A TECHNICAL SURVEY OF IMMISCIBLE GAS INJECTION PROJECTS

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A TECHNICAL SURVEY OF IMMISCIBLE GAS INJECTION PROJECTS

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REPORT

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ABSTRACT

Reservoir, fluid, and oil recovery data were gathered for ongoing and completed projects which implemented immiscible gas injection as an enhanced oil recovery process. A data base consisting of information from 24 immiscible gas injection projects was compiled. Selected fluid, reservoir, and oil recovery parameters were analyzed using frequency plots and statistical analysis techniques in an effort to determine if correlation could be found between oil recovery and reservoir and fluid parameters.

Because of the small amount of oil recovery information available, it was not possible to explore whether or not there was correlation between oil recovery and reservoir and fluid parameters. In spite of this, the study did generate some significant results. Several of these results are: the reservoir oil targeted for immiscible gas flooding tended to be a high gravity ($\geq 35^{\circ}$ API), low viscosity (≤ 0.5 cp) crude, most of the producing formations were deep (>7000 feet), high temperature (>150°F), high pressure (>3000 psi) reservoirs, and permeabilities of the producing formations tended to be low (<40 md).

iv

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
AC	KNO	WLEDGEMENTS
AB	STRA	ACT
ΤA	BLE	OF CONTENTS
LIS	T OF	TABLES
LIS	ST OF	FIGURES
СН	APTE	ER
I	INTI	RODUCTION
	1.1	Overview of Recovery Mechanisms
		1.1a First-Contact Miscible Displacement 1
		1.1b Developed Miscible Displacement 4
		1. Vaporizing Gas Drive 4
		2. Condensing Gas Drive 8
		1.1c Immiscible Displacement
	1.2	Gases Used in Immiscible Displacement 15
	1.3	Comparison of Gas Injection Types
	1.4	Purpose of Study
II	DAT	A BASE
	2.1	Description of Data Sources
	2.2	Discussion of Relevant Reservoir, Fluid, and Oil
		Recovery Parameters
	2.3	Description of Data Base

		Page
III PRE	ESENTATION OF RESULTS	. 42
3.1	Parameter Statistics	. 42
3.2	General Statistical Compilations	. 44
3.3	Data Analysis	. 52
	3.3a Explanation of Data Manipulation	. 52
	3.3b Frequency Diagrams	. 53
3.4	Discussion of Results	. 56
IV CO	NCLUSIONS	. 76
V REC	COMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY	. 79
NOMEN	CLATURE	. 81
APPENI	DIX	
А	PROGRAM LISTINGS	. 86
BIBLIOC	GRAPHY	. 91

vi

LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
2.1	Number of Projects Supplied by Each Data Source	25
2.2	Relevant Reservoir, Fluid, and Oil Recovery	
	Parameters	27
2.3	Database Parameters	33
2.4	Database Parameters	34
2.5	Database Parameters	35
2.6	Database Parameters	36
2.7	Database Parameters • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	37
2.8	Database Parameters	38
2.9	Database Parameters	39
2.10	Database Parameters	40
2.11	Database Parameters	41
3.1	Results of Statistical Analysis	45
3.2	Comparison of Lithologies Found in Project	
	Producing Formations	46
3.3A	Listing of Projects by State/Country	48
3 . 3B	Listing of State/Country with the Largest	
	Number of Each Project Type	49
3.4	Comparison of Number of Projects Operated	
	By Major and Independent Oil Companies	50
3.5	Comparison of Production Methods Used	
	Prior to Immiscible Gas Injection	51

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
1.1	Ternary Diagram Showing the Miscible Displacement	
	Process	. 3
1.2	Schematic of the Vaporizing Gas Drive Process	• 6
1.3	Ternary Diagram Illustrating the Vaporizing Gas	
	Drive Process	. 7
1.4	Schematic of the Condensing Gas Drive Process	. 10
1.5	Ternary Diagram Illustrating the Condensing Gas	
	Drive Process	. 11
1.6	Ternary Diagram Illustrating the Immiscible	
	Displacement Process	. 14
2.1	Geographical Locations of Immiscible Gass	
	Injection Projects • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• 30
3.1	Graphical Presentations of Frequency Data	. 55
3.2	Frequency Plot of Porosity	. 60
3.3	Frequency Plot of Net Pay • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• 61
3.4	Frequency Plot of Permeability • • • • • • • • •	• 62
3.5	Frequency Plot of Oil Gravity	• 63
3.6	Frequency Plot of Reservoir Depth • • • • • • •	• 64
3.7	Frequency Plot of Gross Pay	. 65
3.8	Frequency Plot of Oil Viscosity • • • • • • • •	. 66
3.9	Frequency Plot of Project Area • • • • • • • •	• 67

Figure		Page
3.10	Frequency Plot of Number of Injection Wells	68
3.11	Frequency Plot of Number of Producing Wells	⁻ 69
3.12	Frequency Plot of Original Oil in Place	70
3.13	Frequency Plot of Original Oil Saturation	71
3.14	Frequency Plot of Original Reservoir Pressure	72
3.15	Frequency Plot of Original Water Saturation	73
3.16	Frequency Plot of Reservoir Temperature	74
3.17	Frequency Plot of Estimated Secondary Recovery	75

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

OVERVIEW OF GAS INJECTION RECOVERY MECHANISMS

When gas is injected into a reservoir for the purpose of displacing reservoir fluids, recovery takes place by one of three processes. The simplest process is first-contact miscible displacement, which occurs when the injected gas is completely miscible with the displaced fluid upon first contact. Because high pressures are generally required to achieve first-contact miscibility, this type of recovery is not common.

The second type of recovery mechanism is developed, or repeated contact, miscibility. There are two types of developed miscibility; condensing, or enriched, gas drive and vaporizing gas drive. In each case miscibility is developed over a period of time by repeated contact between the injected gas and the reservoir fluid.

The third process is immiscible displacement. Immiscible displacement occurs when the injected gas is not, nor becomes, miscible with the reservoir fluid and there is interfacial tension between two distinct phases.

First-Contact Miscible Displacement

Miscibility occurs when two phases mix in all proportions immediately upon contact without an interface being formed between the phases.¹ In theory, if a gas is injected into a reservoir and

is completely miscible with the reservoir fluids, the capillary and interfacial forces will disappear and 100 per cent of the contacted oil will be displaced.² First- contact miscibility is not very often achieved in gas flooding because of the high pressures required to make the injected gas miscible with reservoir fluids.

The ternary diagram in Figure 1.1 shows the relationship between an injection gas and reservoir oil in a first-contact miscible displacement. At given values of pressure and temperature all points located within the envelope will exist as a gas-liquid, or two-phase, system and all points located outside the envelope will be in a single (gas or liquid) phase state.²

In order for a first-contact miscible displacement to occur, a straight line drawn from the injection gas composition to the plotted oil composition must not intersect the two-phase envelope. The displacement would be a single-phase process with the formation of a gas-oil mixing zone which would be completely miscible with the reservoir oil at its leading edge and completely miscible with the injected gas at its trailing edge.





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A reduction in pressure would increase the size of the two-phase envelope, which would narrow the range of reservoir oil compositions that could be miscibly (first-contact) displaced by the given injection gas. Conversely, an increase in pressure would shrink the envelope, enabling the injected gas to miscibly displace a wider range of reservoir oil compositions. The pressure required for a first-contact miscible displacement varies according to the reservoir temperature and the compositions of the injection gas and the reservoir oil.

Developed Miscible Displacement

Developed miscibility occurs when a gas is injected into the reservoir which is not miscible with the reservoir fluid but which develops a zone of miscibility between the oil and the injected gas through mass transfer brought about by repeated contacts between the two phases.³ There are two basic variations of this process, the vaporizing (high pressure) gas drive and the condensing (enriched) gas drive.^{2,4}

Vaporizing Gas Drive

The vaporizing gas process entails injection of a lean, or dry, gas into a reservoir which contains oil that is rich in intermediate (C_2-C_6) components.

Historically, natural gas (primarily methane, C_1) has been used as the injection gas in this process, but nitrogen, flue gas and carbon dioxide can also be used. The pressures and temperatures for which

miscibility will occur will vary according to which gas is used.

Upon injection the gas front contacts the oil and the intermediate components are evaporated out of the oil into the gas. As the displacement front repeatedly contacts the oil, the gas is further enriched with intermediate components from the oil until it becomes miscible with the reservoir oil. A buffer zone is then formed which is miscible both with the trailing edge of the oil bank and with the leading edge of the gas front. Figure 1.2 depicts the vaporizing gas drive process.⁵

The ternary diagram in Figure 1.3 illustrates the process of developed miscibility which is achieved by multiple contacts between nitrogen and the reservoir oil. 6

The injection gas in Figure 1.3 is pure nitrogen contacting crude oil composed of 50% intermediates and 50% heavy components. The oil and N₂ reach equilibrium and the mixture composition M₁ is located in the two-phase region of the phase envelope. The mixture M₁ separates into a gas phase G₁ and a liquid phase L₁. The gas, G₁ is more mobile than the liquid, L₁, and moves ahead to contact fresh oil. The crude and gas G₁ will mix and reach equilibrium. The equilibrium point of the second mixture is on the tie line at M₂ and is composed of the gas G₂ and liquid L₂.^{5,6}

Gas G_1 has approximately 35% intermediate hydrocarbons, gas G_2 has approximately 40%, and gas G_3 approximately 50%. The leading edge of the gas continues to be enriched upon each contact with the oil as the oil contacted is stripped of intermediate components. This process



FIGURE 1.2

Schematic of The Vaporizing Gas Drive Process (from van Poollen, 1980)⁵



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continues until the leading edge of the gas front becomes miscible with the reservoir oil. In theory, oil displacement at the leading edge of the miscible zone then approaches 100%.^{1,2,5,6} It should be noted that, in order for the injected gas and reservoir oil to develop miscibility using the vaporizing gas drive process, the reservoir fluid composition must plot on the intermediate component side of a line drawn tangent to the two-phase envelope and through the critical mixture point. If this condition is not met, the gas cannot become enriched enough to develop miscibility with the reservoir oil.^{4,5}

Two criteria must be satisfied in order to be successful in using the vaporizing gas drive process; first, the oil to be displaced must be undersaturated and rich in intermediate ($C_2 - C_6$) components, and second, the reservoir pressure must be high. This would exclude the application of this process to reservoirs that contain heavy oils and those at shallow depths. In general, the vaporizing gas drive process is applicable when the oil gravity exceeds 40° API and when the reservoir depth is greater than 5000 feet.^{4,5}

Condensing Gas Drive

The primary difference between the condensing and the vaporizing gas drive processes is that in the former, the intermediate components $(C_2 - C_6)$ are supplied by the gas, and in the latter, those components are supplied by the reservoir oil.

