

## SPREAD DESIGN FOR MAXIMUM MULTIPLE ATTENUATION

By

W. HRYHOR

### *ABSTRACT*

Recently Common Depth Point Stacking has become the general rule for seismic evaluation. Stack shooting is carried out to enhance the primary event as well as to attenuate the multiple. Actual multiple attenuation can only take place providing the multiple event is stacked out of phase. Such out of phase stacking can only take place providing there is an increase of velocity with depth.

Most effective attenuation is achieved by using a long gapped spread, whereas short split spreads yield virtually no multiple cancellation.

A series of tables and instructions are attached whereby a spread with near perfect attenuation of a 1st order multiple can be instantly designed for any area. Comparison stacked sections are enclosed indicating presence of multiple structure; also a re-shoot of the same line with the multiple attenuated.

### *INTRODUCTION*

New developments in seismic methods and technology have made it possible to evaluate areas in which a valid evaluation would have been out of the question a few years ago.

Even with such technological developments the geophysicists, in order to derive dependable data, must still stress quality control rather than depend entirely upon high powered processing to improve his data.

Derivation of such quality control involves proper selection of at least the following:

- (a) Geophone array, including number of geophones, spacing between geophones, proper group length, geophone type and frequency, etc.
- (b) Shot hole pattern, hole spacing, hole depth, charge type and charge size.
- (c) Type of instruments, instrument settings, recording tape.

It is only after every attempt to improve field data has been met that the consideration of data improvement by utilization of maximum recording range and high powered processing is worthy of note.

A further consideration is that a valid interpretation assumes working with valid data, thus again demanding the utmost from the field recording as well as from the processing standpoint.

### *SEISMIC STACK CONSIDERATIONS*

Presently, one of the most common forms of data improvement is the dependence upon stack. Stacking must be classified according to:

- (a) Stacking for the sake of primary energy reinforcement.
- (b) Stacking for the sake of multiple energy attenuation.

In the first instance, stacking serves several purposes:

- (i) Duplication and verification of dips over structure.
- (ii) Reinforcement of poor quality data or events.
- (iii) Cancellation of random noise thus, an improvement in signal to noise ratio.

When stack is shot for these purposes, the multiplicity of stack as well as spread length are chosen largely from an observational standpoint, the main consideration being that when several records from the same subsurface point are stacked, data will be improved by reinforcement.

When records are stacked to attenuate multiples, additional stacking considerations are vital. Attenuation of the multiple event is accomplished by the stacking of the multiple event out of phase. Such out of phase stacking is dependent on excess move-out ( $\Delta$  NMO) of the multiple event after primary move-out has been removed.

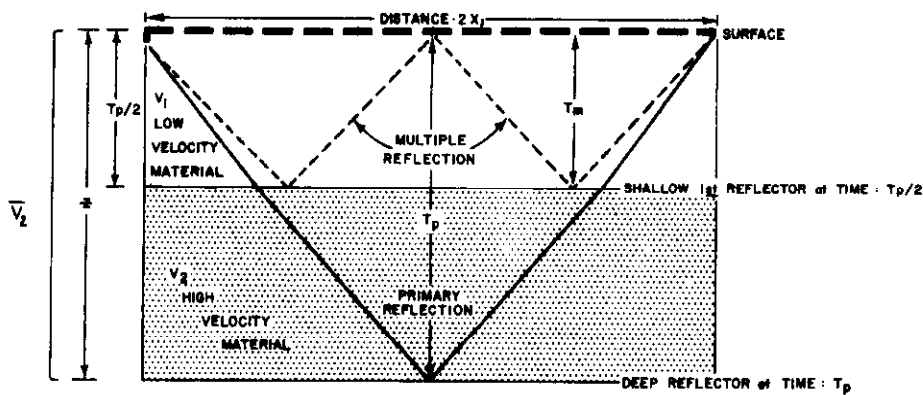


Illustration of Primary and Multiple Reflections

$$\Delta \text{NMO} = \text{NMO Multiple} - \text{NMO Primary}$$

$$\approx 2(X_1^2/2V_1^2 T_{mav}) - ((2X_1)^2/2V_2^2 2(T_{mav}))^*$$

\*Yields close approximation — may be refined at any point or compensated by use of slightly higher period.

$$\approx X_1^2/T_m (1/V_1^2 - 1/\bar{V}_2^2)$$

$$\Delta \text{NMO} \approx X_1^2/T_p (\bar{V}_2^2 - V_1^2/2\bar{V}_2^2 V_1^2) = \frac{\text{NMO Factor}}{T_p}$$

$X_1$  = Distance shot to geophone for multiple.

$2X_1$  = Distance shot to geophone for primary =  $X$ .

$V_1$ ;  $\bar{V}_2$  = Average velocities surface to multiple and primary reflectors respectively.

$T_m$ ,  $T_p$  = Two Way time at 0 distance of multiple and primary respectively where  $T_p = 2T_m$ .

$$2Z = T_p \bar{V}_2$$

$$T_{pav} = T_p + \Delta T_p$$

$$\Delta T_p = \frac{1}{2} \text{NMO across spread.}$$

$$T_{mav} = T_m + \Delta T_m \text{ as above.}$$

$$\Delta T_m \sim 2 \Delta T_p$$

Table 1 has been supplied to yield NMO factors for various ratios of  $V_1/\bar{V}_2$  and distance ( $X$ ) of  $(3160)^2 X^2 = 10^7$ .

