

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

GEOCHEMISTRY AND PETROGRAPHY OF BASALTS RECOVERED
FROM THE CONTINENTAL SLOPE IN THE EASTERN GULF OF ALASKA

By

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Open-File Report 84-298

This report is preliminary and has not
been reviewed for conformity with
U.S. Geological Survey editorial standards
and stratigraphic nomenclature

Menlo Park, California

1984

Geochemistry and petrography of basalts recovered
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Abstract

Basaltic rocks were dredged from the continental slope adjacent to the Yakutat shelf between long 138°00' W. and 142°30' W. in the eastern Gulf of Alaska. The early to middle Eocene basalts exhibit textures and primary mineralogy commonly found in ocean-floor basalt. Most samples are moderately to severely altered with secondary minerals typical of zeolite facies metamorphism. Major element chemistry is highly variable, and due to the addition of secondary alkalies, appears alkalic. Analyses of clinopyroxenes, which are usually the only unaltered primary mineral, indicate that these rocks are predominantly tholeiitic. Trace element chemistry indicates that these basalts are a heterogeneous group composed of anomalous, LILE-enriched (Type II) MORB and lesser amounts of normal, LILE-depleted (Type I) MORB. Similar assemblages of chemically diverse basalts of LILE-enriched and LILE-depleted tholeiites have been reported from seamounts on and near midoceanic ridges.

Introduction

Bedrock outcrops along the continental slope adjacent to the Yakutat shelf were sampled in 1977, 1978, and 1979 as part of the U.S. Geological Survey program for evaluation of the geologic framework and petroleum potential of the outer continental shelf (OCS) in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska. Sedimentary and igneous rock, ranging from Cretaceous to Tertiary in age, were dredged from 40 sites along the 250-km-long northwest-trending continental slope between long 138°00' W. and 142°30' W. from water depths of 3,150 m to 200 m. The stratigraphy inferred from these samples, combined with the seismic reflection data, is described by Plafker and others (1980).

This paper presents petrologic and geochemical data for the basaltic rocks that comprise much of the lower continental slope throughout this area.

Geologic setting

The segment of the continental slope sampled in this study is part of a relatively small triangular crustal plate that has been informally named the Yakutat block (Plafker and others, 1978b; Rodgers, 1978). Available earthquake, geologic, and marine seismic data suggest that most of the approximately 5.8 cm/yr relative motion between the Pacific and North American plates is presently being taken up along the Fairweather transform fault and Pamplona zone of thrust faults and folds. Relative motion between the Pacific plate and Yakutat block is small--perhaps on the order of 0.4 cm/yr (Lahr and Plafker, in press) and occurs mainly on a system of inferred faults (the Transition fault zone) at or near the base of the continental slope. Offshore parts of the Yakutat block are characterized by an asymmetric, deep shelf basin containing middle(?) and late Cenozoic sedimentary rocks, and a general absence of compressional deformation in the post-Paleocene Cenozoic section (Plafker and others, 1978a; Bruns, 1979). These features suggest that the

Yakutat continental slope has been a trailing or strike-slip margin--rather than a zone of convergence--throughout much of the Cenozoic. In this respect, the continental shelf and slope of the Yakutat block differ strikingly from the Yakataga area to the northwest where seaward-verging thrust faults and folds reflect pervasive late Cenozoic compression due to high rates of underthrusting along the Aleutian Trench and Pamplona zone.

The basaltic rocks recovered from the continental slopes between long 138⁰⁰' W. and 142³⁰' W. are part of a sequence inferred from seismic profiles to be at least 1,300 m in thickness. This sequence is composed of flows, showing some pillow structures, possibly including minor dikes and sills, pyroclastics, and minor interbedded sedimentary rocks. The unit is probably early to middle Eocene in age based on microfossils in interbedded shale and several basalt whole rock minimum K/Ar ages (Plafker and others, 1980).

Methods

The samples used in this study were recovered during three cruises of the U.S. Geological Survey R/V Sea Sounder. Figure 1 shows the location of the dredge hauls. The samples were collected with a Benthos chain-bag dredge. Sampling method is described in detail by Plafker and others (1980).

Detailed petrographic studies, supported by X-ray diffraction analyses, were performed on 19 of the least-altered basalt samples.

Chemical analyses were performed in the analytical laboratories of the U.S. Geological Survey using X-ray fluorescence spectroscopy (XRF), direct reading emission spectroscopy, instrumental neutron activation analyses (INAA), and wet chemical methods. The nine major oxides SiO₂, Al₂O₃, TiO₂, MnO, MgO, CaO, Na₂O, K₂O, P₂O₅ and total iron as Fe₂O₃ were determined by XRF with an accuracy of 0.4 to 1.0 percent and precision of 1 to 2 percent. Ferrous iron, H₂O and CO₂ were determined by wet chemical methods. XRF methods were used to analyze Ba, Rb, Sr, Zr, and Y in 11, and Nb in all, of the 19 samples with an accuracy of 5 to 10 percent and precision of 2 to 10 percent. The same 11 samples were analyzed for Cr, Ni, and Sc by direct reader emission spectroscopy with an accuracy of 10 to 15 percent and precision of 10 to 30 percent. Hf, Ta, Th, and the rare earth elements were determined in all 19 basalt samples by INAA with an accuracy of 5 to 20 percent and precision of 10 to 20 percent.

In addition to the whole rock chemistry, mineral chemistry of clinopyroxene in eight samples was determined with an ARL electron microprobe using an accelerating voltage of 15 kv, a sample current of 0.04 μ A, and a beam diameter of 1 to 2 μ m.

Petrography

The basaltic rocks consist of a wide range of textural types. Petrographic data and modal mineralogies of the 19 analyzed basalt samples are summarized in Table 1.

Most samples are massive to sparsely amygdaloidal but two samples have more than 20 percent amygdules by volume. Observed textures include

hyalopilitic, variolitic, intergranular, intersertal, and ophitic. Some of the basalts are aphyric but most are sparsely phyric (<10 percent) and a few are moderately phyric (10-15 percent). The phenocryst minerals are predominantly plagioclase, which is usually accompanied by lesser amounts of pyroxene and only rarely by olivine. The primary plagioclase phenocrysts range from 0.5 to 5.0 mm in size and are calcic labradorite in composition. Typically, the plagioclase phenocrysts are severely altered to zeolites, clays, and in some cases to K-feldspar and albite. The pyroxene phenocrysts usually are smaller in size (<2 mm) and are partly or completely replaced by chlorite, chlorophaeite, and (or) a smectite clay. When not altered, the pyroxene phenocrysts are sector-zoned augite. The olivine phenocrysts are typically small (<1 mm) pseudomorphs of smectite(?) with iddingsite alteration rims. The groundmass phases are plagioclase, clinopyroxene, opaques, altered glass, and, in two samples, minor olivine. The groundmass plagioclase, like the phenocrysts, are usually altered to clays and zeolites, but when fresh appear to be mostly Ca-poor labradorite and minor andesine in composition. Clinopyroxene is clear to pale-brown augite and is typically unaltered, even in highly altered samples. Opaques are mostly titanomagnetite, often rimmed and stained by iron oxides. Euhedral pyrite is abundant in some samples. A large variety of other secondary minerals, including clays, chlorite (chlorophaeite), zeolites, calcite, epidote, and secondary feldspars, are present as mineral and glass replacement or as veinlet and amygdule filling. A variety of zeolites, including analcime, are present, but most have been identified by X-ray diffraction and broad beam microprobe analysis as natrolite and phillipsite.

Major element chemistry

The major element composition and normative mineralogy for 19 basalt samples are shown in Table 2. The samples are variable in SiO_2 ranging from 47.2 to 51.8 percent. Al_2O_3 is moderate to high ranging from 13.0 to 18.1 percent. MgO concentrations are typically around 7 percent but range from 5.9 to 9.7 percent, showing no well defined trend with other oxides, modal, or normative olivine abundances. CaO concentration ranges from 6.7 to 12.2 percent, and alkalis are even more variable with Na_2O ranging from 2.8 to 5.6 percent and K_2O from 0.08 to 1.7 percent. Na_2O content correlates positively with abundance of zeolites, but high K_2O content can only sometimes be explained by the presence of phillipsite and secondary K-feldspar. TiO_2 concentrations are usually moderately high, around 1.5 to 2 percent, but two samples have less than 1 percent. P_2O_5 and MnO are generally low, ranging from 0.08 to 0.39 percent and from 0.06 to 0.28 percent, respectively.