In the condensing gas drive process an enriched gas (containing intermediates) is injected into the reservoir and contacts reservoir oil.

Upon contact the intermediate components from the gas condense into the oil. As the injected gas repeatedly contacts the oil, condensation continues until a miscible zone is formed between the oil and the gas, as shown in Figure 1.4⁵. The miscibility in the buffer zone between the oil and the gas develops at the tail of the gas-oil mixing zone instead of at the leading edge of the gas front, as in the vaporizing gas drive process. Because enriched gas is expensive, usually only a slug of enriched gas will be injected and dry (lean) gas will then be utilized to push the slug through the reservoir.^{2,5,7,8}

Figure 1.5 illustrates the condensing gas drive process with the use of a ternary diagram.⁴ An enriched gas, point G, is injected into a reservoir with reservoir fluid composition represented by point O. In this case the reservoir fluid is located inside the two-phase envelope and has a liquid phase composition of L_1 and a gas phase of composition G_1 . As the enriched gas is initially injected, it will tend to displace the gas phase, G_1 , and mix with the liquid phase of the oil, L_1 ; the composition of this mixture is represented by M_2 . The mixture M_2 consists of two phases, L_2 (liquid) and G_2 (gas). Additional injection of enriched gas will displace the gas, G_2 , and will mix with the liquid, L_2 .

The composition of the new mixture will be point M_3 which will separate into a liquid phase, L_3 , and a gas phase, G_3 . Continuing the gas injection will result in the displacing of the gas phase, G_3 , and mixing with the liquid phase, L_3 , to form the mixture M_4 . This process continues until the enriched oil becomes completely miscible with the injected gas.



FIGURE 1.4

Schematic of The Condensing Gas Drive Process (from van Poollen, 1980)⁵



For the conditions represented in Figure 1.5, the composition of the enriched injection gas, in order to give a miscible displacement, must plot above the limiting tie line, which is drawn through the critical mixture point C^* , and tangent to the two-phase envelope. Point A represents the composition of the leanest injection gas that will develop a miscible displacement for the given pressure and temperature.^{2,4}

The condensing gas drive process works best with low gravity oils (> 20° API) which can be either saturated or undersaturated. The process does not require high pressures (> 1000 psia) which would make it applicable to shallow reservoirs.^{4,9}

Immiscible Displacement

Miscible displacement of oil by gas injection is a much more efficient recovery process than is immiscible displacement, but in many instances, usually due to economic considerations, it is not possible to achieve a miscible displacement. Inadequate pressure is a common reason why miscibility is not obtained in a gas flood.

Even though a displacement process is immiscible, it is tending towards miscibility and some of the advantages of a miscible displacement process are found, though not to as great a degree as in a miscible displacement. These advantages are swelling of the oil, reduction of oil viscosity, and reduction of capillary and interfacial forces, all of which improve oil recovery.^{8,10}

When two fluids are immiscible, interfacial tensions exist between the phases which prevent mixing and a distinct interface

separates the fluids. The ternary diagram in Figure 1.6 illustrates the limitations in an immiscible displacement process.⁷

In this case, the injection gas and the reservoir oil are in single-phase regions, but both are on the two-phase side of the critical tie line. Upon injection the gas will contact the oil and an initial mixture, M_1 , will result which is composed of a gas phase, G_1 , and a liquid phase, L_1 . As before, the gas G_1 will flow forward to contact the new oil and the mixture M_2 will form, and so on. As in the vaporizing gas drive process, the gas is being enriched with intermediates at the leading edge (forward contacts) of the gas-oil mixing zone, but in this case the enrichment process is limited. The gas cannot be enriched any further than the composition given by the tie line which when extended passes through the reservoir oil (forward contact limiting tie line in Figure 1.6). At the leading edge (forward contacts) of the gas-oil mixing zone the mixture displacing the reservoir oil will have the composition of the mixture on this limiting tie line. This displacement is an immiscible displacement since the displacing mixture (M $_3$, M $_4$, etc.) is located in the two-phase region of the phase envelope.

Returning to the initial contact, the injected gas contacts the reservoir oil and the liquid L_1 mixes with the gas to form the mixture M_{-1} which is composed of a gas phase, G_{-1} , and a liquid phase, L_{-1} . The gas phases G_{-1} , G_{-2} , and so on, are losing their intermediate components at the trailing edge (reverse contacts) of the gas-oil mixing zone as in the condensing gas drive process. This condensing process also has a limit. The condensing process is limited by the tie line which, when



extended, passes through the injection gas composition (reverse contact limiting tie line in Figure 1.6). The displacement is immiscible at the reverse contacts of the gas-oil mixture since a single phase gas is displacing a two-phase mixture (M_{-1} , M_{-2} , etc.). The displacement process is completely immiscible, then, since the displacement process is immiscible at the forward contacts of the gas-oil mixing zone as well as at the reverse contacts.⁷

GASES USED IN IMMISCIBLE DISPLACEMENT

The gases which are most frequently used for displacing oil immiscibly are flue gas, nitrogen, air, methane, and CO_2 . Each gas has properties and characteristics that determine the reservoir fluid compositions it will most efficiently displace.

Flue gas, nitrogen, and air are also known as inert gas, inert gas being a gas that is either pure nitrogen or a gaseous mixture that is predominantly nitrogen.⁵

The composition of flue gas varies depending on its source, but generally it is made up of 10-15% CO₂, 80-85% nitrogen, and the remainder is small amounts of impurities, such as CO. Flue gas is also referred to as exhaust gas; the terminology used is based on the source of the gas. When the gas is produced by the burning of natural gas or other fossil fuels, the gas generated is known as flue gas. When the gas is obtained from the exhaust of internal combustion engines, it is referred to as exhaust gas.¹¹

Flue gas requires relatively higher pressures than CO_2 or

natural gas to become miscible with reservoir oil; the miscibility pressure depends on the composition of the oil and the flue gas. In general, flue gas gives the best results when applied to reservoirs containing low API gravity oils. This is due to the viscosity reducing effects of the CO_2 (10-15% of flue gas is CO_2) as it dissolves in the heavy oil.¹¹

Air is made up of approximately 79% N_2 and 21% O_2 and is the cheapest and most easily obtainable gas available for immiscible injection. In spite of this, air is not often used because of the problems associated with its use. Many of these problems are due to the oxygen in the air and its reactive nature. These problems include corrosion, emulsion formation, spontaneous ignition of the oil near injection wells, and explosive mixture formation.⁵

Nitrogen requires very high pressures to achieve miscibility with reservoir oil, generally pressures must exceed 4000-5000 psi. The success of a nitrogen injection project depends on the API gravity of the oil (which is generally related to the reservoir depth, pressure, and temperature); the higher the API gravity, the lower the miscibility pressure will be. Oil gravities should be 35^OAPI and greater before using nitrogen as an injection gas; nitrogen requires that an oil have light ends and intermediate components in order to become miscible with the reservoir oil. The more solution gas dissolved in the oil (this infers both high reservoir pressures and a high API gravity oil) the more easily miscibility between the injected nitrogen and the reservoir oil will be achieved.¹¹

Nitrogen also has the advantage of being relatively inexpensive

to obtain and to transport. Pure nitrogen is readily available using the cryogenic air separation process.⁵

Carbon dioxide is generally not miscible with most reservoir oils, but miscibility can be developed through multiple contacts of the CO_2 with the oil. Oils with medium to high API gravities are best suited to miscible CO_2 flooding. The pressure required for first-contact miscibility with CO_2 (>4000 psi) is substantially lower than the first contact miscibility pressure needed for nitrogen flooding (>6000 psi). Multiple contact miscibility with CO_2 flooding can be achieved with pressures as low as 1200 psi. Again, the pressure needed to develop multiple contact miscibility with nitrogen flooding is significantly greater (>4000 psi) than that required for CO_2 .^{8,11}

Carbon dioxide can also be used to displace heavy (low API gravity) oils and, even though the displacement process will be immiscible, some of the same effects present in a miscible displacement will contribute to oil recovery. Carbon dioxide is relatively soluble in reservoir oils, though nitrogen is not. Because of this, CO_2 injection will result in swelling of the crude oil and a reduction in oil viscosity, even when used to displace heavy oils. Low interfacial tensions can also develop in an immiscible CO_2 displacement due to vaporization and solubility effects.⁸

As shown previously in the discussion of the vaporizing, or high pressure, gas drive process, methane can be used to miscibly displace oil at high pressures or can develop miscibility at lower pressures; in each case the reservoir oil must contain an adequate amount of intermediate

components or the process will be immiscible.

Methane injection increases oil recovery by inducing the same effects as CO_2 injection, oil swelling, reduction of oil viscosity, and reduction of interfacial forces, although CO_2 is more effective in swelling the reservoir oil than is methane.⁸

COMPARISON OF GAS INJECTION TYPES

Nitrogen and immiscible CO₂ flooding are the most frequently used types of immiscible gas injection and, depending on the reservoir conditions and other factors, one may be more suitable than the other. The primary differences between nitrogen and carbon dioxide are their viscosity, miscibility, gravity, and volumetric characteristics. The properties of flue gas fall between those of nitrogen and carbon dioxide, depending on its composition. The following comparisons illustrate the major differences between nitrogen, flue gas, and carbon dioxide.