Table 2 has been supplied to yield proportionate values of  $\Delta$  NMO as a function of distance.

Generally, minimum multiple attenuation results when the normal move-out of the multiple event is nominal — thus for all short spreads.

Maximum multiple attenuation results when the multiple event is sufficiently out of phase to attenuate itself. For a 200% stack this demands an out of phase relationship of  $180^\circ$ , i.e.,  $360/2$ . For a 400% stack an out of phase relationship of  $360/4 = 90^\circ$ , etc.

Any such attenuation is dependent on a constant frequency as well as a constant amplitude. Seismic frequencies and amplitudes are generally not constant, for this reason it is generally advisable to consider stack multiplicity of 400% or greater. A stack designed to yield out of phase relationships of  $90^\circ$  will yield good attenuation; if signals are out of phase  $60^\circ$ , i.e.,  $1/6$  of a cycle as in 600% stack or  $120^\circ$  as in 300% stack, providing total phase shift is  $270^\circ$  for 400% stack, and approximately  $300^\circ$  for 600% stack. But it is undesirable to have signals out of phase less than  $60^\circ$  or more than  $150^\circ$ , as a signal out of phase in excess of  $150^\circ$  approaches 200% stack.

#### THE 400% STACK

The 4 phases of an ideal 400% stack may be drawn as vectors at  $90^\circ$  angles, thus forming a square. See Figure 1 (a). The following phase relationship then exists:

	Phase Shift
Phase 1	90°
Phase 2	90°
Phase 3	90°
Phase 4	—
Total Phase Shift	270°

A stack of this type would yield attenuation of approximately 85% - summation based on typical seismic wavelet. See Figure 1 (b).

If angles between the various phases are 0° as in short split spreads, attenuation is 0%. It is thus evident that if the angle between adjacent pulses is plotted and observed, approximate attenuation is evident at a glance. See Figures 1 (c) to 1 (f) inclusive.

Observing the phase relationship for a perfect 400% stack, it is evident that to obtain a stack of this nature the following conditions should be strived for:

- (a) Each phase shift equal and 90°.
- (b) Total phase shift  $\Delta$  NMO = 270°.

Since  $\Delta$  NMO is a function of distance squared, it is also a function of station or flag position with respect to the shot point, squared.

Flag	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
(Flag) <sup>2</sup>	1	4	9	16	25	36	49	64	81	100	121	144	169	196	225

Our desired spread requires that  $\Delta$ NMO, which is a function of flag position, remain a constant from station to station. When ratio of (Flag)<sup>2</sup> is calculated for adjacent stations, the following is the result:

(Flag) <sup>2</sup>	1	4	9	16	25	36	49	64
% Ratio	400	225	178	156	144	136	131	

Results of (Flag)<sup>2</sup> versus % ratio of Flag 1 to Flag 2, etc. have been plotted. See Figure 2. Observation of the plot indicates ratio of normal move-out change is not near constant for the first 6 stations, however, is relatively constant beyond the 7th station. It becomes obvious that should we desire a near constant  $\Delta$  NMO between adjacent stack points, the first 6 flags must be ignored, thus the spread must be offset at least to flag position No. 7.

$\Delta$ NMO thus becomes a function of (Flag 7)<sup>2</sup> to (Flag 30)<sup>2</sup>.

For a 400% stack the first stack set then comprises Flags 7, 13, 19, and 25. It has been established that ideal  $\Delta$  NMO between Flag 7 and Flag 25 is 270°. Column 2 is normalized by multiplying by .47 to yield the desired  $\Delta$  NMO in column 3.

SPREAD DESIGN FOR MAXIMUM MULTIPLE ATTENTION

Col. 1 Flag	Col. 2 (Flag) <sup>2</sup>	Col. 3 = Col. 2x.47	Stack Set #1	Stack Set #2	Stack Set #3	Stack Set #4	Stack Set #5	Stack Set #6
7	49	23°	23°					
8	64	30°		30°				
9	81	38°			38°			
10	100	47°	Δ(57°)			47°		
11	121	57°		Δ(62°)			57°	
12	144	68°			Δ(68°)			68°
13	169	80°	80°			Δ(73°)		
14	196	92°		92°			Δ(79°)	
15	225	106°			106°			Δ(84°)
16	256	120°	Δ(90°)			120°		
17	289	136°		Δ(96°)			136°	
18	324	152°			Δ(102°)			152°
19	361	170°	170°			Δ(108°)		
20	400	188°		188°			Δ(113°)	
21	441	208°			208°			Δ(119°)
22	484	228°	Δ(124°)			228°		
23	529	249°		Δ(130°)			249°	
24	576	271°			Δ(135°)			271°
25	625	294°	294°			Δ(141°)		
26	676	318°		318°			Δ(147°)	
27	729	343°			343°			Δ(152°)
28	784	369°				369°		
29	841	396°					396°	
30	900	423°						423°
		Σ Δ NMO	271°	288°	300°	322°	339°	355°
Approximate Attenuation:			80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%

Adjacent Phase Shifts Indicated by: Δ( )

For Vector Diagram See Figure 1(d).

