

# The simulation and research of seismoelectric logs for Logging While Drilling(LWD)

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**Abstract.** When the acoustic field propagates in the porous medium, the electromagnetic wave can be induced by the seismoelectric effects which can be used in the logging. This paper studies the seismoelectric wave field and deduces the formulations of the acoustic and electromagnetic field of the liquid in the well, and gives the acoustic and electromagnetic boundary conditions between the driller collar and the log liquid, when the driller collar is added. We also do the numerical simulation of the seismoelectric wave field excited by monopole source, study the velocity dispersion characteristics of the acoustic and electromagnetic field, and investigate the detective depth of the seismoelectric logs. Through the simulation we know the seismoelectric logs can avoid the interference of drill collar wave. This paper also provides theoretical guidance for the design of receiving antenna.

## Introduction

With the development of the world economy, the shortage of oil and gas has become the main restricting factor of economic and social development<sup>[1]</sup>. And the oil and gas are mainly stored in the porous media<sup>[2]</sup>. So the application of seismoelectric effects in the exploration of oil and gas is very promising, especially in the search of “remaining oil”<sup>[3]</sup>. Seismoelectric effects refer to the excitation of electromagnetic wave excited by the seismic wave in the porous medium, It is a process of energy conversion between mechanical energy and electromagnetic energy in nature. Seismoelectric logs have better recognitive ability of oil and gas, and better detective ability than pure electric logging and seismic logging. Seismoelectric logs are also sensitive to the variation of formation parameters, so we can get more information.

A simplified method for Seismoelectric logs is proposed by Hu Hengshan and Liu Jiaqi, which ignores the influence of electromagnetic field and solve the acoustic field independently first, and then solve the electromagnetic field by using seismic and electric coupling relationship<sup>[4,5]</sup>. Guan Wei and Hu hengshan introduces the Maxwell equations with the percolation current as the current source, and uses the Hertz vector to represent the solutions<sup>[6]</sup>. Jin Zhiwen derived the expressions of the acoustic and the electromagnetic field in the porous medium excited by the multipole source<sup>[7]</sup>.

Although there are a large number of theoretical researches about seismoelectric logs, but almost none considers the influence of drilling equipment such as the drill collar. Based on the above background, this paper studies the seismoelectric logs while drilling. And we give the analytical solution of the seismoelectric field and study the propagating characteristics of the acoustic and the electromagnetic field. We also obtain the velocity dispersion characteristics of the seismoelectric field, and investigate the detective depth of the seismoelectric logs.

## Formulation

**Acoustic field.** In the simulation, we use the LWD’s model as shown in the Fig.1, with radial stratification, followed by mud liquid layer, drill tool layer, mud liquid layer in the borehole and porous medium.

When add the drill collar, there will be a cylindrical outward displacement potential function for the acoustic wave in the borehole. Excited by multipole source, the formal solution is

$$\varphi(r, \theta, k, \omega) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \varphi_n(r, \theta, k, \omega) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} [A_n^f I_n(\eta r) + B_n^f K_n(\eta r)] \cos n\theta \quad (1)$$

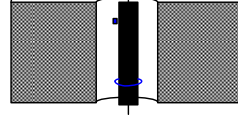


Fig.1 LWD model

$k$  is the axial wavenumber,  $\eta = \sqrt{l^2 - (\omega / V)^2}$  is the radial imaginary wavenumber. The displacement and sound pressure can be calculated according to the relationship between the displacement (or the pressure) and the potential function in cylindrical coordinates in the fluid.

$$u_r^o(r, \theta, k, \omega) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left\{ A_n^o \left[ \frac{n}{r} I_n(\eta r) + \eta I_{n+1}(\eta r) \right] + B_n^o \left[ \frac{n}{r} K_n(\eta r) - \eta K_{n+1}(\eta r) \right] \right\} \cos n\theta \quad (2)$$

$$P_f^o(r, \theta, k, \omega) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \rho_f \omega^2 [A_n^o I_n(\eta r) + B_n^o K_n(\eta r)] \cos n\theta \quad (3)$$

With no source inside the drill collar cavity, there is only inward wave field.

$$u_r^i(r, \theta, k, \omega) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} A_n^i \left[ \frac{n}{r} I_n(\eta r) + \eta I_{n+1}(\eta r) \right] \cos n\theta \quad (4)$$

$$P_f^i(r, \theta, k, \omega) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \rho_f \omega^2 A_n^i I_n(\eta r) \cos n\theta \quad (5)$$

