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Article / Статья  
© PNRPU / ПНИПУ, 2023**Use of Probabilistic and Statistical Methods for the Analysis of Deep Deposits of the Upper Pechora Deep****Elena A. Kuznetsova<sup>1</sup>, Vladislav I. Galkin<sup>2</sup>**<sup>1</sup>Perm State National Research University (15 Bukireva st., Perm, 614068, Russian Federation)<sup>2</sup>Perm National Research Polytechnic University (29 Komsomolskiy av., Perm, 614990, Russian Federation)**Использование вероятностно-статистических методов для анализа глубокопогруженных отложений Верхнепечорской впадины****Е.А. Кузнецова<sup>1</sup>, В.И. Галкин<sup>2</sup>**<sup>1</sup>Пермский государственный национальный исследовательский университет (Россия, 614068, г. Пермь, ул. Букирева, 15)<sup>2</sup>Пермский национальный исследовательский политехнический университет (Россия, 614990, г. Пермь, Комсомольский проспект, 29)

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Upper Pechora depression, deep sediments, probabilistic-statistical methods, oil, gas, concentration, organic carbon, tectonic characteristics, subsidence rate, occurrence depth, sapropelic organic matter, mixed organic matter, humic organic matter, statistical differences.

The Upper Pechora depression is one of the northern depressions of the Cis-Ural foredeep. The structure of the upper horizons of the sedimentary cover is well studied, but deep deposits remain uneven and insufficiently studied. Therefore, it is of interest to model the formation of oil and gas potential at great depths using various methods. In this article, this problem was solved by using probabilistic-statistical methods. The concentrations of organic carbon ( $C_{org}$ ), the rate of subsidence, and the depth of the layers were used for the analysis. As a result, fundamental differences were established in the tectonic conditions for the formation of the  $C_{org}$  concentration for the studied types of organic matter. Comparison of the average  $C_{org}$  values showed the presence of statistical differences between the types of organic matter in the deep sediments of the Upper Pechora depression. Correlation analysis determined that both positive and negative relationships with varying degrees of closeness were observed between the studied indicators. With the help of linear discriminant analysis, it was determined that sapropelic and humic organic substances were separated quite clearly, and mixed organic matter practically did not stand out according to the given characteristics. The performed stepwise regression analysis for each of the considered parameters, carried out for these types of organic matter separately, confirmed the cardinal difference in the processes of accumulation of organic matter of the sapropelic and humus types. Thus, the performed statistical analysis showed the regulatory role of tectonic factors in the formation of organic matter concentrations.

**Ключевые слова:**

Верхнепечорская впадина, глубокопогруженные отложения, вероятностно-статистические методы, нефть, газ, концентрация, органический углерод, тектонические характеристики, скорость погружения, глубина залегания, сапропелевое органическое вещество, смешанное органическое вещество, гумусовое органическое вещество, статистические различия.

Верхнепечорская впадина – одна из северных впадин Пьелдупальского краевого прогиба. Строение верхних горизонтов осадочного чехла хорошо изучено, но глубокопогруженные отложения остаются неравномерно и недостаточно исследованными. Поэтому представляет интерес моделирование формирования нефтегазоносности больших глубин с помощью различных методов. В данной статье эта задача решена путем применения вероятностно-статистических методов. Для анализа использованы концентрации органического углерода ( $C_{org}$ ), скорости погружения и глубины залегания слоев. В результате установлены принципиальные различия в тектонических условиях формирования концентрации  $C_{org}$  для изучаемых типов органического вещества. Сравнение средних значений  $C_{org}$  показало наличие статистических различий между типами органических веществ в глубокопогруженных отложениях Верхнепечорской впадины. Корреляционный анализ определил, что между изучаемыми показателями наблюдаются как положительные, так и отрицательные связи с различной степенью тесноты. С помощью линейного дискриминантного анализа определено, что сапропелевое и гумусовое органические вещества разделены достаточно четко, а смешанное – по заданным характеристикам практически не выделяется. Выполненный пошаговый регрессионный анализ по каждому из рассматриваемых параметров, проведенный для этих типов органических веществ по отдельности, подтвердил кардинальное различие в процессах накопления органических веществ сапропелевого и гумусового типов. Таким образом, выполненный статистический анализ показал регулируемую роль тектонических факторов в процессах формирования концентраций органических веществ.

