

Triangular diagram & histogram spreadsheet (TRI-PLOT2)

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modified by Daniel Nývlt (Masaryk University, Brno, Czechia)

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Introduction

This spreadsheet plots triangular (ternary) diagrams for the representation of particle shape following the method recommended by Benn and Ballantyne (1993) and first proposed by Sneed and Folk (1958). Ordinary ternary diagram plotting software is unable to plot these diagrams as the parameters on the three axes do not sum to 1. The spreadsheet also plots standard histograms for the representation of particle roundness recommended by Benn and Ballantyne (1994). The original TRI-PLOT spreadsheet has been developed by Graham and Midgley (2000), it modified version has been developed for Nývlt and Hoare (2011) presentation.

Instructions

[Click here to generate a particle
SHAPE
triangular diagram](#)

[Click here to generate a particle
ROUNDNESS
histogram](#)

The workbook contains five sheets:

- This sheet contains instructions and information about TRI-PLOT2.
 - The second and third sheets are for the generation of particle SHAPE (Sneed and Folk) triangular diagrams. The second sheet (SHAPE - Data & results) enables data entry and presents the results as a triangular diagram. The fourth sheet (SHAPE - Calcs.) works behind the scenes doing the calculations.
 - The third sheet (ROUNDNESS - Data & results) is for the generation of standard histograms to represent particle ROUNDNESS.
- Only the curious or those who wish to modify the spreadsheet will need to look at the calculations sheet.

To generate SHAPE (Sneed and Folk) triangular diagrams

This part of the spreadsheet generates ternary diagrams for the representation of particle shape as recommended by Benn and Ballantyne (1993) and first proposed by Sneed and Folk (1958). The inputs required are the a-, b- and c-axis lengths of the particles. The "SHAPE - Data & results" sheet can be accessed using the button above or the tab at the bottom of the screen. The sheet contains three areas: the data entry area, the plotting parameters area and the triangular diagram itself.

Data entry area

Type the a-axis, b-axis and c-axis dimensions of each clast into the table. The units of measurement are not important, as long as they are consistent. Error messages are displayed in blue. The triangular diagram will update as data are entered. The data entry area is set up initially to accept data for 100 clasts. Samples of less than 100 clasts do not require the spreadsheet to be altered. Samples of more than 100 clasts require that the spreadsheet is altered by copying the formulae in columns A - J of the calculations sheet the required number of times.

Plotting parameters area

This area defines aspects of how the triangular diagram will appear on the screen and when printed.

The *printer correction* parameter is used to scale the vertical axis of the diagram so the triangle is equilateral. This is necessary because it is not possible to instruct Excel to scale charts. Experiment to obtain satisfactory results on screen and from a printer. Alternatively, the diagram may be scaled using the mouse.

The *tick interval* parameter defines the frequency of tick marks on the axes of the diagram. Acceptable inputs are 0 and from 0.05 to 0.5 but must divide into 1 (i.e. 0.05, 0.1, 0.2, 0.25, 0.5). If 0 is entered, no ticks are plotted. An error message is given if an unacceptable value is entered.

The *tick length* parameter defines the length of tick marks on the axes of the diagram. Acceptable inputs are from 0 to 0.2. An error message is given if an unacceptable value is entered. If 0 is entered, no ticks are plotted.

The *plot C40 line?* parameter determines whether a line is drawn across the diagram to indicate the C40 index value ($c/a=0.4$). Acceptable inputs are N (line not plotted) and Y (line plotted). Other inputs will result in an error message.

The *plot C-axis lines?* parameter determines whether lines are drawn across the diagram from the tick marks on

The *Left axis lines?* parameter determines whether lines are drawn across the diagram from the tick marks on the left and right axes. Acceptable inputs are N (line not plotted) and Y (line plotted). Other inputs will result in an error message. The lines are drawn at the interval specified by the tick interval parameter.

