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Kulaviak, Lukáš
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Spatial Distribution of Particles and Cavities in Sedimentary Deposits

Kulaviak L., Růžicka M., Drahoš J., Hladil J.

Institute of Chemical Process Fundamentals, Czech Academy of Science, Rozvojová 2/135, 165 02 Prague 6, Czech Republic

¹Geological Institute, Czech Academy of Sciences, Rozvojová 269, 165 00 Prague 6, CR

E-mail: ruzicka@icpf.cas.cz, kulaviak@icpf.cas.cz, hladil@gli.cas.cz

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Abstract:

The observation is focused on liquid suspensions, an area of multiphase systems. In the process of sedimentation, the particles are set in motion. The basic features of the hydrodynamic motion result in a particular structure of the deposit, growing beneath the settling layer. Our goal is in analysing the deposit structure, using visualisation of particles and cavities. Experiments are done in water with a limestone powder. Commercial program MATLAB is used to graphic analysis. All our partial results gathered in this study contribute to comprehension of hydrodynamic behaviour of collective particle sedimentation and can explain questions of creating cavities in sedimentary geology.

1. Aims:

Generally, our goals were divided into two distributions and one comparison. The first distribution manifests an end of particles sedimentation and we can describe it with the question: "Where will fall a how big particle?". Second one is concerned cavities in a sedimentary deposit and we can ask similarly as in a previous case: "Where are cavities after sedimentation in a deposit?". The comparison of both of particles and cavities distributions leads directly to the main question. Which particle is responsible for creating cavities?

2. Motivations:

We have two approaches on the contribution about the sedimentary process. It has little known about collective particle sedimentation, especially about real shaped particles (see fig. 1). What is happening during a particles settling? Do hydrodynamic instabilities have an influence on a finish state of sedimentation or do not? There is too many mechanical interactions affected whole process and of course other parameters. We have chosen few of them, probably most important for creating cavities in a deposit, size of the particles fraction and ratio of the fractions. All these mentioned facts belong into chemical engineering approach and they are the subject of this study.

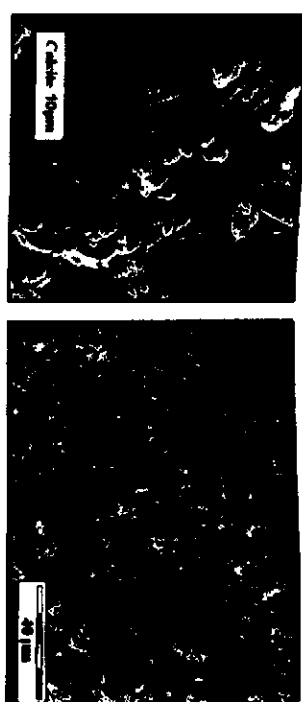


Fig. 1: Representative sample of crushed limestone as a real material. On the left side is trigonal μm large particle of limestone (calcite). Limestone silt ($4\text{--}63\ \mu\text{m}$) is at the right.

The cavities in deposit interest a group of geological society. Sedimentary deposit turns to the stone after long time. We were able to imitate some of the cavities structures in laboratory conditions in a previous work (fig. 2). Shapes and volume of cavities, structure of sample patterns help to geologists to recognise origin of cavities and storyline going along origin of sedimentary rocks. So it can be an important guide to find the effects, which are participating in the creation of petrified deposit and time before it.

