My Background

Graduated in Geology - London 1978

Started out Mudlogging, then Wellsite Geology

Entered geological operations during the frenetic oil exploration in southern England, when and where the media thought would become a mini-Texas !

In the mid-80's when the North Sea bubble burst due to the oil price crash, I gravitated to Engineering Geology and participated in subsurface mapping areas of the Docklands for Canary Wharf development and London City airport, with access to many hundreds of shallow boreholes

Microsoft Windows was just emerging on the market at this time

Been in Operations Geology for as long as can remember !

"WORKING with SUBSURFACE DISCIPLINES and **PROPORTIONALITY**"

Spirit of my Talk

Not promoting a company nor its products

No specific case histories, but experience drawn from many

General observations and overview

Useful with an element of fun

Thought provoking

Poignant reminders



Time to reflect

Proportionality comes in many guises

Relative size or extent

Dimensions or scale

Comparable in size, rate of increase (growth)

Correct relationship between parts

A part considered with respect to the whole

Relationship between qualities and quantities

Without exaggeration

To adjust in relative amount or size

To cause to be harmonious in relationship of parts

Slide Presentation Road Map

A Sense of Proportionality Awesome Sizes of Magnitude **Delusions of Scale and Volumetric Illusions** Not what it appears to be Nature of Digital Use Industry standard ? - Getting to grips with unit variation Operations Geologists liaise with Petrophysicists, Geologists, Geophysicists, Reservoir Engineers, Drillers & Asset Managers Working with these Subsurface Disciplines and Proportionality - some proportional characteristics Ambiguities, Ambiguous and Quirky Terminology Seeing the Bigger Picture Acquisition, Handling and Transmission of Data Is there such thing as too much information ? Can Digital systems Help or Hinder ? Future challenges and where our industry is likely to benefit Summary

A Sense of Proportionality

Sometimes, we struggle with proportionality, a sense of scale, priorities and value for money

Seems odd, but true examples:

Driving miles to get a penny off a litre of supermarket fuel, when there's fuel just down the road

Suying 3 food items for the price of 2 when the 3rd item will go off by the time I get to eat it. Anyway I only wanted one !

Shopping, using a certain credit card to gain loyalty points, but lose out due to interest charged on late payment

Missing out on the opportunity to appraise a discovery, when already have the rig on contract and on location

Drill deeper (more rig time), but net gain as can run longer tool strings, reducing number of logging runs (less rig time)

* If a pair of quality safety boots cost twice as much as a cheap pair, but lasts 3 times as long, the quality pair is a better buy

Doubling pennies each square on a chessboard

If a penny is 1.5mm thick. How high would the pile be on the last (64th) square ?

2⁶³ = 9,223,372,036,854,775,808 pennies

8,646,911,285 miles high (over eight and a half billion)

i.e. 93 times the distance from earth to the sun





Awesome Sizes of Magnitude.....rate of increase (growth)

Investing 1 "penny" when the Romans invaded Britain in 55 B.C. at just 1% p/a





 $A = P(1+r)^{t}$

A = money accumulated after t years, including interest

P = principal amount r = annual rate of interest t = years the amount is deposited

 $A = \pounds 0.01(1+0.01)^{2067}$

With compound interest, the initial 1p investment would have grown to a staggering £8,556,174 (over eight and a half million pounds)



If a strand of hair is 70 micrometres thick and a carbon

atom is 0.22 nano metres across (nm = billionth of a metre),

then the hair is 70 micrometers/ 0.22nm = 318,000 carbon atoms across



Scanning Electron Microscope image of hair

Awesome Sizes of Magnitude.....the infinitely small

Neutrinos, sub-atomic particles, are hard to detect as have a minute chance of interacting with mass. From the sun at the speed of light, most pass through Earth without touching any matter



Awesome Sizes of Magnitude.....vast distances



Star Clusters within our galaxy 440 light years from Earth

Light travels around the equator nearly 8 times a second

Awesome Sizes of Magnitude.....time and speed



Felix Baumgartner's supersonic freefall (at his initial rate of descent) would

have taken him 355 days - nearly a year to reach the speed of light

Awesome Sizes of Magnitude.....universal dimensions



Billions of galaxies each comprising billions of stars

..... but the energy released by a falling snow flake on impact is greater than all light energy received by these distant galaxies since space exploration began !

