

**DST Analysis, Super-Pickett Analysis to determine pay cut offs, integration of
capillary pressure data with petrophysical log data, and material balance
calculations to validate reservoir pressure history and drive mechanism – Schaben
Field, Ness County, Kansas.**

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DST Analysis, Super-Pickett Analysis to determine pay cut offs, integration of capillary pressure data with petrophysical log data, and material balance calculations to validate reservoir pressure history and drive mechanism – Schaben Field, Ness County, Kansas.

The Schaben field is located in Ness County, Kansas. A detailed reservoir characterization and simulation study was carried out in the northern part of the field under a project funded by DOE's Class 2 program (under contract DE-FC22-93BC14987). The Schaben demonstration site consists of 1720 contiguous acres within the Schaben field and spreads over Sections 19, 29, 30, 31 and 32 in Range 21W/Township 19S and over Sections 23, 24, 25, 26, 35 and 36 in Range 22W/Township 19S ([Figure 1](#)). The objective of this study was to improve reservoir performance of mature oil fields, located in shallow shelf carbonate reservoirs of the Midcontinent, by demonstrating the application of cost-effective tools and techniques to characterize and simulate the reservoir.

Geologic data, production data, and petrophysical log data and their analyses are available over the Internet at <http://www.kgs.ukans.edu/Class2/index.html> and <http://www.kgs.ukans.edu/DPA/Schaben/schabenMain.html>.

DST and Pressure Analysis

[Table 1](#) summarizes the analyses of DST data available for the Schaben field. The detailed DST analysis for each well is present in Appendix A. DST data was available only for a minority of the wells in the study area. Available shut-in pressures (initial shut-in pressure - ISIP and the final shut-in pressure – FSIP) were plotted ([Figure 2](#)) to obtain an understanding of the decline in reservoir pressure. The reservoir pressure declined from a maximum of 1410 psi (December 1963) to a minimum of 1044 psi (May 1998). Since inception the field has produced without any pressure support and the limited reduction in the reservoir pressure indicates of a strong natural pressure support such as a bottom water drive.

Super-Pickett Analysis

The major part of the field was developed between 1963 and 1973. The available petrophysical log data is of different vintages especially the porosity log. The most commonly available source to determine porosity was from the micro-latero log (MLL). Density-neutron logs and sonic logs were available for some of the remaining wells. Super-Pickett cross-plots were used to analyze petrophysical logs. [Table 2](#) summarizes the results of log analysis, and Appendix B contains the Super-Pickett plots from wells in the study area. Consistent Super-Pickett cut-offs were obtained with mud-filtrate resistivity (R_{mf}) values ranging between 0.055 to 0.099 ohm-m and the oil saturation in the flushed zone (R_{os}) ranging between 20 to 40%. S_w values derived from whole core

analyses when compared with that calculated from well logs (MLL and deep resistivity) for wells Moore D1 ([Figure 3](#)) and Humberg 2A ([Figure 4](#)) showed acceptable matches and thereby confirming the validity of the values used for R_{mf} and R_{os} . Tabulation of the petrophysical properties of the perforated intervals revealed the cut-off parameters in Schaben field. For water free production, the BVW cut-off was found to be 0.103 while those for porosity and gamma ray were found to be 0.13 and 40 GAPI units. Wells were found to produce water-free when the BVW values in the perforated intervals was less than the cut-off though the S_w was averaged to be over 65%. The high BVW cut-off appears to indicate that micro-porosity present in the reservoir must be holding a significant volume of water immobile.

Mapping capillary pressure data on Super-Pickett plot

Whole cores from the Mississippian interval were available for the well Lyle Schaben No. 2P, and capillary pressure data were recorded on plugs obtained from this core ([Figure 5](#)). [Figure 6](#) shows capillary pressure data mapped as contours (in feet, shown by magenta lines) of equivalent hydrocarbon column height (above free water level – FWL) on the Super Pickett plot. Expressing capillary pressure as height above the FWL is useful in comparing the column height with the stratigraphic depths of zones that have been color-coded on the Super-Pickett plot. Geologic mapping coupled with the analysis of recovery results from DST and production tests indicates that a uniform oil-water contact (OWC) exists across the study area at a depth of -2145 feet (subsea). The elevation of the kelly bushing for this well is at 2279 feet. The average depth of the perforated interval (4399 to 4404 feet, colored as red points) is 4401.5 feet, and it is therefore 22.5 feet above the OWC. In [Figure 6](#), the perforated zone lies between the 21 and 24 feet contours. The capillary pressure data mapped on the Super-Pickett plot come from core plug samples numbered as 10, 15 and 42. The curved path followed by each pressure or hydrocarbon-column-height contour is a reflection of the overall change in pore-throat distribution with porosity within the petrofacies represented by the core plugs. A uniform trend of the pressure/height contours reveals that irrespective of porosity, within the range of porosity of the core plugs, the petrofacies has common value for microporosity. If plotted data came from plugs that belong to different petrofacies, then it would result in abrupt changes and disruptions in the trends of the capillary pressure/height contours. For petrophysically homogeneous reservoirs, a set of capillary pressure curves serves as reference features of a continuum, i.e., curves for intermediate porosities can be deduced by interpolating between the available curves. The breaks or disruptions in the contour trends indicate that interpolations are invalid because the plug samples, whose data have been plotted, belong to different petrofacies. Based on the Super-Pickett analysis, the BVW_i for the reservoir rock was assumed to be 0.103. The overlay of the capillary pressure data on the Super-Pickett plot ([Figure 6](#)) shows that for the average porosity of the pay interval, the state of irreducible saturation occurs at a minimum height of 24 feet above the OWC. Thus, the perforated interval in Lyle Schaben No. 2P can be expected to produce both water and oil, and upon testing it produced 53 bopd and 97 bwpd.

Material Balance Calculations – Schaben Field

The volumetric estimate of OOIP for the Schaben field (a Mississippian reservoir located in Ness county, Kansas) was calculated to be 37.8 MMSTB. This reservoir has been in production since 1963. The initial reservoir pressure was approximated at 1370 psi by using the DST pressure recordings from the early wells. PVT properties were generated by using standard correlations and the bubble point pressure was calculated to be 225 psi. All the wells in the field produce under artificial lift. The current fluid columns in most wells indicate that the reservoir is producing significantly above the bubble point pressure. Gas production at the surface has been negligible enough to escape any recording. Due to the lack of recorded gas production, it was assumed that the reservoir has no gas cap and the oil has no significant amount of dissolved gas in it. The main source of energy driving the production from the reservoir comes from the strong natural water drive.