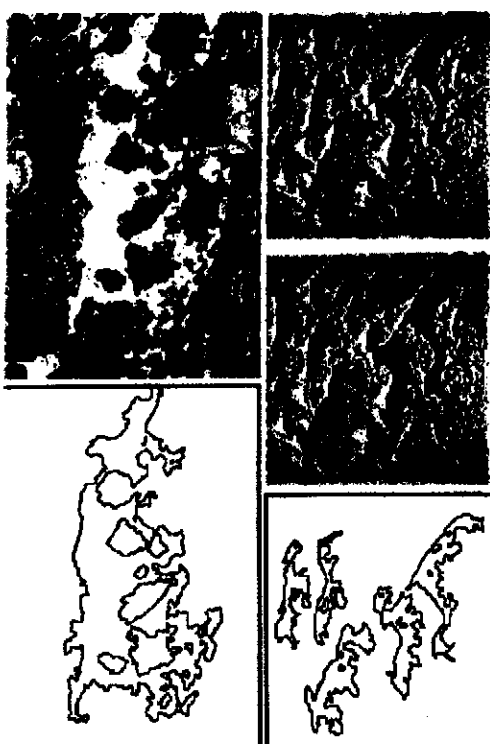


Fig. 2: Similarity of the cavity shapes between a laboratory deposit (particles of limestone) and petrified geological deposit (sedimentary whinstone).

3. Preparation of experiment:

The liquid suspension is composed of water and differently large particles. Limestone rock is crushed and sieved in five fractions by size. The particles are divided either differently by size coloured limestone or only white multi-sizing limestone (see fig. 3). For measuring of particles distribution are using coloured particles and colourless water. White limestone particles and blue water are used for measuring of cavities. We get "how deep is particle falling in the vessel" from the first measurement, particle size and density is playing main rule here. Of course we cannot measure holes like by clear limestone particles, because of stained surface. Therefore we have prepared the same uncoloured mixture. Then for better visualization of cavities blue water was used. Each particles fraction in a mixture is in volume ratio 1:1.

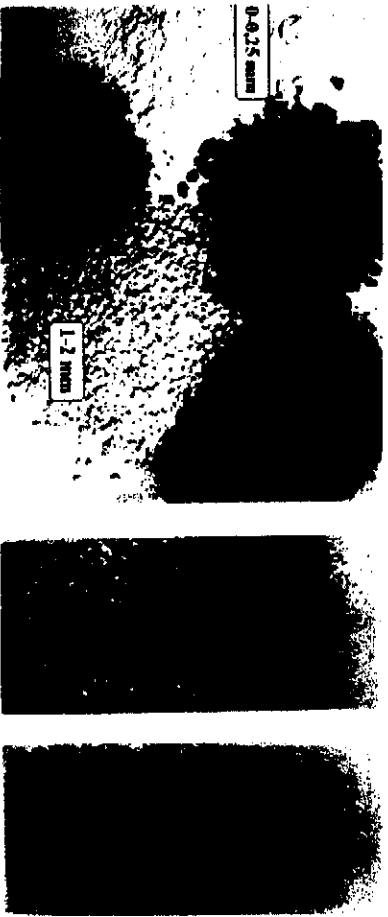


Fig. 3: Five limestone fractions by size, vessel with coloured particles and water, vessel with white particles with blue water.

4. Device and experimental procedure:

Very simply device was used for the experiment (see fig. 4). Two-plug glass vessel with a suspension can turn upside down around a holder. Vessel was filled with prepared mixture and completed with water to the punch mark. The air at the top of a vessel serves for agitating a mixture. Completely homogenizing mixture in water is an initial state. Initial state must fulfil the conditions of repeatable (error max. 5% after 5 s) curves of sedimentary rates (see fig. 5). Then let the sample settle in a vertically direction after an initial state.

Fig. 4: The rotatable device.

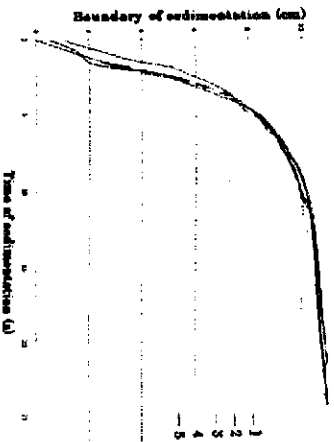
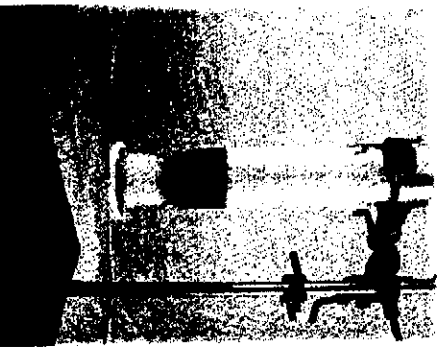


Fig. 5: Five boundary states sedimentary rates for determining of initial state conditions.