The *Bot'm axis lines?* parameter determines whether lines are drawn across the diagram from the tick marks on the bottom axis. Acceptable inputs are N (line not plotted) and Y (line plotted). Other inputs will result in an error message. The lines are drawn at the interval specified by the tick interval parameter.

The *Bot'm axis ticks?* parameter determines whether tick marks are plotted on the bottom axis. Acceptable inputs are N (ticks not plotted) and Y (ticks plotted). Other inputs will result in an error message. The ticks are drawn with the frequency and length specified by the tick interval and tick length parameters.

Modifications to the triangular diagram

The triangular diagram itself may be modified to change line thickness, symbols used etc.. Each aspect of the diagram is saved as a different data series and may be altered in the standard way for Excel charts. The table below lists the data series that comprise the chart. Additional data series may be added in the standard way to allow multiple data sets to be plotted on a single diagram. Refer to the Excel manual or help for further details of how to modify charts.

Data series that comprise the triangular diagram:

Data series	User entered data
Triangle outline	Defines the triangle
Left ticks	Ticks on the left (c/a) axis
Right ticks	Ticks on the right (b/a) axis
Bottom ticks	Ticks on the bottom axis
C40 line	Defines the line where c/a = 0.4
Left axis lines	Extension of left axis ticks across diagram
Right axis lines	Extension of right axis ticks across diagram
Bottom axis lines	Extension of bottom axis ticks across diagram

To generate ROUNDNESS histograms

This part of the spreadsheet generates standard histograms for the representation of particle roundness. The "ROUNDNESS - Data & results" sheet can be accessed using the button above or the tab at the bottom of the screen.

The procedure for generating a ROUNDNESS histogram is very easy. The inputs required are the proportion of roundness classes (i.e. very angular, angular, subangular, subrounded, rounded, well-rounded). These must be entered as a percentage and total 100.

References

Benn DI, Ballantyne CK. 1993. The description and representation of particle shape. *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms* **18**(7): 665-672.
 Benn DI, Ballantyne CK. 1993. Reconstructing the transport history of glacial sediments: a new approach based on the co-variance of clast form indices. *Sedimentary Geology* **91**: 215-337.
 Graham DJ, Midgley NG. 2000. Graphical representation of particle shape using triangular diagrams: An Excel spreadsheet method. *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms* **25**: 1473-1477.
 Nývlt D, Hoare PG. 2011. Petrology, provenance and shape of clasts in the glaciofluvial sediments of the Mníšek member, northern Bohemia, Czechia. *Journal of Geological Sciences - Anthropozoic* **27**: 5-22.
 Sneed ED, Folk RL. 1958. Pebbles in the lower Colorado River, Texas, a study in particle morphogenesis, *Journal of Geology* **66**(2): 114-150.

Technical notes

The spreadsheet was prepared using Excel 97. It has been tested with Excel 2000 and should work with all subsequent versions, but does not work with earlier versions.

Technical queries and problems with this spreadsheet should be addressed to David Graham, Centre for Glaciology, Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences, University of Wales, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, Wales SY23 3DB. E-mail djg97@aber.ac.uk.

Users are free to modify and distribute TRI-PLOT2 provided the original source is referenced in any modified version.

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SHAPE - data entry and results sheet

