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Contents

- 1 [Abstract](#)
- 1 [Introduction](#)
- 2 [Results: revision of the Site U1457 sediment sampling splice](#)
- 4 [Acknowledgments](#)
- 4 [References](#)

# Data report: revised Pleistocene sediment splice for Site U1457, IODP Expedition 355<sup>1</sup>

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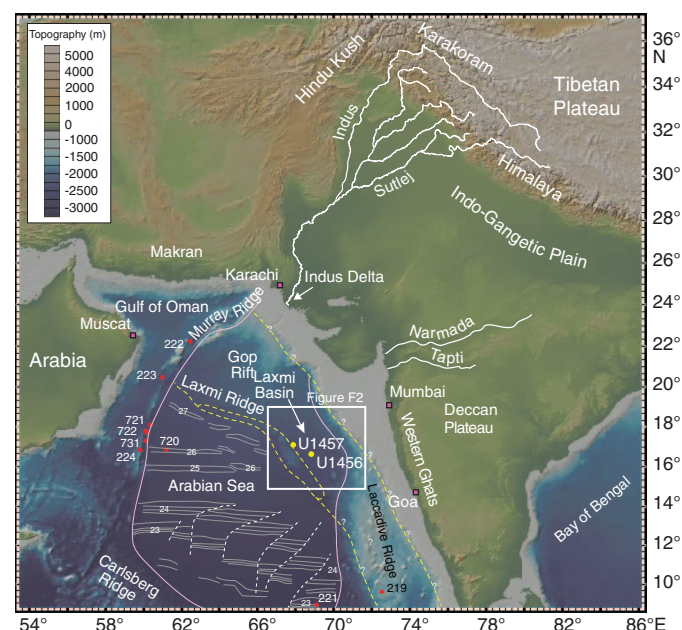
## Abstract

Sediment cores from adjacent holes at a drill site are typically spliced to make a continuous sediment record that spans sediment gaps that occur between sediment cores within each hole. The splice also provides a template for later sampling. During International Ocean Discovery Program Expedition 355, we made such a splice for both Sites U1456 and U1457 using shipboard Whole-Round Multisensor Logger and Section Half Multisensor Logger data. The shipboard-spliced sediment section at Site U1457 was constructed for the advanced piston corer interval to an age of about 1.5 Ma. Additional postexpedition planktonic foraminifer stable isotope data (*Globigerinoides ruber*  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ) show that the shipboard stratigraphic tie between Cores 355-U1457B-1H and 355-U1457A-1H was wrong. This paper describes a revised splice that appends Core 355-U1457A-1H to the base of Core 355-U1457B-1H. The core composite depth below seafloor depths of the remaining splice have been revised because of this change. The revised splice interval is also longer by 1.2 m to accommodate the lower part of Core 355-U1457B-1H. In addition, a break of unknown thickness is present between Cores 355-U1457B-1H and 355-U1457A-1H. The revised splice interval table is included in this report.

## Introduction

Site U1457 was drilled in the Laxmi Basin, eastern Arabian Sea, as part of the International Ocean Discovery Program (IODP) Expedition 355 study of sedimentation and Himalayan climate change (Figure F1) (Pandey et al., 2016a). Three holes were drilled at Site U1457, one from 0 to 144.8 m core depth below seafloor, method A (CSF-A) (Hole U1457A) and a second from 0 to 204.7 m CSF-A (Hole U1457B). Hole U1457C was drilled without coring to 191.6 m CSF-A and drilled to 1108 m CSF-A. Holes U1457A and U1457B used the standard advanced piston corer (APC) to about 110 m CSF-A, coring such that core tops were offset in order to build a

Figure F1. Shaded bathymetric map of the Arabian Sea showing the location of Site U1457 (from Pandey et al., 2016a). Site U1457 is located ~491 km west of the west coast of India, in the Laxmi Basin of the Arabian Sea. Yellow circles = sites drilled during Expedition 355. Red stars = earlier scientific drilling sites. Pink line = approximate extent of Indus Fan (after Kolla and Coumes, 1987). Yellow dashed lines with question marks = speculated locations of the continent/ocean boundary, depending on whether Laxmi Basin is floored by oceanic or continental crust. Gray lines with numbers = magnetic anomalies from Royer et al. (2002). Map from Pandey et al. (2016a).



continuous sediment section spliced from cores in both holes. This continuous section is often referred to as the sampling splice or simply as the sediment splice. A continuous sediment section splicing Holes U1457A and U1457B was constructed on board the *JOIDES*

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*Resolution* during Expedition 355. In this paper, we revise the Site U1457 splice in light of new data from stable oxygen isotope studies (Saraswat et al., submitted) that allowed us to identify an additional sediment section to include in the splice and a coring gap near the top of the section.

