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# Real-Time Health Monitoring of Top Drives Using Physics Based Models and New Sensor Technology

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# Introduction

Top drive is a very important piece of equipment on a rig

Consequences of a top drive failure:

- All drilling efforts come to a halt
- Downtime to the operations
  - Rig rate must still be paid
- High repair costs
  - Availability of parts
  - Transportation of technician



## **Customer Survey**



#### Relative Desire for Top Drive Features

Additional Feature to add into the Top Drive System

#### When you call for service on your top drive, how long is it until you are back up and running?



#### **Different Problems on a Top Drive**



Top Drive Subsystem

# **Asset Management Strategy**





- Condition-based Maintenance vs. the traditional time-based preventative maintenance
- Real-time analysis to determine whether timebased preventative maintenance required

Thermal Modeling + Vibrations Monitoring + Oil Monitoring

# **Top Drive Thermal Monitoring**

- Leverages temperature sensors already installed on most top drives :
  - Motor winding temperature sensors
  - Gearbox oil temperature sensors
- Estimation of model parameters from real-time temperature measurements
- Determine whether estimated parameters are "healthy".



### **Physics Based Models**



## **Induction Motor Thermal Model**





### **Gearbox – Oil Sump Thermal Model**





#### **Results- Motor Faults**





## **Results-Oil Degradation**





### **Performance Based Maintenance**



# **Top Drive Vibration Monitoring**

- As a component or piece of a machine begins to fail, the vibrations emitted by that machine deviate from normal response.
- Various statistical measures to identify abnormal vibrations: RMS, crest factor, kurtosis factor
- Useful for bearing failures and gear failures

Number	Sensor Purpose	Sensitivity	Monitoring Time
1	High Shock	10 or 50 mV/g	Continuous
	Measurement		
2	Thrust Bearing	100mV/g	Periodic
3	Gears (Bull and	100mV/g	Periodic
	Pinion)		
4	Gears (Bull and	100mV/g	Periodic
	Pinion)		



# **Top Drive Oil Monitoring**

Goal is to:

- Optimize and extend oil drain intervals
- Forego catastrophic failures
- Reduce or eliminate unexpected downtime
- Extend the operating life of machinery Sensors to use:
- Oil Quality Sensors
- Particle Count Sensors
- Wear Debris Sensors
- Fluid Properties Sensors
- Moisture and Humidity Sensors



Viscosity, Temperature, Dielectric Constant, Density and Conductance

# Is There a Business Case for CBM ?

Average day rate for onshore drilling in the US  $\rightarrow$  \$120,000 per day

Nominal downtime due to top drive failure  $\rightarrow$  12 to 24 hours to get rig back up to running

- Cost of a single downtime \$60,000 \$120,000
- Does not account for cost of replacement part / service professional

A top drive manufacturer outsourcing CBM to a third party

- Hardware fees in excess of \$50,000
- Periodic system maintenance cost

In house development of CBM system

- Less than \$15,000 for vibration, thermal, and oil sensors
- Engineering cost

Cost can be recouped with one or two failure detections

## Conclusions

- A detailed thermal model of the top drive system is developed to track system parameters to infer information about the health of various top drive components.
- Various available vibration sensors are discussed, and appropriate analysis tools are presented that allow the vibration analysis of top drives
- Off-the-shelf oil monitoring sensors are explored, and appropriate ones are selected for a preliminary oil monitoring analysis.
- With some ingenuity, everyone in the food chain can make money while creating real value.

# **Future Work**

- Extensive testing of the thermal fault detection algorithm in the field to assess its ability in detecting various real system faults
- Testing and pattern analysis of the vibration sensor measurements, to identify the patterns that correspond to specific component faults.
- Development of an oil monitoring algorithm that will best suit the selected sensors and the most dominant oil degradation mechanisms.





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#### **Questions?**

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