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(54) **SYSTEM OF PROCESSING AND PRESENTING DRILL HOLE DATA**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

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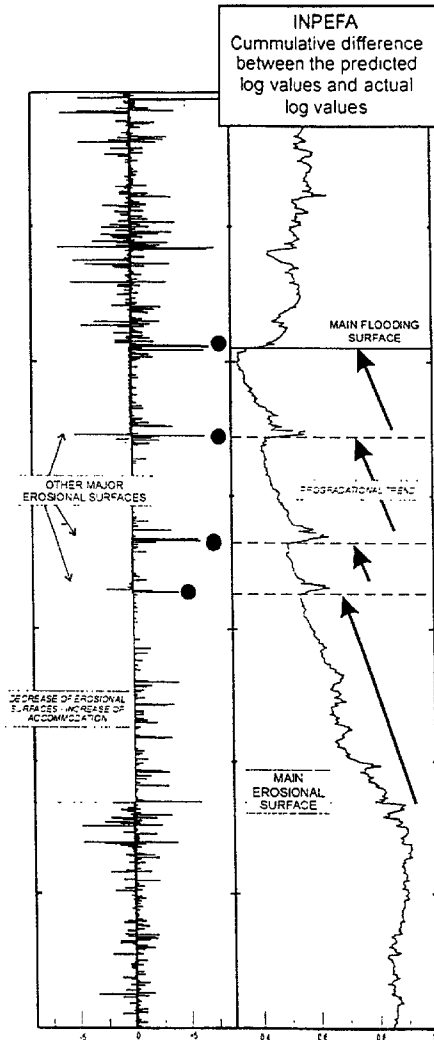
The invention relates to a system of processing and presenting drill hole data such as obtained by taking a drill hole measurement, characterized in that

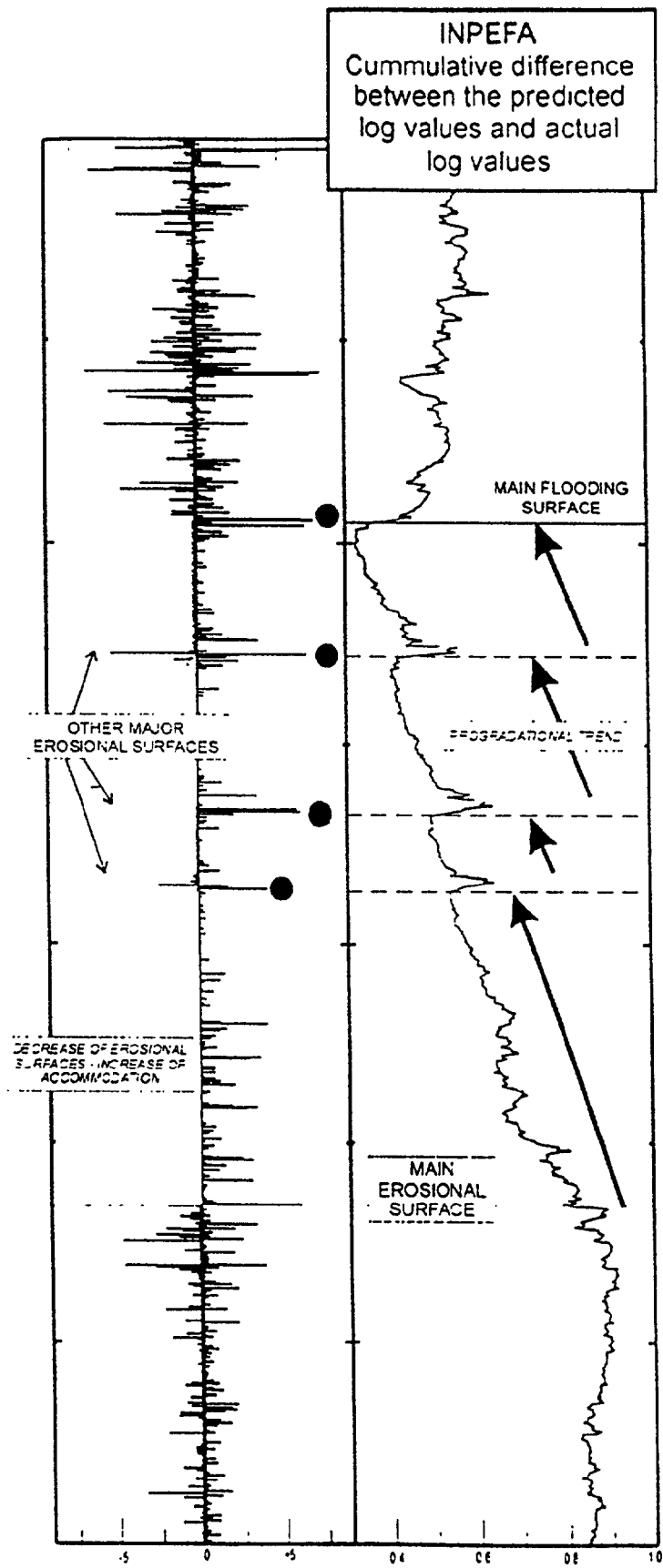
the drill hole measurement data are divided into successive depth bands having a predetermined depth window;

for each depth band a spectral analysis is carried out producing for each such depth band a spectral band;

the spectral band of each separate depth band is compared with climate-related deposition cycles, such as the known Milankovitch cycle data, that relate to the examined area; and

the predetermined depth window of the depths bands is adjusted to realize an optimal correlation between the spectral band of at least one depth band and the respective cycle or cycles.





SYSTEM OF PROCESSING AND PRESENTING DRILL HOLE DATA

[0001] The invention relates to a system of processing and presenting drill hole measurement data such as obtained by taking a measurement in drill hole.

