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A nomographic method for predicting the behavior of a petroleum reservoir.

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A NOMOGRAPHIC METHOD FOR PREDICTING THE BEHAVIOR OF A PETROLEUM RESERVOIR

A NOMOGRAPHIC METHOD FOR PREDICTING THE

BEHAVIOR OF A PETROLEUM RESERVOIR

By

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Material Balance Method of calculating the behavior of petroleum reservoirs is one of the petroleum engineer's most important tools. Introduced in 1936, the Material Balance has undergone many improvements intended to simplify the mathematical techniques of handling the complex physical relationships involved. In spite of all advances in technique, the method remains unwieldy and laborious.

The basic concept of the Material Balance applies the Law of Conservation of Mass to the process of producing petroleum from an underground reservoir. The amount of hydrocarbons originally present in the reservoir must equal the amount produced plus the amount remaining in the ground at any given time during the production life of the reservoir. As normally used, the Material Balance is written volumetrically. It relates the volumes of oil and gas (produced and remaining) by means of their physical characteristics (gas volume, gas solubility and oil shrinkage) at the pressure prevailing in the reservoir.

The Material Balance has been most widely used for the solution of two general problems: the estimation of original oil in place and the prediction of future production performance of a reservoir. The reservoir discussed in this paper will be of the Solution Gas Drive Type, with fixed reservoir volume, and having no gas cap and no water encroachment into the reservoir.

 $\mathbf 1$

A. Estimation of the Original Oil in Place

The quantity of oil and gas originally present in a reservoir may be estimated by observing the drop in reservoir pressure during the production of a certain amount of fluids, and relating these data to the laboratory-measured behavior of the reservoir fluids caused by pressure changes. The volume of reservoir fluids (with known shrinkage and solubility characteristics) which will undergo a certain pressure change because of the removal of a given quantity of these fluids is a fixed quantity. Thus, the drop in reservoir pressure caused by a given amount of oil and gas being produced defines the volume of these fluids originally present.

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 $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v}$

B. Prediction of the Future Production Performance of a Reservoir

For any given pressure assumed to prevail in the reservoir at some future time, the volumes of oil and gas produced (when related to their physical characteristics at that pressure) constitute a unique solution to the equation balancing the original volume of fluid with the volumes produced and remaining. An additional concept is involved however. The permeability of the porous reservoir medium to oil and to gas changes as production proceeds. Thus, as the saturation of liquid in the reservoir decreases as oil is produced, the relative amounts of oil and gas which flow to the well will change. This phenomenon cannot be directly related to the Material Balance itself, yet it determines the relative quantities of oil and gas which will be produced. The relationship between the relative permeability to oil and gas and the liquid saturation in the reservoir must be known or assumed, since it must be considered in arriving at the amounts of oil and gas to be produced. These amounts of oil and gas can then be used to predict a solution to the Material Balance at some assumed future point of pressure and production.

It will be the purpose of this thesis to develop a graphical means for predicting the performance of a depletion drive reservoir based on a modification of the Material Balance equation,.

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II. REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

The use of the Material Balance for estimating oil in place was developed by Schilthuis in 1936.¹ His equation (shown here for a solution gas drive reservoir without gas cap, water encroachment or water production)

$$
N = \frac{n[u + (r_n - s_0)v]}{u - u_0}
$$
 (1)

still remains the most used basic form of the Material Balance.

At about the same time Katz² proposed a tabular method for evaluating oil in place. This method was later shown by Pirson³ to be equivalent to the Schilthuis method.

The use of the Material Balance Equation for prediction of future reservoir performance was proposed considerably later. Babson⁴ developed a trial and error solution based on the Material Balance Equation and the Instantaneous Gas-Oil-Ratio Equation. His method was very cumbersome and required a great deal of computation. It is rarely used today. In the same year, 1944 , Tarner⁵ proposed a solution to the problem which was considerably simpler to use.

Muskat⁶ developed a form of the Material Balance expressed as a differential equation and applied it to prediction of depletion drive reservoir performance.

The most widely used of the Material Balance prediction techniques is the method using a trial and error solution of Schilthuis Equation^{7, 8}. This method requires the simultaneous satisfaction of three equations:

References are listed in the Bibliography. Nomenclature shown in Appendix I.

1. The Material Balance Equation

$$
N = \frac{n[u + (r_n - s_0)v]}{u - u_0}
$$
 (1)

2. The Instantaneous Gas-Oil-Ratio Equation

$$
r_{i} = \frac{\mu_{o}}{\mu_{g}} \frac{\beta}{v} \frac{K_{g}}{K_{o}} + s
$$
 (2)

3. The Liquid Saturation Equation

$$
S_{L} = S_{W} + (1 - S_{W}) \left(\frac{1 - n}{\beta \circ} \beta\right) \tag{3}
$$

The trial and error solution may be conducted in the following manner:

- 1. Assume a certain drop in reservoir pressure
- 2. Estimate the volume of oil which would be produced during this pressure drop
- 3. Using this estimated value of oil production, solve the Liquid Saturation Equation, (3), and obtain the corresponding value of $\frac{12}{K}$ from the known or assumed $\frac{h}{K}$ vs. S_L relationo $K_{\rm O}$ ship.
- μ_{\bullet} Solve Equation (2) for the value of Instantaneous Gas-Oil-Ratio which would obtain at the assumed pressure.
- 5. Using the assumed and estimated values of oil productions gasoil-ratio and fluid characteristic solve the Material Balance Equation. If a balance is obtained, the assumed values were correct. If the equation does not balance, a new value of oil production or pressure is estimated and another trial is made,,

This process is repeated until the equations are satisfied at sufficient pressure points to define the future performance of the reservoir.

