

# Research on Prediction and Optimization Design Method of Slip Anchoring Performance Based on BP&NSGA-II

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Ming L, Hualin L, Huajian W, Jiansheng L, Yuhang H, Fengtao Q, Wenlong N and Yifan W (2022) Research on Prediction and Optimization Design Method of Slip Anchoring Performance Based on BP&NSGA-II. Front. Energy Res. 10:907877. doi: 10.3389/fenrg.2022.907877 The slip of the packer is the core part of the anchoring system. Unreasonable design of the slip structure can easily cause damage to the anchor claw of the slip, unstable anchoring, and even damage to the casing. At present, the main methods of slip anchoring performance tests are indoor design and field tests, and slips with different structural parameters need to be processed to verify their anchoring performance. In order to ensure that the slips can play a good anchoring effect and reduce the damage to the casing, this study uses a combination of finite element analysis, BP&NSGA-II, and indoor tests to study the mechanical behavior of the slips during the anchoring performance, such as slip angle, inclination angle, inner cone angle, the radius of curvature, and spacing. Indoor experiments show that the prediction method can greatly improve the efficiency and accuracy of the design and test the anchoring performance of slips.

Keywords: prediction model, BP neural network, numerical analysis, slip sealing, indoor test

## INTRODUCTION

In view of the nonlinearity and furrow phenomenon in the anchoring process of slips and casing, the design method based on the experiment is mainly used to analyze the anchoring performance of slips and casing. In the entire design process, structural design-test-optimize the structural parameters of slips-test verification. This method not only exhibits a long design cycle but also exhibits a high research and development cost.

Ma measured the internal stress and contact stress of slips and obtained the stress changes of slips (Ma and Zhai, 2009). The simulation test research on packer slips was carried out and studied the stress changes of slips (Yong, 2008). Li analyzed the occlusion of slips and casing and pointed out the deformation law of slips (Tong and Qing-Xian, 2004). Next, Wang analyzed the stress conditions of flukes and casing through photo elastic physics and numerical simulation, and the results showed that the flukes exhibited uneven stress, which laid a foundation for subsequent structural optimization (Wang and Zhu, 2008).

The BP neural network is a forward artificial neural network that is widely used at present. Because the network demonstrates good associative memory and fault tolerance, it can quickly and effectively reflect the complex and highly non-linear relationship between input and output in the actual application process. Based on this, many scholars at home and abroad have carried out a lot of



related scientific research (Lou and Yang, 1998a; Lee et al., 1999a). At present, the main methods of slip anchoring performance tests are indoor design and field tests, and slips with different structural parameters need to be processed to verify their anchoring performance. However, still, no report exists about the use of this method to predict the performance of kava anchoring.

This study will use the method of BP&NSGA-II (back propagation and non-dominated sorting genetic algorithm) to study the prediction method of slip anchoring mechanical properties, in order to provide certain technical support for the optimization design of downhole packer slips.

# ESTABLISH THE STRUCTURAL MODEL OF THE SLIP SYSTEM

The structure of the packer is more complicated, but the main load transfer during the anchoring process is the cone, slips, slip seat, and casing. In order to facilitate the analysis of the anchoring performance of slips, the actual structure of the packer was simplified, and a structural model of the slip system was established. The structural model of the slip system is shown in **Figure 1**, R is the radius of curvature of the slip anchor claw (initial value is 62 mm),  $\alpha$  is the inclination angle of the anchor claw (the initial value is 60°),  $\beta$  is the anchor claw angle (the initial value is 60°), and d is the distance between the anchor claws (initial value) 8 mm), of which the inner diameter of the casing is 124.26 mm.

Next, as the calculation of the contact problem with the casing during the slip anchoring process is more complicated, in order to facilitate the calculation and analysis, the following points were considered in the process of establishing the finite element model of the slip system:



FIGURE 2 | The finite element model of the slip system.



FIGURE 3 | Schematic diagram of grid division.



- 1) Since the slips are distributed in five equal parts on the surface of the packer, the finite element model only takes 1/5 of the structural model.
- 2) Since the center tube, the sleeve and other parts do not affect the contact analysis between slips and casing, and the above parts are ignored in the finite element model. The finite element model of the slip system is shown in **Figure 2**.
- 3) Since all the components of the slip system are continuums, SOLID95 elements are used for meshing. This element can get the calculation result more accurately when it is subjected to large deformation and large strain. Also, the grid division of the slip system is shown in Figure 3.

