

1 **Late Miocene high-angle faulting in the Cyclades: offshore-onshore**  
2 **tectonic studies and U-Pb calcite dating.**

3

4 *Déformation fragile à la fin du Miocène avec failles normales à fort*  
5 *pendage dans les Cyclades: étude tectonique offshore-onshore et*  
6 *datation U-Pb sur calcite.*

7

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19

20 **Abstract**

21  
22 Aegean extension began during Eocene-Oligocene times and led to the thinning of the upper plate  
23 into a retreating slab system. The style of extension during the Miocene remains controversial,  
24 with a majority of studies arguing for extension accommodated by low-angle extensional brittle-  
25 ductile faults, called detachments. In other hands, the present-day active seismic faults in the  
26 Aegean Sea are only high-angle normal faults and dextral strike-slips. We aim to constrain and  
27 date the style of faulting in central Greece by combining analysis of 19 offshore seismic lines with  
28 onshore structural observations on Syros Island and LA-ICP-MS U-Pb dating of calcite sampled  
29 in two major fault zones of Syros (Palos and Fabrika faults). Three main sets of faults have been  
30 identified in the Central Cyclades: NW-SE trending normal faults, NNW-SSE oblique (sinistral)-  
31 normal faults, and NNE-SSW trending dextral strike-slip faults. High-angle normal faults define  
32 regularly spaced horsts and grabens, suggesting a wide rifting-type of extension. Dextral strike-  
33 slip faults occur at Syros, mainly offshore, and are kinematically compatible with normal faults.  
34 U-Pb dating of calcite crystallizing in normal fault planes at Syros yields ages at c.a. 10 Ma for  
35 high-angle normal faults activity. On these bases, we propose that wide rifting with high-angle  
36 normal faults accommodated Aegean extension when trench retreat accelerated in the middle to  
37 late Miocene. At this time, dextral strike-slip faults formed as a response of the onset of Anatolia  
38 lateral extrusion.

39

40 **Keywords: LA-ICP-MS U-Pb calcite dating, offshore seismic lines, onshore tectonics, normal**  
41 **faults, strike-slip faults**

42

43 **Résumé**

44 L'extension de la Mer Egée a commencé à l'Eocène-Oligocène et a entraîné l'amincissement de la  
45 plaque supérieure par le recul de la fosse de subduction contrôlé par le roll-back du panneau  
46 plongeant. Le style d'extension reste controversé, avec une majorité des études qui plaide en faveur  
47 d'une extension au Miocène accommodée par des failles fragiles-ductiles à faible angle, appelées  
48 détachements. D'autre part, les failles sismiques actives actuelles dans la mer Égée ne sont que des  
49 failles normales à fort angle et des décrochements dextres. L'objectif de cette étude est de  
50 contraindre et dater le style de faille en Grèce centrale en combinant l'analyse de 19 lignes  
51 sismiques offshore avec des observations structurales faites sur l'île de Syros et la datation LA-  
52 ICP-MS U-Pb de la calcite échantillonnées dans deux zones de faille majeures de Syros (failles de  
53 Palos et de Fabrika). Trois ensembles principaux de failles ont été identifiés : des failles normales  
54 orientées NO-SE, des failles normales obliques NNW-SSE (senestres) et des failles décrochantes  
55 dextres orientées NNE-SSW. Les failles normales à fort pendages définissent des horsts et des  
56 grabens régulièrement espacés, suggérant une extension de type rift distribué. Des failles  
57 décrochantes dextres ont été identifiées à Syros, principalement au large, et sont cinématiquement  
58 compatibles avec les failles normales. L'activité des failles normales à fort pendage a été estimée  
59 à environ 10 Ma grâce à la datation LA-ICP-MS U-Pb de la calcite cristallisée dans les plans de  
60 failles normales de Palos et Fabrika sur l'île de Syros. Nous proposons qu'un rifting distribué avec  
61 des failles normales à fort pendage a permis l'extension de la mer Égée lorsque le retrait de la fosse  
62 s'est accéléré au milieu et à la fin du Miocène. À cette époque, des failles de décrochement dextre  
63 ont été formées au début de l'extrusion latérale de l'Anatolie.

64

65 **Mots-clés : Datation LA-ICP-MS U-Pb de la calcite, lignes sismiques en mer, tectonique à**  
66 **terre, failles normales, failles décrochantes**

67

## 68 **1. Introduction**

69

70 The Aegean subduction zone is one of the most active regions in the Mediterranean, characterized  
71 by the interplay between extension and strike-slip faulting. The present day tectonics of the Aegean  
72 domain is controlled by the south-westwards Hellenic trench retreat at a current rate of  
73 approximately 3 cm/yr and Anatolia westward extrusion at 2 cm/yr (McClusky et al., 2000;  
74 Reilinger et al., 2006; Hollenstein et al., 2008; Fig. 1). Active tectonics is marked by the coeval  
75 activity of strike-slip faults (e.g. North Anatolia and others imaged offshore, Sakellariou and  
76 Tsampouraki-Kraounaki, 2018) and normal faults (e.g. Corinth, Evvia rifts; Fig. 1; see discussion  
77 in Pérouse et al., 2012). It is classically assumed that the present-day tectonic patterns, with both  
78 strike-slip and high-angle normal faults, only developed during the Pliocene or Pleistocene with  
79 the westward propagation of the Anatolian fault and the opening of the Corinth rift (Armijo et al.,  
80 1999). In this study, we aim to determine the age of the development of this tectonic pattern by  
81 combining offshore seismic lines analysis with onshore identifications of major faults and LA-  
82 ICP-MS dating of calcite precipitating in faults.

83 The Hellenic trench retreat has created extension of the upper Aegean plate since around  
84 45 Ma (Brun and Sokoutis, 2007). Since then, the extension of the Aegean Sea has been  
85 accommodated by a progressive change in deformation style. This started with the exhumation of  
86 high-pressure/low-temperature metamorphic rocks, followed by the formation of high-temperature  
87 metamorphic core complexes (e.g. review in Jolivet and Brun, 2010). High-pressure/low-  
88 temperature exhumation brought the Cycladic Blueschist Unit (CBU) to the upper crustal level,  
89 which today constitutes the Cyclades (Fig. 1). It is proposed that ductile exhumation of the CBU

90 is partly accommodated by low-angle extensional faults/shear zones, also known as detachment  
91 faults (see for examples, Lister et al., 1984; Gautier and Brun, 1994; Jolivet et al., 2010; Graseman  
92 et al., 2012). The ages of these low-angle extensional structures have been estimated as Miocene  
93 (Ring et al., 2003; Bricchau et al., 2010).

94         There is also ample evidence that strike-slip faulting in the Aegean started during the  
95 middle-late-Miocene and not only during the Pliocene or Pleistocene. Anatolian extrusion started  
96 in the middle Miocene, as evidenced by the initiation of large-scale dextral shear zones around 11-  
97 13 Ma in Turkey (Şengör et al., 2005) and recent calcite LA-ICP-MS U-Pb ages (c.a. 11 Ma)  
98 obtained on the eastern portion of the North Anatolian Fault in Turkey and interpreted as  
99 reactivation ages due probably to the collision between the Arabian plate and Anatolian block  
100 (Nuriel et al., 2019). There is also evidence of NE-trending strike-slip faults in the central Aegean,  
101 which partly controlling magma emplacement since the middle Miocene (Kokkalas and Aydin,  
102 2013). Therefore, rollback-related extension may have interacted with extrusion-related strike-slip  
103 faulting since the middle Miocene (Philippon et al., 2014). Furthermore, low-temperature  
104 thermochronology ages associated with tectonic observations support a middle Miocene strike-  
105 slip activity of the Pelagonian fault in Evvia and Attica (Fig. 1; Faucher et al., 2021). Strike-slip  
106 faulting was therefore potentially active coevally with high-angle normal faulting in Miocene  
107 times, when both N-S extension and E-W shortening occurred (Fig. 1). Brun et al. (2016) further  
108 suggest that ductile extension into the Aegean Sea ended around the middle Miocene (c.a. 15 Ma),  
109 when the style of deformation shifted to high-angle normal faulting and strike-slip faults, creating  
110 dispersed sedimentary basins (e.g. Mascle and Martin, 1990; Beniest et al., 2016). The low-  
111 temperature age distribution observed in the Cyclades (see age synthesis in Fig. 1) suggests that

112 this switch from ductile to high-angle brittle faulting occurs around 12 Ma (see discussion in  
113 Philippon et al., 2012 and Brun et al., 2016).

114 This study focuses on the Cyclades block in the central Aegean Sea (Fig. 1). The novelty  
115 of this study is to correlate offshore seismic data with onshore field data for the first time, in order  
116 to propose an accurate estimate of fault kinematics, strain tensors, and to date these faults activity.  
117 We conducted our field study on the island of Syros whose geology is well understood and which  
118 has documented late high-angle faults (e.g. Keiter et al., 2011). Offshore data enable us to identify  
119 recently active faults and their basin-scale pattern, while onshore data allows us to characterise  
120 their kinematics with accuracy.

