# PSA New Approach Solving Lateral Wells Complexity, Integrating Borehole Acoustics Reflection Survey and Facies Derived Borehole Images for a Better Completion Strategy, Wolfcamp, West Texas\*

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### **Abstract**

The Greater Permian Basin (GPB) formed and was divided into several sub-basins. It continued to uncover why the Midland Basin and the Delaware Basin were different based on variances in sedimentary depositions and tectonics. The Delaware Basin represents a syn-tectonic deposition; shaping the complexity of the lateral facies variation, which in turn represents a real challenge for lateral wells evaluation and completion design. The Wolfcamp Formation is the deepest in the center of the basin, measuring approximately 12,000 feet deep, concluding major sea level fluctuations outlining high frequency of depositional cycles. Identifying the depositional facies and solving the structural framework, including faults and fracture analysis, will input to the completion strategy, differentiating the reservoir quality (RQ) and completion quality (CQ) for a better fracking stage placement. This case study is approaching a new technique integrating the depositional facies, fracture identification from borehole images, Anisotropic mechanical properties with their correspondence minimum horizontal stress profile along the well combined with the compressional borehole acoustic reflection survey to reveal the dilemma of understanding the reservoir and preparing the stimulation of the well. Facies identification combined with fracture evaluation was obtained from borehole images in vertical and horizontal sections. Good correlation was observed between specific facies and fracture occurrence, which will be discussed in detail in this paper. Near wellbore fracture observation might not be enough to solve for the real variation of fracture occurrence across the formation away from the borehole. The standard means of evaluating the fractures such as stoneley fracture analysis, and shear anisotropy analysis from dipole sonic may reveal the mid-near well bore events. Borehole acoustic reflection technique provides a method for fracture characterization with a larger distance away the borehole; analyzing the compressional and shear reflections generated by fractures, bed boundaries, faults, etc... originated with the state of the art dipole acoustic tool. An integrated analysis providing detailed study of the microresistivity images and the Borehole acoustic reflection analysis, shedding light on the complexity of the lateral wells drilled in the Wolfcamp Formation is used to identify the way forward for future well stimulation within this area.

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ferent sub-basins. Studies conducted on comparison between Midland Basin and the Delaware Basin revealed differences between the two especially on variances in sedimentary depositions and tectonics. The Delaware Basin renresents a syn-tectonic deposition; shaping the complexity of the lateral facies variation, which in turn represents a real challenge for lateral wells evaluation

The Wolfcamp Formation is the deepest in the center of the basin, located at approximately 12,000 feet of depth, concluding major sea level fluctuations outlining high frequency of depositional cycles.

Identifying the depositional facies and solving the structural framework, includng faults and fracture analysis, will input to the completion strategy, differentiating the reservoir quality (RQ) and completion quality (CQ) for a better fracking stage placement

This case study is approaching a new technique integrating the depositional facies, fractures identification from borehole images, anisotropic mechanical properties with their correspondence minimum horizontal stress profile along the well combined with the compressional borehole acoustic reflection survey o reveal the dilemma of understanding the reservoir and preparing the stimu-

Facies identification combined with fracture evaluation was obtained from horehole images in the vertical and the horizontal sections. Good correlation was observed between specific facies and fracture occurrence which will be

Near wellbore fractures evaluation is crucial to understand the different orientation of fracture segments and relation with present day stress. Far field fracture validation is an important main input to simulate the fracture network in a reservoir scale, which will help building a better discrete fracture network model. The standard means of evaluating the fractures such as stoneley fracture analysis, and shear anisotropy analysis from dipole sonic may reveal the midnear well bore events. Borehole acoustic reflection technique provides a method for fracture characterization with a larger distance away from the borehole. it involves analyzing the compressional and shear reflections generated by fractures, bed boundaries, faults, and other features, originated with the state of the art dipole acoustic tool

