

Seismic Amplitude

An Interpreter's Handbook

The oil and gas industries now routinely use seismic amplitudes in exploration and production as they yield key information on lithology and fluid fill, enabling interpretation of reservoir quality and likelihood of hydrocarbon presence. The modern seismic interpreter must be able to deploy a whole range of sophisticated geophysical techniques, such as seismic inversion, AVO (amplitude variation with offset) and rock physics modelling, as well as integrating information from other geophysical techniques and well data.

This accessible yet authoritative book provides a complete framework for seismic amplitude interpretation and analysis, in a practical manner that allows easy application – independent of any commercial software products. Springing from the authors' extensive industry expertise and experience of delivering practical courses on the subject, it guides the interpreter through each step, introducing techniques with practical observations and helping to evaluate interpretation confidence.

Seismic Amplitude is an invaluable day-to-day tool for graduate students and industry professionals in geology, geophysics, petrophysics, reservoir engineering and all subsurface disciplines making regular use of seismic data.

Rob Simm is a Senior Geophysical Adviser for Cairn Energy PLC, and has worked in the oil and gas industry since 1985. He spent the early part of his career working as a seismic interpreter for British independent oil companies including Britoil, Tricentrol and Enterprise Oil. After working in exploration, production and field equity teams, Dr Simm established his own consultancy (Rock Physics Associates Ltd) in 1999, providing project and training services to oil and gas companies. He runs an internationally renowned training course on 'The Essentials of Rock Physics for Seismic Amplitude Interpretation'.

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Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-01150-2 - Seismic Amplitude: An Interpreter's Handbook
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'This will be a welcome addition to the library of any geoscientist wanting a firm foundation in state-of-the-art seismic reservoir characterisation. Simm and Bacon cover all of the important topics, in a style that is not overly mathematical, and also illustrate each method with well thought-out and illustrated geological examples from around the world. I highly recommend this book to anyone wishing to understand this important area of geoscience.'

Dr Brian Russell, *Vice President, Hampson-Russell Software: A CGG Company*

'The authors have provided a coherent, comprehensive and, above all, practical guide for interpreters to exploit the information contained in the amplitudes of seismic data. They compare different approaches, highlighting advantages and potential pitfalls, and also explain the terminology. This book will be an invaluable guide for both beginners and experienced professionals and I'd recommend it for all geoscientists working with seismic data.'

Mr Patrick Connolly, *Senior Advisor, Geophysical Analysis, BP*

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CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107011502

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First published 2014
 Reprinted 2014

Printed in Spain by Grafos SA, Arte sobre papel

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Simm, R. (Robert), 1959– author.

Seismic amplitude : an interpreter's handbook / Rob Simm, Cairn Energy PLC, Mike Bacon, Ikon Science Ltd.
 pages cm

ISBN 978-1-107-01150-2 (Hardback)

1. Seismic prospecting. 2. Petroleum–Geology. 3. Amplitude variation with offset analysis. 4. Seismic traveltime inversion. 5. Seismic reflection method. 6. Seismology–Mathematical models. I. Bacon, M. (Michael), 1946– author. II. Title.

TN271.P4S514 2014

622'.1592–dc23 2013040419

ISBN 978-1-107-01150-2 Hardback

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Preface

The past twenty years have witnessed significant developments in the way that seismic data are used in oil and gas exploration and production. Arguably the most important has been the use of 3D seismic, not only to map structures in detail but also to infer reservoir properties from an analysis of seismic amplitude and other attributes. Improvements in seismic fidelity coupled with advances in the understanding and application of rock physics have made quantitative description of the reservoir and risk evaluation based on seismic amplitude not only a possibility but an expectation in certain geological contexts. It is probably no exaggeration to say that the interpreter has entered a new era in which rock physics is the medium not only for the interpretation of seismic amplitude but also for the integration of geology, geophysics, petrophysics and reservoir engineering. For conventional oil and gas reservoirs, the technology has reached a sufficient state of maturity that it is possible to describe effective generic approaches to working with amplitudes, and documenting this is the purpose of this book.

The inter-disciplinary nature of 'Seismic Rock Physics' presents a challenge for interpreters (both old and new) who need to develop the appropriate knowledge and skills but it is equally challenging for the asset team as a whole, who need to understand how information derived from seismic might be incorporated into project evaluations. This book provides a practical introduction to the subject and a frame of reference upon which to develop a more detailed appreciation. It is written with the seismic interpreter in mind as well as students and other oil and gas professionals. Mathematics is kept to a minimum with the express intention of demonstrating the creative mind-set required for seismic interpretation. To a large extent the book is complementary to other Cambridge University Press publications such as *3-D Seismic Interpretation* by Bacon *et al.* (2003), *Exploration Seismology* by Sheriff and Geldart (1995), *The Rock Physics Handbook* by Mavko *et al.* (1998) and *Quantitative Seismic Interpretation* by Avseth *et al.* (2005).

