Age Relations & Unconformity

Rock Units & Time-Rock Units

Eric Z. 03/10/2020

- Age Relations and Unconformity
 - Principles of
 - ♦ 1) superposition
 - ♦ 2) cross-cutting relationship
 - ⋄ 3) inclusion
- Rock Units and Time-Rock Units
 - ♦ Rock unit: a rock body <unique> composition, texture, color, or structural features
 - ♦ Time-rock unit: rock bodies <a certain time period> synchronous lower and upper boundaries.

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Young

Old

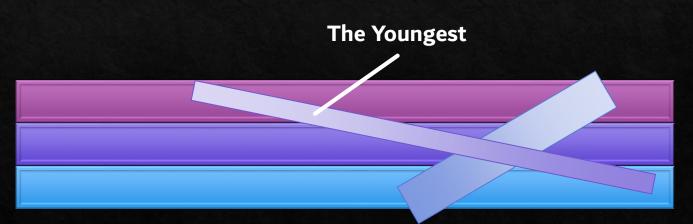
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Youngest
Young
Old

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- Age Relations and Unconformity
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Fault

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The Youngest

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"Is it normal?"

The Youngest

Tips: fault

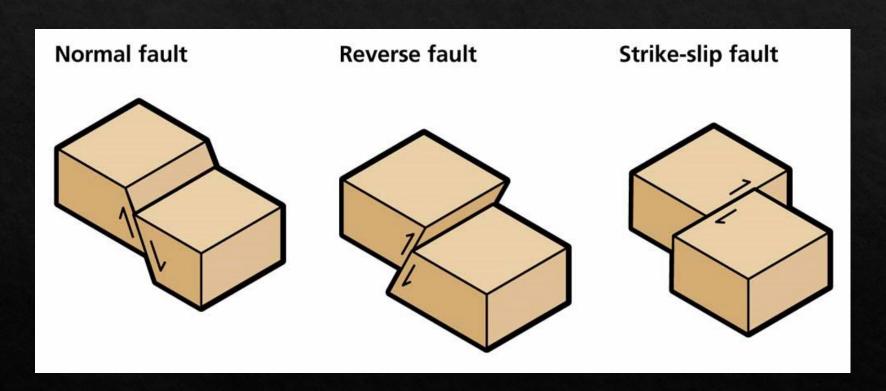


Photo credit: British Geological Survey

Tips: fault

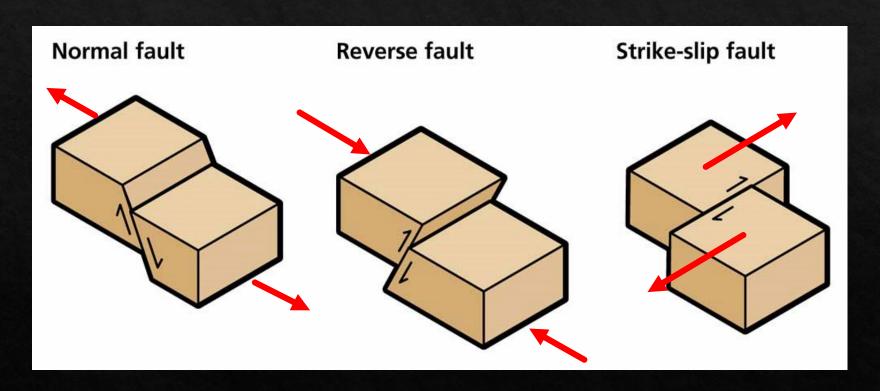
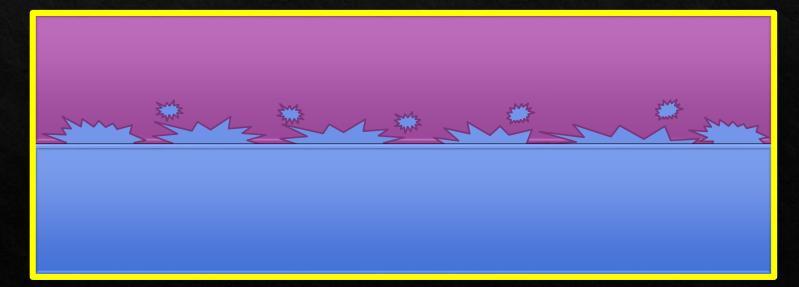


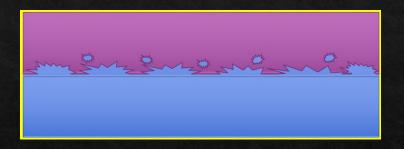
Photo credit: British Geological Survey

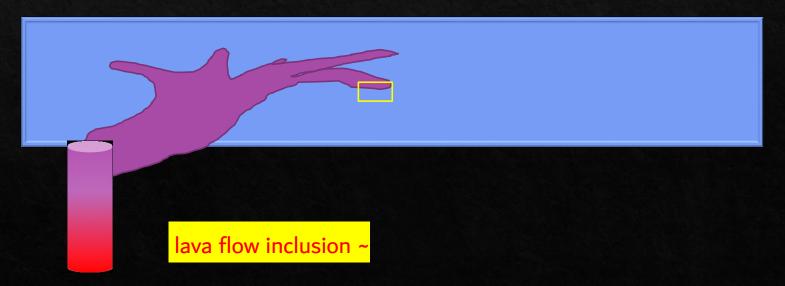
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If a rock body contained fragments of another rock body, it must be younger than the fragments of rock it contained. The intruding rock must have been there first to provide the fragments.

