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Geochemical fingerprints of glacially eroded bedrock from West Antarctica:

detrital thermochronology, radiogenic isotope systematics and trace element

geochemistry in Late Holocene glacial-marine sediments

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Abstract

Geochemical provenance studies of glacial-marine sediments provide a powerful approach to describe subglacial geology, sediment transport pathways, and past ice sheet dynamics. The marinebased West Antarctic Ice Sheet (WAIS) is considered highly vulnerable to ocean warming and sea level rise that is likely to cause its rapid and irreversible retreat. Studies of its past response to climate change are hence essential for projecting its future behaviour. The application of radiogenic and trace element provenance studies for past ice sheet reconstructions requires surveying the geographic variability of geochemical compositions of glaciomarine sediments. In this study, we characterize the provenance of the detrital fraction of 67 Late Holocene marine sediment samples collected off the Pacific margin of West Antarctica (60°W to 160°W), including ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar ages of individual hornblende and biotite grains (>150µm), as well as Sr and Nd isotope and trace element composition of the fine-grained (<63µm) sediment fraction. Overall, this approach allows differentiating West Antarctica into five source regions: the Antarctic Peninsula, Bellingshausen Sea, Amundsen Sea, Wrigley Gulf-Hobbs Coast and Sulzberger Bay. Minor geochemical variability is found within each individual sector due to local variability in onland geology. ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar ages of icebergrafted hornblende and biotite grains record primarily Carboniferous to Lates Quaternary ages (~0 to 380 Ma), with a notable age peak of ~100 Ma, associated with plutonic intrusions or deformation events during the mid-Cretaceous. Permian-Jurassic ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar ages are widespread in the Amundsen Sea sector, marking episodes of large-volume magmatism along the long-lived continental margin. Metasedimentary rocks and Late Cenozoic alkali basalts in West Antarctica cannot be detected using detrital hornblende and biotite ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar ages due to the absence or small grain-size (i.e. <150µm) of these minerals in such rocks. These sources can however be readily recognized by their fine-grained geochemical composition. In addition, geographic trends in the provenance from proximal to distal sites provide insights into major sediment transport pathways. While the transport of fine-grained detritus follows bathymetric cross-shelf troughs, the distribution of iceberg-rafted grains shows influence by transport in the Antarctic Coastal Current. Our study provides the first systematic

geochemical characterisation of sediment provenance off West Antarctica, and highlights the importance of combining multiple provenance approaches in different size fractions of glacial-marine sediments, and paves the way to investigate past WAIS dynamics.

Key words: Geochemical provenance, West Antarctic Ice Sheet, subglacial geology, sediment transport pathways

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1. Introduction

The West Antarctic Ice Sheet (WAIS) holds enough ice to raise global sea-level by 4.3 m if completely melted (Fretwell et al., 2013). Its base rests largely on surfaces of bedrock and sedimentary strata that are well below sea level with an inland-deepening slope, making the WAIS vulnerable to changing environmental conditions (e.g. **Oppenheimer, 1998**), particularly to ocean warming and sea-level rise via the marine ice sheet instability hypothesis (e.g. Rignot and Jacobs, 2002; Schoof, 2007; Katz and Worster, 2010; Jacobs et al., 2011; Joughin and Alley, 2011; Pritchard et al., 2012) and/or marine ice cliff instability (DeConto and Pollard, 2016; Wise et al., 2017). This vulnerability is confirmed by modern observational data, which show thinning of ice shelves, acceleration of ice stream flow, and overall mass loss in the Pacific sector of the WAIS (Payne et al., 2004; Rignot et al., 2008; Pritchard et al., 2009, 2012; Shepherd et al., 2012; Mouginot et al., 2014). Most of the current retreat occurs in the Amundsen Sea sector, which drains approximately ~35% of the WAIS. High rates of mass loss originate from the Pine Island and Thwaites glaciers, with potential collapse being hypothesised to occur in as little as ~400 years (Oppenheimer, 1998 and references therein; Vaughan et al., 2011; Joughin et al., 2014). The proposed mechanism for collapse is an irreversible retreat of the grounding line (Schoof, 2007; Katz and Worster, 2010), facilitated by the landward dipping bed under the WAIS. Thereby, the bathymetric setting of the continental shelf may trigger initial retreat by allowing relatively warm Circumpolar Deep Water that is upwelling onto the shelf to enter sub-ice shelf cavities through cross-shelf troughs carved by past ice stream advances (e.g. Walker et al, 2007; 2013; Jenkins et al., 2010, 2016).

While modern and historical processes leading to ice-sheet loss are increasingly well studied and understood (e.g. Hillenbrand et al. 2017; Smith et al., 2017; Turner et al., 2017), reconstructions of the past stability of the WAIS are still sparse (e.g. Scherer et al., 1998; Hillenbrand et al., 2002, 2009a; Pollard and DeConto, 2009; Naish et al., 2009; Vaughan et al., 2011). One promising tool to learn about past ice stability has been to study the provenance of

marine detrital sediments. Radiogenic isotope fingerprinting and dating has been successfully applied to reconstruct ice sheet history in the Northern Hemisphere (e.g. Gwiazda et al., 1996; Hemming et al., 1998, Hemming and Hajdas, 2003; Peck et al., 2007; Downing et al., 2013; Reyes et al., 2014) and around East Antarctica (e.g. Williams et al., 2010; Pierce et al., 2011, 2014, 2017; Cook et al., 2013, 2014, 2017). Geochemical (i.e. radiogenic isotope composition) studies of glacially derived sediments with a West Antarctic provenance have so far been restricted to the Ross Sea (Farmer et al., 2006; Licht and Palmer, 2013; Licht et al., 2014), glacial till samples from distinct ice streams (Farmer and Licht, 2016; Licht et al., 2014; Welke et al., 2016), and only a few marine sediment core top analyses along the West Antarctic margin (Walter et al., 2000; Roy et al., 2007; van de Flierdt et., 2007; Hemming et al., 2007).

In this study, we close this gap and describe the detailed geochemical provenance of glacially derived Late Holocene sediments along the Pacific margin of West Antarctica. Our primary motivation is to identify isotopic and geochemical fingerprints for individual WAIS sectors, and to characterize its subglacial geology building on the pioneering work of Roy et al. (2007), van de Flierdt et al. (2007) and Hemming et al. (2007). Paramount to such studies is the knowledge of the geological history of the exposed and subglacial bedrock (Figs. 1, 2) and its overall geochemical variability. Outcrop studies, integrated with airborne and field geophysical campaigns have significantly increased our knowledge of the hidden bedrock below the Antarctic Ice Sheet (e.g. Ferraccioli et al., 2009; Smith et al., 2013; Jordan et al., 2013a,b; Aitken et al., 2014). Investigations of sediments that are shed from Antarctica can also contribute to understanding subglacial geology as well as providing the groundwork for using this approach to document the past history of the ice sheets. Here we present results on the geochemical signature of 67 surface sediment samples using ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar ages of individual hornblende and biotite grains (>150μm or >63μm), and strontium (Sr) and neodymium (Nd) isotope ratios and trace element compositions of the fine-grained fraction (<63µm). We present these results in the context of published studies of the geology and geochemistry of West Antarctica from field observations and geophysical investigations. By

combining different provenance tools, we characterize source sectors of glacigenic detritus, a vital precondition for unravelling the history of the WAIS by tracing down-core provenance changes in marine sediment records. We place a particular emphasis on the Amundsen Sea sector, and relate our new sediment provenance results to specific ice drainage signatures, as well as pathways and transport mechanisms that may deliver sediments to their sites of deposition.

2. Regional Framework of West Antarctica

2.1. Tectonic history

The Antarctic continent preserves a geological record from ~3.5 Ga to present. Most known Precambrian rocks are found in East Antarctica (see **Boger**, **2011** for a recent review), while West Antarctica generally has a younger, largely Phanerozoic, geological history. West Antarctica consists of four micro-continental blocks: the Antarctic Peninsula, Ellsworth-Whitmore Mountains, Thurston Island and Marie Byrd Land (**Dalziel and Elliot**, **1982**) (Figs. **1**, **2**).

The 'birth' of West Antarctica is largely associated with the onset of the accretionary Terra Australis (Ross) Orogeny (~510 Ma). The Terra Australis Orogeny took place after suturing of West Gondwana (South American and South African shields) and the Australo-Antarctic plates (Kuunga Orogen), which shifted the locus of active subduction from between the pre-collision complexes of Gondwana towards the Proto-Pacific margin (**Cawood, 2005**). This orogenic event resulted in deformation of passive margin sediments, formation of back-arc basins with quiescent sedimentation (Ellsworth-Whitmore Mountains, **Fig. 1**), and led to arc-type plutonism and subsequent crustal accretion onto the Gondwana margin (**Cawood, 2005**; **Boger, 2011**).

Convergence along the Pacific margin of Gondwana led to deposition and subsequent accretion of Cambrian-Ordovician turbiditic sequences, and intrusion of Devonian-Carboniferous (~375–345 Ma) granitoids. Relicts of these Early Palaeozoic rocks are found in the Ross province of Marie Byrd Land (**Pankhurst et al., 1998; Mukasa and Dalziel, 2000**), on Thurston Island (**Pankhurst**

et al., 1993; Riley et al., 2017) and in the Eastern Domain of the Antarctic Peninsula (Millar et al., 2002), considered as the innermost and oldest arc-terranes in West Antarctica (Vaughan and Storey, 2000) (Figs. 1, 2).



Figure 1: Tectonic reconstruction of West Antarctica during the Early Palaeozoic to Cretaceous (modified from Boger, 2011). AP – Antarctic Peninsula, MB(a) – Amundsen Province of Marie Byrd Land, related to the Central Domain, MB(r) – Ross Province of Marie Byrd Land, related to the Eastern Domain, CP – Campbell Plateau. Indices: e – Eastern Domain, c – Central Domain, w – Western Domain.

During the late Carboniferous, collision of Gondwana with Laurentia terminated the Terra Australis Orogeny, which was followed by the Gondwanide Orogeny (**Fig. 1**). This transition marked the initiation of a series of magmatic arc terranes, largely calc-alkaline granodiorite, diorite, and monzogranite intrusions in the Central Domain (Amundsen Province) of Marie Byrd Land and in the Central Domain of the Antarctic Peninsula during the Late Palaeozoic-Mesozoic. Notable episodes of

magmatism occurred during the late Triassic-early Jurassic (236-199 Ma), mid-Jurassic (~180-160 Ma) and Early to Late Cretaceous (~140-80) (**Leat et al., 1995; Storey et al., 1996**). Though initially disconnected from Antarctica, these terranes became accreted to the continent by the end of the Cretaceous.

The outermost terrane belt in West Antarctica, the Western Domain of the Antarctic Peninsula (**Vaughan and Storey, 2000**) is composed of Carboniferous to Late Cretaceous accretionary sedimentary rocks such as those found on Alexander Island (**Fig. 2**). This terrane accreted to the West Antarctic margin by 103 – 107 Ma, leading to back-arc plutonism and metamorphism of the Western and Central Domain in the mid-Cretaceous (**Wendt et al., 2008; Vaughan et al., 2012a**).

Gondwana break-up led to extensive extrusion of Jurassic volcanic rocks documented by outcrops in the Antarctic Peninsula, and resulted in rifting away of Zealandia in the Cretaceous (Weaver et al., 1992; Pankhurst et al., 2000; Korhonen et al., 2010). Plutonism on West Antarctica continued until the Cenozoic with a diachronous eastward cessation of subduction (Larter and Barker, 1991; Leat et al., 1995; Larter et al., 2002; Cunningham et al., 2002; Mukasa and Dalziel, 2000). This was followed and accompanied by the extrusion of the widespread Late Cenozoic alkali basalts (e.g. Futa and LeMasurier, 1983; Hole and LeMasurier, 1994), which crop out extensively in central West Antarctica, especially the Marie Byrd Land volcanic province (e.g. LeMasurier and Rex, 1991).



Figure 2: Simplified geological map of West Antarctica, including major geological units discussed in the text (Futa and LeMasurier, 1983; Storey et al., 1988; Pankhurst et al., 1993; McCarron and Smellie, 1998; Mukasa and Dalziel, 2000; Ferraccioli et al., 2002; Korhonen et al., 2010; Burton-Johnson and Riley., 2015). Thin blue dotted lines on the continent represent divides between major ice drainage basins, and brown dotted lines mark approximate boundaries between tectonic domains (Pankhurst et al., 1998; Vaughan and Storey, 2000). Grey dashed line on the continental shelf outlines bathymetric troughs, dashed black lines indicate the approximate location of the shelf break, and dotted line offshore marks position of the Southern Boundary of the Antarctic Circumpolar Current (SBACC; Orsi et al., 1995). Sites of surface sediments analysed in this study are shown as grey circles and numbers refer to their position in Table 1. Abbreviations: Abb – Abbot Ice Shelf; AS: Amundsen Sea; Cos – Cosgrove Ice Shelf; Dot – Dotson Ice Shelf; Ed. VII – Edward VII Peninsula: EWM – Ellsworth-Whitmore Mountains; FR – Ford Ranges; JM – Jones Mts; HN – Haag Nunataks; HM – Hudson Mts ; MM – Mt Murphy; MP – Mount Petras; MT – Mt Takahe; SSI – South Shetland Islands.; TI – Thurston Island; WAIS – West Antarctic Ice Sheet; WC – Walgreen Coast. Inset: Digital elevation model of Antarctica (Bamber et al., 2009) with major crustal blocks of West Antarctica (Dalziel and Elliot, 1982). White contours denote bedrock above modern sea-level (Fretwell et al., 2013). Blue arrows denote main surface ocean currents (Gladstone et al., 2001; Assmann et al., 2005; Murphy et al., 2013) and orange arrows denote deep (i.e. down to ca. 1000 m water depth) currents (Holland et al., 2010; Assmann et al., 2013; Murphy et al., 2013; Ha et al., 2014). Palaeo-ice streams are shown in grey.

2.2. Oceanography

The dominant oceanographic feature off (West) Antarctica is the eastward flowing Antarctic Circumpolar Current (ACC), which is driven by the West Wind Drift, creating a clockwise flow around the Antarctic continent (**Orsi et al., 1995; Sokolov and Rintoul, 2009**). In the eastern Pacific sector of West Antarctica the Southern Boundary of the ACC (SBACC) follows approximately the shelf break

(Sokolov and Rintoul, 2009), but the SBACC runs slightly north of it in the eastern Amundsen Sea and deviates further away from the continent towards the Ross Sea (Orsi et al., 1995; Walker et al., 2013) (Fig. 2). Wind stress and buoyancy forcing drive the westward flowing Antarctic Coastal Current, which spans the area between the SBACC and the coast (e.g. Stammerjohn et al., 2015; Kim et al., 2016a), creating a westward flowing surface current (Fig. 2). This general circulation pattern is complicated by local winds and large cyclonic gyres, such as in the Bellingshausen Sea (Fig. 2) and the Ross Sea. On the shelf of the Bellingshausen Sea, for instance, significant quantities of icebergs initially drift westwards with the coastal current but are then directed northwards near Thurston Island eventually joining the eastward flowing ACC (Gladstone et al., 2001; Sokolov and Rintoul, 2009). In the Pacific sector of the Southern Ocean, deep warm water upwells onto the continental shelf (Fig. 2 inset), locally protrudes towards the coast via bathymetric cross-shelf troughs, which were eroded by WAIS advances during past ice ages, and causes the bases of floating ice shelves to melt (e.g. Walker et al., 2007; Thoma et al., 2008; Jenkins et al., 2010; Arneborg et al., 2012; Randall-Goodwin et al., 2015). In the Amundsen Sea Embayment (ASE) the resulting glacial meltwater is detected in the mid-layer of the water column at about 400-500 m and flows northward along incised troughs towards the shelf break (e.g. Kim et al., 2016b).

