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# New Magnetic compilation and interpretation of the Bay of Biscay and surrounding continental shelves

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#### 13 ABSTRACT

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15 Producing accurate structural maps is a pre-requisite to unravel the tectonic evolution 16 of a region. For this purpose, magnetic anomaly maps are helpful data sets for the identification 17 and mapping of geological features. We compiled 154 marine surveys and 7 aeromagnetic campaigns covering the Bay of Biscay, its surrounding continental shelves and western part of 18 19 the Pyrenees. As the initial data sets had heterogeneous acquisition parameters, we applied a 20 series of transforms before merging the data. We performed a variable reduction to the pole to 21 localize the extrema of the anomaly vertically to their causative sources and facilitate geological 22 interpretations. The resulting intermediate resolution maps compiled at 500 m altitude offshore 23 and 3000 m both on- and offshore, display magnetic trends and patterns. They are enhanced by 24 several potential field operators (analytic signal, tilt angle, vertical derivative) enabling the 25 interpretation of the geometry of the sources causing the anomaly (3D, 2D and 2.5D). The 26 analysis of these magnetic maps allows us to precise the distribution and segmentation of crustal 27 domains previously identified in the Bay of Biscay and its adjacent continental shelves. A series 28 of crustal scale structures mapped onshore and formed during and after the Variscan orogeny 29 show well on this new map compilation, allowing the continuous onshore-offshore mapping of 30 some of them and revealing their role in segmenting the northern margin of the Bay of Biscay. 31 This new compilation notably reveals variations in the magnetic signature of the Ocean-32 Continent-Transition (OCT) that we interpret as related to an increased magmatic production 33 of the eastern part of the Bay of Biscay OCT during continental breakup. In addition to precise 34 previous structural maps, this new magnetic compilation opens new perspectives for the 35 interpretation of the Bay of Biscay geodynamic setting.

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Key words: magnetic compilation, aeromagnetic data, marine magnetic data, Bay of Biscay, passive margin segmentation, Ocean-Continent-Transition (OCT). 38

#### 40 1 Introduction

41 Magnetic properties of rocks are used in different geological contexts to map structures, estimate the depth of magnetic sources, describe deformation patterns, or identify the limits of 42 43 ancient terranes, among others. High-resolution magnetic grids are notably valuable to help in the production and interpretation of the compilation of structural maps, hence, to unravel the 44 45 tectonic evolution of geological domains. However, prior to any modelling which can push the 46 interpretation forward, we have to be sure that magnetic lineations are really related to a 47 magnetic contrast and do not result from the processing and/or merging of data sets. This 48 contribution presents a new magnetic map compiled from diverse aeromagnetic and shipborne 49 surveys with the aim of providing the highest possible resolution on the Bay of Biscay-Western 50 Pyrenees system (Fig. 1). Existing structural compilations of the Bay of Biscay and surrounding 51 continental shelves (Fig. 1) are compared to our new magnetic compilation with the aim of 52 guiding new regional tectonic interpretations. The Bay of Biscay-Western Pyrenees system is 53 of particular geological interest because it underwent a succession of transcurrent, extensional 54 and compressional tectonic events including the Variscan orogeny, the Permo-Mesozoic 55 riftings, and the Pyrenean orogeny. This long tectonic history resulted in the formation and 56 reactivation of tectonic structures in different crustal domains previously distinguished based 57 on their geological and geophysical signatures (Fig. 1, see Thinon et al., 2003 and Tugend et 58 al., 2015a for reviews).

Magnetic compilations which include the Bay of Biscay and surrounding shelves already exist (Verhoef et al., 1996; Lesur et al., 2016; Meyer et al., 2017), however, they were either of relatively low resolution or focused on offshore domains. In this contribution, we present new compilations at the altitudes of 500 m and 3000 m including all available datasets both offshore and onshore to image with the highest possible resolution regional variations of the magnetic field. This new regional magnetic compilation allows us to assign a magnetic

65 signature (characteristic intensity and texture) to the different crustal domains previously 66 mapped (Fig. 1). Furthermore, the interpretation of magnetic anomalies allows us to confirm or 67 remap the regional extent of several key crustal structures and evaluate their impact on the 68 observed segmentation of the North Biscay passive margin.

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#### 70 2 Geological setting and previous magnetic compilations

71 2.1 Geological setting

#### 72 2.1.1 Structure of the Bay of Biscay oceanic domains and its continental margins

73 The Bay of Biscay is a V-shape oceanic basin, which opened during the Cretaceous 74 Magnetic Quiet Zone (CMOZ) between the European and Iberian lithospheric plates (Olivet 75 1996; Sibuet et al., 2004). Compressional forces linked to the northward motion of Africa 76 (Rosenbaum et al., 2002) inverted the North Iberian margin to initiate a proto-subduction, during the Late Cretaceous (e.g., Boillot et al., 1979; Alvarez-Marron et al., 1997; Gallastegui 77 78 et al., 2002; Pedreira et al., 2015; Tugend et al., 2014; 2015b; Cadenas et al., 2018; 2020). In 79 contrast, the North Biscay margin, which includes the Western Approaches and Armorican 80 passive margin segments (Fig. 1, Thinon et al., 2003) and its continental shelf were weakly 81 deformed, and the passive margin architecture is preserved (Barbier et al., 1986; Thinon et al., 82 2001, Tugend et al., 2014). The distribution of oceanic and continental crustal domains and in-83 between Ocean-Continent Transition (OCT) has previously been identified and mapped from 84 the Bay of Biscay to its adjacent offshore continuation now integrated in the Pyrenees (Fig. 1, 85 Thinon et al., 2003; Roca et al., 2011; Tugend et al., 2014; Ruiz et al, 2017; Cadenas et al., 86 2018).

87 The Bay of Biscay oceanic domain is interpreted to have developed during a short-lived
88 late Early Cretaceous (Aptian-Albian) to Late Cretaceous (84 Ma, Santonian) seafloor

89 spreading episode (e.g. Bacon et al., 1969; Montadert et al., 1979; Boillot, 1984; Sibuet and 90 Collette, 1991; Sibuet et al., 2004; Tugend et al., 2015b; Barnett-Moore et al., 2016, 2017; Nirrengarten et al., 2018). This interpretation is mainly deduced from the identification of 91 92 magnetic anomalies in the North Atlantic Ocean and their interpreted continuation in the Bay of Biscay. A strong linear magnetic anomaly has previously been identified in the central part 93 94 of the Biscay abyssal plain (e.g., Williams, 1975; Cande and Kristoffersen, 1977; Srivastava et 95 al., 1990; Olivet, 1996; Sibuet et al. 2004) and interpreted as produced during Chron 34, dating 96 the end of oceanic accretion during the Late Cretaceous (~84 Ma; Montadert et al., 1979). 97 Anomaly 34 young is interpreted as the magnetic signature of the fossil-spreading axis located 98 close to basaltic rocks drilled at Deep Sea Drilling Project Site 118 (Laughton et al., 1972 a, b). 99 At the foot of the Goban Spur margin (westernmost extremity of the Bay of Biscay, Fig. 1), DSDP site 550 (Leg 80; Graciansky and Poag, 1981) dated the first oceanic crust to Early 100 101 Albian time. In the Bay of Biscay, however, the age of the onset of oceanic accretion cannot be 102 ascertained using oceanic magnetic anomalies. Some of the magnetic anomalies occurring 103 along the OCT of the Bay of Biscay rifted margins have been interpreted as seafloor spreading 104 anomalies from the M-series (Sibuet et al., 2004) analogous to those interpreted along the West 105 Iberia margin (Srivastava et al., 2000). Onset of oceanic accretion in the Bay of Biscay has been 106 interpreted as occurring either prior to (Sibuet et al., 1993; Srivastava et al., 1990), during 107 (Montadert et al., 1979; Boillot, 1984; Sibuet and Collette, 1991, Thinon et al., 2003, Sibuet et 108 al., 2004) or just after (Montadert et al., 1979; Thinon et al., 2003) the M0 anomaly (~125Ma, Gee and Kent 2007). However, the interpretation of these magnetic anomalies as seafloor 109 110 spreading anomalies is debated both in the Bay of Biscay (Thinon et al., 2003) and along the 111 West Iberian and Newfoundland rifted margins (Nirrengarten et al., 2017), casting doubts on 112 the age of the onset oceanic accretion.

114 Located in between the oceanic and hyper-thinned continental domains, a wide OCT 115 has previously been mapped along the North Biscay passive margin (including the ~80km-wide 116 Armorican basin, Thinon et al., 2003), and in the abyssal plain at toe of the Aquitaine margin 117 (Fig. 1; Roca et al., 2011; Tugend et al., 2014; Ruiz et al., 2017). The Bay Biscay OCT is now 118 interpreted by most authors as floored by exhumed mantle, more or less serpentinized and 119 associated with more or less mafic magmatism, based on seismic and gravity data (Figure 1, 120 e.g., Thinon et al., 2003; Tugend et al., 2014; 2015a; Roca et al., 2011; Ruiz et al., 2017). 121 Stratigraphic correlations conducted along the Western Approach margin (Thinon et al., 2002) 122 suggest that the OCT formed at the end of the rifting by Aptian-Albian time (Thinon et al., 2003 123 Tugend et al., 2014).