A spread design which conforms to the above conditions should then yield an 80% multiple attenuation on all stack sets. Total spread length is such that station 30 is at 423° ΔNMO, thus total desired phase shift of multiple for such a spread at station 30 is at 423°/360° ≈ 1.2 cycles ΔNMO at trace 30.

In planning such a spread:

Step 1: Determine period (P) of multiple, e.g. = .036 sec.

Step 2: ΣΔNMO at station 30 = 1.2P, e.g. = 1.2(.036) = .043 sec.

Step 3: Calculate multiple source time Tm, e.g. = .500 sec.

Primary time Tp at zone of interference. 2Tm = 1.000 sec.

Step 4: Calculate V<sub>1</sub> = average velocity at time Tm, e.g. = 7,400'/s.

- Step 5: Calculate  $\bar{V}_2 =$  average velocity at time  $T_p$ , e.g. = 10,600'/s.
- Step 6: Calculate ratio  $\bar{V}_1/\bar{V}_2 = 7,400/10,600 = .7$ .
- Step 7: Consult  $\Delta$  NMO Factor Chart Table 1, to determine factor for .7 and 10,600 = .045.
- Step 8: Divide result by  $T_p = .045/1.000 = .045$ .  
 $\Delta NMO @ 3160' = .045$ .
- Step 9: Using proportionate NMO chart,  $\Delta NMO .045$  distance 3160, find distance at which  $\Delta NMO = 1.2P$  for  $P = .036$ ; this value = .043 at distance of approximately 3100 feet.  
Total spread length = 3100 feet.  
Station 24 at Flag 30, at approximately 3100 feet, consider 3300, allows for anisotropy and curved ray path — Station 1 at Flag 7.  
Flag to Flag distance = 3300/30 = 110 feet.

NMO's for any distance along the spread can be checked employing proportionate NMO chart, will be found to conform to spread as designed. See Page 7.

Should this same flag spacing be used to lay out a single end spread, phase shift would be as follows: See Figure 1 (e).

	Stack Set 1	Stack Set 3	Stack Set 6
Station 1	0°	3 4°	6 17°
	$\Delta(23^\circ)$	$\Delta(34^\circ)$	$\Delta(51^\circ)$
7	23°	9 38°	12 68°
	$\Delta(57^\circ)$	$\Delta(68^\circ)$	$\Delta(84^\circ)$
13	80°	15 106°	18 152°
	$\Delta(90^\circ)$	$\Delta(102^\circ)$	$\Delta(119^\circ)$
19	170°	21 208°	24 271°
% Attenuation:	55%	60%	70%

Average Attenuation: 60%

Laid out as a split: See Figure 1 (f).

	Stack Set -3	Stack Set -1	Stack Set +1	Stack Set +3
Station -3	4°	-1 0°	+1 0°	+6 17°
	$\Delta(0^\circ)$	$\Delta(12^\circ)$	$\Delta(12^\circ)$	$\Delta(0^\circ)$
+3	4°	+5 12°	-5 12°	-6 17°
	$\Delta(34^\circ)$	$\Delta(11^\circ)$	$\Delta(11^\circ)$	$\Delta(51^\circ)$
-9	38°	-7 23°	+7 23°	+12 68°
	$\Delta(0^\circ)$	$\Delta(34^\circ)$	$\Delta(34^\circ)$	$\Delta(0^\circ)$
+9	38°	+11 57°	-11 57°	-12 68°
% Attenuation:	10%	10%	10%	

Observation of the split indicates that if it were lengthened, a fair 200% stack would result.

It follows that if split spreads are employed for multiple attenuation, 800% stack minimum should be used with total spread length approximately 3P.

Obviously an asymmetrical spread would have an attenuation level greater than the split, less than the single end spread, and far less than the offset spread. Furthermore, a slightly longer single end would have greater attenuation than the described one, up to 65% but no greater.

Spread lengths considerably in excess of 1.2P would generally tend to cancel primary energy as the wave path would approach a horizontal path and would arrive out of phase at the last geophone in the group as compared to the first.

Examination of graph Fig. 2, indicates slightly better attenuation would result if offset distance is increased to flag 13 rather than 7. Total spread length is then 36 flags, group to group distance is then shortened as entire spread layout is 2/3 of the distance between shot point and final group. From a practical standpoint so little is gained that this procedure should only be considered when extremely long spreads are used, i.e., 1 mile or greater.

#### SUMMARY

For multiple problem areas, a near perfect spread for multiple attenuation can very readily be designed by combining tables 1 and 2 together with the 4(P) formula as supplied to yield table 3. Table 3 yields spread length as a function of velocity ratio and geologic section depth. Period of multiple has been assumed constant at .030 seconds.

