



Microdiamond analysis—a method for estimating the size frequency distribution of the macrodiamonds

by J. Danoczi* and S. Creighton*

Synopsis

Estimating the size frequency distribution of the macrodiamonds on a new deposit is important for both economic reasons and for the design of the processing plant. Millions of dollars can be lost due to incorrectly sized comminution circuits. This report analyses an alternative methodology for macrodiamond grade estimation using the cumulative results from small parcels of microdiamonds and plotting them on a log-log scale. The method was first evaluated mathematically for diamond populations to assess the confidence for data extrapolation. Macrodiamond size distributions and grades were predicted using microdiamond data from three kimberlites, and the actual macrodiamond grades compared to the predicted grades. The predicted grades were found to replicate the actual grades closely, showing that a high degree of confidence can be ascribed to the results from this method of analysis. This analysis can be used both for resource estimates and for predicting the diamond size distribution information needed for designing a new operation.

Keywords

diamond resource estimation, microdiamond distribution, macrodiamond grade, probability density function, grade-size plot.

Introduction

Microdiamonds are defined as diamonds having the largest dimension smaller than 0.85 mm; too small for cutting into gemstones. Although these small diamonds are suitable only for industrial purposes, they can provide valuable information during exploration for new diamond deposits. Microdiamond abundance data is used to estimate the macrodiamond size frequency distribution and thus provides information relevant to the deposit's economics, eventual plant design, and equipment selection.

Macrodiamonds are diamonds larger than 0.85 mm that may be suitable for cutting into gemstones, depending on their colour and clarity. Macrodiamond recovery from bulk samples is carried out once the microdiamond tests are positive. Macrodiamond recovery confirms that a kimberlite contains macrodiamonds.

Determinations of the micro/macro diamond size relationship are typically based on grade-size plots (Ferreira, 2013). However, this method requires a large data-set in order to obtain reasonable confidence in the results. This report analyses an alternative method

that does not require such a large data-set, but instead requires microdiamond occurrence (data) in at least seven different size intervals to obtain reasonable confidence.

Microdiamond recovery

Microdiamond recovery is carried out to confirm that a kimberlite contains diamonds. The information used in microdiamond analysis is the number of diamonds per size fraction greater than 75 μm that reside in a sample of the ore (McCandless, 2013). The diamonds are recovered from the kimberlite samples by dissolving small quantities of kimberlite, usually <20 kg per sample, in hydrofluoric (HF) acid or molten sodium hydroxide (NaOH) (also known as caustic fusion). Since diamonds are chemically inert (do not dissolve in acids or alkalis), the small amount of residue from the dissolution process includes some poorly soluble oxide and silicate minerals as well as all of the diamonds. Final recovery of the microdiamonds is carried out by hand-sorting under a binocular microscope.

Macrodiamond recovery

If the microdiamond results indicate that the kimberlite is diamondiferous, macrodiamond recovery is undertaken. Macrodiamonds are recovered in bulk sampling exercises ranging from surficial extraction of a few trenches to drill samples and even to small underground mining projects. The bulk samples are crushed and concentrated through a dense medium separation plant capable of processing several tons of ore. The recovered concentrate is then sent to a laboratory for X-ray sorting and grease table recovery. The final recovery is carried out by hand-sorting in a secure facility.

* Saskatchewan Research Council, Saskatoon, SK, Canada.

© The Southern African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, 2016. ISSN 2225-6253. This paper was first presented at the Diamonds still Sparkling 2016 Conference 14-17 March 2016, Gaborone International Convention Centre.



Microdiamond analysis—a method for estimating the size frequency distribution

If the results for both the microdiamond analysis and the macrodiamond numbers meet the required economic predictors, a diamond processing plant is built and the deposit is mined.

Microdiamond and Macrodiamond Analysis

Diamond count vs. size data from both the microdiamonds and the macrodiamonds typically defines a quadratic curve on a log-log plot. The mathematical fitting of a quadratic equation can be accomplished with only three points. In principle, these three points can be from the microdiamond abundances, implying that the macrodiamond grade can be calculated using only three microdiamond data-points. In practice, more than three points of data are required, since the errors in the microdiamond data can be quite large as the diamonds do not populate the ore in a homogeneous manner. The accuracy of macrodiamond abundance predictions from microdiamond data can be evaluated by calculating the 'diamond abundance vs. size' curve from the microdiamond data, extrapolating to predict macrodiamond abundance, and comparing the results to the actual recovered macrodiamonds.