The use of the Schilthuis Equation, while more flexible in the handling of such conditions as water encroachment and gas cap expansion, is extremely tedious. For the simplest reservoirs, twenty-five columns of calculations must be used, and five or six trials at each of seven or eight pressure points is not unusual. All this must be performed with a calculating machine. Despite this, it is still the most widely used mathematical prediction technique.

In January, 1955, a prediction method based on the Schilthuis method, but greatly simplified, was published by Tracy.⁹ The Tracy method is the single biggest advance in the use of the Material Balance Equation. This method will be described for the case of a depletion drive reservoir without gas cap or water encroachment.

Tracy took the Schilthuis Equation

$$
N = \frac{n[u + (r_n - s_0)v]}{u - u_0}
$$
 (1)

and substituted values for u, $u^{}_{\rm o}$ and ${\bf r}^{}_{\rm n}$ as follows:

$$
u = \beta + (s_0 - s) v \tag{1}
$$

$$
\mathbf{u}_o = \mathbf{\beta}_o \tag{5}
$$

$$
r_n = \frac{G}{n} \tag{6}
$$

This substitution resulted in:

$$
N = \frac{n(\frac{\beta}{\overline{v}} - s) + G}{(\frac{\beta}{\overline{v}} - s) - (\frac{\beta_0}{\overline{v}} - s_0)}
$$
(7)

which may be expanded to:

$$
N = \frac{n \left(\frac{\beta}{\overline{v}} - s\right)}{\left(\frac{\beta}{\overline{v}} - s\right) - \left(\frac{\beta}{\overline{v}} - s\right)} + \frac{G}{\left(\frac{\beta}{\overline{v}} - s\right) - \left(\frac{\beta}{\overline{v}} - s\right)}
$$
(8)

Thus, n and G are multiplied by coefficients which are functions of pressure only. These coefficients are:

$$
\phi_{\rm n} = \frac{\left(\frac{\beta}{\rm v} - \rm s\right)}{\left(\frac{\beta}{\rm v} - \rm s\right) - \left(\frac{\beta_{\rm O}}{\rm v} - \rm s_{\rm O}\right)}\tag{9}
$$

$$
\phi_{g} = \frac{1}{\left(\frac{\beta}{\overline{v}} - s\right) - \left(\frac{\beta_0}{\overline{v}} - s_0\right)}
$$
(10)

Equation (8) then reduces to:

$$
N = n \phi_n + G \phi_g \tag{11}
$$

In this form, the equation may be used to estimate original oil in place.

Tracy's prediction method uses this equation in two forms with N taken as equal to one barrel of stock and oil.

1. As the Prediction Equation:

$$
\Delta n = \frac{1 - (n_{i-1} \phi_n + G_{i-1} \phi_g)}{\phi_n + \frac{r_i + r_{i-1}}{2} \phi_g}
$$
 (12)

2. As the Material Balance Equation:

$$
n_{i} \phi_{n} + G_{i} \phi_{g} = 1 \qquad (13)
$$

Equations (12) and (13) are used in conjunction with Gas-Oil-Ratio Equation:

$$
r_{i} = \frac{\mu_{0}}{\mu_{g}} \frac{\beta}{V} \frac{K_{g}}{K_{0}} + s
$$
 (2)

and Liquid Saturation Equation:

$$
S_{\mathbf{L}} = S_{\mathbf{W}} + (1 - S_{\mathbf{W}}) \left(\frac{1 - n_{\mathbf{i}}}{\beta_{\mathbf{o}}} \right) \beta \tag{3}
$$

 K_{σ} Equations (2) and (3) being linked by knowledge of the $\frac{p}{K_Q}$ vs. S_L relationship.

The use of Tracy's Prediction Method calls for the following procedure:

1. Starting with a point in production history (with known values of n_1 , G_i ϕ , r_i for a given pressure), assume a new lower pressure point.

2. Estimate an instantaneous gas-oil ratio for this pressure

3. Using this pressure and gas-oil ratio in the Prediction Equation (12), compute a value for \triangle n.

4. Add this value of \triangle n to $n_i - 1$ (n_i from the previous pressure) to get the value of n_s for the new assumed pressure.

 $5.$ Solve the Liquid Saturation Equation, (3), using this value of **V** m_{i} and obtain a value for $\frac{rg}{K_0}$.

