



**Yellowstone
Petrophysics
LLC**

New Concepts in Petrophysics

Pore Systems and Permeability

June 23

2013 SPWLA Short Course

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Dave Herrick has more or less retired and is now consulting through Yellowstone Petrophysics LLC. Dave is a petrophysicist with over 30 years experience in the petroleum industry. He was trained in chemistry and geochemistry at Indiana University (B.S.) and Penn State (Ph.D.). He has conducted research, training and technical service for Conoco, Amoco, Mobil and Baker Hughes in the areas of geochemistry, petrology and petrophysics. Dave has many publications as well as having given numerous presentations and schools on petrophysics, resistivity interpretation, and the impact of pore geometry on permeability and conductivity.

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Understanding Permeability

We will:

- Consider only the simplest case: laminar, Darcy or potential flow, no inertial effects or turbulence.
- Consider porous materials (like rocks) that contain a single wetting non-compressible Newtonian fluid (like H₂O).
- Use ideas about the flow of electricity in porous materials developed earlier (pore-geometric theory).
- Apply these ideas to understand the pore-geometric parameters that control permeability and fluid-flow.

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Pore Geometric Factor



$C_0 \propto$ conductivity of water in rock

$C_0 \propto$ amount of water in rock

$C_0 = f$ (geometry of water in rock)

- Archie divided out the effect of C_w on C_0 :

$$C_0/C_w = 1/F = f \quad \text{or, } \underline{C_0 = f C_w}$$

- Dividing by ϕ removes the ϕ dependence.

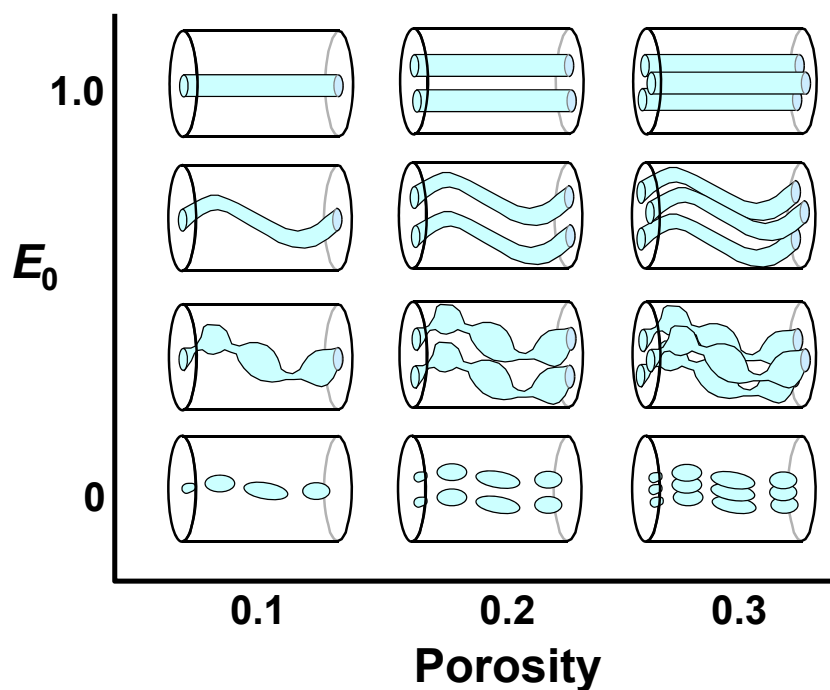
$$\frac{C_0}{C_w \phi} = E_0 \quad (E_0 \text{ is the pore-geometric factor})$$

$$\text{or, } \underline{C_0 = C_w \phi E_0}$$

- $f = E_0 \phi$ (f is not uniquely determined by $E_0 \phi$)

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Pore Geometric Factor



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Laplace's Equation

Potential is linear function of position: $\Phi = cx$

First derivative is: $\frac{d\Phi}{dx} = c$

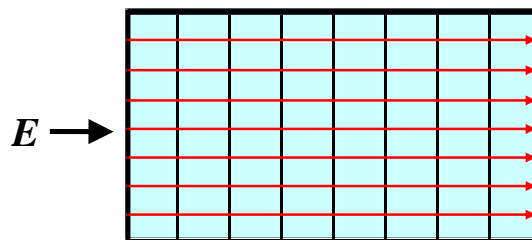
Second derivative is: $\frac{d^2\Phi}{dx^2} = 0$ or, $\nabla^2\Phi = 0$

Meaning:

- The potential varies smoothly from point to point.
- There are no current sources or sinks.
All current that flows into a point flows out.
- Current flows along and parallel to the interface between conductive and non-conductive components of a porous medium. Equi-potential surfaces are perpendicular to the interface.

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Numerical Modeling of Electric Currents



Conductivity = C_w

Equi-potential surfaces
(potential contours)

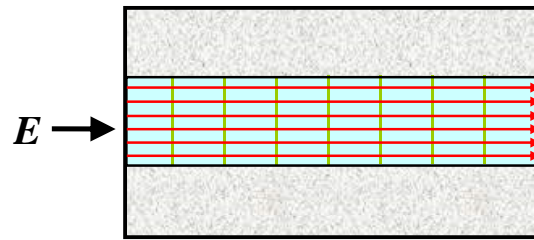
Current streamlines

Uniform current density

(current density = current / m²)

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Numerical Modeling of Electric Currents



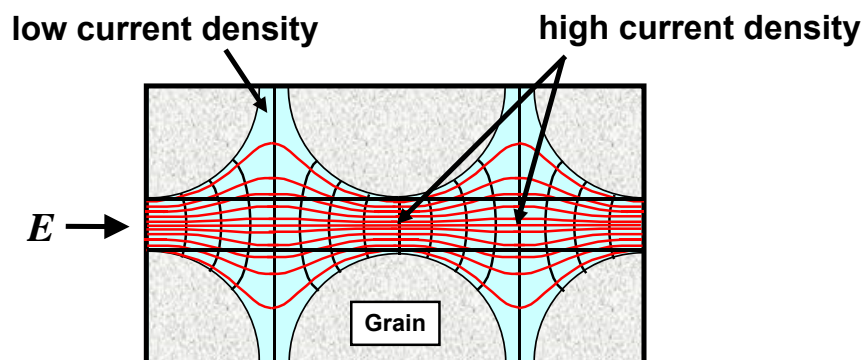
$$\text{Conductivity} = C_w \phi$$

Uniform current density

Maximum current for a given ϕ

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Numerical Modeling of Electric Currents



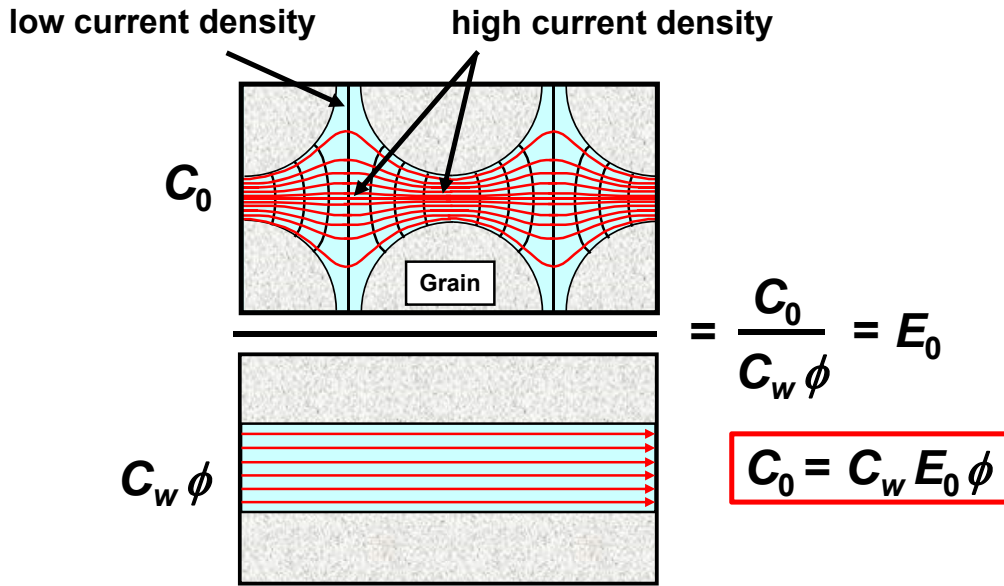
Non-uniform current density

Average current density:

single parameter describing the electrical effect
of the pore *geometry* of a porous material.

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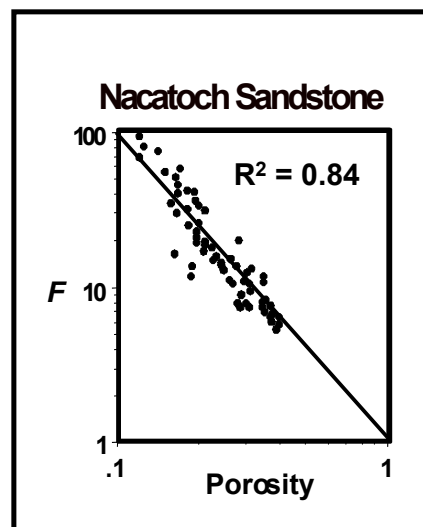
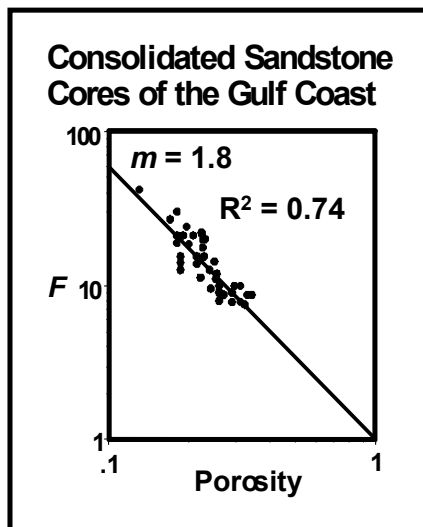
Pore Geometric Factor



$$E_0 = \frac{\text{average current density in rock}}{\text{average current density in equivalent tube}}$$

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Archie's (1942) Data



assumptions!:

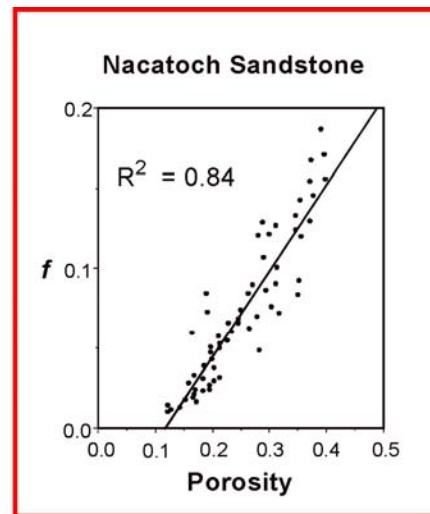
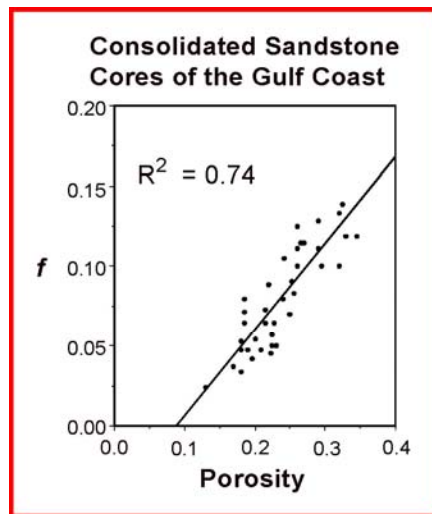
- 1) straight line
- 2) extrapolates to ($F=1$, $\phi=1$)

$$\log F = -m \log \phi$$

$F = \phi^{-m}$

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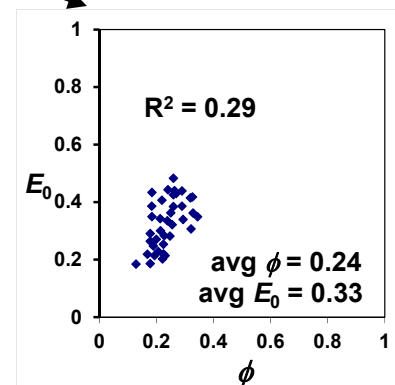
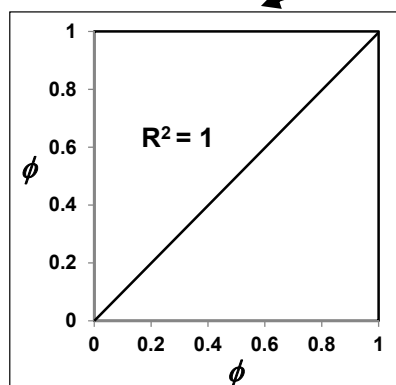
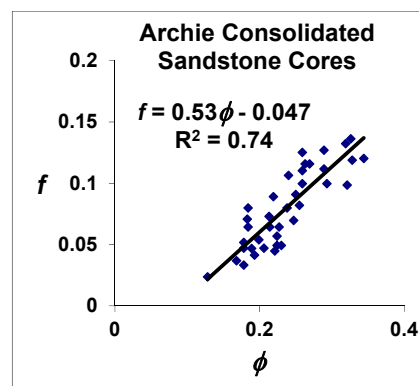
Archie's 1942 Data



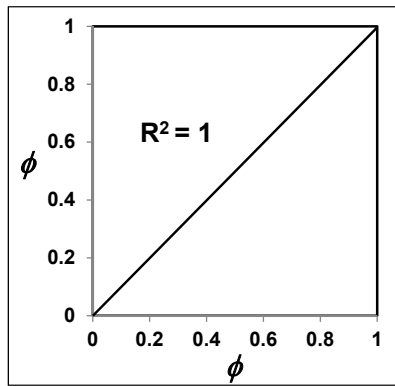
Remember: $f = E_0 \phi$

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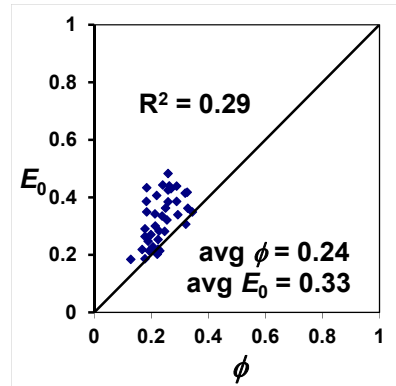
$$f = E_0 \phi$$



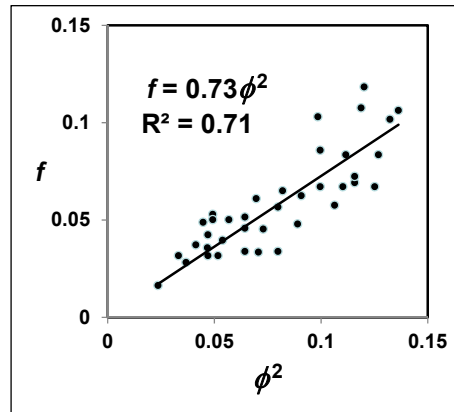
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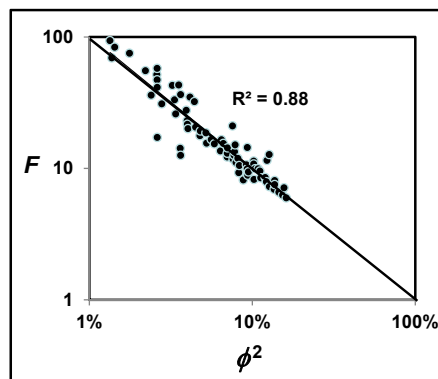
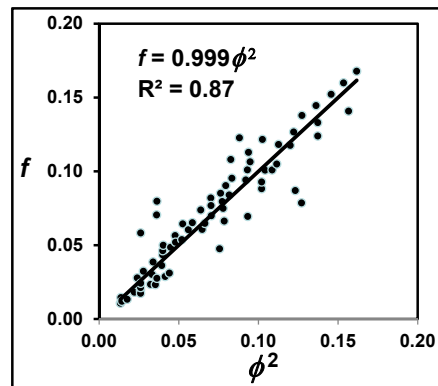
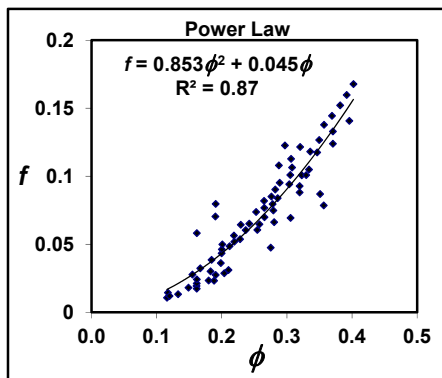


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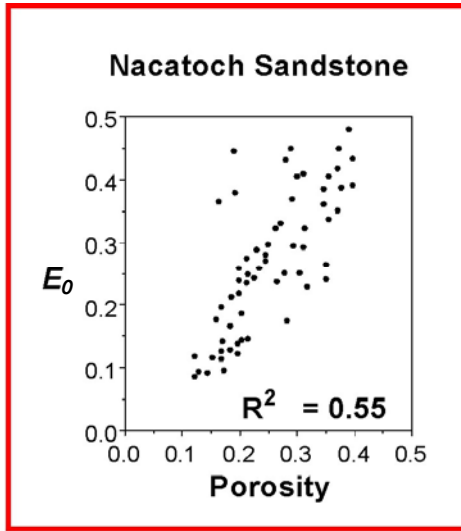
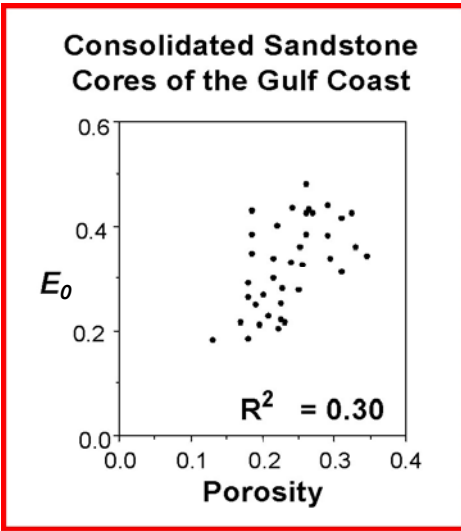
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Archie Nacatoch Data Curve Fitting



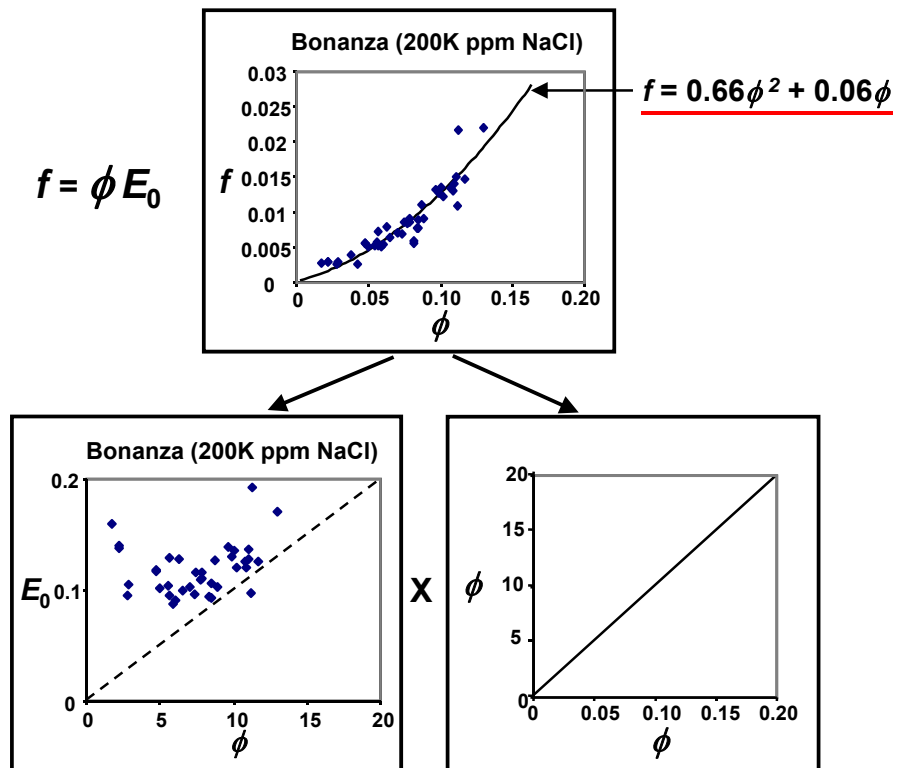
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Archie's 1942 Data