Acknowledgements

In large part the material and ideas presented in this book are based around the training course 'The Essentials of Rock Physics for Seismic Interpretation', provided to the industry since 1999 by Rock Physics Associates Ltd and Nautilus Ltd (now part of the RPS group) and latterly by Ikon Science Ltd. Many colleagues, past and present, too numerous to mention individually, have indirectly contributed to the work. Special thanks are due to John Chamberlain for discussions, help and guidance and to Roy White for much lively and informative discussion. Rachel Adams at Dreamcell Ltd laboured tirelessly and with great patience over the illustrations. The following software providers are also thanked: Ikon Science Ltd for use of RokDoc[®] software and Senergy for use of Interactive Petrophysics[®] software.

We are grateful to the following for permission to reproduce proprietary or copyright material: AAPG for Figs. 3.20, 5.30 and 8.45; Apache Corporation for Fig. 7.15; APPEA for Figs. 7.18, 7.20 and 10.2; Dr P. Avseth for Fig. 5.8; Baird Petrophysical for Figs. 2.6, 2.7, 2.9, 2.21 and 5.69; CGG for Fig. 9.10; Dr P. Connolly for Figs. 5.75, 9.36 and 10.21; CSEG for Figs. 4.6, 6.4, 10.7 and 10.8; CUP for Figs. 2.28, 5.18 and 8.7; EAGE for Figs. 2.5, 3.1, 3.6, 3.9, 3.19, 3.22, 4.20, 4.28, 5.56, 6.1, 6.16, 7.9, 7.13, 7.32, 7.36, 8.28, 8.43, 8.56, 8.58, 8.59, 8.60, 8.61, 9.12, 9.14, 9.15, 9.24, 9.29, 9.30, 9.32, 9.33, 9.34, 9.35, 10.12, 10.14, 10.15, 10.16, 10.20, 10.26, 10.32, 10.34 and 10.35; Elsevier for Fig. 5.43; Dr M. Floricich and Professor C. Macbeth for Fig. 10.30; Dr A. Francis for Figs. 9.11, 10.4 and 10.5; Dr G. Drivenes for Fig. 7.27; the Geological Society of London for Figs. 4.30, 4.31,

7.23, 7.29 and 10.33; Dr S. Helmore for Fig. 3.14; Ikon Science for Figs. 9.25 and 9.26; the Indonesian Petroleum Association for Fig. 6.3; Dr H. Ozdemir for Fig. 9.15; Dr C. Pearce for Fig. 7.31; Dr T. Ricketts for Fig. 10.29a; Dr B. Russell for Fig. 7.4; Rashid Petroleum Company for Figs. 5.26 and 7.1; Rock Physics Associates Ltd for Figs. 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.8, 2.11, 2.12, 2.13, 2.14, 2.16, 2.19, 2.20, 2.22, 2.23, 2.25, 2.26, 2.27, 2.28, 2.29, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.7, 3.8, 3.10, 3.12, 3.16, 3.17, 3.18, 4.1, 4.9, 4.10, 4.11, 4.21, 4.22, 4.23, 4.24, 4.25, 4.26, 4.29, 5.1, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5.7, 5.9, 5.10, 5.11, 5.12, 5.14, 5.17, 5.29, 5.34, 5.36, 5.38, 5.40, 5.41, 5.45, 5.50, 5.53, 5.54, 5.55, 5.57, 5.58, 5.61, 5.73, 5.74, 6.5, 6.7, 6.10, 6.11, 7.2, 7.3, 7.5, 7.12, 7.21, 8.4, 8.9, 8.10, 8.11, 8.12, 8.15, 8.16, 8.17, 8.18, 8.19, 8.21, 8.22, 8.24, 8.25, 8.26, 8.27, 8.29, 8.30, 8.32, 8.35, 8.36, 8.37, 8.38, 8.44, 8.46, 8.47, 8.48, 8.50, 8.52, 8.53, 9.2, 9.4, 9.6, 9.7, 9.9, 9.13, 9.16, 9.17, 9.18, 9.19, 9.20, 9.21, 9.23, 10.13 and 10.36; Schlumberger for Fig. 8.42; SEG for Figs. 3.11, 3.13, 3.21, 4.7, 4.8, 4.27, 5.2, 5.20, 5.21, 5.25, 5.33, 5.44, 5.46, 5.48, 5.51, 5.52, 5.66, 5.77, 6.2, 6.6, 6.8, 6.9, 6.12, 6.13, 6.15, 6.17, 7.6, 7.7, 7.8, 7.11, 7.14, 7.16, 7.30, 7.33, 7.34, 7.35, 7.37, 7.38, 8.2, 8.3, 8.5, 8.6, 8.20, 8.31, 8.33, 8.34, 8.39, 8.40, 8.51, 8.57, 8.63, 9.5, 9.8, 9.9, 9.23, 10.1, 10.3, 10.10, 10.17, 10.19, 10.23, 10.27, 10.31, 10.37, 10.38, 10.39, 10.40 and 10.41; SIP for Fig. 2.24; SPE for Figs. 5.35, 8.55, 9.31, 10.6, 10.11, 10.24 and 10.29b; Dr J. Smith for Fig. 8.14; Springer for Figs. 5.71 and 9.9; SPWLA for Fig. 8.13; Dr R Staples for Fig. 10.28; Western Geco for Figs. 7.22 and 7.24; Professor R. White for Fig. 4.12; John Wiley for Fig. 8.54; World Oil for Fig. 10.25.