

We thank the reviewer for the attentive reading and many constructive suggestions to clarify the paper and correct details of presentation. Author response to anonymous Reviewer comment. Reviewer comments in black, response in violet and quotations from revised text in blue.

Reviewer comment

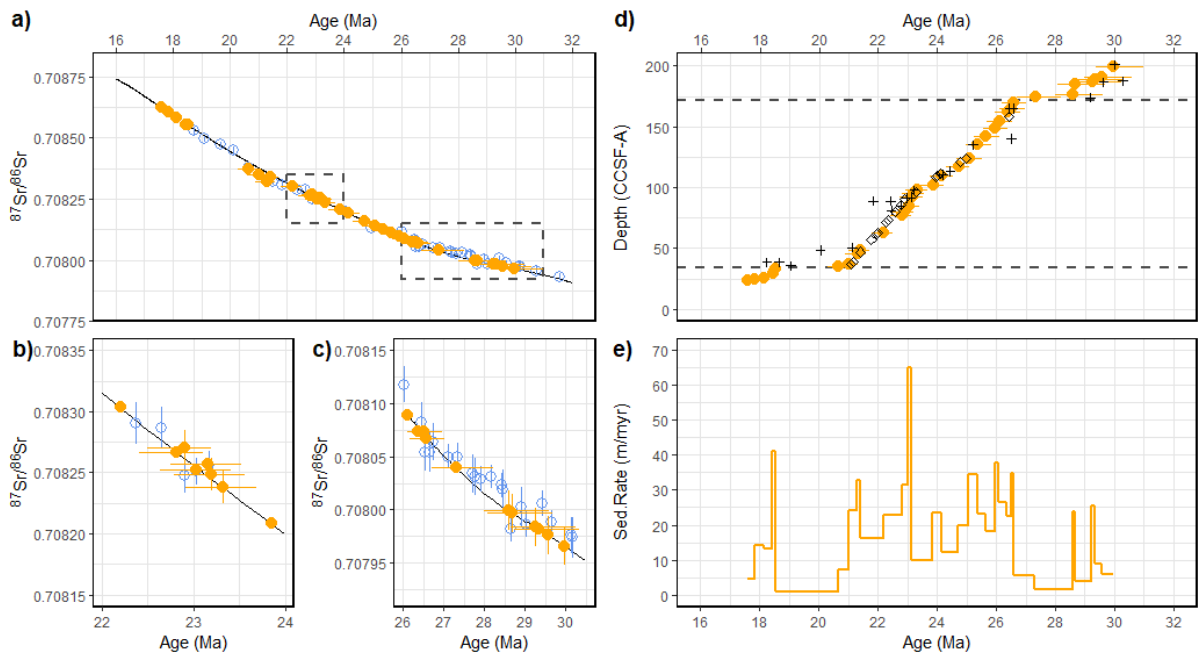
In “Nonlinear increase in seawater $87\text{Sr}/86\text{Sr}$ in the Oligocene to early Miocene and implications for climate-sensitive weathering” Stoll et al., present newly generated $87\text{Sr}/86\text{Sr}$ data for (I)ODP Sites 1168, 1218, and U1406. Especially the work on Site 1218 is very valuable in my opinion, because Sr ratios can be directly compared to the benthic foraminiferal $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ climate/cryosphere proxy from the same site. The authors find that the gradual increase in $87\text{Sr}/86\text{Sr}$ ratios stalls or even decreases when $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ is high and that the increase in $87\text{Sr}/86\text{Sr}$ accelerates when $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ is low. These findings are interpreted to reflect ITCZ related and/or Antarctic weathering related controls on Sr transport to the oceans.

The paper is well written, and well-illustrated. I am not fully convinced by the ITCZ hypothesis, but it can stay in the paper. I have one major comment on the use of the CCSF-A scale for U1406. This would require the authors to transpose the biostratigraphy from the Site U1406 CSF-A to CCSF-A depths, but I think that is worth the effort. Overall, I strongly recommend this manuscript for publication, and would like to congratulate the authors with their nice study.

