

Mechanical compaction mechanisms in the input sediments of the Sumatra Subduction Complex-insights from microstructural analysis of cores from IODP Expedition- 362

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Abstract

The input sediments of the North Sumatra subduction zone margin, drilled during IODP Expedition 362, exhibit remarkable uniformity in composition and grain size over the entire thickness of the rapidly deposited Nicobar Fan succession (seafloor to 1500 mbsf), providing a unique opportunity to study the micromechanisms of compaction. Samples were prepared from dried core samples from sites (U1480 and U1481) by both Ar-ion cross-section polishing and broad-ion beam cutting and imaged with a field-emission Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM). The shallowest samples (seafloor to 28 mbsf) display a sharp reduction in porosity from 80% to 52% due to collapse of large clay-domain/matrix pores associated with rotation and realignment of clay-platelets parallel to the bedding plane. The deeper succession (28mbsf to 1500mbsf) exhibits less rapid reduction in porosity from 52% to 30% by the progressive collapse of silt-adjacent larger pores through bending and subsequent sliding/fracturing of clay particles. In addition, there is a correlated loss of porosity in the pores too small to be resolved by SEM.

Clastic particles show no evidence of deformation or fracturing with increasing compaction. In the phyllosilicates, there is no evidence for pressure solution or recrystallization: thus, compaction proceeds by micromechanical processes. Increase in effective stress up to 18 MPa (~1500mbsf) causes the development of a weakly aligned phyllosilicate fabric mainly defined by illite clay particles and mica grains, while the roundness of interparticle pores decreases as the pores become more elongated. We propose that bending of the phyllosilicates by intra-particle slip may be the rate-controlling mechanism.

Pore size distributions show that all pores within the compactional force chain deform, irrespective of size, with increasing compactional strain. This arises because the force chain driving pore collapse is localized primarily

32 within the volumetrically dominant and weaker clay-rich domains; pores associated with packing around isolated
33 silt particles enter into the force chain asynchronously and do not contribute preferentially to pore loss over the
34 depth range studied.

35 **1. Introduction**

36 Muds are fine-grained sediments (>50% of particles <63 μ m diameter) comprising platy detrital clay minerals
37 and equidimensional detrital grains such as quartz, feldspar, calcite, etc. (Nakano, 1967; Hesse, R., 1975;
38 Sintubin, 1994). Understanding the mechanical, chemical, and microstructural properties of mud and mudstone
39 is of great interest for rock property prediction in basic earth science, in exploration, subsurface integrity studies
40 and geotechnical engineering (Yagiz, S., 2001; Aplin and Macquaker, 2011; Lazar et al., 2015). The chemical
41 and physical behavior of marine muds plays a critical role in defining the geometry of accretionary prisms,
42 locating the décollement for fault rupture (Vrolijk, 1990; Chester et al., 2013) and understanding subduction
43 zone earthquakes and tsunamis (Dean et al., 2010; Chester et al., 2013; Hüpers et al., 2017).

44 Marine mud is deposited with a highly porous isotropic fabric (Bowles, 1969; Bennett et al. 1981; 1991);
45 depositional porosity in mud is about twice as high as in sand (e.g., Velde, 1996, Lundegard, 1992). In contrast,
46 mudstones have low porosities, modal pore sizes measured in nm, and an absence of textural controls on porosity
47 (e.g. Aplin et al., 2006; Milliken et al., 2012; 2013). The processes in this dramatic evolution of porosity have
48 similarities to compaction of sand to sandstone, comprising a combination of compaction and cementation
49 (Milliken and Day-Stirrat, 2013), although the much smaller, elongated phyllosilicate grains increase the role of
50 clay-bound water in the process (Karaborni et al., 1996). Whereas a refined and somewhat predictive
51 understanding exists for porosity evolution in sand and sandstones (e.g., Lander and Walderhaug, 1999; Paxton
52 et al., 2002; Lander et al., 2008; Ajdukiewicz and Lander, 2010, Desbois et al., 2011), such a model is at best
53 preliminary for muds and mudstones (Pommer and Milliken, 2015; Milliken and Olson, 2017). It seems clear
54 that the composition of the grain assemblage importantly sets the stage for porosity evolution in muds (Milliken,
55 2014), cementation being the greatest in muds with abundant biogenic debris. In contrast to sandstones, however,
56 cementation is far less common globally in mudstones (Milliken, 2019), leading to the notion that mechanical
57 compaction may be far more important in muds. In addition, depositional environment also strongly controls
58 porosity evolution, compaction and diagenesis in mudrocks (e.g. Burland, 1990; Baruch et al., 2015; Delle Piane
59 et al., 2015) as the initial clay and rigid grain compositions significantly affect both compaction (as this
60 manuscript shows) and subsequent diagenetic alteration due to variations in composition. Establishing the
61 expected compaction behavior for muds in a setting of well-constrained mud properties is an essential
62 contribution that our study hopes to serve.

63 Investigations of mud and mudstone compaction are usually based on proxy data, such as velocity or density,
64 rather than direct measurements of porosity (e.g., references in Mondol et al., 2007). Direct measurement of
65 porosity is broadly classified into two categories: 1) experimental compaction in the laboratory; (e.g., Mitchell,
66 1956; Bennett et al. 1981; Griffiths and Joshi, 1989; 1990; Vasseur et al. 1995; Mondol et al. 2007; Fawad et al.
67 2010; Emmanuel and Day-Stirrat, 2012), and 2) studies on natural samples those are compacted in situ with
68 depth (e.g., Meade, 1964; Ho et al., 1999; Aplin et al. 2003; 2006; Day-Stirrat et al., 2008; 2010; 2012; Milliken
69 et al, 2012; 2013). A common shortcoming of the studies on the naturally compacted samples is the assumption

70 that the bulk porosity is a direct measure of compaction although porosity loss has contributions of both
71 compaction and cementation (Ehrenberg, 1989; Lundegard, 1992; Paxton et al., 2002), and this can only be
72 accomplished by petrographic inspection (Milliken and Curtis, 2016). Experimental studies generally avoid this
73 shortcoming as the sample sets generally do not undergo any chemical change during the investigation. Studies
74 of shallowly buried units (like the present study) are the ones most likely to avoid the complication of
75 cementation, especially if temperatures are low and bulk grain assemblages are siliciclastic (Milliken, 2008,
76 2014).

77 Previous studies report contrasting ideas about the mechanisms of mechanical compaction of mud. Some studies
78 conclude that rotation is the dominant particle scale mechanism for mechanical compaction (Bowles et al., 1969;
79 Oertel and Curtis, 1972; Vasseur et al., 1995), although other particle scale-deformation mechanisms were not
80 investigated by these authors. A few studies state that burial compaction significantly increases the alignment of
81 phyllosilicate (clay and mica) parallel to the bedding planes (Bowles et al., 1969; Oertel and Curtis, 1972;
82 Vasseur et al., 1995) (a detailed review of the previous studies on mechanical compaction is given in
83 DocumentS1 in Supplementary data). Other studies suggest that intense mechanical compaction (i.e. effective
84 stress) has a limited impact on the development of phyllosilicate fabric in mud (Ho et al., 1999; Aplin et al.,
85 2006; Day-Stirrat et al., 2008; 2011). In addition, earlier authors concluded that an increase in effective stress
86 causes preferential loss of larger pores, and as a result, the mean porosity of the samples decreases (Delage and
87 Lefebvre, 1984; Griffiths and Joshi, 1989; 1990; Emmanuel and Day-Stirrat, 2012). With increasing consolidation
88 stress, a bimodal pore size distribution curve shifts toward smaller pore sizes as larger pores rapidly collapse
89 (Griffiths and Joshi, 1989; 1990; 1991). These studies investigated the changes in particle alignment and
90 reduction in porosity (Ho et al., 1999; Aplin et al., 2006; Day-Stirrat et al., 2008; 2011) but without imaging the
91 evolution of pore morphology with increasing compactional strain. Moreover, in previous studies, the authors
92 mainly performed laboratory consolidation experiments on lab produced particle packs, and used conventional
93 techniques, such as mercury intrusion porosimetry and high-resolution X-Ray pole figure goniometry (HRXTG)
94 to understand the evolution of pore size distribution with consolidation stress (Ho et al., 1999; Aplin et al.,
95 2006). Studies on naturally compacted samples are less common.

96 We received 55 mud samples from drill cores collected during IODP Expedition 362 west of the North Sumatra
97 subduction zone margin and investigated the evolution of petrographic microstructure and pore morphology as a
98 function of compactional strain. Apart from general implications for global mudrocks, we hope this investigation
99 will also contribute to studies that seek to predict rock properties in the deeper subsurface at the Sumatra
100 subduction front.

101

102 **2. Geological background and drilling**

103 The Sumatra subduction zone extends 5000km from the Andaman-Nicobar Islands in the northwest to the Java-
104 Banda arc in the Southeast (Fig. 1a and b) (Prawirodirdjo et al., 1997; Hippchen and Hyndman, 2008). The trench

105 of the Sumatra subduction zone (Fig.1a) developed on the subducting Indo-Australian Plate at a convergence
106 rate of 5.5 cm/yr in the north and 7.23 cm/yr in the South (Ghosal et al., 2014; Moeremans, and Singh, 2015).

107 On 26th December 2004, the west coast of Northern Sumatra recorded one of the largest earthquakes (Mw-9.3)
108 in the 21st century, generating a devastating tsunami in the Indian Ocean (Ammon et al., 2005; Lay et al., 2005).
109 Understanding the mechanism(s) behind this unprecedented event was the central idea behind IODP Expedition
110 362 (Fig.1). The main objective of the expedition was to collect core and log data from the incoming
111 sedimentary succession of the Indo-Australian oceanic plate to understand the seismogenic process related to the
112 margin (Dugan et al., 2017; McNeill et al., 2017a). During the expedition in 2016, drilling was performed on two
113 sites: U1480 (Holes E, F, G and H) and U1481 (Hole A) located on the oceanic plate west of the North Sumatra
114 subduction margin and east of the Ninety East Ridge (Fig.1a, b) (Dugan et al., 2017). The drilling sites recovered
115 a complete, 1.5 km thick sedimentary section from late Cretaceous to Pleistocene down to the basement of
116 basaltic crust (Dugan et al., 2017; McNeill et al., 2017a).

117 The input sedimentary section of the Sumatra subduction zone comprises the distal part of the trench wedge,
118 Nicobar fan sequence, and pre-fan pelagic section on the basaltic crust at the bottom (Dugan et al., 2017;
119 McNeill et al., 2017a). At Site U1480, the entire recovered section was categorized into six lithological entities,
120 Units I to VI (Fig. 1c) (McNeill et al., 2017a). Unit I (0 to 26.72 mbsf) consist of unconsolidated calcareous clay,
121 silty clay with alternating fine sand (McNeill et al., 2017a). Unit II from 26.72 to 1250 mbsf consists of three
122 subunits (IIA, IIB and IIC) and mainly exhibits alternating fine-grained sand and silty clay to silt (McNeill et al.,
123 2017a). Unit III (1250 ~ 1327 mbsf) is divided into two subunits: Unit IIIA and IIIB (McNeill et al., 2017a).
124 Unit IIIA consist of thin to medium-bedded, gray-green or brown mudstone and intercalated siltstone, and Unit
125 IIIB is composed of reddish-brown tuffaceous silty claystone with fragmented sponge spicules and radiolaria
126 (McNeill et al., 2017a). The boundary between Units IIIA and IIIB (1310 mbsf) at this site marks the base of the
127 Nicobar Fan and the beginning of the thin pre-fan succession (Pickering et al., 2020). Units IV, V, and VI
128 include volcanoclastic rocks with tuffaceous sandstone, conglomerates, and basaltic oceanic crust, respectively.
129 At Site U1481, the pre-fan succession was not encountered and a Unit III, a thicker equivalent of Subunit IIIA at
130 Site U1480, represents the material of the lower Nicobar Fan (see Figure F15, in Site U1481 report; McNeil et
131 al., 2017a). This study is restricted to the thin, distal trench wedge (Unit I) and Nicobar fan sequence (Units II
132 and IIIA, which is equivalent to Unit-III at U1481).

133 X-ray diffraction (XRD) of bulk samples and clay fractions at Site U1480 show a clay mineral assemblage
134 dominated by illite with lesser amounts of smectite and chlorite (Rosenberger et al., 2020) (Fig.2a, b, c, and d;
135 TableS1 and Figure S1 in Supplementary data). Clay mineral data arise from three separate analyses: (1) bulk
136 sample analyses of air-dried samples (random orientation) onboard ship used to define the proportion of all clay
137 minerals in a sediment sample (McNeill et al., 2017a; Underwood et al., 2020), (2) air-dried clay-sized samples
138 (sedimented and oriented) analyzed in New Mexico that define the types and abundances of clay
139 minerals (Rosenberger et al., 2020; note that abundances limited to clay minerals used in the reference mixtures,
140 which include discrete illite and discrete smectite), and (3) glycol-saturated clay-sized samples (sedimented and
141 oriented) analyzed in New Mexico that determine the amount of illite in mixed-layer I/S, defined as smectite in

142 #2 (Rosenberger et al., 2020). Note that the amount of illite in mixed-layer I/S is only accounted for in the
143 Expandability value and never in the discrete illite value.

144 Siliciclastic samples consist of 50-70% clay minerals (McNeill et al., 2017a). Smectite fraction, determined
145 from the air-dried, clay-sized samples (as described in Underwood et al., 2020) is more abundant in Unit I than
146 Unit II, where smectite abundance ranges from 5-30% with rare samples containing as much as 45% smectite.
147 In Unit II, smectite fraction ranges from 10-30% with local discrete enrichments as great as 40-45%. Smectite
148 again increases in Unit III, reaching a value as high as 68% in the samples attributed to the Nicobar Fan section.
149 There is a weak increase in the expandability of mixed-layer I/S with depth (determined from glycol-saturated,
150 clay-sized samples; Rosenberger et al., 2020; Underwood et al., 2020; Figure-S2 in Supplementary data),
151 suggesting a shift in clay mineral provenance rather than smectite-illite diagenesis. Montmorillonite is
152 interpreted as the smectite mineral (Rosenberger et al., 2020). Chlorite + kaolinite abundance is similar in Units I
153 and II, ranging from 8 to 20% with rare occurrences as high as 24%; Unit III is almost devoid of chlorite +
154 kaolinite. Heating experiments on select samples indicate that chlorite makes up 66-100% of this mineral
155 category (Rosenberger et al., 2020). Illite comprises the remainder of the clay mineral assemblage, ranging from
156 50-79% in Unit II while Unit I is correspondingly less illite-rich (42-70%). In the Unit III Nicobar Fan section,
157 illite makes up only 18-36% of the clay fraction. Again, it should be noted that, the shipboard methodology used
158 for XRD analysis is semiquantitative and has limitations in identifying bulk mineralogy of the samples; the
159 abundance of mixed-layer clays and the expandability of mixed-layer I/S is only inferred qualitatively (McNeil
160 et al. 2017a; Underwood et al., 2020).

161 The Nicobar fan sequence exhibits almost compositionally homogeneous (silt/clay ratio; mostly 'silty-clay')
162 subunits with uniform grain size (McNeill et al., 2017a), and a history of rapid deposition (125-290 m/my;
163 Backman et al., 2019). The sedimentary sequence exhibits no evidence of uplift and currently occurs at
164 maximum burial depth. The drilling sites are 255 km away from the deformation front; thus, the samples are
165 undisturbed by tectonic faulting associated with subduction (Fig.1b). In addition, owing to the scarcity of
166 biogenic grains and the low temperatures encountered (<68°C), cementation is only observed as highly localized
167 concretions (Red colored symbols in Fig.2e, f, g, and h) (McNeil et al., 2017b; Torres et al., 2022). Such a
168 homogeneous sedimentary succession extending across 1.5 km depth is rare in sedimentary basins. Hence, these
169 samples provide us with a unique opportunity to study depth-wise variation in microstructure as a function of
170 vertical effective stress with few complications from multiple causes of porosity loss.

