

Università degli studi di Trieste

LAUREA MAGISTRALE IN GEOSCIENZE

Classe Scienze e Tecnologie Geologiche

Curriculum: Esplorazione Geologica

Anno accademico 2021 - 2022

Analisi di Bacino e Stratigrafia Sequenziale (426SM)

Docente: Michele Rebesco





Modulo	Argomento	Docente	Data
1.1	introduzione al corso e argomenti	Rebesco	05/10/21
1.2	metodi (geofisica, affioramenti, geologia marina, ambienti attuali)	Volpi/Rebesco	06/10/21
1.3	meccanismi di formazione dei bacini (geodinamica, tettonica)	Lodolo	12/10/21
1.4	Interpretazione sismica, facies e strutture primarie	Rebesco	13/10/21
	Martedì 19 Ottobre non c'è lezione		
1.5	Energy storage e CCS	Volpi/Donda	20/10/21
2.1	Processi sedimentari nei fiumi e nei delta	Rebesco	26/10/21
2.2	Azione di maree e onde, del ghiaccio e del vento	Rebesco	27/10/21
	Martedì 2 Novembre non c'è lezione		
	Mercoledì 3 Novembre non c'è lezione		
2.3	Correnti di densità e correnti di fondo, trasporto di massa	Lucchi/Rebesco	09/11/21
3.1	pianure abissali (decantazione emipelagica) e margini continentali	Rebesco	10/11/21
3.2	Conoidi sottomarine (flussi gravitativi dalla scarpata continentale)	Lucchi/Rebesco	16/11/21
3.3	Sediment drifts (correnti di fondo lungo la scarpata continentale)	Rebesco	17/11/21
3.4	Mass transport deposits (accenni a risoluzione/penetrazione)	Ford	23/11/21
3.5	piattaforme continentali (onde, tempeste, tsunami)	Rebesco	24/11/21
3.6	calotte glaciali e ghiacciai marini	De Santis	30/11/21
3.7	Delta, estuari e spiagge e ambienti deposizionali carbonatici	Rebesco	01/12/21
3.8	faglie, vulcani e corpi intrusivi	Civile	07/12/21
	Mercoledì 8 Dicembre non c'è lezione		
3.9	fiumi, laghi e deserti	Rebesco	14/12/21
4	esercitazione	Rebesco	15/12/21
5.1	stratigrafia sequenziale	Zecchin	21/12/21
5.2	livello del mare e spazio di accomodamento	Zecchin	22/12/21
	Dal 23 Dicembre al 9 Gennaio non c'è lezione		
5.3	discontinuità e paraconformità e altre superfici significative	Zecchin	11/01/22
5.4	system tracts (apparati deposizionali) e diversi modelli	Zecchin	12/01/22
5.5	applicazioni (es. reservoirs di idrocarburi)	Zecchin	18/01/22
6	visita a CoreLoggingLAB e/o SEISLAB (assieme a Geologia Marina)	Rebesco	19/01/22





Modulo 3.5 Continental Shelf

Outline:

- Inner continental shelf: Offshore transition
- Storm dominated shelves
- Hummocky cross-stratification
- Tide dominated shelves
- Tidal bars and tidal dunes
- Ocean currents dominated shelves
- Foreshore

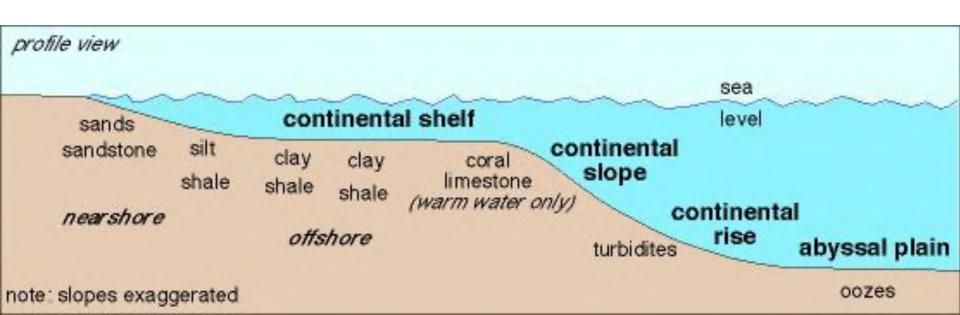




Continental margins



The siliciclastics of the continental margin are sourced from the shoreline; their character a product of the local physical processes and the geology of the source terrain. Whatever the latitude, grain size tends to decrease with distance from shore, as distances of transportation and depths of water below wave base increase and mechanisms of sediment transportation vary. Sediments accumulating offshore at higher latitudes may reflect glacial processes, their associated fluvial systems, the local hydrodynamic and oceanographic conditions. Sediments to mid and lower latitude shelves similarly will be products of the local geology, local processes and conditions.



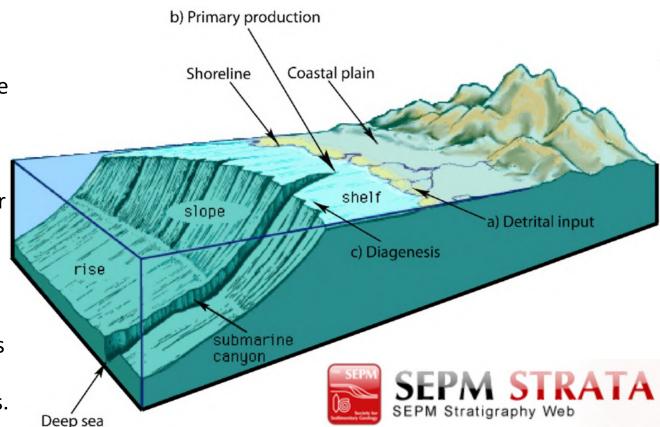


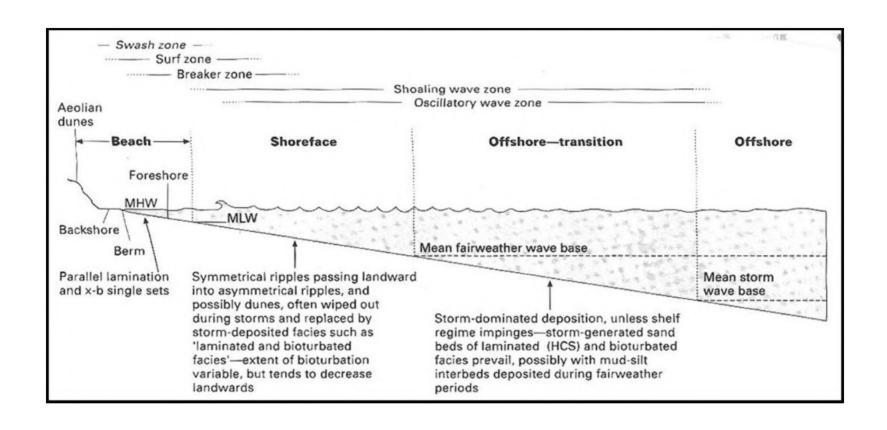


Continental shelves compose around 8% of the entire oceanic area and are underlain by continental crust, and slope seaward at an average slope of about 0.1^o, or about 2 m/km. The width of continental shelves at the present sea-level stand varies from a few km to >400 km. Throughout geologic time, the width of continental shelves has varied greatly with the rise and fall of eustatic sea level. During periods of lower sea level, rivers may have flowed across the inner continental shelf accumulating sediments that were later reworked by waves and submarine currents and are known as relict sediments.

Continental shelf

Areas of shallow (average depth about 130 m) gradually sloping seafloor, extend from the shoreline to where there is a marked change in slope (the shelf break).





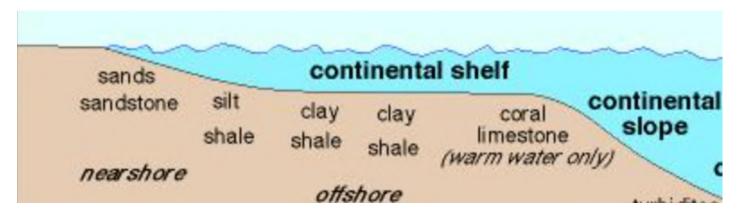




History

Johnson, 1919: graded shelves (progressive offshore grain size decrease)

Shepard, 1932: relict sediments



Not all sandy deposits occurring on modern shelves have been formed by processes occurring in the present day: the sea-level rise in the past 10 k/yr, the Holocene transgression, has drowned former strand plain and barrier island ridges, along with sands deposited in the shoreface, leaving them as inactive relics in deeper water.

