



## Lecture 8

AAPG

# Estimating Ultimate Recovery (EUR)

**NOTE:** These materials are for educational purposes for undergraduate and graduate students **ONLY**. If you are not a student or faculty member, please do not use these resources.

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## Outline

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- Overview
- Gross Rock Volume
- Reservoir Volume
- Pore Volume
- HC Volume

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## Reservoir Quality - Overview

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- Our ultimate goal is to know how much hydrocarbon (HC) is in the reservoir and what portion we can produce, the estimated ultimate recovery (EUR)
- Our focus is on the amount of HC in place
- It is beyond the scope of this course to estimate the portion that can be produced (typically about 15 to 45% for oil; can be higher for gas)

***So how do we get HC in place?***

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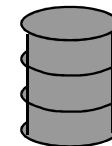
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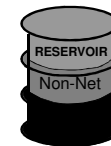
## Obtaining HC in Place

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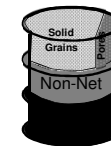
- We start by estimating the total volume of rock
- Then we reduce the volume step-by-step until we get an estimate of the volume of HC in the reservoir – gas in the case of Barracouta



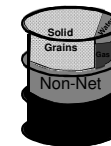
Total Rock Volume



Res Sand Volume




Net Pore Volume




HC Volume

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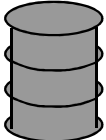


## Total Rock Volume



To get a first approximation, we:

- Map the areal extent of the trap (planimeter)
- Estimate how far down dip the HCs extend
- Convert the isochron map (ms) to an isochore map (m or ft) using velocity data
- Combine the HC extent and the thickness to get a total rock volume (km<sup>3</sup> or acre/ft)




**Total Rock Volume**


Field Area  
\*  
Aver. Thickness  
↓  
Total Rock Vol.

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## Reservoir Rock Volume




To get a first approximation, we:

- Start with the total rock volume
- Estimate the net-to-gross for the reservoir interval (good sands versus waste rock)
- Net-to-gross often varies by the environments of deposition

For Barracouta, we will assume:

- N/G for shoreface = 80%
- N/G for delta plain = 65%
- N/G for fluvial = 50%




**Res Sand Volume**


Total Rx Vol.  
\*  
Net-to-Gross  
↓  
Res. Rock Vol.

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## Pore Volume

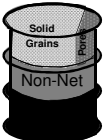


To get a first approximation, we:

- Start with the reservoir sand volume
- Use a porosity value (percentage of volume that represents the pore space)

Porosity often varies by the environments of deposition

- For our field:
  - $\Phi$  for shoreface = 20%
  - $\Phi$  for delta plain = 18%
  - $\Phi$  for fluvial = 16%




**Net Pore Volume**


Res. Sand Vol.  
\*  
Porosity  
↓  
Pore Volume

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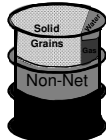
## Hydrocarbon Volume



To get a first approximation, we:

- Start with the net pore volume
- Use a HC saturation value (e.g. 80% HC saturation means 80% of the pore space contains HCs, the other 20% has irreducible water)

For this field, we will assume a HC saturation of 90%



**HC Volume**

Net Pore Vol.  
\*  
HC Saturation  
↓  
HC Volume

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## Recoverable HC

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We need a recovery efficiency to go from HC in place to recoverable HC

We will assume a 70% recovery efficiency

Many factors go into the recovery efficiency, in particular, how effective the reservoir's "plumbing" is, which is related to permeability

There is also a volumetric expansion due to the drop in temperature & pressure

The diagram illustrates the process of recovering hydrocarbons (HC) from a reservoir. It shows a barrel labeled "In Place at Depth" with "Solid Grains" and "Non-Net" sections. A line labeled "Gas Expansion" leads to a barrel labeled "Recovered at Surface". A box on the right shows the calculation: "In-Place HC \* Expan. Factor \* Recovery Eff. = Recoverable V." with a downward arrow.

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## Lecture 9

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# Maturing a Lead Assessment and Risking

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## Maturing a Prospect

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- ✓ 1. Defining prospect elements
- ✓ 2. Estimating trapped HC volumes
3. HC Type
4. Assessment
5. Risk

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## Type of HC: Oil or Gas?

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Qualitative

- From our basin modeling & HC systems analysis, which fluid type should we expect
  - What did the source generate?
  - What did the trap leak or spill?

Quantitative

- Should there be a difference in seismic response (AVO) between an oil-filled reservoir and a gas-filled reservoir?
  - Model response for different rock & fluid properties
- If there should be a difference, which fluid type does the seismic data support?
  - Extract amplitudes from near- and far-angle stacks

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## Qualitative Analysis

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- We model and compare the volume of oil and gas generated within the fetch area of a trap with trap volume
- We analyze:
  - How might the trap been filled with oil?
  - How might the trap been filled with gas?
  - Have some HCs been spilling out of the trap?
  - Where might spilled HCs end up?

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## HC Migration

Let's consider a drop of oil generated in the source interval and its journey to a trap.

Travel in a carrier bed to the top of the closest anticline

The drop moves up to a carrier bed

Primary Migration out of the source

A drop of oil is generated

Carrier

Source

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## Carrier Bed Migration

For basin modeling, we look for regionally mappable sequences that are (or we believe would be) able to handle secondary migration.

We generate depth (or time) structure maps for the tops of these sequences. Then we perform a secondary migration drainage analysis.

Trap W

Synclines are Drainage Divide

Trap E

Carrier

Source

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## Carrier Bed Modeling

Schematic of the surface of a carrier bed showing flow vectors (black arrows), drainage divides (blue lines) and the free gas caps and oil legs of four culminations.

**Map View**

**3D View**

Schroeder & Sylta, 1993


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## Quantitative Analysis

- Use the seismic data to increase our confidence that HCs are present and, perhaps, how much HC volume is present in the trap
- We look for and use DHIs – Direct Hydrocarbon Indicators
- Seismic DHIs are anomalous seismic responses that are caused by the presence of hydrocarbons
- DHIs occur when a change in pore fluids causes a change in the elastic properties of the bulk rock which is seismically detectable (i.e. there is a “fluid effect”)
- DHIs display one or more types of characteristics that are consistent with hydrocarbons filling pores in a rock matrix

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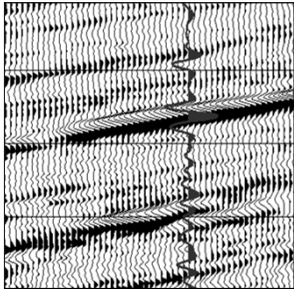


## DHI Characteristics




- Hydrocarbon Indicators
  - Amplitude Strength
  - Impedance Signature
  - AVO Response
  - Evidence of Fluid Contact
    - > Flat Spot
    - > Polarity Reversal
    - > Abrupt Down-Dip Termination
    - > Fit-to-Structure
- Other Indicators
  - Chimneys
  - Sag/Pull-Up
  - Attenuation/Frequency


**Presence of HCs is marked by high reflection amplitudes**



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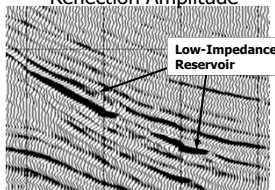


## Impedance Signature



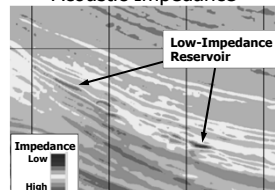
- Hydrocarbon Indicators
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Reflection Amplitude




Low-Impedance Reservoir

Acoustic Impedance




Low-Impedance Reservoir

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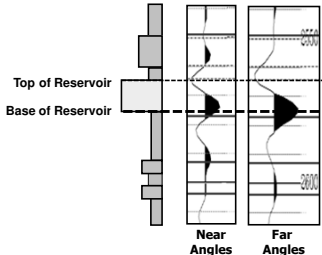


