

# Correlation of Sillimanite & Kaliophilite Minerals, TOC, Ro, and MBT from Drill Cutting of Well BS-03 in the Development of Shale Hydrocarbon, Brownshale Formation, Bengkalis Trough, Central Sumatra Basin, Indonesia

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**How to cite this paper:** Buntoro, A., Nurcholis, M., Rahmad, B. and Lukmana, A.H. (2020) Correlation of Sillimanite & Kaliophilite Minerals, TOC, Ro, and MBT from Drill Cutting of Well BS-03 in the Development of Shale Hydrocarbon, Brownshale Formation, Bengkalis Trough, Central Sumatra Basin, Indonesia. *Open Journal of Yangtze Gas and Oil*, 5, 216-230.

<https://doi.org/10.4236/ojogas.2020.54017>

**Received:** August 21, 2020

**Accepted:** October 27, 2020

**Published:** October 30, 2020

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## Abstract

Sillimanite is a brittle mineral as a metamorphic mineral product which is generally derived from clay, along with an increase in pressure and high temperature (600°C - 900°C), and kaliophilite is also a brittle mineral as a potassium bearing in the sand-shale series, which contributes to the clay diagenesis process. In the development of shale hydrocarbon in the Brownshale formation in the Bengkalis Trough, Central Sumatra Basin, using the correlation of the XRD (bulk and clay oriented), TOC, Ro, and MBT analysis results from the drill cuttings of well BS-03, so that the fracable zone interval can be determined. From this correlation, it shows that the presence of sillimanite and kaliophilite minerals as minor minerals greatly affects the changes in shale character and hydrocarbon generation, where at depth intervals of 10,780 ft downward (sand series-shale) there is an interesting phenomenon, *i.e.* low MBT, low TOC, and high Ro, so it is believed that the depth interval of 10,780 ft downward is a fracable zone interval (brittle shale) which is a good candidate for hydraulic fracking planning, while the upper depth interval is a fracture barrier.

## Keywords

Sillimanite & Kaliophilite Minerals, TOC (Total Organic Carbon), Ro (Vitrinite Reflectance), MBT (Methylene Blue Test), Shale Hydrocarbon

## 1. Introduction

Source rock in the Central Sumatra Basin, consists of four shale formations, namely: the Petani and Telisa Formation [1], Pematang Group [2], and coal Sihapas Group [3]. Based on geochemical analysis, it shows that only the Brown-shale formation from Pematang Group is the main rock source in Central Sumatra, which is spread over several sub-basins (troughs), namely: Balam, Rangau, Kiri, Aman, and Bengkalis [4]. The depositional environment of this formation is formed from Lacustrine with lithological rocks consisting of laminated shales, brown in color, rich in organic matter, which indicates a depositional environment with calm water conditions [5].

From the results of previous research, it was stated that in general the Brown-shale formation has good prospects for the development of shale hydrocarbon, supported by several parameters, including: TOC (fair - very good), kerogen type II/III, brittleness index greater than 0.48, and the rock compressive strength is below 70 MPa [5].

The brittleness index is the most widely used parameter to measure the brittleness of rocks [6]. In general brittleness is used as a descriptor in the selection of depth interval for hydraulic fracking planning, so brittleness is one of the most important rock mechanical properties, and is used in determining the prospect of shale hydrocarbon [7] [8] [9] [10] [11].

Mineralogical analysis using XRD (X-ray Diffraction) and MBT (Methyle Blue Test) from drill cuttings data can also be used to determine the type and character of shale [6] [8]-[13].

Sillimanite mineral is a brittle mineral which is a metamorphic mineral product that generally comes from clay, along with the increase in pressure and high temperature (600°C - 900°C) with a burial depth of about 5 - 6 km [14], and is very influential on hydrocarbon generation [15].

Kaliophilite is a mineral brittle, as a potassium-bearing mineral in the sand-shale series [16], contributing to the clay diagenesis process, which can change the character of shale from ductile to brittle, due to the process of changing the reactive smectite mineral to illite or kaolinite as non-reactive mineral [15].

The purpose of this research is to determine the fracable zone interval in the Brownshale formation by using the correlation of the results of XRD (bulk and clay oriented), TOC, Ro, and MBT analysis from drill cuttings of well BS-03, and from this correlation shows that the presence of sillimanite and kaliophilite minerals as minor minerals is very influential on changes in shale character and hydrocarbon generation which correlates with fracable zone interval as good candidates for hydraulic fracking planning.

## 2. Study Area, Geological Setting of the Central Sumatra Basin

### 2.1. Bengkalis Trough Study Area

The well BS-03 is the only well in the study area that penetrates the Brownshale formation of the Pematang Group, as the research target which is located on the

north side depocenter of the Bengkalis Trough located in Riau Province, Indonesia (**Figure 1**). Currently the Bengkalis Trough area is managed by two oil company operators, namely the Malacca Strait EMP Group and the CPP Block BOB PT. Bumi Siak Pusako-Pertamina Hulu, which each gave permission and contribution to conduct this research.



