



# Deformation-enhanced diagenesis and bacterial proliferation in the Nankai accretionary prism

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**Abstract.** Understanding diagenetic reactions in accreted sediments is critical for establishing the balance of fluid sources and sinks in accretionary prisms, which is in turn important for assessing the fluid pressure field and the ability for faults to host seismic slip. For this reason, we studied diagenetic reactions in deformation bands (shear zones and veins) within deep mud sediments from the Nankai accretionary prism (SW Japan) drilled at site C0001 during IODP Expedition 315, by means of microscopic observation, X-ray diffraction, and major- and trace-element analyses. Deformation bands are not only more compacted than the host sediment but are also enriched in framboidal pyrite, as observed under microscopy and confirmed by chalcophile-element enrichments (Fe, S, Cu, As, Sb, Pb). In tandem, one shear zone sample displays a destabilization of smectite or illite–smectite mixed layers and a slight crystallization of illite relative to its sediment matrix, and another sample shows correlated increases in B and Li in shear zones and veins compared to the host sediment, both effects suggesting a transformation of smectite into illite in deformation bands.

The two diagenetic reactions of sulfide precipitation and smectite-to-illite transformation are explained by a combined action of sulfate-reducing and methanogen bacteria, which strongly suggests an increased activity of anaerobic microbial communities localized in deformation bands. This local bacterial proliferation was possibly enhanced by the liberation of hydrogen from strained phyllosilicates. We

suggest that the proliferation of anoxic bacteria, boosted by deformation, may contribute to the pore water freshening observed at depth in accretionary prisms. Deformation-enhanced metabolic reactions may also explain the illitization observed in major faults of accretionary prisms. Care is therefore needed before interpreting illitization, and other diagenetic reactions as well, as evidence of shear heating, as these might be biogenic instead of thermogenic.

## 1 Introduction

The shallow seismicity and the stress state of convergent margins is strongly influenced by the distribution of pore fluid pressure in the accretionary prism (e.g., Davis et al., 1983; Moore and Saffer, 1998). For this reason, a large amount of work has been devoted to understanding the processes of fluid production, consumption, or migration based on the composition of pore waters in accreted sediments (e.g., Brown et al., 2001; Henry and Bourlange, 2004; Kastner et al., 1991; Pohlmann et al., 2009; Raimbourg et al., 2017). On the one hand, this composition may be controlled by long-distance downward or upward flow, diffusing across the sediments or focused along major discontinuities such as the décollement or out-of-sequence thrusts (e.g., Saffer and Bekins, 1998). On the other hand, several processes of in situ fluid production or consumption can also affect the compo-

sition of pore fluids, including metabolic reactions, organic matter cracking, and mineral dehydration or alteration reactions (e.g., Carson and Screaton, 1998; Moore and Vrolijk, 1992; Raimbourg et al., 2017; Torres et al., 2015; Wallmann et al., 2006). Knowing which diagenetic reactions occur in sediments is critical for interpreting the chemistry of pore waters determined by drilling in accretionary prisms.

Diagenetic reactions are in the spotlight since the discovery of low-chlorinity (i.e., lower than sea water) anomalies in sediment pore waters from the Barbados (Gieskes et al., 1990; Moore and Vrolijk, 1992; Vrolijk et al., 1991) and Nankai accretionary prisms (Gieskes et al., 1993; Kastner et al., 1993; Underwood, 1993). Some modeling studies suggested that the transformation of smectite into illite (hereafter called illitization), assumed to be controlled essentially by temperature, might explain this pore water freshening (Brown et al., 2001; Henry and Bourlange, 2004). However, the interpretation of chlorinity is highly dependent on the porosity evolution chosen in the model, and other studies concluded that illitization alone could not account for the observed pore water freshening (Saffer and McKiernan, 2009). This conclusion calls for an additional source of fresh fluid, either as a long-distance fluid flow or as another yet unidentified dehydration reaction. Biogenic or thermogenic processes of organic matter degradation are other diagenetic reactions capable of dramatically influencing the fluid budget of the sediment undergoing subduction, by consuming or producing water, solutes, or hydrocarbons (Pohlman et al., 2009; Raimbourg et al., 2017; Torres et al., 2015). In this category of reactions, recent studies have shown that bacterial degradation of organic matter is able to produce large concentrations of free gas hydrocarbons ( $> 20 L_{\text{gas}}/L_{\text{sediment}}$ ), even at depths over 1000 m below the sea floor (Wiersberg et al., 2015). Diagenetic reactions are also intensively studied within major faults of accretionary prisms, not only because they represent potential sinks or sources of fluids, but also because they can be used to estimate the heat generated by friction, and hence the energy dissipated by seismic ruptures (e.g., Hirono et al., 2009; Yamaguchi et al., 2011).

To improve our knowledge of diagenetic reactions in accreted sediments, we studied core samples from the NanTroSEIZE transect drilled by IODP Expedition 315 across the Nankai accretionary prism in SW Japan (Fig. 1a). Our petrographic, mineralogical, and chemical (major- and trace-element) analyses show that small deformation bands, ubiquitously observed in sediments of the Nankai prism, host some diagenetic reactions. These diagenetic reactions may be of importance for the interpretation of pore fluid composition in deformed sediments, and for the understanding of coseismic mineral reactions in major thrust faults within accretionary prisms.

## 2 Geologic setting

The NanTroSEIZE drilling transect in the Nankai accretionary prism is located offshore of the Kii peninsula (Fig. 1a). In this transect, the sedimentary pile of the prism may be subdivided into sediments of the Kumano forearc basin, slope or trench sediments, and accreted sediments underneath (Fig. 1b). Accreted sediments are cut by large, landward-dipping thrust faults called “megaseplay faults”. Within this transect, core drilling at sites C0001, C0002 (both drilled during IODP Expedition 315), and C0009 (Exp. 319) penetrated the Kumano forearc basin and reached the sediments of the accretionary prism underneath. Site C0004 (Exp. 316) targeted the megaseplay fault located at the extreme offshore end of the Kumano basin. Sites C0006 and C0007 (Exp. 316) targeted the main frontal thrust at the edge of the accretionary prism, which was only reached at site C0007. C0008 (Exp. 316) examined the slope basin  $\sim 1$  km seaward of the megaseplay fault. C0011 (Exp. 319, 322, and 333) and C0012 (Exp. 322 and 333) drilled the Philippine Sea plate seaward of the deformation front.

The studied core samples come from site C0001 (Fig. 1c). At this site, sediments have been classified into two units separated by an unconformity at 207 m below sea floor (mbsf) and a  $\sim 1$  Myr hiatus. Unit I represents Quaternary (0–2.5 Ma) slope-apron sediments. Unit II represents Middle Pliocene to Late Miocene (3.5–5.5 Ma) sediments of the upper accretionary prism drilled down to 456.5 mbsf. The total clay relative abundance increases in slope sediments from  $\sim 30\%$  at the sea floor to  $\sim 60\%$  in the accretionary prism, in tandem with a decrease in the calcite content from  $\sim 40\%$  to  $\sim 0\%$  (Guo and Underwood, 2012; Kinoshita et al., 2009a). The relative abundances of quartz and plagioclase remain constant at  $\sim 20\%$  each throughout the two units. In the clay-size fraction, smectite, illite, kaolinite, and chlorite represent  $\sim 40\%$ ,  $\sim 35\%$ ,  $\sim 5\%$ , and  $\sim 20\%$ , respectively. The chlorinity of pore water at C0001 decreases from 559 mM at the sea floor to 545 mM at 100 mbsf and then increases again downward. This profile indicates that a source of freshwater occurs in the first 100 mbsf of sediment. This source of freshwater progressively vanishes at greater depth.

