

1 Sediment provenance changes in the western Arctic Ocean in response to ice-
2 rafting, sea-level and oceanic circulation variations since the last deglaciation

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7 **Key points**

- 8 1. Coupling grain-size, geochemical and mineralogical proxies in the Chukchi-Alaskan and
9 Canadian Beaufort margins.
- 10 2. Sediment unmixing model allows quantifying variations in sediment provenance and transport
11 in the western Arctic Ocean.
- 12 3. The dolomite-rich ice-rafted debris layers in both the Chukchi and Beaufort margins originate
13 from the Amundsen Gulf Ice Stream.
- 14 4. Quartz- and Zr-rich ice-rafted debris layers are linked to meltwater discharges from the Brooks
15 Range glacier.
- 16 5. Evidence of the Lake Agassiz outburst flood at the beginning of the Younger Dryas in the
17 Canadian Beaufort margin.

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24 **Abstract.** Two sediment piston cores were recovered from the Chukchi-Alaskan (05JPC) and
25 Canadian Beaufort (02PC) margins to investigate grain-size, elemental geochemical and
26 mineralogical compositions. This allowed the reconstruction of changes in detrital sediment
27 provenance and transport related to climate variability since the last deglaciation. The end-
28 member modelling analyses of grain-size indicate that sea ice and nepheloid transport as well as
29 the Mackenzie River sediment plume are major factors influencing sedimentation in the Chukchi-
30 Alaskan and Canadian Beaufort margins, respectively. Unmixing of the sediment composition
31 indicates that detrital sediments in core 02PC are derived mainly from the Mackenzie River,
32 whereas sediments from core 05JPC are derived mainly from the Mackenzie River during the
33 deglaciation and include a mixture of Holocene sediments from the Bering Strait inflow,
34 Mackenzie River, and Eurasian margin. The dolomite-rich IRD recorded in both cores could be
35 related to the different phases of iceberg discharges from the Amundsen Gulf Ice Stream. Quartz
36 and feldspar-rich IRD dated at 13 and 10.6 ka cal BP are related to the Lake Agassiz outburst in
37 core 02PC and meltwater discharge from the Brooks Range glaciers in core 05JPC. Our detrital
38 proxies in core 02PC support the hypothesis that large meltwater and iceberg discharges from the
39 Lake Agassiz outburst to the Arctic Ocean and Amundsen Gulf ice stream may have triggered the
40 Younger Dryas. Finally, similar trends observed between the regional sea-level curves and our
41 detrital proxy data suggest that the sea-level changes in the western Arctic Ocean have an
42 important influence on the sediment dynamic during the early- to mid-Holocene.

43
44 **Keywords:** Bulk and clay mineralogy; elemental geochemistry; grain-size distribution; sediment
45 provenance; Canadian Beaufort Sea; Chukchi Sea.

46 **1 Introduction**

47 Sedimentation in the Arctic Ocean and marginal seas has many peculiar characteristics related to
48 the dominance of terrigenous input, which is derived mainly from the surrounding continents
49 with different mineral assemblages and geochemical signatures (Fagel et al., 2014; Maccali et al.,
50 2013; Vogt, 1997; Darby et al., 2011). This land-derived terrigenous material originated from a
51 cold climate under conditions of minimal chemical weathering, and therefore consists of weakly
52 altered detrital particles from the original source rocks. This allows correlation between the
53 mineralogical and geochemical signatures preserved in the Arctic shelf sediments and the
54 petrographic composition of the surrounding continents (Gamboa et al., 2017). Detrital sediments
55 are delivered into the Arctic Ocean mainly as suspended particulate matter and bed loads from
56 several large river systems including the Mackenzie, Yukon, Kolyma, Lena, Ob, and Yenisei
57 Rivers (Wagner et al., 2011), as well as from coastal erosion (Gamboa et al., 2017). In shallow
58 continental margins, suspended terrigenous particles are further dispersed by ocean currents
59 and/or incorporated into the sea ice during formation and are then transported over long distances
60 by the surface currents throughout the Arctic Ocean, finally settling far from their source of
61 origin (Darby et al., 2012).

62
63 Under this framework, a number of studies have characterized and compiled the regional
64 mineralogical and geochemical composition of the detrital sediments over the continental shelf
65 from the Eurasian Basin (Schoster et al., 2000; Viscosi-Shirley et al., 2003; Vogt, 1997), Chukchi
66 Sea-Bering Strait (Kobayashi et al., 2016; Stein et al., 2017), Chukchi-Alaskan margin (Darby et
67 al., 2012; Naidu et al., 1982; Naidu & Mowatt, 1983; Ortiz et al., 2009; Yamamoto et al., 2017),
68 Canadian Beaufort Shelf and Amundsen Gulf (Gamboa et al., 2017; Naidu et al., 1971). These

69 datasets allow characterizing the regional surface sediment patterns of the mineralogical and
70 geochemical composition related to the main sediment sources in the circum-Artic region. Once
71 this first crucial step has been achieved, it is possible to use the mineralogical and geochemical
72 signatures preserved in the Arctic Ocean sedimentary records to reconstruct and better interpret
73 the past variations in sediment inputs, as well as the transport pathways related to late Quaternary
74 climate and oceanographic changes. However, most of the bulk mineralogical records that have
75 been generated do not quantify the contribution of possible sediment sources in the western
76 Arctic Ocean, nor their long-term variability. On the other hand, the high sedimentation rates
77 observed in the postglacial sedimentary sequences from the continental margins of the Canadian
78 Beaufort (~10-60 cm.ka⁻¹; Deschamps et al., 2017) and Chukchi (~30-300 cm.ka⁻¹; Barletta et al.,
79 2008; Lisé-Pronovost et al., 2009) seas in Arctic Ocean offer records for reconstructing sediment
80 dynamics and past climate conditions at the centennial to millennial time scales.

81
82 In this regard, in the present study, grain-size, mineralogical and elemental geochemical analysis
83 of the bulk (<2 mm) and clay (<2 μm) sediment fractions were carried out on two sediment
84 piston cores recovered from the Chukchi-Alaskan (core HLY01-05JPC) and Canadian Beaufort
85 (core AMD0214-02PC) margins in order to (1) assess the contributions from specific sediment
86 sources (e.g., East Siberian Sea, Kara Sea, Northwest Alaska, Mackenzie River, Bering Strait
87 inflow, and Canadian Arctic Archipelago) and (2) provide new insights on potential relations
88 between ice-rafting, sea-level and oceanic circulation variations and sediment dynamics in the
89 western Arctic Ocean since the last deglaciation. Thus, our study differs from these earlier
90 publications in terms of methodological approach (quantitative mineralogy and multiproxy
91 study), inter-margin comparison (Chukchi-Alaskan vs. Canadian Beaufort margins), and

92 enhanced discrimination of circum-Arctic sediment sources. Therefore, this multiproxy record
93 provides an opportunity to reconstruct sediment dynamics within the western Arctic Ocean since
94 the deglaciation.

95 **2 Regional Setting**

96 *2.1 Oceanic circulation*

97 The Arctic surface oceanic circulation is related to two main, wind-driven circulation systems,
98 which are the anticyclonic Beaufort Gyre (BG) in the western Arctic and the Transpolar Drift
99 (TPD; Darby & Bischof, 2004; Tremblay et al., 1997). At a regional level, these surface
100 circulation regimes are controlled mainly by changes in the phase of large-scale atmospheric
101 patterns, such as the Arctic Oscillation (AO; Darby & Bischof, 2004; Darby et al., 2012) and the
102 Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO; (Overland et al., 1999), which are both significant natural
103 patterns in global climate variability. On the other hand, the Chukchi shelf circulation is
104 controlled by an inflow of Pacific waters via the Bering Strait (referred to as the Bering Strait
105 inflow), the Siberian coastal current, and the Atlantic Intermediate Water affecting the northern
106 margin (Pickart, 2004; Weingartner et al., 2005). The Pacific inflow can be divided into 3 major
107 branches (Figure 1). The first branch turns westward around Herald Canyon. The third branch
108 flows into Barrow Canyon, whereas the second branch flows between the first and the third
109 branches (Weingartner et al., 2005). The Bering Strait inflows are controlled mainly by the
110 Aleutian Low strength and position at the interannual time scales (Yamamoto et al., 2017).
111 Indeed, periods of strengthening of the Aleutian Low pressure center, located over the eastern
112 North Pacific, induce an increase of the Bering Strait inflow into the Arctic Ocean (Danielson et
113 al., 2014). On the Canadian Beaufort shelf, the anticyclonic BG pushes both surface currents and

114 sea ice westward at the shelf break. Conversely, closer to shore around the 50-m isobath, the
115 Beaufort Undercurrent transports both Pacific and Atlantic waters eastward along the continental
116 margin and into the Amundsen Gulf (Forest et al., 2011).

117 *2.2 Surrounding geology*

118 Because the Arctic Ocean is a semi-enclosed basin, detrital sediment source regions for the Arctic
119 are limited to the surrounding terrains: the Canadian Arctic Archipelago, the Mackenzie delta
120 region, Northern Alaska, the Chukchi Sea with Pacific influences, the East Siberian Sea, the
121 Laptev Sea, the Kara Sea, the Barents Sea, and the Pan-African terrains of Northern Greenland
122 (Fagel et al., 2014). These circum-Arctic sources areas have variable geological ages and tectonic
123 settings, and are therefore characterized by different petrographic signatures. The Canadian
124 Arctic Archipelago and the Mackenzie Delta region are comprise shales and sandstones from
125 marine and non-marine sedimentary rocks (Harrison et al., 2011). In addition, Banks and Victoria
126 Islands are composed of shale and sandstones rich in dolomite clasts, as well as quartz and
127 feldspar grains (Bischof & Darby, 1999). As part of the North American margin, the Canadian
128 Shield is made of Archean plutonic and metamorphic rocks (Padgham & Fyson, 1992). Alaskan
129 terrains include Canadian–Alaskan Cordillera, Brooks Range, and part of the North American
130 platform containing mostly metamorphic, and clastic rocks (Hamilton, 1986). The Siberian
131 platform is composed by Precambrian and Cambrian limestones, Jurassic to Cretaceous
132 terrigenous sediments and Quaternary alluvial material (Harrison et al., 2011). The volcanic areas
133 can be separate in different zones: the intraplate Okhotsk-Chukotka composed by acidic to
134 intermediate rocks predominating in the west and intermediate to basic rocks in the east (Viscosi-
135 Shirley et al., 2003b), as well as Bering Sea Basalt Province, and the Permian and Triassic

136 volcanic rocks of Siberian traps, and the convergent margins of the Pacific Aleutian (Harrison et
137 al., 2011).

138 *2.3 Sedimentation*

139 On the Canadian Beaufort shelf, most of the surficial seabed sediments are predominantly
140 composed of Holocene marine olive-grey silts and clays (Gamboa et al., 2017). Surface
141 sediments from the Chukchi Sea are composed of bioturbated grey to clayey silts (Kobayashi et
142 al., 2016). Modern sedimentation in the Chukchi Sea is believed to be mainly derived from
143 northeastern Siberia, Bering Strait inflow (especially from the Yukon River) and Mackenzie
144 River, whereas, the Canadian Beaufort margin sediment originates primarily from the Mackenzie
145 River basin (Darby et al., 2011; Gamboa et al., 2017; Kobayashi et al., 2016). Smaller Alaskan
146 rivers have a more local impact, but may have been a more important sediment source at the early
147 stages of the last transgression (Hill & Driscoll, 2008). During deglaciation and the early
148 Holocene, sediment inputs to the Chukchi and Beaufort margins were presumably higher due to
149 the rising sea level associated with meltwater and iceberg discharge from the retreating of large
150 ice sheets (Deschamps et al., 2017). During the Holocene or interglacial, sediment redistribution
151 is strongly controlled by bottom current while during deglacial/glacial period sea ice and ice
152 rafted debris (IRD) strongly affected sediment dispersal and deposition (Darby et al., 2009).
153 Several IRD have been recorded in the sedimentation along the North American margin
154 associated with the calving of the Laurentide and Innuitian Ice Sheets (Darby & Zimmerman,
155 2008).

