



GEOCHEMISTRY AND AGE OF THE WESTERN MÉLANGE BELT IN THE CASCADE FOOTHILLS AND EASTERN PUGET LOWLANDS OF WASHINGTON STATE: A RECORD OF MULTIPLE MESOZOIC ARC TERRANE ACCRETIONS

Jamie MacDonald¹, Joe Dragovich², Andy DuFrane³, Megan Anderson⁴, and Kirsten Sauer⁵

**¹Florida Gulf Coast University, ²Associated Earth Sciences,
³University of Alberta, ⁴Washington Geological Survey,
⁵University of Nevada, Reno,**

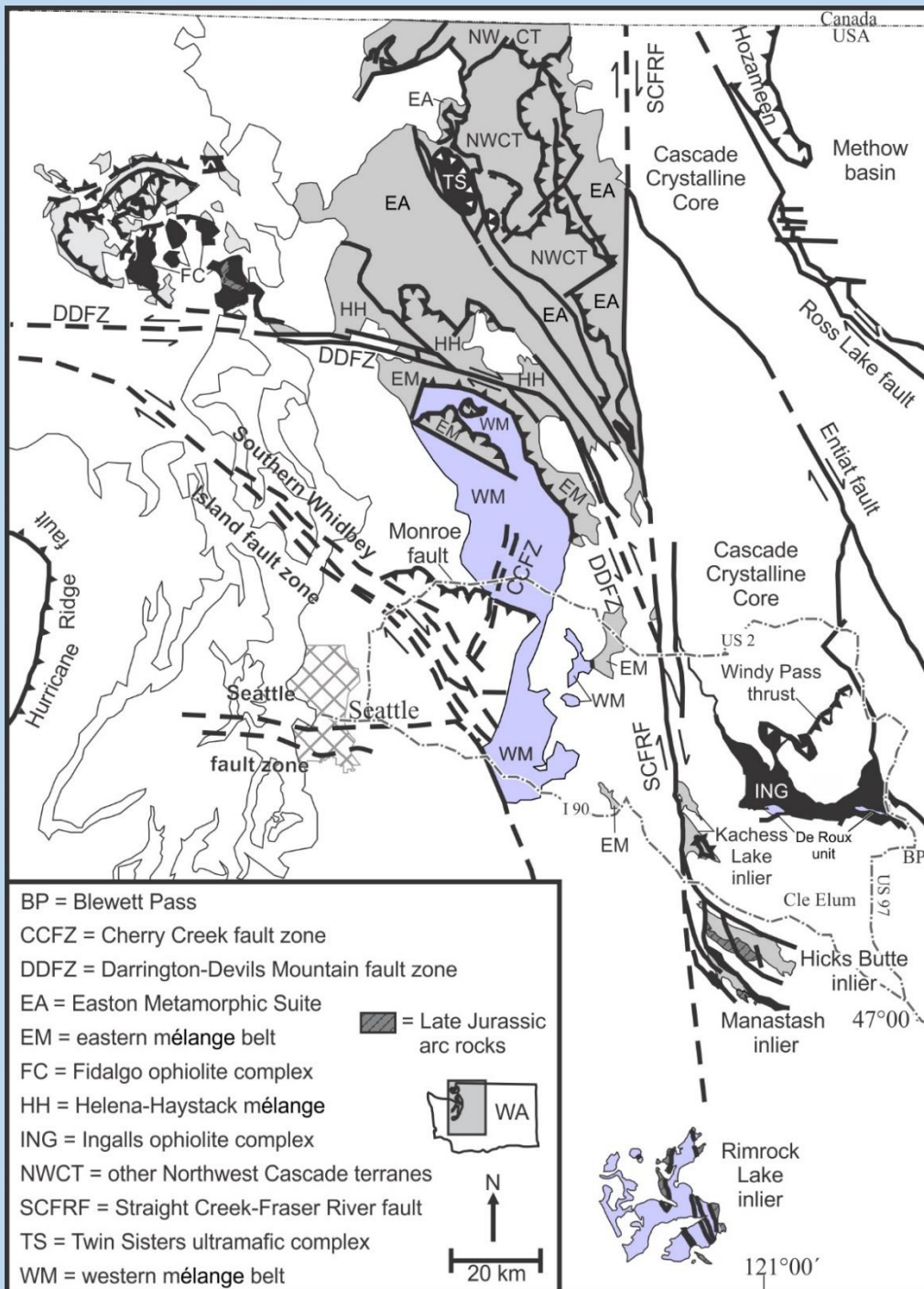


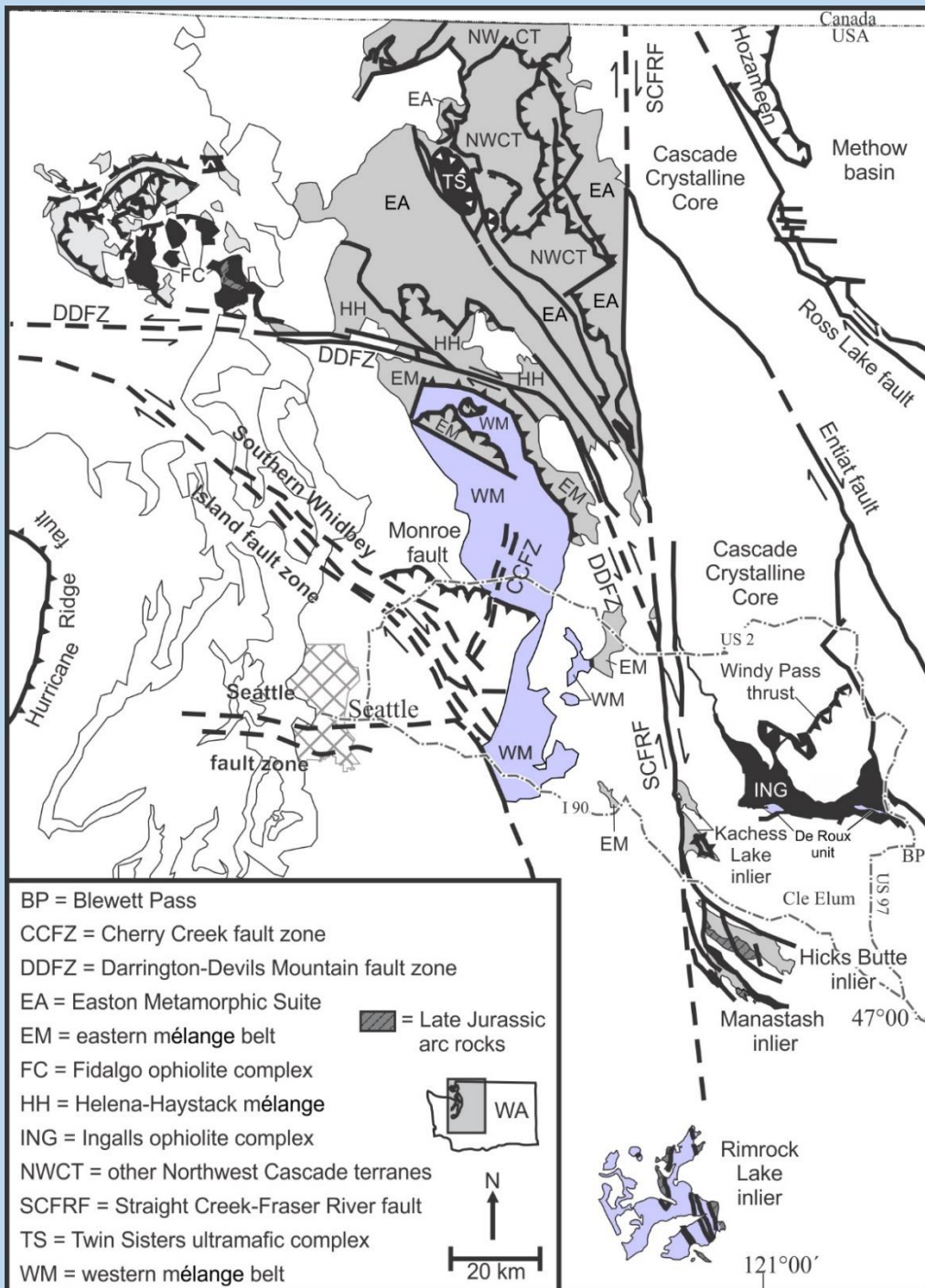
Regional geologic map of northwestern Washington.

Note the **western mélange belt (WM)** on the map in blue.

Also highlighted are the **De Roux unit**, in the central Cascades, and the **Russell Ranch complex**, in the Rimrock Lake inlier.

Diagram modified from Brown and Dragovich (2003) and MacDonald et al. (2017)





The western *mélange* belt was created by **lumping numerous units** with similar lithology and metamorphic grade (Frizzell et al., 1987).

E.G., Old Metamorphic Series, in part (Carithers and Guard, 1945), Olo Mountain Unit, in part, Sultan Unit, Stillaguamish Group, and Woods Creek intrusive bodies (Danner, 1957).

The units not placed in the western *mélange* belt became the eastern *ménage* belt (slightly older & more ultramafic rocks).

