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## **Petrophysical properties in faulted basement rocks: Insights from outcropping analogues on the West European Rift shoulders.**

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### Abstract

In continental extension settings like the West European Rift, the main target for high-temperature geothermal drillings is the fault zones in basement rocks of the grabens. However, the reservoir properties of these structures remain almost unknown during the predrilling resource evaluations. This study shows the petrophysical evolution in fault zones on three outcropping areas at the basins' shoulders. We highlight three petrographical groups with different petrophysical evolution in the fault zones: granites and granodiorites, metamorphic rocks with schistosity, and massive metamorphic or magmatic facies. It provides a first estimation of their reservoir properties that can be used for dual-porosity modeling.

### Keywords

Outcrop analogue, petrophysical properties, basement rocks, fault zone

### Highlights

- The properties evolution depends on mineral alteration vs microcracking process.
- For granites, petrophysical properties are in agreement with URG deep wells data.
- The weathered layer at the sedimentary/basement interface is also characterized.

## 1 1. Introduction

2  
3 High enthalpy geothermal heat production is commonly located in active rifts  
4 or in subduction related magmatic arcs (*Wilmarth and Stimac, 2015*). In these  
5 geological contexts, active magmatic systems produce very high geothermal gradients  
6 that favor the installation of such energy production units. However, high geothermal  
7 gradients are also found in non-magmatic active systems, namely in extension related  
8 tectonic systems such as in the Cenozoic grabens related to the West European Rift  
9 system (WER) (Figure 1) (*Boissavy et al., 2019*). For electricity production, a fluid  
10 temperature above 150°C is required. In these grabens, with a mean geothermal  
11 gradient of around 4-5°C/100 m (*Baillieux, 2012; Freymark et al., 2017*) and common  
12 pre/syn-rift sediment thicknesses of 2-4 km (*Brun et al., 1992; Genter et al., 2004*),  
13 the drilling projects mostly target their basements. These rocks are essentially  
14 composed of sediments and magmatic rocks metamorphosed at various degrees  
15 during the pre-rift geological history.

16 In this type of rock, the permeability and porosity are generally low, except in  
17 fault zones where fracturing and mineral dissolution/recrystallization linked to the  
18 faulting process occurs, or in the paleo-weathered top of the basement in saprolite or  
19 fissured horizons if they are preserved when buried in the basins (*Areshev et al.,*  
20 *1992; Nelson, 2001; Dewandel et al., 2006; Faulkner et al., 2010; Koning, 2013;*  
21 *Trice, 2014; Gutmanis et al., 2015*). Therefore, the combination of fracture network  
22 characterization and matrix evolution properties are key outcomes for evaluation and  
23 modelling of the suitability of drilling projects (*Caine et al., 1996; Bense et al., 2013*).  
24 Unfortunately, there is a lack of data concerning these properties. In particular, they  
25 are linked to three main factors in the WER: 1) The high variability of rock facies in  
26 the basement associated to the structural inheritance of basement rocks, 2) the lack of  
27 boreholes crosscutting these units regarding this high facies variability, 3) the current  
28 predrilling geophysical investigation methods that poorly detect the weathered layer  
29 on top basement or the precise fault zone architecture, particularly at great depth, due  
30 to their sub-seismic dimension (*Slightam, 2014; Khair et al., 2015; Carpentier et al.,*  
31 *2016*).

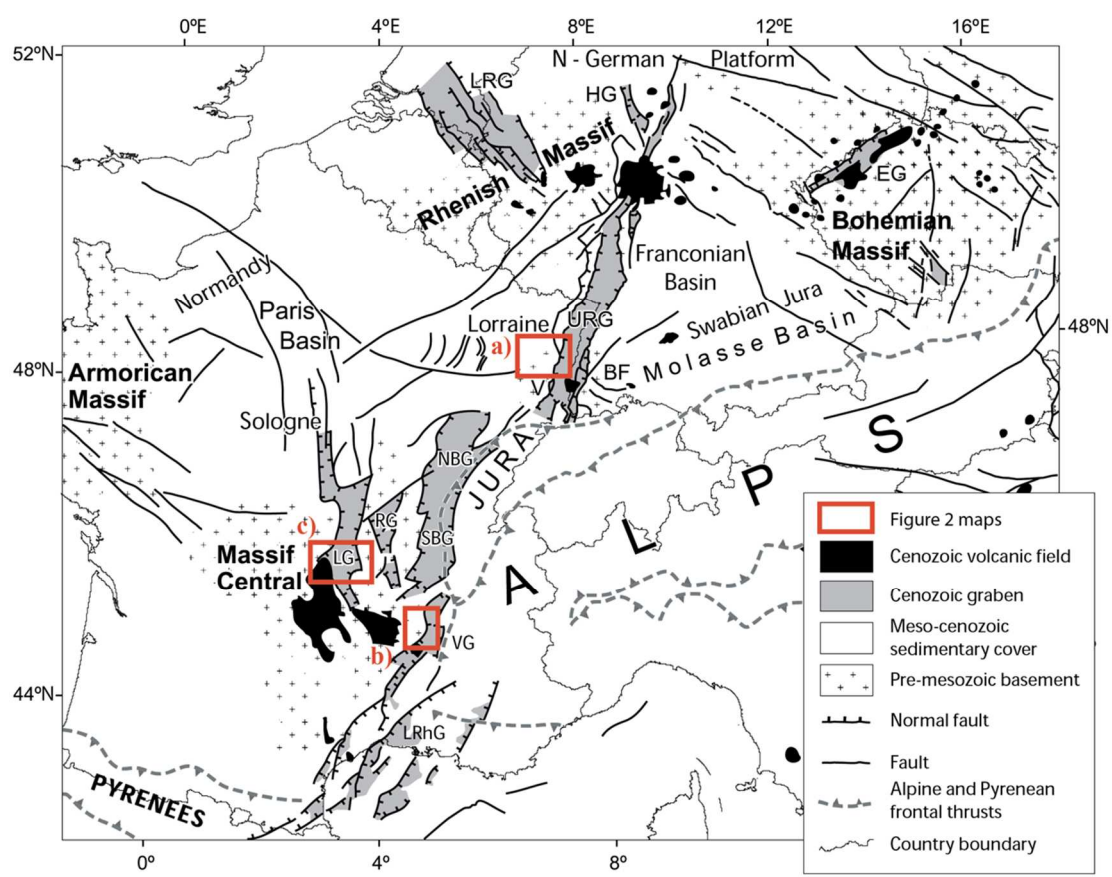
32 In this paper, we use outcropping analogues of the basement formations at the  
33 shoulders of the rift to enhance knowledge about the petrophysical variation in fault  
34 zones. Thus, main rocks facies are sampled in three areas where drilling projects are  
35 currently being studied:

- 36 1) The Northern Vosges Mountains as analogues of the basement rocks in the  
37 central part of the Upper Rhine Graben (a, Figure 1).
- 38 2) The Eastern part of the French Massif Central (FMC) at the shoulders of the  
39 Valence trench (b, Figure 1).
- 40 3) Both sides of the Limagne graben in the French Massif Central (c, Figure 1).

41 The aim of this paper is to present the evolution of petrographic and  
42 petrophysical properties of the different basement rock facies from the undeformed  
43 rocks in the protolith to the damaged zones and fault cores, and also in the weathered  
44 layer preserved from the actual erosion. For this purpose, the mineral alteration and  
45 microcrack density were characterized with the help of thin section studies, and the  
46 sample porosity, bulk and skeletal densities, apparent permeability, P-wave velocity  
47 and thermal conductivity were measured to constrain petrographic and petrophysical  
48 evolutions. These data sets will allow the definition of petrophysical groups, and  
49 properties' evolution in fault zones for magmatic rocks but also metamorphic facies  
50 where petrophysical properties are poorly documented in the literature. Our properties

51 evolution models will also be compared to the few data about boreholes existing in  
 52 the Upper Rhine Graben where some information exists about the fault and fracture  
 53 system (e.g. Bertrand et al., 2018) and the alteration in the targeted fault zones (e.g.  
 54 Géraud et al., 2010; Ledéseret et al., 2010; Glaas et al., 2018), as there is a lack of  
 55 data for the basement rocks in the two other studied areas (Debrand-Passard, 1984;  
 56 Genter et al., 2003).

57



58  
 59 *Figure 1: General map of the WER grabens with the three areas of interest of the*  
 60 *study : a) Northern Vosges, b) Southeastern French Massif Central and c) Limagne*  
 61 *graben's shoulders. Modified after Bourgeois et al. (2007), URG & LRG: Upper &*  
 62 *Lower Rhine Graben, NBG & SBG: Northern & Southern Bresse Graben, RG:*  
 63 *Roanne Graben, VG: Valence Graben, LRhG: Lower Rhône Grabens, HG: Hessian*  
 64 *grabens, EG: Eger Graben V: Vosges and BF: Black Forest.*

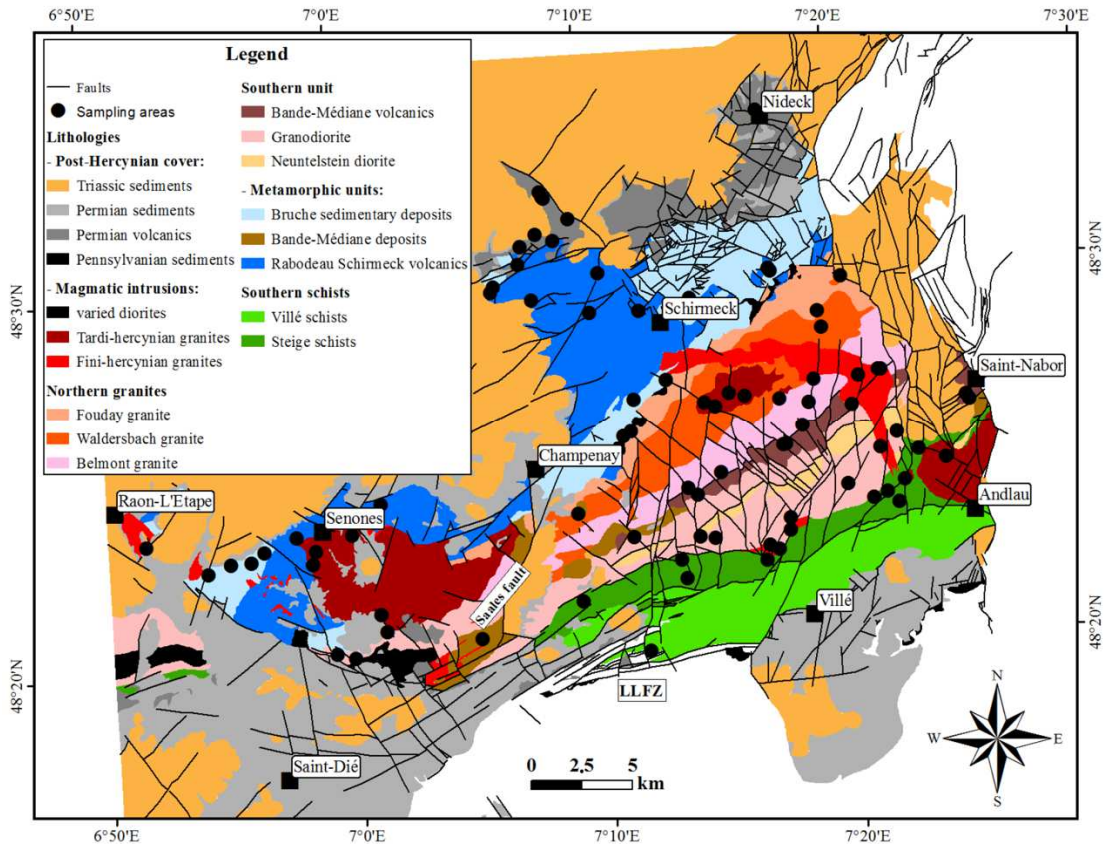
65  
 66 **2. Geological settings**  
 67

68 The overall basement of the WER-related grabens is composed of different  
 69 lithotectonic domains stuck together during the large-scale Hercynian orogeny of the  
 70 Paleozoic Era until 300 Ma (Matte, 2001; Nance et al., 2010; Lardeaux et al., 2014).  
 71 Since the end of the Hercynian orogeny and the collapse of the Mountain belts in the  
 72 Carboniferous and Permian periods, these lithotectonic domains are subjected to  
 73 several tectonic events that reactivate the primary structures (Schumacher, 2002;  
 74 Ziegler et al., 2006). The timing and influence of each event depends on the location  
 75 and precise effect on the fault network that is not clearly constrained. Thus, it can be  
 76 cited: The Triassic and Jurassic Periods of extension in the Alpine domains, and the  
 77 following collision between the European and African plates with the linked Alpine

78 and Pyrenean orogeny (Guillocheau *et al.*, 2000; Sissingh, 2001; Bourquin *et al.*,  
 79 2006); the opening of the North Atlantic ocean during the Cretaceous Period  
 80 (Srivastava *et al.*, 1990; Olivet, 1996); and finally the WER tectonics from the end of  
 81 the Eocene until the Pliocene Epochs for the main deformation phases (Roussé, 2006;  
 82 Bourgeois *et al.*, 2007; Edel *et al.*, 2007).

83 Concerning the hercynian lithotectonic domains, the different rock facies in  
 84 each area studied are described below.

