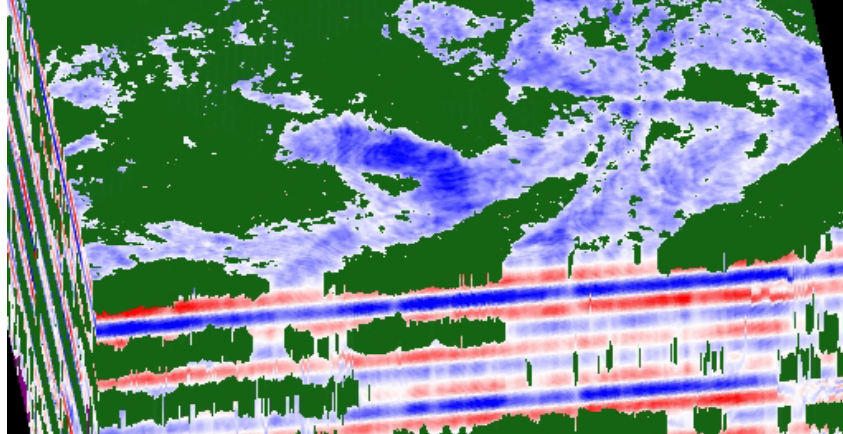


Society of Exploration Geophysicists

Annual Conference and Exhibition, Houston, November 2005.



Stark Reality's seismically-derived¹ [Wheeler Diagram](#)²

Some 8,000 attended the most buoyant SEG for years in Houston where the message from all was 'we're hiring.' Despite Andrew Gould's lament that poaching from each other is a 'zero sum game,' it is a very popular one. The Leading Edge Forum debated the energy supply challenge and quickly turned into a Matt Simmons-bashing session. But whether or not oil is peaking, service sector activity is ramping up. 4D activity is to double (not sure by when!) and drilling in Saudi Arabia is to be twice its 1981 peak next year. We attended a timely session on survey data and geodesy in oil and gas and noted a plethora of hardware and management software offerings in the HPC space.

Prestack data continues to gain in usage. Amplitude vs. offset (AVO) techniques are widely used in Canadian gas prospecting where smaller vendors like Zokero and Genetek offer AVO functionality tailored to local requirements. Managing the larger datasets associated with prestack data is one reason why the SEG continues to be a showcase for 'big iron' computing, also used for number crunching, visualization and storage. Several companies are trialing the use of the graphics processor (GPU) for computation although so far, only FineTooth has a commercial offering (for data compression). Outsourced 'computing on demand' seems to be taking off as witnessed by announcements from HP, IBM, APPRO and Sun. Clients for such outsourced number crunching include Schlumberger, Landmark and Paradigm.

The SEG, in conjunction with the Americas Petroleum Survey Group, organized a useful session on spatial data management in E&P offering numerous caveats to geo data users. ExxonMobil lifted the veil (a bit) on its controlled source EM prospecting technology. BGP also revealed more of its long awaited GeoEast interpretive processing suite. Finally, Ebb Pye's Visualization Theatre showcased state of the art interpretation techniques leveraging virtual reality and volume visualization.

Highlights

[Presidential address](#)

[TLE Forum, the energy supply challenge](#)

[Automated seismic stratigraphy](#)

[Landmark OpenWorks Release 5000](#)

[Spatial data management](#)

[GPU-based seismic processing](#)

[BGP's GeoEast seismic suite](#)

[Interview – John Gibson, Paradigm CEO](#)

¹ In Stark Reality's automatically-generated seismic stratigraphic display, the seismic volume's vertical scale is geologic time. The green represents depositional hiatus. Data courtesy Santos and the South West Queensland Unit Joint Venture (Santos, Delhi, and Origin).

² This and all other contributed images are courtesy and © of the companies who have kindly supplied them.

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