156 **3 Materials and methods**

157 *3.1 Samples, sediment characteristics and chronology*

158 The sediment core HLY0501-05JPC (hereafter referred to as core 05JPC; location: 72°51.618'N,
159 158°25.26'W) was recovered from the Chukchi-Alaskan margin on board the USCGC Healy as
160 part of the 2005 Healy-Oden Trans-Arctic Expedition (Darby et al., 2005); Figure 1b). Physical
161 properties of the sediment core 05JPC have been previously published in Barletta et al. (2008).
162 Core AMD0214-02PC (hereafter referred to as core 02PC; location: 71°22.910'N,
163 133°34.040'W) was collected on the Canadian Beaufort margin on board the CCGS Amundsen
164 during the 2014 ArcticNet expedition (Montero-Serrano et al., 2014); Figure 1b). The age model
165 and physical properties of the sediment core 02PC have been described in Deschamps et al.
166 (2017). Note that cores 05JPC and 02PC were raised from the continental slope at 415 m and 998
167 m depth, respectively, where sediment deposition was not interrupted by sea-level changes. The
168 sediment core 02PC was sampled evenly every 10 cm in the Holocene and IRD intervals, as well
169 as every 20 cm in the deglacial interval for a total of 42 samples. The sediment core 05JPC was
170 sampled every 60 cm in the Holocene interval and every 30 cm for the remaining sections
171 (corresponding to the deglacial interval) for a total of 30 samples.

172

173 The sediment cores 05JPC and 02PC present two distinct sedimentary units. According to
174 Barletta et al. (2008), the upper unit in core 05JPC is composed of olive-gray mud, and the
175 second unit is characterized by dark-gray mud with sandy layers and IRD. Core 02PC consists of
176 homogeneous olive-brown to dark-gray for the upper unit, while the second unit consists of dark-
177 gray with the presence of white clasts and was interpreted as IRD (Deschamps et al., 2017). The
178 sedimentation rate for core 02PC was lower in the postglacial parts (10-20 cm.ka⁻¹) and higher in

179 the glacial parts (60-300 cm.ka⁻¹). Based on the physical properties and grain-size analyses, the
180 IRD layers were found in the glacial unit in both cores. The IRD were identified between 1350
181 (IRD1A) and 1600 (IRD1B) cm in core 05JPC (Barletta et al., 2008). Likewise, the IRD in core
182 02PC consists of white clasts found between 140 and 160 cm (IRD1A), 320 and 350 cm (IRD2A)
183 as well as 350 and 360 cm (IRD2B). These fine-grained IRDs are generally < 63 μm, poorly
184 sorted, have sharp contacts, and consist mainly of rock flour (dolomite- and quartz-rich). These
185 IRD are interpreted to reflect enhanced meltwater discharge and iceberg rafting from the
186 Laurentide Ice Sheet (Andrews, 2000; Deschamps et al., 2017; Polyak et al., 2007; Lakeman et
187 al., 2018).

188
189 The age model of core 05JPC was constructed using a linear interpolation between the ¹⁴C ages
190 for the Holocene and deglacial sections (Barletta et al., 2008) and assuming a ΔR=460 as
191 suggested in Darby et al. (2009). The best ¹⁴C-based age control covers the interval of 2–6.9 ka
192 cal BP in 05JPC. Ages below this dated interval were extrapolated and our interpretations thus
193 remain hypothetical. However, the very similar paleomagnetic secular variations between core
194 05JPC and other Arctic records (Barletta et al., 2008) suggest a valid age model around 8.5-9 ka
195 cal BP. Based on this age model, core 05JPC spans the last 11 ka cal BP and IRD1A-B were
196 dated at 9.5 and 10.6 ka cal BP, respectively. In the same way, the age model of core 02PC
197 published in Deschamps et al. (2017) was improved using the new ages from the nearby core
198 56PC presented in Lakeman et al (2018) and assuming a ΔR= 335±85 for the Holocene interval
199 and a ΔR= 1000 for the deglacial interval (Coulthard et al., 2010; Hanslik et al., 2010).
200 Contemporaneous IRD peaks have been identified in magnetic susceptibility curves and used in
201 order to transfer the age model of core 56PC to core 02PC (see supplementary material). Finally,

202 core 02PC spans the last 13.2 ka cal BP and the IRD1A and IRD2A-2B are dated to ~11, 12.8
203 and 13 ka cal BP, respectively (Figure SM1).

204 3.2 *Grain-size distribution and end-member modelling analysis*

205 Sediment grain-size analyses were performed on the detrital bulk sediment samples using a
206 Beckman Coulter LS13320 laser diffraction grain-size analyzer following the protocol in
207 Deschamps et al. (2017). The grain-size distribution and statistical parameters (e.g. mean and
208 sorting) were calculated using the moment methods from the GRADISTAT software (Blott &
209 Pye 2001). The end-member modelling algorithm (EMMA), developed by Weltje (1997) and
210 adapted by Dietze et al. (2012), was applied to the grain-size data in order to extract meaningful
211 end-member (EM) grain-size distributions and estimate their proportional contribution to the
212 sediments. A more detailed description of the EMMA method that we applied can be found in
213 Dietze et al. (2012). Overall, the grain-size loadings, mean grain size and end-member modelling
214 analyses were used to investigate the sedimentary transfer regime because the sediment grain-size
215 distribution (primarily driven by sedimentary processes) reflects transport conditions (Dietze et
216 al., 2012; Gamboa et al., 2017).

217 3.3 *Geochemical and mineralogical analysis*

218 Before geochemical and mineralogical analysis, the sediment samples were rinsed five times with
219 distilled water after the removal of the organic matter fraction with 10 mL of hydrogen peroxide
220 (30% H₂O₂). Next, an aliquot of this sediment sample was used as the bulk fraction (< 2 mm),
221 whereas another aliquot was used to separate the clay-sized fraction (< 2 µm). A centrifuge-based
222 Atterberg method was used according to Stoke's Law to separate the clay-sized fraction. The
223 required settling times were calculated using the software SediCalc (Krumm, 2006).
224 Subsequently, aliquots of the separated bulk and clay-sized samples were oven dried overnight at

225 approximately 60°C and then slightly homogenized with an agate mortar. These homogenized
226 sediment fractions were used for geochemical and mineralogical analysis.

227 *3.3.1 Bulk elemental concentration*

228 A total of 14 elements (Al, Si, K, Mg, Ca, Ti, Mn, Fe, P, Sr, V, Cr, Zn, and Zr) were analyzed on
229 both bulk and clay-sized fractions by energy dispersive X-ray fluorescence (EDXRF)
230 spectrometry using a PANalytical Epsilon 3-XL. Before EDXRF analysis, samples were treated
231 by borate fusion in an automated fusion furnace (CLAISSE® M4 Fluxer). The analytical
232 procedures were similar to Gamboa et al. (2017). Analytical accuracy and precision were found
233 to be better than 1–5% for major elements and 5–10% for the other elements, as checked against
234 an international standard (USGS SDC-1) and analysis of replicate samples.

235 *3.3.2 Quantitative bulk mineralogy*

236 Bulk mineral associations (< 2 mm) were studied by quantitative X-ray diffraction (qXRD)
237 following the method developed by Eberl (2003) and used in other Quaternary glacial marine
238 studies that address sediment mineralogy (Andrews et al., 2015; Andrews et al., 2016; Darby et
239 al., 2011; Stein et al., 2017). For this, ~1 g of each sample was spiked with 0.25 g of corundum
240 and then ground in a McCrone micronizing mill using 5 mL of ethanol to obtain a homogenous
241 powder. The slurry was oven dried overnight at approximately 60 °C and then slightly
242 homogenized with an agate mortar. Next, 0.5 mL of vertrel was added to the mixture to prevent
243 the possible agglomeration of finer particles. The powder sample is then sieved (<300 µm), back-
244 loaded into the holders and analyzed on a PANalytical X'Pert Powder diffractometer. Samples
245 were scanned from 5° to 65° two-theta in steps of 0.02° two-theta, with a counting time of 4
246 seconds per step. For the quantification of the major mineralogical components, sediment XRD
247 scans obtained were converted into mineral weight percent (wt. %) using the Excel macro

248 program ROCKJOCK v11 (Eberl, 2003). This program uses a full-pattern fitting method that
249 permits the quantification of whole-sediment mineralogy with a precision of ± 3 wt % (Eberl,
250 2003). The calculated total mineral wt. % was normalized to a sum of 100%. We focused on 15
251 key minerals (quartz, K-feldspar, plagioclase, calcite, dolomite, amphibole, Fe-bearing,
252 amorphous silica, kaolinite, chlorite, illite, biotite, muscovite, smectite and vermiculite) that
253 represented more than 96% of the overall mineral concentration in the bulk sediment sample.

254 3.3.3 *Clay mineralogy*

255 In this paper, clay minerals were quantified in the bulk sediment fraction (< 2 mm) using the
256 Excel macro program RockJock. However, nearly all previous clay-mineral provenance studies in
257 the Arctic Ocean used oriented mounts of the < 2 μm sediment fraction to identify and semi-
258 quantify the clay-mineral abundance, notably illite, kaolinite, chlorite, and smectite (Naidu et al.,
259 1971; Naidu et al., 1982; Naidu & Mowatt, 1983). Therefore, in this study, the clay-size fraction
260 of all sediment samples was isolated and analyzed in this manner for comparison. Clay minerals
261 were thus studied using XRD following established protocols (Bout-Roumazelles et al., 1999; El
262 Ouahabi et al., 2017). The separated clay-sized fraction (< 2 μm) was concentrated by
263 centrifugation and oriented by wet smearing on glass slides. The analyses were run from 2.49° to
264 32.49° 2θ on a PANalytical X'Pert Powder diffractometer. Three X-ray diagrams were
265 performed, after the sample was air-dried, ethylene glycol vapor saturation was completed for 12
266 h, followed by heating at 490°C for 2 h.. Semi-quantitative estimation of clay mineral
267 abundances (smectite, illite, chlorite, kaolinite, vermiculite and a chlorite/smectite mixed layer)
268 based on peak areas was performed using the MacDiff® 4.2.5 software (Petschick, 2000). Similar
269 to others Arctic clay mineral studies (Schoster et al., 2000; Wahsner et al., 1999), clay mineral
270 contents were calculated by using the weighting factors introduced by Biscaye (1965) and

271 calculated to a sum of 100%. The error on the reproducibility of measurements is estimated to be
272 5% for each clay mineral, as checked during the analysis of replicate samples. Overall, the
273 combinations of both RockJock and oriented mounted methods are supporting each other and
274 give independent information (e.g., Darby et al., 2011).

275 *3.3.4 Sediment unmixing model*

276 We used the non-linear unmixing Excel macro program SedUnMixMC (Andrews et al., 2015;
277 Andrews & Eberl, 2012; Andrews et al., 2016) to gain a quantitative understanding of the
278 downcore changes in bulk sediment provenance. To avoid misinterpretation of bulk
279 mineralogical results caused by the methodological differences between sources and downcore
280 sediment samples, all sediment source samples used here were processed for qXRD (Andrews et
281 al., 2016; Belt et al., 2010; Darby et al., 2011; Gamboa et al., 2017; Lakeman et al., 2018; Stein et
282 al., 2017; Table SM2).

283 *3.3.5 Statistical approach*

284 The mineralogical and geochemical data are of a compositional nature, that is, they are vectors of
285 non-negative values subjected to a constant-sum constraint (usually 100%). This implies that
286 relevant information is contained in the relative magnitudes, so mineralogical and geochemical
287 data analyses must focus on the ratios between components (Aitchison, 1990). Under this
288 framework, the vertical distributions of the sediment provenance proxies, as well as the
289 discriminant scatter plots based on mineralogical and geochemical data were represented here as
290 log-ratios. Note that a log-transformation will reduce the very high values and spread out the
291 small data values and is thus well suited for right-skewed distributions (Boogaart & Tolosana-
292 Delgado, 2013). Thus, compared to the raw data, the log-ratio scatter plots exhibit better
293 sediment discrimination. In addition, discriminant and membership's probability analyses were

294 performed using the mineralogical dataset with the goal of ascertaining whether the differences
295 observed between each sediment source area are statistically valid (Andrews & Vogt, 2014;
296 Figure 2a-b). Prior to discriminant and membership's probability analyses, a log-centered (clr)
297 transform was applied to the dataset (Aitchison, 1990). Both analyses were conducted with "R"
298 software using the packages "adegenet" (Jombart, 2008) and "compositions" (Boogaart &
299 Tolosana-Delgado, 2008).

