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(73) Titulaire(s):

ELF AQUITAINE PRODUCTION

Tour Elf - 2
Place de la Coupole
La Défense 6
92400 COURBEVOIE
(France)

(72) Inventeur(s):

KESKES Naamen

4, allée Constance Bonacieux
64000 PAU
(France)

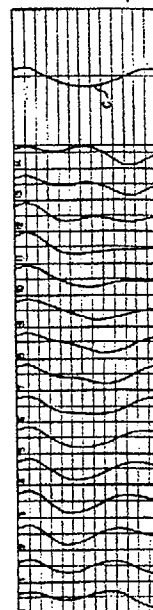
(74) Mandataire: CABINET CAZENAVE
B.P. 500

YAOUNDE - Cameroun

(54) Titre: Automatic seismic pattern recognition method.

(57) Abrégé:

An automatic seismic pattern recognition method is characterized in that it includes determining a given number of seismic patterns to be recognized ; providing a set of seismic trace portions for said region ; defining a pattern recognition parameter common to all the trace portion, and determining the value of said parameter for each of the traces portions of the set ; selecting trace portions among said set ; selecting a one-dimensional neural network containing as many cells as there are pattern to be recognized, each cell being assigned a value of the recognition parameter ; submitting the neural network to a learning process with the selected trace portions, so that at the end of said process, each cell matches a pattern to be recognized, and that said patterns are progressively ordered ; presenting each trace portion of said set to be processed to the classified and ordered neural network ; and attributing to each trace portion presented to the network the number of the cell closest to it. The invention is particularly useful for recognizing seismic pattern between two horizons defined by plotting a seismic section.



AUTOMATIC SEISMIC PATTERN RECOGNITION METHOD

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The present invention relates to a method of automatic recognition of seismic facies between two horizons or about a horizon of a geological area and particularly between two horizons or about a horizon defined on a seismic section associated with said geological area.

10 At present, nearly all geological and geophysical interpretations relative to seismic facies are carried out on an interpretation station and belong to the specialized domain of seismic stratigraphy.

 In seismic stratigraphy, it is customary to identify and to represent on a map (mapping) the variations of seismic facies in a given slice of the geological area to be surveyed, said slice being or not being between two
15 marked horizons.

 A seismic facies unit is a group of seismic reflections of which the configuration, external shape and internal parameters are different from one facies unit to another, and even between two adjacent or consecutive
20 facies units.

 The seismic facies units are usually defined by analyzing three families of parameters:

- the configuration of the reflections (parallel, divergent, sigmoid etc.),
- 25 • the external shape (concave upwards, convex upwards, draped etc.),
- the internal parameters of the reflections (amplitude, frequency etc.).

The recognition of the seismic facies in a given geological area is very important because it provides useful information, particularly about the types of sedimentary deposit and the anticipated lithology.

To succeed in recognizing the seismic facies of a given geological area, it is therefore necessary to define each of them first by separately
5 analyzing at least each of the above-mentioned three families of definitions, and then by making a synthesis of said studies in order to gather the maximum of data or information about the seismic facies present in said geological area.

10 The cost of such a treatment and the means to be employed, particularly the data processing means, are very high and out of all proportion to the results obtained.

In fact, if the seismic facies which one wishes to recognize belong to stratigraphic pinchouts and/or to turbiditic channels, it is very difficult to
15 discriminate between the anomalies when they appear on the usual seismic sections, even if these anomalies are recognized by the well seismic survey as being present in the area concerned, obviously provided that a well is available in said area, which may not be the case.

In EP-0 561 492, a method is described for improving the well
20 logging by making use of neural networks. The particular network described is a layered network. However, and from the statistical standpoint, a layered network is a universal approximator of the boundaries between classes, but, above all, a supervised network, that is the quantity obtained in the output of the neural network is compared with
25 a quantity known and determined by other methods, until a coincidence or quasi-coincidence is obtained between the quantities.

Since the topological maps due to Kohonen are used in other fields, particularly in the medical field to determine models susceptible to imitate a number of the functions of the brain by reproducing some of its basic structures, geophysicists have attempted to apply them to the field of geophysics.

Particular applications are described in US-5 373 486, which deals with the classification of seismic events by using Kohonen antagonistic networks, in US-5 355 313, which describes the interpretation of aeromagnetic data, and in US-5 181 171, which describes an interactive neural network adapted to detect the first arrivals on the seismic traces.

It is an aim of the present invention to propose a method for recognizing seismic facies from a seismic section associated with a geological area, and to do this automatically via an unsupervised neural network.