6. Using the <u>IE</u> value, solve the Gas-Oil Ratio Equation. This K_{\sim} value of Instantaneous Gas-Oil Ratio should equal that estimated in step 2. If it does not, use the value of r_i found in step 6 as the estimated value in step 2 and re-do steps 2 through 6. When the values of Instantaneous Gas-Oil Ratio in steps 2 and 6 are equal, substitute the values of n_i and

G_j into the Material Balance Equation (13) and solve. The sum of $n_{\mathbf{i}}$ $\phi_{\mathbf{n}}$ + G_i $\phi_{\mathbf{g}}$ should be 1.00 \pm 0.02.

The number of trials required is cut down to two or three in Tracy's method because Instantaneous Gas-Oil Ratio - a relatively insensitive factor - is estimated. This cannot be done in the Schilthuis Equation as the cumulative value of gas-oil ratio, rather than the instantaneous value, is used in the equation. The cumulative gas-oil ratio value cannot be estimated with any degree of accuracy.

Sturdivant, 10, 11, 12 in a series of three articles, expanded upon the use of the Tracy method developing a formula to be used in the event of gas reinjection into the reservoir. It was also shown¹¹ that accuracy to three significant figures in the calculation was sufficient.

III. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

This investigation was conducted with the object of developing a graphical method for solution of the Performance Prediction problem. It was felt that the Prediction Equation developed by Tracy, with its separation of the pressure factors into coefficients, would lend itself to such treatment. In the Schilthuis Equation, the complexity of form appeared to preclude any simple graphical treatment.

Of the various graphical problem solving methods available, nomography appeared as the best for trial and error solutions. The forms of the equations indicated that nomographs of reasonable simplicity could be constructed to solve them. For trial and error solutions, it was felt that the nomographs should be simple enough that the operator could see at a glance how much a given change in one factor would affect the other factors in the problem. Also, with simple, one-setting nomographs, the operator can readily enter the diagram with the dependent variable (or answer) and work backwards to find the value of independent variable (or normal input). This is of value on trial and error solutions. For these reasons, as well as for ease of construction, it was desirable that the nomographs be of the type in which a single line crosses all scales, obtaining the answer in a single setting.

There are a number of nomographs in the literature concerned with various aspects of the Material Balance problem 13,14,15,16 . All of them are quite complex, requiring entry with several individual pressure variables, and requiring several settings of a line before a solution is obtained. These nomographs are general in application and could be used on reservoirs having the same ranges of variables as the nomographs.

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By constructing nomographs for a specific reservoir, all of the fluid characteristics (which are functions of reservoir pressure) and combinations of them, can be treated as a single, or recurring, variable of pressure. This reduces the number of variables to the point where simple, single= setting nomographs can be constructed. Construction of the nomographs for a single reservoir allows selection of optimum scale lengths to specially handle the ranges of the variables for that reservoir. More generalized nomographs would require the ranges of the scales to be broad enough to fit all or several reservoirs. This would result in less accuracy for any particular reservoir.

IV. METHOD OF INVESTIGATION

The four equations used in the Tracy method of prediction were separately investigated to find the forms most likely to yield the simplest nomographs. These equations, given previously as Equations (12) , (13) , (2) and (3) will be considered separately.

A. The Prediction Equation

This equation was given¹⁷ as:

$$
\Delta n = \frac{1 - (n_{\hat{z}} - 1) \phi_n + G_{\hat{z} - 1} \phi_g}{\phi_n + r_a \phi_g}
$$
 (14)

where

$$
r_{a} = \frac{r_{1} + r_{1-1}}{2}
$$
 (15)

It is readily rearranged into this form:

$$
(n_{i-1} + \triangle n) \phi_n + (G_{i-1} + r_a \triangle n) \phi_g = 1
$$
 (16)

In this form, it is seen to be equivalent to the Material Balance Equation as:

$$
n_{\underline{i}-1} + \triangle n = n_{\underline{i}} \tag{17}
$$

and

$$
G_{\underline{i}-\underline{1}} \div r_{\underline{a}} \triangle n = G_{\underline{i}} \tag{18}
$$

If these values are substituted into Equation (16) , the result is the Material Balance Equations

 $n_i \phi_n + G_{i \phi} = 1$ (13)

Returning to the rearranged form of the Prediction Equations

$$
(n_{i-1} + \Delta n) \phi_n + (G_{i-1} + r_{a} \Delta n) \phi_g = 1
$$
 (16)

it is noted that there are four variables:
$(n_{i-1} + \triangle n)$, a function of oil production

Let this be
$$
f_{\tau}
$$
 (u)

 $(G_{i-1} + r_a \triangle n)$, a function of the gas produced with the above amount of oil Let this be $f_2(v)$

 $\phi_{n'}$ a function of reservoir pressure

Let this be f_3 (W)

 $\phi_{\rm g}$, a different function of reservoir pressure

Let this be
$$
f_{\lambda}
$$
 (W)

Thus, Equation (16) can be written as:

$$
f_1(u) \times f_3(w) + f_2(v) \times f_{\mu}(w) = 1
$$
 (17)

Note that the pressure, represented here by "W" is a recurrent variable

Divide Equation (17) by f_{γ} (W), then:

$$
f_1(u) + f_2(v) \cdot \frac{f_{\downarrow}(W)}{f_3(W)} = \frac{1}{f_3(W)}
$$
 (18)

Now let

$$
\frac{f_{\mu}(\mathbf{W})}{f_3(\mathbf{W})} = f_{\mu}(\mathbf{W}), \text{ a different function of pressure}
$$

and

$$
\frac{1}{f_3(W)} = f_6(W)
$$
, another function of pressure.

