Rise and Fall of Stromatolites in Shallow Marine Environments

Supplementary Online Information to
Geology doi:10.1130/G38931.1

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Supplementary Discussion

S1 Text mining application

The objective of the stromatolite text mining application is to create a list of stratigraphic names that are identified as stromatolite-bearing. A total of 10,683 documents from the GeoDeepDive library, parsed by the Stanford NLP tookit (Manning et al., 2014) into 7,087,939 sentences, constituted the input for the application run used to generate the results presented here. This set of documents was determined to be potentially relevant to this study because each of them contained at least one instance of the term 'stromatolite(s)' and/or 'stromatolitic'. The first part of the application consists of defining two, initially independent datasets: (*i*) mentions of stromatolite fossils and (*ii*) mentions of likely stratigraphic names.

For (*i*), simple word variants were included, such as 'stromatolite' (i.e., 'stromatolites', 'stromatolitic,' and 'microstromatolites') as well as compound words, such as 'thrombolite-stromatolite,' 'microbial-stromatolitic' and 'stromatolite-bearing.'

For (*ii*), the application relies upon the conventions used for expression of formally named stratigraphic entities in the literature. Namely, a stratigraphic name is a proper noun, or a series of proper nouns, that ends with a defined set of capitalized words (i.e., 'Group,' 'Formation,' 'Member,' 'Supergroup,' 'Bed,' 'Subgroup') or abbreviations (i.e., 'Gp,' 'Fm,' 'Mbr,' 'SGp'). Capitalized lithologies also are used to indicate a stratigraphic names (e.g., Nolichucky Shale, Virgin Limestone, Copper Harbor Conglomerate). Within a document, once a stratigraphic name is formally described (e.g., 'Guelph Formation'), the rules for recognizing this stratigraphic entity elsewhere in the document are relaxed. This step allows for more informal use of names, such as:

> The basal stromatolite beds are distinctive and traceable into the more typical

Guelph facies of Ontario.

assuming that the 'Guelph Formation' was used elsewhere in this same paper (Brett et al., 1995).

Defining the intersection of these two datasets uses three types of logic. The simplest extraction is based upon finding a mention of a stromatolite fossil in the same sentence as a single, unique stratigraphic name. For example, from Dehler et al. (2001):

> The Chuar Group contains numerous stromatolites, the acritarch, *Chuaria circularis*, and the vase-shaped microfossil *Melanocyrillium*, all of which are found in other Mid-Neoproterozoic deposits (Fig. 9).

For cases where a stratigraphic name is not collocated with a stromaolite mention, the 'in sentence' requirement is relaxed, and stratigraphic names are searched for in immediately preceding sentences. Consider this example from Johnson (1984):

> The **Cow Ridge Member** is a heterogeneous mixture of gray, clay-rich low-grade oil shale, brown carbonaceous shale with thin coal beds, and gray to tan siltstone, sandstone, and limestone. Siltstone and sandstone beds are commonly ripple-laminated, fairly persistent laterally, and commonly fossiliferous. The limestones contain abundant ostracods and mollusks and only rarely contain **stromatolite** structures.

These 'out of sentence' extractions were restricted to stromatolite-stratigraphic name tuples that are within 3 sentences of one another (emphasis added).

Both of these extraction types are quite simple, but they are powerful when applied to a large enough dataset. That is, these logical conditions are not sophisticated enough to capture all possible tuples, but when there are a large number of documents available, it

is likely that the occurrence of stromatolites in a given stratigraphic unit will be described at least once in these simple ways.

In order to make more complex extractions, we rely upon the part-of-speech component of Stanford's natural language processing (NLP) tools, which decomposes sentences and the words in them into both parts of speech and linguistic dependencies (Manning et al., 2014). These NLP products can help deconvolve the grammatical relationship between stromatolite fossils and named stratigraphic units within more complex sentences. For example (emphasis added):

> In the eastern Pilbara, the **Jeerinah Formation** is overlain by the shallow-water **stromatolitic** ∼2.63 Ga **Carawine Dolomite**.

In this sentence from Barley et al. (2005), multiple named stratigraphic entities occur in proximity to a mention of stromatolites within a single sentence. Linguistic context distinguishes the fact that the Carawine Dolomite is identified as having stromatolites, whereas the Jeerinah Formation is not.

