

Stratigraphic Forward Modelling - a Methodology Come of Age?

GRIFFITHS, Cedric M. Adelaide, Australia.

Although the forward stratigraphic modelling of basin fill has been of interest to small groups of mathematical geologists since the 1940s it has not really become accessible to applied geologists until the 1990s. There are several reasons for this. Perhaps the prime reason is improved access to powerful computational facilities, and graphics engines that enable results to be visualised, and therefore communicated, in seconds rather than minutes or hours. Forward modelling can be subdivided into a number of categories: 1D, 2D, 3D, 4D, geometric, diffusion, process, stochastic, etc.. The different approaches reflect differing needs and problems. The current state of depositional modelling in three spatial dimensions over geological time periods is discussed.