

# Could peridotite hydration reactions have provided a contributory driving force for Cenozoic uplift and accelerated subsidence along the margins of the North Atlantic and Labrador Sea?

Alasdair Skelton & Martin Jakobsson

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This study evaluates the hypothesis that peridotite hydration reactions (e.g. serpentinisation) at the landward termination of transform fracture zones provide a contributory driving force for coupled uplift and accelerated subsidence along the margins of the North Atlantic and Labrador Sea in the Cenozoic. This evaluation is partly based on the extent and rate of serpentinisation, calculated by Skelton et al. (2005) by using seismic velocity as a proxy for progress of the serpentinisation reactions. The hypothesis is supported by 1) spatial coincidence between most of the uplifted segments of the margin with the landward termination of transform fracture zones, 2) the theoretical capacity of serpentinisation to generate  $10^2$ - $10^3$  m of uplift at a rate of  $\text{mm.a}^{-1}$  to  $\text{cm.a}^{-1}$  which is consistent with observations from the margin, and 3) the potential for landward material flow of a hydrated peridotite inclusion, providing a mechanism for sustaining uplift and its pairing with accelerated subsidence. Also, serpentinisation is more effective than other metamorphic reactions (e.g. granulite to amphibolite, eclogite to amphibolite) as a driving force for uplift. Shortfalls of this model are that 1) extensive peridotite hydration is unlikely at depths exceeding 10-20km and 2) the timing of uplift requires that pulses of extensive peridotite hydration occurred along inactive segments of transform fracture zones. We conclude that the volume expansion caused by peridotite hydration was probably insufficient to account for widespread uplift during the Cenozoic. However, we suggest that the following processes could occur at or near the landward terminations of transform fracture zones: 1) volume expansion caused by extensive peridotite hydration beneath thinned crust at or near the ocean-continent transition and 2) mechanical weakening caused by limited peridotite hydration beneath thicker continental crust. These processes may have important implications for models aimed at explaining Cenozoic uplift and accelerated subsidence.

Alasdair Skelton (e-mail: [alasdair.skelton@geo.su.se](mailto:alasdair.skelton@geo.su.se)), Martin Jakobsson, Department of Geology and Geochemistry, Stockholm University, 106 91 Stockholm, Sweden.

## Introduction

Hydration of mantle peridotite, primarily by serpentinisation, occurs in active tectonic settings, such as mid-oceanic ridges and transform faults and fracture zones (e.g. Cannat et al. 1992; Michael et al. 2003), subduction zones (e.g. Fryer 1992) and submarine, magma-poor continental rifts (e.g. Nicolas 1985; Boillot et al. 1989; Whitmarsh et al. 2001; Skelton et al. 2005).

In the following sections, we provide a summary of the petrological and physical (density, strength) responses of mantle peridotite to hydration. Wicks (1979), Wicks & O'Hanley (1988) and O'Hanley (1996) provide more detailed discussions to which the interested reader is referred and which are beyond the scope of this paper. Only behaviour, which is essential to the subject of this study, is discussed below.

## Petrology

Hydration of mantle peridotite can produce talc and/or anthophyllite at higher T and the serpentine minerals:

antigorite, lizardite and chrysotile at lower T (Fig. 1). The type of serpentine mineral which forms is primarily a function of P, T and the activity of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ .

Lizardite is the most abundant serpentine mineral, primarily occurring in retrograde serpentinites, typically with brucite and/or magnetite and/or native metals (Wicks & O'Hanley 1988). Lizardite typically contains less than 5 wt. % FeO (Wicks & O'Hanley 1988). Chrysotile is probably the least abundant serpentine mineral. It is primarily associated with shear zones and occurring as vein deposits. Chrysotile typically contains less than 2 wt. % FeO. Occurrences of antigorite ( $\pm$  magnetite) have been reported mainly from prograde serpentinites. However, Wicks (1984) interpreted the formation of antigorite (and talc) directly by retrograde hydration of olivine at higher T from the serpentinised peridotite at Glenurquhart, Scotland. Occurrences of retrograde antigorite have also been interpreted from the Yukon Territories (Wicks & Whitaker 1977, Wicks & Plant 1979) and California (Mittwede et al. 1987, Peacock 1987). These interpretations are consistent with Fig. 1 (see also (e.g.) Evans 1977, Berman et al. 1986).