## AVO Response




- Hydrocarbon Indicators
  - Amplitude Strength
  - Impedance Signature
  - AVO Response
  - Evidence of Fluid Contact
    - > Flat Spot
    - > Polarity Reversal
    - > Abrupt Down-Dip Termination
    - > Fit-to-Structure
- Other Indicators
  - Chimneys
  - Sag/Pull-Up
  - Attenuation/Frequency


**Reflection Amplitude changes as a function of Offset**



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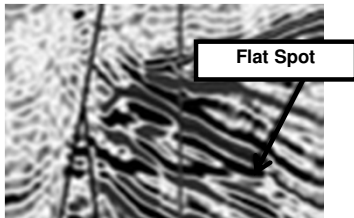


## Flat Spot



- Hydrocarbon Indicators
  - Amplitude Strength
  - Impedance Signature
  - AVO Response
  - Evidence of Fluid Contact
    - > Flat Spot
    - > Polarity Reversal
    - > Abrupt Down-Dip Termination
    - > Fit-to-Structure
- Other Indicators
  - Chimneys
  - Sag/Pull-Up
  - Attenuation/Frequency


**A change from a lighter to a denser fluid results in a reflector**




A fluid contact will be flat in depth; it may not be perfectly flat in time

www.geoexplora.com/exploration/westloppa/

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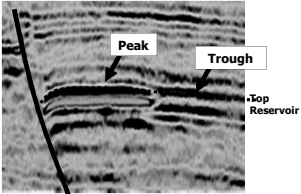


## Polarity Reversal




- Hydrocarbon Indicators
  - Amplitude Strength
  - Impedance Signature
  - AVO Response
  - Evidence of Fluid Contact
    - > Flat Spot
    - > **Polarity Reversal**
    - > Abrupt Down-Dip Termination
    - > Fit-to-Structure
- Other Indicators
  - Chimneys
  - Sag/Pull-Up
  - Attenuation/Frequency

**Reservoir with HC is low impedance; with brine is high impedance**




Alistair Brown, 2010  
Search and Discovery #40514

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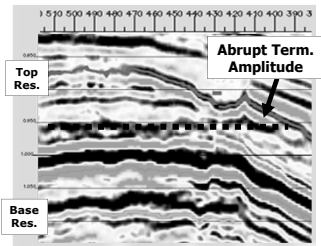


## Abrupt Termination




- Hydrocarbon Indicators
  - Amplitude Strength
  - Impedance Signature
  - AVO Response
  - Evidence of Fluid Contact
    - > Flat Spot
    - > Polarity Reversal
    - > **Abrupt Down-Dip Termination**
    - > Fit-to-Structure
- Other Indicators
  - Chimneys
  - Sag/Pull-Up
  - Attenuation/Frequency


**Amplitudes abruptly terminate downdip at a change in fluid contact**



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## Fit-to-Structure



- Hydrocarbon Indicators
  - Amplitude Strength
  - Impedance Signature
  - AVO Response
  - Evidence of Fluid Contact
    - > Flat Spot
    - > Polarity Reversal
    - > Abrupt Down-Dip Termination
    - > **Fit-to-Structure**
- Other Indicators
  - Chimneys
  - Sag/Pull-Up
  - Attenuation/Frequency

**Amplitude anomaly conforms to a depth (TWT) contour**

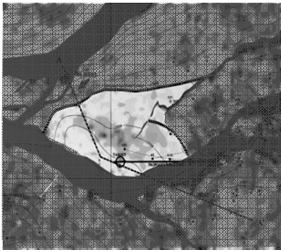




Image courtesy of ExxonMobil

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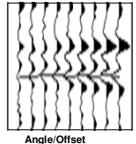
## AVO: Quantification



We quantify the AVO response in terms of two (2) parameters:

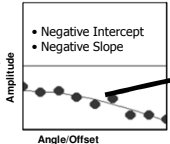
- Intercept (A) - where the curve intersects 0°
- Slope (B) - a linear fit to the AVO data

CDP Gather: HC Leg

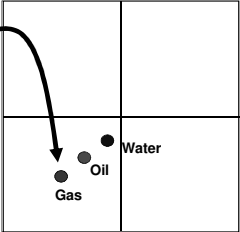


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AVO Curve

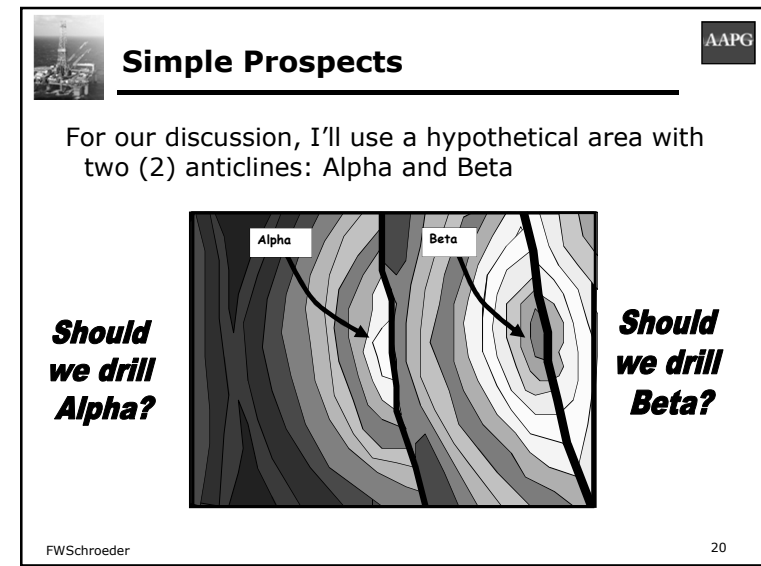
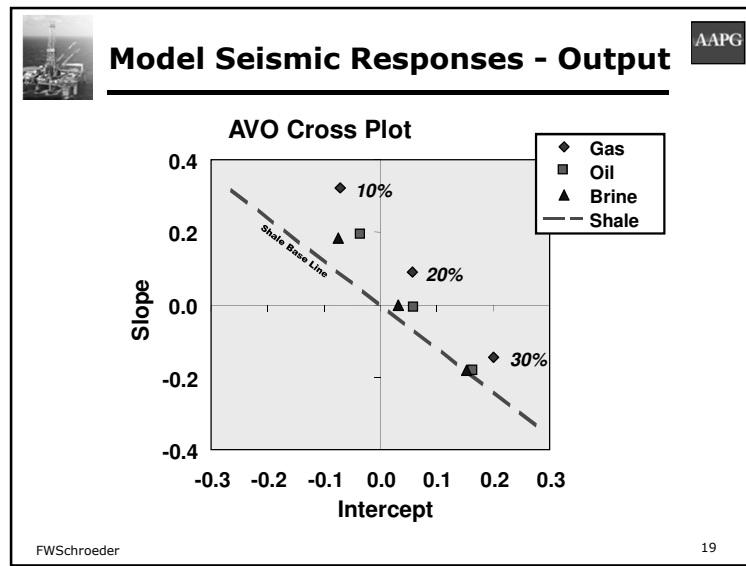
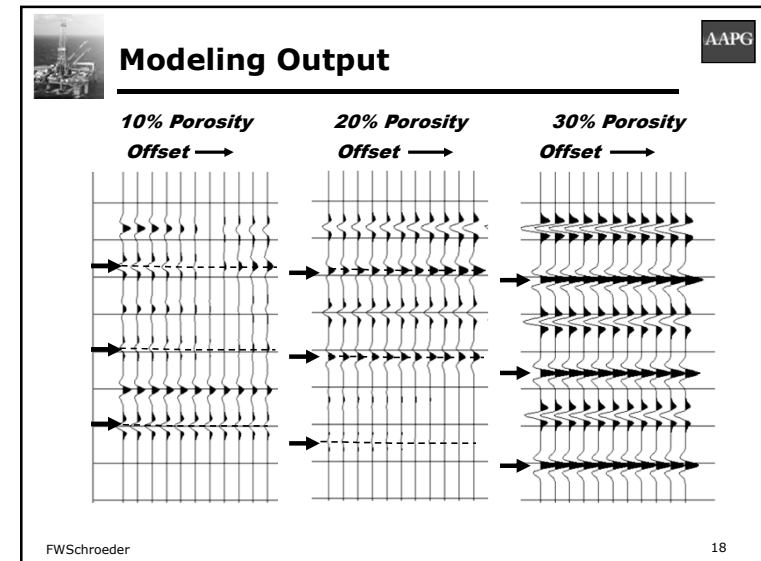
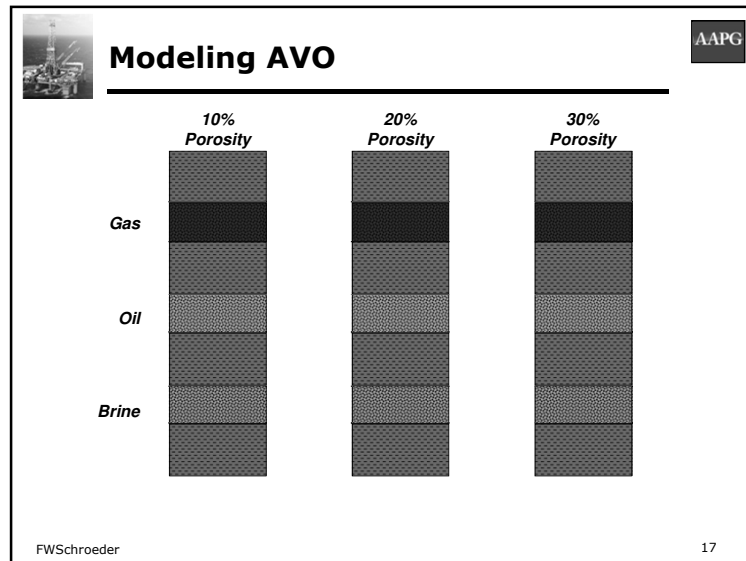


