

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

**E.V. Arteaga<sup>1</sup>, C.C. Contreras<sup>1</sup>, E. Haddad<sup>1</sup>, G. Martinez<sup>1</sup>, V.Vallega<sup>1</sup>, O. Zened<sup>2</sup>**

Search and Discovery Article #42208 (2018)\*\*

Posted May 21, 2018

\*Adapted from poster presentation given at AAPG 2017 Annual Convention and Exhibition, Houston, Texas, United States, April 2-5, 2017 and 2017 AAPG Southwest Section Meeting, Midland, Texas, April 29 - May 2, 2017

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<sup>1</sup>Schlumberger, Houston, Texas, United States ([V.Vallega@slb.com](mailto:V.Vallega@slb.com))

<sup>2</sup>Schlumberger, Midland, Texas, United States ([OZened@slb.com](mailto:OZened@slb.com))

## **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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Presenter: Olfa Zened, Schlumberger; Edgar Arteaga, Schlumberger

## QUANTA GEO (QGEO) INVERSION INTRODUCTION

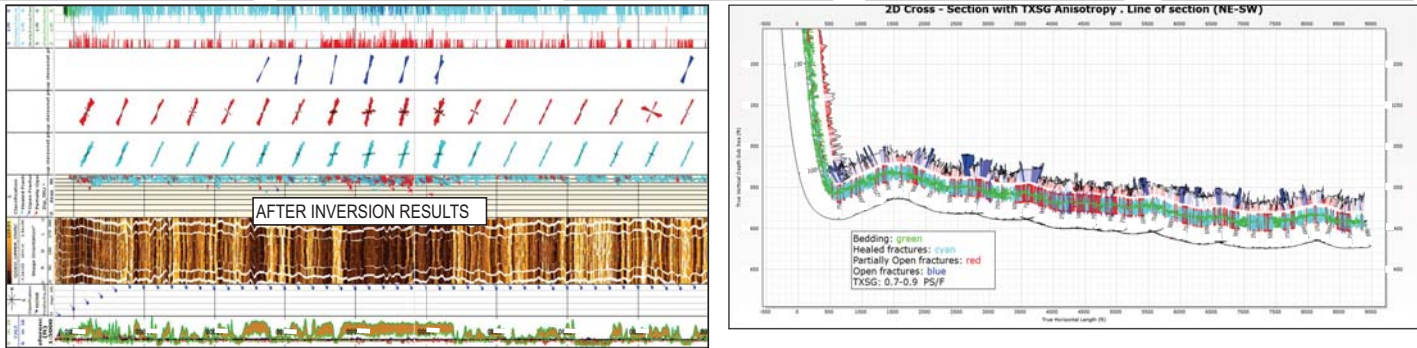
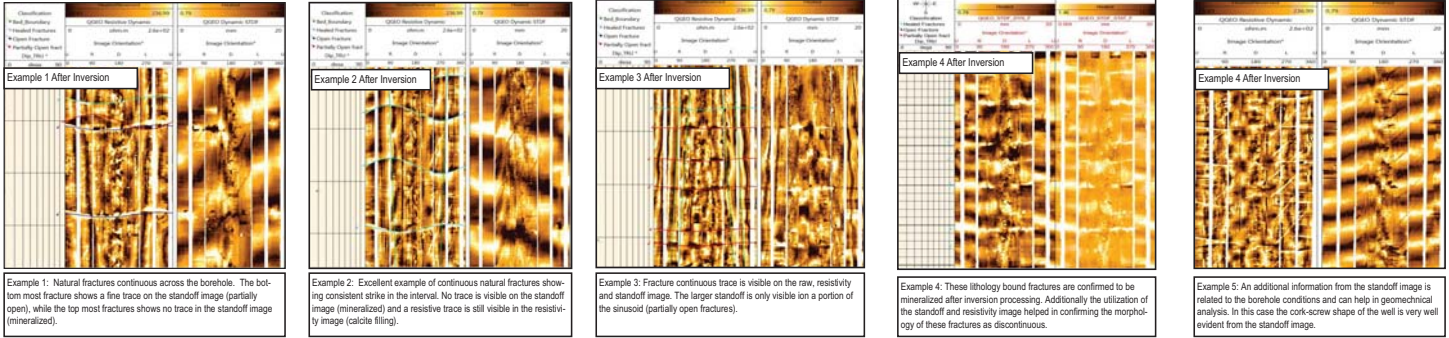
QGEO Inversion represents a novel, methodology aiming to produce a quantitative interpretation of microelectrical images in non conductive mud. The inversion complements the standard images and provides resistivity, dielectric permittivity, and standoff images that can be used for refining interpretations made on standard images.

