



Article Reservoir Interpretation of Intrusive Rock Buried-Hill with Mud-Logging Data while Drilling—Taking the Y Area in the Qiongdongnan Basin of the South China Sea as an Example

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Abstract: The intrusive rock buried-hill reservoir is one of the main targets for oil and gas exploration in the offshore sedimentary basins of China. In order to discover the reservoir as early as possible for decision-making to save costs, reservoir interpretation with mud-logging data needs to be studied. Previous studies have showed that the homogeneity rocks reservoir can be well interpreted with mud-logging data u the K_b (mechanical specific energy ratio) method and the W_L (tangential power)-W_H (vertical power) intersection method. However, reservoir interpretation with mud-logging data for intrusive rock buried-hill has not been reported. The key steps or parameters of these two kinds of methods used for reservoir interpretation need to be modified for the vertical variation of intrusive rock buried-hill. Furthermore, confirming the interpretation of these two kinds of methods has not been reported. Taking the Y area in the Qiongdongnan Basin of the South China Sea as an example, the intrusive rock buried-hill can be divided into four zones based on its characteristics and genesis in descending order: the sand-gravel weathering zone, the weathering fracture zone, the inner fracture zone, and the base rock zone. The reservoir can be well interpreted when taking the $M_{\rm SE}$ (mechanical specific energy) geometrical mean of the base rock zone as a basic value to calculate $K_{\rm b}$. The reservoir will also be well interpreted when $W_{\rm H}$ ranges from 0 to 4.5 MPa and $W_{\rm L}$ ranges from 0 to 99 MPa in the column while intersecting. The layers of the reservoir can be interpreted as $K_{\rm b} < 1$ in the sand–gravel weathering zone and the weathering fracture zone. The $K_{\rm b} < 1$ and effective intersection of W_L - W_H layers at the same time could be interpreted as a reservoir in the inner fracture zone and the base rock zone. After combining the K_b method with the W_L - W_H intersection method, the reservoir of intrusive rock buried-hill can be well interpreted. The total thickness of the uninterpretable reservoir ratio is less than 20% compared to reservoir interpretation with well-logging for each well.

Keywords: Y area in the Qiongdongnan Basin; intrusive rock buried-hill; reservoir interpretation; mechanical specific energy ratio; tangential power and vertical power intersection

1. Introduction

Buried hill is one of several ancient landforms, with accumulating oil and gas, known as the buried-hill hydrocarbon reservoir [1–4]. In the offshore sedimentary basins of China, a variety of rocks can form buried hill, such as carbonate rock, metamorphic rock, and igneous rocks. With the recent continuous discovery of granite buried-hill reservoirs,



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Copyright: © 2022 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (https:// creativecommons.org/licenses/by/ 4.0/). such as Penglai 9-1, Yongle 8-1, and Huizhou 26-6 oil and gas field [5–7], intrusive rock buried-hill has attracted more and more attention. Offshore petroleum drilling is very expensive, decreasing the duration of drilling, and decision making is favorable for saving costs. In order to discover the reservoir as earlier as possible for decision making, reservoir interpretation with mud-logging data for the intrusive rock buried-hill while drilling needs to be studied. There are different methods for reservoir identification and evaluation during mud-logging: (i) some pores, vugs, and fractures could be observed directly on the core, and the reservoir can be evaluated qualitatively (the more pores, vugs, and fractures, the better the reservoir physical properties); (ii) the reservoir also can be evaluated qualitatively using the rate of penetration (*ROP*) (the higher *ROP*, the better the reservoir physical properties); (iii) the porosity, permeability, and their distribution image could be acquired for reservoir evaluation based on core nuclear magnetic resonance analysis; and (iv) the work index is the work carried out using the drill bit while breaking rocks per meter. It is equivalent to the horizontal and perpendicular component of force which acts on the strata multiplied by the footage in the corresponding direction [8–11]. As previously shown, a smaller work index means the more development of fractures and pores [9,11]. However, the reservoir cannot be well identified and evaluated using the methods mentioned above while drilling. Core observation and nuclear magnetic resonance analysis on mud-logging sites are relatively hysteretic to drilling. Furthermore, few core and sidewall core can be provided for analysis during offshore petroleum exploration. *ROP* is greatly affected by engineering factors. Work index is greatly affected by bit types, and the reservoir cannot be well interpreted with the work index in the layers drilled by PDC bits. Meanwhile, there are three empirical values used to calculate work index, which struggle to confirm the areas with little wells [8–11]. At present, the K_b method and the W_L - W_H intersection method are two kinds of reliable reservoir interpretation methods with mud-logging data while drilling [11,12]. The reservoirs of volcanic rocks, pyroclastic rocks, and dolomitic limestone have been well interpreted by these two kinds of methods [11,12]. There are three key points for reservoir interpretation with mud-logging data: confirm the basic value used to calculate K_b , confirm the optimal numerical ranges of W_L and W_H while intersecting, and establish the principles of reservoir interpretation based on these two kinds of methods. In fact, reservoir interpretation with mud-logging data for the intrusive rock buried-hill has not been reported. Compared with homogeneity rocks, such as volcanic rocks, the rock mechanical properties of intrusive rock buried-hill are vertically variable. The key steps or parameters of these two kinds of methods used for reservoir interpretation need to be modified based on the characteristics and genesis of intrusive rock buried-hill. Furthermore, confirming the interpretation of these two kinds of methods has not been mentioned by other authors. In this study, we use the Y area in the Qiongdongnan Basin of South China Sea as an example, try to find a new method to calculate a basic value for $K_{\rm b}$, confirm the optimal numerical ranges of W_L and W_H while intersecting, and establish the principles of reservoir interpretation based on these two kinds of methods to reservoir interpretation with mud-logging data, in order to accelerate the petroleum exploration and production of offshore intrusive rock buried-hill.

