APPLICATION OF NATURAL GENERALISED INVERSE TECHNIQUE IN RECONSTRUCTION OF GRAVITY ANOMALIES DUE TO A FAULT

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Generalised Inverse (GI) and Singular Value Decomposition (SVD) are well known mathematical techniques exploited in many areas of applied science including the earth sciences. Simulation experiments on gravity anomaly due to a subsurface fault model have been carried out in the present work to estimate accurate model parameters by inverting the observed anomaly using GI approach via SVD.

While solving the inverse problem, data kernel has been generated through the model. Using this data kernel, SVD has been performed to build Generalised Inverse Operator (GIO) and it is operated on the observed anomaly with reference to the calculated anomaly to update model parameters. Data and model resolution matrices are computed to check the correctness of the solution.

A gravity profile over the Garber Oil Field, Oklahoma, equating to a fault has been studied to test/validate the procedure. The obtained values of the optimized model parameters of the oil field tally with the published results. Analysis reveals that among all the parameters density contrast and datum level dominates the energy modes of the data and model space over 99.3% while the remaining make negligible contribution. The merits of SVD are illustratively discussed.

Key Words : Gravity Anomaly; Fault; Inverse; Data Resolution; Model Resolution

1. INTRODUCTION

Geophysical methods are based on the application of certain physical principles to study the geological problems of the earth's interior. Mathematical techniques are employed with profit in all these applications.

Gravity and Magnetic methods are routinely used in exploration geophysics to locate the geological structures favourable for mineral and oil occurrences. The method in essence comprises collection, processing and interpretation of data in terms of a viable geological model. The estimation of the model parameters of the causative sources that are responsible for the observed anomalies forms part of data interpretation. Exploring reliable mathematical tools for the estimation of the causative source parameters is the concern of the present article.

Interpretation techniques of gravity and magnetic data generally employ indirect methods for translating the observed gravity or magnetic anomalies (Fig. 1) into sub-surface geology. The general procedure is to assume appropriate geometry for the causative source and compute its gravity effect and modify the model progressively until a reasonable fit with the observed anomaly is obtained



FIG. 1. Gravity anomaly and parameters of fault model

(Talwani and Heirtzler²⁶). The closeness of the fit indicates only that the refined model is a possible solution. The comprehensive review paper by Moharir¹⁵ on inversion of potential field data gives a detailed picture of inversion methods, covering matrix methods of inversion, estimation-theoretic inversion techniques, Backus-Gilbert inversion, regularization and use of *apriori* information, external solutions, tunneling algorithms and so on. All these procedures and algorithms attempt to relate physical models to readily observable data and determine the "best-estimates" of certain model parameters.

The problem of reconstruction of gravity anomalies due to fault lies in solving the forward and the inverse problems iteratively. In the forward modeling, the gravity anomaly is computed from a known distribution of the parameters that describe the model. This is akin to substituting values of the parameters into the equations that fully describe the model, whereas in the inverse problem, the parameters of the model are estimated from an observed gravity data set for a possible exploration of the geophysical source.

In general the exploration problems are of two types 1) the over determined and 2) the under-determined. The trivial even-determined is of rare occurrence. In all the cases a good resolution of both the model and data are desirable. The least square method solves the over-determined problem

minimising the squared Euclidean length of the error and has a perfect model resolution. Instead, the under-determined problem can be solved with a perfect data resolution by minimising the model length. In the real world, the problems are neither purely over-determined nor purely under-determined, they are mixed type. The entire field of observation over which the determination of the parameters of the model is to be carried out comes up in observation blocks some of which are over-determined while some are under-determined leading to non-uniqueness of the solution (Fisher and Howard⁷, Ben-Israel and Greville⁵, Ramana Murty *et al.*,²⁰⁻²², Prasanna Kumar *et al.*¹⁷ Torantola¹⁷). The generalised inverse method solves such a mixed determined problem over the whole region of observations and has both data and model resolutions intermediate between the two extremes (Penrose¹⁶, Lancozos¹¹, Lawson and Hanson¹², Backus and Gilbert^{2, 3 & 4}).