85



86  
 87 *Figure 2: Geological map of the studied area in the Northern Vosges with sampling*  
 88 *points, redrawn after Blanalt et al. (1972), Theobald et al. (1975), von Eller et al.*  
 89 *(1975), Menillet et al. (1978) and Elsass et al. (2008).*

90

91 2.1. The Northern Vosges (V)

92

93 The Northern Vosges are composed of a succession of E-W to ENE-WSW  
 94 trending lithological bends (Figure 2). The Lalaye-Lubine Fault Zone (LLFZ)  
 95 separates them from the Moldanubian domain, which represents the crustal root of the  
 96 orogeny at the South. The affiliation of these bends to lithotectonic domains is still  
 97 debated, but recent studies have emphasized a subdivision into three main units  
 98 (Tabaud *et al.*, 2014; Skrzypek *et al.*, 2014):

99

100 - The northern series:

101 The northern part of the basement rock is a part of the Saxothuringian domain,  
 102 composed of a succession of varied sedimentary rocks (Bruche unit) and volcanic  
 103 intruded rocks (Rabodeau Schirmeck massif). These units were put in place from the  
 104 Lower to late Upper Devonian periods and are composed of varied facies of detrital  
 105 sediments with conglomerates, sandstones, pelitic and radiolarites deposits with

106 sparse carbonates lenses. (*Elsass et al., 2008, Skrzypek et al., 2014*). The volcanic  
107 intrusions are bimodal, with basaltic and rhyolitic lava flows. Upper Visean volcano-  
108 sedimentary succession is also preserved in the plutonic massif as the “Bande-  
109 Mediane” volcano-sedimentary unit (*Elsass et al., 2008*). Due to the collision between  
110 Saxothuringian and Teplá-Barrandian domains, the whole series are metamorphosed  
111 under anchizonal conditions (*Skrzypek., 2011*).

112

113 - The southern schists:

114 Along the LLFZ, the Steige and Villé schists are presumed to represent the  
115 western termination of the Teplá-Barrandian domain (*Skrzypek et al., 2014*). These  
116 are composed roughly of pelitic sediments and tuff intercalations dated in the  
117 Cambro-Ordovician periods. The Villé schists are metamorphosed under greenschists-  
118 facies conditions, while the Steige schists show a low-grade metamorphic overprint  
119 and also contact-metamorphism at the border with the plutonic massif.

120

121 - The “Champ-du-Feu” massif:

122 The interface between the two previous domains is encroached by the  
123 “Champ-du-Feu” massif, a Mid German Crystalline Rise type intrusion (*Tabaud,*  
124 *2012*). This massif is composed of a series of NE-SW to E-W trending plutons : 1)  
125 The southern units are composed of the “Bande-Médiane” volcanics, the Neuntelstein  
126 diorites, and the Hohwald and Champ-du-Feu granodiorites bands, dated  $334 \pm 5$  Ma  
127 for the oldest intrusion (*Cocherie, 2007; Elsass et al., 2008*); 2) The northern unit is  
128 composed of three granitic bodies: “Belmont”, “Waldersbach” and “Fouday” granitic  
129 bands, dated  $319 \pm 3$  Ma (*Cocherie, 2007*). They are followed by sub-circular bodies  
130 called Tardi-Hercynian (Tardi-H) granites with from West to East the Senones, the  
131 Natzwiller and the Andlau granites (Figure 2). A later magmatic event is represented  
132 by the Kagenfels granite dated at  $299 \pm 7$  Ma (*Boutin et al., 1995*) and some smaller  
133 bodies (Saint-Blaise, Kreuzweg, etc.), mark the end of the plutonism and are called  
134 Fini-Hercynian (Fini-H) granites. Several small dioritic plutons called “Muckenbach-  
135 type” plutons intrude into the contact of the northern suite and the Saxothuringian  
136 unit, but dating of the former is uncertain in this magmatic evolution.

137

## 138 2.2. The Southeastern French Massif Central (FMC)

139

140 Overall, the FMC is attached to the Moldanubian domain via a stack of six  
141 tectono-metamorphic units (*Faure et al., 2009; Lardeaux et al., 2014*). In this study,  
142 we focus on three of these that outcrops between the Southeastern border in front of  
143 the Valence trench and the large-scale Velay Migmatites dome (Figure 3):

144

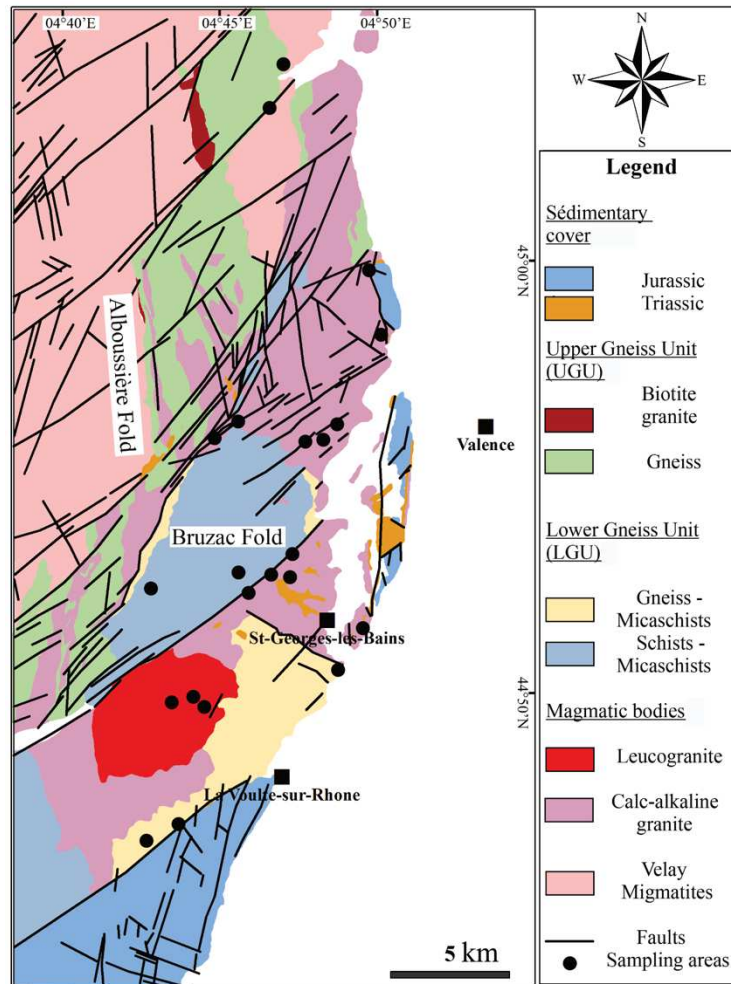
145 - The Upper Gneiss Unit (UGU) is formed by Cambro-Ordovician rocks that  
146 were subjected to High-Ultra High pressure metamorphism during the Lower  
147 Devonian epoch and are represented by gneiss with various layer thicknesses, which  
148 outcrop in the “Alboussière” synform (*Faure et al. 2008*).

149

150 - The Lower Gneiss Unit (LGU) also has a Cambro-Ordovician protolith age,  
151 with metamorphism until the amphibolite facies and partial melting in the  
152 Carboniferous Period, followed by a barrovian-type metamorphism with a variable  
153 timing trough, the FMC (*Burg et al. 1984; 1989*). In the domain, this unit outcrops at  
154 the NW flank of the “La Voulte-sur-Rhone fault” and in the “Bruzac” Fold and are  
155 composed mainly of schist and mica-rich (muscovite-chlorite) schists, and some  
gneiss (Figure 2b) (*Bornand et al., 1977*).



156 - Two granitic bodies belong to the Carboniferous Period magmatism event that  
 157 is a precursor to the Velay migmatitic dome emplacement (*Ledru et al., 2001*). The  
 158 first one has Calc-alkaline affinity and is dated at  $337 \pm 13$  Ma. The second one  
 159 crosscuts the first granitic body and has a Leucogranite composition with biotite and  
 160 muscovite and a reduced grain size.  
 161



162  
 163 *Figure 3: Geological map of the studied area in the southeastern French Massif*  
 164 *Central (FMC) with sampling points, redrawn after Chenevoy et al. (1976), Gros et*  
 165 *al. (1977) and Monjuvent et al. (1979).*

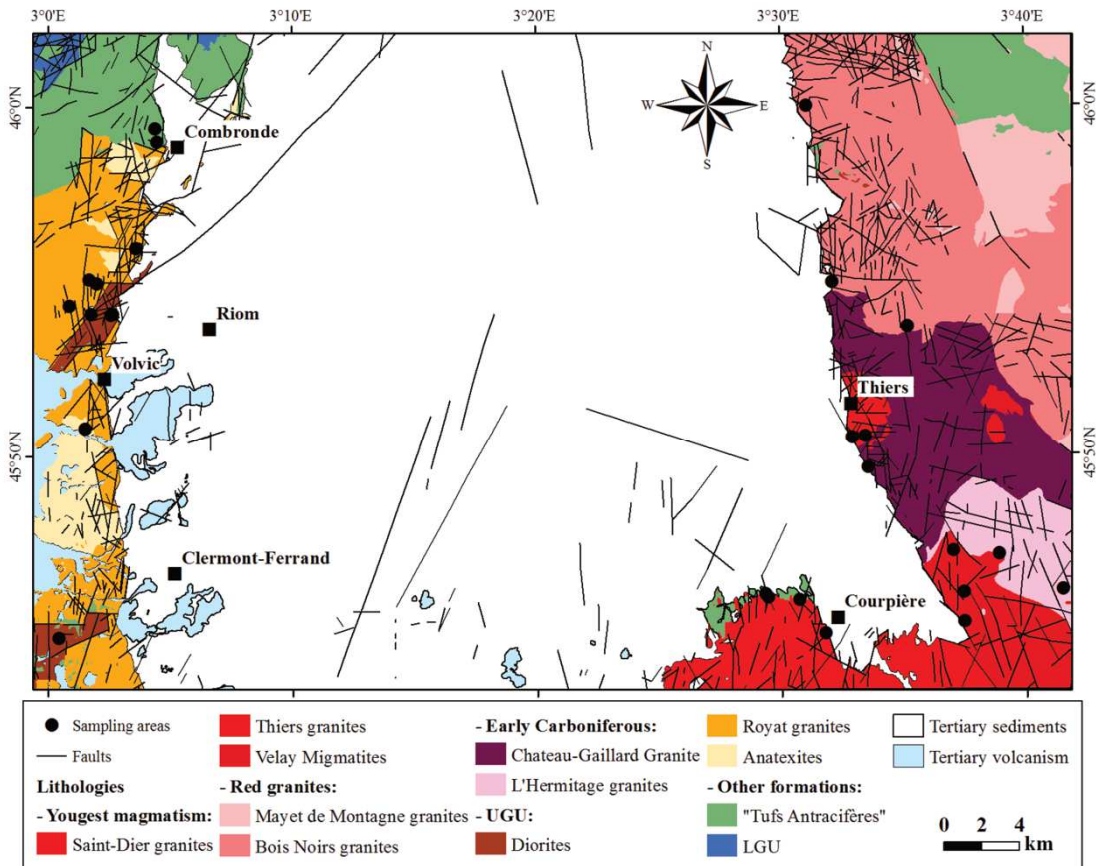
166  
 167 2.3. The French Massif Central at the Limagne graben's Shoulders (L).  
 168

169 In the area studied at the Limagne graben shoulders, the UGU outcrops at the  
 170 western shoulder and are composed of gneiss and anatexites (*Faure et al., 2002;*  
 171 *2009*). The Royat biotite-monzonitique granites and diorites with hornblende and  
 172 biotite surround them (Figure 4).

173 In the Northern part, the "Tufs antracifères series" are volcano-sedimentary  
 174 undeformed units that overlie the others and are dated as Late Visean (*Bruguier et al.,*  
 175 *1998*). They are composed of sandstones, conglomerates and coal layers intercalated  
 176 by felsic magmatism, mainly dacites and rhyolites.

177 In the Eastern and Southern part of the area, several magmatic bodies were  
 178 emplaced during the Carboniferous Period:

179 1) The Early carboniferous granites with Chateau-Gaillard monzonitique,  
 180 biotite granite and the L'Hermitage muscovite-rich leucogranite dated at 337 Ma  
 181 (*Faure et al., 2002*).  
 182 2) The "red granites" represented by the "Bois Noirs" monzogranite are  
 183 characterized by a low ferromagnesian mineral content and the Mayet-de-Montagne  
 184 with biotite and amphibole dated to 340-330 Ma. (*Faure et al., 2002*).  
 185 3) The younger granites with muscovite Saint-Dier and Thier  
 186 microgranites dated as emplaced at 320 Ma and the two-micas migmatite attached to  
 187 the late-Hercynian migmatization Velay event dated between 310 and 290 Ma  
 188 (*Lardeaux et al., 2014*).  
 189



190  
 191 *Figure 4: Geological map of the studied area in French Massif Central at the*  
 192 *Limagne graben's Shoulders (L) with sampling points, redrawn after Jeambrun et al.*  
 193 *(1973), Bouiller et al. (1976, 1978), Dadet et al. (1980), Giot et al. (1986), Barbarin*  
 194 *et al. (1988).*

195  
 196 **3. Measurement methods**  
 197

198 As the Hercynian rocks have highly heterogeneous textures and compositions,  
 199 extensive sampling of all outcropping rock types was done in all three areas. Except  
 200 for some carries and recent road borders, the outcropping conditions are generally too  
 201 bad to take samples in their precise structural positions with respect to the fault zones.  
 202 Bertrand et al. (2018) defined semi-quantitative fracture densities for metamorphic  
 203 and granitic basement rocks in the Northern Vosges area. Based on this work, we  
 204 chose to sample the different rock facies in light of the qualitative fracture density on  
 205 the outcrop and thereafter the alteration degree. Fresh and altered samples were



206 therefore taken in fractured areas (A, Figure 5a). Few fault cores could be sampled in  
 207 some facies, and these were mostly represented by incohesive breccias or cataclasis or  
 208 highly fractured corridors (B & C, Figure 5a). When the outcropping conditions were  
 209 appropriate (not too much actual weathering, enough outcropping surface, and the  
 210 presence of FC), a more intensive sampling with distance to the FC were carried out  
 211 and this is detailed in the discussion section.

212 Just beneath the sedimentary coverage or on topographic highs, some outcrops  
 213 allowed sampling of the paleo-weathered layer. These are mostly non-cohesive  
 214 saprolite where some tectonic fractures traces are preserved thanks to oxide  
 215 precipitations (D, Figure 5a). The fractured layer under the saprolite could also be  
 216 sampled in the Northern Vosges area for granitic and granodiorite facies and Limagne  
 217 diorites. Sample numbers for the main basement lithologies in the three areas are  
 218 summarized in table 1.

