## Contents

I	Review of Current Concepts	1
1	Introduction	3
1.1	Sequence Stratigraphy: A New Paradigm?	3
1.2	From Sloss to Vail	3
1.3	Problems and Research Trends: The Current Status	9
1.4	Stratigraphic Terminology	11
2	Methods for Studying Sequence Stratigraphy	15
2.1	Introduction	15
2.2	Erecting a Sequence Framework	15
2.2.1	The Importance of Unconformities	15
2.2.2	Facies Cycles	21
2.2.3	Stratigraphic Architecture: The Seismic Method	22
2.3	Methods for Assessing Regional and Global Changes in Sea Level,	
	Other Than Seismic Stratigraphy	30
2.3.1	Areas and Volumes of Stratigraphic Units	30
2.3.2	Hypsometric Curves	31
2.3.3	Backstripping	33
2.3.4	Sea-Level Estimation from Paleoshorelines and Other Fixed Points	40
2.3.5	Documentation of Meter-Scale Cycles	43
2.4	Integrated Tectonic-Stratigraphic Analysis	48
3	The Four Basic Types of Stratigraphic Cycle	49
3.1	Introduction	49
3.2	The Supercontinent Cycle	51
3.3	Cycles with Episodicities of Tens of Millions of Years	52
3.4	Cycles with Million-Year Episodicities	53
3.5	Cycles with Episodicities of Less Than One Million Years	56
4	The Basic Sequence Model	57
4.1	Introduction	57
4.2	Terminology	57
4.3	Depositional Systems and Systems Tracts	59
4.4	Sequence Boundaries	65
4.5	Other Sequence Concepts	67
5	The Global Cycle Chart	71

XII Contents

II	The Stratigraphic Framework	77
6	Cycles with Episodicities of Tens to Hundreds of Millions of Years	79
6.1 6.2 6.2.1 6.2.2 6.3 6.3.1 6.3.2	Climate, Sedimentation, and Biogenesis	79 81 81 83 85 85
6.4	Main Conclusions	98
7	Cycles with Million-Year Episodicities	99
7.1 7.2 7.3 7.4 7.5 7.6 7.7 7.8 7.9 <b>8</b>	Extensional and Rifted Clastic Continental Margins  Foreland Basin of the North American Western Interior  Other Foreland Basins  Forearc Basins  Backarc Basins  Cyclothems and Mesothems  Carbonate Cycles of Platforms and Craton Margins  Evidence of Cyclicity in the Deep Oceans  Main Conclusions  Cycles with Episodicities of Less Than One Million Years  Introduction	99 101 108 115 120 125 128 137 138
8.2	Neogene Clastic Cycles of Continental Margins	139
8.3 8.4 8.5 8.6 8.7	Pre-Neogene Marine Carbonate and Clastic Cycles  Late Paleozoic Cyclothems  Lacustrine Clastic and Chemical Rhythms  Clastic Cycles of Foreland Basins  Main Conclusions	149 157 161 167 180
III	Mechanisms	183
9	Long-Term Eustasy and Epeirogeny	185
9.1 9.2 9.3 9.3.1 9.3.2 9.4	Mantle Processes and Dynamic Topography Supercontinent Cycles Cycles with Episodicities of Tens of Millions of Years Eustasy Dynamic Topography and Epeirogeny Main Conclusions	185 185 191 191 198 199
10	Milankovitch Processes	201
10.1 10.2 10.2.1 10.2.2 10.2.3 10.2.4	Introduction The Nature of Milankovitch Processes Components of Orbital Forcing Basic Climatology Variations with Time in Orbital Periodicities Isostasy and Geoid Changes	201 202 202 202 205 206

XIII

10.2.5 10.2.6 10.2.7 10.2.8 10.3 10.4 10.5 10.6	The Nature of the Cyclostratigraphic Data Base The Sensitivity of the Earth to Glaciation Glacioeustasy in the Mesozoic? Nonglacial Milankovitch Cyclicity The Cenozoic Record Late Paleozoic Cyclothems The End-Ordovician Glaciation Main Conclusions.	206 208 210 211 214 216 222 222
11	Tectonic Mechanisms	225
11.1 11.2 11.2.1 11.2.2 11.3 11.3.1 11.3.2 11.3.2.1 11.3.2.3 11.3.3 11.3.4 11.4 11.4.1 11.4.2 11.4.3 11.5 11.6 11.7 11.8 11.9	Introduction	225 228 233 238 239 243 250 251 252 254 255 256 269 263 269 269
IV	Chronostratigraphy and Correlation: Why the Global Cycle Chart Should Be Abandoned	271
12	Time in Sequence Stratigraphy	273
12.1 12.2 12.3	Introduction	273 273 279
13	Correlation, and the Potential for Error	281
13.1 13.2 13.3	Introduction	281 282
13.3.1 13.3.2 13.3.3 13.3.3.1 13.3.3.2	Potential Sources of Uncertainty	284 286 286 288 288 289