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## Introduction

The Upper Pechora Depression is one of the northern depressions of the Cis-Ural foredeep, a sedimentary basin of tectonic nature between the Ural fold and the adjacent Timan-Pechora plate. The structure of the upper horizons of the sedimentary cover has been well studied – hydrocarbon fields have been developed since the 1960s, but deep sediments (deeper than 4 km, older than the Early-Middle Visean age) remain under-researched. Currently, 46 deep wells have been drilled within the Upper Pechora Depression, most of them are confined to the Vuktyl tectonic plate in the east of the territory. Therefore, it is of interest to model the formation of oil and gas content at great depths using various modelling techniques.

## Research Technique

Tectonic characteristics such as subsidence and sedimentation rates largely determine oil and gas formation processes. Sustained and intense subsidence over a large area is not only necessary for sedimentary basin formation, but also an important criterion for zones of highest hydrocarbon concentration.

A.I. Dyakonov (2009) showed that oil generation and oil fields formation in the conditions of the main zone of oil formation at sapropel and mixed types of organic matter (OM) are connected with the zones of increased rates of deflection – more than 40–50 m/million years. Gas generation with gas fields formation dominates when the corresponding thermobaric conditions are reached for the humus and mixed types of organic matter accumulated at much lower subsidence rates – 20–40 m/million years. These features are conditioned by the degree of medium recovery, relative content of biomass, OM, bitumoids, conditions of their preservation, and geochemical facies in the sediment [1, 2].

As a result of 1D-basin modelling using the Petromod and Genex software packages of wells that penetrated the deep lying sediments, the subsidence rates of the Upper Pechora Basin section strata were calculated. The methodology of basin modelling is considered in many works [3–18], it is always carried out on the basis of an extensive database of geological, geophysical and geochemical studies [18–20]. Examples of change graph of subsidence rates by wells of different parts of the Upper Pechora Basin are shown in Fig. 1.

According to A.I. Dyakonov (2009), the concentration of OM in sediments increases with increasing of fossilization rates, and then, reaching a certain optimum, decreases again, due to the regulating role of sedimentation rate in the balance of organic and mineral components of sediments [1].

The patterns of change in OM concentrations depending on subsidence rates have not been described in detail.

Therefore, probabilistic-statistical methods were applied to analyse the dependence of organic carbon concentrations ( $C_{org}$ ) and the tectonic characteristics chosen by the authors of this paper – subsidence rates ( $V_s$ ) and layers depth ( $H_s$ ). The methods of

