

# The role of marine silicate weathering in regulating marine carbon cycle over geological time scales

WEI-LI HONG<sup>1</sup>, MARTA E TORRES<sup>2</sup> AND KUO-FANG HUANG<sup>3</sup>

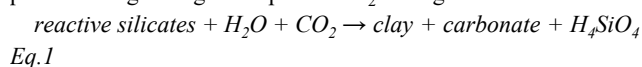
<sup>1</sup>Department of Geological Sciences, Stockholm University

<sup>2</sup>Oregon State University

<sup>3</sup>Institute of Earth Sciences, Academia Sinica

Presenting Author: [wei-li.hong@geo.su.se](mailto:wei-li.hong@geo.su.se)

Weathering of silicates coupled to carbonate formation (i.e. Urey reaction) has been shown as one of the most important processes regulating atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> through time:



While terrestrial silicate weathering has been much studied and quantified, it is only recently that its marine counterpart has begun to receive attentions. Estimates of CO<sub>2</sub> consumption rates through marine silicate weathering using lithogenic silicates (0.3 to 3.2 Tmol C/year, Jeandel and Oelkers, 2015; 1-4 Tmol C/yr, Torres et al., 2020) are comparable with the net CO<sub>2</sub> consumption proposed for oceanic crust alteration (1.5-2.4 Tmol C/yr; Alt and Teagle, 1999). If we naively assume that all the silicic acid produced through CO<sub>2</sub> consumption via Eq. 1 is released to the oceans, marine silicate weathering, including both oceanic crust and lithogenic silicates, could supply the oceans with as much Si as rivers do (6.33 Tmol Si/yr; Sutton et al., 2018). In this study, we aim to examine the role of marine silicate weathering in the modern and past Si budgets by using the radiogenic strontium ratios (<sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr) and stable strontium isotopic signatures (δ<sup>88</sup>Sr) from locations where dissolution of lithogenic silicates and volcanic glass has been shown to drive authigenic carbonate precipitation. The <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr ratios reflect decomposition of either the <sup>87</sup>Sr-rich lithogenic silicates or the <sup>87</sup>Sr-poor volcanic aluminosilicates, without complications associated with carbonate precipitation or microbial processes. In contrast, the δ<sup>88</sup>Sr signatures are fractionated during carbonate precipitation and thus provide a good constraint for the process. By simulating the pore fluid strontium & silica concentrations, as well as <sup>87</sup>Sr/<sup>86</sup>Sr and δ<sup>88</sup>Sr porewater profiles with a transport-reaction model, we show that silicate alteration and the accompanying carbonate precipitation could be active in sediments that are millions of years old and as deep as a few hundred meters below seafloor. Our results emphasize the role of marine silicate weathering as a substantial CO<sub>2</sub> sink over the long geological time scales.