

Modul: Sedimente und Stratigraphie II

Vorlesung: Einführung in die Stratigraphie

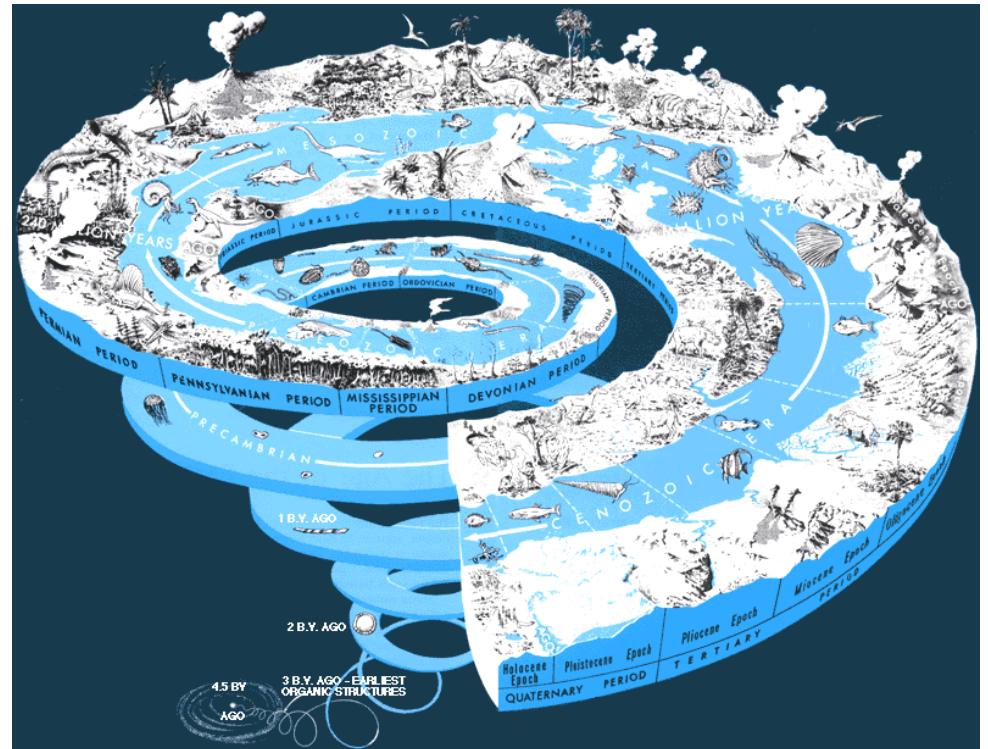
*Thema heute: Radiometrische Datierung*

**Stratigraphie + Datierung =  
Chronostratigraphie**

# How do we know the age of the Earth?

Radiometric  
dating

A time machine to  
the past



# Elements

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## One Hundred Years of Geochronology

DANIEL J. CONDON and MARK D. SCHMITZ, Guest Editors

**...and Counting**

**Precision and Accuracy in Geochronology**

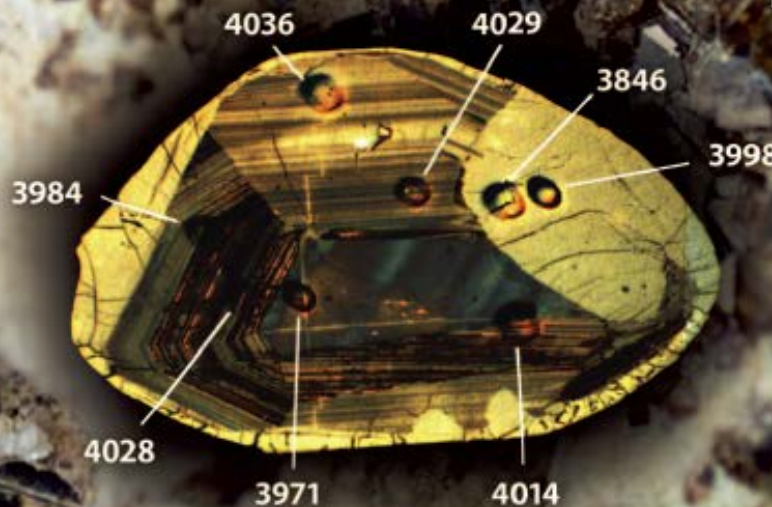
**High-Precision Geochronology**

**High-Spatial-Resolution Geochronology**

**Dating the Oldest Rocks  
in the Solar System**

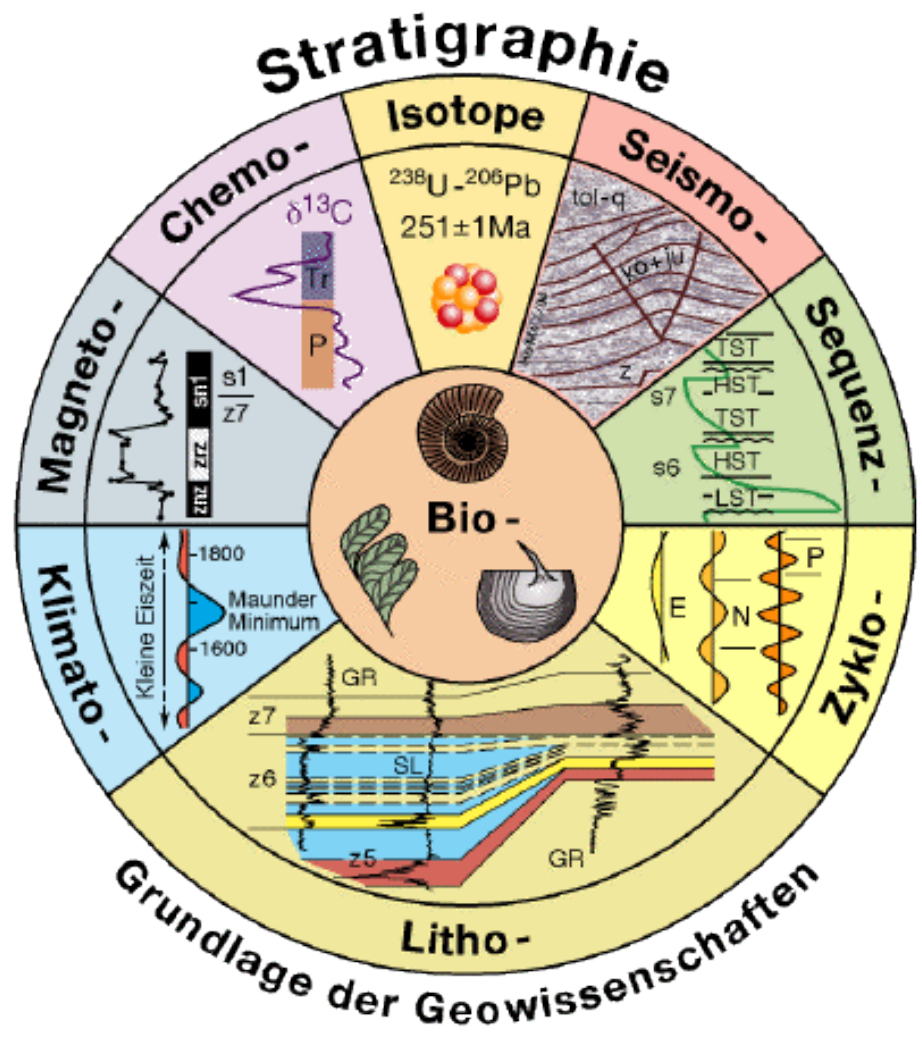
**Time Constraints in the  
Quaternary Period**