Equation (18) now becomes;

$$
f_1(u) + f_2(v) \times f_5(w) = f_6(w)
$$
 (19)

This form is capable of representation by a simple nomograph having the following configurations

The geometric proof for this nomograph is given in Appendix IV.

Now, evaluating the pressure functions f^S (W) and f^S (W) results in;

$$
f_{5} (W) = \frac{f_{\perp} (W)}{f_{3} (W)} = \frac{\underset{\text{p}}{\cancel{g}}}{\underset{\text{p}}{\cancel{g}}} = \frac{1}{\left(\underset{\text{v}}{\underbrace{g} - g}\right)} \tag{20}
$$

$$
f_{6} (W) = \frac{1}{\phi_{n}} = 1 - \frac{\left(\frac{\phi_{0}}{v} - s_{0}\right)}{\left(\frac{\phi}{v} - s\right)}
$$
(21)

These values, when substituted into the Prediction Equation, give:

$$
(n_{i-1} + \Delta n) + \frac{(G_{i-1} + r_a \Delta n)}{\left(\frac{\beta}{\gamma} - s\right)} = 1 - \frac{\left(\frac{\beta_0}{\gamma} - s_0\right)}{\left(\frac{\beta}{\gamma} - s\right)}
$$
(22)

Equation (22) is the form of Tracy's Prediction Equation which is solved by the Prediction Equation Nomograph.

B. The Material Balance Equation

This equation is equivalent to the Prediction Equation and can use the same nomograph. One solution of the nomograph serves to satisfy both the Prediction Equation and the Material Balance Equation.

Placed in the form used to construct the nomograph, the Material Balance Equation becomes:

$$
n_{i} + \frac{G_{i}}{\left(\frac{\beta}{V} - s\right)} = 1 - \frac{\left(\frac{\beta_{0}}{V} - s\right)}{\left(\frac{\beta}{V} - s\right)}
$$
(23)

Equation (23) is solved by the Prediction Equation nomograph.

 $\ddot{}$

C. The Liquid Saturation Equation

 K_{\sim} The Liquid Saturation Equation is used to obtain a value of $\frac{1}{V}$ from a known and extrapolated relationship between S_{L} and $\frac{K_g}{K_g}$.

In the equation

$$
S_{L} = S_{W} + (1 - S_{W}) \left(\frac{1 - n_{\underline{i}}}{\mathscr{L}_{\odot}}\right)\beta
$$
 (3)

The values of S_{W} and \mathcal{C}_{o} remain constant. Let S_W be K_1 and let $\left(\frac{1-S_W}{\beta_0}\right)$ be K_2 .

The equation can then be rearranged:

$$
S_{L} - K_{1} = (K_{2}) (\beta) (1 - n_{\underline{i}})
$$
 (24)

 $\mathrm{O}\mathfrak{T}^{\mathrm{a}}$

$$
\text{Log } (S_L - K_1) = \text{Log } K_2 \beta + \text{Log } (1 - n_i)
$$
 (25)

Equation (25) was used to construct a parallel line nomograph with logarithmic scales having the following forms

*For proof of the geometry of this nomograph., see Appendix IV,

Log $(1-n_i)$ is a simple function of n_i and the left scale was therefore graduated directly in units of n_i . Similarly, β , and therefore Log $K_2 \beta$ is a function of pressure, so that the right scale was graduated in units of pressure. The center scale was graduated on one side in units of S_L and by use of the known $\frac{m}{n}$ vs. S_I relationship, the other side was graduated in units of $\frac{K_g}{K_o}$. The finished nomogram appeared as follows: K_{\odot} \mathcal{P} S_{4} Read Enter

inter

D. The Gas-Oil Ratio Equation

In the instantaneous Gas-Oil Ratio Equation

$$
r_{\mathbf{i}} = \frac{\mu_o}{\mu_E} \frac{\mathcal{L}}{v} \frac{K_g}{K_o} + \varepsilon \tag{2}
$$

 $\frac{\mu_0}{\mu_g}$, β , v, and s are specific functions of the reservoir pressure. By combining all of these but s into a single function of pressure, the equation was rearranged to:

$$
r_{\underline{i}} = \frac{K_g}{K_o} \times (F) = s \tag{26}
$$

This form is identical to

$$
f_1(u) - f_2(v) - f_3(w) = f_1(w)
$$
 (27)

where f_{α} (W) and f_{α} (W) are different functions of the recurrent variable, reservoir pressure,

A nomograph, similar in theory^{*} to the Prediction Equation nomograph was constructed. The finished form appeared as follows:

*See Appendix IV for geometric proof.