2. Geological Setting

The Qiongdongnan Basin is a large-scale Cenozoic petroliferous basin, around 4.5×10^4 km² (Figure 1a), which was developed on the extensional tectonic setting of the northern quasi-passive continental margin in the South China Sea [13,14]. The deepwater areas in the northern South China Sea are rich in oil and gas resources, and the Qiongdongnan Basin is an important oil and gas exploration region [14–17]. The Qiongdongnan Basin was strongly affected by the Eurasian Plate, the Indo-China Plate, and the Pacific Plate, and was widely distributed with igneous rocks since Mesozoic, which are conducive to the formation of basement intrusive rock buried-hill [18–21]. The top of the basin basement experienced long-term weathering and denudation in the Late Mesozoic and formed buried hill [21]. At the same time, the fracture–porosity-type weathered crust

reservoir was constructed (Figure 2). Intrusive rock buried-hill and its periphery in the Qiongdongnan Basin commonly are paleo-uplifts surrounded by hydrocarbon-rich sag (Figure 1a), where there is an effective low potential zone for hydrocarbon supply and lateral migration [16]. They usually have favorable geological conditions for hydrocarbon migration and accumulation. In the Cenozoic, the Qiongdongnan Basin developed a set of lacustrine, marine-terrigenous, and marine deposits. From bottom to top, the Cenozoic is composed of the Eocene, Oligocene Yacheng Formation and Lingshui Formation, Miocene Sanya Miocene Formation, Meishan Formation, Huangliu Formation, Pliocene Yinggehai Formation, and Pleistocene Ledong Formation (Figure 1c). The Yacheng Formation is a major source of rock strata, the intrusive rock buried-hill developed in the structural high is one of the reservoir strata, and regional Cenozoic thick marine mudstone overlies these strata. This forms a favorable source–reservoir–seal assemblage for gas accumulation in the area (Figure 1c) [22–25].



Figure 1. Tectonic framework and comprehensive stratigraphic column of the Qiongdongnan Basin. (a) Tectonic map of the Qiongdongnan Basin (after reference [16]); (b) drilling well location of intrusive rock buried-hill in the Y area; and (c) comprehensive stratigraphic column of the Qiongdongnan Basin.



Figure 2. Typical photographs of rock types and reservoir spaces of intrusive rock buried-hill in the Y area. (**a**) Monzonitic granite, weathering and leaching fractures, Well Y832, 2883.3 m, sidewall core thin section; (**b**,**c**) biotite monzonitic granite, structural fractures filled with calcite, potash feldspar with micro fracture, strongly alternated plagioclase, biotite chloritized, Well Y832, 2935 m, core and its thin section; (**d**,**e**) syenite granite, structural fractures filled with ferrocalcite, Well Y812, 3439.3 m, sidewall core and its thin section; and (**f**) cataclastic monzonitic granite, structural fractures, strongly alternated plagioclase, Well Y811, 3003 m, sidewall core thin section. Q—quartz; Pl—plagioclase; Kfs—potash feldspar; Bi—biotite; Fc—ferrocalcite; WLF—weathering and leaching fracture; SF—structural fracture; MF—micro fracture; DP—dissolution pores.