The generalized inverse technique, through Singular value decomposition (SVD) is an important tool (Carnhan *et al.*, Ralston²³) for the reconstruction of gravity anomalies due to a fault model. SVD is a factorisation of the operator matrix into set of orthonormal eigen vectors and associated eigenvalues. The observations are decomposed into linear combination of orthogonal eigen vectors, which in turn determine a linear combination of model parameters. Comprehensive reviews could be seen in Wiggins²⁸, Lanczos¹¹, Jackson¹⁰, Wunsch³⁰ and Tarantola²⁷. The advantages of SVD in construction of the Generalised Inverse Operator (GIO) are many and some of which are (1) SVD is objective and does not impose a pre-determined form to the data (2) it provides an objective means of ranking un-correlated modes of variability to determine weak signals or noise from the data and (3) it provides the modes of variability, which are not correlated with one another (Ramana Murthy et al.²² Menke¹⁴). Further, employing SVD in GIO facilitates an explanation of the physical significance/interpretation of eigen vectors (Stidd²⁵, Winant et al.²⁹ and Aubray¹, Ramana Murty et al.²²). These advantages of SVD led Wunsch³⁰ to apply GIO employing SVD in the study of ocean circulation and Roemmich²⁴ to compute geostropic velocity using known fields of horizontal density gradients. Further Ramana Murty et al^{20} , Prasanna Kumar et al.¹ used the SVD in Ocean Acoustic Tomography (OAT) to study the meso scale variability of ocean. In the present paper, we employ the GI technique through SVD for the reconstruction of gravity anomaly due to fault and present numerical results of Garber Oil field data (Gant and West⁸) for test validation.

2. SOLUTION OF THE INVERSE PROBLEM

The model equation which relates the model (fault) to observed data expressed in the matrix from (Heiland⁹, Grant and West⁸, Radhakrishna Murty^{18 & 19}, Rao *et al.*¹³).

where n is number of field observation points, m is number of model parameters,

$$\delta z = (\delta z_i) = g_{obs}(x_i) - g_{cal}(x_i)$$
 is the column matrix consisting of data residual

 $g_{obs}(x)$ = observed gravity value at x

$$g_{cal}(x) = 2 Gdc (\Pi - A) (Z_2 - Z_1)$$
 for $x = Z_1 \cot A$

and

$$g_{cal}(x) = 2 Gdc [(x \sin A - Z_1 \cos A) [sin A \ln (r_2/r_1)]$$

+ cos A $(\phi_2 - \phi_1)$] + $Z_2 \phi_2 - Z_1 \phi_1$], for $x \neq Z_1 \cot A$

where Z_1, Z_2 are the depths to the top and bottom of the fault, A is the fault angle, dc is the density contrast, and G is the gravitational constant.

 $\delta y = (\delta y_i)$ is the column matrix consisting of model parameter perturbations

$$A = (a_{ij}) = \left[\frac{\partial g_i}{\partial y_j}\right]$$
 is a kernel (sensitivity matrix or the matrix of partial derivatives of

synthetic gravity data $(g(x_i))$ at station x_i with respect to model parameters)

i = (1, ..., n), is the station index and

 $j = (1, \dots, m)$, is the parameter index.

Eq. (1) is solved by SVD of the matrix A consisting of n gravity anomaly points and m model parameters expressed as a product of three matrices^{11, 14} & 22

$$A \stackrel{i}{=} U \Gamma V^{T} \dots (2)$$

$$(n \times m) (n \times r) (r \times r) (r \times m)$$

The columns of the U and V matrices are orthonormal, i.e., $U^T U = l_n$ and $V^T V = l_m$. In general, $U U^T \neq l_n$ and $V V^T \neq l_m$. U and V are the respective coupled eigen vector matrices for the eigen value problem defined as

$$(AA^{T}) u = l^{2} u \qquad \dots (3)$$

and

$$(AT A) v = l2 v \qquad \dots (4)$$

In eq. (2) Γ is a diagonal matrix of non-zero singular values (l^2) of A, and $r (r \le \min(n, m))$ is the rank of the matrix A.