Inversion is required for a more quantitative approach 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 standoff.

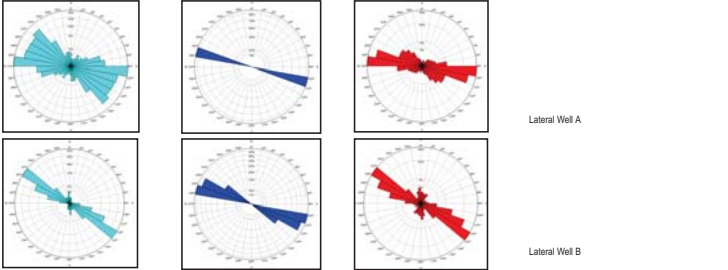
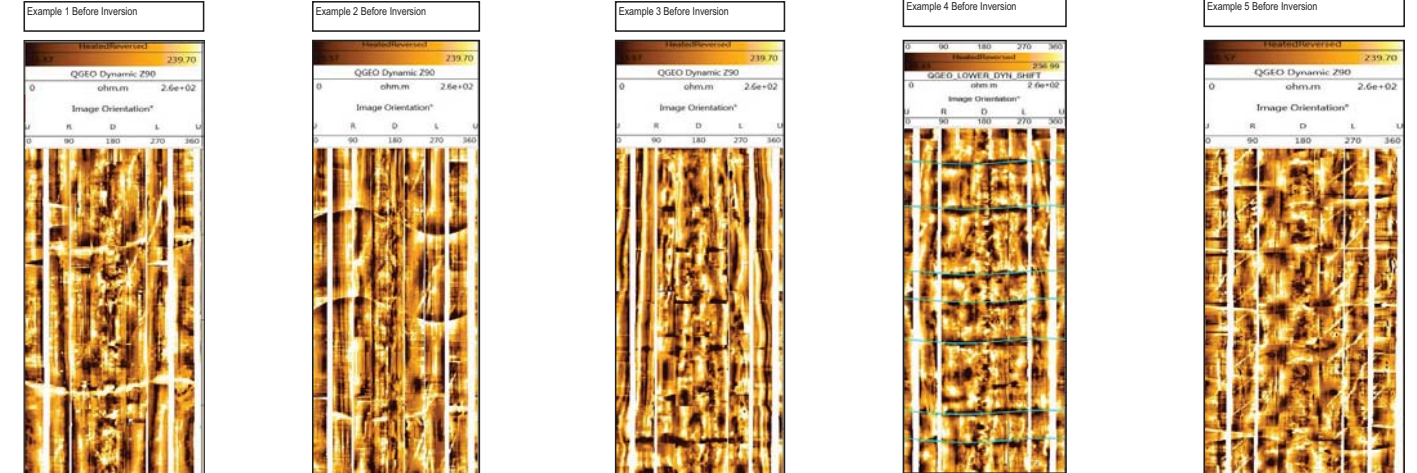
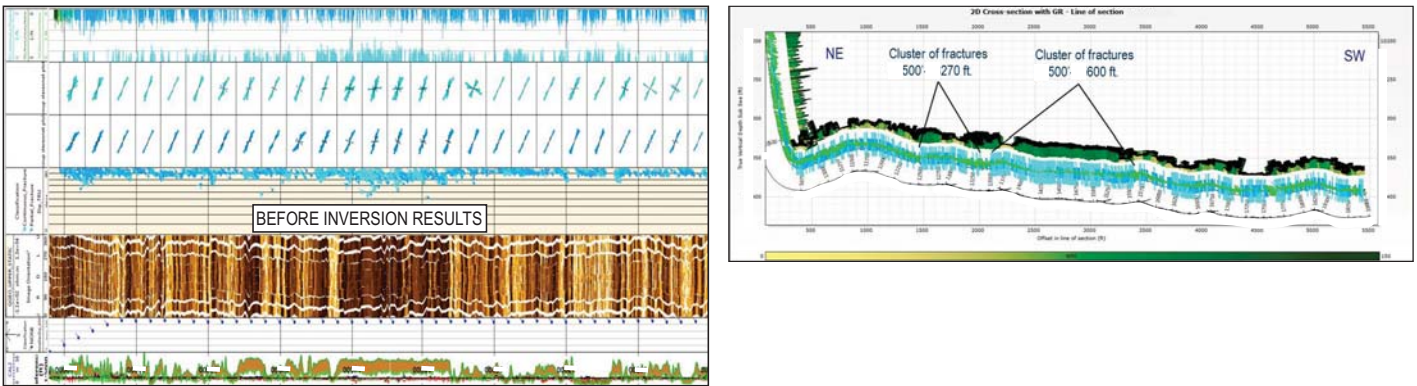
The inversion algorithm and the workflow were validated on a synthetic data set generated using finite-element simulator. The test cases are designed to assess the inversion performance for a wide range of formation, mud, and standoff parameters.