The velocities of ocean currents measured and/or modelled in the surface and deep waters of our study area are on average ca. ≤5 cm/s, with a maximum of 22 cm/s (Assmann et al. 2005; Wåhlin et al., 2010, 2012, 2013, 2016; Jacobs et al., 2011, 2013; Arneborg et al., 2012; Carvajal et al., 2013; Walker et al., 2013; Ducklow et al., 2015; Kim et al., 2015; Randall-Goodwin et al., 2015). Exceptions to this are the westward flowing Antarctic Coastal Current in front of the Dotson Ice Shelf, and a local current within the Amundsen Polyna. The former current reaches a speed up to 40 cm/s in a narrow layer at 70 m water depth (Kim et al., 2016a), but this speed decreases to below 22 cm/s when integrated over the entire water column (Randall-Goodwin et al., 2015). The latter Amundsen Polynya current is characterized by a flow speed ≤27 cm/s detected at 430 m water

depth north of the Dotson and westernmost Getz ice shelves (**Kim et al., 2016a**). These velocities will become important when discussing transport pathways of detrital mineral grains later on.

3. Approach and samples

3.1. Approach to provenance fingerprinting

Analysis of the provenance of marine detrital sediments requires the consideration of a variety of glaciological and geological factors (see review by Licht and Hemming, 2017). Glacial influence on provenance records is exerted by preferential subglacial erosion of specific substrates. Glacial-marine transport and depositional processes in the ocean can furthermore introduce sorting and hence affect mineral assemblages in sediments. Geologically, onland bedrock needs to provide sufficient geochemical heterogeneity in order to produce distinct isotopic fingerprints. In addition, different rock types and mineral components are prone to be disproportionately represented in different grain-size fractions. Plutonic and high-grade metamorphic rocks, for instance, are rich in coarse-grained minerals, and are therefore likely to be over-represented in the coarse fraction of marine sediments. In contrast, sedimentary rocks consist of recycled continental material, and typically show a finer texture as well as depletion in minerals that are less resistant to chemical and physical weathering, such as hornblende and biotite (e.g. **Pierce et al., 2014**). Erosion of sedimentary rocks would lead to enrichment of these minerals in the fine fraction of glacial-marine sediments.

To limit the risk of neglecting or over-representing a particular rock type, we apply different geochemical tracers and analyse two different size-fractions of the same sediment sample. We investigate ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar ages of ice-rafted (>150µm) hornblende and biotite grains, as well as Sr and Nd isotope and trace element compositions of fine-grained (<63µm) detritus. Dating of individual grains from marine sediments has been shown to provide powerful insights into the thermo-metamorphic history of the parent rocks. In the Southern Ocean, detailed studies on the provenance of East Antarctic glacial-marine sediments have shed light on previously documented as well as

undiscovered geological provinces below the ice (e.g. Roy et al., 2007; Cook et al., 2014, 2017; Pierce et al., 2014, 2017). Even though most studies so far have focused on ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar analysis of hornblende grains, recent work has elegantly demonstrated how biotite can provide complementary information on source rock metamorphism (Pierce et al., 2011, 2014). Both minerals are major rockforming constituents and are present in a variety of lithologies. The advantage of using the dual dating approach relies on the fact that different lithologies might contain different amounts of hornblende and biotite grains. Additionally, hornblende and biotite minerals have different closure temperatures for argon of ~550°C and ~300°C, respectively (Harrison, 1982; Harrison et al., 1985) and hence reflect different points on the cooling path following a major extrusive or tectonometamorphic event. The distinct attributes between both chronometers can be exploited to extract information on the source rock, only if both minerals originate from the same source. In the marine environment, however, selective transport pathways may compromise such coupling. Critical factors to consider are ocean current speeds, which determine the grain sizes and types of detrital mineral grains being eroded, transported, or deposited and hydraulic equivalence (i.e settling behaviour) of the different mineral types, which determines preferential transport and deposition of one mineral grain type over another.

In order to overcome the potential bias created by using mineral tracers, which rely on the existence of rocks containing these minerals, we also chose to investigate Sr and Nd isotopic compositions and trace element geochemistry of fine-grained (<63µm) detritus. Fine-grained material can be eroded from any type of geology, and its radiogenic isotope composition depends on the age and lithology of the source formation (**Taylor and McLennan, 1995**). Hence, fine-grained Sr and Nd isotopic compositions have the potential to record an integrated signature of bedrock eroded under an ice stream or ice margin (**Hemming et al., 1998; Farmer et al., 2003, 2006; Colville et al., 2011; Pierce et al., 2011; Cook et al., 2013; 2017; Farmer and Licht, 2016**). Samarium (Sm) and Nd are not fractionated during continental erosion due to their nearly equal incorporation in most rock forming minerals. Neodymium model ages, based on the long-lived ¹⁴⁷Sm to ¹⁴³Nd decay

system, are thus effective at reconstructing the mantle extraction age of precursor material of sediments (**Goldstein and Hemming, 2003**). Different minerals tend to have very similar Sm/Nd ratios (e.g. **Bayon et al., 2009, Garçon et al., 2013, Rickli et al., 2014**), making it unlikely that Nd isotopic compositions in sediments are majorly influenced by sedimentary sorting and/or weathering. In contrast, comminution of minerals with variable Rb/Sr ratios can produce grain-size effects in the ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr ratio, particularly due to the enrichment of clay minerals and biotite in the fine-grained fraction (e.g. **Eisenhauer et al., 1999; Goldstein and Hemming, 2003**). Additionally, ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr ratios can be fractionated during continental weathering due to the different solubility of the parent isotope ⁸⁷Rb compared to the daughter isotope ⁸⁷Sr (e.g. **Blum and Erel, 1997**).

3.2. Samples and site selection

For this study, we selected 67 proximal to distal seafloor surface sediment samples from the Pacific margin of West Antarctica. In total, 59 samples were provided from core repositories of the British Antarctic Survey (Cambridge), the Alfred-Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research (Bremerhaven), and the Antarctic Marine Geology Research Facility at the Florida State University (formerly at Tallahassee, FL). We additionally complemented our sample selection by eight samples previously studied by **Roy et al. (2007)**, which we picked for ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar age analysis of biotite grains, not carried out in the original study. **Table 1** provides a full description of the site locations and water depths, coring devices, and sample depths. Sites proximal to individual major ice streams were selected to identify the geochemical fingerprint of each ice drainage basin and therefore to constrain subglacial geology (**Fig. 2**). Distal sites were selected to test whether provenance signatures from the terminus of an active ice stream can be traced offshore, with the future goal to reconstruct ice history through time by analysing down-core records. Most sampling sites are located in the ASE, the modern-day locus of major ice stream retreat (e.g. **Rignot et al., 2008, 2014**), and proposed site of substantial WAIS retreat in the past (e.g. **Vaughan et al., 2011**).

Most sediment samples used in this study are seafloor surface samples collected with box and multiple corers, and thus are of modern or at least Late Holocene age, which has been confirmed by AMS ¹⁴C dating and/or ²¹⁰Pb analyses for several of these samples (Hillenbrand et al., 2010a,b, 2013; Smith et al., 2011, 2014). Other samples were chosen solely due to their geographical position. Even though no chronological constraints were available for some of those samples, e.g. shelf samples from Sulzberger Bay, the stratigraphic position of these samples near the seafloor surface assures that they are most likely not older than Late Holocene, which is evident from AMS ¹⁴C ages of such samples in the Bellingshausen, Amundsen and Ross Seas and on the western Antarctic Peninsula margin (The RAISED Consortium, 2014). We followed this approach to avoid the potential influence of past changes in erosion or sediment transport/deposition on the provenance of the studied sediments.

As detailed in section 2, current speeds in the study area are typically ≤ 22 cm/s. This flow velocity is too low to move sand particles ($\geq 63\mu$ m), which would require current speeds exceeding 26-29 cm/s (e.g. **McCave et al., 2017**). Large sheeted (flaky) biotite grains have a hydraulic equivalence to smaller (bulky) hornblende grains according to **Komar et al. (1984)** and **Garzanti et al. (2008, 2009**). These studies concluded that coarse grained ($\geq 150\mu$ m) biotite grains are hydraulically equivalent to quartz grains with a size exceeding ~75µm. Such grains would not be moved by the ocean currents typical for the West Antarctic margin, allowing interpretation of biotite grains >150µm as subglacial debris, which was released by grounded ice directly at the coast or transported by icebergs further offshore, alongside hornblende grains >150µm. Several samples, however, have been picked for hornblende and biotite grains from the 63 – 150µm fraction due to a low amount of grains in these samples. Due to the weak ocean currents in the study area, bulky hornblende grains from the 63 – 150µm fraction are likely unaffected by hydrodynamic sorting and provide the same lithologic information as the coarser >150µm size fraction. Sediment samples from sites 13 and 41 (**Table 1, Fig. 2**) were, however, picked for biotite grains from the 63 – 150µm

fraction only. These results will hence be discussed separately (i.e. potential for selective mineral transport by ocean currents).

Table 1: 39Ar/40Ar ages analysed in ice-rafted (>150 μ m or >63 μ m) hornblende and biotite grains from surface sediments off West Antarctica

Cor										Biotit	
е	Site	Core	Se	Size		Lati	Lon	Water	Hornbl	е	
Sit	locatio	depth	cto	fracti		tut	gitu	depth	ende	grain	Reference
е	n	(cm)	r ^a	on	Gear	de	de	(m)	grains	S	b
						-	-				
	DF86-				piston	62.	59.				
1	48	28-34	AP		corer	68	74	1234			
						-	-				
	DF85-			>150	piston	64.	63.				
2	53	39-44	AP	μm	corer	56	16	201	55		this study
	PD88-					-	-				
	111	Surfac			surface	65. (63.				
3	Grab37	е	AP		grab	14	97	240			
	PD88-				_	-	-				
	111	Surfac			surface	65.	64.				
4	Grab41	е	AP		grab	23	09	200			
						-	-				Roy et al.,
	ELT05-			>150	piston	65.	70.				2007; this
5	22	4-6	AP	μm	corer	95	25	373	91	7	study
						-	-				
	DF85-			>150	piston	68.	67.				
6	82	28-33	AP	μm	corer	24	50	275	39		this study
				\mathbf{O}		-	-				
_	PS2524			X	box	68.	72.				
7	-1	0-1	AP		corer	49	72	458			
						-	-				Roy et al.,
	EL105-			>150	trigger	67.	/4.	2026		_	2007; this
8	20	2-4	AP	μm	core	18	/8	2926	37	/	study
						-	-				
_	0.0470		56		box	69. 00	76. 20	670			
9	BC470	0-2	R2		corer	09	39	670			
	FI T 4 2			. 450		-	-				Koy et al.,
10	EL142-	0.0	56	>150	piston	69. 00	80.	5.67	20	10	2007; this
10	09	0-2	R2	μm	corer	99	39	567	30	19	study
				\$ 150	here	- 74	-				
14	DC2C4	0.1	DC	>150	DOX	/1.	/6.	622	20	20	بالمنافع مأمله
	RC301	0-1	R2	μm	corer	99	55	ხპპ	38	38	this study
					here		-				
12	66262	0.1	DC		XOU	12.	80. 02	040			
12	66362	0-1	R2	62	corer	00	రర	846			
10	DCCCA	0.1	DC	ьзμ	DOX		-	1010		20	بالمنافع مأمله
13	BC364	0-1	R2	m-	corer	72.	ბქ.	1010	n.m.	20	this study

				2mm		98	44				
				150µ		-	-				
				m-	box	71.	82.				
14	BC369	0-2	BS	2mm	corer	58	86	587	47	44	this study
						-	-				-
				>150	box	70.	86.				
15	BC459	0-1	BS	μm	corer	61	25	676	61	46	this study
						-	-				
	PS2543				multi-	70.	89.				
16	-3	0-1	BS		corer	95	36	537			
						-	-				Roy et al.,
	ELT11-		AS	>150	trigger	70.	99.				2007; this
17	19	0-2	-E	μm	corer	42	25	3808	63	16	study
						-	-				Roy et al.,
	ELT11-		AS	>150	piston	70.	102				2007; this
18	18	2-4	-E	μm	corer	14	.82	3786	24	5	study
						-	-				Roy et al.,
	ELT11-		AS	>150	trigger	70.	106				2007; this
19	17	2-4	-E	μm	corer	17	.64	3456	6	5	study
						-					
	PS58/2		AS	>150	multi-	69.	108			_	
20	54-2	0-2	-E	μm	corer	31	.45	4016	14	7	this study
					giant		-				
24	PS/5/1		AS		box	/1.	103	700			
21	92-2	0-1	-E	450	corer	74	.33	793			
			A.C.	150µ	giant	- 71	-				
22	PS09/2	0.1	AS		DOX	/1. 00	26	654	21		this study
22	55-5	0-1	-	211111	giant	80	.50	054	51		
	D260/2		٨٢		box	- 72	- 10/				
23	51-1	0-1	-F		corer	11	104 81	573			
25	51-1	0-1	-L			-	.01	575			
	DE85-		Δς	>150	niston	72	104				
24	109	11-17	-F	um	corer	49	48	567	30		this study
			X	1500		-	-				
			AS		box	71.	106				
25	BC451	0-1	-E	2mm	corer	87	.04	568	49	51	this studv
-						-	-		-		
			AS	>150	box	71.	105				
26	BC455	0-1	-E	μm	corer	07	.08	807	54	44	this study
				150µ		-	-				,
			AS	m-	box	72.	107				
27	BC485	0-3	-E	2mm	corer	73	.29	692	15	26	this study
						-	-				
	DF85		AS	>150	piston	73.	103				
28	96-1	83-88	-E	μm	corer	30	.62	786	30	n.m.	this study
				150µ	giant	-	-				
	PS69/2		AS	m-	box	73.	103				
29	99-1	0-1	-E	2mm	corer	44	.65	718	24	57	this study
			AS		box	-	-				
30	BC482	0-2	-E		corer	73.	106	1113			

						89	.27				
						-	-				
			AS		box	74.	104				
31	BC476	0-2	-E		corer	48	.42	1120			
				63µ		-	-				
	PS75/1		AS	m-	gravity	74.	102				
32	59-1	0-1	-E	2mm	corer	80	.36	1046	1	n.m.	this study
				63µ		-	-				
	PS75/1		AS	m-	gravity	74.	105				
33	68-1	0-1	-E	2mm	corer	61	.87	652	9	n.m.	this study
				150μ		-	-				
			AS	m-	box	71.	113		$\boldsymbol{\wedge}$		
34	BC442	0-1	-E	2mm	corer	68	.01	608	47	53	this study
				150μ		-	-				
			AS	m-	box	71.	113				
35	BC443	0-1	-E	2mm	corer	28	.46	1789	55	39	this study
					giant	-	-				
26	PS69/2	0.1	AS		box	74.	110				
36	81-3	0-1	-VV		corer	33	.21	213			
	NBPU/	Curfoe	A.C.		o	-	-				
27	-02	Surrac	AS		surrace	74.	00	242			
37	SIVIGO	е	- VV		grab	21	.90	343			
			٨с	N1E0	boy	74	- 112				
20	BC120	0-2	_W	>130	corer	14.	86	806	24	15	this study
30		0-2	- • •	μιιι	COTET	14	.00	800	24	15	this study
	-01		ΔS		kasten	74	113				
39	KC24	13-19	-W		corer	17	.18	301			
						-	-				
			AS	>150	box	73.	113				
40	BC421	0-1	-W	μm	corer	62	.71	833	32	21	this study
				63µ		-	-				· · ·
			AS	m-	box	73.	115				
41	BC412	0-1	-W	2mm	corer	92	.86	1128	19	33	this study
	NBP00					-	-				
	-01		AS		piston	74.	115				
42	PC22	5-10	-W		corer	06	.46	1171			
	NBP00					-	-				
	-01		AS	>150	kasten	74.	115				
43	KC21	5-10	-W	μm	corer	03	.84	1049	35		this study
	NBP07	Ť				-	-				
	-02	Surfac	AS		surface	74.	117				
44	SMG5	е	-W		grab	02	.30	350			
					giant	-	-				
	PS69/2		AS	>150	box	73.		4545		a -	
45	/5-2	0-1	-W	μm	corer	89	.55	1517	11	37	this study
				. 450		- 70	-				
10	DC407	0.2	AS	>150	DOX	/3.	115	015		10	this study
46		0-2	- ٧٧	μm 1500	corer	21	.24	812	Ь	18	this study
47	PS69/2	0.1	AS	150μ	giant		-	(12	53		
4/	ბა-ე	0-1	-vv	m-	χοα	72.	112	012	52	44	this study

