

1 **Revisiting orogens during the OROGEN project: Tectonic**
2 **maturity, a key element to understand orogenic variability**

3 E. Masini ^{1,2}, S. Jammes ¹, S. Calassou ³, O. Vidal ², I. Thion ⁴, G. Manatschal ⁵,
4 S. Chevrot ⁶, M. Ford ⁷, F. Mouthereau ⁶, O. Lacombe ⁸
5 & The Orogen Team

¹*M&U SASU, Geology by Research, 38360 Sassenage, France*

²*ISTERRE, University of Grenoble Alpes, 38000 Grenoble, France*

³*TOTAL SE, R&D Department, 64000 Pau, France*

⁴*BRGM, Orléans, France*

⁵*Université de Strasbourg, CNRS, ITES UMR 7063, Strasbourg F-67084, France*

⁶*GET, UMR 5563, Observatoire Midi Pyrénées, Université Paul Sabatier, CNRS, IRD, Toulouse, France*

⁷*CRPG, Université de Lorraine, Nancy, France*

⁸*Sorbonne Université, Institut des Sciences de la Terre de Paris (ISTeP), CNRS-INSU, 75005 Paris, France*

6

7 **SUMMARY**

8

9 By demonstrating that extensional inheritance plays a decisive role in the formation of
10 orogens, recent studies have questioned the ability of a unique, complete Wilson cycle
11 model to explain the diversity of collisional orogens. For 5 years, the OROGEN Research
12 Project had therefore the ambition to challenge this classical Wilson cycle model. By
13 focusing on the diffuse Africa-Europe plate boundary in the Biscay-Pyrenean-Western

14 Mediterranean system, the project questioned the preconceived “Orogen singularity” as-
15 sumption and investigated the role of divergent and convergent maturities in orogenic
16 and post-orogenic processes. This work led us to rethink the development of collisional
17 orogens in a genetic (or process-driven) way and to propose an updated version of the
18 ”classical Wilson cycle”, the Wilson Cycle 2.0, and the ORO-Genic ID concept presented
19 in this paper.

20 The particularity of the Wilson Cycle 2.0 is to take into account the divergence and con-
21 vergence maturity reached during extensional and orogenic processes in proposing dif-
22 ferent tectonic tracks associated with different ORO-Genic ID numbers. The ORO-Genic
23 ID is composed of a letter (or track), corresponding to the maturity of divergence reached
24 and a number corresponding to the maturity of convergence reached during the formation
25 of the orogen. This new concept relies on the observed pre- and syn- convergent tectono-
26 stratigraphic and magmatic record and deformation history and can be identified in using
27 diagnostic criteria presented in this paper. It represents therefore a powerful tool that can
28 be used to characterize the evolution and the architectural type of an orogenic system.
29 Moreover, as a mappable concept, it can be easily used worldwide and can help us to
30 explain differences in the style of deformation at crustal scale between orogens.

31 **Key words:** Wilson Cycle, Orogenesis, rifting inheritances, tectonic maturity, Africa-
32 Europe plate boundary, Bay of Biscay-Pyrenean system

33 1 PREAMBLE

34 Orogens display a large variability of size, relief, lithotypes, along- and across-strike structures, as
35 well as in their tectono-stratigraphic and metamorphic records, suggesting that each orogen is unique.
36 What controls this apparent diversity remains an open question: does it relate to a variability in the
37 orogenic processes at work during convergence? Or does it relate to a variability in the characteristics
38 of the oceanic/rift system involved, which we refer to as “divergence inheritance” or to a combination
39 of both? The OROGEN research project, an academic-industry joint-venture involving more than one
40 hundred geoscientists, was set up to answer these questions. Over 5 years, 30 PhD and post-doctoral
41 projects handled by young talents, to whom this paper is dedicated, have challenged the preconceived
42 ”orogen singularity” assumption. The study area chosen for the project was the diffuse Africa-Europe

43 plate boundary in the Biscay-Pyrenean-Western Mediterranean system because it provides a present-
44 day access to different evolutionary steps of a Wilson Cycle spatially (un-shortened rift, early orogen,
45 evolved collisional orogen, post-orogenic rift).

46 Based on new seismic imaging methods, focused multidisciplinary field studies, and innovative
47 analytical and simulation methods, a new observation-driven, holistic understanding of orogenic pro-
48 cesses has emerged. Never conceptualized before as such, it evaluates each tectonic stage with respect
49 of its precursors including pre-convergence records. Although the Biscay-Pyrenean system is one of
50 the best documented orogenic systems in the world, the new approach developed in the OROGEN
51 project has achieved a new level in the detailed description of the architecture of this orogenic system
52 and in the understanding of its evolution.

53 The results of the OROGEN Research Project have been published in around a hundred papers,
54 within and outside this special volume. The main results, concepts and interpretations have been sum-
55 marized in five review papers that build the backbone of the special volume. They are respectively
56 about: (1) a geophysical passive seismic imaging techniques (Chevrot et al. 2022); (2) the key role
57 of pre-orogenic inheritance with a specific focus on rift inheritance (Manatschal et al. 2021); (3) the
58 tectono-sedimentary record and how it can help unravel the link between relief and basin genesis from
59 pre- to post-orogenic stages (Ford et al. 2022); (4) the impact of near- versus far-field interactions on
60 orogenesis (Mouthereau et al. 2021); and (5) the role of the subducting slab dynamics in syn- and
61 post-orogenic records (Jolivet et al. 2021).

62 The following contribution builds on the results of the OROGEN Research Project and on the
63 five aforementioned review papers. It certainly cannot compile all of the individual outcomes of the
64 OROGEN project, but we hereby aim to introduce, provide examples, and discuss the concept of
65 “tectonic maturity”, which has emerged from extensive discussions among the OROGEN researchers.
66 The “tectonic maturity” concept aims to integrate the variability of the pre-, syn- and post-orogenic
67 settings considering that each stage of the Wilson cycle (divergence and convergence) can continue
68 until its most mature evolutionary stage or can stop prematurely if the driving forces cease. This re-
69 quires us therefore to look at a given final orogenic product as the result of the interactions between
70 “inheritances” and convergence-induced processes. This approach contrasts with the traditional view,
71 which considers that an orogen is primarily controlled by convergence-induced processes and a par-
72 tially inherited mechanical stratigraphic template. In this view, each orogen is unique and cannot be
73 understood in a genetic way and time-space geological prediction strictly relies on a regional expertise.

2 INTRODUCTION

In the 1960s, scientists started to understand that orogens are part of the plate tectonic process that became known as the Wilson Cycle (Wilson 1966; Dewey & Bird 1970). The Wilson Cycle was quickly accepted, and rapidly became a paradigm and a starting point in plate tectonic reconstructions. The main assumption was that orogens went through the same life-cycle including rifting, seafloor spreading, oceanic subduction, continental collision and post-orogenic collapse and that diversity amongst orogens resulted from unique geological processes and different boundary conditions rather than from differences in their life-cycle. Recent studies in the Pyrenees and the Alps, both belonging to the best studied orogens world-wide, have raised questions about the role of pre-orogenic structures during early collision, formation of internal parts of these orogens and the control that an orogen segment can have on adjacent segments as a boundary condition. In both alpine and pyrenean orogens, the observations of preserved remnants of distal margins within their inner (internal) units suggest that some of the present-day complexities may be inherited from the pre-orogenic rifting phase. More generally, Chenin et al. (2017) and Vasey et al. (2024), suggest that orogens resulting from the closure of narrow oceans and essentially controlled by crustal-deformation processes (Vlaar & Cloetingh 1984; Pognante et al. 1986; Rosenbaum & Lister 2005; Mohn et al. 2010) differ from orogens resulting from the closure of wide oceans and subduction-induced processes (Uyeda 1981; Willett et al. 1993; Ernst 2005; Handy et al. 2010). By demonstrating that extensional inheritance plays a decisive role in the formation of orogens, these results pave the way to new interpretations of the internal parts of collisional orogens and generate a new genetic way (meaning process-driven way in this paper) to classify them as a function of divergent and convergent maturities. This in turn challenges the ability of a unique, complete Wilson cycle model to explain the diversity of collisional orogens.

No study prior to the OROGEN project has explored in such a systematic way the architecture of a wide area preserving different evolutionary steps of the Wilson Cycle, as observed along the diffuse Africa-Europe plate boundary in the Biscay-Pyrenean-Western Mediterranean system. The work of more than one hundred Earth scientists involved in the project did not only produce new seismic images of the subsurface, new mapping of critical structures and new analytical data, including chronological and dynamic models, but also a new observation-driven, holistic understanding of orogenic processes, from the pre- to the post-orogenic stage. The OROGEN community developed the new concept of “tectonic maturity”, which can integrate so-called immature extensional systems (i.e., extensional systems devoid of wide oceanic domains or hyperextended distal margins) in a Wilson Cycle and thus proposes an updated version of the Wilson Cycle. As it is, the classical Wilson cycle represents only orogen resulting of the closure of wide oceanic domain and subsequent collision of margins. On the contrary, the updated model, referred to as Wilson Cycle 2.0, has been developed to

108 integrate the different degrees of maturity that can be reached in magma-poor divergent settings and
109 how these divergence templates interact with convergence. The conceptual model, as well as examples
110 and applications are presented in sections 3 and 4. As a disclaimer, it is important to note that the con-
111 cept has been developed based on observation made in Western European Orogens built on failed rift
112 and/or narrow oceans. Its applicability to Himalayan and Andean systems remains to be investigated.

113 **3 THE CONCEPT OF TECTONIC MATURITY AND THE WILSON CYCLE 2.0**

114 The Wilson Cycle 2.0 (WC 2.0), like the traditional version, is a representation of successive diver-
115 gent and convergent tectonic stages that can be reached through time as stable continents diverge and
116 converge (see Fig. 1). However, the WC 2.0, allows, in contrast to the original version, for possible
117 "shortcuts" that depend on the tectonic maturity reached during divergence. Indeed, the WC 2.0's main
118 assumption is that the fate of convergent systems depends partly on the degree of maturity reached dur-
119 ing divergence. To integrate possible shortcuts in the WC 2.0, we associate divergent maturity levels
120 (A, B, C, or D) to convergent maturity levels (1, 2, 3 or 4) within an orogenic life-cycle, referred to as
121 tectonic tracks. For clarity, the different possible tectonic tracks (A, B, C and D) are fully represented
122 in supplementary material (see figures A1, A2, A3 and A4). Note that "impossible domains", indicated
123 in grey in Fig. 1 and supplementary material, correspond to the shortcuts in the track, which depend
124 on the final maturity reached during divergence (i.e. function of when continents stop separating).
125 For example, without the formation of a wide ocean, no mature oceanic subduction associated with a
126 volcanic arc can form as it cannot give birth to a subducting plate with sufficient negative buoyancy
127 (Chenin et al. 2017). A key point in the new approach is to be able to define the degree of divergent
128 and convergent maturity reached in a track, based on first order geological observations and clear diag-
129 nostic criteria (see Tables 1 and 2). Rigorous application of the diagnostic criteria allows the definition
130 of the so-called Orogenic-Genetic Identification number (ORO-Genic ID). This code corresponds to a
131 letter and a number corresponding to the maximum maturity reached during a track (for instance D1
132 for a full, classical Wilson cycle). The ORO-Genic ID can express the evolution of an orogenic system
133 but can also be used to map domains that result from different tracks (see chapter 4).