121 The timing of slip on brittle faults is still difficult to constrain, and direct radiometric dating  
122 of minerals from fault zones is the most explicit approach. Calcite is one of the most common syn-  
123 tectonic mineral precipitates, typically found along shear fractures or faults as cutting fibers and  
124 fault-related open-mode fractures as veins. Recent improvements in the sensitivity of inductively  
125 coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) instruments coupled to a laser ablation (LA) system  
126 have allowed to date minerals with very low U and radiogenic Pb concentrations, such as  
127 carbonates (e.g. Li et al., 2014; Coogan et al., 2016). Direct dating of faults in the brittle regime  
128 requires the presence of calcite that would have formed during or shortly after fault slip or  
129 associated fracture opening, either in gouge, veins or along fault surfaces. Roberts and Walker  
130 (2016) and Ring and Gerdes (2016) were the first to use the LA-ICP-MS U-Pb technique on calcite  
131 for dating brittle faulting. Since then, this method has been increasingly used to establish the  
132 absolute timing of brittle deformation in the upper crust (e.g. Roberts et al., 2020). Here, calcite  
133 sampled along two high-angle normal faults of Syros was dated by LA-ICP-MS U-Pb technique

134 to test the hypothesis that the activity of these on-shore faults is indeed middle Miocene, as  
135 suggested by the compilation of low-temperature thermochronology ages (Fig. 1).

136

## 137 **2. Offshore faulting in the northern Cyclades**

138

### 139 **2.1 Seismic reflection data**

140 In this study, we combined recent bathymetry data (from EMODnet Bathymetry 2021 emodnet-  
141 bathymetry.eu and the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research-H.C.M.R.) with 2-D shallow seismic  
142 reflection images acquired in the 1980s, by the H.C.M.R. These lines were used to propose a recent  
143 tectonic interpretation of the Aegean domain (Sakellariou and Tsampouraki-Kraounaki, 2016;  
144 2018, Fig. 1). Since the original analog data were not available, we used static images of the  
145 profiles without depth/time axes. We are therefore unable to indicate the depth of the interpretation,  
146 and the profiles only image the shallow subsurface. We used 10 NE-SW and 3 NW-SE profiles  
147 (location on Figure 2A), and only two characteristics are shown in Fig. 2 (profile 3 and 14, in  
148 Figure 2B and 2D respectively). The profiles set is provided in the supplementary materials.

149 For each profile, we performed a structural interpretation mainly based on syn-kinematic sediment  
150 packages in faulted blocks. Faults are identified as steep features abutting other reflectors.  
151 Sediment sets can be recognized by their close reflectors (bedding), and their abrupt interruption  
152 against steep faults. Syn-kinematic packages further exhibit bedding reflectors, which do not have  
153 a continuous thickness, i.e. these packages thicken where accommodation space is created during  
154 fault activity. The position of this thickening within a graben indicates which bounding fault is  
155 dominant, as the largest accommodation space is created closest to the dominant fault. Unlike  
156 sediment packages, the basement (Cycladic Blueschist Unit) does not show many internal

157 reflectors, and poor data quality limits interpretation inside the basement. So we only interpret the  
158 top of the basement as much as possible.

159 The strike of active faults is interpreted from bathymetry, on a map view. Where possible,  
160 interpreted faults were correlated from one seismic profile to another using a combination of  
161 bathymetry and imaged fault character. As the original seismic data are not available and the lines  
162 are not closely spaced, horizon correlation was not possible.

163 Two main fault families have been interpreted: (high-angle) normal faults and strike-slip faults.  
164 Hereafter, we show two representative interpreted profiles, which illustrate the reasoning behind  
165 our interpretation. For interpreted profiles set and their locations, refer to the supplementary  
166 material (Figures S1-S17).

167

## 168 **2.2 Fault interpretation on seismic profiles**

### 169 **Normal faults**

170 Analysis of the 17 seismic profiles allows identifying several major faults that are all plotted on  
171 the map (Fig. 2A; white lines). Normal faults are dominant and are indicated by a red colour, both  
172 on the map and on cross sections. Red boxes with fault numbers correspond to the faults identified  
173 in seismic lines (Fig 2A and supplementary materials). The interpreted faults are based on the  
174 correlation between seismic lines.

175 From south to north, an east-dipping normal fault has been identified in seismic lines 1 to 7,  
176 referred to as the fault F1. Figure 2D shows the seismic line #3 (location Fig. 2A) where the F1  
177 fault to the west is responsible of the formation of a half-graben with eroded basement in the  
178 footwall. The F1 fault has a relatively large offset (impossible to quantify on our seismic lines)  
179 and also a clear bathymetric signature (Fig. 2A). Following the same procedure, we identified



180 seven major normal faults: F2 (dipping to the westward, south of Syros and present in seismic lines  
181 #1 and #2), F4 (dipping to the west-southwestward, present in seismic lines #4-7), F5 (dipping to  
182 the north-eastward, present in seismic lines #5-7), F6 (dipping to the south-westward, south of  
183 Tinos and present in seismic profiles #4-7), and F9 and F10 (dipping to the southward, south of  
184 Andros, present in seismic lines #8-10 and # 13).

185 At map-scale, normal fault F1, F2 and F4 define a graben between Kithnos/Serifos and  
186 Syros/Giaros. Between Giaros and North-Syros, normal faults F4 and F5, form a horst. Finally,  
187 between normal faults F5 and F6, another major graben can be defined between Tinos/Andros and  
188 Giaros/Syros. Normal faults seem to have varying strikes, i.e E-W for faults F9 and F10 and NW-  
189 SE for faults F1, F2 and F6. We will discuss this feature using the Syros example.

190

### 191 **Strike-slip faults**

192 In addition to these normal faults (red lines), we observe evidence of minor and major strike-slip  
193 faults (blue lines) (Fig. 2A). An example of minor strike-slip fault can be observed on the eastern  
194 rim of seismic line #3 (Fig. 2D), where two small negative flower structures can be seen on the  
195 eastern edge of the half-graben (Fault F3, Figs. 2A and 2D). The western subsurface part of the  
196 flower seems to have ceased activity, as newer sediments cover it. The easternmost flower is  
197 currently active, as it creates a small trough in the seafloor. Other minor flower structures can be  
198 observed in seismic profiles #7 (western edge) and #8 (middle of the profile) presented in the  
199 supplementary material (Figures S7 and S8) and plotted by blue squares in Fig. 2A as F8 fault. A  
200 major strike-slip fault is visible both on the seismic lines and in the bathymetry (Cava Doro  
201 straight). This strike-slip (denoted F7 fault) is seen in profiles #13, 14 and # 7,8, 9, 10 (location in  
202 Fig. 2A and seismic profiles in supplementary materials). The interpretation of profile #14 is  
203 presented in Fig. 2B. This profile, trending NW-SE, thus shares the strike of the grabens described

204 previously, which explains why the sediment horizons appear relatively flat. However, to the north  
205 of the profile, there is a complex deformation zone with a distinct trough in the seafloor.

206 We interpret this as a major negative flower structure (Fig. 2C), which creates a bathymetric  
207 depression with an overall depth of 300-350 m, relative to the surrounding footwall which has a  
208 depth of ~140 m NW of the fault zone. The major strike-slip zone trends NNE-SSW across the  
209 northern Cyclades.

210 At map-scale and based on our analysis of the seismic lines and on the bathymetric signal, we can  
211 identify a major strike-slip fault trending SSW-NNE (F7 fault) from Kithnos to the Kafireas strait  
212 between Attica and Andros. A minor strike-slip fault, of NE-SW direction, can be identified  
213 between Kithnos and Giaros (F8 fault) and a second one located west of Syros (F3 Fault) (Fig.  
214 2A).

215

### 216 **Offshore fault pattern**

217 The offshore fault pattern shows both high-angle normal faults and strike-slip faults. Normal faults  
218 are widespread and form regularly spaced horsts and grabens. Strike-slip faults are less abundant  
219 than the normal faults. No cross-cutting relationships between normal and strike-slip faults are  
220 observed, suggesting a potential coeval activity. Analysis of these seismic lines allowed  
221 characterization of the offshore fault patterns but did not enable accurate definition of the tectonic  
222 regime (directions of stretching and shortening), since fault kinematics are not observable from  
223 seismic data. We address this by analysing fault exposures onshore. To do so, field data from the  
224 Syros Island, in the central Cyclades, where both normal and strike-slip faults are observed, will  
225 be discussed. We will also use the Syros example to explain why normal faults have variable  
226 strikes, from E-W (F9 and F10 faults) to NNW-SSE (F1, F2 and F6 faults).

227

## 228 **3. Late brittle faulting in Syros**

229

### 230 **3.1 Tectonic framework of Syros**

231 Syros consists mainly of the Cycladic Blueschist Unit (CBU), a sequence that underwent high-  
232 pressure metamorphism during subduction in the Eocene. The sequence experienced retrogression  
233 and ductile exhumation in the Oligocene - early Miocene followed by exhumation by brittle  
234 faulting that took place in the middle-late Miocene (see Philippon et al., 2011, 2012 for a  
235 synthesis). The Syros CBU is structured in NE dipping layers. From the structural base to the top,  
236 the sequence is composed of albitic micaschists and gneisses (e.g. Komito unit, Fig. 3), alternating  
237 marbles and micaschists (e.g. Pyrgos and Kastri units, Fig. 3), and metabasites (mainly present in  
238 Kastri unit, Fig. 3) (Keiter et al., 2011; Philippon et al., 2011).

