#### **Mineral processing**



Fig. 2.13. Ore-dressing diagram. Basic curve A = f(v) — metal content in r.o.m. ore vs. weight recovery v; a — average metal content of r.o.m. ore; b — metal-content curve of gangue; c — metal-content curve of concentrate; m — metal recovery curve;  $\eta$  — curve of the concentration operation's efficiency

[Tarján]



University of Göttingen GÖochronology Data reporting and alternative tools for the expression and interpretation of detrital zircon U-Pb data (from the aspect of a fission trackker)

István DUNKL

http://www.sediment.uni-goettingen.de

Discordance criteria ?

**DcPDP** (= **Discordance corrected PDP**)

Type of distribution of age components An unusual way to identify age componets Residual error test for the youngest component Minimum distance of components

### Compilation of discordance criteria from randomly selected papers with detrital U/Pb ages



has 11 mildly discordant grains,

concordant and nearly concordant analyses

ages with acceptable concordance

high discordance

With several exceptions, the zircon ages are discordant.

X: concordance not mentioned ?: concordance not definied light coloured: reverse side not mentioned

#### **Cummulative vs. PDP**



[Gehlers, 2006]



#### Houston, we have some problems:

#### THE TROUBLE WITH "PROBABILITY DENSITY" PLOTS OF FISSION TRACK AGES

R. F. GALBRAITH

Statistical uncertainty associated with histograms in the Earth sciences

Pieter Vermeesch

## Summary

- PDP is accepted, widely used
- discordant ages should be presented in a different way
- there is no accepted discordance cut off
- there is no reason to set a fix discordance cut off

The suggestion: DcPDP (= Discordance corrected PDP)

# ... be pragmatical:

let's add a proportional 'punishment' to the calculated uncertainty according to the degree of discordance

e.g.:

100% concordance ---> 1x unc. 85% concordance ---> 3x unc.



**DcPDP** (Discordance corrected PDP)

an example

0.006 12 11 PDP: concordance cut at 95% 10 0.005 data presented until 85% 9 0.004 8 Probability 7 0.003 6 5 0.002 4 З 0.001 2 0.000 0.006 12 DcPDP: data presented 11 until 85% with max. 0.005 10 punishment of 3x error 9 0.004 8 Probability 7 0.003 6 5 0.002 4 3 0.001 2 0.000 n ĝ 200 g 8 900 0 g 500 20 8 100

Age (Ma)

Frequency

Frequency

120 zircon 206/238 ages, data from Mikes et al.

**DcPDP** (= **Discordance corrected PDP**)

## POSSIBILITIES

limit of concordance: up to 90 ... 85% ? punishment: 3x ...4x error ? reverse side: up to 102 ...105% conc. ?

## ADVANTAGES

- represents the actual differences between the reliability of data
- avoids the usage of an artificial discordance threshold
- reduces the 'hectic peaks' in the PDP
- the 'nearly concordant' data remains and contribute to the major age components (*important for sediment mass balance*)
- just one curve per sample (clear-cut presentation in case of many data)
- binned diagram can show all data in the background

## Suggestions I.

Showing concordance in the data table ... and maybe propose a uniform format: 0.98 / 98% / +2%

Presenting the age of sedimentation in the graphics

- sieve fraction dated

- method of grain selection (if applied)
- number of data / number above 95 % concordance (90% ? an issue for discussion)
- which age presented: 206/238 or 207/206 or concordia or 'best age'?
- in case of 'combi' presentation at what age is the boundary of methods?
- which common-Pb correction used?

#### **Identification of age components**

The youngest and oldest ages ...



**Fig. 6 a** Schematic diagram for detrital zircons of the western basin of the according to data from Table 1 supplementary material. **b** Schematic diagram for detrital zircons of the eastern basin of the The oldest and youngest zircons are shown.

[Author, year]

#### **Empirical distributions - what we need**

**Mud Tank** 



91500

Empirical descriptions of grain-age distributions in standards and igneous samples help to determine the paremeters in detrital samples.

<sup>[</sup>Jackson et al., 2004]

<sup>1</sup> single grain data : ... OK, it can be important, but it is an 'indication' and not an 'age component'

Parameters of single-grain age distributions of igneous samples on a Pearson family discrimination plot

mainly I-type granitoids, each sample composed of 25 single-grain ages



## Age component isolation by curve fitting programs

(e.g. Fityk for Raman spectroscopy)







http://fityk.nieto.pl/

# **ADVANTAGES:**

- quick
- transparent, well documented
- user can define the distribution type of components

# DISADVANTAGE: it does not work with the primary data

### Fitting of data and model by cummulative way







# http://fityk.nieto.pl/

# ADVANTAGES:

- quick
- transparent, well documented
- user can define the distribution type of components

DISADVANTAGE: it does not work with the primary data

# **BUT maybe fitting to a DcPDP generated curve is just an ADVANTAGE:**

if DcPDP is a better approximation of the reliability of the data set, then in this way we can perform a more robust component identification

## How the trackkers doing it ?



#### **Residual error visualizes the reliability of the age components**

Especially recommended for the youngest age component



## Test of component identification by mixed age standards





[Author, year]

## What is the signal-criterion?



Evaluation scheme of a distribution					
1. Assuming one component	2. More components				
<b>1.1. Symmetric</b> Gaussian Laplace	<b>Component:</b> A distinguishable part of the whole data set that can be characterized by a distribution				
1.2. "Oblic" (~Pearson Gr.)	type, mean and scatter.				
Gamma Lognormal	2.1. How many? 2.2. Distribution type?				

*Number of parameters:* (No of comps \* 3) - 1 = parameters

Components	B Parameters			Data needed	
2	>	5	>	~25	
3	>	8	>	~40	
4	>	11	>	~55	
5	>	14	>	~70	
6	>	17	>	~85	

### Suggestion for data presentation

- DcPDP (corrected curve + all data in binned diagram)

Suggestions for component analysis

- the youngest age has very limited meaning
- one data is not an age component
- empirical description of distribution type of igneous samples and their parameters for the identification of components in detrital samples
- we should consider some overlapping criterion in order to limit the number of age components
- the isolation of the youngest age component needs special care, consider residual error analysis for the estimation of the real uncertainty
- maybe the DcPDP generated (smoothed) curve is a useful base for component identification

**Stop talking** 







Ν

Figure 8. Graph showing probabilities that a sample grain-age distribution will contain at least one grain (gray contours) or at least five grains (black contours) from a component of that distribution. The probabilities are a function of the true size (i.e. expected size) of the component and the total number of grains dated. The calculated probabilities are based on the binomial distribution. See text for further discussion.

## The crystals have different counts and thus different error

Number	FT age	±	1s	
of tracks	[Ma]			
71	46	H	8	
45	34	H	7	
91	38	±	6	
45	28	±	6	
4	13	±	7	50 %
66	49	H	9	
46	45	H	9	
220	42	H	6	15 %
64	28	±	5	
18	21	±	6	







[Dunkl, 2001]

# But how many grains?



Theoretical detection limits for zircon populations in data sets of n analyses, derived from the binomial formula, at probability levels pL=0.5 and 0.95.

... how many grains for what?

# Peaks are ...





# **Peaks are in the mountains**





#### **Identification of the youngest population**

(chi-square age concept, Brandon, 1992)

Z-249



Option I: volcanic (age of youngest population =~ age of sedimentation)
Option II: cooling ages (age of pop1 > age of sedimentation)

# "Soft rock" - more age clusters



# What is the ... ?



[Garver and Brandon, 1994]