#### 124 2.1.2 The continental shelves

The structural framework of the English Channel, Western Approaches, and Armorican
continental shelf (Fig. 1) is relatively well-known, constrained by different data sets (field work,
seismic data, magnetic data), previously synthesized in geological maps (Lefort et al., 1997;
Chantraine et al., 2003).

The English Channel includes a succession of Permo-Triassic to Early Jurassic basins oriented WSW-ENE (e.g. Evans, 1990), setting up on a Paleozoic basement previously affected by the Variscan orogeny (Early Carboniferous; Ziegler, 1987; Matte, 2001; Ballèvre et al., 2014; and references therein), being located in the outer part of the Ibero-Armorican Arc (Matte and Ribeiro, 1975; Ballèvre et al., 2014; Cochelin et al., 2017, Authemayou et al., 2019 and references therein). The English Channel has been reactivated during the Pyrenean orogeny (e.g. Evans, 1990; Le Roy et al., 2011).

The Armorican continental shelf is characterized by a 30-km thick crust including
various outcropping lithologies (granites, metasediments, high pressure units), mainly inherited

138 from the Variscan orogeny (e.g.: Chantraine et al., 2003; Ballèvre et al., 2014). The structural 139 pattern of the Armorican shelf is characterised by large-scale WNW-ESE to NW-SE trending 140 transcurrent fault systems, alike the South Armorican Shear Zone (SASZ) in the Armorican 141 Massif (e.g., Chantraine et al., 2003; Paquet et al., 2010; Guillocheau et al., 2003; Thinon et al., 142 2009, 2018). Outcrops of Variscan basement are frequent along the inner part of the Armorican 143 shelf, however, thick Mesozoic and/or Tertiary sediments covers the outer part of the North 144 Biscay and Aquitaine shelves. As a result, the main crustal structures of the inner Armorican 145 shelf along the south Brittany and Charente coast are well known and mapped (e.g., Chantraine 146 et al., 2003; Paquet et al., 2010; Thinon et al., 2009, 2018), in contrast to the structure of the 147 outer part of the shelf (Fig. 1).

148 The Aquitaine shelf includes the E-W trending Parentis basin delimited to the South by 149 the Paleozoic basement of the Landes High (Fig. 1). As imaged by seismic data and calibrated 150 by drilling results, the Parentis Basin is a thick asymmetric Mesozoic-Cenozoic basin (up to 15 151 km thick, e.g., Bois et al., 1997; Biteau et al., 2006; Tugend et al., 2014; 2015a) sitting on highly 152 thinned continental crust (locally less than 10km thick, Bois et al., 1997; Tugend et al., 2015a). 153 The stratigraphic architecture of rift sequences is largely controlled by the occurrence of the 154 thick Triassic salt layer (Ferrer et al., 2009; Jammes et al., 2010a; Lagabrielle et al., 2020) 155 allowing the decoupling of deformation between supra-salt formations and the underlying 156 basement (as shown in the analogous Columbrets Basin, Ethève et al., 2018). The Parentis Basin 157 is bounded to the South by one or several normal faults (e.g., Ferrer et al., 2008; Jammes et al., 158 2010a; Tugend et al., 2015a) that controlled the observed crustal thinning interpreted as 159 resulting in metamorphism and magmatism (Bois et al., 1997). Based on the interpretation of 160 ECORS seismic profiles, several authors suggested that the Cretaceous rifting of the Parentis basin was largely controlled by the Variscan tectonic framework of the Paleozoic basement 161 162 (e.g. Bois et al., 1997, Gariel et al., 1997). The Landes High, located between the Parentis Basin and the onshore Basque-Cantabrian Basin, corresponds to a relatively weakly thinned
continental block (Bois et al., 1997; Roca et al., 2011; Tugend et al., 2014). Only the uppermost
part has been sampled and included clays and magmatic rocks like ophites under the thin Upper
Cretaceous-Triassic sedimentary cover (DANU and TARANIS wells). The southern part of the
Meso-Cenozoic cover is affected by the North-Pyrenean frontal thrust system (e.g., Ferrer et
al., 2008).

169 The North-Iberian shelf that borders the Bay of Biscay to the South is narrower than the 170 Armorican continental shelf and its structure varies from west to east. Onshore of the northern 171 Iberian shelf, a large part of the outcropping rocks emplaced prior to, during or subsequently to 172 the Variscan history with different Variscan domains being distinguished. Of particular interest 173 is the boundary between the Central Iberian Zone (CIZ) and the West Asturian-Leonese Zone 174 (WALZ), which is marked by a set of magnetic anomalies (Fig. 1; Ayarza et al., 2004). To the 175 west, the North-Iberian shelf is characterized by a ~30 km thick crust imaged along the IAM 176 12 refraction profile (Alvarez-Marron et al., 1997; Fernandez-Viejo et al., 1997) and segmented 177 by a series of NW-SE transfer faults (Deregnaucourt & Boillot 1982). To the east, the northern Iberian shelf hosts the thick Early Cretaceous Asturian basin delimiting the narrow Le Danois 178 179 Bank from the main shelf to the south (Gallastegui et al., 2002; Cadenas & Fernandez-Viejo, 180 2017). The structure changes again east of the Torrelavega and Santander canyons (Pedreira et al., 2007), interpreted as bounding a N-S to NNE-SSW soft transfer zone formed during the 181 182 Early Cretaceous rifting and subsequently reactivated during the orogeny (Roca et al., 2011). 183 Despite the identification of rift related structures and basins (e.g. Cadenas et al., 2018), the 184 present-day morphology of the North-Iberian shelf is largely controlled by the inversion and 185 partial under-thrusting of the Bay of Biscay distal margin and oceanic domain below the Iberian 186 plate during the Pyrenean orogeny (Fig. 1) (e.g., Boillot et al., 1979; Alvarez-Marron et al., 187 1997; Gallastegui et al., 2002; Roca et al., 2011, Pedreira et al., 2015).

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#### 189 2.1.3 Pyrenees Domain

190 Inland, the northern edge of the Aquitaine foreland basin (Charentes region) formed 191 over a Palaeozoic basement whose structuring, likely complex, is difficult to constrain, since it 192 is not exposed. Nevertheless, two different geological features have previously been identified 193 and interpreted (Montigny and Allegre, 1974; Maillet, 1977; Santallier, 1981; Mercier et al., 194 1985; Triboulet and Audren, 1985; Girardeau et al., 1986; Lefort et al., 1997): (i) a NW-SE 195 Carboniferous basin called the Saintes-Cognac Graben ; and (ii) N140-oriented band of late 196 Proterozoic to Early Paleozoic mafic/ultramafic rocks. Further to the south, the Pyrenean-197 Aquitaine structural framework is characterized by the occurrence of several crustal to 198 lithospheric scale structures, most of which are interpreted as inherited from the Variscan 199 orogeny. They correspond to ~ N110 trending structures including the « Flexure Celtaquitaine » 200 (BRGM et al., 1974). This structure is interpreted as a major Variscan thrust complex in 201 between pre-Variscan metasediments and Carboniferous basins (Lefort et al., 1997; Rolet, 202 1997). Its geometry is poorly constrained and different mapping have been proposed (BRGM 203 et al., 1974; Lefort et al., 1997; Rolet, 1997; Serrano et al., 2006). N110 trending structures 204 such as Audignon, Antin-Maubourguet and Percorade ridges are salt tectonic structures 205 formerly interpreted as Albian-Cenomanian in age (Mauriaud, 1987; Serrano et al., 2006), and 206 recently reinterpreted as already initiated during the Late Triassic - Hettangian rifting stage (Issautier et al., 2020). 207

A second set of structures trends in a N20 to NE-SW direction, like for instance the Pamplona and Toulouse-Villefranche faults (e.g. Razin, 1989; Rolet 1997; Larrasoaña et al., 2003). These structures are believed to strongly control both the segmentation of the Early Cretaceous rift basins and their subsequent inversion initiated in the Late Cretaceous (Pedreira et al., 2007; Roca et al., 20011; Tugend et al., 2014; 201b; Canérot, 2017; Saspiturry et al., 2019; Issautier et al., 2020; Ducoux et al., 2021; Lehujeur et al., this volume). Some of these
are interpreted as partly inherited from the Late Variscan stage and/or Triassic-Hettangian
rifting (Serrano et al., 2006; Tugend et al., 2014; Saspiturry et al., 2019; Issautier et al., 2020).
Due to their successive reactivations, the geometry of these structures is not always clear. Our
knowledge is mainly derived from sub-surface observations, provided by field data, drillholes,
or seismic data and the in-depth extent of these structures and their impact on different crustal
domains are sometimes unknown, imprecise or debated.