The lognormal probability density function (PDF) and the diamond population

The diamond population of a diamondiferous kimberlite has a typical lognormal distribution. The diamond distribution, or probability density function (PDF), comprises positive real values with the majority of the diamonds occurring in the smaller size fractions, causing the diamond population to be skewed to the smaller sizes. An example of a typical diamond lognormal distribution is depicted in Figure 1.

In Figure 1, the blue diamonds depict the number of microdiamonds per hundred tons per unit interval (Dpht/ui), and the purple circles depict the number of macrodiamonds per hundred tons per unit interval (Dpht/ui). The microdiamonds were recovered by caustic fusion (NaOH), ensuring total liberation of all diamonds, whereas the macrodiamonds were recovered by a bulk sampling programme and hence there are inefficiencies (diamond losses) in the number of macrodiamonds recovered smaller than 0.1 carat. The causes of the poor recoveries of the small macrodiamonds include increased the probability of diamond lock-up and plant inefficiencies for this size fraction.

The red squares are the hypothetical estimates of the number of microdiamonds in the kimberlite that are smaller than 75 µm. The green curve is the mathematical model obtained from *only* the microdiamond data and extrapolated into the macrodiamond size fractions, and shows how well the microdiamond curve predicts the actual macrodiamond data.

Properties of the lognormal probability density function (PDF)

Figure 2 is an illustration of a set of lognormal PDFs that have been drawn on an X-Y axis with linear scales.

The lognormal formula used to generate these curves is given by Equation [1], where x is the variable and the parameters used are Coefficient = 1, $u = 0$, and $a \in \{1, 0.5, 0.25\}$ (Montgomery, 2011).

$$\frac{\text{Coefficient}}{x a \sqrt{2\pi}} e^{(\ln x - u)^2 / 2a^2} \quad [1]$$

The characteristics of the lognormal curve given in Equation [1] are:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Median} &= e^u \\ \text{Mean} &= e^{u+a^2/2} \\ \text{Mode} &= e^{u-a^2} \end{aligned}$$

In Figure 2, the curve most skewed to the left (blue) provides the best representation of a diamond population distribution. This curve also has the highest a -value of the three examples with $a = 1$. The mode of the PDF for a lognormal curve occurs at an X-value where the function (Y-value) is the greatest and is a different value to that of the mean (average) as illustrated in Figure 2. The long and short dashed lines represent the mode and mean, respectively, for each of the three functions depicted in Figure 2.

The lognormal formula that best represents the diamond population represented in Figure 1 is Equation [1] with the parameters:

$$\text{Coefficient} = 60 \quad u = -4 \quad a = 2.4$$

and is depicted in Figure 3 as a dark green dashed curve overlain on the diamond data from Figure 1.

The mode of this diamond population occurs at a size (in carats) where the numbers of diamonds in a unit interval (UI) is the greatest, and occurs at

$$e^{u-a^2} = e^{-4-2.4^2} = 5.8 \times 10^{-5} \text{ carats}$$

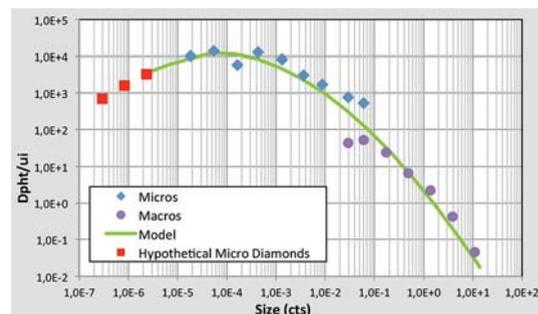


Figure 1—Example of a lognormal distribution of diamond distribution data expressed in units of diamonds per hundred tons (Dpht) per size unit interval for a diamondiferous kimberlite

