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## New Subsurface Signals are Needed for Improved Imaging of Subterranean Reservoirs & Resources

Björn N.P. Paulsson December 18, 2014



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# Why are New Subsurface Signals needed



## **Example from Space**



## The Brilliant Idea of the Hubble Telescope:



### **Avoid the Noisy Atmosphere**



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### **Turning this from an Earth telescope**





## Into This from the Hubble telescope







### and this - into this





How do we apply this lesson from **Space-Imaging** to **Earth-Imaging** 



# Avoid the Noisy Surface! Use Wells for the Instruments!



## **Develop Better Sensors!**



All Examples today are from **CCUS and Oil & Gas!** Up to now – Borehole Seismic Arrays have not been qualified for **Geothermal Applications! Our New FOSS Array has changed that! First Survey at the Geysers with Calpine** & LBL in September 2015



## **Borehole Seismology**

- Large Seismic Array Technology
- Fiber Optic Seismic Sensors
- Acoustic Micro Emitters





Micro Seismic Monitoring of Fracking operations or Interferometric 3D VSP Imaging of Oil Production using Active and Passive Seismic Sources in Horizontal Wells





### Image Shape from a vertical well 3D Borehole Seismic Survey





# Micro Seismic Applications For Long Arrays



#### **SAFOD Survey Area**

#### SAFOD: San Andreas Fault Observatory at Depth



At this rate Los Angeles will be next to San Francisco in 11.3 million years (543 km @ 48 mm/year (LAX – SFO))



Zoback (2006)







## **The Bridge over Sand Andreas Fault**







#### San Andreas Fault Survey Site – Parkfield, California





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#### Mapping the seismic events using a large borehole seismic vector array.

Local emergence angle on each pod for selected earthquake event (M0.0)





#### Micro Seismic Event recorded May 5, 2005 at 18:41 UTC – axial components





#### **Parkfield Area Seismic Observatory (PASO)**





# Why Sensor in Boreholes? Surface is so much easier!



#### A Micro-Seismic Event (5/8/2005 22:17:57)





**USGS: M0.34** 

### USGS: M0.34 A Micro-earthquake Event in PASO (5/8/2005 22:17:57)



#### A Micro-Seismic Event (4/30/2005 18:49)





PI: M-1.3

#### PI: M-1.3 Micro-earthquake Event in PASO (4/30/2005 18:49:59)

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# Why Long Aperture Arrays? Why tight Spatial Sampling?



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#### Micro-Seismic Events (5/7/2005 7:25) PI: M-2.7 & M-3.5





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#### PI: M-2.7 & M-3.5

Time (ms)

#### Micro-Seismic Events (5/7/2005 7:25)



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#### Micro-Seismic Events on an 80 level 3C Array (5/7/2005 7:25)



Time (ms)

### Long Array VSP vs. PASO & HRSN Results



**3D View** 

\_M1.03

M-1.30

1000

Easting (m)

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**Event Locations: Downhole** 



### Long Array VSP vs. PASO & HRSN Results



**3D View** 



**Event Locations: Downhole**




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#### **Surface Monitoring vs Borehole Monitoring**





#### Evidence of The Near-offset Fault (4/30/2005 18:49)





#### Evidence of The Mid-offset Fault (5/8/2005 4:54)



#### Evidence of The Far-offset Fault (5/10/2005 11:24)





#### **Other References**



**Figure 1.** (a) Faults map of the area in the vicinity of the SAFOD drill holes (the geometry of the faults is taken from *Bradbury et al.* [2007]); the blue dotted line represents the direction of the cross section. (b) Fault perpendicular cross section around SAFOD boreholes (geologic interpretation is taken from *Zoback et al.* [2010]) and location of the six earthquakes analyzed further.