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 geo-mechanical 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 et 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 are displayed.



Above: Fracture density log after inversion results. Below: Fracture density before the inversion results.



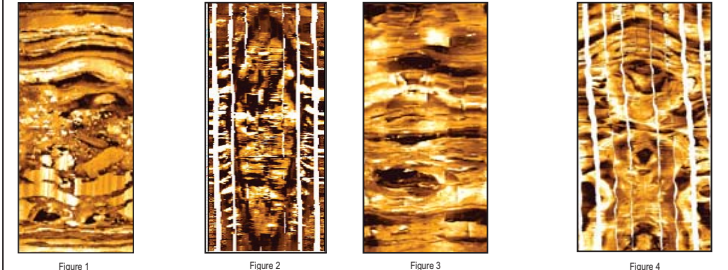
Above: Fracture strike stereonets for natural fractures in the lateral section of well A & B. Natural mineralized fractures are in cyan, natural open fractures are in blue and natural partially open fractures in red. In well B, a total of 1755 mineralized fractures, 30 open fractures and 447 partially open fractures were classified. In well A, a total of 474 mineralized fractures, 1 open fracture and 144 partially open fractures were observed. Comparing these results with the pilot hole analysis, highlight how in the lateral section the fracture set with strike orientation in the NW-SE direction is very predominant over the secondary fracture set with orientation NE-SW. This comparison also validates the existence of a natural fracture system in this field which could be under represented if looking only at pilot hole images, due to the risk of not imaging sub vertical fractures in vertical boreholes.

The good consistency of fracture orientation between mineralized and partially or open fractures could lead to the following interpretations: the fractures were generated under the same stress regime which has been unchanged for a long period of time, allowing the first generation of fractures to mineralize. Or the two fracture system could represent a single system of mineralized fractures in the subsurface and the aperture observed along the trace of some of these fracture is the result of the drilling process causing reopening along the rock pre-existing weakness.

