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# **Investigation and application of thallium isotope fractionation**

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21 **ABSTRACT**

22 This contribution summarizes the current state of understanding and recent advances made  
23 in the field of stable thallium (Tl) isotope geochemistry. High precision measurements of Tl  
24 isotope compositions were developed in the late 1990s with the advent of multiple collector  
25 inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (MC-ICPMS) and subsequent studies revealed  
26 that Tl, despite the small relative mass difference of the two isotopes, exhibits substantial stable  
27 isotope fractionation, especially in the marine environment. The most fractionated reservoirs  
28 identified are ferromanganese sediments with  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} \approx +15$  and low temperature altered oceanic  
29 crust with  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} \approx -20$ . The total isotopic variability of more than 35  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$ -units hence exceeds  
30 the current analytical reproducibility of the measurement technique by more than a factor of 70.  
31 This isotopic variation can be explained by invoking a combination of conventional mass  
32 dependent equilibrium isotope effects and nuclear field shift isotope fractionation, but the  
33 specific mechanisms are still largely unaccounted for.

34 Thallium isotopes have been applied to investigate paleoceanographic processes in the  
35 Cenozoic and there is evidence to suggest that Tl isotopes may be utilized as a monitor of the  
36 marine manganese oxide burial flux over million year time scales. In addition, Tl isotopes can be  
37 used to calculate the magnitude of hydrothermal fluid circulation through ocean crust. It has also  
38 been shown that the subduction of marine ferromanganese sediments can be detected with Tl  
39 isotopes in lavas erupted in subduction zone settings as well as in ocean island basalts.

40 Meteorite samples display Tl isotope variations that exceed the terrestrial range with a total  
41 variability of about 50  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$ . The large isotopic diversity, however, is generated by both stable  
42 Tl isotope fractionations, which reflect the highly volatile and labile cosmochemical nature of the  
43 element, and radiogenic decay of extinct  $^{205}\text{Pb}$  to  $^{205}\text{Tl}$  with a half-life of about 15 Ma. The

44 difficulty of deconvolving these two sources of isotopic variability restricts the utility of both the  
45  $^{205}\text{Pb}$ - $^{205}\text{Tl}$  chronometer and the Tl stable isotope system to inform on early solar system  
46 processes.

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48

## 49 1. INTRODUCTION

50 The distribution of Tl in natural environments on Earth is controlled in part by its large ionic  
51 radius ( $\text{Tl}^+ = 1.50 \text{ \AA}$ ), which is akin to the alkali metals potassium (K), rubidium (Rb) and  
52 cesium (Cs) (Heinrichs et al., 1980; Shannon, 1976; Wedepohl, 1974). Thallium's large ionic  
53 radius renders it highly incompatible during partial melting and magmatic differentiation, leading  
54 to much higher Tl concentrations in the continental crust (Shaw, 1952; Wedepohl, 1995)  
55 compared to the mantle (Fig. 1). However, the electron structure of Tl tends to favor covalent  
56 bonding, which makes Tl compatible in some sulfides (Genna and Gaboury, 2015; Jones et al.,  
57 1993; Kiseeva and Wood, 2013; Nielsen et al., 2011; Nielsen et al., 2014; Wood et al., 2008). In  
58 addition to its bonding preferences, Tl has two different valence states:  $\text{Tl}^+$  and  $\text{Tl}^{3+}$ . Although  
59 oxidation of Tl requires a large redox potential (Table 1) the manganese (Mn) oxide birnessite  
60 has the ability to adsorb and oxidize Tl at its surface (Bidoglio et al., 1993; Peacock and Moon,  
61 2012) and subsequently incorporate  $\text{Tl}^{3+}$  more firmly in its structure, which leads to very high  
62 concentrations of Tl in marine (Fe) Mn oxides (Fig. 1) (Hein et al., 2000; Nielsen et al., 2013;  
63 Peacock and Moon, 2012; Rehkämper et al., 2002; Shaw, 1952). Sorption of Tl onto some clay  
64 minerals has also been observed (Matthews and Riley, 1970; McGoldrick et al., 1979; Turner et  
65 al., 2010) although it is not clear if this behavior is related to the similarity with alkali metals.  
66 Thallium's higher particle-reactivity compared to alkali metals results in low concentrations in  
67 rivers and the oceans and thus a higher concentration contrast between the ocean and continental  
68 crust compared to elements such as Rb, Cs and K (Bruland, 1983; Flegal and Patterson, 1985;  
69 Nielsen et al., 2005b).

70 Thallium has two isotopes with atomic masses 203 and 205 (Table 1) and abundances of  
71  $\sim 30\%$  and  $\sim 70\%$ , respectively. This equates to a relative mass difference of  $<1\%$ . Considering

72 that stable isotope fractionation theory states that the magnitude of isotope fractionation should  
73 scale with the relative mass difference of the isotopes (Bigeleisen and Mayer, 1947; Urey, 1947)  
74 one would not expect large stable isotope effects for Tl. Hence, it may be surprising that stable  
75 isotope investigations for Tl were commenced in the first place. However, the first attempts to  
76 measure Tl isotope ratios were not aimed at terrestrial materials. The main reason behind the first  
77 Tl isotope studies was the search for potential radiogenic isotope variations due to decay of the  
78 now-extinct radioactive isotope  $^{205}\text{Pb}$  to  $^{205}\text{Tl}$  with a half-life of 15.1 Ma (Pengra et al., 1978),  
79 whereas  $^{203}\text{Tl}$  is stable and has no radioactive precursor. A number of studies between 1960 and  
80 1994 failed to register resolvable Tl isotope variation for some selected terrestrial and a large  
81 number of extraterrestrial materials (Anders and Stevens, 1960; Chen and Wasserburg, 1987,  
82 1994; Huey and Kohman, 1972; Ostic et al., 1969). These investigations were hampered,  
83 however, by the relatively large errors (>2‰) associated with the thermal ionization mass  
84 spectrometry (TIMS) measurements used at that time. The breakthrough came in 1999 when the  
85 first high precision Tl isotope measurements by MC-ICPMS were published (Rehkämper and  
86 Halliday, 1999). This technique provided a reduction in the uncertainty of more than an order of  
87 magnitude with errors reported at about 0.1-0.2‰ (Rehkämper and Halliday, 1999). With the  
88 reduced error bars, analysis of various terrestrial samples revealed large Tl isotope variation in  
89 excess of 15 times the analytical reproducibility of the original method, which opened up  
90 investigations of Tl isotope fractionation on Earth and in meteorites.

91 In this contribution, we summarize the knowledge that has been accumulated since 1999 on  
92 the stable isotope geochemistry of Tl. Three main environments are discussed: 1) extraterrestrial,  
93 2) the solid Earth, and 3) the marine domain. Throughout these sections, current and notable  
94 applications of Tl stable isotopes in geochemical research are incorporated. Finally, potential

95 future studies are suggested that are likely to make Tl isotopes a more quantitative tracer in Earth  
96 sciences.

97

## 98 **2. METHODOLOGY**

### 99 **2.1. Mass spectrometry**

100 The advent of MC-ICPMS facilitated the development of high-precision Tl isotope ratio  
101 measurements. The principal difference to the previous TIMS measurements was the ability to  
102 correct for instrumental isotope fractionation that occurs during the measurement (mass bias or  
103 mass discrimination). Two-isotope systems are difficult to measure by TIMS because isotope  
104 fractionation during volatilization from the filament is both time and mass dependent, which is  
105 difficult to correct for. Therefore, precise stable isotope ratios by TIMS are best measured with  
106 the use of a double spike (Rudge et al., 2009). However, double spiking can only easily be  
107 performed for elements with four or more isotopes (Rudge et al., 2009) and this is the reason  
108 why the early Tl isotope studies by TIMS yielded relatively large uncertainties. The great  
109 advantage of MC-ICPMS when measuring Tl isotopes (or any two-isotope system) is that, even  
110 though the overall magnitude of instrumental mass discrimination is much larger than for TIMS,  
111 it can be monitored independently during a measurement and thus corrections can be applied  
112 much more precisely than is possible with TIMS. This mass bias correction can be performed  
113 because the sample is introduced into the mass spectrometer as a solution (or a desolvated  
114 aerosol). Into this solution can be admixed a separate element with a known isotope composition  
115 (for Tl this element is Pb) and by assuming that the mass bias incurred for the two elements are  
116 proportional, isotope ratios can be determined very accurately and precisely (Nielsen et al., 2004;  
117 Rehkämper and Halliday, 1999). For Tl isotope measurements this external normalization with

118 Pb is always combined with the more conventional standard-sample bracketing technique that is  
119 also very common for stable isotope measurements by MC-ICPMS, which produces the most  
120 rigorous measurement stability as both instrumental mass bias and machine drift can be corrected  
121 for simultaneously. In practice (as is the case for all other stable isotope systems) isotope  
122 compositions are conventionally reported by reference to a standard that is defined as zero. For  
123 Tl this standard is the NIST 997 Tl metal, such that:

$$124 \quad \epsilon^{205\text{Tl}} = 10^4 \times \left( \frac{^{205}\text{Tl}/^{203}\text{Tl}_{\text{sample}} - ^{205}\text{Tl}/^{203}\text{Tl}_{\text{NIST 997}}}{^{205}\text{Tl}/^{203}\text{Tl}_{\text{NIST 997}}} \right) \quad (1)$$

125 The terminology used for Tl isotope ratios is slightly different from most stable isotope  
126 systems, which generally use the  $\delta$ -notation (variations in parts per 1,000). The reason for this  
127 difference is that the Tl isotope system was originally developed as a cosmochemical radiogenic  
128 isotope system, which is usually reported using the  $\epsilon$ -notation (variations in parts per 10,000).  
129 Hence, the original notation was retained in order to facilitate comparisons between  
130 cosmochemical and terrestrial data. In addition, the analytical uncertainty on and overall  
131 variability of stable Tl isotope ratios make the  $\epsilon$ -notation very convenient as most data are  
132 thereby shown in whole digits and only a single figure behind the decimal point is needed.

133

## 134 **2.2. Chemical separation of thallium**

135 Prerequisites to obtaining precise and accurate stable isotope ratios by MC-ICPMS are the  
136 complete separation of the element of interest from the sample matrix as well as 100% recovery.  
137 This is important because residual sample matrix in the purified sample can result in isotope  
138 effects either present as instabilities that lead to large uncertainties or as reproducible isotopic  
139 offsets leading to precise but inaccurate data (Pietruszka and Reznik, 2008; Poirier and  
140 Doucelance, 2009; Shiel et al., 2009).

141 The method for separating Tl from sample matrix when performing isotopic analyses of  
142 geologic materials was initially developed by Rehkämper and Halliday (1999). The technique  
143 has been modified slightly (Baker et al., 2009; Nielsen et al., 2004; Nielsen et al., 2007) from the  
144 original recipe, but the fundamentals have remained unchanged. Only the elution procedure has  
145 been optimized in order to remove matrix elements most efficiently (Fig. 2). All techniques  
146 outlined in Figure 2 achieve effective Tl separation from sample matrix. However, methods that  
147 use HBr during matrix elution allow for collection of Pb from the same column, although this  
148 procedure has a tendency to separate Pb less efficiently from Tl due to the strong partitioning of  
149 bromide-complexed Pb onto anion exchange resin. The separation technique relies on the fact  
150 that  $Tl^{3+}$  produces anionic complexes with the halogens (the technique uses either  $Cl^-$  or  $Br^-$ ) in  
151 acidic solutions that partition very strongly to anion exchange resins. Conversely  $Tl^+$  does not  
152 form strong anionic complexes and thus does not partition at all to anion exchange resins.  
153 Therefore, samples are prepared in oxidizing media by adding small amounts of water saturated  
154 in  $Br_2$  to the samples already digested and dissolved in hydrochloric acid. This process ensures  
155 that all Tl is in the trivalent state, which will adsorb onto the anion exchange resin prepared in a  
156 quartz or teflon column. If the Tl oxidation was only partial during bromine addition this would  
157 cause loss of Tl and likely result in Tl isotope fractionation. However, the procedure routinely  
158 produces quantitative recovery of sample Tl (Prytulak et al., 2013), which documents that all Tl  
159 is oxidized from bromine addition. The sample matrix can then be eluted in various acidic media  
160 as long as  $Br_2$  is present. Lastly, Tl is stripped from the resin by elution with a reducing solution  
161 that converts Tl to the univalent state. The reducing solution used is 0.1M hydrochloric acid in  
162 which 5% by weight of  $SO_2$  gas has been dissolved. As  $SO_2$  is not stable in solution for long



163 periods of time it is important to make this solution fresh before performing the chemical  
164 separation of Tl.

165

### 166 **2.3. Measurement uncertainties and standards**

167 As with most stable isotope measurements by MC-ICPMS, the smallest uncertainties are  
168 obtained for pure standard solutions. The most commonly used secondary standard for Tl is a  
169 pure 1,000  $\mu\text{g/g}$  standard solution for ICP-MS concentration analyses that was originally  
170 purchased from Aldrich. Over more than 10 years this standard has been measured against NIST  
171 997 Tl on seven different mass spectrometers with an average of  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} = -0.79 \pm 0.35$  (2sd,  
172  $n=187$ ). This uncertainty, however, is not necessarily representative of how well samples can be  
173 reproduced, mainly because small amounts of sample matrix invariably degrade the  
174 measurement precision compared to a pure metal standard even when measuring at the same ion  
175 beam intensity. Matrix effects are difficult to quantify and also depend on the sample  
176 introduction equipment. However, experiments in which matrix effects were tested by way of  
177 doping samples with Tl of a known isotope composition showed no systematic Tl isotope offset  
178 due to residual sample matrix (Nielsen et al., 2004). Older studies did find a relationship between  
179 sample concentration and measurement uncertainty with the smallest uncertainties obtained for  
180 samples with the highest concentrations (Baker et al., 2009; Nielsen et al., 2004; Nielsen et al.,  
181 2007; Nielsen et al., 2006a), but the most recent studies have reported external reproducibility  
182 for real samples and reference materials that are only slightly worse than what can be achieved  
183 for the Aldrich standard (Coggon et al., 2014; Kersten et al., 2014; Nielsen et al., 2015; Prytulak  
184 et al., 2013) (Table 2).

185 In cases where the amount of sample is limited, it can become an important issue how many  
186 ions can be measured for a given amount of Tl. Over the last ten years MC-ICPMS instruments  
187 have been developed to achieve increased transmission (i.e. the fraction of the ions introduced  
188 into the machine that reach the collector) and the most recent instruments have values of >1% for  
189 Tl and Pb. This level of transmission routinely produces ion beam intensities of ~20nA for a  
190 solution containing 1µg/g Tl and enables Tl isotope analyses on samples as small as 1ng, without  
191 notably compromising counting statistics, and an external precision of better than ±1 ε-unit is  
192 achievable (Baker et al., 2009; Nielsen et al., 2015; Nielsen et al., 2004; Nielsen et al., 2007;  
193 Nielsen et al., 2006a). Smaller sample sizes down to 200pg can still be analyzed on regular  
194 Faraday collectors, although precision is significantly degraded to ±3 ε-units (Nielsen et al.,  
195 2007; Nielsen et al., 2006a; Nielsen et al., 2009b).

196

### 197 **3. THALLIUM ISOTOPE VARIATION IN EXTRATERRESTRIAL MATERIALS**

198 With a half-mass condensation temperature (the temperature at which half of the Tl in the  
199 solar nebula was condensed) of 532 K (Lodders, 2003), Tl is classified as a highly volatile  
200 element in cosmochemistry. In addition, Tl has also been termed as highly labile (Lipschutz and  
201 Woolum, 1988) because it is readily remobilized by processes that are recorded on asteroidal  
202 parent bodies and meteoroids, including thermal metamorphism and shock heating. Importantly,  
203 both properties are conducive to the production of relatively large stable isotope fractionations,  
204 and these have been observed for both Tl and other highly volatile elements such as Cd  
205 (Wombacher et al., 2008; Wombacher et al., 2003) and Hg (Lauretta et al., 1999; Lauretta et al.,  
206 2001) in various extraterrestrial materials.