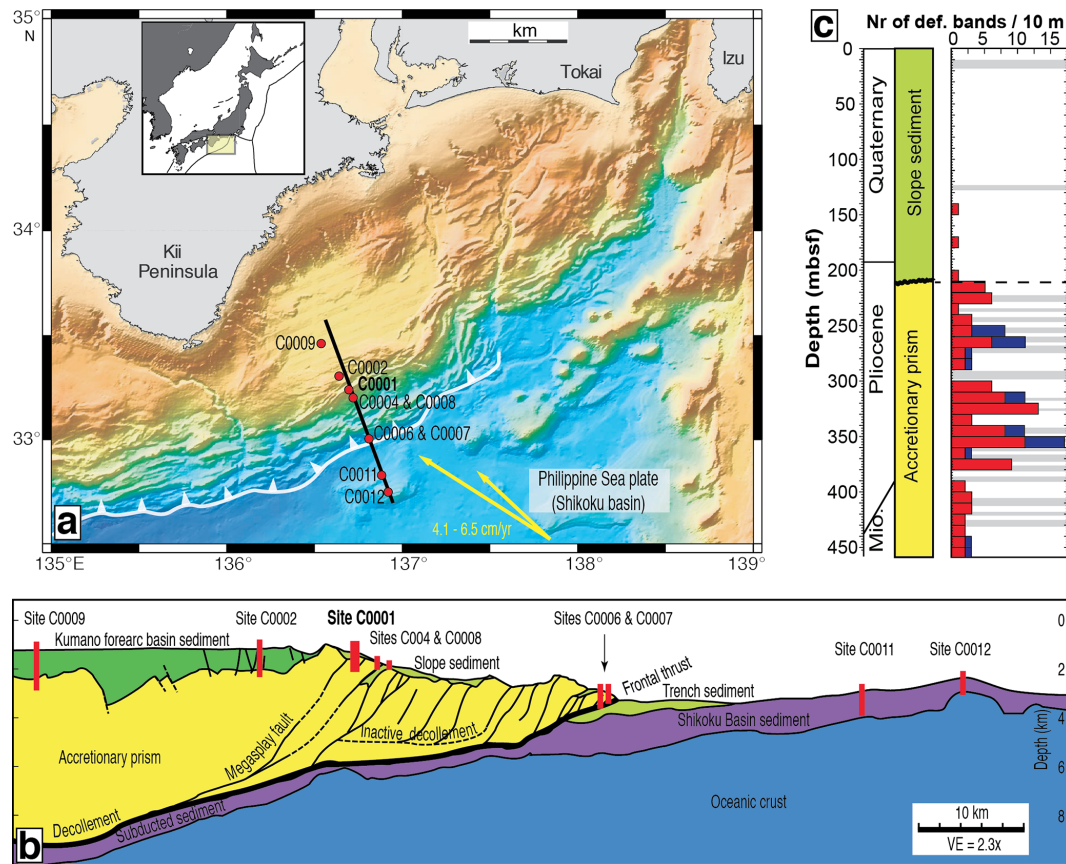
The studied samples (listed in Table 1) all belong to the accretionary prism (Unit II) below the unconformity (Fig. 1c), which are thus essentially made of a clay-rich ( $\sim 60\%$ ) mud containing deformation bands. These deformation bands are similar to those found at other sites along the NanTroSEIZE transect and have already been described in detail in the expedition reports of IODP legs 315, 316, 319, and 333 (Ashi et al., 2008; Henry et al., 2012; Kinoshita et al., 2009a, b, c, d, e, f; Saffer et al., 2010). For this reason, the characteristic features of these microstructures are only briefly recalled here. Deformation bands include shear fractures (Fig. 2a–b) and vein structures (Fig. 2c–d) observed in macroscopic samples from split cores. Lewis et al. (2013) separated the category of shear fractures into shear zones and

**Table 1.** Summary of studied samples from cores at site C0001, of structures observed, and of analyses carried out on them.

Core section, interval (cm)	Depth (mbsf)	Thin section	Observed structures	SEM	XRD	XRF	EPMA	LA-ICPMS
2R-5, 59-64	245.2	VFC19	Shear zone					
2R-5, 102-107	245.7	VFC18	None					
4R-3, 48-50	261.8	VFC14	Shear zone and veins					
4R-3, 73-76	262	VFC6	Shear zone and veins	X	X		X	
		VFC7	Shear zone					
5R-4, 30-34	271.1	VFC22	Veins					
		VFC23	Shear zone and veins					
10R-2, 2-12	313.4	VFC15	Veins			X	X	
		VFC16	Veins					
10R-2, 35-40	313.7	VFC8	Veins					
		VFC9	Shear zone					
10R-3, 31-39	315.1	VFC1	Veins					
10R-4, 37-44	316	VFC25	Shear zone					
11R-2, 59-61	323.5	VFC10	Shear zone					
		VFC11	Shear zone					
11R-6, 3-8	327.4	VFC17	Shear zone				X	
12R-3, 93-97	334.7	VFC2	Shear zone					
13R-1, 137-140	341.8	VFC5	Shear zone					
13R-2, 80-88	342.7	VFC20	Veins					
		VFC21	None					
21R-2, 82-85	413.7	VFC3	Shear zone	X			X	X
		VFC4	Shear zone and veins	X		X	X	X
21R-4, 89-93	416.2	VFC12	Shear zone	X				
		VFC13	Shear zone					
21R-5, 50-53	417.3	VFC24	Veins					

**Table 2.** Modal proportions of pyrite in deformation bands (shear zones and veins) and in their host matrix deduced from the analysis of optical microscopic pictures.

Core section, interval (cm)	Depth (mbsf)	Thin section	Structures analyzed	Vol % pyrite in matrix	Vol % pyrite in shear zones	Vol % pyrite in veins
2R-5, 59-64	245.2	VFC19	Shear zone	0.24	0.39	–
2R-5, 102-107	245.7	VFC18	None	0.12	–	–
4R-3, 48-50	261.8	VFC14	Veins	0.08	–	0.12
4R-3, 73-76	262	VFC6	Shear zone and veins	0.45	0.23	0.82
		VFC7	Shear zone	0.12	0.050	–
5R-4, 30-34	271.1	VFC22	Veins	0.23	–	0.82
		VFC23	Shear zone and veins	0.08	0.08	1.26
10R-2, 2-12	313.4	VFC15	Veins	0.03	–	0.08
		VFC16	Veins	0.04	–	0.16
10R-2, 35-40	313.7	VFC8	Veins	0.17	–	0.29
		VFC9	Shear zone	0.06	0.04	–
10R-3, 31-39	315.1	VFC1	Veins	0.06	–	0.89
10R-4, 37-44	316	VFC25	Shear zone	0.05	0.37	–
11R-2, 59-61	323.5	VFC10	Shear zone	0.06	0.14	–
		VFC11	Shear zone	0.17	0.05	–
11R-6, 3-8	327.4	VFC17	Shear zone	0.05	0.07	–
12R-3, 93-97	334.7	VFC2	Shear zone	0.04	0.05	–



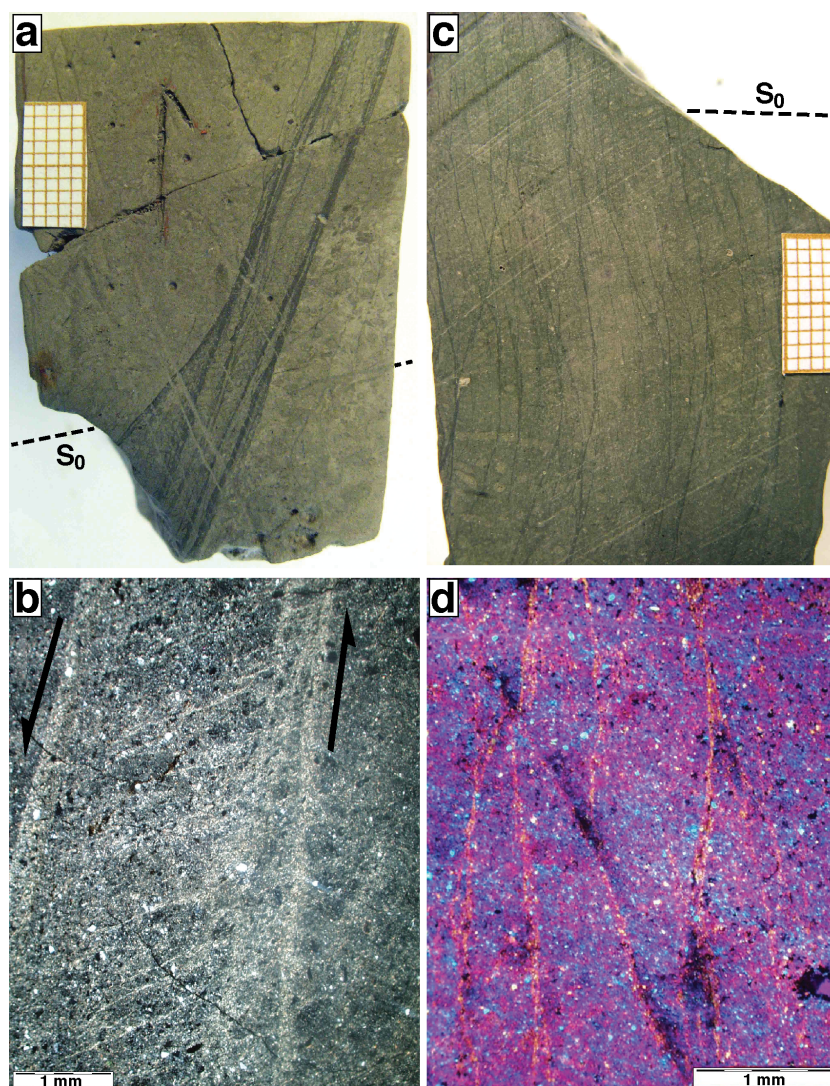
**Figure 1.** (a) Bathymetric map of the Nankai accretionary prism offshore of the Kii peninsula, showing the location of the core logging sites of the NanTroSEIZE transect (IODP Exp. 315, 316, 319, 322, and 333). The yellow arrows represent the range of plate convergence directions (modified from Moore et al., 2009). (b) Schematic cross section of the Nankai accretionary prism along the NanTroSEIZE transect (modified from Moore et al., 2009). (c) Simplified stratigraphy and histogram of deformation bands (10 m spacing) found in cores from site C0001 (modified from Kinoshita et al., 2009a). The slope sediments (Unit I) and sediments from the accretionary prism (Unit II) are separated by an unconformity labeled by a thick black line. Red bars stand for shear zones, blue bars for veins, and gray bars correspond to zones of no core recovery.

