

## Prospecting and Exploration of Hydrocarbon Fields by Earth Remote Sensing Methods

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# Nowadays seismics has become de facto the main tool for geological exploration

#### **Disadvantages**

- 3D seismics is expensive
- A large number of prospect wells, despite expectations, occur empty
- Need to have a legal licence to make geological exploration in a given region



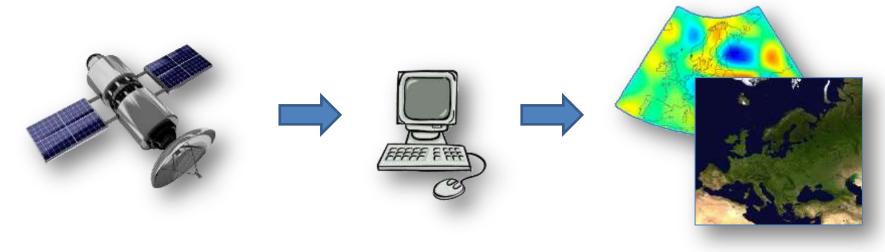


Q: How can one enhance the efficiency of geological exploration?

A: This can be done using remote sensing methods, that is involving **remote prospecting** 







Input
 (data obtained from
satellites and/or aircrafts)

**Processing** 

Output (presence indicators of hydrocarbons)

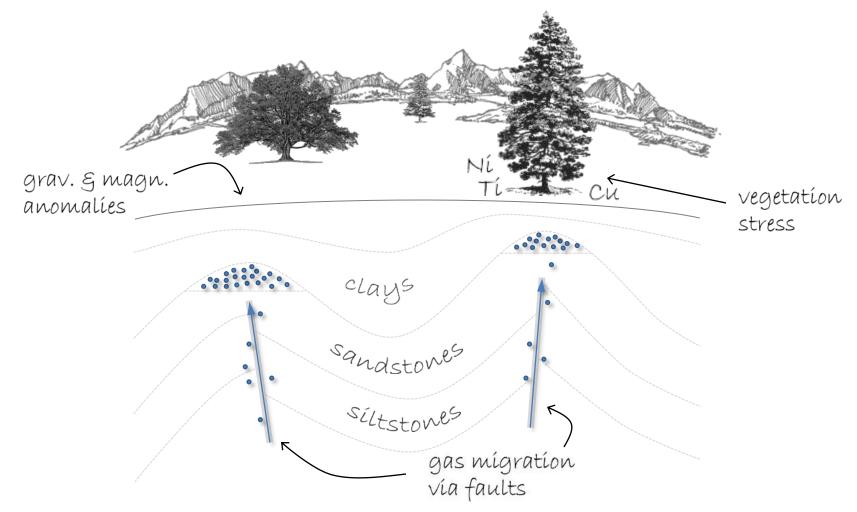
- gravitational and magnetic fields
- space images (both visual and radar)

- gravitational and magnetic anomalies
- vegetation stress maps
- land surface displacements due to active faults