171 **3. Sampling and Methods**

172 This study is based on two sample sets that were obtained from Sites 1480 (Holes E, F, G, and H) and 1481
173 (Hole A) independently and analyzed by slightly different methods. Samples have been prepared using Ar-ion
174 cross-section polishing and analyzed using a scanning electron microscope equipped with a field emission gun
175 (BIB-SE technique). The first sample set (33 mud samples; depth 1.24 to 1300 mbsf) was prepared and analyzed
176 at RWTH Aachen University, Germany. The second sample set (22 samples; depths 6.25 to 1493.30 mbsf) was
177 prepared and studied at the Bureau of Economic Geology (BEG) at the University of Texas at Austin. Respective
178 core description of these 55 mud samples and their bulk mineralogy data are tabulated in Table-1.

179 **3.1 BIB-SEM technique (First set of samples, Aachen University)**

180 **3.1.1 Sample preparation for BIB-SEM and imaging**

181 After drilling, the samples were stored at Kochi drill core repository (IODP), Japan for four years (2016 ~ 2020)
182 in refrigerated storage areas, maintaining a temperature of ca. 4°C and 80% humidity ([http://www.kochi-](http://www.kochi-core.jp/en/iodp-curation/curation-sop_2.html)
183 [core.jp/en/iodp-curation/curation-sop_2.html](http://www.kochi-core.jp/en/iodp-curation/curation-sop_2.html)). We received a total of 33 freeze-dried mud samples (SN-1 to SN-
184 33 in Table-1) for analysis at Aachen. The samples were collected using a tube inserted perpendicular to the cut
185 face of the drill core in such a way that the notch of the tube identified the top of the sample so the orientation of
186 bedding planes for each sample was known. In Fig. 1d, a tube sample received from the IODP repository is
187 shown, where the red line on the top of the tube identifies the notch. Subsamples ($10 \times 5 \times 2 \text{ mm}^3$) were cut
188 from the individual freeze-dried samples using a razor blade. These subsamples were pre-polished using silicon
189 carbide (SiC) paper to reduce the roughness of the surface down to 10 μm . Further, Broad Ion Beam (BIB)
190 polishing was carried out using a JEOL SM-09010 cross-section polisher for 10 hours at 6 kV and 150 μA . BIB
191 reduces surface damage by removing a 100 μm thick layer to generate a high-quality polished cross-section of 1-
192 2 mm^2 with topography less than 5 nm (Desbois et al., 2009).

193 After polishing, the BIB cross-sections were coated with tungsten and imaged with a Zeiss Supra 55 SEM with
194 SE2, BSE, and EDX detector (Figure S3 in Supplementary data). SE2 images were used to image porosity and
195 BSE images are combined with an EDX map as well as EDX point analysis for identifying mineral phases. For
196 each cross-section, we made mosaics of hundreds of SE2 and BSE images at a magnification of 20,000x (~14.3
197 nm pixel value) and 10,000x respectively, with an overlap of 20% to 30%, (Klaver et al., 2012; 2015; 2016;
198 Hemes et al., 2013; 2015; 2016; Laurich et al., 2014). The mosaics are stitched together using Aztec software
199 preserving the original pixel resolution. Finally, these stitched images are used for the segmentation of pore
200 spaces, minerals, and other respective analyses.

201 **3.1.2 Image segmentation and pore analysis**

202 For quantifying porosity and pore morphology, individual SE2 image mosaics were segmented using a ‘seed and
203 grow’ algorithm (Adams and Bischof, 1994) implemented with a MatLab code (Jiang et al., 2015; Schmatz et
204 al., 2017) (Figure S3 in Supplementary data). The ‘seed and grow’ algorithm works based on the difference in
205 intensity of grey scale value in an image (bright = minerals, dark = pores). After automatic segmentation,
206 individual pores in SE2 images are manually corrected if required.

207 Similarly, using ImageJ software (threshold toolbox and machine learning algorithm), segmentation of the
208 individual mineral phases was carried out combining BSE images and EDX elemental maps. While quartz,
209 calcite, pyrite, mica minerals are efficiently segmented using these tools, feldspars are found difficult to segment
210 because of similar composition as clay (Figure S4, S5 and S6 in Supplementary data). Finally, corrected pore
211 segmented SE2 mosaics are overlaid on the phase maps using the ‘georeference’ tool of QGIS
212 (<http://qgis.osgeo.org>), (Figure S4, S5 and S6 in Supplementary data).

213 **3.1.3 Pore detection resolution (PPR) and representative area analysis (REA)**

214 'Practical pore detection resolution' (PPR) indicates the pore sizes above which one can assume to detect 100%
215 of the pores present in the SE2 mosaic (Klaver et al., 2012). In agreement with earlier results using this
216 instrument (Klaver et al., 2012; 2015; 2016; Hemes et al., 2013; 2015; 2016; Laurich et al., 2014), we found PPR
217 of ~2000 nm² and ~8500 nm² for the magnification of 20,000x and 10,000x images, respectively, corresponding
218 to 10pixels.

219 After segmenting all minerals, representative elementary area analysis (REA) was performed using the box
220 counting technique on mineralogical phase maps (Kameda et al., 2006; Klaver et al., 2012). Similar steps are
221 also followed for determining a representative elementary area for SE2 images. The estimated REA values using
222 SE2 and BSE mosaics for the analyzed 33 mudstone samples are documented in Table S2 in Supplementary
223 data.

224 Porosity, pore morphology, pore size, and the statistical distribution of pores were obtained using image analysis
225 techniques on 2D images collected using BIB-SEM technique. Because pores are non-spherical 3D objects that
226 are cut perpendicular to the bedding plane to acquire a 2D image dataset, there may be random and systematic
227 errors when comparing 2D and 3D results. We plotted shipboard measured MAD (moisture and density) porosity
228 vs depth (Fig.2e) and also BIB-SEM porosity vs depth for the analyzed samples (Fig.3a), where MAD porosity
229 documents bulk porosity for the sample, and BIB-SEM porosity represents 2D cuts of the non-spherical 3D
230 pores/porosity. As there is a first-order correspondence between the two porosity measurements, we deduce that
231 porosity and pore size distributions obtained from 2D image analysis reflect the bulk rock porosity and 3D pore
232 size distribution of the samples. In addition, the estimated REA appears appropriate for minimizing systematic
233 errors in the bulk pore characteristics of the sample.

234 **3.2 Ion polishing and SEM technique (second set of samples; BEG, UT Austin).**

235 22 Samples (SN-34 to SN-55 in Table 1) were taken shipboard from the sample half of the still-wet core in small
236 plastic tubes (similar to the ones used for the sample set at Aachen) inserted into the core by manual pressure.
237 The tubes were removed from the core and sealed in plastic bags. In the laboratory at the BEG, sample bags
238 were opened, and the muds were allowed to dry slowly in the tubes over several weeks. No discernible shrinkage
239 was observed as the dried core pieces still fully filled the tubes. The tubes were carefully removed, and a small
240 cube (approximately 0.5 to 1 cm³) was cut using a sharp knife and small hand saws; an orientation mark was
241 placed on the cube to indicate the bedding direction. Bed-perpendicular surfaces were prepared by Ar-ion cross-
242 section polishing, using the Leica EM TIC020 triple ion beam miller and coated with Ir for imaging. Manual
243 placement of the cut cubes into the ion mill is not precise so the ion-polished surfaces have slight variation from
244 perpendicular to bedding. Pore imaging was performed on the FEI Nova NanoSEM 430 using the in-lens SE
245 detector, a 30 μm aperture, 15 KeV accelerating current, a working distance of around 5–6 mm, and an
246 intermediate-range sample current (spot size = 3nm, mid-range for the instrument). Randomly selected views
247 (typically 3-6) of all samples were collected at 6000x machine magnification; additional views illustrating pore
248 types and pore/grain relationships were made at 10,000x to 30,000x (machine magnification).

249

250 **4. Results**

251 **4.1 Compaction strain derived from MAD-porosity data**

252 During Expedition 362, mass and volume of mud samples were measured in both wet and dry states using a high
253 precision electronic mass balance and helium pycnometer (http://www-odp.tamu.edu/publications/tnotes/tn37/tn37_8.htm). Using the obtained mass and volume dataset for wet and dry conditions, bulk MAD (moisture and
254 density) porosities were calculated. Porosity values reported by McNeill et al. (2017b) and downloaded from
255 IODP databases serve as the basis for strain calculations.
256

257 Shipboard MAD porosity for mud samples exhibits a sharp reduction from 80% to 52% from the seafloor to 28
258 mbsf (Fig.2e). Deeper samples display a comparatively smaller reduction in porosity of approximately from 52%
259 to 30% over a depth range of 28 to 1500 mbsf (Fig.2e and f).

260 We calculated compaction strain following a method proposed by Nolle et al. (2005) and subsequently used by
261 Neagu et al. (2010) (Fig.2g and h), assuming 1D consolidation and no change in solid volume. The compaction
262 strain (ϵ_c) is then computed as:

263
$$\epsilon_c = \frac{1-\phi_0}{1-\phi_1} \quad (\text{Eqn-1})$$

264 Here ϕ_0 = initial porosity, and ϕ_1 = final porosity. Samples from sites U1480 and U1481 show no evidence of
265 tectonic faults (McNeill et al., 2017a), supporting an assumption of 1D strain. We considered the initial porosity
266 ϕ_0 as the MAD porosity at 0.6 mbsf depth ($\phi_0 = 80\%$). Compaction strain following Eqn-1 (Table S2 in
267 Supplementary data), is plotted against depth in Fig.2g and h. Compaction strain increases from 1 to 2.05 from
268 the seafloor to 28 mbsf (i.e. Unit I), and from 2.00 to 3.05 from 28mbsf to 1500 mbsf (Fig. 2g and h).

269 Another common measure of compaction is the intergranular volume (IGV; Paxton et al., 2002), which
270 corresponds to the sum of intergranular porosity and intergranular cement. In some mudstones, it may be
271 necessary to calculate IGV differently because of the presence of abundant primary intragranular pores and pore-
272 filling bitumen (Milliken and Olson, 2017). In our sample set, cement is absent, and IGV is taken to equal the
273 bulk porosity from shipboard MAD measurements.

274 Compactional porosity loss (COPL), referenced against the original sediment volume, is calculated from the
275 initial primary intergranular porosity (P_i ; 80% in this case) and the IGV as follows (Ehrenberg, 1989, Lundegard,
276 1992;):

277
$$\text{COPL} = P_i - \left(\frac{(100 - P_i) \times \text{IGV}}{100 - \text{IGV}} \right) \quad (\text{Eqn-2})$$

278 At an IGV of 50%, COPL is 60%; in the deepest samples in the Nicobar fan (IGV of around 30%) COPL is 70%
279 (Table S2 in Supplementary data).

280 **4.2 Description of grain microstructure and pore morphology**

281 To have consistency in the data set, we prepared SE2 mosaics for all samples from the Aachen sample set at
282 20,000x magnification covering an average $100 \times 100 \mu\text{m}^2$ area. In addition, to examine the effect of
283 magnification on BIB-SEM porosity and representative area analysis (REA), three samples (i.e. SN-7, SN-15,
284 and SN-29) were also imaged each at 5,000x and 10,000x magnification, respectively. A decrease in
285 magnification and resolution reduces visible BIB-SEM porosity.

286 We observed consistent results for the REA analysis. For SE2 mosaics, REA varies between $45 \times 45 \mu\text{m}^2$ to 85×85
287 μm^2 at 20,000x magnification, and for segmented phase maps, REA varies between $90 \times 90 \mu\text{m}^2$ to $130 \times 130 \mu\text{m}^2$
288 at 10,000x magnification. In the UT sample set, the standard images taken at 6000x with machine magnification
289 are $49.7 \times 45.7 \mu\text{m}^2$, so these images are also within the estimated REA range.

290 Based on EDX elemental map or point analysis, six mineral phases occur in significant amounts in the Sumatra
291 samples: quartz, feldspar (K-feldspar, Na-feldspar), calcite, pyrite, micas (muscovite, biotite, and chlorite), and
292 clay. Based on XRD analyses (Rosenberger et al., 2020), the clay size fraction is dominated by illite. Clay +
293 mica percentage in these mudstone samples varies between 65% to 75%. Samples SN-1 (77%) and SN-4 (76%)
294 have more clay + mica, whereas SN-7, SN-9, SN-17, SN-28, SN-29, and SN-31 contain less clay + mica (<65%)
295 (Table S2 in Supplementary data). It should be noted that, using EDX analysis, we are able to differentiate Na-
296 feldspar, and K-feldspar considering the concentration of Na and K elements in the grains. However, the XRD
297 dataset provides only information about the overall percentage of plagioclase feldspar present in these samples
298 (Table 1), perhaps an artifact of different detection limits for EDX and XRD analyses.

299 Using BIB-SEM and automatic pore segmentation techniques, an average of >30,000 pores have been detected
300 for each individual sample in the Aachen sample set at 20,000x magnification. Correlating with the MAD data
301 set, the estimated BIB-SEM porosity reduces from 32% to 19% over a depth range of seafloor to 28 mbsf, while
302 the deeper samples display a smaller reduction from 19% to 10% over a depth range of 28 to 1500 mbsf
303 respectively (Fig.3a). Consistent with numerous previous studies, the results document a mismatch between bulk
304 measured porosity (MAD) and imaging porosity (BIB-SEM) (e.g., Hemes et al., 2013; Houben et al., 2014; Nole
305 et al., 2016; Oelker et al., 2019) (Table S2 in Supplementary data). We plotted BIB-SEM porosity vs MAD
306 porosity and found an approximately linear correlation with coefficient of determination ($R^2 = 0.8621$) (Fig. 3b).
307 It should also be noted that, although there is a correlation, there is a large difference in the porosity values
308 which increases with increasing porosity.

309 **4.3 Type of pores**

310 Intergranular pores contribute >99% of the total visible porosity. Intragranular pores (see below) are rare. The
311 size and shape of intergranular pores change during compaction (Table S3 in Supplementary data).

312 Intergranular pores are classified (Fig.4) based on the size of surrounding particles (irrespective of mineralogy):
313 1) Clay domain (matrix) pores, and 2) silt-adjacent pores. Based on the variation in size, clay domain pores are
314 divided further into: 1) Large clay domain pores (pore size $>5 \times 10^5 \text{ nm}^2$) and the pore boundary is defined by

315 more than three clay particles; and 2) small clay domain pores (pore size $<5 \times 10^5 \text{ nm}^2$) that occur between 2-3
316 clay particles (see further details below). Large and small clay domain pores are classified by geometry as: 1)
317 Elongate pores (aspect ratio $>3:1$) and 2) equant-shaped pores (aspect ratio $<3:1$). Elongate pores consist of 1)
318 Linear-elongated pores, and 2) crescent-shaped elongated pores. Examples of different clay-domain pore types
319 are shown in Fig. 5, 6, and 7.

320 Silt-adjacent pores are categorized by two types: 1) large silt-adjacent pores are $>5 \times 10^5 \text{ nm}^2$, and pore
321 boundaries are defined by more than three particles; and 2) small silt-adjacent pores include pore sizes $<5 \times 10^5$
322 nm^2 , and pore boundaries are defined by two/three particles (see further detail on the modal sizes of these pore
323 types below). Large and small silt-adjacent pores are either: 1) Equant shaped (aspect ratio $<3:1$) or 2) elongated
324 (aspect ratio $>3:1$). Further, elongated silt-adjacent pores consist of 1) linear-shaped elongated pores and 2)
325 crescent-shaped elongated pores. These pore types are highlighted in Fig. 5, 6, and 7.

