Neogene Restoration of Geometry of the Neotethyan suture zone in Central Anatolia (Turkey)

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Abstract

The demise and closure of the Neotethyan Ocean gave way to the collision and finally amalgamation of various continental fragments in Turkey along the Izmir-Ankara-Erzincan and Intra-Tauride suture zones. These continental fragments include Pontides in the north and Menderes-Tauride , and Kırşehir Block in the south. This study aims to the restoration of these suture zones in central Anatolia using paleomagnetic tools during Neogene. Most of the paleomagnetic studies carried out in the region consider the deformation of Anatolian Block as a monolithic block rotated counter-clockwise due to escape tectonics since the Miocene. We introduce new paleomagnetic evidence obtained from Neogene sedimentary successions and few volcanic suits. Our results point out five distinct tectonic domains with distinct rotation patterns that indicate the rotational deformation of Central Anatolia is far more complex than generally presumed. Among these, 1) Kırıkkale-Bala Domain (KB) is rotated ~18° clockwise, 2) the Tuz Gölü Domain (TG) underwent ~15° counter-clockwise rotation, 3) the Alcı-Orhaniye Domain (AO) rotated ~25° counter-clockwise sense, 4) the Haymana Basin is divided into two different domains, (4) the Northern Haymana Domain (NHY) underwent ~17° counter-clockwise rotation while (5) the Southern Haymana Domain (SHY) underwent barely no net rotation (~5° clockwise) since the early Miocene. The Kırşehir Block was proposed to be an NNE-SSW striking tectonic block that broken into three fragments. These fragments underwent clockwise, in the north, and counterclockwise rotations in the south, respectively, during early Tertiary due to collision and N-S shortening of the Kırşehir Block between Taurides and the Pontides.

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15	Key Points:
16	• Excessive block rotation in Central Anatolia was revealed by paleomagnetic analysis.
17	• Five distinct tectonic domains were proposed in the region.
18 19	• The main factor causing these rotational differences is the deformation of the Kırşehir Block which has reigned since Neogene.

21 Abstract

The demise and closure of the Neotethyan Ocean gave way to the collision and finally 22 amalgamation of various continental fragments in Turkey along the Izmir-Ankara-Erzincan and 23 Intra-Tauride suture zones. These continental fragments include Pontides in the north and 24 Menderes-Tauride, and Kırşehir Block in the south. This study aims to the restoration of these 25 suture zones in central Anatolia using paleomagnetic tools during Neogene. Most of the 26 paleomagnetic studies carried out in the region consider the deformation of Anatolian Block as a 27 monolithic block rotated counter-clockwise due to escape tectonics since the Miocene. We 28 introduce new paleomagnetic evidence obtained from Neogene sedimentary successions and few 29 volcanic suits. Our results point out five distinct tectonic domains with distinct rotation patterns 30 that indicate the rotational deformation of Central Anatolia is far more complex than generally 31 presumed. Among these, 1) Kırıkkale-Bala Domain (KB) is rotated ~18° clockwise, 2) the Tuz 32 Gölü Domain (TG) underwent ~15° counter-clockwise rotation, 3) the Alcı-Orhaniye Domain 33 (AO) rotated ~25° counter-clockwise sense, 4) the Haymana Basin is divided into two different 34 domains, (4) the Northern Haymana Domain (NHY) underwent ~17° counter-clockwise rotation 35 while (5) the Southern Haymana Domain (SHY) underwent barely no net rotation ($\sim 5^{\circ}$ 36 clockwise) since the early Miocene. The Kırsehir Block was proposed to be an NNE-SSW 37 striking tectonic block that broken into three fragments. These fragments underwent clockwise, 38 39 in the north, and counterclockwise rotations in the south, respectively, during early Tertiary due to collision and N-S shortening of the Kırsehir Block between Taurides and the Pontides. 40

41 **1 Introduction**

Ongoing convergence between African-Eurasian and Arabian plates since at least late 42 Cretaceous gave way to the subduction, collision, and amalgamation of various continental 43 blocks within the Tethyan realm. In Anatolia, three continental blocks are involved in collision 44 and amalgamation processes (Görür et al., 1984; Kaymakcı et al., 2009, 2003a, 2003b; Lefebvre 45 et al., 2013). These include the Pontides in the north with Eurasian affinity, the Menderes-46 Tauride Block with Gondwana affinity in the south, and the Kırşehir Block located in between 47 these blocks, during much of Mesozoic and early Tertiary (Kaymakcı et al., 2001) (Figure 1). 48 Collision and further convergence of these blocks gave way to the development of İzmir-Ankara 49 (IASZ) between Pontides and Menderes Tauride Block, Ankara-Erzincan Suture Zone (AESZ) 50 between Pontides and the Kırşehir Block and Intra-Tauride Suture Zone (ITSZ) between Kırşehir 51 Block and the Menderes-Tauride Block. 52

The active convergence between Africa and Anatolia is accommodated by northward 53 54 subducting African slabs along Mediterranean trenches (e.g. Pliny-Strabo, Hellenic, and Cyprian trenches) (e.g., Le Pichon and Angelier, 1979; van Hinsbergen et al., 2010; Biryol et al. 2011). 55 The slab-edge processes along this subduction system gave way to the development of backarc 56 extension in the Aegean-west Anatolian region. In contrast, collision and ongoing convergence 57 between Eurasian and Arabian plates resulted in the development of compressional deformation 58 and N-S shortening in eastern Anatolia-Iranian Plateau region, which ultimately gave way to the 59 westward escape of Anatolian Block Along the dextral North Anatolian and sinistral East 60 Anatolian fault zones towards the free face of the Hellenic trench by the late Miocene (Burke and 61 Şengör, 1986; Flerit et al., 2004; Gülyüz et al., 2019; Hüsing et al., 2009; Şengör et al., 1985). 62 63



64 65

Figure 1. a) Major tectonic divisions of Anatolia (Kaymakcı et al. 2009). b) Simplified geological map (Işıker 2002) of the study area and sample locations.

Relatively recent seismotectonic (e.g. Armijo et al., 1999; Hubert-Ferrari et al., 2002; 68 69 Sengör et al., 2005), Global Navigation Satellite Sytems (GNSS) (e.g. Reilinger et al., 2006) and paleomagnetic studies (Kissel et al., 1993, 1987; Tatar et al., 1995; Gürsoy et al., 1998; 1999; 70 2003; 2011; Piper et al., 1996;1997; 2010; Kaymakcı et al., 2007; Çinku, 2016, 2017; Hisarlı et 71 al., 2016) studies support the escape tectonics model, and almost all of these studies claimed that 72 the Anatolian Block had been rotated counter-clockwise since Miocene Miocene. These studies 73 generally assume that (i) the Anatolian Block is a single homogeneous body fleeing westwards 74 75 along crustal-scale faults (NAFZ and EAFZ) and stretched by slab-pull related extension along the Hellenic Trench and (ii) Miocene and younger vertical block rotations are related only to the 76 still active transcurrent tectonics, "the Neotectonic Period," while pre-late Miocene tectonics -77 covering the complete closure of Neotethys ocean in the region- is considered as "Paleotectonic 78 Period" which is an independent deformation period prior to the Arabian collision. These studies, 79 however, cannot explain the continuous deformation since Oligocene and onwards and related 80

vertical block rotations (Kaymakci et al., 2003; 2007; 2018; van Hinsbergen et al., 2005; 2010;

Meijers et al., 2010; Uzel et al. 2015; 2020; Koç et al., 2016; 2017; Lefebvre et al., 2013;).

- 83 Similarly, recent paleomagnetic studies from western and southwestern Anatolia demonstrated
- 84 that the rotational deformation of Anatolian Block is not uniform, and it is far more complex
- than presumed previously. Some of these studies include Thrace Fault (Kaymakcı et al., 2007),
- ⁸⁶ İzmir- Balıkesir Transfer Zone (Uzel et al., 2020, 2017, 2015) Central Tauride Oroclinal
- 87 Bending (Koç et al., 2016), SW Anatolian rotation (Kaymakcı et al., 2018; Özkaptan et al.,
- 88 2014). Each of these studies documents heterogeneous vertical block rotation patterns continuous
- 89 from Early Miocene to recent. The similarly heterogeneous deformation pattern that took place
- since early Miocene is also valid for Central Anatolia. In this regard, the main purpose of this
- 91 paper is to demonstrate how continuous rotational deformation in Central Anatolia, since at least 92 early Miocene, shaped the present complex geometries of İzmir-Ankara and Intra-Tauride suture
- 22 zones that are related to the closure of the Neotethys Ocean and the collision of intervening
- continental blocks. The Central Anatolian region has been exposed to progressive compressional
- deformation since at least Late Paleocene by the beginning of collision between Pontides and the
- 96 Kırşehir Block (Advokaat et al., 2014; Gülyüz et al., 2013; Kaymakcı et al., 2009; van
- 97 Hinsbergen et al., 2016) which have led to heterogeneous and non-orthogonal deformation in the
- region. Our study is based on vertical block rotation restorations of post-Oligocene units based
- on paleomagnetic results collected from 39 new sites and reliable literature data (Table 1, Fig. 1).