A. Reshetnikov, et al., (2010)



## 3D/4D Imaging Results using Long Arrays



#### Field Example 49.2 ft vs 22.9 ft: ZO VSP Vertical Component





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#### Field Example 49.2 ft vs 22.9 ft: ZO VSP Vertical Component



## Imaging an Onshore Gas Reservoir



#### "Massive" 160 level 3D VSP at Wamsutter













Geetan et al., 2011

#### Location of the Wamsutter Field, WY, USA Test of Surface Seismic & 3D VSP Technologies



#### 3D VSP, 6000 source pts, 160 levels 2,500 – 10,500 ft



#### A look at the datacomparison to surface seismic data



#### VSP Data clearly visible terminations that tie into the depositional framework



#### **Almond reservoir 3D VSP and Production overlay**

high

low







### Integration





Well-to-seismic ties







Geetan et al., 2011

## Time Lapse Data Monitoring of CO2 injection for Enhanced Oil Recovery in 2002 - 2003



#### Time lapse surveys to monitor CO2 Injection Depth Amplitude Maps at 4,800 ft showing the CO2 Plume



Increased reflectivity in the Monitor Survey 2003 at a depth of 4,800 ft at the well is due to the injected CO2. Also seen is the increased reflectivity around the water injector wells.

O'Brien et al., 2004



## Imaging of Methane Hydrates on the North Slope, Alaska



#### Gas Hydrate Stability Zone Thickness



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#### **2D Seismic Section**





#### **Comparison of VSP and Surface Seismic**





#### **3D VSP Seismic Volume**





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#### Amplitudes on Geologic Marker at Top of Sand A





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-16576.5 -129.0

-32767.0

16318.5 32766.

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#### Amplitudes on Geologic Marker at Top of Sand A



16318.5 32766

amplitude

# Multi well 3D VSP of thin reservoir to drill horizontal wells



3D VSP survey using four 80 level 3C borehole arrays simultaneously: 960 channels Largest number of borehole sensors deployed Surface Seismic Failed to Image the Reservoir



Paulsson et al., 2004



#### Massive 3D VSP / W-E Profile





## Great Results but Limited by the Sensor Response and Bandwidth



## **Borehole Seismology**

- Large Seismic Array Technology
- Fiber Optic Seismic Sensors
- Acoustic Micro Emitters



## Fiber Optic Seismic Vector Sensor Technology



#### **NSSN Virginia Class Attack submarine FOAS array**

- Light Weight Wide Aperture Array (LWWAA) is a passive ASW sonar system which consists of three large array panels mounted on either side of the submarine's hull.
- NRL has developed and demonstrated fiber optic methods based on the Michelson interferometry technique which measure the strain in fiber from dynamic signals (acoustic).



#### Fiber Optic LWAA

- 6 arrays (three per side)
- -450 hydrophones per array
- Provides ranging capability without maneuvers
- Passive acoustics

#### All-Optical Hydrophones











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#### **Fiber Bragg Grating: Theory**





## 1. Fiber Optic Seismic Sensor (FOSS)™ Development

### 2. Deployment System Development


#### **Interrogator Optical Specifications**

Time Domain Multiplexing (TDM): Interrogator System Overview



## **FOSS<sup>®</sup> Dynamic Range**



#### **Dynamic Range Enhancement Correction (DRC)**





## **FOSS<sup>®</sup> Sensitivity**



#### Fiber Optic Sensors and Interrogator Noise Floor Sensor's Sensitivity and noise floor improvement





## The Dynamic Test Station for the Fiber Optic Seismic Sensors (FOSS)™





## Making and Testing of 3C FOSS™ FOSS™ Testing - Sensitivity: 0.03 – 0.9 Hz

- The sensor design in the 6-level prototype array has an sensitivity ~230 radians/g
- The sensor design in the 15 level system will have a sensitivity >300 radians/g
- Sensitivity of the FOSS<sup>™</sup> has proven to be constant even at very low frequencies (sub-hertz)





## THE FIBER OPTIC SEISMIC SENSOR (FOSS)™

### VS.

## **OTHER SENSORS** @ 200°C



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Fiber Optic Seismic Sensor (FOSS)<sup>™</sup> vs. Standard Geophone Data recorded simultaneously from a single tap test Sampling rate: 8,000 Hz. High cut filter at 2,500 Hz.

