

1 Coupled Mo-U abundances and isotopes in a small marine
2 euxinic basin: constraints on processes in euxinic basins

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1 **Abstract**

2

3 Sedimentary molybdenum (Mo) and uranium (U) abundances, as well as their isotope
4 systematics, are used to reconstruct the evolution of the oxygenation state of the surface Earth
5 from the geological record. Their utility in this endeavour must be underpinned by a thorough
6 understanding of their behaviour in modern settings. In this study, Mo-U concentrations and
7 their isotope compositions were measured in the water column, sinking particles, sediments and
8 pore waters of the marine euxinic Lake Rogoznica (Adriatic Sea, Croatia) over a two year
9 period, with the aim of shedding light on the specific processes that control Mo-U accumulation
10 and isotope fractionations in anoxic sediment.

11 Lake Rogoznica is a 15 m deep stratified sea-lake that is anoxic and euxinic at depth. The deep
12 euxinic part of the lake generally shows Mo depletions consistent with near-quantitative Mo
13 removal and uptake into sediments, with Mo isotope compositions close to the oceanic
14 composition. The data also, however, show evidence for periodic additions of isotopically light
15 Mo to the lake waters, possibly released from authigenic precipitates formed in the upper oxic
16 layer and subsequently processed through the euxinic layer. The data also show evidence for a
17 small isotopic offset (~0.3‰ on $^{98}\text{Mo}/^{95}\text{Mo}$) between particulate and dissolved Mo, even at
18 highest sulfide concentrations, suggesting minor Mo isotope fractionation during uptake into
19 euxinic sediments. Uranium concentrations decrease towards the bottom of the lake, where it
20 also becomes isotopically lighter. The U systematics in the lake show clear evidence for a
21 dominant U removal mechanism via diffusion into, and precipitation in, euxinic sediments,
22 though the diffusion profile is mixed away under conditions of increased density stratification
23 between an upper oxic and lower anoxic layer. The U diffusion-driven precipitation is best
24 described with an effective $^{238}\text{U}/^{235}\text{U}$ fractionation of +0.6‰, in line with other studied euxinic
25 basins.

1 Combining the Mo and U systematics in Lake Rogoznica and other euxinic basins, it is apparent
2 that the two different uptake mechanisms of U and Mo can lead to spatially and temporally
3 variable Mo/U and Mo-U isotope systematics that depend on the rate of water renewal versus
4 removal to sediment, the sulfide concentration, and the geometry of the basin. This study further
5 emphasises the potential of combining multiple observations, from Mo-U enrichment and
6 isotope systematics, for disentangling the various processes via which redox conditions control
7 the chemistry of modern and ancient sediments.

8

1 **1. Introduction**

2 The sedimentary abundances and isotopic compositions of redox sensitive trace metals play a
3 prominent role in attempts to reconstruct the history of surface Earth oxygenation. Of all the
4 redox sensitive metals that have been used, molybdenum (Mo) and uranium (U) have perhaps
5 been the most prominent. Both are soluble under oxidizing conditions and exhibit conservative
6 behaviour in the open ocean, with residence times that are significantly longer than ocean
7 mixing times (800 and 250–500 kyr respectively, Emerson and Huested, 1991). In **some** anoxic
8 or euxinic (i.e. anoxic and sulfidic) settings, on the other hand, both Mo and U show non-
9 conservative behaviour in the water column and are variably removed to sediment, though
10 probably via different extraction mechanisms (Ku et al., 1977; Collier, 1985; McLennan, 2001;
11 Algeo and Tribovillard, 2009; Nakagawa et al., 2012; Tribovillard et al., 2012). Organic-rich,
12 reducing sediments are the most important modern oceanic Mo and U sinks (Emerson and
13 Huested, 1991; Morford and Emerson, 1999; McManus et al., 2006; Scott et al., 2008). Coupled
14 analysis of Mo and U authigenic enrichment in reducing organic-rich sediments has been used
15 to investigate the degree of anoxia prevailing in the past water column (e.g., Scott et al., 2008;
16 Algeo and Tribovillard, 2009; Tribovillard et al., 2012).

17 The Mo and **parent** U isotopic composition of ancient black shales are also thought to be related
18 to the redox state of the global ocean, as Mo and U isotopes are fractionated differently in oxic
19 and anoxic ocean sinks (e.g. Barling et al., 2001; Siebert et al., 2003; Arnold et al., 2004; Stirling
20 et al., 2007; Weyer et al., 2008; Gordon et al., 2009; Montoya-Pino et al., 2010; Scheiderich et
21 al., 2010; Voegelin et al., 2010; Brennecka et al., 2011a; Herrmann et al., 2012; Azrieli-Tal et
22 al., 2014; Dahl et al., 2014; Westermann et al., 2014). The conservative behaviour of Mo in
23 oxygenated waters arises from the fact that the main Mo species, molybdate ($\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}\text{O}_4^{2-}$), has a
24 low particle affinity, leading to the relatively long residence time of Mo in the oceans (Emerson
25 and Huested, 1991). In such oxidizing environments, **slow** adsorption of dissolved Mo to Mn

1 oxide particles preferentially accumulates light Mo isotopes in the particulate phase (by ~ 3‰
2 for $^{98}\text{Mo}/^{95}\text{Mo}$; Barling and Anbar, 2004), leaving the dissolved Mo pool enriched in heavy Mo
3 isotopes (Barling and Anbar, 2004). In contrast, under euxinic conditions, with significant
4 dissolved sulfide, oxygen atoms in molybdate can be replaced with sulfur atoms (Erickson and
5 Helz, 2000; Vorlicek and Helz, 2002). The product thiomolybdate ($\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}\text{O}_n\text{S}_4^{2-}$) species are
6 particle reactive, readily scavenged (e.g. by particulate Fe and organic matter), and thus
7 removed from the water column into the underlying sediments (Helz et al., 1996; Vorlicek and
8 Helz, 2002; Bostick et al., 2003). At sulfide concentrations greater than $\sim 11 \mu\text{mol l}^{-1}$ the
9 conversion of molybdate to tetrathiomolybdate ($\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}\text{S}_4^{2-}$) is nearly complete (Erickson and
10 Helz, 2000). Thus, in highly restricted anoxic basins, such as the Black Sea ($[\Sigma\text{S}^{\text{II}}] \sim 300 \mu\text{mol}$
11 l^{-1} , Emerson and Husted 1991) the conversion of $\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}\text{O}_4^{2-}$ to $\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}\text{S}_4^{2-}$ is almost complete at
12 depth, leading to near-quantitative molybdenum removal from the water column. Accordingly,
13 in the underlying sediment, authigenic Mo records a Mo isotopic composition that is very close
14 to the original seawater composition (Nägler et al., 2011). The process of conversion to sulfidic
15 species does, however, involve Mo isotope fractionation (Tossell, 2005; Kerl et al., 2017),
16 which may be expressed in mildly euxinic conditions when intermediate products in the
17 $\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}\text{O}_4^{2-}$ to $\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}\text{S}_4^{2-}$ conversion are present and when conversion to tetrathiomolybdate is not
18 complete. Furthermore, there appears to be a small isotopic difference between aqueous
19 $\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}\text{S}_4^{2-}$ and authigenic solid Mo, with $\Delta^{98/95}\text{Mo}_{\text{tetrathio-mo-sediment}} = +0.5 \pm 0.3\text{‰}$ (Nägler et al.,
20 2011).

21 Uranium, in the form of U^{6+} , mainly forms highly soluble complexes with carbonate species in
22 oxic seawater, again leading to the relatively long residence time (Morford and Emerson, 1999).
23 In contrast, the reduced U^{4+} species is highly insoluble. Large variations in the ratio of
24 uranium's long-lived isotopes $^{238}\text{U}/^{235}\text{U}$ have been observed under redox-controlled U^{6+} - U^{4+}
25 exchange in low-temperature environments (Stirling et al., 2007; Weyer et al., 2008). Oxic

1 adsorption of U to ferromanganese oxides without redox change, and under oxic conditions,
2 results in a small fractionation of the $^{238}\text{U}/^{235}\text{U}$ ratio ($\delta^{238/235}\text{U}_{\text{soln-MnOx}} = \sim 0.2\%$; Brennecka et
3 al., 2011b). On the other hand, the incorporation of U^{4+} into anoxic sediments generally leads
4 to significant (permil level) enrichment of the heavier isotope, ^{238}U , in sediment (e.g. Weyer et
5 al., 2008; Andersen et al., 2014). In contrast to Mo, typical processes for U removal into anoxic
6 sediments have been suggested to involve U transported with sinking particulate organic matter
7 (Anderson et al. 1989b; Zheng et al., 2002) and diffusion of seawater U into sediment pore
8 waters and reduction within the sediment itself (Anderson et al., 1989a; Barnes and Cochran,
9 1990; Klinkhammer and Palmer, 1991). Although still a matter of some debate, the latter
10 process has been determined to dominate the authigenic U flux in most studied anoxic
11 marine settings (e.g. Anderson 1987; McManus et al 2005). Furthermore, the mechanistic
12 nature of U fixation within anoxic sediment is also still debated, but likely dominated by
13 metal- and sulfate-reducing bacteria that use U^{VI} as an electron acceptor (Lovley et al.,
14 1991; Bargar et al., 2013).

15 As a result, while the Mo isotopic composition of seawater may be directly recorded in
16 sediments accumulated under strongly euxinic conditions via near-quantitative Mo uptake, U
17 is taken up less quantitatively and U isotopes generally display large fractionations between
18 anoxic organic-rich sediments and seawater (Weyer et al., 2008; Andersen et al., 2014;
19 Noordmann et al., 2015; Holmden et al., 2015; Andersen et al., 2016; Rolison et al., 2017). As
20 Mo and U display significant isotope fractionations between oxic and anoxic sinks, both isotope
21 systems have the potential to record the redox evolution of the global ocean. However, the
22 investigation of Mo and U behaviour in different modern settings has revealed significant Mo
23 isotope fractionation in sediments deposited under suboxic as well as under anoxic water
24 columns bearing low sulfide concentrations (Siebert et al., 2003; Siebert et al., 2006; Poulson
25 et al., 2006; Poulson Brucker et al., 2009; Nägler et al., 2011). In addition to Mo removal in

1 euxinic waters, other processes have been invoked to control sedimentary Mo isotopes in anoxic
2 settings. These include the delivery of Mo with light Mo isotope compositions to euxinic
3 sediments or bottom water on Fe-Mn oxyhydroxide-rich particulates (e.g. Barling and
4 Anbar, 2004; Goldberg et al., 2009), adsorption of Mo to organic matter with an isotopic
5 fractionation (Kowalski et al., 2013) and early diagenetic redistribution of Mo within
6 sediment and pore-waters (McManus et al., 2002). Studies reporting the U isotopic
7 composition of anoxic to suboxic sediments have shown not only a significant U isotopic
8 fractionation in comparison to seawater, but also variable fractionation between these modern
9 anoxic settings. While several studies suggest an apparent U isotope fractionation factor (ϵ) for
10 $^{238}\text{U}/^{235}\text{U}$ in the range of $\sim+0.5$ to 0.8% during U uptake in anoxic sediments (Weyer et al.
11 2008; Andersen et al., 2014; Holmden et al., 2015; Noordmann et al., 2015; Andersen et al.,
12 2016, Rolison et al., 2017) both significantly higher and lower U isotope compositions have
13 been observed in anoxic sediments (Weyer et al. 2008; Montoya-Pino et al. 2010; Noordmann
14 et al., 2015; Hinojosa et al. 2016). This suggests further mechanisms for U withdrawal from the
15 anoxic water columns, or variable U isotope mass-balance during non-quantitative authigenic
16 U sediment uptake (Andersen et al., 2017).

17 To improve our understanding of the behaviour of Mo and U and their isotopes, further studies
18 in well-characterised modern settings are needed. In this study, Mo and U concentrations and
19 isotope compositions of the water column, sinking particles, sediments and pore waters of the
20 marine euxinic Lake Rogoznica, Croatia, are presented. Based on the comprehensive dataset
21 obtained, including seasonal patterns, we shed further light on the processes controlling Mo and
22 U isotope fractionation mechanisms in anoxic water columns and their sediments.