●: Well Location (BS-03)

**Figure 1.** Study area of the Bengkalis Trough [17].

## 2.2. Geological Setting

The Central Sumatra Basin was formed during the Early Tertiary (Eocene-Oligocene) as a series of half grabens and horst blocks developed in response to an East-West direction of extensional regime [18]. A divergent transform boundary (non-coupling) between the Sunda Microplate and the Indian Oceanic Plate during Paleogene gave rise to extensional regime and crustal stretching of the western part of the Sunda Land resulting in the formation of Pematang type grabens [19]. Pematang Graben Development can be divided into 4 stages:

- Stage I Pre-Graben (Early Eocene)

During the early Eocene the Indian Ocean Plate was moving N 10°E [19]. At this time approximate north-south to north-west-southeast lines of weakness with complementary northeast-southwest shears developed. These lines of weakness later became the hinge lines and fault scarps of graben and half-graben structures. During the early to Middle Eocene, the angle of plate convergence increased from N 10°E to N 50°E with a resulting minor compressional component [20]. Gentle crustal doming resulting from subduction also began at this time compensating the weak compressional stress, especially in tensional stress sys-

tem. Incipient block rotation occurred along the earlier developed lines of N-S weakness. Deposition of Lower Red Beds Formation began in developing shallow graben.

- Stage II Graben (Middle Eocene)

Rapid graben development began as a result of relaxation of the Middle Eocene compression by a change in the plate convergence angle to the present N 20°E. Deposition of the Brown Shale and Coal Zone Formations occurred during this stage of graben development.

- Stage III Pematang Structuring (Oligocene)

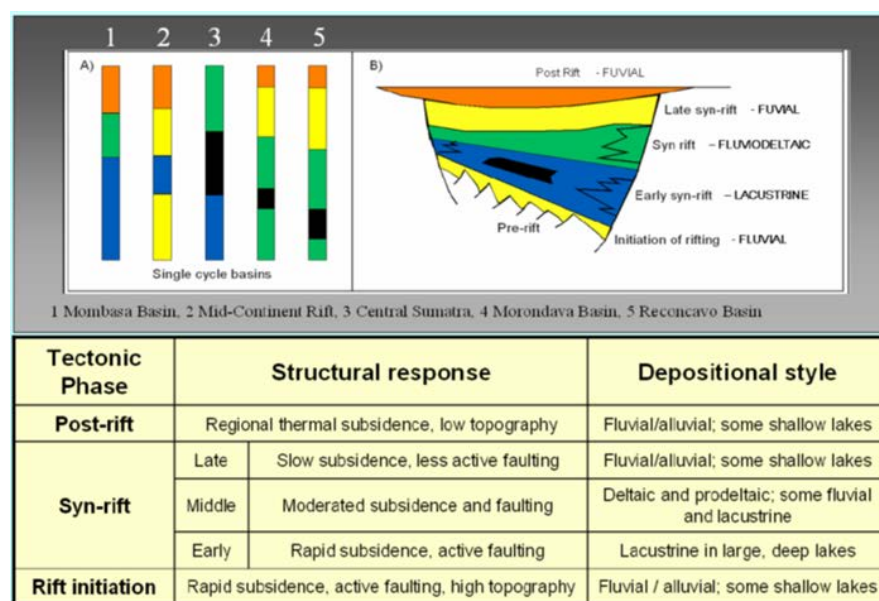
During the late Early Oligocene continued spreading of the graben and increased episodic right-lateral wrench movement occurred resulting in Pematang Structuring.

- Stage IV Lake Fill (Late Oligocene-Early Miocene)

This stage represents the beginning of a tectonic phase resulting in rapid deposition of the Lake Fill Formation. It is characterized by uplift and rapid erosion of highland areas, and culminated with the major unconformity at the end of Pematang deposition. Regional subsidence in the Early Miocene accompanied by a major marine incursion, ended the rift phase of graben development.

The Pematang Group Brownshale Formation is the main source rock of hydrocarbons in the Central Sumatra Basin and is the oldest sedimentary rock aged Eocene to Oligocene which is deposited unconformity in the half-graben [4] [21].

The stratigraphic analysis can be determined by the sequence and distribution of the Brownshale zone. Based on the correlation between wells, it is the most reliable method in stratigraphic analysis, but it cannot be done, because only the well BS-03 penetrates the Brownshale zone. Determination of marker names using tectonic episodes using references from Lambiase (1990), as shown in **Figure 2**,