326 **4.4 Change in inter-particle pore morphology with depth**

327 *Seafloor to 28mbsf (Unit I)*

328 The shallow mud samples in Unit I are unconsolidated and porous (Fig. 5a). We analyzed a total of 10 samples (6
329 samples at Aachen and 4 samples at UT Austin) from this depth range. Among them, two samples have been
330 analysed both in Aachen as well as in Austin, respectively. Sample SN-1 (1.24 mbsf) has a maximum MAD
331 porosity of 80%. We observe three types of clay particle contacts in the microstructure of SN-1; edge to edge
332 (EE), edge to face (EF), and face to face (FF) contacts (Table S4 in Supplementary data). Among them, EF and
333 FF contacts are abundant and EE contacts are rare. The sample exhibits abundant large clay domain pores and
334 large silt-adjacent pores that are equant with smooth edges and a rounded pore perimeter. The sample also
335 contains abundant linear-elongated and equant-shaped small clay-domain pores. Crescent-shaped small clay
336 domain pores are rare in the microstructure of this sample. Equant-shaped, small silt-adjacent pores are
337 abundant. In addition, linear elongated and crescent-shaped small, silt-adjacent pores are also common (Fig.5a;
338 Table S3 in Supplementary data).

339 With increasing compaction strain ($\epsilon_c = 1.119$) and depth (5.1 mbsf; Figure S7 in Supplementary data), porosity
340 (MAD) reduces to 75% and corresponding COPL=19% (sample SN-2; Fig. 5b, Table S2 in Supplementary data).
341 The microstructures of SN-2 display similar characteristics to those observed in sample SN-1, although there are
342 fewer large clay domain pores in SN-2 than SN-1. Linear elongated and equant-shaped small clay domain pores
343 are common (Table S3 in Supplementary data), but crescent-shaped small clay domain pores are rare. The
344 microstructures of SN-2 exhibit abundant equant-shaped large and small silt-adjacent pores.

345 With an increase in compaction strain to $\epsilon_c \sim 2.00$ (28 mbsf), the sample microstructure is dominated by FF
346 contacts (Fig. 5e), and EE and EF contacts are rare (Table S4 in Supplementary data). Additionally, large clay-
347 domain pores become infrequent in the microstructure (Fig.5e and Fig. 8). Crescent-shaped, small clay domain
348 pores in the microstructure are rare, whereas equant-shaped small clay domain pores are common. Both small
349 and large silt-adjacent pores exhibit equant shapes (Fig.5e and Fig. 8d, e, f). The sample analyzed at the base of
350 Unit I (SN-6; 28 mbsf) contains rare large clay-domain pores and abundant FF contacts (Fig. 5c; MAD porosity
351 = 54% and COPL = 55%).

352 **28 mbsf to 1500 mbsf (Units II and III)**

353 Mud samples from the Nicobar fan section are more compacted than shallower samples (Fig. 6, 7 and Figure S8
354 in Supplementary data). We analyzed a total of 29 samples using at Aachen and 18 samples at UT Austin from
355 this section. An increase in compactional strain from 2.00 to 3.15 over a depth range of 28 to 1500 mbsf causes a
356 porosity reduction (MAD) of 54% to 28%, and the corresponding change in average COPL is 55% to 72%. The
357 microstructure of these samples is dominated by FF contacts among clay particles; EF and EE contacts are rare
358 (Table S4 in Supplementary data; Fig. 6 and 7 b, c). All samples exhibit abundant small linear-elongated clay
359 domain pores between two parallel clay sheets (Fig. 8b). Equant-shaped small, clay domain pores are rarely
360 observed below 150 mbsf depth ($\epsilon_c > 2.4$). Crescent-shaped, small, clay domain pores are rare at shallow depth
361 but become abundant with an increase in compactional strain $\epsilon_c > 2.95$ (871.87 mbsf) as the surrounding clay
362 particles are bent (Fig.6). In addition, large clay domain pores in these samples are rarely observed in the vicinity
363 of silt clasts (Fig.6).

364 Below 100 mbsf ($\epsilon_c = 2.20$), silt-adjacent small pores are dominantly equant shaped, but below 300 mbsf ($\epsilon_c > 2.5$)
365 silt-adjacent small pores are dominantly linear-elongated (Fig. 8e). Crescent-shaped, small, silt-adjacent pores
366 are common in all samples. Large silt-adjacent pores are dominantly equant above 200 mbsf depth ($\epsilon_c < 2.40$) and
367 commonly linear-elongate below 400 mbsf depth ($\epsilon_c > 2.5$) (Fig.8f). It appears that due to an increase in
368 compactional strain, the shape of the silt-adjacent pores changes from equant to linear-elongated (Table S3 in
369 Supplementary data). In samples with more silt, equant-shaped small and large, silt-adjacent pores can persist at
370 greater depths (Fig. 8e and f).

371 Below 28 mbsf ($\epsilon_c > 2.0$), the number of large silt-adjacent pores in the microstructures decreases. Comparing
372 samples SN-8 (74.07 mbsf and $\epsilon_c = 2.09$) and SN-33 (1299.14 mbsf and $\epsilon_c = 2.51$) illustrates how the number of
373 large, silt-adjacent pores decreases with depth (Fig. 6a, and c) when the clay fraction (Table S2 in
374 Supplementary data) is comparable. This relationship is apparent even in samples separated by a smaller depth
375 difference (SN-49 from 959.14 mbsf and SN-55 from 1433.36 mbsf; Fig. 7b and c). While the number of large
376 pores diminishes, the maximum size of the large silt-adjacent pores remains constant (10^7 nm²; Figure S9).

377 It can be observed in Fig.2e that, around 1300 mbsf depth MAD porosity for the sample sets again rapidly
378 increases. However, microstructural observations of the sample from this horizon does not exhibit increase in
379 porosity (Fig. 6c). Hence, the increase in MAD porosity in this horizon is attributed to the increase in smectite
380 content (Fig.2a) (Duttilleul et al., 2021). In general, the moisture and density method (MAD) overestimate the
381 measured porosity of the smectite rich sediment because of the inclusion of the interlayer water from smectite
382 during measurement (Brown and Ransom, 1996; Duttilleul et al., 2020).

383 **4.5 Variation in the orientation of pores and grains due to compactional strain**

384 We examined the change in orientation of the long axis of pores with increasing compaction strain. For all
385 segmented pores, the angle between the long axis and the bedding plane was determined and plotted in rose
386 diagrams (Supplementary data-15). Samples from the seafloor to 28 mbsf exhibit a weak preferred orientation of
387 the long axis of pores with maxima oriented obliquely to the bedding planes. However, below 28 mbsf the

388 samples have a preferred orientation of the long axis of pores aligned subparallel to the bedding plane. Further,
 389 due to an increase in vertical effective stress down section below 28 mbsf in Units II and III, the degree of
 390 preferred alignment of the long axis of pores only increases by a small amount (Figure S10).

391 We determined the angle between the long axis of individual silt grains and the bedding plane for all samples
 392 and plotted the angle in a rose diagram (Figure S10). For quartz, feldspar, and calcite the degree of preferred
 393 orientation of the long axis of grains changes little with depth. However, the rose diagrams obtained for mica
 394 show weak maxima parallel to the bedding plane and several submaxima oriented obliquely to the bedding plane
 395 above 28 mbsf. Preferred alignment of the long axis of mica grains increases at 28 mbsf with a strong maximum
 396 oriented parallel to bedding plane. Below 28 mbsf, further increase in the degree of preferred alignment is small.

397 **4.6 Size distribution of pores**

398 Pore size distributions (Fig.9) of shallow samples (Unit I) are trimodal. Sample SN-1 has peaks between 10^5 to
 399 10^6 nm², 10^6 to 10^7 nm², and 10^7 to 10^8 nm², and SN-2 has peaks from 10^4 to 10^5 nm², 10^5 to 10^6 nm², and 10^6 to
 400 10^7 nm². These three pore size regimes correspond to the small clay domain and silt-adjacent pores, large clay
 401 domain pores, and large silt-adjacent pores. Samples of Units II and III exhibit bimodal pore size distributions
 402 (SN-10, SN-26, and SN-33 in Fig.9). SN-10 has a peak between 10^5 to 10^6 nm², corresponding to small clay
 403 domain and silt-adjacent pores, and 10^6 to 10^7 nm², reflecting large silt-adjacent pores. Large clay domain pores
 404 are absent from samples below 28mbsf depth (Units II and III) based on the pore size distributions combined
 405 with image analysis. At shallow depths, the contribution to total porosity by larger silt-adjacent pores is greater
 406 compared to the contribution by small clay domain pores (Fig.9e and g). The contribution of large, silt-adjacent
 407 pores to total porosity diminishes with depth. Hence, at greater depth, contribution to total porosity by larger silt
 408 adjacent pore is less compared to small clay domain pores (Fig.9i).

409 Pore size distributions follow a power-law shown on a double logarithmic graph following the equations (Klaver
 410 et al., 2012; 2015; 2016; Hemes et al., 2013; 2015; 2016; Laurich et al., 2014):

$$411 \quad \frac{N_i}{b_i S_{mosaic}} = C S_{pore}^D \quad (\text{Eqn-3})$$

$$412 \quad \log\left(\frac{N_i}{b_i S_{mosaic}}\right) = -D \cdot \log(S_{pore}) + \text{Log } C \quad (\text{Eqn-4})$$

413 Where N_i = number of pores with area S_{pore} , b_i = bin size, S_{mosaic} = surface area of the current mosaic, C =constant,
 414 and D = power-law exponent. The resulting power-law exponent (D) varies between 1.70 to 2.00 (Table T2 in
 415 Supplementary data).

416 **4.7 Effect of texture on porosity, pore morphology, and orientation of pores**

417 We analyzed six samples (SN-7, SN-9, SN-17, SN-28, SN-29, and SN-31) that are enriched in silt content
 418 compared to the rest of the mud samples (Table T2 in Supplementary data)). Silt content has a positive
 419 correlation to the total SEM porosity. For example, sample SN-29 (1172.88 mbsf) exhibits a BIB-SEM porosity
 420 of 14% whereas other samples from a similar depth with less silt exhibit an average BIB-SEM porosity of 12%

421 (Table T2 in Supplementary data) at 20000x magnification. The samples with greater silt content are also
422 enriched in equant-shaped silt-adjacent larger pores (Fig.10a). We also estimated the orientation of the long axis
423 of pores for these three samples and plotted the obtained results as rose diagrams (Fig.10b). The obtained results
424 exhibit a relatively weak preferred alignment of the long axis of pores with respect to the bedding planes
425 (Fig.10b).

426

427 **5. Discussions**

428 **5.1 Effective stress vs porosity: A comparison with experimental study**

429 To understand the consolidation mechanisms of the Sumatra sediments, we estimated vertical effective stress
430 following the steps proposed by Hüpers et al. (2015). Following Terzaghi and Peck (1948), vertical effective
431 stress (σ_v') is expressed as:

$$432 \quad \sigma_v' = \sigma_v - P_f \quad (\text{Eqn-5})$$

433 Here σ_v = total vertical stress caused by the overburden load, and P_f = fluid pressure. To compute vertical
434 effective stress of a layered sediment, we use Eqn6:

$$435 \quad \sigma_v' = \sum(\rho_s - \rho_w) \cdot g \cdot \Delta z \quad (\text{Eqn-6})$$

436 where ρ_s = bulk density of the sediment, ρ_w = density of the pore water, Δz = depth interval, and g = gravitational
437 acceleration. Although small offset strike-slip faults are evident at the seafloor and in seismic reflection profiles
438 (McNeill et al., 2017a), the amount of strain attributed to these fault offsets supports the idea that the maximum
439 horizontal stress is comparable to the vertical stress; there is no evidence in seismic reflection data or from core
440 microstructures for thrust or reverse faults associated with a vertical least principal stress. On this basis, we
441 assume that vertical stress is the maximum principal stress, and that pore pressure is hydrostatic. Bulk density of
442 the sediment ρ_s was acquired from MAD data set obtained from IODP website (McNeill et al., 2017a), and ρ_w
443 was considered as the density of seawater i.e. 1025 kg/m³ (Hüpers et al., 2015).

444 We plotted vertical effective stress against MAD porosity for 55 mud samples (Fig.11). Fawad et al. (2010)
445 experimentally studied the consolidation behavior of mud with varied proportions of silt and clay. While
446 Sumatra samples follow trends like those defined by Fawad et al. (2010), the experimental samples are more
447 compacted than natural Sumatra samples for the same silt content.

448 Clay mineralogy has a significant effect on the compaction behavior of mudstone (Mondol et al., 2007). Mondol
449 et al. (2007) performed compaction experiments using pure smectite and pure kaolinite clay particle packs
450 because they represent two end members compared to other clay minerals (illite and chlorite) in terms of grain
451 size and surface area. Smectite is the more fine-grained clay with the largest surface area while kaolinite is
452 coarser and has a smaller surface area than other clay mineral types (Meade, 1964; Mesri and Olson, 1971; Rieke

453 and Chilingarian, 1974).Kaolinite is more compressible than smectite, and clay compaction gradually decreases
454 with increasing the proportion of small size clay particles in the sample (Mondol et al, 2007).

455 Fawad et al., (2010) used clay mixtures of 81% kaolinite, 14% mica, and 5% microcline grains, whereas Sumatra
456 mud samples are composed of 50%-79% illite and 5%-30%smectite, with only 8-20% undifferentiated chlorite
457 and kaolinite and 5-10% quartz particles. Therefore, due to higher illite and smectite content, Sumatra muds
458 appeared to be less compacted than the experimental samples used by Fawad et al. (2010).

459 **5.2 BIB-SEM porosity vs MAD porosity**

460 We note that BIB-SEM porosity is lower than the porosity found from shipboard MAD data, however the two
461 measurements correlate along a line through the origin. (Fig.3b). The reason for this difference is that MAD
462 porosity measures the total amount of moisture in a much larger sample and accounts for pores much below the
463 PPR. Rare large pores are also under-represented in the 1 mm² BIB section. Earlier studies also documented and
464 discussed mismatches between MAD and BIB-SEM measurements (Hemes et al., 2013; Houben et al., 2014;
465 Nole et al., 2016; Oelker et al., 2019).They concluded that the mismatch could be due to several factors; i) BIB-
466 SEM porosity largely depends on the magnification and resolution of images, ii) variation in sample sizes, and
467 iii) MAD porosity takes into account the pores whose sizes are much lower than PPR, whereas BIB-SEM
468 technique detects only the pores larger than PPR. We plotted estimated BIB-SEM porosity and MAD porosity
469 data from earlier studies on Boom clay (Hemes et al., 2013; Oelker et al., 2019); Opalinus clay (Houben et al.,
470 2014) and samples from the Nankai trough (Nole et al., 2016). The data for Boom clay and Opalinus clay follow
471 a similar trend to the Sumatra samples, whereas clay samples from the Nankai trough shows a different trend.
472 This difference may be attributed to differences in magnification of Nankai trough samples.

473 In addition, we plotted clay content against the difference between the two porosities in Fig.12a. We performed
474 regression analysis using the data set for the 33 mud samples analyzed at Aachen (Fig.12b) for BIB-SEM
475 porosity versus MAD porosity (following Eqn-7) but also incorporating the effect of clay content (following the
476 Eqn-8).

$$477 \text{ BIB-SEM porosity} = a * \text{MAD porosity} + c \quad (\text{Eqn-7})$$

$$478 \text{ BIB-SEM porosity} = a * \text{MAD porosity} + b * \text{clay content} + c \quad (\text{Eqn-8})$$

479 The coefficient of determinations (R^2) for Eqn-7 and Eqn-8 are 0.7126 and 0.9262 respectively. These results
480 suggest that the ratio in porosity depends on depth and clay content.

481 For all samples, the BIB-SEM pore size distribution follows a power-law over an interval of three orders of
482 magnitude. We may extrapolate this below the practical pore resolution (PPR; Klaver et al., 2012; Kuila and
483 Prasad, 2013; Wang et al., 2019). Extrapolating our data set down to 3nm pore diameter, the BIB-SEM porosity
484 increases only up to 20%~25%. A mismatch of 15% to 20% between the MAD porosity and extrapolated BIB-
485 SEM porosity remains. The fall-off from the normal trend in log-log pore size distribution plots (Fig.9b) for the
486 shallow depth (Unit-I) samples suggest that also large pores are also under-counted in the data set. The mud

487 samples from Unit-I contains forams that are rare or absent in the deeper section (Figure S11 a, b, c, and d in
488 Supplementary data), and part of missing pore volume can be attributed to the intact forams that may be missed
489 due to the small size of the BIB SEM sample.

