

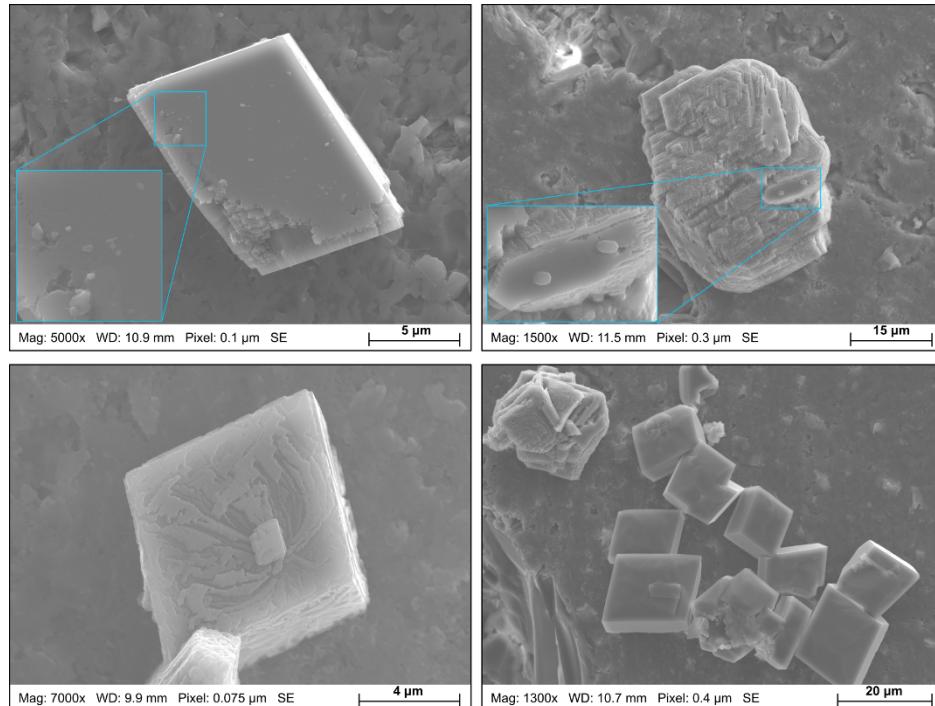


NUCLEATION AND CRYSTAL GROWTH ON THE SECONDARY SUBSTRATE

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Substrate surface properties govern the stochastic dynamics of solid precipitation during reactive transport in the porous media. Probability and affinity for nucleation and subsequent growth are higher on or adjacent to the newly formed crystals than the foreign substrate surface [1, 2]. Detailed high-resolution scanning electron microscopy (SEM) with secondary electrons (SE) together with energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS) provided direct evidence of this selective phenomenon. For the synthesis of calcium carbonates, stock solutions of well-defined weight of crystalline salts of calcium chloride (CaCl_2) and sodium bicarbonate (NaHCO_3) were added to the DI-water (Milli-Q water)[1]. The subfigures show the formation of early phase crystal, transformation stage, progressive growth, and interconnection of calcium carbonate crystalline geometries on or adjacent to the secondary substrates (previously precipitated crystals). The selection of secondary substrates over the sandstone surface is evident in nanometer to micron scales in the SEM micrographs. The preferential nucleation sites provide favorable surface characteristics and will be selected first against the available unreacted foreign surface[2, 3].

1. Nooraeipour M. et al. (2021). *ACS Omega*, 6(42):28072.

2. Nooraeipour M. et al. (2021). *Sci. Rep.*, 11(1):16397.

3. Hellevang H. et al. (2019). *E3S Web Conf.*, 98:04006.

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