The wave equations for the displacement potential function of the acoustic field in the tool layer are  $\nabla^2 \varphi + k_p^2 \varphi = 0$ ,  $\nabla^2 \chi + k_{SH}^2 \chi = 0$ ,  $\nabla^2 \Gamma + k_{SV}^2 \Gamma = 0$

Where  $k_p^2 = \omega^2 / c_p^2$ ,  $k_{SH}^2 = k_{SV}^2 = \omega^2 / c_s^2$ ,  $c_p = \sqrt{(\lambda + 2\mu) / \rho}$ ,  $c_s = \sqrt{\mu / \rho}$

$\varphi$  is the displacement potential function of the longitudinal wave in the tool layer,  $\chi$  denotes the displacement potential function of the SH wave,  $\Gamma$  is the displacement potential function of the SV wave. The solutions of the three potential functions are:

$$\varphi(r, \theta, k, \omega) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \varphi_n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} [A_n I_n(\eta_p r) + B_n K_n(\eta_p r)] \cos n\theta \quad (6)$$

$$\chi(r, \theta, k, \omega) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \chi_n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} [C_n I_n(\eta_s r) + D_n K_n(\eta_s r)] \cos n\theta \quad (7)$$

$$\Gamma(r, \theta, k, \omega) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \Gamma_n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} [E_n I_n(\eta_s r) + F_n K_n(\eta_s r)] \cos n\theta \quad (8)$$

Where  $\eta_p = \sqrt{k^2 - k_p^2}$ ,  $\eta_s = \sqrt{k^2 - k_s^2}$ ,  $s = SV, SH$

We can obtain the displacement and stress of the acoustic field in the tool layer according to the relationship between the displacement and the potential function and the stress-strain's relationship in the elastic solid in the cylindrical coordinate<sup>[6]</sup>.

In the porous medium, the displacement potential function of each body wave satisfies the following equations:

$$\nabla^2 \varphi_l + k_p^2 \varphi_l = 0 \quad \nabla^2 \chi + k_{SH}^2 \chi = 0 \quad \nabla^2 \Gamma + k_{SV}^2 \Gamma = 0$$

Where  $\varphi_l$  is the displacement potential function of the longitudinal wave including fast longitudinal wave and slow longitudinal wave,  $\chi$  denotes the displacement potential function of the SH wave,  $\Gamma$  is the displacement potential function of the SV wave<sup>[6]</sup>.

**Electromagnetic field.** There is a certain proportional relationship between the solid displacement and the seepage displacement of each body wave in the porous medium.

$$w = \alpha_{pf} \nabla \phi_f + \alpha_{ps} \nabla \phi_s + \alpha_s \nabla \times (\chi \vec{z}) + \alpha_s \nabla \times \nabla \times (\Gamma \vec{z}) \quad (9)$$

So the current flow can be calculated as

$$J_s = \nabla \psi_1 + \nabla \psi_2 + \nabla \times F_1 + \nabla \times \nabla \times F_2 \quad (10)$$

Where  $\psi_1 = T_e \alpha_{pf} \phi_{pf}$ ,  $\psi_2 = T_e \alpha_{ps} \phi_{ps}$ ,  $F_1 = T_e \alpha_s \chi \vec{z}$ ,  $F_2 = T_e \alpha_s \Gamma \vec{z}$

According to the electromagnetic theory, when the excitation source is seepage current, we can get the equations of the Hertz vector as following:

$$(\nabla^2 - \mu \epsilon \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2}) \vec{\Pi}^m = -\vec{F}_1 - \nabla \times \vec{F}_2 \quad (11)$$

$$(\nabla^2 - \mu\epsilon \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2})\bar{\Pi}^e = -\frac{\nabla\psi_1 + \nabla\psi_2}{i\omega\epsilon} \quad (12)$$

When the source is individually  $\nabla\psi_1, \nabla\psi_2, -\vec{F}_1, -\nabla \times \vec{F}_2$ , one obtains the particular solutions:

$$\bar{\Pi}_1^e = \frac{\nabla\psi_1}{i\omega\epsilon(k_{em}^2 - k_{pf}^2)} \quad \bar{\Pi}_2^e = \frac{\nabla\psi_2}{i\omega\epsilon(k_{em}^2 - k_{ps}^2)} \quad \bar{\Pi}_3^m = -\frac{\vec{F}_1}{k_{em}^2 - k_{ps}^2} \quad \bar{\Pi}_4^m = -\frac{\nabla \times \vec{F}_2}{k_{em}^2 - k_{ps}^2}$$

Then get the solution of equations in the passive situation:

$$\bar{\Pi}_0^e = R_e \cdot A_e \cdot K_n(\eta_{em1}r) \quad \bar{\Pi}_0^m = R_e \cdot A_m \cdot K_n(\eta_{em1}r)$$

