

## Turbidite models revisited

\*Makoto Ito<sup>1</sup>

1. Graduate School of Science, Chiba University

Several standard turbidite models have been proposed and acted as norms for the description and interpretation of deep-water stratigraphic successions and analyses of hydrodynamic processes of turbidity currents and their related sediment-gravity flows. Although flume experiments, numerical modeling, and some direct observations of turbidity currents have played important roles in elucidating the origin of component units of the models, formation processes of some component units have continued to rely on theoretical consideration and/or speculation based on their lithofacies features. The models have been established in terms mainly of the combination of grain sizes and sedimentary structures. Although sedimentary structures represent cross sectional views of bedforms, the origin of component units and their vertical successions in turbidites has not necessarily been investigated in terms of bedforms. Thus, incorporation of component elements of a bedform into a turbidite model is challenging for a better understanding of the origin of spatial and temporal variations in lithofacies organization of turbidites. Turbidites which formed in active margin basins are commonly coarser than those in continental margin basins, and are locally associated with conglomerates and pebbly sandstones. In addition, silty turbidites are also common in the uppermost part of classical (sandy/silty) turbidites formed in active margin basins and enable us to investigate the origin of laminated silts and siltstones in fine-grained turbidites.

Conglomerates and pebbly sandstones in turbidite successions have been interpreted to be formed by tractional processes of turbidity currents (*sensu lato*). Thus, their transportation and deposition are likely induced by migration and aggradation of coarse-grained bedforms. Using outcrop analogues of coarse-grained sediment waves, which have been observed in modern deep-water environments, inversely graded, ungraded or stratified, and normally graded conglomerates are interpreted to represent deposits formed in stoss side, central part, and lee side of a coarse-grained sediment wave deposit, respectively. In addition, planar stratified and/or spaced stratified pebbly sandstones, which have been assigned to be formed as traction carpets, show gently undulating waveforms, which gradationally overlie coarse-grained sediment wave deposits or constitute a distinctive bedform by themselves, and are overlain gradationally by ungraded or normally graded pebbly sandstones. Thus, component units of coarse-grained turbidites can best be interpreted to be formed by migration and aggradation of different parts of coarse-grained sediment waves.

The origin of laminated silts and siltstones in the uppermost part of classical turbidites still remain controversy, and has been supposed to be a result of shear shorting of silts and clay floccs. This process, however, was proposed to explain the formation of laminated muds and mudstones in the basal part of turbiditic muds and mudstones, and is not necessarily suitable for explaining the origin of laminated silts and siltstones. Detailed outcrop observations indicate that silt lamination commonly occurs as sinusoidal lamination over the underlying current-ripple cross-lamination, and distinct grain size breaks are obvious within the laminated siltstones in the stoss sides while gradational fining is common in the lee sides. Long axes of silt grains on the lamina planes is aligned nearly orthogonal to the paleocurrents in the lower part and gradationally changes to become nearly parallel to the paleocurrents in the upper part of the laminated siltstones in response to fining and the increase in clay contents. Thus, laminated silts and siltstones are likely to have formed as a response to the development of low-amplitude sinusoidal bedforms over current ripples with an increased rate of suspended load deposition in turbidity currents.

Keywords: turbidite models, coarse-grained turbidites, coarse-grained sediment waves, fine-grained turbidites, laminated siltstones

## Bedform and grain size variation in Froude supercritical flow deposits: Field examples of conglomerates, sandstones and fine-grained turbidites in deepwater slope settings.

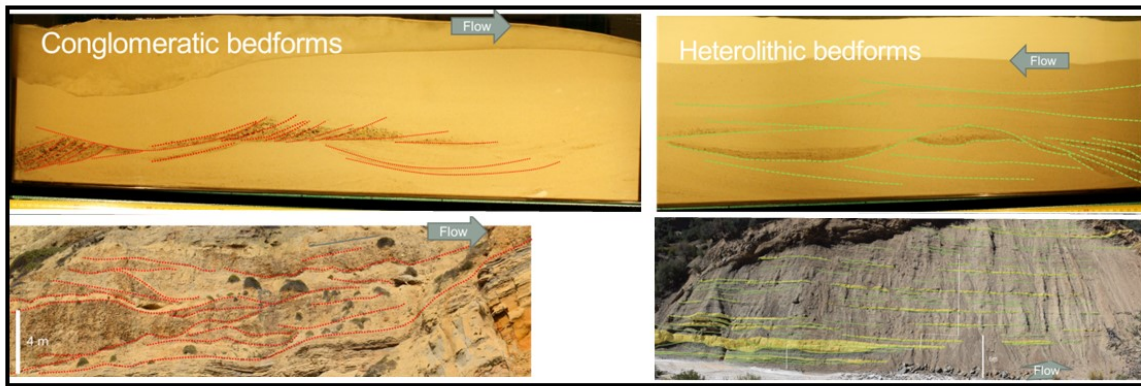
\*Kenya Ono<sup>1,2</sup>, Piret Plink-Bjorklund<sup>2</sup>, Matthieu J.B. Cartigny<sup>3</sup>, Joris T. Eggenhuisen<sup>4</sup>

1. INPEX Corporation, 2. Colorado School of Mines, 3. Durham University, 4. Utrecht University

There is a growing body of evidence for Froude supercritical flow bedforms from modern subaqueous steep slopes, from deltaic settings to deepwater continental slopes. Froude supercritical flow bedforms have also been documented in subaerial alluvial to fluvial settings. Morphodynamics of supercritical flow bedforms and their deposits are well established by flume experiments. However, outcrop recognition of Froude supercritical flow sedimentary structures and geometries in those subaqueous settings has not yet been well established. Their recognition in the field is complicated by the various scales of supercritical flow bedforms (e.g., backsets and scour and fill structures), where multi-meter to tens of meters thick bedforms are built by smaller-scale bedforms on centimeter to a meter scale. The large-scale supercritical flow bedform wavelength is characteristically on 10<sup>1</sup> s to 100 meter scale, and thus the complete bedforms are hard to observe unless the outcrop scale is large. These bedforms have commonly erosional set boundaries, as well as contain internal discordances, and are therefore easily confused with channels. Furthermore, they are formed in various grain sizes ranging from cobble-conglomerate to silty fine-grained deposits, with characteristic grain size trends, such as upward fining, downstream-and-upstream sharp grain-size contacts but gradual lateral changes.

This paper aims to describe supercritical flow sedimentary structures from ancient active margin deepwater continental slopes exemplifying differences between the erosionally bound large-scale bedforms and their host channels that are an order of magnitude larger. We also discuss their morphodynamics based on new experiments conducted with various grain sizes, ranging from silt to granules. We compare the experimental results and outcrop examples, and demonstrate that variable grain sizes provide more complex geometries than the single-grain size supercritical flow bedforms.

Keywords: Froude supercritical flow, deepwater slope, bedform



Upper pictures exhibit the complex scour-fill-structures formed under supercritical flow condition.  
The lower pictures are from the outcrop examples from Eocene deepwater slope channel complex.

## Marine and terrestrial biomarker analyses of hemipelagite in the Pleistocene Kazusa forearc basin: Evaluation of the effect of turbidity current

\*Satoshi Furota<sup>1</sup>, Shiho Kurosawa<sup>2</sup>, Makoto Ito<sup>2</sup>, Koji Seike<sup>3</sup>, Ken Sawada<sup>1</sup>

1. Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Faculty of Science, Hokkaido University, 2. Graduate School of Science, Chiba University, 3. Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute, University of Tokyo

Hemipelagic muddy sediments (hemipelagite) are mainly deposited by the interplay of continuous vertical settling, and advection of fine-grained clastic and biogenic particles superimposed by turbidity currents and some other deep-water currents. The effects of turbidity currents in the hemipelagic sedimentation processes, however, have not yet clearly investigated. In the present study, we conducted organic geochemical analyses, such as total organic carbon content (TOC), bulk organic carbon isotope ratios ( $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$ ), and biomarker compositions in some age-equivalent hemipelagic siltstone beds, which are locally intercalated with turbidite sandstone beds, to evaluate the effect of turbidity currents in hemipelagic sedimentation.