For visualisation deposit on the bottom are stabilized conditions like brightness and contrast. For stable brightness was used light-diffusion tent lighting by three lamps (3 x 1 kW). For contrast was used reflex camera with macro objective.

5. Principle of image analysis:

Image analysis is the principle of data evaluation created in the software MATLAB. The output of each experiment is just a one photography, which can be decomposed into pixels. The each pixel is assigned by a characteristic colour. For better identification of colours they must belong into the "edges" of a RGB spectrum cube (000-black, 100-red, 010-green, 001-blue, 101-violet, 110-yellow, 011-cyan and 111-white). We used just 6 of 8 colours, other 2 unused colour falls simply to the black box. It is created then new 8-numeric matrix, where pixels are counted like (horizontal axis). The sum of each characteristic pixel is a function of the vessel height (vertical axis). Such function is called as the distribution of particles here. Distribution of cavities is created similarly like distribution of particles. We are working with grey scale image. It is sufficient to grey scale image in BW (Black and White) spectrum. BW is standard operation of software MATLAB-graphic toolbox. It can be set up only threshold of grey spectrum here (see fig. 6 and 7).

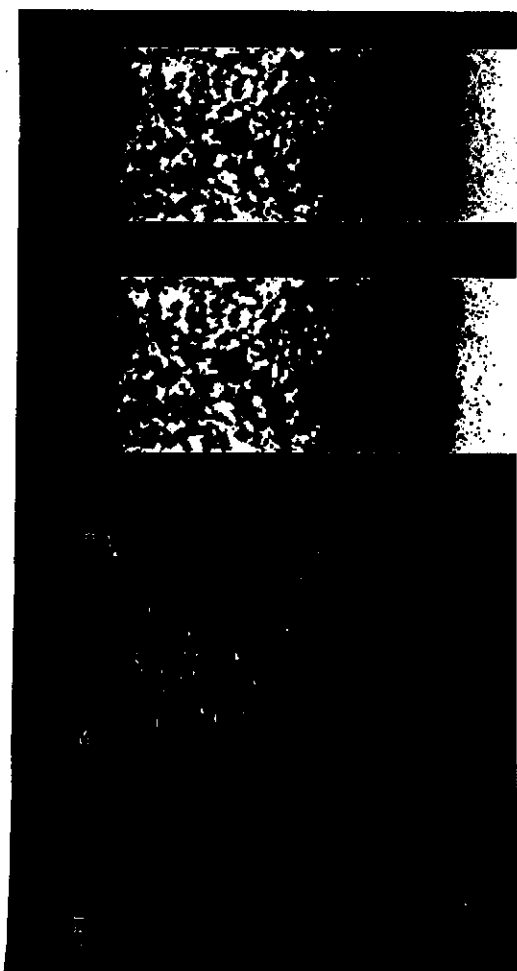


Fig. 6. Photography, image and distribution of particles.

