

## **Fracture Simulation Parameters**

Addressing the Needs of Completion Engineers—A Petrophysical Perspective

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#### **History of Fracture Simulation**



Torpedoes filled with gunpowder (later nitroglycerin) were lowered into wells and ignited by a weight dropped along a suspension wire onto a percussion cap.



Pouring nitroglycerin was risky enough in late 19th century oilfields. Doing it for an illegal well "shooting" led to the term "moonlighting."



Photographs comparing of the first hydraulic fracturing operation in 1947 with a modern shale gas frac-pad

### The Elements of Frac Design

- Detailed petrophysical analysis of zone of interest
- Computation or estimation of elastic properties
- Determination of rock and fluid properties
- Interval averaging of log values for input into simulator
- Parameter testing to insure rock and fluid properties match well test results
- Transfer of rock and fluid properties into simulator and run simulation



#### **Petrophysical Evaluation**



#### Parameters of Interest

- Water Saturation
- Porosity
- Permeability
- Clay Volume
- Lithology



#### Determining Elastic Properties (wells with log data)

- Deterministic computations where compressional sonic, shear sonic, and density curve are measured over the zone of interest
- Computation of synthetic acoustics when DTS (shear acoustic log) and/or DTC (compressional acoustic log) are not acquired
  - Estimated from other logs in the well (RHOB, NPHI, DTC, GR, etc.) (Synthetic Curve Generation)
  - Generated using Deep Learning Models with Python Extensions (also using other curves)
  - Determined from a detailed rock physics model constructed over zone of interest
- Empirical equations for estimation of elastic properties when minimal logs are present



#### Barnett Wells with Measured DTC and DTS





## Generate Synthetic DTS from Nearby Wells





#### Deep Learning Model for Synthetic DTS



## **Rock Physics Models for Elastic Properties**



Required inputs for rock physics modeling include lithology, porosity, water saturation, pressure, temperature, and fluid properties. The aspect ratio is estimated based on lithology.



#### Deterministic Elastic Properties (Rock Physics Application)



#### Computing Elastic Properties (Python Script)

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#### **Empirical Estimation of Elastic Properties**

Multiplier to match known values when available	Image: Screens -         Bourne #3;         Setup: Rock Properties: Ruid Loss Properties: OC         Parameter Turning         Tourg's and Poisson's         Poisson's Cal (dec):         Young's Correction Method         Noung's Correction Method         Built: Density (groc)         DEN         Built: Density (groc)         DEN         Built: Density (groc)         DTC (as:/h)         DTS (as:h)         DTS	Stress YM_ST P_RAT_ST P_RAT_ST Stress_Ct Lth	<ul> <li>Empirical options for estimation of Poisson's Ratio and Young's Modulus         <ul> <li>De-Hua Han</li> <li>Castagna</li> <li>Neutron</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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#### Bulk Moduli versus Vshale (Color Scale is Porosity)



#### Biot's Coefficient (Required Input for Some Simulation Packages)

The full rock physics modeling for elastic properties enables estimated determination of Biot's Coefficient along with the Poisson's Ratio and Young's Moduli. The Stress computations were performed in FracRAT.







#### **Frac Preparation Examples**

- Mississippi tight gas sand example
  - Cotton Valley formation, upper Jurassic age
  - Low porosity clastic sandstones (very common case globally)
  - Partially depleted after initial completion including frac
  - Post frac tracer survey very useful
  - Planned recompletion, never executed
- West Texas Unconventional example
  - Spraberry Wolfcamp formations, Permian age
  - High Kerogen content
  - Uranium salts associated with high Kerogen volume rocks
  - Actual frac design did not use analysis results



#### Mechanicsburg Field, Mississippi





#### Mississippi Tight Gas Sands





#### Generate Modeled DTC and DTS





#### Calculate Rock and Fluid Properties

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#### Post Frac Tracer Surveys





## Spraberry Wolfcamp Unconventional Example

The next section deals with design of a frac in an unconventional reservoir with minimal log suite. No advanced acoustic data is available in any of these wells. There is no cartographic data associated with these wells, so no Google Maps can be displayed.

FracRAT (a module of PowerLog) is used to generate the rock and fluid properties for input into the fracture simulation software package. In this case we are using Mfrac for simulation.



#### Elements of PowerLog Frac - MFrac Workflow



#### PowerLogFrac Workflow

Load well data into PowerLog, edit curves, process curves, generate new curve data, compute TVD, etc.



#### PowerLog: Petrophysical package

Load well data, edit curves, process curves, generate new curve data, compute TVD, etc.







