

Introduction to Reservoir Geomechanics

1 Introduction

Definitions and some challenges of reservoir geomechanics. Modeling of coupled phenomena.

- 2 Constitutive Laws: Behavior of Rocks Fundamentals of Pore-Mechanics.
- **3 Constitutive Laws: Behavior of Fractures** Geomechanics of Fractured Media.

4 Reservoir Geomechanics

Elements of a geomechanical model and applications.

5 Unconventional Reservoirs

Naturally fractured reservoirs, hydraulic fracture, proppant and fracture closure model, validation (microseismicity).

6 Advanced Topics

Injection of reactive fluids and rock integrity.



Reservoir Geomechnics





Reservoir Geomechnics





Reservoir Geomechnics





Off-shore

Underground stresses

Normally, an underground formation has to carry the weight of the overlying formations.

The vertical stress at the bottom of a homogeneous column of height z is:

 $\sigma_v = \rho g z$

where ρ is the density of the material and g is the acceleration of gravity.

If the density varies with depth, the vertical stress at depth D becomes:

 $\sigma_{\rm v} = \int_0^D \rho(z)g\,\mathrm{d}z \qquad \qquad \sigma_v = \rho_w g z_w + \int_{z_w}^D \rho(z)g\mathrm{d}z$

The average density of sediments in the overburden is between 1.8 and 2.2 g/cm3, so as a rough number, the vertical stress increases downwards with about 20 MPa/km (typically 1 psi/ft).

Note:
$$\rho = (1 - \phi)\rho_s + \phi(S_w \rho_w + S_o \rho_o)$$

The sedimentary rocks encountered during oil well drilling and production are porous and hence contain fluids. One refers to the pore pressure at depth D as normal if it is given by the weight of a fluid column above, the normal pore pressure p_{fn} is

$$p_{\rm fn} = \int_0^D \rho_{\rm f}(z) g \, \mathrm{d}z$$

The pore fluid density in case of brine with sea water salinity is in the range 1.03–1.07 g/cm3, so the pore pressure increase with depth is roughly 10 MPa/km (0.45 psi/ft).

The effective vertical stress, σ'_{ν} , is then also increasing with approximately 10 MPa/km. In many important cases, however, the pore pressure deviates from the normal value p_{fn} (abnormal pore pressures).

Effective stress tensor:

$$\boldsymbol{\sigma}' = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1 - P_f & \tau_{12} & \tau_{13} \\ \tau_{21} & \sigma_2 - P_f & \tau_{23} \\ \tau_{31} & \tau_{32} & \sigma_3 - P_f \end{pmatrix}$$





Vertical stress - Integration of density values (obtained from the density profiles); $\rho(z)$ - Specific weight along the depth.

Pore Pressure - Direct measurement ; Bottom well pressure transducers



Density Profile

L. Cabral (MSc, 2007)

Sonic Profile

Scenario 1: only sands are deposited in the basin



Zones of overpressure

At deposition depths, sediments have 50-80% (sea) water

While subsiding the sediments will be covered by other sediments. Two situations are expected depending on the properties of the cover

If fluids **can escape**, increasing lithostatic pressure carried by grains = pressure on grain contacts increases

If fluids cannot escape, pore pressure will build and will contribute in carrying the increasing lithostatic pressure.

This decreases the grain-to-grain pressure













Scenario 2: the first tens of meters of sand are following by a thick layer of impermeable shale





Figura 4.1: Gráfico da pressão de poros × profundidade do Campo de Monte Cristo-Golfo do México. Na primeira zona de pressão(~8.300ft) é observada pressão hidrostática. Na segunda e terceira zonas, observa-se uma transição onde a pressão de poros cresce rapidamente (no caso, com um gradiente de $\approx 3,7psi/ft$) e na quarta zona (a partir de ~11.000ft), nota-se uma pressão de poros extremamente elevada (Zoback, M. D., 2007).



Horizontal Stress:

$$\sigma_{\rm h}' = K' \sigma_{\rm v}'$$

K' (lateral earth stress coefficient) may vary significantly.

At shallow depths (0–150 m) it may vary from 1 to 10 or even higher.

At larger depths it may vary from 0.2 to 1.5.

Chemical compaction increases in importance at depths below 2–3 km (Bjørlykke and Høeg, 1997). It will contribute to horizontal stresses by altering the trend seen from pure mechanical compaction above this level.

It has been suggested that, with time, $\underline{K' \rightarrow l}$, so that the stress state becomes hydrostatic (Heim's rule) due to creep (very slow process).





