



# **WELL BORE STABILITY: CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES IN ABU MADI FIELD, OFFSHORE NILE DELTA, EGYPT.**

## **A Thesis**

Submitted to Geophysics Department, Faculty of Science, Ain Shams University for  
Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Master Degree in Science in Geophysics  
(*Geomechanics*)

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This thesis is submitted for partial fulfillment of the requirements for master degree in science in geophysics (geomechanics).

## **Thesis Title**

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## **NOTE**

The present thesis is submitted to Geophysics Department, Faculty of Science, Ain Shams University in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master in Science in Geophysics.

Beside the research work materialized in this thesis, the candidate has successfully passed the final examinations of the post-graduate courses covering the following topics:

1. Geophysical field measurements.
2. Numerical analysis and computer programming.
3. Petrophysical properties of rocks.
4. Advanced well logging.
5. Formation evaluation.
6. Reservoir evaluation.
7. Subsurface geology.
8. Geophysical prospecting.
9. Sedimentary basin analysis.
10. Fluids dynamics.

In fulfillment of the language requirement of the degree, the candidate also passed the final examination of a course in the English Language.

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## **ABSTRACT**

Due to the location of Abu Madi gas field, where it lies on the northeastern bank of the Nile Delta, a majority of wells are being drilled deviated from shore line, as well as vertical wells to maximize the production and hydrocarbon recovery in the mature reservoirs of the study area. It is of great challenge to drill a high angle well successfully through complex structure, tectonic setting and highly stressed shale. The stratigraphic setting of the area possesses significant drilling challenges that vary widely from reactive shale to stress-related problems.

The objective of this thesis is to investigate, focus and integrate drilling, geologic and petrophysical knowledge for a better understanding the geomechanics of the study area, in order to estimate pore pressure and fracture gradient, select the optimal mud weight window and to study the impact of stress orientation and magnitude, on the wellbore stability for safe drilling.

Practically, the drilling events such as the stuck pipe, kick, mud losses and tight hole associated with the mud weight windows can be used for better understanding the geomechanical setting of the concerned area.

Some relationships between elastic moduli and rock strength have been discussed in this study to find the most influential conditions on the formations for safe drilling and to estimate equations for these moduli in the area of study.

In absence of the core chips to test the rocks for the mechanical properties, a set of relationships between the static elastic constants and the dynamic elastic constants are derived from the measurements of elastic wave velocities in the rocks, sonic logs and density logs. These data, in conjunction with the bulk density measurement permit the in-situ measurements and calculations of the mechanical properties of the rock.

For enhancement, the drilling performance of Abu Madi gas field through mitigating the risks, while drilling and production, a 1D mechanical earth model have been constructed through maximizing the values of the data integration by upscaling the petrophysical properties and lithology. Also, understanding the main causes of rock failure through 1D MEM resulted in improved drilling efficiency and reduced drilling costs.

**Key Words:** Geomechanics- Pore Pressure - Mechanical Earth Model- Wellbore instability-Nile Delta- Abu Madi gas field.

# *Acknowledgement*

*I would like to express my sincere gratitude and express my great appreciation to my academic supervisor **Prof. Dr. Said Abd El-Maboud**, Professor of Well Logging and Formation Evaluation, Department of Geophysics, Ain Shams University for his academic supervision.*

*Also, I received enormous assistance, helpful advice and permanent support from **Dr. Abdallah Mahmoud El-Sayed**, Assistant Professor of Geophysics, Department of Geophysics, Ain Shams University, so I want to thank him so much for all of this.*

*I'm out of words to **Dr. Ali Farag Hammad**, Drilling Optimization consultant. He gave me a lot of his precious time during his supervision. His door was always open to me, even when he had piles of work. We worked together with ease and enjoyment. This work would have never been successfully undertaken without the unreserved support of him.*

*I am deeply indebted to **Prof. Dr. Ahmed El Sayed Abo El Atta**, Professor of Geophysics, Ain Shams University for his encouragement and help during the preparation of the plan of this study.*

