

# An Application of Principal Component Analysis (PCA) using XRF data to delineate the continentality factor over beach sediments from Vengurla, West Coast, Sindhudurg district, Maharashtra, India

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**Abstract:** We present here a novel approach of PCA to delineate the oceanic versus continental influence during pre-, mid and post monsoon seasons (PRM, MON, POM) over beach sedimentation at Vengurla along the west coast of India in Sindhudurg district, Maharashtra. PCA conducted over the XRF elemental results from 2003-2004 indicate a factor loading F1 for 2003 depicting predominant 'oceanic detrital' process and F2 as 'continental weathering' process. F1 for 2004 indicated 'continental weathering' with subdued 'oceanic detrital' process. F1 for the MON 2003 indicate 'continental detrital' process, and F2 subdued 'continental weathering' process. F1 for 2004 reveals 'continental detrital' and F2 'continental weathering' process. The overwhelming impact of monsoon can be inferred from this correlation. F1 for 2003 and 2004 POM as well can be assigned to 'continental detrital' process, and F2 to subdued 'continental weathering' process. The geochemical changes at Vengurla are season dependent, wherein hinterland is drained by monsoonal precipitation. The factor loading approach on mineral magnetic and geochemical data thus presents a precise semiquantitative method to delineate the continental and oceanic influence on the beach placers.

**Keywords:** PCA, beach, oceanic, continental

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Surface samples collected at 6 arrays on the Vengurla beach were investigated using XRF analyses to categorize their composition to understand the nature of source lithology and the prevailing energy conditions on the beach by using major geochemical elements and factor analysis. The Vengurla beach is one of the important beaches of Sindhudurg district having an extent of almost 4.5 km. The geochemical composition reflects the relative presence of heavy and light minerals. The samples were collected in three different seasons (Premonsoon, Monsoon and Postmonsoon) for a period of two years from 2003 to 2004. According to [1] the geochemical entities found on the beaches comes largely from basic volcanic constituting dense minerals. The objective of the present study is to understand continental and oceanic input to the beach under investigation.

## 2. THE STUDY AREA

Vengurla beach has a width ranging from 30 to 150 m and has a length of 4.5 km (15°44'-15°52' N, 73°35'-73°40' E; Fig. 1) situated at an elevation of 1 m, which is microtidal and has semi-diurnal tides, waves are plunging of ~1.0 m height with a wave period of 5-6 sec and multiple breakers. The rainfall is 300-470 cm/y.

The lithology (Fig. 2) around Vengurla beach consists of granites, banded haematitequartzites, amphibolites and schists of garnetiferous variety [2]. The beach lies close to the town of Vengurla having bold to moderate relief. On the east side of the beach are the lofty Sahyadri hills and some deep valleys that forms its hinterland. Vengurlahas a coastline that is rocky to its north, but not to the south. Karli River is seen to flow in east-west direction to the north of Vengurla beach. Two more rivulets are seen to debouch into the Arabian Sea at the north and south end of the Vengurlaport hill. In general, the drainage pattern around Vengurla and also the Konkan sector is genetically related to the tectonics which have structurally deformed the geological formations[3].