Silberling et al. (1987) placed the western *mélange* belt in the Olney Pass terrane; and, **correctly noted the *mélange* consists of outcrop- to mountain-size phacoids of sedimentary rocks with less common meta-igneous rocks.**

Summary of ages from the western mélange belt. Time scale from Ogg et al. (2016)

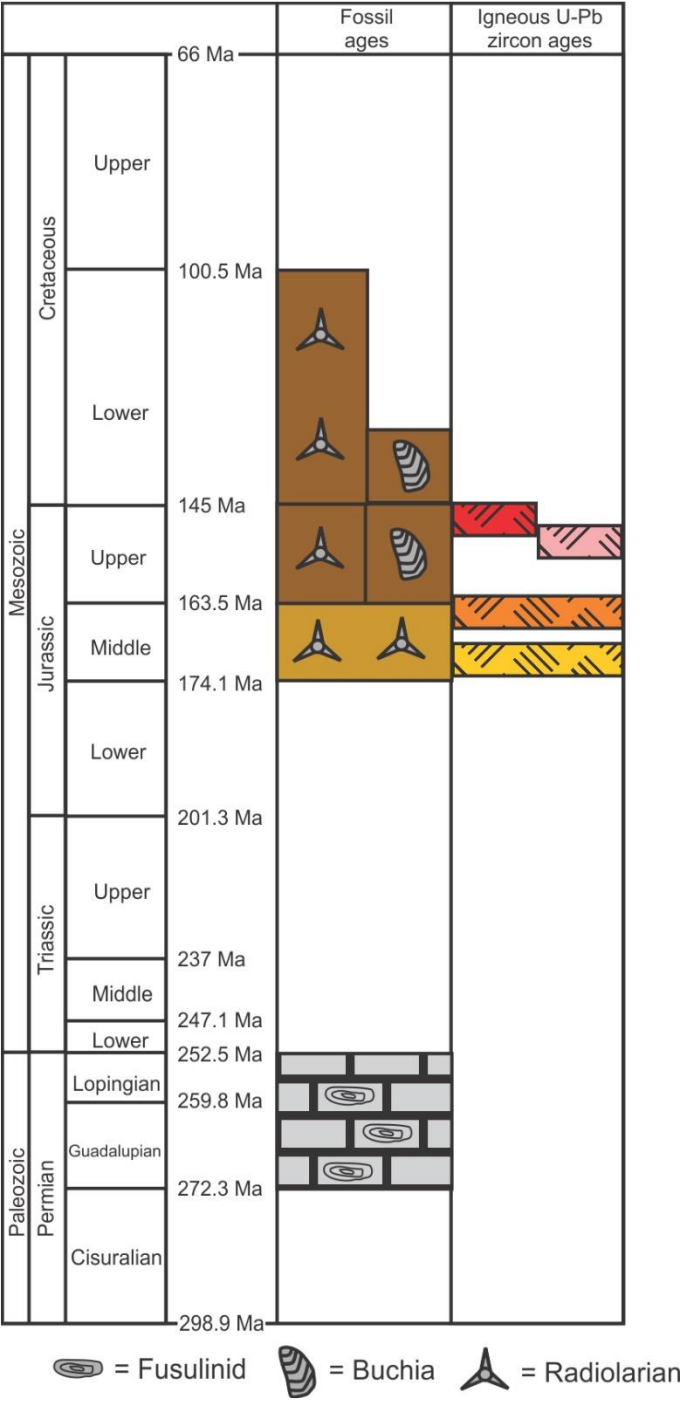
Fossil ages range from Middle Jurassic to Lower Cretaceous.

Permian limestone is interpreted to be exotic.

Igneous ages are Middle to Late Jurassic.

Fossil ages from Danner (1957; 1963; 1966), and Tabor et al. (2002)

Igneous ages from Whetten et al. (1980), Frizzell et al. (1987), Tabor et al. (1993; 2002).



Mesozoic Low- to Medium-Grade Metamorphic Rocks (Prehnite–Pumpellyite to Greenschist Facies)

KJmw Western mélange belt undivided

KJmw Metavolcanics

KJshw Greenschist

KJmsw Metasedimentary

KJphw Phyllite

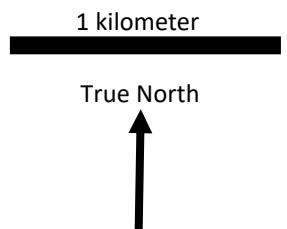
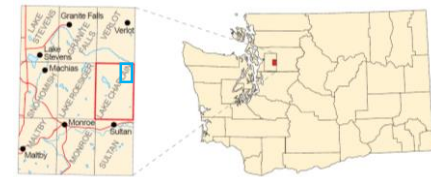
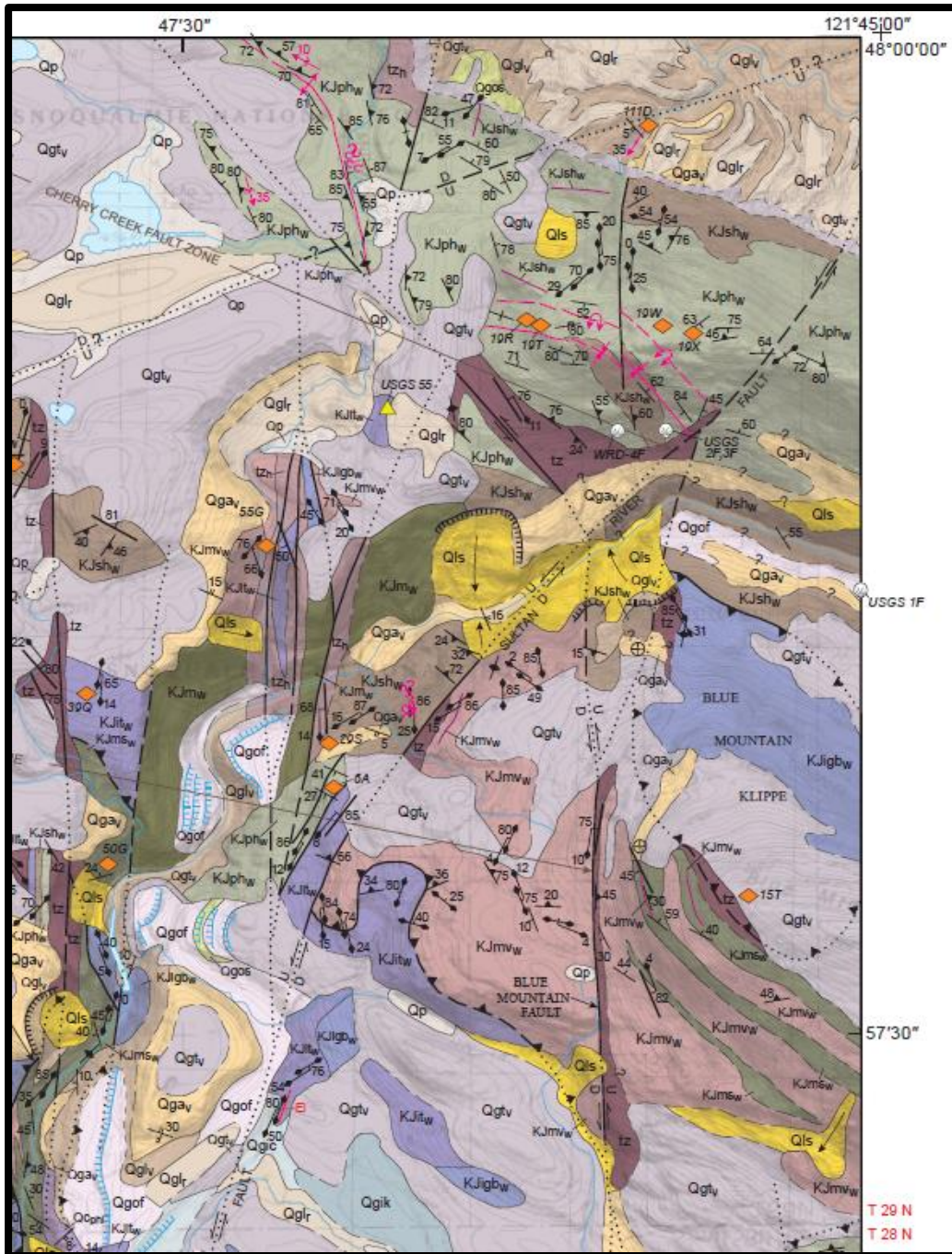
KJigbw Metagabbro

KJitw Metatrandhjemite

Holocene to Tertiary Tectonic Zones

tz Fault zones

tz_n

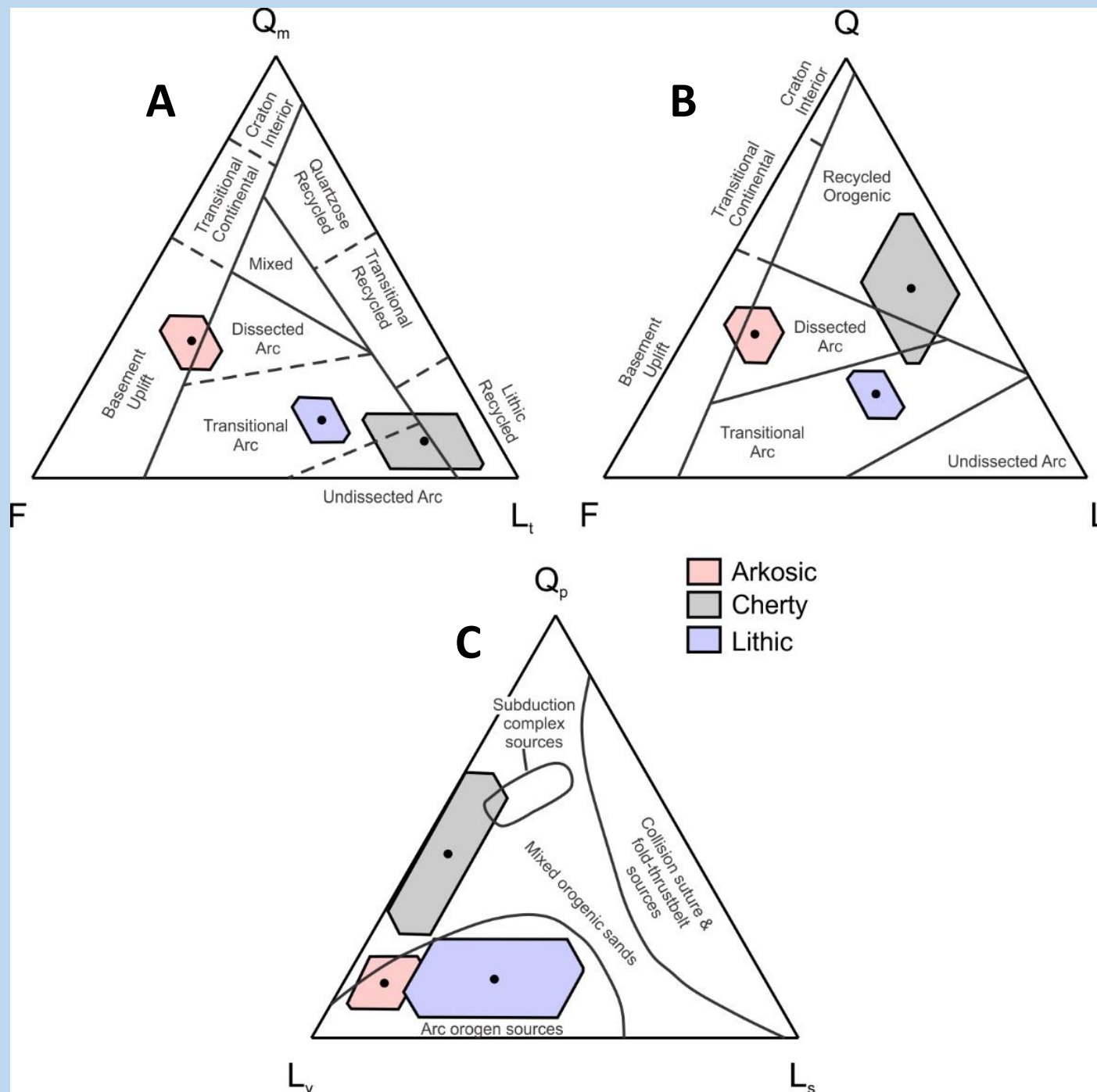


Western mélange belt sandstone point-count data from Jett and Heller (1988).