*Also, I would like to take this opportunity to express my grateful thanks and extend the appreciation to Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC) for their approval and permission to use the material of study. Special thanks are due to Exploration Department of Petrobel Company, for their valuable advices and their effort to provide me with the available data to complete this thesis.*

*I would like to thank Schlumberger Company for allowing me to use the Techlog software to conduct the thesis workflow.*

*Last but not least, I wish to crown my sincere thanks and deepest gratitude to my family for their continuous encouragement and support during this work, but no words of thanks and feelings are sufficient.*

*To*  
*My Family*

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| M                       | = A measured log value.  |
| AG                      | = Air gap.   |
| $\alpha$                | = Biot's poroelastic constant.                                       |
| $\rho_b$                | = Bulk density of the formation ( $\text{g/cm}^3$ ).                 |
| Ksta                    | = Bulk modulus.  |
| DTCO                    | = Compressional slowness of the bulk formation ( $\mu\text{s/ft}$ ). |
| $\rho_{\text{mudline}}$ | = Density at the sea floor or ground level.                          |
| $\rho$                  | = Density value.   |
| D                       | = Diameter of drilling bit (inch).                                   |
| DSI                     | = Dipole shear sonic imager.   |
| ECD                     | = Equivalent Circulating Density.                                    |
| ECD                     | = Equivalent Circulation Density of the mud (ppg).                   |
| D                       | = Fluid density (ppg).   |
| $P_{\text{breakdown}}$  | = Formation breakdown pressure.                                      |
| P                       | = Formation fluid pressure.  |
| FG                      | = Fracture gradient.   |
| $\Phi$                  | = Friction angle.  |
| g                       | = Gravity.   |
| Phyd                    | = Hydrostatic pressure (fluids).                                     |
| $\sigma_2$              | = Intermediate stress fields.  |
| Vo                      | = Interval velocity (ft/sec).  |
| Mn                      | = Log values read in the absence of over-pressure.                   |
| LSS                     | = Long spacing sonic tool.   |
| LCM                     | = Lost Circulation Materials.  |
| $\sigma_1$              | = Major stress fields.   |
| K                       | = Matrix stress coefficient.   |
| $S_H$                   | = Maximum horizontal stress.   |
| $\sigma_H$              | = Maximum horizontal stress.   |
| $S_h$                   | = Minimum horizontal stress.   |
| $\sigma_h$              | = Minimum horizontal stress.   |
| $\sigma_3$              | = Minor stress fields.   |
| ML                      | = Mud line depth.  |
| NGR                     | = Natural Gamma Ray.   |



|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| NPT              | = None Productive Time.                                      |
| GH               | = Normal hydrostatic gradient (ppg).                         |
| $\lambda P_n$    | = Normal pore-pressure gradient.                             |
| $\Delta t_n$     | = Normal travel time ( $\mu\text{sec}$ ).                    |
| M/Mn             | = Normal trends.   |
| $V_n$            | = Normally compacted shale velocity (ft/sec).                |
| $\Delta t_o$     | = Observed travel time ( $\mu\text{sec}$ ).                  |
| OBG              | = Overburden gradient.                                       |
| $P_{\text{obs}}$ | = Overburden pressure (rocks and fluids).                    |
| $\sigma_z$       | = Overburden stress(psi).                                    |
| $\nu$            | = Poisson's ratio.   |
| $P_p$            | = Predicted (shale) pore pressure.                           |
| PP               | = Predicted pressure gradient.                               |
| $\rho$           | = Pressure supported by matrix (effective stress).           |
| $V_p$            | = P-wave velocity.   |
| ROP              | = Rate of Penetration (ft/hr).                               |
| RFT              | = Repeat Formation Tester pressure.                          |
| rpm              | = Revolutions per minute.                                    |
| RPM              | = Rotation speed of the rotary turntable (rpm).              |
| R                | = Shape factor.  |
| Gsta             | = Shear modulus.   |
| DTSM             | = Shear slowness of the bulk formation ( $\mu\text{s/ft}$ ). |
| $\tau$           | = Shear stress.  |
| $V_P$            | = Sonic compressional velocity.                              |
| $V_S$            | = Sonic shear velocity.                                      |
| Q                | = Stress geometry factor.                                    |
| $\sigma'$        | = Total normal stress.                                       |
| TVD              | = True Vertical Depth (ft).                                  |
| UCS              | = Unconfined compressive strength.                           |
| $\sigma$         | = Vertical effective stress.                                 |
| $S_v$            | = Vertical stress.   |
| WD               | = Water depth.   |
| W                | = Weight on bit (lb).  |
| E                | = Young's modulus.   |