Based on the P-T diagram shown in Fig. 1, we conclude

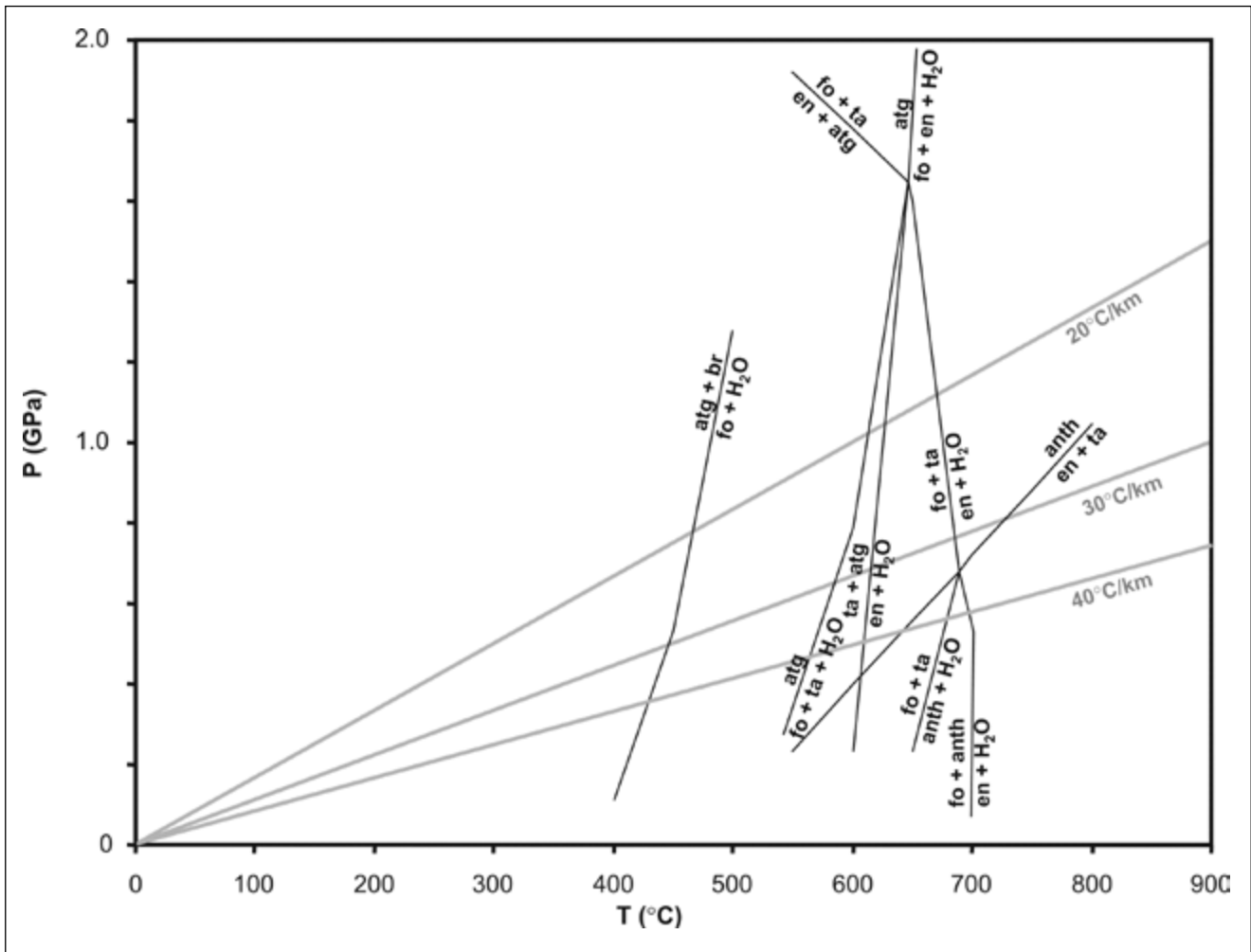


Fig. 1. Plot showing equilibria for peridotite hydration constructed using the computer program THERMOCALC (Holland & Powell, 1998) for the system  $\text{MgO-SiO}_2\text{-H}_2\text{O}$ . The 20°, 30° and 40°C.km<sup>-1</sup> geotherms are also shown. Abbreviations: fo = forsterite, en = enstatite, ta = talc, anth = anthophyllite, atg = antigorite and br = brucite.

that, for a shallow geothermal gradient (20–30°C/km), formation of antigorite can occur at equilibrium, from enstatite below 610–630°C (20–31km) and from olivine (+ talc) below 580–610°C (19–30km). Formation of talc from enstatite, which has been reported from Washington (Frost 1975), Quebec (Laurent 1975), Scotland (Wicks 1984a) and New South Wales (O’ Hanley & Offler 1992), can occur below 670–690°C (23–34km). Formation of anthophyllite by higher T hydration of peridotite is only likely if the geothermal gradient exceeds ca. 40°C/km (Fig. 1).