For a reservoir with no gas cap and being driven by an aquifer, the generalized material balance equation gets simplified as:

$$\frac{F}{E} = N + \frac{W_e}{E}$$

where

$$E = E_o + E_{fw}$$

In the above equation, F denotes the underground withdrawal of fluids from the reservoir, E_o represents the change in volume of the oil and the dissolved gas, E_{fw} stands for the connate water expansion and the reduction in pore volume, and W_e stands for the reservoir volume of water that influxed from the aquifer. Also, the initial volume of oil in the reservoir is defined as N. This simplified material balance equation appears as a straight line, with an unit slope, when F/E is plotted against W_e/E and the Y-axis intercept (i.e. N) of this line estimates the OOIP. This estimate of the OOIP should be comparable to that obtained from volumetric calculations if correct assumptions have been made about the drive mechanism and in the calculation of the aquifer water influx. The material balance OOIP is considered to be the “active”¹ or “effective” initial oil in place in the reservoir, i.e., it represents the oil volume that contributes to the production and pressure history of the field. The volumetric OOIP is generally higher than that calculated by material balance because it includes immobile oil trapped in the reservoir heterogeneity. A difference, between the OOIP calculated from material balance and that calculated from volumetrics, of less than 10%¹ is regarded as an acceptable tolerance in the industry. Reservoir dimensions along with its petrophysical properties and cut-offs may need to be re-evaluated when the material balance OOIP exceeds that from volumetrics and there is confidence on the assumptions made in the mass balance calculations.

Water influx calculations are based on the geological and petrophysical assumptions about the aquifer. Incorrect choices of aquifer parameters will result in deviation of the data from the straight line when F/E is plotted against W_e/E . Modifications of the aquifer

parameters through the process of “aquifer fitting” enables matching the observed pressure and production data to the geomodel describing the reservoir and the aquifer. Aquifer fitting assumes importance because most often very little is known about the aquifer geometry and petrophysics because wells are not planned to be drilled into the aquifer. Water influx from very small aquifers can be calculated by time-independent material balance equations. However, for large reservoirs the aquifer boundary takes a finite time to respond to reservoir pressure changes and thus time dependent models such as Hurst and van Everdingen, Fetkovitch, Carter and Tracy or Allerd and Chen are used to calculate the water influx, W_e .

An aquifer model that matches the reservoir pressure and production data is generally determined through a process of trial and error. However most often, satisfactory aquifer models are not unique. Problems regarding the data not falling along the expected straight line may persist despite all efforts at aquifer fitting because of incorrect identification of the reservoir drive mechanism. Initial assumptions about the reservoir drive mechanism are indirect. They are based on the pressure and production performance profiles of the reservoir and thus they carry room for revisions. Identification of reservoir drive mechanism is very important because it helps to refine the aquifer description and definition and also estimate the size of the initial gas cap. As in many cases, direct measured data of different aquifer parameters such as porosity, permeability, thickness, rock and fluid compressibilities were not available for Schaben field and these were inferred from those of the reservoir. Few logs penetrate the aquifer in this region and they used to estimate the height of the aquifer. The reservoir radius was calculated volumetrically and was found to be 7000 feet. The Carter-Tracy method was used for water influx calculations because it is the time-dependent aquifer modeling option available in the reservoir simulator BOAST3.

Material balance calculations require adequate field pressure and production profiles along with the PVT data of reservoir fluids. One method to determine the average field pressure is by volume weighting the shut-in pressures within the drainage area of each well. Regular recording of reservoir pressure at each well form the basis of material balance calculations. Unfortunately for Schaben field, there is no recorded history of pressure measurements carried out at individual wells. Only current operating water column heights are available for most of the wells. PVT data was generated from standard correlations. With limited pressure data available, it is impossible to obtain the average reservoir pressure through the life of the field. Thus, the material balance calculations in this study were used to generate the average reservoir pressure profile through the life of the field and also to check if the aquifer description and assumed drive mechanism could support the reported field performance data. This process necessitated the assumption that the OOIP reported from volumetric studies was adequate.

The initial volumetric calculations were carried out using the first nine years of production data and historically this was the period during which most of the field development took place. Yearly oil (N_p) and water (W_p) production data from Schaben field for the first 9 years is recorded in [Table 3](#) along with the calculations for the underground volume withdrawal (F) of fluids. The Carter-Tracy formulation was used to

calculate the water influx (W_e) from an infinite aquifer. **Table 3** also shows the water influx calculations². The aquifer parameters, assumed initially, were varied within geologic and engineering limits till the plot between F/E versus W_e/E showed as a straight line with unit slope (**Figure 7**) and with an intercept showing an OOIP value (36.7 MMSTB) that is lower (within 10%) but near the value calculated from volumetrics, i.e., 37.8 MMSTB. Aquifer properties that resulted in this match are tabulated in **Table 3**. The average reservoir pressure (for the first 9 years) as a result of this match is plotted as the “basecase” profile in **Figure 8**.

Several sensitivity calculations were carried out by varying different parameters such as aquifer height (**Table 4**), reservoir radius (**Table 5**), aquifer permeability (**Table 6**), and aquifer porosity (**Table 7**). In each instance, the value of only one of the above parameters was changed. The average reservoir pressure profile was generated, each time, by trial and error such that the resultant F/E versus W_e/E plot was a straight line with unit slope and its intercept read an OOIP value that was close and yet less (within 10%) than 37.8 MMSTB. The resultant pressure profiles, generated from each of the above cases, have been plotted in **Figure 8** and it clearly indicates the results of varying different aquifer parameters and the reservoir radius. Available fluid level data indicate that in the majority of the wells the reservoir is currently producing against a backpressure varying between 400 to 1100 psi. A “bestcase” scenario was developed by modifying the assumptions of the “basecase” model by using the information from the above sensitivity studies. This scenario was developed to incorporate known facts such as the field operating under a strong water drive and that it is currently producing against a significant backpressure. The various aquifer and reservoir parameters used in the “bestcase” mass balance calculations are presented in **Table 8**. In this case, the calculations were carried over a period of 34 years. The average reservoir pressure profile (**Figure 9**) shows a rapid decline from 1370 psi to 1000 psi due to the production from the first 9 years. Thereafter, the reservoir pressure stabilized near 1000 psi for the next 14 years and then gradually declined to 880 psi over the next 11 years. **Figure 10** shows the plot between F/E versus W_e/E for the “bestcase” scenario.

Output

Material balance study confirms that the volumetric description of the reservoir-aquifer system together with the natural water drive mechanism is able to support the reported fluid production history of the field. The above process of “aquifer-fitting” enabled in fine tuning some of the aquifer parameters such as its height, porosity, permeability, and effective compressibility, and also the reservoir radius. These parameters are all required in building an input file for reservoir simulation. Due to the non-availability of the average reservoir pressure profile for the Schaben field, the mass balance calculations could not be used to check the validity of the volumetric description of the reservoir. In this study, the volumetric OOIP was assumed to be correct and was used to calculate an average reservoir pressure profile. The reservoir pressure profile controls the PVT properties of the reservoir fluids and hence the mobility ratios operating during the production life of the field. The extent of the change in average reservoir pressure is

indicative of the amount of change occurring in the fluid viscosities and this plays a critical role in reservoir simulation studies.