Delusions of Scale



A slab of ironstone showing weathered surface

Delusions of Scale



10 kms

Actually, an aerial view of the Grand Canyon



Volumetric Illusions



Barrel just 1.26 times taller, wider





Barrel just 4.65 times taller and wider

Barrel just 2.15 times taller and wider

Volumetric Illusions cont....

To minimise potato calories, choose this smaller one



This slightly larger spud may be 5 times the volume !

Not what it appears to be

Reservoir hydrocarbon volumes and recoverable reserves are not always WYSIWYG

"Hidden physics" play havoc, depending on:

- Hydrocarbon Type: Gas, Condensate or Oil
- Fluid Character: GOR and Volume Formation Factor
- Reservoir: Pressure, Temperature, Porosity and Sw
- Formation N to G: Ratio of sand to shale
- Recovery Factor: Formation Permeability and Fluid Viscosity (mobility)

Not what it appears to be cont....

Project economics are rarely WYSIWYG

Some "Hidden factors" affecting project viability might be:

Unknown variations in currency exchange rate

Predicting and applying a realistic discount figure

Commodity (hydrocarbons) prices subject to market forces

Unforeseen and uncontrollable events

Not what it appears to be cont....

A Gantt chart helps....but there are lurking uncertainties:



Initial timing may be affected by external operational delays

Uncontrollable in-house delays

Late delivery of facilities or equipment failure

Alterations in plans due to changes in priority or unexpected budgetary restraints

Rate determining steps, which will shift and can stretch timings

Nature of Digital Use

Acceptable error margin when dialling - none



Digital use is stronger when defining:

Blocks Quadrants



Distances & bearings of correlation wells



Digital use is weaker when attempting to quantify quality such as:

Risk assessment, levels of uncertainty, data confidence, data filtering processes

. The level of risk is determined by entering the estimated probability and impact of a threat occuring in the Risk Matrix.

 Probability, Impact and Risk levels entered in the Risk Assessment should be the estimated levels before and after the proposed Control Measures have been implemented, ie.

Prob	Imp	Risk
before	before	before
after	after	after

. The estimation of risk will normally be subjective, and is determined by a team of experienced personnel.

Further guidance on Risk Assessment Procedures is available from the STEA Department.



Acceptance Criteria expresses the level of Risk for the work task. The Risk Levels are calculated by utilising the probability rating x severity rating = Risk Level using the following ratings.

Pr	obability Rating	
1	Probable	Once or more in lifetime of single installation
		(experienced once during the course of drilling a well)
2	Remote	Once in the total lifetime of a number of installations
2	Extremely remete	(experienced once during the course of a drilling project)
3	Extremely remote	(may be encountered once in a working lifetime)
4	Improbable	Unlikely in the working life of a number of installations
5	Extremely improbable	Not anticipated in the working life of a number of installations
	, , , ,	
Se	everity Rating	
A	Catastrophic	Loss of installation or well, many fatalities. Extreme environmental impact.
в	Major	Possible loss of installation or well, or up to 6 fatalities. Major environmental impact.
C	Serious	Significant damage to installation or well or single fatalities. Moderate environmental impact
D	Minor	Minor damage or casualties. Minor environmental impact.
E	Negligible	No damage or casualties. No impact on the environment.
Ri	sk Level	
Lo	W	Apply routine good industry practice and precautions.
M	edium	Implement cost effective precautions with particular regard to safety.
		Ensure offshore crew are aware of the risks and control measures.
Hi	gh	Identify and fully evaluate alternative options to avoid the risk.
		Identify and implement control measures to reduce the risk to as low as is reasonably

Nature of Digital Use cont....