#### Use of Table 3

- (a) Left hand column denotes velocity ratio  $\bar{V}_1/\bar{V}_2$
- (b) Upper column denotes two-way time of primary  $T_p$
- (c) The intersection of left and upper column yields spread ratio as function of subsurface depth of primary reflection.
- (e.g.) As per Page 8  $V_1 = 7,400'/s$   $V_2 = 10,600'/s$   
 $\bar{V}_1/\bar{V}_2 = .7$   $T_p = 1.000$  seconds  
 Table 3: Spread ratio = .53  
 Subsurface primary depth =  $\bar{V}_2 \times T_p/2 = 10,600 \times 0.5 = 5,300$  feet  
 4(P) spread length = section depth, multiplied by spread ratio =  $.53 \times 5,300 = 2,800$  foot spread length

A near perfect theoretical attenuation of the multiple results if total spread length yields a residual normal move-out of 1.2 times period of the multiple and if first group of geophones is offset at least to the 7th flag position. Theoretical multiple attenuation of such a spread is approximately 80%, as compared to 60% attenuation for a single end

spread using the same flag spacing, and 10% attenuation for a split with same flag spacing.

A split spread with approximately equivalent attenuation could be designed but would require 1200% stack whereas the asymmetrical would require 800% stack. A single end spread with slightly improved attenuation could also be designed but would require omitting 1 stack set, thus, would have to be shot as 600% stack and stacked as 500%.

Numerous other methods of calculating and refining the spread technique can be employed.

#### *APPLICATION OF SHOOTING TECHNIQUES OTHER THAN THE (4P) SPREAD*

In areas where multiples are no problem, it is more practical to shoot split spreads, where spread length on either side of the hole may be 1.2P, thus 12 stations cover the same distance as was previously spread over 30 stations. A spread of this length will yield good primary reinforcement, is not too long to yield problems for  $\Delta$ NMO correction nor for primary attenuation, and is also long enough for multiple recognition, should multiples prove to be present. If field equipment on hand does not allow for the laying out of a split of this length, an asymmetrical spread may be considered with one side of length 1.2P, thus an adaptation of equipment to the desired spread length.

#### *CONCLUSIONS*

Multiple attenuation by stack shooting cannot result unless at least the following conditions hold:

1. There is a definite increase of velocity with depth.
2. Spread is sufficiently long to create a minimum of 1 cycle of residual normal move-out: maximum attenuation results from an offset single end spread.
3. Data is stacked with minimum error in move-out and static calculations.

In a case where an ideal stack program was shot, an error in move-out calculation of .015 sec. across a spread with a multiple period of .030 sec. will attenuate the primary and multiple to an equal extent. If error exceeds .015 sec., greater attenuation of the primary than of the multiple may result.

#### *REFERENCES*

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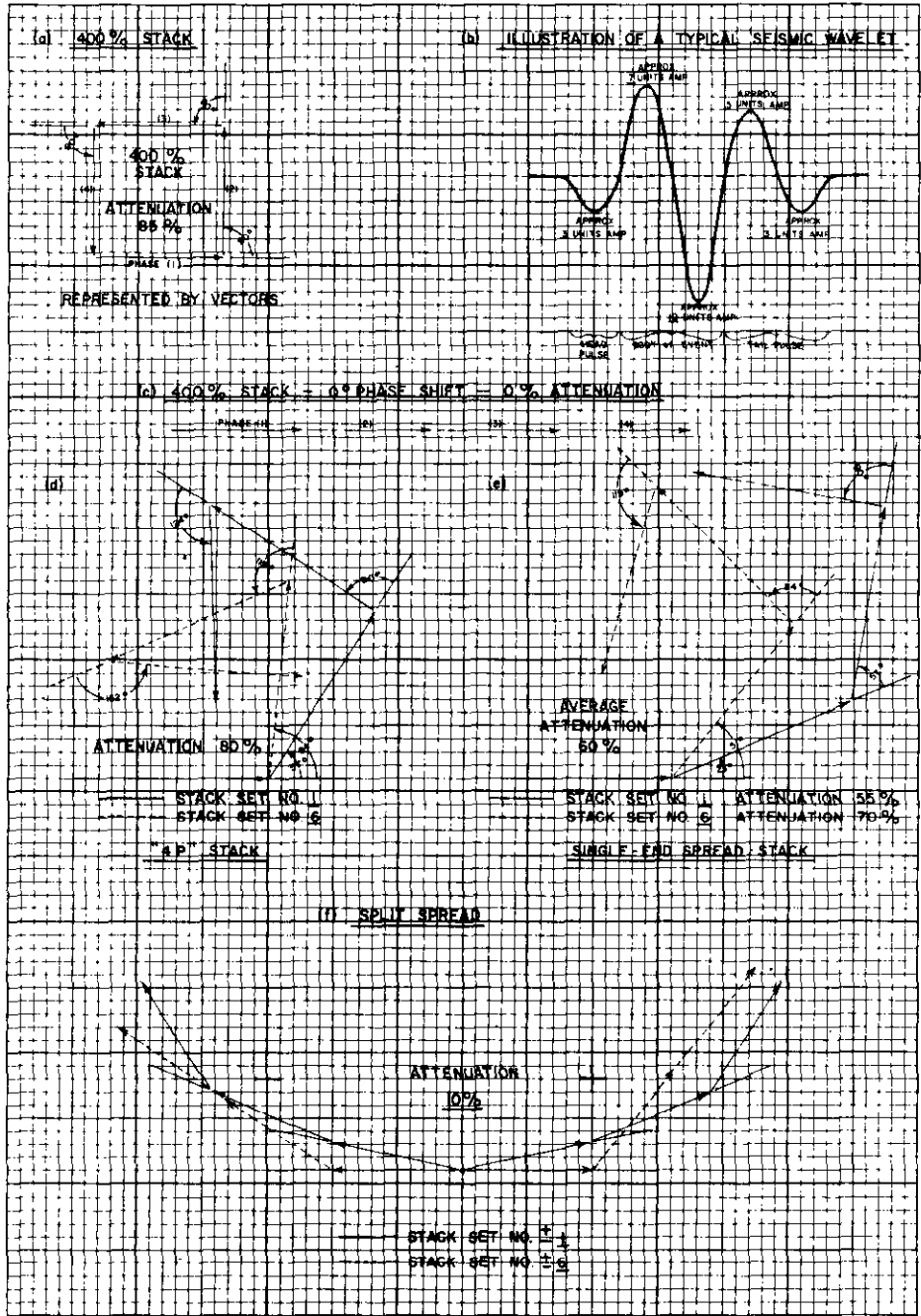