300 All analytical data presented are available electronically in the PANGAEA database
301 (<https://www.pangaea.de/>).

302 **4 Results and interpretations**

303 *4.1 Grain-size distribution and end-member modeling*

304 The algorithm of the end-member modelling analysis EMMA showed a polymodal distribution
305 and revealed a three-EM model in cores 05JPC and 02PC (Figure 3a). This explains more than
306 95% of the total variance. The end-member EM3 is associated with medium to coarse silts (10 to
307 30 μm), end-members EM2 correspond to fine to medium silts (2 to 10 μm), and end-member
308 EM1 is associated with clay to fine silts (0 to 4 μm). Finding the same grain-size end-members in
309 both margins highlights the robustness of the results, and suggests that both margins are probably
310 influenced by similar sedimentary processes. The relative contributions of these end-members are
311 plotted against depth in Figure 3b. Darby et al. (2009) have shown the detailed grain-size
312 distribution for sediment transport processes in the western Arctic Ocean using varimax-rotated
313 principal component analysis on several Holocene sediment cores in the Chukchi Sea and
314 including core 05JPC. In their study, they found four main end-members: (i) EM $<0.5 \mu\text{m}$ relates
315 to suspension freezing and sediment wash load; (ii) EM centered on 2 μm relates to anchor sea

316 ice; (ii) EM centered on 5 μm is associated with the non-cohesive (sortable) fine silt that is
317 commonly transported in suspension by weak currents along the bottom or in nepheloid layers
318 above the bottom, and (iv) specific to the Chukchi margin, EM of 43-64 μm is associated with
319 intermittent suspended load. Overall, these grain size end member obtained by Darby et al.
320 (2009) are similar to then obtain in this study, and therefore, we infer that our grain-size pattern
321 reflects the same sedimentary processes. However, surface sediments derived from the
322 Mackenzie River are also characterized by a fine to medium grain-size (4-5 μm ; Gamboa et al.,
323 2017), which is similar to the EM centered on 5 μm that is related to nepheloid transport (Darby
324 et al., 2009). Thus, this end-member could be interpreted differently between the Chukchi
325 (nepheloid transport) and Canadian Beaufort margins (Mackenzie River sediment plume). Based
326 on these results, the $\text{Log}(\text{EM1}/\text{EM2})$ ratio is used to elucidate downcore variations in the
327 proportion of grains transported by sea ice or nepheloid flow for core 05JPC and by sea ice
328 and/or Mackenzie River discharges for core 02PC.

329 *4.2 Elemental geochemistry*

330 Stratigraphic distributions of the elemental geochemical data from the two sedimentary cores
331 studied here are shown in Figure S2. Looking at the variation of the proportion between the
332 different fractions (bulk and clay), we can observe 2 groups with a different behavior. The first
333 group was related to elements with a higher concentration in the bulk fraction, which included Si,
334 Ti, and Zr, as well as Ca, Mg, and Mn in the IRD intervals. However, note that Ca and Mg in the
335 IRD layers are more enriched in core 02PC than in core 05JPC (maximum values of ~15 wt %
336 and ~3.5 wt %, respectively). The second group was linked to elements with a higher
337 concentration in the clay fraction, which included Al, K, Fe, V, and Zn for both cores. The
338 downcore variations are quite similar between the bulk and clay fractions in core 02PC.

339 However, some differences in the long-term variations between the bulk and clay fractions are
340 observed in core 05JPC with an increase of Ca, Mg and Fe in the clay fraction during the early to
341 late Holocene (Fig. S5).

342
343 Because Al and Si are associated to clay minerals, aluminosilicates and quartz, and Ca is
344 associated to carbonates, the ternary plot Al, Si, and Ca (expressed as oxides; Figure 4a) was used
345 in order to obtain a general geochemical classification of the sediments (Gamboa et al., 2017).
346 Sediments from cores 05JPC and 02PC are dominantly composed of detrital material, which is
347 similar to an average shale (Pourmand et al., 2012). However, sediments from core 02PC are
348 slightly enriched in Al and depleted in Si in both the bulk and clay fractions compared to core
349 05JPC. In addition, the clay fraction of core 02PC is also enriched in Al and K, whereas core
350 05JPC is enriched in Mg and Fe (Figure 4c). Likewise, bulk sediments from cores 02PC and
351 05JPC have a similar chemical composition to the sediments of the Mackenzie River and
352 Chukchi Shelf/Eurasian Rivers, respectively. In the bulk sediments, the IRD layers showed
353 higher Ca contents (dolomite) and plot along the mixing line from average shale to the detrital
354 carbonate end-member (Figure. 4a). These Ca-rich IRD layers have a similar composition to the
355 Canadian Arctic Archipelago sediments (including Banks and Victoria islands; (Belt et al., 2010;
356 Darby et al., 2011; Gamboa et al., 2017).

357
358 Based on all the results discussed above, we selected the $\text{Log}(\text{Ca}/\text{Al})$, $\text{Log}(\text{Mg}/\text{Al})$, $\text{Log}(\text{Zr}/\text{Al})$
359 and $\text{Log}(\text{Fe}/\text{Al})$ ratios to reconstruct downcore changes in sediment provenance and transport on
360 the Chukchi-Alaskan and Canadian Beaufort margins since the last deglaciation (Figures 6-7).
361 Indeed, the grain-size changes could be investigated with $\text{Log}(\text{Zr}/\text{Al})$, because Zr is concentrated
362 in zircon grains in the coarser fraction and Al is preferentially associated with clay minerals and

363 aluminosilicates in the fine-grained fractions (von Eynatten et al., 2012). As discussed in Bischof
364 & Darby (1999) and Gamboa et al. (2017), sediments derive from the Canadian Shield, the
365 sedimentary platform along the Mackenzie Valley, and the Western Canadian Arctic Archipelago
366 are characterized by high contents (up to 2%) in iron-oxides, including hematite, goethite, pyrite,
367 maghemite and magnetite. Thus, high $\text{Log}(\text{Fe}/\text{Al})$ ratios could reflect a higher input of iron-
368 oxides entrained by icebergs from the Laurentide and Innuitian ice sheets (e.g., Bischof & Darby,
369 1999). In addition, a high $\text{Log}(\text{Ca}/\text{Al})$ and $\text{Log}(\text{Mg}/\text{Al})$ ratio may reflect a greater contribution
370 from detrital carbonates (such as, dolomite), whereas low ratios may suggest the input of
371 aluminosilicates (Gamboa et al., 2017).

372 *4.3 Bulk mineralogy*

373 Stratigraphic distributions of the bulk mineralogical data from the two sedimentary cores in this
374 study are shown in Figure S3. The mineralogy of the bulk sediment fraction from the Canadian
375 Beaufort and Chukchi-Alaskan margins is dominated by quartz (02JPC: 13–40%; 05JPC: 12-
376 39%), phyllosilicates, which includes kaolinite, chlorite, illite, biotite, muscovite, smectite and
377 vermiculite (02JPC: 47-80%; 05JPC: 30-50%), amorphous silica (02PC:0-4.5%; 05JPC:0-25%),
378 plagioclase (02JPC: 1-7%; 05JPC: 4-11%), K-feldspar (02JPC: 0-5%; 05JPC: 1-6%), dolomite
379 (02PC: up to 28%; 05JPC: up to 5%), and lower proportions (<1%) of Fe-bearing, amphibole and
380 pyroxene minerals. In general, quartz, phyllosilicates, plagioclase and K-feldspar represented
381 more than 80% of the overall mineral concentration in both sediment cores. However, K-feldspar,
382 plagioclase, muscovite, chlorite and vermiculite are more abundant in core 05JPC, whereas
383 quartz, illite and kaolinite are enriched in core 02PC (Figures 4c-d). In both sediment cores,
384 intervals with punctuated enrichments of dolomite (up to 28% for 02PC and up to 5% for 05JPC),
385 as well as in quartz (up to 40% in both cores) are observed in the IRD layers (Figure 5). Based on

386 these results, we performed a ternary plot of illite+kaolinite, total feldspars, and dolomite (Figure
387 4b) to obtain a general mineralogical discrimination of the potential source areas. The Bering
388 Strait and Eurasian sources are characterized by a higher total feldspar proportion, the sediments
389 from the Northern Alaska and Mackenzie River are related to higher illite+kaolinite contents, and
390 the sediments from the Banks and Victoria Island are enriched in dolomite. The sediments of core
391 02PC are mostly related to the Mackenzie River as potential sources, whereas the sediments of
392 core 05JPC seem to be composed by a mixture of sediments from the Eurasian margin, Bering
393 Strait and Mackenzie River. The sediments in the IRD layers present higher dolomite contents.
394 Overall, the relative abundance of dolomite, and the following ratios are used to trace sediment
395 provenance changes over time : $\text{Log}[\text{quartz}/(\text{K-feldspar}+\text{plagioclase})]$ or $\text{Log}(\text{Qz}/\text{Fsp})$,
396 $\text{Log}[\text{phylosilicates}/(\text{K-feldspar}+\text{plagioclase})]$ or $\text{Log}(\text{Phy}/\text{Fsp})$, and
397 $\text{Log}(\text{illite}+\text{kaolinite}/\text{chlorite}+\text{muscovite})$ or $\text{Log}(\text{I}+\text{K}/\text{C}+\text{Ms})$.

398 4.4 Clay mineralogy

399 Stratigraphic distributions of clay mineralogical data from the two sedimentary cores studied here
400 are shown in Figure S4. The clay mineral assemblage consists mainly of illite, kaolinite, chlorite
401 and vermiculite in both cores (Figure 5). Indeed, core 02JPC consists of illite (55-70%), kaolinite
402 (10-30%), chlorite (10-25%), vermiculite (0-20%) and a scarce abundance of a smectite/chlorite
403 mixed layer (0-8%, average, 1%) (Figure S4). The clay mineral assemblage for core 05JPC
404 consists of illite (30-70%), chlorite (10-20%), kaolinite (5-15%), vermiculite (5-55%) and
405 smectite/chlorite mixed layer (0-20%), which is present in much less abundance, with average
406 contents of 1% (Figure S4). Thus, as also shown in the bulk qXRD data, the major clay
407 mineralogical difference between the two sediment cores is the higher illite-kaolinite proportion
408 in core 02PC, whereas core 05JPC is relatively enriched in chlorite (See Supplementary

409 Material). These results are consistent with those reported for modern surface sediments on the
410 Chukchi Shelf and Beaufort Shelf (Kalinenko, 2001; Krylov et al., 2014; Naidu et al., 1982;
411 Naidu & Mowatt, 1983; Wahsner et al., 1999). Thus, we used the
412 Log(illite+kaolinite/chlorite+vermiculite) ratio or Log(I+K/C+V) to derive changes in transport
413 pathways (e.g., Bering Strait inflow) and the Log(illite/kaolinite) ratio or Log(I/K) to reconstruct
414 changes in sediment inputs within the Canadian Beaufort Shelf.

