

359

ground EM surveys and drillings. They show similar results.

*Inversion of Vertical Magnetic Dipole Data over a Layered Structure*

W. E. GLENN, JISOO RYU, W. J. PEEPLES, AND S. H. WARD

An application of the generalized inverse theory to the inversion of measured vertical and horizontal magnetic field components scattered by a layered earth in the presence of a vertical magnetic dipole illustrates the several advantages the inverse technique has over the conventional curve-matching techniques normally employed in geophysical-exploration interpretations. In particular, it provides four important results: (1) a method of direct interpretation on the data which, in the overconstrained case, results in several least-squares solutions; (2) a means to establish a statistical evaluation of the parameter resolution; (3) a basis for posing the interpretation model in a stochastic framework wherein a covariance matrix of input errors may be used to estimate the effect of input noise on parameter resolution; and (4) a method of optimizing experimental design wherein the optimum choice of source frequencies and source-receiver separations can be made from an examination of both the information density matrix and the resolution matrix.

*Electromagnetic Finite Difference Modeling*

ROY J. GREENFIELD

The types of partial differential equations which govern scalar-wave propagation, electric-current flow, and electromagnetic induction phenomena will be discussed. These equations together with their associated boundary conditions can be expressed in terms of finite difference formulas. Some of the methods of solution will be sketched, and the concept of stability will be stated and illustrated by examples.

*Radiation from an Explosion in a Nonuniformly Prestressed Medium*

ANIL GROVER

It is known that both an increase of the cavity size and rupture propagation from an explosion in a prestressed medium will release strain energy stored in the initially strained material, thus affecting the seismic radiation field. Under uniaxial tension, a distribution of shear stresses was produced in the rhomboid-shaped Plexiglas plate. The static stress analysis was done by the photoelastic and analytic methods. A cylindrical explosive charge was used as a source to generate seismic waves. The termination of the crack propagation produced a detectable secondary seismic arrival, corresponding to the stopping phase. The direction of cracks corresponded to the theoretically computed average orientation of the maximum shear

stresses and close to the normal to the applied tension. The velocity of the crack propagation was determined as 0.833 km/sec, 0.61 times the shear-wave velocity in the Plexiglas. The radiation pattern of a P-wave was altered from its cylindrical symmetry. It is concluded from our experiments that no S-waves are generated from a cylindrical symmetric line source in the presence of prestresses and significant inhomogeneity. An increase of S-wave amplitudes might be suggested as the criterion for determining the effect of stored strain energy release and of radial cracking. Distribution of ambient stresses in the medium produced an observable effect on the frequency spectrum of an explosion.

*Microearthquake Studies for Exploration and Development of Geothermal Resources*

R. M. HAMILTON AND P. L. WARD

Detailed studies show that microearthquakes occur in geothermal areas in Iceland and El Salvador and in The Geysers, in California. Most of these earthquakes range in depth from near surface to about 6 km, and hypocenters are either clustered or occur along linear trends subparallel to faults mapped within or near geothermal areas. Parts of the geothermal areas exhibit no seismic activity. The earthquakes apparently are associated with faults traversing the area. These faults may provide the channel for hot water to rise to shallow depth. The earthquakes may be explained by the Hubbert-Rubey theory, which states that the frictional strength of a fault is reduced by increased pore pressure. A more likely explanation may be that the rocks in geothermal areas are weaker than rocks nearby because of hydrothermal alteration, water weakening, or stress corrosion. In any case, if the distribution of microearthquakes is accurately mapped, seismically active faults can be delineated, and this should aid in the exploration for geothermal resources.

*Topographic and Terrain Correction for Airborne Gravity*

SIGMUND HAMMER

A simple, convenient procedure is outlined for evaluating topographic and terrain effects in airborne gravimetry. The method is based on assumed availability of continuous terrain data along a traverse. The terrain is taken to be uniform to infinity in both directions perpendicular to the flight line. In-flight correction for topographic and terrain effects is not a major obstacle in the development of airborne gravity exploration.

*The Emerging Role of Geophysics in the Management Program of the Federal Mineral Estate*

LOWELL G. HAMMONS AND CHARLES H. MORRIS

The Conservation Division of the United States Geological Survey is responsible for the classification

**UNIVERSITY OF UTAH  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
EARTH SCIENCE LAB.**