490 Another factor that can create a mismatch between data sets is drying artefacts. In the past, Desbois et al. (2014)
491 performed a detailed study on drying artefacts of mudstone samples using Cryogenic BIB-SEM technique. They
492 identified four types of drying damages (Type-I, II, III and IV) that can develop during drying of a mudstone.
493 Type-I and type-II drying damage develops at clay/clay particle interfaces with tip to long axis contact, and at
494 clay/clast interfaces. Heterogeneous deformational behavior or shrinkage strain of clay and/or non-clay mineral
495 grains can cause a build-up in stress at the boundary between particles during drying. Type-III drying artefacts
496 are large cracks that develop within the clay matrix itself. Type-IV drying artefacts are the small damages that
497 modify pore morphology during drying. Among all of them, Type-II and III are the most spectacular and large
498 enough to modify microstructure significantly. The morphology of the type-II and III drying artefacts are
499 characterized by large irregular shaped very elongated pores with serrated pore boundaries. However, in the
500 present study, the large clay domains and silt-adjacent pores in all samples potentially show smooth edges and
501 rounded pore tip-end, which are incompatible with the typical morphologies of the drying artefacts (Fig.5, 6 and
502 7). Hence, drying artefacts appear to be less important for reconciling a mismatch between MAD and BIB-SEM
503 porosity.

504 Shallow samples from Unit-I are richer in smectite content than deeper samples, although a few samples from
505 400 to 1000 mbsf have similar smectite abundances as Unit I. The moisture and density method (MAD) may
506 overestimate the measured porosity of the sediment if interlayer water from smectite is included in the
507 measurement (Brown and Ransom, 1996; Dutilleul et al., 2020). Greater smectite content in the shallow samples
508 (Unit-I) may have contributed to an overestimation of the MAD porosity in the study. This is also consistent with
509 the observation that the difference between the measurements getting larger as porosity increases.

510 **5.3 Micromechanical model for porosity reduction**

511 **5.3.1 Sharp reduction in porosity at the shallow depth from the seafloor to 28 mbsf**

512 High porosity (80% MAD; 32% BIB-SEM) in the shallowest sediments is attributed to large pores in the
513 samples created by abundant EE and EF particle contacts (Fig. 5a and 7a). These contacts are unstable and
514 collapse under low effective stress to form FF contacts, resulting in a rapid porosity decrease within the first 28m
515 of burial (Supplementary data-11). This deformation is apparent from the reduction of large clay domain pores
516 observed over this interval (Fig. 8; Supplementary data-10). Collapse of pores surrounded by EE and EF
517 contacts is further recognized by the progressive alignment of clay particles into the bedding plane, which
518 promotes an increase in the number of elongated, small, clay domain pores parallel to the bedding plane. Each
519 of these observations is consistent with rotation of clay particles into the bedding plane as these large clay-
520 domain pores collapse.

521 **5.3.2 Mechanism of porosity reduction from 28 mbsf to 1500 mbsf**

522 Below 28 mbsf to >1500 mbsf, porosity continues to decrease from 52-30% (MAD) but at a reduced pace. SEM
523 observations suggest that this porosity decline results from the progressive loss of silt-adjacent pores with large
524 silt-adjacent pores lost before small ones (Fig. 8), although they remain present in common abundance to 1200
525 mbsf. Small clay domain pores are abundant throughout the section, and the large clay domain pores are lost
526 between the seafloor and 28 mbsf.

527 Within the population of silt-adjacent pores, the large, equant pores are most susceptible to collapse (Fig. 8).
528 Large, elongate pores persist in abundance, both in linear and crescent geometries. While it seems plausible that
529 large, equant pores collapse to form large, elongate pores, no corresponding increase in the elongate pore
530 population is observed. Large, elongate pores may collapse further and become small silt-adjacent pores.
531 Microstructural evidence supports the idea that large equant pores collapse as surrounding clay particles within
532 clay-rich domains bend and shrink the size of the remaining pore (Fig.13), and that the collapse results in an
533 increasing aspect ratio of the pore.

534 Frequently, bent clay particles are observed on the top of larger silt-adjacent pores. In the clay microstructure,
535 large silt-adjacent pores act as a zone of heterogeneous strain localization. Clay particles can bend and collapse
536 into large silt-adjacent pores more readily than the smaller pores in the clay matrix (Fig.13a to f). With
537 increasing vertical effective stress two situations can arise which are demonstrated in the model shown in
538 Fig.13g. First, with an increase in effective stress, the bent clay particles can lose frictional resistance from the
539 sidewall (Fig.13a and b), can continue to bend, and slide down to fill the larger silt-adjacent pore space (Fig.13g-
540 (iii)). Second, with an increase in vertical effective stress, bent clay particles may develop fractures (red lines in
541 Fig.13g-(iv)) and subsequently collapse into the larger silt-adjacent pore space to reduce the porosity of samples
542 (Fig.13g-(v)). Fig.13a represents fractured bent clay on the top of the larger silt adjacent pore (shown by white
543 arrow). Similarly, two small clay particles appear to have fallen into the larger silt adjacent pore space (Fig.13e)
544 while another bent clay particle (shown by white arrow) covers the pore. Fig.13f represents a bent clay particle
545 wrapping across the top of two quartz particles, and four small clay platelets fill the space between two quartz
546 particles, suggesting an older larger silt-adjacent pore filled by fractured clay platelets. Occurring within the pore
547 space between two equant quartz grains (Fig.13f), four small clay particles appear to have developed due to the
548 fracturing of two large bent clay particles. Hence, it appears that the collapse of larger silt-adjacent pores in these
549 mud samples is governed by the bending of clay particles and subsequent fracturing due to an increase in vertical
550 effective stress. While these processes are defined within individual pores, the observed deformation is
551 interpreted to result from an imposed force chain that acts on specific pores in a progressive manner as the force
552 chain evolves and as adjacent pores deform.

553 Small silt-adjacent pores also become less abundant with burial, but the transition occurs deeper than the large
554 pores, and small, silt-adjacent pores remain common throughout the section (Fig. 8; Supplementary data-11).
555 Small equant pores are lost like the large pores, and elongate pores remain abundant within this population
556 subset throughout. There is a loose correspondence between the loss of small, equant pores and an increase in
557 elongate pores, suggesting that pore flattening is part of the pore collapse history. The pore collapse evolution

558 outlined for large pores (Fig.13g) appears to also hold for small pores, even though observations are more
559 challenging.

560 Small, clay domain pores appear to remain resilient throughout the compaction history (Fig. 8), even though
561 some of these pores must become lost to account for porosity loss. Small, equant pores are lost between 100-200
562 m, and this loss appears to be accommodated by an increase in elongate pores (Fig. 8). Elongate crescent pores
563 increase in abundance around 800 mbsf, and we interpret this to reflect folding of abundant linear elongate pores
564 as the overall system compacts.

565 Large equant pores in the clay domain are lost within the first few 10's of meters of burial. Elongate pores
566 appear to form at the expense of equant pores, and there may be a reduction in pore size associated with this
567 shape change. Most of the pores remaining after 1500 m of burial are small, elongate pores found both in clay
568 domain and silt-adjacent pores.

569 The presence of silt particles locally redistributes the force chain of load to retain undeformed, silt-adjacent,
570 large pores (Schneider et al., 2011). The samples with greater silt content are also enriched in equant-shaped silt-
571 adjacent larger pores (Fig.10) in the microstructure. Hence, as a result, they display greater porosity compared to
572 other samples from similar depth intervals (Fig.10).

573 Previous studies report contrasting ideas on the development of phyllosilicate fabric strength due to mechanical
574 compaction. Some studies suggest that mechanical compaction creates a phyllosilicate fabric in mud (Bowles et
575 al., 1969; Oertel and Curtis, 1972; Vasseur et al., 1995), whereas other studies conclude that vertical effective
576 stress has limited impact on phyllosilicate fabric development (Ho et al., 1999; Aplin et al., 2006; Day-Stirrat et
577 al., 2008; 2011). Here, we consider the preferred orientation of pores as a proxy for the alignment of
578 phyllosilicate (Hemes et al., 2013). At shallow depth (Unit-I), a weak preferred alignment of the long axis of
579 pores with maxima oriented obliquely to the bedding planes is formed (Supplementary data-15), and at greater
580 depth (Unit-II and III) the long axes of pores become aligned subparallel to the bedding plane. Increase in
581 vertical effective stress below 28mbsf depth creates only a small increase in the preferred orientation of the long
582 axis of pores. Hence, we found only a limited change in phyllosilicate fabric strength with increasing vertical
583 stress.

584 Previous authors also document the evolution of pore size distribution in mud with an increase in consolidation
585 stress using laboratory experiments and mercury-intrusion porosimetry (Griffiths and Joshi, 1989; 1990). They
586 conclude that the pore size distribution appears to be bi-modal, and the distribution curve shifts toward smaller
587 pore sizes with an increase in applied consolidation stress (Griffiths and Joshi, 1989). We observe an initial
588 transition from tri-modal to bi-modal pore size distribution around 28mbsf depth due to rapid collapse of large
589 clay domain pores by compactional strain. With an increase in depth below 28mbsf, the bi-modal pore size
590 distribution persists and tends to shift toward small pore sizes as the number of larger silt-adjacent pores
591 diminishes.

592 Laboratory studies have emphasized the importance of clay particle rotation as a dominant mechanism for
593 mechanical compaction in mudstone (Bennett et al., 1981, 1991; Vasseur et al., 1995; Aplin et al., 2006; Day-

594 Stirrat et al., 2008; 2011). We observe particle rotation only in the shallowest samples where unstable EE and EF
595 particle contacts are present. Clay particle bending and sliding/fracturing are considered more important for most
596 of the section studied.

597 **5.3.3 Mechanical compaction of marine sediment: a conceptual model**

598 According to earlier studies (Delage and Lefebvre, 1984; Griffiths and Joshi, 1989; 1990; Emmanuel and Day-
599 Stirrat 2012), the reduction of pores in sedimentary rocks during compaction is size-dependent - larger pores
600 deform much readily than smaller pores. According to their model, larger pores rapidly decrease in size during
601 compaction to reduce the overall porosity of the sample. However, microstructural analysis of Sumatra samples
602 suggests that porosity reduction is accomplished by compaction of all pore sizes. Moreover, the maximum size
603 of pores remains almost constant irrespective of increasing vertical effective stress/depth (Supplementary data-8)
604 with little difference observed for the maximum pore size in samples from 98.25 mbsf and 1299.31 mbsf. The
605 preservation of a constant ratio between MAD and BIB-SEM porosity measurements (Fig. 3b) suggests that
606 porosity loss is distributed across all pore sizes. We infer that all pore sizes are available for compaction for
607 every increment of applied stress but acknowledge that pore size reduction in different size classes may proceed
608 at different rates.

609 We propose a new model for the reduction in porosity in which all pores within the force chain of load take part
610 in the reduction of porosity during compaction irrespective of their size. At shallow depth up to 28mbsf, larger
611 clay-domain pores are the most susceptible to early response during an increase in compactional strain, because
612 of two reasons: 1) the 'domains' defined by the clay particles are weaker compared to the larger, rigid silt grains,
613 and 2) due to higher relative proportion of clay-rich regions within the mud, the force chain of load dominantly
614 passes through the clay domains. The dispersed nature of the silt-size particles and the high proportion of
615 phyllosilicates in the mud samples indicate that soft clay particles act as the principal load-bearing framework.
616 Hence, larger clay domain pores are more unstable compared to silt-adjacent pores in the mud microstructure.
617 Similarly, below 28mbsf depth, under an increase in vertical effective stress, both the larger silt-adjacent pores
618 and smaller pores in the clay matrix that come within the force chain of load collapse. Hence, the ratio between
619 BIB-SEM porosity vs MAD porosity remains almost constant irrespective of the depth. All larger silt-adjacent
620 pores do not come within the force chain of load at the same time. Hence, some of the larger silt-adjacent pores
621 remained undeformed to the maximum depth of 1500 mbsf depth. Therefore, the maximum size of the larger silt-
622 adjacent pores remains almost constant irrespective of the depth/vertical effective stress.

623 In this study, we investigated how systematically pore types evolve with increasing depth in naturally compacted
624 samples. However, tracking the pore evolution through additional size categories would elucidate the pore
625 evolution in more detail. Preliminary pore size distribution data (Fig.9) indicate that 4 size bins exist in these
626 samples. Developing this approach requires improved image analysis techniques to tie all the pore attributes
627 together on a pore-by-pore basis for a huge number of pores.

628 **5.4 Compaction strain accommodation and grain-scale deformation**

629 Deformation of clay-rich sedimentary rocks involves four possible mechanisms: 1) Particulate flow;
630 (Morgenstern and Tchalenko, 1967; Borradaile et al., 1981); 2) Cataclasis; (Ukar and Cloos, 2019) 3) Diffusive

631 mass transfer; (Blenkinsop, 2007; Fossen, 2016); 4) Intercrystalline plasticity (Blenkinsop, 2007; Fossen, 2016).
632 Intensity and occurrence of a particular deformation mechanism in a mudstone depend on several parameters,
633 such as effective stress, water content, cementation, temperature (Desbois et al., 2017; Den Hartog and Spiers,
634 2014).

635 All our samples show evidence of particulate flow controlled by friction between grains. At shallow depths,
636 illite platelets contacted at EE and EF junctions lose these weak bonds, and particles rotate into bedding-parallel
637 orientation. Once FF contacts dominate, large-scale rotations are reduced, and inter-particle slip becomes
638 important. This is best evidenced in collapse of large, silt-adjacent pores where bent clay particles overlay pores
639 (Fig.14a to f). In deforming granular foam material, bending was reported as the dominant deformation
640 mechanism for the reduction in porosity and developing preferred alignment of the long axis of pores
641 perpendicular to the applied stress (Elliott et al., 2002, Zhou et al., 2004; Samsudin et al., 2017; Zakaria et al.,
642 2018) (review of these earlier studies on the experimental deformation of granular foam is described in
643 document S2). Friction adheres clay particles to the edge of pores while the middle of particles drops into the
644 pore, resulting in bending by intra-particle slip. A cartoon (Fig.14g) illustrates the compaction mechanism
645 associated with the bending of clay particles. With increasing compaction strain, clay particles undergo bending,
646 and as a result, pore area reduces, and the orientation of the pores tends to align perpendicular to the applied
647 effective stress (Fig.14g). At shallow depths (Unit-I), particles get enough free space for rotation to align parallel
648 to the bedding plane because of higher porosity (Figure S12a and b). However, at greater depth where porosity
649 decreases, space problems limit particle deformation to bending and fracturing as increase in compactional strain
650 increases (Figure S12c and d).

651 **5.5 Compaction of Sumatra input section: generalized implication for rock property evolution**

652 The overall compaction curve obtained for Sumatra muds is comparable with the experimental study by Fawad
653 et al., 2010 in the context of compactional range (Fig.8). The curve shows a mono-exponential decrease in
654 porosity with an increase in vertical effective stress, which is evidence of normal consolidation (Fawad et al.,
655 2010; Dutilleul et al., 2020).

656 The larger silt-adjacent pores seen in the deepest of these samples (1500 m burial) suggest these muds retain
657 considerable potential for additional mechanical compaction with deeper burial. As this marine sediment
658 progressively approaches greater burial closer to the accretionary prism, it will undergo further change in
659 physical and deformational properties (Bray and Karig, 1985). Despite the substantial compactional strain, the
660 relatively high porosity of the deepest sample and the survival of larger and mechanically unstable silt-margin
661 pores suggests that compactional stabilization has yet to be reached because such IGVs and pore types are not
662 generally observed in older and lithified mudrocks. Based on the current understanding of subduction zone
663 deformation behavior and mudrock properties, it seems likely that mechanical compaction will continue to
664 dominate the pore loss in deeper burial.

