



2007 ESRI Petroleum User's Group Workshop



# Positioning Issues Related to Seismic Data



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*Applying the right tools and knowledge to complete a complex task with a predictable result!*



**Any position data loading is an exercise in this!**

**And remembering there is more than just X & Y\***

Note: Geodetically this  
s/b Easting & Northing

This talk addresses the exchange and use of coordinates for seismic requirements.

There are good and not so good ways to do these tasks.

## *What are the issues?*

- **Positioning Issues:**
  - Geodetic and projection identity
  - Project and point identity
  - Media & formats of positioning data
  - Precision and presentation

### **Abstract: Positioning Issues Relating to Seismic Data Loading**

This talk relates to various issues encountered in seismic positioning data, which create problems in the loading and usage of the data in coordinate databases and workstations.

In particular the presentation discusses 4 topics:

1. Geodetic and projection identity
2. Project and point identity
3. Correlation with seismic data
4. Media and formats of positioning data

Geodetic and projection identity focuses on the root cause of most positioning problems, which is miss-identified or miss-matched CRS data during the loading processes. Several slides are shown which point out the type and magnitude of positioning errors due to these problems.

Projection and point identity provides some examples of problems encountered by not understanding the identity of seismic coordinates. Slides show the many types of coordinates, which can relate to the same shot point number, what impact shooting direction, re-shoots, re-lays and re-naming can play in creating errors. It also discusses additional requirements for merging coordinate data with seismic.

Correlation with seismic data talks about direct loading of 3D bin data and issues relating to loading sheets, skew and distortion. The reduction of acquisition coordinates to row and columns identity and the need to audit this type of data.

Media and formats of positioning data. A discussion on the various media on which coordinate data is recorded and exchanges, issues relating to encoding, blocking, compression and machine dependencies. I also talk about the standard (UKOOA, SEG and SPS) formats as well as the many non-standard formats for exchanging positioning data and the types of problems this causes.

For the HIS presentation of 20 minutes, there are approximately 40 slides in Microsoft 2000 PowerPoint format, with notes pages.

## *If the geodesy doesn't fit, you must a quit!*

Latitude	Longitude	X	Y
29 25 00.00 N	89 56 30.00 W	2,443,081.1	275,426.9
29 25 00.79 N	89 56 30.25 W	3,723,882.6	336,132.4
29 25 00.65 N	89 56 30.80 W	214,552.1	3,257,770.7
29 24 59.77 N	89 56 29.99 W	744,653.0	83,943.2

- All these coordinates represent the exact same physical point on the Earth.
- They are all correct coordinates.
- Individually, they could also represent another point somewhere else on the Earth and still be correct.

Intermixing misidentified coordinates can create positional errors ranging from a few feet or meters to miles or kilometers.

**This is the number 1 reason for positioning differences!**

Same position, but represented by different datums, projections and units.

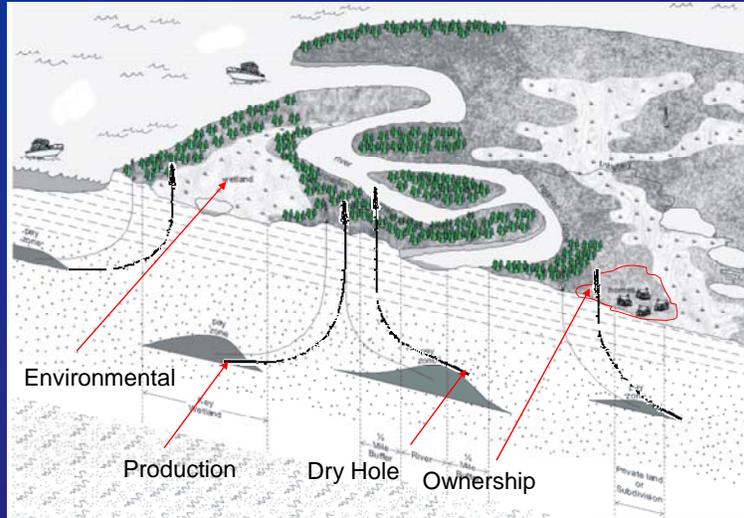
The key point is to demonstrate that there are more than 1 latitude,longitude representations of the earth and that the majority of projections are referenced to an ellipsoid.

(Can point out difference between a sphere and an ellipse).

Reference Jim Cain's talk on Geodesy at IHS.

CLICK to point out this is the number one reason for positioning difference.

**If you don't know the geodetic and point identity only the coordinates, the impact can be quite serious.**



**Early Retirement?**

Often well coordinates are provided with no information. If assumptions are made as to their geodetic or point identity

Mistakes can be serious, even deadly. Incorrectly miss-identifying the datum can cause large positional shifts, perhaps impacting the environmental, legal (boundary / ownership) and safety factors when drilling. Simply assuming what a coordinate is might impact interpretation leading to an economic loss due to a dry or poorly producing target.

## *What you need to know about geodetic coordinates*

- **Latitude, Longitudes **must** include:**
  - Ellipsoid and Datum information
    - They are not synonymous.
  - Units (DMSH, DEC, DDM and variations).
  - History of any transformations since acquired.
    - 1984 data was not acquired in WGS-84.
    - Libya embargo was in 1986 – Know what was used then?

