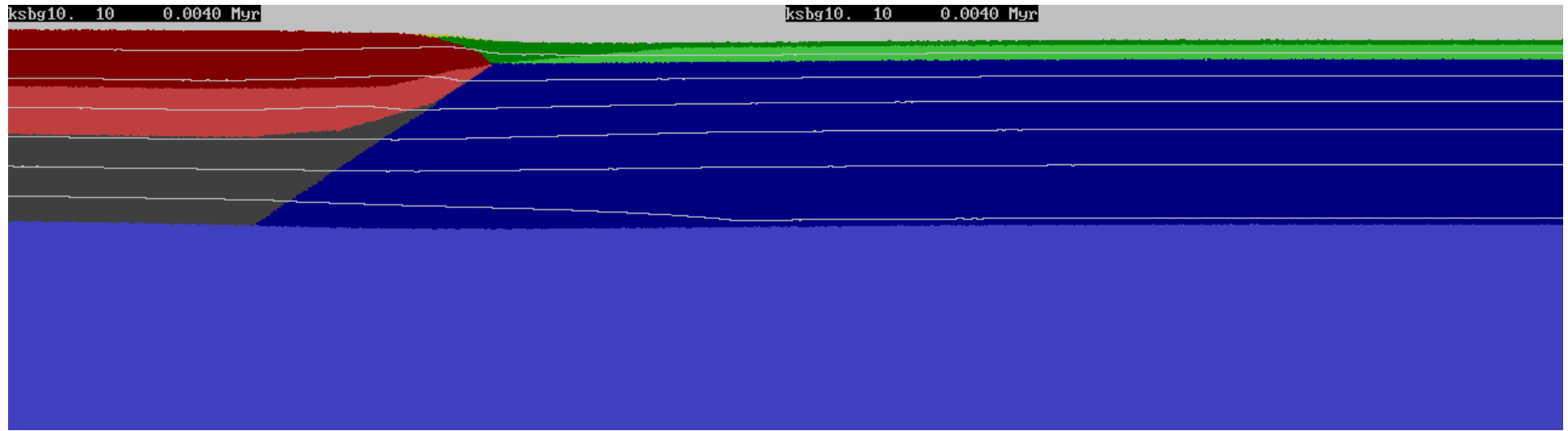
subduction



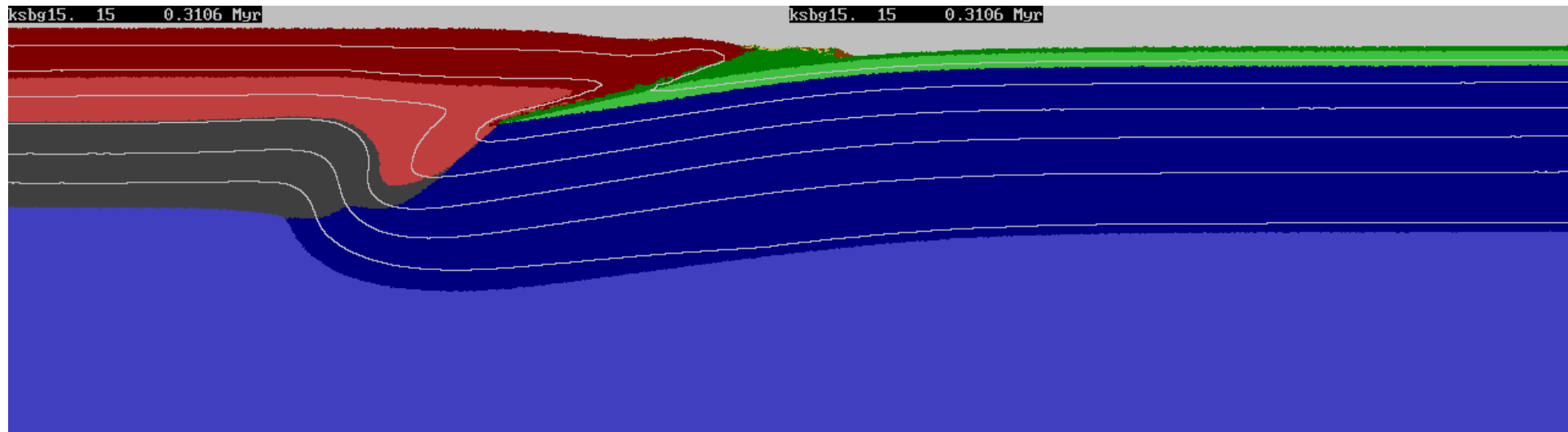
subduction regime



