Lecture on Monday 16-3-2020

About organic matter in Source Rock

Organic matter

- Under normal conditions, organic matter is very minor in sediments.

- **most source rocks** contain about 1.0 wt% of organic carbon.

- **rich source rocks** contain >5.0 wt%

Quality	Total Organic Carbon (TOC) Content (wt %)	
	From	To
Poor	0	0.5
Fair	0.5	1
Good	1	2
Very Good	> 2	

Organic matter

- The chemical composition of organic **matter** are **proteins**, **carbohydrates**, **lipids**, and **lignin**.

- Animal tissue and enzymes are partially composed of proteins, built from amino acids.

- Carbohydrates are found in animal tissue, being a principal source of energy for living organisms.

Organic matter

- Lipids are fatty organic compounds, insoluble in water, and found in algae and pollen.

- Lipids are rich in hydrogen so yield high volumes of hydrocarbon molecules on maturation

COMPOSITION OF CRUDE OILS BASED ON MAIN HYDROCARBON GROUPS

(In Weight Percent; from Hunt 1979)

TYPE	Paraffinic	Naphthenic	Aromatic	Asphaltic
Paraffinic	40	48	10	2
Paraffinic-Naphthenic	36	45	14	5
"Average crude oil"	30	49	15	6
Naphthenic	12	75	10	3
Mixed Asphaltic	8	42	27	23
Asphalt	5	15	20	60

Molecular groups of hydrocarbons:

- The size range of molecules in petroleum is huge:

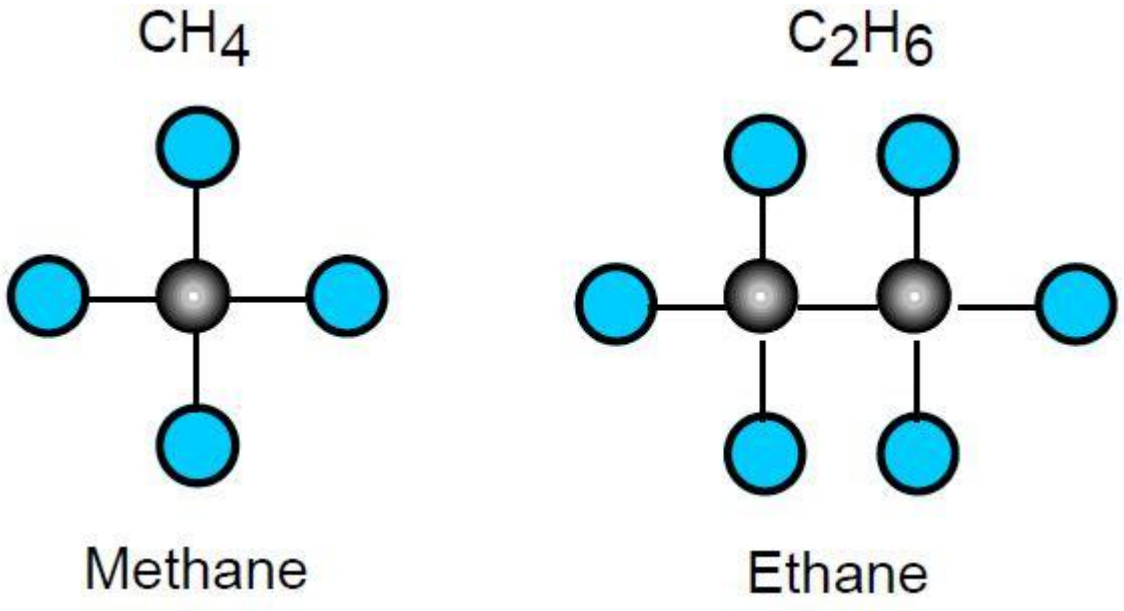
The **smallest** molecule is **methane** (CH_4) with a molecular **weight of 16** [C (12) + 4 x H (1)].

The **largest molecules** are **molecular weights of 10000**.

- **1- Paraffins = alkanes (aliphatics)**
- **2- Napthenes (cycloparaffins) = cycloalkanes**
- **3- Aromatics = arenes**
- **4- Asphaltenes**

1- Paraffins (alkanes)

- They are saturated hydrocarbons: all C bonds are saturated with hydrogen. General formula: CnH2n+ 2.
- (**Natural gas** – mostly methane (CH4) and ethane (C2H6)



1- Paraffins (alkanes)

- From CH4 (methane)up to the formula C4H10 (butane) are **gases** at standard conditions (i.e., at the Earth's surface) of temperature and pressure.