- At average reservoir pressures and temperatures the compressibility factor of nitrogen is three times that of carbon dioxide.
- 2. Nitrogen is a non-toxic and inert (not reactive) gas. CO_2 is not inert and is corrosive in the presence of water. Flue gas is usually more corrosive than CO_2 due to the water vapor, CO_2 , and nitrous oxides present in flue gas.
- 3. The best prospects for high pressure nitrogen displacement are reservoir fluids with a gravity of 35⁰

and greater. Low API gravity oils are not good prospects for nitrogen displacement.

CO₂ is soluble in reservoir fluids, whereas nitrogen is less soluble in most oils.

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- 5. Nitrogen and CO₂ are both miscible with reservoir oil to some degree depending on the oil composition and reservoir pressure. Given a specific oil composition and reservoir condition, nitrogen requires pressures >6000 psi to establish first contact miscibility with oil whereas CO₂ requires pressures >4000 psi for first contact miscible displacement.
- Nitrogen does not reduce oil viscosity nearly as much as does CO₂. CO₂ can also reduce the viscosity of low gravity (<25^o API) oils.
- 7. CO₂ is soluble in reservoir fluids and will increase oil volume by 10 to 40 percent; nitrogen is relatively insoluble in oil and does not increase oil volume. Flue gas is also soluble in reservoir fluids.
- CO₂ is more dense than nitrogen, which is generally less dense than gas-cap gas.
- 9. Flue gas and nitrogen are much easier to obtain than CO₂. Nitrogen can be generated from cryogenic air separation plants and can be produced from plants burning fossil fuels or from chemical industries.
- 10. Less nitrogen than CO_2 is needed to pressurize a given

reservoir; the amount of flue gas needed falls between $\rm CO_2$ and $\rm N_2$.

- 11. The cost of CO₂ is approximately \$1.00 to \$1.25/mcf; flue gas costs \$0.55 to \$0.85/mcf and nitrogen costs are \$0.40 to \$0.60/mcf.
- Cryogenic air separation plants are more reliable and cheaper to operate than flue gas plants.
- Flue gas requires treatment before injection, the extent of the treatment depending on the source of the flue gas.
- 14. Relatively less energy is needed to compress flue gas or CO_2 than is required for the compression of N_2 .¹¹

PURPOSE OF STUDY

The use of immiscible gas flooding as an enhanced oil recovery process is not a common practice, although it is being implemented more frequently than in the past; in 1971 there were no active immiscible gas flooding projects in the United States but ten projects were in progress in 1982. The application of immiscible gas injection to potential recovery projects is being considered more often due to improved economic and technical feasibility of the process.

In order to more completely evaluate the applicability of the immiscible gas injection process to a prospective project, actual field results from both active and completed projects are needed. By obtaining this information, comparisons can be made between original projected results and the results that were actually achieved. These comparisons will make it possible to predict more accurately the results of future projects and to better judge the applicability of the immiscible gas injection process to a particular field.

This study was conducted with the purpose of achieving these objectives. The following procedure was used to obtain the results of this study:

- Develop a data base that both qualitatively and quantitatively describes completed and current immiscible gas injection projects.
- Conduct a statistical analysis of selected reservoir and fluid parameters and oil recovery information to evaluate project data.
- 3. Evaluate data to determine if there is correlation between oil recovery and fluid and reservoir parameters.

CHAPTER II

DATA BASE

DESCRIPTION OF DATA SOURCES

Several main sources of information were used to compile the data which make up the data base used for this study. As a result of searching these various publications and data bases, 24 immiscible gas injection projects, both on-going and completed, were located.

The search for relevant data was begun by conducting a literature survey from the <u>Applied Science & Technology Index</u> for the years 1954-1982, inclusive. The <u>AS&T Index</u> is an annual publication which gives a bibliographical listing of science and technical articles that are published each year and lists these articles according to subject. The <u>AS&T Index</u> was very valuable in locating articles in industry publications. Most of the articles were found in the <u>Journal of Petroleum Technology</u>, <u>Society of Petroleum Engineers Transactions</u>, <u>World Oil</u>, <u>Drill</u> Bit, and Petroleum Engineer International.

Other information found in the literature search that contributed to the data base was located in two Department of Energy publications. These publications were "State-of-the-art Review of Nitrogen and Flue Gas Flooding in Enhanced Oil Recovery" (DOE/MC/08333-2) and "Target Reservoirs for CO₂ Miscible Flooding-Final Report" (DOE/MC/08341-17).^{11,12}

A computer search was also conducted of the literature data

base of the University of Tulsa. No additional articles were located as a result of this effort.

Two enhanced oil recovery data bases were searched for immiscible gas injection project data. The first of these was the Enhanced Recovery Projects File of the University of Oklahoma at Norman. This data base is one of many which make up the Petroleum Data System (PDS). Information in the Enhanced Recovery Projects File consists of data from secondary and enhanced recovery projects in Texas, Kansas, Louisiana and Illinois.¹³

The second data base used was the Department of Energy's (DOE) Enhanced Oil Recovery Database which was compiled as part of a research program at the Bartlesville Energy Technology Center (BETC). This data base contains information on active EOR projects which were submitted under the Incentives Program and data collected under contract to BETC to identify potential EOR projects.¹⁴ This data base supplied information on the majority of the projects used in the study.

Both of the above-mentioned data bases contained information on project location, operator and lease `name, reservoir and fluid parameters (viscosity, porosity, permeability, lithology, etc.), and recovery. Also included are information regarding type of gas injected, size of the project (acres and number of wells), and production data.

The last major source of data was provided by a publication entitled <u>A Survey of Secondary and Enhanced Recovery Operations in</u> <u>Texas to 1980</u> (Bulletin 80)¹⁵, published by the Railroad Commission of Texas at Austin in 1980. The Railroad Commission also provided another

data source in Form QB-82 (Questionnaire for Fluid Injection into a Productive Reservoir) which was obtained from the Railroad Commission's Austin Office for recent projects that were not included in the 1980 publication.¹⁶

Table 2.1 lists the major data sources and indicates the number of projects for which each source supplied information. In some cases more than one information source was used to obtain data for a project, which explains the reason for the total number of projects represented in Table 2.1 being greater than the number of projects in the database used for the study.

TABLE 2.1

Major Data Sources and Number of Projects For Which Each Supplied Data

DATA SOURCE	NUMBER OF PROJECTS
Literature Survey	12
Enhanced Oil Recovery Database Department of Energy	13
Enhanced Recovery Projects File University of Oklahoma at Norman	2
Railroad Commission of Texas	7

DISCUSSION OF RELEVANT RESERVOIR, FLUID, AND OIL RECOVERY PARAMETERS

The database for the immiscible gas injection projects consists of a tabulation of 45 different parameters, as depicted in Tables 2.3 through 2.11. In order to further evaluate the gas injection projects, 17 relevant reservoir, fluid, and oil recovery parameters were chosen from among the set of 45 parameters and are listed in Table 2.2. The units and definitions of database parameters that are not self-explanatory are given in the Nomenclature.

A number of the parameters listed in Table 2.2 have been cited in the literature as screening factors for other types of EOR processes such as LPG injection, enriched gas flooding, miscible CO_2 injection, microemulsion flooding, and polymer flooding.^{9,17} The screening factors are useful in determining whether or not a project is suitable for a particular type of recovery process. Although these screening factors were not used in reference to the type of EOR process addressed in this study, it is assumed that some of the same parameters (those denoted by * in Table 2.2) would also be useful in screening potential immiscible gas injection projects. Other parameters included in Table 2.2 are those that are generally used to describe any reservoir and are necessary to give a more detailed description of and to better analyze each project.

TABLE 2.2

Relevant Reservoir, Fluid, and Oil Recovery Parameters

RESERVOIR PARAMETERS	FLUID PARAMETERS	OIL RECOVERY PARAMETERS		
*Net Pay	*Oil Gravity	Original Oil in Place		
*Permeability	-	Estimated Oil Recovery-Previous Production-Primary		
*Depth of Reservoir	Original Water Saturation			
Gross Pay	Original Oil Saturation	Estimated Oil Recovery-Previous Production-Secondary		
Project Area	*Oil Viscosity			
Number of Injection Wells				
Original Reservoir Pressure				
*Porosity				
Number of Producing Wells				
*Reservoir Temperature				

*denotes screening factors used for other enhanced oil recovery methods such as LPG injection, miscible $\rm CO_2$ injection, micellar flooding, and polymer flooding.
DESCRIPTION OF DATA BASE

The types of gases considered in this study as those that would immiscibly displace reservoir fluids are nitrogen, flue gas, methane, and carbon dioxide. The projects used were those in which the injected gas actually displaced reservoir fluids; gas injection projects that were implemented for pressure maintenance purposes or those in which the injected gas was used to chase or push another displacing agent through the reservoir were not included.

Although air injection is known to immiscibly displace oil, no air injection projects were used in this study because the information obtained regarding this type of injection was negligible.

Flue gas, nitrogen, and methane are frequently referred to in the literature and in practice as miscible recovery processes. These types of gas flooding can be miscible if injection or reservoir pressures are sufficient, but because of the high pressures needed for the injected gas to obtain miscibility with reservoir fluids, in the majority of cases these types of gas injection are actually immiscible processes. For the purposes of this study then, all injection projects using nitrogen, flue gas, or methane as a displacing agent were assumed to be immiscible displacement processes, whether or not they were identified as such. It is recognized that many carbon dioxide gas flooding operations are miscible displacement processes due to the more favorable properties of carbon dioxide. For this reason, only those CO_2 projects that were reported as immiscible displacement processes were included in this study. The data base used in this study consists of 24 gas injection projects: five flue gas, five methane, nine nitrogen, and five carbon dioxide injection projects. The project locations are illustrated in Figure 2.1. Although many of the database parameters are defined in the Nomenclature, it is necessary to explain some parameters in more detail.