220 2.2 Previous magnetic compilations

221 Three published magnetic compilations cover the Bay of Biscay and the western part of 222 the Aquitaine basin (including the Parentis Basin and Landes High areas) (Fig. 2). The Grid 223 Aeromagnetic and Marine Magnetics of the north Atlantic and Artic (GAMMAA5) is a 224 compilation from marine and airborne magnetic surveys with a grid resolution of 5 km and 225 without corrections for the non-uniform altitude of the observation points (Verhoef et al., 1996). The 226 World Digital Magnetic Anomaly Map (WDMAMv2) (Lesur et al., 2016) also compiled marine 227 magnetic campaigns and aeromagnetic surveys. The resolution of the grid is 3 arc minutes for 228 an altitude of 5 km above continental areas and at sea level for marine areas. The Earth Magnetic 229 Anomaly Grid (EMAG2v3) compiled satellite, marine and airborne magnetic surveys with a 2 230 arc min resolution at 4 km altitude (Maus et al., 2009 and Meyer et al., 2017).

The result of these previous compilations is shown in Figure 2 for the Bay of Biscay domain and Landes-Parentis subset area. The GAMMAA5 compilation has a slightly higher resolution but there are no data onshore. WDMAM has a good resolution both offshore and onshore but shows visible artefacts, which are probably due to the merge of data sets with different resolutions. The EMAG2v3 compilation has no obvious artefacts but, as the compilation was made at 4 km above the sea level, the anomalies are smoothed, removing the high frequency content which bears crucial information to map structural domains. Therefore, it appears that none of these existing compilations are suitable to perform a comprehensive
intermediate resolution onshore-offshore geophysical characterisation and geological
interpretation of the rifted margins of the Bay of Biscay.

241

#### 242 **3** New magnetic compilation

243 3.1 Datasets

We used 104700 km of marine profiles and seven aeromagnetic surveys (Fig.3) acquired by industrial and academic partners in the sixties and eighties (Table 1). Given their age, the nature of available data is very different, including raw data, grids and paper maps.

247 3.1.1 Marine magnetic data

Various institutions and ships acquired the marine data used in the compilation. Magnetic data have been extracted from the world data service for Geophysics (https://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/mggd.html) and the French National Oceanographic Data Centre (SISMER). We added two campaigns: ZEE GASCOGNE (Pautot, 1992) and ZEEGASC2 (Le Suave, 1997). In total, 156 marine magnetic campaigns and 104 700.km are integrated in our study (Fig. 3).

254 3.1.2 Aeromagnetic data

The compilation also integrates seven aeromagnetic surveys acquired between 1962 and 1983 by SHELL, ESSO and the Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris (IPGP) (Le Borgne et al., 1971). The two first surveys (Table 1, 1-2) were acquired with a fluxgate magnetometer and the other ones used an absolute cesium-vapor optically pumped magnetometer. The spacing between the lines is highly variable, ranging from 1.2 km to 20 km and the altitudes of the surveys range from 500 m to 1500 m (See table 1 for acquisition parameter of each survey). The first six surveys were available as paper maps only.

	Year	Survey	Operator	Reference code	Sensor	Line	Strategies to
		name			elevation (m)	spacing (km)	compute map at 500 m
1	1962	Lands	Shell	1014	610	2	downward continuation
2	1963	Lorient - Arcachon	Shell	2087	600	20	downward continuation
3	1966	Plateau continental Atlantique	Shell	2502	500	4	-
4	1968	Sud Gascogne sud	ESSO	2577	1500	8	equivalent layer
5	1968	Sud Gascogne nord	ESSO	2577	500	4	-
6	1969	Gascogne	IPGP	IPG41	500	10	-
7	1983	Sud	ESSO	6200	780	1.2/3.6	downward
		Aquitaine					continuation
8			156 marine surve	ys	0		upward
							continuation
2.62							

262

263

264 Table 1 : Main characteristics of the dataset covering the Bay of Biscay and surrounding
265 continental shelves.

266

267 3.2 Methods

Each dataset required its specific processing to homogenize the data and prepare it for the compilation. The processing was performed with the Applimag Software (Matlab codes developed by M. Munschy at the Institut Terre et Environment de Strasbourg).

271 3.2.1 Processing of the datasets

For marine datasets, a manual selection of 707 profiles with magnetic data was made. Then, the regional field of the year of the survey was substracted from each dataset using the IGRF-12 model (Thébault et al., 2015). To minimize the errors in the dataset, we applied the same strategy that on the airborne dataset: Levelling. For the levelling correction, first, the crossover points are measured (3727 crossing points, for 707 profiles). Next, the differences at crossover points between two profiles are computed. Lastly, a constant apply to each profile is
measured by a linear inversion to minimized the differences at the crossover points (Luyendyk,
1997). The standard deviation of the crossovers was reduced from 45.7 nT to 28.1 nT by the
levelling. Lastly, the overall dataset was interpolated on a grid of 500 m cell size using a
gradient method algorithm (D'Errico, 2006).

For the aeromagnetic datasets, six of the seven surveys were only available as magnetic isolines on paper maps. These maps were georeferenced and digitized in a GIS, carefully checked and gridded (D'Errico, 2006).

285

To restore each grid at an altitude of 500 m, we applied two strategies for the 5 grids which were initially not at this elevation: upward/downward continuation (Baranov, 1957) and equivalent layer (Dampney, 1969). The first method transforms the magnetic grid (at altitude h) in the wavenumber domain and applies an operator of continuation to another altitude  $h + s_0$ .

$$F(u, v, h + s_0) = F(u, v, s_0)e^{-\sqrt{u^2 + v^2}z}$$
(1)

290

with u and v being the spatial frequencies in the north and east directions and z the
altitude of the survey. For the downward continuation, z is negative and this operator increases
the amplitude of the high frequencies and rapidly becomes unstable. For survey 4 (Sud
Gascogne Sud), the distance between the two surfaces is equal to 1000 m, so an equivalent
approach was privileged. In order to derive the equivalent source magnetization from the initial
magnetic grid a zeroth-order Tikhonov regularization was applied (Tikhonov and Arsenin, 1977;
Oliveira et al. 2013, equation 4)

$$p = G^T (GG^T + \mu I)^{-1} d, (2)$$

Where p is the magnetic property of the equivalent source, G is the matrix of Green's
functions, μ is a regularizing parameter, I is an identity matrix and d is the magnetic observations.
A source depth of 3500 m and source spacing of 1000 m was used.

#### 301 3.2.2 Compilation procedures

The merging of the 8 resulting grids (7 for the aeromagnetic datasets and 1 for the compilation of the 154 marine magnetic datasets) at an altitude of 500 m was computed with the suturing tool GridKnit (Geosoft, 2013). The "suture" method was used to stitch the grids together. Figure 4 displays the result of the merge of all datasets at an altitude of 500 m. In the Landes-Parentis area, this compilation has a higher resolution than previous magnetic compilations (Fig. 2), but the anomalies in continental areas (Spain and France) are not complete.

309

The Bay of Biscay compilation was continued upward from the altitude of 500 m to 311 3000 m. A second magnetic compilation was computed at an altitude of 3000 m (Fig. 5) 312 merging our compilation with the magnetic map of Spain (Ardizone et al, 1989) and the 313 magnetic map of France (Le Borgne and Le Moüel, 1969).

#### 314 3.2.3 Potential field transforms

To help geological interpretations, the compilation of magnetic grids was reduced to the pole. This operation compensates the skewness of magnetic anomalies and enables the extrema value to be located vertically to their causative sources – as far as their magnetization is mainly induced (Fig. 6). The study area is large (>500 km<sup>2</sup>), so a variable reduction to the pole was computed (Cooper and Cowan, 2005) in order to take into account the variations of orientation of the regional magnetic field.

321 Three transforms were applied to the anomalies reduced to the pole: the analytic signal, the 322 tilt angle and the first order vertical derivative (Fig. 7).

The analytic signal or total gradient of the anomaly is used to locate 3D magnetic bodies like intrusions for example; it has the property to locate the anomalies vertically to the causative sources whatever the type of magnetization of the source (induced or remanent). The analytic signal (Roest et al., 1992) is expressed as

$$SA(x, y, z) = \sqrt{\left(\frac{\partial T(x, y, z)}{\partial x}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial T(x, y, z)}{\partial y}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial T(x, y, z)}{\partial z}\right)^2}$$
(1)

327 With  $\frac{\partial T(x,y,z)}{\partial x}$ ,  $\frac{\partial T(x,y,z)}{\partial y}$ ,  $\frac{\partial T(x,y,z)}{\partial z}$  being the partial derivatives of the grid in the x, y and

328 z directions.