				2mm	corer	76	.38				
						-	-				
			AS	>150	box	72.	118				
48	BC431	0-1	-W	μm	corer	30	.16	512	45	42	this study
				150u		-	-				,
			AS	m-	box	71.	118				
49	BC433	0-1	-W	2mm	corer	56	.31	1722	43	41	this study
						-	-				,
			AS	>150	box	71.	119				
50	BC492	0-1	-W	μm	corer	15	.96	2073	n.m.	26	this study
						-	-				Rov et al.,
	ELT33-		AS	>150	piston	70.	120				2007; this
51	12	2-6	-W	μm	corer	00	.17	2615	27	18	study
						-	-				
	ELT33-		AS	>63µ	piston	70.	122				Roy et al.,
52	11	0-2	-W	m	corer	10	.26	3639	10		2007
					giant	-	-		~		
	PS2545		AS		box	73.	121				
53	-1	0-1	-W		corer	16	.95	636			
	NBP00					-	-				
	-01		AS		kasten	73.	123				
54	KC17	7-13	-W		corer	79	.53	891			
	NBP99						-				
	-02		W	>150	piston	74.	127				
55	PC21	8-13	н	μm	corer	08	.79	702	9	5	this study
	NBP99				trigger		-				
	-02		W		weight	73.	127				
56	TC23	0-3	Н		corer	78	.86	726			
	NBP00					-	-				
	-01		W	>150	piston	73.	128				
57	PC14	1-3	Н	μm	corer	11	.32	591	51		this study
					giant	-	-				
	PS75/1		W	>150	box	74.	133				
58	33-1	0-1	Н	μm	corer	34	.08	474	19	40	this study
					giant	-	-				
	PS75/1		W	>150	box	74.	134				
59	30-2	0-1	Н	μm	corer	45	.15	793	22	40	this study
	DF83-					-	-				
	III			>63µ	box	76.	152				
60	BC28	2-4	SB	m	corer	83	.48	1024	18		this study
	NBP96	Ť			(giant)	-	-				
	-01				piston	76.	152				
61	PC12	0-3	SB		corer	74	.85	881			
	NBP96				trigger	-	-				
	-01				weight	76.	153				
62	TC13	0-3	SB		corer	65	.36	739			
	NBP99					-	-				
	-02	Surfac			surface	76.	154				
63	Grab20	е	SB		grab	41	.82	458			
	DF83		6-	>63µ	piston	-	-		_		
64	PC31	0-3	SB	m	corer	76.	154	713	5		this study

						60	.10				
	DF83-					-	-				
	111			>63µ	box	76.	155				
65	BC26A	1-3	SB	m	corer	95	.62	1353	3	n.m.	this study
	NBP96				trigger	-	-				
	-01				weight	76.	155				
66	JTC11	0-3	SB		corer	78	.44	392			
	DF83-					-	-				
		3.5-			box	76.	156				
67	BC33	5.5	SB		corer	63	.40	770			

a) AP: Antarctic Peninsula sector, BS: Bellingshausen Sea, AS-E: eastern Amundsen Sea, AS-W:

western Amundsen Sea, WH: Wrigley Gulf-Hobbs Coast, SB: Sulzberger Bay

b) See Appendix S1 for complete dataset

, SB: Sulz

4. Analytical procedures

Sediment samples were freeze-dried, weighed, and wet sieved through a 63-micron sieve. The sand fraction (>63µm) was subsequently dry sieved at 150µm to obtain the >150µm fraction (**Table 1**). The fine-grained (<63µm) fraction was separated by gravitational settling, after which the clear supernatant was discarded, and sediment was dried in an oven at 60°C. Approximately 1g of <63µm sediment was leached with buffered acetic acid to remove calcium carbonate, followed by 0.02M hydroxylamine hydrochloride solution to extract Fe-Mn oxyhydroxide coatings (**Rutberg et al., 2000**). Finally, the dried residue from leaching was thoroughly homogenised using an agate mortar.

Hornblende and biotite grains were hand-picked from the coarse (>150µm) fraction for 40 Ar/ 39 Ar age analysis on 43 of the 67 samples. Picking was extended to include the >63µm fraction only if too few grains were available in the >150µm fraction. Eight samples were exclusively picked from the 63 – 150µm fraction, of which seven were picked for hornblende grains and two for biotite grains (**Table 1; Appendix S1**). Fresh (i.e. glassy or black) grains were hand-picked from the coarse fraction with weathering being relatively minor or negligible (see also **Licht and Hemming, 2017**). Single grains and monitor standards (Fish Canyon sanidine) were irradiated at the USGS reactor in Denver, CO. Calibration for the neutron flux was based on J-values calculated to normalize Fish Canyon sanidine ages to 28.201+/- 0.046 Ma (**Kuiper et al., 2008**). 40 Ar/ 39 Ar ages were calculated from measurements of gas released using a single-step CO₂ laser fusion at the Argon Geochronology for the Earth Sciences (AGES) laboratory at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. Argon isotope ratios were corrected for atmospheric argon (40 Ar/ 36 Ar = 298.6, **Lee et al., 2006**), procedural blanks and mass discrimination from frequent measurements of blanks and air pipettes. Nuclear interference corrections were made based on the values reported by **Dalrymple et al. (1981)**.

Radiogenic isotope (Sr, Nd) and trace element analyses were carried out on two separate aliquots (~50mg) from the residual and leached (i.e. detrital) <63µm sediment fraction. Aliquots

were weighed into pre-cleaned Savillex vials and dissolved in a mixture of HF (2ml), HNO₃ (1ml) and HClO₄ (0.8ml) for three to four days on a hotplate until no visible particles remained. After digestion, one set of aliquots were dried and taken up in acid for the three-stage ion exchange chromatography in preparation for Sr and Nd isotope analysis. The Sr fraction was extracted from the sample matrix using Eichrom's Sr Spec resin in HNO₃ medium (similar to **Hemming et al., 2007**, modified from **Pin and Bassin, 1992**). The sample matrix was collected from this step and rare earth elements (REEs) were subsequently separated from the sample matrix using a cation exchange resin (AG50W-X8) in HCl medium (following the specific method of **Struve et al., 2016**). The Nd fraction was subsequently separated from the other REEs using Ln-Spec resin in HCl medium (modified after **Pin and Zalduegui, 1997**).

Dried Sr cuts were re-dissolved in 6M HCl, loaded as 1µl aliquots on degassed tungsten filaments, and covered by 1µl of TaCl₅ activator solution. Strontium isotopes were measured using a Trition Thermal Ionisation Mass Spectrometer (TIMS) in the Mass Spectrometry and Isotope Geochemistry laboratories at Imperial College London (MAGIC). Measured ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr ratios were corrected for mass bias using an exponential law and assuming a ⁸⁸Sr/⁸⁶Sr ratio of 8.375. Repeated SRM987 standard measurements over the duration of three months yielded an ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr ratio of 0.710261 ± 13 (2 S.D., n=31), in agreement with the published value for SRM987 of 0.710252 ± 13 (2 S.D., n=88; **Weis et al., 2006**). Strontium blanks were typically below 200pg (n=5), except for one batch that yielded a blank of 460pg Sr.

Neodymium isotope ratios were analysed on a Nu Plasma HR MC-ICP-MS in the MAGIC laboratories. Neodymium isotope ratios were corrected for instrumental mass bias using a ¹⁴⁶Nd/¹⁴⁴Nd ratio of 0.7219 and an exponential law. Measured ¹⁴³Nd/¹⁴⁴Nd ratios for all samples are reported after correcting for the average JNdi ¹⁴³Nd/¹⁴⁴Nd ratio of the session to the accepted value of 0.512115 (**Tanaka et al., 2000**). Blanks for the Nd procedure were typically below 10 pg (n=3) but always below 40 pg (n=1). Repeat measurements of the USGS BCR-2 standard over multiple runs

during the course of this study yielded 143 Nd/ 144 Nd ratios of 0.512637 ± 14 (2 S.D., n=43) and 87 Sr/ 86 Sr ratios of 0.705011 ± 13 (2 S.D., n=12), in agreement with published values of by **Weis et al. (2006)**.

Aliquots for trace element analysis were dried and transported to the Open University in Milton Keynes, and made up to a 1000-fold dilution of the original sample weight with MQ H₂O, such that the final solutions were in a 0.45 M HNO₃ matrix. Trace element analyses were conducted at the Open University, using an Agilent 8800 ICP-QQQ. The ICP-QQQ has a collision / reaction (ORS) cell, which allows for targeted removal of interference ions. Most elements reported here are measured using no gas (if interferences are not an issue) or He gas in the collision reaction cell, with the exception of the REE, which were measured in mass shift mode, using O₂ in the cell. Analyses were calibrated against five USGS reference materials (BIR-1, W-2, DNC-1, BHVO-2, AGV-1) at the start of each measurement session. An internal standard was added on line to monitor and correct for instrument drift. In addition, a monitor block, consisting of the reference material BCR-2, a repeated unknown, and a nitric solution, was run every five to seven unknowns, to assess the drift correction and monitor the precision and accuracy of analyses. Oxide formation (measured as CeO^+ / Ce^+) was kept low at <1.0% in no gas, or <0.6% in He gas mode, and doubly charged species (Ce^{++} / Ce^{+}) at <1.5% and <1.0%, respectively. Detection limits of trace elements were typically 2–50ppt in solution for light elements and ≤2ppt for mid to heavy elements (Rb – U). Overall, precision on repeated BCR-2 standard measurements (n=12) was usually below 5%, while accuracy checks were below 10% (except for Ti at 18%).

5. Results

5.1. ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar ages of individual hornblende and biotite grains

⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar ages for 1281 hornblende and 864 biotite grains are reported in **Table 1** and **Appendix S1** and illustrated in **Figure 3** for each geographical sector. From east to west, the sectors are: Antarctic Peninsula (AP sector, 60-75°W), Bellingshausen Sea (BS sector, 75-90°W), Amundsen Sea (AS sector,

90-125°W), Wrigley Gulf-Hobbs Coast (WH sector, 125-150°W) and Sulzberger Bay (SB sector, 150-160°W). Our results include 178 hornblende ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar ages previously reported by **Roy et al. (2007**).

Antarctic Peninsula (AP, 60-75°W, core sites 1-8)

In the AP sector we find a continuous hornblende 40 Ar/ 39 Ar age spectrum from 0 to ~320 Ma with three major peaks at 14 Ma, 55 Ma and ~90 Ma, and some scattered older grains of ~480-1000 Ma and ~1600-2000 Ma (n=222; **Fig. 3a**). Significantly fewer biotite grains (n=14) were analysed for 40 Ar/ 39 Ar ages (**Table 1**). Three minor age clusters occur in the 23–83 Ma age interval, with three peak ages of ~27 Ma, ~50 Ma and ~77 Ma (**Fig. 3b**). Two single grains record ages of 360-380 Ma.

Bellingshausen Sea (BS, 75-90°W, core sites 9-16)

In the BS sector a continuous hornblende 40 Ar/ 39 Ar age spectrum spans from 0–260 Ma, but with a dominant cluster between ~75 and 140 Ma, a peak of ~110 Ma, and one older grain at 510 Ma (n=176; **Fig. 3c**). Biotite 40 Ar/ 39 Ar ages (n=167) yield a similar age range, predominantly from 0 to ~280 Ma, with the majority of grain ages in the interval between 75 and 135 Ma, and with peaks at ~99 Ma and ~108 Ma. One older grain dates back to 480 Ma (**Fig. 3d**). The finer sand size-fraction (63 – 150µm) of site 13 was picked for biotite grains, and hence the 40 Ar/ 39 Ar ages for this sample could be influenced by ocean current transport because biotite grains of this size can be affected by relatively weak ocean currents with flow speeds as observed in the Bellingshausen Sea. However, age distribution observed at site 13 shows no pattern deviating from that of other core samples in the BS sector, with the majority of the ages ranging from 94-120 Ma (**Table S1**).



Figure 3: ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar ages of hornblende and biotite grains from five sectors off the Pacific margin of West Antarctica. Histograms are produced using 10 Ma as bin intervals. Probability density plots (ISOPLOT4.15; Ludwig et al., 2003) are superimposed, and individual ages are shown with

uncertainties in the lower panel. Results include previously analysed ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar ages of hornblende grains from Roy et al. (2007) (see Table 1).

Amundsen Sea (AS, 90-125°W, core sites 17-54)

The AS sector is the main focus of this study and a total of 756 hornblende grains and 598 biotite grain ages are reported for this sector. A continuous hornblende ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar age spectrum from 0 to ~380 Ma shows two noticeable peaks at ~101 Ma and ~250 Ma. A significant number of grains with ages ranging from 140 to ~210 Ma are found, which are notably absent from the other sectors. A minor age peak is observed at ~353 Ma. Though significantly smaller in number, older hornblende grains also appear in these sediments (n=20), with age clusters of 400-550 Ma, 640-800 Ma, 1120-1360 Ma, 1700-1850 Ma and 2600-2800 Ma (Fig. 3e, Appendix S1). Biotite ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar ages (n=598) spread from 0 to ~300 Ma, with a prominent peak at ~100 Ma, and secondary peaks at ~170 and 240 Ma. Nine older grains yield ages of ~330-375 Ma, ~450 and 890 Ma (Fig. 3f). The apparent modern (~0 Ma) age peaks observed in both minerals in the AS sector seem suspicious as the corresponding grains were primarily picked from core 49 situated on the upper continental slope, and are not detected in other sectors (Fig. 2). Biotite grains from site 41 were picked from a smaller size-fraction (Table 2) and hence could potentially be influenced by ocean current transport due to fast flow speeds detected off the Dotson Ice Shelf (Kim et al., 2016a). However, ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar ages from this sample do not reveal any pattern deviating from that of ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar ages in nearby core samples (**Table S1**). We hence consider differential sorting of biotite and hornblende mineral grains of the same size fraction to be negligible in our study area.

Wrigley Gulf-Hobbs Coast (WH, 125-150°W, core sites 55-59)

A total of 101 hornblende ages obtained from the WH sector record well defined ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar ages with populations around 0-20 Ma and 65-140 Ma, and age probability peaks at ~0 Ma and ~100 Ma as

well as three scattered ages of ~210 Ma, 300 Ma and 610 Ma (**Fig. 3g**). Biotite 40 Ar/ 39 Ar ages (n= 85) cover a similar age range from 0 to ~150 Ma, with some scattered ages of ~180 Ma, but the dominant age probability peak at 101 Ma is slightly older than the one defined by the hornblende grains. A second minor age peak is detected around ~53 Ma, which is absent in the hornblende age spectrum (**Fig. 3h**).

Sulzberger Bay (SB, 150-160°W, cores 60-67)

Most hornblende ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar ages (n= 26) from the SB sector range from 0 to ~135 Ma, and show a well-defined age probability peak at ~100 Ma. Minor age peaks occur at ~48 Ma and ~5 Ma and three individual grains yield ages of ~170 Ma, 350 Ma and 510 Ma (**Fig. 3i**). No biotite grains were picked/analysed from this sector.

5.2. Neodymium and strontium isotope composition of fine-grained detrital sediments

In total, 66 and 54 samples were analysed for their detrital Nd and Sr isotopic composition respectively. The Nd isotope results are expressed as epsilon values (ε_{Nd}), which denotes the deviation from a chondritic value of 0.512638 in parts per 10,000 (Jacobsen and Wasserburg, 1980). Neodymium and Sr isotope results from the study of Roy et al. (2007) on eight additional distal samples are included in the following results and subsequent discussion (Table 2).