[0002] In practice data of drill hole measurements are used by the petroleum industry in the exploration and production of oil and gas, in order to predict and/or to detect the possible presence of strata containing oil and/or gas deposits. A problem is, however, that the known methods of interpreting drill hole data is very cost-intensive, and presupposes an exact knowledge of the geological history of the examined terrain. There is a large variety in the types of measurement data used with this examination. For example, measurements of the natural radioactivity in the examined drill holes are used. Also, acoustic signals are used in order to determine the speed of sound in the examined stratum, which is an indirect measure of the density of that stratum. However, other types of measuring data are also in use.

[0003] It is the object of the invention to provide a system with which the person skilled in the art is able to gain an accurate understanding of the geological structure of the examined domain by means of partly computerized processing of the data from the drill hole measurement. An additional object of the invention is to make these data of drill hole measurements available in a cost-efficient and user-friendly manner.

[0004] In a first aspect of the invention the system of processing and presenting data of drill hole measurements as obtained by taking a measurement in a drill hole is characterized, in that the drill hole measurement data are divided into successive depth bands having a predetermined depth window; in that for each depth band a spectral analysis is carried out providing for each such depth band a spectral band; in that the spectral band of each individual depth band is compared with climate-related deposition cycles, such as the known Milankovitch cycle data, that relate to the examined area; and in that the predetermined depth window of the depths bands is adjusted to realize an optimal correlation between the spectral band of at least one depth band and the respective cycle or cycles. This renders the subsequent analysis of the drill hole measurement data highly reliable, allowing the obtained drill hole measurement data to be optimally correlated with the generally available geological knowledge of the examined area.

[0005] As already mentioned, the depth window of the various depth bands is predetermined. This depth window determines the resolution and consequently the accuracy with which the drill hole measurement data can be translated into geologically relevant information.

[0006] A further aspect of the invention relates to the system being characterized in that the cycle pattern of the spectral band is determined by a first depth band; in that the cycle pattern of the first spectral band is used as prediction for the spectral band of a second depth band succeeding the first depth band; in that the occurrence of a discontinuity in a predicted spectral band is determined in relation to the actual measurement data; and in that said discontinuity is an indication for a geologically significant boundary layer. When assuming a certain predictability in regard to at least a part of the collected drill hole measurement data, it is

possible to use this predictability for the detection of discontinuities. Such discontinuities appear to coincide with sudden changes in the drill hole measurement data that correspond to geological events such as changes in climate or trend breaks in the geological structure.

[0007] In yet another aspect of the invention, the system is characterized in that the discontinuities, which are determined with respect to the successive depth bands, are integrated with the variable parameter being the depth to which the drill hole measurement data refer. This is a very clear manner of visualizing the course of a trend relating to the examined geological structure. Especially the long-wave and short-wave trends in the cyclic patterns of the drill hole measurement data are thus visualized.

[0008] To the person skilled in the art, the above description is sufficiently clear and complete to be able to repeat the invention, so that an additional figure description may be omitted. The system according to the invention may, for example, be implemented on a stand-alone computer such as a PC to which a graphical image unit is coupled. Such a system will allow the presentation of measuring data such as shown in the appended single figure. The figure shows an image as may appear on a display of a system according to the invention. The image is comprised of a left half and a right half. The left half of the image shows the discontinuities determined with as variable parameter (y-axis) the depth of the drill hole. Said discontinuities may entail a deviation to the left or a deviation to the right, having a particular geological significance. A deviation to the left generally signifies an increase in sediment formation, whereas a deviation to the right signifies a decrease. For the determination of the discontinuities shown in the left half of the image, the drill hole measurement data are divided into successive depth bands, with for each depth band a depth window as determined by the user of the system. Subsequently, a spectral analysis is carried out for each depth band, providing a spectral band that relates to each such depth band. The spectral bands are then compared for each separate depth band with the (Milankovitch) cycle data applicable to the examined terrain, to arrive at the best possible coordination between these known data and the measurement data. To this end the depth window can be adjusted. When this is done, the discontinuities are determined by determining the cycle pattern of the spectral band pertaining to a first depth band and to use this as prediction for the spectral band pertaining to a second depth band succeeding said first depth band. This predicted spectral band relating to the second depth band is compared with the actual measurement data that have become available and with the differences between the predicted values and the discontinuities constituting the measurement values shown in the left half of the image. The right half of the image then shows the graph that results when the discontinuities determined in relation to the successive depth bands and which are shown in the left half of the image, are integrated with as variable parameter the depth to which the drill hole measurement data relate. As is clearly shown in the figure, in the right half, long-wave and short-wave trends can be discerned in this integrated image. These trends constitute identifiable information for an expert on the terrain here at issue, and provide a clear indication of its geological profile.

1. A system of processing and presenting drill hole data such as obtained by taking a drill hole measurement, characterized in that

the drill hole measurement data are divided into successive depth bands having a predetermined depth window;

for each depth band a spectral analysis is carried out producing for each such depth band a spectral band;

the spectral band of each separate depth band is compared with climate-related deposition cycles, such as the known Milankovitch cycle data, that relate to the examined area; and

the predetermined depth window of the depths bands is adjusted to realize an optimal correlation between the spectral band of at least one depth band and the respective cycle or cycles.

2. A system according to claim 1, characterized in that the cycle pattern of the spectral band is determined from a first depth band;

the cycle pattern of the first spectral band is used as prediction for the spectral band of a second depth band succeeding the first depth band;

the occurrence of a discontinuity in a predicted spectral band is determined in relation to the actual measurement data; and

said discontinuity is an indication for a geologically significant boundary layer.

3. A system according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the discontinuities, which are determined with respect to the successive depth bands, are integrated with the variable parameter being the depth to which the drill hole measurement data refer.

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