23

24 **2. Methods**

25 **2.1. Study site**

1 Lake Rogoznica is a small, intensely eutrophicated sea-lake situated on the eastern coast of the
2 Adriatic Sea (Ciglencečki et al., 2005; Bura-Nakić et al., 2009; Ciglencečki et al., 2015). The lake
3 is surrounded by sheer carbonate cliffs (4–23 m above mean sea-level), has a surface area of
4 about 5300 m² and a maximum depth of ~15 m. Due to its stratification, and despite permanent
5 water exchange with the surrounding sea through porous karst, Lake Rogoznica becomes
6 anoxic at depth due to the remineralisation of organic matter produced in periods of intense
7 primary production (blooms) near the surface (Ciglencečki et al., 2005; Bura-Nakić et al., 2009;
8 Ciglencečki et al., 2015). It is therefore well-suited for studying biogeochemical processes
9 influencing redox-sensitive trace metals. Complete vertical mixing of the lake, where cold
10 oxygen-rich water from the surface mixes downwards and anoxic deep waters are brought to
11 the surface, often occurs during the dry and cold autumn period. Complete mixing of the lake,
12 leading to catastrophic anoxia in the whole water column, occurs rarely, once or twice in every
13 10 winters depending on the meteorological conditions (Ciglencečki et al., 2005; 2015). Under
14 stratified conditions, the surface water is well oxygenated while the layer below approx. 9 m
15 depth is anoxic. The anoxic deep waters become rich in sulfur (up to 5000 μmol l⁻¹)
16 predominantly in the form of sulfide (Ciglencečki et al., 2005; Bura-Nakić et al., 2009;
17 Ciglencečki et al., 2015).

18

19 **2.2. Sampling and sample collection**

20 Prior to field work, syringes, bottles, tygon tubes and all other materials used for sediment and
21 water column sampling were pre-cleaned in ~3 N HCl and rinsed with MQ water (18 MΩ·cm).
22 Unless otherwise stated, all reagents used were sub-boiling distilled twice in teflon stills.
23 Water column samples were collected from the middle of the lake during six campaigns
24 spanning 2013 (February, April, July and October) and 2015 (April and July). All water samples

1 were collected by lowering a custom-made (30 cm diameter) filter housing down into the lake,
2 so that filtration occurred *in situ*, and the water was pumped through a 0.2 μm mesh-sized filter
3 (Millipore, Whatman 47 mm diameter PTFE) to the surface using silicone tubing (0.9 cm outer
4 diameter) and a Pegasus peristaltic pump. Approximately one litre was collected at each depth.
5 All filtered samples were collected in pre-cleaned HDPE bottles and acidified ($p\text{H}$ 2, using
6 concentrated HCl). Salinity and oxygen concentration were measured *in situ* during the
7 sampling using a HQ40D multimeter probe (HachLange, Germany). Sulfide concentrations
8 were analysed by linear sweep voltammetry (LSV) within 8 hours of sampling according to
9 procedures described elsewhere (Ciglenc̆ki et al., 2005; Bura-Nakić et al., 2009; Ciglenc̆ki et
10 al., 2015). Electrochemical measurements were performed with $\mu\text{Autolab}$ Electrochemical
11 Instruments (EcoChemie) connected with 663VA Stand Metrohm electrode. *In situ*
12 measurements of $p\text{H}$ were performed during three sampling campaigns (October 2013, April
13 and July 2015) using a HQ40D multimeter probe (HachLange, Germany). The $p\text{H}$ values
14 measured *in situ* were used to calculate $[\text{H}_2\text{S}]_{\text{aq}}$ following Millero et al. (1986, Supplementary
15 Table 2).

16 One sediment core (~60 cm long) was collected in July 2013 from the middle and deepest part
17 of Lake Rogoznica (~15 m) using an Uwitec gravity corer. Immediately after sampling, the core
18 was sectioned into 5 cm segments in a glove box under N_2 overpressure. Pore water was
19 extracted by centrifugation at 4000 rpm for 30 minutes. The pore water samples (10 to 30 ml)
20 were transferred into HPDE bottles and acidified ($p\text{H}$ 2) using concentrated HCl. A sample of
21 the carbonate rock surrounding the lake was collected in April 2015, stored in a plastic bag, and
22 cut into smaller pieces (1–2 g) using a diamond-blade saw.

23

24 2.3. Sample preparation

1 Chemical preparation and analysis of the samples were performed in the isotope facilities at the
2 Institute of Geochemistry and Petrology, Department of Earth Sciences, ETH Zürich,
3 Switzerland. Lake Rogoznica water column dissolved and particulates, as well as pore water
4 and sediment samples were measured for selected elemental concentrations, and Mo and U
5 isotopes. Elemental concentrations were measured in all samples (section 2.5) prior to
6 preparation for isotope composition determination.

7 Water sample aliquots (varying from 20 to 150 ml) were taken for isotopic analysis, aiming for
8 a total of 20–50 ng U and 150–250 ng Mo. These were transferred into pre-cleaned Teflon jars
9 for the isotope determination, and spiked with the IRMM–3636 ^{236}U – ^{233}U double-spike
10 (Richter et al., 2008) aiming for a $^{236}\text{U}/^{235}\text{U}$ of ~ 4 , and a ^{100}Mo – ^{97}Mo double-spike (Archer and
11 Vance, 2008) aiming for a 1:1 spike to sample ratio. These water sample aliquots were
12 subsequently dried down (all at 100 °C). Due to the high Na–content, a large NaCl precipitate
13 would form during this step. To obtain a more pure metal fraction, samples were leached using
14 10 ml 7 N HCl for 24 hours, a treatment which dissolves Mo, U and other metals but minimises
15 dissolution of NaCl. The samples were then centrifuged (3500 rpm for 10 minutes), and the
16 supernatant taken for analysis. The recoveries of both U and Mo in the supernatant were
17 consistently >90% using this procedure. The supernatant was then dried down and re-dissolved
18 in 5 ml 7 N HCl in preparation for column chromatography.

19 **Filters used for the water filtration were dissolved in 10** ml of concentrated HNO_3 in pre-cleaned
20 60 ml Teflon beakers and dried down (all at 100 °C). Samples were then re-dissolved and fluxed
21 in a 2 ml mixture of conc. HNO_3 and H_2O_2 (Merck Superpure, 1:1 ratio) on a hotplate for 24
22 hours, before being dried down. They were then re-dissolved in 5 ml of 7 N HCl and an aliquot
23 (100 μL) was taken to determine elemental concentrations. The filters held 28 to 148 ng Mo
24 and 3 to 23 ng U, while the total blanks for dissolution of clean unused filters in the same
25 manner were ~ 40 pg for Mo and < 1 pg for U (Supplementary Table 1). The samples were spiked

1 with the U and Mo double-spikes as described above, and left in closed Teflon beakers to
2 equilibrate on a hotplate (100 °C) before column chromatography.

3 The pore water samples were weighed, dried down in pre-cleaned Teflon beakers, and pre-
4 treated with the mixture of concentrated HNO₃ and H₂O₂ in a 1:1 ratio on a hotplate for 24
5 hours. Samples were then re-dissolved in 5 ml 7 N HCl and an aliquot taken to determine the
6 elemental concentrations. Samples containing 70–170 ng Mo and 4–35 ng U were then spiked
7 with the U and Mo double-spikes and left to equilibrate on a hotplate in preparation for column
8 chromatography.

9 Approximately 50–100 mg of the sediment samples was used for analysis. Full dissolution of
10 sediments was carried out using conventional protocols for silicates, involving mixtures of HF–
11 HNO₃–HCl and H₂O₂ in the same manner described in Andersen et al. (2013). After final
12 dissolution in 10 ml 6 N HCl, an aliquot was taken to determine elemental concentrations. An
13 aliquot containing 20–50 ng U and 150–250 ng Mo was added to pre-cleaned Teflon beakers,
14 spiked with the U and Mo double-spikes, and then left to equilibrate on a hotplate before being
15 dried down (all at 100 °C). Samples were then re-dissolved in 5 ml 7 N HCl in preparation for
16 column chromatography.

17 The carbonate rock sample was weighed and dissolved in a pre-cleaned Teflon beaker. The
18 initial carbonate rock dissolution was performed in a 5 ml mixture of conc. HCl and H₂O in a
19 1:1 ratio for 24 hours. The sample was then dried down and pre-treated on a hotplate for 24
20 hours with a mixture of conc. HNO₃ and H₂O₂ in a 1:1 ratio. After final dissolution in 10 ml of
21 0.3 N HNO₃ an aliquot was taken to determine elemental concentrations. An aliquot containing
22 ~50 ng U was added to a pre-cleaned Teflon beaker, spiked with the U double-spike, left to
23 equilibrate on a hotplate before being dried down at 100 °C. The sample was then re-dissolved
24 in 5 ml 7 N HCl in preparation for column chromatography.

25

1 **2.4. Column chromatography**

2 A one step purification and U–Mo separation procedure was conducted using RE Resin
3 (Triskem technologies) in custom-made shrink-fit Teflon columns (~0.2 ml resin reservoir).
4 Prior to sample loading, resin was added to the columns, pre-cleaned using 2 ml of a mixture
5 0.1 N HCl–0.3 N HF, rinsed with MQ water, and pre-conditioned with 2 ml 7 N HCl. Samples
6 were then loaded in 5 ml 7 N HCl and the matrix eluted with 10 ml 1 N HCl. The Mo and U
7 fraction were eluted separately, first with 5 ml 0.2 N HCl and then 5 ml of a 0.1 N HCl–0.3 N
8 HF mixture, respectively. The column chromatography protocol yielded highly pure Mo and U
9 fractions with only traces of major or minor elements. For example, abundant cations in the
10 pre-column extracted seawater – e.g. Mg (~1000 ppm) and Ca (~400 ppm) – were present at
11 less than 100 ppb in the purified Mo and U fractions. Column blanks were <13 pg and <22 pg
12 for Mo and U, respectively (Supplementary Table 1). The U fractions were fluxed on a hotplate
13 for 24 hours in a 1 ml mixture of concentrated HNO₃ and H₂O₂ in 1:1 ratio, to oxidise any resin
14 bleeding into the sample cut during chemistry, and dried down. The purified Mo and U were
15 then re-dissolved in 0.3 N HNO₃ and 0.2 N HCl, respectively, for mass spectrometry.

16 The column separation procedure was tested by processing two open Atlantic Ocean samples
17 for U and Mo, following the dissolution and column chemistry procedure described above. The
18 isotopic compositions of Mo and U measured are in good agreement with previously reported
19 values (see below and Supplementary Table 1) (Siebert et al., 2003; Weyer et al., 2008;
20 Nakagawa et al., 2012; Andersen et al., 2014; Tissot and Dauphas, 2015).

21

22 **2.5. Elemental concentration measurements**

23 The concentrations of selected elements (see Supplementary Table 2) were measured in 0.3N
24 HNO₃ using a Thermo–Finnigan Element XR ICP–MS, following the same measurement

1 protocol as outlined in Andersen et al. (2013, 2016). In brief, the instrument set-up included
2 both low and medium resolution, using a primary in-house concentration standard interspersed
3 with measurements of three unknowns and a secondary standard (BCR-2). The BCR-2
4 standard was used to monitor the accuracy and reproducibility. Repeated measurements of
5 BCR-2 gave a reproducibility better than $\pm 10\%$ (1 S.D.) and mean values within $\pm 10\%$ of the
6 certified concentrations (see Andersen et al., 2016).

7

8 **2.6. Molybdenum and uranium isotope measurements**

9 Isotope ratios were measured on a Neptune (Thermo-Finnigan) MC-ICPMS equipped with an
10 AridusII auto-sampler (CETAC) using a PFA nebulizer and spray chamber (CPI) sample
11 introduction system. Details of instrumental set-up are given in Archer and Vance (2008) for
12 Mo isotopes and Andersen et al. (2016) for U isotopes. Molybdenum isotope ratios are
13 presented as $\delta^{98}\text{Mo} = \left[\frac{{}^{98/95}\text{Mo}_{\text{sample}}}{{}^{98/95}\text{Mo}_{\text{standard}}} - 1 \right] \times 1000$. All Mo isotope compositions for
14 samples are reported relative to NIST SRM 3134 = +0.25‰ (Nägler et al., 2014). Uranium
15 isotope ratios are reported relative to the CRM-145 standard and presented as $\delta^{238}\text{U} =$
16 $\left[\frac{{}^{238/235}\text{U}_{\text{sample}}}{{}^{238/235}\text{U}_{\text{standard}}} - 1 \right] \times 1000$ and as (${}^{234}\text{U}/{}^{238}\text{U}$) activity ratios compared to secular
17 equilibrium (Cheng et al., 2013).