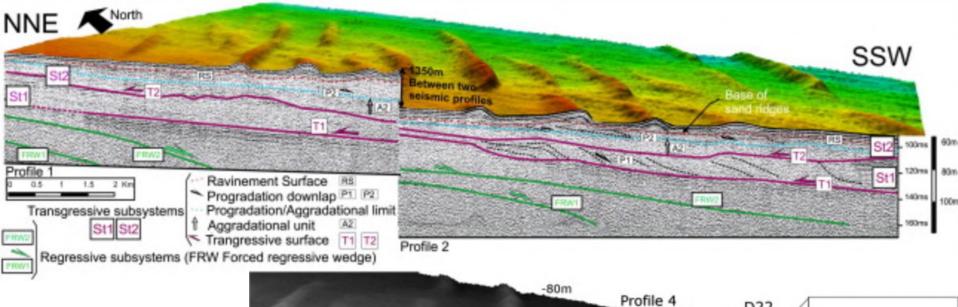
Swift and Niedoroda 1985:

- 1) Storm dominated shelves (80%)
- 2) Tide dominated shelves (17%)
- 3) Ocean currents dominated shelves (3%)

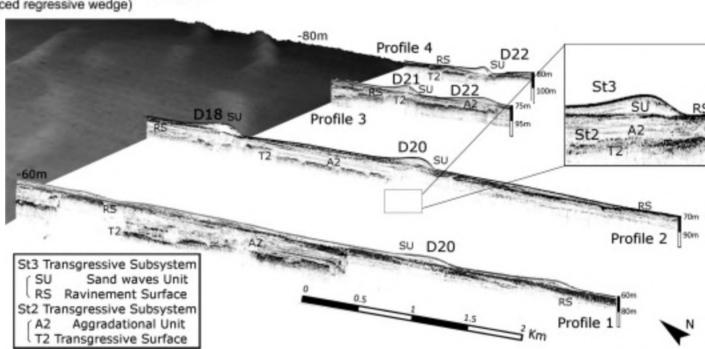




Relict sand waves in the continental shelf of the Gulf of Valencia

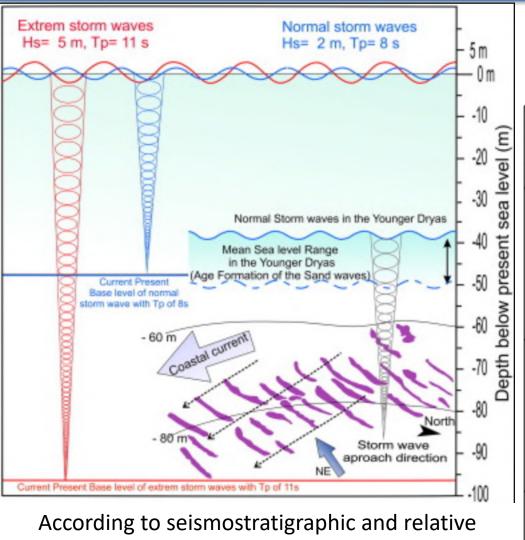


Albarracín et al., 2014 Journal of Sea Research 93, 33-46



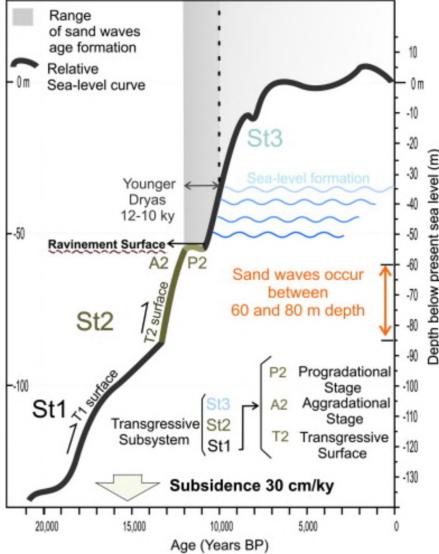






According to seismostratigraphic and relative sea level curve reconstructions, the sand waves formed during the Younger Dryas with the sea level located 30 to 50 m below the present-day

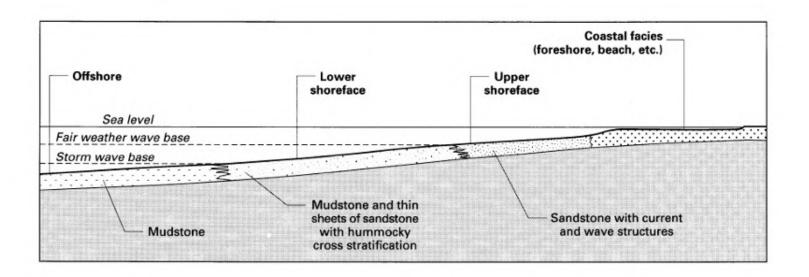
The sand waves were formed longshore littoral drift and affected by the influence of storm waves







Storm-dominated shelf facies





Hummocky cross-stratification

Hummocky cross-stratification (HCS) is the sedimentary structure usually considered as diagnostic of surface storm activity at the shoreface-offshore transition.

Hummocks only occur beneath the fair-weather wave base and above the storm-weather wave base in subaqueous environments.

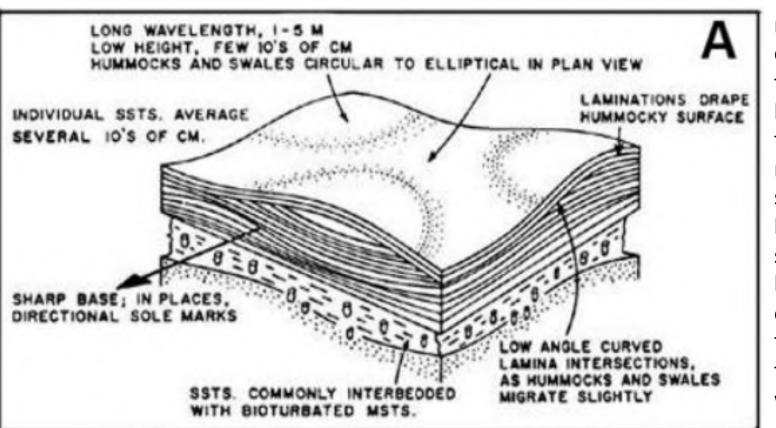






HCS = below fairweather wave base

Storm waves acting below fairweather wave base are one of the main agents forming hummocky cross stratification. This interpretation is based on the nature of the interbedded bioturbated mudstones, and the fact that in the interbedded HCS sandstone/- bioturbated mudstone facies, medium scale angle-of-repose cross bedding is rare to absent.



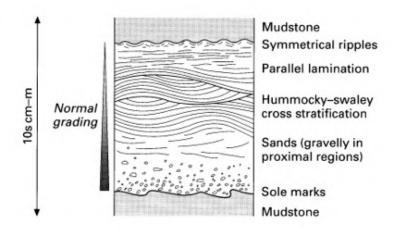
This implies that either grain size is consistently too fine for the formation of medium scale cross bedding, or that there has been no fairweather reworking of the storm- formed hummocky cross stratification, hence suggesting original formation below fair-weather wave base.