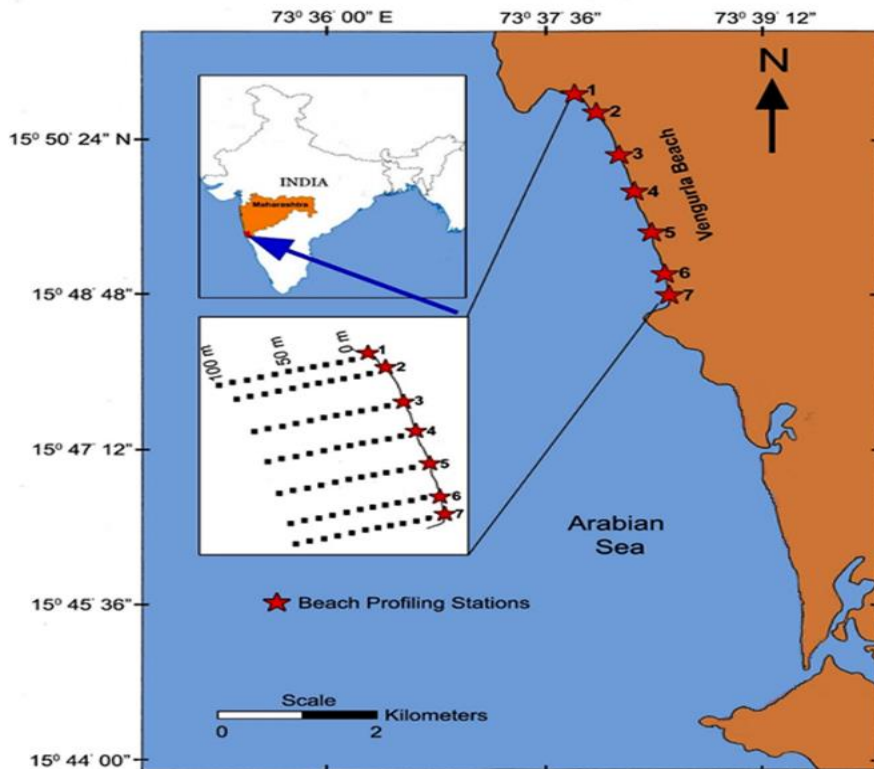


Fig. 1. Location map of the study area

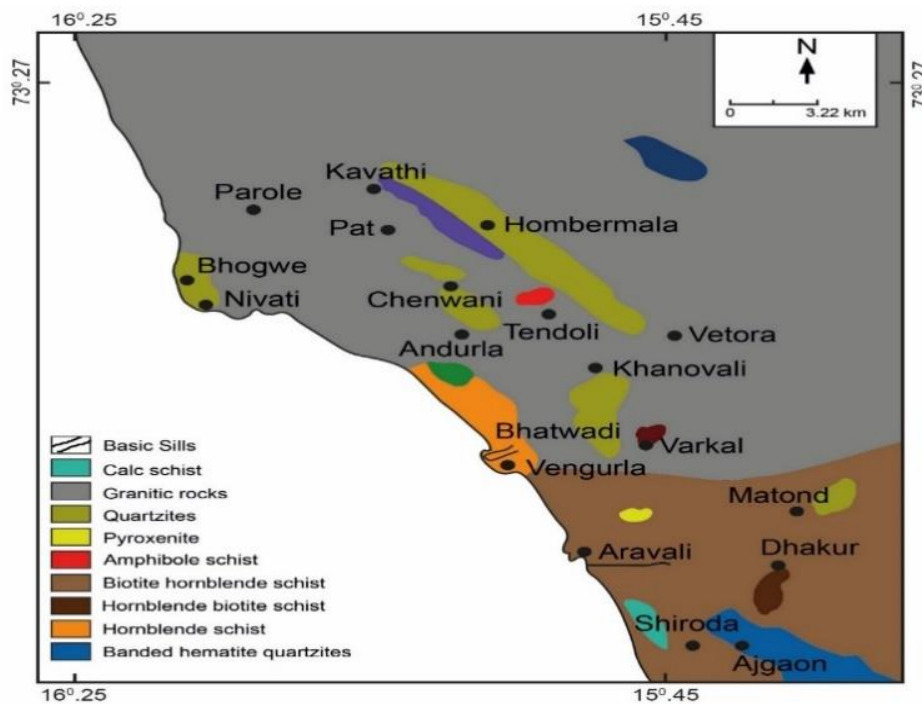


Fig. 2. Geology of the area around Vengurla (modified from [3]).