AVO Cross Plot

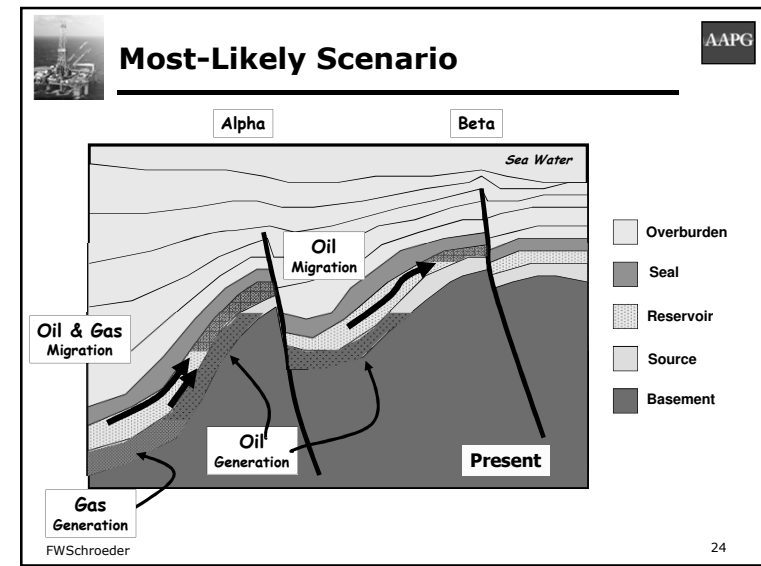
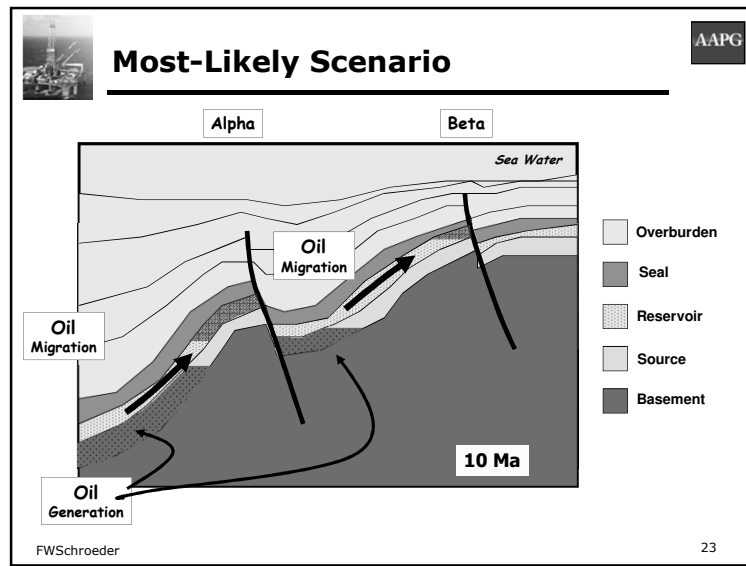
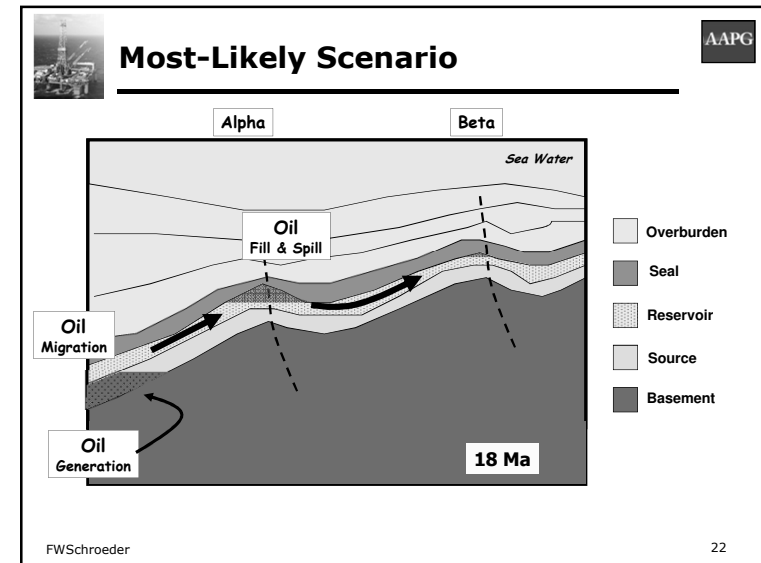
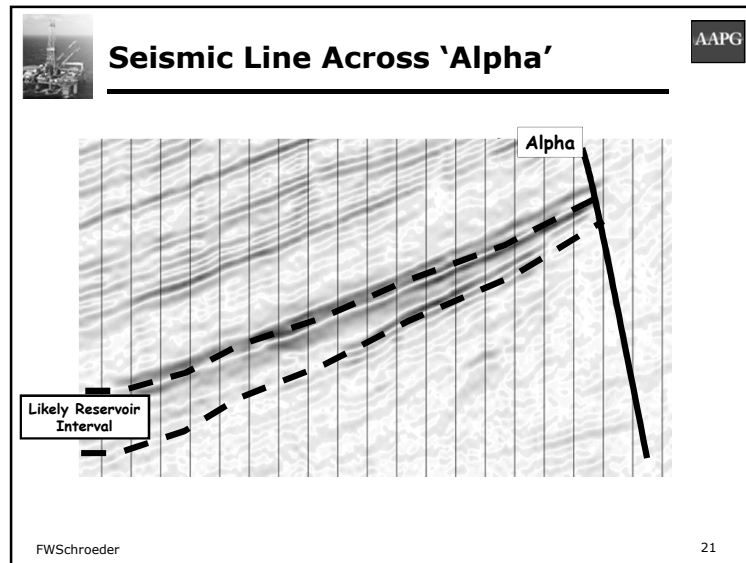