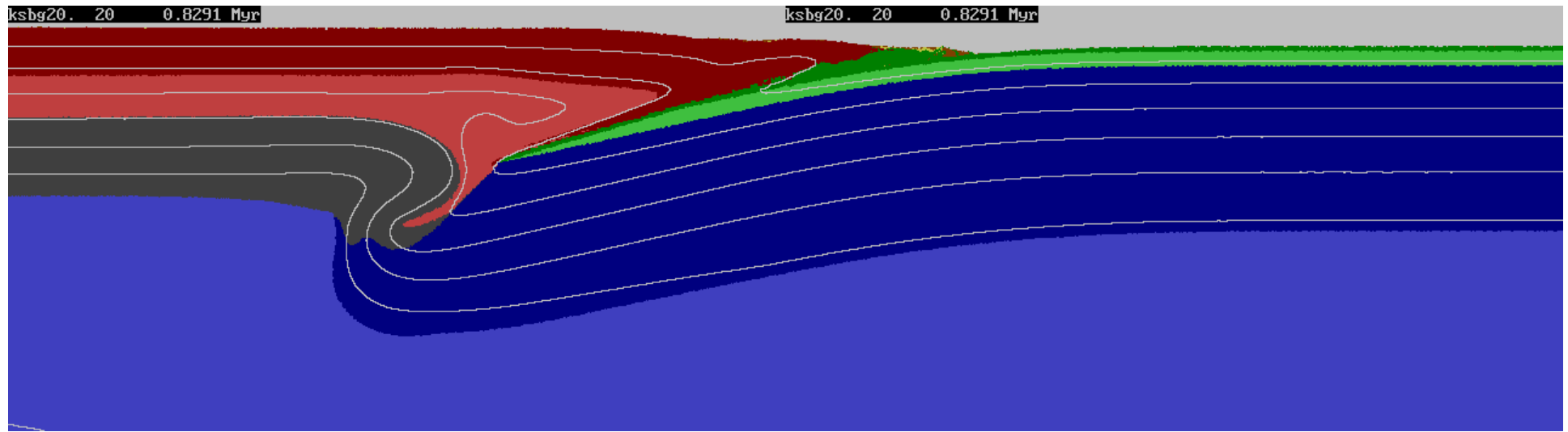
subduction regime



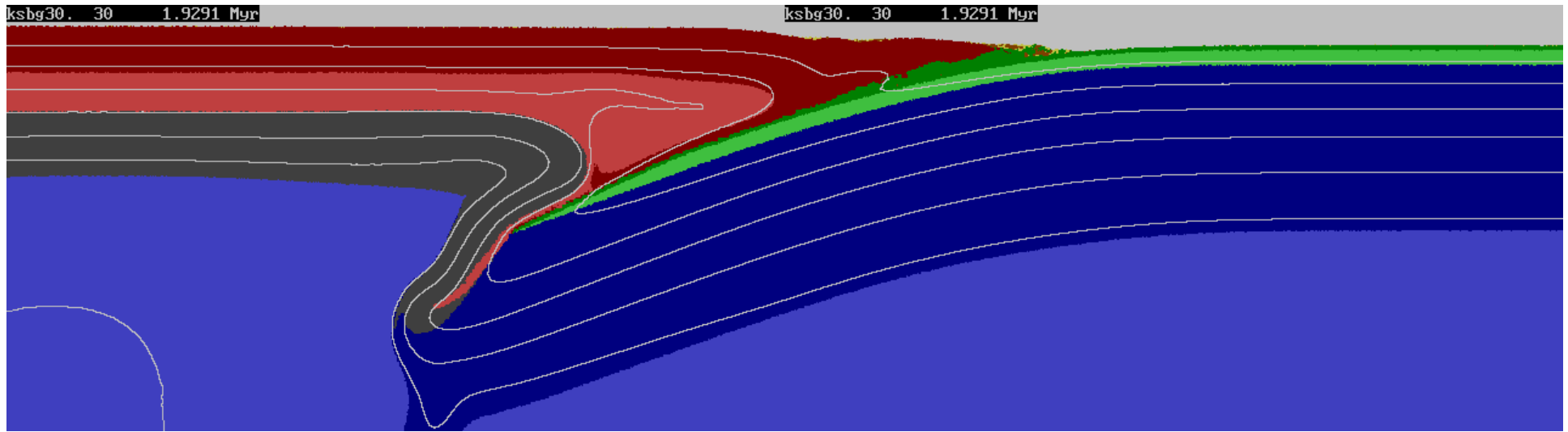