207

### 208 3.1. The $^{205}\text{Pb}$ – $^{205}\text{Tl}$ decay system

209 The radiogenic Tl isotope variations recorded in meteorites reflect decay of the short-lived  
210 radionuclide  $^{205}\text{Pb}$  to  $^{205}\text{Tl}$  with a half-life of 15.1 Ma (Pengra et al., 1978). Interest in the  $^{205}\text{Pb}$ –  
211  $^{205}\text{Tl}$  decay system and the initial solar system abundance of  $^{205}\text{Pb}$  was responsible for driving  
212 the first efforts to precisely determine the Tl isotope compositions of natural materials. In detail,  
213 the literature documents six attempts to identify radiogenic Tl isotope variations in iron  
214 meteorites and chondrites from 1960 to 1995 (Anders and Stevens, 1960; Arden and Cressey,  
215 1984; Chen and Wasserburg, 1987, 1994; Huey and Kohman, 1972; Ostic et al., 1969). Whilst  
216 these studies were able to provide an upper limit for the initial solar system  $^{205}\text{Pb}$  abundance they  
217 were unable to conclusively establish radiogenic Tl isotope variations from the decay of this  
218 now-extinct nuclide.

219 The strong historic interest in the  $^{205}\text{Pb}$ – $^{205}\text{Tl}$  decay system stems from studies of stellar  
220 nucleosynthesis, which indicate that  $^{205}\text{Pb}$  is produced primarily or almost exclusively by s-  
221 process nucleosynthesis (Blake et al., 1973; Wasserburg et al., 2006; Wasserburg et al., 1994;  
222 Yokoi et al., 1985), whereby heavier elements are formed by slow neutron capture in the interior  
223 of stars. For astrophysicists, precise constraints on the initial solar system abundance of  $^{205}\text{Pb}$ ,  
224 gained from analyses of meteorites, would hence offer unique clues on the site and operation of  
225 s-process nucleosynthesis and the extent to which this process contributed to the freshly  
226 synthesized nucleosynthetic material that was delivered to the nascent solar system. In addition,  
227 the  $^{205}\text{Pb}$ – $^{205}\text{Tl}$  decay system is also of interest as a chronometer of volatile depletion as well as  
228 core formation and cooling. The latter applications follow from the observation that Pb/Tl ratios  
229 are likely to be fractionated by both processes, as (i) Pb, with a half-mass condensation  
230 temperature of 727 K (Lodders, 2003), is somewhat less volatile than Tl and (ii) Pb and Tl

231 exhibit different extents of moderately siderophile and chalcophile affinity during metal-sulfide-  
232 silicate partitioning (Ballhaus et al., 2013; Jones et al., 1993; Wood et al., 2008).

233 Despite of the numerous potential applications, only relatively few Tl isotope studies of  
234 meteorites have been attempted using the much more precise MC-ICP-MS methods which  
235 superseded TIMS measurements following the pioneering study of Rehkämper and Halliday  
236 (1999). These investigations were all motivated by the  $^{205}\text{Pb}$ – $^{205}\text{Tl}$  chronometer but resolved both  
237 radiogenic and stable Tl isotope variations in various stony and iron meteorites. A summary of  
238 this work, key results, and cosmochemical implications are presented below.

239

## 240 **3.2. Chondritic meteorites**

### 241 *3.2.1. Carbonaceous chondrites*

242 Baker et al. (2010b) carried out a comprehensive study of 10 carbonaceous chondrites of  
243 groups CI1 (Orgueil), CM2 (incl. Murchison), CR2, CV3 (incl. Allende), and CO3. Two samples  
244 were excluded from the evaluation of radiogenic Tl isotope effects as they had fractionated Cd  
245 isotope compositions due to thermal processing (Wombacher et al., 2008; Wombacher et al.,  
246 2003), and this may have also affected Tl isotopes, whilst four samples were corrected for  
247 terrestrial Pb contributions of between 9 and 77% of total Pb, based on measured Pb isotope data.

248 Overall, the Tl and Pb concentrations of the meteorites varied by more than a factor of 5,  
249 between about 20 ng/g (in CR2 chondrites) to 100 ng/g (in Orgueil CI1) for Tl and 340 to 2200  
250 ng/g for Pb. Importantly, the results showed a clear co-variation between Tl and Pb, which was  
251 used to derive average carbonaceous chondrite and, by inference, solar system Pb/Tl and  
252  $^{204}\text{Pb}/^{203}\text{Tl}$  ratios of  $22\pm 2$  and  $1.43\pm 0.14$  respectively (uncertainties are 2sd).

253 Furthermore, the samples revealed a small but significant correlated variability between Tl  
254 isotope compositions, with  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$  values of  $-4.0$  to  $+1.2$ , and  $^{204}\text{Pb}/^{203}\text{Tl}$  ratios (Fig. 3). A  
255 number of observations, in particular unfractionated stable Cd isotope compositions in all the  
256 samples, indicate that this correlation is unlikely to be due to stable isotope fractionation from  
257 early solar system processes or terrestrial weathering, and is instead most readily explained by in  
258 situ decay of  $^{205}\text{Pb}$  to  $^{205}\text{Tl}$ . Previous  $^{53}\text{Mn}$ – $^{53}\text{Cr}$  and  $^{107}\text{Pd}$ – $^{107}\text{Ag}$  studies of bulk carbonaceous  
259 chondrites furthermore suggest that the Pb–Tl isochron records volatile fractionation in the solar  
260 nebula at close to 4567 Ma (Schönbächler et al., 2008; Shukolyukov and Lugmair, 2006). If this  
261 interpretation is correct, then the isochron of Fig. 3 yields the initial  $^{205}\text{Pb}$  abundance and Tl  
262 isotope composition of the solar system, with values of  $^{205}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}_{\text{SS},0} = (1.0 \pm 0.4) \times 10^{-3}$  and  
263  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}_{\text{SS},0} = -7.6 \pm 2.1$ , respectively. These results provide clear evidence for the existence of live  
264  $^{205}\text{Pb}$  in the early solar system. The inferred  $^{205}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}_{\text{SS},0}$  ratio is close to the upper limit of  
265 nucleosynthetic production estimates for AGB stars (Wasserburg et al., 2006) and thus in accord  
266 with contributions of such stars to the early solar system budget of freshly synthesized  
267 nucleosynthetic matter.

268

### 269 3.2.2. *Enstatite chondrites*

270 Analyses were carried out on a suite of enstatites chondrites, comprised of three less  
271 metamorphosed samples from groups EL3, EH4 and three equilibrated meteorites from groups  
272 EH5 and EL6 (Palk et al., 2011). In detail, the EL3 and EH4 enstatite chondrites were found to  
273 have much higher volatile contents (of about 40 to 100 ng/g Tl) than the intensely  
274 metamorphosed samples of groups EH5 and EL6, which had Tl abundances of only about 5 ng/g  
275 Tl. Whilst four of the meteorites displayed moderate to extreme Cd isotope fractionations of up

276 to  $\epsilon^{114/110}\text{Cd} \approx +70$ , only a single sample displayed a clearly fractionated Tl isotope composition  
277 with  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} \approx +22$ . As this sample is known to be highly shocked (with a grade of S5), it is  
278 possible that Tl was mobilized and isotopically fractionated during shock metamorphism.

279 In contrast, all other enstatite chondrites yielded a narrow range of  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$  values, with results  
280 of between  $-2.9$  and  $+0.8$ . Given the limited isotopic variability, the observation of Tl (and more  
281 prevalent Cd) stable isotope fractionation, and the presence of terrestrial Pb contamination (in  
282 two meteorites) as revealed by Pb isotopes, a robust Pb-Tl isochron could not be obtained for the  
283 enstatite chondrites.

284

### 285 *3.2.3. Ordinary chondrites*

286 Only a single Pb-Tl study of ordinary chondrites has been attempted, with results reported  
287 for samples of groups L and LL (Andreasen et al., 2009). To minimize the problem of terrestrial  
288 Pb contamination, only meteorite falls were selected for analysis. Overall, these meteorites  
289 displayed a large spread in  $^{204}\text{Pb}/^{203}\text{Tl}$  ratios from 1.7 to 152, as a result of large variations in Tl  
290 concentration (from 0.3 to 19 ng/g), whilst Pb abundances varied by less than a factor of 7. The  
291 Tl isotope compositions were also highly variable with  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$  values of between about  $-20$  to  
292  $+15$ .

293 Given the observation of large Cd isotope fractionations in ordinary chondrites (Wombacher  
294 et al., 2008; Wombacher et al., 2003), the Tl isotope variability was assessed to distinguish  
295 radiogenic effects from clearly evident mass dependent Tl isotope fractionations, presumably  
296 from mobility and redistribution of Tl during thermal metamorphism. Consequently, the  
297 equilibrated LL and L chondrites (of type 4-6) were judged to show no evidence of radiogenic  
298  $^{205}\text{Tl}$ , indicating that the high Pb/Tl ratios were established by elemental redistribution after  $^{205}\text{Pb}$

299 was extinct. In contrast, the Tl isotope compositions of unequilibrated LL3 chondrites were  
300 interpreted to reflect radiogenic ingrowth of  $^{205}\text{Tl}$ , with a Pb-Tl age of about 45 Ma after solar  
301 system formation.

302

### 303 **3.3. Iron meteorites**

304 Due to the relatively high volatile element contents, IAB irons are the most straightforward  
305 iron meteorites for Tl isotope and Pb-Tl isochron analyses. Such measurements were also  
306 conducted for IIAB and IIIAB irons, but are significantly more difficult as much larger samples  
307 (generally more than 15 g; Nielsen et al. (2006a)) are required to obtain robust Tl isotope data  
308 and because the nearly ubiquitous terrestrial Pb contamination is more problematic due to the  
309 low meteoritic Pb contents. No data are currently available for the even more volatile depleted  
310 irons of groups IVA and IVB.

311

#### 312 *3.2.1. Non-magmatic IAB complex iron meteorites*

313 Nielsen et al. (2006a) analyzed seven metal samples and five troilite nodules of the IAB  
314 main group irons Toluca and Canyon Diablo. The metal samples had Tl concentrations from  
315 about 0.03 ng/g to 16.5 ng/g and variable  $^{204}\text{Pb}/^{203}\text{Tl}$  from about 0.1 to more than 75, equivalent  
316 to Pb/Tl ratios of between about 2 and 1200. Notably, the Tl isotope compositions, which ranged  
317 between  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$  values of about -3 to +23 were observed to correlate with  $^{204}\text{Pb}/^{203}\text{Tl}$  (Fig. 4).  
318 When interpreted as an isochron, this correlation corresponds to initial values of  $^{205}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}_0 =$   
319  $(7.3 \pm 0.9) \times 10^{-5}$  and  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}_0 = -2.2 \pm 1.5$ . Alternative explanations for the correlation, such as  
320 mixing of variably mass fractionated meteorite components or terrestrial contamination are  
321 difficult to reconcile with the results. Troilite nodules from Toluca and Canyon Diablo contain Tl  
322 that is generally significantly less radiogenic than the co-existing metal with isotope

323 compositions that are variable and decoupled from  $^{204}\text{Pb}/^{203}\text{Tl}$  (Fig. 4). These effects were  
324 interpreted to result from kinetic stable isotope fractionation during diffusion of Tl between  
325 metal and sulfide. Given the relatively low Tl contents of the troilites (with about 1.6 to 27 ng/g  
326 Tl) and the low overall abundance of sulfides in IAB irons ( $\leq 2\%$  of mass), such processes are  
327 unlikely to have significantly affected the Tl isotope compositions of the co-existing metal.

328 Assuming a solar system initial  $^{205}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}_{\text{SS},0} = (1.0 \pm 0.4) \times 10^{-3}$ , as derived from  
329 carbonaceous chondrites (Fig. 3), the IAB isochron was established  $57 \pm 10/-14$  Ma after the  
330 start of the solar system (Baker et al., 2010b). In comparison, recent Pd–Ag isochron studies of  
331 the same meteorite groups indicate that the Pd–Ag fractionation of IAB irons is only about 15 to  
332 19 Ma younger than carbonaceous chondrites (Carlson and Hauri, 2001; Schönbächler et al.,  
333 2008; Theis et al., 2013; Woodland et al., 2005). The Pb–Tl and Pd–Ag ages are thus only barely  
334 consistent, within the combined uncertainties, hinting at possible discrepancies between the two  
335 ages. Most likely, the relatively young Pb–Tl isochron age of the IAB metals reflects late closure  
336 of this isotope system, due to a blocking temperature that is significantly lower than the 1100 K  
337 blocking temperature of the Pd–Ag chronometer (Sugiura and Hoshino, 2003) and possibly  
338 similar to that of the K–Ar system at 650 K (Renne, 2000; Tieloff et al., 2003). This  
339 interpretation is in accord with the highly labile nature of Tl, as opposed to Ag, during thermal  
340 processing (Lipschutz and Woolum, 1988).

341 Also not in accord with the IAB isochron are the results obtained for the anomalous IAB  
342 complex iron Mundrabilla (Fig. 4; (Nielsen et al., 2006a)). Two metal samples and a sulfide  
343 nodule of this meteorite were characterized by  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$  values of about +30 and +24, respectively.  
344 It is likely that the high  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$  found in Mundrabilla is not solely due to rapid radiogenic  
345 ingrowth of  $^{205}\text{Tl}$  in a high Pb/Tl environment but also reflects, at least in part, significant stable



346 isotope fractionations, most likely associated with volatile loss from or redistribution on the  
347 parent body.

348

### 349 *3.3.2. Magmatic IIAB and IIIAB iron meteorites*

350 Andreasen et al. (2012) conducted a comprehensive Pb-Tl isochron study of metal samples  
351 from six IIAB and six IIIAB iron meteorites. All samples were thoroughly leached prior to  
352 dissolution to remove terrestrial Pb contamination. The fraction of primordial Pb was then  
353 calculated by assuming that any deviation in the Pb isotope composition of the iron meteorites  
354 from primordial Pb is due to residual contributions from terrestrial Pb. The meteorite samples  
355 exhibited low and highly variable Tl contents ranging from 0.002 to 0.485 ng/g, with most Tl  
356 concentrations at less than 0.02 ng/g. The IIAB and IIIAB iron meteorites are hence, on average,  
357 significantly more depleted in Tl than the IAB irons.

358 The  $^{204}\text{Pb}/^{203}\text{Tl}$  ratios of the meteorites (Fig. 5, (Andreasen et al., 2012)) varied from 0.05 to  
359 5.8 for the IIAB irons ( $\text{Pb}/\text{Tl} \approx 0.8$  to 89) and from 1.6 to 14 for the IIIABs ( $\text{Pb}/\text{Tl} \approx 26$  to 215).  
360 As such, these magmatic irons have  $^{204}\text{Pb}/^{203}\text{Tl}$  ratios that are noticeably less variable than in  
361 IABs (Fig. 4), and with many samples not far removed from the chondritic value of  $^{204}\text{Pb}/^{203}\text{Tl} =$   
362 1.43 ( $\text{Pb}/\text{Tl} = 22$ ). The  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$  values of the IIAB and IIIAB irons ranged from -18 to +23 (Fig.  
363 5). The majority of the Tl isotope data, furthermore, display a correlation of  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$  with  
364  $^{204}\text{Pb}/^{203}\text{Tl}$ , suggesting that the isotopic variations are primarily governed by decay of  $^{205}\text{Pb}$  at  
365 variable Pb/Tl ratios.

366 Further Pb-Tl analyses for metal samples from two IIAB and two IIIAB irons and a IIIAB  
367 troilite nodule were reported by Nielsen et al. (2006a). For the IIABs, these data do not support  
368 the IIAB errorchron inferred by Andreasen et al. (2012) (Fig. 5). It is possible that this

369 discrepancy arises, at least in part, from the less accurate correction of residual terrestrial Pb  
370 contamination that was utilized by Nielsen et al. (2006a) or possibly even minor terrestrial Tl  
371 contributions. Alternatively, the non-isochronous behavior of the IIABs analyzed by Nielsen et  
372 al. (2006a) may reflect late open system behavior and/or stable isotope fractionation of Tl in  
373 some samples. In contrast, the two IIIAB metals and the IIIAB troilite analyzed by Nielsen et al.  
374 (2006a) yield results, which are in accord with the IIIAB isochron reported by Andreasen et al.  
375 (2012) (Fig. 5).