665 The general absence of early cementation and the corresponding dominance of mechanical compaction in the
666 total pore loss is consistent with observations of other siliciclastic-dominated muds (Milliken, 2014; 2019). The
667 trends for intergranular volume change observed from the seafloor and 1500 mbsf place useful constraints on the

668 maximum cement volumes that theoretically could be emplaced at this depth range in sediments containing a
669 more reactive grain assemblage. At the depths of burial attained at the deformation front, any cementation of the
670 Sumatra input sediments will be limited to <30% of the rock volume, or possibly much less, as mechanical
671 compaction is expected to continue up to the burial temperatures that initiate grain reactions and associated
672 cementation.

673 **6. Conclusions**

674 Pores are classified by size and microstructural position, resulting in a multi-modal contribution to the total
675 porosity. Shallow samples (seafloor to 28 mbsf) display a sharp reduction in porosity from 80% to 52% as large
676 clay domain/matrix pores collapse. Deeper samples (28 mbsf to 1500 mbsf) exhibit a smaller reduction in
677 porosity from 50% to 32% due to the collapse of silt-adjacent pores by bending and subsequent fracturing/sliding
678 of clay particles.

679 The class of large pores next to silt-sized grains (between 10^4 and 10^6 nm²) remains common to >1 km burial,
680 irrespective of the mineralogy of the silt-sized grains, but their size decreases with depth. Small, equant pores
681 next to silt particles are abundant in the first 100 m of burial and remain common over the entire depth range.

682 Small pores in clay domains are almost all elongated, and abundant over all observed depths. Small, crescent-
683 shaped elongate pores increase in abundance with depth as clay particles become folded by compaction
684 processes.

685 The size-independence of pore loss arises because the force chain driving pore collapse is localized primarily
686 within the volumetrically dominant and weaker clay-rich domains; larger pores around isolated silt particles
687 enter into the force chain somewhat randomly and asynchronously and do not contribute preferentially to pore
688 loss over the depth range studied.

689 An increase in effective stress up to 18MPa (~1500 mbsf) causes the development of weakly aligned
690 phyllosilicate fabric (defined by mica and illite clay particles) in the microstructure.

691 Compaction processes in our samples are dominated by granular flow (rotation and frictional sliding of illite clay
692 particles) at shallow depths. With increasing depth, compaction is additionally accommodated by bending of
693 clay particles.

694 **Data availability**

695 High resolution SE2 and BSE images of all samples are available online at:
696 <https://figshare.com/s/cbaada517b0b1409d575>

697 **Authors contributions**

698 SL and KLM performed sample preparation and BIB-SEM microscopy. SL analysed the data. JLU and GD
699 acquired funding. JLU managed the project. PV, KLM and JLU significantly contributed to interpret the data. SL

700 wrote the first draft of the manuscript. PV, KLM and JLU contributed for the correction and improvement of the
701 manuscript.

702 **Competing interests**

703 The authors declare that they donot have any conflict of interest.

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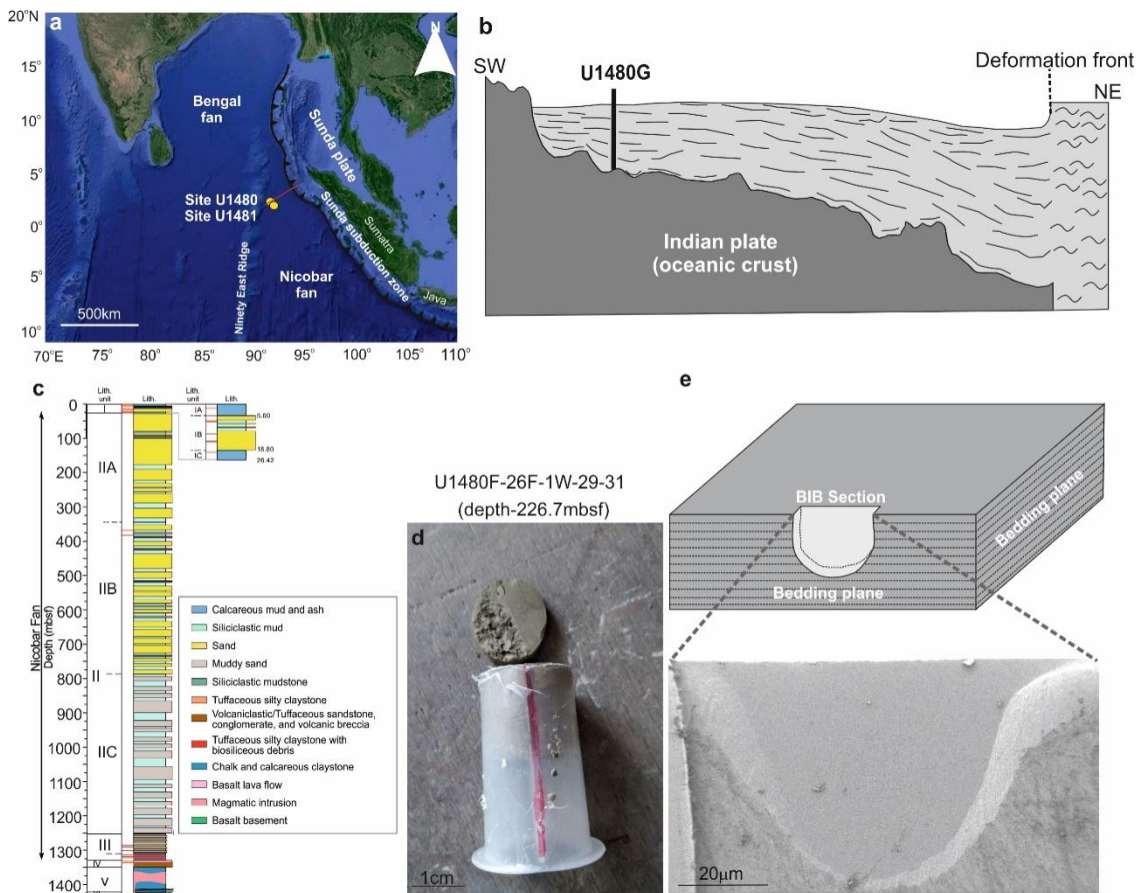
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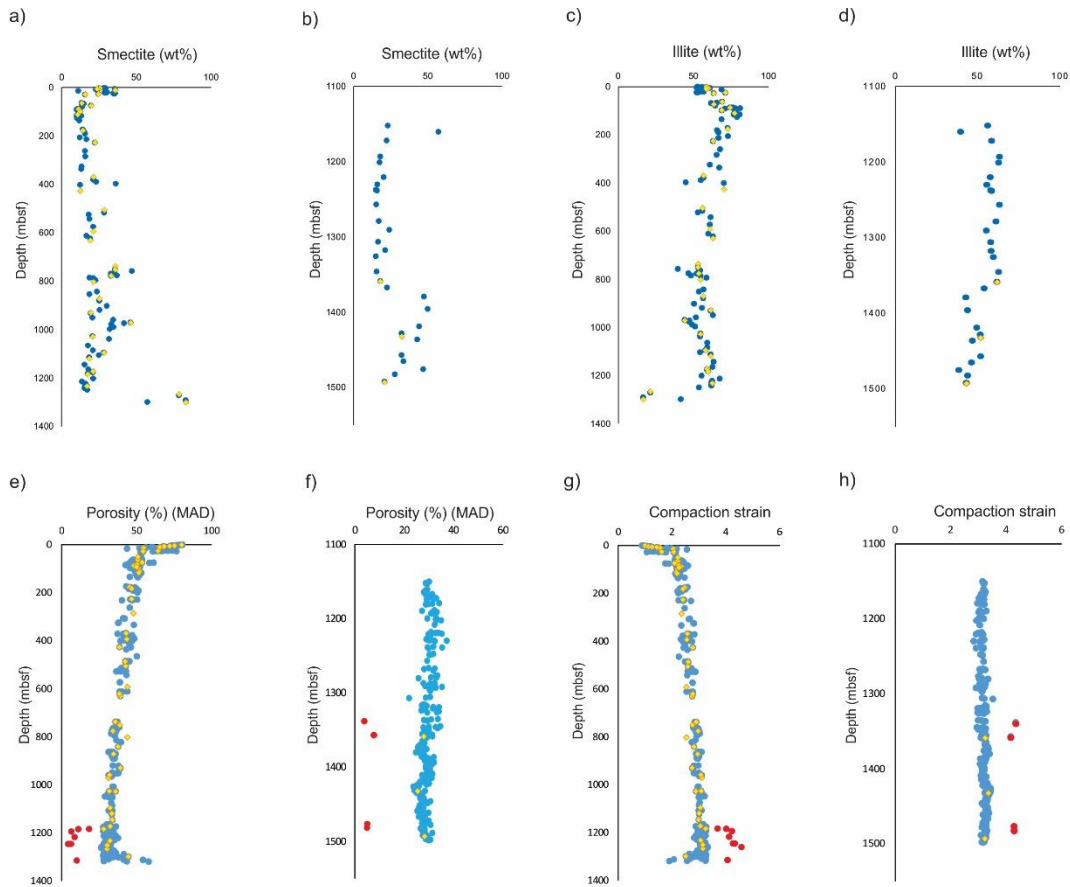
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1020 **Fig.1:** (a) Satellite image of Sumatra subduction zone and location of U1480 and U1481 drilling sites (created
 1021 from © Google Maps). (b) Schematic diagram showing location of primary drilling site and deepest drill hole
 1022 (Hole G) at site U1480 in sectional view (adapted from seismic profile from SW to NE after Hüpers et al., 2017).
 1023 Location and extension of the seismic profile is represented by red line in (a). (c) Lithostratigraphic units
 1024 encountered at Site U1480 (adapted after McNeill et al., 2017a). (d) Representative tube sample received from
 1025 IODP repository, Japan. Red-colored line on tube surface represents notch used to denote orientation of samples
 1026 collected from drill core. (e) Representative BIB cross-section polished perpendicular to bedding plane.



1028 **Fig.2:** Depth profiles of smectite content (wt%; clay fraction) for Sites U1480 (a) and U1481 (b) (blue symbol).
 1029 Depth profiles of illite content (wt%; clay fraction) for Sites U1480 (a) and U1481 (b) (blue symbol). Yellow
 1030 symbols indicate samples analyzed by SEM imaging. (e) and (f) Shipboard MAD (Moisture and density)
 1031 porosity profiles for mudstone samples recovered from Sites U1480 and U1481 (blue symbol). (g) and (h)
 1032 Calculated compaction strain profiles for Sites U1480 and U1481 (blue symbols). Red-colored points are
 1033 cemented (concretion) samples. Clay mineralogy data plotted from Rosenberger et al. (2020), and MAD data
 1034 extracted from McNeill et al. (2017b).

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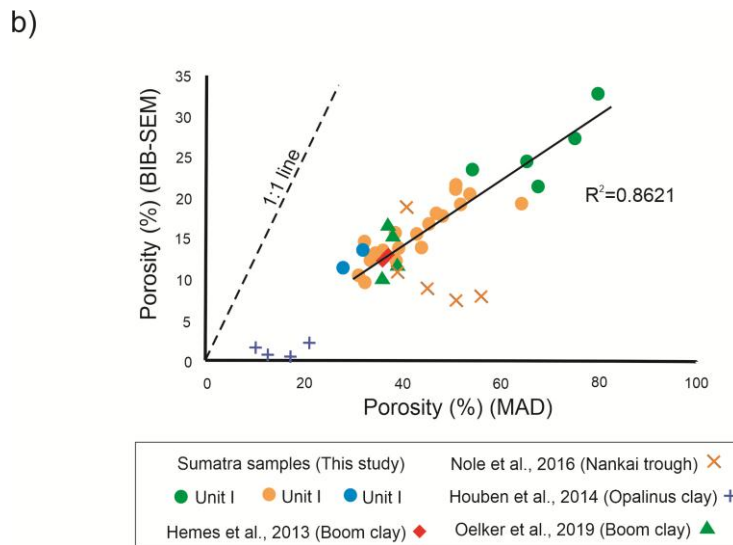
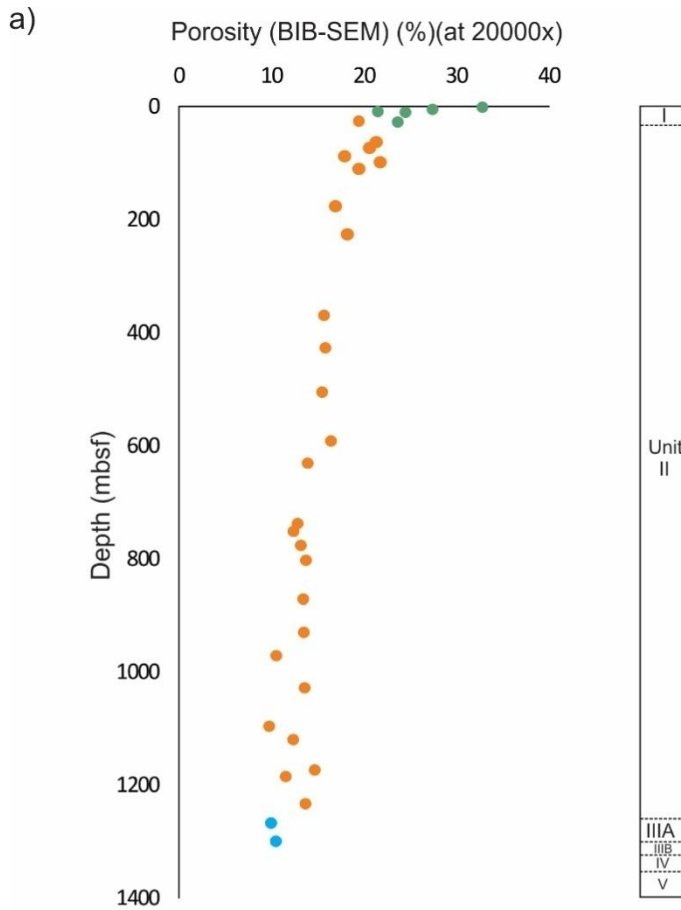
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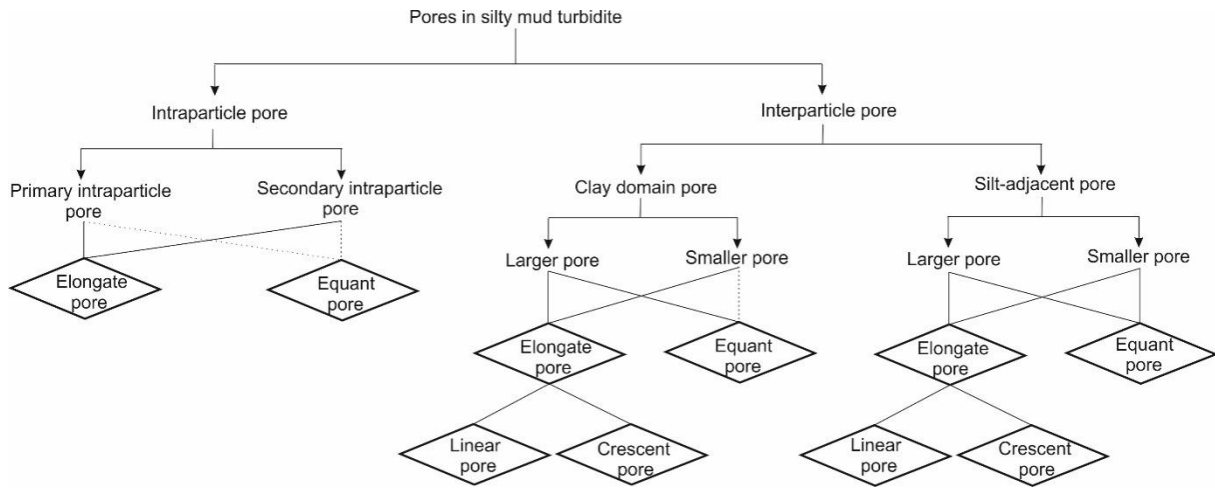
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1042 **Fig.3:** Porosity data for Units I (green dots), II (orange dots), and IIIA (blue dots). (a) BIB-SEM porosity - depth
 1043 plot, (b) BIB-SEM porosity vs MAD porosity. Note: linear relationship that intersects origin. Data reported by
 1044 Hemes et al. (2013); Houben et al. (2014); and Oelker et al. (2019) follow similar trend. However, data estimated
 1045 from Nole et al. (2016) deviates from trend.