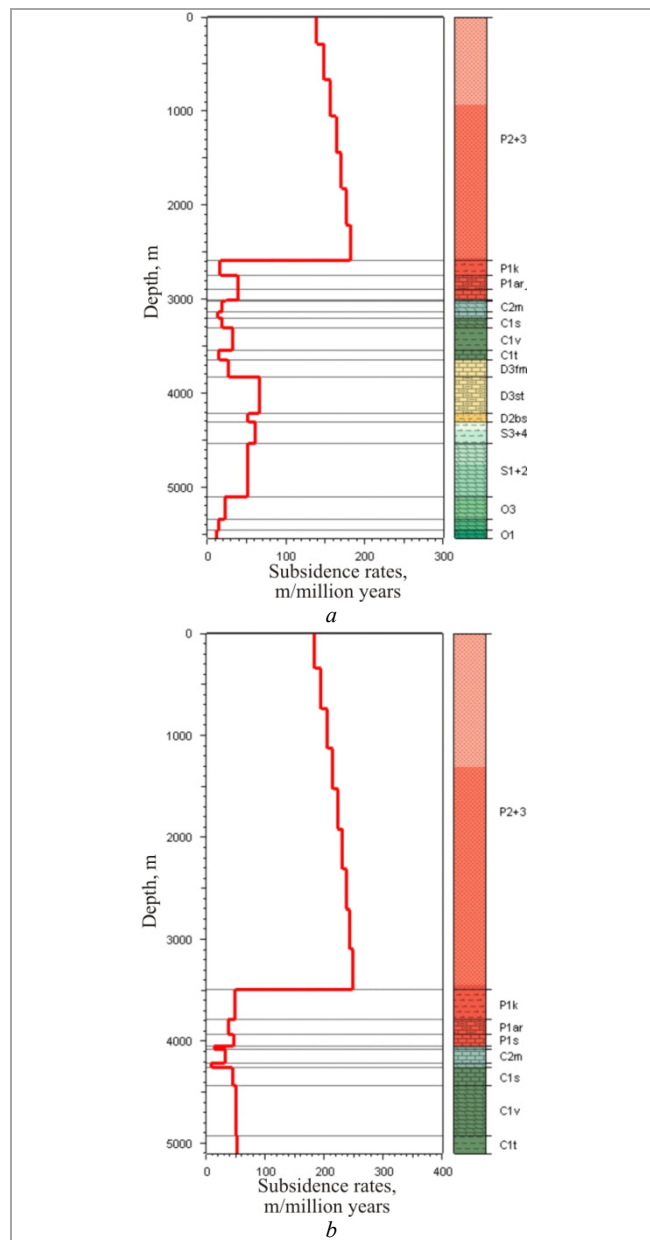


Fig. 1. Sedimentation rate according to 1D modeling data from wells of the Upper Pechora Depression:  
 a – W. Vuktylskaya-1; b – E. Vuktylskaya-1

mathematical statistics and probability theory were used to construct statistical models, which received full coverage in numerous Russian and foreign papers [21–48].

## Results and Discussions

The initial data were the results of 1D-modelling of 10 wells in the Upper Pechora Depression, with pyrolytic studies of deep sediments conducted by the Timan-Pechora Research Centre.

The first statistical tool is to test the hypothesis of differences or lack thereof between the mean values of the considered characteristics of OM concentrations and the selected tectonic characteristics using the Student's  $t$ -criterion.

Statistical calculation data of mean values ( $t$ -criterion and achieved significance level  $p$ ) of organic carbon concentration ( $C_{org}$ ), subsidence rates ( $V_s$ ) and

Table 1

Comparison of mean  $C_{org}$ ,  $V_s$  and  $H_s$  values

Indicators, UoM.	Mean values $\left( \frac{x \pm \sigma}{\text{min} - \text{max}} \right)$			Criteria $\frac{t}{p}$
	OM type, number of observations			
	sapropel, 27	mixed, 40	humus, 93	
$C_{org}$ , %	$\frac{0.248 \pm 0.291}{0.101-1.19}$	$\frac{0.472 \pm 0.518}{0.031-2.24}$		$\frac{-2.043974}{0.045012}$
	$\frac{0.248 \pm 0.291}{0.101-1.19}$		$\frac{1.047 \pm 1.3}{0-5.97}$	$\frac{-3.159772}{0.002006}$
		$\frac{0.472 \pm 0.518}{0.031-2.24}$	$\frac{1.047 \pm 1.3}{0-5.97}$	$\frac{2.696356}{0.007931}$
$V_s$ , m/mln yr	$\frac{53.19 \pm 18.96}{12.0-72.0}$	$\frac{50.93 \pm 40.53}{9.0-170.0}$		$\frac{0.270019}{0.788001}$
	$\frac{53.19 \pm 18.96}{12.0-72}$		$\frac{61.96 \pm 42.28}{15.0-175.0}$	$\frac{-1.045539}{0.297911}$
		$\frac{50.93 \pm 40.53}{9.0-170.0}$	$\frac{61.96 \pm 42.28}{15.0-175.0}$	$\frac{1.396911}{0.164802}$
$H_s$ , m	$\frac{5160.43 \pm 779.37}{4385.5-6987.5}$	$\frac{4751.96 \pm 956.47}{3047.0-6040.0}$		$\frac{1.842893}{0.069905}$
	$\frac{5160.43 \pm 779.37}{4385.5-6987.5}$		$\frac{4625.69 \pm 674.72}{2946.5-5800.0}$	$\frac{3.498782}{0.000660}$
		$\frac{4751.96 \pm 956.47}{3047.0-6040.0}$	$\frac{4625.69 \pm 674.72}{2946.5-5800.0}$	$\frac{-0.867879}{0.387048}$

Table 2

Correlation matrix

Example	$C_{org}$	$H_s$	$V_s$	$C_{org}$	$H_s$	$V_s$	$C_{org}$	$H_s$	$V_s$
	Sapropel OM			Mixed OM			Humus OM		
$C_{org}$	1.00	-0.44*	0.40*	1.00	-0.31*	-0.10	1.00	-0.12	-0.25*
$H_s$		1.00	-0.26*		1.00	-0.03		1.00	0.26*
$V_s$			1.00			1.00			1.00

Note: \* – statistically significant correlations.

depth of occurrence ( $H_s$ ) for the studied sediments are given in Table 1.