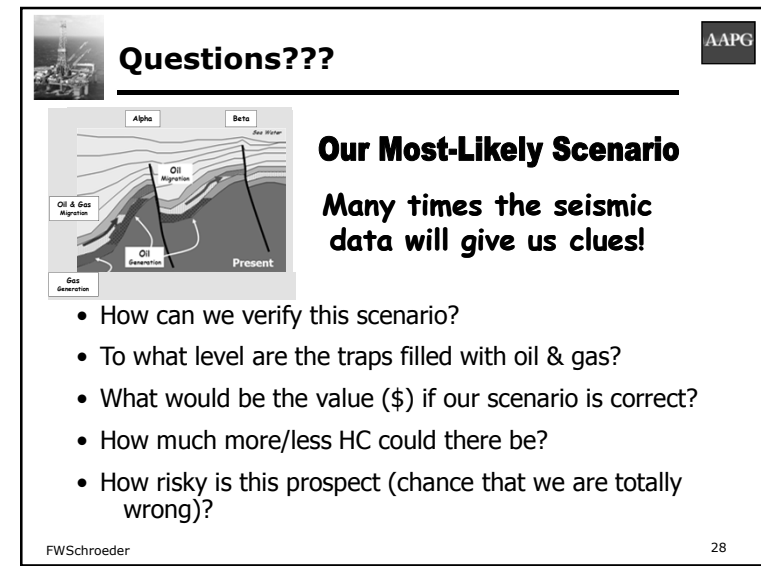
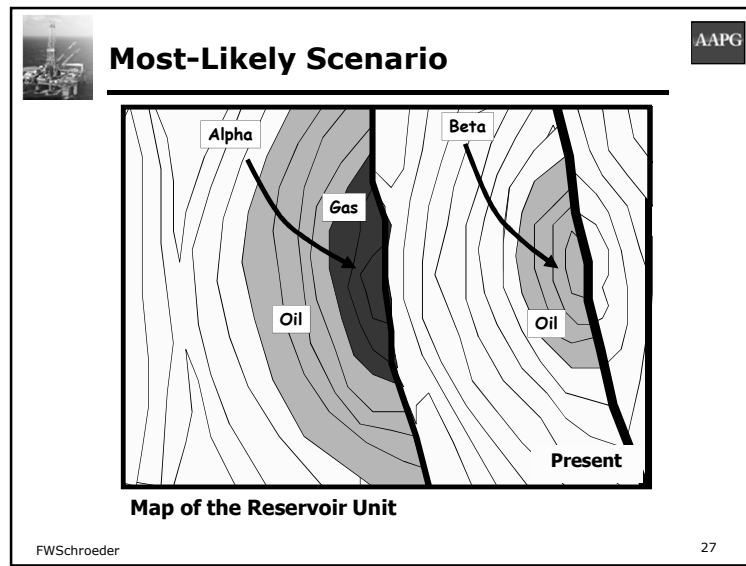
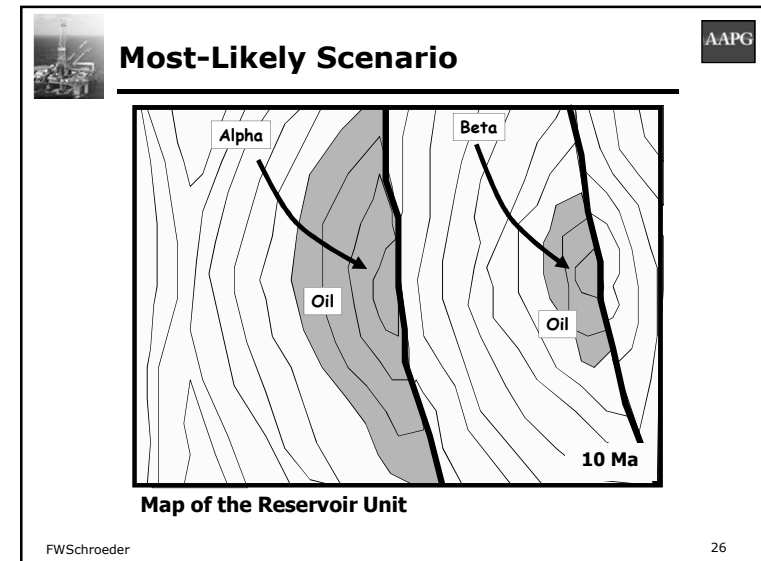
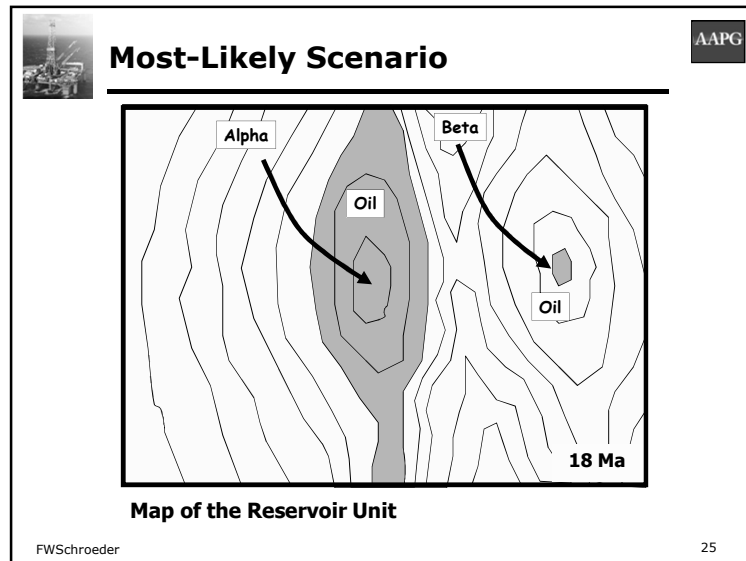
**For some reservoirs, the AVO response differs when gas, oil and water fill the pore space**

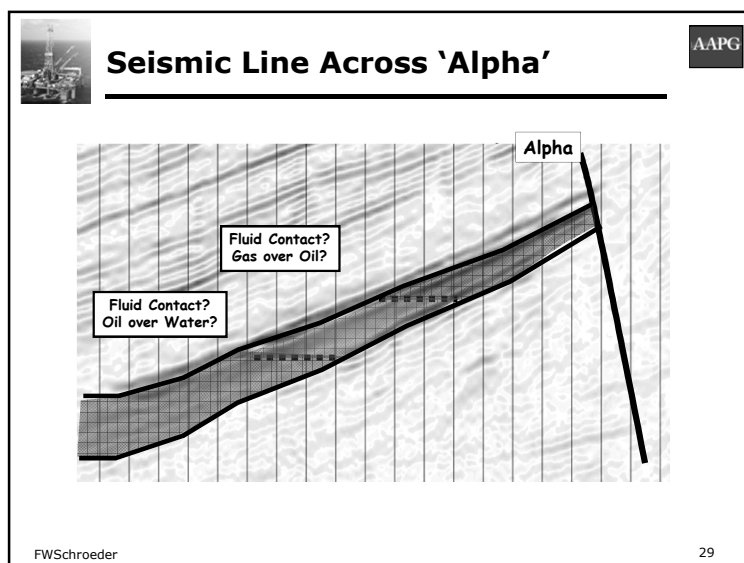
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16