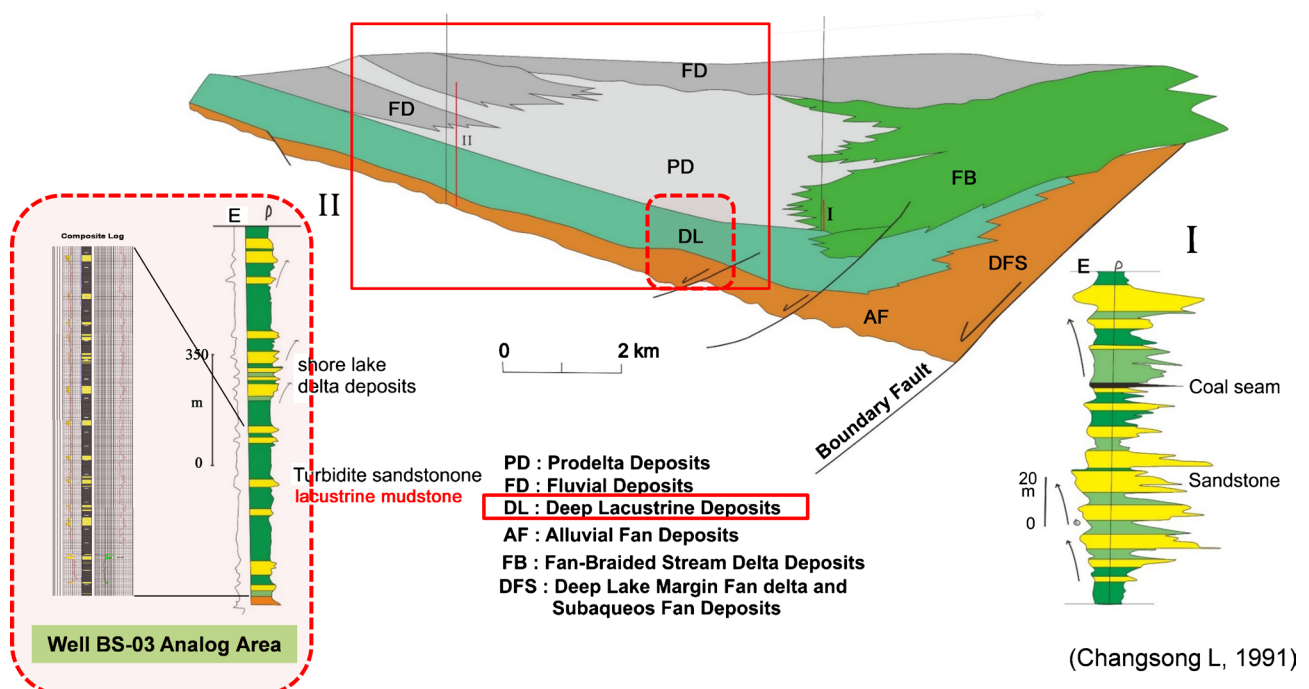
**Figure 2.** Tectonic episodes, geological structures and depositional environments in several basins [22].

namely: Rift Initiation, Early Syn Rift, Mid Syn Rift and Late Syn Rift. The naming is considered to be more representative of the tectonostratigraphy of the Central Sumatra Basin because it reflects the tectonic and sedimentation processes produced in each episode.

Rift Initiation is the beginning of the formation of rifting, where the initials of new faults are formed to form fluvial deposits which are dominated by sandstone lithology to conglomerates, this can be analogous to the Lower Red Bed Formation. Early Syn Rift is characterized by active large faults and rapid subsidence, resulting in a lacustrine environment and depositing fine-grained materials such as claystone and siltstone which are equivalent to the Brownshale Formation (Lacustrine Brownshale). Middle Syn Rift is the initial phase of decreased subsidence activity and regional silting occurs causing deltaic to fluvial deposits to form, indicating the final phase of the Brownshale Formation (Fluvio-Deltaic Brownshale). Late Syn Rift is the final phase of subsidence activity where a fluvial to deltaic environment is formed which is dominated by sandstone lithology which reflects the Upper Red Bed Formation.

In tectonostratigraphy, the basin filling deposits in the Central Sumatra Basin consist of 4 stages, namely: Rift Initiation (Lower Red Bed), Early Syn rift (Lacustrine Brownshale), Mid Syn Rift and Late Syn Rift (Upper Red Bed). The main targets for hydrocarbon shale development are the Early Syn Rift (Lacustrine Brownshale) and Mid Syn Rift (Fluvio Deltaic Brownshale) zones.

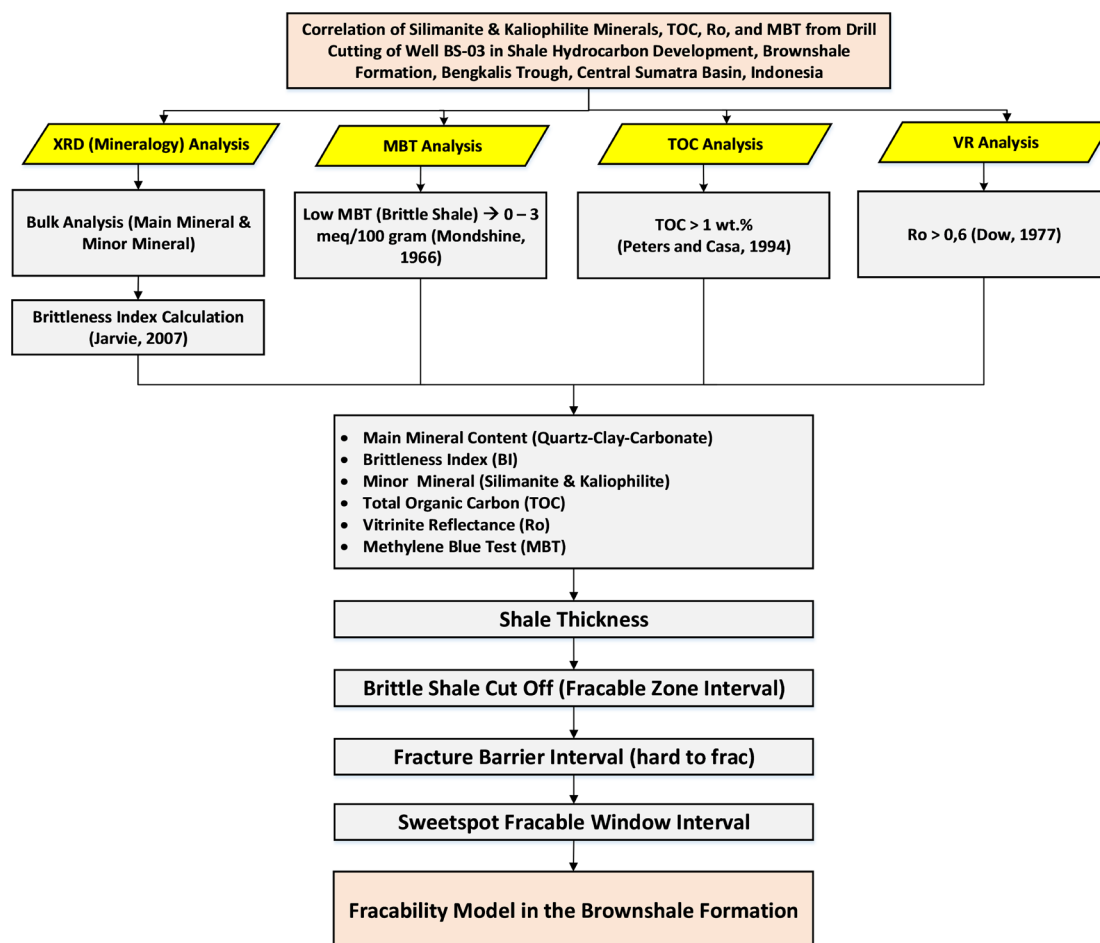
The facies model for the depositional environment of the Pematang Group Brownshale formation used the approach of the Changsong (1991) model, where the well BS-03 was analogous to the Deep Lacustrine Deposits (DF) facies model, as shown in **Figure 3**.