- FOSS S/N ratio is 41 times higher than S/N for Geophone
- FOSS -30 dB point is 3,300 Hz vs 1,100 Hz for Geophone





## Tap Test of Fiber Optic Seismic Sensor Inside a Geophone Pod @ Temperatures: 25°C - 320°C



#### **FOSS: Optical Radial Component over Temperatures**



# Fiber Optic Seismic Sensor (FOSS)<sup>™</sup>, Radial Compo. Tap Tests at 25°C - 320°C – Spectra plots



## **1. Fiber Optic Sensor Development**

## 2. Deployment System Development



#### **Drill Pipe Deployed System – Housing and Clamping**



Clamping system operates by increasing the pressure inside the drill pipe and manifolds and uses the bore hole fluid as a medium



## Field Tests of Fiber Optic Seismic Sensor (FOSS)™ System



#### **Fiber Optic Seismic Sensor Deployment**





## Deploying the Fiber Optic Seismic Sensor (FOSS)<sup>TM</sup> Array into a Well in Texas

## Deploying the Fiber Optic Seismic Sensor (FOSS)™ Array into a Well in Texas

JON THORNBURG

pticSeis™ 30

SACRAME 916-377

## Processing of Field Test Data Recorded with Fiber Optic Seismic Sensor (FOSS)™ System



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#### Shots for POD 5 Principle Component, 1,200 ft (Filter: 80-100-1500-2000 Hz)



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#### Shots for POD 5 Principle Component, 1,200 ft (Filter: 80-100-1500-2000 Hz)







Proprietary Material – Paulsson, Inc (PI).







# Mini FOSS®



### Mini FOSS<sup>™</sup> – Pods 1" OD





## Mini FOSS<sup>™</sup> – Pods 1" OD Designed for small space Shown on 7" casing – Note Quarter: 0.955"





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#### **Simultaneous Tap Test on 3 sensors**





### Simultaneous Tap Test on Two Sensors Fiber Optic Seismic Sensor (FOSS) vs Geophone





## **Borehole Seismology**

- Large Seismic Array Technology
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- Acoustic Micro Emitters



## Smart Acoustic Micro Emitters

# A technology for monitoring fracture geometries in-situ

www.fluidion.com contact@fluidion.com



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### **Getting most out of fracture monitoring**

Problem: Need to know where fractures are propagating, their number, width, extent.

Answer: Embedding smart microsystems within standard proppant formulations



Typical ceramic proppant 20/40



fluidion smart micro-emitter (prototype stage)



#### **Acoustic Micro Emitters – Evolving Technology**





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### **Using smart Acoustic Micro Emitters (AME)**



Simple logistics: Injected in well along with proppant Detected using fiber optic sensor array

Delayed acoustic emission – high S/N Guaranteed in-fracture signal Specific acoustic signature Various sizes – mapping fracture width





#### **Test of Acoustic Micro Emitters - Test #23**



#### **Game-changing potential**

**Smart acoustic micro-emitters (AME)** 

Allow high precision localization of fracture geometry

Avoids drawbacks of standard micro seismic analyses

**Can produce valuable information on** 

- fracture width vs. position
- fracture orientation and size
- number of fractures per frac zone

Monitoring technology allowing effective fracture optimization


# Data by Optical Sensor Systems

### Today:

- Seismic Fiber Optic Vector Sensors (Sensitivity: 100 x Geophones and 1000 x DAS)
  - P-wave Velocities
  - SH and SV Velocities
  - Reflections
- Acoustic Distributed (DAS) for velocity
- Temperature Distributed along the fiber
- Pressure Point Sensors
- Future:
- Chemical Sensors
- Pressure sensor Distributed
- Other



### What can we learn from the "New Signals"

- High Resolution images much better than surface seismic
- Large volume images much larger volumes than well logs
- 3D Velocity model to be used for surface seismic processing
- Anisotropic velocity information to focus imaging
- Outstanding structural/stratigraphic images
- Much better understanding of the dynamic processes of producing and injecting fluids and gases
  - Monitor Fracturing (Fracking) Operations
- Volumetric rock-mass stress distribution not just a the well
- Faults & Fracture distribution and directions
- 3D Maps of diapiric salt bodies
- Type of fluids in the reservoirs:
  - Gas vs Oil vs Water vs CO2 vs Steam
- Temperature distribution
- REAL TIME PROCESSING allow control dynamic processes