### 3. MATERIALS AND METHOD

Surface samples were collected seasonally, as shown in Fig.1, at 6 arrays along the Vengurla beach and placed in polythene bags. They were oven dried in laboratory and prepared for geochemical analysis. First the samples were powdered and the pulverized for over 30 minutes using Fritsch Pulverisette, of Fritsch, France having planetary mono-

mill. For analysis, sample was packed weighing about 3 g into plastic cups that have prolene 4 μm thick membrane. In the present study ‘Turboquant Powder’ method was used. In this method samples are irradiated with X-rays emitted from the target material, wherein measurements were done thrice on a single sample. These three readings were then averaged out and used for analysis. The sample were subjected to X-ray radiation for 16 minutes.

Principal Component analysis (PCA) was harnessed to understand factors contributing to concentration of elements to characterize provenance of the detrital sediments. This method trims down a large data set comprising many parameters without missing out on vital information. PCA is a variance oriented method in which the first couple of components explain all variability of the data. The first and second component is independent of each other. There can be as many principal components as variables. We have used Xlstat in the present attempt and the principal components are found by calculating the eigenvectors of the data correlation matrix.

### 4.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### 4.1. 2003 Geochemical Parameters

11 samples from 4 arrays of the Vengurla beach, collected in all the three seasons were used for geochemical analysis. The XRF results reveal presence of Si, Al, Fe, Mg, Ca, K, Sr, Mn, Na, S, Cl, Ti, V, Cr, Zr, and Ba which have been used for PCA.

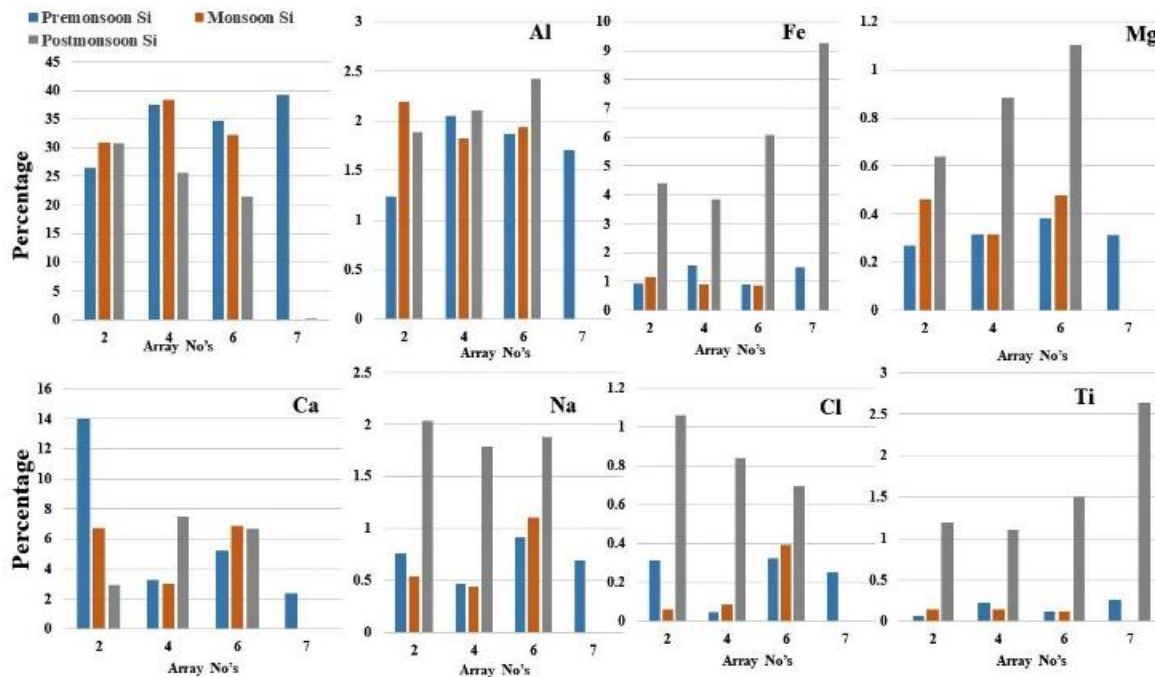


Fig.3. Seasonal variation of Si, Al, Fe, Mg, Ca, Na, Cl and Ti at arrays 2, 4, 6 and 7 of Vengurla beach in 2003

