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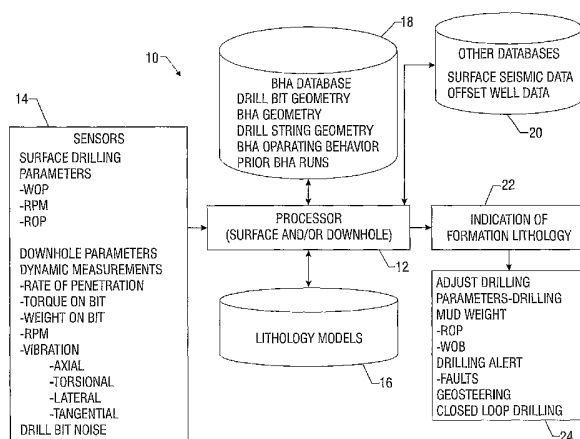
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(54) Title: USE OF THE DYNAMIC DOWNHOLE MEASUREMENTS AS LITHOLOGY INDICATORS



(57) Abstract: A drilling system provides indications of the lithology of the formation being drilled by dynamically measuring at least one parameter of interest that is affected by the lithology of the formation being drilled. Suitably positioned sensors make dynamic measurements of parameters such as downhole weight on bit, bit torque, bit revolutions, rate of penetration and bit axial acceleration. One or more processors use the sensor measurements in conjunction with predetermined lithological models to determine whether the measurements indicate a change in formation lithology. Suitable models can be on derived expressions such as rock drillability, drilling response, dynamic drilling response, normalized or dimensionless torque; and formation shear strength. The lithological indications provided by the processor can be used to adjust drilling parameters, steer the BHA, monitor BHA health, and provide depth locations for bed boundaries and formation interfaces.

**TITLE: USE OF THE DYNAMIC DOWNHOLE
MEASUREMENTS AS LITHOLOGY INDICATORS**

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

[0001] This invention relates to systems, devices and methods for determining the lithology of a formation while drilling a wellbore. More particularly, this invention relates to systems, devices and methods that utilize dynamic measurements of selected drilling parameters to determine the lithology of a formation being drilled.

2. The Related Art

[0002] To obtain hydrocarbons such as oil and gas, boreholes are drilled by rotating a drill bit attached at a drill string end. A large proportion of the current drilling activity involves directional drilling, *i.e.*, drilling deviated and horizontal boreholes, to increase the hydrocarbon production and/or to withdraw additional hydrocarbons from the earth's formations. Modern directional drilling systems generally employ a drill string having a bottomhole assembly (BHA) and a drill bit at end thereof that is rotated by a drill motor

(mud motor) and/or the drill string. A number of downhole devices placed in close proximity to the drill bit measure certain downhole operating parameters associated with the drill string. Such devices typically include sensors for measuring downhole temperature and pressure, azimuth and inclination measuring devices and a resistivity measuring device to determine the presence of hydrocarbons and water.

[0003] Additional downhole instruments, known as logging-while-drilling ("LWD") tools, are frequently attached to the drill string to determine the formation geology and formation fluid conditions during the drilling operations. Logging-while-drilling (LWD) systems, or more generally speaking, Measurement-While-Drilling (MWD) systems, are known for identifying and evaluating rock formations and monitoring the trajectory of the borehole in real time. An MWD set of tools is generally located in the lower portion of the drill string near the bit. The tools are either housed in a section of drill collar or formed so as to be compatible with the drill collar. It is desirable to provide information of the formation as close to the drill bit as is feasible. Several methods for evaluating the formation using the drill bit have been employed. These methods eliminate the time lag between the time the bit penetrates the formation and the time the MWD tool senses that area of the formation. However, they work only under certain formation characteristics. Another approach to determine formation or lithology changes has been to use the mechanic measurements available at the surface, such as measured rate of penetration (ROP) and bit revolutions per minute (RPM)

and average or mean downhole weight on bit (WOB) and average or mean downhole torque on the bit (TOR) that are derived from real time *in situ* measurements made by an MWD tool.

[0004] While conventional devices and methods for determining lithology have provided adequate results only in very few applications, there is a persistent need for systems, devices and methods that provide more accurate indications of the lithology being drilled.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0005] In aspects, the present invention provides indications of the lithology of the formation being drilled. An exemplary system made in accordance with the present invention determines properties of a formation being drilled by dynamically measuring at least one parameter of interest that is affected by the lithology of the formation. The system includes suitable sensors positioned in a bottomhole assembly (BHA) to make dynamic measurements and can also include sensors positioned proximate to the drill bit, along the drill string, and at the surface. Using one or more processors, the system determines at least one lithological characteristic of the formation being drilled using the sensor measurements in conjunction with predetermined lithological models.

[0006] Exemplary parameters of interest measured by the downhole sensors include downhole weight on bit (WOB), bit torque (TOR), bit revolutions (RPM), bit axial acceleration, tangential acceleration and lateral acceleration. These measurements can be instantaneous, maximum, and/or minimum values. Exemplary parameters of interest measured by the surface sensors include rate of penetration (ROP) and surface weight on bit. Dynamic measurements of one or more of these parameters, along with other measured parameters, are processed by the processor using the lithological models that are stored in a memory module. Suitable models can be derived expressions such as

[0007] $\frac{RD}{WN}$ (rock drillability), $\frac{RD^3}{NW^2}$ (drilling response for roller cone bits), $\frac{TR}{W^2N}$, (drilling response), $\frac{TA_x}{[WN]^2}$ (dynamic drilling response), $\frac{T}{WD}$, (normalized or dimensionless torque); and $\frac{TN}{RD^2}$ (formation shear strength).

[0008] Depending on the type of telemetry system used (e.g., a high bandwidth system or low bandwidth system), the processor can be a surface processor that processes surface measurements and measurements transmitted from the BHA, a downhole processor that processes downhole measurements and measurements transmitted from the surface, or a surface and downhole processor that cooperatively process downhole and surface measurements.

[0009] The lithological indications provided by the processor can be used to adjust drilling parameters (e.g., drilling mud weight), steer to a productive formation, steer away from an fault or other undesirable region, monitor BHA health, and provide precise depth locations for bed boundaries and formation interfaces.

[00010] Examples of the more important features of the invention have been summarized (albeit rather broadly) in order that the detailed description thereof that follows may be better understood and in order that the contributions they represent to the art may be appreciated. There are, of

course, additional features of the invention that will be described hereinafter and which will form the subject of the claims appended hereto.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[00011] For detailed understanding of the present invention, reference should be made to the following detailed description of the preferred embodiment, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing:

Fig. 1 is a block diagram of one exemplary system in accordance with the present invention for determining the lithology of a formation while drilling;

Fig. 2 is an elevation view of an exemplary drilling system utilizing the **Fig. 1** methodology in accordance with the present invention

Figs. 3A-E illustrate plots of gamma ray, resistivity, ROP, Torque and WOB versus depth **D**, respectively;

Figs. 4A-C illustrate plots of X-Acceleration, Z-acceleration, and HFRMS versus depth **D**, respectively;

Figs. 5A-C illustrate plots of S1, RPM (Max), and RPM (Min) versus depth **D**, respectively;

Figs. 5D-F illustrate plots of gamma ray, ROP, maximum lateral acceleration versus depth **D**, respectively;

Figs. 5G-I illustrate plots of gamma ray & ROP, tangential acceleration and max tangential acceleration versus depth **D**, respectively;

Figs. 6A-C illustrate plots of BM-X, BM-XY, and BM versus depth **D**, respectively;

Fig. 7 illustrates a cross plot of RD/WN and gamma ray;

Fig. 8 illustrates a cross plot of Drilling Response and gamma ray;

Fig. 9 illustrates a cross plot of Dynamic Drilling Response and gamma ray;

Fig. 10 illustrates a cross plot of RD/WN and T/WD for a first depth range;

Fig. 11 illustrates a cross plot of RD/WN and T/WD for a second depth range;

Figs. 12A-C illustrate plots of Dynamic Drilling Response, Drillability, and Dimensionless Torque versus depth **D**, respectively;

Figs. 13A-C illustrate plots of gamma ray, resistivity, and Drilling Response versus depth **D**, respectively; and

Figs. 14A-E illustrate plots of gamma ray, resistivity, shear strength, Rock Strength; and Dynamic strength versus depth **D**, respectively.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[00012] The teachings of the present invention can be applied in a number of arrangements to generally improve the drilling process by providing indications of the lithology of the formation being drilled. As is known, formation lithology generally refers to an earth or rock characteristic such as the nature of the mineral content, grain size, texture and color. Such improvements may include reduced drilling time and associated costs, safer drilling operations, more accurate drilling, improvement in ROP, extended drill string life, improved bit and cutter life, reduction in wear and tear on BHA, and an improvement in bore hole quality. The present invention is susceptible to embodiments of different forms. There are shown in the drawings, and herein will be described in detail, specific embodiments of the present invention with the understanding that the present disclosure is to be considered an exemplification of the principles of the invention, and is not intended to limit the invention to that illustrated and described herein.

[00013] Referring now to **Fig. 1**, there is shown in block diagram form one exemplary system **10** made in accordance with the present invention for determining the lithology of a formation being drilling. The system **10** includes a processor or processors **12** that communicate with downhole and surface sensors **14** to determine the lithology of the formation being drilled. The sensors **14** include one or more sensors that can dynamically measure drilling parameters such as instantaneous torque, weight on bit, and RPM of the drill bit. By “dynamic” measurements, it is meant measurement of a parameter at

a specific point in time rather than measurement over a period of time. For example, over a five-second period, the measured RPM of a drill string may be one hundred RPM. In contrast, "dynamic" measurements of RPM over that same five-second interval could include five measurements taken at one second intervals (e.g., ninety RPM, one hundred ten RPM, one hundred five RPM, ninety five RPM, and one hundred RPM). Thus, dynamic measurements can provide greater details as to the behavior of a drill bit, drill string, or BHA during drilling.