The temperatures (and depths) estimated for hydration of peridotite to antigorite and/or talc are greater than for “normal” serpentinisation by the reaction: olivine = lizardite ± brucite ± magnetite ± native metals (Wicks & O’ Hanley 1988). This reaction probably occurs below 300–400°C and at low  $a(\text{H}_2\text{O})$  (Sanford 1981). However, petrological evidence (e.g. serpentine pseudomorphs after talc rimming enstatite: Wicks 1984) indicates that the volumetric extent of higher T hydration of peridotite (to form antigorite and/or talc) is limited.

## Density ( $\rho$ )

Hydration of peridotite ( $\rho \approx 3.2 \text{ g.cm}^{-3}$ ) to (1) talc ( $\rho \approx 2.8 \text{ g.cm}^{-3}$ ), (2) antigorite ( $\rho \approx 2.7 \text{ g.cm}^{-3}$ ) ± magnetite ( $\rho \approx 5.2 \text{ g.cm}^{-3}$ ), or (3) lizardite (or chrysotile) ( $\rho \approx 2.6 \text{ g.cm}^{-3}$ ) ± brucite ( $\rho \approx 2.4 \text{ g.cm}^{-3}$ ) ± magnetite, will reduce its density. The respective volume changes ( $\Delta V$ ) are given as functions of reaction progress ( $\xi$ ) by (modified from Skelton et al. 2005):

$$\text{peridotite (enstatite)} \implies \text{talc:} \\ \Delta V (\%) \approx 100 \cdot \xi \cdot \{1 - (2.8/3.2)\} \quad (1a)$$

$$\text{peridotite (olivine} \pm \text{ enstatite)} \implies \text{antigorite} \pm \text{ magnetite:} \\ \Delta V (\%) \approx 100 \cdot \xi \cdot \{1 - (X_{\text{mag}} \cdot 5.2/3.2) - [(1 - X_{\text{mag}}) \cdot 2.7/3.2]\} \quad (1b)$$

$$\text{Peridotite (olivine} \pm \text{ enstatite)} \implies \text{lizardite (or chrysotile)} \\ \pm \text{ brucite} \pm \text{ magnetite:} \\ \Delta V (\%) \approx 100 \cdot \xi \cdot \{1 - (X_{\text{mag}} \cdot 5.2/3.2) - (X_{\text{brc}} \cdot 2.4/3.2) - \\ [(1 - X_{\text{mag}} - X_{\text{brc}}) \cdot 2.6/3.2]\} \quad (1c)$$

where  $X_{\text{mag}}$  and  $X_{\text{brc}}$  are the respective weight fractions of

magnetite and brucite (which range from 0 to 1).

For complete hydration of peridotite ( $\xi = 1$ ) at low T, producing a “typical” serpentinite, containing lizardite + magnetite, with  $X_{\text{mag}} < 0.05$ , equation 1c yields a volume gain exceeding 15%. For partial hydration ( $\xi < 1$ ),  $\Delta V$  will be smaller. However, based on petrological studies, Bach et al. (2006) showed that brucite behaves as a reactive intermediary which delays the production of magnetite during serpentinisation. This implies that  $\Delta V$  will be larger than predicted by equation 1c for small  $\xi$ .

For hydration of peridotite at higher T, producing talc rims, surrounding enstatite (Wicks 1984),  $\xi$  is unlikely to exceed 0.1 (10% talc) and equation 1a yields a volume gain of ca. 1%.