Kolnovice

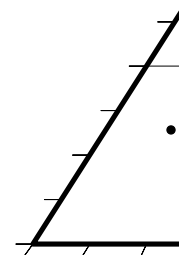
VZOR

Data entry area					
Clast no.	Clast axes			Error messages	Roundness
	a-axis	b-axis	c-axis		
1	6.7	4.5	3.1		R
2	5.9	4.2	2.1		SR
3	6.2	3.2	1.1		SA
4	6.4	5.7	2.2		SR
5	6.2	3.5	2.1		SA
6	5.7	4.3	3.1		SR
7	6.2	3.4	2.7		SA
8	5.3	3.5	2.7		SA
9	7.1	6.2	2.3		SA
10	5.8	4.3	3.1		SA
11	4.4	3.6	2.5		SA
12	4.1	3.5	3.1		SR
13	6.6	4.5	2.8		SA
14	4.7	3.3	2.5		SA
15	4.6	3.7	2.3		SR
16	4.6	3.8	2.5		SA
17	4.2	3.5	3.1		SA
18	5.5	4.3	2.7		SR
19	4.2	3.7	1.5		SR
20	6.3	4.5	2.7		SA
21	5.3	3.5	2.6		SR
22	5.1	3.6	2.3		SA
23	6.8	4.2	2.5		SA
24	5.2	4.3	2.7		SA
25	4.6	3.7	1.5		SR
26	5.1	4.3	3.5		SR
27	6.2	3.8	1.7		SA
28	4.6	3.5	3.1		SR
29	6.2	4.5	2.1		SA
30	5.2	4.3	3.1		SA
31	6.6	4.8	3.1		SR
32	5.9	4.3	2.7		SR
33	6.3	4.8	3.1		SA
34	5.7	4.3	3.1		SR
35	5.4	3.1	2.7		SA
36	4.5	4.3	2.1		R
37	5.3	3.4	2.7		SA
38	4.3	3.6	2.1		SR
39	5.4	3.8	2.2		SR
40	4.4	4.1	2.8		SR
41	6.2	3.8	3.1		SA
42	5.3	4.1	2.7		SA
43	6.6	4.2	2.1		SR
44	5.5	4.1	3.8		SA
45	6.5	4.8	3.2		SA
46	5.4	4.6	3.1		SR
47	5.2	3.8	3.1		SR

Plotting parameters

Printer color
 Tick interval
 Tick length
 Plot C40 line?
 L+R axis lines?
 Bot'm axis lines?
 Bot'm axis ticks?

VZOR

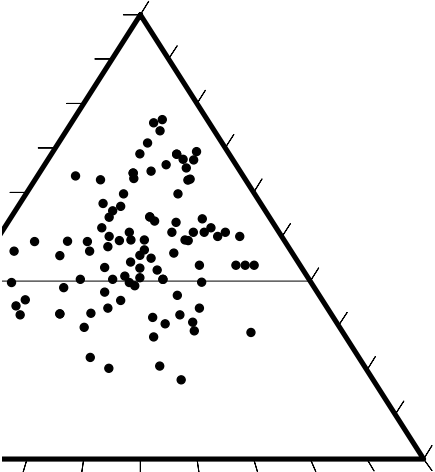


48	5	3.3	2.7	SR
49	4.7	4.1	2.3	SA
50	7.2	5.6	3.1	R
51	7.8	4.6	3.1	SA
52	6.2	3.2	2.7	SA
53	5.4	4.2	3.7	SA
54	4.6	3.8	2.9	SR
55	5.2	3.9	1.7	SR
56	5.6	3.4	1.7	SR
57	6.2	4.5	3.9	A
58	5.8	4.3	3.9	SA
59	5.2	4.3	2	SR
60	4.6	3.7	1.5	SA
61	3.8	3.2	2.7	SR
62	4.5	3.7	2.1	SR
63	5.4	4.2	3.7	SA
64	5.1	4.1	3.3	SA
65	4.2	3.5	2.7	SR
66	5.6	4.1	2.3	SA
67	5.7	4.6	2.3	SR
68	5.5	4.1	3.6	SA
69	5.7	4	1.3	SA
70	5.2	3.9	2.1	SA
71	7.1	4.2	2.3	SA
72	5.3	3.2	2.7	SR
73	7.1	5.3	2.1	SR
74	4.2	3.5	2.7	SR
75	6.2	3.8	2.7	SA
76	7.4	3.3	2.1	SA
77	7.5	4.2	2.3	SR
78	6.1	4.5	2.7	SR
79	4.3	3.8	1.1	SA
80	7.2	4.1	1.5	SA
81	5.2	3.3	2.7	SR
82	5.4	3.8	2.1	SA
83	6.4	4.2	1.3	SR
84	4.3	3.8	2.7	SA
85	6.2	4.1	2.5	SR
86	5.3	3.7	2.7	SR
87	5.2	4.3	2.9	SR
88	5.3	4.9	2.1	SR
89	7.2	5.4	2.7	SR
90	4.4	3.5	2.1	SA
91	3.8	3.2	2.9	SA
92	4.3	4	2.1	SA
93	6.2	4.1	2.5	SA
94	4.6	4	2.1	SR
95	5.3	3.8	2.1	SA
96	6.3	4.2	3.1	SA
97	5.9	4.3	3.7	SA
98	7.3	4	2.1	SR
99	6.5	5.1	4.3	SR
100	6.2	3.3	2.7	SR
AVER	5.57	4.04	2.58	