Overall, detrital continental margin sediments off West Antarctica have Nd isotopic compositions ranging from -12 to +2 and ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr ratios from 0.7493 to 0.7057 (**Fig. 4, Table 2**). The values are anti-correlated as expected from global trends, and are distinct for individual sectors. The highest Nd isotope values and the lowest Sr isotope ratios are found in the WH sector (ε_{Nd} = -0.5 to 1.3, ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr = 0.7056 to 0.7061), in the westernmost sample from the AS sector (site 54; ε_{Nd} = 0.3) and in the easternmost samples from the AP sector (site 1 and 3-5: ε_{Nd} = 0.9 to 2.2; ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr ~ 0.7053). The other end of the data range is defined by samples from SB, i.e. offshore from western

Marie Byrd Land (Fig. 2), with Nd isotopic compositions of -11.9 to -10.6 and ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr = 0.7411 to 0.7493. Detrital shelf sediments from the AS sector reveal intermediate values, but with distinctly different values in the eastern and western AS. In the eastern AS, lower Nd and higher radiogenic Sr values (ϵ_{Nd} ~-7.3, 87 Sr/ 86 Sr ~ 0.7240) are found in a sample taken in front of Pine Island Glacier (site 32, Table 2, Fig. 2). Along the eastern flank of the AS sector the isotopic fingerprints of the samples change systematically northwards across the shelf to higher Nd and lower Sr isotopic compositions (site 20: ϵ_{Nd} ~-3.3, 87 Sr/ 86 Sr ~ 0.7079). A uniform signature is observed in the western AS sector, where shelf sediments yield Nd and Sr isotopic compositions of ϵ_{Nd} ~-2.9 to -1.7 and 87 Sr/ 86 Sr ~0.7082 to 0.7101 (n=17), except sample from site 39 proximal to Dotson Ice Shelf (ε_{Nd} = 0.4; 87 Sr/ 86 Sr was not measured) and site 51 on the lower continental slope ($\varepsilon_{Nd} \sim -5.5$; 87 Sr/ 86 Sr = 0.7128). Detrital surface sediments from the BS extend from the values recorded in the western AS and on the eastern AS shelf towards lower Nd and higher Sr values, along a steeper slope (ε_{Nd} = -7.3 to -4.2, ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr = 0.7097 to 0.7132, n=8; Fig. 4). General anti-correlation of Nd and Sr isotopes in finegrained detrital sediments off West Antarctica, in addition to the extremely uniform values observed in the western AS from ice proximal to ice distal (ocean) locations, indicate that both isotope systematics are predominantly governed by provenance and not by sedimentary sorting or weathering.



Figure 4: Neodymium and strontium isotopic compositions of detrital surface sediments along the Pacific margin of West Antarctica. Marine sediment data are displayed as symbols according to geographical sectors defined in Table 1 (only samples where both Nd and Sr isotope ratios were measured are shown). Isotopic compositions of major bedrock outcrops on land are compiled from the literature (see Appendix S2) and correspond to the units displayed in Fig. 2 (Note: For simplicity data from high-grade metamorphic rocks are not displayed). APVG = Antarctic Peninsula Volcanic Group.

Table 2: Sr and Nd isotope compositions of the detrital fraction (<63 μ m) and clay mineral

assemblages (<2µm) of surface sediments off West Antarctica

Cor e	Site	Se ct	⁸⁷ R	⁸⁷ Sr/ ⁸⁶	¹⁴⁷ S m/ ¹⁴	¹⁴³ Nd/ ¹ ⁴⁴ Nd (+2		± 2	T _{DM}	R e	 (S m	Kl n(C hl (
e	n	a	Sr ^b	S.E.)	b	(⊥∠ S.E.)	۳ d	.°	a) ^d	е е)	e(%)))	Ref. ^e
1	DF86- 48*	AP				0.5127 51 ± 8	2. 2 0	0.3 6			べい			-	
2	DF85- 53	AP													
3	PD88- 111 Grab3 7*	AP				0.5127 25 ±9	1. 6 9	0.3 6	S						
4	PD88- 111 Grab4 1*	AP				0.5127	1. 5 7	0.3							
5	ELT05- 22	AP		0.705 281 ± 5	0.13	0.5126 85 ± 10	0. 9 2		920	2 , 3					
6	DF85- 82	AP													
7	ELT05- 20	AP		0.708 198 ± 7	0.13 41	0.5124 69 ± 18	- 3. 3 0		130 4	2 , 3					
8	PS252 4-1	AP	1.4 23	0.708 926 ± 5	0.11 79	0.5124 53 ±8	- 3. 6 1	0.2 1	110 9	1	5 8	8	0	34	4
9	BC470	BS	1.6 28	0.710 100 ± 4	0.11 79	0.5124 05 ±8	- 4. 5 5	0.2 8	118 5	1					
10	ELT42- 09	BS			0.12 55	0.5124 20 ±9	- 4. 2 5		126 1	2					
11	BC361	BS	1.7 06	0.709 714 ± 5	0.11 60	0.5123 92 ± 16	- 4. 8 0	0.3 2	118 3	1	4 4	20	5	31	5
12	GC362	BS	1.9 20	0.711 165 ± 5	0.11 73	0.5123 49 ±6	- 5. 6	0.2 9	126 7	1	5 2	19	6	23	5

							4								
							-								
				0.713			7.								
			1.8	189 ±	0.11	0.5122	2	0.3	135		6				
13	BC364	BS	46	5	42	67 ±6	4	0	3	1	6	7	2	25	5
							-								
				0.710			5.								
			1.5	320 ±	0.11	0.5123	4	0.2	122		4				
14	BC369	BS	47	4	52	59 ± 9	4	4	4	1	6	20	3	30	5
							-								
				0.710		0.5123	6.				\wedge				6
			1.3	539 ±	0.11	21 ±	1	0.2	126		5				(GC3
15	BC459	BS	99	4	36	10	8	8	2	1	2	16	6	26	72)
							-								
				0.712			6.								
	PS254		1.8	397 ±	0.11	0.5122	8	0.2	130		5				
16	3-3	BS	89	5	23	85 ± 7	9	1	1	1	9	14	4	23	4
							-								
				0.707		0.5124	3.			2					
	ELT11-	AS		928 ±	0.12	70 ±	2		119	,					
17	19	-E		6	71	10	8		7	3					
							-								
				0.709			4.			2					
	ELT11-	AS		790 ±	0.12	0.5123	6		123	,					
18	18	-E		5	13	99 ± 5	6		9	3					
						0	-								
				0.710		0.5124	4.			2					
	ELT11-	AS		616 ±	0.12	00 ±	6		129	,					
19	17	-E		8	57	16	4		9	3					
					\sim		-								
				0.708			2.								
	PS58/2	AS	1.6	704 ±	0.11	0.5124	9	0.3	106		3				
20	54-2	-E	58	4	85	86 ± 6	6	0	4	1	3	38	12	17	7
							-								
				0.710			4.								
	PS75/1	AS	1.7	162 ±	0.11	0.5124	4	0.2	112						
21	92-2	-Е	26	5	27	08 ± 8	9	1	1	1					
							-								
				0.709			4.								
	PS69/2	AS	1.5	971 ±	0.11	0.5124	6	0.2	113		4				
22	55-3	-Е	41	5	35	02 ± 8	1	4	9	1	1	27	14	18	7
							-								
				0.711			4.								
	PS69/2	AS	2.0	226 ±	0.11	0.5123	7	0.2	113		4				
23	51-1	-E	41	6	23	96 ± 8	1	1	3	1	1	25	16	18	7
	DF85-	AS													
24	109	-E													
							-								
				0.711		0.5124	4.								
		AS	2.2	652 ±	0.11	29 ±	0	0.2	109		4				
25	BC451	-E	55	5	31	10	7	8	2	1	6	23	16	14	7

			4 7	0.710	0.14	0 5404	- 4.		100						
26	BC455	AS -E	1.7 03	384 ±	0.11	0.5124 15 ± 9	3 4	0.2 8	109 9	1	4 5	24	16	15	7
							-								
				0.710		0 5121	4. 2	0.1							
	repeat ^f			305 <u>r</u> 5		0.5124 15 ± 7	3 5	0.1 6							
	-1						-	_							
				0.713			4.								
77	DC 49E	AS	2.7	436 ±	0.11	0.5124	1	0.2	111	1	4	10	10	15	7
27	DF85		89	4	41	25 I 9	0	0	0		0	19	19	12	/
28	96-1	-E													
							-								
		40	1 1	0.707	0.11	0 5 1 2 4	3.	0.2	101		4				
29	PS69/2 99-1	AS -F	1.1 93	947 ±	18	0.5124 70 + 8	2	0.2 4	8	1	4	26	7	25	7
23	<u> </u>		55		10	/0 _0	-	0	Ď	-	-	20	,	23	,
				0.715			4.								
		AS	3.3	235 ±	0.11	0.5123	6	0.2	112		4				_
30	BC482	-E	03	4	18	99 ± 9	7	8	5	1	4	19	23	15	7
				0.718		0.5123	6.								
		AS	3.9	795 ±	0.11	29 ±	0	0.2	122		5				
31	BC476	-E	03	6	16	10	3	8	6	1	2	16	17	16	7
				0 722			-								
	P\$75/1	ΔS	46	0.723	0 11	0 5122	7. 2	0.2	129						
32	59-1	-E	59	5	00	67 ± 8	4	1	9	1					
							-								7
	//			0.716			4.				_				(PS69
22	PS75/1	AS _F	3.5	904 ±	0.10	0.5124	5 2	0.2	109	1	5	12	21	16	/292- 2)
55	00-1	-L	57	0	30	00 ± 8	-	1	0	-	0	13	21	10	- 31
			C	0.710			3.								
		AS	1.9	417 ±	0.11	0.5124	3	0.2	103		4				
34	BC442	-E	46	4	31	65 ±9	7	8	9	1	7	18	19	16	7
				0 710			- 3								
		AS	1.7	181 ±	0.11	0.5124	5	0.2	105		4				
35	BC443	-E	12	5	35	54 ±8	8	8	9	1	7	20	18	16	7
				0.700			-								
	ρςεα/γ	٧٢	20	0.709	0 1 1	0 5125	1. ջ	0.2			л				
36	81-3	-W	2.0 58	<u> </u>	16	42 ± 8	o 7	8	909	1	4	14	29	15	7
				-			-	-				<u>-</u> ·			-
							2.								
27	NBP07	AS				0.5125	4	0.3							
3/	-U2*	-VV	2.0	0.710	0.11	12 ± 8	Ь	2	002	1	л	10	10	22	7
20	DC420	АЗ	2.0	0.710	0.11	0.3172	-	0.2	332	1	4	13	ΤŐ	22	/

		-W	84	125 ±	67	19 ± 6	2.	9			7				
				5			3								
	NBPOO						2								
	-01	AS				0.5126	4	0.3							
39	KC24*	-W				60 ± 9	3	7							
				0.740			-								
		٨٩	2.2	0.710	0 1 1	0 5124	2. 7	0.2			л				
40	BC421	-W	05	5	24	0.3124 99 ± 8	, 1	8	981	1	3	22	19	16	7
							-				X				
				0.709			2.				5.				
<i>1</i> 1	BC/112	AS _W/	2.1	682 ±	0.11 48	0.5124 96 + 9	6	0.2 8	100	1	4	21	20	10	7
41	BC412	- • •	09	5	40	90 ± 9	-	0	0			21	20	19	/
	NBP00					0.5125	2.								
	-01	AS				17 ±	3	0.2							
42	PC22*	-W				10	5	9							
	NBPOO						- 2								
	-01	AS				0.5124	7	0.2							
43	KC21*	-W				95 ± 8	9	9							
		٨٩				0 5124	2. a	03							
44	-02*	-W				86 ± 8	7	2							
							-								
			2.4	0.710	0.11	0 5425	2.	0.2							
45	PS69/2 75-2	AS -W	2.4 46	115 ±	0.11 44	0.5125	3 5	0.2 9	973	1	4 3	20	20	16	7
13	,52		10			1, 20	-		575	-	5	20	20	10	,
				0.709			2.								
	50407	AS	2.2	903 ±	0.11	0.5125	5	0.2	075		4	4.0	22	4.0	-
46	BC407	-VV	/5	4	34	09 ± 7	2	4	975	1	3	18	22	18	/
			C	0.710			2.								
				041 ±		0.5125	6	0.2							
	repeat			5		04 ±9	2	1							
				0 700			- 2								
	PS69/2	AS	2.1	881 ±	0.11	0.5124	2. 8	0.2	100		4				
47	83-5	-W	80	4	33	92 ± 7	6	0	0	1	3	20	19	18	7
							-								
		٨٢	1 7	0.708	0 1 1	0 5124	2.	0.7	100		л				
48	BC431	-W	46	959 ±	36	0.5124 88 ± 8	2	0.2 8	8	1	4	17	19	18	7
							-	-		-					
				0.709			2.								
40	00422	AS	1.8	845 ±	0.11	0.5125	5	0.2	070	1	4	17	21	10	7
49 50	BC403	-VV	4ð 1 6	4	2ð 0 1 1		9	ð O D	9/0	1	3	1/	21	ΤQ	/
50	DC492	AS	0.1	0.709	0.11	0.5125	-	0.2	954	L					

		-W	97	711 ±	4	26 ± 7	2.	9							
				5			1								
							8								
							-								
				0.712			5.			2					
	ELT33-	AS		846 ±	0.11	0.5123	4		127	,					
51	12	-W		6	88	58 ± 8	6		2	3					
							-								
	FI TOO			0.709	0.14	0.5125	2.		101	2					
50	ELI33-	AS		086 ±	0.11	02 ±	6		104	,					
52	11	- VV		0	87	10	5		0	3					
				0 708			1								
	PS254	Δς	1 8	276 +	0 1 1	0 5125	6	0.2	4		2				
53	5-1	-W	09	7	44	53 ± 8	6	1	918	1	9	28	23	10	4
	NBP00		05	,		33 2 0	0.	-	510	-		20	23	10	
	-01	w				0.5126	2	0.3							
54	KC17*	н				53 ± 8	9	2							
							-								
	NBP99						0.								
	-02	W				0.5126	5	0.3							
55	PC21*	н				10 ± 7	4	2							
	NBP99			0.705		0.5126	0.								
	-02	W	1.0	656 ±	0.11	67 ±	5	0.2			3				
56	TC23	Н	12	5	56	10	7	4	752	1	7	27	20	17	1
	NBP00			0.705			0.								
	-01	W	1.0	917 ±	0.11	0.5126	3	0.2			3				
57	PC14	Н	45	4	55	54 ± 9	2	4	770	1	7	25	20	18	1
				0.706			1.								
	PS75/1	W	1.0	122 ±	0.11	0.5127	2	0.3			3				
58	33-1	н	81	4	51	03 ± 8	6	0	693	1	6	28	14	21	1
		14/	0.0	0.705	0.11	0 5126	1.	0.2							
50	20.2	VV L	0.8	889 I	U.11 EQ	0.5120	1	0.2	707	1					
39	50-2	п	91	4	30	9/ 1 3	4	9	/0/	1					
			C				1								
	DF83-			0 741			0								
			7.1	188 ±	0.11	0.5120	7	0.2	161						
60	BC28	SB	42	4	33	85 ± 8	9	4	6	1					
		V					-		-						
							1								
	NBP96			0.743			0.								
	-01		7.4	425 ±	0.11	0.5120	9	0.2	162						
61	PC12	SB	92	4	31	77 ±9	5	4	3	1					
							-								
							1								
	NBP96			0.747			1.								
	-01		8.2	045 ±	0.11	0.5120	2	0.2	163						
62	TC13	SB	65	5	27	63 ± 8	2	4	9	1					
	NBP99					0.5120	-	0.3							
63	-02	SB				58 ± 7	1	2							
	Grab2						1.								
----	--------------	-----	-----------	-------	-------	---------	----	-----	-----	---	--	--	--		
	0						3								
							1								
							-								
							1								
				0.747			1.								
	DF83		8.3	928 ±	0.11	0.5120	8	0.2	169						
64	PC31	SB	24	5	29	30 ± 8	6	4	1	1					
							-								
							1								
	DF83-			0.742			0.								
65		6.0	8.0	576 ±	0.11	0.5120	5	0.2	157						
65	BC26A	SB	10	4	19	96 ± 9	8	4	6	1					
							-								
				0 740		0 5120									
	01		0 7	0.749	0.11	0.5120	1.	0.2	164						
66	-01 ITC11	C D	0.Z 24	275 ±	10.11	50 ±	4	0.2	104	1					
00	JICII	30	24	4	10	10	/	4	3	1					
							1								
	reneat			0 749			1								
	repear			534 +		0 5126_	5	01							
				6		33 + 8	2	6							
				-				-							
							1								
	DF83-			0.741			0.								
	111		7.9	931 ±	0.11	0.5120	8	0.2	161						
67	BC33	SB	76	4	28	80 ± 8	9	4	6	1					

a) see Table 1

b) calculated from elemental composition of the same sample (Table 3)

c) Standard deviation based on the reproducibility of the 143 Nd/ 144 Nd ratio of the JNdi standard during each run: 0.512224 ±14 (n=24), 0.512116 ±12 (n=17), 0.512144 ± 12 (n=13), 0.512157 ± 10 (n=12), 0.512106 ± 12 (n=32), 0.512149 ± 11 (n=27) and 0.512142 ± (n=16).

d) Nd model ages relative to present depleted mantle (DM) using a one-stage evolution model: $^{147}{\rm Sm}/^{144}{\rm Nd}$ = 0.2136; $^{143}{\rm Nd}/^{144}{\rm Nd}$ =0.51315

e) (1) this study; (2) Roy et al., 2007; (3) Hemming et al., 2007; (4) Hillenbrand et al., 2002; (5) Hillenbrand et al., 2009; (6) Hillenbrand et al., 2010; (7) Ehrmann et al., 2011

f) Repeat values represent full procedural replicats of sample powders (i.e. from digestion, through ion exchange chromatography, to mass spectrometry).