Material balance calculations are useful tools to check the coherency between different aspects of reservoir description. These calculations help to tie together the geomodel of the reservoir, the log analysis at individual wells, the mapping of petrophysical parameters, the PVT data and the profiles of field production and pressure. They also help to identify the reservoir drive mechanism and when applicable enable description of the aquifer and provide an initial volume estimate for the gas cap. This exercise assumes significance especially because all the above mentioned aspects of reservoir characterization comprise sections of the input file for a simulation study.

References:

1. Practice of Reservoir Engineering by L.P. Dake
2. $P(t_D)$ is the Carter-Tracy's constant terminal rate solution of the diffusivity equation and was calculated by using Franchi's regression coefficients¹⁰, i.e., $P(t_D) = a_0 + a_1 t_D + a_2 \ln t_D + a_3 (\ln t_D)^2$. The equation¹⁰ stated below was applied to calculate the water influx W_e at the current time step j .

$$W_e(t_D) = W_e(t_{Dj-1}) + \frac{U \Delta P(t_D) - W_e(t_{Dj-1}) P'(t_{Dj})}{P(t_D) - t_{Dj-1} P'(t_{Dj})} (t_D - t_{Dj-1})$$

The aquifer constant is expressed as $U = 1.119 f \phi h c r_o^2$ (bbl/psi) where f is fractional encroachment angle, h is the aquifer thickness in feet, r_o is the reservoir radius in feet, ϕ the fractional aquifer porosity, and the c the effective aquifer compressibility in psi^{-1} .

B_o is calculated using $B_o = B_{ob} \text{EXP}[c_o(P_b - P)]$ where B_{ob} ($= 1.037 \text{ rb/stb}$) is the formation volume factor at bubble point, c_o ($= 0.000005 \text{ psi}^{-1}$) is the oil compressibility and P_b is the bubble point pressure.

$\Delta P = P_i - P$, where $P_i = 1370 \text{ psi}$.

$E = B_{oi} c_{eff} \Delta P$ where B_{oi} is the formation volume factor at P_i and c_{eff} is the effective reservoir compressibility.

$F = N_p B_o + W_p B_w$ where B_w ($= 1.0117 \text{ rb/stb}$) is the formation volume factor for water at 1000 psi.

t_D = dimensionless time $= 0.00634 [kt / (\phi \mu c r_o^2)]$ where k is permeability in md, ϕ is fractional aquifer porosity, c is effective aquifer compressibility in psi^{-1} , r_o is the reservoir radius in feet, and t is time in days.