100 2 Materials and Methods

101 2.1 Stratigraphy

In the literature, sedimentary sequences in Central Anatolia are classified as pre-early 102 103 Miocene paleotectonic units that represent the sequences related to the closure of the Neotethys ocean and collision of intervening continental units. They are categorized as Late Cretaceous to 104 Oligocene fore-arc to foreland basin deposits (Görür et al., 1984; 1998; Gülyüz et al., 2019, 105 2013; Kaymakcı et al., 2009; Koçyiğit, 1991). The second group comprises post- late Miocene 106 continental fluvio-lacustrine sequences that are classified as Neotectonic units (Kaymakcı et al., 107 2001; Koçyigit, 1991; Şengör et al., 1985) deposited by the beginning of transcurrent tectonics 108 related to the westward escape of Anatolian Block and they are the main concern of this study. 109

The Neotectonic units seem to unconformably overlay the paleotectonic units almost 110 everywhere in Turkey, although the ages of most of these units are in places poorly constrained. 111 In most cases, the first unit unconformably overlying the so-called Paleotectonic units are 112 regarded as late Miocene, and the age of the sequence is ascribed recursively without providing 113 any biostratigraphic or radiometric evidence (e.g. Kocyiğit, 1991; Kocyiğit et al., 1995). In order 114 to overcome such a limitation, the ages of the studied sections in this study are based on 115 available biostratigraphic and radiometric data wherever available otherwise we followed the 116 ages proposed by the Geological Survey of Turkey (Isiker, 2002). The sampled horizons, in this 117 study, range from Oligocene to Early Quaternary and they can be traced over more than 100 km 118 distance, especially in the Haymana and Tuzgölü basins, making lateral correlations 119 straightforward and reliable (Fig. 1, Table 1). In the Alci-Orhaniye and Çankırı basins, 120 biostratigraphic data is adequately abundant (Saraç, 2003), which provided better constraints on 121

the ages of the sampled units (Fig. 1).

123 2.2 Geological Setting

The tectonic elements in the study area include various basins and major faults and faults that controlled the rotation deformation of the region. Among these, Haymana Basin, Kırıkkale-Bala Basin, Tuzgölü Basin, Alcı-Orhaniye Basin and Çankırı Basin are very important in term of hosting Neogene deposits from which sampling was carried out.

128 The Haymana Basin is located at the southernmost tip of the Central Pontides and straddles the İzmir-Ankara Suture Zone in the north NW part of the Intra-Tauride Suture Zone 129 (Fig. 1). The Neogene structures affecting the basin are the Eskişehir Fault Zone (EFZ) in the 130 south and the Dereköy Fault (DF) in the north. The Derekeköy Fault is a reverse fault zone 131 which reactivated as a sinistral strike-slip fault zone with reverse component during the Neogene. 132 It is the northwestern continuation of the Hirfanlar-Hacıbektaş Fault Zone of Lefebvre et al. 133 (2013) and Özkaptan and Gülyüz (2019). Gülyüz et al. (2019) have documented kinematic data 134 on two newly recognized NE-SW striking Neogene strike-slip faults that segmented and 135 controlled the deformation in the Haymana Basin. 136

The Çankırı and Kırıkkale-Bala basins are fore-arc to fore-land basins that straddle the
Ankara-Erzincan Suture Zone (Fig. 1) and their Tertiary (foreland basin) configuration
sandwiched between the Pontides and Kırşehir Block (Kaymakcı et al., 2009). The main
structures that controlled the Neogene tectonics of the Kırıkkale-Bala Basin are the Tuz Gölü
Fault, Delice-Kozaklı and Hacılar-Hirfanlı Fault zones (Gülyüz et al., 2013; Lefebvre et al.,

2013). 142 The Tuz Gölü Basin straddles the Intra-Tauride Suture Zone and is located both on the 143 Kırşehir and the Tauride blocks. Its Neogene evolution is dominated by the Tuz Gölü Fault Zone 144 along its eastern margin and Eskişehir Fault Zone along the western margin (Cemen et al., 1999). 145 The Alcı-Orhaniye Basin is located within the Pontides and bounded in the east by the basement 146 rocks of the Pontides exposed within the Ankara Accretionary Belt (Rojay, 2013). In the west, 147 the Avas Monocline - an inverted normal fault reactivated as a west verging reverse fault. 148 149 delimits the basin. 150 Two major magmatic complexes emplaced mainly during the Neogene dominate the tectono-magmatic evolution of the region. The Galatian Volcanic Province (GVC, Tankut et al., 151

152 1999) is developed within the Pontide Block at the NW part of the study area, and the
153 Cappadocia Volcanic Province (CVC, Toprak, 1998) is developed within the Kırşehir Block in
154 the SE part of the basin. The origin of the GVC is attributed to post-collisional magmatic

processes along the İzmir-Ankara Suture Zone (Kaymakcı et al., 2009) whereas the origin of

156 CVC is attributed to the Mediterranean subduction systems (Di Giuseppe et al., 2018; Toprak,
157 1998, 1994).

158 **3 Paleomagnetism and rock magnetism**

159 3.1 Paleomagnetic sampling

We have carried out an extensive paleomagnetic sampling campaign and collected more than 900 standard paleomagnetic core samples (25 mm Ø) from 39 different sites comprising Miocene to Pliocene sedimentary sequences (Fig. 1 and Table 1). The sampling was performed using a gasoline-powered drill or using a portable generator and an electric drill. At least 6 but generally more than 15 (up to 46) oriented core samples were collected at each site, over 5 to 15 meters stratigraphic thickness to average out paleosecular variation (PSV). In addition to sedimentary sites, three igneous sites (R13, R45, R46) were sampled, each consisting of at least 167 7 different cooling levels (lava flows). The sedimentary sites are composed of Miocene shale/

- silty clay, marl and limestone, and Pliocene mudstone/marl and limestone. The igneous sites are
- 169 composed of andesitic and basaltic lava flows. Core orientations and bedding planes were
- measured with a magnetic compass which was corrected for the present-day declination $(+4.5^{\circ}\text{E},$
- 171 2013). The preparation of the samples, as well as demagnetization and rock magnetic
- experiments, were carried out at the Fort Hoofddijk Paleomagnetic Laboratory at Utrecht
- 173 University (the Netherlands).

174 3.2 Demagnetization procedures

The paleomagnetic samples were cut into standard specimens (2.2 cm in length), per core 175 sample usually resulting in several specimens (referred to as A, B) providing the opportunity to 176 compare single core results. Natural remanent magnetizations (NRM) were analyzed by applying 177 both thermal (TH) and alternating field (AF) stepwise demagnetization. A total of 976 specimens 178 179 were demagnetized. At least 5 specimens per site were thermally demagnetized. The demagnetization started from room temperature (20°C) and went up to a maximum of 680°C 180 (using 20-50°C steps). The TH demagnetization was carried out in a magnetically shielded oven 181 182 (ASC, model TD48-SC) with a residual magnetic field < 10 nT. Specimens were measured on a 2G Enterprises horizontal 2G DC SQUID cryogenic magnetometer (noise level 3×10^{-12} Am²). 183 In addition, on average 6 specimens per site were heated to 150°C before AF 184 demagnetization to remove possible stress in magnetite due to low-temperature oxidation 185 (weathering) (Van Velzen and Zijderveld, 1995). The rest of the specimens were only AF 186 187 demagnetized, carried out with increments of 3–10 mT up to a maximum of 100 mT. AF demagnetization was done using an in-house developed robotized 2G Enterprises DC SQUID 188 cryogenic magnetometer (noise level $1-2 \times 10^{-12}$ Am²) in a magnetically shielded room 189 (Mullender et al., 2016). 190

191 3.3 Thermomagnetic experiments

In order to determine the nature of the dominant magnetic carrier(s) in the studied rocks 192 193 and their alterations under different temperatures, thermomagnetic experiments were carried out on at least one specimen per site. Representative results of 15 specimens of different rock types 194 and ages are illustrated in Figure 2. Curie balance runs were carried out in the air, using a 195 modified horizontal translation type Curie balance with a sensitivity of ~5x10-9 Am² (Mullender 196 197 et al., 1993). Approximately 0.3-0.9 g of powdered rock sample was put into a quartz-glass sample holder and measured in a number of heating-cooling cycles (with rates of 10° C /min) in 198 air, up to a maximum temperature of 700°C. We used the following heating-cooling cycles (in 199 °C): 20–150, 50–250, 150–350, 250–400, 300–450, 350–525, 420–580, and 500–700. 200

