

Origin of Overpressure and Pore Pressure Prediction in Carbonate Reservoirs of the Abadan Plain Basin

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This thesis is submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy in the Australian School of Petroleum, Faculty of
Engineering, Computer & Mathematical Sciences, The University of Adelaide

November 2016



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Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	i
Abstract.....	iv
Statement.....	v
Acknowledgments.....	vii
List of Symbols.....	viii
CHAPTER 1- Introduction.....	1
1.1. Project Background.....	1
1.2. Project Aims.....	3
1.3. Thesis Plan.....	3
CHAPTER 2- Regional Geology of the Abadan Plain Basin.....	5
2.1. Introduction and Geographical Setting of the Abadan Plain Basin.....	5
2.2. Abadan Plain Basin Tectonic History.....	7
2.3. Abadan Plain Basin Stratigraphy.....	15
2.4. Exploration History in the Abadan Plain Basin.....	23
CHAPTER 3- Overpressures in the Abadan Plain Basin.....	25
3.1. Introduction.....	25
3.2. Pore pressure terminology.....	25
3.3. Methods for Pore Pressure Measurement.....	27
3.3.1. Formation Interval Testing.....	28
3.3.2. Formation Pressure Estimated from Drilling Fluid Data.....	30
3.4. Pressure data visualization.....	35
3.5. Results.....	37
3.5.1. Measured Pressure and Mud Data of the Wells Investigated in the Abadan Plain Basin.....	37
3.5.2. Pressure Cube.....	41
3.5.3. Overpressured Zones.....	45
3.6. Discussion.....	48
3.6.1. Discussions on the Overpressures in the Gachsaran Formation.....	49
3.6.2. Discussions on the Overpressures in the Gadvan and Fahliyan Formations.....	49
3.7. Conclusion.....	53
CHAPTER 4- Origin of Overpressure in Sedimentary Basins.....	54
4.1. Introduction.....	54
4.2. Overpressure Generation and Development Mechanisms.....	55
4.2.1. Disequilibrium Compaction (DC).....	55
4.2.2. Fluid Expansion Mechanisms.....	60
4.2.3. Pressure Transfer (Load Transfer).....	65
4.2.4. Other Proposed Mechanisms of Overpressure Generation.....	67
4.2.4.1. Aquathermal Expansion.....	67
4.2.4.1. Artesian Hydrostatic Pressure (Hydraulic Head).....	68
4.2.4.2. Uplift.....	69
4.2.4.3. Hydrodynamic Buoyancy.....	70
4.2.4.4. Gypsum to Anhydrite Transformation.....	72

4.2.4.5.	Coal Dewatering	76
4.2.4.6.	Osmosis	76
4.3.	Potential Mechanisms of Overpressure Generation in the Abadan Plain Basin	78
4.4.	Conclusions	82
CHAPTER 5-	Origin of Overpressure in the Abadan Plain Basin	83
5.1.	Introduction	83
5.2.	Sonic Velocity – Vertical Effective Stress Relationships	84
5.2.1.	Introduction	84
5.2.2.	Methodology	86
5.2.3.	Results of Sonic Velocity – Vertical Effective Stress Analysis in the Abadan Plain Basin	89
5.2.1.	Discussion on Sonic Velocity – Vertical Effective Stress Analysis in the Abadan Plain Basin	94
5.2.4.	Conclusion of Sonic Velocity – Vertical Effective Stress Analysis in the Abadan Plain Basin	98
5.3.	Sonic Velocity-Density and Resistivity-Density Log Response to Overpressures in the Abadan Plain Basin	99
5.3.1.	Introduction	99
5.3.2.	Methodology	103
5.3.3.	Results of Sonic Velocity–Density and Resistivity-Density Cross plot Analysis in the Abadan Plain Basin	108
5.3.4.	Discussion on Sonic Velocity–Density and Resistivity-Density Cross plot Analysis in the Abadan Plain Basin	120
5.3.5.	Conclusions of Sonic Velocity–Density and Resistivity-Density Cross plot Analysis in the Abadan Plain Basin	124
5.4.	Discussion on the overpressure generation in the Abadan Plain Basin	125
5.5.	Conclusions	133
CHAPTER 6-	Distribution and Determination of Vertical Stress in the Abadan Plain Basin	135
6.1.	Introduction	135
6.2.	Methodology	136
6.2.1.	Removing Spurious Data from the Density Log	136
6.2.2.	Estimating the Density for Areas without Density Log Data	139
6.3.	Results	142
6.4.	Discussion	143
6.4.1.	Density Estimation from Sonic Log	143
6.4.2.	Variation of Vertical Stress in the Abadan Plain Basin	146
6.4.3.	Implications of Vertical Stress on Pore Pressure Prediction	150
6.5.	Conclusions	152
CHAPTER 7-	Diagenesis and Porosity Evolution in Carbonate Rocks	153
7.1.	Introduction	153
7.2.	Carbonate Rock Classification	154
7.2.1.	Pore Space Classification of Carbonate Rocks	154
7.2.2.	Textural Classification of Carbonate Rocks	159