subduction regime



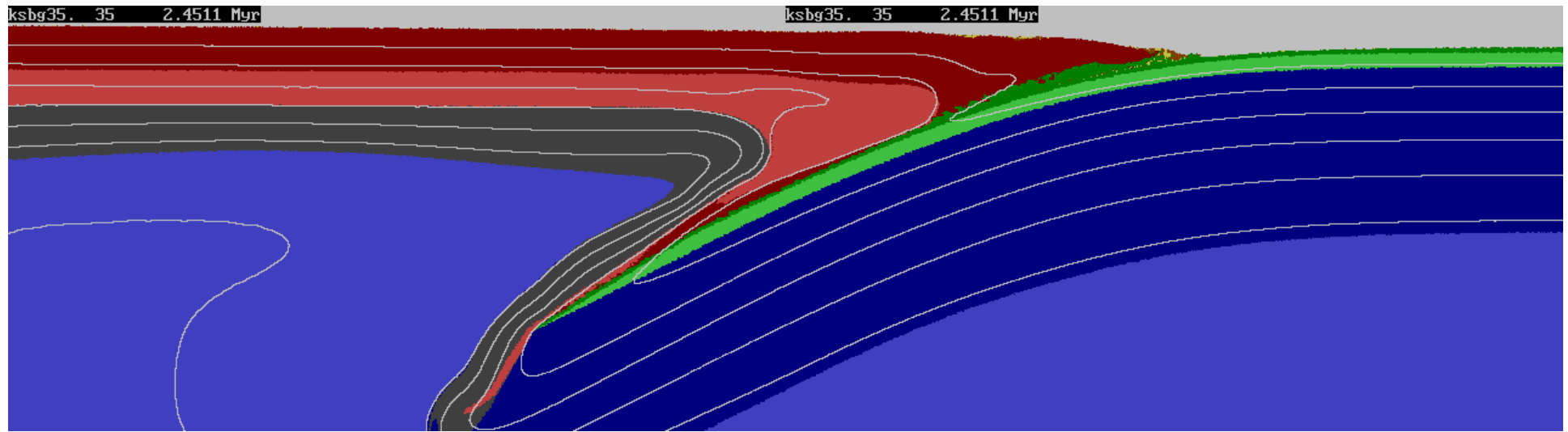
subduction regime



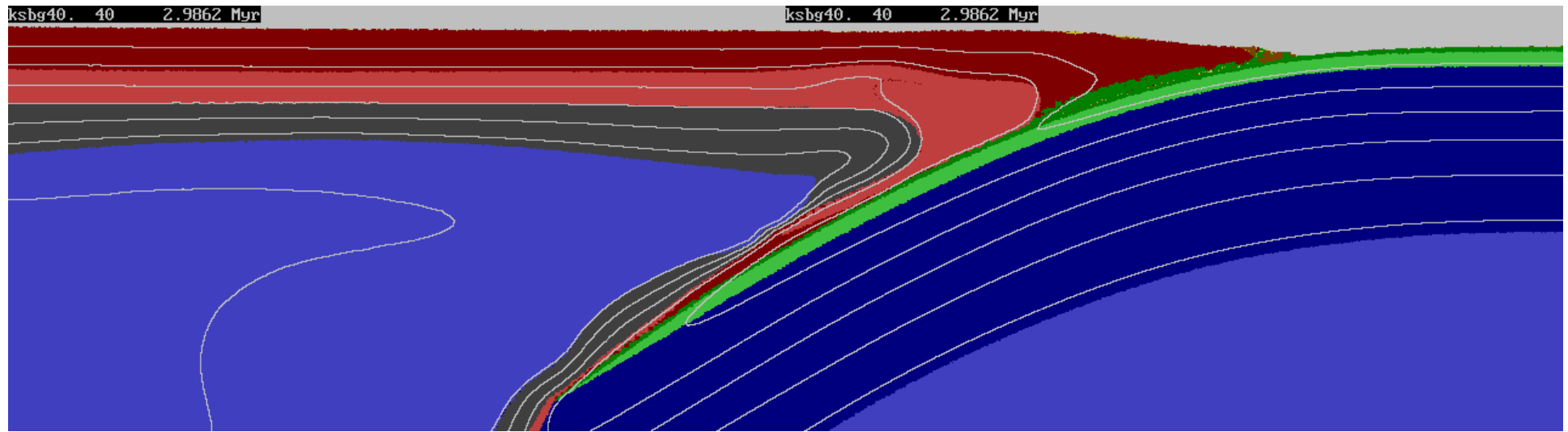