Major comment:

- L93. Extraordinary effort has gone into generating the best available depth model for Site U1406, and I strongly advise to use the composite CCSF-A scale, and against using the Hole A specific CSF-A scale. There is no benefit to it, and mixing depth models only serves to confuse the reader.

We thank the reviewer for the suggestion to emphasize the composite CCSF-A scale. The CCSF-A correlates the sites based on physical properties and trace element ratios from XRF scanning. As detailed in van Peer et al (2017), in some sections, there are gaps or condensed intervals in one hole but not the other, and the XRF scanning data has formed the basis of one possible correlation. The composite scale is likely to continue to evolve as additional data is published. For example, additional data (currently in review) including benthic foraminiferal $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and bulk carbonate $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ highlights some intervals where the CCSF-A scale requires revision for off-splice holes. In light of this, in showing age-depth plots to indicate the position of hiatus', we used the CSF-A because the samples bracketing hiatuses in our study are only from Hole A, and the hiatus duration is unambiguous in this hole. We offered maximum transparency by providing both the Hole A specific CSF-A scale and the proposed CCSF-A equivalent, in Table 2. This will allow future readers to update our presented data to any future composite depth scales. The composite scale was used in Figure 2. In the meantime, we can agree to plot the remaining figure 4d (the only one still presenting CSF-A from 1406) on CCSF-A and entrust future users of the data to employ due caution when extrapolating results to Hole B and C.



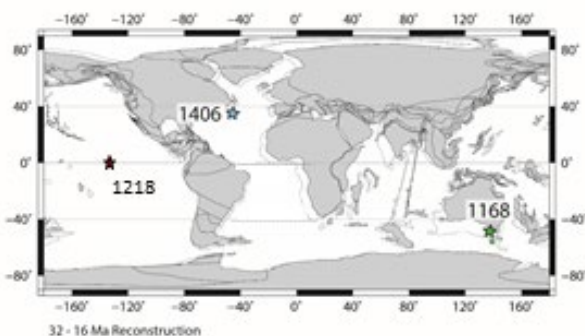
Some smaller comments, which the authors may address at their discretion:

- General comment: Perhaps add a little map with site locations?

We appreciate this suggestion and propose to include a small map with site locations in the revision.

- L27. Perhaps state where ODP Site 1168 and IODP Site 1406 are from?

We thank the reviewer for this suggestion to add a map and describe in the introduction text the locations, we propose to implement both suggestions. The proposed map would be similar to this one: .



Location of sites investigated in this study. Reconstructions using the plate tectonic reconstruction service ODSN (www.odsn.de).

- L55. 4 million years, seems like a very large uncertainty, even for biostratigraphic age control from the 1980s. Million is abbreviated by a big M.

We understand the reviewers impression that 4 million years is a large uncertainty for biostratigraphic age models. Nonetheless, this uncertainty in biostratigraphy is exactly as described in the cited article of Miller et al 1998 and we retain it as originally cited. In this sentence we are reporting a duration of time not an age; to our, million years as a duration is elsewhere abbreviated m.y. and is so abbreviated in the Miller et al., 1988 references. We acknowledge that this is distinct from an absolute age where capital M is used. To avoid confusion, in the revision we propose to write out the duration as million years.

- L55. I would say “astrochronology” instead of “cyclostratigraphy” in this context. The former refers to, in my mind, the alignment of cyclic stratigraphic records (in the depth domain) to an astronomical solution (in the age domain). The latter is, as I understand it, thus a description of cyclically alternating lithologies/proxy records in the stratigraphic depth domain.

We thank the reviewer for the suggestion and propose to update to the term astrochronology.

- L63. Please make sure the Westerhold et al., 2020 age model is used. At 26.5 Ma a hundred-thousand-year correction of the Pälike et al., 2006 ages is included in Westerhold et al., 2020.

We thank the reviewer for prompting us to clarify this. The tables and figures do indeed employ the Westerhold 2020 age model, and the Westerhold age model was already specified as the update in section 2.1 in Methods. In the introduction we will reword this sentence to make the point earlier in the text.