Songnan low uplift lies in the middle part of the central depression of the Qiongdongnan basin with irregular boundary, E-W strike, around 3000 km² [26] (Figure 1a). Songnan low uplift is characterized by multi-sag hydrocarbon supply, sufficient hydrocarbon supply, and buried-hill traps (which occur in groups due to locations in the sag transition zone, i.e., one of the favorable zones for medium to large gas field) [26–28]. The Y area, located in the eastern higher position of Songnan low uplift (Figure 1a), includes a series of buried-hill traps, such as Y8 and Y1. In 2019, there was a major breakthrough in gas exploration in the Mesozoic granite buried hill in the Songnan low uplift, and over 1 million m³ of industrial gas flow per day has been obtained from the Well Y831 [29]. The estimation of oil and gas resources shows that buried hill in the Y area has great exploration potential, and the gas reserve may exceed 100 billion m³ [6].

3. Data, Basic Models, and Methods for Reservoir Interpretation with Mud-Logging Data

3.1. Primary Materials

There are six wells which reached the intrusive rock buried-hill in the Y area of the Qiongdongnan Basin, including Well Y811, Well Y812, Well Y831, Well Y832, Well Y1311, and Well 711 (Figure 1b). Among them, Well 711 only reached the intrusive rock buried-hill at 16 m and without reservoir interpretation with well-logging data. This study was based on geological data, drilling data, mud-logging data, and well-logging data (covering five wells except for Well 711). Based on core, sidewall core, cutting, and thin section observation, the main rock types of intrusive rock buried-hill were identified. The

drilling data and mud-logging data include *ROP*, weight on bit (*WOB*), revolutions per minute (*RPM*), diameter of rock bit (*Dia*), and X-ray diffraction (XRD) data, while drilling and element logging data were used for vertical zonation and reservoir interpretation in the intrusive rock buried-hill. Furthermore, the results of reservoir interpretation with mud-logging data can be verified using the well-logging data.

*3.2. Mechanical Specific Energy (M*_{SE}) *Model and Mechanical Specific Energy Ratio (K*_b) *Model 3.2.1. Mechanical Specific Energy (M*_{SE}) Model

 M_{SE} is the mechanical energy consumed by *WOB* and *TOR* (torque) for breaking rocks of per unit volume in per unit time [30]. The M_{SE} model was proposed by Teale in 1965 [30], and was modified by Rabia [31], Pessier and Fear [32], Dupriest and Koederitz [33], Armenta [34], Mohan et al. [35], Rafatian et al. [36], Cherif [37], Azike-Akubue et al. [38], and Fan et al. [39] from different angles.

The bit torque, one of the key parameters in Teale's model, is hard to acquire through ground facilities. However, the bit torque is no longer needed in Fan's model (Equation (1)). All the parameters in Fan's model are routine parameters recorded on the ground with drilling and mud-logging. The Fan's model is widely used in the drilling industry for its higher computational accuracy. In this study, the Fan's model is also used to calculate the M_{SE} of intrusive rock buried-hill for each well.

$$M_{\rm SE} = \frac{4 \times WOB}{Dia^2 \times \pi} + \frac{2.91 \times WOB \times RPM}{Dia \times ROP}$$
(1)

where M_{SE} is the mechanical specific energy, MPa; WOB is the weight on bit, kN; RPM is the revolutions per minute, r/min; ROP is the rate of penetration, m/h; Dia is the diameter of rock bit, mm.

3.2.2. Mechanical Specific Energy Ratio (K_b) Model

The mechanical specific energy ratio (K_b) is the ratio of M_{SE} to the basic value of correspondence depth (Equation (2)).

$$K_{\rm b} = \frac{M_{\rm SE}}{E_n} \tag{2}$$

where K_b is the mechanical specific energy ratio, dimensionless; M_{SE} is the mechanical specific energy, MPa; E_n is the basic value of M_{SE} , MPa.

3.3. Vertical Power (W_H) Model and Tangential Power (W_L) Model

During the drill bit breaking rock process, the rock is fractured due to the effect of weight on the drill bit, and then the cracks propagate due to the effect of torque, before the rock is then finally cut [40]. Further analysis shows that the M_{SE} model consists of vertical power (W_H) and tangential power (W_L) [11]. W_H is perpendicular to the drill bit cross section and can be calculated by Equation (3); W_L is parallel to the drill bit cross section and can be calculated by Equation (4).

$$W_{\rm H} = \frac{4 \times WOB}{Dia^2 \times \pi} \tag{3}$$

$$W_{\rm L} = \frac{2.91 \times WOB \times RPM}{Dia \times ROP} \tag{4}$$

where W_H is the vertical power, MPa; W_L is the tangential power, MPa; WOB is the weight on the drill bit, kN; *RPM* is the revolutions per minute, r/min; *ROP* is the rate of penetration, m/h; *Dia* is the diameter of rock bit, mm.