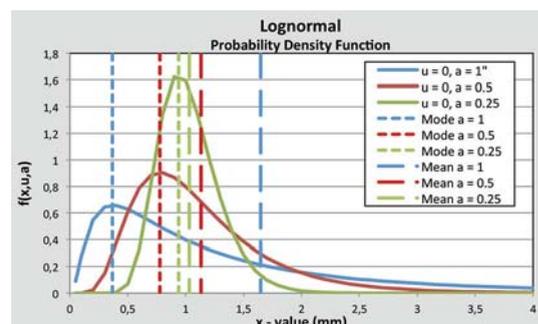


Figure 2—Lognormal curves showing the probability density functions for the same locator parameter 'u' but with different scale parameters of 'a'

Microdiamond analysis—a method for estimating the size frequency distribution

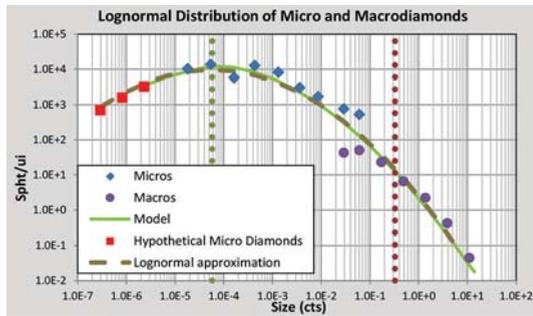


Figure 3—The lognormal formula that best approximates the diamond data is represented by the dark green dashed line

while the average size or mean is at

$$e^{u+a^2/2} = e^{-4+2.4^2/2} = 0.33 \text{ carats}$$

as depicted by the green and brown vertical dotted lines in Figure 3, respectively. This information is useful when comparing different diamond populations and is absent from a grade-size plot.

The lognormal cumulative distribution function (CDF)

The lognormal cumulative distribution function (CDF) is the summation/integral of the data in the PDF from the maximum X-value to the X-value of interest. The CDF is a simpler mathematical progression for modelling of the lognormal data, since the data is always decreasing as X increases and there are no points of inflexion in the graph.

Taking the log of both the X-values and the function values (Y-values) of the lognormal CDF allows the data to be approximated by a quadratic equation with a high degree of confidence, as illustrated in Figure 4. Of importance is the fact that the best quadratic approximation occurs for the lognormal CDF curve with $a = 1$ (the data in blue). The coefficient of determination (R^2) for this quadratic equation is greater than 0.999, illustrating that the lognormal distributions, with scale parameters of 'a' greater than 1 can be approximated by a quadratic equation with a high degree of confidence. The scale parameter (parameter 'a' in Equation [1]) for the diamond population given in Figure 1 was estimated at 2.4, significantly higher than unity. It can

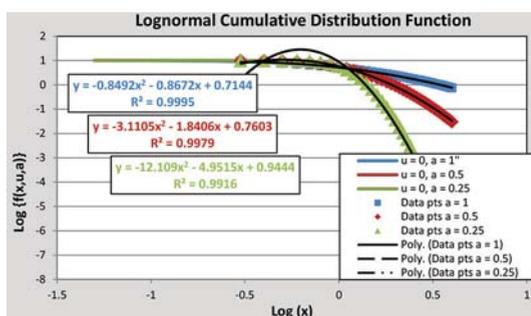


Figure 4—Quadratic equations approximating lognormal curves and their associated coefficient of determination (R^2) when the X-axis and Y-axis are converted to logarithms

therefore be concluded that the CDF for diamond populations can be approximated by a quadratic equation with a high degree of accuracy.

Microdiamond analysis method

Bottom size (75 μm)

Liberating all the $+75 \mu\text{m}$ microdiamonds from a kimberlite sample using HF or NaOH is an expensive and hazardous undertaking. The concentrate from the process has to be neutralized and is then laboriously sorted by hand under a binocular microscope. The cost and time for microdiamond sorting increase in as the size of the microdiamonds decreases. Test work has shown that small diamond losses occur with both the HF and NaOH processes, and the percentage volume loss increases as the diamond size decreases, resulting in errors (Kruger, 2004). From an analytical perspective, analysing only microdiamonds larger than $75 \mu\text{m}$ ensures that the quadratic approximation of the CDF retains a high coefficient of determination and the level of confidence in the analysis is high. Hence, the accepted lower limit used in microdiamond analysis is $75 \mu\text{m}$ or 5×10^{-6} carats.

