



DOE Project Number DE-FE0024271

Fracture Diagnostics Using Low Frequency Electromagnetic Induction and Electrically Conductive Proppants

PI: Mukul M. Sharma, University of Texas at Austin

Participants: Javid Shiriyev, Peng Zhang, Yaniv Brick, Ali Yilmaz, UT Austin.

J. Gabelmann, Robert Houston, ESTI

August 2, 2017





Objectives

- To build and test a <u>downhole</u> fracture diagnostic tool that can be used to estimate the orientation and length of the 'propped' fracture (not the created fracture)
- To map the distribution of proppant in the fracture.





Technical Approach

- The project has the following components:
 - Develop a forward model for the proposed EM technology taking into account real geological and reservoir constraints.
 - Source and test proppants in the laboratory for electrical and material properties for their suitability in deployment in the field.
 - Design, build and field test a low frequency electromagnetic tool.
 - Invert the field data to estimate the propped fracture geometry, and present a stimulated rock volume map.





Project Tasks

- Task 1.0 Project Management Plan
- Task 2.0 Development of forward model using proposed tool and different fracture geometries
- Task 3.0 Lab testing of selected proppants for electrical and material properties
- Task 4.0 Design and construction of a low frequency electromagnetic tool
- Task 5.0 Laboratory and testing of tool in a shallow test site.
- Task 6.0 Inverting the field data to obtain the fracture geometry





Electrically Conductive Proppant Resistivity and Permeability Lab Measurements

Peng Zhang Rod Russel Williams Ozowe Mukul Sharma





Experimental Method for Resistivity Measurements





- A **4-electrode method** was used to do the measurements in a core holder.
- Alternating current (AC) was applied on the currentcarrying electrodes, while the voltage was measured on the voltage-sensing electrodes.
- **Confining pressure** can be applied. Saturation fluid could be tuned.





Experimental Method for Resistivity Measurements



- 0% sand + 100% coke
- 25% sand + 75% coke
- 50% sand + 50% coke
- 75% sand + 25% coke
- The ratio is based on mass.

Before measurement

After measurement

Size:40-70 mesh & 70-100 mesh Coke Density: ~2 g/cm³





Electrical Resistivity: 40/70 mesh







Electrical Resistivity: 70/100 mesh







Electrical Resistivity: 70/100 mesh



75% sand (sea water)	$3.18 imes 10^{-3} \ \Omega \cdot m$ @5000 psi
----------------------	---



The University of Texas at Austin Petroleum and Geosystems Engineering

Experimental Method for Fracture Conductivity Measurements



- A Berea sandstone core of 1" diameter by 8" length was prepared with a fracture width of 1mm.
- The core was placed inside a Hassler sleeve core holder and **evacuated** to remove trapped air.
- Confining closure stress was applied for 24 hours, after which 3% brine solution was pumped through the core at a range of **constant flow rates**.
- For each closure stress applied, the **pressure drop** across the core was measured and used to calculate the fracture conductivity using Darcy's Law.
- This procedure was repeated for incremental closure stresses from 1000 8000 psi.





Fracture Conductivity and Normalized Conductivity Sand vs Coke: 40/70 mesh







Productivity Index: Fractured Vertical Wells Ref: Friehauf and Sharma (2009)







Fracture Conductivity and Normalized Conductivity Sand vs Coke 70/100 mesh







Summary of Lab Measurements

- The electric resistivity of the PC, under confining stress, was measured to be in the range of 2 x 10⁻⁴ $\Omega\cdot m$
- Size does not affect the electrical resistivity but does affect the permeability.
- It is feasible to use mixtures of sand and PC if fracture conductivity is a concern (large in-situ stresses).
- Both resistivity and permeability increase with increasing mass percentage of sand at a given confining pressure.
- Brine has a minor effect on the measured resistivity because it is usually much more resistive (~0.2 $\Omega \cdot m$) than petroleum coke.