## Strength

Hydration of peridotite not only causes volume expansion but also mechanical weakening. For example, serpentinite has a low coefficient of internal friction (lizardite  $\sim 0.35$ , antigorite  $\sim 0.34$ ; Escartin et al. 1997) compared with peridotite (0.73; Shimada et al. 1983). Escartin et al. (1997) showed that the relative weakness of serpentinite relates to the low fracture energy of the [001] cleavage in lizardite and antigorite, based on optical microscopy and TEM on experimental run products. They showed this to be valid, both above and below the brittle-ductile transition, which is at 0.2 - 0.4 GPa for  $T < 450\text{-}500^\circ\text{C}$  (Escartin et al. 1997; Brodie & Rutter 1985; Murrell & Ismail 1976; Raleigh & Paterson 1965). Localised deformation in the brittle regime and distributed deformation in the ductile regime are accommodated in serpentinite by intragranular and grain boundary shear micro-cracks, oriented parallel to the [001] cleavage. Because of this micro-structural behaviour, a serpentinised body can behave as a weak inclusion (Koyi & Skelton 2001; Skelton et al. 2005), capable of vertical and/or lateral viscous flow in response to deformation and/or volume expansion.

Escartin et al. (2001) showed that this change in rheological properties occurs at a serpentine content of 10-15% or less. Thus slightly serpentinised peridotites are as weak as completely serpentinised peridotite. Here, we speculate that even hydration of peridotite at higher T, which probably produces only small amounts ( $< 10\%$ ) of talc, will cause significant mechanical weakening. This speculation is based on similarities between the micro-structural properties of serpentine and talc (coefficient of internal friction  $\sim 0.2$ ; Moore & Lockner, 2003).

In summary, for a shallow geothermal gradient (20-30°C/km), hydration of peridotite can cause (1) production of small amounts of talc (rimming enstatite) at  $T < 670\text{-}690^\circ\text{C}$  (23-34km), (2) replacement by antigorite  $\pm$  magnetite at  $T < 580\text{-}630^\circ\text{C}$  (19-31km) and/or (3)

complete or partial replacement by lizardite (or chrysotile)  $\pm$  brucite  $\pm$  magnetite at  $T < 300\text{-}400^\circ\text{C}$  (10-20km). This causes a volume expansion, which exceeds 15% for complete replacement of peridotite by lizardite  $\pm$  magnetite at low T, but is only about 1% for the production of small amounts of talc (rimming enstatite) at high T. Partial or complete hydration of peridotite, at low T producing lizardite (or chrysotile) or at higher T producing talc or antigorite is expected to cause significant mechanical weakening.

This paper aims to provide a quantitative assessment of the potential for these physical responses to peridotite hydration providing a contributory driving force for tectonic processes. This has been argued for mantle exhumation at the ocean-continent transition, west of Iberia (e.g. Skelton & Valley 2002; Skelton et al. 2005). We focus on Cenozoic uplift around the North Atlantic which has been inferred from geological and topographical data, but for which the driving mechanism remains uncertain (Japsen et al. 2005; Japsen & Chalmers 2000). We compare the potential contribution of peridotite hydration to tectonic uplift with other metamorphic reactions.

## Cenozoic uplift

Cenozoic uplift along the margins of the North Atlantic and the Labrador Sea has been interpreted based on geomorphological studies (Doré 1992; Riis 1996; Lidmar-Bergström 2000), velocity studies (Bulat & Stoker 1987; Japsen 1998), vitrinite reflectance studies (Japsen et al. 2005), apatite fission-track studies (Rohrman et al. 1995; Hansen 2000; Green et al. 2002; Japsen et al. 2005), sediment-supply and structural studies (Andersen et al. 2000; Chalmers, 2000; Clausen et al. 2000; Evans et al. 2000). Multiple phases of uplift occurred during the Cenozoic (Japsen & Chalmers 2002; Doré et al. 2002; Japsen et al. 2005), with vertical movements of the order of  $\sim 1$  km (Japsen et al. 2005). Most regions of onshore uplift/erosion are paired with an offshore region of accelerated subsidence/deposition (Fig. 2). The driving force for these episodes of uplift and accelerated subsidence during the Cenozoic remains uncertain. Both plume activity and post-glacial isostatic rebound have been proposed (Japsen & Chalmers 2000). In the ‘plume model’, uplift is a consequence of the coupling of underplating and/or asthenospheric diapirism with faster erosion (caused by a wetter climate and/or glacial activity). The main problem with these models is that more recent uplift postdates North Atlantic breakup, but predates the onset of glaciation (Rohrman & van der Beek 1996). In the following section, we examine the spatial distribution, extent, rate and mechanical consequences of peridotite hydration and provide a quantitative assessment of its potential as a contributory driving force for uplift around the North Atlantic and Labrador Sea in the Cenozoic.