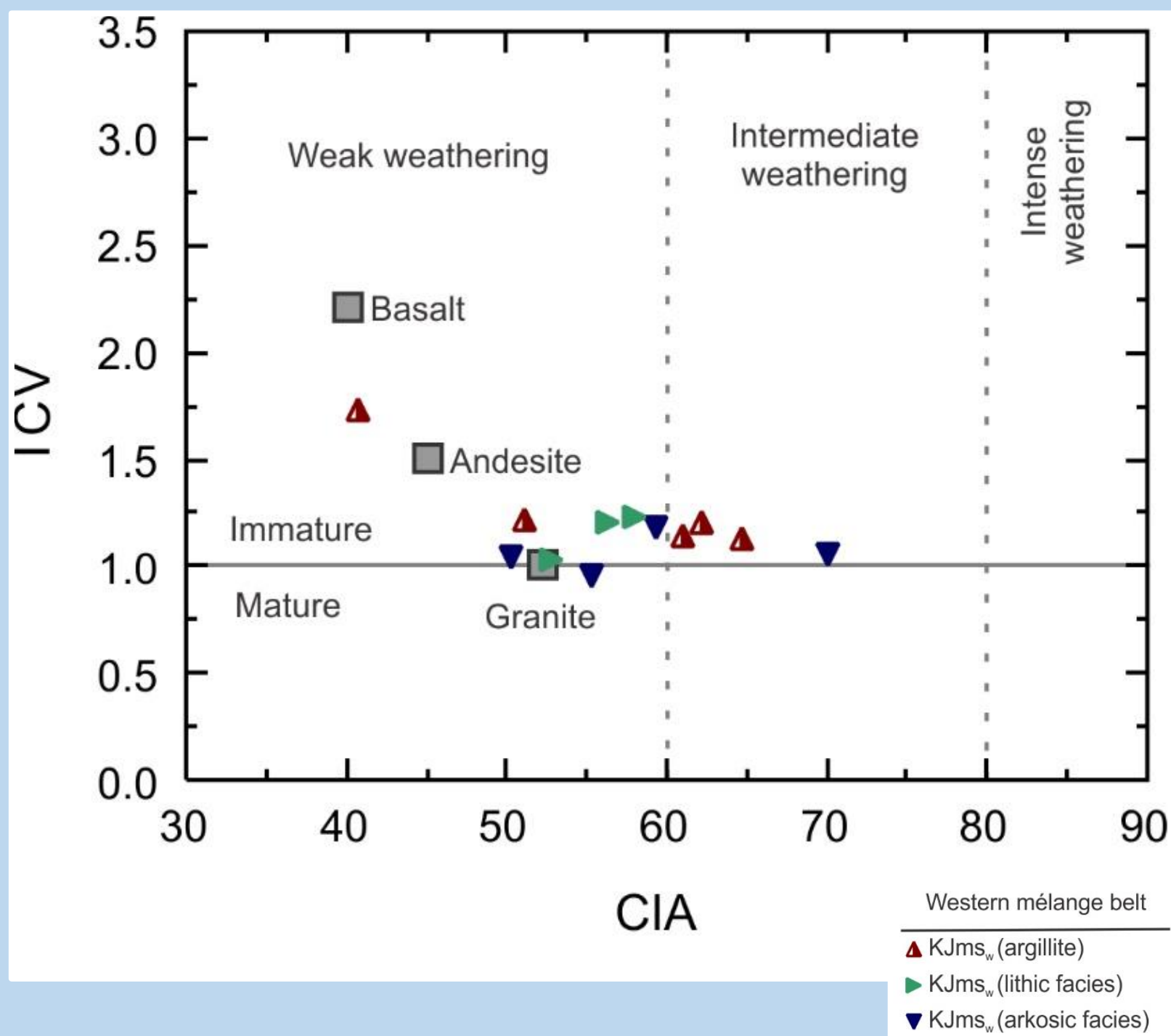
A) Q_m –F–L_t diagram after Dickinson et al. (1983).

B) Q–F–L diagram after Dickinson et al. (1983).

C) Q_p –L_v–L_s diagram after Dickinson (1985).



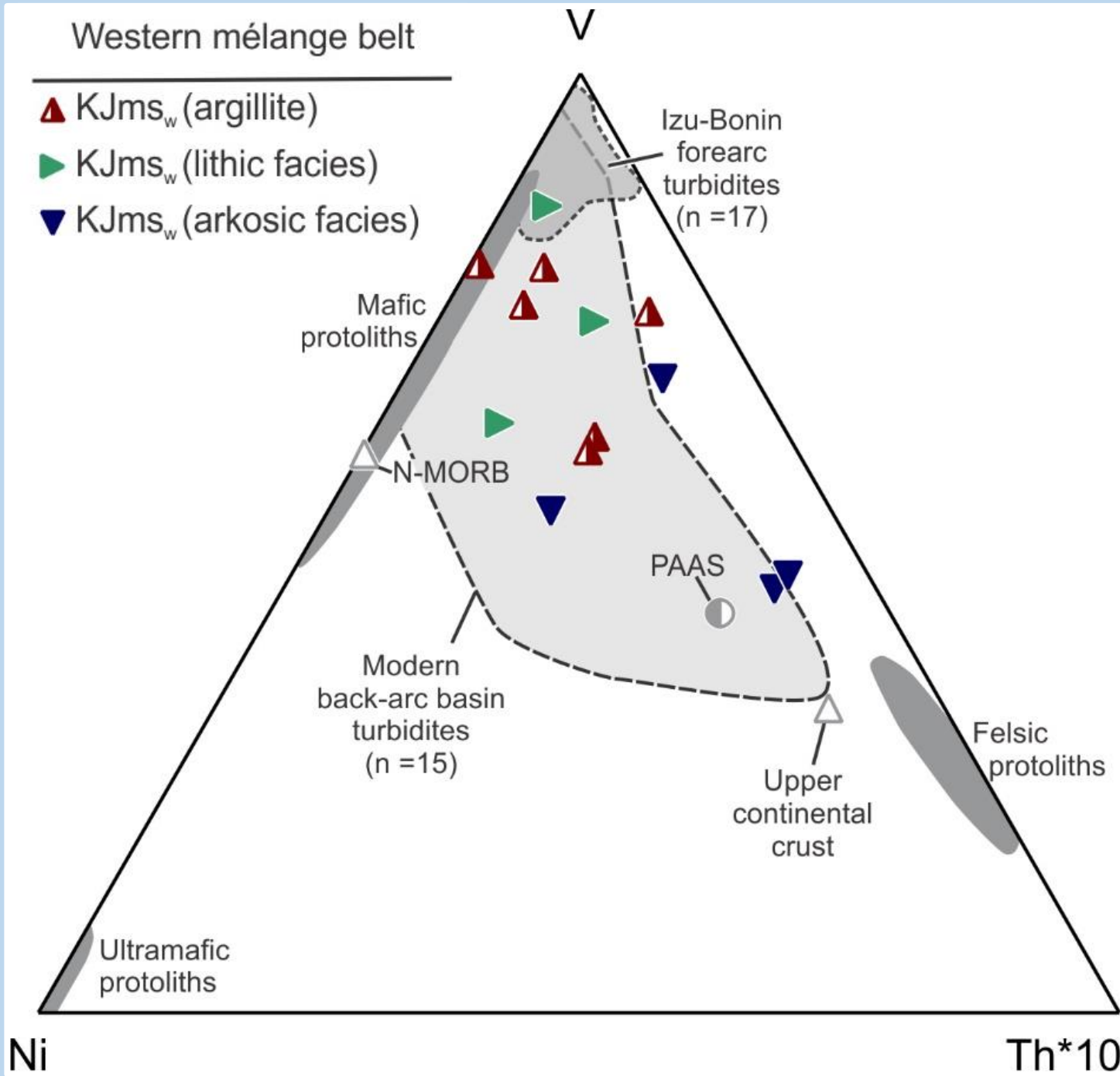
Q—monocrystalline quartz + polycrystalline quartz + chert; F—feldspar (all plagioclase in these samples); L—unstable lithics; Q_m —monocrystalline quartz; L_t —total polycrystalline lithic fragments, including stable quartzose; Q_p —chert + polycrystalline quartz; L_v —lithic volcanics; L_s —sedimentary + metasedimentary lithics.



CIA = chemical index of alteration (Nesbit & Young, 1982; Nesbit et al., 1995).
ICV = index of compositional variability (Cox et al., 1995)

CIA suggested the western mélange belt **sedimentary** samples are weakly to intermediately weathered.