376 Assuming that the IIAB data of Andreasen et al. (2012) indeed define a Pb-Tl isochron (Fig.  
377 5), they correspond to an initial  $^{205}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}_0$  ratio of  $(8.3\pm 1.6)\times 10^{-4}$ . This  $^{205}\text{Pb}$  abundance is  
378 equivalent to an age of  $4 +16/-14$  Ma, assuming an initial solar system abundance of  
379  $^{205}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}_{\text{SS},0} = (1.0\pm 0.4)\times 10^{-3}$ , as defined by carbonaceous chondrites (Fig. 3) (Baker et al.,  
380 2010b). A similar but more uncertain initial  $^{205}\text{Pb}$  abundance and a less well-constrained age of  $4$   
381  $+29/-14$  Ma was obtained from the IIIAB correlation (Fig. 5). Both iron meteorite isochrons,  
382 however, have y-intercepts with initial  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}_0$  values that are more negative (at  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}_0 = -12\pm 1$   
383 for the IIABs) than the initial solar system value of  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}_{\text{SS},0} = -7.6\pm 2.1$ , as defined by the  
384 carbonaceous chondrites isochron (Fig. 3). It is conceivable that the observed offset of about 7  $\epsilon$ -  
385 units (at the chondritic value of  $^{204}\text{Pb}/^{203}\text{Tl} = 1.43$ ) between the IIAB and the chondrite isochron  
386 reflects a nucleosynthetic isotope anomaly or is caused by stable Tl isotope fractionation.  
387 However, nucleosynthetic isotope effects of this magnitude are unlikely for Tl, as they are also  
388 not observed for other elements of similar atomic mass, such as Hf, Os, and Pt (Kruijer et al.,  
389 2013; Sprung et al., 2010; Walker, 2012; Yokoyama et al., 2007). Thallium isotope data acquired  
390 for metal-silicate and sulfide-silicate partitioning experiments furthermore demonstrate that Tl

391 isotope fractionation during metal or sulfide segregation is either very small or absent (Wood et  
392 al., 2008).

393 As a consequence, Andreasen et al. (2012) suggested an alternative interpretation of the  
394 carbonaceous chondrite and magmatic iron meteorites isochrons. By discarding the results of all  
395 four carbonaceous chondrites, which featured significant quantities of terrestrial Pb  
396 contamination (at about 10 to 80% of total measured Pb), a revised carbonaceous chondrite  
397 isochron with a significantly steeper but less well-defined slope was obtained. This revised  
398 calculation yields  $^{205}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}_{\text{SS},0} = (2\pm 1)\times 10^{-3}$  and  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}_{\text{SS},0} = -13.6$ . Using this initial solar  
399 system  $^{205}\text{Pb}_{\text{SS},0}$  abundance, the IIAB and IIIAB isochrons now provide ages of 15 +20/-12 Ma  
400 and 14 +32/-15 Ma, respectively. It is unknown, however, whether these ages date core  
401 crystallization or are linked to the breakup of the meteorite parent bodies. Likewise the IAB  
402 isochron now gives a younger age of 69 +16/-10 Ma after the carbonaceous chondrites, and this  
403 may indicate that the Pb-Tl decay system dates the same impact event(s) that are recorded in the  
404 ~4.5 Ga Ar-Ar ages of IAB silicate inclusions (Vogel and Renne, 2008). Notably, the revised  
405 initial solar system  $^{205}\text{Pb}$  abundance of  $^{205}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}_{\text{SS},0} = (2\pm 1)\times 10^{-3}$  is somewhat higher than the  
406 upper estimate that was obtained in models of s-process nucleosynthesis by Wasserburg et al  
407 (2006). Whether this discrepancy reflects uncertainties in the analytical data, the stellar models,  
408 or in the estimates of recent s-process contributions to the solar nebula, remains unclear at  
409 present.

410

### 411 **3.3. Limitations of the $^{205}\text{Pb}$ - $^{205}\text{Tl}$ chronometer**

412 In principle, the  $^{205}\text{Pb}$ - $^{205}\text{Tl}$  decay system offers many promising applications but translation  
413 of this potential has been hindered by a number of factors. (i) Due to the low abundances of Tl in

414 many meteorites, large samples of typically more than 1 g but with >10 g not uncommon, have  
415 been used for precise Tl isotope measurements. These requirements make analyses challenging  
416 and measurements for highly volatile depleted meteorites (e.g., IVA/B irons and many  
417 achondrites) have not been attempted to date. (ii) As a result of the highly labile nature of Tl,  
418 isochronous behavior is easily disturbed or fully reset. In addition, remobilization of Tl can be  
419 associated with stable isotope fractionation, which hampers unambiguous interpretations. (iii)  
420 The pervasive contamination of many meteorites with terrestrial Pb renders the determination of  
421 robust primitive  $^{204}\text{Pb}/^{203}\text{Tl}$  ratios (as required for Pb-Tl isochron calculations) and initial  
422  $^{205}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}$  values very difficult. Analyses of such contaminated meteorites requires that  
423 anthropogenic Pb is removed from samples by thorough cleaning and/or corrections for the  
424 effects of contamination must be attempted, based on Pb isotope data. Such corrections,  
425 however, can be subject to large uncertainties whilst aggressive cleaning of samples by leaching  
426 and/or partial dissolution (as is commonly applied prior to analyses of radiogenic Pb isotope  
427 compositions) can lead to partial Tl loss that may be associated with isotope fractionation.

428

## 429 **4. THALLIUM ISOTOPE COMPOSITION OF THE SOLID EARTH**

### 430 **4.1. The primitive mantle**

431 The concentration of Tl in the primitive mantle has been estimated as 0.0035  $\mu\text{g/g}$   
432 (McDonough and Sun, 1995) and for the depleted mantle as 0.00038  $\mu\text{g/g}$  (Salters and Stracke,  
433 2004). The challenge associated with evaluating the Tl concentration and isotope composition of  
434 the mantle is largely twofold. First, thallium concentrations are vanishingly low, thus grams of  
435 material are required to obtain precise concentration and/or isotope measurements by bulk rock  
436 dissolution approaches. Minute inclusions of secondary alteration products such as clays that

437 easily incorporate Tl are much more problematic with very large sample sizes, and any such  
438 material can drastically affect the determination of both Tl concentration and isotope  
439 composition. Second, even though the required sample sizes are large, there is still worrying  
440 potential for ‘nugget’ effects. For example, Nielsen et al. (2014) have shown by laser-ablation  
441 inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (LA-ICPMS) that the only phase housing  
442 significant Tl in the Lherz peridotite massif, France, are interstitial sulfides, which yielded  
443 variable Tl concentrations from 0.023 to 0.430  $\mu\text{g/g}$ . All other investigated mineral phases  
444 (olivine, orthopyroxene, clinopyroxene and spinel) had Tl concentrations below detection limit,  
445 restricting the Tl concentration in the vast majority of mantle minerals to  $< 0.001 \mu\text{g/g}$  (Nielsen  
446 et al., 2014). An experimental study by Kiseeva and Wood (2013) further documents Tl partition  
447 coefficients between sulfide liquid and a silicate melt with MORB composition of  $D_{\text{Tl}}^{\text{sulf/sil}} = 4.1$   
448 to 18.8, reinforcing the notion that sulfides are the main host for Tl, at least in the upper mantle.  
449 To date, only a single measurement of a mantle xenolith has been published (Nielsen et al.,  
450 2015). The sample, a harzburgite from the Eifel volcanic field in Germany, revealed an isotope  
451 composition of  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} = -2.0 \pm 0.8$  and concentration of 1.05 ng/g. The concentration is, thus,  
452 slightly higher than what would be expected based on published estimates of Tl in the depleted  
453 mantle (Salters and Stracke, 2004), but given the potential for nugget effects it is unclear if the  
454 concentration is necessarily representative of the upper mantle.

455 Due to the problems associated with direct measurements, Nielsen et al. (2006b) used five  
456 fresh, glassy MORBs from different global ocean basins to estimate the Tl isotope composition  
457 of the mantle. The homogeneity of the results ( $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}_{\text{MORB}} = -2 \pm 1$ ; Fig 1) strongly indicates that  
458 no large-scale geographic Tl isotopic differences exist in the present day upper mantle  
459 uncontaminated by crustal components. Given that these lavas are not derived from identical

460 degrees of melting, the restricted range in  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$  strongly suggests that partial melting of the  
461 mantle does not fractionate Tl isotopes to an analytically resolvable level. This inference is  
462 further supported by the identical Tl isotope composition of these MORBs and the published  
463 harzburgite sample (Nielsen et al., 2015) and not unexpected, given the heavy atomic masses of  
464 Tl isotopes. However, since stable isotope fractionation has been observed for some lighter  
465 elements during mantle melting (e.g., Fe isotopes; (Craddock et al., 2013; Williams et al., 2004)),  
466 further Tl isotope analyses of MORB and peridotites are desirable to validate this assumption.

467

#### 468 **4.2. The continental crust**

469 As discussed, Tl generally follows the alkali metals K, Rb and Cs during melting and  
470 fractional crystallization (Heinrichs et al., 1980; Shaw, 1952) resulting in much higher Tl  
471 concentrations in the continental crust ( $\sim 0.5 \mu\text{g/g}$ ) versus the primitive mantle ( $\sim 0.0035 \mu\text{g/g}$ )  
472 (Heinrichs et al., 1980; McDonough and Sun, 1995; Rudnick and Gao, 2003; Shaw, 1952;  
473 Wedepohl, 1995).

474 Although the chemical affinity with K, Rb, and Cs suggests lithophile behavior, thallium  
475 has been considered both a chalcophile and lithophile element. McGoldrick et al. (1979)  
476 suggested that Tl displays chalcophile behavior and follows sulfur in sulfur-saturated magmas. In  
477 contrast, a study of sulfur-rich ore deposits (Baker et al., 2010a) found that Tl retained strong  
478 lithophile behavior in this setting. Noll et al. (1996) assumed that Tl behaved as a chalcophile  
479 element and used chalcophile/lithophile element ratios in subduction-related lavas to determine  
480 relative fluid mobility of trace elements. They suggested that Tl has a similar bulk partition  
481 coefficient to La. However, Tl showed no significant correlation with ‘fluid-mobile’ and  
482 chalcophile elements such as As, Sb and Pb, again casting doubt on its chalcophile affinity in

483 evolving magmatic systems. A study of lavas from the Mariana arc also suggests lithophile,  
484 fluid-immobile behavior, demonstrated by strong co-variation of Tl with La, rather than Ba  
485 (Prytulak et al., 2013). Thus the elemental behavior of Tl during magmatic processes and the  
486 specific controls on its concentration in the continental crust remain ambiguous. This ambiguity  
487 is underlined by the strong affinity Tl has for sulfides formed in aqueous low temperature  
488 hydrothermal systems (Xiong, 2007), mantle sulfides and early diagenetic pyrite (Nielsen et al.,  
489 2011; Nielsen et al., 2014).

490 The lack of resolvable isotope differences in global MORB suggests that negligible Tl  
491 isotope fractionation occurs during moderate degrees of partial melting (15-20%). Given the  
492 evolved bulk composition of the continental crust, it is necessary to consider the impact of  
493 further igneous processes on Tl stable isotope fractionation. Though stable isotope fractionation  
494 has been documented during igneous processes for relatively heavy elements such as iron (e.g.  
495 Williams et al., 2004; Williams et al., 2009), the small relative mass difference between the  
496 isotopes of Tl in combination with little or no redox chemistry for Tl in igneous systems, favor  
497 negligible Tl isotope fractionation during magmatic processes. Several studies found that the  
498 isotope composition of the average upper continental crust, represented by loess, is  
499 indistinguishable from MORB, with both exhibiting a value of  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} = -2.0 \pm 0.5$  (Nielsen et al.,  
500 2007; Nielsen et al., 2006b; Nielsen et al., 2005b; Nielsen et al., 2006c). The uniform isotope  
501 composition of the continental crust is further supported by data obtained for an ultrapotassic  
502 dike from the Tibetan Plateau ( $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} = -2.3 \pm 0.5$ ), which represents a melt originating from the  
503 sub-continental lithospheric mantle (Williams et al., 2001). Finally, Nielsen et al., (2016)  
504 recently determined  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$  in a suite of co-genetic basalts through andesites from a single  
505 volcano on Atka Island in the Aleutian arc. Thallium concentrations display strong positive co-

506 variation with K<sub>2</sub>O wt%, as expected for an incompatible element during fractional  
507 crystallization. Although the lavas range in  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$  from -2.3 to +0.7, the isotope values do not  
508 co-vary with Tl concentration and the variability is instead attributed to subduction zone inputs.  
509 Hence, on balance, there is little evidence to suggest that melting or fractional crystallization  
510 imparts analytically resolvable Tl isotope fractionation and therefore the bulk continental crust  
511 can be characterized by  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}_{\text{CONT CRUST}} = -2 \pm 1$  (Fig. 1).

512

## 513 **5. THALLIUM ISOTOPE COMPOSITION OF SURFACE RESERVOIRS**

### 514 **5.1. Volcanic degassing**

515 Due to its low boiling point (Table 1), Tl is significantly enriched in volcanic gasses and  
516 particles compared with the geochemically analogous alkali metals (Baker et al., 2009; Gauthier  
517 and Le Cloarec, 1998; Hinkley et al., 1994; Patterson and Settle, 1987). Consequently, volcanic  
518 plumes provide a large Tl flux from igneous to surface environments on Earth, with an estimated  
519 flux to the oceans of 370 Mg/a (Baker et al., 2009; Rehkämper and Nielsen, 2004). The behavior  
520 of Tl isotopes during degassing in volcanic systems was investigated by Baker et al. (2009), who  
521 identified significant isotope variations. The most likely form of isotope fractionation to occur  
522 during degassing is kinetic isotope fractionation, where the light isotope is enriched in the gas  
523 phase during evaporation. The extent of kinetic isotope fractionation between two phases is  
524 determined by the relative magnitude of the atomic or molecular velocities, where  $\alpha = (m_1/m_2)^\beta$   
525 and  $\beta$  varies from 0.5 (in the case of a vacuum) down to values approaching 0 (Tsuchiyama et  
526 al., 1994). Hence, even though the relative mass difference between the two Tl isotopes is small,  
527 the maximum kinetic  $\alpha_{\text{liq-vap}}$  is 1.0049, equivalent to a fractionation factor of 49  $\epsilon$ -units. An  
528 isotopic difference of this magnitude exceeds the stable Tl isotope variability currently known



529 for Earth and should hence be readily detectable. However, contrary to the expectation of a gas  
530 phase enriched in light isotopes, Baker et al. (2009) found no systematic enrichment of either  
531  $^{203}\text{Tl}$  or  $^{205}\text{Tl}$  in volcanic emanations compared with average igneous rocks. Despite large  
532 isotopic differences between individual samples, the isotope compositions of 34 samples of gas  
533 condensates and particles from six separate volcanoes showed an average of  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} = -1.7 \pm 2.0$ .  
534 This value is indistinguishable from average igneous rocks (Nielsen et al., 2007; Nielsen et al.,  
535 2006b; Nielsen et al., 2005b; Nielsen et al., 2006c; Nielsen et al., 2016; Prytulak et al., 2013) and  
536 suggests that degassing as a whole does not significantly alter that Tl isotope composition of  
537 degassed lavas. The Tl isotope variation of volcanic emanations was interpreted to reflect the  
538 complex evaporation as well as condensation processes that occur in volcanic edifices (Baker et  
539 al., 2009), and which eventually produce no net isotope fractionation between Tl in the magma  
540 and the Tl transported into the atmosphere and surface environments on Earth.

541

## 542 **5.2. Weathering and riverine transport of Tl**

543 Stable isotope fractionation during weathering is often monitored via measurements of  
544 isotope ratios in the dissolved and particulate phases in rivers. For example, elements like lithium  
545 and molybdenum have been shown to display significant isotopic variation between different  
546 rivers and rocks of the continental crust (e.g. Archer and Vance, 2008; Huh et al., 1998; Pogge  
547 von Strandmann et al., 2010). Numerous kinetic and equilibrium processes can potentially affect  
548 the stable isotope budgets of rivers, and as such it is difficult to predict isotope fractionation  
549 during weathering. In general, Tl is soluble in aqueous solution and should be readily mobilized  
550 during weathering. However, the tendency for Tl to partition into potassium rich minerals and  
551 manganese oxides (Heinrichs et al., 1980) suggests that the transport of Tl into the ocean may be

552 less efficient. Nielsen et al. (2005b) measured the Tl isotope compositions of dissolved and  
553 particulate components for a number of major and minor rivers and found that these generally  
554 display values similar to those observed for continental crust. The average value for dissolved  
555 riverine Tl is  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} = -2.5 \pm 1.0$  (Nielsen et al., 2005b), with particulate matter ( $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} = -2.0 \pm$   
556  $0.5$ ) being indistinguishable from the dissolved phase (Table 3). Although there are clearly  
557 resolvable differences in riverine Tl isotope compositions that were inferred to be related to  
558 variations in catchment lithologies, the majority of rivers including the worlds largest, the  
559 Amazon, display  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$  values similar to average continental crust. These data strongly imply  
560 that there is little or no Tl isotope fractionation associated with continental weathering processes.