**If the well data doesn't tie with the seismic,  
maybe some of the above was missing.**

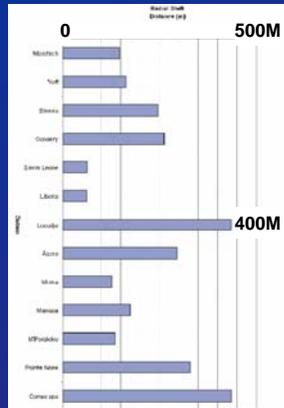
These are the basic requirements to identify which datum and ellipsoid a set of latitude and longitude coordinates belong to. Without this identity information, the potential for misuse, misidentification and error is maximized.

Included should be a historical archive of how these coordinates were originally obtained and what processes may have been performed to produce the current coordinates.

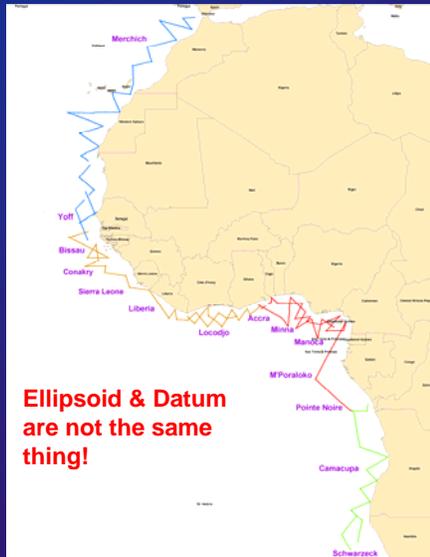
Generally, acquisition is/was performed using the current satellite datum (e.g. WGS-84 (AKA GPS)). To arrive at something different a translation or transformation is performed. Without that knowledge there is a risk of conflict with other data sets and it may be difficult to resolve.



## The Lat, Lons are Clarke 1880!



Variation in 13 local datums of over 400 meters. Most are referenced to Clarke 1880 IGN or RGS ellipsoid.  
(Reference EPSG/OGP Database).



In this slide we see what misidentifying datums in West Africa can potentially cause. Here are 13 commonly used datums, most of which are referenced to a similar or only slightly different ellipsoid. The reality is many datums share common ellipsoids and can have quite different geodetic coordinates. Converting an X,Y to a Latitude Longitude correctly and not knowing the datum might lead to an error in positioning.

The chart on the left shows the range of unit difference that can be created. It varies between 10 and 450 meters. The maximum difference between the semi-major axis of ellipsoids is about 1500 meters, so the potential for positional error through misidentification ranges from a few meters to that sort of magnitude. Add in blunders, misuse of transformation algorithms etc. and the potential grows.

## *X,Y's without proper identity can also be a problem*

Line	Shot Point	Coordinates
1		
2		
3	182	101 578770.05347346.
4	182	109 578539.65347195.
5	182	117 578303.75347061.
6	182	125 578064.65346927.
7	182	133 577842.95346821.
8	182	141 577616.85346677.
9	182	149 577376.45346549.
10	182	157 577137.15346427.
11	182	165 576913.65346313.
12	182	173 576676.05346193.
13	182	181 576422.05346099.
14	182	189 576160.05345991.
15	182	197 575919.75345908.
16	182	205 575665.75345849.
17	182	213 575403.25345733.
18	182	221 575146.05345637.
19	182	229 574921.25345522.

- What do we really know about this information?
- I know the coordinates are not in Wyoming.
- The format is not SEG-P1.
- There is absolutely no identity telling you what the points are.
- And how much time would you spend figuring it out?
- Is this time well spent for a Geophysicist, Geologist or even a data loader?
- If it was UKOOA or SPS, you'd have a chance!

Often the seismic data loader is provided with minimal coordinate information.

It is common, to receive the line name, a shot point number and the X,Y or Eastings and Northings.

For this data, you are only told it is Powder River Basin in Wyoming.

CLICK to point out that this data is in fact not in Wyoming. It was actually in Montana.

## *What you need to know about Grid identity.*

- **Grid coordinates *must* include:**
  - Reference ellipsoid and preferably the datum
  - Projection type
  - Projection parameters
  - Projection units
  - Elevation and vertical datum information if land.

**Errors approaching hundreds of meters due to miss-matched coordinates.**

Like Latitude, longitude coordinates, projection data also require identity.

As mentioned earlier, most projections are referenced to the Earth in the form of the ellipsoidal shape onto which the X,Y grid is being projected.

(Note: In Jim Cain's talk, this is explained).

So in order to know the coordinates being provided, you must know something about the projection.

You need its reference ellipsoid and perhaps the datum.

You must know the projection name or type and more importantly its defining parameters. These often include parameters, which properly adjust a general projection to handle a very specific geographic area. An example of this would be the Lambert State Plane projections. Most of which utilize the same basic parameters except for the defining boundaries that are local to each state or zone within a state.

In the previous example the coordinates were Montana South State Plane as opposed to Wyoming North. In that case the prospect (though called Powder River), which is mostly in Wyoming, was actually predominantly in Montana.