In general, the number of model parameters in a geophysical problem is usually less than the number of field data points (gravity data points). This leads to a situation of over-determinacy, which arises when one attempts to predict the data. It would be also much easier to solve the first eigen value problem (eq. 3) than the second (eq. 4)

Once U, Γ and V obtained by solving above eigen value problems (eqs. 3 & 4), the generalised inverse solution follows as

$$\delta y_p = V V^T \, \delta y = (V \Gamma^{-1} \, U^T) \, \delta z \qquad \dots \tag{5}$$

If $V V^T$ equals l (if the rank of the matrix A = m), the solution of eq. 1 is

$$\delta y_p = \delta y = (V\Gamma^{-1} U^T) \, \delta z = (A_p^{-g}) \, \delta z \qquad \dots \tag{6}$$

where A_n^{-g} is the natural generalised inverse operator (Jackson¹⁰).

If $V V^T \neq \pm \mathbf{I}$ (a case in the presence of noise in model space).

$$\delta y_p \approx \delta y = (V\Gamma^{-1} U^T) \, \delta z = (A_p^{-g}) \, \delta z \qquad \dots (7)$$

For better estimates the resolution in the model space VV^T of eq. 7 is improved. This is done by judiciously selecting the *p* eigen vectors or ranking the singular values of the data kernel in a descending order. The noise in the data kernel (matrix *A*) prevailing in the form of small eigen values increases the ranking of the matrix apart from amplifying the solution. This, however, does not provide any additional or useful information on the model parameters. So, it can be treated as though the solution to the present problem is obtained through consideration of optimisation. The iteration process is continued to supplement the model parameters obtained through inversion until a reasonable fit with the observed anomaly is obtained. Such a final run is retained in memory. Once the solution is obtained, it is necessary to assess how well the data determines the model parameters. This is done through model resolution $(Vp \ V^Tp)$ and data resolution $(Up \ U^Tp)$ matrices where 'p' represents the number of factors considered.

Closeness Ratio : The ratio of the sum of the factor model to that of the data matrix is considered as a measure of closeness of the model data (Ramana Murty *et al.*²¹).

Measure of closeness =
$$\sum_{i=1}^{p} l_i^2 / \sum_{i=1}^{r} l_i^2$$
, ... (8)

where p is the number of factors considered and r is the rank of the data matrix A (Kernel). The first eigen function associated with the largest eigen value represents the broader features in the data, in the least square sense, while the second function and so on describe the residual mean square data. The closeness ratio expressed in percentage enables one to judge the contribution of different modes, and thereby reproduce the model profile. The computed eigen values and closeness ratios are presented in Table 1.

Eigen values and	corresponding closeness ratio	for the gravity model			
SI. No.	Eigen Value	Closeness Ratio			
1.	18.87	96.504			
2.	2.02	2.278			
3.	0.98	0.727			
4.	0.73	0.280			
5.	0.59	0.159			
6.	0.41	0.052			

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this section computed results of a field example are discussed. SVD of kernel A (21 x 6) = $U \int U [V^T] V^T$ has been performed using input data consisting of 21 gravity anomaly data points at 1 km

interval with amplitude ranging between 0.24-2.18 mgals taken from published work of Grant and West⁸ (Fig. 2). The column matrices $U = \{u_1, u_2...u_6\}$ and $V = \{v_1, v_2...v_6\}$ are orthonormal eigen vectors spanning data space S(d), and model space 5 (m) corresponding to eigen values τ_i (Table 1), computed by solving eigen value problems of two covariance matrices AA^T , AA^T of 6. components contributing 100 percent of total variance. Based on the point of inflection or minimum



FIG. 2. (a) Observed gravity anomaly of Garber oil field and model anomaly; (b) Fault model from inversion studies



FIG. 3. Column vectors of up versus mode amplitude with varying energetic modes 1 to 6 (Fl to F6) - Garber oil field profile - over Garber oil field



FIG. 4. Column vectors of Vp versus mode amplitude with varying energetic modes 1 to 6 (Fl to F6) profile - Garber oil field

point of cumulative eigen value two factors (p = 2) are retained for interpretation, shown in Figs. 3 & 4. The GIO $A_p^{-g} = V_p \overline{\int_{-p}^{1} U_p^T}$ has been built after removing null spaces $\{U_0, V_0\}$ to operate on gravity anomaly (Fig. 2) to yield model parameters in the present numerical simulation experiment.