subduction regime



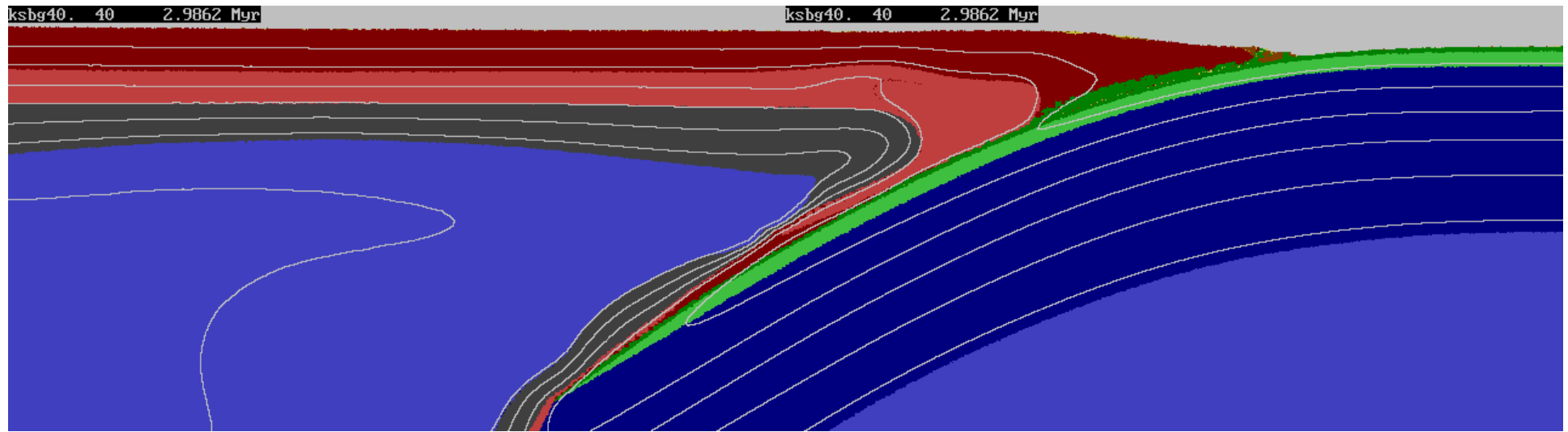
subduction regime



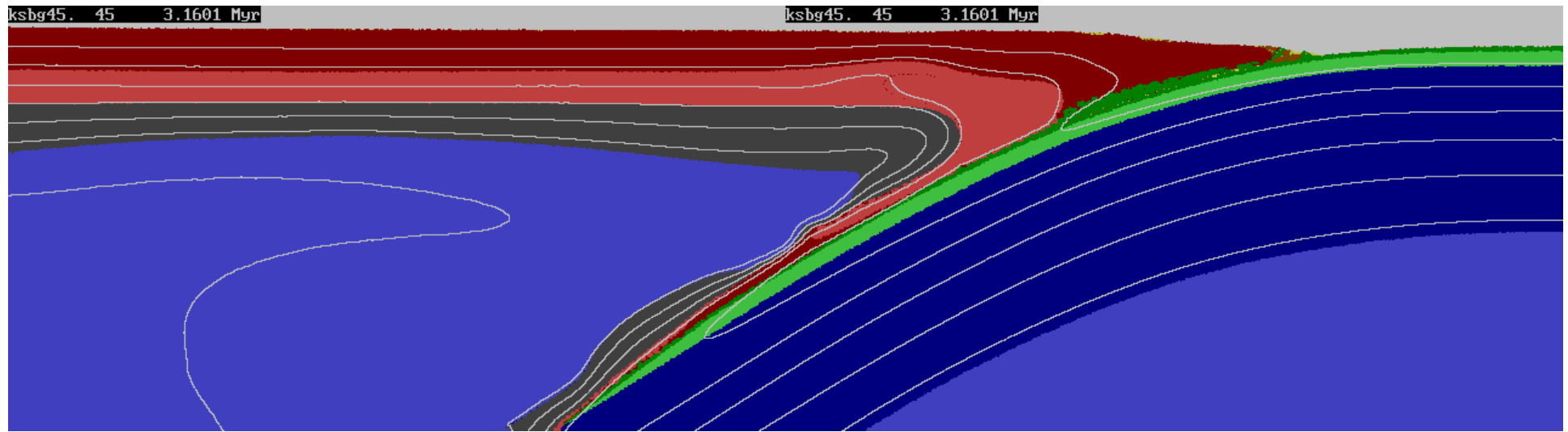