Units are a big issue. Not only are there difference types of units, but there are different measures or lengths within the same types.



## *Issues relating to identity.*

- **Project and point Identification**

- **Line and shot numbering**

- Overlap / re-shoot schemes

- **Position location**

- Vessel, common reference point, antenna
- Source and receivers
- Common Mid Point, common depth point
- Echo sounder
- Skids, relays, re-shoots, offset

**Errors approaching hundreds of meters  
due to miss-matched position types.**

Apart from knowing where the coordinates are, you often also need to know what they are.

Receiving a file with line number, shot number and coordinates may not be enough, especially if you are merging data into an existing project with other data. Line and shot number are often assumed to mean a particular point or place or data type. They may in fact mean something entirely different.

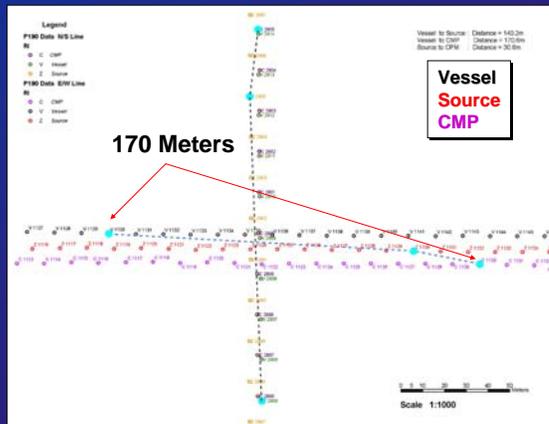
In marine surveys, all the acquired positioning and ancillary information are often identified by the shot number.

Various acquisition techniques will employ unique numbering and naming conventions to identify the type of data or information being logged.

Problems in acquisition often require replacement or re-shoot data to be acquired. Sometimes these data are re-named using other fields and those fields become the only way to properly identify the data.

## *A mistie due to incorrect point identity.*

- **Point identity**
  - What happens If your project is Source and you add some Common Mid Point (CMP) data?



This is an example of three sets of coordinate information from a typical 3D marine survey.

The black coordinates are the location of the vessel (which could be one of several identity types). The Red shows where the geometric center of the energy source is and the purple is what is called the Common Mid Point, which is half way between the source and the near trace. Each of these points shares the same identity, that of line and shot point.

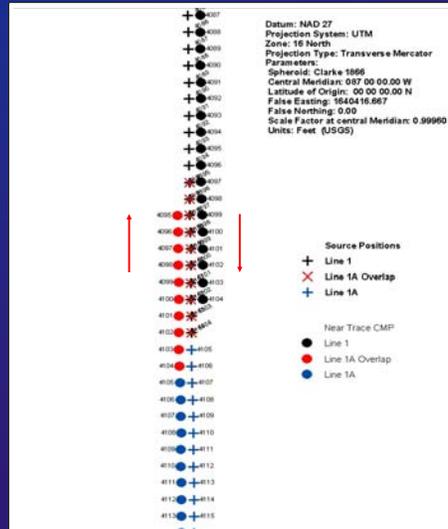
If you have a project, which is supposed to be source locations and your business or operating partner sends you some data to be included into your project that is at CMP and you assume it is source, then the potential for a mistie with your existing project is great and could approach several hundred meters.

## The line was shot in two directions

- Point identity
  - Circles,
  - re-shots,
  - Skids/offsets
  - Shooting direction

This line was shot in opposite directions. It was spliced and "A" overlaps dropped.

An in workstation layback (150 mts.) could / did create a problem.



Here is an example where the shooting direction was changed between the first attempt at acquiring some data and when it was re-shot to complete the coverage.

Without knowing the direction (as the shot numbering does not indicate the direction), then applying a layback in the work station to get from say antenna to source could in fact be done incorrectly.

The additional identity information provided by re-shoot codes, position type, line direction etc. become crucial to using, even correctly positioned data.

## Besides shot, what else do we need?

SL4006	101	637405.9	2346.7	232199900:00:01
SL4006	102	637430.9	2346.8	232199900:00:11
SL4006	103	637455.2	2347.1	232199900:00:21
SL4006	104	637481.1	2346.8	232199900:00:31
SL4006	103A	637455.4	2347.0	232199904:01:20
SL4006	104A	637480.1	2346.4	232199904:01:30
SL4006	105A	637505.3	2346.9	232199904:01:40
SL4006	106A	637530.2	2346.6	232199904:01:50
SL4006	519A	637930.4	2346.1	232199905:00:09

4 Hrs. later

- Line ID, Shot and X,Y may not be all that is required to do a merge with the seismic data.

You may need a Re-shoot code or date and time to actually match the positions with the seismic.

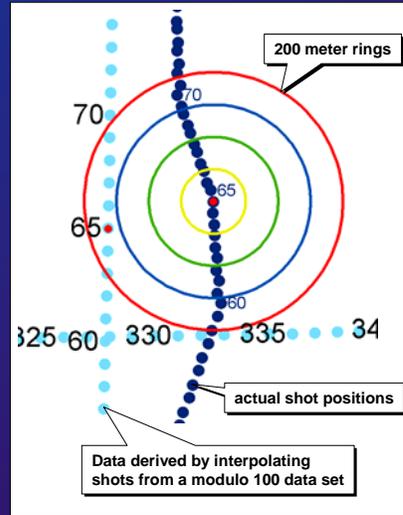
Here we have an example showing some data with line, shot and eastings and northings, There is a range of shots running from 101 to 104 and then another from 103 to 519. On the surface this would indicate a re-shoot and in most cases, the seismic data will be spliced. Without any additional information it becomes difficult to make a decision on where the splice actually takes place.