134 It is important to note that some ORO-Genic IDs do not exist as shown with the grey areas in
135 Fig. 1. Examples are A1, A2, and A3 along track A (Fig. A1), or B1 and B2 along track B (Fig.
136 A2). The main reason is that the formation of an oceanic subduction system requires, to initiate and
137 be sustainable, a wide oceanic domain. In the case of track C (immature, narrow oceanic domain,
138 Fig. A3), a subduction can initiate (ORO-Genic ID C1), however, continents start to interact (stage 3)
139 before the negative buoyancy of the slab reaches the critical value leading to a mature, self-sustained
140 subduction (slab-pull efficient enough to sustain the subduction) (Chenin et al. 2017). Such systems

141 will therefore take a short cut and evolve, if not abandoned, to early orogenesis (ORO-Genic ID C3)
142 and collision (ORO-Genic ID C4) without creating a mature subduction (impossible ORO-Genic ID
143 C2) (Fig. 1).

144 Defining the respective degree of divergent and convergent maturity and therefore the ORO-Genic
145 ID requires distinctive and clear criteria, based on rigorous geological or geophysical observations,
146 and can result in a mapping approach as shown in chapter 4. Similar approaches have been used in the
147 Alps and are described in McCarthy et al. (2021). In the following paragraphs we define the diagnostic
148 criteria and the approach used to define divergent and convergent maturity stages.

149 **3.1 Divergent maturity**

150 In the WC 2.0, we define 4 stages of increasing divergent maturity that can be characterized as follow
151 (see Table 1):

152 • Early Rift (A): This stage shows only local and very limited crustal thinning and extension
153 ($\beta < 1.5$), with top and base crust remaining tabular at a crustal scale. Rift basins are high-angle normal
154 fault controlled (limited crustal-scale subsidence due to crustal thinning), distributed and often later-
155 ally disconnected (distributed strain). Faults are high-angle and sole out at mid-crustal ductile levels.
156 Syn-rift sediments can either show high thickness and/or facies variations over short distances (fault-
157 controlled), whereas post-rift sediments show, over wide areas, little accommodation (km) and limited
158 regional thermal subsidence.

159 • Hyperextended rift (B): This stage is characterised by a proximal domain where the crust is
160 weakly extended (similar to the rift domain formed in A) and a distal hyperextended crust (< 10
161 km thick, $\beta > 2$) with deep, wide and long segmented basins. The proximal and distal domains are
162 limited by a crustal necking zone where the crust tapers across variable distances. Extension is ac-
163 commodated by long-offset normal faults / detachment faults that first thin the crust (necking faults)
164 and then exhume the mantle underneath a progressively embrittled, hydrated and tapering continen-
165 tal crust. This structural style reflects strain localization rifting by comparison with early rifting and
166 efficiently forms horizontal space by exhuming new surfaces. Mantle-decoupled hyper-extension ulti-
167 mately leads to exhumation of lower crust beneath supra-detachment basins whereas mantle-coupled
168 hyper-extension leads to juxtaposition of sediments with mantle rocks. As faults are long-offset (high
169 strain) and cross the entire crust, fluids efficiently circulate leading to hydrated crustal and mantle
170 rocks (i.e. serpentinization). Note that magmatic processes also interact with rifting and can range
171 between N-MORB and alkaline. Syn-rift accommodation space is maximum within a wide and highly
172 subsiding rift basin. Syn-rift sediments can therefore be up to 10km-thick for fully-filled basins but
173 generally show deepening depositional environments to abyssal environments if syn-rift sedimenta-

174 tion rates are low. Post-rift sediments are also generally deep-marine, but can be in extreme cases (e.g.
175 front of large deltas) shallow marine/continental but with kilometric thicknesses.

176 • **Narrow Oceanic basin (C):** This stage includes, in addition to the aforementioned characteristics,
177 an OCT (Oceanic-Continent Transition) domain (with exhumed mantle and/or magmatic additions
178 ranging from alkaline to T-MOR compositions) and an embryonic oceanic lithosphere made of ex-
179 humed subcontinental mantle. We consider an oceanic system as “narrow” or ”immature” when it is
180 too narrow and not dense enough (density being composition and/or age-dependent) to create a slab
181 able to generate and sustain a subduction by negative buoyancy (i.e. slab pull) only.

182 • **Wide Ocean (D):** This stage is related to the formation of a wide oceanic lithosphere between
183 diverging continents. Mantle and magmatic rocks are genetically linked and expected to be N-MORB
184 except if a plume is present. We consider the ocean as “wide” or ”mature” if it can generate a sus-
185 tainable (i.e., slab-pull controlled) subduction. Note that Chenin et al. (2017) proposed that oceans
186 wider than 300km can be considered as “wide oceans”. However, as subduction is a consequence of
187 the negative buoyancy of a slab, the age and the composition of the slab should be also considered at
188 the onset of convergence.

189 While the divergent maturity stages A to D are easy to define at present day rifted margins using
190 seismic data (see rift-domain concept of Tugend et al. (2014)), in orogenic systems their recognition is
191 more difficult and based mainly on diagnostic criteria (see 1). A major challenge in orogenic systems is
192 also that parts of the divergent system and especially wide oceans have been subducted, and, therefore,
193 must be recognized by indirect criteria, such as the occurrence of arc signatures or by tomographic
194 mapping of detached slabs in the underlying mantle. In contrast, distal parts of magma-poor margins,
195 including the serpentinized mantle, either commonly escape subduction or are subducted and then
196 exhumed and emplaced as high-pressure rocks in internal units of collisional orogens. Magma-rich
197 margins are likely to be subducted and therefore not to be present in collisional orogens (see Gómez-
198 Romeu et al. (2023); Ganade et al. (sub)).

199 In a more applied way, and as explained previously, in the ORO-Genic ID (see Fig. 1 and Table 1),
200 it is important to identify the highest stage of divergent maturity reached prior to convergence, which
201 can be done by answering, in a consecutive way, the following three questions.

202 Q_{D1}: Did rifting stop before necking, i.e., before thinning the crust to less than 20km thickness?

203 Q_{D2}: Did rifting result in crustal separation and formation of a proto-oceanic domain?

204 Q_{D3}: Did seafloor spreading result in a wide/mature oceanic domain that could give birth to a mature
205 subduction?

206

207 A “yes” to Q_{D1} points to stage A (Early Rift), while a “no” to Q_{D1} and Q_{D2} is characteristic of

208 stage B (Hyperextended Rift); a “yes” to Q_{D2} and a “no” to Q_{D3} points to stage C (Narrow Oceanic
209 basin), and finally, a “yes” to Q_{D3} is compatible with stage D (Wide Ocean). Answering Q_{D1} , Q_{D2}
210 and Q_{D3} requires the use of diagnostic criteria listed in table 1. An example of how to apply this new
211 concept is presented in chapter 4 using the focus area of the OROGEN project.

212 **3.2 Convergent maturity**

213 In the WC 2.0, we define 4 stages of convergent maturity labelled as 1, 2, 3 and 4 in Fig. 1 that can be
214 characterized as follow:

215 • **Immature Subduction (1):** In this stage, most of the deformation is localized along the subduct-
216 ing slab made either of mature or proto-oceanic lithosphere. Structurally, this results in thin-skinned
217 dominated deformation in the accretionary wedge with limited deformation involving the basement in
218 the retro-wedge. Subduction-related magmatism may be in an embryonic stage or simply absent. If
219 far-field driven convergence stops, the gravity-driven forces (slab-pull) are as yet insufficient to coun-
220 teract the buoyancy of the slab and therefore subduction fails and freezes (see dead subduction system
221 in Fig. 1).

222 • **Mature Subduction (2):** In this convergence stage, deformation is still localized along the subduct-
223 ing slab and results mostly in thin-skinned deformation in the accretionary wedge mostly involving
224 oceanic sediments. Calc-alkaline magmatism is expected in the upper plate forming a mature arc,
225 but can be inhibited by the magma-poor nature of the oceanic lithosphere (McCarthy et al. 2018). If
226 far-field driven convergence stops, the negative buoyancy of the subducted oceanic slab (slab-pull)
227 remains dominant. As a result, the subduction cannot stop, leading to the retreat of the slab and the
228 development of a back-arc basin in the upper plate (see back-arc system in post convergence situation
229 in Fig. 1). Note that a decrease in plate convergence can lead to a similar record.

230 • **Early Orogenesis (3):** In this stage, most of the deformation is concentrated in the inverting hy-
231 perextended domain. Reactivation occurs in the presence of flysch type (deep-water syn-orogenic
232 turbidite) sedimentation and if previously present, arc-type magmatic activity stops in the upper plate
233 as continental material enters the subduction zone (so called “continental subduction”). The front of
234 thick-skinned deformation (or deformation involving the basement) remains in between the necking
235 lines (see Fig. 2b) implying that at this stage only former distal (hyperextended) parts of the rifted mar-
236 gin are consumed and rift/post-rift sedimentation deforms within the accretionary wedge. The distal
237 parts of the down going crustal taper in the lower plate can reach HP to UHP conditions (>15 kbars)
238 prior to being exhumed back in the subduction channel, leading to a prograde-retrograde metamorphic
239 record. If convergence stops, an early orogen involving only inversion of the hyperextended domain
240 is formed (see early orogen system in post convergence situation in Fig. 1). If this early orogenesis

241 stage follows a mature subduction (track D, see Fig. A4), the hanging wall contains former arc mate-
242 rial. In addition, the underthrusting of the hyperextended domain made of low-density crustal material
243 increases slab buoyancy and plays against the slab-pull force. The subduction can stop, and the slab
244 can detach (e.g., slab breakoff of Davies & von Blanckenburg (1995)). Alternatively, if early orogen-
245 esis follows an immature subduction (track C, see Fig. A3), the hanging wall is formed by the former
246 conjugate margin without former arc activity. The slab can reach high-pressure conditions but may not
247 be exhumed. Slab breakoff is not necessarily expected. The slab is therefore preserved at depth and
248 visible in tomographic data section which can explain the lack of exhumation of high-pressure rocks.