#### ZAC (Zone Average Calculator)

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#### FracRAT Module Setup Tab (Tab 1)

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Deep Resistivity (ohmm) BL	_M2R9	Caliper (in)	BU_CALX	
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Help				Close Run
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Select the curve data for input and set up parameters for determining many of the essential parameters for use in frac simulation

Has multiple options for computing Vsh and calculating permeability including allowing externally generated curve data.



#### FracRAT Module Rock Properties Tab (Tab 2)

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Choose the methodologies for computing Poisson's Ratio and Young's Modulus and set a range for fracture toughness

Generates the rock properties



#### FracRAT Module Fluid Loss Properties (Tab 3)



Input the physical parameters like compressibility and viscosity for the fluids in the reservoir and mud.

Generates the fluid loss properties



#### FracRAT Module QC Tab (Tab 4)

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Outputs the transient curves used in the generation of the rock and fluid properties.

Enables users to insure quality of results



### FracRAT Module Parameter Tuning Tab (Tab 5)

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Important feature that will take known data from Minifrac Tests and give the user the ability to determine the exact input parameters required to match Minifrac results.

Essential in assuring valid simulation models



## FracRAT Exporter

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4	MD @ Bottom (ft)		Curve		Ht.
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6	Stress (psi)	Stress	Curve		psi
7	Young's Modulus (psi)	YM	Curve	~	psi
8	Poisson's Ratio	PR	Curve		6
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3	7 12615935 1	V-Sdy Shale	9488.75		1.00872446	9571.5341809	3447301.8541	0.2370431	940.75020397	0	
)	9 16744576 1	Sandy Shale	9513.5		1.01136003	9621.5736633	3142766.7534	0.25064266	1022.8407776	0	
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11	7 12615935 1	V-Sdy Shale	9546		1.01102133	9651.2095841	3179921.2016	0.24892216	961.78424873	0	
12	7 12615935 1	V-Sdy Shale	9559		1.01055725	9659.9167715	3231748.6125	0.24655195	901.49207624	0	
13	2 16711935 1	V-Silty Sand	9576		1.01375275	9707.6963328	2895626.1153	0.26257589	748.88651012	0	
14	2 16711935 1	V-Silty Sand	9587.75		1.01202969	9703.0876881	3070936.4748	0.25402121	703.44235723	0	
5	3 16744703 1	Shly-Sand	9609.75		1.00521541	9659.8688278	3913405.1210	0.21815139	811.53605383	0	
6	7 12615935 1	V-Sdy Shale	9634.5		1.01462702	9775.4240066	2811642.8075	0.26684188	997.17123908	0	
7	2 16711935 1	V-Silty Sand	9650.25		1.00963206	9743.2018327	3338340.6715	0.24178174	722.20992278	0	
8	1 8388863 16	Silty-Sand	9668.5		1.00926048	9758.0349144	3382413.3950	0.23984881	619.41457232	0	
19	1 8388863 16	Silty-Sand	9684		1.00698552	9751.6477661	3668976.2161	0.22779664	627.65289888	0	
20	4 8421631 16	Clean Sand	9695.75		1.00688242	9762.4801964	3682677.2722	0.22724137	573.43720439	0	
21	1 8388863 16	Silty-Sand	9735		1.00470964	9780.8483548	3986972.3270	0.21535103	610.13749098	0	
22	2 16711935 1	V-Silty Sand	9774		1.00498125	9822.6867181	3947252.6994	0.21685735	701.55885358	0	
23	2 16711935 1	V-Silty Sand	9800		1.01162323	9913.9076551	3114279.6939	0.25197418	734.95598215	0	
24	3 16744703 1	Shly-Sand	9844.25		1.01579694	9999.7589786	2704182.8851	0.27247387	866.34568665	0	
25	1 8388863 16	Silty-Sand	9852		1.00502503	9901.5065848	3940896.6177	0.21709961	667.32611567	0	
26	4 8421631 16	Clean Sand	9883.25		1.00444317	9927.1629874	4026427.2169	0.21386756	595.52844619	0	
27	3 16744703 1	Shly-Sand	9893.75		1.00700145	9963.0205705	3666865.2444	0.22788235	827.02923399	0	
					In	terval					
		Start (ft)			Sto	p (ft)			Zone		
	per_Spra			Wet_Lime							