CLICK to show the ancillary information in Red.

By having the re-shoot codes (the A's), we can see that the line was stopped at 104, and then re-shot from 103 to the end. With day and time (also in red), we can even confirm with the seismic data where the splice occurred. They may have kept the original 103 & 104, or they may have kept the re-shoot of 103 & 104.

## Other in-project issues.

- **In-project**
  - **What are the coordinates?**
    - Is the data a sub-set?
      - modulo
    - Has the data been changed?
      - Interpolated, transformed, scaled and rotated etc.
      - Migrated
    - How many duplicates?
      - Hundreds seem possible in your database?
      - Ever done an inventory?
    - What metadata does your project retain?



Something as simple as accepting a sub-set of an original data set can create problems.

Here a data set was provided as a modulo of the original data. Every 100<sup>th</sup> shot was used to create an assessment. It was decided that a more frequent data sample was needed, so rather than requesting the original data, the needed shots were interpolated in the workstation. Unfortunately the data was highly deviated and in this example, the difference between the real data and the interpolated data approached 600 meters.

## *Not just the media but how its stored.*

### **Media and Formats of positioning data**

- **Digital media and structures of positioning data**
  - Many types of original media
  - ASCII vs. other encoding methods
  - Various forms of compression and archival
  - Proprietary and specialty vs. official “exchange” formats

Many delays and problems are encountered with positioning data because of media, encoding and variations in formats.

Legacy positioning data is often archived on 9Trk tape in both raw and processed form.

The older the data the more likely it may have media quality issues resulting from improper storage methods, which may entail recovery procedures. Some of these processes may involved special processes which can take weeks.

To eliminate these issues, many data holders often transcribe the data to newer media such as DLT, DVD and 3590. Because of the unique formats of positioning data, involving a large variety of sensor and diverse data, the formats are often proprietary. Whereas seismic data has 3 or 4 formats, positioning data has many formats, which are binary, machine dependent and proprietary.

Many of the exchange formats are floppy based and are often encoded using compression and archival software. Common forms are DOS formatted, UNIX compressed and archived using Tar. They can be zipped, bziped, gzipped and RARS compressed. Even the character formats can be encoded as either EBCDIC or as ASCII.

*The file is corrupt, ship me another.*

```
fast
H0100 SURVEY AREA      1984 Survey      H0101 GENERAL SU
RVEY DETAILS      3D survey      H0102 VESSEL DETAILS      M/V Indi
an Seal      1      H0103 SOURCE DETAILS      AIR GUN A
RRAY      1 1      H0200 DATE OF SURVEY      Julian day
148 through 182, 1984      H0201 DATE OF ISSUE OF TAPE      February 29
, 2005      H0202 TAPE VERSION IDENTIFIER      CLIENT001-12
0      H0203 LINE PREFIX      N/A
      H0300 CLIENT      CLIENT
vice Incorporated      H0400 GEOPHYSICAL CONTRACTOR      Geophysical Ser
      H0600 POSITIONING CONTRACTOR      Unknown
      H0600 NAV PROCESSING CONTRACTOR      Unknown
      H0700 POSITIONING & ONBOARD SYS      Syledis Primary - CMS
      H0800 COORDINATE LOCATION      Center of source
      H1000 CLOCK TIME      GMT
      H1100 RECEIVER GROUPS PER SHOT      120
      H1400 SPHEROID USED FOR SURVEY      NAD27      Clarke 1866 63
78206,400 294,978698H1401 SURVEY SHIFT TO MGS-84      0,0 0,0 0,0
      H1500 SPHEROID FOR POST PLOT      NAD27      Clarke 1866 6378
206,400 294,978698H1501 POSTPLOT SHIFT TO MGS-84      0,0 0,0 0,0
      H1600 SURVEY SHIFT TO POST PLOT      0,0 0,0 0,0
      H1700 VERTICAL DATUM & ORIGIN      Echo Sounder      Echo Sou
nder      H1800 PROJECTION      006 Lambert Conformal Conic
      H1900 PROJECTION ZONE & HEMISPH      California 5-API 040      NORTHERN HEMISPHE
sample.p190 (238)
```

**Could be record length, UNIX vs. DOS, or no CR/LF**

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*"I need a UKOOA tape"*

## Formats and what they mean

– **These are Seismic Standards**

- UKOOA - Generally marine
- SEG – Generally land
- SPS – Generally land and TZ/OBC

– ASCII text formats (100's)

– Workstation exchange formats. (Many)

– E-mail me a list.

– Soon to be XML, GML etc.

Positioning data is exchanged in multiple formats. There are standard exchange formats designed for seismic positioning data. The common names are UKOOS, SEG and SPS.