 $\bar{\mathbf{v}}$

E. Average Gas-Oil Ratio Equation

It was found desirable to construct a very simple nomograph to solve the equation

$$
\frac{r_{i} + r_{i-1}}{2} = r_{a}
$$
 (15)

The equation was rearranged to:

$$
r_i + r_{i-1} = 2 r_a
$$

A nomograph with uniform parallel scales set equal distances apart was constructed.

Entry can be made on any two scales and a value read on the third scale.

V. USE OF THE NOMOGRAPHS TO PREDICT THE PERFORMANCE

OF A SPECIFIC RESERVOIR

To test the application of the nomographic prediction method, an actual reservoir was selected and nomographs constructed using the data available concerning this reservoir. The particular reservoir chosen was a mid-continent limestone reservoir, which is still in the early stages of production. For this reason, it will be called Reservoir $"X."$ The basic data available on Reservoir $"X"$ are listed in Appendix V. In addition, two sets of prediction curves (Pressure and Gas-Oil Ratio Vs. Cumulative Production) were available for comparison with the results obtained in this investigation by the nomographic method. One of these sets of prediction curves was obtained by trial and error use of the Schilthuis Equation. The other was obtained by using Tracy's method.

The insensitivity of instantaneous gas-oil ratio values over a range of incremental oil production values was mentioned in connection with the Tracy method. The relative positions of the n, G and P scales on the Prediction Nomograph show this feature graphically. The pressure scale is very close to the gas production scale. For this reason, it is best to enter the nomogram with an assumed value of oil production, rather than to assume a gas-oil ratio as in the tabulated Tracy method.

The following approach was found to give the easiest solution using the nomograms

1. Set up a tabulation sheet as follows:

2. Select a point of actual production history, knowing pressure, oil production from the bubble point to that pressure, n_j , expressed as a fraction of original oil in place, gas production from the bubble point to that pressure expressed as a function of original oil in place, and instantaneous gas-oil ratio, r_i.

3. Assume a new pressure, 100-200 psi lower than the historical point used. The n_j , G_j and r_j of the historical pressure point now become $\mathfrak{n}_{\mathbf{i}-\mathbf{l}}$, $\mathfrak{G}_{\mathbf{i}-\mathbf{l}}$, and $\mathfrak{r}_{\mathbf{i}-\mathbf{l}}$ in the above tabulation.

 l_i . Estimate an increment of oil production, Δ n. Enter this on

line one of the tabulation. Add to it the n_{i-1} . The sum is n_i .

5. Using this value of n_i at the assumed pressure, enter the prediction nomograph on the n and P scales and read the value of G_{i-1} + Δ n r_a on the G scale. Enter this value on line μ of the tabular sheet and subtract the G_{i-1} from it. The difference is \triangle n r_a.

6. With a slide rule, divide the value of Δ n r_{a} , (line 6) by Δ n (line 1) to get r_a (line 7).

7. Enter the average gas-oil ratio nomograph with r_{i-1} and r_{n} and find r_i (line 9).

 8 . Using n_j (line 3) and Pressure, find $\frac{8}{K}$ from the liquid O nomograph and enter this value on line 10.

9. Enter the gas-oil ratio nomograph with $\frac{K_g}{K_o}$ and Pressure and find the r_i value based on the gas-oil ratio equation. Place on line 11.

10. Compare lines 9 and 11 which will be equal if the assumed value of Δ n was correct.

Note that as assumed values of \triangle n are increased, resulting values of r_j on line 9 (from prediction nomograph) decrease sharply, whereas values of r_i on line 11 (from gas-oil ratio nomograph increase slowly. Thus, if the r_i of line 11 is less than that of line 9, a slight increase of \triangle n will bring them together. If the two values of r_i are within a few hundred of each other, set the Δ n r_a value from line 6 on the slide rule "D" scale, place the value of r_a (line 7) opposite it on the "C" scale, and read a nearly-correct value for \triangle n under the index on the "D" scale.

If this new value of \triangle n causes a radical change in n_i, it may be necessary to enter the nomograph for a new G_{i-1} + \triangle n r_a . However, from the scale positions, it can be seen that G_{i-1} + \triangle n r_a is very insensitive to changes in Δ n at most pressures.

11. If the new value of \triangle n caused more than a slight change in n, re-enter the liquid saturation and gas-oil ratio nomograms to obtain a corrected r_i for line 11.

12 . Lines 9 and 11 should now be within perhaps 50 or 60 of each other. Alter Δ n slightly to bring line 9 in exact agreement with line 10. Add the corrected Δ n to n_{i-1} . The result is n_i .

13. Multiply n_i by the volume of original oil in place for line 12 and add line 13, the production from the original pressure to the bubble point. Line 1μ is the predicted cumulative production at the assumed pressure.

14. Assume a new pressure about 200 psi lower and repeat the process.

Special care in the averaging of r_i and r_{i-1} must be taken when computing at about the peak of the Gas-Oil Ratio Vs. Production Curve, as any averaging process assumes local linearity of a curve. It is best to use smaller pressure increments in this region.