FIG. 1.

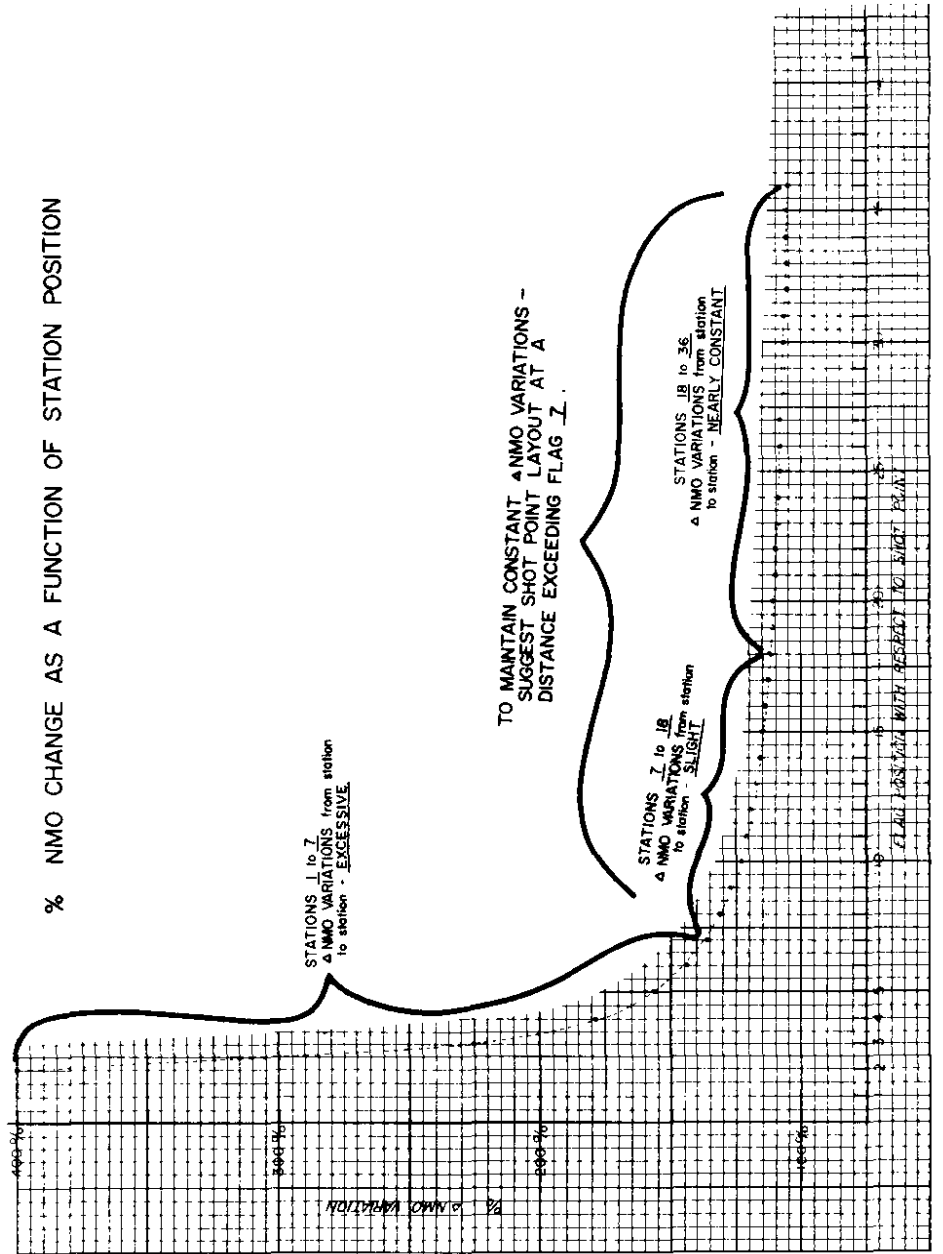


FIG. 2.