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1049 **Fig.4:** Classification scheme adopted to demonstrate pore reduction mechanics with increasing compactional
 1050 strain. Dashed lines indicate rare pore types.

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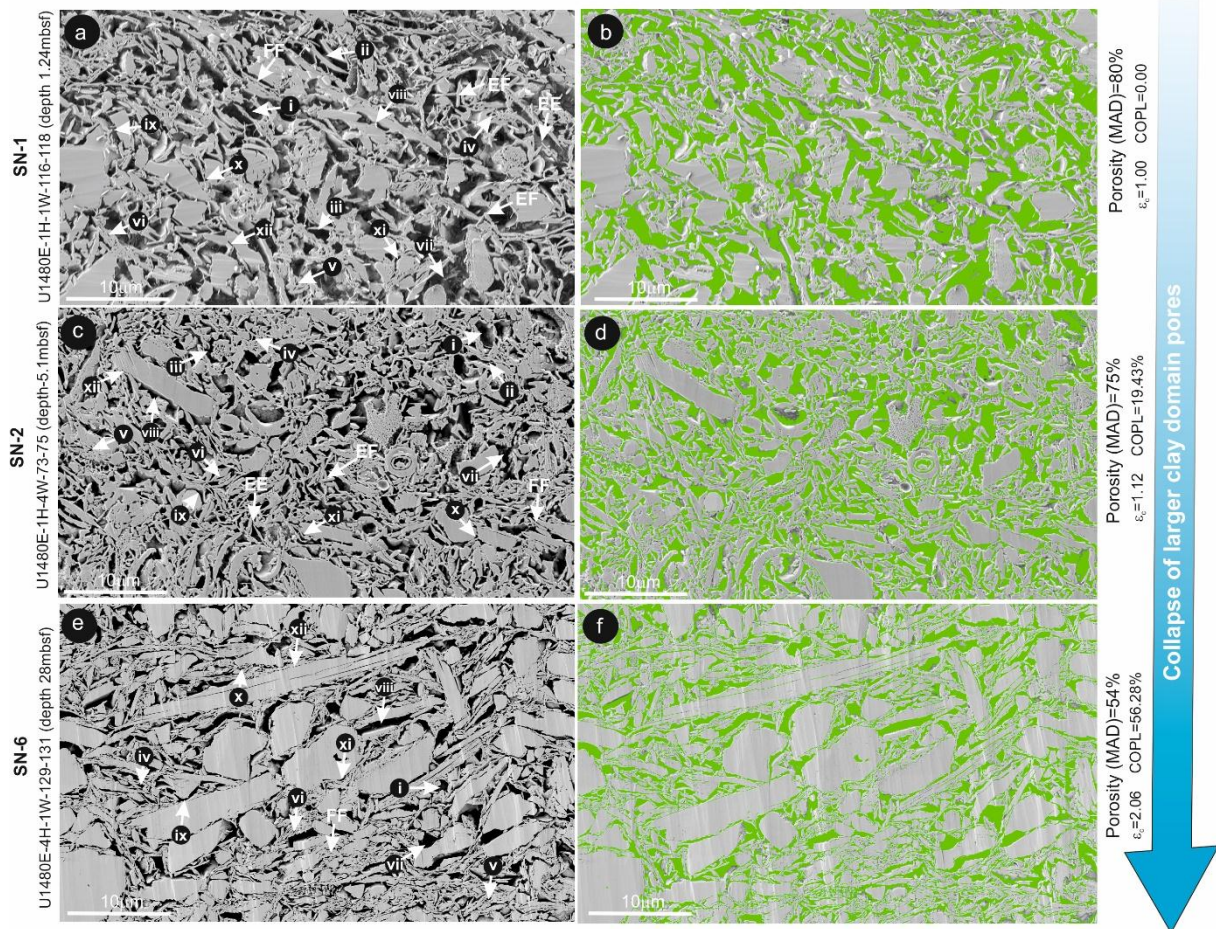
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1064 **Fig.5:** Microstructural overview (BIB-SEM) of samples SN-1 (a and b), SN-2 (c and d), and SN-6 (e and f).
 1065 Green color represents segmented pores of the corresponding microstructure of sample. i = Equant large clay
 1066 domain pores, ii = elongated large clay domain pores, iii = Crescent-shaped large clay domain pores, iv = equant
 1067 small clay domain pores, v = Crescent-shaped small clay domain pores, vi = elongated small clay domain pores,
 1068 vii = Equant large silt-adjacent pores, viii = elongated large silt-adjacent pores, ix = Crescent-shaped large silt-
 1069 adjacent pores, x =equant small silt-adjacent pores, xi = Crescent-shaped small silt-adjacent pores, xii =
 1070 elongated small silt-adjacent pores. EE= Edge to edge contact, EF=Edge to face contact, and FF=Face to face
 1071 contact.

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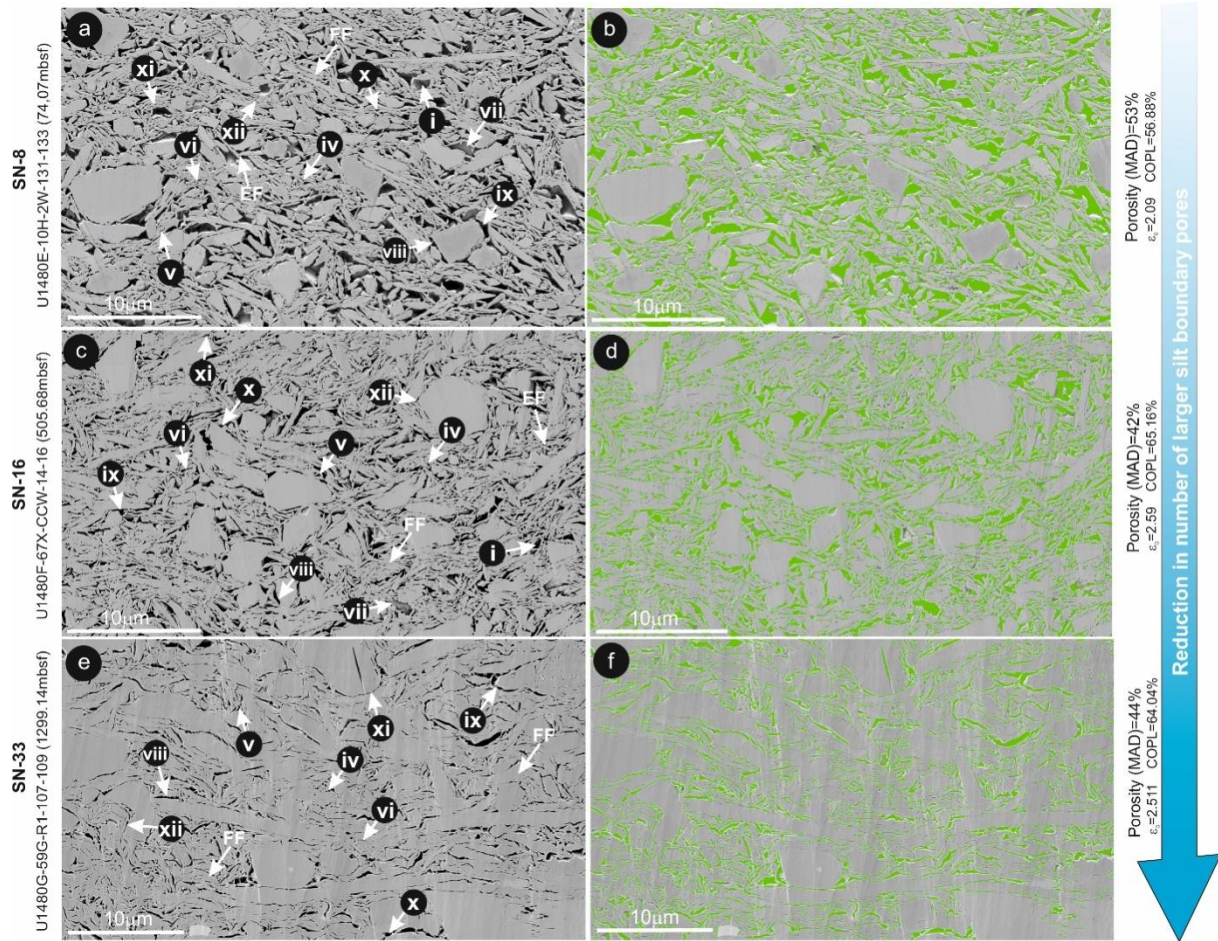
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1079 **Fig.6:** Microstructural overview (BIB-SEM) of samples SN-8 (a and b), SN-16 (c and d), and SN-33 (e and f).
 1080 Green color represents segmented pores of the corresponding microstructure of sample. i = Equant large clay
 1081 domain pores, ii = elongated large clay domain pores, iii = Crescent-shaped large clay domain pores, iv = equant
 1082 small clay domain pores, v = Crescent-shaped small clay domain pores, vi = elongated small clay domain pores,
 1083 vii = Equant large silt-adjacent pores, viii = elongated large silt-adjacent pores, ix = Crescent-shaped large silt-
 1084 adjacent pores, x = equant small silt-adjacent pores, xi = Crescent-shaped small silt-adjacent pores, xii =
 1085 elongated small silt-adjacent pores. FF= Face to face contact, EF= Edge to face contact.

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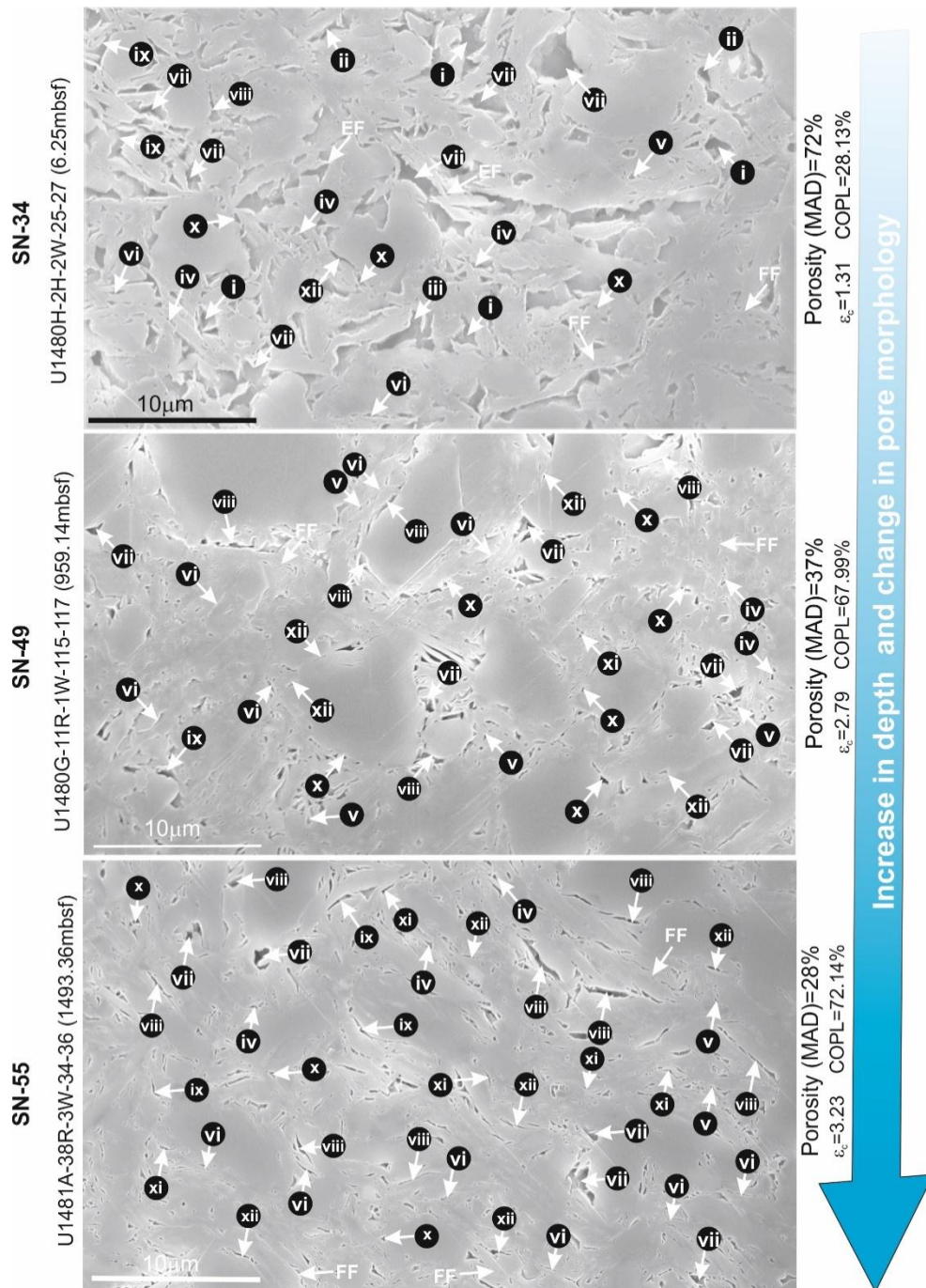
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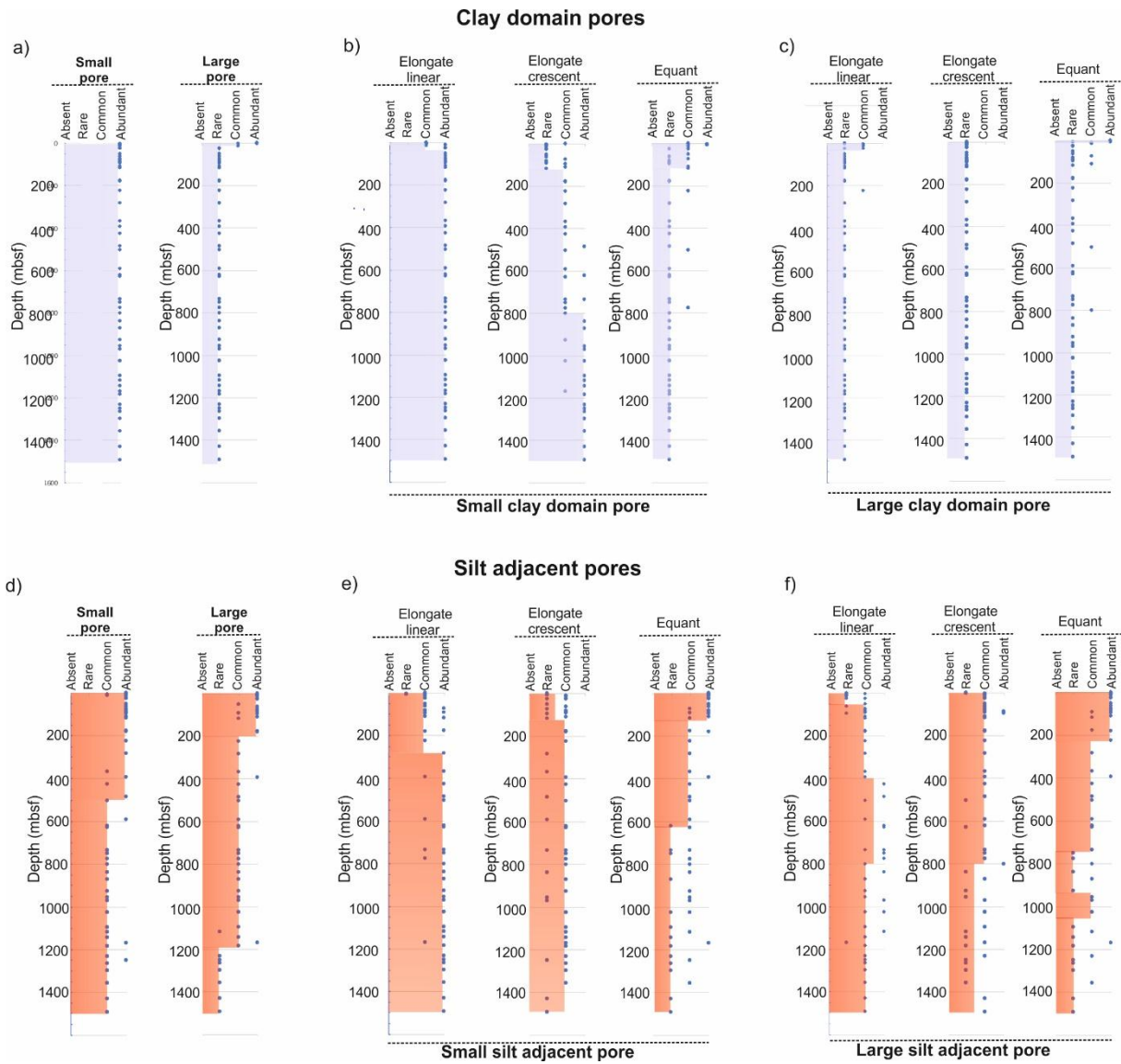
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1094 **Fig.7:** Microstructural overview (Field Emission SEM) of samples SN-34, SN-49, and SN-55. i = Equant large
 1095 clay domain pores, ii = elongated large clay domain pores, iii = Crescent-shaped large clay domain pores, iv =
 1096 equant small clay domain pores, v = Crescent-shaped small clay domain pores, vi = elongated small clay domain
 1097 pores, vii = Equant large silt-adjacent pores, viii = elongated large silt-adjacent pores, ix = Crescent-shaped large
 1098 silt-adjacent pores, x = equant small silt-adjacent pores, xi = Crescent-shaped small silt-adjacent pores, xii =
 1099 elongated small silt-adjacent pores. FF= Face to face contact, EF= Edge to face contact.