239 Since exhumation and ductile extension, Syros has suffered brittle faulting (e.g. Philippon et al.,  
240 2015, 2011; Keiter et al., 2011) which has received much less attention than its ductile history. In  
241 this section, we present the results of the structural mapping of the late stage of brittle structures,  
242 which are summarized in Figure 3. For simplicity, we use a simplified tectonic map (main  
243 lithologies and foliation after Hecht (1985), Keiter et al. (2011) and Philippon et al. (2011)),  
244 overlain with the late stage of the major high-angle faults observed in this study. Three fault sets  
245 can be described: NW-SE striking high-angle normal faults, NNW-SSE striking high-angle  
246 oblique (sinistral) normal faults and NE-SW striking dextral strike-slip faults.

247

### 248 **3.2 NW-SE-trending pure normal faulting (e.g. Fabrika fault).**

249 The NW-SE striking normal faults at Syros are interpreted as a major fault set, which offsets the  
250 lithology (e.g. in south-central Syros, between Galissas and Vari; and north Syros between Palos

251 and Ermoupouli, Fig. 3). Several structures associated with NW-SE normal faulting have been  
252 observed on the Syros Island. The most characteristic ones were found at Fabrika (southeast Syros,  
253 Fig. 3).

254 The NW-SE trending fault at Fabrika separates the marbles from the eclogites and blueschists, as  
255 shown in Figure 4A. The main fault shows vertical slickenlines (Fig. 4B), indicating that this fault  
256 set is purely extensional. This observation is similar at other places on the island. Numerous NW-  
257 SE trending tensile joints in marbles also constrain the extensional direction to be subhorizontal  
258 and trending NE-SW. Locally, normal faults develop in pull-apart associated with apparently  
259 sinistral NNW-SSE strike-slip faults (with well-developed gouges) (Fig. 4C). The stereonet plot  
260 (Fig 4D) shows normal faults (with slickenlines), strike-slips and joints that are used to infer the  
261 direction of maximum stretching and maximum shortening (in red and blue, respectively). The  
262 direction of stretching is horizontal and at N50 (Fig. 4E). This suggests that high-angle normal and  
263 strike-slip faults (at least here sinistral along almost NNW-SSE striking fault) are compatible and  
264 developing coevally.

265 At map-scale, the Fabrika outcrop marks the local expression of a much larger NW-SE trending  
266 fault zone (from Fabrika to Galissas), explaining the unroofing of the deepest units (Pyrgos) in the  
267 center of the island and the general foliation trend, as shown in the N-S cross-section (Fig. 3C).

268

### 269 **3.3 NNW-SSE oblique faulting (e.g. Palos fault)**

270 NNW-SSE striking normal faults have already been documented by Philippon et al. (2015) in the  
271 Pyrgos marbles located north of Ermopouli (Fig. 3). On map, this fault set is visible in the  
272 southwest from Syros to Galissas (Fig. 3A). This fault set is also observed at Palos (Fig. 5A) and  
273 is correlated with minor faults observed offshore (Fig. 2 and seismic lines #4 in Fig. S4 in

274 supplementary material). This portion of the coastline is defined by a major fault, visible in the  
275 Google Earth image along with tensile joints shown in Figure 5B. This fault plane creates a major  
276 cliff (Fig. 5A), which shows tensile mineralized veins, and oblique slickenlines (Fig. 5 B, C and  
277 D). It also creates a fault breccia and gouge section of the order of ~20 m. At kilometer scale, this  
278 NNW-SSE striking faults (black line, Fig. 5A) are associated with NW-SE joints or normal faults  
279 (red line, Fig. 5A and in the stereonet). The stereonet plot (Fig. 5E) shows that the fault plane has  
280 a dominant NNW-SSE trend (brown) and shows sinistral oblique slickenlines. The tensile  
281 mineralized veins, plotted in red, also indicate sinistral normal slip. Therefore, this NNW-trending  
282 fault shows sinistral normal (oblique) slip, similar to the NNW trending sinistral fault observed at  
283 Fabrika (Fig. 3). The stereonet of Palos and Galissas data (with normal faults with slickenlines  
284 and joints) (Fig. 5E) constrains the stretching directions to be horizontal, trending NE-SW, very  
285 similar to those inferred for Fabrika.  
286 At map-scale, this fault is connected to F4 fault and defines the eastern border of the Syros/Giaros  
287 graben (see discussion in previous section and Fig. 2A).

288

### 289 **3.4 NE-SW dextral strike-slip faulting**

290 Central Syros lies along the minor strike-slip fault observed on seismic line #3 (F3 fault, Fig. 2A  
291 and 2D). In addition, we found field evidence of a minor NE-SW-trending strike-slip fault zone  
292 across central Syros. We interpret this as a minor fault set at Syros, consisting of small-scale  
293 segmented structures. Fault planes are poorly exposed here, and only a few exposures could be  
294 documented (Fig. 6). Available satellite imagery shows that this fault zone offsets the marble  
295 layers with a dextral sense of shear (Fig. 6A). A fault plane was identified, revealing oblique lateral  
296 slip (Fig. 6B). Figure 6C shows an exposure of this fault set in the eastern part of Syros, North of

297 Ermoupoli, where en-echelon shear fractures also indicate a dextral motion. No single major fault  
298 plane is found, but instead small segments of faults and associated fractures, which we plot  
299 collectively as associated structures on Figure 6B. The orientations vary, but are on average NE-  
300 SW. We also found a 10 m thick breccia layer NE-SW trending within the fault zone in central  
301 Syros, NE of Galissas Bay, which allows us to extend the fault zone drawn on the tectonic map to  
302 Galissas (Fig. 3).

303 The presence of this fault zone in central Syros is also supported by the surrounding foliation, as  
304 the foliation to the north turns into the fault zone (Fig. 3) creating a broad fold in the Pyrgos  
305 marbles (Philippon et al., 2011; 2015). This fault zone also separates the gently dipping southern  
306 half of the island from the steeper northern half, which could be explained by the occurrence of a  
307 strike-slip fault. The stereoplot, although with limited data, shows clear directions of shortening  
308 and stretching, trending E-W and N-S, respectively.

309 At map scale, this ENE-WSW dextral strike-slip is connected to the strike-slip fault F3 identified  
310 through seismic lines (Fig. 2). In addition, like for the offshore analysis, at Syros no cross-cutting  
311 relationship between dextral strike-slip and normal faults was found, suggesting potential coeval  
312 activity. Their kinematical compatibility will be discussed in section 5 in order to support the  
313 hypothesis of the coexistence of a normal and a strike-slip faulting.

314

#### 315 **4. LA-ICP-MS U-Pb dating on calcite.**

316

317 **4.1 Sampling**

318 For this study, of the 7 calcite samples tested, only calcite from two samples collected from the  
319 pure-normal Fabrika and oblique Palos fault cores (see locations in Figs 3, 4A-B-C and 5A-B-C-  
320 D) were dated by the LA-ICP-MS U-Pb method, the others being U-free.

321 On the Palos site, at the northern extremity of the island, numerous calcite-filled veins are present  
322 inside the fault core (Fig. 5A). The thickness of these veins varies between the decimeter and the  
323 centimeter (Fig. 5B). These veins show a continuous transition from a stretching vein with  
324 delocalized sealing crack to a syntaxial vein where euhedral calcite crystals grow from the wall  
325 rock into the vein (Bons et al., 2012; see Fig 5C and close-up in Fig. 5D). Sample SY19-02, which  
326 is calcite precipitated as a consequence of fracture opening associated with the NNW-SSE Palos  
327 oblique fault, was collected in the partial to perfect sealing zone of one of these veins (Fig. 5C).

328 In contrast, at the Fabrika site in the southern part of Syros, the dated sample (SY19-10) occurs as  
329 a calcite slickenfibers that precipitated along the fault plane of NW-SE Fabrika normal fault (Fig.  
330 4A and B). It is a typical crack-seal-slip calcite mineralization (Petit et al., 1999; Roberts et al.,  
331 2022).

332 Dextral strike-slip faults have not been dated because we did not find any fault core or calcite  
333 precipitation associated with these faults. In the present study we will therefore only date the  
334 activity of high-angle normal faults. We will then discuss the relationship between high-angle  
335 normal faults and dextral strike-slip faults, and hence by extrapolation discuss the age of the overall  
336 fault pattern in the northern Cyclades.

337

## 338 4.2 Instrumentation and analytical method

339 Carbonate U-Pb dating was carried out using Laser Ablation-Inductively Coupled Plasma  
340 Spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS) at the Laboratoire Magmas et Volcans (Clermont-Ferrand, France).

341 Small centimeter-size fragments of two samples were mounted in a 25 mm diameter epoxy resin  
342 disc and were polished to a 1  $\mu\text{m}$  finish.