**Maturing a Prospect**

1. Define prospect elements
2. Estimating trap volumes
3. HC Type
4. Assessment
5. Risk

**Deterministic Assessment**

**Probabilistic Assessment**

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**Types of Assessments**

Once a lead has been high-graded into a prospect, we have to assess its potential value

- **Deterministic Assessment**
  - One value for each parameter
  - One final number, e.g., 200 MBO
- **Probabilistic Assessment**
  - A range of values for each parameter
  - A range of outcomes, e.g. 200 ± 50 MBO

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**Deterministic Assessment**

For a Deterministic Assessment, we assign numbers to the parameters related to HC volumes

For example, if:

- the reservoir extends over 18.5 km<sup>2</sup>
- average thickness is 100 m
- the most likely net-to-gross is 35%
- the expected porosity is 28%
- hydrocarbon saturation is 80%
- the formation volume factor is 1.33
- the recovery efficiency is 0.25

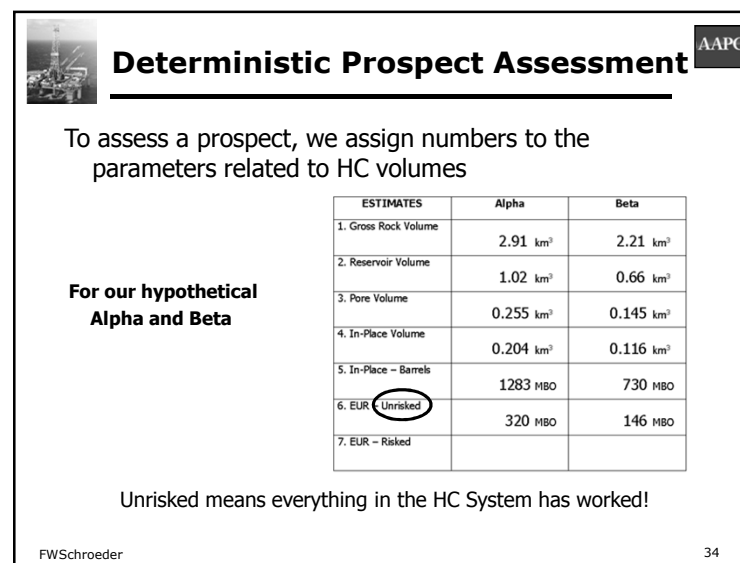
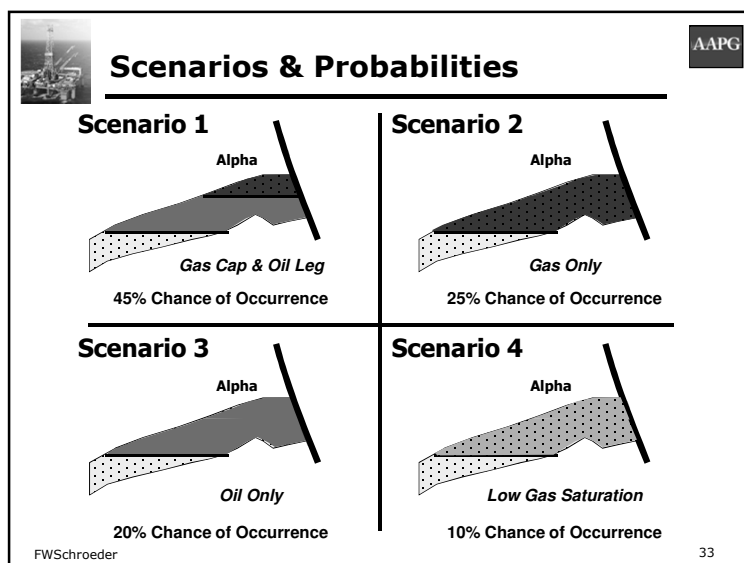
Gross Rock Volume:  
1850 Mm<sup>3</sup> or  
11,100 MB

Oil in Place  
960 MB

Unrisked Recoverable Oil  
320 MB

Unrisked means everything in the HC System has worked!

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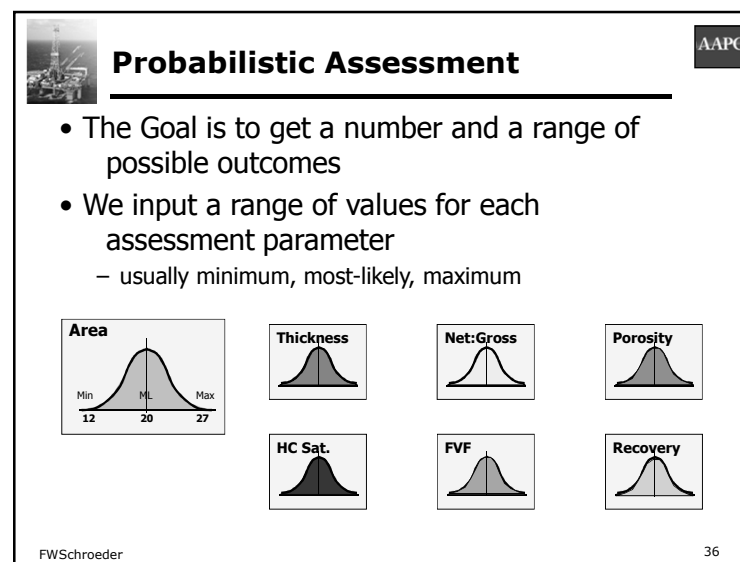


