



Figure 2.12. Heat flow (in mW m^{-2}) from the ocean floor as a function of sediment age (in millions of years, which is proportional to distance from the ridge crest, where age = 0). The dashed line is the predicted heat flow from a crustal cooling model and the solid line is the observed conductive heat flow based on sediment thermal gradients and the heat conduction equation. From Elderfield and Schultz (1995).