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ORIGIN AND TECTONIC EVOLUTION OF GONDWANA SEQUENCE UNITS ACCRETED TO THE BANDA ARC: A STRUCTURAL TRANSECT THROUGH CENTRAL EAST TIMOR

by

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A thesis submitted to the faculty of

Brigham Young University

in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of

Master of Science

Department of Geological Sciences

Brigham Young University

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BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

GRADUATE COMMITTEE APPROVAL

of a thesis submitted by

Elizabeth A. Zobell

This thesis has been read by each member of the following graduate committee and by majority vote has been found to be satisfactory.

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Date Michael J. Dorais

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

As chair of the candidate's graduate committee, I have read the thesis of Elizabeth A. Zobell in its final form and have found that (1) its format, citations, and bibliographical style are consistent and acceptable and fulfill university and department style requirements; (2) its illustrative materials including figures, tables, and charts are in place; and (3) the final manuscript is satisfactory to the graduate committee and is ready for submission to the university library.

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ABSTRACT

ORIGIN AND TECTONIC EVOLUTION OF GONDWANA SEQUENCE UNITS ACCRETED TO THE BANDA ARC: A STRUCTURAL TRANSECT THROUGH CENTRAL EAST TIMOR

Elizabeth A. Zobell Department of Geological Sciences Master of Science

Petrographic and age analysis of sandstones, detailed structural analysis and gravity modeling were conducted to investigate the origin of the Gondwana Sequence in the Timor Region, and to better constrain the tectonic evolution of the active Banda Arc. Our field studies and U/Pb zircon age analysis helped assign most units to either Asian or Australian affinity. Detrital zircon from uplifted Banda forearc units (Asian affinity) have U/Pb ages as young as 80 Ma (Standley and Harris, in press). In contrast, analysis of detrital zircon from Gondwana Sequence sandstones accreted to the Banda Arc from Savu to East Timor are no younger than 234.6 ± 4.0 Ma, and have peak ages at 301 Ma and 1873 Ma with some Archean ages. These age constraints provide a reliable new application for distinguishing rocks units as Asian or Australian affinity.

Petrographic and provenance analysis of Triassic Australian affinity greywacke units yield QFL abundances consistent with a proximal, syn-rift, intracratonic or recycled orogen source, from the northeast. The Mount Isa region to the east has the most similar peak U/Pb zircon ages to the Gondwana Sequence. However an extension of this terrane to the west, which would have rifted away during Jurassic breakup, is required to account for the immaturity of the sandstones.

Structural measurements of Gondwana Sequence units accreted to the Banda Arc show a northwest - southeast paleo and current maximum stress direction, and vergence mostly to the southeast. Individual thrust sheets are 3 km thick and account for 50% total shortening. The deformational grain of Timor is a hybrid of the east-west strike of Banda Arc and northeast-southwest strike of incoming Australian continental margin structures.

The Banda forearc, which is 200 km wide north of Savu, progressively narrows towards East Timor. In order to constrain the location of the forearc, three area-balanced structural models were tested against the gravity field of the Banda Arc. The best fit model requires internal shortening and under-stacking of the forearc beneath the arc, which may account for the cessation of volcanism and uplifted coral terraces north of East Timor.

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Funding for the project was provided by the National Science Foundation (EAR 0337221). Assistance in East Timor was provided by the Oil, Gas and Energy Directorate (OGED) of East Timor (Mr. Amandio Gusmao Soares, Francisco Ferreira and Mr. Vicente de Pinto Costa and their staff), and the Natural Resources Division of East Timor (Lourenço Pedro and Francesco Monteira). Inacio Freitas Mereira, the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering at the National University of East Timor, arranged for Timorese student counterparts. Wine Langeraar, National Mapping Adviser to East Timor, made available maps and aerial photographs. I would like to thank Ron Harris for his encouragement and insight throughout this project. I would also like to thank Noemia Viegas from the National University of East Timor who helped as a dedicated field assistant, Eujay McCartain from Western Australia University for field support, Mike Vorkink for providing samples from Savu, and Miranda Livingston for assistance in data entry. George Gehrels and Victor Valencia from the University of Arizona assisted in the detrital zircon analysis. Funding for the Arizona LaserChron Center is provided by the National Science Foundation (EAR 0443387).Gravity models were generated using GM-SYS with help from John McBride. Cross-sections were balanced using Lithotect.

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INTRODUCTION

The Banda Orogen is an active arc-continent collision at the convergent boundary between the Asian and Australian plates (Figure 1) and is commonly used as a modern analog for the tectonic evolution of other collisions (Finney et al., 1996, Huang, 2000; Leech, 2005; Huang, 2006; Reusch, 2006). However, many fundamental questions about the structure of the collision zone remain unanswered and various parts of the orogen are poorly understood, such as 1) what happens to the pre-collisional forearc, 2) limits for total shortening, 3) whether basement is involved in building of the orogenic wedge and 4) what is the mechanism for crustal shortening? We chose to investigate these questions by conducting a detailed structural analysis through the central part of East Timor, which exposes the deepest structural levels of the orogen. A gravity profile (Kaye and Milsom, 1988; Chamalaun et al., 1975) through this region also allows us to test various models proposed for subsurface structural and tectonic features, such as deformation of the upper plate and basement involved in thrust near the surface. We have also investigated the origin of rock units near the suture zone in order to distinguish tectonic affinities.

 Three major lithologic units make up the Banda Orogen, the Banda Terrane is found at the highest structural level, and the Gondwana and Kolbano Sequences which form the bulk of the orogenic wedge. The Banda Terrane is well documented as a fragment of Asian affinity forearc material of the Banda Arc upper plate (Standley and Harris, in press; Harris, 2006). The Gondwana Sequences was deposited in intracratonic basins during the initial rifting of Gondwana. The source for these units is unknown. The Kolbano Sequence represents post-rift units that were deposited on the slope of the northwest Australian passive continental margin.

Figure 1: Location map of the Banda Arc region showing active faults (yellow), and active volcanoes (red triangles) (modified from Harris, 2006). Deformation localized at the Java Trench is progressivelydistributed away from the deformation front (Timor Trough) into the forearc and backarc.

We investigated the origin of Gondwana Sequence units by conducting a petrographic provenance study and U/Pb age analysis of detrital zircon. The stratigraphy of Gondwana Sequence units in the Banda Arc has been described by Audley-Charles (1968), Gianni (1971), Bird and Cook (1991) and Hunter (1993). These studies provided a general litho-stratigraphic description of the Gondwana Sequence, but constraints for the origin of these units and their structure are still lacking. Vorkink (2004) conducted a detailed structural analysis of Savu and found that discrete thrust sheets accommodated for shortening of Triassic-Jurassic Gondwana Sequence units. From reconnaissance structural studies throughout Timor, Harris (1991) shows that Gondwana Sequence units form a duplex beneath the Banda Terrane and the northern part of an imbricate fan of Kolbano sequence units. We conducted a detailed structural analysis of Gondwana Sequence units in a north-south corridor through East Timor from Manatutu to Fatu Berliu (Figure 2). We have also constructed crustal and lithospheric scale cross-sections across Timor through this corridor that are constrained by gravity models in order to test what happens to the Banda forearc during collision.

GEOLOGIC SETTING

The Banda Arc consists of two island chains separated by a forearc basin. Timor forms part of the uplifted accretionary wedge that has evolved into the Banda Orogen fold and thrust belt. The Banda Orogen consists mostly of Australian continental margin units accreted in front of, and beneath forearc basement of the Banda Sea plate. The formation of the Banda Arc is related to opening of the Banda Sea by slab rollback during

Figure 2: Location map for the structural transects. 1: Turquetti transect, 2: Cribas transect, 3: Northern Soibada transect, 4: Southern Soibada and Fatu Berliu transects. Rivers are in grey and roads are in black.

the Late Miocene (Harris, 2006).The outer fringes of the Australian continental margin reached the Banda Arc subduction zone at 5-8 Ma (Johnston and Bowin, 1981). This initial collision occurred near the center of the island of Timor and propagated obliquely to the west towards Savu and to the east towards Taninbar (Harris, 1991).

Sedimentary cover sequences of the Australian continent involved in this collision consists of Permian through Jurassic siliciclasic and carbonate deposits (Audley-Charles, 1968) (Figure 3). The Wailuli Formation, which is composed of shale and mudstone, caps the Gondwana Sequence. This formation is overlain by an unconformity marking the breakup of Gondwanaland. Post-rift passive margin deposits that accumulated on the Australian slope and rise consists mostly of Cretaceous to Pliocene chert, limestone, and shale with minor sandstone that were deposited on the subsiding Australian margin (Carter et al., 1976).