Models for estimating the in situ stress states:

Formation laterally constrained ($\varepsilon_x = \varepsilon_y = 0$) rock behaves according to the theory of linear elasticity:

 $\sigma'_{\rm h} = \frac{\nu_{\rm fr}}{1 - \nu_{\rm fr}} \sigma'_{\rm v}$ (lateral stress coefficient at rest, K'=K_0)

In a fluid, where $v_{fr} = 1/2$, $K_0 = 1$. For a rock with $v_{fr} = 1/3$, $K_0 = 1/2$

There are many reasons to apply the relationship above with great care...

Stress history analysis must be performed (Warpinski, 1989), incorporating variations in mechanical properties over time:

Consolidation, diagenesis, changes in pore pressure due to gas generation, temperature gradients, and various tectonic and thermal episodes.

Viscoelasticity appeared to be more relevant for stresses in shale than in sandstone (Warpinski, 1989).



Models for estimating the in situ stress states:

Rock at failure: reasonable assumption in areas of active tectonics.



If the friction angle is 30°, then K' = 1/3. A lower friction angle will result in a higher value for K'. Faults and the stress state: Brittle behaviour leading to fault formation is characteristic of rocks subjected to low confining pressure, i.e. in some respect close to the surface of the Earth.

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Relevant information from the faults: relative magnitude of principal stresses.



Faults and the stress state: Brittle behaviour leading to fault formation is characteristic of rocks subjected to low confining pressure, i.e. in some respect close to the surface of the Earth.



Relevant information from the faults: relative magnitude of principal stresses.

Anderson, E. M. (1951):

Fracturing will take place in one or both pairs of conjugate planes which are parallel to the direction of the intermediate principal stress, and are both at equal angles (ψ) of less than 45° to the direction of the maximum principal stress.

Mohr-Coulumb Criteria (shear failure):





 σ_1 vertical Normal fault

 σ_3 vertical Thrust fault

 σ_2 vertical Strike-slip fault

Stress Polygon

(Zoback, M. D., 2007)







CONCLUSION: These are very simple examples of models for horizontal stress estimation. In reality, horizontal stresses are difficult to assess from mathematical models. The most direct method of obtaining horizontal stress is to measure it, for instance by a fracturing test of the formation.

Example: Gulf Coast Curve



Simple Stress Fields

It is very common (and convenient) in the oil industry.

Assumptions:

- Three mutually orthogonal principal stresses, plus the pore pressure

- Vertical stress is a principal stress, governed by gravity, pointing towards the centre of the Earth.

Reasonable at large depth within a homogeneous Earth, in areas that have NOT been exposed to tectonic activity or are relaxed in the sense that there are no remnant stresses from previous tectonic activity.

Complex Stress Fields

Be aware that there will be cases when this is not fulfilled, such as:

- Near the surface: Because the surface is stress free, the principal stress directions at and near it will be governed by the surface topography. In the case of a strongly sloping surface, even at depth, the principal stress directions may be far from the vertical-horizontal directions.

- Near heterogeneities such as inclusions or faults, near underground openings such as boreholes, or near depleting reservoirs, principal stress directions will differ from the vertical-horizontal orientation.



Leak-off test: obtainig the minimum principal stress (Smin)



Discontinuities in Reservoir Geomechanics







Enviromental Geomechanics: Geomechnics is often dealing with enviromental problems





Hydraulic Fracturing: a subject of great interest of the oil industry





 The Interaction between rock's mechanical properties, in-situ stresses, and heterogeneities such as natural fractures influence the induced fracture.



Strong Discontinuity Approach

Finite Element with Embedded Discontinuity

□ The discontinuity path is placed inside the elements irrespective of the size and specific orientation.



Mechanical Problem



Hydraulic Problem





Strong Discontinuity Approach





Initial Finite Element mesh



Interface finite elements are inserted throughout the mesh or in the most requested area of the mesh. Depending on the boundary conditions of the problem and stress states resulting, the elements will be opening by a preferential path, forming a fracture and relaxing the stress in other candidate elements at the same time.

Interface Elements



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Interface Elements





Fractures formation





CONSTITUTIVE MODEL



Tensile damage model (mode I)





TENSILE DAMAGE MODEL





NUMERICAL SIMULATION OF THE LEAK-OFF TEST





























Q=6x10⁻⁵kg/s σv=1MPa σx=2MPa

tensile strength of fracture material : (σy)=5 MPa
EXAMPLE 2









EXAMPLE 2





NATURAL FRACTURES

Geomechanics of Fracturated Reservoirs



Much more complex behavior of fractures...





