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Integrated Rock Physics Models for Improved 4D Seismic Monitoring of CO₂ Sequestration in Otway Basin, Australia

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SUMMARY

We build a detailed rock physics model that links the rock and fluid properties with seismic properties and accounts for variations in reservoir quality, fluid saturations, and seismic resolution. This approach will increase the accuracy of the predicted changes in elastic properties of the reservoir rock by calibration of the down-hole petrophysical log with core sample data and ultrasonic measurements.

The results indicate that Vp core saturated provide good agreement with Vp log measurement when the “effective” K_{grain} is applied. Results also suggest that “effective” K_{grain} may be used to represent the average mineralogy of the grains. A comparative analysis has also been performed incorporating the petrographic descriptions and geochemical analysis. The expected mineralogy derived from “effective” K_{grain} and petrographic analyses are very close further confirming the model.

This type of detailed rock physics analysis provides the capability to forecast more accurately the changes in the 4D seismic response during long-term CO₂ storage at the site, and could be a useful tool for future storage sites with similarly challenging geophysical monitoring objectives.

Introduction

In most applications of Gassmann's equation, only the dry rock bulk modulus (K_{dry}) is measured. Properties of the mineral grain modulus (K_{grain}) are often poorly understood and oversimplified (Batzle and Wang, 1992; Wang, 2001). K_{grain} is the modulus of the solid material that includes grains, cements and pore fillings. If clays or other minerals are present with complicated distributions and structures, K_{grain} can vary depending on mineral composition, distribution of the grains and in-situ conditions. As a result, the calculated velocity will differ from the measured velocity.

Ultrasonic measurements of the selected core sample from reservoir rock were carried under room conditions. We obtain the dry bulk moduli (K_{dry}) from ultrasonic measurement and derive the "effective" grain mineral moduli (K_{grain}) using forward Krief as a function of dry rock modulus and "exact" porosity. Then we apply Gassmann's equation to calculate low-frequency saturated velocities from ultrasonic measurement at *in-situ* reservoir conditions.

The saturated velocities from ultrasonic and log measurement agree with each other when the "effective" grain mineral modulus (K_{grain}) is applied. Deriving the dry moduli helps us to validate the input parameters and output results of Gassmann's calculation. As a result, knowing the "effective" grain mineral modulus (K_{grain}) improves the accuracy of interpreting the fluid substitution thus 4D seismic response for CO₂ sequestration monitoring program.

Here we investigate and obtain accurate prediction of elastic properties through calibration of the log and petrophysical data with core sample. To validate the calculation, we compare the core saturated velocities at in-situ reservoir condition with log measurement. We also perform a comparative analysis incorporating the petrographic and geochemical analyses. This analysis is very close further confirming the model.

Methodology

The potential error in computation of elastic properties with only logs is high unless we can use calibration with core sample. Therefore, to obtain elastic properties of reservoir rock and calibrate with field measurement, we do the following workflow in Figure 1.

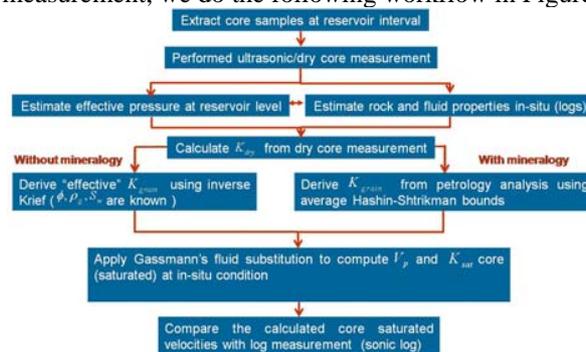


Figure 1 A methodology for computation of elastic properties.