The tilt angle is efficient for structural interpretation as it allows the mapping of both strong and weak contrasts of magnetization. It is written as (Miller and Singh, 1994):

$$Tilt(x, y, z) = tan^{-1} \left( \frac{\frac{\partial T(x, y, z)}{\partial z}}{\sqrt{\left(\frac{\partial T(x, y, z)}{\partial x}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial T(x, y, z)}{\partial y}\right)^2}} \right)$$
(2).

331

The first vertical derivative is used to localise the edge of magnetic bodies. This transformation removes long wavelength anomalies and highlight shallow structures.

$$DV(x, y, z) = \frac{\partial T(x, y, z)}{\partial z}.$$
 (3)

#### **335 4 Results and interpretations**

#### 336 4.1 Magnetic interpretation: synthetic cases

337 To help the interpretation of the compilation maps, we characterized the magnetic 338 anomalies according to three types of potential field source geometries: 3D (close to spherical 339 sources), 2.5D (elongated sources) and 2D (highly extended in one direction). These 3 types of 340 source geometries were modelled as synthetic cases (Fig. S1, supplementary material) in order 341 to show the cartographic signature of each type of source in the four magnetic maps we 342 produced (the magnetic anomaly reduced to the pole, its first order vertical derivative, analytic 343 signal and tilt angle). Both the induced and remanent magnetization were modelled, using 344 respectively the average IGRF of the study area, and a remanent magnetization which we 345 arbitrarily fixed at D=- $30^{\circ}$ , I= $50^{\circ}$ .

Using these characteristic synthetic signatures, the magnetic compilation maps were interpreted in terms of 3D / 2,5D / 2D sources (Fig. 7a, b, c) and comments on the remanent character of some anomalies are given in the next section. Overall, the patterns produced by the cartographic repartition of these 3D / 2,5D / 2D sources, highlight regional geological domains displaying varied "magnetic textures" (Fig. 7d and Fig. 8) which are also discussed in the following section.

352

4.2 Magnetic signature of crustal domains from the new compilation

The mapping of the different crustal domains of the Bay of Biscay and Pyrenees was previously derived mainly from gravity inversion results and scattered seismic data (Fig. 1, Thinon et al., 2003, Roca et al., 2011; Tugend et al., 2014; Ruiz et al, 2017; Cadenas et al., 2018). Our interpretation of the magnetic signal in terms of 3D / 2,5D / 2D sources (Fig. 7d) enabled us to characterize the magnetic texture of the different crustal domains (Fig. 1), precise their boundaries and clarify the offshore continuation of major crustal structures mapped onland or from seismic data interpretations.

The interpretation of different magnetic sources reveals lateral variations between the different crustal domains previously identified, but also within them (Fig. 7d): the oceanic abyssal plain (domain I), the OCT (domain II) and the continental domains of the Western Approaches margin (domain III) and the North and South Armorican margin (domains IV and V, respectively).

366 4.2.1 Oceanic domain of the Bay of Biscay

The new magnetic compilation confirms the V-shape of the Bay of Biscay oceanic 367 368 domain (domain I, Fig. 8) characterized by a series of strong magnetic anomalies (over 100 nT, 369 Fig. 6). This series of high intensity magnetic anomalies terminate against the boundary with 370 the mapped OCT domain of the Western Approaches and northern Armorican margins. The 371 boundary between the OCT and oceanic domain is marked by a weak 2D anomaly, which has 372 previously been interpreted as part of the M-series (M4: Sibuet et al., 2004). However, 373 numerous studies now show that the continentward limit of the first oceanic crust cannot be 374 used as an isochron in plate reconstruction (Eagles et al., 2015). Also, as already highlighted by Thinon et al. (2003), no linear anomaly can be interpreted at the emplacement of the MO 375 376 pick of Sibuet et al., (2004). Therefore, the previously interpreted isochron magnetic anomalies 377 from the M-series should be re-investigated in future studies prior to any conclusion.

378

As in previous compilations, an E-W trending linear anomaly is observed in the centre of the Bay of Biscay abyssal plain (Fig. 6 and 7). This anomaly is commonly interpreted as the marine magnetic anomaly 34 young (A34y). This anomaly seems to end at 8°W of longitude. To the East, the pattern of the magnetic anomalies changes. There, a series of anomalies oriented NW-SE in the northern part and WSW-ENE in the southern part, is observed and interpreted as delineating the eastern V-shape termination of the unambiguous oceanic domain (at ~6°W; Fig 7D). Bathymetric data show that the WSW-ENE trend of magnetic anomalies that characterises the southern domain I is actually located below the present-day slope of the North Iberia margin, whose morphology is conditioned by the Cenozoic accretionary prism formed during convergence (Fig. 8A). Except for the A34, the number and amplitude of magnetic anomalies appear to be greater east of 8°W longitude than to the west.

#### **390** 4.2.2 Ocean-Continent transitional domain of the Bay of Biscay

391 The magnetic signature of the OCT domain of the Bay of Biscay (Doman II in Fig. 8b) 392 is highly variable in the new magnetic compilation, displaying magnetic signatures with three 393 different shapes (2D, 2.5D and 3D, Fig. 6 and 7). To the west, the Western Approaches OCT 394 and the western part of the Armorican OCT (IIa, Fig. 8) are characterized by weak 3D anomalies 395 (Figure 7), with intensities below 50 nT (total magnetic intensity, Fig. 4). There, the OCT is 396 interpreted as being composed of weakly serpentinized exhumed mantle based on seismic velocities (7.4-7.5 km.s<sup>-1</sup>; Thinon et al., 2003). In the eastern part of the Armorican basin four 397 398 punctual and strong 3D magnetic anomalies greater than 150 nT are observed (IIb, Fig. 8). In 399 this part of the OCT a series of isolated volcanic edifices have previously been identified in the 400 sub-domain IIb (Thinon et al., 2003), one of them coinciding with a 3D magnetic anomaly 401 (Figure 8). The other strong 3D anomalies visible in the sub-domain IIb do not coincide with 402 identifiable shallow crustal structures such as seamount, which could indicate that their sources 403 are deeper. The sub-domains IIb and IIc (Fig. 8) are delimited by a NE-SW alignment of 3D 404 magnetic anomalies with intensities ~100 nT (total magnetic intensity, Fig. 4). The eastern end 405 of the OCT is marked by a series of magnetic anomalies interpreted as resulting from 2.5D 406 sources (Fig. 7) that delineate a V-shape pattern in the sub-domain IIc (Fig. 7, 8). The southern 407 part of this pattern of high intensity magnetic anomalies partly occurs below the present-day408 slope of the North-Iberian margin.

409

#### 410 4.2.3 Continental domains of the Bay of Biscay passive margins

The new magnetic compilation on the continental shelf of the North Biscay margin highlights five continental domains with different magnetic signatures (Fig. 8): the English Channel and the Western Approaches margin (III), the North Armorican margin (IV), the South Armorican margin (Va and Vb) and the Aquitaine margin (VI).

415 Between the British Isles and France (III), the Western Approaches margin and the English Channel are mainly characterized by NE-SW linear magnetic anomalies (2D), with 416 417 intensities of ~50 nT. These anomalies extend to the Meriadzek Terrace (M in Fig. 8B), a continental spur at the edge of the Western Approaches margin (Thinon, 1999), where their 418 419 direction changes to WSW-ENE. This whole set of anomalies coincides with the southern limit of the English Channel basins and the Ouessant-Aurigny Fault System (OAf; e.g. Evans, 1990; 420 421 also referred to as Iroise fault by Le Roy et al., 2011). The OAf would be the southern boundary 422 of the English Channel basins system, called here the Ouessant system (Os).

Off Brittany, the continental shelf of the North Armorican margin (IV) is characterized 423 424 by SW-NE linear magnetic anomalies but they are more discontinuous (Figure 8A) and of lower 425 intensities (of about 20 nT, total magnetic intensity, Fig. 4). The boundary of domain IV is 426 mapped along a 2D magnetic anomaly identified in the prolongation of the Ophiolite of Cap-427 Sizun oceanic suture (Ballèvre et al., 2009), a Variscan structure in-between the Audierne and 428 South Armorican blocks identified onshore at Cap-Sizun (South Brittany coast, Figure 8B). The 429 identified Sizun system (Sis) is mapped across the continental shelf and delimits the North and 430 the South Armorican margins.

The northern part of the South Armorican margin (Va) is weakly magnetic. Rare and weak E-W to NW-SE magnetic anomalies are identified as well as long wavelength magnetic anomalies. No magnetic lineament is clearly identifiable at the location of the major NW-SE structures affecting the Tertiary sedimentary cover and the Variscan basement, such as the Concarneau Fault system (CFS), linked to the N140° Kerforne fault (Thinon et al., 2009, 2018). Next to the shelf-break and the coastline (off Nantes city), rare NW-SE magnetic lineaments are visible.

