

DateView Geochronology Database

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Comparison of geochronological and isotope data in a regional context is facilitated by storing data in a database which may be easily queried. DateView is a Windows™ 95/98/NT software package which has been developed for this purpose, utilising Paradox™ tables.

All data records are associated with the geological unit dated, area, lithology, isotope system / technique and method / material used. Simplified interpretations of the significance of the date and a ranking system which relates to the statistical and geological acceptability of the interpretation and date are also required. Data records may be allocated to user-defined groups and each record may also be linked to a table containing sample number, latitude and longitude.

Most of the key fields are accessed via user-customisable data tables to ensure data integrity and to maximise the flexibility of the system for different users needs. Key fields which may be queried include: area, geological unit, lithology, isotope system / technique, method / material used, interpretation, rank, goodness of fit and date.

Individually customisable graphs may be generated to illustrate the variation of dates relative to interpretation, user-defined group or user-defined age bands. Graphs include summed probability distributions, radial plots of uncertainty relative to age, date versus initial ratio or epsilon value, date relative to blocking temperature and geographic distribution of samples. Graphs may be saved for inclusion in reports or the data needed to recreate the graphs using commercial software may be saved in Excel™ spreadsheets.

The software is freely available from ftp site

[ftp.geoscience.org.za/public/radlab](ftp://ftp.geoscience.org.za/public/radlab) in file GDW95.ZIP