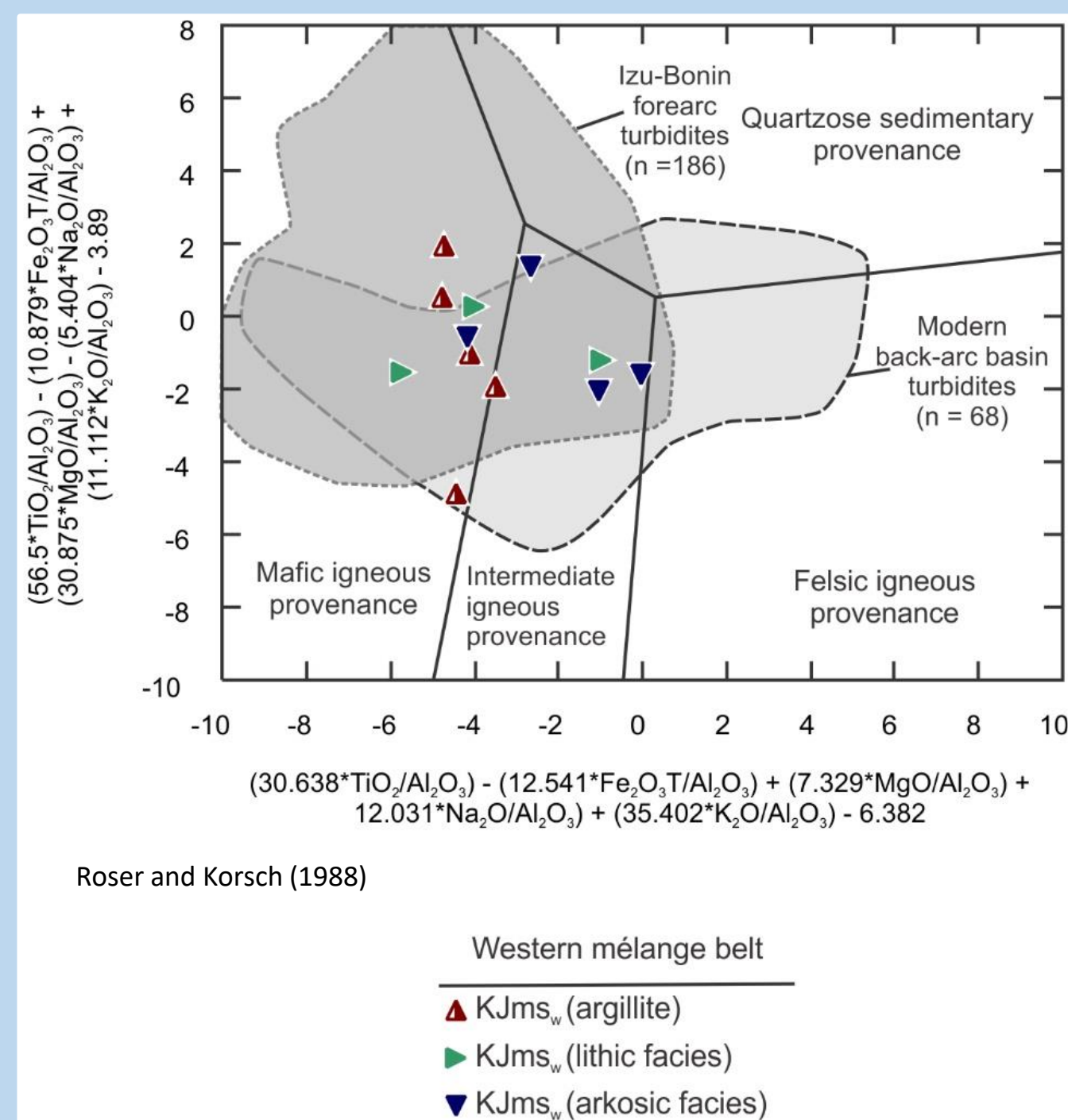
ICV suggests the western mélange belt **sedimentary** samples are mostly immature and transitional between felsic and intermediate



Provenance sedimentary geochemistry for the western mélange belt plotted on the V-Ni-Th diagram of Bracciali et al. (2007).

Arkosic facies are intermediate to felsic
Lithic facies is intermediate to mafic.

Modified from MacDonald and Dragovich (2015). Field for modern back-arc basin turbidites from McLennan et al. (1990). Field for forearc turbidites from Hiscott and Gill (1992) & Gill et al. (1994).

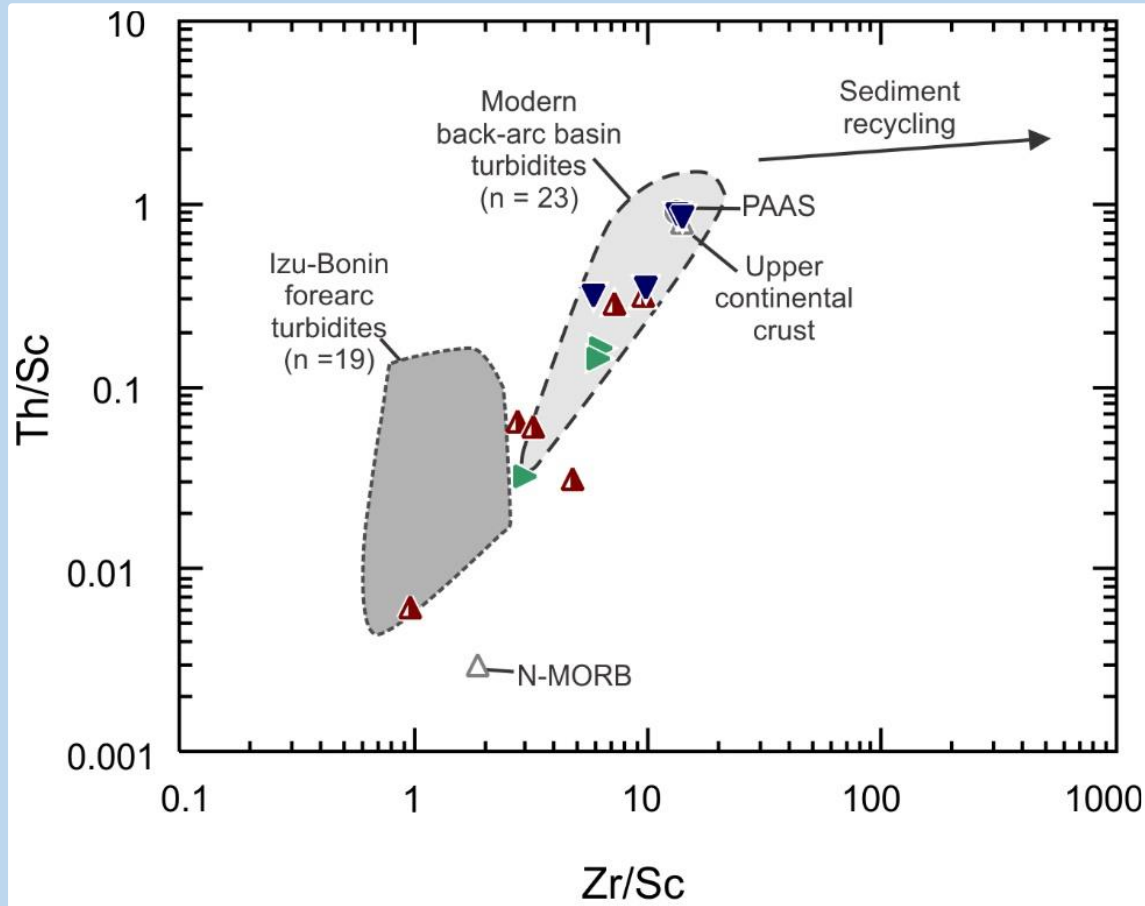


Provenance sedimentary geochemistry for the western mélangé belt modified from Roser and Korsch (1988).

Arkosic facies are mostly intermediate

Lithic facies are mostly mafic.

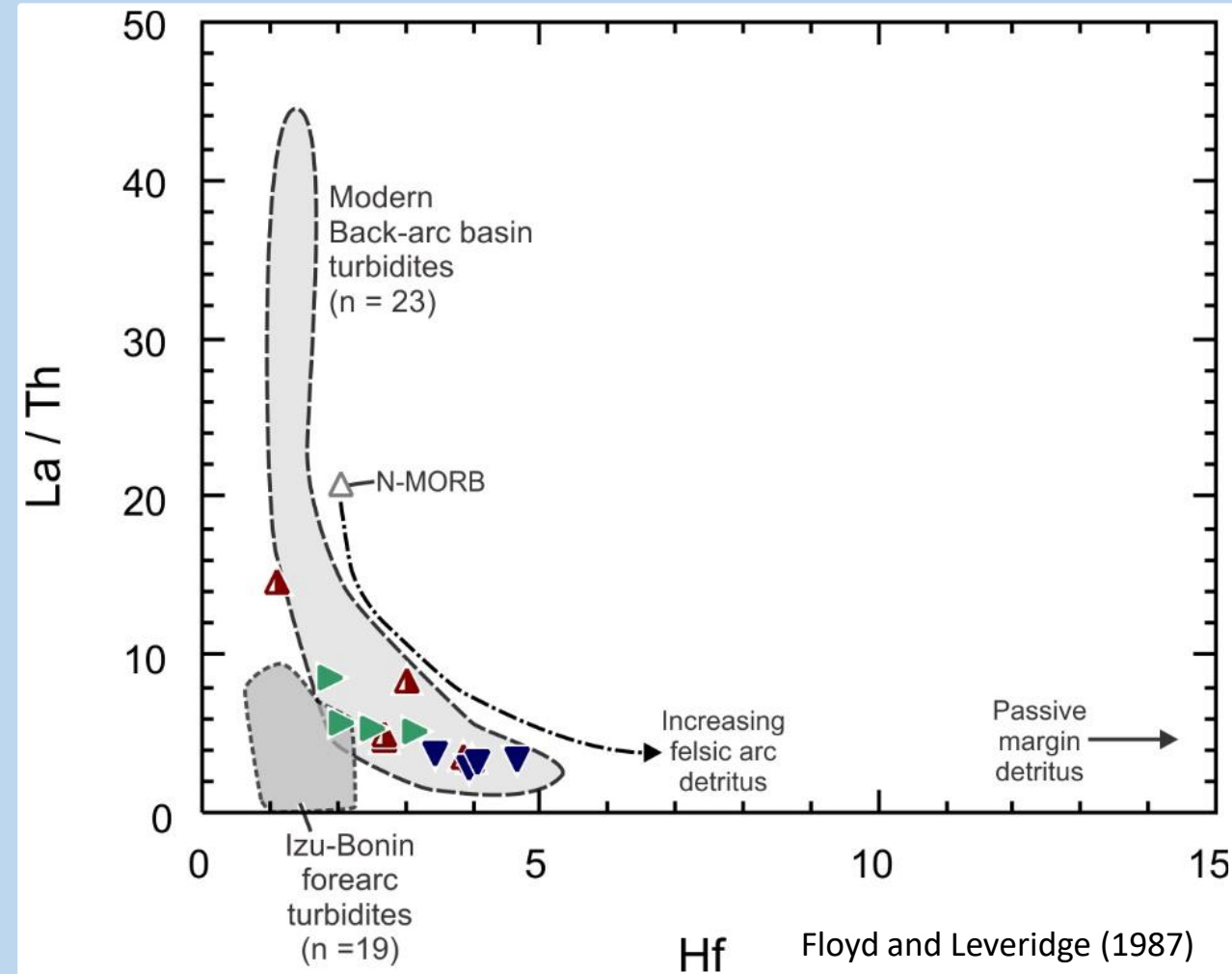
Field for modern back-arc basin turbidites from McLennan et al. (1990) and Bednarz and Schmincke (1994). Field for forearc turbidites from Hiscott and Gill (1992) & Gill et al. (1994).



