

Complex interplay between hydraulic shearing and hydraulic fracturing during in-situ stimulations

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Grimsel Test Site / Test volume

- Operated by NAGRA
- Within crystalline rocks of Aar Massive
- Approx. 480 m below surface
- Test volume size: 20 x 20 x 20 m
- 5 major shear zones (3 ductile & 2 brittleductile)







E *H* zürich

Monitoring systems

- Deformation monitoring:
 - 60 Fiber-Bragg Grating (FBG) strain sensors equally distributed in 3 boreholes
 - 2 loops of Distributed Brillouin Strain (DBS) sensing covering 6 boreholes.
 - **3** Tiltmeters



Pressure monitoring:

Height [m]

40

20

0

80

90

100

- 8 open pressure intervals in 4 grouted boreholes
- 1 pressure interval in the passive injection borehole (observation borehole)
- Seismic monitoring:
 - 26 Acoustic emission sensors distributed along tunnel walls and within boreholes
 - **5** Accelerometers





Hydraulic stimulation test «HS5»

- Injection location:
 - INJ1 31.2 m 32.2 m
- Targeted shear zone:
 - S3.2
 - 1 macroscopic brittle fracture
- Injected Volume:
 - ~1 m³
- EGS-relation:
 - Transmissivity and injectivity was increased in injection interval.









Pressure data

- 3 Intervals indicate minor pressure pertubations during cycle 1 and 2.
- Cycle 3:
 - PRP1-2: 1.7 MPa
 - PRP2-2: 6.7 MPa
 - Logger OBS: 0.2 MPa
- Cycle 4:
 - PRP1-2: 5.8 MPa
 - PRP2-2: 0.8 MPa
 - Logger OBS: 2.7 MPa





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Strain data – DBS Data – PRP2

- Strong pressure increase in PRP2-1 might be not traced by DBS
 - Small facture opening
- S3.1 seemed to be jack opened by strong interval pressure.
 - Created shortcut between shear zones.
- Variable pressure increase after 11:50 might be due to shear dilation between 11:50 and 11:58.
 - Secondary deformation event at interval.





Strain data – DBS Data – PRP1

- Variable pressure increase might be due to fracture opening as indicated in DBS.
- Opening started in cycle 3.
- Deformation is a continuous process.
- Strong permanent strain after shut-in.







Strain data – FBG Data

- Cycle 3 indicates upwards propagation of deformation.
- Cycle 4 indicates dominant downwards component
- Strain signals show direction change of deformation field



→ Arrows indicate propagation direction of deformationfield & «Red» marker edge color indicates FBGs inside S3.2 shear zones



Integration of monitoring data



Integration of monitoring data



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Integration of monitoring data



Conclusion & Outlook

- The pressure data seem to indicate channeling within the shear zone and different stimulation mechanism.
- Strain data indicate a change in deformation direction during stimulation and permanent strains over entire shear zone.
- Seismicity visualizes shear displacement over entire shear zone with strong propagation towards lower east direction
- HS5 highlights an interplay of hydraulic fracturing (normal opening) and hydraulic shearing (shear dilation) within one shear zone.
- Constrain deformation mechanisms within the known fault plane based on models of dislocation fields.





Thank you for your attention!







BACKUP



Strain data – FBG Data

- FBGs covering S3.2 indicate opening and strong permanent strains.
- FBGs surrounding S3.2 are partially closed.
- Sensors in FBS1 show strong compressional component.





Seismic monitoring

- Seismic network consists of:
 - 26 highly sensitive AE receiver, 8 of them in boreholes
 - 5 accelerometer (1D)
- Detected events:
 - **20'824**
- Manually picked, located events:
 - **2**'605

SCCER

- Absolute location procedure:
 - Joint Hypocenter Determination (JHD)
 - Velocity model: homogeneous, anisotropic
- Accuracy of location: ~ 0.5 m



HS experiments: Seismicity vs. change in transmissivity

Slip tendency





Static analysis of deformation



Normal opening- > green && Shear failure -> red