According to the Hertz vector above all, we can calculate the electromagnetic field in the porous formation.

$$\vec{E} = \vec{E}_1 + \vec{E}_2 + \vec{E}_3 + \vec{E}_4 + \vec{E}_0 \quad (13)$$

$$\vec{H} = \vec{H}_1 + \vec{H}_2 + \vec{H}_3 + \vec{H}_4 + \vec{H}_0 \quad (14)$$

There is electromagnetic field in the borehole which is not excited by the acoustic field but caused by the boundary conditions. The Hertz electric potential and Hertz magnetic potential in the borehole meet Helmholtz equation, respectively. When the drill collar added, there will be a cylindrical outward function for Hertz electric potential and Hertz magnetic potential in the borehole, individually:

$$\bar{\Pi}_0^e = R_e \cdot B_e \cdot I_n(\eta_{em1}r) + R_e \cdot C_e \cdot K_n(\eta_{em1}r) \quad \bar{\Pi}_0^m = R_e \cdot B_m \cdot I_n(\eta_{em1}r) + R_e \cdot C_m \cdot K_n(\eta_{em1}r)$$

Then we can obtain the electromagnetic field according to the relationship between the field and the Hertz potential.

**Boundary condition.** In the formal solutions of the acoustic and the electromagnetic field, there are unknown coefficients. These coefficients can be obtained by the boundary conditions of the acoustic and the electromagnetic field on the interface of different media.

The boundary conditions of acoustic field at the interface between drill collar and fluid inside or outside the drill collar satisfy:

Inner fluid

Continuity of normal stress :  $u_r^i = u_r$

Continuity of normal stress :  $-P_f^i = \tau_{rr}$

Continuity of tangential stress :  $0 = \tau_{rz}$

Continuity of tangential stress :  $0 = \tau_{r\theta}$

Outer fluid

Continuity of normal stress :  $u_r^o + v_1^s = u_r$

Continuity of normal stress :  $-(P_f^o + \sigma_1^s) = \tau_{rr}$

Continuity of tangential stress :  $0 = \tau_{rz}$

Continuity of tangential stress :  $0 = \tau_{r\theta}$

At the wall of the well, one obtain the following boundary conditions of acoustic field:

Continuity of fluid flow :  $u_r^o + v_2^s = u_r^1 + w_r^1$

Continuity of Normal stress :  $-(P_f^o + \sigma_2^s) = \tau_{rr}^1$

Continuity of Tangential stress :  $0 = \tau_{rz}^1$

Continuity of Tangential stress :  $0 = \tau_{r\theta}^1$

Continuity of fluid pressure :  $P_f^o + \sigma_2^s = P^1$

i and o refer to the fluid medium inside and outside the drill collar, Respectively. 1 represent the porous medium. The matrix of acoustic boundary condition is

$$[m_{ij}]_{13 \times 13} \cdot \{a_j\}_{13 \times 1} = \{b_j\}_{13 \times 1} \quad (15)$$

Where  $a_j$  is the coefficient of the displacement potential function,  $b_j$  is the devotion of the source.

The tangential components of electric field and magnetic field continue at the wall of the well, so we can obtain the equations:

$$E_{\theta A} = E_{\theta B}, \quad E_{zA} = E_{zB}, \quad H_{\theta A} = H_{\theta B}, \quad H_{zA} = H_{zB}$$

The tangential components of electric field equal to 0 at the interface between the drill collar and the fluid outside the drill collar.

$$E_{\theta Bt} = 0, \quad E_{zBt} = 0$$

The matrix of boundary condition of electromagnetic field is

$$[m_{ij}]_{6 \times 6} \cdot \{a_j\}_{6 \times 1} = \{b_j\}_{6 \times 1} \quad (16)$$

Where  $a_j$  is the coefficient of Hertz vector potential.  $b_j$  is the the electromagnetic wave induced by the acoustic field in the porous medium.

