MICROFACIES OF CARBONATE ROCKS AND DEPOSITIONAL ENVIRONMENTS

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ACADEMIC ASPECT

Limestones and dolostones are well represented during geological times

• global effects • reefal systems • CO₂ sinks ...



ECONOMIC ASPECT

Host rocks for oil-gas RR=40% (petroleum geology) Host rocks for water (hydrology) Host rocks for mineralizations (metallogeny...MVT) Extractive industry (quarries, cement, lime, buildings –pyramids....) Agriculture ('fertilizer' for acid soils)

Varia : glassware (melting), sugar industry....

USA AGASSIZ 1894 : Bahamas

1930 International Expedition – Bahamas : Carbonate Production

- => 'cementation' (algal binding) on the Banks
- => drilling : platform evolution
- WWI-WWII : oil discoveries in carbonate reservoirs => Middle Fast
 - => Reservoir Rocks
- > 1950-1960 : facies analysis, carbonate petrology => Henson, Newell, Rigby, Ginsburg (USA)

1957 GINSBURG cementation-burial >< vadose cementation

> 1960-1970 highlighting marine cementation
=> 1968 in the Bermuda reefs (Ginsburg, Shinn, Schroeder...) Recent
=> 1969 in the Persian Gulf (Shinn, Taylor, Illing) Recent
=> 1969 in the Jurassic of Paris Basin (Purser)







Φvs K



Oil is lighter than water => oil droplets will be able to move through pores in rock....

=> EFFECTIVE or RELATIVE PERMEABILITY



For sandstones, Φ generally plots as a straight line against K on a logarithmic scale. Shales, chalks tend to be porous but impermeable.

Fractures increases K with generally little Φ increase.

 Φ_{II} and Φ_{III}



DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CARBONATES AND SILICICLASTICS

SILICICLASTIC SEDIMENTS, ROCKS
Climate, water depth no constraint
May be marine or non-marine
No analogous process
Sediment texture reflects hydraulic energy in environment of deposition
Grain composition related to provenance of sediment, climate and tectonics of source
Shelf clastics do not generally show cyclicity
Shelf evolution in response to sea level more complex because of potential changes in sediment availability through tectonisim and climate at the source
Seldom cemented in marine environment
Muds and grains formed by breakdown of pre-existing rocks
Less susceptible to early diagenesis, porosity related to depositional environment, predictable
Less susceptible to burial diagenesis, porosity basement relatively deep

Aspect	Sandstone	Carbonate				
Amount of primary porosity in sediments	Commonly 25-40%	Commonly 40-70%				
Amount of ultimate porosity in rocks	Commonly half or more of initial porosity; 15-30% common	Commonly none or only small fraction of initial porosity; 5-15% common in reservoi				
Type(s) of primary porosity	±ФI 'depositional' Almost exclusively interparticle	facies ±OII 'diagenetic' Interparticle commonly predominates, but intraparticle and other types are important				
Type(s) of ultimate porosity	Almost exclusively primary interparticle	Widely varied because of postdepositional modifications				
Sizes of pores	Diameter and throat sizes closely related to sedimentary particle size and sorting	Diameter and throat sizes commonly show little relation to sedimentary particle size o sorting				
Shape of pores	Strong dependence on particle shape—a "negative" of particles	Greatly varied, ranges from strongly dependent "positive" or "negative" of particles to form completely independent of shapes of depositional or diagenetic components				
Uniformity of size, shape, and distribution	Commonly fairly uniform within homogeneous body	Variable, ranging from fairly uniform to extremely heterogeneous, even within body made up of single rock type				
Influence of diagenesis	Minor; usually minor reduction of primary porosity by compaction and cementation	Major; can create, obliterate, or completely modify porosity; cementation and solution important				
Influence of fracturing	Generally not of major importance in reservoir properties	Of major importance in reservoir properties if present				
Visual evaluation of porosity and permeability	Semiquantitative visual estimates commonly relatively easy	Variable; semiquantitative visual estimates range from easy to virtually impossible; instrument measurements of porosity, permeability and capillary pressure commonly needed				
Adequacy of core analysis for reservoir evaluation	Core plugs of 1-in. diameter commonly adequate for "matrix" porosity	Core plugs commonly inadequate; even whole cores (~3-in. diameter) may be inadequate for large pores				
Permeability porosity interrelations	Relatively consistent; commonly dependent on particle size and sorting	Greatly varied; commonly independent of particle size and sorting				



Unrestricted dolomites Zechstein Reservoirs Permian, The Netherlands

Interparticle depositional porosity plugged by solid hydrocarbons (black)