249 • **Mature Collision or Inverted Basin (4):** In this convergence stage, deformation migrates out over
250 previously weakly thinned crust (crust >20km thick) and propagates outside the necking domain in the
251 pro-wedge side. Thick-skinned structural shortcuts are formed and the orogen develops into a double-
252 vergent geometry (Fig. 2c). Two contrasting cases can be envisaged. Either a former Early Rift (stage
253 A) is inverted, resulting in an inverted basin (ORO-Genic ID A1, see Fig. A1), a process that is local
254 and involves limited shortening, often triggered by far field stresses to deform thick crust. A second,
255 and very different case, is the formation of a collisional belt that deforms crust that followed tracks
256 B, C and D. During the collision stage, the classical fold-and-thrust belts form, including thin- and
257 thick-skinned nappe-stacking. Crustal thickening, resulting in the formation of isostatically induced
258 high topography often between external (former proximal) and internal (former distal) domains at the
259 location of the former necking zone. The nature of the internal parts of the orogen will strongly differ
260 depending on the maturity reached during the divergent stage (see Fig. A2, A3 and A4) . While arc
261 material can be expected for track D, ophiolites including subcontinental mantle, remnants of crustal
262 blocks including pre-rift lower crustal rocks, associated with deep water sediments can be expected for
263 track B and C, with in addition T-MOR and alkaline magmas for track C, to more classical N-MORB
264 for track D. Outside the necking zones, in the former proximal margin above a >20km thick crust,
265 flexural foreland basins are formed due to the increasing load of the forming collisional belt. Pro and
266 retro-foreland basins are filled by molasse type (syn-orogenic marine and continental) sedimentary
267 sequences. The nature of this domain seems to be independent of the previous convergent history
268 (see Fig. 2c) and is controlled more by an interplay between an inherited mechanical stratigraphy
269 (specific to local pre-rift geological record and therefore not predictable genetically), erosion and
270 sedimentation. The vergence of the belt has also consequences for the respective dynamics of pro-
271 and retro-foreland basins. The prowedge accommodates high shortening by horizontal propagation of
272 deformation (lower plate), whereas the retrowedge accommodates considerably less shortening above
273 the orogenic buttress (less propagational, see details in Ford et al. (2022) and references therein). When
274 convergence stops in a mature collisional orogen, orogenic collapse and related extension can occur,

275 being-favored by high gravitational potential energy (GPE), isostatic disequilibrium and the presence
276 of an orogenic root. This process does not occur in less mature orogens (see post-convergence situation
277 in Fig. 1).

278 As in the divergent case, answering, in a consecutive way, questions Q_{C1} and Q_{C2} , formulated
279 below, can define the ORO-Genic ID (see Fig. 1 and Table 2) of the system.

280

281 Q_{C1} : Did an oceanic subduction/slab form and if yes, did it reach steady state?

282

283 Q_{C2} : Does the front of the thick-skinned deformation go beyond the necking line?

284 If the answer to Q_{C1} is “yes” convergent stage 2 was reached, but if the answer is “no” only convergent
285 stage 1 was reached. If the answer to Q_{C2} is “no” the convergent stage 3 was reached, and if the answer
286 is “yes”, stage 4 was attained. However, in most cases convergent stages can be modified by the so-
287 called post-convergence stages that can include a dead subduction, long-lasting arc activity, back-arc
288 extension or orogenic collapse. These post-convergence stages are not included in the ORO-Genic ID
289 but are indicated with the symbol * and shown in the WC 2.0 in Fig. 1.

290 **4 THE ORO-GENIC ID APPROACH APPLIED TO THE BISCAY/PYRENEAN SYSTEM**

291 The along strike variation of the orogenic architecture in the Biscay/Pyrenean system, with a well-
292 preserved divergent stage in the Bay of Biscay and a dominant convergent overprint in the Pyrenees,
293 makes this system an ideal example to illustrate the ORO-Genic ID approach and to exemplify dif-
294 ferent tracks within the WC 2.0. In the past, the highly variable orogenic architecture along strike,
295 reflected by different structures, nature and compositions of basement rocks, tectono-stratigraphic
296 and metamorphic records resulted in many different, and partly conflicting interpretations of the Bis-
297 cay/Pyrenean system. One of the major outcomes of the OROGEN project was to demonstrate that the
298 complexity is not only the result of convergence, but also results from the interplay between inherited
299 divergent maturity and the subsequent convergent overprint (Fig. 3). Based on new data and obser-
300 vations acquired during the OROGEN project, it was possible to answer the ORO-Genic questions
301 (Q_{D1} , Q_{D2} , Q_{D3} , Q_{C1} and Q_{C2}) using the diagnostic criteria listed in Tables 1 and 2 and to map the
302 maturity levels of the divergent and convergent stages reached in the Biscay/Pyrenean domain (Fig. 4).
303 Key information on which the study is based can be found in the Orogen Headpapers (Chevrot et al.
304 (2022); Jolivet et al. (2021); Ford et al. (2022); Mouthereau et al. (2021); Manatschal et al. (2021)
305 and references therein compiling results of the OROGEN project). They are: 1) the new tomographic
306 images that provide information on the existence or non-existence of a slab along strike (see Q_{C1a} and

307 Q_{C1b} in Table 2), 2) the mapping of necking zones, the front of the thick-skinned deformation and the
 308 syn-rift depot-centres across the Biscay-Pyrenean system (see Q_{D1} in Table 1 and Q_{C2} in Table 2), 3)
 309 the study of the syn- and post-tectonic depositional environments and the nature of the exhumed man-
 310 tle and magmatic rocks (see Q_{D1} in Table 1), and 4) new plate kinematic models to test the width of
 311 the paleo-Biscay/Pyrenean domain prior to convergence (Q_{D3} in Table 1). Based on these new results
 312 it was possible to propose new crustal scale sections (Fig. 3) and maps (Fig. 4) that show the life-
 313 cycle track (from A to C) and ORO-Genic ID of different domains in the Biscay-Pyrenean system.
 314 It is interesting to note that all track types can be found regionally as a non reactivated mature ocean
 315 can be identified in the Iberian Atlantic margin outside the Biscay-Pyrenees area. This shows that the
 316 maturity of divergence can change laterally (more mature and wider in the west vs less mature and
 317 narrower in the east). In the following we present some examples, by going from West to East through
 318 the Biscay/Pyrenean system.

- 319 • The North Iberian margin (Fig. 3a): The North Iberian margin was interpreted as an accre-
 320 tionary prism related to the formation of an oceanic subduction (Boillot et al. 1984; Alvarez-Marron
 321 et al. 1997). However, seismic refraction results refuted this hypothesis (Fernández-Viejo et al. 1998;
 322 Ruiz Fernández 2007). New studies in the OROGEN project (Cadenas et al. 2020; Miró et al. 2021) in-
 323 terpreted this domain as a former hyperextended domain that has been reactivated during convergence
 324 leading to the underthrusting of the domain by exhumed serpentized mantle. When convergence
 325 stopped, the gravity-driven forces (slab-pull) were too low to counteract the buoyancy of the slab.
 326 Therefore, subduction stopped naturally resulting in a dead subduction system. In terms of maturity,
 327 the divergence reached the level of maturity C (Narrow Ocean, see Fig. 4a and Fig. A3) and the level 1
 328 during convergence (Fig. 1). The ORO-Genic ID of the northern Iberian margin is therefore C1* (Figs.
 329 3a and 4). The asterisk (*) indicates that the system now forms a dead subduction. It is important to
 330 note that thick-skinned deformation is recorded within the Cantabrian mountains located in the south-
 331 east of the section but this is not related to the subduction but corresponds to a lateral border effect of
 332 the Basque Cantabrian belt (BCB) discussed below (see also Miró et al. 2022). The 3D implications
 333 will be further explored below.

- 334 • The Basque Cantabrian belt (Fig. 3b) : The Basque Cantabrian Belt is a good example of the
 335 Track B (Fig. A2) as it results from the shortening of an aborted hyperextended rift where mantle
 336 rocks have been exhumed (see Fig. 4a) (Miró et al. 2021; Ducoux et al. 2019). During convergence,
 337 the deformation remained restricted to the former rift basin, as a thin-skinned belt with no evidence
 338 of thick-skinned structural shortcuts (see Fig. 2b) in the pro-wedge and a limited amount of crustal
 339 thickening in the pro and the retro-wedge. These characteristics explain why this belt is often referred
 340 to as the "Basque Cantabrian Basin" as it still preserves its rift evolution. In map view (Fig. 4b),

341 we can observe that only the front of the thin-skinned deformation goes over the necking line (see
342 Fig. 2 for explanation). For these reasons, we can establish that within the Basque Cantabrian belt
343 the convergence was fossilized at the early orogenesis maturity stage and is characteristic of a B3
344 ORO-Genic ID (Figs. 3b and 4).

345 • The Western Pyrenees (Fig. 3c): The Western Pyrenees is another example of the Track B (Fig.
346 A2) as it results from the shortening of an aborted hyperextended rift where mantle rocks have been
347 exhumed (see Fig. 4a) (Jammes et al. 2009; Lagabrielle et al. 2010; Lagabrielle & Bodinier 2008;
348 Lescoutre et al. 2019; Masini et al. 2014; Saspiturry et al. 2019). But in contrast to the BCB, in the
349 western Pyrenees the thick-skinned deformation clearly propagated beyond the former necking line
350 (see Fig. 2c and Fig. 4b). We can therefore determine that in the Pyrenees the convergence reached the
351 mature collision stage (ORO-Genic ID B4, Fig. 3c). From B3 to B4, the Pyrenean-Cantabrian transi-
352 tion is a good example where the "ORO-Genic ID" changes laterally due to a change of convergent
353 maturity.

354 • The Cameros basin (Fig. 4): Geological observations from the Cameros basin located in the
355 Central Iberian range demonstrate that this basin is a former hyperextended basin (life-cycle track B,
356 Fig. A2) filled with 8 km of syn-rift sediments (Casas-Sainz & Gil-Imaz 1998; García-Lasanta et al.
357 2017) affected by Late Cretaceous to Miocene shortening (Del Río et al. 2009; Rat et al. 2019) mostly
358 taken up by the Cameros northern thrust front (Salas et al. 2001). Therefore, in a map view (Fig. 4b),
359 we can observe that the front of the thick-skinned deformation corresponds to the former necking line
360 and can conclude that the system didn't reach the mature collision stage. For this reason, this system
361 is identified as another example of the B3 ORO-Genic ID.

362 • The Central system and the southern part of Iberian chain (Fig. 4): The Central system and south-
363 ern part of Iberian chain correspond to inverted intra-continental rift systems (Casas-Sainz & Gil-Imaz
364 1998; Omodeo Salè et al. 2014; Platt 1990; Rat et al. 2019) corresponding to the ORO-Genic ID A4.
365 The geological observations (narrowness, apparent absence of deep water sediments, hyperextension
366 and exhumed mantle or oceanic material) are indeed characteristic of an immature rifted domain (di-
367 vergent maturity A, Fig. A1) affected by an intra-crustal decollement responsible for the crustal thick-
368 ening characteristic of collisional deformation and formation of an inverted basin (convergent maturity
369 4).

370 5 DISCUSSION

371 5.1 Is the ORO-Genic ID concept applicable to other orogens?

