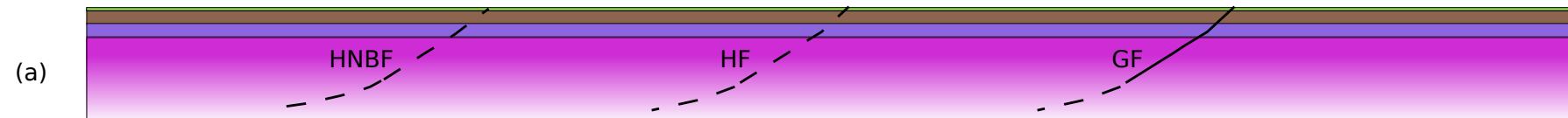
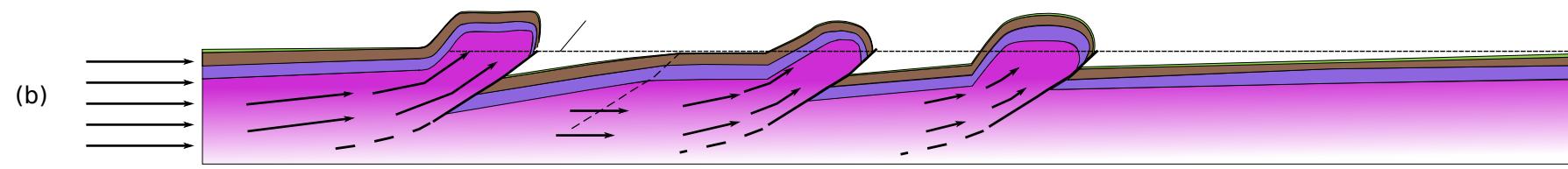


Pre- Late Cretaceous shortening state of lithosphere (not to scale)



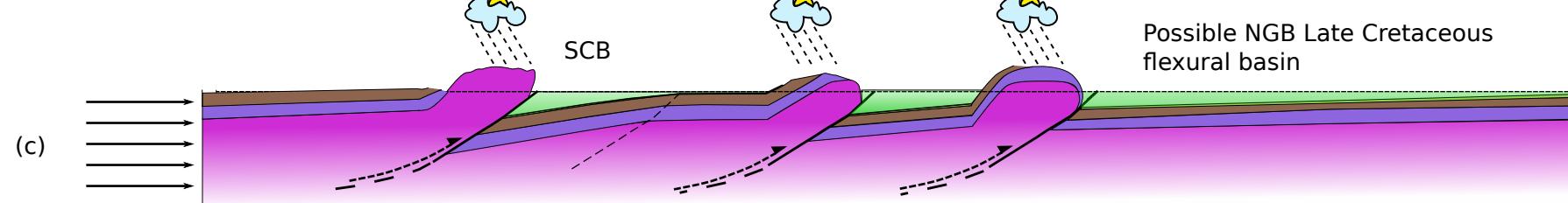
Late Cretaceous-Paleogene shortening and uplift
weakens hanging walls of basement thrusts



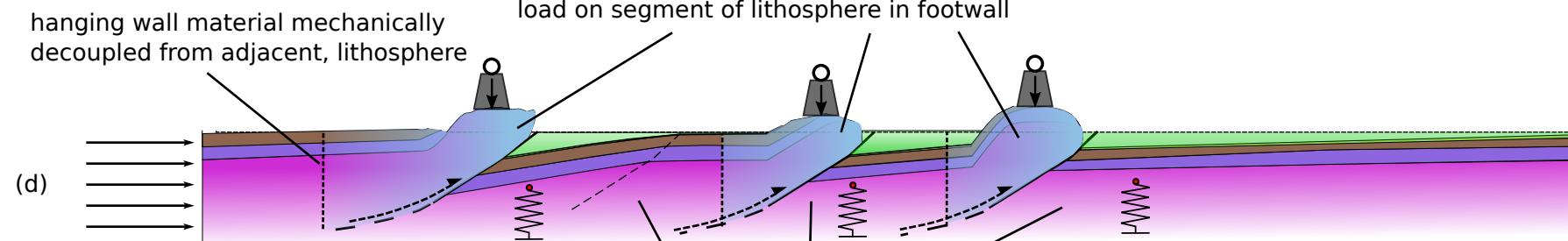
Harz exhumation to possible
steady state topographic load

GF / HF lower magnitude
of exhumation

Possible NGB Late Cretaceous
flexural basin



Weakened hanging wall material acts as purely vertical
load on segment of lithosphere in footwall



Flexural and "tilted rigid block"
behaviour of footwall segments