**100 Years of U-Pb  
Geochronology**



Arthur Holmes 1913:  
*The age of the Earth*

# Stratigraphie und Datierung (Chronostratigraphie)

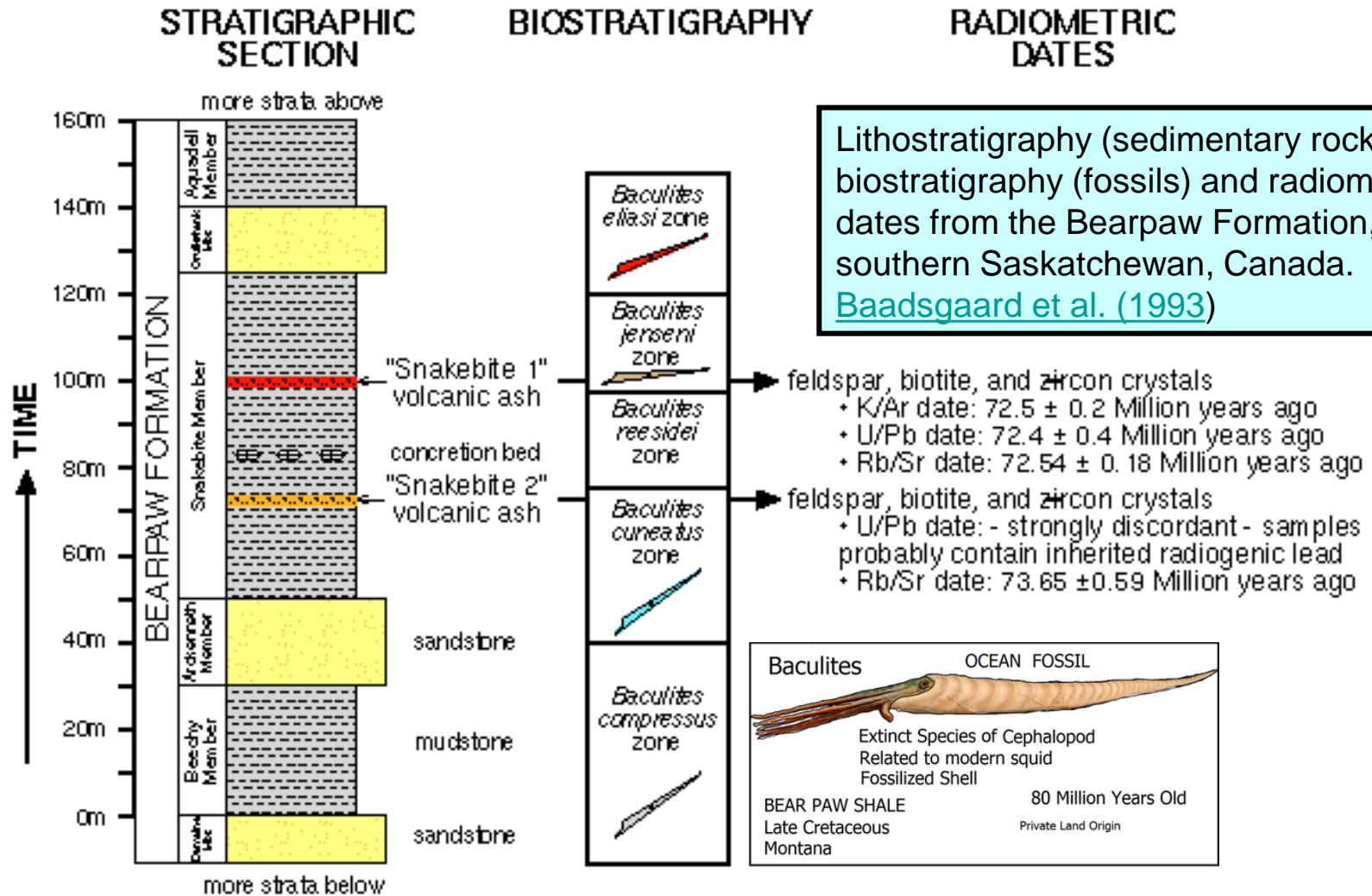






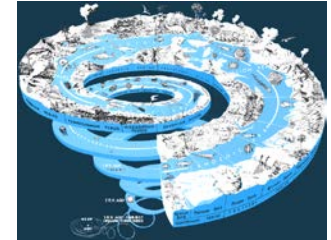
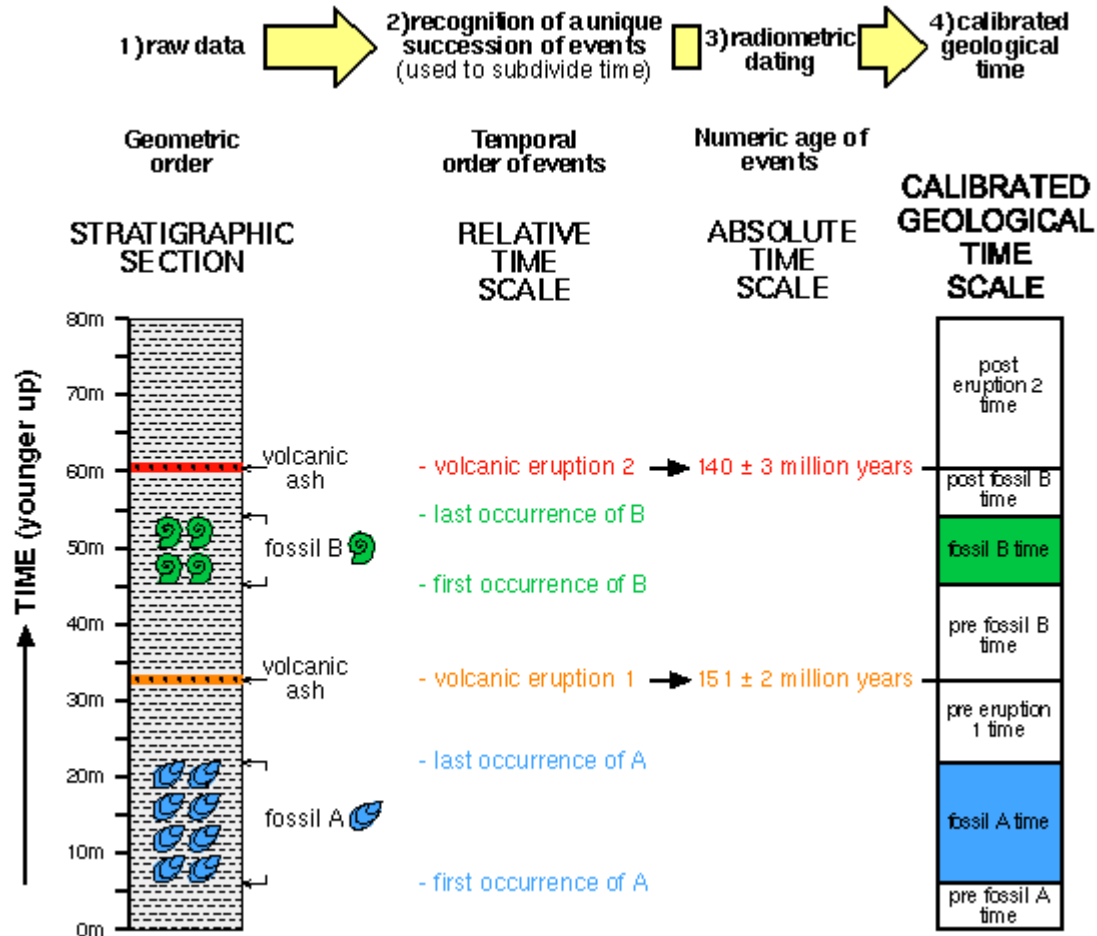
Jutulhogget, Antarctica (photo H. Frimmel)

# Towards a calibrated geological time scale

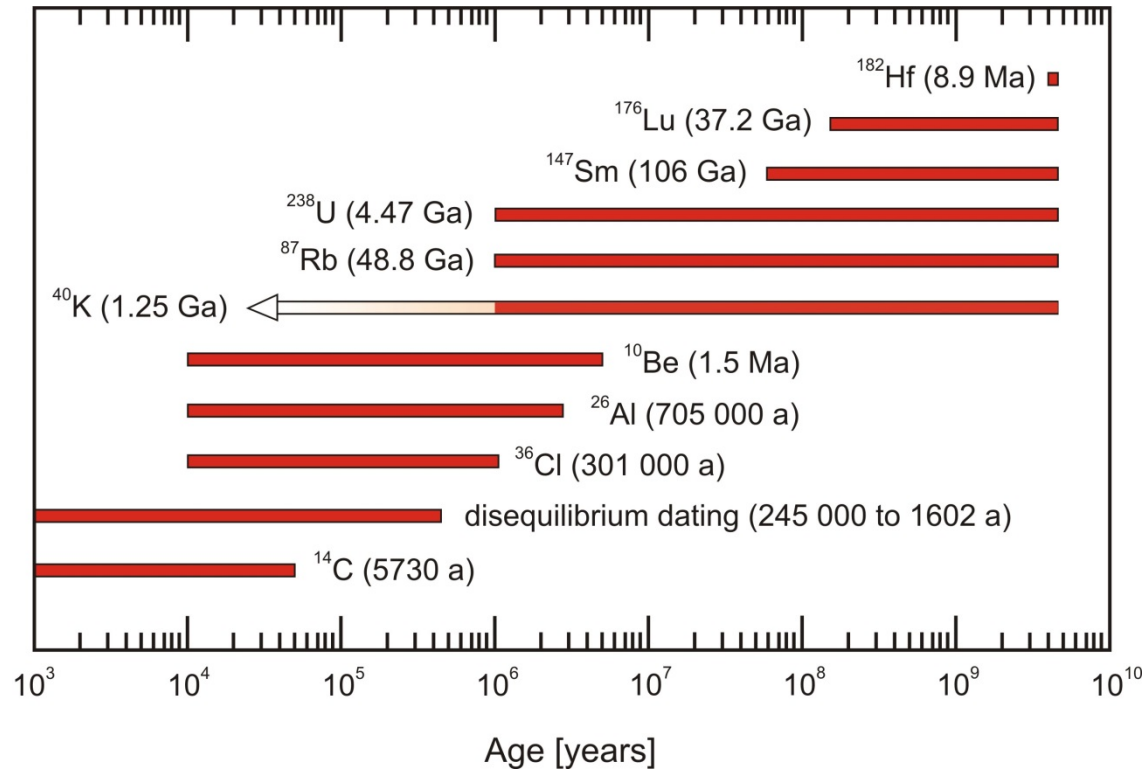


Lithostratigraphy (sedimentary rocks), biostratigraphy (fossils) and radiometric dates from the Bearpaw Formation, southern Saskatchewan, Canada. [Baadsgaard et al. \(1993\)](#)