According to the working environment of the packer, set the boundary conditions of the finite element model as follows:

- 1) The movement of the cone can only be translated along the axial direction, restricting its circumferential and radial movement;
- 2) Symmetrical constraints are imposed on the circumference of the side profile of the cone, slip seat, and casing;
- 3) The slip seat and the bottom surface of the casing are fully restrained.

The load is applied, and a load of 120 kN is applied at the anchor time based on field experience, so a normal load of 24 kN is applied to the upper section of the cone. The Von Mises equivalent stress distribution cloud diagrams of slips and casing are obtained by calculation, as shown in **Figures 4**, **5**.

According to the calculation results, the following conclusions can be drawn:

- The maximum contact pressure between slips and casing is 26.508 kN, which is likely to cause unstable anchoring of the packer;
- 2) In the same anchor claw of the slip, the stress on both sides is greater than the middle part;



- In the axial section of slips, the upper-end anchor claw stress in the same axial direction is greater than the lower end anchor claw stress;
- 4) Slips and casing exhibit stress concentration, and both are easily damaged.

The above conclusion shows that the contact pressure distribution between slips and casing is unreasonable, and the overall structure of slips needs to be optimized.

## KEY DATA ANALYSIS BASED ON ORTHOGONAL EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN METHOD

According to the previous non-linear contact finite element analysis of the structural parameters of the slips, the effect of the key structural parameters of the slips on the performance is understood; in the entire optimization design, the radius of curvature of the slips, the overall cone angle, the anchor teeth, the profile angle, the pitch of the anchor claws, and the overall oblique angle of the anchor claws are designed to optimize the design variables, and the maximum value of the contact pressure between the slips and the casing and the uniform distribution of the slip contact pressure is the optimization targets, that is, the fitness value. Next, the slip prediction model established by the neural network evaluates the maximum value and distribution of contact pressure after contact analysis of each group of slip parameters. order predict structure In to the comprehensiveness and accuracy of the model, ensuring that the sample space is comprehensive and uniform is necessary, and the orthogonal experimental design method in the experimental design method is used to select the experimental parameters (Yang, 2001; Yan et al., 2003).

TABLE 1 | Value ranges of the optimized variables of slips.

TABLE 3 | L<sub>25</sub> (5<sup>5</sup>) orthogonal table.

Optimization variable	Value ranges			
R <sub>k</sub>	58 ~ 62			
$\alpha_k$	16° ~ 20°			
$\beta_k$	55° ~ 75°			
d <sub>k</sub>	5.5 ~ 7.5 mm			
$\gamma_k$	0° ~ 4°			

 TABLE 2 | Factors and their level value table.

Optimization variable	Five levels				
R <sub>k</sub>	58	59	60	61	62
$\alpha_k$	16	17	18	19	20
$\beta_k$	55	60	65	70	75
d <sub>k</sub>	5.5	6	6.5	7	7.5
$\gamma_k$	0	1	2	3	4

All sample points designed through orthogonal experiments are numerically simulated using Abaqus software, and the average and maximum contact stress values under different combinations of structural parameters are analyzed. Use the analyzed results to train the neural network and establish the anchoring performance prediction model of slips.

In the structural optimization process of slips, the key points in the optimization process are the selection of optimized parameters and the use of the approximate model neural network to evaluate the fitness value. The key points are analyzed and discussed below.

1) Determine the optimization variable range of slip structure parameters

In the entire optimization design, the radius of curvature of slips, the overall taper angle of slips, the tooth profile angle of slips, the spacing of slips, and the overall oblique angle of slips are used as optimization design variables. The value ranges of the variables of each optimized design are shown in **Table 1**.