Top size (10 carats)

The top size for valuing diamonds from bulk samples is generally 10 carats, which is the limit to which the microdiamond grade data has been extrapolated. The confidence in the extrapolated data decreases as the range of the extrapolation increases, but if macrodiamond data from bulk samples is included, the data can be extrapolated further in order to predict a top diamond size for the diamond population – information that is necessary for plant design.

Unit intervals

Microdiamonds are sized using a set of progressive sieve sizes, starting ideally at $75 \mu\text{m}$ and increasing by a factor of $\sqrt{2}$ up to 1.70 mm. If macrodiamonds are recovered when processing kimberlite using chemical digestion, these diamonds must be included in the analysis in their relevant unit interval (UI). The UIs generally used for reporting diamonds recovered from total chemical digestion processes are given in the first column of Table I.

Analysis of publicly available microdiamond data revealed that different laboratories use different sieve sizes; some start at $75 \mu\text{m}$ while others start at $106 \mu\text{m}$ or even $100 \mu\text{m}$. Sieving inefficiencies were also encountered when comparing the microdiamond dimensions and mass to the sieve size. For these reasons, the microdiamond data in this study was sorted according to the mass from which the diamond's size was calculated (at the Saskatchewan Research Centre (SRC) all microdiamonds are weighed individually). The diameters of the sorted microdiamonds increase in size by a factor of $\sqrt{2}$ for subsequent UIs. The microdiamond counts are then normalized to a 100 t sample per UI.

Calculating the mean diamond size per unit interval

The mean diamond size in each unit interval is measured in carats, and is the summation of all the diamond masses in a particular UI divided by the number of diamonds in that UI, as seen in Table I, where column 4 is the mean diamond size

Microdiamond analysis—a method for estimating the size frequency distribution

Table I

Microdiamond data for the Unit 1 kimberlite

Sieve size (mm)	Total ct/UI (ct)	Diamonds (units)	Mean diamond size (ct)	Log (MDS)	Dpht (units)	Cumulative Dpht (units)	Log (cumulative)
0.075	0.0017	174	0.00001	-5.0445	10 263	60 352	4.781
0.106	0.0053	233	0.00002	-4.6442	13 743	50 089	4.700
0.150	0.0108	158	0.00007	-4.1666	9 319	36 346	4.560
0.212	0.0439	215	0.00020	-3.6902	12 681	27 026	4.432
0.300	0.0753	139	0.00054	-3.2664	8 199	14 345	4.157
0.425	0.0861	52	0.00165	-2.7812	3 067	6 166	3.789
0.600	0.1310	29	0.00452	-2.3451	1 711	3 079	3.488
0.850	0.1841	17	0.01083	-1.9653	1 003	1 369	3.136
1.180	0.1461	4	0.03652	-1.4375	236	366	2.563
1.700		0	0.07405	-1.1304		130	2.114
Totals	0.6841	1021			60222		

(Kimberlite processed = 1695.4 kg, factor = 58.983 units to calculate Dpht in column 7)

(MDS) and is calculated by dividing column 2 by column 3. The MDS provides information on the size of the diamonds in each UI.

Tabulating the cumulative data

The cumulative data is the total number of diamonds that occur in a 100 t sample with sizes ranging from 75 µm (0.000 005 ct) to 10 mm (10 ct). The cumulative data starts adding from the largest UI (9.6–13.6 mm) to the smallest UI (75–106 µm), which is the final value for the smallest UI. This last value is also the sum of all the diamonds. The cumulative data either decreases or stays the same as the UIs increase, as seen in column 7 of Table I. Representing the data in this manner reduces the amount of variation 'noise' in the data, so making it easier to observe trends.

When calculating the cumulative data for a microdiamond population, an estimate is made for the total number of macrodiamonds expected in the kimberlite, known as the 'projection factor'. This projection factor is based on the cumulative distribution of the microdiamonds and the coefficient of determination (R²), which includes the projection factor point. The projection factor is placed in the preceding UI, as highlighted in yellow in Table I. The projection factor for the Unit 1 kimberlite was; 130 diamonds of size of 1.7 mm and produced an R² value of 0.99891.