Prediction of 4D seismic responses requires knowledge of saturation and pressure effects on seismic velocities which can be obtained by laboratory measurement using core sample (Grochau and Gurevich, 2008; Siggins, 2006). Figure 2 shows the relationship between velocity and effective pressure from ultrasonic measurement and V_p core saturated with in-situ reservoir conditions compare to V_p log measurement. We use Gassmann's fluid substitution to obtain low-frequency saturated velocity from ultrasonic measurement taken at in-situ condition. K_{grain} is derived from Krief and Hashin-Shtrikman. These computed

velocities show very good agreement with the V_p log measurement when “effective” K_{grain} is applied which in order of 30.45 GPa. The velocity calculated differs for only 0.6-6.2 m/s (<0.2%) from V_p log (V_p core saturated is 3567.4 m/s using Krief; V_p core saturated is 3573 m/s using Hashin-Shtrikman; and V_p log measurement is 3566.8 m/s). This means the elastic properties derived from ultrasonic measurement is adequate for quantitative interpretation of 4D seismic response.

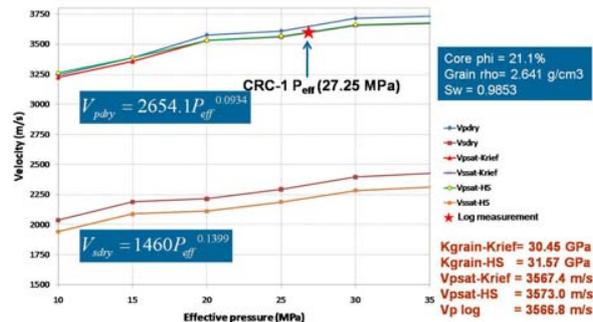


Figure 2 Velocity dependence in effective pressure for selected core sample from CRC-1 well. The different in S-wave velocities (V_s) is higher than for P-wave (V_p) which shows the density effect dominates.

Sensitivity analysis

In practice, the measurements are always made with some errors. The problem arises when the input errors are so large that values of the calculated elastic modulus become unreliable. To gain insight into the effect of input errors onto the computation of elastic properties for this area we perform sensitivity analysis using other models. We calculate the difference in the elastic properties under *in-situ* reservoir condition with respect to 10% or more variations in “effective” K_{grain} derived from Krief, Hashin-Shtrikman, Kuster-Toksoz and Reuss. This analysis shows 10% and more variations in “effective” K_{grain} produces small effect on velocity different between V_p core saturated and V_p log. However, estimating the “effective” K_{grain} accurately (with the smallest % different) will provide high sensibility of pore fluid change and also minimize fluid substitution modelling errors, in this case is Krief (Figure 3).

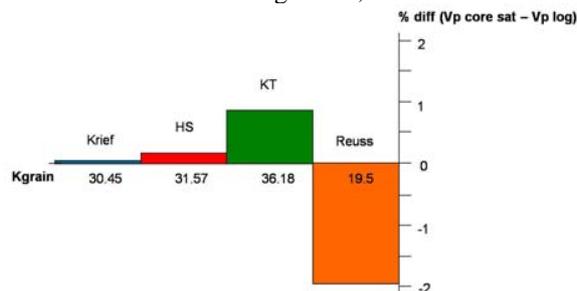


Figure 3 The different of V_p core saturated and V_p log with K_{grain} variations (HS is Hashin-Shtrikman, KT is Kuster-Toksoz).

Comparative analysis

The composite log shows gamma ray, clay volume, porosity and permeability. The Waarre –C formation consists of 4 facies. From deeper part, tidal fluvial facies with good porosity and permeability, as we go shallow depth, gravel dominated facies with poor to moderate porosity and permeability, upper part of the Waarre-C formation where the injection taken place is amalgamated channels and transgressive sand facies with good porosity and permeability (Figure 4). Mineralogy is dominated by quartz with autogenic kaolinite as a pore-filling mineral (cement). The expected mineralogy derived from “effective” K_{grain} and petrographic

analyses are very close further confirming the model where K_{grain} is “soft” (K_{grain} from Krief is 30.45 GPa). The softer the rock frame, the bigger the elastic properties changes. This is a first-order requirement for successful 4D seismic monitoring (Wang, 1997).