Samples were collected from two series of the age-equivalent hemipelagites in the Kiwada Formation, Boso Peninsula, Japan. This formation is mainly composed of siltstones intercalated with turbidite sandstones and volcanic ash beds, and is interpreted to have deposited in slope to basin-plain settings in the Kazusa forearc basin. In the studied succession, turbiditic sandstones and siltstones gradational fine-upward to bioturbated hemipelagic siltstones and is intercalated with a volcanic ash bed named Kd8 (ca. 1.2 Ma), which consists of three volcanic ash beds, tentatively named herein as Kd8A to Kd8C in descending. These ash beds can be mapped for over 30 km from the proximal (SW) to distal (NE) environments. The samples were obtained from upper (U) and lower (L) parts of the two siltstone beds named Kd8a and Kd8b, which are encased between Kd8A–B and KdB–C, respectively. A turbiditic sandstone and siltstone bed is developed just beneath the Kd8b in the most distal area, indicating that hemipelagic sedimentation for Kd8b-L may have been affected by turbidity currents.

The TOC contents of the siltstones just above the turbidite bed (Kd8b-L) are lower (TOC = 0.23 %), and the  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$  values of these siltstones are lighter (-23.3 ‰) than those in the overlying siltstones (-21.3 ‰). These variations likely indicate inefficient deposition of organic matter in association with higher contribution of terrigenous organic matter. Concentrations of friedelin, which is a plant triterpenoid and derived mainly from tree bark, in the TOC are also remarkably higher in the same siltstone samples. These results suggest that turbidity currents may have contributed to the deposition of terrigenous organic matter during hemipelagic sedimentation and the lower TOC content are considered to have been resulted from preferential deposition of siliciclastic clastic particles. The lower  $\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{org}}$  values and higher concentrations of friedelin observed in the Kd8b-L in several sites are also likely a result of fine-grained sediment supply from turbidity currents. On the other hand, the Kd8b-L are obviously lower TOC contents in the all study sites. In addition, the long-chain *n*-alkanol (> C<sub>20</sub>) distribution maximizing at C<sub>26</sub> and C<sub>28</sub> are found in all siltstone sampled from the Kd8b-L, while that in siltstone samples from the other beds show abundant C<sub>22</sub> and C<sub>24</sub> *n*-alkanols as well as C<sub>26</sub> and C<sub>28</sub> homologues. Although long-chain *n*-alkanols in marine sediments are generally considered to be derived from higher plant wax, several zooplankton species such as copepod also contain the C<sub>22</sub> and C<sub>24</sub> *n*-alkanols. Thus, the distinctive distribution of the long-chain *n*-alkanol in the Kd8b-L can be attributed to selective deposition of plant leaves by the fractionation of organic matter from turbidity currents. The present study indicates that the combination of biomarkers can be used for the evaluation of contribution of turbidity currents to hemipelagic

sedimentation.

Keywords: Turbidite, Hemipelagite, Biomarker

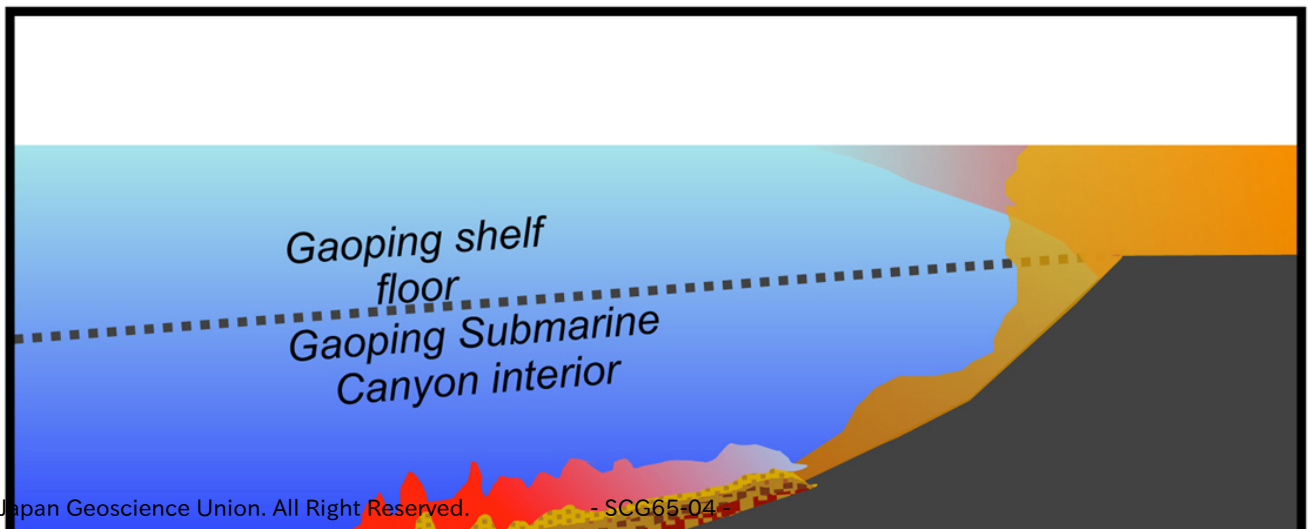
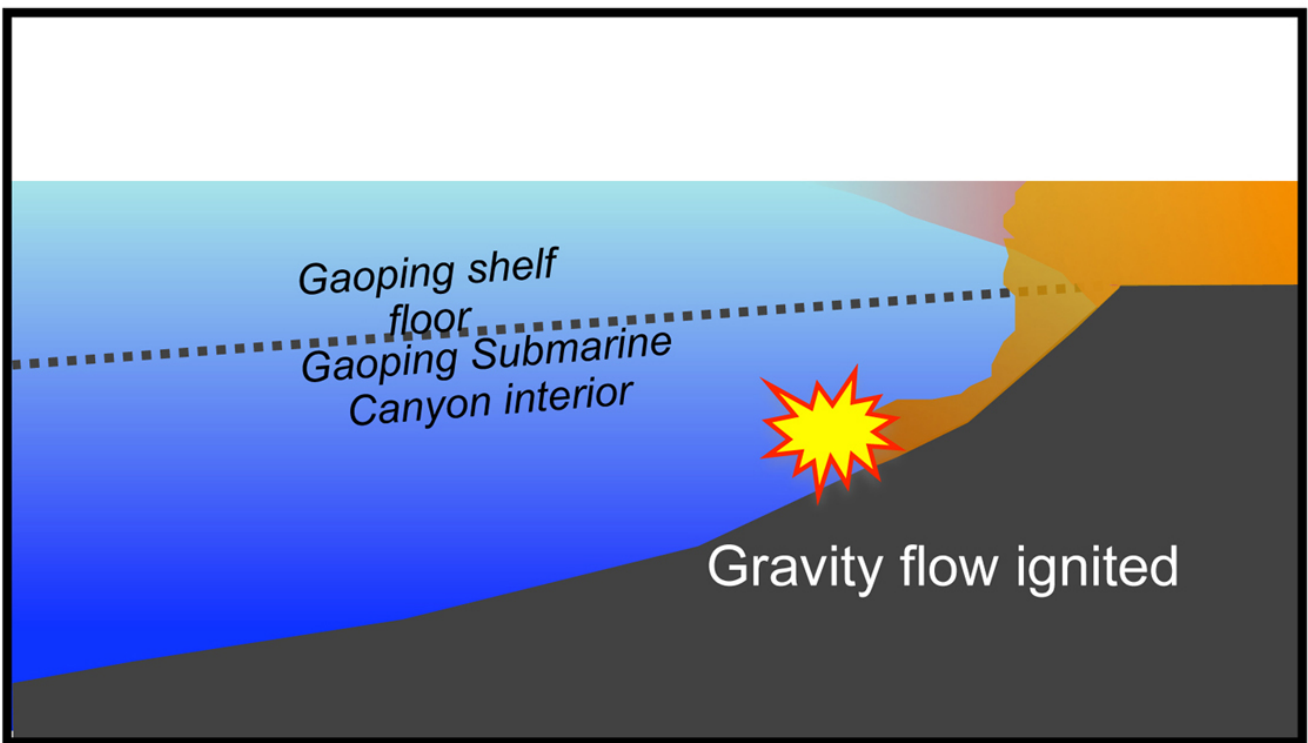
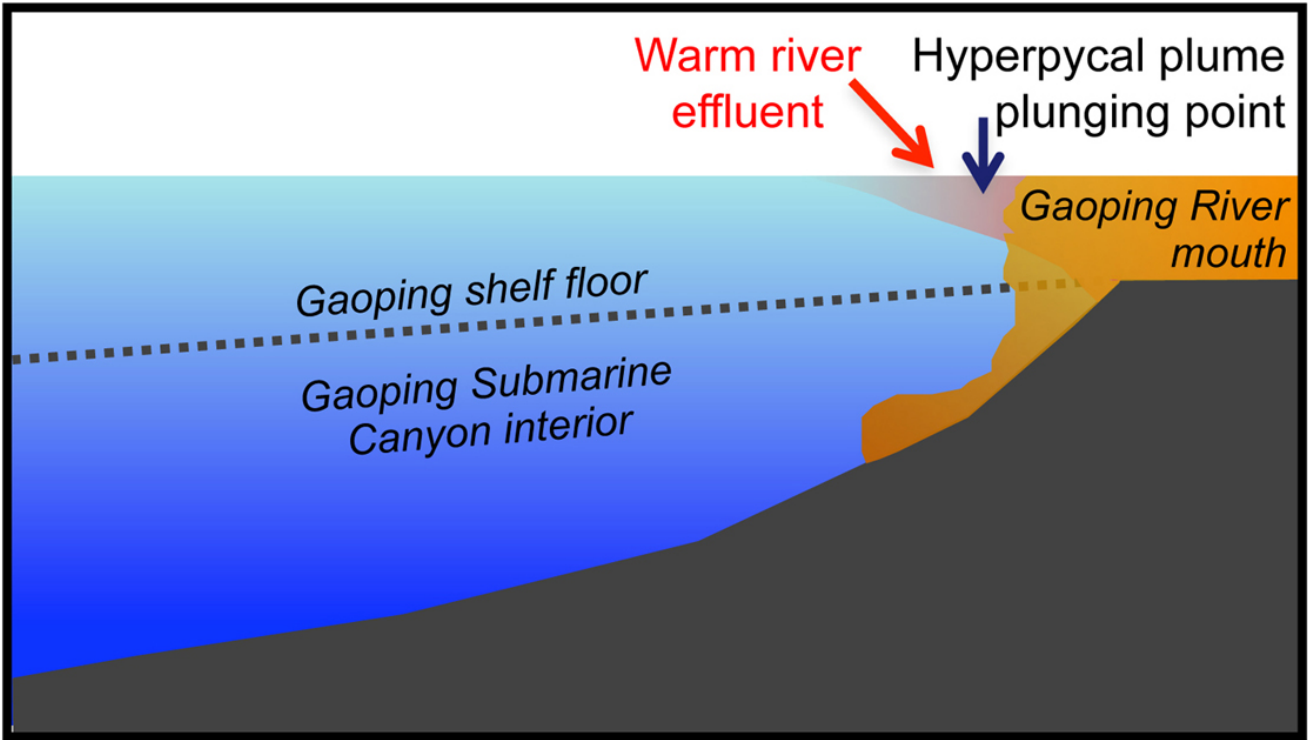
## Capturing passing hyperpycnal turbidity currents in a submarine canyon after a typhoon