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|  |      |
|--|------|
| APPROVAL SHEET .....                                       | ii   |
| NOTE .....   | iii  |
| ABSTRACT .....   | iv   |
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENT .....                                      | vi   |
| DEDICATION .....   | vii  |
| LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS .....                                | viii |
| TABLE OF CONTENTS .....                                    | x    |
| LIST OF FIGURES .....                                      | xiv  |
| LIST OF TABLES .....                                       | xix  |
| CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION .....                              | 1    |
| 1.1 General .....  | 1    |
| 1.2 Location of the study area .....                       | 1    |
| 1.3 History of exploration .....                           | 3    |
| 1.3.1. <i>First Exploration Phase (1963 - 1972)</i> .....  | 7    |
| 1.3.2. <i>Second Exploration Phase (1973 -1980)</i> .....  | 8    |
| 1.3.3. <i>Third Exploration Phase (1980 -1986)</i> .....   | 9    |
| 1.3.4. <i>Fourth Exploration Phase (1987-1994)</i> .....   | 10   |
| 1.3.5. <i>Fifth Exploration Phase (1994-present)</i> ..... | 11   |
| 1.4 Aims of the study .....                                | 13   |
| 1.5 Methodology .....                                      | 13   |
| 1.5.1 <i>Natural Gama Ray Spectrometry</i> .....           | 14   |
| 1.5.2 <i>Mapping</i> .....                                 | 15   |
| 1.5.3 <i>Well Log Analysis</i> .....                       | 15   |
| 1.5.3.1 Extrapolated density method .....                  | 15   |
| 1.5.3.2 Eaton method .....                                 | 16   |
| 1.5.4 <i>Data Integration</i> .....                        | 19   |
| CHAPTER 2: GEOLOGIC SETTING .....                          | 20   |
| 2.1 Introduction .....                                     | 20   |
| 2.2 Subsreface Stratigraphy .....                          | 20   |
| 2.2.1 <i>Qantara Formation (Early Miocene)</i> .....       | 21   |