372 Orogens are complex systems resulting from a long and polyphase evolution involving a number of
373 processes and displaying a large variability of structures. The OROGEN project illustrates that the
374 observed complexity not only results from orogenic processes but can also be related to the variability
375 of the precursor record of divergence and its implications for the subsequent convergent phases. The
376 ORO-Genic ID concept presented here is an attempt to integrate, in a simple way, the importance
377 of inheritance by introducing the concept of tectonic maturity. The main pillar of this new concept
378 is the observation driven, holistic approach based on diagnostic criteria to identify the main tectonic
379 stages recorded within an orogenic system during its tectonic lifecycle. This adapted Wilson Cycle
380 W2.0 reflects decades of geological research both at sea and onland (see Tables 1 and 2). In the WC
381 2.0 shown in Fig. 1, the full range of evolution tracks, can be characterized by answering specific
382 questions (see ORO-Genic questions in Tables 1 and 2).

383 It is beyond the scope of this paper to solve each existing debate on orogenic "singularities" such
384 as those related to exhumation of (ultra)high pressure rocks, the driving processes of subduction dy-
385 namics and all inheritances that can impact the pre-orogenic template (occurrence of micro-continents,
386 composition, post-rift thermal relaxation time and age, magma/sediment budget of both rifted margins
387 and oceanic lithospheres, transform margins/fault zones, hot spots...). We can however propose a new
388 level of understanding of the evolution of orogenic systems by relating orogenic variabilities to tec-
389 tonic maturity that can be understood genetically. In chapter 4, we illustrate how the ORO-Genic ID
390 concept can be applied to the Biscay-Pyrenean system, where new seismic imaging methods, focused
391 field studies, and innovative analytical and simulation methods provided unique data coverage. The
392 question remains however, if this concept can be applied to other orogenic systems.

393 The West European system along the diffuse Africa-Europe plate boundary in Western Europe
394 and northern Africa is another complex orogenic system with along strike variations in orogenic ar-
395 chitecture. This system accommodated plate convergence from the late Cretaceous onwards leading
396 to the formation of strikingly different orogenic branches (Macchiavelli et al. 2017; Angrand et al.
397 2018, 2020; Frasca et al. 2021; Jolivet et al. 2021; Angrand & Mouthereau 2021; Mouthereau et al.
398 2021) including the Biscay/Pyrenean system, the Central system and the Iberian chain discussed be-
399 fore, and the Betic/Rif, Tell and Atlas systems, the Apennines and the Alpine system *sensu stricto*.
400 On the southern edge of the system, for example, the High Atlas belt is an intra-continental belt that
401 presents similarities with the Central system of Iberia and the southern part of the Iberian chain, i.e.,
402 half grabens with limited accommodation space and intra-continental decollements (Beauchamp et al.

1999; Frizon de Lamotte et al. 2008; Giese & Jacobshagen 1992; Leprêtre et al. 2018; Teixell et al. 2003). It can therefore be described with the ORO-Genic ID A4, corresponding to an inverted rift basin system.

In the eastern edge of the West European system, most of the Alpine system reached the mature collision stage as observed in the Pyrenean belt. However, to understand differences between the Alps and the Pyrenees, it is important to acknowledge that both systems belong to different life-cycle tracks. In the Pyrenees only mantle rocks were exhumed during extension (Track B, hyperextended basin, Fig. A2) and true break up to form oceanic crust did not occur, while both narrow and wide oceanic basins developed in the Alpine system (Lemoine et al. 1987; Handy et al. 2010; Picazo et al. 2016). The Alpine system belongs therefore to the life-cycle track C or D (Fig. A3 and Fig. A4) and its ORO-Genic IDs vary from C4 to D4 which contrasts with the B4 of the Pyrenees. Differences between the two orogenic systems are therefore in part the result of the different maturity level reached during divergence.

Similarly, in the Betic-Rif belt, the presence of exhumed mantle domains and MORB-bearing ophiolitic mélanges (Gimeno-Vives et al. 2019; Pedrera et al. 2020; Puga et al. 2011) strongly supports the existence of a narrow or wide oceanic domain (Track C or D, Fig. A3 and Fig. A4). A key indication comes from the occurrence of the Alboran slab imaged by tomographic data (Calvert et al. 2000; Villaseñor et al. 2015; Bezada et al. 2013), created by the Miocene opening of the Alboran sea and followed by subduction and slab break-off implying the consumed ocean was wide enough to generate a mature subduction (track D, Fig. A4). In terms of convergence, most of the deformation is concentrated in the inverted rift basin and the front of the thick-skinned deformation does not affect domains beyond of the necking line (see Fig. 2b) implying that the ORO-Genic ID of the Betic belt is D3.

The formation of the Gulf of Lion / Tyrrhenian / Apennine system results from the retreat of the Mediterranean steady-state subduction (Jolivet et al. 2020; Séranne et al. 2021). The formation of this back-arc system suggests the existence of a wide oceanic domain (i.e, divergent maturity D, Fig. A4). Convergence stopped after the formation of the mature subduction. The corresponding ORO-Genic ID is therefore D2* with the asterisk (*) to indicate that the system was affected by post-convergence deformation. All those examples demonstrate that the ORO-Genic ID is a powerful tool allowing to map orogenic systems with different evolutions in an efficient way. Linking key geological characteristics (e.g. preserved rift, occurrence of "obducted crust", the tectono-stratigraphic-magmatic-metamorphic and structural records) to an Orogenic ID may also be meaningful to determine what process (and especially which inherited divergent template) could control which "singularity". Moving to economic

436 impacts, we believe this approach may be a key tool to identify orogenic belts for a given targeted
437 resource.

438 **5.2 Consumable domain versus accretable domain**

439 A key in understanding convergent systems is the buoyancy of the rift domains that become involved
440 in orogenesis. While domains with negative buoyancy (e.g., oceanic lithosphere) can be fully sub-
441 ducted and consumed, those with positive buoyancy (e.g., proximal margin domains) cannot be easily
442 subducted and will be accreted to form thick orogenic crust (Lacombe & Bellahsen 2016) (Fig. 2).
443 The fate of distal margin domains is more complex and first depends on the occurrence and location of
444 decoupling levels that are mostly a function of crustal composition (Miró et al. 2021; Gómez-Romeu
445 et al. 2023) and temperature (i.e. age of lithosphere and sedimentary burial). Magma-rich margins,
446 for instance, are assumed to be consumed, as supported by modelling results (Ganade et al. sub). In
447 this case, the main convergent decollement is within the post-rift sedimentary cover leading to the
448 formation of a thin-skinned accretionary wedge without syn- or pre-rift sediments (Gómez-Romeu
449 et al. 2023). In contrast, hyperextended magma-poor margins overlying exhumed mantle can either
450 be directly accreted when the main decollement is within or below the thinned crust (brittle-ductile
451 transition, base of serpentinized mantle), or first subducted and then exhumed in the early orogen as
452 (ultra)high pressure rocks (Ganade et al. sub). Thus, assessing the pre-orogenic divergent maturity is a
453 key to determining the nature and width of the consumable/accretable domains that are involved in the
454 convergence process (see Fig. 2a). In case of an early rift, the consumable domain is zero, resulting in
455 an intra-continental thick-skinned dominated inverted basin with direct crustal thickening (ORO-Genic
456 ID A4 Fig. 1). In the case of hyperextended rifts, the consumable domain is limited, implying that after
457 being consumed during early Orogenesis (ORO-Genic ID B3 in Fig. 1), shortening during collision
458 will be accommodated by thick-skinned structural shortcuts and nappe-stacking affecting the necking
459 zone and the proximal margin (ORO-Genic ID B4 in Fig. 1). During collision, local rift inheritances
460 plays a limited role (inversion of half-grabens) whereas the role of regional mechanical inheritances
461 (compositional and thermal) and the role of the feedback loop between relief creation, erosion, trans-
462 fer and sedimentation (for more details, see the Source to Sink project vade-mecum (Sébastien et al.
463 2023) become predominant. In the case of a narrow or wide ocean, the oceanic domain constitutes the
464 main part of the consumable domain. However, if the oceanic system is narrow, the future slab will not
465 be able to generate a sustainable slab-pull force to control subduction. Early orogenesis initiates when
466 the subduction starts to consume the hyperextended margin of the lower plate and to accrete possible
467 slivers of buoyant crustal material detached from the subducting slab. This is a critical moment during
468 convergence that leads to a progressive increase of the orogenic wedge buoyancy (increasing GPE)

469 with the thickening of the buoyant continental crust and incorporation of sediments in the orogenic
470 wedge through time (Early Orogenesis stage, ORO-Genic IDs C3 or D3 in Fig 1). This mechanism
471 reaches its maximum when the deformation front reaches the necking line. If convergence contin-
472 ues and deformation migrates beyond this line, >20 km thick crust becomes involved in the growing
473 orogen first on the pro-continent side before affecting the retro-continent side (Jammes & Huisman
474 2012; Grool et al. 2019). If convergence continues, deformation migrates across the necking line and
475 reaches a mature collision stage (ORO-Genic IDs C4 or D4 Fig. 1). From these possible orogenic
476 tracks, it is therefore clear that a pre-convergence template with different maturity of divergence along
477 strike, such as the Biscay-Pyrenees system, leads to different maturity of convergence along strike
478 and, in a system that continues to converge, different timing for maturity changes with marked bound-
479 ary effects on lateral segments. For example, if a mature collisional level is reached leading to plate
480 convergence deceleration (counteracting gravity forces and rupture of a thick lithosphere), it could
481 laterally force slab-roll back if convergent maturity decreases laterally to a mature subduction stage.
482 Therefore, complex orogenic systems may derive from variable maturity of divergence along strike
483 (e.g., Biscay-Pyrenean and Alpine systems) and as such, determining the nature and width of the con-
484 sumable domain is key to constraining 3D boundary conditions to better understand orogenic records
485 in space and time.

486 **5.3 Limitation of the approach**

487 The ORO-Genic ID concept is based on the recognition of diagnostic criteria that are listed in Tables 1
488 and 2. As such, it can only be applied if the necessary data sets are available. Another key limitation is
489 that the concept is based on Western European Orogens that were preceded by magma-poor Tethyan
490 divergent systems. In contrast, orogens that were preceded by magma-rich margins are notably rarely
491 reported in the Meso-Cenozoic record, even though magma-rich margins represent up to half of mod-
492 ern rifted margins and might not have been rarer in earlier Earth history. This anomaly may either be
493 because magma-rich margins tend to be completely subducted before mature continental collision, or
494 they are not recognized and/or have been misinterpreted. Recently, Gómez-Romeu et al. (2023) and
495 Ganade et al. (sub) suggest that such margins are indeed mostly subducted and therefore not accreted
496 in early and collisional orogens. Based on geological/geophysical observations and numerical exper-
497 iments, Gómez-Romeu et al. (2023) propose that the lack of deep-water syn-rift strata or thick piles
498 of syn-rift sediments and the absence of distal margins domains preserved in an orogen may point to
499 the existence of a former magma-rich margin. However, if these results suggest that magma-rich and
500 magma-poor margins behave differently during subduction (Gómez-Romeu et al. 2023; Ganade et al.
501 sub), these questions are still in the first stages of research. Applying the ORO-Genic ID approach to

502 Middle East orogens (e.g. Zagros) has already led us to recognize fingerprints of magma-rich margin-
503 derived orogens supported by recent petrological studies (Azizi et al. 2023). While not providing clear
504 proof, noting the absence of diagnostic criteria represents valuable information that can contribute
505 to the definition of an orogenic ID. Future research aims to further develop this "code" by adding
506 orogenic tracks for magma-rich rifted and transform margins.