The coring plan for Holes U1457A and U1457B reflects long experience with coring to collect continuous sediment sections. When hydraulic piston coring was introduced during the Deep Sea Drilling Project, it was quickly discovered that there were often gaps of ~0.5 m in the sedimentary section between each core (Heath et al., 1985; Ruddiman et al., 1987). A protocol to make a complete and continuous sediment section from multiple holes was developed by matching stratigraphic features in adjacent holes to build a composite depth scale so that stratigraphic features in different holes were located at the same composite depth. A continuous sediment section was then spliced together by extracting and concatenating sections from adjacent holes across coring gaps. Typically, three holes are drilled to ensure that all core gaps have been sampled and a continuous splice can be made (Hagelberg et al., 1995, and references therein).

The continuous sediment splice was developed not only to reassemble a complete sediment lithostratigraphic section but also so that investigators could sample the continuous section for further work. The matches between adjacent holes are created using shipboard physical property data to identify common stratigraphic features and then offsetting depths in individual cores. Shifting the depth of each individual core in the CSF-A depth scale until marker stratigraphic features align forms the common composite depth framework (core composite depth below seafloor [CCSF]).

## Results: revision of the Site U1457 sediment sampling splice

Magnetic susceptibility, gamma ray attenuation (GRA) bulk density, and natural gamma radiation (NGR) core logging measurements were used along with line-scan red-green-blue (RGB) color data to correlate the sediment sections and find marker stratigraphic horizons during Expedition 355, as shown in Figure F2 (also see Figure F17 in the Site U1457 chapter [Pandey et al., 2016b]), which shows the splice constructed during the expedition by picking horizons between cores where the stratigraphy matched and then combining them into a continuous sedimentary record. In Figure F2, a blue vertical line marks the base of the sediment section included in the splice from a particular core that is then joined to a correlative horizon marked by a yellow line in the adjacent hole to make the splice. The yellow line thus marks the top of the splice in the adjacent hole. Shown on Figure F2 are the compressed core images and the magnetic susceptibility record from each hole, as well as the spliced core composite image and spliced magnetic susceptibility record (top). The images are offset to the CCSF depth scale.

The splice suffered from a weak tie at the very top of the splice interval, as noted by the stratigraphic correlators (see Table T11 in

Pandey et al., 2016b). Although Core 355-U1457A-1H recovered less than 9.5 m of sediment and at the time was assumed to have recovered the sediment/water interface, comparison to the uppermost core from the subsequent hole (U1457B) indicated that the sediment/water interface was missing from Core 355-U1457A-1H and that coring had initiated below the topmost sediments. Core 355-U1457B-1H, from the second hole, was short (3.22 m), and it was unclear from any of the core logging data whether the base of Core 355-U1457B-1H actually overlapped the top of Core 355-U1457A-1H. A tie was assigned between the two at a minor peak in magnetic susceptibility, at a depth of 2.01 m CCSF, but the tie (Figure F2; outlined by the orange box) was marked to be suspect. The magnetic susceptibility, although low, did not match very well at the tie.

New data collected since the end of IODP Expedition 355 makes it clear that the suspect tie between Cores 355-U1457B-1H and 355-U1457A-1H was wrong. The sediment sections of the two cores do not actually overlap. Figure F3 shows postexpedition stable isotope data from the planktonic foraminifer *Globigerinoides ruber* (Saraswat et al., submitted) on the revised sampling splice. The  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  data from Core 355-U1457B-1H ends at the original tie point to Core 355-U1457A-1H. There is a clear offset of 1.4‰ in the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  data between the end of the Core 355-U1457B-1H section and the top of the Core 355-U1457A-1H section, which is well above any possibility of measurement error. The isotope data overlap in the original shipboard splice (2.44 m CCSF for the last sample from Core 355-U1457B-1H versus 2.10 m CCSF for the topmost sample from Core 355-U1457A-1H). Values for all three of the overlapping isotope samples are offset, so there is a clear mismatch of data. A revision of the splice was necessary.