For some projects the reservoir temperature (RESVR TEMP) was not available. In these cases, since reservoir depth information was available for all projects, the reservoir temperature was calculated from the following equation:

$$T_{f} = (G_{t} \times D_{f}/100) + T_{mst}$$
 (2.1)

where

 T_{f} = reservoir temperature, ^oF D_{f} = reservoir depth, ft G_{t} = temperature gradient, ^oF/100 ft T_{mst} = annual mean surface temperature, ^oF

The temperature gradients and the annual mean surface temperatures were obtained from Frick.¹⁸

The parameter FW/PILOT designates whether a project was field wide (FW) or a pilot project (PILOT). The Saratoga, North Cowden, and Huntington Beach projects are pilots. The North Cowden project was described by the operator as being a pilot project, and the Huntington Beach and Saratoga projects were judged to be pilot projects because the project areas were small as was the number of the injection and production wells. Because there were few pilot projects, these projects were not analyzed as a separate group, but their data were not included





when the parameter being analyzed was affected by project size (project area, original oil in place, and number of injection and production wells). Pilot project data were included in the analysis of parameters which were not affected by project size (oil viscosity, net pay, permeability, porosity, etc.).

The FIELD and PROJECT parameters serve to identify the gas injection projects. The PROJECT parameter was included for cases where a second identifier such as a unit, lease, or project name was given.

Two projects, the Fordoche and Hawkins fields, were each written up in the literature as a single project. In each project, however, the producing formation contained two zones which were being flooded in the gas injection project. In both projects the two zones being flooded had different reservoir and fluid parameters (project area, and number of injection and production wells were the same). Because the reservoir and fluid parameters were different, both projects were divided into two projects; in other words each zone being flooded was considered as a separate project. The Fordoche project was divided into the Fordoche, 8-A and the Fordoche, 12-A while the Hawkins project was separated into the Hawkins, Lewisville and the Hawkins, Dexter projects.

The parameters PROJ RECOVERY, SECRECV, and TERRECV are projected estimates (determined by the project operator) of oil recovery due to gas injection; PROJ RECOVERY has units of millions of stock tank barrels and SECRECV and TERRECV have units of per cent of original oil in place. The parameter CURRENT OIL RECOVERY describes

the amount of oil that has been recovered at the time the data were reported and which can be attributed to gas injection.

AMOUNT GAS INJ describes the amount of gas that had been injected into the reservoir at the time the data were reported. The phrase "at the time data were reported" has been used in reference to several of the database parameters and requires further explanation. As was mentioned previously, the data used in this study were gathered from several different sources. There was no common time reference as to at what point in the gas injection projects the data were reported; the project phases at which data were reported varied from initiation of the project to completion. Because of this it was not possible to include some time-dependent parameters (oil saturation, reservoir pressure, etc.) in the data analysis that otherwise would have been included; however, these parameters were used in the database to better describe the projects.

Frequently instances occurred where there were more than one source of data for a project and the data were conflicting. In those cases the most recent data were used unless they were obviously incorrect.

	I A B	LE 2.3: UNIABASE PAPAMETERS			
NUM	PROJECT	FIELD	STATE	COUNTY	REGDIST
1	-	HALKINS	TEXAS	W00D	TRRCS
2	-	HAWKINS	TEXAS	000	TRRC6
3	-	BLOCK 31	TEXAS	CRANE	TRRCS
4		SARATOGA	TEXAS	HARDIN	TRRCS
5	-	EAST BINGER	OKLAHƏHA	CADDO	-
6	-	SUANSON RIVER	ALASKA	-	-
т	-	CAROLINE CARDIUM E	CANADA	ALBERTA	-
8	-	FORDOCHE.8~A	LOUISIANA	PT. COUPEE	-
9	-	FORDGCHE.12-A	LOUISIANA	PT. COUPEE	-
10	NISKU PCOL A	BRAZEAU RIVER	C ANA DA	ALBERTA	-
11	EMBAR LEASE	ANDECTOR	TEXAS	ECTOR	TRRCB
12	-	JAY LITTLE	ALABAHA	ESCOMBIA	-
13	ATKINS LEASE	STONEBLUFF	OKLAHOHA	MAGONER	-
14	-	LISBON	UTAH	SAN JUAN	-
15	-	PAINTER	NACHING	UNITA	-
16	UNIT 38,39,43,44	LAKE BARRE	LOUISIANA	TERREBONNE	-
17	DELAWARE UNIT	THOFREDS	TEXAS	LOVING	TRRCB
18	E. VEALHOER UNIT	EAST VEALMOOR	TEXAS	HOWARD	TARCS
19	S. RATLIFF LEASE	NORTH HEADLEE	TEXAS	ECTOR	TRACS
20	MEAKIN SAND UNIT	LICK CREEK	ARKANSAS	BRADLEY	-
21	N. BELSA STRIP	HUNTINGTON BEACH	CALIFORNIA	DRANGE	L. A.
22	12 ACRE PILOT	NORTH CONDEN	TEXAS	ECTOR	TRACS
23	-	HILLY UPLAND	W. VA.	LEWIS	•
24	HAYNES LEASE .	CIMITAS	TEXAS	ZAPATA	TRRCA

TABLE 2.3: DATABASE PARAMETERS

		TABLE 2.4: DATABA	SE PARAMETERS	-		
NUM	REGION	OPERATOR	FU/PILOT	VR BEGIN	¥R END	095
1	HID CONTINENT	EXXON	FU	4/1977	-	-
2	MID CONTINENT	EXXON	FU	4/1977	4	-
3	LEST TEXAS	ARCO	FW	3/1966	-	-
4	GULF COAST	GENERAL CRUDE OIL CO	PILOT	4/1973	1974	- "
5	HID CONTINENT	PHILLIPS	FU	9/1977	9/1992	\$
6	ALASKA	CHEVRON USA	FU	6/1966	-	-
7	FCREIGN	PACIFIC PET. LTD.	FW	8/1978	-	-
8	GULF COAST	SUN OIL	FU	1971	-	-
9	GULF COAST	SUN OIL	F¥	1971	-	-
10	FCRLIGN	-	-	-	-	-
11	LEST TEXAS	PHILLIPS	FW	11/1981	1988	-
12	-	EXXON	FU	1981	1995	\$
13	MID CONTINENT	GULF	FU	8/1981	7/1996	\$
14	RCCKY MOUNTAIN	UNION OIL OF CA	FU	12/1981	12/1986	\$
15	RECKY HOUNTAIN	CHEVRGN USA	FW	6/1980	6/2039	\$
16	GLLF COAST	TEXACO	FU	8/1978	-	\$
17	WEST TEXAS	HNG FOSSIL FUELS CO	Fu	10/1980	-	-
18	WEST TEXAS	GETTY CIL	FU	12/1981	1/1997	\$
19	WEST TEXAS	MOBIL OIL	FW	6/1981	5/1983	\$
20	MID CONTINENT	PHILLIPS	FU	1976	12/1990	\$
21	WEST COAST	AMINGIL USA	PILOT	12/1980	12/1981	\$
22	WEST COAST	C JORA	PILJT	1979	-	-
23	APPALACHIA	ALLEGHANY	ЕM	1976	-	-
24	GLLF COAST	THRASH OIL & GAS	FM	6/1980	8/1989	\$

.

		TABLE 2.	5: DATABASE PARAMETERS		
NUM	TYPE OF GAS INJ	PROD FORMATION	ZONE	AGE	OTHER COMMENTS
1	FLUE GAS	WOODBINE	LEWISVILLE	CRETACEDUS	FAULTED
2	FLUE GAS	WOODBINE	DEXTER	CRETACEOUS	FAULTED
3	FLUE GAS	DEVONIAN	-	-	-
4	FLUE GAS	HIOCENE	D	-	-
5	FLUE GAS	HARCHAND	-	-	CONSOLIDATED
б.	HETHANE	KENAI	HEHLOCK	JURASSIC	FAULTED
7	METHANE	CARDIUM	-	-	-
8	METHANE	MILCOX	8-B	-	-
9	HETHANE	WILCOX	12-A	-	-
10	METHANE	NISKU	POOL A	DEVONIAN	ø
11	NITROGEN	ELLENBURGER	*	-	- 1
12	NITROGEN	SMACKOVER	-	-0	CONSOLIDATED
13	NITROGEN	-	-	-	CONSOLIDATED
14	NITROGEN	MCCRACKEN	SERIES 341	DEVONIAN	CONSOLIDATED
15	NITROGEN	PAINTER	-		CONSOLIDATED
16	NITROGEN	R-1 SAND	SEGHENT G	MIOCENE	-
17	NITROGEN	DELAWARZ	. .	PERHIAN	-
18	NITROGEN	CANYON REEF	SERIES 310	PERHIAN	CONSOLIDATED
19	NITROGEN	39971 500	340	DEVONIAN	CONSOLIDATED
20	IMMIS. CO2	MEAKIN	212	CRETACEOUS	CONSOLIDATED
21	IHMIS. CO2	JONES	-	- .	-
22	IMMIS. CO2	GRAYBURG	A 11	PERMIAN	-
23	IMMIS. CO2	BASAL GREBRIAR	BIG INJUN	MISSISSIPPIAN	-
24	IMMIS. CG2	MIRANDU SAND	-	-	CONSOLIDATED