- L71. van Peer et al. 2017a, shows this hiatus in the age domain. van Peer is with a small v.

We thank the reviewer for the suggestion. We will update the reference with the capitalization error which occurred during reference import from online bibliographical data. We adjust the phrasing in the introduction as follows:

At site 1406, Sr isotope stratigraphy improves constraints on the duration of an early Miocene hiatus (Norris et al., 2014; van Peer et al., 2017).

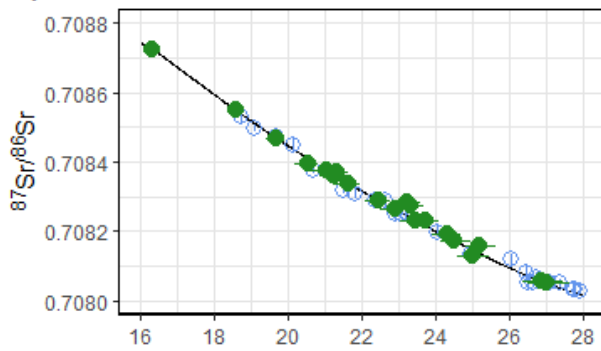
- L79. Astrochronologic. (See previous comment). (we will adjust, as described above)
- L81. Delete “GTS”. The Westerhold et al., 2020 CENOGRID record is separate from the GTS2020. (NB: The G(P)TS2020 should not be used, due to incorrect incorporation of several chron boundary reversal ages. Most notably the Liebrand et al., 2016 ages, which were not all being considered reliable or deviant from GTS2012 outside of error, their Supp. Fig. S6.)

We thank the reviewer for prompting us to clarify this, we delete the reference to GTS 2020 in the text.

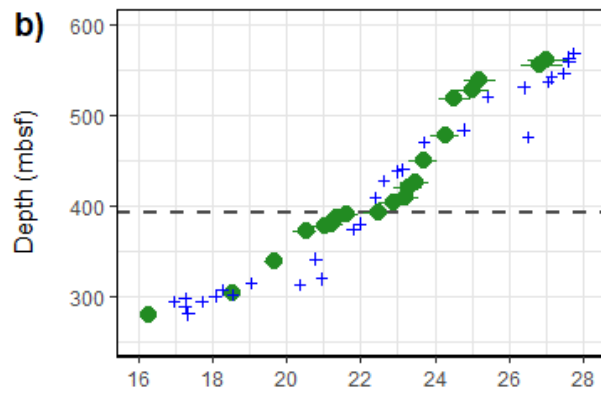
- L101. This is an “old” ODP site that probably used the mbsf terminology, instead of CSF-A scale. Perhaps clarify this point in the text?

We thank the reviewer for prompting us to clarify this, which we will implement in the text and figure axes.