438 The southern part of the South Armorican margin (Vb) presents linear magnetic 439 anomalies (2D), mainly oriented NW-SE, with intensities of ~20 nT. Most anomalies coincide 440 with major structures affecting the Variscan basement reactivated during the Pyrenean 441 convergence (e.g., Yeu-Oléron faults; Paquet et al., 2010; Thinon et al., 2018). Onshore, several 442 NW-SE magnetic lineaments coincide with major structures such as the Jonzac anticline (JA in 443 Fig. 8B). They are often interrupted and offset, displaying "in relay" geometries. Sometimes, 444 some E-W to ENE-WSW magnetic lineaments are identifiable (off Oleron island). This 445 distribution is similar to that to the Variscan structures mapped in the Armorican Massif, such 446 as the South Armorican Shear Zone (SASZ). Not all faults drawn on the million-scale geological map of France (Chantraine et al., 2003) coincide with a magnetic anomaly. This is 447 448 particularly true of those identified in the Cenozoic sedimentary cover (Guillocheau et al., 2003; 449 Paquet et al., 2010) questioning their impact at crustal scale.

The number of identified magnetic anomalies in the sub-domain Vb is higher than in the sub-domain Va. The proposed boundary between the sub-domains Va and Vb, here referred to as the Loire system (Ls) corresponds to (i) an increase of magnetic intensity in the Va subdomain, and (ii) the presence of a strong magnetic anomaly at the shelf break, which display sigmoid-like or horse-tail like geometry towards the NW. The Loire system (Ls) seems to extend in the OCT domain based on the number of single anomalies in the sub-domains IIb andIIc.

457 In domain (VI), weak 2D (N-S to N160 trending) and 3D magnetic anomalies are 458 observed, most being identified over the Landes High and in the southern part of the Parentis Basin in the 3000 m compilation (Figure 5). The boundaries of the domain VI are not clearly 459 outlined by magnetic anomalies. The proposed Bordeaux system (Bs) is defined at the 460 461 emplacement of a change in magnetic trends (from NW-SE to NNW-SSE) and an increase of magnetic intensities towards the sub-domain Vb. E-W oriented, the Bs is interpreted to delimit 462 the Parentis Basin to the North. In our compiled grids, a series of magnetic anomalies 463 464 interpreted as related to 3D sources are observed over the Landes High and western part of the 465 Aquitaine basin (Figure 7). Most of, their intensites are over  $\sim 100$  nT and they are distributed along NW-SE to NNW-SSE trends (Fig. 7, 8, 9). The Taramis well, located on top of one of 466 these anomalies (Figure 9), sampled Triassic to early Liassic magmatic rocks (Ophites: 467 468 Curnelle, 1983). In the western Aquitaine Basin, some of these anomalies coincide with salt 469 diapirs (Bastennes-Gaujacq, Dax, Fig. 9), within which ophite bodies are locally embedded (Le 470 Pochat and Thibault; 1977). These spatial correlations and the 3D geometry inferred for the 471 source of these anomalies suggest that these magnetic anomalies could at least partly mark the 472 emplacement of a series of ophite bodies. These intrusions are well known in the Pyrenean-473 Aquitaine domains, as the result of the Late Triassic – Hettangian rifting stage (Azambre et al., 474 1987; Rossi et al., 2003).

476 4.2.4 Onshore continental domains: Aquitaine basin, Pyrenees and Basque-Cantabrian basin

477 A series of magnetic anomalies and trends are also observed inland along the Pyrenean 478 orogen, in the Aquitaine and Basque Cantabrian Basins (Figure 9) and the geometry of the 479 source causing these anomalies is interpreted as being either 2D or 3D (Figure 7,9).

480 The limit between the Early Cretaceous European necking zone (Fig. 1 and 8, Tugend 481 et al., 2014) and the proximal European margin domain is materialized by a N110 trending 482 anomaly well marked on the Tilt angle map on the northern side of the Pyrenees (Fig. 9a). 483 Further north, another N110 oriented anomaly (CAF in Fig.9a) can be correlated to the 484 Celtaquitaine Flexure, interpreted as a major Variscan suture between different paleogeographic domains (BRGM et al., 1974; Rolet, 1997). The E-W trending Celtaquitaine 485 486 Flexure at north of the Aquitaine basin becomes N-S to NNW-SSE trending further to the west 487 where it seems to join the N140° South-Armorican Yeu-Oléron Variscan faults, also correlated 488 with magnetic trends (Figure 9). North of the Aquitaine basin, a series of medium anomalies 489 are observed, roughly parallel to the previously described Celtaquitaine flexure. Those 490 anomalies could partly have indirect relation with far field compressional structures formed 491 during the Pyrenean orogeny (e.g. Jonzac Anticline and Saintes-Barbézieux, La Tour Blanche, 492 Blessac and Périgueux anticlines (TBPA) and the Gavaudun-Monsempron Flexure (GMF), 493 Platel, 1986, 1987). However, the magnetic signal is most likely originating from Variscan 494 basement heterogeneities such as the NW-SE elongated Saintes-Cognac Carboniferous Basin 495 (Lefort et al., 1997) that favored the localization of later folding. South of the Celtaquitaine 496 flexure, N110 magnetic lineaments with an intensity of ~20 nT are observed and tentatively 497 correlated to the Antin-Maubourguet ridge (AMR, Serrano et al., 2006); and the Roquefort 498 anticline (RA, Cuvillier et al., 1951) (Figure 9) but most likely to underlying undetermined 499 basement structures.

500 A series of magnetic anomalies interpreted as related to 3D sources are observed along 501 the Basque-Cantabrian and Pyrenean orogen (Figure 9). They mostly occur within the 502 interpreted former exhumed mantle domain, now punctually sampled in the Pyrenean orogen 503 and the inverted Basque Cantabrian Basin (Figure 1, Tugend et al., 2014). Among these magnetic anomalies, the largest one is observed in the Basque Cantabrian Basin, in the Biscay 504 505 synclinorium, at the location where Cretaceous volcanic rocks are cropping out (Figure 9: 506 Castanares et al., 1997, 2001; Carracedo et al., 1999). Coherently with this spatial correlation, 507 this anomaly has previously been modelled and interpreted as generated by magmatic intrusions in the lower crust during the Early Cretaceous rifting, later uplifted during the Pyrenean orogeny 508 509 (Pedreira et al., 2007). Smaller magnetic anomalies are observed in the Cantabrian-Pyrenean junction where granulite and mantle rocks are cropping out near Ziga (Figure 9; DeFelipe et al., 510 511 2017; Lescoutre et al., 2021). Magnetic anomalies of a similar shape but of slightly higher intensity 512 are also observed in the Pyrenean orogen close to mantle outcrops and/or volcanic rocks (Figure 513 9). The N110 trend of magnetic anomalies observed in the Pyrenees is shifted to the north 514 relative to the rift axis of the Basque Cantabrian Basin (Fig. 1, 9). The Pyrenean rift system is 515 known to be segmented by a series of SSW-NNE to SW-NE transfer zones. Such transfer zones 516 or accommodation zones may delimit different arms of the rift system (i.e., between the Basque-517 Cantabrian Basin and Western Pyrenees) or segment smaller-scale depocenters (i.e. Arzacq-518 Mauléon Basin) (e.g., Pedreira et al., 2007; Jammes et al., 2009; Roca et al., 2011; Tugend et 519 al., 2014; 2015b; Masini et al., 2014; Canérot, 2017; Saspiturry et al., 2019; Issautier el al., 520 2020; Lescoutre and Manatschal 2020; Lescoutre et al., 2021; Ducoux et al., 2021) but their 521 geometry and lateral extent is not always clear due to successive reactivations. A small-scale 522 shift is observed between the magnetic anomalies of the Mauléon and Chainons Béarnais areas, possibly related to the transverse fault mapped near the Urdach lherzolite body (ULz in figure 523 524 9, e.g., Duée et al., 1984; Fortané et al., 1986; Jammes et al., 2009; Debroas et al., 2010; Lagabrielle et al., 2010; Lagabrielle et al., 2019) and interpreted as controlling its exhumation
during rifting (Canérot, 2017).