415 **5 Discussion**

416 Long-term changes in sediment sources were explored using the program SedUnMixMC
417 (Andrews & Eberl, 2012). As summarized in Asahara et al. (2012), modern sediment inputs in
418 the Chukchi Sea are mainly derived from northeastern Siberia and Bering Strait inflow, and
419 accessorially from the Mackenzie River. Based on this premise, we ran the SedUnMixMC on
420 sediment core 05JPC using the following sediment sources: Bering Strait, Northern Alaska,
421 Eastern Siberian-Laptev Seas, Mackenzie Trough-Canadian Beaufort Shelf and detrital
422 carbonates from the Canadian Arctic Archipelago, including the Banks/Victoria Islands (see
423 Supplementary Material). In core 02PC, we ran SedUnMixMC using surface samples from the
424 following sources: Mackenzie Trough-Canadian Beaufort Shelf, Canadian Arctic Archipelago,
425 Kara Sea and bed sands from the Mackenzie River basin (see Supplementary Material). The
426 boxplot based on principal component scores of geochemical and mineralogical data (See
427 Supplementary Material), ternary plot illite+kaolinite–total feldspars–dolomite (Figure 4b), the
428 Log(Qz/Fsp)–Log(I+K/C+Ms) crossplots (Figure 4d), as well as the discriminant and
429 membership probability analyses based on log ratio mineral data (Figure 2), indicate that these

430 potential source regions have mineral and chemical compositions that allow a reasonable degree
431 of sediment discrimination as indicated by their relatively high membership value (up to 90%).

432
433 In this context, the long-term variations observed in our mineralogical and geochemical records
434 are discussed below in terms of glacial and postglacial changes in detrital sediment supply,
435 provenance and transport and their possible relations with both the deglacial/Holocene climate
436 variability and relative sea-level variations.

437 *5.1 Deglacial/Holocene sediment dynamics (14 to 10.5 ka cal BP)*

438 *5.1.1 Canadian Beaufort Sea*

439 SedUnMixMC modelling indicated that the fine-grained feldspar, quartz and Zr-rich layer in core
440 02PC (IRD2B) dated at ~13 ka cal BP is mainly derived from the Mackenzie River (40 %, Figure
441 6h). Optically stimulated luminescence ages from the Mackenzie drainage basin suggest a major
442 routing of deglacial meltwaters from Lake Agassiz into the Arctic Ocean at 13 ± 0.2 ka cal BP,
443 near the onset of the Younger Dryas (Murton et al., 2010). This observation concurred to
444 highlight that the quartz and feldspars-rich layers observed at ~13 ka cal BP in the Canadian
445 Beaufort margin may be related to an outburst flood from Lake Agassiz. We hypothesize that
446 meltwaters from the Lake Agassiz remobilized rock flour deposits that are characterized by an
447 abundance of quartz and feldspars from the northwest part of the Mackenzie River watershed
448 (Figure 8). Furthermore, SedUnMixMC modelling also indicated that dolomite-rich (Ca-Mg)
449 IRD layers (IRD1A and IRD2A) dated at 11 and 12.8 ka cal BP were originated from the
450 Canadian Arctic Archipelago (Figures 6h). Similar dolomite-rich IRD have been found on the
451 Lomonosov Ridge and in Fram Strait during the Younger Dryas chronozone (Hillaire-Marcel et
452 al., 2013; Maccali et al., 2013; Not & Hillaire-Marcel, 2012). Major purge from the M'Clure and

453 Amundsen Gulf ice stream was previously suggested by isotope data (Hillaire-Marcel et al.,
454 2013; Maccali et al., 2013), paleogeography study (Stokes et al., 2009) and numerical model
455 (Tarasov & Peltier, 2005) between 13 and 12.7 ka cal BP and may have played a role in the
456 slowdown of the Atlantic Meridional overturning circulation at the onset of the Younger Drays
457 (Condrón & Winsor, 2012). Overall, our results support the hypothesis that large meltwater and
458 iceberg discharges from the Lake Agassiz outburst and Amundsen Gulf ice stream were more
459 likely to have triggered the Younger Dryas cooling by inhibited deep water formation in the
460 subpolar North Atlantic and weakened the strength of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning
461 Circulation (Condrón & Winsor, 2012; Hillaire-Marcel et al., 2013; Lakeman et al., 2018;
462 Maccali et al., 2013; Not & Hillaire-Marcel, 2012; Tarasov & Peltier, 2005).

463
464 In core 02PC, the high quartz/total feldspars and phyllosilicates/total feldspars ratios observed
465 during the Younger Dryas interval suggest that the detrital sediments mainly originated from the
466 northern tributaries of the Mackenzie River (Figures 6,8A). Wickert (2016) suggested that
467 meltwater inputs to the Mackenzie River ended no later than 11 ka cal BP, when its eastern
468 tributaries were temporarily rerouted eastward due to a combination of ice retreat and glacial
469 isostatic depression. The age of 11 ka cal BP coincides with the decrease of the sedimentation
470 rates from 50 cm.ka⁻¹ to 2 cm.ka⁻¹ (Figure SM1). In addition, the low foraminifera abundance and
471 high terrestrial organic matter content observed in the nearby core 750PC (Scott et al., 2009) also
472 suggest higher Mackenzie River discharge to the Canadian Beaufort margin during this time,
473 providing support to our interpretations. Finally, in agreement with Stokes et al. (2005; 2006;
474 2009) and Dyke & Savelle (2000), we suggest that the IRD1A layers dated at 11 ka cal BP may
475 be linked to a retreat phase of the Amundsen Gulf Ice Stream occurring during the Meltwater
476 pulse 1B (Figure 8b).

477 5.1.2 *Chukchi-Alaskan margin*

478 The overall mineralogical and geochemical signatures characterizing core 05JPC around 11 ka
479 cal BP point to a detrital input from the Bering Strait and Eurasian margin (~30% each; Figure
480 6g). However, the increase of vermiculite and mixed-layer chlorite/smectite recorded in the clay
481 fraction in this interval together with lower Log(EM1/EM2) ratio suggest that most of the
482 sediments are mainly derived from the Bering Strait and redistributed by bottom (nepheloid)
483 currents to the shelf and continental slope (Figures 9-S5). In addition, amorphous silica
484 concentrations, derived from qXRD analysis also depict a sharp increase (up to 25%) in the same
485 interval (Figure 9). High amorphous silica concentrations in the Chukchi Sea sediments are
486 interpreted to represent times when biosilica-rich Pacific waters flowed through the Bering Strait
487 (Jakobsson et al., 2017). Indeed, the presence of amorphous silica, including diatoms,
488 radiolarians, siliceous sponges and silicoflagellates, is a characteristic signature of Pacific waters
489 today, and therefore, this proxy may also be used to track Pacific waters inflow in the western
490 Arctic Ocean (Jakobsson et al., 2017; Stein et al., 2017). Thus, we hypothesize that sediments in
491 this interval may be related to the initial opening of the Bering Strait at ~ 11 ka cal BP (Jakobsson
492 et al., 2017).

493
494 SedUnMixMC results from core 05JPC suggest that the fine-grained quartz and Zr-rich IRD
495 layers and dolomite-rich (Ca-Mg) IRD layers originate from the Northwest Alaska and the
496 Canadian Arctic Archipelago, respectively (Figure 7h). The quartz and Zr-rich, but carbonate-
497 poor sediment record at ~10.6 ka cal BP (IRD1B) is more consistent with a northwestern Alaskan
498 source (Polyak et al., 2007). Indeed, high-resolution seismic reflection data in conjunction with
499 sedimentological data from piston cores from the outer Chukchi margin are evidence of the
500 occurrence of meltwater discharges from the Brooks Range to the shelf occurring between 10 and

501 13 ka cal BP (Hill & Driscoll, 2008; 2010). At the opposite, the carbonate rich layers dated at 9.5
502 ka cal BP is more consistent with the Canadian Archipelago source. We infer that the dolomite-
503 rich IRD (IRD1A) layer at 9.5 ka cal BP may be related to the final retreat phase of the
504 Amundsen Gulf Ice Stream which ceased operating by ~9.5 ka cal BP (Stokes et al., 2009).
505 However, this carbonate rich layer is missing in the Canadian Beaufort margin, as such layer was
506 not identified in core 02PC at this time (Figure 6). A plausible explanation for this could be the
507 presence of a hiatus in the early to middle Holocene transition (Figure SM1B). This observation
508 is supported by the fact that sedimentation rates in core 02PC show a distinct decrease from 50
509 cm.k^{-1} to 2 cm.k^{-1} between 6 and 11 ka cal BP, which appears very large and abrupt. However,
510 the accumulation is thought to have been continuous because of the lack of sharp lithological
511 changes or sedimentological indicators of hiatus or mass flow transport in this part of the core
512 (Deschamps et al., 2017). In addition, this abrupt decrease in sedimentation rates is consistent
513 with major reduction of meltwater flow derived from the Mackenzie River (Wickert, 2016).
514 Alternatively, as ages after 8.5-9 ka cal BP in core 05JPC were extrapolated, and the IRD1A in
515 cores 05JPC and 02PC show similar mineralogical and geochemical signatures which are
516 consistent with a common source area (Figure 4). We thus hypothesize that the dolomite-rich
517 IRD1A in core 05JPC could be dated at 11 ka cal BP similar to IRD1A from core 02PC (Figure
518 SM1A). This IRD correlation would imply that the age for the opening of the Bering Strait may
519 be older than 11 ka cal BP (Jakobsson et al., 2017) as previously suggested by Keigwin et al.
520 (2006), England & Furze (2008) and Elias et al. (1992). Further investigations are required to
521 gain a more precise chronology of the age constraint for the Bering Land Bridge flooding.

522 5.2 *Holocene sediment dynamics (10.5 ka cal BP to present)*

523 5.2.1 *Canadian Beaufort Sea*

524 In the Canadian Beaufort margin, the Log(EM1/EM2) ratio from the core 02PC showed few
525 variations from 10 ka cal BP to present, supporting the idea that stable sedimentation dynamics
526 dominates throughout the Holocene (Figure 8b). Likewise, the sediment unmixing model
527 suggests that Holocene detrital sediments are derived primarily from the Mackenzie River
528 (>80%; Figures 7h-10). However, the slight changes observed in bulk and clay mineralogical
529 signatures during the mid-Holocene relative to the deglacial interval (i.e., relatively enriched in
530 total feldspars and illite; Figure 8b) may reflect changes in sediment provenance within the
531 Mackenzie River basin. Indeed, the watershed lithology of the main Mackenzie River tributaries
532 is composed of a mixture between shale and igneous rocks having granodioritic to granitic
533 compositions (Dellinger et al., 2017; Millot et al., 2003). More specifically, the northern
534 tributaries of the Mackenzie River (such as the Peel and Red Rivers) drain almost exclusively
535 weathered marine sedimentary rocks (e.g., Cambrian to Cretaceous limestones and shales), which
536 are enriched in phyllosilicates, quartz, and detrital carbonates, whereas granitic source rocks
537 outcropping in the North American Cordillera (including the Rocky and the Mackenzie
538 Mountains) and Canadian Shield are drained by the southern tributaries (such as the Liard and
539 Slave Rivers), which are characterized by an abundance of total feldspars (Gamboa, 2017);
540 Figure 8a). All these observations suggest that the proportion of sediments derived from the
541 southern tributaries increased during the mid-Holocene. Thus, we hypothesized that the final
542 recession of the LIS in the Mackenzie Valley after ~11-10.5 ka cal BP (Dyke, 2004) promoted a
543 major remobilization of glaciogenic sediments derived from crystalline rocks as the Mackenzie
544 River adjusted to the postglacial hydrologic regime. Alternatively, we cannot rule out the

545 possibility that Holocene changes in relative sea level could also influence sedimentation in the
546 Canadian Beaufort margin (Figure 8b). The sea level rise resulted in coastal retreat and likely
547 exerted significant control on the sedimentation on the Mackenzie Shelf during the early- to mid-
548 Holocene (Héquette et al., 1995). A minor proportion of fine silt detrital sediments in core 02PC
549 during the mid-Holocene may therefore also been supplied from sea level rise-induced coastal
550 erosion of fine-grained Pleistocene quartz- and feldspar-rich glacial tills outcropping along the
551 Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula (Gamboa et al., 2017; Vogt, 1997; Figure 8b). However, sediments from
552 the southern Mackenzie River tributaries and Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula are both characterized by
553 similar mineralogical signatures (Gamboa, 2017), and therefore, we cannot estimate the
554 proportion of sediment derived from coastal erosion. Additional information could be gained by
555 consideration of other provenance indicators such as radiogenic isotopes (Fagel et al., 2014).