The present invention relates to a method for recognizing seismic facies between two horizons or about a horizon of a geological area, and consisting of:

- determining a given number of seismic facies to be recognized,
- taking a set of seismic trace portions concerning said area,
- defining a facies recognition parameter common to all the trace portions and determining the value of said parameter for each of the trace portions of the set,
- selecting trace portions from said set,
- choosing a one-dimensional neural network containing as many cells as facies to be recognized, each cell being assigned a value of the recognition parameter,

- effecting the learning of the neural network via the selected trace portions, so that, when the learning process is complete, each cell corresponds to a facies to be recognized, and so that said facies are gradually ordered,
- 5 · presenting each trace portion of said set to be processed to the classed and ordered neural network, and
- assigning the No. of the nearest cell to each of the trace portions presented to the network.

One advantage of the present invention is that it is now possible to
10 identify, for example, a variation of seismic facies corresponding to a stratigraphic pinchout or to lineaments which can be interpreted as faults.

According to another feature, the neural network is of the unsupervised type and consists in particular of a one-dimensional Kohonen topological map.

15 According to a further feature, the trace portions comprise the same number of samples and the recognition parameter is defined by the sequence of samples comprised between the two horizons or about said horizon delimited on a seismic section.

According to a further feature, the trace portions are used to
20 determine an overall recognition parameter common to all the trace portions.

According to a further feature, each facies is assigned a color code, the different colors being gradually ordered in a given range of colors with a slow variation of shade between any two consecutive colors of said
25 range.

According to a further feature, the seismic facies recognized are represented on a map with their corresponding color.

A further advantage of the present invention resides in the fact that, in accordance with the general knowledge about the geological area to be surveyed and obtained by other means, it is possible to use attributes associated with the seismic traces and which are derived either from the
5 sequence of samples between the top and the base of the trace element, that is in fact between two horizons or about a horizon of said area, or from the overall statistical parameters significant of the distribution of the samples in the geological area concerned, said overall parameters being, for example, the amplitude, frequency, interval velocity etc .

10 The above and other advantages and features of the present invention will appear from a reading of the description of the method of the invention, and from the appended drawings wherein;

· Figure 1 is a seismic section on which a turbiditic channel is delimited about a marked horizon,

15 · Figure 2 schematically represents a final topological map obtained according to the invention,

· Figure 3 schematically represents a map of the seismic facies associated with the geological area corresponding to the set of seismic trace portions processed.

20 The method of the present invention uses an unsupervised one-dimensional neural network which comprises as many cells as seismic facies to be recognized in a given geological area, between two horizons or about a horizon, determined by picking a seismic section which contains a large number of seismic traces, in the range of several hundred
25 traces at least, for example about horizon H in Figure 1. On said traces, a set of seismic trace portions is delimited, which are bounded by said

horizons or about said horizon, these seismic trace portions being used to prepare a topological map in the manner described below.

In another step, a seismic facies recognition parameter is defined, said parameter being common to all the trace portions. In the case in
 5 Figure 2, the parameter is defined by the shape of the signal. In the example shown, there are fifteen signal shapes numbered from 0 to 14, each one corresponding to a seismic facies. Obviously, two signal shapes may be similar to one another: this would mean that the corresponding seismic facies are similar in nature and/or continuous. The value of the
 10 recognition parameter is determined, which, in the example of the signal shape, is made up of the sequence of samples on the trace portion concerned. Each trace portion is sampled in the same way, that is it comprises the same number of samples, while the amplitude of the samples may vary from one sample to another in the same sequence, or in
 15 different sequences.

A number of trace portions are selected from the set of trace portions to be processed, for example by selection one trace portion out of four, or by making a random or pseudo-random selection.

In a further step, the learning of the neural network is effected via
 20 selected trace portions so that, when the learning process is complete, each set corresponds to a facies to be recognized. This is shown in Figure 2, in which the fifteen cells numbered from 0 to 14 correspond to the given number of fifteen facies to be recognized, each facies being determined by the shape of the signal shown in one of the fifteen classes
 25 corresponding to the fifteen facies to be recognized. To achieve the dual objective of classing and ordering the classes among each other, the following learning process is effected.

Let E be the set of selected trace portions to be classed, and M the set of cells of the topological map.

In a first learning phase, the weights of the cells of the topological map are initialized in a random fashion.

5 In a second phase, a search is made in the topological map to find, for each trace portion E_i of the set E, the cell M_i nearest to E_i , and the weights of the M_j cells belonging to the neighborhood of the M_i cell are then updated.