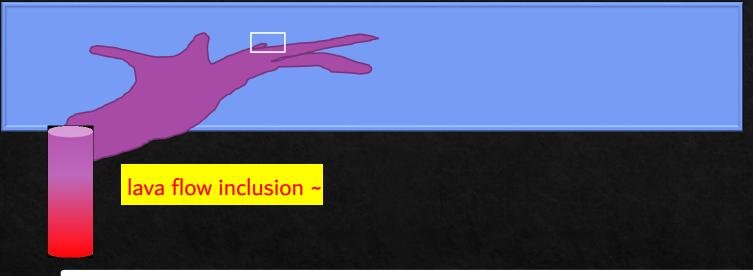


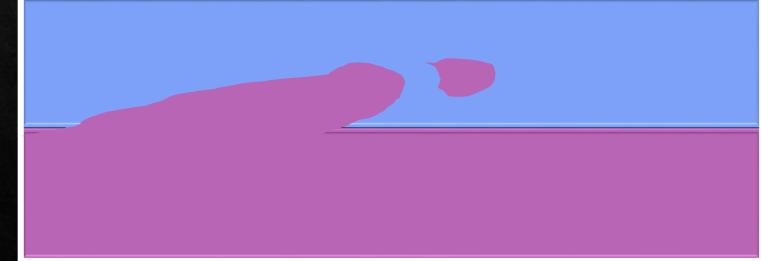
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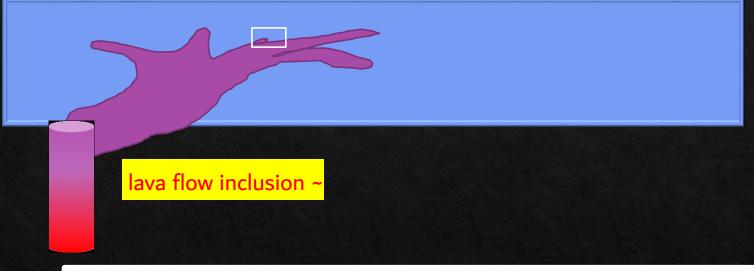


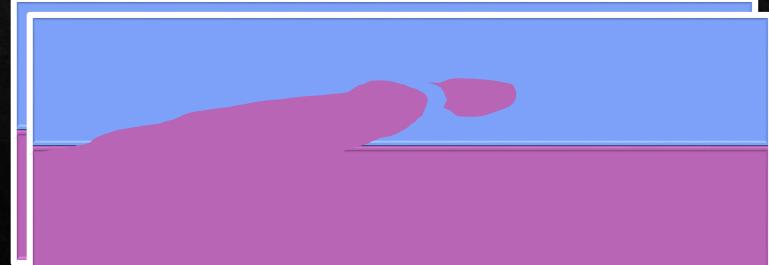
But



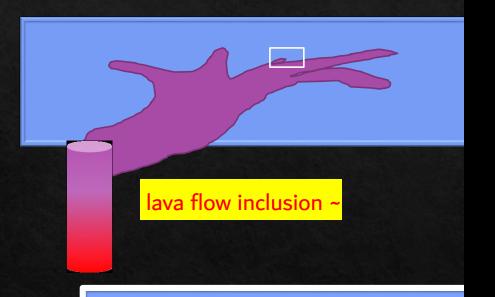


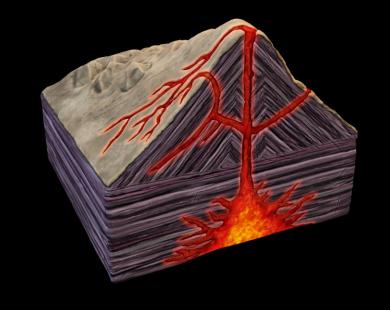
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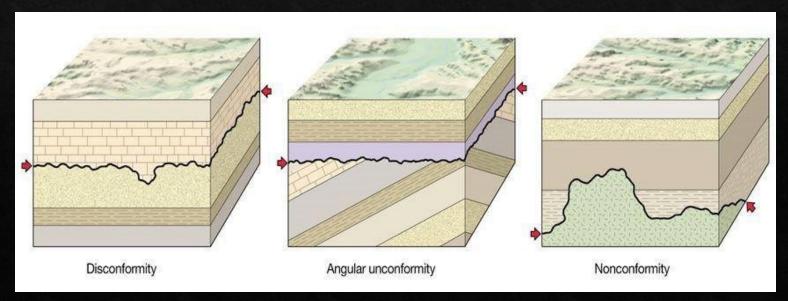


But





- Unconformity:
 buried erosional or non-depositional surface
 separating two strata of different ages
 - ♦ Disconformity, angular unconformity, nonconformity, etc.