561 Natural unpolluted Tl abundances in rivers are generally very low and vary between 1 and  
562 10 pg/g (Cheam, 2001; Nielsen et al., 2005b). An estimated global average dissolved riverine  
563 concentration of  $6 \pm 4$  pg/g (or  $30 \pm 20$  pmol/l) results in a flux to the oceans of 230 Mg/yr. In the  
564 study of Nielsen et al. (2005b) three rivers exhibited Tl isotope compositions significantly lighter  
565 (at  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} = -6$  to  $-4$ ) than average continental crust (Table 3). The lower  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$  values were  
566 interpreted to reflect weathering of marine carbonates that are a main constituent of the drainage  
567 areas for these rivers. Relatively light Tl isotope compositions are expected for such carbonates  
568 based on analyses of modern seawater, which is characterized by  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} = -6.0 \pm 0.3$  (Nielsen et  
569 al., 2004; Nielsen et al., 2006c; Owens et al., 2016; Rehkämper et al., 2002). However, marine  
570 carbonates including carbonate oozes (Rehkämper et al., 2004), corals (Rehkämper, unpublished  
571 data) and foraminifera (Nielsen, unpublished data) exhibit very low Tl concentrations. This  
572 implies that weathering of marine carbonates will only have a strong impact on the Tl inventories  
573 of rivers that predominantly drain such lithologies and will not strongly affect the total global  
574 budget of Tl transported by rivers to the oceans.

575

576 **5.3. Anthropogenic mobilization of Tl**

577        Similar to its periodic table neighbors Hg, Cd, and Pb, Tl is also readily volatilized by high-  
578 temperature processes, such as combustion. As a consequence, the most important global source  
579 of anthropogenic Tl are atmospheric emissions from processes such as pyrite roasting, cement  
580 production and coal burning, and associated solid wastes. In addition, Tl release with wastewater  
581 from ore processing plants can have a significant impact on terrestrial aquatic system (Nriagu,  
582 1998; Peter and Viraraghavan, 2005).

583        Like its elemental neighbors, Tl also has a high acute and chronic toxicity to mammals,  
584 including humans. Due to the low concentrations of Tl in most natural and manufactured  
585 materials, and its limited use in consumer products or industrial processes, anthropogenic Tl  
586 emissions to the environment are fortunately generally low. They only represent a significant  
587 health hazard in the vicinity of significant emission sources, particularly when aided by  
588 bioaccumulation in the food chain (Nriagu, 1998; Peter and Viraraghavan, 2005). Such a case of  
589 chronic Tl poisoning was reported for the inhabitants of a rural village in the Lanmuchang area  
590 of Guizhou Province, China. The village is situated in close proximity to a massive vein of Tl  
591 mineralization that has a protracted history of artisanal mining (Xiao et al., 2003; Xiao et al.,  
592 2004). The health effects seen in the villagers (including muscle and joint pain, hair loss, and  
593 disturbance or even loss of vision) were traced to the consumption of local crops (particularly  
594 highly Tl-enriched green cabbage), which are grown on soils with elevated Tl concentrations  
595 from past mining activities (Xiao et al., 2004; Xiao et al., 2007).

596        The isotopic signature of Pb, which is highly variable due to radiogenic ingrowth from the  
597 decay of U and Th isotopes, has long been used to fingerprint anthropogenic Pb emissions to the

598 environment, particularly from the use of leaded gasoline (Alleman et al., 1999; Rosman et al.,  
599 1994; Settle and Patterson, 1982). Following the advent and more widespread application of  
600 MC-ICP-MS, a number of studies demonstrated that similar fingerprinting is also feasible for Hg  
601 and Cd emissions, based on analyses of the stable isotope compositions of these elements  
602 (Rehkämper et al., 2012; Ridley and Stetson, 2006). More recently, an investigation by Kersten  
603 et al. (2014) demonstrated, for the first time, that Tl stable isotope compositions can also be used  
604 as a tracer of anthropogenic Tl emissions to the environment.

605 In the study of Kersten et al. (2014), Tl isotope data were used to link the high Tl contents  
606 of agricultural soils to past emissions of cement kiln dust (CKD) from a nearby cement plant in  
607 Lengerich, northwest Germany. In detail, it was shown that the soils were contaminated by Tl  
608 emissions that occurred in the 1970's, when the cement plant utilized pyrite-roasting waste with  
609 high Tl contents as a cost-effective, S-rich additive during cement production, a process that  
610 involves combustion processes at temperatures of more than 1000° C. To arrive at this  
611 conclusion, contaminated soil samples from three vertical profiles with up to 1 m depth were  
612 analyzed for both Tl concentrations and isotope compositions. When viewed in a diagram of  
613  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$  versus inverse Tl concentration ( $1/[\text{Tl}]$ ), the soil data are strongly indicative of a binary  
614 mixing relationship (Fig. 6). The mixing endmembers were inferred to be the geogenic  
615 background, as defined by isotopically light soils with  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} \approx -4$  at depth, and the Tl emissions,  
616 represented by Tl-enriched topsoils with a distinctly heavier isotopic signature of  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} \approx 0$ . This  
617 conclusion is further corroborated by Tl isotope compositions of  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} \approx \pm 0$  that were obtained  
618 for (i) a CKD sample taken at the time of the inferred Tl emissions and (ii) a pyrite, which was  
619 sourced from the same Weggen deposit in Germany as the pyrite roasting waste that was added  
620 to the cement raw mix prior to combustion in the kiln (Fig. 6).

621 Additional analyses were carried out by Kersten et al. (2014) for soil and crop samples from  
622 the Lanmuchang area (Guizhou Province) in China. These measurements revealed significant  
623 isotope fractionation between soils, with a high natural Tl background characterized by  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} \approx$   
624  $+0.4$ , and locally grown cabbage, which displayed  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$  values of between  $-2.5$  and  $-5.4$ . This  
625 demonstrates that biological isotope fractionation and subsequent remineralization of Tl from  
626 organic material cannot be responsible for the heavier Tl isotope signatures that were found in  
627 the Lengerich topsoil. Rather, the high Tl contents and associated heavier isotope signatures seen  
628 in the vicinity of the Lengerich cement plant are most reasonably explained by Tl emissions that  
629 were released during cement production (Kersten et al., 2014).

630

#### 631 **5.4. The isotope composition of seawater**

632 In the oceans, Tl is a conservative, low-level trace element with an average dissolved  
633 concentration of  $13 \pm 1$  pg/g ( $64 \pm 5$  pmol/l) (Flegal and Patterson, 1985; Nielsen et al., 2006c;  
634 Rehkämper and Nielsen, 2004; Schedlbauer and Heumann, 2000). The seawater average is  
635 thereby slightly higher than the dissolved Tl abundances of most rivers (see section 5.2). Based  
636 on a thorough review of the marine input and output fluxes of Tl, Rehkämper and Nielsen (2004)  
637 concluded that the oceans are currently at steady state and that Tl has a residence time of  $\sim 21$  ka,  
638 which is consistent with a number of previous studies (Flegal and Patterson, 1985; Flegal et al.,  
639 1989). With an inferred marine residence time that is more than an order of magnitude longer  
640 than the ocean mixing time and a conservative distribution, Tl should exhibit an invariant isotope  
641 composition in seawater. Analyses of Arctic, Atlantic and Pacific seawater confirm this  
642 prediction (Nielsen et al., 2004; Nielsen et al., 2006c; Rehkämper et al., 2002). In particular, a  
643 recent data set for about 50 samples covering the GEOTRACES GA10 transect in the Atlantic

644 across 40°S shows no Tl isotope variation, with an overall average of  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} = -6.0 \pm 0.3$  (Owens  
645 et al., 2016). The invariance of the GA10 data is remarkable because a number of different water  
646 masses are present in this transect (Antarctic Bottom Water, North Atlantic Deep Water,  
647 Antarctic Intermediate Water) that are sourced from very disparate regions of the ocean.  
648 Therefore, these analyses confirm that the open ocean is homogenous with respect to Tl isotopes  
649 within current measurement uncertainties.

650 It may be somewhat surprising that the oceans are significantly enriched in  $^{203}\text{Tl}$  compared  
651 to the continental crust and the mantle (see Section 4) with an average value of  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} = -6.0 \pm 0.3$   
652 (Nielsen et al., 2004; Nielsen et al., 2006c; Owens et al., 2016; Rehkämper et al., 2002). Hence,  
653 it is required either that the marine sources of Tl are isotopically light compared to the  
654 continental crust and mantle or that the outputs are fractionated towards heavy isotope  
655 compositions relative to seawater. Rehkämper and Nielsen (2004) showed that the most  
656 significant marine inputs for Tl are from rivers, high-temperature hydrothermal fluids, mineral  
657 aerosols, volcanic emanations and sediment pore water fluxes at continental margins. In contrast,  
658 there are only two important marine Tl sinks, namely Tl adsorption by the authigenic phases of  
659 pelagic clays and uptake of Tl during low-temperature alteration of oceanic crust. The relative  
660 magnitudes and isotope compositions of these fluxes are summarized in Table 4. In the following  
661 sections, we outline the main observations that follow from an assessment of these fluxes.

662

663 **6. THE MARINE MASS BALANCE OF THALLIUM ISOTOPES**

664 **6.1. Thallium isotopes in marine input fluxes**

665 As riverine and volcanic input fluxes were already discussed in previous sections, we will  
666 here focus on high-temperature hydrothermal fluids, mineral aerosols and sediment pore water  
667 fluxes from continental margins.

668

669 *6.1.1. High temperature hydrothermal fluids*

670 In hydrothermal systems where temperatures exceed ~150°C it has been shown that Tl  
671 behaves much like the alkali metals Rb and K (Metz and Trefry, 2000), and is leached from the  
672 oceanic crust by circulating fluids. The efficiency of this leaching process is roughly 90%, as  
673 shown by Ce/Tl ratios in the sheeted dike complex of ODP Hole 504B that are ~10 times higher  
674 than in pristine MORB (Fig. 7). This results in end-member high temperature hydrothermal  
675 fluids that exhibit Tl concentrations almost 500 times higher compared to ambient seawater  
676 (Metz and Trefry, 2000; Nielsen et al., 2006c). We can estimate the flux of Tl into the oceans  
677 ( $M_{Tl}$ ) from high-T hydrothermal fluids by combining the average Tl concentration of MORB  
678 with the flux of ocean crust leached by high-T fluids, assuming 90% leaching efficiency:

679 
$$M_{Tl} = F_{oc\ leach} \times [Tl]_{oc} \times f_{Tl\ leach} \quad (2)$$

680 Here,  $F_{oc\ leach}$  is the annual production rate of ocean crust that is leached by high-T fluids,  
681  $[Tl]_{oc}$  is the Tl content of the crust prior to leaching, and  $f_{Tl\ leach}$  is the fraction of Tl leached from  
682 the rocks during alteration. The annual production rate of ocean crust leached by high-T fluids is  
683 comprised of  $\sim 1.24 \pm 0.16 \times 10^{16}$  g/a of MORB crust and  $\sim 0.76 \pm 0.10 \times 10^{16}$  g/a of cumulate lower  
684 ocean crust with Tl concentration estimated at 25% of the fresh MORB value (Mottl, 2003;  
685 Nielsen et al., 2006c).

686 It was previously thought that Tl partitioned similarly to Cs during mantle melting (Jochum  
687 and Verma, 1996; Nielsen et al., 2006b), which, based on an assumed Cs/Tl  $\approx$  6, yielded a Tl  
688 content of  $\sim$ 3 ng/g for fresh MORB. However, more recent data has shown that Tl is much more  
689 compatible during mantle melting because it partitions into sulfides (Kiseeva and Wood, 2013;  
690 Nielsen et al., 2014). Although there is a relatively large database for Tl concentrations in fresh  
691 MORB (Jenner and O'Neill, 2012; Nielsen et al., 2014), the global average Tl concentration for  
692 MORB is best determined by combining the constant Ce/Tl =  $1110 \pm 330$  for MORB with  $>6\%$   
693 MgO (Nielsen et al., 2014) with the global weighted average Ce concentration for MORB of  
694  $14.86 \pm 1.26$   $\mu\text{g/g}$  (Gale et al., 2013), because Ce data for MORB have a complete global  
695 coverage. This combination yields a global average Tl concentration in MORB of  $13.4 \pm 4.2$  ng/g,  
696 which is similar to the value obtained by averaging all available Tl data for MORB ( $12 \pm 8$  ng/g)  
697 (Jenner and O'Neill, 2012; Nielsen et al., 2014). Inserting the three parameters into equation (2)  
698 produces an annual Tl flux into the ocean from high-T hydrothermal fluids of  $170 \pm 60$  Mg/yr.

699 Due to the relatively high temperatures involved (300-400°C), isotope fractionation is not  
700 expected to be significant. This inference was confirmed by Nielsen et al. (2006c), who  
701 determined the Tl isotope composition of hydrothermal fluids from the East Pacific Rise and  
702 Juan de Fuca Ridge. All samples had Tl isotope compositions identical to that of average  
703 MORB, thus supporting the interpretation that extraction of Tl from the oceanic crust is not  
704 associated with isotope fractionation. The chemical and isotopic behavior inferred for Tl from  
705 hydrothermal fluids is furthermore in accord with the results of a study of oceanic crust altered  
706 by high temperature hydrothermal fluids from ODP Hole 504B. The latter work revealed Tl  
707 concentrations for basalts and dikes that were much lower than expected for depleted ocean crust  
708 whilst the Tl isotope compositions were identical to average MORB (Nielsen et al., 2006c).



709

710 *6.1.2. Mineral aerosols*

711 There are no direct investigations of Tl abundances or isotope compositions for mineral  
712 aerosols deposited in the oceans. Based on studies of windborne loess sediments deposited on  
713 land, Nielsen et al. (2005b) concluded that the average abundance of Tl in dust deposited in the  
714 oceans is about  $490 \pm 130$  ng/g. The main uncertainty in determining the Tl flux to the oceans is  
715 from estimating the fraction of Tl that is released from the dust into seawater, following  
716 deposition and partial dissolution. By comparison with a number of other elements, Rehkämper  
717 and Nielsen (2004) concluded that about 5-30% of the Tl transported in aerosol particles would  
718 dissolve in seawater, resulting in an annual Tl flux of 10 – 150 Mg/yr.

719 It may be reasonable to assume that the bulk Tl isotope composition of the material  
720 transported to the ocean is identical to loess, and thereby also the continental crust, with  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} =$   
721  $-2$  (Nielsen et al., 2005b). However, it is unknown whether dust dissolution is associated with  
722 isotope fractionation. Schauble (2007) has shown that significant equilibrium Tl isotope  
723 fractionations will be produced primarily by chemical reactions that involve both valence states,  
724  $\text{Tl}^+$  and  $\text{Tl}^{3+}$ . Based on the strongly correlated behavior of Tl, Rb, Cs and K in the continental  
725 crust, univalent Tl should be dominant in mineral aerosols. Thermodynamic calculations of the  
726 valence state of Tl in seawater also predict that all Tl is univalent in this reservoir (Nielsen et al.,  
727 2009a). In addition, continental weathering processes, which are ultimately controlled by  
728 aqueous dissolution of silicates and are therefore in some ways analogous to the partial  
729 dissolution of dust in seawater, induce no detectable Tl isotope fractionations (Nielsen et al.,  
730 2005b). Hence, we infer that isotope fractionation is unlikely to be significant during the  
731 dissolution of mineral aerosols in seawater.

732

733 *6.1.3. Benthic fluxes from continental margins*

734 It has long been known that pore waters, which seep into the oceans from reduced  
735 continental margin sediments, are rich in Mn (Elderfield, 1976; Sawlan and Murray, 1983). As  
736 Tl has a high affinity to Mn oxides (Koschinsky and Hein, 2003) and is more soluble in seawater  
737 than Mn, it has been inferred that such pore waters may be an important source of dissolved  
738 marine Tl (Rehkämper and Nielsen, 2004). However, there are currently no direct data available  
739 for sediment pore fluids to constrain either the average Tl concentration or isotope composition  
740 of these benthic fluxes. An estimate was therefore derived indirectly, based on (1) Tl/Mn ratios  
741 observed in ferromanganese nodules that were known to have precipitated from pore waters  
742 (Rehkämper et al., 2002), combined with (2) estimates for benthic Mn fluxes (Heggie et al.,  
743 1987; Johnson et al., 1992; Sawlan and Murray, 1983). Taken together, these data yield a Tl flux  
744 of 5 – 390 Mg/a, and a best estimate of 170 Mg/a (Rehkämper and Nielsen, 2004), which  
745 constitutes a substantial fraction of the total Tl flux to the oceans (Table 4).

746 We can use two distinct approaches to estimate the average Tl isotope composition of pore  
747 waters. The first utilizes published Tl isotope data for the various components that may supply  
748 pore waters. The second relies on the Tl isotope compositions of sediments, which contain a  
749 component that was precipitated from pore waters. The application of these approaches is  
750 summarized below.