3.4. Basic Methods for Reservoir Interpretation with Mud-Logging Data

The essence of break rocks using the drill bit uses rocks by consumption of mechanical energy. Moreover, the work carried out by the drill bit is constrained by the rock strength, which is largely affected by the porosity and density of rocks. Therefore, it is possible to identify the layers of reservoir based on the mud-logging data. At present, the K_b method and the W_L - W_H intersection method are two kinds of reservoir interpretation methods which can confirm each other while drilling.

Previous studies have shown that smaller M_{SE} will develop more fractures and pores [11]. However, the accuracy of calculated M_{SE} is low due to the rock strength, bit types, drilling engineering parameters, borehole circumstance, and other factors in different rocks [12]. Although the same rocks are broken, the calculated M_{SE} may be different. Practices indicate that the reservoir properties can only be qualitatively evaluated by M_{SE} , while the reservoir properties can be qualitatively evaluated by K_b [11,12]. The K_b is the ratio of M_{SE} to the basic value of correspondence depth; the smaller K_b means the reservoir properties is better. Usually, the layers can be interpreted as the reservoir where $K_b < 1$. In addition, the K_b is also conducive to horizontal and longitudinal reservoir comparison.

As previously mentioned, the M_{SE} model consists of W_H and W_L when the rock is broken by the drill bit. In the poor reservoir properties layers, the curves of W_H and W_L tend to coincide with each other in the column, while in the favorable reservoir property layers, a dramatic decrease in W_L compared to W_H can change the intersection area between the curves. Furthermore, a larger intersection area means the reservoir properties is better [12].

4. Main Rock Types and Vertical Zonation of the Intrusive Rock Buried-Hill

4.1. Main Rock Types and Reservoir Space Types

The buried hill in the Y area of the Qiongdongnan Basin mainly consists of acidic intrusive rocks, and dynamic metamorphic rocks are also identified locally. Research suggests that the buried hill is dominated by monzonitic granite (Figure 2a–c), followed by syenite granite (Figure 2d,e). Dynamic metamorphic rocks (cataclastic rocks), mainly found in Well Y811, are located in the fracture zone controlled by two faults (Figure 3). In addition, the protolith of these cataclastic rocks is monzonitic granite (Figure 2f). The fracture–pore reservoirs of the intrusive rock buried-hill in the study area are mainly controlled by vertical zonation, the mineral composition of rocks, structural positions, and so on. The reservoir spaces of fracture reservoirs include weathering and leaching fractures (Figure 2a), structural fractures (Figure 2c–f), and micro fractures (Figure 2c). However, the reservoir spaces of pore reservoirs include feldspar dissolution pores (Figure 2e) and a small number of carbonate dissolution pores. The weathering and leaching fractures develop on the top of the intrusive rock buried-hill; however, with an increase in depth, the structural fractures, micro fractures, and dissolution pores are likely to decrease.

4.2. Vertical Zonation of the Intrusive Rock Buried-Hill

The intrusive rocks are hard and compact, and the intrusive rock buried-hills are characterized by vertical zonation after long-term weathering and denudation. There are three kinds of vertical zonation models for the intrusive rock buried-hills: three zone models [41,42], four zone models [43], and five zone models [5]. According to the results of previous studies, and taking into account characteristics of buried-hill rock in the study area and the accuracy of vertical zonation while drilling, the intrusive rock buried-hill can be divided into four zones in descending order: the sand–gravel weathering zone, the weathering fracture zone, the inner fracture zone, and the base rock zone (Figure 3).



Figure 3. Zonation model of intrusive rock buried-hill in the Y area, Qiongdongnan Basin. The location of the section is shown in Figure 1a,b.

4.2.1. Sand–Gravel Weathering Zone

The sand-gravel weathering zone is located at the top of the intrusive rock buried-hill, and the lithology is sand-conglomerate or granite, based on the mud-logging data. A thin soil layer may be developed on the top of sand-gravel weathering zone, but it is hard to distinguish with mudstone. Because of the inheritance of palaeogeomorphic highs, this zone in the study area is developed in the structural high part and suffers from long-term weathering (Figure 3). The thickness of the sand-gravel weathering zone is generally thin, and ranges from 0 to 10 m (Figures 4 and 5). The sand–gravel weathering zone can be confirmed by three discriminant conditions: sand-conglomerate, a thickness of less than 10 m, and an *ROP* that is dramatically higher than that of the underlying zone. On the other hand, a set of thick sand-conglomerate which develops and covers the intrusive rocks is the product of transportation and accumulation. Therefore, those thick sand-conglomerate is not belong to the sand-conglomerate zone, e.g., Well Y811 (Figure 5). Furthermore, when the intrusive rocks is covered by mudstone, the sand-gravel weathering zone can be split out from the intrusive rocks according to a dramatically change in the column's ROP curve, e.g., Well Y831 and Well Y1311. If not, this zone can end up being badly preserved (Figures 4 and 5).