Using vectors in activated space, data resolution matrix $\{U_p U_p^T\}$ and model resolution matrix $\{V_p V_p^T\}$ have been computed and the elements of these matrices are presented in a contour form in (Figs. 5 & 6) respectively. The diagonal elements of model and data resolution matrices are presented respectively in tables 2 and 3. Column vectors u_i (i = 1, ..., 6) of s (d) of corresponding eigenvalues of λ_i (measure of variance A in descending order) having 21 components and each component has a value indicating amplitude which explains sharing contribution of it's variance mode *i*. The components of u_i represents the trend or direction of spatial common features contained in kernel A ({italic partial} derivatives of gravity funmction w.r.t model parameters). Its corresponding eigenvalue λ_i represents energy level. In a similar manner the components of vectors in set s (m) can be explained. The percentage contribution of individual components of s (d) have been computed through closeness ratio approach (eq. 8) and shown in Tables 4 a, b. Eigen vectors derived from the data kernel of Garber oil field have been presented in Figs. 3 & 4 to explore the model and spatial parameter variability. From Figs. 3 & 4 and also from Tables 4 a, b, it can be seen

Par	ameter	s	Fa	actor	1	F	Factor	2		Facto	r 3		Fact	or 4		Fac	tor 5		Fa	ctor	6
	Zl			0.000			0.003	3		0.24	47		0.2	248		0	.259			1.000	
	Z2			0.000			0.00)		0.0	54		0.5	564		0	.999			1.000	
	A 0.000			0.001				0.015			0.505			0.999			1.000				
	D			0.000		0.011			0.678			0.687		0.741			1.000				
	Dc			0.999			0.999)		0.9	99		1.0	000		1	.000			1.000	
D.	ATUM			0.001			0.983	3		0.99	95		0.9	95•		1	.000			1.000	
	TABLE 3 :																				
		Dia	gonal	elem	ents	of da	ata re	soluti	on (l	Up Up) for	each	stati	on fo	or fac	tor p	-	l to	6		
Mode	Mode Number of station																				
No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
1	.001	.001	.001	.001	.282	.003	.006	.014	.030	.046	.058	.066	.072	.077	.080	.082	.084	.086	087	.088	.089
2	.049	.047	.047	.047	.034	.730	.036	.033	.036	.047	.058	.067	.073	.078	.082	.085	.087	.089	.091	.092	.093
3	.052	.050	.057	.078	.040	.784	.076	.258	.331	.191	.102	.074	073	.081	.090	.098	.104	.109	.114	.117	.120
4	.052	.060	.242	.082	.809	.784	.004	.258	.338	.192	.102	.074	.074	.082	.091	.100	.106	.112	.116	.120	.123
5	.052	.074	.745	.154	.884	.885	.187	.295	.350	.218	.124	.088	.081	.085	.092	.100	.106	.113	.118	.123	.127
6	.127	.074	.745	.755	.886	.886	.198	.510	.362	.243	.153	.102	.086	.086	.092	.100	.107	.114	.120	.125	.130

TABLE 2 : Diagonal elements of model resolution $(V_p V_p^T)$, p = 1 to 6

	Percentage	contribution of individual	components of	model space s(m)	
v ₁ %	v2%	V ₃ %	V4%	v5%	v ₆ %
.095	055	.074	.033	006	029
.764	.025	.038	066	.036	.001
.668	.029	.018	.065	.039	.000
.191	098	.123	.009	013	.017
-95.442	011	.000	001	.000	.000
-1.145	.918	.016	.001	004	.000
98.305%	+ 1.136%	~ + .269%	+ .145%	+ .098%	+ .047%
TOTAL = 100%					