Using the method described above, about two hours were required to calculate the predicted performance using seven pressure steps.

An alternate method was developed which takes about the same time to use, but which may be a little more accurate:

1. Use the same tabulation sheet as shown on page 22 above. In addition, a large "scratch graph sheet" of squared paper (10 x 10 to the inch was used) and a sheet of scratch paper are necessary.

2. Same as step 2 above.

3. Same as step 3 above.

 l_+ . Estimate three values of Δ n quite close together. Jot on scratch sheet or carry mentally.

5. Enter the prediction nomogram with the middle value of Δ n and read a value of G_{i-1} + Δ n r₂. (It will be seen that the change in G_{i-1} + Δ n r_a over the three values of Δ n is so small as to be unreadable.)

6. Subtract G_{i-1} from G_{i-1} + Δ n r_a . Divide Δ n r_a by each of the three values of Δ n from step μ obtaining three values of r_{μ^*} .

 $7.$ On the scratch graph sheet, plot the three values of $\rm r_{\rm a}$ vs. the respective Δ n values.

8. Add the three values of Δ n to n_{in}. Use the resulting 3 values of n_i in the liquid saturation and gas-oil ratio nomographs to obtain three values of r_i .

9. Using the average gas-oil ratio nomograph and entering with r_{i-1} and the three r_i values of step 8, find three values of r_a .

10. Plot these values against \triangle n values on the scratch graph sheet.

11. Where the lines of step 7 and step 10 cross, read the correct values of Δ n and r_a . Enter these values on the tabular sheet and check the computation on the nomographs, comparing tabulation lines nine and 11.

12. Make minor adjustments of Δ n to match line 9 to line 11.

13. Same as step 13 above,

 1μ . Same as step 1μ above.

Figure 1 is a graph comparing the results obtained by the nomographic method with those obtained by trial and error solution of the Schilthuis Equation and by Tracy's method. The results in general are in good agreement. The higher gas-oil ratio values shown on the Schilthuis method curve are thought to have resulted from use of different values of $\mathbf{W}_{\mathbf{V}}$ than were used in the Tracy method and in the construction of the nomographs. The Schilthuis method curve was taken from an engineering consultant's report on Reservoir "X".

Cumulative Oil Production $(10^3$ Bbls.)

Figure 1

Comparison of Reservoir Performance Prediction Results

Legend

- Production History
- Mean of Nomographic Predictions
- Prediction by Schilthuis Equation
	- \circ Prediction by Nomographic Method First Described
	- Prediction by Alternate Nomographic Method Δ
	- Prediction by Tracy's Method $\pmb{\times}$

VI. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This investigation had as its object the development of a graphical technique for predicting production performance of a petroleum reservoir. A graphical technique involving the use of nomographs based on the Tracy method was worked out. Using this method nomographs were constructed to predict the performance of a specific actual reservoir called Reservoir "X." The performance of Reservoir "X" under depletion drive was predicted using these nomographs. The results, compared with the results obtained by other methods, show that the use of nomographs constructed for a specific reservoir gives a forecast of reasonable accuracy.

The total time involved in nomograph construction and in solving the prediction problem with these nomographs proved to be about the same as that required to solve a reservoir problem by the Tracy method. However, reservoir performance predictions are often repeated, starting with a later point in production history, as the field develops. With this in mind, it is believed that the nomographic method would save considerable calculation. A repeated prediction could be run in about two hours using the same nomographs. A repeated calculation, even by the Tracy method, would take \blacktriangleleft commiddwwwbly longer.

As the production history of the field develops, it may be found that the basic field data relating relative permeability ratio and saturation were extrapolated in error. In this event, new and more correct values of may be marked on the center scale of the liquid saturation nomograph without affecting its accuracy for subsequent use.

The limited time available precluded investigating the application of this technique to a reservoir undergoing gas reinjection. It is almost

certain that a set of reasonably simple nomographs could be constructed to handle predictions under various conditions of gas reinjection.

The time available was also too short to allow the method to be applied to reservoirs of differing characteristics. In particular, it should be tried on a sandstone reservoir, on a reservoir with a high initial pressure, and a reservoir with a low initial pressure.

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APPENDIX I

Nomenclature

 S_{W} = Saturation of connate water in the reservoir

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- $s =$ Solution gas-oil ratio, or the solubility of gas in crude oil at reservoir pressure and temperature, cubic feet per barrel
- s_{0} = Value of s at original reservoir pressure
- u = Volume in the reservoir occupied by one barrel of stock tank oil plus all the gas originally in solution in that oil, or the two-phase formation volume factor
- u_{α} = Value of u at original reservoir pressure $u_{\alpha} = \beta_{\alpha}$
- $v =$ Barrels of free gas space occupied in the reservoir by one standard cubic foot of gas
- β = Formation volume factor, or the volume occupied at reservoir conditions by one barrel of stock tank oil plus its dissolved gas
- β = Value of β at original reservoir pressure
- Δn = Increment of oil production between two reservoir pressure steps

 μ_{α} = Viscosity of reservoir oil at reservoir conditions, centipoises $\mu_{\rm g}$ = Viscosity of produced gas, at reservoir pressure and temperature centipoises