*) Samples denoted with a star were analysed at L-DEO for their Nd isotopic composition using

similar methodologies to those described in the main text, but run on a AXIOM MC-ICP-MS (see van

de Flierdt et al., 2008, for more details on methodology).

5.3. Trace element composition of fine-grained detrital sediments

Trace element compositions, including full REE patterns, were analysed on the <63µm fraction of 44 detrital seafloor sediment samples. The data are reported in Table 3 and are illustrated in mid-ocean ridge basalt (MORB)-normalized spider diagrams (Fig. 5). Overall, detrital sediments show compositions comparable to Post-Archean Average Shale (PAAS) (McLennan, 2001). Some elements, however, deviate from PAAS. Zirconium (Zr) concentrations show considerable scatter (Fig. 5), while the elemental ratio of the two high-field strength elements Zr and yttrium (Y) are high in sediments from the WH sector (Zr/Y ~10.5) and low in sediments from the SB sector (Zr/Y ~4) as well as in sediments proximal to Pine Island and Thwaites glaciers (Zr/Y ~5). Similarly, high Sr over thorium (Th) ratios of 25 - 30 are observed in WH, at site 29 on the AS (Sr/Th ~25) and in the AP sector (site 8, Sr/Th ~27), with the latter sector being mostly characterized by very low thorium (Table 3). The ratio of Th over scandium (Sc), which generally describes the relative contribution of basic and felsic rocks (Taylor and McLennan, 2001), is elevated in the samples from sites 32 and 33 proximal to Pine Island and Thwaites glaciers (1.5-2.0), but low in WH (~0.8-1), sites 8 to 11 from the AP and BS sectors (0.6-0.8) and in one distal sample from site 20 in the AS sector (0.6). Europium anomalies are moderately negative (Eu/Eu* = 0.5-0.9) in most samples, and correlate well with Th/Sc (R^2 = 0.67; Fig. 6) and Sr/Th ratios ($R^2 = 0.87$) (**Table 3**).



Figure 5: a) Trace element compositions of fine-grained (<63µm) detrital surface sediments along the Pacific margin of West Antarctica, normalized to average mid-ocean ridge basalts and arranged in order of incompatibility (Gale et al., 2013). Individual sample results are indicated by white circles in the upper graphs, while the red line denotes the composition of the Post-Archean Average Shale (PAAS, McLennan, 2001). The grey field denotes marine sediment samples from this study. b) Sediments from the Wrigley Gulf-Hobbs Coast sector are now shown as diamonds connected by a yellow line, and sediments from Sulzberger Bay are shown as triangles connected by a brown line. The grey field denotes samples from the Antarctic Peninsula (AP), Bellingshausen Sea (BS) and Amundsen Sea (AS) sectors. The patterns for these two groups are similar to onland results obtained for Late Cenozoic alkali basalts (yellow line; Futa and LeMasurier, 1983; Hart et al., 1997) and Palaeozoic meta-sedimentary rocks (brown line; Korhonen et al., 2010), respectively.

Table 3: Trace element composition of detrital <63µm surface sediments off West Antarctica (in

ppm)

(q)*u						11	12		23	2 2	23	69	75			72	60 63	64	60	61		57	76	57	59	24 60	63	63	22	62	61	61			58	8	62	63	65		63		82	77	7 82	60	60	22	61	2 23		56
) Eu/E						0			00	5 c	0	0	0			00	50	0	C	. 0		o'	Ö	0	0	50	0	0	o	o	C	. 0			00	5	00	io	o'		o		0	0	00	0	00	5	o'	00		0
Ce/Ce*(b						105	1.04		1.06	102	1.05	1.00	1.07			1.11	1.05	1.06	1 06	1.03		1.05	1.03	1.02	1.01	101	1.06	1.07	1.01	1.03	104	1.02			1.07	1	1.09	1.15	1.18		1.07		1.06	1.10	1.04	1.01	1.02	T.0.T	1.02	1.01		1.00
Th/Sc						0.60	0.78		0.80	1 20	0.84	0.93	0.91			0.56	112	1.30	1 45	1.42		1.62	0.96	1.70	1.67	1.98	1.28	1.14	1.52	1.09	1 25	1.28			1.33		1.18	1.15	0.91		1.04		0.77	0.88	1.05	1.20	1.19	T.LY	1.25	1.35 1.36		1.43
zr/Y						80 8	4.26		4.45	10.4	4.56	4.64	4.18			7.71	co.c	5.85	6 29	6.57		90.9	5.15	5.63	4.50	5.84 5.84	7.50	6.87	7.68	6.46	00 2	6.39			7.26 6.74		7 33	8.64	9.18		6.98		10.88	9.76	1.82	4.61	4.49	4.71	4.76	8.40 3.75		4.50
r/Zr						10	21		5 22	ייי קרי גרי	12	Ę	.36			130	22	1.29	17	38		.96	2.79	.97	1.10	. 181	1.02	L.26 (88.	L.05		12			101	2	35	.94	1.02		1.34		L.16 1	L.20	6.63	.75	1.74		.67	76.0		.88
/Th S						ň	42		5 5	7 6	5 8	6	14			8 5	1 13	.45	Ĕ	8		21	26	14	8	5 06 7 06	6	.75	Si Si	52	5 50	1 83			5 2	5	50 22	18	÷.		6		42	6	0 . 0 8	03	82 28	07	24	5 2		12
Sr,						50	191		81 9 7	99	21	2	22			89 Ç	1 29	13	10	1 1	,	oó	24	7.	9.0	ف ف	Щ :	15	=	1	10	1 2			σi Ę	1	55	12	1		5		28	52	5 2	s ui	4.	4	4	ৰ ৰ		4
D						17	1.9		, i , i ,	יי קיי גי	161	2.0	1.6			115	2.4	2.5	80	1 2.6	2.5	3.5	2.0	2.8	3.5	3.6	2.6	2.5	3.1	2.7	28	2.6			9. c	2.9	2.5	2.4	2.1		. 2.2		1.6	1.7	- 1 - 1 - 1	2.2	2.3	5.2	2.2	3.6	2.3	1 2.6
Ţ						4 9 0	11.0		11	2 F	11	1 12.0	8 10.2			1 10.5	1 4	0 15.6	191	0 18.	3 15.0	0 22.8	8 12.5	2 19.5	6 23.9	1 19.6	2 17.2	1 15.7	0 19.9	0 18.7	101	918			8 20.5	17.1	8 16.8	7 16.9	6 14.0		4 15.3		7 9.9	5 11.3	9 11 1	7 17.7	18.1	181	3 17.5	5 21.2	20.6	9 22.4
Ρb						7	11		2 18 2 18	2 ¥	15	11	24.1			1 20.	9 6	21.0	36.0	21.0	21.8	28.0	18.1	3 24.	27.0	30.0	24.	57	33.0	3 28.0	28	32.9			28.1	32.5	30.1	24.	7 20.1		51.		20.	t 24.	18.0	17.	22.5	8 1	19.	20.19	9 23.2	17.5
Ŧ						с С	33		~ ~ ~	4 m	 	м і	3 2.6				1 4 6 4	4	4 46	4	4	2 4	3.0	4 3.8	4 ·	4 n 2 n	4	4 5.0	-0 -7	4.8	4 50	4			4 4	4 4.6	4 4	4 6.0	4		.4		3.5.6	3. 2.7		4	4	5	m m	5 5 m m	4	4 3.(
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Table 3: Trace element composition of detrital <63µm surface sediments off West Antarctica (in ppm)

6. Provenance of glacial-marine sediments

In this section we evaluate the provenance signature of coarse and fine-grained detrital sediment from the seafloor in conjunction with onshore geochemical (Sr and Nd isotope values) and geochronological data (K-Ar and ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar ages on hornblende, biotite, mica grains and whole rock samples, U/Pb zircon ages, and Rb-Sr whole rock ages) compiled from the literature (Table S2). Knowledge of the regional tectonic history of West Antarctica is a prerequisite in order to relate offshore ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar mineral ages to bedrock sources, particularly in areas where ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar cooling ages are scarce and comparison with other geochronological data is required. Overall, offshore ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar ages match those reported for outcrops onland, recording largely the erosion of syn-tectonic Palaeozoic to Cenozoic plutons emplaced onto the former magmatic arc along the Gondwana margin, with distinctive thermal age peaks at ~245 Ma, ~170 Ma, ~100 Ma and 50-90 Ma. Onshore U-Pb ages on zircons on crystalline bedrock are sparse, but fall in the range of our offshore ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar data, reflecting West Antarctica's active margin settings. In addition to the thermochronological ages, fine-grained Sr and Nd isotope and trace element fingerprints from the <63 μ m sediment fraction record an integrated signal of the erosion of major outcropping lithologies. The observed fingerprint in marine sediments allows to distinguish between glaciomarine sediments supplied by five major source sectors on West Antarctica. The integrated signal allows furthermore to identify erosion of volcanic and sedimentary rocks, which are inherently difficult to detect using hornblende and biotite 40 Ar/ 39 Ar ages (i.e. 'mineralogical or grain-size bias').

6.1. Antarctic Peninsula (AP)

Provenance of ice-rafted detritus

Outcrops of young Late Cretaceous (<90 Ma) to Cenozoic igneous rocks have been documented on the Antarctic Peninsula, especially along the western coasts of Graham and Palmer

Land and on Alexander Island (Leat et al., 1995; McCarron and Smellie, 1998; Ryan, 2005; Fig. 2, Appendix S2), recording the latest stage of the eastward-propagating cessation of ocean crust subduction under the Antarctic plate. Of particular interest are igneous rocks of ~12-14 Ma (particularly of hornblende-bearing mafic dykes), 20-21, 47-68 Ma and ~85 Ma, which crop out along the coast of Marguerite Bay on the west side of the Antarctic Peninsula, and at the northern tip of Alexander Island (Fig. 2 e.g. Ryan, 2007; Appendix S2), and which could explain the majority of the mineral grain ages observed in the shelf sediments. The extensively outcropping metasedimentary rocks of Carboniferous to Cretaceous age on Alexander Island are depleted in amphiboles and micas (Pierce et al., 2014) and hence not captured in the offshore ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar age record. The signature of these sedimentary rocks is however observed by qualitative petrographic analysis and fine-grained Sr and Nd isotope fingerprints. In particular, site 8 sediments contain quarzitic clasts (quartz, feldspars), fine-grained dark lithic clasts (mudstone?), and lithic clasts with a fine-grained pink matrix. This is consistent with erosion of the meta-sedimentary formation on Alexander Island, which is largely composed of feldspathic sandstone, siltstone and black mudstones (Burn, 1984), as well as igneous rocks (lava, tuffs) similar to the Tertiary volcanics present on the island (Care, 1983).

Provenance of fine-grained detritus

Outcrops of Cretaceous to Cenozoic plutonic and volcanic (<97 Ma) rocks are characterised by radiogenic Nd and Sr isotopic compositions ($\epsilon_{Nd} \sim -2$ to 5; ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr ~0.703-0.708; Pankhurst et al., **1988; McCarron and Smellie, 1998; Riley et al., 2001, 2003; Ryan, 2005, Fig. 4, Appendix S2**), which are distinct from Jurassic to Cretaceous granitoids in the Antarctic Peninsula and the Amundsen Sea region (ϵ_{Nd} : -8 to 0; ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr ~0.703-0.715) (**Fig. 4; Appendix S2**). The Antarctic Peninsula Volcanic Group and/or nearby granitoids hence seem to be the likely source for the fine-grained detritus with relatively radiogenic values observed at site 1-4, most proximal to the Graham Land coast (**Fig. 2; Table 2**). Sites 7 and 8 are located near to the Alexander Island, where extensive occurrences of arkosic sedimentary rocks (**Fig. 2, Doubleday et al., 1993**) are characterized by less radiogenic Nd

isotope values (ϵ_{Nd} : -8 to -3; Fig. 3; Adams et al., 2005). The agreement between onshore data and our new offshore data indicate a local source for the marine sediments in the AP sector. We note, however, that a mixture between the granitic and volcanic rocks, which crop out on Alexander Island, could yield a similar isotopic fingerprint.

6.2. Bellingshausen Sea (BS)

Provenance of ice-rafted detritus

Bedrock exposures along the BS coast are extremely rare (Fig. 2) and limited to outcrops of some Cretaceous igneous rocks (Rb-Sr whole rock ages of 113 to 128 Ma; Pankhurst and Rowley, 1991) and Miocene-Quaternary volcanic rocks (Smellie, 1999; Hathway, 2001). Aeromagnetic investigations detected the 'Pacific Margin Anomaly' in the coastal region flanking the BS, notably in its eastern sector (Ferraccioli et al., 2006), which has been linked to mafic and intermediate basement rocks ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar dated at 129-141 Ma by (Maslanyi and Storey, 1990; Vaughan et al., **1998**). Hornblende and biotite ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar ages, extracted from our marine sediment samples, record a dominant age interval of 74 to ~140 Ma with well-defined age peaks of ~110 Ma and ~99-108 Ma, respectively. Onland source rock candidates for such ages are mid-Cretaceous felsic plutons intruding metasedimentary rocks in eastern Palmer Land (Fig. 2; ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar dated to 95-119 Ma; Vaughan et al., 2012b), and/or older terranes which have been affected by the amphibolite-grade thermo-metamorphic Palmer Land event at 103-107 Ma (Wendt et al., 2008; Vaughan et al., 2012a). We suggest that this Palmer Land thermal event potentially affected large parts of the coast around the Bellingshausen Sea. Supporting evidence for this idea comes from the absence of mafic intrusion ages (i.e. Pacific Margin Anomaly; 129-141 Ma) in the sedimentary record of the eastern BS sector. Furthermore, distinctively different geologies along the eastern and western coasts of the Bellingshausen Sea seem not to be reflected in the iceberg-rafted component of the offshore sediments, which show a narrow range of ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar age populations in both hornblende and biotite grains between sites 11 and 13 indicating regional thermal resetting (Table S2; Figure 2).

