Detrital zircon geochronology of Cordilleran retroarc foreland basin strata reveals changes in provenance, magmatism, and orogenic exhumation across the Sevier to Laramide transition.

> Laskowski, Andrew K., DeCelles, P. G., and Gehrels, G. E. Department of Geosciences, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721 aklask@email.arizona.edu



ARIZONA LASERCHRON CENTER

Department of Geosciences University of Arizona







#### **Motivation**



Regional scale detrital zircon studies are common, but existing data have not been synthesized and large "gaps" exist.

- Combine new and published DZ data to classify provenance groups
- Utilize provenance interpretations, depositional ages, and paleocurrent data to map Late Jurassic-Eocene sediment dispersal pathways
- Examine Cordilleran arc magmatism using retroarc detrital zircons as a proxy



#### Data



- 8,717 U-Pb ages from 95 samples
- 30 new samples
- All zircons analyzed via LA-ICPMS at the Arizona Laserchron Center (ALC)

Dickinson and Gehrels, 2008 Lawton et al., 2010 Fuentes et al., 2011 Lawton and Bradford, 2011 Leier and Gehrels, 2011 Raines et al., 2013





# Qualitative grouping by visual inspection of age-probability plots: **first cycle sources**

									5				Cord	illeran M	agmatic	Arc		
									l co	8				Appalac	hian oro	gen		
		ic n						zal	ai	2	ay		A	marillo-V	/ichita u	olift		
		p p p						atz	4 db	5	Ĕ		Yucata	an-Camp	eche terre	ane		
		acia						az	a a	3	do,			Grei	nville oro	gen		
		69. A - F -						×	× +	-	Ż		i	.48-1.34	magmat	ism		
														1.8	8-1.6 terre	ane		
														2.3-	1.8 Orog	ens		
															Wyoming/Hearne/Rae Craton			
О	200	400	600	800	1000	1200	1400	1600	1800	2000	2200	2400	2600	2800	3000	3200		
						п	otrital	zircon ad	$\alpha$ (Ma)									
						U	euntal	zii con ag	e (Ma)									



# Qualitative grouping by visual inspection of age-probability plots: **recycled sources**





Visual inspection and literature review -> qualitative grouping-> Kolmogorov-Smirnov (K-S) tests for group similarity







EXXONMOB LBRG-2900 10DM25 719062 1GRZ 1GRX UT-8A LM73 CP19 CP14 CP49 CP53 ECH1 CP36 CP52 CP40 CP25 CP29 CP35 CP41 CP27 Q 0.335 0.948 0.172 0.669 0.604 0.531 0.506 0.996 0.435 0.145 0.632 0.974 0.921 0.977 0.406 0.422 0.190 0.397 0.716 0.951 0.349 LM73-Little Muddy Creek 0.570 0.023 0.274 0.047 0.126 0.123 0.044 0.551 0.302 0.022 0.172 0.107 0.031 0.118 0.027 0.116 0.749 0.134 0.344 0.771 0.870 10DM25-Kootenai 0.066 0.760 0.238 0.114 0.416 1GRZ-Morrison 0.669 0.274 0.973 0.242 0.817 0.756 0.982 0.757 0.645 0.533 0.469 0.645 0.810 0.738 0.288 0.306 0.604 0.107 0.973 0.460 0.021 0.526 0.401 0.426 0.267 0.247 0.349 0.070 0.040 0.324 0.156 0.185 1GRX-Morrison 0.158 0.740 0.472 0.454 0.340 0.328 0.531 0.031 0.242 0.306 0.127 0.853 0.883 0.431 0.720 0.415 0.066 0.191 CP19-Morrison 0.158 0.916 0.270 0.536 0.113 0.196 0 181 0.278 0.842 0.317 0.999 0.506 0.740 0.916 0.986 0.441 0.920 0.447 0.840 0.743 0.759 0.651 0.400 0.804 0.242 0.435 CP25-Morrison 0.118 0.817 0.322 0.211 0.008 0.339 0.721 0.091 0.108 0.597 0.011 0.031 0.027 0.756 0.460 0.270 0.322 0.514 0.377 0.118 0.392 0.484 0.120 CP29-Morrison 0.854 0.203 0.362 0.982 0.455 0.516 0.435 0.116 0.472 0.536 0.986 0.211 0.253 0.801 0.962 0.858 0.538 0.329 0.532 0.174 0.679 CP14-Burro Canvon 0.066 0.518 0.006 0.071 0.006 0.641 0.400 0.069 0.435 0.012 0.793 CP27-Burro Canyon 0.145 0.021 0.113 0.008 0.253 0.318 0.861 0.605 0 4 4 1 0.339 0.854 0.518 0.307 0.802 0.274 1.000 0.703 0.357 0.981 CP35-Morrison 0 632 0.570 0.757 0.526 0.306 0.842 0.828 0.810 0.999 0.405 0.995 0.497 0.974 0.077 0.203 0.006 0.095 0.008 0.021 0.974 0 023 0.645 0.401 0.127 0.317 0.721 0.30 0.840 0.105 0.169 0.678 0.105 CP36-Morrison 0.794 0.619 0.642 0.760 0.426 0.597 0.801 0.071 0.802 0.266 0 922 CP41-Morrison 0.853 0.920 0.497 0 271 0.395 0.677 0.920 0 462 0.514 0.974 0.103 0.150 0.011 0.749 0.533 0.267 0.328 0.362 0.006 0.274 0.266 0.021 0.210 0.152 0.546 0.085 CP49-Morrison 0 977 0.047 0.447 0 406 0.469 0 247 0.883 0.999 0.091 0.962 0.318 0.828 0.077 0.794 0.834 0.827 0.952 0.469 0.398 0.790 0 162 0 574 CP52-Morrison 0 126 0.103 1.000 0.095 0.810 0.008 0.150 0.834 0.946 0.797 0.349 0.431 0.840 0.108 0.858 0.641 0.619 0.408 0.132 0.422 0.344 0.645 0.777 0.942 0.993 CP40-Wahweap 0.607 0.122 0 2 3 8 0 0 7 0 0.011 0.538 0.861 0.021 0.827 0.946 0.988 CP53-Morrison 0 190 0 771 0.196 0743 0.271 0.575 0.034 0 988 0.703 0.021 0.011 0.351 0.335 0.040 0.031 0.455 0.400 0 642 0.952 0.797 0.607 0.228 0.115 0.529 UT-8A-Buckhorn 0.114 0 720 0 759 0 543 0.069 0.357 0.840 0 922 0.749 0.469 0.408 0.122 0.351 0 120 0.385 0.828 0 261 719062-Morrison 0 0 4 4 0 8 1 0 0 324 0 4 1 5 0 651 0.377 0.516 0.397 0.551 0.738 0.454 0.066 0.400 0.118 0.329 0.605 0.981 0.105 0.395 0.210 0.398 0.777 0.988 0.228 0.120 0.998 0.138 0.996 ECH1-Echo Canyon 0.543 0.385 0.999 0.169 0.152 0.790 0.998 0.716 0 302 0.288 0 340 0 392 0 532 0 435 0 677 0.942 0 575 0.341 0.913 EM-2-Little Muddy Creek 0 181 0 804 0.951 0.022 0.306 0.156 0.278 0.242 0.484 0.174 0.012 0.405 0.678 0.920 0.546 0.162 0.132 0.034 0.115 0.828 0.138 0.077 K2-Kelvin 0.341 0 349 0 870 0 416 0.185 0.191 0.435 0.120 0 679 0 793 0.995 0.105 0.462 0.085 0.574 0.993 0.988 0.529 0.261 0.996 0.913 0.077 LBRG-2900-Almond