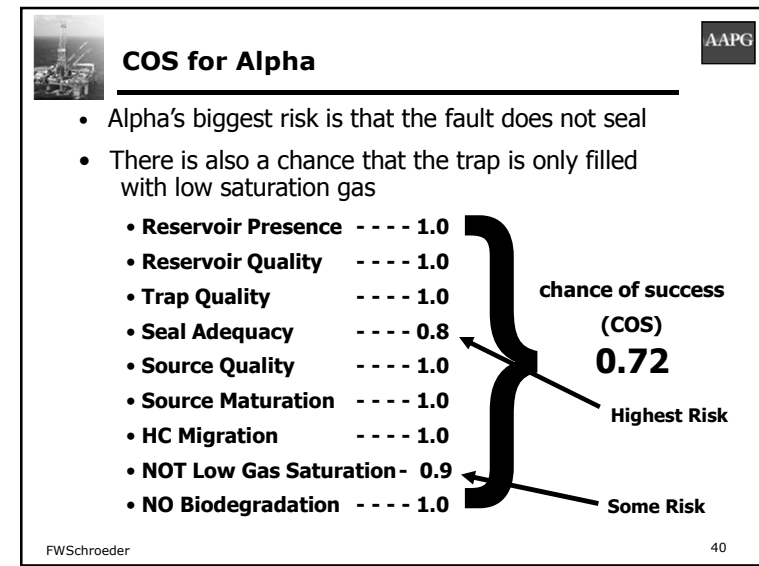
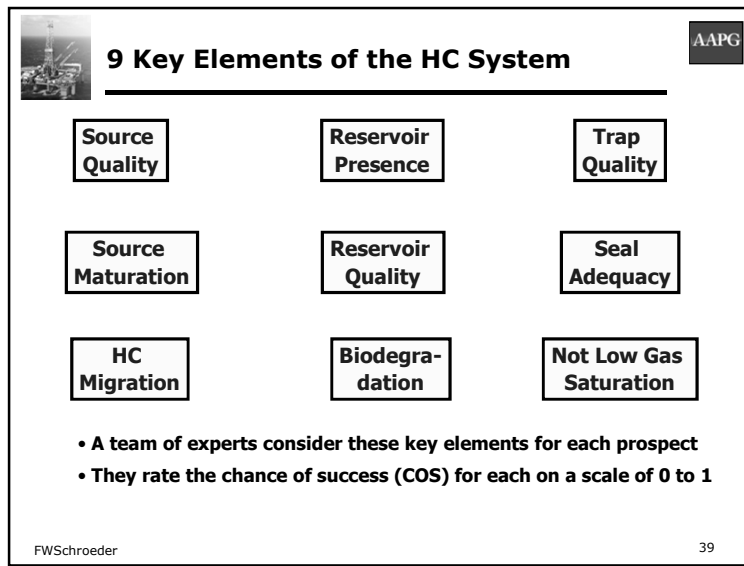
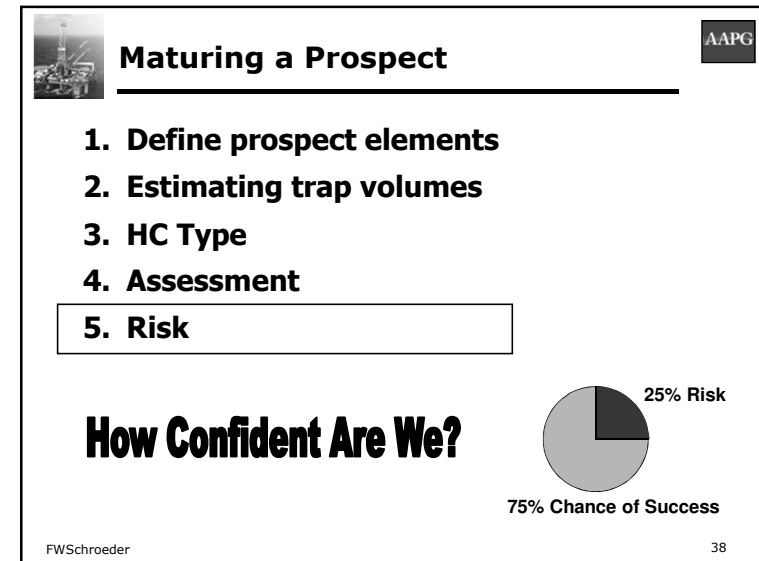
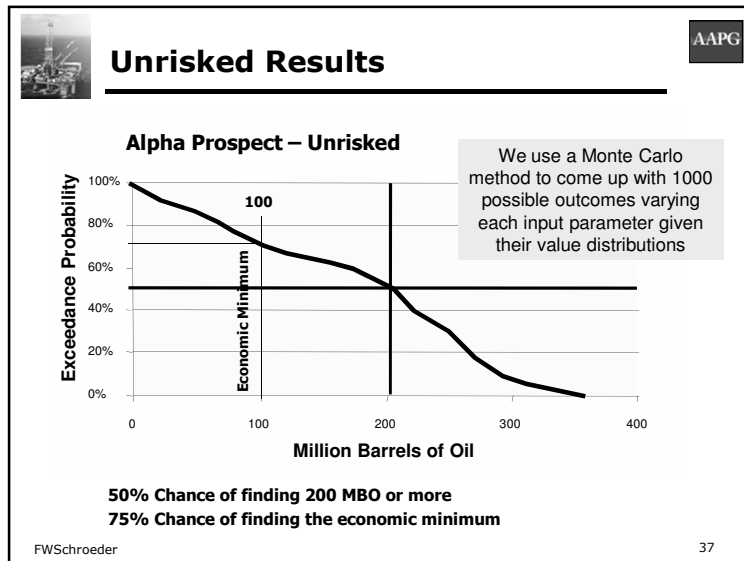
### Alpha Prospect Assessment

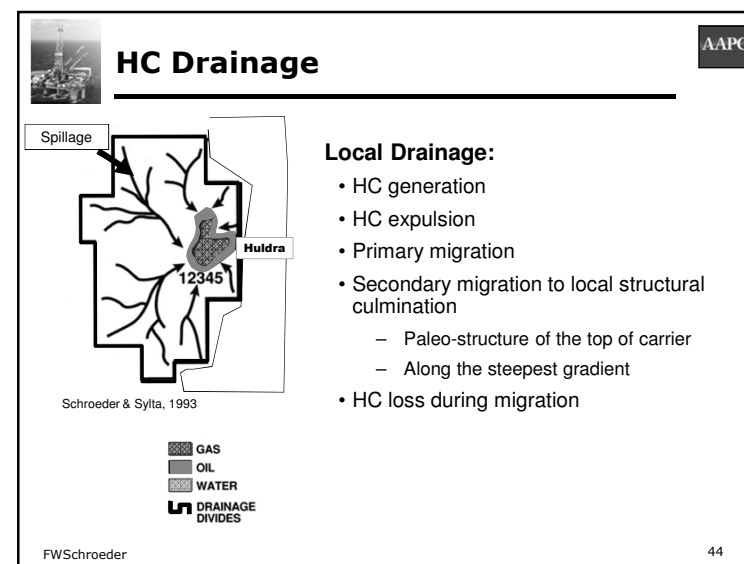
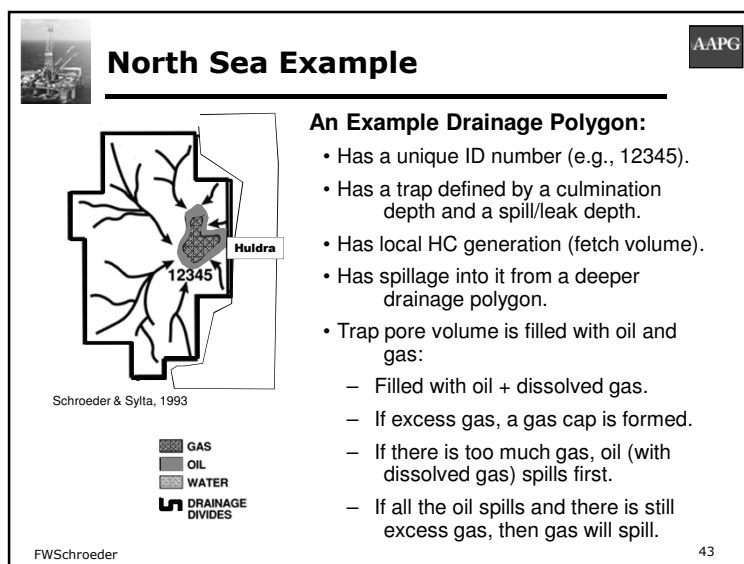
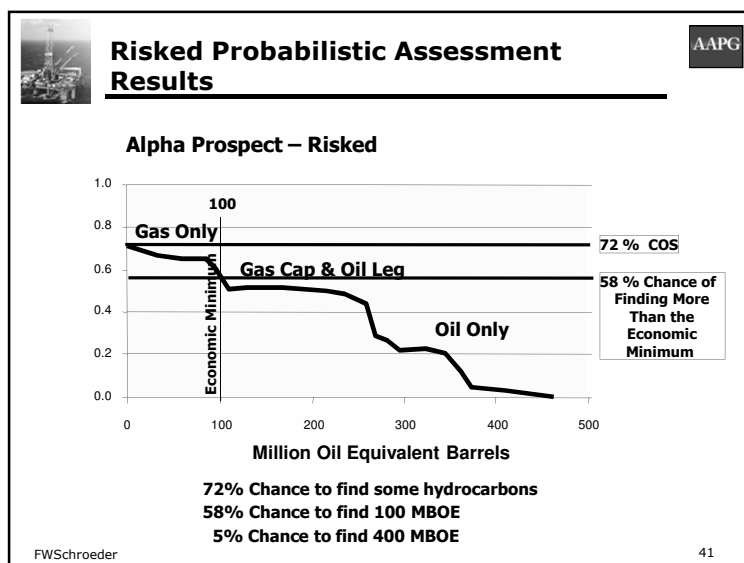
	Oil Million Barrels Oil	Gas Billion Cubic Ft Gas	Oil-Equivalent Million Oil Equivalent Barrels
Scenario 1 Oil & Gas	240 MBO	120 GCF	260 MOEB 6 GCF = 1 MBO
Scenario 2 Gas Only	0 MBO	440 GCF	73 MOEB Uneconomic
Scenario 3 Oil Only	320 MBO	0 GCF	320 MOEB
Scenario 4 Low Gas Saturation	0 MBO	0 GCF	0 MOEB Uneconomic