201 3.4 Paleomagnetic analysis

The directional and statistical results were analyzed using the online portal 202 203 Paleomagnetism.org (Koymans et al., 2016). The demagnetization results from AF, TH and combined measurements were by orthogonal projection diagrams (Zijderveld, 1967) (Fig. 3). 204 Characteristic Remanent Magnetization (ChRM) directions were determined using principal 205 206 component analysis following an eigenvector approach (Kirschvink, 1980) by taking approximately five to seven vector points. Interpreted directions are plotted in equal-area 207 projections (Fig. 4). In the case of two or more overlapping coercivity or temperature 208 components, ChRM directions were determined by following the great circle approach of 209

- 210 McFadden and McElhinny (1988) (Fig. 3). The means of both ChRM directions and their
- 211 corresponding virtual geomagnetic poles (VGP) were computed using Fisher (1953) statistics.
- We used the Deenen et al. (2011, 2014) criteria to test for sufficiently averaging out paleosecular
- variation (PSV), by calculating the A95 of the VGP distribution. If A95 is within the N-
- dependent range (between A_{95min} and A_{95max}), it may be assumed that the rocks have recorded
- PSV. We applied a fixed cut-off (45°) to remove outliers, following Deenen et al. (2011). The
- 216 errors in declination (ΔD_x) and inclination (ΔI_x) were determined from A95 of the VGP
- distribution (according to Butler, 1992; see also Deenen et al. 2011). To determine whether two
- distributions share a common true mean direction (CTMD), we used the coordinate bootstrap test
- 219 (Tauxe, 2010; Fig. 5).

220 4 Rock magnetism, NRM properties and Paleomagnetic results

4.1 Rock magnetism

Thermomagnetic experiments were implemented for every site of which we selected 2 222 223 volcanic and 13 sedimentary rocks. Representative diagrams from five different localities are given in Fig. 2. Two types of thermomagnetic curves can be observed in the volcanic sites. Site 224 R13 (andesite) dominated by magnetite since the major decay occurs at ~575°C (Fig. 2g), while 225 some magnetization is lost above 350°C, pointing to some maghemite possibly due to low-226 temperature oxidation (weathering). Site R45 shows a sharp decrease in magnetization with a 227 Curie temperature around 300 °C which suggests the presence of Ti-rich titanomagnetite as the 228 dominant magnetic carrier (Fig. 2m). A second Curie temperature of ~550-580°C supports the 229 presence of Ti-poor magnetite as well. Most sedimentary sites show Curie temperatures of ~550-230 580°C pointing to magnetite as the main carrier of the NRM. In many cases, the curves show that 231 232 some magnetization is lost at temperatures above ~350°C, but usually, cooling curves become reversible again above 450-500°C which suggests the presence of some maghemite in the 233 samples that at ~350°C may invert to hematite and thus the sample becomes less magnetic 234 (Dankers, 1978). Generally, lake sediments present relatively low magnetizations and the curves 235 suggest the dominant presence of paramagnetic minerals (e.g. Fig. 2h, i). Nevertheless, in most 236 cases, in both volcanics and sediments, the main magnetic carrier of the ChRM is magnetite, as 237 determined by the Curie temperatures of ~580°C. Only a small number of samples survive up to 238 [~]650-680°C, indicating the presence of hematite. 239



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Figure 2. Thermomagnetic (cure-balance) curve generated with the stepwise heating protocol (Mullender et al., 1993) for 18 representative samples in five different domains in Central Anatolia. The thin black line (red arrow) shows heating phases. The final cooling segment is indicated with thicker black line (blue arrow). A noisy appearance is indicative of a weak magnetic signal. Detailed explanations are given in the text.





Figure 3. Zijderveld diagrams (Zijderveld, 1967) of representative samples at five domains 248 demagnetized using thermal (red lines, TH), alternating field (blue lines, AF), and preheated 249 alternating field (green lines, TH-AF) demagnetization shown in tectonic coordinates. The solid 250 and open dots represent projections on the horizontal and vertical planes, respectively. Great 251 circle plots (b6, e5) use the technique of McFadden and McElhinny (1988). Demagnetization 252 step values are in °C, in mT, or both. 253

4.2 NRM properties

Small viscous remanent magnetization components with a random direction are usually 255 removed at low temperatures (100-120 $^{\circ}$ C) or low alternating fields (4-15mT) while a recent 256 magnetic field overprint - if at all present - could be removed at ~180-220°C. In a few 257 specimens, we suspect the presence of some greigite, which has relatively high coercivity but 258 259 low Curie temperatures of 320-350°C. Greigite can be dominant in many Neogene sediments in the southern Eurasian basins but still can provide reliable results (Özkaptan et al., 2018; Vasiliev 260 et al., 2008). In most cases, however, the maximum temperatures required to remove the ChRM 261 entirely are close to ~580°C or 80-100 mT and point again to magnetite as the main carrier of the 262 NRM. Occasionally, higher temperatures or alternating fields above 100 mT are required in 263 which case we must have hematite. Relevant examples are shown in Fig. 3. 264

Based on the accepted sites and using relevant literature data, the region was divided into
five main domains, based on rotation patterns and geological characteristics. Initially, the
statistical results were analyzed on a site by site basis, and subsequently, all directions of each
site were combined for each domain to give the mean rotation result per locality (Table 1, Fig.
We discerned five localities, namely: Kırıkkale-Bala (KB), Tuz Gölü (TG), Alcı-Orhaniye
(AO), Haymana (NHY), and Haymana (SHY).

271 **5 Paleomagnetic results**

272 5.1 Kırıkkale-Bala (KB)

This domain comprises Kırıkkale-Bala Basin and associated areas. We have collected 273 150 samples from 7 Upper Miocene-Pliocene sites from the domain. Among these, 84 of them 274 275 are measured, and remaining ones are kept as a backup (Table 1). Two out of seven sites were disregarded since they did not produce any meaningful results. The site R14 produced random 276 directions, and R15 most probably was effected by lightening. The remaining 5 sites show both 277 normal (R71 and RN8) and reversed (R 16, R 17, and R 19) polarities. The normal polarity sites 278 belong to Upper Miocene – Pliocene sequences and indicate no significant rotations (D = $1.1 \pm$ 279 12.5°) after tilt correction. However, the three reversed polarity sites belong to Upper Miocene 280 sequences and all indicate a similar sense of declination having a mean direction of $19.9 \pm 4.7^{\circ}$ 281 with CW sense rotation. The reversed polarity site mean inclination (I = $41.3 \pm 5.8^{\circ}$) is lower 282 than the expected inclination ($I = -57.5^{\circ}$, Ankara), possibly due to inclination shallowing related 283 284 to compaction of the sediment, whereas the normal site mean has a steep inclination (I = $62.4 \pm$ 7.4°) after tilt correction. This inclination before tilt correction (I = $52.5 \pm 8.6^{\circ}$) is not 285 significantly different from the expected inclination at this latitude and therefore possibly caused 286 by a recent field overprint that was not sufficiently removed. An alternative explanation would 287 be due to termination of rotational deformation towards the end of Miocene or possibly during 288 Pliocene. However, the reversal test between the mean normal and reversed results is negative 289 (Fig. 5). We, therefore, retain only the mean of the reversed sites providing a $19.9 \pm 4.7^{\circ}$ CW 290 rotation for the Upper Miocene rocks of the Kırıkkale-Bala Domain (Table 1). 291

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292 Table 1. Paleomagnetic results presented in this study and localities parametrically resampled from previous studies. Lat/Long (°): the latitude and longitude of sites and localities, Nc: number of samples collected, N_m: number of samples measured, N₄₅: number of 293 samples after application of a fixed cutoff (45°), Dec: declination, Inc: inclination, ΔD : declination error, ΔI : inclination error, k: 294 estimate of the precision parameter determined from the ChRM directions, a95: cone of confidence determined from the ChRM 295 directions, K: precision parameter determined from the mean virtual geomagnetic pole (VGP) directions, A95: cone of confidence of 296 the mean virtual geomagnetic pole (VGP). A95_{min} and A95_{max} represent the confidence envelope of Deenen et al. (2011). If A95 falls 297 within this envelope the distribution likely represents paleosecular variation. All site and domain results are given in both in-situ and 298 tilt adjusted depending on our interpretation as explained in the text. 299