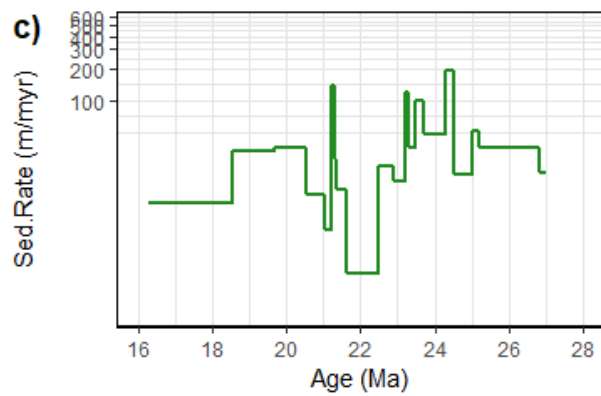
a) ODP 1168



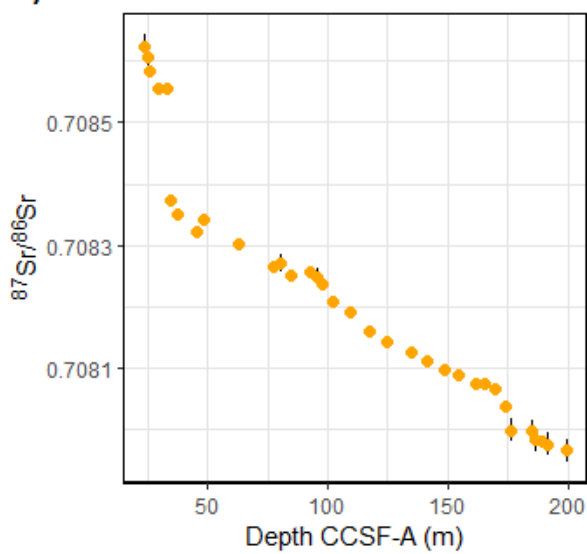
b)



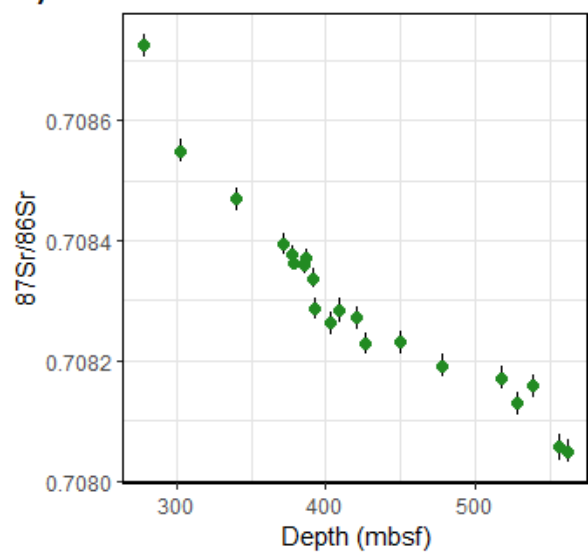
c)



a) IODP 1406



b) ODP 1168



- L120/121. Sigma and SD are used. Perhaps standardize? **Yes, we will standardize this.**
- L135-137. This is the same hiatus identified in van Peer et al., 2017a.

We thank the reviewer for prompting us to add this information in the discussion and not only in the introduction as noted previously. We add the following sentence to the discussion (first sentence in section 4.2.1), rather than the results section which focuses on a brief summary of the new results.

A condensed interval and hiatus have been recognized in the Oligocene to early Miocene sediments of U1406 on the basis of bio- and magnetostratigraphy (Figure 4) (Norris et al., 2014; Van Peer et al., 2017).

- L147. This definition of the MOGI deviates from the original (Liebrand et al., 2017), which is defined as lasting from 28.0 to 26.3 Ma. Perhaps explain why a longer lasting MOGI is defined. I have no problem with a longer lasting MOGI, it is just an arbitrary definition, but still good to be clear how and why it differs.

We thank the reviewer for prompting us to clarify the basis for the duration illustrated here, which we propose to implement in the caption of Figure 1.

We highlight this duration of MOGI on the basis of the 1218 benthic $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ record as indicated in Figure 3; it is slightly longer than the 28 to 26.3 Ma MOGI defined by Liebrand et al., 2017.

- L173. Is an inverted increase not a decrease?

We thank the reviewer for the suggestion to simplify the language and describe this as a decrease, we will adjust the text accordingly.

- L180. In Fig. 3a and b this looks like a decrease, not a reduction in the increase. Confusing language.

We thank the reviewer for the suggestion to simplify the language and describe this as a decrease, we will adjust the text accordingly.

- L181. I think it is important to redefine the MOGI as used in this study. (See previous comment) **(adjusted as described in response to previous comment).**
- L183. “Warming” refers to deep-sea (and potentially high latitudes). Perhaps clarify.

We thank the reviewer for prompting us to clarify this, we agree and will implement this in the text.

- L183-184. Also looks like a modest decrease, not a “slowing of increase”.

We agree and will update the description used in the text.

- L186. Looks like a decrease to me. We agree, but for a conservative interpretation of the error bars we indicate it as a stabilization or a decrease.
- L212-L215. I do not understand this sentence.

