Brazilian Cratonic units in Precambrian continents









Several times in earth history the continents have joined to form one body, which later broke apart. The process seems to be cyclic; it may shape geology and climate and thereby influence biological evolution

Nance et al. 1988. The Supercontinent Cycle

Tópicos a serem abordados:

- 1. Origem e evolução da crosta continental
- 2. Continentes, Supercontinentes e Supercratons
- 3. O ciclo de Supercontinentes
- 4. Seriam os supercontinentes introvertidos ou extrovertidos ?
- 5. Velocidade de Placas no Arqueano, Pangea A e B, Columbia6. Síntese

Geoscience Frontiers 5 (2014) 155-166



Focus paper

Strange attractors, spiritual interlopers and lonely wanderers: The search for pre-Pangean supercontinents



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ARTICLE INFO

ABSTRACT

Article history: Received 17 October 2013 Received in revised form 2 December 2013 Accepted 4 December 2013 Available online 15 December 2013

Keywords: Columbia Rodinia Pangea Supercontinent Tectonics The observation is made that there are very strong similarities between the supercontinents Columbia, Rodinia and Pangea. If plate tectonics was operating over the past 2.5 billion years of Earth history, and dominated by extroversion and introversion of ocean basins, it would be unusual for three supercontinents to resemble one another so closely. The term 'strange attractor' is applied to landmasses that form a coherent geometry in all three supercontinents. Baltica, Laurentia and Siberia form a group of 'strange attractors' as do the elements of East Gondwana (India, Australia, Antarctica, Madagascar). The elements of 'West Gondwana' are positioned as a slightly looser amalgam of cratonic blocks in all three supercontinents and are referred to as 'spiritual interlopers'. Relatively few landmasses (the South China, North China, Kalahari and perhaps Tarim cratons) are positioned in distinct locations within each of the three supercontinents and these are referred to as 'lonely wanderers'.

There may be several explanations for why these supercontinents show such remarkable similarities. One possibility is that modern-style plate tectonics did not begin until the late Neoproterozoic and horizontal motions were restricted and a vertical style of 'lid tectonics' dominated. If motions were limited for most of the Proterozoic, it would explain the remarkable similarities seen in the Columbia and Rodinia supercontinents, but would still require the strange attractors to rift, drift and return to approximately the same geometry within Pangea.

A second possibility is that our views of older supercontinents are shaped by well-known connections documented for the most recent supercontinent, Pangea. It is intriguing that three of the four 'lonely wanderers' (Tarim, North China, South China) did not unite until just before, or slightly after the breakup of Pangea. The fourth 'lonely wanderer', the Kalahari (and core Kaapvaal) craton has a somewhat unique Archean-age geology compared to its nearest neighbors in Gondwana, but very similar to that in western Australia.







Supercontinentes: reunião de diversos blocos de litosfera continental compreendendo pelo menos 70% da superfície total dos continentes (Meert, 2012) – Colúmbia, Rodinia, Pangea.

Supercrátons: reunião de diversos blocos de litosfera continental que corresponde a menos de 70% da superfície total dos continentes

Pangea (Wegener, 1913, Du Toit, 1923; *Irving*, 1953)

Rodinia (Hoffman, 1991, Dalziel, 1991; *D'Agrella-Filho et al. 1998, Weil et al., 1998*)

Columbia (Zhao et al., 2002, 2004; Meert, 2003, Bispo-Santos et al., 2008, Evans & Mitchell, 2011)



Supercontinent reconstruction criteria

Classical methods (Wegener, Du Toit):

- 1) Coastlines fit
- 2) Fossils
- 3) Paleoclimatic indicators (glacials, carbonate e evaporite)
- 4) Continuity of geological provinces

'Modern' methods (Precambrian continentes)

- 1) Transform faults
- 2) Seafloor magnetic anomalies
- 3) Continuity of isotopic provinces
- 4) Provenance studies (Pb-Hf in zircon, Ar-Ar in micas)
- 5) Age and continuity of dyke swarms and LIPs (barcode)
- 6) Paleomagnetism (only quantitative way to test paleogeographic configurations)

Two main assumptions of Paleomagnetism

GAD: For long time intervals (>10 Ka) the Earth's magnetic field behaves as a dipole centered in the planet and aligned with its spinning axis.

Rocks get (and stay) magnetized in the geological time scale: when rocks are formed they acquire a remanent magnetization parallel to the ambient magnetic field. This magnetization decays slowly (multi-million to billions of years time scale).

Earth's internal structure



Origin of the Earth's Magnetic Field







"It is not very well known exactly how much time is required to average out secular variation; the consensus is that it is more than 400 years but less than 5 million. Most text books claim that $10^4 - 10^5$ years is sufficient. The minimum number of sampling sites required for a "good" average is also poorly constrained. Conventional wisdom suggests at least ten, while (Tauxe et al., 2003) suggest that approximately 100 sites are required to fully sample secular variation."