From Fig.3 it can be seen that Si is seen to be more during MON at arrays 2 and 4, and at arrays 6 and 7 PRM. The concentration of Al, is more at array 2 during MON; at arrays 4 and 7 PRM; and more POM at array 6. There seems to be some haphazardness in the distribution of this element throughout the seasons. With respect to arrays, Fe is more during MON at array 2, and more PRM at the rest of the arrays. Concentration of Mg is more during MON at array 2; POM at arrays 4 and 6; and marginally more PRM at array 7. This behaviour is similar to that of Al. Ca is more PRM at array 2, and POM at the rest of the arrays. Na is almost similar in concentration during MON and POM at array 2; increases at arrays 4 and 6 POM; and is more at array 7 PRM. Cl is more at arrays 2, 4 and 6 POM; and at 7 PRM. Ti is more during MON at array 2; and PRM at the rest of the arrays.

#### 4.2. 2004 Geochemical Parameters (2004)

Geochemical analysis was carried on 10 samples from 4 arrays of the Vengurla beach, collected during all the three seasons.

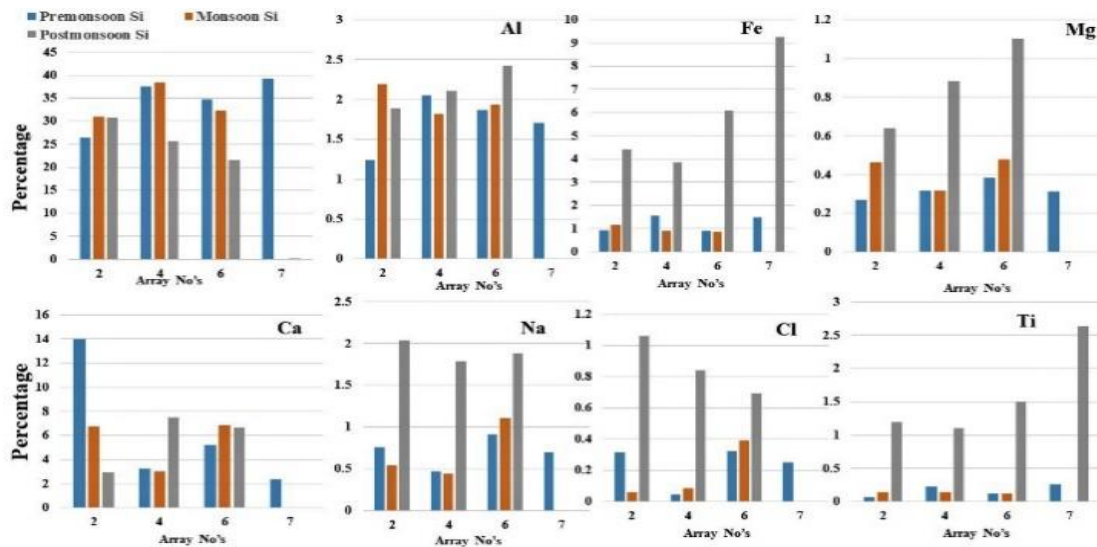


Fig.4. Seasonal variation of Si, Al, Fe, Mg, Ca, Na, Cl and Ti at arrays 2, 4, 6 and 7 of Vengurla beach in 2004

From Fig.4 it can be seen that Si is seen to be more during MON at arrays 2 and 4, and at arrays 6 and 7 PRM. The concentration of Al, is more at array 2 during MON; at arrays 4 and 6 POM; and more PRM at array 7. Fe and Mg is more POM at all the arrays. Ca is more PRM at array 2, and POM at array 4, though it is more at array 6 in MON. Na, Cl and Ti is more at arrays 2, 4 and 6 POM.

