

## **GEOCHEMISTRY OF DIAGENETIC FLUIDS AND SEDIMENTARY PROTOLITH OF GALE CRATER.**

P. B. Niles<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>NASA Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX 77058 ([paul.b.niles@nasa.gov](mailto:paul.b.niles@nasa.gov))

**Introduction:** The geochemical composition of the sediments of Gale crater can be modeled using two component mixing between a weathered basalt and a sulfate rich endmember. This suggests that the amount of in-situ weathering occurring after deposition was minimal, and most of the variation in weathering indices can be explained simply through addition of Ca-sulfate minerals during diagenesis. Evidence for burial of Gale sediments can be explained through the presence of large ice/dust deposits.