During the collision of the Australia continental margin with the Banda Arc a decollement formed within the relatively weak Wailuli Formation near the breakup unconformity separating pre- and post-rift units. This allowed Kolbano units to detach and create an imbricate stack against the front of the Banda Terrane (Carter et al., 1976). Beneath the Kolbano imbricate stack lays relatively undeformed Gondwana Sequence, which was thrust below the Banda Terrane. Evidence for the decollement in the Wailuli Formation includes the locations of the post- versus pre-rift rock units in Timor (Figure 4 and 5). Post-rift units are dominantly located on the southern portion of the island near and extent to the Timor Trough and shortened pre-break-up Gondwana Sequence units make up the bulk of the island. The location of Wailuli Formation decollement is further

Age		Ma	Stage Name	Lithology	Key Features	Thick- ness(km)
Cretaceous			Post-rift Kolbano Sequence (Creatacous to Pliocene)			
		144	Berriasian	Oe Baat Fm.	Siltstone and shale passing to clean glauconitic sandstone and siltstone	
Jurassic	Late	$151 -$ $154-$ 159.	Tithonian			
			Kimmeridgian Oxfordian	Breakup Unconformity		
	Middle	$164 -$ 169. $176 -$	Callovian			
			Bathonian			$0.8 - 1.2$
			Bajocian		Mostly grey and red Mudstone and shale with Fe-nodules local	
			Aalenian		conglomerate, sandstone and	
	Early	$180 -$ 190 $195 -$	Toarcian	Wailuli Fm.	limestone	
			Pliensbachian			
			Sinemurian			
		$202 -$	Hettangian		Babulu Fm. - Turbitic sandstone with	
Triassic	Late	206 $210 -$	Rhaetian		intebedded shale some snadstone	0.6
			Norian	Babulu Fm. Aitutu Fm	units are massive Aitutu Fm. - Interbedded hard, white	1.0
		221 227	Carnian		calcilutites and calcareous dark shales and local chert	
		234	Ladinian			
	Middle		Anisian	Niof Fir	Niof Fm. - Siltstone and Shale	0.4
	Early	242	Olenekian			
		245 248	Induan			
Permian	Late	252 $256 -$	Tatarian		Cribas Fm. - Shale and Siltsone	0.4
			Ufimian-Kazanian Cribas Fm.			
	Early	260	Kungurian	vvvvvva UARAHANAANA		
		269 282	Artinskian	Maubisse Atahoc Fm. Fm.	Atahoc Fm. - Black Shale	0.6
			Sakmarian	WYWY Y V YVYVYVY	Maubisse Fm. - Red fossiliferous	1.0
			Asselian	Basal contact not found	limestone, red shale and amygdaloidal pillow basalt and tuffs	

Figure 3: Gondwana Sequence stratigraphic column. The Aileu Complex is associated with the Maubisse Formation.

Figure 4: Map showing extent of major lithotectonic units in the Banda Orogen, fault plane solutions, and active faults. The Banda Terrane is forearc crust that forms klippen overlying the Gondwana Sequence in Timor. Black lines are hinge lines of antiforms in Timor, which parallel the structure of the northwest Australian continental margin (shown in yellow) (Petkovik et al., 2000). Stereograph shows poles to bedding plane measurements from Timor ($N=914$) predict a σ_1 direction (red line) and fold axis (red circle) parallel to observed structures (See structural analysis).

Figure 5: Map of the major lithotectonic units of Timor. Kolbano Sequence in mainly found in southern Timor and Gondwana in Northern Timor. The Banda Terrane structurally overlies the Gondwana Sequence.

constrained by drilling (Sani et al., 1995) and seismic profiles (Reed et al., 1986; Karig et al., 1987).

TECTONIC AFFINITY

Many of the lithologic units of the Banda Orogen are similar to each other though they may have different tectonic affinities. Lithostratigraphic analysis alone has led to rival hypothesis about whether units have an Australian or Asian affinity. The age and origin of the Gondwana Sequence and the Banda Terrane units within the Banda Orogen has remained a debate after years of research (Grady, 1975; Carter et al., 1976; Chamalaun and Grady, 1978; Bird and Cook, 1991; Charlton, 2002). Recent age and geochemical analysis (Standley and Harris, in press; Harris, 2006) have clearly demonstrated which units belong to the Banda Terrane, and that these units are Asian affinity. Late Cretaceous detrital zircons found in 35-45 Ma amphibolite facies metamorphic rocks, arc affinity volcanic units and fossils assemblages with equatorial Asian association define the Banda Terrane of the Asian plate. The Permian-Jurassic Gondwana Sequence, on the other hand, was in mid-latitudes and nowhere near a plate boundary during the events that formed the Banda Terrane. Detrital zircons found in these Gondwana Sequence units should have only pre-Triassic and older detrital zircons ages including some derived from the Proterozoic-Archean Australian craton.

The first suggestions for an Australian origin of Gondwana Sequence units were published by Wanner (1913) and Brouwer (1942). A detailed study of sandstones in West Timor by Bird and Cook (1991) indicate a proximal source from the north and northeast. Their study compared the petrology of West Timor sandstones to those found

on the Australian continental shelf and found a difference in sources between West Timor and the nearby Bonaparte Basin. In this study we investigated the provenance of Gondwana Sequence sandstones in Savu, West Timor and East Timor and analyzed ages of detrital zircon from some of these samples. Determining affinities of the major rock units of the Banda Orogen is a necessary step in investigating the nature of an active collisional suture.

Gondwana Sequence Unit Descriptions

The Gondwana Sequence can be divided into two series, the Permian-Triassic Aileu-Maubisse Series, and the Permian-Jurassic Kekneno Series (Lemoine, 1959). The stratigraphic relationship between the two series is ambiguous, but is inferred as transitional (Sawyer et al., 1993). The Kekneno Series consists of the Atahoc, Cribas, Niof, Aitutu, Babulu and the Wailuli Formations.

Aileu Complex

The Aileu Complex stretches from the north coast of western East Timor inland to the northern part of the Ramelau Range and is also found on the island of Kisar (Harris, 2006) and perhaps on other islands to the east (Figure 4). The Aileu complex consists of Permian-Triassic (?) psammite that grades southward into limestone and basalt associated with the Maubisse Formation (Berry and McDougall, 1986; Prasetyadi and Harris, 1996). On the north coast of central East Timor these units are metamorphosed into pelitic schist, marble, phyllite and amphibolite. Some metamorphism may have occurred during the rifting event that formed the edge of the Australian continental margin, but the main

phase of metamorphism is associated with late Miocene onset of collision in central Timor (Berry and McDougall, 1986; Harris, 1991; Harris et al., 1998).

Maubisse Formation

The Maubisse Formation is a red, crinoidal limestone that was deposited during the Permian through Triassic, and represents the oldest rocks exposed in the Banda Orogen (de Roever, 1940; Audley-Charles, 1968). Pillow lavas found within the Maubisse Formation have geochemical signatures of within-plate and ocean-ridge basalt, which is interpreted as representing the onset of rifting (Berry and Jenner, 1982). Clastic sedimentary units found in the Maubisse Formation show a fining toward the south (Carter et al., 1976). Rocks similar to the Maubisse Formation have been documented on the Sahul Shoals of the undeformed Australian continental margin (Grady and Berry, 1977).

Atahoc Formation

The Atahoc Formation is most likely transitional with the Maubisse Formation and is Permian in age. This formation is mainly shales with some fine grained sandstones and volcanics. The basal contact has not been found and the upper contact is amygdaloidal basalt (Sawyer et al., 1993).

Cribas Formation

The Permian Cribas Formation overlies the Atahoc formation and is most likely interfingered with the Maubisse Formation. This formation contains shales and silty

shales with clay and ironstone nodules. The presence of these nodules indicates an anoxic condition during its deposition (Charlton et al., 2002). Sandstone is found in the upper portion of the Cribas Formation. This sandstone is interpreted as being part of a submarine fan complex (Hunter, 1993) deposited on a shallow shelf (Bird, 1987).