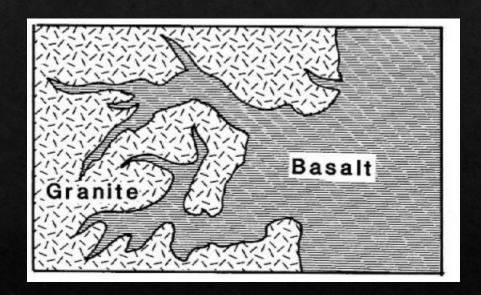
Tilted

Unconformity

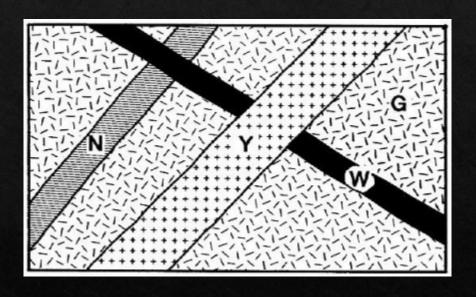
Photo credit: Patrick Smith

Desert Devonian 345 Ma

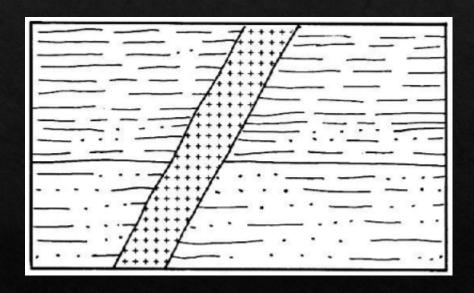
Marine, Silurian Period 425 Ma



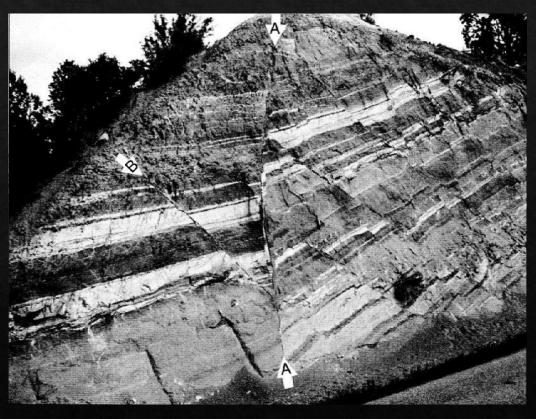
The granite is older than the basalt. The basalt has intruded into the pre-existing granite.



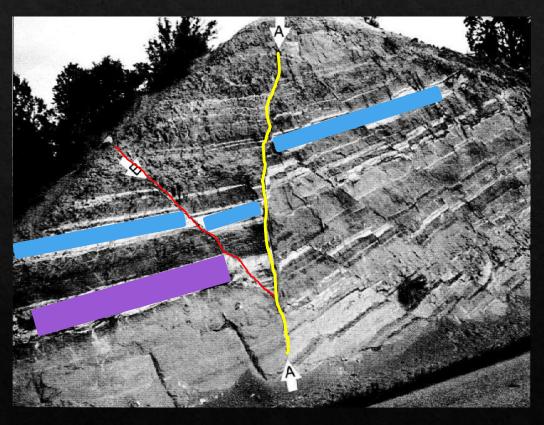
From oldest to youngest: G, N, W, Y



Shale is cut by a 50-million-year-old dike. Therefore, the shale is older than 50 Ma.



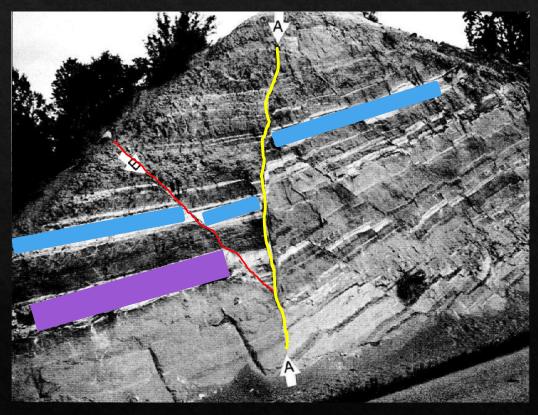
Fault A is cross cutting fault B.
Fault A is younger than B.



Fault A is cross cutting fault B.

Fault A is younger than B

Quiz



At the bottom of the outcrop, where can you get the oldest sample? The left side or the right side of fault A?