TABLE 2.6: DATABASE PARAMETERS

NUM	LITHCLGGY	ENVIRGNMENT	DEP UNIT	DZPTH (FT)	RESVR TEMP (degrees =)
1	SANDSTONE	-	-	\$400	1 68
2	SANDSTONE	-	-	4531	168
3	LIMESTONE	-	-	8500	140
4	SANDSTONE	-	-	810	86
5	SANDSTONE	-	-	10003	190
6	SANDSTONE	MARINE	-	10377	1 80
7	CHERT, SANDSTONE	-	-	8134	1 73
8	SANDSTONE	HARINE	DELTA	13180	267
9	SANDSTONE	MARINE	DELTA	13650	274
10	DOLCHITE	MARINE	REEF	10214	217
11	DOLOMITE	-	-	8480	159
12	SANDSTONE , CARBONATE	-	-	15552	285
13	-	-	-	1100	85
14	CARBONATE	-	-	9000	140
15	SANDSTONE	AEOLIAN	-	10800	174
16	SANDSTONE	-	-	17500	291
17	SANESTONZ	-	-	4820	104
18	CARBONATE LIPESTONE	MARINE	REEF	7350	155
19	CARBONATE	-	-	12250	190
20	SANDSTONE	-	-	2500	118
21	SANESTONE	_	-	2900	1 30
22	SANCSTONE, DOLCHITE	-	-	4 300	196
23	LIMESTONE	-	-	1800	77
24	SANDSTONE	-	-	1050	80

TABLE 2.7: DATABASE PARAMETERS								
NUM	PROJECT AREA (ACRES)	PATTERN TYPE	ACRES/PATTERN	NG. INJECTORS	NC. PRODUCERS			
1	10590	-	-	38	351			
2	10590	-	-	38	351			
3	7200	9-SPOT:5-SP0T	320 0 40	7	61			
4	6	SINGLE WELL	6	1	1			
5	12960	LINE DRIVE	-	16	68			
6	-	-	-	12	54			
7	-	-	-	6	28			
8	6119	-	160	5	18			
9	6119	-	160	5	18			
10	-	-	-	-	-			
11	775	-	-	1	17			
12	14415	STAGGERED LINE DRIVE	640	35	76			
13	674	MULTIPLE-IRREGULAR	-	26	45			
14	5120	CRESTAL INJECTION	-	4	12			
15	1655	CRESTAL INJECTION	~	8	28			
16	600	SINGLE INJECTOR	600	1	2			
17	4546	HODIFIED 5-SPOT	-	8	42			
18	3353	CRESTAL INJECTION		1	4 4			
19	800	CRESTAL INJECTION	-	2	8			
20	900	HODIFIED 9-SPJT	87.5	16	38			
21	13	-	3	2	5			
22	1	5-SPC T	1	1.	ŝ.			
23	200	-	-	1	6			
24	975	PERIPHERAL LINE DRIVE	-	14	39			

TABLE 2.8: DATABASE PARAMETERS

NUI	H NET PAY (FT)	GROSS PAY (FT)	NET PAY/GROSS PAY	PERMEABILITY (ND)	POROSITY (%)
1	187.5	-	-	1194	24.6
2	275	~	-	3396	27.9
3	103	1000	0.103	1	15
4	30	-	-	536	34
5	27	27	1.0	0.20	7.5
. 6	250	400	0.63	97	21
7	3	-	-	30	11.3
8	25	-	-	8.6	20
9	34	-	-	4.6	19
10	256	-	-	400	10
11	221	1053	0.21	2000	3 • B
12	95	350	0.27	35.4	14
13	-	-	-	*	-
14	300	400	0.75	550	5.5
15	330	433	0.76	7.1	11.7
16	57	130	0 • 44	95	16.1
17	16	25	0.64	33	20.3
18	107	167	0.64	38	9.5
19	76	180	0.42	0.3	5
20	8.6	10	0.86	1203	32
21	300	450	0.67	575	24
22	,-	-	-	£	9.1
23	12	-	-	â.	14
24	7	г	1.0	-	29

		TABLE 2.9:	DATABASE PARAMET	ERS	
170H	UEIG LATER SAT	ORIG OIL IN PLACE (MM STIL)	ORIG OIL SAT	API GRAVITY	OIL VISCOSITY (CP)
l	25	-	-	24.2	3.7
2	9-6	-	-	24.2	3.7
з. [.]	55	312	-	46	0.3
4	- ·	169	-	17.1	-
5	25	80	75	46	0.3
Li	-	435	60	40	1.1
7	-	23.2	-	-	
B	47	-	-	4 •	0.13
ч	58	~	-	45	0.13
10	10	33.3	-	-	-
11	-	16.2	-	44	-
12	12.7	728.3	87.3	51	0-18
13	25	-	75	38	-
14	29	86.6	71	60	0.5
15	20	376.7	80	46	0.2
16	24.7	28.1	43	35-2	0.35
17	43.5	54.9	-	36	1.47
18	16.5	125.4	83.7	43	0.85
19	31	4.3	6'5	47	0.13
20	32	23.4	4 ¹	17	160
21	22	5.15	18	18	175
22	-	-	67	35	1.4
23	<u>-</u> t	-	75	42	1.75
24	٤٢	Ľ•1	6 5	20	4 C

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	TABLE 2.10: DATABASE PARAMETERS								
ររប។	(DRIG RESVR PRESS (PSIG)	PRESENT RESVR PRESS (PSIG)	AMOUNT GAS INJ (BCF)	PREVIOUS PROD	WETTABILITY			
1	t	1710	-	33	PRIMARY	-			
2	1	1985	1477	-	-	-			
3	4	1145	3671	234	PRIHARY	-			
4	:	284	284	0.015	PRIMARY	-			
5		-	4200	125	PRIMARY	OIL WET			
5	ę	5580	-	_	-	-			
7	4	4188	3290	1.39	PRIMARY	-			
₿	:	16598	6500	26.1	PRIMARY	_ ,			
9	:	16800	6300	44.2	PRIMARY	-			
10		6674	-	-	-	-			
11	:	3485	1695	0.032	PRIMARY	-			
12			575 0	368	VATERFLOOD	OIL & WATER NET			
13		-	-	5.5	-	-			
14		-	2490	11.3	-	-			
15		4161	4046	GAD	PRIMARY	WATER WET			
15		9535	4200	1 - 4	NATURAL GAS INJ	WATER WET			
17		2385	2285	0.001	WATERFLOOD	-			
18		3362	2049	0.045	VATERFLOOD	VATER NET			
19		-	3300	4.5	-	WATER WET			
20		1200	1 ** 5 0	4.75	PRIMARY	WATER VET			
21	Ŷ	-	1100	0.52	-	WATER WET			
£ 2 .		-	-	-	PRIMARY	-			
23		700	3.0 0	-	PPIMARY	-			
24		-	241	-	-	WATER WET			

NUN	CURRENT OIL RECOVERY (MK STR)	PROJ RECOVERY (HI STU)	SECRECV (X OIIP)	TERRECV (X OIIP)	REF	
1	-	_	-		19,20	
2	-	-	-		19,20	
3	-	123.0	39.4	-	16,21,22	
4	0.001	- .	43 7	-	23	
5	12.34	-	-	-	19,24	
6	_		-	÷	5+25	
7	-	4.99	21.5	-	26	
8	-	-	-	-	27,28	
9	-	-	-	-	27,28	
10	-	-	-	-	29	
11	-	0.974	6.0	-	19,30	
12	-	- .	-	-	19,24,31	
13	-	-	-	-	24	
14	· • -	-	-	-	24	
15	-	68+0	40 <u>.</u> 0	-	19,24,32	
16	-	5.3	-	18.9	24,33	
17	-	5.0	-	9.1	12,16	
18	-	12.5	· _	9.97	16,24	
19	-	-	-	-	15,24	
20	-	31.5	12.8	-	12,24	
21	-	_	-	-	19,24	
22	-	-	-	-	15,24	
23	- 🖗	-	-	-	24	
24	-	-	-	+	24	

TABLE 2.11: DATABASE PARAHETERS

CHAPTER III

PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

PARAMETER STATISTICS

A subset of 17 parameters was chosen for statistical analysis from the 45-parameter data base. The 17 parameters analyzed were determined to be relevant for reasons discussed in Chapter II and are listed in Table 2.2. As part of the data analysis, the data from 16 of the 17 parameters were incorporated into frequency plots, Figures 3.2 - 3.17. Ideally other parameters such as oil saturation at start of project, percent of original oil in place at start of project, barrels of oil recovered per MCF of injected gas, barrels of oil actually recovered due to gas injection at project completion, etc. could be included in the data analysis, but the data available were not complete or extensive. Also only three of the projects, two of which were pilots, had been concluded at the time of this study.

Table 3.1 presents the seven statistics for each of the parameters in Table 2.2. These seven statistics are number of projects, minimum, maximum, mean, median, mode, and standard deviation. The first four statistics need not be defined but a short explanation will be given for each of the last three.

The median, like the mean, is a measure of central tendency and is defined as the value positioned in the middle of a data sample when the data are arranged in increasing order. If the data sample size, n, is odd the median of the sample is the middle term in the data arrangement. If the sample size, n, is an even number the median will be average of the two middle terms in the array. 34,35,36

For example, the data for the parameter SECRECV (projected oil recovery for projects whose previous production was primary, in terms of percent of original oil in place) consists of five values; arranged in order of increasing value these are: 6.0, 12.8, 21.5, 39.4, and 40. Because the number of terms is odd, the median will be the middle term, 21.5. If the value of 40 were not in the sample, there would be an even number of terms and the median would be the average of the two middle terms, 12.8 and 21.5.

An important property of the median is its insensitivity to extreme values; the mean does not have this characteristic. In the above example if the value of 40.0 were replaced with a value of 95.0, the median would still be 21.5. This property of the median makes it useful in describing central tendency.³⁵

The mode is also a measure of central tendency and is defined as the value which occurs most frequently for a given parameter. Much of the data analyzed in this study were bimodal. The symbol -0 in Table 3.1 indicates that the data were bimodal.