Positioning data is also exchanged in user and software defined ASCII formats. Spreadsheets are another routine way of exchanging positioning data.

You also have import and export capabilities in most workstation and geophysical database software.

We also routinely e-mail digital data as lists and tables in documents like Word or Wordperfect etc.

Each format should provide geodetic and point identity, which we've discussed.

Specific to each format is the precision of the coordinates.

## *A typical workstation format.*

Filename=TOSMAIN\_MG\_SMT\_UTM15NAD27FEET.txt

```
2001989.165655 9884263.611151 13151.7783
2002112.196104 9884263.611140 13129.5664
2002235.226553 9884263.611130 13100.0059
2002358.257002 9884263.611119 13058.1104
2002481.287451 9884263.611108 13029.2061
2002604.317900 9884263.611098 12959.2920
2002727.348348 9884263.611087 12921.0049
2002850.378797 9884263.611077 12882.7500
2002973.409246 9884263.611066 12844.4629
2003096.439695 9884263.611055 12806.1758
```

A 1,000,000<sup>th</sup> of a foot precision?

**Without the file name what do we know about this data?  
What about in 5 years when the project is revisited?  
How would you label the map?**

Many delays and problems are encountered with positioning data because of media, encoding and variations in formats.

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## *What is UKOOA?*

### **UKOOA: United Kingdom Offshore Operator's Association**

- **De-facto standard for many positioning formats**
- **These relate to seismic**
  - **UKOOA P1** is for the exchange of positioning data
    - P1/78 (many), P1/84, **P1/90** (current)
    - May have many position types
  - **UKOOA P2** is used to record raw data during acquisition.
    - P2/86, P2/91(current), **P2/94** (current)
    - Must be processed to obtain positions!!
  - <http://www.oilandgas.org.uk/ukooa/newpublications/srchResults.cfm>

The first of the seismic standards for positioning data is UKOOA.

UKOOA stands for the United Kingdom Offshore Operator's Association. As you might expect the name implies offshore rather than land.

UKOOA in fact has many formats, which are used to exchange positioning data, but we are concerned with those that relate to seismic.

There are principally two basic structures.

One is for the exchange of positional data and is called the P1 format. It originated as UKOOA P1/78 (78 being the year) and preceded 3D operations. As 3D came into usage, the format was continuously modified until UKOOA P1/84 was adopted to handle streamer positions. That too was modified (beyond the standard) until UKOOA P1/90, which is the current. This format too has reached its limits and we should see some movement towards a new standard in the coming years.

UKOOA P2 is unique as a positioning standard if only because the initial version UKOOA P2/86 was intended to move the contractors away from proprietary recording formats for raw data. Raw data recording is the acquired information necessary to produce final positioning data. UKOOA p2/91 and UKOOA P2/94 are the current standards in recording raw marine data. P2/94 is an extension of P2/91 allowing for the recording of raw GPS data.

It is important to know the difference between UKOOA P1 and UKOOA P2. As a data loader, you want P1 data not P2 data. If you only have P2 data, it must be processed (weeks of work) to obtain the desired coordinates stored in UKOOA P1.

The UKOOA format contains extensive header information (a requirement of both formats). The headers are fixed format, meaning each record is identified as to type and content.

The link shown provides access to these formats and other UKOOA positioning formats.

## What's a Bursa-Wolf ? Are they endangered ?

- UKOOA P1/90 – Header records.

- There is an extensive and structured set of “H”header records. Most importantly they define the geodesy of the coordinates.
- Postplot is what the coordinates are in.

```
H1400GEODETTIC DATUM (SURVEY)..: Congo C60   Clarke 1880  6378249.200 293.4660213
H1401TRANSFORMATION TO WGS84..: -178.3-316.7-131.5 5.278  6.07710.97919.1660000
H1500GEODETTIC DATUM (POSTPLOT): Congo C60   Clarke 1880  6378249.200 293.4660213
H1501TRANSFORMATION TO WGS84..: -178.3-316.7-131.5 5.278  6.07710.97919.1660000

H1600DATUM TRANSFORMATIONS....:  0.0  0.0  0.0 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.0000000
H1800PROJECTION TYPE ....., 002U.T.M. SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE
H1900PROJECTION ZONE ....., 32 S
H2000GRID UNIT ....., 1METRES 01.000000000000
H2001HEIGHT UNIT ....., 1METRES 01.000000000000
H2002ANGULAR UNIT ....., 1DEGREES
H2200LONG. OF CENTR. MERID. . .:  9 0 0.000E
H2301GRID ORIGIN ....., 0 0 0.000N 9 0 0.000E
H2302GRID COORD. AT ORIGIN . .:  500000.00E10000000.00N
H2401SCALE FACTOR ....., 0.9996000000
H2402LAT/LON WHERE SCALE DEF..:  0 0 0.000N 9 0 0.000E
```

- The 7-parameter Datum shift model for P1/90 is by definition Bursa-Wolfe (signed for counter-clockwise rotation) so, what does your workstation or application use?

Here is an example of a set of UKOOA headers.

In general they contain all the information necessary to both geodetically and point identify the positioning data contained in the structure.