Comparison of mean values showed that there are statistical differences in the mean values of  $C_{org}$  between all types of OM, mean values of  $V_s$  are not statistically different, mean values of  $H_s$  are statistically different between sapropel and humus OM.

To understand the process of  $C_{org}$  concentration formation depending on  $V_s$  and  $H_s$ , correlation fields between the studied values were constructed and analysed. The analysis showed that correlations and strength of correlations within the considered OM types differ significantly, which is clearly seen from the data given in Table 2.

The analysis of  $r$  values shows that both positive and negative correlation with different degrees of strength are observed between  $C_{org}$ ,  $V_s$  and  $H_s$ , as well as between the indicators themselves. Furthermore, subfields are observed within the correlation fields for all types of OM.

Linear discriminant analysis (LDA) was used to establish the following linear discriminant functions:

$$Z_1 = -0.767004 C_{org} - 0.01266 V_s + 0.00062 H_s - 1.62656$$

at  $R = 0.393$ ,  $\chi^2 = 28.63$ ,  $p = 0.000072$ ;

$$Z_2 = 0.42529 C_{org} + 0.01121 V_s + 0.00110 H_s - 6.19442$$

at  $R = 0.126$ ,  $\chi^2 = 2.5$ ,  $p = 0.285886$ .

The linear discriminant function  $Z_1$  is statistically significant, while  $Z_2$  is not. The values of  $Z_1$  and  $Z_2$  were calculated using these functions. The correlation of  $Z_1$  and  $Z_2$  values depending on the types of OM is shown in Fig. 2.

It is obvious that according to the  $Z_1$  and  $Z_2$  values the studied sample to a certain extent (64 %) is divided into the considered types of OM, as sapropel and humus OM are divided rather strongly, and mixed OM is practically not distinguished according to the given characteristics.

Then, using stepwise regression analysis, the influence of  $V_s$  and  $H_s$  values on  $C_{org}$  was assessed differently depending on the type of OM. Construction of multidimensional models, which allowed estimating the influence of  $V_s$  and  $H_s$  values on  $C_{org}$ , was made according to the following scheme: the first regression equation is built according to three minimum  $C_{org}$  values ( $n = 3$ ), the next model at  $n = 4$ , and so on up to  $n = 27$ . The models calculated in this way for sapropel OM are given in Table 3.

Table 3

Models for analysing the formation of  $C_{org}$  values from  $V_s$  and  $H_s$

Model construction interval on $C_{org}$ , %	Absolute term	Coefficients		$R$	Significance level $p$
		at $H_s$	at $V_s$		
0.0101–0.019	-0.055	-0.000105	0.000012	1.000	
0.0101–0.045	0.105	0.000074	-0.000015	0.449	<0.89330
0.0101–0.046	0.123	-0.000050	-0.000016	0.566	<0.67959
0.0101–0.054	-0.046	-0.000509	0.000016	0.362	<0.80953
0.0101–0.056	0.070	0.000134	-0.000007	0.332	<0.79112
0.0101–0.065	0.051	0.000208	-0.000004	0.249	<0.85248
0.0101–0.087	0.084	0.000392	-0.000010	0.535	<0.36318
0.0101–0.104	0.122	0.000021	-0.000013	0.364	<0.60769
0.0101–0.104	0.146	0.000053	-0.000017	0.427	<0.44689
0.0101–0.112	0.122	0.000257	-0.000013	0.343	<0.56870
0.0101–0.113	0.145	0.000322	-0.000017	0.451	<0.32161
0.0101–0.125	0.166	0.000327	-0.000020	0.480	<0.23664
0.0101–0.164	0.206	-0.000011	-0.000024	0.423	<0.30660
0.0101–0.166	0.238	0.000104	-0.000030	0.505	<0.14753
0.0101–0.196	0.258	0.000362	-0.000035	0.555	<0.07600
0.0101–0.205	0.289	0.000444	-0.000041	0.606	<0.03252
0.0101–0.241	0.315	0.000451	-0.000044	0.572	<0.04223
0.0101–0.263	0.226	0.000900	-0.000030	0.432	<0.17282
0.0101–0.394	0.310	0.000866	-0.000043	0.425	<0.16710
0.0101–0.410	0.378	0.001102	-0.000056	0.474	<0.08939
0.0101–0.414	0.433	0.001303	-0.000067	0.509	<0.04997
0.0101–0.549	0.530	0.001202	-0.000081	0.494	<0.05323
0.0101–0.554	0.562	0.001847	-0.000092	0.531	<0.02611
0.0101–0.994	0.644	0.003161	-0.000115	0.532	<0.02198
0.0101–1.190	0.698	0.004666	-0.000135	0.530	<0.01910