[Click here to return to the](#)

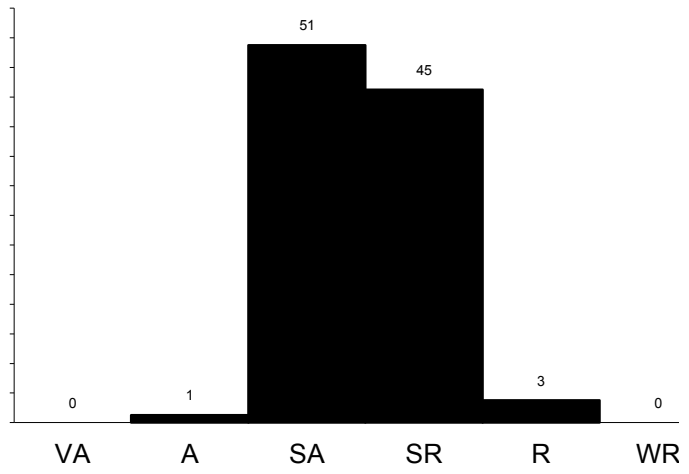
ters area

		Error messages
rection:	1.1	
(0 - 0.5):	0.1	
(0 - 0.2):	0.03	
(Y or N):	y	
(Y or N):	n	
(Y or N):	n	
(Y or N):	y	



roundness	pieces
	<i>shares (%)</i>
very angular	0
angular	1
subangular	51
subrounded	45
rounded	3
well rounded	0

100



—
}

SHAPE - calculations

[Click here](#)

It should not be necessary to modify the contents of this sheet unless you wish to modify the operation of TRI-PLOT.

Plotting parameters

Printer correction:	1.1	Bot'm axis lines?:
Tick interval:	0.1	Bot'm axis ticks?:
Tick length:	0.03	
Plot C40 line?:	1	
Plot lines?:	0	