Tasks

- Task 1.0 -- Project Management Plan
- Task 2.0 Development of forward model using proposed tool and different fracture geometries
- Task 3.0 Lab testing of available proppants in the market for electrical and material properties
- Task 4.0 Final design and construction of low frequency electromagnetic tool
- Task 5.0 Laboratory and field testing of tool
- Task 6.0 -- Inverting the field data to obtain the fracture geometry





Numerical Simulation







Numerical Simulations



More details on the UT Austin EM forward-modeling software:

[3] P. Zhang, J. Shiriyev, Y. Brick, J. Massey, C. Torres-Verdin, A. E. Yılmaz, and M. Sharma, "Fracture diagnostics using a low frequency electromagnetic induction method," in *Proc. ARMA*, June 2016

[3] A. Menshov, Y. Brick, C. Torres-Verdin, and A. E. Yılmaz, "Recent progress in rigorous algorithms for the fast solution of 3-D EM frequency-domain integral-equations," to appear in *Proc. 6th Int. Symp. 3-D Electromagnetics*, Mar. 2017.







$$\Delta U^{uv} = \operatorname{Re}\left\{-j\omega\mu_o A_{\mathrm{RX}} N_{\mathrm{RX}} \widehat{\mathbf{u}} \cdot \left[\mathbf{H}^{v}\left(\mathbf{r}_{\mathrm{Rx2}}\right) - \mathbf{H}^{v}\left(\mathbf{r}_{\mathrm{Rx1}}\right) \frac{l_{1}^{3}}{l_{2}^{3}}\right]\right\}$$









































































$$\Delta U_{\text{diff}}^{uv} = |\Delta U_{\text{frac}}^{uv} - \Delta U_{\text{bore}}^{uv}| \ge V_{\text{resolution}}$$
$$\alpha^{uv} = \Delta U_{\text{diff}}^{uv} / \Delta U_{\text{bore}}^{zz} \ge n = 2\%$$











Tasks

- Task 1.0 -- Project Management Plan
- Task 2.0 Development of forward model using proposed tool and different fracture geometries
- Task 3.0 Lab testing of available proppants in the market for electrical and material properties
- Task 4.0 Final design and construction of low frequency electromagnetic tool
- Task 5.0 Laboratory and field testing of tool
- Task 6.0 -- Inverting the field data to obtain the fracture geometry





Tool Construction and Lab Testing



Axial TX coil on winding fixture with ferrite core to the side



Co-planar coil after construction



Tank circuit, transmit coil with capacitor board on the right



Initial bench testing of TX-RX coil setup



RX coils: z-coil (right) x/y coil (left)





Lab test fixture diagram for LFIE tool





Comparison of Lab Results with Simulations







Comparison of Lab Results with Simulations



Lab test fixture for LFEI tool




Comparison of Lab Results with Simulations

Pre-amp PCB



Lab Measurements



- All coils have been tested to verify the given properties.
- A single coil configuration is tested at a time
- Transmitter coil currents are measured during tests and results are normalized with respect to currents.
- At every sampling point data have been recorded for a minute at least and signal to noise ratio is shown to be strong.
- Signals are referenced with respect to voltage around the transmitter coil. Reference phase is used to rotate the output channels to get in-phase (real) and quadrature (imaginary) components of received signals.



Fracture Lab / Subsurface Models

- Industrial Aluminum Foil

Conductivity at 20°C is 33.4 - 35.8 MS/m Thickness is $25.4 \pm 10\%$ µm (also verified with micrometer measurement) – **Experiment setup**

Plexiglass, PVC pipes, nylon rod and Lexan

- Comparison to real size hydraulic fractures



a) Circular Fractures

r = 20 cm

15 cm

10 cm

12 cm





Comparison of Lab Results with Simulations



Results – Lab Measurements





Parameter	Co-Axial	Co-Planar	Cross-Polarized
Surface Area	>100 μV	>10 µV	<1 µV
Aspect Ratio	>100 µV	>10 µV	<1 µV
Dip Angle	>100 µV	>100 µV	>100 µV