#### What is Remote Prospecting Based on?

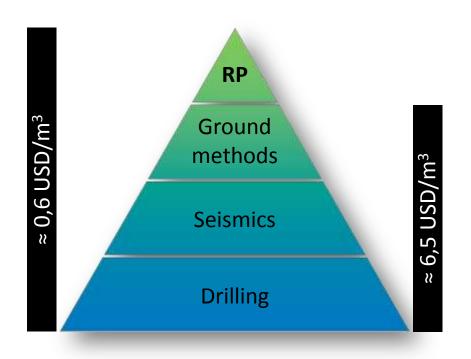


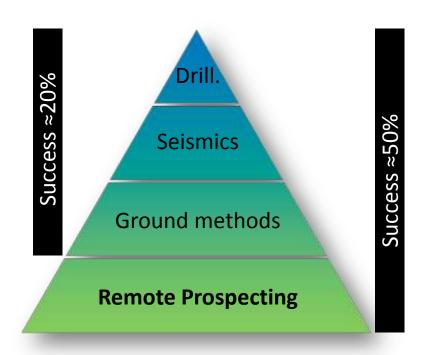


Hydrocarbon mícroseepage









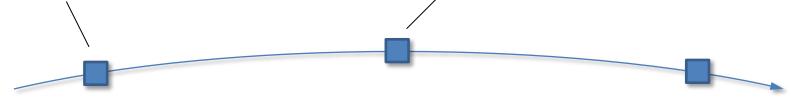
**Exploration costs** 

Exploration area's size

#### When Should Remote Prospecting be Applied?



- low-resolution satellite images (Landsat, Envisat, Hyperion, etc.)
- gravitational and magnetic fields at scale up to 1 : 200 000
- high-resolution satellite images (WorldView-2, TerraSAR-X, etc.)
- gravitational and magnetic fields at scale 1: 100 000 or better



Preliminary RP stage (general estimation of perspectives of a new region) Detailed RP stage (prospecting for possible gas traps)

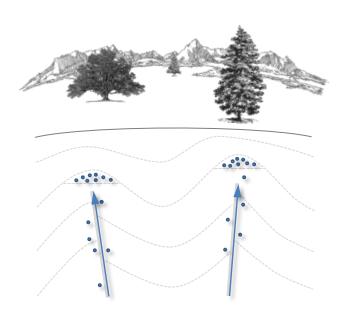
Conventional stage (seismics, etc.)

**Exploration process** 

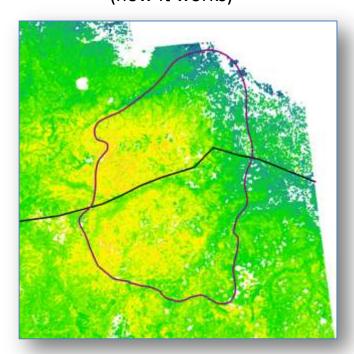




### Theory (microseepage)



### Practice (how it works)

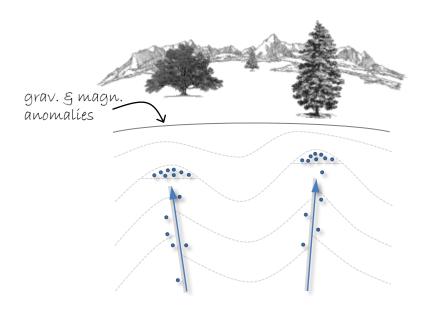


A modern fault on the land displacements map

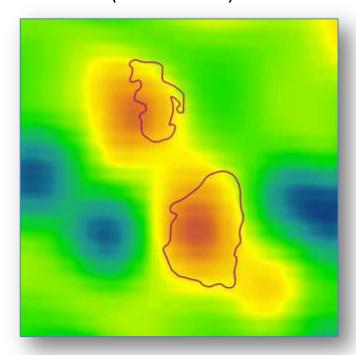




### Theory (microseepage)



#### Practice (how it works)

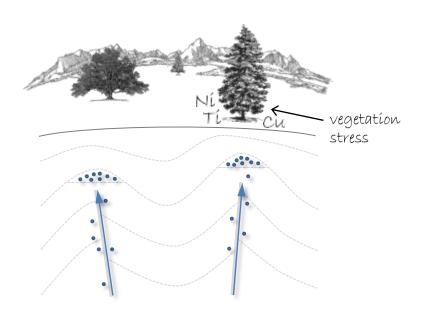


Magnetic field anomalies over gas fields





#### Theory (microseepage)



#### Practice (how it works)





Vegetation stress along a river flowing in a fault





- Remote prospecting essentially uses satellite images of the Earth, as well as gravitational and magnetic fields obtained from satellites and/or aircrafts
- Remote prospecting implies ten times reduction of the exploration costs due to the increase of the number of non-empty wells while drilling
- Remote prospecting allows substantial increase of the size of the regions of interest,
   thus making the entire geological exploration process faster