507 While the ORO-Genic concept allows us to understand the first order lifecycle of an orogenic
508 system resulting from the reactivation of magma-poor rifted margins, the occurrence of local speci-
509 ficities such as crustal blocks (e.g., extensional allochthons, ribbons, microcontinents; for definitions
510 see Péron-Pinvidic & Manatschal (2010)), strongly segmented margins, 3D boundary conditions, or
511 complex kinematic evolutions are not yet integrated and could also be key in controlling, in particular,
512 early orogenic records. These specificities may help to explain complex sequences of compression,
513 extension, transient roll-back and delamination in internal parts of orogens and may help address the
514 question regarding mechanisms of exhumation of ultra-high-pressure rocks as observed in the Alps
515 (Malusà et al. 2011; Froitzheim et al. 2003). Note also, that the post-rift thermal relaxation time that
516 controls the initial thermal conditions of the orogenic system (Salazar-Mora et al. 2018; Sacek et al.
517 2022) and the thermo-mechanical, kinematics and climate forcing parameters are not considered in
518 the Wilson Cycle 2.0 but are known to affect orogenic processes and syn orogenic basins (Jammes &
519 Huisman 2012; Angrand et al. 2018; Vasey et al. 2024).

520 Last but not least, another new perspective unlocked by the ORO-Genic ID concept is to switch the
521 understanding of orogens from a chrono-tectonic to an ORO-Genic view point. In helping us to deter-
522 mine and date in a consistent way the maturity of divergence (i.e the pre-orogenic template), the ma-
523 turity of convergence and the nature/age of post-orogenic records, the ORO-Genic ID concept opens
524 the possibility of studying spatial lithospheric coupling between different orogenic branches/sub-belts
525 across diffuse plate boundary (see Mouthereau et al. (2021)). It also questions the role of subduction
526 in space and time in convergent settings (see Jolivet et al. (2021)).

527 **5.4 Implications for industry**

528 The first order concept and methodology proposed in this paper are typically designed for crustal/basin-
529 scale applications. As such, they provide significant value for rapid diagnostic assessments of orogenic
530 provinces and their associated basins. One of the key aspects of the ORO-Genic concept is to under-
531 stand their geodynamic evolution through the identification of their tectonic track. In the Pyrenean
532 system, it has been clearly demonstrated that most of the play elements of the oil and gas system are
533 inherited from the pre-convergence history (see Biteau et al. (2006) for a review). The presence or
534 absence of these elements depends on the preservation of (hyper)extended rift domains within the oro-

535 gen, which in turn relies on the convergent maturity. In systems that do not reach the mature collision
536 stage, such as the Basque-Cantabrian Basin, preservation is maximized. In more mature collisional
537 settings, like the Pyrenees sensu stricto, preservation is limited to the retro-wedge of the orogen or lo-
538 cated at the junction between two former rift segments (Lescoutre & Manatschal 2020). Whatever the
539 targeted resources, we believe this approach enables explorers to contextualize plays within a coherent
540 tectonic framework, making it applicable to mineral system in mining, petroleum system for oil and
541 gas and hydrogen system for geological (white) hydrogen as already adopted by companies.

542 **6 CONCLUSION**

543 As presented in this paper, the OROGEN project provided keys to genetically compare the different
544 orogenic systems of the Africa-Iberia-Europe diffuse plate boundary. Motivated by the idea of chal-
545 lenging the "classical Wilson cycle", the OROGEN project investigated the roles of different divergent
546 and convergent maturities and their impact on orogenic and post-orogenic processes. In this respect,
547 in proposing the Wilson cycle 2.0 and developing a new tool to map collisional orogens in a genetic
548 (or process-driven) way, the OROGEN project has successfully challenged the preconceived "Orogen
549 singularity" assumption. It redefines what are the unpredictable geological specificities (regional and
550 not genetic) from what can be genetically predicted, by identifying for a specific orogen its tectonic
551 track across the Wilson cycle 2.0. We propose, based on diagnostic criteria and the ORO-Genic ques-
552 tions listed in Tables 1 and 2, to determine the divergence and convergence maturity of an orogen and
553 to identify its ORO-Genic ID. Each ORO-Genic ID characterizes the evolution and the architectural
554 type of an orogenic system and explains differences in the style of deformation at crustal scale and the
555 type of tectono-stratigraphic and magmatic records. In a complex orogenic system presenting varia-
556 tion along strike of the ORO-Genic ID (and therefore the maturity of the divergence and the nature
557 and width of the consumable domain existing before convergence) is key to constraining 3D boundary
558 conditions and to understanding orogenic non-cylindricity and so-called anomalies. Moreover, at a
559 larger scale, the ORO-Genic ID is a mappable concept that, within limitations, can be easily exported
560 to other orogens and will help us to compare and to classify orogens worldwide.

561 **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

562 This study was funded by the Orogen project, a tripartite joint academic-industry research program be-
563 tween the CNRS, BRGM, and Total R&D Frontier Exploration program. The authors salute and thank
564 the whole Orogen Community and especially all the PhD students and post-doc fellows and their ad-
565 vising team. They also would like to namely thank Stephane Raillard, Eric Gaucher, Charlotte Fillon,

566 Laure Moen-Morel, Magalie Collin, Aurélien Virgone, Claude Goux, Marc Lescanne, Marc Martin
567 and Veronique Miegbielle from the Total R&D team, Thierry Baudin and Pierre Toulhoat from the
568 BRGM and Stephane Guillot from the CNRS. This work has grown from and greatly benefited from
569 discussions with them all. More personally, Emmanuel Masini wants to warmly thanks Josep-Anton
570 Munoz and Julie Tugend for fruitfull discussions, Jean-Claude Ringenbach for his constructive chal-
571 lenge and the M&U Research team (Maxime Ducoux, Julia Gomez-Romeu and Rodolphe Lescoutres)
572 for their inputs and discussions. Finally, the authors thank Adrian Pfiffner and Jean-Marc Lardeaux
573 for their constructive comments that helped to improve the manuscript as well as the Editor Laurent
574 Jolivet and the Associated Editor Romain Augier for handling the manuscript.

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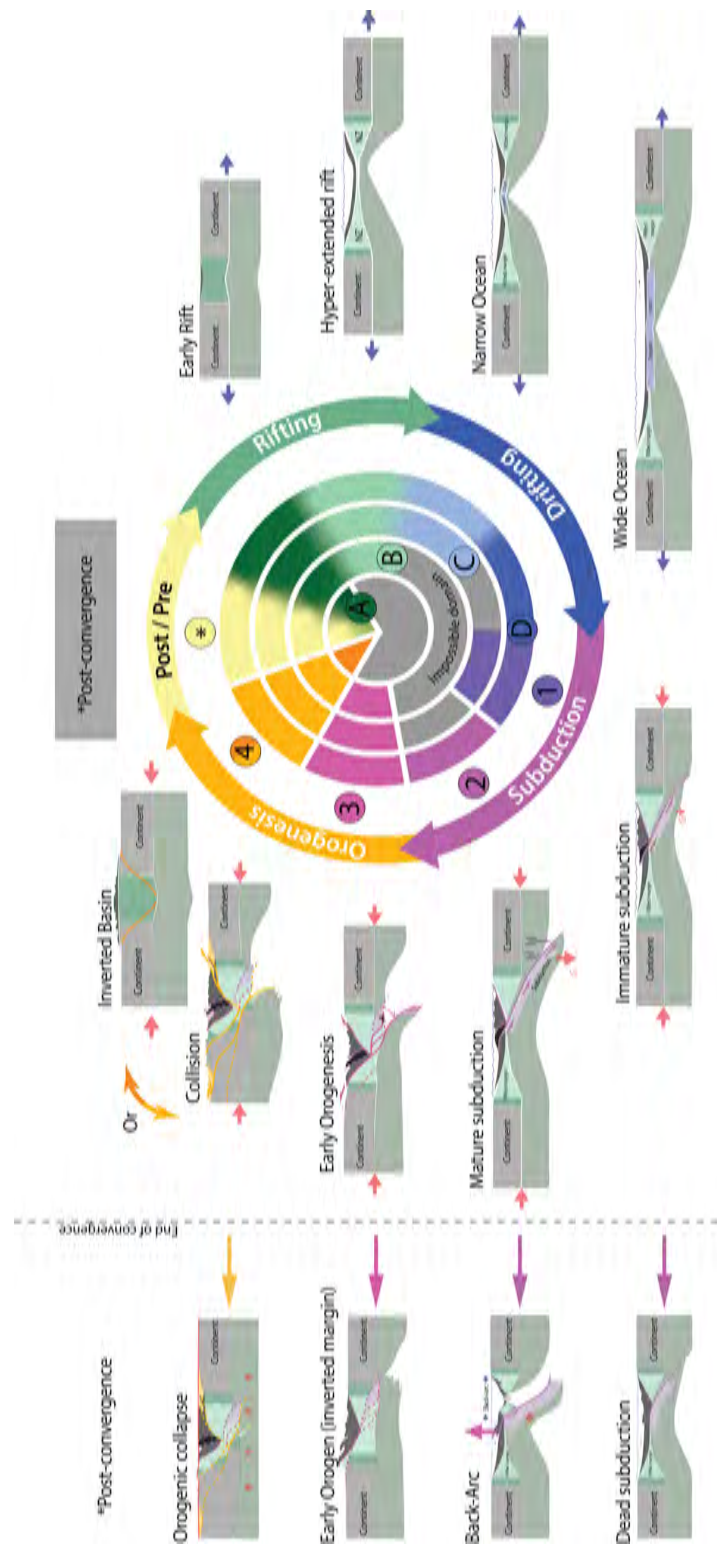


Figure 1. On the right : Wilson cycle updated representing the 4 maturity stages of divergence (A, B, C and D) and the 4 maturity stages of convergence (1, 2, 3 and 4). Both the divergent and convergent cycle are predated and follow by pre and post deformation phases (i.e stable continent and inactive ocean basin). In the case of the end of convergence, different post-convergent scenarios are possible depending of the maturity stage of the convergence. Those scenarios are illustrated on the left side of the figure.