527 The magnetic anomaly observed at the eastern termination of our magnetic compilation 528 is located near Saint-Gaudens (SG, Figure 9) and shows an intensity up to 150 nT. It is 529 superimposed to a well-known gravity anomaly (Grandjean, 1992), interpreted as generated by 530 a piece of sub-continental mantle (Casas et al., 1997) that was likely previously exhumed in the 531 Baronnies Basin during the Early Cretaceous hyperextension of the Pyrenean rift system (Clerc and Lagabrielle 2014; Tugend et al., 2015b). The strong magnetic anomaly of Saint Gaudens is 532 533 not incompatible with this assumption; however, forward modelling or an inversion of the 534 magnetic anomaly would be required to confirm this hypothesis. The western end of this 535 anomaly coincides with the Eastern Crustal Lineament (ECL in Fig. 9, Angrand et al., 2018), a 536 transverse structure responsible for the northern shift of the Frontal Pyrenean Thrust in Baronies basin compared to the Mauléon basin. The mapping of the Eastern Crustal Lineament matches 537 538 the shift observed between the SG magnetic anomaly and another dipolar magnetic anomaly 539 (~150 nT) emplaced in the North Pyrenean Zone at the easternmost end of the Chainons 540 Béarnais area. Several ophites and lherzolites bodies crop out in this area (Fig. 9, Castéras, 541 1970) and could possibly contribute to the magnetic signal. The hypothesis of a magnetic 542 anomaly zone across the Oléron-Lourdes-Saint Gaudens band related to volcanic intrusions was proposed by Azambre et Pozzi (1982). Nevertheless, the existence of two sub-continental 543 544 mantle bodies from either side of the ECL suggest the occurrence of a major transfer zone 545 between two of the North Pyrenean hyperextended basins: Mauléon and Baronnies.

# 547 5 Contribution of the new high resolution magnetic map for geological 548 interpretations

The analysis of the new magnetic compilation and the different potential field transforms applied to it enabled (1) to precise the limits of the different structural domains of the Bay of Biscay and adjacent continental shelves, (2) to clarify the Bay of Biscay passive margin segmentation and extent of transfer zones, (3) to show lateral variations in the magnetic signature of the OCT and (4) to highlight the location of some structures in the continental crust.

554 5.1 Crustal domain boundaries

555 The new compilation of magnetic anomaly data improves the identification of magnetic 556 anomalies on the Bay of Biscay and helps clarifying the eastern termination of the unambiguous 557 oceanic domain. The boundary between the oceanic domain and OCT was previously mapped 558 based on seismic data (Thinon et al., 2003) and crustal thickness variations determined from gravity inversion (Tugend et al., 2015), but the scarcity of seismic data in the oceanic domain 559 west of 6°W hampered a robust mapping of this area. The magnetic signature of the north-560 561 Iberian OCT and oceanic domains is observed under the present-day slope of the North Iberian margin (Fig. 7 and 8). This observation is consistent with the underthrusting /proto-subduction 562 563 induced by the Iberia-Europe convergence previously described (e.g. Alvarez-Marron et al., 564 1997; Fernandez-Viejo et al., 1998; Gallastegui 2000; Roca et al., 2011; Pedreira et al., 2007, 2015; Tugend et al., 2014; Ruiz et al., 2017; Cadenas et al. 2018). 565

#### 566 5.2 Segmentation – transfer zones - inheritance

567 Previous authors linked the segmentation observed in the Bay of Biscay to the presence 568 of transfer zones (Fig. 1; Deregnaucourt and Boillot 1982; Thinon, 1999; Pedreira et al., 2007; 569 Roca et al., 2011, Tugend et al., 2014). Thanks to the new magnetic compilation, we attempted 570 to precise the segmentation of the Bay of Biscay region using variations in the magnetic signal.

571 Changes in the magnetic signal are observed over continental domains (proximal, necking and 572 hyper-thinned crust, Fig. 7 and 8), and in the OCT. Transfer zones played an important role in the segmentation of the margin during rifting (Tugend et al., 2015b), but they also influenced 573 574 the distribution of the Pyrenean deformation in the OCT (Thinon et al., 2001; Tugend et al., 2014), on the continental shelves and inland (Pedreira et al., 2007; Thinon et al., 2008; Roca et 575 576 al., 2011). Based on the trend and extent of these transfer zones, as well as on the regional 577 geological knowledge, we propose that these transfer zones partly formed along structures (of 578 crustal scale or possibly lithospheric scale) inherited from the Variscan orogeny as previously suggested by Tugend et al., 2014 for some of them. The effect of these transfer zones is 579 580 sometimes observed in the OCT where they may locally control the exhumation of the mantle 581 (Ouessant system) or the emplacement of volcanic /magmatic bodies (Sizun system). These 582 transfer zones do not affect the limit between the OCT and the oceanic crust (Fig. 8, Tugend et 583 al., 2014) and hence had no influence on the emplacement of the crust of the oceanic 584 lithosphere.

585 It should be noted that changes in the architecture observed in the vicinity of these transfer zones are not abrupt but progressive, explaining why they are sometimes referred to as 586 "soft" transfer zones (Roca et al., 2011). At one location (between sub-domains IIb and IIc), an 587 588 alignment of 3D magnetic anomalies is observed in the OCT in the continuation of the interpreted NE-SW Loire system transfer zone, suggesting that this anomaly is not solely due 589 590 to inherited continental trends. Because of the nearby presence of volcanic bodies (Thinon et 591 al., 2003), we hypothesize that magmatic intrusions could possibly be emplaced along the 592 transfer zone as suggested in the Gulf of Lion by Canva et al. (2020).

593

594 Variability of the OCT magnetic signature: magmatic events during propagation? 5.3 595 Seismic data already enabled the distinction between the northern and southern segment 596 of the Armorican margin and its OCT (Thinon et al., 2003). In sub-domain IIa (Fig. 8), the 597 basement of the OCT is interpreted as exhumed serpentinized mantle (Thinon et al., 2003; 598 Tugend et al., 2014, 2015) and is directly onlapped by sedimentary sequences (Thinon et al., 2002). In the OCT sub-domain IIb (Fig.8), an enigmatic and debated seismic unit (seismic unit 599 600 3C, Thinon et al., 2003) is observed, and is possibly part of the OCT basement (Gillard et al., 601 2019). The occurrence of punctual magnetic anomalies of strong intensity in the eastern part of 602 the Bay of Biscay, partly coinciding with volcanic seamounts, could suggest that the 603 emplacement of exhumed mantle characterizing the OCT of the South Armorican margin is 604 associated with more magmatic material (IIb, IIc) than in the North Armorican margin (IIa). In 605 the North Armorican margin, reflection and refraction seismic data together with the crustal 606 thickness distribution determined from gravity inversion, suggest that magmatism occurs close 607 to the limit between the OCT and the oceanic crust at the end of rifting (Thinon et al., 2003; 608 Tugend et al., 2014). The occurrence of magmatic material intruding the exhumed mantle has 609 also been suggested to characterize the OCT of the eastern part of the North Iberian margin 610 based on the atypical velocities structure deduced from seismic refraction experiments (Roca 611 et al., 2011; Pedreira et al. 2015; Ruiz et al., 2017). This increasing occurrence of magmatism 612 in the eastern part of Bay of Biscay OCT seems to coincide with the V-shape pattern of high 613 intensity magnetic anomalies observed east of the termination of the oceanic domain (east of 6°W, Fig. 7 and 8). 614

615 Onset of oceanic spreading is unlikely to be synchronous throughout the entire Bay of 616 Biscay and a slightly younger age is suggested for the formation of the eastern part of the Bay 617 of Biscay OCT (Tugend et al., 2014; 2015b; Cadenas et al., 2020), as expected during the 618 propagation of continental breakup. A direct consequence is that the M3 anomaly identified by 619 Sibuet et al., (2004) at the boundary between the OCT and oceanic crust is unlikely to be an 620 isochron. Based on these findings, we interpret the V-shaped pattern of magnetic anomalies as 621 magmatic intrusives and extrusives emplaced at the tip of the Bay of Biscay oceanic propagator 622 during the eastern propagation of continental breakup and tentative localisation of the boundary 623 between the Iberian and European crusts in the future Pyrenees (Tugend et al., 2015b). This 624 failed tentative propagation is supported by the interruption of the continuity of the A34 625 anomaly east of 8°W and the change in the distribution of magnetic anomalies between the 626 western and eastern parts and the northern and southern parts of the oceanic domain (Fig. 8).

627

628 5.4 Contribution of magnetic data to the knowledge of in-depth structures in the629 continental crust

630 The E-W Mesozoic Parentis basin is not characterized by strong magnetic anomalies. 631 This observation do not favour the hypothesis of a highly heterogeneous crustal basement 632 beneath the Parentis basin or constituting the Landes High basement, induced by metamorphism 633 and magmatism (Bois et al., 1997). A very thick Mesozoic sedimentary cover as observed in 634 the Parentis Basin could potentially mask the magnetic anomalies, but the sedimentary cover is 635 thin over the Landes High as Paleozoic formations were sampled at a rather shallow depths (DANU well at 1339m depth). Rifting in the Parentis Basin was probably not accompanied by 636 637 a significant magmatism. Over the Landes High and southwestern part of the Aquitaine Basin 638 a series of NNW-SSE trending magnetic anomalies are identified on the 500 m altitude highresolution compilation (Fig. 8). They seem to correlate with the emplacement of Triassic-early 639 640 Liassic sub-volcanic rocks (Ophites), drilled over the Landes High basement (Curnelle, 1983; 641 TARANIS well) and cropping out in salt diapirs (Fig. 9, Bastennes-Gaujacq, Dax, Le Pochat 642 and Thibault; 1977).