556

557 *5.2.2 Chukchi-Alaskan margin*

558 SedUnMixMC modelling and the mineralogical ratios $\text{Log}(I+K/C+V)$ and $\text{Log}(Qz/Fsp)$ from
559 core 05JPC indicate that during the early Holocene (10.5–8 ka cal BP), the predominant sediment
560 source on the Chukchi-Alaskan margin was from the Mackenzie River (up to 92%). In addition,
561 $\text{Log}(EM1/EM2)$ ratios revealed the dominance of clay- to fine silts-size particles during the early
562 Holocene, suggesting that sediment transport by sea ice predominates at this time (Figures 7h-
563 9b). In accordance with previous sedimentological studies (Darby et al., 2012; Not & Hillaire-
564 Marcel, 2012; Yamamoto et al., 2017), we hypothesize that sediment-laden meltwater plumes
565 derived from glacial erosion on the Mackenzie River basin were incorporated on the shelf by sea
566 ice. Sea ice was thus transported westwards along the Chukchi-Alaskan margin by an enhanced
567 BG during the early Holocene (Figure 10). Note that the BG strengthening during the early

568 Holocene is likely driven by a maximum boreal summer insolation (Gajewski, 2015; Yamamoto
569 et al., 2017).

570
571 During the Holocene, the Log(EM1/EM2) ratio reached minimum values between 8 and 6 ka cal
572 BP, suggesting that sediment transport during the mid-Holocene was dominated by bottom
573 currents (Figure 9b). In addition, the end-member EM3 (10 to 30 μm) records from both margins
574 during the deglacial interval are clearly associated with the IRD events (Figure 3b). However,
575 this end-member is still present during the Holocene interval for cores located in the Chukchi-
576 Alaskan margin (01JPC and 05JPC), while it did not influence the Holocene sedimentation in the
577 Canadian Beaufort shelf (Figure 3b). In agreement with previous late Quaternary
578 sedimentological and geochemical studies from the western Arctic (Darby et al., 2009), we
579 hypothesize that end-member EM3 recorded in the Holocene sediments from the Chukchi-
580 Alaskan margin may reflect suspended load and winnowed silts deposited by downwelling of
581 brine-enriched shelf waters. Moreover, the SedUnMixMC modelling reveals that sediment
582 provenance in core 05JPC was mainly derived from the Bering Strait, Mackenzie River and
583 Eurasian margin (Figures 7g-h). The proportion of sediment derived from the Mackenzie River
584 gradually decreases up-core (60 to 30%), whereas the Bering Strait and Eurasian margin sources
585 show a long-term increase (10 to 60% and 0 to 30%; Figures 7i-j). Indeed, decreases of quartz,
586 kaolinite, illite, aluminum and potassium contents most likely reflect a decline in sediment inputs
587 from the Mackenzie River (Figure 7), while an increase of total feldspars, chlorite, muscovite,
588 and vermiculite, as well as magnesium and iron contents in the clay fraction reflect higher Bering
589 Strait sediment inputs (Figures 7d-e, S5). Thus, the Holocene variations observed in the detrital
590 proxies from core 05JPC are likely related to a long-term decline in both the Mackenzie River
591 discharge (Wagner et al., 2011) and anchor ice transported by weaker BG (Yamamoto et al.,

592 2017). In addition, the increased proportion of sediment coming from the Kara Sea observed in
593 core 05JPC between 4 and 2 ka cal BP (15-30%; Figure 7g) suggests that a strong positive mode
594 of the AO was predominant at this time (Darby et al., 2012). In fact, based on iron oxide grain
595 provenance on the Chukchi shelf and slope sediments, Darby & Bischof (2004) and Darby et al.
596 (2012) suggested a weaker BG during the late Holocene, which also occurs today during the
597 positive phase of the AO in agreement with our interpretations (Figure 10).

598
599 As shown in Figures 7a-b-g and Figures 9c-d, the proportion of chlorite, vermiculite, total
600 feldspars, amorphous silica and sediments derived from the Bering Strait showed a gradual
601 increase between 10 and 2 ka cal BP, with maximum values recorded between 7.5 and 2 ka cal
602 BP, suggesting an enhanced increase in the Bearing Strait inflow into the Chukchi Sea. This
603 increased Bearing Strait inflow trend shows a parallel temporal evolution with regional sea level
604 variations and increasing bottom current redistribution (Figures 3-9). In agreement with Keigwin
605 et al. (2006), we hypothesize that the progressive and rapid relative sea-level rise observed during
606 10 and 7.5 ka cal BP in the western Arctic Ocean not only promoted the widening and deepening
607 of the Bering Strait, but also the subsequent remobilization of sediments stored on the Chukchi
608 Shelf and the enhanced sediment transport from the Pacific towards the western Arctic Ocean
609 (Figure 10). Our findings are consistent with palynological (dinocyt, pollen and spores) and
610 organic matter geochemistry data from the same sediment core (Faux et al., 2011; Khim, 2003;
611 McKay et al., 2008; Polyak et al., 2016), indicating that full marine continental shelf setting was
612 established in the Chukchi-Alaskan margin between 7 and 8 ka cal BP. Overall, these
613 observations suggest that regional sea level variations have exerted a significant control on
614 sedimentation in the western Arctic Ocean during the early- to mid-Holocene.

615

616 As a whole, although the variations in the previously published mineralogical proxy records of
617 the Bering Strait inflow are not identical among the different sediment cores from the Chukchi
618 Sea (Figures 9e-i; Ortiz et al., 2009; Stein et al., 2017; Yamamoto et al., 2017), there is a
619 common enhancement in the Bering Strait inflow between 7.5 and 2 ka cal BP, followed by a
620 decrease during the last 2 ka cal BP (Ortiz et al., 2009; Stein et al., 2017; Yamamoto et al., 2017).
621 Holocene changes in the Bering Strait inflow have been attributed to changes in the Aleutian Low
622 pressure system, which is located in the North Pacific (Yamamoto et al., 2017). This Aleutian
623 Low is sensitive to tropical Pacific sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies (Anderson et al.,
624 2016; Osterberg et al., 2014; Trenberth & Hurrell, 1994). In general, warm eastern Pacific SST
625 conditions are characterized by a stronger and southeastward-shifted Aleutian Low, while cool
626 eastern Pacific SSTs conditions are associated with a weaker and northwestward-shifted Aleutian
627 Low. In this context, the Holocene paleoenvironmental records across eastern Beringia (Alaska,
628 westernmost Canada and adjacent seas) suggest that the Aleutian Low was weaker during the
629 middle Holocene than during the late Holocene (Barron & Anderson, 2011). This configuration is
630 thought to promote a major Bering Strait inflow into the Chukchi Sea during the middle
631 Holocene and a weak inflow during the late Holocene. Finally, as discussed in Darby & Bischof
632 (2004) and Yamamoto et al. (2017), sediments transported by the inflowing Pacific waters into
633 the Bering Strait might be diverted west towards Herald Canyon by the western Bering Sea
634 branches, and thus missing the Chukchi-Alaskan margin (Yamamoto et al., 2017). This
635 redistribution of the Bering Strait inflow between the different current branches may be a
636 plausible explanation for the spatial and temporal differences observed between the Pacific
637 inflow proxies from the Chukchi Sea cores (Figure 9).

638 **6 Summary and conclusions**

639 Geochemical and mineralogical compositions of two sediment cores recovered on the Canadian
640 Beaufort (core 02PC) and Chukchi-Alaskan (core 05JPC) margins highlight the evolution of the
641 origin, transport, and dynamics of the detrital sediments in the western Arctic Ocean since
642 deglaciation. Overall, the results of this research yield the following generalizations and
643 conclusions:

644 1. The end-member modelling analysis of grain-size data indicate that sea ice and nepheloid
645 current are factors controlling sediment redistribution in the Chukchi-Alaskan margin, whereas
646 sea ice and the Mackenzie River sediment plume influenced sedimentation in the Canadian
647 Beaufort margin.

648 2. The mineralogical and geochemical data from the bulk and clay fractions corroborate that
649 $\text{Log}(I+K/C+V)$, $\text{Log}(Qz/Fsp)$, dolomite, $\text{Log}(Ca/Al)$, $\text{Log}(Mg/Al)$, and $\text{Log}(Fe/Al)$, together with
650 a discriminant diagram based on Al–Si–Ca and I+K–total feldspars–dolomite, can be
651 successfully used to track changes in detrital sediment provenance on the Chukchi and Beaufort
652 continental margins.

653 3. The sediment unmixing model, together with specific mineralogical and geochemical
654 signatures, indicates that the North American margin (including the Mackenzie River, Northern
655 Alaska and Canadian Arctic Archipelago) is the major source of sediment during the deglaciation
656 at the coring sites of cores 05JPC and 02PC.

657 4. The dolomite-rich IRD layers dated to 12.8 ka cal BP and 11 ka cal BP in core 02PC and 9.5
658 ka cal BP in core 05JPC are related to the debacle of the M'Clure and Amundsen Ice Streams.
659 The quartz and feldspar-rich IRD intervals dated to 13 ka cal BP in core 02PC and 10.7 ka cal BP

660 in core 05JPC are likely related to meltwater events, and are derived from the Mackenzie River
661 and the Brooks Range glaciers in the northwestern Alaska, respectively.

662 5. Mineralogical and geochemical signatures of deglacial sediments from core 02PC support the
663 hypothesis that large meltwater and iceberg discharges from the Lake Agassiz outburst through
664 the Mackenzie Valley may have triggered the Younger Dryas cooling.

665 6. During the Holocene, the detrital sediment supply in the Canadian Beaufort margin remains
666 controlled mainly by the Mackenzie River. In the Chukchi margin, the proportion of sediment
667 derived from the Mackenzie River gradually decreased during the early to late Holocene.

668 7. The opening of the Bering Strait at 11 ka cal BP is typified in core 05JPC by a sharp increase
669 in vermiculite, mixed-layer chlorite/smectite and amorphous silica. In addition, bulk
670 mineralogical data, together with high $\text{Log}(\text{Mg}/\text{Al})$ and $\text{Log}(\text{Fe}/\text{Al})$ ratios from the clay fraction,
671 supports the notion that an enhanced Bearing Strait inflow into the Chukchi Sea occurred
672 between 7.5 to 2 ka cal BP.

673 8. The similar trends observed between the regional sea-level curves and our mineralogical and
674 geochemical data suggest that the relative sea-level changes in the western Arctic Ocean have an
675 important influence on the western Arctic sedimentary dynamics during the early to mid-
676 Holocene.

677

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1000 8 Figure captions

1001 **Figure 1.** (a) Schematic map of Arctic oceanic circulation and localization of the mineralogical
1002 (red circle) and geochemical (white circle). (b) Localization of cores 05JPC and 02PC (this study)
1003 as well as cores 56PC (Lakeman et al., 2018), 750PC (Scott et al., 2009), ARA2B-A1
1004 (Yamamoto et al., 2017), ARA2B-1B (Stein et al., 2017) and core 06JPC (Ortiz et al., 2009).
1005 References used for the geochemical and mineralogical database are listed in Table SM2.

1006
1007 **Figure 2.** (a) Discriminant function analyses (DFA) and (b) membership probability of the
1008 circum-Arctic sources based on log ratio mineral data. The membership probability diagram
1009 corroborates that potential sediment sources have different mineralogical characteristics that
1010 allow a reasonable degree of discrimination, as indicated by their relatively high membership
1011 value (up to 90%).

1012
1013 **Figure 3.** End-member modelling analyses (EMMA) performed on the grain-size distribution of
1014 the detrital fraction from cores 01JPC, 05JPC, 03PC and 02PC. (a) Three representative, unmixed
1015 grain-size distributions, as well as (b) end-member scores (%) derived from EMMA are shown.