One tip that will help many readers of this format is that the “postplot” identity refers to the coordinates recorded. The “survey” identity was intended to provide some insight as to the original datum and ellipsoid of acquisition or what system the points were surveyed in. As the data progresses through different datums and projections, this information may often be the same or used to identify a translation. The key is to remember that the points relate to the Postplot datum as does the projection.

Datums and shifting between them was covered by Jim Cain’s talk. Be aware that the convention for storing shift values in UKOOA is set, so the signs may need to be reviewed to ensure they match any intended use in the workstation. Reversing signs and using an incorrect shift method cause many positional disagreements.

## Where's the source!

- UKOOA P1/90 – data records

- Positions are identified by a prefix (“A”ntenna, “V”essel, “S”ource, “T”ail buoy etc.) They will be in latitude, longitude and in X,Y.

```
S1511BS02A004 11 5554254220.8780433253.13W6047923.47114269.02001.8214152621
V1511BS02A004 1 5554254216.5780433254.67W6047891.17114406.12001.8214152621
T1511BS02A004 1 1 5554254638.1680433104.73W6050301.97106029.22001.8214152621
```

- “R”eceiver or trace number and positions will be in X,Y only.

```
R 15997781.57118273.3 .0 25997787.97118248.8 .0 35997794.47118224.3 .01
R 45997800.77118199.9 .0 55997807.27118175.4 .0 65997813.57118150.9 .01
R 75997819.97118126.5 .0 85997826.37118102.1 .0 95997832.77118077.6 .01
```

For data loaders, the interest is in the UKOOA P1/90 format.

Within the positional formats are the ability to record multiple position types (remember the talk about identity?) for each shot.

In this example we are looking at data from a single shot (5554). Shown in black are the record prefixes which identify the coordinate type. There are a number of possibilities for different position types, often thousands of meters apart.

There is provision for all but the “R” and “G” coordinates to be recorded with both geodetic and projection coordinates. The latitude, longitude coordinates may be recorded as degrees,minutes,decimal seconds and hemisphere or as signed decimal degrees. Some software may assume one or the other.

The receiver or trace records are designed for streamer traces and include the trace or receiver number (e.g. 7, 8 & 9 in black) and easting and northing coordinates (X,Y's). The trace/receiver format support 3 sets of trace coordinates per record.

Because the fields are of fixed width, the precision which can be recorded is limited based on the projection. The original format was intended for North Sea operations and as such did not address some projections and unit types which might exceed the field width for X,Y. It does however allow for implied decimals, which if not recognized can create loading and mapping problems.

## *SEG P1 – The format that wouldn't die!*

### – SEG - Society of Exploration Geophysicists

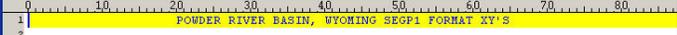
- SEG “P1” – Position exchange format.
  - Considered by our “industry” as the standard for exchange of “Final” land positions.
  - Used for almost anything else as well.
- Last updated by SEG in 1983.
- Supported by most if not all workstations.
- 80 character “card image” records, blocked 20 is the standard. Rarely blocked, Rarely 80 characters.
- Often encoded as EBCDIC rather than ASCII.
- Many non-standard versions.
- <http://seg.org/publications/tech-stand/>

This is far and away the number one format in use. It is used for land, marine, transition zone and ocean bottom seismic data.

It was last reviewed in 1983 (I was one of the reviewers!).

This format is supported in some form by almost every workstation and seismic database software system.

## SEG P1 – Pretty normal – incorrect headers



POWDER RIVER BASIN, WYOMING SEG P1 FORMAT XYZ'S			
1			
2			
3	182	101	578770.05347346.
4	182	109	578539.65347195.
5	182	117	578303.75347061.
6	182	125	578064.65346927.
7	182	133	577842.95346821.
8	182	141	577616.85346677.
9	182	149	577376.45346549.
10	182	157	577137.15346427.
11	182	165	576913.65346313.
12	182	173	576696.05346163.
13	182	181	576482.05346099.
14	182	189	576160.05345991.
15	182	197	575919.75345908.
16	182	205	575665.75345849.
17	182	213	575403.25345733.
18	182	221	575146.05345637.
19	182	229	574921.25345522.
20	182	237	574684.85345413.
21	182	245	574475.55345275.
22	182	253	574235.35345172.
23	182	261	573981.65345035.
24	182	269	573763.75344896.
25	182	277	573516.05344757.
26	182	285	573293.45344613.
27	182	293	573079.05344496.
28	182	301	572840.55344343.
29	182	309	572600.05344210.
30	182	317	572358.15344090.
31	182	325	572138.05343941.
32	182	333	571901.15343807.
33	182	341	571695.55343661.
34	182	349	571457.75343548.
35	182	357	571229.15343437.
36	182	365	571002.85343282.
37	182	373	570780.65343147.

A typical amended / modified SEG-P1 format. Most everything of use except the coordinates are missing.

## *SEG P1 – Headers – Compliant*

```
H SEG-P1 Header
*
```

**These were the actual headers in every file provided for a major mapping project!**

- Headers are often stripped or made compliant to get past the requirement for headers.

I received a large land project in which all the headers were the same and every header record had SEG-P1 Header in it. That made it compliant to the format.