Converting to logarithms and fitting the quadratic curve

In order to analyse the lognormal data in a spreadsheet, both the MDS (in carats) and the cumulative number of diamonds, for each UI were converted to logarithms as shown in columns 5 and 8 of Table I. The data was plotted as denoted by the blue diamonds, including the projection factor, as seen in Figure 5, and a quadratic curve fitted to the data. In the case of the Unit 1 kimberlite, the quadratic formula is:

$$Y = 0.15478x^2 - 1.62205x + 0.5183 \quad [2]$$

with an R² value of 0.99891.

Applying the quadratic formula to the required macrodiamond distribution

The formula for the quadratic curve seen in Figure 5 and

given in Equation [2] was applied to the size intervals for the macrodiamonds as seen in column 3 of Table II. The macrodiamond distribution used was based on the standard size intervals employed for valuing the diamonds. This was feasible since the formula for cumulative data is not restricted to UIs.

To calculate the number of diamonds in each size fraction (column 5), the cumulative logarithmic data (column 3) was first calculated as an exponent of 10, as seen in column 4 of Table II, and the difference between consecutive size intervals was determined, as seen in column 5 of Table II. The grade of each size interval, column 6, was calculated by multiplying the number of diamonds in the size interval by the mass of diamonds for that interval. The summation of column 6 is the macrodiamond grade, assuming 100% recovery.

However, in an operating diamond processing plant not all the diamonds will be fully liberated and recovered. In particular, the smaller the diamond the lower the probability of liberation and recovery. This loss is evident from the fact that the number of the smaller diamonds recovered by the processing plant (24 Dpht) is less than 6% of the number recovered by chemical dissolution method (439 Dpht).

Finally, the estimated production grade is calculated by correcting for the plant losses by subtracting decreasing percentages of subsequent size intervals from the total, starting at 90% for the 1 mm diamonds, 70% for 1.4 mm diamonds, 50% for the 1.7 mm, and 30% for the 2.3 mm diamonds.

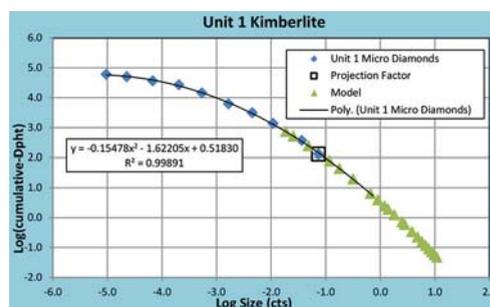


Figure 5—The logarithmic cumulative number of diamonds plotted against the logarithmic mean diamond size

Microdiamond analysis—a method for estimating the size frequency distribution

Table II

The modelled macrodiamond data for the Unit 1 kimberlite

Diamond size categories	Log (MDS)	Log (cumulative)	Cumulative (Dpht/size) (units)	Dpht/size (units)	Grade (cpht/size) (ct)
>10 ct	1.0000	-1.2585	0.055	0.055	0.0930
9 ct	0.9542	-1.1705	0.068	0.012	0.1116
8 ct	0.9031	-1.0728	0.085	0.017	0.1363
7 ct	0.8451	-0.9630	0.109	0.024	0.1702
6 ct	0.7782	-0.8376	0.145	0.036	0.2187
5 ct	0.6990	-0.6911	0.204	0.058	0.2916
4 ct	0.6021	-0.5144	0.306	0.102	0.4091
3 ct	0.4771	-0.2908	0.512	0.206	0.6178
10 gr	0.3979	-0.1517	0.705	0.193	0.4833
8 gr	0.3010	0.0160	1.038	0.332	0.6646
6 gr	0.2041	0.1808	1.516	0.479	0.7659
5 gr	0.1139	0.3315	2.145	0.629	0.8177
4 gr	0.0000	0.5183	3.298	1.153	1.1532
3 gr	-0.0969	0.6740	4.721	1.423	1.1381
+11	-0.4559	1.2257	16.814	12.093	4.2325
+9	-0.7447	1.6404	43.696	26.882	4.8388
+7	-0.9586	1.9310	85.306	41.610	4.5771
+5	-1.0458	2.0453	110.995	25.689	2.3120
+3	-1.3010	2.3666	232.618	121.623	6.0812
+1	-1.6990	2.8273	671.958	439.340	8.7868
Total					37.899
Estimated macro grade (cpht)				22.766	

The microdiamond and macrodiamond distributions

In this study, natural diamond populations from three prospective deposits were used to evaluate the suitability of the data modelling methodology outlined above for predicting macrodiamond counts.