$P'(t_D)$ is the time derivative of the $P(t_D)$

Schaben Field
Ness County, Kansas

Well locations - Schaben Field, Ness County, Kansas

Boast 3 Simulation
Grid: 220 ft X 220 ft

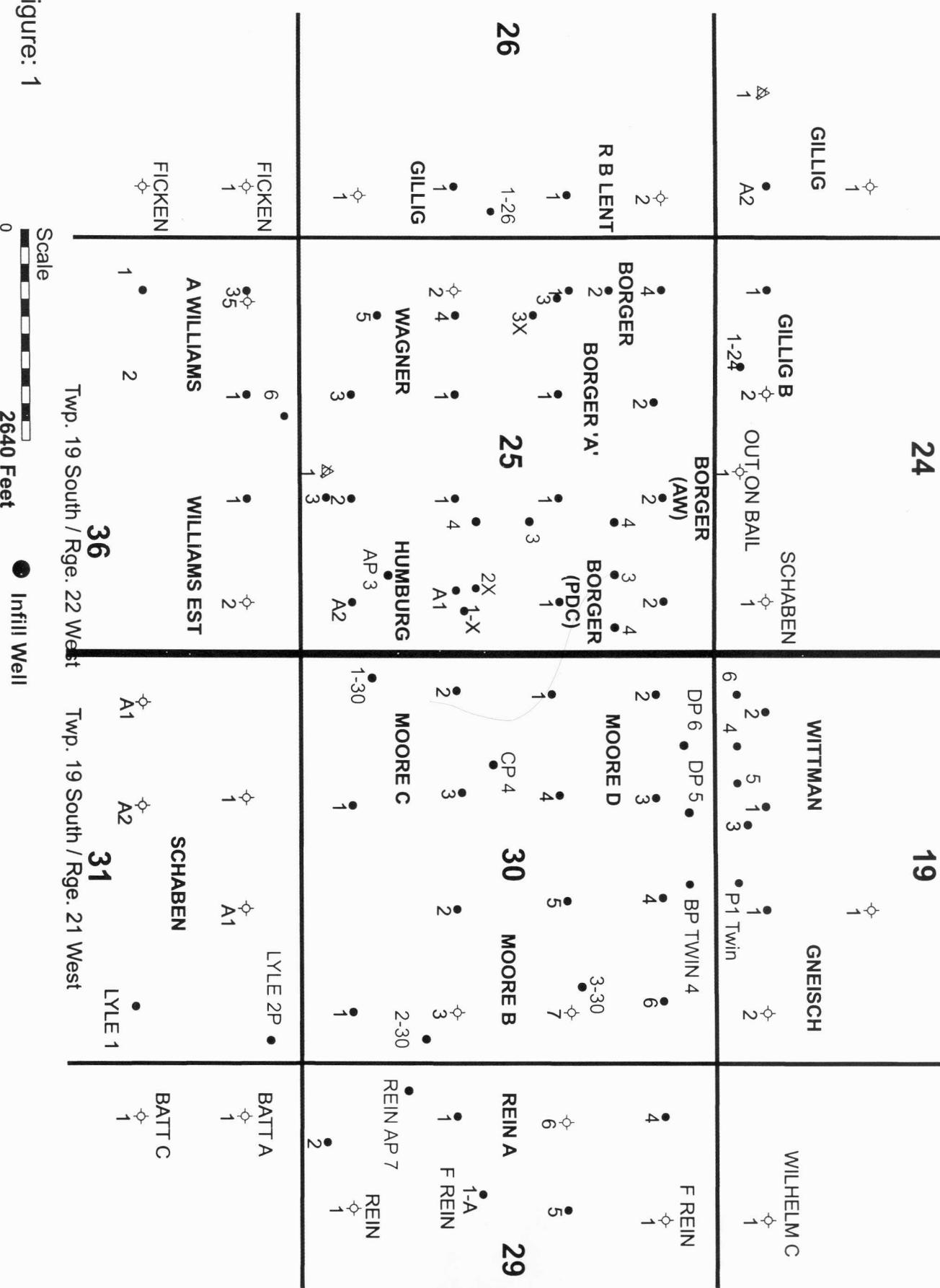


Figure: 1

Shut in pressure decline Schaben Field, Ness County, Kansas

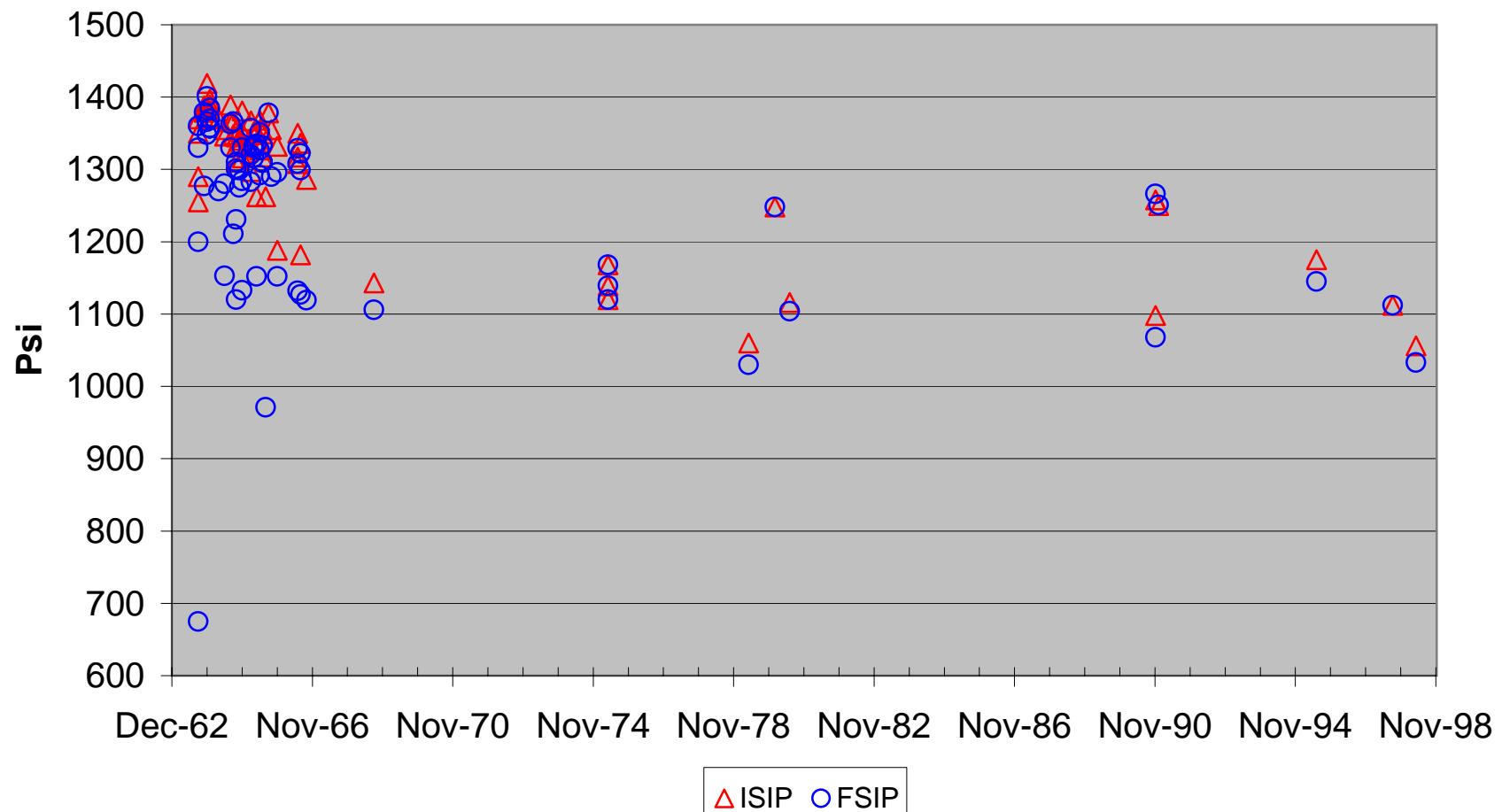


Figure: 2

Maximum shut-in pressure recorded 1410 psi (Dec 1963)