The major element chemistry suggests that most of these basalts are alkalic. All except three samples plot in the alkaline field on an alkalis vs. silica diagram (MacDonald and Katsura, 1964). Clearly the large alkali content and the large variation in composition of some other oxides are the result of secondary alteration. The H_2O content is extremely high, ranging from 2.9 to 7.6 percent; CO_2 ranges from 0.01 to 4.2 percent, and the $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{FeO}$ ratio is highly variable ranging from 0.23 to 3.45. The H_2O content correlates positively with Na_2O concentration but no equally well defined trend is apparent for K_2O or $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{FeO}$ vs. H_2O .

The normative mineral composition is also easily affected by secondary alteration. Eleven of the 19 samples are nepheline normative, reflecting the

high secondary alkali concentrations. Six samples are olivine-hypersthene normative, and two are quartz normative.

Trace element chemistry

The result of analyses for 19 trace elements in individual samples are summarized in Table 3. Not every basalt sample was analyzed for all 19 trace elements, nor was the same method of analysis used for all samples.

The abundance of LIL (large ion lithophile) elements is a more sensitive indicator of basalt petrogenesis than major element abundances. Unfortunately, large cations of low valency, such as Ba, Rb, Sr, are also very susceptible to secondary alteration. The Ba, Rb, and Sr concentrations in the basalt samples are highly variable, ranging for Ba from 20 to 264 ppm, for Rb from 5 to 15 ppm, and for Sr from 97 to 353 ppm. Ba, Rb, and Sr abundances correlate positively with K but no equally well defined trend exists relative to Na and Ca. K/Ba and K/Rb ratios are also highly variable but Sr/Rb ratios are low and less variable.

High valency LIL elements like Zr, Hf, Nb, Ta, and Th are also incompatible and consequentially not appreciably incorporated in common minerals, but, unlike Ba, Rb, and Sr, not as mobile during secondary alteration processes (Winchester and Floyd, 1976, 1977). Concentrations of Zr (57-194 ppm), Hf (1.8-4.4 ppm), Nb (<5 to 15 ppm), Ta (0.3-1.2 ppm), and Th (0.3-1.0 ppm) are too low for normal alkalic basalts and show greater similarity to oceanic tholeiites.

The compatible elements Cr, Ni, and Sc are typically incorporated into ferromagnesian minerals. Cr and Ni are moderately high, generally over 100-200 ppm and 60 to 130 ppm, respectively, but one sample (22A8) is abnormally depleted in Cr (34 ppm) and Ni (22 ppm). Sc shows a narrower range from 29 to 47 ppm. High Cr and Ni concentrations show a rough correlation with high Mg values.

The concentrations of rare earth elements in the 19 samples is included in Table 3. A summary of the chondrite normalized REE distribution is shown in Figure 2. All show some LREE over HREE enrichment with La/Yb ranging from 1.05 to 5.36. The greatest LREE over HREE enrichment is observed in the quartz-normative tholeiite 22A7. Eight samples have La_N/Sm_N ratios of less than 1.0 and their average and range in composition are shown in Fig. 2. Likewise, the 11 samples with $La_N/Sm_N > 1$ are averaged and their range shown as a field. It is interesting to note that the abundance of HREE for both groups is almost identical, while the fields of LREE show almost no overlap.

Clinopyroxene chemistry

In highly altered basalt, clinopyroxene crystals are frequently the only unaltered phase of the original rock. The existence of broad correlations between clinopyroxene composition and host lava chemistry has been established many years ago (Kushiro, 1960; LeBas, 1962; Coombs, 1963). The clinopyroxenes of tholeiites are typically poorer in Al, Na, and Ti, but richer in Si and Cr than clinopyroxenes from alkali basalts. The origin of these correlations is complex and not well understood. Besides bulk composition of the magma and crystallization sequence, which is controlled by pressure and oxygen fugacity,

the cooling rate can also affect pyroxene chemistry (Barberi and others, 1971; Coish and Taylor, 1979).

Representative clinopyroxene analyses for eight basalt samples are shown in Table 4. In seven samples the analyzed clinopyroxenes are groundmass crystals; in one sample (33H) the analysis is of a microphenocryst which represents the only unaltered phase. The microprobe analysis reports total iron as FeO; the ferric iron content was estimated by using the method of Papike and others (1974).

The clinopyroxenes in the dredged basalt samples show a narrow compositional range with high SiO₂ (>50 percent), typically low Al₂O₃ (2.5 to 3.0 percent), low TiO₂ (<1 percent), and low Na₂O (~0.3 percent). Cr₂O₃ is much more variable, ranging from 0.03 to 0.6 percent. The basalt samples appear typically tholeiitic although some grains are a little higher in Al₂O₃ (up to 4 percent) and CaO (21 percent). Ti and Al content increase in clinopyroxene with increasing cooling rate; hence, a clinopyroxene from a chilled margin can be higher in Ti and Al than one from the interior region of the same rock. Cr content is often highly variable in clinopyroxene crystals in the same rock since it is concentrated in the crystals first to crystallize. The clinopyroxene composition of eight of the dredged basalt samples is shown on a Ca-Mg-Fe diagram (Fig. 3). On SiO₂ vs. Al₂O₃ (Fig. 4) and Al^{IV} vs. TiO₂ variation diagrams (LeBas, 1962) the pyroxenes plot in the tholeiite field.

Discussion

Petrography and alteration

The basalt samples dredged from the continental slope of the Yakutat block exhibit a spectrum of textures and primary mineralogy commonly found in ocean-floor basalts. All samples are at least somewhat altered; some are severely altered. The presence of Na-zeolites in altered ocean-floor basalt is a common occurrence; the presence of potash feldspar is rare but has been reported by Jehl and others (1976) in rocks from the North Atlantic and by Liou (1979) in an ophiolite suite from Taiwan. Authigenic potash feldspar commonly forms in geothermal fields but is rare in K₂O depleted host rock such as ocean-floor basalt. The presence of secondary potash feldspar in some of the dredged samples suggests that some of these rocks have been subjected to local metasomatic exchange with a K-rich hydrothermal solution under zeolite facies pressure and temperature conditions (Hemley, 1959). The bulk of the secondary minerals, such as natrolite, phillipsite, calcite, and smectites, crystallize under a wide range of temperatures but are typically considered to be the result of submarine weathering (Baragar and others, 1976; Bohlke and others, 1980). No unequivocally metamorphic zeolites, such as laumontite or wairakite, have been found in these samples.

Major element chemistry

The basalts from the Yakutat block show great chemical diversity. On the basis of normative composition, some are quartz tholeiites, some olivine tholeiites, but most are olivine alkali basalts. The addition of large amounts of secondary alkalis can make a tholeiitic rock appear alkalic. The nepheline-normative composition of most of these rocks is clearly the result

of alkali enrichment by secondary alteration. Other major oxides, although not as susceptible to alteration as the alkalis, are also affected to varying degrees. The FeO^*/MgO ratio, which is typically less sensitive to alteration, is probably affected by the addition of pyrite and the removal or addition of Mg. K_2O in combination with TiO_2 , SiO_2 , and MgO provides the most effective major element discriminant of ocean floor from other types of basalts. Unfortunately, even the samples with low K_2O (<0.3 percent) have very high H_2O , Na_2O , CO_2 or $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3/\text{FeO}$. Clearly, major element chemistry is of limited use in inferring the petrotectonic affinities of these basalts.