[00014] The processor **12** uses lithology indication models **16** along with pre-programmed databases **18** and **20** to process the sensor measurements to ascertain the lithological nature of the formation. As discussed in greater detail below, the models **16** can be theoretically or empirically derived expressions that can be used to evaluate the measured data and determine whether the measured data indicates a change in formation lithology. The BHA database **18** can include information such as drill bit diameter and other such "fixed" equipment data. The BHA database **18** can also include data for determining whether the processed measured data indicates a change in lithology or whether the processed measured data suggests some other situation; e.g., a failure in a BHA component (e.g., locked/failed bearing), tooth/cutter wear, drilling on a stabilizer etc. Such data can be accumulated, for example, from prior BHA operating runs or predictive modeling. Still other data **20** that can be used by the processor **12** includes surface seismic data and offset well data.

[00015] The processor(s) **12** outputs an indication **22** of the lithology, which can serve a number of purposes. As shown in block **24**, the indication **18** can be used to optimize or adjust drilling parameters, to issue drilling alerts relating to faults, high-pressure zones, to geosteer the BHA, to correct or supplement surface seismic data, etc.

[00016] Referring now to **Fig. 2**, there is shown an exemplary drilling system **20** utilizing aspects of the **Fig. 1** system. As is shown, a conventional rig **22** includes a derrick **24**, derrick floor **26**, draw works **28**, hook **30**, swivel **32**, kelly joint **34**, and rotary table **36**. A drillstring **38** which includes drill pipe section **40** and drill collar section **42** extends downward from rig **22** into a wellbore **44**. Drill collar section **42** preferably includes a number of tubular drill collar members which connect together, including a measurement-while-drilling (MWD) subassembly and cooperating telemetry data transmission subassembly, which are collectively referred to hereinafter as "MWD system **46**". The drill string **38** includes a drill bit **56** adapted to disintegrate a geological formation and known components such as thrusters, mud motors, steering units, stabilizers and other such components for forming a wellbore through the subterranean formation **14**. Other related components and equipment of the system **20** are well known in the art and is not described in detail herein.

[00017] Also, it should be understood that applications other than rotary drives (e.g., coiled tubing applications) may utilize other equipment such as injectors, coiled tubing, a drilling motor, thrusters, etc. Drilling systems

utilizing coiled tubing as the drill string are within the scope of the present invention.

[00018] The MWD system **46** includes sensors, circuitry and processing software and algorithms for providing information about desired dynamic drilling parameters relating to the BHA, drill string, the drill bit and downhole equipment such as a drilling motor, steering unit, thrusters, etc. (collectively, a bottomhole assembly or BHA). Exemplary sensors include, but are not limited to, drill bit sensors, an RPM sensor, a weight on bit sensor, sensors for measuring mud motor parameters (e.g., mud motor stator temperature, differential pressure across a mud motor, and fluid flow rate through a mud motor), and sensors for measuring acceleration, vibration, whirl, radial displacement, stick-slip, torque, shock, vibration, strain, stress, bending moment, bit bounce, axial thrust, friction, backward rotation, BHA buckling and radial thrust. Sensors distributed along the drill string can measure physical quantities such as drill string acceleration and strain, internal pressures in the drill string bore, external pressure in the annulus, vibration, temperature, electrical and magnetic field intensities inside the drill string, bore of the drill string, etc. Suitable systems for making dynamic downhole measurements include COPILOT, a downhole measurement system, manufactured by BAKER HUGHES INCORPORATED. Suitable systems are also discussed in "Downhole Diagnosis of Drilling Dynamics Data Provides New Level Drilling Process Control to Driller", SPE 49206, by G. Heisig and

J.D. Macpherson, 1998, which is hereby incorporated by reference for all purposes.

[00019] The MWD system **46** can include one or more downhole processors **70**. The processor(s) **70** can be microprocessor that uses a computer program implemented on a suitable machine readable medium that enables the processor to perform the control and processing. The machine readable medium may include ROMs, EPROMs, EAROMs, Flash Memories and Optical disks. Other equipment such as power and data buses, power supplies, and the like will be apparent to one skilled in the art.

[00020] In one embodiment, the MWD system **46** utilizes mud pulse telemetry to communicate data from a downhole location to the surface while drilling operations take place. To receive data at the surface, a transducer **60** is provided in communication with mud supply line **54**. This transducer generates electrical signals in response to drilling mud pressure variations. These electrical signals are transmitted by a surface conductor **62** to a surface electronic processor **64**, which is preferably a data processing system with a central processing unit for executing program instructions, and for responding to user commands. For systems utilizing mud pulse telemetry or other systems having limited data transfer capability (e.g., bandwidth), the processor **12** of the **Fig. 1** system can utilize the downhole processor **70** in conjunction with the surface processor **64**. For example, the downhole processor **70** can process the downhole measured data and transmit reduced data and/or signals indicative of the lithology being drilled to the surface. The

surface processor **64** can process the surface measured data, along with the data transmitted from the downhole processor **70**, to evaluate formation lithology.

[00021] In another embodiment, the MWD system **46** utilizes a telemetry system providing relatively high bandwidth; e.g., conductive wires or cables provide in or along the drill string, RF or EM-based systems, or other systems. In such systems, "raw" or unprocessed data, in addition to or instead of processed data, can be transmitted to the surface processor **64** for processing. In such an arrangement, a downhole processor **70** may not be needed. In another arrangement, the surface measurements are transmitted downhole and the downhole processor **70** processes the surface and downhole data. In this arrangement, only the downhole processor **70** is used to obtain lithological indications. It should therefore be appreciated that a number of arrangements can be used for the processor **12** of **Fig. 1**; e.g., a surface processor that processes downhole and surface measurements, a downhole processor that processes downhole and surface measurements, and a surface and downhole processor that cooperatively process downhole and surface measurements.

[00022] Referring still to **Fig. 1**, the processors **12** use the pre-programmed lithology indication models **16** that use measurements of one or more parameters that can be affected by the lithology of the formation being drilled. These parameters include, but are not limited to, downhole torque on bit (DTOB), downhole weight on bit (DWOB), instantaneous downhole RPM

of the drill string, and motion of the drill bit and drill string (torsional acceleration, bit axial acceleration, ROP, tangential acceleration, lateral acceleration). The models **16**, either separately or cooperatively, process the measured data to ascertain changes in the lithological formation of the drilled formation. Measurements of such parameters react differently to different lithologies while drilling. Accordingly, the models **16** can utilize a variety of schemes or methodologies to quantify changes in measured values of these parameters (e.g., magnitude, slope, maxima, minima, etc.). The models **16** can be in the form of software, algorithms, or instructions loaded into a memory module (not shown) of the processor **12**.

[00023] Illustrative methodologies suitable for developing the models **16** are discussed below. Based on the analysis of interaction between a PDC bit (or Rock Bit) and rock formation (under *in situ* drilling conditions), it has been shown that:

$$\frac{T}{WD} = \frac{\mu}{4} \cos \beta + \frac{\tau}{c_1} \left[1 - c_1 \mu \frac{\sigma}{\tau} \tan \vartheta \right] \frac{RD}{WN} \quad (1)$$

Where T represents torque on bit, W the downhole weight on bit, R the ROP, N the RPM and D the bit diameter. Also, in the above expression, σ and τ represent the drilling and shear strengths of the formation, and θ and β the back rake and side rake bit cutter angles. It should be noted that σ and τ as defined above, are functions of pore pressure, rock compressive strength, friction coefficient and bit geometry. In equation 1, the parameters $\frac{T}{WD}$ and

$\frac{RD}{WN}$ are called normalized (or dimensionless) torque and rock drillability, respectively. Discussion of these and other relationships are provided in Jogi, P.N. & Zoeller W.A. "The application of a new drilling model for evaluating formation and Downhole Drilling Conditions", 7th SPE Petroleum Computer Conference, Houston, Texas July 19-22, 1992, which is hereby incorporated by reference for all purposes. The inverse of drillability is known as rock (or drilling) strength. It has been shown that rock strength is a function of σ and the normalized torque is a function of $\frac{\sigma}{\tau}$. Therefore, both these parameters are functions of lithological change. It has also been shown that changes in the bit torque to weight ratio, and drillability, can be used to classify porous, shaly or hard formations. Additionally, such changes are also affected by formation pressures.

[00024] Drilling response, defined by the expression $\frac{TR}{W^2 N}$, has been shown to be related to rock drilling strength and shear strength by the following expression:

$$\frac{TR}{W^2 N} = \frac{\tau}{\sigma^2} c \left[\frac{\cos \beta}{\tan \theta} \right] f(\eta) \quad (2)$$

Where η is called the wear factor and equals 1 for a new bit. The above expression can also be written as

$$\log \left[\frac{TR}{W^2 N} \right] = \log \left[\frac{\tau}{\sigma^2} c \right] + \log \left[\frac{\cos \beta}{\tan \vartheta} \right] + \log [f(\eta)] \quad (3)$$

In this expression the first term on the right hand side represents the formation response and the other two terms are functions of formation compaction and bit wear. Thus, when plotted on a log scale, the drilling response curve represents a formation log, and its slope is a function of formation compaction and bit wear.

[00025] Based on derived models for roller cone bits, it has been shown that

$$R = \left[\frac{d_c}{\pi \eta b} \right] \left[\frac{NW^2}{D^3} \right] [\tan^2(\vartheta - \phi)] K_2^2 K_1 \quad (4)$$

Where d_c is the cone diameter (maximum), b is the tooth width, η represent the number of teeth per cone, θ and ϕ represent the bit tooth angle and the formation internal friction angle respectively, K_1 is a formation related parameter and K_2 is function of the internal friction angle and differential pressure and rock shearing strength. Equation 4 can therefore be expressed as

$$\left[\frac{RD^3}{NW^2} \right] = d_r^r \quad (5)$$

For PDC bits, the drilling response is given by

$$d_r^p = \frac{RD}{WN} \quad (6)$$

Where

$$d_r^p = \left[\frac{10(1 - \sin \phi) \cot(\vartheta + \beta)}{p_m(1 + \sin \phi) + 2(c \cos \phi - p_p \sin \phi)} \right] \quad (7)$$

In equation 7, β is the cutter back rake angle, ϑ is the formation friction angle, p_m and p_p represent the mud and pore pressures respectively, and c is the formation cohesive strength. This expression has the same form as drillability, discussed above. Parameters d_r^p and d_r^p in equations 5 and 7 are functions of lithology, differential pressure and cutter properties, and therefore represents drilling response.