219  
 220 After removing the weathered surfaces found around the samples, several  
 221 preparations were made: 1) thin sections for studying mineralogy and linking with  
 222 petrophysical measurements, 2) 25 mm diameter plugs (or equivalent volume pieces  
 223 when drilling was not possible) for apparent permeability measurements (k), water  
 224 porosity, skeletal and bulk density measurements, 3) 5-10 cm-wide blocks with  
 225 parallel faces for thermal conductivity (TC) and P-Wave velocity (Vp) measurement  
 226 in 3 directions, 4) 5 cm<sup>3</sup> pieces for Hg porosimetry determination, especially for the  
 227 non-cohesive samples.

228 In total, 155 blocks were measured in the Vp and 160 in the TC, 419 plugs for  
 229 water porosity and density, 112 for permeability and 105 for Hg porosity, with an  
 230 analysis of 249 thin sections for a total of 202 samples. The detailed analysis and  
 231 measurement methods are described below.

232

	Northern Vosges									
	Northern granites	Tardi-H granites	Fini-H granites	Granodiorites	Bruche unit	Rabodeau-Schirmeck unit	Diorites	BM volcanics	Southern schists	
Fresh	5	10	2	10	25	7	3	7	2	
Altered	1	7	2	3				1	3	
Fault Core		1	3		1	1		1		
WL fractured horizon	1	2		1						
WL saprolite		1	1							
	Southeastern FMC					Limagne Shoulders				
	Leucogranites	Calcaik - granites	LGU - gneiss	LGU - schists	UGU - gneiss	Granites	Visean metasediments	Diorites	Migmatites	
Fresh	10	3	1	1	3	4	3	2	1	
Altered	3	6	6	9		10	6	2	4	
Fault Core	5	1		3	1	6	2	6		

WL fissured horizon									
WL saprolite		2				3			

Table 1: Numbers of samples and qualitative structural positions for the main basement rock lithologies in the Weathered layer (WL) of the three areas.

### 3.1. Petrographic analysis

Several hydrothermal alteration stages should affect the WER basement due to the complex geological background (Géraud *et al* 2010; Ledésert *et al.*, 2010). As a hydrothermal alteration is mostly recorded by transformation of the primary biotite, pyroxene, amphibole in chlorite or secondary clays and plagioclase, and K-feldspar in secondary clays (smectite, illite or kaolinite), these transformations have been semi-quantified in the thin-sections using optical microscope (Pirajno, 2009)(Figure 5b), as well the microcrack densities and inter/intragranular porosity if observable.

### 3.2. Densities and porosity

The skeletal density  $\rho_s$  was measured five times with Helium porosimetry with the AccuPyc II 1340 of micrometrics<sup>®</sup> gas pycnometer. A triple weighing method was used to determine the bulk density and H<sub>2</sub>O porosity. For this purpose, the plugs were saturated with distilled water following the RILEM norm (try n°I.1, 1978), allowing measurement of the saturated,  $w_{sat}$ , and hydrostatic,  $w_h$ , weights. The effective water porosity  $\phi$  can thus be calculated following *equation 1*, with  $w_{dry}$ , the dry weight,  $V_{water}$  the saturated water volume and  $V_s$  the sample volume.

$$\phi_{H_2O} = \frac{V_{water}}{V_s} \times 100 = \frac{w_{sat} - w_{dry}}{w_{sat} - w_h} \times 100$$

*Equation 1*

Using the sample volume in equation 1, the bulk density  $\rho_b$  can be calculated as follows:

$$\rho_b = \frac{m_{dry}}{V_s}$$

*Equation 2*

Mercury porosimetry was used to determine the porosity value for the most altered samples that are noncohesive in water, but also to measure the pore throat diameter distribution. The experimental procedure is described in Rosener and Géraud (2007). Only the first injection step, allowing the description of the porosity distribution vs the pore threshold diameter is discussed in this study. A Visual Basic script was developed to detect the pore throat diameter where a significant porosity volume is injected. First, the incremental Hg injection volume is calculated for each pressure step. Then the maximum injected volume on a single step is detected. The pore size diameter associated with a significant porosity volume are then defined as where the incremental injection reached more than 40% of the maximum injected pressure at each pressure point. With empirical tests we notice that this procedure allows to separate one, two or three pore throat families in a single injection curve.

275 When the pore size distribution is too heterogenous, the threshold detection shows  
276 highly heterogenous detection that can be manually removed. From the widest to the  
277 thinnest pore throat detected on each pore throat family, the % of the whole porosity  
278 is calculated to compare the detected pore volume regarding the total porosity volume  
279 of the sample. Overall tested diameters range from  $3.5 \times 10^2$  to  $5 \times 10^{-3}$   $\mu\text{m}$ .

280

### 281 3.3. Permeability

282

283 Apparent permeability  $k$  at room temperature and confining pressure between  
284 15 and 20 bar has been measured on the plugs with a method described in *Rosener*  
285 (2007). In the experiment, the permeability ( $k$ ) is derived from the Darcy law with the  
286 mean apparent permeability  $k_a$  at different applied pressure  $P_h$  (equation 3). This  
287 equation assumes a steady state flow and correction of the Klinkenberg effect  
288 (*Klinkenberg, 1941*). In the equation,  $R$  is the perfect gas constant,  $\mu_g$  and  $M_g$  nitrogen  
289 viscosity and molar mass,  $L$  and  $S$  the sample length and section, and  $T$  the room  
290 temperature. This device allows the measurement of permeability from approximately  
291  $10^{-19}$  to  $10^{-12}$   $\text{m}^2$ . For low permeabilities outside of the measurement range, a  $1 \times 10^{-19}$   
292  $\text{m}^2$  value is applied to plot a measured value in the paper.

293

294

$$k_a = \frac{RT}{M_g S} \frac{2Q\mu_g L}{\rho_b^2 - \rho_h^2}$$

295

Equation 3

296

### 297 3.4. Thermal conductivity and P-wave velocity

298

299 Both TC and  $V_p$  are functions of sample mineralogy (mineral thermal and  
300 elastic properties), of porosity volume and of structure type (fissures/pores), (*Belikov,*  
301 *1967, Darot and Reuschlé, 2000; Surma and Géraud, 2003; Boulanouar et al., 2013*).  
302 The effect of petrographic and pore structures on samples of different alteration  
303 degrees will thus be compared with these two properties.

304

305 TC measurement was performed on a Thermal Conductivity Scanner from  
306 Lippmann & Rauhen GbR (*Popov et al., 1999*), with the detailed procedure described  
307 in *Haffen et al. (2017)*. To avoid effects of magmatic or metamorphic foliation, and  
308 also the effect of preferential microcrack direction, the samples have been scanned in  
309 three directions with measurement points every 1 mm. The thermal conductivity  $\lambda$   
310 obtained ( $\text{W}\cdot\text{m}^{-1}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}$ ) is the mean of three scans, with mean standard deviation on all  
311 samples of around  $0.1 \text{ W}\cdot\text{m}^{-1}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}$ .

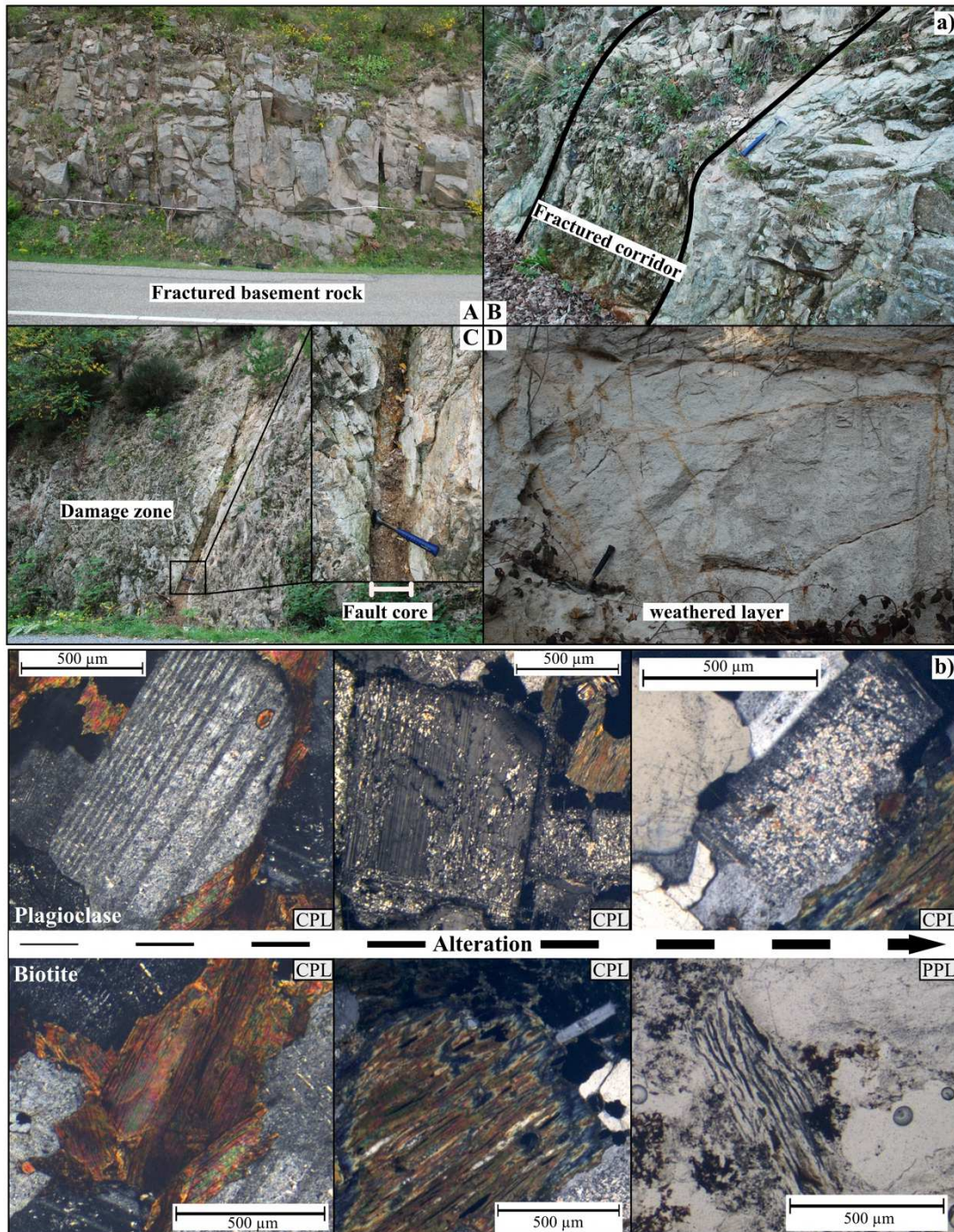
312

313 The  $V_p$  measurements were performed in the same directions, with the pulse  
314 generator PunditLab from Proceeq®. Two piezoelectric transducers of 250 kHz or 54  
315 kHz (depending on sample attenuation) were used to generate a sinusoidal pulse  
316 through the sample. The delay between wave emission and reception was measured  
317 and  $V_p$  calculated as a function of the sample width. The mean standard deviation of  
318 the overall samples in the 3 directions is around  $0.2 \text{ km}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ .

319

320 Due to the negligible directional anisotropies of the two properties, only the  
321 mean values will be discussed in this paper.

322



321  
 322 *Figure 5: a) representative outcrop picture of fractured basement rocks (A) for fresh*  
 323 *and altered samples, minor fault core and associated damage zone (B), fractured*  
 324 *corridor (C) and a weathered layer in granite (D), b) examples of the mineral*  
 325 *evolution with the alteration characterized in the thin sections study for plagioclases*  
 326 *into illites and biotites in chlorites then clays, in Plane Polarized Light (PPL) or*  
 327 *Cross Polarized Light (CPL).*

328

329 **4. Results**

330

331 **4.1. Mineralogic composition**

332



333 From a petrographical point of view, three groups could be distinguished in  
334 terms of mineral alteration and microcracks density evolution in relation to their  
335 position in the fault zones. The sample locations will thereafter be designated as V for  
336 the Northern Vosges, L for the Limagne area and MC for the Eastern French Massif  
337 central. The first group was composed of the overall granites and granodiorites in the  
338 three areas studied. The second group was formed with the L-Visean volcano-  
339 sedimentary unit, the MC-gneiss and schists and the V-Bruche unit. Finally, the third  
340 group was composed by the L- & V-diorites and migmatites, V-metamorphosed  
341 samples (“Bande-Médiane”, Rabodeau-Schirmeck unit and Southern schists). The  
342 petrographical variation with alteration in each group are discussed below and  
343 summarized in *the Appendices*.

#### 344 345 4.1.1. Group I: granites and granodiorites

346  
347 Despite variations in ferromagnesian minerals content and grain size, the  
348 overall granitic and granodioritic bodies have roughly the same mineralogy variability  
349 between the fault/weathered zones and unaltered samples. In weakly fractured areas,  
350 the samples were almost fresh. The biotite, muscovite or amphibole were slightly  
351 replaced by chlorite and oxides, and the plagioclase and K-feldspar were almost fresh.  
352 There were almost no open microcracks in the thin sections (*Appendix A*), although  
353 many fluid inclusion alignments expressed the presence of a healed crack network.

354 In damaged zones, the fracture density was moderate. There, alteration led to  
355 partial replacement of the ferromagnesian, following the cleavage planes in the biotite  
356 and muscovite. The K-feldspar and plagioclase are also partially replaced by clays,  
357 with a transformation that is sometimes guided by a few microcracks, but that is not  
358 the general case. These transformations are more intense in the highly damaged rocks  
359 in fracture clusters, leading to a complete dissolution of the primary minerals even if  
360 the primary grain boundaries are preserved (*Appendix A*).