751 There are three principle components, from which Tl could be mobilized and incorporated  
752 into sedimentary pore waters. (1) Labile Tl associated with riverine particles (Nielsen et al.,  
753 2005b). (2) Thallium adsorbed onto clay minerals from seawater (Matthews and Riley, 1970). (3)  
754 Thallium bound to authigenic Mn-oxides that precipitated from seawater as part of pelagic red

755 clays (Rehkämper et al., 2004). All three will be present in continental margin sediments in  
756 various proportions depending on sedimentation rate and proximity to estuaries, where high  
757 sedimentation rates will tend to dilute the Mn-oxides, as authigenic precipitation should remain  
758 fairly constant. Hence, assuming that there is no isotope fractionation associated with the release  
759 of Tl into pore waters, the isotope composition of each component provides bounds on the  
760 composition of pore waters.

761 The labile components in riverine particles have been shown to be isotopically similar to the  
762 continental crust and river waters and are thus characterized by  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} = -2$  (Nielsen et al.,  
763 2005b). Matthews and Riley (1970) showed that Tl is readily adsorbed onto some clay minerals  
764 (in particular illite) where most Tl is exchanged with K. Because of the required charge balance  
765 for adsorption reactions, Tl adsorption onto clays is unlikely to be associated with any Tl  
766 reduction/oxidation and should thereby exhibit only minimal or no isotope fractionation  
767 (Schauble, 2007). Since Tl adsorption by clay minerals will take place primarily within the  
768 marine environment, this component should inherit the Tl isotope composition from seawater of  
769  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} = -6.0$ .

770 Thallium that is precipitated with Mn oxides onto sedimentary particles has been shown to  
771 have a significantly heavier isotope composition than the seawater from which the mineral forms  
772 (Rehkämper et al., 2004; Rehkämper et al., 2002). The origin of this isotope fractionation is  
773 discussed in section 5 below. Theoretically, the pure  $\text{MnO}_2$  mineral to which Tl is bound should  
774 have approximately the same isotope composition as the surfaces of Fe-Mn crusts, which display  
775  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} \approx +13$  (Fig. 8). However, leaching experiments conducted on shelf sediments with HCl  
776 and hydroxylamine hydrochloride indicate that the labile Tl on sediment particles features  
777 somewhat lower  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$  values of between +3 to +7 (Nielsen et al., 2005b; Rehkämper et al.,

778 2004). These lower values could reflect contributions from components other than Fe-Mn oxides,  
779 particularly Tl incorporated into carbonates or adsorbed to clay minerals, with both presumably  
780 characterized by negative  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$ . Nevertheless, it appears reasonable to infer that the Tl  
781 associated with marine authigenic Mn in continental margin sediments exhibits  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} \approx +4$  to  
782 +10.

783 In summary, the isotopic data available for these three components indicate that pore waters  
784 from continental margin sediments are likely to feature  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$  values of about -4 to +6. This  
785 range can be compared with the compositions of two different sedimentary archives that form  
786 from pore waters. These are diagenetic ferromanganese nodules (which are inferred to originate  
787 primarily from pore waters) and early diagenetic pyrite. Rehkämper et al. (2002) analyzed two  
788 Mn nodules from the Baltic Sea and these exhibited  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} = -0.2$  and  $-5.2$ . Nielsen et al. (2011)  
789 measured Tl isotopes in pyrites younger than 10 Ma from continental shelf sediments in the  
790 Northeast Pacific and the Caribbean and found  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$  values of between -1 to +2. Importantly,  
791 both ferromanganese nodules and pyrites have Tl isotope compositions that are in accord with  
792 the range of values inferred for pore waters based on their constituent components. Taken  
793 together (and assuming that there is negligible isotope fractionation between pyrite/Fe-Mn  
794 nodules and pore waters) these constraints suggests that benthic fluxes from continental shelf  
795 sediments are characterized by  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} \sim -3$  to  $+3$ , with a best estimate of  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} \approx 0$ .

796

797

## 798 **6.2. Thallium isotope compositions of marine output fluxes**

### 799 *6.2.1. Thallium adsorption by the authigenic phases of pelagic clays*

800 There is a significant enrichment of Tl in pelagic clays compared with continental shelf  
801 sediments (Heinrichs et al., 1980; Matthews and Riley, 1970; Rehkämper et al., 2004). This  
802 enrichment is caused by the adsorption of Tl onto hydrogenetic Fe-Mn oxy-hydroxides and clay  
803 minerals (Heinrichs et al., 1980; Matthews and Riley, 1970; McGoldrick et al., 1979). Two  
804 independent methods of calculating the Tl flux associated with these authigenic fluxes agree very  
805 well and indicate an annual flux of 200-410 Mg/a, with a best estimate of 270 Mg/a (Rehkämper  
806 and Nielsen, 2004). If the smaller flux of Tl incorporated into pure Fe-Mn deposits of ~40 Mg/a  
807 (Rehkämper and Nielsen, 2004) is also considered, this yields a total marine authigenic Tl flux of  
808 310 Mg/a (Table 4). As discussed in section 6.1.3, the isotope composition of the Tl associated  
809 with authigenic phases is best approximated as a mixture of Tl bound to Mn oxides that probably  
810 display  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} \approx +13$  and Tl adsorbed onto clay minerals, which likely exhibit the composition of  
811 seawater ( $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} \approx -6$ ). Due to the strong enrichment of Mn in pelagic clays, it can be assumed  
812 that the majority of authigenic Tl in such sediments originates from Mn oxides and thus may  
813 have an isotope composition more akin to Fe-Mn crusts. We can attempt to quantify this effect  
814 by performing an isotope mass balance calculation for the modern (core-top) pelagic clays  
815 reported in Rehkämper et al. (2004). The bulk isotope composition of these samples is  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} =$   
816  $+3$  to  $+5$ . About 50% of the Tl in pelagic clays is thought to be of detrital origin (Rehkämper et  
817 al., 2004), which is characterized by  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} = -2$  (Nielsen et al., 2005b). In order to account for  
818 the reported bulk isotope compositions, the authigenic component would thus have to display  
819  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} \sim +8$  to  $+12$ , and this implies that the authigenic Tl of pelagic clays features an isotope  
820 composition that is slightly lighter than pure Fe-Mn deposits. Based on the above considerations

821 we can calculate that ~75-95% of the authigenic Tl in pelagic clays originates from Mn-oxides,  
822 whilst the remainder is bound to clay minerals.

823

#### 824 *6.2.2. Thallium uptake during low temperature hydrothermal alteration*

825 It is well known that alteration minerals produced by interaction between cold (<100°C)  
826 seawater and MORB are highly enriched in Tl compared to pristine oceanic crust (Alt, 1995;  
827 Jochum and Verma, 1996; McGoldrick et al., 1979), and this leads to a strong Tl enrichment in  
828 the upper 500-600m of the oceanic crust (Fig. 7a). It is unclear, however, which alteration  
829 mineral(s) are primarily responsible for accommodating the additional Tl. Palagonitization  
830 causes substantial deposition of Tl, which has been attributed to partitioning into smectites and  
831 other alkali-rich clay minerals (Jochum and Verma, 1996; McGoldrick et al., 1979). In contrast,  
832 altered assemblages from IODP Hole U1301B appear to show correlations between bulk Tl and  
833 S concentrations, which led to the interpretation that the main carrier phase for Tl during  
834 hydrothermal alteration is pyrite (Coggon et al., 2014). Lastly, composites from several depth  
835 intervals in Jurassic oceanic crust from ODP Hole 801C showed no clear Tl enrichment and  
836 limited isotope fractionation compared with  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}_{\text{MORB}} = -2 \pm 1$  (Fig. 7). The uncertainties in  
837 depositional mechanism, combined with the highly heterogeneous distribution of Tl in low-T  
838 altered oceanic crust (Coggon et al., 2014; Nielsen et al., 2006c; Prytulak et al., 2013; Teagle et  
839 al., 1996), complicate efforts to estimate the average Tl concentration of low-T altered oceanic  
840 crust and determine the annual flux of Tl into this reservoir. Following a conservative approach it  
841 was proposed that, on average, the upper 600m of oceanic crust contains  $200 \pm 150$  ng/g of Tl  
842 (Nielsen et al., 2006c), although the number is based mostly on inferred values rather than actual  
843 data. The Tl concentration estimate is equivalent to an element flux of 225-1985 Mg/a, with a

844 best estimate of ~1000 Mg/yr. The preferred estimate, however, is similar to the combined flux  
845 of all marine Tl inputs (Table 4).

846 Given the uncertainties, it may thus be more reasonable to apply a mass balance approach  
847 (which assumes that marine Tl is at steady state) to estimate the Tl flux into low-T altered ocean  
848 crust. With a total input flux of 990 Mg/a (Table 4) and an authigenic output flux of 310 Mg/a,  
849 the marine Tl budget can be balanced with a low-T alteration output of 680 Mg/a, which is well  
850 within the range of values estimated based on Tl concentration data available for low-T altered  
851 ocean crust (Table 4). The reconstructed marine Tl mass balance yields a residence time of ~18.5  
852 ka, which is within error of previous estimates of ~21 ka (Flegal and Patterson, 1985;  
853 Rehkämper and Nielsen, 2004).

854 The isotope composition of the low-T alteration output is equally difficult to determine.  
855 Nielsen et al. (2006c) observed that, in general, the upper oceanic crust is significantly enriched  
856 in isotopically light Tl with the shallowest samples displaying the lightest isotope compositions  
857 (Fig. 7b). This isotopic signature was interpreted to reflect closed system isotope fractionation  
858 during uptake of Tl from seawater, which gradually becomes more depleted in Tl as it penetrated  
859 deeper into the oceanic crust. As shown by a Rayleigh fractionation model in which an isotope  
860 fractionation factor of  $\alpha = 0.9985$  was applied (Nielsen et al., 2006c), the isotope composition of  
861 the total Tl deposited during low-T alteration depends critically on the fraction of Tl that is  
862 extracted from the seawater before it is re-injected into the oceans as a low-T hydrothermal fluid.  
863 Stripping the fluid of all Tl originally present would imply an isotope composition for the low-T  
864 alteration flux that is identical to seawater ( $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} = -6$ ), whilst lower degrees of depletion result  
865 in lighter isotope compositions.

866 Based on the isotope fractionation observed for rocks from ODP Hole 504B, it was  
867 estimated that extraction of ~50% of the original seawater Tl by ocean crust alteration would  
868 yield an average isotope composition of  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} \sim -18$  for the Tl deposited during low-T alteration.  
869 The application of this approach to obtain a global estimate for the average Tl isotope  
870 composition of the low-T alteration flux is fraught with many uncertainties, however, as the  
871 database is currently limited to rocks from just three sections of altered ocean crust (504B, 801C,  
872 U1301B) and Tl concentration measurements for 3 low-T fluids from the Juan de Fuca ridge  
873 (Nielsen et al., 2006c). In principle, average altered upper ocean crust can be characterized by an  
874  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$  value of between about -18 to -6. Hence it may again be more appropriate to apply an  
875 isotope mass balance approach to obtain a more accurate result. With an isotope composition of  
876  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} \approx -1.8$  for the combined marine Tl input fluxes and an authigenic output flux of  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} \approx$   
877  $+10$ , mass balance dictates that the altered basalt flux is characterized by  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} \approx -7.2$  (Table 4).  
878 This result is certainly within the range of reasonable values but based on Rayleigh fractionation  
879 modeling it requires that more than 95% of seawater Tl is removed by alteration processes,  
880 which is not fully supported by the data obtained for ODP Hole 504B (Nielsen et al., 2006c) and  
881 IODP Hole U1301B (Coggon et al., 2014). It is unlikely, however, that the results obtained for  
882 these two relatively young (<5Ma) sections of oceanic crust are representative for global average  
883 ocean crust alteration processes. On the other hand, the Jurassic oceanic crust at ODP Hole 801C  
884 was found to have only limited Tl enrichment. This may reflect the low Tl concentration of  
885 ambient seawater at the time, as a consequence of enhanced incorporation of Tl into the abundant  
886 euxinic sediments of the Jurassic and Cretaceous, during which most of the alteration at ODP  
887 801C took place (Prytulak et al., 2013).

888



## 889 7. CAUSES OF THALLIUM ISOTOPE FRACTIONATION

890 In general, Tl isotope variations on Earth are fairly limited, with only a few environments  
891 displaying significant deviations from the MORB and continental crust value of  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} = -2$   
892 (Nielsen et al., 2007; Nielsen et al., 2006b; Nielsen et al., 2005b; Nielsen et al., 2006c).  
893 However, the overall magnitude of Tl isotope variations in natural environments on Earth now  
894 exceeds 35  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$ -units (Coggon et al., 2014; Nielsen et al., 2006c; Rehkämper et al., 2004;  
895 Rehkämper et al., 2002). This variability is substantially larger than what is expected based on  
896 classical stable isotope fractionation theory (Bigeleisen and Mayer, 1947; Urey, 1947) and it is  
897 therefore important to understand the fundamental processes responsible for the Tl isotope  
898 variability.

899 There are two principle mechanisms by which most stable isotope fractionations are  
900 generated – a kinetic route that is associated with unidirectional processes and an equilibrium  
901 pathway, which acts during chemical exchange reactions. Both mechanisms should scale with  
902 the relative mass difference between the two isotopes of interest. In principle, kinetic isotope  
903 fractionation is capable of generating substantial Tl isotope effects (see Section 5.1) and there is  
904 evidence that such processes are recorded in volcanic fumaroles and some meteorites (Baker et  
905 al., 2009; Baker et al., 2010b; Nielsen et al., 2006a). However, the large Tl isotope fractionations  
906 observed between seawater and Fe-Mn oxy-hydroxides are more likely to reflect equilibrium  
907 isotope effects (Nielsen et al., 2006c; Rehkämper et al., 2002).

908 The larger-than-expected Tl isotope effects of equilibrium reactions were shown by  
909 Schauble (2007) to be partially caused by the so-called nuclear field shift isotope fractionation  
910 mechanism (Bigeleisen, 1996). In short, the fundamental equilibrium isotope exchange equation  
911 of Bigeleisen and Mayer (1947) has five components, of which four were deemed negligible.

912 However, based on unusual isotope fractionation effects observed for uranium (Fujii et al.,  
913 1989a; Fujii et al., 1989b), it was concluded that the equilibrium term caused by nuclear field  
914 shifts may be important in some cases (Bigeleisen, 1996). Thus, nuclear field shift isotope  
915 fractionation is also an equilibrium isotope fractionation term, with a magnitude that scales  
916 broadly with the mass of the isotopes and hence is largest for heavy elements (Knyazev and  
917 Myasoedov, 2001; Schauble, 2007). The calculations that were carried out for Tl isotopes predict  
918 that an equilibrium system with aqueous dissolved  $Tl^+$  and  $Tl^{3+}$  will feature both regular mass  
919 dependent and nuclear field shift isotope effects, with isotope fractionation factors that act in the  
920 same direction (Schauble, 2007). When combined, these two components can reproduce the  
921 approximate magnitude of Tl isotope variation observed on Earth (Schauble, 2007). The  
922 calculations are particularly relevant for the isotope compositions determined for Fe-Mn crusts  
923 and low-T altered basalts as these represent the heaviest and lightest reservoirs, respectively,  
924 found to date. The main requirement for substantial equilibrium Tl isotope fractionation to take  
925 place, is a chemical exchange reaction that involves two valence states of Tl (Schauble, 2007),  
926 and these could be  $Tl^0$ ,  $Tl^+$  or  $Tl^{3+}$ . However, the calculations of Schauble (2007) also imply that  
927 the largest isotope effects are expected if  $Tl^{3+}$  is present.

928 Based on these theoretical considerations, experimental work was conducted to investigate  
929 the mechanism for Tl isotope fractionation during adsorption onto hydrogenetic Fe-Mn crusts  
930 (Fig. 8) and other Fe-Mn sediments (Nielsen et al., 2013; Peacock and Moon, 2012). The  
931 majority of Tl in these deposits is associated with  $MnO_2$  minerals (Koschinsky and Hein, 2003;  
932 Peacock and Moon, 2012) and the isotope fractionation is therefore likely to occur at or in such  
933 phases. The EXAFS/XANES spectra for Tl sorbed onto Mn-oxides have shown that the  $MnO_2$   
934 phase hexagonal birnessite has the capacity to oxidize  $Tl^+$  to  $Tl^{3+}$ , following Tl sorption as a

935 univalent ion (Bidoglio et al., 1993; Peacock and Moon, 2012). This reaction appears to be  
936 associated with isotope fractionation whereas sorption of Tl onto other MnO<sub>2</sub> mineral structures  
937 (e.g., todorokite) with less oxidation potential, is not associated with significant isotope effects  
938 (Nielsen et al., 2013). Several series of experiments revealed that Tl sorbed to birnessite is  
939 systematically enriched in <sup>205</sup>Tl (Nielsen et al., 2013), which is in agreement with Tl isotope data  
940 for Fe-Mn crusts and seawater (Owens et al., 2016; Rehkämper et al., 2002). However, the  
941 experimental isotope fractionation factors measured for aqueous univalent Tl versus Tl sorbed to  
942 birnessite were more variable and lower than the constant isotopic fractionation observed  
943 between Fe-Mn crusts and seawater (Fig. 8). This discrepancy was interpreted to reflect sorption  
944 of Tl to two distinct sorption sites on birnessite: one associated with significant isotope  
945 fractionation and one with little or none. If this interpretation is correct, then Tl in natural Fe-Mn  
946 crusts either occupies only sorption sites with isotope fractionation or the distribution of Tl  
947 between the two types of sites is fairly constant in nature.