[00026] The variation of torque about a mean value caused by stick slip is strongly related to the friction properties of the lithology being drilled. The mean torque on the other hand is related to rock strength. Torque oscillations, therefore, can vary with changing lithologies, particularly in case of PDC bits. Changing lithologies can also cause changes in bit noise (also called SNAP) in terms of frequency and amplitude. This can further help in the process of lithological identification when used in conjunction with ROP. For example, fractured formations may show a sudden loss of SNAP with a sudden increase in ROP.

[00027] Instantaneous downhole RPM (when compared to the mean), like torque, can also show significant changes due to differences in stick-slip

patterns in changing lithologies. However, as the bit drills into the formation, the teeth wear (and cutters break) and therefore lose their aggressiveness. This manifests itself in the reduction in both static and dynamic torque. Correlation of the reduction in dynamic torque and static torque with trends in ROP can help in identifying this process. Cone locking can cause a tricone bit to act as a PDC bit, thereby resulting in loss of SNAP energy. Similarly, bit balling and bearing wear, which can cause tooth breakage, can also cause loss of SNAP energy. Thus, bit related problems are considered while analyzing lithologies.

[00028] Therefore, the three parameters DWOB, DTOB, RPM (instantaneous) and the resulting bit (axial) acceleration (of SNAP) and ROP, which are all affected by the lithology being drilled, or a composite log composed of these parameters, can be used to detect lithological changes while drilling.

[00029] Using the assumption that the formation response is a function of weight on bit (W), torque on bit (T) RPM (N), axial acceleration (Ax), ROP and bit diameter (D), dimensional analysis indicates that formation changes are related to changes in the following grouped drilling parameters, some of which are the well known model derived parameters discussed above:

- (i) $\frac{RD}{WN}$, known as rock drillability, is the inverse of rock strength;

- (ii) $\frac{RD^3}{NW^2}$ represents the drilling response based on the SLDT model
(roller cone bits);
- (iii) $\frac{TR}{W^2N}$, is known as the drilling response;
- (iv) $\frac{TA_x}{[WN]^2}$ which may be called dynamic drilling response;
- (v) $\frac{T}{WD}$, which is known as the normalized (or dimensionless) torque;
- (vi) $\frac{TN}{RD^2}$ which is related to formation shear strength.

[00030] Except for the dynamic drilling response expression which was derived from dimensional analysis, the other model and dimensional analysis derived parameters involve use of ROP, which is a surface measured parameter. The dynamic drilling response expression uses only dynamically measured parameters.

[00031] Test data having dynamic measurements were used to calculate the various parameters discussed above. The results from this analysis were compared with two lithology indicator logs: gamma ray and electromagnetic propagation resistivity (phase and amplitude). The gamma ray curve, which differentiates potentially productive formations (sandstones and limestone's) from other lithologies, is essentially a shale log, as it reflects

the shale content in a formation. The electromagnetic propagation resistivity tool provides the phase difference and attenuation of a constant frequency signal propagating through the formation.

[00032] These two measurements represent the phase and amplitude changes in the signal between two receiving antennas and are inversely related to the changes in formation resistivity.

[00033] The drilled formation consists of four general lithologies: (i) claystone and shale from a first depth interval **90**, (ii) limestone, chert and shale in a second depth interval **92**, (iii) chalk in a third depth interval **94**, and (iv) claystone/siltstone in a fourth depth interval **96**. It should be understood that the graphs shown in the Figures discussed below have been annotated for convenience and represent approximations rather than actual data, which, of course, varies from formation to formation.

[00034] **Figs. 3A-E** show plots of gamma ray (**Fig. 3A**), resistivity (**Fig. 3B**), downhole weight on bit (DWOB) (**Fig. 3C**), downhole torque on bit (DTOB) (RMS and average) (**Fig. 3D**) and rate of penetration (ROP) (**Fig. 3E**) versus depth. A correlation between formation changes and corresponding changes in the three measured parameters, particularly ROP and DTOB, can be observed. The DTOB and ROB stay constant during a claystone shale interval **90**. Then ROP, DTOB and DWOB show a change at a depth **102**, followed by another change at a depth **104** and so on. These changes can be observed in both gamma and resistivity plots. Curves for DTOB and

DWOB plots that represent the average values are labeled with numeral **106**. Curves for DTOB and DWOB plots that represent the RMS values are labeled with numerals **108**.

[00035] **Figs. 4A-4C** show plots of x-axis acceleration (**Fig. 4A**), z-axis acceleration (**Fig. 4B**), and high frequency axial strain (HFRMSR) also called SNAP (**Fig. 4C**). The depth values in **Figs. 4A-C** generally correspond with the depth shown in **Fig. 3A**. The x-acceleration (lateral) plot includes plots of a maximum one second RMS lateral acceleration curve **110**, a maximum lateral acceleration curve **112**, and a maximum RMS lateral acceleration curve **114**. The z-acceleration plot shows the maximum axial acceleration curve **116**, and maximum one second RMS axial acceleration curve **118**. These plots show some activity or changes in the claystone region and chalk region, but in general do not show any clear-cut changes at or around the location of lithology changes. Nevertheless, modifications / adjustments to the placement of the sensors, operating parameters, BHA design, processing methodology / formulas, may result in the **Fig. 4A-C** parameters providing indications of lithological change.

[00036] **Figs. 5A-C** shows plots of stick-slip (S1) (**Fig. 5A**), maximum RPM (**Fig. 5B**), and minimum RPM (**Fig. 5C**). The depth values in **Figs. 5A-C** generally correspond with the depth shown in **Fig. 3A**. Like torque, maximum instantaneous RPM also changes with changes in lithology. This is due to phenomenon such as stick slip, caused by friction between the bit and formation. Stick-slip, which represents the ratio of change in RPM (maximum

RPM minus minimum RPM) with respect to average RPM, therefore shows similar changes. Just like torque, therefore, instantaneous RPM appears to be a good indicator of formation changes.

[00037] **Figs. 5E & F** show plots of one-second tangential acceleration (**Fig. 5E**) and maximum tangential acceleration (**Fig. 5F**) versus depth, respectively. **Fig. 5D** shows gamma **502** and ROP **504** versus depth. The depth values in **Figs. 5E & F** generally correspond with the depth shown in **Fig. 5D**. Like torque, tangential acceleration also changes with changes in lithology. For illustration, compaction slopes **506** and **508** are shown. As can be seen, a correlation appears between the measurements of tangential acceleration, both one-second and maximum, and gamma measurements. Just like torque, therefore, tangential acceleration appears to be a good indicator of formation changes.

[00038] **Figs. 5H & I** show plots of lateral acceleration (**Fig. 5H**) and maximum lateral acceleration (**Fig. 5I**) versus depth, respectively. **Fig. 5G** shows gamma versus depth. The depth values in **Figs. 5E & F** generally correspond with the depth shown in **Fig. 5D**. Like torque, tangential acceleration also changes with changes in lithology. For illustration, a compaction slope **520** is shown. As can be seen, a correlation appears between the measurements of tangential acceleration, both one-second and maximum, and gamma measurements. Just like tangential acceleration, lateral acceleration appears to be a good indicator of formation changes.

[00039] **Fig. 6A-C** show plots of bending moment versus depth, including a plot of x bending (BM-X) moment (**Fig. 6A**), a plot of the bending moment (BM-XY)(square root of the sum of the squares of x and y bending moments) (**Fig. 6B**), and a plot of the resultant bending moment (BM) (square root of the sum of squares of three bending moments, including downhole torque) (**Fig. 6C**). The depth values in **Figs. 6A-C** generally correspond with the depth shown in **Fig. 3A**. As can be seen, the BM curve shows appreciable changes with respect to lithology. This might be attributed to the inclusion of downhole torque.

[00040] **Fig. 7** shows the cross plot of drillability (RD/WN) and Gamma ray. As can be seen, there are four distinct clusters of data points at four different gamma ray levels. Each cluster of points shows a linear relationship between gamma ray and drillability with different intercepts and slope for each cluster. A first cluster **120** of points on the plot are mostly claystone and shale. A second cluster **122** of points is mostly chert and shale. A third cluster **124** is the chalk section. A fourth cluster **126** of points represents the claystone/siltstone section. **Figs. 8** and **9** show the corresponding plots for drilling response and dynamic drilling response. The positive slope for each group in the three plots shows that the formation related response increases with an increase in gamma ray response.

[00041] **Figs. 10** and **11** show crossplots of drillability (RD/WN) and dimensionless torque (T/WD). The plots show four distinct cluster of data points **130, 132, 134, and 136**, with each cluster showing an approximately

linear relationship between the two parameters. The cluster **130** of points appears to have nearly same slope as the cluster **134**, indicating almost similar mechanical properties. The cluster **132** of points shows a lower slope.

[00042] It may be noted that at the intercept at $ROP = 0$ (see equation 1), the torque to weight ratio is a function of friction coefficient, $\frac{\mu}{4}$. Each of these clusters has a different intercept, which indicates a different lithology. The higher value of intercept in the case of the cluster **134** and the cluster **130** indicates a higher friction coefficient compared to the blue cluster **136** (claystone/siltstone). Based on the values of the intercepts, it is clear that a higher torque to weight ratio is needed to initiate drilling in chalk than in the claystone/siltstone lithology. The slope of each cluster is a function of drilling and shear strength. This plot in general shows that the two parameters individually (i.e., drillability and dimensionless torque), are good indicators of lithology.