Provenance of fine-grained detritus

Surface sediments in the BS are characterized by lower Nd isotopic composition for a given 87 Sr/ 86 Sr value compared to the other sectors (ε_{Nd} = -7.3 to -4.2, 87 Sr/ 86 Sr = 0.7097 to 0.7132; Fig. 4). Volcanic rocks of the Antarctic Peninsula Volcanic Group, situated inland of the BS coast (Figs. 2, 4), could provide the less radiogenic Nd isotopic compositions, but are Jurassic in age (~160-190 Ma) and have high ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr values (Riley et al., 2001). The Cenozoic alkali basalts have very high Nd and low Sr isotope values and thus are unlikely to explain the observed signature in the shelf sediments (Fig. 4). Furthermore, clay mineral data from shelf sediments in the BS sector (Table 2) make it unlikely that volcanic source rock from along the BS coast contribute significantly to the observed provenance of the glacial-marine sediments, because enhanced smectite contents (indicative of supply of volcanic detritus) are restricted to samples from the easternmost BS sector along the west coast of Alexander Island (Hillenbrand et al., 2009b). More negative ε_{Nd} values, as well as felsic trace element patterns (high Th/Sc, Eu/Eu* and low Sr/Zr and Zr/Y), are consistent indicators of a more evolved source (e.g. McLennan et al., 1993), notably in the western BS sector. This observation is in agreement with the clay mineral composition of marine sediments along the southern coast of the BS (Hillenbrand et al., 2009b), which is characterised by high illite and low smectite contents (sites 11 to 12), indicating a granitic or gneissic source (Fig. 5). Felsic bedrock in the southern hinterland of the BS has indeed been inferred from aeromagnetic observations, with ilmenite-rich intrusions in the west contrasting with magnetite-rich counterparts to the east responsible for the Pacific Margin Anomaly (Ferraccioli et al., 2006).

6.3. Amundsen Sea

Provenance of ice-rafted detritus

Ice-rafted hornblende and biotite grains in sediments from the AS are distinct from other sectors on the Pacific margin of West Antarctica because of the significant presence of 40 Ar/ 39 Ar ages

> 140 Ma (Fig. 3e,f). Predominant hornblende age peaks are ~100-110 Ma, ~140-210 Ma, ~250 Ma and ~350 Ma, and ~100-110 Ma, ~170 and ~240 Ma for biotite grains (Fig. 7). Similar age populations have been detected in coastal outcrops of mainly calc-alkaline igneous and metaigneous granitoid rocks around the ASE by using a variety of dating methods (Pankhurst et al., 1993; 1998; Mukasa and Dalziel, 2000; Kipf et al., 2012; Riley et al., 2017; Appendix S2).

In detail, sites proximal to the coast reveal a different provenance between the Walgreen Coast in the western AS, and the coast extending from Thurston Island towards Pine Island Bay in the eastern AS (**Fig. 2**). Sites 22 and 24-29 along the eastern AS coast are characterized by a large number of grains with ages from 140-210 Ma, while grains from sites proximal to the Walgreen Coast (sites 38, 40-41 and 45) lack such ages (**Fig. 7**). Ice-rafted debris (IRD) supplied by icebergs calved from of the Abbot and Cosgrove Ice Shelves (**Fig. 2**), as well as from Pine Island and/or Thwaites glaciers (sites31-32) are likely sources for the observed ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar ages of 140-210 Ma. The unique geological signature of the Thurston Island block, with its characteristic Jurassic ages, was already specified by **Pankhurst et al. (1993)**, based on biotite and hornblende K-Ar ages (~150 Ma) and is also present in our offshore record.

Peak Cretaceous ages for both hornblende and biotite grains are slightly but distinctively (~10 Ma) different between the eastern and western ASE (Fig. 7). Hornblende and biotite grains supplied from the Walgreen Coast (western ASE) record ages of 108-110 Ma, while erosion along the eastern ASE coast sheds grains with a pronounced ~100 Ma age peak (**Fig. 7**). This difference in mineral age population between the western and eastern Amundsen Sea sectors can be related to the diachronous eastward cessation of subduction, and therefore a progression of calc-alkaline magmatism from Marie Byrd Land towards Thurston Island (**Mukasa and Dalziel, 2000**). Finally, a minor ~353 Ma age peak is visible in ice-rafted hornblende grains, particularly at sites 18, 22 and 25-27 proximal to Thurston Island, but not in biotite grains (**Fig. 2, 7; Appendix S1).** Matching ages can be identified onland from a granodioritic orthogneiss formation cropping out on the eastern side of

Thurston Island, which has been dated by zircon U-Pb to ~349 Ma (**Riley et al., 2017**). Material from these outcrops could either be carried by icebergs into the eastern AS sector via the Antarctic Coastal Current, or similar outcrops could be located below ice streams feeding the Abbot Ice Shelf, which eventually calves into the eastern ASE.

Rocks cropping out along the Walgreen Coast have Cretaceous (~100-130 Ma, zircon U-Pb and ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar plateau) and Late Palaeozoic ages (~250 Ma and ~350-500 Ma, zircon U-Pb) (**Pankhurst et al., 1998; Mukasa and Dalziel, 2000; Kipf et al., 2012**). These ages are mostly found in the grains of the proximal offshore sediments, except for the 350-500 Ma age interval, which may be absent due to the limited onshore occurrence of rocks of that age and the limited amount of grains analysed in the marine sediments.

One striking observation when comparing the geological map (**Fig. 2**) with the marine detrital mineral grain ages (**Fig. 3**) is the notable absence of ages that can be related to outcropping Late Cenozoic alkali basalt volcanoes (e.g. Hudson Mountains, Mount Murphy and Mount Takahe, **Fig. 2**), with the exception of site 49 from the continental slope. Explanations for this observation could either involve the limited extent of such lithologies below the erosive ice drainage compared to the igneous batholith, or the fact that hornblende and biotite grains are not present or are too fine-grained to be detected in the coarse (i.e. >150µm) fraction of marine samples, and hence not reflected in the 40 Ar/ 39 Ar age spectrum.

Provenance of fine-grained detritus

Similar to the ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar ages of the ice-rafted grains, the Sr and Nd isotopic composition of the fine-grained sediments in the AS can be separated into an eastern and western sub-sector, broadly delimited by the extent of the Pine Island and Cosgrove-Abbot troughs in the East and the Dotson-Getz Trough in the West, which are incised into the continental shelf (Larter et al., 2014; Figs. 2, 4). Sediments in the western AS are characterized by a very homogeneous Sr and Nd isotope signature

 $(\varepsilon_{Nd} \sim -2.9 \text{ to } -1.8 \text{ and } {}^{87}\text{Sr}/{}^{86}\text{Sr} \sim 0.7082 \text{ to } 0.7101)$, which correlates with the isotopic signature of Mesozoic granites and granodiorites observed in coastal outcrops (**Fig. 4, 9**). We note that sites 36 to 45 are located proximal to the Dotson Ice Shelf and various parts of the Getz Ice Shelf along the Walgreen Coast. The glaciers feeding into these ice shelves drain distinct, separate basins, but nevertheless the offshore sediment samples record very similar Sr and Nd isotope fingerprints. Site 39 marks an exception to this general pattern (**Fig. 2, 9**), because it is characterized by distinctively higher ε_{Nd} values, potentially due to a much localised source. Supply of material eroded from Palaeozoic granites seems to be a minor contributor to the fine-grained detritus, similar to what was observed for the IRD fraction from sites in this area.

In the eastern AS, sediment recovered just in front of Pine Island Glacier (site 31) shows a different and distinct radiogenic isotope fingerprint (ϵ_{Nd} = -7.2; ${}^{87}Sr/{}^{86}Sr$ = 0.7240; Table 2). This unradiogenic signature is unlikely to be related to proximal outcropping young volcanic rocks, which have more radiogenic (higher) ε_{Nd} and lower Sr isotope ratios (ε_{Nd} ~5; 87 Sr/ 86 Sr ~0.703; Hart et al., 1997). Seismic reflection and airborne potential field data provide evidence for a mixed bed below Pine Island Glacier, consisting of unconsolidated and consolidated sedimentary strata, basement rocks and igneous intrusives (Smith et al., 2013). Rocks similar to the Palaeozoic sedimentary outcrops on western Marie Byrd Land could be one candidate to contribute to the observed signature (Fig. 4). Petrographic studies on coarse-grained clasts (>2mm) in seafloor surface sediments in a nearby core (PS75/215-1), however, found a largely granitic source for this IRD (Lindow et al., 2016). It is unclear whether the IRD originated from below Pine Island Glacier or from granitic islands cropping out in Pine Island Bay. Overall, given the presence of igneous basement and granitic IRD in shelf sediments proximal to Pine Island Glacier, we suggest that the distinctively low ε_{Nd} values and high 87 Sr/ 86 Sr ratios in fine-grained detrital sediments at site 32 represent a significant input from evolved granites, which experienced significant crustal assimilation during mantle extraction (Fig. 4), or sedimentary infill eroded from this source. Such granites crop out further inland in the Jones Mountains and in the Ellsworth-Whitmore Mountains (Fig. 2, Pankhurst et al.,

1993; Millar and Pankhurst, 1987). This interpretation is further supported by trace metal compositions showing low Th/Sc and Eu/Eu* (**Fig. 6**), and high Th/Zr ratios (see **Table 3** for values). Such ratios are indicative of felsic rocks such as evolved granites or granites that encountered more crustal assimilation (e.g. **McLennan et al., 1993**).

Along the eastern flank of the AS sector, ε_{Nd} values become consistently lower with increasing distance from inner Pine Island Bay, while ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr values become higher, and eventually overlap with the composition of the local Mesozoic granites (**Figs. 4, 9**). A logical interpretation of this pattern is increasing input of material from the eastern coast of the ASE (between Thurston Island and Pine Island Glacier), where extensive Mesozoic granites are exposed (**Figs. 4 and 9**).



Figure 6: Diagram of Th/Sc vs Eu/Eu* compositions of surface sediments along the Pacific margin of West Antarctica. Circled samples denote sediments with positive cerium anomalies (Ce/Ce*>1.1), indicating minor redox processes affecting the sediments or their sources. Numbers indicate core sites of samples, which are discussed in more detail in the main text. Abbreviations: AP – Antarctic

Peninsula, BS – Bellingshausen Sea, AS-E – eastern Amundsen Sea, AS-W – western Amundsen Sea, WH – Wrigley Gulf – Hobbs Coast, SB – Sulzberger Bay.

6.4. Wrigley Gulf-Hobbs Coast

Provenance of ice-rafted detritus

The Hobbs Coast is characterized by granitoid outcrops with zircon U-Pb ages of ~115 Ma at Mt. Petras (Figs. 2, 8), and similar ages elsewhere along the Ruppert Coast in migmatitic, anorogenic, and I-type granitoids (Mukasa and Dalziel, 2000). This age is well reflected in the ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar ages of coarse hornblende and biotite grains in marine sediments from the WH sector with a dominance of ages between 90 and 130 Ma, and slightly younger peak ages of ~100 Ma and ~101 Ma, respectively (Fig. 3g,h). Older Palaeozoic granitoids crop out along the Ruppert Coast and in the Ford Ranges. It is however, unlikely that such rocks are present below the drainage basin of the western Getz Ice Shelf, as they are rich in hornblende and biotite grains recording undisturbed K-Ar mineral ages of 324-375 Ma (Adams, 1987), which we do not find in the age population of our grains. A secondary biotite ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar age peak of ~53 Ma detected at site 58 is more difficult to explain, as rocks of suitable ages are unknown from the local geology. Previous studies on IRD from sites 58 and 59 have focused on apatite fission track (AFT) thermochronology (Spiegel et al., 2016) and found widespread AFT ages of 60 to 80 Ma. AFT thermochronology is based on the analysis of lattice damage caused by the spontaneous fission of radiogenic ²³⁸U. This method has a lower closure temperature of ~120°C, and Spiegel et al. (2016) correlated AFT ages of 60 to 80 Ma with Cretaceous granitoids, which makes them an unlikely source for ~53 Ma old biotite grains. Basement rocks with (post-) Miocene AFT cooling ages (~20 Ma) on the other hand were interpreted by Spiegel et al. (2016) to reflect an unknown source under the Getz Ice Shelf drainage basin. This source is not found in proximal outcrops, but is likely to be composed of granitic and/or diorite material given the petrographic data on IRD (>2mm) from the same site. These rocks could account for our observed ~53 Ma ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar age in the biotite population.

A small number of young hornblende ages (<10 Ma, n=9) are found in the detrital sediments, tracing the erosion of young alkali basalts. Erosion of these volcanic rocks is further confirmed by petrographic IRD analysis carried out by **Spiegel et al. (2016)**, revealing the contribution of ~40% from volcanogenic clasts that can be associated with the local alkali basalts. Given the extent of outcropping Cenozoic volcanic rocks in the hinterland of the WH sector (**Fig. 2**), the relative absence of a significant young age peak in our data signifies that these volcanic rocks are likely to contain hornblende and biotite grains that are too small to be detected in coarse marine samples (i.e picked from >150µm fraction).

Provenance of fine-grained detritus

The fine-grained detritus of the WH sector (and site 54 in the western AS, Fig. 2) has high ε_{Nd} values and low ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr ratios (Fig. 4), which can be explained by the two major lithologies cropping out along the Hobbs and Ruppert Coasts, the Late Cenozoic alkali basalts and Cretaceous calcalkaline granites (Fig. 2). Mixing calculations between these two end-members suggests a ~30% contribution from alkali basalts and ~70% contribution from Cretaceous granites to the sediments (average Mesozoic granitoids vs. average Late Cenozoic alkali basalts, Appendix S2). This assessment is in agreement with the petrographic IRD analysis by Spiegel et al. (2016) and further supported by trace element compositions of our detrital sediment samples, which indicate a mixture between a Mesozoic granitic end-member and Cenozoic alkali basalts (Fig. 4b). In detail, high Sr/Th (~28) and Zr/Y ratios (~10.5; Table 3) and slightly elevated Eu/Eu* ratios relative to the other studied sectors (~0.8) are all consistent with a significant contribution from mafic alkali basalts to the detrital composition of the seafloor sediments.

6.5. Sulzberger Bay

Provenance of ice-rafted debris

During the mid-Cretaceous, rifting of Zealandia from western Marie Byrd Land led to the intrusion of extensive anorogenic granitoids with K-Ar ages of ~98-105 Ma (Richard et al., 1994; Adams et al., 1995). These rocks are predominantly exposed in the Ford Ranges and on Edward VII Peninsula, where they crop out alongside Palaeozoic granodiorites (i.e. Ford Granodiorite Suite) and Cambrian-Ordovician metasedimentary rocks (i.e. Swanson Formation) (Weaver et al., 1992; Adams et al., 1995, Fig. 2). The Ford Granodiorite Suite contains coarse hornblende and biotite grains with zircon U-Pb and K-Ar hornblende and biotite ages of 320-370 Ma (Adams, 1987; Pankhurst et al., **1998**). Predominant hornblende 40 Ar/ 39 Ar ages of 90 to 130 Ma (peak age: ~100 Ma; n=26) in marine sediments in SB indicate limited erosion from the Ford Granodiorite Suite, with the exception of two grains with ages of 347 Ma and 510 Ma (Appendix S1). A more likely source for the IRD in the SB sector is hence Edward VII Peninsula (Fig. 2). This conclusion seems in contrast to aeromagnetic investigations of the area, which inferred a larger extent for the Ford Granodiorite Suite on Edward VII Peninsula (Ferraccioli et al., 2002). Overall, however, our age distribution is in agreement with the ages of local A-type granites, the thermal overprinting ages and the absence of hornblende grains in the sedimentary Swanson Formation (Adams et al., 1995, see Pierce et al. 2014, for a discussion on durability of hornblende grains in the sedimentary cycle), which crops out extensively on Edward VII Peninsula.

Provenance of fine-grained sediments

In contrast to the IRD signature, low Nd (ϵ_{Nd} : -11.9 to -10.5) and high Sr isotope values (⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr: 0.7411 to 0.7493) in the fine-grained detritus in the SB sector show a strong affinity to the metasedimentary Swanson Formation (ϵ_{Nd} : -13.4 to -10.5 and ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr: 0.7264 to 0.7618) (**Pankhurst et al., 1998; Korhonen et al., 2010; Fig. 3**). In detail, Nd isotopic compositions are slightly higher and Nd model ages are slightly younger (~1600 Ma, **Table 2**) than documented for the Swanson

Formation on land (1650-1800 Ma; **Appendix S2**). An additional source is therefore needed to explain the observed signatures, which is readily found in the local A-type granites intruding the Swanson Formation on Edward VII Peninsula (**Weaver et al., 1992**). A mixture between Palaeozoic sediments from the Swanson Formation and Cretaceous anorogenic granitoids in the marine detrital sediments from the SB sector is further suggested by low Sr/Th ratios (4-5) and characteristic low Eu anomalies (Eu/Eu* ~ 0.6), and is consistent with coarse and fine-grained geochemical signatures in marine sediments from the area.