G': /I 1':	1 . (10)	L (70)		1017		ChRM Directions (in situ)							ChRM directions (tilt adjusted)										
Sife/Locality	Lat. (N°)	Long. (E°)	Age	MN Zones	NC	N_{m}/N_{45}	Dec	ΔD	Inc	ΔI_x	k	a95	Dec	ΔD	Inc	ΔI	k	a95	K	λ	A95 min	A95	A95 max
Kırıkkale-Bala	(Upper Miocer																						
R 14	39.69085°	32.68084°	Upper Miocene	MN9-12	14	12 / 00								No	reliable	e result							
R 15	39.59717°	32.66710°	Upper Miocene	MN9-13	28	11 / 00							Ν	lo reliab	le resul	lt (Ligh	tning)						
R 16	39.50370°	32.74693°	Upper Miocene	MN9-14	29	18 / 16	199.0	07.2	-40.4	09.6	026.8	07.3	198.0	06.3	-27.5	10.2	026.8	07.3	038.0	-14.6	04.0	06.1	14.3
R 17	39.55369°	32.82139°	Upper Miocene	MN9-15	21	20 / 18	195.1	08.0	-26.7	13.2	018.3	07.8	212.6	07.8	-43.7	09.0	031.2	06.3	025.4	-25.5	03.8	07.0	13.3
R 19	39.61479°	32.52476°	Upper Miocene	MN9-15	27	23 / 23	193.0	06.9	-48.4	07.0	034.1	05.3							026.3	-29.4	03.4	06.0	11.4
R 71	39.55996°	33.30906°	U. Mio-Plio.	MN9-15	18	17 / 15	003.9	14.5	56.6	11.0	019.6	08.9	014.8	18.5	64.6	09.8	019.6	08.9	010.1	46.5	04.1	12.6	14.9
RN8	39.59717°	32.66710°	U. Mio-Plio.	MN9-15	13	11 / 09	356.5	11.8	45.5	13.0	025.2	10.5	350.4	15.9	57.6	11.5	025.2	10.5	018.2	38.2	05.0	12.4	20.5
Mean (N)						24 / 24	000.7	09.7	52.5	08.6	020.0	06.8	001.1	12.5	62.4	07.4	021.9	06.6	012.3	43.7	03.4	09.0	11.4
Mean (R)						60 / 58	196.2	04.3	-38.8	05.6	020.3	04.2	199.9	04.7	-41.3	05.8	020.2	04.3	019.9	-23.7	02.4	04.3	06.4
Mean (N+R)						84 / 79	011.9	04.4	43.1	05.2	016.9	03.9	018.0	04.9	46.6	05.3	016.5	04.0	014.4	27.9	02.1	04.3	05.2
Tuz Gölü (Oligo	oMioPliocer	ne)												_									
TT8*	38.97973°	33.50288°	Oligo-Miocene		8	8/8	344.5	08.4	47.4	08.7	059.4	07.2	327.0	12.9	60.5	08.3	059.4	07.2	034.2	41.5	05.2	09.6	22.1
R 18	39.44065°	32.93658°	Middle Miocene	MN6-8	33	24 / 24	355.0	11.6	56.1	09.0	017.4	07.3	351.3	08.5	42.4	10.2	017.4	07.3	015.5	24.6	03.4	07.8	11.1
R 78	39.31113°	32.93993°	Upper Miocene	MN9-12	20	15 / 00								No	reliable	result							
R 84	38.75762°	33.79107°	U. Mio-Plio.	MN9-15	28	24 / 24	164.4	02.9	-49.4	02.8	200.1	02.1							143.2	-30.3	03.4	02.5	11.1
Mean (N+R)						56/56	347.5	04.8	51.7	04.3	035.0	03.3	345.8	04.7	48.3	04.8	026.8	03.7	022.1	29.3	02.4	04.1	06.5
Alcı-Orhaniye (Miocene)													_									
S 1	40.09339°	32.43849°	Upper Miocene	MN9-12	24	23/23	346.8	07.9	60.1	05.2	046.7	04.5	331.9	05.4	45.8	05.9	046.7	04.5	040.7	27.2	03.4	04.8	11.4
S-2	40.09537°	32.42591°	Upper Miocene	MN9-12	6	2/1								No	reliable	result							
S 5	39.87782°	32.22427°	Upper Miocene	MN9-12	28	20 / 16	165.2	06.5	-11.3	12.6	027.4	07.2	162.2	07.7	-34.3	11.1	027.4	07.2	026.7	-18.8	04.0	07.3	14.3
S-6	39.81832°	32.33579°	Upper Miocene	MN9-12	39	20 / 20	351.9	06.3	53.0	05.4	056.7	04.4	301.0	05.1	40.7	06.4	056.7	04.4	049.1	23.3	03.6	04.7	12.4
RN 7	40.10062°	32.67606°	Upper Miocene	MN9-12	19	21 / 10	337.6	22.2	61.1	13.8	018.4	11.6	324.2	10.4	31.3	15.8	018.4	11.6	024.7	16.9	04.8	09.9	19.2
R 30	39.75496°	32.32426°	Upper Miocene	MN9-12	19	19 / 13	176.0	10.1	-37.8	13.6	018.4	09.9	149.3	09.5	-36.4	13.1	018.4	09.9	022.5	-20.2	04.3	08.9	16.3
Mean (N)						33 / 33	344.1	08.1	60.5	05.3	032.6	04.4	329.2	05.0	41.6	06.2	026.5	05.0	030.4	23.9	03.0	04.6	09.1
Mean (R)						29 / 29	169.4	06.4	-23.2	11.1	013.8	07.5	156.5	06.2	-35.4	08.7	021.2	05.9	022.2	-19.5	03.1	05.9	09.8
Mean (N+R)						61 / 62	347.0	05.8	42.9	06.8	011.0	05.8	332.4	04.0	39.1	05.2	023.2	03.9	025.2	22.1	02.3	03.7	06.2
Alcı-Orhaniye (P																							
S 3	40.10604°	32.40219°	Pliocene	MN15	27	20 / 19	356.5	05.1	51.0	04.8	085.2	03.8	355.8	13.0	74.0	04.0	085.2	03.8	029.7	60.1	03.8	06.4	13.3
S 4	39.99441°	32.28423°	Pliocene	MN15	24	13 / 13	005.7	23.0	68.8	09.6	023.8	08.7	326.5	10.4	48.2	10.6	023.8	08.7	021.9	29.2	04.3	09.1	16.3
R 28	39.85070°	32.60247°	Pliocene	MN15	26	17 / 17	335.8	09.9	57.6	07.2	037.7	05.9	346.4	06.2	37.7	08.3	037.7	05.9	039.0	21.1	03.9	05.8	13.8
R 29	39.73686°	32.37431°	Pliocene	MN15	18	17 / 13	335.0	11.0	50.7	10.3	026.6	08.2							020.5	31.5	04.3	09.4	16.3
Mean (N)						43 / 43	339.9	07.2	57.3	05.3	027.3	04.4	337.7	05.5	45.1	06.2	023.1	04.6	020.5	26.6	02.7	04.9	07.7