948 In summary, observation (Rehkämper et al., 2002), theory (Schauble, 2007) and  
949 experiments (Nielsen et al., 2013) provide a relatively consistent picture of the mechanism  
950 responsible for Tl isotope fractionation during sorption to Mn oxides. However, it is still  
951 unknown what effects, if any, there are on the magnitude of Tl isotope fractionation during  
952 sorption to Mn oxides as a function of temperature, pH, ionic strength or other parameters.

953 The isotope fractionation effects found in low-T altered ocean crust are much less well  
954 understood. In this environment, Tl is extracted from seawater circulating through the ocean  
955 crust with an isotope fractionation factor of about  $\alpha = 0.9985$  (Coggon et al., 2014; Nielsen et al.,  
956 2006c). It is conceivable that these fractionations reflect kinetic isotope effects, for example as a  
957 result of more rapid diffusion of the light isotopes from the hydrothermal fluid to the alteration

958 minerals that concentrate Tl. If an equilibrium reaction is responsible,  $Tl^{3+}$  is likely to be  
959 involved because large equilibrium isotope effects are not expected for reactions without this  
960 species (Schauble, 2007). Simple models of Tl speciation in seawater predict that only  $Tl^+$  is  
961 present (Nielsen et al., 2009a) and this implies that the hydrothermal processes, which deposit Tl  
962 in the oceanic crust should produce  $Tl^{3+}$ . This inference is in accord with the observation that  
963  $Tl^{3+}$  has a much lower aqueous solubility than  $Tl^+$  (Nriagu, 1998) and this implies that trivalent  
964 Tl should be deposited during hydrothermal alteration. However, these conclusions strongly  
965 contradict observations, which demonstrate that low-T hydrothermal alteration generally occurs  
966 at conditions that are more reducing than those prevalent in the open ocean (Alt et al., 1996). In  
967 addition, isotope fractionation calculations indicate that oxidized Tl should be enriched in  $^{205}Tl$   
968 (Schauble, 2007), which is at odds with the light Tl isotope signatures observed in altered  
969 basalts.

970 In summary, the large Tl isotope variability observed in the marine environment is most  
971 likely produced by a combination of conventional mass dependent and nuclear field shift  
972 equilibrium isotope fractionation processes. Contributions from kinetic isotope effects are also  
973 possible, but primarily for Tl incorporation during low-T ocean crust alteration. In order to  
974 reproduce the magnitude of equilibrium isotope fractionation observed for natural samples,  
975 reduction-oxidation processes, in which oxidized  $Tl^{3+}$  plays a central role, are predicted to be  
976 important.

977

## 978 **8. APPLICATIONS OF THALLIUM ISOTOPES**

### 979 **8.1. Studies of Tl isotopes in Fe-Mn crusts**

980 Hydrogenetic Fe-Mn crusts grow on hard substrates that experience little or no regular  
981 detrital sedimentation, for example on seamounts where ocean currents prevent gravitational  
982 settling of particles (Hein et al., 2000). They precipitate directly from the ambient water mass in  
983 which they are bathed and feature growth rates of a few mm/Ma (Eisenhauer et al., 1992; Segl et  
984 al., 1989; Segl et al., 1984). This implies that samples with a thickness exceeding 10 cm may  
985 provide a continuous seawater record for the entire Cenozoic (the last ~65 Ma). Over the last 20  
986 years, extensive investigations of Fe-Mn crusts have been conducted to infer changes in the  
987 radiogenic isotope compositions of various elements in deep ocean waters (e.g. Frank, 2002; Lee  
988 et al., 1999). Depending on the marine residence time for the element investigated, the isotopic  
989 variability has mainly been interpreted as reflecting changes in ocean circulation patterns or the  
990 marine source and/or sink fluxes (Burton et al., 1997; van de Flierdt et al., 2004).

991 The globally uniform Tl isotope compositions observed for the surfaces of Fe-Mn crusts  
992 (Fig. 8), imply a constant equilibrium isotope fractionation between seawater and Tl incorporated  
993 into the Fe-Mn crusts. Time-dependent variations of Tl isotope compositions in Fe-Mn crusts can  
994 be interpreted to reflect either changes in the isotope fractionation factor between seawater and  
995 Fe-Mn crusts or the Tl isotope composition of seawater. In principle, both interpretations are  
996 feasible, but several lines of reasoning currently favor the latter explanation (Nielsen et al.,  
997 2009a; Rehkämper et al., 2004).

998 Two studies have determined Tl isotope depth profiles for several Fe-Mn crusts, and both  
999 identified large systematic changes in Tl isotope compositions (Nielsen et al., 2009a; Rehkämper  
1000 et al., 2004). The first study produced low-resolution depth profiles for a number of samples. The

1001 largest Tl isotope variations were observed for the early Cenozoic (Rehkämper et al., 2004), but  
1002 the low sampling density and uncertainties in the age models of the crusts precluded a precise  
1003 determination of the timing and duration of the observed changes. It was furthermore argued that  
1004 the Fe-Mn crusts record variations in the Tl isotope composition of seawater that were caused by  
1005 changes in the marine input and/or output fluxes of this element (Rehkämper et al., 2004). The  
1006 second study generated high resolution Tl isotope time series for two Fe-Mn crusts. Improved  
1007 age models were applied, which resolved a single large shift in Tl isotope composition, which  
1008 occurred between ~55 and ~45 Ma (Fig. 9; (Nielsen et al., 2009a)). Based on an improved  
1009 understanding of the marine input and output fluxes of Tl and their respective isotope  
1010 compositions, it was proposed that the large shift in the  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$  value of seawater reflects a  
1011 decrease in the amount of authigenic Mn oxides that were deposited with pelagic sediments in  
1012 the early Eocene (Nielsen et al., 2009a).

1013 It is difficult to assess the underlying mechanism responsible for this global change in Mn  
1014 oxide precipitation. The strong co-variation of the Tl isotope curve with the sulfur (S) isotope  
1015 composition of seawater (Fig. 9) may imply, however, that the same mechanism is driving the  
1016 shift in the isotopic evolution of both stable isotope systems, even though S isotopes are known  
1017 to be unaffected (at least directly) by changes in Mn oxide precipitation. Baker et al. (2009)  
1018 proposed that the inferred high Mn oxide precipitation rates for the Paleocene (~65-55 Ma) may  
1019 be explained by increased deposition of Fe- and Mn-rich volcanic ash particles in the oceans.  
1020 Such volcanic activity would also supply isotopically light S and this could explain the relatively  
1021 low  $\delta^{34}\text{S}$  value for seawater at this time. The changes in the Tl and S isotope compositions of the  
1022 oceans between ~55 and ~45 Ma (Fig. 9) would then be controlled by diminishing volcanic  
1023 activity (Wallmann, 2001). An alternative model proposes that Mn oxide precipitation is

1024 controlled by biological utilization and burial of Mn with organic carbon (Nielsen et al., 2009a).  
1025 Higher organic carbon burial rates would lead to diminished Mn oxide precipitation rates as less  
1026 Mn would be available in the water column. Simultaneously, the increased organic carbon burial  
1027 would result in higher rates of sedimentary pyrite burial, which draws isotopically light S out of  
1028 seawater (Berner, 1984). In summary, the results of initial paleoceanographic studies indicate  
1029 that it may be possible to utilize Tl isotopes as a proxy for changes in marine Mn sources and/or  
1030 Mn oxide precipitation rates back in time.

1031

## 1032 **8.2. Calculation of hydrothermal fluid fluxes using Tl isotopes in the ocean crust**

1033 Hydrothermal fluids are expelled from the seafloor (i) at high temperature on mid ocean  
1034 ridge axes, as fueled by the magmatic energy from the crystallization and cooling of newly  
1035 produced ocean crust to ~300-400°C and (ii) at lower temperatures on the ridge flanks, as the  
1036 ocean crust cools further over millions of years. These hydrothermal fluxes play pivotal roles in  
1037 controlling seawater chemistry, but the magnitude of the high temperature water flux at mid-  
1038 ocean ridge axes remains widely disputed, whilst the volume of low temperature vent fluids  
1039 expelled at ridge flanks is essentially unconstrained.

1040 As discussed in sections 6.1.1 and 6.2.2, Tl displays distinct behavior during high and low  
1041 temperature hydrothermal alteration of the ocean crust. High-T fluids effectively leach Tl from  
1042 the cooling rocks whereas low-T fluids deposit Tl into the upper part of the oceanic crust.  
1043 Following Nielsen et al. (2006c), a mass balance equation can be constructed for the high-T  
1044 hydrothermal fluid flux ( $F_{hT}$ ):

$$1045 \quad F_{hT} \times [Tl]_{hT} = M_{Tl} \quad (3)$$

1046 where  $[Ti]_{hT}$  is the average Ti concentration of the vent fluids and, as defined in equation (2),  
 1047  $M_{Ti}$  is the annual flux of Ti expelled into the ocean via high-T hydrothermal fluids. When the Ti  
 1048 flux of  $170 \pm 60$  Mg/a determined from equation (2) is combined with  $[Ti]_{hT} = 6.7 \pm 0.7$  ng/g  
 1049 (Nielsen et al., 2006c), we obtain a high temperature hydrothermal water flux of  $2.5 \pm 0.9 \times 10^{13}$   
 1050 kg/a. This fluid flux corresponds to 50-80% of the heat available at mid-ocean ridge axes from  
 1051 the crystallization and cooling of the freshly formed ocean crust (Mottl, 2003). The difference  
 1052 between the available heat at mid-ocean ridge axes and that expelled via hydrothermal fluids  
 1053 requires that some energy at mid ocean ridge axes is lost via conduction and/or through the  
 1054 circulation of intermediate temperature hydrothermal fluids that do not alter the chemical  
 1055 budgets of Ti in the ocean crust (Nielsen et al., 2006c).

1056 For the low-T hydrothermal fluid circulation flux ( $F_{IT}$ ), the following mass balance equation  
 1057 was shown to apply (Nielsen et al., 2006c):

$$1058 \quad F_{vz} \times ([Ti]_{avz} - [Ti]_{pvz}) = F_{IT} \times [Ti]_{sw} \times f_{upt} \quad (4)$$

1059 where  $F_{vz}$  is the mass flux of newly produced ocean crust that is affected by low-T alteration,  
 1060  $[Ti]_{avz}$ ,  $[Ti]_{pvz}$ , and  $[Ti]_{sw}$  are the Ti concentrations of the altered volcanic zone basalts, their  
 1061 pristine equivalents and seawater, respectively. The fraction of Ti that is removed from seawater  
 1062 by basalt weathering is denoted by  $f_{upt}$ . As discussed in section 6.2.2,  $[Ti]_{avz}$  is extremely difficult  
 1063 to assess because the oceanic crust at ODP Holes 504B, 896A and U1301B is younger than 5Ma,  
 1064 which means that hydrothermal alteration is still ongoing at these locations. Analyses of Jurassic  
 1065 oceanic crust at ODP Hole 801C revealed little to no Ti enrichment (Fig. 7), possibly due to  
 1066 much lower Ti concentrations in seawater at the time (Prytulak et al., 2013). A meaningful  
 1067 assessment of Ti accumulation in oceanic crust that experienced complete hydrothermal  
 1068 alteration is hence currently not possible. The Ti enrichment factors observed for rocks from drill



1069 holes in young oceanic crust (Fig. 7) are, therefore, likely minimum estimates. The remaining  
1070 parameters are more easily determined, but the large uncertainty on  $[Tl]_{avz}$  generates estimates  
1071 for the low-T hydrothermal fluid fluxes at ridge flanks that are also highly uncertain at  $0.2-5.4 \times$   
1072  $10^{17}$  kg/a (Nielsen et al., 2006c). Using the ridge flank power output of 7.1 TW (Mottl, 2003), it  
1073 was calculated that such fluids have an average temperature anomaly of only about 0.1 to 3.6°C  
1074 relative to ambient seawater, which is lower than most flank fluids sampled to date. It is  
1075 therefore unclear how representative low-T fluids sampled to date are of average low-T ocean  
1076 crust alteration processes.

1077 In order to improve the utility of Tl mass balance calculations to constrain hydrothermal  
1078 fluid fluxes it will be essential to obtain more data on altered ocean crust from a number of  
1079 locations and particularly for older sections of altered oceanic crust. However, Jurassic ocean  
1080 crust appears to not follow the general pattern of strong Tl enrichment during low-T alteration  
1081 and this may reflect the particular marine conditions of this era (Prytulak et al., 2013). Analyses  
1082 of intermediate-age altered oceanic crust (20-100Ma) will provide improved constraints on the  
1083 behavior of Tl during hydrothermal processes and may thus ultimately yield more reliable Tl-  
1084 based estimates of global hydrothermal water fluxes.

1085

## 1086 **8.3 High temperature terrestrial applications**

### 1087 *8.3.1 Mineral Deposits*

1088 The accumulation of Tl via hydrothermal activity and the association of Tl and S, suggests  
1089 obvious potential applications for Tl elemental systematics and isotope signatures in mineral  
1090 deposit exploration. The significantly elevated concentrations of Tl in many mineral deposits  
1091 furthermore allows analyses of mineral separates, which are often at the limits of analytical

1092 capabilities in barren igneous systems. Such investigations provide useful information on the  
1093 magnitude and direction of natural mineral fractionation factors. For example, it is of interest to  
1094 determine if Tl-enriched minerals have a distinctive Tl isotope ‘fingerprint’ that could dominate  
1095 bulk rock assays and thus aid exploration activities.

1096 The first economically focused study of thallium and thallium isotopes was undertaken by  
1097 Baker et al. (2010a), who investigated a porphyry copper deposit hosted in the Collahuasi  
1098 Formation of northern Chile. These authors examined whole rock andesite, dacite, rhyolite and  
1099 Cu-porphyry samples. The concentration of thallium was found to vary over an order of  
1100 magnitude from 0.1 to 3.2  $\mu\text{g/g}$ , correlating with K and Rb, and not Cu, thus indicating that Tl  
1101 displays lithophile rather than chalcophile behavior in this system (Baker et al., 2010a). The  
1102 isotope compositions ranged from  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} = -5.1$  to  $+0.1$ , which is not unusual in terms of the  
1103 range of  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$  seen in barren terrestrial igneous rocks (Fig. 1). The five examined porphyry  
1104 samples had very restricted  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$  values of  $-1.9 \pm 0.1$ , identical to  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}_{\text{MORB}}$ . Thus there appears  
1105 little potential for fingerprinting Cu porphyry rocks with Tl isotopes. Furthermore, there were no  
1106 clear, systematic relationships between  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$  and major and trace element data or alteration  
1107 minerals, which also limits the diagnostic potential for Tl isotopes in Cu porphyry systems.

1108 Hettmann et al. (2014) addressed the magnitude of Tl isotope fractionation between different  
1109 sulfide melts by examining the Pb-As-Tl-Zn deposit at the Lengenbach quarry in Switzerland.  
1110 The Lengenbach deposit is notable for its abundance of rare Tl-bearing minerals, including  
1111 hatchite ( $\text{AgTlPbAs}_2\text{S}_5$ ) with an extreme thallium concentration of up to 24.8 wt%. The high  
1112 concentrations of Tl in the ore minerals allowed isotopic analysis of individual mineral phases  
1113 and thus an evaluation of potential isotope fractionation induced by sulfide melt/mineral  
1114 partitioning. The overall range of  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$  measured in sulfides, sulfosalts and micas spans  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} =$

1115 -4.1 to +1.9. As for the Collahuasi deposit, the substantial range in Tl isotope compositions over  
1116 a geographically restricted area was not accompanied by a clear co-variation with other chemical  
1117 characteristics or mineralogy. Complicated processes including both hydrothermal and sulfide  
1118 melt inputs and subsequent formation and dissolution of secondary phases are likely responsible  
1119 for the general lack of coherent behavior. Certainly, the Tl concentrations documented are  
1120 amongst the highest measured in natural materials, yet the isotopic variability, whilst large, is  
1121 again within the range of barren igneous rocks.