## Numerical simulation

The source is a monopole source with Richer wavelet as excitation function, and the center frequency is 7kHz, the receiving points are located at the wall of the well. The starting position is  $z=1.3713\text{m}$ , and the distance between each receiving point is  $0.1524\text{m}$ , there are seven receiving points. The full waveform of the seismoelectric wave field is as Fig.2

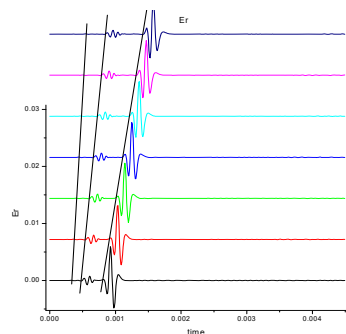


Fig.2a Acoustic field

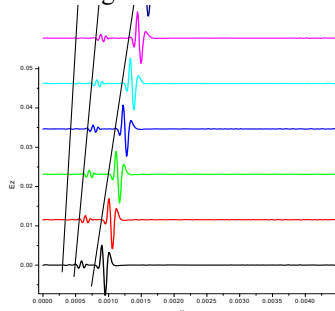


Fig.2 Tangential electric field

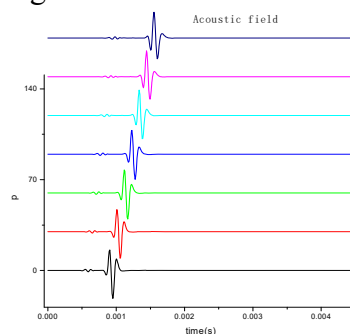


Fig.2b Normal electric field

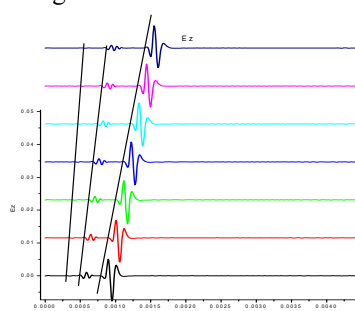


Fig.2d Circumferential magnetic field

The three diagonal lines respectively go through the electromagnetic field coupled with fast longitudinal wave, transverse wave, Stoneley wave in Fig.2 b, c, d. Their slopes indicate the acoustic wave velocity. We can see from the figure that the coupled electromagnetic field can reflect some properties of the acoustic field. The ratio of longitudinal wave and Stoneley wave or the ratio of shear wave and Stoneley wave of the acoustic field is less than that of the electromagnetic field.

We derive the velocity dispersion figures of the acoustic and the electromagnetic field by using multiple filter analysis method (MFT). We can see from Fig.3, when excited by monopole source, there is stronger drill collar interference for the acoustic field and less drill collar interference for the electromagnetic field.

Fig.4a and Fig.4b respectively compare the sound field, electric field and magnetic field. The amplitude of the axial component of the electric field is about 3 orders of magnitude smaller than that of the acoustic field, while their phases are almost the same. The amplitude of the radial component of the electric field is almost the same as that of the axial component. The amplitude of the circumferential component of the magnetic field

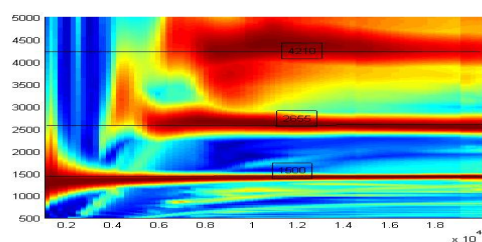


Fig.3a Velocity dispersion of acoustic field

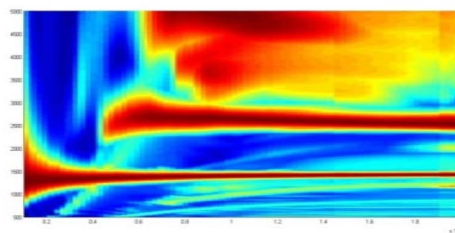


Fig.3b Velocity dispersion of normal electric field

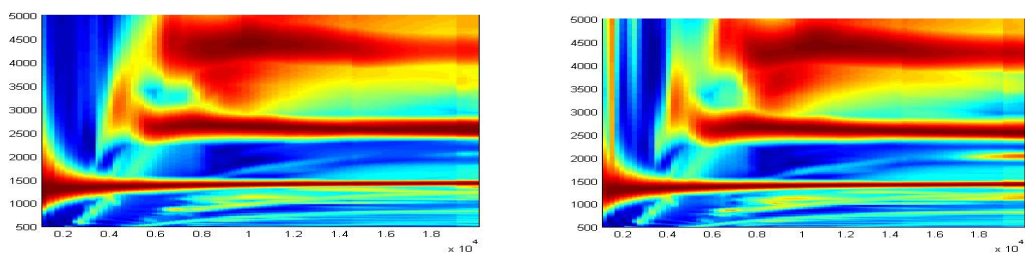


Fig.3c Velocity dispersion of tangential electric field Fig.3d Velocity dispersion of circumferential magnetic field is about 6 orders of magnitude smaller than that of the axial component of the electric field. Considering the amplitude and the interference of drill collar wave, receiving the axial electric field is the best choice.