The method the application uses to derive the correct inference from a sentence is shown in Fig. S1. The example sentence, as it appears in the original paper, is shown in Fig. S1a, while Fig. S1b shows how this sentence is represented in the GeoDeepDive library. Individual words from the sentence have been parsed into a text array (column 'words'), and the grammatical function that each word plays has been defined by NLP and stored in the column 'dep_paths'. In this case, 'stromatolitic' is an adjectival modifier, 'Carawine' is a part of a compound noun, and 'Dolomite' is a noun modified by a past participle verb. In the column 'dep_parents,' the parent of each of these words ('dependents') is described. Thus, 'stromatolitic' depends upon 'Dolomite,' as does 'Carawine' (note that the other parents in this text array have been expressed as the word number

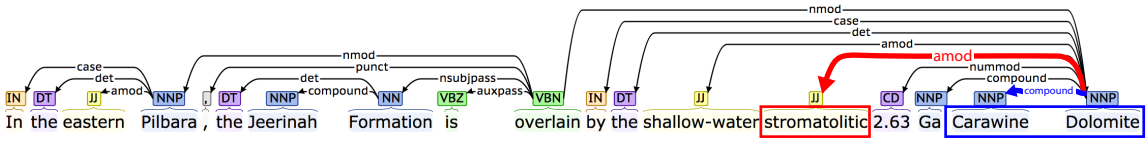
example sentence: **a**

In the eastern Pilbara, the Jeerinah Formation is overlain by the shallow-water stromatolitic ~2.63 Ga Carawine Dolomite [41].

sentence representation in GeoDeepDive database: **b**

docid	sentid	words	dep_paths	dep_parents
54e432ffe138237cc914fbfb	88	{In,the,eastern,Pilbara,",",the,Jeerinah,Formation,is,overlain,by,the,shallow-water,stromatolitic,~,2.63,Ga,Carawine,Dolomite,[,41,],.}	{case,det,amod,nmod:in,"",det,compound,nsubjpass,auxpass,"",case,det,amod,amod,compound,nummod,compound,compound,nmod:agent,"",nmod:tmod,"","",""}	{4,4,4,10,0,8,8,10,10,0,19,19,Dolomite,19,19,19,19,Dolomite,overlain,0,19,0,0}

Natural Language Processing visualization: **c**



extracted result: **d**

result_id	docid	sentid	target_word	strat_phrase_root	strat_flag	strat_name_id	in_ref	source
7266	54e432ffe138237cc914fbfb	88	stromatolitic	Carawine	Dolomite	88283	no	in_sent

Figure S1: An annotated example of a stromatolite-stratigraphic name tuple extraction that utilizes natural language processing (NLP).

index for simplicity).

Fig. S1c is a visualization of these parent-dependent relationships, created by the Stanford CoreNLP webservice API. This parsing shows a clear grammatical relationship between the compound noun 'Carawine Dolomite' and 'stromatolitic.' It is this parsing that allows this tuple to be recognized and written to the result table (Fig. S1d). It is, at this point a potential (but incorrect) tuple between 'stromatolitic' and 'Jeerinah Formation' to be ignored. Also, by querying the Macrostrat API with the discovered stratigraphic name:

`https://macrostrat.org/api/defs/strat_names?strat_name_like=Carawine`

the Macrostrat database strat_name_id for 'Carawine Dolomite' is also recorded in the

manual tuple assessment		
	N	**N (culled)**
correct	166	166
incorrect	21	15
uncertain	6	5
percent correct	**86% / 89%**	**89% / 91%**

Table S1: For each of the percent correct values, the left value assumes that all uncertain tuples are incorrect, and the right assumes that all uncertain tuples are correct. The 'culled' column removes incorrect or uncertain tuples that were found to be correct in other instances.

results table. Not every stratigraphic name is in the Macrostrat database, nor is every strat_name_id in Macrostrat linked to a lithostratigraphic rock unit:

`https://macrostrat.org/api/units?strat_name_id=88283`

Accuracy of these extractions, discussed in detail in the Methods section of the main text, was assessed to be at least 90% (Table S1). All documents from which at least one North American stromatolitic stratigraphic name with a linked strat_name_id was extracted (941 in total) are included in section S4, with hyperlinks to the original publication. A table of the extracted stratigraphic names, linked to the references where they were found, is included as a supplementary Excel spreadsheet.