7.2.3.	Carbonate Rock Assessment	162
7.3.	Carbonate Rock Deposition, Sedimentation and Lithification.....	163
7.3.1.	Chemical Compaction	166
7.3.2.	Dolomitization.....	169
7.3.3.	Brecciation	173
7.3.4.	Fracturing	174
7.4.	Stress Sensitivity of Carbonates.....	176
7.5.	Diagenetic Processes in the Carbonate Rocks of the Abadan Plain Basin.....	184
7.6.	Conclusions	189
CHAPTER 8-	Shale vs carbonates Pore Pressure Prediction (PPP) in the Abadan Plain Basin	190
8.1.	Introduction	190
8.2.	Conventional Shale-based Pore Pressure Prediction.....	191
8.3.	Applying Shale-based Pore Pressure Prediction in the Abadan Plain Basin	193
8.3.1.	The Application of the Eaton Method.....	194
8.3.2.	NCT analysis in the Abadan Plain Basin	195
8.3.3.	The Eaton (1972) Exponent	197
8.3.4.	Bowers Pore Prediction Method	198
8.3.5.	Bowers' Normal Compaction Trend.....	199
8.4.	Results of Pore Pressure Prediction	200
8.5.	Discussion on Shale-based Pore Pressure Prediction in the Abadan Plain Basin...	217
8.6.	Conclusion.....	224
CHAPTER 9-	Compressibility Method for Pore Pressure Prediction	225
9.1.	Introduction	225
9.2.	Pore Pressure in Poroelastic Mediums	226
9.3.....	Porosity and Compressibility Correlations for Pore Pressure Prediction in Carbonates	228
9.3.1.	Compressibility method for Pore Pressure Prediction (Atashbari and Tingay, 2012a)	228
9.3.2.	Modified Compressibility method for Pore Pressure Prediction (Azadpour et al., 2015)	235
9.3.3.	Results and Discussion of Pore Pressure Prediction using Porosity and Compressibility Correlations	237
9.4.	Pore Pressure Prediction Using Compaction Modelling.....	242
9.5.	Results and Discussion of Pore Pressure Prediction Using Compaction Modelling	249
9.6.	Conclusions	252
CHAPTER 10-	Conclusions and Recommendation	254
Appendix A-	Integrated Data of Studied Wells	257
Appendix B-	MatLab code for Biot Compaction Model	267
References.....		283

Abstract

This thesis analyses overpressure throughout the Abadan Plain Basin and evaluates pore pressure in this basin using conventional petroleum industry methods, as well as two new proposed pore pressure prediction methods. Overpressures in the Abadan Plain Basin are primarily exist within carbonates, whereas most previously published overpressure analysis has been undertaken in shale-dominated clastic rocks. Overpressure in this basin is encountered in two main zones, primarily the Gachsaran and Gadvan/Fahliyan formations. South-west to north-east oriented thickening and shortening, as result of Arabia-Eurasia collision, has affected the pressure regime within the Gachsaran Formation, but seemed ineffectual to the Gadvan and Fahliyan overpressures.