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DLAND BASIN & ASTERN SHELF	DELAWARE BASIN	VAL VERDE Basin	Quanta Geo service's physics of measurement are ent agers than previous generation OBM Imagers. Due to and the 192 micro electrodes, the resulting AC current ing the tools equally sensitive to horizontal and vertica of each button measures only 0.24 in vertically by 0.13 spatial resolution of the image, although much smaller where there is significant resistivity contrast versus the
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TANSUL, NATES SEVEN RIVERS QUEEN GRATBURG SAN ANDRES	DELAMARE HT GROUP BELL CANYON CHERRY CANYON BRUSHY CANYON	TANSALL VATES SEVEN RIVERS GREEN GRATSURG SAN ANDRES	
LEONARD SPRABERRY, DEAN	BONE SPRING	LECHARD	
WOLFCAMP	WOLFCAMP	WOLFCAMP	
CISCO	CI900	cisco	
CANYON	CANYON	CANTON	whole there is significant resistivity contrast versus the
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ROENT TO	WORKY BEILD	(ABSENT) (ARSENT)	The sonde design is composed by eight independent,
HESTER BANKS BAGE	CHESTER MERANEC CHASE	HERAMES BERNEY	eight imaging pads. This allows the capability for down
KINDERHOOK WCCCFORD-	KINGERHOOK WOODFORD	KINGERHOOK WOODFORD	the lateral sections.
	DEVICEAN		

Source: Yang and Dorobek 1995).

## CASE STUDY INTRODUCTION

Three pilot wells and two horizontal wells were drilled and analyzed following the integration workflow between borehole image analysis and advanced borehole acoustic surveys.

The wells were evaluated with a comprehensive logging program which included the acquisition of advanced technologies, but was not limited to, Quanta Geo\* and Sonic Scanner\*, the first one is the latest borehole imager for non conductive mud system, and the last one is the latest acoustic technology which includes cross-dipole and multi displaced-monopole measurements with capabilities of radial measurement to probe the formation for nearwellbore slowness and far-field slowness. The data interpretation was carried out independently from the measurement and integrated in the last phase of the workflow. Focus of the borehole image interpretation was a solid understanding of the fractures typology and distribution, including also the stress analysis from drilling induced fractures recognition. The QGeo data was processed through inversion.

The following workflow was utilized in regard to the interpretation of the borehole images

) Image processing, including speed correction, equalization and normalization. In the case of the QGEO image, the Z90 processing was carried out to isolate the mud impedivity fro the raw data and highlight the formation impedivity.

2) Image was analyzed for fracture presence with specific attention to natural fractures vs drilling induced.

8) Reclassification of natural fractures after inversion results

## DELAWARE BASIN LOCATION MAP



#### ★ Wells general location

The wells subjects of this case study are located in the Delaware basin, one of the largest oilfield in West Texas and SE New Mexico.

#### an innovative technology which allows the recognition of open or mineralized fractures in a non-conductive mud environment. Such processing allowed a detailed description and classification of the fractures seen. Additionally, borehole image facies derived were distinguished in the pilot holes and easily identifiable in the horizontal section as well.

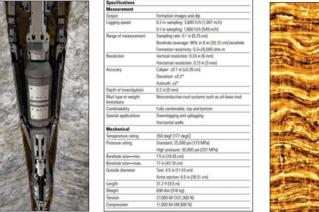
The anisotropic mechanical properties and stress profiles were derived with the data gathered with the acoustic scanning platform. Both the mechanical properties and stress profiles were later calibrated with the Formation Tester Stress test, which provides minimum horizontal stress, and with an Integrated Stress Analysis that uses dipole and Stoneley waveform radial profiling to derive minimum and maximum horizontal stresses. The results were used to select the best landing point. The calibrated anisotropic mechanical properties (strains) where used to calculate the stress profiles in one of the lateral well from the same pad, while in the other lateral well the mechanical properties where not calibrated. However, it is important to recall that for the laterals is more important the stress contrast than the nominal value, therefore the need of

a calibrated stress is not mandatory

#### PHOTOREALISTIC RESERVOIR GEOLOGY SERVICE

tirely new, but they are more similar to WBM in AC voltage applied between the current return t passes directly through each button thus makcal features. The effective electrical cross section 13 in horizontally. These dimensions define the features, such as fractures, may be imaged he background

interlaced trapezoidal dual arms equipped with nlogging utilized in this case study while logging

