Lindesard August And August Au

The project – Seismic interpretation, structural pattern and 3D modeling of the Upper Rhine Graben - first scientific results

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Geology of the URG 1

> Regional setting



European Cenozoic Rift System

> Cross-section





> Geol.map



Geology of the URG 2

> Stratigraphic record

- 3.5 km of sediments
- unconformity at the base of the syn-rift sequence

> Tectonic evolution

- main rifting phase between Late Eocene and Rupelian, E-W extensional regime
- Miocene: NW-SE compressional regime

> Scientific issues

structural aspect <

seismic study





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> Seismic profiles

- frame of the 3D model
- 521 reflection seismic surveys
- 5400 km...

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the seismic sections were finally exported in the standard Seg-Y format, ready for interpretation.

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Seismic lines – reprocessing 2

> Modern reprocessing - results

- improvement of the resolution & continuity of reflectors
- improvement of the resolution and display of faults and fault zones
- improvement of the display of near-surface and deep areas



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Seismic lines – interpretation 2

> Fault density





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Seismic lines – interpretation 4

> Thrust faults

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> Salt domes





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Seismic lines – interpretation 5

> Strike-slip structures - negative flower structures











Seismic lines – conclusion

> High normal fault density

- most of the faults cross-cut the entire Cenozoic sedimentary sequence
- syn-rift thicknesses are more or less constant

Numerous occurrences of strike-slip features

- they occur at various scale
- they obliterate the original normal faults
- they are the most recent features
- they may be related to the Early Miocene to present NW directed compressional regime

.The present-day URG geometry has nothing to see with the inital rift geometry

.The density of faults may have been lower during the initial rifting stage



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First draft of the 3D-model 1

example > Structural pattern of a example of normal faults flower structure



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First draft of the 3D-model 2

> Structural pattern

- extreme spatial variability of the fault directions
 - numerous « short » fault segments
 - eg. Western border fault







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To conclude

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> Several potential scientific interests:

- Building the present-day geometry forces to think about the pre-existing structural patterns and geological history of the URG
- ▶ increase the knowledge on the tectono-history of the URG







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