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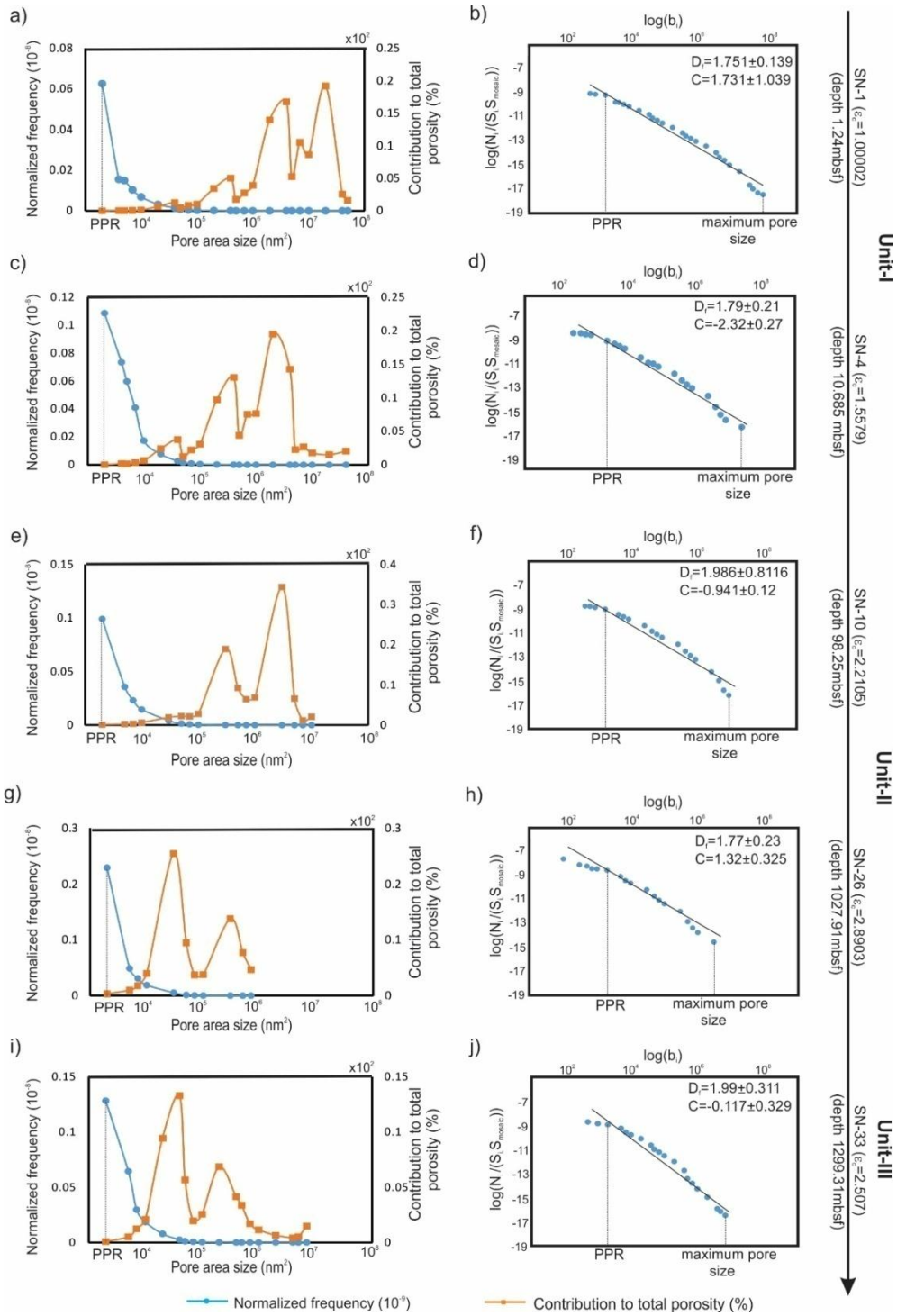
1102 **Fig.8:** Pore type summary for clay domain (a-c) and silt-adjacent (d-f) pore types. (a) abundance of small and
 1103 large clay domain pores; (b) and (c) depth progression of small and large clay domain pore morphologies; (d)
 1104 abundance of small and large silt-adjacent pores; (e) and (f) depth progression of small and large clay domain
 1105 pore morphologies. Abundant = >25% pores, common = 2%-25% pores, rare = 0-2% pores, absent = not
 1106 observed.

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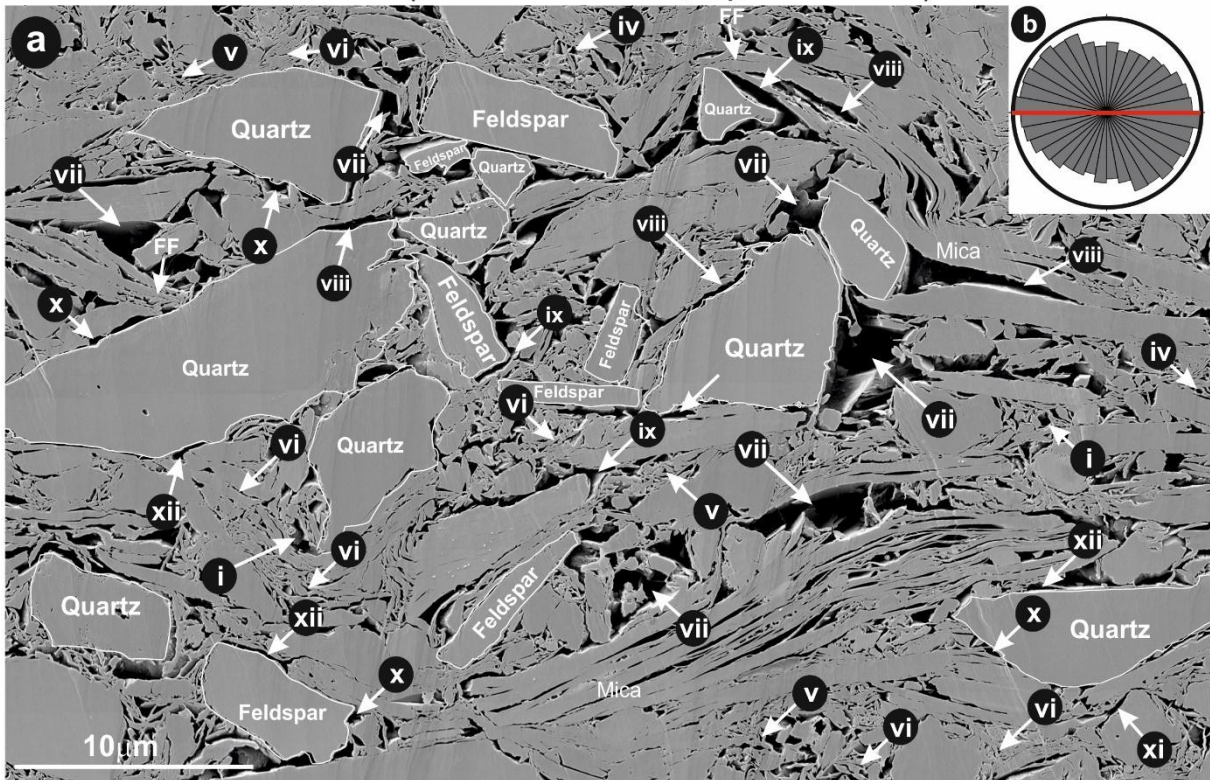
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1113 **Fig.9:** Pore size distribution defined by pore area. Left column: normalized frequency (blue) and contribution to
 1114 total porosity (orange). Right column: pore size-frequency log-log distribution. Power-law between PPR and
 1115 maximum pore size interpreted as black line with corresponding regression parameters. Sample number, depth,
 1116 and compaction strain defined along right side of diagram

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SN- 29 (U1480G-45R-1W-93-95, depth 1172.88mbsf)



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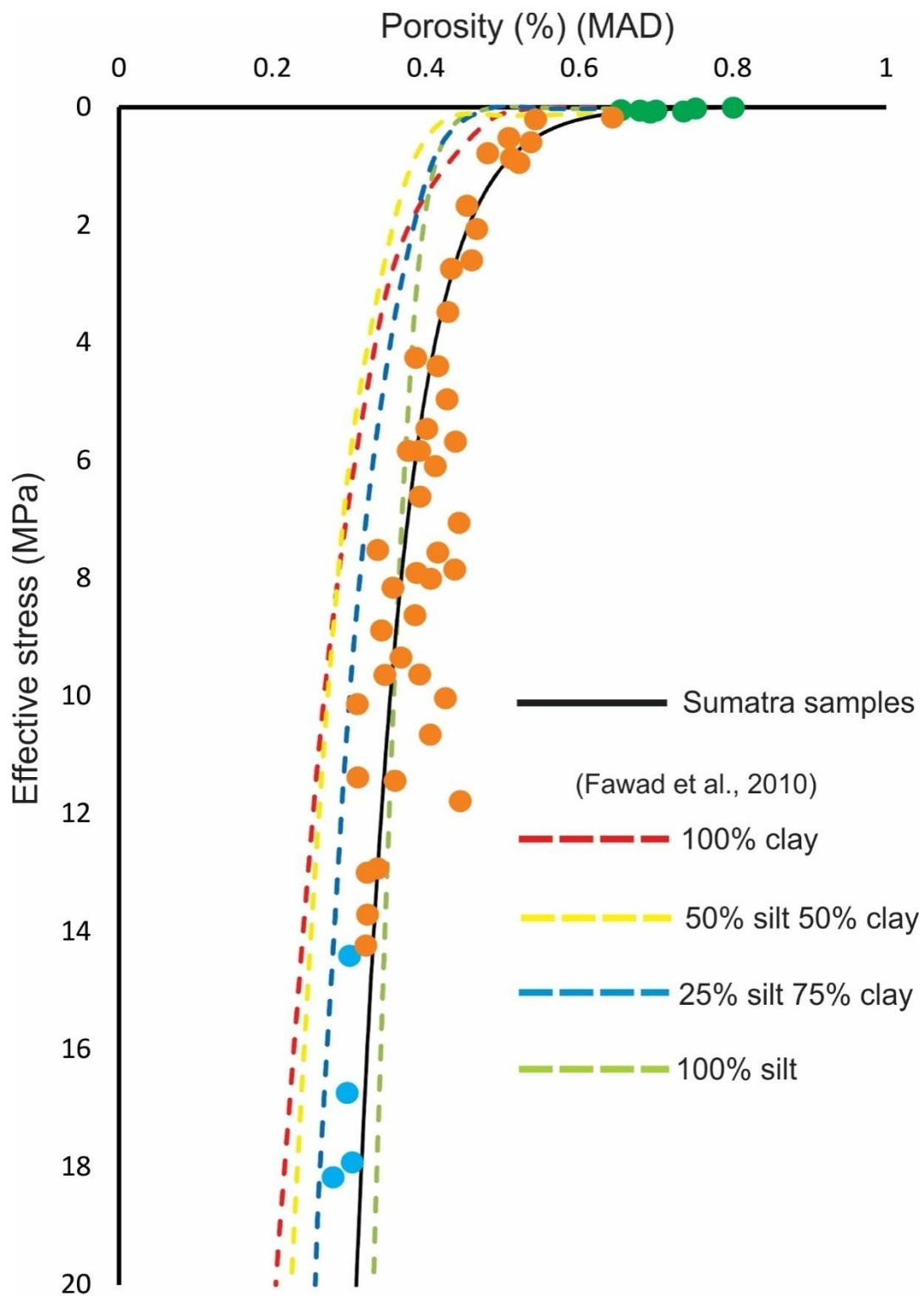
1120 **Fig.10:** Silt-rich sample (SN-29; 1173 mbsf) (a) i = Equant large clay domain pores, ii =elongated large clay
1121 domain pores, iii = Crescent-shaped large clay domain pores, iv = equant small clay domain pores, v = Crescent-
1122 shaped small clay domain pores, vi = elongated small clay domain pores, vii = Equant large silt-adjacent pores,
1123 viii = elongated large silt-adjacent pores, ix = Crescent-shaped large silt-adjacent pores, x =equant small silt-
1124 adjacent pores, xi = Crescent-shaped small silt-adjacent pores, xii = elongated small silt-adjacent pores.(b) Rose
1125 diagram of long axes of pores (bedding = red line). FF= face to face contact of clay particles.

