

# Monitoring Groundwater Flow in Fractured Rock Environments using Self-Potential Methods

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## **MONITORING GROUNDWATER FLOW IN FRACTURED ROCK ENVIRONMENTS USING SELF-POTENTIAL METHODS**

### **SELF-POTENTIAL STUDY IN FRACTURED MEDIA**

#### **ABSTRACT**

Self-potential (SP) data has been successfully utilised in porous media environments for mapping groundwater flow, through measurement of surface voltages. Little research has occurred into utilising this method in fractured rock aquifer systems. Such systems are highly heterogeneous in comparison, with groundwater flow focussed along discrete faults, fractures and bedding planes rather than through the bulk matrix as in porous systems. An SP field survey was conducted at Watervale, South Australia in association with a pumping test, with the aim to analyse the viability of this method in this hydrogeological environment. This data was then processed using both a 2D and 3D tomography algorithm, based on the assumption of uniform resistivity due to a lack of a resistivity profile. SP tomography delineated preferential flow directions centred on Line 2, in a NNE-SSW orientation, which was supported through physical drawdown measurements at the associated well. As the dominant fracture and bedding orientations in the region are similarly aligned, it can be assumed the SP response has resolved these discrete fluid pathways. These SP results are encouraging, correlating well with physical observed data and geological information, and support the hypothesis that the SP method has viability for use in fractured rock aquifers.

#### **KEYWORDS**

Self-potential, Groundwater, Monitoring, Feasibility, Tomography, Fractured rock

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction .....	5
Background.....	7
Self-Potential Background.....	7
Electrokinetic theory.....	7
Electrochemical & Thermoelectric Effects .....	10
Project context and previous SP utilisation .....	11
Geological Setting and the Watervale Oval Site .....	12
Methods .....	14
Self-potential field logger stations.....	14
Self-potential survey.....	16
Observations and Results .....	18
Early-mid stages of pumping: 9 <sup>th</sup> Sept @ ~14:20:00 .....	22
Late stages of pumping: 9 <sup>th</sup> Sept @~14:40:00 .....	23
Data processing and Tomography .....	24
Discussion.....	30
Early-mid stage of pumping: 14:20:00 ACST.....	30
Late stage of pumping: 14:40:00 ACST.....	32
Methodology improvements.....	34
Tomography calculation assumptions .....	36
Conclusions .....	37
Acknowledgments .....	38
References .....	39
Appendix A: Interval Calculations Script .....	42
Appendix B: 2D Tomography Function.....	49
Appendix C: 3D Tomography Function.....	50
Appendix D: Physical Well Drawdown Observations .....	51

## LIST OF FIGURES AND TABLES

Figure 1: Electrical double layer between the grain interface and the bulk electrolyte (Revil et al. 2003). The interaction of the free-flowing electrolyte and the weakly bound cations of the diffuse region is where the electrical signal is generated.....	8
Figure 2: Geological mud map (left) adapted from Love et al. (2013), showing Watervale’s relative location with respect to the Nth plunging Hill River Syncline. An east-west cross section (right) through 6244000 mN is presented (Love et al. 2013). Although not through the Watervale section, the relative location of Watervale with respect to the geological units is marked. Steep, near vertical dipping bedding is present at Watervale due to the up going fold limb, and the dominant fracture orientations in the region are parallel to the folds axial plane, also dipping quite steeply at ~60° to the West (right).....	13
Figure 3: SP field logger set up used for the survey. The SP data taker box (centre) is connected to both a battery power source as well as solar panels (either side) to ensure power is supplied throughout the test. Modified seismic cables are utilised (black cable), with the modified jumper lead connectors seen in the foreground being attached to the metal stakes acting as electrodes in the ground. An individual SP field logger was utilised for each line. ....	15
Figure 4: SP line configuration for the Watervale survey. Each cross denotes the location of an electrode, and each colour the separate lines. Also noted are the well locations at the site, and the lines ran past these. ~100m to the east was the location of a small cluster of 4 reference electrodes, ideally far enough away to as not be affected by the pump test.....	16
Figure 5: Drawdown in pump well as a function of time. Periods of pumping marked by shading. Initial pump rates average around 1.1L/s for the first test, and 0.75L/s for the second, on day 1. Full recovery was not achieved between the pumps. To the left of the drawdown plot, a temperature gradient profile used from Love et al. (2013) for a well in Watervale, with peaks believed to correspond with discrete flow pathways. Although not the same well, as an example this shows the fact that potentially major flow paths were in a state of flow for the entire period between pumps (marked as an example in red lines). Drawdown from well 2 is also shown in green. ....	18
Figure 6: SP Line 1 data from electrodes 1 through 6, mean corrected and then manually shifted for easier viewing. ....	19
Figure 7: SP Line 2 data from electrodes 1 through 12, mean corrected and then manually shifted for easier viewing.....	20
Figure 8: SP Line 3 data from electrodes 1 through 8, excluding 3, mean corrected and then manually shifted for easier viewing.....	20
Figure 9: SP Line 4 data from electrodes 1 through 12, mean corrected and then manually shifted for easier viewing.....	21
Figure 10: Relatively proximal electrodes from each line are graphed around the early to mid-stages of the first pumping session @ 14:40:00. See Figure 4 – map of site for electrode locations. Line 2 shows greater amplitude than Lines 1 and 3, which appear to be relatively similar. Line 4 shows very little amplitude change. ....	22
Figure 11: Voltage differences from baseline are plotted at the early-mid stage of pumping for each line @ 14:20:00. A map representation – clearly defining increased voltages along Line 2.....	22

Figure 12: Relatively proximal electrodes from each line are graphed around the early to mid-stages of the first pumping session @ 14:40:00. See Figure 4 – map of site for electrode locations. Line 2 shows much greater amplitude than Lines 1 and 3, which appear to be relatively similar. Line 4 shows very little amplitude change. .... 23

Figure 13: Voltage differences from baseline are plotted at the late stage of pumping for each line @ 14:40:00. A map representation – clearly defining increased voltages along Line 2, but of a lower amplitude than that of Figure 11 at the early time of the pump.. 23

Figure 14: 2D tomographic image produced along Line 2 @ 14:20:00, to 20m depth. Shows highest correlations at depths of ~15m, quite proximal to the pumping well (~5-10m), marked by a cross. Correlation tapers off at greater distances..... 27

Figure 15: 2D tomographic image produced along Line 2 @ 14:40:00, to 20m depth. Shows highest correlations at depths of ~17m, but this time this high region has shifted slightly further away from the pump well (~12m laterally), marked by a cross. Correlation continues to taper off at greater distances. .... 27

Figure 16: 3D Tomography profiles for ~14:20:00 (top) and ~14:40:00 (bottom). Side view with multiple slices. Region of high correlation evident between lines 2 and 3 similar to 2D tomography plots. This source appears to move between the two periods outwards along line 2..... 28

Figure 17: 3D Tomography profiles for ~14:20:00 (top) and ~14:40:00 (bottom). Top down view on a depth slice at 5m. This figure clearly demonstrates the slight lateral shift in the SP source along lines 2 and 3. .... 29