# Towards a calibrated geological time scale



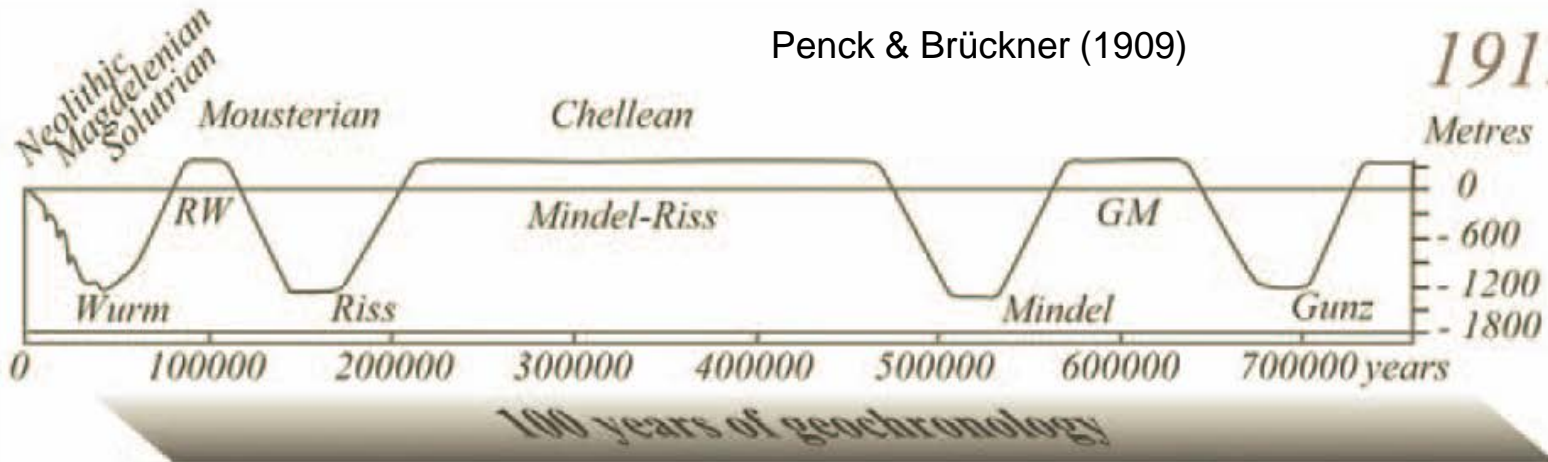
# Tools and methods



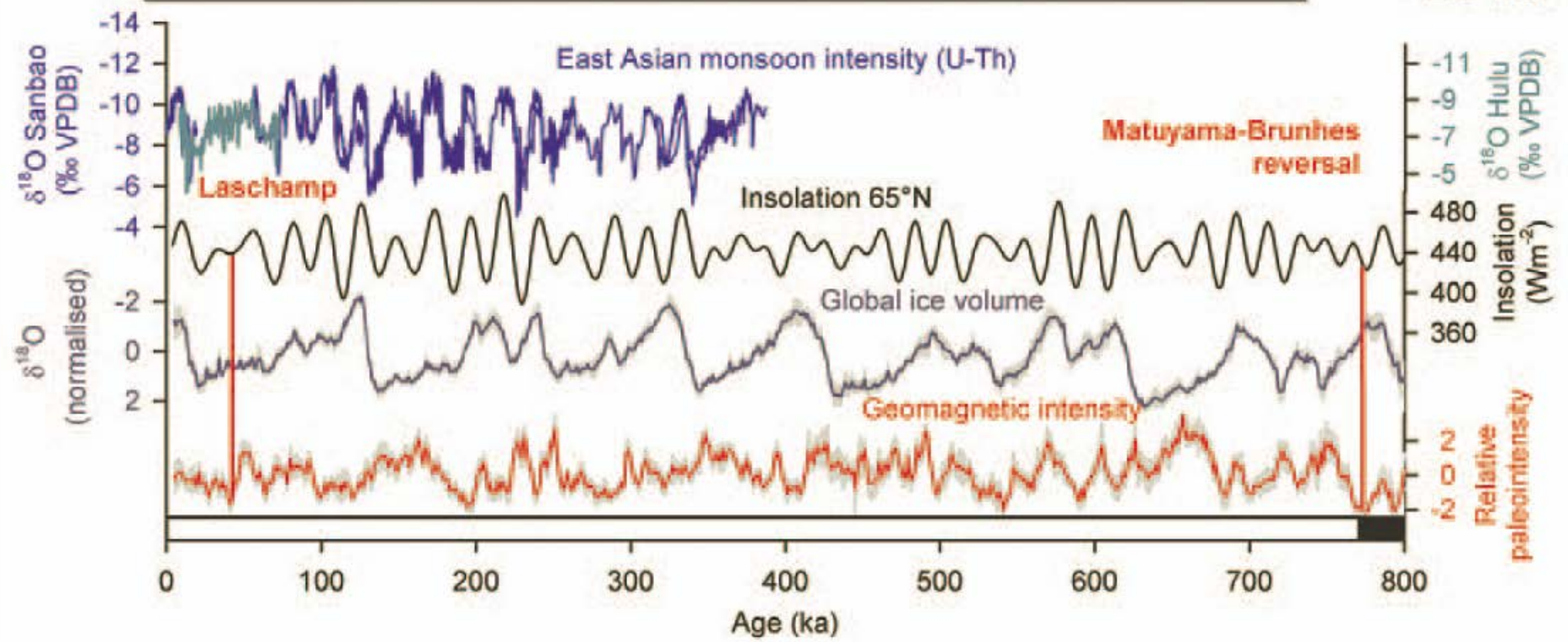


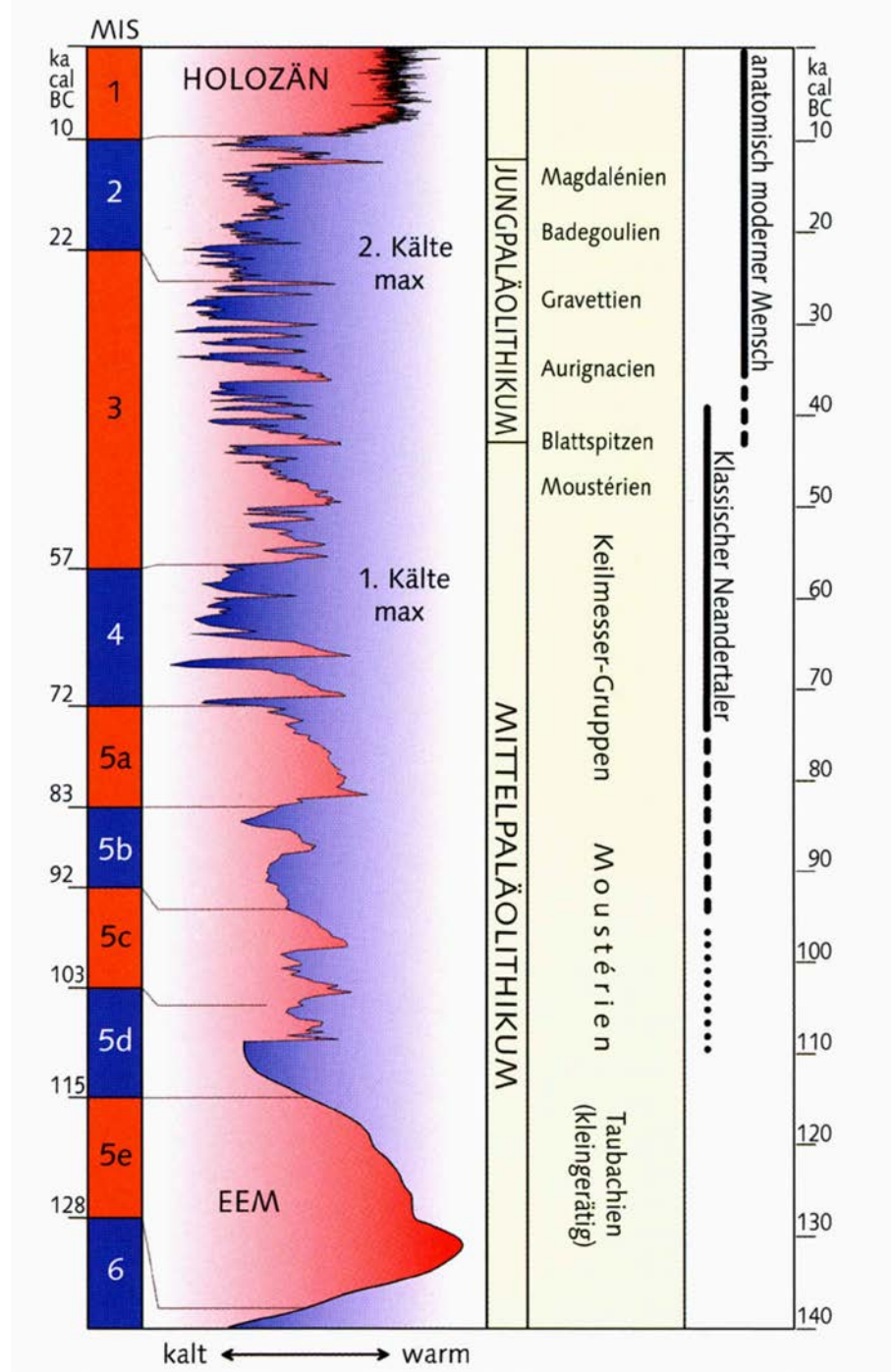
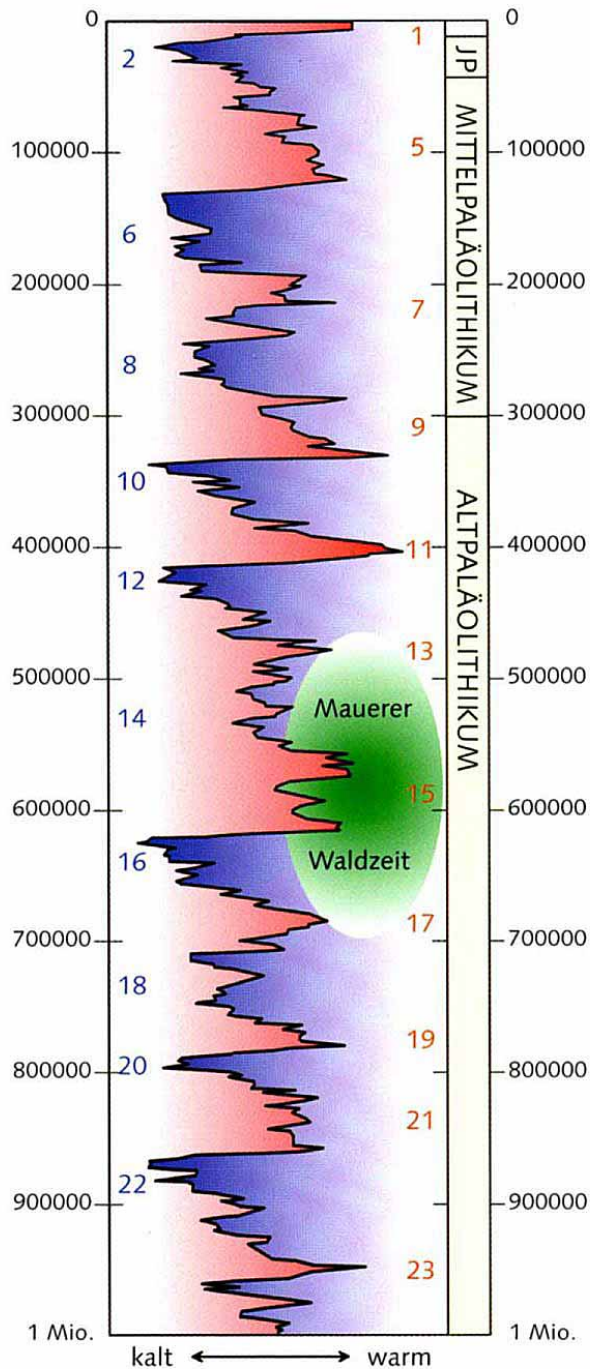
Penck & Brückner (1909)

1913



2013

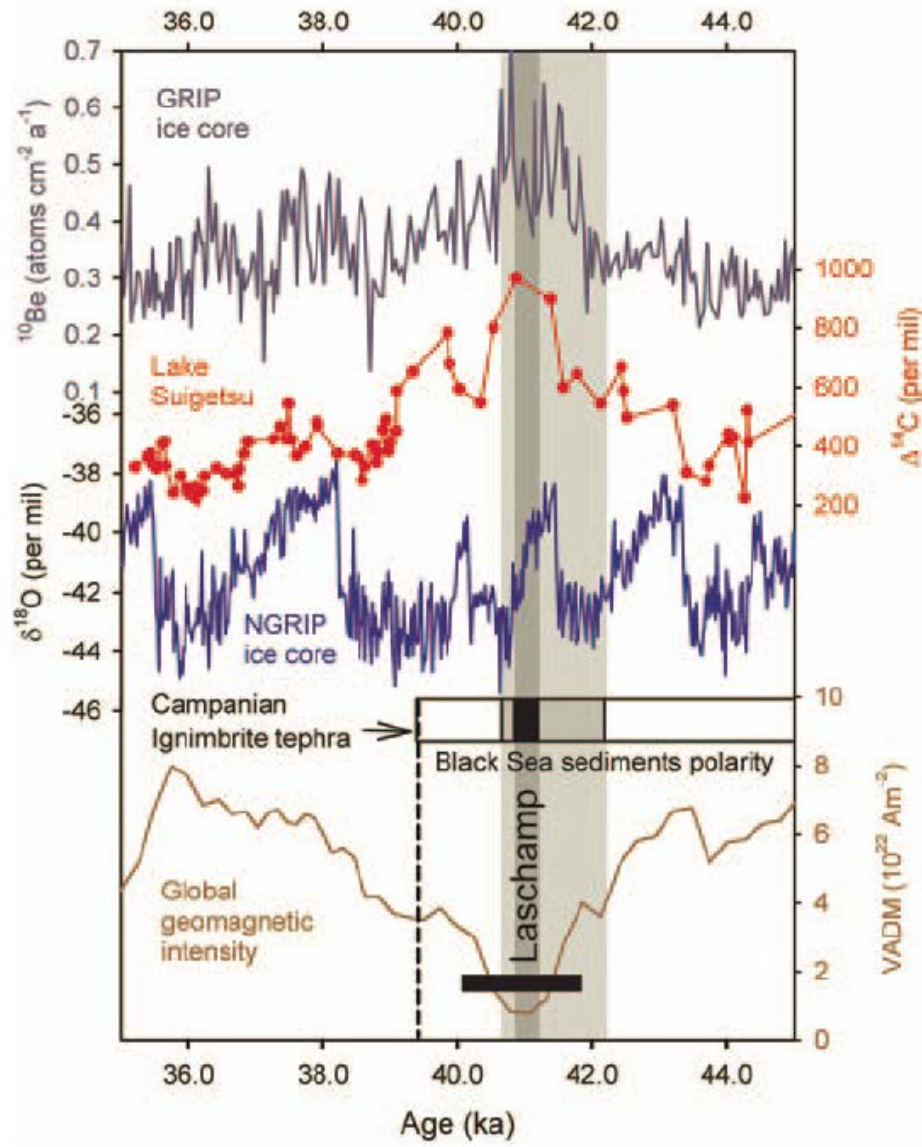






# Laschamp

## the Earth at 40 ka

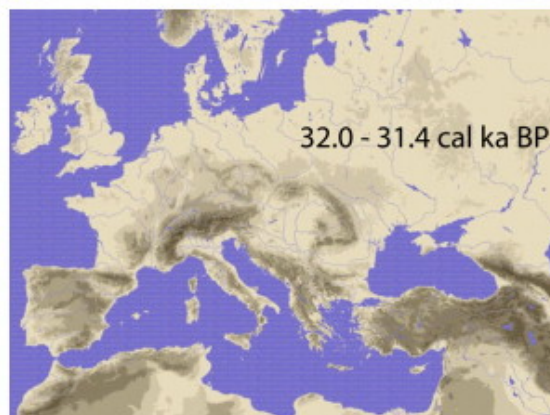
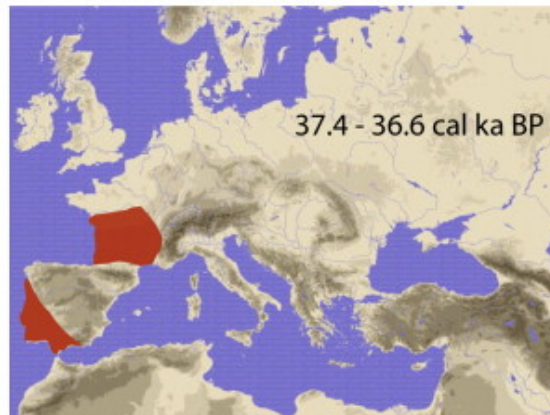
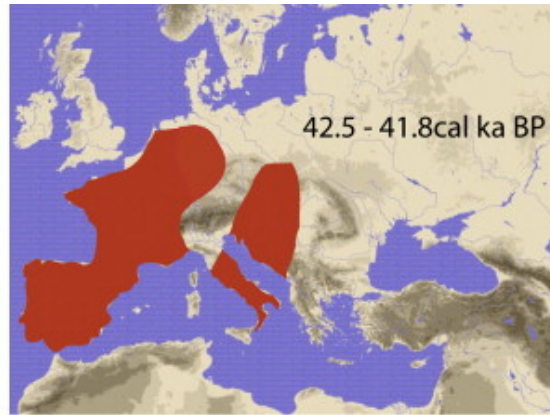
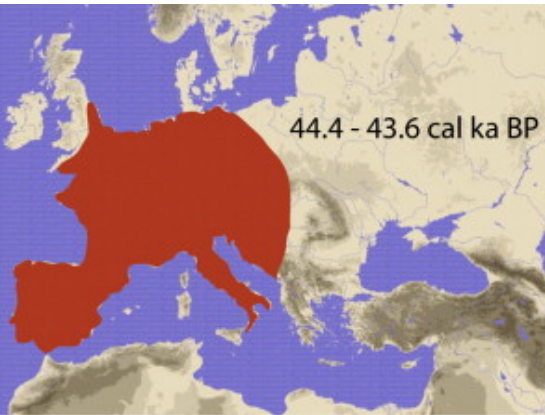