Some aspects of bit wear grading are also subjectively classified using digits:





Cutting Structure Wear T3 T4 T5 T6 T1 T7 NEW T8

Other Dull Char.

0

Cutting 9	Structure	
Inner Rows	Outer Rows	

2

01	nner	Cutting	Structure	
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(All inner rows)

0

Outer Cutting Structure

(Gauge row only) In columns 1 and 2, a linear scale from 0 to 8 is used to describe the condition of the cutting structure according to the following:

Steel Tooth Bits

A measure of lost tooth height due to abrasion and/or damage.

- 0 No loss of tooth height
- 8 Total loss of tooth
- height

Insert Bits

A measure of total cutting structure reduction due to lost, worn and/or broken inserts.

0 - No lost, worn and/or broken inserts

3 Dull Characteristi	cs
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Location

0

(Use only cutting structure related codes)

BC - Broken Cone*

- BT Broken Teeth
- BU Balled Up

Dull Char.

8

- CC Cracked Cone*
- CD Cone Dragged*
- CI Cone Interference
- CR Cored
- CT Chipped Teeth
- ER Erosion
- FC Flat Crested Wear
- HC Heat Checking
- JD Junk Damage
- LC Lost Cone*
- LN Lost Nozzle
- LT Lost Teeth
- NO No Dull Characteristic
- NR Not Rerunnable
- OC Off Center Wear
- PB Pinched Bit

PN - Plugged Nozzle/ Flow Passage

4 Location Roller Cone

-

-

Cone #

Bearings/Seals

6

N

G

A -

1

2

3

M -

Gauge

6

Nose Row

Middle Row

Gauge Row

All Rows

6 Bearings/Seals

bearing life used

0 - No life used

8 - All life used,

Sealed Bearings

F - Seals failed

E - Seals effective

N - Not able to grade

remaining

Non-Sealed Bearings

A linear scale estimating

i.e., no bearing life

8 Reason Pulled or Run Terminated

BHA - Change Bottom Hole Assembly

Reason Pulled

0

- CM Condition Mud
- CP Core Point
- DMF Downhole Motor Failure
- DP Drill Plug
- DSF Drill String Failure
- DST Drill Stem Test
- DTF Downhole Tool Failure
- FM Formation Change
- HP Hole Problems
- HR Hours on Bit
- LIH Left In Hole
- LOG Run Logs
- PP Pump Pressure
- PR Penetration Rate
- RIG Rig Repair
- TD Total Depth/

TAT

- Casing Depth
- TQ Torque
 - Twist Off

Industry standard ? - Getting to grips with unit variation

Mud Loggers' Total Gas recorded in UNITS of gas, but rig personnel may be more familiar with %

Deadly H₂S gas alarm levels set proportionally in ppm, not insensitive % volumes in air

MW, PP, FIT, OBG and FG can be expressed in EMW ppg, kPa/m, g/cc or psi/ft

Although Geophysicists talk of TWT in millisecs, others may only identify depth with ft or m

ROP plotted in ft/hr or mins/ft, **OR** m/hr or mins/m

Temperatures recorded in °C or °F

Industry standard ? - Getting to grips with unit variation cont......

Beware ! GR scale may not be the more usual 0-150 API units

Resistivity log scale on two, three or four cycles. Care needed if making well comparisons

Neutron Porosity and Density plotted on a "sandstone matrix" or "limestone matrix"

Datum co-ordinates - which spheroid was used ?....Geographic and UTM conversions

MSL or LAT ?

True North, Grid North or Magnetic North?

We're seeing some standardisation in the industry, but archives are often in other units, scales, grids and different formats. If labelling is clear, then these differences are just minor inconveniences which can be converted - avoiding disasters !

Getting to grips with significant digits and the decimal place (d.p.)