**Figure 3.** Depositional facies model of lacustrine environment [23].

### 3. Research Methods

**Figure 4** shows the correlation of XRD, MBT, TOC, and Ro analyzes of drill cuttings to build a fracability model. This research focuses on the Brownshale formation, Pematang Group, Bengkalis Trough, Central Sumatra Basin, Indonesia by correlating the results analysis of drill cuttings data in a flowchart, through several steps to obtain a sweetspot fracable window interval.



**Figure 4.** The workflow for the correlation of XRD, MBT, TOC, and Ro analysis from drill cuttings to build a fracability model of the Brownshale formation of well BS-03.

### 4. Literature Review

The types of minerals contained in rock samples can be identified using XRD (X-Ray Diffraction) analysis with the bulk method [24], and the result is that the peaks can be read by the type of mineral based on the determinant peaks [25], and can be categorized into two, namely the major minerals and minor minerals. From the results of the main minerals, namely Quartz, Clay, and Carbonate (Q-C-C), the brittleness index can be determined using the Jarvie Equation (2007), as follows:

$$BI_{(\text{Jarvie, 2007})} = \frac{W_{qtz}}{W_t} \quad (1)$$



where:

$BI$  = brittleness index

$W_{qtz}$  = quartz mineral weight

$W_t$  = total mineral weight (quartz + clay + carbonate)

The brittleness index is the most widely used parameter to measure the brittleness of rocks [6]. In general, brittleness is used as a descriptor in the selection of formation depth intervals for hydraulic fracking planning, so brittleness is one of the most important rock mechanical properties, and is used in determining the prospect of shale hydrocarbons [9] [10] [11].

Meanwhile, minor minerals include: Feldspar, Apatite, Pyrite, Dolomite, Sillimanite, Kaliophilite, etc. The presence of sillimanite and kaliophilite as minor minerals greatly influences the diagenesis process and the character of shale rocks.

Sillimanite is a brittle mineral as a metamorphic mineral product which generally derived from clay, along with increasing pressure and high temperature (600°C - 900°C) with a burial depth of about 5 - 6 km [14]. Kaliophilite is a brittle mineral, as a potassium bearing in the sand-shale series, which contributes to the clay diagenesis process [16].

Mondshine (1966) in his paper presented the shale classification based on MBT and X-ray diffraction (XRD) analysis, namely soft (ductile), firm (less ductile), hard (less brittle), brittle (brittle shale) as shown in Table 1. Babajide (2016) stated that the largest cation exchange rate is owned by allogeneic minerals (source rock fragment), while the smallest is owned by autogenic (chemical processes).

**Table 1.** Shale classification based on MBT and XRD analysis [6] [12].

Shale Type	Related to Hydraulic Fracking	MBT* (meq/100g)	Water Content (Wt%)	Clay Types
<i>Soft</i>	Ductile	20 - 40	25 - 70	smectite illite
<i>Firm</i>	Less Ductile	10 - 20	15 - 25	illite mixed layer
<i>Hard</i>	Less Brittle	3 - 10	5 - 15	illite possibly smectite
<i>Brittle</i>	Brittle	0 - 3	2 - 5	illite kaolinite chlorite

MBT (Methylene Blue Test) is used to determine the ability of clay to bind cations from a solution, namely by using methylene blue to measure the total cation exchange capacity of the clay, where the cation exchange depends on the type and crystallinity of the mineral, the pH of the solution, the type of cation being exchanged, and the concentration of mineral content contained in clay. MBT values are expressed in pounds per barrel of bentonite-equivalent clay/100lb shale (meq/100grams).

Source rock is a shale rock that contains a lot of carbon elements (high TOC), and has a type of kerogen that has the potential to produce hydrocarbons with a certain degree of maturity. TOC (Total Organic Carbon) values are expressed in percent weight (wt.%). According to Peters & Casa (1994), source rock based on TOC values can be classified into 5 types, as shown in Table 2.