short and fast reversal of the Earth's magnetic field

short-term climate variability of the last ice age

and volcanic eruption in Italy

# Das Laschamp Ereignis



short and fast reversal of the Earth's magnetic field

short-term climate variability of the last ice age

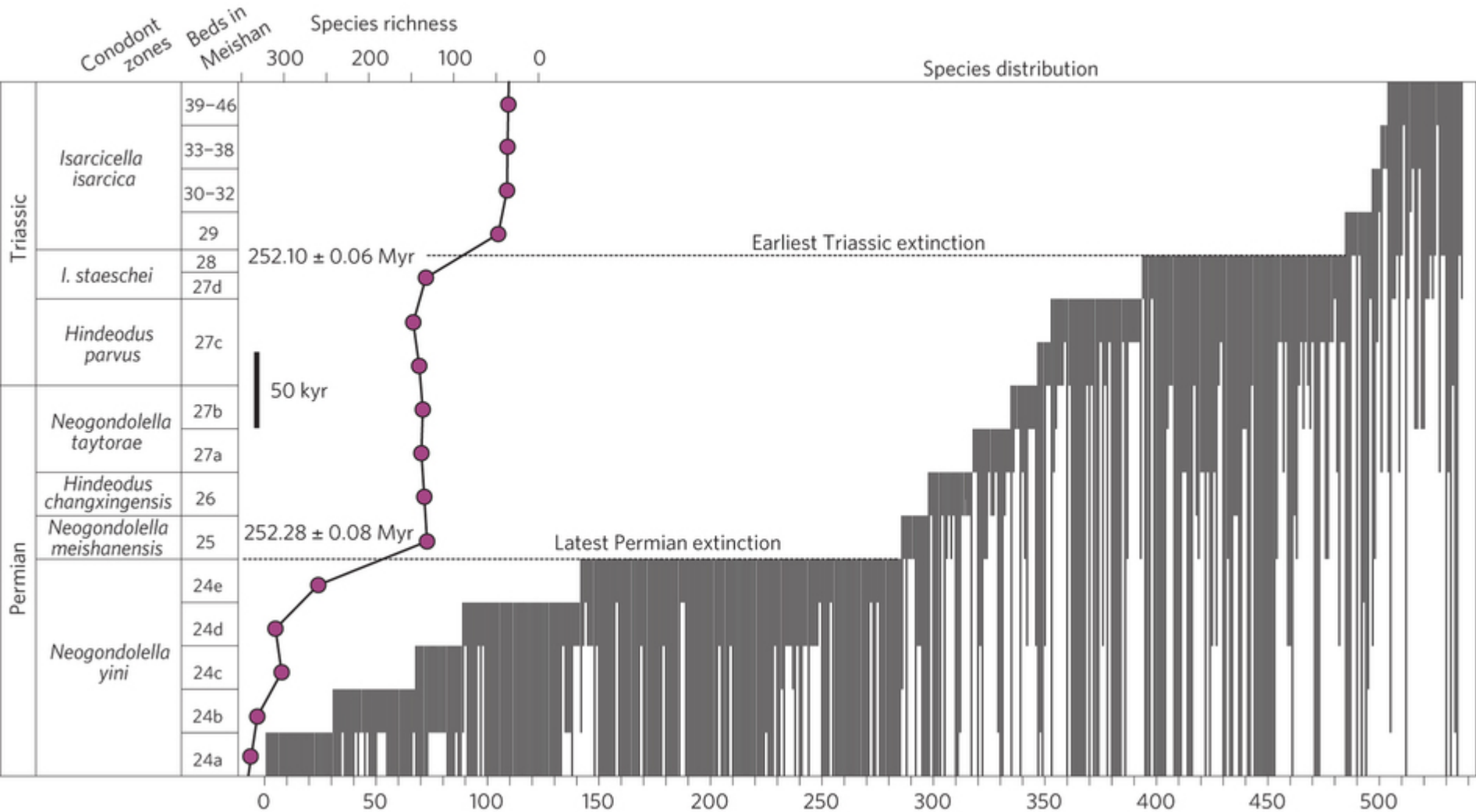
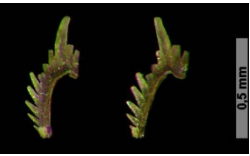
and volcanic eruption in Italy

Why did  
Neanderthals  
become  
**EXTINCT?**

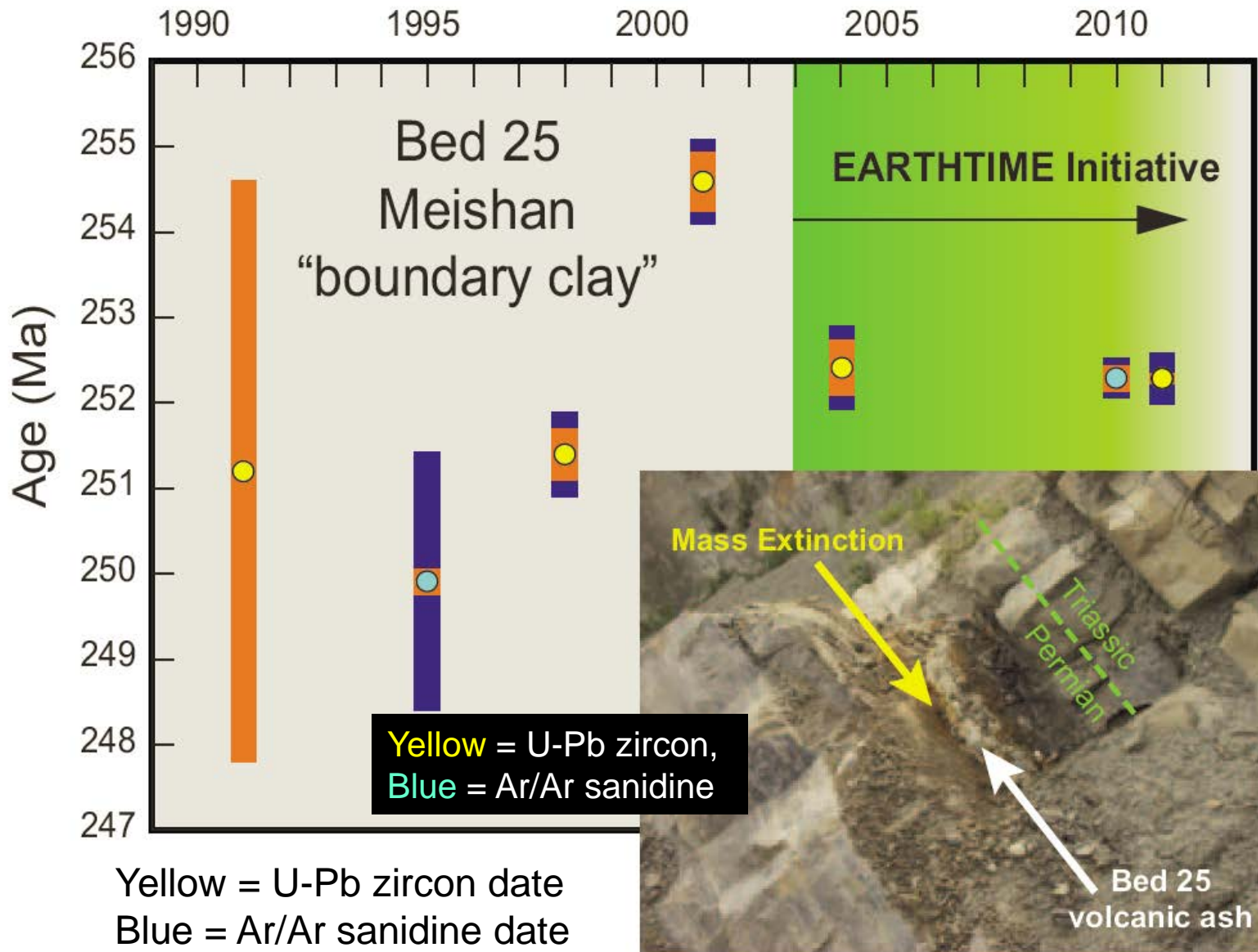
A small illustration of a Neanderthal standing and holding a spear, positioned to the left of the text.