The macrodiamonds from each of these three prospective deposits were recovered via three different methods. The first method was a small underground mining exercise, the second was a large-diameter drill (LDD) programme, and the third method was a high-voltage pulse-power fragmentation process.

Unit 1 kimberlite

The microdiamond grade analysis of the Unit 1 kimberlite is seen in Figure 5 and again in Figure 6. The microdiamond distribution is represented by the blue diamonds, including the calculated 'projection factor' which has a square around the data-point. The modelled macrodiamond distribution is represented by the green triangles and the actual macrodiamond distribution, as obtained from conventional mining processes, by the purple circles. The macrodiamond distribution deviates significantly from the modelled macrodiamond distribution in the smaller size range (1–3 mm) due to inefficiencies in the liberation and recovery of these smaller, low-value diamonds. The list of Unit 1 macrodiamonds recovered in the bulk sample is given in the Appendix.

The accuracy of this cumulative methodology to estimate the recovery grade of the Unit 1 kimberlite, is demonstrated by how closely the actual recovery curve tracks the modelled curve. Furthermore, the results predicted that 144 diamonds >1 mm in size with a combined mass of 22.766 ct would be liberated and recovered for every 100 t of kimberlite mined and processed. The actual number of >1 mm macrodiamonds recovered for each 100 t of kimberlite processed was 129, with a mass of 17.047 ct. The results also predicted that at

least one 1.8 ct diamond would be recovered with every 104 t processed, while in reality, at least a 1.8 ct diamond was recovered with every 106 t processed – this last observation being the more accurate prediction of the methodology.

Unit 2 kimberlite

The microdiamond grade analysis of the Unit 2 kimberlite is seen in Figure 7. The microdiamond distribution is represented by the blue diamonds, including the calculated 'projection factor' which has a square around the data-point. The modelled macrodiamond distribution is represented by the green triangles and the actual macrodiamond distribution, as obtained from the LDD programme, is represented by the red squares. Again we see the macrodiamond distribution deviate from the modelled macrodiamond distribution in the smaller size range due to inefficiencies in the liberation and recovery of these smaller diamonds. There were also a number of broken diamonds due to the mining process, and this is observed in the deviation of the red squares from the green triangles in the larger size fractions. The list of Unit 2 macrodiamonds recovered in the LDD programme is given in the Appendix.

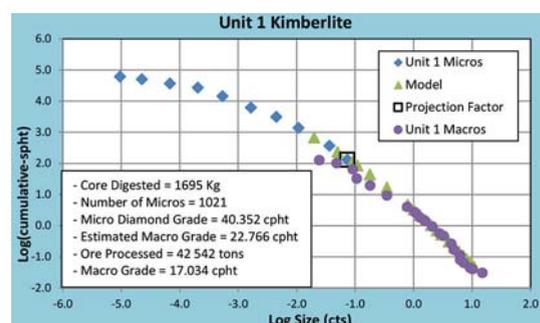


Figure 6—Cumulative distribution of; microdiamonds, modelled macrodiamonds, and actual macrodiamonds for the Unit 1 kimberlite

Microdiamond analysis—a method for estimating the size frequency distribution

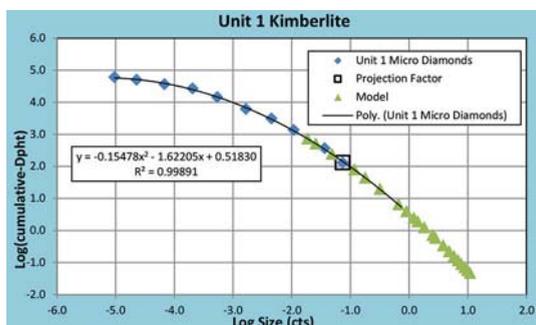


Figure 7—Cumulative distribution of; microdiamonds, modelled macrodiamonds, and actual macrodiamonds for the Unit 2 kimberlite

In this example, the predicted number of >1 mm macrodiamonds that would be recovered for every 100 t of kimberlite processed is 55, with a combined mass of 7.493 ct. The actual number of >1 mm diamonds recovered was 63, with a combined mass of 5.526 ct. The results also predicted that at least one 0.9 ct diamond would be recovered with every 100 t processed, while in reality, 180 t were required for the recovery of a 0.9 ct diamond.