343 Carbonate samples were ablated under pure He using a Resonetics Resolution M-50 system  
344 equipped with a 193 nm Excimer laser coupled to a Thermo Element XR sector field ICP-MS  
345 using a jet interface high-capacity pumping device in combination with X cones. N<sub>2</sub> was  
346 supplemented to Ar and He carrier gas for sensitivity enhancement (Paquette et al., 2014). The  
347 laser operated with a spot diameter of 120  $\mu\text{m}$ , a repetition rate of 10 Hz, and a fluence of 3.5  
348 J/cm<sup>2</sup> for both samples and reference materials. The mass spectrometer was tuned to maximize  
349 the <sup>238</sup>U intensity and minimize ThO<sup>+</sup>/Th<sup>+</sup> (<1%) using the NIST SRM 612 glass. Background  
350 levels were measured on-peak with the laser off for ~30 s, followed by ~60 s of measurement with  
351 the laser firing and then ~10 s of washout time (Hurai et al. 2010). The <sup>235</sup>U signal is calculated  
352 from <sup>238</sup>U based on the ratio  $^{238}\text{U}/^{235}\text{U} = 137.818$  (Hiess et al. 2012). Each analytical session  
353 consists of a repetition of blocks comprising two NIST 614 reference material, four WC-1  
354 reference material and four unknowns.

355 Given that there is no available carbonate reference material yielding a concordant U-Pb age,  
356 dating of carbonates requires a two-steps data normalization procedure approach consisting of (i)  
357 <sup>207</sup>Pb/<sup>206</sup>Pb mass bias correction based on a NIST 614 standard glass and (ii) a U/Pb inter-element  
358 fractionation correction based on the lower intercept age in the Tera Wasserburg isotopic space  
359 using the WC-1 calcite matrix-matched reference material. The data reduction method strictly  
360 follows the one described in Roberts et al. (2017). Gas-blank-corrected intensities, raw ratios and



361 uncertainties are injected into an in-house spreadsheet based on Microsoft Excel following the  
362 protocols of Roberts et al. (2017). The ratio uncertainties of reference standards ( $^{238}\text{U}/^{206}\text{Pb}$  and  
363  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$  values of NIST 614 and WC-1) and the excess scatter of the reference standard (NIST  
364 614) are propagated into the uncertainties of WC-1 and unknown analyses (samples). After  
365 correction by NIST 614 of each  $^{238}\text{U}/^{206}\text{Pb}$  and  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$  ratio of WC-1 and unknown samples,  
366 a correction factor is applied to the  $^{238}\text{U}/^{206}\text{Pb}$  ratios of each analysis point. This correction factor  
367 is determined from the WC-1 analyses for each analysis session, so that WC-1 gives an age of  
368 254.4 Ma on a Tera Wasserburg diagram, with a initial  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$  value anchored at 0.85 (Roberts  
369 et al., 2017).

370 Concentrations of U, Th, and Pb were calculated by normalization to the certified composition of  
371 NIST-614 reference material. Tera Wasserburg diagrams and isochron calculation were generated  
372 using Isoplot/Ex v. 2.49 software package by Ludwig (2001). Error ellipses for each point are  
373 quoted at the  $2\sigma$  level. Owing to the large analytical uncertainty on the ages, no additional  
374 correction for U-Th disequilibria was carried out. Common Pb-corrected  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  dates for each  
375 analytical point were calculated by IsoplotR software package (Vermeesch, 2018) using the initial  
376 lead composition  $(^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb})_0$  obtained by isochron regression (Table SM 1). ~~The binned  
377 frequency histograms coupled with a Kernel Density Estimators (KDE) plots were generated with  
378 the same software package.~~

379

### 380 **4.3 LA-ICP-MS U-Pb dating results**

381 All data obtained for the two carbonate samples are presented in supplementary material (Table  
382 SM 1). Uranium contents of the sample SY19-02, ranging from 0.5 and 3.5 ppm, are relatively  
383 homogenous and low (average value = 1.8 ppm), whereas U contents of the sample SY19-10 have

384 a wider range, with a large majority of slightly higher values (between 0.06 and 6.3 ppm; average  
385 value = 3.0 ppm) and few very high values (46-50 ppm) (Table SM1). Pb concentrations are also  
386 variable from sample to sample. They are on averaging very low about 0.1 ppm (between 0.01 and  
387 0.66 ppm) for sample SY19-02 whereas those of sample SY19-10 are between 0.06 and 14.22 ppm  
388 (average value = 4.30 ppm). For the common Pb-corrected  $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{238}\text{U}$  dates of these two samples,  
389 the dates are ranging between 9.17 and 11.31 Ma (SY19-02) and between 9.88 and 10.42 Ma  
390 (SY19-10). All the data not corrected for common Pb are plotted in Tera Wasserburg concordia  
391 diagrams ( $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$  ratios vs.  $^{238}\text{U}/^{206}\text{Pb}$  ratios) (Fig. 7A and B). Of the 40 measured analyses  
392 for sample SY19-02, 16 have large uncertainties (arbitrarily chosen for  $\geq 50\%$  for  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{235}\text{U}$ ) and  
393 are discarded (dashed ellipses) for the linear regression calculation. Similarly, only one of the 17  
394 data was not taken account for the age calculation of sample SY19-10. Note that the elimination  
395 of these data has little influence on the final date. Unconstrained linear regression on these data  
396 yields a lower intercept date of  $9.3 \pm 1.7$  Ma with an upper intercept  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$  composition of  
397  $0.82 \pm 0.01$  (MSWD = 0.11; N = 24) for sample SY19-02 and a lower intercept of  $9.7 \pm 1.8$  Ma  
398 with a  $^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$  ratio at the upper ordinate of  $0.76 \pm 0.01$ . (MWSD = 0.34; N = 16), for sample  
399 SY19-10 (Fig. 7A and B). Both lower intercept dates are similar in their error bars, at c.a. 10 Ma  
400 (Fig. 7A and B).

401

## 402 **5. Discussion**

403

### 404 **5.1 Offshore and onshore faulting pattern and kinematics of the North Cyclades**

405

406 Figure 8 presents a synthesis of the fault pattern inferred from seismic lines and onshore study in  
407 Syros.

#### 408 5.1.1/ High-angle normal faults

409 High-angle normal faults interpreted from Syros and offshore seismic profiles in the Cyclades (red  
410 faults, Fig. 8) show consistent direction with a dominant direction, mainly trending NW-SE with  
411 an evolution towards NNW-SSE. Normal faults appear to be presently active offshore, with  
412 marked bathymetric signatures. Slickenlines observed on Syros show a pure or near pure vertical  
413 slip on the NW-SE fault set (e.g. Fig. 4), and a sinistral oblique slip on the NNW-SSE fault set  
414 (e.g. Fig. 5). Additionally, the pull-apart structure in Fabrika (Fig. 4) shows an older sinistral fault  
415 trending NNW-SSE with a later extensional structure trending NW-SE. This faulting pattern is  
416 consistent with previous studies (Mascle and Martin, 1990; Gautier and Brun, 1994; Graseman et  
417 al., 2012). The novelty of our study is to provide a higher resolution offshore and to provide  
418 accurate direction of stretching (slickelines in Syros, see discussion in 5.1.3). For example, the  
419 northern part of Syros is a horst while the southern part has several tilted blocks (Figs. 3 and 8).  
420 The geometry of the northern part of Syros is consistent with the presence of a horst: northeast-  
421 trending foliation, numerous normal faults dipping southwards (Fig. 3). The north-dipping border  
422 fault is not present onshore and is only inferred offshore. The occurrence of the Kini anticline and  
423 the overall foliation trend can be a good indicator of this horst-type geometry (see Philippon et al.,  
424 2015). The interplay between normal faults and NNE-SSW dextral strike-slip faults may further  
425 explain the non-symmetrical aspect of the Kini anticline (Fig. 3 and discussion in Philippon et al.  
426 2015). In the southern part of Syros, tilted blocks can be identified with only southward high-angle  
427 dipping normal faults. This is consistent with the inferred offshore graben between Syros and  
428 Serifos/Kithnos (Fig. 8).

429

430 5.1.2/ Dextral strike-slip faults

431

432 The major novelty of this study is also to show that strike-slip faulting is widespread in the  
433 Northern Cyclades and is always associated with high-angle normal faulting, both onshore and  
434 offshore (blue faults, Fig. 8). For example, in Syros, minor NE-SW strike-slip faults have been  
435 identified, with a dextral shear sense. A major strike-slip zone limits the Cyclades, from Attica to  
436 the West, with a segment apparently trending NNE-SSW (e.g. CDL (Cava Doro-Lesvos) fault  
437 identified in Sakellariou and Tsampouraki-Kraounaki, 2018; see Figs 1 and 8). Previous studies  
438 on active tectonics of the Aegean have shown strike-slip faulting mainly in the North Aegean,  
439 north of the Cyclades (e.g. earthquakes located north of Skyros with dextral strike-slip focal  
440 mechanisms, Taymaz et al., 1991).