faults on the basis of core sample observation. Shear zones are anastomosing, dark structures up to 1 cm thick, cutting the strata with a shear displacement of a few millimeters to centimeters (Fig. 2a). Under the microscope, shear zones appear as zones of crystallographic preferred orientations (CPOs) of phyllosilicates, which are demonstrated by their common extinction and from which the sense of shear can sometimes be reconstructed (Fig. 2b). Faults also display a millimeter-to-centimeter-scale shear displacement and phyllosilicate CPOs but are much thinner (less than 1 mm) and do not always show a visible darkening. Faults spatially evolve into shear zones or the reverse, or branch onto shear zones. This study hereafter focuses on shear zones due to their larger thickness than faults, and because Lewis et al. (2013) showed that many of the faults are in fact drilling-induced. Vein structures show the characteristic features of “ghost veins” described in soft mud sediments of continental margins worldwide (Brothers et al., 1996; Kemp, 1990; Lindsley-Griffin

et al., 1990; Ohsumi and Ogawa, 2008). They appear as 1–10 cm long,  $\sim 50\ \mu\text{m}$  thick, dark curvilinear seams occurring in anastomosing clusters and cutting the bedding stratification at high angle (Fig. 2c). These anastomosing clusters form comb-like, 5–10 cm thick arrays subparallel to the bedding planes. In thin sections, veins also display a phyllosilicate CPO parallel to the vein walls, as do shear fractures, but no or little shear displacement (Fig. 2d). Such vein arrays have been interpreted as dewatering structures occurring during the passage of earthquake waves in the soft sediment (Brothers et al., 1996; Hanamura and Ogawa, 1993), or more recently as due to shear waves associated with density, debris flows, landslides, or faulting (Ohsumi and Ogawa, 2008).

Beside the phyllosilicate CPO, the main textural difference between deformation bands and their host mudrock matrix is a pore space reduction (evidenced by X-ray tomography scanning and field-emission secondary electron microscopy) indicating compaction, and sometimes a subtle grain size re-





**Figure 2.** Subvertical deformation bands observed in cores of the NanTroSEIZE transect, showing a darker color than the matrix and a crystal preferred orientation.  $S_0$  represents the stratification plane. (a, b) Macroscopic and microscopic (cross-polarized light) views of a shear zone with a normal component of slip (sample C0001 4R-3, 73–76). (c, d) Macroscopic and microscopic (cross-polarized light with a lambda plate) views of anastomosing veins (sample C0001 10R-2, 35–40). Core top is upward in all the pictures. Scale bar is 1 cm in macroscopic pictures.

duction (Milliken and Reed, 2010; Ujiie et al., 2004). Deformation bands are found in all the sedimentary units of the Nankai accretionary prism. They are, however, scarce in sediments of the Kumano forearc basin or in slope sediments ( $\leq 10$  occurrences per 10 m of core, Fig. 1c), and much more abundant in accreted sediments (locally  $\gg 30$  occurrences per 10 m of core). This indicates that the majority of the deformation structures formed in the accretionary prism before the deposition of slope-apron sediments, i.e., before 2.5 Ma.

### 3 Methods

A summary of deformation bands sampled in cores from site C0001 is provided in Table 1, together with the analyses performed on them. In a first step, standard 30  $\mu\text{m}$  thick polished thin sections were cut from core samples containing deformation bands. Petrological observations were carried out on all the samples with optical microscopy, and on four samples with a scanning electron microscope (SEM) at Paris VI University. The modal proportions of opaque minerals in deformation bands and host rocks were estimated from the analysis of optical microscopic images in reflected light using the ImageJ software.

### 3.1 X-ray diffraction

One shear zone sample (4R-3, 73-76) was found to be large enough to be analyzed by X-ray diffraction (XRD), in order to compare the nature of its clay fraction relative to that of the host matrix. To do so, powders of material were collected by scrapping the shear zone structure and the host matrix, in the rock slab previously used for the preparation of the thin section. The powders were decarbonated and aqueous suspensions were prepared in a solution of 0.5 M NaCl in order to saturate clay minerals with Na. Oriented slides were prepared by drying at room temperature aqueous suspensions on monocrystalline silicon slides to obtain an air-dried (AD) preparation. Ethylene-glycol (EG) solvation of the samples was achieved by exposing them to EG vapor at 70 °C for a minimum of 12 h. XRD patterns were recorded on the AD and EG preparations using a Bruker D8 diffractometer equipped with an MHG Messtechnik humidity controller coupled to an Anton Paar CHC+ chamber. Intensities were measured with a SolXE Si(Li) solid-state detector (Baltic Scientific Instruments) for 10 s per  $0.04^{\circ}2\theta$  step over the  $2\text{--}50^{\circ}2\theta$  Cu K $\alpha$  angular range. Divergence slits, the two Soller slits, the antiscatter, and resolution slits were 0.3, 2.3, 0.3, and  $0.1^{\circ}$ , respectively. Samples were kept at 23 °C and a constant 40 % relative humidity (RH) in the CHC+ chamber during the whole data collection. RH was continuously monitored with a hygrometer (uncertainty of  $\sim 2$  % RH) located close to the sample.

### 3.2 Major-element maps and quantitative analyses

Major- and minor-element analyses were carried out on some of the polished thin sections. Element maps were performed on two samples with an X-ray fluorescence (XRF) spectrometer at Joseph Fourier University in Grenoble (France) to map major elements on large sample surfaces, and with the SEM to map major and minor elements on smaller surfaces. On five shear zone and vein samples, quantitative analyses of eight elements were then performed using a CAMECA SX100 electron probe micro analyzer (EPMA) at Paris VI University. The EPMA was tuned at 15 kV and 10 nA, with a beam focused at 3  $\mu\text{m}$ ; a 5 s counting time for Na (measured first), Si, and K; and a 10 s counting time for other elements. The CAMECA set of standards (synthetic and natural minerals or oxides) was used for calibration. The correction methods of Bence and Albee (1968) were used to convert the raw intensity data to weight percent oxides. Analytical uncertainty is 1 %–2 % for Si, Al, Fe, and K; 5 %–15 % for Na, Mg, Ca, and Ti; and 50 %–100 % for Mn, P, and Cr. EPMA analyses were performed as profiles across planar deformation bands, at 3 to 14  $\mu\text{m}$  intervals between each measurement depending on the thickness of the structure. To focus on the analysis of the clay-size fraction of the sediment, the locations of analyzed spots were then visually checked to exclude analyses in individual mineral grains. The remaining

analyses were filtered to further exclude quartz or plagioclase ( $\text{SiO}_2 + \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 > 80$  wt % and sum of volatile elements  $< 2$  wt %), calcite ( $\text{CaO} > 40$  wt %), sulfides or oxides ( $\text{FeO}$  or  $\text{TiO}_2 > 30$  wt %), and organic matter (sum of major elements  $< 30$  wt %). This filtering resulted in the removal of 10 % to 21 % of the data depending on the profile.