361 All fault cores sampled in the granite and granodiorite bodies were incohesive  
362 breccias or cataclasites partly cemented with secondary clays. In thin sections, the K-  
363 feldspar and plagioclase grains were only detectable with their old grain boundary  
364 traces, but they were totally replaced by clays. These clays filled the micro-cracks  
365 network, accompanied by oxides, but macro-porosity can also be observed (*Appendix*  
366 *A*). In these samples, the ferro-magnesian minerals were totally dissolved and  
367 identifiable with the old cleavage planes followed by clay and oxide precipitation.

368 Finally, in the saprolite thin sections, the K-feldspar and plagioclase grains  
369 were almost fresh, and the ferro-magnesian minerals only showed weak  
370 transformation namely with iron oxides that precipitate in the surrounding micro-  
371 cracks (*Appendix A*). In contrary to the DZ samples, the open micro-crack density was  
372 very high in the quartz but also in the K-feldspar and plagioclases and seemed to be  
373 spatially linked with the ferromagnesian minerals.

#### 374 375 4.1.2. Group II: main metamorphic units

376  
377 In a first approximation, the mineral composition of the main metamorphic  
378 units could be described with two end-members: 1) the V-Bruche and L-Visean  
379 samples as well as the MC-Schists are fine-grained with quartz - feldspar and biotite -  
380 muscovite - chlorite bends in various proportions, with massive facies (graywackes,  
381 pelites) or with a well-marked schistosity. Microcracks are generally present in all  
382 samples, including the protolith. In the schists, the microcracks are concentrated in the



383 quartz bends and veins or open the existing schistosity. 2) Some samples derived from  
384 conglomerates or volcanic facies in the V-Bruche and L-Visean, as well as the MC-  
385 gneiss are composed mainly of coarse-grained quartz, feldspar, plagioclase and  
386 ferromagnesian phenocrystals in a more or less plentiful fine-grained matrix. In L-  
387 and MC-, the quartz grains were often subjected to high temperature recrystallization  
388 associated to the regional metamorphism.

389 In the fractured areas and damaged zones, the mineral alteration was similar to  
390 that of group 1 samples (*Appendix B*): an increase of the clay content in the  
391 plagioclase and K-feldspar phenocrystals or bends and a partial to total chloritization  
392 of the ferromagnesian minerals. In addition to this chemical alteration, the density of  
393 microcracks increased in the fine-grained facies, particularly crosscutting the quartz  
394 bends in some cases or opening the schistosity planes in others. This network was  
395 partly filled with quartz or iron oxides and to a lesser extent with carbonates.

396 All FC samples taken in this group showed a high density of microcracks,  
397 with a variable mineral alteration (*Appendix B*). In graywackes of the V-Bruche unit,  
398 the FC was fully argilized and non-cohesive. In the gneiss, the quartz bends supported  
399 the argilized matrix in cohesive breccias. In the L-Visean unit, the FC samples show a  
400 weak mineral alteration but a high density of microcracks filled with quartz, clays and  
401 oxides.

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#### 403 4.1.3. Group III: massive rocks

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405 This group is distinguished by a general observation that there are very few  
406 mineral alterations that are not directly correlated with the fracture intensity in the  
407 damaged zones. It is mostly an increase of the microcrack density that characterizes  
408 the evolution in the fault zones (*Appendix C*). In L- & V-diorites and L-Migmatites,  
409 the alteration process led mainly to weak argilitization of the feldspars and alteration  
410 of the ferromagnesian minerals, with a lower intensity than for groups I & II  
411 (*Appendix C*). The microcrack network was partly filled with various minerals, such  
412 as quartz, chlorites, clays and carbonates, depending upon their location.

413 For the V-Southern Schists, the thermal metamorphism associated to the plutonic  
414 intrusion led to an overprinted schistosity. Unlike the schists in group II, these were  
415 not affected by mineral alteration. FC with breccias and altered minerals were only  
416 found in L-diorites, while in the other facies there were mostly fractured corridors. In  
417 the FC studied, many secondary quartz and carbonate fracture in-fillings were  
418 preserved (*Appendix C*). At the few outcrops where the contact between the basement  
419 rocks and the post-hercynian sediments could be observed, there was no significant  
420 weathered layer.

421

#### 422 4.2. Petrophysical properties

423

424 The petrophysical measurements are presented in this section in light of the  
425 three groups distinguished in the petrographic analysis. For each group, the skeletal  
426 and bulk densities will be presented in relation to the porosity evolution between the  
427 fresh, altered and fractured clusters and FC samples. The link between the porosity  
428 and pore throat diameter, matrix permeability (k), and TC and Vp property evolutions  
429 will be presented later.

430

#### 431 4.2.1. Group 1: granites and granodiorites

432

433 The H<sub>2</sub>O porosity of the overall cohesive granites and granodiorites samples  
434 ranged from 0 to 16.5 %.

435 The skeletal density ranged between 2.58 and 2.80 g.cm<sup>-3</sup> with a mean value  
436 of around 2.67 g.cm<sup>-3</sup> for all samples and an almost flat trend, i.e. there is no variation  
437 with the porosity (Figure 6a). Abnormal High skeletal density values are only  
438 obtained for some samples in a fault zone in the L-Saint Dier granites, where the  
439 mineral alteration is associated to pyrite mineralization. V-granodiorites have slightly  
440 higher densities than the full sample set, due to the difference in content of  
441 ferromagnesian minerals and plagioclase/K-feldspar proportion.

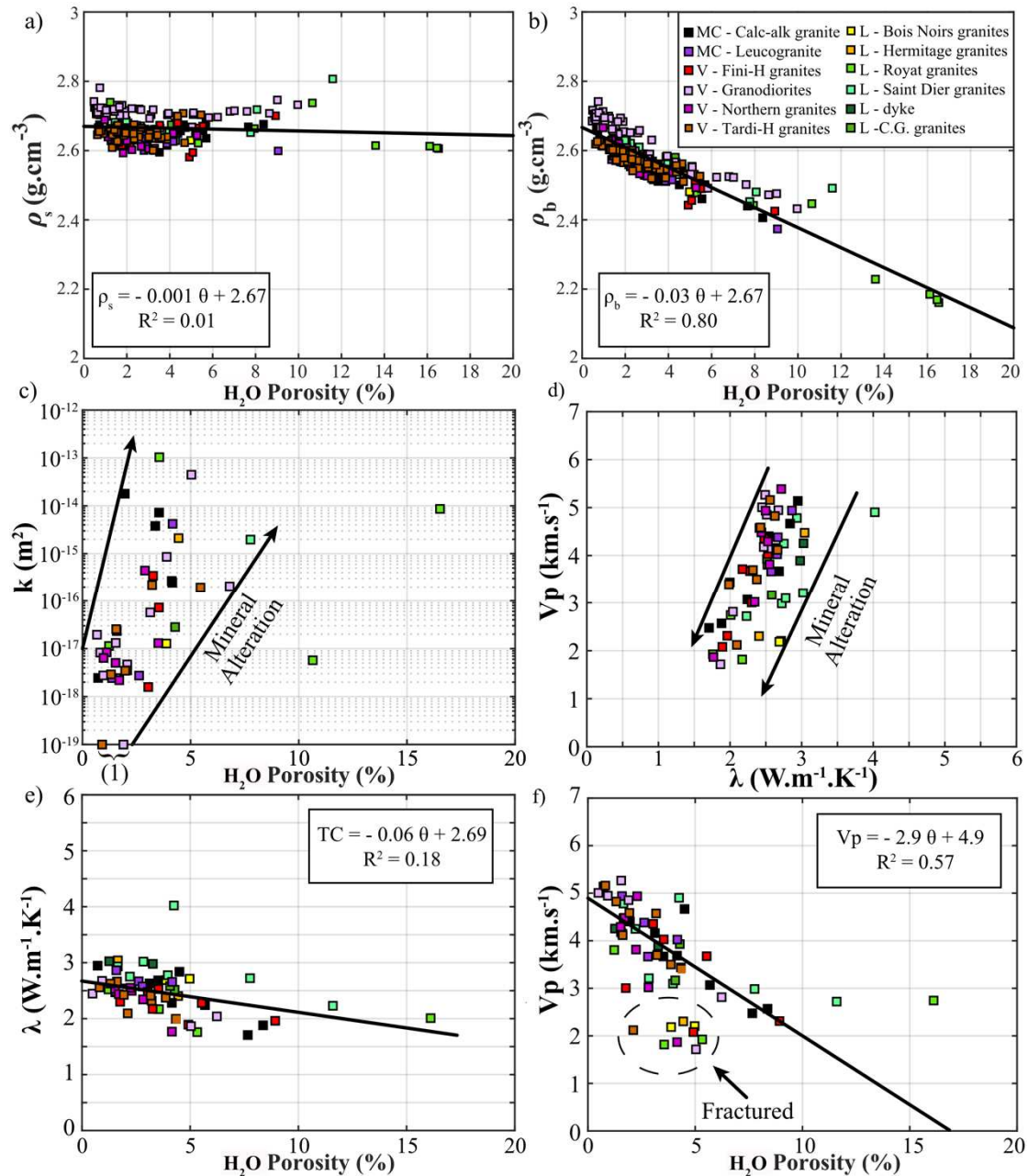
442 The bulk density of the overall samples demonstrated linear decreases with the  
443 porosity following the equation shown in Figure 6b. These trends on skeletal and bulk  
444 densities highlighted the evolution between fresh and altered samples and pointed out  
445 that: 1) the primary mineral alteration did not influence the whole rock density as its  
446 increase did not change the skeletal density, and 2) there is no development of  
447 unconnected porosity. Roughly, the fresh samples porosities were between 0 and 3 %,  
448 and the porosity is increased with the alteration until most altered samples in the DZ  
449 at ≈ 11 %, the saprolite and FC samples being between 6 and 16.5 %. The skeletal  
450 density determined from the equation is 2.67 g.cm<sup>-3</sup>, similar to the value obtained  
451 from the nitrogen pycnometer.

452 On the Hg-porosity, the samples with porosity ≤ 8.3 % were also mainly fresh  
453 and altered samples. They showed preferential pore throat diameters between  
454 approximately 5 and 0.005 μm, with 36 to 89 % of the total Hg-porosity (Figure 7).  
455 These diameters varied slightly between the samples but did not show a significant  
456 increase with the total porosity. The porosity variation followed the mineral alteration  
457 development observed in the thin sections. For the samples with porosity > 8.3 %, a  
458 larger pore throat diameter family developed in addition to the first one, between 10  
459 and 285 μm, (Figure 7). These samples were all FC and saprolite, and they showed  
460 significant microcrack densities in thin sections that could be linked to their second  
461 pore throats. Only one is a saprolite sample with less than 8.3 % porosity, but both  
462 characteristic pore families are also observed for this sample. We could notice that the  
463 maximum porosity for non-cohesive samples could reach 52 % for FC and 33 % for  
464 saprolite.

465 The matrix permeability showed a rapid increase between fresh (with porosity  
466 < 3 %) and the altered samples. It ranged between 1x10<sup>-19</sup> and 4x10<sup>-16</sup> m<sup>2</sup> for the fresh  
467 samples, and the altered samples ranged between 2x10<sup>-18</sup> and 2x10<sup>-13</sup> m<sup>2</sup> (Figure 6c).  
468 However, this increase was not linear, and it showed a high variability for samples  
469 with porosities ranging between 2 and 8 %. The permeability was only measured for  
470 two samples with a porosity higher than 8 % due to the incohesiveness of most FC  
471 and saprolite samples. One was at 5.7x10<sup>-18</sup> m<sup>2</sup> and the other at 8.6x10<sup>-15</sup> m<sup>2</sup> that  
472 suggests a high variability of this property for FC and saprolites.

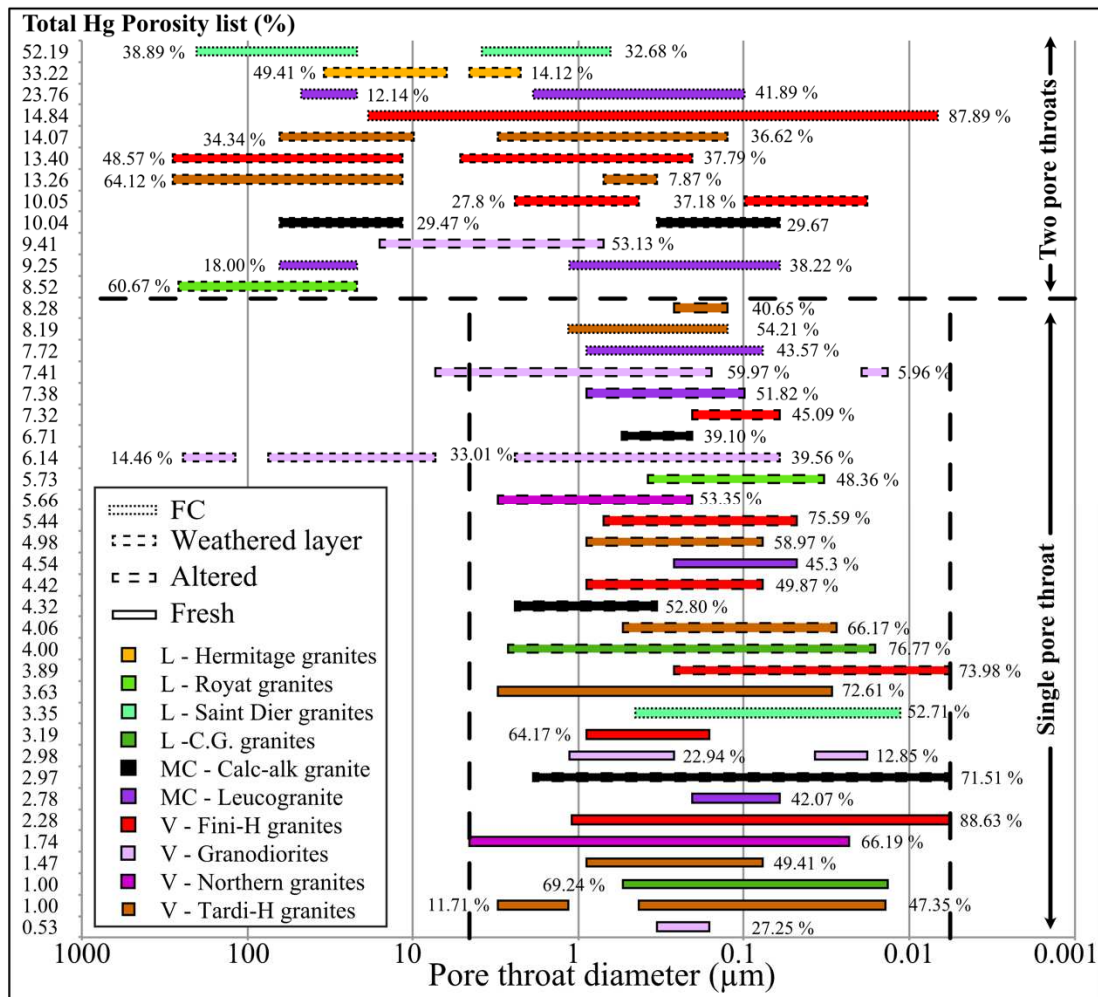
473 Also, the alteration increase showed a linear evolution of densities with  
474 porosity, the TC and Vp almost followed this trend (Figure 6d). Thus, with the  
475 increase in porosity, the thermal conductivity and the P-wave velocities decreased  
476 linearly even if there was some variability due to rock facies variation, like grain size  
477 or ferromagnesian mineral content. From fresh to highly altered samples in the  
478 damaged zones, the TC decreases from ≈ 3.0 to 1.7 W.m<sup>-1</sup>.K<sup>-1</sup> and the Vp falls from ≈  
479 5.4 to 1.9 km.s<sup>-1</sup>. Saprolite samples show even lesser values, with a minimum TC at  
480 0.7 W.m<sup>-1</sup>.K<sup>-1</sup>, and Vp until 1.7 km.s<sup>-1</sup> and even less for few samples where  
481 attenuation due to porosity was too important to allow determination of a value.