Trace element chemistry

The trace element abundances in the basalts dredged from the Yakutat block also show considerable diversity. Large, low valency cations like Ba, Rb, and Sr are most variable showing considerable enrichment over normal oceanic tholeiite but are not enriched enough for typical alkalic basalt. Since Ba, Rb, and Sr are susceptible to sea-water alteration like K, it is conceivable that they followed the same enrichment trend and their ratio to K may have been preserved. The K/Ba (~ 100) and K/Rb ($\sim 800-900$) ratios observed in several samples are very high and similar to that in normal ocean ridge basalt. The large high valency cations, are better indicators of basalt origin because they are relatively immobile during alteration. These elements have been widely used to discriminate among basalts from different tectonic settings (Pearce and Cann, 1973; Winchester and Floyd, 1975, 1977; Wood, 1980). Eleven of the dredged basalt samples are shown on a TiO_2 vs. Y/Nb diagram (Fig. 5) and all samples are shown on a Th-Hf-Ta diagram (Fig. 6). On the TiO_2 vs. Y/Nb plot most samples plot in the field of ocean-floor tholeiite but two samples plot in the field of ocean-island tholeiite. On the Th-Hf-Ta diagram six samples plot in the field of normal (N-type) MORB; all others plot in the enriched (E-type) MORB and within-plate tholeiite which cannot be distinguished on the basis of these elements. Normal MORB or Type I ocean floor of Bryan et al. (1976) is the low K, LREE depleted abyssal tholeiite described by Engel et al. (1965) and Kay et al. (1970) that is erupted along the normal segments of midoceanic ridges. Type II basalt, or E-type MORB, which is erupted near islands or platforms astride midocean ridges, is indistinguishable petrographically from Type I basalt but has distinctive, enriched trace element compositions. However, Type II ocean-floor basalt has trace element compositions very similar to ocean-island tholeiite that is erupted within plates as the result of plume or "hot spots" within the mantle (Basaltic Volcanism Project, 1981).

The variable, but generally high, concentrations of Cr, Ni, and Sc are indicative of subalkalic composition but are not able to distinguish between Type II MORB and ocean-island tholeiite.

REE chemistry

Normal MORB is characterized by LREE depletion showing typically a concave downward chondrite normalized REE pattern. Eight of the basalts show an overall concave pattern with $\text{La}_N/\text{Sm}_N < 1.0$, but La and Ce appear to have been selectively mobilized. It has been shown that REE can also be mobilized by alteration processes; especially LREE like La can be selectively enriched over HREE (Hellman et al., 1976; Ludden and Thompson, 1979). The remaining samples have LREE-enriched patterns characteristic of E-type MORB and oceanic-

island basalt. The REE distribution in the basalts dredged from the "Yakutat block" are very similar to those in basalts dredged from young seamounts near the East Pacific Rise (EPR) (Batiza, 1980; Batiza and Vanko, 1983), and both are shown in Figure 7 along with typical patterns of N-type and E-type MORB.

Clinopyroxene composition

The clinopyroxene chemistry confirms what the trace element data indicate--that, indeed, these rocks are predominantly tholeiitic and not alkalic. The clinopyroxene composition of the basalts dredged from the Yakutat block is similar to those in basalts from DSDP sites in the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean (Mazzullo and Bence, 1976; Ayuso et al., 1976), and similar to the most commonly observed clinopyroxene composition in ocean-floor basalt of $Wo_{30-40}En_{50}Fs_{10-15}$. Hawaiian tholeiite clinopyroxene is typically a little richer in Ti and Ca but there is considerable overlap in compositions (Basaltic Volcanism Project, 1981).

Conclusions

The basalts dredged from the continental slope in the Yakutat block are predominantly tholeiitic, although secondary alkali enrichment makes them appear alkalic. Textures and primary mineralogy are typical of ocean-floor basalt formed at diverging plate margins. Clinopyroxene chemistry confirms the tholeiitic nature of most of these samples, and shows similarity to typical clinopyroxene compositions of ocean-floor and oceanic island basalts. Trace element data indicate that these basalts represent mostly anomalous, LILE-enriched, Type II MORB with lesser amounts of normal, LILE-depleted, Type I MORB. The enriched Type II MORB has trace element affinities with ocean-island tholeiites that are erupted in an intraplate setting, presumably as the result of plume or "hot spot" activity in the mantle. The occurrence of LILE-enriched, Type II basalts in a spreading environment have been explained as "plume-related" geochemical variations even where there is no evidence of structural or bathymetric anomalies associated with a "plume" (Schilling and others, 1983). A similar group of chemically diverse rocks have been dredged from small seamounts near the East Pacific Rise consisting mostly of depleted N-MORB and lesser volumes of enriched transitional and even alkalic lavas erupted from the same volcano. The enriched lavas are more likely to be found on relatively older lithosphere (Batiza, 1980; Batiza and Vanko, 1983).

We suggest that basalts of the "Yakutat block" may have formed in a similar environment in the Eocene, erupting LILE-depleted lavas near the spreading center and LILE-enriched transitional lavas with increasing distance from the ridge.

Acknowledgments

We thank David Gottfried for providing chemical analyses of eleven samples, and David Clague for his helpful review of the manuscript.

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Illustrations

- Figure 1. Map showing locations of dredged outcrop samples.
Figure 2. Chondrite normalized REE data for dredged basalt samples.
Figure 3. Pyroxene data for dredged basalts plotted on Ca-Mg-Fe (atomic) ternary diagram.
Figure 4. $\text{SiO}_2\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$ variations in pyroxenes from the dredge basalts.
Figure 5. TiO_2 vs. Y/Nb diagram.
Figure 6. Th-Hf/3-Ta diagram.
Figure 7. Chondrite normalized REE distributions in N-type and E-type MORB and in basalts dredged from seamounts near the East Pacific Rise shown for comparison with basalts from the Eastern Gulf of Alaska.

Tables

- Table 1. Modal mineralogy and petrography of dredged basalt samples.
Table 2. Major elements, major element volatile-free and normative mineral composition.
Table 3. Trace element abundances.
Table 4. Representative clinopyroxene compositions from dredged basalt samples.

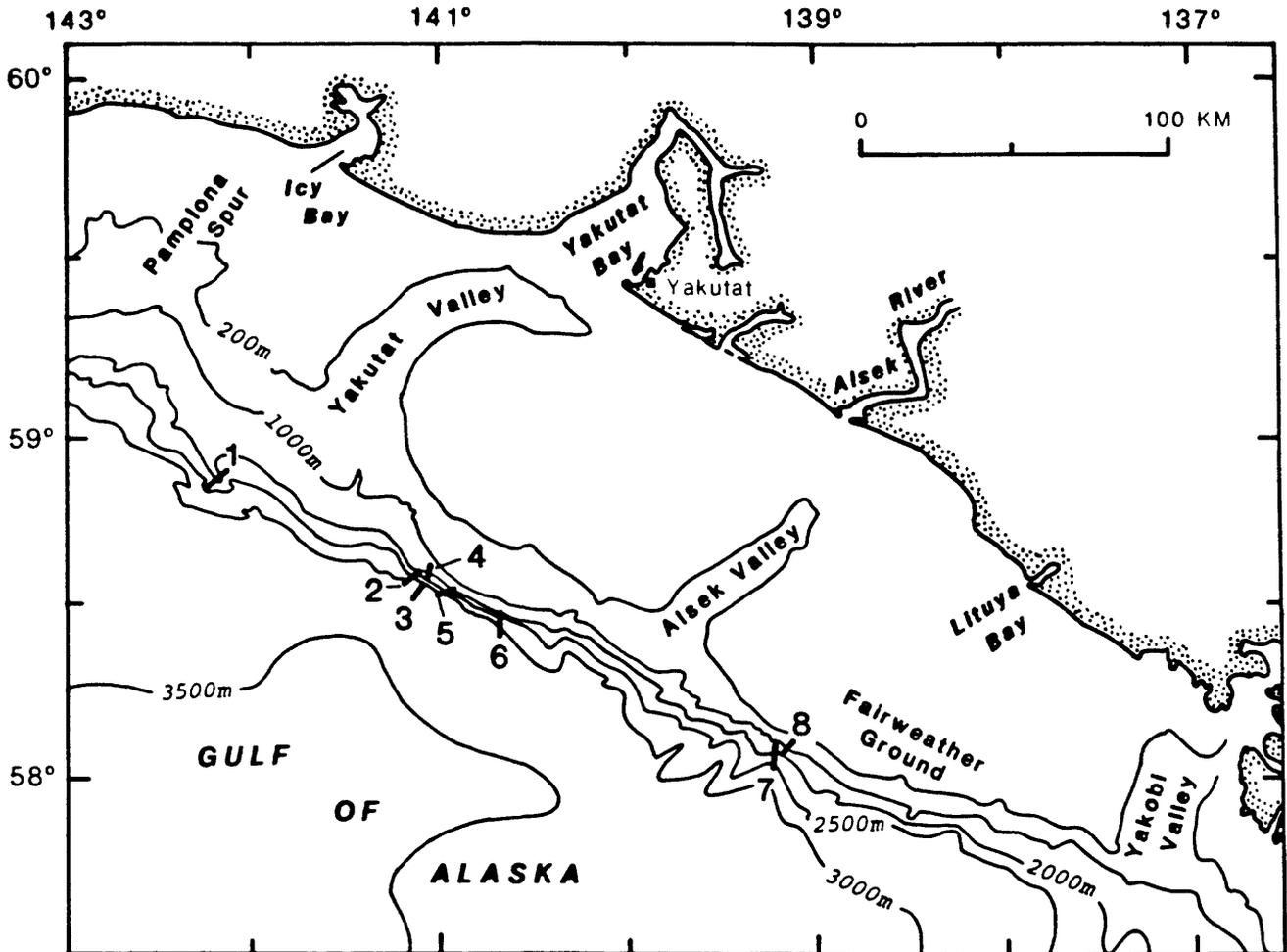


Figure 1. Map showing locations of dredged basalt samples described in text and tables.