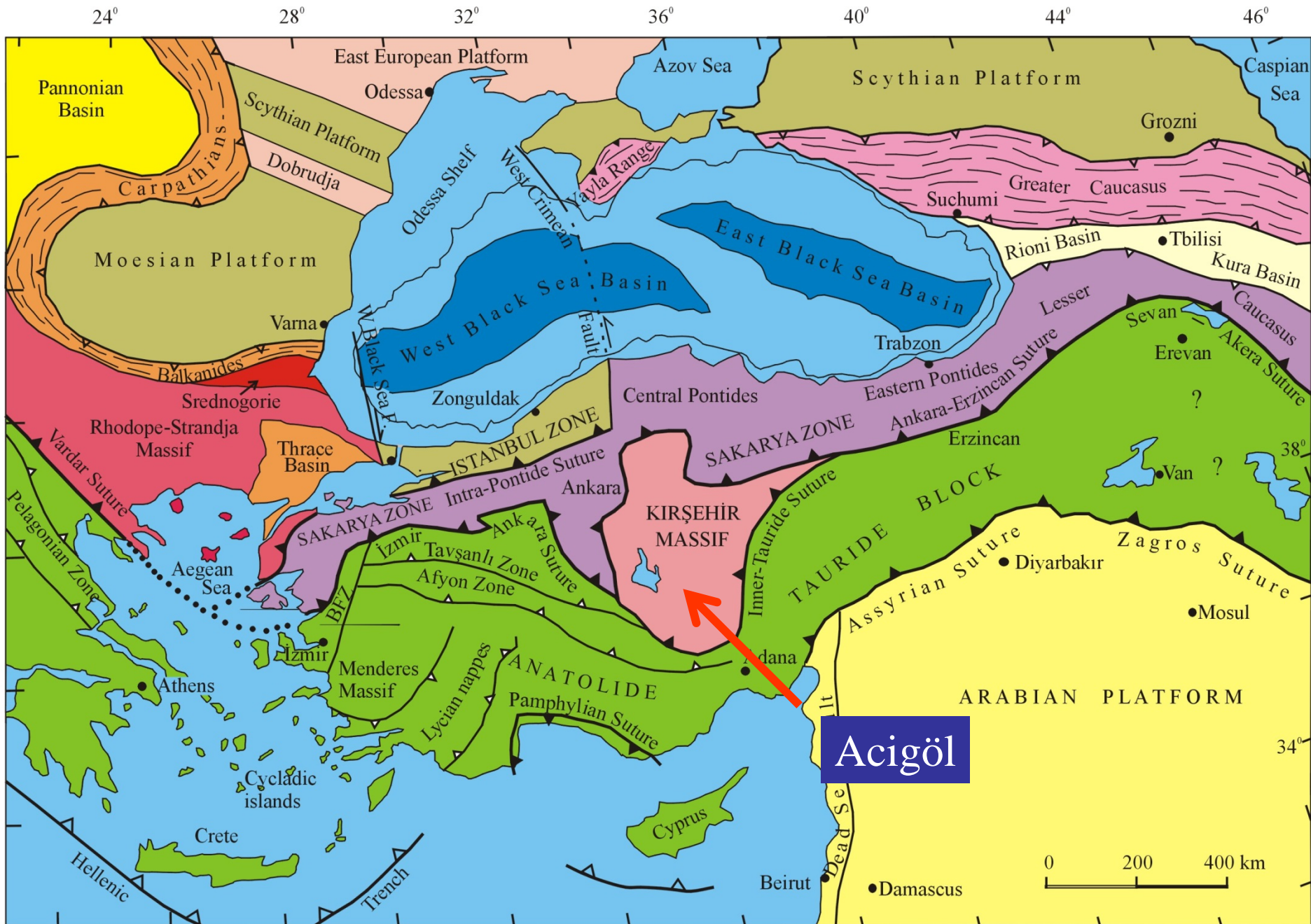
# Permo-Triassic mass extinction



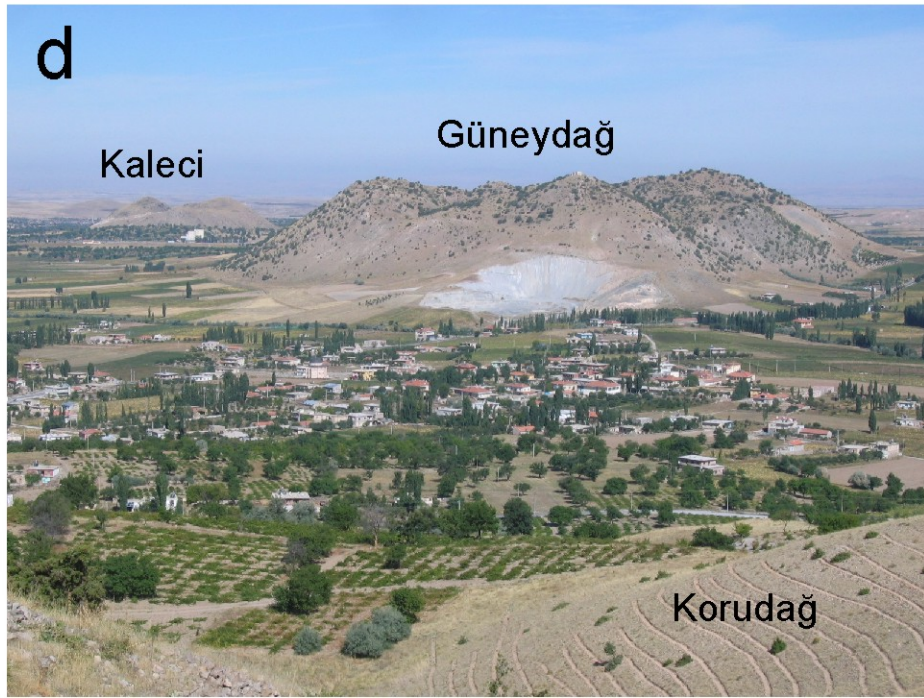
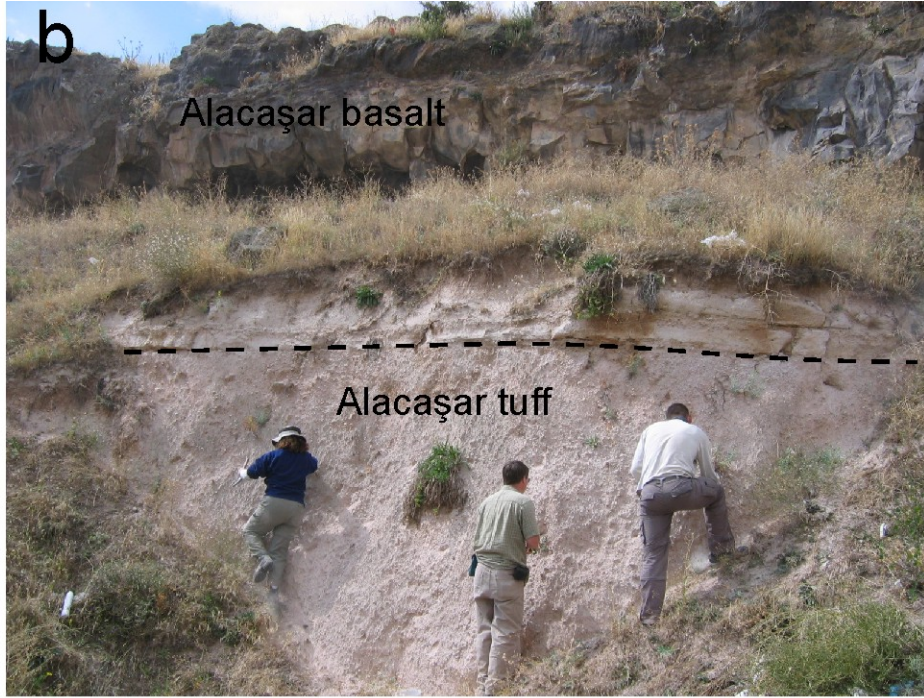
# Permo-Triassic mass extinction



Beginning of Siberian Traps volcanism:  $250.0 \pm 1.6$  Ma (Renne et al. 1995)

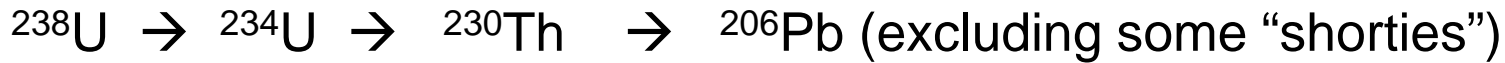




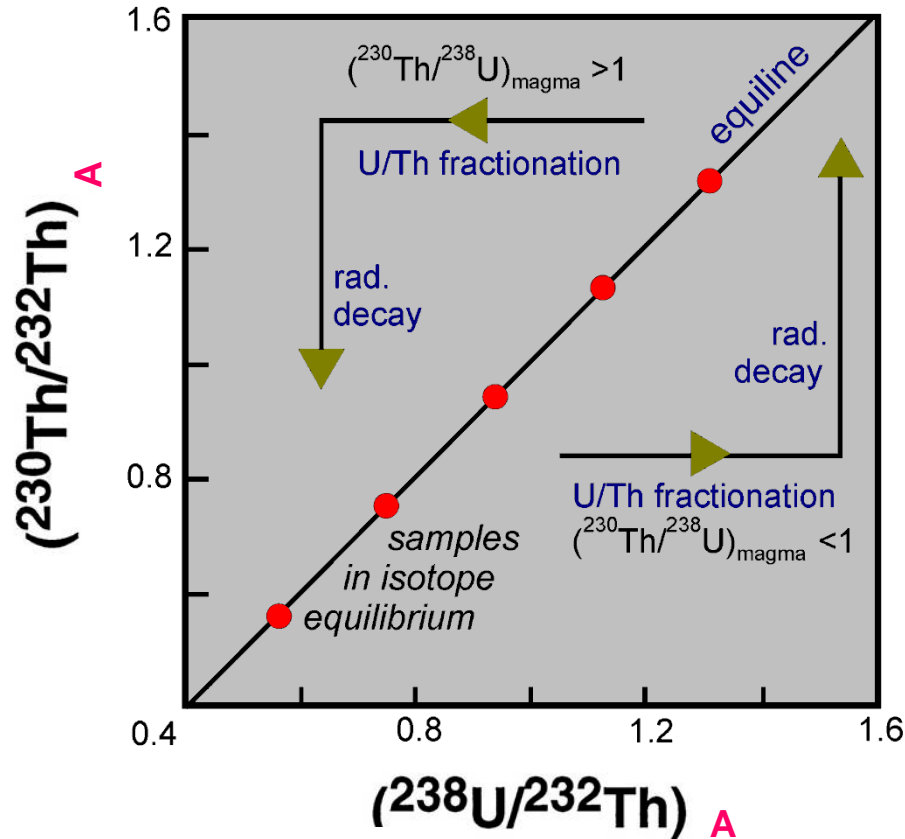




# U-series disequilibrium in young volcanic rocks



$T_{1/2} = 75 \text{ ka}$



Equilibrium:

$$\lambda_1 N_1 = \lambda_2 N_2$$

$$A_1 = A_2$$

$$(^{230}\text{Th}/^{238}\text{U}) = 1$$

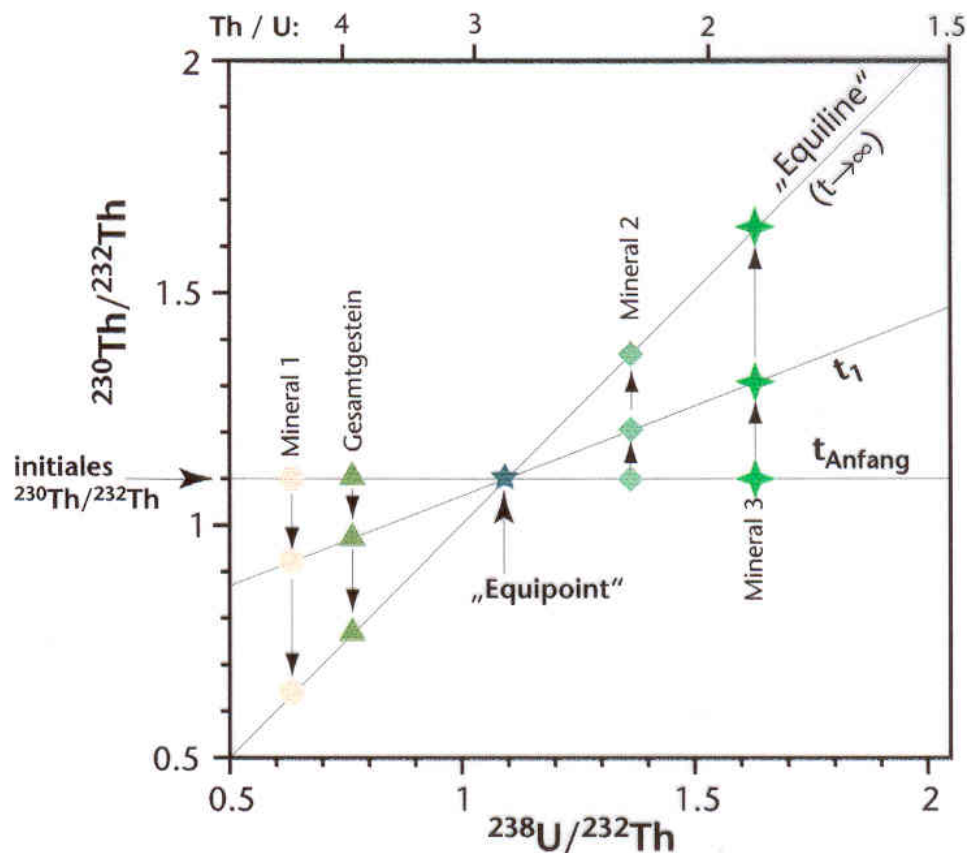
Allègre &  
Condomines  
(1976) EPSL 28,  
(1982) Nature 299

$$\frac{A(^{230}\text{Th})}{A(^{232}\text{Th})} = \left[ \frac{A(^{230}\text{Th})}{A(^{232}\text{Th})} \right]_{\text{excess}} \cdot (e^{\lambda_{230}t}) + \frac{A(^{238}\text{U})}{A(^{232}\text{Th})} \cdot (1 - e^{\lambda_{230}t})$$