Niof Formation

The Triassic Niof Formation is recognized in West Timor and may comprise the upper part of the Cribas Formation in East Timor. It consists of thin interbedded claystone, brown, gray and black shale, and sandstone. Bird and Cook (1991) interpreted the deposition of the Niof as turbidites in shallow to deep water. The upper portion of the Niof is interbedded with the Aitutu formation.

Aitutu Formation

 The Triassic Aitutu Formation is the most distinctive unit of the Gondwana Sequence. It is a rhythmically bedded white to pink limestone with thin interbeds of dark grey shale. The Aitutu Formation was deposited on an open marine outer shelf (Sawyer et al., 1993). It is the most lithologically distinct unit of the Kekneno Series and is used as a marker unit for structural reconstructions.

Babulu Formation

 The Triassic Babulu Formation is only recognized in central Timor (Gianni, 1971; Bird and Cook, 1991) and Savu (Vorkink, 2004), and may comprise the base of the Wailuli Formation in East Timor. The Babulu Formation consists of sandstone, shale and

silts with some massive sandstones beds. Deposition of this unit most likely occurred in a proximal near shore to shelf break (Sawyer et al., 1993) through turbidity currents from a prograding delta (Bird and Cook, 1991).

Wailuli Formation

The Late Triassic to Jurassic Wailuli Formation is a thick succession of mostly smectite-rich mudstone (Harris et al., 1998) with some well bedded marl, calcilutite, micaceous shale and quartz arenite. Towards the top of the formation are conglomerate and red shale units (Audley-Charles, 1968). It commonly serves as a decollement for imbrication of the overlying Kolbano Sequence; and as a roof thrust for the Gondwana Sequence duplex zone.

Provenance of the Gondwana Sequence

 We investigated possible source regions for Gondwana Sequence sandstones by petrographic studies and U/Pb age analysis of detrital zircon. Samples of Triassic Gondwana Sequence sandstone were collected from Savu, West Timor and East Timor. Modal abundances for classification and sedimentary provenance were determined using a three hundred point count of thin sections, percent errors of the point count are reported according the Tornado Chart for point counting reliability (van der Plas and Tobi, 1965) (Table 1). Sandstone maturity was investigated as a means of estimating transported distances based on rounding, presence of heavy minerals, presence of lithic clasts, and size and freshness of feldspars.

Sample	Location	Mono	Undulose	Poly	Micro	K-Spar	Plag	Lithics	Mica	Opaques	Matrix	Cement
EZ-69	ET	12.3 ± 3.9	5.0 ± 2.1	8.0 ± 3.1	3.3 ± 1.0	0 ± 0	0.6 ± 0.2	9.6 ± 3.5	1.0 ± 0.5	4.0 ± 2.2	0 ± 0	56.0 ± 5.7
$EZ-70$	ET	20.0 ± 4.5	20.0 ± 4.5	3.3 ± 1.0	2.0 ± 1.0	0 ± 0	0.6 ± 0.2	3.3 ± 1.0	3.0 ± 1.0	1.9 ± 3.7	35.3 ± 5.6	1.0 ± 0.5
EZ-88	ET	15.3 ± 4.0	22.0 ± 4.7	10.6 ± 3.6	0 ± 0	0 ± 0	2.6 ± 1.0	15.0 ± 4.0	5.0 ± 2.4	4.6 ± 2.3	24.6 ± 4.8	0 ± 0
EZ-151	ET	16.0 ± 4.1	13.0 ± 3.9	13.6 ± 3.9	0 ± 0	0 ± 0	3.6 ± 1.0	10.3 ± 3.5	1.3 ± 0.5	2.0 ± 1.0	29.3 ± 5.3	3.0 ± 1.0
89 HS-11A	WT	21.3 ± 4.6	18.0 ± 4.3	2.3 ± 1.0	3.6 ± 1.0	0 ± 0	1.6 ± 0.5	5.6 ± 2.6	1.0 ± 0.5	0 ± 0	46.3 ± 5.8	0 ± 0
89 HS 14	WT	31.3 ± 5.3	6.6 ± 2.5	12.6 ± 3.8	0 ± 0	1.0 ± 0.5	2.0 ± 1.0	11.9 ± 3.8	4.0 ± 2.2	0.3 ± 0.2	30.0 ± 5.3	0.3 ± 0.2
89 HS-16A	WT	24.4 ± 4.7	18.6 ± 4.4	7.4 ± 2.8	0 ± 0	0 ± 0	2.6 ± 1.0	1.0 ± 0.5	0.8 ± 0.5	0 ± 0	33.8 ± 5.5	0 ± 0
90 HS 45	WT	18.8 ± 4.4	10.0 ± 3.5	10.2 ± 3.5	3.4 ± 1.0	0 ± 0	3.2 ± 1.0	24.0 ± 4.8	3.0 ± 1.0	1.0 ± 0.5	26.4 ± 5.0	0 ± 0
90 HS-73C	WT	26.3 ± 5.0	10.0 ± 3.5	16.6 ± 4.1	0.5 ± 0.2	2.3 ± 1.1	0.6 ± 0.2	6.6 ± 2.5	2.0 ± 1.0	1.3 ± 0.5	0 ± 0	34.5 ± 5.6
$RA-24A$	WT	6.0 ± 2.2	42.3 ± 5.6	1.0 ± 0.5	0 ± 0	0 ± 0	3.0 ± 1.0	2.0 ± 1.0	23.0 ± 4.8	2.3 ± 1.0	0 ± 0	20.6 ± 4.6
$SV-9$	SV	32.0 ± 5.3	37.0 ± 5.6	1.6 ± 1.0	0 ± 0	0.6 ± 0.2	0.3 ± 0.2	0.3 ± 0.2	1.0 ± 0.5	0 ± 0	27 ± 5.1	0 ± 0
$SV-28C$	SV	29.0 ± 5.2	9.6 ± 3.3	2.6 ± 1.0	0 ± 0	0 ± 0	0.3 ± 0.2	0.3 ± 0.2	0 ± 0	0 ± 0	0 ± 0	57.9 ± 5.7
SV-155A	SV	25.0 ± 4.9	8.6 ± 3.2	6.3 ± 2.2	2.6 ± 1.0	0 ± 0	2.6 ± 1.0	2.2 ± 1.0	2.3 ± 1.0	0 ± 0	51 ± 5.8	0 ± 0
$SV-159$	SV	12.3 ± 3.9	11.0 ± 3.7	10.3 ± 3.5	3.6 ± 1.0	0.3 ± 0.2	0.6 ± 0.2	1.2 ± 0.5	0 ± 0	0 ± 0	60.6 ± 5.6	0 ± 0
$SV-164$	SV	36.0 ± 5.5	34.6 ± 5.6	1.0 ± 0.5	0.3 ± 0.2	0 ± 0	0 ± 0	2.0 ± 1.0	1.0 ± 0.5	1.3 ± 0.5	23.66 ± 4.8	0 ± 0
SV-Bab	SV	26.0 ± 5.0	8.0 ± 3.0	4.9 ± 2.2	1.24 ± 0.5	0 ± 0	1.2 ± 0.5	12.4 ± 4.0	3.7 ± 1.0	0 ± 0	0 ± 0	42.2 ± 5.6

Table 1: Modal composition of sandstones with percent errors. ET = East Timor, WT = West Timor, SV = Savu

U/Pb zircon age analyses were conducted on six detrital zircon bearing Triassic Gondwana Sequence sandstones in East Timor and Savu were analyzed. These samples were crushed and the <940µm size fraction was magnetically separated using the Carpco and Frantz magnetic separators. Heavy minerals were separated using tetraboroethelene. Zircons were then hand picked for analysis. Small sample size (we analyzed a total of 304 zircon grains) prevented a random selection from a large pool of zircons. U-Pb geochronology of zircons was conducted by laser ablation multicollector inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (LA-MC-ICPMS) at the Arizona LaserChron Center. Probability ages are based on ²⁰⁶Pb/ ²³⁸U for <1000 Ma grains and on ²⁰⁶Pb/ ²⁰⁷Pb for >1000 Ma grains. This division at 1000 Ma results from the increasing uncertainty of $^{206}Pb/^{238}U$ ages and the decreasing uncertainty of $^{206}Pb/^{207}Pb$ ages as a function of age. A full description of methods for detrital zircon analysis can be found in Gehrels et al. (2006).

Petrography

Gondwana Sequence sandstones we analyzed are mostly texturally immature, with large framework grains that are sub-angular to sub-rounded (Figure 6). Modal abundances show high percentages of quartz, but all samples have significant amounts of fresh, twinned feldspar (Figure 7), fresh mica (Figure 8) and lithic fragments (Figure 9). Modal abundances, in combination with high percentages of matrix, or matrix replacing cement show a compositional immaturity.