Alcı-Orhaniye (Mi	ocene-Plioc	ene, vol.)																					
R 13	39.90372°	32.50336°	LM. Miocene		22	25 / 25	356.4	07.3	58.4	05.2	053.3	04.0							027.2	39.1	03.3	05.6	10.8
Tekke**	39.74768°	32.53028°	LM. Miocene		06	06 / 05	335.9		77.5	16.3	023.7	16.0							008.1	66.2	06.3	28.6	29.7
Mamak**	40.01553°	32.90514°	LM. Miocene		08	08 / 07	352.0	19.8	40.9	24.6	013.6	17.0							012.1	23.4	05.5	18.1	24.1
Bozdağ**	39.85689°	32.58413°	LM. Miocene		03	03 / 03	144.8	50.1	-66.9	21.8	041.4	19.4							018.1	-49.6	07.7	29.9	41.0
Mean (N)						39 / 35	354.2	07.0	55.8	05.5	027.4	04.7							019.7	36.4	02.9	05.6	08.7
Mean (N+R)						14 / 18	346.5	14.7	54.0	12.3	014.4	10.8							011.8	34.5	04.2	12.1	15.6
Northern Hayman	a (Miocene-	Pliocene)						_															
R 24	39.49088°	32.42698°	Pliocene		25	23 / 23	158.8	08.2	-60.7	05.2	048.2	04.4	167.5	05.9	-47.0	06.2	048.2	04.4	035.4	-28.2	03.4	05.2	11.4
R 27	39.63345°	32.19992°	Pliocene		17	17 / 17	349.2	07.5	61.2	04.7	082.5	04.0	327.7	05.7	50.3	05.4	082.5	04.0	055.0	31.0	03.9	04.9	13.8
R 31	39.66499°	32.16552°	Middle Miocene		34	20 / 20	350.2	04.9	50.7	04.6	085.3	03.6							062.1	31.4	03.6	04.2	12.4
R 32	39.57138°	31.99519°	Pliocene		32	28 / 28	001.5	07.8	56.3	06.0	032.5	04.9							020.1	36.9	03.2	06.2	10.0
Mean (N+R)						88 / 88	351.0	04.0	57.4	03.0	039.7	02.4	347.9	03.8	51.7	03.4	036.1	02.6	023.6	32.3	02.0	03.2	04.9
Southern Haymana (Miocene)																							
SF-2	38.63961°	32.85627°	Middle Miocene		20	18 / 12	12 No reliable result																
SF 5	38.89064°	32.33443°	Middle Miocene		15	13 / 05								No	reliable	result							
SF 6	38.98257°	32.33974°	Middle Miocene		16	11 / 11		_				No	reliable	result (Present	day re	magneti	zation)					
R 4	39.22803°	31.90884°	Middle Miocene		46	30 / 30	346.1	07.3	54.0	06.1	031.7	04.7	326.0	08.0	57.2	05.9	031.7	04.7	018.2	37.8	03.1	06.3	09.6
Southern Hayman	a (Miocene,	vol.)								_													
R 45	39.20876°	32.70327°	Middle Miocene		34	13 / 12	209.1	08.3	-23.7	14.3	029.1	08.2							029.4	-12.4	04.4	08.1	17.1
R 46	39.21776°	32.85851°	Miocene		24	24 / 24	005.9	07.8	54.3	06.5	031.9	05.3	002.6	04.3	-01.4	08.7	031.9	05.3	047.6	-00.7	03.4	04.3	+++.+
Southern Hayman	a (Pliocene)	1						_															
R 3	39.21949°	32.06600°	Pliocene		35	16 / 16	016.3	12.5	68.4	05.4	053.7	05.1		_					023.8	51.6	04.0	07.7	14.3
R 5	39.39786°	32.10578°	Pliocene		23	14 / 12	183.9	10.1	-28.6	16.2	018.2	10.0	179.6	10.7	-41.5	13.1	025.3	08.8	020.8	23.8	04.4	09.8	17.1
R 37	39.26698°	32.26085°	Pliocene		26	16 / 16	177.7	10.8	-39.1	14.0	014.6	10.0	190.7	12.0	-47.7	12.4	016.9	09.6	014.2	28.8	04.1	10.5	14.9
R 50	39.15034°	32.50766°	Pliocene		20	10 / 06	154.6	15.9	-44.1	18.1	020.8	15.1							023.1	25.9	05.9	14.2	26.5
R 51	39.17460°	32.39708°	Pliocene		20	24 / 24	184.3	09.0	-29.0	14.3	012.7	08.6							012.6	-15.5	03.4	08.7	11.1
SF-1	38.72170°	32.81770°	Pliocene		19	14 / 0								No	reliable	result							
SF 3	38.79057°	32.57749°	Pliocene		20	14 / 0				_				No	reliable	result							
SF 4	38.89749°	32.60258°	Pliocene		16	11 / 11	203.2	12.0	-42.0	14.6	022.3	09.9							018.3	-24.2	04.6	11.0	18.1
Mean (N)						44 / 44	005.6	07.1	60.9	04.5	030.8	03.9							017.6	41.9	02.6	05.3	07.6
Mean (R)						54 / 50	183.2	05.4	-31.7	08.2	014.7	05.3	184.1	05.9	-37.1	08.0	014.3	05.5	014.3	-20.7	02.5	05.5	07.0
Mean (N+R)						98 / 96	004.0	04.9	45.3	04.9	012.2	04.3	004.6	05.0	48.8	05.0	013.5	04.1	011.9	29.7	01.9	04.4	04.6
Parametric boots	trap resam	pling from;	*: Çinku et al.,	2016; **: P	Piper	r et al., 2	2010.																

307 5.2 Tuz Gölü (TG)

Tuz Gölü Domain comprises the southwestern flank of the Kırsehir Block and straddles 308 the Intra-Tauride Suture Zone. It is delimited by the Menderes-Tauride Block in the west. The 309 sampled horizons range from Middle Miocene to Pliocene. Except for one disregarded site 310 (R78), all other three sites produced statistically meaningful results. In addition, one site (TT8, 311 Oligo.-Miocene in age) is added to the domain from literature (Cinku, 2017) and it was 312 313 parametrically re-sampled and then combined with our results (Fig. 4). The Oligo-Miocene site (TT8, N=8) shows $327.0 \pm 12.9^{\circ}/60.5 \pm 8.3^{\circ}$, declination/inclination values, which indicates 314 approximately 33° counterclockwise (CCW) rotation of the locality. The remaining two Miocene 315 to Pliocene sites show normal (R18, TT8) and reversed (R84) polarities, all of which indicate 316 coherent CCW rotations. The combined result suggests that the Tuz Gölü domain underwent 317 approximately $\sim 15 \pm 5^{\circ}$ average CCW vertical-axis rotation since the Miocene (Fig. 4, Table 1). 318 319 Considering the limited number of sites for each age, we cannot discriminate differential rotation from Miocene to Pliocene times. However, the reversal test of all three sites produced a positive 320 result (Fig. 5), suggesting that no significant differential rotation took place within that age 321 322 interval and main rotation took place by the end of Miocene - Pliocene.

323 5.3 Alcı-Orhaniye (AO)

This Alci-Orhaniye Domain is located in the northwestern part of the study area, within 324 the Pontide Block. From this domain, we sampled 10 sedimentary sites, of which 6 belong to 325 Upper Miocene and 4 to Pliocene sequences. The sites display both normal and reversed 326 polarities. Three sites were disregarded, since they produced no meaningful results, either 327 328 because of lightning (S2), a recent remagnetization as indicated by too steep inclination after tilt correction (S3), or an anomalously large CCW rotation (S6) that does not fit with the adjacent 329 sites. Since the domain has a sufficient number of reliable site results for different time intervals, 330 the results are divided into two different time intervals, i.e. for the Miocene and Pliocene ages. 331 The Miocene normal polarity sites indicate a well clustered VGP distribution (K = 30.4, A₉₅ = 332 4.6) and mean ChRM direction of D = $329.2 \pm 5.0^{\circ}$ / I = $41.6 \pm 6.2^{\circ}$ after tilt correction (Table 333 1), which indicates approximately 30° CCW rotation. Furthermore, the reversed polarity sites 334 (S5 and R30) present a very similar mean direction indicating mean rotation of ~24° CCW. The 335 reversal test, however, is negative possibly because of shallow inclinations of the reversed sites. 336 Nevertheless, they become significantly steeper after tilt correction. Combining the normal and 337 reversed Miocene sedimentary sites shows mean direction of $D = 332.4 \pm 4.0^{\circ} / I = 39.1 \pm 5.2^{\circ}$. 338 This indicates that the Alcı-Orhaniye Domain has rotated approximately 27° CCW since the 339 Miocene. Furthermore, the remaining three Pliocene sites (S4, R28, R29) have normal 340 magnetization directions, and they also produced similar rotations around 22° CCW (D = 337.7 341 \pm 5.5°). Additionally, three volcanic localities from Piper et al. (2010) of Miocene (Tekke, 342 Mamak) and-Pliocene (Bozdağ) age also indicate CCW rotation (Table 1). The mean of the 343 combined analysis of volcanic sites of Piper et al. (2010) and our single basalt site (R13) indicate 344 approximately 14° CCW rotation. However, the error in declination values is quite large (D = 345 $346.5 \pm 14.7^{\circ}$) implying that their rotation can be considered as conformable with the 346 sedimentary sites. In conclusion, all these results indicate that mean of Pliocene sites are slightly 347 lower than the Miocene sites implying that rotation started during the Late Miocene and continue 348 during the Pliocene. 349

350 5.4 Northern Haymana (NHY)

The Haymana Basin is traversed by Yenimehmetli Fault (Fig. 1) strike-slip fault that 351 compartmentalized the basin into two domains. Therefore, the northern and southern parts of the 352 basin are analyzed separately. The Northern Haymana Domain is delimited in the northeast by 353 the Hirfanlar Hacıbektaş Fault and in the south by the Yenimehmetli Fault (Fig. 1). In the west it 354 355 is delimited by the İzmir-Ankara Suture. It comprises four paleomagnetic sites; one site (R31) from the Miocene and three sites (R24, R27) from the Pliocene. The Miocene site mean yields a 356 ~10° CCW rotation with a small error (D = $350.2 \pm 4.9^{\circ}$). The three Pliocene sites have both 357 normal (R27 and R32) and reversed (R24) polarities. The combined Mio-Pliocene directions 358 resulted in D = $347.9 \pm 3.8^{\circ}$, which indicate approximately ~12° CCW mean rotation for the 359 domain. (Table 1), contrary to the results obtained from the Pliocene localities in the Southern 360 Haymana Domain (Fig. 4, Table 1), see below. The reversal test was applied to tilt corrected 361 data, but it is found to be negative (Fig. 5). 362

363 5.5 Southern Haymana (SHY)