1016
1017 **Figure 4.** (a) Al_2O_3 - SiO_2 - CaO ternary plot showing the overall composition (bulk and clay
1018 fractions) of the sediment from cores 05JPC and 02PC in comparison to the average shale and
1019 circum-Arctic source areas. (b) Kaolinite+Illite (K+I) – total feldspars (Fsp) – dolomite (Dol)
1020 ternary plot for cores 05JPC and 02PC based on bulk mineralogy. (c) Relationship between
1021 $\text{Log}(\text{Mg}/\text{K})$ and $\text{Log}(\text{Fe}/\text{Al})$ ratios derived from the clay fraction of sediment cores 05JPC
1022 (square) and 02PC (circle). The log ratio I+K/C is represented by a gradient color from high (red)
1023 to low (blue) values. (d) $\text{Log}(\text{Qz}/\text{Fsd})$ versus $\text{Log}(\text{I}+\text{K}/\text{Ch}+\text{Ms})$ diagram illustrating the bulk
1024 mineralogical difference between cores 02PC and 05JPC and some circum-Arctic regions.
1025 Geochemical and mineralogical data of the circum-Arctic regions are shown in Table SM2.

1026
1027 **Figure 5.** X-ray diffractograms of typical samples from cores 02PC and 05JPC showing
1028 interpretation of major clay mineral species from the three classical runs, i.e., in air-dried,
1029 glycolated, and heated conditions.

1030

1031 **Figure 6.** Downcore variations of core 02PC showing (a) log-ratio illite/kaolinite and dolomite
1032 content (red). (b) log-ratios quartz/feldspar (black) and phyllosilicates/feldspar (red). (c) log-ratio
1033 Zr/Al (black) and Ca/Al (red). (d) log-ratio Mg/Al for the bulk (black) and clay (red) fractions.
1034 (e) log-ratio Fe/Al for the bulk (black) and clay (red) fractions. (f) Magnetic susceptibility, k_{lf}
1035 (Deschamps et al., 2017). (g) Proportion of sediment from the Kara Sea (black). (h) Proportion of
1036 sediment from the Mackenzie River (black), Mackenzie River sand (blue) and CAA (red). IRD
1037 layers rich in dolomite and quartz are highlighted in gray and blue, respectively.
1038

1039 **Figure 7.** Downcore variations of core 05JPC showing (a) log-ratio illite+kaolinite/chlorite. (b)
1040 log-ratio quartz/feldspar (black) and proportion of dolomite (red). (c) log-ratio Zr/Al (black) and
1041 Ca/Al (red). (d) log-ratio Mg/Al for the bulk (black) and clay (red) fractions. (e) log-ratio Fe/Al
1042 for the bulk (black) and clay (red) fractions. (f) Magnetic susceptibility, k_{lf} (Barletta *et al.*, 2008).
1043 (g) Proportion of sediment from the Eurasian margin (EM), which includes Kara Sea and Eastern
1044 Siberian Sea in green and proportion of sediment from the Bering Strait in black. (h) Proportion
1045 of sediment from the Mackenzie River (black), North Alaska (blue) and CAA (red). IRD layers
1046 rich in dolomite and quartz are highlighted in gray and blue, respectively.
1047
1048

1049 **Figure 8.** (a) Phyllosilicates-plagioclase-K-feldspar ternary plot of sand samples from the main
1050 tributaries of the Mackenzie River (Gamboa, 2017). Note that the northern tributaries are
1051 enriched in phyllosilicates while the southern tributaries are enriched in total feldspars. (b)
1052 Comparison of Log(EM3/EM2), Log(EM1/EM2), Log(Qz/Fsd), dolomite content, Log(Phy/Fsd)
1053 and Log(I/K) from core 02PC with global eustatic sea level variations (Lambeck et al., 2014) and
1054 relative sea level from the Beaufort Sea (Héquette et al., 1995).
1055

1056 **Figure 9.** Comparison of (a) global eustatic sea level changes and relative sea level variation in
1057 the Beaufort Sea, (b) Log(EM1/EM2) for cores 05JPC, (c) log-ratio chlorite/illite based on bulk
1058 (black) and clay mineralogy (red) from core 05JPC, (d) Log-ratio
1059 chlorite+vermiculite/illite+kaolinite based on bulk (black) and clay mineralogy (red) from core
1060 05JPC, (e) amorphous silica from core 05JPC (black) and biogenic opal for the core ARA2B-1A
1061 (blue), (f) Log-ratio chlorite/illite derived of the bulk mineralogy from core 05JPC, (g) Log-ratio
1062 chlorite/illite of the bulk mineralogy from core 06JPC, (h) Log-ratio chlorite/illite of the bulk
1063 mineralogy from core ARA2B-1A, (i) Chlorite+muscovite contents from core ARA2B-1B, and
1064 (j) Chlorite proxy obtained by diffusive spectral reflectance analysis from cores 06JPC/TC.
1065 Enhanced Bering Strait inflow is highlighted in gray and opening of the Bering Strait is
1066 highlighted in light green.
1067

1068 **Figure 10.** Evolution of sedimentary dynamics in the western Arctic Ocean during the last 13 ka
1069 cal BP.

1070 **Supplementary material**

1071 **Figure S1.** Downcore variations of the major-, minor-, and trace-elements measured on the bulk
1072 (square) and clay (diamond) fractions for cores (a) 02PC and (b) 05JPC. IRDs layers rich in
1073 dolomite and quartz are highlighted in gray and blue, respectively.

1074
1075 **Figure S2.** Downcore variations of the major mineralogical components determined for the cores
1076 (a) 02PC and (b) 05JPC. IRDs layers rich in dolomite and quartz are highlighted in light and dark
1077 gray, respectively.

1078
1079 **Figure S3.** Downcore variations of the clay minerals assemblages identified in the cores (a) 02PC
1080 and (b) 05JPC. IRDs layers rich in dolomite and quartz are highlighted in light and dark gray,
1081 respectively.

1082
1083 **Figure S4.** Relationship between (a) log-ratio chlorite+vermiculite/illite+kaolinite (black) and
1084 log-ratio Fe/Al (grey) and (b) log-ratio chlorite+vermiculite/illite+kaolinite (black) and
1085 Log(Mg/Al) derived from the clay fraction of the core 05JPC. The correlation was performed
1086 using the software Analyseries (Paillard *et al.*, 1996). Red and blue lines are the mean values for
1087 the log-ratio Fe/Al and log-ratio Mg/Al for Unit I and II respectively. The increase of Fe and Mg
1088 in unit I are significant ($p < 0.05$) based on a Student's t-test.

1089
1090 **Figure SM1.** (a) Proposed correlations between cores 750PC (Scott *et al.*, 2009), 56PC
1091 (Lakeman *et al.*, 2018), 02PC (this study) from the Beaufort Sea as well as core 05JPC (this
1092 study) from the Chukchi Sea. (b) Age model and sedimentation rates of core 02PC based on the
1093 correlations in figure (a) and the paleomagnetic tie-points from Deschamps *et al.* (2017). Note
1094 that radiocarbon ages (blue circles) are shown in conventional ages.

1095
1096 **Figure SM2.** SedUnMixMC results of measured (known) and calculated (estimated) fractions of
1097 a series of mixed samples from 4 different sources bedrock and sediments. The samples used are
1098 granite from Canadian Shield, shale from the Appalachian Mountains, limestone from Quarry
1099 Island (Mingan Archipelago) and Fe-rich glacial till from SW Gulf of Saint Lawrence. The null
1100 hypothesis of no association between the known and calculated fractions is rejected at the
1101 $P < 0.001$ level ($r > 0.96$).

1102
1103 **Figure SM3.** PC2 scores derived from (a) some major and minor elements and (b) bulk minerals
1104 of cores 02PC and 05JPC, as well as the circum-Arctic source areas (Table S1). (c) Box-plot of
1105 the log ratio I+K/C showing the relative composition of the sediment from cores 05JPC and
1106 02PC, in comparison with some circum-Arctic sources (Beaufort Sea, Mackenzie Delta and
1107 CAA: Gamboa 2017, Chukchi Sea: Khim 2003, Bering Strait: Kalinenko 2001, Eastern Siberian
1108 Sea: Khim 2003; Viscosi-Shirley *et al.* 2003a).

1109
1110 **Table SM1.** Conventional ^{14}C ages (half-life 5568 years) calibrated with Marine13 (Reimer *et al.*,
1111 2013) using Calib software (v7.1; <http://calib.org/calib/>) for core 18TC, 750PC, 56PC and
1112 02PC for three different marine reservoir ages.

1113
1114 **Table SM2.** List of references for the (a) geochemical and (b) mineralogical database used in
1115 this study. SPM = suspended particular matter.

1116
1117 **Table SM3.** Loadings derived from the principal component analysis of the circum-Arctic
1118 geochemical and mineralogical data, illustrating the weight of each (a) element and (b) mineral in
1119 the definition of each PC score. In figure 2, we used the PC2 score instead PC1 because this latter
1120 is influenced by grain size distribution. Thus, PC2 was better representing the geochemical and
1121 mineralogical composition of the surrounding Arctic areas.

1122
1123

1124

Figure 1.

Figure 1
2 column fitting image

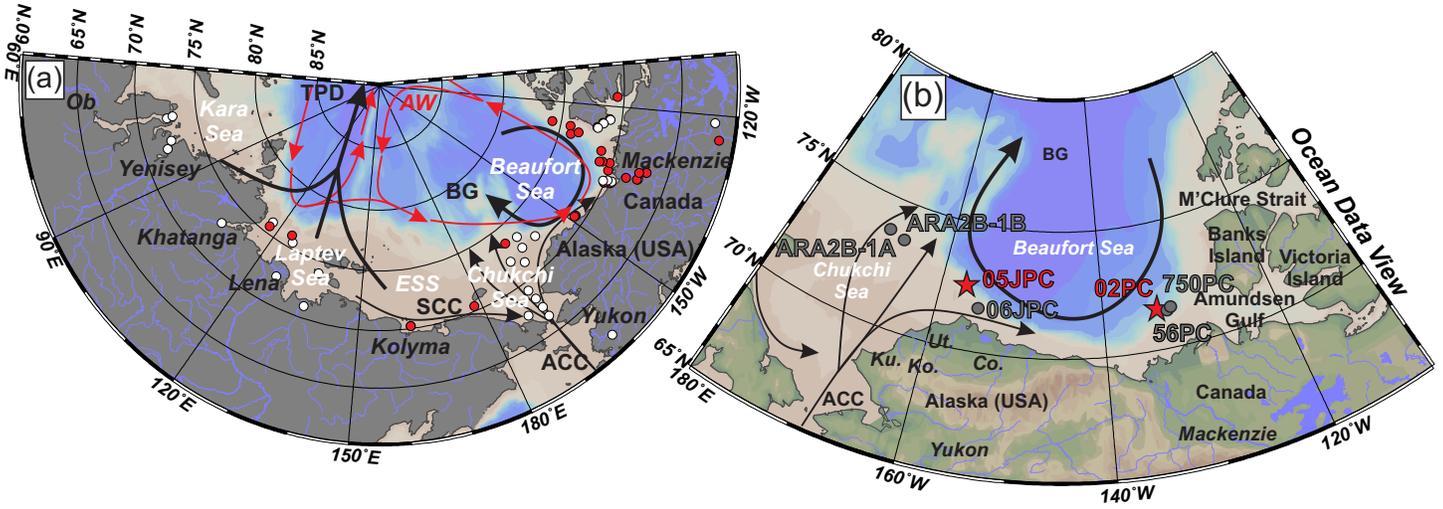


Figure 2.