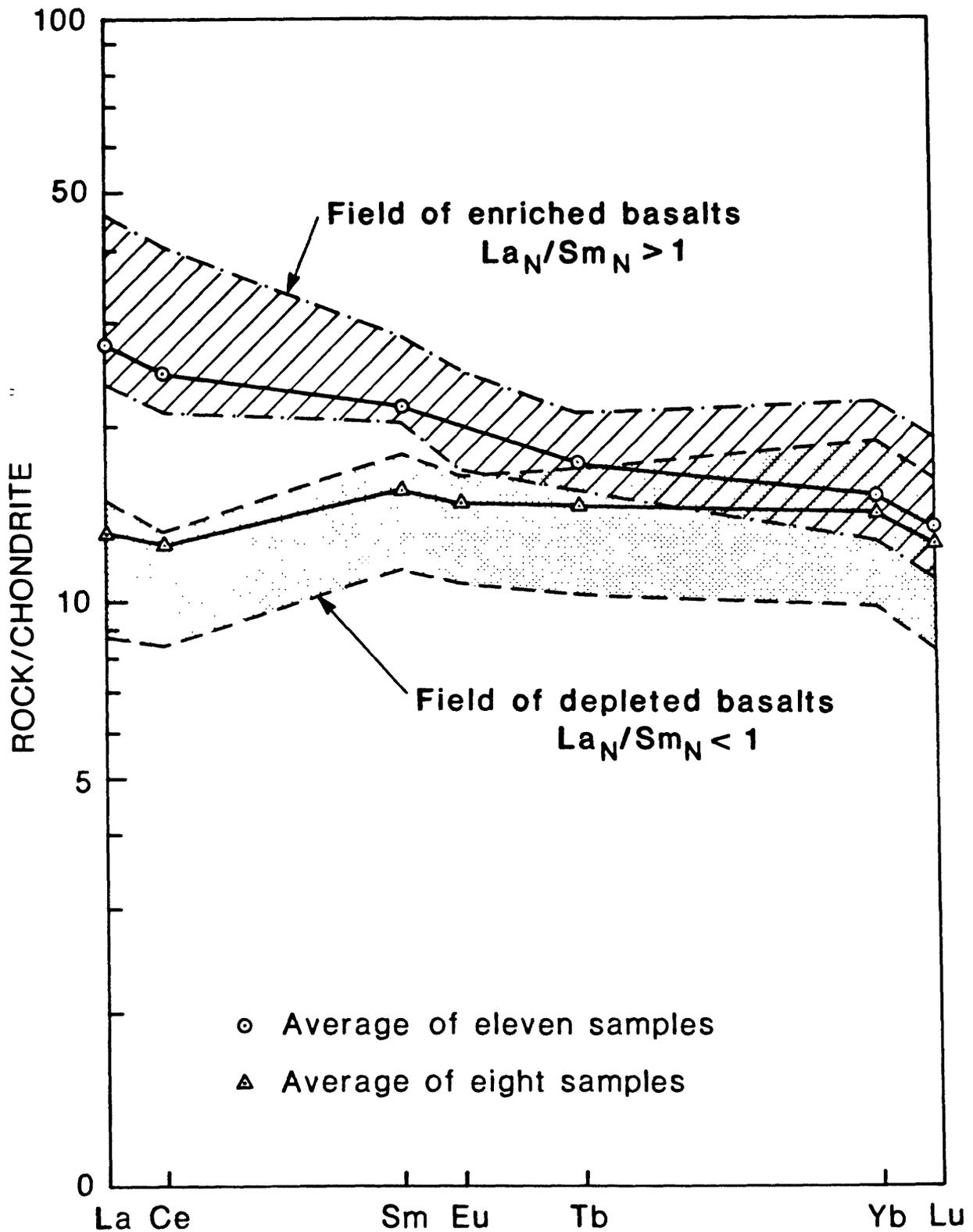


Figure 2. REE distribution for basalts dredged from the continental slope in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska normalized to average REE abundance in chondrites (Haskin et al., 1968). Note the similar abundance of heavy REE for both the LREE-depleted and enriched basalts.

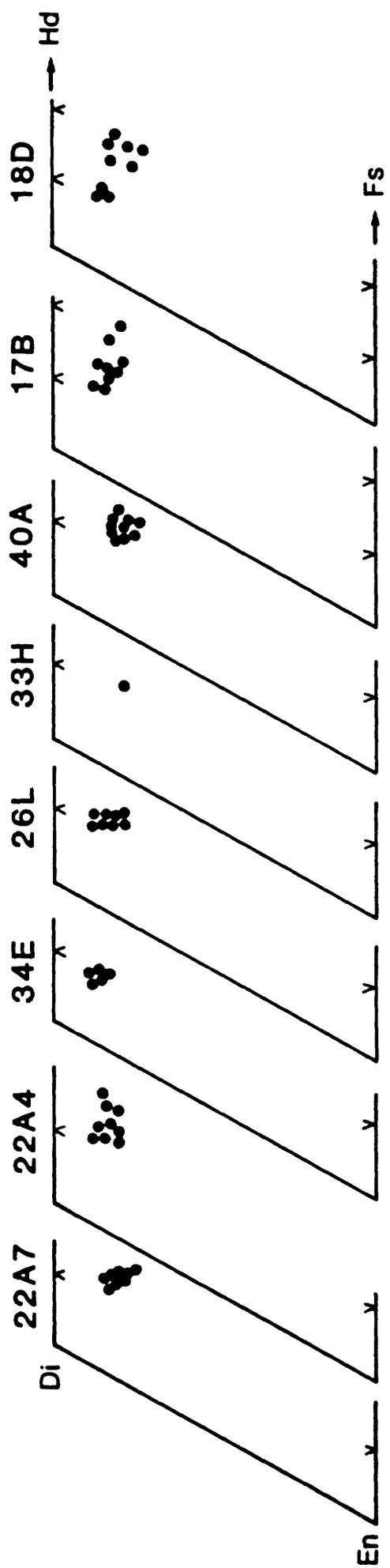


Figure 3. Pyroxene composition in terms of atomic Ca-Mg- Σ Fe (Σ Fe as FeO) for eight basalt samples dredged from the continental slope in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska.