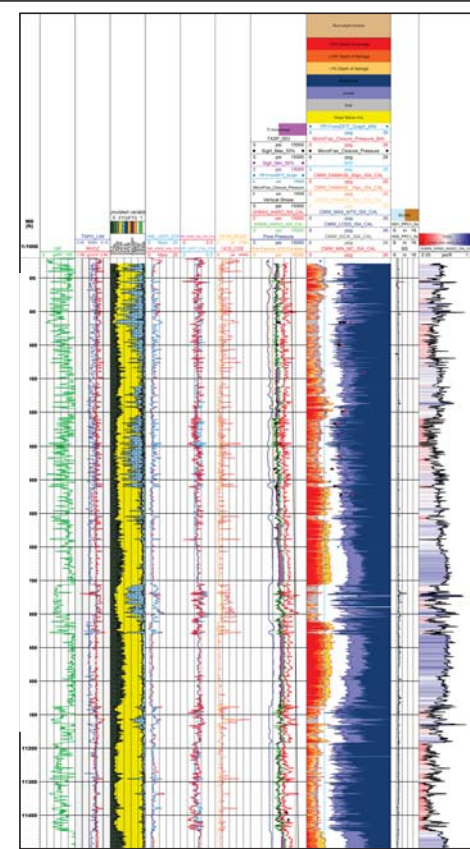
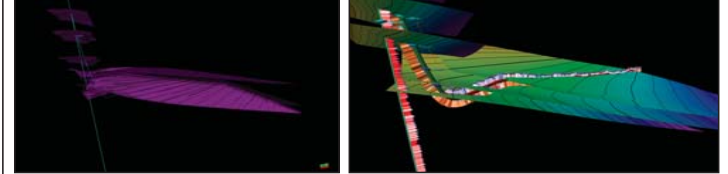
## IMPLICATION OF COMPARISON BETWEEN PILOT AND LATERAL BOREHOLE IMAGE INTERPRETATION: LEARNINGS AND APPLICATIONS

The comparison between the analysis done in the vertical and in the horizontal wells had quite few implication on both of the front: fracture distribution and facies propagation.

From the fractures distribution, it was highlighted that even though a good correspondence in terms of orientation is found, it is difficult to predict the fracture distribution in an horizontal well if we only have available a vertical section of the hole. Additionally the nature of the fractures, if mineralized or open, does not seem to have a perfect match. This is also true in relation to facies distribution. Infact similar facies can be observed in the vertical and in the lateral wells, but it is difficult to predict the extension of these facies, especially the one related to discontinuous depositional systems. If we highlight a debris flow in the pilot well, we can also find a debris flow in the lateral well. The two deposition might belong to the same event but might not represent the same interval within the depositional unit. Figure 1 and Figure 2 below represent an example of debris flow facies seen in the pilot (figure 1) and in the lateral section ( figure 2).

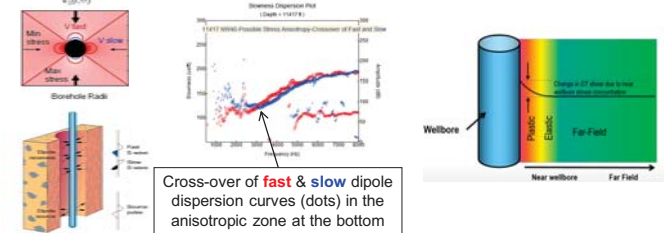


Above, Figure 3 and 4 also represent one of the discontinuous facies, which could have major implication while selecting lateral targets and could play a major role while drilling lateral wells. They are observed in pilot (figure 3) and in the lateral ( figure 4) and are contributing to the heterogeneous succession of facies. The data provided through the distribution of facies also proved that simple layered cake structural model can play an ambiguous role in the reservoir modelling as they do not take into consideration this fast and dramatic change of facies that has been seen. The two figure below show infact a simple structural model made utilizing formation tops and structural dips only, but might not provide the full understanding of the reservoir facies complexity.



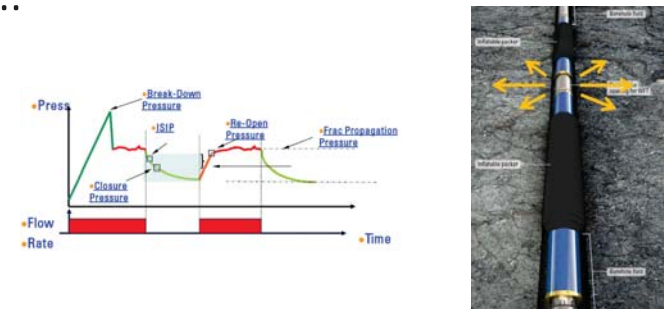
## Stress Induced Bottom Section Vertical Well

- Cross-over of dipole dispersions indicate the presence of differential stress
- Formation needs to be 'stress-sensitive'
- No wellbore failure is needed, continuous measurement
- Workflow estimate minimum and maximum horizontal stress values using radial profiles and stoneley horizontal shear.