A significant contribution of this compilation relates to the "Celtaquitaine flexure" geometry. Previous mapping indicated a roughly E-W structure with poor signal in its western portion. We rather propose here that this E-W trend, clearly visible in the eastern Aquitaine basin domain changes to the west to follow the typical NW-SE trend of the Armorican shelf.

647

#### 648 6 Conclusions

New intermediate resolution onshore-offshore magnetic anomaly maps were compiled in this study and will be available for further studies. They result from the careful compilation of 154 marine and 7 airborne magnetic data sets acquired across the Bay of Biscay and surrounding continental shelves. The resulting regional magnetic compilations at 500 and 3000 m of elevation have been enhanced by potential field transforms to facilitate the comparison and correlation with known geological features and highlight unknown structures. The main conclusions that result from our study are the following:

656 1) Magnetic anomaly maps and their enhancement by operators such as the analytic
657 signal, tilt angle and vertical derivative are consistent and can be used to improve the structural
658 mapping of the area.

659 2) Some of the magnetic anomalies and magnetic trends observed inland in the Western 660 Pyrenes and the Aquitaine Basin are tentatively correlated to geological structures previously 661 mapped or locally drilled (e.g., Triassic extrusives over the Landes High). Of particular interest 662 is the identification of magnetic trends in the vicinity of the interpreted Celtaquitaine flexure, 663 which are used to refine its mapping from the Aquitaine basin to the southern Armorican shelf.

664 3) Magnetic trends and changes in the magnetic signature are observed over the665 Armorican shelf. They seem to occur in the continuation of well-known geological structures

previously mapped onshore and in the inner shelf and are tentatively correlated to observedchanges in the North Biscay passive margin segmentation.

4) Lateral variations of the magnetic signature in the Ocean Continent Transition are
also evidenced and are tentatively interpreted as related to magmatism emplaced in the eastern
OCT during the aborted plate boundary propagation.

We identified a series of correlations between magnetic anomalies and geological features previously mapped from fieldwork and/or seismic data. However, in order to characterize the geological origin of the magnetic signal, forward modelling and inversions of each identified correlation is required.

675

#### 677 7 Acknowledgments and data availability

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686 Gridded data are available on request to the BRGM (<u>airborne.geophysics@brgm.fr</u>) or 687 the corresponding author (pauline.lemaire3@gmail.com).

688 8 Conflicts of interest

689 The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

690

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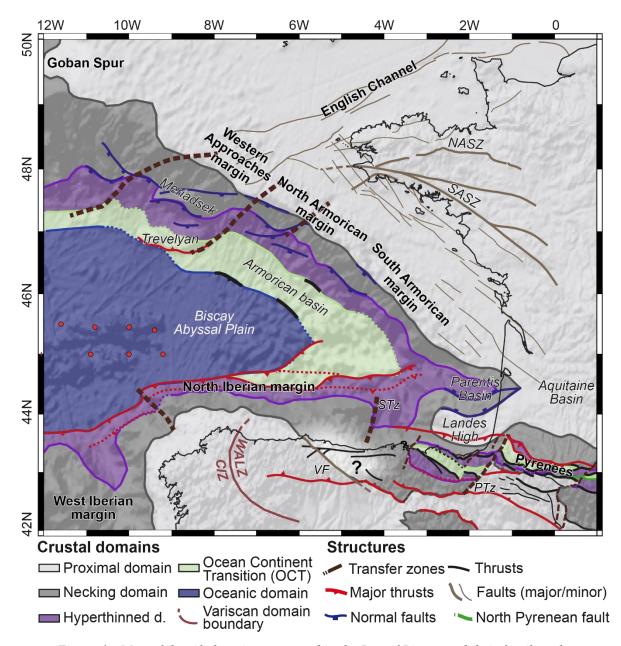
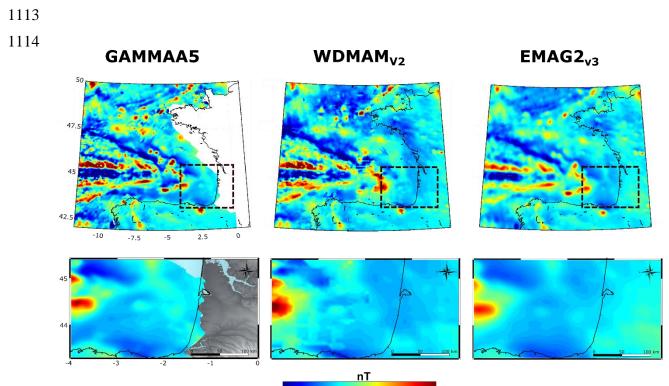


Figure 1 : Map of the rift domains preserved in the Bay of Biscay and their fossil analogues from the Pyrenean domain (after Tugend et al., 2014, 2015 including updates from Yang et al., (2020) towards Goban Spur and from Druet et al., 2018 and Cadenas et al., 2018 across the North Iberian margin). The mapping of offshore structures is based on Thinon, 1999; Thinon et al., 2003, 2009, 2018; Deregnaucourt et al., 1982; and Tugend et al., 2014). Aqui. M. : Aquitaine margin. CIZ: Central Iberian zone. WALZ: West Asturian-Leonese zone; NASZ: North Armorican Shear Zone; SASZ: South Armorican Shear Zone; VF: Ventaniella Fault zone. PTz: Pamplona Transfer zone. STz : Santander Transfer zone (from Roca et al., 2011). Red points correspond to the picking of marine magnetic anomalies A34y (Seton et al., 2014).



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-120 Figure 2 : Total field magnetic anomaly maps of previous compilations (GAMMAA5, WDMAMv2 and EMAG2V3 - plotted with the same color scale). The upper panel present the three grids for the Bay of Biscay domain and the lower panel a zoom over the Landes-Parentis area.



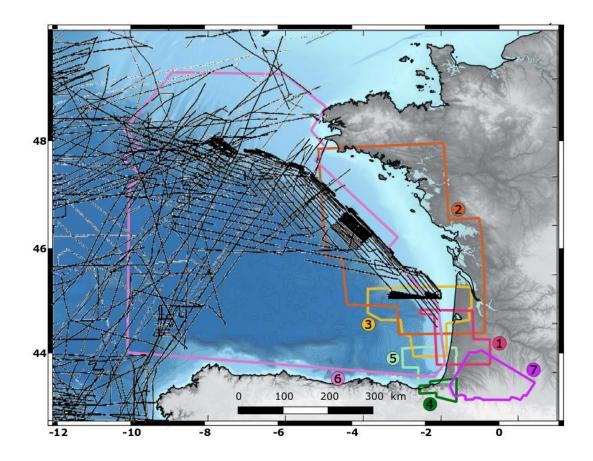
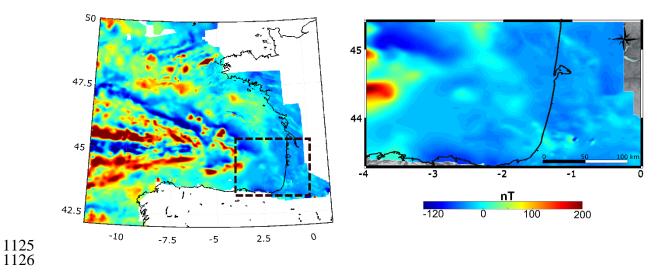


Figure 3 : Marine magnetic track lines (in black) and limits of the seven aeromagnetic surveys (coloured polygons) whose label numbers refer to table 1.



1127Figure 4 : The new magnetic compilation map at 500 m of the Bay of Biscay (left side) . Zoom1128on the Landes-Parentis area (right side).

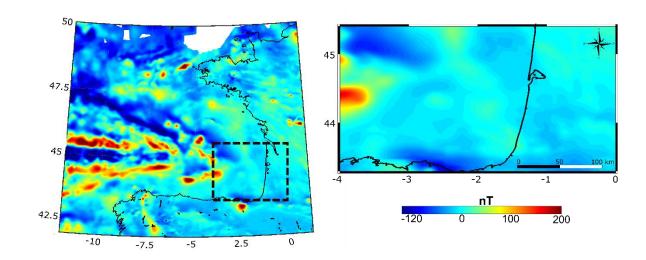
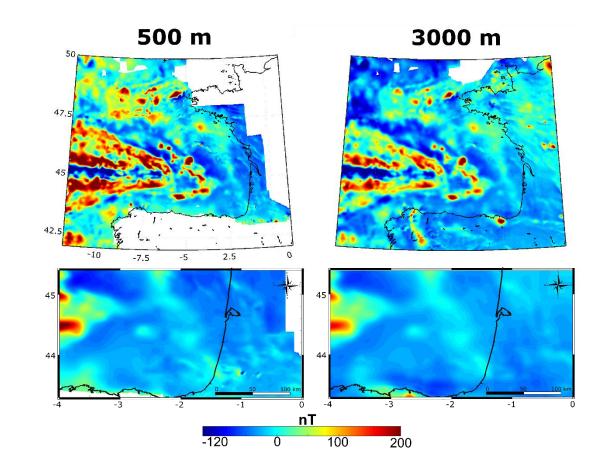


Figure 5 : The new magnetic compilation map at 3 000 m of the Bay of Biscay (left side). Zoom on the Landes-Parentis area (right side).