In order to analyse overpressure origins and test conventional pore pressure prediction methods, a discrimination scheme was applied to remove the impact of lithology on the log recordings, resulting in isolating the minor shale interbeds within, and as a representative of, the carbonate sequences. Disequilibrium compaction was identified as the primary origin of overpressure in the Abadan Plain Basin. Eaton's (1972) pore pressure prediction method was applied on the filtered shale data with an exponent of 1.0 for sonic velocity, 0.1 for resistivity, and 5 for density data. Bowers' (1995) method was also tested and, while it accurately predicted pore pressure in the Gadvan and Fahliyan formations, it underestimates pore pressure in shallower formations.

This thesis also introduces a new 'compressibility method' for pore pressure prediction, developed by the author, that uses porosity-compressibility correlations. This new 'compressibility method' provided reliable pore pressure prediction results in the studied wells. Alternatively, overpressure as a result of sediment compaction is also estimated using Biot's (1941) general theory of three-dimensional consolidation. A generalised compaction model was constructed, and the resulting modelled pore pressure provides a reasonable estimate of observed pore pressure.

Statement

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28, 11, 2016

Acknowledgments

I'd like to express my great thanks to my principal supervisor, Dr. Mark Tingay, for his support and genuine advices on the concepts and techniques for identifying overpressure origin and employing pore pressure prediction methods. I also thank my co-supervisor, Dr. Khalid Amrouch, and my former co-supervisor, Dr. Rosalind King, for their consultation and collaborations on the geological principles.

I also express great thanks to Dr. Saeid Jamshidi for his help in advancing my skills in MatLab software and Mr. Hossein Khoshdel for his generous assistance in helping me to work with Petrel modelling package.

Finally, my sincere thanks to my wife, mum, dad and two brothers for their continuous support and kind understanding all throughout my degree. I wouldn't have succeeded without their support and encouragement.

List of Symbols

P_h : hydrostatic pressure	cs : an empirical regional correction factor for unconsolidated sediments
σ : stress	P_h : hydrostatic pressure
σ' : effective stress	σ_v : lithostatic pressure
σ_v : lithostatic pressure	σ_{max} : effective stress at the onset of unloading
σ_{max} : effective stress at the onset of unloading	γ : exponent
ρ : density	η : empirically derived constant in Gardner's equation
ρ_b : bulk density	B : empirically derived constant in Gardner's equation
ρ_f : fluid density	α' : a coefficient that measures the ratio of the liquid volume squeezed out to the volume change of the soil in an unconfined loading
ρ_{ma} : matrix density	α : Biot's poroelastic parameter
ρ_{shale} : shale density	ν : Poisson's ratio
ρ_{normal} : density of normally compacted shale	G : shear modulus
g : gravitational acceleration	C : compressibility
z : depth	C_b : bulk compressibility
ϕ : porosity	C_r : rock compressibility
P : pressure	C_{bc} : bulk compressibility versus confining pressure
GR : Gamma ray	C_{bp} : bulk compressibility versus pore pressure
Δt : measured interval transit time	C_{pc} : pore compressibility versus confining pressure
Δt_{ma} : matrix interval transit time	C_{pp} : pore compressibility versus pore pressure
Δt_r : pore fluid interval transit time	C_r : matrix compressibility
Δt_{normal} : interval transit time of normally compacted shale	Q : a coefficient that measures the amount of liquid that can be forced into the sample under pressure while the volume of the sample is kept constant
R_{shale} : shale resistivity	$1/H$: a measure of the sample compressibility for a change in fluid pressure
R_{normal} : resistivity of normally compacted shale	$1/R$: measures the change in liquid phase content for a given change in fluid pressure
V : sonic velocity	θ : the increment of liquid phase volume per unit volume of soil
V_{normal} : sonic velocity of normally compacted shale	q : flow rate
V_0 : sonic velocity at the surface	A : area
V_{max} : sonic velocity at the onset of unloading	k : permeability
V_b : bulk volume	h : thickness
V_p : pore volume	μ : viscosity
P_p : pore pressure	U : unloading parameter
A : Bowers' regional parameters	x : Eaton exponent
B : Bowers' regional parameters	