18 The Mo double spike method was verified via the analysis of an in-house CPI standard as well
19 as open-ocean seawater. During the period of this study, analysis of our in-house CPI standard
20 with standard/spike ratios in the range of 0.1 to 5 gave $\delta^{98}\text{Mo} = -0.02 \pm 0.04\%$ (all isotope data
21 reported as 2 S.D., Supplementary Table 1) relative to NIST SRM 3134 = +0.25‰. Four
22 seawater samples gave $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$ of $+2.37 \pm 0.03\%$, in perfect agreement with previous data for
23 seawater $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$ (Siebert et al., 2003; Nakagawa et al., 2012). The verification of the U double
24 spike method was carried out via repeated measurements of the in-house CZ-1 uraninite

1 standard and five open-ocean seawater samples (Supplementary Table 1). The long-term
2 average and ± 2 S.D. reproducibility for the CZ-1 standard were $-0.04 \pm 0.07\%$ for $\delta^{238}\text{U}$ and
3 0.9996 ± 0.0025 for ($^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$) (Supplementary Table 1), in agreement with previously
4 reported values (Stirling et al., 2007; Andersen et al., 2015; 2016). Uranium isotopic analysis
5 of five seawater samples gave a $\delta^{238}\text{U} = -0.39 \pm 0.04\%$ and ($^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$) = 1.147 ± 0.003 , again
6 in very good agreement with reported data for seawater (Weyer et al., 2008; Andersen et al.,
7 2010; 2014; Tissot and Dauphas, 2015). Finally, a set-up measuring samples with low U (2–10
8 ng) amounts equivalent to some filter samples, yielded $\delta^{238}\text{U} = -0.02 \pm 0.23\%$ and ($^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$)
9 = 0.999 ± 0.018 for the CZ-1 standard (Supplementary Table 1).

10

11 **3. Results**

12 **3.1. General chemical characterisation of the water column**

13 Salinity, oxygen ($[\text{O}_2]$), sulfide ($[\Sigma\text{S}^{-\text{II}}]$), particulate Fe ($[\text{Fe}]_{\text{part}}$) and particulate Mn ($[\text{Mn}]_{\text{part}}$)
14 in the water column are presented in Supplementary Table 2 and summarised in Figure 1.
15 During the study period (2013 and 2015) the lowest salinity recorded was during winter and
16 spring due to increased precipitation and decreased evaporation during the colder season of the
17 year. The position of the halocline is temporally variable, from approx 5 to 9 m. Oxygen
18 concentrations are strongly inversely correlated with the $[\Sigma\text{S}^{-\text{II}}]$, the latter reaching the highest
19 concentration of $\sim 5 \text{ mmol l}^{-1}$ in summer 2013 at 13 m depth. Particulate Fe and Mn are higher
20 at the chemocline and in the deeper anoxic waters than in the upper oxic layer.

21

22 **3.2. Molybdenum in the water column and settling particles**

23 Depth profiles of salinity-normalised (to 35) dissolved Mo ($[\text{Mo}]_{\text{SNDiss}}$) and of particulate Mo
24 ($[\text{Mo}]_{\text{part}}$), as well as their $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$, are presented in Supplementary Table 2 and Figure 2. The

1 [Mo]_{SNdiss} is higher than the measured [Mo] by 3 to 50% in the upper oxic waters (O₂ > 5 mg
2 l⁻¹) that are influenced by precipitation, but the correction has little impact on the deeper anoxic
3 waters. The [Mo]_{SNdiss} profiles show a strong depth gradient, mirroring changes in the redox
4 conditions in the water column. With the exception of very high [Mo] in surface waters in April
5 and July 2013, [Mo] generally varies between ~100 nmol l⁻¹ in the oxic and ~10 nmol l⁻¹ in the
6 deeper euxinic waters. The shape of the profiles is rather different for the first three sampling
7 **dates** (February-July 2013) versus the last three (Oct 2013, April 2015, July 2015). The latter
8 three profiles show a much sharper transition across the chemocline and much more
9 homogeneous concentrations within each redox regime – the upper oxic layer and the lower
10 euxinic layer. For the later three sampling times, [Mo]_{part}/[Mo]_{diss} is homogeneously low in the
11 upper oxic water column (generally ≤0.01) and higher in the lower anoxic portion (up to 0.19).
12 The first three sampling events are also much more heterogeneous in this ratio.

13 Lake Rogoznica waters generally show dissolved Mo isotopic composition (δ⁹⁸Mo_{diss}) in
14 the range +2.2 to +2.5 ‰ (Fig. 2). The exception is April 2013 and the top of the water
15 column in July 2013, where values are much more variable and extend down to +0.8‰.
16 The isotopic composition of the particulate Mo (δ⁹⁸Mo_{part}) spans a wide range, from δ⁹⁸Mo
17 = +0.1 to +2.1‰. In the anoxic water column the particles were generally more enriched
18 in heavy Mo isotopes (δ⁹⁸Mo_{part} from +0.6 to +2.0‰) in comparison with those from the
19 oxic water column (from +0.1 to +1.8‰).

20

21 **3.3. Uranium in the water column and settling particles**

22 Salinity normalised ([U]_{SNdiss}) and particulate ([U]_{part}) U concentrations, as well as δ²³⁸U,
23 are presented in Supplementary Table 3 and Figure 2. As with Mo, the salinity normalisation
24 increases the [U]_{SNdiss} by 2 to 50% in the upper oxic waters influenced by precipitation, but has

1 little influence on the deeper high salinity anoxic waters. The deeper anoxic waters are
2 depleted in dissolved U ($[U]_{\text{diss}}$: 1.4 to 3.4 nmol l⁻¹) compared to the oxic surface layer (8.9
3 to 11.2 nmol l⁻¹). Dissolved [U] decreases towards the bottom for all 6 sampling campaigns.
4 Particulate U concentrations (normalised to the water volume the filters were extracted from)
5 are generally low, ranging from 0.01 to 0.1 nmol l⁻¹ during the whole sampling period, and
6 show no significant seasonal variation. Particulate U concentrations are consistently higher
7 within the anoxic waters column, reaching a maximum at the chemocline and the bottom
8 of the lake. The $[U]_{\text{part}}/[U]_{\text{diss}}$ is significantly lower than the $[Mo]_{\text{part}}/[Mo]_{\text{diss}}$ ratio, reaching
9 max values of 0.004 for the oxic water column and 0.03 for anoxic water column samples.

10 Data for the uranium isotopic composition of the dissolved pool ($\delta^{238}\text{U}_{\text{diss}}$) show lighter
11 values than that for open-ocean seawater ($\delta^{238}\text{U} = -0.39\text{‰}$, Supplementary Table 1),
12 ranging from -0.5 to -1.1‰ and with generally lower values with depth. The isotopic
13 composition of particulate U ($\delta^{238}\text{U}_{\text{part}}$) is in the range -0.2‰ to -1.5‰ , with the lowest
14 $\delta^{238}\text{U}_{\text{part}}$ recorded in July 2013 at 6m depth, near the chemocline. $(^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U})_{\text{diss}}$ was in the
15 range 1.111 to 1.148 and $(^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U})_{\text{part}}$ in the range 1.101 to 1.152 (Supplementary Table
16 3).

17

18 **3.4. Molybdenum and uranium in the sediments and pore water**

19 Mo and U concentrations ($[Mo]_{\text{bulk}}$, $[U]_{\text{bulk}}$) and isotopic compositions ($\delta^{98}\text{Mo}_{\text{bulk}}$,
20 $\delta^{238}\text{U}_{\text{bulk}}$) in the anoxic sediments are presented in Supplementary Table 4 and Fig. 3. These
21 bulk data were used to calculate authigenic abundances using the measured Al, Mo and U in
22 the sediment samples (Supplementary Table 4) and assumed lithogenic Mo/Al and U/Al ratios
23 of $1.1 \times 10^{-5} \text{ g g}^{-1}$ and $1.8 \times 10^{-5} \text{ g g}^{-1}$, respectively (Taylor and McLennan, 1985; Tribovillard et
24 al., 2006; Andersen et al., 2014). For the isotopic composition of the detrital component a

1 $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}_{\text{det}}$ of +0.3‰ (Voegelin et al., 2014) and a $\delta^{238}\text{U}_{\text{det}}$ of -0.3‰ (Andersen et al., 2016), were
2 used, with:

3

$$4 \quad \delta^{98}\text{Mo}_{\text{auth}} = \frac{(\delta^{98}\text{Mo}_{\text{bulk}}[\text{Mo}]_{\text{bulk}} - \delta^{98}\text{Mo}_{\text{det}}[\text{Mo}]_{\text{det}})}{[\text{Mo}]_{\text{auth}}} \quad [1]$$

5

$$6 \quad \delta^{238}\text{U}_{\text{auth}} = \frac{(\delta^{238}\text{U}_{\text{bulk}}[\text{U}]_{\text{bulk}} - \delta^{238}\text{U}_{\text{det}}[\text{U}]_{\text{det}})}{[\text{U}]_{\text{auth}}} \quad [2]$$

7

8 Using this approach, the detrital Mo contribution to the sedimentary budget is found to be
9 minimal, so that more than 99% of the Mo in the sediments has an authigenic origin. Thus, the
10 impact of the detrital fraction on the measured bulk Mo isotopic composition of the sediment
11 is also negligible. For the bulk U there is a higher contribution of detrital U (from 10 to 23%).
12 Accordingly, the calculated authigenic $\delta^{238}\text{U}$ is shifted towards slightly lower values (by up to
13 0.03‰) relative to the bulk sediment. The measured ($^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$) ratio in the samples, along with
14 an assumption that the detrital material is in secular equilibrium (~ 1) and that the authigenic U
15 has a ratio = 1.147 like modern seawater, provides an alternative method for performing the
16 detrital U correction. The sediments display high ($^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$), ranging from 1.096 to 1.120,
17 demonstrating the predominance of authigenic U. Removal of the detrital U component from
18 the bulk using ($^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$), leads to corrected $\delta^{238}\text{U}$ authigenic values that are essentially the
19 same as those obtained using the U/Al method (see Supplementary Table 4).

20 The $[\text{Mo}]_{\text{auth}}$ and $[\text{U}]_{\text{auth}}$ were in the range 11 to 80 $\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$ and 2.4 to 7.3 $\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$, respectively,
21 implying moderate Mo and U enrichments in the anoxic sediments. The $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}_{\text{auth}}$ is
22 variable (1.6 to 2.2‰), but is consistently lower than the average oceanic $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$

1 composition ($+2.36 \pm 0.10\%$, Siebert et al., 2003). Sedimentary $\delta^{238}\text{U}_{\text{auth}}$ is, on average,
2 slightly higher ($\sim 0.15\%$) than the average oceanic $\delta^{238}\text{U}$ (-0.39%), with the exception of
3 the sample from 17.5 cm ($\delta^{238}\text{U}_{\text{auth}} = -0.42 \pm 0.07\%$). The sedimentary ($^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$) shows
4 no significant variability throughout the investigated core (Supplementary Table 4). The
5 measured host carbonate rock sample gave a $\delta^{238}\text{U} = -0.16 \pm 0.04\%$, a ($^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$) of 1.012,
6 a $[\text{U}]_{\text{bulk}}$ of $1.12 \mu\text{g g}^{-1}$ and $[\text{Mo}]_{\text{bulk}}$ of $0.72 \mu\text{g g}^{-1}$ (Supplementary Table 4).

7 Pore water Mo and U concentrations ($[\text{Mo}]_{\text{pw}}$, $[\text{U}]_{\text{pw}}$) (Supplementary Table 5, Fig. 3) were
8 consistently low throughout the core, with average $[\text{Mo}]_{\text{pw}} = 5 \pm 1 \text{ nmol l}^{-1}$ and $[\text{U}]_{\text{pw}} = 0.17$
9 $\pm 0.04 \text{ nmol l}^{-1}$ ($n=13$). The $\delta^{238}\text{U}_{\text{pw}}$ closely resembles the $\delta^{238}\text{U}_{\text{diss}}$ recorded in the deepest
10 anoxic bottom waters ($\delta^{238}\text{U}_{\text{diss}}$ in the range -0.9 to -1.1%). In contrast, pore water Mo is
11 slightly enriched in the heavier Mo isotopes, with an average $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}_{\text{pw}}$ of $+2.48 \pm 0.08\%$
12 ($n=13$), in comparison to $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}_{\text{diss}}$ in anoxic bottom waters (see Figures 2 and 3).