West Timor

Figure 6: Photomicrographs in cross polarized light showing sub-angular to sub-rounded sandstone textures of representative Triassic Gondwana Sequence sandstone from Timor and Savu.

500 µm EZ-151

West Timor

Figure 7: Photomicrographs in crossed polarized light of representative Triassic Gondwana Sequence sandstone from Timor and Savu showing the presence of fresh twinned feldspar grains (circled).

 $500 \mu m$ SV-28C $500 \mu m$ SV-28C $500 \mu m$ SV-9

Figure 8: Photomicrographs in cross polarized light of representative Triassic Gondwana Sequence sandstone from Timor and Savu showing the presence of fresh micas.

West Timor

Figure 9: Photomicrographs in plain polarized light of representative Triassic Gondwana Sequence sandstone from Timor and Savu showing the abundance of lithic grains (dark brown) and martix (light brown).

Classifications

Most sandstone samples plot as quartz wackes to lithic wackes (Figure 10) on the classification diagram of Williams (1982). Dickinson (1983) classification diagrams for sedimentary provenance indicate a recycled orogen provenance for most Gondwana Sequence sandstones throughout the Banda Orogen (Figure 11).

Detrital Zircon Analysis

In order to determine the age of the source area for Triassic units of the Gondwana Sequence detrital zircons were extracted from six sandstone samples. Five of these samples are from the island of Savu in Indonesia and one sample is from East Timor.

Zircons found in sandstones of the Gondwana Sequence are amber to clear, and pink to mauve in color with variable amounts of abrasion. Proterozoic zircons vary in color, but Paleozoic zircons are only amber to clear. Both abraided and pristine zircons are present although there is no apparent relationship between abrasion and age. Many zircons are concordant for all the samples, and some weak discordance is also found (Figure 12).

Peak ages show the largest peak at 254-385 and a smaller one at 1788 – 1874 (Figure 13 and 14). The mean ages for these two peaks are 301 Ma and 1882 Ma. Other minor peaks are found at 423-555 Ma, 847-912 Ma, 1157-1364 Ma and 2456-2738 Ma. Similar age ranges have been reported for the Permian Aileu Complex in Kisar (Harris, 2006) and northern East Timor (Ron Berry, personal communication). Detrital apatite fission track model ages for Gondwana Sequence Permian through Triassic sandstone

Figure 10: QFL diagram after Williams et al., (1982) for classification of sandstone from the Triassic Gondwana Sequence.

Figure 11: QFL sedimentary provenance based on Dickenson (1983) for Triassic Gondwana Sequence sandstone.

Figure 12: Concordia diagrams from detrital zircon analysis of Gondwana Sequence sandstones (see text). SV sampes are from Savu. Sample EZ-151 is from East Timor.

Figure 13: Probability age plots of detrital zircon analyses. These plots have been normalized so the area under the curve is the same for each sample regardless of number of analyses. Sample SV-159 has been excluded from this graph because of small number of grains analyzed.

Figure 14: Probability age plot of all detrital zircon analyses from this study. Major peaks are at 301 Ma and 1882 Ma. The youngest gain analyzed is 234.6 ± 4 Ma and the oldest grains are Archean, with a maximum age of 2725.3 ± 37.6 .

throughout Timor yield a similar source age of between 300 and 400 Ma (Harris et al., 2000). These results indicate that the source for Gondwana Sequence sandstones throughout the Banda Orogen is most likely the same from Savu to Kisar.

Origin of the Gondwana Sequence

Previous studies of the Triassic Babulu Formation of West Timor indicate a proximal source based on heavy mineral concentrations and wood fragments in sandstone (Cook, 1986; Bird and Cook, 1991). Petrographic analyses reported here of samples from East Timor and Savu also indicate a proximal source. These features include twinned feldspars, fresh biotite, and abundant lithic grains. These components of the sandstone would preferentially breakdown during long transport and extensive processing. The abundance of sub-angular grains also supports a short transport history.

Paleocurrent measurements of the Babulu Formation from silty turbidite ripples show a northeastern source, and paleocurrent measurements from sandy turbiditic flutes and ripples show an easterly source. Sediments were most likely shed from delta fronts and followed a subsiding basin (Bird and Cook, 1991). The petrographic analysis from this study reveals and increase in rounding from East Timor in the northeast to Savu in the southwest (Figure 6), which is consistent with the southwest paleocurrents as reported by Bird and Cook (1991).

A region to the east of the northwest Australian margin with similar zircon age ranges as that of the Gondwana Sequence is Northern Queensland in Australia. The Coen region of Northern Queensland underwent two major periods of crustal growth one during the Proterozoic (1800-1550 Ma) and another during the Palaeozoic (430-280 Ma)

(Blewett and Black, 1998). The Barramundi Orogeny at 1870 Ma (Page and Williams, 1988) corresponds to the Proterozoic peak age of 1872 Ma. Other Proterozoic events in the region include granitic plutons that intruded the Mount Isa region at 1800 Ma, 1740 Ma, 1690 Ma and 1670 Ma (Blake and Stewart, 1992).

Paleozoic events that correspond to Gondwana Sequence detrital zircons are also found in Northern Queensland. Apatite fission track ages from the Mount Isa Inlier crystalline rocks vary from 231 to 390 Ma (Spikings et al., 1997), which overlap those of the Timor Region. The youngest zircon analyzed from the Gondwana Sequence was 234.6 ± 4 Ma. The Kennedy Province, which extends from Cairns to Mornington Island in Australia, was emplaced at 300 Ma (Blewett and Black, 1998) which corresponds to the mean peak age from the Gondwana Sequence.

The chemistry of the Kennedy Province volcanics indicates that they erupted in an intraplate setting not associated with subduction (Blewett and Black, 1998). Provenance classifications of the Gondwana Sequence (Figure 11) do not have a significant arc signature that would be associated with subduction, as indicated by low percentages of lithics and feldspars.

A provenance study of New Guinea metasedimentary rocks that were deposited during the Mid to Late Permian report Northern Queensland as a sedimentary source (van Wyck and Williams, 2002). Similarities in peak ages between New Guinea and the Gondwana Sequence imply that they may have a similar sedimentary provenance. The depositional ages of these units are relatively close, which could indicate that the source region of Northern Queensland was shedding detrital material from the Permian through the Triassic westward along rift zones to northwest Australian margin.

Bird and Cook (1991) compared the sandstones of West Timor to age equivalent sandstones of the Bonaparte Basin and determined that they had different source locations based on modal abundances and heavy mineral content. Bonaparte Basin sandstones are also more mature than Timor Gondwana Sequence sandstones. Deposition in the Bonaparte Basin from Northern Queensland was prevented by the shape of the Australian Craton. This could explain differences seen in the sedimentology of the Gondwana Sequence and the Bonaparte Basin despite their close proximity to each other.

Although there is a strong correlation between Queensland granite ages and Timor region Gondwana Sequence detrital zircons, the distances the detritus would have to travel are inconsistent with the immature Gondwana Sequence sandstones. Paleogeographic reconstructions of the northwest Australian margin during the Permian through Jurassic (Stampfli and Borel, 2002) shows terranes to the north and northeast of the current Banda Orogen. These terranes rifted from the continent during the Jurassic to form Agroland, which is now located in southern Tibet (Charlton, 2000; Stampfli and Borel, 2002). We propose that the granites found in Queensland continued to the north into Argoland, providing a proximal source for the Gondwana Sequence.

There are other parts of northwest Australia with similar U/Pb zircon ages to those from Gondwana Sequence sandstones, such as the central and northwestern Australian Craton. Orogenic events during the Proterozoic that have similar age ranges as the detrital zircons of the Gondwana Sequence are the Halls Creek Orogeny, 1837 – 1826 Ma, (Bodorkos et al., 2000) and the Mount Stafford tectonic event.1818 – 1775 Ma (Collins and Williams, 1995). Reported age ranges for the Alice Springs Orogeny in

central Australia between 270 – 350 Ma (Dunlap, 1996) overlap for Paleozoic age ranges from the Gondwana Sequence. These sources, however, would require between 600 and 1000 km of transport. With a distal aerial source, the biotite, feldspar and lithic grains would not be as abundant and pristine as they are in the samples. This source region would also result in a southern source for the Gondwana Sequence. Since age equivalent sandstones from the Bonaparte Basin are more mature that those of the Banda Orogen (Bird and Cook, 1991) it is unlikely that these areas contributed as a source region. These possible source areas are also inconsistent with paleocurrent directions.