Diagenetic-destroying porosity by anhydrite pore plugging

Vuggy porosity in a coated 'intraclast', due to early diagenetic meteoric water infiltration

Permeability (K) : 10^{-4} to 10^{+8} mD = strong variations K 10-100mD are good, and above = exceptionnally high (RR)

Permeability	Pervious			Semi-Pervious					Impervious				
Unconsolidated Sand & Gravel	1000	Sorted avel			d Sand Very Fine Sand, Silt, Gravel Loess, Loam								
Unconsolidated Clay & Organic					Peat Layered Clay			Unweathered Clay					
Consolidated Rocks	Highly Fractured Rocks			Oil Reservoir Rocks			Fresh Sandstone		Fresh Limestone, Dolomite		Fresh Granite		
к (cm ²)	0.001	0.0001	10 ⁻⁵	10 ⁻⁶	10 ⁻⁷	10 ⁻⁸	10 ⁻⁹	10-10	10 ⁻¹¹	10-12	10-13	10-14	10 ⁻¹⁵
κ (millidarcy)	10+8	10+7	10+6	10+5	10,000	1,000	100	10	1	0.1	0.01	0.001	0.0001

Source: modified from Bear, 1972 from Wikipedia 2013

K low to nul : < 1⁻¹⁵ mD K moderate : 15-50 mD K good : 50-250 mD K very good : 250-1000 mD K excellent : > 1000 mD (>1 D)

DIAGENESIS (...)

ARAGONITE + HMC → LMC +(DOLOMITE)

dissolution, neomorphism, cementation (...)



CARBONATE CRYSTALLOCHEMISTRY



Morphology of calcite crystals as controlled by selective 'Mg-poisoining'. **A** If a Mg ion is added to the end of growing crystal it can be easily overstepped by the next succeeding CO_3 layer **without harm to the crystal growth. B** If the small Mg ion is added to the side of the cystal, the adjacent CO_3 sheets are distorted to accomodate it in the lattice, hampering further sideward growth => growth of small, fibrous crystals.

CARBONATE CRYSTALLOCHEMISTRY

1960' Calcite crystal growth habit as a function of Mg/Ca ratio **nb : 1990' availability CO**₃²⁻





RECOGNITION OF INVERTEBRATE FOSSIL FRAGMENTS IN ROCKS AND THIN SECTIONS

BY

OTTO P. MAJEWSKE

The School of Geology Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College Baton Rouge; Louisiana

With 280 Photomicrographs and 19 Diagrams



LEIDEN E. J. BRILL 1974

Horowitz · Potter Introductory Petrography of Fossils

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SKELETAL MICROSTRUCTURES – INVERTEBRATE FOSSILS

I. HOMOGENEOUS PRISMATIC

//N and NX: aggregates of tiny uniform indistinguishable crystals at <500x calcite (common), aragonite (rare), <u>no visible structure</u>,

✤ forams, , ostracods, trilobites, (sometimes mollusks).

2. NORMAL PRISMATIC

XN: aggregates of 'normal' prisms (longitudinal section) and 'aggregates' (transverse section). The prisms are normal to the surface of the shell.

=> based on the form, the are 4 types : I-2 = inner layer of brachiopods, I-3-4 (mollusks), calcite (common), aragonite (rare).

brachiopods, mollusks

3. COMPLEX PRISMATIC

XN: aggregates of complex prisms (longitudinal section) and 'aggregates' (transverse section). Prisms are composed of <u>aggregates of fibrils</u> having same extinction position under crossed polarizers. Radial distribution of the fibrils along a central axis,

only mollusks

SKELETAL MICROSTRUCTURES – INVERTEBRATE FOSSILS

4. COMPOSITE PRISMATIC

Transverse section : 3 composite 'prisms' giving the appearance of a simple prism. Each composite prism is formed by an aggregate of tiny prisms (normal or complex) distributed radially from a central axis. Compared to [3], the aggregates are larger and oriented with their larger size in the plane of the shell layer \diamond only mollusks.

5. FOLIATED and NACREOUS (vs mineralogy) FOLIATED = LMC, thin flat sheets or folia

NACREOUS = Aragonite, , thin flat sheets or folia

- => Foliated : important size variations, folia orientations and/or optical axes
- only brachiopods, bryozoans (not all), annelids (not all), sometimes mollusks
- => Nacreous : more uniform
- only mollusks.