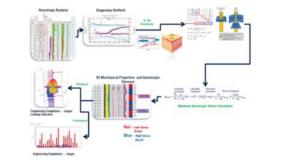


#### SONIC SCANNER IN UNCONVENTIONAL RESERVOIRS

If the differences in mechanical properties are not taken in account (in other words the rock is asmed to be isotropic) the estimated closure pressure will be underestimated and the stress contrast with the surrounding non-reservoir shales (that might contain the hydraulic fracture propagation along

In the past Dipole Sonic technology and applications (such as mechanical properties calculations, closure pressure, Brittle Index) treated the rock as isotropic because the information acquired was not capable to resolve the anisotropic nature of this reservoirs

In recent years advance acoustic measurements have been developed to derive anisotropic mechanical properties considering TI anisotropy in vertical and horizontal wells and therefore estimate more accurately minimum horizontal stress values. The workflow varies slightly if it is a vertical or a horizontal well. A brief overview of the steps needed to calculate anisotropic mechanical properties and their



is direction does not change and there is also a very good match on the strike orientation of the resistive fracture

#### BOREHOLE IMAGES INTERPRETATION WORKFLOW

3) Image based facies catalog was defined for the region.

4) Image based facies analysis was conducted in the pilot hole.

5)Comparison between vertical and horizontal fracture propagation was conducted.

6) Comparison between different facies in the vertical and in the horizontal section was conducted.

7) QGEO inversion carried out to output resistivity and standoff image.

9) Comparison between fractures propagation in the vertical and horizontal well was conducted

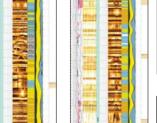
#### SONIC SCANNER IN UNCONVENTIONAL RESERVOIRS



Oil & gas shales are reservoirs of complex mineralogy, variable lay volume, low porosity and extremely low permeability, these eservoirs can produce after multi-stage hydraulic fracturing of horontal drains, with several sets of perforations per stage. An imortant input to a hydraulic fracture design is the minimum horizonstress or closure pressure that is used to understand the fracture initiation pressure profile and fracture containment. Minimum horizontal stress also provides an excellent landing selection crite-

ria. One common characteristic of unconventional reservoirs is the laminated structure nature that have as it can be appreciated in the figure on the left. Laminations are notable in a very fine scale (Microscopic scale) to a very coarse scale (such as outcrop). This laminated/layered nature is known as Transverse Isotropy Vertical (TIV) Anisotropy and is reflected in different physical properties of these rocks such as: mechanical properties, sound velocities, resistivity and others.



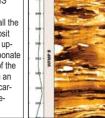




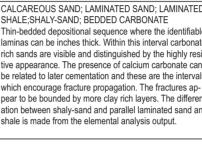
w and Right: image facies catalog and hi

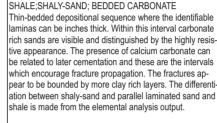
with the 360 deg Full Image: this gap-filling tech

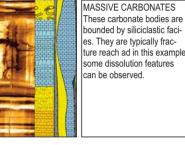
This debris-flow shows all th omponents of this deposit type with a typical fining upward profile. Larger carbonate lasts at the beginning of the deposition are triggering an ncrease in the calcium carbonate reading in the elemental analysis.

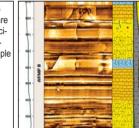


This facies in sand appears in a deposition characterized by high energy deformed sediments. It is characterized by sparse intraclasts of different nature; some carbonate rich and some muddy The intraclasts are not organize in beddings nor in granulometry

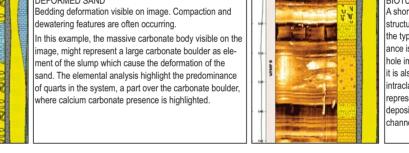


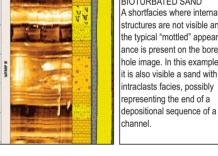


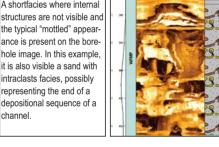




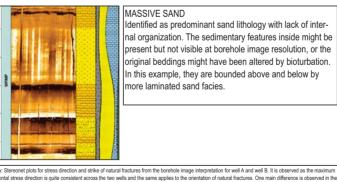
Present within a sand rich deposition Characterized by preslence of predominantly calcium carbonate rich clasts and bound led above and below by laminatled facies. Thickness of this deposit is not enough to trigger the flag on the elemental analysis.