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Mesaverde Example



Wood's metal pore casts

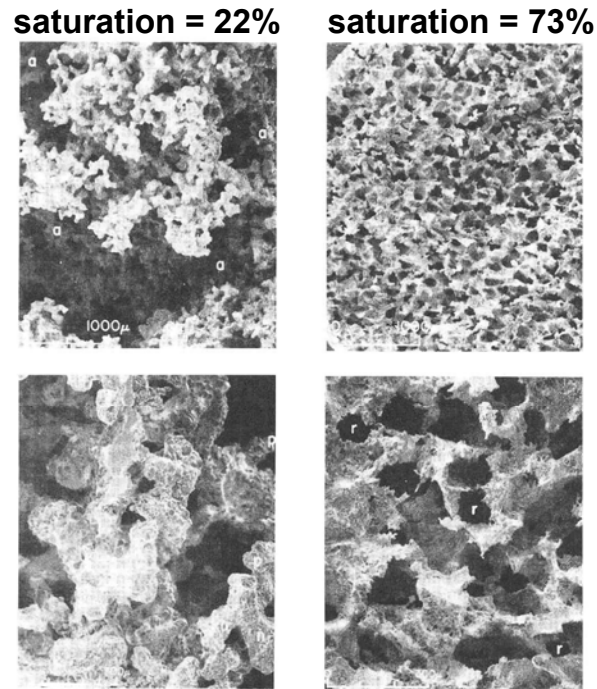
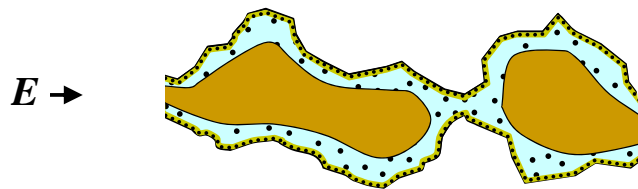


Figure 5.17 Cast of pore space in Berea sandstone. Woods metal has been introduced into the pores at two saturations (22% on left, 73% on right). Lower photographs show magnified detail of the upper ones. (Swanson, 1979. Copyright 1979, SPE-AIME)

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Effect of Water Geometry

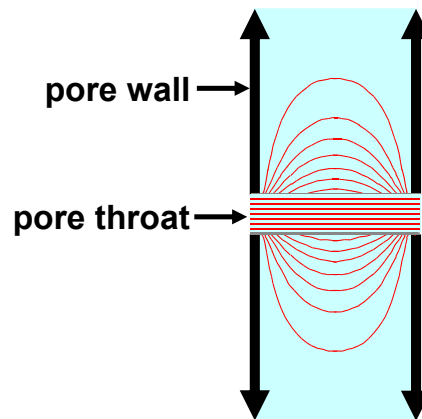


1. $S_w = 1$: C_0 reflects the smallest constriction(s)
 - 'pore throats'
2. $S_w < 1$: C_t reflects the smallest constriction(s)
 - 'pore throats'
 - between HC and grain surfaces
3. $S_w \leq 1$: C_t also includes
 - conduction in micro-pores
 - conduction by cation exchange on clay surfaces

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Effect of Pore Bodies

Infinitely-Wide Pore

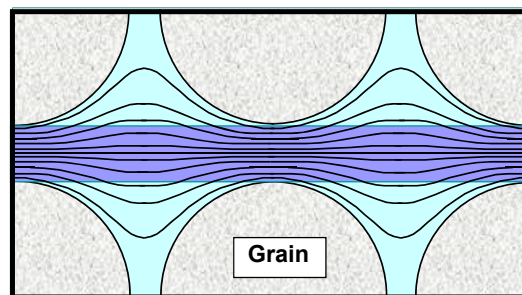


$$d = \frac{C_p}{C_{th}} = \frac{\text{conductance of largest pore}}{\text{conductance of smallest pore}}$$

$$d = 3$$

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Pore Body Effect



Effect of Pore Bodies:

$$d = \frac{c \text{ (pore system)}}{c \text{ (throat-tube)}} = 1.5$$

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Definition of Tortuosity (τ) [Google]

1. a tortuous and twisted shape or position
2. twistedness or crookedness.
3. a property of curve being tortuous (twisted; having many turns).
4. a twisting or crooked part, passage, or thing
5. the state of being tortuous; twisted form or course; crookedness.
6. something winding or twisted
7. a twist, turn, or coil
8. tortuosity is a dimensionless parameter that accounts for the fact that the flow path is in general not straight.
- 9 The most simple mathematic method to estimate tortuosity is arc-chord ratio: ratio of the length of the curve (L) to the distance between the ends of it (C):

$$\tau = \frac{L}{C} \text{ Arc-chord ratio equals 1 for a straight line and is infinite for a circle.}$$

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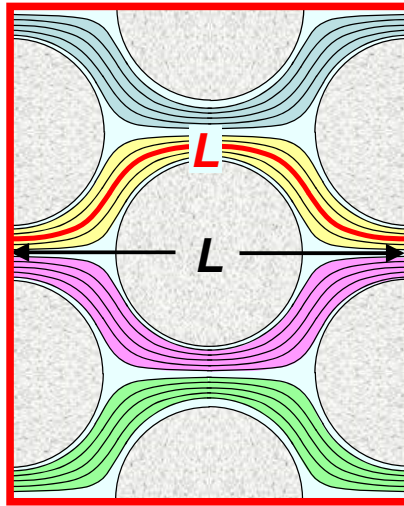
Definition of Tortuosity (τ) [Google]

10. Tortuosity is defined as the ratio of the effective average path in the porous medium to the shortest distance measured along the direction of the pore. Tortuosity is a dimensionless factor always greater than one, which expresses the degree of complexity of the sinuous pore path.
11. Geometric tortuosity is often defined as the ratio of the shortest path of interconnected points in pore fluid space to the straight line distance between those points.
12. Tortuosity may be defined as the ratio of the average length of the flow paths to the distance traveled in the direction of flow.
13. Tortuosity is the ratio of the length of the actual path to the length of the apparent path.

The definitive work on tortuosity: Clennell, B., 1997, Tortuosity: a guide through the maze, *Developments in Petrophysics*, Geol. Soc. Spec. Pub No. 122, pub. by The Geological Society, London, pp. 299-344.

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Tortuosity (τ)

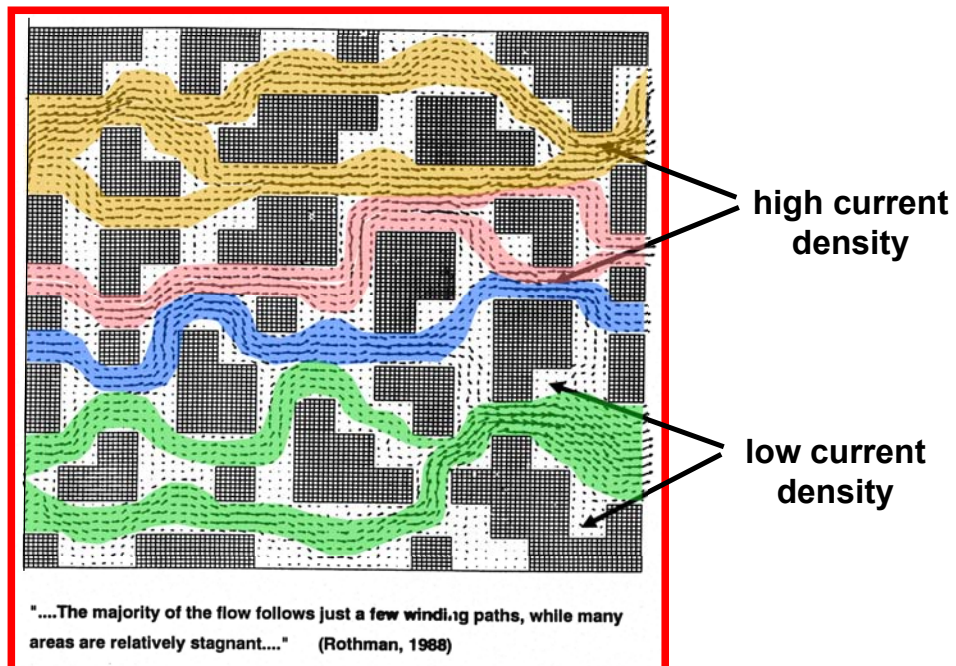


$$\tau = \frac{L}{L}$$

$$\tau = \sim \pi/2 \quad (\sim 1.5)$$

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Stream tubes



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Geometric Controls on Conductivity

1. Effect of Connectivity: none

Stream tubes are continuous, cannot cross or intersect.

2. Effect of pore bodies

$$d = \frac{C_{\text{pore}}}{C_{\text{th-tube}}} = \frac{\text{conductance of pore}}{\text{conductance of throat tube}}$$

$$d = \sim 1.5 \quad (\text{range} = 1 - 3)$$

3. Inter-pore tortuosity

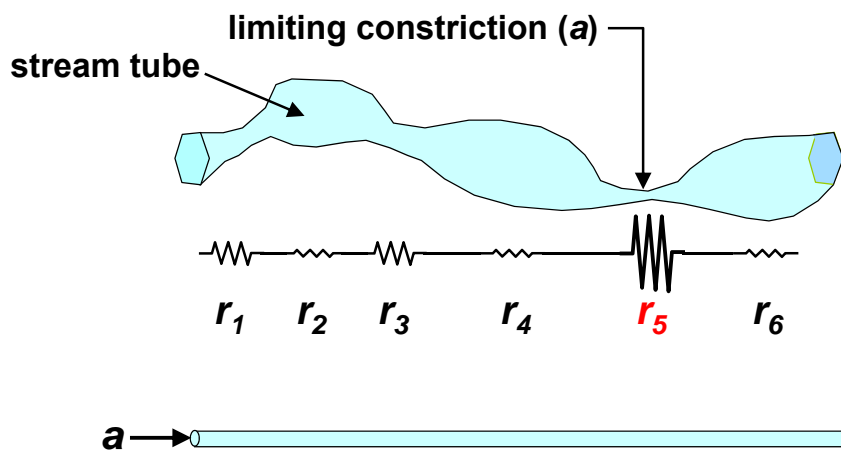
$$\tau = 1 - 2 \quad (\text{equi-dimensional grains})$$

4. Conductance between pores

$$C = C_{\text{th-tube}} \frac{d}{\tau}$$

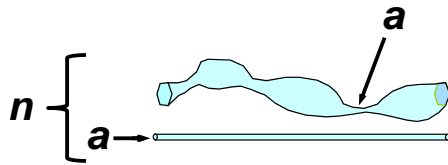
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Geometric Controls on Conductivity

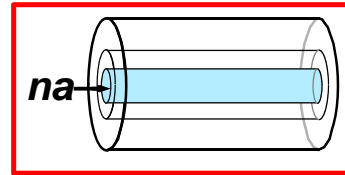
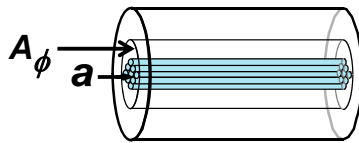


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Geometric Controls on Conductivity



Conductivity model:



na = total cross-sectional area of the limiting constrictions of all stream tubes.

$$E_0 \cong \frac{na}{A_\phi} = \frac{\phi_{ee}}{\phi}$$

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“ A new scientific truth does not triumph by convincing its opponents, but rather because its opponents die, and a new generation grows up that is familiar with it.”