The Sibumasu Terrane, which was rifted from the northwest edge of Australia during the Permian (Burrett and Stait, 1986) and now forms portions of western Yunnan, Burma, northwest Thailand, western Malaysia, and northwest Sumatra (Metcalfe, 1996) has been suggested as a source for the Maubisse Formation due to fining southwards (Carter et al., 1976). The Malay Peninsula has Proterozoic Basement (Liew and Page, 1985), which indicates that it rifted from Australia as part of the Sibumasu Terrane. The major Paleozoic event for this region is the emplacement of the Malay-Thai Tin Granites. These granites yield ages around 220 Ma (Cobbing et al., 1992), which is younger than any detrital zircons from Timor region Gondwana Sequence units.

Paleogeographic reconstruction of Southeast Asia during the Permian and Triassic show rapid northward movement of the Sibumasu Terrane after it rifted from the Australian continent (Metcalfe, 2000; Stampfli and Borel, 2002). The ages of the Malay-Thai Tin Granites and the paleogeography of the Sibumasu Terrane indicate that this is not a possible source region for the Gondwana Sequence.

We conclude that the best possible source region for the Gondwana Sequence sandstones is Argoland, which rifted from the Australian continent during the Jurassic. This region satisfies sandstone maturity and paleocurrent data, but we must infer that Argoland is part of the Mount Isa granite belt.

Rock Unit Affinities

 Banda Terrane volcanic units have igneous zircons of 32 Ma (Harris, 2006) and detrital zircons in metamorphic units are as young as 80 Ma (Standley and Harris, in press). The youngest analyzed zircon from the Gondwana Sequence is 234.6 ± 4.0 Ma. This contrast in ages provides a new application for determining tectonic affinities of various terranes that make up the Banda Orogen.

EAST TIMOR STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS

Structural measurements of bedding, fold axial surface, fault and fractures planes were acquired in four traverses of East Timor (Figure 2) in order to determine the geometry of accreted Gondwana Sequence units and to construct a kinematic evolution.

 Bedding plane measurements from West and East Timor mostly strike northeastsouthwest and indicate a northwest-southeast shortening direction during the collision of the Australian continent with the Banda Arc (Figure 15). The maximum principle compressional stress direction (σ_1) is inferred from the direction of shortening, which is perpendicular to pi-pole of poles to bedding. The fold hinge line is parallel to the pi-pole and is sub-parallel to the axis of the island of Timor. Most axial surfaces dip to the northwest, showing a dominantly southeast vergence direction for shortening of

Figure 15: Structural measurements throughout Timor (lower hemisphere equal area projection). A) Stereograph of poles to bedding planes from East and West Timor, including measurements taken from the Cribas to Fatu Berliu and Maubisse regions. Cylindrical best fit line (red) approximates σ_1 , pole to cylindrical best fit line is approximation of fold hinge lines. B) Poles to fold axial surfaces from the Cribas to Fatu Berliu corridor. Pole to cylindrical bast fir predicts orientation of fold hinge lines. C) Mode one fracture measurements from syn-orogenic deposits throughout Timor and Alor (Mikolas and Harris, 1996). The large pedal shows the prevailing regional stresses near parrallel to cylindrical best fit of poles to bedding planes. Secondary direction is parallel to plate motion vector (Genrich et al., 1996).

Gondwana Sequence (Figure 15). Mode 1 fracture measurements from the Gondwana Sequence show random distribution due mostly to their pre-orogenic structural inheritance development. However, fracture measurements from syn-orogenic units on the island of Timor and Alor (Mikolas and Harris, 1996) indicate a maximum stress direction that is northwest-southeast (Figure 15). The same orientation of fractures is seen in sonar images of the pre-collisional accretionary wedge south of Sumba (Breen et al., 1986). The secondary stress direction in the northeast-southwest direction is similar to the short axis of borehole breakouts drilled on the Australian continental shelf (Hillis, 1991).

Macroscopic folds in East Timor are mostly asymmetric with a steeply inclined to overturned forelimb. Line length shortening of folds varies from 7 and 82 percent, with an average of 35 percent $(N=14)$. Broad amplitude, recumbent and chevron folding are all present (Figure 16). Most folds are concentric with flexural slip of competent units, flexural flow of shale and mudstone, and some neutral surface deformation.

 The four transects from the Cribas region of East Timor were divided into structural domains based on bedding plane measurements. The Turquetti transect (Figure 17) crosses the previous mapped Cribas anticline of Audley-Charles (1968), which he interpreted as a series of east-west trending anticlines and synclines. One structural domain in this region has opposing dips, suggesting an anticline. However bedding plane attitudes and axial surfaces in this area show a southwest-northeast trend as opposed to the previously mapped east-west trend. The Aitutu anticline to the west also has a welldocumented southwest-northeast strike (Harris et al., 2000).

Figure 16: Mesoscale structures from central East Timor. A) Overturned fold from Turquetti traverse, looking west. B) Upright anticline from Soibada traverse, looking east. C) Asymmetric upright fold from Soibada traverse, looking northeast. D) Soibada traverse, looking west. E) Asymmetric upright fold from the Soibada traverse, looking northwest. F) Recumbant fold verging south from the Aitutu region, looking northeast.

Figure 17: Turquetti structural map with rock types and units. Black lines indicate structural domain boundaries. Blue dot on stereographs represent the mean vector, and blue circle represents the 95% confidence cone. (See figure 2 for location).

 Distinct structural domains from the Cribas transect (Figure 18) are not found. Bedding measurements from this area dominantly dip to the northwest, which is similar to fold backlimb measurements from other traverses. The lack of forelimb structural domains could be a result of the more durable orientation of backlimb dip slopes.

In the northern portion of the Soibada transect (Figure 19) there are numerous meso-scale folds. Strike domains trend in a southwest-northeast direction. The southern portion of the Soibada transect is geometrically similar features to the north (Figure 20). Abundant axial surfaces measurements from the Soibada transect clearly indicate a northwest-southeast maximum stress direction and mostly southeast vergence.

 The Fatu Berliu transect (Figure 20) has a number of small dip domains with alternating dip directions. An abundance of short wavelength folds results in the small dip domain boundaries.

Structural measurements and structural domain boundaries all support a northwest-southeast maximum stress direction for the deformation of the Banda Orogen. This observation explains general patterns of the distribution of geologic units throughout Timor. Klippen of Banda Terrane are preserved mostly in northeast-southwest trending synclinoriums (Figure 4) parallel to the Aitutu and Cribas anticlines, and meso-scale folds in the Gondwana Sequence. Previous explanations for the orientation of these massifs included large strike-slip faults cutting through the island (Charlton, 2002), yet no evidence for the inferred faults is found. We propose that the synclines where the Banda Terrane outcrops are a result in part of structural inheritance-that the Gondwana Sequence is influenced by older rift structures, some of which may be reactivated precollision structural geometry of the passive continental margin Australian shelf.

Figure 18: Cribas structural map with lithologic units. Structural domains are not spatially distinct. (See figure 2 for location).

Figure 19: Northern Soibada structural domain map with rock types and units. Black lines indicate boundaries between structural domains. (See figure 2 for location).

Figure 20: Southern Soibada (right) and Fatu Berliu (left) structural domain maps with rock types and units. Black lines indicate boundaries between structural domains. (See figure 2 for location).

Cross Section

Although most Gondwana Sequence units are gently dipping to the northwest, dip domains of steeply inclined beds are also found in numerous locations along the crossisland structural transect. These observations, along with those of meso-scale folds, indicate fault propagation or detachment folding mechanisms. Structural domains of intense folding found in the Soibada traverse we infer formed as a result of flexural slip deformation within larger fold structures. Just how large the folds are, and how they maybe related to thrusting, were determined through lithostratigraphic analysis.