The standard deviation is a measure of variability or dispersion and gives a quantitative idea of how the data in a sample deviate from the mean of that sample. The standard deviation is calculated according to equation $3.1^{34,35,36}$ $s = \sqrt{\left[\sum_{i=1}^{N} (x_i - \bar{x})^2\right]} / (N - 1)$ (3.1)

where

s = standard deviation

 $\overline{\mathbf{x}}$ = mean of the sample

N = number of values in the data sample

 x_i = individual terms in the data sample; $x_1, x_2...x_N$

Before discussing the results of the statistical analysis and frequency plots, several general statistical compilations will be presented to more completely analyze the data.

GENERAL STATISTICAL COMPILATIONS

Table 3.2 is a comparison of the lithologies found in the producing formations of the database projects. The lithology types are classified as sandstone, carbonate, or sandstone and carbonate. Lithology data were available for 23 of the 24 projects and include both fieldwide and pilot projects. The results show that in the majority of the projects (57%) gas was injected into a formation made up of sandstone. 26% of the projects had a producing formation of carbonate lithology and in 17% of the projects the lithology consisted of a combination of both sandstone and carbonate.

The map shown in Figure 2.1 depicts the geographical location of the various immiscible gas injection projects. It is from this map that the data in Tables 3.3A and 3.3B were compiled.

Table 3.3A lists the number of projects in each state or country and the percentage of the total number of projects which that number represents. Texas has the greatest number of projects, ten, which represents 42% of the total number of projects in the study. Louisiana

PARAMETER	AC. PROJECTS	MIN	MAX	HËAN	PEDIAU	STD. DEV.	NODE	
POROSITY (X)	23	3.80	34.0	15.11	15.00	8.85	10.00	
NET PAY (FT)	22	3.00	330.0	123.64	85.50	116.35	300.00	
PERNEABILITY (ND)	18	•20	575.0	134.51	31.50	213.94	-0	
API GRAVITY	22	17.00	60.0	37.21	41.00	12.11	45.00	
DEPTH OF RESERVCIR (FT)	24	810.00	17500.0	7633.25	8307.00	4828.76	-0	
GRESS PAY (FT)	14	7.06	1053.0	330.26	265.00	338.26	400.00	
OIL VISCOSITY (CF)	16	•13	3.7	1.01	.43	1.18	-0	
PROJECT AREA (ACRES)	18	200.00	14415.0	4866.17	3950.00	4635.28	-3	
NO. INJECTORS	20	1.00	38.0	12.20	7.50	12.46	1.00	
NO. PRODUCERS	14	2.00	76.0	33.56	33.00	21.98	-0	
CRIG OIL IN PLACE (MNSTB) 14	4.33	435.0	99.94	44.10	127.38	-9	
ORIG OIL SAT (X)	13	ы́0•00	87.5	73.09	75.00	8.02	75.00	
ORIG RESVE PRESS (PSIS)	16	284.00	10800.0	4424.50	3815.00	3389.98	-0	
GRIG HATER SAT (%)	19	9.6Ú	58+0	27.26	25.00	12.65	25.00	
RESVR TEMP (DEGREES F)	24	77.00	291.0	164.46	163.50	65.21	-c	
SECRECV (% CIIP)	5	6.00	40.0	23.54	21.53	15.40	-0	
TERRECV (% CIIP)	3	9.10	18.9	12.66	9.97	5.42	-0	

TAELE 3.1 Statistical analysis of Data

4 N

TABLE 3.2

Comparison of Sandstone and Carbonate Lithologies

in Project Producing Formations

	Sandstone Lithology	Carbonate Lithology	Sandstone & Carbonate Lithology
Number of Projects with Data Available	13	6	4
% of Total Projects with Data Available	57	26	17

has the second greatest number of projects with three (13% of the total projects), and Canada and Oklahoma follow with two projects apiece. One project is located in each of the remaining states listed.

The purpose of Table 3.3B is to list the four project types, the state or country which has the largest number of each project type, the number of times that project type occurs in the state/country, and what percentage that number is of the total number of the project type. In three of the four project types (flue gas, nitrogen, and immiscible carbon dioxide) Texas is the state where those project types are conducted most frequently. Two methane projects are found in Louisiana and two are located in Canada. 80% of the flue gas projects, 44% of the nitrogen projects, and 40% of the immiscible carbon dioxide projects are located in Texas.

The third general statistical compilation is a comparison of the number of projects conducted by major oil companies and those conducted by independent oil companies. Table 3.4 shows the comparison by project type. It is clear from examination of Table 3.4 that the major oil companies operate the majority (78%) of the projects surveyed in this study.

TABLE 3.3A

A Listing of Projects by State/Country

State/Country	Number of Projects	% of Total Number of Projects
California	1	4
Wyoming	1	4
Alaska	1	4
Utah	1	4
Oklahoma	2	8
Arkansas	1	4
Texas	10	42
Louisiana	3	13
Alabama	1	4
W. Virginia	1	4
Canada	2	8

Listing of State/Country with Largest Number of Each Project Type

Project Type	State/Country with Largest Number of	Number of Project Type in State/Country	% of Total Project Type	
Flue Gas	Texas	4	80	
Methane	Canada & Louisiana	2 (each)	40 (each)	
Nitrogen	Texas	4	44	
Immiscible Carbon Dioxide	Texas	2	40	

TABLE 3.4									
Compari	son	of	the	Number	of	Project	s Operat	ted	by
٨	Лајо	r a	nd I	ndepend	ent	Oil Co	mpanies		

Number of	Operator-Maj	or Oil Co.*	Operator-Indepe	endent Oil Co.*
Project Type For Which Data Are Available	Number of Project Type	% of Total Project Type	Number of Project Type	% of Total Project Type
5	4	80	1	20
4	3	75	1	25
9	8	89	1	11
5	3	60	2	40
23	18	78	5	22
	Number of Project Type For Which Data Are Available 5 4 9 5 5	Number of Project Type For Which Data Are AvailableOperator-Maj Number of Project Type544398532318	Number of Project Type For Which Data Are AvailableOperator-Major Oil Co.* Number of % of Total Project Type 95480437598895360231878	Number of Project Type For Which Data Are AvailableOperator-Major Oil Co.* % of Total Project Type Project TypeOperator-Indepe Number of Project Type548014375198891536022318785

*Classification obtained from the 1982 USA Oil Industry Directory

TABLE 3.5

Comparison of the Production Methods Used Prior to Immiscible Gas Injection

PROJECT TYPE	Number of Project Type for Which Data Are Available	Previous Production- Primary	Previous Production- Secondary	
FLUE GAS	4	4	0	<u></u>
METHANE	3	3	0	
NITROGEN	6	2	4	
IMMISCIBLE CARBON DIOXIDE	3	3	0	
TOTAL	16	12	4	

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The last general statistical compilation is a comparison of the type of production, primary or secondary, that was used prior to start-up of immiscible gas injection. Table 3.5 shows the results of the comparison. Of the 16 projects for which data were available, the previous production for 12 of those projects was primary production. Waterflooding was the production method used in three of the four projects which implemented secondary production prior to immiscible gas injection; natural gas injection was the other secondary production method used.

DATA ANALYSIS

Explanation of Data Manipulation

A presentation of the results of statistically analyzing the 18 parameters listed in Table 2.2 is shown in Table 3.1. In calculating these results and plotting the frequency diagrams several data manipulations were made that require explanation.

The parameters PERMEABILITY, OIL VISCOSITY, and NO. PRODUCERS (number of production wells) each had some extreme values that were disregarded in the statistical calculations because inclusion of these values distorted the results and misrepresented what the majority of the data would show.

Values greater than 1000 md were not included in calculations for the PERMEABILITY parameter. This resulted in leaving out four

values: 1194, 1200, 2000, and 3396 md. Three values of OIL VISCOSITY (40, 160, and 175 cp) were disregarded. Originally only the values 160 and 175 cp were not included but the results were still badly distorted; therefore the value of 40 cp was also removed. For the parameter, NO. PRODUCERS, two values were left out, 351 and 351 wells. These two values are the same because the projects were the Hawkins, Dexter and the Hawkins, Lewisville. It was explained previously that the Hawkins was one of two projects (Fordoche is the second) where two zones in the same formation were gas flooded simultaneously. Although most of the reservoir and fluid parameters for the zones are different, some parameters (NO. PRODUCERS, NO. INJECTORS, and PROJECT AREA) are the same. In the cases where these projects (Hawkins, Lewisville & Dexter, or Fordoche, 8-A & 12-A) did have the same values for a given parameter.

Since there were only three projects of the 24 surveyed that were identified as pilot projects, a separate analysis of pilot and fieldwide projects was not conducted. However, in the analysis of several parameters the inclusion of data from the pilot projects would distort the results obtained. Therefore, for those parameters affected by project size (ORIG OIL IN PLACE, NO. PRODUCERS, NO. INJECTORS, and PROJECT AREA), data from the pilot projects were not included.

Frequency Diagrams

To better illustrate the frequency distribution of the data

analyzed in Table 3.1, frequency plots were made for 17 of the 18 parameters listed. (A plot of the parameter SECRECV was not made because of too little data.) In order to transform the data for each parameter into a frequency plot, the data were grouped into class intervals. By grouping the data into class intervals, four types of graphical illustrations can be developed:^{17,35} histograms, frequency polygons, frequency curves and modified frequency polygons. The modified frequency polygon was used to illustrate the data of the parameters shown in Table 3.1. Examples of these graphical illustrations are shown in Figure 3.1¹⁷. In plotting data using the modified frequency format, the frequency for each class interval x is plotted at the upper limit of the class interval, instead of the midpoint, and the curve is drawn to connect these points.

There is no general method that can be applied to all data in determining the number of class intervals to be used for a frequency polygon. Many times the choice of the number of class intervals to be used must be made using one's judgment and consideration of the amount, range, and occurrence of the data. However, it is generally agreed that most data can be adequately represented using from seven to fifteen class intervals.^{17,35} Most of the frequency plots shown in Figures 3.2 - 3.17 make use of 11 class intervals, although several (NET PAY, OIL GRAVITY, PROJECT AREA AND NO. INJECTORS) use only six.