Up to now: isotropic tensile damage model (mode I)

Improvements: shear modes (II and III) and inelastic effects due to dilatancy and compression



NATURAL FRACTURES

 Coupled hydro-mechanical analysis of hydraulic fracturing considering influence of rock and natural fracture properties, in-situ stresses and operational conditions on the induced fracture trajectory.



NATURAL FRACTURES

4.7057 4.1828 3.66 3.1371 2.6143 2.0914 1.5686 1.0457 0.52285

0.52285









Injection point

Injection point





A breakout is the evidence of wall yield (the formation strength at the borehole wall is exceeded). A breakout is not considered to be a borehole failure since the borehole remains useful. Borehole breakout can be measured using four- or six-arm caliper tools. The preferred tool, however, is the ultrasonic imaging tool, which makes up to 200-caliper measurements at every depth level.



Fig. 5. Ultrasonic imaging log showing natural fractures with a cross-section showing borehole breakout in a NE–SW direction.



Fig. 4. Directions of borehole breakout and fractures in relation to the orientation of the horizontal stress field.



R. Sousa (MSc, 2004)

Geomechanics problem: elasto-plasticity

Mohr-Coulomb

$$\mathbf{F}(\boldsymbol{\sigma},\boldsymbol{\kappa}) = J - \left(\frac{c'}{\tan \varphi'} + p'\right)g(\theta) = 0$$

 $g(\theta) =$ $\cos(\theta) + \frac{\sin(\theta) \sin \varphi'}{\sin(\theta) \sin \varphi'}$

Drucker-Prager

$$\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{\sigma}, \mathbf{k}) = J - \left(\frac{c'}{\tan \varphi'} + p'\right) M_{JP} = 0$$

$$M_{JP}^{\theta=-30^{\circ}} = \frac{2\sqrt{3}\mathrm{sen}\varphi'}{3-\mathrm{sen}\varphi'}$$

 $\operatorname{sen} \varphi'$

 $\sqrt{3}$



Hardening/Softening Law

- Linear Hardening
- Perfect Plasticity
- Linear Softening









UFPE

BREAKOUTS



Engineering Problem

- Horizontal well perforation
 - Anisotropic and bidimensional boundary conditions
 - Adopted a finite element excavation method (Brown e Booker, 1985) on 2D analysis

K<1:

Vertical stress > Horizontal stress



R. Sousa (MSc, 2004)

Shear Plastic Strains





R. Sousa (MSc, 2004)







R. Sousa (MSc, 2004) Results for Mohr-Coulomb Model with *softening*





R. Sousa (MSc, 2004) Total Vertical Stress Redistribution







R. Sousa (MSc, 2004)

Impact on permeability and pressure distributions



INPUTS OF A GEOMECHANICAL MODEL (SUMMARY)



In situ stress field:





Rock parameters:









Valhall Field - North Sea (SPE 83957, 2003)



 carbonate reservoir with high porosity (between 42 and 50%)

- ➔ 1982 beginning of production
- ➔ 1985 first signs of subsidence
- → 2003 start of injection
- → 2003 accumulated subsidence of 4.9m at a rate of 25cm / year
- compaction account for 50% of total recovery





Compaction causes:

- Reservoir depletion
- Waterweakening: incompatibility between carbonate rock and injected water

L. C. Pereira (MSc, 2007)













R. Risnes¹ and O. Flaageng¹















Chemical Mechanism



Fig. 5. Deformation curves for experiments L16 and L9-11 (note that strain (ε) increases in negative direction along ordinate axis). Changes in various strain rate-influencing parameters during the course of each experiment served to perturb local "steady-state" deformation behavior. (A) L16 parameter changes a: start of dry deformation, $\sigma_1 = 6.0$, $\sigma_3 = 4.0$ MPa, 25 °C b: injection H₂O, $v = 0.5 \rightarrow 0.1$ ml min⁻¹, T = 25 \rightarrow 50 °C c: v = 0 over t = 50-172 days; *instability, gas bottle change d: injection saline solution over t = 179-189 days, v = variable e: v = 0 over t = 189-259 days f: T = 50 \rightarrow 77 °C, v = 0 over t = 259-417 days; * instability, gas bottle change, $\sigma_1 = 7.0$, $\sigma_3 = 4.0$ MPa g: v = 0.1 ml min⁻¹ over t = 417-461 days h: injection propanol, $v = 0.1 \rightarrow 0$ ml min⁻¹. (B) L9-11 parameter changes a: dry deformation: 0 - 0.08 days, followed by start of fluid-assisted deformation, injection H₂O, $v = 0.5 \rightarrow 0.2$ ml min⁻¹, $\sigma_1 = 4.9$, $\sigma_3 = 4.0$ MPa b: $\sigma_1 = 7.0$, $\sigma_3 = 4.0$ MPa, $v = 0.2 \rightarrow 0.1$ ml min⁻¹ c: T = 25 \rightarrow 50 °C d: injection of saline solution, v = 0.1 ml min⁻¹.