13

14 **4. Discussion**

15 **4.1 Behaviour of Mo and its isotopes in Lake Rogoznica**

16 ***4.1.1 Water column Mo behaviour***

17 The depth profiles for Mo and its isotopes in Fig. 2 split into two types of behaviour. The
18 dissolved Mo concentration profiles for October 2013 to July 2015 closely resemble those
19 previously reported from Lake Rogoznica (Helz et al., 2011), in showing a sharp transition
20 across the chemocline from high in the oxic portion above to low in the anoxic part of the lake
21 below. Profiles between Feb 2013 and July 2013, on the other hand, show more unexpected
22 behaviour. Below we discuss these anomalous features first, before moving on to the more
23 “typical” features of the later three sampling campaigns.

1 The first three sampling campaigns, and in particular April and July 2013, are often
2 characterised by very high Mo concentrations ($[\text{Mo}]_{\text{SN}}$ up to 577 nmol l^{-1}) in oxic surface waters.
3 (Fig. 2). Moreover, although these profiles exhibit the expected decrease of dissolved Mo in
4 anoxic waters, concentrations at depth are up to 2.5 times higher than in the later three sampling
5 campaigns. These high dissolved Mo concentrations are associated with generally lower
6 $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}_{\text{diss}}$, both in the oxic upper water column (as low as $+0.75 \pm 0.02\text{‰}$) and in the deep
7 euxinic portion (as low as $+1.32 \pm 0.02\text{‰}$). Combined, these observations suggest an additional
8 source of isotopically light Mo to the water column before or during this period. For the oxic
9 part of the water column, the Mo abundance and isotopic data are mostly explained by the
10 mixing of a “normal” signature, typified by the analyses from October 2013 to July 2015, with
11 an additional Mo source that has a $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$ of around $+0.4$ to $+0.5\text{‰}$ (Fig. 4a).

12 The origin of this additional Mo source is more difficult to identify. The Mediterranean
13 generally sees unusually high dust supply from the Sahara (Prospero, 1996), and one possibility
14 is that the additional Mo derives from such a source. The Mo associated with dust is most
15 likely to be associated with Fe-Mn oxyhydroxide-rich surfaces, which have the required
16 light isotope compositions (e.g. Barling and Anbar, 2004; Goldberg et al., 2009). It is
17 notable that the reservoir of Mo in particulates is also high, by one or two orders of magnitude,
18 during the anomalous sampling periods. The $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}_{\text{part}}$ is also consistently lower than during
19 the last three sampling campaigns, particularly in the upper oxic water column where the
20 difference between the dissolved and particulate loads ($\Delta^{98}\text{Mo}_{\text{diss-part}}$) is up to $+2.2\text{‰}$ in the
21 first three samplings versus a maximum of $+1.3\text{‰}$ in the second three. The suggested dust
22 source is not strongly supported by particulate Al, Fe and Mn concentrations which, though
23 variable through time and space, are not particularly strongly correlated with high Mo
24 concentrations or light Mo isotopes. On the other hand, if dust particles fall quickly through
25 the water column while their impact lingers in the dissolved pool, or if Mo on Fe-Mn

1 coatings is particularly soluble relative to Fe and Mn, such a correlation might not
2 necessarily be expected.

3 Another potential Mo source could, in principle, be leaching of Mo from the surrounding
4 carbonate karst. However, Mo concentration in the carbonate rock sample measured was
5 low ($0.71 \mu\text{g g}^{-1}$, Supplementary Table 4), in agreement with previously reported values
6 for carbonate (Vogelin et al., 2009, 2010). The main reservoir of Mo in the carbonate host
7 rock is also likely to be Fe-Mn oxyhydroxide coatings. The vertical position of the
8 halocline in Lake Rogoznica shifts seasonally, and during winter 2013 it was situated at a
9 relatively shallow level (3 to 4 m depth). This may have allowed anoxic waters to enter
10 into karst channels and dissolve Fe-Mn oxyhydroxide coatings on carbonate. Finally, the
11 vertical position of the chemocline in Lake Rogoznica also varies, by 2-4m, again
12 depending on season and meteorological conditions. Such temporal variation may also
13 periodically expose Mo sequestered to Fe-Mn oxyhydroxides, in recently deposited
14 unconsolidated sediment in the oxic portion of the lake, to reductive dissolution.

15 During the last three sampling campaigns dissolved salinity-normalised Mo concentrations
16 in the upper 5m of the water column are, at $97 \pm 5 \text{ nmol kg}^{-1}$, close to the mean oceanic
17 $[\text{Mo}]_{\text{diss}}$ value ($107 \pm 7 \text{ nmol l}^{-1}$, Collier, 1985; Nakagawa et al., 2012). In addition, the
18 average $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}_{\text{diss}}$ for these samples is +2.16 to 2.34‰, similar to the measured average
19 oceanic dissolved pool $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$ signature ($\delta^{98}\text{Mo} = +2.37 \pm 0.03\text{‰}$, Supplementary Table 1).

20 The $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}_{\text{part}}$ ranged from +0.98 to +1.68‰ in the oxic surface waters and $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}_{\text{diss-part}} =$
21 0.65-1.53‰. This difference is consistent with a dominant role for amorphous Fe
22 (oxyhydr)oxides (e.g. ferrihydrite, goethite), which have been shown experimentally to exhibit
23 fractionations relative to dissolved Mo in the range of 1.1 to 1.4‰ (Goldberg et al., 2009).

1 At the chemocline, $[\text{Mo}]_{\text{diss}}$ decreases and reaches steady concentrations of about 9 nmol l^{-1}
2 $^{-1}$ in the anoxic ($\text{O}_2 \sim 0 \text{ mg l}^{-1}$) waters below, a behaviour previously observed both at Lake
3 Rogoznica (Helz et al., 2011), and in other modern euxinic basins (Emerson and Husteded,
4 1991; Colodner et al., 1995; Algeo and Tribovillard, 2009; Nägler et al., 2011). In all the
5 profiles there are minor but significant excursions in $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$ of the dissolved pool close to
6 the chemocline. For example, in October 2013 and April 2015, $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}_{\text{diss}}$ shows a slight
7 increase, by about 0.3‰ , just at and below the chemocline and at depths where significant
8 removal of dissolved Mo starts. Just beneath this, $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}_{\text{diss}}$ decreases again and the deepest
9 samples are again close to those in oxic waters, at $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}_{\text{diss}} = +2.31 \pm 0.14\text{‰}$. The July 2015
10 campaign does not record the initial increase as Mo concentrations begin to drop with
11 depth. Particulate Mo concentrations increase beneath the chemocline, and though they
12 stay beneath 2 nmol l^{-1} , the $[\text{Mo}]_{\text{part}}/[\text{Mo}]_{\text{diss}}$ ratio increases to values as high as 0.2. The
13 $\Delta^{98}\text{Mo}_{\text{diss-part}}$ decreases with depth, with $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}_{\text{part}}$ compositions up to $+2.03\text{‰}$ in the deeper
14 anoxic water column.

15 To our knowledge, the only other study reporting $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$ values for sinking particles formed
16 in anoxic water columns is that for Lake Cadagno, Switzerland, in Dahl et al. (2010). This
17 study hypothesised that $\Delta^{98}\text{Mo}_{\text{diss-part}}$ in anoxic waters is a function of both $[\text{H}_2\text{S}]_{\text{aq}}$ and the
18 time available for equilibration between particles and water versus the scavenging lifetimes
19 of intermediate thiomolybdate species. In this view, when sulfide levels are low enough
20 for non-quantitative transformation of molybdate to tetrathiomolybdate, and for rapid
21 scavenging timescales for intermediate thiomolybdate species, isotopic differences are
22 expected between residual dissolved Mo and particulate Mo (Tossell, 2005; Kerl et al.,
23 2017).

1 Consistent with this view, the data for $\Delta^{98}\text{Mo}_{\text{diss-part}}$ within the water column of Lake
2 Rogoznica does exhibit a strong relationship with total dissolved sulfide (Fig. 4b). But the
3 relationship appears to become asymptotic to a value of about +0.3‰ at very high dissolved
4 sulfide levels. It is possible that general conclusions regarding the behaviour of Mo and its
5 isotopes in euxinic water columns from these Lake Rogoznica data are complicated by the
6 potential impact of Fe-Mn oxyhydroxide particulates, discussed earlier with reference to
7 the first three sampling campaigns. For example, it is possible that the small excursions
8 near the chemocline could be caused by oxidative-reductive cycle involving Fe-Mn
9 oxyhydroxides. Such a rationale is not, however, consistent with all the details of the data.
10 Thus, the small increase in $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}_{\text{diss}}$ just below the chemocline, where Mo is first removed
11 from the water column, is the opposite to that which might be expected if isotopically light
12 Fe-Mn oxyhydroxides were sinking into the euxinic layer and undergoing reductive
13 dissolution. Rather this feature, coupled to increases in the $\text{Mo}_{\text{part}}/\text{Mo}_{\text{diss}}$ ratio, is much
14 more readily explained in terms of preferential and non-quantitative removal of light Mo
15 isotopes to particulates due to formation of intermediate thiomolybdates at low dissolved
16 sulfide concentrations. Thus, although the exact value of $\Delta^{98}\text{Mo}_{\text{diss-part}}$ in the anoxic water
17 column is difficult to estimate from our data set, it is very likely that the removal of Mo
18 from the anoxic water of Lake Rogoznica is associated with minor Mo isotope
19 fractionation, similar to that already observed in Kyllaren Fjord, Black and Baltic Sea
20 anoxic water columns (Näglér et al., 2011; Noordmann et al., 2015).

21

22 ***4.1.2 Mo and its isotopes in sediment and pore water***

23 As noted in Section 3, the detrital Mo component of anoxic Lake Rogoznica sediments is very
24 small, and more than 99% has an authigenic origin. The overall $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}_{\text{auth}}$ is high (Fig. 3),
25 ranging from +1.6 to +2.2‰, and with an average of $1.95 \pm 0.17\text{‰}$, (n=13, 1SD). The

1 dissolved-particulate difference for sediment-pore water pairs shows a more scattered
2 relationship with total dissolved sulfide than data for the water column (Fig. 4b). It is again
3 the case, however, that $\Delta^{98}\text{Mo}_{\text{diss-part}}$ is never zero, and the minimum values observed are
4 again about 0.3‰, similar to the water column. This overall finding is again consistent
5 with the previous suggestion in Nägler et al. (2011) that $\Delta^{98}\text{Mo}_{\text{diss-part}}$, even for near-
6 quantitative removal to sediment at high sulfide concentrations, does involve a small
7 fractionation.

8 On the other hand, sediments at Lake Rogoznica are again more complicated than such a
9 simple picture can explain. Dissolved sulfide levels in the pore waters of Lake Rogoznica
10 are very high, and equilibration times in the sediment are presumably long. Thus, the
11 occasionally high values of $\Delta^{98}\text{Mo}_{\text{diss-part}}$ are difficult to explain without invoking some
12 temporal variation in redox conditions. Most of the time, Lake Rogoznica waters are
13 characterised by a sharp chemical gradient and an anoxic layer with high $[\text{H}_2\text{S}]_{\text{aq}}$ at depths
14 >8–9 m, but seasonal mixing is known to occur during particularly dry and cold autumn
15 periods (Ciglencečki et al., 2005; Helz et al., 2011; Ciglencečki et al., 2015). During these
16 periods cold oxygenated waters slowly sink towards the bottom, causing contraction of the
17 anoxic layer so that anoxic conditions are restricted to the deep nepheloid layer (~13 m,
18 Helz et al., 2011). The last two such complete mixing events occurred in 2011 and 1997
19 (Ciglencečki et al., 2005; Ciglencečki et al., 2015). After these events, anoxia is re-
20 established, potentially causing reductive dissolution of Fe-Mn (oxyhydr)oxides deposited
21 at the bottom of the lake during mixing events (Helz et al., 2011). We speculate that, after
22 these events, Lake Rogoznica bottom waters are most probably enriched in light Mo
23 isotopes, which could potentially affect the isotopic composition of Mo extracted from
24 such waters.