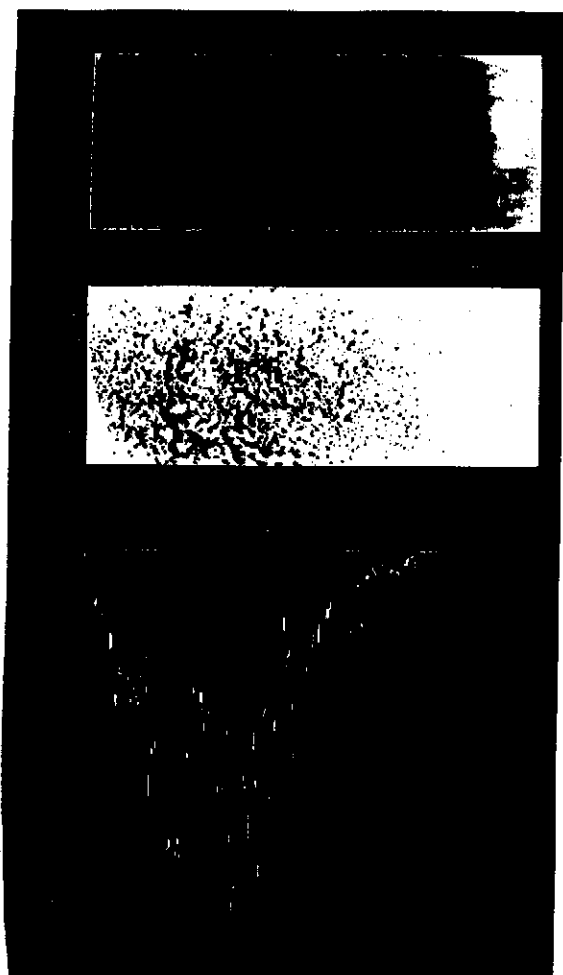


Fig. 7. Photography, image and distribution of cavities.

First results come from measurement of missing fraction. Every fraction is in bulk volume 1.1. Initial state is 5-fractional sample continuous in the size 0 - 4 mm (see the left side of Fig. 1). Such sample of coloured or white particles follow 30 logic combinations of less than the 5-fractional example, where one fraction (resp. two, three and four fractions) is missing. So it is not non-continuous fractions, where are size gaps. One of such example is pictured in Fig. 9. We can observe the double time larger cavities than in the 5-fractional initial state.



Fig. 8. Five continuous fractions are statistically processed (8 particles and 8 cavities distributions).

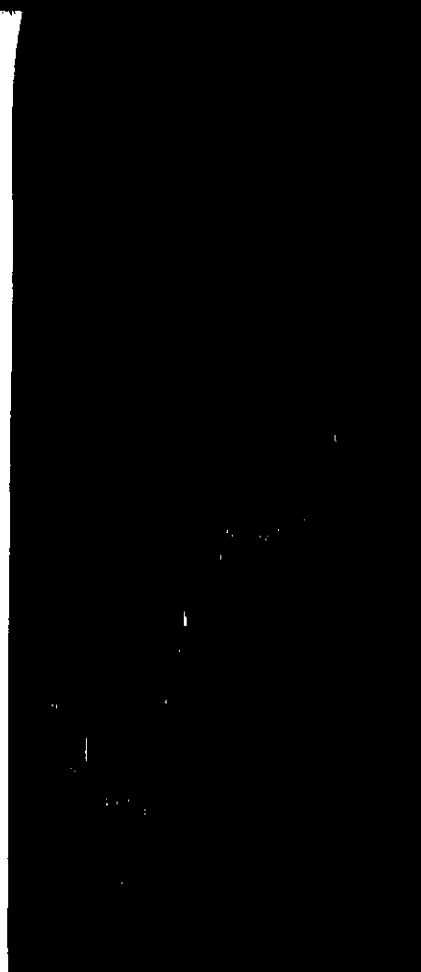


Fig. 9. Four continuous fractions are statistically processed (8 particles and 8 cavities distributions). The second biggest fraction (yellow colour) is taken away.

Each result sample is an average of 8 distributions. The average will be statistically smoothed in respect of great numbers of pixels. Then it will check appropriateness of each image. Other results and complete analysis is still waiting for our following investigation.

7. Conclusions:

This particular study opens new possibilities, how to study granular material. Software developed in ICPF is able to process coloured pictures. It is working with RGB spectrum of colour and it can:

- identify sample in a vessel,
- choose volume of pixels,
- statistically processing of more samples together.

It promises next analysing after identification of a sample. For example, how much sedimentary materials are hidden inside of a vessel?