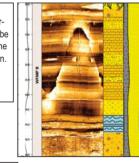


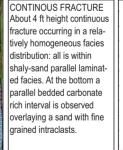


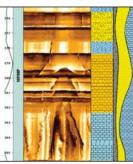


Deformed beddings are visible on the image. Mixed lithology is nighlighted by the elemental analysis. Large shale clasts are observed. The slumps is a solid proof of slope instability referrir o the syn-tectonic depositional motif observed in the well. Lateral prediction of these types o facies is not easy to map: only with image/core data. Fracture opagation is affected laterally

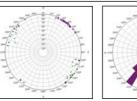




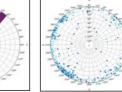


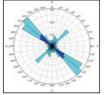


ITHOLOGY BOUND FRAC-When the system is enriched in calcium carbonate and the thin or thick beds are characterized by different lithologies, the fractures do not propagate as contin uous but they experience a stop and a shift at lithology boundaries. This very well explained some of the complexity created

















g deposited in the basin with d

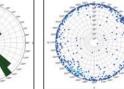


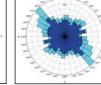
ency of natural conductive fractures which seem to be higher in Wolfcamp C in well B.











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#### QUANTA GEO (QGEO) INVERSION INTRODUCTION

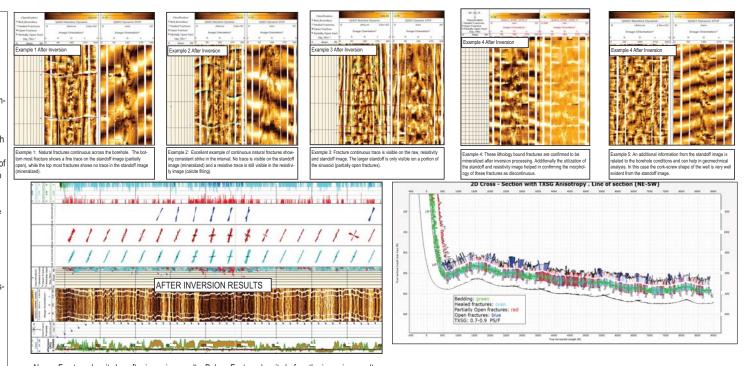
aiming to produce a quantitative interpretation of mi croelectrical images in non conductive mud. The inversion complements the standard images and provides resistivity, dielectric permittivity, and standoff im ages that can be used for refining interpretations made on standard images.

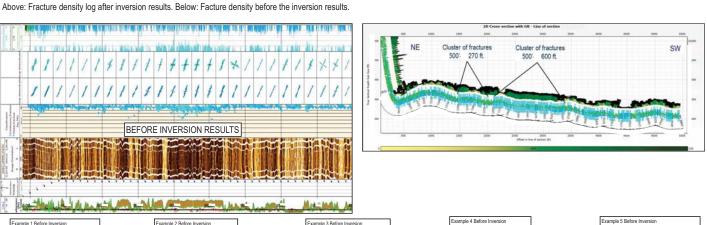
nversion is required for a more quantitative approact to the interpretation as the "raw" measurements are still not directly usable for quantitative interpretation of formation resistivity due to an increased sensitivity to large standoff, and response nonlinearity .For complete removal of these environmental effects, the model-based inversion is applied and it serves to the determination model parameters such as: formation and mud resistivity and dielectric permittivity and

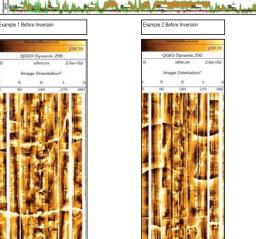
The inversion algorithm and the workflow were validated on a synthetic data set generated using finiteelement simulator. The test cases are designed to assess the inversion performance for a wide range of formation, mud, and standoff parameters.

The inversion-generated standoff image, as expected, has a proven valuable complement for the quality control of both the inverted resistivity images and the composite impedivity images. Moreover, it contains unique and interpretable geologic and geomechanical information, clearly delineating breakouts, determining whether fractures are open or closed, and detecting fault slips. Previously applications were exclusively interpreted using ultrasonic acoustic imaging tools. (Yong-Hua Chen at al, SPWLA 55th Annual Logging Symposium, 2014).