### 3.3 Trace-element analyses

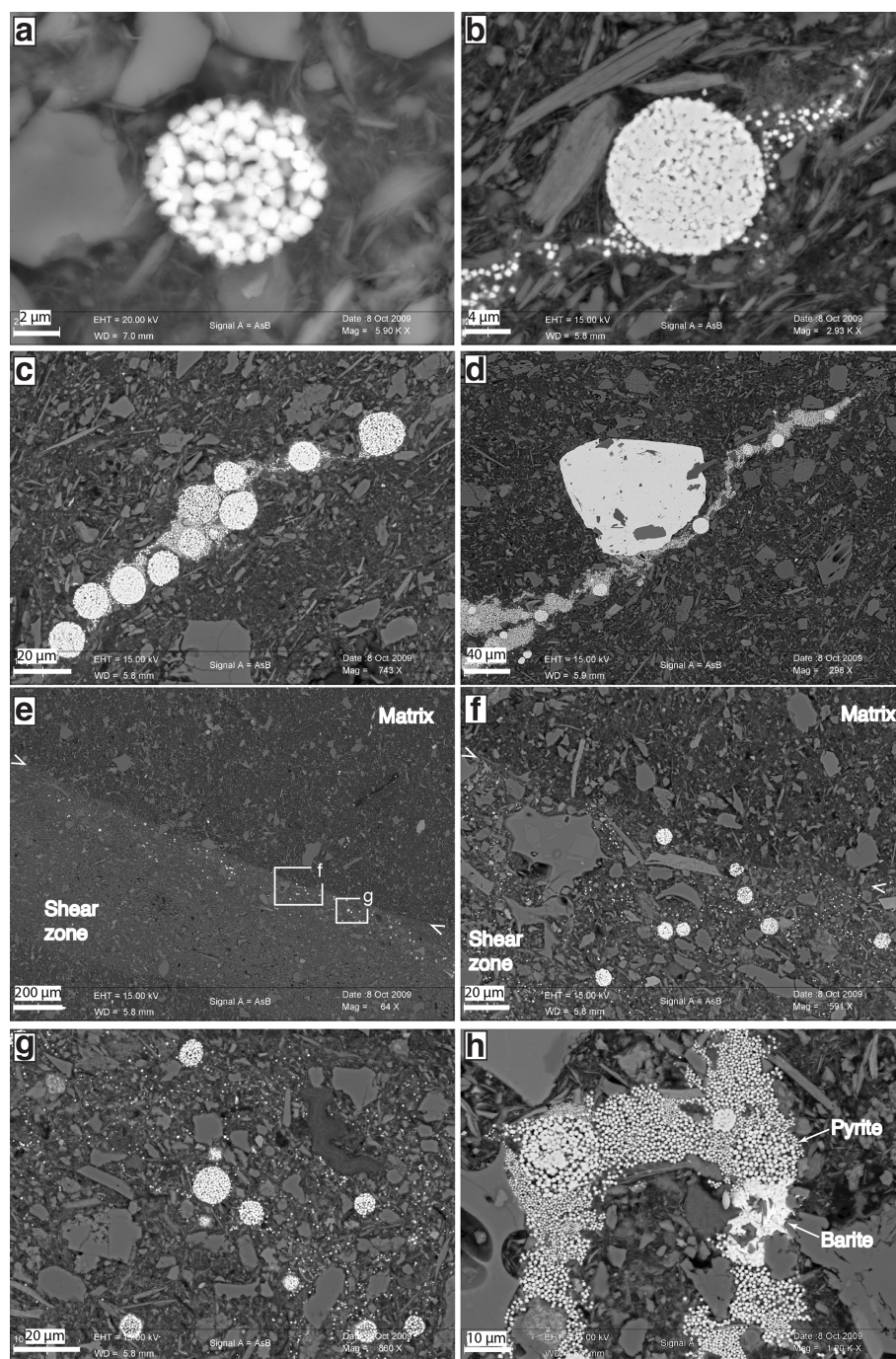
After major-element analyses, one of the samples (21R-2, 82-85) was further selected for in situ measurements of trace-element concentrations. Those measurements were conducted on the rock slabs used for thin section preparation (VFC3 and VFC4). In situ trace-element concentrations were determined at Montpellier 2 University on a Thermo Finnigan Element 2 high-resolution inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometer (HR-ICPMS) using a single-collector double-focusing sector field Element XR (eXtended Range) coupled with laser ablation (LA) system, a Geolas (Micro-las) automated platform housing a 193 nm Compex 102 laser from LambdaPhysik. The spot size was set to 102  $\mu\text{m}$  and therefore included multiple mineral grains. Oxide level, measured using the ThO / Th ratio, was below 0.7 %. Silicium 29 was used as internal standard. For each zone (matrix, shear zones, and veins),  $^{29}\text{Si}$  was calibrated from the mean value of microprobe analyses in the same zone. Concentrations were calibrated against the NIST 612 rhyolitic glass using the values given in Pearce et al. (1997). Data were subsequently reduced using the GLITTER software using the linear-fit-to-ratio method (Van Achterberg et al., 2001). This typically resulted in a 1 % to 15 % precision (1sigma) for most analyses, evaluated by repeated analyses of USGS reference basalt BIR-1 run as an unknown before and after sample analysis (Table A1 in Appendix). Detection limits were between  $< 1$  and 50 ppb for most trace elements; between 0.04 and 0.5 ppm for Li, B, Cr, Ti, Zn, and As; and between 1 and 15 ppm for Ni, Ca, and Si.

## 4 Results

### 4.1 Petrographic observation

The petrographic inspection of samples revealed the presence of authigenic pyrite and barite in the sediment. Pyrite is by far the dominant authigenic mineral in all the samples. Pyrite displays two crystal morphologies, cubic microcrysts, and blocky macrocrysts. Pyrite microcrysts ( $\leq 0.5$   $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter) occur as isolated crystals or as “framboids”, i.e., circular aggregates, 2–20  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter (Fig. 3a–b). Framboids in deformation bands sometimes develop tails filled with pyrite microcrysts and resembling pressure shadows (Fig. 3b–d), which may therefore be assimilated to porphyroclastic (grown before the deformation) or porphyroblast (grown during the deformation) microstructures (Passchier and Trouw, 1998). Blocky pyrite occurs as macrocrysts

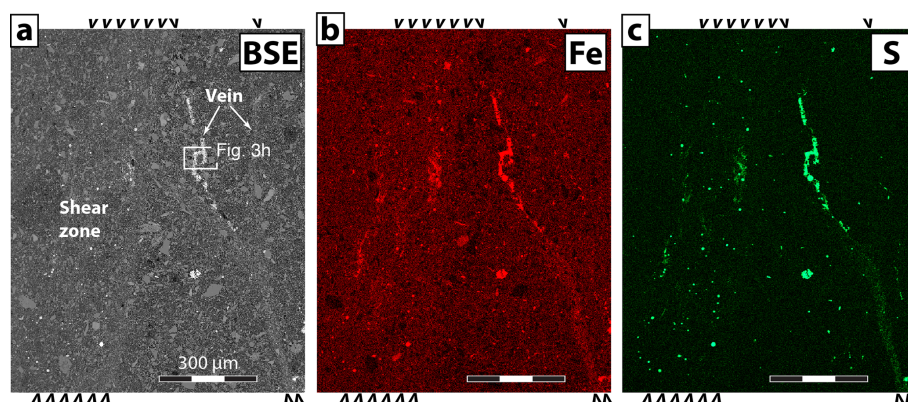




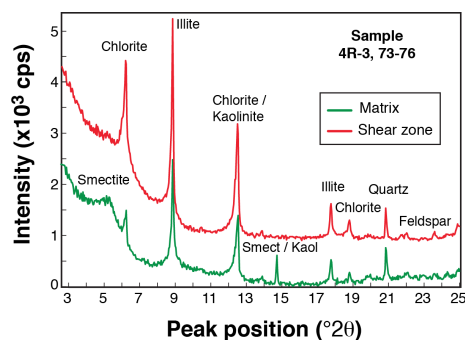
**Figure 3.** SEM pictures of pyrite textures. (a) Pyrite framboid made of aggregated cubic pyrite microcrysts in a shear zone (sample 21R-2, 82–85). (b) Pyrite framboid in a shear zone, with pressure shadow-like tails of isolated microcrysts (4R-3, 73–76), showing that the microcryst morphology grew before and/or during deformation. (c) Same as (b) with a lower magnification. (d) Blocky euhedral pyrite macrocryst embedding particles oriented parallel to the crystallographic preferred orientation (CPO) in a shear zone, showing that blocky pyrite growth is posterior to the CPO (4R-3, 73–76). (e, f, g) Pyrite framboids and isolated cubic pyrite microcrysts in a shear zone (21R-4, 89–93). Arrows delimit the boundary between the shear zone (with a CPO of particles) and the matrix (with randomly oriented particles). Note the greater abundance of pyrite crystals in the shear zone compared to the matrix. (h) Barite flakes surrounded by pyrite microcrysts and framboids in a vein. A wider view of the structure is provided in Fig. 5 (21R-2, 82–85).







**Figure 5.** Example of SEM map in a shear zone and a vein (sample 21R-2, 82–85), showing the greater modal abundance of pyrite crystals in deformation bands (represented by arrows) relative to the host sediment matrix. (a) Back-scattered electron picture. (b, c) Fe and S maps, respectively.



**Figure 6.** Powder X-ray diffraction spectra of the ethylene-glycol saturated clay-size fraction extracted from a shear zone (in red) and its host matrix (in green) in sample 4R-3, 73–76.

## 5 Discussion

### 5.1 Compaction

The first result of our study is that deformation bands are more compacted than the host sediment. This greater compaction is indicated by the general increases in element concentrations observed in SEM and XRF maps. It is also apparent in the EPMA data, as the concentration of volatile elements (approximated by 100 minus the sum of elements) is 36.51 wt %–45.05 wt % in the matrix whereas it is only 28.55 wt %–34.93 wt % in shear zones and 27.09 wt %–33.32 wt % in veins (Table 3), suggesting smaller interfoliar spaces in clays from deformation bands than from the matrix, and thus a smaller porosity. Shear zones and veins have therefore resulted in a greater volatile loss than the matrix, which may be interpreted as a greater fluid expulsion (Fig. 8). This result supports the conclusion of Milliken and Reed (2010) that deformation microstructures in mud core samples from Site C0008 (IODP Exp. 316) formed primarily by mechanical compaction of the unconsolidated mud and thus are in-

