Edge of chaos domain of Zhabotinskii CNN: Implications in hydrothermal ore-forming processes

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In describing the dynamics of the complicated Belousov-Zhabotinsky reaction, Zhabotinskii proposed an axiomatic model [1]:

$$\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} = D_1 \Delta \theta \{1 - \eta [2 + (\theta - 1)^2]\} + B$$
$$\frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} = D_2 \Delta \eta - A \eta - \theta (\eta - 1)$$

where θ and η are concentrations of the components, A and B are constant coefficients, D_1 and D_2 are diffusion coefficients. In this paper, the model was mapped into a cellular nonlinear network (CNN) named as Zhabotinskii CNN and the local activity and edge of chaos domains were calculated according to the theory and method described in [2]. The complete procedure and detailed conclusions can be found in [3].

Given practical initial and boundary conditions, choosing the system parameters A and B in the edge of chaos domain, we simulated meaningful patterns, some of which can be found in [3]. These patterns formed in the self-organization processes could be good supports to the idea that the onset of large hydrothermal deposits are at the edge of chaos [4]. The calculated edge of chaos domain could also be valuable for exploring many other complex phenomena in similar reactiondiffusion processes such as those involved in hydrothermal ore-formation.

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Sampling challenges in Re-Os geochronology of black shale

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Re-Os geochronology for black shales is successful for documenting depositional ages and paleoenvironemental changes. Re and Os are susceptible to post-depositional processes; thus, a sampling strategy grounded in geologic understanding is essential. Here we present Re-Os analyses of Triassic black shales from Svalbard outcrops and Svalis Dome (Barents shelf) drill core [1] to evaluate the effects of water leaching and spatial heterogeneity on Re-Os systematics.

Svalbard shales were leached 3 times, 30 min each, with MQ-H₂O in an ultrasonic bath. Each leachate was collected and dried. For these well-indurated, carbonate-cemented shales, leaching removed only 0.2-0.4 wt%. The unleached shales, leached shales, and leachate, however, all have different ¹⁸⁷Re/¹⁸⁸Os and ¹⁸⁷Os/¹⁸⁸Os. Svalis Dome shales are poorly indurated, and leaching removed a significant amount of material. Again, the leached and unleached shales have different Re-Os compositions. These tests indicate that water leaching in natural settings (e.g. groundwater flushing or subaqueous outcrops) can disturb the Re-Os system.

It has been proposed that large homogenized samples of black shale (>20g [2]) are necessary to avoid any small scale Re-Os decoupling. For indurated Svalbard shale, <1g samples yield only minor differences in isochron statistics. Re-Os analyses of <1g samples from Svalis Dome, in contrast, fall off the isochron defined by large samples (>20g). Other Re-Os studies using 5g to <0.5g samples lead to excellent isochrons (e.g. Late Permian shale from the Mid-Norwegian Shelf [3], Archean shale from the Superior Province [4]). Homogenizing large samples (~100g [5]) can unnecessarily limit ¹⁸⁷Re/¹⁸⁸Os variations, producing large age uncertainties.

Our results suggest that black shales exposed to surface waters or groundwater flushing should be avoided [6]. The best sample size to secure 'closed system' isochrons depends on the age and induration of the black shale, and must be determined independently for each geologic environment.

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