\*James T Liu<sup>1</sup>

1. National Sun Yat Sen University, Kaohsiung, Taiwan

Two hyperpycnal turbidity-current events over 16 hours were captured by two moorings in a submarine canyon 650 m from the surface. One mooring was configured with temperature sensors, one acoustic current meter, and a non-sequential sediment trap. The other mooring was configured with an upward-looking long-ranger ADCP. The observed turbidity currents were triggered by typhoon floods of the river that feeds into the canyon. The thickness of the currents was 140 m having max. down-canyon velocity of 1.6 m at the head of the turbidity current. They carried warm water from the surface and terrestrial sediment and organic carbon. Our findings confirms the link between typhoon-tirggered hyperpycnal plume at the mouth of a small mountainous river and the turbidity currents in a nearby submarine canyon that forms an efficient conduit to transport large amount of sediment and organic carbon to the deep-sea.

Keywords: typhoon, hyperpycnal turbidity current, small mountainous rivver, submarine canyon







## Two different sources of turbidity currents along the southern Ryukyu forearc

\*Ken Ikehara<sup>1</sup>, Toshiya Kanamatsu<sup>2</sup>, Kazuko Usami<sup>1</sup>, KanHsi Hsiung<sup>2</sup>, Taku Ajioka<sup>1</sup>

1. Institute of Geology and Geoinformation, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, 2. Japan Agency of Marine Science and Technology

There is a series of forearc basins deepening eastward along the southern Ryukyu islands to East of Taiwan. To understand the depositional processes of the southern Ryukyu forearc area and to obtain more precise recurrence interval of turbidite deposition, we collected sediment cores from the forearc basins. A core collected from a terminal forearc basin at SW of Iriomote Island contained thick and massive muddy turbidites with sharp erosional basal contact and thin sandy layer composed of lithic fragments. Similar but thin-bedded muddy turbidites occurred in the cores from the Ryukyu Trench floor. Two cores from a further east forearc basin also intercalates with the similar muddy turbidites but also with thick calcareous sandy beds with chaotic structures. On the other hand, many turbidite beds composed of bioclastic carbonate grains were intercalated in calcareous silt in the cores obtained from a small submarine fan at the mouth of a submarine canyon at SW of Ishigaki Island, further east of the terminal forearc basin. Comparison of lithology of four cores from the fan indicated the temporal shift of depocenter of turbidites. This suggests that at least some cores need to reconstruct the depositional history of the turbidites on the submarine fan. Bathymetric characteristics of the southern Ryukyu forearc suggests that most probable origin of the clastic muddy turbidite is Taiwan, and that of the coarse bioclastic sandy turbidite is coastal area of the southern Ryukyu islands. High rate of uplift of central Taiwan might contribute frequent generation of turbidity currents, which supply large amount of fine-grained sediments toward East to the southern Ryukyu forearc and Ryukyu Trench.

Keywords: turbidite, Ryukyu arc, Taiwan

## Direct Measurement of Field Turbidity Currents: Preliminary Results of the Monterey Coordinated Canyon Experiment

\*Jingping Xu<sup>1</sup>, Charles Paull<sup>2</sup>, Peter Talling<sup>3</sup>, Daniel Parsons<sup>4</sup>, Katherine Maier<sup>5</sup>, Roberto Gwiazda<sup>2</sup>, Steven Simmons<sup>4</sup>, Kurt Rosenberger<sup>5</sup>, Mary McGann<sup>5</sup>, Jenny Gales<sup>6</sup>

1. Ocean University of China, Qingdao, CHINA, 2. Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, Moss Landing, CA, USA, 3. Durham University, Durham, UK, 4. University of Hull, Hull, UK, 5. U. S. Geological Survey, Santa Cruz, CA, USA, 6. National Oceanographic Center, Southampton, UK

Turbidity currents flowing through submarine canyons are among the most important sediment transport processes on Earth. When compared to other sediment transport processes such as rivers that have been monitored on regular bases for many years (e.g. USGS gauging network), there are very few direct measurements of turbidity currents in action. However, technological advances in recent years now have allowed us to directly measure the hydraulic and sedimentological properties of turbidity currents. The Coordinated Canyon Experiment (CCE) was designed to do just that - to capture field turbidity current events in Monterey Canyon, offshore California. A total of 6 moorings that hosted instrument packages including acoustic Doppler current profilers (ADCPs), temperature and salinity sensors, turbidity sensors, and sediment traps were distributed from 270 to 1,850m water depths along the axis of the canyon. In addition, an array of benthic event detectors (BEDs) that record the canyon floor movements were deployed in the shallow reaches of the canyon. During the first two deployments (2015/10 -2016/4; 2016/4 -2016/10), at least 2 turbidity currents were recorded to run out for more than 50km, passing through all 6 moorings with average velocities of 5.4 and 4.2m/sec respectively. Individual moorings and instruments were transported down-canyon up to 7.8 km in one event. This talk will present some highlights of the recorded turbidity currents and discuss the preliminary findings from this rare CCE dataset.