Thus, from the foregoing it can be surmised that the beach-wide spread of different element variability changes with seasons. This change is heavily dependent on the mode of erosion and weathering, wherein the MON sees the dominance of precipitation and the seasons prior and post MON witness change in the medium through which the detrital grains are brought to the Vengurla beach.

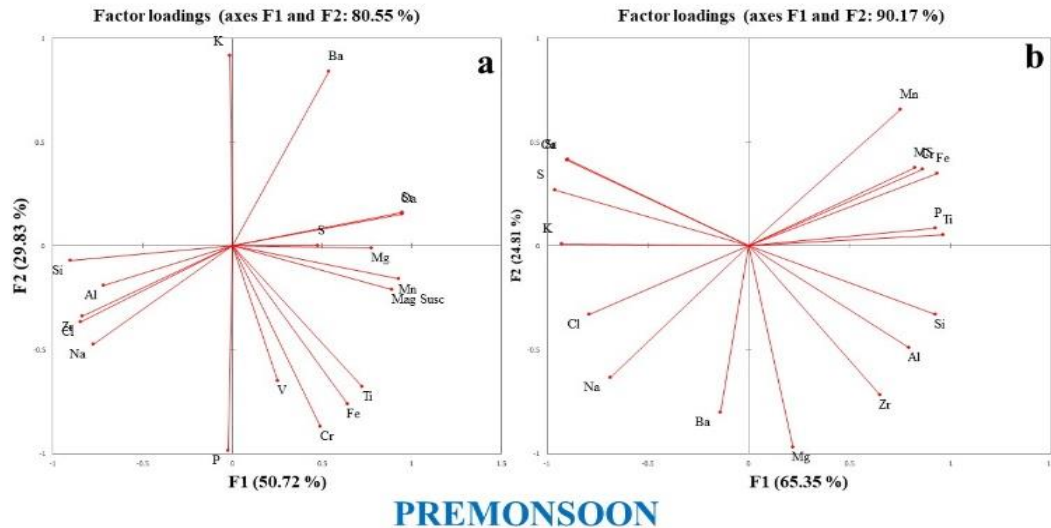
### 4.3. Principal Component Analysis

The number of significant principal components was selected on the basis of Varimax orthogonal rotation with Kaiser Normalisation at eigenvalues greater than 1. From the principal component analysis following strong correlation patterns are seen to have formed: Na-Al-Cl; Mg-S-Ca-Sr; Si-Zr; Ti-Cr-Fe; and Mn-MS. Further, the factor loadings and communalities given in Table 1 reveal very interesting associations that can be related to the deposition/erosion processes carried by different agencies.

	F1	F2		F1	F2
Na	-0.775	-0.473	Na	-0.684	-0.633
Mg	0.774	-0.010	Mg	0.217	-0.970
Al	-0.716	-0.189	Al	0.794	-0.489
Si	-0.900	-0.070	Si	0.923	-0.331
P	-0.020	-0.986	P	0.925	0.087
S	0.478	0.000	S	-0.963	0.271
Cl	-0.843	-0.364	Cl	-0.792	-0.330
K	-0.014	0.915	K	-0.926	0.009
Ca	0.945	0.153	Ca	-0.900	0.414
Ti	0.725	-0.679	Ti	0.963	0.052
V	0.254	-0.650	Cr	0.860	0.369
Cr	0.492	-0.869	Mn	0.752	0.657
Mn	0.926	-0.160	Fe	0.935	0.349
Fe	0.642	-0.762	Sr	-0.898	0.418
Sr	0.946	0.162	Zr	0.650	-0.717
Zr	-0.838	-0.340	Ba	-0.140	-0.802
Ba	0.538	0.841	MS	0.823	0.379
MS	0.888	-0.209		F1	F2
	F1	F2	Eigenvalue	11.110	4.218
Eigenvalue	9.130	5.369	Variability (%)	65.352	24.815
Variability (%)	50.724	29.827	Cumulative %	65.352	90.167
Cumulative %	50.724	80.550			

Table 1. Factor loadings and communalities associated with Vengurlapremonsoon 2003 (left) and 2004 (right) data