Tempestites

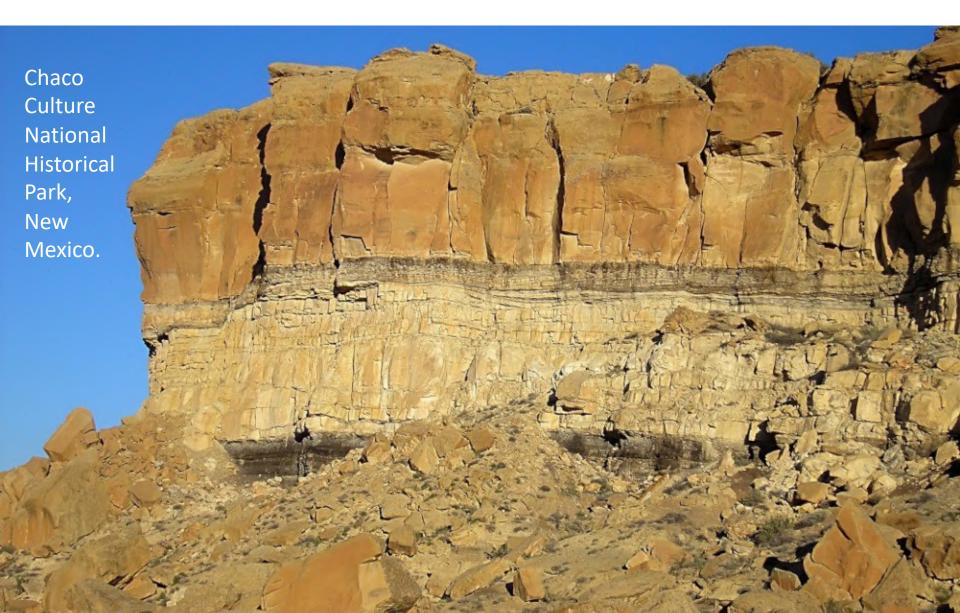
- The deposits that form during storm reworking of sediment on the shelf
- Sudden, catastrophic deposits
- Fining upwards sequence







Storm deposits make up a portion of the Cliff House Sandstone,

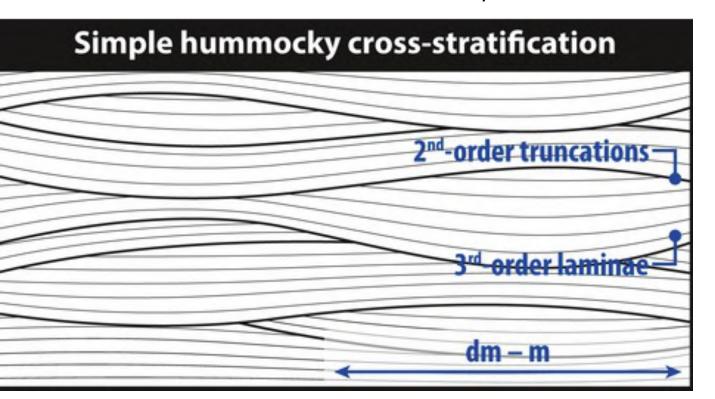






Hummocky

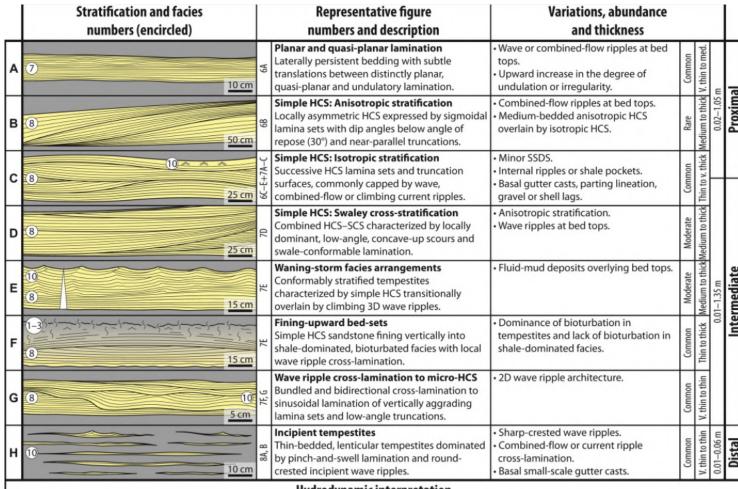
This sedimentary structure, that often have long wavelengths (up to 5 m) and low heights (10s of centimeters), is common in coarse-grained siltstone to fine-grained sandstone and is predominantly characterized by isotropically oriented laminae that conformably thin and thicken over low-angle (<15°) truncations with convex-up build-ups (hummocks) and concave-up depressions (swales), respectively. The laminae and truncations tend to merge and become conformable when traced laterally.







Type 1 tempestites: Relatively steady flow deposits



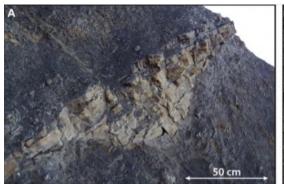
Hydrodynamic interpretation

- Sand deposition predominantly between the mean fair-weather and storm-wave bases.
- Oscillatory flows generated by relatively steady to waning storm waves.
- · High aggradation rates.
- Occasional superimposition of unidirectional downwelling flows (related to coastal setup) resulting in oscillatory-dominated combined-flows.
- Distally weakening flow conditions and lower sediment supply.

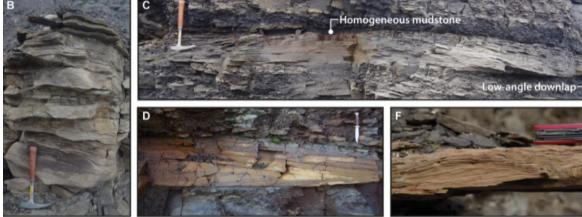




Type 1 tempestites: Relatively steady flow deposits









In the intermediate localities, event beds of this type are predominantly thin to medium-bedded (although thick to very thick beds also frequently occur) and laterally restricted (<50 m).





Type 2 tempestites: Highly unsteady flow deposits

	Stratification and facies numbers (encircled)		Representative figure numbers and description	Variations, abundance and thickness				
Α	9 50 cm	10A-C	Complex HCS: 'Compound' stratification Isotropic HCS characterized by various ripple cross-lamination partly constituting lamina sets, and associated with abundant SSDS.	Intercalated lamina sets of carbonaceous detritus.	Rare	Medium t	0.20-0.88 m	Proximal
В	9 Gutter cast 25 cm	11A	Complex HCS: Transitional stratification Isotropic HCS exhibiting frequent lateral translations into quasi-planar lamination with local minor SSDS.	 Wave, combined-flow or climbing current ripples at bed tops. Basal gutter casts. 	Moderate	Medium to thick		je.
С	9 10 30 cm	11B-D	Complex HCS: Ripple cross-lamination Isotropic HCS displaying sporadic wave, combined-flow and current ripple cross- lamination, anisotropic micro-HCS and SSDS.	 Wave ripples at bed tops. Fluid-mud deposits overlying bed tops. Amalgamation and relict shale lenses. 	Moderate	Med. to v. thick	0.05-1.20 m	ıtermediat
D	9 <u>5 cm</u>	11E	Complex HCS: Double draping Double-draped, isotropic HCS characterized by alternating cm-thick and mm-thick third-order laminae, each draped by carbonaceous detritus.	Fluid-mud deposits overlying bed tops.	Rare	Thin to medium		드

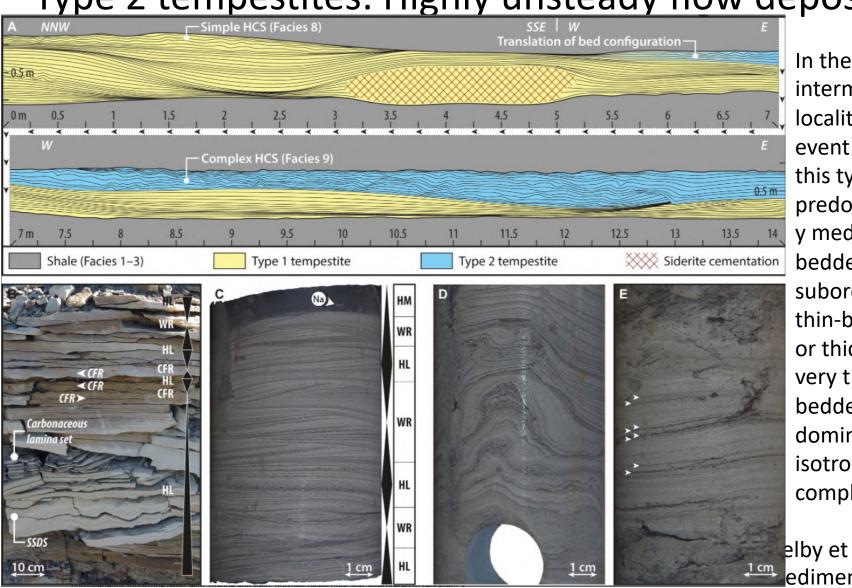
Hydrodynamic interpretation

- Sand deposition predominantly between the mean fair-weather and storm-wave bases.
- · Highly unsteady storm waves.
- · Oscillatory flows with high aggradation rates.
- Episodic to periodic shifts in flow intensity, superimposition of unidirectional flows, multidirectional flow modes and syndepositional liquefaction.
- Distally weakening flow conditions and lower sediment supply.