Keywords: Turbidity currents, Monterey Canyon, Sediment transport, in-situ measurements

## Direct observation of knick point activity in turbidity current channels

\*Matthieu Cartigny<sup>1</sup>, John Hughes Clarke<sup>2</sup>, Cooper Stacey<sup>3</sup>, Sophie Hage<sup>5</sup>, Daniel Parsons<sup>4</sup>, Peter Talling<sup>1</sup>, Maria Azpiroz<sup>5</sup>, Michael Clare<sup>6</sup>, Joris Eggenhuisen<sup>7</sup>, Jenny Gales<sup>6</sup>, Jamie Hizzett<sup>5</sup>, James Hunt<sup>6</sup>, Gwyn Lintern<sup>3</sup>, Steve Simmons<sup>4</sup>, Esther Sumner<sup>5</sup>, Age Vellinga<sup>5</sup>, Daniella Vendettuoli<sup>5</sup>, Jon Wood<sup>8</sup>

1. Department of Geography and Earth Sciences, Durham University, UK, 2. Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping, University of New Hampshire, USA, 3. Natural Resources, Geological Survey of Canada, Canada, 4. School of Environmental Sciences, Hull University, UK, 5. School of Ocean and Earth Science, University of Southampton, UK, 6. Marine Geoscience, National Oceanography Centre, UK, 7. Department of Geosciences, Utrecht University, The Netherlands, 8. Ocean Data Technologies, Inc., Hyannis, USA

High-resolution bathymetric images of turbidity current channels reveal the existence of a wide range of bedforms within these systems. Knick points are the dominant bedform on a kilometre scale in most sandy systems. These knick points are thought to initiate and maintain submarine channels, and they would therefore play a key role the transport of sediment and nutrients to the deep sea. In contrast to their important role very little is known about knick points. What drives the formation of a knick point? Are they remnant headwalls of landslide, or are they related to turbidity currents? Are they a purely erosional feature? Do they have any preservation potential in the rock record?

Here we present data collected from knick points in an active turbidity current channel on a fjord floor in British Columbia, Canada. These data show how trains of knick points migrate several hundred metres upstream every year. We use repeat surveys to show how knick points are a combined erosional-depositional feature. Furthermore, we have deployed several instruments over the knick points to study how the knick points interact with the passing turbidity currents. Finally, we use repeat surveys and cores to explore the potential architecture and facies association associated to knick points.

Keywords: Turbidity currents, submarine channels, knick points

# Numerical Modeling of Turbidity Currents in Various Environments

\*Svetlana Kostic<sup>1</sup>

1. Computational Science Research Center, San Diego State University

Numerical modeling is frequently combined with physical experiments and/or field observations to improve our understanding of the formation, propagation, and depositional patterns of turbidity currents in different environments. This talk addresses the main challenges associated with numerical modeling of turbidity currents. My numerical model of progradational fan-deltas is used to illustrate the importance and complexity of boundary conditions. My numerical model of ponding turbidity currents in salt withdrawal minibasins is compared to numerical models of turbidity currents cascading over a series of depression to demonstrate that a) numerical modeling entails in-depth understanding of underlying physics (e.g. turbulence in minibasins is dead or dying, which has to be accounted for via water detrainment); and b) the common practice to calibrate and verify numerical models based solely on bed elevation profiles can be very misleading. My model of internal hydraulic jumps is used to illustrate that models validated against experimental studies often cannot be directly applied to field-scale problems. Numerical experiments with my model of upper-flow regime bedforms pertain to the morphodynamic interaction between turbidity currents and upstream marching bedforms in channels on the active Squamish prodelta. They are used to demonstrate that even data from extensive monitoring programs can often lack some crucial information for numerical modeling. This talk also explores problems associated with using “black box” commercial software, and the discrepancy between available data and expected results from numerical simulations, in particular with 3-D and other complex models.

Keywords: turbidity currents, numerical modeling, calibration and verification, boundary conditions, 3-D models , commercial software

## Threshold conditions for occurrence of tsunami-generated turbidity currents: examination by 2D numerical experiments

\*Hajime Naruse<sup>1</sup>, Keisuke Nakanishi<sup>1</sup>

1. Department of Geology and Mineralogy, Graduate School of Science, Kyoto University

This study aims to investigate the conditions for generating turbidity currents due to the sediment entrainment by large-scale tsunamis. The occurrence of the tsunami-generated turbidity current was suggested by the sudden displacement of the ocean bottom pressure meter (OBP) which was situated on the sea floor offshore Sanriku-Coast, northern Japan. On the basis of this displacement of the OBP and the observation of the sea floor, Arai et al. (2013) proposed the hypothesis that the 2011 Tohoku-Oki Tsunami generated the turbidity current on the submarine slope. They inferred that the tsunami run-up and backwash flows caused the suspended sediment cloud by entrainment of basal sediment, and that the turbidity current was then developed from the sediment cloud. However, the detailed development processes and conditions for generating turbidity currents by tsunamis have not been clarified yet. Therefore, we conducted the numerical experiments using the two-dimensional RANS model that employed the renormalized group k-epsilon turbulence model. In our experiments, the digital elevation model of the submarine slope offshore Sanriku-Coast was used for the experimental topography. The suspended sediment clouds were initially allocated on the upstream end of the slope, and the time evolution of the flow for 10,000 seconds were calculated by the model. We conducted the experiments repeatedly, changing the initial heights, lengths and sediment concentrations of the suspended sediment cloud. As a result of our experiments, it was suggested that a threshold condition for generating turbidity currents from the suspended sediment cloud clearly exists. The suspended clouds larger than 30 m for the initial height and more than 0.05w.% for the initial concentration produced intense turbidity currents that often exceeded 10 m/s for the maximum velocity. On the other hand, no flow occurred in the cases where the initial heights of the sediment cloud were less than 20 m. These contrasting results were caused by the self-accelerating process of turbidity currents. The suspended sediment clouds above the threshold condition were accelerated by the increase of density due to the entrainment of basal sediment, whereas those below the threshold condition were decelerated because it could not erode substrate sufficiently. Our results suggest that the tsunami-generated turbidity currents also have a threshold conditions for occurrence corresponding to scales of tsunamis. Thus, it is inferred that the tsunami-generated turbidites only record exceptionally large tsunamis beyond the threshold condition, of which recurrence intervals could be in millennial scales.