Figure 4. Mud-logging characteristics of zonation and reservoir interpretation with mud-logging data of intrusive rock buried-hill of Well Y831. *E*n1 is the basic value calculated with the M_{SE} geometrical mean of the base rock zone. K_b1 is equal to M_{SE} divided by *E*n1 in correspondence with the depth. *E*n2 is the basic value calculated by piecewise fitting based on the linear correlation of M_{SE} in correspondence with the depth. K_b2 is equal to M_{SE} divided by *E*n2 in correspondence with the depth.



Figure 5. Mud-logging characteristics of zonation and reservoir interpretation with mud-logging data of intrusive rock buried-hill of Well 1311~Y831~Y832~Y811~Y812, location of the section is shown in Figure 1a,b.

4.2.2. Weathering Fracture Zone

The lithology of the weathering fracture zone is granite based on the mud-logging data. Compared to the sand–gravel weathering zone, the rock of this zone is relatively hard, retaining the original features of intrusive rocks. Weathering and leaching fractures and dissolution pores are well developed in this zone for long-term weathering (Figure 2a). Rock drillability (*ROP*) is lower in the sand–gravel weathering zone, though it is dramatically higher in the inner fracture zone (Figures 4 and 5). In addition, the feldspar of intrusive rocks turned into clay minerals for long-term weathering, and the clay content of this zone is usually greater than 15%, which is much higher than in the inner fracture zone (Figures 4 and 5).

4.2.3. Inner Fracture Zone

The lithology of the inner fracture zone, based on the mud-logging data, is granite, and multi-phase structural fractures are developed (Figure 2c–f). Vertically, with the increase in depth, the density of structural fractures decreases gradually, while being enriched locally in some layers. The rock of this zone is harder than that of the weathering fracture zone, and the rock drillability (*ROP*) is lower. With the increase in depth, the *ROP* decreases gradually and increases locally, corresponding to the fracture-enriched layers. The clay content of this zone is dramatically lower than in the weathering fracture zone, which shows relatively weaker weathering. However, the clay content and its curve in column are slightly higher than in the base rock zone. In addition, the fractures are usually filled with ferrocalcite, ankerite, and so on (Figure 2e). The Fe content and its curve in the column are also higher than the base rock zone too (Figures 4 and 5).

4.2.4. Base Rock Zone

The lithology of the base rock zone is fresh granite based on mud-logging data, and some structural fractures are also developed (Figure 2c–f). The *ROP*, clay content, and Fe content of the base rock zone are lower than in the inner fracture zone, and their curves in column are smooth and straight (Figures 4 and 5).

5. Method Modification and Results of Reservoir Interpretation with Mud-Logging Data

The reservoir of homogeneity rocks is well interpreted by the K_b method and the W_L and W_H intersection method [11,12]. Compared with the homogeneity rocks, the mechanical properties of the intrusive rock buried-hill can vary vertically. Therefore, in order to interpret the reservoir effectively, these two kinds of methods need to be modified based on the characteristics and genesis of intrusive rock buried-hill.

5.1. Reservoir Interpretation with $K_{\rm b}$

The key point of reservoir interpretation with K_b is to confirm the basic value (*E*n) which is used to calculate K_b in Equation (2). There are two kinds of methods used to calculate the basic value for K_b : taking the rock strength value calculated by well-logging data or the est data of core as *E*n [44], or using the M_{SE} trend line fitting to calculate the *E*n of the correspondence depth [10,12]. The rock strength value can be calculated by the relationship of linear correlation between the acoustic logging data and the rock uniaxial compressive strength [45]. However, this method is not applicable to the intrusive rock buried-hill in the Y area due to the lack of mechanical rock parameters. The linear correlation of M_{SE} to depth is the only way to confirm the *E*n in the study area, which includes piecewise fitting and whole-well length fitting of the intrusive rock buried-hill: firstly, a linear, log linear, exponent function, or power function model is used to establish the relationship between M_{SE} and correspondence depth, and the *E*n is calculated using the best fitness model.

We tried to confirm the *E*n in the study area by piecewise fitting and whole-well length fitting. As the sand–gravel weathering zone is very thin (<10 m), we assembled it with the weathering fracture zone while piecewise fitting. The piecewise fitting results of the sand–gravel weathering zone and the weathering fracture zone indicate that the reservoir could not be well interpreted, e.g., *E*n2 and *K*_b2, as shown in Figure 4. On the other hand, the whole-well length fitting of the intrusive rock buried-hill results indicate that the correlation between M_{SE} and depth is very poor, e.g., the maximum of R^2 is 0.08 in Well Y831, and the reservoir could not be well interpreted in Well Y812. Therefore, a new method is needed to calculate the *E*n for K_b to interpret the reservoir with mud-logging data for intrusive rock buried-hill.