The Southern Haymana Domain is delimited in the NE by the Hirfanlar-Hacıbektaş Fault 364 Zone, Yenimehmetli Fault in the NW and Intra-Tauride Suture in the west and Ankara-Erzincan 365 Suture in the east. The domain comprises 12 sedimentary sites, 4 of which belongs to Middle 366 Miocene and remaining 8 sites belong to Pliocene sequences (Table 1). In addition, two volcanic 367 layers (R45 and R46, Miocene basalt lavas) were also sampled in the domain. Each volcanic site 368 contains at least seven different lava layers. All of the Miocene sedimentary sites shows normal 369 370 polarities. Three of them were disregarded for final analysis since they present scattered NRM directions in two sites (SF2 and SF5) and the site SF 6 seems to be remagnetized by the recent 371 magnetic field, after deposition. The remaining site R 4 is located in the southwesternmost of the 372 study area and shows a well-clustered distribution ((Fig. 4, Table 1) which gave a quit large 373 mean rotation after tilt correction compared to in-situ rotation result. The site yielded $D = 326.0 \pm$ 374 $8.0^{\circ}/I = 57.2 \pm 5.9^{\circ}$ indicating an approximately 34° CCW rotation since the Miocene. The South 375 Haymana Domain includes two volcanic sites, but site R46 shows nearly horizontal inclinations 376 after tilt correction and is disregarded. The remaining site (R45) indicate reversed polarity with 377 mean directions of D = 209.1 \pm 8.3°/I = -23.7 \pm 14.3°. This indicates approximately 30° CW 378 rotation, opposite to the nearby sedimentary site (R4). 379

For the Pliocene rotation history of the domain, sampled 8 sites are sampled. They show 380 both normal and reversed polarities. Two sites (SF1, SF3) were disregarded due to the scattered 381 nature of the NRM directions (Fig. 4). Two normal polarity sites (R3, R32) have a mean (N=44) 382 showing no significant rotation ($D = 5.6 \pm 7.1^{\circ}$). The remaining 5 sites have reverse polarity, and 383 similarly, they also show no significant rotation ($D = 4.1 \pm 5.9^{\circ}$) after tilt correction. This is 384 almost in line with the results from the Pliocene Polatlı lavas (Piper et al., 2010) (Table 1) which 385 show a small CW rotation. As a conclusion, the southern Haymana locality indicates, on average, 386 no significant rotation (D = $4.0 \pm 4.9^{\circ}$) since the Pliocene. The only successful Middle Miocene 387 site (R4) is far from representing the Miocene rotation history of the domain. Interestingly, it 388 contradicts with the result of the single Miocene volcanic site (R45), which is located at the outer 389 rim of the domain. 390





Figure 4. Equal area projections of ChRM directions for each domain and their means with associated error ellipses (ΔDx , ΔIx) according to Deenen et al. (2011), after tectonic correction (TC). Rejected directions (after 45° cutoff) are displayed in red, and normal (reverse) directions are shown as solid (open) circles. All directions have been converted to normal polarity to average for each domain results (see also Table 1, 2).



Figure 5. Equal area projection of the ChRM directions for each domain. Closed (open) symbols indicate projection on lower (upper) hemisphere. Red dashed circles denote the mean directions and their cone of confidence (α 95). Reversals test results are calculated by the coordinate bootstrap method of Tauxe (2010).

402 6 Evaluation of published data

403 Several paleomagnetic results have been published in the region. Most of these studies 404 are based on magmatic rocks except for a few sedimentary studies. The studies on the magmatic 405 rocks are mainly concentrated on two large Neogene volcanic provinces, namely Cappadocian 406 and Galatean Volcanic provinces, and the granitic rocks within the Kırşehir Block. The studies 407 on the sedimentary rocks are concentrated mainly on the Çankırı Basin. We have evaluated each 408 rock type and tectonic domain in detail below.

- 409 6.1 Cappadocian Volcanic Province (CVP)
- 410 In the south-easternmost part of the study area, the Cappadocian Volcanic Province
- 411 (CVP) consists of Neogene to Quaternary ignimbrites, basalt flows covered by epiclastic

- lacustrine sequences (Aydar et al., 2013). Miocene to Quaternary paleomagnetic results from the 412
- CVP belongs to three different studies (Gürsoy et al., 1998; Özçep, 2010; Platzman et al., 1998). 413
- These studies include various lava levels from three different sites spanning from Middle 414
- Miocene to Quaternary. They produced very consistent CCW results. The integrated results from 415 all sites indicate that the region has been rotated about $12 \pm 6^{\circ}$ counterclockwise since the middle
- 416
- Miocene to Quaternary (Fig.6, Table 2). 417
- 6.2 Galatean Volcanic Province (GVP) 418

The Galatean Volcanic Province is located at the northwest of the study area and 419 comprises Neogene volcanic rocks (Tankut et al., 1999; Toprak, 1998, 1994; Wilson et al., 420 1997). Gürsov et al. (1999), Cinku and Orbay (2010) have studied the region and they reported 421 results from five different localities belonging to Neogene rocks (Figures 1&6). The locality 422 (AYS) comprises two different sites and shows low inclination and large declination results 423 424 (D=247.0±3.3°/I=7.2±6.5°). Therefore, we rejected these sites for further analysis from our database (Table 2). The BYP locality includes 3 distinct lava levels and their combined results 425 produced D:65.6°, I=63.6°, implying very large (~65°) CW rotation of the area since Miocene. 426 The KBR locality, contains 9 lava levels and 2 andesitic suits, combined results of which 427 indicate ~18.5° CW rotation (Table 2). Unlike other localities in the region, site ST has reversed 428 polarity but it also indicates a CW rotation of 31° (Table 2). The KCH locality has 8 different 429 lava levels and mean rotation result indicate a very significant CCW rotation amount (~36.5°) 430 unlike other sites in the GVP. Combined analysis of only CW sites indicate 27° CW rotation 431 432 while combination of all four sites indicate $\sim 20.0^{\circ}$ CW rotation in the GVP during Upper Miocene-Pliocene (Table 2, Fig. 6). 433

6.3 Çankırı Basin (ÇB) 434

The Cankiri Basin is located at northeasternmost part of the study area, at the northern tip 435 of Kırşehir Block, where Ankara-Erzincan Suture Zone makes an omega-shaped northwards 436 convex bend. The area comprises 11 sedimentary sites ranging from Middle to Upper Miocene 437 belonging to three different studies (Cinku et al., 2016; Hisarlı et al., 2016; Kaymakcı et al., 438 2003a; Lucifora et al., 2013). According to Kaymakcı et al. (2003a), the basin underwent 439 counter-clockwise and clockwise rotations in its western and eastern margins respectively, due to 440 indentation of the Kırşehir Block. We have parametrically resampled the results of these studies 441 and found out that 5 of the 12 sites show reverse polarity and their mean rotation amount is 442 changing from ~27° CCW to ~22° CW (Table 2). Similarly, the remaining 7 sites show both CW 443 (max=25.6°) and CCW (max=30.8°) rotations. Very large variations in rotation amounts and 444 sense in such a small region indicate that the basin underwent internal deformation during the 445 Neogene. The results show both normal and reversed polarity data. Therefore, no reversal test is 446 applied to the data and they are not used for further analysis. 447

6.4 Kırşehir Block 448

The Kırşehir Block is one of the largest metamorphic terranes in Central Turkey and is 449 bordered by Ankara-Erzincan Suture Zone in the north, the Tuz Gölü Fault Zone in the west, and 450 Intra-Taruide Suture Zone in the south and east. Lefebvre et al. (2013) studied the plutonic rocks 451 of the block and proposed 3 different rigid fault blocks that deformed independently during the 452 Late Cretaceous to Tertiary. These three fault blocks of the Kırşehir Block are separated by 453 approximately NW-SE striking fault zones developed possibly by the end of Cretaceous as 454

normal faults providing accommodation space for Çiçekdağı and Ayhanlar basins (Fig. 1). The 455 fault blocks of the Kırşehir Block, from south to north include Ağaçören-Avanos Block (AAB). 456 It is delimited in the north by the Haymana-Hirfanlar Fault Zone. Kırşehir-Kırıkkale Block 457 (KKB) constitutes the middle part of the Kırşehir Block and it is delimited in the north by the 458 Haymana-Hirfanlar Fault Zone while Delice-Kozaklı FZ delimits it in the north. The northern 459 block of the Kırşehir Block is the Akdağ-Yozgat Block (AYB). It is separated from the other 460 blocks of the Kırşehir Block by the Delice-kozaklı FZ in the south. Lefebvre et al. (2013) 461 proposed 35° CCW for the AAB, 6° CCW rotations for the KKB and 15° for the AYB (Table 2, 462 Fig. 6). 463

464



Figure 6. Arrows show individual site results both this (blue) and literature (red). Domains and associated vertical axis rotations are denoted as arrows on equal area projection with their 95% error envelope (ΔDx).

- 469
- 470
- 471

Table 2. Table showing all published Neogene paleomagnetic results from the Central Anatolia.
See Table 1 for explanations of the symbols and abbreviations.