## SEG P1 – Unusual – very good headers

```
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100
1 SEISMIC SURVEY DATA
2
3 PROSPECT :Wyoming
4 LINE :182
5 FILE NUMBER :Line182.SEG
6 LINE ID :
7 LINE LENGTH :1.118
8 LENGTH UOM :MI
9 RESHOOT CODE:
10 HORIZONTAL DATUM:NAD27, USGS FEET, Degree
11 PROJECTION :NAD27, Wyoming SPCS, Zone: F
12 _1 :There are instances where 10
13 _2 :some SP's were assigned the
14 _3 :errors with one only solutio
15 _4 :are needed to determine the
16 _5 :Questionable SP's and correc
17 _6 :QC spreadsheet.
18
19
20 <LINE >>POINT >R< LAT >> LONG
21 182 101 04493500N1085903
22 182 109 04493451N1085903
23 182 117 04493407N1085904
24 182 125 04493363N1085904
25 182 133 04493328N1085905SW 189581 1754203 0
26 182 141 04493281N10859063W 189506 1754156 0
27 182 149 04493239N108590710W 189428 1754114 0
28 182 157 04493199N108590788W 189349 1754074 0
29 182 165 04493161N108590859W 189276 1754036 0
30 182 173 04493112N108590936W 189198 1753987 0
31 182 181 04493090N108591018W 189115 1753966 0
32 182 189 04493055N108591103W 189029 1753921 0
33 182 197 04493027N108591181W 188950 1753903 0
34 182 205 04493008N108591263W 188866 1753884 0
35 182 213 04492970N108591345W 188780 1753846 0
36 182 221 04492937N108591431W 188696 1753814 0
37 182 229 04492900N108591504W 188622 1753777 0
38 182 237 04492864N108591579W 188545 1753741 0
39 182 245 04492819N108591647W 188476 1753696 0
```

– All these headers are freeform.

– Oil companies often create their own standard.

– What happens when they exchange data or merge?

Here is a proper SEG-P1, which has had a compliant and complete set of headers added as well as geodetic coordinates.

## *The marriage of positioning and seismic - SPS*

- **SPS - The Shell Processing Support Format for land 3D data.**
  - Principal format for TZ/OBC.
  - Endorsed by both SEG & UKOOA.
  - Built in to many newer acquisition systems.
  - Has extensive header structure.
  - X,Y coordinates only.
  - Principal sub files are the “S”, “R” and “X”.
  - The “X” file requires seismic information to construct channel mapping.
  - <http://seg.org/publications/tech-stand/>

SPS is the Shell Processing Support format. Pretty obvious who came up with the format.

It was intended to replace SEG-P1 as a land format. It is also used for TZ/OBS data.

It was the first format/standard that was jointly endorsed by both UKOOA and SEG.

Many seismic recording systems, which integrate GPS now support SPS as a recording format.

It supports a header structure quite similar to UKOOA.

It does not allow for the recording of geodetic coordinates, which is a weakness.

The format utilizes sub files containing the source positions, the receiver positions and the relationship records for associating the seismic traces/groups/stations with positioning data.

This format can be obtained at the SEG website as well.

## *SPS has some commonality with UKOOA*

- **SPS – Header records**
  - Similar to UKOOA format.

```
H12 Geodetic datum,-spheroid      WGS-84      WGS-84      6378137.000 298.2572236
H14 Geodetic datum parameters      0.000      0.000      0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000
H17 Vertical datum description      MSL, EQUIPOTENTIAL, 59 34N 01 32E, 47.0m;
H18 Projection type                U.T.M. NORTHERN HEMISPHERE;
H19 Projection zone                31,N;
H20 Description of grid units       METRES;
H201Factor to metre                00001.00000000
H220Long. of central meridian       3 0 0.000E
H231Grid Origin                    0 0 0.000N 3 0 0.000E
H232Grid coord. at origin           500000.00E      0.00N
H241Scale factor                    0.9996000000
H242Lat., long. scale factor        0 0 0.000N 3 0 0.000E
```

- **7-parameter shifts are again counter-clockwise**  
**Europeans win again!**

You can see a similarity between UKOOA and SPS headers.

Again, you cannot make assumptions about the datum parameters as to sign convention or translation methodology.

Because the format is intended for land and TZ data, there is additional structure and fielding to address things like vertical datum and corrections applied.

## Channel, ground station, receiver and trace?

- **SPS – Data records.**

- “S”, “R” and “X”.
- X,Y coordinates only.

S11S0894A289	16771A1	8.0	0	121	422977.2	6609404.2	0.0258065313
S11S0894A289	16752A2	8.0	0	122	422946.1	6609355.5	0.0258065323
S11S0894A289	16731A1	8.0	0	122	422927.1	6609405.9	0.0258065332
R11R0892A001	11561H1	120	0	120	416463.4	6609561.6	0.0257035051
R11R0892A001	11561G1	120	0	120	416463.4	6609561.6	0.0257035051
R11R0892A001	11561G2	120	0	120	416463.4	6609561.6	0.0257035051
R11R0892A001	11561G3	120	0	120	416463.4	6609561.6	0.0257035051
XL	16771111S0894A289	16771	5	204111R0910A001	1554	11561	
XL	16771211S0894A289	16771	209	408111R0910A001	1554	11561	
XL	16771311S0894A289	16771	413	612111R0910A001	1554	11561	
XL	16771411S0894A289	16771	617	816111R0910A001	1554	11561	
XL	16771111S0894A289	16771	821	1020111R0892A001	1554	11561	
XL	16771211S0894A289	16771	1025	1224111R0892A001	1554	11561	
XL	16771311S0894A289	16771	1229	1428111R0892A001	1554	11561	
XL	16771411S0894A289	16771	1433	1632111R0892A001	1554	11561	

This is an example of the record structures within SPS.