#### **MFrac Rock Properties**

Rock Properties

ł	Litholog Symbol	Zone Name	TVD at Bottom (ft)	MD at Bottom (ft)	Stress Gradient (psi/ft)	Stress (psi)	Young's Modulus (psi)	Poisson's Ratio	Fracture Toughness (psi-in^½)	Critical Stress (psi)
1		V-Sdy Shale	9253	9253	1.01851	9424.24	1.1181e+07	0.285189	973.157	0
2	靈	V-Silty Sand	9304.75	9304.75	1.01087	9405.85	1.4303e+07	0.248129	778.457	0
3		Shly-Sand	9344.5	9344.5	1.01249	9461.2	1.4235e+07	0.256317	840.621	0
4	巖	V-Silty Sand	9367	9367	1.01088	9468.92	1.4799e+07	0.248205	796.742	0
5		Shly-Sand	9385.75	9385.75	1.01139	9492.67	1.5555e+07	0.250804	835.053	0
6	龗	V-Silty Sand	9430.75	9430.75	1.00847	9510.6	1.7469e+07	0.23569	760.046	0
7		V-Sdy Shale	9451.5	9451.5	1.01423	9585.98	1.3885e+07	0.264904	902.826	0
8		Shly-Sand	9472.25	9472.25	1.01394	9604.32	1.3825e+07	0.263509	892.471	0
9		V-Sdy Shale	9499.75	9499.75	1.01531	9645.17	1.2967e+07	0.270131	916.173	0
0		V-Sdy Shale	9534.25	9534.25	1.01419	9669.58	1.3888e+07	0.264738	902.537	0
1	靈	V-Silty Sand	9560.25	9560.25	1.01199	9674.88	1.3149e+07	0.253824	793.57	0
2		Silty-Sand	9589.5	9589.5	1.00747	9661.12	1.5528e+07	0.230387	678.612	0
3		Shly-Sand	9619	9619	1.01335	9747.38	1.336e+07	0.260579	852.34	0
4		Silty-Sand	9657	9657	1.005	9705.26	1.7225e+07	0.216949	612.756	0
5		Clean Sand	9688	9688	1.00171	9704.55	2.1513e+07	0.198314	541.481	0
6		Clean Sand	9714	9714	1.00301	9743.26	1.8373e+07	0.205801	549.039	0
7		Clean Sand	9750.25	9750.25	1.00213	9771.03	2.257e+07	0.200758	579.01	0
8		Silty-Sand	9777.75	9777.75	1.00479	9824.58	1.8923e+07	0.215792	635.466	0
9	靈	V-Silty Sand	9821	9821	1.01087	9927.71	1.3182e+07	0.248155	752.263	0
0		Clean Sand	9867.5	9867.5	1.00116	9878.91	2.3095e+07	0.195097	543.768	0
1		V-Silty Sand	9902	9902	1.00956	9996.67	1.5419e+07	0.241413	760.052	0
2		Clean Sand	9943.5	9943.5	1.00293	9972.61	2.0955e+07	0.205323	586.982	0
3		Clean Sand	9967.75	9967.75	1.00063	9974	2.3625e+07	0.191987	526.393	0
4		Sandy Shale	9995.25	9995.25	1.02146	10209.8	1.0134e+07	0.298567	1028.74	0
5		Shly-Sand	10054	10054	1.01531	10207.9	1.2552e+07	0.270163	895.872	0
6	2	Sandy Shale	10117.8	10117.8	1.02077	10327.9	1.0367e+07	0.295468	1010.52	0
7		Silty-Shale	10166.3	10166.3	1.02878	10458.8	7.797e+06	0.329612	1145.14	0
8		Silty-Shale	10223.3	10223.3	1.02878	10517.4	7.797e+06	0.329612	1145.14	0
9										



X

**Frac Simulation Results** 



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#### Perforations, Frac Stages, and Production History

#### Frac Stages are colored intervals

#### Bourne #3

22 Months Production 18,705 bbls oil 18,817 mmcf gas 39,797 bbls Water

Currently making 624 bbls/month oil





#### - Perforations

#### Pence #1

35 Months Production 38,464 bbls oil 51,518 mmcf gas 56,012 bbls Water

Currently making 485 bbls/month oil



## Simulation to Stimulation Workfow

- Generate a simulation model based on best available data
- Mini-fracs are required to calibrate simulation models
- FracRAT has parameter tuning to calibrate simulation models
- Calibrated simulation models accurately predict frac stimulation results



## Surface Pressure



## Surface Pressure





- Perf and frac everything is still a common practice when completing unconventional reservoirs
- Frac simulations are often not run for lack of data and the time involved in generating the models
- Petrophysical parameters are important factors in frac stimulation (and simulation) design
- The elastic properties needed as inputs to frac simulation can be deterministically or empirically derived.
- Tools like FracRAT can reduce the time needed to generate frac simulations
- Frac simulations should result in more effective fracs and improved commercial results





# Thank you

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