482 These observations were confirmed for most samples when TC and Vp were  
 483 plotted against porosity (Figure 6e & f). For TC, a linear relationship with porosity  
 484 was observed, even if this was very scattered ( $R^2=0.18$ ). The only exception was the  
 485 L-Saint Dier granites that were mineralized with Pyrite. For Vp, there was also a  
 486 linear relationship despite a group of samples with abnormally low Vp values  
 487 regarding the porosity. The group is composed of fractured samples from altered  
 488 facies and fissured layers.  
 489



490 *Figure 6: Petrophysical properties of group I samples: a) skeletal density, b) bulk*  
 491 *density and c) matrix permeability vs porosity, d) Vp vs TC, e) Vp and f) TC vs*  
 492 *porosity. For the two samples with (1) in figure 6c the permeability is too low for our*  
 493 *measurement system.*  
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Figure 7: Detected pore throat diameter on Hg porosity of group I samples classified by increasing total porosity. Rates shown on the bars are the percentage of the total Hg porosity available through throat families. Dashed lines show domains with mainly one and two pore throats families.

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#### 4.2.2. Group II: main metamorphic units

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H<sub>2</sub>O porosity of the main metamorphic units of the three areas ranged between 0 and 18.8 %. The skeletal density showed a slight increase, mainly due to the facies variability that scattered the density values in particular for samples with porosity above 5 % (Figure 8a).

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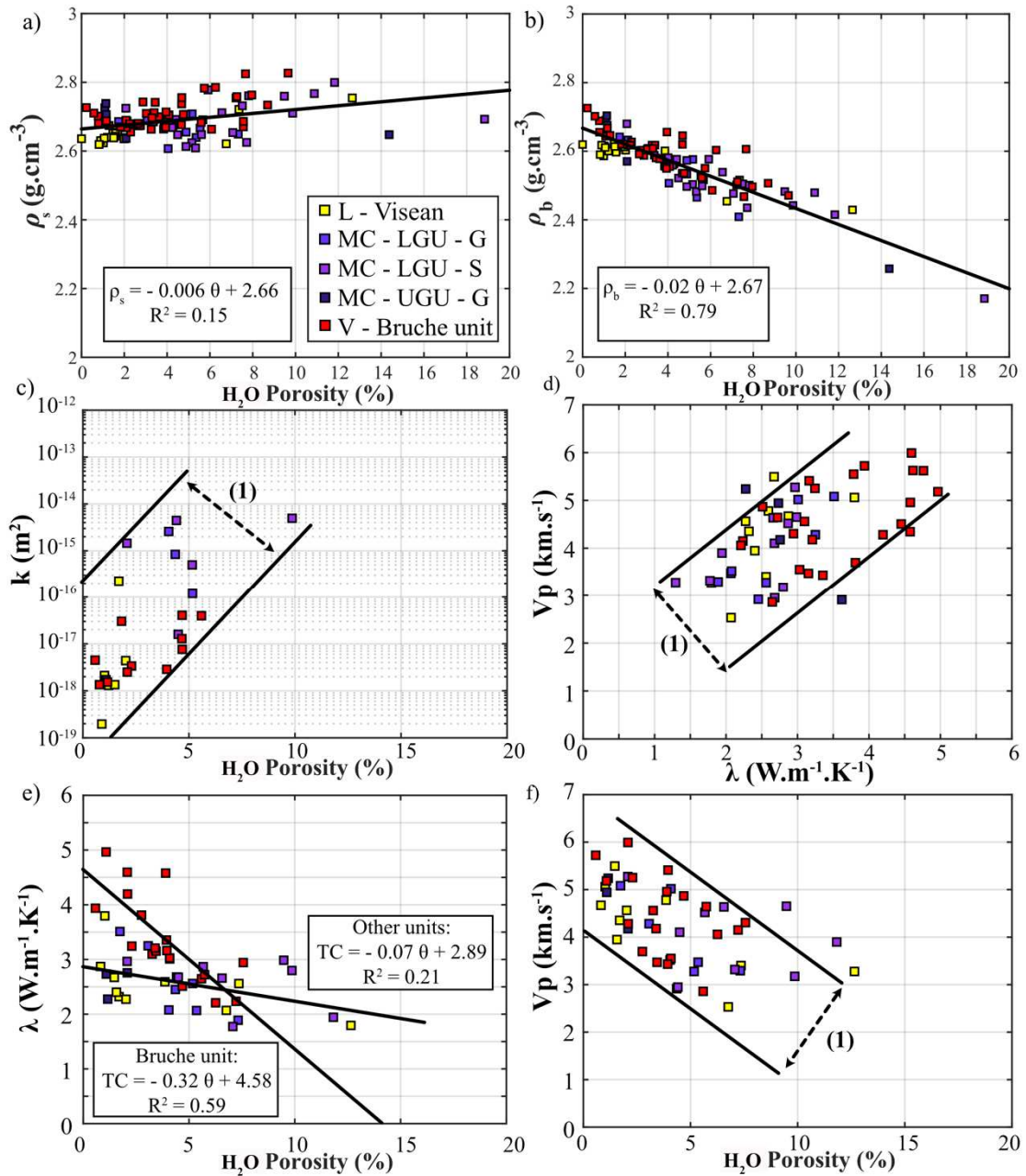
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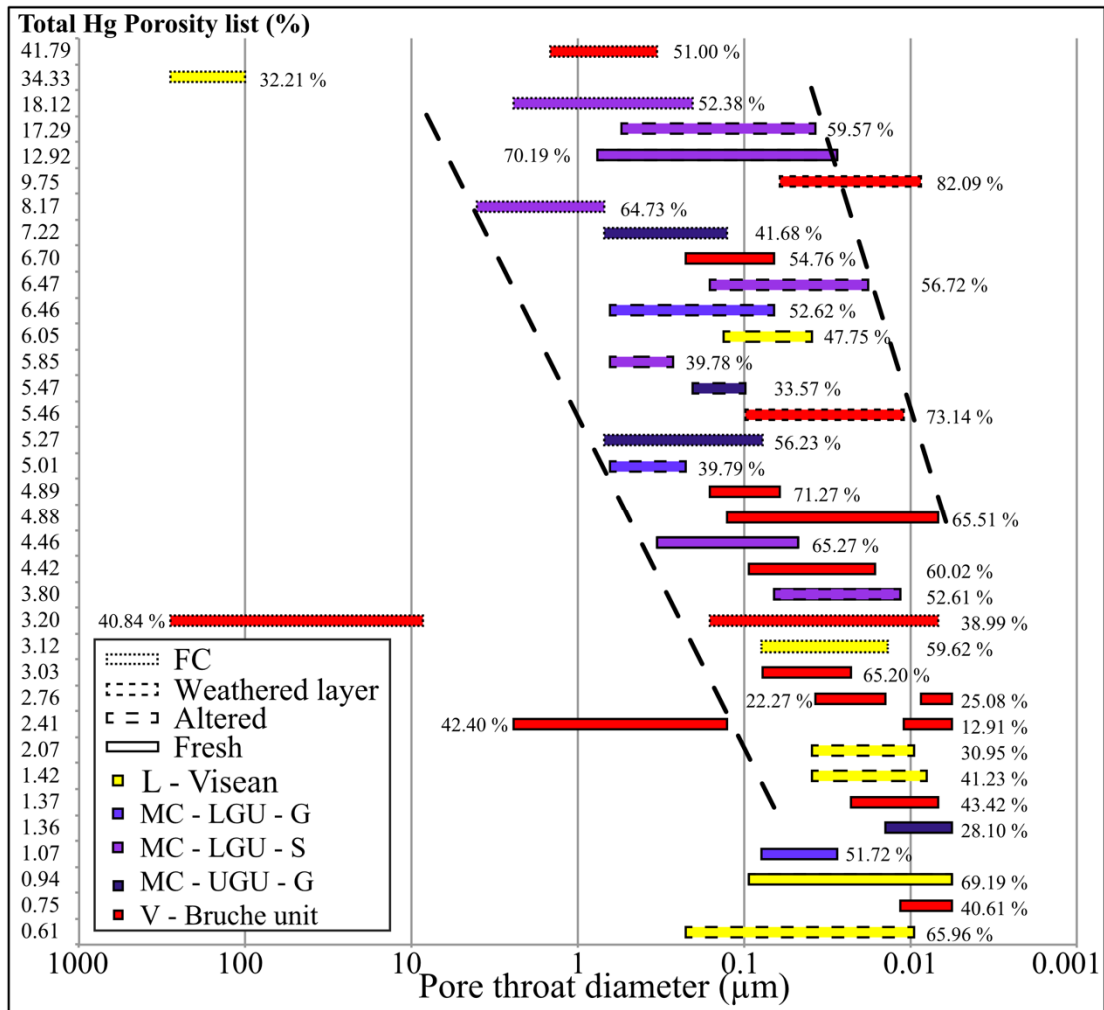
As for group I, the porosity shows a linear relationship with the bulk density, slightly sparser due to the facies variability, notably in the V-Bruche unit (Figure 8b). The bulk density of the fresh samples was 2.67 g.cm<sup>-3</sup> and this decreased less with porosity. However, the porosity variation was not correlated to the alteration degree between the protolith and DZ samples. In the V-Bruche unit and MC-LGU-Schists for instance, fresh samples had a porosity between 0 and 10 % as the altered ones varied between 1 and 13 %, depending on the microcracks and opened-schistosity plane densities. In these anisotropic facies, the secondary minerals linked to the alteration could also reduce porosity.



518  
 519 *Figure 8: Petrophysical properties of group II samples: a) skeletal density, b) bulk*  
 520 *density and c) matrix permeability vs porosity, d)  $V_p$  vs TC, e)  $V_p$  and f) TC vs*  
 521 *porosity, (1) intervals between the double black lines show the variation ranges due to*  
 522 *the microcrack and opened-schistosity planes density.*

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Figure 9: Detected pore throat diameter on Hg porosity of group II samples classified by increasing total porosity. Rates on the bars are the percentages of total porosity available through throat families. Dashed lines show the global pore throat enlargement.