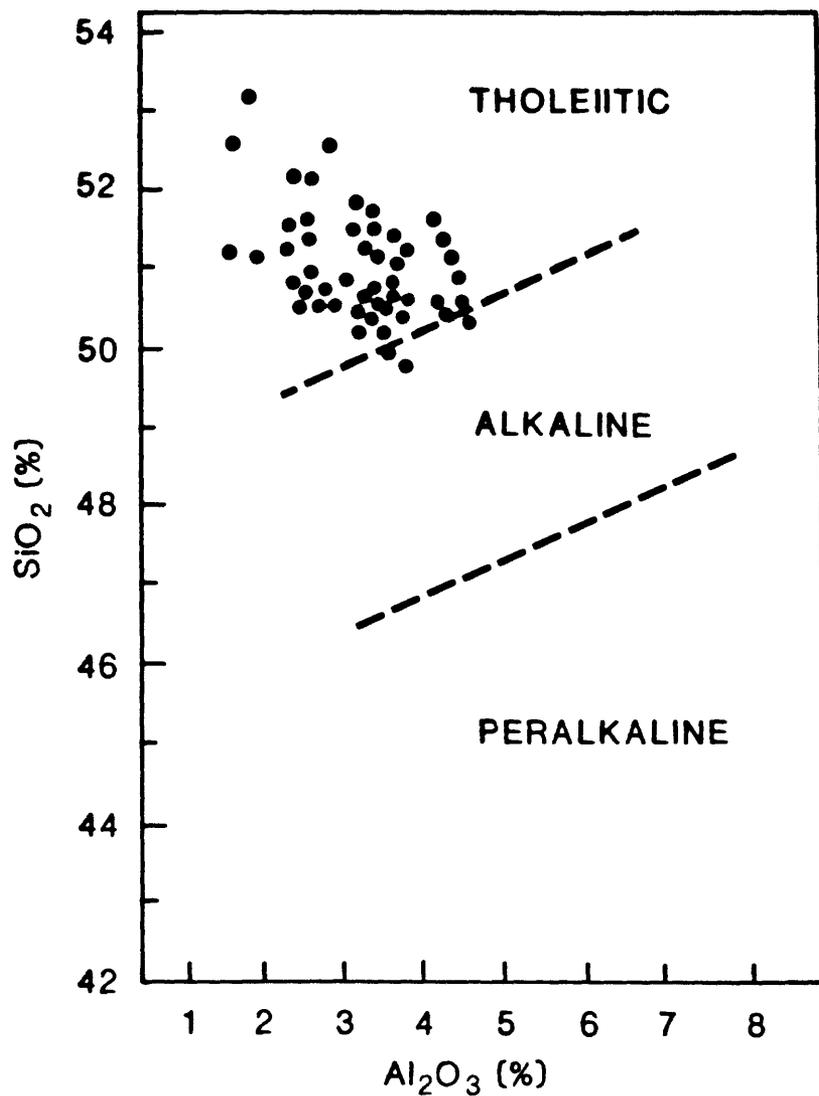


Figure 4. SiO₂ vs. Al₂O₃ variation in clinopyroxene in basalt dredged from the continental slope in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska (fields after LeBas, 1962).

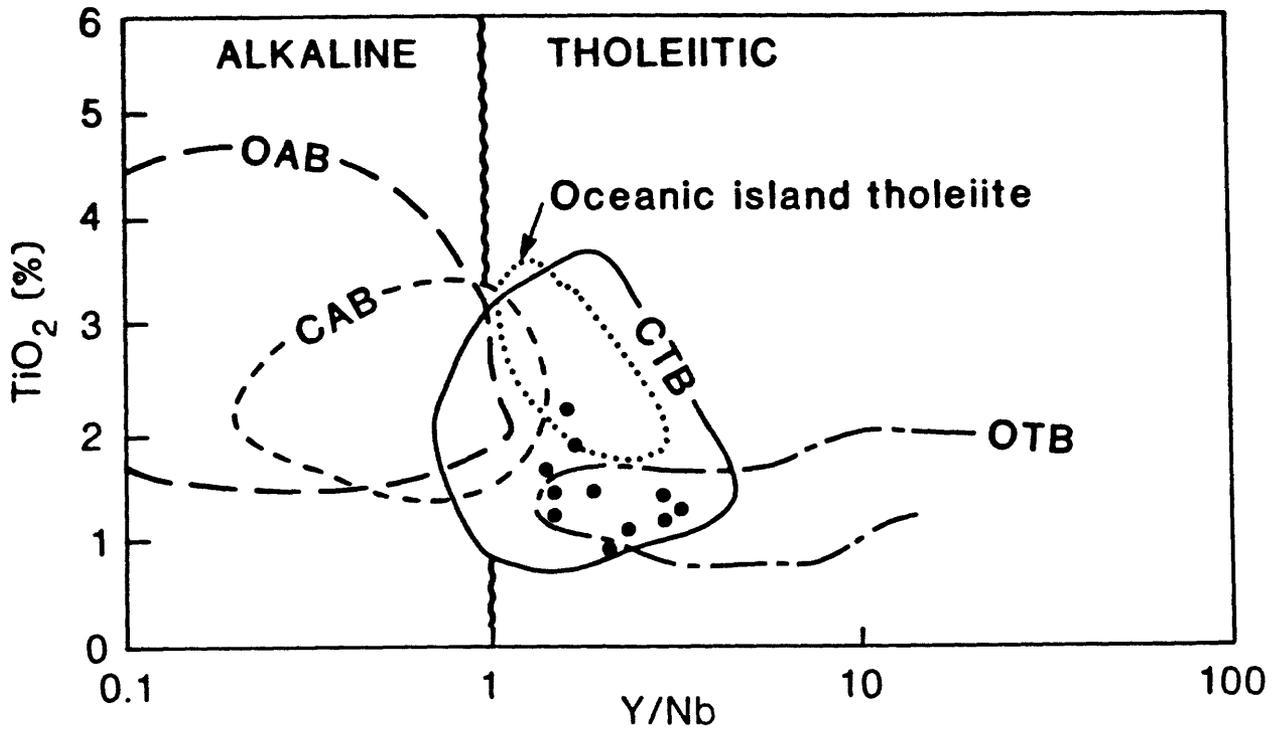


Figure 5. TiO_2 vs. Y/Nb diagram for the basalts from the continental slope in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska. Petrotectonic fields after Winchester and Floyd (1976). OTB= oceanic tholeiitic basalt, CTB= continental tholeiitic basalt, CAB= continental alkalic basalt, OAB= oceanic alkalic basalt.

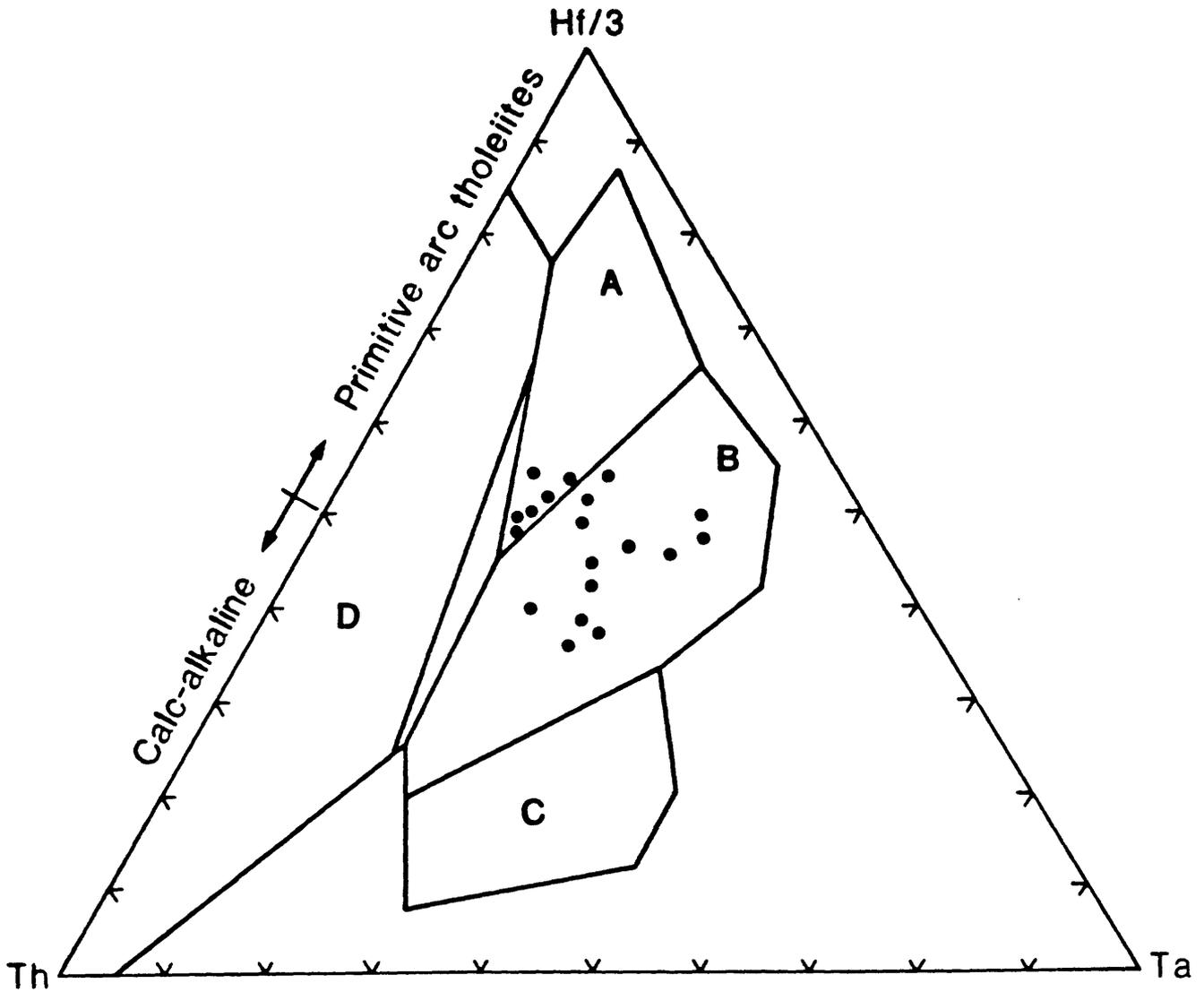


Figure 6. Hf-Th-Ta diagram for the basalts dredged from the continental slope in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska. Petrotectonic fields after Wood (1980). A= N-type MORB, B= E-type MORB and tholeiitic intraplate basalt, C= alkaline intraplate basalt, D= destructive plate margins.