subduction regime



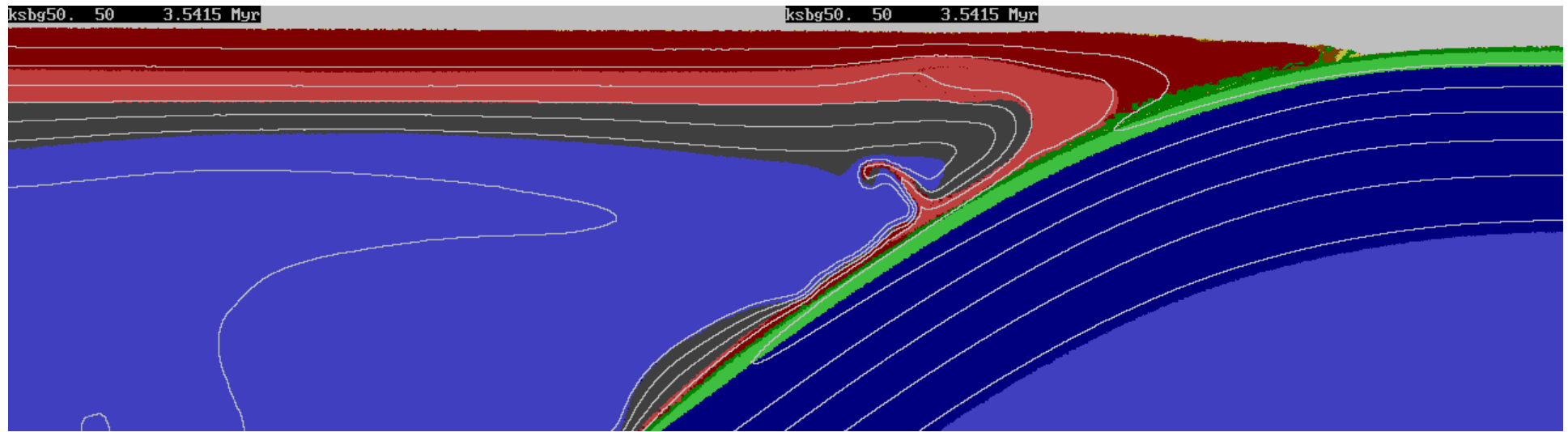
subduction regime



subduction regime