1138Figure 6 : Reduction to the pole applied to the total magnetic intensity maps at 500 m and11393000 m of the Bay of Biscay and encompassing continental areas. The lower panel shows a1140zoom over the Landes-Parentis area.

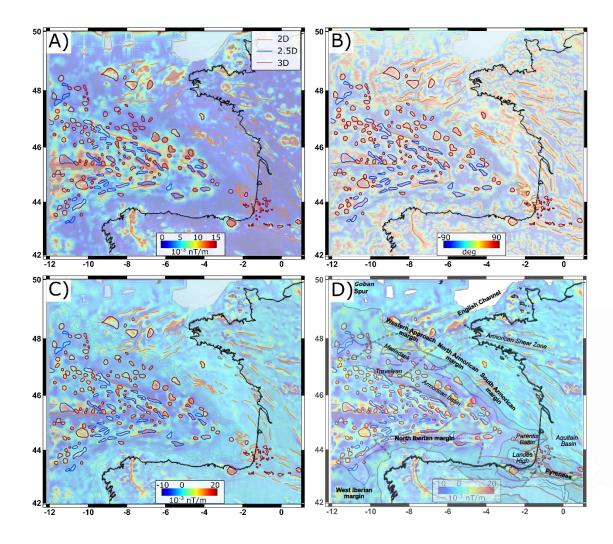


Figure 7 : A) Analytic signal magnetic map after RTP; B) Tilt angle magnetic map after RTP; C) Vertical derivative magnetic map after RTP; D) Magnetic interpretation on the vertical derivative map with Figure 1 in the background..

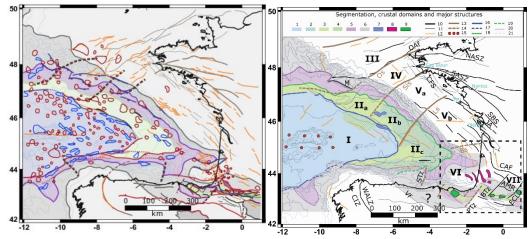


Figure 8 : A) Magnetic signature superimposed on crustal domains. B) Segmentation, crustal domains and major structures of the Bay of Biscay region. Crustal domains defined by magnetic signatures: Oceanic (I), Ocean-Continental Transition (IIa, b, c); III Western Approaches margin; IV: North-Armorican margin; V: South Armorican margin (a) off south Brittany, (b) off Oléron city; VI Aquitaine margin; VII: Aquitaine basin; (1) Oceanic crust, (2)

1153	Oceanic crust with underplated serpentinized mantle, (3) OCT with exhumed serpentinized
1154	mantle, (4) OCT with exhumed serpentinized mantle with a possible intruded magmatism
1155	(with strong magnetic anomalies) (from this study in accordance with Pedreira et al. (2015) ),
1156	(5) hyper-thinned continental crust, (6) thinned continental crust, (7) seamount volcanic
1157	edifices on seismic data coinciding to magnetic anomalies, (8) Strong magnetic anomalies
1158	associated to subvolcanic rocks (ophites) in the Variscan basement (TARAMIS well), (9)
1159	Strong magnetic anomalies often associated to the exhumed serpentinized mantle or lower
1160	crust, (10) Observed major crustal structures with magnetic signatures, (11) Observed major
1161	structures, (12) Major magnetic lineament uncorrelated to known structures, (13)
1162	Segmentation of continental crustal domains and (14) their extension in the OCT : Ouessant
1163	system (Os), Sizun system (Sis) and Loire system (Ls), (15) A34 magnetic anomaly (Seton et
1164	al., 2014), (16-17) Observed and supposed boundary of the Biscay oceanic crust, (18-19)
1165	Observed and supposed boundary between the OCT and the continental domain, (20-21)
1166	Observed and supposed boundary between the hyper-thinned and thinned continental domain.
1167	Triangle: Ophites sampled by wells (112 ODP leg 12; TARAMIS); blue names indicate:
1168	localities (Cap Sizun, Nantes city, Yeu, Oléron). AMR: Antin-Matourget ridge; BTz: Barlanes
1169	transfer zone; CAF: Celtaquitain flexure (redrawn from the new magnetic compilation); CFS:
1170	Concarneau Fault System linked to N140° Kerforne fault; CIZ: Central Iberian zone; ECL:
1171	Eastern Crustal Lineament; JA: Jonzac Anticline; M: Meriadzek Terrace; OAf: Ouessant-
1172	Aurigny fault (Evans 1990, or Iroise fault according to Le Roy et al., 2011); PTz : Pamplona
1173	Transfer zone; SASZ and NASZ: South and North Armorican Shear Zone; SBS: Saintes-
1174	Berbézieux Syncline; STz : Santander Transfer zone (from Roca et al., 2011); Vf: Ventaniella
1175	Fault; WALZ: West Asturian-Leonese zone. The dashed rectangle correspond to the location
1176	of figure 9.
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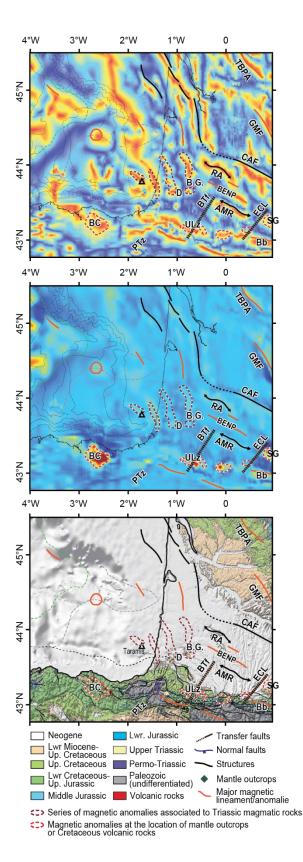


Figure 9 : A) Tilt angle magnetic map after RTP of the Aquitain margin and the Aquitaine basin (domains VI and VII). B)Vertical derivative magnetic map after RTP of the Aquitain margin and the Aquitaine basin (domains VI and VII); C) Simplified geological map of Pyrenees with major structures defined by magnetic signatures; Triangle: eruptive rocks sampled by TARAMIS well; AMR: Antin-Matourget ridge; Bb: Baronnie basin; BC:Basque-

1185	Cantabrian anomaly; Pedreira et al., 2007); BG: Bastennes-Gaujacq; BTf: Barlanes transfer
1186	fault; CAF: Celtaquitain flexure (redrawn from the new magnetic compilation); D:Dax
1187	diapir; ECL: Eastern Crustal Lineament; BENP: Boundary between the European Necking
1188	and Proximal domains; GMF: Gavaudun-Monsempron Flexure; PTz : Pamplona Transfer
1189	zone; RA : Roquefort Anticline; TBPA: Tour Blanche-Blessac and Périgueux Anticlines; fault;
1190	ULz: Urdach lerzolites; SG: Saint-Gaudens anomaly.
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**6** Supplementary material

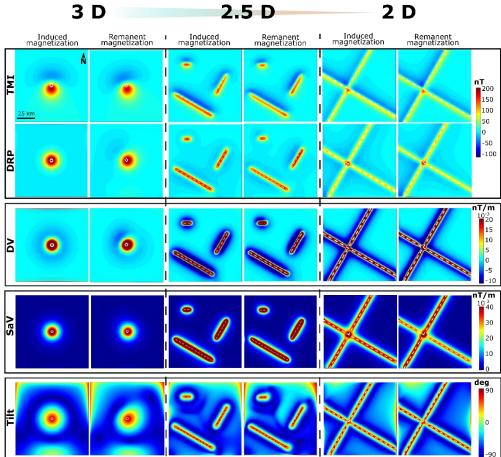


Figure 10 : Synthetic cases with three source geometries (3D sphere, 2.5D segment and 2D line) for induced ( $D=0^{\circ}$ , $I=60^{\circ}$ ) and remnant magnetization ( $D=-30^{\circ}$ , $I=50^{\circ}$ ). The first row of maps corresponds to total magnetic intensity map. The second row corresponds to the reduction to the pole, with induced magnetization assumption. The third row corresponds to the vertical derivative. The fourth row corresponds to the vectorial analytic signal or total gradient. The last row corresponds the tilt angle maps.