To illustrate how the frequency plots should be interpreted, the plot of ORIGINAL OIL SATURATION (Figure 3.13) will be explained. Each plot is designed to show the frequency with which each type of





Graphical Presentations of Frequency Data (from Manning, 1983)¹⁷

project occurs and the frequency with which all the projects together occur for a given class interval. Each symbol represents a particular type of gas injection, as shown by the legend. The projects are plotted cumulatively so that the curve drawn represents the frequency that all project types occur for a given class interval.

Figure 3.13 shows that there is one methane project that occurs in the oil saturation interval $50\% < x \le 60\%$. For the class interval $60\% < x \le 70\%$ there is one nitrogen project and three (4-1) immiscible carbon dioxide projects; a total of four gas injection projects fall within this interval. Similarly, for the interval $70\% < x \le 80\%$, there are one flue gas project, three (4-1) nitrogen projects, and two (6-4) immiscible carbon dioxide projects, for a total of six projects in the interval. In the interval $80\% < x \le 90\%$ two nitrogen projects occur; there are no projects with an original oil saturation greater than 90%.

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

One of the most important objectives of this study, to determine the amount of oil recovered as a result of immiscible gas injection, was unfortunately very difficult to achieve. Because of the lack of available data the only recovery parameter that could be analyzed was the projected amount of oil recovery due to gas injection, in terms of per cent of original oil in place. Data for this recovery parameter had to be divided into projects that were produced by primary production prior to gas injection, SECRECV, and those that were produced by secondary recovery prior to gas injection, TERRECV. The result was that a small

amount of data, 8 projects, was made even smaller when previous production was taken into account; SECRECV data were available for five projects and TERRECV data available for three. In spite of the small amount of data available for these two parameters, they were included in the statistical analysis. In both cases the mean and median values are in fairly close agreement, but because each parameter has at least one extreme (high) value as compared to the other data, the median is probably the best estimate of oil recovery for both SECRECV and TERRECV. When reviewing these results note that the data for these parameters were projected, and not actual oil recovery; optimistic estimates of oil recovery would give erroneous statistical results. Of the two oil recovery parameters, only the data of the parameter TERRECV were illustrated with a frequency plot; there were not sufficient data to plot SECRECV.

After examining the results of the statistical analysis, the frequency plots, and the data listing for each of the parameters analyzed, it was found that the results were inconclusive for some of the parameters. No general trends could be discerned after studying the data and results for the following parameters: porosity, net pay, gross pay, project area, number of injection wells, number of production wells, and original oil in place.

Study of the permeability frequency plot, Figure 3.4, shows there are several extreme values of permeability, which result in a high mean value (as compared to the median), but also shows that the majority of the data fall at or below 60 md. Inspection of the data base reveals

that 12 of the total 18 projects have permeabilities less than 40 md.

Since the parameters oil gravity and oil viscosity are related, the results for the two parameters will be discussed at the same time. The mean and median for oil gravity are 37.2° API and 41° API, respectively, and agree fairly closely. The frequency plot for oil gravity shows that half of the 22 projects have gravities between 36° API and 48° API; 16 of the projects have oil gravities $\geq 35^{\circ}$ API. The median value for oil viscosity is 0.43 cp and the mean is 1.01 cp. These two values do not agree well; several high values of viscosity distort the mean value. The frequency diagram for oil viscosity indicates that 9 of the 16 projects have viscosities ≤ 0.50 cp.

The results for the parameters reservoir temperature, original reservoir pressure, and depth of reservoir denote that the majority of the projects have deep, high-pressure, high-temperature reservoirs. Mean and median values of original reservoir pressure are 4424 psi and 3815 psi, respectively; 10 of the 16 projects have original pressures > 3000 psi. 14 of 24 projects have a reservoir depth > 7000 feet, with the median value being 8307 feet. The median value for reservoir temperature is $163.5^{\circ}F$ and 14 of 24 projects have temperatures which exceed $150^{\circ}F$.

It was also found that the project reservoirs tended to have a high original oil saturation and a low original water saturation. The median value for original oil saturation is 75%, with all of the projects falling within the range of 60% to 90%. Water saturation has a median value of 25%; 12 of the 19 projects have an original water saturation of 25% or less.

One final determination is that the ratio of net pay to gross pay thickness is fairly low. Examination of the data base, Table 2.8, indicates that 11 of the 14 projects have a net pay-to-gross pay ratio of less than 0.80.



FIGURE 3.2





ALL TYPES OF GAS INJECTION

FIGURE 3.3

PERMEABILITY

ALL TYPES OF GAS INJECTION



FIGURE 3.4







FIGURE 3.5


ALL TYPES OF GAS INJECTION







ALL TYPES OF GAS INJECTION

GROSS PAY



б5



FIGURE 3.8







FIGURE 3.9

INJECTION WELLS IN PROJECT

ALL TYPES OF GAS INJECTION



FIGURE 3.10

PRODUCING WELLS IN PROJECT

ALL TYPES OF GAS INJECTION



FIGURE 3.11

.







FIGURE 3.12

ORIGINAL OIL SATURATION





FIGURE 3.13

71

ORIGINAL RESERVOIR PRESSURE

ALL TYPES OF GAS INJECTION



FIGURE 3.14

ORIGINAL WATER SATURATION

ALL TYPES OF GAS INJECTION



FIGURE 3.15

RESERVOIR TEMPERATURE

ALL TYPES OF GAS INJECTION



FIGURE 3.16



ALL TYPES OF GAS INJECTION



FIGURE 3.17

CHAPTER IV

This study of immiscible gas injection projects details four types of gas injection: flue gas, methane, nitrogen, and carbon dioxide. A database consisting of 24 completed and current projects was compiled; the 24 projects are made up of five projects each of flue gas, methane, and immiscible carbon dioxide injection and nine nitrogen injection projects. A statistical analysis was performed on selected reservoir, fluid and oll recovery parameters and frequency diagrams were composed to facilitate data analysis. As a result of this study, the following conclusions were made:

- Immiscible gas injection is not yet widely used as an enhanced recovery process. Therefore, data for these types of gas injection were scarce - oil recovery information was especially difficult to find.
- The major oil companies, rather than independent oil companies, conducted most (78%) of the immiscible gas flooding projects.
- 3. A majority of the projects for which information was available, 75%, were produced by primary production prior to immiscible gas injection.

4. A comparison of the types of lithologies (sandstone, 76

carbonate, or sandstone and carbonate) which make up the project producing formations shows that 57% of the projects are produced from sandstone formations. An additional 17% of the project formations consisted of both sandstone and carbonate lithologies.

- 5. Of all the states/countries where the projects were located, the vast majority, 42%, were found in Texas. The only foreign country represented was Canada with 8% of the total projects.
- Although there were four high values of permeability, the general trend was low (< 40 md) permeability producing formations.
- 7. Oil recovered from the project producing formations tended to be a high gravity ($\geq 35^{\circ}$ API), low viscosity (≤ 0.50 cp) crude.
- The majority of the producing formations were deep (>7000 feet), high temperature (> 150°F), high pressure (>3000 psi) reservoirs.
- Producing formations that were gas flooded generally had a high original oil saturation and a low original (connate) water saturation (< 25%).
- The net pay thickness-to-gross pay thickness ratio was low. 79% of the projects had a net pay-to-gross pay ratio of less than 0.8.
- 11. A small amount of oil recovery data was available for

statistical analysis. Projected oil recovery due to gas injection for projects that had been produced using primary production prior to gas injection was estimated at 21.5% of the original oil in place. Projects that were produced by secondary production prior to gas injection could recover approximately 10% of the the original oil in place. Only a small amount of confidence should be placed in these estimates as oil recovery was projected, not actual, production and the number of projects for which projected oil recovery information was available was limited.

CHAPTER V

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

1.

Since the largest drawback in this study was the lack of data, it is suggested that after a period of time (to allow for the initiation of additional immiscible gas injection projects) another effort be conducted to gather data and enlarge the data base used in this work. To ensure that the supplemental data are complete and accurate it would be best to contact the project operators and request specific information; this is the most time-consuming method of obtaining data but also gives the best results.

2. A special effort should be made to acquire information on actual oil recovery. Data regarding the following parameters would be valuable in determining the recovery that could be expected from immiscible gas injection: oil saturation at project completion, amount of oil remaining in the reservoir at project initiation, actual oil recovered (at project completion) due to gas injection, total amount of gas injected throughout project life, amount of oil recovered per unit of injected gas, and residual oil saturation. 3.

The expanded data base should be analyzed in more detail. In addition to the frequency plots and statistics applied in this study, it would be useful to employ linear regression techniques (assuming there are sufficient data) to determine if there is correlation between oil recovery and selected fluid and reservoir parameters.