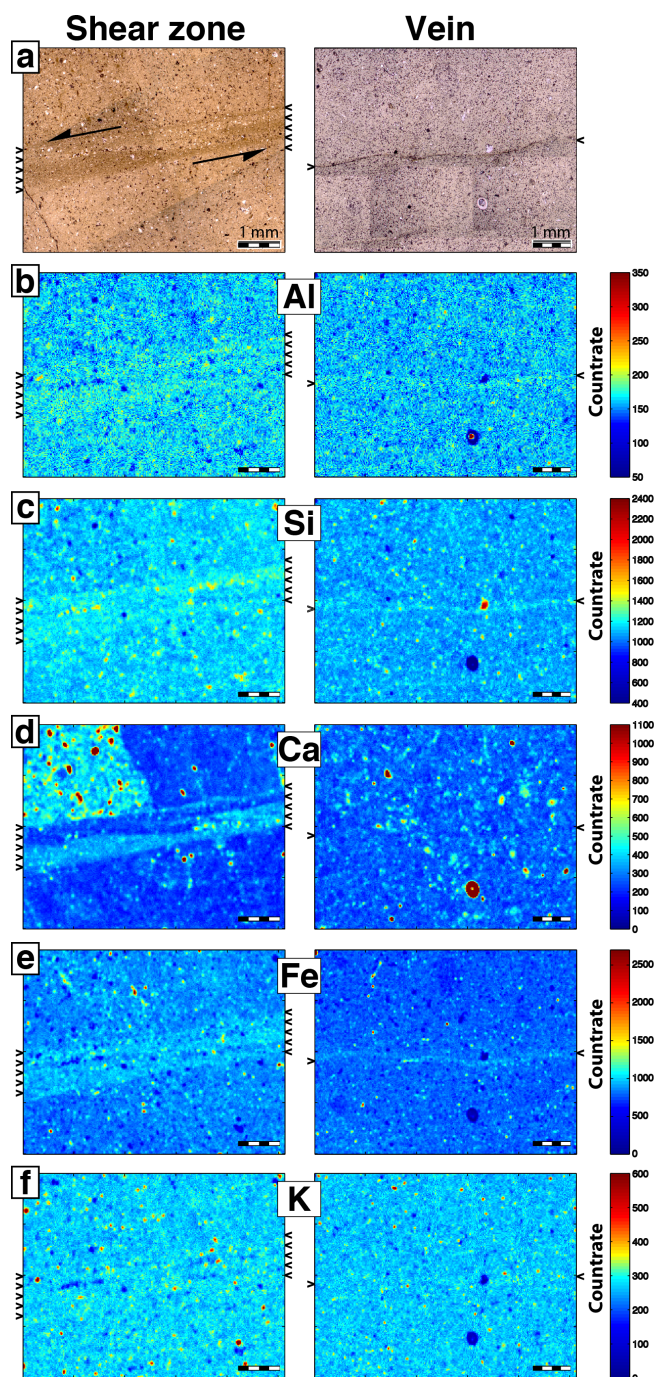
deed “dewatering structures”. This strain-induced reduction of pore spaces and density increase is likely responsible for the observed enrichment of many major and trace elements in deformation bands compared to those of the matrix. However, mechanical compaction should raise all the analyzed elements by the same proportion. This hypothesis may be tested using a correction for compaction by normalizing the sum of element concentrations to 100 %. Even after such correction, some elements like As and to a lesser extent Cu, Sb, and Pb remain enriched in deformation bands relative to the matrix and positively correlated to each other, while some like Ba are depleted in deformation bands (Figs. 10, 11). Veins also appear enriched in B, Li, and perhaps  $K_2O$  but slightly depleted in CaO and perhaps  $Na_2O$  relative to the matrix. This indicates that some chemical reactions occurred in the deformation bands, in addition to mechanical compaction. In the following, we explore the processes that may be responsible for the chemical differences observed in shear zones and veins relative to their host sediment matrix.

### 5.2 Deformation and pyrite diagenesis

The dark color of deformation bands (Fig. 2), their increased content in authigenic pyrite microcrysts (Figs. 3e–g, 4, 5), their enrichment in chalcophile elements (Cu; As; Sn; Pb, Figs. 10, 11), and the positive correlations among these elements (Fig. 11) all concur to indicate that sulfide precipitation was enhanced in deformation bands compared to the matrix. Sulfide mineralization in low-temperature ( $< 60^\circ C$ ) sediments is essentially a byproduct of the anaerobic degradation of organic matter by microorganisms (see the review by Megonigal et al., 2004). For this reason, authigenic pyrite is generally observed in anoxic, organic matter-rich sediments such as shales. The framboidal morphology of pyrite itself is generally, though not exclusively, taken as an indicator of microbial proliferation (Barbieri and Cavalazzi, 2005; Cavalazzi et al., 2012; Chen et al., 2006; Merinero et al.,

**Table 3.** Averaged EPMA analyses of major-element concentrations of the clay-size fraction within shear zones, veins, and the host sediment matrix.

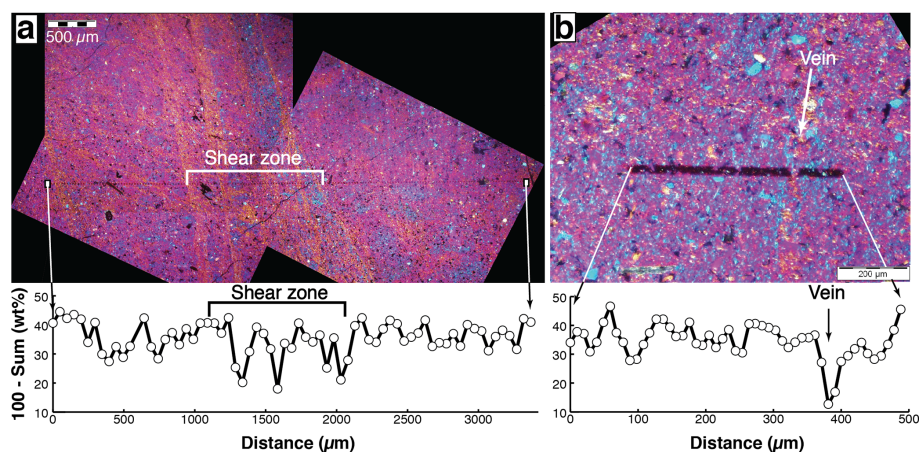
Sample (thin section)	4R-3, 73-76 (VFC6)				10R-2, 2-12 (VFC15)		11R-6, 3-8 (VFC17)		21R-2, 82-85 (VFC3 and VFC4)								
	Matrix 1	Shear zone 1	Vein 1	Matrix 2	Shear zone 2	Matrix	Vein	Matrix	Shear zone	Matrix 1	Shear zone	Matrix 2	Vein 1	Matrix 3	Vein 2	Matrix 3	Vein 3
Structure																	
Nr of analyses	104	17	4	25	43	105	5	33	36	31	22	40	11	46	10	55	8
Na <sub>2</sub> O	1.21	1.98	1.82	1.32	1.68	2.91	1.94	1.40	1.96	1.55	1.56	1.78	1.38	1.52	1.90	1.05	0.94
MgO	1.75	1.98	1.77	1.53	1.46	1.48	1.31	1.59	1.74	1.53	1.52	1.58	1.82	1.42	1.79	1.77	1.83
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	10.97	11.58	12.27	11.20	11.05	10.44	15.08	11.90	13.70	10.99	11.47	11.25	12.21	12.42	14.84	10.55	14.61
SiO <sub>2</sub>	37.85	42.23	43.40	38.03	46.91	41.36	48.97	37.97	44.56	41.05	47.24	42.75	47.26	38.06	46.14	34.10	43.69
K <sub>2</sub> O	2.07	2.16	2.58	2.14	2.06	2.19	3.65	2.17	2.65	1.98	2.27	1.95	2.74	2.33	2.48	1.85	3.92
CaO	1.05	1.18	1.29	1.14	1.05	1.39	0.31	2.11	1.67	0.99	1.34	0.55	0.45	0.50	0.24	0.81	0.37
TiO <sub>2</sub>	0.33	0.49	0.31	0.39	0.36	0.31	0.16	0.29	0.47	0.41	0.31	0.34	0.39	0.29	0.64	0.36	0.42
FeO	3.06	3.46	3.24	3.34	3.23	3.38	3.02	4.02	4.57	3.37	3.41	3.31	3.60	3.71	4.77	4.32	4.40
Sum (wt %)	58.29	65.07	66.68	59.08	67.80	63.46	74.44	61.63	71.45	61.88	69.12	63.49	69.85	60.39	72.91	54.95	70.35

**Figure 7.** Examples of XRF maps in a shear zone (sample 21R-2, 82-85) and a vein (10R-2, 2-12). (a) Optical microphotographs (plain light). (b–f) Al, Si, Ca, Fe, and K maps, respectively. Note the enrichment in all the analyzed elements relative to the matrix, except for Ca that is heterogeneously distributed in the shear zone and in the matrix (due to the drag of Ca-rich and Ca-poor beddings) and not enriched in the vein.