Tauxe (2015)

Global average paleomagnetic poles each 100 yrs for the past two millenia Merrill and MacElhinny (1983) *in* Butler (1992)

The 'normal' GAD field



Glatzmaier and Roberts, 1995, Nature, vol. 377, p. 203-209.

http://es.ucsc.edu/~glatz/geodynamo.html

news & views

In GAD we trust

Palaeomagnetists' basic assumption that Earth's magnetic field is a GAD, that is, a geocentric axial dipole, has been challenged by anomalous magnetic data from ancient Canadian basalts. At a closer look, fast continental drift could explain this anomaly.

Joseph G. Meert



The dipolar record of Kewenawan lavas (1.1 Ga) Swanson-Hyssel et al. (2010)

$$\begin{split} P(E) &\propto \exp\left(-E_m/kT\right) & \longrightarrow & M(t) = M_o \exp\left(\frac{-t}{\tau}\right) \\ \text{Onde:} \\ \tau &= \frac{1}{C} \exp\left[\frac{[\text{anisotropy energy}]}{[\text{thermal energy}]} = \frac{1}{C} \exp\left[\frac{[Kv]}{[kT]}\right] \end{split}$$







magnetic moments aligned with the ambiente magnetic field

random magnetic moments



We also usually assume that:

Plate velocities were similar to present-day (or Phanerozoic) in the distant past: estimates from paleomagnetism of Phanerozoic units sets a speed limit of ~2°/Myr (Tarduno et al., 1990, Meert et al., 1993).

Most of the record represents the dipole field, not transient field: statistically, given the rapid nature of the reversal (total duration ~10³ yrs) most of the rock record of the ancient field corresponds to one of the two polarities.







Ken Creer (1925-2020)

Apparent polar wander path



Supercontinent assembly from paleomagnetism





Supercontinent assembly from paleomagnetism

Fundamentals of Paleomagnetism



Fundamentals of Paleomagnetism







Paleomagnetism: A quantitative test for paleogeographic reconstructions.





Euler poles to Laurentia. Siberia (78, 099, +147) Greenland (67.5, 241.5, -13.8) Baltica (47.5, 0001.5, +49) Australian blocks (31.5, 098, +102.5) North China (11, 196, -24)

Euler poles to Baltica

West Africa to Baltica (06, 029, -93) Amazonia to Baltica (43, 197, 84)



A Pangea (*Urkontinent*) de Wegener (1922)



Misfit of paleomagnetic poles



After a critical reaprisal...



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(Received March 15, 1990; revised and accepted February 15, 1991)

ABSTRACT

Brito Neves, B.B. de and Cordani, U.G., 1991. Tectonic evolution of South America during the Late Proterozoic. In: R.J. Stern and W.R. van Schmus (Editors), Crustal Evolution in the Late Proterozoic. Precambrian Res., 53: 23–40.

This paper discusses the evolution and the Late Proterozoic assembly of the South American continent (i.e. the West Gondwana) under the light of global tectonics. The northern portion of the continent—the Amazonian craton—is a "Pre-Brasiliano" domain; it may be a fragment derived from Laurentia. This domain behaved as a large continental plate which was accreted to the central and southeastern portions of the continent ("Brasiliano domain"). The Brasiliano domain had a more complex history and composition during the Brasiliano cycle (Middle Proterozoic to Early Paleozoic).

In the Brasiliano domain, several Late Proterozoic continental plates have been identified (São Luiz-West Africa, Congo-Kasai/São Francisco, Rio de La Plata, Arequipa-Antofalla) which acted as forelands to the Brasiliano orogenic belts that surround and amalgamate these plates. Smaller fragments of Pre-Brasiliano continental lithosphere are common in the interior of the Brasiliano orogenic belts and played diversified roles (microplates, microcontinents, "structural highs"). Some of them have acted as true backlands (hinterlands) flanked by arc magmatism.

Two principal types of Brasiliano orogenic belts are recognized between the continental plates: (a) marginal orogenies to the Late Proterozoic plates, with pelitic-carbonatic rocks and discrete volcanism, which were thrust by collision onto the margin of the plates, and which seem to represent final products of previous passive margin sequences; (b) distal orogenies (internal belts within the continental masses, sometimes a branching system of orogenies), that contain varied clastic and minor carbonate sedimentary rocks, accompanied by important bimodal volcanism and calc-alkaline pluton-ism. For these orogenies a greater variety of basinal scenarios and tectonic settings may be visualized.



Table 2. Generalized scheme of evolution and main events of the Amazonian (Pre-Brasiliano, north and northwes parts) and Brasiliano (central and eastern parts) domains of the basement of the South American platform. Base on Saes and Leite (1993), Geraldes *et al.* (2000), Ruiz *et al.* (2004), Tassinari and Macambira (2004), Bettencour *et al.* (2010), Rizzotto and Hartmann (2012), Rizzotto *et al.* (2013), Brito Neves and Fuck (2013), Brito Neves and Fuck (2014), among others.