Figure 2

two column fitting

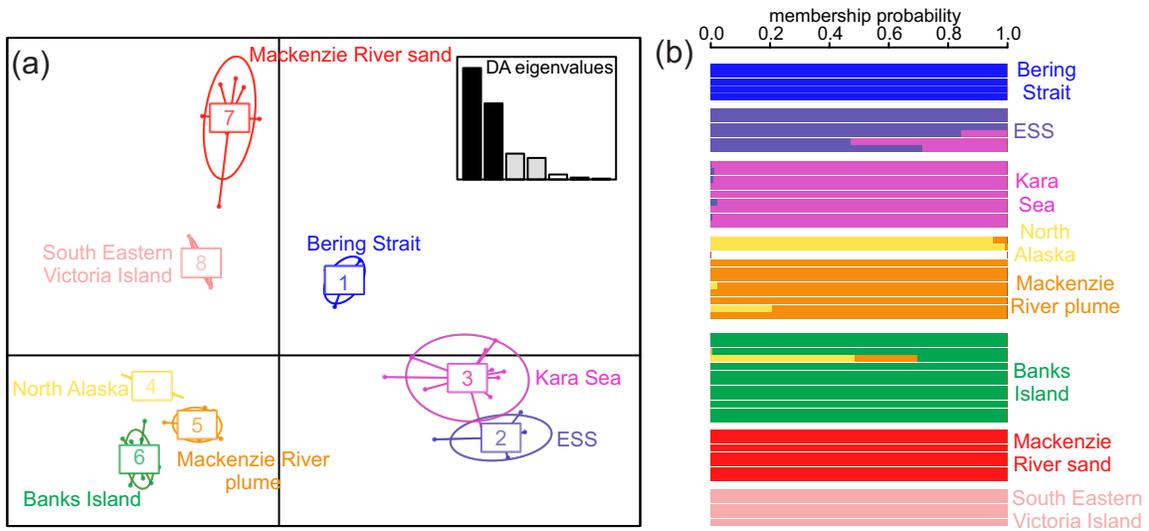


Figure 3.

Figure 3

two column fitting

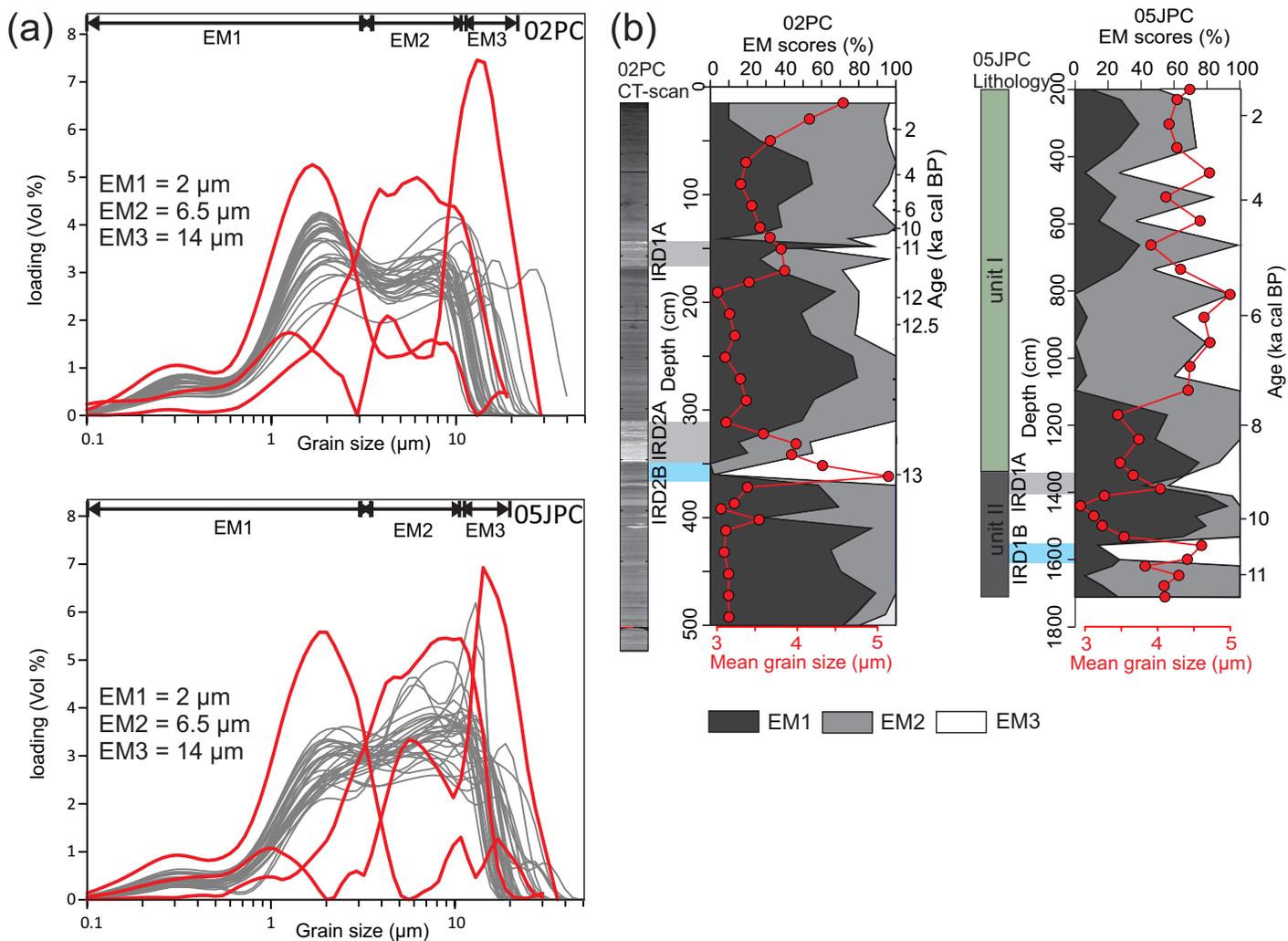


Figure 4.

Figure 4

two column fitting

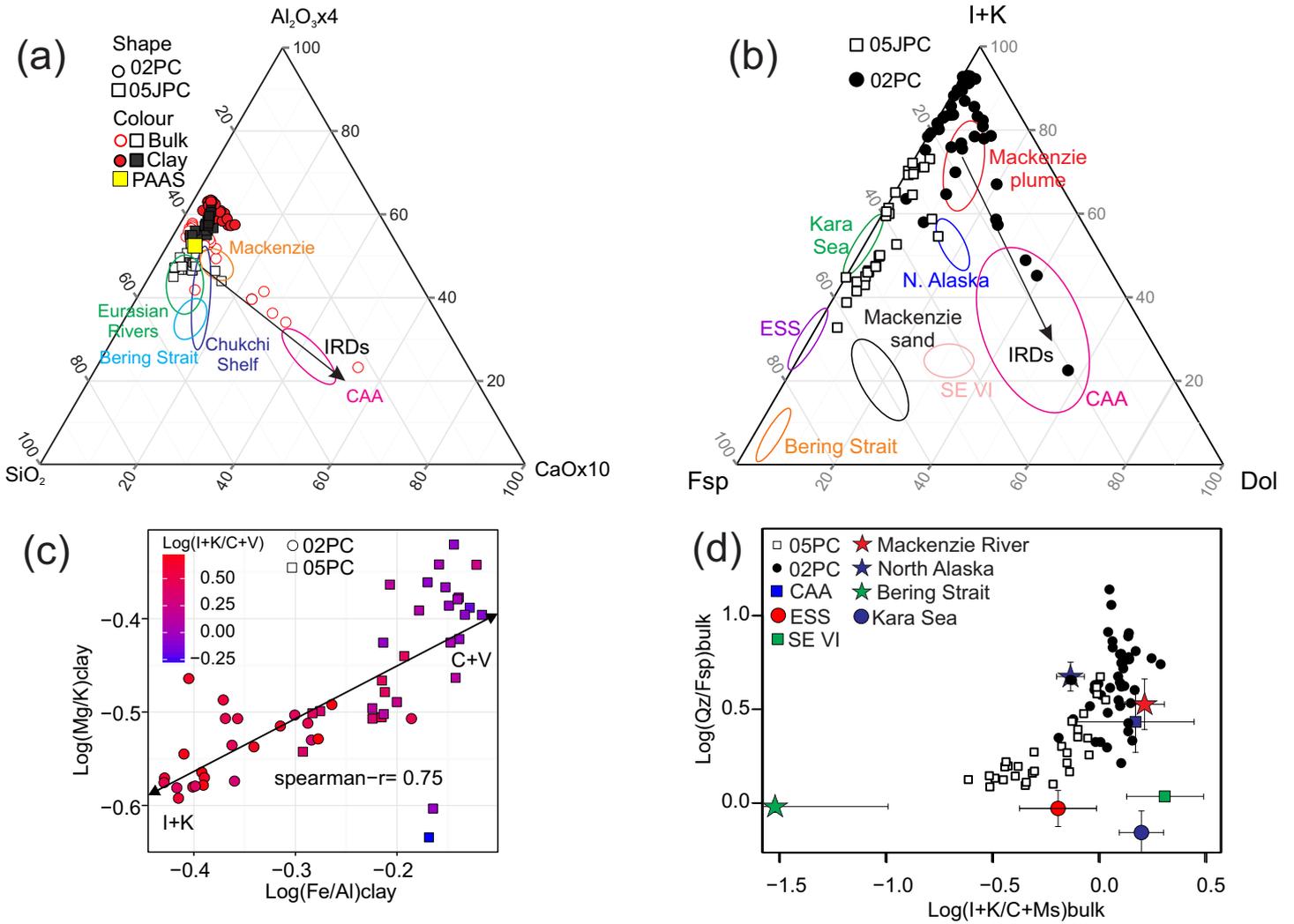


Figure 5.

Figure 5

single column fitting

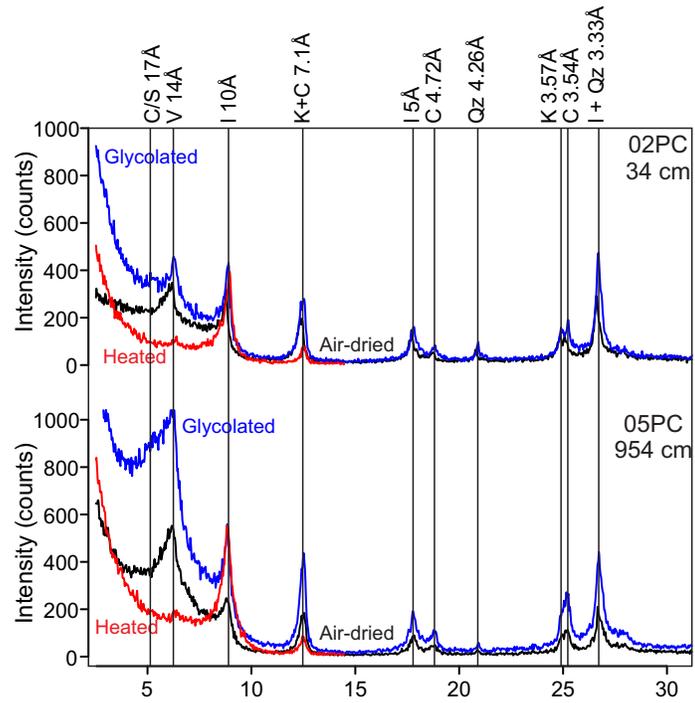


Figure 6.