This phase is represented by the following equation:

10

$$M_j(t) = M_j(t-1) + f[\varepsilon(t), d, \sigma(t)] * [E_i(t) - M_j(t-1)]$$

where:

$$[\varepsilon(t), d, \sigma(t)] = \varepsilon(t) * \exp[-d^2/\sigma^2(t)]$$

d is the distance between cell M_i and cell M_j

15 s(t) is the neighbor parameter

e(t) is a gain factor.

According to another feature of the invention, e(t) is smaller than 1, and preferably equal to 0.7 on the first iteration, e(t) and s(t) decreasing after each cycle of presentation of the trace portions or iteration. The
20 iterations are considered to be completed when the desired convergence is achieved, that is when a new presentation of the selected trace portions does not modify or only slightly modifies the ordering of the cells.

When the learning process is complete, all the trace portions to be processed are presented to the topological map, in order to class them and
25 to order them with respect to the classes defined in said topological map.

Each trace portion presented to the topological map is assigned the No. of the cell which corresponds to it, that is the cell of which the shape

of the signal is the nearest to the shape of the signal of said trace portion presented.

Prior to said presentation of all the trace portions and in a preferred embodiment of the invention, each class or cell of the topological map is assigned a given color instead of a No. The fifteen cells numbered from 0 to 14 on the topological map in Figure 2 can correspond to fifteen different colors, which range gradually, for example, from brown (class 0) to purple (class 14), the different tones of any given color signifying that the corresponding classes are close to one another. Figure 2 also shows, on the right, a trace portion C to be classed. If it is presented to the topological map, it is classed in cell 7 or, if necessary, in cell 6, which substantially corresponds to a facies that is similar to the one defined by cell 7.

Figure 3 schematically represents the map of seismic facies of the geographical area or layer surveyed, each seismic facies corresponding to one of the classes 0 to 14 of the final topological map. It may be observed that different classes are imbricated and/or included in other classes. Numerals 100 to 114 correspond respectively to classes 0 to 14 of the topological map in Figure 2.

CLAIMS

- 1 A method for the automatic recognition of seismic facies between two horizons or about a horizon of a given geological area, characterized
5 in that it consists of:
- determining a given number of seismic facies to be recognized,
 - taking a set of seismic trace portions concerning said area,
 - defining a facies recognition parameter common to all the trace portions and determining the value of said parameter for each of the trace
10 portions of the set,
 - selecting trace portions from said set,
 - choosing a one-dimensional neural network containing as many cells as facies to be recognized, each cell being assigned a value of the recognition parameter,
 - 15 · effecting the learning of the neural network via the selected trace portions, so that, when the learning process is complete, each cell corresponds to a facies to be recognized, and so that said facies are gradually ordered,
 - presenting each trace portion of said set to be processed to the
20 classed and ordered neural network, and
 - assigning the No. of the nearest cell to each of the trace portions presented to the network.
- 2 The method of Claim 1, characterized in that the neural network is an unsupervised network.
- 25 3 The method of Claim 2, characterized in that the unsupervised neural network is a one-dimensional Kohonen topological map.

4 The method of Claim 1, characterized in that the trace portions comprise the same number of samples and further in that the recognition parameter is defined by the sequence of samples comprised between the two horizons or about said horizon.

5 5 The method of Claim 1, characterized in that an overall recognition parameter is determined which is common to all the trace portions.