PROPORTIONAL M.C. VALUES AS A FUNCTION OF DISTANCE

Table with columns for Distance in Feet (200 to 5400) and rows for various M.C. values (0.00 to 0.99). The table contains a grid of numerical data points.

M.C. is Milliseconds

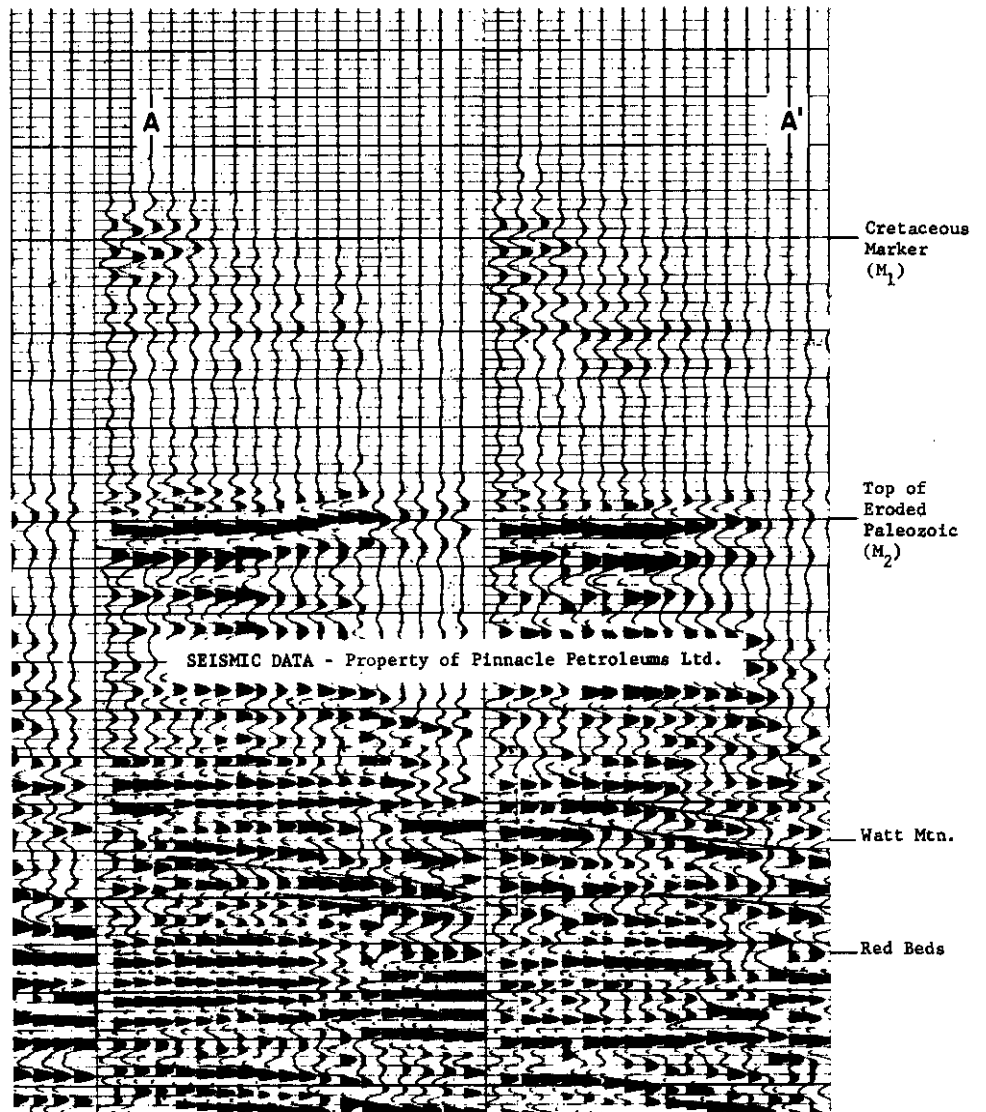
TABLE 2.