The “S” prefix indicates the source records.

“R” for the receivers or ground stations

And “X” for the trace to shot relationships.

The “X” records are essential for facilitating the merge of the positioning data with the seismic data.

## *How come the coordinates changed?*

- **Precision of coordinates for seismic.**
  - **“Generally”**
    - Latitude, longitude to 6 decimal places if decimal degrees
    - Latitude, longitude & seconds to 2 decimal places if degrees minutes and seconds
    - X,Y coordinates to 1 or 2 decimal places
  - **Most expect meters or feet.**
  - **The recorded resolution between X,Y and latitude, longitude are not generally equivalent.**
    - What came first the Lat,Lon or the X,Y?

Because the formats are varied, especially those which are created outside the standards, the precision of the coordinates should be addressed.

Though this is subject to discussion or “cussin” I have labeled these as general. For seismic usage, latitude, longitude should be displayed at 6 decimal places if +/- decimal degrees and to two decimal places of seconds if displayed as degrees minutes and decimal seconds. This conforms to the “standard” formats.

Eastings and northings (X,Y) should be displayed to 1 or 2 decimal places depending on the units. Given meters as the base measure, the standard formats allow for 1 to 2 decimal places. Feet would then be acceptable at 1 decimal place.

There is in some formats a discrepancy between the precision of latitude,longitude and X,Y such that transforming one to the other does not guarantee the same answer. It may be that 7 decimal places of decimal degrees or 3 places of decimal seconds may be required to match 2 decimal places of x or y or depending on units and projection even 1 decimal place of x,y.

When interpreting formats containing both latitude,longitude and x,y, tests may be required to assess the precision of one or the other before data loading.

## *How come only the Y coordinates changed!*

- **Precision of coordinates for seismic (Cont.).**
  - Some formats were not specified to allow for full precision of all projections and units.
  - You should know about “**implied decimals**”.
  - The standard format specifications are defined in FORTRAN nomenclature (FW.D or IW).
    - I8, I10, F8.0, F8.1, F10.2 etc.
      - 12345678 = I8
      - 1234567. = F8.0
      - 12345678 = 1234567.8 if F8.1

Again the history of the format often defines what its limitations may be in terms of precision.

Be aware of implied decimals. In order to conform to a specific format's field widths, some coordinates may be multiplied so that the actual decimal point can be dropped to allow for more digits.

Also be aware that this is inherently part of the format and can legally occur in either the lat,lon or the x,y's. Most of these formats were originally written in Fortran, whose format descriptor for both latitude,longitude and, x,y was always floating point for the decimal portion of the coordinate (e.g. decimal degrees, decimal seconds, x or y). By defining the field as F11.6 or F10.1 a coordinate without a decimal place “implied” the precision or number of decimals. Including a decimal point merely overrides the format.

Changes in languages has caused issues and even strict changes in interpretation of the formats by some software developers and users of the formats.

## *DMSH,DMSSS,IMPLIED,SIGNED, UNSIGNED!*

G965	1435	302716.67N	88 1 4.46W	1319785.111054512.	11.5190	40318
S1157	1336	302341.76N	8758 2.26W	407074.23362764.0	3.9221	45502
R1349	1016	30120536N	87545847W	1351066210962203	54194103170817	
R3 D	8371518	303017010N	880305980W	1309321 11072824	0152	
S1029	1278	30.359719	-88.0006781	324907.211019956.	13.10200	01250

- All of these records come from the same project.
- There are 4 different formats for Latitude & Longitude.
- There are 5 different formats for X,Y + 1 change of units.
- There are 4 different formats for depth / elevation.
- Two of the records are UKOOA P1/84.
- Two of the records are UKOOA P1/90.
- One was made up in the field.
- Some of them were in the same files.

**How good are you with a text editor?**

**If not, what do your DBF and SHP files look like?**

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## *Understand Precision and Presentation*

**Be sure and visit the APSG  
website and download**

***Guidance Note for Geodetic and  
Cartographic Applications  
(Precision and Presentation)***

<http://apsg.home.texas.net/>

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## *How to solve / understand the issues*

- Learn basic Geodesy.
- Realize that Metadata must be retained along with coordinates.
- Exchange data according to accepted standards.
- Understand precision and presentation of coordinates.
- Join or support the APSG and get involved in change.
- Support the EPSG/OGP geodetic database ([www.epsg.org](http://www.epsg.org)).

*Remember everything is about good positioning!*



*And applying the right tools & knowledge!*





2007 ESRI Petroleum User's Group Workshop



# Positioning Issues Related to Seismic Data



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**THANK YOU!**