[00043] **Figs. 12A-C** show plots of dynamic drilling response (**Fig. 12A**), drillability (**Fig. 12B**) and dimensionless torque (**Fig. 12C**), respectively. The depth values in **Figs. 12A-C** generally correspond with the depth shown in **Fig. 3A**. The dynamic drilling response, drillability & dimensionless plots show good correlation with the gamma ray and resistivity measurements.

[00044] **Figs. 13A-C** show plots of gamma ray (**Fig. 13A**), resistivity (**Fig. 13B**), and a plot of drilling response (**Fig. 13C**) plotted on log scale. The depth values in **Figs. 12A-C** generally correspond with the depth shown in

Fig. 3A. The plot shows good correlation of drilling response with the gamma ray.

[00045] **Fig. 14C-E** show plots of shear strength (TN/RD2) (**Fig. 14C**), rock strength (WN/RD) (**Fig. 14D**) which is inverse of drillability, and plot of dynamic strength ($W2N2/T A_x$) (**Fig. 14E**), which is inverse of dynamic response in strength units. The three plots also show a correlation with plots of both resistivity (**Fig. 3A**) and gamma ray (**Fig. 3B**).

[00046] As reflected in **Figs. 3-14**, dynamic measurements and model derived expressions can be used as formation change indicators while drilling. The figures described above have been shown juxtapositioned with respect to depth where possible to further illustrate relationships and correlations that can be developed between changes in lithology and measured parameters. It should be appreciated that the above-discussed lithology indicator parameters are merely exemplary of the dynamic measurements and model derived expressions that could be used for determining lithology indications during drilling. For example, in addition to axial, lateral and tangential acceleration, torsional acceleration can also be used in certain applications. Acceleration, bending moment, and SNAP (HFRMS), for example, may provide a weak indication of lithology in some conditions but may provide stronger indications when combined with a particular model derived expression, BHA configuration or set of operating parameters. Additionally, processed dynamic parameters (e.g., axial velocity

derived through integrating the axial acceleration) may be used as a replacement for ROP in the drilling model parameter groups.

[00047] Thus, generally speaking, in aspects, the present invention provides methodologies wherein one or more downhole measured parameters are selected for dynamic measurement. A feature of the selected measured parameter or parameters is that a change in the lithology of the formation being drilled has a discernable affect on that selected measured parameter. Thus, aspects of the present invention include a method of selecting a suitable parameter by comparing dynamic measurements of selected parameters with known lithological data. This comparison can include determining the strength of the correlation between changes in the measurements of the selected parameter and the known lithological data. Lithological models can be formulated based on the parameter measurements having a relatively strong correlation to lithology. Lithological models based one or more of these measured parameters can thereafter utilized to obtain an indication of lithology during drilling. Other methodologies and systems are described in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,415,040 and 4,852,399, which are hereby incorporated by reference for all purposes.

[00048] Referring now to **Figs. 1** and **2**, in an exemplary drilling operation, rotary power provided at the surface and/or downhole rotates the drill bit **56**. The bit disintegrates rock and earth and thereby forms a wellbore through the formation. The processor(s) **12** continuously or periodically processes surface data and downhole data, including dynamic

measurements, to determine whether the formation being drilled by the drill bit **56** has a lithological make-up different from the formation already drilled. Advantageously, this lithological indication can be obtained relatively quickly, *i.e.*, as the drill bit **56** enters the new lithology, rather than when the MWD tool **46**, which can trail the drill bit **56** by over fifty feet enters the new lithology.

[00049] As discussed earlier, the lithological indications can be used in several ways. For example, if the lithology indications suggest entry into a high-pressure zone, then mud weight can be appropriately increased to control wellbore pressure. Conversely, if the lithology indications suggest a relatively low pore pressure, the mud weight can be decreased to prevent damage to the formation. Moreover, the system **10** can provide an early indication of boundaries or interfaces between different subterranean formations. Thus, in situations where the lithology is unfavorable, the “rat hole” into the unfavorable lithology can be minimized. The lithology indications can also be used to supplement surface seismic data with more precise depth locations for bed boundaries and formation interfaces.

[00050] While preferred embodiments have been shown and described various modifications and substitutions may be made thereto without departing from the scope of the invention. Accordingly, it is to be understood that the present invention has been described by way of illustrations and not limitations.

THE CLAIMS

1. A method for determining one or more properties of a subsurface formation traversed by a wellbore, comprising:

- (i) drilling the wellbore;
- (ii) dynamically measuring at least one parameter of interest that is affected by the lithology of the formation being drilled, the measurement being made downhole; and
- (iii) determining at least one lithological characteristic of the formation being drilled using the dynamically measured parameter of interest.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one parameter is selected from a group consisting of: (i) downhole weight on bit, (ii) downhole torque on bit, (iii) drill bit revolution, (iv) drill string revolution, (v) axial acceleration, (vi) tangential acceleration, (vii) lateral acceleration and (viii) torsional acceleration.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the lithological characteristic is determined using a processor utilizing a model.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the model includes one of: (i) drill bit geometry, (ii) BHA geometry, (iii) drill string geometry, (iv) BHA operating behavior, and (iv) BHA prior run data.
5. The method according to claim 3, wherein the model includes a relationship using one of: (i) rate of penetration, and (ii) acceleration.
6. The method according to claim 3, wherein the model includes a relationship selected from one of (i) $\frac{RD}{WN}$, (ii) $\frac{RD^3}{NW^2}$, (iii) $\frac{TR}{W^2N}$, (iv) $\frac{TA_x}{[WN]^2}$, (v) $\frac{T}{WD}$, and (vi) $\frac{TN}{RD^2}$.
7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one lithological characteristic is determined at one of (i) downhole, and (ii) at the surface.
8. The method according to claim 1 further comprising adjusting drilling in response to the determined lithological characteristic.
9. The method according to claim 1 further comprising determining a correlation between the at least one dynamically measured parameter of interest and the at least one lithological characteristic prior to drilling the wellbore; and using the correlation to determine the at least one lithological characteristic of the formation while drilling.

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one lithological characteristic of the formation is determined while drilling.

11. An apparatus for determining one or more properties of a subsurface formation traversed by a wellbore, comprising:

- (i) a bottomhole assembly (BHA) drilling the wellbore;
- (ii) at least one sensor dynamically measuring at least one parameter of interest that is affected by a lithology of the formation being drilled, the measurement being made downhole; and
- (iii) a processor determining at least one lithological characteristic of the formation being drilled using the dynamically measured parameter of interest.

12. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the at least one parameter is selected from a group consisting of (i) downhole weight on bit, (ii) downhole torque on bit, (iii) drill bit revolution, (iv) drill string revolution, (v) axial acceleration, (vi) tangential acceleration, (vii) lateral acceleration and (viii) torsional acceleration.

13. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the processor includes a model.

14. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the model includes one of: (i) drill bit geometry, (ii) BHA geometry, (iii) drill string geometry, (iv) BHA operating behavior, and (iv) BHA prior run data.

15. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the model includes a relationship using one of: (i) rate of penetration, and (ii) acceleration.

16. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the model includes a relationship selected from one of (i) $\frac{RD}{WN}$, (ii) $\frac{RD^3}{NW^2}$, (iii) $\frac{TR}{W^2N}$, (iv) $\frac{TA_x}{[WN]^2}$, (v) $\frac{T}{WD}$, and (vi) $\frac{TN}{RD^2}$.

17. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the at least one lithological characteristic is determined at one of (i) downhole, and (ii) at the surface.

18. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the processor includes a determined correlation between the at least one dynamically measured parameter of interest and the at least one lithological characteristic prior to drilling the wellbore and is programmed to use the correlation to determine the at least one lithological characteristic of the formation while drilling.

19. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the processor determines the at least one lithological characteristic of the formation during drilling.

20. A method for determining a transition in a lithology of a subsurface formation traversed by a wellbore, comprising:

(i) measuring at a plurality of points in time at least one parameter of interest of a downhole tool that is affected by formation lithology, the measurements being made downhole; and

(ii) determining the transition in lithology by correlating the plurality of measurements to a model.