441 We propose here that strike-slip faults are not only present in the northern Aegean but also in the  
442 Cyclades, as well as in Attica (Pelagonian fault, Faucher et al., 2021). These strike-slip faults in  
443 the central Aegean are mainly trending NNE-SSW to NE-SW and have a dextral offset. We  
444 propose that, in the Cyclades, this strike-slip faulting pattern is controlled by a main strike-slip  
445 displacement along a NNE-SSW trending plane (thick blue lines, parallel to the CDL, Pealognian  
446 fault, Fig. 8) and minor strike-slip displacement along NE-SW trending plane (thin blue line, Fig.  
447 8). Here the strike-slip faults inferred in and west of Syros are Riedel shears type R (see tectonic  
448 sketch in inset at the scale of the Cyclades, Fig. 8).

449

450 5.1.3/ Strain tensor and kinematics

451 This study on Syros allows quantifying strain tensors and associated kinematics for the faulting

452 pattern. The strain tensors showed a NE-SW stretching for both normal faults (Palos and Fabrika,  
453 stereoplots in Figs. 4 and 5) and a more N-S stretching associated with E-W shortening for strike-  
454 slip at Syros (stereoplot in Fig. 6). The strain tensor calculated with the three sets of faults observed  
455 in Syros show that they are compatible and associated with a NNE stretching  $\lambda_1$ , a main subvertical  
456 shortening  $\lambda_3$  (since the majority of data are normal faults) and minor E-W shortening associated  
457 with  $\lambda_2$  (Syros tectonics inset, Fig. 3). In this tectonic setting, NNW-SSE faults exhibit both normal  
458 and oblique (sinistral) slips.

459 The strain kinematics on the scale of the Northern Cyclades cannot be quantitatively inferred from  
460 fault data but it can be outlined by the three sets of faults identified. The major dextral strike-slip  
461 faults are trending NNE-SSW with Riedel shears type R oriented NE-SW (like the one observed  
462 in Syros). This suggests an almost N-S extension and an E-W shortening. These principal stress  
463 directions are different from those obtained at Syros. This difference can be explained by the  
464 presence of the Riedel shears type R at Syros that produces a local stress rotation (Northern  
465 Cyclades tectonics inset, Fig. 8).

466

#### 467 5.1.4/ Northern Cyclades tectonics

468 On this basis, we propose that the normal faults together with the dextral strike-slip are compatible  
469 and reflect N-S extension and E-W shortening. Due to local stress rotation, pure normal faults are  
470 oriented NW-SE at Syros and almost E-W in the Northern Cyclades, as shown by the horst at  
471 Giaros/Syros, and the deep Myrtoon basin (Fig. 8). Normal faults define regularly spaced horst  
472 and graben (e.g. wide rift, Buck, 1991). Based on their compatibilities and on the absence of  
473 crosscutting relationship, we propose moreover that normal and strike-slip faults were active at the  
474 same time. During finite strain, clockwise rotation occurs and likely explains the variety of strikes

475 of normal faults from E-W/NW-SE (pure normal in red, Fig. 8) to NNW-SSE (oblique-sinistral,  
476 in black, Fig. 8).

477

478 We will now discuss the chronology of the development of this faulting pattern, including the first  
479 results obtained by LA-ICP-MS U-Pb dating of calcite that precipitated in two fault zones in Syros.

480

## 481 **5.2 Interpretation of U-Pb dates: ages of high-angle normal faulting in Syros**

482 Only calcite sampled along the fault zones belonging to the Fabrika high-angle pure normal fault  
483 and the Palos high-angle oblique (sinistral) normal fault could be dated by the LA-ICP-MS U-Pb  
484 method. The Fabrika calcite (SY19-10) occurs as slickenfibers, whereas the Palos calcite (SY 19-  
485 02) is located in fault-related opening-mode fractures as veins.

486 For both samples, the binned frequency histograms coupled with KDE plots of Pb-corrected  
487 common ages suggest the presence of a single analysis population with a peak date of c.a. 10 Ma  
488 (Fig. 7A). LA-ICP-MS U-Pb dating of calcite from these two samples yielded similar lower  
489 intercept dates (within analytical uncertainties) at  $9.3 \pm 1.7$  Ma (sample SY19-02) and  $9.7 \pm 1.8$   
490 Ma (sample SY19-10) for the Palos and Fabrika faults, respectively (Fig. 7B and C).

491 Dating of the calcite precipitates type crack-fill, like those associated with the Palos fault (SY19-  
492 02 sample), is the least reliable techniques for obtaining robust constraints on fault slip. However  
493 it can provide minimum dates of fault slip (Roberts et al, 2020, 2022). Indeed, the time gap between  
494 fault slip and precipitation in an open fracture void can be prolonged and could be much greater  
495 than the uncertainty of the dating method. The vugs may remain open to the present day, or be  
496 obstructed by calcite or other minerals.

497 On the other hand, Robert et al (2022) suggest that crack-seal-slip veins are most advisable for  
498 direct dating methods because, they are the most easily identifiable as syn-kinematic. The calcite  
499 slickenfibers (SY19-10 sample) grown along the Fabrika fault plane belong to this category. Both  
500 lower intercepts at c.a. 10 Ma obtained by U-Pb dating on calcite are interpreted as a minimum  
501 estimation for the age of (re)crystalization of calcite, which may have been associated either to  
502 fault motion or fluid-flow post-slip with U and Pb mobilisation. It is therefore reasonable to assume  
503 that the Fabrika high-angle pure normal fault and the Palos high-angle oblique (sinistral) normal  
504 fault have been active for at least 9-10 Ma and have recorded the same Miocene event (c.a. 10  
505 Ma).

506 Moreover, Fabrika sample SY19-10 shows a significantly lower initial (i.e. common) Pb ratio  
507 ( $(^{207}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb})_0 = 0.76 \pm 0.01$ ) than that estimated using the traditional two-stages terrestrial Pb  
508 evolution model ( $\sim 0.836$  for Miocene samples; Stacey and Kramers, 1975). Such isotopic ratios  
509 for young calcite are already described in the literature, but the underlying process is not yet well  
510 understood. In our case, this low ratio could perhaps suggest that fluids from which the calcite  
511 precipitated contained abundant radiogenic lead. ~~It is likely that a significant amount of deep-~~  
512 ~~seated fluid-rock interaction could have occurred prior to the formation of the calcite vein~~  
513 ~~precipitation.~~ Indeed, the hypothesis of a Pb loss that could have been thermally activated after  
514 calcite precipitation is considered unlikely to explain this low initial Pb ratio, as the diffusive  
515 mobility of Pb is very slow in brittle conditions at temperatures below  $\sim 400^\circ\text{C}$  (Cherniak, 1997).  
516 However, this hypothesis needs to be confirmed.

517

518 **5.3 Age of faulting in the Cyclades.**

519 Our two U-Pb ages obtained on calcite precipitates sampled in both pure normal and oblique  
520 (sinistral) normal faults constrained their activity during at least the late Miocene times (c.a. 10  
521 Ma, Figs. 7 and 8). The faulting pattern drawn in Figure 8, with coeval activity of high-angle  
522 normal faults and dextral strike-slip faults, therefore develops during the Late Miocene.

523 Previous studies have consistently proposed dextral strike-slip faulting during the late Miocene in  
524 the Cyclades. Kokkalas and Aydin (2013) have analyzed syn-tectonic plutons in the Central  
525 Aegean, at Ikaria, Tinos, Naxos and Serifos (reported on Figure 8 as red stars). These plutons are  
526 dated with varying methods (Kokkalas and Aydin, 2013) between 14 and 9 Ma (ages reported on  
527 Fig. 8). Naxos pluton is affected by NE-SW dextral strike-slip (plotted on Figure 8). Ikaria plutons  
528 are marked by a major NNE-SSW dextral strike-slip, most probably linked to a major dextral  
529 transfer zone in Turkey. Tinos and Mykonos plutons are more affected by NNW-SSE sinistral  
530 strike-slip and normal faults, which are well related to what we observed at Syros (Palos normal  
531 and oblique sinistral fault) and Fabrika (NNW-SSE sinistral strike-slip associated with NW-SE  
532 normal fault in pull-apart basin). Our structural features are therefore highly consistent and  
533 independently confirmed by this previous study. In addition, the deformation of plutons during  
534 emplacement argues a late Miocene age, independently validating the 10 Ma calcite U-Pb age we  
535 propose as the age of faults motion.

536 In Continental Greece, Faucher et al. (2021) proposed also in Evia and Attica that the Pelagonian  
537 fault acted as a major dextral strike-slip during late Miocene and the deposition of the late Miocene  
538 Kimi basin (Fig. 8). Structural data and low-temperature thermochronology ages further show that  
539 these strike-slip faults developed coevally with NW-SE trending normal faults. In Turkey, calcite  
540 U-Pb ages in the North Anatolian Fault in Turkey at around 10-11Ma show moreover that strike-



541 slip faulting occurs much older than plio-quadernary (Nuriel et al., 2019).  
542 Kokkalas and Aydin (2013) have shown that this strike-slip activity in the Cyclades continues to  
543 the present-day, based on structural analysis of quadernary volcanism and on seismo-tectonic  
544 analysis in southern Cyclades. We can therefore propose that our tectonic framework developed  
545 at least 10 Ma and is representative of the central Cyclades to the present day. This is also  
546 consistent with the faulting pattern proposed Sakellariou and Tsampouraki-Kraounaki (2018) for  
547 Plio-Quadernary (e.g; Fig 1).