We reexamined the shipboard core logging data and images to identify if there was another potential horizon near the base of Core 355-U1457B-1H that could tie with Core 355-U1457A-1H. The  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  value at 4.24 m CCSF in Core 355-U1457A-1H does nearly match the value at 0.19 m CCSF in Core 355-U1457B-1H, but that results from the 100 ky cyclicity of the Pleistocene  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  record. The color record clearly does not match because the small brown interval at the top of Core 355-U1457B-1H is missing and there are small but clear offsets in the other Whole-Round Multisensor Logger WRMSL records.

Because we could identify no unambiguous tie between the two cores, we elected to append Core 355-U1457A-1H to the base of Core 355-U1457B-1H. The net effect is to lengthen the total splice interval by 1.2 m to accommodate the remainder of Core 355-U1457B-1H, including the core catcher (CC) section. In addition, there is also a missing section of indeterminate length between cores, but it probably measures between 0 and 1 m, based on typical coring gaps (Ruddiman et al., 1987). The revised splice interval table is listed in Table T1 and also can be downloaded from the IODP Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) database (<http://web.iodp.tamu.edu/LORE>) for Site U1457.

Figure F2. Shipboard sampling splice from Site U1457 (see Figure F17 in the Site U1457 Chapter [Pandey et al., 2016b]). Data from Hole U1457A are in the bottom profile shown on CCSF depth, whereas data from Hole U1457B on CCSF depth are in the middle profile. The orange box highlights the suspect tie from the shipboard splice. A continuous sediment splice was made by matching stratigraphic markers between holes and joining data from each hole at the splice. The blue vertical line marks the bottom of each sediment section within the splice, with a yellow vertical line marking the equivalent stratigraphic interval in the other hole and top of the next interval in the splice. The magnetic susceptibility data (red) are overlain on core images that have been depth registered to the CCSF depth scale. The top profile shows the resulting splice data and core image. The stratigraphic match between Cores 355-U1457B-1H and 355-U1457A-1H is poor, and the tie was listed as suspect in Pandey et al. (2016b).

