

## **Diagenesiswashing - the case of Mn/Sr ratios**

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Many geochemists and geologists interested in reconstructing Earth history from chemical and isotopic measurements in marine carbonate sediments give lip-service to diagenetic alteration. There is perhaps no better example than the widespread use of Mn/Sr ratios as indicators of diagenesis in shallow-water marine carbonate sediments. Typically authors use the absence of linear correlations or arbitrary thresholds in Mn/Sr ratios as unassailable evidence that the effects of diagenetic alteration are minor. While Mn/Sr ratios may be useful in certain cases, they should not be used as indicators of diagenetic alteration. More useful (if time intensive) diagenetic indicators will be discussed as well as strategies for 'seeing through' early diagenetic alteration to reconstruct 'snapshots' of seawater chemistry.