25

1 4.2 Behaviour of U and its isotopes in Lake Rogoznica

2 4.2.1 Uranium and its isotopes in the water column

3 Previous studies from the two major modern semi-restricted euxinic basins (Cariaco Basin and
4 Black Sea) have suggested that in such settings U is not removed to sediment through processes
5 in the water column, but rather via reduction in sediment driving U diffusion from the overlying
6 waters into the sediments (Anderson, 1987; Anderson et al., 1989a). The first-order features of
7 the Lake Rogoznica data can first be assessed in terms of this paradigm, in the interests of
8 ascertaining whether it is generally applicable to euxinic basins of different sizes and, for
9 example, at the very high dissolved sulfide concentrations seen in Lake Rogoznica.

10 Focusing first on U concentration, the above scenario implies no removal term in the water
11 column, so that water column depth profiles should be explained in terms of diffusion and
12 advection processes alone. In a simplified diffusion-advection-reaction framework the precise
13 shapes of [U] depth profiles will be dependent on the rate of U diffusion into sediment compared
14 to the rate at which the water column is mixed by advection. Here we assess whether such a
15 simplified model explains the first order features of the [U] data for Lake Rogoznica.

16 At steady-state, any depth profile in the lake can be modelled using the ADR equation:

17

$$18 \quad D_z \frac{d^2C}{dz^2} - \omega_z \frac{dC}{dz} - kC = 0 \quad [3]$$

19 where z is depth, D is the rate of diffusion, ω is the rate of advection and k is a rate constant for
20 removal *within* the water column. If there is no removal within the water column ($k = 0$), the
21 solution to equation [3] for boundary conditions $C(z) = C_0$ at $z = 0$ (lake surface) and $C(z) = C_m$
22 at $z = m$ (lake bottom) is:

$$C(z) = C_0 + (C_m - C_0) \frac{e^{\frac{\omega_z}{D_z} z} - 1}{e^{\frac{\omega_z}{D_z} z_m} - 1} \quad [4]$$

2

3 By setting suitable [U] at the top (C_0) and bottom (C_m), model depth profiles can be compared
4 to the data.

5 The depth profiles for [U] from the different sampling campaigns (Fig. 2,5A) vary between
6 those that are close to continuous U depletion profiles with increasing depth (diffusion-
7 dominated), versus others suggesting a very strong chemocline separating well-mixed upper
8 and lower layers (advection dominated within each layer, diffusion across the chemocline). For
9 example, the entire [U] depth profiles from the early sampling campaigns (e.g. February 2013)
10 can be modelled in terms of processes dominated by diffusion downwards into the sediment
11 (Fig. 5), with no requirement for removal or addition (no reaction term) within the water
12 column. The later sampling campaigns, where a more stratified water column develops, better
13 approximate to two well-mixed reservoirs above and below the chemocline, with more limited
14 mass transfer between (e.g. July 2015; Fig. 5). This type of profile requires advective mixing
15 within the upper and lower layer, coupled to slower diffusive transport across the chemocline,
16 but is also completely consistent with the lack of a removal term within the water column.

17 Overall, then, the first order features for the water-column dissolved pool uranium
18 concentrations require no removal within the water column, consistent with earlier conclusions
19 for the Black Sea and Cariaco Basin that U removal occurs within sulfidic sediments (Anderson,
20 1987; Anderson et al., 1989a). Further, more detailed, constraints on the U removal process
21 come from water column U isotopes. Uranium isotope fractionation occurs during the U(VI) to
22 U(IV) transition, as evidenced by theoretical equilibrium calculations (e.g. Bigeleisen 1996)
23 and abiotic and biotic experiments (e.g. Basu et al., 2014; Stylo et al., 2015; Stirling et al., 2015;

1 Wang et al., 2015). The overall isotope fractionation associated with uranium reduction is about
2 1-1.3 ‰, with the heavy isotope preferred in the reduced species (e.g. Bigeleisen, 1996; Fujii
3 et al., 2006; Abe et al., 2008, 2010). In the modern euxinic Black Sea, $\delta^{238}\text{U}$ in sediments is
4 generally around 0.4 ‰ higher than the open ocean value, while the deeper water column is
5 driven to lower $\delta^{238}\text{U}$ (Weyer et al. 2008; Andersen et al. 2014; Rolison et al. 2017). Previously
6 (Andersen et al. 2014) these data were explained in terms of an effective U isotope fractionation
7 of +0.6‰, i.e. about half the full fractionation, due to U uptake and precipitation in sediments
8 driven by diffusion from overlying seawater and transport-diffusion limitation in the pore
9 water-sediment (e.g. Bender, 1990; Clark and Johnson 2008).

10 If U removal occurs in this manner, the faster removal of ^{238}U than ^{235}U into the sediment should
11 lead to systematically lower $\delta^{238}\text{U}$ in the waters above and must occur in a manner that is
12 consistent with the 0.6‰ difference in the sequestration of ^{238}U relative to ^{235}U (see
13 [supplementary text for details](#)). On the other hand, if U were to be removed via reduction in the
14 water column itself with no transport-diffusion limitation, the U isotope fractionation process
15 is expected to produce water column $\delta^{238}\text{U}$ values that reflect the full ~1.2 ‰ fractionation. At
16 steady state, the overall input of U and its isotopes to Lake Rogoznica from the open sea must
17 equal the outputs, i.e. outflow of water from the lake to the ocean, and output to sediment:

18

$$19 \quad C^{\text{ocean}}F_{\text{exch}} - C^{\text{lake}}F_{\text{exch}} - kC^{\text{lake}} = 0 \quad [5]$$

20

21 Where C^x is [U] in the ocean or lake, F_{exch} is the water exchange rate and k is a rate constant for
22 removal of U to sediment. Rearranging:

23

1
$$C^{\text{lake}} = F_{\text{exch}} \frac{(C^{\text{ocean}} - C^{\text{lake}})}{k} \quad [6a]$$

2

3 The above is also true for each of ^{238}U and ^{235}U so that:

4

5
$$C_{238}^{\text{lake}} = F_{\text{exch}} \frac{(C_{238}^{\text{ocean}} - C_{238}^{\text{lake}})}{k_{238}} \quad \text{and} \quad C_{235}^{\text{lake}} = F_{\text{exch}} \frac{(C_{235}^{\text{ocean}} - C_{235}^{\text{lake}})}{k_{235}} \quad [6b]$$

6

7 Combining [6a] and [6b]:

8

9
$$\frac{C_{238}^{\text{lake}}}{C_{235}^{\text{lake}}} = \frac{k_{235}}{k_{238}} \left(\frac{C_{238}^{\text{ocean}} - C_{238}^{\text{lake}}}{C_{235}^{\text{ocean}} - C_{235}^{\text{lake}}} \right) \quad [7]$$

10

11 Thus, at steady state the average $^{238}\text{U}/^{235}\text{U}$ ratio of the lake is independent of the relative sizes
 12 of the uranium fluxes, and depends only on the isotopic composition of the output to sediment
 13 and the degree to which the lake water is modified between input and output.

14 For Lake Rogoznica, potential scenarios can be examined with the above model of steady state
 15 U removal and the $\delta^{238}\text{U}$ vs $[\text{U}]$ systematics (Fig. 6). The ultimate input of U may be
 16 approximated by the open ocean, with $\delta^{238}\text{U}$ of -0.4 ‰ and $[\text{U}]$ of 13.4 nM. Though this may
 17 be slightly modified during transport through the karst, the $(^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U})$ in the lake water is close
 18 to the open ocean value, suggesting this effect is minor. Fig. 6 shows all the water column data
 19 for all sampling campaigns. Clearly, though the data lie closer to the diffusion-driven U removal
 20 model (solid line in Fig 6A, $k_{235}/k_{238} = 0.9994$) than one involving irreversible removal in the

1 water column (dashed line in Fig 6A, $k_{235}/k_{238} = 0.9988$), there is also considerable scatter.
2 Some of this scatter is, however, readily explainable once more in terms of the relative
3 importance of diffusion and advection, with little requirement for reaction within the water
4 column. Thus, for example, data for February 2013 again approximate most closely a situation
5 where diffusion occurs into the sediment across the whole depthscale of the lake (Fig. 6A). But
6 where stratification of the lake occurs, again typified by July 2015 (Fig. 6C), it is only the lower
7 anoxic portion of the lake that approximates the model for diffusion into sediment, whereas the
8 well-mixed upper portion of the lake, now isolated from the sediment by the strong chemocline,
9 shows a more homogeneous U isotopic composition much closer to the oceanic input.

10 The depth profiles for the U isotope data in Fig. 2 clearly point to further minor processes,
11 especially near the chemocline. For example, there is clear but minor isotope exchange with
12 particulate material in July 2013 (Fig. 2) when the dissolved U pool situated just above the
13 chemocline was isotopically light, probably due to the degradation of particulate organic matter
14 with isotopically light U, similar to observed in sediment traps from Saanich Inlet (Holmden et
15 al., 2015). But the above discussion clearly suggests that the first-order process governing U
16 removal at Lake Rogoznica, in common with the Black Sea and despite the higher water column
17 sulfide concentrations, is via U diffusion downward into sediments followed by reductive U
18 precipitation with a net U isotope fractionation of +0.6‰. The dominance of this first-order U
19 removal process should, therefore, be reflected in the authigenic U and its isotope composition
20 imprinted on the sediment.

21

22 ***4.2.2 Mass balance for U and its isotopes in the lake system***

23 In principle, a diffusive removal flux for U can be calculated if the depth of U removal in the
24 pore-waters is known (e.g. Bender, 1990). This estimate could establish whether the U diffusion

1 rate across the sediment-water interface rate is fast enough to account for the observed U
2 accumulation rate in the sediments. However, the pore water data at hand are not at high enough
3 resolution to allow this calculation – the required diffusive flux dictates an e-folding lengthscale
4 for pore water removal of about 0.2 cm. On the other hand, the U isotope composition of the
5 accumulated authigenic U should reflect that dictated by the diffusive U flux model if this
6 represents the main U removal term. Thus, the $^{238}\text{U}/^{235}\text{U}$ of authigenic U in sediment is expected
7 to be $\sim 0.6\%$ heavier than the overlying bottom waters (see supplementary text). At Lake
8 Rogoznica, the average $\delta^{238}\text{U}$ of bottom waters for the six sampling campaigns is $-0.94 \pm 0.07\%$
9 (1SD), while the average authigenic sediment composition is $-0.30 \pm 0.07\%$ (1SD). The
10 difference is in good agreement with the diffusion-driven removal scenario, confirming this
11 process as the main U removal mechanism.

12 In general, if U is to be removed by the U diffusion process from an infinitely large (or rapidly
13 replenished) water column with an open ocean composition (-0.4%) the $\delta^{238}\text{U}$ of authigenic U
14 is expected to be $\sim +0.2\%$. At the other extreme, if the U removal flux is significantly larger
15 than the replenishment rate, thus fully depleting the water column in U, sedimentary authigenic
16 U should equal the input. These systematics reflect the degree of restriction of the system, and
17 are explored in Fig. 7 for Rogoznica and other semi-restricted anoxic basins for which data are
18 available (Kyllaren Fjord, Black Sea, Saanich Inlet, Cariaco Basin, see Table 1). Fig. 7
19 highlights a clear relationship between the U concentration in the lake bottom waters with the
20 authigenic $\delta^{238}\text{U}$ in the sediments (open symbols and blue line). This suggests that the dominant
21 U removal mechanism - U diffusion and reduction within the sediments - was the same in each
22 semi-restricted basin. This includes the Saanich Inlet, in contrast to a previous study (Anderson
23 et al. 1989b) that suggested that the diffusive removal U flux was of insufficient size to be the
24 dominant source of authigenic U in the sediments. However, this latter U removal flux estimate,
25 based on one pore water profile in the anoxic part of the inlet, may have been underestimated

1 due to a lack of representativeness of this one profile or to artifacts during U porewater
2 extraction. A shallow pore water depletion profile of ~0.5 cm (Anderson et al 1989b), similar
3 to that indicated for Lake Rogoznica, would be required for the diffusive U flux to be the
4 dominant U removal process in Saanich Inlet. If the diffusive U flux had indeed been
5 underestimated, this would explain the similarities between authigenic U isotope data in
6 Saanich Inlet sediments (Holmden et al., 2015) and those for other semi-restricted basins, where
7 the diffusive removal process has been shown to be dominant (Figure 7). There is also a
8 reasonably good correlation between authigenic $\delta^{238}\text{U}$ and water column sulfide concentrations
9 (closed symbols, red line). If U removal is driven by diffusion into sediment, a mechanistic
10 correlation with the reduction potential of S^- is not expected. But this correlation may be a more-
11 or-less co-incidental consequence of the control that deepwater overturning timescales exert on
12 both sulfide concentrations and authigenic $\delta^{238}\text{U}$. Relatively fast water overturning rates would
13 lead to less S^- buildup in the water column, replenishment of U in the water column, and
14 authigenic $\delta^{238}\text{U}$ fractionated from open ocean seawater. In contrast, relatively slow deepwater
15 renewal rates may lead to higher S^- , slower U replenishment rates, more quantitative removal
16 of U from the water column and authigenic $\delta^{238}\text{U}$ less fractionated from open ocean seawater.