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 2.2.2 Sidi Salem Formation (Middle-Late Miocen.....                     | 22        |
| 2.2.3 Qawasim Formation (Late Miocene) .....                            | 23        |
| 2.2.4 Abu Madi Formation (Late Miocene).....                            | 24        |
| 2.2.5 Kafr El Sheik Formation (Early- Late Pliocene) ..                 | 26        |
| 2.2.6 El Wastani Formation (Late Pliocene) .....                        | 27        |
| 2.2.7 Mit Ghamr Formation (Plio-Pleistocene).....                       | 27        |
| 2.2.8 Bilqas Formation (Holocene).....                                  | 28        |
| 2.3 Structural and Tectonic Setting .....                               | 28        |
| 2.4 Paleostructure Cross-Sections.....                                  | 32        |
| 2.4.1 Step I (Late -Middle Miocene).....                                | 32        |
| 2.4.2 Step II (Late Miocene) .....                                      | 33        |
| 2.4.3 Step III (Pliocene) .....   | 33        |
| 2.4.4 Step IV (Holocene) .....  | 33        |
| <b>CHAPTER 3: DATA INTEGRATION AND QUALITY</b>                          |           |
| CONTROL .....   | 34        |
| 3.1 Introduction.....   | 34        |
| 3.2 Reviewing Well Reports Objectives .....                             | 34        |
| 3.3 Maximize the Values of the Data.....                                | 36        |
| 3.3.1 Geologic Data.....  | 36        |
| 3.3.2 Seismic Data .....  | 36        |
| 3.3.3 Formation Evaluation Data .....                                   | 37        |
| 3.3.4 Drilling Data.....  | 47        |
| <b>CHAPTER 4: PORE PRESSURE ESTIMATION AND</b>                          |           |
| <b>CALIBRATION.....</b>   | <b>50</b> |
| 4.1 Literature Review OF Pore Pressure .....                            | 50        |
| 4.1.1 Hydrostatic pressure .....  | 50        |
| 4.1.2 Overburden pressure .....   | 51        |
| 4.1.3 Formation pressure .....  | 52        |
| 4.2 Origin of Pore Pressure .....                                       | 52        |
| 4.2.1 Compaction .....  | 52        |
| 4.2.1.1 Non equilibrium compaction or<br>compaction disequilibrium..... | 53        |
| 4.2.2 Aquathermal pressuring.....                                       | 56        |

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| 4.2.3 <i>Clay transformation</i> .....  | 57  |
| 4.2.3.1 Clay Evaluation in Abu Madi gas field...                                  | 58  |
| 4.2.4 <i>Osmosis</i> .....  | 63  |
| 4.2.5 <i>Evaporite deposits</i> .....   | 63  |
| 4.2.6 <i>Hydrocarbon generation and migration</i> .....                           | 64  |
| 4.3 Pore Pressure .....   | 66  |
| 4.4 Common Methods Used to Detect Pore Pressure                                   |     |
| While Drilling.....   | 72  |
| 4.5 Detecting Abnormal-Pressure Intervals .....                                   | 77  |
| 4.6 Formation Pressure Evaluation in Abu Madi Gas Field                           | 79  |
| <b>CHAPTER 5: MECHANICAL EARTH MODEL</b> .....                                    | 91  |
| 5.1 Introduction.....   | 91  |
| 5.2 Rock Properties .....   | 93  |
| 5.3 Elastic Properties.....   | 98  |
| 5.3.1 <i>Static and Dynamic Mechanical Properties</i> .....                       | 98  |
| 5.3.2 <i>Poisson's Ratio -Modulus Ratio Correlation</i> ....                      | 105 |
| 5.4 Rock Strength .....   | 106 |
| 5.5 Vertical Stress Magnitude and Gradient .....                                  | 116 |
| <b>CHAPTER 6: THE BOREHOLE INSTABILITY</b>  |     |
| CONSEQUENCES.....   | 118 |
| 6.1 Introduction.....   | 118 |
| 6.2 Minimum Horizontal Stress .....   | 118 |
| 6.3 Fracture Pressure and Safe Mud Weight .....                                   | 121 |
| 6.4 Stresses Related to Wells Trajectories.....                                   | 128 |
| 6.5 Drilling Fluid Interactions .....   | 128 |
| 6.6 Hazard Identification and Wellbore Stability                                  |     |
| Consequences .....  | 130 |
| 6.6.1. <i>Mud losses</i> .....  | 133 |
| 6.6.2. <i>Drill pipe sticking</i> .....   | 134 |
| 6.6.3. <i>Drilling risks overview</i> .....                                       | 134 |
| 6.6.4. <i>Wellbore instability consequences in the</i><br><i>study area</i> ..... | 139 |

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| <b>CHAPTER 7: SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS .....</b> | <b>150</b> |
| <b>REFERENCES.....</b>                          | <b>158</b> |
| <b>ARABIC SUMMARY.....</b>                      | <b>-</b>   |