In order to find the new method to calculate the *E*n for K_b , the formation mechanism and process of intrusive rock buried-hill were analyzed. It is shown that the base rock zone is the most complete and minimally damaged zone, the inner fracture zone is the product of fault modification and weak weathering, and the sand–gravel weathering zone and weathering fracture zone are the products of strong weathering and leaching. Therefore, the M_{SE} geometrical mean of the base rock zone could be taken as the basic value of the whole intrusive rock buried-hill, e.g., *E*n1, presented in Figure 4. The results show that the reservoir can be well interpreted when taking the M_{SE} geometrical mean of the base rock zone as a basic value to calculate K_b . The layers of reservoir interpretation with well-logging data mainly correspond to the layers in association with $K_b < 1$ (K_b1 in Figures 4 and 5). If the well (e.g., Well Y812) does not reach the intrusive rock buried-hill, the *E*n of the closest well (e.g., Well Y811) can be used to calculate its K_b .

5.2. Reservoir Interpretation with W_L - W_H Intersection

The reservoir can be easily interpreted using the intersection results of $W_{\rm H}$ and $W_{\rm L}$ curves in the column. Most importantly, the $W_{\rm H}$ and $W_{\rm L}$ needed to break the rocks while drilling can vary in different rock types and reservoir types. Therefore, the optimal numerical ranges of $W_{\rm L}$ and $W_{\rm H}$ while intersecting is the key point for reservoir interpretation. Taking the volcanic rocks and pyroclastic rocks in the Di'nan area of the Junggar Basin as examples, the reservoir can be well interpreted when $W_{\rm H}$ and $W_{\rm L}$ both range from 0 to 10 MPa in the column while intersecting [12]. However, compared with the homogeneity rocks in the Di'nan area, the rock mechanical properties of intrusive rock buried-hill in

the Y area of the Qiongdongnan Basin are vertically variable. The results show that the reservoir could not be well interpreted for buried-hill rock in the Y area based on the Di'nan area while intersecting.

In order to confirm the optimal numerical ranges of W_L and W_H while intersecting, the W_L and W_H of six wells of buried hill in the Y area were analyzed. The W_H - W_L scatter plot shows that the W_H and W_L should start from 0 Mpa while intersecting, and the maximum of W_H is 4.5 Mpa (Figure 6a). If the W_H ranges from 0 to 4.5 Mpa in the column, all of the data could be covered while intersecting (Figure 6a). Moreover, the W_H/W_L ratio frequency curve shows that 22 is the inflexion of the curve (round-off number) (Figure 6b). Obviously, 22 times that of 4.5 Mpa is 99 Mpa. Furthermore, most of the data will be covered when W_H ranges from 0 to 4.5 Mpa and W_L ranges from 0 to 99 Mpa (Figure 6a). More importantly, the research results show that the reservoir can be well interpreted when W_H ranges from 0 to 4.5 Mpa and W_L ranges from 0 to 99 Mpa in the column while intersecting (Figures 4 and 5).



Figure 6. $W_{\rm H}$ - $W_{\rm L}$ scatter plot and $W_{\rm H}/W_{\rm L}$ ratio cumulative frequency curve of intrusive rock buriedhill in the Y area (includes 6 wells and 8309 datapoints). (a) $W_{\rm H}$ - $W_{\rm L}$ scatter plot; (b) $W_{\rm H}/W_{\rm L}$ ratio cumulative frequency curve.

5.3. Reservoir Interpretation and Verification

5.3.1. Reservoir Interpretation with Mud-logging Data

The K_b method and the W_L - W_H intersection method are two kinds of reliable reservoir interpretation methods. In order to find the accurate layers of reservoir, these two kinds of methods should confirm each other when interpreting. There are four kinds of combinations: (i) the layers could be interpreted as a reservoir by both methods; (ii) the layers could be interpreted as a reservoir by one of the methods and (iii) the layers could not be interpreted as a reservoir by both methods. Undoubtedly, the results of reservoir interpretation with mud-logging data must be verified by the well-logging data. The results show that, by combining the K_b method with the W_L - W_H intersection method, the reservoir of intrusive rock buried-hill can be well interpreted. The layers can be interpreted as a reservoir showing $K_b < 1$ in the sand–gravel weathering zone and the weathering fracture zone. Moreover, the intersection of $K_b < 1$ and W_L - W_H layers could be interpreted as a reservoir in the inner fracture zone and the base rock zone (Figures 4 and 5).

