Book review


This Special Publication was created following a conference at the Geological Society, London in early 2006 on ‘Structurally Complex Reservoirs’. The four editors are widely recognized as being at the top of their game – structural geology – and I expected them to deliver an outstanding book. I was not disappointed. Four of the papers were of direct relevance to the work in which I am currently involved. However, leaving aside my own particular interests, let us first examine the scope and balance of the book. The volume contains 25 papers, a large portion of which are research-orientated, being either analysis of structural problems or modelling approaches to structural ‘solutions’. Seven case studies are presented from the North Sea, USA and New Zealand. A large part of the volume is given to description of the static – geological – picture, albeit in some instances using dynamic data. However, and very importantly, the final two papers in the volume address the dynamic behaviour of complex reservoirs, fractures and faults to water-flooding and flow modelling.

The volume contains some practical and useful tools that will help both petroleum explorers and producers. For example, Welbon et al. provide a robust approach to exploration/development of landslide reservoirs, which are such a common feature of rift basins and passive margins and, as the authors point out, such reservoirs are often the last to be exploited because of their complexity. Similarly, the methodology used by Manzocchi et al. to understand connectivity as a function of net: gross in turbidite reservoirs will be of use to those trying to produce petroleum, calculate sweep efficiency or even establish reserves in low net: gross systems. One of the editors, Barr, explores the impact of both conductive and sealing fractures on the performance of a gas reservoir in the UK Southern North Sea. Of particular note in this paper is the quantity and quality of information extracted from an aging field. The time-series data are particularly fascinating, enabling the identification of sealed compartments, partially depleted compartments etc., both in the field and more recently exploited satellites. As with many of the other papers, this gives the reader the opportunity to understand how their fields might perform.

I thoroughly recommended this Special Publication to geoscientists and reservoir engineers alike; indeed, to anyone trying to understand complex reservoirs.

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Erratum


Faulting and fault sealing in the TAGI Formation of the Ourhoud Field, Algeria

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Figure 10 in this paper was incorrect. The correct version is shown here.