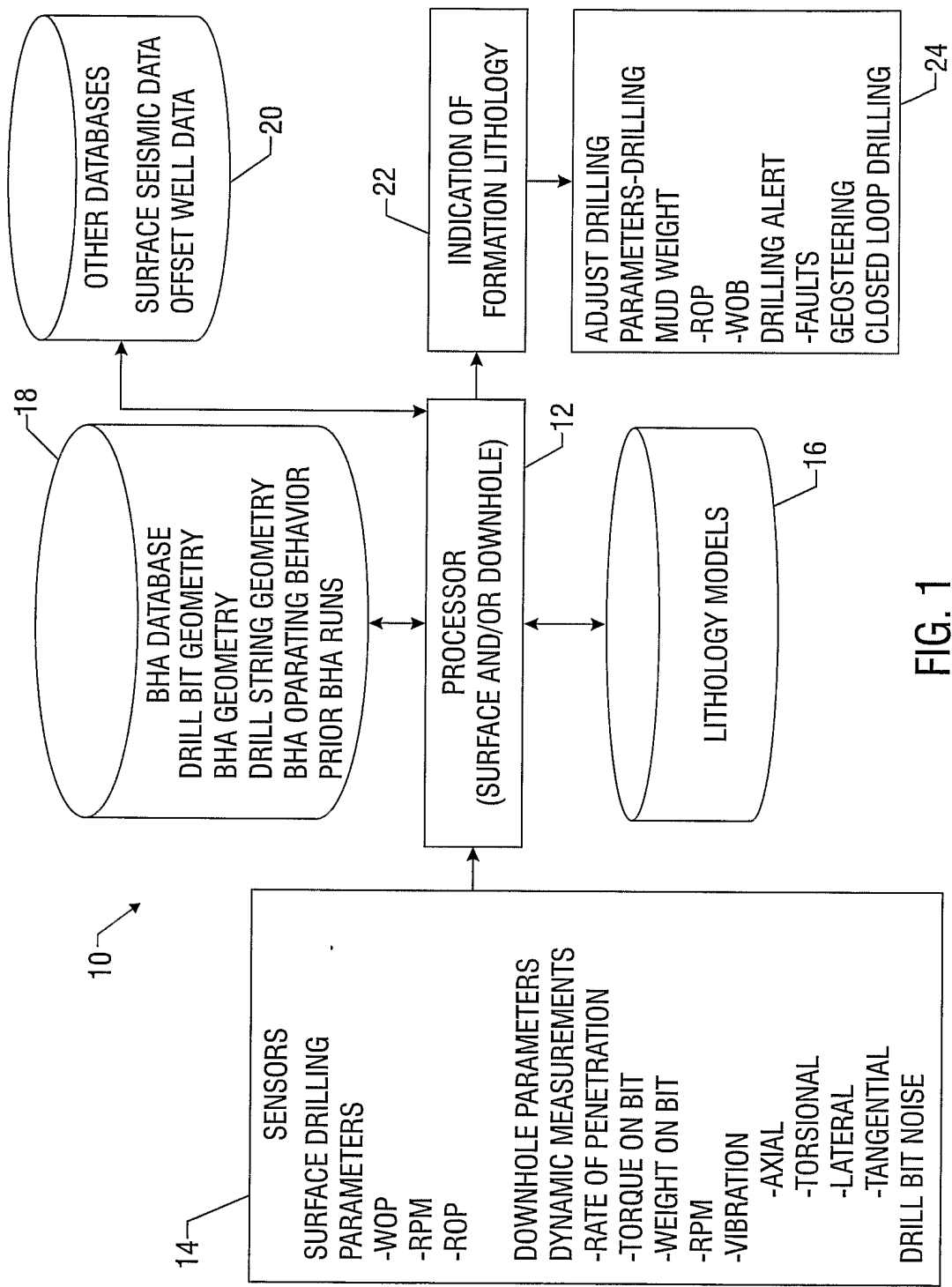


FIG. 1

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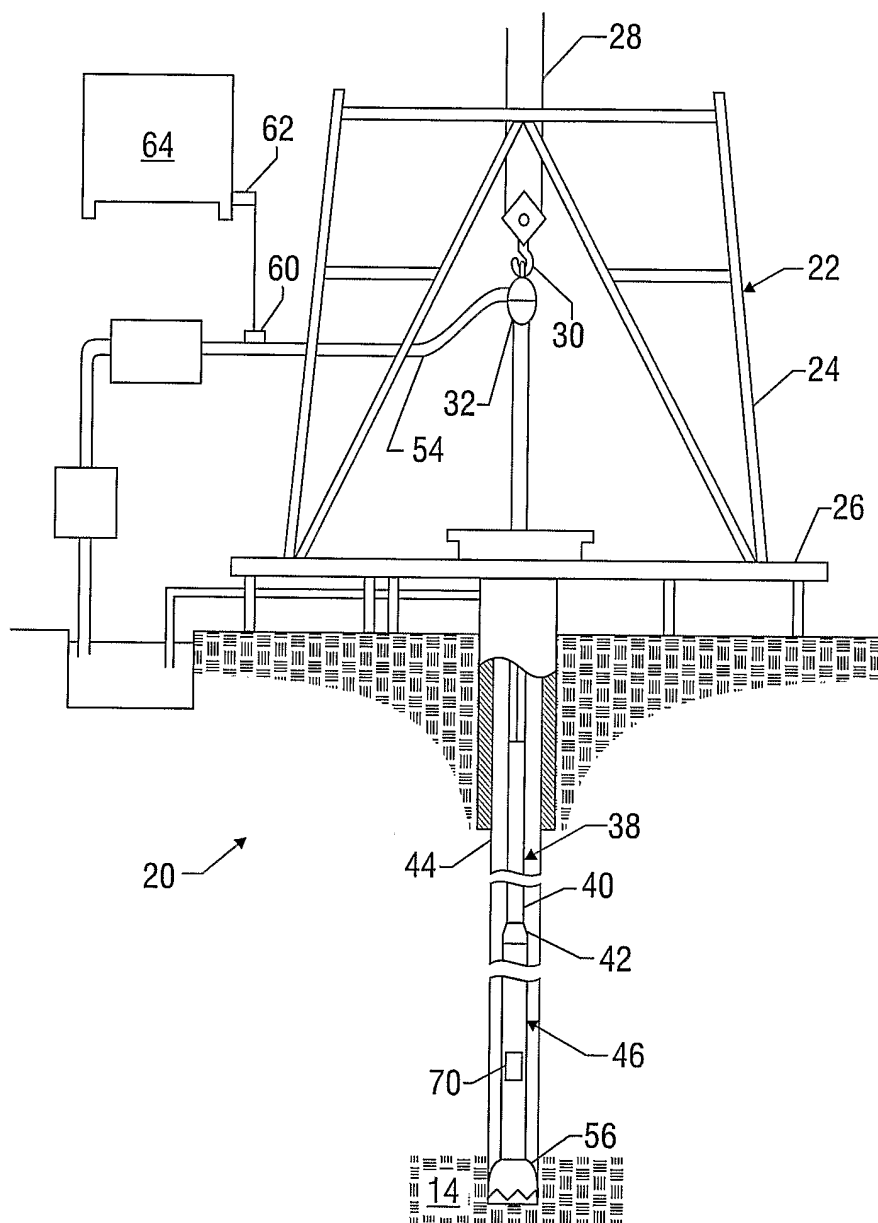