Lithostratigraphic similarities between clastic-rich units of the Gondwana Sequence can make it difficult to establish stratigraphic position. The Aitutu Formation is the most reliable marker unit for structural reconstructions, but other lithologic features were also used, such as red shale interbedded with white limestones and conglomerates found mostly in the Wailuli Formation of the Soibada traverse (Figures 19 and 20). Massive sandstones were also found with Halobia-bearing shales, which we interpret as the Babulu Formation (Figure 19) at the top of the Aitutu. The Babulu Formation is interbedded with the top of the Aitutu and the base of the Wailuli Formation (Figure 3) but exposure in East Timor is not common. The Niof Formation, like the Babulu Formation is interbedded with the Aitutu Formation (Figure 3), this formation is also not commonly exposed in East Timor. Repetition of these units associated with stratigraphic truncation thrust shortening with minor folding.

These observations provide general geometric constraints for reconstructing the size of thrust sheets and depths of detachment. The lack of pre-Permian or post-Jurassic units in the repeated sections of Gondwana Sequence indicates multiple detachments and

duplex structures. Cretaceous to Pliocene units of the Kolbano Sequence are detaching above the Wailuli Formation and the Gondwana Sequence is detaching from pre-Permian units. The roof thrust of the duplex along most, if not all of the structural transect is the Lolotoi Complex and in places its sedimentary cover, which are both part of the Asian affinity Banda Terrane. The basal detachment of the duplex has not been observed.

The exposed Banda Terrane is part of a synclinorium, we propose as a structural low in the duplex zone. Gravity models predict that the Banda Terrane is no more than 3 km thick (Chamalaun et al., 1975). We projected structure into the region from the west to construct a forward model with variation in the length and displacement of thrust sheets to produce a synform for the Banda Terrane (Figure 21). The northern thrust stack in the model represents the Aitutu anticline region, which plunges beneath the Banda Terrane (Standley and Harris, in press). The southern thrust stack is constrained by exposures in the Soibada region.

After generating a forward model that fit the general geometry needed to create a synform beneath the Banda Terrane, the model was modified to fit the observed data (Figure 22). The angle of the thrust faults was increased in order to shorten the spacing between the tops of the trust sheets, indicating that the amount of displacement of younger thrust sheets is greater than predicted by the model. Thrust sheets were added or removed using similar geometries as needed to satisfy the observed data. The final model was restored and line balanced. Restoration of the cross-section predicts an initial line length for the sedimentary package of 101 km and a deformed length of 48 km. This shows that the deformed section has been shortened by approximately 48%. With a

Figure 21: Forward models of thrusting on Timor. A) thrusting of the Kekneno Series with a top of basement decollment. B) 2 km of basement involved in thrusting. Basement involved thrusting creates structural relief that is greater than observed, and would expose basement at the surface.

Figure 22: Cross-section showing duplexed Kekneno Series beneath the Banda Terrane. Line of section shown on Figure 5. Balance section includes the top of Wailuli, Aitutu and Permian clastics. Thrust sheets on restored section are numbered in order of deformation (1 is accreted first). Thrust sheet number eight has is included on lower section for reference.

convergence rate of 68 km/Ma this deformation would take less than 1 Ma if all the convergence was taken-up at this location when it was connected to the deformation front.

The geometry of the ramp anticlines of each thrust sheet in relation to the Banda Terrane roof thrust leave large gaps. These gaps between the thrust sheets and the Banda Terrane are filled with mélange as is commonly observed throughout Timor, where the eroded tops of thrust sheets protrude through blankets of mélange (Harris et al., 1998).

The question of what is below the Gondwana Sequence duplex depends on the geometry of the orogenic wedge, the dip of its basal thrust and how much space there is to fill. The northern-most Aileu complex experienced peak metamorphism at 20 km depth at the onset of collision around 5-8 Ma (Berry and McDougal, 1986); therefore the orogenic wedge must extend at least to this depth. Measurements of the total area of the orogenic wedge (1243 km^2) divided by the pre-shortened thickness of the Gondwana Sequence of 3 km indicates an initial line length for the undeformed section of 414 km. The deformed length of the accretionary wedge from the Wetar Suture (north coast of Timor) to the Timor is trough is 155 km. This indicates a maximum of 63% shortening of the Gondwana Sequence in a northwest-southeast direction sub-parallel to the trends of lithotectonic units and uplifted parts of the orogen. Total shortening is most likely less than this due to the involvement of some pre-Permian units in the deformation. GPS velocity measurements indicate that the Australian plate is moving to the north-northeast relative to the Asian plate at a rate of 68 mm/yr (Genrich et al., 1996; Nugroho et al., 2004). Northwest-southeast transport of the Gondwana Sequence is oblique to this motion and is inferred to be controlled by the orientation of the plate boundary and

inheriting structure of the Australian margin (Figure 4). The plate boundary was near east-west before collision and has taken on the west-southwest to east-northeast orientation of the northwest Australian continental margin (Harris, 1991).

The depth of the orogenic wedge presents a space problem within the orogenic wedge between the basal detachment of the Gondwana Sequence duplex and the basal thrust of the orogen. Extending the Gondwana Sequence duplex to the base of the orogen requires long, narrow thrust sheets, not viable with structural models or consistent with the strength of the rocks involved. One possible solution to this problem is to increase the thickness of the thrust sheets by including pre-Permian basement. However, by so doing there is a non-viable increase in structural relief, and there would also be exposures on the surface of pre-Permian units, which are not documented anywhere in the Banda Arc (Figure 21). In order to fill the necessary area we propose that there are multiple duplex zones beneath the upper-most stack of Gondwana Sequence. With the above section accounting for only 1 Ma of the total 5-8 Ma of deformation a larger section of Gondwana Sequence is required to account for the total shortening estimate. Therefore we conclude that there are multiple duplex zones of Gondwana Sequence in the Banda Orogen accretionary wedge.

GRAVITY MODELING AND TECTONIC EVOLUTION OF THE BANDA FOREARC

The question of how the Banda forearc upper plate responds to the collision of the Australian continental is one that is pertinent to the tectonic evolution of arc-continent collision in general The sutures of most ancient collision zones obscure the tectonic

evolution of the pre-collisional forearc region. Whether this large slab of lithosphere in the Banda Arc is underthrust (Price and Audley Charles, 1983), overthrust (Hamilton, 1979), or laterally-displaced by strike-slip faulting (Rutherford et al., 2001) is unconstrained. Deep seismic profiles through the Banda Arc were unable to resolve the position or geometry of the forearc (Snyder et al., 1996).

Here we use the known gravity field to test various models proposed for the tectonic evolution of the forearc. The Banda forearc is 200 km wide north of Savu, and at least 30 km thick near Sumba. However, in the collision zone it progressively narrows towards East Timor where it is not found. Although thin fragments of forearc are found structurally overlying Australian affinity units on Timor Island, these klippen only account for a small amount of pre-collisional forearc volume. Gondwana Sequence units found directly beneath these thin klippen of Banda Terrane show no evidence of having been thrust beneath a thick forearc slab, with the exception of the northern-most Aileu Complex (Harris et al., 2000). We use the gravity field to determine the location of the large forearc slab. The density contrast between the forearc and the Australian continental margin units have a large effect on the gravity field.

Gravity measurements from onshore central East Timor were acquired along the north-south road from Dili to the south coast through villages of Aileu, Maubisse and Same (Chamalaun et al., 1976). We projected these measurements onto a straight line oriented in a north-south direction. The line continues offshore where gravity measurements were estimated from the bouguer anomaly map of Kaye and Milsom (1988). No terrane correction has been applied; however the expected size of the

correction is less then the wavelengths of features in the model, which is a two dimensional approximation.

The obliquity of the collision is such that Savu is at the initial stages of arccontinent collision, while East Timor is the most deformed area of the Banda Orogen (Harris, 1991). We use the forearc geometry in Savu as a template for the undeformed forearc of the Banda Orogen (Vorkink, 2004). Structural models for East Timor must account for the area of forearc observed in Savu. Previous models for the deformation of the Banda forearc include the insertion model in which the forearc is thrust below the accretionary wedge of Timor and delaminates the upper cover sequences from the lower Australian continental crust (Harris, 1991; Audley-Charles, 2004). A similar model to this was also presented by Price and Audley-Charles (1983), but in this model the forearc delaminates the Australian crust from its underlying mantle. Another model for the deformation of the forearc is the displacement model of Harris (2003). In this model the forearc is displaced to the north with the zone of active volcanism. A model proposed by Rutherford et al., (2001) displaces the forearc north of Timor laterally to the west through strike slip faulting. We also propose a new model here in which the forearc and the backarc have been thickened through a series of thrusts. We test each model here against the observed gravity fixing all other variables except the position of forearc lithosphere.