Max Planck

“Progress is made with every funeral”

Robert Frank

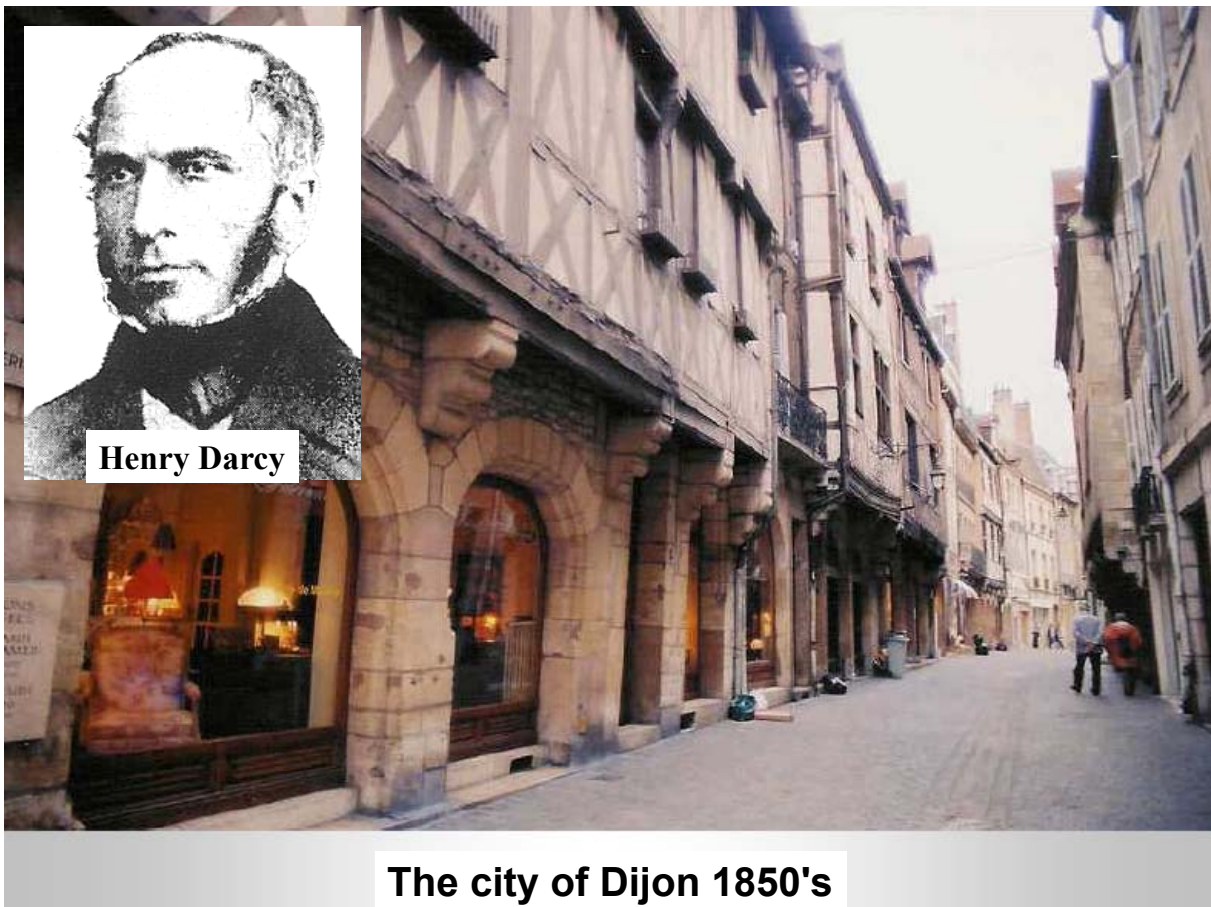
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“The perpetual obstacle to human advancement is custom.”
- John Stuart Mill (1806-1873)

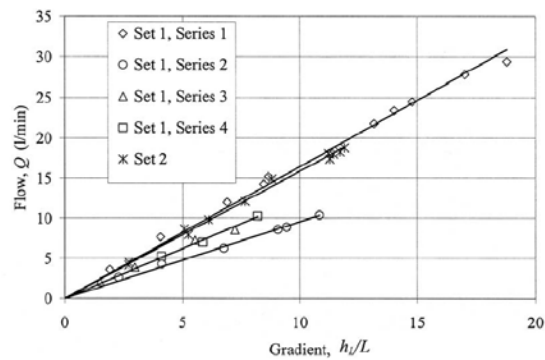
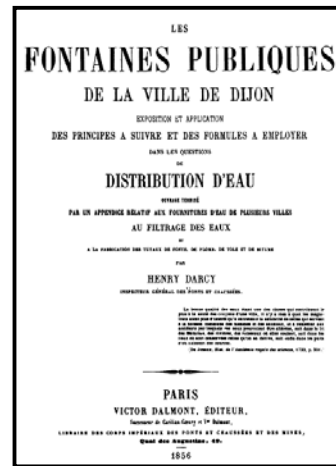
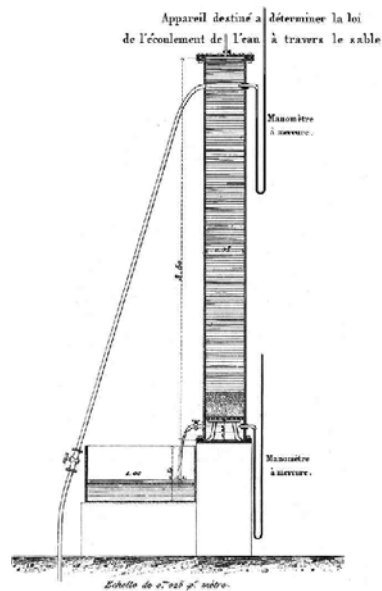
“Every man prefers belief to the exercise of judgment.”
- Seneca (4 B.C.-65 A.D.)

“Where we all think alike, no one thinks very much.”
- Walter Lippmann

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Henry Darcy, 1856



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Permeability

Darcy: 1850's - experiments on sand-packs

$$Q \propto \Delta P \frac{A}{L}$$

$$Q = K \left(\Delta P \frac{A}{L} \right)$$

$$K = \frac{k}{\mu} \quad (\text{Nutting, 1930})$$

$$Q = k \Delta P \frac{1}{\mu} \frac{A}{L} \quad k = \text{'permeability'}$$

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Permeability

Permeability -

- is a *proportionality constant* in a flow equation.
- has no specific physical meaning.
- reflects rock properties (ϕ , pore geometry) in an unspecified way.

$$Q = k \left(\Delta P \frac{1}{\mu} \frac{A}{L} \right)$$

Diagram illustrating the components of the flow equation:

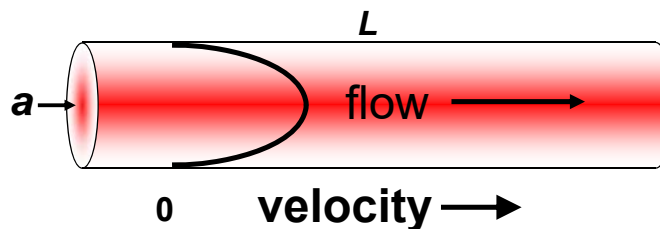
- ΔP : potential gradient
- $\frac{1}{\mu}$: fluid
- $\frac{A}{L}$: external geometric properties
- k : internal rock properties (i.e. ϕ , pore geometry)

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Laminar Flow in a Tube

Hagen-Poiseuille Equation:

Exact solution of Navier-Stokes Eqn. for straight cylindrical tube.



$$Q_{tube} = \frac{a}{8\pi} \frac{\Delta P}{\mu} \frac{a}{L}$$

$$k_{tube} = a/8\pi$$

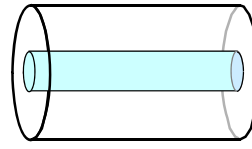
- zero flow velocity at the tube surface.
- viscous interaction between fluid molecules.

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Hydraulic Efficiency



$$Q_r = k \frac{\Delta P}{\mu} \frac{A}{L}$$



$$Q_t = \frac{\phi A}{8\pi} \frac{\Delta P}{\mu} \frac{\phi A}{L}$$

Hydraulic Efficiency (H)

$$H = \frac{Q_r}{Q_t} = \frac{k \frac{\Delta P}{\mu} \frac{A}{L}}{\frac{\phi A}{8\pi} \frac{\Delta P}{\mu} \frac{\phi A}{L}}$$

$$H = \frac{Q_r}{Q_t} = \frac{k}{\phi^2 A/8\pi}$$

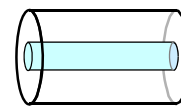
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Hydraulic Efficiency

$$H = \frac{Q_r}{Q_t} = \frac{k}{\phi^2 A/8\pi}$$



k



$\phi^2 A/8\pi$

Example

$$\phi = 30\%$$

$$k = 1 \text{ D}$$

$$A = 9 \text{ cm}^2$$

$$H = 3 \times 10^{-7}$$

The pore space in this 1D rock is 30 MILLION times less conductive than the same amount of pore space in a tubular configuration!

(remember: 1 Darcy = $9.9 \times 10^{-9} \text{ cm}^2$)

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Equivalence of Electrical and Fluid Flow

Resistivity

$$R_0 = \rho \frac{A}{L}$$

Archie's Eqn.

$$R_0 = F R_w$$

Ohm's Law

$$V = I \rho$$

Flow through a rock:

Ohm's Law: $I = f \Delta V \frac{1}{R_w} \frac{A}{L}$

Darcy's Law: $Q = k \Delta P \frac{1}{\mu} \frac{A}{L}$

flow rate = pore geometry & volume potential difference flow impedance system size

f = 'electrical permeability'

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Flux in a Potential Field

A flux is linearly proportional to the potential gradient.