The factor loadings and communalities associated with PRM 2003 Vengurla beach (Table 1, left) reveal F1 accounted for 51% variability and is mainly characterized by high levels of Sr, Ca, Mn, MS, Mg and Ti. F2, on the other hand, accounted for 30% variance and is characterized by high levels of K and Ba. The factor loadings and communalities (Table 1, right) associated with PRM 2004 Vengurla beach reveal F1 and F2 accounted for 65% and 25% variability respectively. F1 is characterized by the presence of Al, Si, P, Ti, Cr, Mn, Fe and MS. No such strong presence is seen in F2.

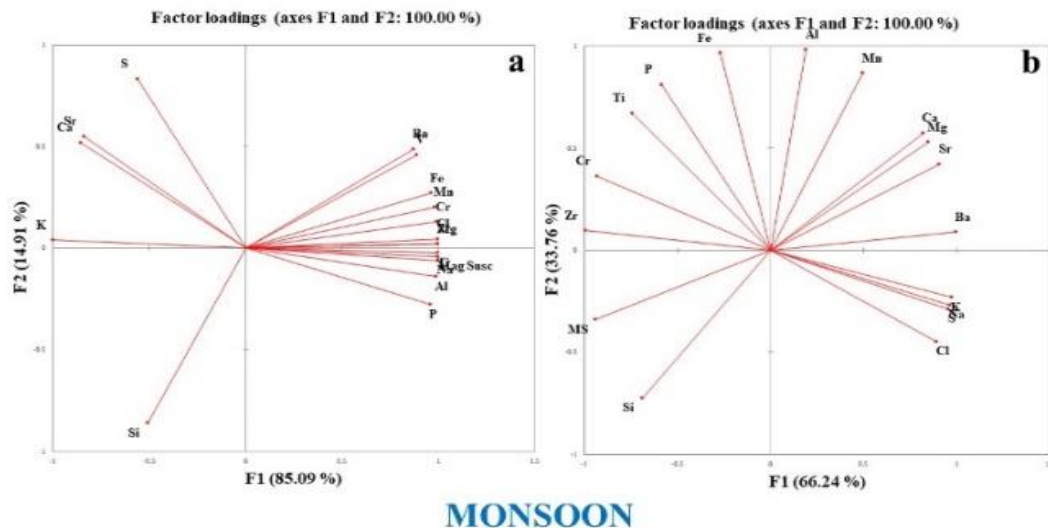


**PREMONSOON**

Fig. 5. The graphical representation of the factor loadings for PRM Vengurla 2003 (a) and 2004 (b) samples.

From the factor loadings seen in PRM 2003 and PRM 2004 (Fig. 5), F1 for 2003 can be assigned to ‘oceanic detrital’ process, and F2 to subdued ‘continental weathering’ process. This inference is based on the dominant presence of Sr, Ca, Mn, MS, Mg and Ti as denoted by F1 in 2003. The continental weathering process is inferred to be represented by F2 because of the dominant K and Ba element assemblage. F1 for 2004, on the other hand, can be assigned to ‘continental weathering’ process along with a subdued ‘oceanic detrital’ process based on the dominance of continental detrital elements like Si, Al, Ti etc.

The PCA derived for MON 2003 revealed the following associations: Na-Mg-Al-P-Cl-Ti-Cr-Mn-Fe-Zr-MS; S-Sr; V-Cr-Mn-Fe-Ba; Cr-Sr-Zr-Ba-MS; Mn-Zr-Ba-MS. The factor loadings and communalities associated with MON Vengurla beach 2003 reveal F1 and F2 accounted for 85% and 15% variability revealing presence of Na, Mg, Al, P, Cl, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Zr, Ba and MS; and S respectively. On the other hand, the PCA revealed strong correlation patterns to have formed in 2004 MON as follows: Na-S-Cl-K-Ba; Mg-Ca-Sr; Al-Mn; P-Ti-Fe; Ca-Mn; Ti-Cr; Cr-Zr; Sr-Ba; Zr-MS. The factor loadings and communalities associated with 2004 MON reveal F1 accounted for 66% variability and is mainly characterized by high levels of Na, Mg, S, Cl, K, Ca, Sr and Ba. F2, on the other hand, accounted for 34% variance and is characterized by high levels of Al, Mn and Fe.