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Nomograph for Solution et Prediction Equation

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 $\frac{0.5}{0.72}$ and $\frac{0.5}{0.72}$ and $\frac{0.5}{0.73}$ and $\frac{0.6}{0.73}$ and $\frac{0.6}{0.73$ K_9/K_0 S_{L}

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NOMOGRAPH FOR SOLUTION OF GAS-JIL FRATIO EQUATION $r_i = \frac{u_o}{u_g} \frac{3}{v} \frac{r_g}{r_h} + S$
 $s.e^{u_o} = 20 \text{ ft}^2 \text{ s} + r_i$

Contractor

 0.50 0.45 0.40 0.35 0.36 0.25 0.20 0.15 0.1 $1 - 1 - 1$ $1 - 1$

 ~ 0.01

 $\mathcal{L}_{\rm{max}}$, $\mathcal{L}_{\rm{max}}$

Nomograph for Solution of $\frac{c_1 + c_2}{2} = r_a$ ~ 10

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APPENDIX III

Considerations Affecting the Accuracy of Nomographs

1. Dimensions of the Diagram

The accuracy of a nomograph can be increased by increasing the dimensions of the diagram, within reasonable limits. This is due to the increase of relative accuracy and fineness of scale graduations.

2. Order of Accuracy

Nomographs, in general, have a degree of accuracy exceeding that of a slide rule of similar dimensions. In the nomograph, the ranges of the scales are tailored to the ranges of the variables involved. Short ranges are often expanded into long (and, therefore, more accurate) scales.

3. Decrease in Accuracy due to Complexity

The accuracy of a nomograph decreases sharply when more than one setting of a line must be made to obtain the answer. The more interrelated lines that must be drawn on a given nomograph to obtain a solution, the less accurate the answer will be.

4. Relative Placement of Scales

The accuracy of a nomograph is affected by the relative positions of the scales. If possible, the scale on which the answer is to be read should be between the other two scales.

APPENDIX IV

Geometric Proof for Nomographic Forms Used

A. Prediction Equation and Material Balance Equation

The equation form for the nomograph is:

$$
f_1(u) + f_2(v) \times f_5(w) = f_6(\pi)
$$
 (19)

Take two parallel axes for the variables u and v, and a curved axis in general for the variable W:

The line AB, of length k, joins the zero points of the scales for u and v. Points x and y are any points on the u and v scale, $x = m_1 f_1(u)$ and $y = m_2 f_2 (v)$, where m_1 and m_2 are the respective scale moduli.

Take any index line CD intersecting the scale for W at E. Construct EF parallel to the u and v axes. Let $EF = z$ and $AF = z$ ¹. From similar triangles ECH and EDG:

$$
\frac{x-z}{z!} = \frac{z-y}{k-z!}
$$
\n
$$
(k-z')x = kz - zz' + zz' - yz'
$$
\n
$$
(k-z')x + yz' = kz
$$
\n
$$
x + \left(\frac{z'}{k-z'}\right)(y) = \left(\frac{k}{k-z'}\right)(z)
$$

Substitute for x and y:

$$
m_1 f_1(u) + \left(\frac{z^1}{k-z^1}\right) \left(m_2 f_2(v)\right) = \left(\frac{k}{k-z^1}\right) \left(z\right)
$$

$$
f_1(u) + \left(\frac{m_2}{m_1} \frac{z^1}{k-z^1}\right) \left[f_2(v)\right] = \frac{k}{m_1(k-z^1)} (z)
$$

This equation will become the original equation if f^S (W) and f^S (W) have the following values:

$$
f_5
$$
 (W) = $\frac{m_2 z}{m_1(k-z^*)}$
 f_6 (W) = $\frac{k_2}{m_1(k-z^*)}$

Solving for z and z':

$$
z = \frac{m_2 f_6 (W)}{f_5 (W) + \frac{m_2}{m_1}}
$$

$$
z' = \frac{k f_5 (W)}{f_5 (W) + \frac{m_2}{m_1}}
$$

 $\mathbb{E}\left[\mathbf{X}_{\mathbf{y}}\right] = \mathbf{X}_{\mathbf{y}}\left(\mathbf{X}_{\mathbf{y}}\right) = \mathbf{X}_{\mathbf{y}}\left(\mathbf{X}_{\mathbf{y}}\right) = \mathbf{X}_{\mathbf{y}}\left(\mathbf{X}_{\mathbf{y}}\right) = \mathbf{X}_{\mathbf{y}}\left(\mathbf{X}_{\mathbf{y}}\right)$

Points on the curve for the W-scale are obtained by taking different values of W and determining the corresponding values of z and z'. These points are plotted and a curve may be drawn through them.