Keywords: turbidite, turbidity current, tsunami

## High-resolution Simulations of Turbidity Currents

\*Eckart Heinz Meiburg<sup>1</sup>, Mohamad Nasr-Azadani<sup>1</sup>, Edward Biegert<sup>1</sup>, Bernhard Vowinckel<sup>1</sup>

1. University of California Santa Barbara

We employ direct numerical simulations of the three-dimensional Navier-Stokes equations to investigate the interactions of bidisperse turbidity currents with three-dimensional seafloor topography in the form of Gaussian bumps. We compare results for two different bump heights against currents propagating over a flat surface. The bump heights are chosen such that the current largely flows over the smaller bump, while it primarily flows around the taller bump. Furthermore, the effects of the settling velocity are investigated by comparing turbidity currents with corresponding compositional gravity currents. The influence of the bottom topography on the front velocity of turbidity currents is seen to be much weaker than the influence of the particle settling velocity. Consistent with earlier work on gravity currents propagating over flat boundaries, the influence of the Reynolds number on the front velocity of currents interacting with three-dimensional bottom topography is found to be small, as long as the Reynolds number is larger than  $O(1,000)$ . The lobe-and-cleft structures, on the other hand, exhibit a stronger influence of the Reynolds number. The current/bump interaction deforms the bottom boundary-layer vorticity into traditional horseshoe vortices, with a downwash region in the centre of the wake. At the same time, the vorticity originating in the mixing layer between the current and the ambient interacts with the bump in such a way as to form 'inverted horseshoe vortices', with an upwash region in the wake centre. Additional streamwise vertical structures form as a result of baroclinic vorticity generation. The dependence of the sedimentation rate and streamwise vorticity generation on the height of the bump are discussed, and detailed analyses are presented of the energy budget and bottom wall-shear stress. It is shown that for typical laboratory-scale experiments, the range of parameters explored in the present investigation will not give rise to bedload transport or sediment resuspension. Based on balance arguments for the kinetic and potential energy components, a scaling law is obtained for the maximum bump height over which gravity currents can travel. This scaling law is validated by simulation results, and it provides a criterion for distinguishing between 'short' and 'tall' topographical features. For turbidity currents, this scaling result represents an upper limit. An interesting non-monotonic influence of the bump height is observed on the long-term propagation velocity of the current. On the one hand, the lateral deflection of the current by the bump leads to an effective increase in the current height and its front velocity in the region away from the bump. At the same time, taller bumps result in a more vigorous three-dimensional evolution of the current, accompanied by increased levels of dissipation, which slows the current down. For small bumps, the former mechanism dominates, so that on average the current front propagates faster than its flat bottom counterpart. For currents interacting with larger bumps, however, the increased dissipation becomes dominant, so that they exhibit a reduced front velocity as compared to currents propagating over flat surfaces.

Furthermore, particle-resolving simulations of erosion and deposition will be discussed as well. In these simulations the Navier-Stokes flow around each particle is resolved by means of an immersed boundary method, and the particle/particle interactions are accounted for via a detailed collision model.

Keywords: turbidity current, Navier-Stokes simulation, grain-resolving simulation

## Bed instability generated by turbidity currents

\*Norihiro Izumi<sup>1</sup>, Sakura Hagnosisawa<sup>1</sup>

1. Faculty of Engineering, Hokkaido University

Once relatively fine sediment is entrained into water on the ocean floor of the continental shelf or the continental slope, water near the ocean floor increases its density due to the entrained sediment, and starts to flow in the downslope direction. This density flow is called a turbidity current in particular. A turbidity current has unimaginably high capabilities for erosion of the bed and sediment transport, and therefore, it is one of the major agents for the formation of submarine morphology such as submarine canyons and bedforms. As turbidity currents transport not only sediment also a large amount of organic matters originated in the continental areas to the deep ocean floor, they are one of the most essential processes for the generation of petroleum and methane hydrate. In addition, turbidity currents cause destructive damages on submarine infrastructure such as submarine cables. Therefore, study on turbidity currents is important from view points of the maintenance of submarine infrastructure.

A totally 3000 km long submarine delta thought to be formed by turbidity currents is confirmed to lie on the vast ocean floor from the Bay of Bengal to the Indian Ocean. It had not been known for long how turbidity currents can travel this long distance. In the case of saline or thermal density flow, it increases the thickness due to the entrainment of surrounding water as it flows down the slope, decreases the concentration of suspended sediment, and ends up with extinction. On the other hand in the case of turbidity currents, Luchi (2015) has shown that the layer of high-concentrated suspended sediment (referred to as a high-concentrated layer, hereafter) is not diffused out because of the balance between the settling of sediment and the diffusion of sediment; a normal flow condition can be achieved in the high-concentrated layer. This finding can explain that turbidity currents can travel as far as the ocean floor is inclined. In addition, the existence of normal flow conditions facilitates theoretical analyses on the formation of a variety of submarine morphologies.

In this study, we propose a linear stability analysis of bed waves formed due to instability between the ocean floor and turbidity currents with the use of the assumption of normal flow conditions and a simple turbulent model of the mixing length hypothesis. In the analysis, we employ the flow equations including the concentration of suspended sediment as the driving force, the dispersion/diffusion equation of suspended sediment, and the continuity equation describing the time variation of the bed elevation. Normalizing those governing equations, we obtain two important non-dimensional parameters: the densimetric Froude number and the settling velocity normalized by the shear velocity. If the normalized settling velocity is larger than 0.08, we obtain an unrealistic result that the concentration of suspended sediment vanishes at the top of the high-concentrated layer. This might mean that the high-concentrated layer in the normal flow condition cannot be achieved when sediment is too coarse.

We introduce perturbation on the velocity, the suspended sediment concentration, and the elevations of the bed and water surfaces, and perform a linear stability analysis. It is found that the flat ocean floor becomes unstable in the range of the densimetric Froude number larger than 0.5 to 0.8, and that the dominant wavenumber ranges from 0.3 to 0.5. In addition, bed waves with large wavenumbers migrate downstream while those with small wavenumbers migrate upstream. This result is consistent with experimental results.



Keywords: turbidity currents, bed instability, linear stability analysis

# Framework for tying the fluid mechanics of turbidity currents to the excavation of submarine canyons

\*Gary Parker<sup>1</sup>

1. University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign USA

The field of erodible-bed morphodynamics, in which the flow interacts with the bed to create morphologic structure and change, has its origins in the study of alluvial rivers. Such morphodynamic analysis has served to characterize the formation of such features as dunes, antidunes, alternate bars, meander point bars, upward-concave long profiles and patterns of sediment sorting. In the case of alluvial rivers, the sediment is assumed to be non-cohesive and loose, with no limitation on mobility imposed by cohesion or lithification. It is only in the present century that the morphodynamic formulation necessary to handle bedrock rivers has been developed. In the case of mixed bedrock-alluvial rivers, the bed is assumed to be lithified bedrock with an intermittent and discontinuous cover of alluvium. If this alluvium is gravel, then the bed can be abraded due to collisions between rolling or saltating grains and the bed. One such morphodynamic formulation is the MRSAA (Macro-Roughness based Saltation-Abrasion-Alluvium) Model. This formulation and related formulations have been used to study the evolution of incisional long profiles in uplifting basins, below-capacity alternate bars moving over bedrock (and incising it), bedrock grooves, alluvial-bedrock bend migration and canyon formation. Yet the largest canyons in the world were excavated not by rivers, but by submarine turbidity currents. The research body on the morphodynamics of submarine canyons is relatively small. Early attempts have involved the assumption that the sediment of the canyon bed is loose, non-cohesive material. The substrate being eroded, however, is likely to have lithified to some degree, or may consist of continental shelf-slope mud that has developed considerable strength. Here we define a framework for treating the morphodynamics of incision in submarine canyons.