17

18 **4.3. Mass balance for U, Mo and their isotopes in Lake Rogoznica and other euxinic basins**

19 The impact of deep water renewal rates on sediment geochemistry can be further explored in
20 the context of coupled sedimentary U and Mo concentrations and isotope systematics (Fig. 8).
21 The key difference between Mo and U is the removal mechanism in a euxinic water column,
22 with U driven by diffusion from the water column into sediment where it is fixed, while Mo is
23 scavenged by particulate material in the water column and transported to the sediment in solid
24 form. These different removal mechanisms have been used to fingerprint specific redox
25 conditions using coupled U vs. Mo enrichment systematics in sediment (e.g. Algeo and

1 Tribovillard, 2009). Thus, in a closed system where Mo and U are quantitatively removed, the
2 Mo/U ratio and the Mo and U isotope composition of the sediment should equal the input from
3 the open ocean. Such behaviour is rarely the case, however, with different euxinic basins
4 showing variable Mo/U ratios and Mo and U isotope compositions (Fig. 8). Of the euxinic
5 basins with Mo and U isotope data, only Kyllaren Fjord (Noordmann et al., 2015) shows Mo/U
6 ratios and Mo and U isotope compositions close to the open ocean, indicating near quantitative
7 uptake of both Mo and U. Sediments from the deepest part of the Black Sea (Station 9 with
8 both U and Mo isotope data; Arnold et al., 2004; Andersen et al., 2014) show a Mo/U ratio
9 significantly below the seawater value (see also Tribovillard et al., 2006; Algeo and
10 Tribovillard, 2009). This behaviour has been linked to the contrasting sedimentary output
11 mechanisms for Mo and U, and the fact that the Black Sea exhibits extreme stratification and
12 long deep water renewal times (>500 years; Algeo & Lyons, 2006), leading to deep water Mo
13 depletion from slow resupply (Algeo & Tribovillard, 2009).

14

15 At Lake Rogoznica, Mo/U ratios are, on average, about twice the seawater value (Fig. 8A).
16 Where this has been reported, including at Saanich Inlet (Russell and Morford, 2001; Holmden
17 et al., 2015; Amini et al., 2016) and in the Cariaco Basin (Arnold et al., 2004; Andersen et al.,
18 2014), it is often interpreted as evidence for Mo addition to sediment via a Fe-Mn oxide
19 “particulate shuttle” (e.g. Algeo and Tribovillard, 2009). This suggestion is supported by the
20 previous documentation of isotopically light Mo in such sediments (Fig 8B), and is also
21 consistent with light Mo isotope data at Lake Rogoznica. It is also true, however, that Mo/U
22 ratios higher than seawater are an expected feature of small reservoirs like Lake Rogoznica,
23 even in the absence of a particulate shuttle, because of the more rapid removal of Mo relative
24 to U from the water column to sediment. In fact, any measurement of the basinal average Mo/U
25 ratio of a euxinic setting must record a Mo/U ratio higher than seawater simply because uranium

1 will be lost to a greater extent by flow of water out of the basin than will Mo. For a very small
2 and simple reservoir like Lake Rogoznica, and despite uncertainties such as those arising from
3 the possible operation of a Fe-Mn oxide “particulate shuttle”, the different removal rates of Mo
4 and U are likely to give higher Mo/U than that of seawater, and this is likely to be recorded in
5 these sediments. Only in the case where the water flow through the euxinic reservoir is so slow
6 that U diffusion into sediment can keep up, will the Mo/U ratio approach the seawater value. In
7 this context, also implicit in the treatment of Algeo and Tribovillard (2009), the Mo/U ratios
8 lower than seawater in the deep, most sulfidic, portion of the Black Sea only arise because of
9 preferential stripping of Mo relative to U from younger - “upstream” - waters.

10 The Lake Rogoznica isotope data show some similarities to Kyllaren Ford for $\delta^{238}\text{U}$, but the
11 low $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$ in both the euxinic waters ($\delta^{98}\text{Mo} \sim 2.0\text{-}2.4\text{‰}$) and sediments ($\delta^{98}\text{Mo} \sim 1.6\text{-}2.2\text{‰}$),
12 and relatively high Mo/U in the sediments, all seem to require conditions occasionally, though
13 perhaps transient, when isotopically light Mo is added to the basin. The anomalously high [Mo]
14 and low $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$ in April 2013 surface waters, characterised by the lowest $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$ in euxinic
15 waters ($\sim 1\text{‰}$) of any of the sampling campaigns, may have caught one such transient event.
16 However, the arrows on Fig. 8B also indicate schematically how much of the paired Mo-U
17 isotope data for euxinic basins could also be rationalised in terms of (a) variable rates of Mo-U
18 removal relative to each other, possibly driven by variable sulfide concentrations within and
19 between basins, differences in water renewal rates, as well as differences in the ratio of euxinic
20 sediment-water interface (U removal) to volume of euxinic water column (Mo removal); (b) a
21 constant effective $^{238}\text{U}/^{235}\text{U}$ fractionation factor of about 0.6‰ and; (c) Mo isotope fractionation
22 during the early history of Mo removal, e.g. driven by H_2S concentrations near the action point
23 of switch for complete transformation of $\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}\text{O}_4^{2-}$ to $\text{Mo}^{\text{VI}}\text{S}_4^{2-}$ (Helz et al., 1996; Tossel et al.,
24 2005; Nägler et al., 2011; Kerl et al., 2017), followed by much more subtle fractionations under
25 the fully euxinic conditions that old waters in the Black Sea encounter (e.g. Nägler et al., 2011).

1 Though the data for sediments recovered beneath the oldest most sulfide-rich waters of the
2 Black Sea support such a scenario, we currently lack paired U-Mo isotope data from sediments
3 deposited from younger waters to fully test this schematic scenario in the Black Sea.

4

5 **5. Conclusions**

6 Data presented in this paper for the temporal variation in the marine Lake Rogoznica, for both
7 Mo and U and their isotopes, has permitted a detailed assessment of the behaviour of these
8 redox-sensitive elements in a small euxinic basin, leading to the following principle
9 conclusions.

- 10 • Both $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}_{\text{part-diss}}$ and $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}_{\text{sed-porewater}}$ converge towards a $\sim 0.3\%$ offset at high sulfide
11 concentrations, providing further evidence for minor Mo isotope fractionation during
12 non-quantitative Mo uptake into euxinic sediments previously suggested for the Black
13 Sea (Nägler et al. 2011). However, Lake Rogoznica also appears to see periodic addition
14 of significant quantities of isotopically light Mo to the lake waters, possibly from the
15 release of Mo from Fe-Mn oxides formed in the oxic layer.
- 16
- 17 • Uranium concentration profiles in the lake waters show clear evidence for a dominant
18 mechanism for removal from solution via U diffusion into, and precipitation within, the
19 euxinic sediments. Periods of more intense stratification lead to well-mixed profiles in
20 the oxic upper and euxinic lower layers, with diffusion across the chemocline only.
21 Furthermore, $\delta^{238}\text{U}$ in both the sediments and deep water column are consistent with an
22 effective $^{238}\text{U}/^{235}\text{U}$ fractionation of $+0.6\%$ during uptake in the sediments, in line with
23 other studied euxinic basins.

24

1 • As a result of the different uptake mechanisms of U and Mo it is likely that sediments
2 in different areas of a euxinic basin will show different Mo/U, $\delta^{238}\text{U}$ and $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$
3 systematics. The exact Mo and U patterns represent an interplay between: (i) the size of
4 the basin; (ii) deep water renewal rates; (iii) water-column sulfide concentrations and;
5 (iv) processes related to the Fe-Mn shuttle. This study further emphasises the potential
6 of combined Mo and U systematics to provide a better understanding of the redox
7 conditions reflected in the signatures recorded in ancient sediments.

8

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19

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1 **Figure captions**

2 **Figure 1:** Depth–time sections for salinity, oxygen, sulfide, and particulate Fe and Mn
3 concentrations in Lake Rogoznica during 2013 (February, April, July and October) and
4 2015 (April and July).

5 **Figure 2:** Depth profiles of dissolved (salinity normalised) and particulate Mo and U
6 concentrations, dissolved and particulate $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$ and $\delta^{238}\text{U}$. The very high Mo concentration
7 at the surface (0 m) in April and July 2013, as well as the low $\delta^{238}\text{U}$ in July 2013 (7.5 m),
8 are given as numerical values.

9 **Figure 3:** Authigenic sedimentary and pore water Mo and U concentrations, as well as
10 $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$ and $\delta^{238}\text{U}$, in the sediment core recovered from the anoxic portion of Lake
11 Rogoznica, plotted versus depth beneath the sediment water interface. The dashed lines on
12 all four plots show the isotopic composition of the open ocean for Mo and U.

13 **Figure 4:** A: Mo isotopic composition plotted against reciprocal Mo concentration for all
14 samples with $\text{O}_2 > 5\text{mg l}^{-1}$. Most data fall along a flat trajectory close to oceanic Mo isotope
15 ratios at variable Mo concentrations (horizontal grey arrow). Some data for April and July
16 2013, however, show higher Mo concentrations and lower $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$, lying along a trajectory
17 that requires an extra source of Mo with $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$ around +0.4 to +0.5‰. B: $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}_{\text{diss-part}}$ for
18 all dissolved-particulate pairs, including sediment-pore water, for samples where sulfide is
19 detectable. The water column data appear to become asymptotic to a value around +0.3‰
20 at very high dissolved sulfide concentrations. Though pore water data are more scattered,
21 no $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}_{\text{diss-part}}$ is below this value.

22 **Figure 5:** A: Salinity-normalised [U] data from the February 2013 campaign (red diamonds);
23 the modelled thick black line on the diagram is for a virtually stagnant lake (no advection) in
24 which U diffuses downwards into the sediment. The relative importance of advection versus

1 diffusion is represented by the value of ω/D , which is ~ 0.007 for the modelled evolution. For
2 comparison, the thin dashed line shows a profile dominated by advection, with a $\omega/D = 0.7$,
3 two orders of magnitude greater. B: All data from the four intermediate sampling campaigns.
4 C: Data from the July 2015 campaign (purple circles). The water column is separated into two
5 rather isolated layers above and below the chemocline. The black curve shows the impact of
6 transport within each layer that is completely dominated by advection over diffusion ($\omega/D =$
7 2 ± 0.3) - both reservoirs are well mixed for [U] with much slower communication across the
8 chemocline.