## LIST OF FIGURES

| <b>Fig.<br/>No.</b> | <b>Figure</b>   | <b>Page</b> |
|---------------------|---|-------------|
| <b>1.1</b>          | Location map shows six wells of the study area .....  | 2           |
| <b>1.2</b>          | The oil production and consumption of Egypt. ....   | 4           |
| <b>1.3</b>          | The annual gas production and consumption of Egypt ...                                      | 5           |
| <b>1.4</b>          | Gas resource additions for the Western Desert and Nile Delta: 1960 until January 2005 ..... | 12          |
| <b>1.5</b>          | Density extrapolation method.....   | 16          |
| <b>1.6</b>          | Horizontal effective stress methods - Eaton's method ....                                   | 18          |
| <b>2.1</b>          | Generalized stratigraphic sequence of Nile Delta .....                                      | 21          |
| <b>2.2</b>          | Stratigraphic column and reservoir zonation of Abu Madi/El Qar'a field .....                | 22          |
| <b>2.3</b>          | 3D model of the Qantara Formation in the study area ....                                    | 23          |
| <b>2.4</b>          | 3D model of the Sidi Salem Formation in the study area.....                                 | 24          |
| <b>2.5</b>          | 3D model of the Abu Madi Formation (L2) in the study area (view a).....                     | 25          |
| <b>2.6</b>          | 3D model of the Abu Madi Formation (L2) in the study area (view b).....                     | 26          |
| <b>2.7</b>          | Structure contour map of the Wastani Formation in the study area .....                      | 27          |
| <b>2.8</b>          | Main subsurface structures of the Nile Delta region .....                                   | 28          |
| <b>2.9</b>          | Structure contour map of the Abu Madi (L2) Formation in the study area .....                | 29          |
| <b>2.10</b>         | Structure contour map of the Abu Madi (L3) Formation in the study area .....                | 30          |
| <b>2.11</b>         | Structure contour map of the Sidi Salem Formation in the study area .....                   | 31          |

| <b>Fig.<br/>No.</b> | <b>Figure</b>  | <b>Page</b> |
|---------------------|--|-------------|
| <b>3.1</b>          | Examples of drilling-induced tensile wall failure developed in a vertical (a) and deviated (b) wellbore .....              | 47          |
| <b>3.2</b>          | Wellbore breakouts visible in an acoustic image .....  | 48          |
| <b>4.1</b>          | Effect of vertical effective stress to different subsurface conditions .....   | 52          |
| <b>4.2</b>          | Porosity and bulk density of compacted and under compacted shale.....  | 54          |
| <b>4.3</b>          | Abnormal pore pressure in shale due to compaction disequilibrium in AM S-1 well.....                                       | 54          |
| <b>4.4</b>          | Density- Porosity cross plot showing abnormal pore pressure in shale due to compaction disequilibrium in AM S-1 well ..... | 55          |
| <b>4.5</b>          | Pressure – temperature relationship.....   | 57          |
| <b>4.6</b>          | Hydration states of smectites with water contents up to 350 mg H <sub>2</sub> O/g clay .....                               | 59          |
| <b>4.7</b>          | Th/K cross plot for AM S-1 well in Abu Madi gas field.....   | 62          |
| <b>4.8</b>          | Clay minerals discrimination.....  | 62          |
| <b>4.9</b>          | NGR log of AM S-1 well in Abu Madi gas field .....   | 63          |
| <b>4.10</b>         | The interval velocity normal trend line of the AM S-1 well in Abu Madi gas field .....                                     | 69          |
| <b>4.11</b>         | The established normal trend and pore pressure estimation of AM S-1 Well in Abu Madi gas field .....                       | 70          |
| <b>4.12</b>         | Effect of vertical effective stress to different subsurface conditions .....   | 71          |
| <b>4.13</b>         | Equivalent depth method plot.....  | 74          |
| <b>4.14</b>         | Nomogram for d-exponent determination .....  | 76          |
| <b>4.15</b>         | Composite overburden stress from density log .....   | 80          |