Initial recording often to 1 d.p. but in FWR, may be "rounded" to a whole digit e.g. Temp, Press, ROP

Hole size caliper relevant to 1 d.p. which has a major impact on annulus volume calculations

Certain well depths for casing shoes, geological tops, well TD to nearest foot or 1 d.p. in metres

Core length measurements to one decimal inch, where 10" = 1ft

Reservoir sandstone average thickness and N:G in whole digits

Significance is relevant. Quoting a well as producing 2,500.7 bbls/d would be pointless !because if gauges were accurate to 0.1%, there would still be an error of +/-2.5bbls/d It would be splitting hairs if not atoms !

If a reservoir fluid mobility test is high at 800 mD/cP, there's no need for any decimal places But, if very low at 6.3 mD/cP, the d.p. may be very relevant

Sandstone porosity (Φ) sufficient to whole digit as %, sometimes more pertinent to quote a range

Ambiguities, Ambiguous and Quirky Terminology

How often seen written +/- 2,500bbl/d, when really mean 2,500 bbls/d +/- a massive difference !

Date written as 04/01/12 or 01/04/12 Is that 4th January or 1st April ? (fooled you !)

Sands described as "unconsolidated" whereas actually mean poorly cemented

If a flow check shows a well not to be flowing, then misleading to report it anything other than "static" (seen written "-ve" for not flowing)

We talk about operating in **ANGER** - not angry as in road rage

.....but put into action for real (i.e. not a mere test exercise)

Chopper pilots refer to remaining flight distance as "miles-to-**RUN**" – no thanks, I'll stay seated !

Ambiguities, Ambiguous and Quirky Terminology cont....

Data transmission speed quoted as 512 or 1024 kbps....

....electrical signals travel at same speed, it's the number of lanes that allow greater data volume transfer - bandwidth



Interpolated seismic lines referred to as "arbitrary lines" - in reality anything but !

....they are carefully selected lines between chosen mapped points where software generates "in-between" seismic sections







Working with Subsurface Disciplines and Proportionality – COMMUNICATIVE

A quote from John Donne (1572-1631) "No man is an Island"



Everyone benefits from good communications:

We don't thrive when working in isolation from each other and may go off on a tangent

"Great minds think alike", or not as the case may be – at least problems are worked on together

By talking technical and sharing ideas, how often have you answered your own question?

Working with Subsurface Disciplines and Proportionality – IMAGINATIVE

Can't plan for every situation, lateral thinking helps - imagining a range of different possible scenarios



A Decision Tree helps

Geoscientists are often up against: Is it nice-to-have or absolutely essential?

Plan with sufficient engineering contingency, or go with the bare minimum ?

Smooth well trajectories facilitate running well completions but can cost more rig time to achieve

Drilling fluid loss prevention (LCM) can cause unwanted higher skin, impairing well PI

LWD in preference to wireline logging ? - unobservable drilling mud invasion effects

Reaming for additional LWD data may aggravate poor hole conditions

Working with Subsurface Disciplines and Proportionality – COMPROMISES

Technical conflicts or different objectives may necessitate operational compromises

To achieve unshared objectives, subsurface disciplines may have to make sacrifices

Strive to maximise data capture within the well AFE

Minimum data acquisition to meet well / appraisal objectives and problem solving

Prudent to acquire as much information as possible while rig on location – may be last chance !

With vision, even a compromised, fuller data capture programme can avoid regrets

Working with Subsurface Disciplines and Proportionality – CONFIDENCE

Different confidence levels within subsurface disciplines may arise because......

....archive data reliability has proved to be poor – once bitten, twice shy !

....there's uncertainty if factual and interpreted information is mixed

....there are different levels of knowledge and experience from team members

....lack of trust in others ability and competence

....data found to be flawed - which is actually worse than useless

Subsurface disciplines working together, are more likely to be successful

Collaborating geoscientists will produce more fruitful work

Being united and gelling makes for better and harmonious team work

Sharing ideas to arrive at "near" unanimous data acquisition objectives

More likely to win approval and be granted project funds if speaking with one voice !