Type 2 tempestites: Highly unsteady flow deposits



intermediate localities, event beds of this type are predominantl y mediumbedded and subordinately thin-bedded or thick to very thickbedded, and dominated by isotropic complex HCS





Type 3 tempestites: Wave-modified hyperpycnites

	Stratification and facies numbers (encircled)		Representative figure numbers and description	Variations, abundance and thickness				
Α	Fluvial braidplain sandstone 9 75 cm	13A	Complex HCS: Channelization Metre-scale, erosional and laterally tapered HCS displaying compensational cut-and-fill architecture, lateral accretion and gravel lenses.	2D to trochoidal wave ripples at bed tops.	Rare	Thick	ш	al
В	10 Trough cross-stratification 50 cm	13B, C	Complex HCS: Gravel-rich stratification Normally or inverse-to-normally graded, gravel-rich isotropic HCS or quasi-planar lamination with local trough cross-stratification.	 Wave or combined-flow ripples at bed tops. Anisotropic micro-HCS. Coarse-tail grading. 	Rare	Mediu	0.05-0.80	Proximal
С	T _{bcb} (HCS) VT _{bcbcb} (HCS) 7 _{cbc} 10 cm 15 cm	13D+14A, B	Complex HCS: Wax-wane hyperpycnites Laterally extensive beds characterized by vertical alternation of sedimentary structures within complex HCS or Bouma-like divisions.	• T_{bcbc} configuration in complex HCS, and T_{bacb} and T_{cbcd} wax—wane facies arrangements.	Moderate	Thin to medium		
D	Tabe 10 Tac 11 Tbc 12 6 10 cm	14C	Wave-modified turbidites Relatively tabular beds with Bouma-like facies arrangements of massive bedding, planar lamination, simple HCS and various ripples.	\bullet T_{ab} and T_{bcd} facies arrangements.	Moderate	Thin to thick	m	iate
E	S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S	14D, E	Very thin to thin-bedded hyperpycnites T _{bcde} , T _{bd} , T _{bde} , T _{cd} and T _{cde} divisions of sandstone and fluid-mud deposits with sharp, gradational or erosional contacts between facies.	 Lateral thickness changes of fluid-mud deposits. Wave ripple sandstone lenses encased in fluid-mud deposits. 	Common	V. thin to thin	0.02-0.35	Intermediate
F	5	14E	Fine-grained, graded turbidites Beds of siltstone grading into silty mudstone, resembling the T _{e1-3} division of Piper (1978) and T ₀₋₈ division of Stow & Shanmugam (1980).	 Carbonaceous-rich beds. Bioturbated bedding with obliterated grading. 	Moderate	V. thin to thin		

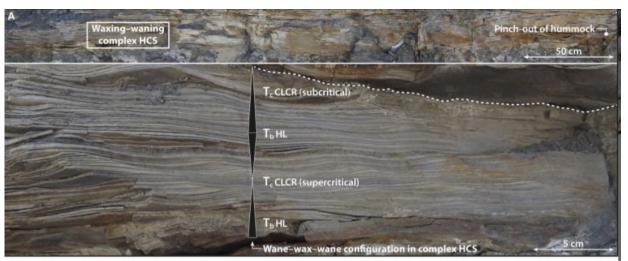
Hydrodynamic interpretation

- Sand and mud deposition predominantly between the mean fair-weather and storm-wave bases.
- · Storm-wave-enhanced, hyperpycnal turbidity currents.
- Common hyperpycnal-flow waxing and waning.
- · Local subaqueous channelization.
- Intermediate wave-enhanced surge-type turbidity currents and fluid-mud flows generated directly from proximal hyperpycnal flows.



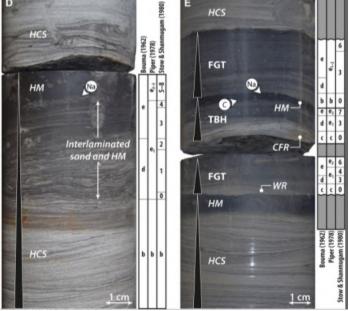


Type 3 tempestites: Wave-modified hyperpycnites







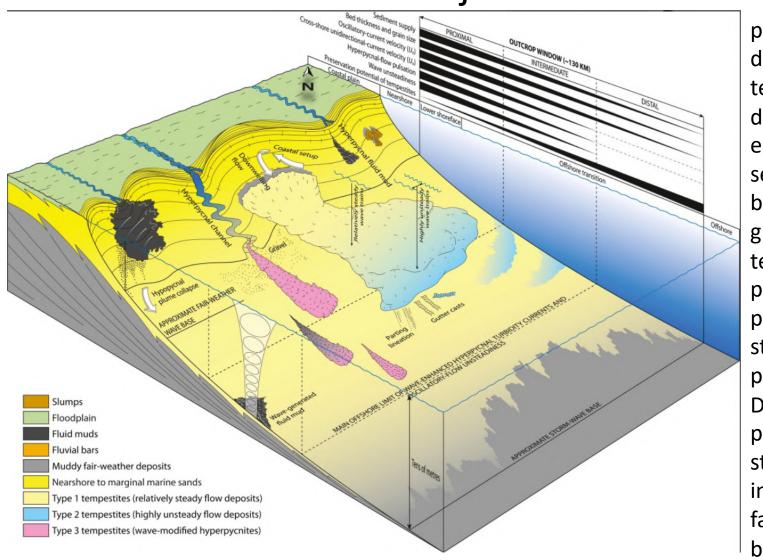


In the intermediate localities, event beds of this type display four facies arrangements, of which two are characterized by thin to thick-bedded sandstone and two are characterized by very thin to thin-bedded couplets of sandstone and mudstone. The event beds are characterized by common interbedding with homogeneous shale, sandstreaked shale and bioturbated sandy shale.





Facies model of the Rurikfjellet Formation tempestites

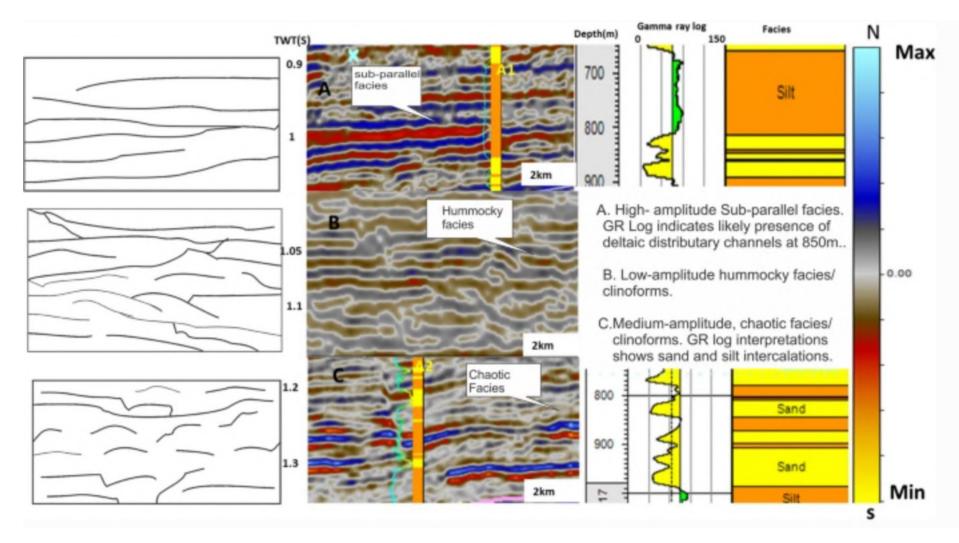


Jelby et al 2019, Sedimentology

proximal-distal distribution of tempestite types, depositional environments, sediment supply, bed thickness and grain size, tempestite preservation potential and storm-depositional processes. Deposition took place from near storm-wave base to immediately above fair-weather wave base across a prodeltaic, low-