TABLE 4(a) :

			TABLE 4	(b) :				
Percentage	contribution	of	individual	components	of	data	space	s(d)

	i creentage com	indución or marvia	ai components of	duid space 5(d)		
<i>u</i> ₁ %	<i>u</i> ₂ %	$u_{3}\%$	$u_4\%$	<i>u</i> ₅ %	u ₆ %	
565	.092	.004	.000	.000	.005	
661	.090	.004	.007	004	.000	
759	.090	.008	.030	.022	• .000	
906	.090	013	004	.008	014	
-4.114	.031	.006	061	.009	.001	
-1.396	.358	.017	.000	010	.001	
-1.910	.073	015	.006	.010	.002	
-2.890	.058	035	.000	.006	.008	
-4.237	.034	041	.005	003	.002	
-5.241	.015	028	.002	005	003	
-5.878	.002	016	.001	005	003	
-6.319	007	006	.001	004	002	
-6.588	013	.000	.002	003	001	
-6.784	017	.004	.002	002	001	
-6.931	019	.007	.003	001	000	
-7.029	021	.008	.003	.000	000	
-7.102	023	.010	.003	.000	.000	
-7.176	024	.011	.004	.001	.001	
-7.225	024	.011	.004	.001	.001 *	
-7.274	026	.012	.004	.002	.001	
-7.298	026	.012	.004	.002	.001	
98.305	+ 1.135	+ .269	+ .145	' + .098	+ .047	
Total = 100%						



FIG. 5. 2D-Data resolution matrix (modes 1 to 6). Garber oil field



FIG. 6. 2D-Model resolution matrix (modes 1 to 6). Garber oil Field

that the first two eigen functions of s(m) and s(d) account for more than 99% of variance predominantly represented by the first function alone. The first function u_1 in s(d) and v_1 in s(m) contribute 98% of total distribution representing density contrast (dc) followed by z_2 and Z_1 in that order. In general, the dc predominates to the extent of 95%. Further that, $Z_1 << Z_2$ indicates

Distance (km)	Observed anomaly (mgals)	Calculated anomaly (mgals)	Error (mgals)
00	.24	.24	00
100	26	26	.00
2.00	28	29	-01
3.00	32	33	01
400	38	38	.00
500	48	46	02
6.00	62	60	02
700	90	85	05
8.00	128	134	-06
900	156	164	08
1000	176	180	-04
1100	1.88	189	01
1200	196	196	00
1300	2.00	200	00
14 00	204	2 03	01
1500	208	206	02
1600	209	2 08	01
1700	2.10	2.09	.01
18.00	2 12	211	01
19 00	2 14	2 12	.02
20.00	2 16	2 12	.04

TABLE 5 Gravity model analysis by natural generalised inverse approach At the end of iteration no. 0

Objective function is

Model parameters

Depth to top of the fault is Depth to bottom of the fault is Fault angle is The origin is at Density contrast is Datum level is

.24km 3.43km 95.58 degrees 7.52km .016gm/cc .08mgls

46.92

Distance (km)	Observed anomaly (mgals)	Calculated anomaly (mgals)	Error (mgals)
00	24	.24	00
1 00	26	26	00
2 00	28	29	- 01
3.00	32	.33	-01
400	38	38	.00
500	48	47	.01
600	62	61	01
7.00	90	89	01
8 00	1 28	1 28	00
900	1 56	1 56	00
1000	1.76	1 75	01
11 00	1 88	1 87	01
1200	1 96	1 95	01
1300	200	200	00
1400	2 04	204	.00
15 00	2 08	2 07	01
1600	209	209	00
17 00	2 10	2 11	-01
1800	212	213	-01
1900	2 14	2 14	00
20 00	216	2 15	01
Objective function	is	00	
Model parameter	S		
Depth to top of the	he fault is		.62km
Depth to bottom of	of the fault is		3.29km
Fault angle is			123.27°
The origin is at			7.03km
Density contrast is	3		.020gm/cc
Datum level is			.07mgals

At the end of iteration no. 3

that the fault is thin in nature from the location of 12^{th} station onwards to the end (Table 4 *a*, *b*). The contribution of remaining functions in *s* (*d*) and *s* (*m*) is only 1.7% of total information, too insignificant to consider for interpretation.