Results – Lab Measurements



Parameter	Co-Axial	Co-Planar	Cross-Polarized
Surface Area	>100 µV	>10 µV	<1 µV
Aspect Ratio	>100 μV	>10 μV	<1 µV
Dip Angle	>100 µV	>100 µV	>100 µV

Results – Lab Measurements



Parameter	Co-Axial	Co-Planar	Cross-Polarized
Surface Area	>100 µV	>10 µV	<1 µV
Aspect Ratio	>100 µV	>10 µV	<1 µV
Dip Angle	>100 μV	>100 µV	>100 μV





Tasks

- Task 1.0 -- Project Management Plan
- Task 2.0 Development of forward model using proposed tool and different fracture geometries
- Task 3.0 Lab testing of available proppants in the market for electrical and material properties
- Task 4.0 Final design and construction of low frequency electromagnetic tool
- Task 5.0 Laboratory and field testing of tool
- Task 6.0 -- Inverting the field data to obtain the fracture geometry





Near-surface field testing (Task 5)



















Near-surface field testing (Task 5)



Uncovering the partially collapsed slot box and installing the 2X10 support beams.

Results – Subsurface Measurements



FRACTURE DIAGNOSTICS USING EM METHODS





Development Plan







Tasks

- Task 1.0 -- Project Management Plan
- Task 2.0 Development of forward model using proposed tool and different fracture geometries
- Task 3.0 Lab testing of available proppants in the market for electrical and material properties
- Task 4.0 Final design and construction of low frequency electromagnetic tool
- Task 5.0 Laboratory and field testing of tool
- Task 6.0 -- Inverting the field data to obtain the fracture geometry









The University of Texas at Austin Petroleum and Geosystems Engineering







Inverse Problem

Gradient Descent + Backtracking Line Search



- 1. Calculate gradient g at starting point x_0
- 2. Move along direction in which the objective function decreases, for Δx (g), to $x_1 = x_0 + \Delta x$ (g)
- 3. If $E(x_1) < E(x_0)$, move forward for $1.4 \cdot \Delta x$, otherwise move forward for $0.8 \cdot \Delta x$, repeat until *E* increases
- 4. Go to step 1 until the gradient is small enough



The University of Texas at Austin Petroleum and Geosystems Engineering

Inverse Problem



True Model $r = 30 m, \alpha = 15^{\circ}$

VS

Estimated Model $r = 27.3 m, \alpha = 5^{\circ}$





Current Status

Fully automatic inversion method being developed for the following fracture parameters: fracture length, height, conductivity and orientation.

Completed

 Parametric inversion of a single fracture from 'measured voltages' using gradient method and backtracking line search.

Being developed

- Simulated annealing inverse solver
- Inversion of multiple fractures with multiple excitation
- Incorporate simulated annealing inverse solver in the loop
- Using genetic algorithms to find a global minimum

Summary

- A lab prototype tool (transmitters and bucked receivers) has been built and tested in the lab and a shallow subsurface test site.
- Excellent agreement is obtained between the model predictions and the lab measurements for different T-R configurations.
- The results from the tests suggest that a commercial tri-axial EM tool can be built that has the potential to map the geometry of hydraulic fractures.
 - The prototype induction tool is shown to differentiate surface area, aspect ratio and dip angle of the fracture models used.
 - The highest signal levels occur when the primary magnetic field is perpendicular to the plane of the target.
 - From the principle of reciprocity, the response is the same if the source and receivers are interchanged.
 - Obtaining the same signal levels for a co-planar configuration is challenging because of wellbore constraints on transmitter coils.