**MONSOON**

Fig. 6. The graphical representation of the factor loadings for monsoon Vengurla 2003 (a) and 2004 (b) samples.

From the factor loadings (Fig. 6) seen in 2003 (a) and 2004 (b), F1 for MON 2003 can be assigned to ‘continental detrital’ process, and F2 to subdued ‘continental weathering’ process. F1 for 2004, can be assigned to ‘continental detrital’ process and F2 to ‘continental weathering’ process. The overwhelming impact of monsoon can be inferred from the correlation of diverse set of elements.

The PCA indicated strong correlation patterns formed POM 2003 at Vengurla beach as follows: Na-Si-Cl-Zr-MS; Mg-Al; Al-Ba; Si-P-Cr; P-Ti-Zr-MS; Ca-Sr; Mn-Ba. The factor loadings and communalities associated with 2003 POM reveal F1 accounted for 68% variability and is mainly characterized by high levels of Na, Mg, Si, P, Cl, Ti, Cr, Zr, Ba and MS. F2, on the other hand, accounted for 19% variance and is characterized by moderate levels of Al. In 2004 POM, the PCA displayed strong correlation patterns to exist between: Na-Al-Si-P-Cl-K; Mg-Al-P-S-Ca; S-Cl-K; K-Ba; Ti-Cr-Mn-Fe; Zr-Ba. The factor loadings and communalities associated with POM Vengurla beach 2004 reveal F1 and F2 accounted for 77% and 15% variability revealing presence of Ti, Cr, Mn and Fe for F1.

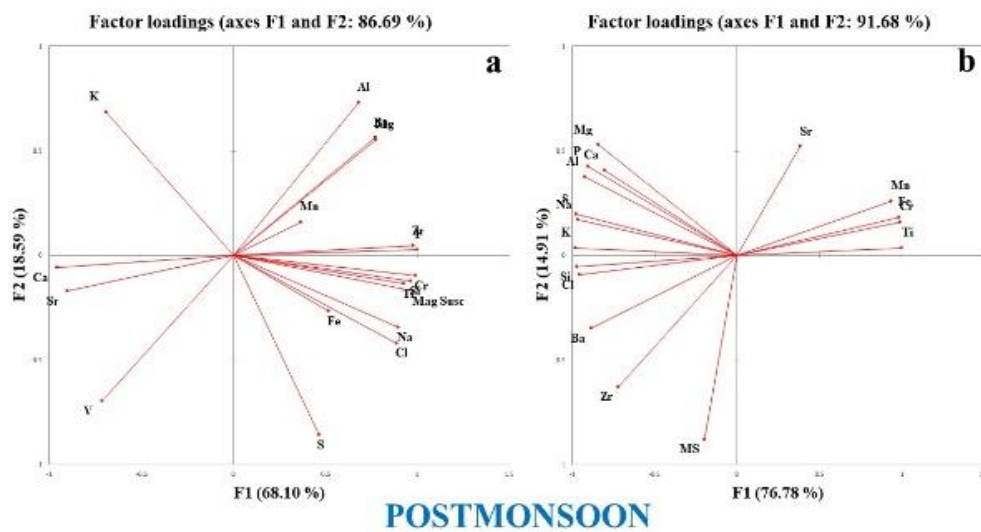


Fig. 7. The graphical representation of the factor loadings are given below for POM Vengurla 2003 (a) and 2004 (b) samples.

From the factor loadings (Fig. 7) seen POM in 2003 (a) and 2004 (b), F1 for 2003 and 2004 as well can be assigned to ‘continental detrital’ process, and F2 to subdued ‘continental weathering’ process.