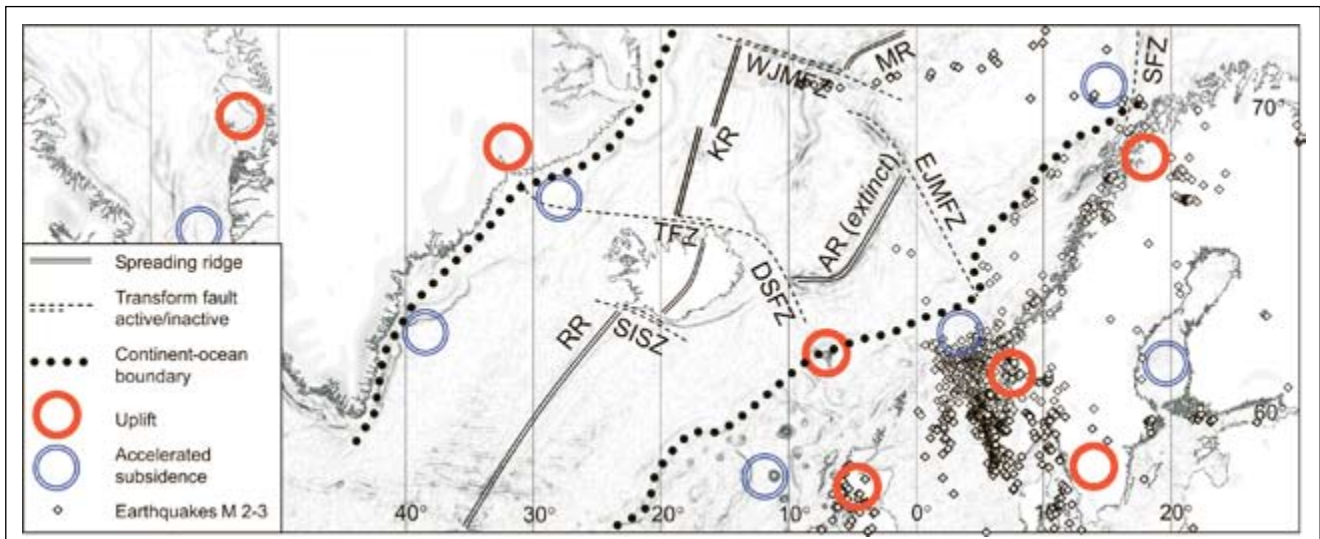


Fig. 2. Map showing 1) the slope of the gravity anomaly, constructed using the On-Line Gravity Map Construction Tool by A. Shettino, which uses version 9.1 of the gravity anomaly grid of Sandwell & Smith (1997), 2) epicenters of M 2 – 3 earthquakes reported in the USGS/NIEC PDE-W database from 1973 to 2005 (<http://neic.usgs.gov/neis/epic/>) and 3) the locations of late Cenozoic uplift and accelerated subsidence, after Japsen & Chalmers (2000). Major tectonic features are seen as increased slope of the gravity anomaly. Abbreviations: SFZ, Svalbard Fracture Zone; EJMFZ, East Jan Mayen Fracture Zones; WJMFZ, West Jan Mayen Fracture Zones; SISZ, South Iceland Seismic Zone; TFZ, Tjörnes Fracture Zone; DSFZ, Denmark Strait Fracture Zone. Uplift of the northeast margin of Greenland is reported by Johnson and Gallagher (2000). The uplifted region is near the landward termination of the WJMFZ, which is not shown.

## Peridotite hydration

Peridotite hydration occurs along mid-oceanic ridges, transform fracture zones, subduction zones and non-volcanic (or magma poor) continental margins (where mantle rocks are exhumed at the ocean-continent transition, e.g. Whitmarsh et al. 2001), because seawater can access the uppermost mantle in each of these tectonic settings. Much of the North Atlantic ocean-continent transition is masked by magmatic rocks linked to the break-up process (Skogseid et al. 1992; Saunders et al. 1997; Eldholm et al. 2000; Berndt et al. 2001). It is thus unlikely that mantle rocks are exhumed at either ocean-continent transition (cf. Whitmarsh et al. 2001) and significant peridotite hydration along this margin is therefore likely to be restricted to where the margin is intersected by transform fracture zones. Vertical movements both along and extending beyond the active segments of transform fracture zones are evident from ocean bathymetry. Peive (2006) cites several examples from the Central Atlantic. Here we examine the East Jan Mayer Fracture Zone (EJMFZ). North of the EJMFZ, seafloor spreading is centered on the Mohs Ridge (MR). South of the EJMFZ, seafloor spreading is currently centered on the Kolbeinsey Ridge (KR). Scott et al. (2005) proposed that seafloor spreading has transferred from the now extinct Aegir Ridge (AR) to the KR, by its stepwise northwards propagation. They argue that this caused the progressive separation of the Jan Mayen microcontinent from the East Greenland margin. Fig. 3 shows the bathymetry of the EJMFZ. Vertical topography, similar to that reported by Peive (2006), extends from the KR/MR to the