- However, **Liquid** compounds at room temperature range from C5H12 (pentane) to C16H34 (hexadecane).

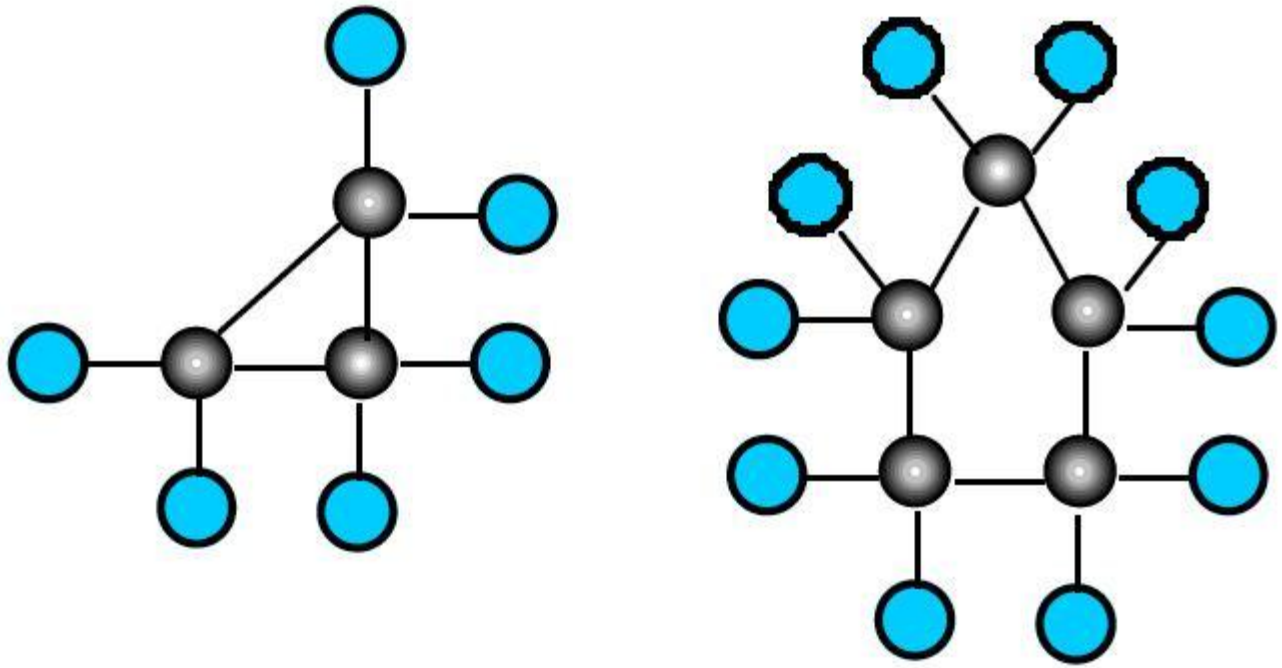
2- Naphthenes (cycloparaffins)

- General formula: CnH2n
- Formed by joining C atoms in a **ring**.

- no rings larger than C7 are found in crude oil.

- The most simple is cyclopropane (C3H6) which is a gas. Cyclopentane (C5H10) and cyclohexane (C6H12) are liquids and are abundant in most crude oils.

2- Naphthenes (cycloparaffins)



C_3H_6

Cyclopropane
(unstable)

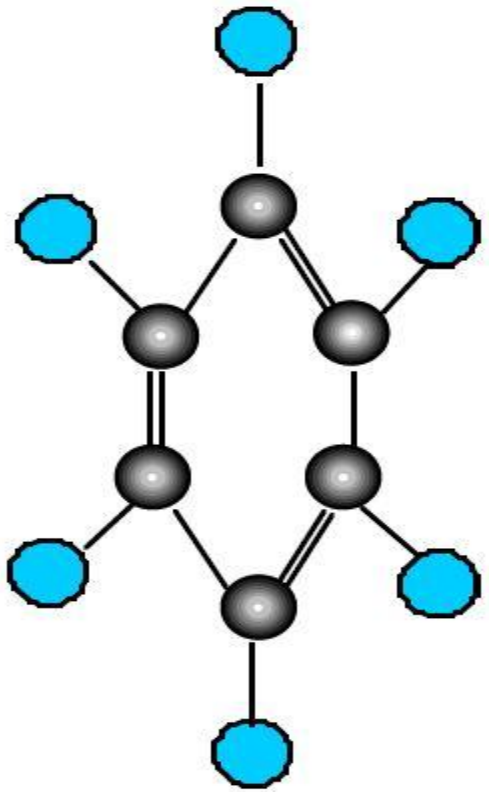
C_5H_{10}

Cyclopentane
(stable)

3- Aromatics (arenes)

- General formula: CnH2n-6
- Take benzene rings in shape.
- Unsaturated hydrocarbon ring compounds.
- Benzene (C6H6) is the most simple.