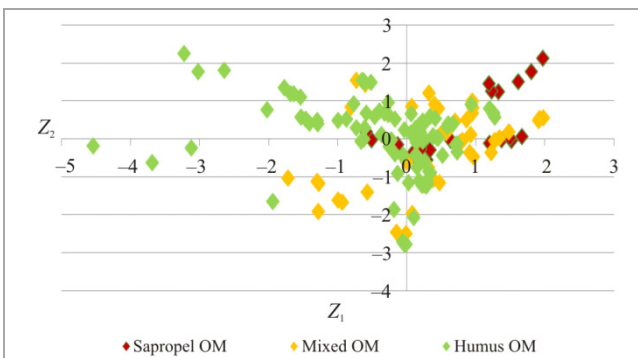


Fig. 2. Ratio between  $Z_1$  and  $Z_2$  for the selected classes of OM

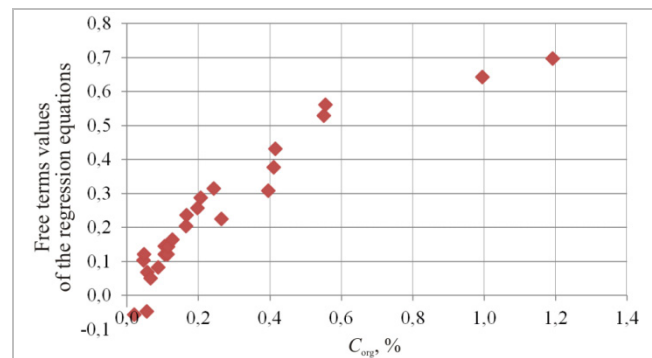


Fig. 3. Variation of free terms values of regression equations depending on  $C_{org}$

Thus, 25 regression equations were constructed for sapropel OM. The free terms values of the regression equations of the studied sequence vary from -0.055 to 0.698, with the mean value of 0.245. The change in the free terms values of the regression equations depending on the  $C_{org}$  values is shown in Fig. 3.

It is seen that with increasing  $C_{org}$  values the free terms values of the regression equations increase along a rather complex trajectory, within which two areas can be distinguished. The first one is at  $C_{org} < 0.4$  %. Here we observe an increase in the free terms values of the regression equations. At  $C_{org} > 0.4$  %, the free terms values of the regression equations change insignificantly.

Variation of coefficients at  $H_s$  depending on  $C_{org}$  values is shown in Fig. 4. a. The  $H_s$  value was used in the construction of all 25 models. The values of coefficients at  $H_s$  varied from -0.0009 to 0.00002 along a rather complex trajectory, within which three areas can be distinguished. The first area at  $C_{org} < 0.4$  % – here

we observe a decrease in the values of coefficients at  $H_s$  in the regression equations. At  $C_{org} > 0.4$  % the values of coefficients at  $H_s$  change insignificantly.

The dependence analysis of the coefficients at  $V_s$  on  $C_{org}$  values (Fig. 4. b) shows that when  $C_{org}$  values increase, the values of the coefficients at  $V_s$  change along the trajectory within which two areas can be distinguished. The boundary of these areas can be drawn by the  $C_{org}$  value = 0.2 %. At  $C_{org} < 0.2$  %, there is a slight variation of the parameter values in the interval -0.0005-0.0004, and then at  $C_{org} > 0.2$  % – a constant increase up to 0.0047.