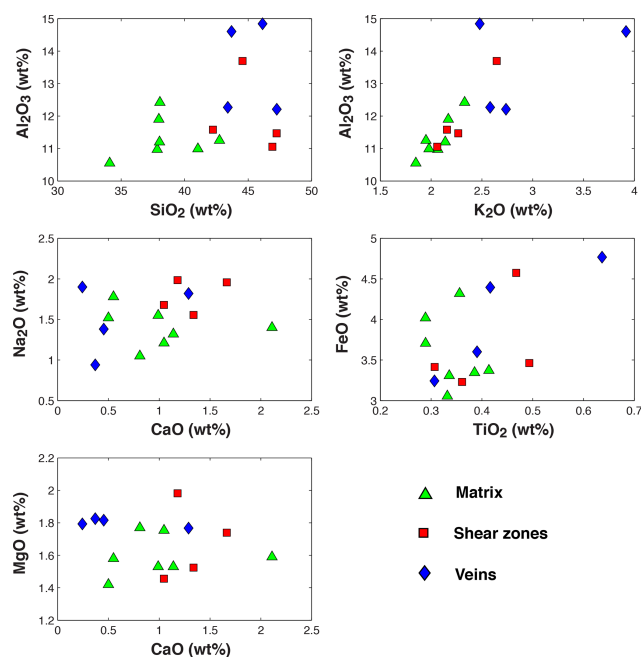


**Table 4.** Trace-element concentrations in the sediment matrix, in shear zones, and in veins measured by HC-LA-ICPMS (sample 2IR-2, 82-85, slabs VFC3 and VFC4). All the element concentrations are expressed in ppm except Si\*, Ca\* and Ti\* that are expressed in wt %.

Structure Datum ref.	Matrix af_4	Matrix af_5	Matrix af_6	Matrix yc_4	Matrix yc_5	Matrix da_6	Matrix da_8	Matrix da_9	Shear zone yc_1	Shear zone yc_3	Shear zone yc_7	Shear zone da_1	Shear zone da_2	Shear zone da_4	Vein af_1	Vein af_2	Vein af_3	Vein af_7	Vein af_8	Vein da_5
Li	0.52	0.58	0.55	0.42	0.56	0.38	0.51	0.47	0.53	0.59	0.52	0.50	0.53	0.48	0.58	0.60	0.59	0.50	0.71	0.66
B	0.90	0.93	0.90	0.70	0.70	0.56	0.71	0.68	0.78	0.75	0.75	0.65	0.73	0.84	1.01	0.99	0.99	0.80	1.34	1.10
Si*	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20
Ca*	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01
Sc	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.11	0.11	0.09	0.13	0.10	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.12	0.14	0.14
Ti*	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
V	0.93	0.93	0.86	0.84	0.84	0.70	0.93	0.79	0.95	0.98	0.93	0.93	0.96	0.95	0.98	1.04	1.00	0.88	1.22	1.11
Cr	0.50	0.53	0.47	0.49	0.45	0.39	0.52	0.42	0.53	0.54	0.56	0.55	0.60	1.26	0.67	0.61	0.57	0.42	0.68	0.65
Co	0.09	0.10	0.09	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.09	0.07	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.11	0.09	0.10	0.09	0.12	0.11	0.12
Ni	0.29	0.31	0.29	0.24	0.21	bd.1	0.33	0.17	0.28	0.28	0.28	bd.1	bd.1	bd.1	0.36	0.35	0.31	bd.1	0.43	0.45
Cu	0.34	0.38	0.30	0.35	0.36	0.29	0.61	0.42	0.47	0.56	0.45	0.49	0.46	0.47	0.40	0.51	0.33	0.43	0.62	0.74
Zn	1.32	1.95	1.34	1.55	1.52	2.39	1.77	1.74	1.62	1.74	1.83	2.04	1.90	1.76	1.46	1.67	1.34	2.13	1.56	1.50
As	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.05	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.07	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.05
Rb	0.99	1.05	0.92	0.82	0.80	0.72	0.86	0.74	0.91	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.94	0.85	1.12	1.16	1.12	0.97	1.23	1.19
Sr	0.51	0.93	0.61	0.59	0.54	1.01	1.26	0.90	0.84	0.80	0.89	1.24	0.78	1.21	0.54	0.58	0.57	0.89	0.59	0.67
Y	0.13	0.18	0.13	0.11	0.16	0.09	0.15	0.08	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.11	0.11	0.12	0.15	0.16	0.12	0.15	0.13
Zr	1.06	0.60	0.64	0.63	0.87	0.46	0.68	0.45	0.73	0.71	0.68	0.61	0.59	0.67	0.70	0.80	0.77	0.58	0.77	0.74
Nb	0.06	0.07	0.12	0.07	0.07	0.05	0.14	0.06	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.09	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.08	0.08	0.08
Sb	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cs	0.07	0.08	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.10	0.09	0.10
Ba	2.50	11.05	2.11	2.39	2.15	6.01	9.30	2.82	2.47	2.46	3.12	2.72	3.15	2.94	2.72	3.67	2.52	3.44	2.32	2.49
La	0.18	0.16	0.15	0.12	0.12	0.13	0.18	0.11	0.18	0.19	0.16	0.17	0.19	0.15	0.22	0.20	0.19	0.20	0.17	0.17
Ce	0.33	0.35	0.30	0.26	0.25	0.26	0.43	0.26	0.38	0.44	0.35	0.36	0.38	0.31	0.46	0.45	0.43	0.46	0.36	0.39
Pr	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.04
Nd	0.13	0.17	0.13	0.11	0.12	0.10	0.17	0.10	0.15	0.16	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.12	0.18	0.17	0.17	0.18	0.15	0.15
Sm	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
Eu	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Gd	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02
Tb	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dy	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Ho	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Er	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.02
Tm	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Yb	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.02
Lu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hf	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02
Ta	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Pb	0.14	0.15	0.21	0.11	0.09	0.09	0.15	0.10	0.12	0.16	0.14	0.15	0.15	0.18	0.15	0.17	0.15	0.13	0.22	0.19
Th	0.07	0.08	0.08	0.06	0.07	0.05	0.09	0.05	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.07	0.08	0.08	0.09	0.09	0.10	0.08	0.08	0.08
U	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02

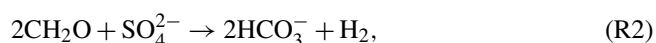
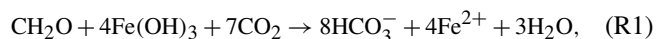


**Figure 8.** Examples of EPMA profiles of major-element analyses in the clay-size fraction of deformation bands, reported onto optical microphotographs (cross-polarized light with a lambda plate). The quantity displayed in the profiles (100 minus the sum of analyzed major elements) is assumed to represent the concentration of volatile (i.e., not analyzed) elements. **(a)** Shear zone (sample 4R-3, 73-76). **(b)** Vein (21R-2, 82-85).



**Figure 9.** Averaged major-element concentrations of EPMA analyses in the clay-size fraction of shear zones, of veins, and of their host sediment matrix. Data provided in Table 3.

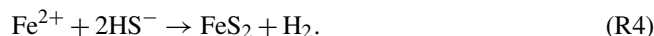
2009; Peckmann et al., 2001). Organic carbon decomposition by heterotrophic microorganisms has the effect of releasing reduced dissolved iron and hydrogen sulfide, through  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  and sulfate reduction reactions such as the following:



where  $\text{CH}_2\text{O}$  represents organic matter.  $\text{CO}_2$  in Reaction (R1) may be supplied by methanogenesis:

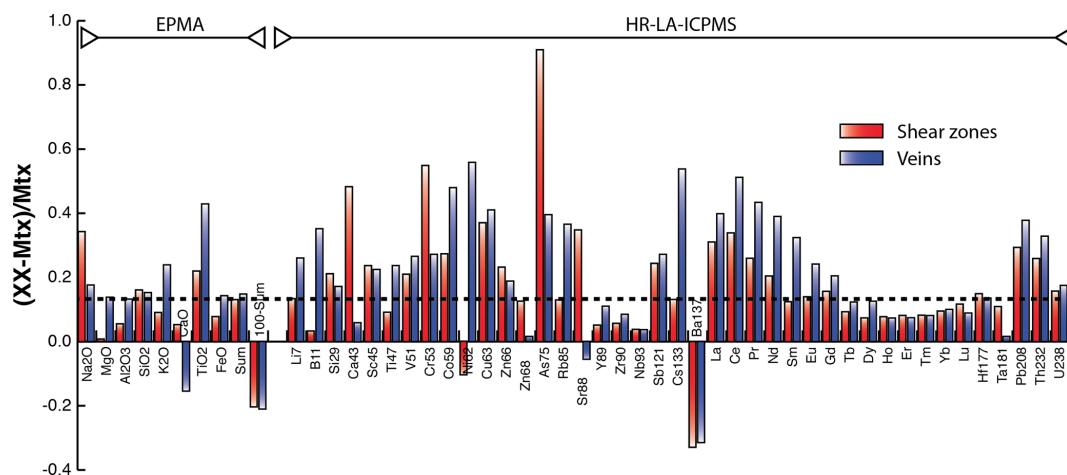


The products of these reactions are then involved in a suite of secondary redox reactions, among which pyrite ( $\text{FeS}_2$ ) precipitates via the formation of temporary sulfide phases (Hunger and Benning, 2007; Wilkin and Barnes, 1997):



The precipitation of multiple pyrite microcrysts forming framboids requires a nucleation rate significantly greater than the crystal growth rate (i.e., surface-controlled growth), a condition achieved as long as the supply of reactants is not limited and the thermodynamic conditions are far from equilibrium (Ohfuji and Rickard, 2005; Wilkin and Barnes, 1997). This suggests that sulfate and reduced iron supplies were not limited at the time of deformation, and thus that the deformation bands occurred within the sulfate reduction zone. The Ba depletion in deformation bands (Figs. 10, 11) and the growth of pyrite microcrysts and framboids on barite needles in a vein (Fig. 3h) also support sulfate bio-reduction via metabolic Reactions (R1) and (R2). All these lines of evidence lead to the conclusion that the preferential crystallization of microcrystic and framboidal pyrite in deformation bands is a result of enhanced bacterial activity. According to syn-deformation microstructures of pyrite growth (Fig. 3b, c), this enhanced bacterial activity was coeval with the development of deformation bands and the associated reduction of porosity.

