

Provenance and Diagenetic Studies of Sandstone Reservoirs

INTRODUCTION

- This Provenance and Diagenetic Studies of Sandstone Reservoirs training course is aimed at giving oil industry geologists a detailed introduction on provenance, diagenesis and reservoir potential/distribution of sand bodies/sandstone reservoirs.
- The training course will thus provide petroleum geologists with conceptual and practical tools (microscopy work) to understand the genetic history of the sandstones, in relationship with petrophysics and paleogeography.
- If the provenance of a sediment and transport distance to the basin can be predicted, other relevant physical parameters of the sediment, the reasons of mineralogical vs. textural maturity and climate can be estimated. Emphasis will also be put on sedimentary basin fill processes, diagenesis vs. stratigraphy and QFL composition vs. tectonic settings. A wide range of examples of current oil/gas reservoirs from different basins in the world (e.g. siliciclastic reservoirs from East and West Africa) will be discussed and analysed in detail, in order to build a summarizing database of provenance rock-types useful as analogue data for future exploration studies.

This training course will highlight:

- Laboratory techniques for provenance studies of sandstones reservoirs
- Litho-types vs. provenance and tectonic settings
- Diagenetic paths of sandstones at different QFL composition
- Porosity/permeability evolution of sandstones vs. burial
- Mapping grain size distributions vs. potential source areas

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this training course, participants will learn to:

- Utilize analytical techniques for provenance analysis
- Assess sandstone petro-types by provenance features
- Understand the link between diagenesis and QFL%
- Determine sandstone provenance and diagenesis vs. tectonic settings
- Develop a model of analogue petrographical datasets for exploration studies

TRAINING METHODOLOGY

- This training course will be structured in oral and practical sessions, with PowerPoint presentations and didactic material/exercises. Examples of techniques and microscopy work utilized for the assessment of provenance, diagenesis and reservoir quality (e.g. Qemscan, diagenetic logs, grain size profiles, etc.) will be provided during the training course.

ORGANISATIONAL IMPACT

Organizations sending their employees to attend this training course will benefit by:

- Having employees able to identify the types of sandstone reservoirs vs. provenance/tectonic settings
- Having employees with a working knowledge on the methods of provenance analysis
- Having employees able to apply concepts of provenance/diagenesis for single well to multi-well correlations
- Having employees able to assess the link between reservoir quality and rock composition
- Having employees able to apply provenance principles to regional exploration studies
- Having employees able to interpret the variation of sand composition vs. stratigraphy and areal distribution

PERSONAL IMPACT

The participants in this training course will learn to:

- Collect provenance and diagenetic datasets from sandstone reservoirs
- Improve methods of laboratory work for the analyses of siliciclastic sequences
- Apply stratigraphic, depositional and diagenetic concepts to sandstone suites from exploration studies
- Able to perform “Launch & Learn” sessions on the studied topics at their own company (i.e. transfer of knowledge)
- Having a set of exercises, didactic material and papers for self-training sessions
- To enrich their CV due to the attendance and successful completion of the training session

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- This training course is suitable to a wide range of geologists working in the oil industry positions in hydrocarbon exploration.
- Sedimentary geologists of small or major service and oil companies
- Junior to senior geoscientists carrying out projects on sandstone reservoirs
- Petroleum geologists working in exploration of oil/gas reservoirs
- Geoscientists who wish to increase their knowledge in sedimentary basin analysis
- PhD and post-doctoral researchers in sedimentary geology willing to gain expertise in oil industry work-methods