5.3.2. Reservoir Verification with Well-Logging Data

In order to verify the results of reservoir interpretation with mud-logging data, the reservoir thickness ratio and the total thickness ratio of uninterpretable reservoir are used to evaluate the accuracy. The reservoir thickness ratio is the ratio of the total thickness of reservoir interpretation with mud-logging data (TTR-IML) to the total thickness of reservoir interpretation with well-logging data (TTR-IWL), abbreviated to TTR-IML/TTR-IWL (Equation (5)). The total thickness ratio of the uninterpretable reservoir is the ratio of the total thickness of the total thickness of reservoir is not interpreted with mud-logging data (TTR-NIML).

to TTR-IWL, abbreviated to TTR-NIML/TTR-IWL (Equation (6)). The thickness of each single layer interpreted by well-logging data is $H_1, H_2 \dots H_n$ in descending order. The thickness of each single layer interpreted by mud-logging data is $h_1, h_2 \dots h_n$ in descending order.

$$TTR-IML/TTR-IWL = (h_1 + h_2 + \dots + h_n)/(H_1 + H_2 + \dots + H_n)$$
(5)

$$TTR-NIML/TTR-IWL = (TTR-NIML)/(H_1 + H_2 + \dots + H_n)$$
(6)

Every single effective reservoir interpretation column directly and qualitatively shows that the results of reservoir interpretation with mud-logging data match well with the well-logging data (Figures 4 and 5). Furthermore, the TTR-IML/TTR-IWL and TTR-NIML/TTR-IWL quantitatively shows that the reservoir interpreted by mud-logging data is reliable (Table 1). The range of TTR-IML/TTR-IWL for three wells (Well Y812, Well Y831, and Well Y832) is between 80% and 120%, while Well Y811 and Well Y1311 is 179% and 1255%, respectively (Table 1). The TTR-NIML/TTR-IWL of all the wells in the study area is less than 30% (Table 1). It should be pointed out that the well-logging porosity of Well Y811 3000.9–3024.2 m and 3049.6–3072.7 m is 7.5% and 7.8%, respectively, and the well-logging porosity of Well Y13111 2602.0–2630.3 m is 11.6–29.1%. Although those layers are not be interpreted as the reservoir based on well-logging data, the relatively high porosity and reservoir capacity of the layers show that they are easily drilled, corresponding to the results of reservoir interpretation with mud-logging data.

Table 1. Reservoir interpretation correlation between well-logging data and mud-logging data of intrusive rock buried-hill in the Y area.

Well	TTR-IWL (m)	TTR-IML (m)	TTR-NIML (m)	TTR-IML/TTR-IWL (%)	TTR-NIML/TTR-IWL (%)		
Y811	63.9	114.5	3.0	179.1	4.7		
Y812	90.4	99.4	17.7	110.0	19.5		
Y831	117.6	96.8	29.4	82.3	25.0		
Y832	239.2	231.8	67.0	96.9	28.0		
Y1311	4.9	61.5	0	1255.1	0		

TTR-IWL: the total thickness of reservoir interpretation with well-logging data; TTR-IML: the total thickness of reservoir interpretation with mud-logging data; TTR-IML/TTR-IWL: the reservoir thickness ratio; TTR-NIML: the total reservoir not interpreted with mud-logging data; TTR-NIML/TTR-IWL: the total thickness ratio of the uninterpretable reservoir.

5.4. Distribution of Intrusive Rock Buried-Hill Reservoir in the Y Area

The characteristics and distribution of the intrusive rock buried-hill reservoir in the Y area are different, both longitudinally and horizontally. The thickness of the sand– gravel weathering zone reservoir is thin, and ranges from 0 to 10 m. While the reservoir condition of this zone is favorable, the thickness ratio of reservoir to strata for each well is 100.0% (Table 2). The thickness of the weathering fracture zone is usually more than 20 m. Moreover, the favorable reservoir for oil and gas can accumulate, while the thickness ratio of the reservoir to strata for each well is more than 90.0% (Table 2). The sand–gravel weathering zone and the weathering fracture zone is located at the top of the intrusive rock buried-hill, which is usually less than 50 m in total, while the local area may reach over 60 m. The reservoir condition and plane continuity of those two zones are favorable to the accumulation of oil and gas (Table 2, Figure 3). The thickness of the inner fracture zone is 39.3 to 118.7 m, and the thickness ratio of reservoir to strata for each well is relatively low, ranging from 32.3% to 64.3% (Table 2). This zone can connect with the weathering fracture zone, which is horizontal for fault dislocation, and then the reservoir can be continuously distributed in plane (Figure 3). The thickness of the base rock zone is 14.2 to 72.2 m, and the thickness ratio of reservoir to strata is usually less than 50.0% (Table 2). Moreover, the reservoir of the base rock zone is distributed discontinuously in plane (Figure 3).