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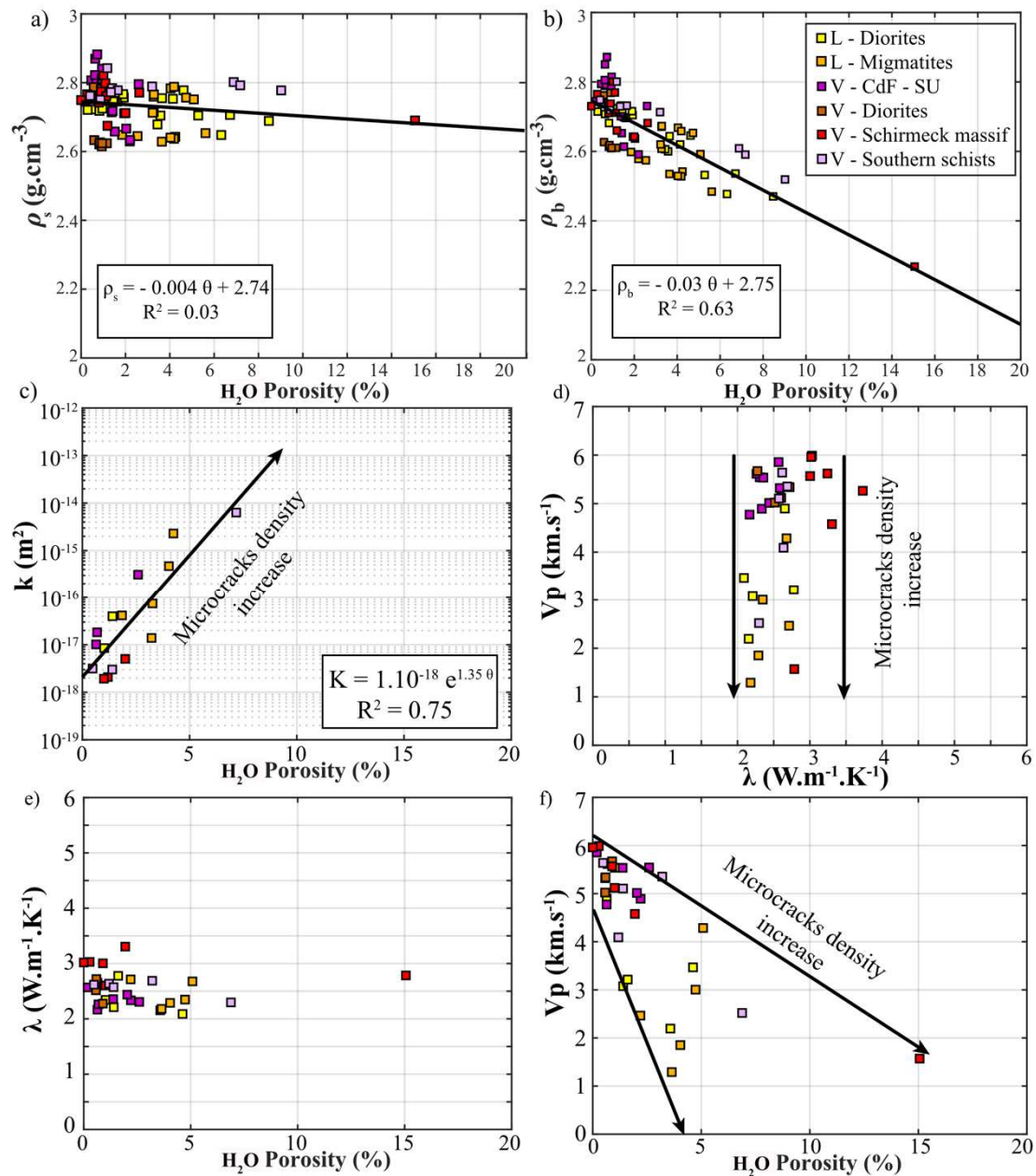
Except for three samples, the Hg-porosity showed a single pore throat diameter as for the group I (Figure 9), but: 1) with smaller diameters and a thinner variation range (0.005 to 0.011 µm for the lowest porosities) suggesting a more organized pore volume; 2) this pore throat family increased and enlarged slightly with the total porosity until 0.3 - 1.1 µm. No second wider pore throats were observable for the most porous FC samples, suggesting that the microcrack networks do not create distinct pore throats. The three exceptions to this pattern were a Bruche unit conglomeratic facies with wide interclast pores not present in the other facies (porosity = 2.41 %), and brecciated FC samples (porosity = 3.20 and 34.33 %) with open microcracks in contrast to the other FC samples of this group, which mainly had mineral alteration. It can be seen that the FC samples of this group can reach 42 % porosity.

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For all cohesive samples, the matrix permeability showed a high variability that was independent of the porosity values (Figure 8c). Depending on the opened-schistosity planes and the microcrack densities, the permeability varied between  $2.0 \times 10^{-19}$  and  $5 \times 10^{-15}$  m<sup>2</sup> for samples with porosities ranging from 0 to 6 %. The most permeable facies were therefore the MC-LGU and UGU units where the schistosity is

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in general more expressed than in the V–Bruche and L–Visean units. Only one FC sample at  $5.10^{-15}$  m<sup>2</sup> permeability and 9.6 % porosity could be measured.



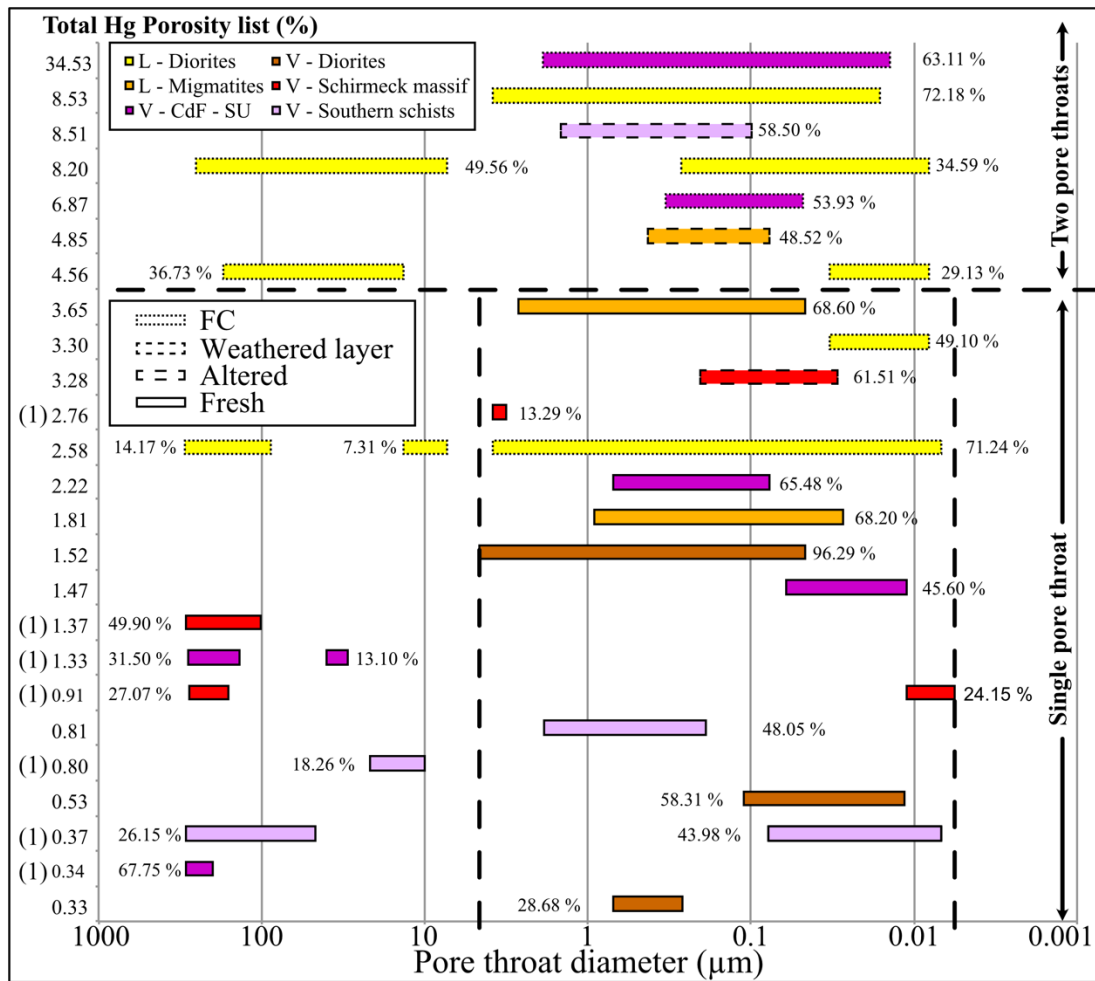
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Figure 10: Petrophysical properties of group III samples: a) skeletal density, b) bulk density and c) matrix permeability vs porosity, d) Vp vs TC, e) Vp and f) TC vs porosity.

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The TC and Vp expressed the high variability of rock facies even if there is a general proportionality between the two properties (Figure 8d). Furthermore, no specific relation with the petrographic variation between fresh and DZ samples was identified. However, two subgroups could be identified: some samples of MC-Schists and the V-Bruche unit with mainly quartz and K-feldspar content had around 1-1.5 W.m<sup>-1</sup>.K<sup>-1</sup> more TC than other facies for the same Vp. This highlighted the difference in quartz content but also the fact that microcrack densities were generally higher for these samples. TC against H<sub>2</sub>O porosity reflected the scattering of the rock facies, the

562 V-Bruche unit showing a more intense decrease with porosity than other samples  
 563 (Figure 8e). The Vp measured against H<sub>2</sub>O porosity is also scattered, but the general  
 564 trend of a decrease with porosity was valid for all facies.  
 565



566 *Figure 11: Detected pore throat diameter on Hg porosity of group III samples*  
 567 *classified by increasing total porosity. Rates on the bars are the percentage of total*  
 568 *porosity available through throat families. Dashed lines show domains with mainly*  
 569 *one and two pore throats families, (1) are samples were the pore throat were not*  
 570 *properly detected (homogenous pore size distribution).*  
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 573 4.2.3. Group III: massive rocks  
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575 The H<sub>2</sub>O porosity of the massive rocks ranged between 0 and 15.1 %, but  
 576 many of them are under 2 % and only a few exceed 5 % (Figure 10a). Those between  
 577 3 and 6 % are the altered facies of the L–Migmatites and Diorites, and those > 5 % are  
 578 the FC samples in the L–Visean unit and an altered V–southern schist. The skeletal  
 579 density varied between 2.6 and 2.8 g.cm<sup>-3</sup> and highlighted the petrographic variability,  
 580 without a clear correlation with the porosity, leading to an almost constant linear trend  
 581 (Figure 10b). The linear relationship between the bulk density and porosity remained,  
 582 with a density of 2.75 g.cm<sup>-3</sup> at zero porosity, i.e. higher than groups I & II, and  
 583 almost equal to the mean skeletal density.

584 The Hg porosimetry shows very scattered pore throat diameters (Figure 11).  
585 For most samples of Hg porosity < 3 %, the automatic pore throat detection did not  
586 reveal significant injection peaks, only the first injection steps or changes between  
587 low- and high-pressure phases were detected. For these cases, the Hg was almost  
588 homogenously distributed over all pore throats. However, for the samples where pore  
589 throats were detected, the porosity distribution could be considered as similar to that  
590 of group I, with a threshold of 4.5 % instead of 8.3 %: 1) a thin pore throat family  
591 between 0.01 and 2  $\mu\text{m}$  for samples < 4.5 %, mainly composed of fresh samples with  
592 a few altered ones and 2) a larger pore throat family that appears at porosities above  
593 4.5 %, with mainly the FC samples (Figure 11). It can also be noticed that even  
594 altered and FC samples never reach more than 8.5 % porosity, except for CdF 38 that  
595 is a centimetric scale mineralized filling in fractures of the V-CdF southern units.

596 In contrast to the facies variability highlighted by the densities, the  
597 permeability evolution fitted very well with the porosity increase, describing an  
598 exponential trend with a good correlation factor (Figure 10c). Thus, the less porous  
599 samples have matrix permeabilities between  $3 \times 10^{-19}$  and  $5 \times 10^{-16}$   $\text{m}^2$  and these values  
600 increase until  $6 \times 10^{-15}$   $\text{m}^2$  for the most porous ones. As most of the samples were not  
601 or weakly subjected to mineral alteration, it would seem that only the microcrack  
602 networks influence porosity and permeability, while we have shown that in the other  
603 groups the alteration vs microcracking creates a more scattered behavior for this  
604 property.

605 This is also shown by the Vp and TC diagram, where there is no real  
606 diminution of TC with Vp. Samples gave TC values of between 2.1 and 3.7  $\text{W} \cdot \text{m}^{-1} \cdot \text{K}^{-1}$   
607 with the highest values for the V-Schirmeck volcanics (Figure 10d). Independently,  
608 the Vp showed large variations, with values between 1.3 and 6.0  $\text{km} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ , with roughly  
609 two subgroups: the V-samples with Vp above 4.5  $\text{km} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$  and the L - Migmatites and  
610 Diorites with Vp under 4.5  $\text{km} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ . This high variability could be explained by  
611 microcrack densities that is significantly higher for the second subgroup. Thus, just as  
612 the TC reflects the mineral composition variability, the change in Vp can be attributed  
613 to sample microcracking in the fault zone (FZ). These trends are confirmed as TC  
614 does not show a significant decrease with porosity (Figure 10e) but it is the case for  
615 Vp, even if the trend is scattered due to rock facies variability (Figure 10f).

616

## 617 **5. Discussion**

618

### 619 5.1. Basement rock property evolutions in fault zones and weathered layers

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621 Our petrophysical measurements are generally in agreement with published  
622 data concerning basement rock facies for outcrop or core samples, even if the ranges  
623 of these properties are very large (*see for example Čermák and Rybach, (1982) for TC*  
624 *or Morrow (2000) and Stober & Bucher (2007) for k*). The linear relationship between  
625 TC and Vp, densities or porosities are also highlighted in other areas (*e.g. Mielke et*  
626 *al., 2017; Weinert et al., 2020*).

627 The high variability of rock facies collected in the three areas of interest gives  
628 a first order characterization of the evolution of matrix properties in basement rocks  
629 and particularly in fault zones and some parts of the weathered layer. Although there  
630 is a lack of some specific facies like the ultrabasic rocks that locally outcrop in the  
631 Moldanubian domain, or some facies of the heterogenous metamorphic units in the  
632 Vosges. From the overall rock facies variability, three groups can be distinguished  
633 with a different evolution between the protolith, DZ, FC and saprolite samples that are

634 highlighted by the petrophysical measurements. However, the general poor outcrop  
635 quality does not allow systematic sampling of fresh, fractured DZ, and FC on the  
636 same outcrop for all rock facies. The few locations where FC could be sampled  
637 offered the opportunity to discuss more precisely the petrophysical variations with the  
638 position in the DZ (Figure 12).