#### 2) Test design planning network sample space

Next, plan the network input sample space according to the orthogonal experiment method in the experiment design. In the structural optimization of slips, five optimization variables are found, and each optimization variable takes five values; 625 kinds of slips exist that need to be tested and studied. This brings a great workload to both processing tests and numerical simulations. In the multi-factor experiment, the orthogonal experiment design method refers to the use of all experimental data as the source, in which some representative test points are selected for test analysis, and the selected test points are required to be "balanced and dispersed," "tidy and comparable," "specialty. For the five-factor five-level orthogonal test design method, the orthogonal table is 25 sets of test data,

23 (17) 1 3 1 1 1 1						
Number	R <sub>k</sub>	α_k	$\beta_k$	d <sub>k</sub>	Ŷĸ	
1	58	16	55	5.5	0	
2	58	17	60	6	1	
3	58	18	65	6.5	2	
4	58	19	70	7	3	
5	58	20	75	7.5	4	
6	59	16	60	6.5	1	
7	59	17	65	7	2	
8	59	18	70	7.5	0	
9	59	19	75	5.5	1	
10	59	20	55	6	2	
11	60	16	65	7.5	1	
12	60	17	70	5.5	2	
13	60	18	75	6	3	
14	60	19	55	6.5	4	
15	60	20	60	7	0	
16	60	16	70	6	4	
17	60	17	75	6.5	0	
18	60	18	55	7	1	
19	60	19	60	7.5	2	
20	60	20	65	5.5	3	
21	61	16	75	7	2	
22	61	17	55	7.5	3	
23	61	18	60	5.5	4	
24	61	19	65	6	0	
25	61	20	70	6.5	1	



FIGURE 6 | Topological structure of BP neural network slip performance prediction model.

which greatly reduces the difficulty of the test and can effectively carry out the test analysis. Among them, the test data of the orthogonal test design can be used as the training set of the neural network, and the comprehensiveness and uniformity of the sample space will greatly increase the accuracy of the neural network prediction.

Next, according to the characteristics of slip structure parameters, the five-factor and five-level test plan of slips ware established through the orthogonal experiment method. The factor level table of slips is shown in **Table 2**, and the design scheme of the L25 (55) orthogonal table test is shown in **Table 3**.



## ESTABLISH A SLIP PERFORMANCE PREDICTION MODEL BASED ON BP NEURAL NETWORK

1) Analysis of prediction model topology

N, the entire optimization design, the slip radius of curvature  $R_k$ , the overall cone angle of slips  $\alpha_k$ , the shape angle of slips anchor claw  $\beta_k$ , the spacing of slips anchor claw  $d_k$ , and the overall oblique angle of slips anchor claw  $\gamma_k$  are used as the optimization design variables. With contact pressure and mean value distribution as output variables, the input layer exhibits five neuron inputs, and the output layer exhibits a structure of two neurons. The entire network uses a typical three-layer structure, in which the hidden layer selects 11 node neurons. The input layer and the hidden layer of the BP network use the tansig function as the transfer, and the purelin between the hidden layer and the output layer is used as the transfer (Lou and Yang, 1998b; Lee et al., 1999b), **Figure 6** for the structure.

#### 2) Normalization of input and output parameters

The input and output parameters of the neural network must be normalized. Since the normalized range of input and output parameters determines the training effect of the neural network, generally, the larger the normalized range of input and output parameters, the faster the final convergence speed. Next, the input and output parameters are normalized according to Formula (1).

$$\overset{\Lambda}{x} = \frac{x - x_{\min}}{x_{\max} - x_{\min}}$$
 (1)

 $x_{min}$  is the minimum value of the sample point;  $x_{max}$  is the maximum value of the sample point.

#### 3) Training BP neural network

Since the function trainlm is a combination of the gradient method and the Gauss-Newton method, the function trainlm is selected to train the network. According to the error of the output result and reduce the error function value, this training method



can dynamically analyze the convergence direction of the iteration. In the entire BP neural network training, the number of training steps is set to 2,000, and the final target error of the network is set to 0.00001. The training process is shown in **Figure 7**.

Through the comparative analysis of the numerical simulation results and the prediction results of the BP neural network prediction model, as shown in **Figure 8**, it can be seen that the prediction model deviation is 5.5%, to meet the engineering requirements.

## SLIP STRUCTURE OPTIMIZATION BASED ON NSGA-II OPTIMIZATION PROGRAM

Using Matlab language, a multi-objective optimization program for the key components of slips is compiled, namely the following: the NSGA-II optimization program (Lou and Yang, 1998a; Lee et al., 1999a; Tong and Qing-Xian, 2004; Yu et al., 2008; Wang and Zhu, 2008; Zhang, 2009a; Zhang, 2009b; Zhang et al., 2019).