NOMENCLATURE

ACRES/PATTERN	Number of acres per well pattern
AGE	Period (Mesozoic or Paleozoic rocks) or
	epoch (Cenozoic rocks) in which PROD
	FORMATION originated
AMOUNT GAS INJ	Amount of immiscible gas injected into
	project PROD FORMATION at time data
	were reported (BCF)
API GRAVITY	Stock tank oil gravity (^O API at 60 ^O F)
CURRENT OIL RECOVERY	Amount of incremental oil recovered due to
	gas injection at time data was reported (MM
	STB)
DEPTH	Average subsurface depth to top of PROD
	FORMATION (feet)
DEP UNIT	Type of formation deposit (reef, delta, bar,
	etc.)
DOE	\$ indicates cost of project was shared by
	Department of Energy; - indicates
	information is not known (Table 2.4)
ENVIRONMENT	Depositional environment of PROD
	FORMATION (marine, aeolian, fluvial, etc.)
FIELD	Name of oil field in which immiscible gas
	injection was used

FW/PILOT	Indicates if project is field wide (F W) or
	pilot project (PILOT)
GROSS PAY	Average gross pay thickness found in
	project PROD FORMATION (feet)
L.A.	Los Angeles
NET PAY	Average effective pay thickness found in
	project PROD FORMATION (feet)
NET PAY/GROSS PAY	Net pay-to-gross pay thickness ratio
	(dimensionless)
NO. INJECTORS	Number of injection wells in project
NO. PRODUCERS	Number of producing wells in project
NO. PROJECTS	Number of projects for which parameter
	data were available
NUM	Number assigned to each project for
	identification purposes
OIL VISCOSIT Y	Average viscosity of oil at reservoir
	conditions (cp)
ORIG OIL IN PLACE	Original oil in place in project PROD
	FORMATION at discovery (MM STB)
ORIG OIL SAT	Average oil saturation in project PROD
	FORMATION at discovery (%)
ORIG RESVR PRESS	Reservoir pressure in project PROD
	FORMATION at discovery (psig)
ORIG WATER SAT	Average water saturation in PROD
	FORMATION at discovery (%)

PATTERN TYPE	Type of well pattern used in project (9-spot,
	5-spot, etc.)
PERMEABILITY	Average permeability in project PROD
	FOR MATION (md)
POROSIT Y	Average porosity in project PROD
	FORMATION (%)
PRESENT RESVR PRESS	Average reservoir pressure at time data was
	reported (psig)
PREVIOUS PROD	Method of production used prior to
	initiation of immiscible gas injection
PROD FORMATION	Name of geologic formation from which
	project is producing
PROJECT	Unit, lease, or project name that identifies
	the gas injection project
PROJECT AREA	Surface area overlying project PROD
	FORMATION (acres)
PROJ RECOVERY	Estimated amount of oil that will be
	recovered due to gas injection (MM STB)
REF	Bibliographical reference for individual
	project
REGDIST	Regulatory or conservation districts within
	a state
REGION	Large geographical area of the United
	states (Gulf Coast, Rocky Mountain, West
	Texas, Appalachia, Mid Continent, West

83

1000 - 1000 - 1000 - 1000 - 1000 - 1000 - 1000 - 1000 - 1000 - 1000 - 1000 - 1000 - 1000 - 1000 - 1000 - 1000 -

Coast or Foreign)

RESVR TEMP Temperature of PROD FORMATION (^oF)

Estimated amount of incremental oil recoverable due to gas injection; project previously produced by primary production (% OIIP)

STD.DEV. Standard deviation

SECRECV

TERRECV Estimated amount of incremental oil recoverable due to gas injection; project previously produced by secondary recovery method (% OIIP)

TYPE OF GAS INJ Type of gas used as injectant for the project

WETTABILITY Fluid that preferentially wets reservoir rock (water wet, oil wet)

YR BEGIN Month and year when immiscible gas injection began

YR END Month and year in which gas injection ended or estimation of when injection will end ZONE Local name for horizon or zone into which gas is injected

APPENDIX

COMMON/AXLABL/XLABEL(3),YLABEL(3),NXCHAR,NYCHAR,LABSID CCMMON/LINMOD/LINMOD(10) COMMON/FXDSCL/XFSTV,YFSTV,XDELV,YDELV,IXAXFX,IYAXFY COMMON/SYMBZT/ISYMZT(10)

COMMON/TITL/NTITLE, ITITL(5,5)

LOGICAL LABSID Logical Legenc

READ DATA FROM FILE

READ IN PLOT TITLE

READ IN AXIS LABELS

IVECT=NVECT-1

00 60 J=1, IVECT LEGEND=.TRUE. READ(5,+)hUMPT NPTS(J)=NUMPT LINMOD(J)=3 LINTYP(J) = -1

READ IN LEGENC

1=1

00 20 J=1,NTITLE READ(6,3C) (ITITL(I,J),I=1,5) FORMAT(6A10)

READ(6.40) (XLABEL(I),I=1.3) READ(6.40) (YLABEL(I),I=1.3) Format(3.10)

READ IN X AXIS VALUES READ(6,*) (X(1,J),I=1,NUMPT)

READ IN Y AXIS VALUES READ(6,*) (Y(I,J),I=1,NUMPT)

READ(6. .) XMAX, YMAX, NVECT

NMAX2=30 XMIN=0. YMIN=0. NX CHAR=30 NY CHAR=30 IPLT=2 FACTL=1.9

READ(6.10) FORMAT(1HG)

NTITLE=3

CONTINUE

COMMON/LEGEND/LEGEND, FACTL, YLEGND(3,10)

OIMENSICH NPTS(10),X(30,10),Y(30,10),LINTYP(10)

FIRST LINE OF DATA FILE IS FILE DESCRIPTION

PROGRAM PLCT1(INPUT, CUTPUT, PLCTR, TAPE6=INPUT, TAPE10=OUTPUT)

READ(6,85) YLEGND(I,J) 85 FORMAT(A10) 60 CONTINUE

C READ IN VALLES FOR LAST VECTOR C READ NUMBER OF POINTS IN LAST VECTOR READ(6.*)NUMPT J=NVECT NPTS(J)=NUMPT

C READ IN X AXIS VALUES FOR LAST VECTOR READ(6...) (X(I,J),I=1,NUHPT)

C READ IN Y AXIS VALUES FOR LAST VECTOR READ(6+*) (Y(I,J),I=1,NUKPT)

> LINTYP(J)=0 LINMOO(J)=2

C CALL PLOT ROUTINE

CALL PLCTS(0,0,5LPLOTR) XFSTV=3.0 YFSTV=0.0 IXAXFX=2 IYAXFY=2 XOELV=(XMAX-XFIN)/5.5 YDELV=(YMAX-YMIN)/5.5

CALL PLOTZ2(X,Y,IPLT,NVECT,NPTS,NMAX2,LINTYP) CALL PLOT(2.0,2.0,999)

ST OP END

PRUGRAM STAT(INPUT,OUTPUT,TAPE 6=INPUT,TAPE10) PROGRAM TO CALCULATE AND PRINT THE FOLLOWING VALUES FOR VARIDUS PARAPETERS: NUMBER OF PROJECTS, MINIMUM, MAXIMUM, MEDIAN, MODE, MEAN, A%C STANGARD DEVIATION C č С С LOAD THIS PROGRAM WITH DATA FILE "TSTAT" TO OBTAIN TABLE OUTPUT ECAL MIN, MAX, MED, HOD, MEAN DINEVSION X(30,30), PAR(90), N(30), MIN(30), MAX(30) DIMENSION MED(30), MOD(30), STO(30), MEAN(30) DIMENSION SUM(30), ADD(30), DUM(30) WRITE(10,8) 8 FORMAT(*1*) WRITE(10,7) 7 FORMAT(TS9. TABLE 3.5 WRITE(10,15) FORHAT(T50, STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF DATA ",/) 15 WRITE(10,20) FORMA T(T3,122(*-*),/) 20 WRITE(10,40) FORMAT(T5, *PARAMETER*, T30, *NO. PROJECTS*, T48, *MIN*, T60, *MAX*, T72, *MEAN*, T84, *MEDIAN*, T97, *STD. DEV.*, T113, *MCDE*,/) 40 WRITE(10,20) С READ IN DATA K=17 DC 100,J=1,K READ(6+50) FORMAT(1H0) 50 READ(5,60) PAR(J), PAR(J+20), PAR(J+40) FORMAT(3A10) 60 READ(6,*)N(J),MED(J),MCD(J) L=N(J) REAO(6,*) (X(J,I),I=1,L) MIN(J)=X(J,1) MAX(J)=X(J,L) С CALCULATE MEAN SUM(J)=0. D0 70+I=1+L SUM(J)=SUM(J) + X(J+I) 70 CONTINUE MEAN(J)=SUM(J)/L CALCULATE STANDARD DEVIATION C A00(J)=0. 00 80,I=1,L DUM(J)=(X(J,I)-MEAN(J))*+2 ADD(J)=ADD(J) + DUM(J) 80 CONTINUE STO(J)=(A00(J)/(L-1.))*+0.5 CONTINUE 100

C PRINT OUT DATA

M=17 D0 110,J=1,H WRITE(10,120)PAR(J),PAR(J+20),PAR(J+40),N(J),MIN(J),MAX(J), *MEAN(J),MED(J),STO(J),PGO(J) 120 FORMAT(T5,A10,A10,A10,T30,I5,T45,F7,2,T57,F7,1,T69,F8,2,T81, *F9,2,T93,F10,2,T108,F9,2,/)

110 CONTINUE

WRITE(10+20)

STCP End

19 1. 2 T-21

PROGRAM TABLE1(INPUT,JUTPUT,TAPE6=INPUT,TAPE1C) PROGRAM TO PRINT THE FCLLOWING PARAMETERS FOR EACH OF 24 PROJECTS: PROJECT,FIELD,STATE,COUNTY, AND REGDIST LOAD THIS PROGRAM WITH DATA FILE *T1* DIMENSION PROJ(2),FIELD(2) C C с с WRITE(10,8) WRITE(10,8) FORMAT(*1*) WRITE(10,20) FORMAT(T3,122(*-*),/) WRITE(10,30) FORMAT(T46,*TABLE 2.3: DATABASE PARAMETERS*,/) WRITE(10,20) 8 20 30 4RITE(10,40)
FORMAT(T7,*NUH*,T25,*PR0JECT*,T57,*FIELD*,
*T80,*STATE*,T98,*COUNTY*,T115,*REGDIST*,/) 40 WRITE (10,20) READ IN DATA AND INITIATE LOOP С READ(6,50) Format(1HC) 50 D0 90 +J=1+24 READ(6,60) NUM,PRCJ,FIELD,STATE,COUNTY,REGDIST FORMAT(A5,2A10,2A10,A10,A10,A6) WRITE(10,70) NUM,PROJ,FIELD,STATE,COUNTY,REGDIST FORMAT(T7,A5,T25,2A10,T57,2A10,A10, *T98,A10,T115,A6,/) 60 70 CONTINUE WRITE(10,20) 90

> ST OP EN D

90

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