Working with Subsurface Disciplines and Proportionality – SUITABILITY



"Horses for Courses"

It helps to be familiar with how much and what data is needed

Knowing what format is most appropriate

Working with a large operator with many global fields ? **OR**..... a small operator with a "one-off" exploration well

Are partners involved or 100% WI? - a matter of operational scale

Working with Subsurface Disciplines and Proportionality – HT

Are you "using a Sledge Hammer to Crack a Nut" ?



Perhaps closer to home...."a geological hammer to open a geode"

Working with Subsurface Disciplines and Proportionality – HT



If today's technology was available during early '70s, may not have deployed so many platforms

New / reprocessed seismic data with higher resolution, aids mapping accuracy and raises confidence

Modern drilling and completion technology reduces the number of development wells needed, by using long reach targeted horizontals and more refined perforating intervals

Subsea templates used instead of platforms – smaller footprint and lower costs

Working with Subsurface Disciplines and Proportionality – CRUDE ECONOMICS



Formation or reservoir evaluation is usually a small proportion of the whole well AFE, a little price to pay to gather sufficient geological data

Scrimping on data acquisition saving pounds, then later go and blow £1,000s !

There really are cost benefits of data acquisition, transmission and storage

Working with Subsurface Disciplines and Proportionality – TARGETS



How realistic was the target ?

If exceeded, was it due to high performance or was the target set too low ?

If not met, was it because it was genuinely unattainable or set much too high ?

In reality, missing the bull's eye would probably have been a result of both factors

Working with Subsurface Disciplines and Proportionality – TIME



TIME is relative

There's no **TIME** like the present

TIME and MOTION: this method really improves and upgrades work systems

TIME is money

Working with Subsurface Disciplines and Proportionality – EFFICIENCY



"A Stitch in TIME Saves Nine"

Being proactive and gathering data early on can avoid costlier acquisition later in TIME

Hesitation is likely to cause missed opportunities - however, not advocating knee jerk reactions !

The expression "Killing two birds with one stone" is apparent here, when operating efficiently



Working with Subsurface Disciplines and Proportionality – USING TRENDS

Was past data good? Or was it the result of a one-TIME event influenced by unique circumstances

An absolute number itself doesn't necessarily reveal the picture. Making comparisons with **TIME** when analysing an incoming data stream, aids meaningful identification

Trends can smooth out anomalous data and reduce the impact of unique occurrences which may lead to poor or ineffective decision making

An established and accepted trend can be used as a predictive tool

Working with Subsurface Disciplines and Proportionality – USING MODELS

Initial geological and reservoir models rarely perfectly match the real world

With **TIME**, as models are updated with field data, they approach geological and reservoir reality

Only after an infinite number of wells have been drilled or a reservoir produced to exhaustion, will reiterated final models approach 100% perfection !



Of course, models are always "right" with the available data to hand !

Working with Subsurface Disciplines and Proportionality – RISK

Working with proportionality has associated **RISKS**.....

.....whether being struck by lightning or exploring for hydrocarbons

Working with Subsurface Disciplines and Proportionality – RISKY ANALOGUES

When using "obvious" analogues but without being systematic, we may fail to see fundamental differences that render them inappropriate for modelling.

Using present day visibly active geological processes to understand past systems is useful but limited. Contemporary geological settings are not necessarily identical to past systems, and there's a **RISK** of conflating challenges. So, rather than illuminating a Jurassic or Palaeocene system, present ones can "muddy the waters" so to speak !





A classic example is where depositional analogues are imprecise

Seeing the Bigger Picture

Three stone cutters each cutting a block of stone in a quarry replied to the question

"What are you doing"?



First stone cutter said "I'm cutting stone"





Second stone cutter said "I'm cutting stone for a wall"



Third stone cutter, the happiest, said "I'm building a cathedral"

All were doing the same job, but each replied differently

Each knew how to do the job but the 3rd stone cutter:

Knew not just how and what to do, but knew why

Viewing the whole and not just its part

Seeing a vision, a sense of the bigger picture

Having the ability to see significance in work, beyond the obvious

Realising a legacy will live on, whether in the stone of a cathedral, or in the impact made on others

Which of the three stone cutters are we?