FIG. 2

FIG. 3A

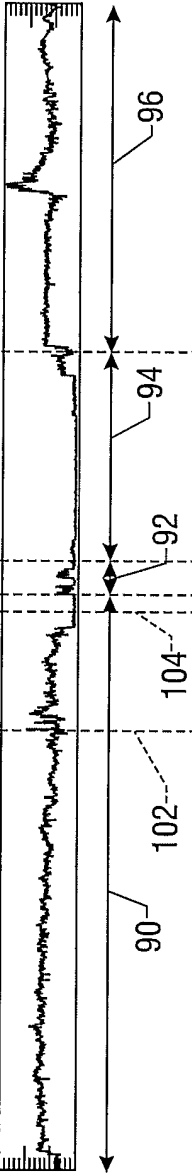


FIG. 3B

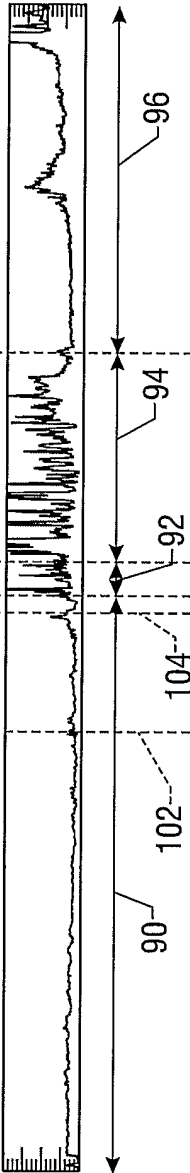


FIG. 3C

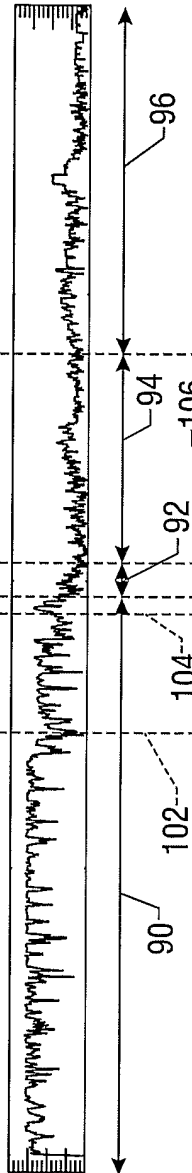


FIG. 3D

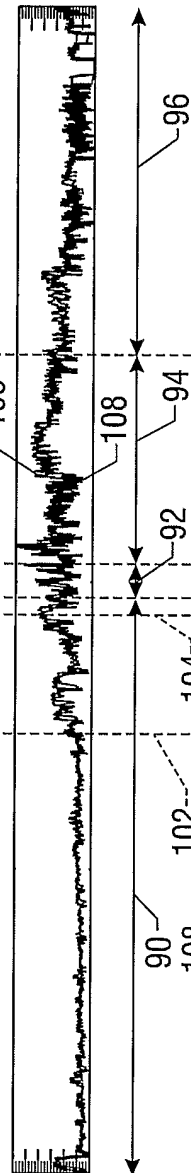


FIG. 3E

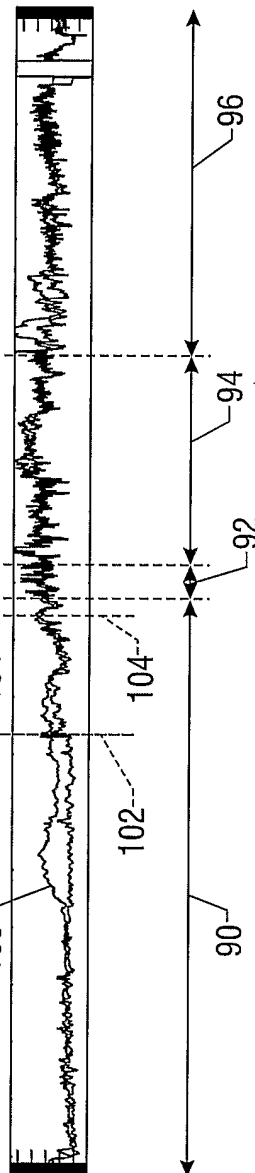


FIG. 4A

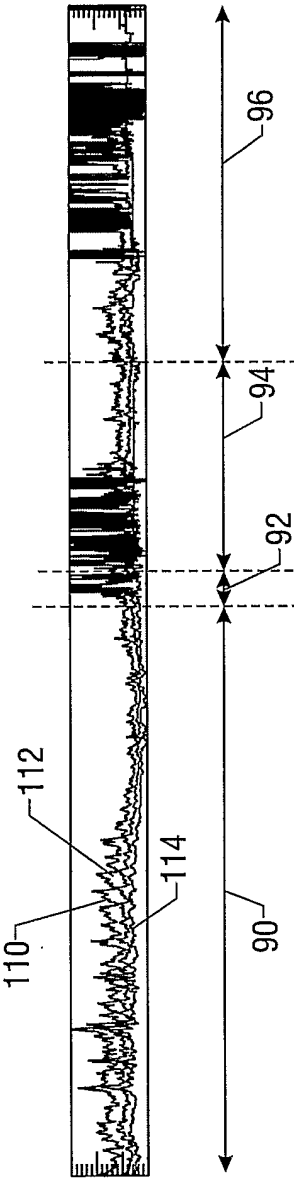


FIG. 4B

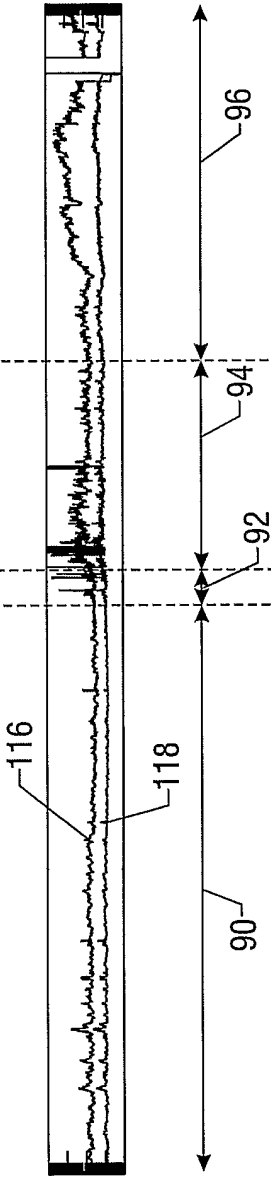
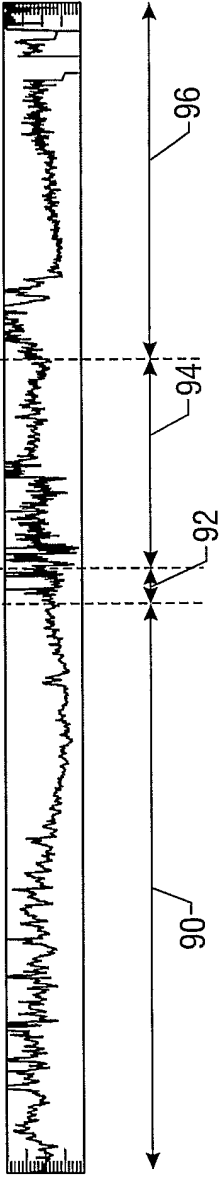
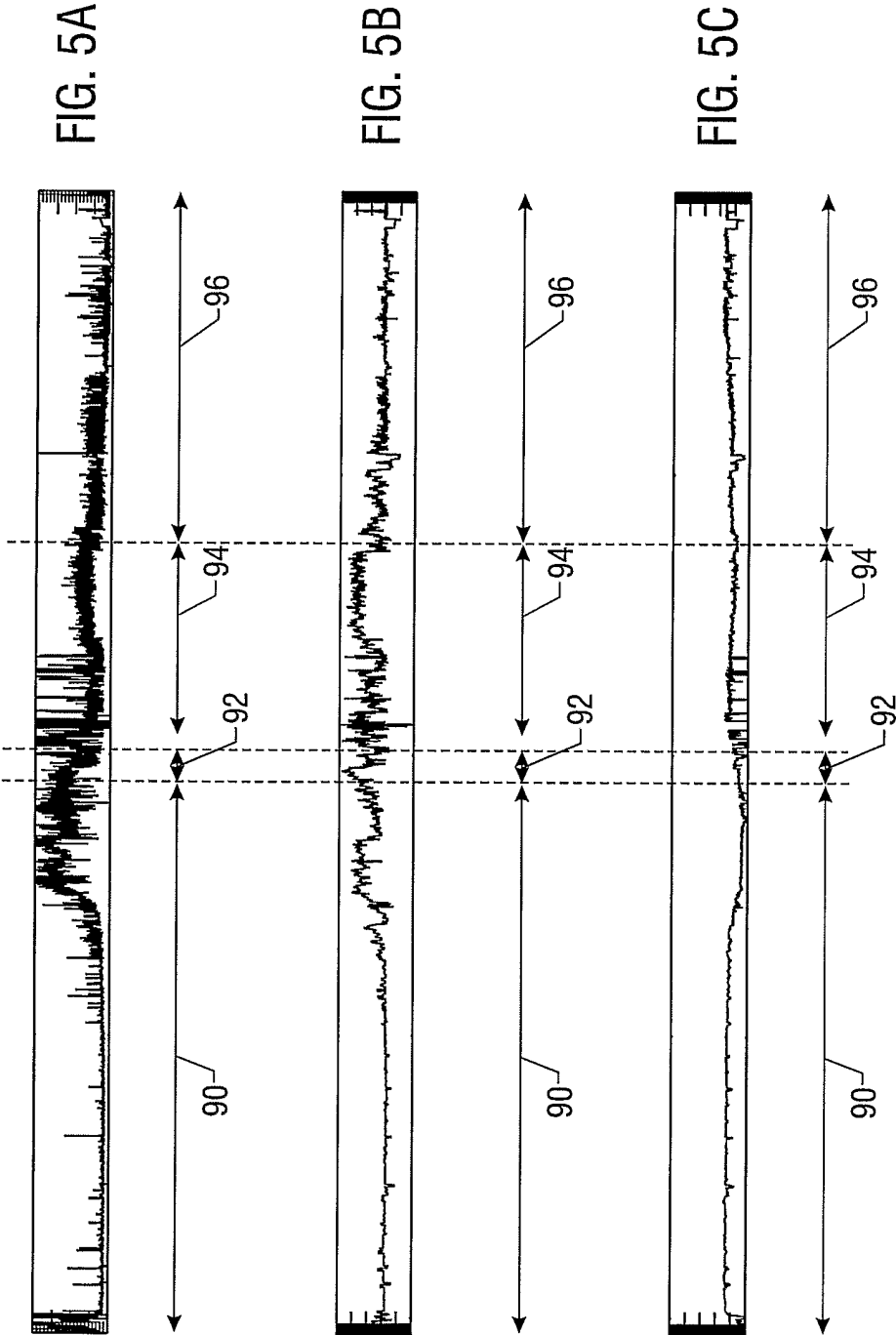
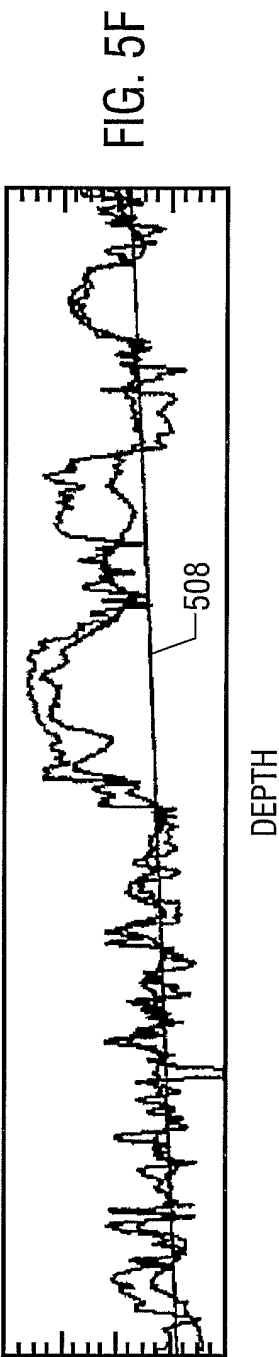
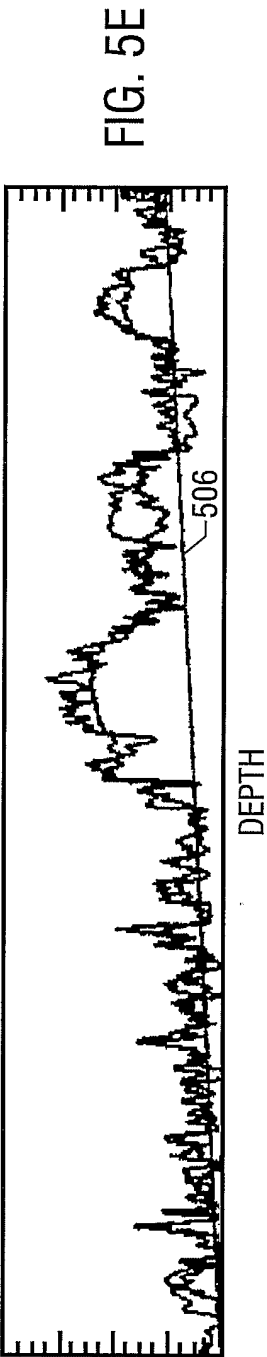
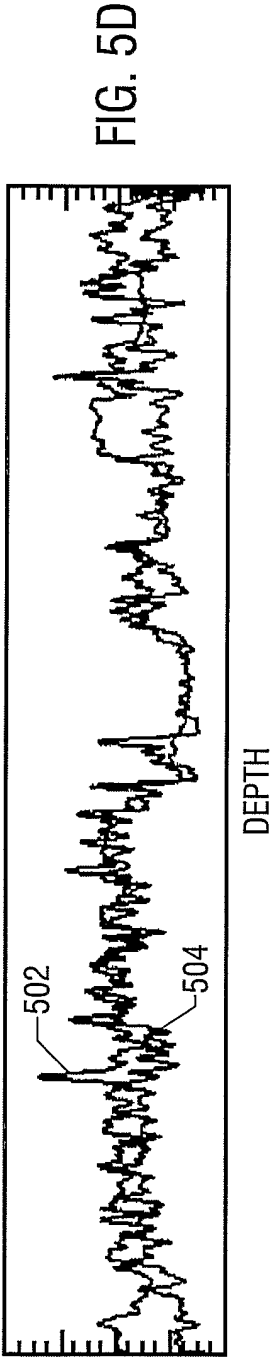
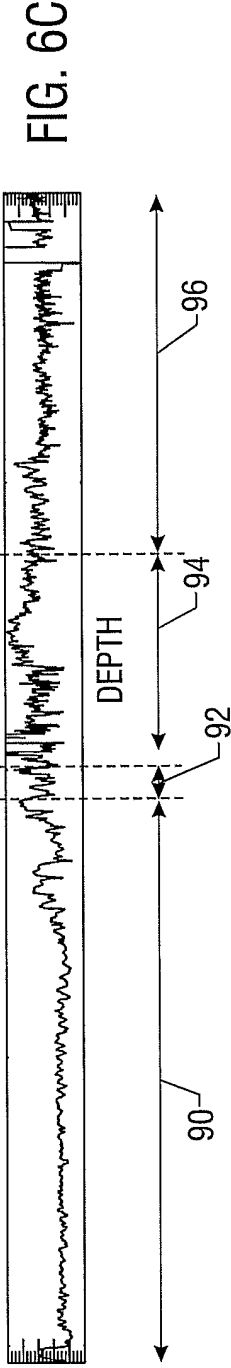
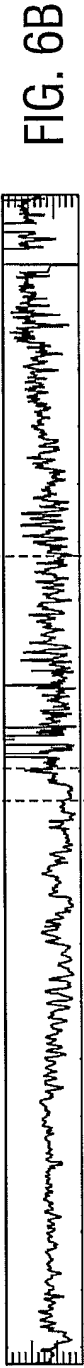
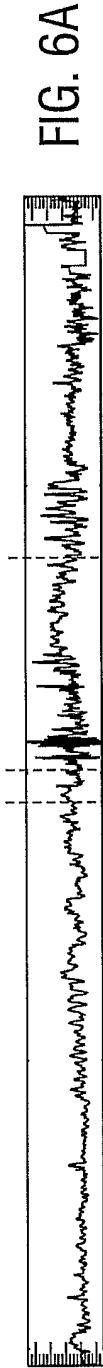