Thank you & Questions

Thanks to DOE for funding the project DE-FE0024271





Proppant: Experimental Results

Resistivity measurements for electrically conductive proppant







Fracture Conductivity and Normalized Conductivity for Sand and EC-Proppant





Normalized Conductivity for Sand and EC-Proppant





The University of Texas at Austin 林 Petroleum and Geosystems Engineering

 C_1

Bucked Signal, Short Spacing, Fracture: 3m radius, 5mm thickness





67



Extensive lab testing and simulations

The University of Texas at Austin Petroleum and Geosystems Engineering

The total signal comprises two contributions

- Primary signal: pre-fracing, response to formation only
- Secondary signal: change in signal due to fracture









Comparison of Lab Results with Simulations

The total signal comprises two contributions

- Primary signal: pre-fracing, response to formation only
- Secondary signal: change is signal due to fracture





 $\times 10^{-3}$

representation

Time[s]





Rolling Nosecone

Develop Commercial Tool Specifications (SBIR)

LFEI Tool Conceptual Design

- Consists of 7 sections assembled at wellhead
- First 3 sect. connect rigidly at fixed orientation
- Transmit Control Sub powered by monocable, controls electrical impulses sent to TX coils
- Transmit Coil Sub contains long-spacing TX coils and short/medium-spacing TX coils
- Short-Spacing Receiver Sub contains shortspacing bucking and RX coils, Dewar flask holding temperature-sensitive RX electronics, D&I package, RX batteries
- Medium- and Long-Spacing Receiver Subs similar to short-spacing receiver sub
- Medium Wired Spacer Bar spaces receiver sub so that medium-spacing RX coils are 20 ft away from z TX coil
- Long Wired Spacer Bars (3 ea) space receiver sub so that long-spacing RX coils are 60 ft away from the z TX coil
- Tool Wiring Bus extends through each spacer bar and allows communication between Transmitter Control Sub and each receiver sub



 Rolling Bulkheads on end of each sub reducing sliding friction against tool in horizontal wellbores





Response Function Space

• The best response of EM tool occurs when the primary magnetic field is perpendicular to the plane of the target; it was also shown in the previous experimental study:

Parameter	Co-Axial	Co-Planar	Cross-Polarized
Surface Area	>100 µV	>10 µV	<1 µV
Aspect Ratio	>100 µV	>10 µV	<1 µV
Dip Angle	>100 µV	>100 µV	>100 μV

• The main motivation of the inversion analysis is to provide the same level of parameter accuracy (when compared to tri-axial coil system) when only coil couples with the strongest signals are used.





2) Directly Solving for the Conductivity

Error minimization (L₂ norm)



Simplification to the forward algorithm

$$\mathbf{V}_{i}^{\text{sca}} = -j\omega\mu_{o}N_{\text{rx}}A_{\text{rx}}\mathbf{\underline{K}}_{i}^{\text{T}}\left[\mathbf{\underline{B}} \setminus \mathbf{\underline{V}}_{i}^{\text{inc}}\right]G$$

$$V_i^{\text{sca}} = GT_i \qquad \frac{\partial V_i^{\text{sca}}}{\partial G} = T_i$$

$$T_{i} = -j\omega\mu_{o}N_{rx}A_{rx}\underline{\mathbf{K}}_{i}^{\mathrm{T}}\left[\underline{\mathbf{B}}\backslash\underline{\mathbf{V}}_{i}^{\mathrm{inc}}\right]$$

$$G = \left[\underline{\mathbf{T}}^{\mathrm{T}}\underline{\widetilde{\mathbf{V}}}\right] / \left[\underline{\mathbf{T}}^{\mathrm{T}}\underline{\mathbf{T}}\right]$$





Orthogonal Fractures

Case 1: Circular fracture with uniform conductivity

- Radius is 4m; orthogonal and planar fracture
- Conductance is uniform and equal to 0.1 S; thickness is 1 mm and conductivity is 100 S/m.



Inverted data perfectly matches input values for the different transmitter-receiver spacing.




Electromagnetic Scattering



- Once unknown coefficient vector is found, scattered fields are calculated for two observation points.
- This procedure is repeated for each tool position and only incident field vector is regenerated.