Moore D1 Phi - Whole core vs. Log

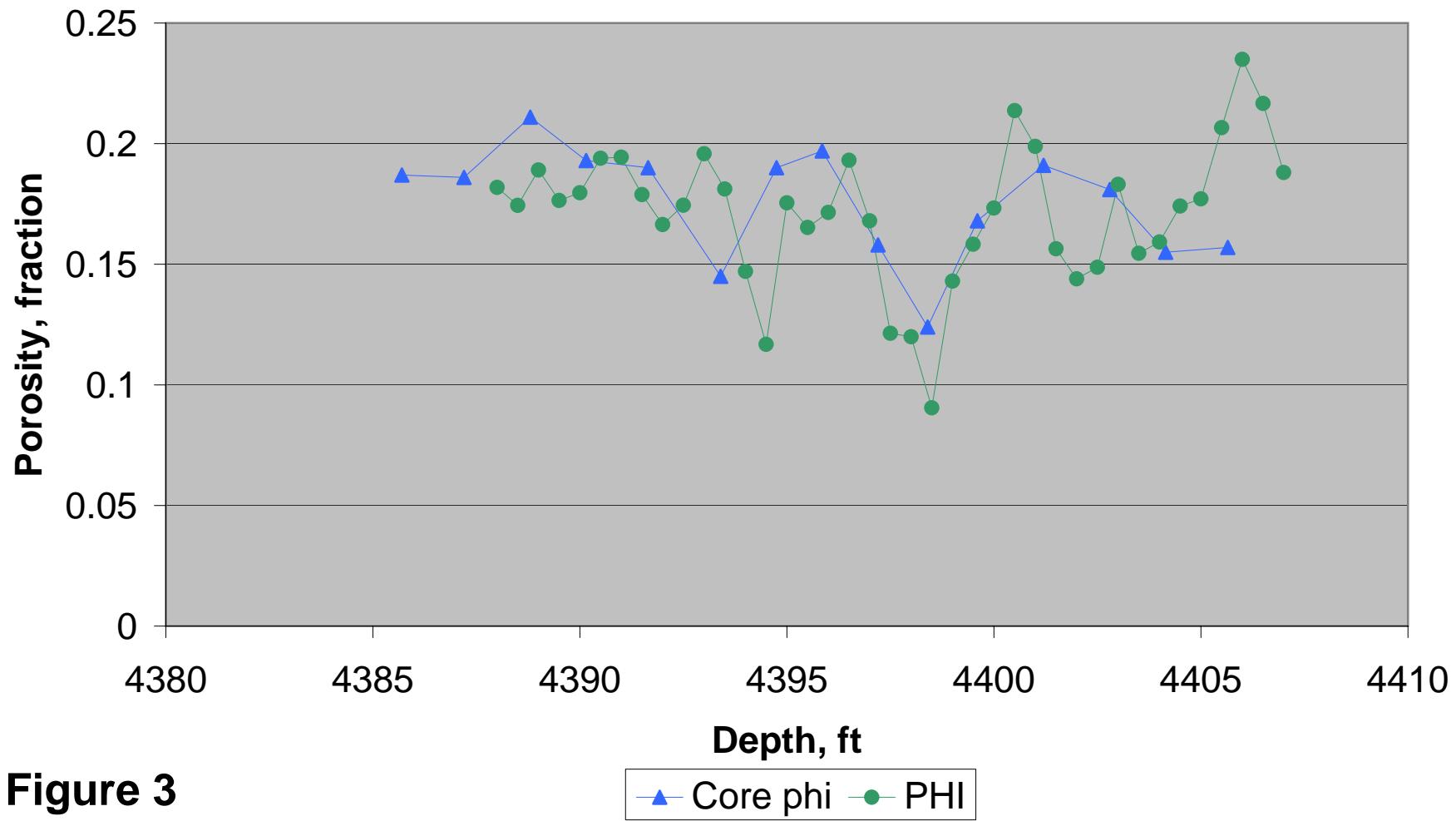
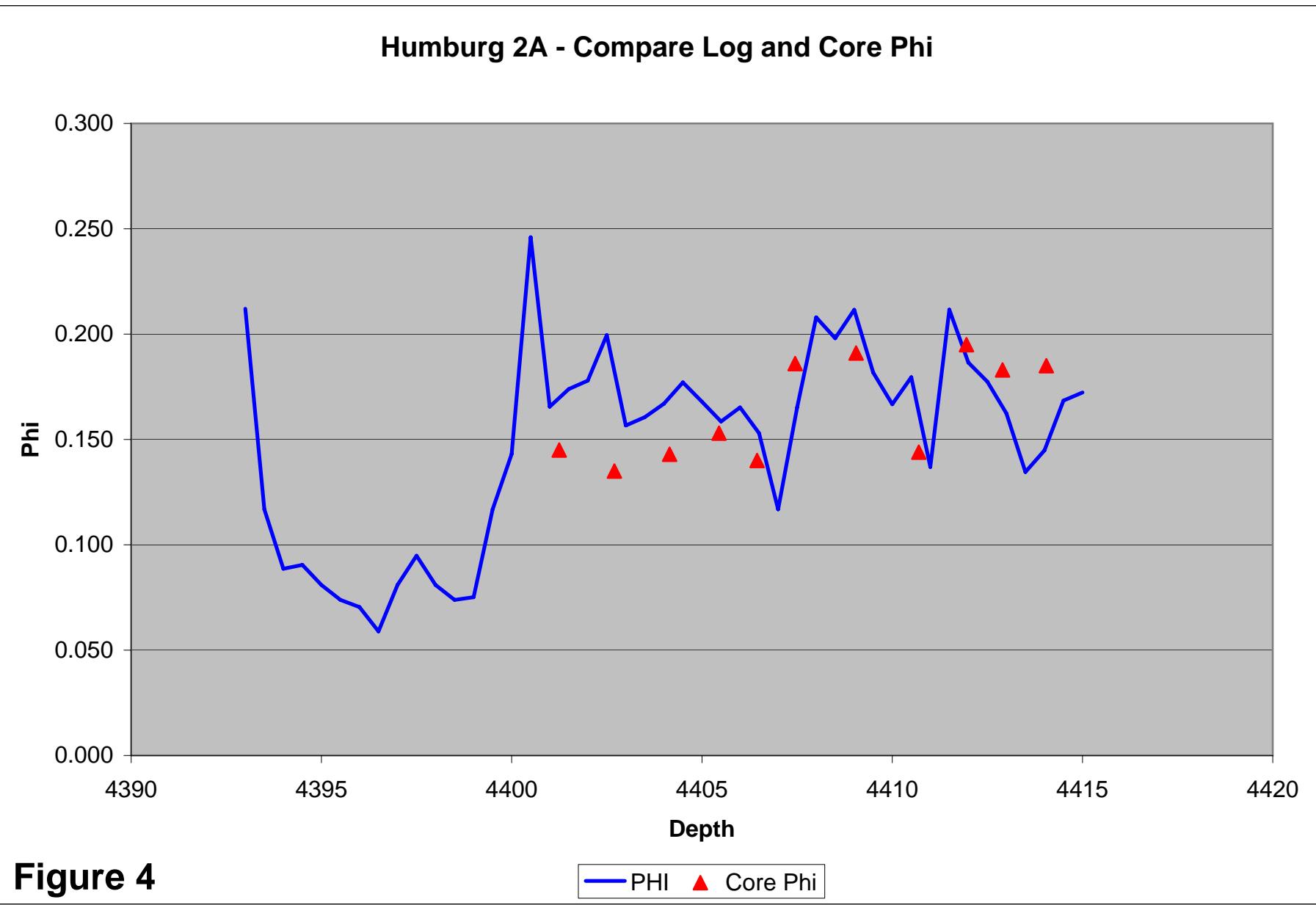