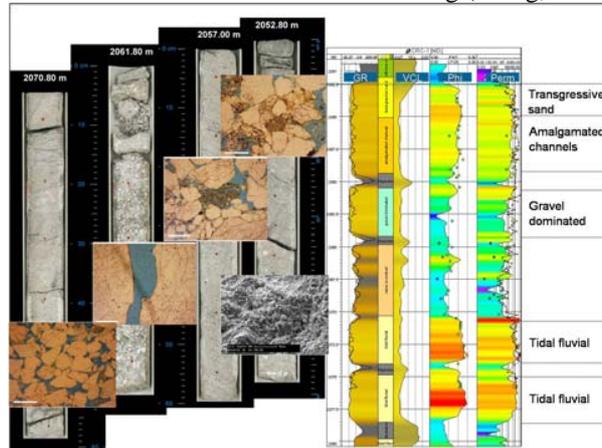


Figure 4 Composite log of CRC-1 well incorporating with petrographic thin section. 4 facies are defined within Waarre-C formation.

Results

Initial forward modelling of the 4D seismic response predicted at Naylor-1 and CRC-1 well that only a 1-3% change in elastic properties could be expected (Li et al., 2006; Wisman and Urosevic, 2007). After applying the “effective” K_{grain} , elastic properties changes for CRC-1 well after fluid substitution show greater changes in V_p , and significant changes in AI (Acoustic impedance) which is driven by changing in density. If the impedance changes greater than 4%, the change in seismic response is detectable (Lumley, 2001) The same methodology is applied for Naylor-1 well (monitoring well) and shows greater changes compare to the preliminarily modelling as expected (Figure 5 and 6).

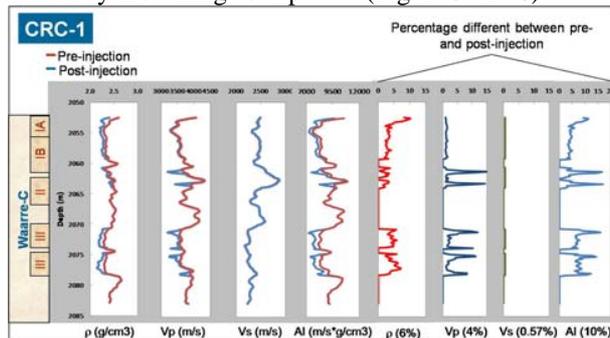


Figure 5 Fluid substitution modelling for CRC-1 well.

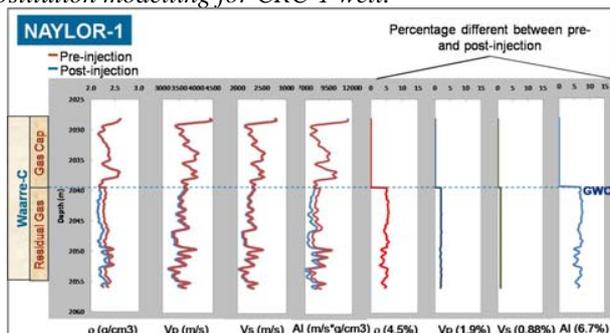


Figure 6 Fluid substitution modelling for Naylor-1 well.

Conclusions

We describe a methodology for accurate prediction of elastic properties of the reservoir rock through calibration of the log and petrophysical data with core sample. We propose forward Krief to be used to obtain “effective” K_{grain} . “Effective” K_{grain} represents the average mineralogy if the composition is unknown. Applying “effective” K_{grain} with fluid substitution will result in core saturated velocity agreeing with log measurement hence further confirming the model. As a result, the impedance change is greater than 4%, hence 4D seismic responses are detectable. The later can guide modelling and inversion process.

The rock physics models provide the capability to forecast more accurately the changes in the 4D seismic response during long-term CO₂ storage and could be useful tool for future storage sites with similarly challenging geophysical monitoring objectives.

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