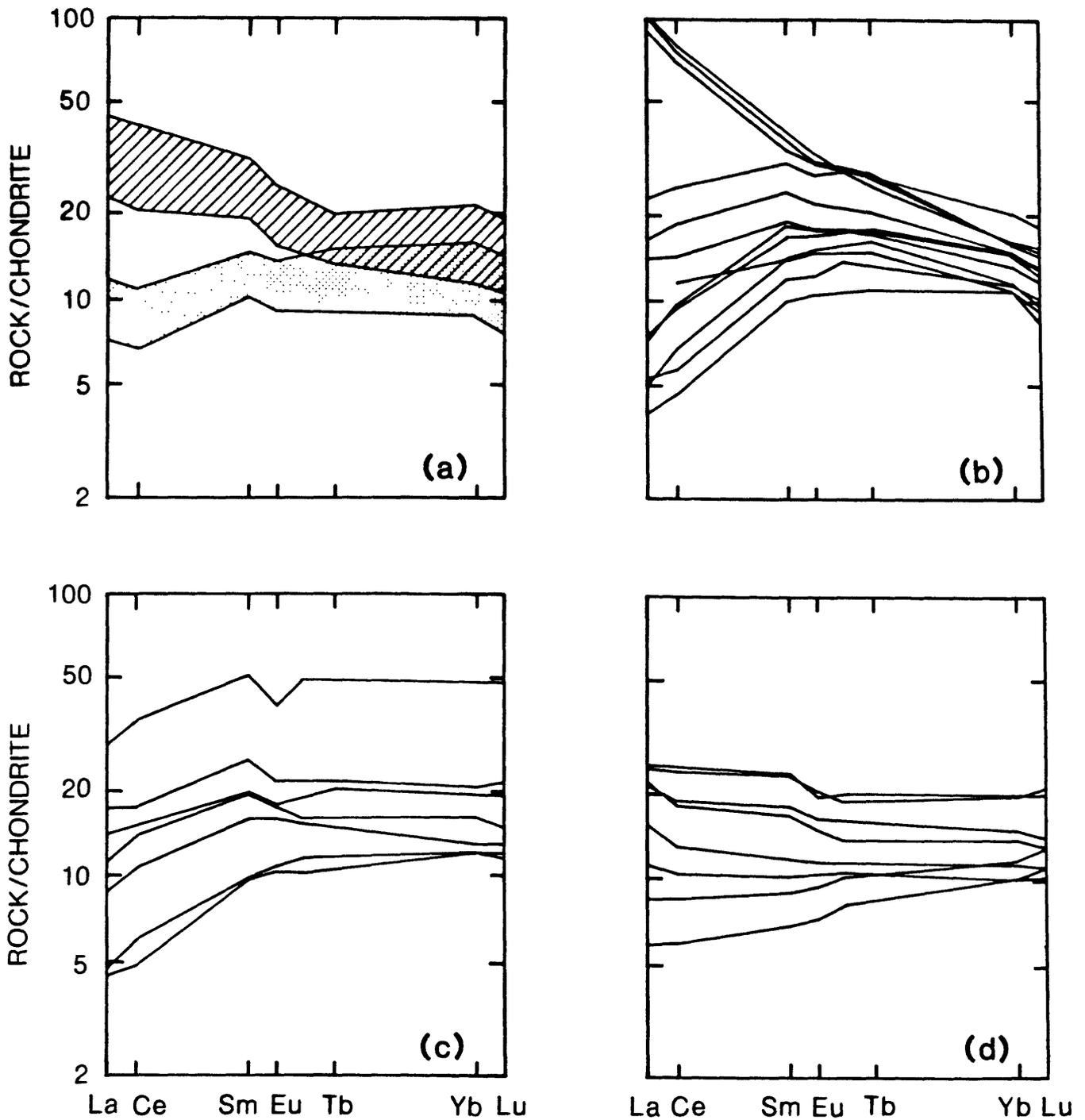


Figure 7. Chondrite-normalized REE distributions for basalts (a) from the continental slope in the Eastern Gulf of Alaska, (b) from seamounts near the East Pacific Rise (Batiza, 1980), and (c) N-type MORB and (d) E-type MORB (Basaltic Volcanism Project, 1980) for comparison.

Table 1. Petrography of basalts dredged from the continental slope in the eastern Gulf of Alaska

Map No. (Fig. 1)	Sample Designation	Rock type	Texture	Mineralogy (estimated volume percent)		
				Amygdules	Phenocrysts	Groundmass
				Primary	Secondary	
1	78-22A3	Basalt (highly altered)	Fine-grained, amygdaloidal, porphyritic, intersertal	8% Chlorite, calcite, clay minerals, albite	5% Plagioclase (altered to clay and K-feldspar) Pyroxene (altered to chlorite)	25% Chlorophaeite) 5% Chlorite) 15% Clay minerals) 5% Calcite) 2% Sphene)
1	78-22A4	Diabase (moderately altered)	Fine- to medium-grained, ophitic to intersertal	---	---	40% Chlorite) 30% Chlorophaeite) 10% Opaques)
1	78-22A5	Basalt (moderately altered)	Fine-grained, hyalopilitic to variolitic	---	---	25% Epidote) 5% Chlorophaeite) 15% Chlorite) 35% Zeolites, Secondary feldspar) (devitrified)
1	78-22A7	Basalt (very slightly altered)	Fine- to medium-grained, intergranular, to intersertal	---	---	50% Chlorite) 25% Chlorophaeite) 12% Opaques)
1	78-22A8	Basalt (highly altered)	Very fine grained, amygdaloidal, intergranular to intersertal	5% Calcite, chlorite, albite, clay, and zeolites	---	25% Chlorite) 25% Chlorophaeite) Calcite, zeolites) Feldspar, silica) 15% Clay minerals) 7% Sphene) 3%
2	79-40A	Olivine-bearing basalt (moderately altered)	Fine-grained, amygdaloidal, intergranular to intersertal	20% Zeolites, chlorite	---	30% Chlorite) 20% Chlorophaeite) 5% Olivine(?)) 13% Opaques)
3	79-33G	Basalt (moderately altered)	Very fine grained, amygdaloidal, porphyritic, hyalopilitic to intersertal	3% Zeolites, calcite, clay minerals, chlorite	2% Plagioclase (altered to zeolites) Clinopyroxene (altered to chlorophaeite)	25% Chlorophaeite) 15% Chlorite) Tr Zeolites) 20% Opaques) 28% Devitrified glass)
3	79-33H	Basalt (moderately altered)	Very fine grained, porphyritic, intergranular to intersertal	---	2% Plagioclase (altered to zeolites) Pyroxene (altered to chlorophaeite)	40% Chlorophaeite) 20% Chlorophaeite) 25% Opaques) 13% (mostly pyrite)

Table 1. Description of basalts dredged from the continental slope in the eastern Gulf of Alaska (Continued)