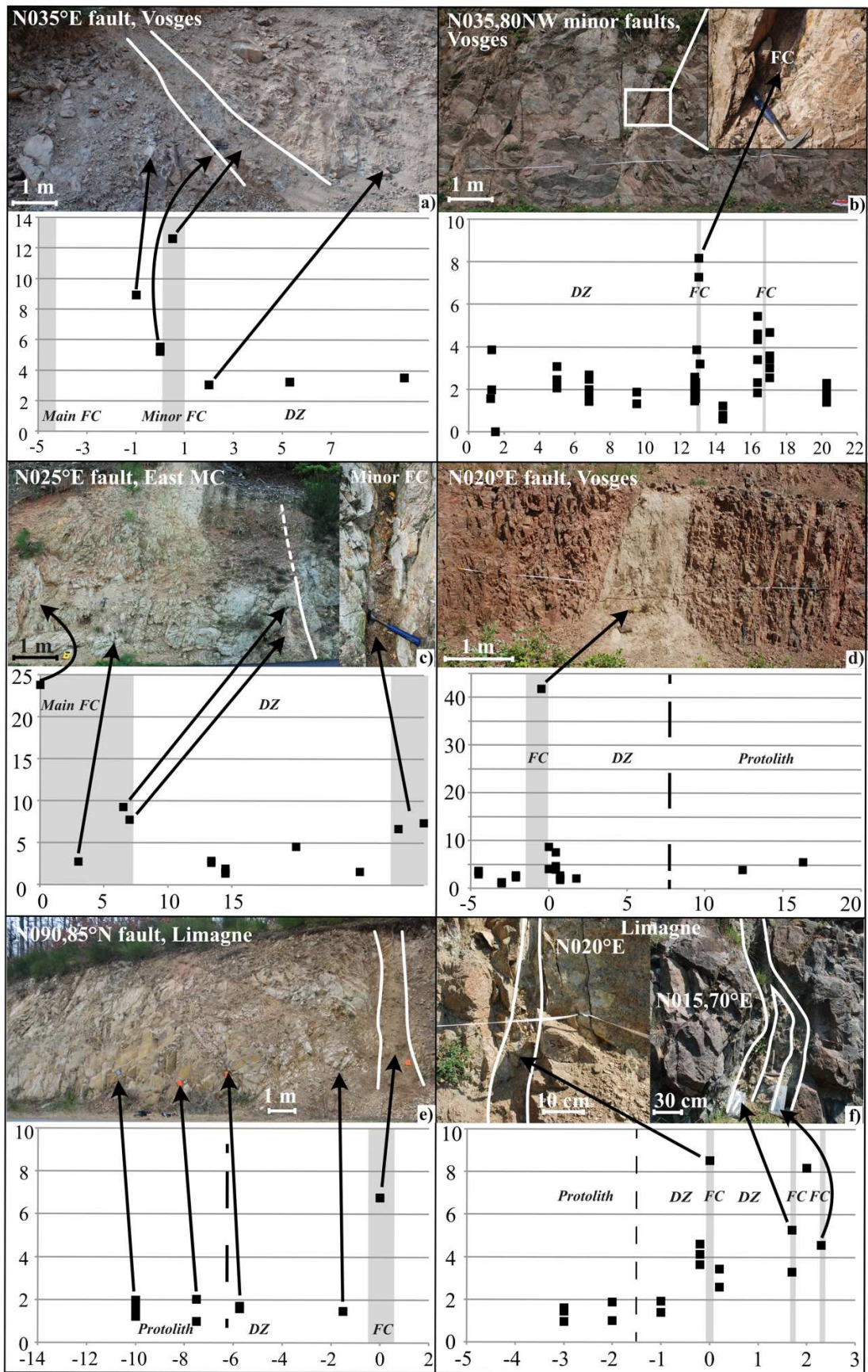
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640 For all three groups, the FC samples are in general gouges or breccias with  
641 significantly higher porosity than the DZ and protolith samples (Figure 12). This  
642 suggests that the FC could act as a conduit for fluid flow if secondary clays will not  
643 plug the pores and reduce permeability (*Bense et al., 2013*). For the DZ, the general  
644 models for basement rocks suggest conduit behavior due to fracturing and matrix  
645 alteration linked to fluid flows (*Faulkner et al., 2010; Bense et al., 2013*). In many  
646 cases, the enhancement of fracturing and alteration is considered as a progressive  
647 increase from the protolith to the FC (*Beach et al., 1999; Cello et al., 2001; De*  
648 *Joussineau et al., 2007; Mitchell & Faulkner, 2009*). For the alteration and linked  
649 matrix porosity and permeability development, our data are not in agreement with  
650 these simplified models.

651 In fact, the samples taken at the immediate border of the FC are actually the  
652 most porous of the DZ, but for the others there is no general increase in porosity  
653 (Figure 12). For the V - granites, and in the V-Bruche unit, the samples in the vicinity  
654 of the FC are even less porous than in the far-field DZ (a, b & d, Figure 12). Thus,  
655 only the FC and their immediate border can be considered to have good reservoir  
656 properties for the matrix. In the far-field DZ, the matrix properties are more randomly  
657 distributed, depending on the presence of individual fractures or of clusters of these  
658 that allow fluid flow and the subsequent alteration and reservoir property  
659 enhancement (Figure 13).

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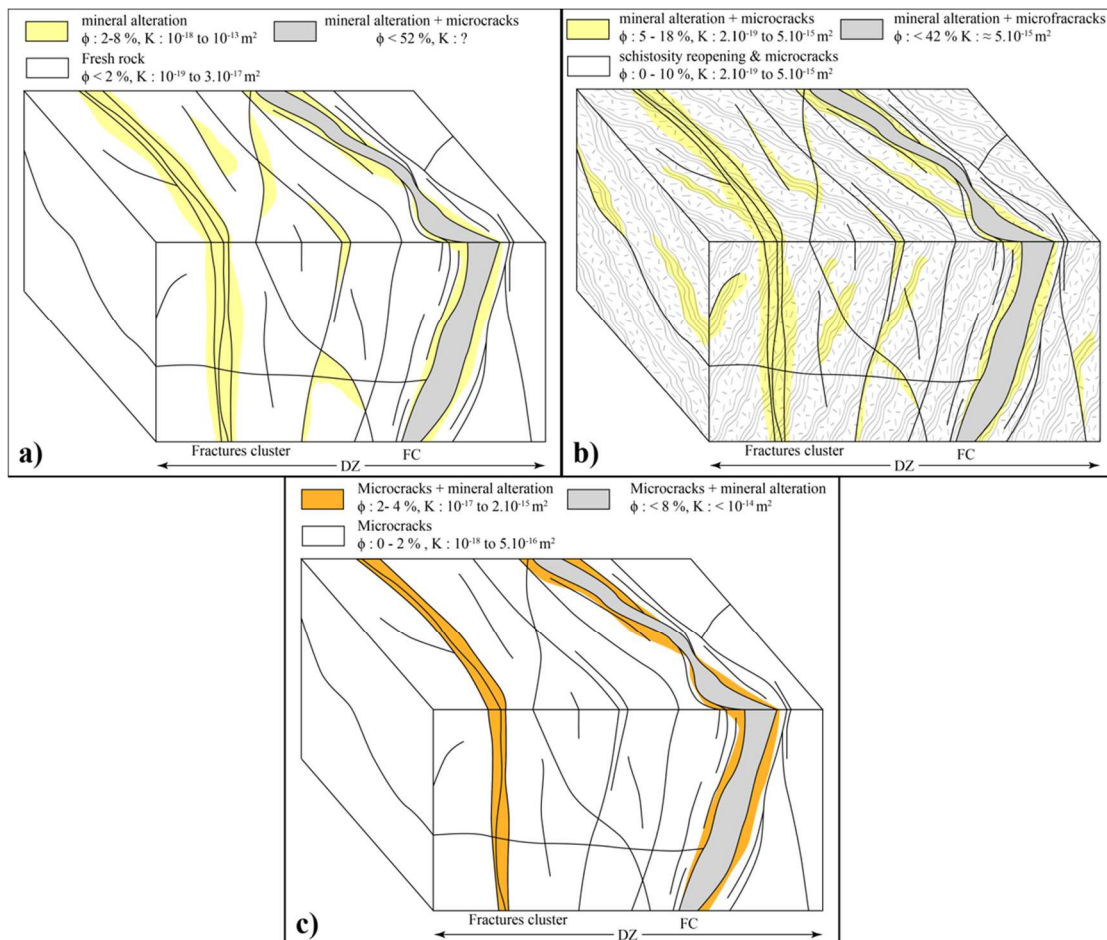


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Figure 12 : Specific fault zones and porosity evolution through FC and DZ for a) & b) V - granites, c) MC - granite, d) V-Bruche unit graywackes, e) L-Visean unit and f) L-Diorites. All graphs are in porosity (%) vs distance (m).

665 Thus, the DZ in the granites and granodiorites (group I) expose local  
 666 variations of the porosity linked to the mineral alteration process. This is accompanied  
 667 by the development of high porosity and permeability in some parts and preserve  
 668 almost fresh rocks in others, depending on the hydrothermal fluid flow (Figure 13a).  
 669 In the DZ, this alteration creates a connected porosity (until  $\approx 8\%$ ) with fine pore  
 670 throats ( $0.5 - 0.02\ \mu\text{m}$ ) that engender a linear diminution of the bulk density, of TC  
 671 and  $V_p$ , and an increase of permeability from  $10^{-18}$  to  $10^{-13}\ \text{m}^2$ . In the FC and highly  
 672 fractured clusters, the microcrack network, combined to alteration, creates a larger  
 673 pore throat family ( $10 - 285\ \mu\text{m}$ ) and an increase of porosity that can reach  $52\%$ .  
 674 Unfortunately, the permeability of these last samples could not be measured.  
 675

676 In the metamorphic rocks of the group II, the porosity and permeability in the  
 677 DZ is more distributed, and depend on the mineral alteration and on the microcracks  
 678 density, in particular when the schistosity planes are well-oriented for being  
 679 reactivated as fractures (Figure 13b)(*Bertrand et al., 2018*). This contrasted variation  
 680 is reflected in the petrophysical measurements where fresh samples are not less  
 681 porous. Thus, samples with only mineral alterations are more subject to porosity  
 682 reduction whereas fracturing plus alteration led to porosity increases. In the same  
 683 manner, the FC samples are subjected to alteration and fracturing but with an  
 684 increased intensity, leading to higher porosities, of up to  $42\%$ . The skeletal density,  
 685 the permeability, the  $V_p$  and TC measurements are sparse according to this  
 686 petrographic variability, as the Hg porosity shows not more than an increase of the  
 687 mean pore throat diameter ( $0.005 - 0.011$  to  $0.3 - 1.1\ \mu\text{m}$ ) with the increase of total  
 688 porosity.  
 689



690

691 *Figure 13: Conceptual model of fault zones at the outcrop with hydrothermal*  
692 *alteration and linked porosity for a) the granites and granodiorites, b) the main*  
693 *metamorphic units and c) the massive rocks.*

694 Finally, for the more massive high temperature or thermally metamorphosed  
695 diorites and metamorphosed volcanics of group III, no distinct mineral alteration is  
696 recognized in the protolith and DZ samples (Figure 13c). They are only subjected to  
697 microcrack density increase that led to weak porosity increases, and in consequence a  
698 decrease of  $V_p$  as the TC is almost constant. These microcracks develop a porous  
699 network with distributed pore throats and a linear increase of the matrix permeability  
700 from  $10^{-18}$  to  $10^{-14}$   $m^2$ . The mineral alteration process is only concentrated in the FC  
701 and some local fracture clusters. Despite this mineral transformation, the total  
702 porosity of the FC is significantly lower than for the two other groups, with a  
703 maximum value measured as around 8.5 %.

704  
705 The weathered layers were unfortunately only sampled in the granitic bodies  
706 where distinct non-cohesive saprolites facies were recognized. As it could be due to  
707 the outcropping and paleo-topographic conditions in the three areas, it suggests that  
708 the non-granitic basement rocks are less favorable for the development of such layers,  
709 or at least that the weathering phenomenon is less efficient for these facies (*Dewandel*  
710 *et al., 2006; Velde et Meunier, 2008*). In the granites, these samples are clearly  
711 different from the others, with a high-density microcrack network, spatially linked to  
712 the ferromagnesian minerals, while the other primary minerals do not show significant  
713 alterations. They show high values of Hg porosity of up to 33 %.

## 714 715 5.2. Comparison of the models with borehole data

716  
717 The direct comparison of property values with existing data from deep  
718 reservoirs is not simple because there is a shift between the petrophysical properties  
719 measured on dried outcrop sample and cores sampled in depth (i.e. confined and  
720 saturated rocks) (*Kranz et al., 1979; Morrow et al., 1994, Morrow, 2000*) or with  
721 geophysical well-logs (*Esteban et al., 2015*). However, the general models presented  
722 in this paper can be qualitatively compared with FZ architecture in borehole data,  
723 especially in the URG where the Soultz-sous-Forêts and Rittershoffen geothermal  
724 boreholes aimed to use fluid flows in fault zones in granites and immediate  
725 sedimentary cover. The two geothermal projects at Insheim and Landau also target  
726 fault zones in granites but there is no detailed petrophysical and petrographical  
727 variation published yet (*Vidal et Genter, 2018*). For the other lithologies, sadly there  
728 is a lack of in-situ petrophysical data, even if some studies on hydraulic data suggest  
729 that high temperature metamorphic rocks are less permeable than granite type  
730 basements (*Stober and Bucher, 2007*).

731 At Soultz-sous-Forêts, the fully cored EPS1 highlighted different rock facies  
732 due to fracturing and hydrothermal alteration of the rock mass (*Ledésert et al., 2010*).  
733 The overall range of property variations in the drilled granites with TC values of  
734 between 2.3 and 4.3  $W.m^{-1}.K^{-1}$ ,  $k$  between  $10^{-20}$  and  $10^{-14}$   $m^2$  (*Hettkamp et al., 1999*)  
735 and porosity between 0.13 and 25.55 % (*Géraud et al., 2010*) is in agreement with the  
736 ranges of the group I granites in this study. From fresh to altered facies there is a  
737 similar porosity evolution. Only the most porous samples have a different trend: In  
738 Soultz-sous-Forêts they are not permeable due to clay neoformation ( $10^{-18}$   $m^2$  for 10  
739 % porosity) (*Géraud et al., 2010*) and pore throat diameters are between 0.3 and 0.006

740  $\mu\text{m}$  which is significantly smaller than group I samples (Rosener & Géraud, 2007).  
741 These porous facies in the well are located randomly in the FZ and create local fluid  
742 conduits that are not correlated to the main FC distance. In Rittershoffen wells, the  
743 permeable zones are also located in a few fractured clusters linked to local alteration  
744 facies in the DZ (Glaas et al., 2018). However, these facies are partly plugged by  
745 secondary precipitation of calcite, illite and chlorite (Vidal et al., 2017).  
746 Unfortunately, in Rittershoffen no cores are available for the precise quantification of  
747 petrophysical property evolution.

