ISCWSA / SPE Wellbore Positioning Technical Section

Houston, Texas 30th September 2015

Collision Avoidance Work Group (ISCWSA #42)

Attendees:

Summary

The WBPTS Well Collision Avoidance subcommittee meeting was held in the George R Brown Conference Centre, Houston, Level 3 Room 310A, on Wednesday 30th September from 13.30 to 17.00. The focus of the meeting was the common Collision Avoidance model.

The meeting overwhelmingly supported the adoption of a single method, rather than any combination and the final vote was: Pedal Curve Method (PCM): 19, Single Covariance Expansion Method (SCEM): 5 making the PCM the selected candidate for further, in-depth technical scrutiny in line with the collision avoidance group's founding principle "*The best technical result needs to be presented regardless of difficulty, and then communicate and train as appropriate*".

The result must be implementable and address the needs of the significant majority of the existing well drilling activities by the industry's 600+ operators and 100+ directional companies. Proposing a model that lacks consistency, or that is unduly conservative will undermine its credibility and lead to its dismissal or rejection by the industry. The work must now begin to fix the deficiencies that have been identified and develop a fully self consistent model.

- 1. What probability distribution should be adopted (outside normal which has been challenged).
- 2. Not just a go/no go but also need a numerical value which quantifies the risk. These will be governed by the choice of constants e.g. Confirmation of the number of SDs.
- 3. Define the limitations of standards, or algorithms.

- 4. Need to define a point of interest on the offset well based on the expansion of the ellipsoid (PCM or not)?
- 5. PCM is not intuitive, how do we make it so?
- 6. The PCM (and SCEM) require accurate definition and calculation of the probability of well collision?
- 7. The PCM (and SCEM) need to normalise the SF when using a single ellipse?
- 8. Test applicability to the well stock drilled to date?
- 9. Others, e.g. correlation?

It is assumed that the above will be accompanied by suitable management practices and procedures (as agreed in earlier meetings).

Model Choice(s)

Three model options (A, B and C) were put forward in the meeting agenda, base on earlier discussions.

- A) Pedal Curve Method (PCM)
- B) Single Covariance Expansion Method (SCEM)
- C) Both A and B (at least at this time)

The meeting confirmed that the choice was limited to these models A (PCM) and / or B (SCEM) above. To kick off the discussions, presentations on the comparative advantages and disadvantages of models A and B were made by Jon Bang, Angus Jamieson, Harry Wilson and Jerry Codling. All the presentations were most helpful and informative.

Instruction

For each method the sub-group was asked to:

- 1. Consider
 - a. Both technical and implementation advantages
 - b. " " " " disadvantages or objections
- 2. Describe any steps that are needed to fix any of the deficiencies
- 3. Based on the information and discussions to date, which choice would the group make?

Answers were then qualified for joint discussion by the two sub-groups.

Results Sub-Group 1

- 1. Pedal Curve Method (PCM) can be converted to a probability
- 2. Single Covariance Expansion Method (SCEM) is not currently related to probability
- 3. Pedal Curve Method (PCM) is easy to calculate
- 4. Single Covariance Expansion Method (SCEM) involves iteration
- 5. Pedal Curve Method (PCM) can give unrealistic results, and can be too conservative (see diagram).
- 6. Both PCM and SCEM require accurate definition and calculation of the probability of well collision.
- 7. Need to select a point of interest for the Pedal Curve Method (PCM)
- 8. Both PCM and SCEM need to normalise the SF when using a single ellipse

Vote: PCM: 3, SCEM: 6, Both: 2



Fig. 1 - Example of an ellipse pedal curve. In some cases the PCM can give unrealistic results, and can be too conservative (related to the lobes between the ellipse and pedal curve).

Results	Sub-Group 2	2
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	РСМ	SCEM	
Tech. & Implementation +ve	Used in most current software	Easy to describe.	
""""-Ve	Not easy to describe	Used in some software only	
Technical +ve	Quantifies Probability of	Intuitive	
	Collision (POC) consistently	No anomalous outputs.	
" " -ve	Not intuitive	Optimistic in terms of probability in some geometries Probability of Collision (POC) is not described consistently	
Fixes? (What is needed to fix the deficiencies).	Pick point of interest on offset ellipsoid (PCM or not). Education in the presentation an	based on the expansion of the dinterpretation	

Vote: PCM: 11, SCEM: 2, Both: 0

Parking Lot

During the discussion, other topics which arose outside the scope of the immediate discussion were placed in the parking lot.

- 1. More holistic approach needed
- 2. SF (Probability) and the number of SDs
- 3. Allowable distance from the plan
- 4. Redundancy of the calculation

3D Versus 1D Probabilities

The probability of being within 1 SD in a volume is significantly less than being within 1 SD of a 1D distribution. This influences the interpretation of any results.



Correlation Between Geomagnetic Reference Values

At some point, a decision will be needed on what to set the correlation flag to for global / well correlations.

	Station	Leg	Well
R	0	0	0
S	1	0	0
Per Well	1	1	0
Global	1	1	1 Change to 0?