## **Borehole Seismology**

- Large Seismic Array Technology
- Fiber Optic Seismic Sensors
- Acoustic Micro Emitters
- Geothermal Applications









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#### The Geysers Permanent Seismic Monitoring Networks





#### The Geysers Field-wide Seismicity Analysis 01 October 2014 to 31 March 2014







Software advances for seismicity analysis, along with 3D modeling constraints from lithology logs, surface geology, temperature logs, pressure logs, tracer analysis, heat flow and reservoir history matching are improving Calpine's ability to develop a 3D Structural Model for The Geysers.



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The developing 3D Structural Model (including pre-existing fault zones and fractures) will assist in understanding and potentially mitigating induced seismicity at The Geysers. The goal is to better match water injection flow rates with local geologic conditions.



### **Borehole Seismic Survey Expectations**

**Calpine, the operator The Geysers Geothermal field needs:** 

- Improved Micro Seismic locations with improved signal/noise ratios
- Refined understanding of the physical mechanisms of faulting
- Improved subsurface imaging with multi-level high-temperature tolerant fiber-optical sensors
- Apply improved hypocenter determination and improved imaging to refinements of our 3D structural model
- Refine our understanding of fault zones and fractures
- Develop improved models for fluid flow and fluid boundaries
- Mitigate seismicity at The Geysers to the degree possible, based on a better understanding of fault mechanisms and fluid flow



# **Borehole Seismology**

- Large Seismic Array Technology
- Fiber Optic Seismic Sensors
- Acoustic Micro Emitters
- Geothermal Applications
- Offshore Applications



DeepStar Project Improved Imaging of Offshore GOM using 3D VSP



### **SEAM GOM Model VSP Survey**

#### **General:**

Acquisition parameters – Elastic 15 km by 8 km grid shot set Velocity Model: Isotropic

#### Sources:

Source grid centered on East 11200 m, North 23900 m

SP interval: 100 m

Grid size: 15 km EW by 8 km NS

Number of SPs: 12,231 (151 EW by 81 NS)

Grid location: East 3700 to 18700 m, North 19900 to 27900 m

Source Depth: 15 m

**Source Bandwidth: 1 – 30 Hz** 

#### **Receivers:**

VSP 4 Components: pressure, acceleration in vertical, east, north

#### **Receiver levels: 467 in each well**

Receiver depth range: 1000 to 7990 m

**Receiver interval: 15 m** 

Well Locations:

Well 1: East 10075 m North 23900 m

Well 2: East 12025 m North 23900 m

Well 3: East 15025 m North 23900 m

Well 5: East 15025 m North 22900 m

**Record length: 16.0 seconds** 

Sample interval: 8 milliseconds/sample, Nyquist = 62.5 Hz



### **SEAM GOM Model VSP Survey**

**General:** 

Acquisition parms – Elastic 15 km x 8 km grid Velocity Model: Isotropic

Sources:

SP interval: 100 m Grid size: 15 km EW by 8 km NS Number of SPs: 12,231 (151 EW by 81 NS) Source Depth: 15 m Source Bandwidth: 1 – 30 Hz **Receivers:** VSP 4 C: pressure, 3C acceleration sensors **Receiver levels: 467 in each well Receiver depth range: 1,000 to 7,990 m Receiver interval: 15 m Record length: 16.0 seconds** Sample interval: 8 msec., Nyquist = 62.5 Hz



### High Resolution GOM Earth Model 40 x 30 x 15 km



#### **SEAM SEG Consortium**







### **200 Level Fiber Optic VSP Tool and 3D VSP Data**





### **RTM Inline Well 2 & 3**

Impedance





### VSP RTM Well 2 & 3





# **Offshore 3D VSP Summary**

- Surface Seismic Images contain today about 10 - 15 Hz
- Long Array Borehole Seismic

   Will Record 80 120 Hz
   Will Allow Building a Much Better Velocity Model



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  - **RPSEA Contract 09121-3700-02 (2011)**
  - DOE Contract DE-EE0005509 (2012)

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# **Thank You!**

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