McLennan et al. (1993)

Western mélangé belt

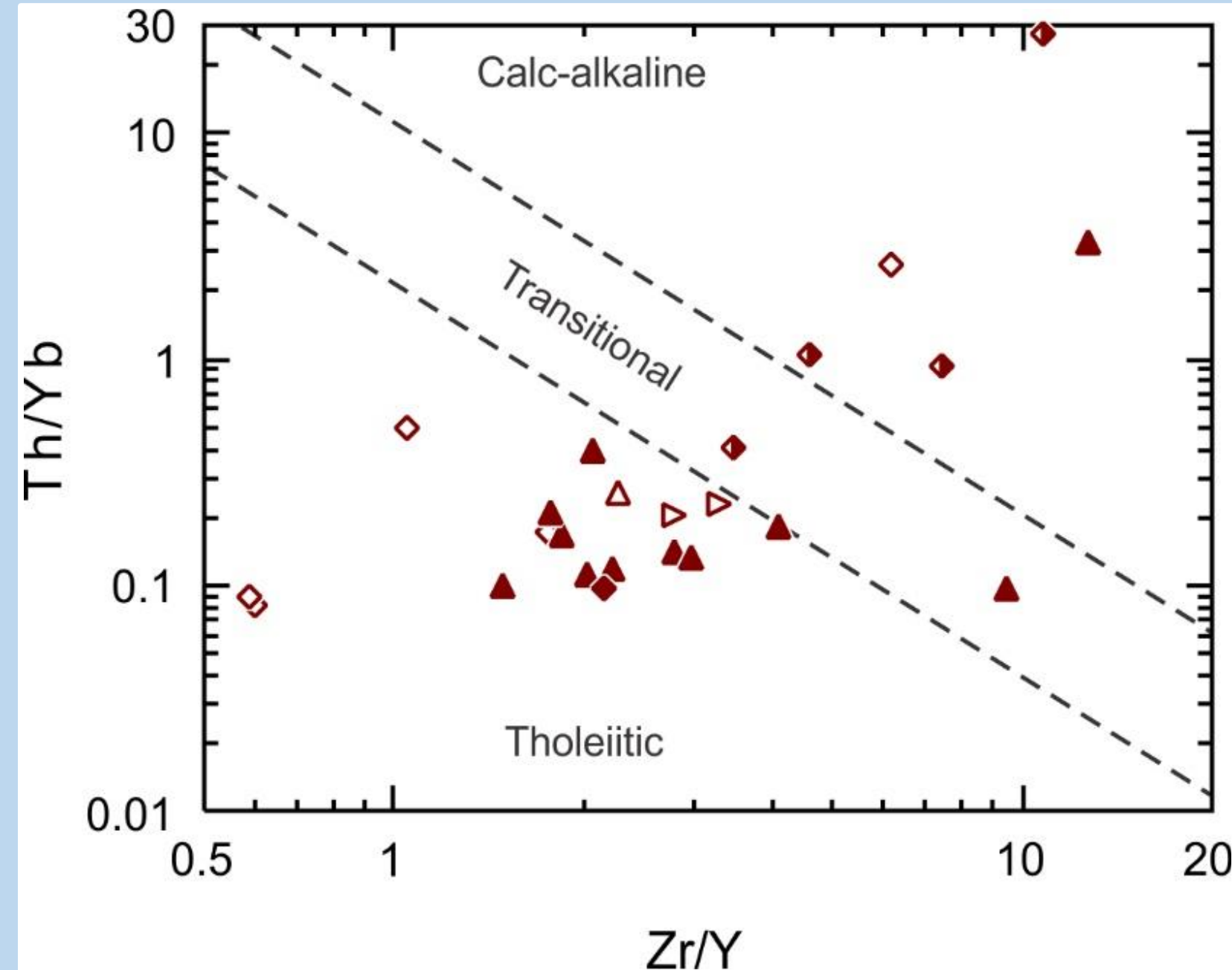
- ▲ KJms_w (argillite)
- ▶ KJms_w (lithic facies)
- ▼ KJms_w (arkosic facies)



Floyd and Leveridge (1987)

Sedimentary geochemistry discrimination diagrams for the western mélangé belt. **Samples plot in the field defined by back-arc basins.**

Field for modern back-arc basin turbidites from McLennan et al. (1990). Field for forearc turbidites from Hiscott and Gill (1992) & Gill et al. (1994).

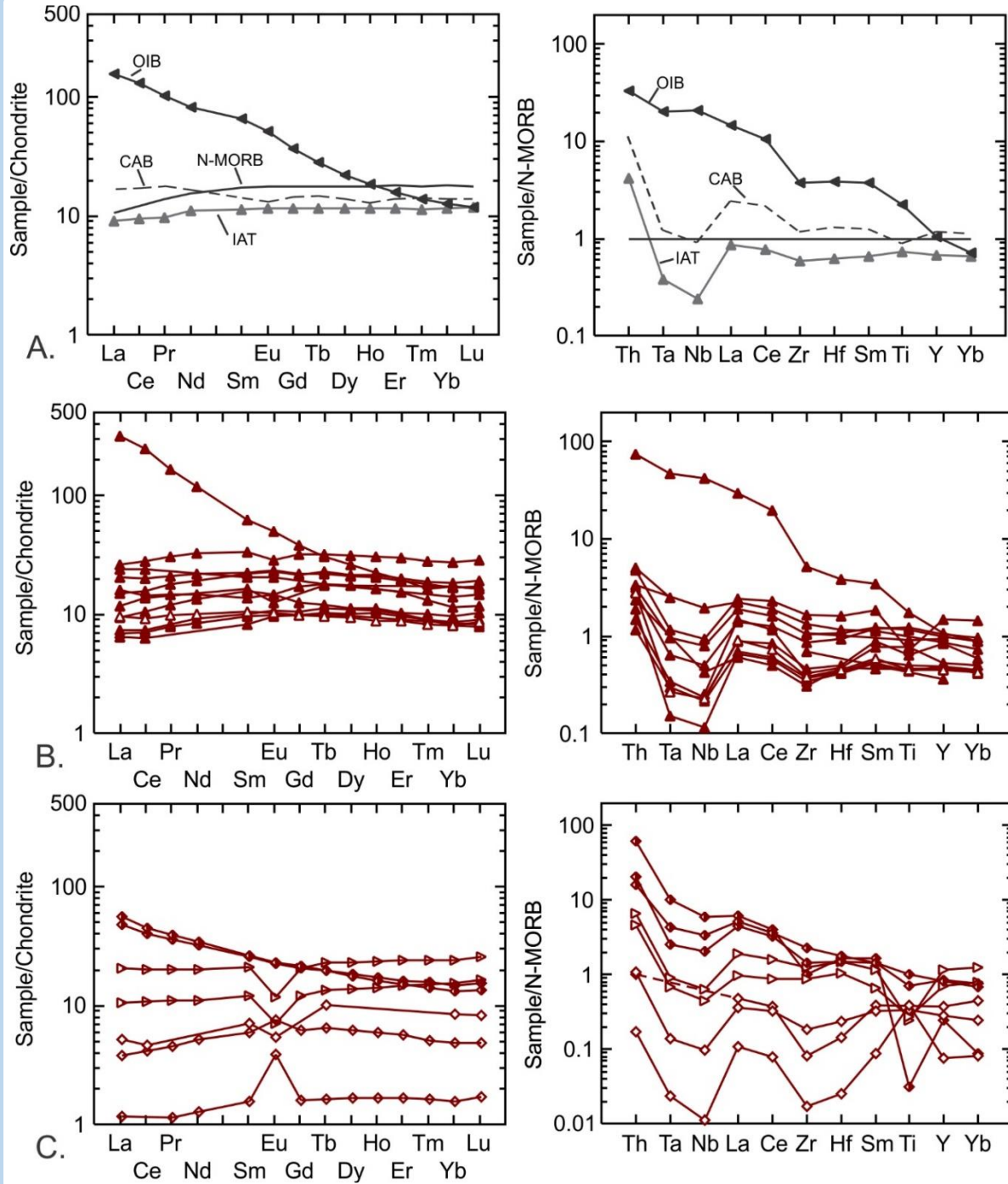


Igneous samples from the western mélange belt plotted on the Th/Yb vs. Zr/Y magmatic affinity discrimination diagram of Ross & Bédard (2009).

Samples are mostly tholeiitic

Data from Vance et al. (1980), Tabor (1994), & Dragovich et al. (2009a,b, 2013, 2014).