Data area

Calculated values: do not change

Clast no.	Clast axes			Clast axis ratios		Graph α
	a-axis	b-axis	c-axis	c/a	b/a	x
1	6.7	4.5	3.1	0.462687	0.671642	0.559701
2	5.9	4.2	2.1	0.355932	0.711864	0.466102
3	6.2	3.2	1.1	0.177419	0.516129	0.572581
4	6.4	5.7	2.2	0.34375	0.890625	0.28125
5	6.2	3.5	2.1	0.33871	0.564516	0.604839
6	5.7	4.3	3.1	0.54386	0.754386	0.517544
7	6.2	3.4	2.7	0.435484	0.548387	0.669355
8	5.3	3.5	2.7	0.509434	0.660377	0.59434
9	7.1	6.2	2.3	0.323944	0.873239	0.288732
10	5.8	4.3	3.1	0.534483	0.741379	0.525862
11	4.4	3.6	2.5	0.568182	0.818182	0.465909
12	4.1	3.5	3.1	0.756098	0.853659	0.52439
13	6.6	4.5	2.8	0.424242	0.681818	0.530303
14	4.7	3.3	2.5	0.531915	0.702128	0.56383
15	4.6	3.7	2.3	0.5	0.804348	0.445652
16	4.6	3.8	2.5	0.543478	0.826087	0.445652
17	4.2	3.5	3.1	0.738095	0.833333	0.535714
18	5.5	4.3	2.7	0.490909	0.781818	0.463636
19	4.2	3.7	1.5	0.357143	0.880952	0.297619
20	6.3	4.5	2.7	0.428571	0.714286	0.5
21	5.3	3.5	2.6	0.490566	0.660377	0.584906
22	5.1	3.6	2.3	0.45098	0.705882	0.519608
23	6.8	4.2	2.5	0.367647	0.617647	0.566176
24	5.2	4.3	2.7	0.519231	0.826923	0.432692
25	4.6	3.7	1.5	0.326087	0.804348	0.358696
26	5.1	4.3	3.5	0.686275	0.843137	0.5
27	6.2	3.8	1.7	0.274194	0.612903	0.524194
28	4.6	3.5	3.1	0.673913	0.76087	0.576087
29	6.2	4.5	2.1	0.33871	0.725806	0.443548
30	5.2	4.3	3.1	0.596154	0.826923	0.471154
31	6.6	4.8	3.1	0.469697	0.727273	0.507576
32	5.9	4.3	2.7	0.457627	0.728814	0.5
33	6.3	4.8	3.1	0.492063	0.761905	0.484127
34	5.7	4.3	3.1	0.54386	0.754386	0.517544
35	5.4	3.1	2.7	0.5	0.574074	0.675926
36	4.5	4.3	2.1	0.466667	0.955556	0.277778

37	5.3	3.4	2.7	0.509434	0.641509	0.613208
38	4.3	3.6	2.1	0.488372	0.837209	0.406977
39	5.4	3.8	2.2	0.407407	0.703704	0.5
40	4.4	4.1	2.8	0.636364	0.931818	0.386364
41	6.2	3.8	3.1	0.5	0.612903	0.637097
42	5.3	4.1	2.7	0.509434	0.773585	0.481132
43	6.6	4.2	2.1	0.318182	0.636364	0.522727
44	5.5	4.1	3.8	0.690909	0.745455	0.6
45	6.5	4.8	3.2	0.492308	0.738462	0.507692
46	5.4	4.6	3.1	0.574074	0.851852	0.435185
47	5.2	3.8	3.1	0.596154	0.730769	0.567308
48	5	3.3	2.7	0.54	0.66	0.61
49	4.7	4.1	2.3	0.489362	0.87234	0.37234
50	7.2	5.6	3.1	0.430556	0.777778	0.4375

To expand the number of clasts, copy the contents of columns A-J into the rows below.