ocean-continent boundary. Peive (2006) attributes this topography to vertical movements caused by several contributory factors, which include tectonic effects, thermal effects, friction heating, melt migration, erosion/uplift and serpentinisation. Seawater access and consequent peridotite hydration occurring along transform fracture zones and extending beyond their active segments requires that fault-related structural damage generates a preferential (high permeability) pathway along which seawater can access and penetrate the uppermost mantle. Because peridotite hydration reactions are generally exothermic they can be self-propagating, powering their own hydrothermal cell, sustaining seawater access and continued hydration. However, seawater access may also be restricted by fault sealing mechanisms, e.g. magmatism, gouging vein mineralization and/or volume expansion. Fig. 2 shows a spatial correlation between regions of late Cenozoic uplift and the landward terminations of major transform fracture zones in the North Atlantic. This provides supporting (but inconclusive) evidence for the hypothesis that peridotite hydration is a contributory driving force for uplift.

Skelton et al. (2005) used seismic velocity as a proxy to calculate the extent, rate and duration of serpentinisation at the non-volcanic (or magma-poor) continental margin beneath the Iberia Abyssal Plain. Here, mantle rocks are exhumed within the ocean-continent transition and have therefore been accessible for seawater. Samples for this study were collected by scientific drilling during Leg 173 of the Ocean Drilling Program. Skelton et al. (2005) used a chromatographic model, which considers