G*, /T 1*,	I	L	4	ChRM directions (tilt adjusted)													
Sife/Locality	Lat. (N°)	Long. (E°)	Age	Dec	ΔD	Inc	ΔI	k	a95	K	λ	A95 _{min}	A95	A95 _{max}			
Cappadocian	Volcanic I	Province															
¹ HSN	38.01575°	34.07733°	M. Miocene	350.1	19.1	57.6	13.8	031.8	10.9	017.4	38.3	05.5	14.9	024.1			
² AKS	38.16052°	34.07070°	Pliocene	350.5	11.9	57.6	08.7	036.6	08.1	027.8	38.2	04.8	09.3	019.2			
³ HD&MD	38.11583°	34.11515°	Plio-Quater.	347.6	12.4	41.4	15.2	032.3	12.0	036.0	23.8	05.9	11.3	026.5			
All NCVP				348.4	06.1	52.9	05.3	031.6	04.5	025.4	33.5	03.0	05.1	009.1			
Galatean Volc	canic Prov	2462	10.1		0	0.50 6	250	100.0	0.1.1	00.1	10.1	0.52.0					
* AYS	40.03200°	32.33500°	U. MioPlio.	246.2	18.1	08.2	35.6	050.6	35.8	193.3	04.1	09.1	18.1	053.0			
*BYP	40.21100°	31.93000°	U. MioPlio.	065.6	14.5	63.6	45.9	045.6	37.9	020.9	45.2	09.1	57.6	053.0			
⁴ KBR	40.23000°	31.92661°	U. MioPlio.	018.6	14.5	56.8	10.9	032.6	09.2	021.2	37.4	05.0	11.5	020.5			
⁵ KCH	40.5519	32.09512	U. MioPlio.	323.4	30.9	54.2	30.0	007.7	25.7	000.1	34.7	05.9	29.0	026.5			
-ST CW sites only	40.141/8	52.11/1/*	U. MIOPIIO.	211.1	34.7 13.3	-33.0	20.8	040.7	19.0	021.4	-30.1	07.7	10.3	041.0			
All SCVP				020.8	13.5 13.7	57.7	10.4	028.2	07.0	013.8	39.1	04.2	10.5	013.0			
Cankırı Basin	 		<u>I</u>	020.1	10.7	57.7	10.0	010.2	00.0	012.0	50.4	05.7	10.7	010.0			
⁶ HAL1	40.15949°	33.89265°	M. Miocene	197.3	15.4	-25.9	25.6	017.8	18.7	027.3	-13.6	06.3	14.9	029.7			
⁶ UR	40.21122°	33.93793°	U. Miocene	352.3	16.9	47.5	17.5	012.6	19.6	021.5	28.6	05.9	14.8	026.5			
⁶ KUC	40.16605°	34.02077°	M. Miocene	183.0	09.0	-57.7	06.5	126.6	05.6	074.1	-38.4	05.5	07.1	024.1			
⁷ KS22	40.23618°	33.58103°	M. Miocene	358.1	18.7	66.1	09.2	047.5	08.1	021.3	48.5	05.2	12.3	022.1			
⁸ BO01			U. Miocene	329.3	05.4	39.7	06.9	032.9	06.1	048.8	22.5	03.8	05.0	013.3			
⁸ BO02_r			U. Miocene	152.9	13.6	-51.5	12.4	029.3	10.4	024.2	-32.1	05.2	11.5	022.1			
⁸ BO03			U. Miocene	020.9	15.3	63.0	08.8	033.1	07.3	015.5	44.5	04.3	10.9	016.3			
⁸ BO04			U. Miocene	006.2	06.4	45.7	07.0	34.5	05.6	033.7	27.1	03.6	05.7	012.4			
⁸ SU01			U. Miocene	205.4	07.3	-45.4	08.0	068.1	06.8	074.1	-26.9	05.2	06.5	022.1			
⁸ SU02			U. Miocene	189.2	06.9	-44.7	07.8	063.9	06.5	069.9	-26.3	05.0	06.2	020.5			
⁸ TU01			U. Miocene	019.9	06.4	55.1	05.1	048.5	04.4	035.0	35.6	03.4	05.2	011.4			
Mean (N)				001.6	05.1	53.3	04.4	018.8	03.6	014.0	33.8	02.0	04.3	005.0			
Mean (R)				187.8	06.5	-47.4	06.8	019.7	05.4	018.1	-28.5	02.8	05.7	008.4			
Mean (N+R)				003.6	04.1	51.5	03.7	018.7	03.0	014.8	32.2	01.8	03.4	004.0			
Kırşehir Block																	
⁹ AYB			U. Cretace.	014.5	06.2	54.4	05.1			012.9	34.9	03.2	05.1	005.9			
⁹ KKB			U. Cretace.	353.9	03.6	57.7	02.6			014.0	38.3	02.1	02.8	002.9			
⁹ AAB			U. Cretace.	324.8	03.2	51.3	03.0			014.8	32.0	02.1	02.7	003.0			

Parametric bootstrap resampling from; 1: Gürsoy et al., 1998; 2: Platzman et al., 1998; 3: Özçep, 2010; 4: Gürsoy et al., 1999; 5: Çinku and Orbay, 2010; 6: Kaymakcı et al., 2003; 7: Çinku et al., 2016, 8: Lucifora et al., 2013. Site results taken from, 9: Lefebvre et al., 2013.

482 7 Discussion

483 7.1 Neogene Block rotations in Central Anatolia

The new paleomagnetic results from more than 900 specimens collected from 39 new sites are documented here, as well as existing literature data reported from 27 sites, which we assessed and parametrically resampled in order to homogenize and unify them with our data. They are altogether used to developed rotational evolutionary scenarios of central Anatolia and to reconstruct the Neogene geometry of Neotethyan sutures in Turkey.

All paleomagnetic results covering Miocene to Quaternary sedimentary and volcanic rocks are considered to be of primary origin demonstrated by reversal tests (Tauxe, 2010) and other paleomagnetic criteria (e.g. rock magnetic analysis, PSV check). Of the 39 analyzed sites, only 9 of them (~25%) were rejected due to scattered ChRM directions, lightening effect, and inconsistent demagnetization behaviours marked in Table 1.

494 The remaining 75% of the data passes all the tests, and we regard them as reliable and interpretable. The reliable data are separated into subgroups based on the tectonic domain they 495 belong. Eighth domains are separated in this study. These are Kırıkkale-Bala Domain (KB), Tuz 496 497 Gölü Domain, (TG), Alcı-Orhaniye Domain (AO), Northern Haymana Domain (NHY), Southern Haymana Domain (SHY), Cappadocian Volcanic Province (CVP), Galatian Volcanic Province 498 (GVP), and Çankırı Basin (Table 1 and 2, Fig. 6 and 7). The boundaries of these domains are 499 defined by a major structure such as suture zones or a well-developed fault zones (Gülyüz et al., 500 2019; Lefebvre et al., 2013; Özsayın and Dirik, 2007). 501

The Kırıkkale-Bala Domain partly belongs to Kırşehir-Kırıkkale Block (KKB) of Lefebvre et al. (2013) while Tuz Gölü Domain lies within the Ağaçören-Avanos Block (AAB) (Lefebvre et al., 2013).

According to our rotation results, two of our localities (R18 and R71, Fig. 1) located within the KKB of Lefebvre et al. (2013) indicate CW and CCW rotation. It is possible that these two localities are caught within the Hirfanlar-Hacıbektaş Fault Zone (Lefebvre et al., 2013) and produced opposite rotations (Fig. 6). The combined results from Kırıkkale-Bala Domain indicate a mean CW rotation of ~18° by the Late Miocene (Table 1), contrary to the approximately ~6° CCW (negligible) rotation obtained from the Late Cretaceous-Paleogene intrusive suits of the KKB (Lefebvre et al., 2013).

According to various publications, the Cankırı Domain shows various normal and 512 reversed directions indicating CW as well as a few CCW rotations. The combined analysis of 513 normal polarities indicate no net rotations (D:1.6±5.1°) while reversed polarity sites indicate 514 approximately $\sim 8^{\circ}$ CW rotations. Combining all sites indicates approximately no net rotation in 515 the Çankırı Domain. (Table 2, Fig. 6). The Çankırı Domain is associated with the Akdağ-Yozgat 516 Block (AYB) of Lefebvre et al. (2013), and they reported that the Upper Cretaceous intrusive 517 suits within the block rotated ~15° CW. Having no net rotations in the Çankırı Domain indicate 518 that the rotation of AYB took place prior to late Miocene. 519

Among the four sites from the Tuz Gölü Domain, only three sites produced reliable results. Combined analysis of these sites indicates that approximately ~14° CCW rotation of the domain. The Tuz Gölü Domain is located within the Ağaçören-Avanos Block of (Lefebvre et al., 2013) late Cretaceous Intrusive suits of which rotated approximately ~35° in CCW sense. Our results indicate a similar sense of rotation, whereas they are almost half the rotation of the AAB. Similarly, paleomagnetic studies carried out in the Cappadocian Volcanic Province (e.g. Gürsoy et al., 1998; Özçep, 2010; Platzman et al., 1998), which is located within the AAB also shows approximately ~ 12° CCW rotation since the middle Miocene. All these results indicate that almost half of the CCW rotations of the AAB took place by the Miocene and onwards and the remaining - 20° CCW rotation took place prior to Miocene.