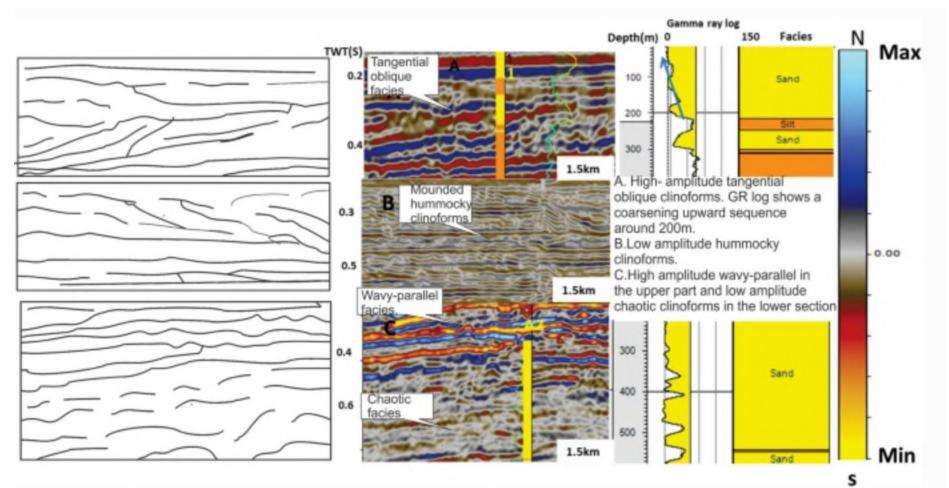
gradient ramp.

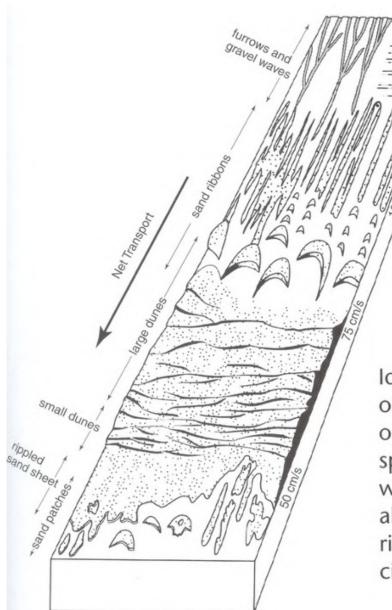
storm and wave-dominated shelf environment





SF2 configurations in the Central part could represent strata forming as small clinoform lobes in a pro-deltaic environment





Tide-dominated shelves

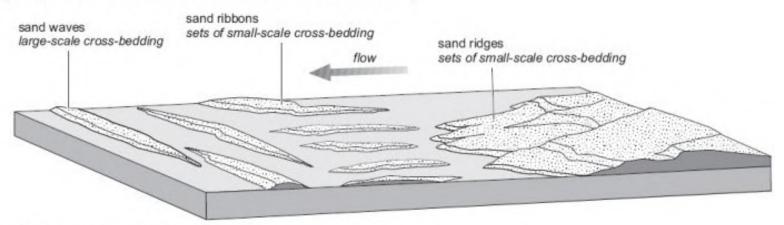
Tide-dominated shelves are defined as those where the tidal range is macrotidal, greater than 3-4m, and typical tidal current speeds (at mean spring) range from 60 to > 100cm/s. these account for ~17% of the worlds modern shelves

Idealized sequence of bedforms developed along a sediment transport path on a tide-dominated shelf. Maximum spring-tide current velocities associated with each bedform type are shown along the edges of the diagram. Sand ridges may form in the dune belt if sufficient sand is present. [After Belderson, R.





Deposition on tide-dominated shelves



Offshore sand ridges

Near shorelines that experience strong tidal currents large sand ridges are found on modern shelves.

The ridges form parallel to the shoreline in water depths of up to 50m and may be tens of metres high, in places rising almost to sea level.

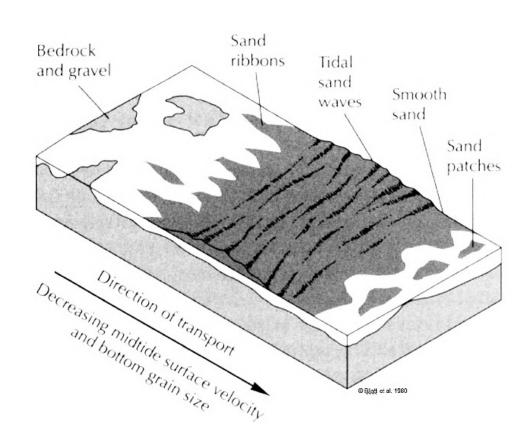
The sands are moderately well sorted, medium grained but the deposits may include some mud occurring as clay laminae deposited during slack phases of the tidal flow.





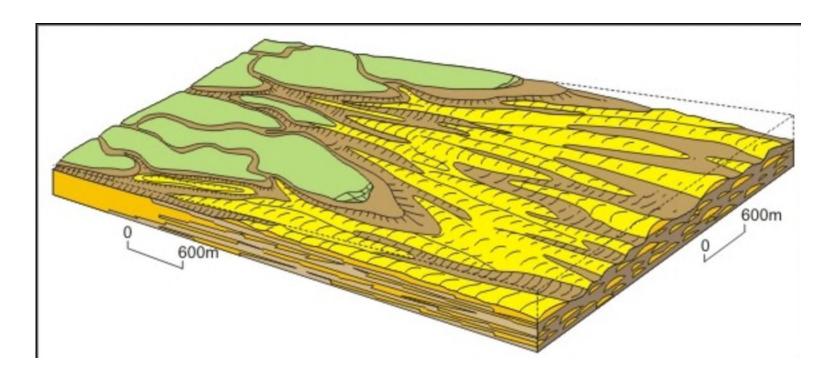
Tide dominated:

Where tidal ranges are large (>2 m) and currents are fast (50 to 100 cm/s) asymmetrical sand ribbons or tidal ridges are formed on the continental shelf at oblique angles to strike. At tidal currents of less than 50 cm/s, strike elongate sheets or waves of sand develop (right). A tidal sand wave has a crest of 3 to 15 meters and wavelengths of 150 to 500 meters. They are composed of low angle crossbeds (dipping at 5 to 6 degrees, which along with cross sets that are no more than a few meters in thickness, differentiates them from eolian sand dunes).





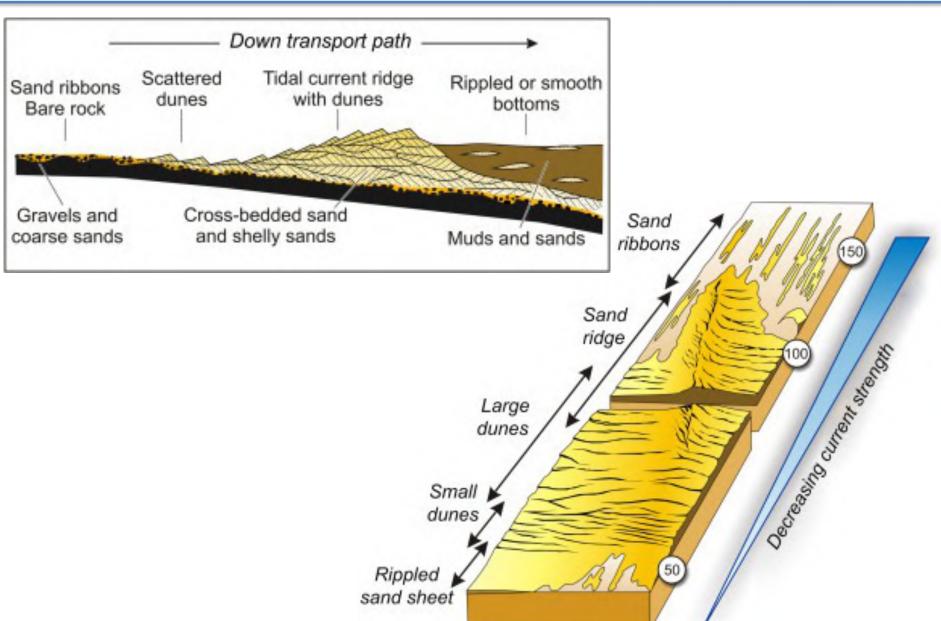




asymmetrical sand ribbons or tidal ridges are formed on the continental shelf at oblique angles to strike.