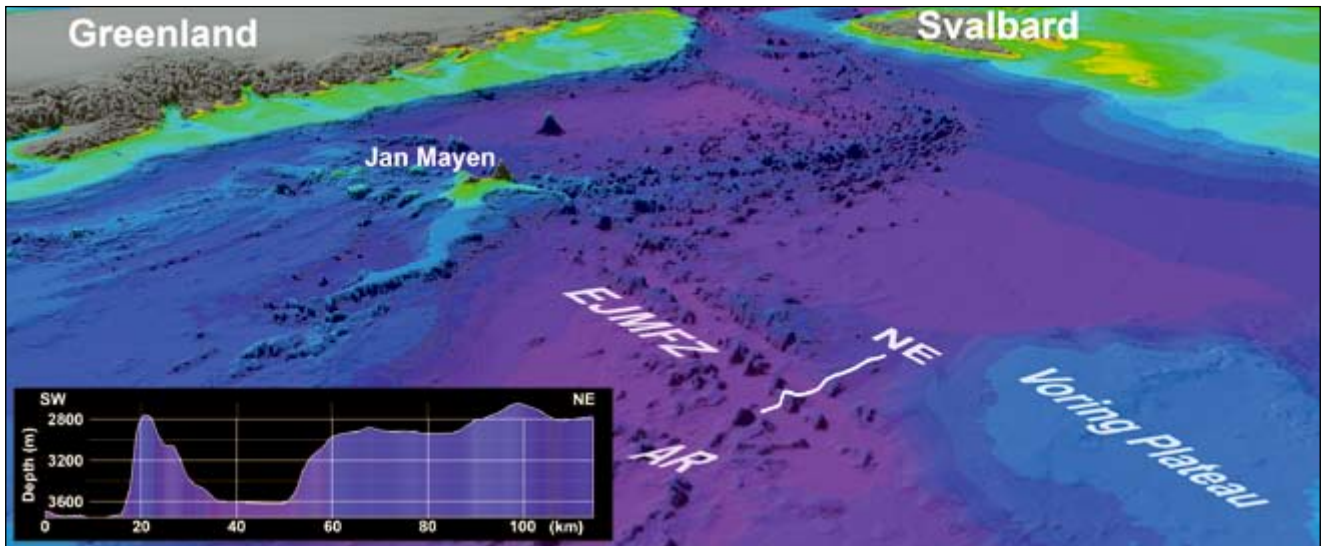


Figure 3. Bathymetry of the Norwegian-Greenland Sea portraying the morphology the East Jan Mayen Fracture Zone (EJMFZ). The inactive Aegir Ridge is denoted "AR". The NE-SW profile shown in the inset is highlighted on the figure. The bathymetry is based on the new version 2.0 of the International Bathymetric Chart of the Arctic Ocean (IBCAO) grid model (Jakobsson *et al. in prep*, Jakobsson *et al.* 2000) where multi-beam data have been included over the Aegir Ridge and the EJMFZ from Jung and Vogt (1997).

both advection and kinetic dispersion of a reaction front (after Bickle 1992), to estimate the depth of propagation of the serpentinisation front from the seismic proxy data. They calculated a depth of  $2197 \pm 89$  m. It should be noted that because of kinetic dispersion, partial serpentinisation and/or other peridotite hydration reactions continue beyond the serpentinisation front (to a depth of 6-7 km). Given that for serpentinites from the Iberia Abyssal Plain,  $X_{\text{mag}} \approx 0.04$  (Skelton *et al.* 2005), the calculated penetration depth for the serpentinisation front of  $2197 \pm 89$  m could cause a maximum uplift of  $341 \pm 14$  m ( $\Delta V = 15.5\%$  for  $X_{\text{brc}} = 0$ : equation (1c)). This assumes that the volume expansion due to serpentinisation is entirely translated into vertical motion. Although this is possible, expansion induced lateral flow cannot be excluded. There is no basis for assuming that the extent of serpentinisation will be similar at the landward termination of a transform fault beneath a volcanic margin, particularly because we do not know which factor (e.g. temperature, pressure, permeability) ultimately limits the downward propagation of a possible peridotite hydration front. Its quantification requires velocity-depth profiles for the uplifted segments of the North Atlantic margin which are of similar resolution to those available for the Iberia margin and some independent confirmation that velocity anomalies relate to peridotite hydration and not to some other process.

Skelton *et al.* (2005) estimated the minimum duration of serpentinisation along the Iberia margin by comparison with experimentally determined rates of reaction and diffusion. Given their estimate of  $10^4$  to  $10^5$  years for  $T = 225^\circ\text{C}$ , the time-averaged propagation velocity of the serpentinisation front was  $2.1 - 23 \text{ cm.a}^{-1}$ . This could cause a time-averaged uplift rate of  $0.3 - 3.6 \text{ cm.a}^{-1}$  ( $\Delta V = 15.5\%$ )

or 1 km of uplift in 0.03 – 0.31 Ma. These calculations similarly assume that volume expansion due to serpentinisation is entirely translated into vertical motion.

Finally, mechanical weakening caused by peridotite hydration might render a hydrated peridotite inclusion capable of vertical and/or lateral material flow in response to tectonic forces (cf. Koyi and Skelton 2001, Skelton *et al.* 2005). Landward material flow of a hydrated peridotite inclusion could (1) explain pairing of uplift regions onshore with regions of accelerated subsidence offshore and (2) sustain coupling between uplift triggered by peridotite hydration, tectonically-enhanced fluid access (e.g. Graham *et al.* 1997), continued peridotite hydration and erosion/uplift related to isostatic re-equilibration. This mechanism could be verified by velocity-depth profiling of paired uplifted and subsided regions along the margins of the North Atlantic.

In conclusion, the 'peridotite hydration model' whereby peridotite hydration reactions at the landward termination of transform faults provide a contributory driving force for uplift and subsidence in the Cenozoic is supported by the following: (1) uplifted segments of the margin generally coincide with the landward termination of transform fracture zones, which are (a) possible pathways for seawater access and consequent peridotite hydration and (b) loci of vertical motion; (2) the inferred extent and rate of uplift are similar to those predicted by the 'peridotite hydration model'; and (3) landward 'flow' of a hydrated peridotite body might provide a mechanism for the pairing of uplifted regions with regions of accelerated subsidence. It is also of interest that no metamorphic reactions, which can occur in the lower crust, have a similar potential for inducing uplift. Conversion

of eclogite to amphibolite causes a maximum volume expansion ( $\Delta V$ ) of 10-15%, but the volume of eclogite in the lower crust is likely to be small. Granulites may be more abundant, but the volume expansion on conversion of granulite to amphibolite is small.