$Q_f = -K \nabla P$ Darcy's law (hydraulic conductivity)

$J = -\sigma \nabla V$ Ohm's law (electrical conductivity)

$Q_d = -D \nabla C$ Fick's law (diffusion)

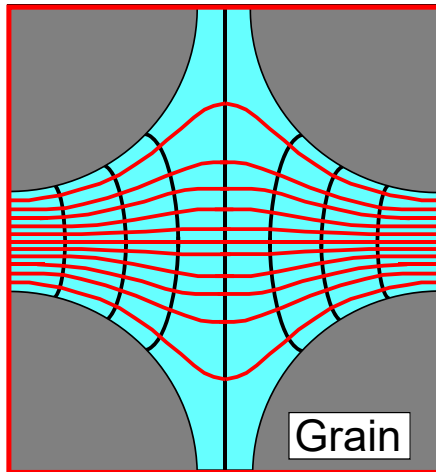
$Q_h = -\kappa \nabla T$ Fourier's law (heat conduction)

$\varepsilon = s \nabla \sigma$ Hooke's law (elasticity)

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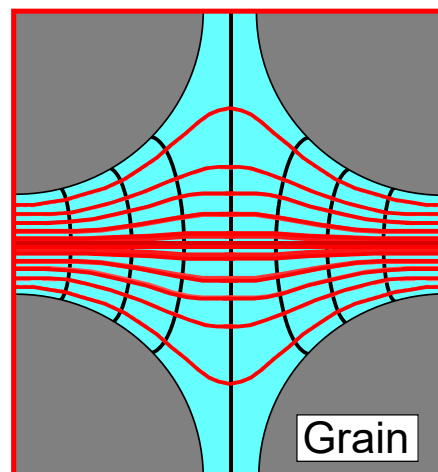
Effect of Surfaces

Electric Current Flow



$$'k' = f$$

Laminar Fluid Flow

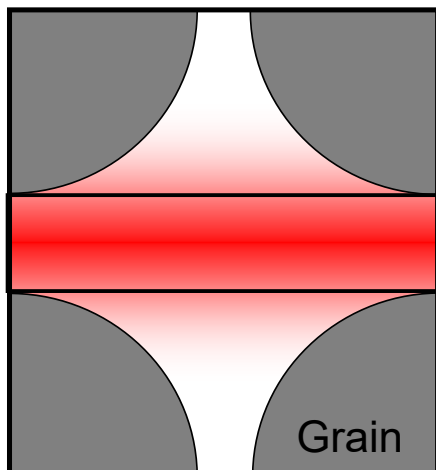


$$k = f S$$

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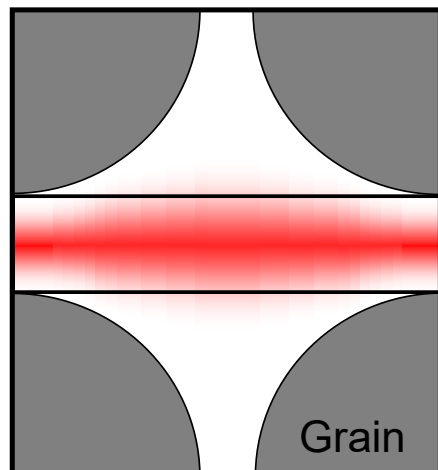
Effect of Grain Surfaces

Electric Current Flow



Tubes defined by pore throats are a good model for the flow of electric currents.

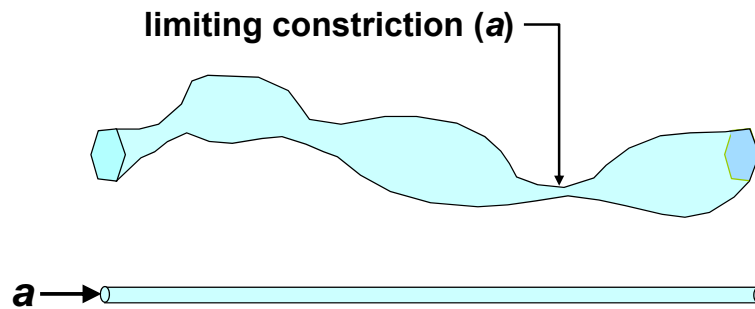
Laminar Fluid Flow



Tubes defined by pore throats are an *even better* model for the flow of fluids.

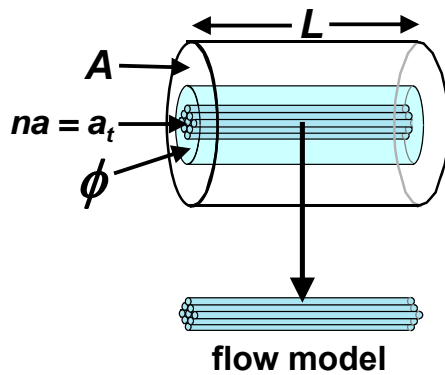
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Stream-Tubes



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Flow Model



$$Q = \frac{a}{8\pi} \frac{\Delta P}{\mu} \frac{n a}{L} \left[\frac{A}{a} \right]$$

$$Q = \left[\frac{a_t}{A} \frac{a}{8\pi} \right] \frac{\Delta P}{\mu} \frac{A}{L}$$

$$k = E_0 \phi \frac{a}{8\pi}$$

$$S = \frac{a}{8\pi}$$

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$$k = E_0 \phi \frac{a}{8\pi}$$

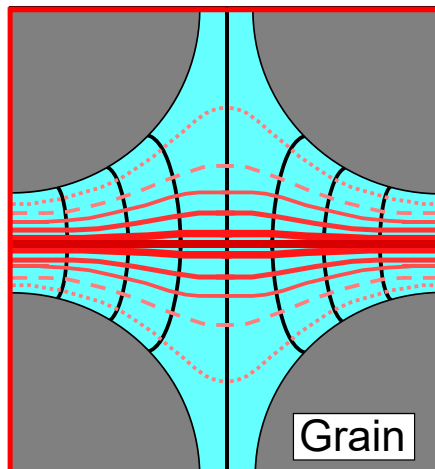
What is the relative importance of the factors that control permeability?

What does this imply about your ability to determine permeability from logs?

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Pore Geometry → Permeability

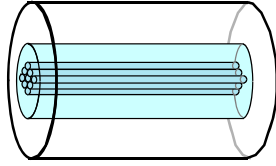
Pore geometry → eqi-potential surfaces
 → electric current density distribution
 + surface effect in pore throats → permeability



$$k = \frac{G_0 a}{8\pi \phi}$$

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Validation of the Flow Model

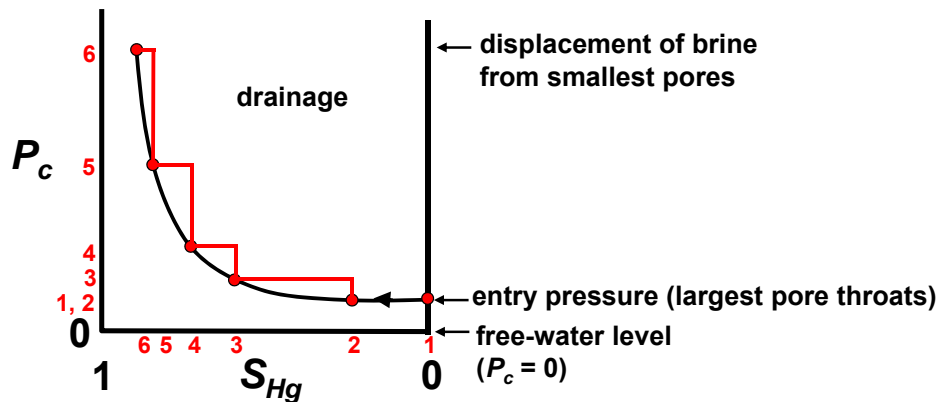


$$k = f \frac{a}{8\pi}$$

$$a = 8\pi k/f$$

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Hg Injection Capillary Pressure



for Hg and P_c (psi), r (μm)

$$r_i = \frac{107}{P_{c-i}}$$

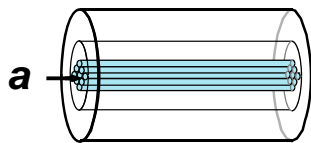
then:

$$\bar{r} = \frac{\sum_{i=2}^{i=n} [r_i (S_{Hg(i)} - S_{Hg(i-1)})]}{\sum_{i=1}^{i=n} (S_{Hg(i)})}$$

n = no. of pressure steps

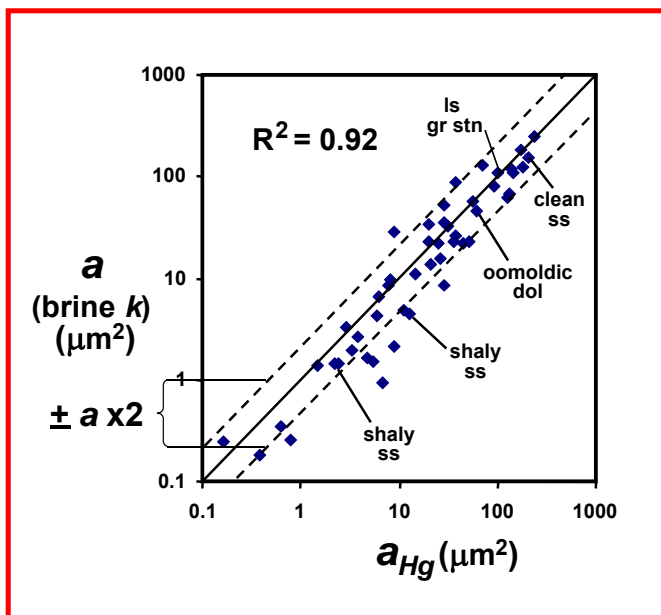
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Validation of the Flow Model



$$a_{(\mu\text{m}^2)} = 0.025 \frac{k_{\text{md}}}{f}$$

(0.025 $\Rightarrow 8\pi$, units)

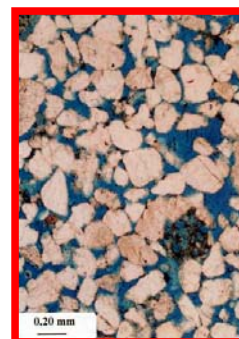


52 clean & shaly sandstone & carbonate samples from the Shell Rock Catalog.

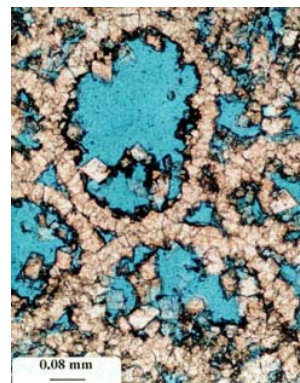
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Examples from the Shell Rock Catalog

clean, well-sorted
sandstone



oomoldic
dolomite



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Impact of pore geometry on Permeability

The agreement between the average limiting stream-tube constriction size calculated from k , and f , and limiting pore-throat size from capillary pressure measurements shows that:

- Limiting constriction (pore-throat) size *is* the only pore-geometric parameter of importance.
- The effects of tortuosity, connectivity, pore-bodies, etc. *are* minimal.
- *Pore systems conduct (electricity and fluids) as if they were a bundle of tubes whose size is determined by the sizes of the limiting constrictions.*

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Kozeny-Type Permeability Models

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The Kozeny Equation (1927)

Assumption:

Flow is through tubes with constant but arbitrary cross-section.