#### 1) Optimize variable initialization

First, use the initialization function Initialize\_variable to encode the optimization variables in real numbers and get the initial population optimized by the optimization variables. In this article, real-number coding is used to facilitate the optimization of variables in a large-space evolutionary search under a large range of values. After real-number coding is used for the five structural parameter variables that affect the performance of slips, Initialize\_variable generates N initial populations of individuals, that is, the initial population matrix F that generates slip structure variables is shown in Formula (1). Next, the first column of the matrix is that the radius of curvature of slips is  $R_k$ , the second column is that the overall cone angle of slips is  $\alpha_k$ , the third column is that the slips anchor tooth profile angle is  $\beta_k$ , and the fourth column is that the slips and the anchor claw spacing is  $d_k$ . The overall oblique angle of the fifth row of slips anchor claws is  $\gamma_k$ .

$$F^{\prime\prime} = \begin{bmatrix} x_{11}, x_{12}, x_{13}, x_{14}, x_{15} \\ \cdots \\ x_{i1}, x_{i2}, x_{i3}, x_{i4}, x_{i5} \\ \cdots \\ x_{n1}, x_{n2}, x_{n3}, x_{n4}, x_{n5} \end{bmatrix}$$
(2)

#### 2) Obtain fitness value

To perform the survival of the fittest in the population, the evolution process of the population in the genetic algorithm analyzes and calculates the fitness function value. In this study, a prediction model of key parameters of kava anchoring performance based on the BP neural network is established to calculate the fitness value, and the function Evaluate\_objective is used to obtain the fitness value (Lee et al., 1999b; Yu et al., 2008).

To obtain a new matrix F, the performance corresponding to each individual is added to the optimized variable population matrix, as shown in Formula (2). The first four columns in F are the individual vectors in the group, and the last two columns are the fitness values corresponding to each individual, the values of which can be obtained by network prediction. Suppose individuals are found in the group, therefore, F is a matrix of  $N^*6$ , as shown in **Eq. 3**.

$$F = \begin{bmatrix} x_{11}, x_{12}, x_{13}, x_{14}, & x_{15}, x_{16}, \\ \cdots \\ x_{i1}, x_{i2}, x_{i3}, x_{i4}, & x_{i5}, x_{i6}, \\ \cdots \\ x_{u1}, x_{u2}, x_{u3}, x_{u4}, & x_{u5}, x_{u6}, \end{bmatrix}$$
(3)

#### 3) Non-dominant ranking

Use the function Fast\_nondominated\_sort to perform nondominated sorting on optimization variables.

As mentioned above, the vector corresponding to the individual in Formula (2) is defined as F'', and the vector corresponding to the fitness value is defined as F'. Each individual i in F'' exhibits two parameters, which we define as  $N_i$  and  $S_i$ . Among them,  $N_i$  is the number of other individuals that can dominate individual i in the population, and  $S_i$  is the set of solution individuals dominated by individual i.

In the sorting process, first, all individuals with  $N_i = 0$  are stored in the set  $F_i'$ ; then, for each individual j in  $F_i'$ , examine the set of individuals  $S_i$  dominated by it and calculate the  $n_k$  of each individual k in  $S_i$  Subtract 1 processing, that is, the number of individuals that dominate the solution of individual k is reduced by one. When  $n_k - 1$  is 0, store individual k in another set H; finally, as the first-level non-dominated individual set  $F_i'$ , the same non-dominated order  $i_{rank}$  for each individual in the set, and continue with H. Next, do the above-mentioned grading operation, assign the non-dominated order corresponding to the processing process, until all individuals reach the grading, and finally get a non-dominated sorted F matrix. The computational complexity of non-dominated sorting in this sorting process is represented by  $O(mN^2)$ , where m is the number of objective functions, and N is the population size.

TABLE 4 | NSGA-II operating parameters in the optimization of slip structure.

Parameter	Value
crowd	400
Pc	0.8
Pm	0.1
Number of iterations	100

After the above sorting is completed, F is sorted according to the Crowding\_distance\_assignment function, to obtain a matrix F in which all individuals have been sorted.