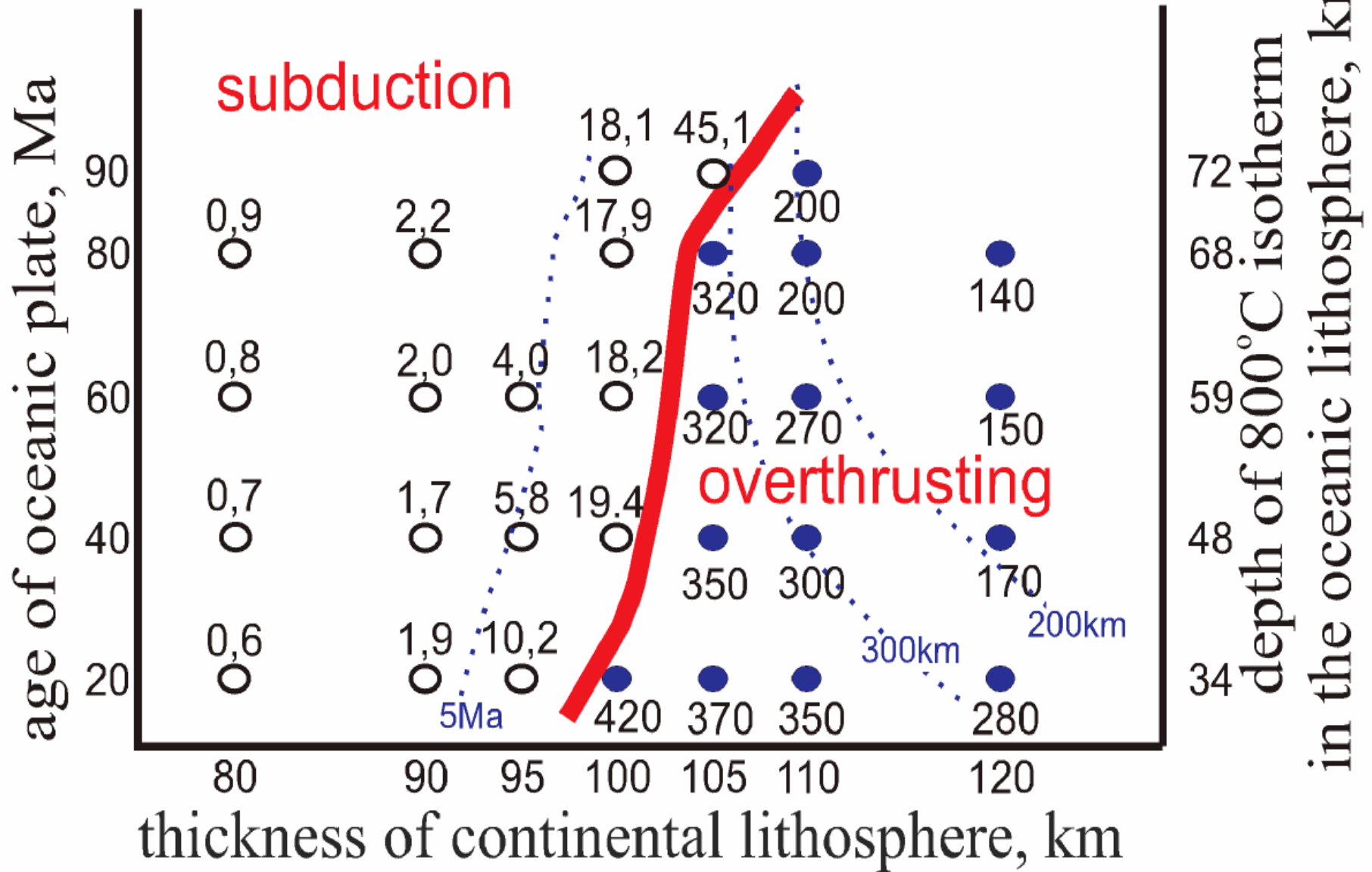


subduction regime



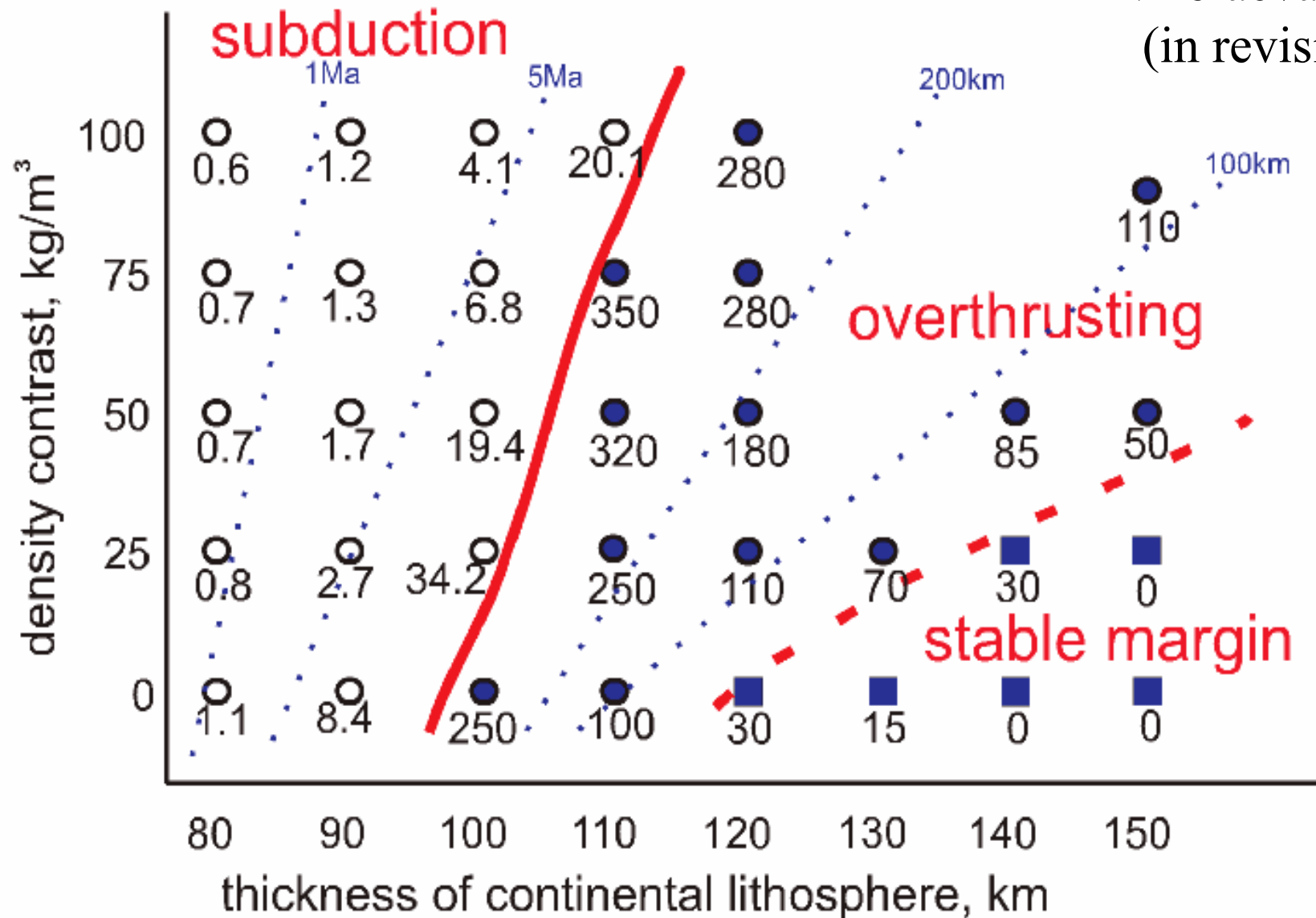
subduction regime

Nikolaeva et al.(in revision)



The age of the oceanic plate
does not play a major role !