The volume of the tube bundle is equal to that of the pore volume.

$$k = \frac{c_k \phi^3}{(A_s/V_t)^2}$$

Where:

C_k = a constant = f (cross-sectional shape of the tubes)

A_s = surface area of the pores (grains)

V_t = volume of the sample






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Kozeney Constant (c_k)

$$k = \frac{c_k \phi^3}{(A_s/V_t)^2}$$

C_k = Kozeny shape constant

Assumption: flow is through tubes with constant,
but arbitrary cross-section.

				
$C_k = .5$	$.56$	$.6$	$.7$	$.6 \pm .1$

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Kozeny Equations: Relationships

Kozeny-type permeability models attempt to account for the effects of pore geometry.

Kozeny

$$k = \frac{c_k \phi^3}{(A_s/V_t)^2}$$

Carman - Kozeny

$$k = \frac{c_k \phi^3}{(A_s/V_g)^2 (1 - \phi)^2}$$

Modified Carman - Kozeny

$$k = \frac{c_k \phi^x}{\tau^2 (A_s/V_g)^2 (1 - \phi)^2}$$

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The Kozeny Equation (Panda & Lake)

$$k = \frac{\left[\bar{D}_p^2 \phi^3 (\gamma C_{D_p}^3 + 3C_{D_p}^2 + 1)^2 \right]}{\left\{ 2\tau_e (1 - \phi)^2 \left[6(1 + C_{D_p}^2)(1 - \phi_0)/(1 - \phi) + (a_{vb}P_b + a_{vf}P_f + a_{vf}P_f)\bar{D}_p (\gamma C_{D_p}^3 + 3C_{D_p}^2 + 1) \right]^2 \right\}}$$

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Kozeny Equations: Relationships

- Flow is through the pore system
- A_s/V_p is the relevant factor

$$\begin{array}{l} V_p = \phi V_t \\ V_g = (1-\phi) V_t \end{array} \quad \Rightarrow \quad V_p = \frac{\phi}{(1-\phi)} V_g$$

$k = \frac{c_k \phi^3}{(A_s/V_t)^2}$	$= \frac{c_k \phi^3}{(A_s/V_g)^2 (1-\phi)^2}$	$= \frac{c_k \phi}{(A_s/V_p)^2}$
Kozeny	Carman - Kozeny	

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The Kozeny Equation

$$k = \frac{c_k \phi}{\tau^2 (A_s/V_p)^2} \quad \text{Kozeny}$$

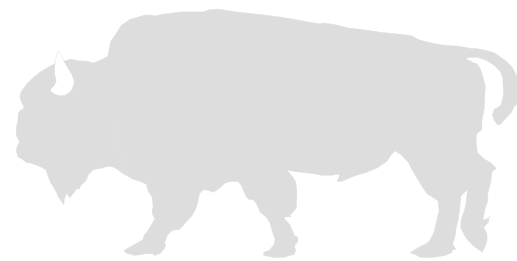
$$k = E_0 \phi \frac{a}{8\pi} \quad (\text{the 'real' relationship})$$

$$(V_p/A_s)^2 \quad \text{may correlate with} \quad \left(E_0 \frac{a}{8\pi} \right)$$

- a correlation is not guaranteed.
- any correlation will be rock-type dependent.

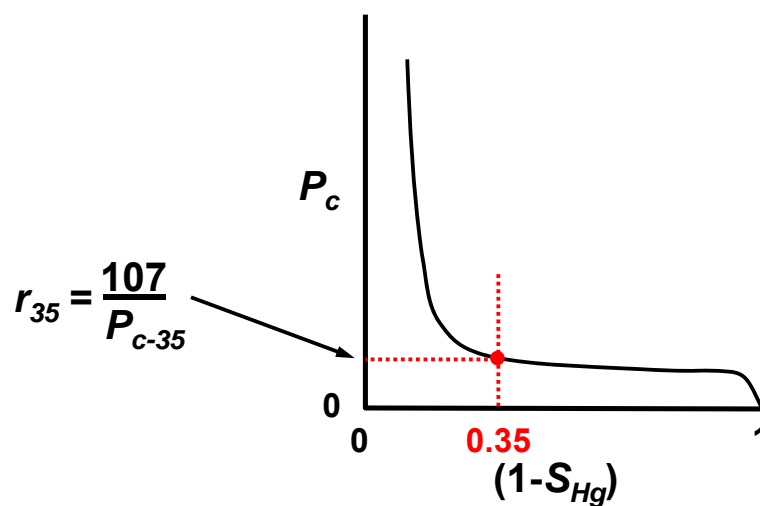
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other
capillary pressure – permeability
relationships



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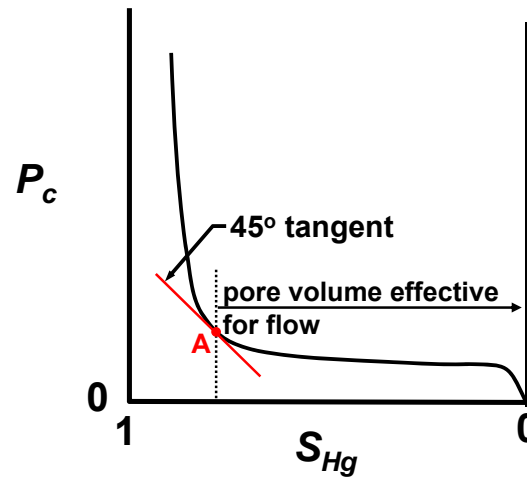
Winland (Kolodzie,1980)



$$\log r_{35} = a \log k + b \log \phi + c$$

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Swanson (1981)

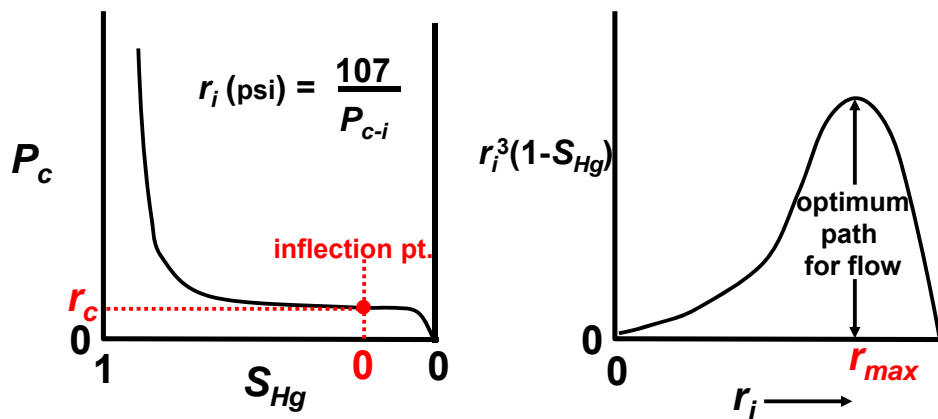


power-law correlation with parameters a & b:

$$k_w = a \left[\frac{S_{Hg}}{P_c} \right]^b$$

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Katz & Thompson (1987)

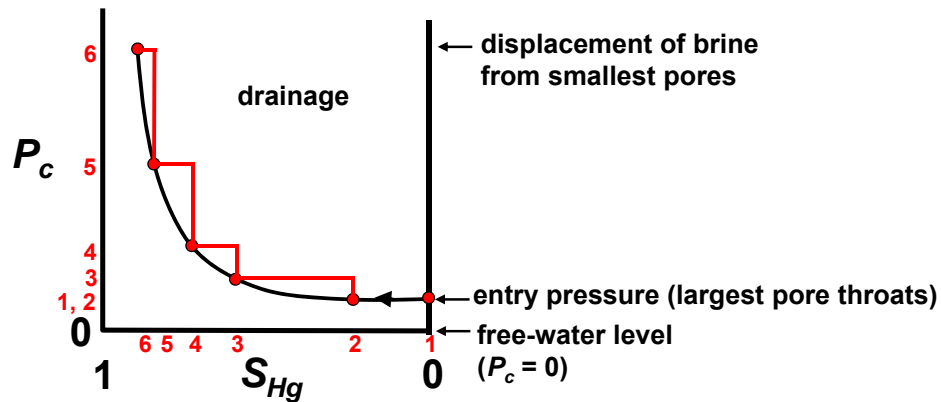


$$k = (1/89) (r_{max}^3 / r_c) \phi S_{max}$$

$$k = (1/226) r_c^2 (C_0 / C_w)$$

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Hg Injection Capillary Pressure



for Hg and P_c (psi), r (μm)

$$r_i = \frac{107}{P_{c-i}}$$

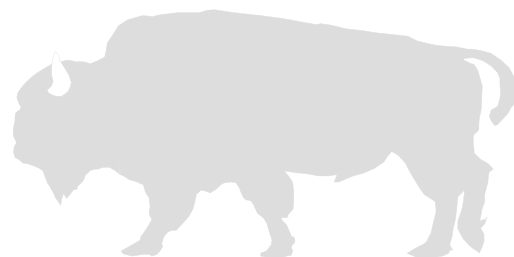
then:

$$\bar{r} = \frac{\sum_{i=2}^{i=n} [r_i (S_{Hg(i)} - S_{Hg(i-1)})]}{\sum_{i=1}^{i=n} (S_{Hg(i)})}$$

n = no. of pressure steps

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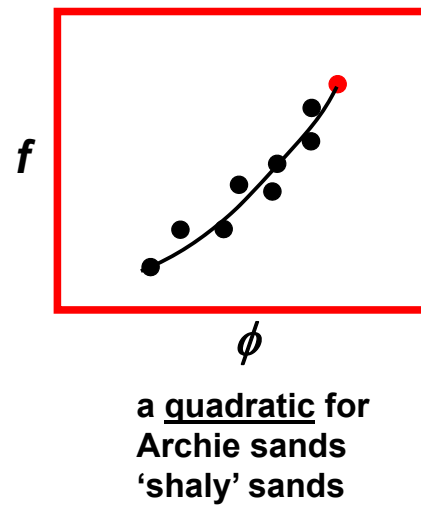
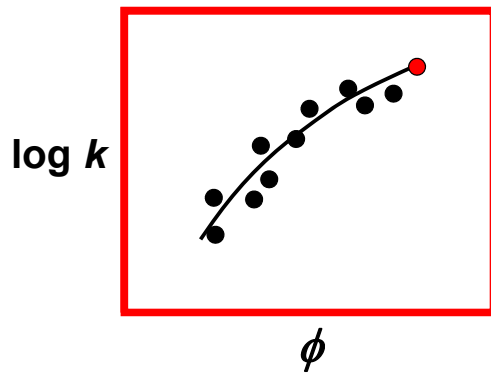
Interpretation of Permeability – Porosity Cross-Plots



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Interpretation of ϕ - k plots

Diagenesis:



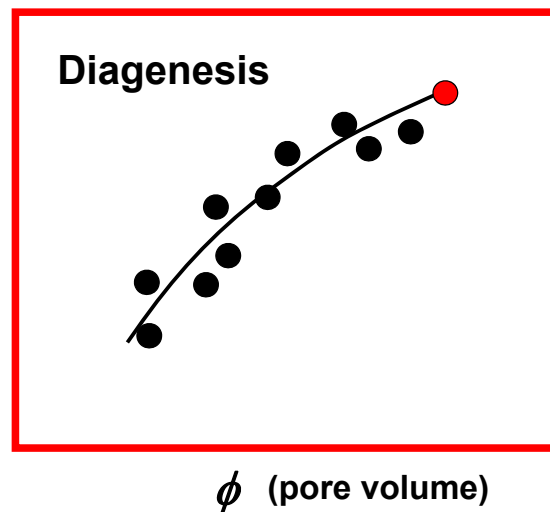
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Permeability Prediction:

$$k = E_0 \phi \frac{a}{8\pi}$$

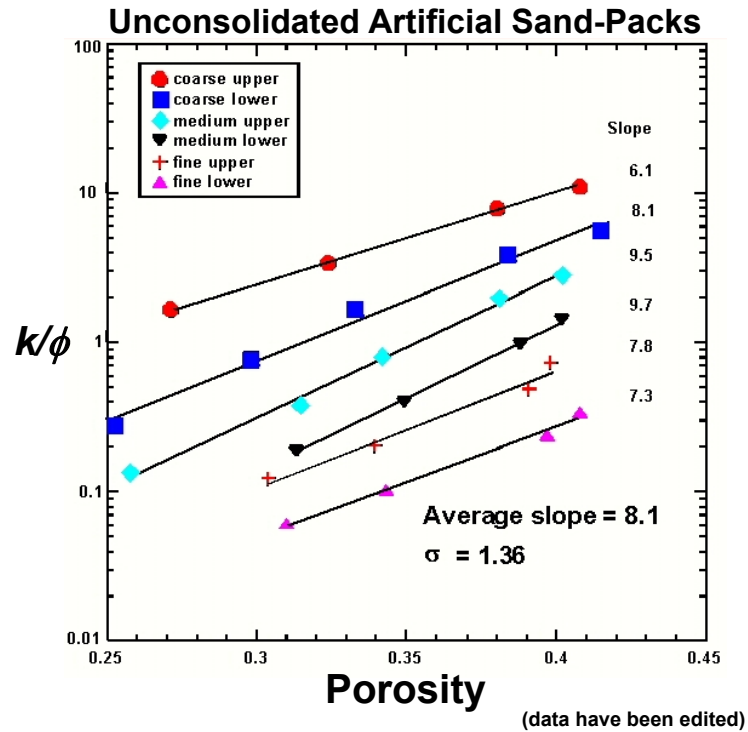
$$\frac{k}{\phi} = E_0 \frac{a}{8\pi}$$

$\log \frac{k}{\phi}$
(pore throats)



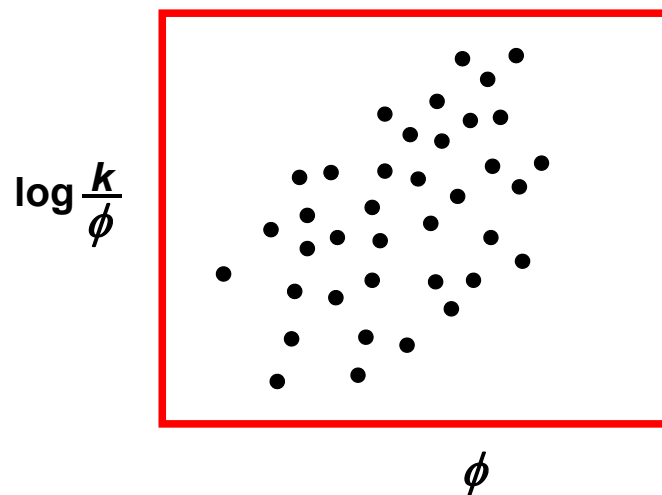
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Beard & Weyl (1973): Effect of Sorting



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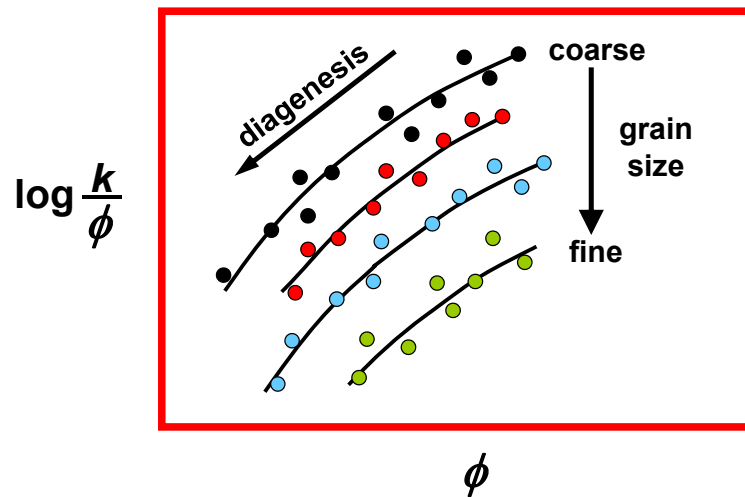
Diagenesis



no correlation → more than one 'rock type'

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Diagenesis



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Permeability Prediction From Geologic Models

$$k = \phi E_0 \frac{a}{8\pi}$$

$$k \propto \phi$$

E_0

The geologic processes that decrease ϕ also generally decrease the total cross-sectional area of limiting constrictions (pore throats), e.g. quartz cementation.

$$k \propto \phi^2$$

$\frac{a}{8\pi}$

The same geologic processes that vary ϕ and E_0 also vary the average cross-sectional area of the limiting constrictions.

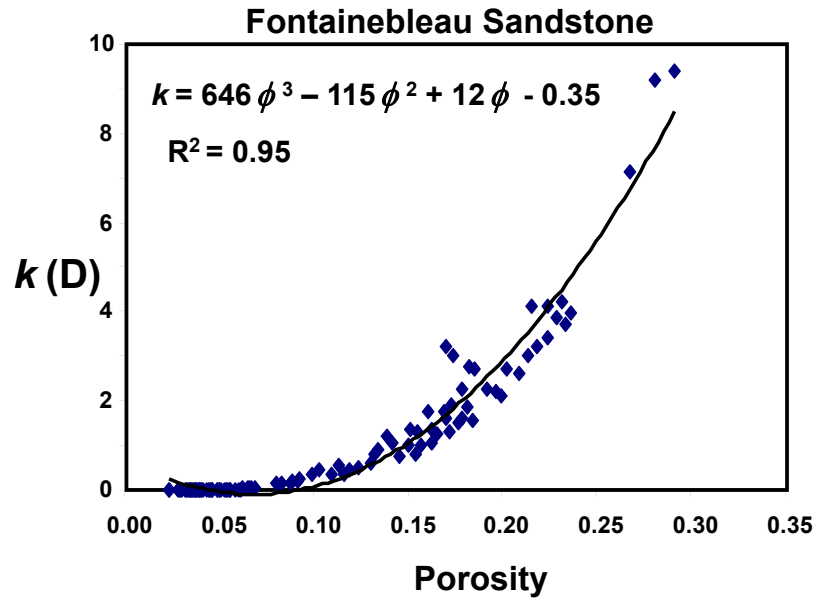
$$k \propto \phi^3$$

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Permeability Prediction From Geologic Models

Data of Bourbie & Zinszner (1985) in Bryant, Cade & Mellor (1993)

$$k = f(\phi^3)$$

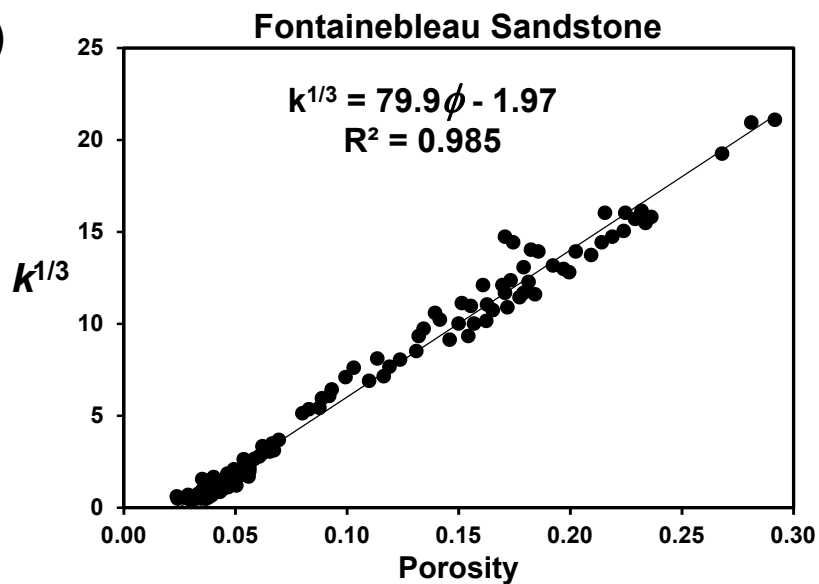


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Permeability Prediction From Geologic Models

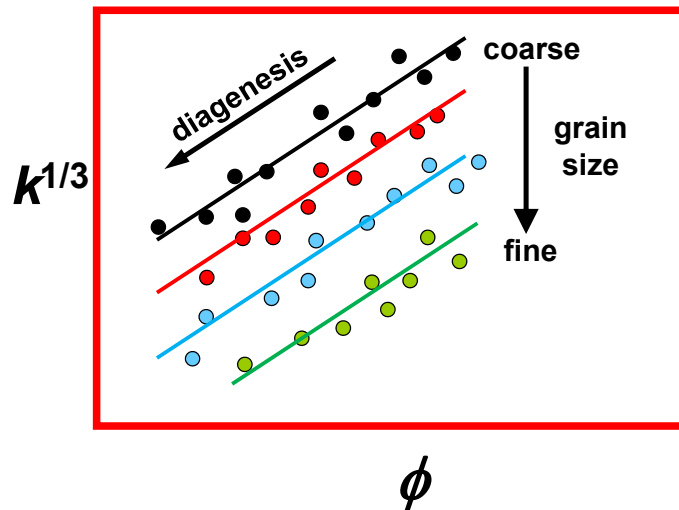
Data of Bourbie & Zinszner (1985) in Bryant, Cade & Mellor (1993)

$$k^{1/3} = f(\phi)$$



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$k - \phi$ Plots



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Summary

1. All measurement details must be known before a statement about permeability can be interpreted.
2. Permeability (k) has no intrinsic physical meaning. It is only a proportionality constant in the Darcy flow equation.
3. By default, k must reflect all internal properties of a rock that affect fluid flow (but not explicitly).
4. Ohm's Law and Darcy's Law have the same form and the same solution: $k \sim f$, ($k \sim E_0 \phi$).
5. $k = E_0 \phi a/8\pi$ is dominated by the average cross-sectional area of the limiting constrictions (a) by orders of magnitude.