The densities of each body in the models were maintained throughout each test. Densities for surface units in the Banda Orogen were measured directly by Chamalaun et al., (1975). Density values in those areas not accessible for direct measurements were inferred using the Nafe-Drake curve and seismic velocities measured by Bowin et al., (1980). We chose an upper mantle density of 3.6 $g/cm³$ based on seismic velocities

rather than measurements of mantle rocks on the surface, due to problems with using surface measurements as a proxy for conditions in the mantle.

In order to address the problem of non-uniqueness for gravity models the following geological and geophysical constraints were used for each test:

- 1. A wedge of accreted Australian Continental margin units that account for at least 250 km of shortening and are 20-25 km thick near the point of highest topography.
- 2. Klippen of Banda Terrane between 3 and 5 km thick.
- 3. 25 km thick volcanic arc with a density of 2.8 $g/cm³$.
- 4. South dipping Flores/Wetar thrust system north of the Banda Arc (Silver et al., 1983; 1986; Breen and Silver, 1989; and Snyder et al., 1996).
- 5. Continental margin crust that is 40 km thick and is transitional with oceanic crust that is 8 km thick over a distance of 300 km (Symonds et al., 1998).
- 6. A continental lithospheric thickness of 230 km (Bowman and Kennet, 1990) and an oceanic lithosphere thickness of 80 km (Caldwell and Turcotte, 1979).
- 7. Continental lower crust with a density of 2.7 $g/cm³$, continental upper mantle density of 3.6 $g/cm³$ (Bowin et al., 1980) with a thickness of 230 km (Bowman and Kennet, 1990) and an asthenospheric density of 3.7 $g/cm³$.
- 8. Oceanic crustal thickness of 10 km and a density of 2.8 $g/cm³$ (Bowin et al., 1980). An oceanic upper mantle density of 3.6 $g/cm³$ (Bowin et al., 1980) and an upper mantle thickness of 80 km (Caldwell and Turcotte, 1979)
- 9. Forearc cross-sectional area of 5886 km^2 .

10. Forearc orogenic wedge densities of 2.2 $g/cm³$ for the Wailuli Formation and synorogenics, 2.4 g/cm³ for the Kolbano Sequence, 2.67 g/cm³ for the Gondwana Sequence, 2.9 $g/cm³$ for the Aileu and the Banda Terrane (Chamalaun et al., 1975).

The forearc insertion model assumes no internal deformation of the forearc, which maintains its integrity by inserting into the incoming Australian continental margin and delaminating cover from basement units. This model was presented most recently by Audley-Charles (2004), but the boundary conditions do not fit the observed gravity field (Figure 23). It is also important to note that the entire area of the forearc present in the undeformed Savu section (Vorking, 2004) is not accounted for in the model presented by Audley-Charles (2004). Modifying the underthrust model to accommodate the full area of the forearc does not fit the observed gravity, and still requires further modifications before it can be considered a viable solution for the collision zone (Figure 24).

Another proposed model for the forearc is to displace the entire subducting slab, and location of the active arc to the north, as presented by Harris (2003). This model would explain the presence of volcanoes in the Banda Sea north of the Banda Arc (Figure 1). The location of the forearc in this model is ambiguous, but using the geometries presented better satisfies the onshore gravity, but does not account for the steep gravity gradient north of Timor (Figure 25). The same reason for a misfit in this model also applies to the lateral displacement model of Rutherford et al. (2001).

The best-fit model that accounts for the full area of forearc lithosphere requires internal thickening of the forearc and stacking it beneath the region that includes the north coast of Timor and the now inactive volcanic arc (Figure 26).

Figure 23: Gravity model of collisional geometry presented by Audley-Charles (2004) where forearc basement splits incoming cover sequences from underlying basement of Australian continental margin. Open circles represent offshore gravity data from Kaye and Milsom (1988). Filled circles from Chamalaun et al. (1975). The calculated gravity profile (this solid line) is the predicted gravity from this model and the residual (dashed) represents the difference between the calculated and observed gravity. Densities are in $g/cm³$. Line of section shown on figure 5.

Figure 24: Modification of Audley-Charles (2004) in which the area of the forearc as calculated from Vorkink (2004) has been maintained. See figure 23 for other details.

Figure 25: Displacement model of Harris (2003) in which the location of the active arc and forearc have been displace northward. This model and the lateral displacement model of Rutherford et al. (2001) also does not account for the steep gravity gradient north of Timor. See figure 23 for other details.

Figure 26: Area-balanced thickening model in which the forearc has been thickened in the initial stages of subduction erosion. See figure 23 for other details.

Arc magmatism north of Timor ended at 1-3 Ma (Abbott and Chamalaun, 1981; Silver et al., 1983). The best-fit model accounts for this by the insertion of cold forearc lithosphere into the asthenospheric wedge. We have extended the forearc along the subducting slab, which would cool the region formerly partial melting to produce arc magmatism. We hypothesize that this model is in the initial stages of subduction erosion, which eventually causes destruction of the forearc region.

The steep gravity gradient north of Timor is one of the steepest gradients documented on earth (McBride and Karig, 1987). It has been modeled as a local dense body of mantle by Milsom and Audley-Charles (1986). However, this model does not account for the location of the massive forearc slab. We prefer to use an internally thickened forearc beneath northern Timor and the arc to explain this anomaly because it is more consistent with other tectonic features. One of these features is high, but locally variable uplift rates of the south coast of the inactive volcanic arc, which should be subsiding due to thermal contraction, and coral terraces along the north coast of East Timor (Cox et al., 2006). From our modeling we conclude that the steep increase in gravity toward the back arc is a result of increasing thickness of the shortened forearc beneath the Banda Arc.

CONCLUSIONS

• The Gondwana Sequence was deposited by a proximal source to the northeast based on fresh mica, twinned feldspar, abundant lithic fragments, textural immaturity, and paleocurrent data.

- Detrital zircon ages for the Gondwana Sequence range from $254 385$ and $1788 -$ 1874. Age similarities of detrital zircon and model ages of apatite grains of the Permian and Triassic Gondwana Sequence from East Timor to Savu indicate the same source for all Gondwana Sequence sandstones. The ages correspond closely with those from Northern Queensland and New Guinea, but these regions are too distant to account for its proximal facies indicators. We propose an Argoland source that would be an extension of the Northern Queensland granite belt that was rifted from the northwest margin of the Australia in the Jurassic.
- Differences in U/Pb detrital zircon ages between the Gondwana Sequence and the Banda Terrane provides a new application for distinguishing which units are of Australian affinity or Asian affinity.
- Structural measurements from the Gondwana Sequence in central East Timor indicate a maximum stress direction of northwest-southeast and fold axes oriented northeast-southwest, which is the same direction as rift structures of the northwest Australian margin. The maximum stress direction is a result of the upper plate accretionary backstop orientation (northeast-southwest). Most structures on Timor are sub-parallel to the Australian Continental margin indicating the influence of structural inheritance.
- Fault propagation folding is the dominate method of shortening for the Gondwana Sequence. Meso-scale folds have an average shortening of 35%. Total shortening for the Gondwana Sequence is approximately 50%, based on local line length and regional area balancing methods.

• The most likely method of forearc shortening north of East Timor is under stacking beneath the volcanic arc and north coast of Timor, which continues into the Holocene as indicated by uplifted coral terraces.