**Table 2.** Type of source rock [26].

Type of Source Rock	TOC (wt%)
Poor Source Rock	0 - 0.5
Fair Source Rock	0.5 - 1
Good Source Rock	1 - 2
Very Good Source Rock	2 - 4
Excellent Source Rock	>4

Maturity is the process of changing organic substances into hydrocarbons. The maturity process is caused by an increase in temperature below the earth's surface. By knowing the maturity level of a source rock, it can be estimated that the ability of the rock to produce oil or natural gas. The level of maturity of a rock can be determined by Vitrinite Reflectance (Ro). Vitrinite Reflectance (Ro) values are expressed in percent (%).

In developing shale hydrocarbon commercially based on the results of previous research, several basic criteria are proposed as shown in **Table 3**.

**Table 3.** Basic criteria for developing shale hydrocarbon commercially [10] [12] [26] [27].

No	Parameter	Criteria
1	Total Organic Carbon (TOC), wt. %	>1 wt%
2	Shale thickness, ft	>100 ft
3	Brittleness Index shale, dimensionless	>0.48
4	- Ro, Oil-prone generation, %	>0.6%
	- Ro, Gas-prone generation, %	>0.8%
5	Fracability Index shale, dimensionless	
	- Fracable	>0.55
	- Not Fracable (hard to frac)	≤0.55
6	Methylene Blue Test (MBT), Brittle Shale, meq/100g	≤3

## 5. Results and Discussion

### 5.1. XRD & MBT Analysis Using Drill Cuttings Data of Well BS-03

The results of semi-quantification calculations from XRD (bulk) analysis of 32 samples of drill cuttings to determine the percentage of minerals at each depth interval are shown in **Table 4**. From **Table 4** it can be seen that at each depth interval the percentage of the main mineral content obtained is Quartz, Clay, and Carbonate, so that the brittleness index can be calculated using the Jarvie equation (2007). From the results of XRD (bulk) analysis, an interesting phenomenon was found, namely the presence of sillimanite and kaliophilite minerals in the Brownshale formation which was significantly started at a depth interval of 10,780 ft downward, both of which belong to the brittle mineral category [25].

From **Table 4** based on minor minerals group, there is an interesting



**Table 4.** Results of semi-quantification calculations from XRD (bulk) and MBT analysis at the depth interval of 10420 - 11642 feet well BS-03.

No	Depth (ft)	Main Mineral						Minor Mineral			Total	MBT (meq/100gr)
		Quartz (%)	Calcite (%)	Clay (%)	Feldspar (%)	Apatite (%)	Pyrite (%)	Dolomite (%)	Sillimanite (%)	Kaliophilite (%)		
1	10,420 - 10,430	70.94	0.00	4.84	13.82	0.00	3.26	2.73	4.42	0.00	100.00	8
2	10,460 - 10,470	63.95	0.00	12.63	9.70	0.00	3.70	5.33	4.69	0.00	100.00	5.5
3	10,500 - 10,510	48.45	4.74	15.45	10.90	2.27	3.83	4.23	5.39	4.74	100.00	6.5
4	10,540 - 10,550	61.35	0.00	8.48	11.23	4.25	5.01	4.45	5.22	0.00	100.00	4
5	10,580 - 10,590	57.82	0.00	12.07	12.34	0.00	5.00	6.64	6.14	0.00	100.00	4.5
6	10,620 - 10,630	60.90	0.00	11.07	7.09	4.38	4.45	5.42	6.69	0.00	100.00	8
7	10,660 - 10,670	72.88	0.00	7.67	9.93	0.00	3.47	3.03	3.00	0.00	100.00	6.5
8	10,700 - 10,710	58.21	0.00	14.63	9.14	2.44	4.11	7.02	4.45	0.00	100.00	8
9	10,740 - 10,750	72.47	0.00	14.20	5.58	0.00	3.44	4.31	0.00	0.00	100.00	7
10	10,780 - 10,790	62.40	0.00	11.98	7.88	3.23	4.11	4.61	5.80	0.00	100.00	4
11	10,820 - 10,830	43.49	2.78	13.02	4.86	8.11	4.44	5.80	9.62	7.89	100.00	5.5
12	10,860 - 10,870	55.76	0.00	5.17	7.85	3.68	3.72	5.45	10.73	7.65	100.00	5
13	10,900 - 10,910	45.63	0.00	13.66	7.28	5.26	4.14	4.70	13.20	6.13	100.00	5
14	10,940 - 10,950	41.58	2.08	9.99	6.11	5.25	4.38	5.12	15.30	10.18	100.00	3
15	10,980 - 10,990	32.24	0.00	11.97	10.90	6.24	4.47	7.30	15.34	11.54	100.00	6
16	11,020 - 11,030	29.97	5.55	8.56	7.22	5.82	2.46	5.09	23.24	12.08	100.00	5.5
17	11,060 - 11,070	60.40	3.89	6.05	6.36	3.18	2.97	3.55	7.44	6.16	100.00	3
18	11,100 - 11,110	41.59	2.33	8.59	8.47	5.63	3.23	5.85	14.26	10.05	100.00	2.5
19	11,140 - 11,150	38.35	2.73	6.67	8.62	5.06	5.84	5.09	15.05	12.58	100.00	2
20	11,180 - 11,190	42.39	0.00	10.85	6.19	5.99	4.51	6.94	14.94	8.20	100.00	2
21	11,220 - 11,230	62.18	0.00	10.90	4.87	2.80	3.57	3.34	7.03	5.30	100.00	2.5
22	11,260 - 11,270	37.50	0.00	9.65	11.47	7.54	3.64	5.73	14.47	9.99	100.00	2.5
23	11,300 - 11,310	44.35	3.65	9.06	9.39	4.54	4.14	6.02	11.31	7.55	100.00	1.5
24	11,340 - 11,350	46.37	0.00	9.38	6.20	5.27	3.77	4.90	12.18	11.92	100.00	2
25	11,380 - 11,390	63.29	0.00	5.09	3.34	3.30	4.01	3.20	10.77	7.00	100.00	4.5
26	11,420 - 11,430	33.81	0.00	12.60	9.33	6.32	4.37	7.23	14.79	11.56	100.00	5.5
27	11,460 - 11,470	56.57	0.00	7.19	0.00	6.16	3.89	4.86	11.00	10.32	100.00	5.5
28	11,500 - 11,510	57.90	0.00	9.04	4.11	3.31	3.37	4.07	10.27	7.93	100.00	3.5
29	11,540 - 11,550	38.68	13.26	12.70	5.01	5.57	3.75	5.32	8.77	6.94	100.00	4
30	11,580 - 11,590	23.26	7.53	13.45	7.35	7.63	3.32	7.25	16.86	13.36	100.00	4
31	11,620 - 11,630	41.80	0.00	17.20	0.00	9.25	3.94	5.10	13.27	9.42	100.00	4
32	11,642	32.47	3.91	14.46	6.81	8.00	3.37	5.98	12.58	12.42	100.00	6.5