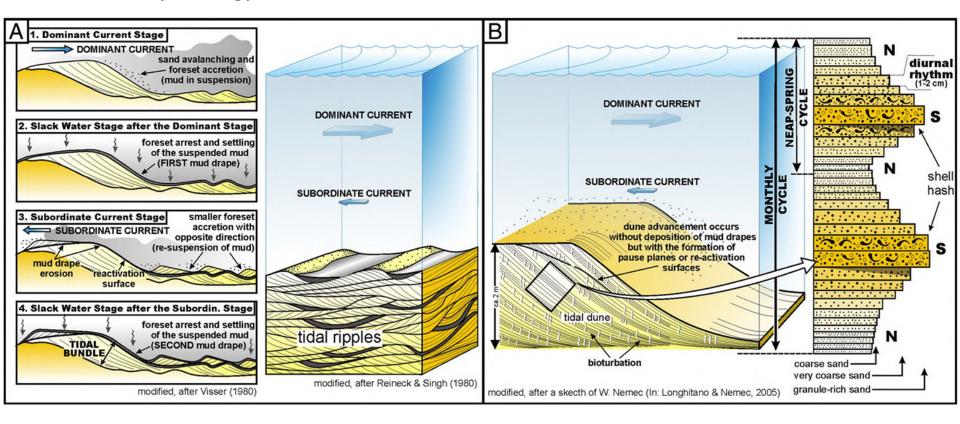


low angle cross-beds (dipping at 5 to 6 degrees



Tidalites

Longhitano et al., 2012. Sedimentary Geology vary from thin, muddy heterolithic strata (lenticular, wavy or mud-flasered bedding) to sand-rich unidirectional, bi-directional (herring-bone) or 'bundled' cross-stratification

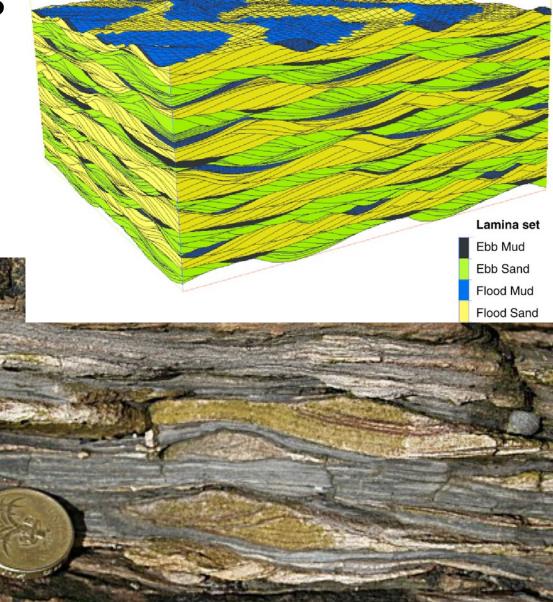


A) Typical dune bedform generated in a mud-rich system after a complete tidal cycle and characterized by a strongly asymmetric current. (B) Bundles of coarsening- and fining-upward lamina sets within cross-stratified deposits developed in mud-free siliciclastic subtidal systems.



Flaser beds

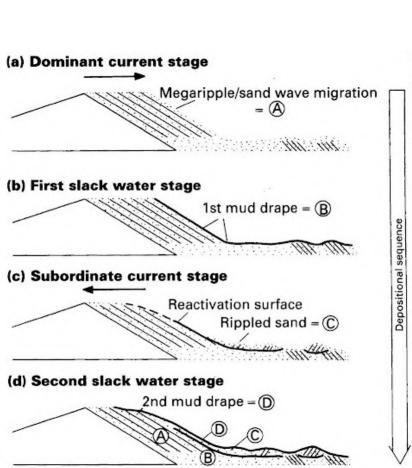
a sedimentary, bi-directional, bedding pattern created when a sediment is exposed to intermittent flows, leading to alternating rippled sand and mud layers.

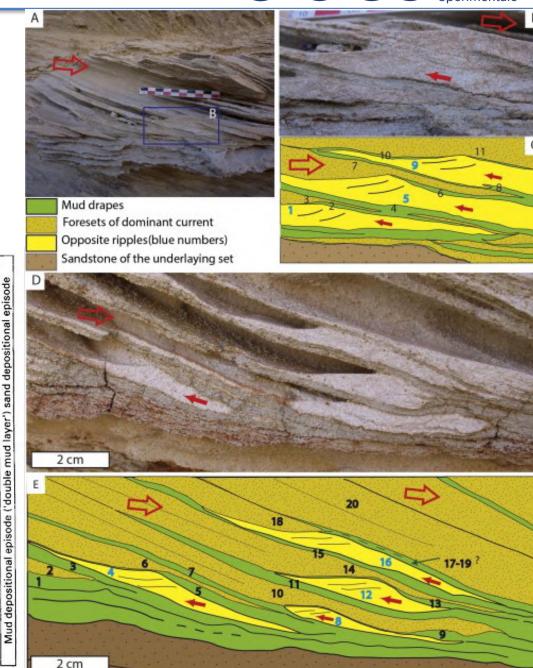






Mud couplets



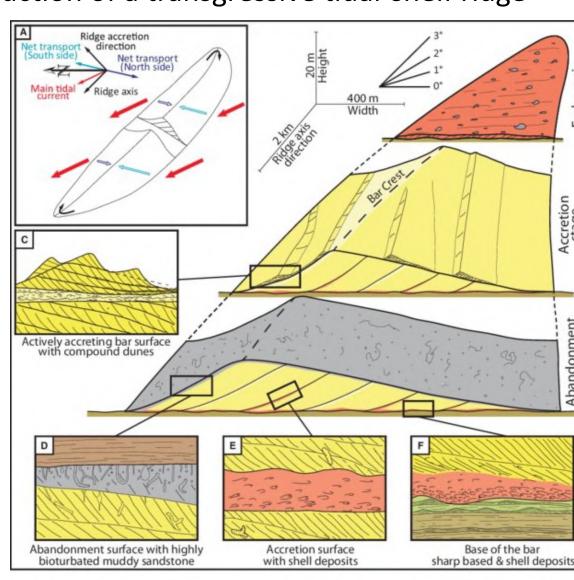






Facies model and reconstruction of a transgressive tidal-shelf ridge

(A) Reconstruction of the main tidal currents and the resultant net sediment transport. (B) Evolutionary stages of the tidal ridge. The embryonic stage represents the basal erosional surface with a thin veneer of shell rich sandstone. The accretion stage shows compound dunes accreting in the north side of the ridge, while dunes with net erosion migrate in the south side of the ridge. The abandonment stage is characterized by hemipelagic deposition and intense bioturbation. (C) Detail of the compound dune accretion. (D) Abandonment facies and highly bioturbated upper boundary of the ridge. (E) Detail of the accretion surfaces with shell rich sandstones. (F) Detail of the bottom surface eroding into previous offshore and offshore-transition deposits.

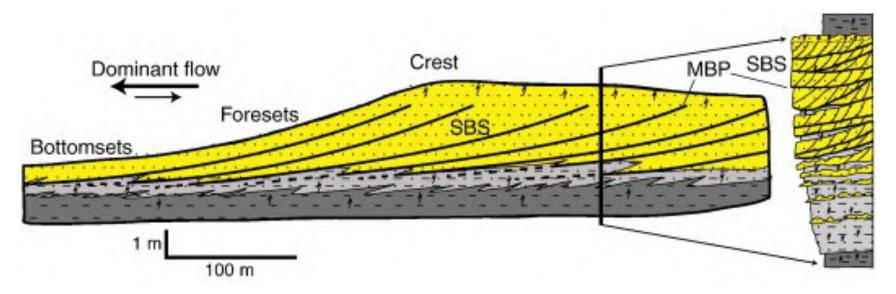


Lopez et al., 2016. Sedimentology





Olariu et al., 2012. Tidal dunes versus tidal bars. Sedimentary Geology 279, 134-155



Schematic model for a "tidal bar" (modified from Mutti et al., 1985). SBS-single sigmoidal bed set, MBP-master bedding plane. Note the overall coarsening-upward pattern on the vertical succession (right side) and the forward-accretion architecture (flow from right to left).