Table 1. Table of the diagnostic criteria summarizing the key observations that are characteristics of each maturity stage of divergence

Divergent Maturity Level		A: Early Rift		B: Hyperextended Rift		C: Narrow Ocean		D: Wide Ocean	
		<i>Rifted domain</i>	<i>Proximal domain</i>	<i>Hyperextended and OCT domain</i>	<i>Oceanic domain</i>				
Diagnostic criteria	Crustal architecture	Tabular and thick continental crust with disconnected and distributed basins	Tapering and / or hyper-thinned crust with exhumed mantle domain	Transitional from continental to oceanic crust					
	Structural record	Low-β rift features	High angle syn-rift normal faults	Occurrence of syn-rift detachment faults	Possible occurrence of high angle normal faults				
		High-β rift features			Occurrence of detachment faults				
	Basement record	No tectonic exhumation of deep pre-rift crustal levels and mantle rocks	Tectonic exhumation of pre-rift continental crustal levels (mid to lower crust) and possibly serpentinized mantle	Tectonic exhumation of serpentinized mantle and occurrence of ophicalcites	Magmatic accretion				
	Magmatic record	Not significant	Possible syn-rift magmatic intrusion and post-rift magma	Magmatic addition with alkaline to T-MOR composition	MORB magmatism (gabbro, basaltic dykes or pillows)				
	Sedimentary record	Syn-tectonic sequence	Local thickness or facies variations due to syn-rift relationship with fault bounded local basins	Local derived clastic sedimentation and tectono-sedimentary breccias overlain by sequences that show a general deepening	Deep marine detrital, pelagic, and locally derived breccias interleaved with pelagic to hemipelagic material	Deep marine and mainly showing passive infill			
		Post-tectonic sequence	Shallow marine passive infill	Deep water sedimentation	Deep water sedimentation				
	Type of subsidence	Syn-kinematic, fault-controlled local subsidence ⁽¹⁾	Crustal thinning-related subsidence and thermal subsidence increasing basinward		Thermal subsidence ⁽²⁾				
	Relation with convergence	Not consumable by subduction	Consumable by subduction implying HP-metamorphism	Consumable by subduction but too small to generate a steady-state subduction	Consumable by subduction and prone to develop a steady-state subduction				
	ORO-Genic questions	Q ₀₁ : Did rifting stop before necking?	Yes	No	No	No			
	Q ₀₂ : did rifting result in crustal separation and formation of a proto-oceanic domain?	-	No	Yes	Yes				
	Q ₀₃ : Did seafloor spreading result in a wide/mature oceanic domain that could give birth to a mature subduction?	-	-	No	Yes				

⁽¹⁾ Mc Kenzie (1978); ⁽²⁾ Stein and Stein (1992)

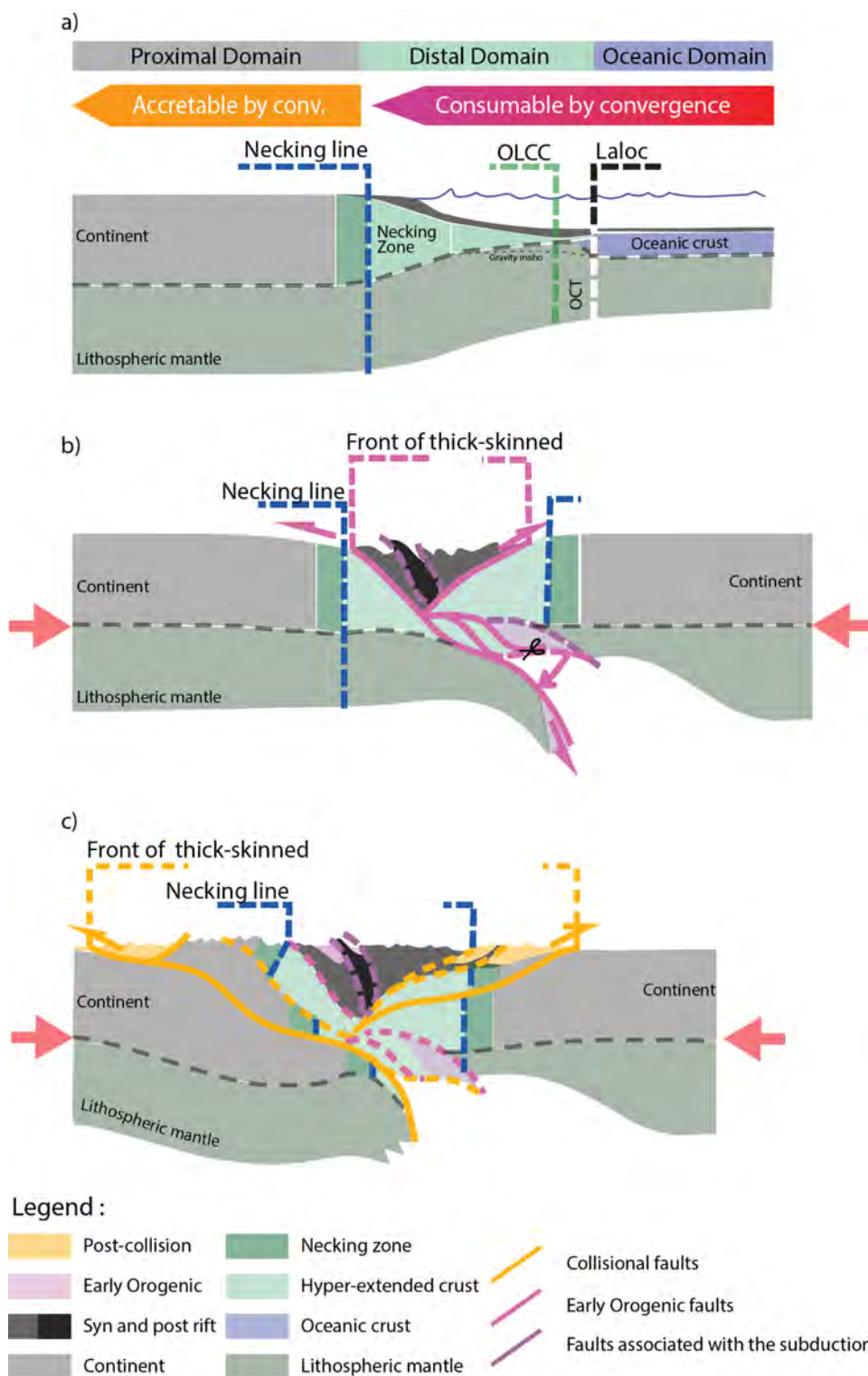


Figure 2. Schematic representation of a rifted margin and two stages of convergent maturity highlighting the position of the front of the thick-skinned deformation with respect to the former necking line. a) The proximal, distal and oceanic domains are illustrated as well as the main structural limits between them (necking line, Outer limit of Continental crust (OLCC) and landward limit of Oceanic Crust (Laloc). b) In an early Orogenesis convergent stage the front of the thick-skinned deformation doesn't no traverse the former necking line. c) In a mature collision stage, the front of the thick-skinned deformation traverses the former necking line thus involving formerly un-thinned continental crust.

Table 2. Table of the diagnostic criteria summarizing the key observations that are characteristic of each maturity stage of convergence

Convergent Maturity Level		1: Immature Subduction	2: Mature Subduction	3: Early Orogenesis	4: Mature Collision/Inverted Basin	
Diagnostic criteria	Crustal architecture	Short "slab" made of underthrust oceanic or proto-oceanic lithosphere	Long "slab" made of oceanic lithosphere	Limited crustal thickening (no root)	Major crustal thickening (orogenic root formation)	
	Relief record	Controlled by the mechanics of accretionary wedge	Controlled by the mechanics of accretionary wedge and magmatic activity in the arc	Low-relief formation controlled by inverted rift structure	High-relief formation controlled by crustal thickening	
	Magmatic record	Limited and boninitic if hydrated minerals are subducted	calc-alkaline magmatism in the upper plate arc	none	none	
	Structural record	lower plate or pro-wedge	Thin-skinned deformation in accretionary prism	Thin-skinned deformation in accretionary prism	The front of the thick-skinned deformation remains in between the necking lines	The front of the thick-skinned deformation propagates outside the necking domain forming nappe-stacks and classical foreland basin
		upper plate or retro-wedge	Thin-skinned to limited thick-skinned	Thin-skinned to limited thick-skinned		
Relation with divergence	Oceanic, proto-oceanic or distal rifted domains consumed only	Oceanic domains consumed only	Distal rifted domains are consumed but shortening of the proximal margin is absent as deformation remains within the necking lines	Proximal rifted and / or unrifted domains shortened		
ORO Genic questions	Q _{C1a} : Did an oceanic subduction/slab form?	Yes	Yes	No	No	
	Q _{C1b} : Did the subduction reach steady state?	No	Yes	-	-	
	Q _{C2} : Does the front of the thick-skinned deformation go beyond the necking line?	No	No	No	Yes	