In all fairness though:

Other team members may be party to more information than us and so see the bigger picture

-

It's easier to be critical than creative and prudent not to step on anyone's toes !

Acquisition and Presentation of Data

Rarely can operations be slowed for collecting data. It's important to select and prioritise data acquisition with appropriate time-scanning



Pictures say a thousand words – Composite logs and logging tool string diagrams



Handling and Transmission of Data



"Batched-to-town" data loaded into software onshore is being replaced by website based systems which receive live streamed rig data fed directly into the software application....BUT often up against contesting for highways to the server.....



... which may seem more like a maze !



Lateral displacement = $\mu^{-p} \sin \alpha \pm \mu^{p} \sin \beta - 2rp/tpw^{2} \sin \frac{1}{2}(\alpha \pm \beta) \cos \frac{1}{2mgh}(\alpha \mp \beta)$

Trying to explain swing using mathematical analysis

Is there such a thing as too much information?

Sometimes we can't see the wood for the trees and are unable to understand what's important because we're giving too much attention to detail



Digital Systems can Hinder

In the myriad demands of today, we can become numb to numbers

Copy Paste Syndrome – can allow errors to creep in unnoticed

Are we in danger of overload to properly digest and interpret ?

Too easy to cc everyone on everything – making it difficult to prioritise and organise workload

When a WSG, digital systems could be distractive – diverting attention, removing finger off the pulse

Digital technology is a tool and shouldn't be allowed to dictate our work so we become slaves to it...we must remain in control and be masters of our destiny



Tail wagging the dog comes to mind !

Fibre Optics (FO) Provide Technological Advantages:

Technologically speaking "small is beautiful" rather than "bigger is better"

Increasing use of nanotechnology in oilfield materials – lighter, smaller footprint

FO enables larger data volume delivery at higher resolution and higher sensitivity measurements plus wider bandwidths, replacing existing electrical communications for well monitoring and tubular integrity

FO can transmit a continuous data stream rather than "snap shots" of data and can render 3D images in real time

FO can operate in harsher physical environments >400°C and vibration with greater reliability





A country, where you can phone to resolve a technical problem with your computer !

Would proportionate use of FO help here ?

Apps in the Digital Oilfield.....

....providing Computations

Designing well drilling and completion programmes which need physical inputs such as:

Hole sizes, ROPs, WOB, well surveys, depths, pipe & tubular internal and external diameters, geological formation, temperatures and pressures

....helping to monitor Rig Operations

Enabling remote well site data access.

Collating rig data into a central database in order to make comparisons with actual and expected trends such as pore pressure, temperature, ROPs etc.

....helping to monitor Well Productions

Again, enabling remote well site data access – monitoring well test data and compare with expected production profiles

Data storage capacity is massive. Easier to search, access and retrieve information How often than not, **data quality** is more important than quantity

Clearer electronic filing and data labelling (categorisation) is essential

One of the biggest challenges we face is being swamped..... **DATA OVERLOAD**

There can be reluctance to introduce or trial new technologies as don't wish to be a guinea pig

But someone has to be first on the starting block......

....so take advantage and keep ahead of the game by using emerging technology

SUMMARY - How Digital Technology developments may improve the Oil Industry

My spin, is that **Digital Technology** can only fulfil its potential in the oilfield when:

There's good collaboration between subsurface disciplines and operators with service providers

A shared sense of proportionality

It is applied appropriately and with practicality

It is used as a tool to improve efficiency and data reliability (raising data confidence)

There's continuous investment, particularly in training

Everyone is onboard together with latest in technology

There's more industry standardisation

Stone Age man

Iron Age man

Hydrocarbon man

Mobile Phone man

In future, we may be remembered as Homo–Digital–Sapiens

If so....would that be proportionate ?