#### 4) Genetic manipulation

Use the function Genetic\_operatorto, perform the genetic evolution operation of selection, crossover, and mutation on the matrix F after sorting. The selection operation of population individuals is evaluated based on the fitness values of individuals in the population, and the individuals with high fitness values in the population are selected and inherited into the next-generation population. That is, randomly select m individuals from the sorted matrix F and sort them according to the size of the fitness value. Among them, the individual with the highest fitness is inherited by the next generation. Set the randomly selected number m to half of the population number, that is, m = N/2. After N selection and sorting, the next-generation population with N individuals is obtained.

The selected individuals are uniformly crossed, that is, by exchanging each gene of the two selected individuals in the population. After the exchange, two completely new individuals will be formed.

At random select two bodies from the population  $F_i''(x_{i1}, x_{i2}, x_{i3}, x_{i4}), F_j''(x_{j1}, x_{j2}, x_{j3}, x_{j4})$ ; randomly generate the mask word  $W = \omega_1 \dots \omega_i \dots \omega_4$ ,  $i \in (1, 4)$ , and its length is the same as  $F_i''$  and  $F_j''$ . When  $\omega_i = 0$  appears, the gene value of individual  $F_i''$  and  $F_j''$  at position i will not be exchanged, keeping the original Stateful. When  $\omega_i = 0$ , the gene value of individuals  $F_i''$  and  $F_j'''$  are generated from each other; that is, two brand new individuals  $F_i''$  and  $F_j'''$  are generated.

Next, generating new individuals through mutation is also the main step of evolutionary genetic algorithms. Use uniform variation to select uniformly distributed random numbers within a specified range to replace individual values at various locations. For example, when an individual  $Fi''(x_1 \dots x_k \dots x_4)$  is mutated at  $x_k$ , the value range of the mutation point is set to  $|U_{min}^k, U_{max}^k|$ , and  $x_k$  is uniformly mutated, obtain the following:  $x'_k = U_{min}^k + r(U_{max}^k - U_{min}^k)$ , where r is a random number with a uniform probability distribution from 0 to 1, and the new individual after mutation is  $F_i''(x_1 \dots x_k' \dots x_4)$ . The selection of selection, crossover, and mutation parameters in genetic operations are shown in **Table 4**.

#### 5) Population substitution

Learn from the elite strategy, use the substitution function to expand the sample, and more and better good parents will be found in the next generation, and the parents and offspring will be merged as a new population after expansion. The parent

TABLE 5   Comparison of initial design and optimal design.								
Design	<i>R<sub>k</sub>/m</i> m	γ <sub>k</sub> /(°)	β <sub>κ</sub> /(°)	α <sub>k</sub>	d <sub>k</sub> /mm	Contact force between slips and casing/kN	Slip maximum Von Mises stress/MPa	Maximum Von Mises stress of casing/MPa
Initial design	58	0	55	16	5.5	25.343	279.238	102.956
Optimal design	60.8	0.6	65.4	18.5	6.2	48.719	501.481	261.932





population and the offspring population are integrated through the non-dominated sorting function Fast\_nondominated\_sort and crowding\_distance\_assignment to generate an intermediate\_chromosome containing 2N individuals, sorting them to the top N individuals. As the subgroup after replacement.

By completing the initialization of optimization variables, obtaining fitness values, non-dominant sorting, genetic operations, and population substitution, the optimization design program will determine the end criterion. When the optimal design procedure reaches the maximum number of iteration steps, the optimization is terminated.



FIGURE 11 | Schematic diagram of the overall test of the anchoring performance of the packer and slips.



FIGURE 12 | Slip anchoring performance and the overall sealing test device of the packer.

#### 6) Optimization results

After a multi-objective and multi-parameter optimization program based on NSGA-II, the optimization analysis results of the key parameters of the slip setting are shown in **Table 5**:

Using Abaqus software for numerical simulation calculation (Malinov and Sha, 2004; Weidong et al., 2004; Bhadeshia et al., 2009; Sun et al., 2010; Liu et al., 2016), the results show that the contact stress between the optimized slip and the casing is increased by 79%, and the numerical simulation calculation results show that the optimized structural parameters of the method improve the anchoring performance. The contact





stress cloud diagram after slip optimization is shown in **Figure 9**, and the contact stress cloud diagram of the casings in contact is shown in **Figure 10**.