Examples of tidal bars in modern environments. Note the presence of inclined stratification in all examples, formed by migration perpendicular to the tidal currents. A – Fly River Delta tidal bar (after Dalrymple et al., 2003). B – Cobequid Bay, Bay of Fundy (from Dalrymple and Zaitlin, 1994). C – Sand ridges (tidal bars) on the East China Sea shelf (Berné et al., 2002). D – Sand ridges in English Bight (Houbolt, 1968).

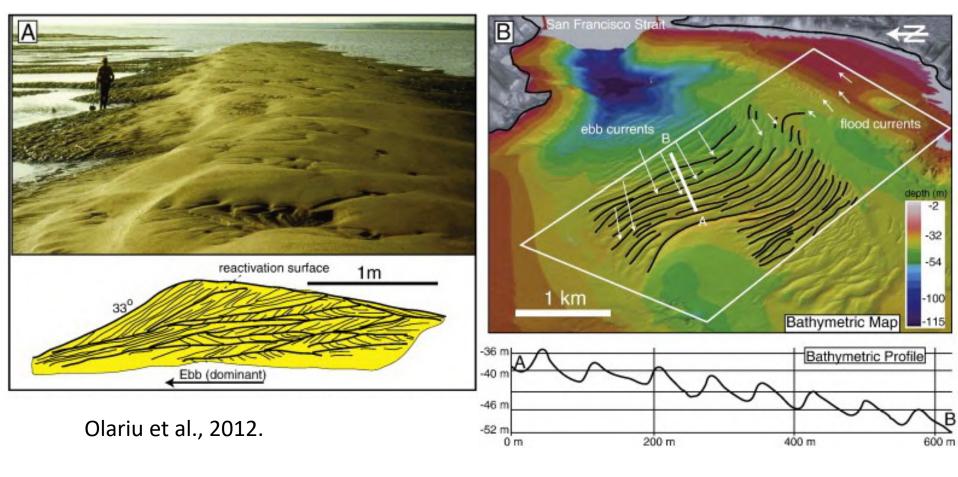
Tidal currents 5m 200m Tidal currents Tidal currents_⊙ ⊗ 5-15m Smith Knoll Tidal currents 1 km Sea level Well Bank

Olariu et al., 2012.





Tidal dunes in modern environments.

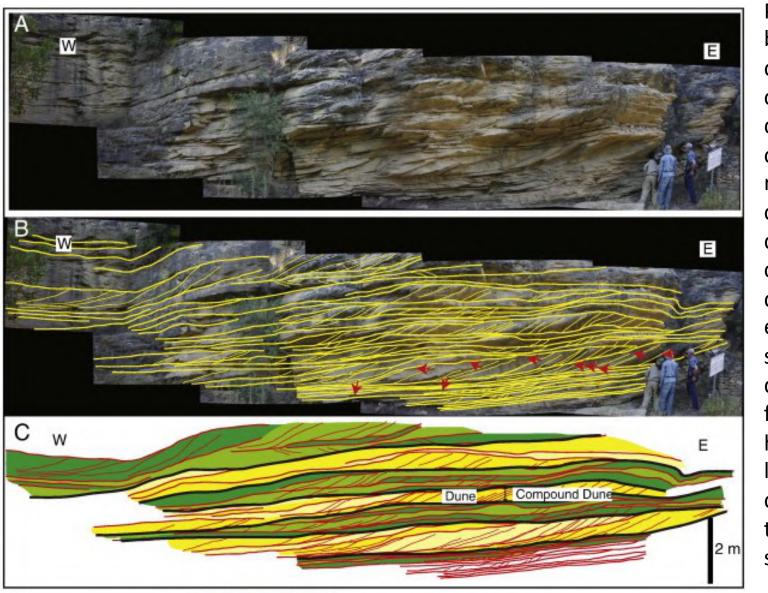


A – Photo and trench showing the internal structure of compound tidal dunes in Cobequid Bay, Bay of Fundy. B – Oblique view of the dunes seaward of the mouth of the San Francisco Bay entrance. Note (1) the height of the dunes is about 3–4 m and the wavelength 100 m, and (2) the spatial segregation of areas with ebb- and flood-dominant currents.





Olariu et al., 2012.

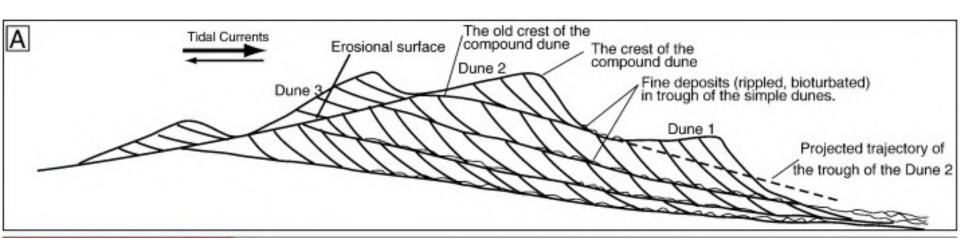


Photomosaic and bedding diagrams for the compound dunes. Different colors in C represent the cosets of different compound dunes. In these examples, the smaller simple dunes are a large fraction of the height of the larger compound dune on which they were superimposed.



Compound tidal dune model

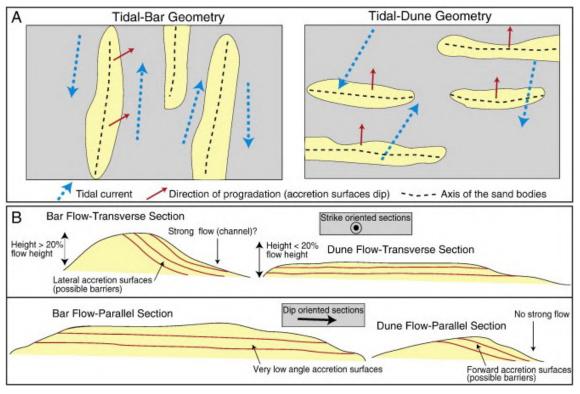
Formation of a compound tidal dune. Note that the inferred trajectory of successive troughs of the superimposed simple dunes (dashed line) causes truncation of the cross-strata deposited by the preceding simple dune





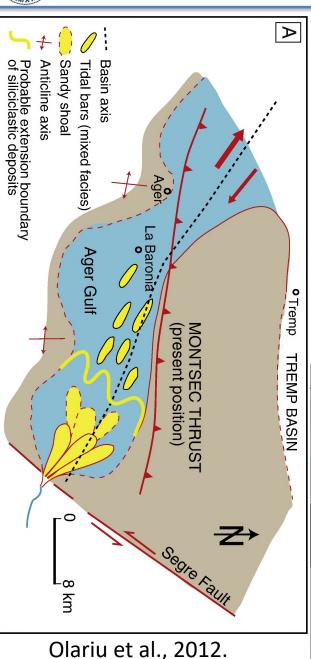


Olariu et al., 2012.



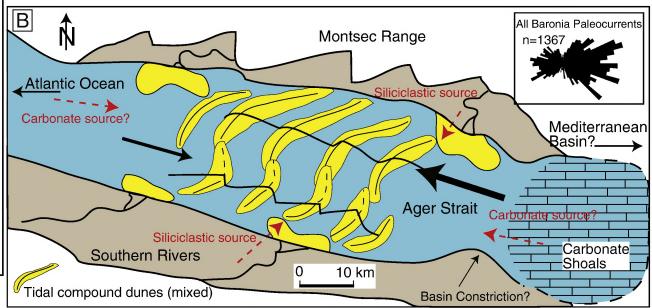
The morphological and architectural differences between tidal dunes and bars. A – Plan-view morphology indicating the long-axis (crest) orientation relative to the tidal currents. B – Internal architecture (orientation of the master surfaces) relative to the tidal currents.