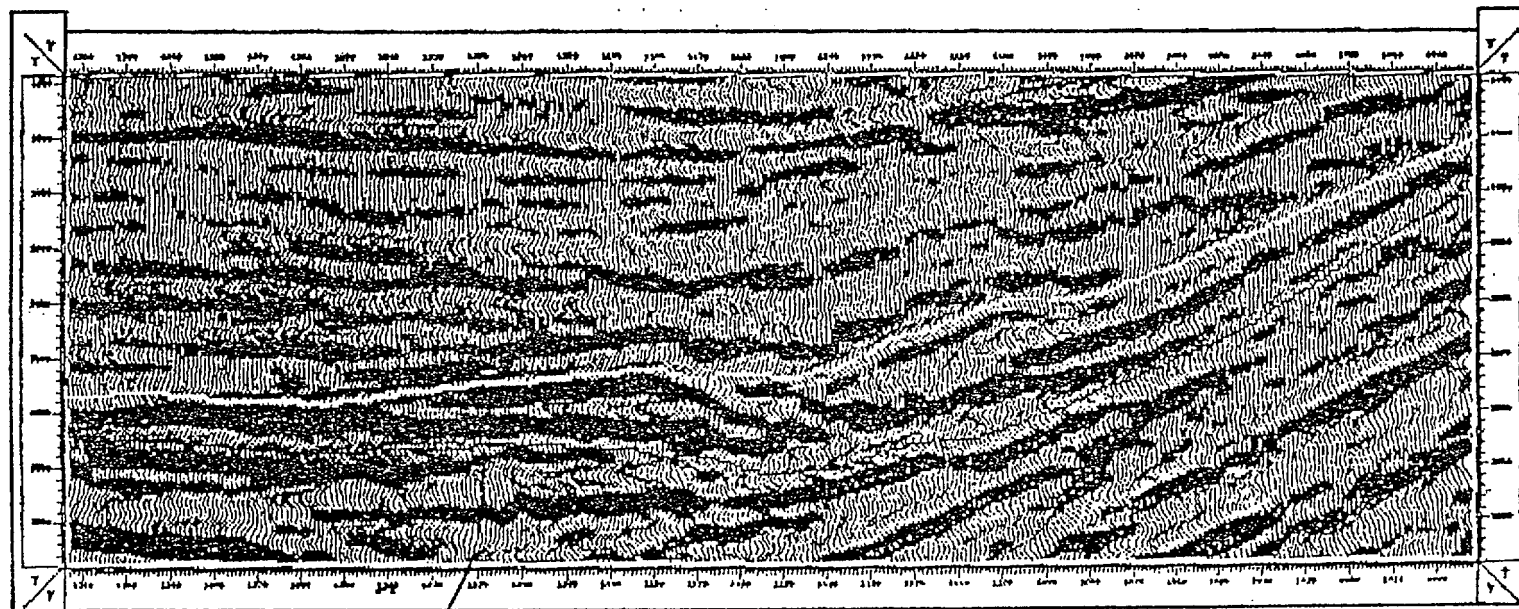
6 The method of Claim 1, characterized in that each cell corresponds to a class which is assigned a color code, the different colors being gradually ordered in a given range of colors with a slow variation in shade
10 between any two consecutive colors of said range.

7 The method of one of Claims 1 and 6, characterized in that the recognized seismic facies are represented on a map with their corresponding color.

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BREVET N°

PLANCHE I/3



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FIG. 1

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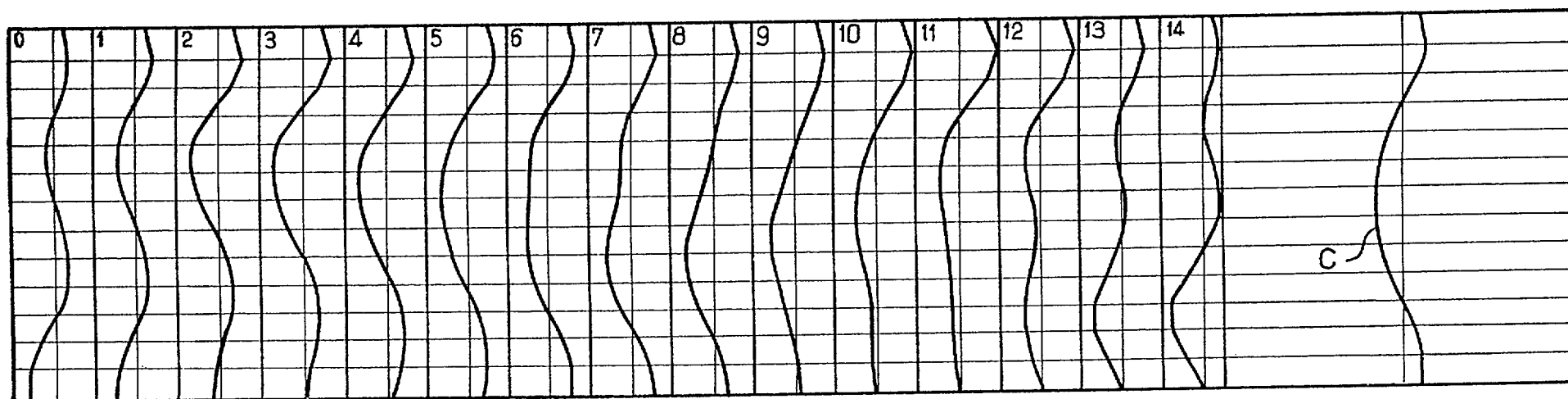


FIG. 2

FIG. 3