6. MONOCRYSTALLINE

= single calcite crystal

XN: extinction, N//: cleavage traces with organic residues

under crossed polarizers. Radial distribution of the fibrils along a central axis,

 $\boldsymbol{\diamondsuit}$ all the echinoderms, rare mollusks, bryozoans, sponge spicules

SKELETAL MICROSTRUCTURES – INVERTEBRATE FOSSILS

7. CROSSED-LAMELLAR

Layer built up of larger 'lamels' (first order), each rectangular, short axis generally vertical. Length of the single 'lamel' may be several mm. Each large 'lamel' is built up of smaller 'lamels' (second order) each one is a single crystal individual. Acute angles between first and second order 'lamels' is around 41° or more,

- => flame microstructure
- => herringbone microstructure
- => 'parquet ', 'pijama', 'plaid' microstructure
- only mollusks.

8. FIBER FASCICULATE

Fiber fascicles stacked one on top of the other in inclined rows forming a spherulitic fascicle which has crystallized about a point center.

✤ only corals (septa...).















Crossed lamellar





Ditomopyge sp., Pennsylvanian, Texas N// 6.6 mm

Homogeneous prismatic



Typical trilobite sections

with algae (Kamena, Proninella)



Early Givetian (Middle Devonian), Givet, France, Préat 2010















Dictyoclostus sp. (Brachiopod)

Pennsylvanian, Texas

LMC, very regular foliation

slight undulation of the folia = 'pseudopunctae'

Foliated (top) and Nacreous (bottom)

Haliotus sp. (Gastropod) Recent ARAGONITE//CONCHIOLINE fine light vertical streaks = perforations

XXX (Solution of the second se





Leperdicopida sp. (ostracode), lagoonal environment Trois-Fontaines Fm, Resteigne, Belgium Early Givetian, Préat 2009



Stacked ostracode, mid-ramp setting, Trois-Fontaines Fm, Givet, France Lower Givetian, Préat 2010






Crytposome Bryozoa, Devonian, Michigan (top) Rhombopora (Bryozoa), Pennsylvanian, Texas, (bottom)







NO DARK MEDIAN LINE

DARK MEDIAN LIN





Givetian Corals (Tabulata), Belgium



A. PREAT U.Brussels/U. Soran









Laminae and pillars (thin section) Late Givetian, Belgium, Préat







micritization Echinoderm packstone, Early Givetian, France pitting corrosion echinoid spine Préat 2009



Poorly sorted holothurian sclerite wackestone in a dense micrite.

Rosso Ammonitico Superiore, Kimmeridgian-Tithonian, Sicily, Préat et al. 2011







Gryphaea arcuata (Ostreidae), J,UK







Gryphaea sp., J, Normandy, France





MICROBES (bacteria, fungi) and **STROMATOLITES** ALGAE (red, green, 'blue green' = cyanophyta) **ARCHEOCYATHS (SPONGES) SPONGES STROMATOPOROIDS** CORALS (rugosa, tabulata, scleratinids) TRII OBITES **GRAPTOLITES OSTRACODES** BRACHIOPODS (....) MOLLUSKS (pelecypods = bivalves, gastropods, cephalopods, scaphopods, criccoconarids) BRYOZOA **ANNELIDS** ECHINODERMS (crinoids, sea urchins,) VERTEBRATES (REMAINS) 'INCERTAE SEDIS' abundant in geology! 'MICROPROBLEMATICA' abundant in geology!

Conodonts Spongiostromids (Spongiostromata) Radiolarians = siliceous (opaline) shell < 1mm

PRIMARY skeletal mineralogy of organisms

many authors,

in Flügel 2004

Cvanobacteria

Pyrrhophyta:

Chrysophyta:

Chlorophyta:

Gymnocodiaceae Charophyceae Solenoporaceae Rhodophyta: . Squamariaceae -Corallinaceae Radiolaria Foraminifera Calpionellida Ciliata: Demospongea Sponges: Calcarea -Sphinctozoa Stromatoporoidea 0 Chaetetida Archaeocyathida Hexactinellida dominant mineralogy Scyphozoa: Conulata Hydrozoa 0 ° less common mineralogy Corals: Octocorallia 0 Rugosa Heterocorallia Tabulata Scleractinia Bryozoa Brachiopoda: Articulata 0 Inarticulata Mollusca: Monoplacophora Polyplacophora Scaphopoda Bivalvia Gastropoda Nautiloidea Ammonoidea Aptychus Belemnoidea Tentaculitida Serpulida Annelida: 0 Arthropoda: Trilobita Ostracoda Cirripedia 0 Decapoda Echinodermata Tunicata . Vertebrata -o (otoliths) Conodonts

Aragonite

0

Calciodinoflagellata

Diatoms Coccolithophorida Dasycladaceae

Udoteaceae

Low-Ma

Calcite

.