# U-series disequilibrium in young volcanic rocks



$T_{1/2} = 75 \text{ ka}$

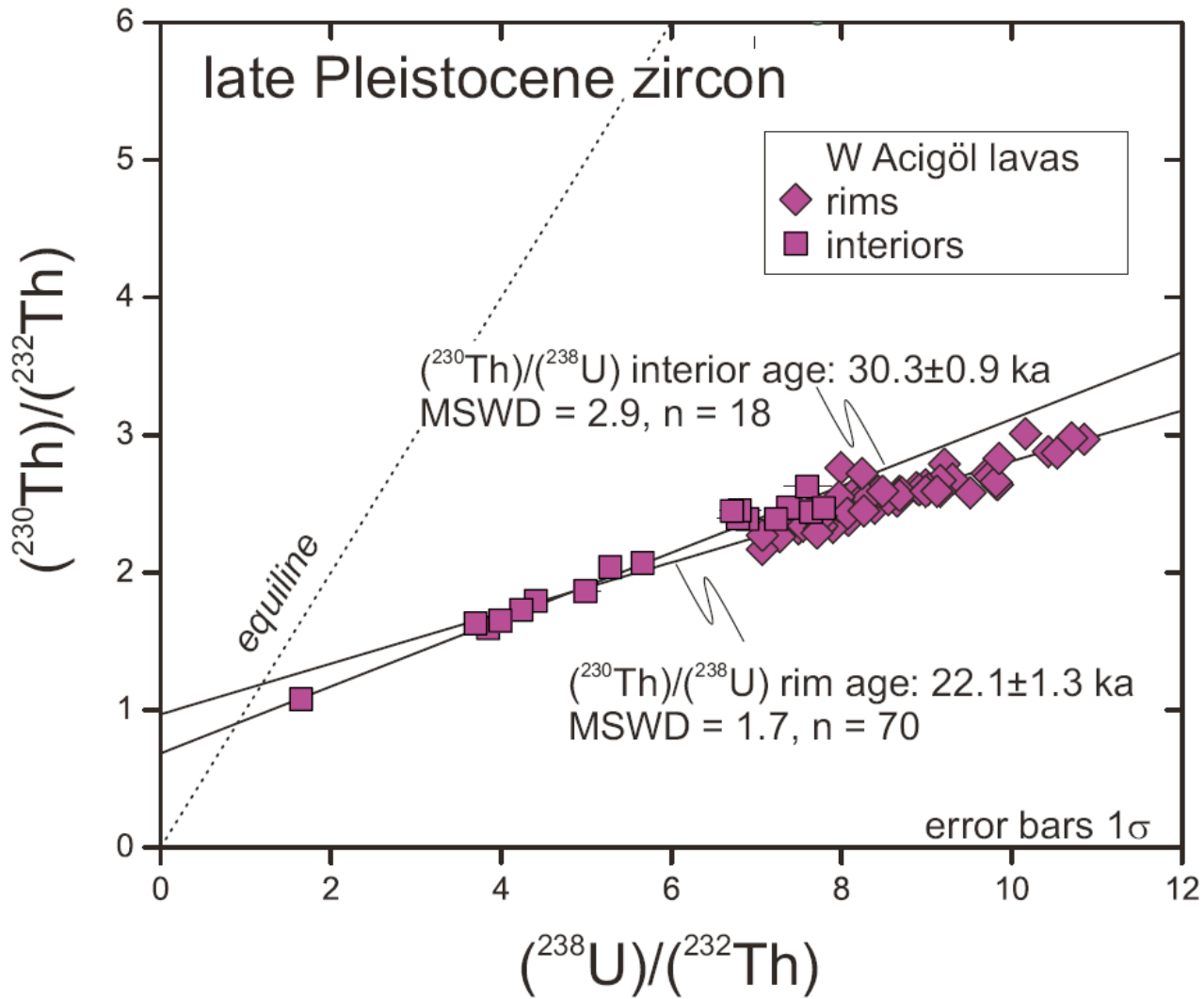


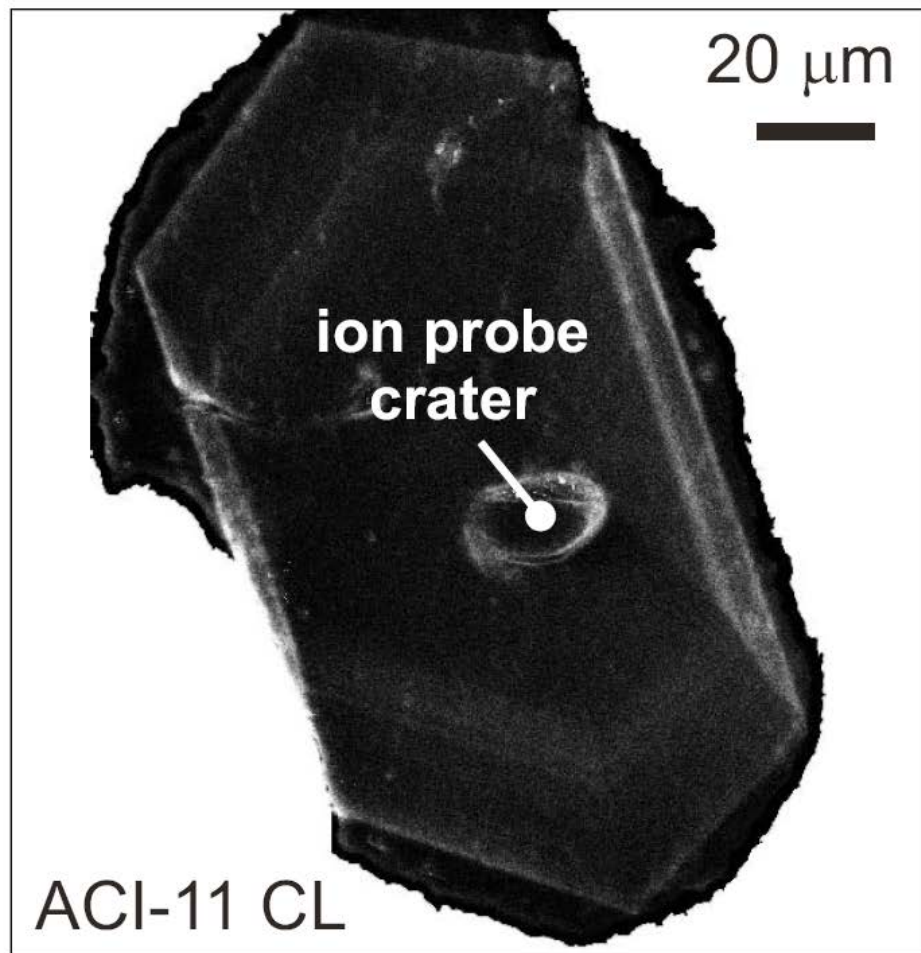
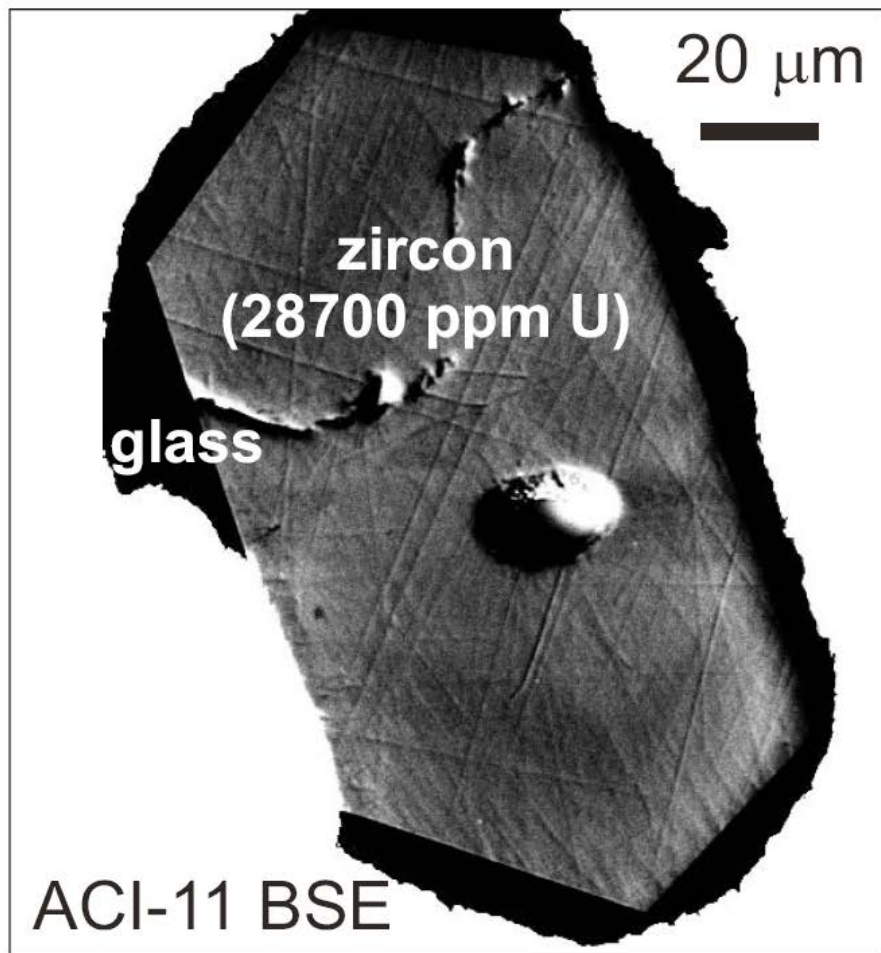
For equilibrium:

$$\lambda_1 N_1 = \lambda_2 N_2$$

$$A_1 = A_2$$

$$(^{230}\text{Th}/^{238}\text{U}) = 1$$

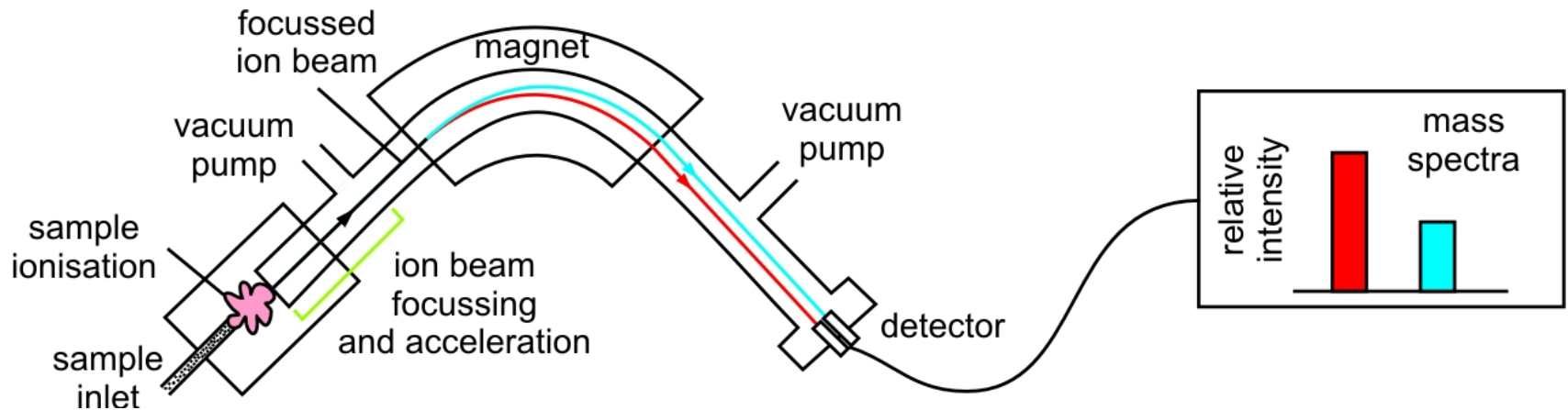
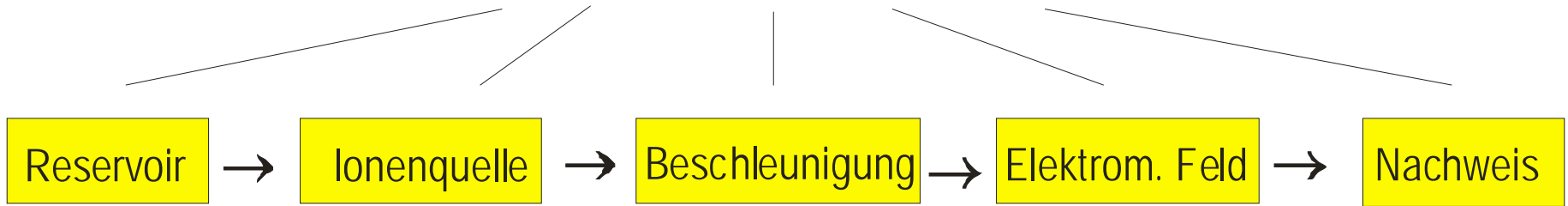