The first two energetic spatial and model functions of s(d) & s(m) have been used to bring the predictale rich part of the original signal to obtain inverse solution (Fig 2 and Table 5) by operating GIO on gravity anomaly and for construction of data and model resolution matrices (Figs. 5 & 6). The results obtained from GIO analysis of gravity anomaly of Garber oil field indicate that the thickness (Z_2-Z_1) of fault is 2.67 km with density contrast of 0.02gm/cc and fault angle (A) 123° (table 5) with the fault origin *(D)* located at 7.03 km. from the reference point (Fig. 1). It can be seen from Fig. 2 that the gravity anomaly computed using the model and the anomaly observed match exactly validating the present procedure.

Data Resolution : The data resolution matrix is an indication of the information density of the data kernel i.e., it indicates which data contribute independent information to the solution. The diagonal elements of UU^T are shown in Table 3, for factors 1, 2... 6. A value of unity for any particular parameter shows that the influence of the respective parameter dominates that of all the other parameters describing the model. Table 3 enables one to infer which of the data points present strong/poor information resolution. The data resolution is given by,

$$N = AA_p^{-g} = U_p U_p^T.$$

The data are perfectly resolved if Up spans the complete space of data. The small eigen values in the data kernel (Matrix A) increases the rank of the matrix (i.e., the dimension of the activated space) besides amplifying the solution due to the presence of noise. In this case one should not consider the eigen vectors corresponding to small eigen values (< 1). If we consider the eigen vectors corresponding to small eigen values (< 1). If we consider the eigen vectors corresponding to very small eigen values, while estimating the solution, then it is very likely that high frequency noise components predominate the inverse estimates masking the original signal. Fig. 5 (mode 1) describes the contour map of the resolution matrix $u_1u_1^T$ where u_1 is the highest spatial energetic mode of *s* (*d*). It gives 98.305% variance of the total information i.e., mostly gross features of the kernel (Table 1). The resolution is seen to increase gradually from the first station to 5th station. Afterwards the data resolution is high between stations 5 to 21 indicating discontinuity in density. This fact is confirmed by first vector of *s* (*d*) (Figs. 5 & 6, mode 1 and Table 2). The remaining 5 eigen functions (modes 2 to 6) contribute < 2% information and can be treated as noise and neglected for interpretation.

Model Resolution : The model resolution of the Generalised inverse is given by $R = A_p^{-g} A = V_p V_p^T$. Here p indicates number of factors used in SVD, which is less than or equal to the rank of matrix A. The model parameters will be perfectly resolved if V_p spans the complete space of the model parameters, i.e. $V_p V_p^T = I$. The model resolution is perfect for the contribution of gravity anomaly due to the density contrast (shown in Fig. 6, mode 1 and Table 2) and one can conclude that density is independent of other model parameters and it is of homogeneous nature. This is also reflected in the data resolution (Fig. 5, mode 1) between stations 5-20 (and Table 3).

The present study indicates that the partial information contained in the data space is adequate to reconstruct the model parameters. This reveals the usefulness of natural generalised inverse in the least square sense in handling problems of over determinacy.

4. CONCLUSIONS

I. SVD analysis carried out on Garber oil field data, Oklahoma, shows that the first two energetic modes of data space s(d) and model space s(m) contribute 99.3% to the total distribution, (density contrast 98% and datum level : < 2%).

II. A good agreement has been found between the predicted model anomaly and the observed gravity anomaly.

III. Inverse solution reveals that fault model parameters are : depth to top of the fault: 0.62 km; depth to bottom of the fault: 3.29 km; fault angle: 123.27°, origin : 7.03 km; density contrast: 0.020gm/cc and datum level:0.07mgals which agree quite well with the known results.

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