FIG. 4C









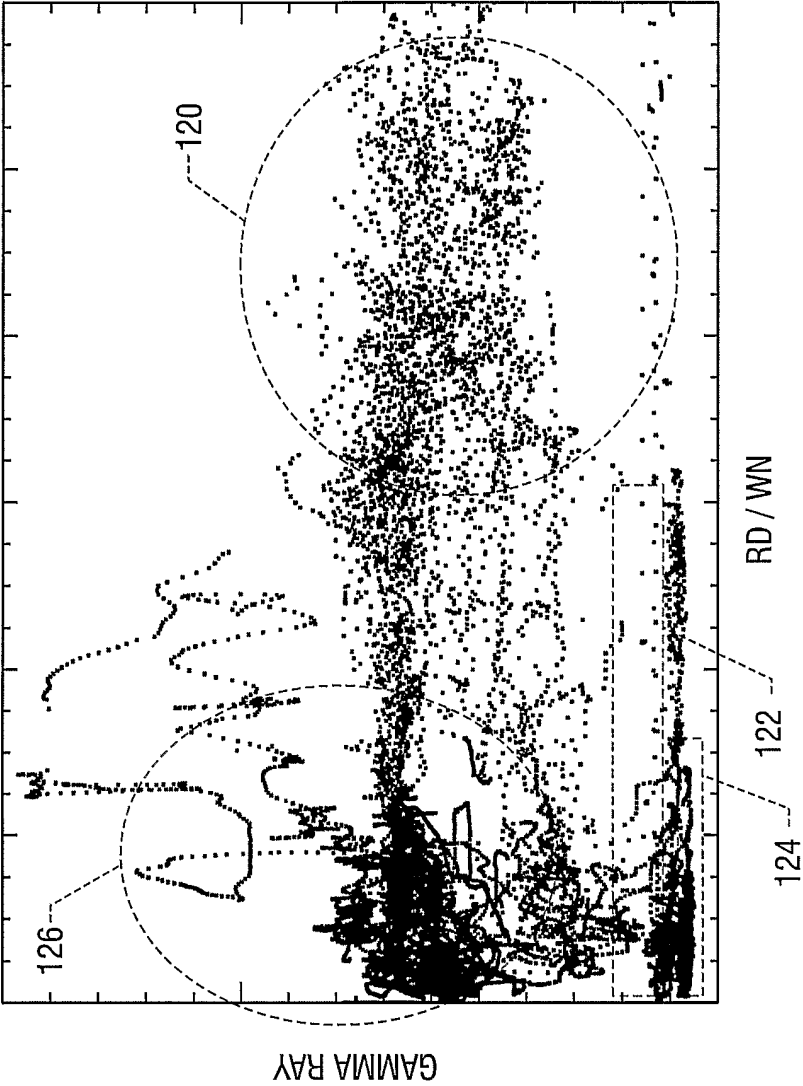
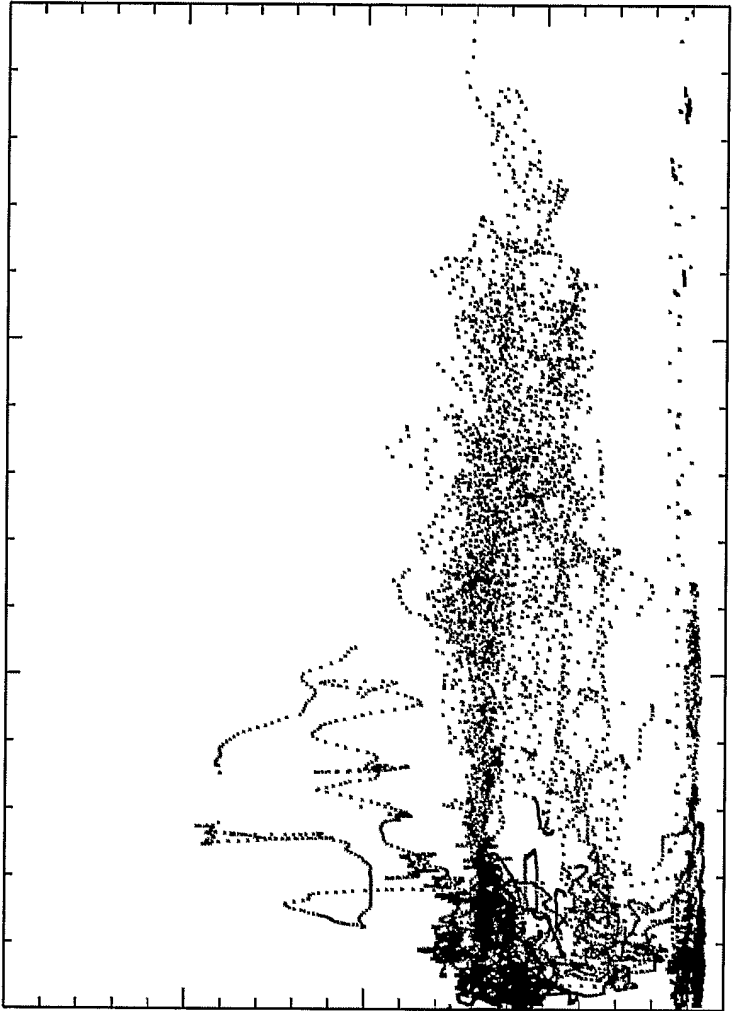


FIG. 7

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RD / W2N

FIG. 8

GAMMA RAY

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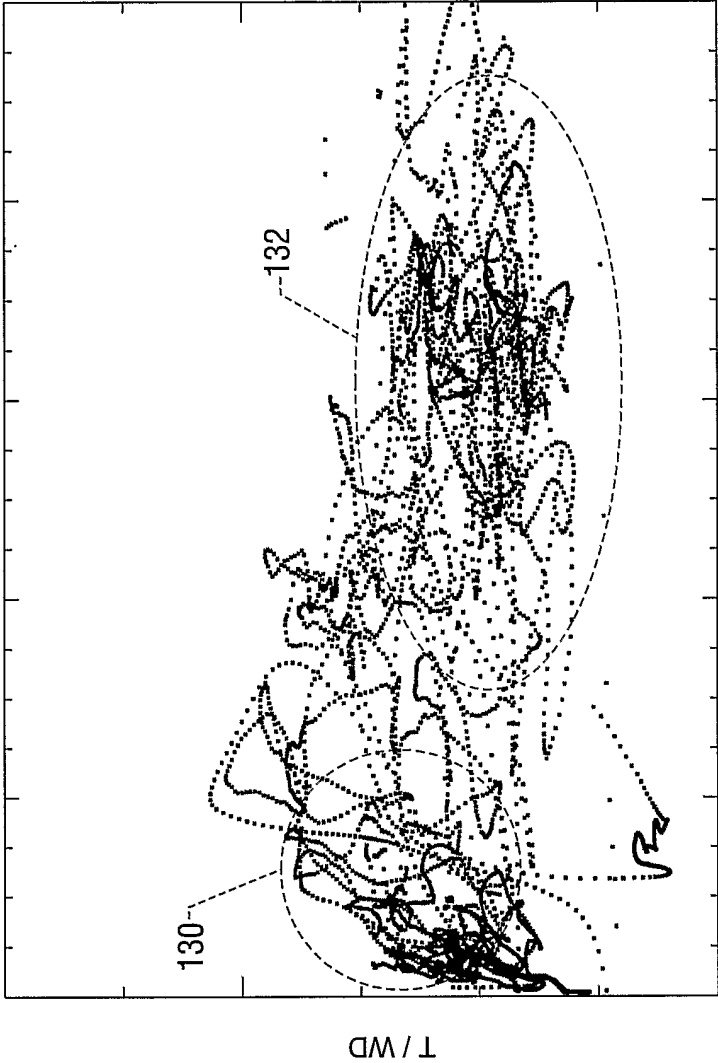