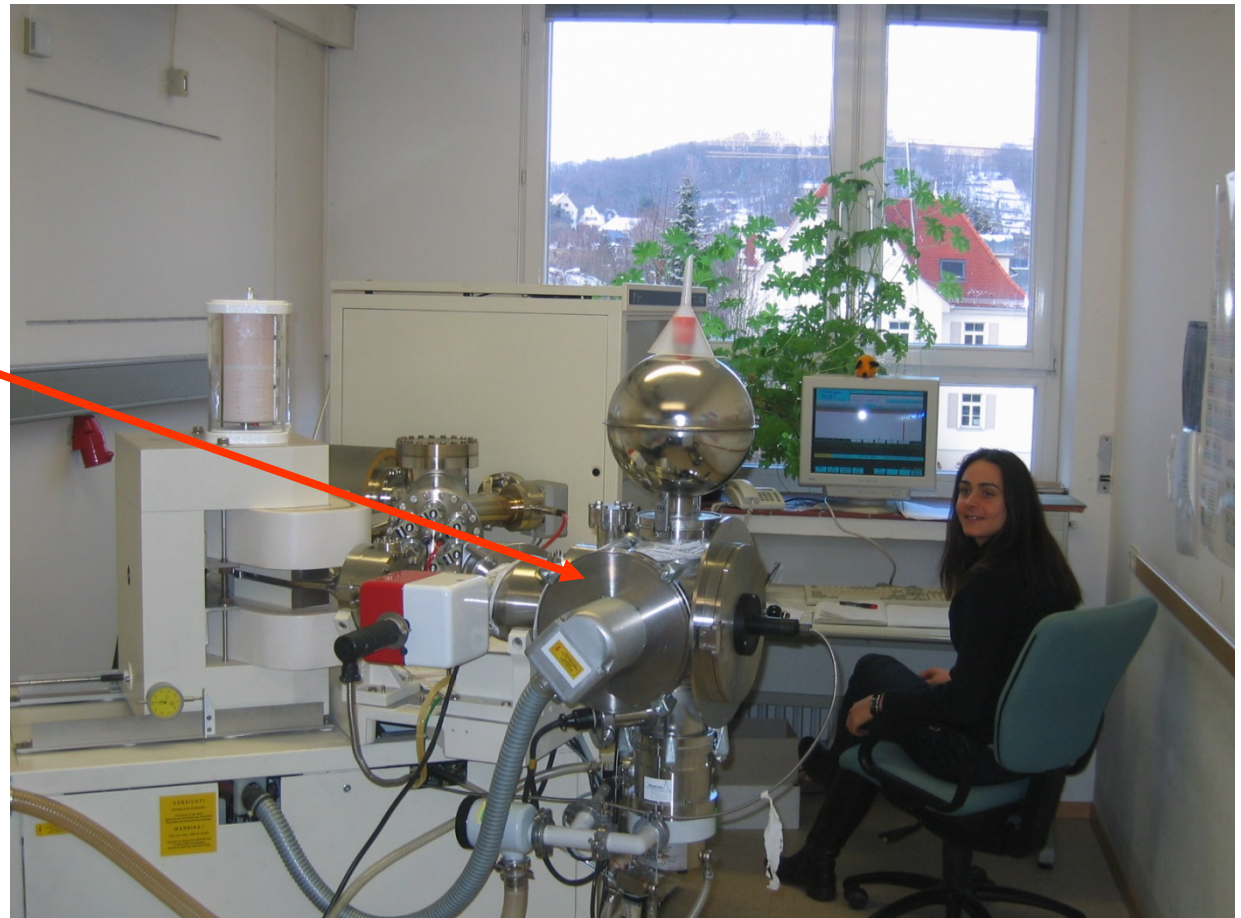


# Massenspektrometrie

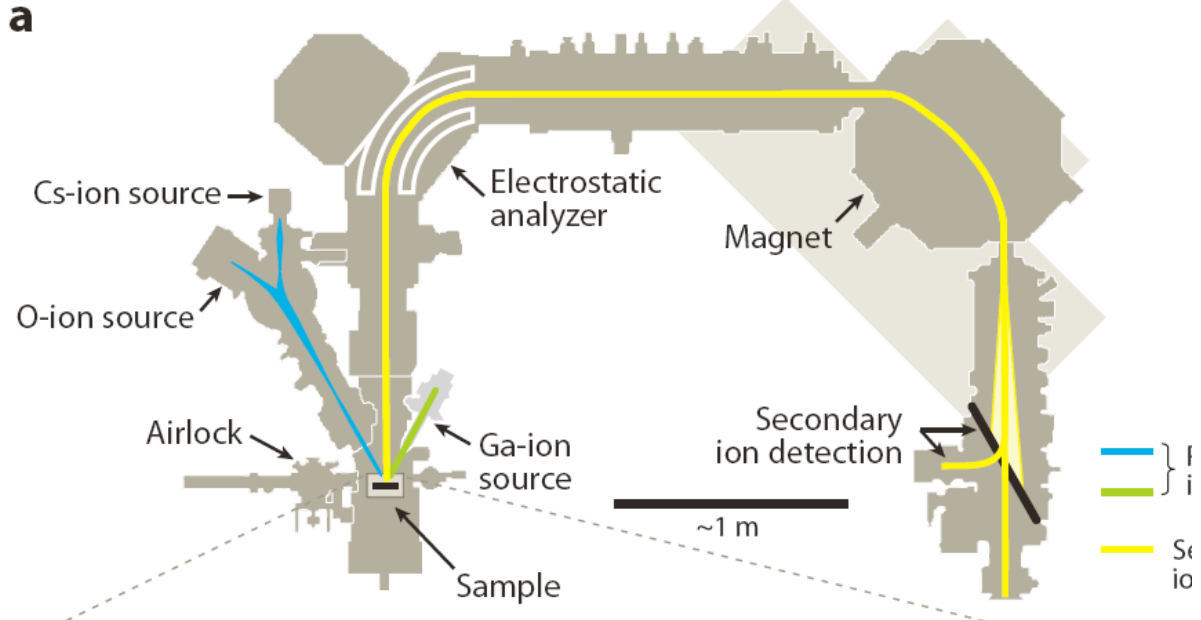
Prinzip der massenspektrometrischen Untersuchung



# Das Finnigan MAT 262 Massenspektrometer in der Geochemie



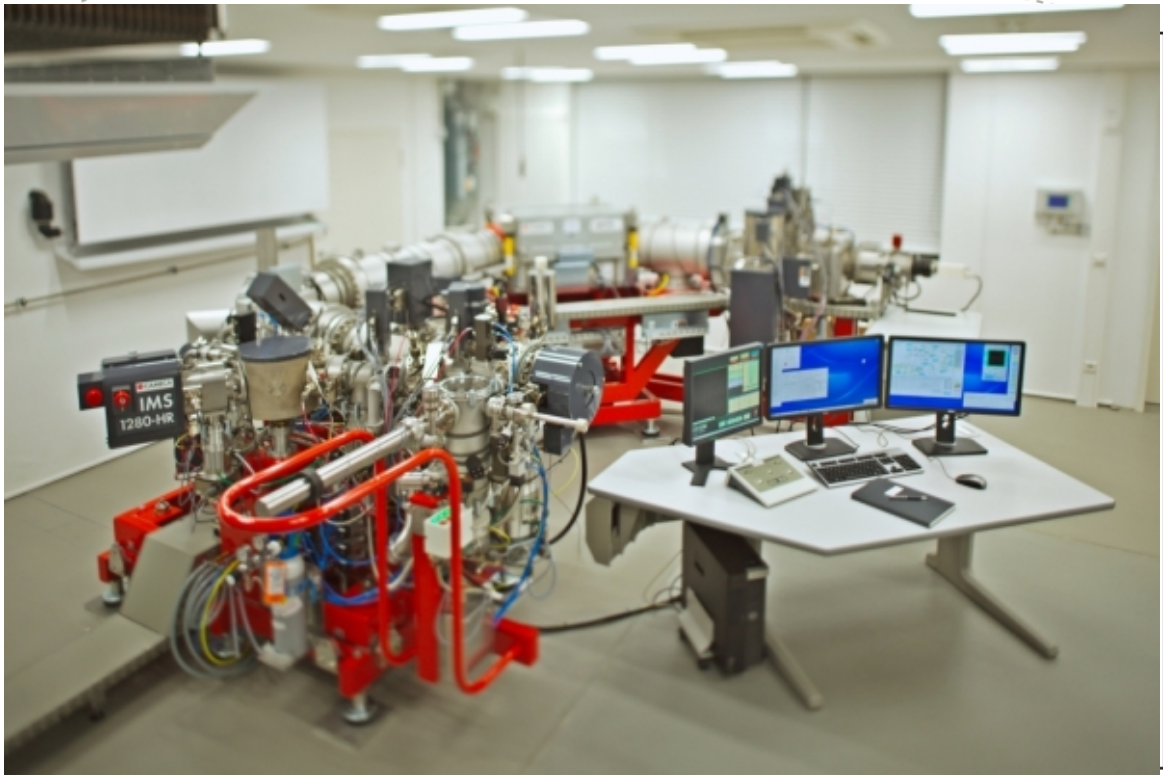
**a**



# Measuring Uranium-series nuclides

## Secondary ionization mass spectrometry (SIMS)

CAMECA ims 1280 hr microprobe at Heidelberg





# Measuring cosmogenic nuclides



## Accelerator mass spectrometer

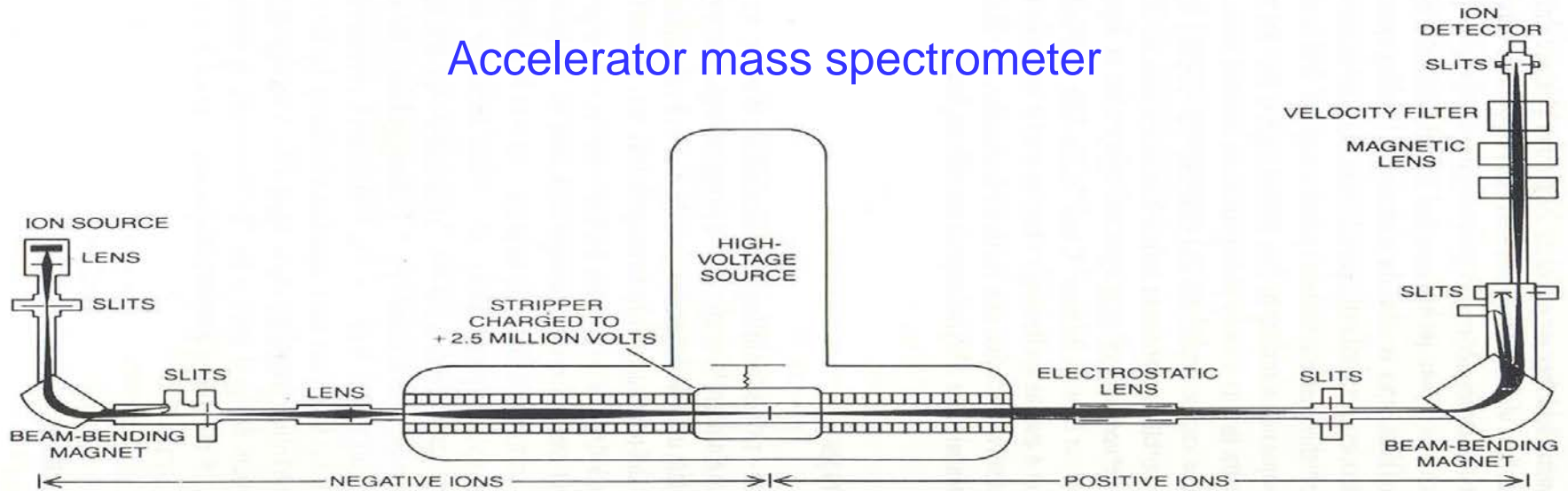
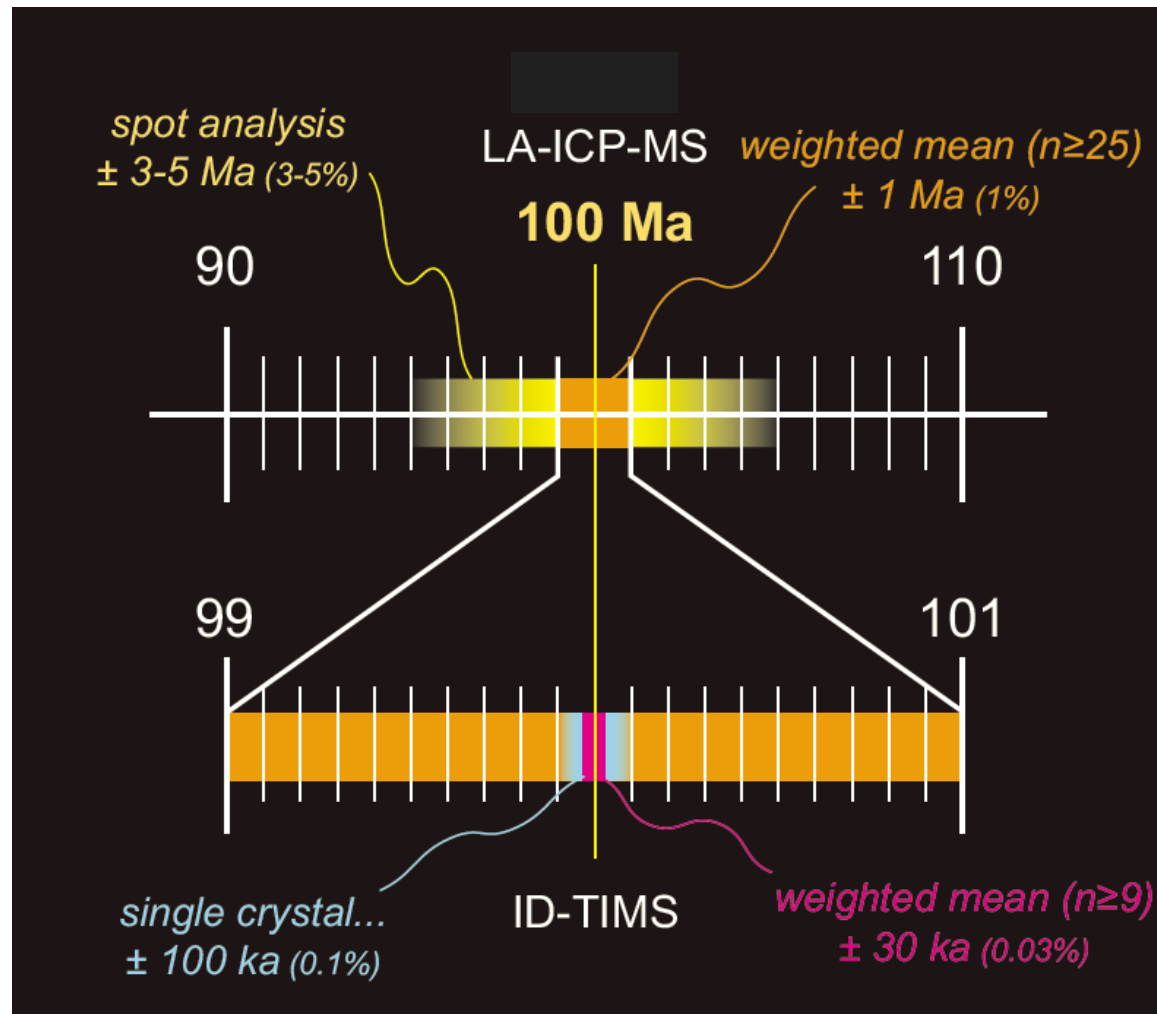


