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RhoVe[™] Method

(U.S. patent pending - copyright © 2016)

A New Empirical Pore Pressure Transform

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Research paper

RhoVe method: A new empirical pore pressure transform



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ABSTRACT

A new empirical pore pressure transform has been developed that includes many of the advanced, stateof-the-art concepts that are useful in today's pore pressure estimation and theory. The rhob-velocityeffective stress (Rho-V-e) method produces a model-driven, stand-alone set of "virtual" rock property relationships, which at intermediate positions are consistent with Bowers method default values for the Gulf of Mexico. The RhoVe method uses a single transform to convert both compressional sonic and bulk density to common estimates of effective stress and pore pressure where convergence of the two transformed properties offers a robust solution.

Velocity-density conversion functions are mathematically linked to a continuous series of velocitydepth normal compaction trend functions. The calculations are limited by bounding end-member curves that provide a basis for intermediate (fractional) solutions of velocity-effective stress and density-effective stress relationships that are applied to a well of interest.

Paired "virtual" velocity-depth compaction trends were iteratively solved by using published theoretical smectite and illite porosity trends and velocity-depth normal compaction trends. By using the

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JIP – seeking \$55,000 investment:

- Commercial implementation of RhoVe method as a plug-in to an existing commercial platform, or as a web-based application to include: Real-Time WITSML connectivity, notebook (iPad) capability, 1D temperature modeling,
- Explore AI and Neural Network capabilities,

OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTORY DEMO

PREVIOUS WORK - THEORY

- Mechanical vs Chemical Compaction
- Smectite Illite Conversion

RHOVE METHOD

- Summary
- Virtual Model
- Alpha A-Term
- Shale Discrimination

SUMMARY DEMOS

- Unterhered Mode
- Tethered Mode

WELL EXAMPLES using RHOVE METHOD

ADVANTAGES of RHOVE Method



















































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Terzaghi's Relationship

The active pore pressure estimation follows the standard pore pressure protocol workflow using Terzaghi's (1996) relationship:

 $PP = S_v - \sigma_v'$

where PP is the pore pressure, S_v is the Total Vertical Stress (overburden) and, σ_v is the Vertical Effective Stress.

Joint Industry Project - DEA 119

An Improved Methodology to Predict Predrill Pore Pressure in Deepwater Gulf of Mexico -KSI

All new pore pressure methods published since the late 60's have been effective stress approaches. They differ only in the way that they determine effective stresses. These techniques can be subdivided into three categories

- 1) Vertical Methods
- 2) Horizontal Methods
- 3) Other









Mechanical vs. Chemical



Modified after Katahara, 2003 OTC



Montmorillonite (Smectite): $AI_2 Si_4 O_{10} (OH)_2$ • n H₂O

Illite: $K_2 Al_4 (Si_6 Al_2) O_{20} (OH)_4$

https://www.ihrdc.com/els/ipims-demo/t26/offline_IPIMS_s23560/resources/data/G4105.htm



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Arrhenius Law

 $k_i = A_i e^{-E_i} RT$

Describes the controls of temperature and time on the rate and extent of chemical reaction (Roaldset et al., 1998).

**note: subscript, denotes a parallel reaction

 $\begin{array}{l} \mbox{Smectite}: 2 \ \mbox{Na}_{0.4}(\mbox{Al}_{1.47}\mbox{Fe}_{0.18}\mbox{Mg}_{0.29})\mbox{Si}_4\mbox{O}_{10}(\mbox{OH})_2 + 0.85\mbox{K}^+ + 1.07 \ \mbox{H}^+ \\ \rightarrow \mbox{Illite}: 1.065\mbox{K}_{0.80}(\mbox{Al}_{1.98}\mbox{Mg}_{0.02})(\mbox{Si}_{3.22}\mbox{Al}_{0.78})\mbox{O}_{10}(\mbox{OH})_2 + 4.6 \ \mbox{SiO}_2 \\ + \ 0.36 \ \mbox{Fe}(\mbox{OH})_3 + 0.56 \ \mbox{Mg}^{2+} + 0.8 \ \mbox{Na}^+ + 0.9 \ \mbox{H}_2\mbox{O}. \end{array}$









Chemical Compaction

From recent advances in EMI (electron microbeam instrumentation) and sample preparation... "it is now clear that the principal diagenetic processes of sandstones and limestones, compaction and cementation, also operate in mudrocks" (Milliken, K., 2017).