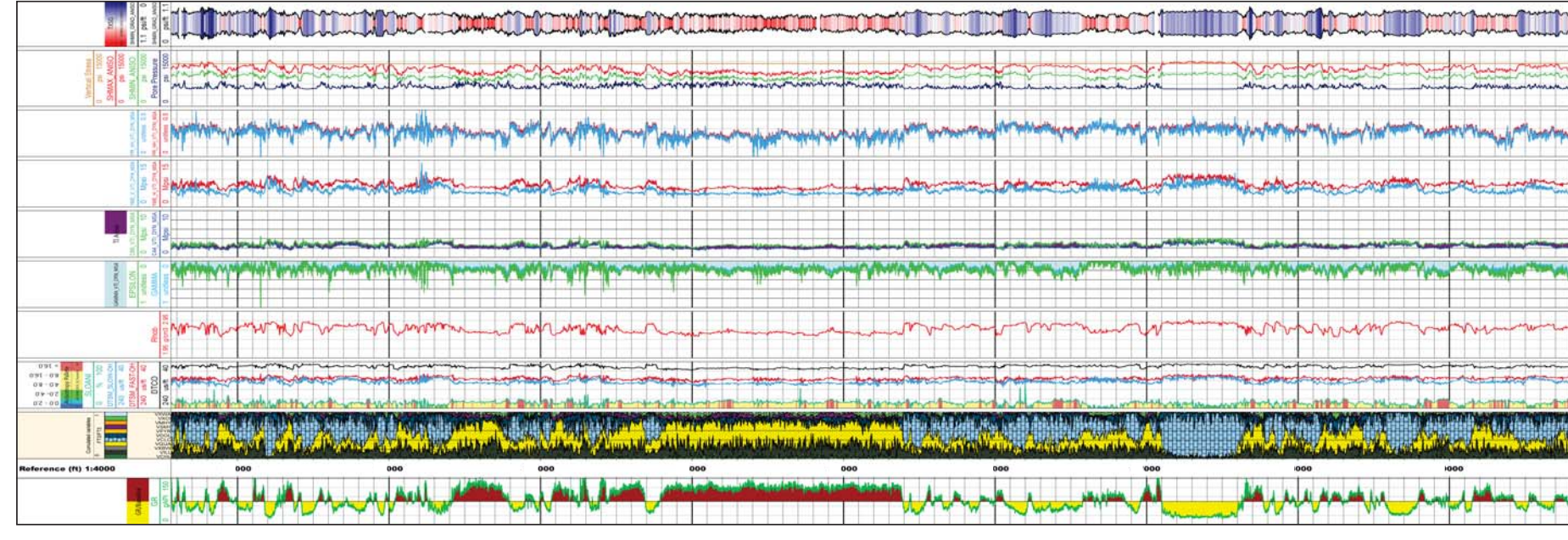


## Stress Test on Wireline...

- Using dual packer, down hole pumps and flow control module
- Smaller volume allowing stiffer hydraulic system
- Crisp pressure recording with high quality quartz gauge
- Information provided to calibrate MEM
- Minimum Horizontal stress (closure pressure).
- Breakdown Pressure.



Left: Anisotropic mechanical properties and Mechanical Earth Model results. The Minimum horizontal stress profile was calibrated using formation tester stress test. Maximum horizontal stress profile was calibrated using integrated stress analysis workflow from advance acoustic measurements (as shown above). Below: Mechanical properties and stress profile in horizontal well using calibration parameters obtained in the vertical well.