From the first several pictures we have been able to predict, than the biggest particles are responsible for the large of cavities. Generally it can be said: "What the bigger particle than the larger cavity." Second one new piece of knowledge is about missing fraction. If one fraction is taking out of a mixture and the mixture is non-continuous (it has fraction gap or gaps), than bigger cavities emerge in a sample (sedimentary deposit).

8. Acknowledgements

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Vybrané elementární děje v pívni pění

Novák^{1,2}, M. Basczyński^{1,2}, T. Brányik², M.C. Růžicka¹, M. Zedníková¹, J. Drahoš¹

¹Ústav chemických procesů AV ČR, Rozvojová 2, 165 02 Praha 6 – Suchbát, e-mail: novak@icpf.cas.cz
²Ústav kvasné chemie a biotechniky, VŠCHT Praha, Technická 5, 166 28

1 Úvod

Jedním z hlavních znaků charakterizujících pivo patří hustá a dlouhotrvající pěna. Spotřebitel hodnotí kvalitu pívni pěny z různých hledisek, jako například stabilita pěny, barva pěny, její chuť, přilnavost na skle (tzv. kroužkování pěny), struktura atd. Nejdůležitějším kritériem, jednak pro spotřebitele, ale také pro pivovary, je stabilita pívni pěny. Pěna je dynamický systém, procesy tvorby a rozpadu probíhají současně, což komplikuje studium těchto dějů. Mezi základní typy dějů ovlivňující pívni pěnu patří tvorba bublin a jejich následný vzestup k hladině tvořící tak na ní viskózní pěnu, praskání kapalného filmu, odvodňování pěny (drainage) a vzájemné rozpouštění bublin (disproporcionace).¹ Tyto děje probíhají do značné míry současně a navzájem se ovlivňují. Pro stabilitu pěny je rozhodující, které procesy v daný okamžik převládají.

1.1 Tvorba bublin

Pěna je tvořena z bublin (disperze plynu v kapalině), proto jejich vznik závisle ovlivňuje stabilitu pěny. V pivu vznikají nejčastěji bubliny po naití do sklenice heterogenní nukleací z přesyceného piva. Zárodkem pro vznik nové bubliny může být koloidní částice, nečistota, povrchová nerovnost na sklenici (ryha, prasklina atd.),^{1,2} Vznik bublin v pivu homogenizované se nepředpokládá z důvodu nízkého tlaku plynu v pivu. Minimální překlenutí pro vznik bublin homogenizované nukleací je asi 100 MPa.¹ Rychlost a množství vytvořených bublin závisí na velikosti průtoku kapaliny („rychlost naitění piva“) a chemickém složení plynu v pivu rozpouštěném. Bublina na nukleacím centru zvětšuje svůj objem do doby, než vztlaková síla působící na bublinu ($F_v = \Delta \rho g V$), překoná sílu adheze ($F_a = \sigma O$), kde $\Delta \rho$ je rozdíl hustot mezi kapalinou a plynem v ní rozpouštěným, g je gravitační konstanta, V je objem bubliny, O je obvod nukleacního místa a σ je povrchové napětí piva. Poté se bublina odtrhne a stoupá vznáše k hladině. Velikost odtržené bubliny závisí na poloměru nukleacního místa a povrchovém napětí piva (Rov. 1)³

$$R_b = (3R_m \sigma / 2 \Delta \rho g)^{1/3}$$

kde R_b je poloměr bubliny, R_m je poloměr nukleacního místa.

(Rov. 1)

Rychlost stoupání bubliny k hladině významně ovlivňuje koncentrace surfaktantů v roztoku. V čisté vodě a v koncentrovaných roztocích surfaktantů bublina po odtržení z nukleacního místa akceleruje (působení vztlakové síly) a brzy dosáhne rovnováhy sil na ni působících. Díky tomu dojde k rychlému ustálení vzestupné rychlosti. V roztocích surfaktantů o nízké koncentraci se v důsledku některých jevů jako je Marangoniho efekt apod. ustálí rovnováha sil působících na bublinu mnohem později. Povrchové aktivních látek také ovlivňují vzájemnou koalescenci