Western mélange belt	
▲ Kjmv _w & KJsh _w	▷ KJit _w
◇ KJigb _w	◆ Kjmv _w -tuff & KJsh _w -tuff
△ KJigb _w (diabase)	◆ KJigb _w (amphibolite)

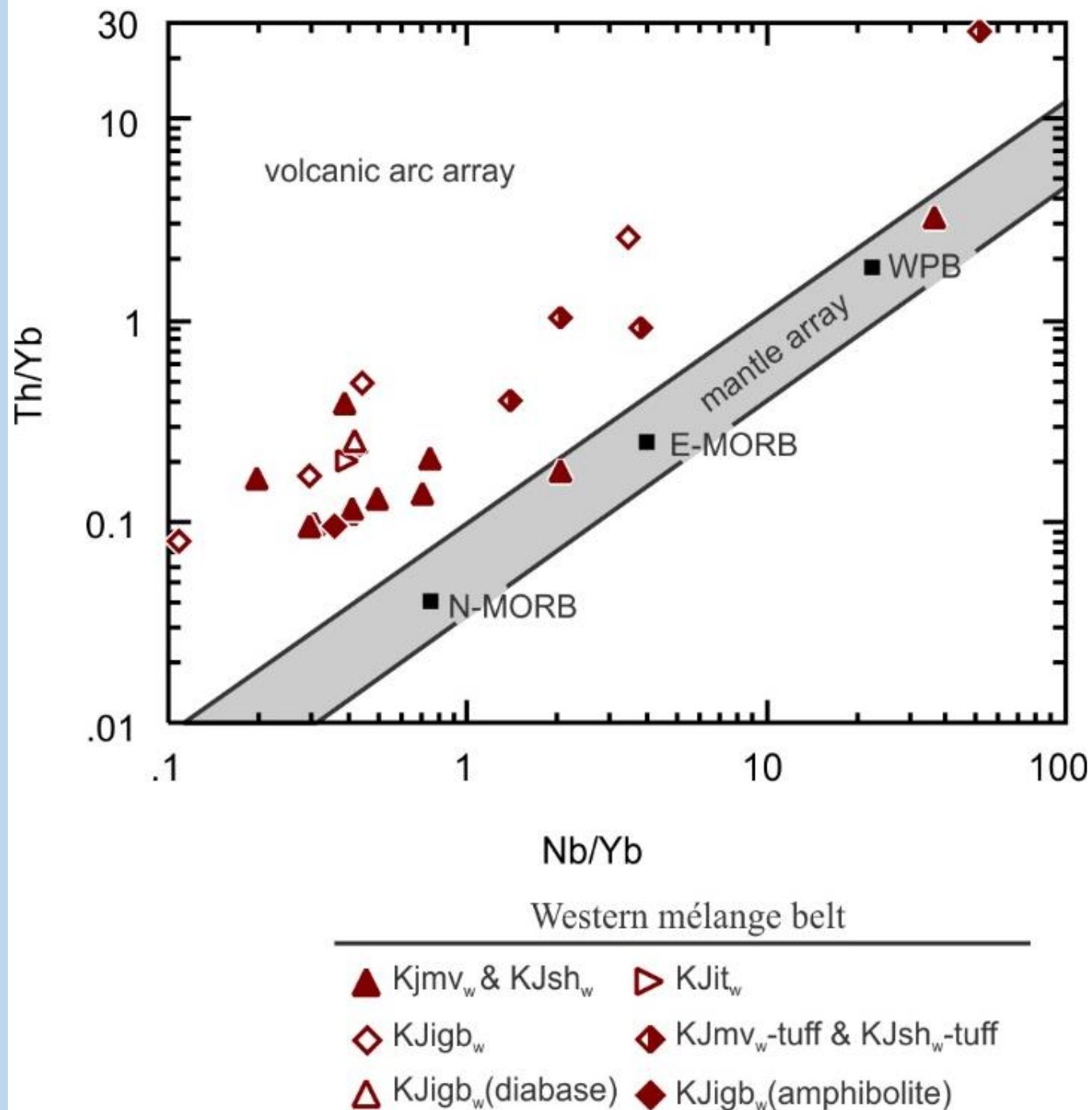


Chondrite- & N-MORB-normalized diagrams for western mélange belt **igneous samples**. Data from Vance et al. (1980), Tabor (1994), & Dragovich et al. (2009a,b, 2013, 2014).

Note the strong arc geochemical signature for most samples.

Normalized values are from Sun and McDonough (1989) and McDonough & Sun (1995).

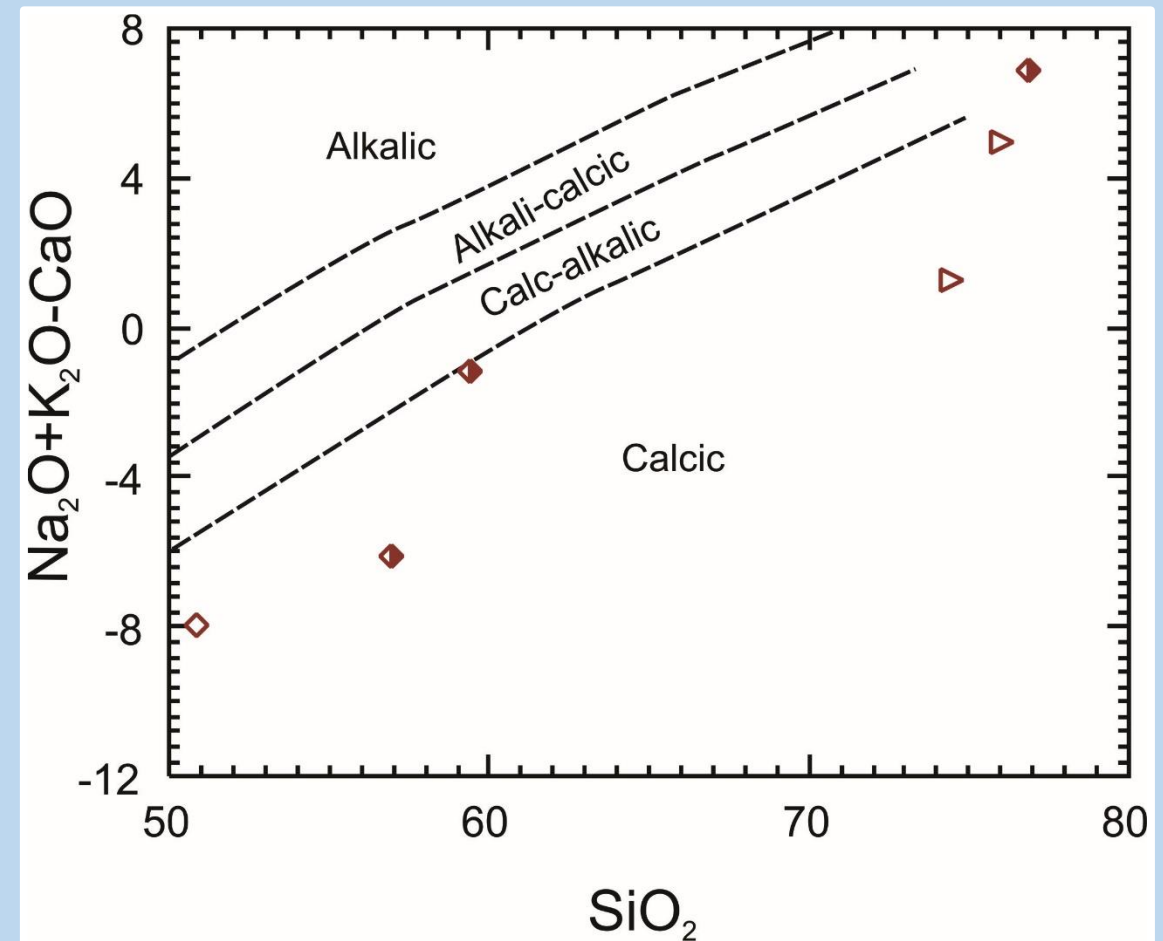
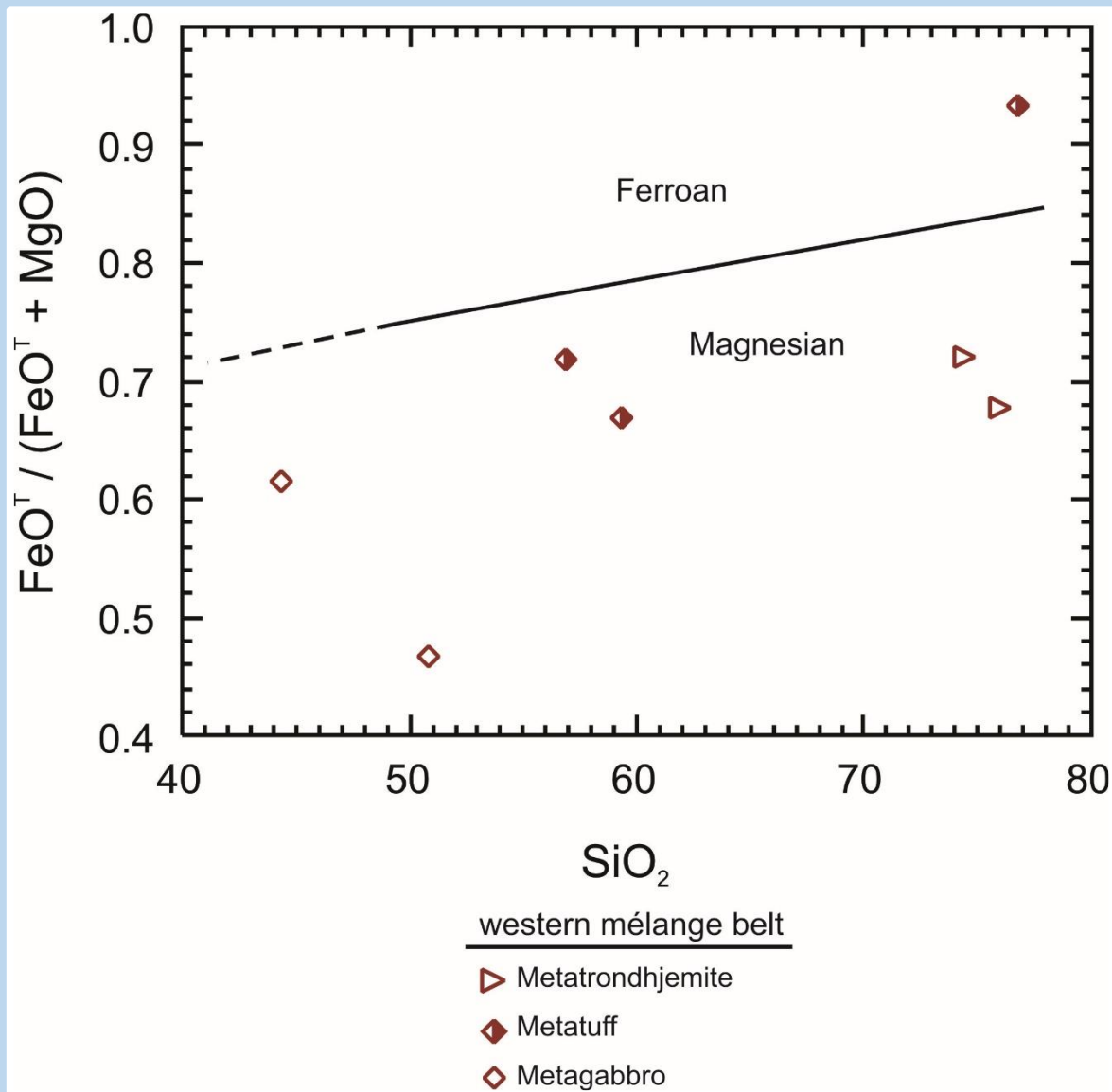
Western mélange belt			
▲ KJmv _w & KJsh _w	▷ KJit _w	◇ KJigb _w	◆ KJmv _w -tuff & KJsh _w -tuff
△ KJigb _w (diabase)	◆ KJigb _w (amphibolite)		