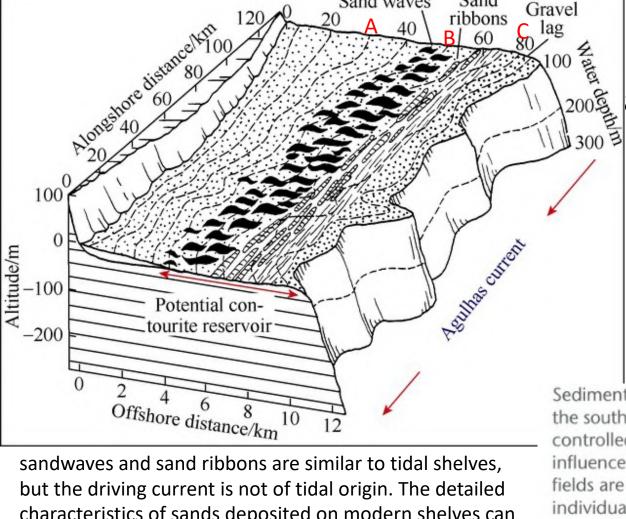
Two possible paleogeographical reconstructions

A – Paleogeographical reconstruction of Ager Gulf during the deposition of the lower unit of the Baronia (modified after Mutti et al., 1985). B – Our preferred paleogeographical reconstruction of the Ager Strait, with a carbonate platform to the east of the Ager Basin and the widespread development of large subaqueous dunes. The dunes have north–south crests, with mutually evasive areas in which the dominant currents have opposite directions.



Sand waves

Sand



currents Modified by Shanmugam (2017) after Flemming (1980) Sediment transport by the Agulhas Current off the southeastern tip of Africa. Sand in the currentcontrolled central shelf (B) migrates under the influence of the Agulhas Current; sand-wave fields are up to 20 km long and 10 km wide, and individual sand waves are up to 17 m high. Black streaks indicate sand ribbons. The stippled pat-

tern indicates coarse lag deposits in the sand-de-

pleted outer shelf (C). The nearshore sediment

wedge (A) is dominated by wave processes.

sandwaves and sand ribbons are similar to tidal shelves, but the driving current is not of tidal origin. The detailed characteristics of sands deposited on modern shelves can be determined directly only by taking shallow cores that provide a limited amount of information: indirect investigation by geophysical techniques can also yield some information about the internal structures.

Ocean-currentdominated shelves are generally narrow (less than 10 km) and lie adjacent to strong geostrophic





Setting	Relationship to Waves & Tide	sedimentary structures
coastal plain	tidal zone, subject to storm wash-over	trough-cross bedded fill of tidal inlet, estuarine & fluvial channels; rooted seat earths & coals
foreshore & upper shoreface	zone of breaking waves & the wave swash zone	trough-cross stratified sandstone sometimes overlain by planar- cross bedded sandstone
lower shoreface & delta-front sandstones		current ripple <mark>beds</mark> wave ripple beds, hummocky cross- <mark>beds</mark> contorted beds
transition between offshore shelf & lower shore-face offshore shelf	between storm wave- base & fair-weather wave-base below storm wave-base	alternations of hummocky cross- stratified sandstone highly burrowed silty mudstones highly burrowed mudstones

The relationship of the sediments of the Blackhawk Formation to depositional setting, tide and waves, and sedimentary structures (after Coe et al, 2003.





Shoreline

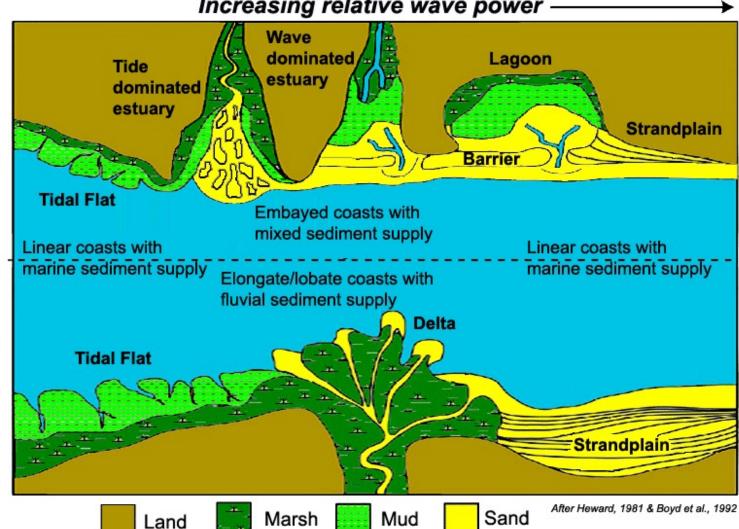
Fransgressive

Regressive/prograding



Increasing relative tidal power Increasing relative wave power

At the shore clastic sedimentary depositional settings include beaches, estuaries or deltaic.





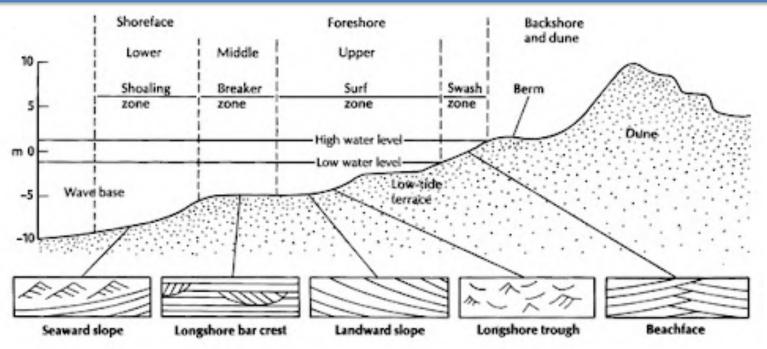


Barrier Islands









There are six major depositional environments within a Barrier Island system. The areas on the seaward side of barrier island systems are as listed; the shoreface, the foreshore and the backshore. These environments, along with sub-environments are shown in the figure below. We will also discuss the components of the landward side of barrier island systems which include the lagoon, the tidal inlets and tidal deltas.







Modulo	Argomento	Docente	Data
1.1	introduzione al corso e argomenti	Rebesco	05/10/21
1.2	metodi (geofisica, affioramenti, geologia marina, ambienti attuali)	Volpi/Rebesco	06/10/21
1.3	meccanismi di formazione dei bacini (geodinamica, tettonica)	Lodolo	12/10/21
1.4	Interpretazione sismica, facies e strutture primarie	Rebesco	13/10/21
	Martedì 19 Ottobre non c'è lezione		
1.5	Energy storage e CCS	Volpi/Donda	20/10/21
2.1	Processi sedimentari nei fiumi e nei delta	Rebesco	26/10/21
2.2	Azione di maree e onde, del ghiaccio e del vento	Rebesco	27/10/21
	Martedì 2 Novembre non c'è lezione		
	Mercoledì 3 Novembre non c'è lezione		
2.3	Correnti di densità e correnti di fondo, trasporto di massa	Lucchi/Rebesco	09/11/21
3.1	pianure abissali (decantazione emipelagica) e margini continentali	Rebesco	10/11/21
3.2	Conoidi sottomarine (flussi gravitativi dalla scarpata continentale)	Lucchi/Rebesco	16/11/21
3.3	Sediment drifts (correnti di fondo lungo la scarpata continentale)	Rebesco	17/11/21
3.4	Mass transport deposits (accenni a risoluzione/penetrazione)	Ford	23/11/21
3.5	piattaforme continentali (onde, tempeste, tsunami)	Rebesco	24/11/21
3.6	calotte glaciali e ghiacciai marini	De Santis	30/11/21
3.7	Delta, estuari e spiagge e ambienti deposizionali carbonatici	Rebesco	01/12/21
3.8	faglie, vulcani e corpi intrusivi	Civile	07/12/21
	Mercoledì 8 Dicembre non c'è lezione		
3.9	fiumi, laghi e deserti	Rebesco	14/12/21
4	esercitazione	Rebesco	15/12/21
5.1	stratigrafia sequenziale	Zecchin	21/12/21
5.2	livello del mare e spazio di accomodamento	Zecchin	22/12/21
	Dal 23 Dicembre al 9 Gennaio non c'è lezione		
5.3	discontinuità e paraconformità e altre superfici significative	Zecchin	11/01/22
5.4	system tracts (apparati deposizionali) e diversi modelli	Zecchin	12/01/22
5.5	applicazioni (es. reservoirs di idrocarburi)	Zecchin	18/01/22
6	visita a CoreLoggingLAB e/o SEISLAB (assieme a Geologia Marina)	Rebesco	19/01/22