The results of Alci-Orhaniye Domain indicate approximately ~27° CCW rotations for the upper Miocene and ~22 CCW rotations for the Pliocene sequences. This relationship indicates that the rotations in the domain started in the Late Miocene and only about ~5° CCW rotation took place. However, the main rotation took place by the Pliocene.

The Northern Haymana Domain rotated approximately ~12 in CCW sense while rotation amounts in the Southern Haymana Domain range from ~34° during the Miocene, though only one site produced reliable results, to almost no net rotation $(4.6 \pm 5^\circ)$ during the Pliocene.

537 The results from Galatean Volcanic Province indicate approximately ~20° CW rotations 538 (Çinku and Orbay, 2010; H Gürsoy et al., 1999) contrary to the nearby Alcı-Orhaniye and 539 Haymana domains (Table 2, Fig. 6).

540 7.2 Temporal Relationships

541 Our paleomagnetic data combined with parametrically bootstrapped literature data show 542 that rotational deformation in Central Anatolia is a continuous process post late Cretaceous times 543 and various rotation amounts and senses took place in different domains of the region. There are 544 significant variations both in the senses, and the amounts of the vertical-axis block rotations 545 since the early Miocene and in some domains rotations took place during the Early Miocene and 546 lasted until Pliocene while some took place after Pliocene (Fig. 7).

547 For the Kırıkkale-Bala Domain, there is only data for the Upper Miocene to Pliocene time interval because available age data do not allow better age resolution for the sampled 548 horizons in the domain. However, TT8 site of Tuzgölü Domain (Çinku et al., 2016) indicate 33° 549 CCW rotation of the Oligo-Miocene sequences while our Miocene and Pliocene sedimentary 550 sites indicate approximately ~12° CCW rotations. This relationship indicates that CCW rotation 551 started before the Late Miocene and continued afterwards. Rotation amount of the TT8 site is 552 almost equal to the rotation amount of AAB of Lefebvre et al. (2013) implying that the rotation 553 of the Block took place by the Miocene and continued onwards. 554

Rotation amounts in the Alcı-Orhaniye Domain are almost the same, considering the error margins, for Miocene (D:332.4±4) and Pliocene (D:337.7±5.5) sequences. This relationship indicates that the main rotations in the domain took place after the Late Miocene.

The Northern Haymana Domain comprises three Pliocene and one middle Miocene sites. The results of all sites are almost equal to each other, implying that rotations took place post-Miocene times. Combined analysis of all sites indicates approximately ~12° CCW rotation for the Northern Haymana Domain during Pliocene.

562 Only one Miocene site produced reliable result from the Southern Haymana Domain 563 which indicates an approximately ~34° CCW rotation, while Pliocene sites indicate no 564 significant rotation, implying that rotations took place prior to Pliocene.

In conclusion, obtained rotation amounts, senses, and their timing indicate that rotational deformation of the Central Anatolia is diachronous and it cannot be constrained to a specific single time interval.



Figure 7. Kinematic restorations of Central Anatolia and Neotethyan Suture in central Anatolia. 569 a) Rotation amounts and representative blocks for each domain with before and after restoration. 570 Restoration scenario for b) Miocene and c) Pliocene time intervals with major faults and fault 571 blocks that controlled the deformation in the region. Highlighted gray domains are present-day 572 configuration and three green blocks are after Lefebvre et al. (2013). Faint blocks are 573 configurations before rotation took place. Red arrows indicate counter-clockwise rotation 574 (CCW). Blue arrows show clockwise rotation (CW). Faint black arrows represent the present-575 day geographic north direction. 576

577 7.3 Orocline Test

In order to test the validity of our model we have applied an orocline test (Pastor-Galán et 578 al., 2017) between Tuz Gölü and Kırıkkale-Bala domains (Fig. 8). A bootstrapped total least 579 squared orocline test was applied to reveal interlineation between the paleomagnetic vertical-axis 580 block rotation amounts and bedding attitudes. To perform the test, seven paleomagnetic results, 581 local bedding strikes from this study and regional fold axes trends obtained from geological 582 maps of General Directorate of Mineral Research and Exploration (MTA) (Isiker, 2002) are 583 used. According to the the applied bootstrapped total least squared orocline test, the slope of the 584 regression line of $m = 0.674 \pm 0.16$; between m = 1 (100% positive) and m = 0 (100% negative) 585 (Fig. 8). The results with their error margins indicate that the orocline geometry was acquired in 586 the Miocene-Pliocene time interval (~50-85%) and the remaining (~15-50%) deformation 587 corresponds to post-Pliocene activity in the region. 588



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593 7.4 Regional Implications and Kinematic Restorations

The main actors of the continental collision in the Central Anatolia include Kırşehir, Pontide, and Menderes-Tauride blocks. Various scenarios related to collision and further convergence of the region have been proposed in the literature. These scenarios can be classified into two groups; 1) Collision of Kırşehir Block as a rigid indenter into the Pontides along the İzmir-Ankara-Erzincan Suture Zone (Çinku et al., 2016, 2011; Kaymakcı et al., 2003a; Meijers et al., 2010), 2) collision of non-rigid magmatic arc model (Lefebvre et al., 2013). Among these, the rigid Kırşehir Block models generally emphasize how and when the subduction and collision occurred in Central Anatolia and considered that the Pontides (Çinku et al., 2011; Kaymakcı et al., 2003a; Meijers et al., 2010) and Taurides (Çinku et al., 2016) deformed and curved around the rigid Kırşehir Block. The nonrigid Kırşehir model of Lefebvre et al. (2013) nicely illustrated how the Kırşehir Block was segmented and deformed during N-S shortening. Still, it fails to explain the timing of deformation and rotation of each block.

One of the main outcomes of this study is documentation of the diachronous nature of the rotational deformation in Central Anatolia and providing temporal and spatial constraints on the matter. Clearly, a uniform rotational history model with consistent counter-clockwise rotations for Central Anatolia since the Late Miocene (Çinku et al., 2016; Kissel et al., 2003; Koçbulut et al., 2013; Piper et al., 2010) is not a valid simplification, since the region was subdivided into smaller tectonic domains that have undergone variable rotation amounts and senses since the Miocene.

The obtained results are used to restore the geometry of the central Anatolia and the 613 Neotethyan Suture Zones. As seen in Figure 7, the İzmir-Ankara Suture Zone (İASZ) becomes 614 relatively E-W oriented compared to its present configuration, while the Intra-Tauride and 615 Ankara-Erzincan suture zones become N-S oriented, although the change in the geometry of the 616 suture zones is very small. However, they indicate the activity and timing of the block bounding 617 faults. The results show that Delice-Kozaklı (DKFZ), Hirfanlar-Hacıbektaş and Eskişehir fault 618 619 zones (HHFZ) were active during the Pliocene and possibly still active until recently, while the Yenimehmetli Fault was deactivated by the Pliocene. The deformation of the Kırıkkale-Bala and 620 Alci-Orhaniye domains seems to be due to westwards push of the Kirşehir-Kirikkale Block (Fig. 621 7b); a V-shaped block tends to be moving in an NW direction while it is being squeezed in an N-622 S direction (Lefebvre et al., 2013). 623

624 8 Conclusions

Paleomagnetic results (this study and literature data) obtained through comprehensive sampling and analysis show evidence for a significant amount of rotations in Central Anatolia since Miocene. The main findings of this study are summarized as follows:

In addition to the previously published three separate fault blocks of the Kirsehir Block, 628 five new tectonically distinctive domains are determined in this study. 1) Late Miocene strata in 629 the Kırıkkale-Bala Domain rotated ~14° CW by the Late Miocene, 2) the late Miocene strata in 630 the Tuz Gölü Domain rotated ~15° CCW by the Miocene, 3) Late Miocene sequences rotated 631 approximately ~27° CCW in the Alcı-Orhaniye Domain while Pliocene sequences rotated 632 approximately ~22 CCW indicating that the main CCW rotation phase took place after the 633 Miocene in this domain, (4) Late-Miocene to Pliocene sequences in the Northern Haymana 634 Domain rotated ~12° CCW, and (5) only one site produced reliable results from the Miocene 635 sequences in the Southern Haymana basin, and Pliocene sequences underwent no significant 636 rotation. 637

The geometry of the Neotethyan suture zone in the region prior to the late Miocene is restored, and it is found that the orientations of the Intra-Tauride and Ankara-Erzincan suture zones become almost N-S.

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645 2010; Çinku and Orbay, 2010; Kaymakcı et al., 2003; Çinku et al., 2016, Lucifora et al., 2013
646 and Lefebvre et al., 2013.

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