However, for the 'peridotite hydration model' to provide an effective contributory driving force for Cenozoic uplift, hydration must occur at sub-crustal depths, beneath (or close to) the margin. Extensive serpentinisation, by the reaction: olivine = lizardite  $\pm$  brucite  $\pm$  magnetite  $\pm$  native metals (Wicks & O'Hanley 1988) probably only occurs below 300-400°C (10-20km). Fig. 1 shows that, for a shallow geothermal gradient (20-30°C/km), less extensive peridotite hydration, producing antigorite and/or talc can occur at 580-690°C (19-34km). Thus, peridotite hydration beneath normal continental crust will be limited in extent and the associated volume expansion will be minimal. However, beneath the ocean-continent transition, extensive peridotite hydration is feasible at the landward termination of transform fracture zones, wherever the crust is thinned to less than 10-20km. On the other hand, mechanical weakening is feasible beneath considerably thicker crust (cf. Escartin et al. 2001). Fig. 1 is constructed for the system MgO-SiO<sub>2</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O. However, consideration of additional components (e.g. FeO, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) has only minor influence on the P-T stability of the reaction curves (O'Hanley, 1996). We conclude that extensive peridotite hydration by serpentinisation is only feasible beneath thinned crust at the ocean-continent transition or if fluid flux rates are sufficient to induce advective cooling. The latter requires fluid flux rates exceeding 10<sup>-9</sup> m<sup>3</sup>.m<sup>-2</sup>.s<sup>-1</sup> (Bickle & McKenzie 1987), which is more than an order-of-magnitude faster than the fluid flux rate of 0.35-3.5 × 10<sup>-10</sup> m<sup>3</sup>.m<sup>-2</sup>.s<sup>-1</sup> calculated by Skelton et al. (2005) for serpentinisation beneath the Iberia Abyssal Plain.

Furthermore, the 'peridotite hydration model' must also explain the timing of multiple phases of uplift, reported to have occurring in the Palaeogene and Neogene, along the margins of both the North Atlantic (Faleide et al. 2002; Lidmar-Bergström & Näslund 2002) and the Labrador Sea (Japsen et al. 2005). Because the active parts of the major transform fracture zones were only near the margins of the North Atlantic in the early Palaeogene, the 'peridotite hydration model' requires extensive fluid access along the inactive segments of major transform fracture zones. This is not consistent with studies showing spatial and temporal coupling of fluid flow and active deformation (e.g. Skelton et al. 2002). Infiltration must occur in a "pulsating" manner to explain discrete phases of uplift. This may be reasonable given the discrepancy between calculated durations for metamorphic fluid flow event(s) (<10<sup>4</sup> years: Skelton et al. 1997, 2000) and the probable duration of metamorphic events (>10<sup>6</sup> years).

## Conclusions

In conclusion, the 'peridotite hydration model', whereby peridotite hydration at the landward termination of transform fracture zones is a contributory driving force for uplift and subsidence in the Cenozoic is favored by 1) a general spatial coincidence of uplifted segments of the margin with the landward termination of transform fracture zones, 2) the theoretical capacity of serpentinisation to generate the inferred extent (10<sup>2</sup>-10<sup>3</sup>m) and rate of uplift (mm.a<sup>-1</sup>-cm.a<sup>-1</sup>), 3) the potential for landward 'material flow' of a hydrated peridotite inclusion, which could explain pairing of uplifted regions with regions of accelerated subsidence. Also, peridotite hydration is considered more effective than other metamorphic reactions (e.g. granulite to amphibolite, eclogite to amphibolite) as a driving force for uplift. The main disadvantages of the 'peridotite hydration model' are that 1) extensive peridotite hydration (by serpentinisation) is unlikely below normal continental crust and 2) timing constraints require that "pulsed" peridotite hydration events occurred along the inactive segments of transform fracture zones. We conclude that volume expansion caused by peridotite hydration was restricted to regions of thinned crust at ocean-continent transitions and therefore its extent was insufficient to account for widespread uplift during the Cenozoic. However, mechanical weakening caused by limited peridotite hydration, even at sub-crustal depths at the landward termination of transform fracture zones may have important tectonic implications in models which attempt to explain uplift and subsidence in the Cenozoic.

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