Map No. (Fig. 1)	Sample Designation	Rock type	Texture	Mineralogy (estimated volume percent)		
				Amygdules	Phenocrysts	Groundmass
				Primary	Secondary	
4	79-34E	Basalt (moderately altered)	Very fine grained, amygdaloidal, porphyritic, intersertal	5% Chlorophaeite, chlorite, clay minerals	5% Plagioclase (altered to clay and K-feldspar) Pyroxene (altered to chlorophaeite or smectite)	Plagioclase 35% Clinopyroxene 25% Opaques 15% Chlorophaeite 13% Zeolites 2%
5	79-26F	Olivine-bearing basalt (moderately altered)	Very fine grained, amygdaloidal, glomeroporphyritic, intergranular to intersertal	25% Zeolites, chlorite, albite	5% Plagioclase (clay) Pyroxene Olivine with iddingsite rim (altered to smectite?)	Plagioclase 25% Clinopyroxene 20% Opaque 10% Biotite Tr Limonite 5% Hematite 10% Chlorophaeite 5%
5	79-26K	Very fine grained, amygdaloidal, porphyritic, intersertal	5% Zeolites, chlorite, secondary feldspar	15% Plagioclase (altered to zeolites and clay) Clinopyroxene (chloritized)	Plagioclase 20% Clinopyroxene 25% Opaques 8% Zeolites, feldspars 12%	Plagioclase 20% Clinopyroxene 25% Opaques 8% Zeolites, feldspars 12%
5	79-26L	Basalt (slightly altered)	Very fine grained, amygdaloidal, porphyritic, intersertal	2% Chlorite Zeolites	5% Plagioclase Pyroxene (altered to smectite)	Plagioclase 35% Clinopyroxene 32% Opaques 10% Chlorophaeite 15% Zeolites 1%
5	79-26I	Olivine basalt (highly altered)	Fine-grained, amygdaloidal, porphyritic, intersertal	25% Radial crystals of zeolites, clay minerals, chlorite, K-feldspar, albite	10% Plagioclase (clay, zeolite alteration) Pyroxene and olivine with iddingsite (both replaced by smectite)	Plagioclase 18% Clinopyroxene 18% Opaques 7% Zeolite, clay 7% minerals 7%
6	77-8	Basalt (moderately altered)	Very fine grained, amygdaloidal, porphyritic, intersertal	3% Calcite, chlorite Some pyrite rims, clay, zeolites	2% Plagioclase (altered to clay)	Plagioclase 35% Opaques 15% Palagonite 25% Chlorite 8% Calcite 12%
7	79-17B	Basalt (moderately altered)	Medium-grained, amygdaloidal, intersertal to subophitic	15% Zeolites, clay minerals, chlorite	---	Plagioclase 25% Clinopyroxene 30% Opaques 7% Chlorophaeite 23% Chlorite 7%
8	79-18C	Basalt (highly altered)	Very fine grained, porphyritic, hyalo-ophitic	---	2% Plagioclase (altered to clay) Pyroxene (altered to chlorophaeite)	Plagioclase 25% Clinopyroxene 13% Opaques 2% Altered glass 28% Chlorophaeite 30% Chlorite 2%

Table 1. Petrography of basalts dredged from the continental slope in the eastern Gulf of Alaska (Continued)

Map No. (Fig. 1)	Sample Designation	Rock type	Texture	Amygdules	Phenocrysts	Mineralogy (estimated volume percent)	
						Primary	Secondary
8	79-18E	Basalt (moderately altered)	Medium-grained, amygdaloidal, subophitic	35% Chlorite, zeolites, clay minerals	---	Plagioclase 20% Clinopyroxene 30% Opaques 3%	Chlorophaeite 12%
8	79-18F	Basalt (moderately altered)	Fine-grained, amygdaloidal, hyalo-ophitic to intersertal	10% Zeolites, clay minerals, calcite, chlorite	---	Plagioclase 25% Clinopyroxene 15% Opaques 8% Palagonite 25%	Clay minerals 12% Chlorophaeite 5%
8	79-18D	Basalt (slightly altered)	Medium- to coarse-grained, subophitic	---	---	Plagioclase 42% Clinopyroxene 32% Opaques 10% Apatite 1%	Chlorophaeite 15%

Table 2. Major element chemistry (in weight percent) and normative mineral composition of basalts dredged from the continental slope in the eastern Gulf of Alaska

Map no. (Fig. 1) Sample no.	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	3	3	4	4	5	5	5	5	6	7	8	8	8	
7822A3	7822A4	7822A5	7822A7	7822A8	7940A	7933G	7933H	7934E	7926F	7926I	7926K	7926L	77E68	7917B	7918C	7918D	7918E	7918F			
SiO ₂	46.50	47.70	49.50	49.10	42.40	48.30	44.80	46.40	47.80	45.40	47.10	47.60	44.80	45.70	47.10	47.30	45.10	45.70			
Al ₂ O ₃	16.00	15.30	13.60	16.10	13.60	12.40	13.90	17.10	15.00	15.50	15.80	15.40	16.40	13.80	14.10	14.30	13.10	14.40			
Fe ₂ O ₃	2.51	2.30	5.20	1.88	3.10	7.96	7.30	8.09	3.91	5.54	3.76	3.80	4.30	5.37	5.25	5.50	6.16	4.50			
FeO	6.54	7.90	7.70	8.21	9.70	5.34	3.80	2.35	7.01	4.73	7.41	7.60	3.80	6.86	8.32	6.10	6.15	7.20			
MgO	8.48	7.60	6.50	5.58	6.40	8.06	9.00	5.80	7.51	8.10	7.61	7.78	7.00	8.04	7.19	6.50	7.18	6.90			
CaO	6.32	8.30	8.90	8.28	7.60	7.09	6.70	9.18	8.81	7.40	7.48	9.96	10.10	8.55	6.34	10.20	8.67	9.00			
Na ₂ O	3.74	2.70	4.70	3.24	4.40	4.42	5.20	3.16	3.58	4.46	3.72	2.66	4.20	3.27	3.82	3.50	3.94	4.20			
K ₂ O	1.41	1.60	0.16	0.15	0.07	0.36	0.52	0.31	0.72	0.59	1.39	0.57	0.53	0.67	0.36	1.40	0.46	0.41			
ΣH ₂ O	5.04	2.94	3.30	3.69	5.87	4.47	6.19	5.23	4.44	7.63	6.80	3.60	3.24	5.82	5.22	3.90	6.50	5.90			
TiO ₂	1.39	1.60	1.40	1.78	2.00	1.39	1.40	1.69	1.24	0.91	0.96	1.22	1.30	1.10	1.71	2.23	1.90	1.88			
P ₂ O ₅	0.22	0.31	0.19	0.37	0.29	0.14	0.12	0.16	0.11	0.07	0.08	0.11	0.15	0.19	0.15	0.23	0.26	0.19			
MnO	0.18	0.25	0.24	0.13	0.25	0.19	0.19	0.06	0.17	0.13	0.18	0.18	0.26	0.12	0.15	0.21	0.14	0.20			
CO ₂	1.88	0.04	0.02	1.35	4.20	0.12	0.03	0.24	0.11	0.22	0.18	0.09	0.01	2.10	0.10	0.32	0.18	0.02			
Total(-0)	100.21	98.54	101.41	99.86	99.88	100.24	99.15	99.77	100.41	100.68	100.60	100.24	101.19	99.98	100.19	100.74	101.02	99.65	100.53		
	volatile free -- normalized																				
SiO ₂	49.84	49.92	50.46	51.78	47.21	50.50	48.21	49.20	49.86	48.91	49.67	48.78	48.60	48.76	48.48	49.47	48.71	48.51	48.30		
Al ₂ O ₃	17.15	16.01	13.86	16.98	15.14	12.96	14.96	18.13	15.65	16.70	16.98	16.36	15.72	17.85	14.64	14.81	14.73	14.09	15.22		
Fe ₂ O ₃	2.69	2.41	5.30	1.98	3.45	8.32	7.86	8.58	4.08	5.97	4.75	3.89	3.88	4.68	5.70	5.51	5.66	6.63	4.76		
FeO	7.01	8.27	7.85	8.66	10.80	5.58	4.09	2.49	7.31	5.10	5.71	7.67	7.76	4.14	7.28	8.74	6.28	6.62	7.61		
MgO	9.09	7.95	6.63	5.88	7.13	8.43	9.68	6.15	7.83	8.73	8.13	8.06	7.15	7.18	8.53	7.55	6.69	7.72	7.29		
CaO	6.77	8.69	9.07	8.73	8.46	7.41	7.21	9.73	9.19	7.97	7.99	10.32	10.31	12.19	9.07	6.66	10.50	9.33	9.51		
Na ₂ O	4.01	2.83	4.79	3.42	4.90	4.62	5.60	3.35	3.73	4.80	3.97	2.76	4.29	3.27	3.47	4.01	3.60	4.24	4.44		
K ₂ O	1.51	1.67	0.16	0.16	0.08	0.38	0.56	0.33	0.75	0.64	1.48	0.59	0.54	0.40	0.71	0.38	1.44	0.49	0.43		
TiO ₂	1.49	1.67	1.43	1.88	2.23	1.45	1.51	1.79	1.29	0.98	1.03	1.26	1.33	1.20	1.81	2.39	1.96	2.02	2.01		
P ₂ O ₅	0.24	0.32	0.19	0.39	0.32	0.15	0.13	0.17	0.11	0.08	0.09	0.11	0.15	0.21	0.16	0.24	0.27	0.20	0.21		
MnO	0.19	0.26	0.24	0.14	0.28	0.20	0.20	0.06	0.18	0.14	0.19	0.19	0.27	0.13	0.16	0.22	0.14	0.15	0.21		
Total(-0)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
	normative minerals -- volatile free																				
Q	--	--	--	1.93	--	--	--	1.87	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
NE	1.18	--	0.83	--	5.94	--	7.72	--	--	4.39	1.94	--	5.32	0.33	--	--	2.48	1.31	3.86		
Hy	--	9.41	--	21.94	--	8.57	--	10.37	1.66	--	--	10.03	--	--	4.32	17.12	--	--	--		
OL	20.32	11.21	9.93	--	16.98	3.95	11.62	--	12.92	13.13	14.17	8.26	11.68	7.20	10.48	4.10	6.42	9.07	11.12		