On the right side of this column, the two horizontally displayed logs represent the lateral images from well B of the case study. The upper one represent the results after inversion while the bottom one, the results before inversion. On the side of the horizontal logs, the two cross sections with the interpreted fractures

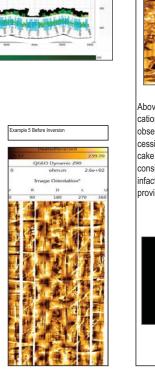


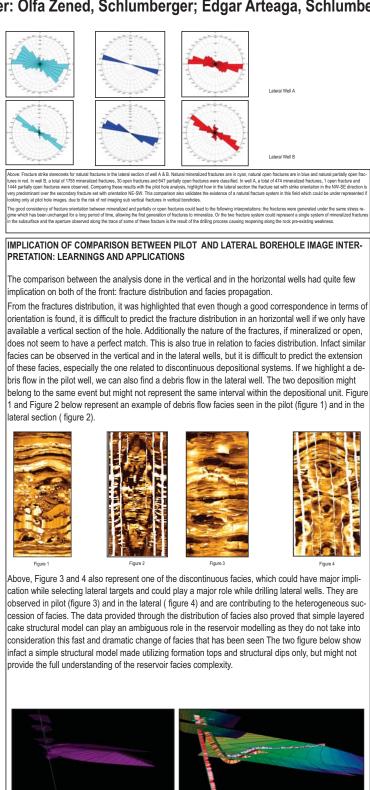


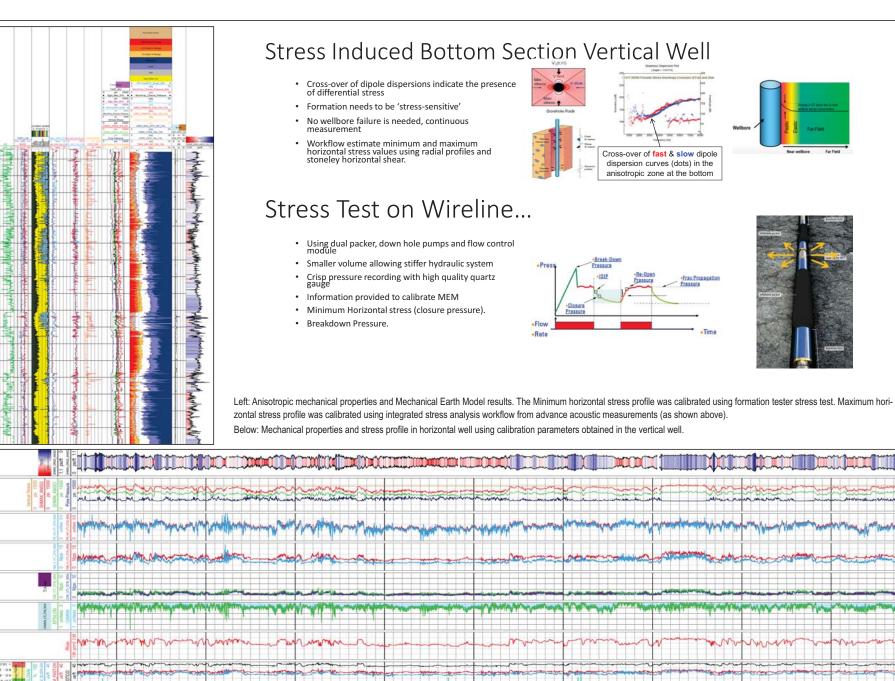










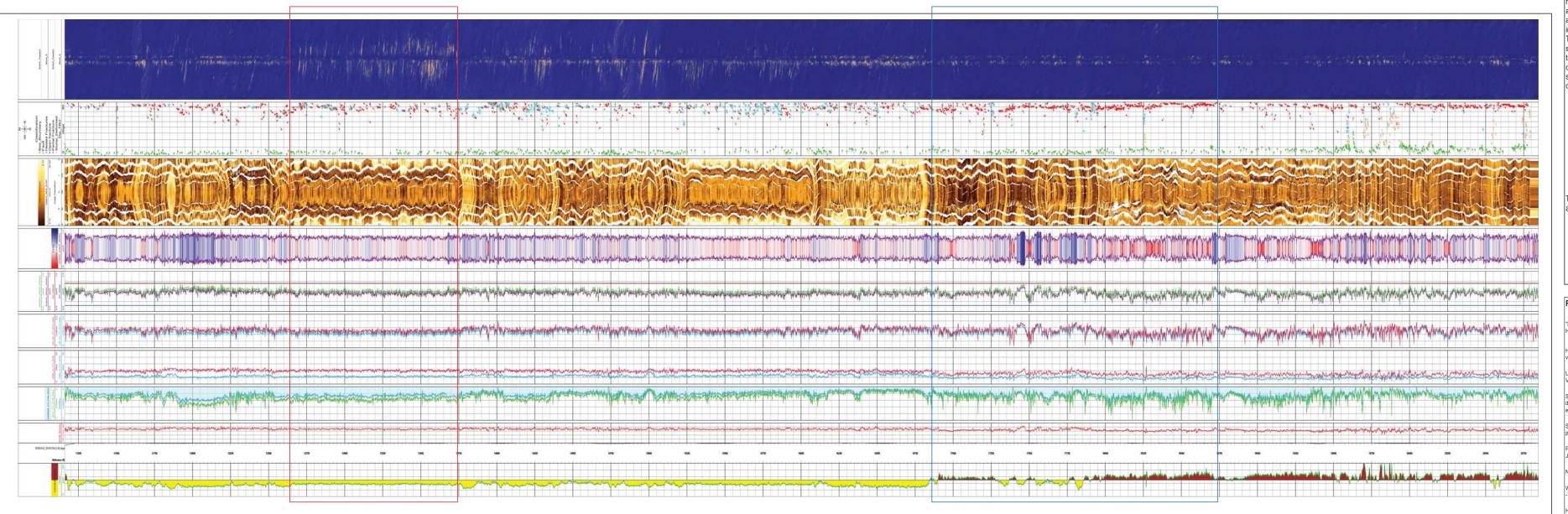


dispersion curves (dots) in the

anisotropic zone at the bottom

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The figure is showing an Integrated Interpretation generated from borehole images, acoustic processing and borehole acoustic reflection survey migrated images. The original fractures were reclassified according to the standoff inverted image results. The reclassification was based on the fracture appearance,

Red tadpoles=partially open fractures

Cyan tadpoles=Mineralized fractures

The highlighted area (inside the red rectangle) is actually showing an area with partially open fractures as concluded from the borehole images and supported by a good extension of those fractures in the far field as observed in the reflection migrated image results. This zone in the horizontal well exemplifies a good case where the completion design might accommodate some changes due to the presence of open fractures as well as their extension into the formation .

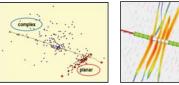
The other highlighted portion of the well (Blue rectangle) a swarm of fractures with a partially open classification was observed. When compared with the acoustic reflection images, it is noticeable that this fracture zone is not contributing to a deep far field fracture propagation. Therefore, the completion design may not need changes in this particular zone.

A well-observed mix of mineralized fractures and partially open fractures within the interpreted interval provides more information to the relationship between a pre-existing tectonic fracture episode and present day stress acting parallel within the same strike orientation.

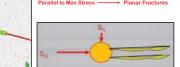
### CONCLUSIONS

The integration between several pieces of data acquired, will help in identifying a more robust discrete fractures network model. The model is the main input to identify zones and simulate behavior of the anticipated fracture if any, or reengineer the placement of the stages in an efficient and smart way to avoid extra stages at more cost and more complications. The below mentioned case study is one of the good examples of how the two inputs integrate in one simple input to several completion and frac modeling software

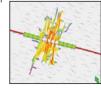
This type of inclusive logging program allows for data to be integrated and use to engineer completion. General studies conducted through microseismic survey and tied back to borehole images, highlighted the different fracture growth and initiation in interval characterized by natural fractures with strike parallel to the maximum stress orientation, versus those interval characterized by natural fractures with strike at an angle to the maximum stress orientation. Below is a cartoon extracted from a different case study which is used to illustrate the concept of fracture propagation in comparison to a microseismic map.

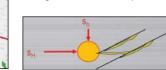






The understanding of the natural fractures distribution along a lateral wells, helps in predicting fracture growth and propagation





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