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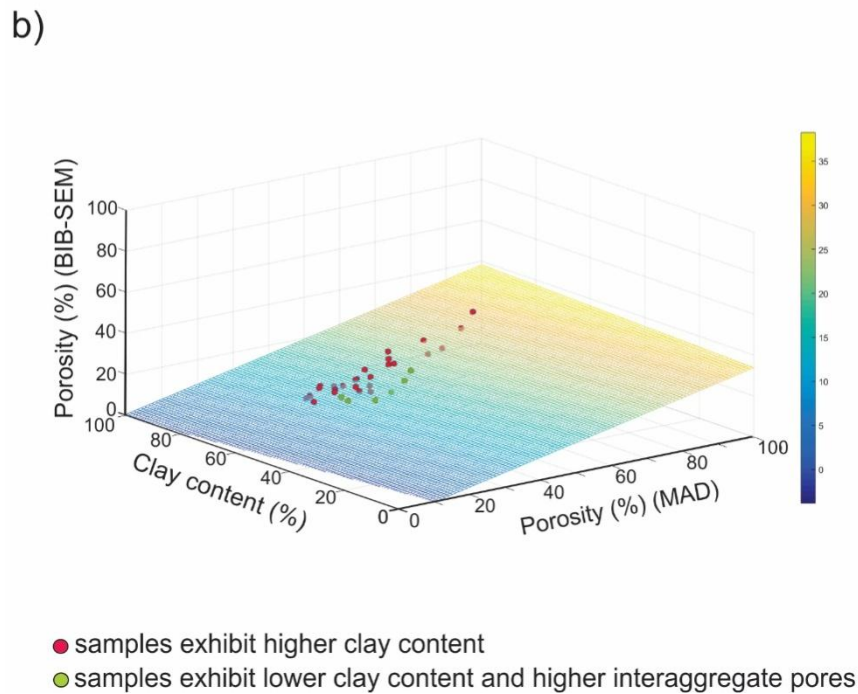
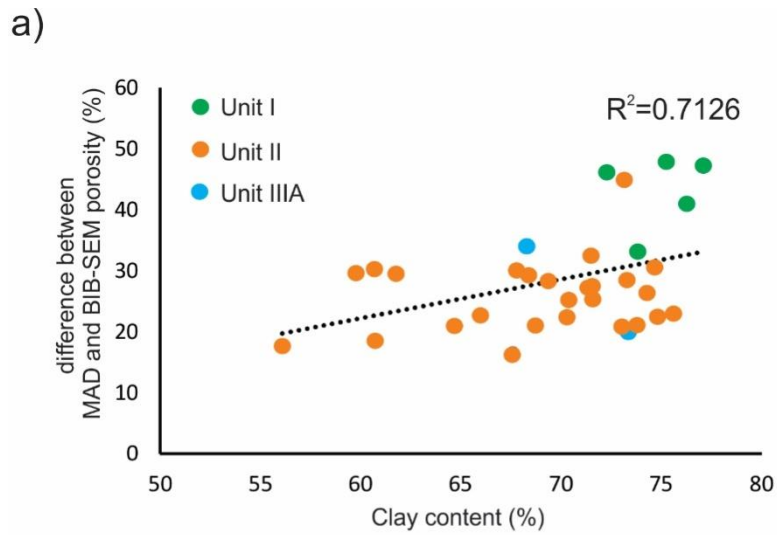
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1131 **Fig.11:** Effective stress vs porosity (MAD) for experimental mixtures of clay and silt (dashed lines; Fawad et al.,
 1132 2010) compared with Sumatra data (Unit I = green; Unit II = orange; Unit III = blue). Solid black solid line is a
 1133 best-fit data regression for Sumatra samples.



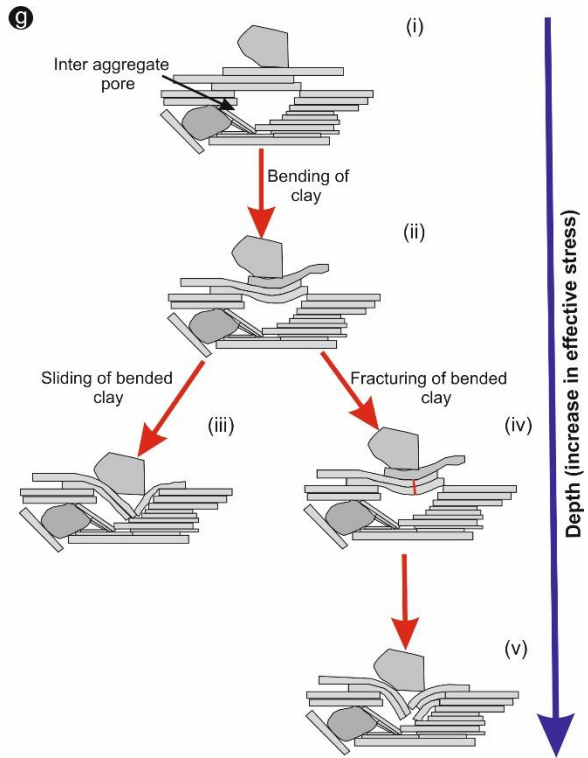
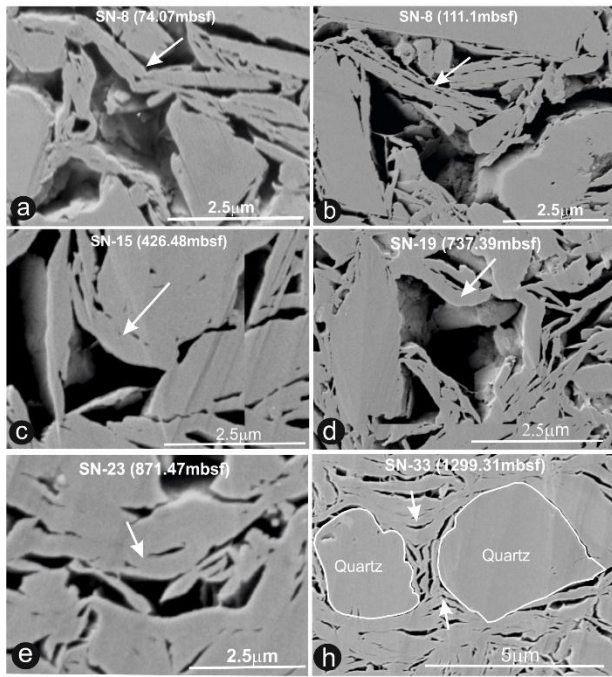
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1135 **Fig.12:** (a) Clay content vs difference between MAD and BIB-SEM porosity. Green, orange and blue colored
 1136 symbols represent the samples from Unit-I, II and III respectively. (b) Multivariate regression analysis using
 1137 three parameters: BIB-SEM porosity, clay content, and MAD porosity (33 samples).

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1142 **Fig.13:** a-f: examples of bent clay particles on top of silt-adjacent larger pores; sample ID and depth labelled on
 1143 photos. (g) Micromechanical model for collapse of large silt-adjacent pores.

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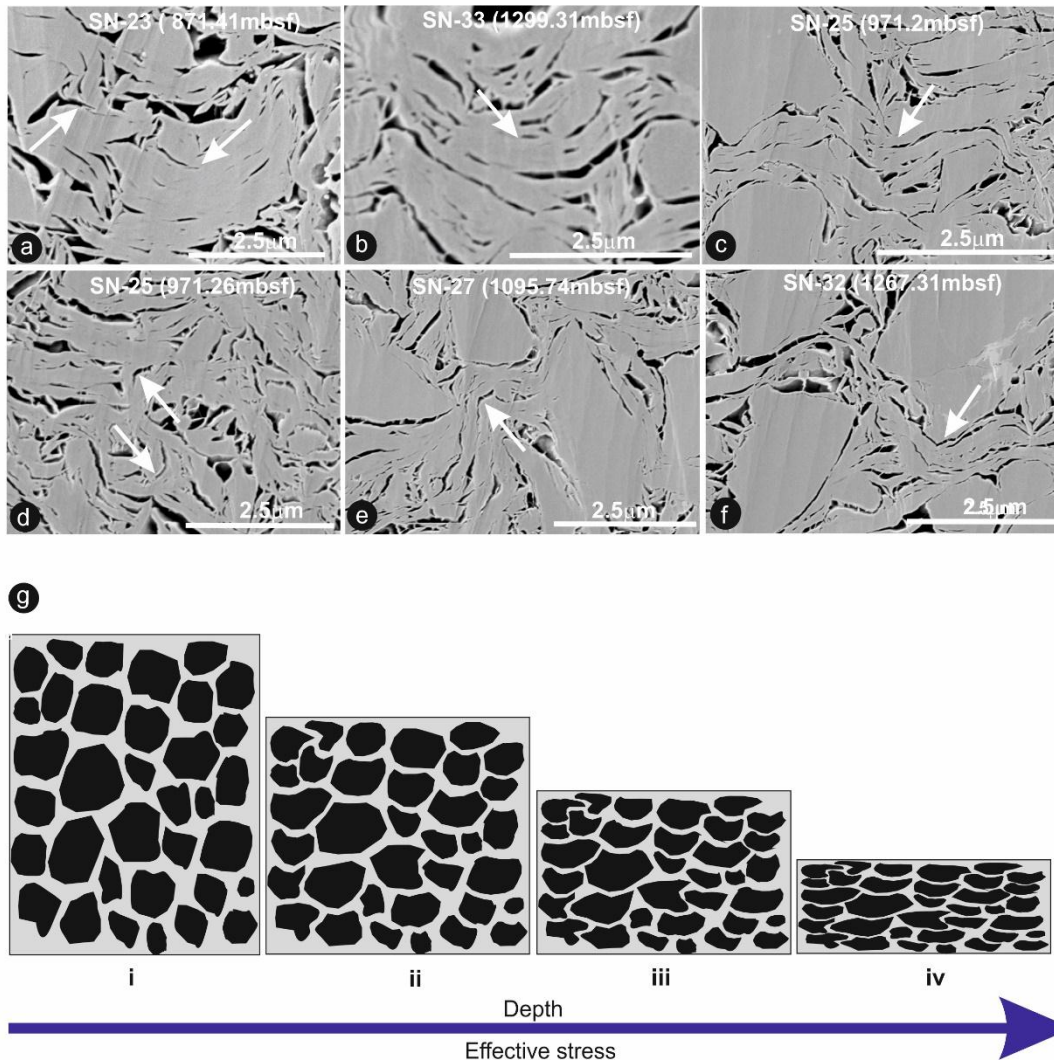
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1154 **Fig.14:** a-f: examples of clay aggregate bending (white arrows). (g) Conceptual diagram tracing porosity
 1155 reduction and increase in preferred alignment of the long axes of pores by bending of clay perpendicular to
 1156 applied vertical stress.

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Table 1: Core description, bulk mineralogy (McNeill et al., 2017b) and clay composition (Rosenberger et al., 2020) of the analysed samples. Bulk measurements were done shipboard on Expedition 362 (McNeil et al., 2017a; Underwood, 2020). Additional clay mineralogical analysis was done on the <2 μ m particle fraction onshore using a different instrument and methodology (Rosenberger et al., 2020). Here, Plag= Plagioclase feldspar, Smec= Smectite*, Chl= Chlorite, Kaol= kaolinite, Calc= Calcite.

	Sample no	Site	Hole	Core	Type	Sec	Depth	Unit	Bulk mineralogical comp (XRD)				Clay mineralogical comp(XRD)			
									Total clay	Quartz	Plag.	Calc.	Smec*	Illite	Chl+Kaol	Quartz
First set of sample (Analysed at Aachen university)	SN-1	U1480	E	1	H	1	1.24	I	68	12	9	11	25	58	68	12
	SN-2	U1480	E	1	H	4	5.10	I	67	12	9	12	24	60	67	12
	SN-3	U1480	E	2	H	1	9.18	I	71	15	12	2	38	49	71	15
	SN-4	U1480	E	2	H	2	10.69	I	66	15	10	9	36	59	66	15
	SN-5	U1480	E	3	H	6	26.05	I	62	19	11	8	40	43	62	19
	SN-6	U1480	E	4	H	1	28.00	IIA	63	21	13	3	14	62	63	21
	SN-7	U1480	E	9	H	2	63.24	IIA	64	20	13	3	11	67	64	20
	SN-8	U1480	E	10	H	2	74.07	IIA	65	20	12	3	21	58	65	20
	SN-9	U1480	E	11	H	5	87.98	IIA	60	21	17	2	6	74	60	21
	SN-10	U1480	F	2	H	1	98.25	IIA	63	19	16	2	7	77	63	19
	SN-11	U1480	F	3	H	3	111.10	IIA	67	17	14	2	6	76	67	17
	SN-12	U1480	F	15	F	2	176.50	IIA	62	22	14	2	13	69	62	22
	SN-13	U1480	F	26	F	1	226.70	IIA	70	17	11	2	22	58	70	17
	SN-14	U1480	F	53	X	2	369.19	IIB	68	18	12	2	21	53	68	18
	SN-15	U1480	F	59	X	1	426.68	IIB	68	18	11	3	9	69	68	18
	SN-16	U1480	F	67	X	CC	505.32	IIB	70	17	11	1	30	49	70	17
	SN-17	U1480	F	76	X	1	592.42	IIB	61	24	12	3	22	56	61	24
	SN-18	U1480	F	80	X	CC	630.55	IIB	68	15	14	2	19	59	68	15
	SN-19	U1480	F	91	X	1	737.39	IIB	67	19	12	1	36	46	67	19
	SN-20	U1480	F	92	X	1	751.16	IIB	67	19	12	2	36	46	67	19
	SN-21	U1480	G	4	R	2	776.17	IIB	70	18	12	0	40	39	70	18
	SN-22	U1480	G	7	R	CC	802.55	IIC	62	23	14	2	23	54	62	23
	SN-23	U1480	G	14	R	2	871.87	IIC	66	21	12	2	28	50	66	21
	SN-24	U1480	G	20	R	1	929.81	IIC	67	19	11	3	21	57	67	19
	SN-25	U1480	G	24	R	3	971.26	IIC	66	19	13	1	41	40	66	19
	SN-26	U1480	G	30	R	2	1027.91	IIC	65	22	13	0	21	51	65	22
	SN-27	U1480	G	37	R	2	1095.74	IIC	68	19	12	1	30	51	68	19
	SN-28	U1480	G	41	R	1	1119.70	IIC	69	16	12	3	19	57	69	16
	SN-29	U1480	G	45	R	1	1172.88	IIC	63	21	11	5	22	54	63	21
	SN-30	U1480	G	46	R	3	1184.39	IIC	65	17	12	6	18	57	65	17
	SN-31	U1480	G	51	R	CC	1233.15	IIC	61	23	12	4	17	59	61	23
	SN-32	U1480	G	55	R	6	1267.14	IIIA	68	19	12	1	64	25	68	19
	SN-33	U1480	G	59	R	1	1299.31	IIIA	72	15	12	0	54	36	72	15
Second set of sample (Analysed at BEG)	SN-34	U1480	H	2	H	2	6.25	IB	71	18	11	0	25	54	19	2
	SN-35	U1480	E	1	H	6	7.21	IB	70	12	10	8	24	55	19	2
	SN-36	U1480	H	3	H	1	14.28	IB	62	21	14	3	5	70	9	15
	SN-37	U1480	E	4	H	1	28.12	IIA	63	21	13	2	14	62	11	14
	SN-38	U1480	E	7	H	1	50.82	IIA	61	22	14	3	11	67	15	7
	SN-39	U1480	H	10	H	2	83.02	IIA	59	21	15	4	6	74	10	10
	SN-40	U1480	H	16	H	1	117.13	IIA	62	20	16	2	12	73	11	5
	SN-41	U1480	E	12	H	2	92.82	IIA	59	23	16	2	6	72	9	13
	SN-42	U1480	F	16	F	3	182.62	IIA	64	21	13	2	14	63	16	7
	SN-43	U1480	F	37	X	2	285.51	IIA	66	20	12	2	15	62	19	4
	SN-44	U1480	F	55	X	5	394.01	IIB	58	28	13	0	40	38	13	9
	SN-45	U1480	F	65	X	CC	486.72	IIB	59	26	14	1	30	49	14	7
	SN-46	U1480	F	79	X	1	621.2	IIB	66	19	13	2	19	59	19	4
	SN-47	U1480	F	91	X	1	737.47	IIB	67	19	12	1	36	46	14	4
	SN-48	U1480	G	11	R	1	841.56	IIC	63	22	13	2	26	51	19	4
	SN-49	U1480	G	23	R	1	959.15	IIC	58	26	14	2	33	46	18	3
	SN-50	U1480	G	30	R	1	1026.34	IIC	68	18	12	2	21	51	24	3
	SN-51	U1480	G	42	R	3	1145.91	IIC	60	22	12	5	14	61	18	7
	SN-52	U1480	G	54	R	2	1251.5	IIIA	63	22	13	1	16	53	16	16
	SN-53	U1481	A	23	R	5	1358.9	IIC	68	17	11	3	18	58	20	4
	SN-54	U1481	A	32	R	1	1432.5	IIIA	65	23	11	1	32	46	17	5
	SN-55	U1481	A	38	R	3	1493.3	IIIA	60	26	13	1	20	42	14	24

*Smectite includes all mixed-layer I/S; expandability of mixed-layer I/S determined separately (Rosenberger et al., 2020).