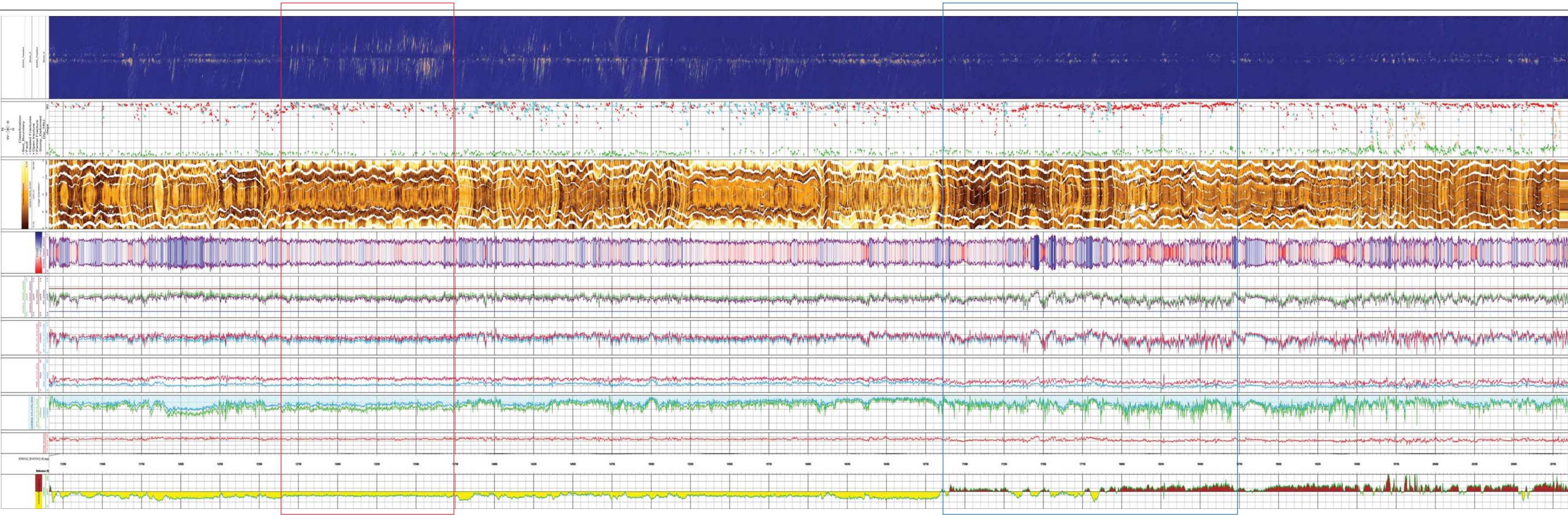




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The figure is showing an Integrated Interpretation generated from borehole images, acoustic processing and borehole acoustic reflection survey migrated images. The original fractures were reclassified according to the standoff inverted image results.

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 .

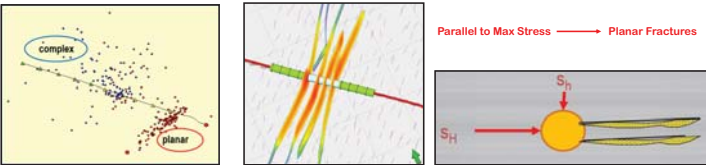
The other highlighted portion of the well (Blue rectangle) a swarm of fractures with a partially open classification was observed. When compared with the acoustic reflection images, it is noticeable that this fracture zone is not contributing to a deep far field fracture propagation. Therefore, the completion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

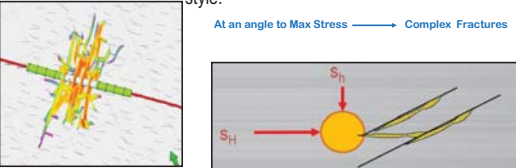
## CONCLUSIONS

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 style.



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## Acknowledgments

The poster's authors would like to thank and acknowledge COG Operating, LLC to agree on the data release and allow us to present this poster.

Thank you to Schlumberger management to support and allowing the presenter to participate to the meeting.

Thank you to AAPG for selecting our poster to be presented at the 20017 convention.