For P = .030 to yield  $\Delta$  NMO 1.2P  
Two way time of primary Tp

$V_1/\sqrt{V_2}$	.60	.70	.80	.90	1.00	1.10	1.20	1.30	1.40	1.50	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00
.50	.40	.37	.35	.33	.31	.30	.28	.27	.26	.25	.25	.24	.23	.22	.21
.52	.42	.39	.37	.35	.33	.32	.30	.29	.28	.27	.26	.25	.25	.24	.23
.54	.44	.42	.39	.36	.35	.33	.32	.30	.29	.28	.28	.27	.26	.25	.24
.56	.47	.43	.41	.39	.36	.35	.33	.32	.30	.30	.29	.28	.27	.26	.25
.58	.50	.46	.43	.41	.38	.37	.34	.33	.32	.31	.30	.30	.29	.28	.27
.60	.52	.48	.45	.42	.40	.38	.37	.35	.34	.33	.32	.31	.30	.29	.28
.62	.55	.50	.47	.44	.43	.41	.39	.37	.36	.35	.34	.33	.32	.31	.30
.64	.58	.53	.50	.47	.45	.42	.40	.39	.38	.36	.35	.34	.33	.32	.31
.66	.61	.57	.53	.50	.47	.45	.42	.41	.40	.38	.37	.36	.35	.34	.33
.68	.63	.58	.54	.52	.49	.47	.44	.43	.41	.40	.39	.38	.36	.35	.34
.70	.69	.64	.59	.56	.53	.50	.48	.47	.45	.44	.42	.41	.40	.38	.37
.72	.72	.67	.62	.59	.56	.53	.50	.49	.47	.46	.44	.43	.42	.41	.40
.74	.76	.70	.67	.64	.59	.57	.54	.52	.50	.48	.47	.46	.44	.43	.42
.76	.80	.75	.70	.67	.63	.60	.57	.55	.53	.51	.50	.49	.47	.45	.44
.78	.86	.79	.74	.70	.66	.64	.60	.58	.56	.54	.52	.51	.50	.48	.46
.80	.93	.87	.82	.75	.72	.68	.65	.63	.61	.58	.57	.56	.54	.52	.49
.82	1.00	.93	.88	.81	.77	.74	.70	.68	.66	.64	.62	.59	.58	.56	.55
.84	1.00	.99	.93	.88	.83	.79	.76	.73	.69	.68	.67	.65	.63	.60	.58
.86	1.20	1.10	1.01	.96	.92	.87	.81	.79	.78	.73	.72	.71	.68	.65	.64
.88	1.30	1.20	1.12	1.07	1.02	.96	.92	.89	.86	.82	.79	.77	.75	.74	.71
.90	1.40	1.38	1.26	1.12	1.10	1.07	1.03	.96	.93	.90	.89	.85	.82	.80	.79
.92	1.70	1.49	1.36	1.28	1.23	1.17	1.10	1.03	1.01	.99	.95	.94	.92	.90	.87
.94	2.00	1.84	1.68	1.58	1.52	1.43	1.42	1.36	1.26	1.24	1.22	1.15	1.09	1.08	1.07

TABLE 3.—Spread Length as Ratio of Section Depth.

 $V_1$  = Average velocity from surface to multiple source. $V_2$  = Average velocity from surface at time Tp



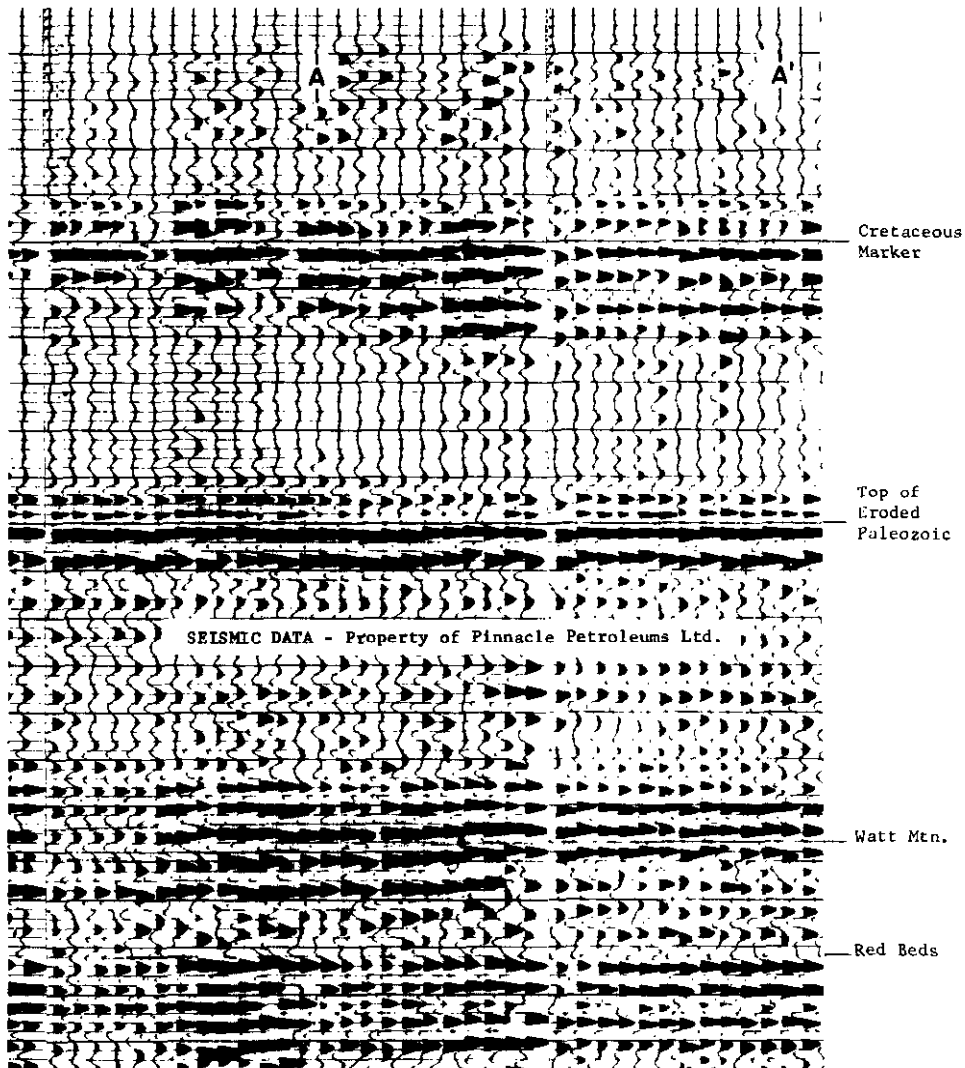
100% long trace display indicating severe multiple interference problem in a Northern Alberta area.