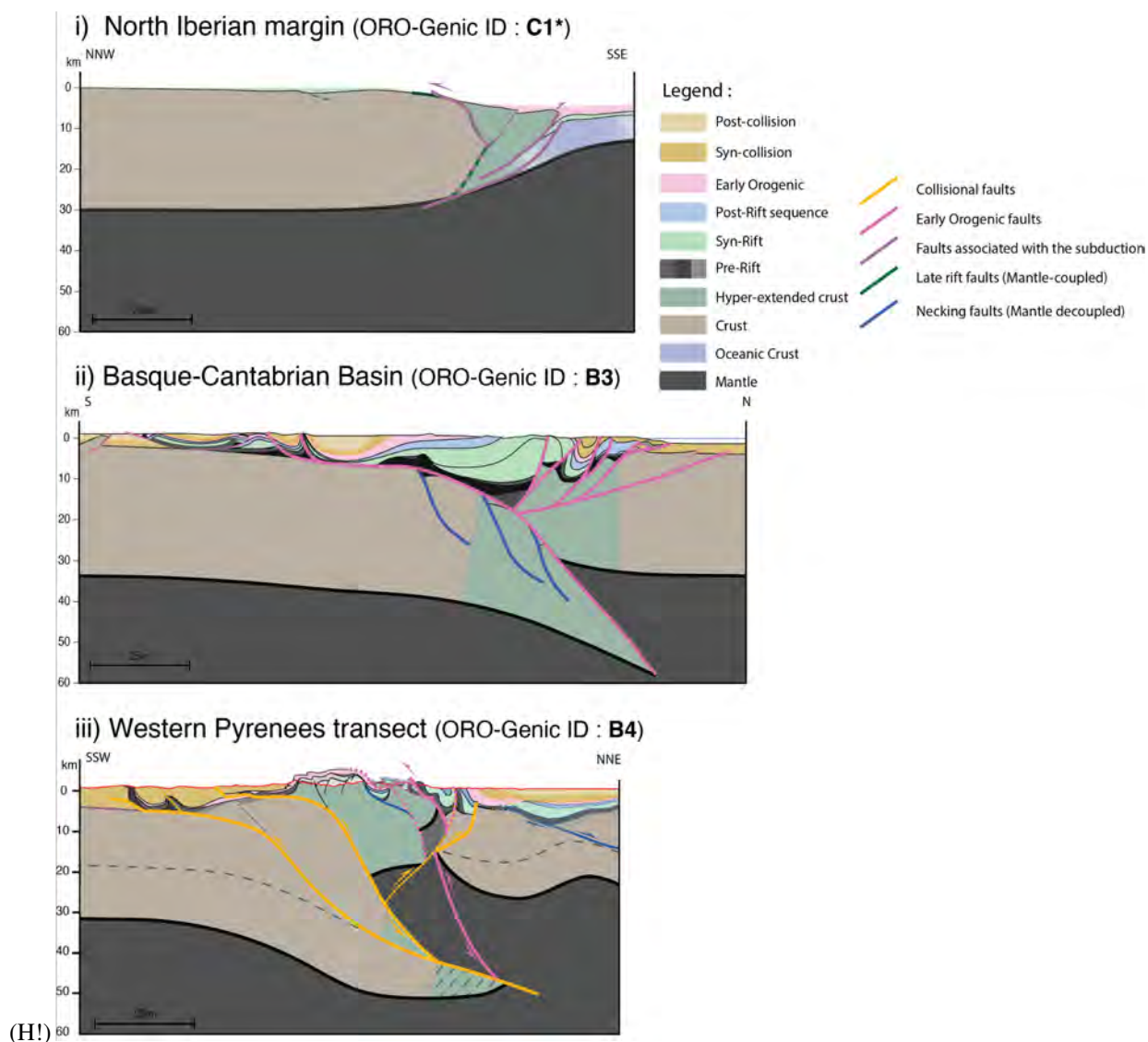


Figure 3. Example of ORO-Genic ID assigned along three cross sections located in the Bay of Biscay/Pyrenean system. i) C1* : The Northern Iberian margin (modified from Tugend et al. (2014)), ii) B3 : The Basque Cantabrian Basin (modified from Miró et al. (2021)) iii) B4 : The Western Pyrenees (modified from Teixell et al. (2016); Gómez-Romeu et al. (2019)). See Figure 4 for location

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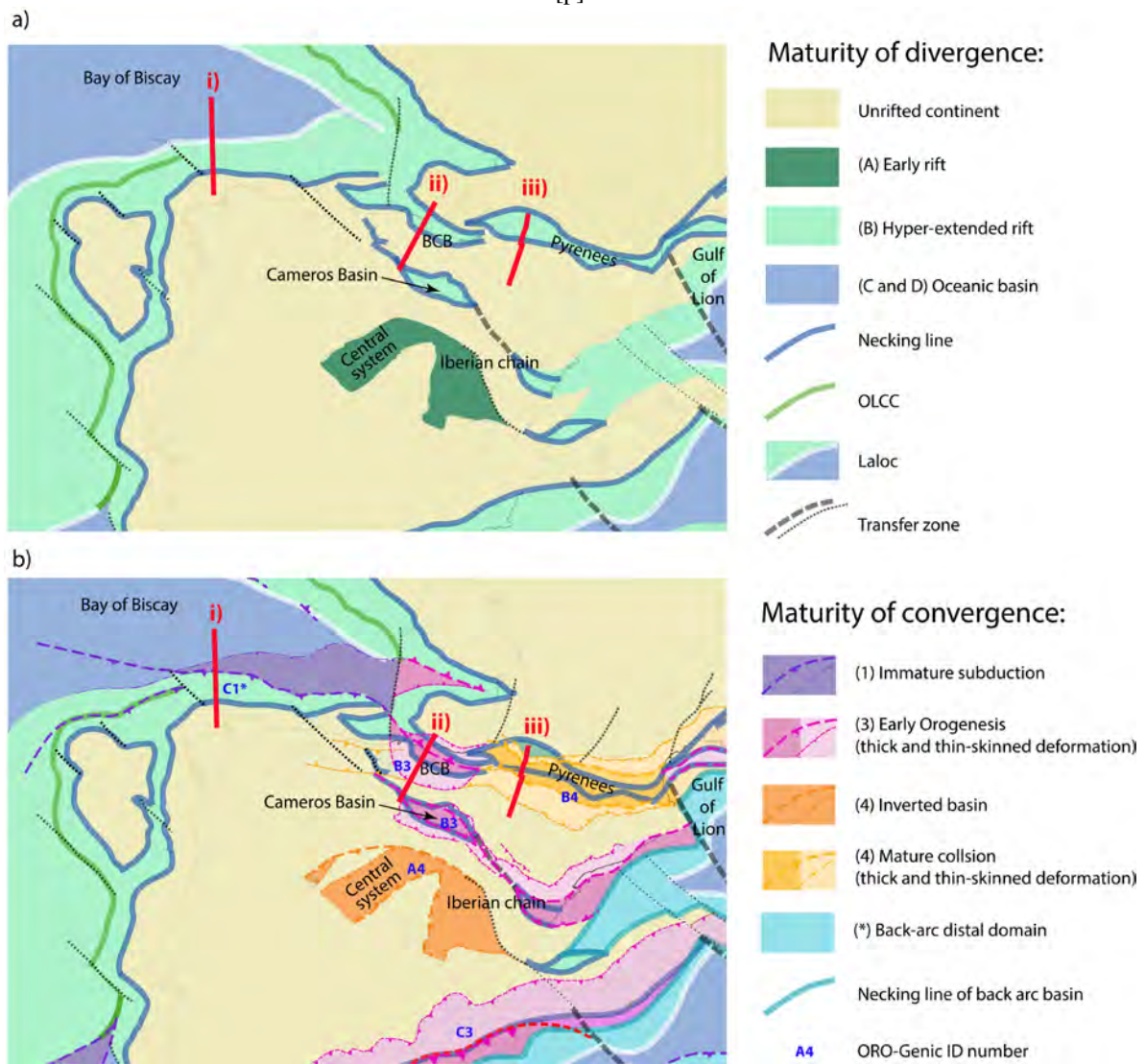


Figure 4. Map of the Bay of Biscay and Pyrenean area representing : a) the maturity of the divergence reached in the rift domains preserved in the Bay of Biscay and in onshore fossil analogues. b) the maturity of the convergence of the orogens present in the area. The location of the sections presented in figure 3 is depicted in red and ORO-Genic IDs are indicated in blue.

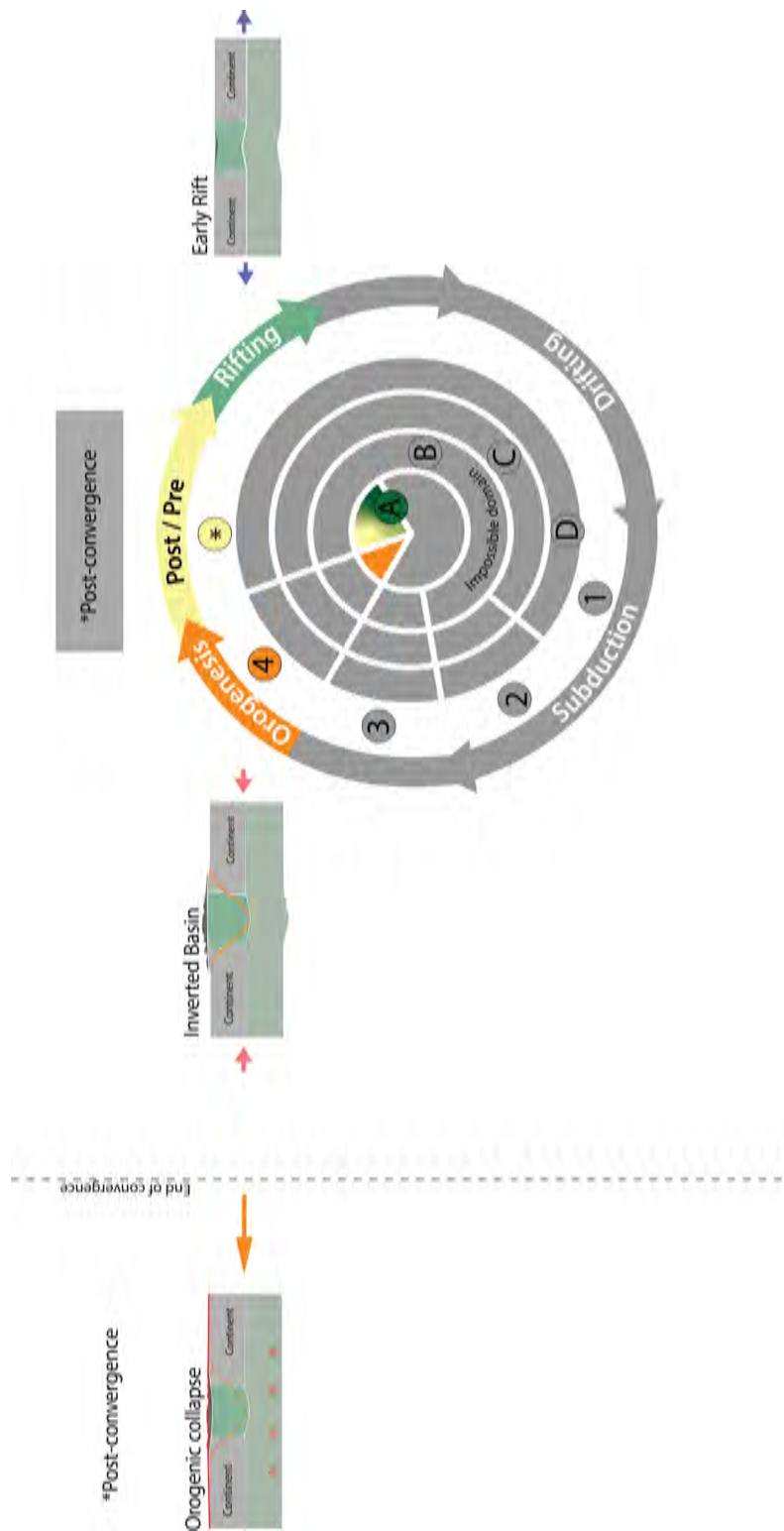


Figure A1. On the right : Wilson cycle updated for tectonic track A. In the case of the end of convergence, the post-convergent scenario is illustrated on the left side of the figure.