Figure 6

two column fitting

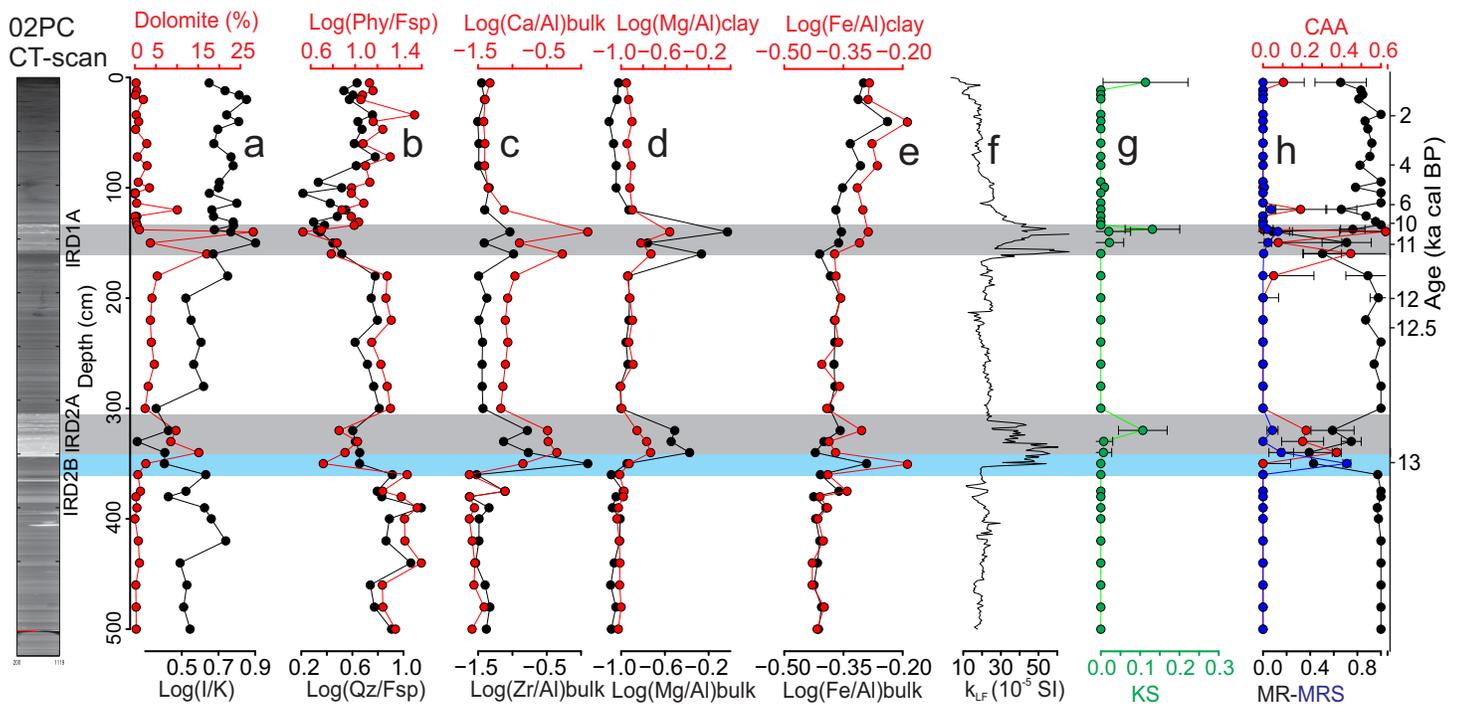


Figure 7.

Figure 7 two column fitting

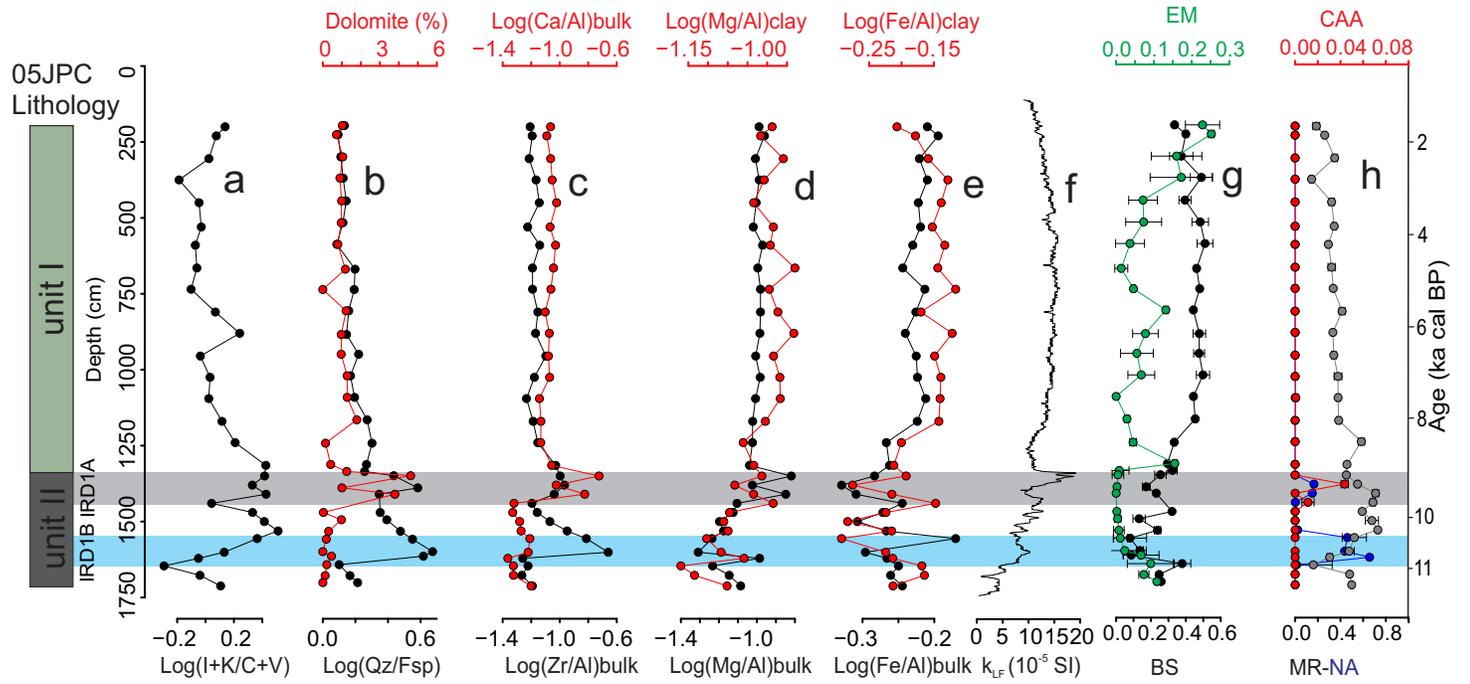


Figure 8.

Figure 8

single column fitting

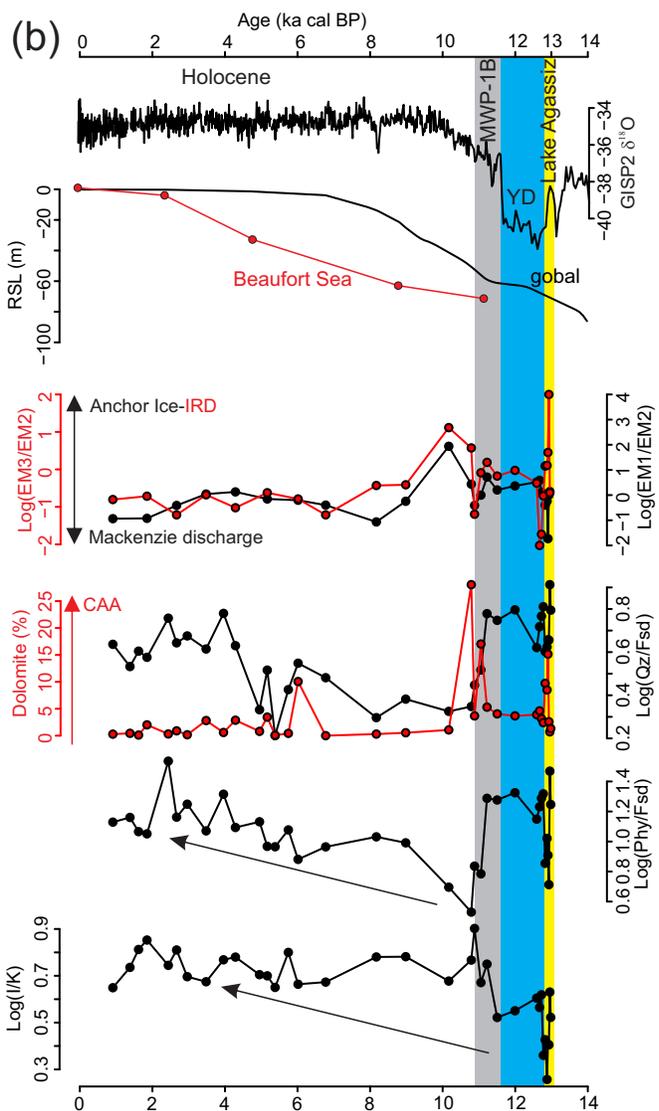
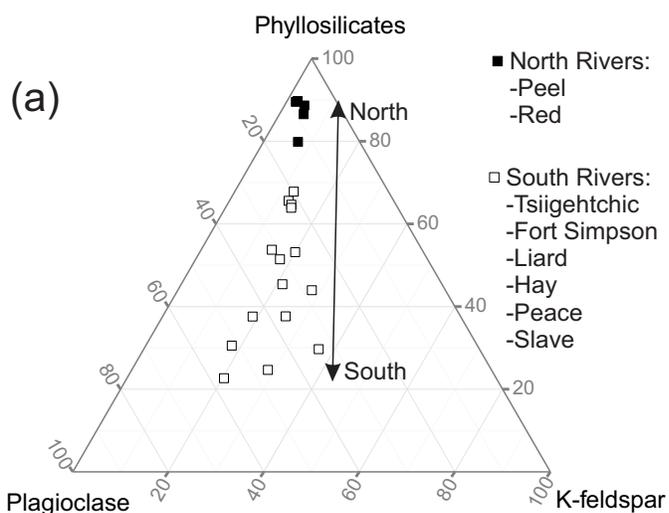


Figure 9.

Figure 9

single column fitting

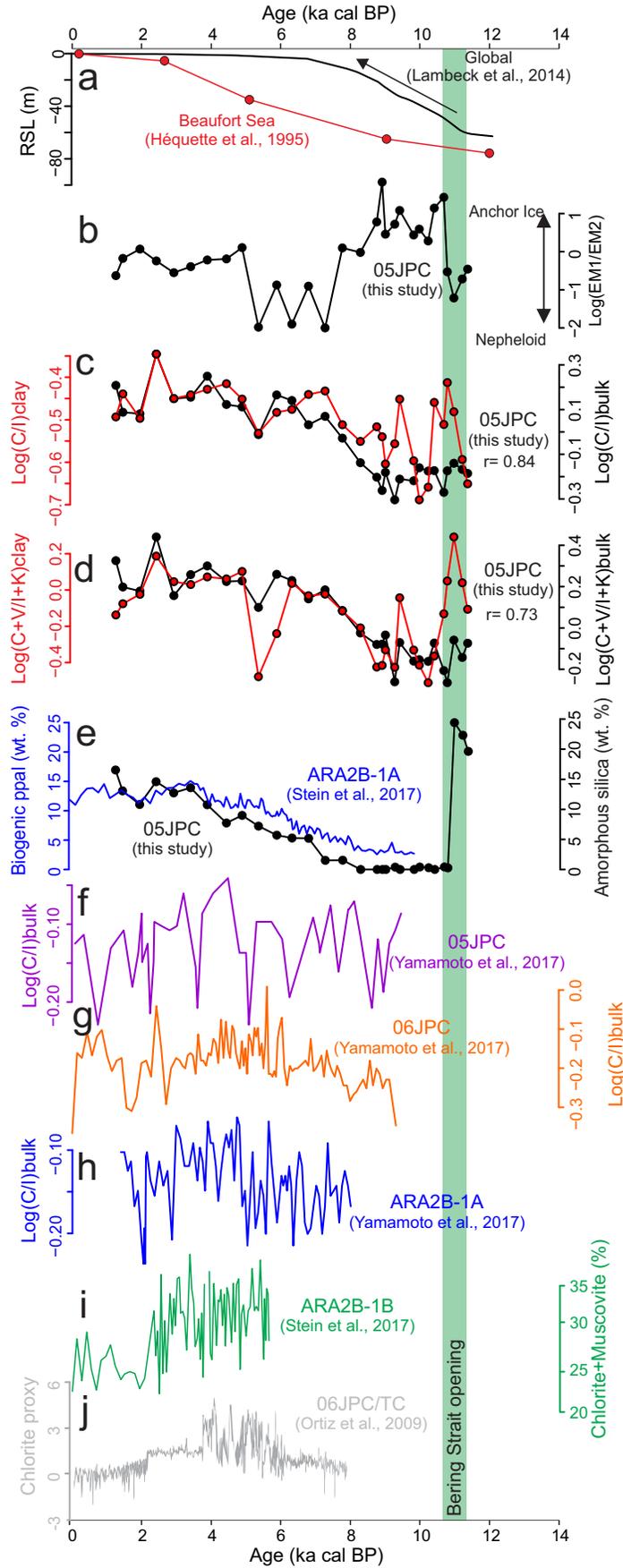


Figure 10.

Figure 10
single column fitting