9 **Figure 6:** Salinity-normalised [U] vs. $\delta^{238}\text{U}$ for Lake Rogoznica. A: Data from the February
10 2013 campaign (red diamonds), which, as for [U] (Fig 5), most closely follow the expected
11 trajectory for diffusion-driven U removal from a stagnant water column. The red dotted line is
12 a regression of the data (based on $1/[\text{U}]$ vs $\delta^{238}\text{U}$). The curved solid black line shows the
13 approximate trajectory expected for the waters, with diffusion-driven U removal with a +0.6‰
14 difference in the removal rate constants for ^{238}U and ^{235}U , and a starting composition similar to
15 water sample with the highest [U] (see supplementary text for details). The dashed line shows
16 the trajectory for removal within the water column via a Rayleigh process with a 1.2‰
17 fractionation in $^{238}\text{U}/^{235}\text{U}$, starting from the same water sample as the diffusion model. B: All
18 data from the four intermediate sampling campaigns. C: Data for July 2015 (purple circles)
19 which, again like the [U] data (Fig 5), show strong asymmetry. This profile is characterised by
20 an upper oxic layer that is near homogeneous in [U] and $\delta^{238}\text{U}$ because of isolation from the
21 sediment by a strong chemocline, and a lower anoxic layer. The [U]- $\delta^{238}\text{U}$ systematics in the
22 lower anoxic layer ($1/[\text{U}]$ vs $\delta^{238}\text{U}$ regression; dotted line) follow the model trajectory for
23 diffusion-driven U removal from a stagnant water column (solid line), with the deepest oxic
24 sample, nearest the chemocline, used as the upper boundary for both the regression line and
25 diffusion modelling.

1 **Figure 7:** Relationship between $\delta^{238}\text{U}_{\text{auth}}$ and (i) the percentage of dissolved U removal in deep
2 anoxic vs surface water (bottom axis, open symbols, blue regression line) and (ii) total dissolved
3 sulfide (ΣS^{2-}) in the anoxic part of the water column (closed symbols, red regression line).
4 Sulfide concentrations in Supplementary Table 2. See Table 1 for citations to data. The slope
5 of the U removal vs. $\delta^{238}\text{U}_{\text{auth}}$ best fit regression line is close to that expected for diffusive
6 removal U flux with an effective $^{238}\text{U}/^{235}\text{U}$ fractionation $\sim+0.6$ (see supplementary text).

7 **Figure 8:** A: U vs Mo enrichment factors and, B: authigenic $\delta^{98}\text{Mo}$ vs. $\delta^{238}\text{U}$, for Lake
8 Rogoznica sediments (individual sediment horizons, open circles; average, filled circle)
9 compared to other euxinic basins. Key to colours for both panels as indicated in Panel B. Data
10 sources: Kyllaren Fjord (Noordmann et al., 2015), Black Sea (Station 9 data in Arnold et al.,
11 2004; Andersen et al., 2014), Cariaco Basin (Arnold et al., 2004; Andersen et al., 2014), Saanich
12 Inlet (Russell and Morford, 2001; Holmden et al., 2015; Amini et al., 2016). In A the seawater
13 Mo/U is plotted as the solid line, with deviations from the seawater ratio shown as dashed lines
14 as indicated. In B schematic solid arrows show how sediment deposited beneath euxinic waters
15 would vary in different euxinic basins for high versus low rates of Mo removal relative to U,
16 assuming a constant fractionation factor for uranium isotopes. These scenarios would require
17 Mo fractionation during initial non-quantitative removal to be substantial, but more subtle
18 during the subsequent more quantitative removal, consistent with theoretical, experimental and
19 observational constraints (e.g. Helz et al., 1996; Tossel, 2005; Nägler et al., 2011; Kerl et al.,
20 2017).

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1 **Table 1:** $[\Sigma S^{-II}]$, $[U]_{diss}$ and $\delta^{238}U$ of dissolved ($\delta^{238}U_{diss}$) and authigenic sedimentary ($\delta^{238}U_{auth}$)
 2 uranium in the anoxic water columns and sediments of different modern anoxic basins.

Euxinic basin	Salinity norm. $[U]_{diss}$ nmol l ⁻¹ **	$\delta^{238}U_{auth}$ in sediments	$\delta^{238}U_{diss}$ deep waters	$[\Sigma S^{-II}]$ $\mu\text{mol l}^{-1}$ deep waters	Source
Lake Rogoznica*	2.8/***	-0.30	-0.94	1214	This work
Kyllaren Fjord	7.5/12.9	-0.22	-0.71	4316	Noordmann et al. (2015)
Black Sea	9.3/17.3	-0.03	-0.68	262	Rolison et al. (2016)
Cariaco Trench	12.0/14.5	+0.03	-	40	Anderson (1987) Emerson and Husted (1991)
Saanich Inlet	14.7/15.4	+0.17	-0.48	30	Andersen et al. (2014) Emerson and Husted (1991) Holmden et al. (2015)

3 *average values for $[U]_{diss}$, $\delta^{238}U_{auth}$, $\delta^{238}U_{diss}$ and ΣS^{-II} in the deepest anoxic Lake Rogoznica samples from all 6
 4 sampling events.

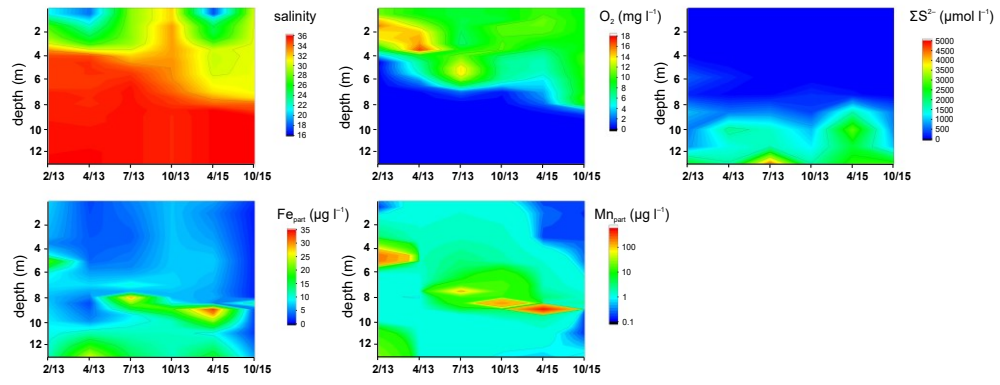
5 *Salinity normalised (35) U concentrations for deep waters/surface waters. This ratio is used for the U water
 6 column removal fraction in Figure 7.

7 ***A $[U]$ as the open ocean was used for the surface waters (13.4 nmol⁻¹) in this setting.

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Figure 1

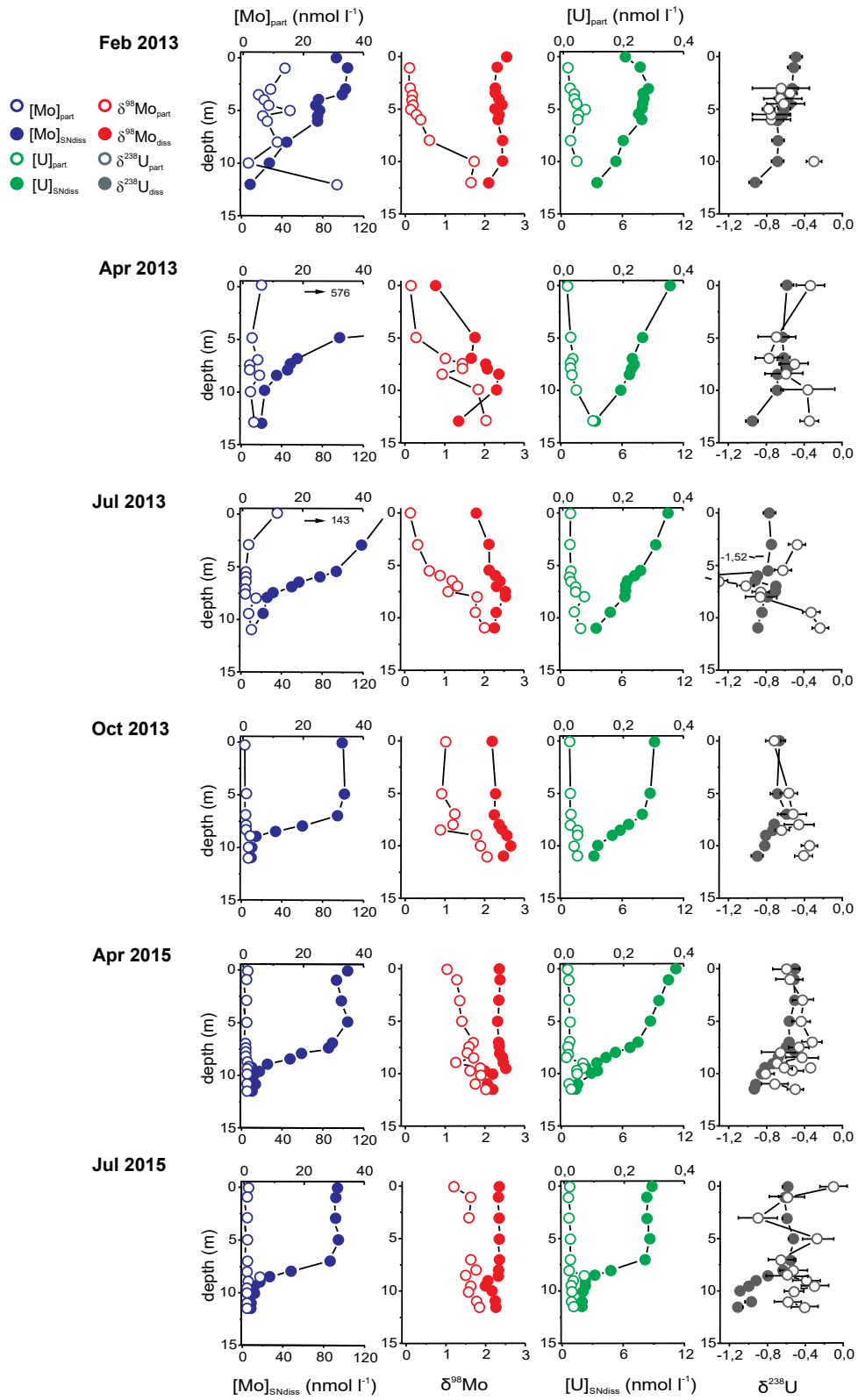


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Figure 2



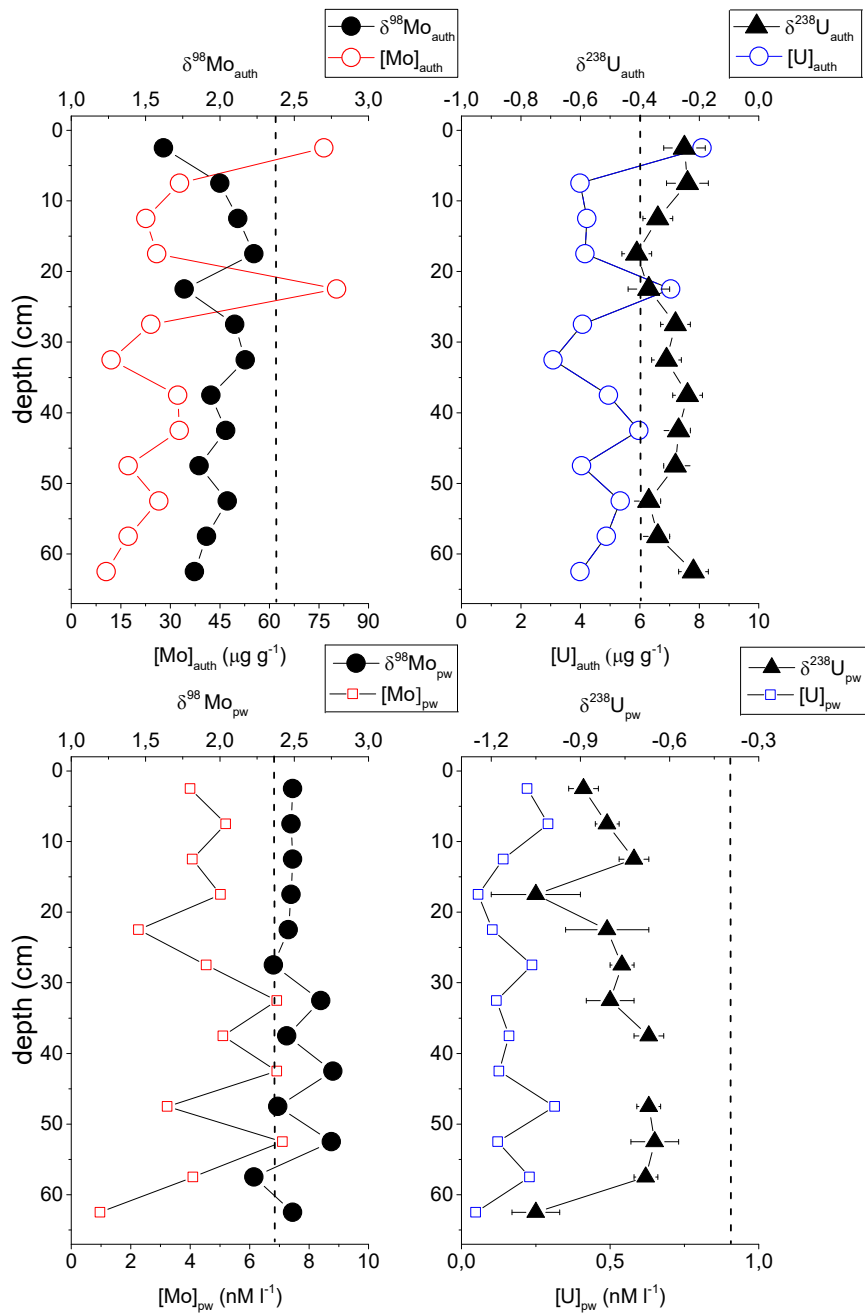
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Figure 3