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Sample	Location	Latitude (S)	Longitude (N)	Rounding	Sorting	Grain Size	Contacts	Cementing	
EZ-151	East Timor	819321	9010976	SA	Moderatelly	UF to VF	Point	Matrix	
EZ-70	East Timor	825611	9019284	SA	Well	VF	Point	Matrix	
EZ-69	East Timor	825445	9019036	SA	Well	LF to VF	Point	Calcite	
EZ-88	East Timor	825217	9022536	SA	Well	VF	Point	Matrix	
89 HS-11A	West Timor	786237	9023313	SR	Moderatelly Well	LF to VF	Long	Calcite	
89 HS 14	West Timor	753095	9023158	SR	Poorly	UM to VF	Long	Calcite	
90 HS 45	West Timor	782366	9025809	SA	Poorly	UM to VF	Long	Matrix	
89 HS-16A	West Timor	777191	9006934	SA-SR	Well	VF	Long	Calcite	
90 HS-73C	West Timor	781958	9041454	SA	Moderatelly Well	LF to VF	Point	Calcite	
$RA-24A$	West Timor	787491	9055701	SA	Well	VF	Long	Calcite	
$SV-9$	Savu	362402	8829691	SA-SR	Poorly	LC to F/VF	Long and Point	Matrix	
SV-159	Savu	375147	8832885	SA	Well	F to VF	Point	Matrix	
SV-155A	Savu	375419	8826472	SA	Well	F to VF	Point	Calcite	
$SV-28C$	Savu	376130	8827396	SR	Poorly	LC to VF	Point	Calcite	
SV-Bab	Savu		South part of island		Well	F to VF	Point	Calcite	
SV-164	Savu	371652	8826375	SR	Poorly Sorted	UC to F/VF	Long	Matrix	

Appendix 1: Petrographic descriptions

Latitude and Longitude measurements are in UTM (m). SA = Sub-Angular, SR = Sub-rounded, LC = Lower Coarse, UM = Upper Medium $UF = Upper Fine, LF = Lower Fine, VF = Very Fine. Calculate cement is from an altered matrix.$

U	206Pb	U/Th	207Pb*	\pm	206Pb*	\pm	error	206Pb*	\pm	207Pb*	\pm	206Pb*	\pm	Best age	\pm
(ppm)	204Pb		235U	(%)	238U	(%)	corr.	238U	(Ma)	235U	(Ma)	207Pb*	(Ma)	(Ma)	(Ma)
SV-164															
478	5993	0.8	4.83611	10.5	0.29158	10.3	0.98	1649.4	149.8	1791.2	88.4	1960.5	34.5	1960.5	34.5
554	62951	1.8	3.78429	2.1	0.27692	1.3	0.62	1575.8	18.3	1589.4	17.1	1607.5	31.3	1607.5	31.3
821	15777	1.2	5.60178	4.7	0.34704	4.2	0.89	1920.4	69.6	1916.4	40.4	1912.0	37.5	1912.0	37.5
58	12782	0.5	4.66157	3.8	0.31333	3.3	0.86	1757.1	50.8	1760.4	32.0	1764.3	35.2	1764.3	35.2
191	32616	1.4	5.58408	2.2	0.34745	1.1	0.50	1922.4	18.4	1913.6	19.0	1904.1	34.3	1904.1	34.3
172	30416	0.4	3.97884	1.9	0.28909	1.0	0.53	1637.0	14.5	1629.9	15.5	1620.7	30.2	1620.7	$30.2\,$
187	5624	1.0	0.38458	6.2	0.04966	4.4	0.71	312.4	13.4	330.4	17.6	458.9	98.0	312.4	13.4
98	17777	0.6	3.85131	2.6	0.28429	1.6	0.60	1612.9	22.2	1603.5	21.1	1591.2	39.3	1591.2	39.3
321	58599	2.1	5.55345	2.4	0.34662	1.3	0.54	1918.5	21.7	1908.9	20.7	1898.5	36.3	1898.5	36.3
127	32367	0.6	2.14922	2.3	0.19809	1.5	0.64	1165.0	15.7	1164.8	15.9	1164.4	35.0	1164.4	35.0
184	45124	1.0	5.40695	2.7	0.34113	1.0	0.37	1892.1	16.4	1886.0	23.1	1879.2	45.1	1879.2	45.1
276	55570	0.8	5.53000	3.7	0.34602	2.8	0.76	1915.5	46.4	1905.3	31.7	1894.1	43.2	1894.1	43.2
113	21956	1.0	5.31996	4.1	0.33959	2.0	0.49	1884.7	32.8	1872.1	34.7	1858.1	63.8	1858.1	63.8
126	33332	1.1	5.80313	2.0	0.35109	1.0	0.49	1939.8	16.8	1946.9	17.7	1954.4	31.8	1954.4	31.8
534	32672	1.8	1.39164	2.4	0.14741	1.9	0.78	886.4	15.4	885.4	14.1	882.8	30.8	886.4	15.4
424	52384	3.0	5.61938	2.7	0.34528	2.2	0.83	1912.0	36.7	1919.1	23.0	1926.7	26.5	1926.7	26.5
80	9031	0.9	1.45838	4.9	0.15072	1.0	0.20	905.0	8.4	913.3	29.6	933.5	98.9	905.0	8.4
333	15751	1.3	0.41085	3.2	0.05331	1.1	0.36	334.8	3.7	349.5	9.4	448.0	66.0	334.8	3.7
76	8347	0.5	2.43725	6.3	0.20804	2.2	0.35	1218.3	24.5	1253.7	45.4	1314.8	114.6	1314.8	114.6
187	6625	1.2	1.00155	4.0	0.11296	2.7	0.68	689.9	17.7	704.6	20.1	751.6	60.9	689.9	17.7
449	54538	1.2	5.31824	5.3	0.33860	4.4	0.84	1879.9	72.4	1871.8	45.4	1862.8	52.7	1862.8	52.7
469	11656	1.9	5.87448	8.3	0.35789	6.0	0.72	1972.1	101.2	1957.5	72.0	1942.0	102.9	1942.0	102.9
544	8601	1.5	5.23791	7.3	0.32281	5.8	0.80	1803.5	91.6	1858.8	62.3	1921.3	78.9	1921.3	78.9
371	48453	3.6	4.85669	6.5	0.31196	4.2	0.65	1750.3	64.8	1794.8	54.9	1846.8	89.8	1846.8	89.8
333	77391	1.0	5.32634	2.0	0.33957	1.1	0.54	1884.6	17.3	1873.1	16.7	1860.4	29.6	1860.4	29.6
375	17417	1.4	5.17168	7.5	0.32841	6.5	0.87	1830.7	103.5	1848.0	63.6	1867.5	66.7	1867.5	66.7
75	9985	1.2	1.46576	2.2	0.14773	1.5	0.68	888.2	12.1	916.4	13.0	984.8	32.1	888.2	12.1

Appendix 2: U-Pb (Zircon) Geochronologic Analysis Multicollector Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry

All uncertainties are reported at the 1-sigma level, and include only measurement errors.

Systematic errors would increase age uncertainties by 1-2%

U concentration and U/Th are calibrated relative to NIST SRM 610 and are accurate to ~20%.

Common Pb correction is from 204Pb, with composition interpreted from Stacey and Kramers (1975) and uncertainties

of 1.0 for 206Pb/ 204Pb, 0.3 for 207Pb/ 204Pb, and 2.0 for 208Pb/ 204Pb.

U/Pb and 206Pb/ 207Pb fractionation is calibrated relative to fragments of a large Sri Lanka zircon of 564 ± 4 Ma (2-sigma).

U decay constants and composition as follows: 238U = 9.8485 x 10 -10, 235U = 1.55125 x 10 -10, 238U/ 235U = 137.88

Turquetti Measurements										
Bedding		Bedding					Axial Surfaces Mode 1 Fractures Faults			
Strike Dip		Stike	Dip	Strike Dip		Strike Dip		Strike Dip		Type
	0174261 S	354	28	20	62	15	90	278	50	
	9037884 E	320	24	240	25	205	84	266	60	
243	46	278	20	280	14	241	40	120	30	
260	30	280	32	31	$\sqrt{5}$	250	60	260	48	
220	38	310	30	278	26	284	70	110	60	
240	26	320	$22\,$	270	$8\,$	314	82	80	33	
266	25	245	47	140	48	340	88	328	38	
246	58	331	35	172	40	270	62	130	86	Normal
196	60	311	43			86	90	326	66	
222	32	280	48			124	22	57	31	Thrust
180	18	290	45					354	35	Thrust
	0174364 S	289	40					200	20	
	9037612 E	282	50					351	26	
49	28	300	40					211	38	
40	31	310	50					83	45	
94	25		0175706 S					206	20	Thrust
61	25		9040016 E					272	$20\,$	
43	20	300	41					270	46	
40	$8\,$	267	20							
68	8	276	16							
270	10	252	$22\,$							
82	12	290	20							
134	19	273	24							
90	24	103	30							
183	12	250	12							
100	9	90	30							
94	31	241	21							
58	28	280	26							
43	26	272	18							
350	41	318	12							
7 49	50 40	336 276	15							
52	40		26 43							
		280								
103 46	10 38	20 320	28 25							
79	31	256	24							
	25		42							
59 57	10	211 186	30							
42	12	230	40							
38	30 28		0176741 S 9043062 E							
10 352	22	50	80							
	20	48	82							
13										
0174748 S 9039090 E		236 320	48 58							
368	10									

Appendix 3: Timor structural measurements (using right hand rule) (Lat. And Long. In UTM)