Figure 7: Relative frequency of ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar ages on hornblende and biotite grains from proximal locations in the Amundsen Sea Embayment (ASE). Upper panel displays results for the eastern ASE (sites 22 and 24-29) and lower panel displays results for the western ASE (sites 38, 40-41 and 45). Note the presence of a significant population of hornblende grains with ages of ~140-210 Ma (blue shading) and ~350 Ma (purple shading) in the eastern ASE and their absence from the western ASE.

7. Comparison of different provenance proxies

7.1. 40 Ar/ 39 Ar ages in hornblende vs biotite grains

Combined analyses of ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar ages from hornblende and biotite grains in detrital sediments allows for more detailed provenance analysis due to the different closure temperatures of both minerals (~550°C and 300°C, respectively). In the case of East Antarctica, partial or total resetting of lower temperature thermochronometers has been observed in several sectors. For example, in detrital sediments from the Wilkes Land sector (90°E to 135°E), a characteristic ~1494 Ma peak age is found in hornblende grains, but is absent from the biotite grains. This observation has been linked to partial resetting of biotite grain ages during the Grenville orogeny (**Pierce et al., 2014**).

In West Antarctica, coastal geology is dominated by Andean-style plutonism of Permian or younger age, resulting in large diorite, granodiorite, monzogranite and syenite intrusions, which in many cases are not overprinted by any major younger tectono-metamorphic events (except for the regional Palmer Land Event at 103-107 Ma). If marine sediment sites are proximal enough to the continental source areas, which carry both large hornblende and biotite grains, as is the case for many of the West Antarctic plutonites, and if the erosional pathway from source to sink does not separate the two mineral phases by differential current sorting, combined biotite-hornblende ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar data sets may be used to broadly support provenance interpretations by inferred cooling rates. We think that a case can be made as large parts of our data set meet these criteria. Overall, probability peaks of hornblende grain ages are similar to or slightly older than those of biotite grains around West Antarctica (Fig. 3). Both minerals record a dominant Cretaceous age peak (100-110 Ma) in all sectors, apart from the AP sector (Fig. 3). This age interval is particularly well defined in most of the sectors and peak ages between both mineral systems vary by as little as ~2 Ma in the detrital marine sediments (e.g. AS sector; Fig. 7). Because magmatic activity has been largely episodic (e.g. Pankhurst et al., 1993; Leat et al., 1995), we suggest that these ages point towards regional sources from the same lithological unit (i.e. batholith). Derived cooling rates for the Cretaceous source rocks

would be extremely fast (~>100°C per million years between 550 and 350°C). To our knowledge, there are no detailed investigations on the cooling rates of Cretaceous I-type granitoids from West Antarctica. Concordant ages between zircon U-Pb ages, and reliable ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar, K-Ar and Rb-Sr data have nonetheless been observed for intrusive I-type granites on Palmer Land (Pankhurst and Rowley, 1991; Flowerdew et al., 2005; Vaughan et al., 2012b). Thermochronological investigations on Cretaceous A-type granites in the Ford Ranges ('Byrd Coast Granites'; Fig. 2) have revealed cooling rates of >100°C/Ma, associated with granitic intrusion into the shallow crust (Richard et al., 1994). In South America, the emplacement of large Cretaceous plutonic rocks was coeval with the build-up of the Cretaceous batholith on West Antarctica. The mid-Cretaceous plutonic complex in the Coastal Range of central Chile show similar rapid cooling of gabbro to granodiorite suites (93 to 95 Ma based on coupled ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar hornblende, biotite and plagioclase ages), and similar crystallization ages of the same batholith (95-97 Ma; zircon U-Pb ages; (Parada et al., 2005; Ferrando et al., 2014). Another comparison can be made for the eastern AS, where detrital hornblende grains yield well-defined ages of ~257 Ma and biotite grains record a younger age of 240 Ma (Fig. 7). This age difference would imply an approximate cooling rate of ~15°C per million years for the Permian-Triassic source rocks. This result is consistent with cooling rates of similarly aged dioritic to granodioritic rocks from Thurston Island (~12.5°C/Ma based on K/Ar and ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar on hornblende and biotite; Pankhurst et al., 1993) and calc-alkaline diorites of the Median Batholith in New Zealand (~20°C per million years, Mortimer et al., 1999), which formed the continuation of the Amundsen Sea province prior to the onset of rifting (Bradshaw et al., 1997; Vaughan and Storey, 2000).

Offshore from the Walgreen Coast, pre-Cretaceous (>140 Ma) biotite grains are relatively rare compared to hornblende grains (**Fig. 7**). This observation is explained either by the presence of intermediate to mafic sources which carry more hornblende than biotite (i.e. granodiorite and diorite; **Pierce et al., 2014**), or by thermal resetting of biotite ages during the Cretaceous. Permian diorite and granodiorite outcrops of ~243 Ma and ~283 Ma (zircon U-Pb, **Mukasa and Dalziel, 2000**)

have been identified in the Kohler Range, which is fed by ice streams flowing towards the Walgreen Coast, and could hence indicate a (minor) mineralogical bias towards biotite in the area.

In several locations, a marked distinction between the two chronometers is observed in the offshore record. In addition to the previously mentioned exotic biotite ages of ~53 Ma in the WH sector, hornblende ages of ~350 Ma, which are absent in the biotite record, were found in the eastern AS sector (Fig. 7). Comparison with the proximal geology relate these ages to the emplacement of a granodioritic-orthogneiss on Thurston Island (Rb-Sr whole rock: ~309 Ma, **Pankhurst et al., 1993; zircon** U-Pb: ~349 Ma, **Riley et al., 2017**). These gneisses show evidence for realignment and recrystallization of biotite crystals, indicating that a thermal event is likely to have affected the cooling ages of these crystals, possibly during later intrusions of the widespread Permian-Triassic plutonic rocks (~240 Ma).

7.2. Fine-grained sediment provenance derived from radiogenic isotopes and trace elements versus clay mineralogy

Along the Pacific margin of West Antarctica, most of the previous provenance work has focussed on the analysis of mineral assemblages in the clay fraction (<2µm), which was published by **Hillenbrand and Ehrmann (2002)**, **Hillenbrand et al. (2003, 2009b)** and **Ehrmann et al. (2011)**. In this study, we expanded the existing clay mineral data set by analysing additional samples from the Wrigley Gulf-Hobbs Coast sector (**Table 2**). We here show that the combined study of clay mineralogy and fine-grained sediment fingerprints provides complimentary information on their onshore source.

In the AP and BS sectors, high illite content in shelf sediments (45-70 %) has been found offshore from the eastern tip of Alexander Island, as well as in the western part of the BS sector (**Table 2; Hillenbrand and Ehrmann 2002; Hillenbrand et al., 2003**). The high abundance of illite in these areas was suggested to originate from granitic and gneissic sources. Assumption of a granitic-gneissic source on Alexander Island is based on the presence of plutonic rocks in the eastern part of

the island (i.e. the Rouen Mountains; **Care, 1983**) and the dominance of quartz-mica schistose/gneissic pebbles believed to be derived from the Rouen Mts. in subglacial tills recovered in cores from the nearby shelf **(Kennedy and Anderson, 1989)**. However, erosion of these Tertiary rocks would produce a more radiogenic isotopic fingerprint in the fine-grained material of site 6 than what is observed ($\epsilon_{Nd} \sim 2$ and 87 Sr/ 86 Sr ~ 0.705 ; **McCarron and Smellie, 1998**) (**Fig. 4**). We suggest that the extensively outcropping accretionary sedimentary rocks on Alexander Island (LeMay Formation), which was shown to have high illite content (e.g. **Underwood and Pickering, 1996**) and Nd isotope values of ~ -8 to -3 (**Fig. 4**), are the more likely source rocks for the fine-grained fraction.

The trace element fingerprint (e.g. Th/Sc, Eu/Eu*) of shelf sediments in the BS reveals a mafic eastern sector and a felsic western sector (**Fig. 6**). This finding is confirmed by the clay mineral composition of the sediments that contain up to 66% illite and only 7% smectite in the western part of this sector, while in the eastern part of the sector 44% illite and 20% smectite are found (**Hillenbrand et al, 2009b**). In addition, these observations agree with geophysical surveys, which suggested a felsic composition of the hinterland of the western BS (i.e. Central Domain Eastern Zone; **Ferraccioli et al., 2006**). Shelf sediments further offshore record a mixed signature between these end-members (**Hillenbrand et al, 2009b**), which is consistent with our new data. For example, site 15 ($\varepsilon_{Nd} = -6.2$, Th/Sc = 0.93 and illite = 52%) shows detrital contribution from both end-members (**Table 2, 3**). Based on the clay mineral assemblage in the BS, **Hillenbrand et al. (2003)** proposed sediment material being carried northward by wind- and tide-driven currents without significant influence of the westward-driven coastal current. This fits with our observations, implying a similar sediment transport for the fine-grained sediment (<63µm).

In the AS sector, high kaolinite content in shelf sediments (up to 30 %) has been suggested to originate from pre-Oligocene sedimentary rocks beneath the Pine Island and Thwaites glaciers (Hillenbrand et al., 2003; Ehrmann et al., 2011), probably sourced from the Byrd Subglacial Basin (Fig 2). Such sedimentary rocks do not crop out in the hinterland of the AS (Fig. 2), making their

geochemical signature elusive. The comparison between clay mineralogy and the fine-grained geochemistry yields clear correlations between kaolinite content and trace elements (not shown in figures). For example, hafnium (Hf), zirconium (Zr), and Nd exhibit a positive correlation with kaolinite content (R²= 0.67, 0.62 and 0.62, respectively), while a negative correlation can be observed between kaolinite content and Sr/Zr ratios (R²= 0.83). In general, kaolinite is associated with chemical weathering of bedrock under warm and humid conditions (**Biscaye, 1965**), and if it is found in Antarctica today, it is assumed to be derived from pre-Oligocene sedimentary strata as it cannot form under glacial conditions (e.g. **Ehrmann et al., 1992**). High Field Strength Elements (HFSEs) such as Zr or Hf, on the other hand, tend to be immobile during chemical weathering and remain in the residues of weathering while lithophile elements (i.e. Sr) are preferentially leached away. Hence, it is tempting to suggest that correlation between kaolinite and Sr/Zr is related to the presence of weathered outcrops in the hinterland. However, we do not observe a relationship between kaolinite and ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr ratios, making glacial weathering a less likely candidate, and instead favour a provenance change as an explanation for Sr concentrations and isotopic compositions.

8. Geochemical signature of ice drainage basins and influence of marine sediment transport

Detailed geochemical characterization of the sediment provenance offshore from individual ice drainage basins gives valuable information on the integrated signature of subglacial geology and dispersal of glacially eroded detritus onto the shelf and further into the deep sea. It also provides the necessary modern day understanding how to use provenance analyses for palaeo-ice sheet reconstructions from marine down-core records (e.g. for East Antarctica; **Cook et al., 2013, 2017; Pierce et al., 2017**). The relatively young geological history of West Antarctica means that individual ice drainage basins will show less pronounced geochemical differences when compared to East Antarctica (e.g. **Pierce et al., 2011, 2014**) or the North Atlantic (**e.g. Hemming, 2004**). For instance,

Pb analyses of K-feldspars grains have been shown to be a valuable tool for distinguishing erosional inputs from West and East Antarctic source terranes (Flowerdew et al., 2012). However, Pb isotopic values are remarkably uniform on West Antarctica due to the exclusively mantle-derived sources for the exposed crystalline bedrock (Mukasa and Dalziel, 2000; Flowerdew et al., 2012). Our multiproxy approach nevertheless allows us to distinguish distinct ice drainage basins within West Antarctica as well as sediment transport pathways.

8.1. Coarse-grained detrital sediment signature and potential transport pathways

The modern IRD in the Southern Ocean is supplied by melting of calved icebergs. Ice-rafting has been described as the main mechanism for the transport of coarse detritus from the Antarctic continent to the pelagic realm as ocean currents can only transport finer sediments (e.g. **Diekmann and Kuhn**, **1999**). The westward flowing Antarctic Coastal Current is of particular relevance, as it dominates the transport of icebergs in proximity to the coast (e.g. **Stammerjohn et al., 2015; Kim et al., 2016a; Fig. 8**). We find a strong contrast in IRD provenance patterns between the AP and the BS sectors (**Figs. 3**, **8**). Relatively young ages observed in the AP sector are sourced from the west coast of the Antarctic Peninsula, where outcrops of magmatic rocks of Late Cretaceous to Cenozoic ages produced by the eastward migration of the active subduction of the (proto-) Pacific plate under West Antarctica during that time are widespread (**Leat et al., 1995**). This can be explained by the fact that most icebergs from the Antarctic Peninsula are deflected northwards into the ACC by cyclonic gyres on the shelf before reaching the BS sector (e.g. **Hofmann et al, 1996; Smith et al., 1999; cf. Hillenbrand et al., 2003**) (**Fig. 8**).

In the BS sector, the ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar hornblende and biotite ages are relatively uniform in proximal and distal sediments and record sources with a strong mid-Cretaceous thermo-metamorphic event related to suturing between the western/central domains with the eastern domain of the Antarctic Peninsula (**Fig. 1**). These ages are not found in the AP sector. A large cyclonic gyre in the southern Bellingshausen Sea deflects the coastal current along the eastern flank of Thurston Island (~95°W)

(Gladstone et al., 2001; Assmann et al., 2005; cf. Hillenbrand et al., 2003), injecting most of the icebergs into the ACC. Some westward IRD transport may also occur within the Antarctic Coastal Current, but this is difficult to trace due to the ubiquitous nature of mid-Cretaceous thermochronological ages around West Antarctica (Fig. 8, Appendix S1).

Most of the outcrops in the AS sector are located around Thurston Island and along the Walgreen Coast, where ice streams are feeding into the Abbott and Cosgrove and the Dotson and Getz ice shelves, respectively (Fig. 2). Proximal ice-rafted grains in these two areas show similar mid-Cretaceous and Permian-Triassic ages (~100 Ma and ~250 Ma), but are distinct from the other sectors by the presence of grains with Jurassic ages (140-210 Ma), which mainly occur offshore from the Abbott and Cosgrove ice shelves (Fig. 7, 8). Although the numbers of grains analysed in samples just offshore from Pine Island Glacier (n=1) and Thwaites Glacier (n=9) are low, they also include grains of Jurassic ages (Appendix S1). This shows that the main source for Jurassic hornblende and biotite grains to the AS sector (and off West Antarctica) originates from the Cosgrove and Abbott ice shelves and from the Pine Island and Thwaites glaciers. In addition, surface currents in the ASE are influenced by the Antarctic Coastal Current. This current is overall weak (~ 1.0 cm s⁻¹) within the embayment, but appears strongest near the coastline (Assmann et al., 2005; Stammerjohn et al., 2015; Kim et al., 2016a). We observe Jurassic grains at sites on the continental slope and rise offshore from Dotson-Getz Trough (sites 50-52). We suggest that icebergs that drift generally westwards within the ASE (e.g. Mazur et al., 2017) transport the Jurassic grains from the eastern ASE to these locations, which are all situated south of the southern boundary of the ACC (Figs. 2, 8).