Igneous samples form the western mélange belt plotted on the Th/Yb vs. Nb/Yb diagram of Pearce (1982, 2008).

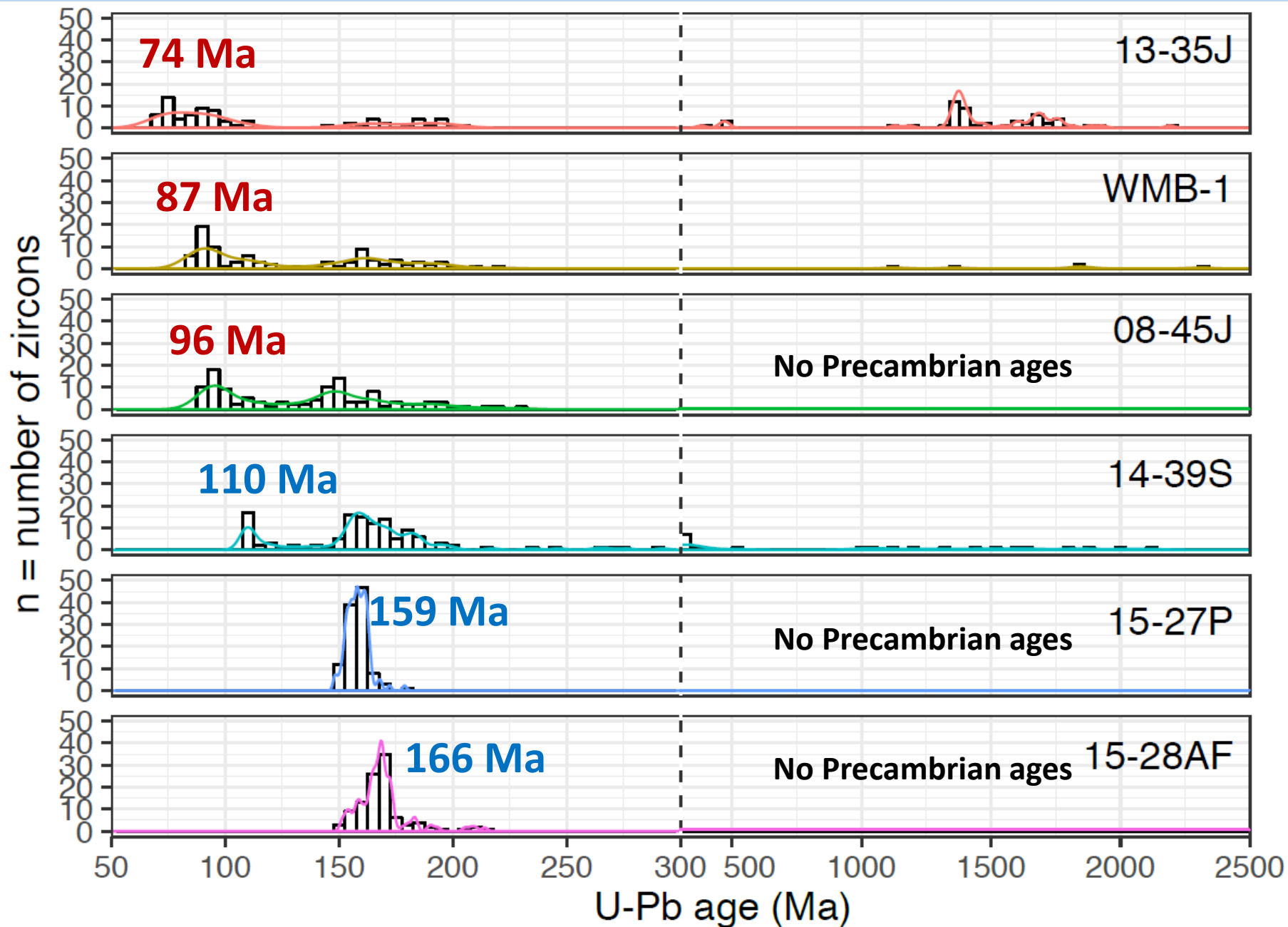
Note the primarily arc composition for most samples.

Data from Vance et al. (1980), Tabor (1994), & Dragovich et al. (2009a,b, 2013, 2014).



Intrusives and tuffs from the western mélange belt plotted on the Fe-number vs. SiO₂ and modified alkaline-calcic index (MALI) vs. SiO₂ diagrams of Frost et al. (2001).

Detrital zircon U-Pb ages from western mélangé belt sandstones



Arkosic facies (Dragovich et al., 2014; Sauer et al., 2017)

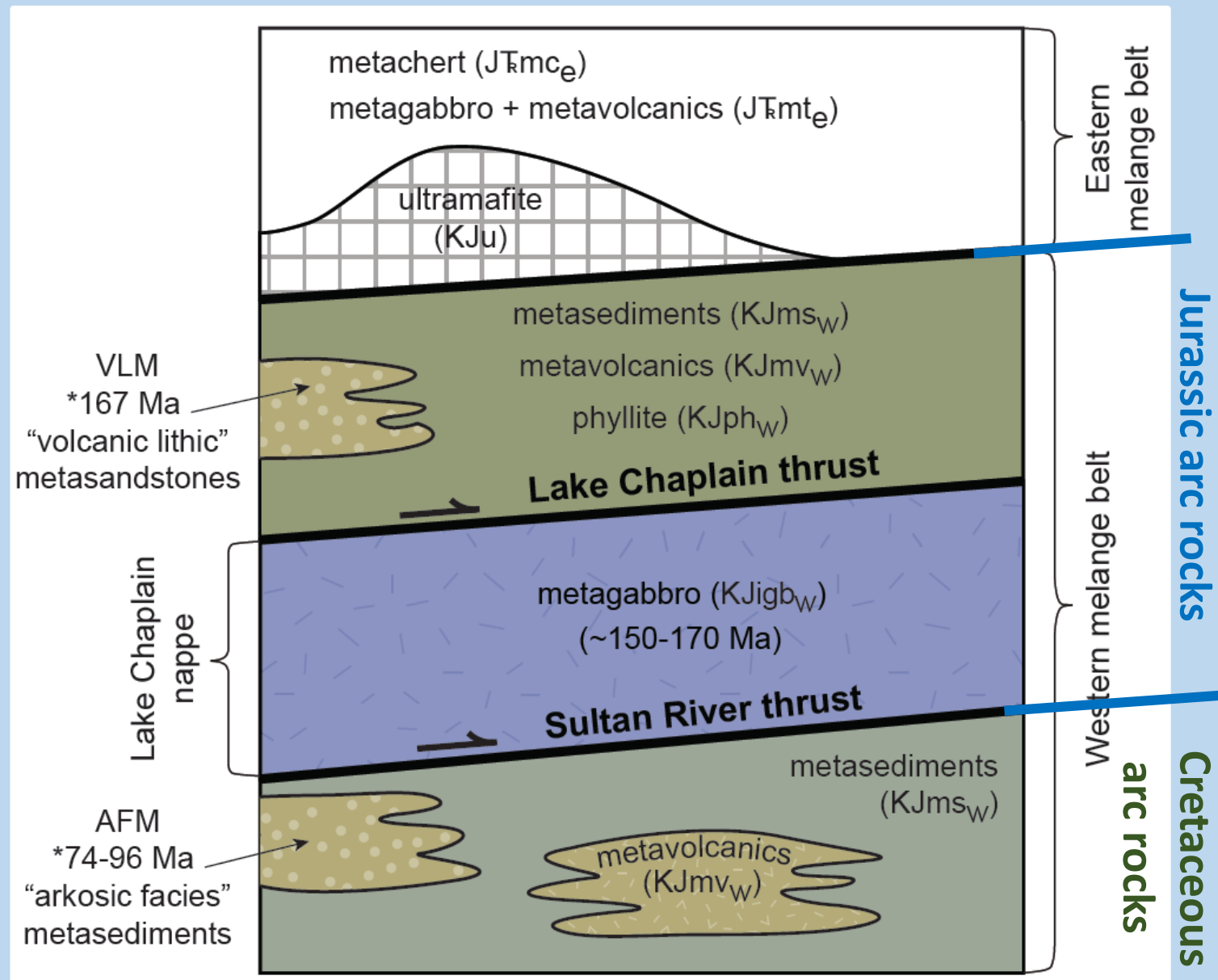
Arkosic facies (Brown, 2012)

Arkosic facies (Dragovich et al., 2009)