Figure 3



Lyle Schaben 2P - P_c @ 70 psi

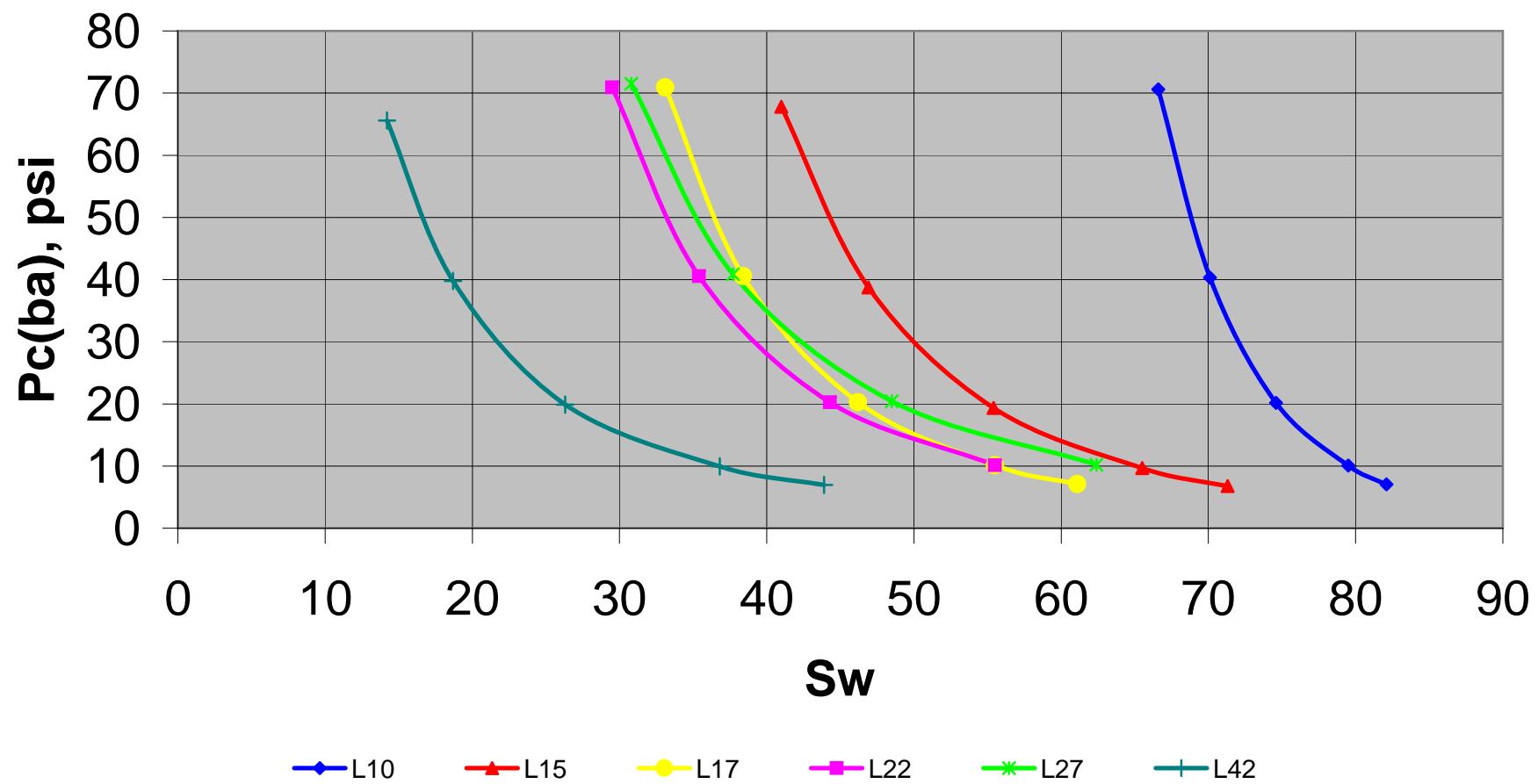
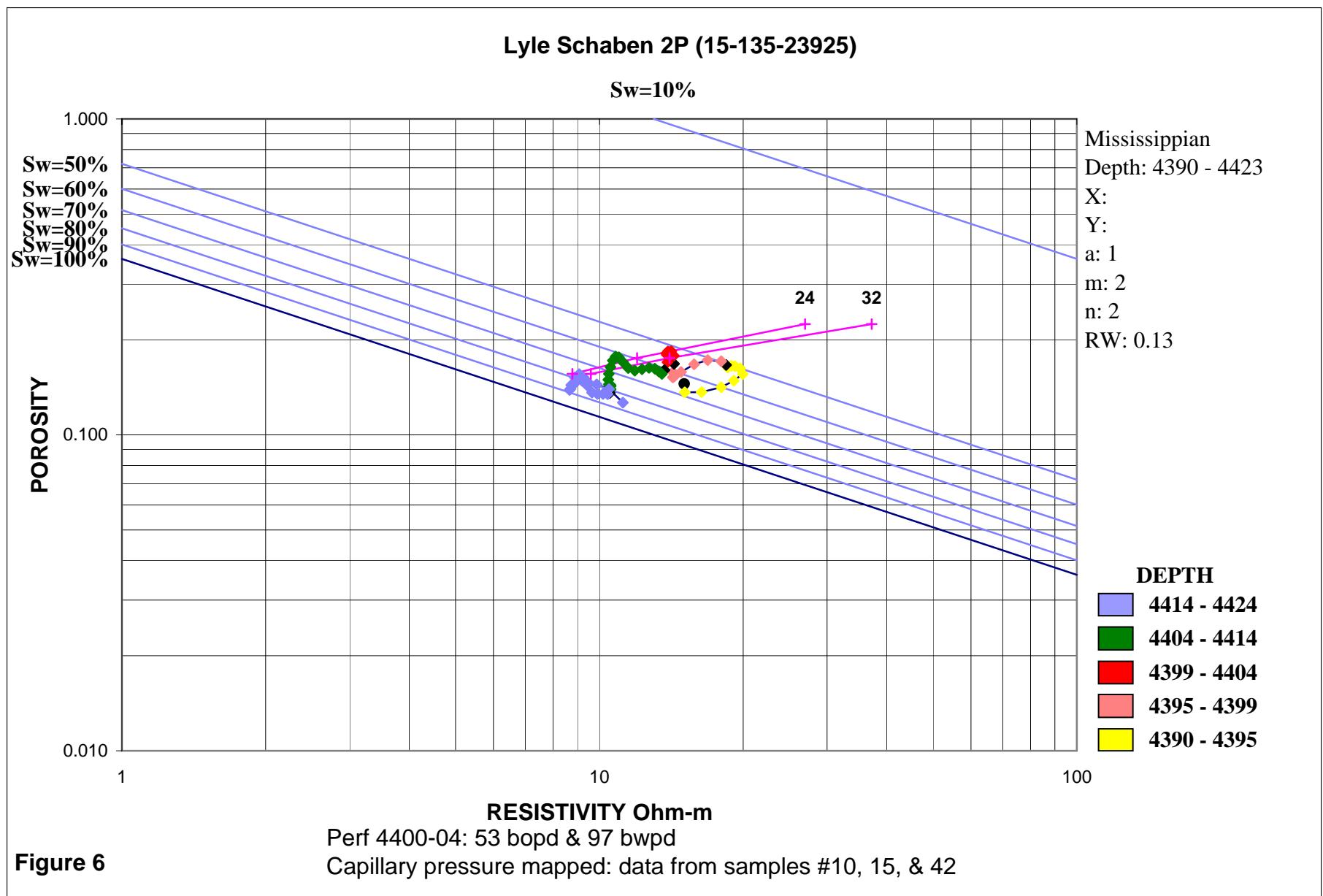