In general, IRD in samples from the continental slope and rise in the Amundsen Sea shows a larger age population (~30-80 Ma) than IRD on the continental shelf (**Fig. 8**). This feature is particularly pronounced around 70°S latitude. Source areas for grains of this age range could be either the western AP or the Hobbs Coast (sites 58-59) (**Figs. 3, 8**), both of which would require iceberg drift in opposing directions. Support for an AP provenance comes from petrographic

observations on Plio-Pleistocene ice-rafted cobbles at DSDP Leg 35 Site 324 (located offshore from site 17) that show a provenance from Alexander Island (**Tucholke et al., 1976**; **Veevers and Saeed**, **2013**). An argument against a far-travelled signal from the AP, however, is the lack of significant numbers of hornblende and biotite grains of this age range in the BS, as well as the existence of the large gyre in the BS, which carries most of the icebergs north-east towards the ACC (e.g. **Assmann et al., 2005**) (**Fig. 8**). Oceanographic observations indicate that sites at around 70°S in the Amundsen Sea are located within the eastward flow of the ACC (**Orsi et al., 1995**; **Stammerjohn et al., 2015**). This suggests that the source of the ~30-80 Ma old grains at the corresponding sites lies to the west. Indeed, our samples from the Hobbs Coast shelf show a well-defined ~50 Ma age peak, which indicates this area as the potential source for these young detrital grains (**Fig 3h**). The corresponding sites are located proximal to the westernmost Getz Ice Shelf. While the ~54 Ma age is unknown from onshore outcrops, it could represent a hidden source under the ice (cf. **Spiegel et al. 2016**). At present, icebergs calving from the westernmost Getz Ice Shelf drift westwards with the Antarctic Coastal Current towards the Ross Sea and are injected into the ACC offshore from Sulzberger Bay (Merino et al., 2016; Tournadre et al., 2016).



Figure 8: Distribution of thermochronological ages in offshore sediments and terrestrial outcrops of West Antarctica. ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar ages of ice-rafted hornblende and biotite grains are presented as pie charts in 20 Ma increments. Outcrop ages are displayed with different symbols depending on the type of mineral and the method applied (see Appendix S2). Simplified geology is shown in grey-scale after Fig. 2. Thick dashed black lines indicate the approximate location of the shelf break. Coloured dashed arrows and underlying colour field denote major ice-rafted debris transport pathways. Abbreviations and inlet figure are the same as for Fig. 2.

8.2. Fine-grained detrital sediment signature and potential transport pathways

In the modern Southern Ocean, coarse grained terrigenous debris is typically transported by icebergs, which follow wind-driven surface currents. Fine-grained sediments are also transported by these icebergs, but suspended particulates can additionally be transported by meltwater plumes, tidal, thermohaline, and geostrophic currents, as well as gravitational downslope processes such as turbidity currents (e.g. **Aitken and Bell, 1998; Pudsey and Camerlenghi, 1998; Diekmann and Kuhn, 1999**). Similar to the sand provenance signature, the geochemical fingerprint of the studied proximal fine-grained glacial-marine sediments off West Antarctica matches the nearby coastal geology very well, excluding a significant contribution of dust, which plays a more important role for the deposition of fine-grained detritus in the Sub-Antarctic Pacific sector of the Southern Ocean (e.g. **Lamy et al., 2014**). The fingerprint of sediments can be traced offshore, revealing the transport pathway of fine grains across the continental shelves.

In the AP sector, similarities in the radiogenic isotope fingerprint of site 7 on the shelf and site 8 located on the continental rise suggest seaward transport of detrital particles originating from the metasedimentary rocks on Alexander Island (**Table 2, Fig. 9**). Such a transport pathway across the western Antarctic Peninsula continental shelf has been described before for fine-grained terrigenous detritus (**Hillenbrand and Ehrmann, 2002**). In the BS, proximal sites denote felsic and

mafic sources in both its western and eastern parts, consistent with aeromagnetic observations in the area (**Ferraccioli et al., 2006; Bingham et al., 2002**). Following the Belgica palaeo-ice stream Trough northwards, sediments record a mixing signature between these two areas, which has previously been attributed by wind- and tidal-driven currents (**Hillenbrand et al., 2003, 2009**).

A good example of bathymetrically constrained dispersal of fine-grained detritus is observed in the AS sector. Provenance of sediments proximal to the Pine Island and Thwaites glaciers is distinct, pointing to a felsic source or igneous rock with a geochemical signature of enhanced crustal assimilation underneath these two major ice drainage basins. Progressive northward change in sediment provenance along the eastern AS requires that sediment with this distinct fingerprint is transported northwards, and diluted along the way with Palaeozoic-Mesozoic source rocks along the eastern flank of the ASE (Fig. 9). The fact that samples from Dotson-Getz Trough show a uniform fine-grained fingerprint indicates that no significant cross shelf transport of fine-grained particles from further east or west occurred, as this would be recognizable in the radiogenic isotope signature of the samples. A candidate for the observed undiluted northward sediment transport is the northward return flow of upwelled Circumpolar Deep Water, after interacting with the base of the ice shelves, as Antarctic Surface Water (Jenkins et al., 2016). Observation from autonomous underwater vehicles found melt-laden outflow from ice shelves in the ASE to carry suspended sediment, which is sourced from the sediment-laden base of the ice shelves (Jenkins et al., 2016; Miles et al, 2016). This sediment-laden meltwater reaches the mid-depths of the water column and is transported northwards along the bathymetric troughs (e.g. Kim et al., 2016b). Release of this suspended particulate matter occurs notably along its main transport pathway, explaining the consistent provenance signatures of fine-grained sediment along the cross-shelf troughs in the ASE.



Figure 9: Distribution of Nd isotope composition (ε_{Nd}) in marine sediments and terrestrial rocks. The geology is based on Fig. 2. Note: Colour scheme for outcrops is based on the average Nd isotopic composition of the lithology (see Appendix S2 for data assimilated from the literature). Geological units which could not be assigned a Nd isotope fingerprint are shown in grey. Two different colours were assigned to the Antarctic Peninsula Volcanic Group depending on the regional geochemical variation of these rocks (e.g. Riley et al., 2001, see Table S2 and text). Dashed black lines delineate the approximate location of the shelf break. Black dashed arrows denote major fine-grained (<63um) transport pathways. Abbreviations and inlet figure same as for Fig. 2.

8.3. The geochemical fingerprint of West Antarctic provenance regions in the

Pacific sector of the Southern Ocean

An integrated provenance approach allows for a characterization of subglacial sources from individual ice drainage basins along the Pacific margin of West Antarctica. **Figure 10** presents provenance characteristics compiled from our new data set and previously published studies for five different West Antarctic sectors. An erosional source from the Antarctic Peninsula is best identified by a predominance of 40 Ar/ 39 Ar ages spanning 30-90 Ma in coarse-grained IRD and a very radiogenic fingerprint of fine-grained detrital sediments (ϵ_{Nd} up to +0.9 and 87 Sr/ 86 Sr ratios down to 0.705). The only other West Antarctic area that exhibits similar characteristics is the Hobbs Coast, where most biotite and hornblende 40 Ar/ 39 Ar ages are, however, older (90-140 Ma) and Nd model ages are younger (700 to 770 Ma). Both areas are also relatively far apart from each other, which should not impede their respective identification in down-core studies on marine sediment cores collected proximal to these source regions. The Bellingshausen Sea sector shows a predominance of IRD 40 Ar/ 39 Ar ages around ~110 Ma, which are similar to those from the Wrigley Gulf-Hobbs Coast sector (~100 Ma), but the fine-grained detritus in the former sector has lower Nd values and higher 87 Sr/ 86 Sr ratios ($\epsilon_{Nd} = -4.3$ to -7.2; 87 Sr/ 86 Sr = 0.710-0.713), as well as significantly older Nd model ages

(1180-1350 Ma). The oldest protolith ages in West Antarctica are indicated by Nd model ages of 1570 to 1700 Ma in Sulzberger Bay, which also stands out by the unradiogenic isotope fingerprint of fine-grained detrital sediments (ϵ_{Nd} <-10.6; 87 Sr/ 86 Sr > 0.741).

Finally, a more detailed picture starts emerging for the Amundsen Sea sector, the locus of major glacial ice loss in Antarctica today. While both the eastern and western AS sub-sectors are characterized by hornblende and biotite ages of ~110 Ma and 240-260 Ma, ages of 140 to 210 Ma are more prevalent in the eastern ASE. Furthermore, source rocks to the eastern ASE seem to extend to older Nd model ages (up to 1300 Ma, ε_{Nd} = -7.2) than in the western ASE (900-1000 Ma, ε_{Nd} = -1.7 to -2.9). Further studies are required to reveal whether this observation points to a distinct bedrock source under Pine Island Glacier, a result with major implications for tracing past WAIS retreat and collapse.

AP BS) AS W		Antarctic Peninsula	Bellingshausen Sea	Amunds Eastern	en Sea Western	Wrigley Gulf - Hobbs Coast	Sulzberger Bay
eochronology Ar/ ³⁹ Ar ages	Hornblende Biotite < 30 Ma 30-90 Ma 90-140 Ma		0% 100%	0% 100%	0% 100%	0% 100%	0% 100%
66 40	140-210 Ma > 210 Ma						
genic prints	⁸⁷ Sr/ ⁸⁶ Sr 0.705 0.750	0.705 - 0.709	0.710 - 0.713	0.708 - 0.724	0.708 - 0.713	0.705 - 0.706	0.741 - 0.749
Radio	² ^٤ Nd -12	2.23.6	-4.37.2	-3.07.2	-1.7 – -2.9	-0.5 - 1.3	-10.611.9
- +	т _{ом}	1100	1180 - 1350	1000 - 1300	900 - 1000	700 - 770	1570 -1700
Trace element compositions	Zr/Y Sr/Th Th/Sc Eu/Eu*	4.0 27 0.60 0.79	3.5- 4.7 16- 22 0.78-1.20 0.69- 0.84	4.4- 7.7 6- 25 0.56- 1.58 0.54- 0.76	6.4- 9.2 9- 17 0.91- 1.52 0.56- 0.82	9.7- 11.9 25- 31 0.77- 1.05 0.76- 0.82	3.7- 4.8 4- 5 1.19- 1.43 0.54- 0.60
Clay mineral assemblages	Illite Smectite Chlorite Kaolinite	0% 60%	0% 60%	0% 60%	0% 60%	0% 60%	0% 60%
M	lajor rock sources	Cenozoic to late Cretaceous granitoids and volcanics Mesozoic meta- sedimentary rocks	 Mafic (magnetite-rich) and felsic (illmenite-rich) granitoids 	Late Paleozoic, Jurassic and Cretaceous granitoids Granitoids with crustal assimilation Pre-Oligocene sedimentary rocks	Late Palaeozoic and Cretaceous granitoids Pre-Oligocene sedimentary rocks	Late Cenozoic alkali basalts Cenozoic (?) and Cretaceous granitoids	Paleozoic meta- sedimentary rocks from the Ford Ranges Cretaceous anorogenic granitoids

Figure 10: Summary figure of geochemical and clay mineralogical provenance characteristics of different sectors along the Pacific margin of West Antarctica as derived from analyses of detrital marine sediments. Clay mineral assemblages are taken from Hillenbrand and Ehrmann (2002), Hillenbrand et al. (2003, 2009b) and Ehrmann et al. (2011), and major terrestrial rock sources are compiled from the literature (see text for further details).

9. Conclusions

We here report for the first time a detailed geochemical approach to unraveling different provenance sectors along the Pacific margin of West Antarctica. By investigating the fingerprints of

fine-grained terrigenous detritus and coarse-grained ice-rafted debris in ice-sheet proximal to distal marine sediments of Late Holocene age, we draw the following conclusions:

- (1) Thermochronological ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar dating on individual mineral grains highlights the Phanerozoic history of West Antarctica. Hornblende and biotite ages can be readily associated with extensively outcropping granites and granodiorites and allow us to distinguish the following sectors: Antarctic Peninsula (~52 and ~74 Ma), Bellingshausen Sea, Wrigley Gulf-Hobbs Coast and Sulzberger Bay sectors (~100-110 Ma) and Amundsen Sea sector (~100-110 Ma and ~140 to 360 Ma). ⁴⁰Ar/³⁹Ar dating of hornblende and biotite grains is less suitable for detecting Late Cenozoic alkali basalts and metasedimentary units around West Antarctica (i.e. mineralogical or grain-size bias).
- (2) Strontium (Sr) and neodymium (Nd) isotopic compositions in fine-grained detrital sediments match the coastal geology, and observed geochemical variability can be readily related to genetic and lithological differences in source rocks. Data range from radiogenic values around the (young) Antarctic Peninsula (ε_{Nd} = -3.6 to +0.9; ⁸⁷Sr/⁸⁶Sr = 0.705-0.709) to less radiogenic values around the Sulzberger Bay, where mantle extraction ages point to a much older protolith (up to 1700 Ma). An exciting finding is a potentially distinct geological source (i.e. Cretaceous granites that experienced extensive crustal assimilation) beneath Pine Island Glacier, which was identified in the radiogenic isotope composition of fine-grained sediments near its calving front. While major Palaeozoic to Mesozoic geological units in West Antarctica are identified in the provenance of the marine sediments, the fine fraction analyses prove particularly useful in detecting Late Cenozoic alkali basalts and metasedimentary rocks, as well as distinguishing A-type granites and granites with pronounced crustal assimilation signatures.
- (3) Despite an overall small variation of trace element compositions in marine detrital sediments off West Antarctica, they nevertheless complement isotopic provenance analyses and are broadly indicative of mafic and felsic source rocks. Significant variability within

individual ice drainage basins may prove useful for provenance studies on the local to regional scale, as indicated by contrasting hinterland geology between the eastern and western Bellingshausen Sea, the eastern and western Amundsen Sea embayment, Wrigley Gulf-Hobbs Coast and Sulzberger Bay.

(4) Combined provenance studies on different size fractions of detrital sediments enable monitoring of modern sediment transport pathways. For example, the occurrence of ~140-210 Ma old ice-rafted grains in the western Amundsen Sea sector, which originate from the eastern coast of the Amundsen Sea Embayment, highlights the modern pathway of winddriven iceberg trajectories within the area. On the other hand, fine-grained sediments can additionally be transported by currents, as exemplified by an evolving radiogenic isotope signature from Pine Island Bay towards the shelf break.

Our study highlights the importance of integrated studies for identifying the geochemical fingerprints of individual ice drainage basins around West Antarctica. Such modern-day studies do not only provide the basis for any attempts to reconstruct ice drainage patterns and ice sheet extent in West Antarctica during the past, but also allow valuable insights into the geology under the ice.

5

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Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6

Hornblende

Biotite







AP (0) AS (WH) SH		Antarctic Peninsula	Bellingshausen Sea	Amunds Eastern	en Sea Western	Wrigley Gulf - Hobbs Coast	Sulzberger Bay
Geochronology ⁴⁰ Ar/ ³⁹ Ar ages	Hornblende Biotite < 30 Ma	0% 100%	0% 100%	0% 100%	0% 100%	0% 100%	0% 100%
	30-90 Ma						
	90-140 Ma						
	140-210 Ma						• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
	> 210 Ma						•
Radiogenic fingerprints	⁸⁷ Sr/ ⁸⁶ Sr 0.705 0.750	0.705 - 0.709	0.710 - 0.713	0.708 - 0.724	0.708 - 0.713	0.705 - 0.706	0.741 - 0.749
	2 ^E Nd -12	2.23.6	-4.37.2	-3.07.2	-1.72.9	-0.5 - 1.3	-10.611.9
	T _{DM}	1100	1180 - 1350	1000 - 1300	900 - 1000	700 - 770	1570 -1700
Trace element compositions	Zr/Y	4.0	3.5-4.7	4.4-7.7	6.4-9.2	9.7-11.9	3.7- 4.8
	Sr/Th	27	16-22	6-25	9- 17	25-31	4-5
	Th/Sc	0.60	0.78-1.20	0.56- 1.58	0.91- 1.52	0.77- 1.05	1.19- 1.43
	Eu/Eu*	0.79	0.69- 0.84	0.54- 0.76	0.56- 0.82	0.76-0.82	0.54- 0.60
Clay mineral assemblages	Illite	0% 60%	0% 60%	0% 60%	0% 60%	0% 60%	0% 60%
	Smectite						
	Chlorito						no data
	Kaolinite						
Major rock sources		Cenozoic to late Cretaceous granitoids and volcanics Mesozoic meta- sedimentary rocks	 Mafic (magnetite-rich) and felsic (illmenite-rich) granitoids 	Late Paleozoic, Jurassic and Cretaceous granitoids Granitoids with crustal assimilation Pre-Oligocene sedimentary rocks	Late Palaeozoic and Cretaceous granitoids Pre-Oligocene sedimentary rocks	 Late Cenozoic alkali basalts Cenozoic (?) and Cretaceous granitoids 	 Paleozoic meta- sedimentary rocks from the Ford Ranges Cretaceous anorogenic granitoids