Keywords: bedrock, morphodynamics, submarine canyons, turbidity currents

## Rock magnetic analyses for understanding of depositional processes of turbidites induced by large earthquakes in Japan Trench

\*Toshiya Kanamatsu<sup>1</sup>, Ken Ikehara<sup>2</sup>, Kazuno Arai<sup>3</sup>, Kazuko Usami<sup>2</sup>

1. Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology, 2. Geological Survey of Japan, AIST, 3. Center for advanced marine core reserach, Kochi University

Ikehara et al., 2016 revealed that the thick turbidite depositions corresponding to 2011 and the other two historical large earthquakes were archived in Japan Trench (JPT) basins. It is then crucially important to determine the distributions of those event deposits in space and time for the JPT paleoseismology. In order to understand the details of their depositions as robust evidences for the large earthquake occurrences, rock magnetic analysis was applied to measure variation of the turbidite intervals. Magnetic granulometry provides the information of sediment depositional processes. Particularly monotone fining upward of magnetic grain size in a few meter scales is found as the most unique feature in the studied sediments. Magnetic grain analysis in detail indicates grain fining occur in various modes. Those variations seem to be linked to respective seismo-events. Additionally anisotropy of magnetic susceptibility (AMS) were measured to detect settling process of particle grains form turbidity flows in the intervals of thick turbidites. Generally dominant lineation of AMS is recognized as not single direction in each event interval while grain size decrease upward monotonously. Some lineations reoriented by paleomagnetic declinations are oblique to the strike of JPT trench. This observation may suggest the complex flow in the confined and elongated basins in JPT. It is considered that the variations of magnetic grain size and fabric data are useful to understand the depositional processes of thick turbidites.

Keywords: Turbidite, Japan Trench, Rockmagnetic property

## Origin of deep-sea turbidite by stratigraphic variations of terrigenous organic carbon ratio, examples from the off Kii and Boso peninsulas

\*Akiko Omura<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Juichiro Ashi<sup>2,3</sup>, Natsumi Okutsu<sup>2,3</sup>

1. JSPS Research Fellow, 2. Graduate School of Frontier Science, The University of Tokyo, 3. Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute, The University of Tokyo

Origin of turbidite are important for paleoseismic studies by using deep-sea turbidite, because turbidity currents are caused not only by slope failure during submarine earthquakes, but also by flood and storms. In this study, we try to recognize origin of each turbidite with stratigraphic patters of terrigenous organic carbon (TerOC) ratio by stable organic carbon isotope analyses of deep-sea sediments. Several stratigraphic patterns of TerOC ratio were recognized in turbidite mud deposited by the modern natural disasters, such as the 1596 Keicho-Bungo earthquake, the 1889 Totsukawa Flood, the 1959 Isewan Typhoon, the 2003 flood by Typhoon no.10, the 2004 off-Kii Peninsula earthquakes, and the 2011 Kumano flood by Typhoon no.12 (Omura et al., 2014). Flood-induced turbidite mud have two stratigraphic patterns of TerOC ratio as follows, 1) high and stable TerOC ratio, and 2) low TerOC ratio in lower part and high TerOC ratio in upper part. Slope failure sediments have two stratigraphic patterns of TerOC ratio as follows, 3) low and stable TerOC ratio, and 4) upward decrease of TerOC ratio (Omura et al. 2014). In this study, origin of past deep-sea turbidite are examined by correlation with modern stratigraphic variations of TerOC ratio.

Sediment cores were acquired from the off Kii Peninsula (KT-12-34-PC01, 5.2 m long) at about 2,000 m water depth and the off Boso Peninsula (KS-13-T5-PC02, 9.2 m long) at about 2,500 m water depth by using piston corer. The coring sites of KT-12-34-PC01 and KS-13-T5-PC02 were not directly affected by the submarine canyon. These sediments are composed mainly of olive black clayey silt layers, but includes numerous turbidite layers. Nine intervals of turbidite mud and hemipelagic mud were examined by stable organic carbon analyses. Turbidite mud layers were distinguished from hemipelagic mud by visual examination of soft X-radiographs, on which they show weaker X-ray transmission. Continuous sub-samples were collected at one centimeter intervals from turbidite mud and hemipelagic mud. Total organic carbon contents and stable organic carbon isotope ratio were measured by using an elemental analyzer (Flash EA and Flash 2000) and a mass spectrometer (MAT 253) at the National Museum of Nature and Science, Tokyo. The terrigenous and marine fractions of the organic carbon in the sediment were calculated from the measured stable organic carbon isotope ratio.

In sediment core KT-12-34-PC01, the stable organic carbon isotope ratio was between  $-19.1\%$  and  $-22.6\%$ , and the estimated terrigenous fraction was between 0% and 40%. Stratigraphic variations of both flood-induced and slope failure sediments are recognized in TerOC ratio. These results indicate that deep-sea turbidite off the Kii Peninsula were deposited by flood or slope failure. In sediment core KS-13-T5-PC02, the stable organic carbon isotope ratio was between  $-20.4\%$  and  $-21.7\%$  and the estimated terrigenous fraction was between 11% and 28%. Stratigraphic variations of slope failure sediments are recognized in TerOC ratio. These results indicate that deep-sea turbidite off the Boso Peninsula were mainly deposited by slope failure.

The stratigraphic variations of TerOC ratio might be important information for paleoseismic studies by using deep-sea turbidites.

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Keywords: turbidite, terrigenous organic carbon, stratigraphic variation

## Identification of muddy seismogenic turbidite from sedimentary structure and chemical composition

\*Natsumi Okutsu<sup>1</sup>, Juichiro Ashi<sup>1</sup>, Akiko Omura<sup>1</sup>, Asuka Yamaguchi<sup>1</sup>, Toshiya Kanamatsu<sup>2</sup>, Yusuke Suganuma<sup>3</sup>, Masafumi MURAYAMA<sup>4</sup>

1. Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute, The University of Tokyo, 2. Japan Agency for Marine-earth Science and Technology, 3. National Institute of Polar Research, 4. Center for Advanced Marine Core Research, Kochi University

Paleoseismology using marine seismogenic turbidites has been conducted on many seismically active continental margins. In recent years, “muddy turbidites” which do not contain clear signs of sand grain sedimentation is drawing attention. However, few studies have illustrated muddy turbidite characteristics. The purpose of this study is to identify the muddy turbidites mainly from sedimentary structures and chemical compositions.

The samples are multiple and piston cores collected from the sedimentary basin off Kii peninsula and Hyuga-nada, SW Japan. Visual observation, X-ray CT scans and other measurements such as anisotropy of magnetic susceptibility (AMS), paleomagnetism, electrical resistivity and X-ray fluorescence core scanning (XRF core scanner) were conducted.

X-CT scans clearly reveals sedimentary structure of homogeneous clay sequence above the silty lamination as reported by Okutsu et al. (2016, JpGU abstract) even on structureless mud interval by visual observation. Ca and Fe analyses by XRF core scanner show peaks at around the basement of turbidite layers identified by X-CT scanner. Mn peak also shows similar tendency, but does not always exhibit the same trend. Those variations of Ca and Fe contents are consistent with the previous work of Iwai et al. (2014, Geol. Soc. Japan abstract). More specifically, Ca peaks were always observed at the slightly upper level than the Fe peaks position. Because correlation of Ca and Fe show different trends between the turbidite layers and other layers, the difference could be available for discrimination between turbidite and hemipelagic mud. Ca and Fe peaks can be recognized even in the heavily bioturbated turbidite which have no original sedimentary structure in X-CT image. Therefore, XRF core scanner can be a useful tool to identify the muddy turbidite layer in addition to X-ray CT scanner.

Keywords: turbidity current, event deposit, paleoseismic records, Nankai trough

# Stratigraphic changes and sedimentary facies of lacustrine sediment gravity flow deposits in the Middle Pleistocene Miyajima Formation, Tochigi Prefecture, northeast Japan

\*Hana Sasaki<sup>1</sup>, Yuri Onishi<sup>1</sup>, Yoshiro Ishihara<sup>2</sup>

1. Graduate School of Science, Fukuoka University, 2. Department of Science, Fukuoka University

Sediment gravity-flow deposits, induced by flood and slope failure events, are widely observed in varied environments from deep sea to lake environments. In marine environments, many sedimentological studies have been carried out; however, it is hard to distinguish event origins from the deposits. In recent years, modern lacustrine sediment gravity-flow deposits have been studied using sedimentary cores. Studies of lacustrine sediment gravity-flow deposits can provide a high-resolution event stratigraphy and the basis for identification event types because of their confined sedimentary environments. In this study, we analyzed sedimentary facies of lacustrine sediment gravity flow deposits in outcrops and studied their stratigraphic changes.