Coefficient Reflection  $R_c$ ;  $M_1 = .09$   $M_2 = .345$

Rc of Multiple =  $M_1(M_2)Rcs = .031$

$$Rcs = \frac{\rho_2 v_2 - \rho_1 v_1}{\rho_2 v_2 + \rho_1 v_1} = 1 \quad \begin{matrix} \rho_2 \sim 2 \\ \rho_1 \sim 0 \end{matrix}$$

Rcs = Reflection Coefficient at Surface.

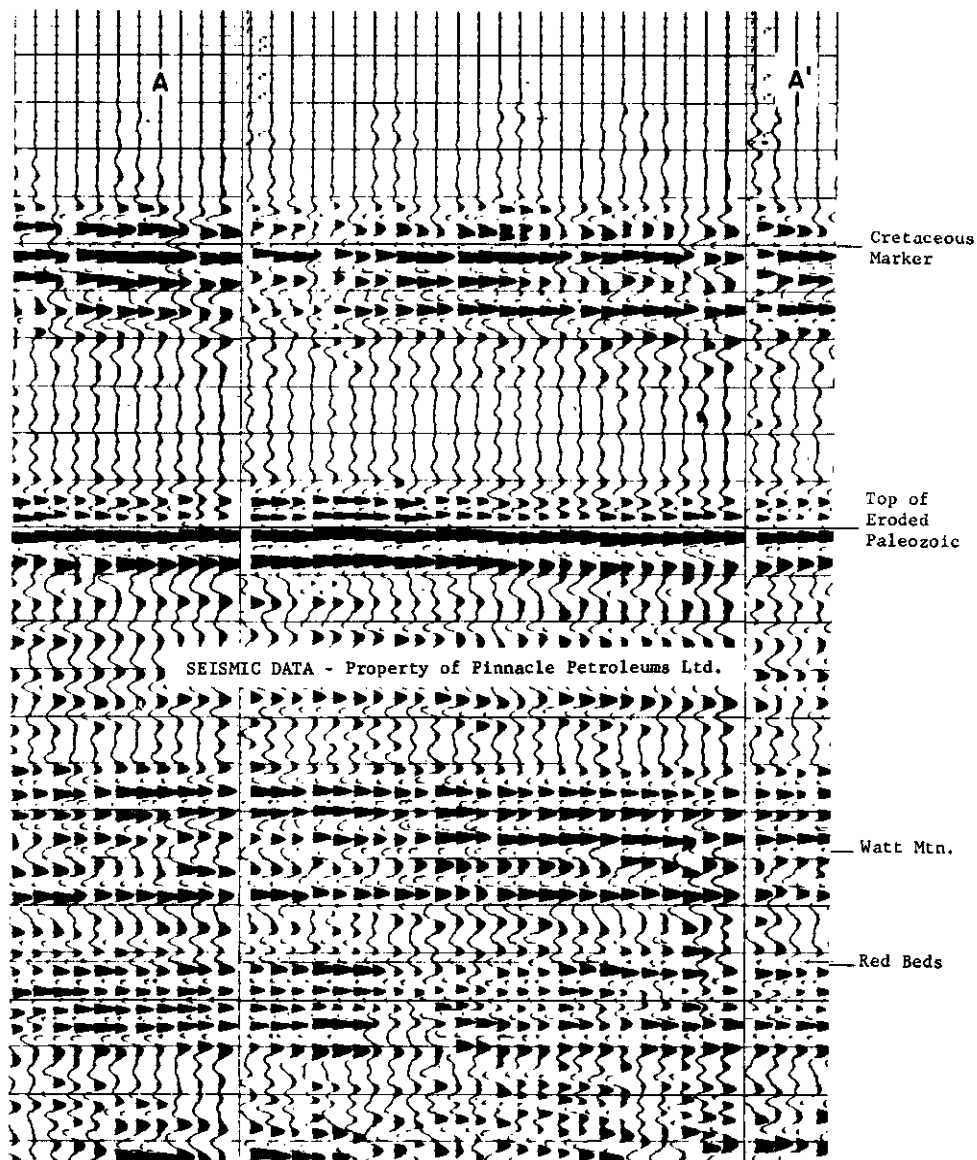


400% single end, stacked 300%, theoretical  
 multiple attenuation approximately 60%.  
 Note presence of apparent structure at  
 Watt Mtn. level.

Spread Type = 0 - 150' - 3600'.

NOTE CHARACTER CHANGE KEG RIVER LEVEL.





4(P) stack, re-shot to confirm if structure is primary or multiple. Note structure evidence practically removed.

Spread Type = 0 - 770' - 3300'.