### 548 **5.3 Detachment faulting or high-angle normal faulting**

549

550 The faulting pattern identified in this study, both onshore and offshore, shows only high-angle  
551 faults and no low-angle normal faults (e.g. detachment fault). Ductile exhumation of the Cycladic  
552 Blueschist Unit (CBU) is however proposed to be partly accommodated by detachment faults (see  
553 Jolivet et al., 2013 and Graseman et al., 2012 for a synthesis): the North Cycladic detachment, the  
554 Vari detachment (in Syros), the South Cycladic detachment, and the Cretan detachment (in Crete).  
555 These detachment faults accommodated the ductile exhumation of the CBU since Oligocene times  
556 and are assumed to be still active until early Miocene to late Miocene (e.g. zircon and apatite  
557 fission-track: 9-12 Ma in Syros for the Vari detachment, Ring et al., 2003). High-angle normal  
558 faults and detachment faults mechanically interact and define the Miocene tectonics of the Aegean  
559 (Graseman et al., 2012; Menant et al., 2013).

560 The offshore seismic lines used here were most probably too shallow to allow identification of  
561 structures inside the Cycladic Blueschist Unit that is the basement of the sediments. We have  
562 therefore focused our study here on high-angle normal and strike-slip faults at Syros to correlate  
563 them with the offshore data. This brittle faulting pattern, identified and marked by the coeval  
564 activity of strike-slip and high-angle normal faults, is dated at 10 Ma by our new U-Pb ages on

565 calcite. These normal faults will allow unroofing of Cycladic units to the last km, providing a  
566 possible explanation for the cluster of low-temperature ages at 10 Ma (Fig. 1). We propose that  
567 our U-Pb ages on calcite as well as the low-temperature ages group therefore mark the onset of  
568 distributed high-angle faulting in the Cyclades, as previously suggested by Philippon et al. (2012)  
569 and Brun et al. (2016). **Consistently, the transition from low-angle detachment to high-angle**  
570 **normal faulting was also documented by fission track thermochronology on Naxos at about 10 Ma**  
571 **(Seward et al., 2009).** This high angle normal faulting can occur coevally with detachment faulting,  
572 as suggested by Menant et al. (2013) in Mykonos.

#### 573 **5.4 Roll-back, extrusion: high-angle normal faulting and strike-slip faulting during** 574 **Miocene in the Aegean**

575 Aegean extension started around Eocene times and controlled by trench retreat driven by slab roll-  
576 back (Brun et al., 2016). It occurs at a relatively low rate from Eocene-Oligocene to mid-Miocene  
577 (0.6 cm/yr) and is accommodated by ductile detachment faulting (Brun et al., 2016). At c.a. 15  
578 Ma, the style of Aegean extension was modified by two main events. Firstly, trench retreat  
579 increased (from 1.7 cm/yr in late Miocene to 3.2 cm/yr today), most probably due to a change in  
580 slab roll back (slab tear, Royden and Papanikolaou, 2011). This increase in extension rate may  
581 trigger a switch from a Metamorphic Core Complex style (with detachment faulting) to a wide  
582 rifting style with high-angle normal faulting (Buck, 1991; Gueydan et al., 2008). Secondly, the  
583 onset of Anatolia extrusion (Sengör et al., 2005) leads to the formation of numerous strike-slip  
584 zones inside the hotly deforming Aegean plate (Kokkalas and Aydin, 2013; Philippon et al., 2014).  
585 On these bases, we can propose that the fault patterns constrained and dated in central Greece  
586 entirely reflect the modification in the geodynamical setting occurring in middle-late Miocene.  
587 Dextral strike-slip faults accommodated Anatolia extrusion, while the wide rifting with high-angle

588 normal faults and regularly spaced horsts and grabens accommodated the trench retreat at a high  
589 rate.

590 Note that alternatively, orogenic gravitational collapse without Anatolia extrusion, with North-  
591 South extension (and locally East-West extension) accommodated by strike slip faulting can also  
592 explain the Miocene tectonic patterns, as discussed in Gautier et al., 1999; Vanderhaeghe et al.,  
593 2007; Vanderhaeghe and Teyssier, 2001.

594 Finally, a more recent kinematic reorganisation (in Pleistocene, Armijo et al., 1999), most probably  
595 related to slab tear below Kephalaria (Royden and Papanikolaou), 2011, would explain the  
596 progressive localization of strain in the North Anatolia fault, in the Corinth rift and in Kephalaria  
597 (Perouse et al., 2012).

598

## 599 **6 Conclusion**

600

601 We have combined offshore seismic interpretation, structural data from Syros and LA-ICP-MS U-  
602 Pb dating on calcite precipitates from two Syros fault zones to characterise and date fault pattern  
603 and kinematics in the central Cyclades. We draw the following conclusions:

604 • The Cyclades shows three coexisting fault sets: pure normal faults trending E-W to NW-  
605 SE; oblique (sinistral-normal) faults trending NNW-SSE and dextral strike-slip faults  
606 trending NNE-SWW to NE-SW.

607 • For the first time, direct dating of high-angle normal faults in the Cyclades has been carried  
608 out using the LA-ICP-MS U-Pb method on calcite yielding a minimum age of c.a. 10 Ma.

609 • Normal faults are accommodating by slab rollback at a high rate since 15 Ma, forming  
610 wide rifting style of extension.

611 • Dextral strike-slip faults accommodated Anatolia extrusion that also started 15 Ma ago.

612

613

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621

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793

794 **Figure captions**

795

796 **Figure 1** : Tectonic map of the Aegean domain and of Continental Greece with reported active  
 797 plio-Quaternary faults (strike-slip faults in dark gray, normal faults in red; from Sakellariou  
 798 and Tsampouraki-Kraounaki, 2018). The main strike-slip faults: North Anatolian fault,  
 799 SB: Skyros-Biga, Pelagonian fault, CDL: Cava Doro-Lesvos, MI: Myrtoon-Ikaria. The  
 800 main rift systems: Corinth and Evvia rifts. References for low-temperature data (shown as  
 801 triangles, stars, diamonds and squares, respectively for Apatite fission tracks, Zircon fission  
 802 tracks, (U-Th)/He on Zircon and (U-Th)/He on Apatite) can be found in Faucher et al.,  
 803 (2021). Blue arrow: average directions of Anatolia westward extrusion and read arrow:  
 804 southward Hellenic trench retreat related to slab rollback (Reilinger et al., 2006).

805 **Figure 1** : Carte tectonique du domaine égéen et de la Grèce continentale avec les principales  
 806 failles actives plio-quaternaires (failles décrochantes en gris foncé, failles normales en  
 807 rouge ; d’après Sakellariou et Tsampouraki-Kraounaki, 2018). Les principales failles de  
 808 décrochement : Faille nord-anatolienne, SB : Skyros-Biga, Faille pélagonienne, CDL :



809 Cava Doro-Lesvos, MI : Myrtoon-Ikaria. Les principaux systèmes de rift : Rifts de  
810 Corinthe et d'Evvia. Les références pour les données à basse température (représentées par  
811 des triangles, des étoiles, des diamants et des carrés, respectivement pour les traces de  
812 fission de l'apatite, les traces de fission du zircon, le (U-Th)/He sur le zircon et le (U-  
813 Th)/He sur l'apatite) peuvent être trouvées dans Faucher et al. (2021). Flèche bleue :  
814 directions moyennes de l'extrusion de l'Anatolie vers l'ouest et flèche rouge : retrait du  
815 fossé hellénique vers le sud lié au retournement de la plaque (Reilinger et al., 2006)..

816

817 **Figure 2** : Offshore seismic data analysis. A/ Tectonic map of the Central Cyclades (EMODnet  
818 Bathymetry 2021 emodnet-bathymetry.eu). Seismic lines used in this study from the  
819 Hellenic Centre for Marine Research-H.C.M.R, shown in white with corresponding  
820 numbering (see all lines in Supplementary Materials, Figs S1 to S17). Inferred faults from  
821 the analysis in seismic lines: boxes for fault observed on seismic lines (red for normal fault,  
822 blue for strike-slip fault). Red/blue lines for inferred normal/strike-slip faults by correlation  
823 between seismic lines and bathymetry signature. B/ Seismic line number 14 (location in  
824 A/) with interpretation. C/ Interpretation of a negative flower structure observed in B/. D/  
825 Seismic line number 3 (location in A/) with interpretation.

826

827 **Figure 2** : Analyse des données sismiques offshore. A/ Carte tectonique des Cyclades centrales  
828 (EMODnet Bathymetry 2021 emodnet-bathymetry.eu). Les lignes sismiques utilisées dans  
829 cette étude proviennent du Centre hellénique de recherche marine (Hellenic Centre for  
830 Marine Research-H.C.M.R) et sont représentées en blanc avec la numérotation  
831 correspondante (voir toutes les lignes dans les matériaux supplémentaires, Figs S1 à S17).