#### K-S P-values using error in the CDF

Internal Consistency: 92%

Internal consistency (IC) = % comparisons with  $p \ge 0.05$ 

Samples distinguishable from > 50% grouped samples rejected



#### **Provenance Groupings**

**K-S** 68 samples

Yavapai-Mazatzal (11, 98%)

Mesozoic Eolianite (22, 92%)

U.S. Passive Margin (24, 78%)

Canada Passive Margin (10, 64%)

Mixed Y-M and U.S. Passive Margin (4, 100%)

**Qualitative** 27 samples

Cordilleran Magmatic Arc (8)

Mogollon Highlands (9)

North America Passive Margin with Ordovician dominance (7)

Laskowski, A. K., P. G. DeCelles, and G. E. Gehrels (2013), Detrital zircon geochronology of Cordilleran retroarc foreland basin strata, western North America, *Tectonics*, *32*, doi:10.1002/tect.20065.





Late Jurassic

- Dominated by Mesozoic Eolianite (U.S.) and passive margin (Canada) recycling
- Paleocurrent data (DeCelles, 2004) indicate east/northeast transport.
- Petrographic data (DeCelles and Burden, 1992; Currie, 1998) document unroofing sequences in the Morrison Fm.
- U.S. passive margin affinities in Canada foreland imply northwards axial transport.
- Jurassic DZ ages constitute ~8% of Morrison Fm. age spectra.





Early Cretaceous

- Transition to passive margin dominance indicative of unroofing in Sevier thrust belt
- Continuation of north directed dispersal into Canada foreland
- Appearance of arc-dominated signature (>50% Jura-Cretaceous)





#### Cenomanian-Santonian

- East and northeast directed dispersal
- Appearance of Yavapai-Mazatzal signature in Wyoming and Colorado
  - Mogollon Highlands?
  - Ancestral Rockies via Morrison?
- No petrographic or structural evidence of basement involved structural culminations in Sevier or Laramide provinces





## Campanian-Maastrichtian

- Arc dominance in northern MT
- Yavapai-Mazatzal affinity sample in southwest MT likely recycled from Belt Supergroup
- Exhumation of basement-involved structures signaled by Y-M affinity in WY, CO, and UT
- Difficult to distinguish between Laramide and Sevier belt sources
- Possible recycling of Morrison equivalents signaled by reemergence of Mesozoic Eolianite affinity





Paleocene-Eocene

 Continuation of complex, mixed provenance likely from Sevier and Laramide sources



# **Arc-Derived Detrital Zircons**

- Retroarc region detrital zircons can be used as a proxy for arc magmatic flux
- At least four periods of high flux magmatism
- ~75 Ma event not represented in existing flux curves, indicative of HFE in Idaho-Montana segment?
- Apparent increase in HFE frequency with increase in convergence rate



CMB: Gehrels et al. [2009]; Cascades and SNB: Paterson et al. [2011]

Idaho-Montana: Gaschnig et al. [2010]



# Conclusions

- Changes in Jurassic-Eocene foreland basin provenance reveal a basin-wide unroofing sequence characterized by extensive recycling.
- Detrital zircon provenance analysis indicates that basement-involved structural culminations were exhumed by ~86-66 Ma.
- Retroarc region detrital zircons can be applied as a proxy for arc magmatic flux
- Increasing convergence rates are correlated to an increase in high flux event frequency

Laskowski, A. K., P. G. DeCelles, and G. E. Gehrels (2013), Detrital zircon geochronology of Cordilleran retroarc foreland basin strata, western North America, *Tectonics*, *32*, doi:10.1002/tect.20065.

E-mail: aklask@email.arizona.edu