On the contrary, the blocky morphology of large and rare pyrite crystals indicates a transport-controlled crystal growth (Ohfuji and Rickard, 2005; Wilkin and Barnes, 1997), meaning that the demand of sulfate and iron exceeded their supply. These large blocky pyrite crystals grow at the expense of



**Figure 10.** Average relative proportions of major-element concentrations (measured by EPMA on samples 4R-3, 73-76; 11R-6, 3-8; and 21R-2, 82-85) and trace-element concentrations (measured by HC-LA-ICPMS on sample 21R-2, 82-85) in shear zones (red bars) and in veins (blue bars) with respect to their host sediment matrix. The dashed horizontal line corresponds to the averaged enrichment of major elements from the matrix (Mtx) to the deformation bands (XX), assumed to represent mechanical compaction.

framboids and seal the CPO of deformation bands (Fig. 3d). This suggests that blocky pyrite is a recrystallization form of the framboid morphology, occurring without deformation, below the sulfate–methane transition zone, and hence not necessarily via metabolic reactions.

### 5.3 Clay transformation

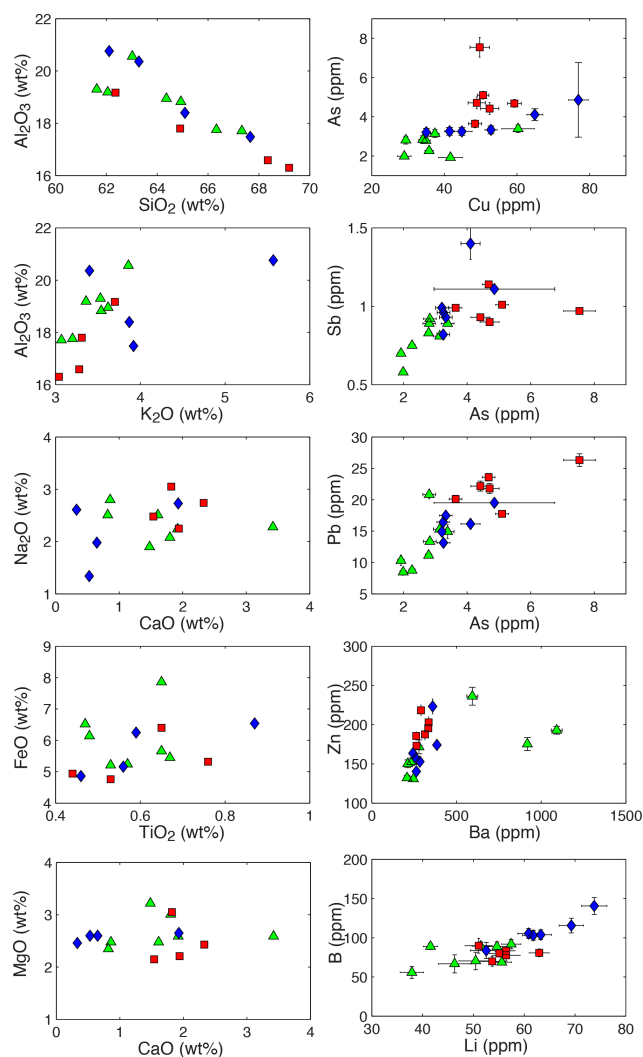
In tandem with pyrite diagenesis, XRD spectra and chemical analyses suggest that the development of deformation bands is accompanied by modifications of the clay mineralogy. In the only sample studied by XRD (4R-3, 73-76), the shear zone displays a disappearance of smectite or I/S mixed layers, and an increased crystallinity of illite, relative to its host matrix. In the other sample studied for trace elements (21R-2, 82-85), the correlated B and Li enrichments of the 12 shear zone and vein analyses relative to the matrix, particularly noticeable in veins (Fig. 11), are two additional arguments suggesting that deformation bands localize smectite transformation into illite. Indeed, illitization is known to result in an uptake of B and Li, as the former element substitutes in tetrahedral sites of illite and the later in octahedral sites (Williams et al., 2013).

Because of its importance as a reaction releasing freshwater, the destabilization of smectite and its transformation into illite has received much attention for the fluid budget of accretionary prisms. Heat and the availability of  $K^+$  are considered as the primary factors governing illitization, and time, pressure, or shear stress as secondary factors (Casciello et al., 2011; Ransom and Helgeson, 1995). Given the small size of the microstructures studied here, however, it is quite unlikely that any of these factors varied much between deformation bands and their matrix just a few millimeters apart. Biotic alteration may offer an alternative, more plausible explanation

for the observed changes in the mineralogy of clays. Indeed, smectite and I/S mixed layers are mineral structures that are very sensitive to biotic alteration, because they are needed for anaerobic bacteria to reach structural  $Fe^{3+}$  (Dong et al., 2009; Esnault et al., 2013; Zhang et al., 2012). There are strong suspicions that microbial reduction of smectite and I/S mixed layers can trigger illitization (Esnault et al., 2013; Koo et al., 2014, 2016). Accordingly, we propose that enhanced anaerobic bacterial proliferation in deformation bands, a process already suggested by the localized crystallization of framboidal pyrite, is also the cause of the disappearance of smectite or I/S mixed layers, and the increased crystallinity of illite. This conclusion is speculative for the time being given the small corpus of data presented here (one shear zone sample analyzed for XRD and 12 trace-element analyses of shear zones and veins in another sample). Future work will have to test the reproducibility of these findings and their applicability at larger scale in accretionary prisms.

### 5.4 Causes and timing of deformation-enhanced bacterial proliferation

A first question that arises from the above discussion is why did the deforming sediment provide a more favorable ground to the development of anaerobic microorganisms than the undeformed matrix? A first possible explanation is that the greater compaction of deformation bands increased the availability of compounds necessary for metabolic Reactions (R1) and (R2) by increasing the concentration of these compounds compared to the matrix. As shown above, the majority of element concentrations are raised by  $\sim 20\%$  due to the increased compaction of deformation bands (Figs. 8, 10), and thus the same enrichment is expected for organic matter, sulfate, and  $Fe^{3+}$ . This concentration increase may have favored



**Figure 11.** Averaged major-element concentrations represented as oxides (samples 4R-3, 73-76; 11R-6, 3-8; and 21R-2, 82-85) and trace-element concentrations (21R-2, 82-85) in the matrix (green triangles), in shear zones (red squares), and in veins (blue diamonds) after normalization of the sum of major oxides to 100 %.

the proliferation of anaerobic microorganisms. Alternatively or additionally, it has been shown that the deformation of silicate minerals and the delamination of clay layers in particular generate  $H_2$  by chemical reactions between water and mechanoradicals created by the rupture of Si–O–Si or Al–O–Si bonds (Hirose et al., 2011; Kameda et al., 2004; Kita et al., 1982; Wakita et al., 1980). This  $H_2$  may have served as a terminal electron donor in heterotrophic metabolic reactions, acting in conjunction with mechanical compaction to favor anaerobic microbial proliferation during deformation of the unconsolidated sediment.

Another important question concerns the timing of deformation bands and their bacterial proliferation. Given the need of nutrients for metabolic reactions, it is tempting to inter-

pret these structures as formed at shallow depth below the sea floor, in proximity of seawater sulfate supply. However, shear zones as well as veins were almost exclusively found in the accretionary prism (Unit II) and not in the slope sediment (Unit I) above the unconformity (Fig. 1c). This fact implies that most of the deformation bands studied here are not burial-related but are rather associated with the tectonics of the accretionary prism. A way to reconcile the two inferences is to suggest that deformation bands, and biological diagenesis in them, developed in the upper portion of the accretionary prism during thrusting, and before the deposition of slope sediments. Whether deformation bands are mechanically compatible with thrusting is unfortunately unknown because no kinematics could be assigned to the majority of them. Nevertheless, we note that this proposed timing coincides with the activity of the megasplay fault thrust uphill of C0001 (Fig. 1b). It is thus possible that deformation bands may represent early stages of strain localization, and fluid expulsion, in the context of megasplay fault development.

