Collision Avoidance Work Group (ISCWSA #42)

Attendees:

Steve Sawaryn  Consultant
Darren Aklestad  Schlumberger
Neil Bergstrom  Devon
Adrian Ledroz  Gyrodata
Jon Bang  Gyrodata
Harry Wilson  Baker Hughes
Dalil Deliu  ConocoPhillips
Nestor  ConocoPhillips
Stefan Maus  Magvar
Jonathon Lightfoot  Oxy
Shawn DeVerse  Surcon
Ross Lowden  Schlumberger
Benny Poedjono  Schlumberger
Son Pham  ConocoPhillips
Andy McGregor  Tech21
Roger B. Goobie  BP
Brett Van Steenwyk  Scientific Drilling
Ian Mitchell  Sperry
Jerry Codling  Halliburton
Phil Harbidge  Schlumberger
William Allen  BP
Andy Sentence  Dynamic Graphics
Andy Brooks  Schlumberger
Pete Clark  Chevron

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

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<tr>
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<th>PCM</th>
<th>SCEM</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tech. &amp; Implementation +ve</td>
<td>Used in most current software</td>
<td>Easy to describe.</td>
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<tr>
<td>“ “ “ “ -ve</td>
<td>Not easy to describe</td>
<td>Used in some software only</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical +ve</td>
<td>Quantifies Probability of Collision (POC) consistently</td>
<td>Intuitive</td>
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<tr>
<td>“ “ “ -ve</td>
<td>Not intuitive</td>
<td>No anomalous outputs.</td>
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<td>Fixes? (What is needed to fix the deficiencies).</td>
<td>Pick point of interest on offset based on the expansion of the ellipsoid (PCM or not).</td>
<td>Education in the presentation and interpretation</td>
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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.

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