Brittle Mineral  
(Bladh *et al.*, 2001)

Low MBT →  
Brittle Shale  
(Mondshine,  
1966)

phenomenon, namely the presence of sillimanite and kaliophilite minerals which significantly appear starting at a depth interval of 10,780 ft downward, where both minerals have a brittle tenacity [25], so they can be categorized as brittle minerals.

The result of the MBT analysis also shows an interesting phenomenon, namely at a depth interval of about 10,780 ft the value drops below 3 meq/100g, indicating the category of brittle shale [12].

Referring to the presence of the sillimanite and kaliophilite minerals (brittle minerals), as well as the low MBT value (brittle shale), then at the interval of 10,780 ft downward it is believed to be is a fracable zone interval (brittle shale) which is a good candidate for hydraulic fracturing planning, while the upper depth interval is a fracture barrier.

## 5.2. Correlation of Lithofacies with XRD (Bulk), MBT, TOC, Ro Analysis of Drill Cuttings and Total Gas from Composite Log Data of Well BS-03

The correlation of lithofacies with the results of XRD (bulk), MBT, TOC, Ro analysis from drill cuttings, and total gas from composite log data of well BS-03 is shown in Figure 5, which shows a strong correlation with the depth interval in the sand-shale series. This can confirm the fracability model, *i.e.*:

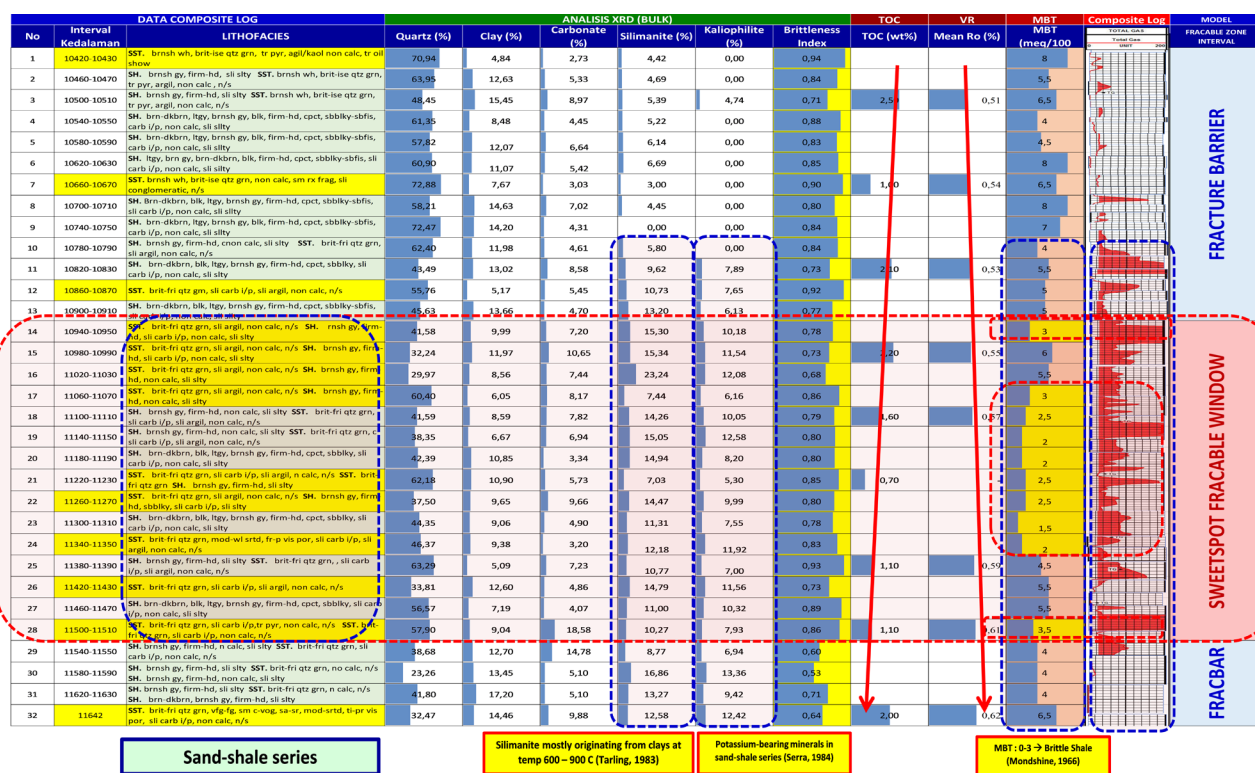


Figure 5. Correlation of lithofacies with the results of XRD (bulk), MBT, TOC, Ro analysis from drill cuttings, and total gas from the composite log data of well BS-03.

a) At the depth interval of the sand-shale series, sillimanite is present, which is a brittle mineral as a result of alteration from clay at high temperatures (600°C -

900°C), which supports the hydrocarbon generation process, and it is proven that at this depth interval Ro reaches a value of greater than 0.6%.

