

Petrel Manual

Reservoir characterization as a discipline grew out of the recognition that more oil and gas could be extracted from reservoirs if the geology of the reservoir was understood. Prior to that awakening, reservoir development and production were the realm of the petroleum engineer. In fact, geologists of that time would have felt slighted if asked by corporate management to move from an exciting exploration assignment to a more mundane assignment working with an engineer to improve a reservoir's performance. Slowly, reservoir characterization came into its own as a quantitative, multidisciplinary endeavor requiring a vast array of skills and knowledge sets. Perhaps the biggest attractor to becoming a reservoir geologist was the advent of fast computing, followed by visualization programs and theaters, all of which allow young geoscientists to practice their computing skills in a highly technical work environment. Also, the discipline grew in parallel with the evolution of data integration and the advent of asset teams in the petroleum industry. Finally, reservoir characterization flourished with the quantum improvements that have occurred in geophysical acquisition and processing techniques and that allow geophysicists to image internal reservoir complexities. Practical resource describing different types of sandstone and shale reservoirs Case histories of reservoir studies for easy comparison Applications of standard, new, and emerging technologies Report on the Collections of Natural History Made in the Antarctic Regions During the Voyage of the "Southern Cross."

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In this chapter, the principles of reservoir modeling, workflows and their applications have been summarized. Reservoir modeling is a multi-disciplinary process that requires cooperation from geologists, geophysicists, reservoir engineers, petrophysics and financial individuals, working in a team setting. The best model is one that provides quantitative properties of the reservoir, though this is often difficult to achieve. There are three broad steps in the modeling process. The team needs to first evaluate the data quality, plan the proper modeling workflow, and understand the range of uncertainties of the reservoir. The second step is data preparation and interpretation, which can be a long, tedious, but essential process, which may include multiple iterations of quality control, interpretation, calibration and tests. The third step is determining whether to build a deterministic (single, data-based model) or stochastic (multiple geostatistical iterations) model. The modeling approach may be decided by the quality and quantity of the data. There is no single rule of thumb because no two reservoirs are identical. Object-based stochastic modeling is the most widely used modeling method today. The modeling results need to be constrained and refined by both geologic and mathematical validation. Variogram analysis is very important in quality control of object-based stochastic modeling. Outcrops are excellent sources of continuous data which can be incorporated into subsurface reservoir modeling either by 1) building an outcrop “reservoir” model, or 2) identifying and developing outcrop analogs of subsurface reservoirs. Significant upscaling of a reservoir model for flow simulation may well result in an erroneous history match because the upscaling process often deletes lateral and vertical heterogeneities which may control or affect reservoir performance, particularly in a deterministic model. Reservoir uncertainties are easier to manipulate by object-based stochastic models. Choosing the best realization approach for the reservoir model is the key to predicting reservoir performance in the management of reservoirs.

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