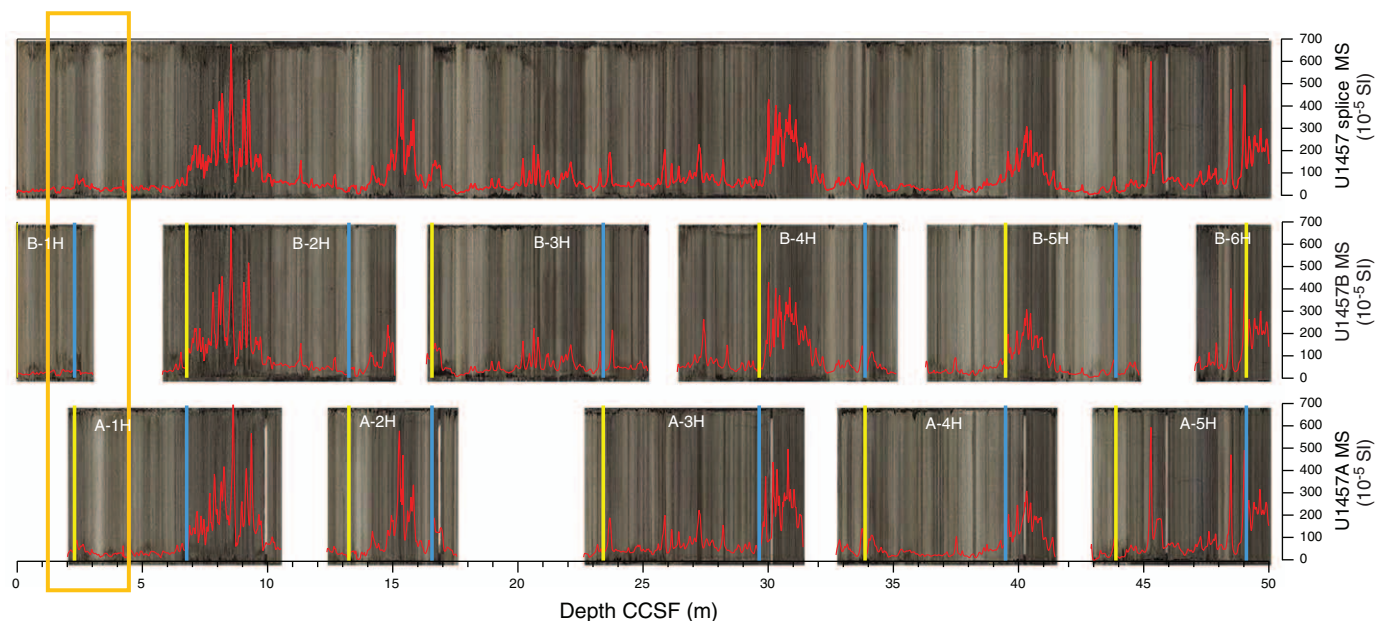


Figure F3. Revised Site U1457 sediment splice, showing the magnetic susceptibility data (red) and *G. ruber*  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  data (green; data are referenced to the Peedee belemnite [PDB] standard). Yellow lines mark the top of a splice interval, whereas blue lines mark the base. The change in the shipboard splice is outlined in the orange box. In the shipboard splice, the data from the top of Core 355-U1457A-1H overlapped with that of the base of Core 355-U1457B-1H. However, the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  data are clearly offset in that interval by 1.4‰. The revised splice shown here now appends Core 355-U1457A-1H to the base of Core 355-U1457B-1H. Other ties are the same between the two holes.

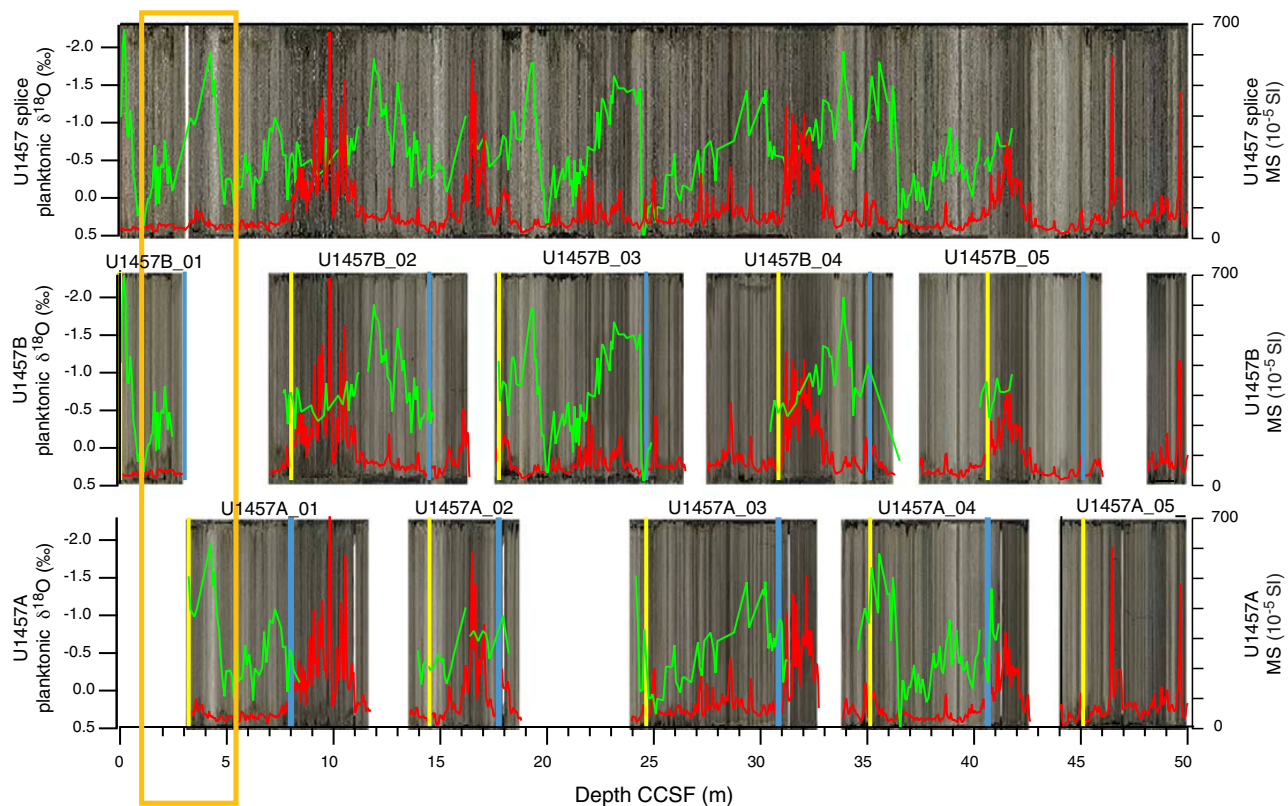


Table T1. Revised splice interval table, Site U1457. [Download table in CSV format.](#)