AMAZONIAN DOMAIN (Pre-Brasiliano)	BRASILIANO DOMAIN	(Ga)
First cratonic sedimentary sequences of western Gondwana SILURIAN – EARLY DEVONIAN		0.40
	CAMBRO – ORDOVICIAN	0.50
	Diversified late to post tectonic processes: Transition	
	CAMBRIAN OROGENIC BELTS (0.55 – 0.52 Ga)	0.55
Absence of orogenic events	MIDDLE EDIACARAN OROGENIES (0.59 – 0.56 Ga)	0.60
	LATE CRYOGEN – EAR¥ EDIACARAN OROGENIES(0.66 – 0.62 Ga)	0.65
	MAIN EVENTS + LOCAL PRECURSOR OROGENIC OF TAPHROGENESES EVENTS [0.85 - 0.75 Ga) _	. 0.80
	T ONIAN OROGENIES / TERRANES	
ANOROG.	(1000 – 0.920 Ma)	1.00
SUNSAS AGUAPEI/ HUANCHACA Orogenie and cover sequences GRANITES	V ulcanic, plutonic (felsic and mafic)	
(1200 – 1000 Ma)	cratogenic processes	1.20
	+ Cratonic sedimentary sequences	
Accretionary, collisional and cratogenic processes		1.40
(1510 – 1320 Ma)		
STA. HELENA OROGEN (1440±15Ma)		
CACHOEIRINHA OROGEN (1590±1530Ma)		1.60
RIO NEGRO – JURUENAACCRET. PROCESSES (1.75 – 1.60 Ga)	STA THERIAN TAPHROGENIC PROCESSES	
RORAIMA PLA TEAU OROSIRIAN OROGENIC CYCLES		1.80
UATUMĂ (LIP)/ VOLCANISM/PLUT ONISM + ANOREGENIC CRATONIC PLUTONISM		
		2.05
RHYACIAN – OROSIRIAN OROGENIES		
RHYACIAN OROGENIES		
SIDERIAN	DROGENIC PROCESSES AND PLUTONIC	2.30
IMPOR TANT OCCURRENCES (GRÃO PARÁ "IEQUIÉ" "PIO DAS VELHAS" (VCLE)		2.50
INFOR TANT OCCORRENCES (GRAO PARA, JEQUIE / RIO DAS VELHAS CICLE)		2.86
SPARSE OCCURRENCES		3.20
FEW, SPARSE, SMALL NUCLEI		
SOME ISOT OPIC INDICATIONS		3.60
		4.00
FEW ISOTOPIC TRACES		



Supercontinentes



Elsevier book: **Ancient Supercontinents and the Paleogeography of the Earth** by Lauri Pesonen et al. (+50 authors).

The continental drift history and paleogeography of Precambrian supercontinents are presented in a single book.

(i) present updated drift histories of Precambrian cratons using the best and most recent paleomagnetic data coupled with new precise radiometric age data,

(ii) test paleolatitude observations with available paleoclimate indicators of latitudes

(iii) highlight the evolutionary history of the cratons with geological and geophysical constraints.

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Evans et al., Figure 1



Congo – São Francisco Craton Latitudinal drift



North China Craton Latitudinal drift



Zhang et al., 2021. Ancient superocontinents book, Elsevier



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star: Xiong'er plume center (North China)

WAU

Congo

KAL

CITZ

NAU

Congo-São Francisco Craton in Columbia

A short-lived KINCA? Kalahari, India, North China, Congo-São Francisco, Australia



Bar code + reversals + paleomagnetism





1.1 Ga Umkondo intraplate magmatic rocks (GP = Grunehogna crustal province, Antarctica)





KGP

Huila-Epembe pole 1100 Ma

Salminen et al. (2018) Geology



Siberia Baltica ?? West Africa

Choudhary et al. (2019) Prec. Res.

Amazonian Craton





Amazonian Craton







Amazonian Craton

Latitudinal drift



Amazonia – West Africa connection

















From Rodinia to Gondwana

Trindade et al. (2006) EPSL Tohver et al. (2006) Precambrian Res. D'Agrella-Filho and Cordani (2018) São Francisco Craton, Eastern Brazil Amazon and São Francisco cratons were likely part of all three supercontinents since the Paleoproterozoic. Few constraints exist on the Rio de la Plata Craton.

<u>Columbia (1800-1340)</u>: Amazonia was part of a group including Baltica, Laurentia and West Africa; CSF was possibly connected to North China and India, and made part of the Columbia supercontinent

Rodinia (1000-630 Ma): Amazonia, always in connection with Laurentia, with two different models for interaction; São Francisco position is not clear;

<u>Gondwana (630-130 Ma)</u>: One of the worst periods for the paleomagnetic record; several anomalous conditions suggest this was the onset of the inner core. In spite of that the available data is compatible with an assembly not later than 570 Ma, with poles from West Africa, Congo-São Francisco and Rio de la Plata coinciding at this time.

Patagonia behaved as a para-autochton terrane, with limited opening in its NE border.