**Mudrocks at the Scale of Grains and Pores: Current Understanding, Kitty Milliken, 2017, Bureau of Economic Geology, The University of Texas, Austin.

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RhoVe[™] Method

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Summary

- Interactive (and fast).
- Premised on a continuum of "virtual", normally pressured synthetic rock property relationships.
- Pore pressure is calculated by directly applying RhoVe-derived Velocity & Density-Effective Stress trends.
- Subsalt Applications –
- Handles varying shale lithologies with multiple NCTs in a predictive manner.
- Two-parameter approach: *a*-term & alpha (α); includes the effects of compositional changes (clay diagenesis)
- Rationale for subdivision of major flow units, which can be utilized in layerbased basin modeling simulations.
- Consistent with Bower's Method solutions for DWGoM fine-grained clastics.













Examples

a : fractional distance





Examples





AREA: Gulf of Mexico SMI23-5 MCZ DATA: wireline SEIS





Examples



a : fractional distance




























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AREA: Nova Scotia, CanadaH-23 MCZ DATA: wireline SEIS











$$a = 2\alpha - \alpha^2$$

V-Rho equation (Bowers, OTC 2001) :

$$V = V_0 + A (\rho - \rho_0)$$

BOWERS GOM "Slow" Trend		RhoVE-E	RhoVE-S
Vo:	4790	4800	4900
A:	2953	2000	4500
В:	3.57	4.2	3
ρ _o :	1.3	1.3	1.3

В





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RhoVe interm: $f(\alpha)$ * (RhoVE-E– RhoVE-S) + RhoVE-S









Velocity.ft/sec

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$$a = 2\alpha - \alpha^2$$






Velocity.ft/sec



RhoVE interm: **f(α)** * (RhoVE-ε – RhoVE-S) + RhoVE-S

$$a = 2\alpha - \alpha^2$$







Velocity.ft/sec





RhoVE interm: **f(α)** * (RhoVE-ε – RhoVE-S) + RhoVE-S

$$a = 2\alpha - \alpha^2$$







Velocity.ft/sec

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 RhoVE interm: $f(\alpha)$ * (RhoVE- ϵ – RhoVE-S) + RhoVE-S

$$a = 2\alpha - \alpha^2$$





Velocity.ft/sec



RHOB.G/CC

RhoVE interm: $f(\alpha)$ * (RhoVE- ϵ – RhoVE-S) + **RhoVE-S**

$$a = 2\alpha - \alpha^2$$













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Velocity.ft/sec

























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ADVANTAGES of RHOVE Method

PI526-1 Jack Hays DW Gulf of Mexico, U.S.A.



AREA: W. DWGOM Jack Hays-1 PI526









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KC292-1BP2 Kaskida DW Gulf of Mexico U.S.A.

















Eqivalent Mudweight.ppg

Eqivalent Mudweight.ppg

























































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ADVANTAGES of RHOVE Method

Advantages

- Efficiency through simplicity –
- RhoVe method has universal application -
- RhoVe method provides interactive solutions for:
 - Prospect Exploration
 - Prospect Maturation
 - Operations
- Rhob density transformed to effective stress and pore pressure,
- Rationale for subdivision of major flow units,
- Potential to automate pore pressure solutions related to compositional changes.

RhoVe[™] RhoVeR (Remote) Drone



Additional References

- Real-Time Downhole pH Measurement Using Optical Spectroscopy, Raghuraman, B. et al. 2007, SPE-93057-PA
- Mudrocks (shales, mudstones) at the Scale of Grains and Pores: Current Understanding, Milliken, K., 2017, Bureau of Economic Geology The University of Texas, Austin.