| Top core, section,<br>interval (cm) | Top depth<br>CSF (m) | Top depth<br>CCSF-A (m) | Bottom core, section,<br>interval (cm) | Bottom depth<br>CSF (m) | Bottom depth<br>CCSF-A (m) | Tie    |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------|
| 355-                                |                      |                         | 355-                                   |                         |                            |        |
| U1457B-1H-1, 0                      | 0                    | 0                       | U1457B-1H-CC, 19                       | 3.21                    | 3.21                       | Anchor |
| U1457A-1H-1, 1                      | 0.01                 | 3.21                    | U1457A-1H-4, 108                       | 4.80                    | 8.00                       | Append |
| U1457B-2H-1, 94                     | 4.14                 | 8.01                    | U1457B-2H-6, 9                         | 10.61                   | 14.48                      | Tie    |
| U1457A-2H-1, 89                     | 9.59                 | 14.48                   | U1457A-2H-3, 114                       | 12.84                   | 17.73                      | Tie    |
| U1457B-3H-1, 10                     | 12.80                | 17.74                   | U1457B-3H-5, 100                       | 19.70                   | 24.64                      | Tie    |
| U1457A-3H-1, 68                     | 18.88                | 24.64                   | U1457A-3H-5, 87                        | 25.07                   | 30.83                      | Tie    |
| U1457B-4H-3, 29                     | 25.49                | 30.83                   | U1457B-4H-6, 8                         | 29.78                   | 35.12                      | Tie    |
| U1457A-4H-1, 126                    | 28.96                | 35.12                   | U1457A-4H-5, 77                        | 34.47                   | 40.63                      | Tie    |
| U1457B-5H-3, 14                     | 34.84                | 40.64                   | U1457B-5H-6, 38                        | 39.31                   | 45.10                      | Tie    |
| U1457A-5H-1, 105                    | 38.25                | 45.11                   | U1457A-5H-5, 18                        | 43.38                   | 50.24                      | Tie    |
| U1457B-6H-2, 58                     | 43.28                | 50.25                   | U1457B-6H-5, 128                       | 48.48                   | 55.44                      | Tie    |
| U1457A-6H-2, 63                     | 48.83                | 55.45                   | U1457A-6H-5, 84                        | 53.54                   | 60.16                      | Tie    |
| U1457B-7H-2, 40                     | 52.60                | 60.16                   | U1457B-7H-5, 69                        | 57.39                   | 64.94                      | Tie    |
| U1457A-7H-2, 88                     | 58.58                | 64.95                   | U1457A-7H-5, 49                        | 62.64                   | 69.01                      | Tie    |
| U1457B-8H-1, 73                     | 60.93                | 69.02                   | U1457B-8H-5, 115                       | 67.35                   | 75.43                      | Tie    |
| U1457A-8H-3, 36                     | 69.06                | 75.44                   | U1457A-8H-5, 94                        | 72.64                   | 79.02                      | Tie    |
| U1457B-9H-1, 67                     | 70.37                | 79.02                   | U1457B-9H-5, 110                       | 76.80                   | 85.45                      | Tie    |
| U1457A-9H-4, 30                     | 78.61                | 85.45                   | U1457A-9H-6, 80                        | 81.91                   | 88.75                      | Tie    |
| U1457B-10H-1, 32                    | 79.52                | 88.75                   | U1457B-10H-4, 93                       | 83.18                   | 92.41                      | Tie    |
| U1457A-10H-1, 132                   | 86.02                | 92.41                   | U1457A-10H-7, 64                       | 93.85                   | 100.24                     | Tie    |
| U1457A-11H-1, 0                     | 94.20                | 100.59                  | U1457A-11H-6, 83                       | 102.30                  | 108.69                     | Append |
| U1457B-13H-1, 100                   | 102.20               | 108.69                  | U1457B-13H-2, 102                      | 103.72                  | 110.21                     | Tie    |
| U1457A-12H-1, 63                    | 104.33               | 110.21                  | U1457A-12H-6, 93                       | 110.50                  | 116.38                     | Tie    |
| U1457A-13F-1, 0                     | 111.20               | 117.06                  | U1457A-13F-3, 123                      | 115.43                  | 121.29                     | Append |
| U1457B-15F-1, 74                    | 116.14               | 121.29                  | U1457B-15F-3, 145                      | 119.85                  | 125.00                     | Tie    |

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