### 5.5 Implications for the deformation of mudstones in accretionary prisms

Reports of all the drilling expeditions across the Nankai accretionary prism are consistent in describing the ubiquitous existence of dark shear zones and veins in mud sediments (Ashi et al., 2008; Henry et al., 2012; Kinoshita et al., 2009a, b, c, d, e, f; Saffer et al., 2010; Ujiie et al., 2004). Dark deformation bands have also been described on land in mudstones of the Boso peninsula paleo-accretionary prism (Ohsumi and Ogawa, 2008), and worldwide in active continental margins (e.g., Behrmann et al., 1988), sometimes in conjunction with an enrichment in authigenic iron sulfides (Lindsley-Griffin et al., 1990). Dark deformation bands may thus be considered as an intrinsic feature of mudstone sediments in accretionary prisms. Our results suggest that these small structures localize pyrite crystallization and smectite–illite transformations, two diagenetic reactions probably mediated by the proliferation of anaerobic microorganisms, and both boosted by deformation. A possible implication of our study is that such increased diagenesis in deformation bands may be a source of freshwater, firstly because  $H_2O$  is a product of metabolic reactions leading to pyritization (see Eq. 1 for instance), and secondly because  $H_2O$  is also released by the illitization of smectite. In pervasively deformed mudstones with abundant deformation bands, these two effects may combine to potentially explain the local deficits of modeled versus observed pore water freshening found in previous studies (e.g., Saffer and McKiernan, 2009). Given the temporal consistency between megasplay faulting and deformation bands, the dewatering of these many microstructures could be supplied to major faults, which might explain some freshwater fluxes observed in accretionary prisms (e.g., Kastner et al., 1993; Vrolijk et al., 1991). More work is obviously nec-

essary to quantify the contribution of microbial diagenesis to the pore water freshening of deformed sediments.

Another important implication of our study is that the microbial diagenesis might be a general feature of deformation structures whatever their size, from the small deformation bands described here to major thrust faults. This is particularly the case of the megasplay fault of the Nankai prism drilled at 270 mbsf at site C0004 during the NanTroSEIZE expedition 316 (Kinoshita et al., 2009c). The analysis of the core zone of this megasplay revealed a 2 cm thick dark gouge, interpreted as the principal slip zone and the subject of a vigorous scientific debate. Indeed, this dark gouge was found to combine an increased vitrinite reflectance, a smectite depletion, and an increased illite crystallinity compared to the surrounding breccia (Sakaguchi et al., 2011; Yamaguchi et al., 2011). These differences were interpreted as thermal maturation of organic matter and illitization in the dark gouge, both due to coseismic shear heating above 380 °C in the principal slip zone of the megasplay, and thus as evidence of seismic rupture propagation to the sea floor. However, other studies using trace-element analyses as well as thermal modeling contradicted this interpretation, by concluding that the coseismic temperature rise in the megasplay did not exceed 300 °C and could not be sufficient to activate the kinetics of illitization (Hirono et al., 2009, 2014). How can these two divergent views of the fault zone chemistry and mineralogy be reconciled?

The paradox might be solved by considering bacterial activity as a diagenetic process boosted by deformation. It is important to note that a peak bacterial concentration of  $3.6 \times 10^9$  cells/cm<sup>3</sup> was found in the damaged zone of the megasplay drilled at site C0004 (Kinoshita et al., 2009c). This cell abundance, noticeably in the upper range of sediments worldwide (typically of  $10^6$ – $10^9$  cells/cm<sup>3</sup>), was also nearly as high as that of the sea floor at this site. Moreover, the lower part of the dark gouge in the megasplay fault drilled at site C0004 was also enriched in authigenic pyrite (Destrienneville et al., 2013), which makes diagenetic reactions in the megasplay very similar to those found in the tiny deformation bands studied here. Such an analogy strongly suggests that temperature rise is not the only factor capable of explaining the observed anomalies in the megasplay, and that many mineral reactions in the principal slip zone might be biologically mediated rather than thermally activated. Recent studies have shown that anaerobic microbial activity associated with framboidal pyrite crystallization could locally yield anomalously high reflectance values of amorphous organic matter compared to thermal maturation (e.g., Synnott et al., 2016). Microbial activity could thus explain the elevated vitrinite reflectance temperature obtained for the principal slip zone (Sakaguchi et al., 2011), as it does explain pyrite crystallization, smectite or I/S mixed layer destabilization, and illitization in deformation structures whatever their size. Anaerobic bacterial bloom, boosted by deformation, would thus solve the paradox of mineralogical and chemical

anomalies in the principal slip zone of the Nankai megasplay. We therefore come to the conclusion that more caution is required before interpreting illitization in fault gouges as an evidence of coseismic slip, or more generally as a temperature rise, because this mineral reaction, like others, might be triggered or enhanced by microbial activity.

## 6 Conclusions

Microscopic observation, X-ray diffraction, and major- and trace-element analyses reveal that deformation bands in mud sediments of the Nankai accretionary prism, which are similar to microstructures found worldwide in active and passive margin sediments, have localized some diagenetic reactions in addition to mechanical compaction. The first diagenetic reaction is an increased precipitation of microcrystic and framboidal pyrite. The second diagenetic reaction found in deformation bands is a possible change in the mineralogy of clays compared with the surrounding sediment, consisting of the destabilization of smectite or I/S mixed layers and the crystallization of illite. Both diagenetic reactions occurred during the development of deformation bands and vanished afterwards. This biogenic diagenesis may be explained by a locally enhanced activity of anaerobic microorganism in deformation bands, which may be related to the generation of H<sub>2</sub> by intracrystalline deformation of silicate minerals.

Biologically induced diagenetic reactions detected in deformation bands may have consequences for the fluid budget of deforming sediments, because biogenic pyrite crystallization and illitization produce freshwater, which may participate in reducing the chlorinity of pore waters from accretionary prisms. These findings might also affect our understanding of coseismic reactions in fault zones, because illitization, usually taken as an indicator of temperature rise, might be mediated by metabolic processes rather than by shear heating.

## Appendix A

**Table A1.** Trace-element composition of USGS reference basalt BIR-1 repeatedly measured by HR-LA-ICPMS at the beginning and the end of the analytical session (all elements are in ppm, except Si\*, Ca\*, and Ti\* in wt %).

Standard run as unknown	BIR-1	BIR-1	BIR-1	BIR-1	Average	1 SD
Li7	2.94	2.87	2.96	2.82	2.90	0.06
B11	1.06	1.20	1.13	1.01	1.10	0.08
Si*	20.10	20.10	20.10	20.10	20.10	0.00
Ca*	7.75	7.79	8.15	8.05	7.93	0.20
Sc45	33.72	33.87	37.06	36.75	35.35	1.80
Ti*	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.00
V51	285.61	284.11	277.50	280.45	281.92	3.66
Cr53	376.74	385.38	360.64	365.20	371.99	11.21
Co59	48.21	48.04	47.64	47.77	47.92	0.26
Ni62	160.96	159.61	158.43	157.04	159.01	1.67
Cu63	109.51	107.63	108.30	109.09	108.63	0.84
Zn66	71.19	67.62	68.17	69.14	69.03	1.57
Zn68	58.87	56.79	59.15	60.01	58.71	1.37
As75	0.11	0.10	0.055	0.06	0.08	0.03
Rb85	0.22	0.19	0.195	0.21	0.20	0.01
Sr88	85.46	85.68	88.90	88.24	87.07	1.76
Y89	10.34	10.28	11.72	11.33	10.92	0.72
Zr90	9.53	9.49	10.73	10.28	10.00	0.60
Nb93	0.41	0.41	0.429	0.42	0.41	0.01
Sb121	0.57	0.57	0.545	0.55	0.56	0.01
Cs133	b.d.l.	0.002	b.d.l.	b.d.l.	0.002	0.002
Ba137	5.56	5.34	5.45	5.50	5.46	0.09
La139	0.48	0.49	0.50	0.50	0.49	0.01
Ce140	1.67	1.67	1.68	1.73	1.69	0.03
Pr141	0.30	0.31	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.01
Nd146	1.90	1.93	2.00	2.00	1.96	0.05
Sm147	0.85	0.84	0.90	0.90	0.87	0.03
Eu151	0.40	0.41	0.43	0.43	0.41	0.01
Gd157	1.33	1.28	1.52	1.44	1.39	0.11
Tb159	0.25	0.25	0.29	0.26	0.26	0.02
Dy163	1.91	1.89	2.11	2.13	2.01	0.13
Ho165	0.43	0.43	0.46	0.47	0.45	0.02
Er167	1.22	1.23	1.39	1.34	1.30	0.08
Tm169	0.19	0.19	0.21	0.20	0.20	0.01
Yb173	1.33	1.27	1.44	1.42	1.36	0.08
Lu175	0.19	0.18	0.21	0.20	0.20	0.01
Hf177	0.39	0.40	0.45	0.45	0.42	0.03
Ta181	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.00
Pb208	3.48	3.49	3.62	3.45	3.51	0.08
Th232	0.024	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.00
U238	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00



**Data availability.** All the data are provided in the tables of the paper.

**Author contributions.** VF chose the samples during IODP Exp. 315. AMB and VF did the petrological inspection of samples. HR, MA and VF carried out the mineralogical and chemical analyses. VF prepared the paper with contributions from all co-authors.

**Competing interests.** The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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