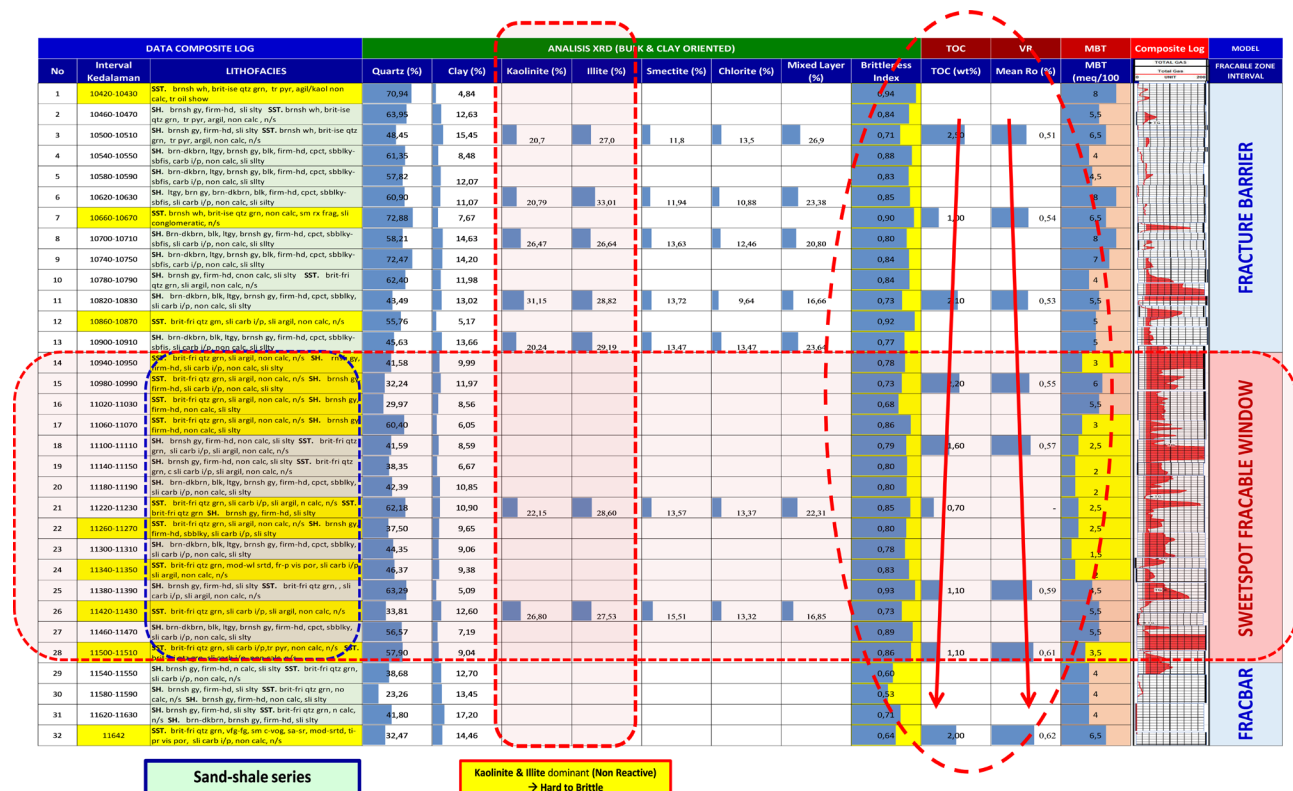
b) The presence of kaliophillite, which is a brittle mineral, as a potassium-bearing mineral in the sand-shale series, contributes to the clay diagenesis process.

c) The value of MBT at the depth interval of the sand-shale series is generally low MBT, and has a strong correlation with low TOC and high Ro. This is in accordance with item a), where the deeper the maturity (Ro) is higher, so that the TOC value decreases.

d) Sand-shale series interval is the most prospective Brownshale formation interval to produced hydrocarbon, based on items a), b), c), and the total gas from the composite log data of well BS-03.

