

## CONTENTS

1. Introduction	3
1.1 Aims of the study	3
1.2 General overview on the Upper Rhine Graben	3
1.2.1 Pre-rift settings	4
1.2.2 Syn-rift evolution	5
1.3 Previous research	6
1.4 Study area, database and methods	7
2. The syn-rift Cenozoic evolution of the northern Upper Rhine Graben	9
2.1 Methodology and concepts	9
2.1.1 Subsidence analysis	9
2.1.2 Applied stratigraphic principles	10
2.1.3 Cycle hierarchy	12
2.2 Syn-rift stratigraphy	12
2.3 Syn-rift tectonic settings	15
2.3.1 Graben geometry	15
2.3.2 Graben subsidence and evolution	19
2.4 The syn-rift sedimentary fill: seismic and wire-line log response	23
2.5 Syn-rift depositional cycles: a possible interpretation	33
3. Early syn-rift tectono-sedimentary evolution of the northern Upper Rhine Graben	37
3.1 Early syn-rift sedimentary succession: identification and overview	37
3.1.1 Definition and identification	37
3.1.2 Lithostratigraphy	38
3.1.3 Seismic and wire-line log facies	41
3.2 Early syn-rift tectonic structure and evolution	43
3.2.1 Large-scale interbasin transfer zone	43
3.2.2 Strike variations of fault displacement	45
3.2.3 Intermediate-scale tilt-blocks/halfgrabens	46
3.2.4 Subsidence and evolution of the structural geometry	48

3.3 Depositional elements and base-level cycles: identification and hierarchy	52
3.3.1 Depositional elements	52
3.3.2 Cycle hierarchy	52
3.3.3 Cycle identification	53
3.4 Key facies associations	57
3.4.1 Channel/overbank	57
3.4.2 Interfluvial/lacustrine	58
3.4.3 Alluvial fan	59
3.4.4 Brackish-marine delta/shoreface system	60
3.4.5 Offshore brackish/marine	61
3.4.6 Offshore marine	62
3.5 Base-level cycles and their palaeogeographic variability	63
3.5.1 Accommodation space and sediment supply in the interbasin transfer zone	65
3.5.2 Accommodation space and sediment supply within the sub-basins	68
3.5.3 Accommodation space and sediment supply on tilt-blocks/halfgrabens	73
3.5.4 Summary	76
3.6 Correlation of base-level cycles	77
3.6.1 Correlation of base-level cycles across the interbasin transfer zone	77
3.6.2 Correlation of base-level cycles along the large-scale axial depositional gradient	79
3.6.3 Correlation of base-level cycles along the subordinate depositional gradient of a tilt-block/halfgraben	83
3.7 The early syn-rift stage: Summary and conclusions	86
4. Synthesis: Tectonics and sedimentation	90
Acknowledgement	93
References	94
Appendix	