748 The petrophysical properties evolution from the Soultz-sous-Forêts wells and  
749 the repartition of the porous (altered) facies in the FZ from the Rittershoffen wells are  
750 therefore in agreement with our proposed model for group I. It is likely that the  
751 paleofluid uses preferential flow conduits which interact with the rock mass and  
752 locally enhance reservoir properties with a spatial repartition that is not correlated to  
753 the FC distance. Also, as the permeability of the most porous samples of the study  
754 could not be measured, the same effect on permeability reduction despite the porosity  
755 increase can be expected.

756 For the weathered layers, the two well-sites do not show evidence of a  
757 saprolite layer that was preserved during the basement burial, but both have typical  
758 iron oxydes filled horizontal fractures and mineral alteration belonging to the deepest  
759 part of a typical weathered layer development (“fissured layer”, Dewandel et al.,  
760 2006). In Rittershoffen wells, no significant permeability was detected during  
761 injection operation in this layer (Vidal et al., 2016), but analyzed core samples from  
762 Soultz-sous-Forêts show matrix porosity between 5.6 and 7.0 % and permeability  
763 around  $1.10^{-18} \text{ m}^2$  (Géraud et al., 2010). Our measurements on saprolite layer samples  
764 that schematically lie above the fissured layer shows porosity significantly higher to  
765 these values, until 33 % for group I granites. It could indicate that the weathered layer  
766 of the basement should be a significant permeable layer for geothermal purpose in  
767 other parts of the basins where it is more preserved than in the actual drilled wells in  
768 the WER.

769 Some authors claim that a direct comparison between outcrop analogs is  
770 hazardous because there is a difference in the fracture network and porosity properties  
771 between the outcropping shoulders and the URG in depth rocks (Bauer et al., 2017;  
772 Kushnir et al., 2018). Extensive sampling in the three areas studied showed that the  
773 lithologies have a similar response to the hydrothermal alteration and should therefore  
774 be applied for predictive modelling in fluid flows in basement rocks for future drilling  
775 programs in the WER grabens. Our synthetic models can for example supply dual-  
776 porosity models to give a first level of rate and pressure of flow modelling in targeted  
777 fault zones before the drilling and injection operation. Some papers state how the TC  
778 and Vp react to confining pressure, fluid saturation or temperature (e.g. Morrow,  
779 2000; Mielke et al., 2017). Combining such studies with the relationships we showed  
780 between the different properties for each petrophysical group will allow progress in  
781 the development of these models.

782

## 783 **Conclusions**

784

785 With the three areas of interest, our study offers a first order overview of the  
786 reservoir properties of fault zones in the basement rocks of the WER grabens. As  
787 these structures are the targets of several drilling programs, namely with high  
788 temperature geothermal prospects, estimations of these properties are essential for  
789 pre-drilling resource evaluations. The weathered layer at the top of the basement rock



790 can also be a significant reservoir, therefore samples of this layer are also included to  
791 the dataset.

792 The extensive data collection in the three locations studied shows three groups  
793 with similar petrophysical property evolution in the FZ despite the high initial  
794 petrographic variability. Thus, the granite and granodiorite facies (group I) show  
795 mainly mineral alteration in the DZ, with only substantial microcracks in the FC and  
796 local fracture corridors. In contrast, the diorites, migmatites and thermally  
797 metamorphosed facies (group III) are subjected to microcracking in the DZ with only  
798 mineral alteration in the FC. The fault zones in the other metamorphic units (group II)  
799 expose an intermediary process between the two other groups, with a combination of  
800 mineral alteration and microcracking, depending on the primary mineral composition  
801 and orientation of the potential existing schistosity. These led to different  
802 relationships between porosity and permeability properties and associated skeletal  
803 density, TC and Vp evolution, with only a simple exponential increase of permeability  
804 with porosity for the fractured group III samples.

805 The weathered layers are only found developed in the granites and  
806 granodiorites, suggesting that the other rock facies are less susceptible to develop or  
807 preserve such layers in the Hercynian domains. For granite saprolites, microcracking  
808 linked to the ferromagnesian mineral seems to be the main process of weathering,  
809 leading to non-cohesive and highly porous facies.

810 The basement rocks, especially granites, are often considered as poor reservoir  
811 quality for the matrix (*Nelson, 2001; Gutmanis et al., 2015; Kushnir et al., 2018*) and  
812 main flows concentrated in few well-connected fractures (*Vidal et al., 2017*).  
813 However, our study showed that significant matrix porosity and permeability  
814 enhancement can occur with alterations in some parts of the DZ, and more  
815 significantly in fractured clusters and fault cores. This is confirmed by the comparison  
816 between our models from the outcrop and the URG wells, even if the secondary  
817 mineralization linked to hydrothermal flows present in the URG are not observed on  
818 outcropping shoulders. This suggests that fracture clusters and FZ in the basement  
819 reservoirs can offer suitable volume for flow storage and circulation within the rock  
820 mass, in addition to the connected fracture network.

821 The study presented here is a first step for the characterization of the matrix  
822 properties in fault zones of the WER. Combined to an extensive study of the fracture  
823 network, these data can supply dual porosity modelling and help prediction of the  
824 actual fluid flows in the basement of the grabens.

825

826

827

828 Glossary:

829

830 DZ: Damage Zone

831

832 CdF: Champ-du-Feu

833

834 FC: Fault Core

835

836 FZ: Fault Zone

837

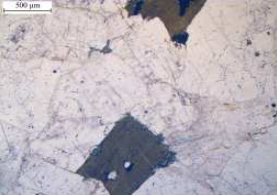
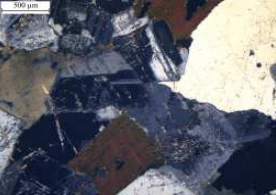

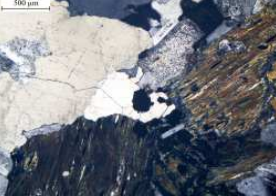


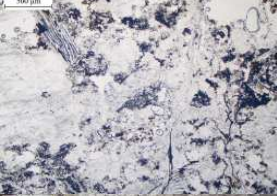


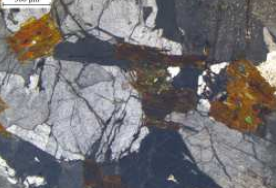
838 FMC: French Massif Central

839


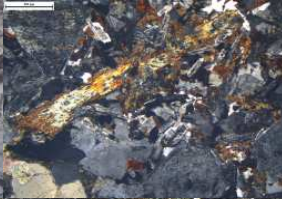


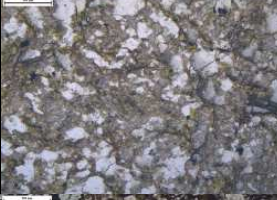
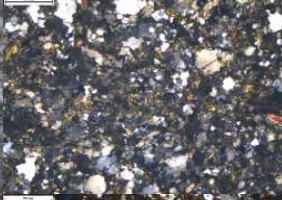

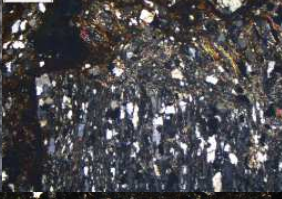

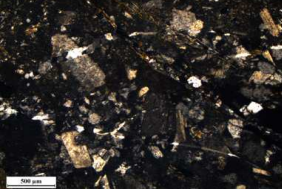


840 k: Permeability  
841  
842 LLFZ: Lalaye-Lubine Fault Zone  
843  
844 TC: Thermal Conductivity  
845  
846 Vp: P-Waves Velocity  
847  
848 WER: West European Rift  
849  
850 WL: Weathered Layer  
851  
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853  
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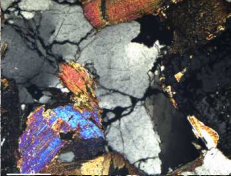
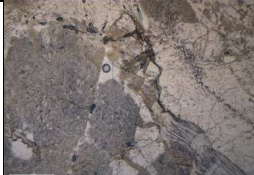
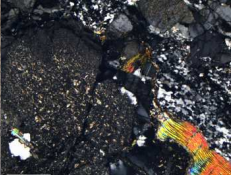
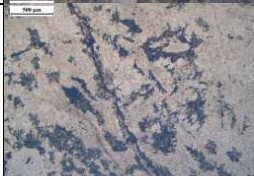
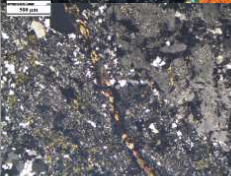
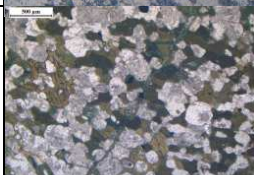
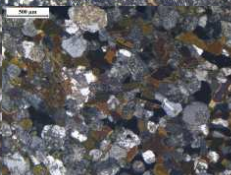

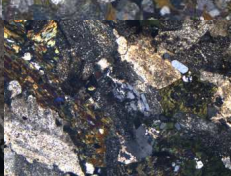

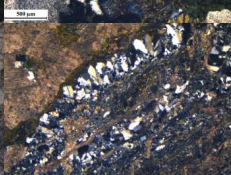
**Appendix A:** synthesis of the petrographic and petrophysical evolution in fault zones for group I rock facies: ferromagnesian minerals and plagioclase/feldspar alteration degree, microcrack densities on thin sections, measured porosity, permeability, Vp and TC ranges and example of PPL and CPL view.

Group	Classification (Nb of samples)	Ferromagnesian minerals alteration	Feldspar - plagioclases alteration	Microcracks density	Porosity (H <sub>2</sub> O & Hg) (%)	k (m <sup>2</sup> )	Vp (km.s <sup>-1</sup> )	TC (W.m <sup>-1</sup> .K <sup>-1</sup> )	PPL	CPL
I : granites and granodiorites	Fresh (35)	-	-	-	0 to 3	1.10 <sup>-19</sup> to 4.10 <sup>-16</sup>	3.0 to 5.4	2.3 to 3.0		
	Weakly altered (21)	+	+	-	1 to 4	2.10 <sup>-18</sup> to 7.10 <sup>-15</sup>	2.1 to 4.4	2.1 to 3.0		
	DZ samples : moderately altered (8)	++	++	-/+	4 to 11	6.10 <sup>-18</sup> to 2.10 <sup>-13</sup>	1.9 to 4.0	1.7 to 2.8		
	FC samples (15)	+++	+++	++	5 to 52	2.10 <sup>-15</sup> to 4.10 <sup>-14</sup>	2.7 to 3.7	2.2 to 2.8		
	Saprolite (11)	+	+	+++	4 to 33		1.7 to 3.4	0.7 to 2.0		

**Appendix B:** synthesis of the petrographic and petrophysical evolution in fault zones for group II rock facies: ferromagnesian minerals and plagioclase/feldspar alteration degree, microcracks density on thin sections, measured porosity, permeability, Vp and TC ranges and example of PPL and CPL view.

Group	Classification (Nb of samples)	Ferromagnesian minerals alteration	Feldspar - plagioclases alteration	Microcracks density	Porosity (H <sub>2</sub> O & Hg) (%)	k (m <sup>2</sup> )	Vp (km.s <sup>-1</sup> )	TC (W.m <sup>-1</sup> .K <sup>-1</sup> )	PPL	CPL
II : main metamorphic units	Coarse-grained fresh (8)	-	-	-	0 to 4	2.10 <sup>-19</sup> to 2.10 <sup>-18</sup>	4.2 to 5.2	2.3 to 3.8		
	Fine-grained fresh (15)	-	-	+	0 to 10	1.10 <sup>-19</sup> to 4.10 <sup>-15</sup>	3.3 to 5.7	2.2 to 4.8		
	Coarse-grained altered (10)	+	+	-	1 to 7	1.10 <sup>-18</sup> to 3.10 <sup>-15</sup>	2.9 to 5.5	1.9 to 3.2		
	fine-grained altered (22)	+	+	++	1 to 13	2.10 <sup>-18</sup> to 5.10 <sup>-16</sup>	2.8 to 6.0	1.3 to 5.0		
	FC samples (6)	+	+	++	8 - 42	< 5.10 <sup>-15</sup>	2.5 to 3.2	2.0 to 3.6		

**Appendix C:** synthesis of the petrographic and petrophysical evolution in fault zones for group I rock facies: ferromagnesian minerals and plagioclase/feldspar alteration degree, microcracks density on thin sections, measured porosity, permeability, Vp and TC ranges and example of PPL and CPL view.

Group	Classification (Nb of samples)	Ferromagnesian minerals alteration	Feldspar - plagioclases alteration	Microcracks density	Porosity (H <sub>2</sub> O & Hg) (%)	k (m <sup>2</sup> )	Vp (km.s <sup>-1</sup> )	TC (W.m <sup>-1</sup> .K <sup>-1</sup> )	PPL	CPL
III : massive rocks	Fresh - Migmatites (2)	-	-	+	0 to 2	4.10 <sup>-17</sup> to 10 <sup>-17</sup>	2.4 to 3.0	2.4 to 2.7		
	Altered Migmatites (3)	+	+	+	3 to 6	1.10 <sup>-17</sup> to 2.10 <sup>-15</sup>	1.3 to 4.3	2.2 to 2.7		
	Schirmeck massif & Southern unit (17)	+	+	+/-	0 to 3	2.10 <sup>-18</sup> to 6.10 <sup>-15</sup>	1.6 to 6.0	2.3 to 3.7		
	Fresh diorites (10)	-	-	+/-	0 to 2	3.10 <sup>-19</sup> to 2.10 <sup>-18</sup>	3.2 to 5.7	2.2 to 2.8		
	Altered diorites (4)	+	+	+/-	1 to 5	9.10 <sup>-18</sup> to 4.10 <sup>-17</sup>	2.2 to 5.5	2.1 to 2.3		
	FC - samples (5)	++	++	++	5 - 15	-	-	-		



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