3- Aromatics (arenes)



Benzene C_6H_6

4- Asphaltenes

- Complex hydrocarbon compounds that are relatively **enriched in N, S, and O are** known as asphaltenes or resins.
- They are characterized by **high molecular weight** and **large size**, and form some of the **heaviest molecules** in crude oils.
- These compounds are frequently **found in:**
- 1- immature oils and
- 2- where the original oil has been altered due to biological activity, generally at low temperatures (below about 90C).

4-Asphaltenes

- The production of oil from a reservoir requires a drop in pressure and temperature around the producing wellbore.

- **Reductions in pressure and/or temperature can lead to asphaltene precipitation.**

- This may occur in the reservoir near to the well, blocking the pores in the rock and "**killing**" the well.

- Cleaning, either **mechanically** or by **solvent washing**, is **difficult** and **expensive** in pipework and is **not** possible in the reservoir.

Generation & Preservation of organic matter

- The two basic requirements for the generation and preservation of organic matter in sediments are:-
- (1) high productivity
- (2) oxygen deficiency of the water column and the sea bed.
- (3) rapid burial

1- productivity

- The supply of organic matter to any depositional site is controlled by productivity (commonly within the top 50 m of the water column). Why?

2- Preservation

- Preservation beneath the sediment/water interface is a function of the rate of burial and oxygenation of the bottom waters.

- Both productivity and oxygen deficiency at the site of deposition can combine to produce excellent source rock, although some source rocks may result from a dominance of only one control.

- **Environments** of high organic productivity include:-
- (1) continental margins (shelf and slope),
- (2) lagoons and restricted seas,
- (3) deltas
- (4) lakes.

Thank You

Lecture on Monday
23-3-2020

About suitable depositional environments for Source Rock

Depositional Environments

- **1- Restricted Environments**

- Ex. Gulf of California and Lake Maracaibo, where the amount of organic matter in the seabed sediments is as high as 10.0 wt% (Peridon 1983).


Caribbean Sea
Gulf of Venezuela
Maracaibo
VENEZUELA
COLOMBIA
Lake Maracaibo
La Ceiba
NORTH
0
50
100
200
Kilometres
Atlantic Ocean
Pacific Ocean


United States of America
Gulf of California
Mexico
Pacific Ocean

Depositional Environments

•2- Deltas

- have the highest sedimentation rates of any depositional environment.
- Rapid deposition leads to quick burial near the sea bed.
- Thick sediment piles contain a great deal of terrestrially derived, organic matter.
- Today and in the Neogene, the Mississippi, Nile Delta and Niger Deltas are, and were, sites of source-rock accumulation.


NIGERIA - NIGER DELTA
Abuja
Yenagoa
BAYELSA
RIVERS
CAMEROON
Port Harcourt
Gulf of Guinea
EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Depositional Environments

- **3- Freshwater lakes:**

- are sites for high productivity and preservation in the anoxic bottom waters at the lake bed.

- lakes have a low clastic sediment input but have very organic rich mud.

The quantity (quality) of kerogen

- The quantity of kerogen in a rock defines its richness as a source rock, which in turn relates to its petroleum potential in two ways.:-

- First, the richer the source rock, the larger is the volume of hydrocarbons that can be generated.

- Secondly, the higher the proportion of the rock that is organic material, the greater is the efficiency of migration of hydrocarbons out of the source rock.

- The quantity of kerogen in a source rock is determined from the total organic carbon (TOC) and reported as a weight percentage of the rock.

The quantity (quality) of kerogen

- Geochemical techniques used to evaluate potential source rock samples including:

- 1- pyrolysis (decomposition by high temperatures).

- 2- vitrinite reflectance (%Ro) analysis.

- These analyses define the **kerogene type,** the **level of maturation**, **TOC**.

Thank you