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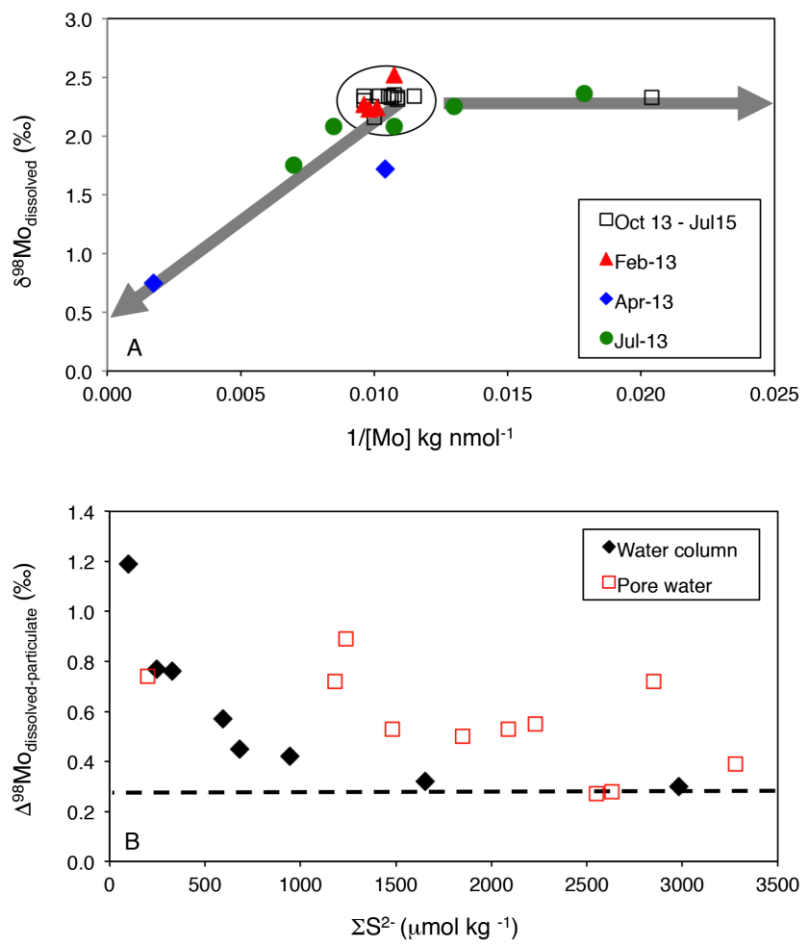
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Figure 4



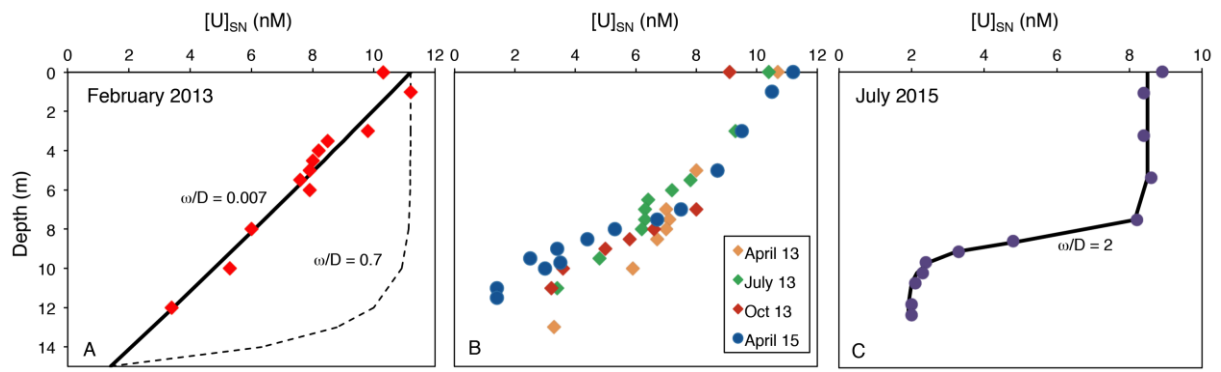
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Figure 5

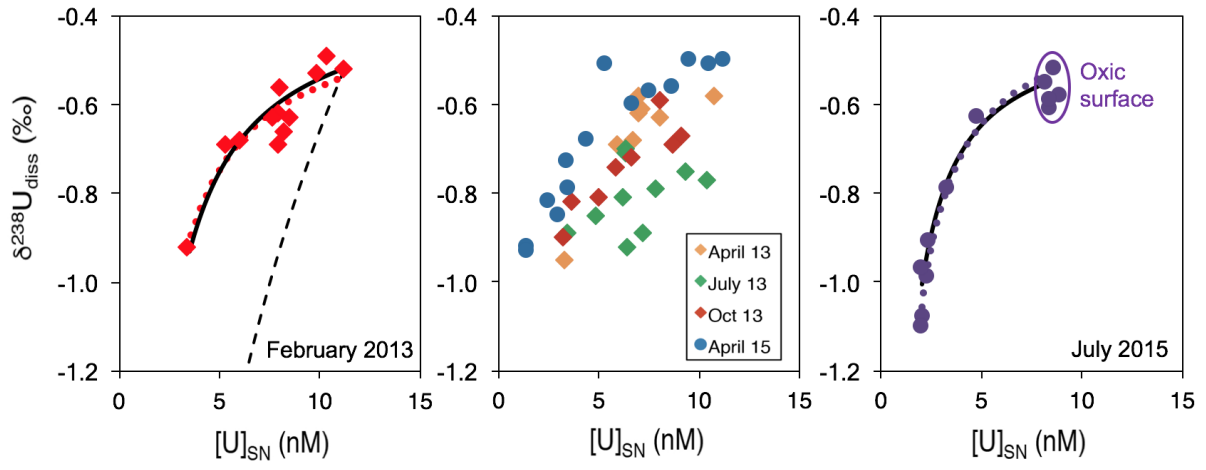


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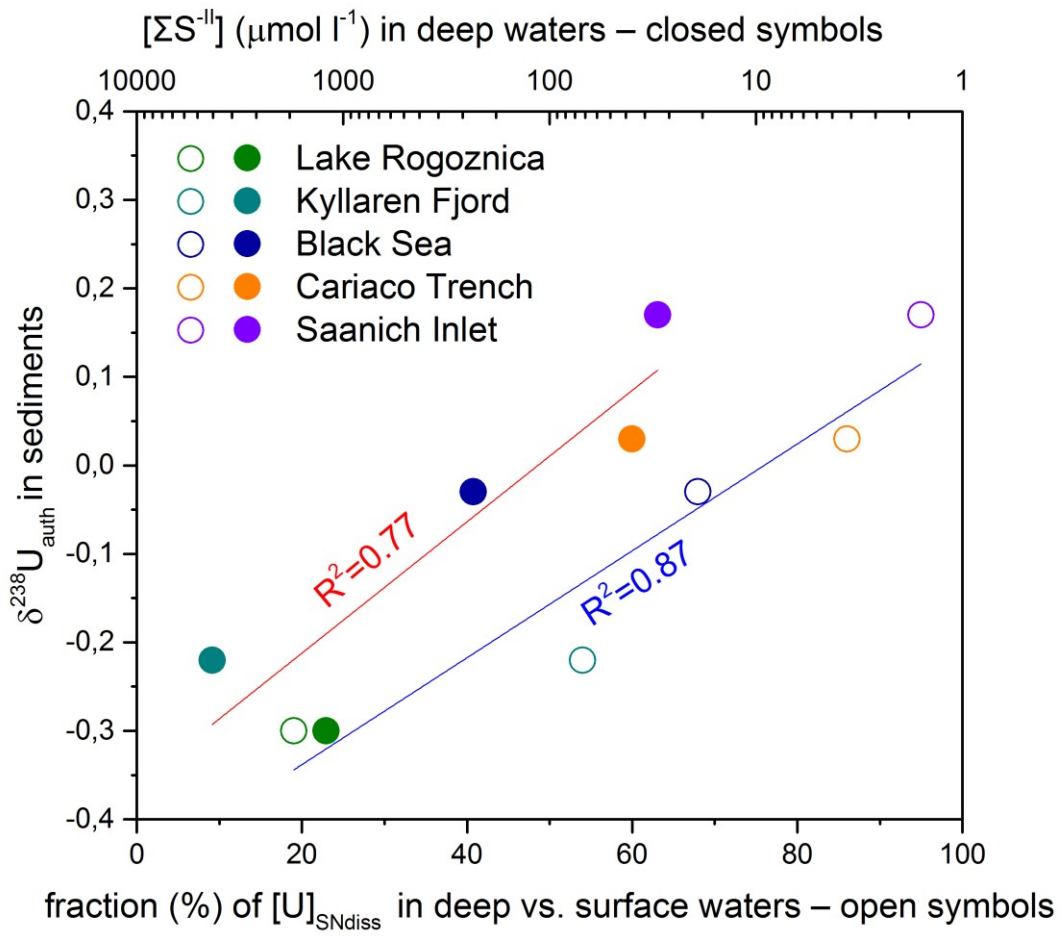
Figure 6



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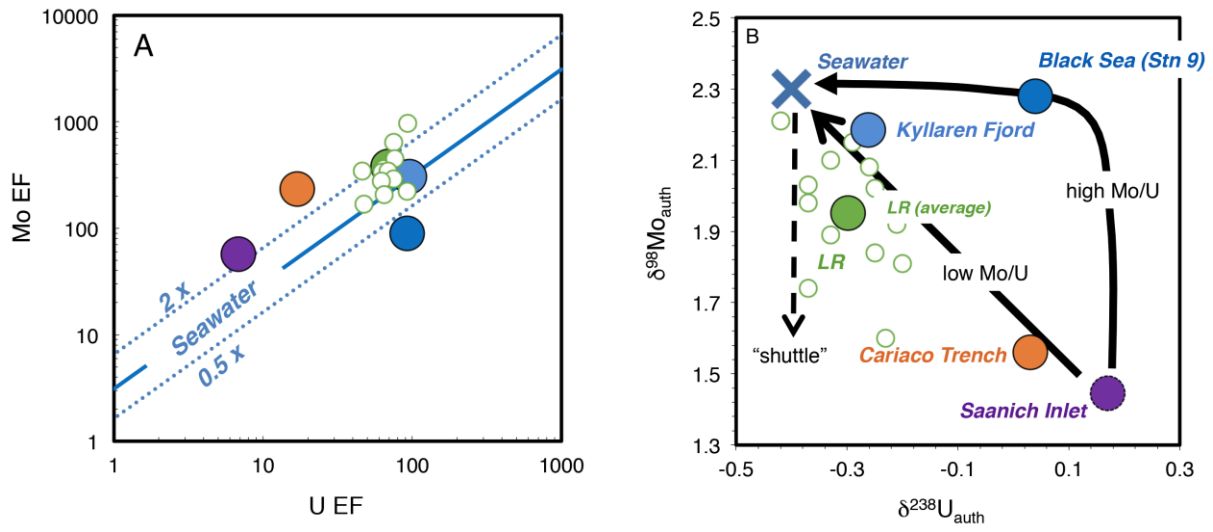
Figure 7



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Figure 8



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