Unit 3 kimberlite

The microdiamond grade analysis of the Unit 3 kimberlite is seen in Figure 8. The microdiamond distribution is represented by the blue diamonds, the modelled macrodiamond distribution by the green triangles, and the actual macrodiamond distribution, as obtained from a high-voltage pulse-power fragmentation process, is represented by the red stars. We note that the high-voltage pulse-power fragmentation process is able to liberate all the diamonds, although recovery was still by dense media separation (DMS) and hand-sorting. The list of Unit 3 macrodiamonds recovered is given in the Appendix.

High-voltage pulse-power fragmentation is an expensive process and only 20 t of kimberlite was processed using this technology. In the model, the predicted number of >1 mm macrodiamonds for 20 t of the Unit 3 kimberlite was 194 with a total mass of 36.636 ct. The actual number of >1 mm macrodiamonds recovered from the 20 t sample was 194, with a total mass of 30.695 ct. The results also predicted that at least one 6 ct diamond would be recovered in a 20 t sample, while in reality, a 6.5 ct diamond was recovered.

Discussion

Using the cumulative data ensures that data arrays either always increase, always decrease, or remain constant, thus reducing the amount of variation ‘noise’ in a data-set. Using cumulative data-sets and quadratic approximations permits the calculation of trends within the microdiamond results, which in turn enables the extrapolation of the data at a higher level of confidence.

An advantage of using the cumulative method for representing the data is that the quadratic formula is independent of the sieve sizes used. The cumulative data can then be used against various size scales such as the valuation scale, the UIs for assessing recovery efficiency, or

against the millimetre screen sizes used in the production plant, provided that the start and end sizes are the same.

The microdiamonds were sized into their UIs based on their masses. The UIs were initially a millimetre measurement, but were converted to carats by determining the MDS for the UI. If all the microdiamonds are weighed and the data captured electronically, one should be able to classify the microdiamonds based on their weights in carats directly, without sieving. Sieving requires shaking the diamonds, resulting in diamond-on-diamond contact, potential breakages, and reduced diamond sizes. Lastly, sieving of small particles incurs inefficiencies and errors and is not recommended for such important economic studies.

Conclusions

Arranging the microdiamond distribution data in a cumulative manner, converting the data to logarithms, determining a projection factor by using the quadratic equations with the highest R^2 value, and extrapolating this quadratic equation into the macrodiamond region has enabled the macrodiamond grade of Unit 1, Unit 2, and Unit 3 kimberlites to be modelled with a high degree of accuracy.

The same mathematical model established with the microdiamonds can be added to when moving into the bulk sampling phase, and again used in the production phase when plant upgrades are investigated.

From this analysis, the following recommendations are suggested when analysing future data-sets.

- ▶ Sizing and tabulating the microdiamonds per UI should be carried out in a simple spreadsheet, according to the mass of the microdiamonds
- ▶ The conditions for a microdiamond data-set to be accurately extrapolated are:
 - At least 300 microdiamonds in the data-set (though only 200 were used for the Unit 3 kimberite)
 - At least seven of the nine UIs to contain microdiamonds
 - At least two microdiamonds larger than 0.6 mm to be present in the data-set.

References

- FERRIERA, J. 2013. Sampling and estimation of diamond content in kimberlite based on microdiamonds. Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Mines de Paris. [In English].

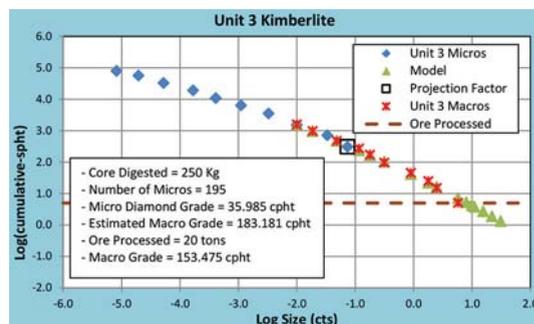


Figure 8—Cumulative distribution of the microdiamonds, modelled macrodiamonds, and actual macrodiamonds for the Unit 3 kimberlite

Microdiamond analysis—a method for estimating the size frequency distribution

KRUGER, L. 2004. Discussions on the advantages and disadvantages of HF and NaOH. Kimberley Micro Diamond Laboratory Pilot Plant project. De Beers.