Figure: 5



Base Case - F/E vs. We/E

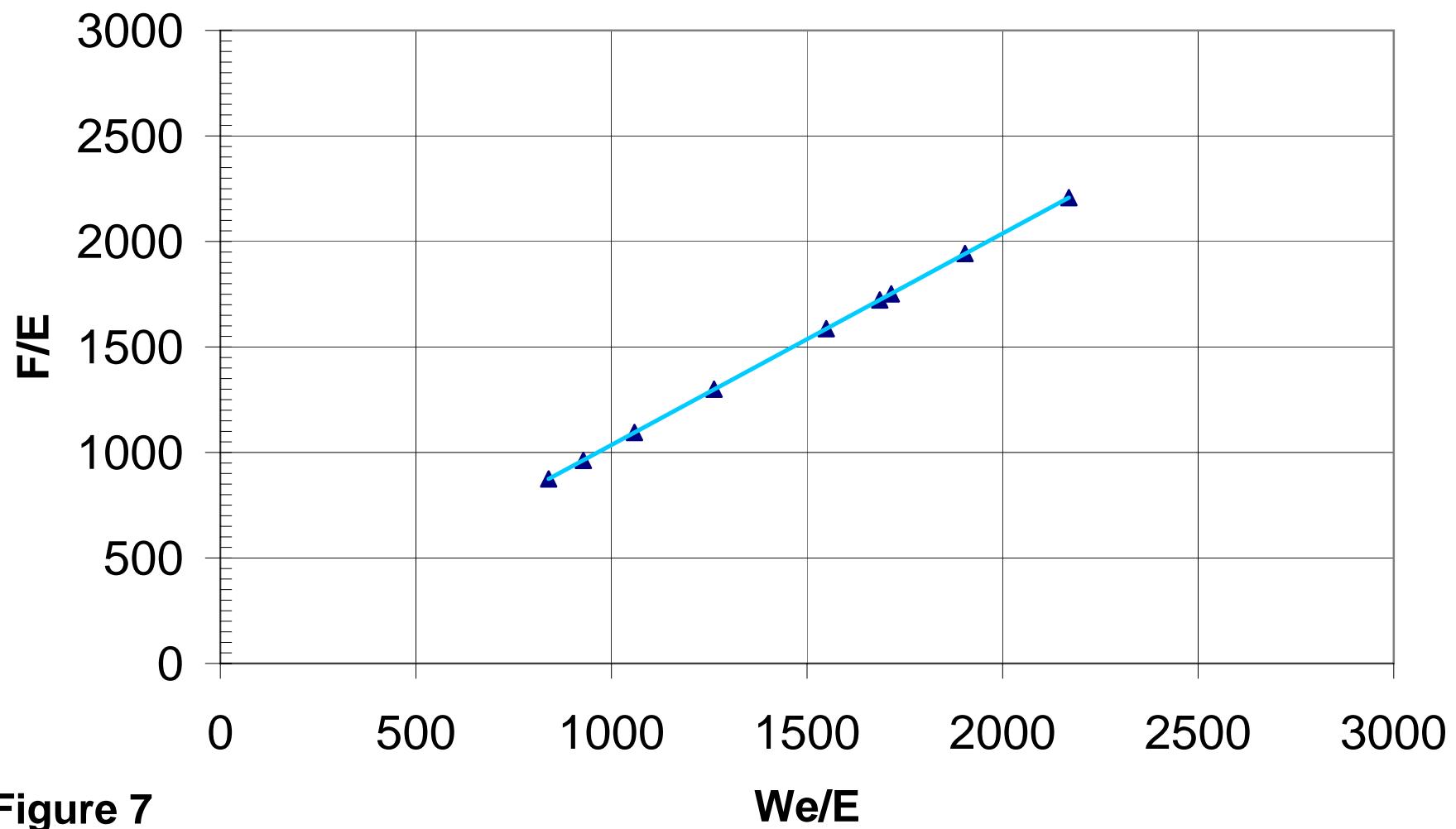


Figure 7

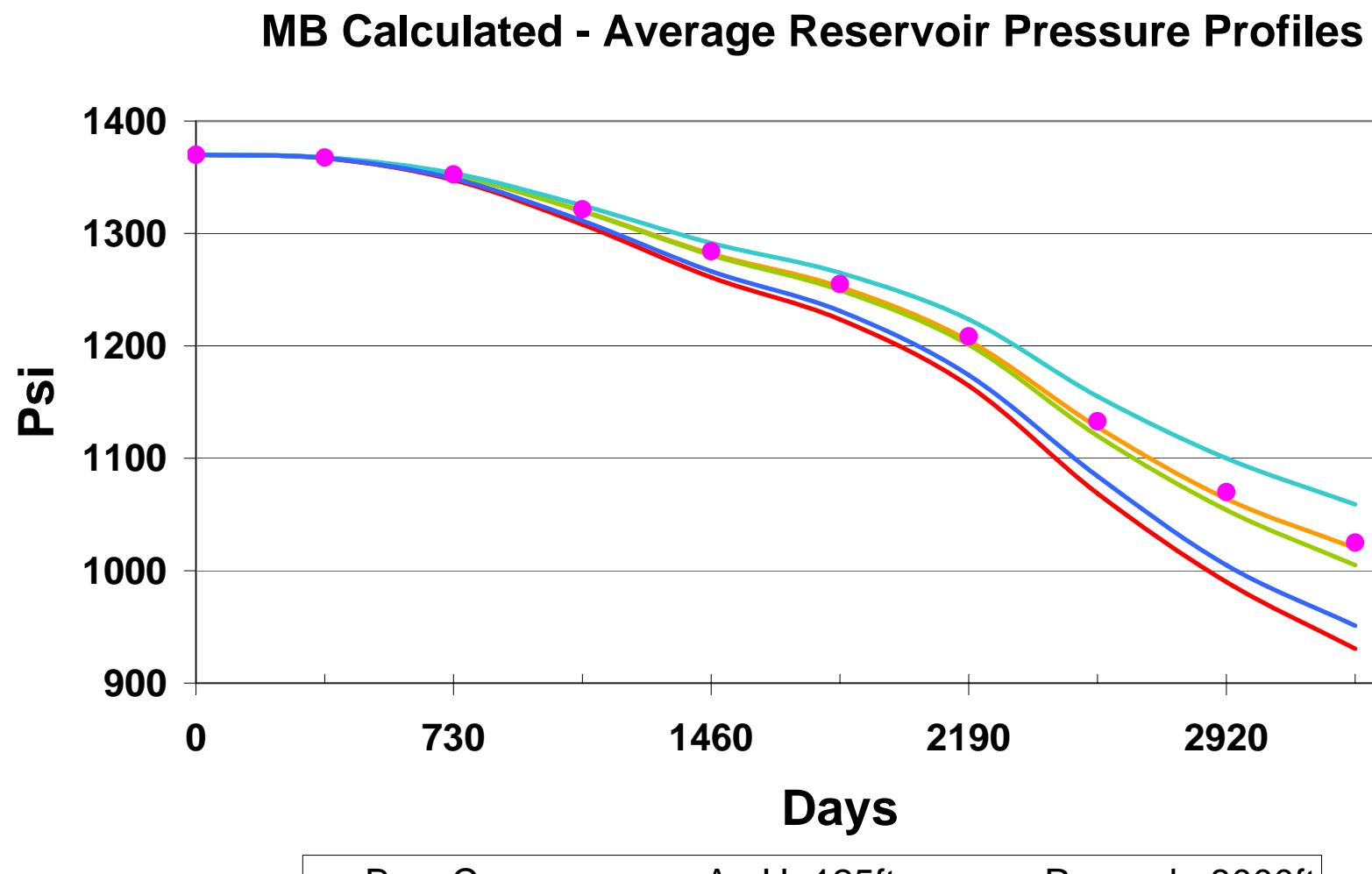


Figure 8