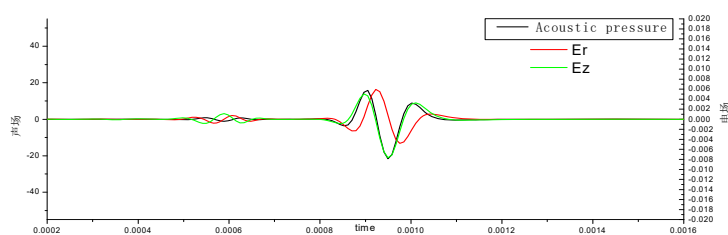


Fig.4a Contrast between electric field and sound field

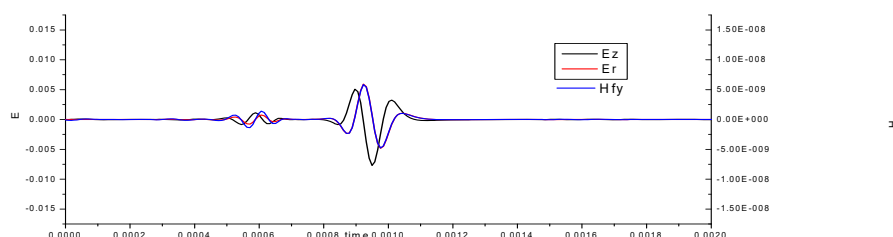


Fig.4b Contrast between electric field and magnetic field

Now we study the detective depth of the seismoelectric logs. The current signal excited by the acoustic signal is distributed in all regions of the porous medium. In order to investigate how far the electrical signals that can be received by the electric current, we assume the current signal is only distributed in a part of the formation. The thickness of the layer that does not excite the current is  $t$ . Investigate the change of the received signal, When  $t$  is changed.

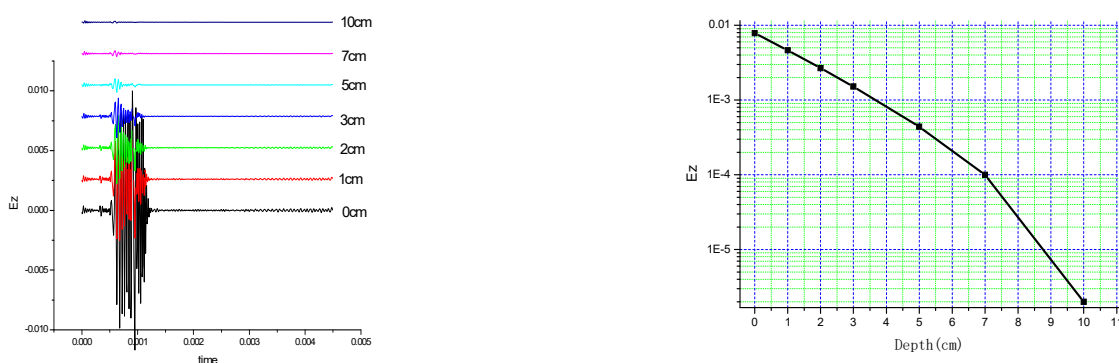


Fig.5a The variation of axial electric field with  $t$  Fig.5 b The variation of axial electric field's amplitude

Fig.5a investigates the change of the electric field the  $t$  value, and Fig.5b investigates the change of the amplitude of the electric field with  $t$ . As can be seen from the figure, the detective depth of seismoelectric logs is very shallow, there is one order of magnitude attenuation per 4cm, so the detective depth is about 2-3cm. At the same time, it is shown that the seismoelectric signal is mainly caused by the electric current of the electric double layer in the shallow stratum.

## Summary

Summarize the whole text, we can obtain the conclusions:

- (1) Seismoelectric logs for LWD is feasible, the received signal can reflect acoustic wave velocity, which can be indirectly used in acoustic logging. It can be the response of P-wave, S-wave propagating along the formation and the Stoneley wave propagating along the borehole.
- (2) Seismoelectric logs for LWD acoustic logging have certain advantages over acoustic logging: there is no collar wave interference for electromagnetic field when excited by monopole source.
- (3) The simulation above, provides a reference for the design of the receiving antenna: There are 3 components in the electromagnetic field, namely, the axial electric field, the radial electric field and the circumferential magnetic field. We'd better receive the axial electric field.
- (4) The receiving antenna can only receive the electric signal generated by the electric double layer of the shallow stratum, which is about 2~4cm. It is shown that the seismic signal is not generated by the interface between the wall and mud. At the same time, we can see that the electromagnetic field can reflect the characteristics of the acoustic field.

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