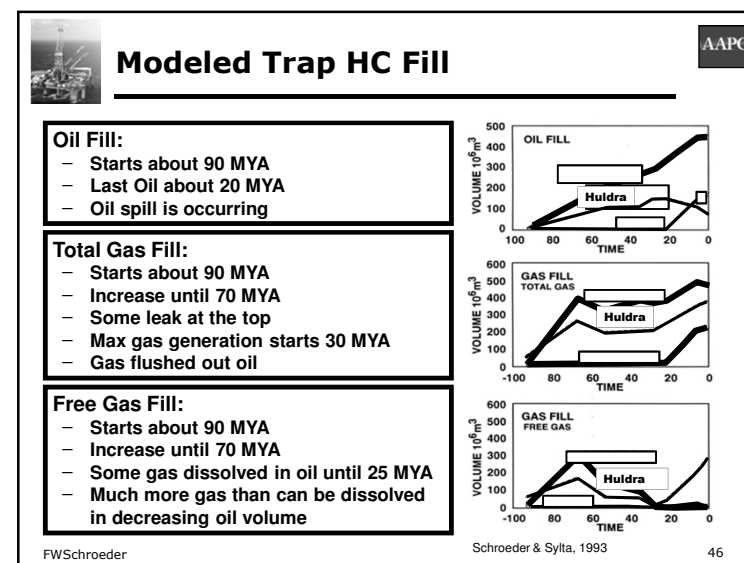
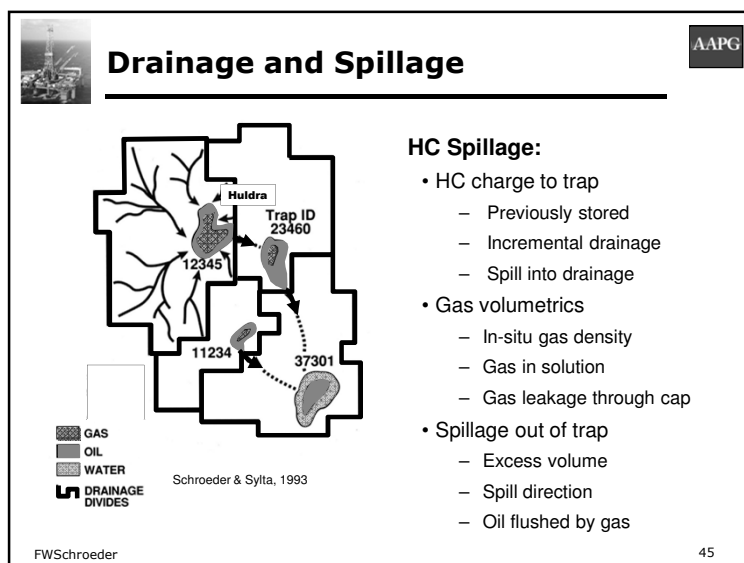
Assuming 100 MOEB is needed to make prospect economic

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## Lecture 10

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# Management Review

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## WARNING

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Should you be preparing for an IBA competition, please note:

- I have guided you through a few typical analysis steps, not a complete analysis
- Each IBA data set is different with different amounts of well and seismic data, so the analysis of each data set would be different
- Don't force your data set and objectives into my example
- You want to use **creativity** in all that you do
- Do NOT expect to mimic this example and win a prize!

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2



## Your Objective

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What is the ultimate goal for on-the-job technical reporting – written or oral?

To **Convey** information that  
results in **Action**

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## What is Your Main Message?

AAPG

- You want the tone, brevity and information transfer that you have in a normal conversation
- Try this:
  - Image you are on the phone with your main reader
  - She is about to go into a meeting with the VP
  - She called you for the latest ... “about that problem we discussed last week, quickly fill me in before I have to go in and speak to the VP in about 3 minutes

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4





## An Informative Outline

Answer five main questions, keeping your primary reader in mind

1. What is my news? – my headlines
2. Why is this important? – the significance to the reader or the company as a whole – cheaper, better, faster. This news could be positive, negative, or to be determined
3. How do you know? – a terse review of the foundational information behind your news, the essentials of your supporting information
4. Now what? – what action should be taken, what is the next step or steps?
5. How much detail should I include in an appendix or back up slides?

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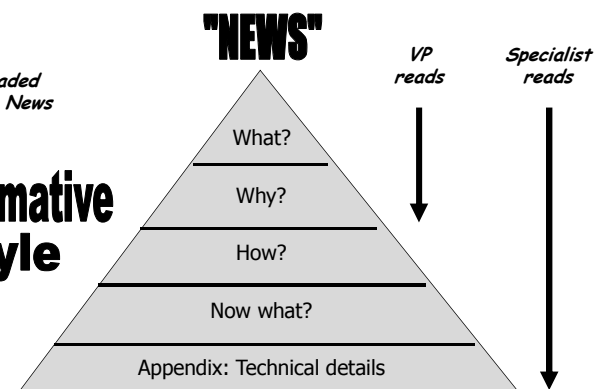
5



## Good Business Report

*Front-loaded  
with the News*

**Informative  
Style**



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6



## Topics for an IBA Report

6. Topics to be covered in the data analysis include:

- a. Geodynamics, plate tectonic setting & tectonic evolution
- b. Sedimentary basins: classification & tectonic setting
- c. Regional paleogeography
- d. Seismic interpretation
- e. Well log interpretation and correlation
- f. Regional stratigraphy/depositional environments/sequence stratigraphic framework
- g. Source presence and quality evaluation
- h. Subsidence history and source rock maturation/migration (including 1D basin modeling)
- i. Seal presence and quality evaluation
- j. Trap (structural and stratigraphic) analysis
- k. Formation evaluation
- l. Reservoir presence and quality evaluation
- m. Subsurface fluids & pressure regimes
- n. Dry hole analysis
- o. Prospect evaluation
- p. Risk assessment and volumetric analysis
- q. Final recommendation for business action

*An economic analysis is not expected and should not be conducted.*

- Not every topic may be appropriate for your data set and recommendations
- Keep in mind your very limited presentation time

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7




## Suggestions


- Plan your report (presentation) **EARLY**
- Use the Informative Outline
- Keep notes about observations and thoughts
- Capture images and texts as you go in a work PPT; it's easier to cut than recreate
- Work on essentials; don't lose too much time on what you don't need

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8



## The Tiger Report




### Our NEWS

- We will propose a wildcat location on a huge anticline with a mean risked reserve of 1.6 TCF and a 70% chance of exceeding the economic minimum of 1.0 TCF


**NOTICE:**

- News is up front
- Call for action
- Packed with info
- Bottom line numbers
- Grabs attention

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## The Tiger Report




### Importance

- First well offshore Antarctica
- This well could open up a new HC province
- We present a gas-only case; there is a reasonable chance for gas with significant oil volumes
- The well will test a huge anticline AND a play concept with upside potential for the basin