The Middle Pleistocene Miyajima Formation, consisting of lacustrine deposits, is located in Nasushiobara City, Tochigi Prefecture, northeast Japan. The main portion of the formation includes varved sediments intercalating many sediment gravity flow deposits. A varve in the formation is composed of light lamina dominated by *Stephanodiscus niagarae* and dark lamina dominated by inflow particles. The studied outcrop is located in Nakashiobara, Nasushiobara City and is exposed continuously along the Hahaki River. We obtained a continuous photograph series and columnar samples of the outcrop. Sedimentary facies of sediment gravity-flow deposits, their recurrence intervals, stratigraphic variations of facies types and their thicknesses were analyzed using the photographs and samples.

The 1,177 varves with 634 sediment gravity-flow deposits were obtained from the analyzed section. The average of thickness of a varve is ca. 1.2 mm and the average thickness of sediment gravity-flow deposits is ca. 9.3 mm. The sediment gravity-flow deposits can be classified into 310 beds of grading types, 315 beds of structureless types, and 9 beds of inverse grading types. The sediment gravity flow deposits have a silty matrix except for several layers in the uppermost part. Each type is subdivided by conditions of basal erosion, including rip-up clasts and sand-sized particles.

Because most parts of the varved sediments in the formation comprise of lacustrine planktonic diatoms, the sediment gravity flow deposits consisting mainly of clastics are suggested to have been formed by a flood inflow. Flood-induced slope failure deposits, including rip-up clasts and blocks of slump-folded beds and diatomaceous beds, are also included. Sediment gravity-flow deposits with an erosional base are suggested to have been deposited by a hyperpycnal flow along the bottom of the lake, whereas sediment gravity-flow deposits without an erosional base are thought to have been deposited by hypopycnal or homopycnal flows that spread along a lake surface or a thermocline of the lake. Graded bedding is a typical characteristic of a base cut hyperpycnite or is suggested to have been deposited by a suspended cloud, whereas an inverse grading is considered a relict of acceleration-phase deposits uneroded by following phases. Structureless beds are suggested to be deposited from floc of suspended particles.

Sedimentary facies of varved sediments and sediment gravity-flow deposits differ between the lower 720-year and upper 450-year intervals. In the upper part, "double laminae" and sediment gravity-flow deposits without an erosional base are dominant, whereas "single lamina", including sediment gravity-flow deposits with the erosional base, are dominant in the lower part. Different lake water conditions are suggested between the parts. Double laminae were formed by two diatom blooms induced

by lake water circulations after lake water stratifications in summer and during a “cool” winter. Because low-density sediment gravity flows are relatively difficult to submerge into stratified lake waters as a hyperpycnal flow, it is suggested that sediment gravity flow deposits without an erosional base are dominant in the upper part.

Keywords: sediment gravity flow deposit, hyperpycnal flow, varve, lacustrine sediment, Miyajima Formation, Shiobara Group



## Sedimentary structures within sedimentary gravity flow deposits formed under upper flow regime conditions and their association with sedimentary topography

\*Yoshiro Ishihara<sup>1</sup>, Yuri ONISHI<sup>2</sup>, Miwa Yokokawa<sup>3</sup>

1. Department of Earth System Science, Fukuoka University, 2. Graduate School of Science, Fukuoka University, 3. Osaka Institute of Technology

Sedimentary structures formed under upper flow regime conditions ( $Fr > 1$ ), such as massive structureless units, spaced planar laminations (SPLs), and occasionally hummocky cross-stratification mimics (HCS mimics), are observed within the lower portions of sediment gravity flow deposits. These structures are overlain by planar laminations and ripple cross-laminations formed under lower flow regime conditions. The resulting successions of structures, formed under both flow regime conditions, constitute Bouma and Lowe sequences. The lower unit of sediment gravity flow deposits is typically dominated by massive structureless units, and SPLs and HCS mimics are not frequently observed. Additionally, it has been suggested that the structures in the lower unit often change with respect to one another along the lateral or paleocurrent directions, as well as vertical directions. However, the depositional processes responsible for the formation of these sedimentary structures are unclear and detailed descriptions of the transitions are rare, particularly for the lateral and paleocurrent directions. Well-exposed, laterally continuous sediment gravity flow deposits in outcrop can provide insights into the depositional processes that formed the structures in the lower unit. In this study, we carried out detailed mapping of these sedimentary structures and the basal topographies within sediment gravity flow deposits, and determined their transitional patterns.

We investigated the turbidite succession of the Neogene Aoshima Formation, Miyazaki Group, which is well-exposed in the paleocurrent direction along the Nichinan Coast of Miyazaki and Nichinan cities. The studied outcrop, located at Shirahama, shows sediment waves with wavelengths of 300–400 m. The sedimentary structures in the sediment gravity flow deposits, which can be traced for approximately 700 m, were mapped using a series of sequential photographs taken at the outcrop. The sediment gravity flow deposits were selected for mapping based on their basal topographies, which are characterized by moderately undulating, slightly undulating, and relatively flat intervals.

The sediment gravity flow deposit facies of the Aoshima Formation have been subdivided into graded, massive, and inverse graded bed types. These bed types show SPLs and HCS mimics in the basal interval. Paleocurrent directional mapping of the sedimentary structures showed that SPLs are dominant in the relatively flat beds; whereas, in the undulating intervals, HCS mimics and SPLs are observed on the upstream and downstream flanks, respectively. When sediment waves are formed as cyclic steps, it is suggested that massive structureless units can be deposited on the upstream flank due to a hydraulic jump; whereas, SPLs are dominant on the downstream flank due to high shear stress flow. In the Aoshima Formation, HCS mimics on the upstream flanks may have been deposited by relatively erosive flows associated with breaking waves, not only hydraulic jumps, because the basal undulations in the study interval are not large enough to have developed clear sediment wave topographies. In contrast, in the intervals characterized by relatively flat topography, it is suggested that laterally continuous SPLs, which extend for tens of meters, may have been deposited under conditions without the effects of basal topography.

Keywords: sedimentary gravity flow deposits, upper flow regime condition, sediment wave, sedimentary structure, Aoshima Formation

# Effect of surge-duration on the velocity distribution of turbidity current and resultant cyclic step morphology: PIV measurements of the surge-type turbidity currents in flume experiments

\*Miwa Yokokawa<sup>1</sup>, Masatomo Miyai<sup>1</sup>, Junpei Yamano<sup>1</sup>

1. Osaka Institute of Technology

Cyclic steps are often found in channels on the prodelta surfaces or submarine canyons, which is attributed to turbidity currents. Field observations of turbidity currents and seabed topography on the Squamish delta in British Columbia, Canada revealed that cyclic steps formed by the surge-type turbidity currents. The high-density portion of the flow, which affects the sea floor morphology, lasted only 30-60 seconds (e.g., Hughes Clarke, 2016). We are doing flume experiments aiming to investigate the relationship between the condition of surges and resultant morphology.

Experiments had been performed at Osaka Institute of Technology. A flume, which is 7.0 m long, 0.3 m deep and 2 cm wide, was suspended in a larger tank, which is 7.6 m long, 1.2 m deep and 0.3 m wide, filled with water. The inner flume tilted at 7 degrees. As a source of turbidity currents, mixture of salt water (1.17 g/cm<sup>3</sup>) and plastic particles (1.3 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, 0.1-0.18 mm in diameter) was prepared. The concentration of the sediments was 6.1 weight % (5.5 volume %) in the head tank. This mixture of salt water and plastic particles poured into the upstream end of the inner flume from head tank for 3-, 5-, and 7-seconds and continuous flow. For 3-, 5-, and 7-seconds-surges, 130 or 140 surges were made respectively. Discharge for unit time ranges 102 to 290 mL.