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Summary

6. A good physical model for fluid flow is a bundle of tubes with total cross-sectional area equal to that of the limiting constrictions and the cross-sectional area of each tube equal to that of the average limiting constriction. This model is verified with experimental data.
7. Plotting $k^{1/3}$ vs ϕ gives a linear relationship showing how the total and average limiting constriction size vary as diagenesis changes porosity.
8. A lack of correlation between $k^{1/3}$ and ϕ implies a mixture of two or more 'rock-types.'
9. If the $k^{1/3}$ (or k/ϕ , or $\log k/\phi$) and ϕ relationship is known for the diagenesis relating a suit of rock samples, then it may be possible to interpret a mixture of varying grain-size and diagenesis.

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New Concepts in Petrophysics

Pore Systems and Permeability

June 23

2013 SPWLA Short Course

Facilitator:
David C. Herrick, PhD
Yellowstone Petrophysics LLC
davidcherrick@gmail.com



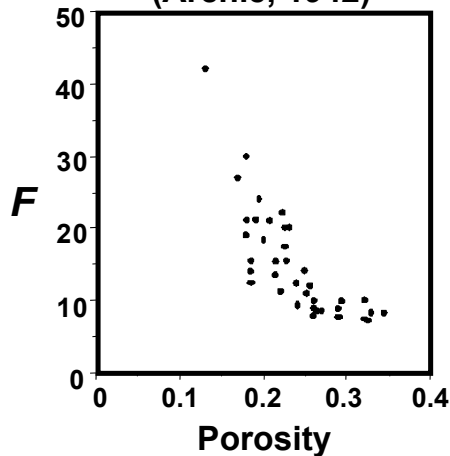
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G. E. Archie's (1942) Data

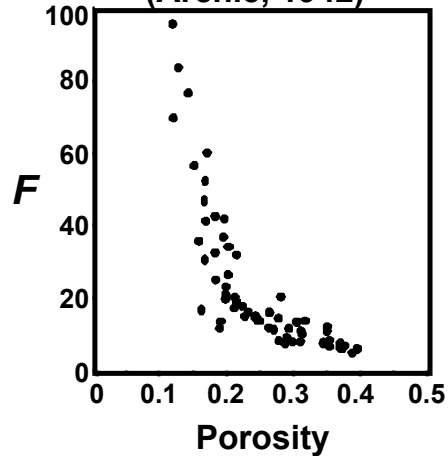
Formation Resistivity Factor: $F = R_0/R_w$

- a rock property independent of R_w

Consolidated Sandstone Cores
of the Gulf Coast
(Archie, 1942)



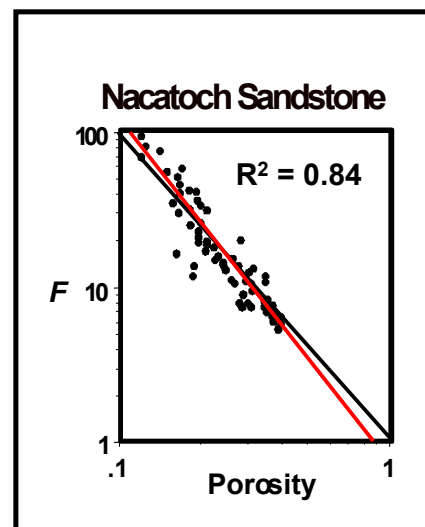
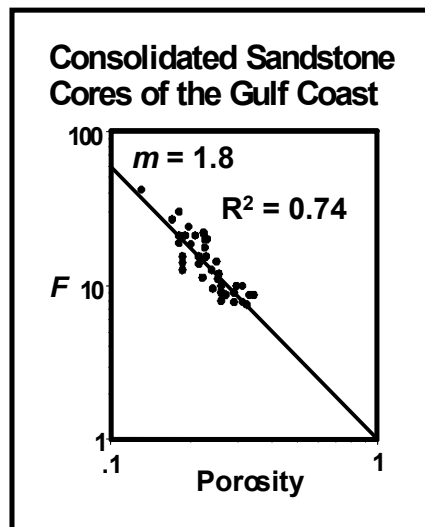
Nacatoch Sandstone
(Bellevue area, Louisiana)
(Archie, 1942)



Archie, G. E., 1942, The electrical resistivity log as an aid in determining some reservoir characteristics, *Transactions AIME*, v. 146.

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Archie's (1942) Data

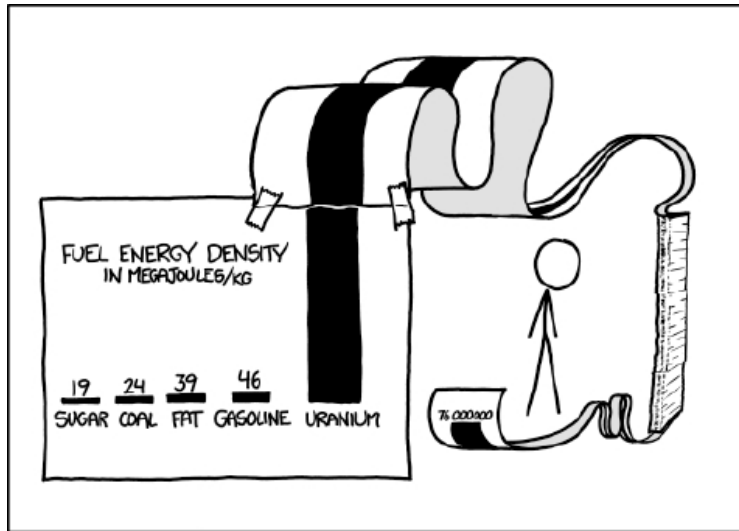


assumptions!:

- 1) straight line
- 2) extrapolates to ($F=1$, $\phi=1$)

$$\log F = -m \log \phi$$

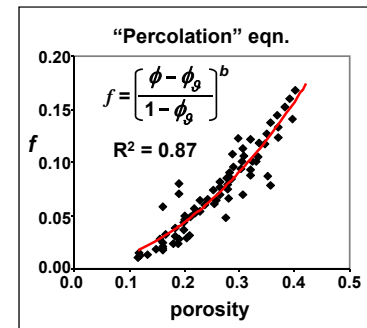
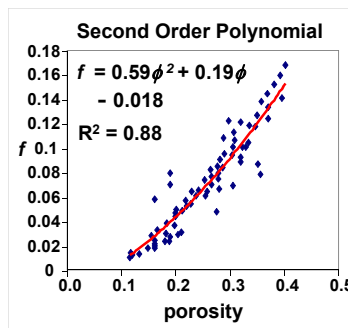
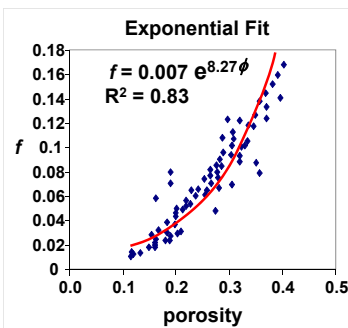
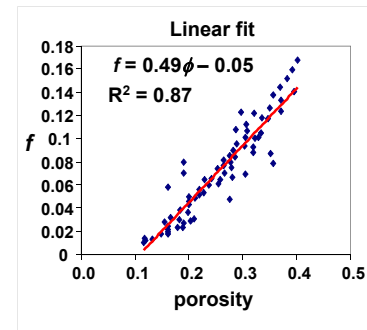
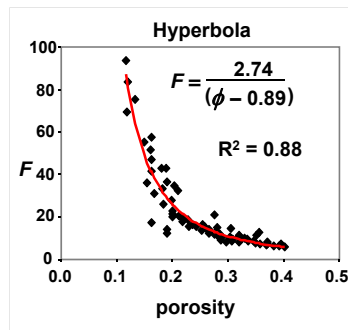
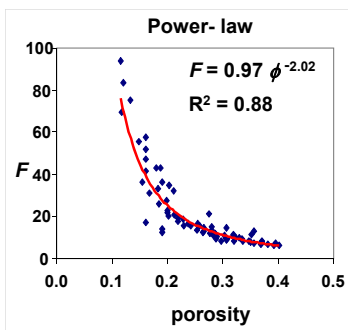
$$F = \phi^{-m}$$



SCIENCE TIP: LOG SCALES ARE FOR QUITTERS WHO CAN'T FIND ENOUGH PAPER TO MAKE THEIR POINT PROPERLY.

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Archie's 1942 Nacatoch Data



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Archie's S_w Equation

Archie (1942): from the initial description (abstract?)

"From the available information, it is apparent that much care must be exercised in applying to more complicated cases the methods suggested. It should be remembered that the equations given are not precise and represent only approximate relationships. It is believed, however, that under favorable conditions their application falls within useful limits of accuracy."

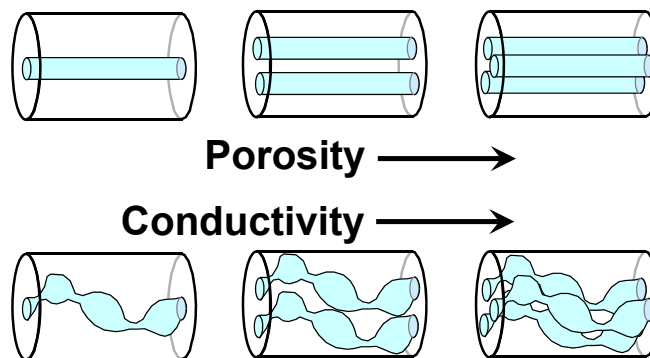
"it appears that the formation resistivity factor F is a function of the type and character of the formation, and varies, among other properties, with the porosity and permeability of the reservoir rock; many points depart from the average line shown, which represents a reasonable relationship."

"...the indicated empirical relationship

$$F = \phi^{-m} \dots"$$

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Conductivity = f (Porosity)

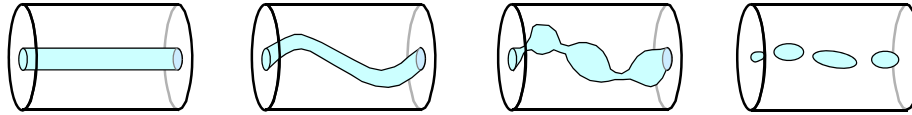


$$\text{Conductivity} \propto \text{Porosity}$$

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Conductivity = f (Pore Geometry)

models: identical except for geometry of pore space



max

← Conductivity

0

Conductivity = f ??(Pore Geometry)