High-Mg

Calcite

-0

Aragonite +

Calcite

Ca-

Phosphates

Silica

SYNTHESIS 'Skeletal Architecture'

- I. welded prisms = ISOGYRES \Leftrightarrow trilobites
- 2. homogeneous = 'dark micrite' \Leftrightarrow foraminifers, ostracods, mollusks
- 3. normal prismatic ⇔ pelecypods, brachiopods
- 4. composite prismatic ⇔ mollusks
- 5. complex prismatic ⇔ mollusks
- 6. foliated \Leftrightarrow brachiopods, pelecypods (ostreidae), bryozoa, annelids LMC
- 7. crossed-lamellar \Leftrightarrow mollusks (excepted cephalopods)
- 8. nacreous 🗇 mollusks ARAGONITE
- 9. monocrystalline ⇔ echinoderms
- 10. fiber fasciculate \Leftrightarrow corals

nb stromatoporoids, algae, conodonts, vertebrates (fishes...), sponges



BIOCLASTS in THIN SECTION?

- i) preservation of organic material
- ii) random section : uselul or not i.e. diagnostic or not
- iii) sometimes only one diagnosctic section (ex. foraminifers)
- iv) personal experience: morphology, mineralogy, microstructure, diagenesis....



ORIGINAL COMPOSITION OF ORGANISMS cf. list of phyla...

- carbonates : LMC, HMC, ARAGONITE, VATERITE, ?DOLOMITE, AMORPHOUS...
- silica : QUARTZ, OPALE ...
- phosphates : DAHLITE, FRANCOLITE, HYDROXYAPATITE, COLLOPHANE ...
- oxydes ...
- sulfates ...
- fluorides...
- oxalates ...
- A. PREAT U.Brussels/U. Soran

BIOCLASTS in THIN SECTION?

ORIGINAL COMPOSITION OF ORGANISMS cf. list of phyla...

- + (partially) preserved ORGANIC MATTER (chitine conchioline, spongine = 'proteins'), rarely preserved in old bioclasts => need chemical analyses (both Fossil and Recent)
- mineralogical composition is related to genetic and/or environmental factors (T°, salinity...)
 => potential PALEOECOLOGY
- the dominant mineralogy in the Invertebrates is **CALCITE** and **ARAGONITE** (together or not in the different shell layers)
 - => Rec. organisms : coloration of aragonite with Feigl's (1937) and Friedman's (1959) solutions

Feigl F 1937. Quantitative analysis by spot tests. Nordemann Publ. Co. NY, 400p. Friedman GM 1959. Identification of carbonate minerals by staining methods. JSP, 291, 87-97.

• fossils : original composition is deduced from the present-day microstructure....

BIOCLASTS in THIN SECTION?

• fossils: original composition is deduced from the present-day microstructure....

ARAGONITE if microstructure partially or totally destroyed => 'calcite or 'sparite' mosaic (LMC) implying **dissolution** = => micro- or MACRO-scale dissolution with or without development of **MOLDIC** porosity

HMC with preservation of the microstructures

RELATED TO DIAGENESIS

PRESENT DAY RESEARCHES

microstructures =biocrystals formed from an organic matrix ... cf DNA, RNA.... and medical applications

MAIN BIOTIC CONSTITUENTS OF CARBONATE BUILDUPS AGAINST GEOLOGIC TIME FOR THE PHANEROZOIC



nb *Tubiphytes* microfossil of unknown systematic position = encruster (with algae...)



Among the **FIRST** carbonate models (Edie, **1958**)





I Subaerial Exposure 2 Lacustrine 3 Eolian 4 Tidal Flat 5 Beach 6 Shelf 7 Middle Shelf 8 Reef 9 Bank Margin **IO** Fore-reef Slope II Basin Margin I 2 Pelagic



..... introduction....

- 3 Modern Carbonate Environments
- 4 Shallow-Water and Lacustrine Carbonates
- 5 Pelagic and resedimented limestones
- ... carbonate geochemistry-mineralogy



..... introduction....

- 5 Glacial Depositional Systems
- **6** Volcaniclastics
- 7 Alluvial Deposits
- 8 Eolian Systems
- 9 Deltas
- **10** Barriers and Estuaries
- **II** Tidal Systems
- 12 Wave- an Storm-Dominated Shallow Marine Systems
- **I3** Turbidites and Submarine Fans
- 14 Carbonate and Evaporite Models
- **I5** Platform Systems
- 16 Peritidal Carbonates
- **17** Reefs and Mounds
- **18** Carbonate Slopes
- 19 Evaporites

BIOCLASTS or **GRAINS**

ARAGONITE if microstructure partly or totally destroyed => 'calcite or 'sparite' mosaic (LMC) implying dissolution = => micro- or MACRO-scale dissolution with or without development of **MOLDIC** porosity **RELATED TO DIAGENESIS**