Course Outline

Introduction to Provenance of Sandstone Reservoirs

- Definition, importance of provenance analysis for hydrocarbon exploration; generation, dispersal and diagenesis of siliciclastic detritus, petrographical modal analysis (Gazzi Dickinson method), mineralogy of sandstones from igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary sources, rock composition (texture, classification); heavy minerals studies, textural and mineralogical maturity, maturity index
- Litho-types vs. provenance; grain size analysis and digital image analysis concepts
- Provenance and tectonic settings; depositional markers, provenance and reservoir quality markers
- Definition of matrix and pseudo-matrix & QFL content
- Authigenic components and rock composition (e.g. zeolites from detritus rich in volcanoclastic material, examples from the Kenya Tertiary Rifts)
- Other techniques for provenance studies: cathodoluminescence, qemscan & geochemical analysis
- Analysis of cuttings and core samples, TS descriptions and quantitative data

Diagenesis and Sandstone Composition

- Compaction, silica cementation, carbonate cementation, feldspar authigenesis, clay minerals and zeolite authigenesis
- Rock composition vs. porosity/burial depth, diagenetic paths; Diagenesis and depositional environments. Examples from West Africa reservoirs (e.g. Central Atlantic margins).
- Diagenetic environments & sequences. Diagenetic marine environment, hot & humid/arid non-marine, near surface, eogenetic environment & burial environment
- Concepts of SEM, EDAX and XRD analyses. Structure of clays, description of matrix, chronology of diagenetic events, chemistry of minerals detected through EDX and XRD. Data integration. CL analysis: Concepts of CL analysis, distribution of quartz cement vs. detrital quartz (Al, Li being activators of luminescence). Controls on distribution and timing of cements for exploration and production
- Regional sandstone provenance vs. stratigraphy. Emphasis on single well or multi-well studies, with regional correlations.

Porosity/Reservoir Quality Evolution of Provenance Rock-types

- Porosity types in sandstones: Primary pores (intergranular), secondary pores (secondary intergranular, intragranular) incipient dissolution, moldic pores, natural & artificial fracture porosity, microporosity types
- Porosity estimation and data collection for cuttings and core samples; porosity-permeability plot for kaolinite-illite cemented sandstones, porosity evolution vs. burial depths (Dickinson, 1985). Porosity prediction in frontier basins: Estimating subsurface reservoir quality from outcrop samples.
- Reservoir description; reservoir quality controls for sands under different diagenetic stages;
- Porosity and maturity index trends; effects of sandstone provenance on reservoir quality preservation in deep burial environments
- Porosity enhancement: dissolution processes in sandstones with different QFL composition and cementation phases (e.g. calcite vs. dolomite)
- Trends of porosity destruction from compaction in sandstones with increasing percentages of rock fragments

Practical Session

- Texture of siliciclastic rocks (e.g. grain size analysis), recognizing main detrital components and their link with textural/mineralogical maturity. Visual estimation of minerals (Q,F,L%), ternary plots and working at the microscope with emphasis on rock classification, provenance (e.g. quartzarenites, feldspathic arenites, lithic arenites & wackes), depositional & diagenetic markers
- Determination of authigenic components and matrix of selected sandstones
- SEM/EDX/XRD data interpretation on discrepancies/similarities with TS data in terms of reservoir potential of analysed rocks (e.g. microporosity distribution), cements occluding pores (e.g. carbonates) and effect of authigenic clays on the petrophysics of the rocks (illite, smectite and kaolinite). Examples of CL images with discussion and interpretation of data. Summary of petrography standards for core plug coding and thin section descriptions
- Visual estimation of porosity by TS photomicrographs on core samples. Session at the microscope on determination of porosity. Potential discrepancy of point count porosity vs. CA data.
- Assessment of reservoir quality. Cutting reservoir quality, diagenesis and porosity evolution of quartz-rich vs. feldspar/lithic-rich arenites

Practical session

- Digital Image Analysis software: Grain size analysis and data collection techniques applied to provenance and diagenetic studies of sandstone reservoirs
- Building provenance and diagenetic logs for reservoir intervals of interests. Examples from East and West Africa reservoirs
- Working individually and in groups at the recognition of the main controls on reservoir quality of sandstones from different tectonic settings/sources.
- References on provenance studies for hydrocarbon exploration and material for self-training