Environmental damages in regional scale:



Figura 5.1: Medição por satélite da subsidência em campo de petróleo na região Lost Hills-Califórnia. Seguindo a linha leste-oeste (CA-46), nota-se uma taxa de subsidência média de mais de 1 mm/dia -E.J.Fielding, R.G. Blom & R.M.Goldstein - JPL - Nasa - Califórnia



Environmental damages in regional scale:





Cap rock integrity during depletion:

Fault regimes induced by reservoir compaction:

NF – Normal faults

RF – Reverse faults

The upper part of the reservoir tends to move downwards while the lower part moves upwards





Figura 5.6: Diagrama mostrando a deformação que ocorre na vizinhança de um reservatório que está sendo depletado (Segall-1990)(Zoback, M. D., 2007)



and other consequences...





Hydraulic problem: two phase flow equations for deformable porous media

$$\frac{\partial(\phi s_{\alpha} \rho_{\alpha})}{\partial t} + \nabla \left(\rho_{\alpha} q_{\alpha} + \phi s_{\alpha} \rho_{\alpha} \dot{\mathbf{u}} \right) = 0 \qquad \alpha = w, o$$
$$q_{\alpha} = -\frac{kk_{r\alpha}}{\mu_{\alpha}} \left(\nabla p_{\alpha} - \rho_{\alpha} \widetilde{g} \right)$$

where:

$$s_w + s_o = 1 \qquad p_c = p_o - p_w$$

$$\lambda_{\alpha} = \frac{k_{r\alpha}}{\mu_{\alpha}}$$

 ϕ porosity

- S_{α} fluid saturation
- ρ_{α} fluid density
- q_{α} Darcy flow
- μ_{lpha} phase viscosity
 - **u** Solid velocity

- **k** permeability tensor $k_{r\alpha}$ fluid relative permeability
- λ_{lpha} fluid mobility
- p_{α} Fluid pressure
- p_c capillary pressure
- \widetilde{g} gravity



Mechanical problem for geomaterials:

Equilibrium Equation:

$$\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma} + \boldsymbol{b} = \boldsymbol{0}$$

□ Principle of Effective Stresses:

$$\boldsymbol{\sigma} = \boldsymbol{\sigma}' + \boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot \boldsymbol{p}_f \cdot \mathbf{I}$$

Stress-strain relationship:

$$d\sigma' = D \cdot d\epsilon$$

Specific for each geomaterial



HM FORMULATION

HYDRO-MECHANICAL COUPLINGS:

Rock porosity:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} [(1-\phi)\rho_s] + \nabla [(1-\phi)\rho_s.\dot{\mathbf{u}}] = 0 \qquad \text{(mass conservation of solids)}$$

$$\frac{d \bullet}{dt} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \dot{\mathbf{u}} \cdot \nabla \bullet$$

$$\frac{d \phi}{dt} = \frac{(1-\phi)}{\rho_s} \frac{d\rho_s}{dt} + (1-\phi) \frac{d\varepsilon_v}{dt} \qquad \text{(changes of porosity as a function of volumetric strains)}$$

Other: Kozeny-Carman

$$\mathbf{k} = \mathbf{k}_{o} \frac{\phi^{3}}{(1-\phi)^{2}} \frac{(1-\phi_{o})^{2}}{\phi_{o}^{3}}$$

 ϕ_o : reference porosity \mathbf{k}_o : intrinsic permeability for matrix ϕ_o

$$\mathbf{k} = \mathbf{k}_{i} \exp[b(\phi - \phi_{i})]$$










Sensitivity analysis of reservoir compaction parameters:

Elastic and Elasto-plastic (with CAP) reservoir







Sensitivity analysis on cummulative oil production:

	Parâmetros	Intervalo		Unidade
	Coeficiente de Biot	0,8	1,0	
	Módulo de Elasticidade	8E+05	2E+06	psi
	Ângulo de Atrito	30	40	٥
9	Poisson	0,2	0,4	
	Coesão	1000	3000	psi
	Posição do "cap"	5000	10000	psi



Variable

L. C. Pereira (MSc, 2007)

Fixed



Sensitivity analysis of reservoir compaction parameters:





Sensitivity analysis of reservoir compaction parameters:





Sensitivity analysis of reservoir compaction parameters:



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Sensitivity analysis of reservoir compaction parameters:

Cumulative Oil SC_WELL_PROD_Time_11322.0



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Sensitivity analysis of reservoir compaction parameters:



Cumulative Oil SC_WELL_PROD_Time_11322.0

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Real case:

HT/HP reservoir (Pereira, 2007)











Is it correct to use in conventional reservoir simulation Permeability as a function of Pressure?? K(P)?