Table 3. Trace element abundances in parts per million in basalts dredged from the continental slope in the eastern Gulf of Alaska

Map no. (Fig. 1) Sample no.	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	3	3	4	4	5	5	5	5	6	6	7	7	8	8	8	8	8	
	7822A3	7822A4	7822A5	7722A7	7822A8	7940A	7933G	7933H	7934E	7926F	7926I	7926K	7926L	77E68	7917B	7918C	7918D	7918E	7918F							
*	Ba	264	--	65	--	23	--	40	62	20	143	86	--	--	80	183	--	101	--							
	Rb	14	--	5	--	5	--	5	6	6	15	5	--	--	10	5	--	5	--							
	Sr	326	--	232	--	97	--	165	276	170	353	194	--	--	223	197	--	146	--							
	Nb	10	14	6.8	15	14	6	7.1	5	5	5	5	5.4	7.3	10	11	12	10	10							
	Zr	115	--	181	--	82	--	95	94	62	72	90	--	--	104	140	--	115	--							
	Y	23	--	32	--	30	--	24	25	19	20	25	--	--	23	28	--	28	--							
	K/Ba	44	--	20	--	130	--	64	96	245	81	55	--	--	70	16	--	38	--							
	K/Rb	836	--	250	--	598	--	515	996	816	769	946	--	--	556	598	--	764	--							
	Rb/Sr	0.04	--	0.02	--	0.05	--	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.04	0.03	--	--	0.05	0.03	--	0.03	--							
	Zr/Nb	11.5	--	12.1	--	13.7	--	13.6	18.8	12.4	14.4	18.0	--	--	10.4	12.7	--	11.5	--							
**	Cr	160	231 ¹	233 ¹	59	34 ¹	81	244 ¹	120	160	210	170	180	214 ¹	181 ¹	200	92	203 ¹	140	143 ¹						
	Ni	100	72 ²	67 ²	60	22 ²	56	55	79	58	71	56	58	43 ²	140 ²	130	67	76 ²	84	67 ²						
	Sc	33	40 ¹	44 ¹	29	39 ¹	47	45 ¹	47	41	41	39	46	45	34 ¹	41	40	43 ¹	38	40 ¹						
***	La	8	10	4	15	10	5	4	6	5	3	4	5	6	6	8	12	10	9	9						
	Ce	19	24	11	35	24	11	11	14	12	7	9	11	14	13	1.8	25	25	20	23						
	Sm	3.6	3.9	2.7	4.6	4.3	3.1	2.6	3.5	3.2	2.0	2.4	3.0	2.8	2.4	4.0	5.1	4.0	4.3	3.6						
	Eu	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.7	1.5	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.0	0.7	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.0	1.3	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.4						
	Tb	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.8	--						
	Yb	2.5	3.4	3.8	2.8	4.3	3.4	2.7	2.9	3.0	2.0	2.4	2.8	3.3	2.2	2.6	3.2	3.3	2.9	3.1						
	Lu	0.37	0.52	0.56	0.40	0.64	0.51	0.42	0.41	0.46	0.28	0.35	0.41	0.53	0.36	0.40	0.49	0.47	0.41	0.44						
	Ta	0.7	0.9	0.3	1.2	0.8	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.8						
	Th	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.9	1.0	0.7	0.8						
	Hf	2.7	3.3	2.1	4.4	3.4	2.0	2.1	2.5	2.3	1.5	1.8	2.2	2.5	1.8	2.6	3.5	3.4	3.0	3.1						
	La/Yb	3.2	2.9	1.1	5.4	2.2	1.5	1.5	2.1	1.7	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.8	2.7	3.1	3.8	3.0	3.1	2.9						
	La _N /Sm _N	1.2	1.4	0.8	1.8	1.3	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.4						

* Determined by XRF.

** Determined by emission spectroscopy, except where indicated (1) by INAA and (2) by XRF.

*** Determined by instrumental neutron activation analysis.

Table 4. Representative clinopyroxene analyses of basalts dredged
from the continental slope in the eastern Gulf of Alaska

Sample no.	7822A4	7822A7	7940A	7933H	7934E	7926L	7917B	7918D
SiO ₂	50.7	50.6	50.6	51.2	50.8	51.2	51.7	51.2
Al ₂ O ₃	2.78	2.68	3.23	3.35	3.41	3.67	3.45	1.94
TiO ₂	0.89	0.88	0.90	0.80	0.44	0.66	0.86	0.94
"FeO"	9.09	9.04	8.05	7.57	6.24	8.66	9.5	12.7
MnO	0.31	0.28	0.21	0.20	0.28	0.25	0.20	0.36
MgO	15.8	16.2	17.3	16.6	16.6	15.7	15.4	14.4
CaO	19.3	18.9	18.9	18.8	20.5	18.9	19.7	18.7
Na ₂ O	0.34	0.33	0.25	0.29	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.32
Cr ₂ O ₃	0.08	0.18	0.03	0.28	0.60	0.38	0.28	0.05
SUM	99.3	99.1	99.5	99.1	99.1	99.8	101.4	100.6
FeO	6.54	6.53	4.95	6.71	3.28	7.76	8.21	10.91
Fe ₂ O ₃	2.84	2.79	3.45	0.84	3.29	0.99	1.47	1.93
Si	1.886	1.889	1.886	1.902	1.870	1.894	1.889	1.910
Al ^{IV}	0.114	0.109	0.134	0.098	0.130	0.106	0.111	0.085
Al ^{IV}	0.007	0.000	0.006	0.048	0.019	0.054	0.038	0.000
Ti	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.020	0.012	0.018	0.024	0.026
Cr	0.002	0.005	0.001	0.008	0.018	0.011	0.008	0.001
Fe ³⁺	0.079	0.078	0.096	0.024	0.092	0.028	0.041	0.054
Fe ²⁺	0.203	0.204	0.152	0.208	0.102	0.240	0.251	0.341
Mn	0.010	0.009	0.007	0.006	0.007	0.008	0.006	0.011
Mg	0.879	0.903	0.950	0.917	0.916	0.868	0.836	0.802
Ca	0.769	0.756	0.746	0.748	0.812	0.749	0.775	0.750
Na	0.025	0.024	0.018	0.021	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.023
Ca	39.9	38.9	38.6	39.5	42.3	39.8	40.8	38.5
Mg %	45.6	46.5	46.1	48.3	47.7	46.1	43.9	41.2
ΣFe	14.5	14.5	15.4	12.2	10.1	14.2	15.3	20.3