The values variation of the multiple correlation coefficients  $R$  as a function of  $C_{org}$  values is shown in Fig. 5.

The graph shows that within its limits there are three areas where the changes of  $R$  depend on  $C_{org}$  have their own types. On the first area at  $C_{org} < 0.2$  % there are chaotic changes of  $R$  values from 0.249 to 1.0. At  $C_{org}$  values  $> 0.2$  %,  $R$  values are in the range of 0.425–0.572.



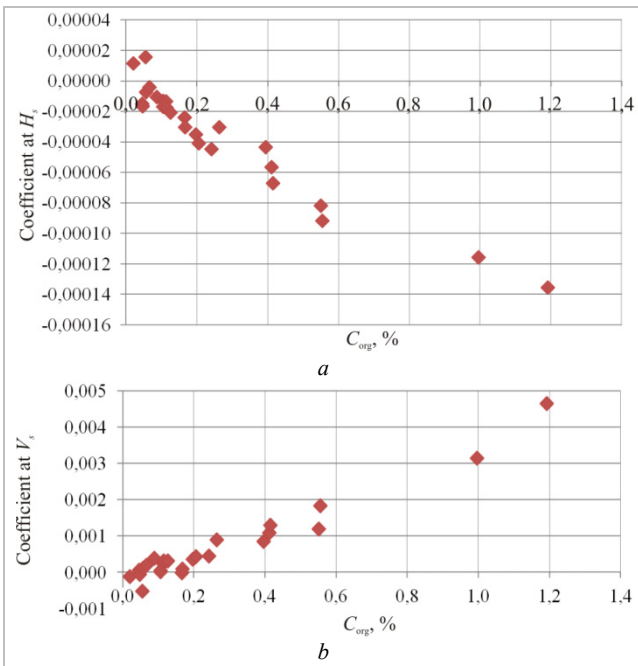


Fig. 4. Variation of coefficient values: a – at  $H_s$  depending on  $C_{org}$ ; b – at  $V_s$  depending on  $C_{org}$

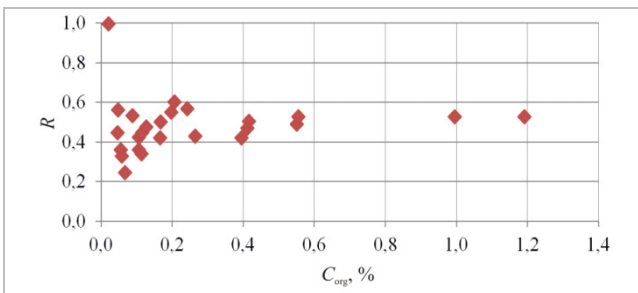


Fig. 5. Variation of multiple correlation coefficients  $R$  depending on  $C_{org}$

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The performed analysis shows that  $H_s$  and  $V_s$  values affect differently the formation of  $C_{org}$  values. At the same time, this analysis at the statistical level determined that the values formation is controlled to a greater extent by the  $H_s$  value. It was also found that for this type of OM the  $C_{org}$  values are not controlled by the age of the studied rocks.

A similar complex analysis was performed for mixed and humus OM. 38 regression equations describing the dependence of  $H_s$ ,  $V_s$  and  $C_{org}$  were constructed for mixed OM, for the humus – 91.

The joint analysis of the free terms changes of the regression equations for all types of OM determined that they are quite similar for sapropel and mixed OM and differ significantly for humus OM. The change analysis of coefficients values in the regression equations at  $H_s$  depending on  $C_{org}$  shows that they change differentially for the studied OM types.

The change analysis in the values of coefficients at  $V_s$  showed that they have opposite signs for sapropel and humus OM. For mixed OM, the coefficients at  $V_s$  are located between them and are characterised by a much smaller range of values.

The change analysis in the values of the multiple correlation coefficients  $R$  depending on the  $C_{org}$  values for different types of OM has revealed that with increasing  $C_{org}$  values the range of  $R$  changes significantly decreases for all types of OM, which is clearly seen from the data shown in Fig. 5 for sapropel type of OM.

Conclusion

The performed probabilistic-statistical analysis of  $C_{org}$  concentration formation for different types of OM showed that this process is mainly determined by tectonic conditions, which can be used to assess the petroleum source rock characteristics of the studied deep sediments of the Upper Pechora Depression.

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