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Why it is important to study fault reactivation?



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Why it is important to study fault reactivation?









Why it is important to study fault reactivation?



Campo de Xaréu Sub-bacia de Mundaú Bacia do Ceará - NE

Icapuí-Ponta Grossa(CE) Bacia Potiguar



How to represent them properly?





Criteria to define the maximum injection pressure:



Mohr-Coulomb



Criteria to define the maximum injection pressure:



Analytical analysis or **FEM** analysis

only **FEM** analysis















Fault Properties:Friction angle $\varphi = 18^{\circ}$ Cohesionc = 8Mpa





















Supposing: $\sigma_3 = k_0 \sigma_1$





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$$\sigma_3 = k_0 \sigma_1$$

From failure criteria:

$$\sigma_{1} - k_{0}\sigma_{1} - 2c\cos\varphi - (\sigma_{1} + k_{0}\sigma_{1})sen\varphi = 0$$





Supposing:

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From the fault propeties: $\varphi = 18^{\circ}$ c = 8Mpa $\sigma'_{1_{fail}} = 90,9MPa$





Supposing:

$$\sigma_3 = k_0 \sigma_1$$

$$\sigma'_{1_{fail}} = \sigma_1 - \alpha_{Biot}(P_f + \Delta P)$$

From failure criteria:

$$\sigma_{1} - k_{0}\sigma_{1} - 2c\cos\varphi - (\sigma_{1} + k_{0}\sigma_{1})sen\varphi = 0$$

From the fault propeties: $\varphi = 18^{\circ}$ c = 8Mpa $\sigma'_{1_{fail}} = 90,9MPa$































Evolution of fluid pressure:

Evolution of shear plastic strain in the fault:


FAULT REACTIVATION MECHANISM







UFPE

□ Influence of a number of factors:

Base 2D Case and sensitivity analysis. Influence of constitutive laws: evolution of permeability; fluid compressibility.



Influence of geometry: 3D modeling ; faults and wells interactions.

Caprock integrity: hydraulic fracturing.



FAULT REACTIVATION Petroleum Engineering



In oil reservoirs with fault reactivation possibility, definition of maximum bottom hole pressure of the injectors during waterflooding can only be safely conducted based on a coupled hydro-geomechanical analysis tool with realist modeling of the constitutive behavior of the materials.

MAXIMUM BHP?



FAULT REACTIVATION Petroleum Engineering



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MAXIMUM BHP?







Finite Element Analysis of Fault Reactivation:





MOHR COULOMB







MOHR COULOMB





FAULT REACTIVATION





PETROBRAS-UFPE Project:

'Coupled Hydro-geomechanics simulation of fault reactivation'

Researchers:

UFPE: Leonardo Guimarães, Igor Gomes, Nayra Vicente, Renato de Almeida PETROBRAS: Leonardo Cabral



FAULT REACTIVATION





Geological fault reactivation



considering damage zones

 ✓ Numerical Hydro-Mechanical Modelling of Fault Reactivation Composed by Different Zones – Fault Core and Damage Zones.



Geological fault reactivation



considering damage zones

✓ Numerical Study of the Influence of Filling Material Stiffness on the Fault Reactivation Mechanism.



Geological fault reactivation



considering damage zones

 ✓ Coupled Hydro-mechanical Modelling of the Permeability Change of Sealing Faults in Oilfield Exploitation.

- -HM modeling;
- -HMC modeling: filling material dissolution.



(Mitchell and Faulkner, 2009)







	Material Properties				
Fault elements	Young Modulus (MPa)	Coesion (MPa)	Friction Angle (°)	Permeability (m ²)	
External damage zone	7000	3.25	23	5x10 ⁻²¹ m ²	
Internal damage zone	6000	2.5	23	5x10 ⁻²⁰ m ²	
Core	8000	4.0	23	5x10 ⁻²² m ²	









Parameters of Sensitivity :

- -Coesion and friction angle; -Stifness;
 - -K0, Poison Ratio;
 - -Shear plastic strain limit;
 - -Fluid compressibility;
 - -Permeability;
 - -Anisotropy;
- vlechanical constitutive model;
 -Wellbore position;



























	Material Properties				
Fault elements	Young Modulus (MPa)	Coesion (MPa)	Friction Angle (°)	Permeability (m ²)	
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Contour Fill of -LOG10permG, Sxx--LOG10permG.



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