In 2003 at Vengurla a very strong correlation was found to exist between Na, Al and Cl PRM; during MON it was between Na, Mg, Al, P, Cl, Ti, Cr, Fe, Zr and MS. POM strong correlation was seen to be limited to only between Na, Si, Cl, Zr and MS. The average percentage of Si and Ca was more PRM in 2004; that of Al, P and K was in MON; whereas Na, Mg, S, Cl, Ti, Mn and Fe was more POM. The changing seasonal pattern of geochemical signatures revealed different rates of erosion and deposition, which seems to be tied to the monsoonal precipitation in the area. Temporary change in drainage is discerned in both the years, through the addition of P, Mn, V and Ba to Vengurla beach sediments in MON, compared to PRM. Alternately, it also reveals the changing energy conditions and/or geochemical environment. There is seasonal variation in the kind and type of geochemical elements found. There is an increase in detrital elements during MON, especially of Si, Al, and Fe. The average percentage of Na, Mg, S, Cl and Ca is more POM. Al, Si, K, Ti and Fe are seen to be more during MON. P and Ti percentage is relatively more PRM. In PRM 2003, the PCA reveals detrital input from the ocean was prominent, though continental weathering was an important process as well. In 2004 PRM, continental weathering was more prominent than oceanic weathering process. During 2003 and 2004 MON as well as POM continental detrital was found to be a primary process and continental weathering was a secondary process.

The geochemical changes at Vengurla are inferred to be season dependent wherein the hinterland seems to be drained vigorously by the monsoonal precipitation.

#### 4.4. Discussion

The PCA on Vengurla beach sediments depicted significant oceanic influence during pre- monsoon interval of the year 2003, which appears to have reversed during in the year 2004. This can be related to changing intensity of monsoon, which was seen to have decreased in 2004 compared to 2003 (Table 4; [4]).

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2003	8	4	0	0	0	7994	9656	4127	2659	173	47	0
2004	0	0	0	0	1189	6873	8552	7603	2277	324	110	0

Table 4: The monthly rainfall data for the Konkan region denoted in 10<sup>th</sup> of mm

Table 4 reveals rainfall in 2004 was more in 2004 than 2003 except in the month of August 2004, signifying the detrital process is linked with the precipitational intensity of the area. The PCA also reveals the importance of considering the role of oceanic currents in context to understand the deposition/erosion pattern along the beach.

The geochemical changes at Vengurla are seasonal, wherein vigorous hinterland erosion can be discerned from Ba correlating well with Mg, Sr, and Ca, since Ba has less mobility than Mg, Sr and Ca[5]. The low water level and breaker zones have high turbulence and energy [6][7]and the same can be seen at Vengurla. The placer formations at the beaches are a function of hydrodynamic processes [8], apart from cross-shore and shore-parallel sediment movement [9]. However, [10], consider swash zone processes define shoreline stability and beach morphology. The accumulation of heavy minerals is dependent on the provenance, though the geometry of shoreline and wave climate of the region is also seen to play an important role [11]. Grain size is dependent on provenance and its mineralogy, intensity of the currents [12] and incremental size decrease in the transport direction [13]. [14]carried morphological studies around Sindhudurg revealing accretion of beaches during postmonsoon and retrograding of beaches in the remaining two seasons. The addition or removal of detrital material to the beach is related to the type of waves, tides and longshore currents. One of the inference derived from the present study finds support in [15], who inferred concentration of placers at Vengurla is related to shoreline geometry and seasonality of wave climate. The sediments at Vengurla are inferred to move in northerly direction [16], though their movement can also be inferred to be northerly as well as southerly during 2004 premonsoon. The factor loadings revealed continental detrital process was primarily functional along with subdued continental weathering process at Vengurla beach.

### 5. CONCLUSION

The factor loadings revealed continental detrital process was primarily functional along with subdued continental weathering process at this beach during the 2003 and 2004 MON and POM periods. This study has wider implications on oceanic currents and continental detrital pathways.

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