1122         Given the significant and resolvable variability in  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$  for both examined deposits, there is  
1123 clearly much to be explored in terms of individual mineral controls on isotope signatures and the  
1124 potential effects of fluid mineral partitioning at different pH,  $f\text{O}_2$  and T. The utility of Tl isotopes  
1125 to fingerprint economically viable deposits, however, remains to be convincingly demonstrated.

1126

### 1127         8.3.2 *The Tl isotope composition of arc lavas*

1128         Subduction related magmas are classically considered to be derived from a depleted mantle  
1129 wedge, chemically flavored by percent-level addition of sediments and/or fluids released from  
1130 the subducting slab. Due to the large diversity of Tl concentrations and isotope compositions  
1131 among these three reservoirs (Fig. 1), Tl isotopes appear to be uniquely suited to disentangle  
1132 these sources and investigate the petrogenesis of subduction-related lavas. Although back arc  
1133 spreading may cause the mantle wedge to be more depleted than the source of mid-ocean ridge  
1134 basalts, to a first order, the depleted upper mantle is a reasonable estimate for the Tl content and  
1135 isotope composition of the mantle wedge. The Tl concentration of the depleted mantle is orders  
1136 of magnitude lower than possible inputs to the system in the form of sediments and fluids from  
1137 the altered oceanic crust (Fig. 1). In addition to the large concentration contrast between

1138 ‘background’ mantle and possible inputs, the two most commonly invoked inputs have opposite  
1139 vectors of isotope fractionation. As discussed in sections 6.2.1 and 6.2.2, pelagic sediments rich  
1140 in Mn oxides are characterized by positive  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$  whilst altered oceanic crust and, by inference,  
1141 slab fluids derived thereof are expected to yield negative  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$  signatures. Thus, even minor  
1142 addition of Mn oxide rich sediments or low-T altered basalts to a mantle wedge can result not  
1143 only in analytically resolvable Tl isotope signatures, but also identify the type of input a specific  
1144 lava has experienced. Finally, Tl isotope measurements may be able to contribute to the debate  
1145 over the petrogenesis of so-called ‘adakite’ lavas (Kay, 1978), whereby one long-standing  
1146 hypothesis proposes that they are produced by direct melting of the (altered) basaltic portion of  
1147 the subducting slab.

1148 The prediction is straightforward: lavas with trace element chemistry indicative of fluid  
1149 contributions are expected to have light Tl isotope signatures, whilst sediment-influenced lavas  
1150 are expected to be isotopically heavy. However, Tl isotope measurements of lavas from the  
1151 Mariana subduction zone display very little isotopic variation, with  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$  values from -1.8 to -  
1152 0.4. One lava falls outside this range, with a heavy  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$  of +1.2, which was suggested to be  
1153 due to volcanic degassing (Prytulak et al., 2013). Hence, even though volcanic degassing broadly  
1154 speaking has little impact on the Tl isotope composition of lavas and the continental crust (see  
1155 section 5.1), individual samples may be affected by this process and must be assessed in studies  
1156 of subaerial volcanism. The remaining data from the Mariana arc are reasonable, in that the  
1157 measured inputs to the system, including sediments and altered ocean crust from ODP Hole  
1158 801C, did not show the same variability of Tl isotope compositions that was documented in  
1159 similar lithologies elsewhere. In addition, a subsequent study of Mariana forearc serpentinites  
1160 revealed that Tl sourced from pelagic sediments was released with fluids from the subducting

1161 sediments that caused serpentinization of the forearc peridotites (Nielsen et al., 2015). This result  
1162 suggests that the Tl isotope signature of subducting sediments may be altered in the forearc  
1163 before they enter the subarc mantle. This process could be an important mechanism of  
1164 subduction zone cycling for Tl and other trace metals that concentrate in Mn oxides. In  
1165 summary, the Tl isotope data for Mariana arc lavas demonstrates a situation where isotopically  
1166 invariant inputs produce similarly invariant outputs. This is a key finding, as it provides  
1167 evidence that the subduction process itself does not fractionate Tl isotopes (Prytulak et al., 2013).

1168 The only other subduction zone that has been investigated for Tl isotopes is the Aleutian arc  
1169 (Nielsen et al., 2016). The Aleutians are notable for along strike variation in subduction  
1170 parameters, such as slab dip, slab velocity, and variable sediment lithologies dominated by  
1171 volcanoclastic in the East to pelagic clay in the West. In addition, the Aleutians contain the type  
1172 locality for so-called adakite lavas, from Adak Island, Alaska. Nielsen et al. (2016) analyzed  
1173 both lavas and sedimentary lithologies outboard of the arc and demonstrated that the  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$   
1174 values of the lavas closely follow the sediment values, whereby the latter change systematically  
1175 along the arc, with the Central Aleutian sediments and lavas showing enrichments in  $^{205}\text{Tl}$   
1176 relative to the Eastern Aleutians. This finding further strengthens the conclusion that subduction  
1177 processes do not fractionate Tl isotopes and which are thus useful for tracing inputs that are  
1178 isotopically distinct from the background mantle. Nielsen et al. (2016) also determined the Tl  
1179 isotopic composition of the lava originally used to define adakites (Defant and Drummond, 1990;  
1180 Kay, 1978). As expected, the sample has a light  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$  of -3.3, in general agreement with the  
1181 hypothesis that adakites incorporate melts from the altered basaltic ocean crust (Nielsen et al.,  
1182 2016).

1183

1184        *8.3.3 The Tl isotope composition of ocean island basalts (OIB)*

1185        The recycling of sediments and oceanic crust is a central tenant of mantle geochemistry and  
1186 has been the subject of intense research over the past 35 years (e.g. Hofmann, 2014). Many  
1187 investigations focus on ocean island basalts, which are argued to be generated at pressures  
1188 >2.5GPa in the mantle, and thus significantly deeper than mid-ocean ridge basalts. Though still  
1189 debated, there is some consensus that many ocean island basalts are produced by anomalously  
1190 hot mantle plumes, thus offering a reasonable explanation why their locations are independent of  
1191 tectonic plate boundaries (Hofmann, 2014; Hofmann and White, 1982). Traditional approaches  
1192 to deduce the nature of OIB mantle sources employ a combination of trace element and  
1193 radiogenic isotope data to distinguish sediment and/or crustal additions. As radiogenic isotopes  
1194 reflect the time-integrated parent–daughter trace element ratio, there is inescapable ambiguity  
1195 associated with their employment, with the same isotope signature permissibly generated by  
1196 markedly different evolution paths.

1197        Stable isotope analyses offer important complementary constraints to measurements that  
1198 apply radiogenic isotope systems. Some of the earliest applications of stable isotopes to high  
1199 temperature geochemistry encompass studies of O and Li to trace processes such as ocean crust  
1200 alteration (Alt et al., 1986; Chan et al., 2002). However, light elements like O and Li are known  
1201 to record isotope fractionation even during processes that occur at elevated mantle temperatures  
1202 (Jeffcoate et al., 2007; Marschall et al., 2007; Williams et al., 2009) and their mantle  
1203 concentrations are relatively high, such that the isotope composition of a mantle source is not  
1204 readily affected by admixing of sediment and/or ocean crust (Elliott et al., 2004; Thirlwall et al.,  
1205 2004). However, the concentration contrast and magnitude of isotope fractionation offered by the  
1206 Tl isotope system is favorable for overcoming these obstacles.

1207 To date, OIB samples from the Azores, Iceland and Hawaii have been investigated (Nielsen  
1208 et al., 2007; Nielsen et al., 2006b). As it is unclear whether the Azores basalts were affected by  
1209 post-eruptional alteration (Nielsen et al., 2007), these data will not be discussed in the following.  
1210 Samples from Hawaii exhibit the most convincing Tl isotope evidence for the presence of  
1211 sediments in the mantle source (Fig. 10). In detail, about 8 ppm of pure Fe-Mn sediment is  
1212 sufficient to explain the positive  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$  values of up to +4 recorded in these lavas. Whilst it is  
1213 unlikely that the Tl isotope variation originates from anything else than Fe-Mn sediment, it is  
1214 uncertain if this component was acquired by the melts during magma ascent via assimilation of  
1215 modern marine deposits or if it is a feature of the mantle source. The samples with the heaviest  
1216 Tl isotope compositions are, however, also characterized by the least radiogenic Pb isotope  
1217 compositions (Nielsen et al., 2006b) which would argue for an old age of the sedimentary  
1218 component.

1219 The relatively straightforward interpretation of the Tl isotope data for Hawaii could be  
1220 considered a “smoking gun” for the presence of recycled sediments in the Hawaiian mantle  
1221 plume and, indeed, agrees with independent constraints from Hf isotopes (Blichert-Toft et al.,  
1222 1999). However, results obtained for of a suite of lavas from Iceland strongly indicate that there  
1223 is some way to go before Tl isotopes can be confidently applied as a unique tracer of crustal  
1224 recycling within the mantle. Seventeen Icelandic samples, including picrites that span all major  
1225 eruption centers of the island, exhibit an average  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} = -1.6 \pm 1.1$ , completely overlapping with  
1226  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}_{\text{MORB}}$ . In contrast to the isotopic homogeneity, Cs/Tl ratios vary from 0.3 to 11. The  
1227 isotopic invariance is perhaps unsurprising given that the thickness of subducted oceanic  
1228 lithosphere exceeds 30km. Thallium isotope anomalies will be situated in only the uppermost  
1229 ~500 to 1000m, whilst the remainder of the oceanic crust is expected to be isotopically identical

1230 to the ambient mantle. The mantle-like Tl isotope signatures of the Iceland basalts hence do not  
1231 argue against the presence of recycled ocean crust in the plume source. Of more concern is that  
1232 the samples display variable Cs/Tl ratios. The large observed Cs/Tl range demonstrates that  
1233 processes other than the addition of Fe-Mn sediments and low-T altered basalts may alter this  
1234 ratio. It is conceivable that this includes igneous processes, such as partitioning of Tl into  
1235 sulfides and/or phyllosilicates, Tl mobilization by magmatic fluids (Nielsen et al., 2007) and/or  
1236 fractionation by accessory phases in the subducted material (e.g., phengite; (Prytulak et al.,  
1237 2013)).

1238 Finally, it is prudent to consider three key caveats for the application of Tl isotopes in  
1239 mantle geochemistry. First, it is likely that the Tl isotope composition of seawater has not  
1240 remained constant over time (Fig. 9) and the isotope signatures of altered basalts and Fe-Mn  
1241 sediments are therefore also expected to exhibit temporal variability. Any such variability will  
1242 obscure the mixing trends that are produced by contamination of the ambient mantle with  
1243 recycled material. Second, whilst it is unclear when the oceans became sufficiently oxic to  
1244 support the precipitation of Mn oxides, this probably occurred after ~2.4 Ga (Canfield, 1998).  
1245 Sediments that were recycled more than 2.4 billion years ago are therefore unlikely to be  
1246 enriched in Tl associated with Mn oxides and are hence probably characterized by  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} \approx -2$ .  
1247 The isotope fractionation mechanism responsible for the highly negative  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$  values of modern  
1248 altered ocean crusts is yet to be determined. Hence, it is unclear whether such basalts are also  
1249 isotopically fractionated in ancient environments and if past oceanic crust recycling was able to  
1250 alter the Tl isotope composition of the mantle. Third, it needs to be acknowledged that Tl can  
1251 also be *too* sensitive as a tracer. Even much less than 1% of subaerial or submarine  
1252 contamination by secondary clays or precipitation of Mn oxides can have a drastic impact on the



1253 Tl concentration and isotope signature of a basalt. Great attention must therefore be paid to  
1254 sample preparation and selection. For example, the careful leaching experiments for submarine  
1255 samples conducted by Nielsen et al. (2016) should be considered a minimum requirement to  
1256 establish confidence in the determined  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$  isotope signatures of submarine lavas with low Tl  
1257 concentrations.

1258

## 1259 **9. FUTURE DIRECTIONS AND OUTLOOK**

1260 High precision measurements of Tl isotope compositions have only been possible for little  
1261 more than a decade but despite of this, we have already acquired a surprisingly detailed  
1262 understanding of the diverse isotopic behavior of this element. Significant gaps in knowledge  
1263 remain, however.

1264 Most meteorite samples display resolvable variations in Tl isotope compositions with an  
1265 overall isotopic variability of about 50  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$ . In many samples, the isotopic variation appears to  
1266 be caused by both radiogenic decay of extinct  $^{205}\text{Pb}$  and stable isotope fractionations, which  
1267 reflect the highly volatile and labile nature of Tl. The difficulty of deconvolving these two  
1268 sources of isotopic variability restricts the utility of both the  $^{205}\text{Pb}$ - $^{205}\text{Tl}$  chronometer and the Tl  
1269 stable isotope system to inform on early solar system processes. Nonetheless, further studies of  
1270 suitable meteorites (including carbonaceous chondrites) are desirable to better constrain the  
1271 initial solar system abundance of  $^{205}\text{Pb}$ , as this is a unique tracer of freshly synthesized s-process  
1272 material that was delivered to the nascent solar system.

1273 For the Earth, it is desirable to further expand the Tl isotope and concentration database for  
1274 various environments, in order to gain a better understanding of the geochemical distribution and

1275 cycling of this element. In addition, there are a few crucial investigations that are needed to  
1276 advance the utility of Tl isotopes as quantitative tracers of past and present geological processes.

1277 First of all, we must fully understand the mechanisms that govern the two major Tl isotope  
1278 effects observed on Earth, which produce highly fractionated Tl isotope signatures in marine Mn  
1279 oxides and low-T altered basalts. Experimental studies have shown that Tl oxidation and  
1280 adsorption to the Mn oxide birnessite is clearly the central processes responsible for the heavy  
1281 isotope ratios recorded in Mn oxide rich marine sediments (Nielsen et al., 2013; Peacock and  
1282 Moon, 2012). However, the magnitude of isotope fractionation and the effect of changes in  
1283 intensive parameters like T, redox potential and ionic strength are presently unknown. Further  
1284 studies of both natural and synthetic systems that mimic the conditions of Mn oxide precipitation  
1285 and low-T ocean crust alteration are required to establish the mechanisms controlling Tl isotope  
1286 fractionation in these two critical reservoirs. This knowledge will not only help expand our  
1287 appreciation of the physico-chemical processes that cause isotope fractionation in heavy  
1288 elements, but also enable us to better utilize the Tl isotope system to quantify low-T  
1289 hydrothermal fluid flow (Nielsen et al., 2006c) and help to unravel the causes of the Tl isotope  
1290 variations observed in the marine environment over time (Baker et al., 2009; Nielsen et al.,  
1291 2009a).

1292 Furthermore, it will be important to refine the three applications outlined in section 8. For  
1293 the paleoceanographic studies, this will include a detailed determination of the magnitude and  
1294 isotope compositions of the most uncertain marine Tl fluxes. These are the fluxes associated with  
1295 benthic pore waters, adsorption processes on pelagic clays and low-T hydrothermal alteration. A  
1296 complete understanding of the modern marine Tl cycle is a prerequisite for good models of past  
1297 Tl isotope variations. Another aspect of the oceanic Tl isotope evolution that has yet to be

1298 investigated are short-term fluctuations, for example on glacial-interglacial time-scales or ocean  
1299 anoxic events. Since the marine residence time of Tl is about 18.5 ka (Table 4), it should be  
1300 feasible to observe perturbations of the Tl cycle that occur on geologically rapid time-scales. To  
1301 this end, a recent study of Tl isotopes in euxinic sediments has revealed no detectable isotope  
1302 fractionation between seawater and sediment (Owens et al., 2016). This is an important result  
1303 because such sediments may now enable reconstruction of marine Tl isotope signatures in deep  
1304 time.

1305       The use of Tl isotopes as a tool in mantle geochemistry is currently limited by scant data.  
1306 Thallium isotope and concentration data are presently available only for a few OIB and there is a  
1307 lack of understanding concerning how Tl is cycled through subduction zones. Recent studies that  
1308 attempted to address such questions through Tl isotope analyses of cratonic eclogites (Nielsen et  
1309 al., 2009b) and island arc lavas (Nielsen et al., 2016; Prytulak et al., 2013) were unable to  
1310 conclusively constrain the behavior of Tl and further investigations of rocks from subduction  
1311 related environments are thus necessary.