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## The Tiger Report




### How do we know

- Location
- Available data
- Play element analysis
- Prospect definition
- Volumetric estimates
- Chance of success determination

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## The Tiger Report



### Now what?

- Proposed wildcat well location
- Cost estimates
- Profit analysis } **Not part of IBA**
- We are seeking your approval to proceed

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## The Tiger Report

AAPG

### Details

- Oral
  - A series of backup slides
- Written
  - Appendix A
  - Appendix B
  - Appendix C
  - Appendix D

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13



## What Follows...

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- I will show my presentation as if this was my project area
- I will not give the presentation – I have discussed most of the materials already
- This is more like a running commentary on what I would include
- Note that I have 23 slides, which might still have to be compressed

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14



## Tiger Wildcat Proposal Slide 1

AAPG

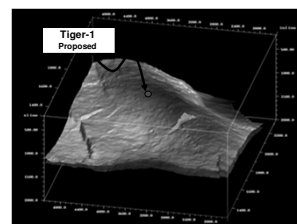
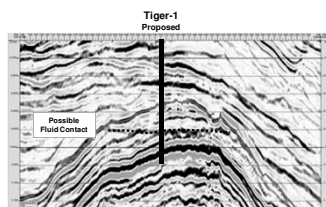
We propose drilling a well in the Ross Basin, Offshore Antarctica

### Risked

Economic Minimum  
 70% Chance to have 1.0 TCF or more  
 68% Chance to have 1.2 TCF or more  
 50% Chance to have 1.6 TCF or more  
 10% Chance to have 2.3 TCF or more

### Ross Evaluation Team

- Chris Jones, Team Lead
- Pat Smith
- Jean White
- Sam Miller
- M. J. Wheeler



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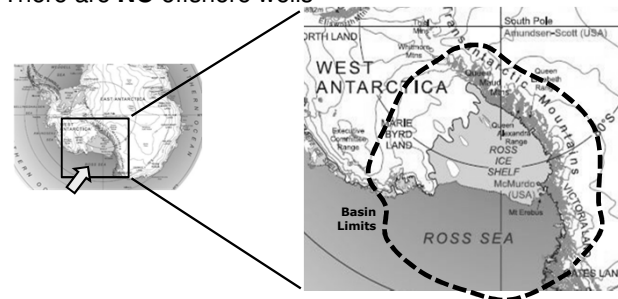
15



## Location

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- A third of the Ross Basin extends onshore
- There are many outcrops of Cretaceous and Paleogene rocks
- There are a number of onshore wells; one gas field
- There are **NO** offshore wells



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16

## Available Data

- 4 outcrops of mid Tertiary strata
- 7 onshore wells penetrating the mid-Tertiary
- One onshore gas field - Penguin
- Sparse offshore grid of 2D seismic data
- One offshore 3D survey

3D seismic

Basin Limits

Our Company's Blocks

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17

## The Ross Basin

### Tectonic Summary

- The basin is an extensional, pull-apart basin
- Rifting started in the Early Cretaceous
- Extension ceased near the end of the Cret.

### Onshore Stratigraphic Summary

- The Neogene has thin, fluvial deposits
- The Oligocene has fluvial to nearshore
- The Eocene is mid slope to shelfal
- The Paleocene has deep water shales
- The Upper K is fluvial to nearshore-offshore

### Geologic History Summary

- During the Upper K there was a regression followed by a minor marine transgression
- A major unconformity occurred at the end of the Cretaceous
- The area subsided rapidly, which resulted in a major marine transgression
- As subsidence slowed, a new regression occurred
- During the Eocene the basin slowly filled (slope to shelfal)
- The regression continued to the present

Geologic Ages	Stratigraphy	
	Inland	Coastal
Paleogene	Sag Phase	Nansen Fm
		Shackleton Shale
Paleocene	Late Rift	Scott Fm
		Fluvial
Cretaceous	Early Rift	Amundsen Fm
		Coastal

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18

## Late Jurassic – Pre-Rifting

### Hillary Formation

- Prior to the onset of rifting between East Antarctica and West Antarctica
- Mostly continental sedimentation with minor marine incursions

Type of Plate Boundary

- Extension
- Transform
- Inactive

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19

## Early Cretaceous – Early Rifting

### Amundsen Formation

- Rifting commenced in the Ross Sea separating East and West Antarctica
- Early syn-rift sediments including volcano-clastics and major coal seams
- First significant marine incursions

Type of Plate Boundary

- Extension
- Transform
- Inactive

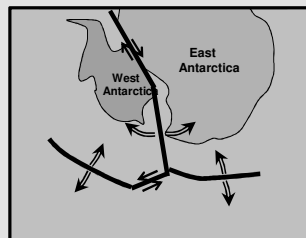
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20

## Upper Cretaceous – Late Rifting

### Scott Formation

- Late syn-rift phase clastic sediments
- Declining clastic sediment input
- As rifting ceased in the Ross Basin (~65 MY), the region collapsed rapidly and fault blocks rotated
- A major transgression occurred



Type of Plate Boundary  
 — Extension  
 — Transform  
 — Inactive

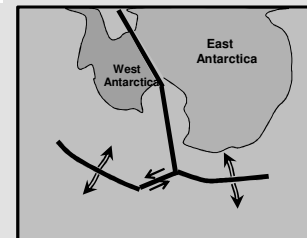
Geologic Ages: Paleogene (Eocene, Paleocene), Mesozoic (Upper, Lower), Cretaceous (Upper, Lower). The Scott Formation is highlighted in the Late Rift phase.

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## Paleocene – Initial Sag Phase

### Nansen FM/Shackleton Member

- Time of a world-class transgression
- Deep marine shales were deposited in the rapidly subsiding basin



Type of Plate Boundary  
 — Extension  
 — Transform  
 — Inactive

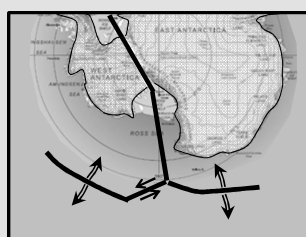
Geologic Ages: Paleogene (Eocene, Paleocene), Mesozoic (Upper, Lower), Cretaceous (Upper, Lower). The Nansen FM/Shackleton Member is highlighted in the Sag Phase.

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## Present Day

### Larson Formation

- The major transgression ceased at the end of the Eocene
- A regression occurred during the Oligocene as sedimentation caught up with decreasing subsidence
- Very little deposition from the Miocene to the present



Type of Plate Boundary  
 — Extension  
 — Transform  
 — Inactive

Geologic Ages: Paleogene (Eocene, Paleocene), Mesozoic (Upper, Lower), Cretaceous (Upper, Lower). The Larson Formation is highlighted in the Early Rift phase.

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## Stratigraphic Chart

Geologic Ages	Stratigraphy		Notes
	Inland	Coastal	
Paleogene	Paleocene: Nansen Fm Eocene: Shackleton Shale, Scott Fm	Nansen Fm Shackleton Member Scott Fm	<b>Sag</b>
Mesozoic	Upper: Bartonian, Lutetian, Ypresian, Thanetian, Senonian, Danian Lower: Maastrichtian, Campanian, Santonian, Coniacian, Turonian, Cenomanian	Amundsen Fm Fluvial	<b>Collapse Late Rift</b>
Cretaceous	Upper: Bartonian, Lutetian, Ypresian, Thanetian, Senonian, Danian Lower: Maastrichtian, Campanian, Santonian, Coniacian, Turonian, Cenomanian	Amundsen Fm Early Rift	<b>Early Rift</b>

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