### 5.3. Correlation of Lithofacies with XRD (Clay Oriented), MBT, TOC, Ro Analysis of Drill Cuttings and Total Gas from Composite Log Data of Well BS-03

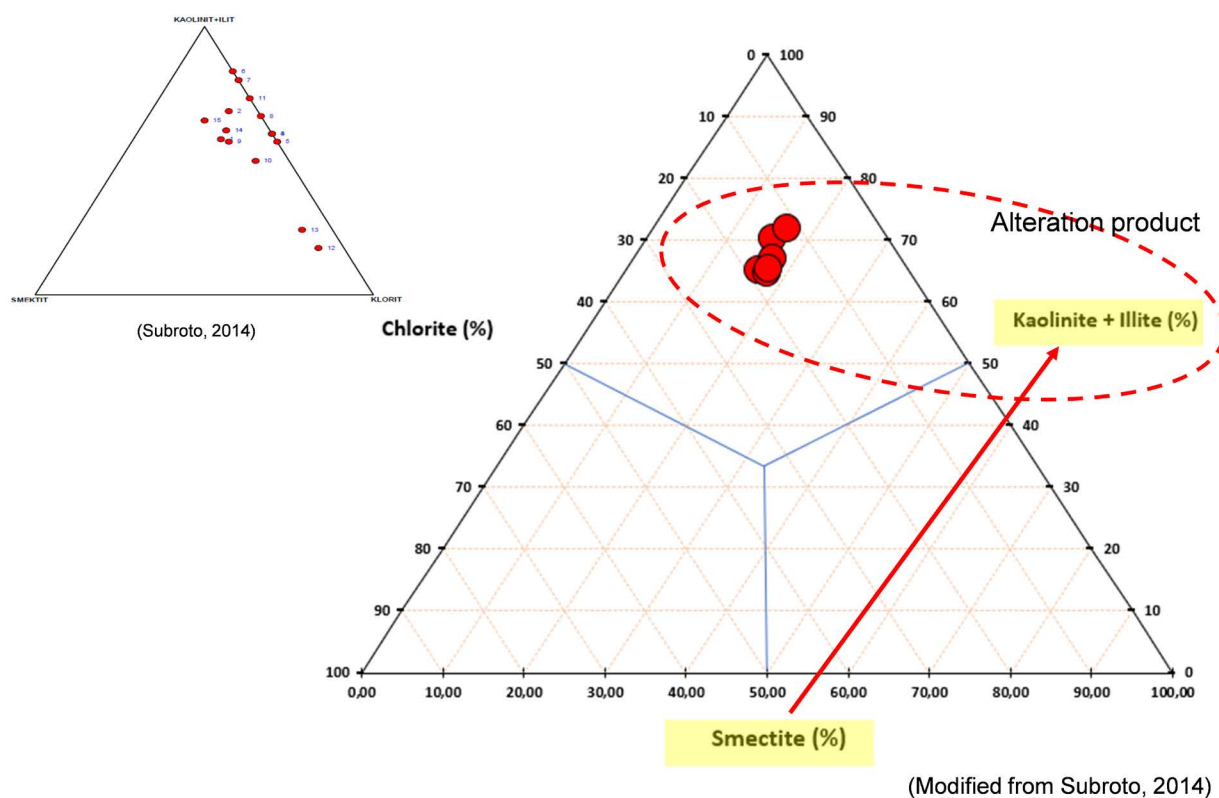
From the correlation of lithofacies with the results of XRD (Clay Oriented) analysis, MBT, TOC, Ro from drill cuttings, and total gas from the composite log data of well BS-03 is shown in **Figure 6**, which shows the dominance of kaolinite and illite clay minerals compared to the other clay minerals, with the following explanation:



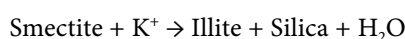
**Figure 6.** Correlation of lithofacies with the results of XRD (Clay Oriented) analysis, MBT, TOC, Ro from drill cuttings, and total gas from the composite log data.

The dominance of kaolinite and illite minerals as non-reactive minerals (hard

- brittle), where both minerals are products of clay diagenesis, the results can be seen in the ternary diagram (**Figure 7**), namely smectite due to the influence of high temperature and the presence of potassium ( $K^+$ ) minerals, which is supported by the sand-shale series environment changes to illite (kaolinite), silica, and  $H_2O$  with the following chemical reactions:



**Figure 7.** Ternary diagram of the results of XRD (Clay Oriented) analysis from drill cuttings of well BS-03 [29].



This reaction will produce water ( $H_2O$ ), causing an increase in pore pressure [15] [28].

## 6. Conclusions

1) Brittleness index based on XRD (bulk) analysis shows that the entire depth interval of the Brownshale formation (10,420 - 11,642 ft) is above 0.48 (brittle category), but based on the MBT analysis, not all depth intervals are brittle shale which correlates with the fracable zone interval.

2) At the depth interval of the sand-shale series, there is sillimanite mineral, which is a brittle mineral as a result of alteration from clay at high temperatures ( $600^\circ\text{C}$  -  $900^\circ\text{C}$ ), which supports the hydrocarbon generation process, and it is proven that at this depth interval  $R_o$  reaches a value of greater than 0.6%.

3) The presence of kaliophilite, which is a brittle mineral, as a potassium-bearing mineral in the sand-shale series, contributes to the clay diagenesis process, which

causes changes in the character of shale which was originally ductile because it is dominated by smectite mineral, along with hydrocarbon generation to become brittle shale which is dominated by kaolinite and illite minerals, and confirmed from the results of the MBT analysis which showed that the sand-shale series depth interval was generally low MBT (brittle shale category).

4) Sand-shale series interval is the most prospective Brownshale formation interval to produce hydrocarbon based on items 2, 3, and the total gas depth interval from the composite log data of well BS-03.

5) Kaolinite and illite minerals dominate at depth intervals in the sand-shale series environment which is rich in potassium (K<sup>+</sup>) mineral, as the product of clay diagenesis.

### Acknowledgements

The authors thank Malacca Strait EMP Group and CPP Block BOB PT. Bumi Siak Pusako-Pertamina Hulu for contributing data and permission for publication.

### Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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