Fig. 37. Principal components of an accelerator mass spectrometer. (After Hedges and Gowlett 1986)

AMS has a factor of a million lower detection limit for  $^{14}\text{C}$ ,  $^{36}\text{Cl}$ ,  $^{10}\text{Be}$ ,  $^{26}\text{Al}$  compared to counting methods

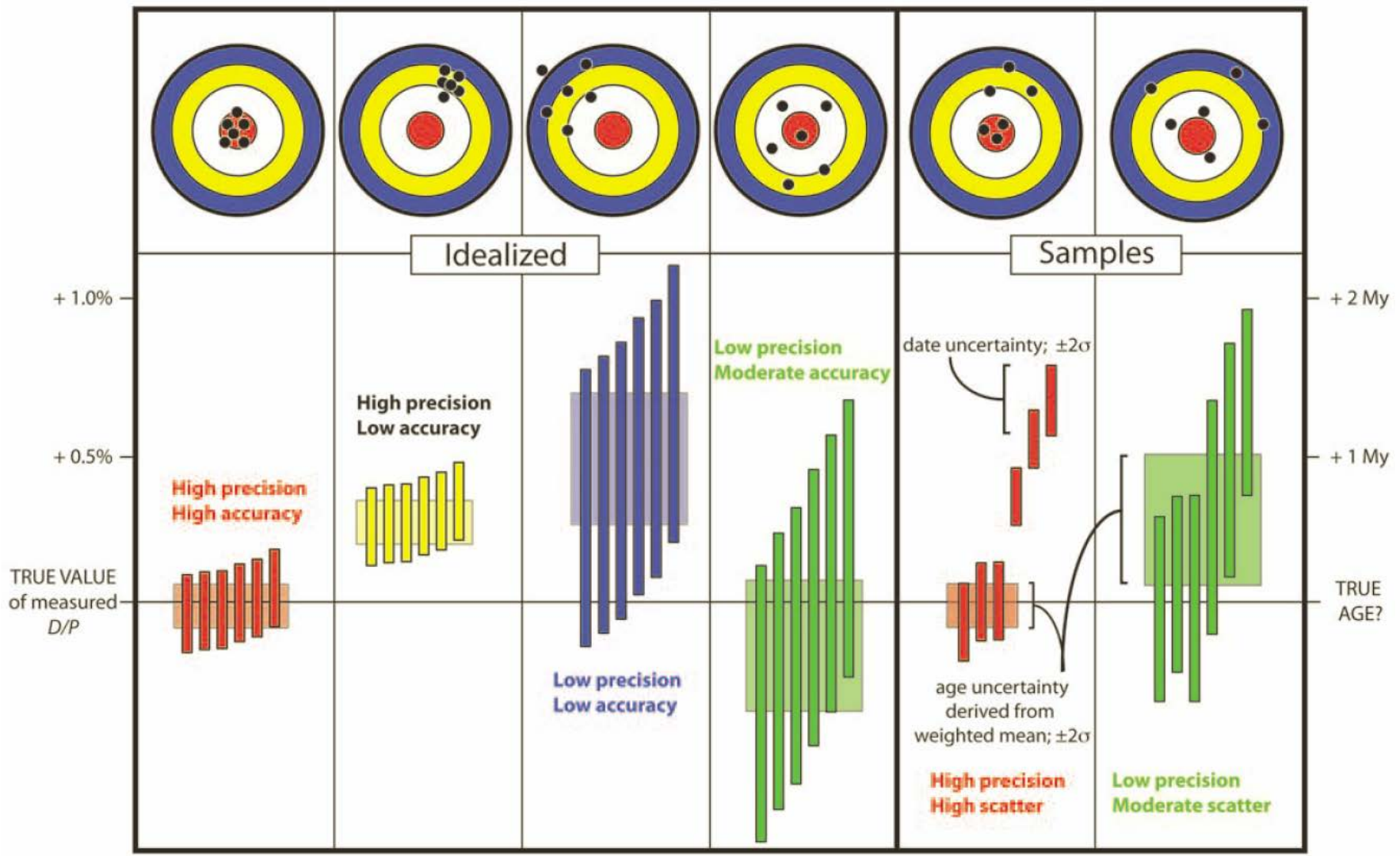


*The uncertainty of a data (age) is as important as the data (age) itself*  
(Ken Ludwig)

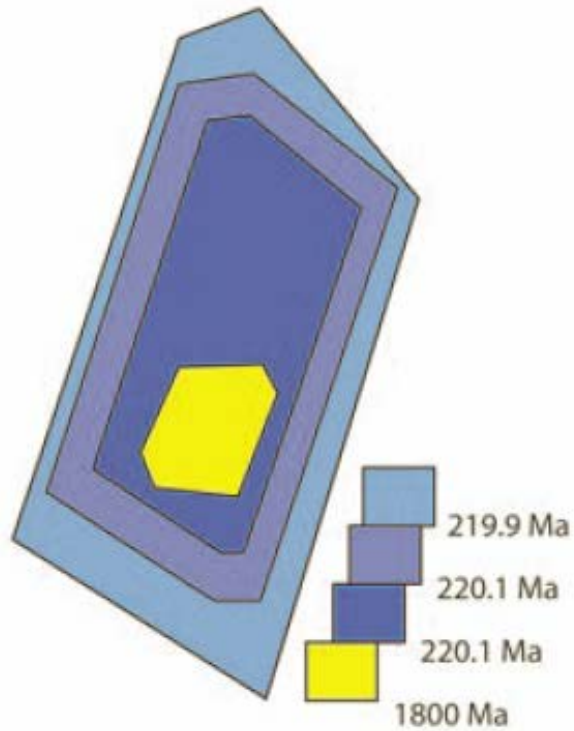


The uncertainty of a date is as important as the date itself (Ken Ludwig 2003)

Ideale Welt      Reale Welt

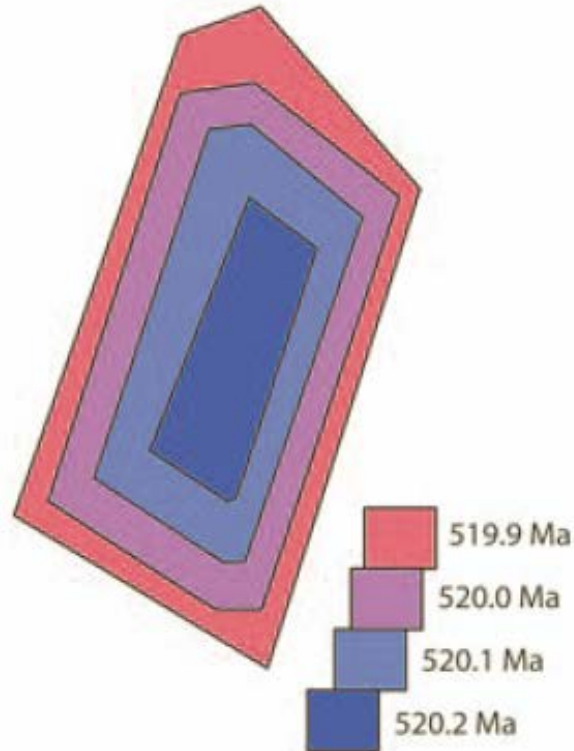


1800 Ma core with a 220 Ma overgrowth



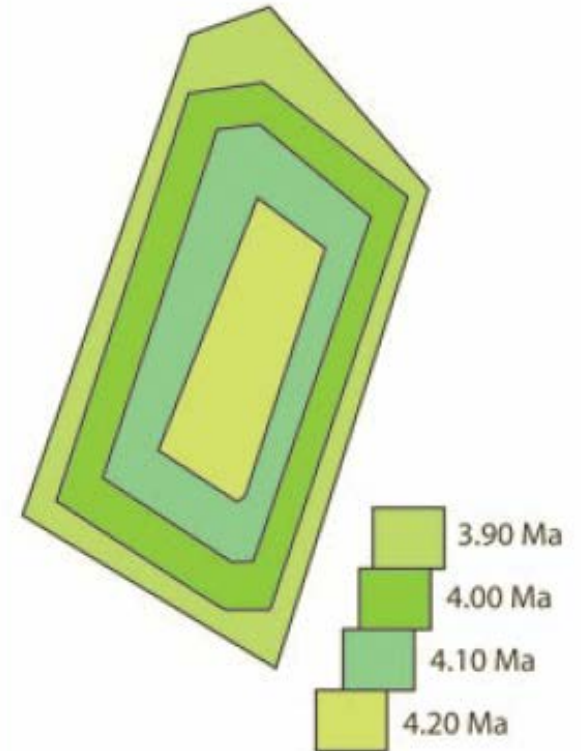
Intracrystal age variation larger than analytical precision of microbeam and ID methods: *In situ* or microsampling required

520 Ma crystal, 300 ky (0.06%) crystallization history



Intracrystal age variation unresolvable: *whole crystal or in situ sample dates are accurate; weighted mean ages may not be*

~4 Ma crystal, 300 ky (7.5%) crystallization history



Intracrystal age variation exceeds analytical precision of microbeam and ID methods: *In situ* or micro-sampling can resolve growth history

# Dating methods and Closure Temperature

Closure Temp: the temperature at which a cooling mineral can no longer exchange isotopes with its surroundings

Mineral	Method	T (°C)
Zircon	U-Pb	>800
Monazite	U-Pb	>800
Titanite (Sphene)	U-Pb	600
Garnet	Sm-Nd	>550
Hornblende	K-Ar	500
Muscovite	Rb-Sr	500
Muscovite	K-Ar	350
Apatite	U-Pb	350
Biotite	Rb-Sr	300
Biotite	K-Ar	280
K-Feldspar	K-Ar	200
Apatite	Fission Track	120

Closure temperatures for common minerals for different isotopic systems. Note that closure temperatures for different systems in the same minerals can vary.



# Dating methods and Closure Temperature