The application used to operate on the GeoDeepDive library was written in Python and the results were written to a PostgreSQL database. The code, accompanied by an example dataset consisting of USGS publications, is available on GitHub at `https://github.com/UW-Macrostrat/stromatolites`.

S2 Paleobiology Database Genus Diversity

The complete list of PBDB collection numbers matched to Macrostrat units is available via the Macrostrat API (`https://macrostrat.org/api/v2/fossils?lith_type=carbonate&project_id=1,7`). This returns the PBDB collection number, the Macrostrat unit identifier to which that collection is assigned, and a list of distinct genus numbers from the PBDB (specific taxaonomic names and their classification are available via the PBDB API(Peters and McClennen, 2016), e.g., `https://paleobiodb.org/data1.2/taxa/list.txt?id=21387`). To estimate genus-level diversity in each one million year increment, the total number of unique genus numbers assigned to Macrostrat marine carbonate-bearing units was tabulated and then divided by the total number of Macrostrat carbonate-bearing units contributing to that estimate. The number of distinct genera in each time increment and the number of fossil-bearing units is reported in the supplemental data table and are reproducible using the Macrostrat API.

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Peters, S. E. and McClennen, M., 2016, The Paleobiology Database application programming interface: Paleobiology, vol. 42, pp. 1–7.

S3 Publishers and journals used in stromatolite extractions

Publisher Totals	
name	number references
Elsevier	334
USGS	144
GSA	134
SEPM	119
Wiley	105
Canadian Science Publishing	105

Journal Totals	
name	number references
Precambrian Research	108
Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences	105
SEPM Journal of Sedimentary Research	65
Geol Soc America Bull	54
Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology	51
Sedimentary Geology	49
Open-File Report	48
Sedimentology	47
Professional Paper	43
Bulletin	43
Geological Society of America Bulletin	38
Geol	34
Journal of Sedimentary Research	28
PALAIOS	26
Earth-Science Reviews	19
Geobiology	16
Lethaia	12
Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta	12
Organic Geochemistry	9
Chemical Geology	9
Marine and Petroleum Geology	8
Earth and Planetary Science Letters	8
Tectonophysics	6
Journal of African Earth Sciences	6

Geological Journal	6
Circular	6
Gondwana Research	5
Ore Geology Reviews	4
Geosphere	4
Geobios	4
Lithos	3
Journal of South American Earth Sciences	3
Journal of Geophysical Research	3
Journal of Geochemical Exploration	3
Geology Today	3
Geology	3
Terra Nova	2
Russian Geology and Geophysics	2
Proceedings of the Geologists' Association	2
Marine Geology	2
Journal of Geodynamics	2
Journal of Asian Earth Sciences	2
Global and Planetary Change	2
Geofluids	2
Cretaceous Research	2
Basin Research	2
Trends in Ecology & Evolution	1
The Island Arc	1
Scientific Investigations Report	1
Physics of the Earth and Planetary Interiors	1
Physics and Chemistry of the Earth	1
Palaeoworld	1
Palaeontology	1
Miscellaneous Field Studies Map	1
Journal of Structural Geology	1
Journal of Research of the U.S. Geological Survey	1
Journal of Petroleum Geology	1
Journal of Metamorphic Geology	1
Journal of Hydrology	1
Journal of Geophysical Research: Solid Earth	1

Journal of Geophysical Research: Planets	1
Journal of Applied Geophysics	1
Gsa Today	1
Geophysical Prospecting	1
Geologic Quadrangle	1
Geochemistry, Geophysics, Geosystems	1
Deep Sea Research Part II: Topical Studies in Oceanography	1
Comptes Rendus de l'Académie des Sciences - Series IIA - Earth and Planetary Science	1
Comptes Rendus Palevol	1
Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society	1
Boreas	1
Biological Reviews	1
Applied Geochemistry	1
Annales de Paléontologie	1
Advances in Space Research	1
Acta Geologica Sinica - English Edition	1

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