We propose to rewrite the sentences for improved clarity as below:

However, climatically-driven changes in the position of main heavy rainfall belts such as ITCZ is usually limited to < 10 degrees latitude and may be longitudinally variable (Atwood et al., 2020). A movement of precipitation belts would have a significant consequence on global riverine $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ only in cases of fortuitous distribution of bedrock of widely different ages across the length scale of ITCZ movement. If a northward shift of the mean ITCZ significantly increased the Sr flux from a region of nonradiogenic Sr, the marine $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ could experience a transient decrease. One potential such configuration could be the exposure of highly weatherable nonradiogenic rocks of the Deccan volcanic series of India and the Ethiopian Traps, located just north of the equator in the late Oligocene (Kent and Muttoni, 2013).

- L241-244. This finding of Oslick can now be reflected on using the new data and age model. Just stating it seems a bit odd. To me it seems that the increase in Sr ratios follows $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ maxima much quicker, compared to the 1 M.y. lag Oslick found.

We agree with this comment and propose to add the following sentence at the end of this paragraph.

With higher resolution benthic $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ from 1218, we resolve more rapid responses of the $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ratio to several deglaciation phases.

- L279-282. Independent Sr age control is great. However, I would mention—also in writing—that for Site U1406 a magnetostratigraphic age model is publicly available (van Peer, 2017a). Are Sr and PMAG age models for Site U1406 in agreement with one another? Or are there any large discrepancies?

We thank the reviewer for prompting us to textually comment on the comparison of PMAG and Sr isotope stratigraphy, which were illustrated in Figure 4d. We propose to add this phrase :

Between 26.4 and 21 Ma, the $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ age model is in close agreement with that devised from magnetostratigraphy (Van Peer et al., 2017).

The Sr isotopes provide an additional constraint on the early Miocene section above the hiatus for which no PMAG tiepoints are published.

- L305. Middle Miocene (25 to 27 Ma). Do the authors mean Oligocene?

Yes, this should state Middle Oligocene, and will be corrected in the revised text.

- L353. LP = LDP?. Who is PG?

We have adjusted the initials in the acknowledgments for clarity.

References in the response

Hodell, David A., Gregory A. Mead, and Paul A. Mueller. "Variation in the strontium isotopic composition of seawater (8 Ma to present): Implications for chemical weathering rates and dissolved fluxes to the oceans." *Chemical Geology: Isotope Geoscience section* 80, no. 4 (1990): 291-307.

Paytan, Adina, Elizabeth M. Griffith, Anton Eisenhauer, Mathis P. Hain, Klaus Wallmann, and Andrew Ridgwell. "A 35-million-year record of seawater stable Sr isotopes reveals a fluctuating global carbon cycle." *Science* 371, no. 6536 (2021): 1346-1350.

Atwood, A. R., Donohoe, A., Battisti, D. S., Liu, X., and Pausata, F. S.: Robust longitudinally variable responses of the ITCZ to a myriad of climate forcings, *Geophysical Research Letters*, 47, e2020GL088833, doi.org/10.1029/2020GL088833, 2020.

Kent, D. V. and Muttoni, G.: Modulation of Late Cretaceous and Cenozoic climate by variable drawdown of atmospheric pCO₂ from weathering of basaltic provinces on continents drifting through the equatorial humid belt, *Climate of the Past*, 9, 525-546, doi.org/10.5194/cp-9-525-2013, 2013.

Norris, R., Wilson, P., and Blum, P.: Proceedings of the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program Exp. 342, College Station, TX: Integrated Ocean Drilling Program, doi.org/10.2204/iodp.proc.342.107.2014, 2014.

van Peer, T. E., Xuan, C., Lippert, P. C., Liebrand, D., Agnini, C., and Wilson, P. A.: Extracting a detailed magnetostratigraphy from weakly magnetized, Oligocene to early Miocene sediment drifts recovered at IODP Site U1406 (Newfoundland margin, northwest Atlantic Ocean), *Geochemistry, Geophysics, Geosystems*, 18, 3910-3928, doi.org/10.1002/2017GC007185, 2017.