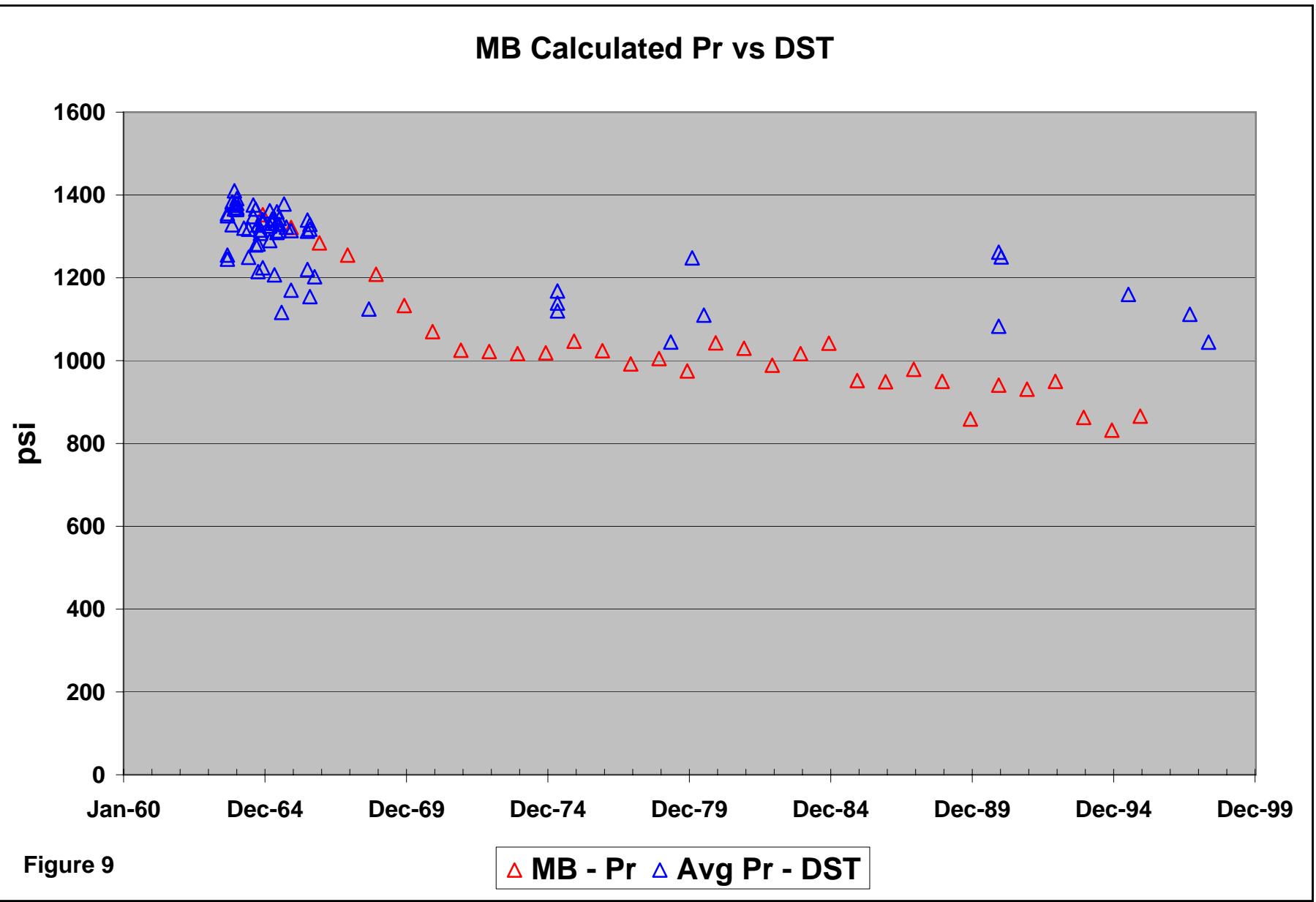


Figure 9

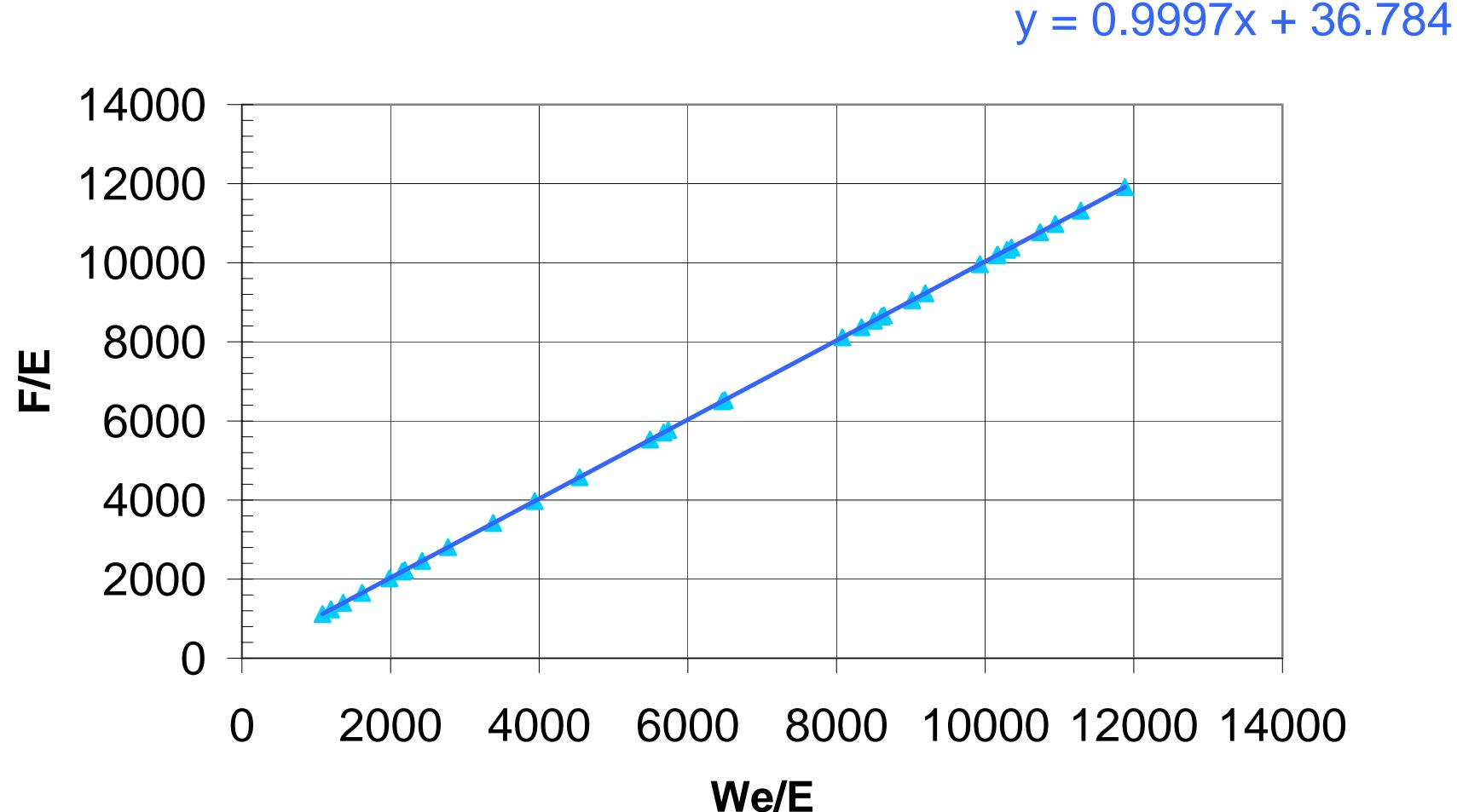


Figure 10

Material balance OOIP = **36.8 MMSTB**