Well -	Sand–Gravel Weathering Zone			Weathering Fracture Zone		Inner Fracture Zone		Base Rock Zone				
	TTRS (m)	TTS (m)	TRRS1 (%)	TTRW (m)	TTW (m)	TRRS2 (%)	TTRI (m)	TTI (m)	TRRS3 (%)	TTRB (m)	TTB (m)	TRRS4 (%)
Y811	0	0	/	47.1	47.5	99.2	52.8	95.1	55.5	14.2	28.0	50.6
Y812	7.5	7.5	100.0	25.1	26.3	95.3	66.9	207.1	32.3	0.0	0.0	/
Y831	4.0	4.0	100.0	20.0	20.0	100.0	39.3	86.0	45.7	33.4	75.6	44.2
Y832	2.0	2.0	100.0	39.0	39.0	100.0	118.7	184.5	64.3	72.2	151.2	47.7
Y1311	7.0	7.0	100.0	54.5	59.0	92.4	0	0	/	0	0	/

Table 2. Statistics table of the reservoir thickness, the strata thickness, and their ratio of intrusive rock buried-hill in the Y area.

TTRS: the total thickness of the reservoir in the sand–gravel weathering zone; TTRW: the total thickness of the reservoir in the weathering fracture zone; TTRI: the total thickness of the reservoir in the inner fracture zone; TTRB: the total thickness of the reservoir in the base-rock zone; TTS: the total thickness of the reservoir in the sand–gravel weathering zone; TTW: the total thickness of reservoir in the weathering fracture zone; TTI: the total thickness of the reservoir in the total thickness of the reservoir in the total thickness of reservoir in the sand–gravel weathering zone; TTW: the total thickness of reservoir in the weathering fracture zone; TTI: the total thickness of the reservoir in the inner fracture zone; TTB: the total thickness of the reservoir in the base rock zone; TRRS: the thickness ratio of reservoir to strata, TRRS1 = TTRS/TTS, TRRS2 = TTRW/TTW, TRRS3 = TTRI/TTI, TRRS4 = TTRB/TTB.

In summary, the sand–gravel weathering zone and the weathering fracture zone are the most favorable zones for the intrusive rock buried-hill reservoir with a high thickness ratio of reservoir to strata and a continuous distribution in plane. Although the thickness ratio of reservoir to strata in the inner fracture zone is lower than that in the sand–gravel weathering zone and the weathering fracture zone, it also could be favorable to the accumulation of oil and gas in the local layers, as the layers connect with the weathering fracture zone horizontally and with the fracture concentrated layers longitudinally. Furthermore, the reservoir condition of the base rock zone is the worst for a low thickness ratio of reservoir to strata, a thin thickness of each single layer, and a discontinuous distribution in plane.

6. Conclusions

The buried hill in the Y area of the Qiongdongnan Basin mainly consists of acidic intrusive rocks, and can be divided into four zones in descending order. The sand-gravel weathering zone is characterized by very high *ROP*; the *ROP* and clay content are both high in the weathering fracture zone, while are both low in the inner fracture zone and the base rock zone. Compared to the inner fracture zone, the base rock zone shows very low ROP, clay content, and Fe content, and the curves of those three parameters in column are smooth and straight. The reservoir can be well interpreted when taking the $M_{\rm SE}$ geometrical mean of the base rock zone as a basic value to calculate $K_{\rm b}$. The reservoir can also be well interpreted when $W_{\rm H}$ ranges from 0 to 4.5 MPa and $W_{\rm L}$ ranges from 0 to 99 MPa in the column while intersecting. Furthermore, 4.5 MPa is the maximum $W_{\rm H}$ of intrusive rock buried-hill in the study area. Furthermore, 99 MPa is 22 times of 4.5 MPa, and 22 is the inflexion of the W_L/W_H cumulative frequency curve (round-off number). The layers can be interpreted as the reservoir with $K_{\rm b} < 1$ in the sand–gravel weathering zone and the weathering fracture zone. The $K_{\rm b}$ < 1 and effective intersection of $W_{\rm L}$ - $W_{\rm H}$ layers at the same time could be interpreted as the reservoir in the inner fracture zone and the base rock zone. Using the methods mentioned above, the reservoir of the intrusive rock buried-hill could be well interpreted with the mud-logging data. The total thickness of the uninterpretable reservoir ratio is less than 20% compared to reservoir interpretation with well-logging data for each well. The sand–gravel weathering zone and the weathering fracture zone are the most favorable zones. The inner fracture zone could also be favorable to oil and gas accumulation in the local layers. Moreover, the reservoir condition of the base rock zone is the worst.

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