832 Failles déduites de l'analyse des lignes sismiques : carrés pour les failles observées sur les  
833 lignes sismiques (rouge pour les failles normales, bleu pour les failles décrochantes). Les  
834 lignes rouges/bleues pour les failles normales/décrochantes par corrélation entre les lignes  
835 sismiques et la signature bathymétrique. B/ Ligne sismique numéro 14 (emplacement dans  
836 A/) avec interprétation. C/ Interprétation d'une structure en fleur négative observée en B/.  
837 D/ Ligne sismique numéro 3 (localisation en A/) avec interprétation.

838

839 **Figure 3** : Simplified tectonics of Syros. A/ Simplified geological map (from Keiter et al., 2011  
840 and Phillippon et al., 2011) with major fault zones observed. Red lines: pure normal faults.  
841 Black lines: oblique (normal) faults. Blue lines: dextral strike-slip faults. Boxes: locations  
842 of Figures 4, 5 and 6. Stars for locations of the two samples used for LA-ICP-MS U-Pb  
843 dating (Figs. 7). B/ Stereoplot (from the entire set of fault data in this study, presented in  
844 Figs. 4D, 5E, 6E) for the entire Syros island computed with FaultKin (Marrett and  
845 Allmendinger, 1990; Allmendinger, et al. , 2012), suggesting a coeval activity of normal  
846 faults and strike-slip faults as shown in the tectonic sketch. C/ Simplified cross-section B-  
847 B' (location in A/) showing tilted blocks associated with high-angle normal faults and the  
848 Kini-anticline in the hanging-wall.

849 **Figure 3** : Tectonique simplifiée de Syros. A/ Carte géologique simplifiée (d'après Keiter et al.,  
850 2011 et Phillippon et al., 2011) avec les principales zones de faille observées. Lignes rouges  
851 : failles normales pures. Lignes noires : failles obliques (normales-décrochantes). Lignes  
852 bleues : failles décrochantes dextres. Encadrés : emplacements des figures 4, 5 et 6. Les  
853 étoiles indiquent les emplacements des deux échantillons utilisés pour la datation U-Pb par  
854 LA-ICP-MS (Fig. 7). B/ Projection stéréo (à partir de l'ensemble des données sur les failles

855 de cette étude, présentées dans les figures 4D, 5E, 6E) pour l'ensemble de l'île de Syros  
856 calculé avec FaultKin (Marrett et Allmendinger, 1990 ; Allmendinger, et al. , 2012),  
857 suggérant une activité simultanée de failles normales et de failles décrochantes, comme le  
858 montre l'esquisse tectonique. C/ Coupe transversale simplifiée B-B' (emplacement dans A/)  
859 montrant des blocs basculés associés à des failles normales à fort pendage et montrant  
860 l'anticlinal de Kini dans le mur des failles normales.

861

862 **Figure 4:** Fabrika outcrop description (location in Fig. 3A) for NW-SE trending high-angle pure  
863 normal faults. A/ Drone view of the outcrop with main normal faults and joints in red and  
864 oblique (sinistral) normal faults in black. White star: location of sample Sy19-10. B/ Photo  
865 of a typical NW-SE trending high-angle normal faults with recrystallized fault plane  
866 (sample Sy19-10) and slickenlines. C/ Close view of the interplay between oblique and  
867 pure normal faults. D/ Stereoplot of the faults data (in red pure normal faults, in black  
868 oblique sinistral normal faults, with slickenlines in blue when present) and pole to joints as  
869 red dots. E/ Strain tensor calculated from the fault data (in D/) with FaultKin (Marrett and  
870 Allmendinger, 1990; Allmendinger, et al. , 2012) suggesting a pure extensional setting,  
871 with horizontal NE-SW stretching and vertical shortening.

872 **Figure 4:** Description de l'affleurement de Fabrika (localisation dans la Fig. 3A) pour des failles  
873 normales pures à fort pendage orientées NW-SE. A/ Vue aérienne de l'affleurement avec  
874 les failles normales principales et les fentes de tension en rouge et les failles normales  
875 obliques (senestres) en noir. L'étoile blanche indique l'emplacement de l'échantillon Sy19-  
876 10. B/ Photo d'une faille normale à fort pendage typique orientée NO-SE avec plan de faille  
877 recristallisé (échantillon Sy19-10) et lignes de glissement. C/ Vue rapprochée de

878 l'interaction entre les failles obliques et les failles normales pures. D/ Projection  
879 stéréographique des données sur les failles (en rouge les failles normales pures, en noir les  
880 failles normales obliques senestres, avec les stries en bleu lorsqu'elles sont présentes) et les  
881 pôles des fentes de tension sous forme de points rouges. E/ Tenseur de déformation calculé  
882 à partir des données de failles (en D/) avec FaultKin (Marrett et Allmendinger, 1990 ;  
883 Allmendinger, et al. , 2012) suggérant un contexte d'extension pure, avec un étirement  
884 horizontal NE-SW et un raccourcissement vertical.

885

886 **Figure 5:** Palos outcrop description (location in Fig. 3A) for NNW-SSE trending high-angle  
887 oblique (normal) faults. A/ Satellite image (Google Earth) of the Palos peninsula area with  
888 inferred oblique (sinistral) normal faults (in black) and pure normal faults (in red). B/ Close  
889 view of one major fault plane with gouge, breccia and open joints with calcite precipitation  
890 (sample Sy19-02). C/ Details from B/ of an oblique slickenlines on the fault plane. D/  
891 Details from B/ of open joints with calcite (location of sample Sy19-02). E/ Stereoplot of  
892 the faults data (in red pure normal faults, in black oblique sinistral normal faults, with  
893 slickenlines in blue when present) and pole to joints as red dots. F/ Stain tensor calculated  
894 from the fault data (in E/) using FaultKin with FaultKin (Marrett and Allmendinger, 1990;  
895 Allmendinger, et al. , 2012), suggesting oblique extensional setting, with horizontal NE-  
896 SW stretching and sub vertical shortening.

897 **Figure 5:** Description de l'affleurement de Palos (localisation dans la Fig. 3A) pour les failles  
898 obliques (normales) à fort pendage orientées NNW-SSE. A/ Image satellite (Google Earth)  
899 de la région de la péninsule de Palos avec des failles normales obliques (senestres)  
900 présumées (en noir) et des failles normales pures (en rouge). B/ Vue rapprochée d'un plan

901 de faille majeur avec gouge, brèche et fentes de tension ouvertes avec précipitation de  
902 calcite (échantillon Sy19-02). C/ Détails de B/ d'une strie oblique sur le plan de faille. D/  
903 Détails de B/ de fentes de tension ouvertes avec précipitation de calcite (emplacement de  
904 l'échantillon Sy19-02). E/ Projection stéréographique des données sur les failles (en rouge  
905 les failles normales pures, en noir les failles normales senestres obliques, avec les stries en  
906 bleu lorsqu'elles sont présentes) et le pôle des fentes de tension sous forme de points rouges.  
907 F/ Tenseurs de Tenseur de déformation calculé à partir des données de failles (en E/) en  
908 utilisant FaultKin avec FaultKin (Marrett et Allmendinger, 1990 ; Allmendinger, et al. ,  
909 2012), suggérant un contexte d'extension oblique, avec un étirement horizontal NE-SW et  
910 un raccourcissement subvertical.

911

912 **Figure 6:** Central Syros outcrop description (location in Fig. 3A) for NE-SW trending dextral  
913 strike-slip faults. A/ Satellite image (near Episkopeio and Kini) with observed and inferred  
914 dextral strike-slip faults (in blue) offsetting marble layers (drawn in white dashed line) and  
915 high-angle normal faults in red. B/ Satellite image (north of Ermopouli, near Papouri  
916 Episkopeio and Kini) with observed and inferred dextral strike-slip faults (in blue)  
917 offsetting marble layers (drawn in white dashed line) and oblique (sinistral) normal faults  
918 in black. C/ Fault plane (location in A/) with observed oblique slickenlines. D/ Example of  
919 dextral strain corridor (location in B/) with en-échelon joints showing dextral motion. E/  
920 Stereoplot of the faults data (in red pure normal faults, in black oblique sinistral normal  
921 faults, and in blue dextral strike-slip faults with slickenlines when present) and pole to  
922 joints as red dots. F/ Strain tensors calculated from the fault data (in E/) using FaultKin

923 (Marrett and Allmendinger, 1990; Allmendinger, et al. , 2012), suggesting dextral strike-  
924 slip setting, with horizontal N-S stretching and E-W horizontal shortening.

