FORGE 3D Resistivity Model

Milestone 4.1 for FORGE Project 3-2535 : Joint Electromagnetic/Seismic/INSAR Imaging of Spatial-Temporal Fracture Growth and Estimation of Physical Fracture Properties During EGS Resource Development

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Introduction to Baseline Electrical Resistivity Model at FORGE



Section view of 3D MT inversion at the FORGE site

- Magnetotelluric (MT) data were acquired at 122 sites over the FORGE site.
- The MT data were inverted using a 3D MT inversion algorithm (Kordy et al., 2016)
- To discretize the large-scale topography existing in the FORGE site, the MT resistivity model was built on deformed hexahedral meshes.
- LBNL's in-house controlled-source electromagnetic modeling codes define an input Earth model using regular rectangular grids.
- The 3D MT inversion model was converted to a regular grid model using a linear interpolation scheme.
- 50m uniform grids were used in the x- and ydirection and 10m grids in z-direction.

New Coordinate System of 3D Electrical Resistivity Model in Regular Grids



A central part of the model is mapped onto fine rectangular meshes (81*81*241) in the new coordinate system:

- X: -2000 to 2000 m (50m cell size)
- Y: -2000 to 2000 m (50m cell size)
- Z: -350 to 3600m (10~50m cell size)

Larger cell sizes are used beyond the central part of the model.

Central Portion of 3D Electrical Resistivity Model: before stimulation



Electrical Resistivity of Stimulated Zone

(From Modeling and Simulation for Utah FORGE: 2021 Summary and Plans for 2022, Podgorney)



What orientations might be expected?

FOUR STOCHASTIC FRACTURE SETS

Discrete stochastic fractures provided in the previous DFNs have radius values in the 10-150 m range and have only **four constant orientations** corresponding with the mean set values shown in the table below

	Orientation		Intensity	
Set Description	Mean Trend/Plunge [deg]	Mean Strike/Dip [deg]	P ₃₂ [1/m]	[%]
South striking moderately dipping west	88.5/46	178.5/44	0.42	36.1%
East striking steeply dipping south	1.5/13.5	91.5/76.5	0.35	30.1%
North striking steeply dipping east	260/17	350/73	0.20	17.2%
SSW striking vertical	131/5	221/85	0.19	16.6%
-			1.15	100.0%

(personal communication with Aleta Finnila)

Stochastic Fracture Sets Fracture Poles, Upper Hemisphere	Contour Scale
339	10
• 55W striking vertical	8
	6
North striking steeply dipping east	4
South striking moderately dipping west	2
	100
20	120
20 East striking steeply dipping south 140	
200 163	

- *The volume: 400m (width) x 600m (height) x 300m (length)
- Effective medium theories for earth media with fluid-filled fractures (Berryman and Hoversten, 2013, Geophysical Prospecting) are used for estimating electrical resistivity of the stimulated zone.
- The overall 1% porosity of the stimulated zone is distributed into the three directions (well direction: x axis)
 - XY directed fractures: 28%
 - XZ directed fractures: 32%
 - YZ directed fractures: 40%
- Other conditions: 430 F° at the target depth; 400 ppm of NaCl solution
- The resulting electrical resistivity tensor is
 - rho =

301.9157	0	0
0	269.8153	0
0	0	256.2110

• If the fracture planes are aligned only in the YZ plane, the tensor would be

rho =

1.0e+03 *

2.9700	0	0
0	0.1895	0
0	0	0.1895

Central Portion of 3D Electrical Resistivity Model: after stimulation



- The electrical resistivity of the stimulated zone (300m-by-400m-by-600m):
 - 256-302 Ohm-m (1% porosity; 430 F° at the target depth; 400 ppm of NaCl solution)
 - Effective medium theories for earth media with fluid-filled fractures (Berryman and Hoversten, 2013, Geophysical Prospecting) used.