XIV Contents

13.3.4	The Value of Quantitative Biostratigraphic Methods	291
13.3.5	Assessment of Relative Biostratigraphic Precision	293
13.3.6	Correlation of Biozones with the Global Stage Framework	295
13.3.7	Assignment of Absolute Ages	296
13.3.8	Implications for the Exxon Global Cycle Chart	298
13.4	Correlating Regional Sequence Frameworks with the Global Cycle Chart.	300
13.4.1	Circular Reasoning from Regional Data	300 302
13.4.2	A Rigorous Test of the Global Cycle Chart	304
13.4.3	A Correlation Experiment	306
13.4.4	Main Conclusions	306
13.5	Main Conclusions	300
14	Sea-Level Curves Compared	309
14.1	Introduction	309
14.2	The Exxon Curves: Revisions, Errors, and Uncertainties	309
14.3	Other Sea-Level Curves	311
14.3.1	Cretaceous Sea-Level Curves	313
14.3.2	Jurassic Sea-Level Curves	316
14.3.3	Why Does the Exxon Global Cycle Chart Contain So Many More Events	
	Than Other Sea-Level Curves?	320
14.4	Main Conclusions	320
V	Approaches to a Modern Sequence-Stratigraphic Framework	323
15	Elaboration of the Basic Sequence Model	325
15.1	Introduction	325
15.2	Definitions	325
15.2.1	The Hierarchy of Units and Bounding Surfaces	325
15.2.2	Systems Tracts and Sequence Boundaries	331
15.3	The Sequence Stratigraphy of Clastic Depositional Systems	337
15.3.1	Fluvial Deposits and Their Relationship to Sea-Level Change	337
15.3.2	The Concept of the Bayline	341
15.3.3	Deltas, Beach-Barrier Systems, and Estuaries	343
15.3.4	Shelf Systems: Sand Shoals and Condensed Sections	350
15.3.5	Slope and Rise Systems	355
15.4	The Sequence Stratigraphy of Carbonate Depositional Systems	357
15.4.1 15.4.2	Platform Carbonates: Catch-Up Versus Keep-Up	357
15.4.3	Carbonate Slopes	360
15.5		361 361
13.3	Main Conclusions	
	Main Conclusions	301
16	Numerical and Graphical Modeling of Sequences	365
16.1	Numerical and Graphical Modeling of Sequences	
16.1 16.2	Numerical and Graphical Modeling of Sequences  Introduction  Model Design	365
16.1	Numerical and Graphical Modeling of Sequences	365 365

XV

VI	Discussion and Conclusions	373
17	Implications for Petroleum Geology	375
17.1	Introduction	375
17.2	Integrated Tectonic-Stratigraphic Analysis	375
17.2.1	The Basis of the Methodology	375
17.2.2	The Development of an Allostratigraphic Framework	375
17.2.3	Choice of Sequence-Stratigraphic Models	376
17.2.4	The Search for Mechanisms	377
17.2.5	Reservoir Characterization	377
17.3	Controversies in Practical Sequence Analysis	378
17.3.1	The Case of the Tocito Sandstone, New Mexico	378
17.3.2	The Case of Gippsland Basin, Australia	378
17.3.3	Conclusions: A Modified Approach to Sequence Analysis	
	for Practicing Petroleum Geologists and Geophysicists	382
17.4	Main Conclusions	384
18	Conclusions and Recommendations	385
18.1	Sequences in the Stratigraphic Record	385
18.1.1	Long-Term Stratigraphic Cycles	385
18.1.2	Cycles with Million-Year Episodicities	385
18.1.3	Cycles with Episodicities of Less Than One Million Years	386
18.2	Mechanisms	386
18.2.1	Long-Term Eustasy and Epeirogeny	386
18.2.2	Milankovitch Processes	387
18.2.3	Tectonic Mechanisms	387
18.3	Chronostratigraphy and Correlation	389
18.3.1	Concepts of Time	389
18.3.2	Correlation Problems, and the Basis of the Global Cycle Chart	389
18.3.3	Comparison of Sea-Level Curves	390
18.4	Modern Sequence Analysis	390
18.4.1	Elaboration of the Basic Sequence Model	390
18.4.2	Numerical and Graphical Modeling of Stratigraphic Sequences	391
18.5	Implications for Petroleum Geology	392
18.6	The Global-Eustasy Paradigm: Working Backwards from the Answer?	392
18.6.1	The Exxon Factor	392
18.6.2	Conclusions	395
18.7	Recommendations	395
Referen	ces	397
ACICI CII		57,
Author	Index	423
Subject	Index	429