Nikolaeva et al.
(in revision)



Thin continental lithosphere and large chemical density contrast between oceanic and continental mantle favor and speed-up subduction initiation

Chemical density contrast

Chemical density contrast between subcontinental lithospheric mantle (SCLM) and Primitive Mantle after Poudjom Djomani et al., 2001, Earth Planet. Sci. Lett., 184, 605-621:

for Archean age of SCLM ~ **80** kg/m³,

for Proterozoic age of SCLM ~ **40** kg/m³,

for Phanerozoic age of SCLM ~ **30** kg/m³.

Prediction:
subduction should start
on rifted margins of old continents

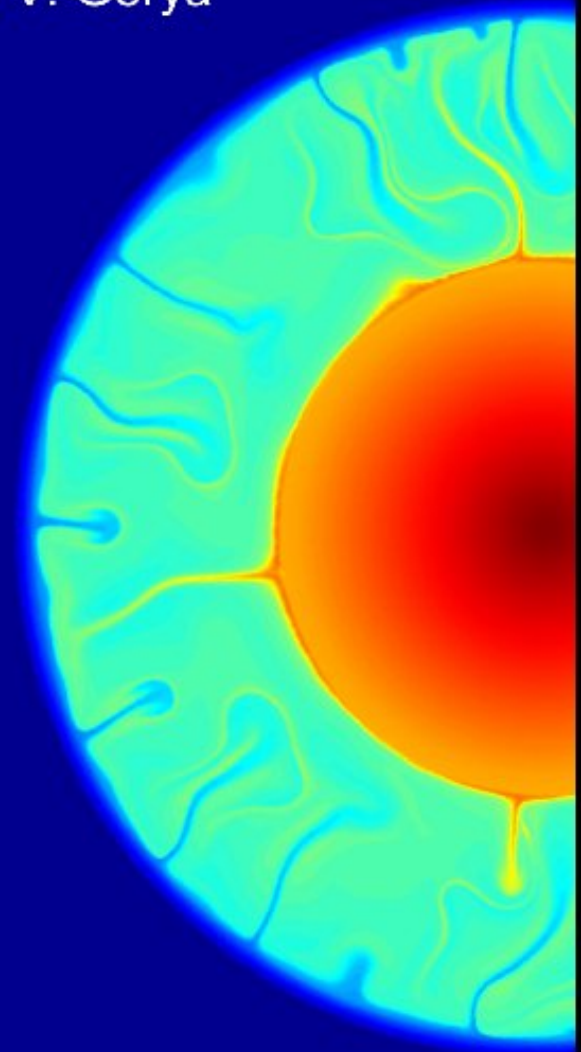
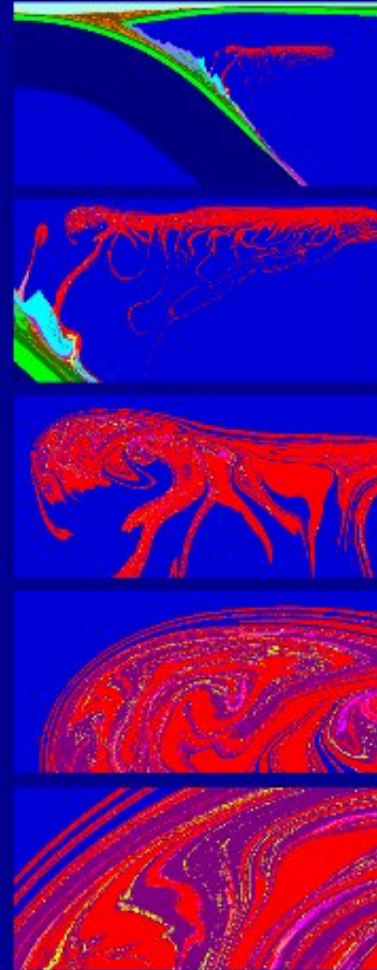
Nikolaeva et al. (submitted)

Challenges

1. Geochemistry
2. Two-phase flow
3. 3D modeling
4. Reaction kinetics

INTRODUCTION TO
NUMERICAL GEODYNAMIC MODELLING

Taras V. Gerya



CAMBRIDGE

December 2009, Cambridge University Press