B. Gas-Oil Ratio Equation

The form of the equation is:

$$
f_1(u) - f_2(v) - f_3(w) = f_{\mu}(w)
$$
 (27)

This equation is similar in form to that discussed under "A Prediction Equation," and is subject to the same proof, except that the scale for f_2 (v) runs in the opposite direction from the f_1 (W) scale:

So that: $\frac{X-Z}{Z} = \frac{Z+Y}{Y+Z}$ $k- z$ l

After substitution for x and y, this reduces to:

$$
f_1(w) - \left(\frac{m_2}{m_1} \cdot \frac{z!}{k-z!}\right) \left[\begin{array}{cc} f_2(v) \end{array}\right] = \frac{k}{m_1(k-z^*)}
$$

and z and z' are as before:

$$
z = \frac{m_2 f_{\mu} (W)}{f_3 (W) + \frac{m_2}{m_1}}
$$

$$
z' = \frac{k f_3 (W)}{f_3 (W) + \frac{m_2}{m_1}}
$$

Points on the W-scale are determined by taking different values of W and computing the corresponding values of ^z and z'.

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Let ABC be a base line, perpendicular to the three scale axes, and let a and b be the distances between scales.

Draw any index line in general, FH, forming similar triangles DEF and DGH, where BE and GH are parallel to ABC.

From these similar triangles:

$$
\frac{x-z}{a} = \frac{z-y}{b}
$$

which rearranges to:

$$
\frac{x}{a} + \frac{y}{b} = \frac{z}{ab/(a+b)}
$$

Substituting particular functions for x_5 y, and z:

$$
\frac{m_1 f_1(u)}{a} + \frac{m_2 f_2(v)}{b} = \frac{m_3 f_3(w)}{ab/(a+b)}
$$

To reduce this to the original form, let:

$$
a = m_1
$$

$$
b = m_2
$$

$$
\frac{ab}{a + b} = m_3 \text{ or } m_3 = \frac{m_1 m_2}{m_1 + m_2}
$$

This also defines the scale moduli in terms of each other, showing that after m_1 and m_2 are selected, m_3 may be computed from them.

To find the position of the center scale in terms of distance between the outside scales, note that the distance from A to B in terms of AC is:

$$
\frac{a}{a + b} \cdot (AC)
$$

or

$$
\frac{m_1}{m_1 + m_2} \cdot (AC)
$$

D. Average Gas-Oil Ratio Equation

The equation form is:

$$
r_i + r_i = 2 r_a
$$

or

$$
f_1(u) + f_2(v) = f_3(w)
$$

The proof is identical to that for the liquid saturation equation nomograph

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APPENDIX V

Data Concerning Reservoir "X"

A Mid-Continent Limestone Reservoir

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Basic Data

P.V.T. Data

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Volume trically Weighted Average Bottom Hole Pressures

Reservoir Fluid Characteristics ;

18 Gas Viscosity

Reservoir Gas Analysis

Gas gravity at $60^{\circ}F. + 14.7$ psi = 0.819 (Air = 1.000)

Summary of Production:

Production prior to bubble point: 575,000 bbls. STO

Total Volume of Original Oil in Place:

(Calculated by Material Balance and $N = 18,000,000$ Bbls. STO verified by volumetric value) On Basis of $N = 1$ Bbl. STO,

Oil Production, B.P. to 1209 psig

 $n = 0.0319$ Bbl.

Gas Production, BP to 1209 psig

 $G = 46.75$ SCF

Instantaneous Gas-Oil Ratio at 1209 psig

 $r_i = 2400 \text{ SCF}/Bb1.$

APPENDIX VI

Prediction of Performance of Reservoir "X" by Nomographic Method

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 $\label{eq:R1} \frac{d\mathbf{r}}{dt} = \frac{1}{2} \left[\begin{array}{cc} \mathbf{r} & \mathbf{r} & \mathbf{r} \\ \mathbf{r} & \mathbf{r} & \mathbf{r} \end{array} \right] \begin{array}{ll} \mathbf{r} & \mathbf{r} & \mathbf{r} \\ \mathbf{r} & \mathbf{r} & \mathbf{r} \end{array}$

 51

Computation of Scale Lengths for Liquid Saturation Equation

$$
Log (S_L - K_1) = Log (K_2 \beta) + Log (1-n_1)
$$

$$
K_1 = S_W = 0.334
$$
 $K_2 = \frac{(1-S_W)}{\beta_0} = \frac{0.666}{1.280} = 0.5203$

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$$
S_{L} = S_{W} + (1 - S_{W}) \frac{(1 - n_{\underline{i}})}{\beta_{0}} \beta
$$

 $\label{eq:2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^{2} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^{2} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^{2}$

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SECTION

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 $\label{eq:2.1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\int_{\mathbb{R}^3}\left|\frac{d\mathbf{x}}{d\mathbf{x}}\right|^2\,d\mathbf{x}^2\,d\mathbf{x}^2\,d\mathbf{x}^2\,d\mathbf{x}^2\,d\mathbf{x}^2\,d\mathbf{x}^2\,d\mathbf{x}^2\,d\mathbf{x}^2\,d\mathbf{x}^2\,d\mathbf{x}^2\,d\mathbf{x}^2\,d\mathbf{x}^2\,d\mathbf{x}^2\,d\mathbf{x}^2\,d\mathbf{x}^2\,d\mathbf{x}^2\,d\mathbf{x}$

