

# Chlorine-36 data from CRONUS-EU calibration sites - Recent landslides in the Southern French Alps

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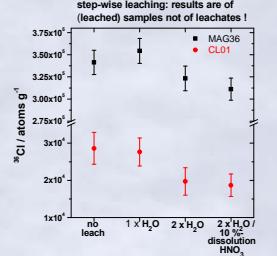
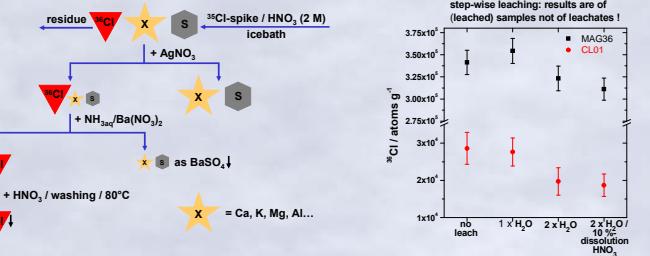
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## Introduction

- in-situ produced cosmogenic nuclides valuable tools for environmental and Earth sciences
- progress in accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS) ➤ determination of radionuclide concentrations as low as  $10^4$ – $10^5$  atoms/g rock
- quantifying Earth's surface processes
- accurate application of this method only possible, if production rates in certain environment over certain time period exactly known ➤ but necessary data found in the literature differs a lot

## Sample preparation

- for  $^{36}\text{Cl}$  by AMS ➤ chemical separation of  $^{36}\text{Cl}$  out of dissolved sample needed
- applied chemistry is variation of Stone et al. (1996) with special care to remove atmospheric  $^{36}\text{Cl}$  and prevent Cl losses before total equilibration
- $^{35}\text{Cl}$ -enriched spike ➤ isotope dilution for Cl-nat determination



## Aim of the study

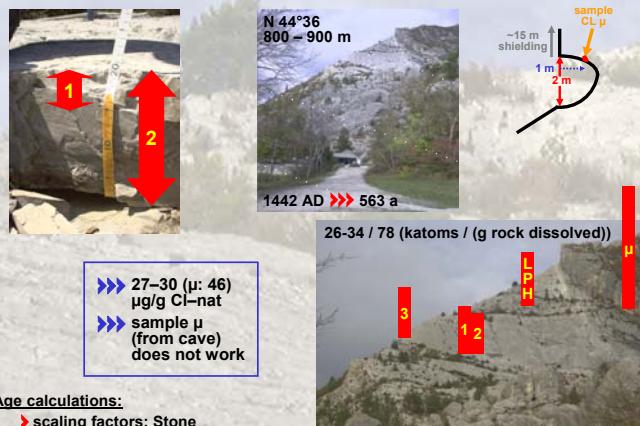
- one of European project "CRONUS-EU" goals: high quality calibration of  $^{36}\text{Cl}$  production rate at independently dated surfaces
- our part: samples from two medieval landslide areas in the Southern French Alps
  - "Le Claps" (N  $45^{\circ}30'$ , E  $5^{\circ}58'$ , 800–900 m,  $V = 2 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3$  (Couture et al. 1997), 1442 AD)
  - "Mont Granier" (N  $44^{\circ}36'$ , E  $5^{\circ}27'$ , 330–420 m,  $V = 500 \times 10^6 \text{ m}^3$  (Nicoud et al. 1998), 1248 AD)
- calcite rich samples from bedrock and big boulders

## Accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS)



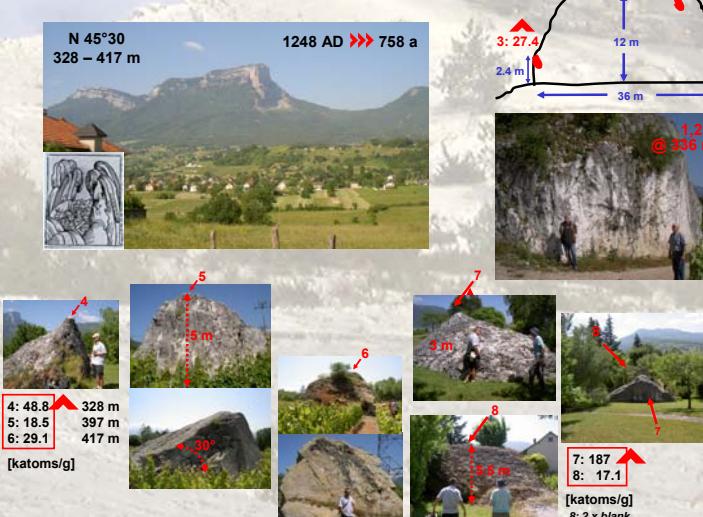
|   | LLNL                                 | ETH/PSI  |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| sample form                                       | stainless steel                      | AgCl   |
| sample holder                                     | stainless steel with AgBr inlet      | Cu disk with Ta insertion; AgBr inlet if necessary       |
| extraction as                                     |                                      | $\text{Cl}^-$  |
| terminal voltage                                  | 8.3 MV                               | 6.1 MV   |
| measured ratios                                   | $3 - 8 \times 10^{-14}$ ("Le Claps") | $2 \times 10^{-14} - 1 \times 10^{-13}$ ("Mont Granier") |
| blank $^{36}\text{Cl}/^{35}\text{Cl}$ (this work) | $9 \times 10^{-15}$                  | $3 \times 10^{-15}$                                      |
| machine background                                | $1 \times 10^{-15}$                  | "standard"   |
| "standard"  | "Nishizumi" <sup>14</sup>            | norm. to "Nishizumi"                                     |

## "Le Claps"



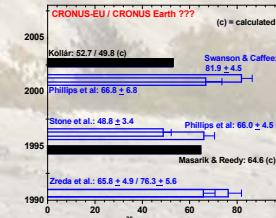
## Sampling sites for calibration

### "Mont Granier"



## Résumé

- still awaiting final results of some target element and element concentrations influencing the production by the  $^{36}\text{Cl}(n,\gamma)^{36}\text{Cl}$  reaction
- we cannot yet determine precise production rates
- able to measure  $^{36}\text{Cl}$  from very young surfaces for first time
- some problems with inheritance
- it still has to be discussed how valid production rates based on this short time scale will be for the application on longer time periods
- detailed discussion on influence of variation of Earth's magnetic field and cosmic radiation itself has to follow



more work to do for "better" production rates

## References

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