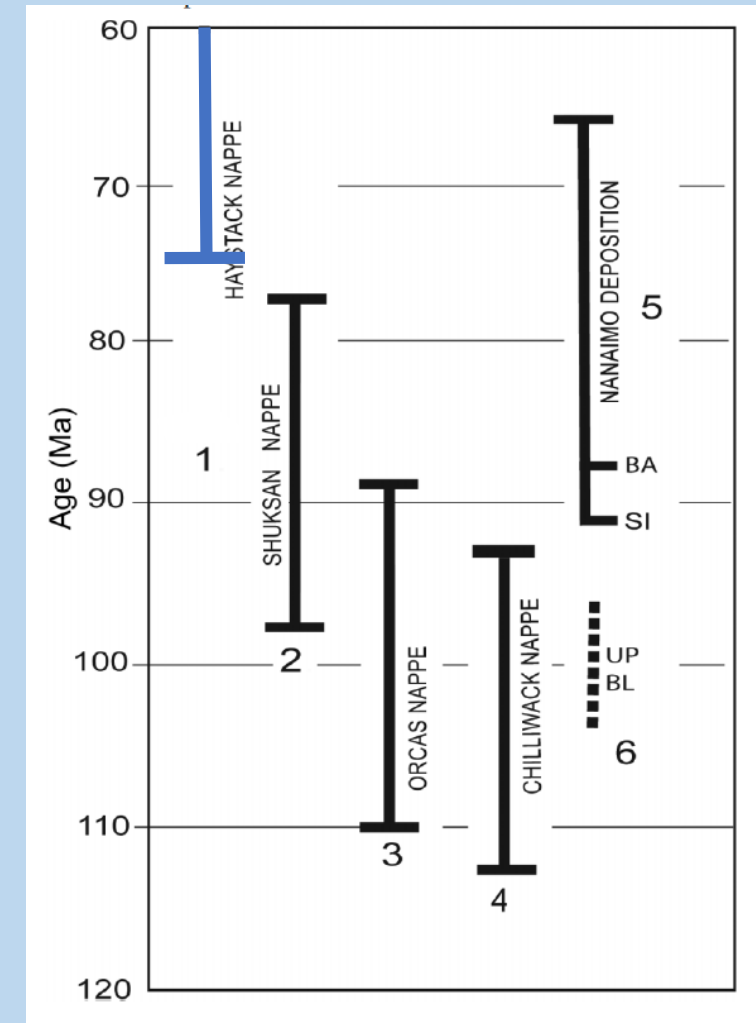
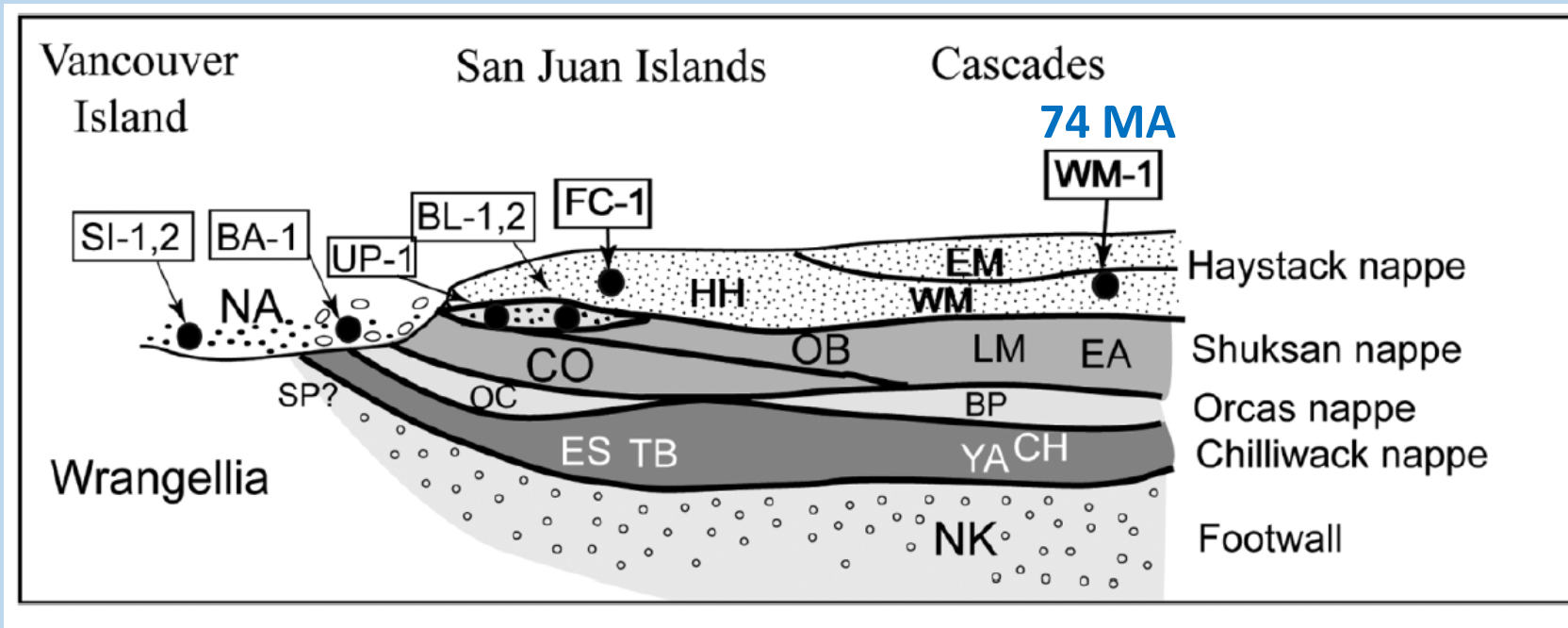
Lithic facies (Dragovich et al., 2015; Sauer et al., 2017)

Lithic facies (Dragovich et al., 2016)

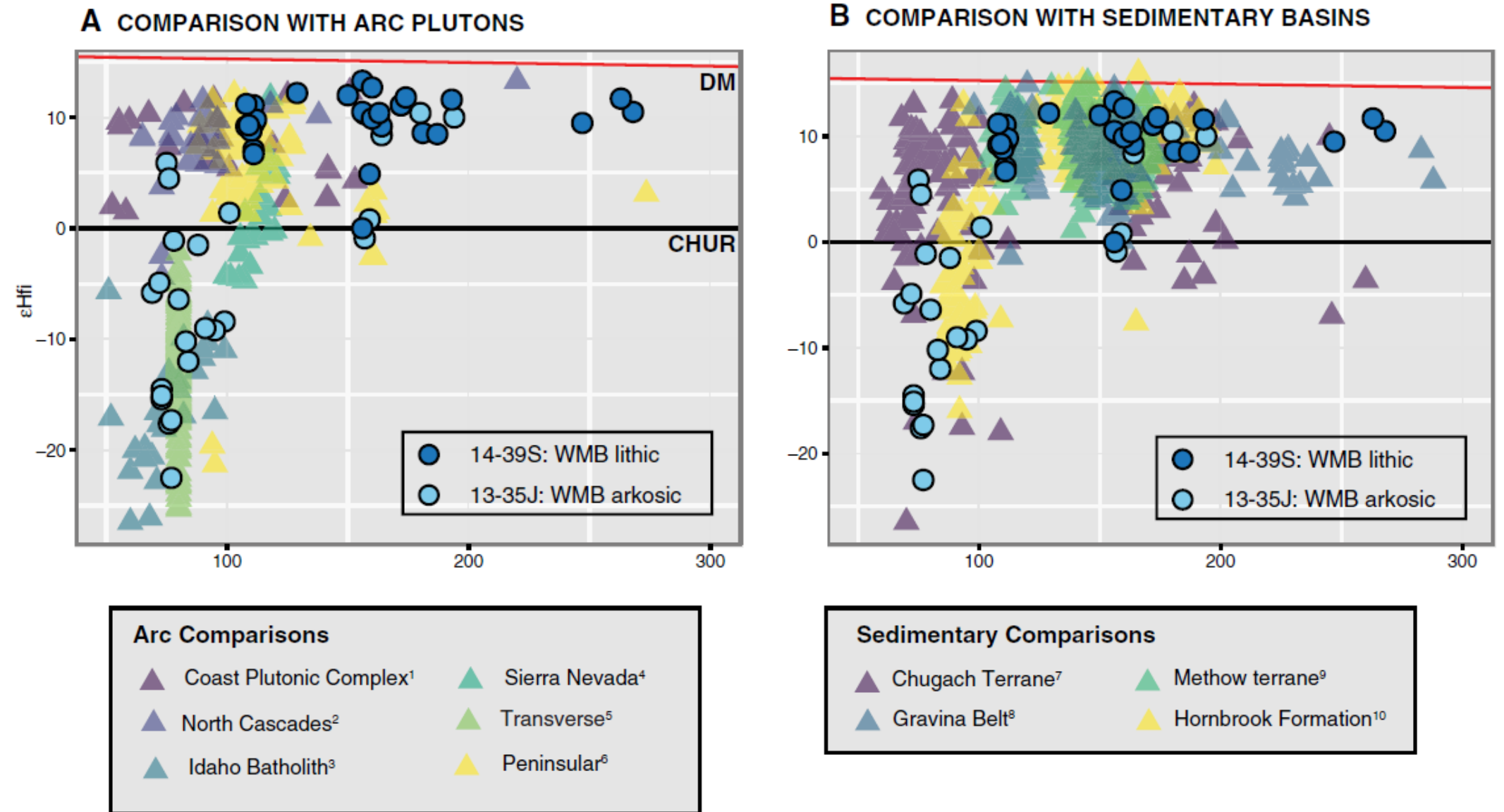
Lithic facies
(Unpublished)



- **Western mélange belt consists of at least two distinct arc terranes:**
 - one is Jurassic
 - one is Cretaceous
- **In our map area, the Jurassic arc rocks are thrust faulted over the Cretaceous arc rocks.**
- **Relationship between Jurassic and Cretaceous arc rocks is structural.**



Age of nappe emplacement modified from Brown (2012). The 74 ma detrital zircon age decreases the maximum age of thrusting by 13 million years.



What, if any, implications do these finds have on terrane translations?
See Sauer et al. (2017)