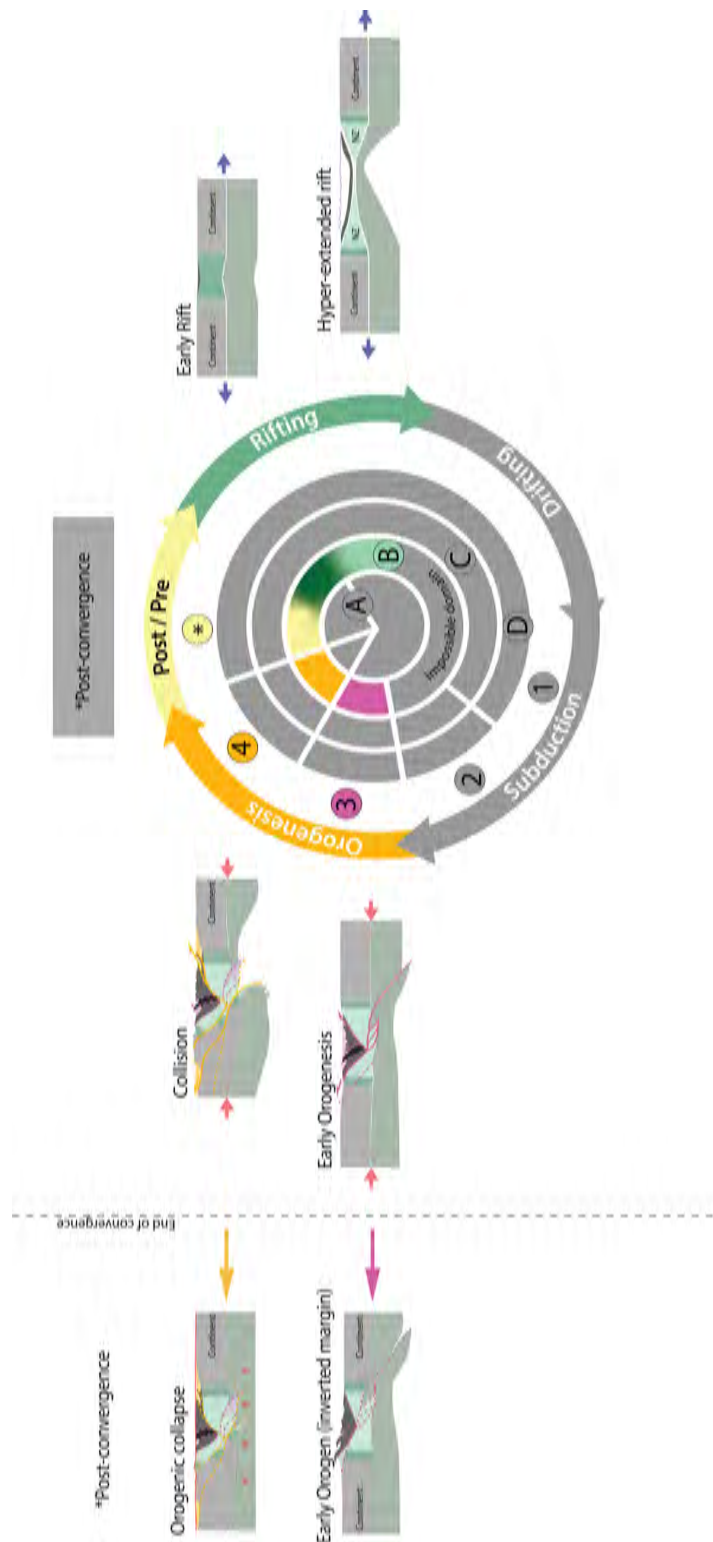


Figure A2. On the right : Wilson cycle updated for tectonic track B. In the case of the end of convergence, different post-convergent scenarios are possible depending of the maturity stage of the convergence. Those scenarios are illustrated on the left side of the figure.

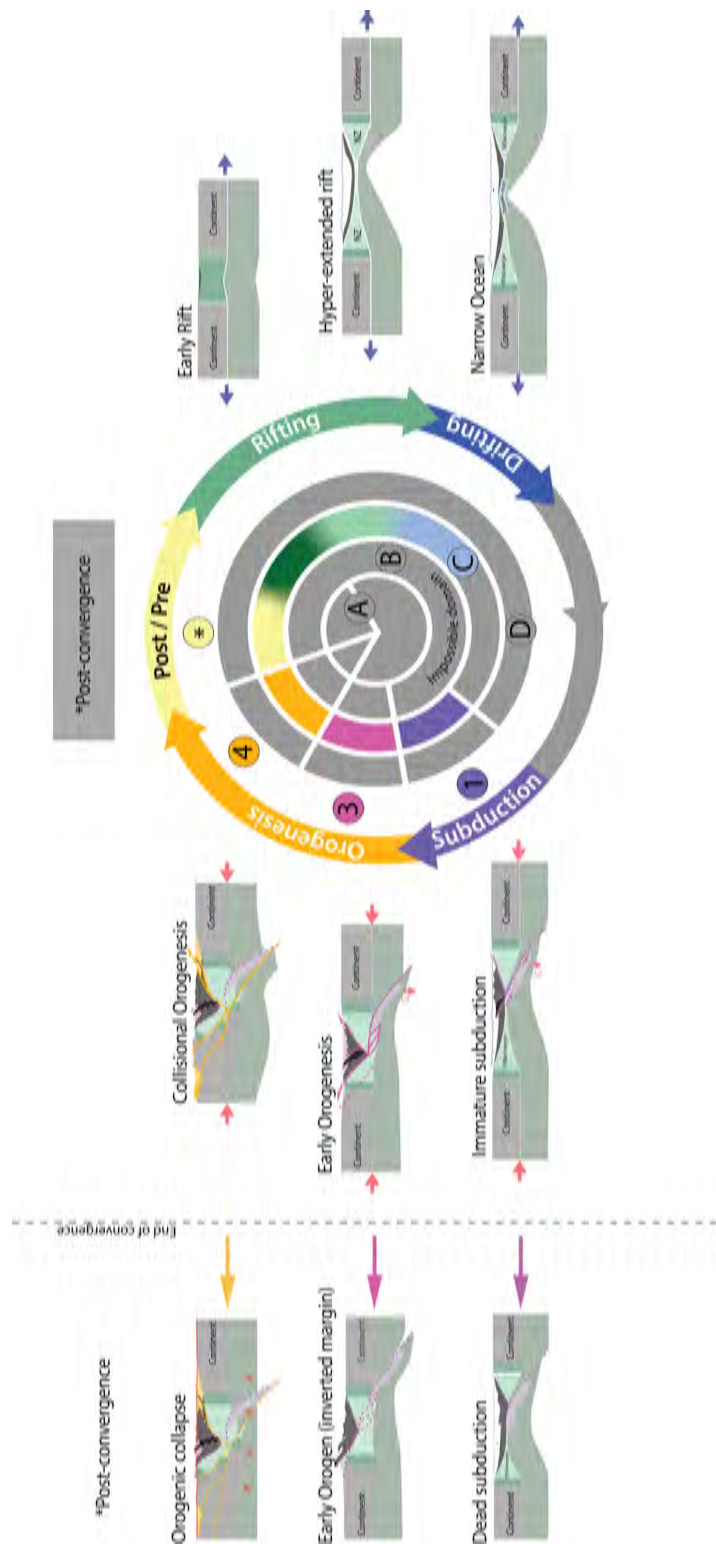


Figure A3. On the right : Wilson cycle updated for tectonic track C. In the case of the end of convergence, different post-convergent scenarios are possible depending of the maturity stage of the convergence. Those scenarios are illustrated on the left side of the figure.

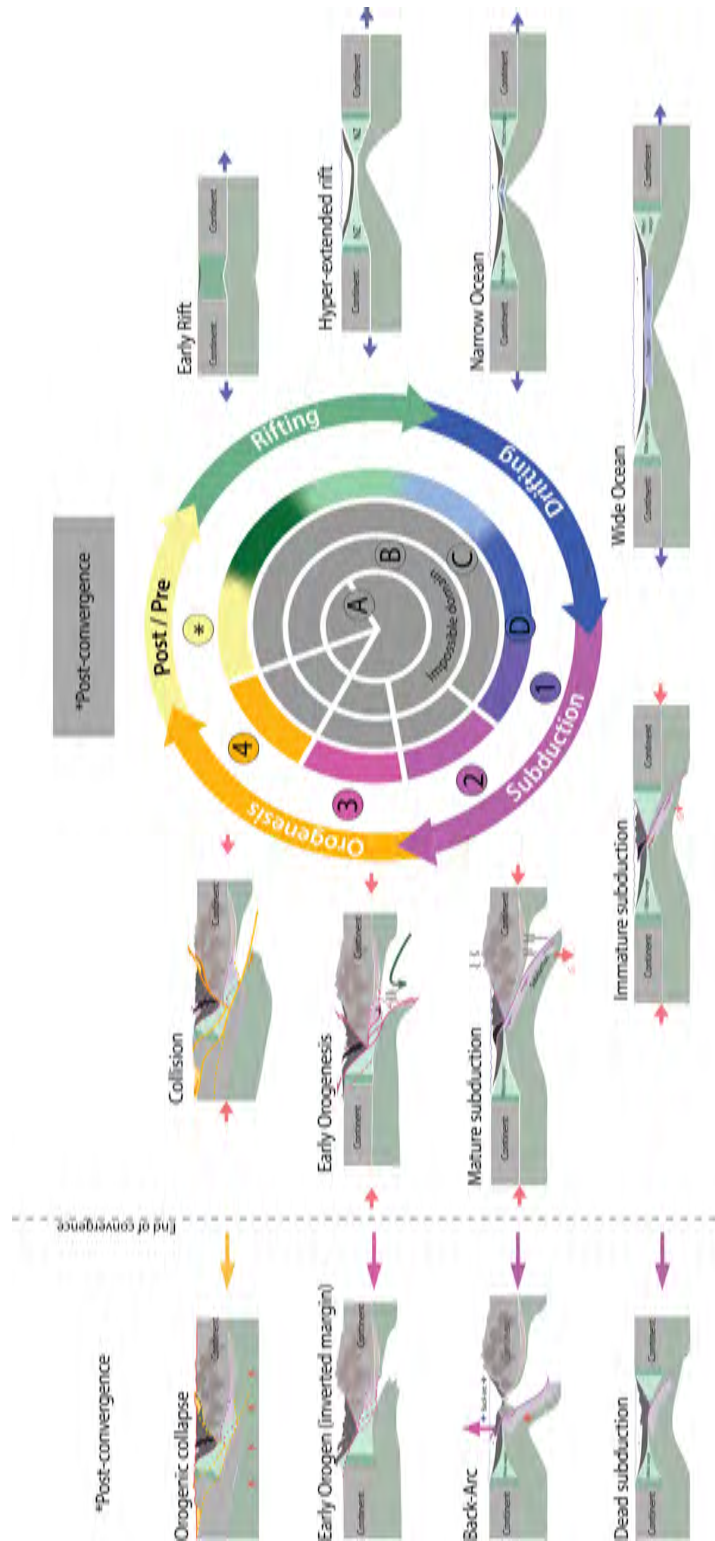


Figure A4. On the right : Wilson cycle updated for tectonic track D. In the case of the end of convergence, different post-convergent scenarios are possible depending of the maturity stage of the convergence. Those scenarios are illustrated on the left side of the figure.