As a result, surge-type turbidity currents, regardless the surge duration, formed cyclic steps, but the continuous currents did not form cyclic steps. Moreover, the locations where the steps moved upstream vigorously differ from each other, the shorter the duration, the closer to the upstream end.

The velocity distribution of the profile of the turbidity currents were measured using PIV. Comparing the median velocity of 3s-, 5s-, 7s-surges and continuous turbidity currents, it is revealed that the longer the surge duration, the faster the median velocity for the same unit discharge.

Keywords: Surge turbidity current, cyclic step, flume experiment, surge duration, PIV measurement

## Three types of submarine canyons offshore southwest Taiwan

\*Cheng-Shing Chiang<sup>1</sup>, Ho-Shing Yu<sup>2</sup>

1. National Museum of Natural Science, Taiwan, 2. National Taiwan University

The sea floor off SW Taiwan is represented by an active margin. Morphologically, the margin is occupied by the narrow Kaoping shelf (<10 km) and the broad Kaoping slope which extends to a depth of about 3000m. Several submarine canyons are located on the active margin off SW Taiwan. Looking from NW to SE, these canyons are the Penghu, Shoushan, Kaohsiung, Kaoping, Fangliao, and Hongtsai canyons. Although these canyons are under the same regional controls (i.e., tectonics, sea level change), they have evolved with time and resulted in distinct morphologies.

Canyons off southwestern Taiwan are classified into three different types: 1. river-connected; 2. shelf-indented; 3. blind (confined to the slope). Type 1 canyon, the Kaoping Canyon, is directly connected to the Kaoping River, and is supplied with much sediment. The canyon head segment thus has relatively high tendency to generate hyperpycnal flows during flood seasons. The Penghu, Shoushan, Kaohsiung, and Fangliao canyon belong to type 2. The Fangliao Canyon is intensely incised into the shelf. The other three canyons are characterized by relatively weak headward erosion into the shelf. The Hongtsai Canyon is a type 3 canyon and is mainly resulted from activity of mud diapir and thrust faulting.

Keywords: submarine canyon, Taiwan

# Development Processes of Turbidity Currents Toward the Equilibrium State: Examination by Numerical Simulation

\*Koji Ohata<sup>1</sup>, Hajime Naruse<sup>1</sup>

1. Kyoto University

In this study, development processes of turbidity currents toward the equilibrium state was investigated by the numerical simulation using the renormalized group k-epsilon turbulence model. Turbidity currents are particle-laden currents driven by gravity, which occur in deep seas and lakes. It has been indicated that turbidity currents run out over tens to hundreds of kilometers and deposit vast amounts of sediments on submarine fans of deep sea floors. Existing layer-averaged numerical models of turbidity currents, however, cannot reproduce such long-traveled turbidity currents because the flows entrain the ambient water and get diluted as they run down. Recently, Luchi et al. (2015) developed the vertically resolved k-epsilon model of turbidity currents in the steady condition, and implied that turbidity currents become bipartite at the horizon showing the maximum flow velocity. Their model indicated that the upper parts of turbidity currents get rarified as they run down, whereas the lower parts which carry most of the suspended sediment have the equilibrium state, which can be sustained over long distances without any dilution and deceleration. Although this model might explain the reason why turbidity currents can run out for long distances, their model assumed the steady state, so that it was not explained whether the flows can reach the equilibrium state within realistic spatio-temporal scale in the actual sedimentary environments.

Therefore, this study focuses on the processes of both temporal and spatial developments of turbidity currents to become the equilibrium state. This study conducted the two-dimensional numerical simulations using computational fluid dynamics software FLOW-3D in order to obtain spatio-temporal change of flow properties of turbidity currents in both vertical and flow-parallel directions. The simulation was conducted under the condition at which the turbidity current continued flowing from the upstream end of the computational domain at constant rates of velocity and sediment concentration for a given time. The computational domain was 200 m long and 30 m deep, and the computational grid size was 5 cm for both vertical and horizontal directions. The flow velocity and height at the upstream boundary were respectively fixed to the values 1 m/s and 0.5 m, and the experimental duration was set to 1800 seconds. As a result of simulation, we obtained the following findings: (1) the turbidity current reached the steady state about several minutes after the beginning of simulation, (2) the height of the horizon showing the maximum velocity was constant in the region about 4 m from the inlet to the downstream end, (3) the maximum velocity converged to the constant value at about 150 m from the inlet, and (4) the flow height defined by the inflection point of the flow velocity profile continuously increased downstream. These results suggest that the lower part of the turbidity current reached the equilibrium state within about 150 meters at the given experimental condition, whereas the upper part of the flow remained non-uniform because of entrainment of the ambient water. Although further numerical simulations at various experimental conditions are required to conclude, we tentatively infer that the lower part of turbidity currents at natural scale can easily reach the equilibrium state and the upper part continues being rarified. In the future, this study will lead to the development of a new layer-averaged model of two-layered turbidity currents which can solve the large-scale morphodynamic problems.

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Keywords: turbidity current, numerical simulation, development processes

## Inverse analysis to reconstruct hydraulic conditions of non-steady turbidity currents considering multiple grain-size classes

\*Kento Nakao<sup>1</sup>, Hajime Naruse<sup>1</sup>, Shuichi Tokuhashi<sup>2</sup>

1. Department of Geology and Mineralogy, Graduate School of Science, Kyoto University, 2. AIST - National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology Tsukuba (Japan)

Turbidity currents emplace turbidite sandstones that are characterized by graded bedding. In spite of their significance in the paleoenvironmental researches and the resource geology, the flow properties of turbidity currents in deep-sea environments remain unclear because in-situ measurements have been disturbed by their highly destructive nature and infrequent occurrences. Therefore, in order to understand the behavior of actual turbidity currents, this study aims to develop a new method of the inverse analysis to reconstruct the paleo-hydraulic conditions of turbidity currents from ancient turbidites. There have been a few studies of inverse modeling of turbidity currents; however, several problems in their studies have been pointed out. For instance, the previous study employed the oversimplified forward model that assumes temporally steady flows, which cannot produce graded bedding. Normal grading and other successive transition of sedimentary structures (i.e. the Bouma sequence) is typical features of ancient turbidites, so that their steady-flow assumption is not suitable for analysis of natural turbidity currents. In contrast, the author inverse model employed two-dimensional Navier-Stokes equations for the forward model, but the calculation cost of their method is too high to apply it to the field-scale data. To this end, this study proposes a new forward model of non-steady turbidity currents with consideration of mixed grain-size sediment, which can describe the behavior of a turbidity current that deposits a typical turbidite showing graded bedding. Our model employs the one-dimensional shallow water equation, which is applicable to the field-scale problems. The “lock-exchange” type condition is assumed as the initial setting in this model. For inverse analysis, the objective function is defined as sum of squares of deviations between the results of the observation and the numerical calculation. In our inverse calculation, the initial hydraulic conditions that minimize the objective function are explored by the genetic algorithm. Tests of our inversion method using the artificial data provided reasonable results, suggesting adequacy of the optimization methodology. We then applied our method to a turbidite in the Kiyosumi Formation, Boso Peninsula, Japan. The Kiyosumi Formation is composed of sand-dominated alternations of turbidite sandstone and hemipelagic mudstone, which are considered to be deposits of the submarine fan lobe. In this study, the individual turbidite bed intercalated between the two key-tuff layers was correlated over 20 km, and thickness and grain-size distribution of the bed were measured at the seven sampling localities. As the result of the inverse analysis, the hydraulic conditions of the turbidity current that had emplaced the turbidite bed was estimated. When the flow reached at the downstream end of the study area, the flow thickness, velocity, and total sediment concentration were reconstructed to be 334.55 m, 0.98 m/s, and 0.0058% respectively at the downstream end of the sampling area. Although the verification of this result will be discussed as a future issue, these reconstructed values are in agreement with the hydraulic conditions of turbidity currents monitored by the previous studies.

Keywords: inverse analysis, turbidity current, turbidite, the Kiyosumi Formation