1312       The application of Tl isotopes as a tracer of anthropogenic Tl emissions to the environment  
1313 has been shown to be viable in an initial study (Kersten et al., 2014) and hence shows promise  
1314 for future investigations. However, whilst Tl is a highly toxic element, it shows low  
1315 concentrations in most natural materials and is used to only a limited extent in industrial products  
1316 and processes. Hence, Tl isotopes are unlikely to develop into a widely used tracer of  
1317 anthropogenic emission, similar to radiogenic Pb isotope compositions, but will be of utility to  
1318 trace Tl origin and mobility in particular, localized pollution scenarios.

1319

1320 **10. REFERENCES**

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1707 Table 1: Physical properties of thallium (Nriagu, 1998)

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Melting point	577 K
Molar weight	204.38 g
Density	11.85 g/cm <sup>3</sup>
Valence states	Tl <sup>0</sup> Tl <sup>+</sup> Tl <sup>3+</sup>
Redox potentials (V)	
Tl <sub>(s)</sub> → Tl <sup>+</sup> + e <sup>-</sup>	+0.336
Tl <sup>+</sup> → Tl <sup>3+</sup> + 2e <sup>-</sup>	-1.28
Ionic radius (Tl <sup>+</sup> )	1.50 Å
Ionic radius (Tl <sup>3+</sup> )	0.89 Å
Stable isotopes	<sup>203</sup> Tl <sup>205</sup> Tl

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1710 Table 2: Tl isotope and concentration data for geologic reference materials

Standard	Description	$\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$	n	Error <sup>a</sup>	Tl conc (ng/g)	Reference
Nod P1	USGS Ferromanganese nodule	0.5	1	0.5	146000	1
Nod A1 <sup>b</sup>	USGS Ferromanganese nodule	10.7	6	0.5	108000	1,2
AGV-2	USGS Andesite	-3.0	8	0.6	269	3,4
BCR-2	USGS Columbia River basalt	-2.5	4	0.4	257	3
BHVO-1	USGS Hawaii Basalt	-3.5	10	0.5	37	3,8
BHVO-2	USGS Hawaii Basalt	-1.8	17	0.3	18	3,4,7
BIR-1	USGS Iceland basalt	1.1	6	1.2	1.3	5
NASS-5	Atlantic surface seawater	-5.0	1	1.0	0.0094	2
Allende	Carbonaceous chondrite	-3.1	8	0.5	55	6
BHVO-2G	USGS Basaltic glass	nd			16	9
BCR-2G	USGS Basaltic glass	nd			234	9
BIR-1G	USGS Basaltic glass	nd			2.5	9

1711 References 1: (Rehkämper et al., 2002); 2: (Nielsen et al., 2004); 3:(Prytulak et al., 2013); 4:  
1712 (Baker et al., 2009); 5: (Nielsen et al., 2007); 6: (Baker et al., 2010b); 7: (Coggon et al., 2014); 8:  
1713 (Nielsen et al., 2015); 9: (Nielsen and Lee, 2013)

1714 <sup>a</sup> – errors are either 2sd of the population of separate sample splits processed individually (n≥3)  
1715 or estimated based on repeat measurements of similar samples (n=1).

1716 <sup>b</sup> – Isotope composition reported for multiple analyses of one large 300mg aliquot dissolved in  
1717 6M HCl.

1718 nd - not determined

1719

1720 Table 3: Thallium isotope and concentration data for rivers

Sample	$\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}_{\text{diss}}$	$\text{Tl}_{\text{diss}}$ (ng/kg)	$\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}_{\text{part}}$	$\text{Tl}_{\text{part}}$ (ng/kg)
Amazon	-2.3	16.4		
Danube	-6.7	16.4	-2.9	3.6
Doubs	-5.5	3.36		
Eder	-4.2	1.93		
Kalix	-1.6	1.31	-3.8	0.29
Nahe	-2.5	7.03	-1.2	3.7
Nidda	-2.7	1.67		
Nidder	-2.6	2.85	-1.6	0.26
Nile	0.0	3.13		
Rhine Rueun	-6.4	3.61		
Rhine Laufenbg.	-3.0	4.04		
Rhine Speyer	-2.8	5.35		
Rhine Bingen	-2.9	6.71	-2.1	1.3
Rhone	-2.7	6.54	-2.2	36
Volga	-1.1	1.60		

1721 Uncertainty on Tl isotope measurements is  $\pm 1 \epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$ -unit

1722 Exact sample locations are given in Nielsen et al. (2005b)

1723

1724 Table 4: The Tl mass balance of the oceans with estimated source and sink fluxes.

	Range of Tl flux estimates (Mg/a)	Best estimate (Mg/a)		$\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$	Ref.
<i>Marine Input Fluxes</i>					
Rivers	76 – 380	230	23%	-2.5	1, 2
Hydrothermal fluids	110 – 230	170	17%	-2	3, 9
Subaerial volcanism	42 – 700	370	37%	-2	6
Mineral aerosols	10 – 150	50	5%	-2	1, 2
Benthic fluxes from continental margins	5 – 390	170	17%	0	1, 7
Total Input Flux	465 – 1850	990	100%	-1.8	
<i>Marine Output Fluxes</i>					
Pelagic clays	240 – 450	310	36%	+10	1, 4, 7
Altered ocean crust	225 – 1985	680	64%	-7.2	1, 3, 7
Total Output Flux	465 – 1850	940	100%	-1.8	
	Mass of Tl (Mg)	Steady-state residence time		$\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$	
Global Oceans	$1.75 (\pm 0.14) \times 10^7$ *	18,500 a		-6.0	1, 3, 5, 8

1725 References 1: (Rehkämper and Nielsen, 2004); 2: (Nielsen et al., 2005b); 3: (Nielsen et al.,  
 1726 2006c); 4: (Rehkämper et al., 2004); 5: (Rehkämper et al., 2002); 6: (Baker et al., 2009); 7: This  
 1727 study; 8: (Owens et al., 2016); 9: This work.

1728 \* For a global ocean system with  $1.348 \times 10^{21}$  kg, the Tl mass in the oceans is equivalent to an  
 1729 average seawater concentration of  $65 \pm 5$  pmol/kg or  $13 \pm 1$  ng/kg (Rehkämper and Nielsen, 2004).

1730

1731 **FIGURE CAPTIONS:**

1732 Figure 1: Thallium isotope compositions and concentrations for terrestrial reservoirs  
1733 relevant to subduction zones and recycled oceanic crust. Note the logarithmic scale for the  
1734 concentrations. Data sourced from (Nielsen, 2010; Nielsen et al., 2015; Nielsen et al., 2006b;  
1735 Nielsen et al., 2005a; Nielsen et al., 2006c; Nielsen et al., 2014; Nielsen et al., 2016; Prytulak et  
1736 al., 2013; Rehkämper et al., 2004; Rehkämper et al., 2002).

1737

1738 Figure 2: Anion exchange separation procedures for Tl. The recipes can be scaled to any  
1739 amount of resin (RV – resin volume) depending on sample size, though large samples require a  
1740 second 100 $\mu$ l resin column to ensure that Tl is sufficiently pure. Four different elution  
1741 procedures are outlined, as published by Baker et al., Nielsen et al. and Rehkämper and Halliday  
1742 (2009; 2004; 1999).

1743

1744 Fig. 3. Pb–Tl isochron diagram for carbonaceous chondrites (modified from Baker et al.,  
1745 2010b). Excluded from the plot and isochron calculation are two meteorites that exhibit stable  
1746 Cd isotope fractionations as well as a sample of Allende Smithsonian due to contamination with  
1747 terrestrial Pb (Baker et al., 2010b). All error bars are 2sd.

1748

1749 Fig. 4. Pb–Tl isochron diagrams for metal samples (filled symbols) and sulfides (open  
1750 symbols) of IAB complex iron meteorites, based on the results of Nielsen et al. (2006a). The  
1751 metal samples of Toluca and Canyon Diablo (CD) delineate a well-defined isochron. The  
1752 isochron slope is slightly revised from Nielsen et al. (2006a), due to improved corrections for  
1753 terrestrial Pb. The troilite nodules of these meteorites and metal and sulfide from the anomalous



1754 IAB iron Mundrabilla do not plot on the IAB main group isochron defined by Toluca and  
1755 Canyon Diablo, presumably due to stable isotope fractionation of Tl. All error bars are 2sd.

1756

1757 Fig. 5. Pb–Tl isochron diagram for metal samples of IIAB (squares) and IIIAB (diamonds)  
1758 iron meteorites. The large and small symbols, with 2sd error bars, denote the data of Andreasen  
1759 et al. (2012) and Nielsen et al. (2006a), respectively. The open diamond is for a troilite nodule of  
1760 Grant IIIAB. Despite of the scatter and some large uncertainties, the results for both groups of  
1761 magmatic irons display a positive correlation, which is indicative of radiogenic variations in Tl  
1762 isotope composition from in situ decay of  $^{205}\text{Pb}$ . The two errorchron trendlines were calculated  
1763 from the data of Andreasen et al. (2012) only and correspond to initial  $^{205}\text{Pb}/^{204}\text{Pb}_0$  ratios of  
1764  $(8\pm 2)\times 10^{-4}$  and  $(8\pm 4)\times 10^{-4}$  for the IIABs and the IIIABs, respectively.

1765

1766 Figure 6: Plot of  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$  vs.  $1/\text{total Tl concentration}$  for soil samples from the vicinity of the  
1767 Lengerich cement plant in Germany (modified from Kersten et al., 2014). Furthermore shown  
1768 are results for a pyrite from the Meggen deposit (which is also the ultimate origin of the Tl-rich  
1769 additive that was used in cement production) and the cement kiln dust (CKD). The linear trend  
1770 and associated correlation coefficient  $R^2$  were calculated from the soil data only. All error bars  
1771 are 2sd.

1772

1773 Figure 7: Plots of (a) Ce/Tl and (b) Tl isotopes against depth for different sections of  
1774 hydrothermally altered oceanic crust. Data compiled from (Coggon et al., 2014; Nielsen et al.,  
1775 2006c; Prytulak et al., 2013; Teagle et al., 1996). The samples with error bars from ODP 801C

1776 are composites prepared from the lithologies encountered in these depth intervals (Kelley et al.,  
1777 2003).

1778

1779 Figure 8: Thallium isotope compositions determined for the growth surfaces of hydrogenetic  
1780 Fe-Mn crusts and seawater. The Fe-Mn crusts precipitate directly from seawater and hence there  
1781 is an isotope fractionation of  $\sim 19 \epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$ -units (labeled  $\alpha_{\text{EMP}}$ ) between these two reservoirs. Data  
1782 from (Nielsen et al., 2004; Nielsen et al., 2006c; Owens et al., 2016; Rehkämper et al., 2002).  
1783 Also shown are the isotope fractionation factors ( $\alpha_{\text{EXP}}$ ) determined for experiments in which the  
1784 manganese oxide birnessite was equilibrated with an aqueous Tl solution (Nielsen et al., 2013).

1785

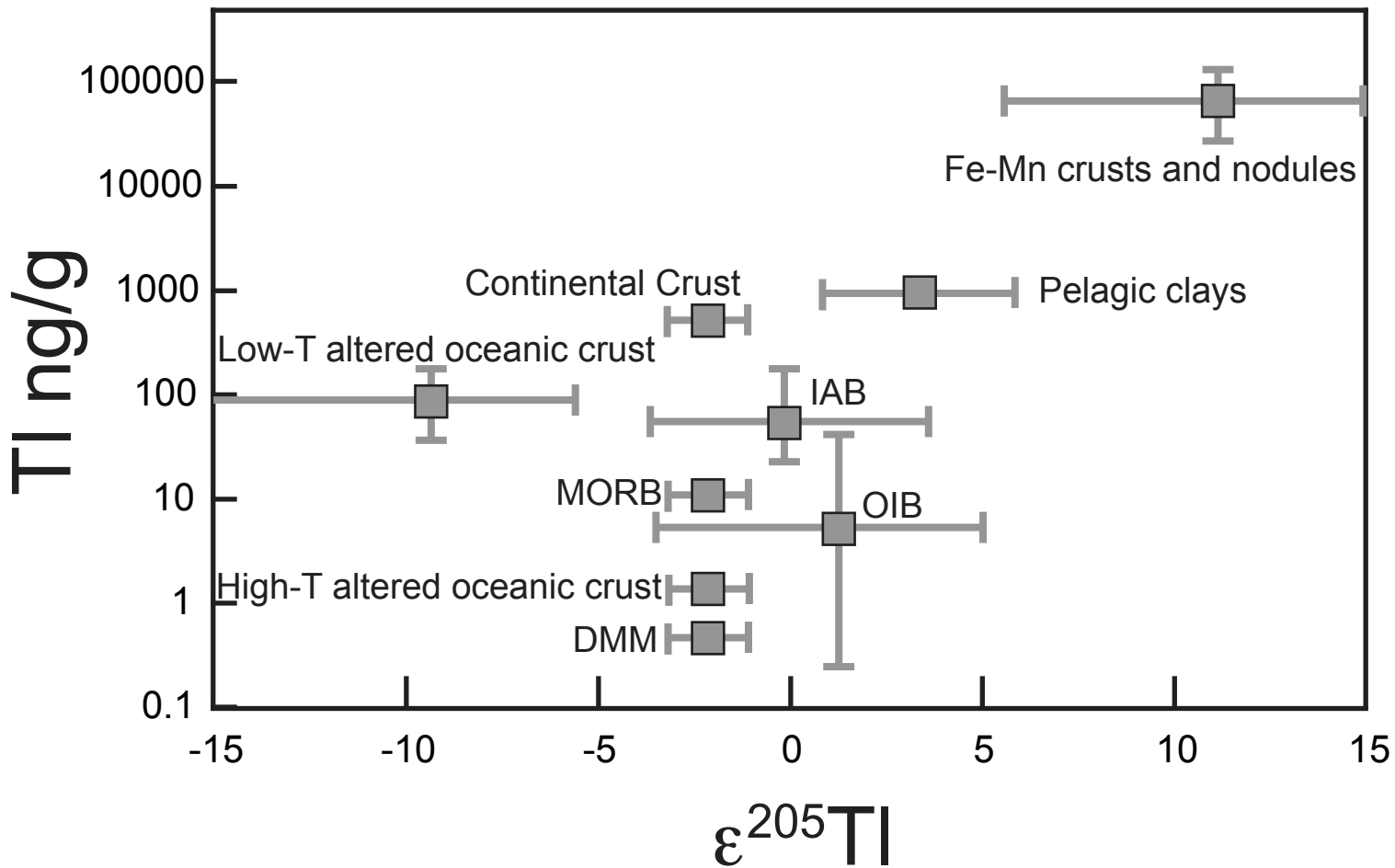
1786 Figure 9: The S and Tl isotope composition of seawater over the last 75Myrs. The Tl isotope  
1787 curve is based on a Fe-Mn crust from the Pacific Ocean and an inferred constant isotope  
1788 fractionation factor of  $\alpha = 1.0019$ . The S isotope data are from Paytan et al. (1998, 2004), with  
1789 ages based on the age model of Kurtz et al. (2003). The chronology of the Tl isotope curve was  
1790 determined based on Os isotope data (Burton, 2006). Figure modified from Nielsen et al.  
1791 (2009a).

1792

1793 Figure 10: Cs/Tl and Ce/Tl ratios of primitive basalts from Hawaii (Nielsen et al., 2006b)  
1794 and Iceland (Nielsen et al., 2007) plotted versus Tl isotope composition. Mixing lines between  
1795 pristine mantle (large pink square), Fe-Mn oxyhydroxides (blue squares) and low-T altered  
1796 MORB (light green circles) are also shown. The mantle is assumed to be characterized by  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl}$   
1797 = -2 (Nielsen et al., 2006b) and Ce, Cs and Tl concentrations of 772 ng/g, 4.2 ng/g and 0.7 ng/g,  
1798 respectively (Nielsen et al., 2014; Salters and Stracke, 2004). For the Fe-Mn oxyhydroxides, the

1799 Tl concentration and isotope composition are assumed to be 100  $\mu\text{g/g}$  and  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} = +10$ , akin to  
1800 values of modern Fe-Mn crusts and nodules (Hein et al., 2000; Rehkämper et al., 2002). The Cs  
1801 content of Fe-Mn oxyhydroxides is about 500 ng/g (Ben Othmann et al., 1989). Altered MORB  
1802 is assumed to be characterized by  $\epsilon^{205}\text{Tl} = -10$  and Ce, Tl and Cs concentrations of about  
1803 13400ng/g, 200ng/g and 200ng/g, respectively (Gale et al., 2013; Nielsen et al., 2006c). Error  
1804 bars denote 2sd uncertainties.

1805



TI chemistry; RV - resin volume