51	7.8	4.6	3.1	0.397436	0.589744	0.608974
52	6.2	3.2	2.7	0.435484	0.516129	0.701613
53	5.4	4.2	3.7	0.685185	0.777778	0.564815
54	4.6	3.8	2.9	0.630435	0.826087	0.48913
55	5.2	3.9	1.7	0.326923	0.75	0.413462
56	5.6	3.4	1.7	0.303571	0.607143	0.544643
57	6.2	4.5	3.9	0.629032	0.725806	0.58871
58	5.8	4.3	3.9	0.672414	0.741379	0.594828
59	5.2	4.3	2	0.384615	0.826923	0.365385
60	4.6	3.7	1.5	0.326087	0.804348	0.358696
61	3.8	3.2	2.7	0.710526	0.842105	0.513158
62	4.5	3.7	2.1	0.466667	0.822222	0.411111
63	5.4	4.2	3.7	0.685185	0.777778	0.564815
64	5.1	4.1	3.3	0.647059	0.803922	0.519608
65	4.2	3.5	2.7	0.642857	0.833333	0.488095
66	5.6	4.1	2.3	0.410714	0.732143	0.473214
67	5.7	4.6	2.3	0.403509	0.807018	0.394737
68	5.5	4.1	3.6	0.654545	0.745455	0.581818
69	5.7	4	1.3	0.22807	0.701754	0.412281
70	5.2	3.9	2.1	0.403846	0.75	0.451923
71	7.1	4.2	2.3	0.323944	0.591549	0.570423
72	5.3	3.2	2.7	0.509434	0.603774	0.650943
73	7.1	5.3	2.1	0.295775	0.746479	0.401408
74	4.2	3.5	2.7	0.642857	0.833333	0.488095
75	6.2	3.8	2.7	0.435484	0.612903	0.604839
76	7.4	3.3	2.1	0.283784	0.445946	0.695946
77	7.5	4.2	2.3	0.306667	0.56	0.593333
78	6.1	4.5	2.7	0.442623	0.737705	0.483607
79	4.3	3.8	1.1	0.255814	0.883721	0.244186
80	7.2	4.1	1.5	0.208333	0.569444	0.534722
81	5.2	3.3	2.7	0.519231	0.634615	0.625
82	5.4	3.8	2.1	0.388889	0.703704	0.490741
83	6.4	4.2	1.3	0.203125	0.65625	0.445313
84	4.3	3.8	2.7	0.627907	0.883721	0.430233
85	6.2	4.1	2.5	0.403226	0.66129	0.540323
86	5.3	3.7	2.7	0.509434	0.698113	0.556604
87	5.2	4.3	2.9	0.557692	0.826923	0.451923
88	5.3	4.9	2.1	0.396226	0.924528	0.273585
89	7.2	5.4	2.7	0.375	0.75	0.4375
90	4.4	3.5	2.1	0.477273	0.795455	0.443182
91	3.8	3.2	2.9	0.763158	0.842105	0.539474

92	4.3	4	2.1	0.488372	0.930233	0.313953
93	6.2	4.1	2.5	0.403226	0.66129	0.540323
94	4.6	4	2.1	0.456522	0.869565	0.358696
95	5.3	3.8	2.1	0.396226	0.716981	0.481132
96	6.3	4.2	3.1	0.492063	0.666667	0.579365
97	5.9	4.3	3.7	0.627119	0.728814	0.584746
98	7.3	4	2.1	0.287671	0.547945	0.59589
99	6.5	5.1	4.3	0.661538	0.784615	0.546154
100	6.2	3.3	2.7	0.435484	0.532258	0.685484

to return to the

Calculations area: do

Triangle outline

x	y
0.5	0.9526
0	0
1	0
0.5	0.9526

0
1

Lef

Tick position

0

0.1

0.2

0.3

0.4

0.5

0.6

0.7

0.8

0.9

1

o-ordinates

y

0.440755

0.339061

0.16901

0.327456

0.322655

0.518081

0.414842

0.485287

0.308589

0.509148

0.54125

0.720259

0.404133

0.506702

0.4763

0.517717

0.70311

0.46764

0.340214

0.408257

0.467313

0.429604

0.350221

0.494619

0.31063

0.653745

0.261197

0.64197

0.322655

0.567896

0.447433

0.435936

0.46874

0.518081

0.4763

0.444547

0.485287
0.465223
0.388096
0.6062
0.4763
0.485287
0.3031
0.65816
0.468972
0.546863
0.567896
0.514404
0.466166
0.410147

0.378597
0.414842
0.652707
0.600552
0.311427
0.289182
0.599216
0.640541
0.366385
0.31063
0.676847
0.444547
0.652707
0.616388
0.612386
0.391246
0.384382
0.62352
0.21726
0.384704
0.308589
0.485287
0.281755
0.612386
0.414842
0.270332
0.292131
0.421643
0.243688
0.198458
0.494619
0.370456
0.193497
0.598144
0.384113
0.485287
0.531258
0.377445
0.357225
0.45465
0.726984

0.465223
0.384113
0.434883
0.377445
0.46874
0.597393
0.274036
0.630182
0.414842