GAMMA RAY

RD / W2N2

FIG. 9

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RD / WN

FIG. 10

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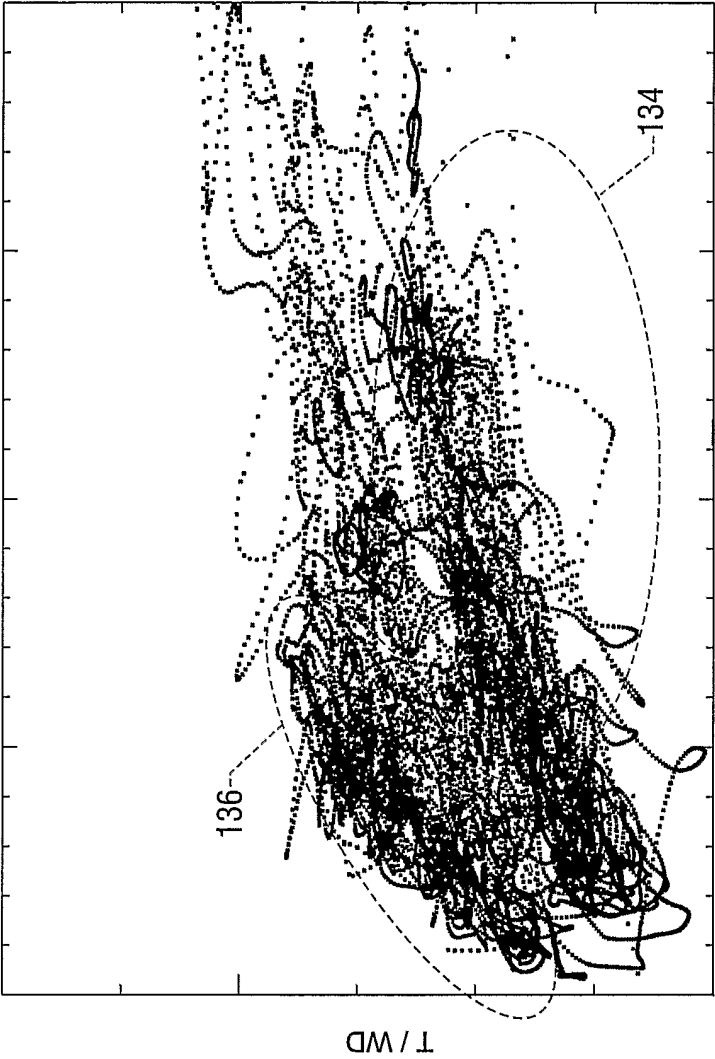


FIG. 11

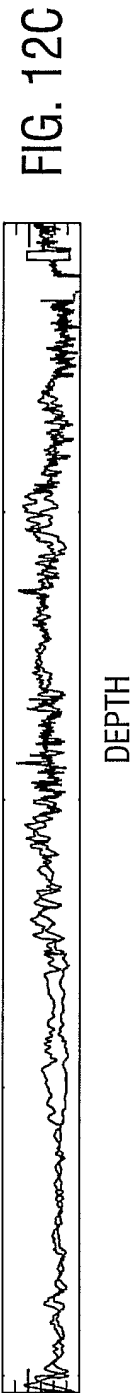
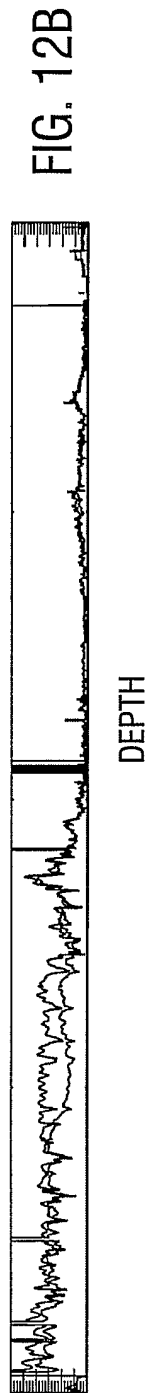
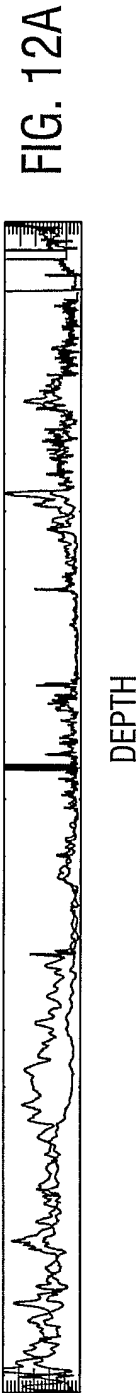


FIG. 13A

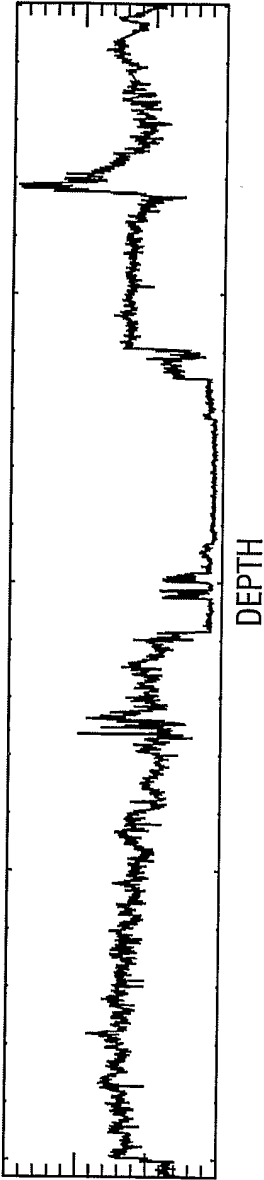


FIG. 13B

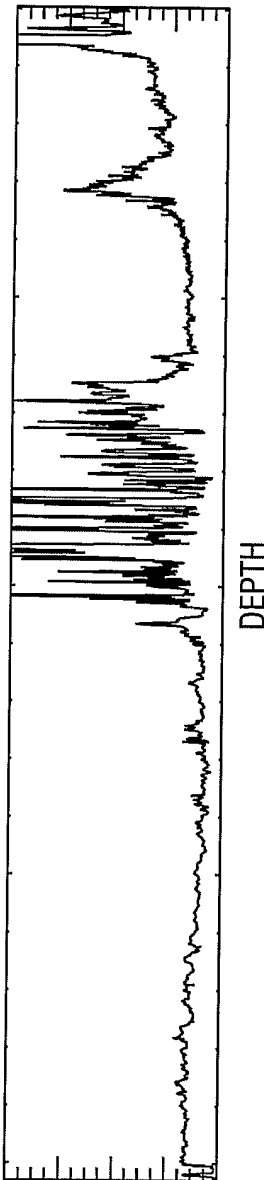
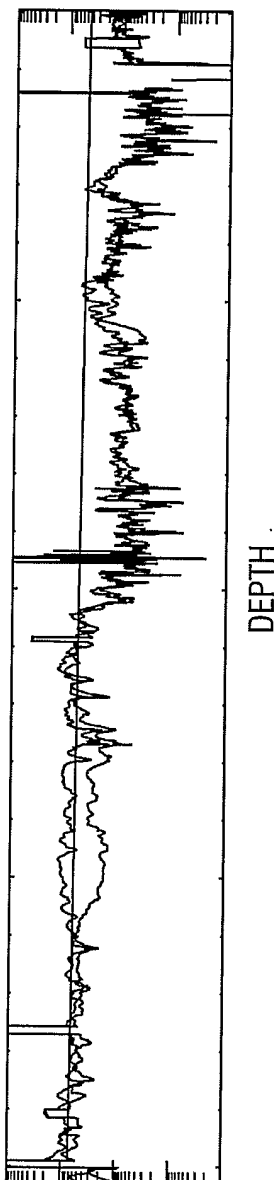
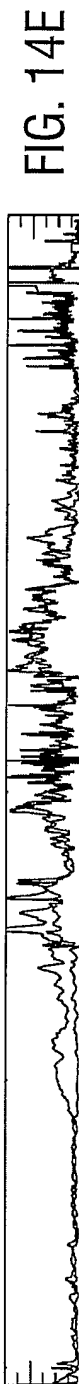
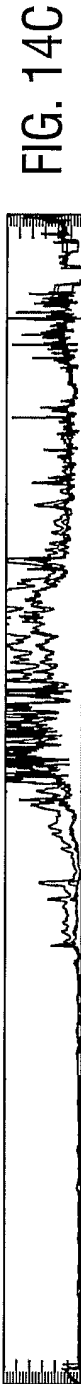
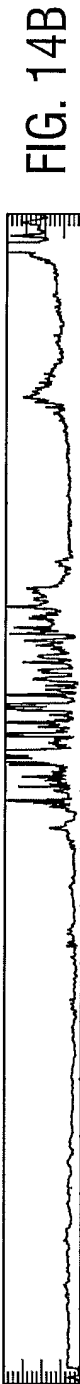


FIG. 13C





INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/US2006/005900

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. E21B49/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

E21B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2004/256152 A1 (DASHEVSKIY DMITRIY ET AL) 23 December 2004 (2004-12-23) paragraphs [0002], [0012], [0060], [0065], [0066]; claims 1,2,7; figure 1 -----	1-20
X	US 2003/221869 A1 (IRELAND PETER J) 4 December 2003 (2003-12-04) paragraphs [0032], [0034]; claims 1-20; figures 1-3 -----	1-20
X	US 6 233 524 B1 (HARRELL JOHN W ET AL) 15 May 2001 (2001-05-15) column 4, line 51 - column 4, line 60 column 8, line 23 - column 8, line 42; claims 22-26; figures 1-3 -----	1-20
A	US 6 408 953 B1 (GOLDMAN WILLIAM A ET AL) 25 June 2002 (2002-06-25) the whole document -----	1-20



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

28 June 2006

Date of mailing of the international search report

05/07/2006

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Manolache, I

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2006/005900

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