925 **Figure 6:** Description des affleurements du centre de Syros (localisation dans la Fig. 3A) pour les  
926 failles de décrochantes dextres orientées NE-SW. A/ Image satellite (près d'Episkopeio et  
927 de Kini) avec des failles décrochantes dextre observées et déduites (en bleu) décalant des  
928 couches de marbre (dessinées en pointillés blancs) et des failles normales à fort pendage  
929 en rouge. B/ Image satellite (au nord d'Ermopouli, près de Papouri Episkopeio et Kini) avec  
930 des failles décrochantes dextre observées et déduites (en bleu) décalant des couches de  
931 marbre (dessinées en pointillés blancs) et des failles normales obliques (sinistrées) en noir.  
932 C/ Plan de faille (emplacement en A/) avec stries obliques observées. D/ Exemple de  
933 couloir de déformation décrochant dextre (emplacement en B/) avec des fentes en-échelon  
934 montrant un mouvement dextre. E/ Projection stéréographique des données sur les failles  
935 (en rouge les failles normales pures, en noir les failles normales obliques senestres, et en  
936 bleu les failles décrochantes dextre avec les stries lorsqu'elles sont présentes) et le pôle des  
937 fentes de tension sous forme de points rouges. F/ Tenseur de déformation calculé à partir  
938 des données des failles (en E/) à l'aide de FaultKin (Marrett et Allmendinger, 1990 ;  
939 Allmendinger, et al. , 2012), suggérant un décrochement dextre, avec un étirement  
940 horizontal N-S et un raccourcissement horizontal E-W.

941

942 **Figure 7:** LA-ICP-MS U-Pb results obtained on calcite sampled along the Palos (SY19-02) and  
943 Fabrika (SY19-10) faults. ~~A binned frequency histograms coupled with a Kernel Density~~  
944 ~~Estimators (KDE) plots with all common Pb-corrected dates for both samples. B and B:~~  
945 Tera Wasserburg pots for samples SY19-02 and SY19-10, respectively. Error ellipses and

946 uncertainties on dates are  $\pm 2\sigma$ . Dotted ellipses are not taken into account for the date  
947 calculation (see text).

948 **Figure 7** : Les résultats LA-ICP-MS U-Pb obtenus sur les calcites prélevées le long des failles de  
949 Palos (SY19-02) et de Fabrika (SY19-10). **A** : ~~les histogrammes de fréquences couplés~~  
950 ~~avec les estimations par noyau (Kernel Density Estimators: KDE) obtenus avec toutes les~~  
951 ~~données corrigées du Pb commun pour chaque échantillon.~~ **B et B** : Les diagrammes Tera  
952 Wasserburg pour les échantillons SY19-02 et SY19-10, respectivement. Les ellipses  
953 d'erreur et les incertitudes sur les âges sont à  $\pm 2\sigma$ . Les ellipses en pointillées ne sont pas  
954 prises en compte pour le calcul des âges (voir texte).

955

956 **Figure 8** : Synthetic tectonic map of the Central Cyclades and Attica showing major faults inferred  
957 from our onshore and offshore study: dextral strike-slip in blue, pure normal faults in red  
958 and oblique (sinistral) normal faults in black. Major dextral strike-slip faults: Pelagonian  
959 fault, SB, CDL and MI (see Fig. 1). Blue octogones for dated syntectonic plutons  
960 suggesting Miocene activity of the Myrthes Ikaria (Kokkalas and Aydin, 2013). Stars for  
961 the fault plane dated in this study (high-angle normal fault and oblique (sinistral) normal  
962 faults). Inset: tectonic sketch showing the coeval activity of dextral, normal and oblique  
963 faults with N-S extension and E-W shortening.

964

965 **Figure 8** : Carte tectonique synthétique des Cyclades centrales et de l'Attique montrant les failles  
966 majeures déduites de notre étude onshore et offshore : décrochement dextre en bleu, failles  
967 normales pures en rouge et failles normales obliques (senestres) en noir. Décrochements  
968 dextres majeurs : faille pélagonienne, SB, CDL et MI (voir Fig. 1). Octogones bleus pour

969 les plutons syntectoniques datés suggérant une activité miocène du décrochement MI  
970 (Kokkalas et Aydin, 2013). Étoiles : plans de faille datées dans cette étude (failles  
971 normales pures à fort pendage et failles normales obliques (senestres)). En médaillon :  
972 croquis tectonique montrant l'activité contemporaine des failles dextres, normales et  
973 obliques avec extension N-S et raccourcissement E-W.

974

### 975 **Supplementary materials**

976 **Table S1:** Operating conditions and instrument setting for U-Pb analyses

977 **Table S1 :** Conditions opératoires et réglages des instruments pour les analyses U-Pb

978

979 **Table S2:** U-Pb data obtained by LA-ICP-MS on calcite analyses for samples SY19-02 and SY19-  
980 10 and for standard WC-1.

981 **Table S2 :** Données U-Pb obtenues par LA-ICP-MS sur la calcite pour les échantillons SY19-02  
982 et SY19-10 et pour le standard WC-1.

983

984 Figure S1 : Seismic line #1, location on Figure 2A

985 Figure S1: Ligne sismique #1, localisation sur la Figure 2A

986

987 Figure S2 : Seismic line #2, location on Figure 2A

988 Figure S2: Ligne sismique #2, localisation sur la Figure 2A

989

990 Figure S3 : Seismic line #3, location on Figure 2A

991 Figure S3: Ligne sismique #3, localisation sur la Figure 2A



992

993 Figure S4 : Seismic line #4, location on Figure 2A

994 Figure S4: Ligne sismique #4, localisation sur la Figure 2A

995

996 Figure S5 : Seismic line #5, location on Figure 2A

997 Figure S5: Ligne sismique #5, localisation sur la Figure 2A

998

999 Figure S6 : Seismic line #6, location on Figure 2A

1000 Figure S6: Ligne sismique #6, localisation sur la Figure 2A

1001

1002 Figure S7 : Seismic line #7, location on Figure 2A

1003 Figure S7: Ligne sismique #7, localisation sur la Figure 2A

1004

1005 Figure S8 : Seismic line #8, location on Figure 2A

1006 Figure S8: Ligne sismique #8, localisation sur la Figure 2A

1007

1008 Figure S9 : Seismic line #9, location on Figure 2A

1009 Figure S9 : Ligne sismique #9, localisation sur la Figure 2A

1010

1011 Figure S10 : Seismic line #10, location on Figure 2A

1012 Figure S10: Ligne sismique #10, localisation sur la Figure 2A

1013

1014 Figure S11 : Seismic line #11, location on Figure 2A

1015 Figure S11: Ligne sismique #11, localisation sur la Figure 2A  
1016  
1017 Figure S12 : Seismic line #12, location on Figure 2A  
1018 Figure S12: Ligne sismique #12, localisation sur la Figure 2A  
1019  
1020 Figure S13 : Seismic line #13, location on Figure 2A  
1021 Figure S13: Ligne sismique #13, localisation sur la Figure 2A  
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1023 Figure S14 : Seismic line #14, location on Figure 2A  
1024 Figure S14: Ligne sismique #14, localisation sur la Figure 2A  
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1026 Figure S15 : Seismic line #15, location on Figure 2A  
1027 Figure S15: Ligne sismique #15, localisation sur la Figure 2A  
1028  
1029 Figure S16 : Seismic line #16, location on Figure 2A  
1030 Figure S16: Ligne sismique #16, localisation sur la Figure 2A  
1031  
1032 Figure S17 : Seismic line #17, location on Figure 2A  
1033 Figure S17: Ligne sismique #17, localisation sur la Figure 2A  
1034  
1035 Figure S18 : Mg X-ray map and backscattered electron (BSE) images of a calcite grain from  
1036 sample SY19-10, collected at the Fabrika site. This sample occurs as a calcite slickenfibers

1037 that precipitated along the fault plane of NW-SE Fabrika normal fault. It is a typical crack-  
1038 seal-slip calcite mineralization.

1039 Optical photograph, and cathodoluminescence (CL) and backscattered electron (BSE)  
1040 images of an euhedral calcite crystal from one of the many calcite-filled veins present  
1041 inside the Palos fault core. Sample SY19-02 is relatively impurity-free calcite which  
1042 precipitated following the opening of a fracture associated with the NNW-SSE Palos  
1043 oblique fault, and was collected in the partial to perfect sealing zone of one of these veins.  
1044 These two dated samples clearly show the presence of a single homogeneous calcite  
1045 population in both cases.

1046

1047 Figure S18 : Cartographie X de la répartition du Mg et imagerie en électrons rétrodiffusés (BSE)  
1048 d'un grain de calcite de l'échantillon SY19-10, prélevé sur le site de Fabrika. Cet échantillon  
1049 provient d'une calcite qui a précipité sur une strie du plan de faille normale NW-SE de  
1050 Fabrika. Il s'agit d'une minéralisation typique de calcite de type fracture-colmatage-  
1051 glissement.

1052 Photographie optique, imagerie en cathodoluminescence (CL) et d'électrons rétrodiffusés  
1053 (BSE) d'un cristal de calcite euédrique provenant d'une des nombreuses veines remplies de  
1054 calcite présentes à l'intérieur du cœur de la faille de Palos. L'échantillon SY19-02 est une  
1055 calcite relativement exempte d'impuretés qui a précipité suite à l'ouverture d'une fracture  
1056 associée à la faille oblique NNW-SSE de Palos, et qui a été prélevée dans la zone de  
1057 colmatage partiel à total d'une de ces veines. Ces deux échantillons datés montrent  
1058 clairement la présence d'une seule et unique population de calcite homogène dans les deux  
1059 cas.