LIMPERT, E., STAHEL, W.A., and ABBT, M. 2001. Log-normal distributions across the sciences: keys and clues. American Institute of Biological Sciences. *BioScience Article*, vol. 51, no. 5. May 2001.

McCANDLESS, T.E. 2013. The mystery of microdiamonds. Presentation at UBC Robson Square, Vancouver, 10 April 2013. MCC Geoscience Inc.

MONTGOMERY, D.C. and RUNGER, G.C. 2011. Applied Statistics and Probability for Engineers. 5th edn. Wiley, New York.

ROMBOUITS, L. 2002. Assessing the Diamond Potential of Kimberlites from Discovery to Evaluation Bulk Sampling. Springer-Verlag. ◆

Appendix

The microdiamonds recovered from the three kimberlites							
		Unit 1		Unit 2		Unit 3	
NaHO (kg)		1695.40		1598.53		250.00	
Microdiamond grade (cpht)		40.352		27.358		35.618	
Number of Uls		9		9		9	
Total microdiamonds		1021		1038		195	
Size (ct)	Sieve (mm)	Number (units)	No. per 100 t (units)	Number (units)	No. per 100 t (units)	Number (units)	No. per 100 t (units)
0.00001	0.075	174	10.263	143	8946	56	22 400
0.00002	0.106	233	13.743	246	15 389	58	23 200
0.00007	0.150	158	9.319	196	12 261	34	13 600
0.00020	0.212	215	12.681	277	17 328	21	8400
0.00054	0.300	139	8.199	117	7319	11	4400
0.00165	0.425	52	3.067	34	2127	7	2800
0.00452	0.600	29	1.711	12	751	5	2000
0.01083	0.850	17	1.003	8	450	2	800
0.03652	1.180	4	236	5	200	1	400

The macrodiamonds recovered from the three kimberlites								
			Unit 1		Unit 2		Unit 3	
Tonnage processed			42.542		1.803		20	
Grade (cpht)			17.047		5.525		153.475	
Largest stone recovered (ct)			19.706		3.418		6.500	
Size (ct)	Sieve (mm)	DTC	Number (units)	No. per 100 t (units)	Number (units)	No. per 100 t (units)	Number (units)	No. per 100 t (units)
0.0186	1.09	+1 & +2	10318	24.254	214	11.869	100	500
0.0256	1.47	+3 & +4	15940	37.469	424	23.516		
0.0485	1.83	+5 & +6	13681	32.159	345	19.135	40	200
0.1170	2.46	+7 & +8	5571	13.095	79	4.382	20	100
0.1790	2.85	+9& +10	4286	10.075	42	2.329	15	75
0.3170	3.45	+11	2234	5.251	31	1.719	10	50
0.6600	4.15	3 gr	554	1.302	2	0.111		
0.9000	4.61	4 gr	368	0.865	4	0.222	4	20
1.2000	5.07	5 gr	167	0.393	0	0.000		
1.4000	5.34	6 gr	206	0.484	1	0.055		
1.8000	5.80	8 gr	163	0.383	3	0.166	2	10
2.5000	6.47	10 gr	40	0.094	1	0.055	2	10
2.8000	6.72	3ct	86	0.202	1	0.055	1	5
3.8000	7.44	4ct	40	0.094	0	0.000	0	0.000
4.8000	8.05	5ct	24	0.056	0	0.000	0	0.000
5.8000	8.57	6ct	13	0.031	0	0.000	0	0.000
6.8000	9.04	7ct	7	0.016	0	0.000	0	0.000
7.8000	9.46	8ct	8	0.019	0	0.000	0	0.000
8.8000	9.85	9ct	2	0.005	0	0.000	0	0.000
9.8000	10.21	10ct	17	0.040	0	0.000	0	0.000
			54745	129	1147	64	194	970