## INDOOR TEST OF SLIP ANCHORING PERFORMANCE WITH PACKER AS CARRIER

#### 1) Test purpose

Simulating the actual conditions of the underground, the slips were installed on the packer for indoor tests, and the slip performance setting test was performed indoors to compare the anchoring performance of slips before and after the optimization of the slip structure. The schematic diagram is shown as **Figures 11**, **12**.

## 2) Test principle (HOPPERSTAD et al., 2003; Gao et al., 2012; Zhang et al., 2007)

The packer is fed into a casing with a diameter of 124 mm. The casing simulates a downhole casing. For the convenience of observation, the casing is divided into two sections. Next, the packer is placed on the disassembly rack. The axial load is applied



FIGURE 15 | Wear condition of No. 2 slip group.

by an axial loader, and the field test is simulated under indoor conditions.

3) Test device

Disassembly frame (Figures 12, 13), packer prototype, high-pressure pump, high-pressure hose, joints, etc.

#### 4) Test method

According to the structural parameters of the slip initial design (No. 1 slip) and the optimal design (No. 2 slip), two sets of different slips were processed for indoor testing.

Assemble the packer compression plug, change button, packer, and anchor seal connection, slowly feed the combination into the casing sub-section in the horizontal direction, and push it together with the packer rubber cylinder and slips into the casing.

The packer is placed on the unloading machine following the casing, pressurized outside the pipe in the experimental wellbore, and axially loaded 70 KN to set the packer. After the setting is completed, pressure is applied to the upper and lower pressure ports to verify the seal and record the test data.

#### 5) Test parameters

The **Figure 13** is the schematic diagram of axial loading. The test process adopts the method of increasing the pressure step by step, and the test is divided into four stages:

Stage 1: Pressure is 20 MPa, stabilized for 30 min; Phase 2: Pressure of 30 MPa, stabilization for 30 min; Phase 3: Pressure 75 MPa, stabilized for 30 min; Stage 4: Pressure 105 MPa, stabilized for 48 h.

#### 5) Test results

**Figure 14** is shown the wear condition of No. 1 slip group. The experimental results show that the slips in Group 1 (**Figure 14**) are seriously damaged. Next, when the packer receives an axial load of 30 MPa, it starts to move. When the axial load reaches 105 MPa, the final axial displacement is 300 mm. The slip anchoring performance and the design requirements are not met.

**Figure 15** is the wear condition of No. 2 slip group, the axial load reaches 105 MPa, and the pressure is stabilized for 48 h without pressure drop. The packer did not leak during the actual sealing process, indicating that under the action of axial pressure load, the upper and lower slips can achieve uniform occlusion of the casing wall after effective cracking. After the packer is successfully set, the test is over. The slips demonstrate no axial displacement, and the slips basically demonstrate no abrasion. The anchoring performance of the slips is good and meets the design requirements.

## CONCLUSION

1) In this study, by determining the slip structure parameters to optimize the variable range and the network sample space, the orthogonal experiment method is used to establish a test plan. Based on a large number of slip contact analysis results as the neural network training sample points, a BP neural network-based prediction model of slip anchoring performance realizes the scientific optimization of slip anchoring performance prediction.

2) This study uses the BP neural network to test the parameters outside the training sample space, which verifies that the BP neural network prediction model established in this article demonstrates a certain generalization ability. By comparing and analyzing the results predicted by numerical simulation and BP neural network prediction model, the error meets the requirements of the project.

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3) The anchoring performance test results based on slip optimization and the initial structure show that a big gap exists between the slips of the initial structure and the slips optimized by the BP&NSGA-II method in terms of anchoring performance. As far as the anchoring performance of slips is concerned, the test results are in good agreement with the numerical simulation results.

4) Experiments verified that the prediction method demonstrates the advantages of good fault tolerance and strong versatility and can effectively optimize the anchoring performance and structural parameters of slips. At the same time, applying the BP&NSGA-II method to the field of mechanical design can significantly shorten the equipment design cycle, improve efficiency, and greatly reduce equipment R&D costs.

## DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The original contributions presented in the study are included in the article/supplementary material, and further inquiries can be directed to the corresponding author.

## **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

All authors listed made a substantial, direct, and intellectual contribution to the work and approved it for publication.

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Conflict of Interest: WY was employed by the CNPC Tarim Oilfield Company.

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