# PECULIARITIES OF STRUCTURE AND EVOLUTION OF THE LAPTEV SEA CONTINENTAL MARGIN

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Laptev Sea shelf is associated to one of a number of critical points of the Earth where the northernmost link of the global Atlantic chain of mid-oceanic ridges, the submarine Gakkel Ridge, orthogonally joins the edge of the Eurasian continent. In the course of latest 60-55 Ma (K2-KZ), in the concert with opening of the Eurasia Basin, the shelf was subjected to continental rifting which formed the system of extended linear depressions also oriented orthogonally to ocean/continent boundary. Sedimentary cover thickness on the west (10-12 km) and on the east (to 3-5 km) of the Laptev Sea shelf is sharply different. This is commonly explained by higher intensity (or duration) of the riftogenic destruction of the crust on the west in suggestion that rifting process independently imposes on the heterogenous basement. We see explanation in the fact that young rift depressions strictly inherit structural pattern of the basement which was forming during Fanerozoic and was completed by Late Kimmerian tectogenesis in the system of Siberian plarform - Verkhoyansky fold belt. In so doing, the grabens use both suture zone itself and linear depressions of ancient initiation revealed in the western (platform) part of the shelf. Here the most thickness of the sedimentary cover is reached due to summing up paraplatform and riftogenic intervals of the secton.